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# The Nemea Valley Archaeological Project: 1985 Season Report

J. L. Davis

James C. Wright

*Bryn Mawr College*, [jwright@brynmawr.edu](mailto:jwright@brynmawr.edu)

J. F. Cherry

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in a systematic way, the entire corpus. This paper proposes criteria for a consistent classification of Etruscan mirrors based on stylistic features *and* physical characteristics.

In the past, style alone was utilized to assign mirrors to particular groups. This was so because most scholars were working from *drawings* of the engraved designs rather than studying the actual mirrors. Stylistic features were often employed indiscriminately or with little attention to qualities which are salient only when the objects are studied in person. Also ignored until recently were several important "stylistic" features which have nothing to do with engraved designs: mirror shape; disc section; shape and decorative treatment of the handle or tang; subsidiary ornament on the obverse or rim, etc.

A new approach to Etruscan mirrors has become possible with the publication of several major collections. We are now in a position to couple stylistic features with more objective data such as chemical composition, weight, ratios of various measurements, etc., which can be analyzed by modern statistical methods. These methods will relate chemical and physical characteristics to the classification based on stylistic criteria and, in some cases, provenance.

Using a series of examples, this paper explores the potential for developing a rational classification of Etruscan mirrors based on both sets of criteria. In addition to the system's value as an organizational tool, the paper also demonstrates its potential for dating certain mirror groups and for answering questions of authenticity (see R. De Puma, "Etruscan Mirrors: Questions of Authenticity," in *Atti del Secondo Congresso Internazionale Etrusco* [Florence 1986]).

#### MORGANTINA BEFORE THE GREEKS: ASPECTS OF PRE-HISTORY RECONSIDERED: *Robert Leighton*, University of Edinburgh

Excavations at Morgantina undertaken by Princeton University and by the Universities of Illinois and Virginia since 1955 have revealed evidence of prehistoric occupation which is of major significance for the Sicilian Bronze and Iron Ages, and for the question of the Hellenization of an inland native settlement. The prehistoric material from stratified habitation levels and well-preserved hut floors has been studied over the past three excavation seasons, resulting in a reassessment of the early history of the site.

The Early Bronze Age Castelluccio settlement (early 2nd millennium B.C.) is followed by a hiatus until a substantial new settlement of the later Ausonian II (10th–9th cs. B.C.) was established in the Late Bronze Age. The preliminary identification of a tenuous interim period of occupation in the 13th–12th cs. is no longer considered valid (E. Sjöqvist, *AJA* 68 [1964] 146; R. Leighton, *AJA* 88 [1984] 389–91). Although the Ausonian settlement, which is characterized by ceramics and artifacts closely paralleled at Lipari and Lentini, comes to an end before the Greek colonial period, occupation of the Cittadella just prior to the foundation of the hellenized Archaic town is attested.

Particularly interesting in this respect is a little-known class of Iron Age painted pottery, sometimes misleadingly

called Sikelo-geometric, which, however, is distinct from that produced under Greek colonial influence. This pottery, of uncertain origin, continues the Sicilian Bronze Age tradition of fine painted ware. Production of this indigenous geometric style was abandoned only when Greek colonial influence brought about profound changes in the manufacture and style of local painted pottery.

#### THE EARLIEST GREEKS IN THE TERRITORY OF METAPONTO: *Sarah S. Leach*, Sweet Briar College

Recent excavations in the territory of Metaponto have made important contributions to the history of the Greek colonial period in southern Italy. The hilltop settlement at Inconronata, overlooking the colonial city of Metaponto, offers new evidence about the important questions of when and from where the first Greeks arrived in this territory. The site, excavated by teams from the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Milan and the Archaeological Superintendency of Basilicata, indicates a substantial Greek presence in the area prior to the foundation of Metaponto.

Strabo claims that Metaponto was founded by colonists from Achaea and the excavators of the city have suggested a foundation around 650 B.C., on the basis of the earliest Greek pottery found there. The site of Inconronata, however, contains Greek and indigenous pottery of the 8th and early 7th cs. B.C., but none of later date. Examination of the pottery from the University of Texas excavations at Inconronata shows numerous similarities with that found at Sybaris, earliest of the Greek foundations along the Gulf of Taranto, rather than with Siris, as Adamesteanu and Orlandini maintain.

Sybaris also is said to have been an Achaean foundation, but she belongs to the first generation of colonial ventures on the Italian peninsula, one characterized by exploration and commerce rather than by immediate foundation of subcolonies. In the period of exploration following the foundation of Sybaris the Greeks appeared at Inconronata. Probably they were looking for the same sort of native settlements whose trade had proved so lucrative for the Euboeans in Etruria, but the local population of Basilicata was neither so rich nor so well-organized as that of Etruria and the initial trading ventures gradually gave way to new colonial foundations.

#### SESSION IV C: PREHISTORIC AEGEAN: EXCAVATION AND SURVEYS; NEOPALATIAL AND POST-PALATIAL

THE NEMEA VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT: 1985 SEASON REPORT: *Jack L. Davis*, University of Illinois at Chicago, *James C. Wright*, Bryn Mawr College, and *John F. Cherry*, University of Cambridge

The Nemea Valley Archaeological Project completed its second season in 1985. Work continued with survey of the

valley, excavation of Tsoungiza hill, environmental and anthropological research (including historical ecology), and studies in the museum (notably of ceramics, lithics, and floral and faunal remains).

