

## A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN EASTERN MACEDONIA, 1960

During the year 1960 the following excavations, restorations, and work in the museums were executed in Eastern Macedonia.

**I. Cavala.** a) In the area occupied now by the modern city of Cavala, in the ancient times, lay the city of Neapolis which, very probably, was a colony of Thasos. The existence of an important Sanctuary of the local goddess Parthenos has been known since a long time. From this sanctuary came the Ionic capitals and architectural parts of a temple from the archaic period which are on display in the museum of Cavala (fig. 1). The systematic excavations of the area occupied by the sanctuary began in 1959 and were resumed in 1960. The research was thorough, that is to say the digging went down to the rock and, very often, under very hard circumstances (fig. 2). The results of the excavations that are still going on are very important because apart from the various remarkable finds that lead us to date the sanctuary and consequently the city of Neapolis from the seventh century B. C., for the first time there were discovered parts of the northern and western sides of the archaic wall enclosing the sanctuary of Parthenos, and bases of ancient buildings (fig. 3). So, for the first time it was possible to locate exactly the sanctuary of Parthenos and have its approximate dimensions. The precinct is built with big rectangular blocks of granite stone. In some parts the surviving wall surpasses 2.20 m. in height.

Hundreds of vases were discovered in fragments and on some of them are votive inscriptions. One of the most important finds is a big amphora of Melian origin whose surviving height is 0.80 m. On it are painted in friezes men and women holding each other by their hands or facing one another, friezes with animals and birds, plant or linear designs. This amphora resembles the Melian amphora in the National Archaeological Museum in Athens. The collection of black-figured vases is very rich, especially in amphoras and kylixes (wine-cups), and of excellent artistry, ascribed to great painters. Many fragments of a black-figured vase with Selenoi busy making wine in a bucket, belong to the Amasis cycle. There are many kylixes with miniature paintings of the type of "Petits Maitres" which have

a great variety of subjects and are of fine quality. There were found also big black-figured amphoras of Attic style as well as others from the island workshops. The most important among them is decorated with a representation of the hunting of the Calydonian Boar and on it a votive inscription is incised.

Many Corinthian vases were discovered also, namely arybaloi of various forms (fig. 4) and plates. Most interesting is a big crater of the Athenian black-figured type dating from 570 B. C. which is decorated with Gorgons and animals.

In this large collection of fragments and vases all the famous ancient workshops are represented, that is to say East-Greek (Ionic), Rhodian, Cycladic, Laconic, Naucratic and others. This attests that Neapolis had commercial intercourse from the beginning of its foundation with the important cities of ancient Greece where, during the archaic period, were many pottery workshops.

Apart from the vases, many terracota figurines of different types were discovered, dating from the archaic period. Among them two types are prevailing: the type of a seated goddess (Artemis?) with a high head-dress (polos) and the type of *kore* holding either a bird in her right hand or a flower on her chest and raising her *hiton* with the left (fig. 5). There were discovered also some caricature types of men, some vases with a relief representation of a *kore* or animals and a small ivory panel 0.04 m. long, with an excellent relief representing a reclining lion, a very fine work from the sixth century B. C.

b) *Museum*. The museum of Cavala was enriched with new show-cases where vases are on display, as well as figurines, jewels and silver or bronze ware which came from the sanctuary of Parthenos in Neapolis (Cavala), from the cemetery of Amphipolis and from a tumulus from the fourth century B. C. in the area of Nikesiane on the north of the Pangaion.

Frescoes from a Macedonian tomb in the cemetery of Amphipolis were removed, for protection, from their original place and are exhibited in the museum where one can see also floor mosaics from Kastasi and funerary stelae from Amphipolis.

**2. Thasos.** a) *Theater*. During the year 1960 the works for consolidation and restoration were carried on so that the theater could be used for performances of ancient drama (fig. 6).

