

## THE WORK OF THE BRITISH SCHOOL AT ATHENS IN 2009

*The following lecture was delivered by the Director in February 2010 at the Archaeological Society of Athens, at the Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki, and in shortened form as an open presentation hosted by the Centre for Hellenic Studies, King's College London, following the Annual General Meeting of the School's Subscribers. We are most grateful for the generous hospitality extended by the Secretary General of the Archaeological Society, Dr Vassileios Petrakos, by the Prytanis of the Aristotelian University and the staff of the Department of Archaeology, and by the Director of the Centre for Hellenic Studies, Dr Karim Arafat.*

*The British School expresses its warmest thanks for the unfailing support of the Secretary General of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Dr Lina Mendoni, of the Director of Antiquities, Dr Maria Andreadaki Vlazaki, of the Director of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, Mrs Nikoletta Valakou, and of their staff. We particularly thank those in charge of the regions in which we undertook fieldwork and study in 2009: Mrs Stavroula Apostolakou (Director, ΚΑ' ΕΠΚΑ, Ag. Nikolaos); Mrs Maria Bredaki (Director, ΚΓ' ΕΠΚΑ, Herakleion); Dr Mariza Marthari (Director, ΚΑ' ΕΠΚΑ, Cyclades); Mrs Rosina Kolonia and Mrs Amalia Karapaschalidou (successive Directors, ΙΑ' ΕΠΚΑ, Chalkida); Dr Angeliki Simosi (Director, Ephoria of Underwater Antiquities); Mrs Adamantia Vasilogamvrou (Director, Ε' ΕΠΚΑ Sparta) and Mrs Kalliopi Diamanti (Director, 5<sup>th</sup> ΕΒΑ, Sparta).*

*[Slide cues from the accompanying Powerpoint presentation are indicated in yellow.]*

**1** 2009 has been an exceptionally busy year for the School: an intensive period of institutional reorganisation, and completion of major infrastructural and research projects. An important focus has been on ensuring that we communicate effectively the results of our research, and promote ever wider participation and use of our collections and services. **2** Hence the change in our appearance online, with a new website designed to improve access to our increasingly rich range of e-resources. Resources available from the Library now include the School's *Annual* and *Archaeological Reports* on JStor. **3** But a major achievement of the past year has been the creation, in collaboration with the *École française d'Athènes*, of the new web-based *Archaeology in Greece Online* which went live at the beginning of December 2009. **4** This is a free-access database organised by region, with the facility to search by toponym, region, key-word, date, or as a free search, a mapping facility, **5** and plentiful colour illustrations at low resolution, available for fair use while protecting the rights of copyright holders. The ease and speed of this pioneering collaboration is a matter of satisfaction to us both; we gratefully acknowledge the strong support of the Director General and Secretary General of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and we look forward to working ever more closely with our many colleagues here in Greece to develop the site still further in the coming years. The British School will continue to publish a print version of *Archaeology in Greece* in a form designed to complement the online publication. We welcome this fresh opportunity to present the increasingly wide range of work undertaken at the School in greater depth.

5 Last year, I reported our intention to make catalogues of all our collections, from the Fitch Laboratory, Knossos, the Museum, and Archive, freely available online within five years. I am happy now to report that *Museums and Archives Online* has just gone live, and the first catalogue published is that of the Byzantine Research Fund Archive. This includes extensive descriptions of the monuments detailed, and a range of newly digitised photographs 6 from Arta, Achaia, the Argolid, Boiotia, Euboia, Thessaloniki, and Monemvasia. A further six collections from across the School's holdings will follow through 2010. This is, of course, only a first step: much work remains to catalogue and digitise large portions of the archive in particular. But the system is in place, and it will also help us to meet a growing variety of needs, including the archiving of multimedia resources, such as the work of the many artists associated with the School down the years, chiefly, of course, the holders of the Prince of Wales Bursary for the Arts. 7 This year's award holder, Vanessa Gardiner, is a landscape painter with a particular interest in the geometry of coastlines and in the physical relationship between architecture and landscape. 8 She has paid two visits to Greece, mainly to the Peloponnese, to make preparatory sketches for her large works in acrylic on board. The Prince of Wales Bursary is the centrepiece of the School's work in the visual arts, 9 but we are set to expand over the next years with the conversion of the Upper House attic into dedicated studio space. Building work is now in progress, and we look forward to receiving our first tenants after Easter.

