



EXPLORING THORIKOS

Edited by
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Ghent University
Department of Archaeology
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Belgische School te Athene - École belge d'Athènes - Βελγική Σχολή Αθηνών





Thorikos occupies the coastal northeast of the Lavrion area of Attica, Greece. The ancient town comprised the double-peaked Velatouri hill, which has seen human activity since the Final Neolithic period and been the focus of archaeological research for more than 50 years. This timely publication serves as a guide to ancient Thorikos, a presentation of ongoing work and a preview of new undertakings. Growing out of a Belgian initiative in the 1960s, the Thorikos Project is today an international program with a wide range of contexts and assemblages under study. Here, members of the international team present themes of current interest and aspects of recent work in a multi-authored collection of texts intended for the general public as well as for specialists.



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Cover illustrations: (front): The double-peaked Velatouri hill seen from the west; the island of Makronisos in the background, 1974 (photo: Thorikos archive). (back): Drawing architecture in the field, West Necropolis 2014 (photo: T. Pieters). The site map, prepared by C. Stal, A. Deruyck, A. De Wulf and R.F. Docter, is to be found on pages 6-7.

Illustration on pages 5, 12, 16, 18, 20, 34, 52, 57, 69, 71 and 72: Ceramic pomegranate, 735-720 BC (TC65.598, Thorikos archive/KVG).

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*Orthophotograph of the Industrial Quarter
(Photo: CS)*





Thorikos - Velatouri

Coordinates in Greek National Grid (GGRS87, EPSG:2100)
 Authors: Cornelis Stal, Arne Deruyck, Alain De Wulf, Roald Docter
 Compilation of various data sources (2018)

Legend

- 19th century furnaces
- Cistern
- Geodetic point
- Mine
- Mine shaft
- Mycenaean tomb
- Tower
- Washery
- Reference poles
- Fortification wall
- Historic road
- Modern road
- Ridge
- Terrace
- Zones

