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Modern Archaeology Final Report, 2000

Eastern Korinthia Archaeological Survey

Lita Diacopoulos

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Summary

The main focus of the Modern Archaeology component of the EKAS during the 2000 field season has concentrated on collecting information concerning the villages of Examilia, Xylokeriza, and Kehries. These three settlements, along with Kyra Vrysi and Isthmia, fall within the territory of the Hexamilia and Isthmia basins which the EKAS has been working in since 1999. Due to shortage of time, the villages of Kyra Vrysi and Isthmia have not yet been investigated. The purpose of recording the modern villages and their cemeteries is to examine the establishment and development of modern settlement patterns in the Eastern Korinthia and how these patterns relate to trade and communication both internally and externally. The information collected so far is both literary (especially with regards to Examilia and the wider region around Ancient Corinth) and archaeological (physical recording of villages and their respective cemeteries), as well as oral, provided by local farmers and inhabitants. A photographic recording (using both slide and digital photography) of all villages concentrating on public spaces (churches, cemetery, plateia, kafeneion, shops, schools) and characteristic examples of houses, as well as informants, was also undertaken. All data collected are currently being entered and stored in the three corresponding and specially designed electronic databases using ACCESS.

Another pre-occupation of the Modern Archaeology component has been the establishment of a Modern ceramics typology, which is now fully integrated within the EKAS Chronotype System. Dr. Guy Sanders from Corinth Excavations has been very helpful in presenting information and examples of modern pottery from a stratigraphic context from his Panagia site excavation and has provided access to the material for recording and digital photography in order to facilitate identification in the field. A field manual with representative pictures of the various modern ceramic types is currently being put together and will be made available to the processing teams in time for the 2001 season. Surprisingly, the DU and LOCA teams have generated very little ceramic information relating to the Modern period during the 2000 season.

Recording of Modern villages

An investigation of the modern villages of Kehries, Examilia, and Xylokeriza (for an initial investigation of Xylokeriza see **APKAS - Modern Archaeology Report for the 1999 Field Season**), was concentrated on the villages themselves and their cemeteries, as well as the areas (mainly agricultural fields) where the DU teams were working. A Village Recording Form was filled out for each village (Fig. 1) and a Cemetery Recording Form (Figs. 2 & 3) for each cemetery. Each village and cemetery was assigned a LOCA number (Fig. 4), and an EKAS LOCA Designation and Initial Assessment Form was filled out for each individual LOCA.

The EKAS Modern Village Recording Form (Fig. 1)

This form is designed to record spatial information (location of village using GPS, size of the village and its surrounding agricultural territory), and information on local administration and services as well social and population details. Most information is obtained from records kept at the village administrative office) as well as from informants whose names are listed at the end of the form. The data collected is then entered in an electronic database using ACCESS, which will eventually become accessed by the other EKAS databases through the LOCA field.

The EKAS Modern Cemetery Recording Form (Figs. 2 & 3)

This form is divided into two sections: the first section containing general information about the cemetery as a whole, including spatial information and physical characteristics, and the second section recording each individual grave as an individual feature within the LOCA. A list of codes corresponding to typological information recorded for each individual grave is provided in Fig. 5. Twelve different types of graves have been identified and examples of these are shown in Figs. 6-15 (there were no examples of mausoleums- Type 3- in any of the 3 cemeteries recorded. No photograph for Type 5). The size of each burial is recorded on the basis of occupying either a single space/plot or a double space/plot within the cemetery (Figs. 16 & 17). The family name, which is found written on the grave, as well as the number of people, buried within each burial site. It should be noted here, however, that the names recorded on the graves are not always representative of the true number of individuals buried within a single burial site. For obvious reasons, the same problem exists with relation to the earliest date of death recorded on a grave. It is a well-known fact throughout Greece that early burials (prior to the 20th Century) were not usually defined by monuments or even markers such as crosses. Such burials were often removed or other individuals added to them at a later date, and by the time the more recent monuments or markers were erected on the site such information on previous burials was either lost or ignored. Another problem, which is often encountered, is that the erection of monuments or markers can take place at a time much later than the actual time of death of an individual which is found recorded on the site. It is very difficult therefore to determine an approximate establishment date for each cemetery based on the recorded information on graves, nevertheless such information may still be very useful in indicating temporal/generational patterns of ancestral memory survival. This could be further substantiated through the evidence for regular visitation and maintenance of gravesites obtained from the presence or absence of religious and non-religious offerings.

