

Erik Østby:
TEGEA 1990–94 AND 2004:
WORK IN THE NORTHERN SECTOR OF THE SANCTUARY

In 1989, when the Norwegian institute at Athens was invited to submit a five-year plan for an archaeological investigation in the sanctuary of Athena Alea, including the external parts which had never been thoroughly investigated, it was easy to decide exactly where to excavate: it had to be the area immediately north of the Classical temple, aligned with the foundation projecting from the northern flank of the temple, between the temple and the modern village road north of the sanctuary. There was an excellent practical reason for this: several of the plots which had been privately owned had simple village houses on them in the years around 1900 and made excavations there impossible then (except for a small sounding north of the temple which had exposed two Classical monument bases, but this had been covered up again afterwards¹), but in the 1970s some of them had been expropriated by the Greek ephorate, and another was bought by the French school at Athens, with a view to a common archaeological project between these two institutions.² Thanks to the generosity of the French school, also the plot which had been bought by them was made available to us without a need for further expropriations or similar expenses. There were other advantages to this particular area: it was close to the ancient well which had an important role in the early traditions connected with the sanctuary and probably had a particular, cultic importance,³ and there was also the question whether the very unusual, projecting foundation from the northern flank of the temple might point toward some important spot or monument in the sanctuary north of the temple.

These considerations had certainly been taken into account by the two senior archaeologists, the ephor of Arcadia and Laconia in the period, Dr G. Steinhauer, and the director of the French school at that time, Professor P. Amandry, when they had acquired those plots for their planned project. This project did not materialize as originally intended, but in the plots bought by the Greek

state Dr Steinhauer opened a few trenches and took some of them down to considerable depth. (*Fig. 1*) The trench in our square D6, which had been opened down to a level 2.40 m below our 0 level, was important since it was possible for us to document there at the start of our excavation the stratigraphical sequence in the trench walls. Other trenches were opened in our squares C5 and E5, and also, outside our excavation, in squares corresponding to A5, 0A5, B7 and 0A9 in our system. Finds were scarce, and no structure was exposed. No publication of these investigations has appeared, but the stratigraphical documentation from the excavation was put at our disposal by Dr Steinhauer at the beginning of our work.⁴ For this generous assistance he is to be warmly thanked.

When we began our work at Tegea in the summer of 1990 with a small team, it was clear that the efforts of our first season had to be dedicated to preparatory work in the sector north of the temple which had become accessible to us. Initially this was done by machine clearing of the vegetation, dumps from earlier excavations and surface soil north of the temple (*Fig. 2*), leaving the entire 10 to 15 m wide and 30 m long ribbon stretching from the temple to the modern road (our squares C-D 5-10 and E5-E6) as an open surface at the same level as the road, at about 0.50–0.60 m below the 0 level of the temple euthynteria.⁵ Contact with the road was established on a stretch about 15 m wide (across square-lines B, C and D) immediately west of the old village house belonging to the Demopoulos family, which had then recently been severely damaged by fire. However, this house blocked progress in the E squares beyond square 6. (It has later been demolished.) After cleaning and documenting the deep trench in square D6 (*Fig. 3*),⁶ we then opened a connecting excavation in the neighbouring squares to the

¹ For a further description of this situation, see section iv (Tarditi), 55–9.

² I am grateful to Professor P. Amandry, Director of the French school in that period, for a letter with information concerning these plans.

³ See for these traditions *Tegea I*, section i (Østby), 11 with note 4, and for the well here, section i (Østby), 16–8.

⁴ The information above derives from the material put at our disposal by Dr Steinhauer. A brief account of the excavation can be found in Voyatzis, *Sanctuary*, 24–5, fig. 4 (*Fig. 1* here), and some of the more important objects are also discussed in that publication.

⁵ For the topographical system of the enterprise, see the text at the end of this introduction. General plans of the excavated area are provided in sections iii (Luce), 38 *Fig. 1*, and iv (Tarditi), 56 *Fig. 1*.

⁶ Square B2 in Dr Steinhauer's system; see *Fig. 1*.

north and east (D7 and E6). We also opened a new trench near the road, in the squares C-D 9-10. The first of these two enterprises was directed by Dr Chiara Tarditi from the Italian school, the second by Dr Jean-Marc Luce from the French school, both with small teams of Norwegian, Swedish and Greek students and some local workmen.

