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The Artemision at Amarynthos: The 2022 Season

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Aegina, Hellanion Oros



Fig. 10 The site of *Ta Marmara* after cleaning

oikos or temple¹⁹. Situated on a busy pass, along the shortest road between Eretria and Tamynai and linking the valley of Amarynthos with the heart of the Eretrian territory, the site marked a stopping place for the Eretrians from the central districts who walked to Amarynthos during the Artemisia. Therefore, the hypothesis of a sacred *oikos* or shrine dedicated to Artemis on this crucial passage of the procession route proves reasonable.

Preliminary conclusions

Despite the damage and limitations due to the urban sprawl of modern Eretria and Amarynthos, especially along the coast, the 2021–2022 survey seasons have already gathered significant information regarding the diachronic evolution of human occupation in the region. The discovery of a dozen ancient settlements lays the foundations for a new study on the distribution of the Classical demes, as well as the communication network and the region's agricultural exploitation in the long term. Moreover, the survey has been able to specify the position of the Artemision within the ancient landscape. The absence of sites dating from the Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic, and Roman periods, both on the Paleokklisies hill and its direct vicinity, suggests that any consistent form of habitat progressively moved away from the sanctuary area, probably in favor of a "sacred space" dedicated to Artemis. At the same time, the sanctuary

¹⁹ The hypothesis of a tower seems unlikely due to the rectangular plan of the building, the rather limited view in several directions (the two adjacent hills that dominate the site offer a better view), and the ostentatious workmanship and cutting, which appear needless for a military tower.

was well connected to the rest of the territory, thanks to its position along the main Euboean road linking Chalkis, Eretria, Styra, and Karystos (which passed a few dozen meters away from the shrine²⁰), thus confirming its "central position" for all Eretrians.

AEGINA, HELLANION OROS

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During the second year of the archaeological project on the summit of Mount Hellanion Oros on Aegina²¹, works concentrated on the detailed documentation of the trenches 3, 5 and 6 excavated in 2021²², the restoration and registration of the finds, as well as on visiting the different zones of the survey area and the preparation of the GIS map.

Site

The cleaning of the sides of the trenches for the stratigraphic drawings allowed a better understanding of several structures. In trench 3, an oval structure excavated in 2021 can now clearly be identified as a workshop. This is significant, as it indicates the presence of a settlement with workshops on the mountain top after the site's religious importance had dwindled. Furthermore, the retaining wall (8), which had appeared towards the end of the 2021 campaign in the lower part of trench 5, can now definitely be described as such. At the foot of

²⁰ On this road, see Fachard 2012, 97–99 and fig. 39.

²¹ F. de Polignac (Prof. emer., École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris) supports the project as scientific member. In this year's work participated M. Hégi (University of Zurich), J. Schaer (University of Lausanne), A. Mpitrou and H. Spyrelli (University of Ioannina), I. Viktoratou (University of Leiden) and A. Chalastara, A. Pharogianni and S. Stylios (University of Athens). For the restoration of the objects, we would like to thank K. Panagopoulou, E. Vamvakari and G. Konsoulidi, for the cleaning of the animal bones of the 2021 excavation H. Giannoulouopoulos. The 2022 research has been financed by the Foundation of the ESAG.

²² AntK 65, 2022, 140.



Fig. 11 Mycenaean vases from the deposit north of wall 8: 1) tripod #EO. 45/22.5; 2) kylix #EO. 45/22.3; 3) alabastron #EO. 45/22.9; 4) basin #EO. 82/22.1

the wall, a destruction layer of Mycenaean date has been excavated (*pl. 14, 3*). The restoration of the vases now allows to draw first conclusions on chronology and use of this area, although the trench needs to be extended in order to have a complete picture. The assemblage consists so far of 15 complete or partially preserved vases, while there also are a few sherds from other vases (*fig. 11*). It comprises cooking, storage, drinking and serving vessels, while a rounded alabastron is standing out. An emphasis lies on cooking ware with two rounded tripods as well as two coarse ware basins – typical products of the Aeginitan workshops, which were exported in large numbers²³. The function of this assemblage, which contained apart from pottery two stone spindle whorls and a bronze fragment, probably of a knife, is not yet entirely clear. The rounded alabastron with tricurved arch motif as well as a carinated kylix possibly indicate a date before LH IIIC, while the fragments of a carinated tripod within the thick collapse layer formed by large stones are evidence for a LH IIIC date of the covering of the area.

In the southern part of the trench, on the uphill side of the wall, objects seem to have been deposited as offerings close to the rock, throughout different periods up to modern times. The lowest layer excavated so far in that part of the trench is of Mycenaean date and produced

²³ See latest Marabea 2019.

