



# LIONBYTES

AN OCCASIONAL COMMUNICATION TO SUPPORTERS OF THE NEMEA CENTER

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2008

## IN THIS LIONBYTES



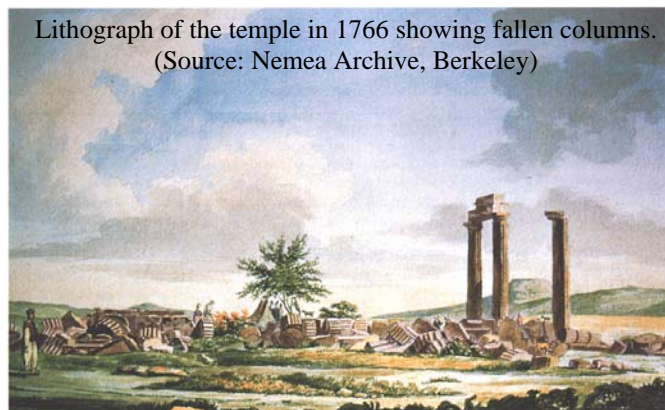
PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE WORK ON THE TEMPLE OF ZEUS RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT  
THEODORE PAPALEXOPOULOS, SUPPORTER EXTRAORDINAIRE  
NEMEA NIGHT 2007  
FORMER CHANCELLOR BOWER DIES

## Temple of Zeus Reconstruction Project Summary and Prospects

The Temple of Zeus survived the ravages of human destruction in the post-classical period with three columns standing. This is the sight familiar to all who visited the site up to and through the twentieth century.



Model of the Nemea site about 500 AD, with the destruction of the temple in progress. (Source: *Nemea A Brief Guide* by S.G. Miller, 2004)



Lithograph of the temple in 1766 showing fallen columns. (Source: Nemea Archive, Berkeley)



Aerial view of the temple with fallen columns in situ. (Source: Nemea Archive, Berkeley)



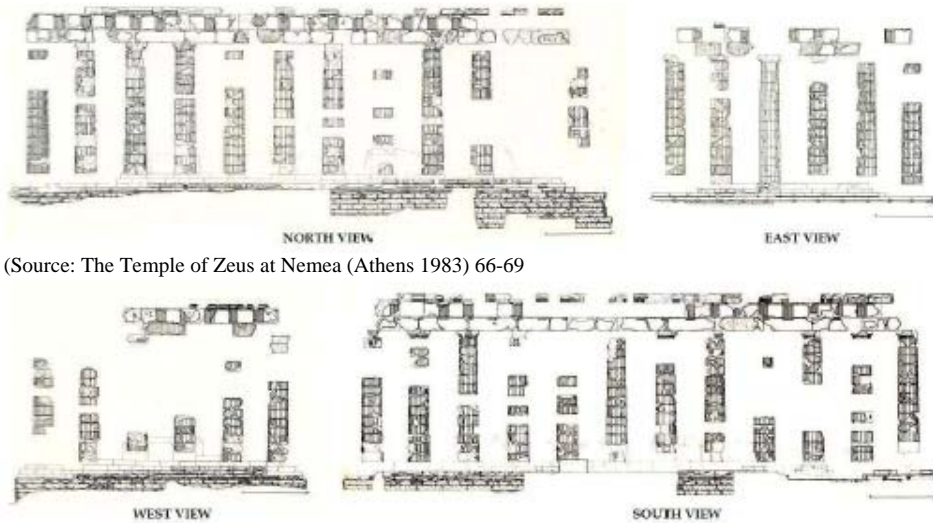
Temple of Zeus before 1999. (Source: Nemea Archive, Berkeley)

