



LIONBYTES

AN OCCASIONAL COMMUNICATION TO SUPPORTERS OF THE NEMEA CENTER

NOVEMBER 2007

IN THIS LIONBYTES



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NEMEA NIGHT 2007

UPDATE ON NEMEA CENTER ACTIVITIES, 2007

The Nemea Center for Classical Archaeology continues to be a focus for archaeological research, education and public relations centered on Nemea and the surrounding area, while student involvement in all areas of research – whether in Greece or in Berkeley – has contributed a new and contagious enthusiasm in all our endeavors.



Google Earth: Nemea from 1500 feet

Research Mission: Publications

Work continued on the preparation of *Nemea IV: The Shrine of Opheltes, the Early Stadium, and the Hippodrome* by Jorge Bravo and Barbara Rieger. The final manuscript should be submitted in 2008. Work is also underway for *Nemea V: The Sacred Square II* by P. Bouyia, S.G. Miller and G. Zimmer. Professor Zimmer's contribution on the Bronze Sculptor's Workshop has been submitted. Study was continued for *Nemea X: Chronology* with the on-going analysis and cataloguing of the major ceramic deposits and with the additional study of foundation deposits of the 4th century BC Temple of Zeus currently underway by UCB graduate student in Classical Archaeology, Nathan Arrington, in Greece at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens on a Fulbright grant. This project will be one of several projected as a cooperative effort of scholars and students to publish both the chronologically and geographically significant pottery. This volume will make a major contribution to a clearer understanding of regional ceramics, sanctuary assemblages and domestic pottery of the Early Hellenistic period.

Research Mission: Sanctuary of Zeus

The year 2007 was a study season at Nemea, so the bulk of our work concentrated on research and publication preparation. Conservation concerns continue at the site, however, so we were extremely pleased by the recent approval of our proposal to conserve the foundations of the Early Christian Basilica, which began to display serious signs of deterioration due to the disintegration of the mortar and the collapse of masonry. The Basilica, one of the earliest in the Peloponnese, was the centerpiece of the sanctuary in the 5th-6th centuries AD. The project will involve the

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excavation of the clean backfill as well as possibly some areas previously unexcavated to expose the masonry of the foundations; we will then clean the old mortar and install the new. The preservation and presentation of archaeological monuments is a primary mission of the Nemea Center; careful and deliberate conservation ensures the future possibility of research and visible understanding of the site's complex and long history.

Research Mission: Museum

This season, study was continued on the ceramic material from past seasons of excavation in the Sanctuary of Zeus for publication in *Nemea X: Chronology*. Students sorted and identified sherds; they also catalogued, drew, and photographed



Student Alex Reider finds joins in a Late Geometric Argive krater

the characteristic pieces for provenance, function and dating. Finally, they added information to our database for the catalogued sherds and relevant deposits in order to generate listings for the final publication and for potential online and/or archival searches of Nemean pottery, locally produced and imported. Much refinement of dating is already possible, especially for the prehistoric and early Iron Age periods, but also for the later post Hellenistic material. The five teams of students who conducted this work were part of the UC Berkeley field school (see below).

We continued this year to photograph objects in storage in the museum and scan existing negatives in our Berkeley Archive. This will contribute not only to the larger project to digitally record artifacts of the Korinthia, begun last summer (2006), it also adds significantly to the photographic archive of digital images available to scholars and students.

One additional study was conducted on UCB material in late August: Ms Soline Berger of the Sorbonne and the French School in Athens examined bronze coins of the 1st centuries BC and AD from our excavations and published in *Nemea III*. The excellent facilities in the research area of the museum were also utilized again this summer by a joint American and Canadian archaeological team, under the direction of Jim Wright of Bryn Mawr and Angus Smith of Brock University, excavating a Mycenaean Chamber Tomb cemetery at the site of Aghia Sotira to the northwest of Tsoungiza hill (prehistoric settlement), and a joint German and American archaeological team, with Torsten Mattern of Philipps-University Marburg and Jeannie Marchand (UCB M.A. 1990, Ph.D. 2002) of Wright State University, beginning excavation at the nearby ancient acropolis site of Kleonai, in the next valley to the northeast.