The different types of graves and their size, along with other descriptive information such as cross types (Figs. 18-22) and the presence of sculpture (Fig. 23 & 24), offerings (Fig. 25), and literary dedications (Figs. 26 & 27) may indicate patterns of socio-economic status and/or emotional, metaphysical attitudes within the community. As with the village data, all cemetery data are entered in the Modern Cemetery database. Likewise, the individual grave data are entered in the EKAS Modern Grave database.

The EKAS Oral Information Recording Form (Fig. 28)

An Index Form relating to oral information was filled out for each informant along with some of their personal details including their name, age and occupation. The Index is arranged thematically and it is ticked according to the information received. Detailed oral information was recorded in a notebook. All informants were interviewed in an informal fashion and all recordings of information, including photography, were conducted after firstly seeking their

permission (Figs. 29 & 30). A database has been designed for entering the data recorded on the Index Form.

Brief description of Modern LOCAS

The following is a brief breakdown of the information so far collected for each modern LOCA (does not include data analysis).

LOCA # 9011 Early Modern House with Wine Press near ancient aquaduct, north of Gonia (toponym yet to be confirmed).

The LOCA team completed plans of the aquaduct, house, and wine press. More detailed information on the LOCA needs to be collected from informants Mr ----- and Mr ----- (possibly the owner of the property).

LOCA # 9012 Kehries Village

The modern settlement of Kehries is at least as old as 1886, given the inscription on the church bell at the Church of Metamorfosis tou Sotiros which is also the site of the cemetery. According to Mr ----- and Ms -----, the Markellos clan held claim over most of the land surrounding the settlement which had always remained small in size (apparently the whole settlement at the beginning of the 20th century was comprised by only five branches of the Markellos family). The land up to the harbour was used as vegetable gardens until at least the middle of the 20th century, showing evidence of the abundance in water supply originating from the Oneia Mountains. Mr ----- recalls the time when large boats used to come and dock in the ancient harbour and fill large containers with water, which was then taken to Peiraia in order to supply Athens and Aegina. He claims the installations (piping) for feeding the water into the boats are still visible in the harbour and this needs to be confirmed by EKAS in the next few weeks. Ever since the establishment of deep well digging in the area (around the 1960s-1970s), especially around the fields in Xylokeriza, water has become scarce and so the vegetable gardens around the settlement to the harbour have now become abandoned. This drastic change in water supply has resulted in the exploitation of land to the west, (Kesimia, Hatoupi) previously unutilised by the kehriotes, and now cultivated with apricots, olives, vineyards and citrus trees. In the last 20 years, a number of Athenians have built holiday homes in Kehries on land sold by the Markellos family, and some have also moved there on a permanent basis.

LOCA # 9013 Kehries Cemetery – Metamorphosis tou Sotiros

The cemetery of Kehries, along with the church of the Metamorphosis, is located in the middle of the modern village. A total of 27 graves were recorded. The earliest date located on a monument is 1937.

LOCA # 9014 Xylokeriza – Modern Village (see 1999 Modern Report).

A one-day re-visit to Xylokeriza along with some photographs yielded some new information regarding the exploitation of the Oneia Mountains in recent years. Alongside the animal pens used for sheep and goats grazing on the mountain slopes, the locals were also involved in systematic resin collection. The pine trees right up to the peaks of the mountains were utilised systematically until at least 50 years ago. The resin was used to supply merchants based in Korinth who used to export the resin for manufacturing. Mrs ----- (kafeneion owner) and Mrs Maria ----- recall how they used to collect the resin and load it onto mules and

donkeys for transportation down to the village. They claim that they're both presently surviving on pensions they receive from performing this activity.

LOCA # 9015 Xylokeriza Cemetery – Agios Georgios

The cemetery of Xylokeriza, along with the recently renovated church of Agios Georgios, is located 1 km. North of the village. A total of 167 graves were recorded. The earliest date located on a monument is 1900.

