



# The Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens

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On the cover:  
Perachora  
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## Director's welcome to the 2025 Bulletin: activities in 2024

Archaeology is a discipline of discovery, and our discoveries about the past are made in the present. Like many countries, Greece operates a permit application system for any researcher who wants to do fieldwork or look at material in museum collections. This approach helps ensure that work undertaken on Greece's rich heritage is of the highest quality and provides for the sharing of results and finds.

For foreign researchers, these applications must be submitted by the relevant foreign archaeological school on the researcher's behalf; a foreign researcher cannot submit a permit application directly to a museum, the archaeological authority with regional responsibility (the *ephoreia*), or the Ministry of Culture itself. This is one of the fundamental reasons the AAIA exists. The AAIA is in good company, too, as it is one of 19 such research centres in Athens with this explicit, legal remit in Greece.

To manage global and domestic research interest in Greece's past, and to balance out opportunities with oversight capacity by the Greek civil service, the Hellenic Ministry of Culture grants each foreign school up to six fieldwork permits each year. In addition, to foster collaboration between Greek and foreign researchers, and to support positive relations between Greece and other countries, three of these permits are encouraged to be collaborative projects (a *synergasia*) between a foreign team and an ephorate.

For the first time in the AAIA's history, in 2024 we reached our capacity for *synergasia* permits! This is exciting because it reflects expanding interest by Australian researchers in undertaking fieldwork in Greece. Furthermore, the success of our scholars in securing competitive funding to do their archaeological research demonstrates broader societal recognition of the importance of Greece's past.

In this issue of the *Bulletin*, therefore, you will be able to read about the results of these projects' 2024 field seasons. The reports are from Perachora, in partnership with the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Corinthia; Zagora, in partnership with the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades; and Paros, also in partnership with the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades. In addition, our work on Kythera continued, and the team shares the results of their 2024 fieldwork, as well.

The opportunity to travel to Greece is fundamental for the AAIA, not only for field teams, but also for the next



Tamar Hodos

generation of researchers. For this reason, we invest heavily in enabling undergraduate and research students to experience the ancient world first hand. We do this through scholarships we run in collaboration with our institutional members, and several of our institutions have longstanding partnerships with their local Friends group to provide additional opportunities.

The University of Sydney offers the Olwen Tudor Jones scholarship to its students. This is an endowed fund in memory of Olwen Tudor Jones, who taught legions of budding archaeologists at the AAIA's project at Torone during the 1970s, '80s and '90s. Sunday Vremaric Macpherson, Meishi Huang and Lillian Geddes-Korb share their experiences of participating in the Zagora field school – their first ever excavation!

Alex Grigor, of the Australia National University, was our 2024 Kallinikos Scholar. Alex's doctoral thesis assesses literary and material receptions of the Trojan War in Roman contexts. She spent time in Greece and

Italy to see relevant sculptural works first hand, and she shares with us examples that are particularly significant for her research.

In 2024, we expanded our educational opportunities by establishing an internship scheme for students enrolled in Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAM) sector Master of Arts programmes. We trialled this with two University of Sydney MA programmes: Museum and Heritage Studies, and Art Curating. Thus, in November, we welcomed Samantha Lawrence and Yishen Xu to Athens to assess the AAIA's paintings and drawings, which were mostly collected by Alexander Cambitoglou during his lifetime. In their contribution for the *Bulletin*, Samantha and Yishen explain what it takes to catalogue a collection like this.

The AAIA's remit covers the Hellenic world from antiquity to the modern day. This extends to modern Greek language and culture. I am particularly delighted, therefore, that in 2024 we also embarked on a collaboration with Ionian University to expand opportunities for individuals to learn Modern Greek and about Greek culture in Greece itself. We first helped Ionian University deliver an intensive Greek cultural programme to students from Sichuan University in China in January 2024. This was a practical springboard for our main collaboration, a two-week intensive Modern Greek programme that anyone age 18 and older can participate in. The intensive first ran in July 2024 and is now an annual offering. We hear from Dr Kostas Stefou and Dr Polyxeni Strolonga, members of Ionian University's Centre for the Study of the Ancient Greek World, which oversees both programmes, about what these two opportunities offer.

The AAIA has a dual mission: in addition to bringing people to Greece to engage with the Hellenic world, we share the latest in Hellenic study with the Australian public. For this reason, the AAIA was delighted to host Dr Daphne Martin from Cambridge University as a University of Sydney William Ritchie Fellow in September. In her *Bulletin* contribution, Daphne shares her experiences of Australia as a member of the Greek diaspora herself and explains how this has informed her own scholarship, and what it means to her to be a member of the diaspora who is engaged in research on ancient Greece today.

The jewel in our public engagement crown remains the Gale Visiting Professorship. In 2024, we welcomed Professor Philipp Stockhammer of the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich and the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig. He wowed audiences around the country with his groundbreaking research on the genetic relationships between past populations in Greece. He also shared insight into how



*Tamar Hodos with Stavros Venizelos, the Greek Ambassador to Australia in Sydney, September 2024.*

past peoples prepared their food and drink, knowledge gained directly from the cooking, storage and serving vessels they used on a daily basis. In his contribution to the *Bulletin*, Philipp offers insight into his experience of travelling around Australia with his family and meeting with the country's scholars and dedicated lovers of Greece. An added bonus has been that research collaborations and personal friendships were both established and consolidated.

And finally, we provide a round-up of the activities of our Friends groups. Each group offers researchers the opportunity to share their findings directly with their local community, the place in which they live and work. In turn, the Friends group supports their local university by supplementing student travel opportunities, a number of which are partly subsidised by the AAIA. In this way, the AAIA, its Friends and University communities collaborate to give students the chance to experience the Hellenic world first hand, and thereby create the next generation of scholars of Greece's heritage. Long may this continue!

Tamar Hodos  
Director of the AAIA



# APKAS: a comprehensive 2024 research report

Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory

Since its inception in 1999 as a joint initiative of the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens (AAIA) and the University of Sydney, the Australian Paliochora Kythera Archaeological Survey (APKAS) has played a pivotal role in deepening scholarly understanding of the cultural landscape of Kythera. The project has provided invaluable insights into the island's development over time, shedding light on its connectivity with neighbouring regions such as Crete and the Peloponnese, as well as its significance in the broader eastern Mediterranean maritime network. Over the course of its development, APKAS has benefitted from the collaboration of a diverse team of international specialists and the generous support of institutions such as the Sydney-based Nicholas Anthony Aroney Trust.

Currently in its final stages, the project has transitioned from extensive field research to an intensive focus on data analysis, visualisation and dissemination. The ultimate goal is to produce a definitive publication by early 2026 that will encapsulate over two decades of interdisciplinary archaeological research. This report provides an overview of the 2024 research activities undertaken by the core APKAS team.

## Research personnel and institutional collaboration

The APKAS research team for 2024 comprised 28 specialists affiliated with institutions across Australia, Greece, the United Kingdom, Italy, the United States and Croatia. Collaborating institutions included the University of Sydney, the National Kapodistrian University of Athens and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece), King's College London, the University of Bristol, Cardiff

Metropolitan University and Newcastle University (UK), Wooster College, Michigan State University and the University of California San Diego (USA), Università degli Studi Roma Tre (Italy) and the University of Zagreb (Croatia). Additionally, the project has partnered with professional service providers such as AeroPhoto Ltd and Geoerga Ltd in Greece, alongside the UK-based heritage consultancy CHC Ltd.

## Fieldwork and material analysis

The 2024 research season encompassed 56 days of intensive field, laboratory and archival investigations. A core aspect of the study involved the analysis of 567 pottery sherds, which were measured, photographed and illustrated to facilitate a comprehensive examination of ceramic typologies. Seventy-two pottery samples were subjected to petrographic analysis, enhancing the project's ability to trace technological and provenance-based aspects of ceramic production.

A significant component of the project's analytical framework has involved aerial imaging and remote sensing technologies. The team conducted 214 hours of low-flying Remote Piloted Vehicle surveys, complemented by the collection and processing of 840 gigabytes of satellite imagery. This dataset has been instrumental in generating 145 high-resolution maps, bringing the total data volume generated in the past 12 months to over two terabytes.

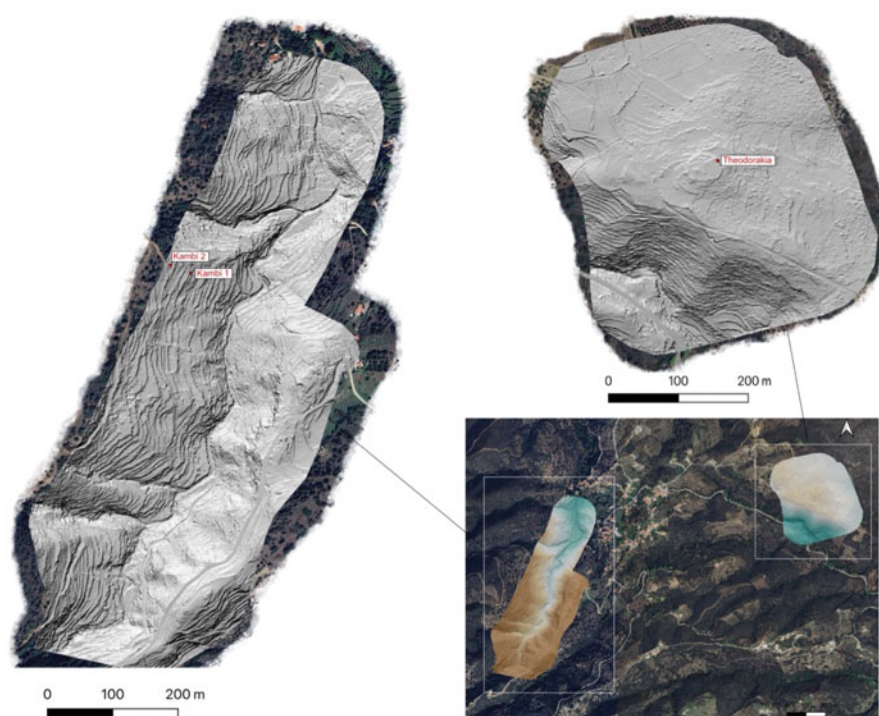
## Analysis of archaeological finds

During 2024, support provided by the AAIA, the University of Sydney, the Nicholas Anthony Aroney Trust and King's College London enabled the project to conduct two separate field study seasons in Kythera: in February and in October. The primary objective was to analyse the extensive assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery housed in the storerooms of the Ephorate of Antiquities in Mylopotamos, Kythera. This assemblage, spanning from the 8th to the 19th c. CE, constitutes a critical dataset for understanding Kythera's socioeconomic transformations and its role in regional exchange networks.

The pottery analysis team included Byzantine and post-Byzantine pottery specialists Rossana Valente (Università degli Studi Roma Tre) and Melina Perdiko-poulou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki), alongside pottery assistant Electra Valakanou and object photographer Panayiotis Diacopoulos (fig. 1). Illustrations were produced by Konstantinos Trimmis (King's College



Fig. 1. Rossana Valente at work in the Mylopotamos storeroom (© APKAS).



*Fig. 2. Lidar and satellite imagery and classification analysis provided by AeroPhoto Ltd and Newcastle University (© APKAS).*

London), while Stavros Paspalas (AAIA/University of Sydney) conducted further recording of the pottery of the Archaic and Classical periods, and the current author, Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory (AAIA/University of Sydney), managed the project overall.

