

Erik Østby:
THE NORWEGIAN EXCAVATION PROJECT
IN THE SANCTUARY OF ATHENA ALEA AT TEGEA:
AN INTRODUCTION

My first visit to the site of the sanctuary of Athena Alea at Tegea took place on an icy December morning in 1977. It was impossible for me then to foresee how important this place would become for Norwegian archaeological activity in Greece, including my own, some years later; but the archaeological importance of what I had just observed was clear to me even then. At the time I was a research fellow from the University of Oslo, based at the Norwegian Institute in Rome where I was preparing a doctoral dissertation on early Greek sculpture in Sicily, but had taken a few months of leave for a visit to Greece in order to look for comparisons and parallels. As a guest of the Swedish Institute at Athens, since no Norwegian institute existed there at the time, I had understood that quite a few temple sites existed in Greece which had not been adequately studied and could deserve more attention. At one such site, Karthaia on the island of Kea, it had already been possible for me to do some initial fieldwork earlier in the same autumn.

Tegea was a far more renowned and easily accessible site than Karthaia, and one would have expected research to have gone on continuously in the wake of the fundamental investigations carried out by the French School at Athens in the early 20th century. Consequently I was somewhat surprised to discover that this was not the case, that very little fieldwork had been done there and still less had been written about the site since the large French publications of the 1920's.¹ When I studied the in many ways admirable French publication of the Classical temple at the site in the library of the Swedish Institute earlier in the autumn, I could not help noticing what appeared to be a strange mistake: those parallel foundations which stretched lengthways through the cella of the Classical temple, but clearly could not have anything to do with that building, had to be remains of an earlier temple, the one which according to Pausanias had been destroyed by a fire in 395 B.C., and not those of an Early Christian or Byzantine church, as that publication

had concluded.² This was what I could confirm during this first personal visit to the site, lasting for about one hour in a temperature well below zero.

Happy with this discovery I walked to the small museum nearby and was received by the museum guard, Nikos Repas, with a cup of hot and sweet, Greek coffee. This was the beginning of a lifelong friendship with him and his wife Panagoula, who were later to provide invaluable support for our relations with the local community and for dealing with various practical problems which emerged when my initial observations after some years had developed into a large-scale excavation.

But first that initial discovery had to be published, and getting there took some time. For the necessary topographical survey and precise plan drawing of the early temple remains I received a small grant from the Norwegian Research Council (then NAVF) in 1983, and I was then able to hire two young Norwegian architecture students, Dag Iver Sonerud and Sverre Svendsen, for this basic work. Thanks to their efforts the basis was laid for the concise article which appeared in the *Opuscula Atheniensia* of the Swedish Institute in 1986,³ where the remains of the early temple were explained for what they are. A short notice on the same subject appeared in the Greek *Athens Annals of Archaeology* at about the same time,⁴ and early in the following year I could give a public announcement at Athens at a seminar on recent developments in Arcadian archaeology arranged by the Austrian and Canadian institutes.

To my knowledge no serious attempt has later been made to challenge this result, but there were rumours that some colleagues still thought that these remains had to be Byzantine, after all. The obvious way to settle this issue

² Dugas *et al.*, *Tégée*, 11–3.

³ Østby, *Temple*. At the same time, an American scholar had made the same observation, but without pursuing it further: N.J. Norman, "The temple of Athena Alea at Tegea," *AJA* 88, 1984, 171.

⁴ E. Østby, "The Archaic temple of Athena Alea at Tegea," *AAA* 17, 1984 (1986), 118–24.

¹ Dugas, *Sanctuaire*; Dugas *et al.*, *Tégée*. (An explanation of these abbreviations is provided at the end of this section.)



Figure 1. Aerial photograph of the sanctuary of Athena Alea at Tegea, taken after the conclusion of our excavations. (Photo: A. Loxias)

in a definitive way was to arrange an excavation and see if the stratigraphical contexts of these foundations could provide evidence for their date. Although my training as a Classical archaeologist from the University of Oslo had been purely theoretical and involved no experience of practical excavation, I had by then already gathered some such experience as field director of a joint Swedish and Italian mission at the temple site at nearby Pallantion, in 1984. This experience had been pleasant and positive, and encouraged me to consider a similar undertaking at Tegea, at a similar, modest level – just a couple of small soundings in the available area between the Archaic foundations, only what was necessary to get rid of their Byzantine date for good.

Nonetheless, even for such an undertaking I needed collaborators with a better knowledge than mine of excavation techniques and of the materials we could expect to find, just as I had needed at Pallantion. Norwegian archaeologists with relevant experience were not to be found, but it turned out that collaborators were available elsewhere. For some time I had already been in touch with Mary Voyatzis, a young American archaeologist with strong family ties to Arcadia, who by the end of the 1980s completed a doctorate at the University of London with a thesis on the early find material from Tegea and other Arcadian sanctuaries.⁵ This was precisely the sort of

material we hoped to find at Tegea and needed a competent person to study. Getting her interested and positively involved in the project was a major asset for its realization. For the excavation itself I hoped to obtain the services of Dr Mario Iozzo, my colleague from the Italian School who had already worked with me at Pallantion; he signed up for the season we planned for the summer of 1989, for which it had been possible to obtain some funds from Norwegian and American sources, and for which an application was once again submitted to the Greek authorities through the Swedish Institute at Athens. A similar Norwegian institution was now under way, but had not yet been established.

