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## Some Linear Units at Pylos

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During the spring of 1980 the American School of Classical Studies conducted its investigations at the east end of the Corinthian forum. Excavation was started at the level of the Roman paving and descended into strata of the sixth century B.C.

Work focussed on the Greek race-courses. Evidence now exists for three separate starting lines, the earliest being of the fifth century B.C. A terrace to the south of the starting lines has been identified as a platform for physical contact sports, such as wrestling and boxing. The starting lines and platform are limited on north, south and east by roads, beyond which are the remains of private houses.

A dumped fill of Campana wares, Megarian bowls and brittle wares covered the levels dated to 146 B.C. and before; the finds raise once again the question as to the intensity of activity on the site between the destruction of Corinth in 146 and its refounding as a colony in 44 B.C.

The excavation report for the season will be published in *Hesperia* 1981.

SOME LINEAR UNITS AT PYLOS: *James C. Wright*,  
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Measurements taken at the Mycenaean palace of Pylos provide abundant evidence for the study of linear units employed in the planning and construction of the palace. For this study measurements were taken of the major room units, of the intervals between half-timbered emplacements and of the timber thicknesses themselves, of thresholds and door jambs and, finally, of the exterior ashlar facades and of individual ashlar blocks.

The principal sources of consistent measurements applicable to this problem are those of beam width and intervals between beams in the walls. These measurements are of two qualities: some of the beam impressions exactly preserve the original dimensions of the timbers, while others are not preserved and are only approximate. However, both sets of measurements are valuable because they can be expressed as ratios and compared to each other.

The ratios of these distances provide the best evidence of linear units in the palace. They can be checked against measurements of the precise impressions left by wooden beams that sheathed doorjambs and also against the dimensions of the jambs. The ratios are also expressed in terms of the lengths of the ashlar facades of the palace, particularly the offsets for windows, and to the height of the first storey as calcu-

lated from the preserved stairs and ashlar wall courses.

These units and ratios provide a means of ascertaining the manner by which Mycenaean builders laid out the palaces. They indicate when precise measurement was necessary and when approximate sufficed. Furthermore, they can be fruitfully compared to measurements at other palace sites—Mycenae, Tiryns and Thebes—as well as to Minoan practices.

A SALVAGE EXCAVATION ON THE PREHISTORIC ACRO-  
POLIS AYIOS DEMETRIOS NEAR CLASSICAL LEPREON:  
*Constantine Zachos*, Greek Archaeological Service  
and Boston University

South of and below the acropolis of classical Lepreon (southwestern Peloponnese) and at the south end of a limestone spur, an eminently defensible acropolis is located. The acropolis overhangs a deep and fertile valley; its leveled top measures approximately 150 m. N-S by 100 m. E-W. The site was recognized as an important one by Sperling (*AJA* 46 [1942] 77-89) in the late thirties and by MacDonald and Hope Simpson in the early sixties (*AJA* 65 [1961] 221-60).

A small salvage excavation by the Greek Archaeological Service under the direction of Mrs. Triantis, Director of the 7th Ephorate, was conducted in the late spring of 1980. The excavation revealed the foundations of a post-classical building and a portion of the foundations of an EH wall of "herringbone pattern." The EH stratum yielded quantities of sherds typical of the EH II period as it is known from other parts of the Peloponnese and especially from the Argolid. The fabric of the fine ware is well prepared. The main shapes are sauceboats with high pedestalled feet and shallow and deep bowls with incurved rims. The coarse ware consists of large bowls and pithoi with rope decoration. The lower level produced a deposit of LN pottery, mostly black burnished and red pattern-burnished ware, and some sherds of incised ware.

Among the miscellaneous objects, many tools of obsidian and flint were collected, as well as a clay spit support. Fauna was represented by the bones of small animals (mostly sheep and goat).

The study of the pottery and the other material remains of both periods (LN and EH) from Ayios Demetrios will contribute to our understanding of these periods in the Southwestern Peloponnese and of the connections of this area with other parts of Southern Greece.