In tandem with ceramic analysis, in situ finds from previous APKAS survey seasons were subjected to statistical and spatial analysis. This analytical approach has allowed researchers to identify areas of heightened occupational density across various historical periods and to delineate activity zones within key sites. Notably, settlement patterns within Potamos, Karavas, Aroniadika, Logothetianika and Agia Pelagia were analysed to assess the long-term demographic fluctuations and economic resilience of these communities. The project also examined the broader impact of the destruction of Paliochora, a watershed event that precipitated significant shifts in Kythera's settlement hierarchy.

### **Remote sensing and landscape archaeology**

One of the most innovative parts of APKAS's methodological toolkit has been its integration of remote sensing techniques. Aerial and terrestrial survey methodologies have enabled a multi-scalar approach to landscape archaeology, providing novel insights into human-environment interactions over time.

In March 2024, project members conducted terrestrial laser scanning (TLS) to record architectural remains and

validate aerial survey interpretations. This data will form the basis of the landscape analysis chapter in the forthcoming APKAS publication, anchoring discussions of settlement evolution within a robust empirical framework.

Additionally, the classification and interpretation of airborne Lidar data continued in 2024. Lidar's capacity to penetrate dense vegetation has been instrumental in revealing previously undocumented archaeological features. The project has also incorporated declassified CIA Hexagon satellite imagery and European Space Agency satellite data to further contextualise its findings. These initiatives have been supported by specialist teams from Geoerga Ltd, AeroPhoto Ltd and Newcastle University (fig. 2).

### **Digital reconstructions and heritage dissemination**

A central goal of APKAS is to make its research outputs accessible to both academic and public audiences. To this end, the project has developed digital reconstructions of key medieval fortified sites, including Agios Georgios Kolokythias (fig. 3) and the Gerakari Tower. These visualisations will be featured in the final publication and made available online as immersive VR experiences.

### **Educational and public outreach initiatives**

A cornerstone of APKAS's impact strategy has been its commitment to heritage education and public engagement. In March 2024, the project delivered workshops to students in Years 4, 5 and 6 at Potamos Primary School





*Fig. 3. 3D reconstruction of the medieval fortress of Agios Georgios Kolokythias by Marin Mandjerić (freelance digital archaeology specialist, Croatia) and Maria Marinou (freelance artist, UK) (© APKAS).*

(fig. 4), alongside teacher training sessions on integrating archaeological content into the curriculum. Konstantina Kalogirou (Cardiff Metropolitan University) spearheaded these initiatives, working in tandem with local educator Ms Marialenna Papadopoulou to develop bilingual educational resources.

An APKAS activity book tailored to primary school students is currently in development, with plans for distribution through bookstores on Kythera and via online platforms once the project is completed.

### Publication and future directions

The final publication of APKAS's research findings will be produced as a standalone edited volume under the auspices of the AAIA at the University of Sydney. The volume, expected to exceed 130,000 words, will feature interactive digital content and be available via print-on-demand services. The introduction and initial chapters on Kythera's geography and social history have already been completed, accounting for approximately 20 per cent of the final manuscript.

### Conclusion

The 2024 research season represents a crucial step in bringing the APKAS project to its culmination. By integrating cutting-edge analytical methodologies and a commitment to scholarly rigour and public engagement, APKAS continues to set new benchmarks in Mediterranean landscape archaeology. As the project moves

towards final publication, its legacy will endure through its contributions to archaeological scholarship, digital heritage innovation and community education.

### Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the Ephorate of Antiquities of Piraeus and the Islands for allowing us access to their storeroom on Kythera, where the APKAS finds are stored. We also appreciate Nikos Komninos, the head guard of the Archaeological Museum of Kythera, for his help in facilitating our access. Our sincere thanks go to the Nicholas Anthony Aroney Trust for their ongoing support of our project, and to the people of Kythera for their patience and hospitality over the past two decades.



*Fig. 4. APKAS in the classroom with Konstantina Kalogirou and Marialenna Papadopoulou (Potamos Primary School) (© APKAS).*



# Island towers and agricultural landscapes: multi-method survey at Palaioipyrgos (Paros)

Emlyn Dodd with Stephen Kay and Evan Levine

Just two months before our lives changed dramatically due to a global pandemic, I spent some time in February 2020 undertaking fieldwork on several Cycladic islands while AAIA Athens Fellow. The results of this research have since been published in two *MeditArch* articles and a book chapter, contributing new data to our understanding of ancient wine and olive oil production in the Cyclades. On Paros, I located numerous stone components of ancient presses used to crush grapes or olives (fig. 1). Some of these cluster around the exterior of the Paros Archaeological Museum, with others in a comparatively unstudied region in the south of the island at Voutakos (close to the airport). Several pieces, however, were found at the so-called Hellenistic tower of Palaioipyrgos in northern Paros, just inland from Naousa Bay (fig. 2).

The nature of Palaioipyrgos as a site inspired the development of a pilot project to explore connections between agricultural production, landscape exploitation, and the occupation, trade and economy of Cycladic towers. Relatively level and open agricultural fields surround the ruins of the tower structure, and the wider area of Naousa Bay shows evidence of lengthy occupation, from the Neolithic and Bronze Ages through the Byzantine period, and production activities in antiquity. Over the last few decades, a substantial network of at least seven kilns has been identified lining the coast of the bay.

One of the aims central to the development of this work was to test the application of geophysical prospection on Paros for the first time, integrated within a programme of surface survey and digital documentation. This was made possible by a team of researchers from the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens, the Institute of Classical Studies – University of London, the British School at Rome and the University of Copenhagen, who undertook all aspects of fieldwork and analysis, in collaboration with the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades (fig. 3).

Geophysical survey and digital documentation allow for the systematic and rapid capture, analysis and interpretation of landscapes and material culture. However, geophysical prospection is rarely used on Cycladic islands, despite its potential to efficiently record subsurface archaeological features. This is particularly significant in the present moment as Paros and the wider Cyclades



*Fig. 1. Emlyn Dodd with the fragment of a press counterweight for wine or olive oil production near the Palaioipyrgos tower on Paros (© Agricultural Networks in the Cyclades Project).*



*Fig. 2. Aerial image of the so-called Hellenistic Palaioipyrgos tower (Paros) looking north over two survey fields, with Naousa Bay in the distance (photo: E. Levine) (© Agricultural Networks in the Cyclades Project).*

experience extreme development of the built landscape and growing tourism, encroaching and placing unprecedented pressure on cultural heritage sites.

## The tower at Palaioipyrgos

During my initial visit to Palaioipyrgos, I discovered a press counterweight lying against a modern field boundary



*Fig. 3. Research team for the work at PalaioPyrgos, Paros; from L-R: Christopher Whittaker, Evan Levine, Emllyn Dodd, Stephen Kay and Elena Pomar (photo: E. Levine) (© Agricultural Networks in the Cyclades Project).*

wall nearby the tower, indicating the production of wine or olive oil at some point in its Late Classical/Hellenistic to Late Roman occupation history. Lengthy cuttings into the bedrock have also recently been identified on Paros and neighbouring Antiparos, interpreted as ancient trenches for the cultivation of grapevines. Some of these cuttings were revealed in 2024 due to modern construction activity in fields only ca. 400 m from the PalaioPyrgos tower.

Very few Cycladic tower sites have been systematically excavated and knowledge therefore remains patchy about their activities and operation as essential elements of the Aegean rural economy and landscape. It is thought that their purpose varied regionally but that they were often multi-functional, combining defence, agricultural production, habitation and imprisonment. Indeed, S. Morris and J. Papadopoulos suggest that towers showcase intense exploitation of natural resources and the labour of slaves in agriculture and industry. Excavations at the towers of Cheimarrou (Naxos) and Agia Triada (Amorgos) have shown that courtyard areas and ancillary rooms were common, especially to house production infrastructure. PalaioPyrgos, however, sits largely unstudied, save for a technical assessment of the standing remains in the 1970s by L. Haselberger, and, more recently, brief notes by K. Roussos indicating dense accumulations of surface material. A few courses of standing architecture and scattered blocks are all that remain visible today.

Over one week in September 2024, we therefore set out to systematically assess the presence of ancillary structures, along with traces of agricultural and occupational activity, around the PalaioPyrgos tower. Geophysical prospection using magnetometry mapped subsurface archaeological features, complemented by surface survey via fieldwalking, aerial photogrammetry and handheld laser scanning. As a whole, the data captured builds a diachronic image of rural activities, production networks and land use at PalaioPyrgos, in a relatively unstudied rural inland area of Naousa Bay.

### Magnetometry

An area of 3 ha was surveyed using magnetometry across all four fields that surround the tower structure. The tower marks the highest point in the survey area, with the elevation gently dropping away towards the north and south. While we initially also planned on testing the use of ground-penetrating radar, the somewhat uneven ground, thanks to ploughing and a large number of stones, limited our approach to magnetometry.

The magnetic survey recorded a series of potential archaeological anomalies, as well as several areas of high magnetic reading likely related to modern disturbance. A strong east–west linear feature in the north might indicate an earlier land division, while to the northeast, an area of strong magnetic recordings with alternating positive and negative anomalies could be interpreted as a lightning strike which left remnant magnetisation in the soil. Approximately 35 m to the southeast of the tower, a group of regular, linear features is of archaeological interest and sits under dense collections of surface material (below). Promising features appear to cluster in the immediate vicinity of the tower, diminishing as distance increases.

### Surface survey

Carefully documenting the archaeological material present on the surface of our study area offered the opportunity to capture a representative sample of the chronological and functional range of activity in the tower's vicinity (fig. 4). Using a method of intensive surface survey that has been successfully deployed on nearby islands, we documented a wide variety of ceramic sherds, obsidian tools, fragments of ancient glass and industrial slag. These all await detailed study in the Paros Archaeological Museum but provide several interesting preliminary conclusions. Large fragments of local pithoi with 'kalamoti' decoration (banded with impressed circles, incised triglyphs and X shapes) represent some of the earliest material, found in relatively high quantities to both the north and south of the tower. These large, early 7th-c. BCE ceramic storage jars were produced locally, with comparanda found at several nearby sites on Paros. An entire example recovered from a funerary context on Antiparos is now displayed in the courtyard of the Paros Archaeological Museum.

Classical, Hellenistic and Roman ceramics also cluster around the tower, representing the full suite of domestic and agrarian assemblages: both fine and coarseware for eating and drinking, including Attic imports, and especially large quantities of amphorae. Ceramic Corinthian pan roof tiles found around the tower most likely point to the presence of other structures in its immediate vicinity.

Occupation at PalaioPyrgos evidently continued through and beyond Late Antiquity. Several amphora sherds show similarities to locally produced samples from the 6th- and





*Fig. 4. Evan Levine recording GPS points to lay out a grid for multi-method survey around the ruins of Palaiopyrgos (photo: E. Dodd) (© Agricultural Networks in the Cyclades Project).*

7th-c. CE kilns at Lageri (northwest Naousa Bay), highlighting a probable relationship between agriculture at the tower and ceramic production along the coastline. Early and Middle Byzantine glazed ceramics illustrate structural reuse and landscape exploitation into the Middle Ages.

### Digital documentation

Aerial photogrammetry (using a drone) and handheld laser scanning were used to document the entire study area in high resolution, including the standing architecture of the tower and several test trenches excavated by the Ephoreia just prior to our work. This dataset has been particularly helpful in reassessing the tower's architecture, as well as for generating a 3D model of the nearby press counterweight, which, alongside detailed measurements, allowed for estimations of weight and therefore insight into the press mechanism and operability. Aside from acting as another analytical tool, digital documentation also created a snapshot of the state of the study area, allowing for comparison with historic aerial imagery and topographic surveys.

