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Introduction

Janusz Czebreszuk, Beata Kukiel-Vrila, Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka, Jakub Niebieszczański

The year 2024 marked the fifth anniversary of the Polish Archaeological Institute at Athens (PAIA). We chose to commemorate this milestone not with ceremony, but through committed scholarly and institutional work. On this occasion, the thirteenth meeting of the Governance Council and the sixth meeting of the Academic Board were convened in person in Athens on 25 October – a departure from the usual online format.

Beyond addressing current operational matters, the anniversary also offered a timely opportunity to revisit the foundational documents that form the legal and organisational framework of PAIA. Drafted in 2018-2019 at the Institute's inception, these documents were formulated without the benefit of prior experience in establishing and managing a foreign archaeological school. While comparative insights were drawn from the diverse legal models of existing foreign schools, our development has primarily been guided by experiential learning over the past five years and the ongoing execution of our statutory responsibilities.

The 25 of October was devoted in its entirety to institutional deliberation. The Academic Board met in the morning, followed by the Governance Council in the afternoon. Proposed amendments to our founding documents were thoroughly discussed. These revisions, reflecting the Institute's evolving structure and needs, were subsequently submitted to our governing authorities – namely, the Rector of Adam Mickiewicz University and the Rectors and Directors of our partner institutions – who hold the formal mandate to enact such changes. Particular attention was paid to the Cooperation Agreement of 26 September 2018, currently signed by AMU, IAE PAS, and the Rectors of UG, JU, NCU, URz, UW, and UW, as well as the Rector's Ordinance of 27 September 2018, which formally established PAIA as a University Centre within AMU.

The proposed amendments are now under review. The process is especially complex in the case of the 2018 Cooperation Agreement, which requires the unanimous consent of seven university rectors and the Director of IAE PAS.

A particularly welcome development was the awarding of funding from the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Poland for the year 2025 under the SPUB (Special Research Equipment) programme. This financial support substantially improves the Institute's situation, as the current funding model established by the 2018 Agreement has not fully covered our operating costs. Consequently, AMU has been bearing a significant portion of our expenses. A further funding application, this time for the period 2026-2028, is currently under consideration, with a decision expected by the end of August 2025.

The reporting year witnessed continued progress across all areas of our statutory mandate. Four archaeological field projects remained active: the Pefkakia Project (PAIA Project 2), the Karfi Project (PAIA Project 3), the ASkoS Project (PAIA Project 4), and the Thelpoussa Project (PAIA Project 5). In addition, a new geoarchaeological initiative – research and excavation in the Sperchios River valley (APEKS) – was approved by the Ministry of Culture of the Hellenic Republic. This project, designed as a synergasia between the Ephorate of Antiquities of Phthiotida and Evrytania and the AMU Department of Archaeology, will be launched in the current season as PAIA Project 6.

Our cultural and educational programme also continued to develop dynamically. Among the most significant events of the year were celebrations marking the centenary of the first edition of *Mythology* by Jan Parandowski – a seminal work on Greco-Roman antiquity in Polish culture – and the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Zbigniew Herbert, one of Poland's most distinguished poets. All related activities are detailed in the main body of the report.

We also inaugurated a new series of educational workshops under the title "Discovering Our Talents", aimed at school pupils, university students, and the wider public. These events exemplify our commitment to fostering broad engagement with archaeology and cultural heritage. A highlight of the programme was the meeting with the Marcin Wasilewski Trio – internationally recognised as one of the most distinctive jazz ensembles of its generation – which took place at the Institute.

PAIA remained actively involved in numerous high-profile events promoting Polish culture and science in Greece and continued its support for the Greek–Polish community.

Preparations also culminated in the third edition of the conference “Women in the Archaeology of Greece”, organised by the École Française d’Athènes in collaboration with foreign archaeological schools. PAIA was honoured to serve as co-organiser of the 2025 edition, held in March. As part of our contribution, the Institute published a volume of interviews with

outstanding female scholars who have challenged prevailing stereotypes about women’s roles in academia – a work which inaugurates PAIA’s publishing series.

Throughout the year, we welcomed distinguished guests, established new academic partnerships, hosted lectures in our library, and co-organised several summer schools, including the launch of our first programme in Crete.

We cordially invite you to read on.

*** List of Abbreviations (Institutions) used throughout the Report 3**

AMU	– Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań
AUTH	– Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
BSA	– British School at Athens
CIG	– Canadian Institute in Greece
EFA	– École Française d’Athènes
HR	– Hellenic Republic
IAE PAS	– Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences
JU	– Jagiellonian University in Kraków
NAMA	– National Archaeological Museum of Athens
NCU	– Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń
NSCP	– National Science Centre of Poland
PAIA	– Polish Archaeological Institute at Athens
RP	– Republic of Poland
UG	– University of Gdańsk
URz	– University of Rzeszów
UWr	– University of Wrocław
UW	– University of Warsaw



The team of PAIA at the Institute’s premises. From left: Prof. Janusz Czebreszuk (Director of the Institute), Prof. Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka (Deputy Director of the Institute), Beata Kukiel-Vrila MA (Assistant Director in Athens and Cultural Programme Coordinator) and Prof. Jakub Niebieszczński (Assistant Director in Poznań).

Photo by A. Niebieszczńska-Kowalczyk

3rd Annual Meeting of the Polish Archaeological Institute at Athens

Janusz Czebreszuk, Beata Kukiel-Vraila

On Wednesday, 19 July 2024, the third Annual Conference of PAIA was held at EFA, providing a summary of our activities in 2023 (Fig. 1). We extend our sincere thanks to Professor Véronique Chankowski, Director of EFA, for her generous hospitality, and to the EFA staff for their invaluable organisational support.

The reporting conference was chaired by Professor Kazimierz Lewartowski, Chair of the PAIA Academic Board, who welcomed the many guests in attendance. The Ambassador of Poland to Greece, Mr Artur Lompart (Fig. 2), who concluded his four-year term in 2024,

then delivered an address. In his speech, the Ambassador reflected on the fruitful cooperation between PAIA and the Polish Embassy in Athens, and on the Institute's remarkable development and its contribution to the promotion of Polish science and culture in Greece. Following the speech, the Director of PAIA, Professor Janusz Czebreszuk, together with the Deputy Director, Professor Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka, expressed their gratitude to the Ambassador for his unwavering support of the Institute. As a farewell gesture, they presented him with a replica of an archaeological artefact (Fig. 3).



Fig. 1. Conference participants during the meeting. PAIA Photography Archive



Fig. 2. Speech by the Ambassador of Poland to Greece, Mr Artur Lompart. PAIA Photography Archive



Fig. 3. Presentation of the farewell gift to the Ambassador by the PAIA representatives. PAIA Photography Archive

Next, Professor Janusz Czebreszuk delivered the PAIA activity report for 2023. Although this marked our fourth year of operation, it was only the second year during which the Institute fully carried out its statutory tasks from its Athens headquarters.

The subsequent item on the agenda was a scholarly lecture by Dr Christopher Hale (Fig. 4) of the IAE PAS. His presentation, titled “Multiscale Networks at Middle Bronze Age Mitrou: Results from the REgional Networks and LOcal Recipes for Complexity project (RENLORC),” shared the findings of research conducted in collaboration with PAIA. The project explored the significance of the Mitrou settlement within the cultural networks of Central Greece during the Middle



Fig. 4. The lecture by Dr Christopher Hale. PAIA Photography Archive

and Late Bronze Age, with particular emphasis on the innovative mineralogical analysis of ceramics.

During the event, attendees were offered a complimentary copy of PAIA’s Report Vol. 2 (2023), which summarised the Institute’s activities over the course of the year.

In addition to the aforementioned Ambassador Artur Lompart, many distinguished guests were in attendance, including: Ms Konstantina Benisi, Director of the Department of Foreign Schools of the Ministry of Culture of the Hellenic Republic; Dr Panagiotis Moudzouridis, our advisor at the Ministry of Culture of the Hellenic Republic (Fig. 5); Professor Véronique



Fig. 5. Ms Konstantina Benisi, Director of the Department of Foreign Schools of the Ministry of Culture of the HR, and Dr Panagiotis Moudzouridis in conversation with the PAIA Director. PAIA Photography Archive



Fig. 6. Participants of the meeting, from the left: prof. Kazimierz Lewartowski, prof. Janusz Czebreszuk, prof. Veronique Chankowski, prof. Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka, Supreeth Prashanth, prof. Inga Głuszek, Myriam Chankowski. PAIA Photography Archive

Chankowski, Director of EFA (Fig. 6); Professor Jenny Wallensten, Director of the Swedish Institute at Athens; Dr Sanne Hoffmann, Director of the Danish Institute at Athens; Ms Justyna Słowik of the Polish Embassy in Athens; Professor Inga Głuszek and Professor Krzysztof Nawotka, members of the PAIA Academic Board; Professor Konstantinos Vouvaldis of AUTH; Ms Anna Sardis, Director of the Zygmunt Mineyko Polish School in Athens; Mr Marek Nadolski, a distinguished member of the Polish community and benefactor of the Institute; as well as Dr Jorgos Doulfis,

Dr Edyta Marzec, Dr Sylviane Dederix, many friends of the Institute, and numerous young researchers affiliated with other foreign institutes.

Following the conference, a reception was held in the gardens of the EFA, providing an opportunity to strengthen ties, exchange ideas, and discuss future initiatives. Before closing, we would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our young volunteers, Myriam and Marios (Fig. 7), whose assistance was instrumental in organising the event.



Fig. 7. Our young volunteers: Marios and Myriam with Beata Kukiel-Vrila (in the middle). PAIA Photography Archive

The Mycenaean Pefkakia Archaeological Project – report on the 2024 excavation season

Bartłomiej Lis, Anthi Batziou

Introduction

In this article, we report on the second excavation season at the site of Mycenaean Pefkakia constituting part of a five-year (2022-2026) archaeological project that is a collaboration between the PAIA and the Ephorate of Antiquities of Magnesia, co-directed by Anthi Batziou (Ephorate of Antiquities of Magnesia) and Bartłomiej Lis (IAE PAS). During the first excavation season, which followed extensive geophysical and geoarchaeological investigations, we had initiated work in two sectors of the site designated as B and C (for a preliminary report, see Lis et al. 2024 and PAIA Bulletin #2). During the 2024 season, excavation continued in both trenches opened in 2023 (B01 and C01), and a third trench (C02) was opened to the north of trench C01 (Fig. 1).

Sector C

Trench C01, opened initially in 2023 as a 5 x 2 m test trench, was extended 3 m to the west in 2024 to form a 5 x 5 m square (Fig. 2). Work focused on the newly opened western part, with the aim of providing a fuller exposure of contexts excavated in 2023. After the removal of topsoil, several walls were exposed,

two of which were continuation of walls uncovered in 2023 (Walls 02 and 04). They formed a central rectangular space, designated as Area 3. Although no clear floor level was identified, the material discovered within that space suggests that it was used for metallurgical activities. Several coarse fragments of crucibles, as well as clay moulds, were found here. In addition, an ash pit was discovered roughly in the centre of Area 3. Ceramics associated with that level, including linear semi-globular cups, provide an estimated date around 1200 BC.

Approximately 40 cm below the metallurgical level, at the base of the substantial, east-west running Wall 04, a partially plastered floor level was uncovered. Material found on top of this floor and in the fill above dates its use to Late Helladic IIIA2 Early (first half of 14th century BC, Fig. 3). No architecture can be associated with this floor so far, as the foundation trench for Wall 04 clearly cuts through it. Accumulations belonging to the late Middle Bronze and early Late Bronze Age were found below the floor, deposited over an uneven bedrock surface. It is worth noting that among the pottery from these early levels there are quite elaborate pieces, such as imported Vapheio cups and a fragment of a palace-style jar.



Fig. 1. Aerial view of Pefkakia with location of trenches explored in 2024 and area A. Photo by B. Lis



Fig. 2. Final aerial view of trench C01 with walls and areas marked. Prepared by B. Lis

Trench C02 was opened as a 5 x 5 m square, 2 m to the north of trench C01, to investigate regular anomalies identified in the geophysical survey and to verify their relationship with the remains revealed in trench C01.

Directly below the surface, a deposit of broken tiles and small finds, predominantly loomweights, associated with a disturbed floor deposit dating to the Hellenistic period was revealed. Only two blocks of an original wall of the structure remain *in situ*. Below those blocks, a more substantial wall (Wall 12), with evidence of remodelling, came to light, running parallel to Wall 04 exposed in trench C01.

To the north of that wall, we uncovered a sequence of superimposed floor levels, sandwiched within a vertical distance of less than 30 cm. The uppermost floor level consists of poorly preserved patches associated with the Hellenistic deposit mentioned above. The second, dating back to the Late Bronze Age but with a considerable admixture of Hellenistic material on top of it, proved to cover a very well-built drain. The drain, exposed along the width of the entire trench, runs approximately west-east, sloping down towards the E. It is composed of vertical slabs arranged in two parallel rows, covered with large, flat slabs, with small stones wedged in between (Fig. 4). Material from the drain's interior dates to LH IIIA2-B. The third and lowermost floor, composed of a thick layer of yellow clay, dates to the LH IIIA2 period. Excavations in this area stopped at the level of this last floor.



Fig. 3. LH IIIA2 Early juglet from trench C01

In contrast, no floor levels were identified south of Wall 12, similarly to Areas 4 and 5 to the north of Wall 04 in trench C01. Nevertheless, at the lowest excavated level in this part of trench C02, a complete skeleton of a young adult was exposed, containing no grave goods and without any clear outlines of a burial pit. The layer in which it was placed contained LH IIIA2 material.



Fig. 4. Interior of drain in trench C02 after removal of a covering slab. Prepared by K. Warecka

Sector B

The purpose of our return to trench B01, where a children's cemetery was revealed in 2023, was two-fold. First, a possible tile grave, whose very top was revealed in the northwest corner of the trench in 2023, required investigation. Second, its excavation would also expand the area available for investigations aimed at reaching LBA levels, an ultimate goal of the trench opening. Excavation of the tile grave revealed the skeleton of a child, confirming the picture arising from fieldwork in 2023 and subsequent anthropological investigations. Like the other burials excavated in 2023, it was devoid of grave goods. This feature, along with an image of a fish impressed on the large tiles forming the sides of the burial, suggests that this is a Christian internment dating back to the Roman period.

After the burial was removed, excavation revealed a well-made surface composed of tightly packed tiles and sherds. The surface dates to the Hellenistic period, although it contains some earlier material, including Mycenaean pottery and a single figurine fragment. A small clay oven was revealed below this surface. The presence of an iron slag suggests association with metallurgical activity. Towards the end of the season, a sounding was made to investigate lower-lying levels. It yielded a deposit of densely packed pottery dating to the early Hellenistic period, comprising mostly high-quality tableware and cooking pots. Excavations stopped at a level of ca. 0.9 m above the sea level, without reaching the LBA levels.

Summary

Thanks to fieldwork in 2024, we gained a better understanding of the late MBA/early LBA history of habitation in Sector C, with layers excavated directly above the bedrock. Nevertheless, we still lack clear habitation levels or architecture. The exposure of a partially plastered floor dating to LH IIIA2 Early may

indicate the presence of an important building that will be further investigated in the future. Another substantial feature dating to the later LBA is a well-built drain, with parallels in Megaron A at Dimini (Adrymi-Sismani 2014, 170-171). The period around 1200 BC appears to be associated with intense craft activities, first documented in Sector A (Batziou 2015). Both trenches excavated in 2024, C02 and B01, provided new evidence for Hellenistic activity, which will be further investigated in the following seasons. Another grave, probably from the Roman period, supplements the evidence discovered in 2023 of a children's cemetery directly south of the city wall of Demetrias.

Acknowledgments

The excavation project is funded through a NSCF grant No. 2020/38/E/HS3/00512. Dimitris Agnousiotis (Ephorate of Antiquities of Magnesia), Łukasz Miechowicz (IAE PAS), Nikos Tsironis (University of the Aegean) and Karolina Warecka (UW) were responsible for trench supervision and documentation. Anthropological study of human remains, as well as excavation of the child burial in trench B01, was conducted by Nicholas P. Herrmann and Krysten Cruz (Texas State University). Botanical remains were studied Dominika Kofel-Lubczyńska (NCU), Vasiliki Tzevelekidi undertook the study of animal bones, and Rena Veropoulidou analysed mollusc remains. Students of archaeology from UW (Olga Chatys, Weronika Łosowska, Kinga Golian, Matylda Wawra, Mateusz Szemlerski), AMU (Marta Jańczyk, Mikołaj Muszyński, Witold Piekarczyk), Oxford University (Oliver Turney) and Macquarie University (Samantha Mills) took part in the excavation and processing of finds. Registration and processing of finds, as well as the study of pottery, was coordinated by Piotr Zeman (AMU). Konstantina Zgouleta was responsible for the conservation of finds, predominantly pottery.

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Excavation at Karfi, Lasithi, Crete, 2024

Krzysztof Nowicki, Saro Wallace

The excavation was conducted, as in 2023, in three areas, A, B and MG1 (Figs 1-2), which (as revealed by the 2008 excavations) represent three different types of architectural arrangement (Wallace 2020). Two research questions in particular determined the strategy. The first relates to how social organisation and institutions work at the new site, founded around 1200 BC in a very difficult geographical environment. A relatively large area excavated on Megali Koprana (Area MG) revealed very rich floor deposits, interesting new elements of architectural planning and evidence of post-abandonment (Geometric) activity, so far unique for the LM IIIC settlement at Karfi. The second question concerns a much earlier period in Cretan history (MM, ca. 1800–1700 BC) which prior to the 2008 test excavations was known at Karfi only from the peak sanctuary identified by Pendlebury at the very summit of the Karfi knoll (Pendlebury et al. 1937-38, 97). The 2008 tests showed that the MM use of the site was spatially much wider: it also included a kind of auxiliary site in Area B where some related rituals may have been performed. The most recent excavation (in 2024) revealed more of the complex history of the MM activity in this place. The question arises of whether the MM evidence, recorded in Area B, can be directly linked to the use of the peak sanctuary or it had its own independent origin and history related to another kind of ritual? The latter may have been deeper rooted in the local traditions. We encounter other issues related to ritual (here of the LM IIIC period) in Area A, where we seek data elucidating the extraordinary location and monumental construction of Building A1 as well as its characteristic deposits and unusual finds. The 2024 excavation in all areas clarified some questions arising after the 2023 season, but at the same time opened up new research problems regarding the presence of people in such an extreme environment.

Starting with Area A, Building A1, the entirety of the large main room, ca. 8 by 6 m, has now been exposed, with one section reserved at the southern end of the room. Additionally, a trench 2 by 1 m was opened in 2024 in the front of the building, on its northern side. As a result we were able to define the main and only external doorway of the building on the

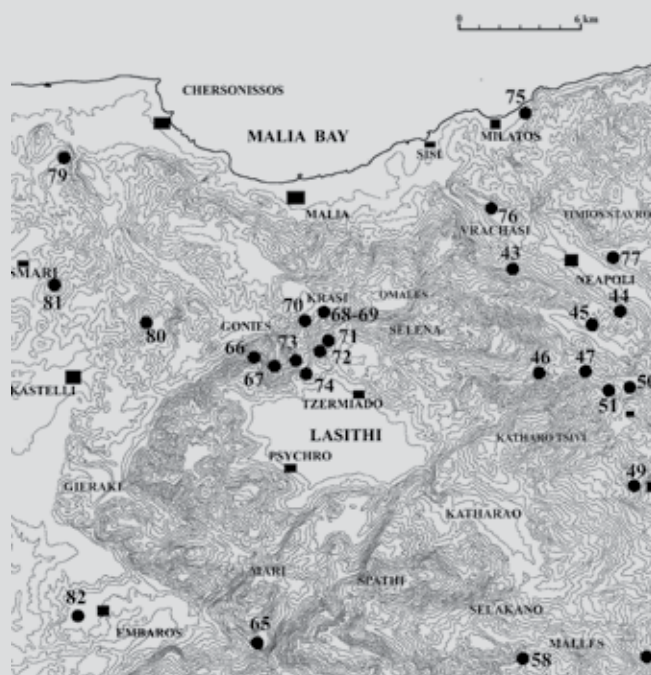


Fig. 1. Map of the Lasithi Mountains with defensible sites founded during the LM IIIC- Protogeometric periods; Karfi marked as no. 71. For the identification of other sites see Nowicki 2025, fig. 132

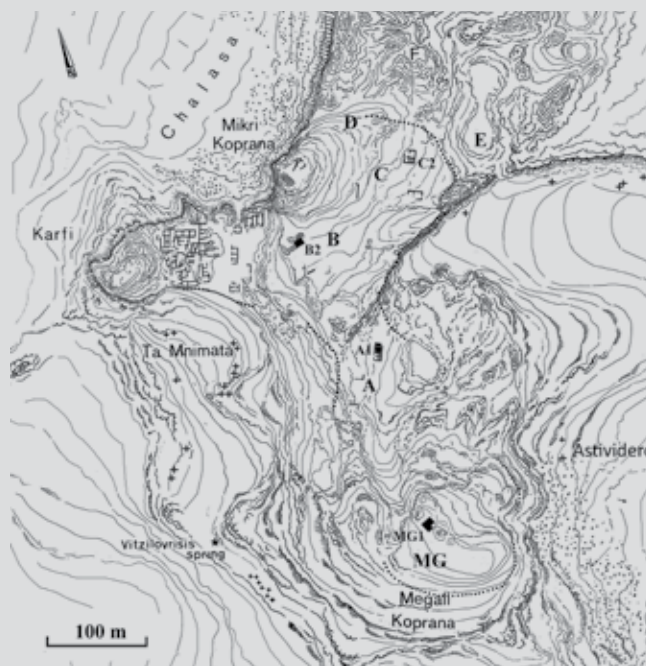


Fig. 2. Plan of Karfi with the excavated trenches in Areas A, B and MG marked in black

northern side and to identify poor remains of a central clay hearth in the main room. Similarly as during the earlier excavations, no complete or nearly complete vessels were found, which is in sharp contrast to the situation in Areas B and MG1. Our 2024 results support the earlier interpretation of the building as fundamentally different from domestic houses at the site – it was not destroyed by fire and the first discovery this year of mixed ceramic sherds from outside the building to the north-northeast suggests a messy clearance process following abandonment ca. 1100–1050 BC, part-way through the settlement’s life.

