

# TEIRESIAS

A Review and Bibliography of Boiotian Studies

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## EDITORIAL NOTES

1. *Teiresias* is gradually working its way toward the twenty-first century, and is now published in pdf format. As a result it is possible to use Greek fonts and include illustrations.
  2. It is hoped that, in the near future, *Teiresias* from 1991 on will be available in pdf format on the website of the Classics Program (Department of History) at McGill University. Details will be provided as soon as they are available.
  3. As promised in Part One of this volume, the first part of Paul Roesch's *Les Inscriptions de Thespies* has been published. For details see below 072.1.10. It is expected that the remaining texts (funerary inscriptions), as well as concordances, will be published by the end of next year.
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## PERSONALIA

Congratulations to Angela Kühr, who has been awarded a Preis der Offermann-Hergarten-Stiftung for 2007, for her book *Als Kadmos nach Boiotien kam: Polis und Ethnos im Spiegel thebanischer Gründungsmythen* (071.1.05).

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## WORK IN PROGRESS

### 072.0.01 THE LEIDEN-LJUBLJANA ANCIENT CITIES OF BOEOTIA PROJECT 2007

John Bintliff (University of Leiden, The Netherlands) and Božidar Slapšak (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia) send the following report:

In late July through to the beginning of September a joint team of some 35 staff and students conducted fieldwork in Boeotia, concentrated at two urban locations: the ancient city of Koroneia and that of Thespieae, both in the centre of the province and lying between the modern regional centres of Livadheia and Thebes. The Project Directors were Professor John Bintliff (Leiden University) and Professor Božidar Slapšak (Ljubljana University), whilst the staff and students were drawn from these institutions, as well as Amsterdam and Leuven Universities. Greek colleagues on the staff were Dr. A. Vionis and Dr. K. Sarri. Professor V. Stissi (Amsterdam) acted as Assistant Project Director, Dr. Vionis (Leuven) as Assistant Field Director. Funding was provided by Leiden University and the Interuniversity Programme of the Belgian Government. We received our customary outstanding support and assistance from Professor V. Aravantinos (Ephor of Classical Antiquities, Thebes) and his staff, notably Miss A. Charami. Our accommodation was provided through the munificence of his excellency the Metropolitan Bishop Hieronymus (Livadheia). When the great forest fires caused us to abandon with a mere half-hour notice, our research base, it was the Bishop who rapidly arranged temporary refuge in a Monastic complex on Mount Parnassos, where the entire team stayed for two nights until it was safe to return. In all respects, we who work in Boeotia are very fortunate in our hosts, - and the archaeology is also of exceptional interest and richness. Our permits were coordinated by the Dutch Institute in Athens, where we would like to thank all the staff for their excellent support for our project.

The summer season was focussed on two major aims. Firstly, we began the surface survey of the major Greco-Roman city of Koroneia, under the direction of John Bintliff. Secondly, in connection with the final publication of the older urban survey conducted in the mid-1980's at the Greco-Roman city of Thespieae, by the preceding Boeotia Project, a team led by Božidar Slapšak was busy with mapping surface architecture at many points of the ancient site. Some of this work was conducted in collaboration with the Thebes Ephorate, since continuing factory construction work below the modern village of Thespieae on the north edge of the ancient city is bringing to light evidence of a late extension to the ancient urban area, giving a rescue character to some of the recording activity.

#### **The Koroneia Urban Survey**

Preliminary work in 2006 (see the report for that year in the journal *Pharos* and *Teiresias* 062.0.01) had experimented with digital recording on the city site and in its surroundings, but merely registered surface pottery densities without artefact collection. In 2007 the work began in earnest to collect a representative sample of surface finds from the ancient city. The location is a very prominent one, a dominating hill rising from the north-centre of its fertile basin, facing north onto the former Lake Copais (which formed its ancient border in that direction), and with excellent views to the mountainous rims of its basin to the south, west and east [**Figure 1**].

Despite the dense grassy vegetation on the acropolis plateau on the top of the city hill (wild cereals with some evergreen maquis scrub), our trials in 2006 had made clear that at least 50% of the city hill was open enough, either still cultivated in cereals and olives, or at least with low grasses, to allow good collections of surface artifacts and occasional architectural pieces to be recorded. For this reason we decided to survey this major town (of unknown maximum boundaries, but if we take the hill alone, some 100 hectares), with slow care, so as to extract the maximum information. In the event this proved a very fortunate decision, once the nature of the city plan began to appear to us.

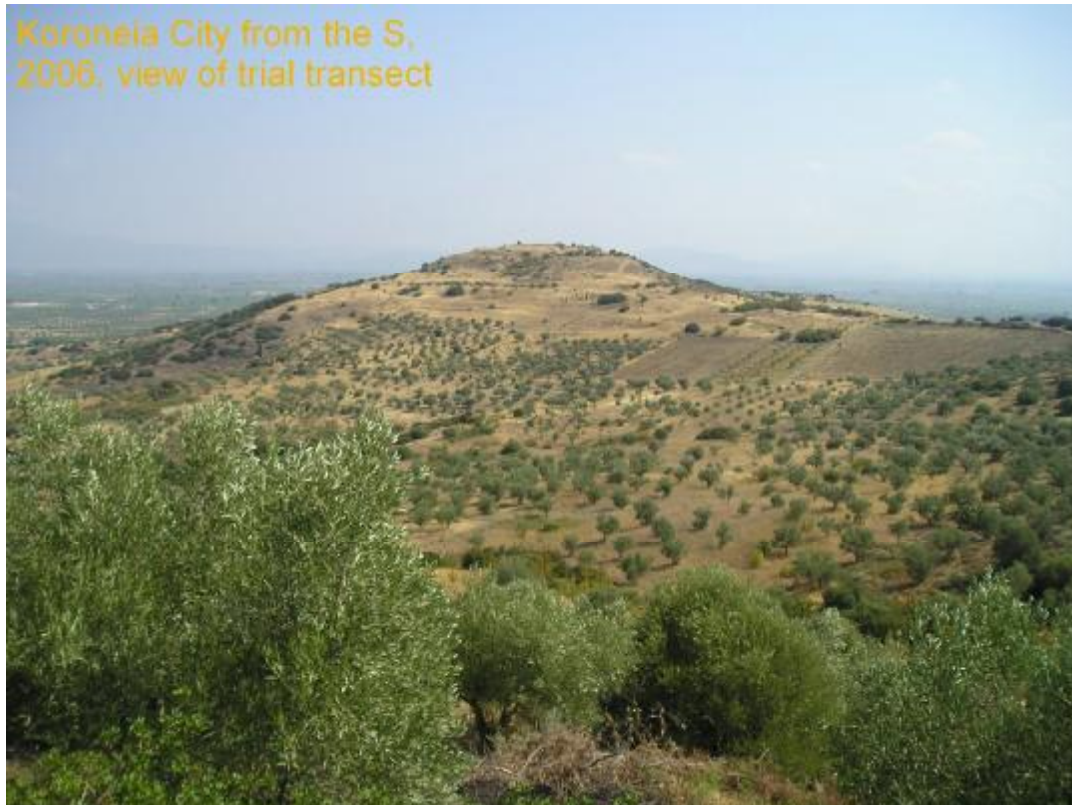


Figure 1

Starting at the flat acropolis on the uppermost part of the hill, we followed the procedure tested in 2006, which was to move around the hill contours slowly downwards from its summit, using a grid of approximately 20 x 20 metre squares. Normally a very accurate grid for the counting and collecting of surface artifacts would be very difficult to set up on a steep terraced hill such as Koroneia. In addition, areas of extreme steepness, never in use for occupation, would be left unsurveyed, and only cursory inspection was possible where the modern vegetation was so dense that no surface evidence was observable. For the latter problem, some parts of the hill were left unsurveyed, or a small collection of finds was achieved. For the former problem, the use of a digital field recording system removed all our mapping concerns.

As in 2006, the digital field recording was in the hands of Bart Noordervliet (Leiden). This year he shifted to a new digital mapper, a commercially-available software package called ESRI ArcGis Mobile. With its ArcPad facility, it is possible rapidly to pinpoint with a small

mobile GPS device connected to a palmtop computer, all four corners of a survey polygon. Although these units were set out with the aid of measuring tapes, frequently the artificial terraces which typify the hill were rather wider or narrower than 20 metres, so that only approximately 20 x 20 square metre study units were used rather than precise shapes of 400 square metres. The GPS facility, here with an accuracy of 1 metre, meant that small and even larger deviations from a perfect square were quickly and carefully allowed for, the real dimensions and size of each grid unit being mapped immediately and with more than adequate precision.



Figure 2

Since we could assume that the ancient inhabitants adapted their private and public architecture to the limitations of the steep terraces which they constructed to make the site

suitable for occupation, it was sensible to adapt likewise our notional units to the terrain, as long as the units did not greatly diverge from the scale we had set up from the start. The units of around 20 x 20 metres were chosen to allow us to have a close identification of each period of occupation in different parts of the site, since it was likely that settlement had expanded and contracted over the millennia of known use of the hill (Bronze Age to late Medieval). Secondly, since we could expect that by far the largest use of space in Greco-Roman times would be for domestic housing, grid units of 20 x 20 metres would narrow our study windows to 1-2 houses, in the event that household assemblages were well represented on the surface. During the one month season at Koroneia, an area of 7 hectares was gridded, in all of which units the surface density of artifacts was counted together with a visibility correction and a large sample of ceramics picked up for laboratory study [Figures 2 and 3].

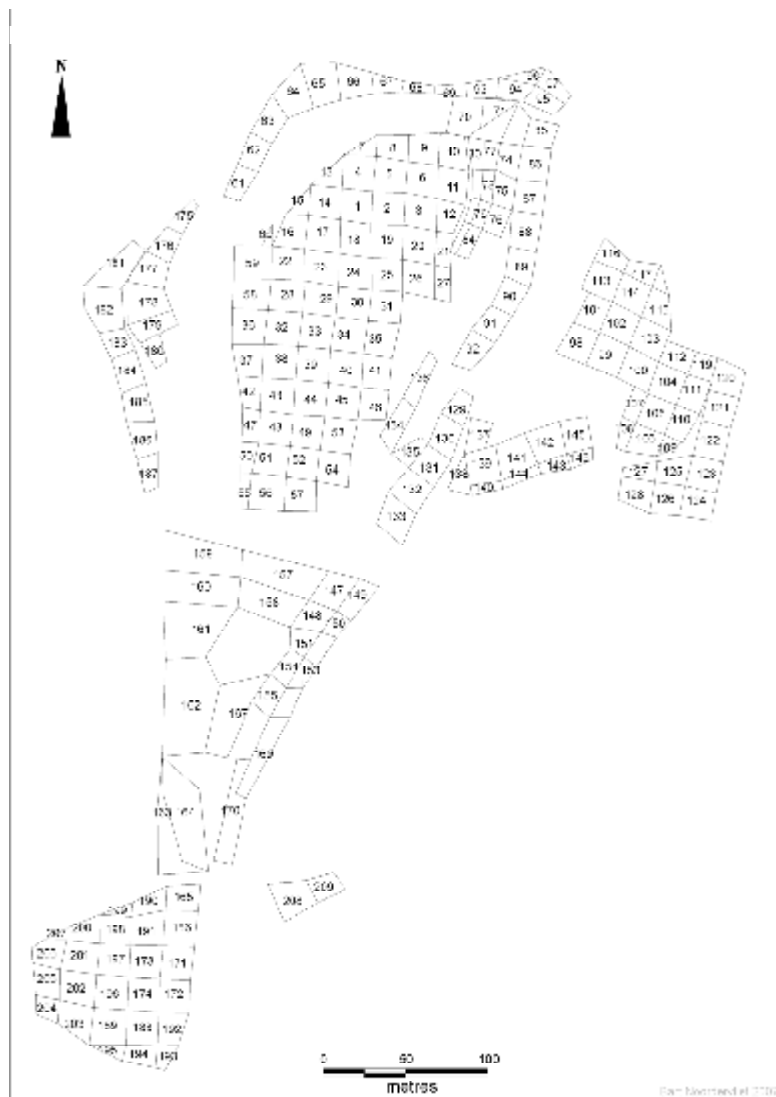


Figure 3

Even where our grids began, on the flat plateau of the acropolis, the heavy movement of some 9 fieldwalkers soon began to open up the high grass to better groundsurface visibility. The surface density is displayed in **Figure 4**, corrected for variable visibility of the soil, with each dot representing 10 sherds. The richness of the city for surface analysis, even when we study it in innumerable small units, is clear from **Figure 5**, where the density per unit is given as sherds per hectare, visibility-corrected. A range from 2-3 potsherds per square metre up to more than 30 is recorded. This would allow our units of ca. 400 square metres to provide assemblages of some 800 to 12,000 sherds from which to take a sample for dating and functional analysis. Areas with too steep terrain were not gridded, but inspected for architectural remains. Areas which were not so steep, but instead too overgrown for density-counting to have value (grid units left blank in **Figure 4**), still gave occasional patches of open ground to allow some ceramic samples to be taken, so that their evidence could be included in the wider context of the entire hill.

