



# The Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens

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Cover image courtesy of Paphos Theatre  
Archaeological Project, The University of Sydney



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## Director's welcome to the 2024 Bulletin

Welcome to the 2024 bulletin of the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens, and my first as its Director. I took up the position in August 2023, along with the Arthur and Renee George Chair of Classical Archaeology at the University of Sydney. I am deeply honoured to be at the helm of the AAIA, an institution that is unique not just in Australia but in the world. No other institute combines the dual mission of supporting students and scholars in undertaking research into Hellenic culture within and beyond Greece while also ensuring that their findings are shared across their home country.

We achieve this through our hubs in Athens and Sydney and in collaboration with our university members and Friends groups. From our premises in Athens, we offer accommodation, research and teaching space to Australian students and scholars, and we facilitate their access to Greek sites and museums for research and educational purposes. Our base at the University of Sydney includes our specialist research library, which holds c.14,000 volumes devoted to Greece and the Hellenic world and includes a good number of works unavailable elsewhere in Australasia. From both our Sydney and Athens offices and working with our network of Friends groups and university members across Australia and in Greece, collectively the AAIA offers a range of events and activities over the year, including the jewel in our crown, the annual Gale Visiting Professorship.

In this issue of the bulletin, Reinhard Senff, our 2023 Gale Visiting Professor, who toured with his wife Doris around Australia in August and September, presents a summary of the recent, and fascinating, excavations and restoration work that has been undertaken by the German Archaeological Institute at Olympia.

We also hear from staff and students who participated in the University of Sydney's Athens Intensive Summer School, which was held twice in 2023 to meet demand after Covid. Lesley Beaumont, who co-led both programmes, talks about the highs and lows of taking students to experience Classical Athens first-hand in June and July, as opposed to January, when our summer school programmes in Greece usually run. Two student participants, Roxanne Loughland and Sanju Vairav, respond with their perspectives.

We also hear from two of our 2023 scholarship recipients. The first is Alyce Cannon, who was our 2023–2024 AAIA Athens Fellow. During her fellowship period, Alyce completed her University of Sydney PhD on the representations of dog breeds and the cultural relevance of canines in

Greek antiquity, and she shares with us the impact the fellowship has had on her scholarship. The second is the University of Queensland's Rory McLennan. Rory was awarded the Polymnia and Aimilia Kallinikos Scholarship to analyse ancient waterproof mortars from Greek colonies in Italy. This was undertaken as part of his Master of Philosophy dissertation, which is shedding light on the transmission of ancient Greek hydraulic technology across the Mediterranean.

Several of our affiliated field projects were active once again in 2023, and their directors share their results: Macquarie University's Susan Lupack and the Ministry of Culture's Panagiota Kasimi offer the results of their survey work at Perachora, and Macquarie University's Tom Hillard and Lea Beness talk about their search for Torone's ancient harbour and how the natural environment has evolved from antiquity to today. The University of Sydney's Craig Barker reveals the findings from the 2023 excavation season at Paphos. In addition, the AAIA's own Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory and Konstantinos Trimmis (Kings College London) present the Zagreb Museum exhibition of *Find Stories*, an Erasmus-funded collaboration between the AAIA and several European institutions. Stavros Paspalas, our Deputy Director, presents a roundup of the events and activities undertaken by our Friends groups across Australia and in Greece, and by the AAIA itself.

In this issue, we also mark the passing in July 2023 of ANU Professor Emeritus Graeme Clarke – scholar and teacher *extraordinaire* of ancient Hellenism, the archaeology of Syria and studies in early Christianity and patristics, and from 2007 a member of the AAIA's Executive Board – with a moving tribute by Stavros Paspalas.

Collectively, our activities during 2023 illustrate the vibrancy of the AAIA and justify the Greek Consul General in Sydney's recognition of the AAIA as 'one of the most renowned institutions promoting Greek culture in Australia' (press release, 23.08.2023). None of this would exist without the vision of the late Alexander Cambitoglou, who founded the Institute in 1980, or the efforts of Stavros Paspalas, who led the Institute after Alexander's passing in 2019 until my appointment, and who crucially navigated the AAIA through the challenging Covid era. We would also not be able to continue to offer these opportunities if it were not for our supporters in Australia and Greece. With awareness of the AAIA's legacy and respect for the opportunity that has been bestowed upon me, I am delighted to build on these foundations as the AAIA enters this new era.



Tamar Hodos, Director of the AAIA

# Perachora Peninsula Archaeological Project: report on the 2023 season

Susan Lupack and Panagiota Kasimi

We are very happy to say that, after a long Covid-induced hiatus, the Perachora Peninsula Archaeological Project, a *synergasia* (collaborative project) co-directed by Panagiota Kasimi (Ephorate of Antiquities of the Corinthia) and Susan Lupack (Macquarie University), returned for its second season during June and July 2023. In 2020, our team set out to document the remains of the settlement in the ‘Upper Plain’ overlooking the 8th- to 2nd-century BCE sanctuary of Hera Akraia (figs 1, 2) through intensive surface survey and legacy data verification. The town had been previously explored by Humfry Payne in the 1930s and by Richard Tomlinson in the 1960s–80s, but no attention had been paid to this rich region in decades. Furthermore, Payne saw the settlement as a ‘substantial town’ while Tomlinson characterised it as ‘a scatter of houses’. Our aim was to investigate the Upper Plain, with its extant domestic structures, fountain house and cisterns, to contribute new data to this debate. In 2023, we extended our fieldwork to other areas of the peninsula while also continuing our investigation of the Upper Plain.

As in 2020, Shawn Ross (Macquarie University) was the project’s deputy director, while its field director was Adela Sobotkova (Aarhus University). But we also added some new faces – fortunately Matthew Skuse (British School at Athens) joined this year and contributed his expertise in Perachora’s ceramics, while Barbora Weissova (Bilkent University) was a valuable addition thanks to her licensed ability to operate a drone. As before, Panagiota Meletiou oversaw the project’s activities, and Sophia Perdike acted as our on-site consultant. The project is facilitated by the Australian Archaeological Institute in Athens. And of course, the diligence and good humour of the Macquarie University students made the work possible – and fun (fig. 3)!

## The Upper Plain: legacy data and new methodologies

In 2023, we aimed to continue our documentation of the legacy data of the Upper Plain through visualising its structures with the DJI Phantom 4 RTK drone piloted by Barbora Weissova. We photographed the Fountain House, Building AI, the sanctuary itself, and other structures. With this imagery we are now producing an interactive map that will allow people to move around in photogrammetric models of these features. This map will be useful for involving visitors to the site in its broader history.

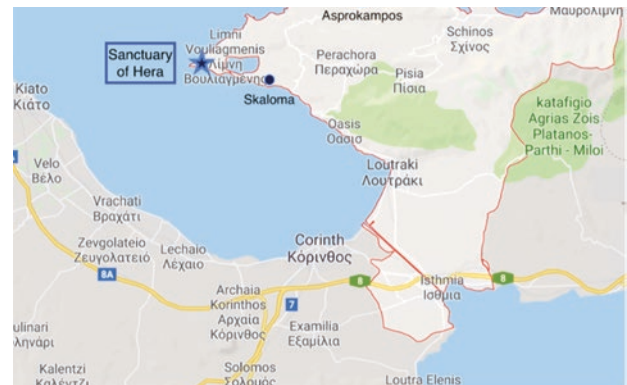


Fig. 1. The Perachora Peninsula and its surrounding region showing Asprokampos, Schinos, Corinth, and Isthmia (above); and the Upper Plain (below)

Our aim to continue documenting the legacy data was furthered by the most knowledgeable person on the peninsula, kyrios Protopappas. He led us to ‘Dunbabin’s House’ (House XIV), which was originally excavated in 1938 but never published in any detail. In our quest to properly document this 23 × 13m structure, we cleared off the vegetation (fig. 4), noted the differences from Tomlinson’s plan and georeferenced it.

Our team also made valiant attempts to trace the remains of the ancient road, which runs past ‘Dunbabin’s House’ and Building AI. Today the road is obscured by dense, thorn-ridden underbrush, but our team persevered with their loppers, which resulted in a brief GPS track. This experience is one of the factors that motivated us to initiate a Lidar survey of the Upper Plain in 2024.



*Fig. 2. View of the sanctuary of Hera from the Upper Plain*

We also conducted total pick-ups in an area above the sanctuary that had produced high counts of Archaic fine ware pottery. Soon after beginning the pick-up, we realised that the number of sherds far exceeded that which might result from ancient activities, and we began to form a different theory – that the sherds represented material discarded by Payne from his excavation. And indeed, Sophia Perdike confirmed that this was likely the area where Payne did his pot-washing. Nearly 20,000 sherds were recovered from one square, and they are now providing information that had not been included in publications of the site. We were also thrilled to find an Argive coin, with its wolf's head on the obverse.

### Fieldwork further afield

#### *Asprokampos*

In the 2023 season, we also conducted fieldwork elsewhere on the peninsula. A major focus of this season was the agricultural plain of Asprokampos and two large Archaic–Classical structures situated on the slopes rising above the field (fig. 5). The better-preserved walls (40 × 50m) run around the modern church of the Zoodochos Piyi and may have constituted a temenos wall of an ancient sanctuary.

A second set of walls (20 × 16m) runs around the church of Profitis Ilias, which is built on two courses of ashlar masonry. Considering these finds, J.R. Wiseman commented in 1978 (*Land of the Corinthians*), ‘Clearly the ancient town of Asprokampos was a settlement of considerable size and importance’. Taking into consideration the concentrations of ancient material, we surveyed around these two structures and within the valley to determine the chronological range and use-context of the area in which they were situated.