10 Among the School's 2009 publications, the proceedings of the *Scholars, Travels, Archives* conference, edited by Michael Llewellyn Smith, Paschalis Kitromilides and Eleni Calliga, marks the first occasion on which we have paused to reflect on the cumulative contribution of our diverse non-archaeological work, 11 and the first time that our photographic Archive has been so systematically exploited. As part of the reorganisation of its constitution this year, the School has taken the important step of formally setting its research in Society, Arts, and Letters on an equal footing with that in Archaeology, and I look forward this time next year to reporting on the research activities now being developed in this area.

12 In the Archive, the Byzantine Research Fund continues to be a major focus. The Archivist, Amalia Kakissis, and the BRF Project Assistant, Dimitra Kotoula, participated in a Leverhulme International Network on the composition of Byzantine glass mosaic tesserae directed by Liz James of the University of Sussex, presenting their research on the activities of the BRF in recording Byzantine mosaics in Greece. 13 Among our new accessions, we are particularly grateful to have received further papers from the Noel-Baker family concerning the relief work conducted by Irene Noel-Baker in Greece from the time of the Balkan Wars to the end of World War II, and the personal and professional correspondence of her son, 14 Francis Noel-Baker, during his political career. We have now reached agreement with Churchill College, Cambridge, whereby papers pertaining to Francis Noel-Baker's political life in Britain as a Member of Parliament will go to Cambridge, and those concerning the Mediterranean will remain in Athens, with a full exchange of records.

15 As ever, the School has been active in publishing the results of its archaeological fieldwork, with Lakonia the focus of our output in 2009. Three major volumes have appeared on the excavations

conducted by Dr Hector Catling at the Menelaion, and by the late Lord William Taylour at Ayios Stephanos - and finally the proceedings of the 2005 Sparta and Laconia conference, which appeared just in time for the second Lakonia conference, held in April 2009.

**16** In 2009, the School conducted an extensive programme of archaeological fieldwork and study at sites from Karphi in eastern Crete to Lefkandi. This evening I present merely a selection of projects which have yielded particularly significant results.

**17** At Knossos, the Kephala Project, led by Peter Tomkins of the University of Sheffield, aims to publish the Neolithic stratigraphy, architecture and ceramics, and to reconstruct the subsurface Prepalatial stratigraphy and architecture on the Kephala hill. Recent insights into ceramic phasing at Knossos are applied to the large archive of ceramic material from excavations dating back to 1900, by Arthur Evans and Duncan Mackenzie, and later John Evans (among others). **18** New light is being shed on the nature and timing of the growth of the Neolithic settlement through a combination of archival research, macroscopic ceramic study, geophysical survey, and GIS modelling which relates more than two hundred separate excavations (the green dots here) in three dimensions. **19** The hill originally consisted of two knolls, connected by a saddle to form a north-south ridge beneath the west wing of the Palace. The earliest settlement phases (Initial and Early Neolithic) were focused on the gently sloping terrain immediately east and south-east of this ridge, and ran up and probably over the saddle.

