

Tombs and Tomes at Corinth

The 2004 and 2005 seasons at Corinth saw the continuation of excavations in the Panayia Field, while study and publication of the dig continued apace. Sarah James, Regular Member 2003–2004, who supervised the excavation of two tombs of the Geometric Period, reports on their discovery in the first part of this article.

During the 2004 season, the excavation team at Corinth, under the direction of Guy D.R. Sanders, uncovered an early Middle Geometric tomb partially destroyed by Roman building activity in the Panayia Field. A niche in the south side of the grave contained an amphora, an oinochoe, a pitcher, and a cup, all beautifully painted and completely intact.

Since similar niches had been found in recent rescue excavations north of the village, we returned to a grave excavated in 2003, located immediately to the south of the newly discovered tomb. Its carefully cut sarcophagus, weighing 3.5 tons with its lid, is one of the largest of any date known from Corinth. A niche was found hidden in the west scarp of the tomb cut. It contained 14 well-preserved Early Geometric I (ca. 900–875 B.C.) vessels, ranging from large table amphorae to small aryballois, as well as a complete iron spear point. The pottery demonstrates that the sarcophagus is one

of the earliest at Corinth.

On the north side of the Panayia Field, Mr. Sanders also opened three test areas, which yielded evidence that pointed to the existence of earlier Roman and Hellenistic structures under the garden of the fourth-century urban *domus*.

Mr. Sanders' analysis of an assemblage of Hellenistic pottery found in a cistern excavated in the Panayia Field in 2003 indicates that Corinthian Hellenistic pottery chronology urgently requires reexamination. The pottery was found with a coin of Ptolemy III (247–232 B.C.). The material suggests that many published contexts may have to be reexamined with a view to dating the material, in some cases, as much as 100 years later. This will potentially have a wide-ranging effect on the chronology of the monuments in the area of the Roman forum.

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Other Corinth News

Publication of the Panayia Field discoveries is moving hand in hand with the excavation. Mr. Sanders' "Problems in Interpreting Rural and Urban Settlement in Southern Greece, AD 365–700," which appeared in N. Christie, ed., *Landscapes of Change* (2004), describes major changes made to the chronology and urban history of Corinth as a result of the Panayia Field excavations and of recent remote sensing work in the area around Ancient Corinth. "Archaeological Evidence for Early Christianity and the End of Hellenic Religion in Corinth," also by Mr. Sanders and derived from the same material, has appeared in Daniel Schowalter and Steve Friesen, eds., *Urban Religion of Roman Corinth: Interdisciplinary Approaches* (Harvard Theological Studies, 53), 2005. This discusses the sculpture and wall paintings in the fourth-century Panayia *domus* and the late-fifth- and sixth-century appearance of Christian burial practices and sixth-century basilicas at Corinth.

Kathleen Slane joined with Mr. Sanders to write "Corinth: Late Roman Horizons," which appears in *Hesperia* 74, 2005, issue 2. The article, down-dating Late Roman pottery at Corinth, was inspired by finds immediately above the Panayia *domus* and includes the largest of the Panayia Field's post-*domus* contexts. "A Summary of Excavations in the Panayia Field at Corinth to 2004: Prehistoric to Hellenistic," by Mr. Sanders and James Herbst, was recently accepted for publication in *Hesperia*, as was Christopher Pfaff's "Geometric Graves in the Panayia Field at Corinth." "A New Group of Mosaics from Corinth in their Domestic Context and in the Context of the City," by Rebecca Sweetman and Mr. Sanders, is forthcoming in H. Morlier, ed., *La mosaïque gréco-romaine*, 9th International Colloquium on Ancient Mosaics, Rome. Arthur H. Rohn, Ethne Barnes, and Mr. Sanders have completed "An Ottoman Period Cemetery at Ancient Corinth," while "Excavations in the Panayia Field at Corinth to 2005: The Panayia *Domus*" was completed by Mr. Sanders and Mr. Herbst, both articles for submission to *Hesperia*.

Other publications related to the Panayia excavations and currently in preparation include studies of the frescoes, by Sarah Lepinski for her dissertation at Bryn Mawr Ph.D.; sculpture, by Lea Stirling; and the early modern phase in the Panayia Field as revealed by excavations up to 2005, by Mr. Sanders and Mr. Herbst. ❀

School Publications Office Receives Award

The Association of American Publishers (AAP) honored the School's publication *Propylaea II: The Classical Building* by William B. Dinsmoor and William B. Dinsmoor, Jr., with an award for Outstanding Achievement in Professional and Scholarly Publishing in the fields of Classics and Archaeology. On hand to accept the award at the February 2005 ceremony in Washington, D.C., were Michael Fitzgerald, the ASCSA editor who worked on the book; Carol Mattusch, Chair of the Publications Committee; and Tessa Dinsmoor, who labored long and hard to bring the outstanding architectural scholarship of her husband and father-in-law to publication. James H. Ottaway, Jr., Chairman of the Trustees' Publications Committee, generously underwrote the production of such a complex book.

Award winners, selected by an eight-member panel consisting of librarians, academics, and working publishers, were chosen from hundreds of books submitted. The ASCSA Publications Office was, by far, the smallest of the publishers selected, competing against university presses such as Princeton, Oxford, Johns Hopkins, and Yale, and commercial publishers like Elsevier and John Wiley. Further details about the book are available at www.ascsa.edu.gr/publications.



Photo: Anthony Watkinson

Michael Fitzgerald, Tessa Dinsmoor, and Carol Mattusch after accepting the AAP award.