

Minnesota Archaeological Research in the Western Peloponnese (MARWP)
Middlebury College Research in Archaeology (MiRA)

MARWP/MiRA MESSENE HEROON RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT, 2003
8 June - 12 July 2003

Profs. Frederick A. Cooper (U of Mn) and Pieter B.F.J. Broucke (Middlebury College)

SYLLABUS

Clas 5120: FIELD RESEARCH IN ARCHAEOLOGY
Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies

(Transfer credits in classics are available through the University of Minnesota)

Introduction

Messene was founded in 369 BC as the capital of the Messenians. Its fortification walls and public buildings rank among the finest and best preserved in all of Greece. Excavations in 1987 and 1988 directed by Dr. Petros Themelis of the Greek Archaeological Service revealed a dismembered but mostly preserved *heroon* (a hero shrine) from the Greco-Roman period. In addition to architectural members, Dr. Themelis discovered inscriptions and fragments of marble sculptures, including a large-scale reclining figure. The *heroon* was a tetrastyle prostyle *naiskos* of the Doric order with a partly Ionic entablature and a stepped base. Standing on a tall podium, the temple-like building defined the south side of an imposing and well-preserved athletic complex with a propylon, a palaestra, and a large colonnaded gymnasium framing a stadium with stone seating.

In 1992 and 1993, teams of archaeology students excavated, moved to storage fields, and inventoried c. 1,500 architectural members belonging to the *heroon*. In the ensuing years, a block catalog, actual state plans, elevations, and reconstruction drawings were drawn up. The detailed analysis of the surviving blocks led to the detection of architectural refinements. Drs. Frederick Cooper and Pieter Broucke are finishing a monograph on the monument. A reconstruction proposal was submitted to the Greek Ministry of Culture. The Greek Archaeological Council's preliminary approval for *anastylosis* (physical reconstruction) opened the door for the first large-scale reconstruction of a classical monument in Greece in nearly a century.

The approval to reconstruct introduced activities beyond those originally planned. In 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002, teams of archaeology students physically recomposed various building parts: the colonnade, the front entablature up to the raking geison, and the wall courses. For the 2003 season we plan: (1) to complete the recomposition of the courses; (2) to process actual blocks for the reconstruction; (3) to design missing parts; (4) to draw up final specifications; (5) to finish the excavations around the podium, and (6) to study the sculpture associated with the heroon. A VRML program will convert electronic data and digitized drawings and photographs to produce a virtual image of the anticipated reconstruction procedure.

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Project Registration

In order to register you must submit the following items as soon as possible:

1. Acceptance, Release and Waiver form (Attachment ARW), filled out and signed;
2. Health Information form (Attachment SAHI), filled out and signed;
3. A copy of your health and accident insurance policy indicating that it is valid in Greece during the time of our project;
4. A check in the amount \$700 or the balance on that sum, made out to the UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, to cover the participation fee; and
5. A copy of your International Student ID card.

Send the items to: Messene Heroon Reconstruction Project,
 c/o Prof. Pieter Broucke
 Department of History of Art and Architecture
 Johnson Memorial Building
 Middlebury College
 Middlebury, VT 05753

Note: I leave Middlebury May 8. Please bring copies of ALL items with you to Greece.

Registration for Academic Credit

If you take the fieldwork for academic credit, something we strongly encourage you to do, you must register through the University of Minnesota. If you are a U. of Mn. student you are familiar with the registration procedure, but if you are not a U. of Mn. student, you need to do the following:

1. Get the Registration Form at: <http://onestop.umn.edu/Forms/pdf/regadd.pdf>
2. Fill out what you can leaving blank University ID number
3. Under the section heading College (program), you need to put CCE (College of Continuing Education). This will automatically enroll you as a “non-degree seeking student,” in which case you will be eligible to pay lower in-state tuition rates.
4. Under class number write: “91445”; under grade basis write: “S/N or A-F”; under credits write: “3”; under subject, catalog number, section write: “Clas 5120 FWK”; and under Class Permission write between parenthesis: “(avail. later)”.
5. Mail or fax the form to the address at the bottom of the form, call to secure the fax’s arrival, and bring a copy of the form with you to Greece.
6. As you must register for 3 credits and the cost per credit for this summer is \$179.70, the total cost for the academic credit, therefore, is \$539.10. You will be billed by the University of Minnesota.

Registration for the project and for the academic credit only takes effect when all materials, forms, and documents are submitted and all payments have been made. Your spot on the team is only assured once your registration is complete.

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Rendez-vous

As soon as you have finalized your travel plans, e-mail your arrival and departure information (airline, dates and times) to Fred Cooper (fcooper@hol.gr) AND (not or) Pieter Broucke (broucke@middlebury.edu). In order to receive academic credit you must remain with the project for the full season (8 June-12 July 2002).

