

MT. LYKAION EXCAVATION AND SURVEY PROJECT

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES SUMMER 2009

Michalis Petropoulos, Mary E. Voyatzis, and David Gilman Romano, Co-Directors
39th Ephoreia of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, Tripolis
University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology • University of Arizona



A portion of the Mt. Lykaion team on an excursion to the Sanctuary of Despoina at Lykosoura.

From June 1 through July 13 a group of researchers continued their investigations of the Sanctuary of Zeus at Mt. Lykaion, where work has been underway since 2004. The team included specialists from the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, together with a team from the University of Arizona, and in collaboration with the 39th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, Tripolis. The co-directors of the project are Dr. Michalis Petropoulos, Ephor of Antiquities of the 39th Ephoreia, Dr. Mary E. Voyatzis of the University of Arizona and Dr. David Gilman Romano of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Our *synergates* is Anastasia Panagiotopoulou, Director of the Archaeological Institute for Peloponnesian Studies in Tripolis. The work was carried out under the auspices of the American School of Classical Studies at

Athens, and was made possible through the generosity of individuals, foundations and Greek-American supporters from the United States. The financial support of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Karabots of Fort Washington, Pennsylvania continues to be of major importance to the project. The Greek-American team that numbered up to 45 students and staff over the course of the summer, stayed in village accommodations in Ano Karyes and in nearby Kastanochoroi. The Stavros Niarchos Foundation through the University of Pennsylvania and The Wallace Foundation through the University of Arizona were responsible for supporting many of the students who came from these two universities. The cordial and helpful assistance given to all members of the project by the Politistikos Syllogos of Ano Karyes, and its president, Mr. Christos Koumoundouros, continues to be greatly appreciated by us all.

MT. LYKAION EXCAVATION AND SURVEY PROJECT

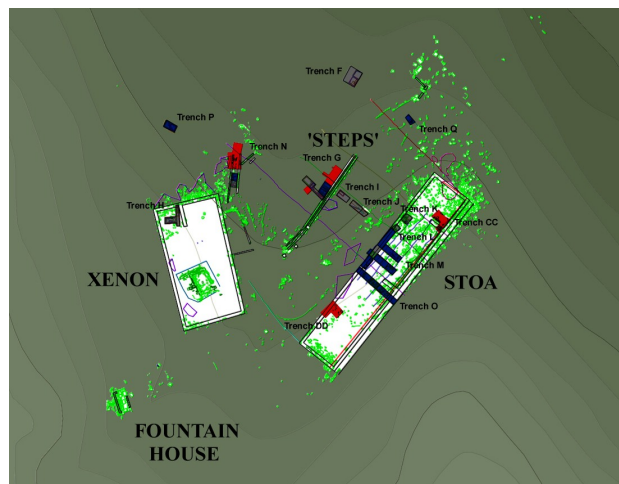
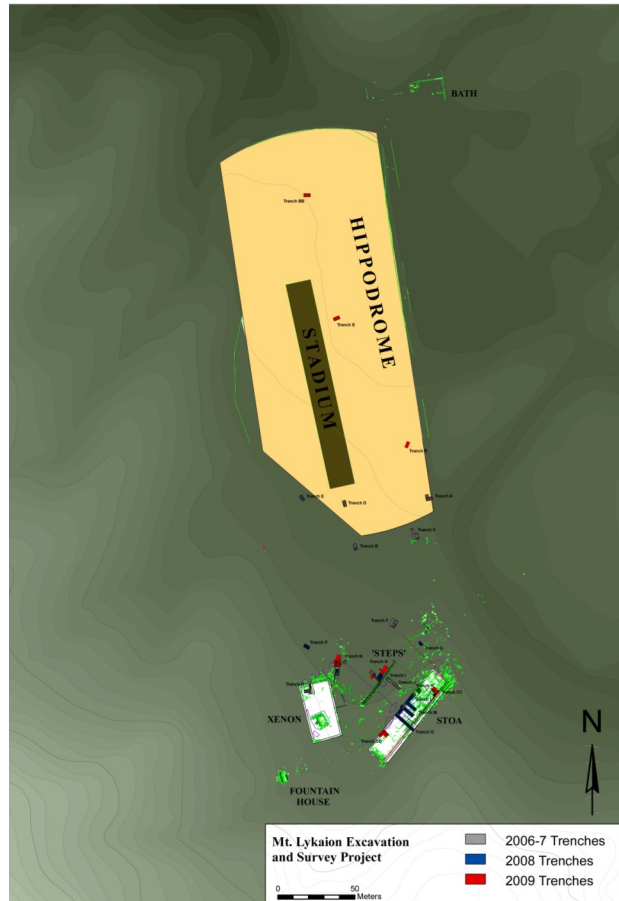
REPORT OF ACTIVITIES SUMMER 2009

