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<http://archaeometry.org.gr>

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# Πληροφοριακό Δελτίο της Ελληνικής Αρχαιομετρικής Εταιρείας

**- Μάιος 2025 -**

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**There is only one good, knowledge, and one evil,  
ignorance.**  
*(Socrates)*

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## Newsletter of the Hellenic Society of Archaeometry

**- May 2025 -**

**Nr. 290**

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**ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΑ - CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS**  
**THE NATIONAL HERITAGE SCIENCE**  
**FORUM'S (NHSF) FIRST ANNUAL**  
**CONFERENCE ON THE THEME TRENDS IN**  
**HERITAGE SCIENCE, 10TH JULY, 2025, UCL,**  
**LONDON**

The National Heritage Science Forum's (NHSF) first annual conference on the theme Trends in Heritage Science will take place on 10th July at UCL, London.

Alongside presentations, panel discussion sessions, workshops and exhibitors the conference will include a wide-ranging poster session featuring novel and interesting heritage science research at all stages of development.

The call for poster abstracts is now open to the whole heritage science community including researchers, practitioners and students. A prize will be offered to the best poster, to be announced at the end of the conference.

The deadline for submission of poster abstracts is midnight, 30th April 2025.

You can find out more about the poster abstract submission process here:  
[https://www.heritagescienceforum.org.uk/what-we-do/2025\\_posters](https://www.heritagescienceforum.org.uk/what-we-do/2025_posters)

This year's conference will explore three themes:

- The economic value of heritage science
- Towards sustainable historic buildings
- Digital innovation in heritage science

Further information about the conference is available here:  
<https://www.heritagescienceforum.org.uk/what-we-do/nhsf-conference-trends-in-heritage-science>

Poster authors are welcome to explore any area of heritage science and submissions do not need to align to the conference themes.

If you have any questions, please contact [administrator@heritagescience.org.uk](mailto:administrator@heritagescience.org.uk)

Many thanks

Caroline Peach

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**25<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL RADIOCARBON  
CONFERENCE, 29 JUNE - 4 JULY 2025,  
KRAKOW, POLAND**

Dear Colleagues,

Good news! The deadline for abstract submissions has been extended once again — you now have until May 5th to submit your work! Don't miss this final opportunity to be part of the conference.

<https://radiocarbon25.agh.edu.pl/en/register-login-submit/register-login-submit-abstract/abstract-submission>

All other deadlines remain unchanged.

<https://radiocarbon25.agh.edu.pl/en/about/information-for-participants/deadlines>

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# **9<sup>TH</sup> SYMPOSIUM OF THE HELLENIC SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOMETRY (HSA), NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>-8<sup>TH</sup>, 2025, PATRAS, 2<sup>ND</sup> CIRCULAR**

## **The Symposium**

The Hellenic Society for Archaeometry (HSA) is pleased to announce that the 1<sup>st</sup> Circular for the organization of the **9<sup>th</sup> Symposium of Archaeometry**, titled "*Materializing the Past: Narratives via Archaeological Science*", which will take place in **Patras, November 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025**, in collaboration with the *Keramos Research Group* of the Department of Geology at the *University of Patras* and the *Institute of Chemical Engineering Sciences (FORTH/ICE-HT)*, has already attracted strong interest from many Greek and international researchers.

Below are the **updated important dates and participation guidelines**.

## **Key Dates & Information**

- **May 30, 2025:** Deadline for abstract submission
- **June 30, 2025:** Notification of acceptance for oral/poster presentations
- **July 31, 2025:** Early registration deadline
- **August 31, 2025:** Final registration deadline
- **September 15, 2025:** Scientific program announcement
- **November 5, 2025:** Symposium opening / Welcome reception at the Archaeological Museum of Patras
- **November 8, 2025:** End of Symposium sessions
- **March 31, 2026:** Deadline for full paper submission for publication in the Symposium Proceedings

## **Registration Fees**

- **Early registration:** €150 (by July 31)
- **Regular registration:** €180
- **Students:** €100 (early) / €120 (regular)

*Note: One registration per paper is required by August 31. Otherwise, the paper(s) will not be included in the program.*

**Participation certificates** will be provided to those who complete registration.

**Day pass registration pass (non-presenters): €30**

### **Payment Instructions**

Bank: National Bank of Greece  
Account Holder: FORTH/ICE-HT  
IBAN: GR1401102260000022650703683  
SWIFT-BIC: ETHNGRAA

*Note: The payer covers any bank fees. The payment reason must include the full name of the payer in capital letters and the phrase HSA SYMPOSIUM.*

The registration fee includes:

- Symposium entry
- Conference folder and materials
- Access to the electronic abstract book
- Participation in the welcome reception (Archaeological Museum of Patras)
- Participation in the symposium dinner
- Option to submit research paper in the Proceedings of the Symposium

*Further details will be provided in the upcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> Circular and on the HSA website:  
<http://www.archaeometry.org.gr>*

The Hellenic Society for Archaeometry looks forward to another successful Symposium worthy of its distinguished tradition.

**The Organizing Committee**

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**Please complete the following Registration Form and send it by email to:**

[9th\\_HSA\\_symposium@iceht.forth.gr](mailto:9th_HSA_symposium@iceht.forth.gr)

**General information:**

<b>Title</b>	Prof. <input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. <input type="checkbox"/>	Ms. <input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Last Name</b>	_____				
<b>First Name</b>	_____				
<b>Institution / Affiliation</b>	_____				
<b>Address</b>	_____				
<b>Post code</b>	_____	<b>City</b>	_____	<b>Country</b>	_____
<b>Telephone</b>	_____				
	<i>(Country code / area code / tel. number)</i>				
<b>E-mail</b>	_____				
<b>Please select one</b>	Student <input type="checkbox"/>	Professional <input type="checkbox"/>	Unemployed <input type="checkbox"/>	Retired <input type="checkbox"/>	

**Presentation information-Thematic Sessions:**

Absolute dating and paleoenvironment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geophysical prospection and Geoarchaeology	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics, metals, vitreous materials	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stones, mortars and pigments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bioarchaeology and organic residue	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conservation science	<input type="checkbox"/>
Digital methods in Cultural Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>
Open thematic session	<input type="checkbox"/>
Young researchers	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Type of preferred presentation</b>	Oral: <input type="checkbox"/> Poster: <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Technical equipment required</b>	Power Point: <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____



**EARLY REGISTRATION FEES TILL 31<sup>st</sup> OF JULY: Please tick the correct category**

Full registration	€ 150	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Student Fee	€ 100	<input type="radio"/>
Accompanying person fee	€ 150	<input type="checkbox"/>

\* Registration fees include access to scientific sessions, conference material, all coffee breaks, welcome reception, lunches and the conference dinner. Accompanying persons are not expected to attend the scientific sessions. Their fee includes the welcome reception and the conference dinner.