The results of the first season were not particularly encouraging. In the trench close to the road most of the area turned out to be occupied to a considerable depth by deposits from recent village houses; an ancient surface was reached only in a small area in the south-eastern corner of square D9 in the last few days of the season. (Fig. 4) No more than nine ancient objects with that provenience (from the units D9-D10/24 – /26) have been catalogued; they are all dated to the 7th and 6th centuries B.C.⁷ In the squares closer to the temple, a group of skeleton tombs clearly from post-antique periods, but with very little datable material, were found in the upper layers;⁸ they had to be taken care of and this delayed the progress. Some contact with ancient layers with early material could be established by the end of the season; but on the whole, only 31 objects were listed from 1990 in the preliminary finds catalogue (Tex nos).⁹

During the next two seasons in 1991 and 1992, the trench in C-D 9-10 was left alone. The team directed by Dr Luce was instead set to work in the squares C6-C7 west of the deep trench in D6, in order to increase the investigated area closer to the temple. In these trenches, as well as those where Dr Tarditi was working, progress through the post-antique layers was slow, because of the presence of late (almost certainly medieval-Byzantine) burials which may reasonably be connected with the substantial Byzantine structure discovered by earlier excavations under and in front of the village church.¹⁰ (Fig. 5) A fine Byzantine gold coin (Fig. 6) was the best object recovered from those contexts. There are also layers with modest traces of earlier medieval activity at the site.

Under these layers, we had to remove heavy layers of compact and sterile sand and silt, which were deposited during the Early Medieval period when the site had been abandoned and was repeatedly flooded and covered for considerable periods by stagnant water. Minor extensions of the investigated squares were made, 1 m into the B squares in connection with squares C5-C7 (but the C-denomination was kept in the stratigraphical documentation) in 1991, in order to compensate for a 1 m wide baulk toward the D squares which was removed in

1992, and 1 m into the square E7 (where the documentation uses that denomination) from D7 and E6 in 1993, in order to establish a physical connection between the two squares where Dr Tarditi had started her investigation. In the squares C5 and E5, where earlier excavations had been made by Dr Steinhauer, cleaning operations and some additional excavation were completed, exposing among other things the two Classical monument bases in squares C5 and D5 which had been excavated by a sounding of the French expedition in 1910, and afterwards covered up again. The trench between the two bases, where the French archaeologists had claimed to find an early votive deposit, was reopened and investigated.¹¹ In the upper part of the area (squares C-D 8-10) some more machine clearing was carried out, exposing a surface of alluvial sand under the modern fill in the north-western part of the area. In the south-eastern corner (square D8) this work had to be stopped immediately when it came into contact with an ancient marble statue, probably Hellenistic, which had been inserted as building material in a medieval retaining wall together with a couple of marble blocks from the Classical temple.¹² (Fig. 7) Other such blocks came forth in square C6, and one of them has turned out to have importance for the reconstruction of the temple since it is an isolated metope, not worked together with a triglyph as were almost all the other blocks from the temple's Doric frieze.¹³ More blocks from the temple were exposed closer to the temple, in squares D5-E5, where they provided new material for the architectural study of the blocks from the temple. This work was carried out from 1993 onwards by the Finnish scholar Jari Pakkanen in parallel with the excavation; for this and the following season he was assisted by the Norwegian architectural specialist Øystein Ekroll.¹⁴ (Fig. 8)

The surface on which the metope block rests is certainly later than the destruction of the Classical temple, since marble fragments with traces of worked surfaces, carved off the temple blocks after the collapse, are present in it. The destruction, which was perhaps caused by an earthquake, and the surface created afterwards, can quite tentatively be dated to the 6th or 7th century A.D.;¹⁵ it is in any case earlier than the medieval silt layers above that surface. In the squares C-D 6-7 the same surface opens

⁷ A precise report from that excavation was not considered necessary and has not been prepared. Catalogued objects are the pins **BrN-P 51, 77, 104**; bronze rings **BrN-R 5-6**; the bronze pendant **BrN-Pd 6**; the terracotta objects **TcN 41, 57**; the sherd **CN-Arch 44**. The structures, all recent, are shown on the general plan section **iii** (Luce), 38 Fig. 1.

⁸ For these, see the reports sections **iii** and **vi** (Luce and Tarditi), and the osteological study section **xxii** (Ingvarsson-Sundström).

⁹ See the Appendix 1, at the end of the volume.

¹⁰ See for these structures section **i** (Østby), 25-6, and in general, for the post-antique layers, the reports by Drs Luce and Tarditi (sections **iii** and **vi**).