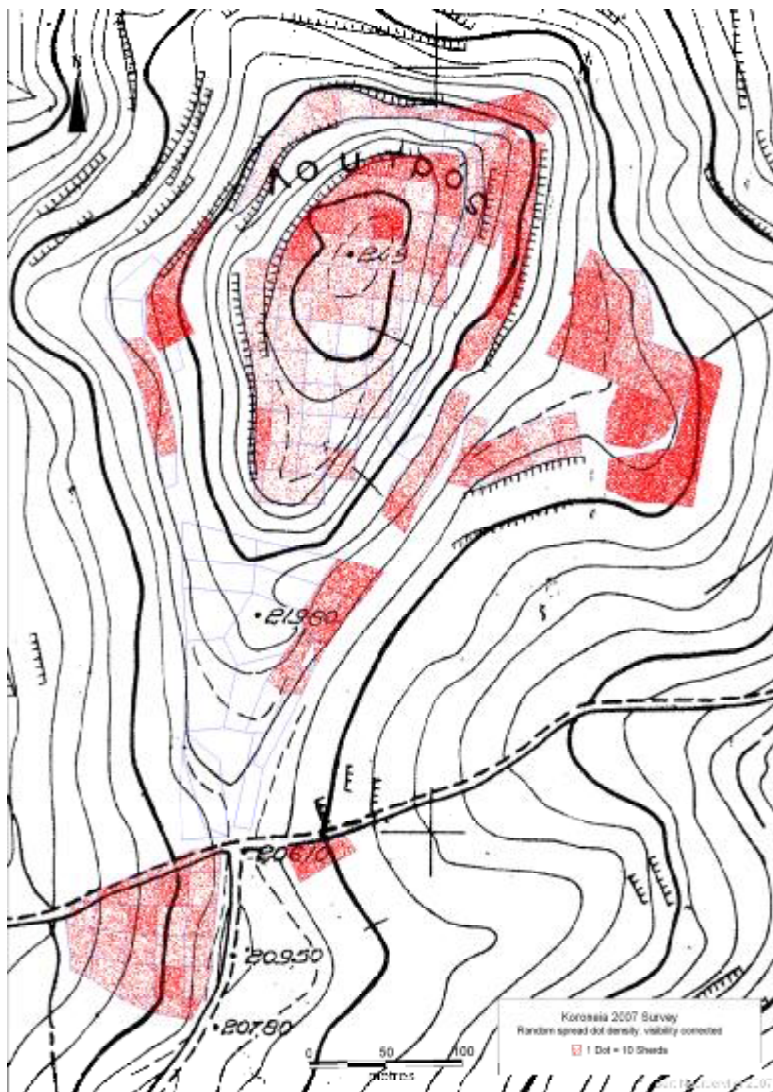


Figure 4

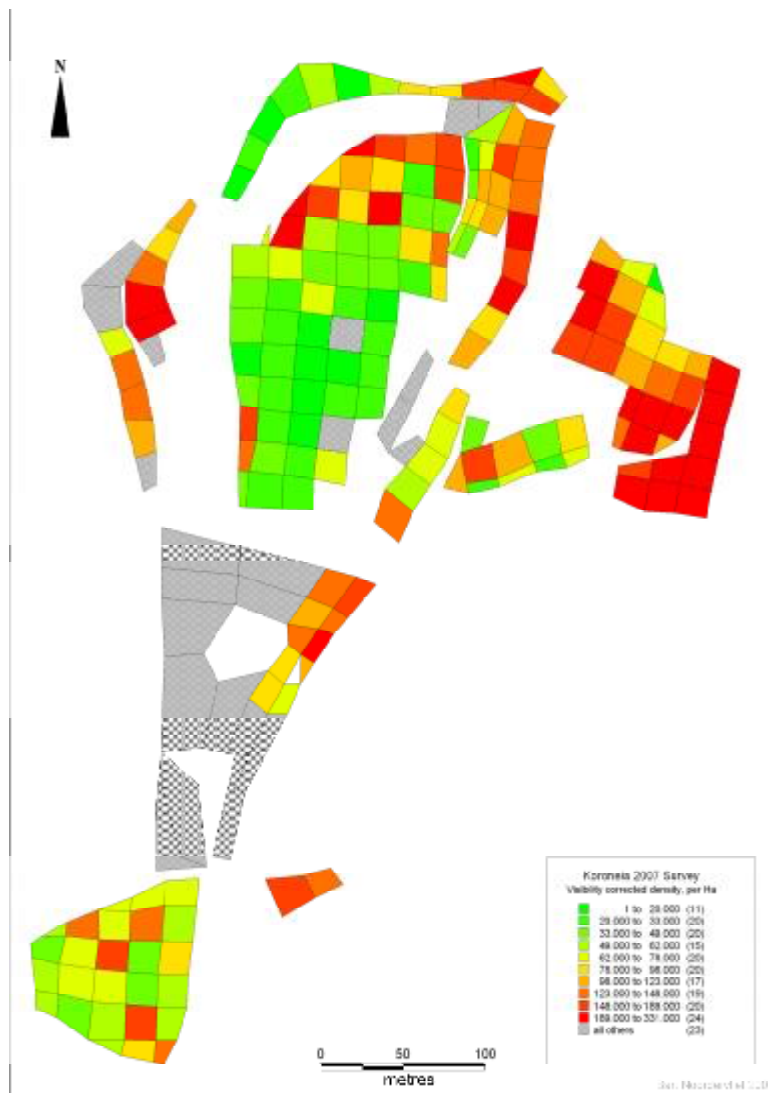


Figure 5

As a result of the high levels of surface finds, and the survival of a seemingly ancient and very stable terrace system at all levels of the city hill, we soon came to realize that the possibility was strong, that we might be able to identify functional use zones of the city, through combining the kinds of artifacts with the regularly-occurring pieces of ancient architecture. Our preliminary division of the upper city hill is shown in **Figure 6**.

On the acropolis, the area with the highest contours in the north of the gridded zones (grid units 1-60 on **Figure 3**), we could isolate some areas with domestic housing, of a very irregular kind, including spolia. We hypothesize these belong to a Late Antique use of this sector, perhaps in the 5th-7th centuries AD (or just possibly even later). A giant olive-press base in the west edge of the acropolis may also relate to this more everyday occupation. Probably Late Roman as well, are two standing ruins built of tile, mortar and rubble: to the north-east a vaulted and very large, multi-roomed building could perhaps be a cistern – very necessary at almost the highest point of this largely limestone hill. An additional reason to have a major water reservoir in Late Antiquity on the acropolis is the evidence we now have for a refortification of this plateau in Late Roman

times. There exist two fragments of an early historic, probably Archaic-era wall in polygonal cut stone on the north and south edge of the acropolis, but in 2007 we also found several small stretches of a Late Roman mortared rubble and tile wall on the eastern rim of the acropolis. A more mysterious and partly-excavated building of similar construction lies in the south-east corner of the acropolis, built up against the Late Antique defence wall. Previously suggested as a church, its alignment is far from an easterly orientation, nor does it show a clear internal structure typical for a such a function. In 2008 we hope to clear the vegetation better so as to clarify the plan of both late buildings.

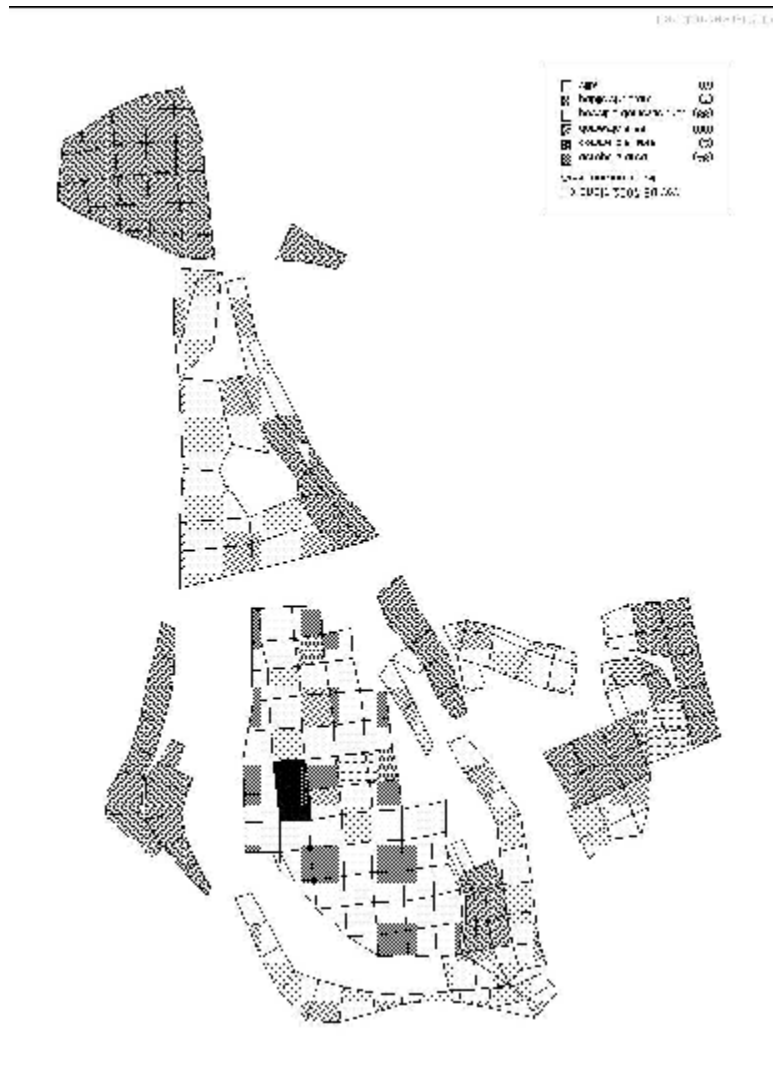


Figure 6

As we moved down off the acropolis to grid the terraces lower down the hill, we immediately found ourselves in what seem clearly to be private housing terraces. Rich domestic finds of Classical through to Imperial Roman age were found, together with occasional wall alignments which could mark the main outlines of homes. Only on the east, where a wide plateau opens up, did we seem to move into a more public sector. Here numerous pieces of large

architectural structures were encountered, including pillar fragments in different orders. At present this may mark one of the public areas of the town, one perhaps of several agoras or fora. Immediately adjacent to this sector, to the south, heavy ploughing had exposed what appears to be a neighbourhood with perhaps two urban villas of Roman date. Finally to the north-east of our grids, where a deeply-incurving depression can be seen on **Figure 6**, a possible theatre was noted. This unnatural depression (according to the Project geomorphologist Dr. Keith Wilkinson of University College Winchester) was probably that which some 19th century AD travellers noted as a possible ancient theatre hollow.

Prehistoric finds were very rare indeed so far, although the massive overlay of Greco-Roman finds always requires caution. It seems likely that Koroneia, at least on present evidence, was not a significant prehistoric centre. The Classical on to Roman Imperial finds seem on first sight (awaiting specialist analysis however), ubiquitous, whilst Late Roman is more confined. Some Geometric-Archaic material was picked up at several points of the area studied and will help us identify the earliest core of the later major town. Medieval and post-medieval pottery appeared very sporadically, but increased slightly to the north of the grids studied in 2007. As the Frankish feudal tower lies at the foot of the hill on the north, this would be consistent with offsite use of the upper hill by occupants of the tower and a postulated associated domestic settlement in its vicinity.



Figure 7

Since we already know that the nearby village of Agios Georgios, some two kilometers to the south-east of ancient Koroneia [**Figure 7**], was in existence as a Greek community in the mid-15th century AD, from Ottoman tax defters studied by Professor Machiel Kiel and John Bintliff, whilst most Boeotian Frankish tower-village settlements are abandoned during the troubled 14th century AD, our present hypothesis is that the medieval villagers at Koroneia relocated between the mid-14th and mid-15th centuries AD to the replacement location of Agios Georgios. One area that the Boeotia Project, past and present, has developed, is the study of traditional domestic architecture in the province. It seemed necessary to visit the modern village, to see if any remnants of its history were surviving. The village is large and prosperous, and as a result most

buildings are relatively or quite new. There are nonetheless a small and fast-dwindling number of traditional single- and double-storey domestic homes, none in active use, and all doomed to demolition in the very near future. A small selection in the heart of the village was identified as worth further study [four shaded houses in **Figure 8**], and two of these were given a very detailed photographic recording, with the additional aim of experimenting with 3-dimensional photographic presentation. One was a single-storey longhouse of a double family size (*makinari*) [**Figure 9**], the other an L-shaped single-storey house. The latter was especially valuable, since one of its original inhabitants, now an old lady living in the adjacent modern house with her son, was able to provide detailed ethnographic information regarding life in the house during the 1930's, to our recording team of A. Vionis (Leuven), Joep Verwij and Rinse Willet (Leiden).

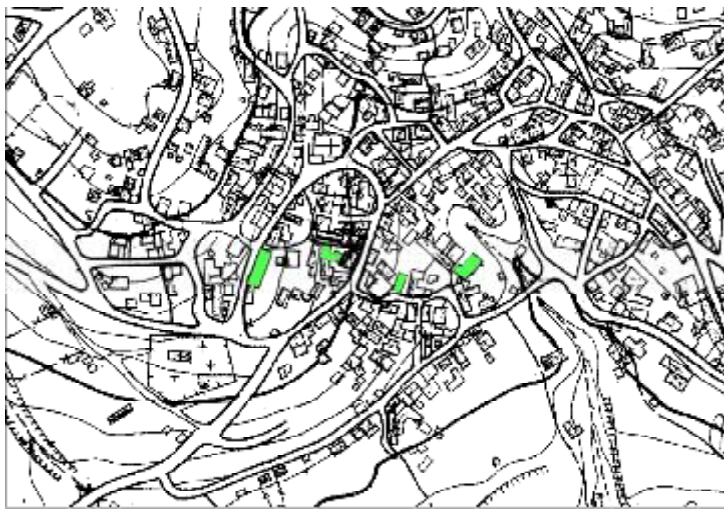


Figure 8



Figure 9

## **Thespieae City**

The chief aim of the surface study at Thespieae was to continue the recording of surface architecture, which was begun by John Bintliff and Anthony Snodgrass (Cambridge University) some years previously, as a supplement to the total ceramic surface survey of 1985-6 directed by the same team. As the new wall discovered in 2006 (see report in this volume) suggested that the original city south of the river had been enlarged in late Classical or Hellenistic times to include a large area across the river, the commercial excavations for a new factory in the latter zone also gave an opportunity to see what kinds of land use were put in place there. Božidar Slapšak's team, with advice from Anthony Snodgrass, who was present for a week, and Vladimir Stissi on the ceramic finds, now suggest that the urban enlargement probably took place in the 4th or 3rd century BC, late Classical to early Hellenistic times. The infill by domestic habitations must have been shortlived, as the city shrank dramatically in Late Hellenistic times and remained at 40 rather than 100 hectares till Late Antiquity. Nonetheless, the discovery of the Theatre in the north sector, in 2006 (see report in this volume), and the descriptions of Pausanias in the 2nd century AD, suggest that part of the new development with a major public role did stay in use into the middle Imperial era. However surface finds suggest that in Late Roman times just burials are being made in the north sector.

### **072.0.02 THE LEIDEN-LJUBLJANA ANCIENT CITIES OF BOEOTIA PROJECT 2006**

Božidar Slapšak (University of Ljubljana, Slovenja) sends the following report:

#### **The Late Classical / Hellenistic City Wall of Thespieae**

Following upon previous fieldwork by Anthony Snodgrass and John Bintliff, the Ljubljana University team as part of the joint Leiden-Ljubljana Ancient Cities of Boeotia project (for references and acknowledgements, see the report by John Bintliff and Božidar Slapšak in this volume), undertook the task of mapping architectural blocks dispersed across the site of Thespieae, using precise surveying equipment. Our aim is defined as "tracing of the Classical city wall": the underlying assumption there is that the regular conglomerate blocks, which represent a high percentage of the scattered architectural blocks observed, were quarried locally, typically for the construction of the city wall in the period of maximum urban expansion which, to judge from the surface distribution of datable ceramics, was Late Classical to Hellenistic in date. Certainly, the picture will be more complex: conglomerate blocks were most probably quarried for structures other than the city wall as well (and we have confirmation concerning grave structures), and besides, the wall building material would undoubtedly have been recycled often, most obviously for the Late Roman fortification of the Kastro.

