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Fig. 3. Exquisite and unique fossilized bones and tusks, as presented in the new exhibition.



Fig. 4. A unique image of vertebrae in anatomical position. This discovery was made after 30 years of efforts. (The upper part of the tablet has been placed northwards). Once this fossiliferous block is worked on, it will reveal important information about the anatomy of *Elephas tiliensis*.



Fig. 5. Modelling phases of the tibia of *E. Tiliensis* in the framework of "Thalis" educational programme

### Propositions for the future

Active promotion of excavations, completion of exhibitions and exhibition area, installation of metallic enclosed passage allowing visitors to enter the cave, continuous project promotion (leaflets, posters, special trilingual website, etc.).

Almost none of the above would have been realized without the support of the Secretariat General for the Aegean and Island Policy, which I cordially thank; the assistance and support of the local society of Tilos and of course the unreserved assistance of my students, without which nothing could have been accomplished. Since June 2010, the new building in Tilos hosts a new pilot exhibition of *Elephas tiliensis*, which was open to public for one month this summer. Visitors to the exhibition were double of the island's population and if organization matters are dealt with, visits could be easily be quadrupled the following year.

#### Basic References:

THEODOROU G., N. SYMEONIDIS AND E. STATHOPOULOU (2007).- *Elephas tiliensis* n.sp from Tilos Island (Dodecanese, Greece). *Hellenic Journal of Geoscience*, Vol.42, pp.19-32.  
 PROVATIDIS CH., E. THEODOROU1, G. THEODOROU (2011).- Computed tomography and CAD/CAE methods for the study of the osseous inner ear bone. *Mediterranean Archaeology and Archaeometry*, Vol. 11, No. 2, pp. 121-127.



Fig. 6. The new building near Charkadio cave.

### 3. Archaeological fieldwork at Vathy, Astypalaia

Under the scientific aegis of the Archaeological Society at Athens and with funding from the University of Ioannina and the Secretariat General for the Aegean, since 2011 I have been directing archaeological fieldwork at the site of Vathy on Astypalaia, aiming primarily to train students and introduce them to the ancient and contemporary island world of the Aegean. Initial research at the site was carried out by Professor Emeritus Christos Doumas in 2008, with the aim to protect important antiquities.

Vathy on Astypalaia is a naturally protected peninsula controlling the narrow access from the open sea to the homonymous gulf, thus ensuring full monitoring of a wide area of sea and land (fig. 1a). At the tip of the promontory, on Cape Elliniko, a citadel was founded in the 3rd millennium BC, whose boulder-built circuit walls and retaining walls are visible today over an appreciable area (fig. 1b). On the upper level of the headland, a tower with surrounding ancillary establishments was built, probably in the late 4th century BC. In the mid-20th century, inhabitants of the nearby village installed a limekiln inside this tower. In 2011-2012, a topographical map was prepared of the visible monuments and a systematic surface survey was conducted at the east end of the cape, over an area that includes visible remains of Early Cycladic circuit and retaining walls, Π-shaped formations along the length of the rocky coasts and the Hellenistic tower complex. In the course of the surface survey, a large quantity of diagnostic pottery of the 3rd millennium BC and of historical times was collected, along with stone tools and vessels, metal objects, marble architectural members, one bronze coin and other artifacts. Finds such as a fragment of a violin-shaped figurine redefine the geographical horizon of Early Cycladic culture, demonstrating that Astypalaia was part of its ambit.

The most important find from the 2012 season was the recognition, identification and drawing of a large number of prehistoric rock carvings over a wide area of rocks on the cape, both quarried and natural. It was ascertained that in three cases of pathways terminating at 'gateways-entrances' to the Early Cycladic citadel there were large-scale rock carvings of ships (up to 0.70 m. long), daggers (up to 0.30 m. long) and spirals (up to 0.20 m. in diameter), which, despite the long exposure to the erosive effects of wind and sea, can be distinguished satisfactorily, particularly at sunrise (fig. 2-4). More rock carvings (of spirals, quadrupeds, rectangles-checkerboards, arrows, etc.) were identified at other points on the cape, such as the boulders of the retaining walls of the coast, the quarried slopes and the bedrock on the upper level of the cape, where the tower



Fig. 1a, b. Astypalaia, Vathy. On Cape Elliniko (as seen from the opposite coast) 3rd millennium BC boulder-built circuit walls and retaining walls are visible (marked in red). On the upper level of the headland, a Hellenistic tower was built (marked in blue)



Fig. 2. Astypalaia, Vathy. Rock carvings of 'pecked' oared ships of Early Cycladic type on a 'gateway' of the citadel.