There were initial problems with this application, but the assistance from the Swedish Institute – whose director at the time, Professor Robin Hägg, is to be warmly thanked for his efforts on my behalf at this and other occasions during my early years in Greece – brought forth an unexpected solution: we were invited not to limit the project to small and limited soundings inside the temple, but rather to extend the project to a full five-year investigation of the sanctuary, where not much work had been done after the end of the French investigations before the First World War. Back in the 1970s there had been plans for a reopening of the excavations in the area north of the temple, where abandoned houses and plots caused by large-scale emigration had made it possible for the Greek ephorate and the French School at Athens to acquire a few such abandoned plots with a view to

⁵ Published as Voyatzis, *Sanctuary*.

an archaeological collaboration. This project was not realized, but the ephorate of Laconia and Arcadia under the direction of Dr Giorgios Steinhauer had in 1976 and 1977 made a few soundings in this area. The results were interesting, but nothing had been published.⁶ Since it now appeared that the direction of the Greek Archaeological Service wanted us to include also this part of the sanctuary in our five-year project, we were faced with the task of organizing and funding, at short notice, a considerably more extensive undertaking than was originally planned. But the invitation, and the challenge, to set up such a project in such an important sanctuary was too tempting to refuse, and it gave a marvellous flying start to the archaeological activity of the Norwegian Institute at Athens, which had just been inaugurated in May 1989.

After the situation with the Archaeological Service had been cleared up, with two prominent Greek archaeologists included as formal collaborators (Theodoros Spyropoulos, ephor of the area, whom we found helpful and supportive throughout the project period; and Angelos Delivorrias, former ephor of the district and then director of the Benaki museum in Athens, who was instrumental in resolving the initial problems with the Service), the project could start late in the autumn of the same year with a topographical survey of the sanctuary over a couple of weeks. This was carried out by two young, Norwegian architects, Dag Iver Sonerud (who had also participated in the 1983 survey of the Archaic temple) and Hans Olav Andersen.

It was perfectly clear, however, that the very limited Norwegian group of Classical archaeologists, and the scarce resources which the newly-born Norwegian Institute could spare for research activity of this kind, would be absolutely insufficient for the demands of such a project. Only an extensive international collaboration, enlarged beyond the small group which had originally been involved, could resolve this situation. However, interest in the site was now awakening elsewhere, and help was forthcoming. The French School, with its traditional ties to Tegea, not only generously allowed us to work at the site and on the plot which had been acquired by them in the 1970's north of the temple, but they also wanted to be included in the collaboration by letting us use at their expense one of their young archaeologists. In this way we were able to include in our team Dr Jean-Marc Luce, now a professor at the University of Toulouse, who worked with us directing an excavation group in the northern sector for all the five years of our excavation. The director of the School during those years, professor Olivier Picard, is to be warmly thanked for this generosity. Another group working north of the temple was directed by a young Italian archaeologist and former member of the Italian School, Dr Chiara Tarditi, whom we were able to enlist thanks to the mediation of the then director of the Italian School, professor Antonino Di Vita. She now teaches Classical archaeology at the branch of the Università Cattolica at Brescia. Unfortunately,

when we were ready to start the project, Mario Iozzo had become so involved with his archaeological career in Italy that he could no longer take care of the excavation in the temple, as I had originally hoped. To replace him I found an extremely well-prepared and competent person for the unexpectedly complicated and delicate excavation between the Archaic foundations: Dr Gullög Nordquist, a member of the Swedish Institute where I had known her for many years. She has now retired from her position as professor of archaeology at the University of Uppsala. A Swedish presence in the team was natural, given the generous support which the Swedish Institute had already given to my activities in Greece over many years, and Gullög's previous experience from prehistoric excavation sites in Sweden as well as in Greece has been fundamental for the success of the mission. Another corner-stone of the entire project was Dr Mary Voyatzis, now professor at the university of Arizona at Tucson, who brought to the project her unrivalled expertise on precisely the sort of early votive material which we hoped to – and did, abundantly – find, particularly in the excavation inside the temple. Her familiarity with the site, the local inhabitants and the language also helped enormously to overcome the various practical problems and awkward situations which any archaeological mission working in the Greek countryside must expect. The scale and quality of the efforts of these two collaborators are reflected in the space devoted to their contributions to the first volume of this publication, and it is a fair acknowledgement of what they have achieved that they have been singled out as Principal Authors on its title page.