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

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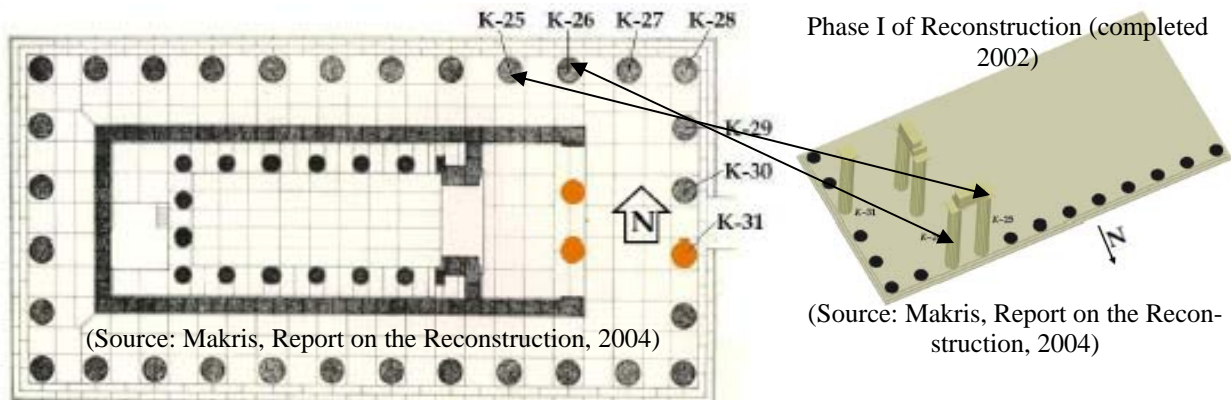
A comprehensive study of the temple by Bert Hodge Hill in the 1930s (completed and published by Charles K. Williams in 1966) established the architectural form and importance of the structure. The germ of the idea for reconstructing the temple came from then Director Stephen Miller in the late 70's. During 1980-82 Professor Frederick A. Cooper studied the fallen columns and other fragments lying on the ground and concluded that ~70% of the ancient material of the columns survived. His careful measuring and mapping of these fragments formed the basis for



(Source: The Temple of Zeus at Nemea (Athens 1983) 66-69)

Figure 20. Re-synthesis of the four sides of the exterior colonnade from the scattered architectural elements of the temple which were identified and recorded by Professor Frederic A. Cooper and his collaborators.

all future work in the reconstruction. The idea was fully developed in a careful study of the possibilities which was included in an exhibit produced at the Benaki Museum in Athens in 1983. In 1984 permission was granted to begin reconstruction of the crepidoma; the plan was to erect two columns on the north side. Much work on the foundations was begun, but financial resources dried up and the project was abandoned. It remained an unfulfilled dream for fifteen years. Then in 1999 Theodore Papalexopoulos (see next story) came forward with an offer of sufficient funds to undertake the work. Between 1999 and 2002 two consecutive columns were



(Source: Makris, Report on the Reconstruction, 2004)

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Figure 1. Plan view of the temple of Zeus at Nemea. The traces of the three columns standing from the ancient times are shown with orange.



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bridged with two epistyles, the front and the back: K-25 and K-26. Following this success, the Greek Ministry of Culture issued a permit in 2004 for the reconstruction of another four columns, K-27, K-28, K-29, and K-30. These columns will close the northeast corner of the temple and will give the visitor a clear



Crepida. (Source: Makris, Report on the Reconstruction, 2007)

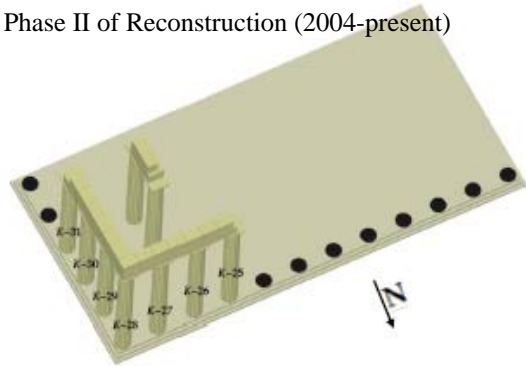
idea of the of the interior space and magnitude of the monument. A major challenge in doing this is the reconstruction of the crepida or foundation. Four layers of cut blocks lie under the columns to provide a firm setting for all the weight of those columns. Many of these blocks were robbed for use in other buildings in late antiquity—their convenience was an obvious enticement to anyone, including the Christian farmers who wished to build their basilica only one hundred yards away. The work of finding and cutting the stone for this foundation work has been one of the biggest challenges of the project as the local stone which must be used to replicate as much as possible the ancient situation tends to have weak neighborhoods which crack at inconvenient places as it is

The epistyle is placed on two re-erected columns, 2002. (Source: *Nemea A Brief Guide* by S.G. Miller, 2004)



cut from the quarry. Work on the columns themselves is also complicated and time-consuming. Both the full strength of the column at its base and a reconstruction of the original morphology of the column along its length must be achieved. In particular, the stylobate (the stone between the crepida and the column, on which the column rests) must be carefully restored. Finally, the epistyles must be repaired and placed in order to increase the stability of the reconstructed columns. The Reconstruction project is the brainchild of Professor Stephen Miller; its conceptualization and inception are due to his zeal and perseverance. Professor Nicos Makris has led the Reconstruction project since 2003. A world-renowned civil engineer, he was a Berkeley professor until 2003 and is now a professor at the University of Patras, Greece, holding a Research Investigator appointment at the Earthquake Engineering Re-

Phase II of Reconstruction (2004-present)



(Source: Makris, Report on the Reconstruction, 2004)

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Stone cut from quarry. (Source: Makris Report on Reconstruction)

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Temple Under Reconstruction  
Summer 2007

search Center at Berkeley as well. At Nemea, Aikaterina Sklere, architect, provides on-site supervision. Professor Manolis Korres, architect, and Kostos Zambas, civil engineer, both with extensive experience in the reconstruction of ancient monuments, have added valuable consulting advice. But it is to Makris most of all that we owe the splendid progress of this impressive project.

