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Πληροφοριακό Δελτίο της Ελληνικής Αρχαιομετρικής Εταιρείας

- Αύγουστος 2026 -

Quality is not an act, it is a habit

(Aristotle)

Newsletter of the Hellenic Society of Archaeometry

- August 2026 -

Nr. 305

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ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΑ - CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

ARCHAEOMETALLURGY IN EUROPE 2027 CONFERENCE, 17-21 MAY 2027, GRANADA, SPAIN, CHANGE OF DATES

Dear colleagues,

Please, find below information about a **change of dates for the upcoming Archaeometallurgy in Europe 2027 conference**, now taking place **from the 17th to the 21st of May 2027 (one week earlier)** in Granada.

Many thanks for your understanding,

Julia (on behalf of the organising committee of the AiE)

Dear colleagues,

I hope this message finds you well.

I am writing to inform you of an important update regarding the dates of the Archaeometallurgy in Europe 2027 conference in Granada.

Due to a recent change in the official calendar of the city of Granada, with the Granada Fair being moved one week earlier than originally scheduled, we have had to adjust the conference dates accordingly in order to avoid a significant overlap that would affect accommodation availability, transport, and the overall organisation of the event.

The conference will therefore take place from 17 to 21 May 2027, instead of the previously announced dates.

We apologise for any inconvenience this change may cause and hope that this early notice will allow you to adjust your plans without difficulty. We believe this is the best solution to ensure a smooth and enjoyable conference for all participants.

Please update your calendars accordingly. The conference website and all future communications will reflect these revised dates.

Thank you for your understanding, and we very much look forward to welcoming you to Granada in May 2027.

With best regards,

Mercedes Murillo-Barroso
On behalf of the Organising Committee
Archaeometallurgy in Europe 2027

Julia Montes-Landa

Investigadora Postdoctoral Marie Skłodowska-Curie

Proyecto GOLDENIMPACT

Departamento de Prehistoria y Arqueología

Universidad de Granada

**IOC 2026, INTERNATIONAL OBSIDIAN
CONFERENCE - FROM MAGMA TO
ARTIFACT: THE GEOLOGY AND
ARCHAEOLOGY OF OBSIDIAN,
SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 1, 2026,
YEREVAN, ARMENIA**

Dear colleagues,

The Organizing Committee, the Institute of Geological Sciences (IGS) and Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography (IAE) of the Armenian National Academy of Sciences announce the international conference on “FROM MAGMA TO ARTIFACT: THE GEOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF OBSIDIAN” to be held in Yerevan on September 28 – October 1, 2026.

CONFERENCE TOPICS

- Petrology and geochemistry of obsidians
- Volcanic processes and physical properties of rhyolite melts
- Provenance studies of archaeological obsidian: source exploitation and raw material distribution
- Typological, technological, and use-wear analysis of archaeological obsidian
- History and methods of provenance studies in archaeology

Abstracts volume with ISBN and DOI will be printed and distributed over conference web-site

Please visit the site:

https://ioc2026.geology.am/?fbclid=IwY2xjawTzsklwZG9mBWV4dG4DYWVtAjEwAGJyaWQRMTNPaHMxMnBwbW9hOGtMc1lzcjRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzkxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEeiXfeU_k5wnxu1HMBc1X-1c_iXIIhFNYrjD3NxBSyQVJrYDQF8Jq8FJRP5iU_aem_l2gf4Ixx3VotK9yzAo4K1Q

CONFERENCE MA-XRF 2026, SEPTEMBER 29TH - OCTOBER 2ND, 2026, FRENCH NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, PARIS, FRANCE, PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Preliminary program is out ! ([here](#))

Registrations are still open and can be made directly [here](#).

Rates:

Late registrations

Standard: €440 (3 days) / €150 (1 day)

Student: €220

Registrations 1/2 conservation-restoration day

Free (required)

Gala dinner 85€

At the [Restaurant du Musée d'Orsay](#) (vegan meal option)

Meal 8 pm

Proposed visit of the Museum from 6 to 8 pm with audio guide

This workshop to be held in Paris, **within the [French National Museum of Natural History](#)**, between Tuesday September 29th and Friday October 2nd 2026 aims to bring together researchers interested in MA-XRF and complementary imaging techniques for the study of cultural and natural heritage, including Reflectance Imaging Spectroscopy (RIS), Luminescence Imaging Spectroscopy (LIS), X-Ray Diffraction Mapping (XRD), Confocal XRF (CXRF), and more.

Discussions will focus on the latest advancements in instrument development, data evaluation methods, and their applications in case studies. A particular emphasis will be placed on the integration of MA-XRF with other techniques in multi-modal analytical approaches.

Oral presentation will be 20 min with questions

The posters will be introduced through flash presentations of ~3-4 minutes.

The proceedings will be published as a virtual issue in *X-Ray Spectrometry journal*.

Friday morning, October 2nd, will be devoted to the specific issues facing museum curators. **This half-day will take place within the Ecole du Louvre.**

Local Organizing Committee:

Oulfa Belhadj, Centre de Recherche sur la Conservation (CRC), Paris, France

Lucile Brunel-Duverger, Centre de Recherche et de Restauration des Musées de France (C2RMF), Paris, France

Thomas Calligaro, Centre de Recherche et de Restauration des Musées de France (C2RMF)/Lab-BC, Paris, France
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Marie Radepon, Centre de Recherche sur la Conservation (CRC), Paris, France
Ina Reiche, Lab-BC/Centre de Recherche et de Restauration des Musées de France (C2RMF), Paris, France
Laurence de Viguerie, Laboratoire Archéologie Moléculaire et Structurale Paris (LAMS), Paris, France

International Scientific Committee:

Matthias Alfeld, Delft University of Technology, Netherlands
Anikó Bezur, Yale University, USA
Claudia Caliri, INFN-LNS & ISPC-CNR, Italy
Thomas Calligaro, C2RMF, France
Silvia Centeno, Metropolitan Museum of Art, USA
John Delaney, National Gallery of Art Washington, USA
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Francesca Gabrieli, Rijksmuseum, Netherlands
Alessandra Gianoncelli, ELETTRA, Italy
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Please visit the site: <https://maxrf2026.sciencesconf.org/>

ISA 2028 (INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ARCHAEOLOGY), MAY 2028, ATHENS, GREECE

Dear members and friends of the Hellenic Society for Archaeology,

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that we announce that, following the initiative and coordinated efforts of the Hellenic Society for Archaeology, the Greek proposal was successfully selected and ISA 2028 (International Symposium on Archaeology) will be hosted in Greece, co-organized by the Hellenic Society for Archaeology and the National Centre for Scientific Research “Demokritos”.

Hosting such an important international symposium is a major achievement and honor for the Greek archaeometric community, highlighting Greece’s dynamic presence and international recognition in the field of archaeology.

The official announcement was made by the ISA Standing Committee and the President of HSA Board in Turin yesterday, Thursday, May 21, during the current ISA conference.

We warmly thank you for your continuous support and trust. This success belongs to our entire community!

With warm regards,

The Hellenic Society for Archaeology Board

ΘΕΣΕΙΣ ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΣ/ΥΠΟΤΡΟΦΙΕΣ –
JOB VACANCIES/FELLOWSHIPS

ASSOCIATE RESEARCH SCIENTIST IN
CERAMIC ARCHAEOLOGY (REF. NO.
STARC ARS 26 10)

Deadline for applications: 31/08/2026

*Application process open **

The Cyprus Institute (CyI) is a European non-profit, Science- and Technology-oriented Educational and Research Institution, based in Cyprus and governed by an acclaimed Board of Directors. The research agenda of the CyI is pursued at its five Research Centres, namely:

1. The Computation-based Science and Technology Research Centre (CaSToRC)
2. The Science and Technology in Archaeology and Culture Research Centre (STARC)
3. The Energy Environment Water Research Centre (EEWRC)
4. The Climate and Atmosphere Research Centre (CARE-C)
5. The Science and Technology Driven Policy and Innovation Research Centre (STeDI-RC)

Considerable cross-centre interaction is a characteristic of the Institute's scientific ethos. The Cyprus Institute invites applications for a highly qualified and motivated Researcher to join the Institute's STARC Centre on a full-time basis (100% FTE) for its premises at Athalassas Campus.

The position is part of CyI's One Archaeological Science (OAS) project which aims to integrate different strands of archaeological science research, and to promote the use of isotopic methods where possible. This position is for an experienced early-career researcher in archaeological ceramics who is enthusiastic about the OAS project's agenda and committed to develop appropriate research initiatives and to collaborate with other researchers in the Institute's Archaeological Science Group.

Position Specific Responsibilities/activities:

Develop and lead independent research projects in archaeological ceramic analysis, including fieldwork, experimental approaches, and laboratory analysis, ideally with an isotopic component.

Develop research projects that complement those of the other One Archaeological Science team members by investigating networks, technology and provenance through ceramic analysis.

Contribute to current research activities of the One Archaeological Science team, including exploring and promoting the integration of isotopic analyses in the team's research.

Co-develop data generation and documentation protocols and advance the integration of ceramic analysis within the broader archaeological materials science research of the

team.

Position Specific Required Qualifications:

PhD in archaeological ceramic analysis or closely related discipline
Experience in optical ceramic microscopy and SEM-EDS analysis
Skills in data processing and visualization in Excel and other tools

Position Preferred Qualifications:

Experience in chemical ceramic analysis, by pXRF, WD-XRF, or other methods
Experience or demonstrable interest in using isotopic data in their research
Experience in collaborative research across material and methodological boundaries
Please click [here](#) for the position's detailed job description, including general responsibilities, requirements and other details related to the position.

Duration of appointment:

The initial period of the appointment will be for 36 months with the possibility of renewal, depending on performance and availability of funds.