**Payment information:**

By bank transfer\* at

**BANK:** National Bank of Greece

**ACCOUNT HOLDER:** FORTH/ICE-HT

**BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 226/507036-83

**SWIFT BIC CODE:** ETHNGRAA

**IBAN CODE:** GR140110226000022650703683

- PLEASE do not forget to mention "9<sup>th</sup> HSA symposium\_ YOUR NAME" for the purpose in your bank transfer
- Any bank transfer charges will be paid by the participant

**Dietary Requirements:**

Let us know about your diet preferences.

Vegetarian  Diabetic  Vegan (no milk eggs or fish)  Other

Please tick to consent to your data being stored in line with our [privacy policy](#).

If you have specific questions regarding your registration, please do not hesitate to contact us at +30 2610 965266 (Mrs Angeliki Kosmatou) or by email: [9th\\_HSA\\_symposium@iceht.forth.gr](mailto:9th_HSA_symposium@iceht.forth.gr)

By filling in this form, you consent to the collection and processing of your abovementioned personal data, which is going to be used exclusively by FORTH for the purpose of responding to the needs of organizing the activities of **9<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the Hellenic Society for Archaeometry "Materializing the past: Narratives vis Archaeological Science"**. No further transfer or disclosure shall take place unless it is required by law or if it necessary for the protection of your vital interests. Within this framework, FORTH may retain the aforementioned data no longer than it is necessary for

the purposes for which the personal data are collected, unless further retention is required or provided by the law including any such expenses' inspection, and audit(s) and for the case that further retention is necessary for the establishment, exercise or defense of legal claims.

FORTH is compliant with all legal procedures in respect of personal data processing, as set out in the applicable European and national law, including the General Data Protection Regulation (EU/2016/679). We would like to inform you that you have the right to access, the right of information, correction, update, blocking and/or erasure of your personal data in accordance with the aforementioned EU Regulation and applicable national laws. In addition, you have the right to file a complaint with the Data Protection Authority. If you would like to learn more about our privacy policy and your rights, you can visit our website ([https://www.forth.gr/\\_gfx/pdf/PrivacyPolicy\\_EN.pdf](https://www.forth.gr/_gfx/pdf/PrivacyPolicy_EN.pdf)).

To exercise your rights, you may contact the organizers of the conference at ([9th\\_HSA\\_symposium@iceht.forth.gr](mailto:9th_HSA_symposium@iceht.forth.gr)).



## 9TH SYMPOSIUM BY HSA

5-8 November 2025  
University of Patras

## TRAVEL AWARD\*

**You need to have:**

- ✓ **Master's, PhD or be a PostDoc (up to 5 years after PhD acquisition) on archaeological science**
- ✓ **Active HSA membership**
- ✓ **An abstract**

**Apply by 31st May**

\*The prize amounts to 300€

Sponsored by



## 9th Symposium by HSA\*

5-8 November 2025

University of Patras



# "Kiki Polykreti" Award

for Innovation and High Impact Research

Who is eligible?

-Everyone presenting their research at the  
Symposium

The award is  
sponsored by



ATTIC  
BLACK

\*In collaboration with 'Keramos' Research group and the Department  
of Chemical Engineers, University of Patras



## 9th Symposium by HSA\*

5-8 November 2025

University of Patras

# "Myrto Georgakopoulou" Award

Who is eligible?

-Master's, PhD or PostDoc (up to 5 years after  
PhD acquisition) presenting their research at  
the Symposium

\*In collaboration with 'Keramos' Research group and the Department  
of Chemical Engineering Sciences, University of Patras

**ΘΕΣΕΙΣ ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΣ/ΥΠΟΤΡΟΦΙΕΣ –**  
**JOB VACANCIES/FELLOWSHIPS**  
**CONSERVATION SCIENTIST JOB**  
**OPPORTUNITY - UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED**  
**ARTS VIENNA**

The institute of Conservation at the University of Applied arts Vienna is seeking two qualified conservation scientists: one for a part-time and one for a full-time senior lecturer/scientist position.

**For details, please see the following links:**

[Jobs Detail - dieAngewandte](#)  
[Jobs Detail - dieAngewandte](#)

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## **CAMBRIDGE-BRITISH MUSEUM PHD** **STUDENTSHIP IN EGYPTIAN** **ARCHAEOLOGICAL METALLURGY**

The British Museum and the University of Cambridge are pleased to announce the availability of a fully funded Collaborative Doctoral Studentship from October 2025 under the AHRC's Collaborative Doctoral Partnership consortium.

This project aims to explore wider stories and connections within the British Museum collection by conducting the first detailed technological study of some of Egypt's earliest metal objects found in funerary contexts. Using advanced non-invasive analytical techniques, the research will evaluate manufacturing methods, technological choices, and material selection behind metal vessels and (model) tools, as well as their role in funerary practices. Representing some of early Egypt's most significant material culture, these assemblages remain poorly exploited from a museological perspective. Their holistic examination and interpretation through the lens of 'object itineraries' affords tremendous potential to understand their makers and owners, thus developing engaging narratives beyond their artistic appeal. Furthermore, this opens novel possibilities for museum-based research to examine interactions between early civilisations in the region through technological exchange. As a pilot study, metal objects from the mid-third millennium BCE Royal Cemetery of Ur, Mesopotamia, will be compared. This will support future museum exhibitions and collaborations telling new stories about these under-researched objects in the British Museum collection.

This project will be jointly supervised by Frederik Rademakers and Aurélie Masson-Berghoff (British Museum), Marcos Martinon-Torres and Kate Spence (University of Cambridge), and the student will be expected to spend time at both the British Museum and the University of Cambridge, as well as becoming part of the wider cohort of CDP funded students across the UK.