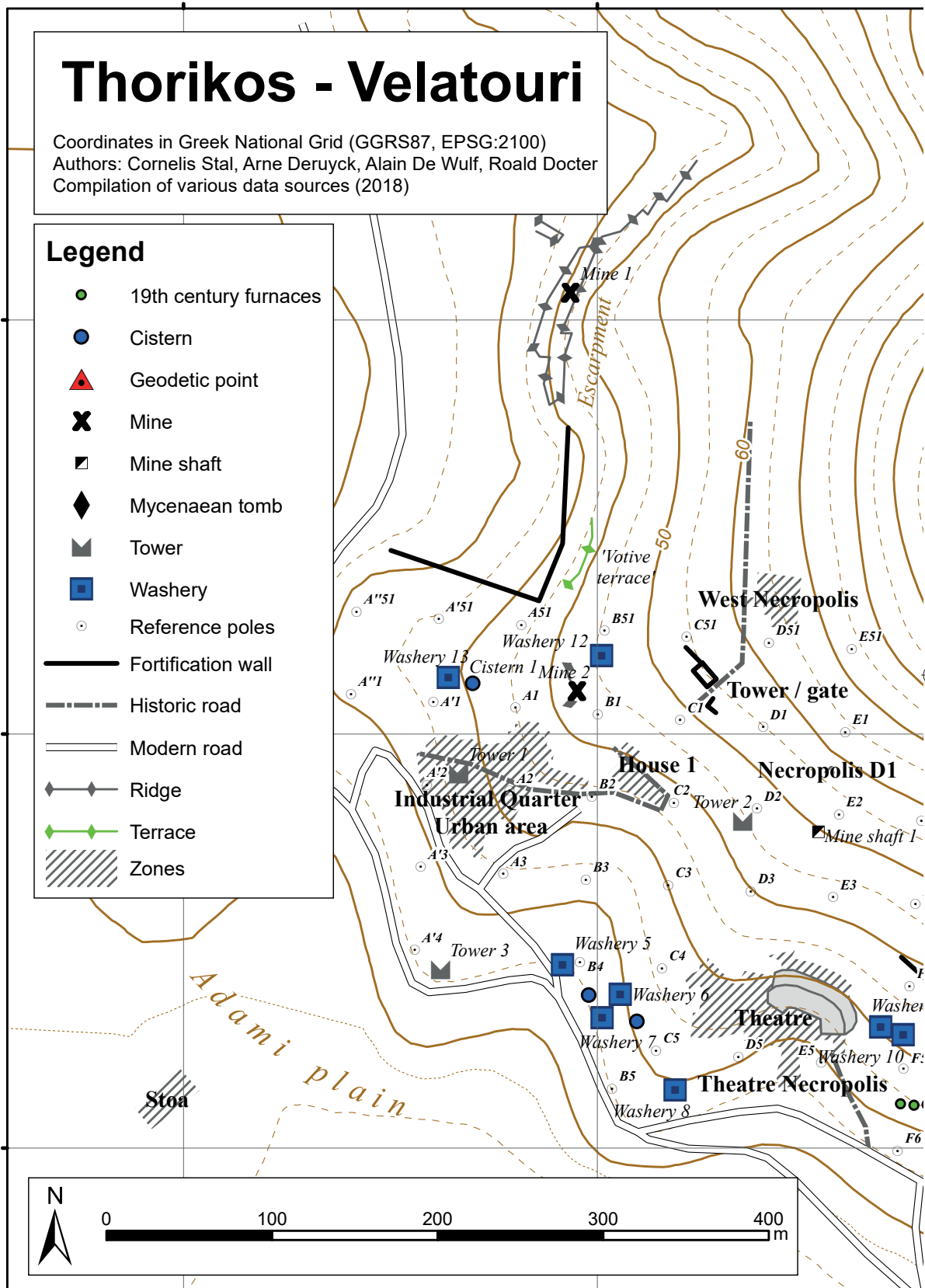
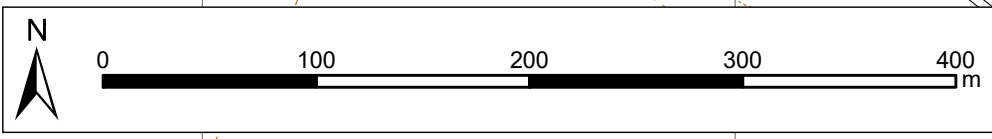
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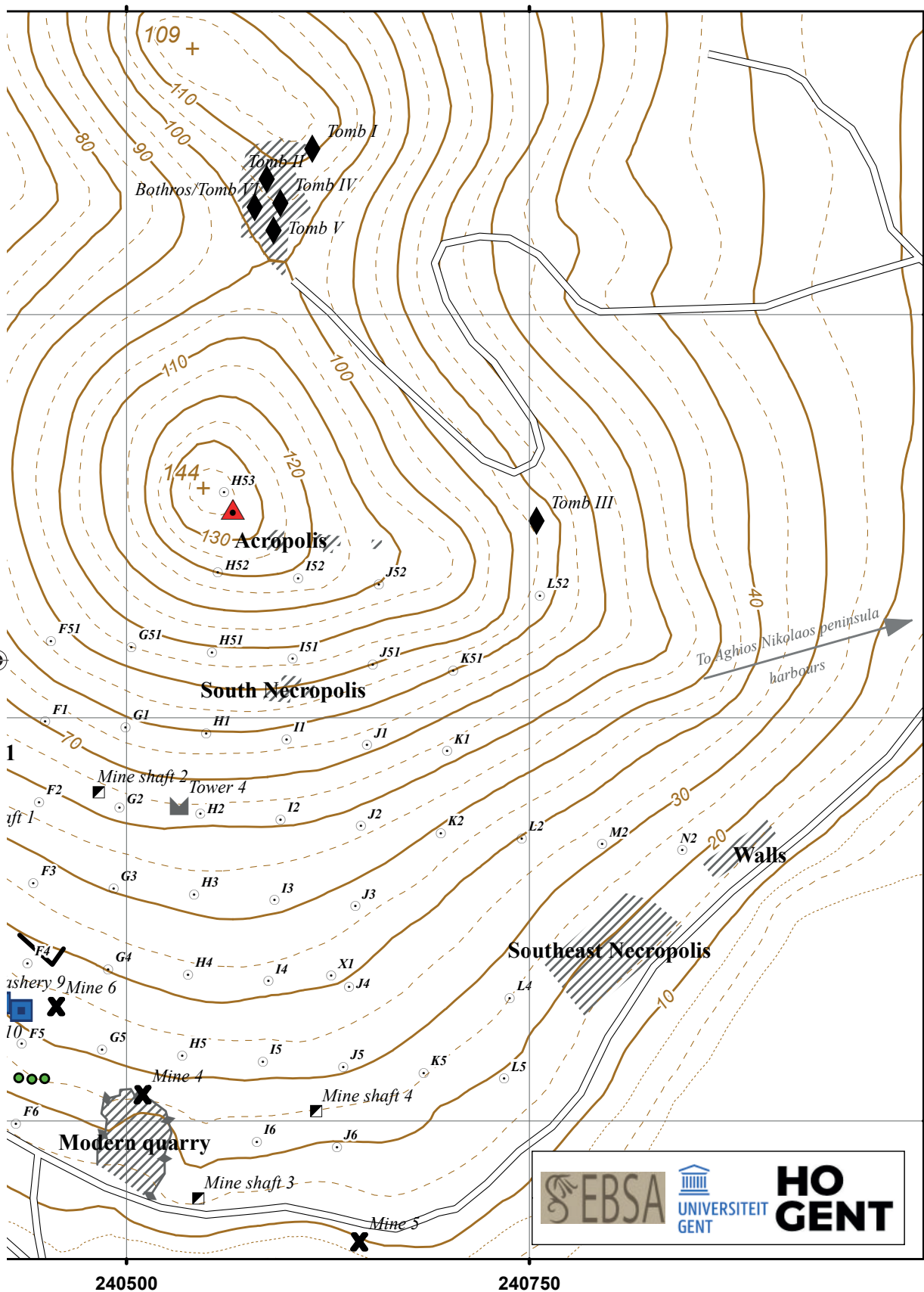
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Foreword