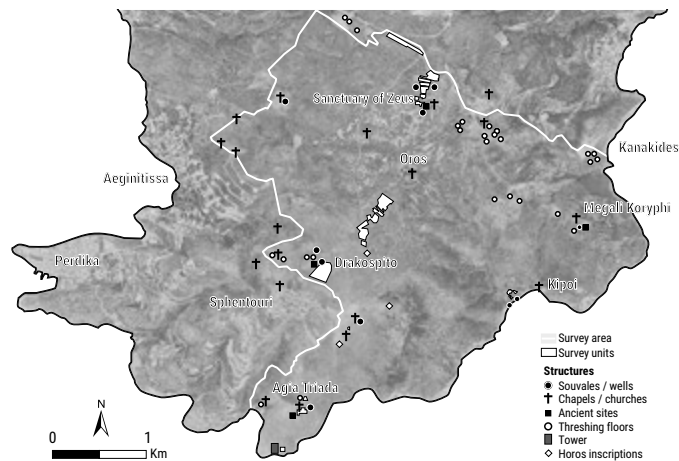


Fig. 12 Survey map

both a bronze sickle and a complete Group B deep bowl (LH IIIB2). The entire area was covered with the black layer full of burnt tiny fragments of animal bones mentioned in the last report²⁴. A series of analyses is now being conducted on the finds from this trench, while a good amount of soil samples and samples for phytolith analysis have been kept from the sediments²⁵.

Equally under study are the finds from trench 6 south of the chapel. The pottery is mainly of Geometric to Roman date. Although focussing on the Bronze Age phases, the project's aim is to understand the diachronic use of the site and to date the different structures visible on the surface.

Landscape

Furthermore, the survey, which is part of the project, was laid out in detail through the preparation of a GIS map of the area (*fig. 12*) and a first exploration of the different zones, from Sphrentouri with its ancient tower at the southernmost tip of the island to the 'ancient' olive grove in the north (Agia Triada), the different peaks, Kiproi bay and the abandoned village of Kanakides.

A more detailed documentation was undertaken in the area of the Agios Dimitrios, where another abandoned village is located, and at the *Drakospito* or "Dragon House" (*fig. 13*), both north of Sphrentouri. A 3D model of the latter has been generated for further architectural

²⁴ A first archaeozoological estimation by A. Gkotsinas (Universities of Montpellier and Montreal) confirms the hypothesis that these are the remains of sacrifices performed on the mountain top, just above the trench.

²⁵ Phytolith analysis is being performed by G. Tsartsidou (Ephorate of Palaeoanthropology-Speleology).



Fig. 13 Drakospito (“Dragon House”) near Sphentouri

study²⁶. The building, which resembles similar constructions in southern Euboea²⁷ and Hymettos, consists of two communicating rooms (15 × 4,15 m and ca. 8 × 3,4 m). A separation wall has been added later and divides the Northern part into two spaces. In the surroundings, a series of enclosures and even a small *souvala* (cistern) and two threshing floors have been documented, as well as a possible tomb. A considerable amount of pottery sherds has been counted on the neighbouring agricultural terraces. To begin the study of early modern land use, which is planned to be conducted in parallel with the survey, first conversations with local shepherds have been held. They still use the – at least partially – ancient *souvales* and stone basins found in their vicinity.

Several sites in the area south and east of Sphentouri have already been documented in detail by Sophia Michalopoulou in the framework of the study for the construction of the sewage system of Aegina²⁸. In the same area, Irene Polinskaya has mapped a series of fifth-century Horos inscriptions²⁹ and Eleni Salavoura lists an ancient site with possible Mycenaean traces near the Agios Ioannis church at Sphentouri³⁰.

In the northwestern part of the survey area, a farmstead and possible kilns of so far unknown date can be reported on the ridge near the Agios Ioannis Kalyvitis church above Aiginitissa and numerous obsidian fragments in the area of the ‘ancient’ olive groove. Finally,

Kipoi bay to the south-east of Mount Hellanion Oros has been frequented at least since antiquity according to surface finds.

Intensive survey has been tested since the first year of the project and the results are much more promising than the difficult terrain would suggest. A fair amount of pottery and stone tools of various periods has been collected. It is therefore planned to systematically survey the landscape around Mount Hellanion Oros in the next three years, at least where agricultural terraces exist. This will hopefully enable a thorough understanding of the history of habitation and land use of the area in which the peak site of Mount Hellanion Oros has been established and frequented over the millennia.

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²⁶ Salavoura 2014, 59–61.

²⁷ Chidiroglou *et al.* 2022.

²⁸ S. Michalopoulou forthcoming in ADelt.

²⁹ Polinskaya 2009.

³⁰ Salavoura 2014, 58–59.

GENERAL ABBREVIATIONS

EAE	Ephorate of Antiquities of Euboea
ESAG	Swiss School of Archaeology in Greece École suisse d'archéologie en Grèce
SNSF	Swiss National Science Foundation

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Fig. 13 *Drakospito* (“Dragon House”) near Sphentouri.

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- Fig. 12 Survey map.



