

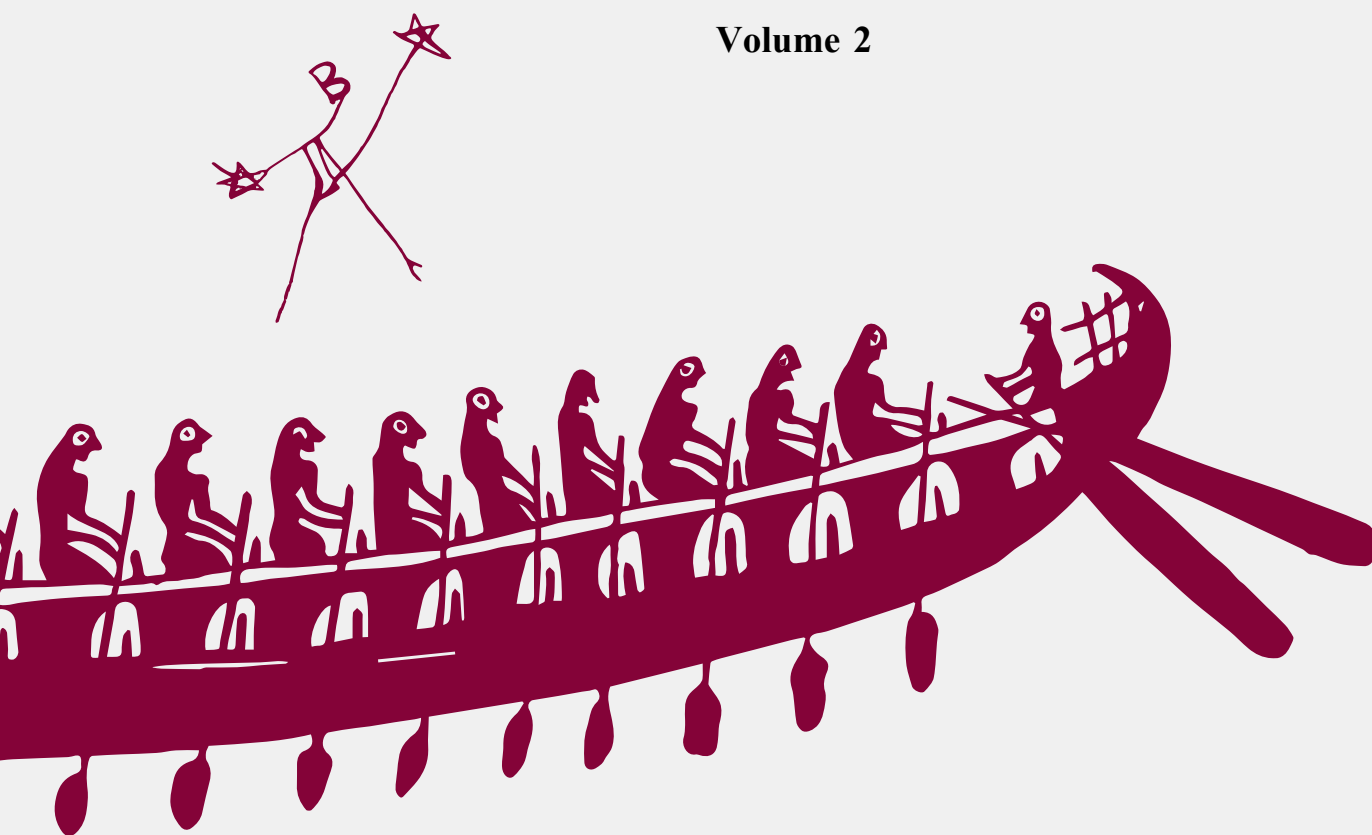
EUBOICA II

Pithekoussai and Euboea between East and West

**Proceedings of the Conference
Lacco Ameno (Ischia, Naples), 14-17 May 2018**

Teresa E. Cinquantaquattro, Matteo D'Acunto and Federica Iannone

Volume 2



Napoli 2021

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DIPARTIMENTO DI ASIA AFRICA E MEDITERRANEO



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ABBREVIATIONS

Above sea-level: above s.l.; Anno Domini: AD; and so forth: etc.; Before Christ: BC; bibliography: bibl.; catalogue: cat.; centimeter/s: cm; century/ies: cent.; chap./chaps.: chapter/chapters; circa/ approximately: ca.; column/s: col./cols.; compare: cf.; *et alii*/and other people: *et al.*; diameter: diam.; dimensions: dim.; Doctor: Dr; especially: esp.; exterior: ext.; fascicule: fasc.; figure/s: fig./ figs.; following/s: f./ff.; fragment/s: fr./frs.; for example: e.g.; gram/s: gm; height: h.; in other words: i.e.; interior: int.; inventory: inv.; kilometer/s: km; length: ln.; line/s: l./ll.; maximum: max.; meter/s: m; millimeter/s: mm; mini- mum: min.; namely: viz.; new series/nuova serie etc.: n.s.; number/s: no./nos.; original edition: orig. ed.; plate/s: pl./pls.; preserved: pres.; Professor: Prof.; reprint: repr.; series/serie: s.; sub voce: *s.v.*; supplement: suppl.; thick: th.; tomb/s: T./TT.; English/Italian translation: Eng./It. tr.; volume/s: vol./vols.; weight: wt.; which means: scil.; width: wd.

Abbreviations of periodicals and works of reference are those recommended for use in the *American Journal of Archaeology* with supplements in the *Année Philologique*.

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FIRST RESULTS OF THE EXCAVATIONS AT PITHEKOUSSAI FROM 2016-2018 (VILLA ARBUSTO, LACCO AMENO, ISCHIA)*

Nadin Burkhardt, Stephan Faust

It is a well-known fact that in the western Mediterranean, Greek settlements are first attested in ancient Pithekoussai on the island of Ischia. The site was founded before or around the middle of the 8th century BC by Euboeans from Chalkis and Eretria, and, apart from Kyme on the mainland, it is the northernmost Greek settlement on the Italian coast. For this reason, it has long been at the centre of scholarly discussions about the causes, forms, and impact of the so-called Colonization of Western Greece.

A new project, the first phase of which was conducted by the present authors together with a German-Italian team between 2016 and 2019, investigates a public area next to the “Museo Archeologico di Pitheculsai” in the Villa Arbusto in the town of Lacco Ameno¹ (Figs. 1-3). It had once been occupied by a park (including a greenhouse) and tennis courts. Already during the 1990s, when

there were plans to build a congress centre, preliminary excavations at the site soon revealed the upper edges of walls as well as Geometric pottery². The area basically forms a large terrace of about 3.000 sqm, descending toward the north, and in terms of ancient topography, it is a highly promising location for new archaeological research: it is situated just opposite the Monte Vico, which seems to have housed the acropolis of ancient Pithekoussai and, most likely, a sanctuary³, and it overlooks the extensive necropolis in the valley of San Martino, partly explored by Giorgio Buchner⁴ (Fig. 2). Under the Church of S. Restituta, at the foot of Monte Vico, an ancient quarter of workshops was excavated, where pottery was produced over a long period from late Geometric until Roman times⁵. In addition, above (i.e. to the south), there is the “località Mazzola” on the slopes of the Collina Mezzavia⁶. The site, which was excavated around 1970, consists of houses with courtyards, arranged on three terraces. Since metal-working facilities were documented in this “suburban” area, it first seemed plausible to hypothesize that similar workshops also existed in the adjacent area of the terrace. However, no evidence of such specialized activities has been found here so far.

* The project was financed by the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung (2016-2018) and the Bayerische Forschungsförderung (2019). We would like to express our sincere thanks to these institutions, but also to the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt and the University of Hamburg for financial, administrative, and practical support. Likewise, we would like to thank the “Soprintendenza Archeologia, Belle Arti e Paesaggio per l’Area Metropolitana di Napoli” (Dr Teresa E. Cinquantaquattro, Dr Adele Campanelli) and its officials (Dr Costanza Gialanella, Dr Maria Luisa Tardugno) for the permission and cooperation. We are also grateful for the constant support from the “Comune di Lacco Ameno” (Giacomo Pascale and Cecilia Prota) and from the colleagues in Lacco Ameno at the local museum, especially Mariangela Catuogno. We owe the successful excavation also our team: Victoria Alliata, Antonio Bianco, Julian Bauch, Evgenia Dammer, Frank Daubner, Isabelle Dikhoff, Hannes Faust, Eicke Granser, Fabienne Karl, Daniele Marincola, Verena Meyer, Francesco Monaca, Moritz Reinäcker, Daniel Yaminian and Leon Ziemer.

¹ BURKHARDT – FAUST 2016.

² GIALANELLA 1996a, 149; DE CARO – GIALANELLA 1998, 337 fig. 1 (p. 328).

³ MONTI 1968, 62-68; BUCHNER 1975, 61-67; GIALANELLA 1996b, 259 fig. p. 261; OLCESE 2017, 24.

⁴ BUCHNER – RIDGWAY 1993.

⁵ OLCESE 2017.

⁶ BUCHNER 1971-1972, 64-67; 1971, 364-369; KLEIN 1972.