¹¹ Dugas *et al.*, *Tégée*, 71-2, figs 28-29 (the bases), and Dugas, *Sanctuaire*, 338-9, for the presumed deposit (called "Couche A"). See section **iv** (Tarditi), 55-9 for our work here, and below, p. 6, for the presumed deposit.

¹² See for the wall the reports by Luce and Tarditi (sections **iii**, 44-5, and **vi**, 101-3), and for the statue the contribution section **xiv** (Sande).

¹³ The metope block is discussed in section **iii** (Luce), 49 with Fig. 17), and listed as Block **795** in the catalogue and contribution sections **xvii**, 360-1 with Fig. 6, and **xix**, 412 (both Pakkanen). See section **xvi** (Østby), 322-6 for the implications concerning the reconstruction of the front colonnade of the temple.

¹⁴ The full catalogue of temple blocks is published here as section **xix** (Pakkanen). The essential results are exposed in section **xvii**, by the same author.

¹⁵ See section **xvi** (Østby), 348 with note 203 for the earthquakes, and section **iii** (Luce), 49-50, for the date of the surface.

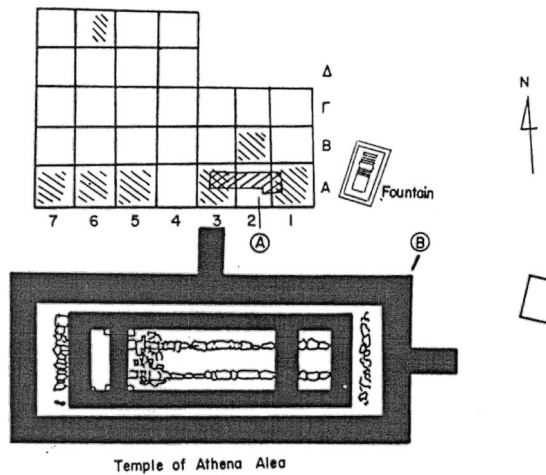


Figure 1. Topographical sketch with the trenches excavated by Dr G. Steinhauer in 1976–77. (After Voyatzis, *Sanctuary*, fig. 4)



Figure 2. Machine removal of vegetation and dumps in the northern sector, before beginning the excavation in 1990. In the background, the ruined Demopoulos house. (Photo: Østby)



Figure 3. Documentation of the western trench wall in square D6 (B2 in dr. Steinhauer's system), in the summer of 1990: the architect Dag Iver Sonerud, assisted by Ellen Marie Næss. (Photo: Østby)



Figure 4. The excavation trench in the squares C-D 9-10, in 1990. (Photo: Østby)



Figure 5. Medieval grave with skeleton (Sk 1) found in the northern sector during the first season, summer 1990. (Photo: Østby)



Figure 6. Byzantine gold coin (cat. no. **Co 13**) found in 1991 in the northern sector. (Photo: D. Newton)



Figure 7. The team which has just excavated the Hellenistic marble statue in the summer of 1992. In front, Tracy Verkuilen, Marianne Knutsen and Eva Benedicte Gran; behind, Tom Pfauth, Roy Svensson and the author. (Photo: J.-M. Luce)



Figure 8. Work at the blocks from the Classical temple, summer 1993: Jari Pakkanen (left) and Øystein Ekroll. (Photo: Østby)



Figure 9. Work in the northern sector during the summer season of 1993. (Photo: E. Østby)

into a large pit, which also contains marble fragments from the temple. In square C6, two parallel wheel-ruts left by a heavy cart lead to this pit over the surface from the south-west. Perhaps it brought material to fill the pit.

It is a matter of some concern to us that this late surface is practically identical to the surface which was established when the work on the Classical temple was concluded, in the late 4th century B.C. From the following centuries until the 5th or 6th century A.D. we have the reused marble statue, but this long period has left surprisingly little stratigraphical evidence in the area we have so far investigated. Only a thin layer which was best observed in the northern part of the area by Ødegård in 1993 and by Tarditi during the supplementary excavation in 2004 seems to have formed, very slowly, during the Roman Imperial period.¹⁶ During these centuries, when we know from Pausanias' text and other sources that the sanctuary was alive and functioning, the surface of this part of the sanctuary must have remained almost exactly at the level which had been created toward the end of the 4th century B.C. with the small marble chips chiselled off the Classical temple during the finishing work, such as the carving of the column flutes. It is no less strange, and slightly frustrating, that there is no clear evidence of a walking surface, as if there were some sort of ban against access to, and activity in, this part of the sanctuary for many centuries – although, at the same time, it was kept orderly and clean, with very limited accumulation of soil. No important monument or building was located here, except for the two monument bases close to the temple,¹⁷ so a different explanation must be found for the foundation which projects from the northern flank of the