Rendez-vous for the project is in the village of Mavromati, aka Ithome, the modern village at Ancient Messene, **between 3 and 7 PM on Sunday, 8 June 2003**. Allow ample time to get from Athens to Mavromati, and plan ahead!

If, as a result of unforeseen circumstances, you cannot make the rendez-vous, be sure to notify us by phone as soon as possible. Telephone numbers, from within Greece: Fred's house: 062-506-1120; cell phone Fred 097-719-9403; cell phone Pieter 097-358-2637.

Getting from Athens to Mavromati/Ithome by Bus or Train

BUS: The buses for Southern Greece leave Athens from the Peloponnesian Bus Terminal at 100 Kifissiou Street, far outside of the center of Athens in the direction of Corinth. Show up at the bus terminal early on Sunday morning to reserve a seat for ALLAGE (pronounced "alAgi") at the Kalamata bus ticket counter. From downtown Athens you can either take a taxi or a city bus to the Peloponnesian Bus Terminal. Bus 051 leaves every 10 mins. from the corner of Zinonnos and Menandrou Streets, near Omonia Square. Check this out beforehand to make sure that is still the case. There are ten buses from Athens to Kalamata per day, more in the morning and early afternoon, but get there as early as possible! Try to get on an express bus. From Athens, take the bus to Kalamata and get off at the village of Allage (notify and remind the driver), on the Megalopolis/Kalamata Highway, just after the descent from the mountains. From Allage take a taxi (ca. 30 mins.) to Ancient Messene/Ithome/ Mavromati. Get off at the taverna in the village and ask for us ("Kourios Cooper", or "Petros", or Amerikani")

TRAIN: From the Peloponnesian Train Station on the west side of the center of Athens.

Schedule:	Departure from Athens	Arrival at Meligalas (24-hour clock)
	6:30	12:09
	10:10	16:34 (try to get on this train)
	14:39	21:07
	22:36 (night train)	5:06

Buy your ticket a day in advance and make sure to get all the information you need to reach Meligalas, a town in Messenia nearest to the site. From Meligalas, take a taxi, ca. 20 minutes, to the taverna in Ancient Messene/Mavromati/ Ithome Mavromati and ask for us ("Kourios Cooper", or "Petros", or Amerikani").

Note: You may want to synchronize travel with fellow crewmembers, especially if this will be your first time in Greece. Traveling in small groups will allow you to share hotel rooms and taxis, look after each other's luggage, etc.

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Important Mail, E-mail, and Telephone Information

The mailing address where you can be reached in Greece is:

YOUR NAME
C/o F. A. Cooper
Neohorio-Zacharo
Gr-27054 Nomos Eleias
GREECE

Mail is slow, so do not have packages sent to you—you would be required to collect them in person at the post office in Zaharo, a two hour taxi ride from the site!

Fred Cooper's Email (works in the US and in Greece): fcooper@hol.gr.

Fred Cooper's telephone and fax in Greece at his house in Neohorio; not at the site:

- From the US: 011-30-62-506-1120 (8-hour time difference with Central Time Zone).
- From Greece: Fred's house: 062-506-1120; cell phone Fred 097-719-9403; cell phone Pieter 097-358-2637. (Note: buy a phone card as soon as you land in Athens)

There is no phone at the site in Ancient Messene or at the house in Mavromati. In Mavromati a payphone that works with phone cards (available at the souvenir stand) can be used for long distance calls. Limit its use—it is on a shared line and the only in/out payphone in the village.

Housing and Food

Our living quarters are in Mavromati, a small village clustered around the ancient Klepsydra Spring and overlooking the site of Ancient Messene. Mavromati has a small but fine museum, a taverna, a tourist shop, a jeweler (who produces his own designs), and a handful of houses. Professor Themelis and the Archaeological Society provide accommodations for us in excavation staff headquarters: a nineteenth-century house with a spectacular view of the site, at 20 minutes walking from the *heroon*. The house is simple: a couple of rooms used as dormitories, two bathrooms, a sparse kitchen (that often doubles as a dormitory), and a shaded porch where we eat breakfast and lunch.

The project provides meals between Sunday dinner and Friday lunch. Greek food is rustic and seasonal, but wholesome and plentiful. Breakfast and lunch are prepared and consumed at the house. Breakfast consists of instant coffee or tea and some bread with honey or jam, occasionally some fruit; lunch of tomato and cucumber sandwiches with cheese, olives, and occasionally some salami, bologna, or pickles. Dinner is eaten as a group at the local taverna. We have contracted for real and varied Greek meals so we are spared the routine tourist fare. No specially-cooked vegetarian meals are available.