Five local workmen cleared the site of brush and high grass, and also served as workmen for the trenches that were dug in the lower area of the Sanctuary of Zeus. Our work was divided into several parts that included a geological survey, topographical and architectural surveys, architectural documentation and scientific stratigraphic excavation.

Dr. George Davis of the University of Arizona and a small team continued the geological survey of the area immediately surrounding the southern peak of Mt. Lykaion, defining the structural geology of the region.

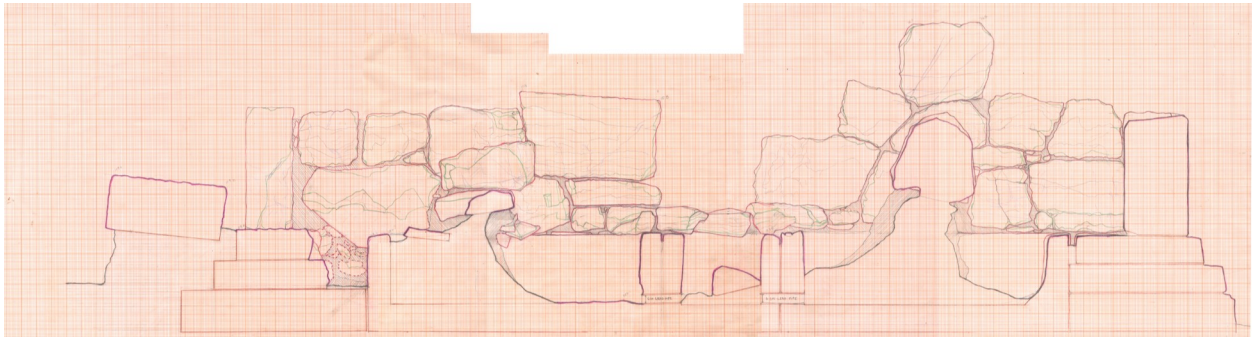
Two topographical survey teams continued the work of documenting the location of every above ground and visible stone block at the site.

Right: plan of excavations in the Lower Sanctuary; detail of Lower Sanctuary. *Below:* George Davis identifies thrusting faults during a hike.



MT. LYKAION EXCAVATION AND SURVEY PROJECT

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES SUMMER 2009



From top: architecture drawing cutting a section through the Fountain House; architect Jess Bayuk documents the Fountain House; Terri Moreno using the XRF (XRay Fluorescence) machine.

A team of five architecture students from the University of Pennsylvania supervised by Ms. Ximena Valle continued the architectural documentation of the blocks at the site by creating a series of hand drawings of every significant architectural block. The architecture students, funded in part by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, worked on the completion of the documentation of the ca. 39 m. long series of steps or seats to the north of the stoa, the documentation of the east wall of the 'xenon' building, and of the fountain house to the south and west of the 'xenon.' They also began the study of the bath building to the northeast of the hippodrome.