This publication has been conceived as a comprehensive guide to the archaeology and excavation history of the site of Thorikos, and at the same time a presentation of ongoing work and a preview of new undertakings – a mission statement of sorts for the five-year fieldwork project currently under way (2018–2022). Growing out of a strictly Belgian initiative led by the universities of Ghent and Liège, the Thorikos Project has become a truly international research program, involving more than 40 scholars affiliated to 12 universities and other institutions, as well as countless students and volunteers. Rather than having one or two authors covering the many aspects of this complex site and its exploration, we are therefore happy to have the specialists themselves present their work in a multi-authored collection of texts, highlighting both the coherence of the project and the collaborative spirit that underlies it. The resulting book is intended for the general, interested public as well as for specialists.

The monograph written by the project's previous director Herman Mussche in 1998 remains indispensable for a more in-depth account of the archaeology of Thorikos before c. 1990, but previous general guides to the site date to the -70s and -80s of the last century and are both out of print and outdated at this point (Mussche 1974; 1978; 1986). In the years since, the site has been briefly treated in a guide to the Lavreotiki and the Lavrion Museum published by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture (Salliora-Oikononakou 2007) and in a book accompanying an exhibition held at the Numismatic Museum of Athens (Iossif, ed. 2010). A local publication has also been dedicated to the ancient theatre at Thorikos and its partial restoration (Dermatis and Manthos 2010). For other relevant and scholarly literature, the academic readership will find an extensive reference section at the end of this book.

We are sincerely grateful to the contributing authors for agreeing to participate in this venture so swiftly, and to Victor Martínez Hahn Müller for taking on the layout in the same enthusiastic manner. Many preliminary and comprehensive publications on both old and recent fieldwork are currently in advanced stages of preparation, and it is hoped that the spirit of rapid publication informing the present book will have a favourable influence on the scholarly venues as well.

Roald F. Docter and Maud Webster, 30 November 2018





the 4th and 6th centuries AD, using fire-setting technology. Underground, the stifling atmosphere and temperatures up to +21°C raise the crucial question of ventilation: the mining works evinced here suggest that the physical capabilities and skills of the ancient miners was quite considerable, as they were able to exploit such complex silver ore deposits and assure ore dressing in this taxing environment. In all, the evidence testifies to a deliberate strategy and a highly developed technological and spatial control over the process.