### Agriculture, towers and production on Paros

The Cyclades present an abundance of evidence for rural occupation and agricultural production from the Archaic and Classical periods to Late Antiquity. The results and proof-of-concept generated by this survey at Palaiopyrgos contribute a geophysical dataset of a kind that remains underutilised in this island landscape. Through employing more traditional surface survey along with digital

documentation and ongoing work by the Ephorate on Paros, we hope to show that these towers were deeply intertwined with agricultural production and networks of kilns, harbours and economic actors within and beyond the Cycladic archipelago.

There is, however, another aspect to this research, which brings us back full circle to the pandemic. Cycladic islands are experiencing rapid post-Covid growth in tourism and, consequently, enormous development of the built landscape, which is threatening cultural heritage and archaeological sites. Efficient and targeted documentation of archaeological areas is becoming more urgent, especially on Paros. The data we have generated will be used to inform site protection and preservation, as building development already threatens to encroach onto the Palaiopyrgos tower's archaeological zone. It is our hope that the approach and methods illustrated by this pilot work bear promise to be implemented more widely across Paros and other Greek islands under similar pressures.

### Acknowledgements

The project team, which along with the authors included Elena Pomar and Christopher Whittaker of the British School at Rome, is grateful for the administrative and bureaucratic support of the AAIA, along with A. Papadimitriou in the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades, its Director, D. Athanasoulis, and Department Director, Z. Papadopoulou. This research was funded by the British Academy and Leverhulme Trust (grant SRG22\220569).

## Perachora Peninsula Archaeological Project: report on the 2024 season

Susan Lupack and Panagiota Kasimi

The Perachora Peninsula Archaeological Project – a *synergasia* co-directed by Panagiota Kasimi (Ephoreia of Antiquities of the Corinthia) and Susan Lupack (Macquarie University) under the auspices of the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens – returned to the lovely Perachora Peninsula and its 8th–2nd c. BCE Sanctuary of Hera (fig. 1) over June and July 2024 to hold its third fieldwork season. This was the last season of intensive survey that was granted in our permit, so we knew that we would have to cover a lot of ground to accomplish our goals.

While the Sanctuary of Hera is the anchor of the project, the habitation site in the ‘Upper Plain’ has been a major focus since our first season in 2020 (fig. 2). We also planned to return to the agricultural field of Asprokamos, which we began surveying in 2023, and to survey the Aremada valley, located between the modern villages of Perachora and Pisia. In addition, our local historian, *kurios* Protopappas, had promised to take us to new sites in 2024, and he kept his word! As a result, we added the Hill Site of Ayios Dimitrios to the list of areas we aimed to document. It was a packed season!

Before detailing our work, we want to mention the people who made it all happen: Barbora Weisssova graciously wore many hats for the project including that of the all-essential digital director (as two of our staff, Shawn Ross and Adela Sobotkova, were unable to join us this season), while Matthew Skuse continued the study of the



Fig. 1. Overview of the sanctuary of Hera from the Upper Plain (© Perachora Peninsula Archaeological Project).

nearly 20,000 ceramic sherds collected in 2023 from a 5 × 5-m square near the sanctuary. Panagiota Meleti oversaw the project’s activities, and Sophia Perdike guided us on a day-to-day basis. And of course, the work couldn’t have been accomplished without the 20 Macquarie University students who did every job – fieldwalking, artefact processing, plotting polygons, digitising plans, photographing, pot-washing, ground-checking Lidar data – you name it – with great care and good cheer (fig. 3).



Fig. 2. The Perachora Peninsula showing the Sanctuary of Hera and locations where fieldwork was conducted, including the Upper Plain, Skaloma, Asprokamos, Aremada and the Hill Site of Ayios Dimitrios (© Perachora Peninsula Archaeological Project).





Fig. 3. The Perachora Peninsula Archaeological Project team, 2024 (© Perachora Peninsula Archaeological Project).



Fig. 4. The fragment of an eaves tile in its findspot (© Perachora Peninsula Archaeological Project).

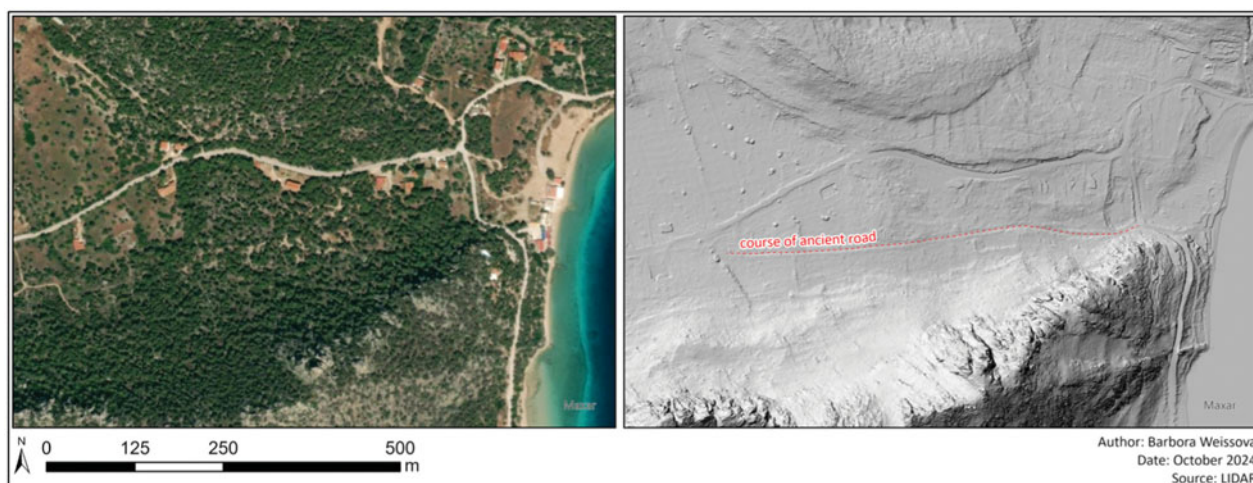


Fig. 5. (L) View of the area west of Lake Vouliagmeni as visualised by Google Earth, in which dense vegetation obscures the ancient road, and (R) Lidar image distinctly showing the course of the ancient road to the south of the modern one (© Perachora Peninsula Archaeological Project).

### The Upper Plain

As those of you who have read the *Bulletin* in prior years will know, in 2020 a Classical eaves tile with palmette and meander patterns (fig. 4) was discovered by chance as a team walked through a wooded area north of the Fountain House. The question remained: was there habitation in this area that had gone unnoticed before? Therefore, this year we conducted adverse-terrain survey into this area. We did not find fragments to match the eaves tile, but we did find tiles, coarse wares and a few black-glaze sherds, indicating that the Upper Plain's town continued deep into this wooded area. This provides another indication that the ancient landscape must have looked very different to what we see today.

It was finds such as this eaves tile, and our frustrated attempts at tracing the ancient road, that motivated us to employ AeroPhoto to conduct aerial Lidar over the region of the Upper Plain. Another motivation was that, while our teams had been documenting the Mycenaean chamber tombs at Skaloma to the east of Lake Vouliagmeni, no settlement had yet been found that could be associated with the cemetery.

The data from AeroPhoto did not disappoint. The feature that we could immediately discern was the course of the ancient road south of the modern one (fig. 5). The Lidar data also led us to a new site northwest of Lake Vouliagmeni, whose surface ceramics indicate habitation dating to the Archaic-Classical-Hellenistic (ACH) period, contemporaneous with the Sanctuary. Another exciting find is a Mycenaean site situated on a rise overlooking Lake Vouliagmeni that lies about 1.5 km west of the cemetery at Skaloma and provides a good candidate for the settlement that was associated with the chamber tombs.

Next season we will conduct a systematic check of all promising features, allowing us to create a more complete picture of this area's ancient landscape.

### Asprokampos

The agricultural plain of Asprokampos was a major focus of our work in 2023 because of its extant sets of walls that once belonged to two large Archaic-Classical structures. Both of the ancient structures' remains are situated around modern-day churches on the slopes rising southeast above the field. The better-preserved set of walls (40 × 50 m) run

around the modern church of the Zoodochos Piyi. The second set (20 × 16 m) runs around the church of Profitis Ilias, which is built on two courses of ashlar masonry. Considering these finds, Wiseman commented in *The Land of the Ancient Corinthians* (1978), ‘Clearly the ancient town of Asprokambos was a settlement of considerable size and importance’. In 2023, we prioritised the agricultural valley, but we also surveyed up the slopes to the southeast and found that the units around the two ancient structures produced higher ceramic concentrations.

In 2024, therefore, three teams of field walkers surveyed this area to increase our coverage south of the valley. They found that artefact densities remained high above the churches, showing that the town likely continued to the top of the hill. The preliminary analysis of ceramics indicates that it was most heavily inhabited in the ACH period, while there was also a substantial presence in the Late Roman period. Asprokambos exemplifies a chronological pattern that continues in our other survey areas.

### Aremada

After Asprokambos, the field teams were deployed to Aremada. This area was of high interest because, in 2019, the road between Perachora and Pisias was being widened, and the Archaeological Service conducted a rescue excavation that revealed the remains of an Archaic–Classical town. Among their finds were a plethora of loom weights, an olive press and numerous houses. Panagiota Kasimi and Panagiota Meleti took Susan Lupack to see this site on her first visit to Perachora in 2019 – amazingly on the very day before the excavated portions were scheduled to be covered up for the road construction. Since then, one of our major objectives has been to survey this area to determine its physical and chronological parameters.

Our preliminary analysis of the ceramics suggests that the settlement at Aremada flourished during the same time periods as Asprokambos – the ACH period is best represented, while the Late Roman period is also well attested. Late Bronze Age kylix stems also demonstrate a late second-millennium BCE presence. Compared with Asprokambos, a greater percentage of the sherds at Aremada were fine wares: ten per cent vs the four per cent found at Asprokambos; this could indicate that Aremada was the more prosperous town. At least 20 loom weights, dating mostly to the 6th–5th c., were also found, complementing those discovered in 2019.

### Hill site of Ayios Dimitrios

This season, *kurios* Protopappas took us to a hill south of modern-day Perachora where there is a church dedicated to Ayios Dimitrios. From the fortified summit, there is a good view toward the sanctuary, which could indicate that these sites were linked via signal fires. Two archaeological

features were also found: a cleft in the rock at the base of the hill, around which a high density of ancient tile, fine and coarse wares, as well as lithics and bones, were represented in the loose soil; and, in the base of the southern hill, an ancient cistern, whose waterproof lining is still visible.

The survey teams found a high number of ACH ceramics, and, as at Aremada, there was a Mycenaean and Late Roman presence as well. We want to note that the site produced the same percentage of fine wares as Aremada, and because of their proximity, we think we can say that they were well connected – as they must also have been with the town in the Upper Plain.

Given the extensive evidence for habitation both in the Upper Plain and at these other sites in the Perachora Peninsula that has been revealed by our project, we can certainly say that the evidence speaks for a more extensive set of settlements than the legacy structures alone have indicated, and a much more populous landscape.

### Acknowledgements

We want to acknowledge our very warm gratitude and respect for *kurios* Protopappas for all his accumulated knowledge that he has shared with us over the entire time that we have been exploring his beloved Perachora Peninsula (fig. 6).

We also want to thank Mantas Bay Hotels for once again hosting us and for putting on such an amazing Greek Night full of great food and wonderful dancing by an accomplished group of local students. Thanks also to Maria Micha and Alex Kavvos for furnishing us with the best project house, and to our ever-welcoming Taverna Ira for their wonderful hospitality even at the busiest of times. We also want to thank Kim Shelton, Chris Pfaff and Ioulia Tzonou for giving generously of their time for our students.

And, most significantly, we want to express our gratitude to Dr Janet Gale for funding our archaeological fieldwork. Without her genuine interest, none of this research could continue, and none of the transformative experiences our students take from the project could occur. Thank you very much!!