Ms. Terri Moreno of the Arizona State Museum was our conservator, supported by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. Expropriation of land is underway and includes areas in and around the ash altar and in the *temenos* on the southern peak of the mountain as well as in the lower sanctuary. Dr. Mary Voyatzis and Dr. David Gilman Romano presented a talk on the subject of the proposed Parrhasian Heritage Park at a meeting on the Tenth Recreation of the Modern Lykaion Games, 2009 at the War Museum in

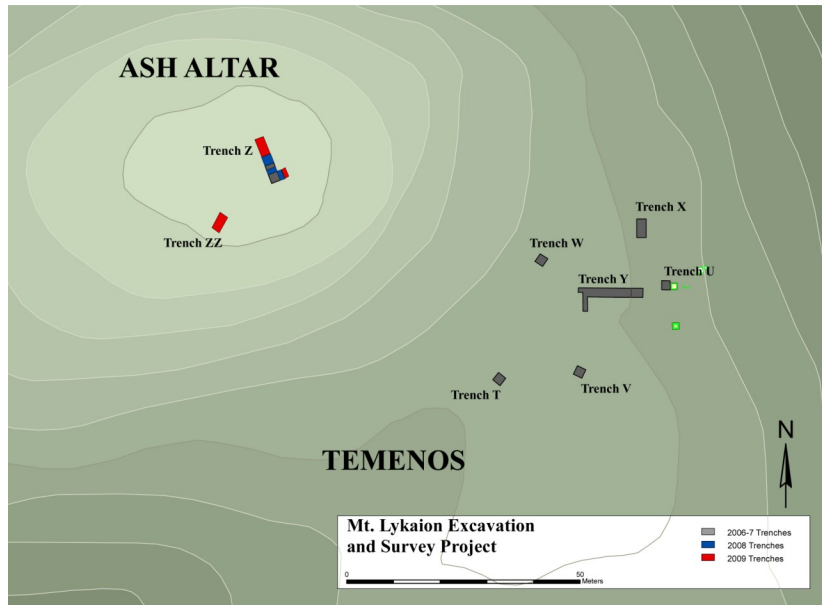


MT. LYKAION EXCAVATION AND SURVEY PROJECT

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES SUMMER 2009

Athens on June 15. Such a park would serve to protect and unify the ancient cities and sanctuaries in the area of Western Arcadia, Southern Elis and Northern Messenia. (See plan back page).

We continued several trenches from 2008 and opened a number of new trenches. At the altar we continued Trench Z, extending the original trench to the north and to the east. Stratigraphic sequences were found indicating first use of the altar in the prehistoric period. Pottery was found from the Late Neolithic, Early Helladic, Middle Helladic and Late Helladic periods. The Mycenaean material is especially well represented, characterized by dozens of Mycenaean kylikes and other small finds. Above this level, the stratigraphy includes Sub-Mycenaean and Dark Age material, as well as Geometric, Archaic, Classical and Hellenistic sherds in what appears to be a continuous sequence. Multiple miniature bronze tripods were recovered as well as silver coins, metal objects, and miniature dedications of various kinds. Great quantities of animal bones



Above: plan of excavations in the Upper Sanctuary. *Below:* finds from Trench Z: Arcadian League silver coin; Mycenaean animal figurine in situ; bronze mini tripod.

continue to be unearthed, but no human bones have been found. Trench ZZ was begun approximately 10 m. to the southwest of trench Z in a location that may include a geological fault. Our work at the altar was supported in part by a grant from the Institute of Aegean Prehistory.

In the lower sanctuary, trench G was continued in the area immediately to the north of the seats or steps where a portion of a terracotta water channel was discovered that may relate to



MT. LYKAION EXCAVATION AND SURVEY PROJECT

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES SUMMER 2009

the use of the seats in the 4th century B.C. Trench N was continued in 2009 in an area outside the northeast corner of the 'xenon,' revealing a long sub-surface open air corridor with carefully cut walls. We cleared more of the 67 m. long stoa building, including the continuation of trenches L, M and O and began trenches CC and DD. In the hippodrome we began three trenches, R, S, and BB.

Following the excavation and survey season, on August 9 David Romano attended and participated in the 10th recreation of the Modern Lykaion Games which were held on the surface of the ancient stadium and Hippodrome.



Top: the 10th Modern Lykaion Games on a transformed Hippodrome. *From top left:* finds from the Lower Sanctuary: bronze finger from Trench N; possible bronze lightning bolt from Trench G; Stoa trenches at the end of the 2009 season; terra-cotta water channel from Trench G.

