



LIONBYTES

AN OCCASIONAL COMMUNICATION TO SUPPORTERS OF THE NEMEA CENTER
AUGUST 2007

Director Kim Shelton checks in with a brief note on the summer's work; she will give a full, detailed account in her Fall 'snail-mail' letter.

A productive and exciting summer has raced by amid stifling hot temperatures and regional fires with rewarding results at Nemea and Mycenae. After much anticipation, our new "total station" survey and topography equipment was received and immediately put to great use. We look forward to even more use beginning in early 2008 on mapping and planning of current and future projects.



New NCCA Total Station surveying equipment in use at Nemea this summer.

The museum study at Nemea has produced

even more prehistoric and Iron Age pottery from the sanctuary that will reinforce our future research aims, while at Mycenae the excavation revealed much more architecture, including a storeroom with large storage vessels, and previously unknown vase shapes from the 14th century BCE.

Our Field Schools were once again very successful. Our two dozen undergrads and seven graduate students learned a huge amount about the archaeology of Nemea, Mycenae, and Greece. We already have two undergrad 'graduates' of the Field Schools who will go on to graduate work in classical archaeology; one graduate student is making a Nemea topic the center of his Fulbright Grant work in Athens this year. Likewise, work continued on the restoration of the Temple of Zeus under the direction of Professor Nicos Makris and on preparation for the 2008 Nemean Games.

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Berkeley undergraduate Classics major Linni Mazurek is an 'old hand' at the Nemea Center. She participated in the Center's field school at Nemea last summer and this summer has been at the one at Mycenae. She writes here about her experiences this last month 'in the field'.

As a Classical Archaeology student, there are few possibilities as exciting as excavating at Mycenae. Through the tireless efforts of Dr. Kim Shelton, the director of the Nemea Center, undergraduates have been able to realize this dream for the past few years. This July, 15 students assembled from universities around the US and Canada to excavate at Petsas House and investigate the mysteries of the past more closely.

Petsas House was the home of a potter during the Late Helladic IIIA2 period (around 1325 BC), in which



hundreds of pots, figurines, cooking wares, and other

ceramic objects were made. Students rose at 5 AM and began work by 5:30 AM every day. Work on the site ended at 1:30 each afternoon, but several students opted to assist with conservation work in the museum until 4:00. Students were divided into

Weekly trench tour conducted by field school students

groups of two or three, paired with a graduate student supervisor and a

workman, and rotated among the six open trenches and museum in order to observe the diverse material culture and chronological contexts at Petsas House.

Learning about the many different types of pottery was only the beginning of our education at Petsas House. Every student kept a notebook detailing daily activities and their interpretations. Students also participated in determining stratigraphy, reporting finds, and of course, physical labor. Perhaps the most exciting part of working Mycenae was visiting museums across Greece and seeing material similar to an artifact found on site the day before.

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Excavating Petsas House, Mycenae. Grad student Joel Rygorsky is in foreground



4th of July party at Bowker House with correspondents Abbey (July LionBytes) and Linni in center

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Students also experienced life in modern Greece firsthand. From celebrating the village Panegyri festival to learning bits of Modern Greek to making friends with local people, the unique experience of living in the village of Mikines opened eyes to a new culture and attitude. This added immeasurably to our experience, and is just one of many reasons why the field school at Petsas House is a phenomenal life and learning experience.

—*Linni Mazurek*

FIRES IN GREECE

During the last part of July and again just this past week there have been massive, immensely destructive fires in the Peloponnese. News coverage has concentrated on the spectacular danger, luckily averted to the site of Olympia. Reports from Nemea indicate that the fires are receding and that the area around Nemea and Mycenae are not threatened.



NASA photo of fires in Greece, August 26, 2007

NEMEA NIGHT 2007

Specific details will be forthcoming later in the fall, but mark your calendars! Nemea Night 2007 will be in International House the evening of Monday, December 3rd.