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Fieldwork of the Swiss School of Archaeology in Greece 2022

1 Amarynthos, aerial view of the Archaic temples

2 View of *Ta Marmara*. In the background, the acropolis of Partheni, the heart of the Eretrian territory and the Aegean

3 Aegina, Mount Hellanion Oros, trench 5: Mycenaean kylix and tripod *in situ*

ABKÜRZUNGEN

AA	Archäologischer Anzeiger, Beiblatt zu JdI	IstForsch	Istanbuler Forschungen
AAA	Αρχαιολογικά Ανάλεκτα ἐξ Ἀθηνῶν	IstMitt	Istanbuler Mitteilungen
ABV	J. D. Beazley, <i>Attic Black-figure Vase-painters</i> (1956)	JdI	Jahrbuch des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts
ActaArch	Acta archaeologica (Kopenhagen)	JHS	The Journal of Hellenic Studies
Addenda ²	Beazley Addenda. Additional References to <i>ABV</i> , <i>ARV²</i> & <i>Paralipomena</i> (Second Edition, compiled by T. H. Carpenter et al. at the Beazley Archive, 1989)	JRA	Journal of Roman Archaeology
ADelt	Αρχαιολογικόν Δελτίον	JRS	The Journal of Roman Studies
AEphem	Ἀρχαιολογικὴ Ἐφημερίς	LCS	A. D. Trendall, <i>The Red-figured Vases of Lucania, Campania and Sicily</i> (1967), Suppl. 1 (1970) 2 (1973) 3 (1983)
AION	Annali dell'Istituto universitario orientale di Napoli, Dipartimento di studi del mondo classico e del Mediterraneo antico, Sezione di archeologia e storia antica	LIMC	Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae
AJA	American Journal of Archaeology	MdI	Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts
AM	Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Athenische Abteilung	MEFRA	Mélanges de l'École française de Rome, Antiquité
ANRW	Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt	MonAnt	Monumenti antichi pubblicati per cura della Accademia nazionale dei Lincei
AntK	Antike Kunst (diese Zeitschrift)	Mon Piot	Fondation Eugène Piot. Monuments et mémoires
AntPl	Antike Plastik	NSc	Atti della Accademia nazionale dei Lincei. Notizie degli scavi di antichità
ArchCl	Archaeologia classica	NumAntCl	Numismatica e antichità classiche, Quaderni ticinesi
ARV ²	J. D. Beazley, <i>Attic Red-figure Vase-painters</i> (² 1963)	ÖJh	Jahreshefte des Österreichischen Archäologischen Instituts in Wien
ASAtene	Annuario della Scuola archeologica di Atene	Paralipomena	J. D. Beazley, <i>Paralipomena. Additions to Attic Black-figure Vase-painters and to Attic Red-figure Vase-painters</i> (Second Edition) (1971)
ASR	Die antiken Sarkophagreliefs	Prakt	Πρακτικά τῆς ἐν Ἀθήναις Ἀρχαιολογικῆς Ἐταιρίας
BABesch	Bulletin Antieke Beschaving. Annual Papers on Classical Archaeology	RA	Revue archéologique
BCH	Bulletin de correspondance hellénique	RE	Paulys Realencyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft
BICS	Bulletin. Institute of Classical Studies, University of London	RendPontAcc	Rendiconti. Atti della Pontificia Accademia Romana di Archeologia
BMC	A Catalogue of the Greek Coins in the British Museum	RM	Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Römische Abteilung
BSA	The Annual of the British School at Athens	RVAp I–II	A. D. Trendall–A. Cambitoglou, <i>The Red-figured Vases of Apulia I</i> (1978) <i>II</i> (1982), Suppl. 1 (1983) 2 (1991/92)
BSR	Papers of the British School at Rome	RVP	A. D. Trendall, <i>The Red-figured Vases of Paestum</i> (1987)
BWPr	Winckelmannsprogramm der Archäologischen Gesellschaft zu Berlin	SEG	Supplementum epigraphicum Graecum
CAT	C. W. Clairmont, <i>Classical Attic Tombstones</i> (1993)	SIMA	Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology
CIL	Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum	SNG	Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum
CorVP	D. A. Amyx, <i>Corinthian Vase-Painting of the Archaic Period</i> (1988)	StEtr	Studi etruschi
CVA	Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum	StudMisc	Studi miscellanei
EAA	Enciclopedia dell'Arte Antica, Classica e Orientale	ThesCRA	Thesaurus Cultus et Rituum Antiquorum
FR I–III	A. Furtwängler–K. Reichhold, <i>Griechische Vasenmalerei I</i> (1904) <i>II</i> (1909) <i>III</i> (1932)	TrGF I–V	Tragicorum Graecorum Fragmenta: TrGF, hg. von B. Snell I (1971, ² 1986) <i>II</i> (1981) <i>III</i> (1985) <i>IV</i> (1977, ² 1999) <i>V</i> (2003)
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IG	Inscriptiones Graecae		

ABKÜRZUNGEN ANTIKER AUTOREN UND WERKE

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