The basic assumption concerning the use of the blocks was confirmed in 2006 by the discovery of surface remains arguably pertaining to the city wall, along the western limit of the Classical/Hellenistic distribution of surface ceramics interpretable as intra-urban, both to the south and to the north of the Kanavaris stream.



Fig. 1. Locations of structures identified, arguably part of the Late Classical / Hellenistic city wall (ortophoto: courtesy of Hellenic Ministry of Agriculture)

South of the Kanavaris, conglomerate blocks aligned south-north, excavated/cleaned (by locals?) some time in the past, can be seen at the west end of a low ridge above the track running from the north-west corner of the Kastro in west-south-west direction, and turning just below that spot to the south (**Figure 1**, n.6).

North of the Kanavaris, there is a strong linear distribution of displaced conglomerate blocks traceable from just north of the Thebes-Thisbe road, to some 20m south of the track connecting that road with the crossroads of the roads to the village of Thespies and to Askri-Paleopanagia (n.1 on **Figures 1** and **2** above; cf. **Figure 2** below, left).



Figure 2. Above, locations 1-5 on aerial photo (Darja Grosman, 2006); below, detailed view of 1 (left), 2a and 2b (centre), and 3 (right)

The line shifts at some point slightly to the east, and can be traced in its last part below the track on the aerial photograph as a linear feature in the direction of the two stretches of wall described below (n. 2a, 2b). The owner of the field reports the find of blocks in situ, at the northern end of the line of visible displaced blocks (to be verified and documented).



Figure 3. View of the Thespies village hill from the West, with locations 2 - 4 marked

North of the track, two short stretches of the wall in situ were observed (n. 2 on **Figures 1, 2 and 3**) One was uncovered some time ago by a bulldozer at the crossroads where another track starts, leading eastwards below the pine wood in the direction of the theatre site, and was then cleaned by our team (n.2a on **Figure 2** below centre). The other is a line of heavily eroded conglomerate blocks visible on the surface just below the pine wood (n.2b on **Figure 2** below centre). The cleaning revealed that typically, local white to yellow sandstone blocks were used for foundations, while conglomerate blocks were used for the layer above. The width was calculated at 1,6 m (**Figure 4**).



Figure 4. Locations 2a and 2b, from the South (left); the wall at location 2a, partly destroyed by bulldozer when opening the track

A most interesting find was made in 2006 further north above the pine wood, on the steep slope below the south-west apex of the Ano mahala quarter of the village of Thespies (n.3 on **Figures 1, 2 and 3**). Massive occurrence of ancient brick prompted us to clean the section made by bulldozer some time ago at the turn of the track running parallel to the slope from the west end of the village in the north-south direction, around the slope, and continuing just above the pine wood in the west-east direction, to the upper part of the theatre site. In the process, a massive mud-brick wall was discovered, some 2m wide and preserved to the height of some 2m, accompanied by mud brick rubble fallen on a flat surface in front (north-north-west), and by a layer of (Hellenistic) tile above, in front and in the back (east) (**Figure 5**).



Figure 5. Mud-brick wall at location 3, from South-West

The mud-brick wall is built directly on local geology, with no stone foundation. From that point, we can follow a low ridge up the slope in the direction of the plateau of Ano mahala. Down the slope, the surface morphology is disturbed by the construction of another, rather steep track connecting our find spot with the crossroads to Askri/Paleopanagia. The surface of the upper part of the track is scattered with fragments of Classical/Hellenistic tile.

The discovery of the mud-brick wall must be considered also against the observation, in the sand extraction pit just west (in front) of the stretches of wall below the pine wood (n. 2), of ditches, which we assume pertain to the city wall: the later (inner) ditch is filled with mud brick rubble, so we must assume that the wall there was built of that material, partly (structure above the foundations described above), or at some phase fully.

Implications of the find are important. For one thing, we have reliable proof here of the northern extension of the city beyond the stream of Kanavaris. Precise dating will be discussed when the finds collected during the 2006 and 2007 cleaning operation are properly studied, both those from the sand extraction pit, and from a construction site south of the assumed theatre site. Preliminary observations point to a Late Classical / Hellenistic date, and surely to a short lived existence of the urban quarters there (no Early Imperial). Another implication concerns the function of the Thespieae village hill within the overall urban scheme of the ancient city. The Ano mahala quarter is a plateau of some description (roughly 6 ha), clearly delimited, notably in its northern parts, by a ridge and a steep slope towards the rest of the village, and the valleys to the east and west. A linear structure of regular stone blocks is reported at its south-west apex, now destroyed, a few blocks are visible scattered there (n.4 on **Figures 1, 2 and 3**; massive and orientated as it reportedly was in the east-west direction; however, it may have pertained to some other building there, not the city wall). At the lower terrace of the south-east apex (n.5 on **Figures 1 and 2**), there are blocks visible next to the ditches of a (clandestine?) excavation executed there some time ago; a few blocks were reportedly thrown over the ridge. In any case, a mud-brick wall like the one identified on the slope, or a wall combining the use of stone and mud-brick for that matter, would leave few traces on the surface at such an exposed position, so the absence of visible wall remains along the major part of this line may not be a strong argument against this being the line of the Classical fortification. Indeed, in view of the discoveries above, we must assume some kind of occupation of this rather large area, an Upper City, certainly during the period of occupation of the northern extension of the city below, during the Late Classical / Hellenistic period. It should be noted that at least two of the early explorers did consider such a possibility: Ulrichs (2, 1863, 87) proposed that the hilltop would be the site of Keressos, so this famous site, which at two points in the history of Thespieae played such an important role, would be the acropolis in the immediate vicinity of the core of the Archaic/Classical city; Vischer on the other hand, (1875, 553-54), who disagreed with Ulrichs on the location of Keressos, still assumed that the Ano mahala plateau was the Acropolis of the city (we owe both references to Anthony Snodgrass, who is working on the evidence from the travelers, to be published in the upcoming volumes on the Ancient Cities of Boeotia Thespieae survey). As for the mud brick city wall structures, they come as no surprise – see, besides by now numerous archaeological observations, general references in Vitruvius 2, 8, 9; Pliny n.h. 35, 172; see also Pausanias 8, 8, 7 on the stratagem by Agesipolis in capturing Mantinea fortified by a mud brick wall, with discussion on the advantages of this building technique (8, 8, 8), and on earlier instances (8, 8, 9). The quality of the archaeological document here is remarkable though.

Reference to mud-brick structure over stone foundation in Ulrichs (2, 1863, 84) relates to the Kastro of Thespieae and is difficult to reconcile with our present understanding of this Late Roman structure: in view of our findings, however, we must keep his observation in mind as well.

### **The Ancient Theatre of Thespieae**

As part of the general survey of the site of Thespieae in the frames of the Ancient Cities of Boeotia Project (see report in this volume), the Ljubljana University team, in dialogue with, and in part jointly with Anthony Snodgrass and John Bintliff, directors of the 1980s Thespieae survey, reviewed possible locations for the ancient theatre, referred to by Pausanias in his description of the city (9, 27, 5). As a first step, only the area south of the Kanavaris stream was observed, following the accepted opinion that the ancient city was limited to those parts (e.g. Fossey, *Topography and population of ancient Boeotia*, 1988, 136-137 for limits of the area of structural remains; further references to be discussed in subsequent publication). The result was frustrating, as there are no surface features there even remotely suggestive of a theatre of any description, such as we must assume from Pausanias' text. The suggestion to consider the south slope of the modern village of Thespies, where surface morphology does display features interpretable in these terms, was initially dismissed on the grounds that a civic institution such as a theatre would hardly be conceivable outside the perimeter of the city: surface survey data pointing to a possible northerly extension of the city were in themselves deemed inconclusive, and certainly in contrast with the accepted opinion among scholars. The discovery in 2006 of the remains of the Classical/Hellenistic city wall north of the stream and up the hill of the modern village of Thespies (see report in this volume), removed this objection.

Archaeological confirmation of the existence of the theatre mentioned by Pausanias is found in the report by Stamatakis, who was able to identify, among the stones collected upon his request by the locals, no fewer than 150 theatre seats (Stamatakis, *Praktiká* 1883, 68; we are grateful to A. Snodgrass for drawing our attention to this publication). The fate of these stones is unclear and should be investigated. We were able to identify only two blocks undoubtedly pertaining to the theatron: one seat block is lying in the ravine immediately west of the location of the theatre as presented here (**Figure 1**, right), while the other is conserved in the courtyard of the house owned by Mrs. Kounou, immediately north of the theatre, and has to her knowledge been there for generations (**Figure 1**, left).



Figure 1. Kathesmata: left, in the village (house Kounou); right, in the ravine west of the theatre

The fact that Stamatakis does not discuss the location may either result from his lack of interest in the matter, which sounds unlikely, or - on the contrary, from his intimate knowledge of the topography of the site, where he had spent quite some time, also excavating the Polyandrion: this may include his knowledge and understanding of the rather obvious features described here, which he may have felt unnecessary to discuss at that point. This aspect also needs to be investigated further.

The recess proposed here as the location of the theatre lies between the two southward apexes of the Ano mahala quarter of the village of Thespies (**Figure 2**). It has a rather regular circular/globular form in the front part (the west and east slopes: see **Figure 3**), while the back part to the north is very much reshaped by a torrential ravine (**Figure 4**), which cuts also through its bottom, the assumed orchestra, and any structures that may have been there in front (skene). The geology of the site, with layers of pleistocene sands, sandstone and conglomerate, makes transformation through the agency of water collected and abducted at that point from the larger part of the Ano mahala, most effective and destructive indeed. The maximum diameter of the theatron inferred from the actual shape of the recess is about 125 m. No structural features survive visible on the surface: parts of the orchestra may be buried under the flat bottom of the recess.



Figure 2. The village of Thespies from the South, with the recess on the south slope interpreted as the site of the theatre located between the two apexes of its Ano mahala quarter

Besides the morphological features described above, arguments in favour of this identification would be the position within the general morphology of the city (paralleled within

the region by say the theatre in Tanagra), and the orientation, centered as it is on Mt. Korombili, rising above the harbours of Kreusa and Tyfae/Syfae, making the canonic organization of the stage both possible and easily readable. Also in favour are the locations of the two theatre seats found: the one in the ravine west of the theatre arguably slipped there from the theatre structure above, while the one in the village came there in times beyond memory: since it is not recorded to have been brought from the fields in the plain like most of the other stones there, it is possible that it had actually been picked up at the theatre site in the immediate neighborhood below.



Figure 3. Near vertical view of the theatre site (North at the bottom)



Figure 4. Vertical air photo of the village of Thespies, with the ravine cutting through the theatre site clearly visible (air photo: courtesy of the Hellenic Military Geographic Service)

Possible interest of the find lies, certainly, in the confirmation of the reliability of the text by Pausanias, and in providing a reference point around which to consider the topographical value of the sequence of the monuments described, but also in the resolution of the dilemma concerning the parallel existence of theatres in the civic center, and at the festival site within the territory of the city (Valley of Muses). The observations above must be further substantiated though, so in 2008, the surface morphology of the area concerned will be documented in detail, and the geometry of the theatre will be fully analyzed.

#### **072.0.03 THE LEIDEN-LJUBLJANA ANCIENT CITIES OF BOEOTIA PROJECT 2006-2007**

Darja Grosman (University of Ljubljana, Slovenja) sends the following report:

##### **Forest fires and aerial reconnaissance in Boeotia**

In 2006, the Ljubljana University team carried out a first test field season in aerial reconnaissance within the framework of the Ancient Cities of Boeotia project, under a special permit extended for the purpose by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture to the Dutch Royal Institute of Archaeology in Athens. Preliminary results were presented in a Report submitted to the 9<sup>th</sup> Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical antiquities, and to the 23rd Ephorate of Byzantine antiquities. The application was renewed in 2007.

Aerial views are generally considered a welcome and adequate illustration of the conditions on the ground. They have long been deployed in archaeological research, though seldom applied for regular monitoring. While detection and study of landscape context remains a paramount goal of aerial work, in view of the rapid environmental change and enormous pressure on cultural landscape, its true potential may lie rather in quick and accurate recording of surface change: such recording would enable us not just to study the present state of preservation of our landscape heritage, but also identify the causes of deterioration, predict its extent, and possibly suggest measures to check it.

Repeated observation and recording of study areas gives the air photo interpreter the opportunity to explore and evaluate landscape transformation over longer periods. To extend aerial work to monitoring is to accelerate the interval of recorded information, under specified conditions, following clearly defined cycles as well as instantaneous disruptions in the process of landscape change. One of such dramatic events, rarely fully recorded, are fires which, besides causing immediate damage to cultural heritage, may trigger long term change of the environmental setting in which it is embedded.

The summer of 2007 was marked by such extensive forest and maquis fires all over Greece, including Boeotia. Some of the areas and sites recorded from the air in 2006 were exposed to devastation, and were revisited later in 2007. However tragic the circumstances, and however difficult the situation for both the inhabitants and the state institutions, which must cope with the urgent needs of the victims of the fires and the ecological consequences, we should not forget that in the areas concerned, the devastation by fire gives us a rare and most precious opportunity to study archaeological heritage, normally difficult to record in detail because of the vegetation cover.



Figure 1: The site of Pyrgaki within its landscape context, photographed from NW in autumn 2006

To illustrate this, we present images of the site of Pyrgaki (**Figure 1**) above Askra / Paleopanagia, by some assumed to be the Keressos referred to in Paus. 9,14,2ss, and Plut. Cam. 19,2 (cf. discussion by Bölte in RE 11, 286s, s.v. Keressos (1921): the Pyrgaki localization option is n. 2 on p. 287; also J. M. Fossey, *Topography and population of Ancient Boeotia*, 1988, 163).

It is known for its well preserved Late Classical tower, a landmark in the area (cf. R. Kallet-Marx, *The Evangelistria Watchtower and the Defence of the Zagora Pass*, in: H. Beister, J. Buckler eds., *Boiotika, Vorträge vom 5. Internationalen Bötien-Kolloquium zu Ehren von Professor Dr Siegfried Lauffer*. Institut für Alte Geschichte, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, 13-17 Juni 1986, München 1989, 301-11). Among early finds there, the 1980s survey by the Boeotia project team was able to identify mainly Mycenaean, but also earlier Bronze Age, and possibly Early Iron Age ceramics (J. Bintliff, *The archaeological survey of the Valley of Muses and its significance for Boeotian history*, *Recherches et rencontres* 7, 1996, 176).