Fig. 6. Sophia Perdike, *kurios* Protopappas and Susan Lupack, after a day of investigating sites around Perachora (© Perachora Peninsula Archaeological Project).



# Zagora Archaeological Project: the 2024 field season

Lesley Beaumont, Paul Donnelly and Stavros A. Paspalas

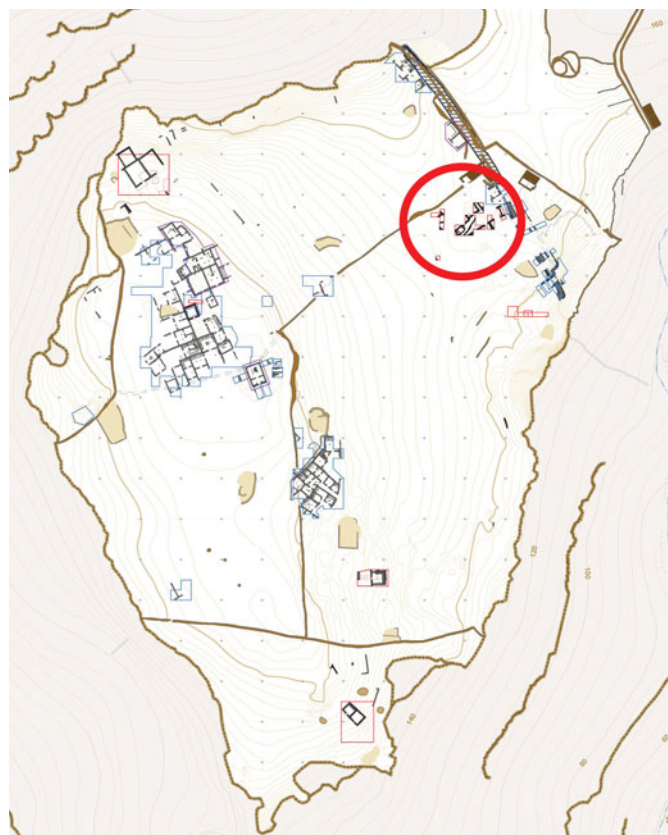
Late September 2024 saw the return of an Australian team to Zagora for an intensive six-week period of excavation and survey work in and around this important Early Iron Age settlement site. The team consisted of specialists in a wide range of fields as well as 40 enthusiastic students, with excavations building on the Australian research initiated here by the late Alexander Cambitoglou (1967–1974) and continued by the current team from 2012 onwards (fig. 1).

Zagora, with its sanctuary, numerous houses and fortification wall, is a uniquely well-preserved Greek settlement that dates from the 10th c. to around 700 BCE. It allows us to gain a better understanding of cultural and economic developments in the Aegean during the ‘Age of Homer’. This was a critical period in Greek history, which saw innovations such as the introduction of the Greek alphabet and the broadening of Greek horizons across the Mediterranean.

## Excavation within the Zagora settlement

Within the settlement, this first post-Covid season focused on an area adjacent to the fortification wall where we had begun excavation in 2014 and 2019. It was chosen after the results of geophysical and infra-red imaging had indicated the existence of atypical subsurface remains. Indeed, our excavations here had revealed evidence of processing and manufacturing activities which appear to have taken place at a supra-household level. This was an important discovery, without any known parallels elsewhere on the site, and clearly warranted further investigation. Consequently, in 2024 we opened five trenches in this area (fig. 2).

Trench 14 was laid out adjacent and perpendicular to Trench 13, which, when excavated in 2019, had revealed the entrance to a building leading to a space that produced copious amounts of hammerscale – a byproduct of the smithing process. Trench 14 revealed an external courtyard adjacent to the doorway in Trench 13. The



*Fig. 1. Plan of the Zagora promontory and settlement site showing all areas excavated since fieldwork began in the 1960s. The area excavated in 2019 and 2024 is circled in red. Scale: 1:1,750 (map revised by Andrew Wilson) (© Zagora Archaeological Project).*

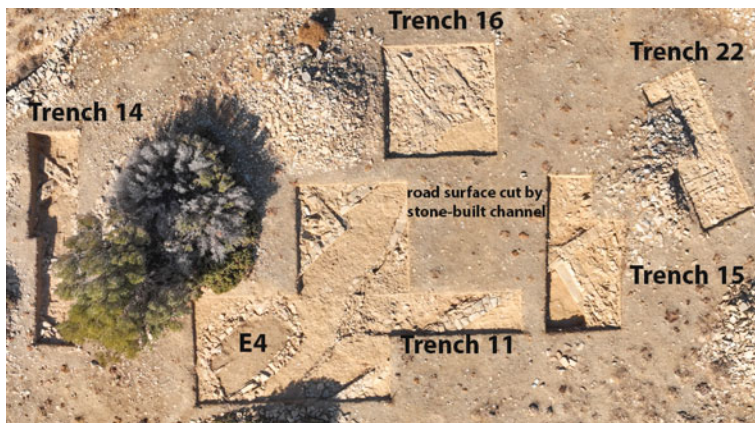


Fig. 2. Aerial view of the area of the Zagora settlement excavated in 2024 (aerial image: Bradley Arsenault) (© Zagora Archaeological Project).

considerable quantity of hammer scale found in this courtyard consolidates the interpretation that the area spanning both trenches was one of intense metallurgical activity.

By the end of the 2019 fieldwork season, nearby Trench 11 had revealed an unexpectedly wide road surface running northeast–southwest. The road was cut by a stone-built channel and narrowed to the southwest. Here, it was partially blocked by and continued alongside a poorly built, apparently one-room structure; this was designated E4. Inside, substantial ash layers, at least 40 cm deep, were found on the north side, located between a clay-lined schist installation in the northwest corner and possibly another one in the northeast corner. Analysis of residue samples taken from the installation in the northwest corner identified the presence of vegetal material, suggesting that the building was used for processing plant products.

In 2024, excavation of Trench 11 focused on its north side in order to trace the extension of the stone-built channel – to date, a unique feature at Zagora – through the road surface and determine its destination. The channel construction has now been mapped along a total length of almost 10 m, sloping downhill towards the northeast. It is narrow and somewhat meandering, made of two parallel rows of schist and marble stones. Towards the well-preserved northern section of its excavated length, it is covered and capped with schist blocks.

Disappearing frustratingly under the baulk between Trenches 11 and 16, the channel's final destination is nevertheless suggested by what appears to be its last capping stone, tucked against the wall of a building on the southern edge of Trench 16. This is particularly satisfying since the very reason we chose to place Trench 16 in this location was because infra-red imaging had indicated the presence here of a 'cold' sub-surface feature, likely caused by moisture-rich deposits. This, of course, raises



Fig. 3. Lyre Player Group seal excavated in Trench 15 (image: Bob Miller) (© Zagora Archaeological Project).

many intriguing questions. In addition to the concentrated metalworking activity taking place nearby to the west in the area of Trenches 13 and 14, the processing of plant material in building E4 to the southwest, and potentially the processing of animal remains in the vicinity of Trench 12 (given the high number of animal bones found dumped there in 2019), it seems quite possible that the intentional channeling of liquid contents into one of the buildings in Trench 16 represents another processing activity in this well-defined area, accessed by the wide roadway.

In contrast, south and east of the road, Trenches 15 and 22 suggest that two structures found here are residential buildings; both were almost certainly fitted with storage benches equipped with pot nests. The exposed walls of the structure excavated in Trench 15 also align with the walls of the same house that were excavated further to the east in 1969 by the Cambitoglou team. The roadway that extends to the west of the building in Trench 22 and to the north of the structure in Trench 15 appears then to turn south and pass between the buildings uncovered in these trenches, in the direction of the settlement's gateway. This seems likely even though the area between Trenches 15 and 22 is as yet unexcavated, since the orientation of the buildings here is not aligned, indicating that there is a break between them.

An unexpected, but welcome, find from inside the Trench 15 building was a Lyre Player Group seal, the first to be excavated at Zagora (fig. 3). Lyre Player Group seals are a well-known type, whose iconography often presents a lyre player, very often in the company of a bird, as on our Zagora example. They date to the third quarter of the 8th c. BCE. Since most of the pottery excavated at



Zagora in 2024 dates to the Late Geometric II period, that is, the last 35 years or so of the 8th c. BCE, the seal is likely to have arrived at Zagora not long after its manufacture. Lyre Player Group seals have a wide distribution. They are found as far west as Huelva on the Iberian Atlantic coast, to as far east as the Levant and Carchemish on the banks of the Euphrates. Current scholarship attributes their production to Cilicia (coastal southern Turkey, opposite Cyprus) or northern Syria. The discovery of this seal thus offers a further insight into the extensive networks of trade and contact that connected Zagora with a far wider Mediterranean world.

While much work remains to be done in future fieldwork seasons to investigate the area to the west of Zagora's fortification wall, our work in 2024 has shed significant light on the development of economic complexity in the late 8th-c. BCE Aegean. The season's greater exposure of the distinct spatial layout of this part of the site and its functionally specific processing and manufacturing facilities is suggestive of the complex interplay of communal life, public and private negotiation, agreement, organisation and specialisation.

### Excavation in the hinterland of the Zagora settlement

Beyond Zagora itself, we collaborated with the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades in excavating two trenches in the hinterland ca. 500 m northeast of the settlement. Infra-red imaging conducted here previously had identified four 'warm' sub-surface anomalies near to where two Early Iron Age tombs appear to have been uncovered by local farmers in 1899. The thermal anomalies suggested the possible presence of stone-lined burials. It was therefore with the hope of identifying and exploring a necropolis associated with the settlement that we opened test Trenches 17 and 18 over the top of the thermal anomalies on the hillside terrace.

Approximately 80 cm beneath the present-day ground surface of Trench 18, the top of a well-built stone structure was reached. Partially embedded in, and disappearing into, the northwest and northeast trench sections, it had preserved dimensions of 1.42 m × 74.5 cm. Continued excavation revealed that it had a maximum height of 41 cm. It was built on bedrock and, possessing seven masonry courses, was carefully constructed of schist stones of varying sizes and mud mortar to accommodate the gradual slope of the bedrock and ensure a level top surface. The feature proved to be solid and can best be described as a platform. Although its full dimensions could not be reconstructed, it can hardly have been more than 1 m wide given its close proximity to the bedrock back wall of the terrace. This enigmatic feature can be dated on the ceramic evidence to the Late Classical period.

Trench 17, located some 10 m east of Trench 18, was notable for the discovery of a thick ash layer that commenced ca. 1 m below the present-day ground level and extended across the whole central section of the trench. It was ca. 15 cm deep and produced some 70 kg of ash containing abundant quantities of charcoal, carbonised seeds, animal bone and unburnt ceramic fragments that ranged in date from Late Classical to Late Roman.

While the hoped-for excavation of burials did not eventuate, the findings made in Trenches 17 and 18 engender an important new perspective on our archaeological surface survey results. Survey conducted in 2012, 2019 and 2024 across a wide swathe of the hinterland of the ancient settlement site produced very little material of Early Iron Age date, leading us previously to conclude that the ancient Zagorans restricted their habitation to the protected zone behind the settlement's fortification wall. However, our discovery of Late Classical remains 1 m below present-day ground level indicates that much of the Early Iron Age landscape is now buried deep and hidden from view as a result of the human re-working of the hinterland in post-antique times.

### Acknowledgements

The success of our 2024 field season owes much to the support of the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades, to whom we extend our gratitude. We also acknowledge the support of the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens, the University of Sydney and the Chau Chak Wing Museum. To our financial sponsors – the Nicholas Anthony Aroney Trust, the University of Sydney, James Tsiolis, Alexander Zagoreos, Harry Tamvakeras and John Chalmers – we offer our heartfelt thanks. And to all our team members (fig. 4) – experts and students alike – we could not have done it without you!