In Area B, the excavation was completed of the eastern part of the large room (4.4 by 6.4 m) which was opened in 2023 immediately east of the 2008 trench. An opening in the eastern wall of this room, together with traces of ash, charcoal and numerous loom weights immediately east of this opening, indicate that another room of the same house can be expected on this side. The extensions of the eastern and southern walls in the southeastern corner of the excavated room point to other architectural units in those directions, which may be parts of the same house. A substantial quantity of burnt clay pieces was found along the eastern and northern walls; these must be

remains of the inner plastering of walls. Ash and charcoal characterised the composition of soil through the entire extension of the LM IIIC floor as it was also found in the central and western part of this room and in the attached house excavated in 2008. Immediately underneath this burnt LM IIIC floor were found rich deposits with MM pottery, animal bones, burnt red soil and ash overlying the bedrock. The evidence for a substantial auxiliary area for the peak sanctuary to the east was augmented: not only were related remains found to extend outside the southern wall of the LM IIIC building complex – suggesting the complex was newly founded in LM IIIC and not an MM remnant – but traces of architecture probably used and founded in the MM period itself were discovered in the area for the first time in the SE corner of the excavated room (Fig. 3:1). A single Neolithic well-burnished potsherd found within the room on bedrock opens an entirely new question regarding the site’s earliest history.

In Area MG1 the 2024 season set a clear goal for extension of excavation over the whole north summit in 2025, by confirming that the architecture is very complex and extensive over the whole zone, being bounded only by sheer rock outcrops on the south and north and by the eroding slopes to the east (Fig. 4).



Fig. 3. House B2, the main room with remains of pre-LM IIIC architecture (2) found under the LM IIIC walls (1)

The main results of the work this year included opening up of the inset structure in the far northern part of the complex of three E-W orientated buildings and immediately northwest of the large 'hall' (N Trench Building MG1) discovered in 2023. We made further discoveries of traces of Geometric-period re-use (ca. 800-700 BC) in the form of cooking pots and cups in topsoil layers to the far S of the complex. There are signs of possible intrusive activity in antiquity in the doorway area of the hall in the N Trench Building. We completed the clearance of hearths and first full study of their construction in the two largest rooms of the adjacent buildings - the hall of the N Trench Building, and the building to its south. We completed the full exploration of storerooms in the west part of both complexes. Our season confirmed for the first time a third structure/house to the north of the complex, similarly rich in finds, and perhaps representing a third elite dwelling with the best view of all, right across to the peaks of Karfi and Mikri Koprana and building A1 to the north.

The results of the 2024 excavation determine our work plan for the following season. In 2025 we will continue to focus on our primary research questions as explained in the project proposal and developed during the 2023 and 2024 excavations. In A1 work will continue in the external trench in front of the entrance, where the arrangement of several large blocks suggests some post-abandonment modification of the space. Also, cleaning the rest of the main room will be undertaken in its southeastern part and southwestern corner. The trench in Area B, which uncovered the entire western room of House B2, will be extended to the east (2.5 by 5 m) and south (1.5-2.0 by 6 m) to clarify the plan of the LM IIIC building with the rooms attached to the main room excavated so far and eventually the outer spaces, which will allow to reconstruct the communication between the houses in this quarter of the LM IIIC settlement. Among the most important goals of the 2025 season will be tracing the pre-LM IIIC architectural structure identified in the southeastern corner of the western room in House B2 beyond the LM IIIC house on its southern and eastern sides. In



Fig. 4. LM IIIC houses excavated in the northern part of Megali Koprana (MG 1)

MG1, exploration of the extensive architecture on the N, E and S will continue, along with the commencement of investigations on the southern summit of Megali Koprana (MG2) where well-preserved building remains are visible on the surface.

Organisations providing resources and logistic support were NSCP OPUS 20-2020/39/B/HS3/00820, Gerda Henkel Foundation (Germany), the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete, Kera Kardiotissas Monastery, alongside private donation of people from Kera, Krasi, Mochlos, and Tzermiado.

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Ancient Skopelos Survey (ASkoS) Project: Report from the first survey season

Anthi Batziou, Agata Ulanowska, Filip Franković, Peter Pavúk

Introduction

A significant number of fieldwork projects and theoretical studies conducted over the past few decades have greatly advanced our understanding of social, cultural, and political developments in the Northern Aegean during the 3rd and 2nd millennia BCE. However, the Northern Sporades still remain one of the least explored areas in Bronze Age Aegean archaeology, despite their potential to deepen our knowledge of regional developments. The *Ancient Skopelos Survey* (ASkoS, 2024–2028; <https://askos.archeologia.uw.edu.pl/>) project was launched to address this notable gap, with a specific focus on clarifying the role of Skopelos Island within the broader context of socio-political, economic and cultural changes over the two millennia. ASkoS is a collaborative project (synergasia) between the Ephorate of Antiquities of Magnesia under the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, with Dr Anthi Batziou as the project director, and the PAIA, represented by the project partner and co-director Prof. Agata Ulanowska from the UW. This collaboration also includes Dr Filip Franković, a co-director representing the University of Heidelberg and the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, and Prof. Peter Pavúk, a co-director from the Charles University in Prague, expanding the network established among these three universities within the 4EU+ Alliance and the Erasmus+ programme.

The first research season took place between September 21 and October 22 2024. Research team comprised 12 members from all partner institutions respectively: Dr A. Batziou, PhD candidate Dimitris Agnousiotis, Iacovos Georgiou, MA; Prof. A. Ulanowska, MA students Olga Chatys and Piotr Kuźlik, BA student Matylda Wawra; Dr F. Franković, BA student Leonidas Pearl; Prof. Dr P. Pavúk, PhD students Jan Bobik and Anna Peterková.

Aims of the ASkoS project

The Northern Sporades consist of the large islands of Skiathos, Skopelos, and Alonnisos, as well as numerous small and currently uninhabited islands. The geographical position of the archipelago, together with known sea currents and wind patterns, suggests its role as an intermediary connector between different parts of the Northern Aegean. Therefore, the relatively limited understanding of developments on the archipelago during the 3rd and 2nd millennia BCE is rather surprising. Interestingly, the distribution of prehistoric sites is better documented on the small islands than on the larger ones. Surveys conducted on the small islands during the 1970s and 1990s suggest that, in comparison to the preceding Neolithic period, the archipelago likely witnessed a significant decrease

in the number of sites during the Early Bronze Age (EBA), with evidence documented only on Psathoura and in the Cave of Cyclops on Gioura. The cave has also yielded the only evidence of Middle (MBA) and Late Bronze Age (LBA) habitation on the small islands. While Bronze Age (BA) sites are almost completely absent on the small islands, the aforementioned surveys identified dispersed habitation patterns in the periods preceding and following the BA (see Sampson 2000, 530–531; 2008, 123–126, 179–186).

Evidence of 2nd millennium BCE habitation has been identified on Skiathos, Skopelos, and Alonnisos (Platon 1949; Sampson 2000, 531). While Skiathos and Alonnisos show only sporadic signs of MBA habitation, Skopelos stands out with the discovery of an elaborate early LBA stone-built tomb at Staphylos (Platon 1949). Finds from the tomb, largely consisting of imports from the Argolid, Central Greece, and Thessaly, suggest that Skopelos was integrated into key regional interaction networks. The tomb's architecture and grave goods point to increasing social complexity and the use of funerary practices for status-building among local elites, indicating that Skopelos participated in broader socio-political, economic, and cultural transformations in the early LBA Aegean. In light of the quality and quantity of available BA data from the Northern Sporades, Skopelos has been selected as the starting point for the ASkoS project, which aims to enhance our understanding of the socio-political and economic role of the Northern Sporades during the 3rd and 2nd millennia BCE.

The main goals of our research project on Skopelos are as follows: 1) to examine diachronic changes in habitation patterns, with a specific focus on the 3rd and 2nd millennia BCE; 2) to correlate the documented patterns with broader socio-political, economic, and cultural changes in the Aegean; 3) to correlate the documented patterns to local environmental changes; 4) to explore the role of Skopelos within intra- and interregional interaction networks of the 3rd and 2nd millennia BCE; and 5) to identify a site with potential for future in-depth exploration through archaeological excavation. Although the BA is the primary focus of these research goals, the holistic and non-selective methodological approach of the project will contribute to improving current knowledge of archaeological remains from all prehistoric and historic periods attested on the island.

Methodology

The fundamental methodological approach of our research project is field survey. For the purposes of the ASkoS survey, Skopelos has been divided into three types of areas: 1) those with already attested archaeological significance; 2) areas with favourable topographic conditions, such as harbours and small plains; and 3) remote, hilly areas with low surface visibility. During the 2024 season, field surveys were conducted in areas classified as types 1 and 2, while surveys in areas of type 3 will be guided by the results of Airborne Laser Scanning (ALS), planned for the following seasons.

According to the applied methodology, we have subdivided the systematic field survey into three intensity levels: reconnaissance, extensive, and intensive, each following distinct principles. All three survey levels yield different types of data, allowing for a comparative approach and providing reliable insights into the cultural and chronological profiles of individual sites. Reconnaissance represents the least intensive and least systematised strategy, as it is conducted within large 1000 × 1000 m blocks. However, it enables a relatively small research team to cover a large area in a short period of time, making it an ideal strategy for the initial seasons. This approach supports the formulation of specific goals for future seasons by efficiently identifying new sites for subsequent extensive and intensive surveys. The extensive survey is conducted by teams of fieldwalkers within pre-set tracts (100 × 100 m). Fieldwalkers inspect the ground surface, count and collect artefacts, and document archaeological features (e.g., buildings, walls, etc.). Once the extensive field survey is completed, polygons covering the surface of the sites are defined based on the recorded high densities of finds (sherds and other artefacts). These polygons are then subjected to a high-resolution intensive survey within 10 × 10 m quadrants.

First results

In the 2024 season, research activities focused on reconnaissance along the coastal zone in the central part of the island. Our research incorporated seven archaeological sites, including two previously known and five newly discovered, spanning both prehistoric and historic periods. The previously known sites include Staphylos and Spitalia, while the newly identified sites are Amarantos, Trachili, Glisteri, Ayios Konstantinos, and an ancient quarry located south of



Fig. 1. Map of the Northern Sporades and Skopelos island with sites surveyed in 2024 season. Prepared by F. Franković

Skopelos Chora. The majority of these sites face significant threats due to their location in areas of high tourist activity, construction work, or ongoing modern quarrying (Fig. 1).

Special attention was dedicated to the already known site at Staphylos, located both on the peninsula and at Staphylos Beach. The site was covered by both reconnaissance and intensive field survey. Both methods resulted in a substantial collection of diagnostic pottery sherds and special finds, along with more than 25 substantially preserved architectural features, including building walls and terrace walls (Fig. 2). Unsurprisingly, Staphylos is also the site with the most prominent Bronze Age occupation. The majority of the documented remains appears to be prehistoric, dating to the MBA (and possibly even Early Bronze Age), early LBA, and Early Iron Age, with smaller quantities of finds from the later Classical, Hellenistic, and Byzantine periods. Preliminary analysis indicates distinct spatial patterns in the distribution of different chronological periods, with Middle Helladic sherds clustering in the northern and northwestern areas, while LBA and later prehistoric pottery appears more evenly distributed across the site (Fig. 3).

Evidence of LBA or early Iron Age habitation has also been identified at Ayios Konstantinos. Interestingly, this evidence suggests that in some cases, prehistoric remains may be buried beneath thick layers of accumulated soil, making their detection more challenging. As a result, while historic periods are well represented and often visible on the surface through architectural remains, prehistoric evidence on Skopelos is more difficult to detect through traditional survey methods. To address these challenges through, our project plans to incorporate targeted geoarchaeological research and the use of ALS in the future seasons.

The 2024 season also provided hands-on training for students in field survey methods and the processing of finds (Fig. 4). A significant effort was dedicated to setting up work facilities at the Asclepieion of Skopelos, including the installation of two ISOBOX units for office and storage space, generously provided by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Magnesia.

Additionally, the season featured strong community engagement, with activities organized by both the Skopelos Municipality and the project directors, such as visits to a local pottery workshop and the Shipbuilding Museum. The ASkoS project and its team were formally introduced to the Skopelos community on September 24 2024, with a public lecture at the Orfeas Cinema in Skopelos Chora.



Fig. 2. Fieldwalking on the Staphylos peninsula. Photo by D. Agnoustotis

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Fig. 3. Mycenaean goblet decorated with spirals.
Photo by O. Chatys



Fig. 4. Participants of the ASkoS project, season 2024, photo by Dimitris Agnousiotis. From left to right: Leonidas Pearl, Jan Bobik, Peter Pavúk, Anna Peterková, Filip Franković, Olga, Chatys, Matylda Wawra, Agata Ulanowska, Anthi Batziou, and Piotr Kuźlik. Photo by D. Agnousiotis

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Report on the Polish-German-Greek excavations in the Roman Building in Thelpousa (western Arcadia, Peloponnese), season 2024

Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka, Johannes Fouquet, Giorgos Doulfis, Łukasz Misk, Małgorzata Kajzer, Wojciech Ostrowski

Introduction

For many years, research on Roman period urbanism in the Peloponnese focused on large cities such as Corinth, Patras, or Sparta. However, recently there has been growing interest in the hinterlands of this region (Fouquet 2019). One of the areas where standing Roman-period structures can be found is mountainous Arcadia. A specific case is the city of Thelpousa, where a so-called Roman *'loutro'* (bath building) is located.

Thelpousa was an Arcadian polis located approximately 25 km east of ancient Olympia in the lower Ladon valley north of the modern village of Toumbitsi (Fig. 1). The origins of Thelpousa, situated on the left bank of the river, date back to the Archaic period. In the mid-2nd century AD, Pausanias (Paus. 8, 25, 3) described the “city built on a large hill” as largely “deserted”, noting that its agora, formerly located



Fig. 1. Map showing the location of ancient Thelpousa in western Peloponnese (base map by Eric Gaba, <https://de.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:Peloponnese_relief_map-blank.svg>)

at the centre of the urban area, was now lying at its periphery. Thelpousa still functioned as a bishopric during the late 5th and early 6th century AD, as attested by written sources, and the date of its final abandonment remains unclear (Hansen and Nielsen 2004).

While the city was rediscovered in 19th century, the first excavations did not take place until 1939, when a French expedition of the EFA, under the direction of Jacques Roger and Henri Metzger, conducted two weeks of fieldwork at Thelpousa. The focus of the French archaeologists quickly centred on a large plateau, which early travellers had already identified as the potential site of the agora. The aim was to clarify its spatial layout and uncover related architectural structures. The French excavations revealed that the open space of the agora was enclosed on at least three sides by stoai. The entire building complex was tentatively dated to the 4th century BC. In accordance with archaeological interests of the time, the Roman building, although prominently situated in the centre of the square, was not a priority: test excavations started only in the final days of the project and were concluded with little to no results. Nevertheless, the building was included in the situational sketch of the agora (Fig. 2). This excavation was never published, but a summary of the work, based on personal conversations with Roger and his excavation diary kept in the archives of EFA, was presented by Madeleine Jost (Jost 1986).

New interest in the Roman '*loutro*', a common term for brick structures in 19th-century Greece, emerged in 2021. With the permission of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Arcadia and funding from the Gerda Henkel Stiftung, a small German-Greek team led by J. Fouquet and G. Doulfis carried out the first documentation of the building's architecture and its topographical context (Fig. 3). It was established that the building is a rectangular structure with an unmistakably temple-like plan, measuring approximately 10.2 x 7.3 m (35 x 25 Roman feet). The interior is divided into two sections – the main room and the presumed western entrance – by a transverse wall featuring a partially preserved limestone threshold. In the north and south walls of the main room, two niches face each other. The building was originally covered by two solid-brick vaults (Fouquet and Doulfis 2024). Following the 2021 reconnaissance season, it became clear that resolving questions about the function, dating, and architectural details of the building would not be possible without excavations. Thus, a new project was born under the auspices of PAIA (PAIA Project no 5).

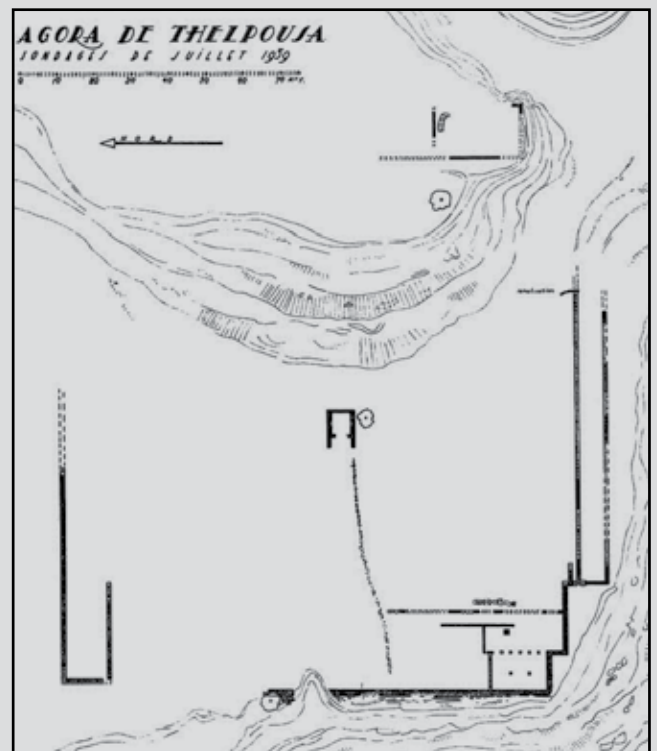


Fig. 2. Plan of the Thelpousa agora with the Roman building in the centre according to the French expedition in 1939 (courtesy of EFA/J. Roger and H. Metzger)

Excavation of the Roman building

In 2024, work began on a three-year project focused on the Roman building in Thelpousa



Fig. 3. An orthophoto of the agora area and Roman building, 2021, by Christian Seitz

(Fig. 4). The 'Thelpousa Agora Project' is implemented by a Polish-German-Greek team codirected by Prof. Dr Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka (Institute of Archaeology, Jagiellonian University in Kraków), PD Dr Johannes Fouquet (Leipzig University), and Dr Georgios Doulfis (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens).

The first excavation season lasted from the 22 of July to the 10 of August. Apart from the directors, Dr Łukasz Misk, an archaeologist from UW; Dr Małgorzata Kajzer, a ceramologist from the IAE PAS; and Dr Wojciech Ostrowski, a JU photogrammetry and remote sensing specialist also provided their expertise. The project was once again generously financed by the Gerda Henkel Stiftung and also by the Jagiellonian University's Mare Nostrum Lab (https://mare.id.uj.edu.pl/en_GB/teledetekcja) which sponsored the equipment and participation of W. Ostrowski. Students from Poland (Małgorzata Nowak, Natalia Chochorowska, and geodesist Anna Wencel), Germany (Mia Knoch, Lea Thun, Thorsten Hunds), and Greece (Gina Bouzea, Natalia Anyfanti, Vasilis Vlachos, Elena Roussa) also took part. Conservator Dr Amalia Siatou also participated in the field activities for two days close to the end of the excavations. She assessed the state of preservation of the building and issued recommendations regarding the protection of the building and the area after the completion of the excavations.

Excavations were carried out in trenches T.II and T.IV positioned inside the building and test trenches TT.III and TT.IV located outside the building, right next to its southern wall. (Fig. 5)



Fig. 4. Excavations of the Roman building, 2024, aerial view. Photo by W. Ostrowski

Trench T.II

The main objective of Trench T.II (8 x 2.5 m), located in the northern half of the main room, between the transverse (west) and rear (east) walls, was to examine the building's function and, possibly, date. A thick layer of destruction was anticipated from the outset due to the large quantities of stones, bricks, and tiles on the ground surface, as well as several large fallen pieces of masonry that had to be removed using machinery. A loosely 'L'-shaped stone structure situated to the east of the threshold, may be related to a layer of ash in front of the niche in the north wall and together suggest a more recent use of the space, possibly as a shelter for shepherds and their animals after the collapse of the building.

The layer beneath the surface consisted, as expected, of debris from the collapse of the building, which seems to have occurred gradually over time. This is indicated by the collapsed rear wall of the Roman building, under which another layer of rubble was found.

Below this destruction layer, a heavily damaged floor was uncovered. Rather than being uniform, two construction techniques are discernible: first, a sub-floor of river stones placed in a strong mortar bedding and coated with a thin mortar layer and, second, a layer of vertically placed tiles bonded by soil. Together, they form a level walking surface, which could possibly suggest either a repair or a multi-phase building use history. The underlying fill of this floor was examined in two smaller cuts (1 x 1 m), one in the northwest corner of the building and one along its north wall. The finds were few in total, composed of only 13 pottery sherds, but their systematic study may provide evidence for the dating of the building.



Fig. 5. An orthophoto map with trenches of the Polish-German-Greek expedition after the 2024 excavation. Photo by W. Ostrowski and Ł. Misk.

A reused limestone block with an inscription, possibly of funerary nature, was discovered in the lower levels of the north wall: [--- χα?]ῖπε. The apices and the letter forms suggest a broad dating to the Late Hellenistic or Early Roman period.

