



LIONBYTES

AN OCCASIONAL COMMUNICATION TO SUPPORTERS OF THE NEMEA CENTER

NOVEMBER 2010

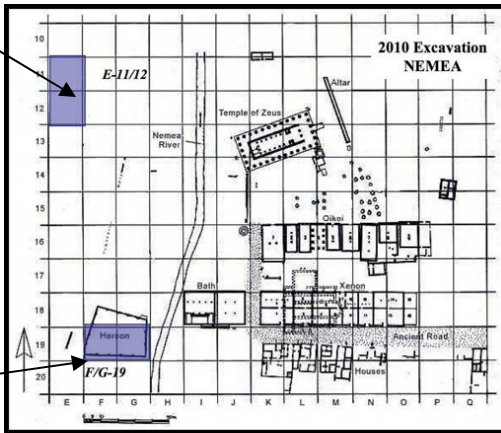
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From the Director

How thrilling it is to be 'back from the trenches.' How exciting it is to report to you, our friends and donors, the very first impressions and experiences from the new excavation campaign at Nemea! There were several points when we



Areas of excavation, 2010 season

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Excavation photos are taken by the Director with vital 'support' from Nathan Arrington (Princeton University)

—Kim Shelton, Director, Nemea Center for Classical Archaeology

What's Down there? Seeing Underground

Excavation is a costly and time-consuming business. It is a good idea to find out as



Geophysical Remote sensing in progress

much as we can about 'what's down there' without digging, so we can learn as much as possible about the site before we decide where to excavate. Subsurface, non-invasive investigation of the natural or man-made layers or features is thus an important weapon in our excavation armory. This summer, we made a geophysical (i.e., subsurface) survey of much of the archaeological site. 'Remote sensing,' as it is called, uses magnetometry and ground penetrating radar to provide data about what is 'down there.' In addition, a process called Electrical Resistivity Tomography is applied which produces a map of the stratigraphy of an area. Using different methods for scanning

the site was valuable, since they provided complementary information and helped outline the most significant features that were suggested by the different measurements. We covered about 25,000 square meters with at least one geophysical technique and pinpointed a few regions that deserve more attention. Some areas were difficult to read because of an increased 'noise level' in the readings mainly due to geological processes, the intensive use of the site in the past as well as the past excavations. As a result of the survey, the area around the temple seems to have a number of features that may be of interest, especially to the south and southwest. East of the temple and the altar, the GPR identified strong reflections in a couple of areas that may be related to architectural remains. Very surprisingly, similar architectural features were identified under the site parking lot from a depth of about 70-80cm and extending to at least 180cm below the surface. The survey also discovered evidence of a possible road leading away from the Sanctuary to the east, but different from the road to the Stadium. A team from the Laboratory of Geophysical-Remote Sensing and Archaeo-environment of the Institute for Mediterranean Studies (Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas – F.O.R.T.H.) under the guidance of Dr. Apostolos Sarris and Dr. Nikos Papadopoulos worked together with the Nemea excavation team members on the geophysical survey.

Looking for the Hippodrome

One of our two excavation focuses was on the northwestern part of the archaeological site, the area to your left and away, beyond the Hero Shrine and Bath areas. It is here in sections D/E-11/12 that we hoped to find evidence for the ancient hippodrome, the race course for horses and chariots. We opened two large trenches that were significantly reduced in size to order to allow time to reach much deeper. In the first trench, located in E12, we could see the results of at least two flood events when deep layers of well-filtered clay and pebbles had been deposited alternating with periods of human occupation and use. We found ceramic and organic evidence that clearly indicates active cultivation of this ground in the Early Christian and Hellenistic periods. In E11, farming levels were also found just below the surface layers and produced mixed Byzantine and Early Modern material. Unfortunately, no evidence of the hippodrome was encountered. The farming levels during the Hellenistic period seem to suggest that only a very early track would be possible here and only at a great depth below that of the rest of the sanctuary. UCB and Professor Miller had made similar investigations very early on in the excavation of the site in the mid 1970s before much else was known about the sanctuary and its various structures. Our excavation results were similar to those of the earlier excavation, even if in different places. We hoped for a better result from the geophysical survey of the area. Magnetometry and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) were used primarily while Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT) was applied to map the stratigraphy of the Holocene sediments and address the question of the hippodrome's location. The ERT did not identify any specific leveling of the subsurface on the west side of the archaeological site where the hippodrome was expected; alas, the geophysically identified subsurface strata do not provide any supporting evidence for the existence of the hippodrome in this area. Since no positive evidence was identified either during excavation or during the geophysical survey, our results appear to exclude the possibility of this setting for the Nemean hippodrome. Therefore, we will need to look for it elsewhere.



Section E12 in the area where we had hoped to find the hippodrome

Early History and the Hero Shrine

In the area of the Hero Shrine we opened three trenches, all of which continued excavation undertaken by Professor Miller, primarily during his earlier campaigns in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The purpose of continuing the excavation here is to

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investigate any early periods of use, either early historic or prehistoric. The removal of soil layers was very complicated in this area so we worked slowly and systematically to unravel the processes, natural and man-made, that eventually led to the creation of the Heroön itself. The evidence recovered varied somewhat in each of the three trenches but all of them gave indications of prehistoric (down to the



Excavating at the Hero Shrine

early 7th century) occupation, pre-Achaic construction, and ritual activity by at least the Archaic period. We found a good amount of prehistoric sherds in these trenches, especially from the Neolithic period and the Late Bronze Age, but also a few of periods such as the Middle Bronze Age that have not been found elsewhere on the site. The Archaic phase (later 7th to early 5th centuries), as had been discovered elsewhere in this area, is represented by the repeated deposition of soil layers and whole vessels within the soil, consisting of mostly fine ware kotylai, or two-handled Corinthian cups, and a number of other serving pots (bowls and jugs) but also several miniature votive vessels. Is there habitation continuity from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age at this part of the sanctuary? Or even cult continuity? There are intriguing clues beckoning us to 'dig deeper' and we intend to do so this coming summer, so stay tuned!