Ever since the work of Evans, it has been assumed that the extensive levelling and terracing which transformed the hill from a place of residence to a place of ceremony was associated with the construction of the Middle Minoan I palace. It now appears that the transformation occurred more gradually, in a series of such episodes. **20** The earliest, at the very end of the Final Neolithic (FN IV), created a formal open space or court on the site of the later Central Court, flanked to the west by two houses. Early in Early Minoan I, these houses were rebuilt or modified and the court surface relaid, while the entire northern slope of the hill was transformed into a series of wide east-west terraces, stepping down from around the level of the present Central Court to that of the present North Front. **21** The EM I-II deposits on these terraces have generally been considered to be mixed fills, but it is now clear that most are stratified deposits in which floors and, more rarely, house architecture can be identified. The presence of an EM I house can be detected below, and to the east of, the North East Hall, on the basis of pottery from the 1903 and 1905 tests, from walls sketched by Fyfe, and from walls still visible on the site today. Similarly, EM IIA or IIB structures can be noted below the North Portico, around the North Lustral Area, and below the North East Magazines. Study of a series of tests around the Early Keep revealed that these correspond to a massive and deep Neolithic (MN-FN I) and Early Minoan (EM I-III) fill, which provides a *terminus post quem* of EM III for the construction of the Keep. Elsewhere around the hill there is evidence for additional, major terracing operations in EM IIA early and late, EM IIB, EM III and MM IA. The Central Court rests on a platform that probably reached its present extent during EM II.

**22** In May 2009, a geophysical survey was conducted in collaboration with Dick van der Roest (GT Frontline) and the Free University of Amsterdam, with the aim of mapping and visualising the subsurface

archaeological and geological deposits on Kephala Hill. The prospection system combined a transverse-mounted Ground Penetrating Radar antenna with Direct Contact continuous measurement of minor differences in the natural potential of the earth, giving very high resolution shallow and deep measurement, irrespective of the conductivity of the soil. Data collected covers the entirety of the fenced area of the archaeological site. Initial processing is now complete, and interrogation of the complete dataset for features which can then be correlated with the archaeological GIS is in process. The following results for the Central Court are therefore preliminary.

**23** Below the Central Court, a dense array of features was detected at depths down to around 4.5m, including an enigmatic feature apparently on the same orientation as the Court **24** and thus possibly belonging to an earlier phase of the Palace. The Direct Contact image also shows a set of linear features which are probably even deeper. Below the southern half of the Central Court lie the walls of two large structures, oriented NE-SW, parallel to the contours of the bedrock, and separated by a wide NE-SW passage. It is highly likely that the southernmost of these structures belongs to the very earliest phase of occupation at Knossos (c.7000-6500/6400 BC), and consequently represents the earliest known farmer's dwelling in Greece, if not in Europe. These preliminary results from the Central Court are only a selection of the features identified in this area, and a small fraction of the total dataset. Images from other areas of the hill confirm that coherent, high resolution imaging of walls and structures is by no means confined to the Central Court. Highlights include structures of probable EM I date immediately north of the North-west Platform, and a series of probable EM II structures beneath the western half of the Theatral Area and the Royal Road.

**25** Alongside this specific study of the earliest settlement at Knossos, the Knossos Urban Landscape Project continues to document the long term development of occupation in the Knossos valley from the initial Neolithic colonisation to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. **26** The completion of fieldwalking and initial data processing in 2008, on which I reported fully last year, brings home the transformation brought about by such large scale survey upon our understanding of an area previously understood largely through rescue excavation, **27** as this slide illustrates. As a result, we have now identified a number of target areas for new work, and hope to undertake geophysical survey in future years. Meanwhile, completion of the study of the immediately diagnostic pottery in 2009 has clarified the definition of the nucleated urban site, and enabled recognition of outlying low-density scatters, which are largely cemeteries, complementing those previously located through excavation, and in a few cases outlying suburbs or nearby small rural sites. **28** We can now track the development of the site from the early Prepalatial period, through its expansion to about one square kilometre early in the Late Bronze Age. Similarly, we observe the rapid development of the Early Iron Age community, and continued expansion, to the largest extent of the urban site (ca. 130 ha.), probably late in the Hellenistic period. Some reduction in size follows the loss of independence in the Roman period (albeit less than previously thought), with final abandonment in Late Antiquity. A major aspect of this year's work has been the dating of the plain fine, coarse and cookware sherds not usually attempted in surface surveys, but possible here given the control samples available from over a century of excavation at Knossos. **29** Fabric

classifications have been developed to enable the attribution of nearly all sherds to the broad chronological categories. The ability to utilise the full sample of recovered material (noting the dark orange areas on the plans) has been particularly important in clarifying the existence of outlying low-density scatters, as well as the boundaries of the urban site; and as we see here, in certain periods (the Roman for example) this makes a significant difference to the picture.

