

# Corinth Excavations Explore Two Areas of Panayia Field

Guy D.R. Sanders, Director of the Corinth Excavations, recounts some of the discoveries made at the School's oldest excavation during the 2001 season, excerpted here from his report to the Director of the School, James D. Muhly, and the Managing Committee.

In on-going excavations at the Panayia Field, southeast of the Forum at Corinth, the mid-Roman house has now been exposed over an extent in excess of 1000 square meters. Removal of the floors revealed evidence for earlier structures. When the mid-Roman house was constructed the entire area was terraced and leveled, destroying all but the foundations of walls and pockets of material in the west and trimming down deposits to above the floors in the east. On the west side were illegible scraps of walling loosely associated with a Late Archaic to early Classical secondary deposit which contained miniature vessels and small figurines. The top of what appears to be an early Roman basement with plastered walls was uncovered. One of the robbing trenches of this structure re-

vealed large stones covering a cavity that may well prove to be a grave; three substantially complete Middle Geometric oenochoi found in adjacent Late Roman disturbances in the immediate area suggest the presence of Geometric graves, of which this could be one. To the east the lower reaches of a small built cistern, faced with plaster, yielded a deposit of late fourth to very early third century B.C. pottery. Further to the east are the floors and foundations of a small structure that was probably built in the second half of the first century B.C. and went out of use in the mid-first century. Under the floor of this structure the complete skeleton of a tortoise was found, along with a lamp dating to the reign of Augustus and a coin ca. 44–40 B.C.

To the north of the exposed portion of the

mid-Roman house and the sixth-century bath, work continued on an area of about 500 square meters with the intention of eventually defining and exposing contemporary and earlier structures. Further exposure of this area required the removal of graves thought to be part of the edge of Panayia Cemetery, which was used into the early twentieth century and was known to exist immediately to the northwest. Special permission was sought from the Deme of Corinth to excavate these graves and reinter the post-Greek War of Independence remains in one of the current facilities. Study of the contexts and their contents showed that the burials are in fact ca. 1600 to 1670. A total of 59 graves with remains represent-

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## Mellon Fellow Pursues Research on Paper, Watermarks

Nina Voutova of St. Cyril National Library, Sofia, Bulgaria was among the year's recipients of a Research Fellowship under the Mellon East-Central European Visiting Scholars Program. Here she describes the results of a fruitful three-month stay at the School.

My research fellowship enabled me to conduct extensive research for my project, "Comparative Analysis of the Paper and Watermarks of the Greek and Slavic Manuscripts (14th–15th c.) based on their Filigree Research." Working mainly with the collection of Greek manuscripts in the National Library in Athens, I studied the manuscripts of this time period whose descriptions are included in the catalogues of the collection. This collection is an extremely rich source of information on various aspects of the history, literature, and culture of Greece and the Balkan Peninsula. The study of these manuscripts from a filigree point of view provides undeniable proof of the direct interaction between the two cultures—Byzantine and Slavic—and of the general impact of Byzantine scholarship on Slavic (and, in particular, Bulgarian) literary work.

I subjected to a filigree analysis nearly 400 manuscripts included in the catalogues and dated to the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Some 115 were eliminated in the primary processing as obviously not belonging to the period in question. My detailed excerption of watermarks ultimately covered some 285 manuscripts and 945 watermarks that clearly fall within my period of study.

One of the main objectives of my research was the precise (as far as the filigree analysis allows) dating of these manuscripts. I was able to ascertain that a considerable number of them are dated incorrectly in the descriptions in the Sakkelionos Catalogue (Sakkelionos I., *Katalogos ton heirographon tis Ethnikis Bibliothikis tis Ellados*, En Athinais, 1892). In some cases the deviation from the correct date is considerable, a discrepancy that can be explained by the fact that at the time the Catalogue was published, description of the manuscripts' heritage was often lax. As for the filigree analysis of the paper manuscripts, it was left unconsidered at the time.