The sherd counts were quite high, as expected, around the two ancient features, particularly the Church of Zoodochos Piyi (fig. 6). This was the case despite the



*Fig. 3. The Perachora Peninsula Archaeological Project team of 2023 at Mycenae*



*Fig. 4. Clearing the walls of ‘Dunbabin’s House’*

visibility being consistently low – most of the tracts were evaluated at 0–40%. In the valley, sherd counts were consistent but not high, and could represent background scatter produced by manuring. There were, however, a couple of ‘hot spots’, which may represent local farm-houses. The ceramics represented a wide range of time periods, from Late Bronze Age (much to our delight), through to Byzantine, with the Archaic–Classical–Hellenistic sherds being most plentiful. In terms of function, within the valley the ceramics most often fell into the categories of storage, transport, cooking wares



Fig. 5. The Asprokampos agricultural valley with the modern churches to its southwest

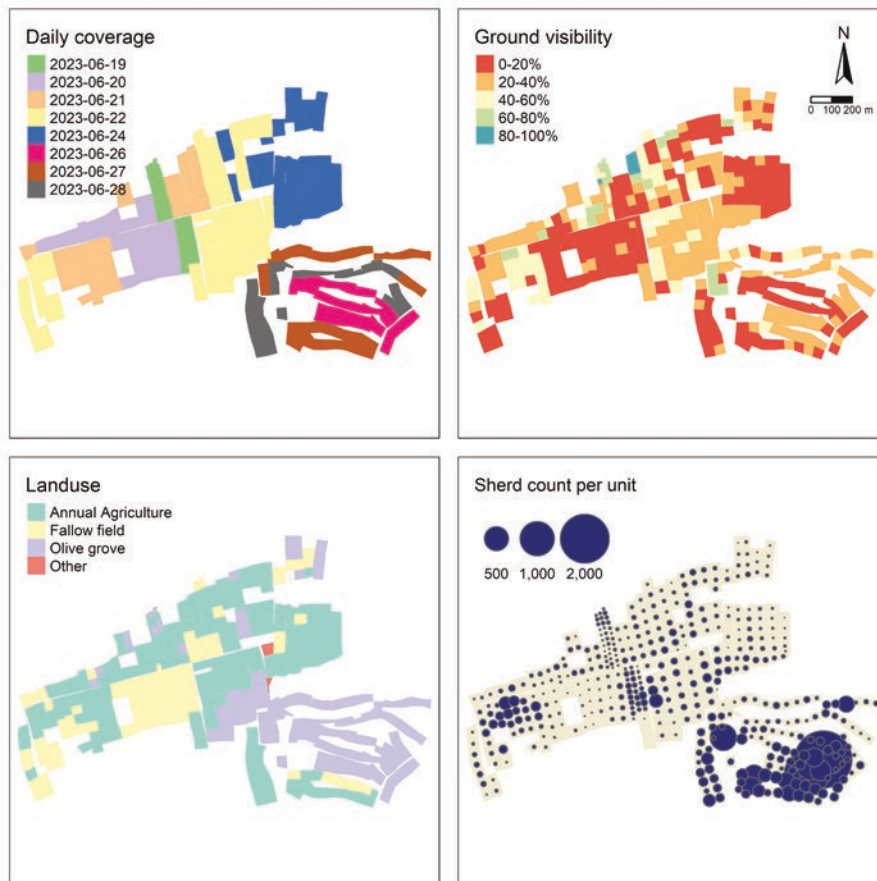


Fig. 6. Preliminary documentation of the intensive survey of Asprokampos

and some fine wares, while the sherds around the ancient features included more fine wares. Much work remains to be done to further illuminate the use and the chronological periods of this valley.

*Diokastro*

We also made an exciting trip with the staff of the Archaeological Ephorate, kyrios Protopappas and other interested persons – in all we had four carsful – to Diokastro, the fortified citadel in the mountains above the modern village of Schinos (see fig. 1, above). Xenophon (*Hellenica* 4.5) recorded that this site (Oinoe) was captured by the Spartan king Agesilaos II in 390 BCE on his way to confront the Corinthians at the Heraion. As Agesilaos and his troops must have found, the site is difficult to access, and today you can only get there along dirt roads. I felt very fortunate to have Dimitris Anastasopoulos, one of the sanctuary’s guards, as our driver.

Climbing up to the site, we could see the extant portions of the fortress’s polygonal masonry walls, still rising 3–4m. Once we were within the site, a picnic of cake and juice was brought out and eaten on the north-western peak of the site overlooking the amazing view across the northern Corinthian Gulf (fig. 7).

Our small team extensively surveyed the site, noting the Archaic–Classical ceramics, and endeavoured to correlate the extant walls with those drawn by Wiseman (1978). We also quickly set out targets and deployed the drone so that a visualisation of the site could be produced. It was proposed that we return in 2024 to more extensively document the site. Diokastro was not in the original scope of the project, but our collaboration with the Ephorate is opening up rewarding paths for the future. We are certainly looking forward to 2024!



*Fig. 7. View from Diokastro to the north with kyrios Protopappas*

**Grateful thanks**

We offer our thanks to Mantas Bay Hotels for putting on a Greek Night for our team, full of great food and wonderful dancing that was the highlight of the season. The Mayor of Loutraki, Giorgos Gkionis, also generously hosted us at a celebratory end-of-season lunch at our beloved Taverna Ira. An interview with the Deputy Mayor, Anastasios Sakelariou, Panagiota Meleti, and Susan Lupack was filmed there: [https://anaskafi.blogspot.com/2023/07/blog-post\\_59.html](https://anaskafi.blogspot.com/2023/07/blog-post_59.html).

And finally, we want to express our overflowing gratitude to Dr Janet Gale for funding much of our work. Without her support, none of the research at this rich site could continue, and none of the transformative experiences our students take from the project could occur. Thank you very much!!





## Some interim musings on Torone's ancient shoreline and its transformations: the taphonomy of a site

Tom Hillard and J. Lea Beness

In September 2023, coring fieldwork was undertaken by Greek colleagues from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, with the financial support of Macquarie University: a contribution to our attempts to identify the location of Torone's ancient harbours. While the resulting data undergo analysis, we use the opportunity of this year's Bulletin to share the context of this particular study and to reflect upon the transformations of Torone's landscape.

After the landmark battle of Pydna in 168 BCE, the Romans divided the kingdom of Macedonia into four quasi-independent regions. The Roman historian Livy, undoubtedly drawing upon the Greek account of Polybius, who was contemporary to the event, registers the assets of each of those four regions. For the Chalkidiki, he offers:

...those most renowned cities Thessalonica and Cassandrea, and – additionally – Pallene, a fertile and fruitful land; maritime facilities are also provided by *the harbours at Torone, Mount Athos, Aenea, and Acanthus*, some of which conveniently face Thessaly and the island of Euboea, and others the Hellespont. (45.30.2; italics added)

Our attention falls on the allusion to Torone's harbour (or harbours) as a feature of this territory. The parallel references to the harbours of Athos, Aenea and Acanthus suggest that the emphasis is upon anchorages allowing access to the produce of the local hinterlands and trade rather than the existence of sophisticated harbour facilities. Yet the port of Torone, marked by lively trade (particularly in wine and timber), was surely superior amongst those and more than simply a seasonal anchorage or a 'summertime harbour'. Pseudo-Skylax's (admittedly uneven) survey of Mediterranean locations might confirm that supposition. His *Periplus*, reflecting for the most part 4th-century BCE conditions, will sometimes offer helpful qualifiers indicating degrees of maritime security, such as *limen kleistos cheimerinos* ('enclosed winter harbour'). He provides no such nautical epithets for the Chalkidic region, but, whereas 'Hellenic Aineia' (66.2), Athos and 'Hellenic Akanthos' (66.4) are registered by name (and ethnicity) only, Torone is implicitly distinguished as a 'Hellenic city *and harbour*' (66.4 [our italics]).



Fig. 1. A sketch map of Torone's environs (not to scale)

A glance at the sketch map of Torone and its environs (fig. 1) will show that to the immediate south lay one of Greece's finest natural harbours, Porto Koupho, providing safe year-round shelter. In the relatively stable era of the *pax Romana* this bay surely thus served. The ancient expression 'Quieter than the harbour of the Toroneans' must refer to it. But it lay beyond the protection of the Classical city's walls, and an allusion by Thucydides (5.2.2–3) clearly indicates that it was *not* the harbour of Classical Torone.

It was customarily assumed that the Classical harbour lay to the immediate north of one of Torone's prominent natural features, named the *Lekythos* by Thucydides (4.113.2) and labelled Promontory 1 by Alexander Cambitoglou, director of the Australian excavations. There, ships – it was thought – might have nestled along a lee shore, sheltered to a degree in *most* conditions. Such assumptions, however, assume the antiquity of the present topography. Those assumptions are not secure, even if a 17th-century engraving of the site by Vincenzo



Fig. 2. A panorama showing granitic rock degrading on the hillside (bottom left). The modern Sithonia circuit highway winds its way down the Toronean plains, with the 230m Vigla, overlooking Torone, seen to the distant right

Coronelli seems to indicate little by way of major topographical change since 1659, when the Venetians destroyed the Ottoman base occupying the *Lekythos*.

The topography of the area has assuredly undergone many transformations. The interface of land and sea is one that, as the ancients recognised, is characteristically dynamic and subject to change.

The same parts of the earth are not always wet or dry, but change their character according to the appearance or failure of rivers. Similarly, land and sea change places and one area does not remain earth, another sea, for all time; but sea replaces what was once dry land, and where there is now sea there is at another time land. (Aristotle, *Meteorologica* I 351 A 19, Loeb trans., modified)

Even given the wonderful insights offered by Torone, with its continuous archaeological sequence running from the Early Bronze Age to the Ottoman period, one of the most fascinating aspects of its exploration is that of the alterations to its landscape over time.

An underwater exploration in the early 1990s of what was thought to have been the harbour revealed that most of the area had once been part of the terrestrial site. Two distinct lines of submerged beachrock suggest major alterations in relative sea level, most probably the result of two earthquakes that saw localised downward movement of the shoreline and the approximately 1m submergence of the ‘harbourside’ area on each occasion. The date of those two seismic episodes is unfortunately not at this time known, but the mapping of various wall lines indicates that the area was above sea level in Classical antiquity. A line of ashlar masonry along the outer line of beachrock, approximately 38m seaward of the current shoreline (and now at a depth of 1.75m), possibly indicates a structure that facilitated docking and waterfront activity; but the area for ships riding at protected anchorage here is significantly less than was formerly assumed.

An alternative anchorage was perhaps to be found in the floodplain that now goes by the name of Asimanis behind the existing arcuate beach (see fig. 2). Hand augering undertaken by an American colleague, Richard Dunn (Norwich University, Vermont), in 1999 indicated that this area was water-filled in Classical antiquity. To what extent this was in historical times a marine embayment, lagoonal basin or simply a marsh we are not presently in a position to say, but it seems almost certain that it was at some point infilled by a depositional process with sediment sourced ultimately from the Sithonian mountain range that rises steeply above the current coastal plains to the east. Whether this occurred at a regular or irregular rate is also to be determined by future geophysical exploration. Electrical resistivity surveys, undertaken in 2015 by Gregory Tsokas and Panagiotis Tsourlos (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki), might suggest that the geological basement of this area could have been at one time, in places, more than 10m below the current level of the floodplain. It will be appreciated that an inlet with such a depth, if it had existed, might have provided a capacious and relatively sheltered haven.

The exact nature and the chronology of the infilling of this area (both Asimanis and the adjoining plain to the north, Perdikos’kia, together with the even larger Rodia basin still further north) remain a matter open to investigation, but the hypothesis which currently most attracts us, after discussions with Konstantinos Vouvalidis and George Syrides (Geology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki), is that the principal element in the geomorphological process responsible for the evolution of the coastal zone here is the fluvial-depositional agency of the Rodia Torrent. Petrologically prominent at this point of the peninsula is hornblende-biotite granodiorite. When dressed, granodiorite serves as a durable building material; in its natural state on mountain tops and slopes, it can degrade into a coarse-grained sediment, much of which is then deposited on the valleys below (figs 3–4).



