

## THE WORK OF THE BRITISH SCHOOL AT ATHENS, 2012–2013<sup>1</sup>

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The School's archaeological programme in 2012–2013 included fieldwork, museum studies (notably a project led by Robin Barber to complete the publication of material from early 20th-century excavations at Phylakopi now held in the National Museum in Athens) and many individual and group projects housed at Knossos and in the Fitch Laboratory. Following the success of the conference *Interpreting the Seventh Century BC*, in December 2011, a further workshop in December 2012 on Thessalian sanctuaries and cults, organized in collaboration with the University of Oxford, brought together 24 speakers, including many colleagues from Thessalian ephoraias and the University of Thessaly, to present new data and reflections. Maria Stamatopoulou comments further on material presented at this meeting in her contribution to this year's *AG* below. In London, collaboration with colleagues in the British Museum's Department of Greece and Rome resulted in a very popular study day on *Knossos: from Labyrinth to Laboratory* in November 2012 (now published online at [www.bsa.ac.uk](http://www.bsa.ac.uk)). This will soon be followed (on 2 November 2013) by a further collaboration in a British Museum Classical Colloquium on *Archaeology Behind the Battle Lines: Macedonia 1915–1919*, also in partnership with the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki.

Among our ongoing field projects, I begin with discussion of the excavation at Koutroulou Magoula in Thessaly directed by Nina Kyparissi-Apostolika (Director Emerita, EPSNE) and Yannis Hamilakis (Southampton), which in 2012 sought to clarify activity in the area of two Neolithic buildings uncovered in 2011 (**Fig. 2**). One of these buildings had been mostly destroyed in later periods, although evidence of outdoor activity includes hearths and *in situ* deposits. The other had stone walls preserved to a height of 0.8m (with at least three building phases) and a mud-brick superstructure. One locus of open-air activity during this period produced evidence of hearths, feasting remains and depositional pits. Among the portable finds, 95 figurines take the site total to over 300 – one of the highest densities in any Neolithic site in Greece. A later,



2. Koutroulou Magoula: the main excavation area at the top of the tell, 2012. © BSA.



3. Koutroulou Magoula: the tholos tomb from the northeast. © BSA.

corridor-like feature partially uncovered in 2011 proved to be a tholos tomb (**Fig. 3**), which had evidently been looted in the pre-modern past and was empty of significant and diagnostic finds. The structure was substantial: the chamber is up to 2.65m in diameter, with walls preserved to a height of 0.6m and retaining evidence of corbelling. Although finds from the wider area of the tomb have not yet been fully studied, preliminary indications suggest that it was probably built at the end of the Bronze or the beginning of the Iron Age. In addition, a new geophysical survey provides a near-complete picture of the wider tell area, revealing further indications of terrace walls and perimeter ditches previously suggested in topographical survey. Trial excavation on the eastern periphery of the tell exposed linear features (possibly a robbed wall); a series of parallel earth features at the foot of the tell on the east side appear to be ditches, which were sampled for soil micro-morphology.

On the island of Keros, the site of highly productive excavations in 2006–2008, Colin Renfrew (University of Cambridge), Mariza Marthari (Director Emerita, 21<sup>st</sup> EPCA) and Ekaterini Dellaporta (Director, 2<sup>nd</sup> EBA) directed a first season of intensive survey, geomorphological mapping and sampling (**Fig. 4**). Neolithic to Bronze Age sherds were found throughout the ca. 748ha survey area, with concentrations north of the Kavos promontory in the Gerani Beach area and below modern Konakia. A