Remuneration details:

Salary Band: CYI5(2-11)

Position's Starting Salary: CYI5.2 - € 44516.94

Benefits:

Among other benefits, the Cyprus Institute offers flexible and remote work, additional paid leave for supporting staff work-life balance, provident fund membership and group medical and life insurance membership.

Application

Applications can be submitted through The Cyprus Institute Exelsys Platform, by following the instructions provided. Applicants should submit:

A curriculum vitae, including a short letter of interest/vision statement,

List of publications

List of three (3) referees (including contact information)

All documentation should be in English and in PDF format.

For further information, please contact Prof Thilo Rehren (th.rehren@cyi.ac.cy). Please note that applications which do not fulfill the required qualifications and do not follow the announcement's guidelines will not be considered.

**Recruitment will continue until the application process is marked as closed.*

The Cyprus Institute is an Equal Opportunities Employer, certified from the Cypriot Ministry of Labor, and also an HRS4R accredited Institution adhering to the European Commission's "Charter & Code", principles for recruitment and selection.

Contact person: Prof Thilo Rehren

Reference number: STARC_ARS_26_10

All candidates will be notified after the completion of the recruitment process, regardless of the outcome.

ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΕΙΣ - ANNOUNCEMENTS

ΕΚΔΟΘΗΚΑΝ ΤΑ ΠΡΑΚΤΙΚΑ ΤΟΥ 6^{ΟΥ} **ΠΑΝΕΛΛΗΝΙΟΥ ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΟΥ** **ΨΗΦΙΟΠΟΙΗΣΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΗΣ** **ΚΛΗΡΟΝΟΜΙΑΣ**

Διατίθενται δωρεάν σε κάθε ενδιαφερόμενο

Μια ,ακόμα, προσπάθεια που αφορά τον Ελληνικό Πολιτισμό στο σύνολό του (άυλο και υλικό) , ολοκληρώθηκε , με την έκδοση των Πρακτικών του 6^{ου} Πανελλήνιου Συνεδρίου Ψηφιοποίησης Πολιτιστικής Κληρονομιάς-EuroMed 2025, που πραγματοποιήθηκε στο «Σπίτ της Κύπρου» στην Αθήνα το χρονικό διάστημα 19-22 Νοεμβρίου 2025, με τη συμμετοχή 400 συνέδρων απ' όλο τον κόσμο και που περιέχουν, μέσα σε 798 σελίδες, τη συμπυκνωμένη επιστημονική έρευνα και γνώση εκατοντάδων Ελλήνων και Κυπρίων επιστημόνων και αφορούν την καταγραφή, τη μελέτη, τη συντήρηση, την ψηφιοποίηση, τη διάσωση, την προστασία και την ανάδειξη της Πολιτιστικής Κληρονομιάς του Ανθρώπου, αλλά κυρίως του Ελληνικού Πολιτισμού, που θεωρείται, απ' όλους, ως ο υπέρτατος ακρογωνιαίος λίθος για την πορεία του Ελληνισμού προς το Μέλλον.

Τα πρακτικά είναι διαθέσιμα Δωρεάν προς κάθε ενδιαφερόμενο από την επίσημη ιστοσελίδα του Συνεδρίου www.euromed-dch.eu .

Το σημαντικό αυτό -για τον Ελληνικό Πολιτισμό- Συνέδριο, που διοργανώνεται από το Τεχνολογικό Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου (Ερευνητικό Κέντρο- Έδρα UNESCO/EU-ERA Chair-Διευθυντής Dr Μαρίνος Ιωαννίδης), το Παν/μιο Δυτικής Αττικής- Καθηγητής κ. Θεόδωρος Γκανέτσος και το Δίκτυο 'ΠΕΡΡΑΙΒΙΑ'-Πρόεδρος κ. Κώστας Σκριάπας, πραγματοποιήθηκε με την παρουσία πολλών επισήμων των κυβερνήσεων Ελλάδας και Κύπρου, μελών της επιστημονικής κοινότητας και με τη συμμετοχή Συνέδρων από την Ελλάδα, την Κύπρο και το εξωτερικό.

Για οποιαδήποτε πληροφορία ή δωρεάν download των πρακτικών ή προμήθεια τυπωμένων πρακτικών του Συνεδρίου στο επίσημο Site www.euromed-dch.eu και στο E-Mail: euromed.greece@gmail.com

Γραμματεία Συνεδρίου κ. Αργυρώ Κοντογιάννη ΤΗΛΕΦ. 6946-232019.

ΚΑΤΕΒΑΣΤΕ ΑΠΟ ΑΥΤΟ ΤΟ ΛΙΝΚ, **ΕΝΤΕΛΩΣ ΔΩΡΕΑΝ**, ΤΑ ΠΡΑΚΤΙΚΑ ΤΟΥ 6^{ου} ΠΑΝΕΛΛΗΝΙΟΥ ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΟΥ ΨΗΦΙΟΠΟΙΗΣΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΗΣ ΚΛΗΡΟΝΟΜΙΑΣ 2025- EUROMED

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ΚΑΤΕΒΑΣΤΕ ΑΠΟ ΑΥΤΟ ΤΟ ΛΙΝΚ, ΕΝΤΕΛΩΣ ΔΩΡΕΑΝ, ΟΛΑ ΤΑ ΠΡΟΗΓΟΥΜΕΝΑ ΠΡΑΚΤΙΚΑ ΠΟΥ ΕΚΔΟΘΗΚΑΝ ΣΤΑ 5 ΠΡΟΗΓΟΥΜΕΝΑ ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΑ (Από το έτος 2015 μέχρι και το 2023)

<http://www.euromed-dch.eu/conference-proceedings/>

Με εκτίμηση

Η Οργανωτική Επιτροπή

ΜΑΡΙΝΟΣ ΙΩΑΝΝΙΔΗΣ - Τεχνολογικό Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου-Διευθυντής Έδρας
UNESCO/EU-ERA Chair

ΘΕΟΔ. ΓΚΑΝΕΤΣΟΣ- Καθηγητής Πανεπιστημίου Δυτικής Αττικής

ΙΩΑΝΝΗΣ ΒΑΡΑΛΗΣ –Αναπλ.. Καθηγητής Πανεπιστημίου Θεσσαλίας ,

ΗΛΙΑΣ ΝΟΜΠΙΛΑΚΗΣ - τ. Αν. Καθηγητής Πανεπιστημίου Δυτικής Αττικής ,

ΚΩΝ/ΝΟΣ ΣΚΡΙΑΠΑΣ -Οικονομολόγος -Σύμβουλος Ανάπτυξης –Πρόεδρος Δικτύου
"ΠΕΡΡΑΙΒΙΑ" - Ελλάδα

ISA 2026 - EXPLORE SCIENTIFIC CONTENT **ONLINE**

We are delighted to announce that digital content from [ISA 2026](#) is now available online.

You now have the opportunity to explore [the posters](#) generously made available for public viewing by their authors, as well as [the presentations](#) delivered by the Keynote and Focus speakers.

We warmly thank all the authors who chose to share their posters beyond the Symposium, enabling colleagues around the world to benefit from their research.

We hope these resources will inspire new ideas, encourage collaboration, and keep the spirit of ISA 2026 alive until we meet again in Athens.

Kind regards,

The ISA 2026 Organising Committee

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS, CALL FOR PAPERS, **QUATERNARY GEOCHRONOLOGY**

Submission Deadline: 20 October 2026

This Collection offers a platform for original, multidisciplinary, and integrative research in Quaternary geochronology. We will consider contributions reporting on new datasets, methodological approaches, and their application, as well as studies showcasing and promoting best research practices.

Quaternary geochronology focuses on dating geological and environmental changes over the past 2.58 million years. By employing various techniques, such as radiocarbon, luminescence, and cosmogenic nuclide dating, scientists can provide critical temporal frameworks for understanding Earth's recent climatic and environmental history, including the development of current biodiversity patterns and the exponential rise of modern humans.

Guest Editors:

Michael Dee, PhD, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

Mayank Jain, PhD, Technical University of Denmark, Denmark

David Harning, PhD, University of Colorado Boulder, USA

Yoshimi Kubota, PhD, National Museum of Nature and Science, Japan

Please visit the site: <https://www.nature.com/collections/gcgbdaifgg>

INTERNET SITES

ΤΑ ΕΥΡΗΜΑΤΑ ΣΤΗΝ ΠΡΟΪΣΤΟΡΙΑ ΠΟΥ ΑΠΟΚΑΛΥΠΤΟΥΝ ΤΗΝ ΚΛΙΜΑΤΙΚΉ ΑΛΛΑΓΉ

Στο Social Talks του Πανεπιστημίου Κρήτης, η Νένα Γαλανίδου, Καθηγήτρια Προϊστορικής Αρχαιολογίας, παρουσιάζει τα αρχαιολογικά ευρήματα που αποκαλύπτουν τη μακρά ιστορία της κλιματικής αλλαγής, τον ρόλο της στη διαμόρφωση των προϊστορικών πολιτισμών και τη σημασία της υποθαλάσσιας αρχαιολογίας στην ανάδειξη της πολιτιστικής μας κληρονομιάς.