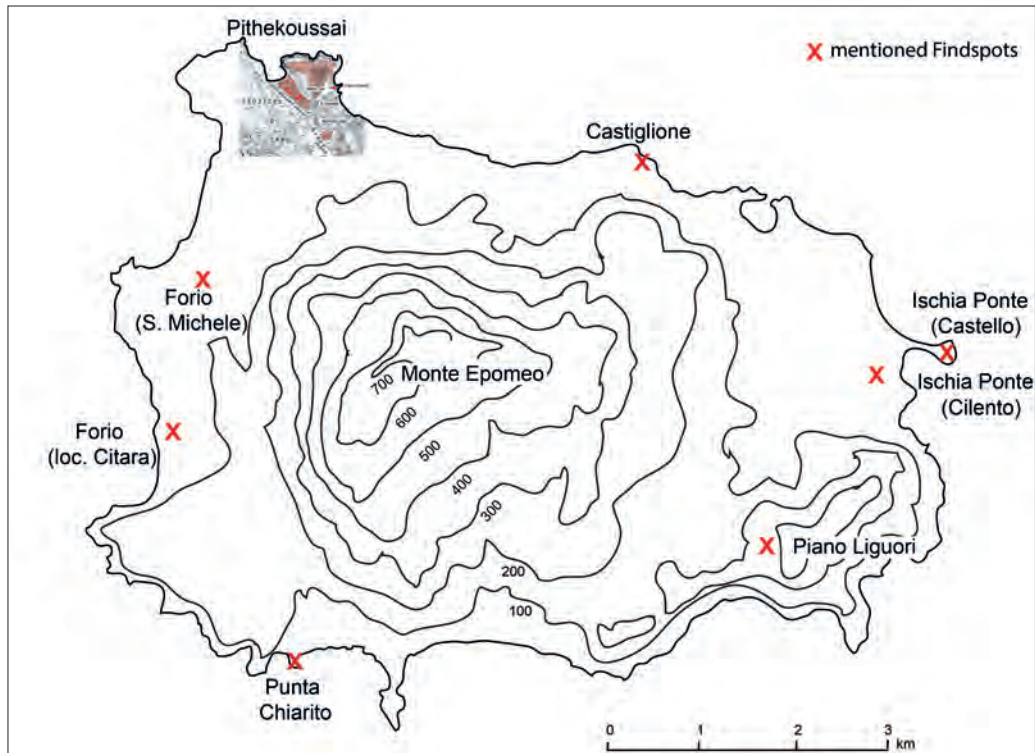


Fig. 1. Map of Ischia indicating the settlements that are mentioned in the text, BUCHNER – RIDGWAY 1993, drawing by E. Granser

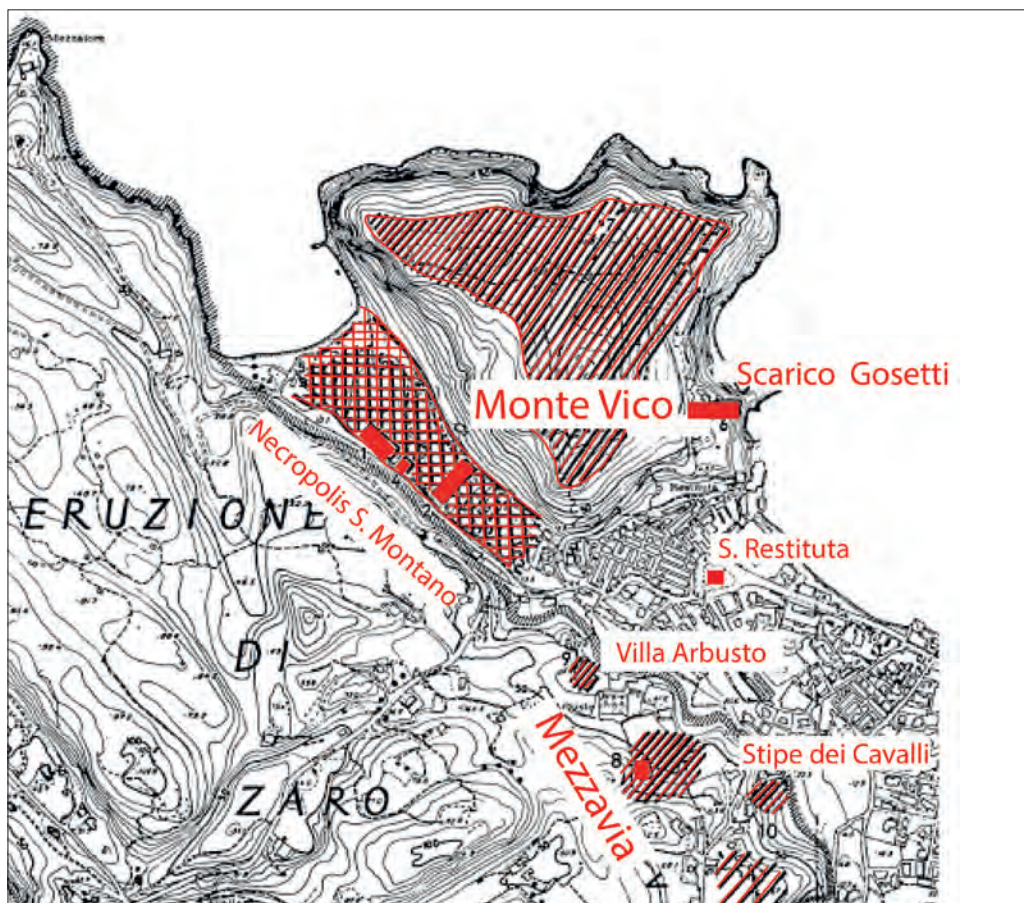


Fig. 2. Map of Lacco Ameno/Pithekoussai highlighting relevant archaeological areas, after BUCHNER – RIDGWAY 1993, Beilage 1



Fig. 3. Panoramic view of Lacco Ameno, from the south, photo by D. Yaminian

Nevertheless, during the recent excavations in a defined part of the Villa Arbusto area, remarkable structures and finds came to light. They can be dated to the centuries from the Late Bronze Age to the end of the 6th century BC/beginning of the 5th century BC and provide us with new information about ancient human presence and activities on the island. The deepest levels contained fragments of indigenous “impasto” pottery going back to the Bronze and Iron Ages. They are similar to pieces found in Castiglione near Casamicciola and in Campania. The later structures and materials allow for conclusions regarding the development of the settlement after the arrival of the Greeks until the end of the Archaic period. The pottery of that time, in particular, featuring both local and imported wares, is important for the reconstruction of the presence, interactions, and contacts of the Greek settlers. *Comparanda* can be found in the other known contexts on the island and also in Kyme.

STRUCTURES

In the course of three brief seasons, seven trenches were opened (VA [=Villa Arbusto] 1 to 7), which are located next to each other in an area of ca. 30 to 20 m (Fig. 4). These first three campaigns

served for the localization of the ancient remains and to prepare a larger excavation project. Therefore, the deeper levels were explored only by test trenches in individual sectors. In addition, two adjoining walls (Walls B and C), the remains of which were discovered above ground, were documented separately. On the whole, four walls, a row of stones and the fill of a terrace were unearthed.

The remains of Wall A emerged ca. 1 m below the modern surface, and a section measuring approximately 20 m crosses the trenches in an almost straight line from the northeast to the southwest (Figs. 5-6). The wall consisted of several courses of boulders of different dimensions, for which local volcanic material was used. On each block, the builders smoothed the part facing east, thus creating a front side. Smaller stones that were found in the surroundings can be attributed to the upper part of the wall, which consisted of a mixture of rubble and clay. This construction technique can generally be compared to the houses and workshops of the nearby *località* Mazzola on the ridge of Mezzavia and to the promontory site of Punta Chiarito projecting from the southwestern shore of Ischia⁷.

⁷ On the site of Mezzavia, see above note 6; on the house at Punta Chiarito, see GIALANELLA 1996a, 150-154; 1996b; DE CARO – GIALANELLA 1998, 2011; and note 57.