## Financing the Reconstruction

Theodore Papalexopoulos, President of the Opheltis Foundation (see next story), Alex Spanos, and many others made valuable contributions during the first phase of the pilot reconstruction; they are memorial-



ized on a marble stele dedicated by Stephen Miller a few years ago by the temple. Major funding for the current, second phase of reconstruction is provided by Mr. Papalexopoulos, the Club Hotel Casino of Loutraki, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, and the National Bank of Greece. In addition, many others have contributed significantly to the project: John Moschaclaidis, Vagelis Chronis, Yannis Kostopoulos, the Samourkas Foundation, and the Bank of Greece. Important support has also come from Egnatia Bank, the Thanos Mavrokordatos family, the Stassinopoulos Foundation, Gerasimos Vasilopoylos, S&B Biomichanics Orycta, The Aspis Bank, the Cyras Family Foundation, Anna Lampraki, Eleni Varagki, and Lazaros Efraimoglou. The outstanding contributions of all make this project possible.

## The Future of the Reconstruction

In 2000 Stephen Miller wrote, "...we should never think of a total temple standing at Nemea. We lack many of the interior Corinthian columns ... [and other architectural elements]. The lack of so much material is an important reason why the complete Temple of Nemean Zeus cannot be reconstructed. The replacement of so many ancient blocks with modern stone would have to be considered a new building on ancient foundations, rather than a reconstruction of the ancient temple." (*Chronicle of the University of California*, Fall 2000 p. 132). Conceptualization of future work is based upon this premise. Further work is of course predi-

Phase III of Reconstruction (under consideration)

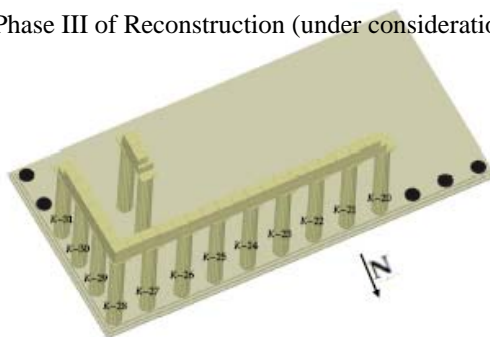


Figure 21. A proposition for the next expansion of the reconstruction.

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cated on the Nemea Center and the Earthquake Engineering Research Center agreeing on a plan, on the Greek Ministry of Culture approving that plan with the requisite permit, and on sufficient funding being available from private sources. But in general terms, we might think of a next phase which would add five more columns on the north side, virtually closing it off but stopping short of the northwest corner which has major structural issues preventing the erections of columns there. The following phase might be the completion of the columns on the east side and continuing with those on the south side.

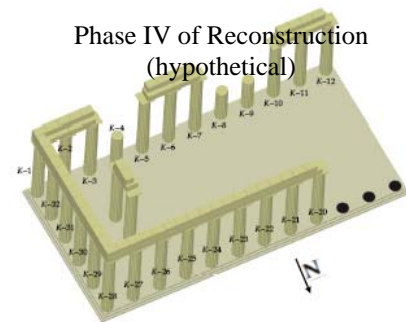


Figure 22. Proposed future expansion of the reconstruction of the temple of Zeus at Nemea.

## Theodore Papalexopoulos and the Opheltes —The Friends of Nemea Foundation

Fundamental to the success of the Reconstruction of the Temple of Zeus is the support both financial and personal of Theodore Papalexopoulos. Papalexopoulos is Deputy Chairman of the Board and Managing Director of TITAN Corp. TITAN is a major producer of cement and other building materials worldwide; it began its history in Greece over a century ago and currently supplies approximately 40% of all the cement in that country. Papalexopoulos has led Titan's growth and transformation to a global player, but he is also well known for his commitment to corporate governance and social responsibility. He has served on the European Round Table of Industrialists and on the Board of Directors of the Association for the Monetary Union of Europe. He is the Honorary Chairman of the Foundation for Economic and Industrial Research, the Chairman of the Citizens' Movement for an Open Society, and the first Chairman of the Council of Greek-Turkish Business Cooperation.