Figure 2: Structural remains on the top, with clearly visible stone ramparts, partly overgrown, and the tower



Figure 3: The tower



Figure 4: The fire

As shown on the photograph before fire (**Figure 2**), the site and its immediate surroundings are covered by low vegetation, still allowing the identification of major structural elements. The outer parts are mainly stone: the visibility of structures may vary there, but is

generally better than along the ridge, where the terracing and re-deposition seem to have produced deeper top soil, partly masking the inner parts of the site.

The August 2007 fire spread like a carpet over the whole area, burning quickly and intensively at very high temperatures. The colour of the stone surfaces turned light blue, indicating that they suffered more damage than just the loss of firm binding by vegetation. Acceleration of the erosion process and the loss of some of the remaining structural parts may be expected as a consequence in the near future. This is why new sorties are needed, both for detailed study of the remains as visible now, and for systematic monitoring of any future change.

While both the images before and after the fire show clearly the fortification preceding the tower structure, there are further possible extensions visible only in the images taken after (fig. 5). Furthermore, there are a number of features now visible within the rampart, including house terraces and walls, which can be plotted and developed into a reliable map of the site.

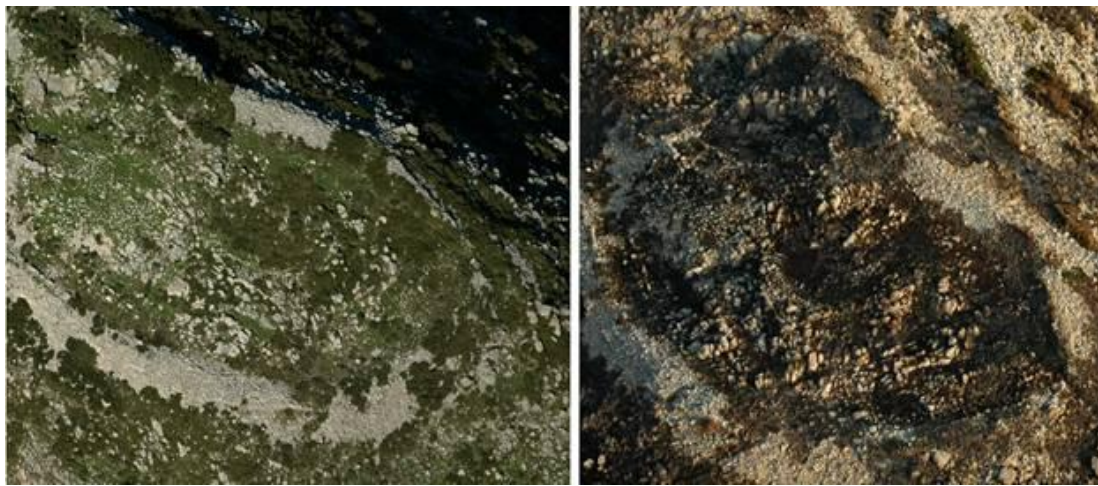


Figure 5: Pyrgaki. Detail of the eastern part of the site

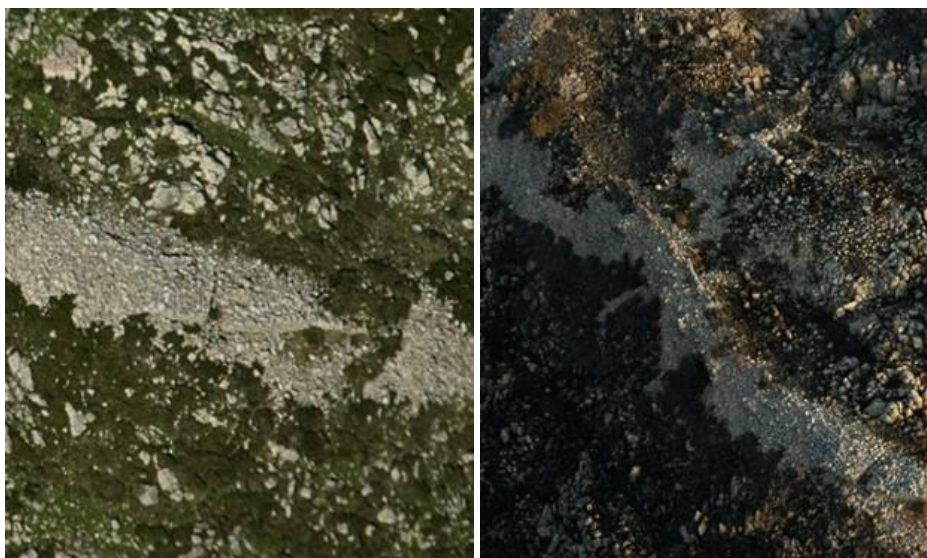


Fig. 6 Detail of the southern rampart

One detail that can be studied well in the photos from the new sorties is the southern rampart. There, we can clearly trace, among the massive stone rubble, a wall line along the inner edge. At regular intervals, perpendicular linear structures extend from the line to the outer edge of the rampart.

In the front of the new photograph (**Figure 6** right), another detail, detected already in the older set can be studied: a large square structure is visible within the rampart zone, followed by a narrow passage next to a large stone cairn to the east, delimited by possible wall front at the outer side (**Figure 6** left).

It should be added that also the area around Pyrgaki is rich in fossil landscape features, impossible to detect in such detail under vegetation, and now fully recordable.



Figure 7

We are very much impressed by the wealth of archaeological information that can be recorded over the areas affected by the catastrophic fires of 2007, and would plead for systematic survey from the air of these areas, to push forward our understanding of the incomparable heritage of the Greek soil.

#### 072.0.04      **The Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project (EBAP)**

Brendan Burke (University of Victoria), Bryan Burns (University of Southern California), and Susan Lupack (University College London ) send the following report:

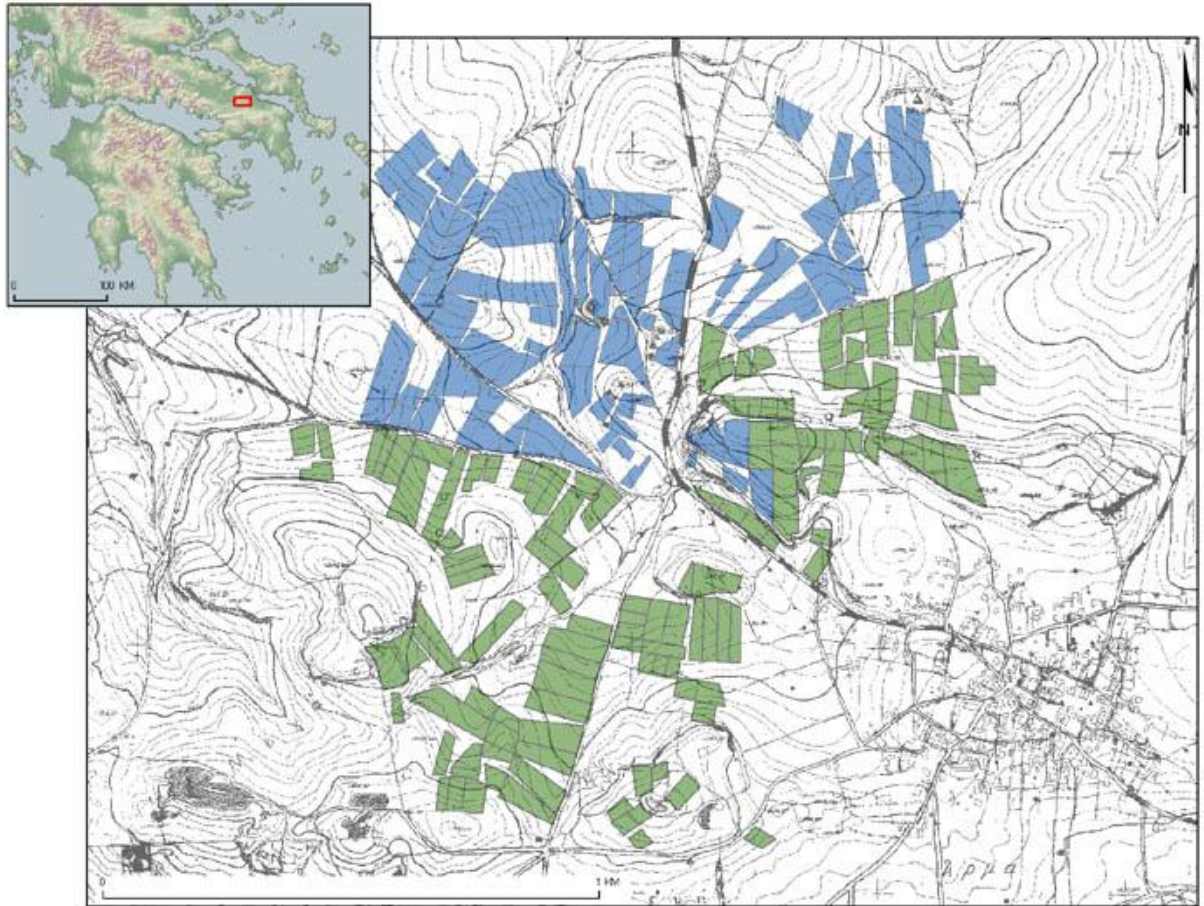
The Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project is a *synergasia* of the Canadian Institute in Greece (Brendan Burke, University of Victoria, Bryan Burns, University of Southern California, and Susan Lupack, University College London) and Vassilis Aravantinos (Director of the Thebes Museum and the 9<sup>th</sup> Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities). The long-term goals of the Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project (EBAP) are to document and interpret the evidence for the land use, settlement patterns and burial practices resulting from the human occupation of eastern Boeotia over an extended chronological period. We have located our study specifically on the plains surrounding the modern villages of Arma, Eleon, and Tanagra, partially because of the intrinsically interesting sites they contain (Eleon and Tanagra) and partially because this area connected the Boeotian center of Thebes to the eastern sea and was therefore a major route for external contact. Our primary research interests focus on developments during the Late Bronze Age, for which evidence in the region is clearly present, yet our methods of study include a broader analysis of the region's long-term history. We are therefore pursuing documentation and study of all periods. Our initial field work in June 2007 proved very successful in terms of locating, collecting, and analyzing surface material which we found to represent activity from the Neolithic through early modern periods. In 2008 we plan to expand our collection zones, refine our interpretation of the ceramic evidence, continue mapping architectural features on the acropolis of Eleon and elsewhere, and to document the funerary landscapes of both Tanagra and Eleon.

Over the course of four weeks we conducted eighteen days of artifact collection and analysis with a crew of twelve field walkers. Other workdays were spent creating data management software, consulting with local landowners and officials, and instructing team members in collection strategies and analytical techniques. During the first season we surveyed and collected 277 units across some 20 hectares.

The site was explored by John Fossey as part of his research for *Topography and Population of Ancient Boeotia* (1988), and we have verified much of his general assessment through more intensive survey. Walkers spaced 10 m apart covered individual transects totaling over 18 km. We were fortunate enough to detect large quantities of diagnostic artifacts in nearly every area surveyed. Our walkers counted a total of 56,720 sherds in the field, of which 6,742 were retained for analysis. Preliminary analysis was conducted on all collected ceramic and lithic objects, which are now stored in the apotheke of the Thebes Archaeological Museum. More detailed analysis focused on the material from within the walled area of Eleon, some initial results of which are detailed below. Even the region surrounding the walled settlement was relatively rich in artifact counts. Average field density was 0.45 sherds/square-meter, with only 30 fields of density higher than 1 sherd/square-meter.

We also began a digital mapping project of the site of Eleon, its natural topography, and the built features preserved above the ground. Funds from the Institute of Aegean Prehistory were critical to the basic operations in the field. Funding from the Loeb Foundation has enabled the purchase of equipment that will sustain continued seasons (total station, GPS, computer hardware and software). Additional funds from USC are being used during the current academic year for

the analysis of data through GIS programming, and will provide for the incorporation of satellite imagery and aerial photographic in our study of this region.



## Initial Results

Our collection and preliminary analysis of cultural material suggests three major phases of activity at Eleon: Late Bronze Age (including a robust Middle Helladic phase), late Classical-Hellenistic, and Ottoman.

The Bronze Age material was of a much longer range than expected from casual observation. The Early Helladic and early Middle Helladic periods were more extensively represented by several distinctive hand-made sherds. In the Middle Helladic the population of Eleon may have increased significantly considering the large number of sherds that we collected from that period. The majority was of the readily identifiable Grey Minyan ware, but some Yellow Minyan was also found. The early Late Helladic period, the beginning of the Mycenaean period, is signaled by the appearance of a distinctive Late Helladic fabric, but many examples had been somewhat burnished, as if the potters were reluctant to give up the old method of decoration. The Late Helladic II and III periods are well represented by numerous handles with swaths of paint at their bases, kylix stems (some plain, some with rings of paint), and rims with characteristic bands of red paint. Several examples of monochrome deep bowls indicate that

Eleon must have been active into the latest LH IIIB and early IIIC periods. Further study will be needed to see how late into the IIIC period occupation of the site went. Geometric sherds do seem to be represented, but here too, further study is required to identify more precisely the dates to which they belong.

The most impressive built feature at the site of Eleon is a well preserved stretch of Lesbian polygonal masonry that follows an unusual, curved path. In 2007, this wall was drawn using a total station and ArcView drafting software by Sigrid Eliassen and her team from the Danish Institute in Athens. Understanding the function of this wall will require further study and possibly excavation. Although there are traces of towers and entry points in the wall, the concave form and the fact that only one face of it is visible suggests the possibility that this was a retaining wall rather than a fortification wall.

The post-classical tower preserved at Eleon, as one of numerous such constructions in central Greece, has been associated with the period of Frankish rule centered at Thebes (P. Lock *BSA* 1986). Our collected material, however, suggests a significantly later date. Of the post-classical material, exceptionally few sherds date earlier than the 15th century. We are fortunate in having members of our senior staff who specialize in this period of Greece's history (C. MacKay, Bryn Mawr College, K. Kourelis, Clemson University), and we have the cooperation of the Byzantine Ephoreia based nearby at Chalkis.

Survey in the region immediately surrounding Eleon also produced significant results. Among these are substantial clusters of building material to the northwest that were previously unidentified. Most significant were the partial foundations of a square tower, measuring 3 x 3 meters, with traces of a wall running to the north and south. These remains suggest the expansion of settlement well beyond the elevated center of Eleon, perhaps during the classical period. Other accumulations of cut stone are no longer *in situ*, having been moved to the periphery of fields by cultivation practices. We intend to study aerial photos of the region from earlier decades, with the hope that they will document traces of construction that remained prior to intensified land-use.

