## **ACHAIOS**

# STUDIES PRESENTED TO PROFESSOR THANASIS I. PAPADOPOULOS

### **Edited by**

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Th. Papadopoulos as President (2000-2002) of the Department of History and Archaeology, School of Philosophy, University of Ioannina.

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#### INTRODUCTION

It is with great pleasure that we present this honorary volume to Professor Thanasis I. Papadopoulos, as a small tribute of his friends, colleagues and former students to a genuine "Achaios". It is merely a token of its contributors' appreciation for his achievements hitherto, and in anticipation of many more to come.

We would like to thank for their understanding and patience all the contributors, as, during its completion, this volume delayed due to family reasons. Unfortunately, during the passing years, we experienced the loss of four of its contributors. Professor Paul Åström, Professor Hans Günter Buchholz, Professor Christopher Mee and finally Assistant Professor Litsa Kontorli Papadopoulou are no longer with us.

Finally, we should also thank Yiannis Somakos for all the technical support he generously offered us.

The editors Evangelia PAPADOPOULOU-CHRYSIKOPOULOU Vassilis CHRYSIKOPOULOS Gioulika CHRISTAKOPOULOU

#### THANASIS I. PAPADOPOULOS

#### PROFESSOR EMERITUS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOANNINA

#### Early life

Thanasis I. Papadopoulos was born in 1938 at Haravgi, Achaea, Greece. The second son of a priest (Papa-Yannis) he spent with his brother Andonis his primary school years at Kandalos, Achaea, and then (1952-58) the secondary ones at the 3rd Gymnasion in Patras. In 1958, he enrolled as a student at the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Athens, where he was awarded a B.A diploma in Philology in 1962. During the succeeding two years (1962-64), he fulfilled his military service as an officer of the Greek Army. From 1964 to 1967, he worked at the Tzouganatos preparatory school as a tutor teaching philological courses. At the same time he was appointed for one academic year (1966-67) at the American College of Athens as teacher of philology where his teaching qualities as well as his attitude towards his pupils were highly appreciated. In 1967 he married Litsa Kontorli, who also taught philology. They decided to leave their jobs behind in Greece and go to England for post-graduate studies in Greek Prehistoric Archaeology.

#### The difficult decision to go to England

There they met Professor Nicholas John Coldstream, who accepted them as his first post-graduate students at Bedford College of the University of London. Without a scholarship, it was very difficult to pay the tuition fees and other relative expenses for their studies. Fortunately, J. Coldstream, appreciated the progress they were making and helped them in many ways. In 1972, Papadopoulos was awarded a Ph.D following the successful completion of his doctoral thesis on the Archaeology of Mycenaean Achaea. His Ph.D examiners, N.J. Coldstream, Supervisor, University of London and V. Desborough, Senior Lecturer, University of Oxford, acknowledged his thesis saying that "this is a work of high quality, fully up to the standard required for this degree". Mycenaean Achaea was greatly appreciated by many eminent scholars, such as P. Åström who wrote "...impressive and thorough work, fundamental for further studies on the regional style of Achaia and other areas". Sp. Iakovides and S. Sherratt called it "Magnum opus". F. Schachermeyer, H. Catling, and S. Immerwahr said "Papadopoulos gives an exhaustive, at times tediously, detailed treatment of the Mycenean Pottery from Achaea, based on a catalogue of 958 examples and that now, we have corrections to some of Vermeule's conclusions" adding that "chapter V of the book entitled "Pottery" is the major contribution of the book". R. Laffineur wrote "et c'est la certainement un des grands merites et apports de l'ouvrage".

#### Meeting important people

In 1975, Thanasis Papadopoulos met for the first time the editor of his doctoral thesis (Mycenaean Achaea, SIMA 55), Professor Paul Åström, in Crete, at the 5<sup>th</sup> Cretological Congress. Their first meeting was in the church of Agios Markos in Herakleion, where the famous archaeologist replied to a modest and young, Papadopoulos "please call me Paul and not Professor Åström".