Please visit the site: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdPwkuNhugo>

THIS GREEK PALACE EXCAVATION COULD FINALLY SOLVE HOW THE MYCENAEAN CIVILIZATION SUDDENLY COLLAPSED

What caused the sudden collapse of the Mycenaean civilization? A remarkable palace excavation in Greece may offer new clues to one of the greatest mysteries of the ancient world. In this video, we explore the latest archaeological discoveries surrounding a Mycenaean palace and what they reveal about life in Bronze Age Greece. From powerful palace kingdoms and ancient cities to warfare, trade, climate change, earthquakes, and social upheaval, we examine the evidence behind the mysterious collapse of Mycenaean civilization around 1200 BC. The Mycenaeans built some of the most impressive palaces of the Late Bronze Age, including centers such as Mycenae, Tiryns, and Pylos. But within a relatively short period, this complex civilization experienced a dramatic collapse. What happened? Was it invasion, natural disaster, economic crisis, climate change—or a combination of several factors? This archaeological excavation could help researchers piece together what happened during the final years of the Mycenaean world and provide fresh insight into the Bronze Age Collapse. 🔍 In this video: • Mycenaean civilization and Bronze Age Greece • The palace excavation and its archaeological evidence • Mycenaean palaces, cities, and royal power • The mysterious collapse around 1200 BC • Warfare, earthquakes, climate change, and famine • Ancient Greek archaeology and recent discoveries • What happened to the Mycenaean people? • The wider Bronze Age Collapse mystery.

Please visit the site: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q97AnTrfECs>

POMPEII ONLINE

At <https://www.pompeionline.net/en/> is the English version of Pompeii online with dozens of features and links.

ΝΕΕΣ ΕΚΔΟΣΕΙΣ – NEW PUBLICATIONS
ARCHAEOMETALLURGY OF IRON MEANS
OF PRODUCTION AND PROCESSES FROM
THE ORIGINS TO THE INDUSTRIAL
REVOLUTION, BY MARCO CIMA

First edition 1991

Second edition 1996

Third edition essentially digital with complete revision of the texts developed within the activities of the Museo Archeologico del Canavese - May 2024

English digital edition January 2025

Publisher: Edizioni Nautilus Torino

Page numbers: 270

Book presentation

The distinctly Italian tendency to avoid historical summaries to avoid falling into the “trap” of creating a work that risks being neither exhaustive nor precise has been courageously overcome by Marco Cima in this reconstruction of the material systems and production processes of iron from its origins to the Industrial Revolution. The overall framework of the volume is European – albeit for the first time, the scattered hints of a history of iron production in Italy are presented in an organic matter – and its diachronic scale of examination leads one to think of a history of iron production in Italy are presented in an organic manner — and its diachronic scale of examination leads one to think of a history of extractive and metallurgical techniques that is detached from social contexts. Conversely, the risk of an “evolutionary” reading of technologies has been largely avoided: the systematic use of archaeological sources alongside written sources has played a crucial role in capturing the details of the typological transformations of furnace structures and various techniques, as well as the chronological overlaps in differentiated social contexts.

Cima’s contribution merits recognition for reaching into the narrative of indirect iron production, which is explored in depth as it enters the 18th century, providing historians - and especially archaeologists — with an essential tool to place the various production processes that precede and follow each stage of processing, thereby presenting the complexity of the interrelations between territory and forge.

The overall reconstruction is systematically articulated by subject, equipping non-specialists with the necessary tools to gain a very clear picture of the historical dynamics of production processes, while also enabling scholars to interpret or reinterpret the material or written sources they are working with.

The publication of this volume comes at a time of renewed interest in historiography regarding the themes of technology history and a resurgence in archaeological studies on production topics. This is an area where the Italian tradition is significantly disadvantaged compared to the European reference framework; one need only consider

the recent French historical literature, contrasted with the scant number of pre-industrial ceramic or glass production centres investigated in our country, let alone the substantial silence that has characterized the last five years regarding themes of extractive and metallurgical activities.

In my view, the volume on the archaeology of iron constitutes an important contribution that not only provides us with an updated synthesis of what has been elaborated thus far on the subject but also allows us to properly assess and highlight the value of the material evidence with which our territory is rich. I am particularly thinking of the growing interest in the problems of industrial archaeology and the design of archaeological-mining and metallurgical parks, where often only the monumental phases of the Industrial Revolution are considered, disregarding the less recent production phases and the entire ecosystem constituted by the mining complexes — still extant today, but often threatened by material quarries or destroyed by reckless dumping — and by woodland economies.

Therefore, Cima offers a history of techniques where the social context is not marginalized, and where synthetic analysis does not detract from a rich and functional iconographic apparatus, thus effectively and comprehensively responding to a demand generated by an ever-increasing need to read the past through integrated interpretative frameworks that allow for the combination of scientific knowledge, material remains and written sources.

† Riccardo Francovich
(full professor of Medieval Archaeology at the Siena University)
September 1991

This volume is a translated revised edition of the work of the same title published in 1991, which enjoyed considerable success. It is presented here with the necessary additions and updates resulting from new insights gained over three decades of research, with the aim of offering the public an archaeological manual on iron production systems. This book is the translation of 'Archeologia del Ferro 2024'. The volume is available exclusively in digital format via the Academia.edu portal.

Please visit the site:

[https://www.academia.edu/145526714/ARCHAEOMETALLURGY_OF_IRON Means of production and processes from the origins to the Industrial Revolution?email_work_card=view-paper](https://www.academia.edu/145526714/ARCHAEOMETALLURGY_OF_IRON_Means_of_production_and_processes_from_the_origins_to_the_Industrial_Revolution?email_work_card=view-paper)

**EXPLORING LOCAL AND REGIONAL
DYNAMICS IN THE BRONZE AGE KYTHERA
ISLAND, GREECE, THROUGH AN
ANALYTICAL APPROACH ON
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA FROM
KATAPHYGADI CAVE, BY KONSTANTINOS
P. TRIMMIS, STAVROULA FOURIKI,
PATRICK QUINN, JULIE DUNNE, RICHARD
P. EVERSLED, KATIE FAILLACE, RICHARD
MADGWICK, MORTEN ANDERSEN, MARC-
ALBAN MILLET, ALEXANDRA J.
NEDERBRAGT, TIMOTHY KNOWLES, PAUL
MONAGHAN, GEORGIOS LAZARIDIS,
CHRISTIANNE L. FERNÉE AND KATERINA
TRANTALIDOU**

Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports, 2026, 73, 105798

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jasrep.2026.105798>

Abstract

Interactions between islands and mainland has long been the subject of numerous archaeological projects in the Mediterranean and beyond. The island of Kythera in Greece has been a focal point for such studies over the last century. This paper re-visits Kythera and presents an analytical study on pottery and skeletal assemblages from the Kataphygadi cave excavations in the central west Kythera, in order to further explore insular dynamics and long-range interactions in the area, during the Bronze Age. The range of analyses, from organic residue and petrography to archaeological isotopes, employed to identify the role of the cave and the island in the Bronze networks, can be a pilot study for similar research questions on the role of cave sites in insular environments. Outcomes present a more diverse picture of interactions and regional dynamics than previously thought, with local traditions surviving long into the later Bronze Age and amalgamating with practices and material culture arriving from both the mainland and Crete.

Keywords: Bronze Age Aegean, Organic Residue analysis, Isotope analysis, Petrographic analysis, Cave Archaeology, Kythera Island

Please visit the site:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352409X26002336?via%3Dihub>

REASSESSING THE RADIOCARBON DATING OF THE PREHISTORIC HEMATITE MINES ON THE HILL OF TZINES (THASOS, GREECE), BY C. LEVATO, C. KOUKOULI- CHRYSANTHAKI, D. MALAMIDOU, M. VAXEVANOPOULOS, S. LINDAUER AND TH. STÖLLNER

Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences (2026) 18:113
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12520-026-02486-6>

Abstract

The prehistoric hematite mines on the Hill of Tzines are located on the island of Thasos, in the administrative region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace (Greece). The site was discovered in the 1950' during the modern open-cast exploitation, and underwent archaeological investigations in the 1980' and beginning of the 1990'. The research revealed the occurrence of underground mines – called T1 and T2 – aimed at the extraction of hematite. Despite the efforts made, the radiocarbon dating of the osseous samples from the site was hindered by their poor collagen preservation. However, two radiocarbon dates were obtained for the mine T1. One AMS radiocarbon date (ETH-11573, 24976 – 24021 years cal BP), together with the analysis of the faunal remains, suggested an Upper Palaeolithic age of the exploitation. However, based on another radiocarbon date (HD-8528-8509, 8985 – 8402 years cal BP), the excavators did not exclude a more recent Holocene mining phase. This paper presents the results of a novel radiocarbon dating programme that was conducted between 2020 and 2021, taking into account sample selection, preparation, and analysis. Despite the lack of collagen in most of the osseous samples, it has been possible to obtain two AMS radiocarbon ages for the mine T2. A radiocarbon date (MAMS-53686, 28431 – 27804 years cal BP) places the exploitation in a middle phase of the Upper Palaeolithic, corresponding to the Gravettian. A second date (MAMS-53688, 6398 – 6302 years cal BP), although unreliable due to the low collagen yield (0.4%), may suggest a Holocene phase of exploitation of the mine. Results are discussed in the context of Upper Palaeolithic mining in Europe, Gravettian cultural framework, paleoenvironmental and faunal evidence, early ochre exploitation in the Aegean, and alternative dating approaches.