**Further info:** <https://www.jobs.cam.ac.uk/job/50964>

**Deadline: 30 April 2025**

\*\*\*\*\*

Marcos Martinon-Torres  
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\*\*\*\*\*

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE**  
**(MATERIALS), DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS**  
**AND ARCHAEOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF**  
**NOTTINGHAM**

The Department of Classics and Archaeology at the University of Nottingham seeks to appoint an Assistant Professor in Archaeological Science (Materials) from 1 September 2025.

Following £1.6 million investment from UKRI in our Archaeological Science Laboratories, we are delighted to offer this exciting opportunity to develop Archaeological materials science at the University of Nottingham. We are looking to appoint someone with demonstrable research and teaching excellence in Archaeological Materials (e.g. ceramics, glass, metals).

This is a permanent, full-time (36.25 hours per week) post, commencing 1 September 2025.

Informal enquiries may be addressed to Prof Hannah O'Regan, Head of Department, email: [Hannah.oregan@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Hannah.oregan@nottingham.ac.uk); please note that applications sent directly to this email address will not be accepted.

**Application deadline: Monday 5 May 2025.**

**Further details about the post and application link:**  
<https://jobs.nottingham.ac.uk/vacancy.aspx?ref=ARTS134125>

\*\*\*\*\*

Dr Chrysanthi Gallou  
Associate Professor of Archaeology  
Director of Research & Knowledge Exchange, REF Coordinator and Impact Lead,  
Department of Classics & Archaeology Director, UoN Centre for Spartan &  
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\*\*\*\*\*

## **INTERESTED IN A POSTDOC AT THE GRONINGEN INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY?**

The \*Greek Archaeology research group\* is looking to support applications for \*Marie Skłodowska-Curie\* Post-Doctoral Fellowships\* that align with, or complement our current research in Aegean prehistory, and especially in the prehistory of the Greek mainland, in the Hellenistic and Roman periods in the eastern Mediterranean, the study of mortuary practices in the ancient Greek world from prehistory to the Late Roman period, as well as in osteoarchaeology and isotopic studies. We are also interested in critical heritage studies, and especially in the history and current institutional framework of Greek archaeology, and the ideological use of the past in Greece.

\*Please send:\*

- an updated \*cv\* with list of publications
- a short research proposal (2 pages)
- a letter of motivation (1 page) explaining why you want to carry out your research at Groningen to [gja@rug.nl](mailto:gja@rug.nl) \*by 25 April at the latest.\*

Selected candidates will be informed by \*28 April 2025.\* They will be provided with training to help them prepare their final application for MCSA Postdoctoral Fellowships by \*10 September 2025.\*

For more information, contact Prof S. Voutsaki ([s.voutsaki@rug.nl](mailto:s.voutsaki@rug.nl)) or Dr A. Moles ([a.c.moles@rug.nl](mailto:a.c.moles@rug.nl)), or visit our webpage <https://www.rug.nl/research/groningen-institute-of-archaeology/research/research-groups/greek-archaeology?lang=en>

\*\*\*\*\*

Prof. Sofia Voutsaki  
Professor of Greek Archaeology  
Director, Groningen Institute of Archaeology [s.voutsaki@rug.nl](mailto:s.voutsaki@rug.nl)  
<https://rug.academia.edu/svoutsaki>

\*Follow Groningen Greek Archaeology  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/groningengreekarchaeology/> on Facebook\*

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Please visit the site: <https://marie-skłodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/calls/msca-postdoctoral-fellowships-2025>

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## **ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΕΙΣ - ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\*FITCH\*\* BURSARY AWARDS 2025-26\***

Applications are invited from PhD students or early career scholars (up to 8 years upon receiving their PhD) for an award to support research at the Fitch Laboratory, British School at Athens (BSA) for up to 3 months in the academic year (September 2025-July 2026) in any of the fields in which the Laboratory is active and/or hosts facilities for (e.g. ceramic studies, archaeometallurgy, geophysical prospection, zooarchaeology, human osteology, archaeobotany, soil micromorphology, ethnoarchaeology; normally in the context of Aegean/Mediterranean archaeology). The Bursary includes a monthly stipend (400€), BSA membership and accommodation at the BSA Hostel in Athens and, if required for research purposes, also in Knossos. The award holder will be required to submit a report on their research at the Laboratory to the Laboratory's Subcommittee and Director.

The successful applicant will be expected to use the facilities of the Fitch Laboratory (including analytical equipment and reference collections) as well as the BSA library to further on-going work, in the context of a postgraduate degree or postdoctoral research. No bench fee charges will be applied but the bursary holder will need to cover the expenses of any planned sample preparation or analysis. The award carries no other formal obligation, although involvement in the academic life of the BSA (for example in the form of a seminar) is welcome.

Applications should include a covering letter (indicating the preferred length and period of stay), a Curriculum Vitae, a statement of the proposed programme of research and a title (up to one page) and the names and contact details of two referees. \*Applicants should ask referees to send their recommendations by the deadline\*. The successful applicant will be responsible for acquiring on time any required permits for study and transfer of archaeological material to the Fitch Laboratory. If the use of in-house analytical facilities is necessary for the proposed research, \*applicants should contact the Laboratory Director to get feedback on analytical costs and timing\*.

Potential applicants may contact Dr Evangelia Kiriati, the Laboratory Director ([e.kiriati@bsa.ac.uk](mailto:e.kiriati@bsa.ac.uk)), for further information. Additional details about the School and the Laboratory can be found at <http://www.bsa.ac.uk/>.

If you are interested in applying for an award, please check our website on how to apply (<https://www.bsa.ac.uk/awards/bursaries/fitch-bursaries/>).

Applications should be submitted by \*Wednesday 30th\* \*April\* \*2025\*.

### **\*The Myrto Georgakopoulou Research Award, 2025-2026\***

The Myrto Georgakopoulou Research Award is an international research award established by the BSA to honour Myrto Georgakopoulou (1976-2022) and ensure that her legacy inspires future work in Aegean archaeology and beyond. The award is supported by the Myrto Georgakopoulou Memorial Fund, established by gifts of her family, friends and colleagues, in her memory.