*Fig. 4. Some of the Zagora Archaeological Project 2024 team photographed on the steps of the Project's stone-built site shed (© Zagora Archaeological Project).*

## A first experience of fieldwork: the Olwen Tudor Jones scholarship at Zagora

Meishi Huang

It was an honour as an undergraduate student to participate in the Zagora Archaeological Project's 2024 excavation season. Being my first time in the field, it was nothing short of amazing. The induction day started at 5am, secured in my steel-capped boots and sated from my fruit-topped Greek yoghurt breakfast. The first trek to the site was accompanied by a pink sunrise, unique schist terracing and echoes of the bleating goats.

When we reached the destination, the view of the ancient settlement on the promontory overlooking the sea to the southwest was breathtaking. Walking around the site's circumference reaffirmed Zagora's geopolitical importance and the surviving structures are a nod to its prosperity.

After a long day in the trenches with the sun to our back, we were challenged with 'Heartbreak Hill' in our pursuit back to the air-conditioned van and the late afternoon swim awaiting at Batsi beach. The simultaneous near-death sensation and immense self-fulfilment that followed conquering the agonising ascent cemented a community shared by my peers and those who preceded us.

Educational benefits were maximised by allocating students to different trenches with specific agendas. I began in Trench 11, supervised by Rudy Alagich, removing the backfill from the 2019 season. While dealing with barrels

full of ploughsoil was exhausting, we were motivated to uncover the full extent of the disguised wall feature. Next, under the supervision of Elaine Lin, we removed the baulk area; this required scrupulous trowelling to ensure the selective recovery of pottery sherds, slag and other artefacts. I will never forget the day I successfully retrieved my first pottery sherd with my trowel, personalised with 'MH'.

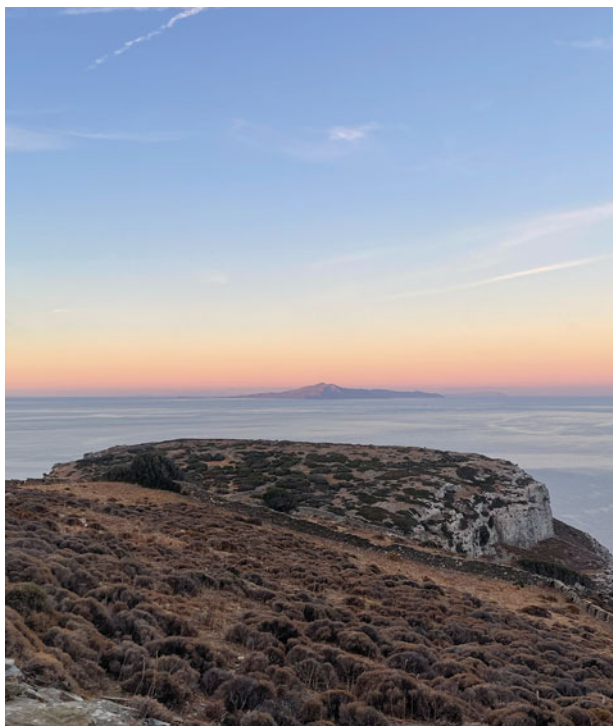
While I learnt a lot, I would like to highlight my work on the dumpy level (a manual surveying instrument) and total station (a laser-operated levelling instrument), measuring the concurrent control points of the elevation to generate precise vertical and 3D coordinates; this is a practical and universal skillset to have on archaeological sites.

These fieldwork experiences might seem mundane to the knowledgeable, but my participation was a once-in-a-lifetime venture. I acquired new skills and cultivated a diligent attitude to maintaining my burning passion for archaeology. Thanks to the ZAP Directors Lesley Beaumont, Stavros Paspalas and Paul Donnelly for this opportunity and to the trench supervisors for providing a fun learning environment. I dearly miss the coastal views of Zagora, the neighbourhood cats, our kind hosts and the locals at Batsi who made my three weeks feel like home. Looking forward to my next visit to Andros!

Lillian Geddes-Korb

The opportunity to participate in the Zagora Archaeological Project in 2024 as an Olwen Tudor Jones scholarship holder was deeply enriching, academically and personally. In three weeks, I learnt archaeological methods through observation and participation. I was instructed in excavation techniques and taught how to use a range of tools. At first, I felt out of my depth, but my mind and body quickly adapted. It was a collaborative environment that presented endless opportunities to learn. The gravity of what we were doing, the richness of Zagora's history, and the beauty of our surroundings made even the tiring trek up and down 'Heartbreak Hill' to the site feel like a privilege.

With Elaine Lin and Rudy Alagich as my trench supervisors, I learnt how to mark out trenches, conduct soil analyses and dry-sieve. I was taught the proper conventions for recording trenches, including drawing, photography and keeping a trench notebook in the correct format. I became familiar with the language of units and contexts, and how to recognise and distinguish different archaeological materials. I was also instructed in using a total station by Sami Beaumont-Cankaya. Kristen Mann gave us tours of the site, providing a sound context for the archaeology itself



*Sunrise over Zagora.*





*Lillian in the field.*

as well as for previous excavations. The distinct archaeology of each trench revealed diverse lessons. When the season drew to a close, I also learnt the process of backfilling!

At the museum in Chora, I witnessed the processing of finds and learnt how to clean pottery sherds, and to systematically record and manage the collection of archaeological material coming from Zagora each day. I spoke to Wendy Reade, the conservator, Kathirine Sentas, the illustrator, and Bob Miller, the photographer, about their processes. I appreciate the generosity of the entire museum-based team in taking time to answer my questions. I was at the museum the day that a 'Lyre Player' seal was found onsite. Seeing the seal up close when it arrived in the museum that afternoon and hearing early discussions between the specialists about it was a highlight of my time on Andros.

Without the Olwen Tudor Jones scholarship, it would have been very difficult for me to have this experience. It is the kind of opportunity that I did not expect, and I am intensely grateful. My family are also grateful on my behalf to see me supported in this way. The benefit of Zagora 2024 to my studies cannot be overstated. It has brought into sharper focus the direction in which I would like to take my studies. I have accumulated skills which I know will serve me well in my career and have been exposed to ideas which represent the seeds of future studies and scholarship.

### Sunday Vremaric Macpherson

In October 2024, I had the honour of participating in the Zagora Archaeological Project as an archaeology student at the University of Sydney. This was my first experience of working in the field, and I would be lying if I said I didn't have any grandiose fantasies of what I might find while excavating. This experience fundamentally changed my perception of and approach to archaeology.

I spent my first week in a small trench that intersected with the corner of a possible storage room, likely part of a small dwelling. I was mostly on my hands and knees,

using my trowel to excavate the remaining few centimetres of rubble covering the original floor surface. We scraped the surface of the original floor for phytolith samples and took a 10-litre sample of rubble to search for botanical remains using flotation. We filled buckets upon buckets with rubble and sieved almost all of them, searching for virtually anything that wasn't rocks. Even then, we kept small pebbles that appeared to be non-local. Everything that could shed even the dimmest of lights on the people who lived here 2,000 years ago was retained. These remnants almost certainly were not left here by kings or queens, emperors or commanders, but by everyday people. The fantasies I had of finding treasures quickly faded but were replaced by the heartwarming notion that ordinary people, often forgotten, were contributing to the history of humanity too.

In the following weeks I left my beloved floor behind for a week in another trench and a week as the dedicated flotation person. The mission remained the same: gather or record anything that could tell us something. I sieved and strained litres upon litres of rubble, collecting ancient seeds that floated to the top of the drum, left behind after shared meals or quick snacks. Bits and pieces once discarded as redundant had now become so crucial to us.

I embarked on this trip with a desire for the exquisite and left with great affection for the mundane. Beyond practical skills, Zagora taught me an important lesson that I will carry with me for the rest of my career. I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to participate in the Zagora Archaeological Project in 2024. I believe it has made me a better archaeologist than I would have been otherwise.



*Sunday in the field.*

## Receptions of the Trojan War and Roman cultural identity

Alex Grigor

At the end of 2024, the AAIA's Kallinikos Scholarship enabled me to travel to Athens for seven days to conduct research for a chapter of my PhD thesis, providing invaluable access to sites and material evidence crucial to my work. The broader aims of my thesis are to assess cultural identity through the study of literature and material evidence in conjunction with one another to gain a more enriched understanding of Roman cultural identity. More specifically, I am exploring the interactions between literary and material receptions of the Trojan War in the 1st–3rd c. CE to construct and demonstrate the intermedial nature of the Roman cultural landscape.

In the century following the publication of Virgil's *Aeneid*, there was a proliferation of Roman epic produced throughout the empire. A subsection of these texts focussed specifically on the Trojan War. Discussions of the *Aeneid* and its impact are legion; however, analysis of Roman receptions of the Trojan War in this context are lacking. Though reams have been written on the myth of Aeneas as a vehicle for Roman identity, I intend to address how Roman identity continued to be negotiated through receptions of Troy and the Trojan War, and to examine Roman identity and its dynamic engagement with Imperial Greek literature and culture. The analysis of both text and image to address this lacuna has until now scarcely been attempted. I intend to take an intermedial approach to my texts and analyse both literary texts and visual material when answering this question. The focus on the dialogue between text and image will enable my thesis to more comprehensively engage with the issues of cultural hybridity and complex social dynamics. For this chapter, I have sought to analyse Imperial Greek receptions of Trojan War mythology with the purpose of exploring whether the intermedial cultural landscape in 3rd c. CE Greece differed from that in Italy.

By undertaking this research, I aimed to answer the following questions:

- \* How did Greeks under Imperial Rome in the 2nd–3rd c. CE engage with Trojan War mythology?
- \* Is there a clear dialogue present between text and image? What purpose does the Trojan War mythology serve in the sources' overall function?
- \* How do these representations differ from earlier ones in terms of messaging, usage of mythology and the perceived attitude towards Greek values in Rome?

\* What can this perspective tell us about Greek identity under Rome, as well as Graeco-Roman relations?

\* Greek culture and identity continue under the Roman Empire and constitute their own variety of being Roman, yet Greek culture in this period is often considered a discrete and separate entity: the “Second Sophistic.” Can we think about Greek culture as an integral part of the Roman world – as another way of being Roman – and, if so, what does that say about Roman identity?

### Time in Athens: exploring material evidence

In order to answer these questions, I sought to visit specific sites and artefacts that I planned to discuss in my thesis and also to attend museums broadly, in the hopes of discovering additional relevant material evidence. I visited museums and archaeological sites in Athens (including the National Museum, Acropolis Museum, Hadrian's Library, the Ancient Agora and the Stoa of Attalos) to see the material first hand.

The main material focus of my chapter is on statues and the ways in which they engage with the physical spaces surrounding them. By studying this evidence in person, one can (as closely as possible) replicate a contemporary and authentic viewing experience – taking scale, viewer/statue positions, vantage point, emotional affect, etc., into consideration to better understand how an immersive viewing experience can contribute towards our understanding of an intermedial cultural identity in 3rd c. Greece under Rome.

A particularly notable discovery came at the Stoa of Attalos, located within the Ancient Agora: anthropomorphic statues of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, garbed in military cuirasses. To me, the presence of these statues confirms a conscious ancient exploration of changing cultural identity and anxieties, expressed through both literature and visual representations.