Theodore Papalexopoulos

Far beyond being 'just' a leader in the national and international business community, Papalexopoulos is also well known for his generous support of cultural and civic causes, as well as for his deep dedication to the social welfare of his employees. He became interested in the cultural imperative of preserving and restoring the Temple of Zeus in 1997. Along with a number of colleagues and friends he founded Opheltes — The Friends of Nemea "to promote the cultural heritage of the archaeological site of Nemea and its immediate goal of fundraising for the reconstruction of the Temple of Zeus." The Foundation continues its excellent work. But it is Papalexopoulos himself who 'jump started' the recon-



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struction by approaching Stephen Miller with an offer in 1999 to finance the first two columns. He has continued to offer advice and encouragement as Professor Makris has continued with the reconstruction. But beyond that, he has personally worked for the success of the project. For example, he arranged for Titan Cement to provide a crane for work on the columns, and a dust control system for the shed in



Crane donated by Titan in use erecting column. (Source: Makris Report on Reconstruction 2007)



Dust Recovery System (Source: Makris Report on Reconstruction 2007)

which much of the stone cutting takes place. He has led the fundraising of the Opheltes Foundation, most recently organizing last June a spectacular gathering of Nemea supporters for dinner and entertainment under the full moon at Nemea. His concern for the workers was such that he provided supplemental workers' insurance coverage when he felt the coverage mandated by Greek law fell short of current social standards for worker protection. And his interest in Nemea is not

confined to the Temple alone. He has been a strong supporter of the restoration of the stadium tunnel, for which he has recently offered 50,000 euros for planning the restoration, and of the acquisition of land between the sanctuary proper and the stadium. In 2006 he received the Chancellor's Citation from Berkeley Chancellor Robert Birgeneau who cited and praised Papalexopoulos' tremendous contribution to the campus through his work in the cause of Nemea project. Nemea owes a great deal to Papalexopoulos' zeal for all things Nemean; we are all deeply appreciative.

## In other news...

**Nemea Night 2007** was a great success. About 250 gathered in the Chevron Auditorium of International House to learn about and celebrate the past year's work at Nemea. Those successes and challenges were detailed in last month's *LionBytes* as well as in Director Kim Shelton's annual letter to supporters sent out in October. Many old friends and supporters were on hand for Kim's presentation and for the delightful Nemean wine and Greek nibbles afterwards. We were especially pleased to have with us the Consul General of Greece in San Francisco, the Honorable Xenia Stefanidou.



The Honorable Xenia Stefanidou

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Albert Bowker, founding supporter of Nemea, dies at age 88.

Albert H. Bowker, a former chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley, an expert in statistics and an innovative administrator during his decades-long career in higher education across the country, died Sunday, January 20, 2008 in a retirement home in Portola Valley, Calif. He was 88 and had been suffering from pancreatic cancer.



He earned his B.S. in mathematics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1941 and a Ph.D. in statistics at Columbia University in 1949. Subsequently he served in research, professorial and administrative posts at MIT, Columbia, Stanford, and City University of New York before coming to Berkeley as Chancellor in 1971, serving until 1980. In that role he played a critical part in getting the Berkeley excavations at Nemea started in 1973. Stephen Miller states: "Bowker adopted Nemea as one of his test-case, fundraising efforts." He was always a strong supporter of Nemea. Those of us present at many a Nemea Night recall that he was there whenever possible, and always stood when Miller asked who had been present at the first Nemea Night. In later years, he regularly wore his blue and white Nemea t-shirt to this event, strong evidence of his love for the project.



In 1996 at age 76 he participated in the first Revival of the Nemean Games. Along with Chancellor Chang-Lin Tien, he put on a tunic and ran in the races. Miller notes, "Indeed, in 1996 that 'walking, talking unmade king-size bed,' as the undergraduates used to call him (Bowker), ran barefoot down the ancient stadium track at the first revival of the Nemean Games." From early days the 'dig house' at Nemea has been named in his honor, "Bowker House". It is a fitting reminder of the important role he played in the formative days of the excavations, and of the decades long support he showed for its endeavors. As recently as Nemea Night 2006 your editor had the pleasure of sitting next to him at lunch and chatting about the 'good old days', the founding of the excavations, and its many successes. I recall especially his happiness at the success of the field schools, and how much he enjoyed listening to the undergraduate and graduate students talk about their experiences over the last years. He was a great man, and an extremely important one in the history of Berkeley's experience at Nemea. We shall miss him greatly.



(The information in this article comes from the UC press release at Chancellor Bowker's death by Kathleen Maclay, edited and supplemented by Robert Knapp; the full article is at [http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2008/01/22\\_bowkerobit.shtml](http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2008/01/22_bowkerobit.shtml))