Fig. 3. Granitic rock in the process of degradation

Of particular interest is the rate at which the transportation of such weathered sediment and the transformation of these basins or onetime inlets occurred. Our modern instinct, understandably conditioned by an awareness of the baleful impact of humankind upon the natural environment and perhaps affected by a sense of ‘ecological undoing’, might excite the suspicion that deforestation – especially in a region valued for the flourishing timber trade in Classical antiquity – exacerbated the process. We must, however, allow the evidence to speak for itself to the extent that is possible. The stratigraphy of the sedimentary layers underlying the current plains has potentially much to reveal in this regard.

#### Further reading

Henry, A. 1993: ‘Thucydides and the topography of Torone’ *Archaiologike Ephemeris*: 107–20

Samioiu, C. et al. 1995: ‘The underwater survey of Torone: A preliminary report of the 1993 season’ *Meditarch* 8: 89–100

Cambitoglou, A. et al. 2001: *Torone I. The Excavations of 1975, 1976, and 1978*. Athens, Archeological Society at Athens

Beness J.L. et al. 2009/10: ‘The coastal topography of ancient Torone’ *Meditarch* 22/23: 69–84

— 2014 [2016]: ‘Torone: the 2015 season’ *Meditarch* 27: 123–31

— 2015/16 [2017]: ‘Torone: the 2016 season’ *Meditarch* 28/29: 141–46

Papadopoulos, A. et al. 2015: ‘Geochemistry of beach sands from Sithonia Peninsula (Chalkidiki, Northern Greece)’ *Mineralogy and Petrology* 109.1: 55–66

Papangelos, I. 1976: ‘Γενικά Σημειώσεις περί την Τορώνη (General notes on Torone)’ *Χρονικά της Χαλκιδικής* 29/30: 67–96.



Fig. 4. Locals are familiar with the sandy deposits that accumulate at the base of the multiple rivulets, streams and channels, draining the mountains behind. Over time, such sedimentary deposition may have formed the base of these plains. This figure shows one of the customarily dry watercourses that cross Perdikos’kia. Note that the traditional topography has been altered by the channelling of such flows under the Sithonia Highway

This leads us to September 2023, when, after years of frustrating delays, due to changing weather patterns and then the worldwide pandemic, a team under the direction of Vouvalides and Syrides with the assistance of Nikos Mertzimekis, an archaeologist from the Chalkidiki and Mount Athos Ephorate of Antiquities, was finally able, by means of a drilling rig, to penetrate to a depth of 8m at the western edge of the current Asimanis marsh (fig. 5). We eagerly await the results of sedimentological analysis. This initial drilling should offer a hint of what such coring might reveal of the taphonomy of the floodplains and the evolution of the landscape. We envisage a more comprehensive paleogeographical and geomorphological investigation of Asimanis and Perdikos’kia (fig. 6) in the future.



Fig. 5. Drilling commences, 18 September 2023 (the peninsula known as the Lekythos can be seen on the distant right)



Fig. 6. The floodplain of Perdikos'kia flooded in 2017 (as seen from the knoll, To Aloni tis Kalogrias, which divides the adjoining floodplains [see fig. 1]). This image may offer an insight, albeit illusory, into the way this valley looked before the formation of the plain. In 2017, the flood waters, flowing from the hills to the right of the picture, were held back by a modern shoreline built up, we believe, in modern times – to a height of approximately two metres above sea-level – to prevent inundation from the sea. The original plan for the highway which can be seen circling around the flooded plain (centre-right) was for the new thoroughfare to cross the plain. That plan was abandoned when the exploratory drilling of the engineers met with mire and seashells to a depth of 9 m (Papangelos 1976: 91 n. 21)

## Report on the 2023 season of excavation at the ancient theatre of Paphos in Cyprus

Craig Barker

In April and May 2023, the Australian archaeological mission to Paphos conducted its 20th season of excavation, and the first since the pandemic, at the Cypriot World Heritage site of Paphos. It is one of several fieldwork projects in the broader Paphos Archaeological Park working under the auspices of the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus. Together, they aim to construct a picture of a large and significant city with urban structures and wealth generated by trade networks centred around Paphos' natural harbour. The Paphos Theatre Archaeological Project (PTAP) is focused on the ancient theatre of Paphos and its surrounding environs to better understand the role this area played in the city's ancient life (fig. 1).

The project is directed by Dr Craig Barker, of the Chau Chak Wing Museum at the University of Sydney. In 2023, the team consisted of archaeologists and students from the University of Sydney and the University of New England in Australia. For the first time in nearly a decade, the excavation team was also joined by the project's founder, University of Sydney Emeritus Professor J. Richard Green, who began excavations here in 1995.

The theatre itself, cut into the southern slope of Fabrika hill in Kato Paphos, is the oldest permanent theatre in Cyprus. Constructed c. 300 BCE, the theatre remained in use as a performance venue until its destruction by an earthquake in the 4th century CE. A number of architectural phases over the Hellenistic and Roman periods have been identified. In recent years, the team has also revealed considerable Roman urban infrastructure in the area surrounding the theatre, including a major paved Roman road running east–west and a *nymphaeum* (water fountain



Fig. 1. The archaeological site of the ancient theatre of Paphos



Fig. 2. The 'Royal Box' overlooking the ancient theatre's orchestra

dedicated to the nymphs) to the south of the theatre. Agricultural, domestic and industrial activities dating to long after the theatre's abandonment have also been uncovered. Ceramic evidence of the so-called gap centuries of Late Antiquity is increasingly being identified in this area, which makes a major contribution to our understanding of this understudied period. The ancient theatre area has also proved significant for our understanding of medieval and post-medieval Cyprus, with evidence of glazed ceramic production, a series of medieval farmsteads and wells, and a significant medieval and post-medieval structure on the top of Fabrika hill.

In 2023, the team opened trenches in three areas of the site. On the remains of the theatre's ancient *cavea* (seating area), along the theatre's central line, the team cleared the bedrock foundation cuts of a Roman era 'Royal Box' (fig. 2). Measuring 6m in length and up to 2.85m wide, the back bedrock-cut wall, which survives to a height of 0.85m, was presumably covered with a marble or painted fresco façade that has not survived. Royal boxes were placed centrally in theatre seating areas and were designed to provide shade and comfort for dignitaries. Examples are known from Roman theatres at sites such as Pergamon, Hierapolis and Herodium. The Paphos example is the first of its type to have been identified from any ancient theatre on Cyprus.

We also resumed work on the large medieval and post-medieval building behind the theatre on the top of Fabrika hill. The structure has now been exposed to over 20 × 25m (fig. 3). Constructed with substantial foundational stone blocks cut into the bedrock, the building



Fig. 3. Wall foundations of the medieval structure on Fabrika hill.

appears to have been at least two storeys high, with two long rooms at ground level and side rooms. Its monumental scale indicates it was an important structure of late medieval and Venetian-era Paphos. The publication of its finds is anticipated in the near future.

This building was constructed over part of an Early Christian cemetery. The location of the cemetery was identified by colleagues from Université d'Avignon and the University of Warsaw, but its size was not known. The identification of bedrock-cut shallow graves was therefore not unexpected by the Australian team, who in the 2023 season pivoted workloads to excavate 14 grave cuts, most likely dating to the 6th or 7th centuries CE. The graves were part of the larger Fabrika cemetery but those excavated in the area of the theatre seem to have been reserved for children and adolescents. Apart from one stone crucifix, no finds were recovered from these shallow grave cuts. Forensic analysis of the deceased will be conducted in 2024 by Cypriot colleagues.

The third area of archaeological investigation was located due south of the theatre and designed to investigate the alignment of east–west running Roman roads within urban Nea Paphos. During a previous Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey, the team had identified a large anomaly of  $4.1 \times 7.6\text{m}$ . A trench was opened to excavate the anomaly and reach the surface of any road in parallel alignment with the area's main paved

road (fig. 4). The excavation successfully revealed that the anomaly represented stone architecture, most likely dating to the medieval or Ottoman periods. Two further lower occupation and accumulation phases suggest that the remains of any Roman-era road have been robbed away, although this will be investigated more fully in future seasons; recovered limestone pavers suggest that there once was a road.

In addition, the 2023 season served as a training season for the student participants, who gained valuable experience of excavation and finds processing, as well as insight into surveying, archaeological photography and drawing, report writing, and skills development as a result of their time with project specialists. For the first time, the project used the Australian Archaeological Skills Passport, which is a professional record of fieldwork skills training that is recognised by the Australian contract archaeology industry. This paves the way for our participants to enter into the contract sector directly upon graduation.

The project also maintained its visual arts collaboration, with this year's artist-in-residence position held by Madeleine Kelly of Sydney College of the Arts. Madeleine and a team of other visual artists from Australia and the UK worked alongside the archaeologists recording their own responses to the site. Their works of art will feature in an exhibition to be held at the Centre of Visual Arts Research (CVAR) in Nicosia in October 2024, with support from the Australian High Commission and the Permsew Foundation.

The Paphos Theatre Archaeological Project acknowledges the generous support of our colleagues in the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus, who have enabled us to continue our work at Paphos while they undertake substantial conservation of the site. The year 2023 marked the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and Cyprus, and the project was honoured to support the Australian High Commission in the recognition of this important anniversary. The team marked the occasion with a lecture on the history of Australian archaeologists on the island delivered by the project's director at the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute (CAARI) in Nicosia on 27 April 2023.

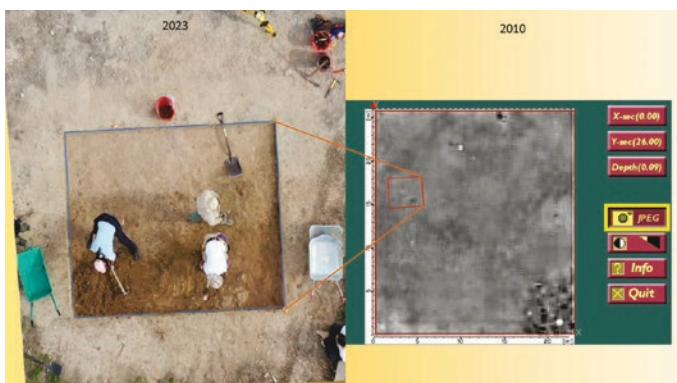


Fig. 4. The trench located to reveal a feature identified in Ground Penetrating Radar investigations (image: Guy Hazell)

## Finds Stories

Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory and Konstantinos Trimmis

Between 2021 and 2023, the AAIA was a lead partner in *Finds Stories: Addressing Mobility through People and Object Biographies*, a transdisciplinary project to examine and narrate the impact mobilities have on human and non-human agents. This three-year project, funded by the European Union as part of an Erasmus+ KA2 grant, explored the ways in which mobility, both physical and social, shapes the lives of individuals, their objects and natural environments. Focusing on intra- and inter-Balkan (southeast European) mobility, it assessed both the ‘stories’ of people who have moved or are still moving across regions, landscapes or borders, and the journeys of objects they have engaged with.