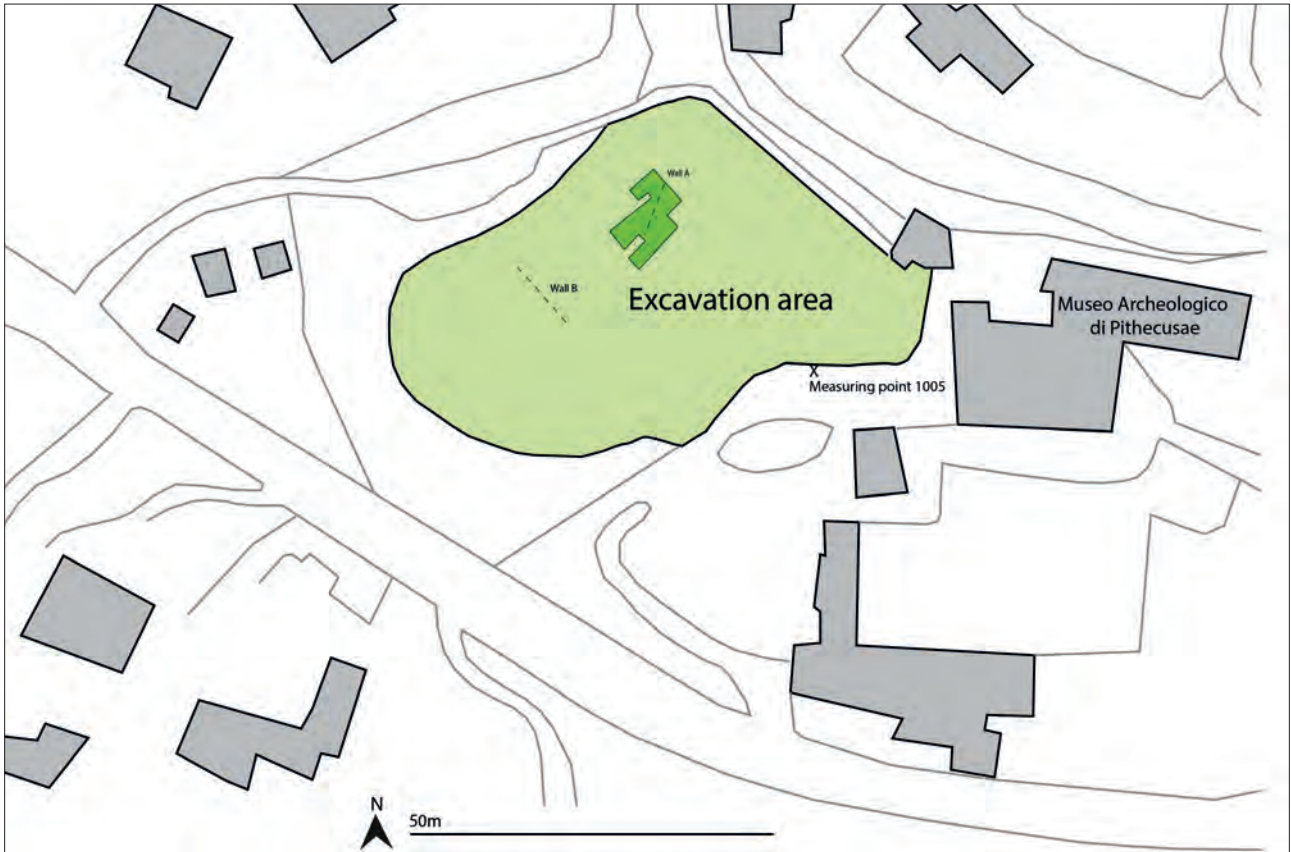


Fig. 4. Map of the excavation area at the Villa Arbusto, by J. Bauch

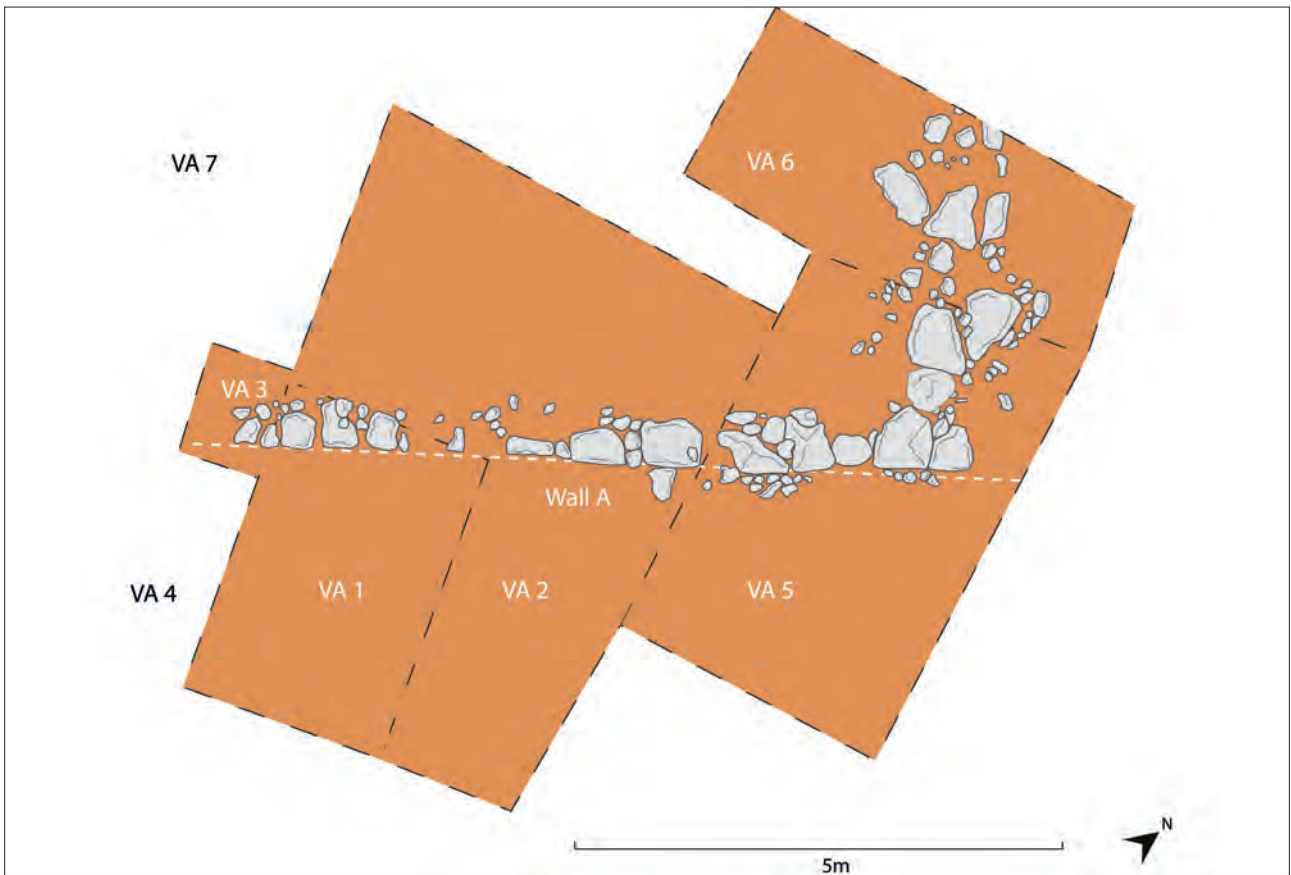


Fig. 5. Plan of Wall A and part of the fill of the terrace structure (by J. Bauch, 2017)

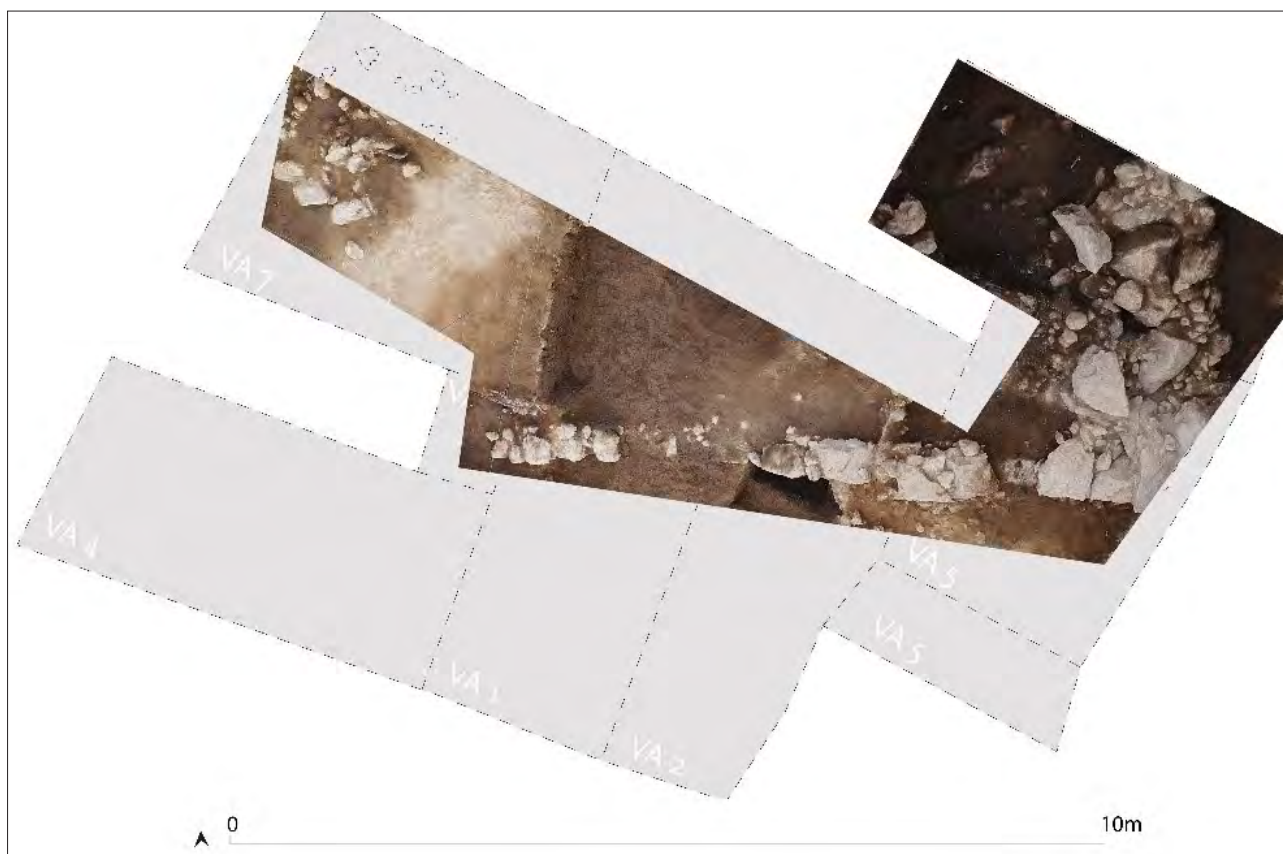


Fig. 6. Aerial view of Wall A and the fill of the terrace structure, (by D. Yaminian and J. Bauch, 2017)

In trench VA 2, a compact mass (“*battuto*”) of small stones and ceramic fragments adjacent to the back, or northern, side of Wall A was found. This structure probably belonged to the reinforced part of an artificial terrace fill which leveled the steep ground. A trial trench, which was dug in the same sector but in front of the wall, demonstrated that there are three layers of stones below the extant top of the wall (Fig. 7). The lower course rests on solid earth.

After the removal of the ruins of a modern greenhouse in the northern part of the excavation area in 2017, two new trenches (VA 5 and VA 6) were laid out at the back of Wall A. Here, a massive fill consisting of stones of different sizes was discovered. The material was used to fill the gaps between the solid rock, the irregular surface of which was also visible. Such beaks of rock emerge on Ischia at different places, and they could be incorporated into artificial terrace constructions. Geologically, they bear witness to the volcanic origins of the Zaro Plateau. It follows that the documented section of Wall A served as a terrace wall, with the façade on the southeast side.

Immediately to the west of this structure, i.e. behind the wall, there was an area (VA 7) that has

been disturbed in modern times by animal husbandry (“*fossa di coniglio*”). Already in 2017, ancient stone blocks relocated at some time, and fragments of a large amphora, which had received a red colour in the potter’s oven, surfaced here.