temple; the stratigraphical situation in the area just in front of it (square C5) demonstrates that it cannot be explained as the foundation for an access ramp to the northern porch of the temple, but must have had a different function, of visual rather than physical contact with the northern part of the sanctuary and perhaps with the landscape beyond.¹⁸ Nor is there any tangible evidence for buildings of the Hellenistic and Roman period in the area; the architectural material which has been recovered in the northern sector is without exception either from the Classical temple or from earlier buildings.¹⁹ (There may, however, be items from the Roman period among the rich material of tile fragments, which has not been properly studied.) A couple of Roman coins (Co 8–9, possibly also 10²⁰), and a few pieces of transparent glass, are at present the best evidence we have for the Roman period in the sanctuary.

If the layer and the surface with the marble chips identified all over the excavated area has correctly been associated with the final work on the Classical temple, it is obviously surprising that so much material of Geometric and Orientalizing date was found in those contexts. This is clearly votive material similar to what has been found in the contexts of the 8th and 7th centuries in the temple sector. Probably the soil for those layers was taken from the excavations for the foundations of the Classical temple, which disturbed early votive deposits and brought up material from them.²¹ There is also some sherd material of later date from those layers; this material is limited, but important for the support it gives to a fairly late date for the construction of the Classical temple attributed to the well-known 4th-century sculptor Skopas.²²

¹⁶ See sections v (Ødegård), 89, and vi (Tarditi), 104–6. The units in question are named C9-C10/07 and C-D 8-9/35 – /39 respectively. See also section iv (Tarditi), 60 with note 20.

¹⁷ Discussed in the sections i (Østby), 20–2 with *Figs* 8–9) and iv (Tarditi), 55–8 with *Figs* 2–3).

¹⁸ For this problem, see the discussion section xvi (Østby), 340–1.

¹⁹ See the catalogue section xv (Østby).

²⁰ For them, see section xiii (Ingvaldsen).

²¹ For this explanation, see the report section iv (Tarditi), 64–8.

²² For the pottery, see section viii (Iozzo). The date of the temple, and

When work in the last two seasons, 1993 and 1994, could proceed beyond the layers connected with the building of the Classical temple, with a substantially increased staff (*Fig. 9*), it became evident from the stratigraphy that these layers of fill material from the building operations had been intentionally used to raise the level of the surface close to the temple, thus reducing the difference of levels between the temple and the area north of it, and reducing the rather steep slope which had originally separated the Archaic temple from the northern sector as well. When work was resumed in 1993 in the trench close to the road (squares C-D 9-10), by a team directed by the Norwegian archaeologist Knut Ødegård, it became evident that the new slope was leading gently toward a large, mysterious construction of mud-brick which could only be very partially explored. Unfortunately, Ødegård could not participate in the last excavation season in 1994 and could not pursue the problem, so the questions involved with this construction remain for future excavation to resolve; but, since a date in the late 6th century is proposed for it, it should be connected with the northern limit of the sanctuary before as well as after the construction of the Classical temple.²³

In the squares closer to the temple, where the layers of fill were of substantial depth, the surfaces which appeared underneath them suggest that as early as the Archaic period a need was felt to raise the level of the area. A succession of surfaces with a rapid and quite considerable rise of their levels, datable apparently to the second half of the 6th century, can only be explained in this way. A group of postholes in square D7, connected with these surfaces, was probably produced by temporary installations of some sort, although some of them seem to form a pattern; they were thoroughly investigated in 1992 and 1993. Exciting discoveries were made in the final season of 1994, when the modest remains of a mud-brick wall going east–west were discovered near the northern limit of square E6, apparently in a mid-6th century context. Since it is only about 17 m north of the Classical temple and not much further from the Archaic one (if it had a peristasis, as it seems reasonable to presume), it is perhaps too close to have been a probable northern limit of the sanctuary while that temple was functioning; it is also necessary to consider its relation with the mud-brick construction at the northern end of the excavation in squares C10-D10, which may be equally early and certainly has some connection with the northern limit of the sanctuary. At the line of definition between the squares C6 and C7, at the other side of the deep excavation pit in D6, a concentration of small, unworked stones came to light during the final days of the excavations and could only be partially excavated, in the part located in C7. It remains to be seen if and in what way it might be associated with the mud-brick wall evidenced in square E6, with which it may be aligned;

the attribution to Skopas, are both discussed in section *xvi* (Østby), 341–8.