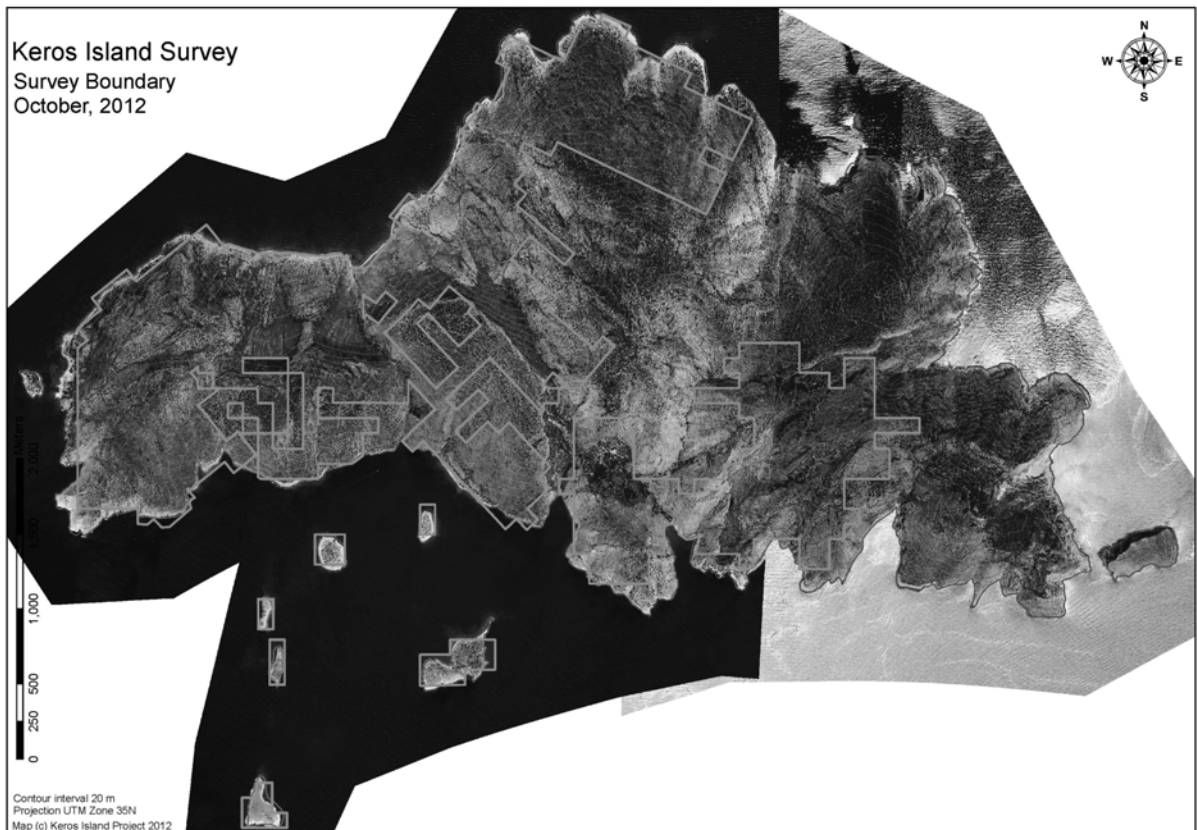
<sup>1</sup> The following account draws on reports of British School activities presented at the Archaeological Society of Athens (by courtesy of the General Secretary, Dr Vassileios Petrakos), the Aristotle University, Thessaloniki (by courtesy of the Department of History and Archaeology) and the British Academy. Further details of the School and its activities may be found in the *Annual Report*, published online at [www.bsa.ac.uk](http://www.bsa.ac.uk). The School's programme is made possible by the close collaboration of many colleagues in the Ministry of Culture. Particular thanks are due to the Secretary General, Dr Lina Mendoni, the Director General of Antiquities, Dr Maria Andreadaki-Vlazaki, and the directors in those regions where our major projects took place: Dr Stella Chrysoulaki in Piraeus, Mrs Ekaterini Dellaporta and Dr Panagiotis Hatzidakis in the Cyclades, Dr Paraskevi Kalamara in Chalkis, Dr Athanasia Kanta in Herakleion, Dr Alkistis Papadimitriou in Nauplion and Sparta, Dr Maria-Photeini Papakonstantinou in Lamia, Dr Angeliki Simosi of the EMA, Mrs Chryssa Sophianou in Agios Nikolaos and Mr Andreas Soteriou in Argostoli.

fragment of Early Bronze Age II Talc Ware was found at Konakia, and, in general, ceramics contemporary with the Dhaskalio-Kavos site were more widely distributed than previously supposed. There is also a strong concentration of Middle and Late Bronze Age sherds in the Gerani Beach area, with a significant number of tripod cooking pot legs of Minoan type, many of which are manufactured in the distinctive 'patelia' fabric known to originate from Amorgos (the Dark Phyllite fabric from Kavos). Few, if any, fabrics appear compatible with production on Crete itself. Nine Early Cycladic figurine fragments were found, five in the Kavos area, three at Konakia and one in the mountains above it. Several worked marble bowl fragments were also found, as well as a fragment of a very large palette. The obsidian collection (including a number of irregular and wide blades, bladelet cores, and irregular points and scrapers) clearly differs from the well-ordered blade industry recovered from Dhaskalio and Kavos, and includes obsidian from Giali. The low-hilltop of Gerani also produced much Hellenistic black-glazed ware, while Konakia produced a significant range of Late Roman to Early Byzantine pottery, including numerous amphora handles, beehives and African Red Slip.

The emerging picture indicates a wide spread of cultural material and terracing systems over much of the northwest coastal region, extending to a significant extent inland. A recent study conducted for the *Cambridge Keros Project* has shown that the sea level was between 3.5 and 5m lower during the Early Bronze Age, suggesting that Bronze Age material found on the seashore, where not

washed down from further inland, relates to areas of land not at that time on the sea front. Terracing includes water management systems, sediment capture systems and agricultural terraces. Although these terraces are not yet dated, an initial impression suggests that in the Early Bronze Age, Archaic to Classical and Roman periods intensive terracing was utilized widely. Other architectural remains include a rectangular tower on top of the hill of Gerani. There is a clear difference in habitation and use between lowlands and uplands. On the southwest side of the island, levels of cultural material are generally low and usually located close to sea level.

At Lefkandi, a study season directed by Irene Lemos (Oxford) restored the latest occupation phases in the area of the Late Helladic IIIC megara, with analysis of Late Geometric and Subgeometric walls and structures (**Fig. 5**). In the East Sector, the latest activity dates to the Late Geometric period, when two pits in the eastern part of the area produced good-quality ceramics. Two almost complete Submycenaean/Early Protogeometric vases discovered in the western part of this sector are of types commonly associated with burials (perhaps of a child or infant). The sector was also occupied in LHIIC, probably during the later stages. Two structures (perhaps houses) are assigned to this period, and a street may have run east-west to the north of them. White Ware pottery again characterizes the late phases of LHIIC at Xeropolis. A Late Geometric house partially excavated in the 1960s was further excavated in 2004 in an unsuccessful attempt to locate its north end. Joins between sherds from the two



4. Keros island survey. © BSA, *Cambridge Keros Project*.