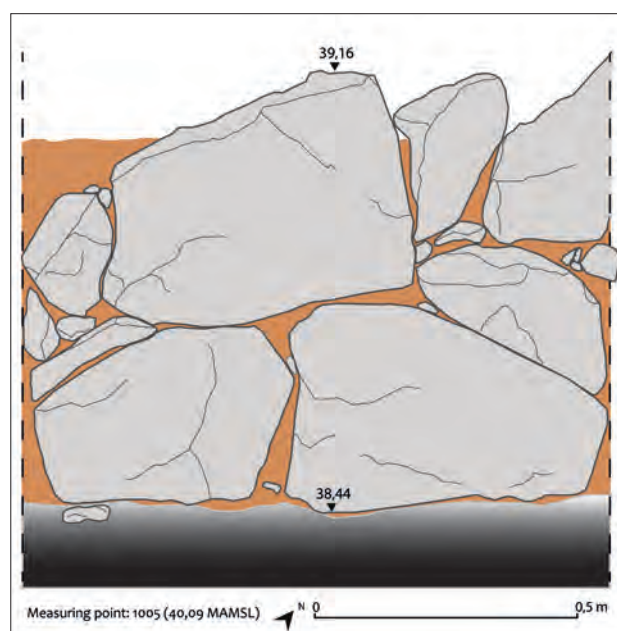


Fig. 7. Drawing of a section of the southwestern façade of Wall A, by D. Marincola



Fig. 8. View of the southern façade of Wall B and the cross section of Wall C, (photo and digitalisation by N. Burkhardt, 2018)

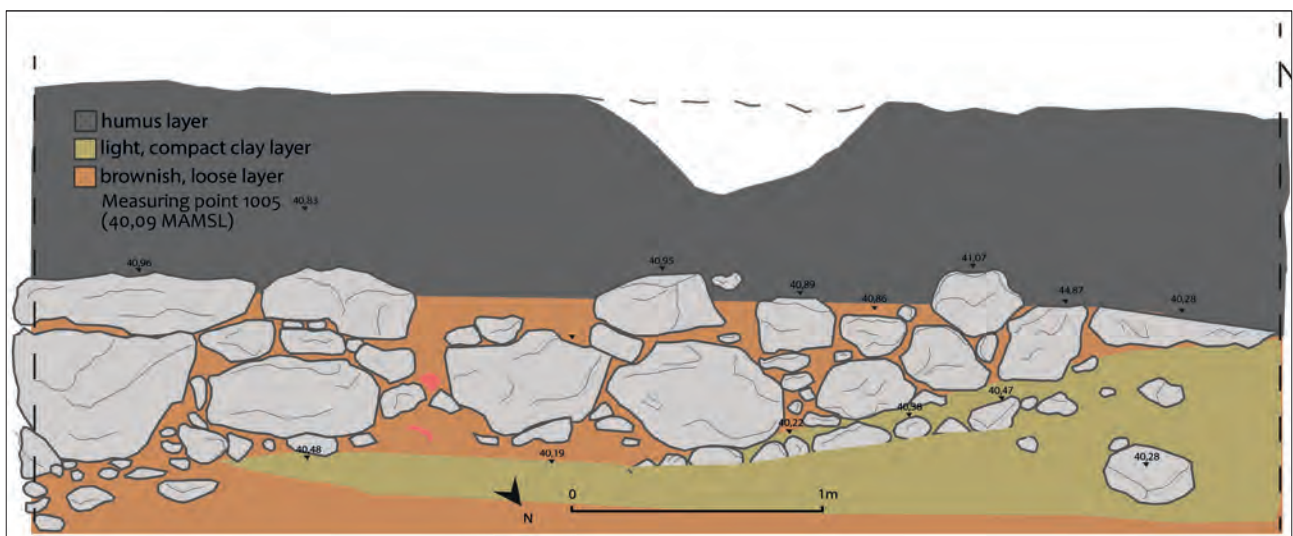


Fig. 9. Drawing of the southern façade of Wall B, by E. Granser and J. Bauch

In 2018, we were able to amplify the trench and document deeper levels. It could be demonstrated that the southern half was still affected by the recent installation of the rabbit hutch. In contrast, the remains of another stone structure (Wall D) were extant in the northwestern part of the trench (Fig. 10). This wall also runs from the southwest to the northeast, i.e. parallel to Wall A, and it features the same construction details and the same kind of elaborated façade. Between these two walls, there was a particularly compact stratum of soil to which pebble stones had been added. Considering the small distance to Wall A, it seems questionable if Wall D should be interpreted as a terrace wall, too, or if we are actually dealing with a house or some other building. Toward the end of the 2018 season, large fragments of a massive vessel were found adjacent to the stones that had been dislocated due to modern

intervention. They project from the west profile, where they have to remain *in situ* until further investigations can be carried out. Their arrangement reminds of a deposition or, alternatively, the *enchytrismos* practice, but there were no artifacts or bones to support such interpretations so far.

Walls B and C were discovered in 2017 after the dense vegetation and modern debris in the surroundings of the excavation area had been removed. The still visible section of Wall B, which has been cleaned, is about 5 m long and rises to a height of ca. 0.8 to 1 m above the current ground (Figs. 8-9). It consists of irregularly shaped boulders as well as smaller stones, which received a smooth finish on the outward-facing side. There can be no doubt that the structure functioned as a terrace wall. It is located ca. 20 m to the west of the actual trenches, and it belongs to a higher level of terrain than Wall A.

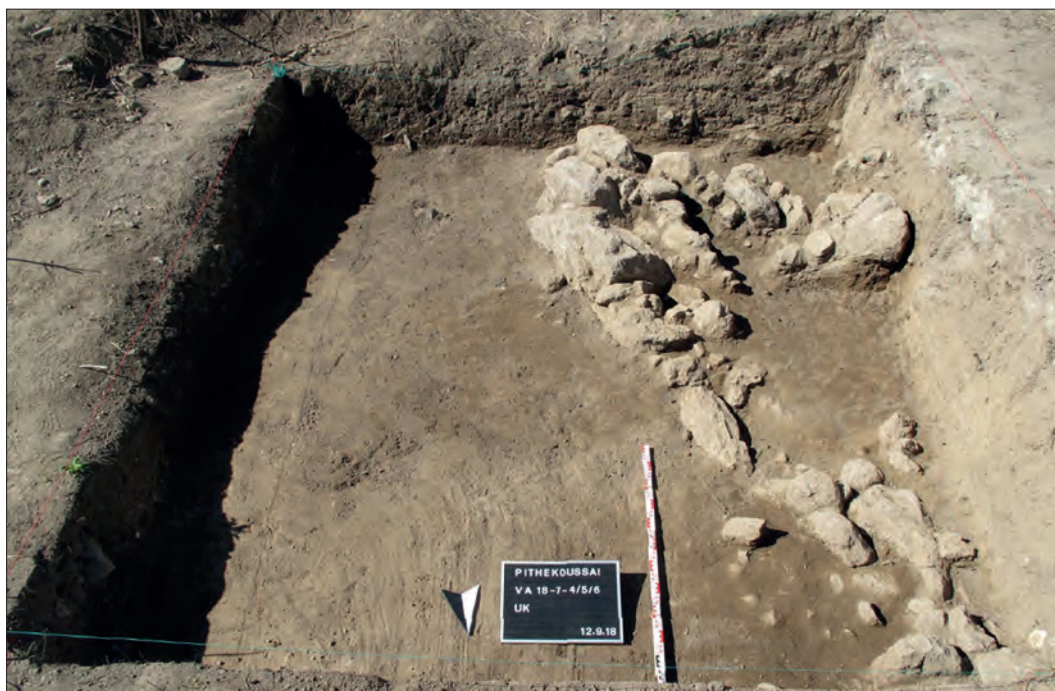


Fig. 10. View of the excavation trench VA 18 / 7 with Wall D and with the modern installation of a rabbit hutch; view from the north, photo by N. Burkhardt

Moreover, it has a different (east-west) orientation. Large shards of pottery, which were found in the joints and in the immediate vicinity of the wall, can be dated to the Late Geometric period (see below). We may hypothesize that the wall was built around that time. In 2018, further cleanings led to the discovery of the 0.8 m long section of a further terrace wall, called Wall C, which consists of smaller stones. It meets the eastern corner of Wall B at a right angle and must have been built at a slightly later stage. Further fragments from Late Geometric until modern times were found in the loamy soil at the base of Wall C. In the same sector, there is yet another structure, which consists of stone blocks forming a file in front of Wall B. Its function and date (probably later than Wall B) will be investigated in the next phase of our project.

THE FINDS

The stratigraphic analysis of the individual trenches revealed that the chronology of the excavated material ranges from the Apennine Culture of pre-Roman Italy (Bronze Age) through the Late Geometric Period to the late Archaic Period, consisting of indigenous pottery and imported products. In addition to nearly 3800 sherds of pottery, ca. 390 fragments of roof tiles of local production were found.

Pottery

Most of the finds are sherds of wheel-thrown pottery, Impasto and Bucchero. The earliest ones are fragments of Impasto vessels dating from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age. These can be attributed to small bowls and cups of a light brown version of Impasto (K 85, K 86, K 87, K 88) and of a black version (K 76), respectively (Figs. 11-12). The exterior is decorated in a characteristic fashion: a wooden or bone awl (*punta dello stecco*) was used to incise or scratch dots and geometric lines into the surface (Fig. 12). Such Impasto vessels were also found on the top of the Monte Vico⁸ near the “Scarico Gosetti”, and in the location Castiglione at Casamicciola. The decoration with lines of small impressed dots, in particular, is known from the Monte Vico, and can be dated to the Middle Bronze Age, i.e. the 14th century BC⁹. The fragment of a bowl with a sharp bend at the shoulder and that of a bright brown Impasto, characterized by a polish, can be compared to a piece from Castiglione, dated to the 15th to 14th century BC¹⁰.

⁸ Cf. the fragments in the “Museo Archeologico di Pithecusae” Inv. 169889 and Inv. 169891; MONTI 1968, 25-26 fig. 5.

⁹ GIALANELLA 2001, 255-256 nos. VI.2.1.2 (“Museo Archeologico di Pithecusae” Inv. 169891); 256 VI.2.1.4 (“Museo Archeologico di Pithecusae” Inv. 169890).

