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region. All three have produced peat and wood in sufficient quantity to be radiocarbon-dated. Analysis of the cores is currently under way in Groningen.

HALAI, 1992–1993: *John E. Coleman*, Cornell University

The third season of excavations at Halai in Lokris, Greece, was carried out in 1992 by Cornell University with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute for Aegean Prehistory. Two hundred square meters of the Neolithic levels in area F are now exposed and we also excavated a substantial sample of the earliest deposits, immediately above bedrock. Neolithic occupation extends from late Early Neolithic to early Late Neolithic I. A massive LN stone structure was perhaps a bounding wall. Twelve radiocarbon samples are being analyzed.

Further investigation of Archaic structures in area A suggests that they were of public character. One contained layers of mudbrick or debris from mudbrick. Beside it are mysterious circular stone platforms, one deliberately covered with "turkey wing" shells (*arca occidentalis*). Near the end of the Archaic period, the town was probably destroyed and at least partly abandoned.

Dense Hellenistic occupation in areas C and H ends about the time of the reported destruction by Sulla. Early and Middle Roman occupation was scanty. In Late Roman times the site was used for Christian worship and burial. A test trench in the basilican church revealed parts of a colorful sixth-century mosaic with panels of birds, including an eagle with halo. The dromos of a well-built tomb in area H contained sixth-century North African lamps with Christian symbols.

Photogrammetry was used for architectural recording in 1992 as well as balloon photography. Intensive study of finds took place in 1993.

THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE EARLY HELLADIC CHIEFDOMS: *Daniel J. Pullen*, Florida State University

A major problem in Aegean Bronze Age studies is the end of the Early Helladic II period. Caskey's (*Hesperia* 29, 1960) chronological framework proposed a major cultural change between EH II and III, attributed to an invading population. This view has been challenged by the new Tiryns excavations and by Forsén (*The Twilight of the Early Helladics*, Jonsered 1992), who has shown that many cultural traits identified by Caskey as new to EH III have a long history in the Early Bronze Age; but the sociocultural differences between the two periods have not yet been explained adequately.

A conceptual shortcoming of the problem is that populations have been viewed as organized into undifferentiated villages. Several lines of evidence, including settlement patterns, architecture, and seals and sealings, suggest modeling social organization in EH II as a number of small-scale chiefdoms, each a three-tiered hierarchy of settlements dominated by a central place that controls a redistributive network for the elite. The dynamics of chiefdoms suggest that competition is a major feature of their interrelationships,

much as Renfrew (*Peer Polity Interactions and Socio-Political Change*, Cambridge 1986) proposed for the more complex early state level of organization. While the EH II chiefdoms should not be equated with more complex sociopolitical units of the later Bronze Age, nevertheless the peer polity interaction model is useful in that it demands we examine the relationships among the chiefdoms in order to explain such changes as the "end of the EH II period."

THE PYLOS REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT: PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE 1993 SEASON: *J.L. Davis*, University of Cincinnati, *S.E. Alcock*, University of Michigan, *J. Bennet*, University of Wisconsin–Madison, *Y. Lolos*, Hellenic Institute of Marine Archaeology, Athens, *C.W. Shelmerdine*, University of Texas at Austin, and *E. Zangger*, University of Heidelberg

The Pylos Regional Archaeological Project (PRAP) completed its second season of surface survey in the summer of 1993, building on the substantial results of the first season (see *AJA* 97 [1993] 330–31). Twenty-four square kilometers have now been intensively surveyed.

Archaeological fieldwork over the six-week season had the following emphases. First, intensive survey this year was directed toward several 1-km wide transects (ca. 12 km<sup>2</sup> total area) along the coast between the modern towns of Romanou and Marathopolis; much of this area is today covered by well-preserved soils of Pleistocene age, in strong contrast to the highly eroded marls that characterize the Englianos ridge and adjacent slopes surveyed last year. Nine sites were defined in total. Prehistoric finds of special interest included two new Mycenaean settlements, a small Early Bronze Age settlement, and the first documented Palaeolithic site in Messenia. Historical remains were particularly rich, including a previously unknown Late Hellenistic site west of Romanou. The extent of artifactual and architectural remains associated with the known sites of Gargaliani *Kanalos* (UMME no. 15) and the large (predominantly Roman) coastal town at Dialiskari (UMME no. 406) was also systematically documented for the first time.

Second, special projects were initiated this summer at the Palace of Nestor and several other large historic and prehistoric sites already known before the start of our investigations, but not comprehensively studied. At the Palace of Nestor, gridded collection of surface remains in the associated town northeast and southeast of the palace citadel was completed, as was a program of geomorphological coring and magnetometry. At Koryfasion *Beylerbey* (UMME no. 4), geomorphological and geophysical prospecting confirmed Marinatos's supposition that any subsurface archaeological remains have been severely disturbed by modern agricultural activities. The date, extent, and distribution of the long-lived ancient settlement at Romanou were more clearly defined by "micro-tracing" collection techniques similar to those recently employed at Phlius in the Corinthia. Gridded collection on the acropolis of the site of Gargaliani *Kanalos* (UMME no. 15) produced rich finds of both prehistoric and historic date, including graves.

Other archaeological research supported by PRAP included the extraction for palynological analysis of additional

cores from Osmanaga Lagoon and from an inland site near the modern town of Metamorphosis.