An especially significant part of my research focuses on the contributions of Herodes Atticus, a prominent Greek figure who integrated Trojan War themes into the decorative sculptural programmes in his villas. Unfortunately, a nationwide public transport strike and shutdown prevented me from travelling to the Archaeological Museum at Marathon and the Marathon estate of Herodes Atticus, where he built a *heroon* (shrine) to Antinous, a lover of the emperor Hadrian, and references Homeric





*Statues representing the Odyssey and the Iliad in the ancient Agora, Athens (S2038 & S2039) (© Sharon Mollerus/Wikimedia Commons. Licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic License [<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/deed.en>]).*

hero Protesilaus on a memorial to his Roman wife, Regilla. Despite this setback, evidence of Herodes Atticus' interest in memorialising the Trojan War in material representations also abounds elsewhere, with examples from the National Museum including busts of his foster children (all named after heroes of the Trojan War) and heroised reliefs of these youths.

### **Appia Antica Archaeological Park - Rome**

During my fieldwork, I also travelled to Italy to conduct research for two other chapters of my thesis. The Kallinikos Scholarship enabled me to visit the Appia Antica Archaeological Park and Herodes Atticus' estates there. Notable sites include the Nymphaeum of Egeria and the tomb of Regilla.

The Nymphaeum of Egeria, built by Herodes Atticus in the 2nd c. CE, made up part of his Triopion estate and was dedicated to his wife Regilla. The space within the Nymphaeum contained statues of gods and nymphs – namely the river god Almo and nymph Egeria. Egeria was said to be the consort of Numa, the second king of Rome, and her presence here, along with the dedication of the space to Regilla, physically cements Herodes Atticus' links to both Greece and Rome.

### **Findings: intermediality and bicultural identity**

This research revealed that anxiety surrounding bicultural identity was evident in the ways that Greeks, exemplified by Herodes Atticus, used material culture to publicly assert their connections to the epic Greek past. The statues and monuments I studied served not only as representations of Greek mythology, but also as tangible touchstones to ancestral memory and history.



*Votive(?) relief of a heroised youth, likely Polydeukion. National Archaeological Museum, Athens (inv. 1450) (© George E. Koronaios/Wikimedia Commons. Licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International License [<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/deed.en>]).*

In this intermedial landscape, statues served as physical manifestations of literary narratives, allowing viewers to immerse themselves in the epic tales of the Trojan War and connect with their shared cultural heritage. My research has demonstrated that the relationship between literature and visual art in Roman and Greek culture was far from one-sided. It was a dynamic and evolving interaction, where texts and images influenced each other to construct complex identities and cultural dialogues. This study has provided valuable insight into the ways in which material culture, through its very form and placement, could shape and reflect social and cultural dynamics in the Roman Empire, particularly in the Greek world.



*Nymphaeum of Egeria, Caffarella Park, Appia Antica Archaeological Park, Rome (photo by Notafly, public domain).*

## Art and archaeology: our GLAM Internship at the AAIA, Athens

Samantha Lawrence and Yishen Xu

During the winter of 2024, we had the incredible opportunity to undertake a Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAM) internship with the AAIA. For four weeks from late November to December, we immersed ourselves in a fascinating project that combined art, archaeology and Greek culture in ways we never expected.

### The unexpected art collection

When most people think of the AAIA, they naturally picture archaeological excavations and ancient artefacts. What many don't know is that the AAIA also has a collection of artworks, the majority of which were bequeathed by Professor Alexander Cambitoglou in 2019. The collection also includes a generous gift by Eleni Mantheaki, friend of the AAIA, in 2018. Walking into the office for the first time, we were immediately struck by the diverse array of art adorning the walls – from contemporary Greek masters to renowned European artists, architectural drawings to photographs and fabric wall hangings.

Our task seemed straightforward: research the collection, document it and create materials to help share it with the wider public. Little was known about any of the artworks, so we were mostly starting with a blank canvas. But, as with any good adventure, the journey proved far more enriching than we could have imagined.

Our research took us on a cultural odyssey across Athens. We found ourselves wandering through the National Gallery of Art's archives one day, then exploring the vibrant exhibitions at the Benaki Museum the next. Each visit to places like the Tsarouchis Museum, an hour out of Athens, or the Aleko Fassianos Museum added another piece to our growing puzzle.

The thrill of discovery became our daily companion. It was exciting to research works by Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse and Edouard Vuillard, all part of the collection! More fascinating, though, were the pieces by prominent Greek artists like Alekos Fassianos, Yannis Moralis and Yannis Tsarouchis – names we came to know intimately through our research. As the art collection mostly represented the personal passions of Professor Cambitoglou, we felt we got to know him, too, despite neither of us ever having had the opportunity to meet him in person. It was also fascinating to build connections between Australian archaeology and Greek culture, researching artworks from archaeological excavations, such as illustrations of finds and typography. Even just walking the streets of Athens meant stumbling across archaeological excavations, underway at sites discovered by workers digging up the road while laying new pipes.



*The interns out and about*





*The interns and the collection*

We created a document and photo library collating the results of all our research, and made labels for many of the artworks. We also designed the AAIA's festive card for 2024, featuring one of the artworks from the collection, and a small booklet of travel tips and things to do in Athens for future visitors to the hostel.

### **More than just an internship**

As our internship drew to a close just before Christmas 2024, we realised how much we had accomplished. What began as a cataloguing project had become a profound cultural exchange. We had navigated Greek museums, communicated with artists and foundations, met wonderful people, eaten our way around Athens.

The AAIA art collection may be small, but it tells a powerful story about the connections between people, places and time. We feel privileged to have played a small role in bringing these stories to light and ensuring they can be appreciated by generations to come.

Living in Athens during this period was an experience unto itself. The city is alive with culture: from bustling markets filled with local produce to quiet cafes where one can sip coffee while watching life unfold around you. We took every opportunity to explore beyond our work commitments – visiting historical sites like the

Acropolis, Corinth and Sounion, as well as wandering through different neighborhoods such as Koukaki, Kolonaki and Plaka. Another highlight was being invited to the Athens Friends of the AAIA end of year celebration and meeting the Australian Ambassador to Greece, Alison Duncan.

These explorations enriched our understanding of Greek culture and history, providing context for many of the artworks we were studying. Part of the internship involved assessing the significance of the artworks, which is deeply influenced by social, cultural, aesthetic, and historical values. In the time we had, we were unable to identify all the artists and find information about some of the artworks. So there are opportunities for future research and to further our work.

In sharing this account of our internship experience, we hope to inspire others to explore opportunities within cultural institutions worldwide, including the AAIA. Internships like these are gateways to understanding our shared human experience through art – a reminder that creativity knows no borders.

We now have new friends, as well, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Tamar, Lita and Panagiota in particular for their hospitality and generosity, and for sharing their life and work in Athens with us.

## AAIA Athens: lectures and events in 2024

Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory

The Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens, in Athens itself (AAIA-A) had a vibrant and productive year in 2024, hosting a variety of events and welcoming scholars and students from around the world. The AAIA Hostel remained an important space for academic and cultural exchange, offering accommodation to researchers, students and experts with an interest in classical studies, archaeology and Greek history. One of the highlights of the year was the residency of the 2023–2024 AAIA Athens Fellow, Alyce Cannon, who stayed at the hostel during the early part of the year. Her presence added great value to the academic community, furthering research in her field.

Additionally, the AAIA was thrilled to host its first two GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums) students from the University of Sydney. Samantha Lawrence and Yishen Xu took on the important task of researching and cataloguing the AAIA's Athens-based art collection during November and December (see pages 20 and 21). Their careful work will ensure better documentation and organisation of the collection in the future.

Throughout 2024, the AAIA hosted a series of insightful lectures and cultural events at the hostel, bringing together academics, students and enthusiasts of Greek history and archaeology:

\* Costa Vertzayias, a lawyer and independent scholar, delivered a compelling lecture entitled *The Greek War of Independence and the Asia Minor Catastrophe*, shedding light on pivotal moments in Greek history and their lasting impact (4 November)

\* Dr Graeme Bourke from the University of New England presented *Pelops: Cult and Politics in the Ancient Peloponnese*, offering an intriguing analysis of mythology, religion and power in ancient Greece (17 October)

\* A special private film screening of *Two Homelands*, followed by an engaging Q&A session with acclaimed Australian screenwriter and film director, Kay Pavlou (23 September). The documentary provided a moving portrayal of identity, migration and belonging, resonating deeply with the audience on the 50th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus

\* Independent scholar Helen Nicholson took her audience on a journey with her talk, *Excavating Classical Sydney*, unveiling the classical influences embedded in the architectural and cultural fabric of Australia's largest city (17 May)

\* Alyce Cannon captivated audiences with her lecture *Guard Dogs and Demagogues: The Functions and Politics of Watchdogs in Classical Athenian Comedy*. Her research focuses on the guard dog metaphor in Athenian literature as a significant socio-political theme, used both to legitimise and to satirise new-money politicians who framed themselves as protectors of the people but were accused of self-interest by the traditional elite (23 April)

As we reflect on the achievements of 2024, the AAIA remains committed to its mission of advancing archaeological research and associated studies of the Hellenic world while fostering deeper connections between Australia and Greece. With more events and research opportunities on the horizon, the coming year promises to build upon this legacy of discovery, learning and cultural appreciation.



GLAM interns Samantha Lawrence and Yishen Xu.



Helen Nicholson presents 'Excavating Classical Sydney'.



## AAIA Sydney: lectures and events in 2024

Stavros A. Paspalas

As well as hosting the annual AAIA Gale Visiting Professor, Philipp Stockhammer, the AAIA also organised a number of other events in Sydney in 2024, often in collaboration with like-minded entities interested in promoting Greek archaeological and related studies to wider audiences in Australia. In this regard, the AAIA is particularly grateful to the Greek Consul in Sydney, Mr Ioannis Mallikourtis, and his staff, and to Mr Theo Skhinas of the Australian Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) community organisation.

With Mr Skhinas' enthusiastic support, the AAIA organised four lectures in a public engagement series that ran from March to November. Olympia Nelson, a PhD candidate at the University of Sydney and recipient of the AAIA's Polymnia and Aimilia Kallinikos Scholarship in 2022, gave a lecture entitled *Byzantium: Its Relevance in Today's World*, highlighting a period of history and a crucible of cultural production which is so often overlooked. My own contribution, *The Zagora Excavations: New Light on the Greek Early Iron Age*, enabled me to present the results of ongoing fieldwork at this important settlement site (ca. 900–700 BCE) on the island of Andros, which I co-direct with Associate Professor Lesley Beaumont (University of Sydney) and Dr Paul Donnelly (Chau Chak Wing Museum, University of Sydney). The Chair of the AAIA, Dr John Tidmarsh, who has a wealth of experience in the archaeology of Greece, the wider eastern Mediterranean and the Near East, spoke about the Syrian settlement of Jebel Khalid in his talk, *The Hellenistic Town of Jebel Khalid: Greek Influence on the Euphrates*, bringing this relatively little-known site, founded in the wake of Alexander the Great's conquests and excavated by Australians, to the attention of a wider audience. The final lecture was delivered by Dr Susan Lupack (Macquarie University), who co-directs, alongside Dr Panagiota Kasimi (Archaeological Directorate of the Corinthia), the Perachora Peninsula Archaeological Project under the aegis of the AAIA (see pages 10–12). She shared her recent fieldwork results in her talk, *The Rich History of the Sanctuary of Perachora, Corinth and New Archaeological Work in the Surrounding Landscapes*.

I also had the pleasure of delivering a presentation, *The Fate of the Antiquities of Greece during World War II*, at the State Parliament of NSW as part of an event organised in collaboration with the Greek Consulate in Sydney to commemorate the anniversary of OHI Day.

On OHI Day, October 28, 1940, Greece formally entered World War II, beginning a campaign that more than successfully repulsed the Italian invasion but ended with that of Germany.