Trench T.IV

Trench T.IV was placed in the western part of the Roman building, in the southern half of the space between the transverse wall to the east and an imaginary line in front of the antae of the building to the west. The unit, measuring 4 x 2.5 m, aimed to provide information about the function of the building and its architecture, particularly regarding its western façade. The excavation revealed a previously unknown wall, which originally connected the western ends of the antae of the building but now is inclined towards the west due to post-depositional processes. The cleaning of the wall revealed additional damages: it has cracked in three places in its exposed southern section.

The discovery of the wall led to the division of the trench into two parts. The main focus was directed to the narrow area west of the wall in order to reveal its foundation and to determine how it was connected to the southern anta of the Roman building. Removing the backfill to the level of use of the Roman building yielded only a few pottery sherds, while the lower layers, likely unrelated to the building's use, yielded more finds, primarily consisting of pottery. The excavation also continued in the eastern part of the trench, but no remains were uncovered that could provide information about the function of the building.

Trial Trench TT.III

TT.III, measuring 1.5 x 3 m, was excavated immediately south of and in contact with the long southern wall of the Roman building, near its eastern end. The goal was to investigate the existence of a foundation trench, assess the depth of the foundation, and date the construction of the Roman building. After removing the surface layer, a destruction layer consisting of bricks, stones, tiles, and chunks of mortar attributed to the Roman building was revealed. No pottery was found. Since the objectives were successfully addressed by the excavation of trial trench TT.IV (see below), and given the lack of ceramic finds and much higher backfill due to the slope of the ground, further excavation in TT.III was deemed unnecessary.

Trial Trench TT.IV

TT.IV, measuring 1.5 x 3 m, was excavated immediately south of and in contact with the long southern wall of the Roman building, near its western end. The primary objectives, as in TT.III, were to investigate the existence a foundation trench, identify the depth of the foundation, and date the construction of the Roman building.

Upon removal of the surface layer, a destruction layer, up to a height of one meter or a little bit more was revealed. This layer consisted of bricks, tiles, stones, chunks of mortar, some pottery, and a few traces of charcoal clearly from the Roman building. While all these components were scattered haphazardly through the surface layer, their distribution in the main layer of destruction gives the impression

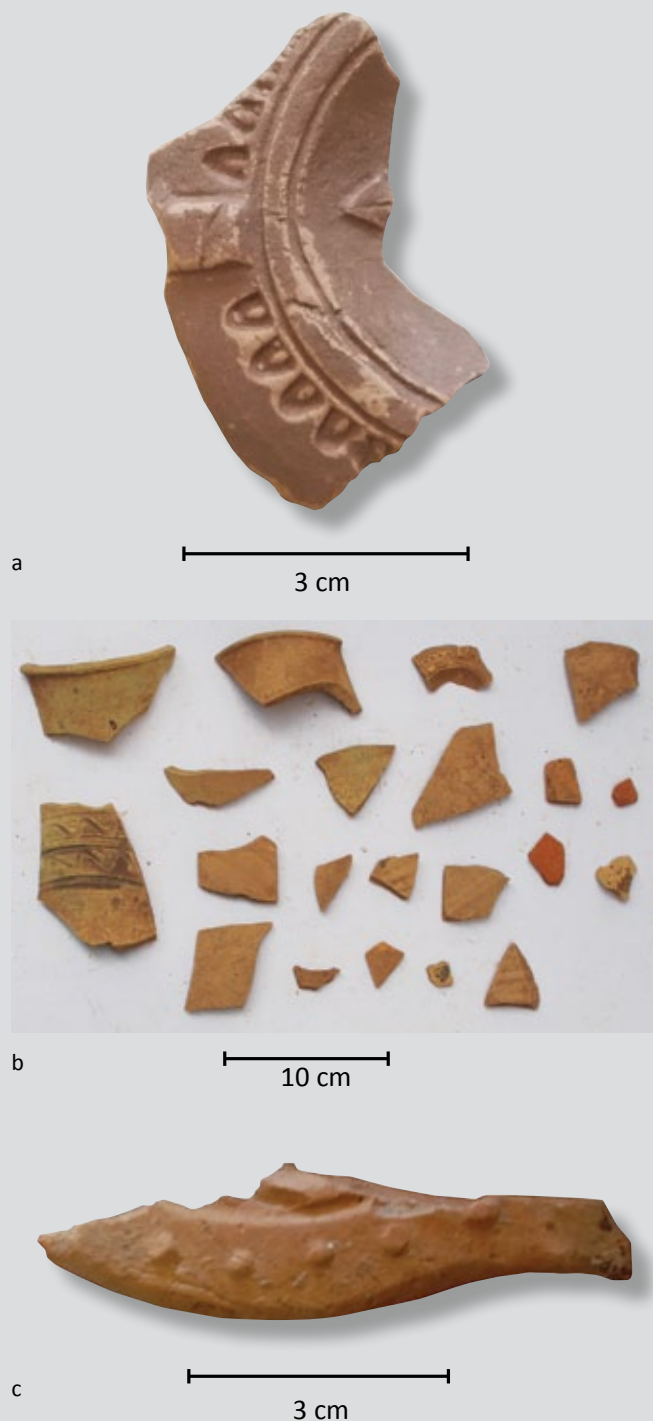


Fig. 6. Example ceramic material:
a) lamp fragment from context 273, TT.IV, 1st-2nd century AD, photo by M. Kajzer;
b) pottery from the context 273, TT.IV, photo by G. Doulfis;
c) lamp fragment from context 62, T.II, photo by G. Doulfis

of a levelling layer. Beneath this destruction level, a layer of small stones was revealed, among which tiles of various periods were identified, along with pottery and a few bone fragments. Below this, another layer containing tiles of various periods, mortars, and stones was found. In all layers, a distinct east-to-west slope was noticeable, in accordance with the natural incline of the area.

In this same test unit, in contact with the southern wall of the Roman building, the foundation trench was identified due to its distinct soil composition, which differed from the previously mentioned layers. The foundation trench contained almost no pottery. However, in the northwestern corner of TT.IV, within the foundation trench and in contact with the western edge of the southern wall of the Roman building, a concentration of stones, tiles and, comparatively many pottery sherds were found. Among these was a diagnostic vessel rim and a lamp fragment (Figs 6 a-b), both dated to the late 1st to early 2nd centuries AD.

The natural soil of the area was encountered deeper, consisting of a hard, light brown clay-rich soil without any finds. The foundation of the southern wall of the Roman building reaches a height of approximately 0.35 m. Two distinct sections (phases?) can be identified: the upper part contains a significant amount of binding mortar, while the lower part has much less. It is worth noting that the layer of destruction identified in TT.IV corresponds with the upper part of the foundation.

Movable material

The ceramic material uncovered during the first excavations season consists of 619 ceramic sherds in total (Fig. 6) collected in trenches T.II, T.IV and TT.IV. Only 117 are diagnostic, including rims, bases, handles, and other recognizable vessel parts such as necks, shoulders, or spouts. Where appropriate, the fragments were classified into basic functional groups, namely tableware, plain wares, cooking vessels, storage vessels, amphorae, and lamps. The dominant group is plain ware, followed by tableware. The preliminary study carried out on the entire material shows the general scarcity of ceramic material. Overall, the chronology of the material extends between the Hellenistic and Late Roman periods. More finds were recorded in trench T.IV than in the other trenches, including 61 diagnostic fragments of the Hellenistic-Early Roman period. At present, it appears that the majority were made using clays of local origin, but some isolated examples of imports were also recorded, including Attic Black Gloss and Knidian grey ware. Further study in the coming months will clarify their dating and possible origin.

In addition to the pottery sherds, it is worth highlighting the significant presence of ceramic building material, mainly tiles and bricks (Fig. 7). The selection



Fig. 7. Examples of building materials.
Photo by G. Doulfis

of diagnostic fragments, which includes, among others, examples with painted decoration as well as animal footprints (probably dogs), will be studied further. The recorded archaeological material also contains bone fragments (likely remnants of consumption), shells, chunks of mortar and fragments of stone and glass objects, some of the latter diagnostic and belonging to glass vessels. Last but not least, a stone with visible tool marks forming a rhomboid pattern identical in size to the stones used in the Roman building's *opus quasi reticulatum* masonry as well as a smaller one which is the product of this procedure were found *in situ*, letting us imagine the workers at the time they were building the monument (Fig. 8).

The finds were appropriately packaged and transferred for safekeeping to the archaeological warehouse of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Arcadia in Tripoli. The tiles, except for those that were collected for further



Fig. 8. Unfinished stones used as building material.
Photo by G. Doulfis

investigation, were collected in stacks and covered on the northern exterior side of the building.

Conclusion

The excavations of the Polish-German-Greek project in the Roman building in the Thelpousa agora have already provided significant new insights into the structure, especially with the discovery of the unknown wall in trench T.IV. So far, no evidence has been found that sheds light on the function of the Roman building: certainly not a 'loutro', its identification as a temple or an intra-mural funerary monument, based on its plan, seems tempting. The dating of the building, cannot yet be estimated more specifically than the 1st or 2nd century AD. The surprisingly small amount of ceramic material makes this not an easy task, but a thorough analysis of the collected pottery and the expected enlargement of the assemblage in the 2025 season will provide an opportunity for more precision.

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Intensive field survey around the Neolithic Tell Paradimi.

Data collection using Mobile GIS

Marina Tasaklaki, Dushka Urem-Kotsou, Maciej Dębiec, Periklis Chrysafakoglou, Kiriakos Sgouropoulos

Introduction

Studies on Neolithic Aegean Thrace are still underdeveloped. Only a few sites have been investigated by excavation or with geophysical methods, namely: Paradimi, Krovili and Proskinites (Rodopi), Makri (Evros), and Lafrouda and Diomedia (Xanthi) (Ammerman et al. 2008; Andreou et al. 1996, 591-3; Bakalakis & Sakellariou 1981; Kallintzi & Papadopoulos 2010; Urem-Kotsou et al. 2022; Sgouropoulos et al. 2024). Since 2023, excavations have resumed on the Neolithic tell of Paradimi (Fig. 1) as part of the ParEx project. In addition, during 2024 the ParEx project carried out an intensive fieldwalking campaign around the tell. The prospection was directed by Marina Tasaklaki (Ephorate of Antiquities of Rhodope in Komotini) together with Dushka Urem-Kotsou (University of Komotini), Maciej Dębiec (URz), Kiriagos Sgouropoulos (University of Komotini) and Periklis Chrysafakoglou (University of Komotini). Students from several countries participated in the field research, including Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Poland, and the United States.

Survey Method

Intensive agriculture is one of the main characteristics of the modern Thracian plain and mainly focuses on the cultivation of either cotton or wheat. This type of land use necessitated planning of surface survey to avoid the summer months when visibility on the ground would be reduced and walkers would

encounter difficulty passing between the agricultural plots. The ParEx field prospection thus occurred during two periods, in the spring and autumn of 2024.

We adapted and used the methodology designed by the Mapfarm project (Sgouropoulos et al. 2024) to record and collect archaeological finds (Fig. 2). For our ParEx survey, we used the digital documentation application QField instead of the ODK Collect application used in the previous project. QField is an open-source app that can be used for collecting data in parallel with spatial information, allowing synchronisation in a local QGIS project. By using it, the time required to conduct surface survey was greatly improved and the data could be processed and studied directly in GIS software.

A total of 321 agricultural fields were surveyed, covering a total area of 2.7 km². We recorded a total of 19,111 finds, of which 470 were stone objects. We deemed 18,534 pottery fragments datable in the field, with 44 sherds belonging to the historical periods and 63 sherds to the prehistoric period. Only special finds (i.e. complete spindle whorls, blades, axes) or those providing information regarding formal type, raw material, or chronological date were collected, with all other recorded finds left in the field. All collected material has been washed and stored in the facilities of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Rhodope.

Results

Qualitative and quantitative analysis of the data allows the identification of three new sites in the surroundings of Tell Paradimi. The first site was identified southeast of the Toumba of Paradimi and was probably partially destroyed by the modern channel of the Vosvozi River. Based on the ceramics, stone axes, and spindle whorls, we propose the site dates to the Late Neolithic and Classical periods.

The second site was identified southeast of the village of Mesochori. Unfortunately, most of the area is covered by crops that obstruct visibility. Therefore, further research is necessary to accurately estimate the site's size. The ceramics, stone axes, and blades suggest site components belonging to the Late Neolithic, Classical, and Byzantine periods.



Fig. 1. Tell Paradimi. Location of the site (North Greece). Basemap after ESRI ArcGIS Pro resources

The third site was identified in an area northeast of the village of Mesochori and likely dates to the Hellenistic and Classical periods. A concentration of pottery fragments and roof tiles was observed. Of particular interest was the identification of two circular vegetation anomalies in a cotton field approximately 200 m south of this area. Additional drone photographs confirmed they likely represent two structures (Fig. 3).

Finally, in addition to these new sites, the well-known Neolithic site in the settlement of Mesochori was surveyed. In this case, visibility was extremely low in most areas due to the presence of agricultural crops.



Fig. 2. Group of students during field walking.
Photo by M. Dębiec

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As the site is quite important and close to Tell Paradimi, further research is deemed necessary to estimate the site's extent. Among the finds, probable Late Neolithic pottery, stone axes, and flint flakes stand out.

Final remarks

Applying intensive field survey methods combined with digital documentation around Tell Paradimi proved to be a highly effective method for discovering new sites from different periods. Future research is planned to fill spatial gaps and extend the area of the survey. These and future planned surveys will help to improve our understanding of the Neolithic settlement structure in Aegean Thrace.



Fig. 3. Structures visible from the drone photo in Mesochori.
Photo by K. Sgouropoulos

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Study visit and establishing cooperation between the Institute of Archaeology of the University of Wrocław and the Ephorate of Antiquities of Ioannina

Eleni Vasileiou, Paraskevi Yiouni, Mirosław Furmanek, Marek Grześkowiak, Mateusz Żmudziński

A delegation from the Institute of Archaeology of the UWr visited Ioannina from April 23 to 27, 2024 where they visited the site of Liatovouni and established a cooperation with the Ephorate of Antiquities of Ioannina. The initiation of this cooperation and the prospect of joint implementation of the project were initiated by Eleni Vasileiou and Paraskevi Youni, supported by Prof. Dr hab. Janusz Czebreszuk.

The Konitsa Valley is a region of diverse landscapes located in northwestern Greece, near the border with Albania, in the middle of the Pindos Mountains (Fig. 1). Two rivers, which have their sources in the nearby mountains, converge in this basin: the Aoos and Voidomatis. The lower parts of the basin consist of the rift valleys of these rivers and extensive, relatively flat terraces that facilitate the development of agriculture and pastoralism. These are surrounded by uplands with gentle grassy slopes and green pastures. The Aoos River, after joining the Voidomatis River, flows northwest into Albania, where it is known as the Vjosa before emptying into the Adriatic Sea. The valley is a natural transport route connecting Epirus with the southeastern and coastal regions of Albania, historically known as southern Illyria. It has allowed these areas to function in a network of interregional links involving the movement of people, the distribution of goods and the spread of ideas.

The archaeology of the Konitsa Valley is poorly studied. It has been pointed out that the small number of sites from prehistoric times to late antiquity, given the favourable environmental conditions for the development of settlements, is mainly the result of lack of research (Douzougli 1996, 17).

The most important currently-known site in the Konitsa Valley is a complex consisting of a settlement and a cemetery located on the Liatovouni hill (525 m above sea level), at the confluence of the Aoos River and Voidomatis River. The site of Liatovouni was first mentioned by Hammond (1967, 273-274). Archaeological excavations at the site were carried out in 1993 by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Ioannina under the



Fig. 1. Location of the Konitsa Valley. Prepared by M. Grześkowiak

direction of Dr Angelika Douzougli (Douzougli 1994; 1996; 1997; Douzougli & Papadopulos 2011). The investigations focused on the southern and south-eastern areas adjacent to the peak of Prophitis Elias (the highest point of the Liatovouni hill), particularly on the side of the hill facing the Aoos River (Fig. 2-3). In 1993, the archaeologists excavated a test trench near the small, ruined chapel of Agios Athanasios, confirming the existence of a settlement. A little more than 200 metres south of the settlement, rescue excavations began in 1994 and confirmed the existence of a cemetery. To protect the site from looting, systematic excavations took place over three seasons (1994, 1995 and 1997).

Archaeological excavations in the cemetery revealed the existence of 103 tombs dating from the



Fig. 2. General view of the Liatovouni settlement from the southwest. Photo by M. Furmanek



Fig. 3. The area of the Liatovouni settlement.
Photo by M. Furmanek

late 13th or 12th century BC to the early 4th century BC. This covers the period from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age. The burial of an adult male, referred to as the 'Hero of Liatovouni,' is the richest found and dates to the Late Bronze Age. It is considered to be the oldest preserved burial, around which a burial area was later built. Most of the graves were pit graves with no standard orientation and contained a single inhumation covered with stones. The deceased were buried with clay and metal vases, bronze weapons, and jewellery. Most of the vases were handmade and decorated with matt-painted motifs. The pottery consisted of jugs (with a beak or cut neck), amphorae, kantharoi, cups, askoi, and multiple types of vases. Three graves, dated to the Late Roman and Early Christian periods, contain tombs constructed with incised and decorated roof tiles.

The excavation research conducted within the settlement in Liatovouni comprised 11 trenches, with a total area of approximately 200 square metres. Two successive occupation layers were identified in the settlement. Phase I is subdivided into two distinct phases, Liatovouni I (11th century BC) and Liatovouni II (10th century BC). Phase II, designated Liatovouni III, encompasses the period from the 9th to the 4th century BC. The settlement sector is comprised of the remains of ancient walls constructed from limestone pebbles and mud bricks, in conjunction with traces of hearths, encircled by a marginally curved wall with a width of approximately 0.90-1.10 m, which has been interpreted as a retaining wall. During Liatovouni I, the houses were characterised by curved walls, while the floors were constructed using stamped earth and small pebbles. Subsequently, in Liatovouni II, the houses exhibited a curved and rectangular configuration. The construction of the floors involved the use of



Fig. 4. During the scientific discussion...
Photo by M. Furmanek

packed earth, gravel, and pebbles. A slightly indented layer of packed earth, small pebbles, and gravel was interpreted as part of a road. The second occupation phase – Liatovouni III – is not represented by any architectural remains. A substantial quantity of handmade pottery and other small finds (spindle whorls, beads, loom weights, bronze and iron objects) were collected from the settlement. The burial of a child was discovered under the floor of one of the houses (Douzougli & Papadopoulos 2011; Vasileiou 2015; Yiouni 2017; Yiouni & Vasileiou 2018).

In the spring of 2024, a team of archaeologists conducted a reconnaissance of the Liatovouni site. The team included Paraskevi Yiouni and Eleni Vasileiou from the Ephorate of Antiquities of Ioannina, as well as Mirosław Furmanek, Marek Grzeškowiak, and Mateusz Żmudziński from the UWr's Institute of Archaeology (Fig. 2-4). The results of the prospection revealed the site's significant research potential. This led to a hypothesis suggesting that the settlement complex was significantly more extensive and complex than previously thought, with crucial implications for understanding social, cultural, and economic processes in Epirus. During the visit, the representatives of the Institute familiarised themselves with the museum's collections and the scientific achievements of Greek researchers and held a series of working meetings with archaeologists Eleni Vasileiou and Paraskevi Yiouni. Following a thorough analysis of the available data, the team agreed on the necessity of conducting joint archaeological investigations, initially focusing on non-invasive survey methods. It is anticipated that, in subsequent years, the research programme will expand to encompass excavations, thereby facilitating a more detailed exploration of the structure, chronology, and nature of the Liatovouni settlement complex.

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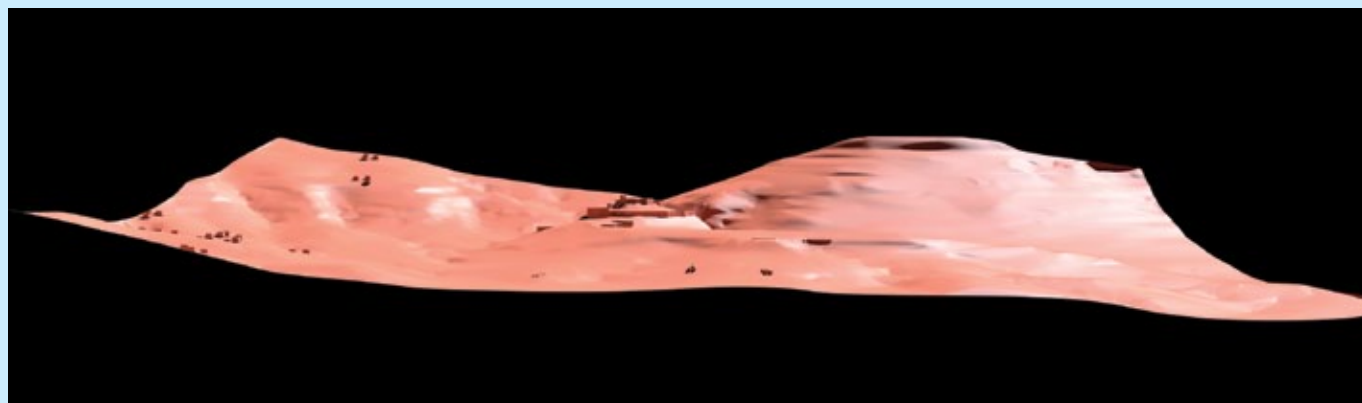
Non-invasive Landscape and Architectural Research at Archaeological Sites in Mycenae, Pylos, and Tiryns – Season 2024

Sebastian Borowicz

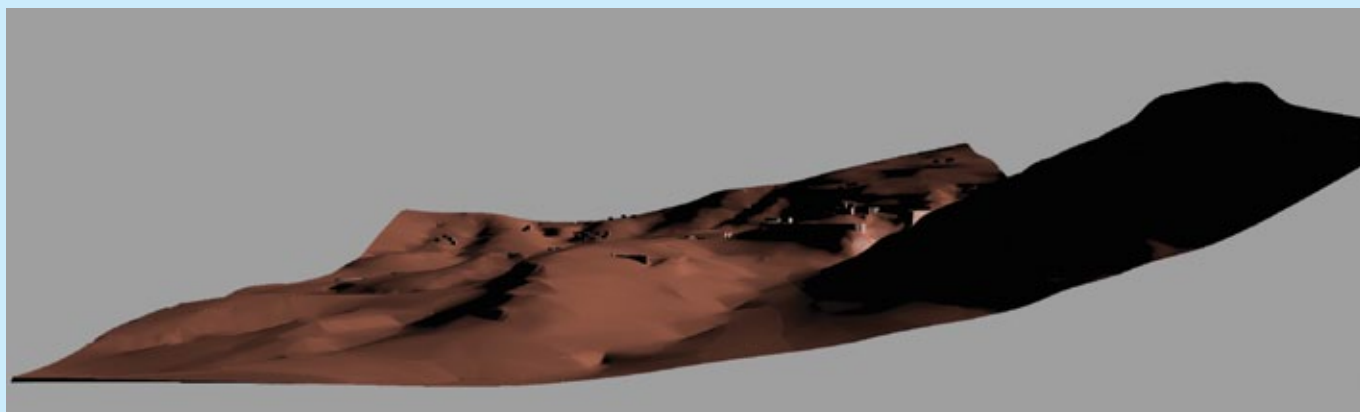
In October 2024, a group of researchers from the UW and the Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków carried out several days of preliminary work on the spatial-landscape relationships of three Mycenaean centres: Mycenae, Tiryns, and Pylos. The research was funded by the 'Artes Liberales' Institute Foundation and conducted with the necessary permits for aerial photography obtained from the Ministry of Culture of the HR via the PAIA. The team, led by Sebastian Borowicz, included architects Grzegorz Biliński and Alicja Duzel-Bilińska, and archaeologists Maciej Talaga and Monika Stobiecka. The aim of the work was to obtain basic data for an analysis of the spatial morphology and

archaeophysiography of the region surrounding these centres during the Late Helladic III B period.