¹⁰ GIALANELLA 1996a, 146; 2001, 254 no. VI.1.2.1 (“Museo Archeologico di Pithecusae” Inv. 233398).

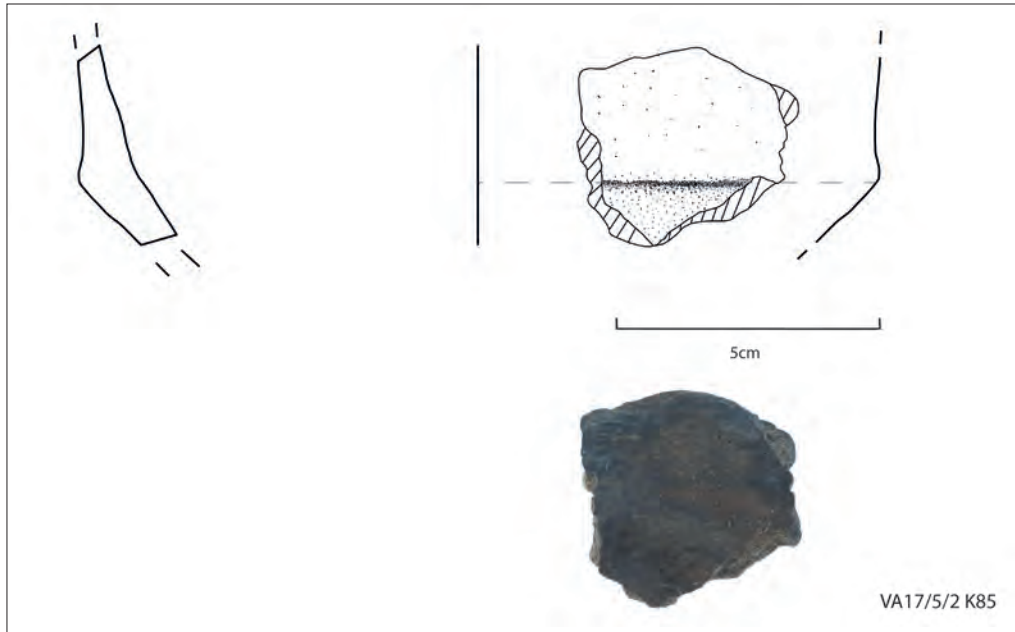


Fig. 11. Impasto fragment, K 85, drawing by A. Bianco, photo by S. Faust, digitalised by E. Granser

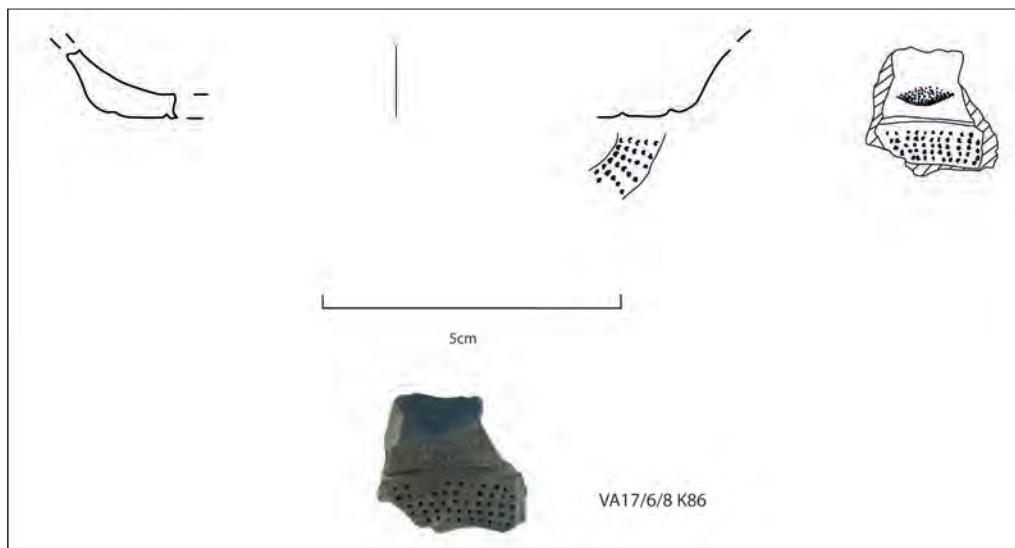


Fig. 12. Impasto fragment, K 86, Drawing by A. Bianco, photo by S. Faust, digitalised by E. Granser

At the Villa Arbusto, the sherds of Impasto were found in the last two strata, in the lowest level of the excavation trench, between the stones of a densely packed fill of an artificial terrace wall (A), mixed with Greek pottery such as cup fragments of the Aetos 666 and Thapsos types.

Before the arrival of the Greeks, prehistoric communities had settled on the island of Ischia (Fig. 1). There is evidence of Neolithic settlements in the “località Cilento” in the northwest of the cemetery of Ischia-Porto, but also at a site near S. Michele, in the “località Citara” in Forio, and at the “Piano Li-

gurio” (Ischia-Porto). Furthermore, there is a prehistoric tomb at “Casa Gingerò” next to the “Museo Archeologico di Pithecusae” (Villa Arbusto)¹¹, and single finds emerged under the church of Santa Resitata in Lacco Ameno¹². Traces of Bronze Age settlements have been documented in Casamicciola on

¹¹ RITTMANN – BUCHNER 1948, 35; MONTI 1980, 36-37 fig. 10; GIALANELLA 2001, 243; NOMI – CAZZELLA 2016, 163 (Gaudio Culture), cf. BAILO MODESTI – SALERNO 1994, 11.

¹² BUCHNER 1936-1937; MONTI 1968, 23; NOMI – CAZZELLA 2016, 161-162 fig. 1.

the hill of Castiglione¹³ and in Lacco Ameno on the Monte Vico¹⁴. In scholarship, the existence of two other habitations at Forio and at the Castello in Ischia-Ponte has been mentioned¹⁵. The find spots in Lacco Ameno are complemented by finds from the “località Mazzola”¹⁶ and the valley of San Montano¹⁷ (Fig. 2). According to the interpretation of M. Fugazzola Delpino, the assemblage of Appenine ware from the Bronze Age points to a homogeneous deposit on the brink of the necropolis, as this sector lacks graves and Greek pottery¹⁸. Even though the Impasto sherds from the park of the Villa Arbusto indicate human presence in the excavated area during the Bronze Age, it does not necessarily follow that an actual settlement existed here at the time. Indeed, it seems more likely that these strata indicate the level of the late 8th century BC, when the terrace wall was probably constructed.

Another coarse ware is represented by the fragments of two *olle*, one with an undulating rim (*da prese a linguette*) and a handle that is decorated with finger dots (K 92) and one with only a handle that is decorated with finger dots (K 75) (Figs. 13-14). The first example was found in a stratum mixed with Late Geometric Greek pottery, while the other was found on a deep level to the south of Wall A, below the stratum containing the first stone course of the wall¹⁹. Both were formed without the use of a potter’s wheel. The production of such indigenous vessels occurred both in the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. On the island of Ischia, two fragments of *olle* that feature an undulating rim come from the prehistoric village on the hill Castiglione and have been dated to the 14th century BC²⁰. Two *olle* with finger dots on the handle were used for *enchytrismoi* at the end of the 8th century BC in the necropolis of Pithekoussai (modern valley of

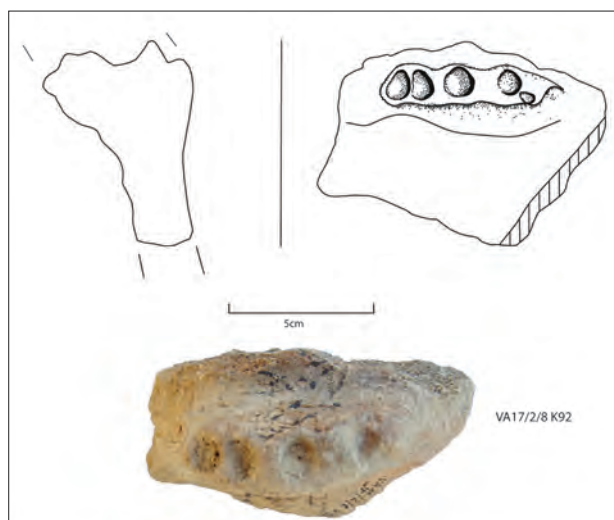


Fig. 13. Coarse ware, K 92, with finger dots decoration, photo by N. Burkhardt, digitalised by E. Granser

San Montano)²¹. Fragments belonging to vessels of the same decoration are attested in the large houses of Punta Chiarito on the southwest coast of Ischia²². Also under Santa Restituta, in the ancient pottery workshop, a fragment of an *olla* with a decorated line of finger dots was found²³. They constitute another Iron Age context. More examples were found in several settlements of Italy, e.g. at Gabii²⁴.

Late Geometric pottery, imported or locally produced, emerged in all our excavation trenches. There is a certain variety of forms, including Thapsos cups (with plain and metope panel decoration, as imports and local imitations), cups of the Aetos 666 type, local imitations of late Corinthian kotylai, with figures of birds²⁵, and locally produced oinochoai and craters, the decoration of which shows the influence of the work of the Cesnola Painter. There is a great number of sherds of kantharoi of the Ithaca type, both imported and produced at Pithekoussai.

¹³ The settlement at Castiglione also existed in the Iron Age. BUCHNER 1936-1937, 30 (referring to fragments of Greek imports among indigenous pottery); MONTI 1968, 24 fig. 3; GIALANELLA 2001, 249; PACCIARELLI 2016.

¹⁴ MONTI 1968, 26 fig. 6; NOMI – CAZZELLA 2016, 165.

¹⁵ NOMI – CAZZELLA 2016, 166 pl. 3 nos. 3-4.

¹⁶ NOMI – CAZZELLA 2016, 165; SNOW LUKESH 1991-1992.