Through July and August, the AAIA and its member institutions across Australia were delighted to host Professor Stockhammer's visit. In Sydney, audiences enjoyed his public lecture, *Family and Migration in Bronze Age Greece*, and the research seminar, *Beer or Wine: What Did the Celts Do with Greek Pottery?*, the latter run in collaboration with the Discipline of Archaeology's seminar programme. Professor Stockhammer also delivered a public lecture with his wife, Professor Christina Sanchez-Stockhammer, at the Chau Chak Wing Museum, entitled *Should We Give Bones a Name?* This lecture examined the ethical questions faced by archaeologists and museum professionals when it comes to the study and display of human remains.

Also in August the AAIA co-organised with Associate Professor Ken Sheedy of the Australian Centre for Ancient Numismatic Studies at Macquarie University a public lecture by Associate Professor Clare Rowan (University of Warwick) with the title *The Tokens of Roman Ephesus*.

In the same month, the AAIA Director delivered her Annual Report in Sydney, followed by Dr Susan Lupack's lecture, *Investigating the Religious and Social Landscape around the Sanctuary of Hera, Perachora (and Beyond!) through Legacy Data and Intensive Survey*. This new initiative brings to Australian shores an annual event mirroring the one held in Athens since the AAIA's foundation, thus cementing ever more closely the two poles of our activities.

In September, the Director and Dr Daphne Martin (University of Cambridge/2024 William Ritchie Visiting Fellow) ran the *Tracing Globalisation* conference at the University of Sydney. Researchers from Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom spoke on topics ranging from the theoretical underpinnings of the study of human mobility and globalisation, to the Spartan colony of Cyrene in north Africa, to the role of metals in inter-community contacts in the ancient world.

The AAIA's commitment to disseminating the results of research on the Greek, and wider, world to the general public and among academic researchers remains as strong as ever. The Institute is particularly grateful to all those who partnered with it in 2024 to help meet these aims.

## A wonderful time as Visiting Professor of the AAIA

Philipp Stockhammer

Our six weeks in Australia in August and September 2024 were an unforgettable and enriching experience – for me as a scholar and for us as a family. It was a great privilege to serve as the Annual Visiting Professor of the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens during this time.

We were fortunate to visit many different parts of the country, each with its own unique charm. It is hard to say which place we liked best! One of the highlights, especially for the children, was experiencing Australian wildlife in all its incredible diversity – and, of course, walking around Uluru and in the fantastic landscape of the Outback. Unforgettable moments from our time in Australia include our visit to the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary in Brisbane, where – thanks to Alastair Blanshard – we were able to see kangaroos and koalas up close, a truly special experience for all of us. Equally unforgettable was the unwavering energy of John Melville-

Jones in Perth, who insisted on showing us the remarkable Perth coin – a moment we will always treasure.

What made the trip truly special for us, however, was the opportunity to meet so many inspiring colleagues at the various universities we visited. This was not only true for myself, but also for my wife, a professor for English and Digital Linguistics, who also had the pleasure to present her research at several universities. Although the lecture schedule was very dense, the enthusiasm of the local colleagues and the respective audiences made every place and every lecture a most enjoyable experience. I gave lectures on topics such as social structures, food, drink and disease in Mycenaean Greece from a bioarchaeological perspective, on our archaeogenetic research on Greek cemeteries and ‘Greeks’ overseas in the first millennium BCE as well as on Celtic drinking practices: beer or wine? At the Chau Chak Wing Museum of the University of Sydney, my wife and I presented our joint work, *Should We*



*Professor Stockhammer, Professor Christina Sanchez-Stockhammer and family with (L–R) Peter Londey, Estelle Strazdins and Elizabeth Minchin of ANU.*



*Give the Bones a Name?*, discussing ethical issues of naming practices in museum collections. I was deeply moved by the enthusiastic responses and the rich discussions that followed each talk and enjoyed excellent dinners and the generous hospitality of our local hosts. Our children listened to each of the lectures at least once during our trip. Their listening comprehension in English increased enormously, and eventually my son was able to follow all conversations in English even after having only spent a year of learning English at school before we left for Australia.

Our conversations at the different places we visited sparked many new ideas and encouraged me to reconsider some of my previous thoughts and interpretations. I was particularly inspired by the thought-provoking discussions in Canberra and Armidale, where we had the chance to spend more extended time with our hosts. One particularly memorable moment was when Elizabeth Minchin drew my attention to a passage in the *Iliad*, where Achilles asks that his bones be mixed with those of Patroclus after his death in order to be united for eternity. This offered a powerful new lens through which to view my own work on the intentional deconstruction and mixing of skeletal remains in Mycenaean Greece. I also had many insightful conversations with Catherine Friedman, especially during our long walks through the campus and our joint hiking tour to Tidbinbilla, where Cate treated us to a wonderful picnic while we were surrounded by the first wild kangaroos we had ever seen. We discussed in depth the complex interplay between biological and social factors in the formation of social bonds – an area I am excited to explore further, especially when Cate is on her research stay at our Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig this year.

Another truly special highlight of our time in Australia was our stay in Armidale – a place I had not known before this Visiting Professorship, but one that my whole family grew deeply fond of and now misses dearly. Matthew Dillon welcomed and cared for us with such warmth and generosity, creating a wonderful sense of home away from home. Together with the linguists my wife collaborates with, he even organised a beautiful picnic for us close to the stunning waterfalls in the area. Our joint *peripatos* through this spectacular natural landscape gave us yet another chance to experience the beauty and diversity of Australian wildlife. But our time in Armidale was not only personally meaningful – it also sparked exciting academic conversations. Matthew's research on practices of punishment in Archaic and Classical Athens resonated with my own bioarchaeological work on the so-called 'special burials' in the Phaleron necropolis, which are often interpreted as executions. Together, we began to explore new ways of understanding these findings, and we hope to develop a joint publication from this inspiring exchange.



*The Stockhammer family on their travels around Australia.*

Another promising collaboration began during our time in Sydney with Hugh Thomas and Melissa Kennedy. We will soon begin genetic analyses at our Max Planck Institute on Neolithic burials recovered from their excavations in Saudi Arabia. Since the Arabian Peninsula remains largely unstudied from an archaeogenetic perspective, this partnership has the potential to open up entirely new insights into the region's prehistoric population history.

A particularly meaningful moment for me was meeting Janet Gale in Sydney, whose generous support made this Visiting Professorship possible. I was truly touched by her genuine interest in my research and her thoughtful engagement – in particular with my bioarchaeological approach.

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks not only to the many wonderful people we met throughout our journey but especially to Tamar Hodos and her colleagues Brett Myers and Stavros Paspalas. They not only planned this journey with great care and attention to detail but also supported us so kindly and thoughtfully in the months leading up to our visit. Their efforts made all the difference, and we are deeply grateful.

Overall, this time in Australia has left a deep impression on me – academically, personally and as a family experience. I return home with new perspectives, valuable connections and a heart full of gratitude.

## Ionian-Sichuan summer intensive: an Ionian University–AAIA collaboration

Polyxeni Strolonga

As part of a collaboration with the Centre for the Study of the Ancient World (CSAW) in the Department of History at the Ionian University (Corfu, Greece), the AAIA in Athens hosted 22 students and their professor, Shi Jian, from Sichuan University, who attended the inaugural two-week *Immersion Programme for Exploring Ancient Greek Civilization*. The course, as part of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ionian and Sichuan Universities, was designed for university students in all fields of study and included lessons and visits in Athens, Ioannina and Corfu.

The programme's three academic coordinators, Athanasios Efstathiou (Professor of History, Ionian University), Polyxeni Strolonga (Assistant Professor, Ionian University) and Kostas Stefou (Doctor of Classical Philology and CSAW collaborator) worked closely with the AAIA in Athens and Lita Gregory-Tzortzopoulou in order to provide the participants with a great educational experience for the first part of the programme, which took place in Athens. The students had the opportunity to attend a variety of courses at the AAIA hostel, and to be instructed on ancient Greek history by Polyxeni, on the archaeology and topography of Athens and Athenian democracy by Lita, and on ancient Greek and modern medicine by Maria Kavvadia (Foundation for Economic and Industrial Research – IOBE/European University Institute).

Classes were also offered on site, including at the Acropolis, the Pnyx and the Agora. Special permission was granted to visit excavations by the American School of Classical Studies at the Athenian Agora, thanks to Eirini Dimitriadou, assistant to the director, Dr John Papadopoulos. Eirini presented the work currently being undertaken by director and his team. The students were especially impressed by being able to enter the excavation site of the Stoa Poikile, which is normally closed to the public.

The students also visited the National Archaeological Museum and the Acropolis Museum, along with the site of the Acropolis itself, under the guidance of Demetra Potsika, a most learned tour guide.

The Centre would like especially to thank Dr Tzortzopoulou for organising, along with Professor Strolonga, all the components of the students' stay in Athens, and for contributing her expertise in ancient Greek archaeology.

It is intended that this collaboration with the AAIA will continue in future educational programmes designed to foster cultural exchange between Greece, China and Australia.



*Our guests from Sichuan University taking part in a range of activities in Athens (photos by Panayioti Diacopoulos).*



## Modern Greek language summer school: an Ionian University–AAIA collaboration

Kostas Stefou



*Summer school students.*

A second collaboration between the Centre for the Study of the Ancient World and the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens took place in summer 2024 in Corfu, as part of the two-week programme of Greek language, history and culture. This initiative began in 2018, but became a collaboration with the AAIA in 2024 to expand the programme to Australians. The timetable consists of daily lectures, visits to archaeological sites and places of high cultural interest (in Corfu: the Archaeological Museum of Corfu, the National Gallery Corfu Annex, the Vlacherna Monastery and Pontikonisi, and Patounis' soap workshop; in Ioannina: the Archaeological Museum of Ioannina, the Dodona Oracle, the Ioannina Fortress and Ioannina Lake Island), and day-long excursions to Palaiokastritsa and the islands of Paxi and Antipaxi.

The students were instructed in Modern Greek by tutor Dr Styliani Voutsas, a philologist seconded to the Ionian University, Department of Foreign Languages, Translation and Interpreting, who also gave a lecture on modern Greek poetry. Other important lectures were given by:

\* Dr Ilias Chrysostomidis (Assistant Professor of Latin Paleography and Diplomatics in the Department of

Archives, Library Science and Museology, Ionian University) on monastic libraries in Greece.

\* Dr Dora E. Solti (Assistant Professor, Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Budapest, on modern Greek mythology.

\* Dr Zoe Dionyssiou (Professor in the Department of Music Studies, specialising in Music Pedagogy, Ionian University) on Greek as a foreign language and its teaching through the songs of Mariza Koch.

The contribution of the AAIA, and specifically Dr Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory and Professor Tamar Hodos, was invaluable. The visit Lita and Tamar made to the Ionian University's Department of History in November 2023, which marked the beginning of our collaboration, as well as the series of online sessions that followed, contributed significantly to defining the programme, and to its dissemination. Lita's constant communication with the main academic coordinators of the programme at the Ionian University, Professor Athanasios Efstathiou, Assistant Professor Polyxeni Strolonga and Dr Konstantinos Stefou, was exemplary. It resulted in groups of students being attracted from different regions, including Poland, Hungary and Australia, and ensured the smooth implementation of all aspects of the programme.