**30** Moving into the Cyclades, work on Keros has continued almost uninterrupted since the conclusion of excavation under the direction of Colin Renfrew in 2008. The date and nature of activity at the two main excavated sites - **31** the Dhaskalio settlement and the Special Deposit South at Kavos - have been clarified. Dhaskalio was a major settlement spanning the later part of the Cycladic Early Bronze Age. The stratigraphic sequence here can be divided into three main phases, the first two of which correspond with the periods of use of the Special Deposit. However, most levels are assigned to a late phase in the Cycladic Early Bronze Age, succeeding that of the Kastri Group and equivalent approximately to Early Cycladic III, contemporary in part with the First City at Phylakopi. The settlement thus flourished considerably later than the heyday of the Special Deposit South.

**32** Various materials from the settlement have now been intensively studied, including the stone discs, the petrology of the building stones, the obsidian assemblage, and the rich assemblage of mat and leaf impressions. Technical studies on the pottery, metal objects and slags, and the lithic petrology, are in progress. Plant materials recovered include the domesticated olive, not hitherto well-documented in Early Bronze Age contexts: here we await the results of radiocarbon analysis. A coherent picture of the settlement and the Special Deposit is now emerging. It is notable that the finds characteristic of the Special Deposit, such as broken marble figurines or the multiple headed lamps seen in fragmentary form at Kavos, are not found on Dhaskalio, although Dhaskalio has produced a high proportion of imported materials which will be the subject of future report. **33** Study of several categories of object (pottery, stone spoons, and marble bowls, vessels and figurines) has confirmed the initial impression that in general, breakage did not occur in this area, but that fragmentary material was brought here to be offered in the Special Deposit. However, there are a few indications of local breakage, for instance among the stone discs. One important aspect for further investigation in 2010 is the possibility of joins among the figurines from the Special Deposit North (from the rescue excavations of Professor Christos Doumas and Dr Photeini Zappeiropoulou).

Work on the typology of the marble figurines continues. No examples of the types frequently found in Early Cycladic cemeteries have been found in the settlement, despite their great abundance in the Special Deposit. **34** However, the 11 figurines of schematic form found on Dhaskalio include many examples of an identifiable type now designated the Dhaskalio sub-variety. Most of these belong to settlement phase C, when the Early Cycladic cemeteries had gone out of use, although the Special Deposit South continued to be added to during that time. Study of the figurines from that Deposit opens several new avenues for the understanding of their function and chronology. Much more can now be said about their typological development, in some cases on the basis of stratigraphic observations. In particular, it is now clear that some of the typologically identified 'post-canonical' varieties are indeed late in the series. More importantly, the

quantities of figurines represented far exceed the totals recovered from Early Cycladic cemeteries. Their use in rituals, involving breakage at the end of their use-life and the transportation of some fragments to Kavos for deposition, apparently played a quantitatively more significant role than their inhumation in Early Cycladic cemeteries.

**35** Moving later in time, to Lefkandi, the 2009 season at Xeropolis, directed by Irene Lemos of the University of Oxford, focused on the building sequence of the ðMegaron in Region I, an elite residential area in the eastern part of Xeropolis with easy access to the eastern harbour. The Megaron area was in continuous use from LH IIIC (Lefkandi Phase 1b/2a) to the earlier phases of the Early Iron Age, and a very large volume of pottery (some 50,000 sherds) was recovered from it. Preliminary reconstruction of the building sequence is as follows. **36** Sometime during LH IIIC Early, the mudbrick walls of a house were demolished, and the material used to level the area in preparation for the construction of the first, LH IIIC, ðMegaron. Whereas the mudbrick house was on the same orientation as all other contemporary houses excavated on Xeropolis, this new ðMegaron differed both in orientation and in plan, underlining the importance of the successive Megara within the spatial and social organization of Xeropolis during this transitional period. The use of Megaron I falls within Lefkandi Phase 1b/2a. The main room had two phases, the earlier of which can be traced mostly within the room, and includes some storage vessels found in its north-west area, **37** and a small mudbrick feature (furniture of some kind) against the west wall. Still within Lefkandi Phase 2a, the main room was restructured to form the LH IIIC Megaron 2.