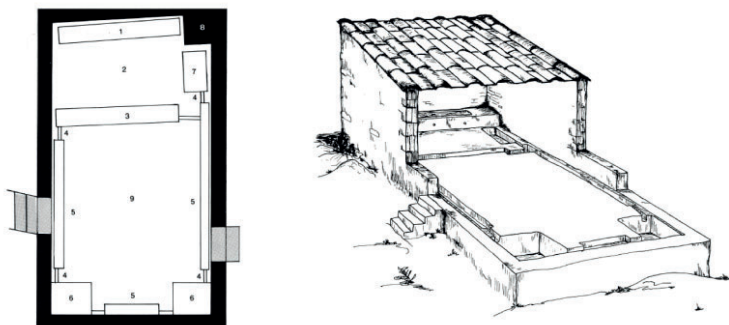
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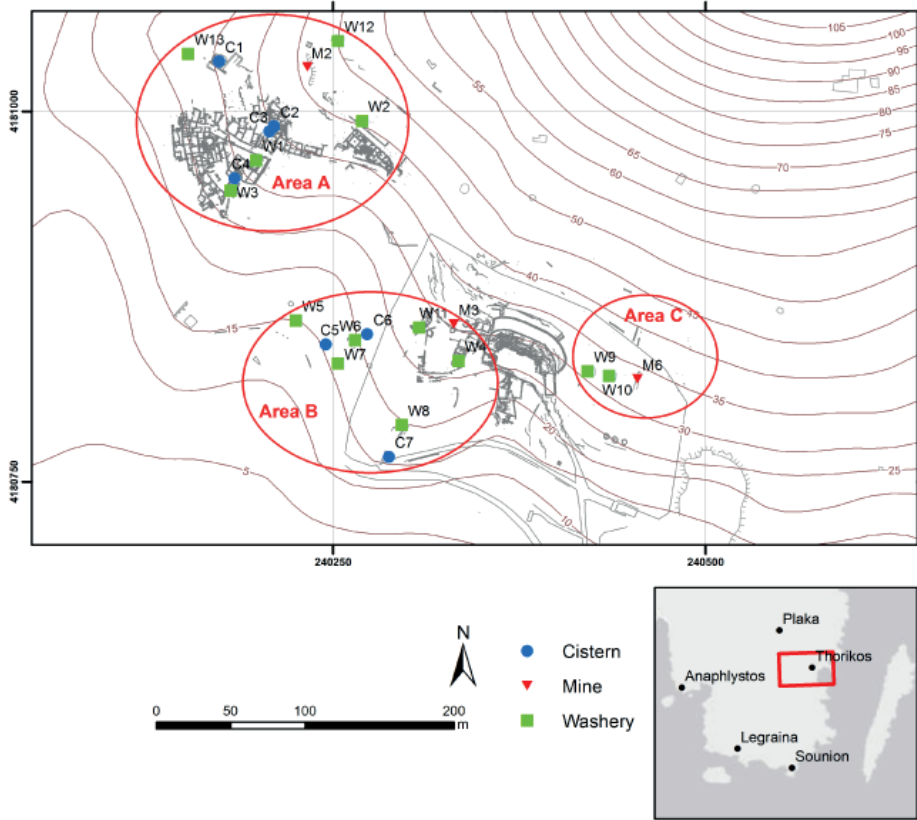
References: Morin (ed.), forthcoming; Morin, forthcoming; Nazou, forthcoming 1 and 2; Konstantinidou, forthcoming; Morin and Photiades 2012; Mountjoy 1995; Spitaels 1984; Waelkens 1990; Blondé 1983.

19. The Ore-Processing Workshops

Ore-processing workshops at Thorikos and in the Lavrion area played an important part in the production of silver during the 4th century BC. Silver was present as inclusions in local minerals such as galena and cerrusite. To liberate the silver particles, workers processed the ores in especially designed workshops where they were crushed, ground, washed and concentrated before being sent to the furnaces. This process was crucial because it significantly reduced the smelting

A washery and its components. 1) water-tank; 2) washing-floor; 3) and 5) water-channels; 4) overflows; 6) sedimentation basins; 7) tank for recycled water; 8) draining board (after Mussche 1998, 102, fig. 20; cf. Jones 1984, 69-73).





Distribution map of the identified workshops and metallurgical complexes at Thorikos (Van Liefferinge 2014, 142, fig. 58).

costs. The main feature of the workshops was the washery, where the ground ore was washed to separate the rock matrix or gangue from the denser lead ore. This characteristically rectangular structure consists of a water tank, washing floor and drying table, surrounded by a series of water channels and sedimentation basins to recycle the water. In addition, the workshops generally include a cistern to secure the water supply, as well as grinding stations, storage rooms and living quarters for workers and workshops owners. In total, 13 washeries have been identified at Thorikos, spread over three metallurgical complexes.

Complex A comprises five washeries organized around Mine no. 2. The fully excavated workshop of Washery no. 1, built over the remains of a 5th-century BC house, probably was in use between 430 and 400 BC and again in the 4th century BC. It consists of a washery, workspaces and living quarters forming a walled compound. The workshop's cistern is located immediately to the south, and seems to have provided both Washery no. 1 and Washery no. 3 with water. The latter was installed in the 4th century BC. Two other workshops have been partly excavated. Washery no. 2 was inserted into an earlier building north





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SEG: Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum, A. Chaniotis, T. Corsten, N. Papazarkadas and R.A. Tybout (current eds.), Leiden (<https://referenceworks.brillonline.com/browse/supplementum-epigraphicum-graecum>).

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