Many stone benches were discovered in the upper part of the auditorium, some of which bear inscriptions or incised names of spectators. The peripheric low wall of the orchestra was restored according to its

bases as well as the first three rows of marble benches for which all their parts that had fallen on the orchestra or in the parodoi were used. All the marble parts lying in the orchestra were removed. There were only left the slabs of the parapet from the second century A.D. which bear inscriptions and which were replaced in their original place. On five slabs of the parapet are still preserved the letters of the name ΗΡΑ[ΓΟ]ΡΑΣ Ε[Υ]Φ[Ρ]Ι[ΛΛΟΥ] who was a person connected with the reconstruction of the theater in the second half of the second century A.D. (See, *Revue des Études Anciennes*, LXI, J. Pouilloux, *La Dédicace de la balustrade du Théâtre*, p. 277). The different parts of the scene were excavated and two marble piers belonging to the facade of the scene were restored. During three consecutive years performances of ancient drama were held there. The group known as the "Theater of Piraeus" under D. Rondiris gave performances before an audience of 1500 spectators (fig. 7-8).

b) *Museum*. There was much work executed in the Museum of Thasos in rearranging the finds. In eight new show-cases the finds from the Sanctuary of Artemis Polo in Thasos are on display in chronological order, as well as vases and fragments of vases from Attic, Corinthian Cycladic, Ionic and other ancient workshops. One new show-case contains votive plates of great interest and another one contains golden jewelry, ivory objects and tinted glass ware. In other show-cases are the following: an ivory head of a lion dating from the sixth century B.C., the handle of a bronze mirror representing a *kore* wearing peplos, also from the sixth century, a wine jar from Rhodes and other vases. In another room of the Museum the torsos of Dionysos and of a woman wearing peplos were placed on new pedestals. They date from the third century B.C. and come from a choregic monument discovered in the precinct of the Sanctuary of Dionysos.

Behind the building of the Museum new store rooms in the form of porticoes were constructed where a great number of inscriptions and parts of statues are kept, since they are not of major importance to the visitors.

**3. Philippi.** During the years 1959 and 1960 there was much work executed in the Roman Agora. The earth which had accumulated there for centuries was removed and the whole area of the agora was revealed, its dimensions being 100 × 50 m. It is paved with big marble slabs (fig. 9). Testing excavations were executed in two parts of the agora under the roman pavement for the study of the underlying strata, and it was proved that under the Roman pavement of the agora no bases of other buildings existed. In the strata of earth which was removed from the agora, were

discovered fragments of vases, lamps, coins and fragments of clay figurines.

In the theater of Philippi the works which began in 1957 were continued each summer, so that now the whole auditorium is cleared and partly restored (fig. 10-11). It can hold 4000 spectators. There also, performances of ancient drama are held each summer. Thousands of people from Eastern Macedonia and Western Thrace come to attend the shows.

The purpose of the excavations in 1960 was the study of the orchestra and the parodoi. Under the pavement of the orchestra, in its circumference, a drain for the rain water was discovered cut in the rock. This drain, near the eastern parodos, was covered with a slab having a relief and very probably it comes from the roman proscenium. The relief represents a bull's head with two women's heads and is bordered by small semicolumns (fig. 12). It dates from the second or third century A. D. Near the western parodos a bronze statuette was discovered, representing a man with a wreath on his head and holding out his right hand.

Half of the orchestra pit near the *scene* was excavated until the rock where a cut of 3.85 m. in depth was discovered. Probably before the construction of the theater, another building stood in the place of the orchestra whose origin is unknown. Besides the orchestra the parodoi were excavated in large part but no trace of the hellenistic period was found, the coins discovered there are all roman. Consolidation works proceeded in the whole site of Philippi and trees were planted.

**4. Nicesiane.** North of the Niceciane community at the foot of Mt Pangaion and at an hour's distance (on foot) in the plain, there is a big tumulus 45 m. in diameter and 15 m. high (fig. 13). The research in 1959 yielded five shaft graves whose finds help us to date them from the period of Philip II and Alexander the Great. These tombs contained golden coins (statere) of Philip (fig. 14), silver and bronze coins of the two kings, beautiful clay figurines preserving their color, silver and bronze vases, golden jewelery and other finds. (See, Orlandos, *The Works of 1959* p. 44).