Fixed features were also detected to the southwest, where a number of chamber tombs were located in the slopes of the hills surrounding Eleon, which were apparently opened and emptied in fairly recent times. The closest parallel to these rough hewn chambers cut into the natural bedrock is found near modern Tanagra, 7 km to the south-east. The largest concentration of tombs around Eleon was found below the church of Profitis Eleias, where over 20 tombs were recorded and mapped in 2007. All were heavily disturbed and devoid of ancient material. Erosion and modern damage make the exact dimensions of many difficult to discern, but one tomb was fairly intact. It features a dromos approximately 6 m long from the hillside surface to a small low entrance cut into the natural rock face. A substantial chamber is preserved within the rock face, with only material of the tomb's modern use as a shelter evident. Further cleaning and recording of these tombs are necessary in order to detect material dating to their ancient period of use and to fully explore the possible existence of undisturbed tombs.

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*Teiresias* is distributed by Electronic Mail and is available on request from  
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# TEIRESIAS

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## EDITORIAL NOTES

1. *Teiresias* is gradually working its way toward the twenty-first century, and is now published in pdf format. As a result it is possible to use Greek fonts and include illustrations.
  2. It is hoped that, in the near future, *Teiresias* from 1991 on will be available in pdf format on the website of the Classics Program (Department of History) at McGill University. Details will be provided as soon as they are available.
  3. As promised in Part One of this volume, the first part of Paul Roesch's *Les Inscriptions de Thespies* has been published. For details see below 072.1.10. It is expected that the remaining texts (funerary inscriptions), as well as concordances, will be published by the end of next year.
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## PERSONALIA

Congratulations to Angela Kühr, who has been awarded a Preis der Offermann-Hergarten-Stiftung for 2007, for her book *Als Kadmos nach Boiotien kam: Polis und Ethnos im Spiegel thebanischer Gründungsmythen* (071.1.05).

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## WORK IN PROGRESS

### 072.0.01 THE LEIDEN-LJUBLJANA ANCIENT CITIES OF BOEOTIA PROJECT 2007

John Bintliff (University of Leiden, The Netherlands) and Božidar Slapšak (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia) send the following report:

In late July through to the beginning of September a joint team of some 35 staff and students conducted fieldwork in Boeotia, concentrated at two urban locations: the ancient city of Koroneia and that of Thespieae, both in the centre of the province and lying between the modern regional centres of Livadhia and Thebes. The Project Directors were Professor John Bintliff (Leiden University) and Professor Božidar Slapšak (Ljubljana University), whilst the staff and students were drawn from these institutions, as well as Amsterdam and Leuven Universities. Greek colleagues on the staff were Dr. A. Vionis and Dr. K. Sarri. Professor V. Stissi (Amsterdam) acted as Assistant Project Director, Dr. Vionis (Leuven) as Assistant Field Director. Funding was provided by Leiden University and the Interuniversity Programme of the Belgian Government. We received our customary outstanding support and assistance from Professor V. Aravantinos (Ephor of Classical Antiquities, Thebes) and his staff, notably Miss A. Charami. Our accommodation was provided through the munificence of his excellency the Metropolitan Bishop Hieronymus (Livadhia). When the great forest fires caused us to abandon with a mere half-hour notice, our research base, it was the Bishop who rapidly arranged temporary refuge in a Monastic complex on Mount Parnassos, where the entire team stayed for two nights until it was safe to return. In all respects, we who work in Boeotia are very fortunate in our hosts, - and the archaeology is also of exceptional interest and richness. Our permits were coordinated by the Dutch Institute in Athens, where we would like to thank all the staff for their excellent support for our project.

The summer season was focussed on two major aims. Firstly, we began the surface survey of the major Greco-Roman city of Koroneia, under the direction of John Bintliff. Secondly, in connection with the final publication of the older urban survey conducted in the mid-1980's at the Greco-Roman city of Thespieae, by the preceding Boeotia Project, a team led by Božidar Slapšak was busy with mapping surface architecture at many points of the ancient site. Some of this work was conducted in collaboration with the Thebes Ephorate, since continuing factory construction work below the modern village of Thespieae on the north edge of the ancient city is bringing to light evidence of a late extension to the ancient urban area, giving a rescue character to some of the recording activity.

#### **The Koroneia Urban Survey**

Preliminary work in 2006 (see the report for that year in the journal *Pharos* and *Teiresias* 062.0.01) had experimented with digital recording on the city site and in its surroundings, but merely registered surface pottery densities without artefact collection. In 2007 the work began in earnest to collect a representative sample of surface finds from the ancient city. The location is a very prominent one, a dominating hill rising from the north-centre of its fertile basin, facing north onto the former Lake Copais (which formed its ancient border in that direction), and with excellent views to the mountainous rims of its basin to the south, west and east [**Figure 1**].

Despite the dense grassy vegetation on the acropolis plateau on the top of the city hill (wild cereals with some evergreen maquis scrub), our trials in 2006 had made clear that at least 50% of the city hill was open enough, either still cultivated in cereals and olives, or at least with low grasses, to allow good collections of surface artifacts and occasional architectural pieces to be recorded. For this reason we decided to survey this major town (of unknown maximum boundaries, but if we take the hill alone, some 100 hectares), with slow care, so as to extract the maximum information. In the event this proved a very fortunate decision, once the nature of the city plan began to appear to us.

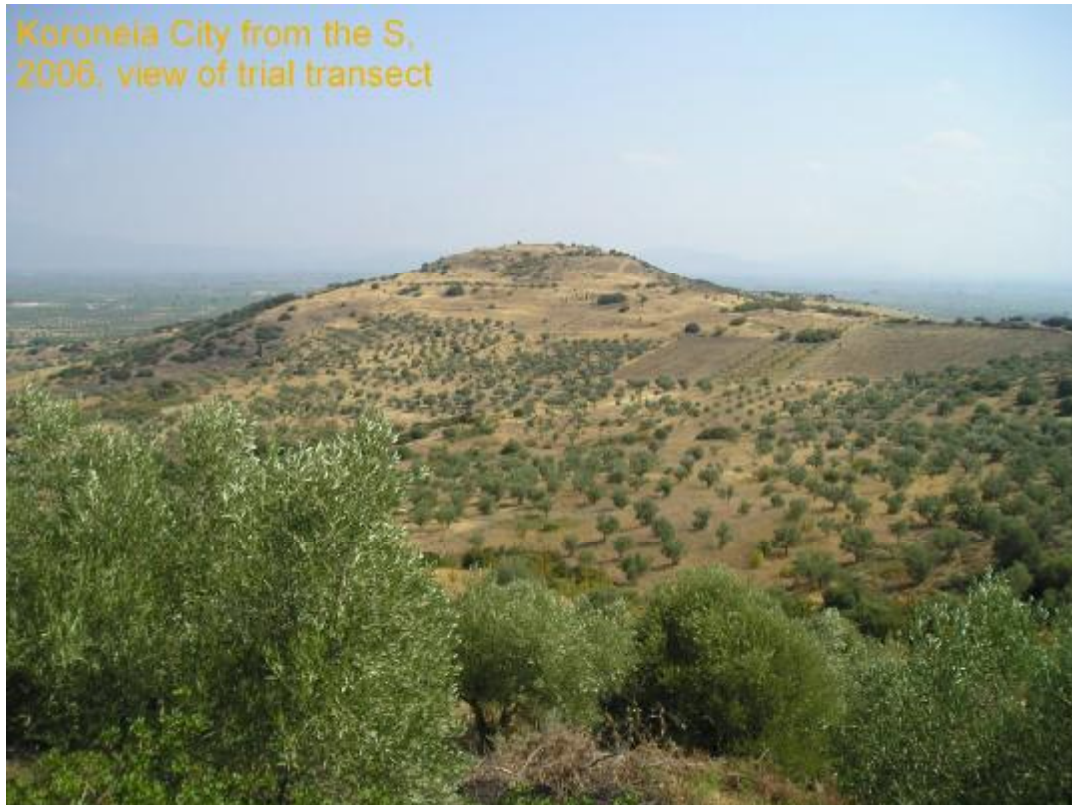


Figure 1

Starting at the flat acropolis on the uppermost part of the hill, we followed the procedure tested in 2006, which was to move around the hill contours slowly downwards from its summit, using a grid of approximately 20 x 20 metre squares. Normally a very accurate grid for the counting and collecting of surface artifacts would be very difficult to set up on a steep terraced hill such as Koroneia. In addition, areas of extreme steepness, never in use for occupation, would be left unsurveyed, and only cursory inspection was possible where the modern vegetation was so dense that no surface evidence was observable. For the latter problem, some parts of the hill were left unsurveyed, or a small collection of finds was achieved. For the former problem, the use of a digital field recording system removed all our mapping concerns.

As in 2006, the digital field recording was in the hands of Bart Noordervliet (Leiden). This year he shifted to a new digital mapper, a commercially-available software package called ESRI ArcGis Mobile. With its ArcPad facility, it is possible rapidly to pinpoint with a small

mobile GPS device connected to a palmtop computer, all four corners of a survey polygon. Although these units were set out with the aid of measuring tapes, frequently the artificial terraces which typify the hill were rather wider or narrower than 20 metres, so that only approximately 20 x 20 square metre study units were used rather than precise shapes of 400 square metres. The GPS facility, here with an accuracy of 1 metre, meant that small and even larger deviations from a perfect square were quickly and carefully allowed for, the real dimensions and size of each grid unit being mapped immediately and with more than adequate precision.



Figure 2

Since we could assume that the ancient inhabitants adapted their private and public architecture to the limitations of the steep terraces which they constructed to make the site

suitable for occupation, it was sensible to adapt likewise our notional units to the terrain, as long as the units did not greatly diverge from the scale we had set up from the start. The units of around 20 x 20 metres were chosen to allow us to have a close identification of each period of occupation in different parts of the site, since it was likely that settlement had expanded and contracted over the millennia of known use of the hill (Bronze Age to late Medieval). Secondly, since we could expect that by far the largest use of space in Greco-Roman times would be for domestic housing, grid units of 20 x 20 metres would narrow our study windows to 1-2 houses, in the event that household assemblages were well represented on the surface. During the one month season at Koroneia, an area of 7 hectares was gridded, in all of which units the surface density of artifacts was counted together with a visibility correction and a large sample of ceramics picked up for laboratory study [Figures 2 and 3].

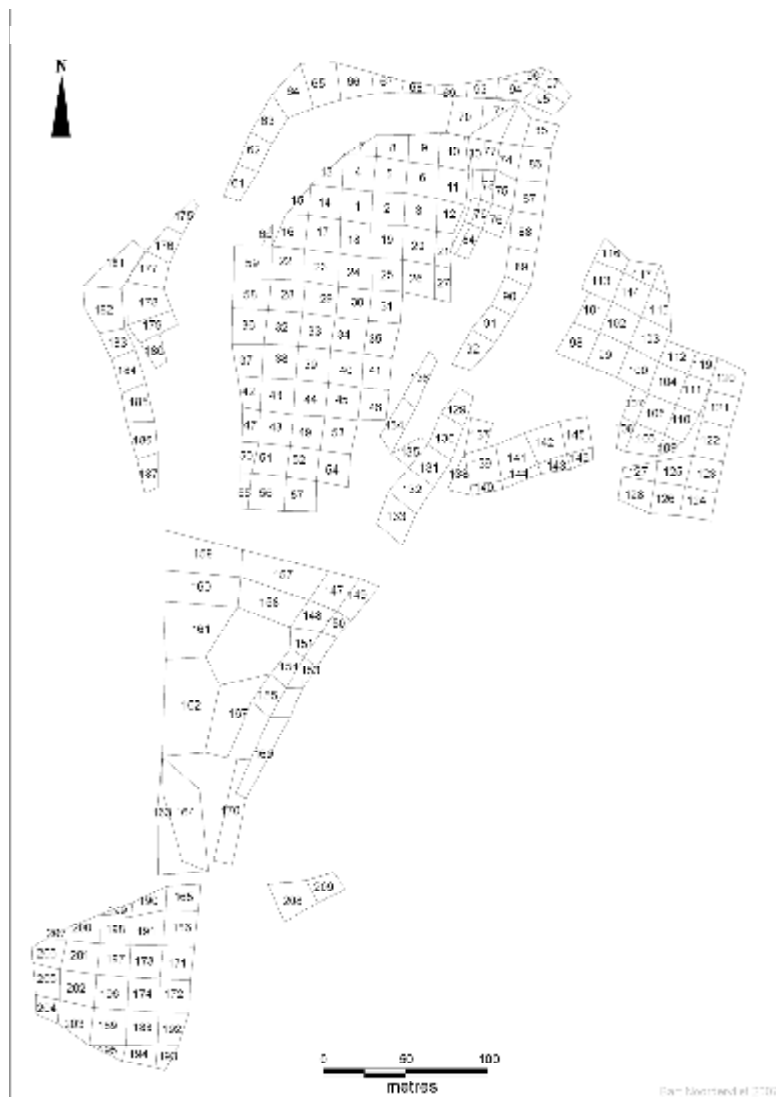


Figure 3

Even where our grids began, on the flat plateau of the acropolis, the heavy movement of some 9 fieldwalkers soon began to open up the high grass to better groundsurface visibility. The surface density is displayed in **Figure 4**, corrected for variable visibility of the soil, with each dot representing 10 sherds. The richness of the city for surface analysis, even when we study it in innumerable small units, is clear from **Figure 5**, where the density per unit is given as sherds per hectare, visibility-corrected. A range from 2-3 potsherds per square metre up to more than 30 is recorded. This would allow our units of ca. 400 square metres to provide assemblages of some 800 to 12,000 sherds from which to take a sample for dating and functional analysis. Areas with too steep terrain were not gridded, but inspected for architectural remains. Areas which were not so steep, but instead too overgrown for density-counting to have value (grid units left blank in **Figure 4**), still gave occasional patches of open ground to allow some ceramic samples to be taken, so that their evidence could be included in the wider context of the entire hill.