Above these levels, the so-called Protogeometric Fill was used to level the entire area of the LH IIIC Megaron for later construction. This fill is a single deposit with pottery datable to LH IIIC (Lefkandi Phase 2), the latest non-intrusive material being of Lefkandi Phase 2b/3. **38** The first building constructed above it had a series of post-holes on its central axis and two large post-bases in its main room, and is associated with a series of additional walls. Pottery dates this building within Lefkandi Phase 2b/3 (LH IIIC Late/Submycenaean). The building probably had a Protogeometric phase, but Late Geometric disturbance has removed the floors and features likely associated with it, especially in the northern part of the building. Such evidence as we have for Protogeometric use comes mostly from the southern part of the 'Megaron'. The cut of the large Pit 13 (of Sub-Protogeometric and Late Geometric date) has completely removed the earlier levels in the south west part of the building.

**39** The so-called Annexe is a feature closely associated with the later Protogeometric Megaron 2. Here two pits contained a large quantity of pottery of Lefkandi Phase 2b/3, including restorable whole vessels, as well as much animal bone. It is possible that these represent the remains of a foundation deposit related to the construction of this phase of the Megaron.

**40** Turning now to Lakonia, in 2009 the School began a 5-year collaboration with the Ephoreia of Underwater Antiquities (represented as overall director by Mr Elias Spondylis) to outline the history and development of the submerged town of Pavlopetri, in the west end of the Vatika Bay opposite the island of Elaphonisos. **41** Pavlopetri was first surveyed in 1968 by a team from the University of Cambridge. The resulting plan, covering an area of some 300 x 100m, shows around fifteen separate buildings, courtyards,

streets, two chamber tombs, and at least thirty-seven cist graves. The site was seen to continue southward onto Pavlopetri island, where the remains of walls and other archaeological material remained visible. The relatively few surface finds then collected from the seabed suggested a date from the Early to the Late Bronze Age. On the basis of architectural comparisons, the submerged buildings were thought to date mainly to the Mycenaean period.

<sup>42</sup> In 2009, the surviving architectural remains were recorded using both a shore-based robotic total station and Sector Scan Sonar (to produce a three dimensional digital survey of the submerged features). <sup>43</sup> In addition to recording the features identified in 1968, over 150 square metres of new buildings were discovered to the north. These consist of at least 25 co-joined square and rectilinear rooms (built of rough, square limestone blocks as elsewhere on the site) starting some 10m from the existing shore line, plus a 40m-long street lined with rectilinear buildings with stone foundations. <sup>44</sup> One square room contains the remains of a central pillar-like structure reminiscent at first sight of the pillar crypts of Minoan Crete. <sup>45</sup> If so, this would be the first example from the mainland. Two cist graves <sup>46</sup> and what appears to be a Bronze Age pithos burial were found in a corner of one of these newly discovered rooms. <sup>47</sup> One of the most important new finds is a large trapezoidal building, some 34m long and 12-17m wide, containing at least three separate rooms. This is comparable in layout to Early Bronze Age megara, and its large dimensions imply that it was a building of some importance.