The excavation works in this tumulus were resumed in 1960 with funds from the Archaeological Society and a sixth shaft grave was discovered (fig. 15). This grave was poor, only a black -glazed skyphos was discovered, dating from the second half of the fourth century B.C., containing one silver and sixty four bronze coins of king Alexander.

**5. Galepsos.** The site of Galepsos, a Thasian market, at the foot of Mt. Symbolon near the sea and east of the Strymon river, is well known as is the existence of a big cemetery of the archaic and classical period, where important finds were discovered sporadically.

During 1960 a small excavational research was undertaken supervised by the Assistant Miss Katerina Romiopoulou. Sixteen tombs were investigated, belonging to different types, that is to say, shaft graves, pit graves, terracotta graves, sarcophagi, and burials in big jars containing burned bones. Bracelets and rings of silver or bronze, a pair of earrings, and other finds were the results of the investigation.

**6. Amphipolis.** The excavations in Amphipolis which began in 1956 with the funds of the Archaeological Society, were continued through all these years. In the area of the hellenistic necropolis, a new section was investigated in 1960 where nineteen tombs were discovered (Orlandos, *The Work of The Archaeological Society*). Apart from the inscriptions and other minor finds, there were discovered golden jewelry that is to say, two golden wreaths in the form of olive leaves, a necklace of a fine golden chain whose ends are adorned with animal's heads of red hard stone, a pair of earrings representing Cupids, two rings and other golden jewelry (fig. 16).

Other research work, in the area Kastis lying at a great distance north of the ancient city yielded one of the most beautiful tombs of Amphipolis, consisting of a chamber and a funerary chamber, in all, 9 m. long and 3,07 wide. The floor of the chamber is decorated with mosaics forming multicolored rhombos. The mosaic floor of the funerary chamber is divided by contours in three zones of dark red and yellow color. Below the floor of the funerary chamber two shaft graves were discovered but unfortunately they had been previously robbed (fig. 17). The walls of both chambers are covered with plaster in bright colors. One of them has a fresco decoration with leaves, flowers, birds, vases, mirrors, etc.

Both the floor mosaics and the wall paintings were removed and transported to the Museum of Cavala where they will soon be on display.

East of the ancient city of Amphipolis, and very close to the main road, were discovered three tomb reliefs in good condition and parts of three others, all of which are influenced by the Attic funerary sculpture. On one of the best is repeated the theme of the famous Hegeso, on another a bearded man is represented (fig. 18) and on a third a young boy wearing chiton and chlamys.

A result of many test diggings throughout the ancient city was the discovery of the bases of houses or other buildings and on the west side we were fortunate to find part of the walls of the city 143.30 in length. Its preserved height is in some parts 0.95 m. and its width 1.80 m. It is built in polygonic masonry and the gaps in between the big blocks are

filled with small stones cut in a way so as to fit perfectly. This part of the wall belongs to the older enclosure of the city from the fifth century B. C. very often mentioned by Thucydides (IV, 102).

The most important find was discovered at the end of our excavation period of 1960. It was a big Macedonian tomb inside a tumulus near the foot of Mt. Pangaion about 1500 m. east of the modern community of Amphipolis. This tomb, built with blocks of poros stone, consists of a barrel vaulted dromos, a chamber and an inner funerary chamber, 11.30 m. long in all. In this tomb were found four burials. In the first chamber there is a bed for the dead, built with poros blocks, and two other beds forming a right angle in the far end of the funerary chamber. The main surface of the beds is painted in vivid colors (red, green, yellow, black, rosy). The decoration consists of a frieze on the upper and lower parts of the bed. Figures from the Dionysos cycle are represented, sitting on rocks or reclining on the ground, thyrsus, lions, shields, altars, leaves, etc. (fig. 19). The finds of this tomb were many and precious: one golden wreath of olive leaves having in the middle a red stone, golden flowers and other jewels, a golden obolos, a pair of golden earrings with lion heads (fig. 20), a silver mirror preserved in excellent condition, alabasters, pyxids and other vases. Very impressive are two golden rings, huge in size and of excellent workmanship. One bears a green stone with white veins while the other a seal, carved in intaglio on a dark red stone, representing a nude young man placing a wreath on his head in front of an altar (fig. 21). Very probably it is a copy of a statue.