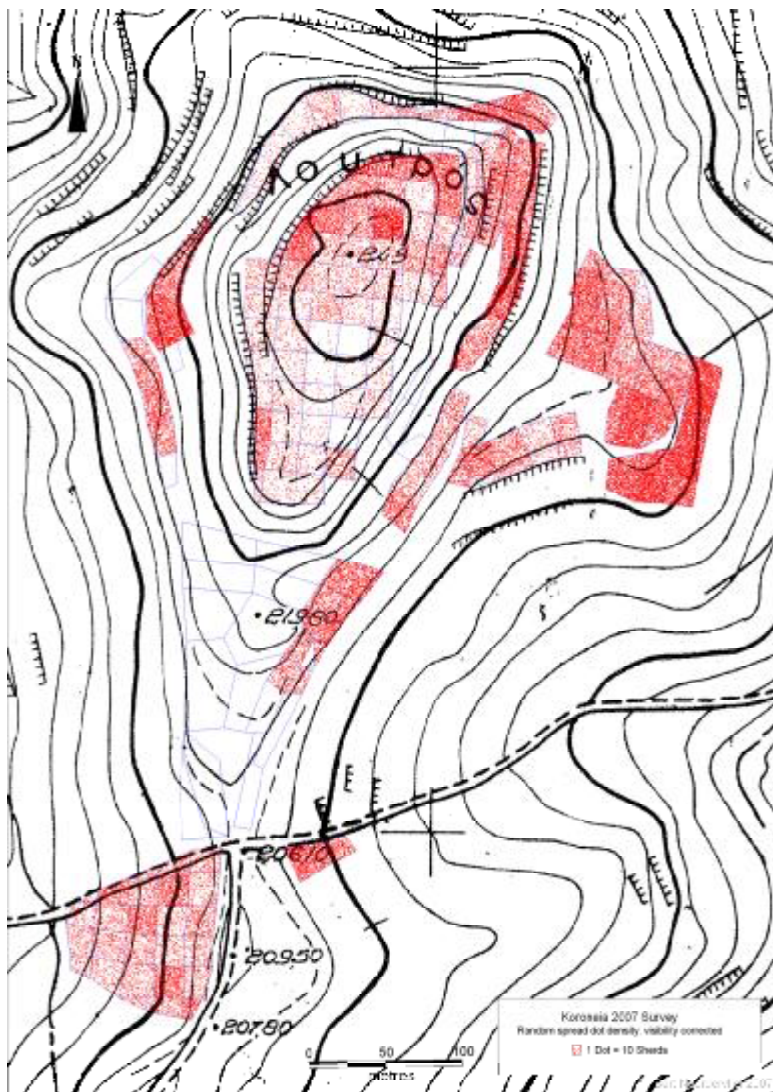


Figure 4

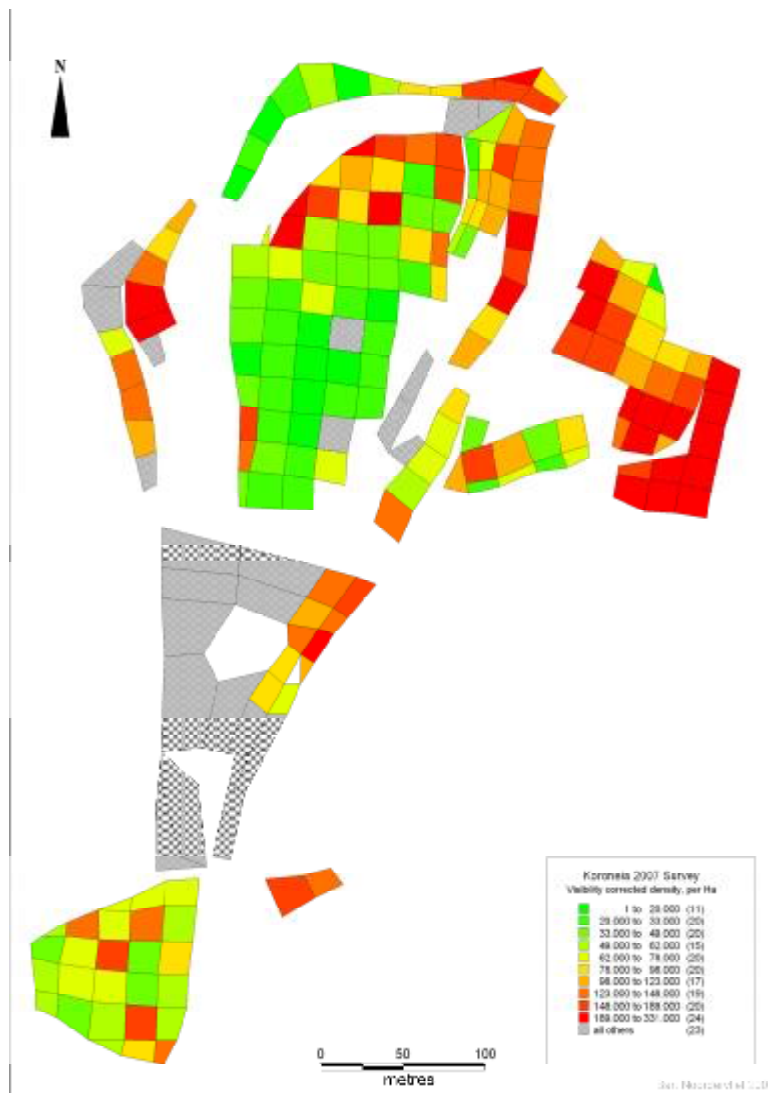


Figure 5

As a result of the high levels of surface finds, and the survival of a seemingly ancient and very stable terrace system at all levels of the city hill, we soon came to realize that the possibility was strong, that we might be able to identify functional use zones of the city, through combining the kinds of artifacts with the regularly-occurring pieces of ancient architecture. Our preliminary division of the upper city hill is shown in **Figure 6**.

On the acropolis, the area with the highest contours in the north of the gridded zones (grid units 1-60 on **Figure 3**), we could isolate some areas with domestic housing, of a very irregular kind, including spolia. We hypothesize these belong to a Late Antique use of this sector, perhaps in the 5th-7th centuries AD (or just possibly even later). A giant olive-press base in the west edge of the acropolis may also relate to this more everyday occupation. Probably Late Roman as well, are two standing ruins built of tile, mortar and rubble: to the north-east a vaulted and very large, multi-roomed building could perhaps be a cistern – very necessary at almost the highest point of this largely limestone hill. An additional reason to have a major water reservoir in Late Antiquity on the acropolis is the evidence we now have for a refortification of this plateau in Late Roman

times. There exist two fragments of an early historic, probably Archaic-era wall in polygonal cut stone on the north and south edge of the acropolis, but in 2007 we also found several small stretches of a Late Roman mortared rubble and tile wall on the eastern rim of the acropolis. A more mysterious and partly-excavated building of similar construction lies in the south-east corner of the acropolis, built up against the Late Antique defence wall. Previously suggested as a church, its alignment is far from an easterly orientation, nor does it show a clear internal structure typical for a such a function. In 2008 we hope to clear the vegetation better so as to clarify the plan of both late buildings.

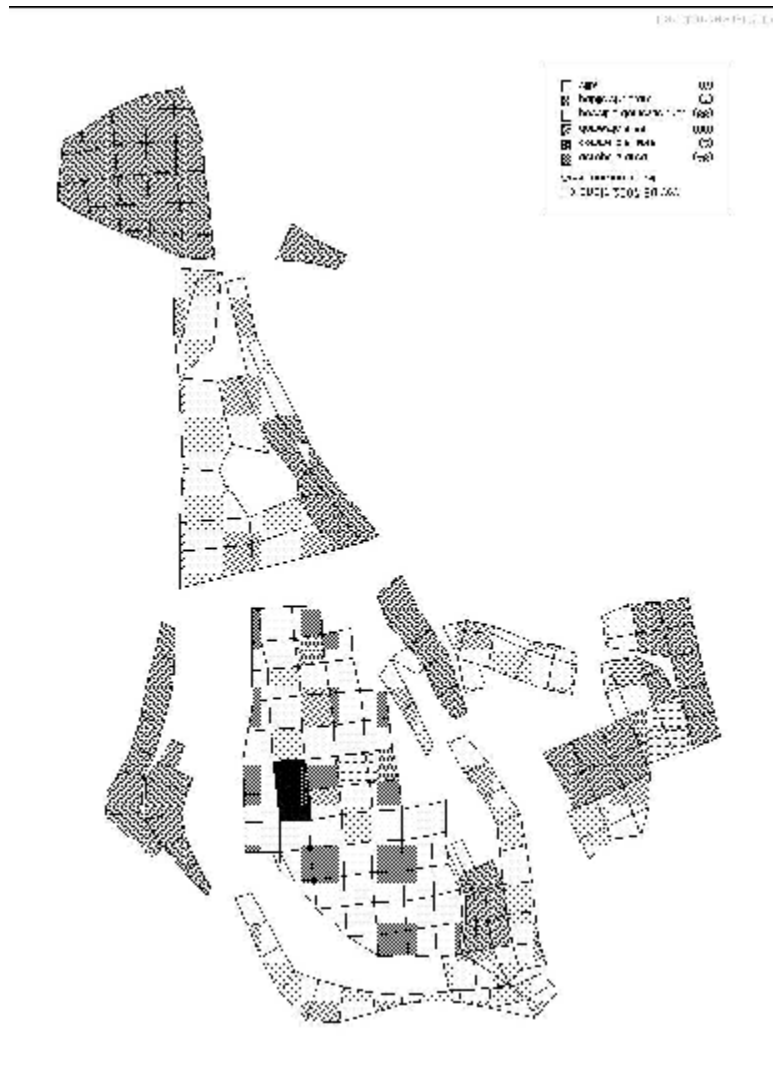


Figure 6

As we moved down off the acropolis to grid the terraces lower down the hill, we immediately found ourselves in what seem clearly to be private housing terraces. Rich domestic finds of Classical through to Imperial Roman age were found, together with occasional wall alignments which could mark the main outlines of homes. Only on the east, where a wide plateau opens up, did we seem to move into a more public sector. Here numerous pieces of large

architectural structures were encountered, including pillar fragments in different orders. At present this may mark one of the public areas of the town, one perhaps of several agoras or fora. Immediately adjacent to this sector, to the south, heavy ploughing had exposed what appears to be a neighbourhood with perhaps two urban villas of Roman date. Finally to the north-east of our grids, where a deeply-incurving depression can be seen on **Figure 6**, a possible theatre was noted. This unnatural depression (according to the Project geomorphologist Dr. Keith Wilkinson of University College Winchester) was probably that which some 19th century AD travellers noted as a possible ancient theatre hollow.

Prehistoric finds were very rare indeed so far, although the massive overlay of Greco-Roman finds always requires caution. It seems likely that Koroneia, at least on present evidence, was not a significant prehistoric centre. The Classical on to Roman Imperial finds seem on first sight (awaiting specialist analysis however), ubiquitous, whilst Late Roman is more confined. Some Geometric-Archaic material was picked up at several points of the area studied and will help us identify the earliest core of the later major town. Medieval and post-medieval pottery appeared very sporadically, but increased slightly to the north of the grids studied in 2007. As the Frankish feudal tower lies at the foot of the hill on the north, this would be consistent with offsite use of the upper hill by occupants of the tower and a postulated associated domestic settlement in its vicinity.



Figure 7

Since we already know that the nearby village of Agios Georgios, some two kilometers to the south-east of ancient Koroneia [**Figure 7**], was in existence as a Greek community in the mid-15th century AD, from Ottoman tax defters studied by Professor Machiel Kiel and John Bintliff, whilst most Boeotian Frankish tower-village settlements are abandoned during the troubled 14th century AD, our present hypothesis is that the medieval villagers at Koroneia relocated between the mid-14th and mid-15th centuries AD to the replacement location of Agios Georgios. One area that the Boeotia Project, past and present, has developed, is the study of traditional domestic architecture in the province. It seemed necessary to visit the modern village, to see if any remnants of its history were surviving. The village is large and prosperous, and as a result most

buildings are relatively or quite new. There are nonetheless a small and fast-dwindling number of traditional single- and double-storey domestic homes, none in active use, and all doomed to demolition in the very near future. A small selection in the heart of the village was identified as worth further study [four shaded houses in **Figure 8**], and two of these were given a very detailed photographic recording, with the additional aim of experimenting with 3-dimensional photographic presentation. One was a single-storey longhouse of a double family size (*makinari*) [**Figure 9**], the other an L-shaped single-storey house. The latter was especially valuable, since one of its original inhabitants, now an old lady living in the adjacent modern house with her son, was able to provide detailed ethnographic information regarding life in the house during the 1930's, to our recording team of A. Vionis (Leuven), Joep Verwij and Rinse Willet (Leiden).



Figure 8



Figure 9

## **Thespieae City**

The chief aim of the surface study at Thespieae was to continue the recording of surface architecture, which was begun by John Bintliff and Anthony Snodgrass (Cambridge University) some years previously, as a supplement to the total ceramic surface survey of 1985-6 directed by the same team. As the new wall discovered in 2006 (see report in this volume) suggested that the original city south of the river had been enlarged in late Classical or Hellenistic times to include a large area across the river, the commercial excavations for a new factory in the latter zone also gave an opportunity to see what kinds of land use were put in place there. Božidar Slapšak's team, with advice from Anthony Snodgrass, who was present for a week, and Vladimir Stissi on the ceramic finds, now suggest that the urban enlargement probably took place in the 4th or 3rd century BC, late Classical to early Hellenistic times. The infill by domestic habitations must have been shortlived, as the city shrank dramatically in Late Hellenistic times and remained at 40 rather than 100 hectares till Late Antiquity. Nonetheless, the discovery of the Theatre in the north sector, in 2006 (see report in this volume), and the descriptions of Pausanias in the 2nd century AD, suggest that part of the new development with a major public role did stay in use into the middle Imperial era. However surface finds suggest that in Late Roman times just burials are being made in the north sector.

### **072.0.02 THE LEIDEN-LJUBLJANA ANCIENT CITIES OF BOEOTIA PROJECT 2006**

Božidar Slapšak (University of Ljubljana, Slovenja) sends the following report:

#### **The Late Classical / Hellenistic City Wall of Thespieae**

Following upon previous fieldwork by Anthony Snodgrass and John Bintliff, the Ljubljana University team as part of the joint Leiden-Ljubljana Ancient Cities of Boeotia project (for references and acknowledgements, see the report by John Bintliff and Božidar Slapšak in this volume), undertook the task of mapping architectural blocks dispersed across the site of Thespieae, using precise surveying equipment. Our aim is defined as "tracing of the Classical city wall": the underlying assumption there is that the regular conglomerate blocks, which represent a high percentage of the scattered architectural blocks observed, were quarried locally, typically for the construction of the city wall in the period of maximum urban expansion which, to judge from the surface distribution of datable ceramics, was Late Classical to Hellenistic in date. Certainly, the picture will be more complex: conglomerate blocks were most probably quarried for structures other than the city wall as well (and we have confirmation concerning grave structures), and besides, the wall building material would undoubtedly have been recycled often, most obviously for the Late Roman fortification of the Kastro.

The basic assumption concerning the use of the blocks was confirmed in 2006 by the discovery of surface remains arguably pertaining to the city wall, along the western limit of the Classical/Hellenistic distribution of surface ceramics interpretable as intra-urban, both to the south and to the north of the Kanavaris stream.



Fig. 1. Locations of structures identified, arguably part of the Late Classical / Hellenistic city wall (ortophoto: courtesy of Hellenic Ministry of Agriculture)

South of the Kanavaris, conglomerate blocks aligned south-north, excavated/cleaned (by locals?) some time in the past, can be seen at the west end of a low ridge above the track running from the north-west corner of the Kastro in west-south-west direction, and turning just below that spot to the south (**Figure 1**, n.6).