The fieldwork involved photographic and photogrammetric documentation of the palace centres (or parts thereof) and selected points in their immediate vicinity. Equipment used included Sony 7 IV cameras and a DJI Air 3 Combo drone. The selection of points in the field was determined by the presence of dominants, i.e. significant archaeological architectural elements and elements of physiographic relief such as mountain peaks, gorges, valleys, ridges, and terraces, as well as minor physical accents. The team was also interested in linear elements of terrain infrastructure,



a



b

Fig. 1a-b. Cross-sectional views of the site from a 3D simulation of the model overlooking the Mycenaean citadel between two mountains and two low hills. The orthogonal view is based on the physiography of the site. The presence of tholos tombs has been taken into account. View 1a was taken on a west (nearer) – east (farther) axis, while view 1b was taken on a north (farther) – south (nearer) axis. Simulation authors: G. Biliński and A. Duzel-Bilińska

including transport infrastructure such as remains of roads and bridges. The above-mentioned objects were classified as belonging to one of the following spheres: the geosphere (mountains, rocks, valleys, crevices, etc.), the hydrosphere (distribution of watercourses, distance from the coast) and the pragmasphere, which includes all elements resulting from material human activity. In addition, elements of the aerosphere (sunlight, lighting, air movement) and the anthroposphere, which includes social activities and practices – everything introduced by humans as social actors (e.g. processions, sacrifices, burial rituals, as well as trade, cultivation, animal husbandry, warfare and cognitive perceptions) – were taken into account. Correlations

were considered not only between mathematically understood points in space, but also across whole levels of spheres, grouping different types of objects, both dominants and accents. In this way, their relationships could be reinterpreted, particularly concerning cross-sections of the sites (Figs 1-2).

The data were analysed and processed by Grzegorz Biliński and Alicja Duzel-Bilińska at the Archisphäre Laboratory and the Design Methodology Laboratory of the Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków. Among other things, 3D simulations of terrain profiles were produced, showing correlations between the geosphere and key pragmasphere objects such as citadels

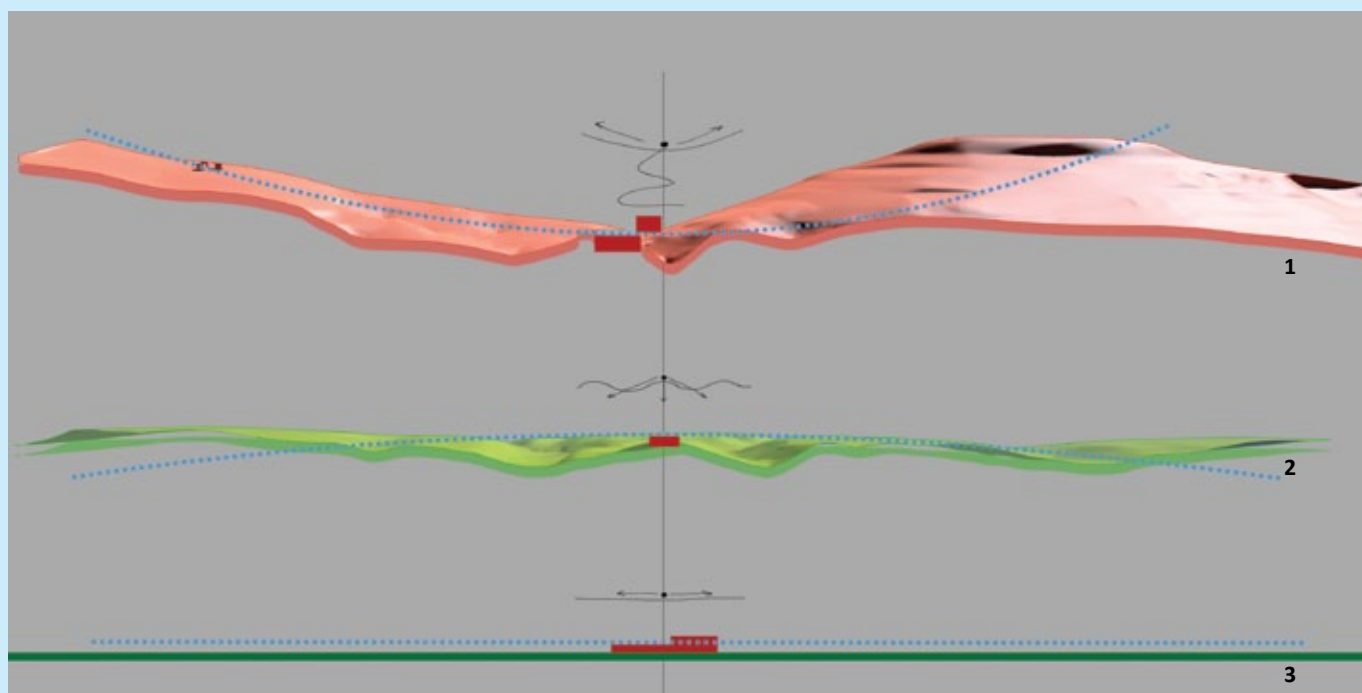


Fig. 2. Snapshot from a 3D simulation showing a comparative analysis of terrain profile models at (1) Mycenae, (2) Pylos, and (3) Tiryns. The simulation is based on drone surveys and physiographic data from early October 2024. The authors of the simulation are G. Biliński and A. Duzel-Bilińska

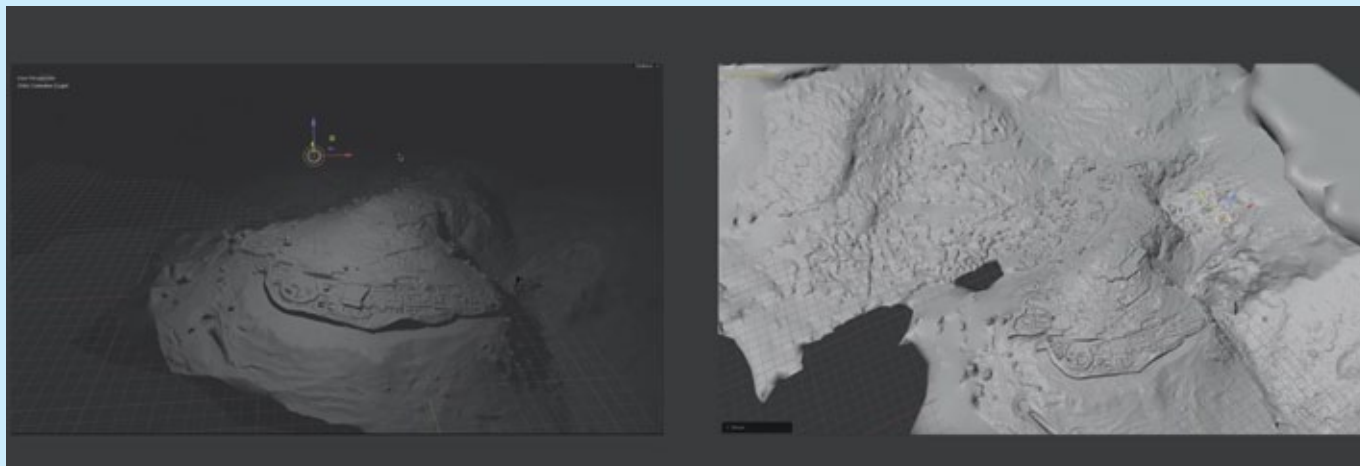


Fig. 3. Aerosphere level – solar radiation analysis using digital methods on 8 October 2024 in Mycenae. Snapshot from a 3D simulation model based on aerial photographs taken in early October 2024. On the right is an image in non-simulated illumination showing the pragma- and geosphere. On the left is an image taken in simulated lighting. Daylight conditions of the area at noon for the geolocation data of Mycenae. Simulation authors: G. Biliński and A. Duzel-Bilińska

and residential buildings at Mycenae (Figs 1 – 2:1), Pylos (Fig. 2:2) and Tiryns (Fig. 2:3). Analysis of the simulations shows a correlation between the shape of the terrain profile (concave, convex, straight) and the line of sight in the pragmasphere, which influences the psychology of perception. The hill with the citadel of Mycenae is situated between two dominant mountains (Prophitis Ilias and Sarra) and two smaller hills (Pezulia and Panagia), forming a concave line of sight. The viewer's perspective is ascending/descending, and the winding passage through the narrow gorge (Longaki) between the mountains evokes a sense of emotional tension, complexity and unpredictability, which may have been related to the axiological sphere of the time. Conversely, the ridge on which the Palace of Pylos stands is associated with a convex profile in the geosphere. Here the line of sight is slightly convex and gently sloping, evoking a sense of tranquillity and mastery over the surroundings. In the case of Tiryns, the flat terrain defines a straight line of sight, creating an effect of both distance and direct accessibility. These three profiles thus create three different emotional 'landscapes': tension (-), calm (+) and neutrality (0).

Preliminary simulations of the Mycenaean environment were also produced from the data acquired, illustrating the local relationships between the pragmasphere, geosphere, and aerosphere, including models simulating the variability of sunlight throughout the day, from dawn to dusk (Fig. 3). The diurnal changes in light, shadow, and colour have a significant impact on perception and consequently on the variability of the landscape as experienced by the observer.

In the team's initial spatial analyses, simulations were animated to better illustrate the influence of perceptual variables (brightness, colour, colour temperature, and the narrative image of the observed space).

The topographic survey also included an analysis of fragments of communication routes (roads, bridges) and landmarks (e.g. tholos tombs). At this stage of the research, three basic patterns of communication routes can be hypothesised for the period in question: meandering roads, used to cross elevated surfaces; spiral roads, reflecting a logic of ascent analogous to the sphericity of domes; and straight roads, with a linear, functional layout. These patterns correspond to three different communication strategies and motor behaviours that probably served different social purposes in Mycenaean culture: (a) ascending/descending (climbing to something), (b) going up/around something, and (c) reaching a destination. These are universally shared designs and have been identified in the layout of contemporary roads around the so-called Palace of Nestor at Pylos (Fig. 4), which serves as a heuristic model for understanding possible relationships between the road (pragmasphere), the geosphere, and the sphere of social and symbolic behaviour (anthroposphere).

The research, which began in 2024, will continue in 2025 in the area around Mycenae, supported by a grant from the Centre for the Study of Ancient Civilisations at the University of Warsaw. The analysis of the distribution of objects in the different spheres, their multi-level correlations and, more importantly, their relationships with the individual body (human presence) and the social body (community presence) with-



Fig. 4. Three basic road patterns and their relationship to the physiography, using the area of Nestor's Palace at Pylos as an example. Satellite image from mapper.acme.com. The illustration is heuristic. Authors: G. Biliński and A. Duzel-Bilińska

in this network of interrelationships forms the basis for studying the cultural mechanisms of landscape production and formation. In the long term, this research will also contribute to the simulation of these mechanisms. The category of landscape is understood in an anti-naturalistic way, i.e. as the culturally constructed environment of the Mycenaean community, shaped by its functional norms and directives, including axiological preconceptions, elements of the contemporary worldview, and a synergistic model of perception fundamentally different from the modern, rationalist-oriented paradigm of thought and perception.

Neolithic chipped stone artefacts from the 1997 excavations of Paradimi. A preliminary report. Part 2.

Andrzej Pelisiak, Dimitris Matsas, Marina Tasaklaki, Dushka Urem-Kotsou, Anna Mousioni, Periklis Chrysafakoglou, Krystian Orczyk

Archaeological excavations of the tell site Paradimi in the province of Rhodope, Aegean Thrace (Fig. 1), were first carried out by Stilpon Kyriakidi and Eustratios Pelekidi in 1929–1930 (Matsas 2017), then again by Georgios Bakalakis in 1965 (Bakalakis & Sakellariou 1981). In 1997, Dimitris Matsas and Kostas Gallis excavated an additional 60 m². They designated the area under study, a unit measuring 5 x 12 meters, Trench A (Matsas 2003).

Paradimi was also one of several sites investigated in 2020 using non-invasive methods, including detailed surface surveys (Urem-Kotsou et al. 2022). We analysed the lithic artefacts recovered during the surveys in 2022 and published the results in 2023 (Pelisiak et al. 2023a; 2023b).

In 2023, we began analysis of materials from the 1997 excavations of Trench A (Pelisiak et al. 2024a). These materials belong to the upper layer of the tell and are associated with the Neolithic Paradimi IV culture. We also initiated research on the raw material used to manufacture lithic artefacts, primarily focusing on identifying outcrops and potential procurement sites used by the Neolithic population inhabiting Paradimi (Pelisiak et al. 2024b). We contextualised the analyses and findings through comparison with infor-

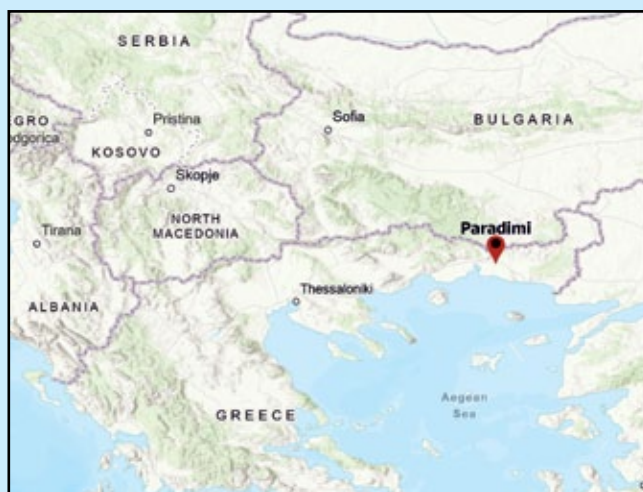


Fig. 1. Paradimi, Aegean Thrace. Location of the site. Basemap after ESRI ARCGIS Pro resources

mation on Neolithic lithic materials from other sites in northern Greece (e.g. Darcque et al. 2011; Dimitriadis & Skourtopoulou 2003; Dixon 2003; Efstratiou et al. 1998; Kakavakis 2014; 2015; Kourtessi-Philippakis 2009, 306; Papadopoulou 2018; 2020; Skourtopoulou et al. 1998; Tringham 2003).

In 2024, we continued the analysis of lithic artefacts from the 1997 excavations. We examined items identified by the researchers of the site as “special finds”. This group is composed of over 260 artefacts

deemed particularly significant by the archaeologists. The materials exhibit a high degree of typological diversity. A significant group consists of tools such as complete and fragmentary rectangular polished stone axes (Fig. 2), end-scrapers on blades, end-scrapers on flakes, microlithic blades with microretouch and glossy polishing, retouched blades and blade fragments, unretouched blades with glossy polishing, unretouched sickle blades, borers, burins, and truncated blades. We also noted cores and core fragments with changed orientation of flaking, regular and irregular blades and their fragments, flakes and their fragments, splintered pieces, flakes from polished axes, and chunks. The flakes from polished stone axes suggest local use and/or repair of these tools.

A second aspect of the research on the flaked stone industry from Paradimi concerns the description of the raw materials used and the identification of potential procurement sites. The materials present considerable variation in terms of raw material composition. The analysed collection includes the same

raw materials as those from previous excavations at Paradimi, as well as from surface surveys at Paradimi and Krovili. These include white and pink quartz, translucent and opaque brown and grey cherts of varying shades, and various ground stones. We also recorded items made from honey Balkan flint, but obsidian artefacts were absent. In terms of location of raw material procurement, we have identified outcrops of certain cherts (mainly milky grey, opaque with small darker, sometimes nearly black, specks) near Petrota village. As for quartz, the Neolithic population likely sourced it from multiple locations in the immediate vicinity of the Paradimi tell.

We are currently preparing the analyses of materials from the 1997 excavations at Paradimi for detailed publication. Further analyses of lithic artefacts from Paradimi, stemming from the research initiated in 2023, are planned, along with continued studies on lithic raw materials in Central Macedonia and Eastern Macedonia and Thrace more broadly.

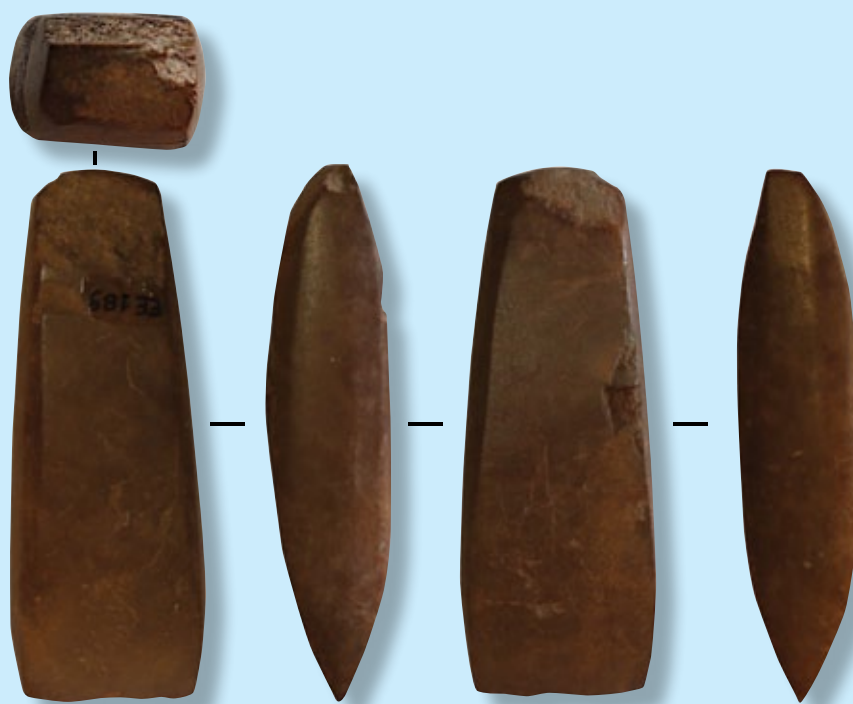


Fig. 2. Paradimi, Aegean Thrace. Excavations 1997. Rectangular stone polished axe. Photo by K. Orczyk

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Metals from Mycenae: The Poros Hoard Continued and Microanalysis of Miniature Gold Artefacts

Stephanie Aulsebrook

Research on two separate research topics, both related to metal artefacts from Mycenae, took place in July 2024 at NAMA. Dr Stephanie Aulsebrook was accompanied by two research assistants, a student and former student of the Faculty of Archaeology at UW (Ms Paulina Jurkowska and Ms Monika Łapińska). Cooperation from NAMA was generously provided by Dr Kostas Paschalidis (curator, NAMA) and Maria Kontakaki (conservator, NAMA). Organisational assistance was kindly provided by PAIA.

The first project was the second and final restudy season for the 'Poros Wall Hoard' from Mycenae. The

context of this research has already been presented in detail in last year's report. The purpose of the second restudy season was to complete the examination of the artefacts after conservation had taken place. This proved to be highly rewarding.

The most significant finding is the confirmation that the hoard contains fragments from a cuirass similar to the famous Dendra cuirass currently on display in the Nauplion Museum (Fig. 1), although of a slightly different design. This is the first evidence for plate armour from Mycenae and is one of only a handful of similar finds from elsewhere in the Late Bronze Age



Fig. 1. Left: complete Dendra cuirass (based on Åström, Verdelis 1977 pl. XV,2); Middle: breastplate and single skirt belt from the Dendra cuirass (based on Åström, Verdelis 1977 pl. XVI,1,4); Right: two fragments from the Poros Wall Hoard with patterns of attachment holes only known from cuirasses. Photo by Author, with permission from NAMA

Aegean. This possibility had long been suspected by Dr Diana Wardle, who sadly did not find the time to follow up her suspicions. Her surmise was most probably based on one of the original photographs of the hoard, which showed a thick plate with distinctive fastening slots; the initial interpretation of this piece, made before the discovery of the Dendra cuirass, was as a bracket for the end of a wooden beam. Instead, it would have formed part of the area where the breastplate, back plate, shoulder pauldron and neck joined together (Fig. 1). Also reassembled during conservation were fragments from the skirt belt (Fig. 1). The possibility of further armour pieces amongst the small disintegrated fragments is currently being pursued. Further comparative analysis is also taking place on the production, use and destruction traces found on the artefacts and broken fragments.