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Fig. 3a, b. 'Pecked' spirals and other rock carvings



Fig. 4a, b. Astypalaia, Vathy. Wide-mouthed clay vase with stone lid, which contained human bones (enchytrismos), was found in situ in a low flat platform of the coast.

was founded centuries later.

The typological recognition of the 'pecked' oared ships (at least three ships are represented with fish and other motifs on their prow: fig. 2) as absolutely correspondent to those depicted on Early Cycladic II frying-pan vessels from Chalandriani in Syros and the rock carvings from Koryphi t'Arioniou in Naxos make the find in Vathy exceptionally important, and thus it demands further and immediate investigation and protection. Spirals, the best-known motif of Early Cycladic art, which represent the waves of the sea and symbolize perpetual motion as driving force in the prehistoric islander's thought, is very densely distributed in the settlement (fig. 3a, b), while it is also encountered on the flat upper level of the citadel, where an open space for social assemblies possibly existed. The representations of vertically positioned daggers (small swords) covering the perpendicular surface of other rocks, are the only ones known with the T-shaped hilt fully formed, significantly enriching the thematic repertoire of Final Neolithic and Early Cycladic rock carvings of the islands (Andros, Naxos, Herakleia) and placing rock art and its initial diffusion in societies of the 3rd millennium BC in a new interpretative dimension.

Of particular interest too are the dense succession of manmade Π-shaped constructions along the north and the east rocky coast of the promontory. From the strong embankments framing the sloping surfaces, which end at the sea, these constructions can be confidently identified as ramps for drawing ashore the prehistoric ships, given that the cape had no sandy beaches for this purpose.

In the same area an ellipsoidal construction built of boulders -and today partly submerged- was studied, along with a surface wall which appears to cut it off in the south landward part, forming a low flat platform (fig. 4a). During the surface cleaning of this 'exhedra', a wide-mouthed clay vase with stone lid, which contained human bones (enchytrismos), was found in situ barely above sea level and buried carefully in the sandy soil (fig. 4b).

Objective of the archaeological research in Vathy is the diachronic historical study of this harbour and surveillance point for the sea routes in the central Aegean, through the parallel enhancing of our students' awareness of the physical environment and the history of the island communities of Greece. We would like to express our gratitude to the Secretariat General for the Aegean for the funding and publicity they have provided for our scientific work.

#### 4. Excavation at the Sanctuary of Apollo of ancient Halasarna (modern Kardamaina), Kos Preliminary report for the work of the last five years

Financed by the Ministry of the Aegean and Island Policy and with the participation of a large number of students, the research excavation at ancient Halasarna (Kardamaina) Kos continues under the direction of a group of professors of the Department of Archaeology and History of Art (University of Athens). This systematic excavation has gradually brought to light the sanctuary of Apollo of ancient Halasarna, one of the oldest and most revered sanctuaries in Kos, known only through inscriptions until 1982. Up to now, six monumental buildings of the Hellenistic and Roman periods have been discovered on the site, as well as an extended part of the early Christian settlement built on the remains of the sanctuary (Fig. 1). The most significant and best surviving of these edifices is building C, a distyle temple in antis most likely of the early Hellenistic period. It cannot be proved with the existing evidence whether this is the Temple of Apollo known from inscriptions and built at this time, since many gods were worshipped at this sanctuary according to inscriptions. The Late Hellenistic building A was probably a public edifice, the first that was discovered on the site by the rescue excavation of the 22nd Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, and whose south and west marble walls survive to an adequate height. However, the destruction of its east part makes it almost impossible to recognize its type. In any case, a colonnade had been attached to this structure during the 1st century BC, perhaps after an earthquake. Building B, east of building A,



Fig. 1. Sanctuary of Apollo and the Early Christian Settlement in Kardamaina, Kos. General Plan of the Excavated area (by G. Antoniou)