*Daphne Martin leading an object-handling session at the Chau Chak Wing Museum, as part of the 'Laconia in Sydney' public engagement event (photo: Julian Woods / Chau Chak Wing Museum).*

## Home away from home: studying the ancient (& modern) Greek diaspora at the University of Sydney

Daphne D. Martin

I had always had it on my 'bucket list' to visit Australia but could never have anticipated how intellectually enriching and personally motivating my first trip 'down under' would be. Sometime in February 2024, right as I was deep in the final months of my PhD at the University of Cambridge, I received an email in my inbox notifying me that I had been selected as a William Ritchie Fellow. The William Ritchie Fellowship facilitates bilateral research exchange between the Universities of Cambridge and Sydney, funding scholars from both institutions to spend time away from their home university. I was overjoyed to be selected and especially excited by the opportunity to work closely with Tamar Hodos, whose theoretical work on ancient globalisation and cultural contacts in the Iron Age Mediterranean I had identified as central to my future postdoctoral work.

My time as a William Ritchie Fellow at the University of Sydney ended up being even better than I had imagined. It's no exaggeration to say it proved transformative, both personally and intellectually.

On a personal level, I have a family connection to the Greek-Australian diaspora that meant that, despite it being a 20-hour flight from the UK, Australia felt like home. My grandfather, Kostas Zafeirakou, grew up as one of seven siblings in the small village of Karyes (the supposed home of the famous Caryatids of the Acropolis) in Lakonia. His mother, my great-grandmother, died when he was seven, and at that time, during the harrowing years of the Greek Civil War, hunger relentlessly stalked the villages of the Greek countryside. His six siblings therefore struck out from Greece, looking for a better life. They took the nearly two-month-long ferry trip from Piraeus to Melbourne.



The 1978 poem of the Greek-Australian poet Antigone Kefala here rings true:

*We travelled in old ships  
with small decaying hearts  
rode on the giant beast  
uncertain  
remembered other voyages  
and the black depths  
each day we feasted on the past  
friends watching over  
the furniture of generations  
dolphins no longer followed us  
we were in alien waters.*

What struck me most when I had the opportunity to visit the now three generations of the Zafeirakou (Zafirakos) clan in Melbourne was that the place which at first was alien has now become a place where my family has grown and set down roots. The foreign land has become home.

Besides being meaningful for me personally, the Greek-Australian diaspora is also significant insofar as it related conceptually to the main focus of my academic research during my time as a William Ritchie Fellow: investigating the links between ancient Sparta and its ancient diaspora. Much as the Greeks of today left the homeland and migrated to foreign soils, so too, in antiquity, from around 700 BCE onwards, there was a migratory movement away from mainland Greece and to new lands, ranging geographically from modern-day southern Italy (Magna Graecia) to Albania and Bulgaria, the Black Sea and North Africa. During my time at the University of Sydney, I worked on the initial phases of my postdoctoral research, focusing in particular on settlements of Spartan and/or Dorian populations abroad.

This linked as well into a two-day conference, *Tracing Globalisation: The Circulation of Material Culture in the Iron Age Mediterranean*, hosted by the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens and the Vere Gordon Childe Centre at the University of Sydney, co-organised with Tamar Hodos, Director of the AAIA and the University's Chair of Classical Archaeology. We had inspiring keynote addresses from Professor Lieve Donnellan (University of Melbourne) and Professor Jeremy Armstrong (University of Auckland), as well as a plethora of papers from early career scholars and esteemed academics from Australia and New Zealand. It was supremely exciting to exchange ideas from case-studies as diverse as the Nuraghi on Sardinia (Laura Pisanu), Zagora on Andros (Stavros Paspalas) and metals trading between the Aegean and Near East (Stephen Bourke). We also all thoroughly

enjoyed the opportunity to be together in person, with the spectre of the Covid-19 pandemic receding into the past, as this allowed the seeds of potential future collaborations to be planted.

In addition to the conference, which was held on September 12, I also had the opportunity to work with Deputy Director Paul Donnelly and Assistant Curator Candace Richards to lead a gallery tour and bespoke object handling session at the University of Sydney's Chau Chak Wing Museum. The event, titled *Laconia in Sydney: The Spartan Collections of the Chau Chak Wing Museum*, hosted more than 20 participants, including prominent members of the Greek-Australian, and specifically Lakonian-Australian, diaspora community. Many were unaware that there were objects, themselves diasporic, from Sparta and Lakonia in the collections, so it was particularly inspiring to be able to share my research on the subject, based on the PhD I had recently completed at the University of Cambridge on the art and archaeology of archaic Sparta.

My time at Sydney was made all the more special by The Women's College, which hosted me throughout my stay thanks to the generosity of the College's Principal, Tiffany Donnelly. I was honoured to be integrated into the College's vibrant community, giving a talk at one of the traditional formal dinners held on Mondays, where current undergraduates have the opportunity to listen to short talks given by women in all fields and professions. I hope to have inspired at least one or two of them to believe that Archaeology and Classics are worthwhile pursuits! Another highlight for me was judging the College's *Three Minute Thesis Competition* and learning more about the amazing research undergraduate and graduate members of the Women's College community are undertaking.

Discovering Australia, and in particular Sydney and Melbourne, as a home away from home, an important nexus for me both professionally and personally, would not have been possible without the William Ritchie Fellowships and its generous funding support. Through the Fellowship, I had the opportunity to connect with a fundamental part of my heritage: that of my own family's history and the experiences of the Greek-Australian diaspora in the modern day. At the same time, the Fellowship also allowed me to delve further into my postdoctoral research on the ancient Greek diaspora, and in particular those who left Sparta and Lakonia and established settlements elsewhere in the Mediterranean.

I am especially grateful for the seeds of long-term collaborations that have been planted as a result of my time at the University of Sydney. I am hopeful that I will have the opportunity to return to Australia before long!

## Friends round-up

Tamar Hodos

The AAIA has Friends groups around Australia and in Athens. Each runs its own programme of events and activities, including showcasing the latest research by students and staff in their nearby universities. The AAIA supplements this programming regularly with the Gale Visiting Professor.

Recent advancements in bioarchaeological methods have transformed our understanding of where people lived throughout their lives and to whom they were related. This is forcing us to reconsider what it meant to be a Mycenaean or an Athenian, since the biological evidence often seems to tell a different story from the material remains. Our supporters around the country thus gave an extremely enthusiastic welcome to Professor Philipp Stockhammer, our 2024 Gale Visiting Professor, as he shared his research about the relationships between individuals and groups in the Aegean during the Bronze Age, and among Greek communities during the first millennium BCE, as derived from ancient DNA and other biomarkers.

Our Canberra Friends held a number of other lectures throughout 2024 that explored not only ancient Greece itself but also the wider ancient Greek world, and from antiquity to the more recent past. In February, Dr John Nash, of the Australian Army Research Centre, shared his deep knowledge of Greek sea power and maritime strategy during the 5th and 4th c. BCE. During May, Macquarie University's Professor Shawn Ross introduced the landscape archaeology and palaeoenvironments of central and southeastern Bulgaria, the focus of his Tundzha Regional Archaeological Project. In September, Rod Harvey, an ANU PhD candidate and the 2019 Canberra Friends biennial scholarship recipient, discussed ancient Greek ideas about the natural environment and the role of plants in it, based upon the writings of the 4th-c. BCE philosopher and naturalist, Theophrastos. Finally, in November, Candace Richards, Assistant Curator at the Chau Chak Wing Museum, University of Sydney, presented the Museum's Woodhouse collection, a photographic archive of Greece during the 1890s and early 1900s. Woodhouse captured landscapes, towns, villages and ways of life that have not always endured to the present day, and his photographs record a number of archaeological sites before their later intensive excavation.

Our Queensland Friends had a similarly packed year. Their schedule of events started in March with a conversation presentation between Queensland author Susan Johnson and artist Chrys Zantis, who shared their long love of Kythera and how the island has inspired them in their respective creative practices. In May, the University of Queensland's Dr Annabel Florence spoke on the Eleusinian Mysteries and what is known about the celebrations, for despite numerous claims of participation being a life-changing event, little is known about the activities inside the sanctuary. In July, Professor Alastair Blanchard gave a very entertaining talk on the nature of the Athenian law courts, while in October, James Donaldson, curator of the R.D. Milns Antiquities Museum, discussed the life of Army Chaplain William Maitland Woods, who served during the 1915–1918 Sinai and Palestine Campaigns and who brought to Australia the Shellal Mosaic, the remains of a Byzantine church floor dating from 561–562 CE and regarded as one of the most stunning mosaic works of the 6th c. The calendar was rounded out by the Queensland Friends' annual dramatic multimedia presentation, this year an evening of illustrated poetry, drama, and book readings on the theme, 'Inspired by Homer'. Finally, in 2024, the Queensland Friends inaugurated a new five-year research opportunity, the R.D. Milns Summer Research Scholarship, to enable a University of Queensland student to spend six weeks in Greece to undertake museum-based research.

In addition to lectures by Philipp Stockhammer, our Friends in Tasmania enjoyed a public lecture by Dr Graeme Miles on the impact Plato had on Western thought. Two members, Dr Alan Milne and Robert Clark, reconnected with the 2023 Gale Visiting Professor, Professor Reinhard Senff during a trip to Greece and were fortunate to visit the Temple of Artemis at Brauron and Marathon, and to tour the Plaka extensively with the professor and his wife Doris.

Our Adelaide Friends were treated to a history of the Greek national flag by their President Spiros Sarris and Mr George Psiachas, Consul-General of Greece in Adelaide. They were also active participants in Adelaide's Festival Hellenika through two other events: *Gods and Goddesses*, a walking tour of Adelaide's statues, and a guided visit of the Adelaide Arcadia Art Exhibition by the curator, Aphrodite Hindson, each in collaboration with



other local organisations. Furthermore, the walking tour, which Aphrodite led with George Skordas, proved so popular that it was repeated four more times during the Festival period!

Finally, our Athens Friends enjoyed another year experiencing Greece's heritage and history first hand through site and exhibition visits. This included guided tours of temporary exhibitions at the Acropolis Museum

and Cycladic Museum, as well as the antiquities of the National Gardens, and further afield at the Sanctuary of Demeter at Eleusis, and the island of Evia. They also had behind-the-scenes access at the Athenian Agora and the recent excavations at the so-called lost city of Tenea. Visitors to Athens are welcome to join in the activities of the Athens Friends. To enquire about arrangements, please contact [athensfriends.aaia@gmail.com](mailto:athensfriends.aaia@gmail.com).



(Clockwise from top left) Patricia Frazis with Estelle Strazdins, Vice President of the Canberra Friends; Queensland: Susan Johnson and Chrys Zantis; 'Inspired by Homer'; Tasmania: Dr Graeme Miles on Plato; Friends Dr Alan Milne and Robert Clark in Athens; Professor Stockhammer visits the small Jane Franklin Doric gallery and temple in Hobart; South Australia: History of the Greek national flag; Gods and Goddesses; Athens: Excursion of the Athens Friends; tour of the site of the lost city of Tenea.

## Institutional Members and Supporters of the AAIA

### Institutional Members

Since its foundation in 1980, the AAIA has been a formal research centre of the University of Sydney.

It is further supported by the following universities:

Australian National University  
La Trobe University  
Macquarie University  
University of Adelaide  
University of Melbourne  
University of Newcastle  
University of New England  
University of Queensland  
University of Tasmania  
University of Western Australia

### Supporters

The AAIA has benefitted from the active support and encouragement of a number of individuals who have made in kind and financial contributions significantly beyond annual membership dues. Their funding and expertise have enabled the AAIA to augment its educational, research and outreach programmes over the years. We are grateful to the following individuals:

Mr Emmanuel Alferis<sup>†</sup>  
Mr Nicholas Andriotakis  
Mr Spiros Arvanitakis  
Mr John Azarias  
Mr George Barbouttis, OAM  
Professor Alexandra Bune, AM  
Mr Peter Burrows, AO  
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Dr John Tidmarsh  
Mr James Tsiolis  
Mr Costa Vertzayias  
Mr Costas Vrisakis  
Mr Keith Walker  
Mr David Worland  
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