An object biography and itinerary approach, as utilised in this research, provides an indispensable tool for exploring individual material artefacts in a holistic way. It offers the opportunity to investigate the complexities of human-object entanglement, or the meshworks of their interactions, on an individualised scale, with the potential to construct narratives that shed light onto broader social and cultural phenomena. Examining how the things themselves are in an ever-progressing state of becoming, deeply and concurrently connected with the lives and realities of different humans, as well as the itineraries of other things, biographical approaches demonstrate how humans and things can only be understood in conjunction with each other.

Our team included anthropology, archaeology, sociology, education and creative arts researchers from the United Kingdom (University of Bristol, Cardiff Metropolitan University, and Cathays High School), Greece (YMCA Basketball Museum of Thessaloniki; the AAIA), Croatia (Archaeological Museum in Zagreb) and Serbia (International School of Belgrade).

Data collection involved both anthropological and archaeological fieldwork in several locales in Greece and Croatia. Methodologies included traditional archaeological excavation, physical anthropology, ethnography, oral interviews and observational cinema, as well as stable isotope analysis, osteoarchaeology, functional morphology, material culture studies and object biographies. Five hundred objects in total were recorded from the past and present, and 55 people were interviewed.

Kythera was one of our case study zones, and Christina Marini, AAIA Erasmus Fellow, oversaw this component of the project to explore object biography and mobility in living experience (fig. 1).

Despite its location along the main eastern Mediterranean trade routes, Kythera has few natural resources, and its inhabitants have always struggled to survive. As such, one of the most defining characteristics of the island is the impact on it of mass outward migration movements, especially in the early and mid-20th century, to destinations as far away as the USA and Australia. More recently, the



Fig. 1. Christina Marini conducting an interview during fieldwork on Kythera



Fig. 2. Tony and his teapot. The teapot's itinerary includes Britain, the Blue Mountains (Australia) and Kythera (Greece)

influx of work immigrants to the island from countries such as Albania, as well as a growing expat community, have made a significant impact on the island's demographic.

The objects recorded from Kythera belonged to 14 individuals residing on the island, who were either contemporary migrants or return migrants, aged between 45 and 90 years old. Together, they provided 45 objects they felt strong emotional attachments to in relation to their personal or family migration. Items ranged from tableware from Kytherian-owned cafés and milk bars in Australia to children's books from Britain, personal photographs, jewellery, agricultural tools, furniture, and even a 19th-century wooden trunk, Albanian hand-woven textiles, and a juke box from Italy via Austria! Their owners offered accompanying oral testimonies that identified their relational connections and interactions with the objects, and the ways these items linked to their individual, personal migratory journeys.

One such object is a silver teapot manufactured during the second quarter of the 20th century, whose owner is Tony (fig. 2), an Australian of Kytherian descent who returned to Kythera permanently during the Covid-19 pandemic. As a British product, this teapot is deeply entangled with the materiality of British (post)colonialism and the ideological and class-associated matters intertwined with British tea culture. Transported overseas, it became enmeshed in a network of commercial interactions between Britain and Australia, finding its way to an establishment owned by Tony's uncle. Australia's Greek cafés were iconic enterprises, where everyone met, dined and socialised, in both urban centres and remote, rural areas. When interviewed, Tony recalled his vivid childhood memories of his uncle's café and the teapot, which connected him to his family history. Within the context of the Australian café/milk bar, the teapot forms part of the materiality of a pattern of business practice that had a strong impact on both the Australian and the migrant communities.

The latest segment of the teapot's itinerary involves its rediscovery by Tony, in the (later abandoned) building that had housed his uncle's business. It was then incorporated into Tony's household for its intersection with ancestry, family and history, as well as its aesthetic design and good preservation. This resulted in its subsequent transportation to Kythera. Today, the teapot is valued for its emotional and symbolic association with family history and heritage, rather than its utilitarian function. Deprived of its Australian context, the teapot is neither out of place, nor out of time, but instead captures the in-betweenness of the diasporic experience. Thus, in more ways than one, the vessel, along with the materiality of the Greek café as a whole, has helped shape a physical space for the negotiation of hybridised identities at communal and public level, and the mediation of shared practices and imagery.

This and many other object biographies featured in the *Finds Stories* exhibition (fig. 3) at the Archaeological Museum of Zagreb (April–May 2023) and were shared at a research conference titled 'Movement: The Impact of Mobilities to People and Landscapes from Antiquity to the Present Day' (25–27 August, 2023, Samarina, Greece). In addition, primary school resources have been created that unite hands-on experience with the work of artists who used *Finds Stories* object narratives to deliver creative re-interpretations through artistic practice. These particular outputs communicate our results to diverse audiences and highlight alternative paths for engaging with the materiality of past human mobility. More information on *Finds Stories* can be found at <http://www.findsstories.org>.



Fig. 3. Objects from Samarina in the Find Stories exhibition, Archaeological Museum of Zagreb (April–May 2023)



## Athens 2023 Classical Archaeology Intensive Programme – mark two!

Lesley Beaumont



*Students at the Stoa of Attalos, Ancient Agora, with the Director of the Agora excavations, John K. Papadopoulos*

Having received 120 applications for a coveted place on our January 2023 offering of the AAIA and University of Sydney's collaborative Athens Classical Archaeology Intensive Programme, we ventured for the first time since the inception of the programme in 2007 to repeat it in June/July. This meant not only dealing with the daily challenge of temperatures in excess of 30°C, but also competing with thousands of tourists whenever we visited a major archaeological venue such as the Acropolis or the National Archaeological Museum.

But our 21 student participants were absolute stalwarts. Led by Lesley Beaumont (Archaeology, University of Sydney) and Stavros Paspalas (Deputy Director, AAIA), and with excellent catering and pastoral care provided by Panagiota Korobli (Administrative Officer, AAIA), they completed the three-week programme with great enthusiasm and energy.

The majority of the student cohort who were completing the Programme for credit towards their degree were undergraduates from the University of Sydney. We also welcomed four students from each of the universities of Newcastle, Melbourne and Western Australia and one from Macquarie University. The group also included four University of Sydney postgraduate students, with the addition of a high school teacher of ancient history.

The three packed weeks of lectures and site and museum visits focused on the archaeology of Athens and Attica in the 6th and 5th centuries BCE. One of the programme highlights was making every tourist on the Acropolis green with envy when our group was granted permission to go inside the Parthenon. Other highlights included being granted private access to the closed north slopes of the Acropolis and its numerous cave sanctuaries, being treated to a generous and expert tour of the monuments of the Athenian Agora by the Agora excavation director, John Papadopoulos (UCLA), and being bewitched by not only the many archaeological treasures but also the stunning natural beauty of the Sanctuary of Apollo at Delphi on a warm summer evening after all the tourists had left.

Our postgraduate students in Museum and Heritage Studies also enjoyed the wonderful opportunity to meet and talk, over a specially arranged dinner, with their Greek postgraduate peers from the University of Athens, forging contacts and knowledge that would not otherwise have been possible.

Perhaps the favourite extra-curricular activity of all was sitting under the stars on the sun-warmed stone seats of the open-air ancient Odeon of Herodes Atticus on the south slopes of the Acropolis, while being treated to a magical performance by the Anouar Brahem Quartet!

## Athens 2023 intensive: the student experience

Roxanne Loughland

On a cold, rainy Saturday in April, a group of university students, at the time strangers to each other, were crowded around a conference table at the University of Sydney's Madsen Building. Lesley Beaumont looked around at the participants in the orientation evening and laughed, 'You won't believe how close you're all going to be by the end of this.' On a balmy night at a taverna in Athens nearly three months later, the tearful farewells exchanged by that same group testified to the accuracy of her statement.

The AAIA/University of Sydney's June-July intensive programme consisted of three weeks that certainly lived up to its name, as we sweated, hiked and explored through the summer chaos that is the ever-fascinating metropolis of Athens. Yet, our labours were certainly rewarded, as we were able not only to observe but to interact first-hand with the archaeological marvels of Classical Athens and surrounding Attica. Although these experiences were numerous, a number of highlights are particularly unforgettable.

After being carried along with the summer crowd to the peak of the Acropolis, we were able to detach from the tourists and enter the Parthenon itself. The group was awestruck by the sheer scale of the monument we had just entered; we could touch the very columns of the ancient temple that had become so ubiquitous an image in our university courses. All of this on just the second day.

We stood upon the Pnyx, the very spot where orators like Demosthenes would have delivered their orations to the democratic assembly. Greek texts that I had once translated in class became a tangible reality of ancient Athens.

We were regaled with a private tour of the Agora by the current director of excavations, John Papadopoulos. Not only were we lucky enough to receive his extensive knowledge of the site, we were also granted a faithful recitation of Lord Byron at the Temple of Athena and Hephaestus, 'Place me on Sunium's marbled steep, Where nothing, save the waves and I, May hear our mutual murmurs sweep; There, swan-like, let me sing and die...'

An overnight stay at the panhellenic sanctuary of Delphi, home of the famous Pythia, conveyed to us why the site possessed such religious importance, as the haunting beauty of the mountain landscape undeniably evoked within us a sense of the divine.

We scrambled our way down into the Cave of Pan at Vari, a subterranean religious sanctuary sponsored by the nympholept Archedemos, and were awarded another exclusive tour, by Alexandra Mari of the Ephorate of Palaeoanthropology and Speleology.

These are merely a handful of the myriad experiences that comprised our course. As an archaeology student, they were invaluable to my understanding of an ancient world I had previously only studied on paper. Exploring them accompanied by the sagacity of Stavros Paspalas and Lesley Beaumont, and a cohort of bright and enthusiastic history students, was enriching beyond expectation.

Athens became a home away from home under the caring eye of our collective 'mother' Panagiota Korompli, and it was with a true sadness that I left my newfound friends on 7 July, filled with an urge to return to the wonders of our Greek world once again.

Sanju Vairav

Throughout this trip, I felt dwarfed. Dwarfed by the monumental temples, sprawling caves, vast landscapes, and the richness of the culture which we were learning about. I was lucky enough to be a part of the mid-year version of the Athens Intensive Programme, undertaking it for postgraduate credit whilst also being a high school history and geography teacher. Experiencing Greece in summer involved long, hot days, wildflowers blooming and, of course, the peak summer crowds.