LOCA # 9016 Examilia Village

Unlike the village of Xylokeriza which claims to be of very recent origin (no more than 150 years old according to local tradition), it appears that the settlement at Examilia has been continuously inhabited, bearing the same name at least from the end of the 17th century, according to a number of Venetian maps from that period. The settlement itself may indeed be older, as it is considered by locals to date from around the time of the construction of the Hexamilion Wall (5th century AD), thus its name. According to local informants (Mr ----- ----- —local administrator—, Mr ----- and Mr ----- ----- – residents), there are three theories for the origin of the name: the first and most likely one is its connection to the construction of the Hexamilion Wall (perhaps the workers building the wall were residing at a settlement nearby its construction and were thus called Hexamiliotes and so the settlement took the name Examilia), the second theory claiming some sort of connection with the settlement of the same name in Albania or another one in Kilkis (north-eastern Greece), and finally, the claim that the settlement is located six miles from the sea. The village of Examilia is also being referred to by early travellers in Greece during the 18th and 19th centuries. The main church located in the middle of the village, Agios Dimitrios, was rebuilt in 1957-58 on the foundations of an earlier church, at least since the time of the Tourkokratia, while there is also an oral tradition for yet an earlier church of Ayios Dimitrios located a few metres west of the present location. Other churches in the area include that of Ayios Athanasios, a Byzantine church still functioning (Dr. Gregory has identified it on the basis of its frescoes to be at least 16th century AD) which is now a declared archaeological site, the church of Ayios Ioannis o Prodromos built in 1979 and located near the main road intersection at the present centre of the village, and on the western Oneia Mountains, the church of Analypsi, the church of Ayios Fanourios which was very recently built, and the Old Calendar church and Monastery of Ayia Triada. The modern cemetery with a church dedicated to Agios Theodoros is located 1 km to the north of the settlement .

Oral information relating to the area known as Kesimia and Hatoupi (south-west of Examilia) where the DU teams have been working, claim the area to be part of Old Examilia. This claim is contradicted however by the DU investigation with the surprising absence of evidence for modern human activity until the later part of the 20th century. The DU teams also failed to recover evidence confirming an oral tradition of occupation during the Tourkokratia (for example, Kesim-Bey's palace near the site of the ancient temple/shrine discovered by the DU teams, and Hatoub the Turkish grave digger thus the name "Hatoupi"), but little evidence from the Roman period and hardly any at all from the Byzantine, Medieval and post-Medieval to Modern periods was discovered in the DUs. According to Mr ----- , both names - "Kesimia" and "Hatoupi" - are claimed to be derived from Turkish: "kesim", referring to the compulsory tithe paid by the farmers to the local Bey (most likely Kemil-Bey), and "Hatoub", the name of a

Turkish grave-digger. There was hardly any oral information retrieved in relation to Samuel Howe's "Washingtonia" project, with the exception of a claim by Mr. ----- that one of the fields in the location known as "Kokkina" is referred to as the *nosokomeio*, i.e., the hospital), the site of a short-lived temporary hospital built by Howe. Apparently, no physical remains are visible on the site, nevertheless, a visit to confirm this is definitely worthwhile. Another claim by Mr. ----- is that a number of long rectangular structures were built by Howe in the middle of the village around the church of Agios Dimitrios to house the displaced Greeks after the War of Independence as part of his "Washingtonia" project. Some of these structures were surviving and in use apparently until very recently when they were knocked down and replaced by modern houses. Two Early Modern buildings, one abandoned and one currently in use, fitting the description of Howe's buildings, were located to the north of the village near the primary school. The abandoned building was dismissed by both Mr. ----- and Mr. ----- as being owned by a Mr Mengelopoulos, a rich land-owner who obtained his title through an official declaration by the Pasha himself and whose descendents are currently feuding over the property title. The building is however suspicious in terms of its architecture (not a typical house, especially one owned by someone wealthy) which shows evidence of it being subdivided into at least four separate rooms/houses, fitting nicely with the purpose of Howe's structures to accommodate a number of individual families within each. Both the abandoned building and the one still in use are worth further investigation to determine whether they indeed are the remnants of the 19th century settlement established by Samuel G. Howe.

LOCA # 9017 Examilia Cemetery – Agios Theodoros

The cemetery of Hexamilia, along with the church of Agios Theodoros is located 1 km. north-east of the village. A total of 319 graves were recorded. The earliest date observed on a monument is 1896.

Modern pottery typology

Progress has been made with regards to the modern ceramic typology. An examination of the pottery at Korinth excavations has provided useful information from a stratigraphic context which is now fully integrated within the Chronotype system. A field reference manual with photographs of representative examples of chronotypes is currently in progress and should be ready for the next field-season.

Modern Archaeology during the 2001 season

The plan for next year's field-season is to concentrate on the villages of Kyra Vrysi, Almyri, Galataki, Athikia and Solomos and their respective cemeteries, using the same recording procedure as this year.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all informants and residents of Examilia, Xylokeriza and Kehries, for their hospitality and genuine interest for my work in their region, and for providing me with the necessary information.