The award will support PhD students or early-career scholars (up to 8 years upon receiving their PhD) to undertake research on the archaeology of the Aegean and adjacent areas. Successful applicants should have completed at least one year of doctoral research by the time they take up the award. Studies will pertain to any of the fields of archaeological science, with emphasis on archaeometallurgy or ceramic analysis. The award includes a stipend of €5,000 that can be used to cover, or contribute to, living expenses (up to 40%), fieldwork, and/or laboratory analysis costs. The award holder will be based at the Fitch Laboratory, BSA, or other institutions in Greece and beyond. In the latter case, they will be expected to spend at least a week at the Fitch Laboratory and give a presentation on their research (the Myrto Georgakopoulou annual seminar). Any travel or accommodation expenses linked to this will be additionally covered through the Fund. At the end of the academic year, the awardee will be required to submit a report on the work accomplished with full justification of all expenses incurred and covered through the award.

The applicants should have contacted in advance the laboratories or institutions where the research will be undertaken and ask for a letter of intent by the legal representative of the hosting institution. The successful applicant will be responsible for acquiring on time any required permits for study and transfer of archaeological material.

Applicants should be prepared to attend an online interview in June/July.

If you are interested in applying, please check our website on how to apply (<https://www.bsa.ac.uk/awards/research-awards/the-myrtle-georgakopoulou-award-2025-2026/>).

Applications and references must be submitted by \*Wednesday 30th April 2025.\*

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## **MASTER OF ARTS IN DIGITAL CULTURAL HERITAGE AT LMU MUNICH**

The Institute for Digital Cultural Heritage Studies at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU Munich) is pleased to announce the launch of its new Master of Arts in Digital Cultural Heritage, which will begin in the winter semester of 2025/26.

This interdisciplinary two-year program (120 ECTS) is designed to train a new generation of scholars and practitioners at the intersection of cultural heritage studies, digital humanities, geospatial technologies, and computer science. Students will acquire theoretical and methodological expertise in the study of cultural heritage alongside technical competencies in programming, digital data capture, management, analysis, curation, and visualization. The curriculum emphasizes the ethical dimensions of the heritage practice and public engagement strategies in the digital era.

We invite applications from students with a demonstrated interest in cultural heritage, digital methods, and interdisciplinary research. While prior experience in the humanities, geospatial technology, or computational methods is beneficial, it is not a prerequisite. Applicants should possess a Bachelor's degree and a strong command of English (C1 level or equivalent); knowledge of German is an advantage but not required.

### **Program Details:**

Degree awarded: Master of Arts (M.A.)

Duration: 2 years (4 semesters, full-time)

Language of instruction: English

Location: Munich, Germany

Tuition fees: None (a nominal solidarity fee applies)

Applications Open: Monday, May 5, 2025

**Deadline: Thursday, June 15, 2025 (23:59 CET)**

### **Want to learn more?**

Detailed information about the program, including admission requirements and curriculum, is available at:

<https://www.kw.lmu.de/dch/en/study/master-digital-cultural-heritage/>

### **Online Information Sessions:**

Prospective applicants are invited to attend one of our online information sessions:

May 8, 2025 at 10:00 am CET

May 9, 2025 at 4:00 pm CET

### **Zoom link:**

<https://lmu-munich.zoom-x.de/j/69455597773?pwd=OaFThzsI3aw3goozt0FubRav7JOzr.1>

Meeting ID: 694 5559 7773

Password: 137720

## 2<sup>nd</sup> SUMMER SCHOOL

### HELLENIC SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGY



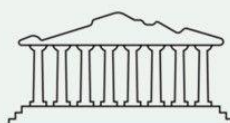
## From Field to Lab: A Hands-On Seminar on Field Sampling & Laboratory Techniques

30 June - 4 July 2025

N.C.S.R. Demokritos

National Kapodistrian University of Athens

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**ΝΕΕΣ ΕΚΔΟΣΕΙΣ – NEW PUBLICATIONS**  
**THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, BY NENA GALANIDOU, NIKOLA VUKOSAVLJEVIĆ, CATHERINE PERLÈS**

**The Oxford Handbook of Mesolithic Europe**

Liv Nilsson Stutz (ed.) et al.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780198853657.001.0001>

Chapter 18, <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780198853657.013.17>, Pages 345–380

**Abstract**

The chapter offers a succinct account of the Mesolithic archaeology of the Eastern Mediterranean and identities patterns of similarity and difference across time and space. This large and heterogenous region combines a rugged and mountainous mainland terrain, an extensive and intricate shoreline, and numerous islands. In the east, the Aegean sites offer more examples of cultural and economic discontinuity from the preceding Upper Palaeolithic period as well as novelty, sharp economic transformations, and an overall acceleration of change compared to the Adriatic-Ionian sites in the west. The Aegean Mesolithic record points to a mosaic of people and lifestyles, partly owing to the increasing, yet intermittent, role of the sea in subsistence, partly to the regional proximity to Anatolia and Near East, and partly to a broken geography. The Eastern Adriatic Early Mesolithic record is marked by continuity rather than change, with only a few scanty signs of difference, while the Late Mesolithic brings significant changes, both in technology and subsistence. The eastern Mediterranean region, as a whole, exhibits spatiotemporal variability in the funerary rituals, economic strategies, and technical traditions of stone and bone tool manufacture that can be best explained by cultural differences. Archaeological finds from ‘hunters in transition’ are visible in the record, alongside finds manifesting continuation of the earlier traditions in technology and subsistence, and finds of newcomers with brand new cultural signatures.

**Keywords:** Aegean, Ionian, Adriatic, subsistence, funerary practice, Balkan peninsula, fishing, plant

resource use, hunting

**Subject:** Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Archaeology, Archaeology

**Series:** Oxford Handbooks

**Collection:** Oxford Handbooks Online

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## **EΙΔΗΣΕΙΣ - NEWS RELEASE**

# **ARCHEOLOGISTS DECIPHER 2,000-YEAR-OLD ARAMAIC INSCRIPTION IN ISRAEL - EXPERTS USE NEW SCANNING METHODS AND AI ANALYSIS TO INSCRIPTION FOUND ON SECOND TEMPLE ERA POTTERY SHARD MENTIONING 'ELEAZAR BAR GER'**

Researchers have deciphered a 2,000-year-old Aramaic inscription on a pottery shard discovered at the Alexandrium Fortress (Sartaba) in the Jordan Valley. The text reads: “Eleazar bar Ger... from Beit Akiman.” Bar-Ilan University scholars analyzed and deciphered the inscription using advanced imaging technology developed by Jerusalem’s Azrieli College of Engineering.