Following the publication of Mycenaean Achaea Papadopoulos was immediately recognized as an acknowledged expert and specialist on the prehistoric archaeology of Achaea and, in conjunction with his excavations on this district and Epirus with relevant publications, as a distinguished scholar for the prehistory of Western Greece. So he met in several occasions :(a) during his excavations, N. Hammond at Ephyra, F. Schachermeyer, P. Åström and R. Laffineur at Kallithea, H. Buchholz and J. Knauss at Ithaca, (b) in international archaeological conferences, seminars and congresses in Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Liege, Egypt, Jordan other scholars such as: S. Alexiou, S. Iakovides, G. Mylonas, L. Platon, V. Karageorghis, Ch. Doumas, C. Davaras, S. Andreou, C. Blegen, S. Hood, H. Catling, L. French, S. Dietz, G. Schaefer, W. Niemeyer, J. Maran, K. Kilian, J. Davis, J. Muhly, J. Wright, W. Coulson, S. Immerwahr, R. Higgins, N. Sandars, H. Müller-Karpe, H. Mathhäus, R. Hägg et al.

#### The return from London

After returning to Greece, Papadopoulos worked for one year (1972-73) at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities in Attica. Professor Spyridon Marinatos, General Director of Antiquities then, showed a vivid interest in his work and proposed him to be appointed as Ephor of Antiquities in the Ephorate of Patras. However, Papadopoulos preferred to refuse that tempting offer because he wanted to follow an academic career at a Greek University. His main interest was and still remains Prehistoric Archaeology. He never looked to "betray" his discipline.

#### The University of Ioannina years

In 1973, he was successfully appointed Epimeletes of Prehistoric Archaeology at the Philosophical Faculty of Ioannina University. Apart from his University tasks of teaching Aegean prehistoric Archaeology, Papadopoulos undertook in 1975 the excavation of the Prehistoric acropolis at Ephyra under the direction of Professor S. Dakaris and the auspices of the Archaeological Society at Athens. When Dakaris retired, in 1976, Papadopoulos continued as the Director of excavation of the acropolis with the financial support of the University of Ioannina and the Archaeological Society until 1987. Among other important finds, he discovered three burial tumuli. In 2007-2008 the excavation was resumed in collaboration with his wife Litsa Kontorli-Papadopoulou, Associate Professor at the time, bringing to light a fourth tumulus.

#### His first publication, "Excavations at Aigion, 1970"

In 1976, Papadopoulos published the results of his first excavation of a Mycenaean cemetery at Aigion, in the Swedish Series SIMA, vol. XLVI. Three years later, in 1979, he published in the same Series (SIMA vols. LV.1-2) his magnum opus, Mycenaean Achaea, "a lavish and well documented publication", according to Sinclair Hood.

In collaboration with his wife, Papadopoulos undertook in 1976, under the auspices of the Archaeological Society, the excavation of two Mycenaean cemeteries at Kallithea and later of another one at Klaous, near Patras. This project continued until 2005. More than forty chamber tombs and one tholos tomb were thoroughly and systematically investigated, producing new and important finds for the district of Achaea.

From 1981 to 1985, Papadopoulos continued teaching as Lecturer of Prehistoric Archaeology at the University of Ioannina and at the same time he was invited to teach at the University of Crete.

For the next six years (1985-1991) he was Associate Professor at the University of Ioannina and Visiting Professor at the newly established Ionian University at Corfu.

In 1987, Papadopoulos followed the example set by Spyridon Marinatos, a Professor of his at the University of Athens, and decided to enrich the knowledge of his students by offering them the possibility to attend lessons concerning another important civilization, the Egyptian one. Papadopoulos always discretely said: "I am not an Egyptologist. I simply believe that Egyptology should be taught in Greek Universities, so that our students can appreciate our own civilization".

In 1987 he was invited in Alexandria by the president of the Communauté Héllénique d'Alexandrie to give a lecture on the relations between Prehistoric Greece and Pharaonic Egypt.