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Pedagogical Mission: Archaeological Field Schools

We reported extensively on the Nemea Center Field Schools in previous *LionBytes*. Suffice here to state that both the School at Nemea and the one at Mycenae were once again great success stories.

Pedagogical Mission: Museum

The Nemea Center continues its strong commitment to the maintenance and enhancement of the Peterson Museum at the site. Visitation in 2006 increased significantly and 2007's numbers should be at approximately the same level in spite of the intense heat wave in June and July. The Nemea Center also welcomed the new Ephor (Antiquities Service Director) of the Korinthia, Dr. Giorgios Kissas, who took on his new post at the very start of the summer but by August had visited all of the sites and met with all the archaeologists working in his jurisdiction. Formerly working on the Athenian Acropolis, Dr. Kissas was trained in Germany and is a specialist in ancient architecture. The Korinthia, and Nemea in particular, is very lucky to have him and has already profited from his enthusiasm, engagement and strong work ethic.



Students Ryan Boehm and Doug Parada excavate area for a new restroom for guards at the Museum.

Pedagogical Mission: Public Relations

This July, a meeting was held in Nemea to discuss the possibility for a regional archaeological cooperative that would promote the importance of the Nemea area in antiquity and today, especially for research and tourism. This coordinated effort of scholars, organizations such as the Nemea Center, local government and business leaders will organize conferences, lectures and an archaeological guide. Attending the meeting were Jim Wright, Mary Dabney and Angus Smith of the Aghia Sotira Project, Jack Davis, director of the ASCSA, and co-director of the NVAP, with his wife and colleague Shari Stocker, Joseph Maran, director of Excavations at Tiryns and director of the Phlious Valley survey of the German Institute, Kim Shelton, Director of the Nemea Center, Mr. Aristoteles Kallis, head of the Business Council of Nemea, and the Mayor of Nemea, Konstantinos Kalantzis, native of Aidonia.

Bowker House

The Director's residence house at the archaeological site was further repaired and updated this year. The common room was equipped with a desktop computer (PC) station to interface with the total station survey instrument and for

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research and communication through a new high-speed Internet connection (DSL) for visitors/students. The room was also made more comfortable for after-hours reading and entertainment with the addition of a sofa and easy chair.

A major improvement to the available facilities was completed in the spring with the construction of new toilets and showers along the west side of the courtyard. The existing bathrooms were updated with new equipment, now providing a total of three toilet/sink washrooms and three showers – all tiled floors and walls (in Berkeley Blue and Gold).

Archives

The Nemea Archive on the UCB campus has seen a flurry of activity over the past year. The slide, negative and photo collections are presently being scanned and catalogued. The main computer and slide scanner were updated, while a second imaging station has been installed. A number of negatives from the 1920s and 1960s have been placed into proper storage materials and conditions. Four undergraduate students worked throughout the 2006-07 academic years as part of the URAP program (Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program). All four continued as assistants in Greece in the Field School programs.

Land Acquisition - The privately owned land located between the archaeological sites of the sanctuary and stadium was declared by the Greek courts as “eminent domain” and the Ministry of Economics has initially approved the recommended price. Negotiation between the owners and the court continues while a significant down payment of the land price was made by the Nemea Center for inclusion in the archaeological park, physically uniting the two excavated areas and allowing the land to be excavated. Other adjacent pieces of farmland are also being sought after for the same reason.

Future Excavation

Next fall, permission will be sought from the American School of Classical Studies at Athens for full-scale excavations at Nemea that will involve many different areas. One interest continues to be the early history and prehistory of the site.

Engineering at Nemea Temple of Zeus Reconstruction — Stadium Tunnel — More!