Our climb up Lykabettos Hill on the first day left us with no doubt that our endurance and fitness would be put to the test! We were also immediately immersed in the way of life, catching the metros, drinking freshly

squeezed orange juice, and eating gyros and gelato very often. I was fortunate to be staying at the Finnish Institute's hostel with the other postgraduate students and had access to the British School at Athens' vast library. Along with the British School's resident dog Chewie and library cat Calliopi, we enjoyed meeting so many animals on our trip, with nearly every archaeological site featuring cats, dogs and even tortoises.

We were the envy of many when we had the privilege to step inside the Parthenon itself. I found the oddly shaped nearby Erechtheion with its karyatids equally incredible. This visit to the Acropolis solidified my postgraduate presentation and research essay topic, 'Korai, karyatids

and the Parthenon frieze: *parthenoi* on the Athenian Acropolis. Private dedications and public representations'. Throughout the trip, I was looking for evidence of *parthenoi* (maidens) in museums, archaeological sites and libraries. A highlight for me was sitting directly across from the karyatids in the Acropolis Museum's study section, whilst writing my presentation and essay on them!

Other memorable sites included mysterious Eleusis and its new museum, clambering up the fortress of Eleutherai and living out our Assassin's Creed dreams, and visiting the Temple of Poseidon at Sounion (fittingly surrounded by water on three sides). We visited peaceful sanctuaries such as the Amphiareion at Oropos and the Sanctuary of Artemis at Brauron. Experiencing these sites in summer was a special treat, with birds chirping and gentle winds blowing in the leaves. Delphi was the epitome of this, and it was a surreal experience seeing where the Pythia would have once been. We could truly grasp why it was called the 'navel of the world', nestled between mountains on three sides and looking out onto the Gulf of Corinth in the distance.

We saw not only many large sacred spaces but also smaller cave sanctuaries. We were lucky enough to have special access to climb up and see the caves on the north slope of the Acropolis, as well as to climb down into the Cave of Pan at Vari. Later we were shown around the Athenian Agora by the Director, John Papadopoulos, and even caught a glimpse of the previous Director, and textbook author *extraordinaire*, John Camp!

With weekends to ourselves, I explored Aegina, Mycenae and Epidaurus, fostering and cementing friendships with my fellow participants. Thanks to Lesley, we

were able to meet with fellow postgraduate students from the University of Athens, and we thoroughly enjoyed talking with them about their projects and comparing our studies. In more ways than one, this trip brought history and archaeology to life. We participated in a hands-on pottery session at the British School, handling the pottery that has long been admired from behind museum cabinets. Having seen the Odeon by day at the beginning of the trip, a group of us saw it by night at the end when we attended a jazz quartet as part of the Athens and Epidaurus Festival, which runs every summer. It was truly like being transported to an ancient choral or musical performance, in situ. We also saw so many artefacts that had previously been encountered only on a page or in lecture slides, such as the Nikandre kore, the Phrasikleia kore, the Charioteer of Delphi, and the so-called Mask of Agamemnon.

I will be taking what I have learned from all these sites, museums, lectures and experiences to my students in Sydney. Hopefully my photos and stories will enliven the richness of ancient Greece, inspiring the students to immerse themselves in its enchanting world of history and myth. The programme has certainly inspired me to keep pursuing my passion for archaeology and museums.

Thank you so much to Lesley Beaumont, Stavros Paspalas and Panagiota Korompli for an unforgettable trip. Lesley and Stavros' passion for Greek archaeology shone through, whether it was for the statues at Brauron or for tripods. And Panagiota took care of us every step of the way, no doubt preventing serious dehydration and heat exhaustion! Thank you to all the friends I made and continue to have because of this trip.



*Discovering the ancient fortress at Eleutherai*



*Sanju Vairav*

## The AAIA 2023–2024 Athens Fellowship

Alyce Cannon



Where to begin? I have been thinking about writing this piece for several months and have consistently struggled to find the words to adequately express the myriad emotions and opportunities I have experienced while the 2023–2024 Research Fellow of the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens. I applied for the fellowship at the end of a difficult year. My stepmother had passed away and I was struggling with work/life balance. I needed an opportunity to dedicate myself wholeheartedly to my research and to, finally, finish my PhD. The Research Fellowship afforded me the time, resources, and space to complete the final draft of my dissertation while living in an impressive institute space in one of the loveliest suburbs in Athens. For Australia-based classicists and ancient historians, studying an ancient society 2,000 years removed and on the other side of the world means that we must be extra aware of our own contexts, biases and perspectives. Fellowships such as those from the AAIA enable students like me to transport ourselves literally, contextually and temporally to those areas where otherwise we could only rely on books, social media or Google Earth. My sincere and heartfelt thanks to the AAIA for awarding me this fellowship, for which I am grateful and humbled.

For the past 12 months I have lived at the AAIA in Koukaki, Athens. Typically, I begin my day with a freddo cappuccino from the café in the square adjacent to the hostel. I then stroll the short 150m up the road to the cobblestone pathways that lead to the Acropolis, where

I sit and watch passers-by, Athenians walking their dogs and buskers playing violins or harmonicas. I then walk back to the hostel, open my laptop, and pick up wherever my research has left off. Seeing the dogs in the morning is a crucial part of my daily routine. This is because my PhD has examined the ways that Athenians in the Classical period interacted with, conceptualised and commodified dogs and how these interactions can build on knowledge gaps around Classical Greek social history. The first time I visited Athens, over a decade ago, there were considerably more street dogs, now overtaken by an abundance of well-fed and cared-for local cats. Athens has long had a rich and dynamic history with dogs, and its antiquity was little different. A variety of types of dogs lived in and around the city, in rural areas, and throughout Greece.

Dogs were hunting companions, guards and watchers, companion animals, objects of food, sacrifice and leather, as well as metaphors, similes and figurative characters. They were so embedded in everyday life, thought and practice that even political figures like Cleon of Athens fashioned themselves and their politicking as akin to ‘dogs of the people’. Youths and men brought lean and sleek sighthound-type dogs from Laconia and Crete into the gymnasium and palaestra or exchanged them as courtship gifts. Husbands purchased expensive, large and formidable Molossus dogs to guard their houses and prevent their wives from extra-marital activities. Infants, toddlers and young children played with small, white and fluffy Melitaion dogs, teased them with snacks, fastened them to little carts, and were

buried with images of them on their stelai. While Athenian naval military strategy did not allow for dogs on board, there were several examples of other Greek cities using them in battle, not only as combatants but also as guards, messengers and sacrifices to military gods. Philosophers like Plato and Diogenes of Sinope incorporated dogs into their philosophical thinking and practices around how to live ethically, communally and in accordance with natural laws. Let us not forget that without dogs, there would never have been the Cynics! Not only this, but dogs were also part of the animal economy in Athens as their skins were used for leather and their bodies for meat, healing and sacrificial purposes. Dogs were completely embedded with the Classical Athenian way of life, its *nomoi*, rituals and practices. Because of this, they offer us a unique vantage point on alternative aspects of Athenian history such as class, gender, age, interpersonal relationships, medicine and religion.

There is still so much to be learned from the dogs of ancient Greek history and the impacts that they had on social, political and ritual life. I have merely scratched the surface, and what I was able to do during my fellowship has significantly enriched my research. I participated in the Paphos Theatre excavation in Cyprus with Craig Barker and the dedicated team in April 2023, which provided important insight into the happenings at several fantastic dig sites that Australian archaeologists manage across Greece and Cyprus (fig. 1). I travelled to England, Scotland and Ireland to document miniature Athenian *choes* vases with tiny dogs painted on them. I was given special access to the Acropolis Museum collection to photograph statues of dogs from the Athenian Asclepion and little canid figurines from the Agora. I met with several academics living in Athens who also work in the ancient animal space, which was inspiring and informative. In my spare time, I travelled to Corinth, Mycenae, Olympia, Meteora, Kea (fig. 2), Syros, Aigina (fig. 3), Agistri and Patra to visit their archaeological and historically significant sites and museums. In these journeys, I met many people, locals and other professionals, and gained much valuable insight into local



Fig. 1. At the Nea Paphos theatre excavations



Fig. 2. The Temple of Athena, Karthaia, Kea



Fig. 3. The Temple of Aphaia, Aigina

histories, folklore and, of course, village food and *tsipouro*. A PhD, especially in its final year, can be a stressful and isolating time, but I was fortunate to have met many people and fostered a support and friendship network here – most of that is due to the special hospitality, kindness and friendliness of Greek people. Moreover, my time researching in Athens with the AAIA has convinced me that my professional future is in Greece and continuing my research on ancient dogs. My special thanks to AAIA Director, Tamar Hodos, for encouraging me to pursue post-doctoral research to develop my archaeological skillset so I can identify specific ancient Greek dog breeds and for connecting me with researchers in the field.

In all, the AAIA Research Fellowship has been a rewarding and invaluable part of my academic journey, and I am delighted for future scholars who might also benefit from this scheme. My thanks once again to Tamar, Lita, Stavros, Panagiota and Mirto for making my fellowship comfortable, supported and the most enjoyable experience of my life thus far.

## The 2023 Polymnia and Aimilia Kallinikos Scholarship

Rory McLennan

My project seeks to use samples of ancient Greek waterproof mortar linings, together with contemporary epigraphic and written evidence, to explore the development and spread of Greek water infrastructure across the Mediterranean. A major part of my study focuses on the water infrastructure of Greek colony sites in Sicily, where it remains unclear if a regional mortar industry existed, or if the industry was focused locally, with methods and resources being specific to each site. To address this research question, I have begun to compare the waterproof lining technology of three key Greek colonies in Sicily: Selinunte, Akragas and Morgantina. The aim of this comparison is to identify similarities and differences in the lining technology of each site and to also explore the broader socio-economic causes behind technological innovation and variation. By studying this aspect of the water supply I hope to identify what ancient water management practices were previously successful, and if any of these could be reintroduced to modern Mediterranean communities to mitigate the effects of an increasingly arid and volatile climate.

To achieve this, I am relying on a diverse range of evidence, including literary accounts, archaeological material, and scientific data produced from instrumental analyses. With the generous support of the Polymnia and Aimilia Kallinikos Scholarship, I have been able to collect waterproof linings from the three Greek colony sites and have begun laboratory analysis. The fieldwork for this project involved visiting Selinunte, Akragas and Morgantina in September of 2023 and documenting, through photography and extensive note taking, what waterproof lining technology was present at each site. From my study, I was able to find and record several important civic water features which contained waterproof linings suitable for sampling. With permission of the director of each archaeological park, I carefully removed small portions of damaged waterproof linings, prioritising the collection of loose pieces whenever possible, which would later be analysed in the laboratory.