²³ For a general account for the work in this area, see the report section *v* (Ødegård), 93–4 on the mud-brick structure.

this will only be properly established when the part still covered by soil in C6 can be exposed.²⁴

Some evidence for even earlier periods could be obtained towards the end of the excavation, essentially based on observations made in the trench walls of the modern and Byzantine pits in D6 and C7-D7 (which to some extent overlap): pebbled surfaces apparently created during episodes of flooding from the nearby river, connected with three successive structures which may once more have something to do with attempts to define the northern limit of the sanctuary in the 7th century, repeated with regular intervals after episodes of flooding from the river nearby. This uncomfortable situation may have been concluded with a first attempt to raise the surface to a level that was considered safe by using a debris fill from a destroyed building, perhaps the poorly documented temple presumed to have existed in the sanctuary through the central part of the 7th century.²⁵ This probably took place in the late 7th century, and might well have coincided with the construction of the Archaic temple and the ample reorganization of the sanctuary which took place on this occasion, connected with historical and political developments likely to have had repercussions also in this part of the sanctuary. We have the impression that the struggle with the river which was running nearby must until that moment have been a constant concern, involving repeated and destructive episodes of flooding in the earlier period. After the 7th century B.C. and until the end of antiquity the problem does not seem to have presented itself any more. It is an open question whether the mud-brick structure in the northern end of the trench was in some way connected with that definitive solution; the rise of the surface level near the temple alone would hardly have been sufficient for that. These, however, are preliminary questions to which only a far more extensive investigation in the northern sector can provide more definitive answers.

This is also true for the role of the northern sector in the very early development of the sanctuary, in the Geometric period, when the early cult buildings and evidence from the votive pit in the pronaos area of the temple shows that the sanctuary had existed as such at least from the 10th century B.C. onwards. The French archaeologists discovered what they interpreted as a deposit of very early material, called *Couche A*, in a sounding made between the two Classical monument bases near the temple.²⁶ No very precise identification or description of that material was provided, but in addition to some early bronze objects it was said to contain coarse pottery which is not likely to be votive material; for this reason it is open to serious doubt whether this really was a sacred deposit, as their *Couches B* and *C*

²⁴ For the contexts described in this paragraph, see the report section *iv* (Tarditi), 69–78.

²⁵ For these contexts, see the report section *iv* (Tarditi), 78–84. On the presumed 7th-century temple, see *Tegea I*, sections *i* (Østby), 31–4 and *ii* (Nordquist), 73–6; on the course of the river, section *ii* (Ødegård and Klempe) in this volume.

²⁶ See above, with note 8.



Figure 10. Italian, American and Norwegian students at work in the northern sector in July 2004. (Photo: Ch. Tarditi)

certainly were.²⁷ However, the area might have been important already at that time since it was so close to that natural spring or well which must have been an essential feature in the sanctuary as far back as it existed, and with which ancient traditions are so strongly connected.²⁸ Our excavation could only make very modest approaches to those early contexts, by drilling tests and by a very small sounding opened in square D6. The drilling tests went 2 m below the level of the 7th-century debris layer, and produced evidence for human activity at that depth; it is now certain that the layer of river pebbles which was encountered by the French archaeologists and considered by them as the virgin soil, is just one more trace of those flooding episodes created by the nearby river which covered thick cultural layers from earlier periods.²⁹ The four Early Helladic bronze pins which were recovered by us from secondary contexts (**BrN-P 1–4**) may give an idea as to how far back in time those layers may conceivably reach.³⁰

After 1994, only one limited season of excavation was arranged in 2004, under the direction of Dr Tarditi and the author, and with the assistance of a few Norwegian, Italian and American students.³¹ (*Fig. 10*) Rather than as a regular excavation, it was intended as a clean-up operation in the upper part of the trench (squares C-D 8-9) where it had not been systematically investigated in the 1990s; it involved eliminating a baulk which had

been left standing between the squares D7 and D8, and removing remaining material of post-antique date down to the level of the Classical and post-Classical sanctuary elsewhere. The principal discovery was a burial with an almost complete, male skeleton burial found with some glazed pottery which helped to date him, and probably also his fellows from the other tombs, to the 11th or 12th century A.D.;³² and some inscribed symbols on one of the marble blocks found together with the Hellenistic statue in 1992, symbols which are also found on some blocks reused in the porch of the village church nearby.³³ These discoveries must be viewed in connection with the Byzantine walls at the site reported by the early excavators, which indicate that a building complex of some importance existed here in that period.³⁴