The village is remote; a lone tourist souvenir shop sells sodas, beer, and snacks, which can be purchased at your own expense. If you have special needs, make sure to bring ample supplies.

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Schedule

The season lasts five full weeks, Monday through Friday. Here is a typical day:

- 6:15: wake up call, followed by a quick breakfast
- 6:40: walk down to the site
- 7:00-1:30: work (ten-minute mid-morning snack “on the run”)
- 2:00: lunch at the house
- 2:30-3:30: siesta (quiet time at the house)
- 3:40: walk down the site
- 4:00-7:30: work and prepare for next day
- 7:50-9:00: shower, laundry, socialize, journal and letter writing

Dinner is eaten late, in the Mediterranean fashion—around 9:00. There is no curfew, but the project directors insist that the sleep of others be respected. After-dinner socializing must take place at the taverna or elsewhere and NOT at the house.

Housekeeping chores (cleaning, some shopping, meal preparation) are assigned on a rotating basis.

We encourage you to explore southwestern Greece, to visit archaeological sites, and to get away from the each other and from the project during the four weekends. Those who do so can stop working early on Fridays, in time to catch the bus from Mavromati to Kalamata, a major transportation hub in the Southern Peloponnese. In past years students have gone to Koroni, the Mani, Sparta, Mistras, Pylos, even Olympia. We expect you back, relaxed and recharged, on Sunday nights in time for dinner at 9:00 PM.

Money

Bring enough Euros (in a money belt) and/or travelers checks for all your needs. Once a week some of us go for project errands to Meligalas, where there is a bank where you can cash traveler checks. It is usually also possible to use an ATM and to receive cash advances from VISA and MASTERCARD. Greece is no longer the cheap backpacker's paradise it once was; bring money as if you were planning for five weeks in the US.

Clothing

You come to Greece as an archaeologist, not a tourist, so dress accordingly. For the fieldwork, bring T-shirts and shirts with pockets, long sturdy trousers (better than shorts; and light cotton is cooler than jeans), good shoes (not necessarily leather and preferably not new), plenty of socks, and a hat. Hardhats (provided by the project) are required on the site when heavy equipment is in operation and when excavating. Bring also shorts, a bathing suit, a skirt or dress for the women (needed for entering some churches), and clean clothes to change into for dinner. Please dress with consideration for the local villagers among whom you will be living. Greek society, especially outside of Athens, is conservative. Laundry tubs are provided for cold-water washing clothes.

Pack lightly! Living space is limited, so please do not inconvenience others with unnecessary luggage.

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Miscellaneous Information

Bring a sleeping bag (pillows will be provided); a towel and a sweater. A hat, good sunglasses and sunscreen are really essential for your own health. Soap, shampoo, toothpaste, tampons, etc. are available in Greece but not in Mavromati; bring your own if you must have a particular brand. Hospitals and drug stores are few and far between; anyone needing regular medication of any kind should bring an adequate supply.

Purchasing an International Student ID card does provide some insurance coverage, notably for accidents and emergency evacuation, and also give discount admission to all sites and museums in Greece. You are required to obtain one as part of your registration.

The site is oriented to the south, and there is little shade. The weather is very hot and dry, with the occasional rare rainstorm. The sun can be stronger than it seems; plan to use sunblock on all exposed parts of your body, and always wear a hat on the site. Even if you avoid the sun as much as you can, you will return home deeply tanned. From time to time hydration tablets will be supplied in order to reduce the dehydrating effects of excess sun.

Like elsewhere in Europe, gas is expensive in Greece; do not expect to be transported anywhere except on project business. Taxis may be telephoned for and there is a bus from Mavromati to Kalamata.

Now that you've read through the realities of life on an archaeological project, a word about the other side. The Western Peloponnese is one of the most fertile and beautiful areas of Greece, and you will be within a day's reach of Pylos, Frankish castles, bustling modern towns, remote mountain villages, classical temples, and the blue waters of the Mediterranean. In the past, crew members have made it as far as Olympia, Mycenae, and even Epidauros on weekends. We urge you to take advantage of the riches the Peloponnese has to offer.

The work is hard and tedious, but fascinating: you will partake in the process of slowly putting back together an ancient monumental building. You will learn about ancient monumental architecture in a unique way, and you will never look at large-stone architecture with the same eyes again. In addition, you will become acquainted with excavation techniques and field applications of advanced technologies. The Greek workmen at the site and the villagers are friendly and helpful, and you will pick up some Modern Greek. If you already know Greece as a tourist, you'll see a different, warmer side of it as a temporary resident.

We look forward to having you on our team, and we should have an exciting season!

Kalo Taxidhi! ("Have a good trip")