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Kotylai ware from the Heroön area.

Students Dig Nemea!



Field School and grad Students excavate at Nemea

The teaching program of the Nemea Center continues to offer unparalleled experience hands-on and in-person with ancient and modern Greece, especially for undergraduates, with the summer field schools available for university credit as part of the UC Berkeley Summer Sessions. The Center received 52 applications from students and philhellenes all over the country for only 10 available spots. From June 1st until July 8th, a six-week program took place in Nemea. Four teams made up of two or three undergraduate students spent three days in each of the excavation trenches where, under supervision of the graduate student trench supervisor, they recorded the excavation process in notebooks, labeled and packaged finds, and excavated alongside our

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local workmen. The teams also rotated through the museum workroom where they participated in the cleaning, conservation and cataloging of finds. Tours of other sites/museums in the local area and further a field (including Athens, Olympia, Delphi and Epidaurus) were taken in afternoons and on weekends. Later in July and to mid August, the Nemea Center's work at Mycenae continued. A graduate and undergraduate student staff participated in a study season on material excavated in past years from Petsas House, a Late Bronze Age habitation and ceramics factory. Four major areas of research were conducted: pottery conservation and cataloging, fresco cleaning, soil sample sorting, and the cleaning and cataloging of faunal material.

What a Jewel: the Archaeological Park

As a visiting official from the Ministry of Culture noted this past summer, our Archaeological Park is one of, if not the, best maintained in all of Greece. It is a true jewel. This only happens because of the time and money the Center invests. For example, this past summer, in addition to the normal weeding of the site, mowing the lawn and gardening around the museum and stadium, additional maintenance and supply was performed on site and in the museum. In the archaeological park most of the additional work involved mowing of high-weeded areas and cleaning of drainage systems. New hoses, ladder and tools were purchased. We also assisted the Ephoreia in cutting weeds on other area sites.

A Temple Reborn

Work continues in the second part of Phase II involving the restoration of the entablature at the NE corner of the temple, over the recently reconstructed columns (K-27, K-28, K-29, K-30) with architect and on-site supervisor, Ms. Katerina Sklere, and civil engineering and reconstruction consultant, Dr. Kostas Papantonopoulos. Of the epistyle course, all nine triglyph-metope blocks were patched and joined, while two of the ten architrave blocks were also restored. Significant progress was made in the preparation of the study for a possible next phase of reconstruction along the north side of the temple. We also wish to acknowledge with heartfelt gratitude the invaluable contribution of Professor Nikos Makris, Director of the Reconstruction of the Temple of Zeus Project since 2004. Professor Makris has been instrumental in the successful planning, fundraising, execution, and research for the current phase of



Our Consulting Engineer, Dr. Kostas Papantonopoulos, and two of our excellent workmen, Christos and Elias, work on restoring an epistyle.

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the Reconstruction Project. His tenure as director ended in December 2009 following the successful completion of the erection of the four columns in the Northeast corner of the temple, part one of the Phase II reconstruction.

Distinguished Visitors

We welcomed many visitors and groups to the archaeological site as well as the excavation including the American School of Classical Studies at Athens Summer Sessions; the director of the ASCSA, Dr. Jack Davis, and chair of its Managing Committee, Dr. Mary Sturgeon; the teachers and students from the American Farm School; and the excavation staff and field school from the Norwegian Institute of Archaeology. A number of local and regional groups also visited and were given tours by the director or assistant director of the Nemea Center, Dr. Elizabeth Langridge-Noti. A very special guest was Professor Erich Gruen and his wife, Ann. Erich has been a steadfast supporter of Nemea for decades; it was a great pleasure for Kim and Liz to be able to show off the site.



Distinguished visitors Professor Erich Gruen and his wife, Ann, with Director Kim and Assistant Director Liz

Can't Wait for Next Year! EXCAVATION 2011

This coming summer we continue our new series of excavations at Nemea under the aegis of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. A number of different trenches will be opened, some of those from 2010 and others new, to explore various research questions; among them to continue and expand on previous work, spatially and chronologically, by exploring to greater depth several areas in and around the sanctuary. The areas that will be targeted in these initial three seasons of excavation indicate a strong potential for prehistoric and early historic architecture and ceramics, as well as possible well-stratified Archaic, Classical and Hellenistic remains that will aid in our continuing study and publication of the material from these periods.

Nemea Needs (as always!) Your Help!

Our on-going research, reconstruction, and, of course, excavation at the site require substantial external funds and support. We need the friends and supporters of the Nemea Center more than ever for our future success. Please come to Nemea Night on December 7th at 6:30 in East Pauley Ballroom atop the ASUC student union, and please also give generously to our work. You are crucial to our success. You can donate on-line at <http://givetocal.berkeley.edu/browse/?u=76>

Thank you!

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