Keywords: Tzines underground mines, Thasos, Greece, Hematite mining, Radiocarbon dating, Upper Palaeolithic

Please visit the site: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12520-026-02486-6>

THE ACHEULEAN LARGE CUTTING TOOL ASSEMBLAGE FROM RODAFNIDIA, LESVOS: A 3D MORPHO-TECHNOLOGICAL CROSS-REGIONAL COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS, BY GADI HERZLINGER AND NENA GALANIDOU

Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory (2027) 34:1
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10816-026-09804-1>

Abstract

The Acheulean, a key Lower Palaeolithic technocomplex characterised by iconic large cutting tools (LCTs), is one of the most extensively studied phenomena in prehistoric archaeology. Yet its vast chrono-spatial distribution, together with the persistent tension between technological homogeneity and variability, has hindered the construction of robust cultural phylogenetic scenarios for its evolution and dispersal. One way to address this challenge is to develop regional- and continental-scale syntheses of industrial traits based on standardised analytical protocols. Such protocols can help overcome differences in site context, artifact recovery, chronology and publication standards that reflect diverse geographic, chronological and academic traditions. In tune with this we integrate technological and computational archaeological analyses under open science principles to conduct a comparative study of Acheulean variability and cultural phylogeny at the Eurasian crossroads of the Aegean and the southern Levant. Our point of departure is Rodafnidia, a Middle Pleistocene locality on the island of Lesbos, Greece, where excavations have revealed stratified Acheulean knapped stone tool assemblages. We present a comprehensive morpho-technological analysis of an LCT assemblage composed of handaxes and cleavers from Rodafnidia. The analysis evaluates contextual integrity and examines the relationship between technological procedures and morphological features across well-provenanced stratified artifacts and surface finds. Given the scarcity of Acheulean assemblages in the Balkan Peninsula and western Anatolia, we compare the Rodafnidia material with five handaxe assemblages from ‘Ubeidiya, Gesher Benot Ya’aqov (GBY), Ma’ayan Barukh, Holon, and Nahal Hesi, as well as with nine cleaver assemblages from GBY. Together, these reference assemblages span different chrono-cultural stages of the Levantine Acheulean. The results reveal a high degree of homogeneity within the Rodafnidia assemblage, indicating consistent technological preferences and recurrent morphological outcomes. At the same time, the morpho-technological configuration identified at Rodafnidia differs from any pattern recognised among the studied Levantine assemblages. Our research protocol underscores the value of integrated comparative morpho-technological analyses for investigating the complex evolutionary and cultural dynamics of Acheulean hominin populations. More broadly, our findings contribute to a nuanced understanding of Middle Pleistocene Acheulean variability and cultural phylogeny in this part of the Mediterranean, while demonstrating a scalable approach that can be applied across the Acheulean world.

Keywords: Large cutting tools, Lesvos, Aegean, 3D Geometric morphometric, Acheulean, Lower Palaeolithic

Please visit the site: https://link.springer.com/epdf/10.1007/s10816-026-09804-1?sharing_token=dohT7dmmjoAAUwc7qitOZPe4RwlQNchNByi7wbcMAY7FfO6b0JA75HTwKgapwqLRv5CwWTdsvq7161m8kc1dxFfa3uMC_ANJ-6VMipm8twozka8RDI0Y6bH4tc6-SFvjweZ1n5ZUCO8HDIYFJYaxg8p6uEGNgLoyyJpkePoVN_Y%3D

LITHIC RAW MATERIAL PROVISIONING IN THE ACHEULEAN RODAFNIDIA, LESVOS, GREECE, BY ELLI KARKAZI, NENA GALANIDOU & ANDREAS MAGGANAS

Journal of Palaeolithic Archaeology, Volume 9, article number 13 (2026)

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s41982-026-00259-0>

Abstract

This study investigates Acheulean industrial variability through the lens of lithic raw material provisioning. It harnesses macroscopic and microscopic analysis, X-ray diffraction, and inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry to identify and characterize the raw materials used to knap artefacts excavated from Rodafnidia, a Lower Palaeolithic site on central-south Lesbos Island, Greece, and surface artefacts collected from Rodafnidia and two adjacent findspots, Glyfias and Bi Tsesme in the southeast rim of the Kalloni Gulf. The study employs geological surveying to map primary and secondary local sources of the knappable rocks present in the assemblages under investigation, and examines patterns of procurement, use and management. Two types of fine-grained sedimentary chert, fossiliferous sinter and silicified limestone, as well as igneous rocks such as hydrothermal silica rock, andesitic tuff and basalt were employed to make stone tools. The Rodafnidia industry shows technological affinities with the Large Flake Acheulean of Africa and the Levant, yet differs in its preferential use of fine-grained chert (fossiliferous sinter), the presence of which appears to be one of the many attractions of this locality to Middle Pleistocene hominins in this part of the northeast Aegean.

Please visit the site: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41982-026-00259-0>

NEW BIOANTHROPOLOGICAL INSIGHTS
ON THE POSSIBLE EARLY UPPER
PALEOLITHIC CRANIAL AND
POSTCRANIAL HUMAN REMAINS FROM
APIDIMA CAVE C (PELOPONNESE),
BY DAVID NAUMANN, VASSILIS G.
GORGOLIS, KONSTANTINOS EVANGELOU
AND KATERINA HARVATI

PaleoAnthropology 2026: 2: xxx–xxx

Special Issue: The Apidima Legacy Collections: New Analyses and Interpretations

<https://doi.org/10.48738/2026.iss2.4041>

Abstract

The Apidima cave complex was investigated by a team from the Museum of Anthropology, School of Medicine of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, during the late 1970s–80s, and yielded Paleolithic remains from the Middle and Late Pleistocene. Among the important findings were human remains excavated from Cave C, including a mostly complete and associated skeleton (Apidima 3) and a few additional isolated elements. The human remains were recovered from the same context as a Protoaurignacian lithic assemblage. Recently, three shell beads, possibly from the same context, produced calibrated radiocarbon dates ranging from 24.5 to 31.8 ka cal BP, suggesting the possible presence of an intrusive, potentially Gravettian burial context. Despite the rarity of Upper Paleolithic human remains in the known Greek fossil record, the remains from Apidima Cave C have remained largely unknown, with only preliminary descriptions and assessments published to date. Here, we revisit this legacy material and conduct a comprehensive bioanthropological reinvestigation of the human remains from Cave C. Our study adds important new biological data to the literature, including measurements of the entire Apidima 3 skeleton and a re-evaluation of the burial context based on bone-preservation characteristics. Our findings support the initial assignment of this skeleton to the female sex. In contrast to the earlier interpretation of a young age at death (20–25 years), we show that she died during advanced adulthood, most likely between 40 and 60 years of age. This agrees with our observations of progressive stages of joint degeneration, including inflammatory osteoarthritic conditions in different skeletal elements, as well as severe occlusal wear and signs of periodontitis in her dentition. Comparisons of stature, body mass, and limb osteometry with data from Upper Paleolithic individuals across Europe show that her body proportions best align with those of pre-Last Glacial Maximum females, consistent with her potential chronological attribution. Our study presents the most comprehensive and up-to-date inventory of human remains from Apidima Cave C, along with new bioanthropological data and detailed anatomical description.

Please visit the site: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/David-Naumann-3/publication/408720637_New_Bioanthropological_Insights_on_the_Possible_Early_Upper_Paleolithic_Cranial_and_Postcranial_Human_Remains_from_Apidima_Cave_C_Peloponnese/links/6a50cbb0d4da0457569d997d/New-Bioanthropological-Insights-on-the-Possible-Early-Upper-Paleolithic-Cranial-and-Postcranial-Human-Remains-from-Apidima-Cave-C-Peloponnese.pdf

ΕΙΔΗΣΕΙΣ - NEWS RELEASE

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU PUT AI TO WORK DECIPHERING LOST LANGUAGES? AI IS FANTASTIC AT SPOTTING PATTERNS, BUT HUMAN INSIGHT IS THE KEY, BY JANE ADKINS

Every ancient language that has ever been deciphered needed an anchor. Usually that's a bilingual text, like the Rosetta Stone, or a known relative to compare it to. Linear A, the writing system of the Bronze Age Minoan civilization on the Greek island of Crete, has neither.

Linear A is described as a “language isolate” because it has no confirmed link to any known language, living or dead. As such, it has posed a significant challenge for linguists over the past century.

Etruscan, a language of Italy that was used before the rise of the Roman Empire, has fared only slightly better. A partial vocabulary has been collected from short funerary inscriptions, but its grammar and deeper meaning still elude linguists.

Both languages are exactly the kind of puzzle that AI has recently been pulled into—not by replacing the linguists, but by supercharging their hunches. So does AI actually stand a chance of finishing what a century of human effort hasn't?

A recent case shows both the appeal and the catch. In June 2026, a self-taught AI engineer and amateur linguist claimed a breakthrough on Linear A. It started from a single guess that one unknown word in a prayer inscription derived from a Semitic root meaning “to dwell” or “to inhabit.”

He then used AI-built programming scripts to test that sound-pattern against the rest of a collected Linear A corpus. He was reportedly able to assign values to 40 signs and compiled a 408-word lexicon, showing—in his view—that Linear A is an extinct member of the Semitic language group, which encompasses languages such as Hebrew and Aramaic.

The need for creativity

It's worth being precise about what AI did and didn't do here. It didn't have the idea. The engineer did.

The AI was the research assistant. It rapidly cross-checked a human hypothesis against thousands of characters, work that would have taken a human months by hand. That division of labour is the pattern currently worth paying attention to, far more than any single claim that is still under review.

So where does AI actually help, and where does it hit a wall? It's genuinely strong at large-scale pattern testing. It can check whether a hunch about one sign or word holds up across an entire archive in minutes instead of years. It can spot repeated sequences a human eye would miss, and restore damaged or fragmentary inscriptions by predicting likely missing characters.

AI also does something distinct called “cross-lingual transfer,” where a model trained on a known language can sometimes infer patterns in a closely related unknown one. This is similar to how knowing Spanish helps you guess at Portuguese.

Researchers have already used this kind of approach successfully on scripts such as Ugaritic, where the language family is known. Ugaritic is an extinct Semitic language, spoken during the late Bronze Age (about 1300-1190 BC) in the ancient coastal city of Ugarit (in what is now Syria).

But there's a hard ceiling: statistical pattern matching can't manufacture meaning out of nothing. It needs an anchor—a known language family, or a bilingual text—to tell it which patterns are meaningful and which are coincidence.