The shard, excavated in the 1980s by the late Hebrew University archaeologists Prof. Yoram Tsafir and Yitzhak Magen but never fully published, is among 12 ostraca (inscribed pottery fragments) found at the site. These include texts in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, now under study by Prof. Esther Eshel from Bar-Ilan University and Prof. Haggai Misgav from the Hebrew University.

The Alexandrium Fortress, perched like an eagle’s nest atop Mount Sartaba overlooking the Jordan Valley, derives its name from the Hasmonean king Alexander Jannaeus. A key Judean stronghold during the Second Temple period, it flourished in the first century BCE as a fortified palace for Hasmonean rulers and Herod the Great.

The site is noted as the burial place of the last Hasmonean royals, where Herod imprisoned the Hasmonean princess Mariamne and her mother Alexandra and as one of three fortresses where Herod hosted Marcus Agrippa (son-in-law of Roman Emperor Augustus) during his visit to Judea.

A new imaging method — combining hyperspectral photography, artificial intelligence and image fusion — enabled researchers to recover faded texts invisible to the naked eye. Prof. Eshel and Prof. Misgav noted that the name “Eleazar” — like other Hasmonean dynastic names (Judah, Jonathan, Simon, John) — was common among Jews in the late Second Temple-era Judea.

The term “bar Ger” (son of Ger) may indicate that Eleazar’s father was a convert (ger), akin to the name “bar Gira” found on a Jerusalem-area burial ossuary. Alternatively, it could be the beginning of a surname like “Geryon.”

The Talmud references a figure named “Judah ben Gerim” (Judah son of converts), who allegedly informed Romans about Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai. Some scholars suggest his name might have been “ben Geris,” similar to “Hillel ben Geris” mentioned in Bar Kokhba Revolt-era documents from the Judean Desert.

Dr. Doron Sar-Avi of Herzog Academic College, a co-researcher on the inscriptions, noted: “‘Beit Akiman,’ cited as Eleazar’s origin, was previously unknown. It may correspond to sites near Wadi Khamuniyya, west of Sartaba, where Second Temple-era villages were documented.”

Dr. Dvir Raviv, leading renewed excavations at Sartaba, added, “These 2,000-year-old inscriptions shed light on the site’s history as a royal fortress for the Hasmoneans and Herod. Ostraca with Jewish names and parallels to rebel-linked texts at Masada support the possibility of insurgent activity here during the Great Jewish Revolt.”

Benny Har-Even, head of the Archaeology Staff Officer Corps, said, “Resuming work at Sartaba-Alexandrium after 40 years is a historic moment. This inscription’s decipherment highlights the site’s immense potential. We anticipate further discoveries illuminating the Hasmonean-Herodian fortress and ancient Jewish settlement in the region.”

“This finding reaffirms the Jewish people’s unbroken bond with Israel,” Heritage Ministry Director-General Itay Granek added. “Eleazar’s name, etched on a shard at a key Hasmonean site, joins a chain of evidence attesting to continuous Jewish presence across the land—from the Jordan Valley to Jerusalem.”

**Please visit the site: <https://www.ynetnews.com/travel/article/hknx2uruyg>**

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## **DNA ANALYSIS SHEDS LIGHT ON ANCIENT MINOAN MARRIAGE PRACTICES, BY NANA COUPEAU**

A recent DNA analysis of ancient Minoan genomes show that the choice of marriage partners was determined by one's own kinship. First cousin marriages were not unusual to the Minoans of the Bronze Age.

A team of scientists from the Max Planck Institute of Evolutionary Anthropology made the remarkable discovery. This was unveiled in an analysis of genomes from that time period in which close links were revealed.

“More than a thousand ancient genomes from different regions of the world have now been published,” Eirini Skourtanioti, the lead author of the research project stated. “But it seems that such a strict system of kin marriage did not exist anywhere else in the ancient world.”

The revelation that it was actively practiced in Ancient Minoan society was thus “a complete surprise to all of us and raises many questions”.

### **Kingship and Minoan Marriage Rules**

Crete is the birthplace of Minoan society, a group of people with complex rituals and established rules for everything from animal sacrifices and funeral services to marriages.

The study on the genomes of people who lived in the Aegean during the Bronze Age is the focus of an article published in Nature Ecology & Evolution. Of particular interest was the DNA of the former inhabitants of a Mycenaean hamlet from the 16th century B.C.

The research team focused specifically on the remains found in a tomb in front of a house in a small townlet. This enabled them to construct a family tree with clear insight into the familial connections between the inhabitants.

“We wanted to have a look at how...people [were] buried together [when] genetically related,” Philipp Stockhammer, a professor of archeology, explained to CNN. Another goal in the specific study, according to Stockhammer, was to identify what we could “learn about the relevance of the genetic relativeness [and] the structure of the society”.

“We could see...that the three sons lived as adults in the house,” he said. “One of the marriage partners brought her sister and a child.”

What they stumbled upon when analyzing their genomes along with a hundred others was that the kinship between the family members was closer than modern marital practices would allow. Specifically speaking, that Ancient Minoans allowed first cousin marriages.



“People have thousands of ancestral genomes and there’s hardly any evidence [among] societies in the past of cousin-cousin marriage,” he said. “From a historical perspective, this really is astounding.”

### **Half of Ancient Minoan nuptials were with first cousins**

Stockhammer offered a simple explanation for the occurrence that modern society might be deemed unhealthy as well as unsound.

One point he emphasized was that, in other parts of Europe during the Bronze Age, women migrated in order to marry in areas where resources were more plentiful. However, in Greece, “there’s not much space to grow things...”

“All of the driving force is to unite the land within the family,” he explained. “If you [look] at what people were growing, it was grapes and also olives for olive oil. But both grapes and olives might need...[one to] be at a certain place for decades. If you marry in your family, it means that you focus on staying in the same area.”

The fact that marrying within one’s own family was so predominant amongst Ancient Minoans on Crete was thus no coincidence. Rather, it was a means to an end.

“We can completely see the cousin to cousin marriage from the genomic evidence,” Stockhammer said. “It’s too many people to say it’s pure chance. I would say it was quite a strict practice.”

As for the scientific and historical significance of the latest revelations on Ancient Minoans unearthed by the research project, Stockhammer was quite clear.

“With this knowledge, we are basically forced to rethink the social organization in this period and societies that were behind these amazing works of art and architecture,” he said. “It’s a society where we have written records about palace administration. But we are now able to say something about the normal people.”