In the general context of the sanctuary, the part of the northern sector excavated by us now appears as a sort of continuous trial trench 10 to 15 m wide through the northern part of the sanctuary. The results from this trial trench are not spectacular. In particular, it was a surprise that no ancient buildings or monuments, apart from those already known, were found. But, we did find evidence for such buildings in the neighbourhood, in the form of building material such as the fine marble capital of early 5th-century date (**ArchN-St 1**) and a coarse geison block also of marble (**ArchN-St 2**). Two pieces of Archaic architectural terracottas (**ArchN-Tc 2–3**) are of early 6th-century date and contemporary with the Archaic temple, but too small to be connected with it; they demonstrate that the architectural activity, already in the late 7th or

²⁷ On this question, see the observations in Voyatzis, *Sanctuary*, 24–5.

²⁸ For these, see the discussion in *Tegea I*, section **i** (Østby), 11 with note 4.

²⁹ See section **iv** (Tarditi), 58 and 80–4.

³⁰ The pins are discussed in the catalogue section **ix** (Voyatzis), 165 and 168. From the temple excavation both Early Helladic and Final Neolithic pottery was recovered; see *Tegea I*, section **iv** (Forsén).

³¹ See the report section **vi** (Tarditi).

³² See section **vi** (Tarditi), 99–101, and section **xxii** (Ingvarsson-Sundström), 437 no. **Sk 16**, for the skeleton.

³³ For a discussion of these symbols, see section **xxi** (Nicolardi).

³⁴ For a brief survey of the evidence, see section **i** (Østby), 25–6.

early 6th century B.C., did not concern the temple alone, but also involved secondary buildings such as stoas, and perhaps smaller, secondary temples.³⁵ Such buildings will probably be found to either side of our trench, quite likely located near the northern limit of the sanctuary which they may help to identify. Buildings or monuments in front of the projecting foundation from the Classical temple may have been avoided if the unencumbered view from the platform towards Mount Lyrkeio was a concern,³⁶ but they may be close by; marble blocks have been reported by a former inhabitant underneath the now demolished Demopoulos house, in a delicate position close to the sacred fountain.³⁷

Not all of the layers in the northern sector were rich in material, but some were. Of the about 920 objects registered in the preliminary finds protocol from the excavation, more than 600 came from the northern sector. The group of bronze objects is particularly impressive (335 catalogued objects, particularly pins, 104, and rings, 103; 208 objects from the temple, with 46 pins and 64 rings), but there was also a rich harvest of lead objects (figurines, rings etc.: 63 catalogued objects, only two from the temple), of terracotta objects also from later periods (77 objects, against 41), and some of iron (14, against 15). The temple had more objects of gold (16, against 2), bone (29, against 17), glass (19, against 10), but not of stone (21, against 53). There are objects which do not appear in the material from the temple at all, such as the fragments of bronze vessels (22 catalogued pieces, and many more fragmentary), the coins (15 pieces, nine or ten of them ancient), and the 26 catalogued pieces of architectural fragments, some from the Classical temple, but also from other unidentified buildings. The Hellenistic statue from a medieval context is so far the only significant piece of sculpture which has been recovered.

The comparison cannot be equally precise for pottery, which was not registered in the same way; but the enormous harvest of fine, early pottery sherds from the temple excavation (816 catalogued pieces) corresponds to only about 160 from the northern sector (plus 74 catalogued items of miniature pottery, against 130 from the temple sector³⁸). While most of the small objects are in the northern sector as in the temple of Geometric and Archaic date, thus reflecting only to a modest degree the date of the contexts where they were found (for reasons explained above, and in the reports), this is different for the pottery, where we have from the northern sector considerable amounts of Late Archaic (45 catalogued sherds) and Classical (56) pottery which

is absent from the temple excavation. From the earlier periods (Geometric and Protocorinthian) we have only 36 catalogued pieces,³⁹ from the later (after about 300 B.C.) only 24.⁴⁰ These quantities clearly reflect the dates of the layers which have been excavated, and they do not yet in the northern sector include those contemporaneous with the Geometric contexts from the temple sector which have provided so much impressive material from those periods. It is clear that there was activity also in this part of the sanctuary already in the Geometric period, but it remains to be seen how its status and function will be reflected in the material which future excavation may recover there.