Linear A and Etruscan are hard precisely because that anchor is missing or incomplete, and no amount of computing power invents one from scratch.

Scant evidence

With a large enough corpus, an AI model could hypothetically get fluent enough to converse with a Minoan or Etruscan speaker on the model's own statistical terms. This means that it could recognize repeating patterns of words and other structural units of a language that would allow the AI model to repurpose the terms in a different context. One that might approximate a limited conversation, at least on the surface.

But the AI system still wouldn't be able to hand a human a translation, because fluency and meaning aren't the same thing here. The model can learn which signs follow which, and which words cluster together, without ever knowing what any of them actually refer to.

This is also why verifying any AI-assisted claim about these languages is so difficult, and it's a problem bigger than any one case. Normally, you'd check a proposed translation or interpretation against native speakers, other texts, or expert consensus built up over decades. None of that exists for a genuinely undeciphered language. Short of a time machine, there's no way to check.

Small surviving corpora make this worse: Linear A's entire surviving corpus is about 7,500 characters, short enough to fit on a single screen, and, with that little data, almost any hypothesis can find scattered matches to support it.

That is why claims in this space lean so heavily on independent expert scrutiny and peer-review rather than statistical confidence scores. It is also why “AI found a pattern” and “AI found the correct meaning” are very different claims that are easy to blur together.

None of this means that AI is a dead end for these languages. Quite the opposite: it's a real accelerant, able to compress years of manual cross-referencing into mere minutes and let more people attempt these problems than institutional resources ever allowed.

But it doesn't remove the two ingredients that decipherment has always required. One is a genuine comparative anchor. The other is rigorous human review, to tell a real breakthrough from an appealing coincidence.

Until one of those shows up for Linear A or Etruscan, AI's role in deciphering languages will stay what it is today: a very fast assistant to a very old, very human puzzle.

Please visit the site: <https://arstechnica.com/science/2026/07/what-happens-when-you-put-ai-to-work-deciphering-lost-languages/>

HUMANITY SPOKE THOUSANDS OF LANGUAGES AT THE DAWN OF FARMING — NOW MANY OF THEM ARE LOST, BY FREDA KREIER

A shift from nomadic lifestyles could have triggered linguistic diversity before it then declined rapidly.

Humanity might once have spoken many more languages than it does today, with tens of thousands in use between 3,000 and 1,000 years ago. This far exceeds the more than 7,500 unique languages now used worldwide.

The findings, published on 23 July in *Science*¹, suggest that the rise of agriculture spurred an initial language boom as people shifted from a nomadic, hunter-gatherer lifestyle and settled into small, isolated communities. If accurate, these results indicate that language extinction is not a uniquely modern phenomenon, says Heidi Harley, a linguist at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

The true historical diversity of languages suggested by this analysis is “mind-blowing”, she says. “The sheer number of languages that they projected to have existed is like, ‘What? That’s crazy’.”

Farm of Babel

Aside from written sources, evidence of language in the archaeological record is sparse — meaning that researchers often know “surprisingly little” about historical language diversity, says Joe Salmons, a historical linguist at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

This has led researchers to propose widely differing accounts of how language diversity has evolved over time. For the most part, those calculations are “back-of-the-envelope figures”, says co-author Claire Bowerman, a historical linguist at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

The transition to farming settlements in the Neolithic, like this one in Çayönü, Turkey, helped spur a boom in linguistic diversity. Credit: Omer Yasin Ergin/Anadolu Agency/Getty

In their study, Bowerman and her colleagues aimed to track the global trajectory of language diversity over the past 12,000 years. They began by estimating how many languages were spoken 12,000 years ago, which was around the end of the last glacial period. To do so, they divided the approximate total global population at the time by the average size of hunter-gatherer groups from the same ethnic and cultural background. For this model, the researchers worked on the assumption that these groups of around 800 people spoke the same language — an inference based on twentieth-century research into native Alaskan groups and global historical language diversity.

Their calculation suggested that between 3,300 and 7,800 languages were spoken 12,000 years ago.

The team then aimed to estimate how language diversity has evolved over time, using statistical models. Because the structure of many societies changed at the end of the last glacial period, shifting from nomadic hunter-gatherer groups to agricultural communities and expanding into nation states, the model assumed that the groups speaking the same language eventually became larger.

How one language family took over the world: ancient DNA traces its spread

Despite this, the analysis suggests that language diversity rose over the next few millennia as agriculture became more widespread globally, and peaked around 2,000 years ago, when tens of thousands of languages were in use — about ten times as many as were spoken at the end of the last ice age.

Why this happened is unclear, but Bowern suspects that one factor was the transition from nomadic to more-permanent settlements. This is supported by research in New Guinea and Vanuatu, which suggests that the dialects and languages of small farming settlements diverge more starkly from those of their neighbours than do those of hunter-gatherers in the same region.

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Blasi, D. E., Hamilton, M. J., Gray, R. D. & Bowern, C. L. Science <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.adx4343> (2026).

Please visit the site: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-026-02279-w>

MEASURING TIME THROUGH TREES - JERUSALEM ARCHAEOLOGISTS LEARN TO READ THE LANGUAGE OF TREE RINGS, BY LAUREN K. MCCORMICK

Most people know that you can count a tree's rings to determine its age. Many also know that the rings indicate the climate in any one of the years of the tree's life: a larger ring indicates a wet year while smaller rings indicate dryness. A tree's rings form a pattern, kind of like a bar code, that scientists can "read," allowing them to: 1) know when a tree grew and was cut; and 2) build unbroken chronologies by matching sequences of rings from different trees from the same region through time.

In other words, trees are chroniclers, and they speak in the language of rings. Their stories can reach back thousands of years, offering a history written not by people—who invented writing only around 3000 BCE—but by nature. The science of reading this natural archive is called dendrochronology.

We can once again marvel at dendrochronology thanks to large wooden beams recently found during the City of David excavations in Jerusalem. A joint dig between Tel Aviv University and the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) anticipates using this method to date exceptionally large samples of ancient tree rings.

The beams once formed part of a roof over an inner courtyard of a building. The building caught fire, causing the roof to collapse and the beams to fall to the floor. Excavation director Efrat Bocher suggests that the building's plaster walls were exposed to such intense heat that the plaster detached or partially melted before collapsing over the burnt beams. This layer of plaster and rubble sealed the wooden remains for over 2,600 years.

Wood is very rare in the archaeology of ancient Israel. Warm conditions, microorganisms, insects, and the repeated reuse of timber have all worked against its survival.

Remains of the charred beams, with plastered wall pictured at left. Courtesy Israel Antiquities Authority.

The beams are of exceptional scientific value due to their size and the number of tree rings preserved. Stratigraphic evidence suggests the beams date to the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BCE, a date the team now plans to test via dendrochronology. They also hope the beams' tree rings will allow them to refine regional chronologies, as additional timbers accumulate from other sites.

To date ancient remains, archaeologists typically combine several lines of evidence. For Jerusalem during the Iron Age (c. 1200–586 BCE), the most common include stratigraphy, changes in pottery, architectural style, and radiocarbon dating. Together, these methods usually narrow events to decades or centuries.

Johanna Regev, an archaeological and scientific researcher with the IAA, reports, “Until recently, we could date finds from this time within a range of hundreds of years. Now, as we separate and collect the rings one by one in the field, we can attain much greater precision, potentially narrowing the dating range down to as little as ten years.” By contributing so much data (so many tree rings), the beams give researchers a better chance of matching the wood to the existing regional chronology. Further, these rings may provide valuable new data to strengthen or extend that archive for future studies.

There is something astonishing about the path from a tree’s growth in antiquity, to the reconstruction of ancient climate, and, ultimately, to the creation of an absolute chronology. Dendrochronology inspires a deep sense of awe, both of the natural world, which has preserved this record, and of the human ingenuity that discovered how to read it.

Lauren K. McCormick is an assistant editor at Biblical Archaeology Review and a specialist in ancient Near Eastern religions, visual culture, and the Bible [...]

Please visit the site: <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/ancient-cultures/ancient-israel/measuring-time-through-trees/>

BYZANTINE GOLD OBJECTS HELP ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNCOVER PAST OF SHIP WRECKED OFF CROATIA, BY ANTONIO BRONIC

A Byzantine-era ship discovered more than a decade ago on the seabed off Croatia's southern coast was probably carrying a high-ranking person and his entourage, judging by the gold jewelry found in the wreckage, according to archaeologists.

Announcing for the first time on Thursday the results of their years-long underwater excavation, they said the shipwreck could be dated to the 7th or 8th century and that the artefacts on board indicated that this was no ordinary merchant vessel.

These included gold coins dating to the Heraclius dynasty of four emperors, buckles decorated with rubies, emeralds and pearls, and a golden signet ring with a picture of the emperor "that certainly wouldn't be worn by just anyone", Pavle Dugonjic, head of the Department of Underwater Archaeology at the Croatian Conservation Institute, told Reuters.

His team, equipped with diving gear, has spent the past decade slowly uncovering the history of the ship, whose wreckage lies near the Adriatic island of Mljet.

"This is an impressive amount of gold, the largest ever found on a shipwreck in the entire Mediterranean," said Igor Miholjek, the head of research at the Croatian Conservation Institute. "It weighs over 600 grams when weighed after cleaning and restoration."

The Byzantine Empire — successor to the Roman Empire and centred on Constantinople, now Istanbul in Turkey — once dominated the eastern Mediterranean but by the early 8th century was mired in turmoil and was losing territory.

"For me, it's the most important shipwreck of its period," said Justin Leidwanger, professor of archaeology at Stanford University.

"If you're studying the end of the late Roman Empire and the transformation into the medieval world, this is a critical site for us to understand and to gain insights into how the Mediterranean was held together by its sea routes, how it fragmented, how the empire fell apart."