Quite different is the case with the catalogue of L. Politis (*Katalogos heirographon tis Ethnikis Bibliothikis tis Ellados*, Athinais, 1991), where the watermarks are an important element in dating every described paper manuscript. Consequently, the dates are exact and the chronological limits narrow, on the order of 20 years at most.

Because paper was introduced in this region in the fourteenth century and became a widely used writing material in the Balkan Peninsula during the fifteenth century, the comparison of types of paper is a step toward

the establishment of a framework of the cultural influences in the region, as revealed in literary production. Thus, the study of the Greek manuscripts from a filigree point of view is of utmost importance to the understanding of these influences. Having already gathered and processed the Slavic manuscripts, I will now be able to compare them with the Greek manuscripts and make the relevant conclusions that are the goal of my research.

The opportunity given to me by the Mellon Research Fellowship was crucial to fulfilling my project goals. Moreover, meeting colleagues from the School turned out to be as important as my immediate research work. I am grateful to everyone there for their assistance and encouragement, as well as to my colleagues at the National Library for their kindness and support. I met many friends from other academic institutions whose advice was very helpful. One interesting idea raised in my discussions with them is to prepare an album of the watermarks used in the oldest Greek paper manuscripts held in the National Library, which can serve as a supplement to the descriptions in this collection. I hope to carry out this idea with the kind help of my colleagues. ❀

## Wiener Lab Reports

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to radiocarbon dating, at least from the Bronze Age onward, alluvial deposits started to accumulate on the western margin of the lagoon, pushing the shoreline eastward. During the Early Christian period (third to fourth century A.D.), one of the streams of northern Pieria changed its course and started to discharge directly into the lagoon, resulting in rapid shore progradation and the creation of the alluvial plain that presently occupies the landscape north of the village of Korinos. It is very likely that a similar situation occurred in the entire coastal zone of Pieria, although there has been no systematic geoarchaeological research in the area and, therefore, specific information on the sequence and timing of events is not available.

The establishment of a marine embayment and the subsequent progressive creation of an extensive coastal plain and related shifts of the coastline have exercised a significant influence over settlement location. Many sites, presently situated inland of the fringes of the coastal plain of Korinos, were closer to the coast at the time of occupation. ❀

## Whitehead Professor

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ments in archaeology and have no personal stake in the deliberations. One step in this direction would be to seat two other professional archaeologists on the Managing Committee's Excavation and Survey Committee in the places now reserved for the directors of the standing "School excavations" at the Athenian Agora and Corinth.

Second point: Potential excavators need encouragement in setting up and carrying out new projects of their own, especially smaller ones outside the main centers, if the younger generation is to make a distinctive contribution of its own. Why not redistribute the tasks of the School staff so that one administrator could work full-time on excavation and research questions? Among other benefits, we might then be able to reach out more to our Greek colleagues. For instance, we might make systematic inquiries of the local Ephoreias about potential projects in their districts that might be suitable for members of the foreign Schools. The research interests of School Members would thereby be stimulated in new directions that would be both productive for scholarship in general and helpful to our Greek colleagues. ❀

## Blegen Bookshelf

Gifts to the Blegen Library in 2001 and 2002 greatly enriched the Library's collections. Numerous authors, both alumni of the ASCSA and library readers, donated copies of their books, and various individuals and organizations enhanced the Blegen collections through their generous gifts.

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## Corinth

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ing 89 individuals were excavated. The majority were Christian burials but a small minority belonged to Moslems.

Removal of the last of the Early Modern walls in this northern part of the site in the area of the cemetery was completed. A large garbage pit partially excavated in 2000 was found to have been cut by one of the field walls and to have cut some of the graves. The wall in question appears on a plan of the village made soon after the accession of King

Otto, thus providing a *terminus ante quem* for the pit's contents ca. 1828. Coins within the pit, the latest two of which date to 1786, the 13th regnal year of Sultan Abdul Hameid, give a *terminus post quem* of ca. 1796 +/- 10. The deposit adds to the range of previously undated material from the Panayia site; this also includes contexts dating soon after the Greek War of Independence, ca. 1830, and deposits that immediately predate the earthquake of 1858. ❀