<sup>48</sup> The pottery collected in 2009, while not stratified, covers the entire site and provides a clear picture of occupation history. A chronological break down <sup>49</sup> shows a significant bias (40%) to Early Bronze Age, followed by 20% Late Bronze Age. Initial occupation can now be dated to the Final Neolithic period, most probably on the Neolithic/Early Bronze Age transition. The Early Bronze Age pottery covers all sub-phases of the period, with a range of pithoi and storage jars <sup>50</sup> decorated with an impressive repertoire of rope- and finger-impressed patterns, plus the standard shapes such as cups, sauceboats, conical saucers etc. <sup>51</sup> Significantly for our understanding of relations between Pavlopetri and the Aegean, some pottery shows close links with the Cyclades. In contrast to the limited picture of Middle Bronze Age occupation obtained in 1968, the pottery lifted in 2009 covers all sub-phases and includes locally produced wares and a few imports, possibly from nearby Kythera. <sup>52</sup> Of particular interest are storage vessels bearing patterned decoration with Middle Minoan parallels. <sup>53</sup> The Late Bronze Age pottery spans the full sequence to LH IIIC Middle. Ceramic evidence indicates that the site was then abandoned from around 1100 until the fourth century BC, when much more limited Classical and Hellenistic reoccupation began, followed by a Roman and Byzantine phase.

<sup>54</sup> The School's return to Pavlopetri is a significant development in our long tradition of research into Lakonian prehistory, from the Lakonia survey to Agios Stephanos and beyond. As a major port of entry, Pavlopetri also connects with our work on Kythera and Antikythera in which the Fitch Laboratory plays a leading role. Last year I reported fully on the Kythera Island Project, and I expect next year to present the results of a new analytical programme focusing on the Medieval ceramics of the island. <sup>55</sup> This year I will

focus on Fitch involvement in the Antikythera Survey Project conducted by the Canadian Institute in Greece in collaboration with the  $\emptyset$ .

Antikythera is one of the smallest inhabited islands in the Mediterranean (only some 20 square kilometres), but it is one of the best-placed, on key axes north-south between the Peloponnese and Crete, and east-west between the eastern and central Mediterranean. This strategic, if often fragile and marginal, location is reflected in a long and turbulent history, alternating abandonment and re-colonisation, which stretches back to the latter stages of the Neolithic period and includes a substantial Bronze Age presence, a fortified Hellenistic pirate town, several Late Roman communities, Byzantine and Venetian evidence, as well as a period of more recent occupation. Fitch involvement centres on the characterisation of pottery recovered in the survey, with particular emphasis on the prehistoric periods. As the survey itself grew out of the Kythera Island Project, certain of the questions raised and methodologies employed are also developed from those employed there. Thus emphasis is placed on the close integration of macroscopic study of the survey pottery and petrographic analysis, given the success of similar approaches on neighbouring Kythera.

**56** Contrary to initial expectation, the majority of the prehistoric fabrics recovered by the Antikythera Survey Project differ from known Kytheran fabrics and appear to reflect potential local production. Nevertheless, significant quantities of imports are confirmed, mainly from west Crete and Kythera. Tempering seems to be the prevailing approach to clay-paste preparation: the four major fabric groups indicate tempering of a base clay with a variety of materials such as sand, grog, crushed limestone and mudstone. The differential use of various tempering materials implies the co-existence of several potting traditions. Sand and mudstone tempering is common practice in Crete throughout the Bronze Age, and is also very common on Kythera where it was most probably introduced from Crete. But these practices seem to appear earlier on Antikythera than on Kythera, indicating closer links with analogous west Cretan developments. By contrast, grog and calcite tempering are attested in various areas of mainland Greece, East Crete and Kythera during the Final Neolithic and Early Bronze I. However on Antikythera, grog tempering continues into later periods too, indicating a degree of conservatism at least in one aspect of local potting traditions.

The study is therefore amassing evidence for on-island potting strategies and changing patterns of interaction between Antikythera, Kythera, the mainland and Crete during the Neolithic and Bronze Age, for which there is a growing set of comparable ceramic and petrographic data. On present evidence, it seems that the Final Neolithic and Bronze Age communities on Antikythera consumed a range of pottery from a variety of neighbouring sources, as well as using local products made using recipes and technological practices common mainly in West Crete and, partly, on Kythera. Stronger links are attested mainly with the far northwest of Crete. These results open the way for direct comparison between the two so-called 'stepping stone' islands (Kythera and Antikythera) and their role in the exchange and communication networks of the Bronze Age Aegean.