¹⁷ NOMI – CAZZELLA 2016, 165; FUGAZZOLA DELPINO 1993, 721-724 (sporadic finds of Appenine pottery).

¹⁸ FUGAZZOLA DELPINO 1993, 721.

¹⁹ K 92 was found in trench VA 17/2/8 in the deepest level on the southern side of the Wall A. K 75 was found in trench VA 17/6/4, in the fill behind Wall A.

²⁰ RITTMANN – BUCHNER 1948, 36 fig. 7; GIALANELLA 2001, 255-256 nos. VI.1.2.3 (Inv. C2x.102), VI.1.2.4 (Inv. C2x.79).

²¹ BUCHNER – RIDGWAY 1993, 563 (grave 569): *enchytrismos* in a large Impasto-*olla*, LG I ? (“Museo Archeologico di Pithecusae” Inv. 1682257); 669 (grave 695): *enchytrismos* in an Impasto-*olla*, LG II (735-700 BC) (“Museo Archeologico di Pithecusae” Inv. 168705).

²² DE CARO – GIALANELLA 1998, 340 (without illustration).

²³ OLCESE 2017, 239 no. 45.

²⁴ ZUCHTRIEGEL 2012, no. 25/9: *olla* d’Impasto with plastic decoration (cord), red clay with black inclusions, coarse ware, 9th-7th centuries BC.

²⁵ E.g. K 90 (with birds), LG: BUCHNER – RIDGWAY 1993, pl. 249 S5: stray find in the area of grave T. 168, LG, local imitation of Corinthian ware.

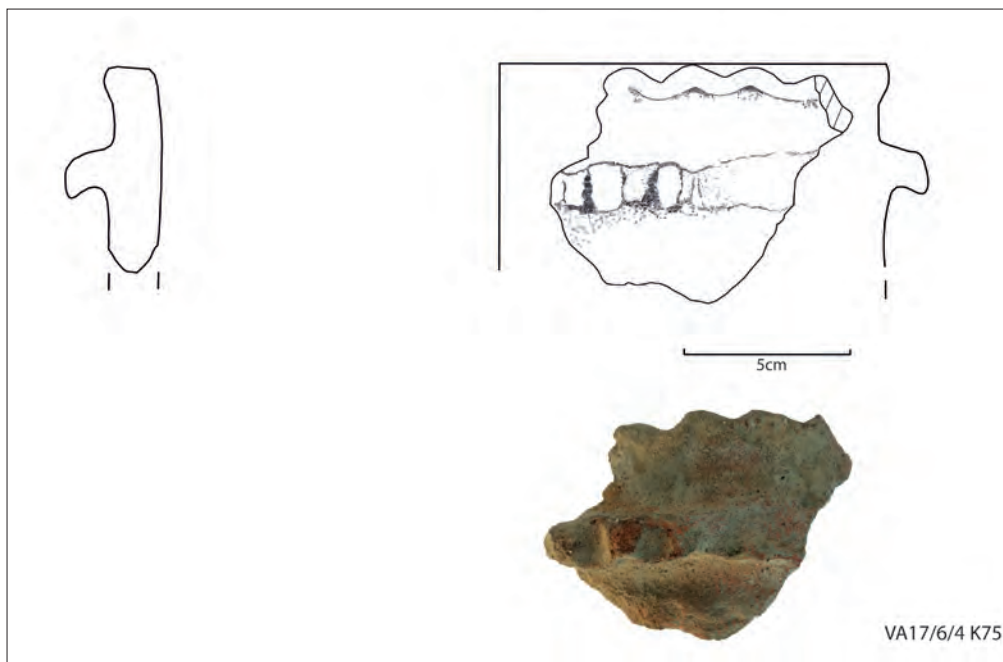


Fig. 14. Coarse ware, K 75, with finger dots decoration, photo by N. Burkhardt, digitalised by E. Granser

Corresponding pieces were documented together with skyphoi of the Thapsos type in the tombs excavated in the valley of San Montano²⁶. The imports included small Corinthian cups and pyxides, also from Corinth (K 62, K 63). The tableware consists of bowls and plates of local clay, and the large storage vessels, were locally produced, too; only a few sherds can be identified as Euboean amphorai (K81, K 82)²⁷.

At present, the material from the excavation area suggests that the pottery of the 8th century BC corresponds to common forms of daily use, which are also known from the contexts of Monte Vico (Scarico Gosetti), Mezzavia and Punta Chiarito. Impasto pottery of the Iron Age was also found at Mezzavia, and on the hill of Castiglione between Ischia Porto and Casamicciola Terme. The later material mostly represents local products like oinochoai, bottles, plates and bowls of the middle Protocorinthian or late Protocorinthian period. Large storage vessels were still in use, e.g. amphorai of the local type B, which are well-known from

the tombs in the San Montano valley but also from domestic contexts, where they are associated with locally produced stamnoi. Among the rare imports of the 7th century BC are the sherds of two Corinthian skyphoi (K 106 and 110).

High-quality pottery is represented by sherds from at least five craters: one fragment from the shoulder of a large crater (K 80; Fig. 15) shows a crouching animal with hooves, probably a gazelle, its head turned back, within a metope panel. Next to it, there was the figure of a horse, of which only the mane is extant. Similar gazelles appear on Late Geometric Attic²⁸ and Euboean²⁹ amphorai. One open work handle of a crater with geometric decor (K 78; Fig. 16) can be compared to one of the sporadic finds of craters from the San Montano valley³⁰. Shoulder fragments of two craters (K 67),

²⁸ Attic amphora, decorated with resting gazelles, ca. 760 BC, in Munich, Staatliche Antikensammlungen, Inv. 6080, cf. SCHWEITZER 1969, fig. 21. Image of resting hoofed animal on Attic amphora, ca. 720/710 BC, in London, The British Museum, Inv. GR 1912.0522.1; 1912.0522.1, cf. *CVA* GB 25: London, British Museum (11) pl. 29 (lower left fig.). Animal frieze on an Attic cup made by the Dipylon Workshop, ca. 750 BC, in Munich, Staatliche Antikensammlungen, Inv. 6402, cf. SIMON 1981, pl. 6 (lower fig.).

²⁹ Crater of Euboeia, from the Sanctuary of Apollo in Eretria, ca. 760 BC, Museum of Eretria Inv. ME 19565.

³⁰ Cf. Museo Archeologico di Pithecusae Inv. 168815: small crater on high foot painted with geometric patterns.

²⁶ BUCHNER – RIDGWAY 1993, 366 pl. 116 (grave 309A nos. 2-3).

²⁷ Especially for the typology and dating of the pottery we have to thank Mariangela Catuogno.



Fig. 15. Part of a Late Geometric crater, K 80, drawing by N. Burkhardt and V. Meyer, photo by S. Faust, digitalised by E. Granser

another fragment of the body (K 64) and a fourth piece (K 78) show the motif of the double axe. Similar craters were found in the tombs in the valley of San Montano and in the apsidal house at Mezzavia.

The pottery of the latest period belongs to the end of the 6th and the beginning of the 5th centuries BC and mostly consists of locally produced vases, plates and large storage vessels. But there are also a few imported pieces like an Attic cup.

In conclusion, the pottery found during the excavation seasons from 2016 to 2018 bears witness to the period of the greatest commercial expansion of Pithekoussai, and it clearly was a market for imported Greek pottery of high quality. The material helps us to evaluate the role of Pithekoussai in the Mediterranean commercial network from the 8th to the 6th centuries BC and to reconstruct the first phase of the settlement but also its later development in the 6th to 5th centuries BC, a period that has so far been known from individual finds and secondary contexts.

The roof tiles

During the first three excavation seasons, we found 390 fragments of roof tiles, including examples of *imbrices* (*kalypteres*) and *tegulae* (*stroteres*).

The thickness of the extant objects varies: the raised edges of the flat slabs measure between 1.7 and 4.5 cm, while the flat parts measure between 1.2 and 3.8 cm. This discrepancy results from the increase of volume from bottom to top³¹. The thickness of the *imbrices* (1.2 to 2 cm) is more homogeneous. Despite their highly fragmentary state, the tiles highlight certain technical aspects. The Archaic roofs of Pithekoussai were constructed with overlapping roof tiles: Flat rectangular tiles with raised edges served to channel the rainwater off the slopes and were set in vertical rows, with each tile overlapping the one below, while semi-cylindrical *imbrices* covered the joints between the *tegulae*. The *imbrices* were designed with a wider lower edge to embrace the narrower upper end of the tile below. The inside of the *imbrices* was semicircular, while they feature a house-like exterior or, more often, also a half-round form³². In terms of the typology of Archaic roof tiles, there are Corinthian and so-called Lakonian *imbrices* but only so-called Corinthian *tegulae*. For this reason, a reconstruction of the roofs in hybrid style seems plausible³³.

³¹ Cf. WIKANDER 1988, 209 fig. 3 (C 5); RESCIGNO 1998, pl. 15 nos. 22, 23.

³² RESCIGNO 1998, pl. 14 nos. 1-15.

³³ WIKANDER 1988, 214 fig. 6.