At Selinunte, finding intact waterproof linings from Greek-period water features was difficult. The conquest and settlement of Selinunte by the Carthaginians during the Sicilian Wars resulted in many early water features being built over or relined. Luckily, the water channels of the so-called 'Temple M' were found to be intact. The

building on this site remains one of the least explored areas of Selinunte, and was initially thought to be a temple, but has since been described as a monumental fountain dated to the 6th century BCE. The fountain was constructed at the base of the Gaggera Hill, which is home to a spring. The two underground water channels that were sampled for my study run parallel to the fountain complex and likely channelled water from the hilltop spring to the large cistern on the site. Analysing the linings of these water channels will provide important insight into very early Greek waterproofing technology in Sicily.

The survival of Greek water features at Akragas was again impacted by conflict and resettlement with Carthaginian and Roman communities, but thankfully, some features could still be investigated and sampled. The prosperous colony had a sophisticated civic water system which relied on a series of rock-cut, underground aqueducts to supply the city with potable water. This potable water was channelled to several locations, including the site's famous *Kolymbethra* (a large pool and, later, garden). However, rainwater was also clearly exploited, as shown by the large cistern/pool associated with the Olympieion (fig. 1). This 5th-century BCE temple to Olympian Zeus is the largest in Sicily and the largest Doric temple in the Mediterranean. The cistern/pool associated with it is suitably monumental. The cistern/pool associated with it is suitably monumental. Collecting two samples from this water storage feature has made it possible to contrast its lining technology with the earlier linings of the water channels of 'Temple M' at Selinunte.

Finally, several samples were collected from the 3rd-century BCE North Baths of Morgantina. This bath complex is highly significant as it represents the earliest known use of above-ground vaults in the Mediterranean. However, the waterproofing technology of this innovative bath has not been thoroughly explored. By taking samples of the mortars used for the vault, floors and walls of the North Baths (fig. 2), my study will investigate if and how mortar technology on the site had substantially changed compared to earlier Greek water infrastructure in Sicily, and what role this may have had in enabling the bath's innovative architecture.

The samples collected in September of 2023 are currently being investigated using several instrumental analysis techniques, including petrographic and scanning electron microscopy (SEM), digital image analysis (DIA)



*Fig. 1. Pool/cistern of the Olympieion in Akragas*



*Fig. 2. Collapsed vault of the North Baths of Morgantina. The ceramic tubes were bound with mortar and used as ribs to support the vault of the bath*

and energy dispersive spectroscopy (EDS). Once the scientific analysis of samples from all three sites has been completed, their technological features will be compared, and any differences or similarities recorded. This intra-site comparison of mortar technology will be the first of its kind in Sicily and will provide a framework for further

multi-site mortar studies to occur in the Mediterranean. Comparing mortar technology between these Sicilian Greek colony sites and mainland Greece will also reveal if an inter-regional mortar industry existed in the ancient Mediterranean, or if the industry was focused locally, with methods and resources being specific to each site.

## Olympia: recent excavations and restorations by the German Archaeological Institute at the Sanctuary of Zeus

Reinhard Senff, Emeritus Director Olympia Excavations

During the first major excavation campaign at Olympia, from 1875 to 1881, the central part of the sanctuary, the so-called Altis, with many buildings mentioned in ancient literature, came to light. Excavations were resumed in 1936 with the aim of fully exposing and studying the sites central to ancient athletics. Today the Sanctuary of Zeus has been investigated to a large extent, but many questions still remain open.

For this reason, special research programmes have been undertaken in recent decades. Between 1987 and 1996, Helmut Kyrieleis and Jörg Rambach achieved important results as regards a better understanding of the sanctuary's early history through an extensive excavation near the so-called Pelopion (Sanctuary of Pelops) between the temples of Zeus and Hera.

At the same time, a project led by Ulrich Sinn explored the history of the sanctuary in the Hellenistic and Roman periods. Several extensive bath-like complexes demonstrate how the sanctuary's infrastructure was gradually enhanced for the benefit of visitors.

Most of these facilities are situated in the southern part of the sanctuary, and one of the aims of the new excavations was to find out more about the process of Olympia's enhancement from the earlier periods onwards. From 2008 to 2014, a number of trenches were opened south of the Stadium (fig. 1) and in 2016 and 2017, south of the South Stoa. This porch-like building faces towards the south, where the 2nd-century CE traveller Pausanias mentions altars of Zeus Agoraios and Artemis Agoraia, indicating that an agora, a meeting and marketplace, was located here. The many bronze weights intended for commercial purposes found in this region, some of them inscribed with the name of Zeus, support this conclusion.

In the lowest levels, which date to the Archaic and Classical periods (7th to 4th centuries BCE), the most important finds were a number of wells. As had already been shown by the older excavations, the whole area is perforated with hundreds of simple shafts of several metres depth. They were dug into the soft ground, without any further stabilisation, to provide clean water for those who visited the Games for a few weeks every Olympiad. They were therefore in use for only a very short period.



Fig. 1. Excavation south of the stadium (photo: R. Senff)

The fill of the wells provides important information concerning the activities and the diet of the visitors, as it consists of broken vessels, cooking implements and also the bones of the animals consumed. In addition, other unusable objects, older dedications, were discarded within them. Many of these are weapons, helmets, spearheads, shields and other items of armour, which once had been set up as victory monuments, especially on the embankments of the Stadium.

Next to the wells a number of fireplaces and ash pits show that meals were prepared here. The necessary cooking tools and implements like iron spits and firedogs have been found in considerable numbers.

Excavations have demonstrated that the area south of the Stadium housed metal and pottery production facilities, as indicated by metal and ceramic slags and wasters, while the remains of a potter's kiln of Late Roman date was found at the South Stoa. These workshops would have functioned in the periods between the Games, when the whole area was not being used as a camping ground. Thus we can state that the southern part of the sanctuary was used for the accommodation of visitors and commercial activities every five years during the Olympic Games and for temporary workshops in the intervening periods.

Recent excavations have not been limited to the two major projects just mentioned; we have also tried to answer other questions. At the South Stoa, some 50 marble step blocks were discovered which once had belonged to the



stoa now known in English as the Echo Hall. Like many other architectural elements, they had been removed and reused in a fortress that was hastily constructed in Late Antiquity between the Temple of Zeus and the South Stoa, probably to protect the statue of the god, one of the wonders of the Ancient World, and other treasures from invading barbarians. The precise date of the fortress' construction is still a matter of debate, but a small sondage carried out in 2008 in the last remaining tower brought to light a coin of the emperor Maximinus Thrax (235–38 CE), so the fortress must have been built after the coin was minted.

Another unanswered question concerned the Stadium. Although it seems to have been completely excavated and restored in the years prior to 1962, it still contains surprises. Jürgen Schilbach discovered two enigmatic constructions north and south of the starting line in the west which had not been explored before. In order to solve the riddle as to their function he opened two trenches and found two deep shafts, partly constructed with reused blocks of the starting line. Coins inside the shafts indicate that they were used in the time from the emperor Domitian to Caracalla; that is, c. 81–200 CE.

The purpose of these shafts was clarified by the discovery of an enormous weight, 235kg of solid lead, in the southernmost one (fig. 2). Its peculiar shape and its tubular perforation, through which a rope could be passed, indicate that it was probably part of a starting mechanism, which we know in a simpler form from the stadia of Nemea and Isthmia.

Such a starting mechanism was also used in the Hippodrome which lay exactly south of the Stadium. The mechanism was famous in antiquity, and we even know its inventor, the engineer Kleoitas of Athens. Pausanias also gives us a detailed description of the Hippodrome. In an attempt to locate it, geophysical investigations were carried out in 2008 and 2009. The subsurface anomalies



*Fig. 2. Stadium: lead weight in southern shaft (photo: R. Senff)*



*Fig. 3. Reconstructed northern column of the Ptolemaic Monument (photo: R. Senff)*

detected during the survey, however, were natural geological formations, and it seems that the Hippodrome was completely destroyed by the river Alpheios, which has changed its course several times since antiquity.

Victory in a chariot race, in which aristocrats were especially keen to participate, was one of the most prestigious successes at Olympia. In the Classical period famous statesmen from Athens and Sparta or tyrants from Sicily used the victories to promote their fame. Later, rulers like Philip II of Macedon and, in the Hellenistic period, kings such as the Ptolemies followed in a similar fashion. Philip left an impressive building in the form of a round temple at Olympia, and Ptolemy II and his wife Arsinoe were honoured with two high marble columns in front of the Echo Hall. Neither the written historical tradition nor inscriptions tell us the reason for these expensive dedications, but victory in a chariot race is at least a possibility, as all of them (including Arsinoe) had been victorious at least once. Both monuments have recently been partially reconstructed and provide the visitors with a better understanding of the original form of these structures (figs 3 and 4).

Thus excavations, continuous research and site management constantly remain the most important activities of the German Archaeological Institute at Olympia.



Fig. 4. The Philippeion (photo: R. Senff)

**Further reading**

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## Special Australian tour and screening of two Greek films

Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory

Between 10 and 28 March 2023, Greek film director Giorgos Didymiotis and archaeologist Dr Kyriaki Psaraki were invited to Australia by the AAIA to present two award-winning film productions by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture. The films focus on antiquities in the Archaeological Museum of Kythera, as well as broader archaeological and heritage-related issues. Presentations were held at the University of Sydney, in conjunction with the Chau Chak Wing Museum; at the University of Queensland, in collaboration with the Queensland Friends of the AAIA; and at the Australian National University, in collaboration with the ANU (Canberra) Friends of the AAIA. The visit was generously supported by the Nicholas Anthony Aroney Trust.

The first film, in English, was *I am the Lion of Kythera*, a 10-minute mixed media documentary originally screened as part of the permanent exhibit of the Archaic marble lion in the Archaeological Museum of Kythera. It recounts the adventures of this emblematic sculpture from the 19th century, when it was located on the ramparts of the castle in Chora, until its placement in the current exhibition.

The second film, in Greek with English subtitles, was *Inhabiting Summers of History*, a 50-minute documentary that follows the journey of the return of antiquities from the Archaeological Museum of Piraeus to the newly renovated Archaeological Museum of Kythera. The film invites the viewer on a journey of personal reflection and an existential search that explores our relationship with history and the past, and our place within a continuously transforming historical context.

Around the country, both screenings were attended by a broad audience, including academics, artists, members of the Greek community and the general public, and followed by lively Q&A sessions.

In addition, in both Sydney and Brisbane, Dr Psaraki gave public presentations on ancient Piraeus and the recent finds from the Tram and Metro salvage excavations by the Greek Archaeological Service, conducted under her supervision. She also had an opportunity to tour the Rocks, Cumberland Street, the National Maritime Museum and the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, guided by archaeologist Helen Nicholson, and to meet and hold heritage-related discussions with Anita Yousif (Heritage archaeologist and President of the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology-ASHA).