Please visit the site: <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/byzantine-gold-objects-help-archaeologists-uncover-past-ship-wrecked-off-croatia-2026-07-23/> [Go there for pix]

ARCHAEOLOGISTS FOUND HOMER'S ILIAD **INSIDE A 1,600-YEAR-OLD EGYPTIAN** **MUMMY**

A 1,600-year-old mummy discovered in Egypt has revealed something archaeologists had never seen before: a fragment of Homer's Iliad used during embalming. The papyrus was identified as part of the famous "Catalogue of Ships," one of the best-known sections of the ancient epic. Researchers say it is the first archaeological evidence of a Greek literary text being intentionally incorporated into the mummification process, adding a fascinating new chapter to the history of both literature and ancient burial customs.

Archaeologists working at the ancient Egyptian site of Oxyrhynchus have made a remarkable discovery: a papyrus containing a passage from Homer's Iliad was found inside a Roman-era mummy dating back about 1,600 years. Researchers say it is the first known case in archaeological history in which a Greek literary text was intentionally incorporated into the mummification process.

The find was made by the Oxyrhynchus Archaeological Mission, directed by Maite Mascort and Esther Pons through the Institute of Ancient Near East Studies (IPOA) at the University of Barcelona. It comes from Al Bahnasa, the modern town located at the site of ancient Oxyrhynchus in Egypt.

A Literary Papyrus Used in Mummification

During excavations conducted between November and December 2025, a team led by Núria Castellano uncovered a Roman-era mummy in Tomb 65 of Sector 22. Resting on the mummy's abdomen was a papyrus that had been deliberately placed there as part of the embalming ritual.

The mission had previously discovered Greek papyri positioned in similar ways during earlier excavations. However, those texts were consistently magical or ritual in nature. This is the first time a literary work, specifically Homer's Iliad, has been identified in that role.

Experts Identify a Famous Passage From the Iliad

The papyrus underwent detailed study during a second research campaign held in January and February 2026. Conservator Margalida Munar, papyrologist Leah Mascia, and Ignasi-Xavier Adiego, professor in the Department of Classical, Romance and Semitic Languages, classical philologist, and director of the Oxyrhynchus project, examined the fragile document.

Using Leah Mascia's reading of the text, Professor Adiego determined that the fragment comes from the "Catalogue of Ships" in Book II of Homer's Iliad. This well-known section lists the Greek forces preparing for the Trojan War and is considered one of the best-known passages in Western literature.

Professor Adiego explains: "This is not the first time we have found Greek papyri, bundled, sealed, and incorporated into the mummification process, but until now, their content was mainly magical. Furthermore, it is worth noting that, since the late 19th century, a huge number of papyri have been discovered at Oxyrhynchus, including Greek literary texts of great importance, but the real novelty is finding a literary papyrus in a funerary context."

Excavations at Ancient Oxyrhynchus

The discovery was made in the Al Bahnasa necropolis, the archaeological site identified with ancient Oxyrhynchus, one of the most important cities of Greco-Roman Egypt. Located about 190 kilometers south of Cairo near the Bahr Yussef branch of the Nile, the site has long been known for preserving thousands of ancient papyri.

Excavations uncovered a funerary complex consisting of three limestone burial chambers containing Roman-era mummies and decorated wooden sarcophagi. Many of the tombs had suffered damage from looting in the past, leaving several artifacts in poor condition.

A Long Running Archaeological Mission

The University of Barcelona's Oxyrhynchus Archaeological Mission began in 1992 under the leadership of Professor Josep Padró. It has become one of Spain's longest running and most established archaeological projects in Egypt.

Its most recent field season, carried out between November 2025 and February 2026, produced a number of discoveries that researchers describe as historically and archaeologically significant.

The mission receives support from the Ministry of Culture, the University of Barcelona, the Palarq Foundation, the Catalan Egyptology Society, and AIXA Serveis Arqueològics. It also works in cooperation with Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities and Cairo University.

The team's latest discoveries were recently presented during a public lecture series held at the University of Barcelona's Faculty of Philology and Communication in the Gabriel Oliver room. The program featured talks by project members covering archaeology, anthropology, and conservation.

Please visit the site:

https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/07/260713084918.htm#google_vignette

6,000-YEAR-OLD INFANT FROM ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA SHOWS ONE OF THE WORLD’S OLDEST SIGNS OF CHILD ABUSE, **BY DARIO RADLEY**

A 6,000-year-old infant buried in ancient Syria has given researchers what looks like the oldest known case of child abuse in the Middle East. The child’s bones show repeated injuries which fit physical abuse instead of disease or an accident. The findings appear in the International Journal of Osteoarchaeology.

View of Tell Brak, Syria, including Area TW. Credit: Bertramz, CC BY 3.0

The infant lived between 4200 and 3900 BCE at Tell Brak, one of the world’s earliest cities in ancient Mesopotamia. Archaeologists found the child in a burial ground for infants and children inside a workshop district. Tooth growth showed the baby was between 6 and 9 months old at death.

The skeleton held several signs of trauma. Researchers found four broken ribs near the breastbone, unusual bone growth in the right thigh, and porous lesions on both sides of the skull. Some rib fractures had already started to heal. This shows the infant lived for some time after the injuries.

The team compared the child’s remains with other young skeletons from the same cemetery. None of the others with well-preserved ribs had similar fractures. The injury pattern stood apart from every other child in the burial group.

Researchers then looked for other causes. Birth injuries did not fit because such fractures usually heal within a few weeks. Bone growth and bone density matched other children from the same period, making a bone disease unlikely. The team also ruled out rickets, scurvy, violent coughing, and other illnesses. Ancient Mesopotamia had rich farmland and plenty of sunlight, so severe vitamin shortages were less likely. A single fall also failed to match the pattern of injuries.

Instead, the bones matched signs doctors often link with non-accidental trauma. Rib fractures are rare in infants because their bones are soft and flexible. Several broken ribs close to the breastbone without another clear cause raise strong concern for physical abuse. The researchers described the case as caregiver-induced violence because the evidence does not identify who caused the injuries. In ancient families, several adults often shared the care of young children.

Finding child abuse in ancient skeletons is rare. Soft tissue injuries disappear after death, leaving only bones for study. Researchers also lack medical records or witness accounts. Only a handful of similar cases have been reported from Egypt, France, and Lithuania.

The team also looked at life in Tell Brak during the child’s lifetime. The settlement was growing into one of the first cities in human history. Rapid urban growth and changes in family life could have placed extra pressure on households. While the exact cause of the

violence will never be known, this case offers rare evidence of the risks faced by some children as early cities began to grow.

Publication: Grzegorska, A., Jakob, T., & Sołtysiak, A. (2026). A possible case of child abuse at the early urban centre of Tell Brak, NE Syria. *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*, 36(3), 768–774. doi:10.1002/oa.70123

Please visit the site: <https://archaeologymag.com/2026/07/infant-mesopotamia-oldest-signs-of-child-abuse/>

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REVEALS ANCIENT GREEK MILITARY CAMP IN UZBEKISTAN, BY ABDUL MOEED

Archaeologists have identified Iskandar Tepa, a hilltop site in southern Uzbekistan, as a short-term Ancient Greek military camp. A new geophysical survey, followed by targeted excavations, uncovered a defensive ditch, dozens of burial pits, and a cluster of buried water jars.

The findings, published in the Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports, overturn earlier ideas about the small settlement and point instead to a temporary military outpost from the Hellenistic period.

The study was led by Ladislav Stančo of Charles University in Prague, working with a Czech-Uzbekistani archaeological team. The group first surveyed the site in 2017 and returned in 2021 with magnetometry and ground-penetrating radar equipment to map what lay beneath the surface.

Survey maps ditch, postholes defining Iskandar Tepa military camp

The scans covered nearly six hectares and revealed a ditch stretching roughly 400 meters (1,312 feet) around the settlement, enclosing an area of about 1.2 hectares (2.97 acres).

Excavations later confirmed the ditch measured between four and seven meters wide (13 to 23 feet) and up to 85 centimeters deep (33.5 inches), with a stepped profile carved into the ground. Rows of postholes found just inside the ditch suggest wooden defenses once stood along its edge.

Trench at Iskandar Tepa that contained Khum vessels. Credit: Ladislav Stančo / CC BY 4.0

Inside the enclosed area, researchers found large ceramic storage jars, known locally as khums, buried directly into the ground. Three of the jars were fully excavated and showed traces of white mineral crusts, likely left behind by stored water rather than food or grain.

Researchers believe the jars held water hauled in from a nearby valley or collected from a canal identified during the survey, since no permanent buildings or water source existed at the site itself.

Expert says findings confirm rare Greek military site

The survey also turned up close to 90 oval pits clustered along the eastern and western edges of the settlement. Excavations confirmed these as burial pits, some dating to the first century BC and later.

A handful of graves overlap with the settlement area itself, suggesting the burial ground was used after the camp fell out of use.

Coins found at the site, including issues from Greco-Bactrian rulers Euthydemus I and Demetrius I, point to occupation mainly in the second century BC.

Researchers compared the layout to Boysari Tepa, a similarly shaped hilltop site in Sogdiana, which shares a shallow surrounding ditch and simple wooden postholes rather than permanent architecture.

Stančo said the combination of an elevated location, a circular ditch, and the absence of solid buildings matches historical descriptions of Greek military camps, a type of site rarely documented in Central Asia.

He added that the survey shows how effective geophysical tools can be in dry, poorly preserved landscapes where surface remains leave few visible clues.