North of the Kanavaris, there is a strong linear distribution of displaced conglomerate blocks traceable from just north of the Thebes-Thisbe road, to some 20m south of the track connecting that road with the crossroads of the roads to the village of Thespies and to Askri-Paleopanagia (n.1 on **Figures 1** and **2** above; cf. **Figure 2** below, left).



Figure 2. Above, locations 1-5 on aerial photo (Darja Grosman, 2006); below, detailed view of 1 (left), 2a and 2b (centre), and 3 (right)

The line shifts at some point slightly to the east, and can be traced in its last part below the track on the aerial photograph as a linear feature in the direction of the two stretches of wall described below (n. 2a, 2b). The owner of the field reports the find of blocks in situ, at the northern end of the line of visible displaced blocks (to be verified and documented).



Figure 3. View of the Thespies village hill from the West, with locations 2 - 4 marked

North of the track, two short stretches of the wall in situ were observed (n. 2 on **Figures 1, 2 and 3**) One was uncovered some time ago by a bulldozer at the crossroads where another track starts, leading eastwards below the pine wood in the direction of the theatre site, and was then cleaned by our team (n.2a on **Figure 2** below centre). The other is a line of heavily eroded conglomerate blocks visible on the surface just below the pine wood (n.2b on **Figure 2** below centre). The cleaning revealed that typically, local white to yellow sandstone blocks were used for foundations, while conglomerate blocks were used for the layer above. The width was calculated at 1,6 m (**Figure 4**).



Figure 4. Locations 2a and 2b, from the South (left); the wall at location 2a, partly destroyed by bulldozer when opening the track

A most interesting find was made in 2006 further north above the pine wood, on the steep slope below the south-west apex of the Ano mahala quarter of the village of Thespies (n.3 on **Figures 1, 2 and 3**). Massive occurrence of ancient brick prompted us to clean the section made by bulldozer some time ago at the turn of the track running parallel to the slope from the west end of the village in the north-south direction, around the slope, and continuing just above the pine wood in the west-east direction, to the upper part of the theatre site. In the process, a massive mud-brick wall was discovered, some 2m wide and preserved to the height of some 2m, accompanied by mud brick rubble fallen on a flat surface in front (north-north-west), and by a layer of (Hellenistic) tile above, in front and in the back (east) (**Figure 5**).



Figure 5. Mud-brick wall at location 3, from South-West

The mud-brick wall is built directly on local geology, with no stone foundation. From that point, we can follow a low ridge up the slope in the direction of the plateau of Ano mahala. Down the slope, the surface morphology is disturbed by the construction of another, rather steep track connecting our find spot with the crossroads to Askri/Paleopanagia. The surface of the upper part of the track is scattered with fragments of Classical/Hellenistic tile.

The discovery of the mud-brick wall must be considered also against the observation, in the sand extraction pit just west (in front) of the stretches of wall below the pine wood (n. 2), of ditches, which we assume pertain to the city wall: the later (inner) ditch is filled with mud brick rubble, so we must assume that the wall there was built of that material, partly (structure above the foundations described above), or at some phase fully.

Implications of the find are important. For one thing, we have reliable proof here of the northern extension of the city beyond the stream of Kanavaris. Precise dating will be discussed when the finds collected during the 2006 and 2007 cleaning operation are properly studied, both those from the sand extraction pit, and from a construction site south of the assumed theatre site. Preliminary observations point to a Late Classical / Hellenistic date, and surely to a short lived existence of the urban quarters there (no Early Imperial). Another implication concerns the function of the Thespieae village hill within the overall urban scheme of the ancient city. The Ano mahala quarter is a plateau of some description (roughly 6 ha), clearly delimited, notably in its northern parts, by a ridge and a steep slope towards the rest of the village, and the valleys to the east and west. A linear structure of regular stone blocks is reported at its south-west apex, now destroyed, a few blocks are visible scattered there (n.4 on **Figures 1, 2 and 3**; massive and orientated as it reportedly was in the east-west direction; however, it may have pertained to some other building there, not the city wall). At the lower terrace of the south-east apex (n.5 on **Figures 1 and 2**), there are blocks visible next to the ditches of a (clandestine?) excavation executed there some time ago; a few blocks were reportedly thrown over the ridge. In any case, a mud-brick wall like the one identified on the slope, or a wall combining the use of stone and mud-brick for that matter, would leave few traces on the surface at such an exposed position, so the absence of visible wall remains along the major part of this line may not be a strong argument against this being the line of the Classical fortification. Indeed, in view of the discoveries above, we must assume some kind of occupation of this rather large area, an Upper City, certainly during the period of occupation of the northern extension of the city below, during the Late Classical / Hellenistic period. It should be noted that at least two of the early explorers did consider such a possibility: Ulrichs (2, 1863, 87) proposed that the hilltop would be the site of Keressos, so this famous site, which at two points in the history of Thespieae played such an important role, would be the acropolis in the immediate vicinity of the core of the Archaic/Classical city; Vischer on the other hand, (1875, 553-54), who disagreed with Ulrichs on the location of Keressos, still assumed that the Ano mahala plateau was the Acropolis of the city (we owe both references to Anthony Snodgrass, who is working on the evidence from the travelers, to be published in the upcoming volumes on the Ancient Cities of Boeotia Thespieae survey). As for the mud brick city wall structures, they come as no surprise – see, besides by now numerous archaeological observations, general references in Vitruvius 2, 8, 9; Pliny n.h. 35, 172; see also Pausanias 8, 8, 7 on the stratagem by Agesipolis in capturing Mantinea fortified by a mud brick wall, with discussion on the advantages of this building technique (8, 8, 8), and on earlier instances (8, 8, 9). The quality of the archaeological document here is remarkable though.

Reference to mud-brick structure over stone foundation in Ulrichs (2, 1863, 84) relates to the Kastro of Thespieae and is difficult to reconcile with our present understanding of this Late Roman structure: in view of our findings, however, we must keep his observation in mind as well.

### **The Ancient Theatre of Thespieae**

As part of the general survey of the site of Thespieae in the frames of the Ancient Cities of Boeotia Project (see report in this volume), the Ljubljana University team, in dialogue with, and in part jointly with Anthony Snodgrass and John Bintliff, directors of the 1980s Thespieae survey, reviewed possible locations for the ancient theatre, referred to by Pausanias in his description of the city (9, 27, 5). As a first step, only the area south of the Kanavaris stream was observed, following the accepted opinion that the ancient city was limited to those parts (e.g. Fossey, *Topography and population of ancient Boeotia*, 1988, 136-137 for limits of the area of structural remains; further references to be discussed in subsequent publication). The result was frustrating, as there are no surface features there even remotely suggestive of a theatre of any description, such as we must assume from Pausanias' text. The suggestion to consider the south slope of the modern village of Thespies, where surface morphology does display features interpretable in these terms, was initially dismissed on the grounds that a civic institution such as a theatre would hardly be conceivable outside the perimeter of the city: surface survey data pointing to a possible northerly extension of the city were in themselves deemed inconclusive, and certainly in contrast with the accepted opinion among scholars. The discovery in 2006 of the remains of the Classical/Hellenistic city wall north of the stream and up the hill of the modern village of Thespies (see report in this volume), removed this objection.

Archaeological confirmation of the existence of the theatre mentioned by Pausanias is found in the report by Stamatakis, who was able to identify, among the stones collected upon his request by the locals, no fewer than 150 theatre seats (Stamatakis, *Praktiká* 1883, 68; we are grateful to A. Snodgrass for drawing our attention to this publication). The fate of these stones is unclear and should be investigated. We were able to identify only two blocks undoubtedly pertaining to the theatron: one seat block is lying in the ravine immediately west of the location of the theatre as presented here (**Figure 1**, right), while the other is conserved in the courtyard of the house owned by Mrs. Kounou, immediately north of the theatre, and has to her knowledge been there for generations (**Figure 1**, left).



Figure 1. Kathesmata: left, in the village (house Kounou); right, in the ravine west of the theatre

The fact that Stamatakis does not discuss the location may either result from his lack of interest in the matter, which sounds unlikely, or - on the contrary, from his intimate knowledge of the topography of the site, where he had spent quite some time, also excavating the Polyandrion: this may include his knowledge and understanding of the rather obvious features described here, which he may have felt unnecessary to discuss at that point. This aspect also needs to be investigated further.

The recess proposed here as the location of the theatre lies between the two southward apexes of the Ano mahala quarter of the village of Thespies (**Figure 2**). It has a rather regular circular/globular form in the front part (the west and east slopes: see **Figure 3**), while the back part to the north is very much reshaped by a torrential ravine (**Figure 4**), which cuts also through its bottom, the assumed orchestra, and any structures that may have been there in front (skene). The geology of the site, with layers of pleistocene sands, sandstone and conglomerate, makes transformation through the agency of water collected and abducted at that point from the larger part of the Ano mahala, most effective and destructive indeed. The maximum diameter of the theatron inferred from the actual shape of the recess is about 125 m. No structural features survive visible on the surface: parts of the orchestra may be buried under the flat bottom of the recess.



Figure 2. The village of Thespies from the South, with the recess on the south slope interpreted as the site of the theatre located between the two apexes of its Ano mahala quarter

Besides the morphological features described above, arguments in favour of this identification would be the position within the general morphology of the city (paralleled within

the region by say the theatre in Tanagra), and the orientation, centered as it is on Mt. Korombili, rising above the harbours of Kreusa and Tyfae/Syfae, making the canonic organization of the stage both possible and easily readable. Also in favour are the locations of the two theatre seats found: the one in the ravine west of the theatre arguably slipped there from the theatre structure above, while the one in the village came there in times beyond memory: since it is not recorded to have been brought from the fields in the plain like most of the other stones there, it is possible that it had actually been picked up at the theatre site in the immediate neighborhood below.



Figure 3. Near vertical view of the theatre site (North at the bottom)



Figure 4. Vertical air photo of the village of Thespies, with the ravine cutting through the theatre site clearly visible (air photo: courtesy of the Hellenic Military Geographic Service)

Possible interest of the find lies, certainly, in the confirmation of the reliability of the text by Pausanias, and in providing a reference point around which to consider the topographical value of the sequence of the monuments described, but also in the resolution of the dilemma concerning the parallel existence of theatres in the civic center, and at the festival site within the territory of the city (Valley of Muses). The observations above must be further substantiated though, so in 2008, the surface morphology of the area concerned will be documented in detail, and the geometry of the theatre will be fully analyzed.

#### **072.0.03 THE LEIDEN-LJUBLJANA ANCIENT CITIES OF BOEOTIA PROJECT 2006-2007**

Darja Grosman (University of Ljubljana, Slovenja) sends the following report:

##### **Forest fires and aerial reconnaissance in Boeotia**

In 2006, the Ljubljana University team carried out a first test field season in aerial reconnaissance within the framework of the Ancient Cities of Boeotia project, under a special permit extended for the purpose by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture to the Dutch Royal Institute of Archaeology in Athens. Preliminary results were presented in a Report submitted to the 9<sup>th</sup> Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical antiquities, and to the 23rd Ephorate of Byzantine antiquities. The application was renewed in 2007.

Aerial views are generally considered a welcome and adequate illustration of the conditions on the ground. They have long been deployed in archaeological research, though seldom applied for regular monitoring. While detection and study of landscape context remains a paramount goal of aerial work, in view of the rapid environmental change and enormous pressure on cultural landscape, its true potential may lie rather in quick and accurate recording of surface change: such recording would enable us not just to study the present state of preservation of our landscape heritage, but also identify the causes of deterioration, predict its extent, and possibly suggest measures to check it.

Repeated observation and recording of study areas gives the air photo interpreter the opportunity to explore and evaluate landscape transformation over longer periods. To extend aerial work to monitoring is to accelerate the interval of recorded information, under specified conditions, following clearly defined cycles as well as instantaneous disruptions in the process of landscape change. One of such dramatic events, rarely fully recorded, are fires which, besides causing immediate damage to cultural heritage, may trigger long term change of the environmental setting in which it is embedded.

The summer of 2007 was marked by such extensive forest and maquis fires all over Greece, including Boeotia. Some of the areas and sites recorded from the air in 2006 were exposed to devastation, and were revisited later in 2007. However tragic the circumstances, and however difficult the situation for both the inhabitants and the state institutions, which must cope with the urgent needs of the victims of the fires and the ecological consequences, we should not forget that in the areas concerned, the devastation by fire gives us a rare and most precious opportunity to study archaeological heritage, normally difficult to record in detail because of the vegetation cover.



Figure 1: The site of Pyrgaki within its landscape context, photographed from NW in autumn 2006

To illustrate this, we present images of the site of Pyrgaki (**Figure 1**) above Askra / Paleopanagia, by some assumed to be the Keressos referred to in Paus. 9,14,2ss, and Plut. Cam. 19,2 (cf. discussion by Bölte in RE 11, 286s, s.v. Keressos (1921): the Pyrgaki localization option is n. 2 on p. 287; also J. M. Fossey, *Topography and population of Ancient Boeotia*, 1988, 163).

It is known for its well preserved Late Classical tower, a landmark in the area (cf. R. Kallet-Marx, *The Evangelistria Watchtower and the Defence of the Zagora Pass*, in: H. Beister, J. Buckler eds., *Boiotika, Vorträge vom 5. Internationalen Bötien-Kolloquium zu Ehren von Professor Dr Siegfried Lauffer*. Institut für Alte Geschichte, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, 13-17 Juni 1986, München 1989, 301-11). Among early finds there, the 1980s survey by the Boeotia project team was able to identify mainly Mycenaean, but also earlier Bronze Age, and possibly Early Iron Age ceramics (J. Bintliff, *The archaeological survey of the Valley of Muses and its significance for Boeotian history*, *Recherches et rencontres* 7, 1996, 176).



Figure 2: Structural remains on the top, with clearly visible stone ramparts, partly overgrown, and the tower



Figure 3: The tower



Figure 4: The fire

As shown on the photograph before fire (**Figure 2**), the site and its immediate surroundings are covered by low vegetation, still allowing the identification of major structural elements. The outer parts are mainly stone: the visibility of structures may vary there, but is

generally better than along the ridge, where the terracing and re-deposition seem to have produced deeper top soil, partly masking the inner parts of the site.

The August 2007 fire spread like a carpet over the whole area, burning quickly and intensively at very high temperatures. The colour of the stone surfaces turned light blue, indicating that they suffered more damage than just the loss of firm binding by vegetation. Acceleration of the erosion process and the loss of some of the remaining structural parts may be expected as a consequence in the near future. This is why new sorties are needed, both for detailed study of the remains as visible now, and for systematic monitoring of any future change.