The Nemea Center invited the Director of the Temple of Zeus Reconstruction Project to visit Berkeley during the week of October 22-26. The purpose of the visit was to discuss plans for engineering projects at Nemea and a concomitant vision of ‘engineering at Nemea’. Professor Nicos Makris, erstwhile Professor of Civil Engineering here at Berkeley and now in the Civil Engineering Department

The Nemea Center for Classical Archaeology — Berkeley, California & Nemea, Greece
Bringing the Past to the Present

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in the University of Patras, Greece, is the Director of the Temple of Zeus Reconstruction Project since 2003. He has been extremely effective both in the physical



Temple Under Reconstruction — Summer 2007

reconstruction of columns and foundations and in very successful fundraising for the project. During the past year, a tremendous amount of work has been completed on the foundations and *krepidoma* on the east end, especially at the northeast corner, although little is immediately noticeable to the visitor. Several very large rectangular blocks of limestone had to be quarried, moved to the site and worked.

The placement and finishing of these blocks has taken much more time than expected and been quite complicated due to the necessary reconciliation of ancient architectural “refinements”, most pronounced at the foundation corner, and the natural settling of the foundations that has occurred overtime. Finishing work also continues on two columns, K-30 and K-29, in the center of the east side colonnade.

We met to discuss future plans for the reconstruction and to finalize revisions in the relationship of the Nemea Center to the Reconstruction Project. Also on the agenda was the question of the tunnel which leads from the locker room to the stadium.

Currently the tunnel is closed to human use because of the danger of falling stone along the vault. Professor Makris has agreed to take on the job of creating a preliminary study of the tunnel and of the engineering necessary to preserve it. Fundraising is already underway for the study. Immediate action is necessary in order to abate the decay and ultimate collapse of this extremely important and unique monument. The work will be difficult and costly, but imperative to maintain the unequalled experience of following “in the footsteps of the ancients”, and only possible through your continuing and generous support. In the meantime, Makris will construct shoring along the entire length of the tunnel. This will enable us to use the tunnel for the Revival of the Nemean Games next summer. It won't be pretty, but it will be functional!



Stadium Tunnel With Bracing Scaffolding

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In the broader picture, the Nemea Center is currently in discussions, especially with our colleagues in the Earthquake Engineering Research Center, about an exciting expansion of the conservation and engineering efforts on site at Nemea that would involve a number of projects and monuments including but not limited to the Temple of Zeus and the Stadium Tunnel.

Hellenic Charity Ball 2007

The Elios Society's biennial Hellenic Charity Ball took place Saturday, November 3rd. Kim Shelton and your editor attended along with spouses. The Elios Society's



mission is "to preserve and promote the spirit, values and ideals of our Hellenic Culture and heritage, for the benefit of our youth, our membership and the Greek American community

through a process of mutual enlightenment and fellowship." (<http://www.elios.org/>) The Society has supported the Center's work since 2004 with a generous annual \$30,000 grant. The Charity Ball is their big fundraising event. Its theme of "Celebrating our Culture" provides an opportunity for the entire community to celebrate Hellenic culture and heritage by honoring Greek Americans for their achievements in the performing arts and entertainment industry, and who best exemplify the spirit, values, and ideals of Hellenism. It was a grand evening with excellent music, food, and entertainment. Among the honorees were Sid Ganis, Motion Picture Producer and President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Anne Thomopoulos, Executive Producer at HBO, Michael Constantine, Actor, Olympia Dukakis, Actress, and Tony Orlando, Singer-Entertainer. The Center is most appreciative of the Elios Society's strong support for our work!

Nemea Night

The annual presentation of the Nemea Center in 2007 will take place on the evening of Monday, December 3rd, 7:30 pm, at the Chevron Auditorium of the International House on Piedmont Avenue at Bancroft on the Berkeley campus. As before, parking is available after 5:00 pm weekdays in the Kleeberger Lot one block north of the International House or in the Prospect Lot located directly behind the building to the east. Required parking permits may be purchased from the yellow vending machines located in each lot for \$7.00. Exact change is necessary. A Campus Parking Map is available online at: <http://publicsafetyandtransportation.berkeley.edu/pstmaps/index.html>. We hope you will be able to join us for this festive and informative event!