Please visit the site: <https://greekreporter.com/2026/07/03/geophysical-survey-reveals-ancient-greek-military-camp-uzbekistan/>

ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNCOVER ANCIENT BYZANTINE CITY IN EGYPT'S WESTERN DESERT, BY NADEEM BADSHAH

Well-preserved fourth-century quarters reveal details of daily life, urban development and economic activities

Archaeologists in Egypt have uncovered a well-preserved Byzantine-era city in the western desert.

The fourth-century quarters had residential and religious structures, including a basilica-style church in the Dakhla oasis. Archaeologists also found coins, pottery fragments and tools.

Separately, 18 ancient tombs were discovered at Marina el-Alamein, near Alexandria, which includes rock-cut and limestone tombs, pottery and a granite sarcophagus.

The tourism and antiquities ministry said the first discovery reveals details of daily life, urban development and economic activities when Egypt was part of the Byzantine empire.

The unearthed quarters included north-south thoroughfares intersected by east-west streets, forming open squares and public spaces, said Hisham el-Leithy, secretary general of the supreme council of antiquities.

A basilica dating back to the mid-fourth century stands at the settlement's head, overlooking its main streets, along with remains of two watchtowers to safeguard the outskirts, according to Mahmoud Massoud, who chairs the archaeological mission.

The oasis, located in Egypt's western province of New Valley, is on Unesco's tentative list, a step away from being added to the agency's world heritage list.

A heavily fortified structure with thick defensive walls, and many houses consisting of reception halls and vaulted roofs, were found in the area, Massoud added.

Among them were the house of Tisous, a church deacon, which dates to the second half of the fourth century. Archaeologists believe it served as a house church before the construction of the city's basilica.

Archaeologists also uncovered bread ovens, kitchens, grinding tools and bronze coins bearing portraits of Byzantine emperors, Latin inscriptions and Christian symbols.

A group of gold coins unearthed dated to the reign of Roman emperor Constantius II, who ruled between 337 and 361, the ministry statement said.

Diaa Zahran, head of the Islamic, Coptic and Jewish antiquities department, said they found a collection of about 200 pottery fragments which would have been used as writing

material. The fragments, known as ostraca, have inscriptions detailing commercial transactions, correspondence and other details of daily life, according to Zahran.

Archaeologists also found ancient tombs in the Marina el-Alamein archaeological site, which is about 62 miles (100km) west of the Mediterranean city of Alexandria.

The findings included 11 rock-cut tombs with an average depth of eight metres, and seven surface limestone-built tombs, the ministry said. It has brought the total tombs found at the site to 48.

In the site, archaeologists found pottery vessels, amphorae, lamps, plates, altars and limestone basins.

The mission chief, Eman Abdel-Khaliq, said they found a 2.5-metre-long granite sarcophagus, with skeleton remains that were being studied. Close to the sarcophagus, they found the remains of a plaster sphinx statue, she said.

Four gold pieces were placed inside the mouths of some of the deceased, known as “the golden tongue”, which had been a practice associated with funerary beliefs of that era, Abdel-Khaliq said.

Marina el-Alamein is an archaeological site close to the city of Alamein on Egypt’s northern coast, unearthed in 1986. Archaeologists believe the site was the ancient Greco-Roman port city of Leukaspis on the Mediterranean, which was built in the second century and thrived until the fourth century.

This article was amended on 5 July 2026. The house of Tisous dates to the fourth century, not the 14th century as an earlier version said due to an error introduced during editing.

Please visit the site: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/jul/04/archaeologists-uncover-ancient-byzantine-city-in-egypts-western-desert> [Go there for pix]

THUTMOSIS II TOMB FOUND

The last missing royal tomb of Ancient Egypt's Eighteenth Dynasty, belonging to a pharaoh named Thutmose II who ruled approximately 3,500 years ago, was announced by a joint British-Egyptian archaeological team in February 2025 . [actually in Oct 2022], in the first discovery of a pharaonic tomb near the Valley of the Kings since Tutankhamun's was found by Howard Carter in November 1922.

The Eighteenth Dynasty of Ancient Egypt ruled the country between approximately 1550 and 1292 BCE, a period during which Egypt reached the greatest territorial extent, wealth, and cultural influence in its recorded history.

By Space Daily Editorial Team

The Eighteenth Dynasty of Ancient Egypt ruled the country between approximately 1550 and 1292 BCE, a period during which Egypt reached the greatest territorial extent, wealth, and cultural influence in its recorded history. The dynasty produced some of the most famous names in ancient history: Hatshepsut, the female pharaoh who ruled as king; Thutmose III, whose military campaigns extended Egyptian power across the Levant; Akhenaten, who briefly attempted to convert the country to monotheism; his wife Nefertiti; and Tutankhamun, the child pharaoh whose mostly intact tomb was discovered by Howard Carter in November 1922 and remains the most famous archaeological find of the twentieth century.

The dynasty is well documented in the surviving Egyptian record. Its pharaohs are known by name, by regnal length, by the temples and monuments they built, and by the tombs into which they were interred. All of them, that is, except one.

Thutmose II, the fourth pharaoh of the Eighteenth Dynasty, ruled Egypt for approximately fourteen years between 1493 and 1479 BCE. He was the husband and half-brother of Hatshepsut, the father of Thutmose III, and one of the least documented pharaohs of the dynasty. His mummy had been recovered in 1881 from a cache of relocated royal remains at Deir el-Bahari. His tomb had never been found.

For over a century after the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb, the search for the burial site of Thutmose II remained one of the more conspicuous unsolved problems in Egyptian archaeology. Multiple expeditions had searched the Valley of the Kings and its surrounding wadis without success. The location of the tomb, on the standard scholarly consensus, was unknown, and by the early twenty-first century increasingly presumed to be permanently lost.

The softness in the sand

On 31 October 2022, a joint archaeological mission of the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities and the New Kingdom Research Foundation, based at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research at the University of Cambridge, was conducting clearance work at a site in the Western Wadis, approximately 2.4 kilometres west of the Valley of the Kings and near the tombs of several wives of Thutmose III. The team, led by the Scottish archaeologist Dr Piers Litherland and the Egyptian archaeologist Professor

Mohamed Abdel-Badi, was searching for foundation deposits associated with the known royal wife burials in the area.

Two members of the team, Ashraf Omar Ali and Heraji Sayed Ahmed, noticed a softness in the surface of the sand at a location that had not been previously identified as archaeologically significant. The team began to dig downward. What emerged, over the following days, was the entrance to a substantial rock-cut staircase leading into a corridor descending into the bedrock beneath the Theban Mountain.

The discovery was designated Tomb C4. The team's initial working hypothesis was that the tomb belonged to one of the royal wives of the Eighteenth Dynasty, given its proximity to the known wives' tombs and its location closer to the Valley of the Queens than to the Valley of the Kings. This hypothesis was consistent with the standard interpretation of the surrounding archaeological landscape and was, in the initial phase of the excavation, the most parsimonious explanation for what had been found.

It was also, on what the team would eventually determine, wrong.

The three-year excavation

The tomb's interior, when it began to be accessible in late 2022 and through 2023, was in substantially poorer condition than any previously excavated pharaonic burial. Shortly after the original occupant's death, on the physical evidence of water damage throughout the structure, the tomb had been flooded by a substantial water event. The plastered walls had partially collapsed. The corridor and burial chamber had filled with debris. The original grave goods and the mummy had, at some point in antiquity, been removed and relocated, presumably by priests attempting to preserve the burial from further water damage.

Editors' Recommendations

In 1979, a Harvard psychologist named Ellen Langer took eight men in their late 70s to a retreat house redecorated exactly like 1959 — old magazines, radio broadcasts, and furniture — and asked them to live as their younger selves for a week, and by the end their eyesight, hearing, memory, and grip strength had measurably improved. Silicon Canals.

For much of the past century, scientists believed dinosaurs were already in decline when the asteroid struck 66 million years ago — but a 2025 study published in *Science* found fossils in New Mexico showing they were flourishing in diverse, thriving ecosystems right up until the moment of impact. Sharks have survived every mass extinction for roughly 450 million years, outlasting the dinosaurs by a vast margin — yet a 2025 global study found that more than a third of shark species alive today are severely threatened, mostly by fishing nets and finning.

The excavation that followed took nearly three years. The team documented and removed the debris layer by layer, recovered fragments of the original tomb decoration, and gradually reconstructed what the burial site had originally contained. The work was meticulous and unspectacular by the standards of popular archaeology. There was no

intact burial. There was no undisturbed treasure. There was, for a substantial period, no definitive evidence of who the tomb had originally belonged to.

What eventually emerged from the debris was three specific categories of evidence that identified the tomb's original occupant.

The first was the wall decoration. Fragments of the original plastered walls contained hieroglyphic passages from the *Amduat*, a funerary text used almost exclusively in royal burials of the Eighteenth Dynasty and later. The *Amduat* was not a text applied to the tombs of royal wives, and its presence at Tomb C4 was the first strong indication that the original hypothesis about the tomb's occupant was incorrect.

The second was the ceiling decoration. Additional plaster fragments preserved a blue ceiling painted with yellow stars, a representation of the night sky. The blue-and-yellow starred ceiling was, on the available comparative evidence, a specific stylistic feature of Eighteenth Dynasty pharaonic tombs. It did not appear in the tombs of royal wives.

The third was the alabaster vessels. Fragments of small alabaster jars, shaped like ducks and used in ancient Egyptian burials to hold cosmetics, perfumes, and ointments, were recovered from the debris. The inscriptions on the alabaster jars bore the name of Thutmose II, identified in the inscriptions as the “deceased king,” along with inscriptions bearing the name of his chief royal consort, Queen Hatshepsut. The combination of evidence was, in the team's assessment, definitive. Tomb C4 was the burial site of Thutmose II.