**Please visit the site: <https://greekreporter.com/2025/01/25/ancient-minoan-marriage-rules-new-dna-analysis/> [Go there for pix]**

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# **A MARITIME LEGACY REBORN: GREECE'S NEW UNDERWATER ANTIQUITIES MUSEUM, BY DUNCAN HOWITT-MARSHALL**

From ancient shipwrecks to treasures of the deep, Greece's much-anticipated National Museum of Underwater Antiquities will bring its rich maritime heritage to life.

**In the historic heart of Piraeus**, where the shimmering Aegean Sea meets the pulse of Greece's largest port, a bold cultural initiative is taking shape. The much-anticipated National Museum of Underwater Antiquities, **set to open in 2026**, is transforming the iconic SILO building – a towering grain warehouse built in 1936 – into a gateway to Greece's maritime past. Paired with a sleek new architectural addition, this museum will offer visitors an immersive journey into the depths of history, blending cutting-edge technology with ancient treasures retrieved from beneath the waves.

**Culture Minister Lina Mendoni**, a vocal advocate of the project, describes it as “a vision that has been decades in the making.” Supported by €93 million from the European Union's Recovery and Resilience Fund, the museum represents **Greece's largest cultural investment in recent years**. According to Mendoni, this initiative not only restores a symbol of industrial heritage but positions Piraeus as a world-class cultural destination.

## **Bound by the Sea**

From ancient mariners navigating early Mediterranean trade routes to today's global shipping powerhouses, **Greece's cultural identity has always been inextricably linked to the sea**. Yet, despite its immense maritime heritage, Greece has long lacked a central institution to celebrate this legacy on a national scale. Smaller regional museums, though valuable, have only scratched the surface of the country's deep and diverse relationship with the water.

The National Museum of Underwater Antiquities seeks to bridge this gap. It will serve as a singular venue to **showcase the country's millennia-long connection to the sea** – a relationship that has profoundly shaped Greece's culture, economy, and influence on the world stage.

In a recent statement, Culture Minister Mendoni eloquently underscored this connection: “A vision that has been decades in the making is now entering its final phase of implementation. Greece's history, from prehistory to the present day, is intrinsically linked to the sea, shipping, and seafaring.” Visitors will be able to “dive into the past through exhibits featuring **submerged settlements, shipwrecks, ship replicas, hulls, cargoes, maps, and diagrams**,” she added.

## **A Design Rooted in Transformation**

At the heart of the museum's transformation **lies the SILO building, a storied piece of industrial architecture** that once stood as a symbol of Greece's mid-20th-century economic development. Now, it is being restored to its former glory, with its distinctive

honeycomb structure preserved to honor its original design. This historic core will be complemented by a striking new facility, offering a seamless fusion of history and modernity.

The museum will span an impressive 26,380 square meters, of which 7,550 square meters will be dedicated to exhibitions – both permanent and temporary. In addition to gallery spaces, visitors can explore **a library, an auditorium, and interactive multimedia areas**. Amenities such as a gift shop, a café, and medical facilities will ensure a comfortable visit, while **state-of-the-art conservation laboratories** will allow archaeologists to preserve fragile artifacts recovered from the depths.

Among the museum’s standout features is the restoration of **the elevated conveyor belt that once carried grain to ships waiting at the docks**. Visitors will have the rare opportunity to walk along this historic structure, ascending to a height of 8.85 meters for sweeping views of Piraeus and the Aegean – a poignant reminder of Greece’s enduring ties to the sea.

### **Treasures of the Deep: Six Themes of Exploration**

At the heart of the museum’s storytelling are six thoughtfully curated themes, **showcasing more than 2,500 exhibits**. Each “thematic axis” offers a unique perspective on Greece’s enduring connection to the sea. Visitors will embark on a journey that begins with **“The Sea, Environment, and Humanity,”** a powerful exploration of how the marine world has shaped cultures, economies, and ecosystems over the millennia. This opening theme emphasizes the profound interdependence between humanity and the sea, inviting reflection on both the opportunities and challenges this relationship has posed through history.

The narrative then dives into the fascinating world of **“Underwater Archaeology,”** a field that has revolutionized our understanding of the past. This section delves into the tools, techniques, and discoveries that have unlocked secrets hidden beneath the waves, from shipwrecks laden with ancient cargo to the remnants of settlements, submerged by rising sea levels and tectonic shift. Through **detailed displays and innovative digital reconstructions**, visitors will gain insight into the painstaking efforts required to recover and interpret these underwater treasures.

The journey continues with **“Time Capsules Beneath the Sea,”** a theme that brings history vividly to life through an extraordinary collection of artifacts. From intricately crafted amphorae and trade goods to **the remnants of ancient ship hulls**, these objects offer an intimate glimpse into the lives of those who once fought at sea or navigated the Mediterranean’s bustling trade routes.

In contrast, **“Fragmentary Approaches to the Past”** introduces a sense of mystery, inviting visitors to consider the gaps and unanswered questions that often accompany underwater archaeological finds. This theme challenges viewers to engage their imaginations as they ponder what lies beyond the fragments we’ve uncovered, creating an open-ended dialogue between history and speculation.

As the narrative progresses, the museum shifts its focus outward to the broader community with **“Underwater Cultural Heritage Open to Society.”** Here, visitors are

encouraged to engage directly with Greece’s maritime legacy, bridging the divide between scholarly research and public appreciation. This section highlights the importance of accessibility, ensuring that maritime heritage is preserved and celebrated for future generations.

The sixth and final chapter of the journey, “**SILO and Piraeus: Intertwined Histories,**” brings the story full circle by grounding it in the museum’s physical and cultural context. This theme explores the industrial heritage of the SILO building and its significance to the port city of Piraeus, tying the past and present together in a seamless narrative of transformation and resilience.

Through these interconnected themes, the museum weaves **a rich tapestry of history, discovery, and reflection**, ensuring that every visitor – whether a casual tourist or a seasoned historian – will leave with a deeper appreciation for Greece’s unparalleled maritime heritage.

### **Immersive Storytelling Meets Accessibility**

The visitor’s journey through the museum has been carefully designed for maximum impact. The historic SILO building will house the opening themes, where its industrial ambiance will evoke **the raw power of maritime trade and exploration**. From there, visitors will transition into the modern facility, which showcases the museum’s most extensive collections and technological innovations.

