EDITORIAL NOTES:

A conference entitled "International Symposium on Thebes: One Hundred Years of Archaeological Work at Thebes (1900-2000). The First Researchers and their Followers" was held at Thebes on the 15-17 November, under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture, 9th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities. Meetings took place at the Thebes Conference Centre.

The symposium was a great success, with participants from Greece, Italy, Belgium, Holland, England, and the United States. Papers (listed below under "Papers Read") ranged from reminiscences of earlier excavations (one of the opening addresses was delivered by Dr. Antonios Keramopoullos, grandson of the archaeologist) to reports on the latest excavations, and covered a time-span from the Neolithic to the Byzantine and Mediaeval. The proceedings are to be published.

Congratulations are in order to the Director of the Symposium, Dr. V. Aravantinos, and to the Secretary, Elena Kountouri, and their colleagues.

SECTION 1: HISTORICAL

WORK IN PROGRESS

022.1.01 JOHN BINTLIFF, Chair of Classical Archaeology, Leiden University, reports:

THE LEIDEN - LJUBLJANA UNIVERSITIES TANAGRA PROJECT:

The 2002 Season In the summer of 2002 this joint project, co-directed by Professor John Bintliff (Leiden) and Professor Bozidar Slapsak (Ljubljana), carried out surface survey across the city of Tanagra in Boeotia and in the immediately surrounding countryside or chora, continuing the work begun in 2000.

The last third of the interior of the Classical city walls was subjected to ceramic survey by the Leiden team. The micro-topographic survey of the intramural area and the recording of surface architectural remains, together with the detailed geoprospection mapping (the speciality of the team from Ljubljana), continued but will require further seasons to complete the entire city area. The study of the ample of surface pottery was also continued further by prehistoric specialist K. Sarri, Classical Greek ceramic specialist Dr. V. Stissi, Roman pot
specialist Dr. J. Poblome and our Medieval to Post-Medieval specialist A. Vionis. The ceramic team will also require further seasons to analyze the finds to publication level. The geoprospection team continued to have spectacular success in picking out the 4th century BC Hippodamian street and insula plan across the city, together with major modifications to the internal house arrangements within the original insulae during Roman times, and also in identifying a large area of industrial production, possibly a medieval ceramic production zone, within the abandoned ancient town. On the Acropolis the geoprospection is clarifying the existence or not of an ancient agora and has revealed new Early Christian monuments.

The surface survey around the Classical walls and into the countryside belonging to ancient Tanagra, by the Leiden team, focussed on a transect running south from the walls, an area so far untouched by our field-walking teams. As in the transects walked in other directions during the 2000 and 2001 seasons, this new south transect identified a zone some 1 kilometre long out from the walls with extremely dense surface pottery, primarily of Classical Greek date, which we interpret as an area of cemeteries, extramural industry and some extramural settlement. Further out we entered an area of small Classical farms and related cemeteries, a large Roman villa, and a series of small Neolithic sites, as well as a small deserted Medieval village.

022.1.02 FABIENNE MARCHAND reports from Athens:

The following PhD subject, "TANAGRAIKA MNEMATA. Recherches sur le materiel archeologique et epigraphique provenant des anciennes fouilles de la necropole de Tanagra en Beotie", under the supervision of Prof. Denis Knoepfler, was registered in December 2000 at the University of Neuchatel (Switzerland).

As I have not finished my thesis yet, my intention here is to present the general structure of my work and the exact topics I am planning to study, but not to give any result.

The thesis deals with the funerary inscriptions from the 19th-century excavations of the necropolis of Tanagra. The site was almost entirely robbed in the early 1870s, in order to bring to light the famous "Tanagras", until the Greek Government sent the archaeologist Panayiotis Stamatakis, accompanied by soldiers, to stop the illegal activities. The first scientific excavations were carried on from winter 1873/74, and lasted until 1911. Short reports of these activities were published by Stamatakis and his successors in 19th-century Greek periodicals such as PRAKTIKA TIS ARCHAIOLOGIKIS ETAIREIAS (1873/74, 1874/75, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1881 and 1882 by Stamatakis; 1887 by Tsountas; 1890 by Konstas; 1911 by Papadakis), and DELTION ARCHAIOLOGIKON (1888 and 1889 by Koromantsos). A number of foreign scholars (Lolling, Kaibel, Haussoullier) attended the excavations and also wrote about them. Unfortunately, Stamatakis' reports were never completely published, probably because of this early death in 1885. His papers, mainly hand-written letters to the president and the secretary of the Archaeological Society, are still kept in the archives of the Archaeological Society at Athens, where I was able to study them with the
authorization of Dr. V. Petrakos, whom I would like to thank once more. A closer look at these unique documents enables us to understand how excavations were actually carried on in the 19th century, what material was collected and how, and, from the epigraphical point of view, where inscriptions were found.