The second project was a pilot study, which aimed to test a methodological protocol for studying miniature two-dimensional gold foil decorations (Fig. 2). The majority of these ornaments, which are familiar to anyone who has excavated or studied Mycenaean tombs, were probably intended to be sewn or otherwise fixed to textiles accompanying the dead; certain types, such as the miniature gold circles, are known to have been attached to large glass relief beads and plaques. Little, though, is known about their produc-

tion and use. These questions can only be answered through a substantial comparative analysis based upon the collection of microscale details.

However, these gold foil ornaments are also exceptionally delicate. Hence, before embarking on a fullscale project, it was necessary to develop and test a specific methodological protocol to enable their size and fragility be respected, whilst still allowing detailed documentation to take place through optical microscopy and macro photography in a more standardised and efficient way. The protocol meant that each artefact was only handled three times, to mount, turn, and dismount it from the analysis plate, as it passed through every phase of documentation. Higher-quality macro photography and optical microscopy images were obtained, allowing the patterning of production and usewear traces to be thoroughly recorded. Furthermore, the increased consistency of the images provided a much enhanced basis for comparative analysis, opening the door to the future employment of more advanced techniques for studying their production, such as schematic vector tracing.

Analysis of these data continue, but preliminary results indicate the use of multiple production pathways (*chaînes opératoires*) even for the simplest and smallest of these ornaments (Fig. 2). Resolving whether these differences point to the output of more than one workshop or specialist, or reflect changing craft practices over time, will have to wait until a much broader comparative analysis can take place.

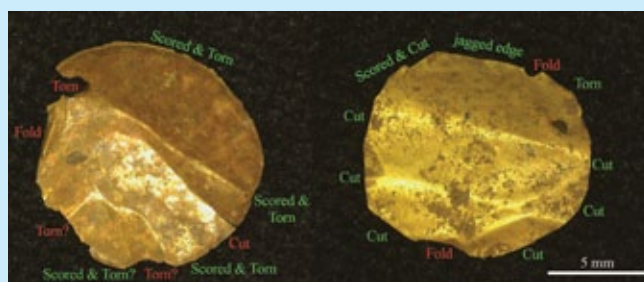


Fig. 2. Analysis images of two miniature gold foil circles detailing the visible production (green) and damage (red) traces around their edges. Despite looking almost identical with the naked eye, under the microscope their distinctive *chaînes opératoires* are clear. Photo by Author, with permission from NAMA

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The second restudy season on the Poros Wall Hoard was funded by the Mediterranean Archaeological Trust. The research on the gold foil ornaments was funded by UW, through microgrant IDUB PSP 501-D115-20-0004316; BOB-661-970/2024. Dr Aulsebrook would like to thank all the named collaborators as well as PAIA for their vital support.

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Preliminary report on the prehistoric pottery from D. Theocharis' excavations at Pefkakia Magoula

Piotr Zeman



Fig. 1. Map of Greece with the location of Pefkakia indicated (base map after Wikimedia Commons)

Introduction

The archaeological site of Pefkakia, located on the coast of Pagasetic Gulf near Volos in Thessaly (Fig. 1), comprises a tell known as Magoula (the focus of this report) and a flat area to its south. While the broader area is dominated by the remains of Hellenistic and Roman-era Demetrias, often overlying prehistoric strata, Pefkakia Magoula shows occupation from the Final Neolithic to the Late Bronze Age (LBA; c. 1600–1050 BC). Dimitris Theocharis undertook initial systematic investigations at Pefkakia Magoula in 1957, but his findings remain published only in a single brief preliminary report (Theocharis 1957). This paper offers the first overview of the material brought to light by Theocharis, with a particular focus on the LBA pottery. The study is part of a wider regional project, funded by the NSCP, and carried out with the support of PAIA. The ongoing excavations on the flat site south of Pefkakia Magoula are also a part of this project (see the report by B. Lis and A. Batziou).

Theocharis' 1957 campaign at Pefkakia Magoula involved opening two main trenches. Trench I, a deep stratigraphic cut on the southwest slope, descended 8.5 meters, revealing 24 occupational layers and 11 architectural phases from the Final Neolithic through the Early Bronze Age (EBA) and Middle Bronze Age (MBA) to the LBA (Theocharis 1957, 59–61, fig. 2). Further south, Trench II exposed walls that Theocharis

interpreted as remains of a substantial LBA building (Fig. 2). This structure comprised seven areas (A, B, Γ, Δ, E, H, and Z) with walls of varying thicknesses and a sequence of floors. A notable concentration of murex shells in Area A suggested its use as a Mycenaean purple dye workshop. Theocharis attributed the rich pottery assemblage from Area Γ and floor deposits in Areas A and B to the LBA/Late Helladic (LH) IIIA period, dating the building's use to this phase (Theocharis 1957, 61–69).

Previous studies on LBA pottery from Pefkakia Magoula

Prior to Theocharis' systematic work, Mycenaean vessels from Pefkakia, likely from illicit 19th-century excavations of prehistoric tombs on the Magoula, had come to light through the collection of P. Apostolidis (Wolters 1889; Hunter 1953). The assemblage included mainly shapes typical for Early Mycenaean burials, like piriform jars and squat jugs, dating to LH IIB/IIIA1 (Wolters 1889, pl. X-XI; Hunter 1953, 35).

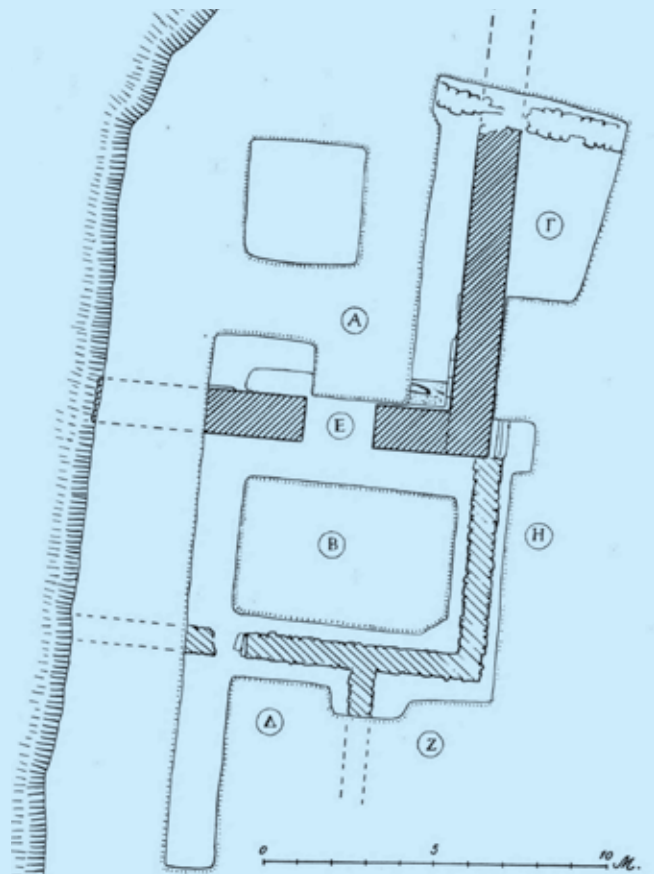


Fig. 2. Plan of Theocharis' Trench II (after Theocharis 1957, fig. 4)

The finds obtained by Theocharis in 1957 have been fragmentarily published. Theocharis' report included a small group of Neolithic, EBA and MBA pottery (Theocharis 1957, figs 3, 5, 6), a complete decorated Mycenaean kylix (Theocharis 1957, fig. 7), and decorated Mycenaean pottery fragments from Trench II (Theocharis 1957, pl. 17). A selection of pottery from Theocharis excavations was also included in A. Batziou's PhD dissertation (Batziou-Efstathiou 1998), while P. Mountjoy illustrated a few vessels from Pefkakia Magoula in her study of regional Mycenaean decorated pottery (Mountjoy 1999, 842–48). The most recent pottery study to include vessels from Pefkakia Magoula was based on Neutron Activation Analysis (Lis et al. 2023). Analyzed Mycenaean kylikes from the Magoula turned out to be imports from the Argolid and Aegina.

Preliminary results

The material stored in Volos museum deriving from Theocharis' campaign (8 boxes) comprises predominantly pottery dating from the Neolithic to the Hellenistic period, with a dominance of LBA material, especially of the LH IIIA2 and LH IIIB1 phases. While most of the contextual information is lost, the majority of LH I-III A1 fragments probably came from Trench I, while the LH IIIA2-B assemblage must have originated predominantly from Trench II.

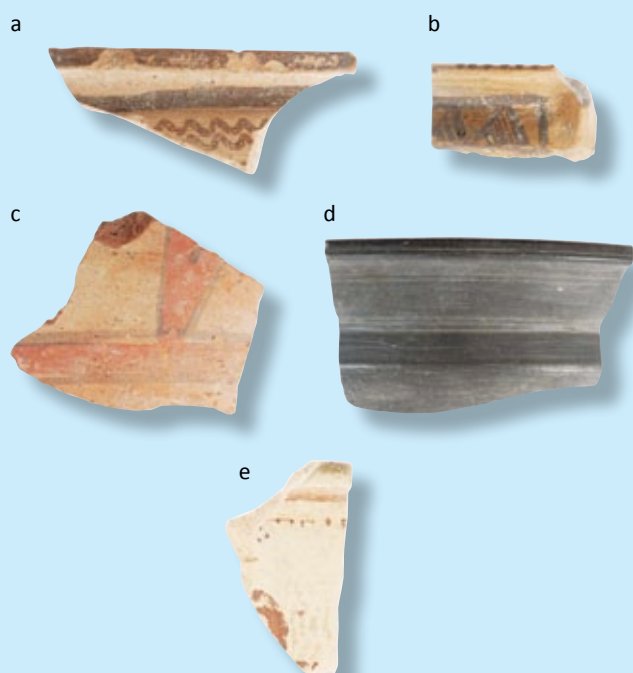


Fig. 3. a) Matt-painted krater b) Matt-painted kantharos; c) Bichrome closed shape; d) Gray Minyan goblet; e) Mycenaean conical rhyton

LH I: The study has identified a group of vessels from the very beginnings of the LBA, including some fragments of matt-painted pottery (Fig. 3a-b), a closed shape with Bichrome decoration (Fig. 3c), and multiple Gray Minyan open shapes with profiles more typical for the beginning of LBA (Fig. 3d).

LH II/III A1: Pottery dating to this period includes Aeginetan imports, such as a red-slipped and burnished krater (Fig. 4a), and a closed shape with a cross motif (Fig. 4b), highlighting the site's connectivity during the early LBA development. Other fragments include various Mycenaean decorated open shapes (Fig. 4c-d) and alabastra fragments.

LH IIIA2 – LH IIIB1: Pottery from this period is the most substantial portion of the LBA ceramic material, with both open and closed shapes present, including stirrup jars, stemmed bowls, kylikes, kraters, deep bowls (Fig. 4f) and a rhyton (Fig. 3e), as well as transport stirrup jars (TSJs) (Fig. 4e). The presence of numerous TSJs in another area of the site supports the interpretation of Pefkakia as a major Mediterranean harbor during the LBA (Lis and Batziou 2025).

LH IIIB2: A group of semi-globular cups with linear decoration indicate the continuation of Mycenaean occupation into the final palatial period.

LH IIIC: LH IIIC fragments, clearly post-dating LH IIIB2/IIIC Early transition, including a decorated krater (Fig. 4g) and a miniature lekythos, provide the first evidence for post-palatial activity on the Magoula.

The second aim of the research, apart from typochronological and functional study of the pottery, is to attempt to reconstruct, as far as possible, the contextual information. Thus far, the study of area Γ in Trench II, the source of a significant portion of the analyzed LBA pottery, suggests it represents a cumulative dump deposit containing material spanning at least from LH IIIA2 to LH IIIB1. The diverse range of pottery within this assemblage indicates a period of sustained settlement activity and refuse disposal in this area of the Magoula.

Conclusions

The preliminary pottery study from D. Theocharis' excavations at Pefkakia Magoula contributes to our understanding of the site across the LBA, revealing evidence for continuous occupation and long-term participation in the Aegean maritime networks of

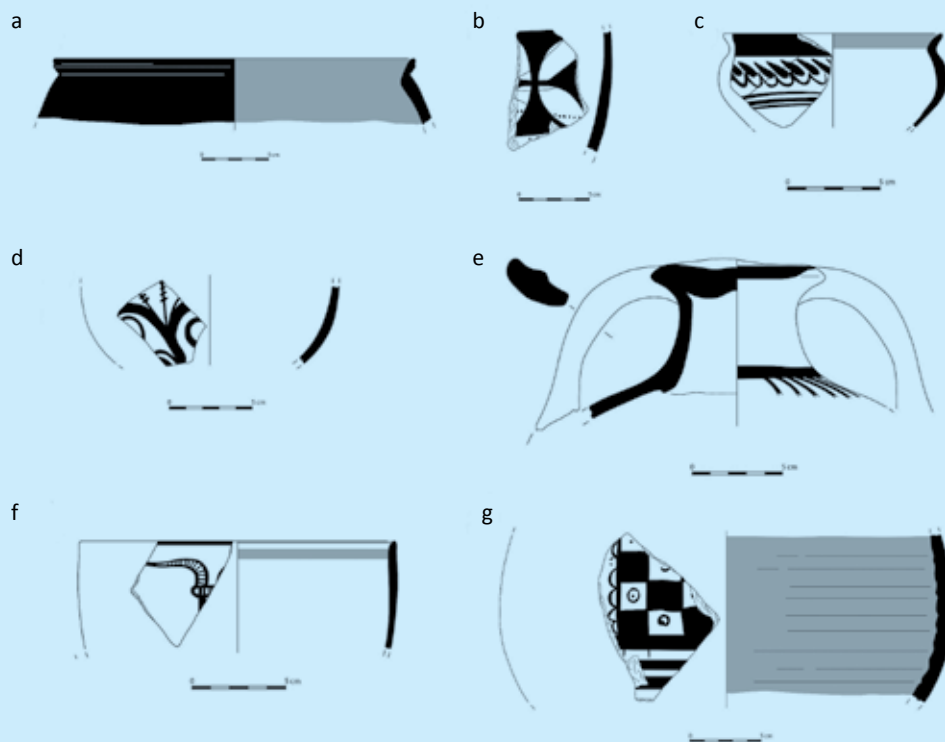


Fig. 4. a) red-slipped and burnished Aeginetan krater; b) Aeginetan closed shape; c) Mycenaean shallow cup; d) Mycenaean open shape; e) Mycenaean transport stirrup jar; f) Mycenaean deep bowl; g) Mycenaean krater

contacts, particularly during the LH IIIA2-B1 phases, aligning with the evidence from the flat part of the site (Batziou-Efstathiou 2015). The presence of LH IIIC pottery, also recently recognized in the flat part of the site (Lis et al. 2024, 21), confirms human activity in Pefkakia after the abandonment of structures south of the Magoula during the LH IIIB2/C Early period (Batziou-Efstathiou 2015, 81). Future research on Theocharis' excavations will focus on reconstructing the stratigraphy and contents of both trenches and may provide insights into the changes in the character of Magoula's

occupation across the LBA, as well as into the chronology and function of the LBA building excavated in Trench II.

Acknowledgments

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The Making of Christian Thessaloniki: Archaeological and Architectural Evidence

Dominik Stachowiak

Monument analysis and archival research in Thessaloniki I undertook in 2024/2025, realized with the support of the PAIA, is part of my doctoral thesis at the AMU and entitled “The Making of Christian Thessaloniki: Archaeological and Architectural Evidence”. My research aims to combine all available evidence that testifies to the Christianization of Thessaloniki, as well as the coexistence and interrelations between old and new religions from the beginning of the 3rd until the end of the 6th centuries AD. The city was one of the largest and most important urban centres in the Roman Balkans and was a provincial capital and seat of the Emperor Galerius at the turn of the 3rd and 4th centuries AD (Fig. 1).

Despite the written record documenting the proselytizing activity of Paul the Apostle in Thessaloniki (Mitchell 2003), material evidence for the presence of Christians in the city, primarily in the form of painted tombs, dates only to the end of the 3rd century AD at the earliest. In my thesis, I will analyse various aspects of Christian religious architecture that emerged in the city from the late 4th century AD onwards. A diachronic approach will allow me to trace development over time, while the analysis of the size, function, internal furnishings, and location of the churches within the city’s topography will enable me to draw conclusions regarding their purpose, founders, and the agency of both imperial and ecclesiastical actors, as well as the local population.

As part of my study of Early Christian architecture and topography in Thessaloniki, in March 2024 I submitted a request to the Ephorate of Antiquities of Thessaloniki City (ΕΑΠΘ), through the official channels of the PAIA, to examine selected monuments in the city. Due to safety concerns, visits to two of the requested monuments were not possible; however, I was able to access two important Early Christian basilicas that are normally inaccessible to the public. On September 12, 2024, I visited the basilica and cruciform martyrion on Tritis Septemvriou Street (Μακροπούλου 1983; Μαρκή-Αγγέλλου 1983), and on September 13, the so-



Fig. 1. Map of Greece with location of Thessaloniki. By Author

called Xirokrinis Basilica on Margaropoulou 20 Street (Μακροπούλου 1999). Thanks to the permission granted by the ΕΑΠΘ, I was able to examine and document these monuments through notes, measurements, and photographs, which will undoubtedly prove vital to my future analyses.

The second research area of my project focuses on the burial evidence from Thessaloniki. Using a detail-oriented approach, I will trace potential changes in the city’s funerary customs, such as the orientation of graves and burials, the use of grave goods, the number of individuals interred in a single grave structure, libations and food offerings, and ritual meals, among others. The chronological scope of this analysis spans the 3rd to 6th centuries AD. Since the vast majority of the population still adhered to traditional Graeco-Roman cults in the 3rd century AD, this period serves as a control sample of sorts, enabling me to establish which burial customs were in use in the pre-Christian era. From the 4th century AD onward, as Christianity gained considerable state support and became the dominant religion in the Roman Empire, changes in burial customs are expected. A careful analysis of the archaeo-

logical evidence from the cemeteries will allow me to trace these changes through time. Although only a few burial practices are perceptible through excavations, their interpretation alongside textual sources provides a useful point of reference (Stachowiak 2023). As a result, a thorough interpretation of these changes will offer new insights into the impact of Christianization on funerary customs, while also highlighting the persistence of pagan traditions in Northern Greece.

According to an established Graeco-Roman custom, the necropoleis of Thessaloniki were founded outside the inhabited area, along the main roads leading to the city from the east and west. First excavations in these areas began in the late 19th century, though these early efforts were inconsistent, lacking proper methodology and documentation. More systematic research, undertaken due to the dynamic expansion of Thessaloniki, began only in the 1960s. A major part of the eastern cemetery was excavated in connection with the construction of the Aristotle University campus and road infrastructure in its vicinity. Unfortunately, a characteristic feature of the research on necropoleis in Thessaloniki is the fragmentary and salvage nature of excavations from the 19th century to the present day, caused by the continuous building activity of the modern city. The results of these rescue excavations are often very brief and published mainly as summaries in the *Archaiologikon Deltion* (Αρχαιολογικό Δελτίο).

More comprehensive studies regarding the cemeteries of Thessaloniki have only started to appear in the last two decades. The publication of excavations for the construction of the Museum of Byzantine Culture by D. Nalpandis (Ναλπάντης 2003), along with two doctoral theses by D. Makropoulou (Μακροπούλου 2007) and K. Konstantoulas (Κωνσταντούλας 2012), provide extensive catalogues of graves from selected sections of the necropolis. Additionally, a book by E. Marki (Μαρκή 2006) explores the potential cult of martyrs, the topography of the cemeteries, and tomb painting in Thessaloniki. These studies, along with over two hundred short reports and conference presentations constitute the basis for my own catalogue of late antique graves from the city.

Based on the published material, I have compiled a database containing 1,901 graves dated between the 3rd and 6th centuries AD. However, given the nature of



Fig. 2. Plan of Thessaloniki in Late Antiquity marking the locations of Christian churches and excavation sites of the necropolis. By Author

the publications on which the catalogue is based, the data is largely incomplete. This prompted me to apply to the ΕΑΠΘ for a permit to study the unpublished documentation from selected excavations of the necropolis. In March 2024, with the assistance of the Assistant Director of PAIA in Athens, Beata Kukiell-Vrila, an official request was made via PAIA. Subsequently, the permission was granted, and in December 2024, I was able to study 37 notebooks documenting 27 excavations conducted in Thessaloniki's late antique cemeteries. Due to the large volume of the material, I returned to the Ephorate in February 2025, where I continued the study of the excavation notebooks and gained access to the photographs from the excavations. The project will continue into 2025, as I am yet to study the plans and drawings from the requested excavations.

The preliminary results of my archival research conducted at the ΕΑΠΘ are promising. Although the study is not yet concluded, so far, I have been able to supplement the database with additional information regarding the exact location of various finds within the graves, the dimensions of the graves, and their relative chronology based on stratigraphy. Moreover, the study has allowed for the inclusion of hundreds of graves that were previously not considered due to the concise nature of the published excavation reports, which did not provide enough details. This, in turn, means that my database for the diachronic analysis of the funer-

ary customs in Thessaloniki will be much more extensive and complete, enabling a more precise and conclusive analysis. At the present stage, the anticipated impact of Christianization on burial practices seems to have been overestimated, and the preliminary results, despite a few minor changes, show remarkable continuity through time.