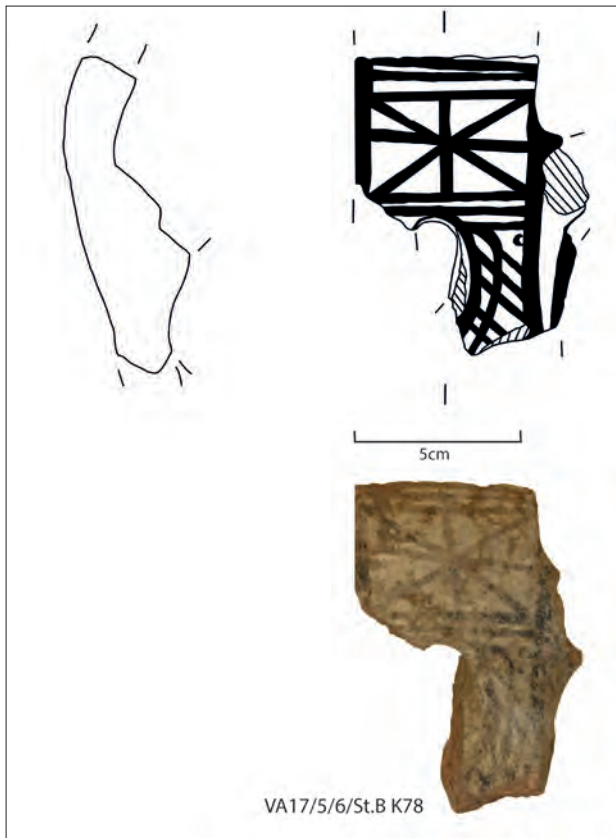


Fig. 16. Handle of a Late Geometric crater, K 78, drawing and photo by N. Burkhardt and V. Meyer, digitalized by E. Granser

This kind of building technique corresponds to the system A formulated by Carlo Rescigno referring to roofs of Campania³⁴. Some of the vertical side ridges of the *tegulae* show bevelling on the inside. Not a single fragment has holes for nails.

Many *imbrices* and *tegulae* have a rough inside and a painted outside with beige or black-brown painting. Some *tegulae* like D 2 and D 8 (Fig. 17) are embellished with black-brown and beige colour areas, set diagonally to the outer edge of the tile. The tiles found in the necropolis carry a similar decoration with black, beige and red colours³⁵. Several examples of such large painted tiles were also found in the workshop pottery production area under Santa Restituta³⁶. In addition, a dark red colour is attested by two fragments from the new excavation at the Villa Arbusto.

³⁴ RESCIGNO 1998, 32 fig. a.

³⁵ RESCIGNO 1998, pls. 14-17; BUCHNER – RIDGWAY 1993, 95 pl. 42 no. 84 (Tomb 84): inhumation covered by Archaic tiles, measurements: 70.5 x 49 cm, decoration in red and black; 43, 87, pl. 48 nos. 12, 72 (tombs 12 and 72); Archaic tile with black paint and white concentric circle.

³⁶ OLCESE 2017, 356-357 no. 1/M 118, no. 3/1561, no. 7/1477-239088.

The tiles from the Villa Arbusto can be compared to the tiles from Monte Vico and from the excavation at Punta S. Pietro on Ischia. Recurrent decorative elements are contrasting black and white or beige areas, lines or circles. The form of the large flat *tegulae* is also common. The uniformity of the repertoire of forms and decoration demonstrates that in Archaic times the tile production of Pithekoussai reached the same degree of maturity as the production in Campania, evidence of which survives at Kyme, Capua and Velia but also in Rome³⁷. Concerning the first quarter of the 6th century BC, a strong link can be observed between the tiles from Monte Vico (“Scarico Gosetti”) and Rome (the building on the site of the later Regia), reflecting a distinctive set of decorative forms, to which Rome, Campania, and Northern Campania contributed³⁸. Likewise, the figural decoration of the antefix of the early 6th century BC from the “Scarico Gosetti” has a close parallel in Rome, which is why Nancy Winter even maintained that the same craftsman was at work³⁹. According to the same author, the roofs in question again reflected a common style of the first quarter of the 6th century BC, known from Veii, Rome and Velletri⁴⁰. The functions of the early buildings with this kind of decor remain obscure, but we know that at least after the middle of the 6th century BC only civic or religious structures were embellished in this way⁴¹.

The scarab

During the excavation season of 2017, we found a scarab (Sk 1; Fig. 18) in the area directly in front of the exterior (south) side of Wall A. The surrounding earth was full of fragments of tiles and pottery. We interpreted this level along the façade of the wall as a spillage, probably resulting from destruction. The scarab is made of blue glass paste, without glaze, and is 10 millimetres long, 5,5 millimetres wide and 7 millimetres high. It was

³⁷ WINTER 2009, 389 fig. 5.43 and fig. 5.19 (S. Omobono, Rome, Antiquarium Comunale, Inv. 16007); fig. 5.44 (site of the later Regia, Forum Romanum, Rome, Antiquarium Forense, Inv. R64.145).

³⁸ WINTER 2009, 143-221, esp. 148: Roof 3-4 (Pithekoussai), cf. 556, 579.

³⁹ WINTER 2009, 171; cf. 2006.

⁴⁰ WINTER 2009, 392.

⁴¹ WINTER 2009, 393, cf. 47, 212, 221.



Fig. 17. Fragments of the painted roof tile, D 2 and D 8, photo by N. Burkhardt

produced with a mould, without finishing, and shows no cracks or scratches. The body of the scarab consists of an elliptical head, a pair of wings and schematized legs. The ovoid base of the scarab is engraved with hieroglyphics. In general, the incisions seem to be rather sketchy.

The hieroglyphic depicts an animal, pacing to the right with its head turned backward. Between the head and the tail is a small round depression. A vertical incision extends from the right front paw. On account of the long slim neck and the erect tail, it might be a lion, a panther or perhaps a hybrid creature like the Assyrian serpent dragon⁴².

In the 8th century BC scarabs were used as grave goods but also appear among votive offerings⁴³ in several settlements in the Mediterranean. They probably functioned as magic protective amulets, especially in connection with female fertility⁴⁴. More than fifty scarabs come from the tombs of

⁴² The information was generously provided by Günther Hölbl, referring to a similar piece found in Monte San Mauro (now in Syracuse, Museo Archeologico Regionale Paolo Orsi).

⁴³ SCHWEIZER 2006, 164 on scarabs in Greek cave sanctuaries of female deities; cf. DE SALVIA 1993, 176-177: scarabs as part of jewellery assemblages or as foundation offerings in the sanctuaries of Ephesos (Artemision), Naukratis, Corinth (Perachora), Eleusis, Paros (Delion).

⁴⁴ SCHWEIZER 2006, 166-181. In ancient Egypt, the meanings and functions of scarabs and their hieroglyphics apparently were more specific than in Phoenicia. Here, the scarab bases can show nonsense signs, and they were joined onto sickle-shaped pendants or combined with the symbols of the moon and sun, representing mother deities like Istar, Atargatis, or Tanit.

Pithekoussai, most of which were found in *enchytrismois* and in tombs of children, while some were deposited in tombs of women⁴⁵.

The iconography of the base of our scarab remains singular at Pithekoussai, but there are three other scarabs made of blue glass paste. They all have only two or three small and simple hieroglyphics and form part of the inventory of Tomb 592, a female burial⁴⁶. The finds from the grave also include *fibulae*, pearls and other scarabs.

F. De Salvia identified the three blue glass scarabs as eastern products of Phoenicia, Syria or Cyprus (Group IV) and proposed a date in the 8th century BC (Late Geometric I, c. 750-725 BC)⁴⁷: the new scarab is a bit larger than the other three but smaller than the scarabs made of steatite found in the Pithekoussian tombs. The style is also different: the three scarabs from the tombs are characterized by more naturalistic forms.

A close parallel of the new piece was found at Naukratis⁴⁸. Similar scarabs of blue paste appear frequently in the town⁴⁹. Moreover, it is considered a production centre for glaze scarabs, since ca. 600 scarabs made in Naukratis have been documented in the entire Mediterranean. The evidence at the site itself consists of moulds etc.⁵⁰. Our scarab belongs to a type where the design of the beetle's sides is characterized by three grooves forming a triangle without touching, and a fourth, shorter groove that is aligned with the triangle. This type was defined by G. Hölbl and connected to Naukratis⁵¹. The impact of Near Eastern culture is evidenced, for example, by the image of the hybrid serpent dragon on our object⁵².

⁴⁵ SCHWEIZER 2006, 147; cf. BUCHNER 1969, 94; cf. the numbers in DE SALVIA 1993: 52 Scarabs, 28 Lyre Player, 4 Scaraboide. Statistically, it is important to note that in this area of the necropolis most burials were tombs of children.

⁴⁶ BUCHNER – RIDGWAY 1993, 351 pl. 113.

⁴⁷ BUCHNER – RIDGWAY 1993, 795 f. no. 592, 11-13, ill. 6, table 1, pl. 177, measurements: 0.73-75 x 0.55-60 x 0.42-44 cm.

⁴⁸ FLINDERS PETRIE 1886, no. 36 F: London, British Museum Inv. EA66452. The reference was generously provided by Eicke Granser. Cf. to the scarabs in the tombs of Pithekoussai: GRANSER 2016, 73.

⁴⁹ FLINDERS PETRIE 1886, 37.

⁵⁰ FLINDERS PETRIE 1886, 36; on Rhodian influence on the production at Naukratis: FLINDERS PETRIE 1886, 36-37.

⁵¹ HÖLBL 1986, 208-210 with pl. illustrating type II,1, no. 5.

⁵² The information was generously provided by Günther Hölbl.



Fig. 18. Scarab of blue glass paste, Sk 1, found at the southern side of Wall A, photo by S. Faust

The new scarab from Ischia can also be connected to a group of scarabs at Taranto⁵³. The latter have the same kind of decoration on the side, but they are made of greyish paste. These objects originate from grave contexts that can be dated to the middle of the 6th century BC because they were associated with Attic pottery⁵⁴. Considering the material from Naukratis, it seems plausible to assume that the new scarab was produced a bit earlier, at the turn from the 7th to the 6th centuries BC.

We have carefully sieved the excavated earth around the find spot of the scarab to make sure that it did not belong to a tomb or *enchytrismos*. Indeed, there were no traces of a tomb structure, a funerary vessel, human bones or ashes. In this context, it should be noted that the children of Pithekoussai

were not buried between the houses – at least not in the few known areas outside the necropolis of San Montano, where several children’s tombs were excavated⁵⁵. The earth around the new scarab was filled with fragments of tiles and pottery from the 8th to 6th centuries BC, small rocks and some animal bones. As mentioned above, we interpret this level, which was found along the southern façade of the wall, as a spillage, probably resulting from destruction. So maybe the scarab simply got lost at some point.