Our work in the northern sector was not directed by very precise, methodological considerations; it was pragmatic, taking as our point of departure the earlier work at the same site. We were hoping to make sense of that earlier work, but adapted the process with flexibility to the situations as they appeared. Since the area was so poorly known beforehand, those situations were almost always unexpected. For that reason, the results are in a very emphatical sense preliminary: they have opened up a lot of questions, but have hardly at any point provided definitive answers to them. Only a far more extensive excavation in either direction, in the Demopoulos plot to the east and in the state-owned area to the west, can give such answers. But for such future projects our results will be useful, since we have, although in a limited area, an almost continuous stratigraphical record of the sector, from the 19th century A.D. back to the 7th century B.C. We also have some evidence for structures which must have existed nearby, and for a problem which must have been crucial throughout the entire period of the sanctuary's existence and was faced and solved in different ways throughout the centuries: the presence of the river close by, with its occasionally destructive behaviour. Throwing some light on this aspect of the conditions under which the sanctuary operated is perhaps the most important, single result of our efforts in the sector north of the temple. We have also had the pleasure of reopening the investigation in one of the last large, Classical sanctuaries in Greece where the entire external part of the sanctuary, the greater part of its area, had until then remained almost untouched by excavation. Seen in this context, our efforts in the years from 1990 to 1994 and in 2004 can only be seen as a very modest beginning of something which may go on for a long time into the future.

³⁵ See the catalogue of this material, section xv (Østby). Written sources indicate that a separate temple for Asklepios may have existed in the sanctuary; see the discussion in section i (Østby), 24.

³⁶ For this question, see the considerations in *Tegea I*, section i (Østby).

³⁷ I owe this information to Mr G. Demopoulos, who now lives in the USA.

³⁸ For this material, including the pieces from the northern sector, see *Tegea I*, section v (Hammond).

³⁹ Catalogued in section vii (Voyatzis).

⁴⁰ Including five catalogued pieces from the Byzantine period. The sherds are catalogued in section viii (Iozzo), with the prefixes **HR** (Hellenistic and Roman) and **L** (Byzantine).

The topographical system

The grid net on which the topographical system of the excavation was based, was established in the autumn 1989 by the Norwegian architects Dag Iver Sonerud and Hans Olav Andersen, and has remained unchanged ever since. (See the introduction to *Tegea I, Pl. 1*)

The x- and y-axes were laid out as closely as possible according to the orientation of the Classical temple; they are for that reason close to precise east–west (x) and north–south (y), but with a deviation of 6.3° (360° system) east of magnetic north for the y-axis. They cross at a 0-point on the foundation for the wall separating the opisthodom from the cella, on the rear of the two lines of blocks, 0.50 m from the rear edge, 12.97 m from the western edge of the peristasis foundations, 4.35 m from the southern edge of the naos foundations, and 8.99 m from the external edge of the peristasis foundations. The point is marked with a cross in yellow paint on the foundation block, and has occasionally been refreshed in later years. There are other marks in the same yellow paint for the x-axis, still visible, on the marble blocks from the southern inner stylobate of the Archaic temple, which the axis follows. One such marking for the y-axis can still be found on the remains of a ruined village house close to the road at the northern limit of the site, and there is another on the southern edge of the peristasis foundation.

The grid is set up with 5 × 5 m large squares, which are identified with an alphanumeric system using upper case letters for the east–west and numbers for the north–south directions (x- and y-axes respectively). In the positive (north-eastern) quadrant these indications are used without additions. For the other quadrants, a 0 is added in front of the letter or number whenever the square is located in a quadrant south of the x- and/or west of the y-axis. There was very little need for those additions during the 1990–94 excavation.

The grid net has not yet been coordinated with the official Greek topographical systems. It has not to our knowledge been used by or coordinated with the topographical survey of the sanctuary which was carried out by the Greek Archeological Service in recent years.

The levels were taken from a different reference point: the upper surface level of the blocks from the marble euthyteria preserved in their original position on the foundation for the southern external colonnade of the Classical temple. The height above sea level is 673 m. Practically all levels referred to in the publication were lower than this, and are consequently supplied with a – in front.

Sonerud and his colleagues Svein Dybvik and Daniel Sjöfors completed the general site plan (scale 1 : 100) in the years 1990–92. Their work is the basis for the general site plan *Pl. 1* in the introduction to volume I, and for other plans published in these volumes. Some corrections and supplements to the site plan were made by Sigrid Eliassen and Richard Anderson during a short campaign in July 2004, when certain changes in the surroundings (such as the demolition of the Demopoulos house) were registered; some further adjustments were made during the summers 2011 and 2012 with the assistance of David Hill, who also took care of the final presentation. However, the plans of the site and the architectural remains presented here describe the situation as it was in the years when the excavation was carried out, and do not include changes at the site in later years.