While both the images before and after the fire show clearly the fortification preceding the tower structure, there are further possible extensions visible only in the images taken after (fig. 5). Furthermore, there are a number of features now visible within the rampart, including house terraces and walls, which can be plotted and developed into a reliable map of the site.

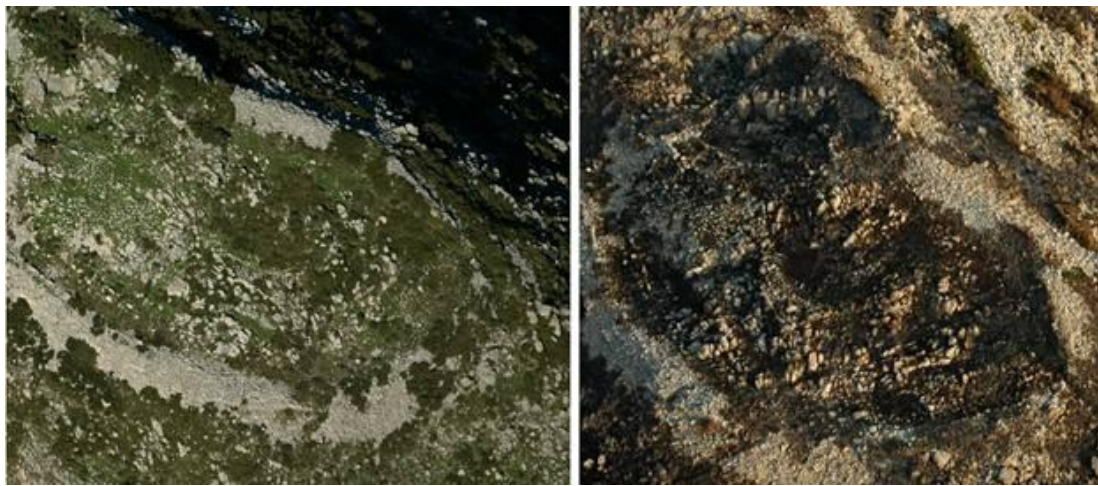


Figure 5: Pyrgaki. Detail of the eastern part of the site

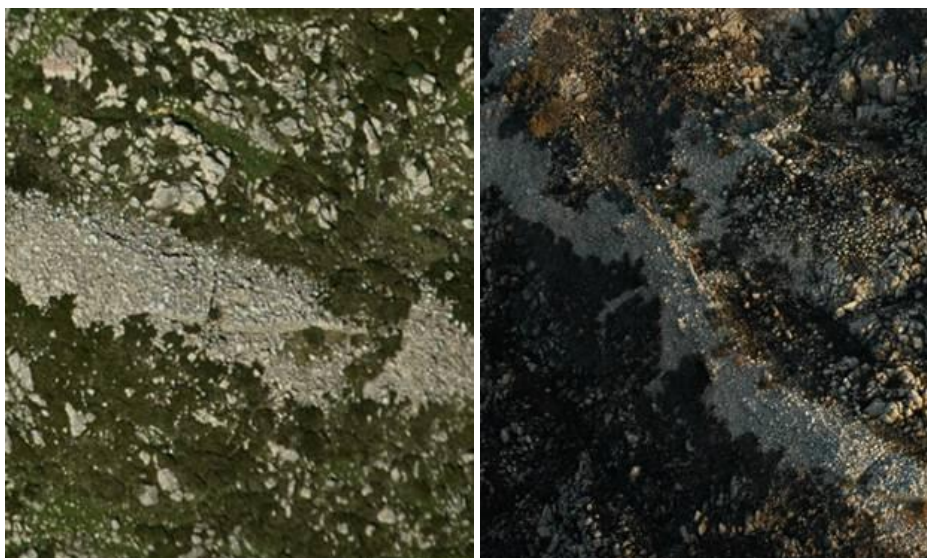


Fig. 6 Detail of the southern rampart

One detail that can be studied well in the photos from the new sorties is the southern rampart. There, we can clearly trace, among the massive stone rubble, a wall line along the inner edge. At regular intervals, perpendicular linear structures extend from the line to the outer edge of the rampart.

In the front of the new photograph (**Figure 6** right), another detail, detected already in the older set can be studied: a large square structure is visible within the rampart zone, followed by a narrow passage next to a large stone cairn to the east, delimited by possible wall front at the outer side (**Figure 6** left).

It should be added that also the area around Pyrgaki is rich in fossil landscape features, impossible to detect in such detail under vegetation, and now fully recordable.



Figure 7

We are very much impressed by the wealth of archaeological information that can be recorded over the areas affected by the catastrophic fires of 2007, and would plead for systematic survey from the air of these areas, to push forward our understanding of the incomparable heritage of the Greek soil.

#### 072.0.04      **The Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project (EBAP)**

Brendan Burke (University of Victoria), Bryan Burns (University of Southern California), and Susan Lupack (University College London ) send the following report:

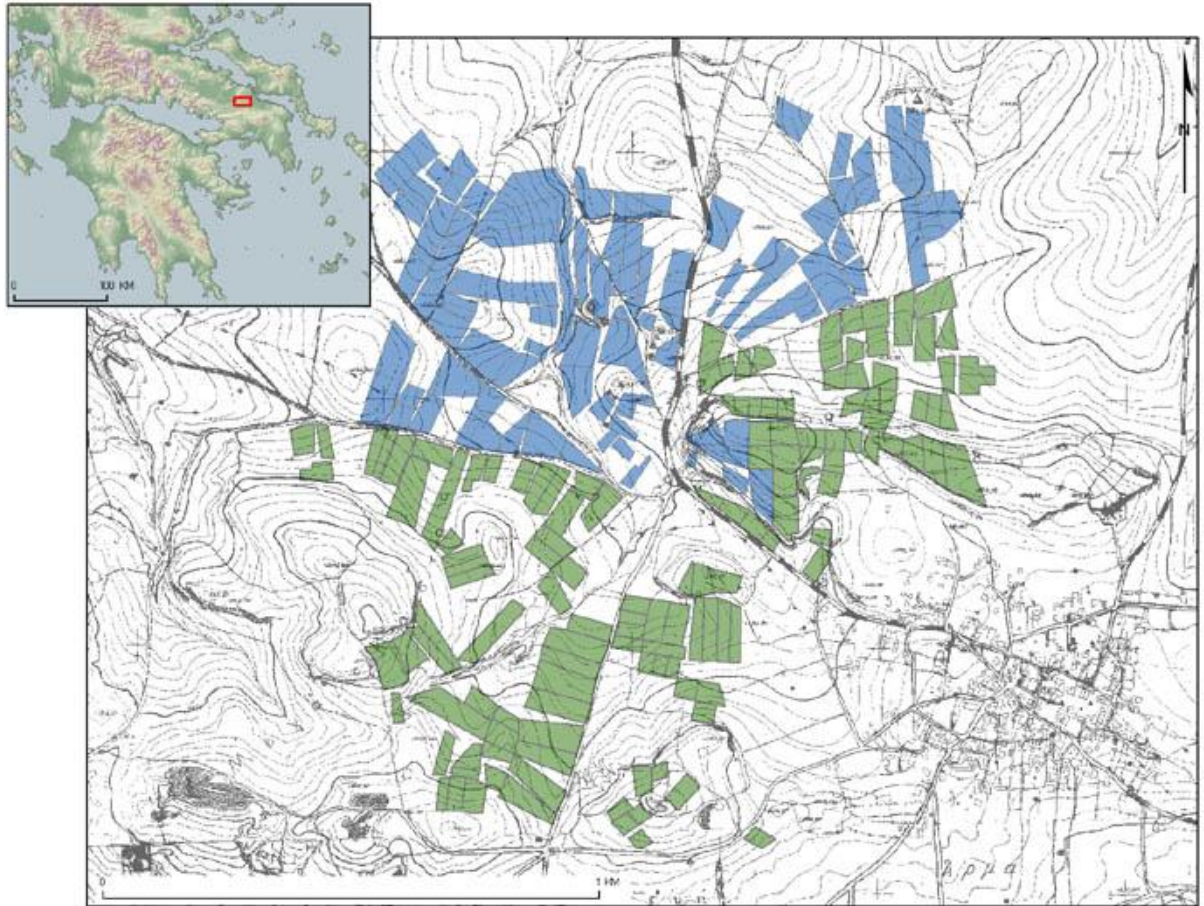
The Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project is a *synergasia* of the Canadian Institute in Greece (Brendan Burke, University of Victoria, Bryan Burns, University of Southern California, and Susan Lupack, University College London) and Vassilis Aravantinos (Director of the Thebes Museum and the 9<sup>th</sup> Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities). The long-term goals of the Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project (EBAP) are to document and interpret the evidence for the land use, settlement patterns and burial practices resulting from the human occupation of eastern Boeotia over an extended chronological period. We have located our study specifically on the plains surrounding the modern villages of Arma, Eleon, and Tanagra, partially because of the intrinsically interesting sites they contain (Eleon and Tanagra) and partially because this area connected the Boeotian center of Thebes to the eastern sea and was therefore a major route for external contact. Our primary research interests focus on developments during the Late Bronze Age, for which evidence in the region is clearly present, yet our methods of study include a broader analysis of the region's long-term history. We are therefore pursuing documentation and study of all periods. Our initial field work in June 2007 proved very successful in terms of locating, collecting, and analyzing surface material which we found to represent activity from the Neolithic through early modern periods. In 2008 we plan to expand our collection zones, refine our interpretation of the ceramic evidence, continue mapping architectural features on the acropolis of Eleon and elsewhere, and to document the funerary landscapes of both Tanagra and Eleon.

Over the course of four weeks we conducted eighteen days of artifact collection and analysis with a crew of twelve field walkers. Other workdays were spent creating data management software, consulting with local landowners and officials, and instructing team members in collection strategies and analytical techniques. During the first season we surveyed and collected 277 units across some 20 hectares.

The site was explored by John Fossey as part of his research for *Topography and Population of Ancient Boeotia* (1988), and we have verified much of his general assessment through more intensive survey. Walkers spaced 10 m apart covered individual transects totaling over 18 km. We were fortunate enough to detect large quantities of diagnostic artifacts in nearly every area surveyed. Our walkers counted a total of 56,720 sherds in the field, of which 6,742 were retained for analysis. Preliminary analysis was conducted on all collected ceramic and lithic objects, which are now stored in the apotheke of the Thebes Archaeological Museum. More detailed analysis focused on the material from within the walled area of Eleon, some initial results of which are detailed below. Even the region surrounding the walled settlement was relatively rich in artifact counts. Average field density was 0.45 sherds/square-meter, with only 30 fields of density higher than 1 sherd/square-meter.

We also began a digital mapping project of the site of Eleon, its natural topography, and the built features preserved above the ground. Funds from the Institute of Aegean Prehistory were critical to the basic operations in the field. Funding from the Loeb Foundation has enabled the purchase of equipment that will sustain continued seasons (total station, GPS, computer hardware and software). Additional funds from USC are being used during the current academic year for

the analysis of data through GIS programming, and will provide for the incorporation of satellite imagery and aerial photographic in our study of this region.



## Initial Results

Our collection and preliminary analysis of cultural material suggests three major phases of activity at Eleon: Late Bronze Age (including a robust Middle Helladic phase), late Classical-Hellenistic, and Ottoman.

The Bronze Age material was of a much longer range than expected from casual observation. The Early Helladic and early Middle Helladic periods were more extensively represented by several distinctive hand-made sherds. In the Middle Helladic the population of Eleon may have increased significantly considering the large number of sherds that we collected from that period. The majority was of the readily identifiable Grey Minyan ware, but some Yellow Minyan was also found. The early Late Helladic period, the beginning of the Mycenaean period, is signaled by the appearance of a distinctive Late Helladic fabric, but many examples had been somewhat burnished, as if the potters were reluctant to give up the old method of decoration. The Late Helladic II and III periods are well represented by numerous handles with swaths of paint at their bases, kylix stems (some plain, some with rings of paint), and rims with characteristic bands of red paint. Several examples of monochrome deep bowls indicate that

Eleon must have been active into the latest LH IIIB and early IIIC periods. Further study will be needed to see how late into the IIIC period occupation of the site went. Geometric sherds do seem to be represented, but here too, further study is required to identify more precisely the dates to which they belong.

The most impressive built feature at the site of Eleon is a well preserved stretch of Lesbian polygonal masonry that follows an unusual, curved path. In 2007, this wall was drawn using a total station and ArcView drafting software by Sigrid Eliassen and her team from the Danish Institute in Athens. Understanding the function of this wall will require further study and possibly excavation. Although there are traces of towers and entry points in the wall, the concave form and the fact that only one face of it is visible suggests the possibility that this was a retaining wall rather than a fortification wall.

The post-classical tower preserved at Eleon, as one of numerous such constructions in central Greece, has been associated with the period of Frankish rule centered at Thebes (P. Lock *BSA* 1986). Our collected material, however, suggests a significantly later date. Of the post-classical material, exceptionally few sherds date earlier than the 15th century. We are fortunate in having members of our senior staff who specialize in this period of Greece's history (C. MacKay, Bryn Mawr College, K. Kourelis, Clemson University), and we have the cooperation of the Byzantine Ephoreia based nearby at Chalkis.

Survey in the region immediately surrounding Eleon also produced significant results. Among these are substantial clusters of building material to the northwest that were previously unidentified. Most significant were the partial foundations of a square tower, measuring 3 x 3 meters, with traces of a wall running to the north and south. These remains suggest the expansion of settlement well beyond the elevated center of Eleon, perhaps during the classical period. Other accumulations of cut stone are no longer *in situ*, having been moved to the periphery of fields by cultivation practices. We intend to study aerial photos of the region from earlier decades, with the hope that they will document traces of construction that remained prior to intensified land-use.

Fixed features were also detected to the southwest, where a number of chamber tombs were located in the slopes of the hills surrounding Eleon, which were apparently opened and emptied in fairly recent times. The closest parallel to these rough hewn chambers cut into the natural bedrock is found near modern Tanagra, 7 km to the south-east. The largest concentration of tombs around Eleon was found below the church of Profitis Eleias, where over 20 tombs were recorded and mapped in 2007. All were heavily disturbed and devoid of ancient material. Erosion and modern damage make the exact dimensions of many difficult to discern, but one tomb was fairly intact. It features a dromos approximately 6 m long from the hillside surface to a small low entrance cut into the natural rock face. A substantial chamber is preserved within the rock face, with only material of the tomb's modern use as a shelter evident. Further cleaning and recording of these tombs are necessary in order to detect material dating to their ancient period of use and to fully explore the possible existence of undisturbed tombs.

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