At the same level, in front of the wall, the fragments of two *louteria*⁵⁶, one foot and another fragment of Ionian cups, some fragments of painted roof tiles, one sherd of a painted amphora, fragments of imported as well as local plates, bowls and cups, some *Bucchero* ware and some sherds of coarse ware, cooking pots and large storage containers emerged⁵⁷.

INTERPRETATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

The building structures

The excavations of the 1990s and the new excavations from 2016 to 2018 revealed wall structures, especially from terraces, and Greek pottery mainly from the 8th to the 6th centuries BC, with only a few fragments that can be dated to the 5th century BC. At the moment, two different interpretations of the site seem possible: either it was a settlement area or a sanctuary. Until now, there is no evidence of metal production such as was documented at the Mezzavia site. As regards metal finds, only two small fragments of bronze and iron emerged. Further traces of production of any kind, or even of workshops, are missing.

At the beginning of the excavation, it seemed possible that Wall A belonged to a large house like the one at Punta Chiarito⁵⁸. This house (Structure A) has an oval floor plan, with walls of partly worked *tufa* stones in dry construction. The interior floor level was lower than the surrounding ground level.

⁵⁵ SCHWEIZER 2006, 161.

⁵⁶ See below on the finds from the excavation at Punta Chiarito, see below note 57.

⁵⁷ At Punta Chiarito the material included storage vessels, amphorai, aryballoi, chytrai, jugs and cups, indigenous pottery including Impasto, *Bucchero* vessels, the fragment of a stove, three bronze pieces, loom weights, lead weights, one *louterion*, two bronze sieves and weapons, cf. DE CARO – GIALANELLA 1998, 262.

⁵⁸ See above, note 57.

⁵³ HÖLBL 1979, 230 nos. 1154-1158. The reference was generously provided by Eicke Granser.

⁵⁴ HÖLBL 1979, 130 (text), 230 (catalogue).

For this reason, the blocks were set against the earth at the foot of the wall, while there was a two-course construction in the upper part. The foundation consisted of just one densely set compact layer of stones. In the Greek settlements at Oropos and Eretria and in other places, Late Geometric houses could have large dimensions and a simple floor plan that often was oval or horseshoe-shaped⁵⁹. In any case, it should be noted that the exact function(s) of the house structure at Punta Chiarito are not so easy to determine as it might appear in the first instance: it could have been a domestic site⁶⁰, a sanctuary, a storage facility, a farmstead⁶¹, a pirate hideout⁶² etc. Multifunctional interpretations seem possible, especially with regard to other Geometric buildings like the apsidal structures in Viglatouri on Euboea⁶³ or in the sanctuary of Apollo in Eretria on Euboea⁶⁴.

As regards Wall A in the Villa Arbusto area, it soon turned out to be a terrace wall. As has been mentioned above, there is a second structure (Wall B), a short section of which came to light in 2018. It has the same orientation as Wall A and should either be interpreted as a second terrace wall or, considering the short distance between these structures, could also be some other building.

The archaeological finds

A domestic context is indicated by archaeological finds like pottery (including coarse ware, cooking ware, amphorai, fine ware), roof tiles and loom weights. Four fragments of stoves point in the same direction (K 6, K 54, K 73): they are local products in the form of ceramic pedestals, which were set over the hearth and carried the cooking pots. On the outside, they featured distinctive incised decoration. The loom weights (W 1 and W2; Fig. 19) would also be in line with a domestic context. However, such objects were also found among the votives of “Scarico Gosetti”, which is considered a deposit of a sanctuary on Monte Vico⁶⁵.



Fig. 19. Loom weights, W 1 and W 2, photo and digitalised by N. Burkhardt

Finds like the fragment of a large crater with figural decoration (K 80), the sherds of other craters (K 64, K 78) and drinking cups of high quality allow for an alternative interpretation of the finds as objects used in a sacred context, even if craters and drinking vessels were also used in the apsidal structure at Mezzavia, which probably served domestic purposes⁶⁶. On the other hand, objects like the scarab, the foot of a vessel with an artificial hole (K 59), the roof tiles with painted decoration and the fragments of the two *louteria* (basins) can be related to the context of a sanctuary. During the salvage excavation in the northern part of the Villa Arbusto site (see above), fragments of large roof tiles and several large crater fragments of high quality emerged⁶⁷. The decoration of the latter included the meander pattern and the figure of a horseman. Therefore, it seems possible that the terrace structure, with its solid filling, was constructed to support a sanctuary. In any case, the area is located at a prominent site that could be seen from the sea and the western port.

⁵⁹ For a compilation of ground plans, see DE CARO – GIALANELLA 1998, 348 fig. 10.

⁶⁰ DE CARO – GIALANELLA 1998, 346 (on account of kitchen utensils, a stove, and the loom weights).

⁶¹ DE CARO – GIALANELLA 1998, 350-351.

⁶² CANTARELLI – DE FRANCESCO 2001.

⁶³ SAPOUNA SAKELLARAKI 1998.

⁶⁴ BÉRARD 1998.

⁶⁵ MONTI 1968, 59; SCATOZZA HÖRICH 2007, pl. 28c.

⁶⁶ KLEIN 1972, 38-39 fig. 3. Nicoletta Manzi, who studied the material of the Mezzavia excavation in her unpublished dissertation, kindly provided us with important additional information.

⁶⁷ See above note 2. Costanza Gialanella generously let us inspect these fragments in the depot of the Museo Archeologico di Pitheculasae. She still intends to publish these fragments together with Nicoletta Manzi in future.

The pottery suggests that the excavated area had been frequented since the Bronze Age and was occupied with building structures from the Late Geometric period (LG II-Pithekoussai, 725/20-680/75 BC). Future investigations and detailed studies of the material will show whether there was a continuous human presence until the 6th century BC or whether an interruption can be demon-

strated for the 7th century BC. A destruction level of the 6th century BC is indicated by a level containing fragmented material. It could be the result of the earthquake of the second half of the century, which also affected other parts of the island. As pottery of the 5th century BC seems to be largely missing, it would seem that the area had been deserted by this time.

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one mention from the post-antique period of epithermal gold in association with the presence of alum, which could not be used to produce objects. Consequently, the only certain metal production documented in Pithecusa is that of bronze fibulae.

LUCIA A. SCATOZZA HÖRICH, *Pithecusan Gold: Anatolian Connections*

The absence of gold ornaments in Pithecusa, both among the finds in the metallurgical district of Mazzola and the necropolis, from which only objects of gilded silver are known at present, if compared with those of the necropolis of Kyme in Phlegraean fields, re-launches the discussion on the meaning attributed to the term *chryseia* or *chrysia* in the well-known passage of the Greek source. In the ancient world, the search for metals was a major factor in mobility and raised the question of the role of Pithecusa in the gold trade, which involved the relationship between Euboea and the eastern Aegean. What emerges in Pithecusa can be related to the recent archaeological research, which reveals important interconnections between Euboea and the site of Kyme Aiolis on the coast of central-western Anatolia, perhaps as early as the LPG period.

GLORIA OLCESE (with a contribution by GILBERTO ARTIOLI), *Natural Resources and Raw Materials at Ischia in Antiquity: Some Data and Preliminary Reports from an Ongoing, Interdisciplinary Project*

This paper illustrates the new project begun at Ischia, following the study and publication of the artisan quarter excavated beneath the church of Santa Restituta (Lacco Ameno). The research will focus on the island's natural resources, both environmental and geological, available during the period of colonization, but also later. These resources have not always been sufficiently considered in archaeological investigations. Drawing on literary sources and employing specific scientific analyses for the identification of mineral and clay deposits, the project will reconstruct the agricultural landscape, the use of the land's resources, and the techniques of wine and ceramic production, of which the island has yielded important archaeological evidence.

NADIN BURKHARDT, STEPHAN FAUST, *First Results of the Excavations at Pithekoussai from 2016-2018 (Villa Arbusto, Lacco Ameno, Ischia)*

Being the first Greek settlement in the Western Mediterranean, Pithekoussai (modern Ischia) has long been at the centre of scholarly discussions about the early phase of the so-called Colonization of Western Greece. New archaeological evidence of this historical process is provided by a recent project that investigates an area next to the "Museo Archeologico di Pithecusae" in the Villa Arbusto at Lacco Ameno. Here, several terrace walls, which consisted of several layers of boulders with finished surfaces on the front, were found. While the dating of archaeological material from the surrounding trenches (including indigenous as well as imported pottery, roof tiles and a scarab) ranges from the Apennine Culture of pre-Roman Italy to the late Archaic Period, the stratigraphy suggests that the site was occupied by the building structures since the Late Geometric Period. They might have belonged to a domestic context or even a sanctuary.

MARIASSUNTA CUOZZO, *Pithekoussai. Pottery from the Mazzola Area*

Here I present about 100 sherds and partly reconstructed vases from the Mazzola area I selected for the reopening of the room dedicated to Pithecusae at the National Archaeological Museum of Naples. After a quick overview of the types distinguishing the main chronological horizons, I dwell here on two specific subjects: a still understudied class for Pithekoussai, namely, "white-on-black" overpainted ware and a figured Late Geometric sherd lacking close parallels in coeval Pithecusan pottery.

FRANCESCA MERMATI, *Parerga and Paralipomena to the Study of Pithecusan-Cumaeae Ceramic Production in the Light of New Research. Twenty Years after Euboica*

For the study of colonial enterprise in the western Mediterranean in the first half of the 8th century

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The intent of the *Euboica II* conference, *Pithekoussai e l'Eubea tra Oriente e Occidente*, held in Lacco Ameno (Ischia, Naples) from 14 to 17 May 2018, was to discuss the themes of colonization, how colonial realities became rooted in different areas of the Mediterranean, the specific traits of Euboean colonization, and forms of contact and relationship between the Greek element and local communities. These Proceedings are divided in two volumes, arranged geographically. They feature a dialogue between historians and archaeologists, with an emphasis on the new important contributions made over the last twenty years by field archaeology in Euboea and in colonial and Mediterranean contexts.