**57** Turning to events in the Fitch Laboratory, 2009 has seen a series of changes: facilities for chemical analysis are currently being upgraded thanks to a generous benefaction which has enabled us to commission

a new Wavelength Dispersive XRF instrument to replace the ICP. The Laboratory has also been equipped to begin postgraduate training in ceramic petrology, with the first short course to be delivered in April. In January 2009, we welcomed the first Fitch Senior Visiting Fellow, Dr Vassilis Kilikoglou of the Demokritos, who undertook research on the geochemical characterization of Iron Age pottery from Knossos and Sybrita in central Crete to complement petrographic analysis by former Williams Fellow Marie-Claude Boileau. He also collaborated with Evangelia Kiriati and Professor Stelios Andreou towards the completion of a large-scale project on the production and circulation of Mycenaean-style pottery in central Macedonia.

As the current cycle of Fitch research fellowships draws to a close, a number of major projects are nearing completion. <sup>58</sup> Chemistry Fellow Myrto Georgakopoulou continued her research into the beginnings of large-scale metal production in the southern Aegean during the Early Bronze Age, with further fieldwork in southern Siphnos. Significant evidence for copper, lead, and silver production has been identified within and around the Early Bronze Age site of Akrotiraki. Analysis of the finds, and comparison with material from the renowned lead/silver production site of Ayios Sostis in north east Siphnos, suggests distinctive geochemical signatures for the lead slags from the northern and southern parts of the island. <sup>59</sup> In 2009, the project's final year, work concentrated on the search for potential ore sources in the south. Geologically plausible areas were walked, some of the ancient mine galleries identified in the 1970s revisited, and sampling conducted for comparative material.

<sup>60</sup> The second major research project completed this year is the result of a 10-year collaboration between the Fitch (initially under Ian Whitbread and latterly Evangelia Kiriati), and the Austrian Institute and Salzburg University excavations at Kolonna on Aegina led by Walter Gauss, with the collaboration of Gudrun Klebinder-Gauss.

The long-term importance of Aegina as a pottery production centre is well attested; it was particularly prominent in Bronze Age, Classical, and modern times. <sup>61</sup> In addressing the development of such a specialized potting centre, and the attractiveness of Aeginetan ceramics abroad, it is plainly important to consider locally available raw materials in addition to socio-economic, historical, and geographical factors. Detailed study of the Aeginetan landscape, and extensive experimentation with the available resources for pot-making, have enabled us to detect major shifts in the location of the clay sources used over time. These can then be associated with changes in the organization of pottery production on the island, and transformation in the economic and political role of Aegina at regional and global level.

<sup>62</sup> The first major shift in the sources of raw material used for potting was documented at the very beginning of the Middle Bronze Age, in the late 3<sup>rd</sup> or early 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC. This coincides with a significant change in the types of pottery produced on the island, but also the first appearance of Aeginetan vessels, often in significant quantities, abroad. <sup>63</sup> It also corresponds with a different organization of local production and possibly its concentration on the coast in the wider vicinity of Kolonna, as excavated potters kilns and large amounts of wasters appear to indicate. Local production is now associated with a wide regional distribution network. Aegina becomes an important hub in central Aegean networks and emerges as one of the most important socioeconomic and political centres in the Aegean.

After the beginning of the Late Bronze Age, the distribution of Aeginetan pots in buff fabrics gradually decreases and their production shrinks to meet mainly local needs. This is probably due to economic and political competition from the emerging Mycenaean centres in the neighbouring Argolid, which also became major production centres for fine painted table ware. <sup>64</sup> But although the export of decorated calcareous Aeginetan pottery almost came to an end as Aegina's political role shrank, Aeginetan cooking pots remained particularly popular, in large scale circulation across the central Aegean and coastal mainland sites. <sup>65</sup> The same situation recurs during the late 6<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries BC, when Classical Aegina again becomes a renowned cooking pot producer, with products reaching the African coast, despite its diminished political role due to competition with Athens. So there is an evident preference for Aeginetan cooking pots, and since this seems to be a functional preference one can assume that it is linked to the quality of the local raw materials. By contrast, the demand for decorated Aeginetan table wares and, probably Aegina's ability to satisfy this demand, seems more evidently associated with the island's political role.