Interactive features, including **augmented reality applications and tactile displays**, will bring artifacts to life, making history accessible and engaging for diverse audiences, from casual tourists to academic scholars. The conveyor belt at the museum’s conclusion ties the experience together, inviting visitors to reflect on how **the past, present, and future of Greece’s maritime heritage remain intertwined**.

Inclusivity is a cornerstone of the museum’s mission. Universal accessibility is built into the design, with features such as **ramps, elevators, and spacious walkways** ensuring that individuals with mobility challenges can navigate with ease. For visitors with visual impairments, tactile exhibits and audio guides will provide enriching alternatives. Informational materials will also cater to **a range of learning levels**, ensuring that the museum is truly welcoming to all.

### **A Cultural Milestone for Greece**

As construction progresses, the National Museum of Underwater Antiquities is already being hailed as a milestone for Greece’s cultural landscape. Following [approval from the Ministry of Culture](#), **work began in December 2023** with meticulous attention to preserving the SILO building’s structural integrity while seamlessly integrating it with contemporary architectural elements.

Minister Mendoni has expressed her belief that the museum will **elevate Piraeus to the ranks of top international cultural destinations**. Through its innovative design, engaging exhibits, and commitment to accessibility, the museum promises to deliver an unforgettable experience.

By 2026, the National Museum of Underwater Antiquities will stand not only as a testament to Greece’s maritime heritage but as a symbol of its dedication to **preserving the stories of the past for future generations**. Visitors will leave with a deeper appreciation for the enduring connection between Greece and the waters that have defined its history, its culture, and its identity.

Please visit the site: <https://www.greece-is.com/maritime-legacy-reborn-greeces-new-underwater-antiquities-museum/>

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## **ANCIENT 6,000-YEAR-OLD IRRIGATION NETWORK DISCOVERED IN MESOPOTAMIA**

Researchers have discovered an extensive and remarkably well-preserved system of ancient irrigation canals in the Eridu region of southern Mesopotamia, offering fresh insights into early agricultural practices.

The research team, led by geoarchaeologist Jaafar Jotheri, uncovered a sophisticated water management system that dates back to before the first millennium BC.

The discovery provides rare insight into how ancient farmers, from the sixth century through the early first millennium BC, used the Euphrates River to irrigate their fields.

This significant finding deepens our understanding of early irrigation practices and underscores the remarkable ingenuity and adaptability of these early agricultural communities.

### **Ancient landscape**

The Eridu region, near Basra in present-day Iraq, remained untouched for centuries due to a shift in the Euphrates' course in the early first millennium BC.

This left the area dry and uninhabited, thus preserving the ancient landscape, unlike other parts of Mesopotamia where older irrigation systems were buried beneath newer canals or river sediments.

By combining geological maps, satellite imagery, drone photography, and fieldwork, researchers identified over 200 primary canals directly connected to the ancient Euphrates.

Additionally, more than 4,000 smaller branch canals were mapped, linked to over 700 farms.

### **Advanced techniques**

This complex irrigation network reflects the advanced water management skills of ancient Mesopotamian farmers, who used the natural landscape to their advantage.

Ground-truthing of the remote sensing work: A) drone images show two minor irrigation canals; B & C) photographs of the two small canals. Credit:

The high river levees allowed water to flow by gravity to surrounding fields, while breaks in the levees, known as crevasse splays, helped distribute water across the floodplain.

These techniques enabled farmers to cultivate crops on both sides of the river, although the northern side was more heavily farmed.

### **Centuries of knowledge uncovered**

The study also highlights how the irrigation system evolved over centuries.

The canals required significant labor and expertise to maintain, suggesting that different parts of the network were likely used at different times.

Further research aims to date each canal to better understand changes in farming practices over time.

Comparing the canal designs with descriptions from ancient cuneiform texts could provide even more insight into agricultural management in Mesopotamia.

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Reference: “Identifying the preserved network of irrigation canals in the Eridu region, southern Mesopotamia” by Jaafar Jotheri, Mohammed Rokan, Ali Al-Ghanim, Louise Rayne, Michelle de Gruchy and Raheem Alabdan, 18 February 2025, Antiquity.  
DOI: 10.15184/aqy.2025.19

The project was funded by the British Institute for the Study of Iraq in London and is a collaboration between Durham, the University of Al-Qadisiyah in Iraq and Newcastle University, UK.

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**Please visit the site: <https://scitechdaily.com/ancient-6000-year-old-irrigation-network-discovered-in-mesopotamia/> [Go there for pix]**

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## **THE ONLY ILLUSTRATED MANUSCRIPT OF HOMER’S ILIAD FROM ANTIQUITY**

Despite its status as one of the most widely known and studied epic poems of all time, Homer’s Iliad has proven surprisingly resistant to adaptation. However much inspiration it has provided to modern-day novelists working in a variety of different traditions, it’s translated somewhat less powerfully to visual media. Perhaps people still watch Wolfgang Petersen’s Troy, the very loose, Brad Pitt-starring cinematic Iliad adaptation from 2004. But chances are, a century or two from now, humanity on the whole will still be more impressed by the 52 illustrations of the Ambrosian Iliad, which was made in Constantinople or Alexandria around the turn of the sixth century.

As noted at HistoryofInformation.com, “along with the Vergilius Vaticanus [previously featured on Open Culture] and the Vergilius Romanus, [the Ambrosian Iliad] is one of only three illustrated manuscripts of classical literature that survived from antiquity.” It’s also the only ancient manuscript that depicts scenes from the Iliad. Its illustrations, which “show the names of places and characters,” offer “an insight into early manuscript illumination.” They “show a considerable diversity of compositional schemes, from single combat to complex battle scenes,” as Kurt Weitzmann writes in Late Antique and Early Christian Book Illumination. “This indicates that, by that time, Iliad illustration had passed through various stages of development and thus had a long history behind it.”

Above, you can see the Ambrosian Iliad’s illustrations of the capture of Dolon (top), Achilles sacrificing to Zeus for Patroclus’ safe return (middle), and Hector killing Patroclus as Automedon escapes (bottom). You can find more scans at the Warburg Institute Iconographic Database, along with other Iliad-related artifacts. Some of the later artistic renditions of Homer in that collection date from the fifteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth, and even the nineteenth centuries, each interpreting these age-old poems for their own time. Indeed, the Iliad and Odyssey have proven enduringly resonant for the better part of three millennia, and there’s no reason to believe that they won’t continue to find new artistic forms for just as long to come. But there’s something especially powerful about seeing Homer rendered by artists who, though they may have come centuries and centuries after the blind poet himself, knew full well what it was to live in antiquity.