References and abbreviations, typographical conventions

References in notes and catalogue entries follow as closely as possible the system adopted by the *American Journal of Archaeology* (111, 2007, 3–34). Periodicals, other publication

series and standard works of reference listed there are cited with these abbreviations, but are written in full if not included there (with the exceptions listed below). References to ancient authors follow the abbreviations listed in *Oxford Classical Dictionary* (3rd ed. 1996, xxix–liv).

For the systems adopted for the catalogue numbers, see the tables on the introductory pages to sections **vii** and **ix** (Voyatzis) and **viii** (Iozzo). Those numbers are always in bold type, and include an **N** after the indication of material when they refer to an object found in the northern sector, catalogued in this volume (e.g. **BrN-R 12**; **BoN 4**); there is no such indication for objects from the temple excavation, catalogued in volume I. Numbers of stratigraphical units (in the excavation reports, and elsewhere) include the number of the topographical square, with an eventual subdivision (e.g. E6, C1d) and then, separated with a slash, the number of the unit within that context (e.g. B1Sa/4, C5/42). These numbers are italicized when they refer to certain or likely postholes. When several such numbers in a sequence refer to the same square number, this number is omitted after the first unit, and the following numbers begin with a slash (e.g. D1/26, /27, /29). A hyphen and a number after such a number indicates the find number of an object (F. no.; e.g. D1/26-5), which was applied in the field before storage. Better objects (apart from pottery), which were later to be catalogued and published, received a so-called Tex number in the preliminary protocols, and storage was (and still is) organized according to those numbers; for this reason they are included in all catalogue entries when they exist, and a concordance based on them is provided at the end of the volume (Appendix 1). These numbers were applied consecutively as the objects came into the finds department, regardless of their provenance; numbers not included in this volume concern objects from the temple sector, which can be found in *Tegea I*. Inventory numbers (Inv. no.) in the catalogues refer to the official numbers in the inventory protocols of the Tegea museum.⁴¹

Within each section of this publication a paper or book is fully referenced where it appears if it is cited in that section only once; with the author's surname and publication year if cited in the same section more than once, and with a full listing in a bibliography at the end of the section concerned. References to certain works with numerous contributions by different persons are referred to in the same way, using the name of the individual contributor before indicating the name of the editor(s) and the year of the volume; the particular contribution(s) are then listed in the bibliography at the end of the section, as well as (separately) the volume itself.

For certain works and series not included in the *AJA* list which are repeatedly cited in more than two contributions, the following abbreviations are used in all sections in this volume.

- Dugas, *Sanctuaire* = Ch. Dugas, "Le sanctuaire d'Aléa Athéna à Tégée avant le IV^e siècle," *BCH* 45, 1921, 335-435.
 Dugas *et al.*, *Tégée* = Ch. Dugas, J. Berchmans and M. Clemmensen, *Le sanctuaire d'Aléa Athéna à Tégée au IV^e siècle*, Paris 1924.
 Norman, *Temple* = N. Norman, "The temple of Athena Alea at Tegea," *AJA* 88, 1984, 169–94.
 Milchhöfer, *Untersuchungsausgrabungen* = A. Milchhöfer, "Untersuchungsausgrabungen in Tegea," *AM* 5, 1880, 52–69.

⁴¹ The pottery from the northern sector had not yet been formally inventoried when the publication went to print. Consequently, those catalogues (sections **vii–viii**) lack these numbers.

Østby *et al.*, *Report* = E. Østby, J.-M. Luce, G.C. Nordquist, Ch. Tarditi and M.E. Voyatzis, "The sanctuary of Athena Alea at Tegea: First preliminary report (1990-1992)," *OpAth* 20, 1994, 89–141.

Pakkanen, *Temple* = J. Pakkanen, *The temple of Athena Alea at Tegea. A reconstruction of the peristyle column* (Publications by the Department of Art History at the University of Helsinki 18), Helsinki 1998.

Voyatzis, *Sanctuary* = M.E. Voyatzis, *The early sanctuary of Athena Alea at Tegea and other Archaic sanctuaries in Arcadia (SIMA-PB 97)*, Göteborg 1990.

Series:

BiblArchEt = Βιβλιοθήκη της εν Αθήναις Αρχαιολογικής Εταιρείας.