<sup>66</sup> These observations do not, however, apply to modern pottery manufacture. Almost no cooking pots are made, despite the fact that various groups of potters from Siphnos, the contemporary Aegean centre of cookware production, have settled on Aegina. The answer seems to be that there were no longer good raw materials available in suitable quantity. The sources of red volcanic clays extensively exploited in prehistoric and Classical times were exhausted by that activity. Rather, the boom in the local potting which began in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century was a response to a growing market for water jars in neighbouring Athens. The high quality white clays, still available in abundance on Aegina, were excellent for this. This market, and the potting industry it sustained, lasted for around a century, until it was undermined by the advent of refrigeration. <sup>67</sup> Today only one workshop survives on Aegina, run by the Garis family, still using the local clays for water jars but also producing a range of other products with imported industrial clays (and fired in electric kilns) for the growing traditional craft market. <sup>68</sup> This is just a taste of a pioneering study which draws together ethnoarchaeology, petrological and chemical analysis, geological study and experimental replication. It is shortly to be published by the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

<sup>69</sup> Remaining in the Fitch, 2009 saw a series of staff changes and the consequent instigation of new projects. The newly appointed Williams Fellow, Dr Areti Pentedeka, will expand her doctoral research on Neolithic Thessaly <sup>70</sup> in a study of the technological landscape created via mobility networks through Thessaly, Central Greece and their interface zone. Material from both areas will be analysed, from old and new excavations, some conducted by the BSA, such as Lianokladi, or our new collaborative project with the Ephoreia of Paleanthropology and Speleology of Southern Greece (under Dr. Nina Kyparissi-Apostolika) at Koutroulou Magoula, exactly in the heart of the interface region. Areti's research marks the School's return to this part of Greece after a gap of almost a century. <sup>71</sup> Her second new project is on local plain and coarseware production in the Central Ionian islands, conducted in collaboration with the  $\emptyset$  and with me as School Director. The material studied in the first phase of this programme derives from pre-war School excavations on Ithaca, recent finds from the Stavros Valley Project, and Ephoreia rescue excavations. Island connections have long been a focus of the School's research. But this project breaks boundaries both

chronological, spanning as it does Neolithic to Late Roman times, and geographical, since the area is totally unexplored in terms of archaeological science yet of great importance in connections between the Ionian and Adriatic coasts and Mainland Greece.

**72** In January 2009, the Fitch team was joined by the new Leventis Fellow, archaeobotanist Evi Margaritis, whose research focuses on the cultivation history of the olive and vine. Analysis of large-scale and well-dated archaeobotanical assemblages recovered from sites across Cyprus, the Aegean and mainland Greece supports the establishment of reliable criteria with which to distinguish wild from domesticated strains, and to detect direct archaeobotanical evidence for early wine and olive oil production. Through collaboration with Martin Jones (of the University of Cambridge), research into modern and ancient olive and grape DNA will elucidate the evolutionary history of fruit trees, their geographical origin and expansion in antiquity, and connections between ancient and modern varieties. Evi Margaritis is also developing links with the British School at Rome through her participation in the Portus project, where she is jointly responsible for the environmental reconstruction of the site through time.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this concludes the Director's report for 2009. However, before finishing, I should like to pause to recall two friends of the School. **73** I know that I join my six immediate predecessors as British School Director in expressing our great personal gratitude to Helen Clark, who over 32 years as School Secretary has served us, and the institution, with unfailing sympathy and discretion. On behalf of all at the School, we wish her a happy and peaceful retirement. **74** On a sadder note, we pay tribute to the life and work of Demetrios Konstantios, Director of the Byzantine and Christian Museum in Athens, who was a close friend and advisor as we began to develop the Byzantine Research Fund Archive. We, as so many colleagues in the archaeological community, felt that he opened up the Byzantine and Christian Museum to us, and we had greatly looked forward to continuing collaboration in a joint exhibition. It is my hope that this may continue in his memory.