Editors' Recommendations

When the American national soccer team arrived in Brazil for the 1950 World Cup, its 11 players were a school teacher, a hearse driver, and a Haitian dishwasher from Manhattan who had never played together and had trained together only once — and on June 29 in Belo Horizonte, they beat the mighty English team 1 to 0. In March 2025, Australia's new SKA-Low telescope photographed 85 galaxies using just 1,024 of its planned 131,072 antennas — less than one percent of its full power, and the image was already beyond what scientists hoped for. In 2010, a Brigham Young University psychologist named Julianne Holt-Lunstad analyzed 148 separate studies of 300,000 people to compare the mortality risks of various lifestyle factors — and found that chronic loneliness increases a person's risk of dying early by the same amount as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. Silicon Canals

The announcement

The Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities announced the identification of the tomb on 18 February 2025. The Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, Sherif Fathy, described the discovery as “the first royal tomb to be discovered since the groundbreaking find of King Tutankhamun's burial chamber in 1922,” and characterised it as “an extraordinary moment for Egyptology and a profound step in our understanding of humanity's shared past.”

Litherland, speaking to BBC Newshour after the announcement, described his reaction to the confirmation. “When I came out, my wife was waiting outside, and the only thing I

could do was burst into tears. When you come across something that you're not expecting to find, it's emotionally extremely turbulent, really." The Litherland team's work had begun in the Western Wadis over a decade before the identification, in a project that had previously excavated over fifty other tombs in the Theban Mountain and had identified more than thirty royal wives and court women of the Eighteenth Dynasty. The Thutmose II identification represented the accumulated result of that longer excavation programme rather than a single dramatic find.

The second tomb

The most substantial complication of the Thutmose II identification is that the tomb, on the physical evidence, does not appear to have been the pharaoh's final resting place. The flooding that damaged the tomb occurred within a few years of Thutmose II's death in approximately 1479 BCE. The mummy and grave goods were relocated at that time, presumably to a second, drier location that could preserve the burial from further water damage.

Litherland has publicly stated that he believes he has identified a candidate location for the second, undiscovered tomb of Thutmose II, in an area of the Western Wadis where his team has found what appears to be an artificial deposit of approximately 23 metres of layered material concealing a structure below. If the second tomb exists and contains the original relocated burial, it would represent a substantially more dramatic archaeological find than the first tomb, potentially including intact grave goods that had been protected in antiquity from the water damage that destroyed the original.

The mummy that has been identified as Thutmose II since its recovery from the Deir el-Bahari cache in 1881 may or may not actually be him. The identification of that mummy was made on the basis of an inscribed label and physical measurements that are consistent with a pharaoh of his approximate age at death, but the identification has been contested in the peer-reviewed literature and Litherland has indicated that the mummy in his hypothesised second tomb, if it exists, may be the actual Thutmose II.

Whether the second tomb exists, whether it contains the original burial, and whether the currently identified mummy is genuinely Thutmose II are questions that the available evidence does not yet resolve.

What it means

The February 2025 announcement is the first identification of a pharaoh's tomb near the Valley of the Kings since Howard Carter's 1922 discovery of Tutankhamun's burial. Several other royal burials have been found in the intervening century in other parts of Egypt, including the Silver Pharaohs of Tanis and various royal family members at Dahshur and other sites. None of these was a ruling pharaoh, and none was located near the Valley of the Kings itself. The Thutmose II identification closes the last major gap in the roster of known Eighteenth Dynasty royal tombs.

The tomb is in substantially worse condition than Tutankhamun's, contains substantially fewer grave goods, and produced substantially less dramatic material than the 1922 discovery. Its archaeological significance is not comparable to Tutankhamun's in terms of surviving contents. It is comparable, however, in terms of what the identification adds

to the historical record. Thutmose II is one of the least documented pharaohs of the Eighteenth Dynasty, and the recovery of the tomb architecture, the wall decoration, and the inscribed grave goods provides substantially more direct evidence about his reign than had previously existed.

The possibility of a second, intact tomb remains open. Litherland's team continues to work in the Western Wadis.

The last missing pharaoh of the Eighteenth Dynasty has been found.

The pharaoh himself, on the strongest current reading of the evidence, may still be waiting somewhere else.

Please visit the site: <https://tinyurl.com/yc24setp> [Go there for pix]



ANCIENT TREE RINGS REVEAL TIMELINE OF LOST BRONZE AGE PALACE IN GREECE, BY ABDUL MOEED

Scientists have used ancient tree rings to pinpoint when builders raised the Agios Vasileios (Άγιος Βασίλειος) palace, a major Late Bronze Age site in southern Greece. The new study offers the first tree-ring-based timeline for the site, adding new evidence to years of research based mostly on pottery and human remains.

The Agios Vasileios palace sits near Sparta, in the region of Laconia. Archaeologists have known about the site since the late 1960s, but it did not draw wide attention until 2008.

That year, workers accidentally found a Linear B tablet during terracing work nearby. Systematic excavations ran from 2010 to 2021 and confirmed the site as the long-sought palatial center of Late Bronze Age Laconia.

The study appears in the journal *Dendrochronologia*. A. Christopoulou, of the Biodiversity Conservation Lab in the Department of Environment at the University of the Aegean in Mytilene, led the research.

Agios Vasileios palace timeline emerges from tree rings

Researchers examined charcoal and wood remains pulled from the site's West and South Stoa, along with Buildings D and E. They selected 103 samples for close study. Most came from the palace itself, while seven came from pits dug centuries later during a medieval reoccupation of the site.

The team built two separate tree-ring records, one from juniper wood and one from black pine. They compared both against reference chronologies from Anatolia, in modern-day Turkey, developed decades ago by researchers working at the ancient site of Gordion.

The two Agios Vasileios records pointed to close dates. The juniper sequence ended around 1468 BC, and the black pine sequence ended around 1463 BC.

Separate radiocarbon tests on oak timber from Building D placed that wood between 1380 and 1248 BC. That range shows the oak was used later in the palace's construction history than the conifer wood.

Researchers also identified at least seven different tree species among the building timbers, pointing to the varied use of local wood resources. Conifers, including black pine and Aleppo pine, made up most of the material.

Christopoulou said the growth pattern in the black pine wood suggests builders hauled it down from higher ground on nearby Mount Taygetos (Ταΰγετος), rather than gathering timber growing closer to the palace itself.

Christopoulou cautioned that the findings should be read carefully. The Anatolian reference records used for comparison have themselves been revised recently, as dating methods have improved.

Christopoulou added that future digs at the site could turn up new wood samples, which would help confirm and sharpen the timeline the team has proposed for the palace.

Please visit the site: <https://greekreporter.com/2026/07/03/ancient-tree-rings-bronze-age-palace-greece/> [Go there for pix]

15 ANCIENT RUINS REVEALING CIVILIZATIONS WE NEVER KNEW EXISTED, BY SAMEEN DAVID

Every time we think we've mapped the human past, the ground proves us wrong. A flash flood exposes a buried necropolis, a satellite image hints at a forgotten city grid, a looter's stash turns out to belong to a culture no one even had a name for. It's almost unsettling to realize how many entire worlds have come and gone with barely a whisper in the history books.

In the last few decades especially, archaeologists have been forced to admit a humbling truth: our timelines and tidy narratives are incomplete, and in some places, wildly so. Below are fifteen ruins and archaeological cultures that either emerged from total obscurity or still sit at the edge of what we can confidently say. Some are contenders for full-blown "lost civilizations," others are enigmatic cities that do not fit neatly into our old stories. Together, they show just how much of human history is still hidden – literally – under our feet.

The Enigmatic Jiroft Culture in Iran

Imagine a flash flood tearing through a quiet valley in southeastern Iran around the year 2001 and peeling back the earth like a curtain. What emerged near the Halil River was a sprawling Bronze Age necropolis, packed with elaborately carved chlorite vessels and artifacts that did not match any known culture. Excavations at the nearby mounds of Konar Sandal have since revealed massive mudbrick terraces, monumental buildings, and even clay tablets inscribed with scripts that are still not fully understood, suggesting a complex urban society flourishing in the third millennium BCE.

Scholars now cautiously talk about a distinct "Jiroft culture," possibly a state-level civilization sitting between Mesopotamia and the Indus, trading in luxury goods like lapis lazuli, copper, and precious stones. Some researchers argue it may even correspond to legendary eastern lands mentioned in Mesopotamian texts. Others push back, warning against overhyping a still-young dataset. Either way, Jiroft has forced historians to redraw the mental map of the so-called Cradle of Civilization: instead of one narrow river valley, we see a dense web of early cities stretching from Iraq into Iran and beyond.

Shahr-e Sukhteh, Iran's "Burnt City" on the Edge of Nowhere

On the desert margins of southeastern Iran lies Shahr-e Sukhteh, the "Burnt City," an early urban settlement that once had multistory houses, craft workshops, and carefully planned neighborhoods. It rose around the late fourth millennium BCE and sat on key trade routes linking Mesopotamia, Central Asia, and the Indus Valley, yet it somehow dropped off the radar of classical history. Excavations have revealed advanced crafts, including fine ceramics, intricate jewelry, and evidence of surprisingly sophisticated medicine and social organization.

What makes Shahr-e Sukhteh feel like a window into an alternative Bronze Age is how self-contained yet connected it seems. There are imported goods, but also a strong local style, suggesting a regional civilization parallel to better-known powers. The city was abandoned after a series of environmental and perhaps economic blows, its mudbrick buildings slowly collapsing into anonymous mounds. For centuries, travelers crossed these plains without any idea they were walking past the ghost of a once-bustling, cosmopolitan community.

[...]

Please visit the site: <https://discoverwildscience.com/15-ancient-ruins-revealing-civilizations-we-never-knew-existed-1-407555/> [Go there for pix and for full text]