Figures

EKAS Modern Village Recording Form

Date: _____

Village Name: _____ Village Number: _____

Demos (as from 1999): _____

GPS reading
(taken from village centre/square): _____ E _____ N

Village administrator: _____

Village priest: _____

Village Population: _____

Ethnic minorities: Albanian _____ Gypsy _____ Asian _____ Western _____ Other

Village Size (stremata): _____

Main Church: _____

Other churches: _____

Cemetery: _____

Presence of village administrative office: Yes/No

Presence of primary school: Yes/No

Presence of secondary school: Yes/No

Presence of Nursery School: Yes/No

Presence of Child Care Centre: Yes/No

Types of shops (quantity):

Bakery _____

Grocery _____

Butcher _____

Taverna _____

Periptero _____
Service Station _____
Post Office _____
Police Station _____
Pharmacy _____
Kafeneia _____
Other _____

Informants: _____ **Age:** _____ **Sex: Male/Female**
 _____ **Sex: Male/Female**

Fig. 1. Modern Village Recording Form

EKAS Modern Cemetery Recording Form

GENERAL/SPATIAL INFORMATION

Cemetery Name: _____ **Cemetery Number:** _____ **Date:** _____

Village: _____

Location of village in relation to cemetery: _____

GPS reading (from centre of cemetery): _____ **E** _____ **N**

Distance from village square/centre (kms): _____

Narrative description of general topography around cemetery:

Presence of church: Yes/No

Name of Church: _____

Presence of outer/enclosure wall or fence: Yes/No

Type of enclosure: built wall/stone, built wall/cement, wire fence, combination wall, other/uncertain _____

Condition of enclosure: well maintained, moderately maintained, poor condition

Presence of gate: Yes/No

Type of gate: Metal, wood

Gate functioning: Yes/No

Length of cemetery: _____ m

Width of cemetery: _____ m

Subdivision: Yes/No

Presence of ossuary building: Yes/No

Presence of containers containing bones removed from graves: Yes/No

Presence of other storage building within cemetery: Yes/No

General condition of cemetery: well maintained, moderately maintained, poor condition _____

Number of empty plots: _____

Sketch plan of cemetery

Fig. 2. Modern Cemetery Recording Form

Cemetery: _____ Cemetery No. _____
 Sheet ___ of ____
 Village: _____ Date Recorded: _____

grav e	type	size	family	ma	fa	mc	fc	edat e	o- ax	ctyp e	scul p	ro b	nr ob	tx t	comme

Fig. 3. Example of Modern Grave Recording Form

LOCA 9011	Early Modern House with Wine Press near ancient aquaduct, north of Gonia (toponym yet to be confirmed)
LOCA 9012	Kehries Modern Village
LOCA 9013	Kehries Cemetery – Metamorphosis tou Sotiros
LOCA 9014	Xylokeriza Modern Village
LOCA 9015	Xylokeriza Cemetery – Agios Georgios
LOCA 9016	Examilia Modern Village
LOCA 9017	Examilia Cemetery – Agios Theodoros

Fig. 4. List of Modern Period LOCAs

**TYPOLOGICAL INFORMATION (per individual grave)
Coding List**

type = Grave type:

- 1. Traditional grave with marble slab (no shrine).**
- 2. Traditional grave with marble slab and shrine at western end.**
- 3. Mausoleum.**
- 4. Plain ground burial (sometimes with concrete or brick border).**
- 5. Plain ground burial with iron fence.**
- 6. Plain ground burial with shrine.**
- 7. Fancy marble monument with shrine**
- 8. Traditional grave with gravel/dirt fill instead of marble slab and with shrine**
- 9. Traditional grave with gravel/dirt fill instead of marble slab without shrine**
- 10. Plain ground burial with shrine and iron fence**
- 11. Combination gravel/dirt grave with marble slab and shrine**
- 12. Combination gravel/dirt grave with marble slab without shrine**

size = burial size:

- 1. single**
- 2. double**

family = main family name associated with grave

ma = number of male adults

fa = number of female adults

mc = number of male children

fc = number of female children

edate = year of earliest attested burial

o-ax = grave off-axis (logical field)

ctype = type of cross:

1. marble
2. decorative marble
3. wood
4. metal
5. concrete
6. other

sculp = type of sculpture:

1. religious
2. non-religious
3. both religious and non-religious

rob = Presence of religious offerings (icons, oil lamps, incense etc.) (logical field)

nrob = Presence of non-religious offerings (photos, plastic flowers, etc.) (logical field)

txt = theme of poetry or narrative:

1. prose religious (original)
2. prose quotation (Biblical citation)
3. prose quotation (ancient)
4. prose citation (other)
5. prose text in first-person, addressed to deceased by his/her family,

- 6. prose other**
- 7. poetry religious (original)**
- 8. poetry quotation (Biblical citation)**
- 9. poetry quotation (ancient)**
- 10. poetry citation (other)**
- 11. poetry text in first-person, addressed to deceased by his/her family,**
- 12. poetry other**

Fig. 5. Coding List for grave typologies



Fig. 6. Example of Type 1 grave



Fig. 7. Example of Type 2 grave



Fig. 8. Example of Type 4 grave

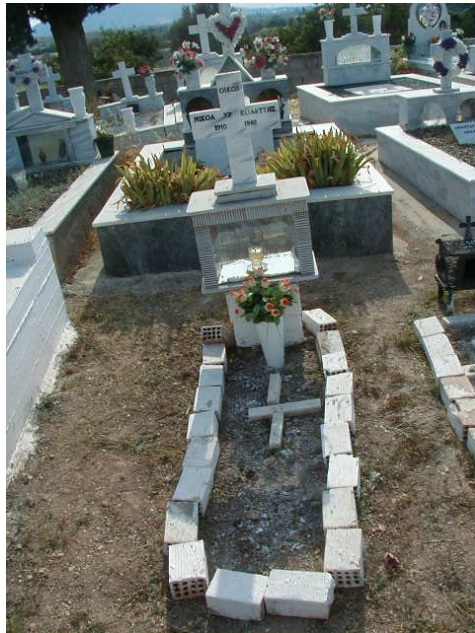


Fig. 9. Example of Type 6 grave



Fig. 10. Example of Type 7 grave



Fig. 11. Example of Type 8 grave



Fig. 12. Example of Type 9 grave



Fig. 13. Example of Type 10 grave



Fig. 14. Example of Type 11 grave



Fig. 15. Example of Type 12 grave



Fig. 16. Example of single plot burial



Fig. 17. Example of double plot burial



Fig. 18. Example of plain marble cross

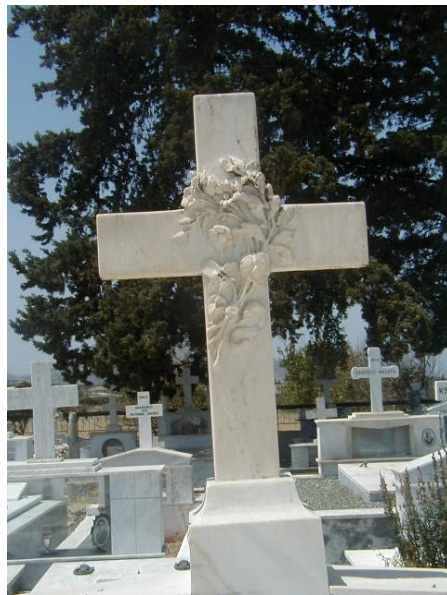


Fig. 19. Example of decorated marble cross



Fig. 20. Example of metal cross



Fig. 21. Example of concrete cross



Fig. 22. Example of Type 6 cross



Fig. 23. Example of religious sculpture



Fig. 24. Example of non-religious sculpture



Fig. 25. Religious and non-religious offerings



Fig. 26. Literary dedication



Fig. 27. Biblical citation

EKAS Local Oral Information Recording Form

Date: _____

Informants: _____ **Age:** _____ **Sex: Male/Female**
 _____ **Sex: Male/Female**
 _____ **Sex: Male/Female**
 _____ **Sex: Male/Female**

Village: _____

Concerning EKAS DU: _____

Place of Interview: _____

Length of time of interview: _____

Subjects:

1. **General History of village (age of village)**
2. **Origin of local population**
3. **Village administration**
4. **Churches and cemetery**
5. **Road system and communication/access/interaction with neighbouring villages/ports**
6. **Water supply**
7. **Agricultural activities:
farming, grazing, dairy, resin collection, honey, other**
8. **Land ownership and where village fields are located**
9. **Terracing**
10. **Field houses/mantres**
11. **Fishing**
12. **Hunting**
13. **Commerce**
14. **House construction**
15. **Kinship**
16. **Metal working/mining in the area**
17. **Pottery production and where pottery/pitharia were purchased**
18. **Other industry**
19. **Traditionally (before 1960) where people shopped**
20. **Local archaeological knowledge**
21. **Local history/folklore**
22. **Local language/idiom/dialect**

Fig. 28. Oral Information Recording Form