The second part of my PhD thesis will essentially deal with the funerary inscriptions themselves, more than 1000 stones, which are now being studied at the Skhimatari Museum. I also would like to thank Dr. V. Aravantinos for allowing me to study this exceptional material. With so many inscriptions, covering the whole period of occupation of the necropolis, from the Archaic period until Roman times, I will be able to proceed not only to the epigraphical study of the epitaphs, but also to a statistical and an onomastic study. Prosopography will unfortunately be impossible, as the inscriptions consist only of the name, most of the time without patronymic, in the nominative or in the dative with the preposition EPI. The last part will be an attempt to make a synthesis of the first two parts; the sources of the first being essentially written documents from the 19th century, and those of the second being epigraphical material. I will also try, despite the lack of sources, to make a topographical study of the necropolis, and try to discern where the tombs were actually located, and how and where the necropolis grew during its long period of occupation.

Athens, December 2002.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORTS


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022.1.16 E. Andrikou, "Burial customs of the Middle Bronze Age at Thebes" (in Greek). See 022.1.15

022.1.17 V. Aravantinos, "Recent investigations on the Kadmeia and the Mycenaean archives of Thebes (1993-1996)" (in Greek). See 022.1.15

022.1.18 M. Bonnano-Aravantinos, "Theban sepulchral monuments of Hellenistic and Roman times" (in Greek). See 022.1.15

022.1.19 Ch. Boulotis, "Theban sacred iconography in the Mycenaean age" (in Greek). See 022.1.15

022.1.20 K. Bourazelis, "The beginnings of Hellenistic Thebes: new epigraphical data" (in Greek). See 022.1.15

022.1.21 A. Charami, "Hellenistic Thebes: elements from the cemeteries of the city" (in Greek). See 022.1.15

022.1.22 A. Dakouri, "Materials used in the workshops of the house of Kadmos: a re-examination" (in Greek). See 022.1.15

022.1.23 K. Demakopoulou, "The royal workshops of Thebes" (in Greek). See 022.1.15

022.1.24 L. Godart, "The Thebes tablets and the Mycenaean world" (in Greek). See 022.1.15

022.1.25 Ch. Koilakou, "The contribution of excavation to the investigation of the Byzantine churches of Thebes" (in Greek). See 022.1.15

022.1.26 D. Konsola, "Pre-Mycenaean Thebes" (in Greek). See 022.1.15

022.1.27 E. Kountouri, "Geometric Thebes: data from current excavations" (in Greek). See 022.1.15

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022.1.29 T. Palaima, "The significance of the discovery of Linear B at Thebes. The pioneering years". See 022.1.15

022.1.30 A. Papadaki, "Mycenaean graves at Theban cemeteries of historical times" (in Greek). See 022.1.15

022.1.31 K. Psaraki, "Proto-helladic pottery from Thebes. The excavation at the site of the extension of the Archaeological Museum of Thebes" (in Greek). See 022.1.15
022.1.32 M. Rocchi, "Athena Onka and the polis of Thebes" (in Italian). See 022.1.15
022.1.33 A. Sacconi, "The goddess Ma-ka of the tablets and Mycenaean religion" (in French). See 022.1.15
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022.1.35 A. Sampson, "Some interesting excavations on the Kadmeia (1980-1981)" (in Greek). See 022.1.15
022.1.36 A. Schachter, "Cults and Sanctuaries of Historical Thebes". See 022.1.15
022.1.37 Th. Spyropoulos, "Investigation of Theban monuments" (in Greek). See 022.1.15
022.1.38 S. Symeonoglou, "Thebes: the prehistoric capital of Hellas" (in Greek). See 022.1.15
022.1.39 E. Touloupa, "Edith Porada. The oriental cylinder seals of the Kadmeion" (in Greek). See 022.1.15
022.1.40 P. Valmas (with P. Vergioti, S. Michaeloglou, I. Moraitou, S. Samartzis), "The work of conservation at the Archaeological Museum of Thebes" (in Greek). See 022.1.15
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jaschachter@compuserve.com.

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Library of Canada:  
http://collection.nlc-bnc.ca/100/201/300/teiresias/index.html

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