

The Northern Sector

Pedagogy, collegiality, research, and publication

Evi and Rod conducted a Field School with four undergraduate students from Trent University (Heather Boyd, Katie McMaster, and Julianna Will) and from the University of Akron (Jeff Hoyt), who engaged in a variety of different activities including including architectural and artifactual illustration, ceramic analysis (including fabric and production studies), and storeroom and database management.

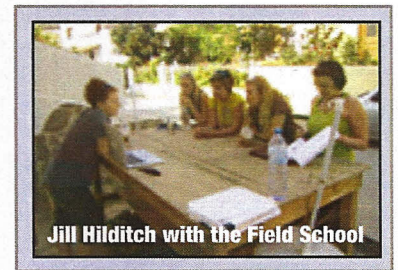
The second season of the Ayia Irini Northern Sector Archaeological project, co-directed by Evi Gorgianni (University of Akron) and Rodney Fitzsimons (Trent University), took place between June 22 and August 2, 2010. The goal of the project is to prepare the publication of the Northern Sector (Areas M and N) and to reassess the phenomenon of Minoanization and the reaction of the local community to it during the late Middle and early Late Bronze Ages (ca. 1700-1450 B.C).

This summer, work focused on the study and reconstruction of the stratigraphy, the deposits, and the architecture of Area M: i.e., the Northeast Bastion (Rooms N.17 to N.20) and the area east of the Great Fortification Wall (including Building M and Tomb 40). The work in the former area confirmed what Jack Caskey, Liz Schofield, and Lyvia Morgan had already suspected: the Northeast Bastion was a two-storied structure erected in Period VI (LC I/LM IA) devoted to storage and

food production (basement level) and dining (upper level). Study of the material from outside the Great Fortification Wall is still in its preliminary stages, but the presence of substantial architectural remains belonging to at least three distinct phases (only Building M appears on the published plans) and thick deposits of habitation material here suggests the presence of much more substantial Period VII/VIII (LH II-IIIb) activity than has previously been acknowledged in publication.

Evi and Rod have initiated systematic study of ceramic fabrics from the Northern Sector, working with Jill Hilditch (University of Toronto) to establish macroscopic fabric groups for the ceramic vessels as well as other terracotta finds, including loom weights, spindle whorls, terracotta figurines, and potter's wheel fragments. To date, their macroscopic examination has identified fabric groups that provide evidence for interaction and exchange during Periods V to VIII with sites that

include not only the usual suspects, such as the southern Cyclades (Thera and Melos), north-central Crete, Aegina, and mainland Greece, but also Naxos, the Dodecanese (Kos and Rhodes), Miletus, and several other regions of Crete. Next summer they plan to undertake a more thorough petrographic sampling of the Northern Sector ceramic assemblage, including the loom weights (in collaboration with Joanne Cutler of University College London), the first time this artifact type has been studied from this perspective at Ayia Irini.



Jill Hilditch with the Field School