A still shot from the animated film *I am the Lion of Kythera* (left); poster of the film *Inhabiting Summers of History* (right)

## Vale Graeme W. Clarke AO FAHA (1934–2023)

Stavros A. Paspalas



Graeme Clarke was an impressively accomplished academic, teacher and administrator, who dedicated a lifetime to the study of the ancient Mediterranean world, through which Australia and, indeed, the global community benefitted. His death was a blow to many, including the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens, of which he was a Council member from 1982 and a member of the Executive Board from 2007 until his death. His long-term involvement with the AAIA stands as testimony to his belief in its goals and his recognition of its achievements. In his person, Graeme encapsulated many of the research fields which the AAIA promotes: archaeology, history and literature to name but a few.

Graeme was by birth and upbringing a New Zealander. On completing his BA and MA with first class honours (and accolades) in Ancient Greek and Latin at the University of Auckland, he went on to Oxford to continue his studies. However, before relocating to the UK he established enduring links with Australia by teaching Classics for two terms at the Canberra University College (incorporated into the Australian National University in 1960). He returned to Australia in 1961, to a lectureship at ANU; from 1964 to 1966 he was a Senior Lecturer at the University of Western Australia, and in 1967–1968 he held an Associate Professorship at Monash University. In 1969, he was appointed Professor of Classics at the University of Melbourne, a position he held through to 1981. In 1982, he took up the position of Professor of Classical Studies at ANU and the Deputy

Directorship of that university's Humanities Research Centre; from 1990 through to 1999 Graeme was the Director of the Centre.

In all these academic posts, Graeme successfully promoted engagement with Greek and Roman studies, understood broadly, with the aim of comprehending how the societies which formed these cultures operated and how they interacted with their neighbours. He was not a scholar restricted by narrow horizons. On the contrary, he was open to the examination, consideration and analysis of all categories of evidence which bore upon his chosen topic, and was more than willing to adopt new methods and techniques developed in the ever-changing world of scholarship. Important additions made to the museum of the University of Melbourne's Classical Studies department under Graeme's stewardship eloquently illustrate his interest in approaching the ancient world through various channels.

Graeme began his academic life with groundbreaking analyses of the surviving letters of the mid-3rd-century CE bishop Cyprian of Carthage. His numerous publications on this voluminous body of texts stand as a milestone in Patristic studies and shed light on various aspects of the broader world of early Christianity. Indeed, Late Antiquity (approximately the late 3rd through to the 7th century CE) was to remain a primary focus of research for Graeme throughout his academic life as he strove to understand the people of the period, and their beliefs and world views along with the various

ways in which they lived their lives, be it in north Africa, the Aegean or elsewhere in the Greco-Roman world and neighbouring regions.

As an archaeologist, Graeme's greatest contribution is the fieldwork he directed at the Syrian site known to locals as Jebel Khalid. This plateau on the western bank of the Euphrates had not been investigated before Graeme and co-director Peter Connor, from the University of Melbourne, started excavations in 1987, after Graeme had discovered the site in 1984. Their initial examinations determined that it was a particularly well-preserved Hellenistic fortress town. Founded in the early 3rd century BCE, it was a town of the Seleukid kingdom, the state that Seleukos I, one of Alexander the Great's generals, carved out for himself and which encompassed many of the regions conquered in the East by the legendary Macedonian king. The Australian excavations continued through to 2010, and after the sudden death of Peter Connor in 1996, Graeme steered their direction. With help from his team, he ensured that the excavation findings were published in an exemplary fashion as numerous academic

papers and seven major volumes. The site, via those areas excavated to date, including the Acropolis, the Temple site and the Palaistra, offers a unique view into how Greek institutions and culture developed, in dialogue with local cultures, on the banks of the Euphrates.

Graeme received many accolades throughout his long and productive career, as well exemplified by his Order of Australia, awarded in 2009. Far earlier, though, he had been elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy, characteristically contributing a great deal to the Academy's endeavours, just as he did to other organisations dedicated to the promotion of Classical Studies and the humanities. His enthusiastic involvement in the AAIA, from its very early years, is just one instance of his vision and dedication.

Certainly, all who knew Graeme – as a generous colleague, teacher, friend, mentor – will feel his loss very keenly. This is especially the case at the AAIA. Graeme's contribution to Classical Studies in Australia is simply inestimable. Our condolences to his family and many friends.

## The AAIA Friends and Australian public engagement events 2023

Compiled by Stavros A. Paspalas

There is no doubt that 2023 was a busy year for the AAIA's various Friends organisations around the country as we all entered into a 'living with Covid' mode, if not an exactly post-Covid world. I must thank Christopher Griffiths (Brisbane), Spiros Sarris (Adelaide), Robert Clark (Hobart), Elizabeth Minchin (Canberra) and Brian Cleary (Athens) for their reports, which provided the raw material for the following texts.

### Queensland Friends of the AAIA

Christopher Griffiths reports that 2023 was a very successful, as well as significant, year for the QFAAIA, which saw a new funding venture as well as the reinvigoration of its relations with the Brisbane Greek Community.

The year opened with the screening of two films by the Kytherian filmmaker Giorgos Didymiotis on the archaeology of the island. Giorgos was accompanied by Dr Kyriaki Psaraki, the archaeologist of the Greek Ministry of Culture and Sports with direct responsibility for archaeological developments on the island. The films, *Inhabiting Summers of History* and *The Lion*

*of Kythera* were very well received, and discussion, which benefitted from the varying perspectives of the filmmaker and the archaeologist, continued well into the lunch that followed the screening. Thanks must here be extended to the Nicholas Anthony Aroney Trust which supported the AAIA's initiative to bring Giorgos and Kyriaki to Australia.

The QFAAIA was very pleased to host an event at which the poet, Hellenophile and long-term AAIA supporter Jena Woodhouse and University of Queensland students Nicola Tuxworth-Paterson and Hannah Watson shared their experiences on the theme 'Travels around Greece'. Jena had presented her poetry, inspired by Greece, in 2023 and was asked to return by popular demand. Nicola and Hannah had participated in the University's biennial study tour of Greece led by Dr Amelia Brown. The members of the QFAAIA were very pleased to hear about the experience of the two students, whom it had assisted with travel costs as part of the Friends' ongoing commitment to supporting Classics and Ancient History students pursuing Greek studies.



Fig. 1. A tour with Rhyl Hinwood of the University of Queensland's Great Court

An event with a more local character was held in July. Despite the chilly day, 20 members and guests of the QFAAIA had the opportunity to take a guided tour of the University of Queensland's Great Court, an impressive architectural element of the campus, famed for its grotesques. The group was led by Rhyl Hinwood, a renowned Queensland sculptor who actually created many of the grotesques which were the focus of attention (fig. 1).

In September, the QFAAIA had the pleasure of welcoming the 2023 Gale Visiting Professor, Professor Reinhard Senff and the opportunity to learn of developments at the Ancient Olympia excavations from the man who had directed many of them. Much interest was generated among QFAAIA members by his lecture, and pleasant conversations pertaining to it continued at the lunch to which he and his wife Doris were invited.

The year's activities closed with the dramatic presentation *Stories of the Olympian Gods*. A group of members led by Con O'Brien and comprised of Keith Bichel, Helen Griffiths and Elicia Penman presented extracts from ancient and modern literature, accompanied by images that told of the Olympian pantheon. The QFAAIA are truly fortunate to have members prepared to commit to the research and preparation of such a presentation. The public's appreciation of the event is indicated by the fact that it was the year's most successful fundraiser.

A major 2024 development saw the QFAAIA join with the R.D. Milns Antiquities Museum (University of Queensland) to fund a five-year programme of annual assistance to a postgraduate student undertaking a research project based on the museum's Greek holdings.

As regards organisational matters, the QFAAIA warmly welcomed Mr George Psaltis as its newest committee member. Mr Psaltis represents the Greek Cultural Committee, and his appointment fills a long-term vacancy.

The Friends were also very happy to welcome the AAIA's new Director, Professor Tamar Hodos. Brisbane Greek Community members as well as the QFAAIA Executive Committee members had the pleasure of meeting Professor Hodos, as well as Professor Senff, at a dinner organised by University of Queensland's Professor Alastair Blanshard.

The future looks bright and the QFAAIA approaches it with confidence.

### South Australian Friends of the AAIA

In the earlier part of 2023, Spiros Sarris delivered the lecture 'The Greek Columns of Adelaide' – in effect, a virtual walk through the city's neo-classical architecture – to two very appreciative audiences, the first assembled as part of Adelaide's Festival Hellenika and the second comprised of eager Year 9 students of the Greek language class at Adelaide High School.

September saw the visit to Adelaide by the AAIA's 2023 Gale Visiting Professor, Professor Reinhard Senff, whose public presentations were warmly received. At the University of Adelaide, he spoke on the recent results of the German excavations at Olympia, and at an event organised by the SA Friends in conjunction with the Festival Hellenika at the Greeks of Egypt and Middle East Hall, his lecture focused on Aphrodite and the excavations at her sanctuary in the important Ionian city of Miletos. Professor Senff and his wife were warmly shown many of Adelaide's sights, and his schedule also included an interview on Adelaide's 5EBI FM Greek radio programme.

The SA Friends were delighted that the AAIA's new Director, Professor Tamar Hodos, and its Engagement and Outreach Officer, Theodora Gianniotis, visited during Professor Senff's time in Adelaide. It was a great opportunity to personally welcome Professor Hodos, and to engage with both on future directions.

### The Tasmanian Friends of the AAIA

In 2023, the Tasmanian Friends facilitated two major events in Hobart. The first of these, an outstanding lecture by the AAIA's Engagement and Outreach Officer Theodora Gianniotis, was held as part of the Greek Estia Festival in February. The title of Theodora's lecture was 'The Parthenon Marbles: The Whitewashing of History', and in it she examined many aspects of the Marbles' modern history. The lecture was very well received and lively conversation continued during the dinner which followed. During her visit, Theodora had the opportunity to meet with many of the Friends and members of Hobart's Greek Community, with a view to cementing ever closer ties.

In August, the Tasmanian Friends and Philhellenes more generally welcomed the Gale Visiting Professor, Professor Reinhard Senff, and his wife Doris to Hobart.

Professor Senff delivered a very informative lecture at the University of Tasmania, in which he explained how Miletos was one of the most important Greek cities of the Archaic period, a commercial powerhouse as well as a remarkable centre of science and philosophy. The city's vital maritime affairs were overseen by one of its primary deities, Aphrodite. The lecture was very much appreciated, and the Friends enjoyed the company of the international visitors at the dinner they hosted following the lecture. They were also happy to organise, through the good services of Dr Graeme Miles, a visit to the University of Tasmania's Classics Museum, where Professor and Mrs Senff could admire some of the world's most southerly located Greek antiquities.