Acknowledgments

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Other Research Projects

Beata Kukiel-Vraila, Janusz Czebreszuk

In 2024, PAIA provided support to researchers affiliated with Polish academic institutions in securing authorisations from relevant Greek authorities. These efforts enabled access to archaeological materials, museum collections, and rights for scholarly publication, as detailed below:

Permission was obtained from the Archaeological Society at Athens for Dr Stephanie Aulsebrook to conduct an in-depth analysis of published artifacts from excavations at Mycenae carried out under the Society's auspices. These materials are currently stored in NAMA.

A permit for collection study at NAMA was secured for Dr Stephanie Aulsebrook and her two research assistants – Ms Paulina Jurkowska and Ms Monika Łapińska, undergraduate students at the UW. The visit took place from 15-19 May 2024 and focused on artefacts from the Mycenae excavations.

The Archaeological Society at Athens authorised Prof. Bartłomiej Lis (IAE PAS) to examine material from excavations conducted at Mycenae by Jan Papadimitriou under the Society's auspices.

Authorisation was granted by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Magnesia for Prof. Bartłomiej Lis (IAE PAS) to publish preliminary results of the ongoing fieldwork at the Mycenaean site of Pefkakia on the official PAIA website. The project is being carried out within the framework of a five-year collaboration (2022-2026) with the Ephorate.

The Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion (Crete) authorised Prof. Krzysztof Nowicki (IAE PAS) to disseminate information regarding the "Karfi" project via the PAIA website, in Polish media outlets including *National Geographic Polska* and the Polish Press Agency, as well as on the *Archaeology in Greece Online* platform (in English).

Additional permission from the Ephorate of Antiquities of Magnesia allowed Prof. Bartłomiej Lis (IAE PAS) to transport archaeological samples from the 2024 excavation season at Pefkakia for laboratory analysis.

The Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion granted Prof. Krzysztof Nowicki (IAE PAS) permission to transfer excavation materials from the Karfi site to the INSTAP Study Centre for East Crete for secure storage and scientific analysis.

The Ephorate of Antiquities of Samos–Ikaria granted authorisation to Mr Sławomir Bobola, MA (doctoral candidate, JU) to publish a photograph he had taken in 2022 of a statue housed at the Archaeological Museum of Samos (Vathi), including an image depicting the statue's original field context.

Permissions were obtained from the Ephorates of Antiquities in Argolis and Messenia for Prof. Sebastian Borowicz and his team (UW) to carry out drone-based photographic documentation at Mycenae, Tiryns, and Pylos. PAIA also arranged site visits for the research team.

Applications were submitted to the Ephorate of Antiquities of Thessaloniki on behalf of Mr Dominik Stachowiak, MA (doctoral candidate, AMU), to gain access to an unpublished excavation report held in the Ephorate's archive, as well as to immovable monuments and associated excavation documentation relevant to his research.

Academic Lectures

Janusz Czebreszuk, Beata Kukiel-Vrila

In the reporting year, two lecture series initiated in 2023 were continued: "Lectures by PAIA Guests" and "Lectures by PAIA Members".

As part of the first series, two further lectures were held.

On February 8, the third lecture in the "Lectures by PAIA Guests" series took place at our Institute, delivered by Prof. Krystyna Bartol (Fig. 1) (Institute of Classical Philology, AMU), a member of the PAIA Academic Board. Her lecture entitled "The Cave and the Fishpond: Poetic Use of Two Objects of Archaeological Interest in Oppian's Poem on Fishing (*Halieutica*)", garnered significant attention and stimulated a thought-provoking discussion. The event drew numerous participants (Fig. 2), including the PAIA members: Prof. Sebastian Borowicz (JU and UW) and Dr Agnieszka Wojciechowska (UWr). Among the audience were also Prof. Lucia Athanassaki (University of Crete), Prof. Ewen Bowie (University of Oxford), and Dr Costas Chatzithomas (Agricultural University of Athens).

On March 13, the fourth lecture in the "Lectures by PAIA Guests" series was delivered by Prof. Karolina Gortych-Michalak (Faculty of Modern Languages, AMU), titled "Greece in the Three Seas Initiative. The Greek language as a tool for understanding contemporary Greece" (Fig. 3). The moderator of the meeting,



Fig. 1. Prof. Krystyna Bartol and Beata Kukiel-Vrila, MA, during the lecture. PAIA Photography Archive



Fig. 2. Prof. Krystyna Bartol's lecture. PAIA Photography Archive

which inaugurated a study visit of a delegation of Polish scientists and experts visiting Athens from 13-15 March, was Dr Aleksandra Kuczyńska-Zonik (Institute of Central Europe, Catholic University of Lublin), and the discussant was Prof. Piotr Bajda (The Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University). The event was organized within the project “Research Center of the Three Seas Initiative” of the Institute of Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences.



Fig. 3. Prof. Karolina Gortych-Michalak's lecture.
PAIA Photography Archive

As part of the “Lectures by PAIA Members” series, four additional lectures were held.

On March 6, the fourth lecture in the “Lectures by PAIA Members” series took place at PAIA, delivered by Prof. Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka (Fig. 4) (JU and UW), Deputy Director of PAIA, titled “Integrated archaeological, architectural, and urbanistic research using modern methodology in service of the 3D reconstruction of Nea Paphos cityscape.” The lecture drew great interest. On this special occasion, our institute hosted, among others, Prof. Georgia Kokkorou-Aletras (University of Athens); Prof. Despina Kondopoulou (AUTH) (Fig. 5); Dr Jorgos Doulfis (University of Athens) (Fig. 6); Dr Matthew Evans and Sebastian Marshall from BSA; Dr Edyta Marzec (UW); and PhD students Kamila Niziołek (JU), Michał Michalik (JU), and Marcin Kosz (UWr); as well as a large group of students from the Italian School of Archaeology at Athens.

On April 10, the fifth lecture in the “Lectures by PAIA Members” series was delivered by Dr Aleksandra Brzozowska-Jawornicka (Fig. 7) from the Department of the History of Architecture, Art, and Technology at the Faculty of Architecture of the Wrocław University of Science and Technology. The lecture was titled



Fig. 4. Prof. Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka during the lecture.
PAIA Photography Archive



Fig. 5. After the lecture, Prof. Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka speaking with Prof. Despina Kondopoulou among other attendees.
PAIA Photography Archive



Fig. 6. After the lecture, Prof. Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka speaking with Dr Jorgos Doulfis among other attendees.
PAIA Photography Archive



Fig. 7. Dr Aleksandra Brzozowska-Jawornicka during the lecture.
PAIA Photography Archive

“The so-called ‘Hellenistic House’ in Nea Paphos, Cyprus. Summary of current architectural research.” The speaker, who has long participated in the excavations, presented her extensive research on one of the Roman residences discovered and studied by the Polish Archaeological Mission in Nea Paphos, Cyprus, led by the UW Polish Center for Mediterranean Archaeology.

On April 25, the sixth lecture in the “Lectures by PAIA Members” series took place at PAIA, delivered by Prof. Ewa Bugaj (AMU) (Fig. 8) and titled “Dance and music motifs on Attic Geometric pottery in light of past and present interpretations – what kind of art studies does contemporary archaeology need?”. Notable attendees included, among others, Dr Alkis Raftis, Director of the Dora Stratou National Dance Theatre;



Fig. 8. Prof. Ewa Bugaj during the lecture.
PAIA Photography Archive

Prof. Andrzej S. Chankowski (University of Lille); Dr Stavros A. Paspalas, Deputy Director of the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens; and Prof. Tomasz Jasiński from AMU with his family.

On May 15, the seventh lecture in the “Lectures by PAIA Members” series was delivered by Prof. Krzysztof Nawotka (Fig. 9) (Institute of History, UWr), a member of the PAIA Academic Board. The lecture, titled “The Nourisher of Apollo: Miletos and its God,” sparked a lengthy, multifaceted discussion involving participants present at the institute as well as those joining online.



Fig. 9. Prof. Krzysztof Nawotka during the post-lecture discussion.
PAIA Photography Archive

Screening of the film *Bronze Scepter. Symbol of Civilizational Change*

Janusz Czebreszuk, Beata Kukiel-Vrila

On May 22, we screened the film *Bronze Scepter. Symbol of Civilizational Change* directed by Mr Krzysztof Paluszyński (Fig. 1) (producer: PFS PalFilmStudio Sp. z o. o.). The film screening was preceded by an introduction by Director Prof. Janusz Czebreszuk, who emphasized the importance of cultural changes from the turn of the third and second millennium BC in Central Europe for our entire continent. Against this background, he discussed the importance of Baltic amber for Mycenaean culture.

Krzysztof Paluszyński, a documentary filmmaker participated as a guest in the Agon International Archaeological Film Festival, held in Athens from 20 to 25 May, where he was honoured with the Best Direc-



Fig. 1. Film director Krzysztof Paluszyński during the screening.
PAIA Photography Archive

tor award for his film *Enclosures – A Great Mystery from 7000 Years Ago*. At the screening of the film we had the honor of hosting: the Ambassador of Poland to Greece, Mr Artur Lompart and Ms Iwona Lompart (Fig. 2); Ms Ewa Pańczak, Chargé d'affaires a.i. Head of the Political and Economic Department of Polish Embassy in Athens (Fig. 3); Ms Justyna Słowik from

the Polish Embassy (Fig. 4); Ms Anna Sardis, Director of the Polish School in Athens; Prof. Krzysztof Nawotka (UWr), a member of the PAIA Academic Board; and many other distinguished guests. An important element of the meeting was the presentation by Prof. Janusz Czebreszuk of a replica of the amber pectoral known from Mycenaean culture.



Fig. 2 After the film screening. From the left: the Ambassador of Poland to Greece Artur Lompart, Krzysztof Paluszyński, Iwona Lompart, Justyna Słowik (Polish Embassy), Prof. Janusz Czebreszuk. PAIA Photography Archive



Fig. 3. Ewa Pańczak, First Counselor of the Embassy of the RP in Greece with an amber copy of the Mycenaean pectoral and Prof. Janusz Czebreszuk. PAIA Photography Archive



Fig. 4. Justyna Słowik from the Polish Embassy with an amber copy of the Mycenaean pectoral and Prof. Janusz Czebreszuk. PAIA Photography Archive

Evening with Mycenaean Amber

Janusz Czebreszuk, Beata Kukiel-Vrila

Two editions of Evening with Mycenaean Amber were held at the PAIA headquarters at the end of September and the beginning of October. The Polish edition took place on September 30, followed by the English edition on October 1. The main theme was the presentation of spectacular amber pectorals, a type of artefact from Mycenaean culture. A substantive introduction to the problems of Mycenaean amber pectorals was presented by Prof. Janusz Czebreszuk. Subsequently, a film documenting the reproduction of the amber pectoral – realised in 2014 as part of the NSCP 2011/01/B/HS3/02175 project – was screened. The experimental archaeologist featured in the film, Mr Eryk Popkiewicz, MA was in attendance at both events in Athens at the invitation of PAIA. During the screening, Mr Popkiewicz provided commentary on the successive stages of the reconstruction process and addressed questions posed by the audience. The culmination of the evening was the unveiling of a copy



Fig. 1. Lecture by Prof. Janusz Czebreszuk. PAIA Photography Archive



Fig. 2. Eryk Popkiewicz, MA and Prof. Janusz Czebreszuk present an amber copy of the Mycenaean pectoral. PAIA Photography Archive



Fig. 3. Demonstration of experimental archaeology of amber performed by Eryk Popkiewicz, MA. PAIA Photography Archive

made in the film, which will be permanently exhibited at the PAIA headquarters. A glass showcase specially prepared for this purpose hangs on the wall of our library. A QR with a link to the English version of the presented film was placed at the display case. Following this, an experimental archaeology demonstration was conducted, during which Mr Eryk Popkiewicz, MA, presented and demonstrated the use of a set of tools for processing amber to a large audience. (Fig. 3). We were honored by the presence of, among others: Dr Konstantinos Nikolentzos, Head of the Department of Prehistory, Ancient Egyptian, Cyprus and Middle East Art from NAMA (Fig. 4); Dr Katerina Kostanti, archaeologist from the same department; Ms Justyna Słowik from the Polish Embassy in Athens; guests from Poland; and our colleagues from other institutes: Finnish, American and Italian, as well as members of PAIA.



Fig. 4. Dr Konstantinos Nikolentzos (NAMA) and Mateusz Kula, MA (JU) during the event. PAIA Photography Archive



Fig. 5. Participants of Polish edition of Evening with Mycenaean Amber. PAIA Photography Archive

Celebration of the 100th anniversary of Jan Parandowski's *Mythology*

Beata Kukiel-Vraila

PAIA joined in the celebrations of the 100 anniversary of the first edition of *Mythology* by Jan Parandowski. The book which was first published in 1924 by H. Altenberg Publishing House in Lwów (Lviv), has long held a canonical place in Polish culture and education,

becoming one of the most widely read and influential school texts. Through its lens, successive generations raised in the Polish educational system have come to understand and imagine antiquity.



Fig. 1. Participants of the joint reading of *Mythology* by Jan Parandowski. PAIA Photography Archive

To commemorate this important anniversary, we organized in Athens a joint reading of selected passages from *Mythology*, in both Polish and our own Greek translation. (Fig. 1). We invited the Polish School “Zygmunt Mineyko” at the Embassy of RP in Athens, as well as the Experimental School of the University of Athens (E.S.U.A.) to participate in the project. The recording of the reading, which brought together members of PAIA, teachers, and students from both schools, took place at the E.S.U.A. building, with the generous support of its Director, Dr Vassiliki Tsouni and Dr Giorgos Doulfis. (Figs 2-4).

The film titled “The Myth of Athena. Recording of a joint reading session in celebration of the centenary of the publication of Jan Parandowski's *Mythology*” was presented on April 23, during a symposium organized by the Centre for Studies on the Classical Tradition



Fig. 2. In preparation for the event. PAIA Photography Archive

(OBT) and The Cluster: The Past for the Present at the Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, UW. The symposium was part of the broader centennial celebrations coordinated by Professor Katarzyna Marciniak (Fig. 5).



Fig. 3. Rehearsal of joint reading. PAIA Photography Archive



Fig. 4. Recording of a joint reading. PAIA Photography Archive



Fig. 5. Online connection with PAIA during symposium at the Faculty of "Artes Liberales", UW. Photo by Mirosław Kaźmierczak

Simultaneously, an online link was established between Athens and Warsaw, during which the initiator of the Athens-based project, Beata Kukiel-Vraila, along with the Director of the Polish School, Anna Sardis, spoke about the cultural significance and enduring impact of Parandowski's myths on Polish culture, as well as the initiatives undertaken by both institutions to mark the occasion (Fig. 6).



Fig. 6. While reading. PAIA Photography Archive

Participants of the joint reading:

PAIA: Prof. Ewa Bugaj (AMU), Dr Aleksandra Brzozowska-Jawornicka (Wrocław University of Science and Technology), Maciej Jawornicki, Beata Kukiel-Vraila.

Polish School in Athens: Anna Sardis, Alicja Wawrzynowicz and students: Anna Gwóźdź, Kacper Wojtusik, Jakub Tworek.

Experimental School of the University of Athens (E.S.U.A.): Dr Vassiliki Tsouni, Dr Vaivos Kaminiotis, Sofia Mpekri, MPhil, Dionysia Tzakosta, MEd, Dr Giorgos Doulfis and students: Athina Arseni, Smaragda Pateli, Efthimis Papathanasiou, Fanis Athanasopoulos, Maximus Mpoutsiouskos (Fig. 7).



Fig. 7. A collective photo of the participants after the event. PAIA Photography Archive

In the final part of the film photographer, Maciej Jawornicki recalls an anecdote told by the writer's son, where Piotr Parandowski describes his father's journey to Greece and the circumstances surrounding the creation of *Mythology*.

The film was made thanks to the contributions of Maciej Jawornicki (video recording) and Mirosław

Kaźmierczak (editing). Backstage documentation of the reading was provided by Dr Giannis Michailides and the Photographic Group of the E.S.U.A. The project was coordinated by Beata Kukiel-Vrila.

We warmly thank all the participants for supporting our initiative, and express our gratitude to Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak for including us in the project: "We are all made of it... One hundred years of Jan Parandowski's *Mythology* (1924)". We would also like to extend our special thanks to Ms Rokszana Łajkosz, PAIA member, who facilitated our contact with Prof. Marciniak.

"The Myth of Athena. Recording of a joint reading session in celebration of the centenary of the publication of Jan Parandowski's *Mythology*" is available online on the *Our Mythical Childhood* YouTube channel.

Zbigniew Herbert's Poetry Evening

Beata Kukiel-Vrila

On September 25, PAIA hosted a Polish-Greek poetry evening dedicated to the works of Zbigniew Herbert, marking the 100 anniversary of the poet's birth. The event was initiated by Beata Kukiel-Vrila, PAIA cultural programme coordinator, and organized with the support of the Embassy of Poland in Athens and the Polish School "Zygmunt Mineyko" at the Embassy of the RP in Athens (Fig. 1).

The audience was introduced to Herbert's world by philologist Mieczysława Makarowicz, MA from AMU (Fig. 2). Her presentation, titled "A Pilgrim in the

World of Culture", aimed not only to present the figure of one of Poland's most important poets and outline the historical context in which he lived and created, but also to engage the audience – especially younger participants – in reflection and dialogue (Fig. 3).

Selected poems by Herbert were recited by students of the Polish School who also took part in the discussion: Kinga Kotyńska, Wiktoria Kawka, Krysztyan Kudła, Kacper Wiśniewski and Paweł Madziar (Figs 4-5).

Herbert's poems in Greek translation were performed by Marta Lambiri-Fedorów, an actress of Polish-Greek descent, born and raised in Piraeus (Fig. 6). A graduate of the National Theatre of Greece's drama school, she has appeared in numerous theatrical productions and films, including *Free Subject* (Ελεύθερο Θέμα), *The Noise of the World* (Βοή του Κόσμου), and the popular Greek TV series *Entangled* (Παγιδευμένοι).

A special highlight of the evening was the presentation of Herbert's poem *The Power of Taste*, followed by a continuation inspired by it, composed and read by Professor Janusz Czebreszuk, Director of PAIA (Figs 7-8).



Fig. 1. The evening dedicated to Z. Herbert begins with introductory remarks by B. Kukiel-Vrila. PAIA Photography Archive



Fig. 2. Przemysław Makarowicz during the lecture.
PAIA Photography Archive



Fig. 3. Mieczysława Makarowicz with students from Polish School.
PAIA Photography Archive



Fig. 4. Z. Herbert's evening. PAIA Photography Archive



Fig. 5. Students of the Polish School read poems by Z. Herbert.
PAIA Photography Archive



Fig. 6. Marta Lambiri-Fedorów interprets the poems of Z. Herbert.
PAIA Photography Archive



Fig. 7. Prof. Janusz Czebreszuk performing *The Power of Taste*.
PAIA Photography Archive



Fig. 8. Participants of the Z. Herbert evening after the event. In the middle stands Marta Lambiri-Fedorów. PAIA Photography Archive

“Discovering Our Talents” – a new series of workshops

Beata Kukiel-Vrila

Journalism Workshop

On March 29, PAIA hosted the first event in a new series titled “Discovering Our Talents,” aimed especially at school pupils and university students, but also open to anyone interested.

The workshop, titled “Journalism: A Key to Understanding the Truth or a Tool for Manipulation?” was led by Beata Kukiel-Vrila, the series’ initiator, a journalist and former foreign correspondent for Polish Radio in Greece and the Balkans.

During the session, attended by high school students from the Polish School in Athens, participants explored the current state of journalism and the media’s influence on shaping public opinion. The presenter discussed issues such as media ownership, how information is created, how to identify fake news, and how to navigate and protect oneself against the chaos of the contemporary information landscape.

She also introduced prominent figures in Polish reportage and shared insights from her own experience working in both public and private radio and television.

The 2.5-hour workshop concluded with an animated discussion, which extended beyond journalism to include broader reflections on life choices and the values worth pursuing (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Participants of the Journalism Workshop with the speaker Beata Kukiel-Vrila (third from the left) after the event. PAIA Photography Archive

Photography Workshop

On April 12, PAIA hosted a workshop titled “The Composition of a Photographic Image,” led by Maciej Jawornicki (Fig. 2) – a photographer and graduate of the Lidová Konzervatoř in Ostrava (Czech Republic), where he specialized in reportage photography. For many years, he has collaborated with the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of UW.

Jawornicki participated in rescue missions at the Fourth Cataract of the Nile in Sudan, and worked for many years on the reconstruction and conservation of the Temple of Hatshepsut as well as on archaeological excavations in Saqqara. His photographs have been published in *National Geographic*, *Polityka*, *Wiedza i Życie*, and *Archeologia Żywa*, among other publications.

This was the second event in the new series “Discovering Our Talents,” which is primarily aimed at school pupils and university students, but also welcomes all those interested. During the workshop, the instructor introduced participants to the principles of photographic composition, including the golden ratio, points of interest, rhythm, perspective, and other key techniques essential to creating a strong visual frame.



Fig. 2. Photography Workshops hosted by Maciej Jawornicki. PAIA Photography Archive

Meeting with Marcin Wasilewski Trio

Beata Kukiel-Vraila

On November 10, we had the great pleasure of welcoming the Marcin Wasilewski Trio to the PAIA – one of the most acclaimed and distinctive jazz ensembles of their generation, both in Poland and internationally.

The musicians – Marcin Wasilewski (piano), Sławomir Kurkiewicz (double bass), and Michał Miśkiewicz (drums) – included Athens in their international jubilee tour, celebrating 30 years of playing together. Their concert, co-organized by the Adam Mickiewicz Institute and the Embassy of Poland in Athens, and supported by the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, opened the Jazz Festival at

the Athens Concert Hall (Jazz@Megaron).

Despite their demanding schedule, the artists graciously accepted our invitation and took part in an interview with Beata Kukiel-Vraila, now available on the PAIA website (Figs 1-2).