MINNESOTA ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCHES AT PYLOS, 1991–1993 SEASONS: *F.A. Cooper*, University of Minnesota, and *Elizabeth Swain*, Duke University

Our researches at Pylos began in 1990 when we achieved a detailed state plan of the palace (*AJA* 96 [1992] 362). In 1991 we undertook a multiple-season project to clear previously excavated areas of backfill in order to create a comprehensive site plan of the many sets of walls and of the profusion of archaeological features that occupy the acropolis. At that stage our intention was to concentrate on walls alone, leaving floors and ancillary spaces to the record provided by C. Blegen's published account (*The Palace of Nestor at Pylos I*, Princeton 1966); thus, only the walls of the Northeastern Building, rooms 92–100, were recorded in 1991. But in 1992, as work moved north toward the Wine Magazine, the unexpected occurred. Removal of the backfill in area 103 revealed a broad expanse of decorated plastered floor and another floor made of broken painted fresco fragments laid as a terrazzo-like mosaic. Moreover, the area contains a clear sequence of walls and floors from pre-palatial through post-palatial times. Blegen notes little of this in excavations of the area in 1958. For this reason we returned to the Northeastern Building for the 1993 season to investigate fully the multiple phases of floors and corridors throughout this entire sector of the acropolis, including a reinvestigation of the extensive hydraulic system that crisscrosses the site.

*Phase 1:* A Middle Helladic wall underneath room 104 and a stone-lined shaft grave under room 97 represent the earliest constructions. *Phase 2:* A pre-palatial portico consists of 1) a pair of column bases and 2) a plaster floor with painted design. The columns and related floor appear to be the remains of a large pillared hall. Several patches of a related floor run underneath the outer walls of palace rooms 42 and 47. *Phase 3:* Walls just to the southwest of the Wine Magazine, 105, zigzag at right angles to each other to form a megaron-like plan. They cut into the decorated plaster floor of phase 2. *Phase 4:* A partially excavated house at the southeast has an orientation that runs at an oblique angle to the alignment of the "zigzag megaron" of phase 3. *Phase 5:* The terrazzo-like floor, mentioned above, was built up against the walls of the "zigzag megaron" and the Southeast House. *Phase 6:* The Wine Magazine cuts through the walls of phase 3, and dates to the period of the palace; phases 1–5 must therefore date to an earlier period. *Phase 7:* Post-palatial walls. Evidence for post-palatial occupation of this area of the site comes from the walls of building 103a–d (C. Griebel and M. Nelson, *AJA* 97 [1991] 331).

Elizabeth Swain has begun a comprehensive study of the fresco fragments, nearly 1,000 inventoried examples alone coming from the area of the fresco-chip floor. Otherwise, the fresco fragments appear to be evenly distributed throughout the resifted backfill: 433 examples were collected from 20 different units in 1993. The most important fragment forms a part of the famous Griffin and Lion fresco from the Queen's Hall, room 46.

THE GROWTH AND DECLINE OF THE MYCENAEAN SETTLEMENT AND CEMETERIES AT PROSYMNA: *Kim S. Shelton*, American School of Classical Studies at Athens

Almost all of our evidence for the Mycenaean settlement of Prosymna in the Argolid comes from the cemeteries excavated by Carl Blegen from 1925 to 1928. In my recently completed dissertation, *The Late Helladic Pottery from Prosymna* (Univ. of Pennsylvania 1993), all the pottery from the cemeteries has been reexamined and redated. This paper presents a discussion of the chronology and a reconstruction of the cemeteries based on the refined pottery dates for the tombs and the individual deposits. Both general and specific characteristics of the site are examined by period, showing the growth and decline of the population and its wealth. A possible reconstruction of the settlement pattern and community structure is proposed on the basis of the growth and change of individual cemeteries. Constructional features of the tombs, such as the shape of the chamber, are found to be predominantly the result of geographical location or tradition rather than chronological factors.

THE LH IIIC PERIOD AT MIDEA: *Gisela Walberg*, University of Cincinnati

During the 1985–1991 excavations of the citadel of Midea, stratified LH IIIC material was found on the Lower Terraces. In 1985, fragments of a large krater with close parallels classified as *Fortgeschritten* at Tiryns appeared, and in 1987 additional LH IIIC fragments indicated the presence of a LH IIIC settlement in the area. In 1990, LH IIIC material was discovered near the citadel wall, stratified beneath Roman layers and above LH IIIB debris. A linear shallow angular bowl characteristic of LH IIIC Early–Middle was found in situ on a pavement, directly above an identical LH IIIB pavement. In 1991, more LH IIIC material indicated a direct continuation of the LH IIIB habitation and reuse of older buildings as well as rebuilding in LH IIIC. This LH IIIC settlement ended with a catastrophe while pottery decorated in early LH IIIC Middle (Rutter phase 4a) style was in use. The pottery has parallels from houses in the Tiryns *Unterbürg*, drift layers at Mycenae (Developed Phase), and destruction layers at Lefkandi (phase 2a). (The presence of the krater sherd found in 1985 and of late LH IIIC material indicates that the habitation at Midea continued after the catastrophe and throughout the Bronze Age.) The early LH IIIC Middle catastrophe at Midea and the destruction of contemporary houses at Tiryns and Lefkandi may have a common cause. The new LH IIIC material from Midea adds an important component to our picture of the LH IIIC period on the Greek mainland.

SMALL FINDS FROM THE MYCENAEAN CITADEL OF MIDEA: *Amy Ostenso*, University of Cincinnati

A large assortment of small finds was uncovered in the course of the 1985, 1987, and 1989–1991 excavations on the