### **The ANU (Canberra) Friends**

In the pursuit of its aims to bring archaeological and other research on the Greek world to the Canberra community and to support the AAIA and researchers working in Greece, the Canberra Friends organised four events. The first of these, in February, was a lecture by Dr Joseph Lehner (University of Sydney) entitled 'The Iron Age Megacity of Kerkenes Dağı', which focused on a major city in Anatolia. In March, the Friends welcomed the Kytherian filmmaker Giorgos Didymiotis and the Greek Ministry of Culture's archaeologist responsible for Kythera, Dr Kyriaki Psaraki. The two films that were screened, and the discussion which followed, were appreciated by the audience. Congratulations are to be offered to the Nicholas Anthony Aroney Trust, which supported the AAIA's initiative to bring both speakers to Australia and so to offer a different view on archaeological developments in Greece. Dr Lieve Donnellan

(University of Melbourne) travelled to Canberra in May and delivered a public lecture on her recent research on the ancient Boiotian city of Haliartos.

The Friends hosted a public lecture by the AAIA's 2024 Gale Visiting Professor, Professor Reinhard Senff, in August (fig. 2). The audience was fortunate to benefit from his first-hand knowledge of the excavations at the Ionian city of Miletos, the topic of his lecture. The Friends also had great pleasure in welcoming to Canberra the AAIA's newly appointed Director, Professor Tamar Hodos, who visited, along with Theodora Gianniotis, the Engagement and Public Outreach Officer.

The annual dinner was held in November, and a new staff member of ANU's Centre of Classical Studies, Dr Tatiana Bur, delivered a presentation entitled 'What Can (and Should) We Do with Ancient Greek Automation?' Prior to this, on August 5, the ANU Centre for Classical Studies hosted an afternoon entitled 'Jebel Khalid on the Euphrates: An Afternoon in Honour of Graeme Clarke AO'. The afternoon of talks, on the archaeological excavations directed by Graeme at Jebel Khalid in Syria, was a commemorative event for Graeme, who had died on 16 May 2023. Graeme was a stalwart supporter of the AAIA and the Canberra Friends (see further p. 28). His death represents a tremendous loss to Classics and to archaeology.

### **The Athens Friends of the AAIA**

The Athens Friends were fortunate to have a very full programme of events throughout 2023, only some of which can be highlighted in this report. The year started with our New Year's lunch, which was preceded by a lecture by Stavros Paspalas on the fate of the antiquities



*Fig. 2. Professor Reinhard Senff lecturing at ANU*

of Greece during World War II. The tours started in February, when the Friends were guided by Fay Tsitou through the University of Athens History Museum, housed in a lovely building on the northern slope of the Acropolis. In March, our members experienced something totally different – a tour of the Benaki Toy Museum, while in April they were guided through the archaeological exhibitions of the Peiraeus Metro and the Phaleron excavations by Andromache Kapetanopoulou and Evi Pini of the Archaeological Ephorate of the Peiraeus and Islands.

Of course, what many of the Athens Friends really look forward to is the (usually) annual ‘long weekend’ away. In June, a tour to the southwestern Peloponnese was organised, during which the current excavators of Mycenaean Pylos, Professors Jack Davis and Sharon Stocker, guided the group over the site – a real treat. Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory and Stavros Paspalas guided us over the castles at Pylos, Methone and Korone, while the group was led by long-term Athens Friends member Nicholas Koronaios over the all-too-often overlooked monumental 11th-century church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour at Christianoupolis.

The Athens Friends were very happy to host a cultural event by the Greek-Australian poet and rap artist Luka Lesson entitled *Agapi and Other Kinds of Love* in October, while in the same month a visit was organised to the temporary exhibition *Stone Paths – Stories Set in Stone: Jewish Inscriptions in Greece* at the Epigraphic Museum. Arguably, the most impressive excursion in the second half of the year was the visit to Ancient Corinth, where the group was given a behind-the-scenes view by Roberto Nardi (Centro di Conservazione Archeologica-Roma) of the multi-year programme which focuses on the conservation of the Roman-period murals excavated at the site.

The Athens Friends were also very happy to contribute, once again, to the AAIA’s Director’s Report and Annual Lecture in May, where many of our members had the pleasure of meeting the (then) newly appointed Director of the Institute, Professor Tamar Hodos, and enjoying her lecture. Of course, the Athens Friends, beyond learning about all matters cultural pertaining to the Greek world, supports the Institute and especially the Hostel. Through its endeavours it was able to purchase a new washing machine and chairs (for the audience at lectures and seminars). The Friends very much look forward to what 2024 has in store.

### **Sydney events**

Under the guidance of the AAIA’s Engagement and Outreach Officer, Theodora Gianniotis, and the other staff members, 2023 was a year full of events, only some of which can be mentioned here. Of course,

Professor Reinhard Senff, the Gale Visiting Professor, delivered very well-attended lectures and seminars on topics ranging from ancient Olympia to the excavations of Idalion on Cyprus. In March, Sydney also benefitted from the visit of the Kytherian filmmaker Giorgos Didymiotis and the Greek Ministry of Culture’s archaeologist responsible for Kythera, Dr Kyriaki Psaraki. Owing to the generosity of the Nicholas Anthony Aroney Trust, two sessions of Giorgos’ films focusing on the archaeology of Kythera were screened, each followed by a question and answer session. Dr Psaraki also delivered a seminar on the recent archaeological developments in the Peiraeus – the port of Athens, which was so vital to the ancient city’s prosperity.

A number of public lectures were arranged throughout the year. These included: Dr Vasilis Adrahtas (Western Sydney University) who spoke on ‘Myths and Dreamings: Cross Hatchings between Ancient Greece and Indigenous Australia’; Professor Ian Worthington (Macquarie University) who delivered a lecture entitled ‘A Tale of Two Cities? Athens after the Classical Era’; and Dr Stavros Paspalas (AAIA) whose topic was ‘The Monuments of the Athenian Acropolis in the First Century of the Modern Greek State’. The last two events were co-hosted with the Greek Festival of Sydney.

The AAIA also held, in association with the Chau Chak Wing Museum, a launch of the poet and rapper Luka Lesson’s *Agapi and Other Kinds of Love*. In November, the AAIA partnered with the Cretan Association of Sydney and the Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand to launch *Cretan Pioneers of Australia* by Socrates Tsurdalakis. A strong Cretan element was also present in an event arranged with the Chau Chak Wing Museum in May that celebrated the life of Captain Reg Saunders. Reg Saunders’ daughter, Glenda Humes, spoke of her father, the first Indigenous Australian to hold a commission in the Australian army, focusing on his involvement in the Battle of Crete and the support he received from the local people to evade capture by the occupying German forces. She highlighted his subsequent relationship, and that of his family, with the island. On another occasion, the AAIA had the pleasure of hosting the renowned author, Kate Forsyth, who spoke on her historical novel *The Crimson Thread* which is set in occupied Crete and further examines the role of Cretans, Australians and Germans in those troubled times.

The AAIA was also happy to collaborate with the Inner West Council in order to commemorate OHI Day, October 28, and we extend our thanks to the Mayor, Mr Darcy Byrne, for all his support in arranging this event. We would also like to thank the Consul General of Greece in Sydney, Mr Ioannis Mallikourtis, for his encouragement and support of so many of the Institute’s initiatives.



## Athens public events 2023

Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory

Several events held in Athens during 2023 highlight the important position the AAIA holds in bridging collaborations and partnerships with various stakeholders in Greece, the aim being to engage in and promote Hellenic archaeological research and related studies. One of our most important partners in this endeavour is the Athens Friends of the AAIA, who tirelessly support the Institute's various activities and provide us with the opportunity for engagement and public outreach involving a broader Athens-based community. As such, on 6 October, the AAIA and the Athens Friends successfully co-hosted a special book launch and performance by Greek-Australian rap artist and poet, Luka Lesson, at the AAIA Hostel. Luka performed some of his poetry from his latest verse novel *Agapi and Other Kinds of Love*. Inspired by Plato's *Symposium*, the poems performed by Luka took us on a journey through the Ancient Greek types of love, as seen through the eyes of the ancient lovers Socrates and Diotima and their modern counterparts, Pavlos and Sophia. The event included attendees of varied academic and non-academic backgrounds, including artists and Greek university students. It included a Q&A session and a reception where everyone had a chance to mingle and talk with the artist.

On 8 May, David Pritchard (University of Queensland/Nantes Institute of Advanced Study) gave a most informative lecture titled: 'The Children of Athena: The Armed Forces of Democratic Athens' at the AAIA Hostel. His talk focused on the history and the legal and social aspects of Athenian military power during the time of Pericles.

Since the Institute's inception, the Australian Embassy in Greece has been a staunch supporter of its mission and a great conduit for fostering important connections. During 2023, I had the pleasure of accompanying on the Acropolis the patron of the AAIA, his Excellency Governor General David Hurley, and his wife Linda Hurley (fig. 1), the newly appointed Australian Ambassador to Greece, Her Excellency Alison Duncan (patron of the Athens Friends of the AAIA) and her family, and the Head of the Europe Division at the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Chris Cannan. A special event honouring Greek-Australian photographer, Effy Alexakis, coinciding with the presentation of her book, *Forty Photographs: A Year at a Time*, was co-organised by the AAIA and the Australian Embassy in Greece on 27 September, marking the beginning of a series of collaborative initiatives between the two entities (fig. 2).



Fig. 1. His Excellency Governor General of Australia David Hurley (L) and his wife Linda Hurley (R) with Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory (centre) on the Acropolis



Fig. 2. Effy Alexakis and historian Leonard Janiszewski at the book launch

In November, Professor Tamar Hodos and I were invited by the Dean of the School of Humanities and Director of the Centre for the Study of the Ancient World of the Ionian University, Professor Athanasios Efstathiou, to a fruitful discussion on future collaborations and partnerships. Excitingly, plans were established to co-host a student group from Sichuan University in China in Athens in January 2024 as part of a study abroad programme, providing the students with an introduction to Athens through a series of lectures and tours before they travel to Corfu to attend their Greek civilization course. Professor Efstathiou and his team, including Dr Polyxeni Strolonga and Dr Kostas Stefou, also took the opportunity to present us with their proposal for a Master's degree programme on the ancient Hellenic world, catering for Australian students. Corfu is a wonderful place to study and live, and we look forward to working with Ionian University in providing this study opportunity to young Australians.

## The Institutional Members and Governors of the AAIA

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The University of Tasmania  
The University of Queensland  
The University of Western Australia  
The University of New England  
Macquarie University, Sydney  
The University of Adelaide  
The Australian National University, Canberra  
La Trobe University, Melbourne  
The University of Newcastle  
The Classical Association of Victoria  
The University of Melbourne  
The Chau Chak Wing Museum  
The Classical Association of NSW  
The University of Wollongong

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