The meeting was also attended by Professor Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka, Deputy Director of PAIA, along with other members of the Institute (Fig. 3).

We warmly thank the musicians for joining us, and extend our gratitude to the ensemble's manager, Mr Sławomir Wrzask, for his kind assistance in organizing the visit.



Fig. 1. Interview with musicians. PAIA Photography Archive



Fig. 2. Meeting with Marcin Wasilewski Trio. PAIA Photography Archive



Fig. 3. Marcin Wasilewski Trio in PAIA. PAIA Photography Archive

Other cultural events

Beata Kukiel-Vrila

Participation in the Polish-Greek Poetry Evening

On April 5, we had the pleasure of participating in a Polish-Greek poetry evening organized by the Polish School at the Embassy of RP in Athens on the occasion of World Poetry Day.

Invited guests read works by prominent Polish poets – Patrons of the Year 2024 – Czesław Miłosz and Kazimierz Wierzyński, as well as by renowned Greek poets: Dionysios Solomos, Odysseas Elytis, Yannis Ritsos, and Nikos Kavvadias.

The evening's guest of honour was the Ambassador of RP to Greece, Mr Artur Lompart and Ms Iwona Lompart.

PAIA was represented jointly by Beata Kukiel-Vrila and participants of a study tour from the NCU: Prof. Inga Głuszek, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of History and a member of PAIA Governance Council, along with members of the Interfaculty Society of Ancient Archaeology: Mateusz Wełna, Mikołaj Tański, Patryk Talar (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Participants of the Polish-Greek Poetry Evening.
PAIA Photography Archive

Participation in the 13th Edition of the National Reading Campaign

On September 20, we took part in the 13th edition of the National Reading campaign, organized by the Polish School "Zygmunt Międzyk" at the Embassy of RP in Athens. Among the invited guests who read selected passages from *Kordian* by Juliusz Słowacki were: Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of RP in

Greece, Ms Ewa Pańczak; the Consul of RP in Athens, Mr Sławomir Pyl; the Polish Military Attaché, Lt. Col. Adam Korolczuk; Ms Beata Kukiel-Vrila.

The National Reading campaign, held under the honorary patronage of the Presidential Couple, takes place annually in hundreds of locations across Poland and abroad. In 2024, the initiative marked the 190th anniversary of the publication of this literary masterpiece.

Meeting with Nobel Laureate Olga Tokarczuk

On February 9, an open public meeting with the Polish writer and Nobel Prize laureate in literature for 2018, Olga Tokarczuk, was held at the Onassis Stegi Cultural Centre in Athens. The conversation, focused on literature and society, was moderated by journalist and editor of Tokarczuk's books in Greek, Grigoris Bekos. The event, which attracted a large audience, was conducted in Polish with simultaneous translation into Greek Language. At the end of the evening, Olga Tokarczuk met with readers and signed copies of her books in the foyer of Onassis Stegi.

We had the pleasure of attending this first-ever meeting with the author organized in Greece, and we extended an invitation for her to visit PAIA. Olga Tokarczuk graciously accepted and expressed her intention to meet with Polish youth at our Institute during her next visit to Athens (Fig. 2).



Fig. 1. Olga Tokarczuk in the foyer of Onassis Stegi.
PAIA Photography Archive

Spring school of Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, April 2024

Inga Głuszek

In 2024, the students and academic staff of the Institute of Archaeology at NCU in Toruń were thrilled to resume organising study tours, which offer participants an incredible opportunity to delve deeper into the rich heritage of ancient cultures. Students chose Athens as their first destination.

The pandemic caused the break in the organisation of the study tours, but before the forced cessation of the tours, the students and academics of the Institute of Archaeology at the NCU had organised no less than eight such tours since 2009. All of these trips were organised by the students of the students club. Unsurprisingly, the pandemic also led to a welcome break in the activities of student organisations. However, the initiative became an opportunity to celebrate the reactivation of the student organisation under the new name of the Interfaculty Society of Ancient Archaeology.

The research trip was scheduled for 02-06 April 2024 and was attended by archaeology students from the Institute of Archaeology of the Faculty of History and students from the Faculties of Humanities, Philosophy and Social Sciences and Biological and Veterinary Sciences of NCU in Toruń. The supervisor of the trip was dr hab. Inga Głuszek, professor assistant at the NCU. The trip was organised by the Interfaculty Society of Ancient Archaeology, and the students' initiative was supported by representatives of all levels of university authorities, from the Directorate of the Archaeology Institute to the Dean and Rector authorities. During their stay, the participants had the incredible opportunity to visit ancient Athens' most important archaeological sites (Fig. 1).

The group arrived in Athens early in the morning and, as the first point of their academic programme, decided to visit the NAMA. This magnificent place, full of artefacts, became the setting for the first group activities, during which the students presented selected examples of sculpture or relief to the rest of the group or explained the achievements of ancient metallurgy using Bronze Age artefacts as examples. The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the presenta-



Fig. 1. Students of the NCU exploring Athens.
Photo by M. Piotrowska

tion of the bronze sculpture of Zeus, which had been recovered from the sea off Cape Artemision. Professor Głuszek, who considers this sculpture to be a manifestation of the greatest artistry and skill of early classical sculptors in Greece, made the presentation. After their intensive museum visit, the students had the opportunity to explore the city's unique blend of modernity and ancient culture. The Areopagus Hill became the perfect place to soak up the city's extraordinary atmosphere.

The following day, the group visited the PAIA (Fig. 2), where they were introduced to the structure, aims and current activities of the Institute. During a meeting at the Institute, the students and professor Głuszek discussed the further plan for the day (Fig. 3). The students received an invitation from the Assistant Director in Athens, Ms Beata Vraila-Kukiel, to participate in a Polish-Greek poetry evening organised by the Polish School at the Polish Embassy in Athens on the occasion of World Poetry Day. During the meeting, invited guests read works by two of Poland's most prominent poets, Czesław Miłosz and Kazimierz Wierzyński, as well as some of Greece's finest writers, including Dionisios Solomos, Odysseas Elitis, Janis Ritsos and Nikos Kavadias. The evening's guest of honour was the Polish Ambassador to Greece, Mr Artur Lompart, and Ms Iwona Lompart. The meeting at the Polish School was scheduled for the following day, while the group from the NCU, after visiting the PAIA, went to the Roman Agora in Athens, where the Tower of the Winds was discussed in detail, fol-



Fig. 2. A visit to the PAIA. Photo by I. Głuszek



Fig. 3. Students of the NCU signing the guest book at the Polish Institute in Athens. Photo by I. Głuszek

lowed by a visit to the Acropolis and the Greek Agora (Fig. 4). The visit to these incredible archaeological sites set the stage for an in-depth discussion of the history of archaeological research carried out in Athens. The students had an incredible opportunity to delve into the spatial planning of the entire area, with papers presenting the architectural principles of the Parthenon, Erechtheion and the Temple of Athena Nike, as well as the remarkable phenomenon of the Stoa of Attalos and the spectacular Temple of Hephaestus. The day's journey, which was mainly devoted to ancient architecture, culminated in the presentation of the magnificent Temple of Olympian Zeus and Hadrian's Arch.

The next day of the stay started with a visit to the Acropolis Museum of Athens, where the students were introduced to the sculptural achievements of the ancient Greeks. In the afternoon, the group of students participated in the poetry evening that had already been mentioned at the Polish School (Fig. 5).

On the fifth and final day, the group had the opportunity to visit Kerameikos and the museum located at the site. This marked the grand finale of the scientific programme, where, following a quick debriefing, everyone eagerly made their way to the airport, beginning the journey home to Poland (Fig. 6).



Fig. 4. The group of students from the NCU visiting the Acropolis in Athens. Photo by M. Piotrowska



Fig. 5. A visit to a Polish school during a poetry evening. Photo by M. Piotrowska

The organisers, the Interfaculty Society of Ancient Archaeology, and all the participants are thrilled to say that the programme points and objectives of the trip were all achieved. It was an incredibly valuable experience for the students, inspiring them to expand their own research paths. The trip was an absolute success thanks to the invaluable support of the PAIA and the fantastic organisation provided by students from NCU.



Fig. 6. A farewell photo at Kraków airport. Photo by M. Wełna

School in Classical Art History and Archaeology

Wojciech Brillowski, Katarzyna Dudlik

The „School in Classical Art History and Archaeology” (hereafter Summer School) was organized by the Faculty of Art Studies at AMU in cooperation with PAIA. The initiative, funded by the Erasmus Traineeship Programme, took place from April 15 to 24, 2024. It brought together seventeen art history students, both undergraduate and postgraduate, under the supervision of Dr Wojciech Brillowski, Dr Katarzyna Dudlik, and Prof. Michał Mencfel.

The Summer School was designed for students with a keen interest in the study of Ancient Greek art history and archaeology. It aimed to complement academic studies by immersing participants in the cultural landscape of Greece, exploring a wide range of material evidence, from mass-produced artefacts to sculptural and architectural masterpieces. In addition to its focus on artefacts, the programme addressed key issues related to the management, conservation, and promotion of cultural heritage. It also examined curatorial and museum strategies adopted by both local and national institutions, focusing on the preservation and presentation of artefacts to diverse audiences. Another key theme was the accessibility of ancient monuments and works of art for people of different ages, educational backgrounds, and those with disabilities.

To achieve these aims, the project was structured in two parts. The first consisted of a series of online seminars that introduced the participants to contemporary research trends in art history, archaeology, and history of Ancient Greece. These sessions provided a solid foundation for understanding the current developments in these fields and prepared the students for the intensive programme of visits to archaeological sites and museums.

The mobility phase of the Summer School officially commenced on the afternoon of April 15 at the headquarters of PAIA. The group attended a lecture by Maciej Jawornicki (Polish Centre for Mediterranean Archaeology, UW), titled “Photography in Archaeology”, organized by PAIA. The lecture included a presentation on the use of photography in the documentation of artefacts and archaeological sites, which was followed by a lively discussion with the participants.



Fig. 1. Participants of the Summer School at the Ancient Theatre of Epidaurus. Photo by W. Brillowski

From April 16, the site-based training programme commenced with an overview of the most significant archaeological sites and museums across the Peloponnese. The programme placed emphasis on the practical application of academic knowledge, with a focus on formal analysis and interpretation of artworks within their original context. Additionally, students refined their skills in documentation by photographing and drawing a selection of artefacts. On the first day, the group visited Acrocorinth, ancient Corinth, and the Asklepieion of Epidaurus (Fig. 1). In Corinth, the group participated in a discussion with Rossana Valente (Università Roma Tre, British School at Athens), a specialist in the Byzantine period.

On April 17, the group visited the Archaeological Museum of Nafplion and its environs, exploring both Venetian and Greek neoclassical architectural styles. The majority of the day was spent at Mycenae, where participants engaged with a UNESCO World Heritage site and witnessed a modern aspect of Greek cultural heritage of worldwide importance – the lighting of the Olympic flame in preparation for the 2024 Summer Olympic Games in Paris. The day concluded with a visit to the archaeological site of the Acropolis of Sparta (Fig. 2).

The following day was dedicated to the exploration of two significant historical sites, namely the



Fig. 2. Participants of the Summer School among the architectural remains of the Acropolis of Sparta. Photo by K. Dudlik

medieval town of Mistras and the Venetian fortress of Methoni. This was followed by a discourse on early modern travellers and their contributions to the rediscovery of Ancient Greece. On April 19, the group visited the archaeological site of the Palace of Nestor at Pylos, where the participants discussed contemporary approaches to preserving and displaying architectural remains. The remainder of the day was spent at Olympia, where students explored the archaeological site and museum. There, they initiated in-depth studies of selected artworks in preparation for their presentation at the concluding seminar.

On April 20, the final day of the programme's Peloponnese segment, the group engaged in a comprehensive excursion to Delphi, encompassing a visit to its archaeological museum. Subsequently, the group proceeded to the recently renovated Archaeological Museum of Thebes, which exhibits a contemporary approach to the presentation of ancient artefacts. The day culminated in Sounion, where the group had the opportunity to admire the remains of the Temple of Poseidon.

In Athens, the initial two days were devoted to the exploration of significant landmarks, including the Acropolis (Fig. 3), the Ancient Agora, Hadrian's Library (Fig. 4), the Roman Agora, Kerameikos, and the Temple of Zeus. These visits facilitated engagement with artworks in their original contexts, thereby fostering discussions on the challenges of conserving and presenting cultural heritage in a densely built and populated urban environment.

Between the 22 and 23 of April, the participants of the Summer School programme embarked on a cultural exploration of the eminent collections housed within the National Gallery, the Goulandris Museum



Fig. 3. Participants of the Summer School in front of the Erechtheion at Athens. Photo by W. Brillowski



Fig. 4. Participants of the Summer School at the Hadrian's Library. Photo by W. Brillowski

of Cycladic Art, the Benaki Museum, and the Acropolis Museum. The focus of this exploration centred on the diverse collecting strategies, exhibition methodologies, and narrative structures employed by these institutions. On April 23, the group also explored 19th-century Athenian architecture, highlighting key landmarks such as Syntagma Square, the Athenian Academy, the National Library, and the University of Athens. Discussions focused on modern interpretations of ancient art and architecture, examining how ancient elements have been incorporated into the contemporary Athenian landscape and their political implications, both locally and globally.

In addition, on April 23, the participants were granted a visit to the BSA, where Dr Georgios Mouratidis, the Assistant Director, provided a comprehensive overview of the institution's history, its distinguished library, and its study collection. Dr Edyta Marzec, a pottery specialist at the Fitch Laboratory, introduced modern techniques for analysing, conserving, and documenting archaeological objects during a visit to the laboratory facilities. Additionally, Ms Amalia Kakissis provided an overview of the BSA's archival collections.

The Summer School programme concluded with a seminar held at the PAIA headquarters. During this seminar, the students presented their critical analyses and carefully documented insights, including photographs and hand drawings of selected artworks from Olympia, Delphi, and Athens. The seminar was live streamed on the Teams platform and disseminated through the AMU Art History Student Association's social media channels.

The Summer School successfully integrated theoretical knowledge with practical skills, thereby enriching participants' educational experiences. It provided a forum for discussions on the study, conservation, and presentation of cultural heritage, both in natural

landscapes and urban environments. Furthermore, the programme offered valuable insights into the role of ancient art in contemporary Greek domestic and international politics, thereby broadening students' understanding of European cultural dynamics. The programme has been meticulously designed and implemented to lay a solid foundation, paving the way for its continuation and expansion in subsequent years.

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The School of Hellas – polis and her inhabitants

Marek Węcowski, Joanna Wilimowska, Konstantinos Balamosev, Paweł Nowakowski, Radosław Miśkiewicz

In 2023, the Faculty of History of UW started a new MA programme taught in English: "History of Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations". The programme combines elements of knowledge on ancient history, archaeology, and study of cultures and religions. A mandatory part of the training is an educational field trip to one of the Mediterranean countries, guided by the University's research and teaching staff. In 2024, the students travelled to Athens and Attica under the direction of Prof. Marek Węcowski, Dr Joanna Wilimowska, Dr Konstantinos Balamosev, and Radosław Miśkiewicz, MA (who also ensured the photographic documentation of the trip). The PAIA greatly contributed to the organization of the trip and hosted the group for a series of papers read in the Institute's Library.

The trip took seven days, from May 23 to May 29. It was titled "The School Hellas – Polis and Her Inhabitants." On the first day, the group arrived at Athens. Already after the flight and lodging in a cosy hotel at the feet of Acropolis, they visited the Panathenaic Stadium, the Temple of Olympian Zeus, and the Hadrian's Arch.

Friday, 24 May began with a visit to the PAIA where students and staff were greeted by the Director, Prof. Janusz Czebreszuk. After a series of papers given by students at the Institute, they followed to see the Lyceum, the NAMA, and the Acropolis Museum.

On Saturday, 25 May, the group explored the Pnyx, the Ancient Agora, and the Museum of Agora. Before the midday break, they also visited the Ker-



Fig. 1. Students of the "History of Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations" programme at the Acropolis. Photo by R. Miśkiewicz

ameikos. The day closed with an afternoon visit to the Areopagus and the Theatre of Dionysus.

Sunday, 26 May, marked the beginning of excursions to Attica. The group traveled to Rhamnous, to see the archaeological site. From there, they proceeded to Marathon, its Archaeological Museum, and the Memorial Monument. Afterwards, they drove to Sounion to admire the Temple of Poseidon. Seeing it at sunset was an unforgettable experience for the entire group.

On Monday, May 27, the group headed to the archaeological site of Eleusis and its accompanying

Museum, as well as to the Athenian border stronghold of Eleutherae; subsequently, they visited the site of ancient Aigosthena with its fortified towers and a Byzantine basilica full of ancient spolia. Here, the group was afforded the opportunity to rest and enjoy the refreshing sea breeze on the beach before returning to Athens.

Tuesday, 28 May, was the last day of sightseeing and learning. Its focal point was a visit to the Delphi Archaeological Museum and the Archaeological Site. On their way back to Athens, the group visited the Acropolis of Athens.

The group returned to Warsaw on Wednesday, 29 May. The trip was perfectly balanced, blending periods of hard and creative work with hours of tasting local Greek cuisine and relaxing on the beaches of Attica. The students got a unique experience to learn about ancient Greece by actively interacting with remnants of the ancient environment themselves, under the close eye of experts in the discipline. We are thoroughly grateful to PAIA for their assistance. It was an excellent example of dedicated collaboration of the representatives of teaching and research milieus for the benefit of students.



Fig. 2. The paper session at the Library of PAIA.
Photo by R. Miśkiewicz



Fig. 3. Delphi, with a view of the Athenian Treasury.
Photo by R. Miśkiewicz

The Summer School of Faculty of Historical and Pedagogical Sciences of University of Wrocław 2024

Mateusz Żmudziński

From August 22 through September 5, 2024, the Summer School in Greece for students of the Faculty of Historical and Pedagogical Sciences of the UWr was organized to take place once again. This time the choice was to go not to Athens as in the past, but to Crete. The staff consisted of Prof. Agata Kubala, Prof. Rafał Eysymontt and Adam Szeląg MA from the Institute of Art History and Prof. Mateusz Żmudziński from the Institute of Archaeology. The PAIA was the co-organizer and partner of the summer school, without whose help it is impossible to organize such an event. Funding for most expenses was provided by the Erasmus program. The group of 28 student participants was recruited among those studying Art History and Archaeology at the UWr. There was also one student from the Institute of Classical Philology.

The students were: Zuzanna Rybińska, Dorota Sokołowska, Aleksy Jasiński, Karolina Sobczyńska, Sara Bilska, Mikołaj Ciosk, Aleksandra Tęgowska, Julia Domagalska, Aleksandra Mongarow, Julia Urbanek,

Martyna Sopicka, Gabriela Piwko, Zofia Giezek, Weronika Lewandowska, Anna Bielawska, Emilia Nowożeńska, Karolina Adamczyk, Amelia Lech, Kajetan Longawa, Krystian Borek, Laura Fryźlewicz, Alicja Jaworska, Izabela Nadolna, Natalia Suda, Jagoda Kurpis, Sara Kopeć, Krystyna Szpunt, Hubert Grylak, and Sylwestra Ślęzak.

The classes consisted of lectures, often given in historic sites or in front of museum display cases. For example, Prof. A. Kubala gave several lectures in museums and Minoan palaces and Prof. R. Eysymontt and A. Szeląg MA lectured in Venetian ports, fortresses, and old towns. In addition, students presented on topics they had chosen and prepared in advance, such as the Maritime Museum and its collection or a historic Orthodox church, fortress or mosque. After each presentation, the author sent a written version to one of the school's organizers. Our idea was to discuss monuments in their historical, religious and cultural background, and in comparison to each other. A. Szeląg MA was particularly active in this regard, helping in

working on monuments that students had previously known only from literature.

After arriving in the town of Chania from Wrocław, Prof. R. Eysymontt held an introductory lecture on the history, topography, architecture, and natural conditions of Crete in an apartment rented by the staff on Friday, August 23. Throughout the week, classes were either held in Chania or, thanks to a rented bus sometimes distant locations. Later, we all moved to Rethymno. We started our first field activities in the afternoon, having already listened to the aforementioned lecture, going by rented bus to the Anissaraki Byzantine Churches. There we were guided by Zuzanna Rybińska and there was also a talk about Byzantine painting and the Orthodox Church in Venetian times.

The next day, Saturday, we took a walk to the Venetian Lighthouse and Harbor in Chania, D. Sokołowska gave a paper. In addition, A. Jasiński described the Great Arsenal K. Sobczyńska presented on Byzantine fortifications and S. Bilska discussed the Janissary Mosque. After a lunch break, the group was introduced to the Maritime Museum where M. Ciosk gave a tour of the history of Greek shipping and World War II. Later, the group travelled to Fort Firkas, where classes were conducted by university staff.

Sunday was a day off from classes. On Monday, A. Tęgowska talked about the Etz Hayyim Synagogue, followed by J. Domagalska describing the 19th century cathedral. Later, the group learned about buildings in the Turkish Splanzia district dating from the 18th and 19th centuries and Prof. R. Eysymontt showed the peculiarities of old Turkish residential architecture. Afterwards the group got acquainted with an unu-



Fig. 1. The Monastery of Moni Arkadiu. Photo by M. Żmudziński

sual building, the Church of Agios Nikolaos, originally a Dominican church from 1320 AD, later a mosque, and now an Orthodox Church. As if in a nutshell, you can see the history of Crete in this building (Fig. 1), as discussed by A. Mongarow. The last stop of the day was the exhibition of the New Archaeological Museum, which was guided by Prof. A. Kubala. There, for the first time, summer school participants were able to see objects related to Minoan culture, sculptures from Classical Greece, and Roman mosaics.