MT. LYKAION EXCAVATION AND SURVEY PROJECT

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES SUMMER 2009

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the following, who have contributed to the ongoing success of the project:

CIRCLE OF ZEUS:

The Karabots Foundation in honor of Constance Chrisomalis Karabots from Anavriti, Sparta (which overlooks Mt. Lykaion) and George Karabots of Malandreni, Argos.

The Samuel H. Kress Foundation

The Niarchos Program for the Promotion of Hellenic Culture, University of Pennsylvania

The 1984 Foundation

Institute for Aegean Prehistory

The Wallace Foundation

Anonymous

Ms. Susan W. and Mr. Cummins Catherwood, Jr.

Mr. J. Garfield DeMarco

Mr. Thomas Keating

Mr. John J. Medveckis

Ms. Annette Merle-Smith

Mr. James H. Ottaway, Jr.

SPONSORS:

Ms. Elizabeth T. Bates

Ms. Dorothy Dinsmoor

Mr. Peter C. Ferry

Ms. Susan Horsey

Mr. and Mrs. Edward K. Hueber

Mr. Brian Kelly

Mr. and Mrs. Terry O'Connor

Dr. George Papanicolaou

Mr. and Mrs. J. Barton Riley

FRIENDS OF MT. LYKAION

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Adamson

Mr. and Mrs. Arch Brown

Ms. Betty Edmonson

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Ferro

Ms. Nancy Jensen

Ms. Claire Kolins

Mr. Leon Limperis

Ms. Marty Lynch

Mr. Neil E. Matthew

Mr. Alexander Nagel

Ms. Sallie Naylor

Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Ott

Mr. Daniel J. Peters & Dr. Annette Kolodny



Left: Mary Voyatzis lectures to the group about the Temple of Apollo at Bassai. *Right:* Dan Diffendale updates the group on the progress made in Trench Z.

MT. LYKAION EXCAVATION AND SURVEY PROJECT

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES SUMMER 2009

Mr. Jeremiah Reedy
Mr. and Mrs. George Rosenberg
Dr. Peter Salamon & Ms. Patricia Morgan
Mr. Curtis Scaife
Ms. Cita Scott & Mr. Harry George
Mr. Sidney Searles
Ms. Heather Sigworth
Ms. Vasiliki M. Spiers
Mr. Daniel Wachtler
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Yiannos

INSTITUTIONAL SPONSORS:

The University of Pennsylvania Museum of
Archaeology and Anthropology
Graduate Group in the Art and Archaeology of
the Mediterranean World, University of
Pennsylvania
Graduate Group in Ancient History, University
of Pennsylvania
University of Arizona, College of Humanities
University of Arizona, International Programs
Hellenic Cultural Foundation of Tucson, Arizona

Hellenic University Club, Philadelphia
Hellenic University Club, Wilmington, Delaware

CORPORATE SPONSORS:

October Films, UK
Healthmark Foot and Ankle Associates
Gusto Creative
Main Line Endodontic Associates

LOCAL SUPPORT IN GREECE:

Syllogos of Ano Karyes, Arcadia:
Mr. Christos Koumoundouros, President
Mr. Kyriakos Karagiannis, Former President
Mr. Nikos Kostopoulos, Former President
Mayor of Megalopolis, Mr. Panayiotis Bouras
Mayor of Gortynos, Mr. Kostas Michopoulos
Mayor of Phalaisias, Mr. Yiannis Phousekis
Mayor of Tripolis, Mr. Alexandros Kotsianis
Mayor of Andritsena, Mr. Trifon Athanasopoulos
Mayor of Phigaleia, Mr. Yiannis Pipiles
Mayor of Andania, Mr. Giorgos Diagoupes
Mayor of Eira, Mr. Giannis Adamopoulos



Left: washing tile outside of the lab. *Right:* the group walking from the Bath House to the Lower Sanctuary.

