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The Nemea Valley Archaeological Project, 1986

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Fortress or lived close to it. This paper analyzes this new evidence and suggests that earlier studies of the problem have been far too simplistic in their analysis and that they have dated the collapse of the frontier in Greece as much as a century too early.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COINAGE AND THE DEFENSE OF THE EASTERN ROMAN/BYZANTINE EMPIRES: *John W. Betlyon*, Smith College

Archaeological excavations at Near Eastern sites such as Umm al-Jimal and el-Lejjun have illuminated the legionary fortresses constructed by Rome to guard the eastern boundaries of the Empire. Coins found there usually come from eastern mints, such as Antiochia and Alexandria. But issues from European mints like Trier and Lyons, known from Lejjun, reflect the western origin of the troops which first garrisoned the Limes Arabicus.

Literary sources say little about the army in the eastern Empire. The archaeological record is now filling in our knowledge. Excavations reveal a lacuna in the numismatic record between A.D. 455 and 491. Of the 215 coins found at Lejjun, none date to the late fifth century. Of 116 coins from Umm al-Jimal, only one Vandalic coin of North Africa is known from this period. At Jerash, only 10 of 1,700 coins date to the second half of the fifth century. Inflation decreased the value of the coinage in the Early Byzantine period. Coin flans of the *Aes* coinages diminished. There may have been shortages of precious metals since Rome had been sacked by the Vandals.

In conclusion, coins provide important new evidence for Late Roman and Early Byzantine history in the East. Diocletian's fear that the Empire would fall if the army was not well cared for came to fruition under Justinian I. For three years he failed to pay the army, and the desert peoples—initially perceived to be the enemy—became mercenaries who guarded the frontier until they became conquerors in the name of Islam.

SESSION VI B: AEGEAN ARCHAEOLOGY II

EXCAVATIONS AT CHAERONEIA, 1986: *Hara Tzavella-Evjen*, University of Colorado, Boulder

The site at Touba Balomenou provided enough stratified materials of late Early Neolithic through the early phase of Late Neolithic that we are able to compare and organize Soteriades' finds (*Prakt* [1902] 55–58; [1904] 40–45; [1909] 123–25) from the same site for publication. The finds from the 1986 season include pottery of monochrome wares, early painted and "rainbow" wares, "Chaeroneia" ware, black burnished and polychrome types. Figurines, bone and stone tools, pendants, beads, spools, and bullets were also common. The finds were in context with human and animal bones within layers of ashes mixed with dirt, carbonized and organic materials. Between these layers were strata of dirt with heavy clay content. It must be stressed that neither the

human nor the animal bones were burnt. Their condition thus suggests the practice of secondary burial.

THE NEMEA VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT, 1986: *James C. Wright*, Bryn Mawr College, *John F. Cherry*, Cambridge University, *Jack L. Davis*, University of Illinois at Chicago, *Eleni Mantzourani*, University of Athens, *Susan B. Sutton*, Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis

In 1986 the Nemea Valley Archaeological Project completed its three years of fieldwork. Activities concentrated on finishing data-gathering for the archaeological survey, the ethnographic study of modern settlement, excavation on Tsoungiza Hill, and defining the geomorphological setting of the valley.

Excavation on Tsoungiza finished exposure of the main areas of Early and Late Helladic settlements and tested for habitation and bedrock levels around the hill. Principal discoveries were several deposits of EH I and early EH II, a double-megaron complex with many phases of use during LH I, a long building of LH III date, and a major deposit of LH IIIA:2 date which included a large terracotta Mycenaean figurine.

Archaeological survey covered ca. 18 km.² and once again finds of Byzantine date were most abundant. Special studies included investigation of two well-preserved Middle Neolithic sites and the important Mediaeval center of Polyfengi, and mapping the distribution of scattered architectural members and the large-scale systematic collection of artifacts at and near the ancient site of Phlious. A program of geophysical prospection continued with magnetometry survey at Phlious and other sites. Geomorphological mapping greatly enhanced interpretation of artifact distribution in different parts of the study area.

Ethnographic research concentrated on intensive interviews with many local inhabitants, researching demographic and land-use records, and studying traditional houses and building techniques in the area.

EXCAVATIONS AT PSEIRA, 1986: *P.P. Betancourt*, Temple University; *C. Davaras*, Archaeological Institute of Crete; and *J. McEnroe*, Hamilton College

The joint American/Greek excavations at Pseira, Crete, took place from 28 June to 1 August 1986, under the direction of P. Betancourt and C. Davaras. J. McEnroe was architect. The season was largely exploratory, with several small trenches opened at various points on the site in order to learn the extent of the Bronze Age remains and the character of the material in areas left unexcavated by R. Seager's excavations of 1906–1907. For the Minoan period, an open court ca. 20 × 16 m. in size was found near the center of the town. A Minoan house facing on this court was partly excavated. A large pottery dump was discovered, with sherds and stone vase fragments of great interest. Other work in the