Please visit the site: <https://www.openculture.com/2025/04/the-only-illustrated-manuscript-of-homers-iliad-from-antiquity.html> [Go there for brief video]

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## **TWO NEAR LIFE-SIZE SCULPTURES FOUND DURING EXCAVATIONS OF POMPEII TOMB, BY ANGELA GIUFFRIDA**

Two almost lifesize sculptures of a man and woman, who was believed to have been a priestess, have been found during the excavations of a huge tomb in the ancient Roman city of Pompeii.

The detailed funerary relics adorned the tomb containing several burial niches built into a wide wall in the necropolis of Porta Sarno, one of the main entrance gates into the ancient city. Pompeii was destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD79.

Experts believe the female sculpture was of an important local woman who was perhaps a priestess of Ceres, who in ancient Roman religion was a goddess of agriculture, fertility and motherly relationships, because of the jewellery and accessories, including earrings, rings and bracelets, carved into it – especially the lunula, a crescent moon pendant hanging in the middle of the necklace.

The woman is veiled and dressed in a large cloak over a tunic, while the man is wearing a toga wrapped over his left shoulder.

However, experts are not convinced that the figures, which were joined together and are believed to date back to the late Roman Republic period, represented a married couple.

Gabriel Zuchtriegel, the director of Pompeii archaeological park, said: “Because she really looks like a very important woman in the local elite, there is also this idea that she could have been a priestess of Ceres, holding these plants and what appears to be a papyrus roll.”

She is holding what appears to be laurel leaves, which were used to purify and bless religious spaces by dispersing incense and the smoke from aromatic herbs.

With most women in Roman society relegated to domestic roles, being a priestess, an important position in public life, was the highest position a woman could aspire to and gave power on a similar level to a male priest.

Zuchtriegel said such funerary sculptures did not always represent couples. “Sometimes you get two men, or sometimes they come in threes,” he said. “This could be her husband, but it could also be her son. There was no inscription, so we don’t know.”

By the feet of the male statue is the preserved root of an ancient tree that grew on top of the tomb. “It was quite a surprise to find it there a few centimetres beneath the ground,” said Zuchtriegel.

The two sculptures are being restored and will be displayed at an exhibition in Pompeii, beginning on 16 April.

The excavations at the Porta Sarno necropolis are a joint project between Pompeii archaeological park and the European University of Valencia. In 2021, the partly mummified remains, including hair and bones, of a former slave who rose through the social ranks, were found.

**Please visit the site: <https://www.newsbreak.com/share/3944562278964-two-near-lifesize-sculptures-found-during-excavations-of-pompeii-tomb> [Go there for pix]**

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## **THE GREEK MUMMY PORTRAITS** **DISCOVERED IN FAYOUM, EGYPT,** **BY ALEXANDER GALE**

In December 2022, archaeologists made a remarkable discovery in Fayoum, Egypt – a monumental funerary building dating back to the Ptolemaic and Roman periods, along with several stunning Greek mummy portraits.

The discovery marks the first time in over 110 years that such significant finds have been unearthed in this region.

The finds were made at the Garza village archaeological site, where experts have been excavating since 2016.

### **Archaeological finds**

“The discovered structure is a large building styled as a funerary building with colored gypsum tiled floors,” said Adel Okasha, head of the antiquities department in Cairo and Giza “To the south of it, there is [a] colonnade hall where the remains of four columns were found.”

Among the finds were mummy portraits, also known as Fayoum portraits. These are naturalistic-style portrayals of the deceased painted onto wooden boards to decorate a sarcophagus.

The earliest known examples of portraits like those found in Fayoum were found in the mid-17th century by Italian explorer Pietro Della Valle. He discovered a number of mummies with portraits in Saqqara-Memphis, and he brought some of them back to Europe.

The first major excavation of Greek mummy portraits took place in the late 19th century when the British Egyptologist Flinders Petrie uncovered over 100 portraits at a cemetery in Hawara, Egypt. These portraits were found on the faces of mummies, and they are known for their realistic style and their depiction of everyday life in Roman Egypt.

Since then, Greek mummy portraits have been found all over Egypt, and they are now considered to be one of the most important types of art from ancient Egypt. They provide a unique window into the lives of ordinary Egyptians during the Roman period, and they show us how people from different cultures mixed and mingled in this cosmopolitan society.

Researchers noted that the socioeconomic status of the mummies varied, as indicated by the mixed quality of embalming techniques and funerary decorations observed at the site.

Greek and Demotic written records gave the research team further clues as to the economic and religious status of each mummy.

Archaeologists also discovered a terracotta statue of the goddess Isis-Aphrodite. Religious syncretism of this kind was common in ancient Egypt and elsewhere in the Classical world. In this case, the indigenous Egyptian goddess Isis was merged with the Greek goddess Aphrodite.

### **Fayoum, an ancient city**

Fayoum was an important urban center for centuries. The Egyptians of the Old Kingdom (c. 2686–2181 BC) originally called the city Shedet. However, the city's name changed multiple times due to the many conquerors of Egypt leaving their own cultural traces in the region.

During the conquests of Alexander the Great in the fourth century, Fayoum came under Macedonian Greek rule. One of Alexander's generals, Ptolemy I Soter, founded his own dynasty in the region shortly after Alexander's death.

The Greeks initially referred to the city as Krokodilópolis. This was largely due to the crocodile cult of the god Sobek that was popular there. During the Ptolemaic period, the city was first renamed Ptolemais Euergétis and then Arsinoë. Under the Ptolemies, it became a center for the worship of Alexander the Great.

Ptolemaic rule came to an end in 30 BC. The last Ptolemaic ruler was Cleopatra VII Philopator. Cleopatra allied herself with Marc Antony against Octavian (Caesar Augustus) but was defeated, and Egypt came under Roman rule.

Important urban centers like Fayoum continued to be melting pots of the classical Egyptian, Greek and Roman cultures until the Arab Islamic conquest of Egypt in the seventh century AD.

**Please visit the site: <https://greekreporter.com/2025/04/01/greek-mummy-portrait-funerary-building-discovered-fayoum-egypt/> [Go there for many pix]**