Finally, the mosaic floor in the narthex of an early Christian basilica was cleared from the accumulation of earth (K. Orlandos, *The Works of the Archaeological Society*, p. 4) and works were executed for its consolidation and protection.

Greek Archaeological Service

DEM. LAZARIDES



21.



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.





6.



7.



8.



9.



10.



11.



12.



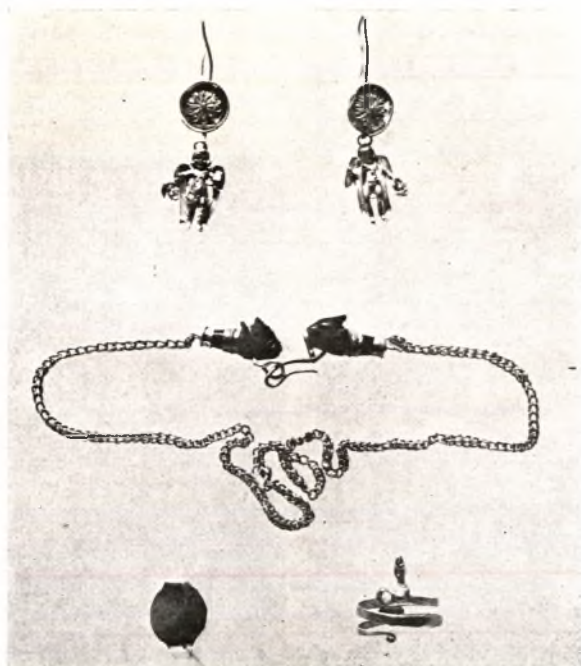
13.



14.



15.



16.



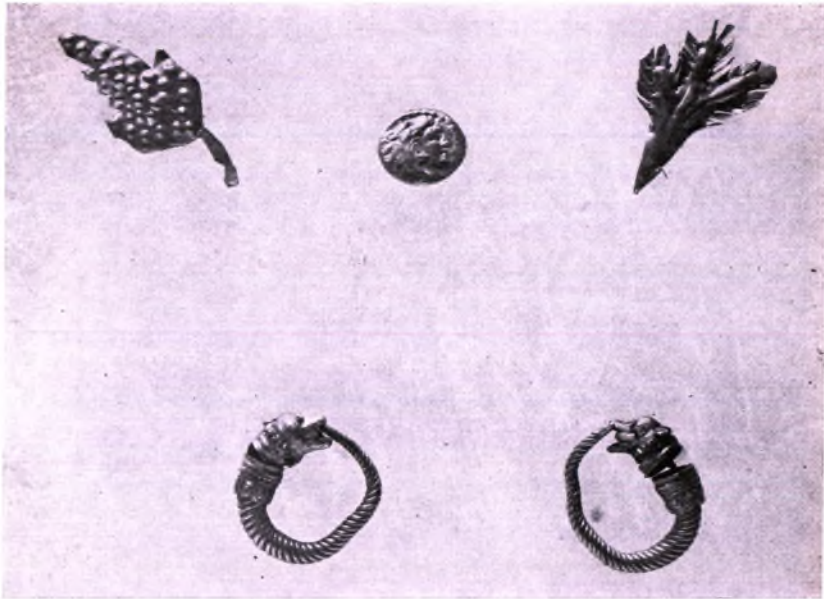
17.



18.



19.



20.