The survey covered over 16 km.<sup>2</sup>, including a cross-valley transect from near Phlius to Mt. Apesas, an area north and west of Tsoungiza, and a transect south of Nemea, not far from Mycenae. Thirty sites were defined, and at these, as well as in 1300 individual landscape tracts, Archaic-Classical and Byzantine material was abundant, as in 1984. This year, however, finds of Late Neolithic, Middle Helladic, Late Geometric, and, especially, Roman date helped fill gaps in the sequence of settlement and land-use in the region. Examination of several recently abandoned villages was coordinated with anthropological-historical investigations.

On Tsoungiza, excavation sampled all periods except the Neolithic. Surface collection and resistivity survey helped to define the perimeter of the site. Structures, floor deposits, and pits provide the following sequence of occupation (phases often recognizable only as highly localized concentrations of finds): EH I, II (several phases), III; MH III; LH I (substantial settlement deposits), IIA, IIB, IIIA2, and IIIB1-2. Study of the 1926/1927 excavations was nearly completed. Emphasis of the 1985 excavations was on defining limits of occupation, and on exposing structures of Early Mycenaean date (a total of six so far). Of the Early Bronze Age, much new material, including a burnt late EH II building and several luxury items, suggests that the site was a place of some importance at that time.

**THE PSEIRA PROJECT: 1985 SEASON:** *Philip Betancourt*, Temple University, *Costis Davaras*, Aghios Nikolaos Museum, and *John McEnroe*, Hamilton College

The Pseira Project is a Greek-American collaboration to investigate the Minoan settlement on the tiny, barren island of Pseira, first excavated by Richard Seager in 1906 and 1907. The initial season focused on a better understanding of architecture exposed by Seager. Three buildings were cleaned: Building AC (the "Shrine"), Seager's House B, and the House of the Pillar Partitions.

Important new conclusions include a better understanding of the "shrine", which had a complex plan and more than one phase of construction, and information on Minoan baths, staircase construction, and pillar-and-door partition walls from the House of the Pillar Partitions, one of the finest examples of Minoan domestic architecture in eastern Crete. Finds include loom weights, wasters from a kiln, obsidian in all stages of manufacture, and other objects indicating Pseira was a full Minoan community, not just an outpost from Crete as has sometimes been suggested.

**EXCAVATIONS AT KOMMOS DURING 1985:** *Joseph W. Shaw*, University of Toronto

Excavations at the Minoan harbor and Greek sanctuary site of Kommos in south-central Crete concentrated around and within the huge Minoan ashlar buildings in a further attempt to define their size, plan, and use. The LM I buildings (J, T) flanked a large court at least 28.75 m. (east-west) by 35 m. (north-south), bordered along the north by a stoa with adjacent storerooms on the east. T suffered heavy burning, mostly in its eastern rooms, probably in early LM I, but continued in use into LM II. In LM III, although the stoa was abandoned, much of the western area was remodeled and reused, and on the east a very large new construction, P, was built. Being at least 35 m.<sup>2</sup>, P is the largest LM III structure discovered. Its plan, although simple, is of great interest, consisting of at least five enormous galleries, 5.60 m. wide and as much as 35 m. long, facing onto a huge open space completely open to the sea. We do not yet know whether the galleries were open on the east, but on the west they were open, without doorways or any other means of closure. The purpose of the galleries, which have no internal floor features or crosswalls, remains unknown, but the theory proposed earlier by Maria Shaw that they were for storage, and in particular storage for ships during the winter months, gained plausibility this season when no obstruction was found hindering passage to the sea.

Little or nothing remains of the original contents of these ashlar buildings, and what we have are remnants of the times of reuse, at the moment appearing to be of a domestic nature. Artifacts of note emerged, however, in an LM I-III house north of the east-west Minoan road, as well as in Greek levels. In the latter were Protogeometric vessels and small bronzes, including figurines.

**EXCAVATION OF BATES' ISLAND, A LATE BRONZE AGE EGYPTIAN TRADING STATION:** *Donald White*, University Museum, University of Pennsylvania

The only natural harbor between Alexandria and Tobruk is at Mersa Matruh, which, *prima facie*, suggests the importance of this site for the Cyrenaican Pentapolis and Egypt proper over a broad time span. In 1914 Oric Bates (*Harvard African Studies* 8 [1927] 125 ff.) surveyed Matruh, ancient Paraitonion, excavating a cache of Late Bronze Age Cypriot White Slip Ware on a small island east of the town. The University Museum undertook two months of survey and excavation this past summer, concentrating on Bates' Island and its nearby environs. Our goals were 1) to confirm the 1914 discovery of Bronze Age material and to increase the sample of artifacts and refine its chronology; 2) to clarify the nature of the early settlement as well as its relations to the neighboring Libyan tribes and Dynastic Egypt; 3) to fix the foundation of Paraitonion, conventionally linked with Alexander's trip to Siwah; and 4) to assess the role played by Paraitonion's eastern suburban extension with the town's later period of development.

The report largely focuses on the first two objectives. In addition to Bates' original White Slip, we now have Mycenaean, Minoan, Cypriot Base Ring I and II, Red Lustrous, White Shaved, White Painted Wheelmade III (?), and a