MT. LYKAION EXCAVATION AND SURVEY PROJECT

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES SUMMER 2009

LOCAL SUPPORT IN GREECE (CONT'D):

Vastas Cultural Society, Photis Zois, President
 Nomarchis of Arcadia, Mr. Demetrios Konstandopoulos
 Patriotic Societies Union of Lykosoura, Kyriakos Karagiannis, President
 Kastanochoroi Cultural Society, Elias Pavlopoulos, President
 Lykaion Cultural Society, George Thomopoulos, President
 Cultural Society of Ano Karyes, Arcadia, 'O Lykaioi Dias,' Christos Koumoundouros, President
 39th Ephoreia of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, Tripolis
 American School of Classical Studies at Athens

For further information about the project, please contact:

Dr. David Gilman Romano
 dromano@sas.upenn.edu
 (215) 898-4437

Dr. Mary Voyatzis
 mev@u.arizona.edu
 (520) 621-3446

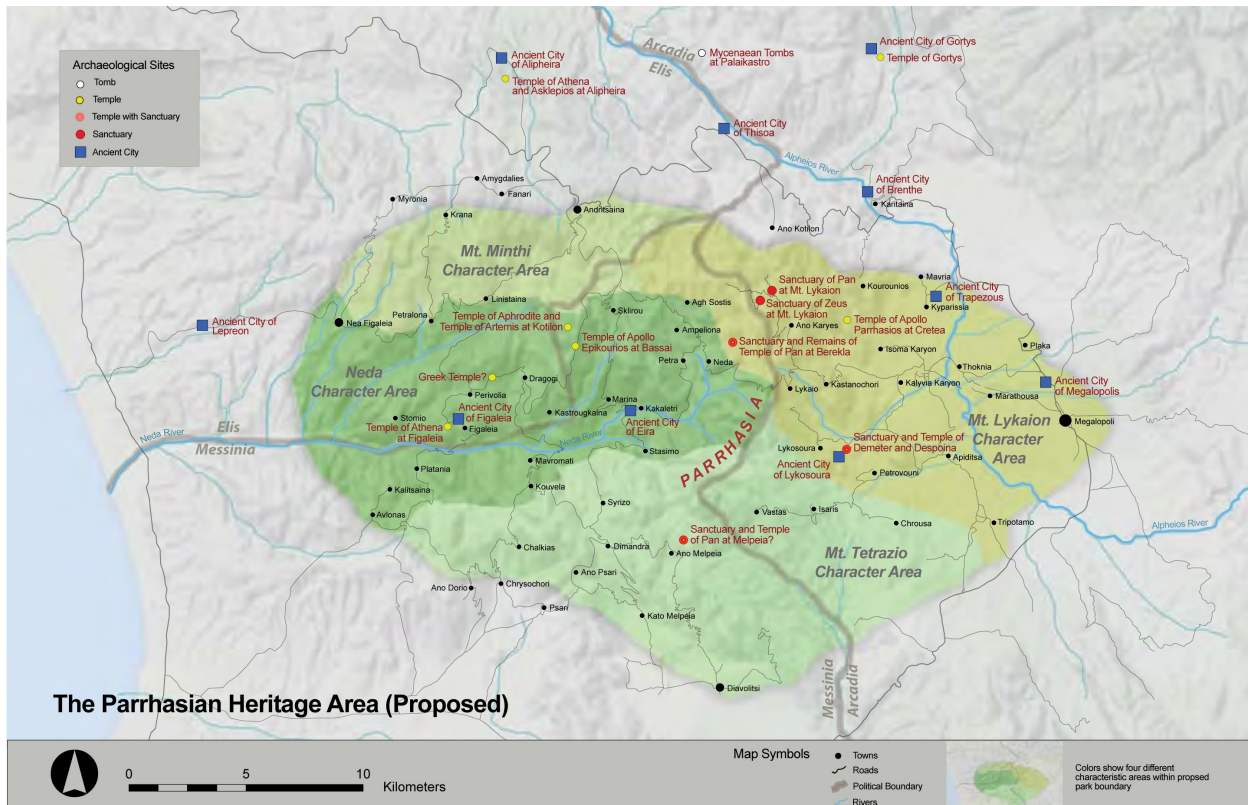


Project website:

<http://lykaionexcavation.org>

Project blog:

<http://mountlykaion.wordpress.com>



The proposed Parrhasian Heritage Park