Professor Åström invited him twice at the University of Göteborg, in 1983 as a lecturer and in 1996 as a

professor, to give lectures, concerning the prehistory of Epirus and Achaea and his excavations at Ephyra and at Kallithea-Klauss. He was also invited by the Director of the National Museum of Copenhagen, Dr. Soren Dietz, to give lectures there and undertake a joint publication project of the prehistoric bronzes housed in the museum.

In 1987, Papadopoulos was awarded a scholarship and stayed for three months in the guest-house of the German Archaeological Institute in Berlin, studying and preparing for the publication of the material from his excavations. In 1997 he was granted with a six month scholarship and went to Bonn, where he worked in the *Kommission für Allgemeine und Vergleichende Archäologie* and in the *Institute for Aegean Prehistory*, preparing the publication of his monograph *The Late Bronze Age Daggers of the Aegean I. The Greek Mainland* in the Series of Müller-Karpe PBF, Abteilung VI, 11 Band (1998).

He traveled widely and gave lectures at the Universities of Munich, Freiburg, Mainz, Cairo, Heidelberg, Princeton USA, Milan, Yarmuk, Amman and Muta-Jordan.

As President of the Department of History and Archaeology (2000-2002) at Ioannina University, he proposed to invite and award with the title of "Honorary Professor" Professors P. Åström and H.-G. Buchholz, distinguished scholars and devoted friends of Greece and Cyprus.

In 1991 Papadopoulos was promoted to the rank of Professor at the University of Ioannina and until the end of his academic career in 2005, he was an energetic member of the Department of History and Archaeology, being twice elected as Director of the Archaeology Sector (1995-6 and 1997-8) and Chairman of the Department of History and Archaeology (1999-2001).

From 1994 onwards he also undertook with his wife, Litsa, the excavation of Ayios Athanasios-School of Homer at Ithaca island.

In a career spanning more than 40 years, teaching, digging and researching are the key words of Professor Thanasis Papadopoulos. With an extreme interest he bridged his research work with his sincere interest for his students. As a true tutor and teacher Papadopoulos shared in a generous way his knowledge with his students and assisted them efficiently in many ways. His office was always open to them and he spent a lot of time guiding and helping them to solve problems and enrich their knowledge. Together with his wife and constant collaborator Litsa, he organized special seminars and excursions to prehistoric archaeological sites in Greece and abroad as well as excavations in Epirus, Achaea and Jordan so as to teach them the methods and techniques of digging and preparing the finds for publication. Following an invite by the local authorities, he paid a short visit in

Jordan, in 1999, and decided to start excavations there, in collaboration with his wife Litsa and a small group of students, under the auspices of the University of Ioannina and with the help and financial support of the University of Ioannina and the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At that time, this was the first Greek archaeological expedition in Jordan, a real paradise for archaeologists with a lot of prehistoric and Greco-Roman and Byzantine antiquities, where more than 90 foreign archaeological expeditions from different countries had such projects, but, alas, none from Greece. In 2000, the first excavation of a huge prehistoric cemetery commenced, at the site of An-Naq in the Ghawr as Safi in South Jordan. In April 2000, fourteen Early Bronze Age cist tombs were excavated, most of which had been robbed. In 2001, the Greek Expedition started excavating at Tell Kafrein, which lies at the Jordan Valley, north of the Dead Sea. The excavation, which produced an important settlement and a prehistoric cemetery with a lot of important finds and information for the inhabitants of this strategic site, continued every year with a greater number of students archaeologists and technicians until 2011, when it was interrupted due to the financial crisis in Greece.

In 2008, Professor Papadopoulos served as vicepresident of the board of the International Foundation for Greek Language and Culture and in June 2009, he was appointed counselor of the scientific committee of the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the International Foundation for Greek Language and Culture in Zappeion, Athens.

In 2014, a new publication fulfilled an old obligation. *Vravron. The Mycenaean cemetery* by Thanasis Papadopoulos and Litsa Kontorli-Papadopoulou was published in *SIMA Series* (volume CXLII).

Professor Papadopoulos remains until now a permanent member of the Archaeological Society at Athens.