On Wednesday, the group travelled to Anopoli. After driving through a picturesque gorge, G. Piwko led a discussion in the abandoned medieval village of Aradaina. There, the summer school participants had the opportunity to become acquainted with the realities of daily life in the high-altitude mountain regions. After navigating the serpentine mountain road, we arrived at Frangokastello by the sea. Z. Giezek talked about this extremely picturesque Venetian fortress from the second half of 14th century. After class, the group returned to Chania.

The next day, Thursday, the entire group took a cruise bus to Rethymno. After dropping off our luggage at the rented apartments, the group met at the Venetian Port. There, we were given a guided tour by W. Lewandowska, who spoke about the Venetian fleet, the Crusades, and piracy. The next activity took place at the Rimondi Fountain built in 1626 AD. E. Nowożeńska discussed the monument and the problem of water supply in modern cities. Another important monument was the nearby loggia from the 16th century. S. Ślęzak spoke about residential buildings of the city from the Renaissance and 19th century, as well as old building techniques. A. Bielawska presented the Venetian Fortezza (17th century) and, using this example, Prof. R. Eysymontt described the development of defensive construction and fighting techniques in modern times.

On Friday, A. Lech talked about the Kara Mursa Pasha Jama Mosque from the 17th-19th century, and K. Longawa presented on the Nerat Mosque. There was also a discussion of art, the Quran and varieties of Islam (M. Żmudziński). The next site was the Archaeological Museum in the Franciscan Church, where Prof. A. Kubala gave a tour of the exhibition. After a lunch break, the group travelled by bus to Arkadi. There, K. Borek talked about the architecture of the Monastery of Moni Arkadiou (Fig. 2) and Prof. R. Eysymontt recalled the dramatic uprisings of the Greeks on Crete. This is one of the most sacred places in Greek history, and the summer school participants saw up close not only the beautiful architecture and collections of



Fig. 2. The successive layers of the city of Chania from Minoan, Byzantine, and Venetian times. Photo by M. Żmudziński

the local museum, but also the monuments associated with the dramatic struggle and martyrdom of the heroic insurgents who preferred to die rather than be taken into Turkish captivity (Fig. 3).

On the way back to Rethymno, we talked about the fauna and flora of Greece, as well as transportation and communication in ancient Greece. On Saturday, we rented a bus to Knossos where Prof. A. Kubala gave a tour of the Minoan palace. From there, the group to the Roman city of Gortyna where we were guided by L. Fryźlewicz. She also introduced the figure of Saint Titus. Prof. M. Żmudziński spoke about the Roman and early Christian monuments in the area. An approaching thunderstorm cut the class short, hastening our departure. The group then went to the Minoan palace in Phaistos. This was bonus for the students, which the organizers funded by paying for the extra bus fare. Prof. A. Kubala gave a tour of the site.

Sunday was a day off from classes and the summer school participants used it to relax or visit places that were not on the program. On Monday, the group travelled by cruise bus to Heraklion. There, classes began at Fort Kastro Koule from the 16th-17th century, guided by Prof. R. Eysymontt, who had been supplementing student presentations. Then the group went to the Agios Titos Cathedral (13th-19th centuries), where we heard from A. Jaworska. I. Nadolna gave a paper at our next stop, the Venetian Loggia. Finally, S. Kopeć presented on the Morsini Fountain (17th century), informing us about the role of waterworks and the supply of water to cities. After class we returned to Rethymno for the night.

On Tuesday, we went to the Basilica of San Marco from 1239 AD. The building was discussed by N. Suda and we saw a beautiful collection of paintings with maritime themes as it now houses an art gallery. The next part of the class was about the Agios Minas cathedral, presented by K. Szpant. After lunch, we visited the Archaeological Museum. Before entering the building, J. Kurpis introduced the collections and ancient sports. The dazzling collection of this museum made a great impression on all summer school participants. The tour took place in small groups. Everyone savoured the sights at their own pace, which they usually knew only from lectures or publications. The summer school staff was on hand to help clarify problems if needed.

The next day the group left Rethymno on a rented bus to the Moni Preveli Monastery, where H. Grylak gave a talk. Not only the Renaissance architecture, but also the extraordinarily beautiful surroundings of the monastery and its valuable museum collections were noteworthy. It was possible to see up close the collection of Byzantine icons and objects related to the liturgy of the Orthodox Church. From the monastery, the group travelled to Spili a village in the mountains where people went to be cured by mineral water centuries ago. There, the group visited a private ethnographic museum and had a pleasant chat with the owner of the collection.

After a summary of the series of classes held in the picturesque resort of Spili by Prof. R. Eysymontt, we returned to Rethymno. There, during the evening, summer school participants attended a lecture in English by Beata Kukiel-Vrila MA, a long-time correspondent of Polish Radio in Greece who serves as Assistant Director of PAIA in Athens. The lecture concerned the activities of the PAIA and showed how important



Fig. 3. Activities in Chania in the square near the place of execution of Greek insurgents. Photo by M. Żmudziński

and useful the institution is for the country and Polish science. The audience learned what scientific and organizational support PAIA can provide for graduate students if they become interested in research taking place in Greece.

During our stay in Crete, contact with the multicultural, multiethnic, tolerant society of Crete, whose history since the Bronze Age shows the intertwining of Greek culture with other cultures (including the Pharaonic Egyptian, Roman, Venetian, Arabic, Jewish and Turkish, among others) was just as important an element of education as the countless monuments and museums. A nice addition to the activities was the opportunity to stay in extremely picturesque places and, after the classes, to swim in the clean, warm sea and taste Greek cuisine, including fresh fish and fruit. Despite the busy schedule, the young students always found an opportunity to see something on their own in their free time after classes or on Sundays.

Working, living, and traveling together deepened the bonds of friendship between the participants of

the summer school. Shared experiences made it possible to think about and discuss a wide variety of issues, not only related to art history or archaeology, but also related to life in the modern world, in the European Union. Students learned tolerance and better understanding of people with different views, different lifestyles, and different sexualities and gender identities.

The participants of the Faculty of Historical and Pedagogical Sciences Summer School would like to express their thanks to all the PAIA staff for the comprehensive assistance they provided, especially the aforementioned B. Kukiel-Vrila, without whose work it would not have been possible to organize this School.

It can be confidently concluded that the recently held Faculty of Historical and Pedagogical Sciences Summer School was once again a success, both for the UWr Department of Historical and Pedagogical Sciences – and by extension the entire UWr – and for the co-organizer, the PAIA.

Other Events

Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka, Janusz Czebreszuk, Beata Kukiel-Vrila

On March 5, at the National Gallery in Athens, a meeting was held between directors of foreign schools in Greece and representatives of the Greek Ministry of Culture. Attending the meeting from the Greek Ministry were, among others: Minister of Culture of the HR, Lina Mendoni; Secretary General of the Ministry of Culture of the HR, Georgios Didaskalou; and Director of the General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage at the Ministry of Culture of the HR, Olympia Vikatou; as well as directors of various ministry departments. PAIA was represented by Deputy Director, Prof. Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka. The meeting was initiated and hosted by the Ministry, and its aim was to strengthen and develop cooperation between the parties. In her speech, Minister Lina Mendoni emphasized the long-standing tradition of foreign schools in Greece and their contributions to the discovery, protection, and promotion of Greece's cultural heritage.

On March 13, PAIA representatives: Prof. Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka i Beata Kukiel-Vrila, MA, participated in the second conference "Women in the Archaeology of Greece," organized by EFA in cooperation with the Österreichisches Archäologisches Institut in Athens. That same evening, the inaugural working



Fig. 1. Participants of the meeting regarding the third edition of the "Women in the Archaeology of Greece" conference. From left: O. Boubounelle, M. Bastide, E. Papuci-Władyka, B. Kukiel-Vrila, and S. Dèderix. PAIA Photography Archive

meeting concerning the organisation of the forthcoming conference – scheduled to be co-organised by PAIA and EFA in 2025 – was held (Fig. 1). The conference took place on 12–13 March 2025 and will be featured in the next PAIA Report.

Beata Kukiel-Vrila, MA, assisted in organizing a study visit for a delegation of Polish scientists and experts staying in Athens from 13-15 March (Fig. 2). This event was organized within the framework of the "Three Seas Initiative Research Center" project by the Institute of Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences.



Fig. 2. Participants of the Athens meeting organized as part of the “Three Seas Initiative Research Center” project of the Institute of Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences, in front of the PAIA headquarters. PAIA Photography Archive

On April 29, PAIA Assistant Director in Athens, Beata Kukiel-Vrila, MA, attended the award ceremony at which the Ambassador of Poland to Greece, Artur Lompart, was presented with the Lord Byron Medal at the Philhellenism Museum in Athens. This award is presented by the Society for Hellenism and Philhellenism in cooperation with the Academy of Athens to individuals whose work and everyday efforts promote philhellenism and its universal values. In his address, Ambassador Artur Lompart emphasised the profound personal significance of the ideals of philhellenism. He underscored his commitment to disseminating knowledge and preserving the legacy of the philhellenic movement, which inspired both Poles and other European nations in their struggles for independence. During the ceremony, the Lord Byron Medal was also awarded to the Ambassador of Hungary, Erik Haupt.

On May 1, during the visit of the Polish President, Dr Andrzej Duda, to Ostrów Tumski in Poznań, a meeting was held between the President and the Director of PAIA, at the Genius Loci Reserve, part of the Archaeological Museum in Poznań (Fig. 3). During a brief conversation – attended also by Member of Parliament and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Szymon Szynkowski vel Sęk (Fig. 4) – the PAIA Director had the opportunity to thank both gentlemen for their help in establishing our institute. This held particular significance for the President and his Chancellery. The Director of PAIA recalled the events of November 2017, when, during the President’s official visit to Greece, he and Professor Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka – now Deputy Director of PAIA – had the opportunity to present the institute’s vision and seek support for the initiative. This moment proved to be a pivotal turning point in the efforts to establish the institute. Since that memorable evening in Athens, the Chancellery of the President of Poland has closely monitored and actively supported the initiative in its engagements with both the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. President Andrzej Duda



Fig. 3. The “Genius Loci” Reserve of the Archaeological Museum in Poznań on Ostrów Tumski. From left: PAIA Director, Prof. Janusz Czebreszuk; Director of the Archaeological Museum in Poznań, PAIA member, prof. Marzena Szmyt; President of the Republic of Poland, Dr Andrzej Duda; Manager of the “Genius Loci” Reserve, Dr Agnieszka Stempin; Minister in the Chancellery of the President of Poland, Wojciech Kolarski. Photo by Grzegorz Jakubowski (Chancellery of the President of the RP)

recalled that meeting with clarity and expressed his satisfaction that the institute was now fully operational, noting that he had simply fulfilled his duty in supporting the initiative. During their discussion, the Director of PAIA also presented the President with the inaugural edition of the PAIA Annual Report.



Fig. 4. The “Genius Loci” Reserve of the Archaeological Museum in Poznań. In the foreground: President of Poland, Dr Andrzej Duda, Member of Parliament, Szymon Szynkowski vel Sęk, and PAIA Director, Prof. Janusz Czebreszuk during a conversation. Photo by Grzegorz Jakubowski (Chancellery of the President of the RP)

On May 14, PAIA participated in the celebration of the Polish National Day, which commemorates the adoption of the Constitution of May 3rd, 1791, the first modern constitution in Europe and the second in the world, organized by the Ambassador of Poland to Greece, Mr Artur Lompart and Ms Iwona Lompart (Fig. 5). The event was attended by Greek officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps, representatives of the cultural and scientific communities, as well as members of the Polish diaspora. In his speech, the Ambassador emphasized the strong political relations between Poland and Greece, the strengthening cultural ties, and the development of economic cooperation.



Fig. 5. PAIA representation during the celebration of the Polish National Day in the garden of Polish Embassy in Athens. From left: Prof. Krzysztof Nawotka, Ambassador of Poland to Greece, Mr Artur Lompart, Ms Beata Kukiel-Vraila and Mr Panagiotis Gasparatos. PAIA Photography Archive

He also highlighted the numerous benefits of being part of the European community, in light of the 20th anniversary of Poland joining the European Union.

On May 31, PAIA hosted a delegation from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) in Beijing (Fig. 6). The visit was connected to the efforts undertaken by the CASS to establish a national institute in Athens. Following a recommendation from the Greek Ministry of Culture, the delegation contacted PAIA in order to benefit from Poland's experience as the most recently established foreign archaeological school in Greece. The meeting was attended by PAIA Director, Professor Janusz Czebreszuk; Assistant Director in Athens, Beata Kukiel-Vraila, MA; and the following CASS representatives: Mr Yao Zhizhong (Director-General of the Bureau of International Cooperation), Prof. Liu



Fig. 6. PAIA representatives with members of the Chinese delegation at our Institute's headquarters. PAIA Photography Archive

Zuokui (Deputy Director of the Institute of European Studies), Mr Zhao Bo (Director of the Division of Project Management), Mr Wang Xiaonan (Deputy Director of the Division of Infrastructure Planning), Ms Li Yang (Chief of the European Division), Mr Ma Jinxing (Associate Research Fellow of the Institute of International Law), Ms Jia Yin (Assistant Research Fellow of the Institute of International Law), Mr Han Meng (Assistant Research Fellow of the Institute of European Studies), and Ms Zhao Yuting (Project Officer at the Bureau of International Cooperation).



Fig. 7. His Excellency the Apostolic Nuncio to Greece, Archbishop Jan Romeo Pawłowski, at PAIA headquarters. PAIA Photography Archive

On June 11, the Apostolic Nuncio to Greece, Archbishop Jan Romeo Pawłowski (Fig. 7), visited the PAIA headquarters. Director of PAIA, Prof. Janusz Czebreszuk guided the distinguished guest through the headquarters, outlined the institute's history, presented its mission, and summarized PAIA's current activities.

On June 26, the PAIA Director participated in a formal event at the Philhellenism Museum, during which the Ambassador of Poland to Greece, Artur Lompart, awarded the museum's director, Konstantinos Velentzas, with a prestigious Polish order. Konstantinos Velentzas is highly esteemed for his efforts to preserve the memory of the philhellenic movement and is the founder of the Philhellenism Museum. He is also a great friend of Poland and a connoisseur of Polish history. The event clearly reflected the ongoing strengthening of cultural cooperation between the Republic of Poland and the Hellenic Republic.

On June 29, Prof. Janusz Czebreszuk visited the Pefkakia site during the excavation season of PAIA Project No. 2. During the visit, Prof. Czebreszuk familiarized himself with the current stage of research and the artifacts obtained. It was also an opportunity to exchange views on PAIA's activities. The PAIA Director handed Prof. Bartłomiej Lis, the project's co-leader, the second PAIA Report, which included a report on the results of the first season of Greek-Polish excavations at Pefkakia (Fig. 8).



Fig. 8. PAIA Director, Prof. Janusz Czebreszuk with Prof. Bartłomiej Lis during a meeting with the excavation team of the Pefkakia project. Volos. PAIA Photography Archive

On September 13, PAIA attended the opening of the 2024/2025 school year at the Zygmunt Mineyko Polish School at the Embassy of the RP in Athens. Guests included the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Polish Embassy, Ms Ewa Pańczak; Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Jan Romeo Pawłowski; Consul Mr Sławomir Pyl; Ms Anna Szymańska-Pyl, and Military Attaché Lt. Col. Adam Korolczuk. PAIA was represented by Assistant Director in Athens, Beata Kukiel-Vrila.

On September 26, at the invitation of the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Polish Embassy in Greece, Ewa Pańczak, and Defense Attaché Lt. Col. Adam Korolczuk, PAIA representatives participated in the celebration of the Polish Armed Forces Day at the Embassy gardens. The Institute was represented by Director, Prof. Janusz Czebreszuk, Beata Kukiel-Vrila, and its members: Mieczysława and Irena Makarowicz (Fig. 9).



Fig. 9. PAIA representatives at the Polish Armed Forces Day celebration at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Athens, together with Chargé d'affaires a.i. Ewa Pańczak and Defense Attaché Lt. Col. Adam Korolczuk. PAIA Photography Archive

At the end of the year, PAIA had the honor of hosting Mr Wojciech Ponikiewski, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the RP to the HR (Fig. 10), who met with Deputy Director, Prof. Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka. The meeting addressed not only the institute's mission, its founding, and current activities, but also explored prospects for further cooperation with the Embassy in promoting



Fig. 10. Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the RP to the HR, Wojciech Ponikiewski at the PAIA headquarters with Prof. Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka and Beata Kukiel-Vrila, MA. Photo by J. Słowik

Polish science and culture in Greece. Also in attendance were Ms Justyna Słowik, Polish Embassy in Athens, and Ms Beata Kukiel-Vrila, PAIA.

On December 14, at the invitation of Chargé d'affaires Wojciech Ponikiewski, we took part in a pre-Christmas meeting of the Polish diaspora at the Embassy headquarters, as well as in a charity event to aid children from Ukraine. In attendance were members of the Polish community, along with special guests from Poland – students of the Polish Air Force Academy in Dęblin participating in the 2024–2025 International Aviation Semester in Athens, held under the framework of the Military Erasmus Programme and supervised by the Polish Military Attaché, Lieutenant Colonel Adam Korolczuk (Fig. 11).



Fig. 11. Students of the Polish Air Force Academy in Dęblin, Beata Kukiel-Vrila (PAIA) and Anna Sardis (Polish School), during the pre-Christmas meeting at the Embassy. PAIA Photography Archive

Throughout 2024, PAIA Director, Prof. Janusz Czebreszuk participated in the annual reporting meetings of IASA (May 23), AAIA (May 30), CIG (June 4), EFA (June 5), and NIA (October 24). On June 6, he also attended the annual Garden Party at the British School. All of these events served as valuable platforms for exchanging views on the role and current issues of foreign archaeological schools accredited in Athens.

Our Friends

Janusz Czebreszuk, Beata Kukiel-Vraila, Jakub Niebieszczański

The initial years of PAIA's existence have witnessed not only a steady increase in the number of active members – a development of which we are justly proud – but also a continually expanding network of supporters. These friends assist us in numerous ways, most notably in the enhancement of our library. Our circle of friends comprises both distinguished individuals and esteemed academic institutions. We extend our sincere gratitude to all, and as a gesture of appreciation, a new section entitled "Our Friends" will be introduced in forthcoming annual reports.

On May 31, Prof. Janusz Czebreszuk met with Dr Amalia Parousi and Mr Marek Nadolski (Fig. 1), who donated valuable volumes for our library. Both are long-time friends of our Institute and well-known Polish community activists.



Fig. 1. Dr Amalia Parousi and Marek Nadolski in PAIA.
PAIA Photography Archive

On October 23, the PAIA headquarters was visited by Prof. Panagiotis N. Doukellis (Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences) (Fig. 2). Professor P. N. Doukellis is our great friend, whose donations have significantly enriched the PAIA library's collection with numerous scholarly volumes.



Fig. 2. Prof. Panagiotis N. Doukellis in PAIA.
PAIA Photography Archive

A substantial collection of publications, representing a foundational step towards establishing an interlibrary exchange, was kindly provided by the Archaeological Museum in Poznań. This included the majority of the volumes of the journal *Fontes Archae-*

ologici Posnanienses. The initiator of this exchange is the director of the museum, Prof. Marzena Szmyt, one of our members.

We express our sincere gratitude to the CIG, and in particular to Dr Jonathan Tomlinson for his personal involvement, for generously donating numerous volumes from the Penelope Mountjoy collection. Similar to the arrangement with the Archaeological Museum in Poznań, these volumes mark the commencement of our interlibrary exchange, albeit presently one-sided, as we receive significantly more than we are able to contribute in return.

A similar exchange mechanism applies to valuable books that we received in December 2024 from the Section of Byzantine Studies and the Section of Greek and Roman Antiquities thanks to Dr Nikolaos Papazarkadas, Director of the Institute of Historical Research at the National Hellenic Research Foundation, and Mrs. Sophia Saroglidou of the Institute of Historical Research Library. The exchange was initiated by Assistant Director in Athens, Beata Kukiel-Vraila, MA.

Helen Hughes-Brock from Oxford, an expert in research on amber artifacts (beads) with special focus on their presence in Mycenaean culture, donated part of her book collection to the PAIA Library.

Last year, in accordance with the scheme established for several years, books from Poland were transported to our library, transferred as part of an exchange with PAIA Partner libraries. As in previous years, this project was organized and carried out by Prof. Jakub Niebieszczański, Assistant Director in Poznań.



Fig. 3. Prof. Maria Kalinowska in PAIA. PAIA Photography Archive

In 2024, the PAIA Library was also enriched with gifts from, among others: Prof. Maria Kalinowska from UW (Fig. 3), Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak (Faculty Artes Liberales UW), Mrs. Justyna Słowik (Embassy of RP in Athens), Eryk Popkiewicz, MA (independent researcher from Toruń), and Ms Edyta Kosił-Evangelou, a representative of the Polish diaspora in Athens of Wrocław origin.

Thank you all very much!

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PAIA project number	Acronym	Type of project	Manager/PI	Institution	Years of realisation
1	AVAP	PAIA's own	Prof. Janusz Czebreszuk	AMU	2020-2022
2	Mycenaean Pefkakia	<i>Synergasia</i>	Dr Anthi Batziou, Prof. Bartłomiej Lis	Ephor. Magnesia/ IAE PAS	2022-2026
3	Karfi	PAIA's own	Prof. Krzysztof Nowicki	IAE PAS	2023-2027
4	ASkoS	<i>Synergasia</i>	Dr Anthi Batziou, Prof. Agata Ulanowska	Ephor. Magnesia/ UW	2024-2028
5	Thelpousa	PAIA's own	Prof. Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka	JU	2024-2026
6	APEKS	<i>Synergasia</i>	Dr Maria-Foteini Papakonstantinou, Prof. Jakub Niebieszczański	Ephor. Fthiotida, Ephor. Phthiotida and Evrytania	2025-2029