The abrupt and unpredictable way in which the project had started meant that it needed time to find its definitive form and scale. The first season, in 1990, was short and involved few people: Voyatzis, Luce, Tarditi, and a handful of Norwegian, Swedish and Greek students. In the group we had for the first time also Knut Ødegård, then a research fellow from the Norwegian institute in Rome, who would closely link his archaeological career to Tegea in the years to come. Makeshift accommodation was found in an unused school building nearby, and through the ephorate we were able to hire a few Greek workmen; in later seasons, Nikos Repas and his local network took care of these needs for us. Work in this first season was limited to the sector north of the temple, where it soon became clear that the part close to the modern road, where one might expect to find evidence for secondary buildings, was occupied to a great depth by modern fillings. Somewhat closer to the temple the preliminary cleaning of the trenches after the earlier Greek excavations, and initial work in the surface layers, exposed burials from the Byzantine period and underneath them heavy and rock-hard silt layers from episodes of floodings in Early Medieval times; these layers had to be removed before ancient levels could be reached. These were initial observations, and gave us an idea of the extent of the task we had embarked on rather than tangible results; they also gave us necessary information

⁶ Briefly discussed in Voyatzis, *Sanctuary*, 24, fig. 4.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE NORWEGIAN EXCAVATION PROJECT AT TEGEA, 1990–96 AND 2004**1990: 23 July – 11 August (first field season)**

Stavroula Asimakopoulou (student assistant; Greece)
Svein Dybvik (architect; Norway)
Lena Johansson (student assistant; Sweden)
Allan Klynne (student assistant; Sweden)
Jean-Marc Luce (trenchmaster; France)
Ellen Marie Næss (student assistant; Norway)
Eivind Olsen (student assistant; Norway)
Dag Iver Sonerud (architect; Norway)
Chiara Tarditi (trenchmaster; Italy)
Mary E. Voyatzis (finds responsible; USA)
Knut Ødegård (field assistant; Norway)
Erik Østby (field director; Norway)

1991: 8 July – 3 August (second field season)

Stavroula Asimakopoulou (student assistant; Greece)
Kim Busby (student assistant; USA)
Eva Benedicte Gran (student assistant; Norway)
Lena Johansson (student assistant; Sweden)
Allan Klynne (student assistant, draughtsperson; Sweden)
Jean-Marc Luce (trenchmaster; France)
Gullög C. Nordquist (trenchmaster; Sweden)
Eivind Olsen (student assistant; Norway)
Susan Petrakis (field assistant; USA)
Vicky Rick (student assistant; USA)
Daniel Sjöfors (architect; Sweden)
Jørgen Richter Solstad (student assistant; Norway)
Dag Iver Sonerud (architect; Norway)
Chiara Tarditi (trenchmaster; Italy)
Mary E. Voyatzis (finds responsible; USA)
Knut Ødegård (field assistant; Norway)
Erik Østby (field director; Norway)

1992: 6 – 31 July (third field season)

Jørgen Bakke (student assistant; Norway)
Rolf Bade (student assistant; Norway)
Eva Benedicte Gran (student assistant; Norway)
Margaret Hall (finds assistant; USA)
Mario Iozzo (trenchmaster; Italy)
Lois Kain (draughtsperson; USA)
Marianne Knutsen (student assistant; Norway)
Jean-Marc Luce (trenchmaster; France)
Gullög C. Nordquist (trenchmaster; Sweden)
Eivind Olsen (student assistant; Norway)
Christel Palmquist (student assistant; Sweden)
Susan Petrakis (field assistant; USA)
Tom Pfauth (field assistant; USA)
Jørgen Richter Solstad (student assistant; Norway)
Roy Svensson (student assistant; Sweden)
Chiara Tarditi (trenchmaster; Italy)
Mary E. Voyatzis (finds responsible; USA)
Tracy Verkuilen (student assistant; USA)
Eva Ödell (student assistant; Sweden)
Knut Ødegård (field assistant; Norway)
Erik Østby (field director; Norway)

1993: 5 July – 6 August (fourth field season)

Yvonne Backe-Forsberg (field assistant; Sweden)

Jørgen Bakke (student assistant; Norway)
Hilde Viker Berntsen (student assistant; Norway)
Jonas Eiring (student assistant; Sweden/Denmark)
Øystein Ekroll (architect; Norway)
Kristina Engwall (student assistant; Sweden)
Terje Hofso (student assistant; Norway/Sweden)
Lena Johansson (student assistant; Sweden)
Christina Maria Joslin (student assistant; Sweden/Norway)
Lois Kain (draughtsperson; USA)
Allan Klynne (student assistant, draughtsperson; Sweden)
Marianne Knutsen (student assistant; Norway)
Kari Charlotte Larsen (student assistant; Norway)
Jean-Marc Luce (trenchmaster; France)
Maria Lundgren (student assistant; Sweden)
Teresa Moreno (student assistant; USA)
Deborah Newton (student assistant; USA)
Gullög C. Nordquist (trenchmaster; Sweden)
Jari Pakkanen (architectural specialist; Finland)
Tom Pfauth (field assistant; USA)
Christina Risberg (field assistant; Sweden)
Heather Russell (student assistant; USA)
Jørgen Richter Solstad (student assistant; Norway)
Birgit Tang (student assistant; Denmark)
Chiara Tarditi (trenchmaster; Italy)
Lia Tsesmeli (field assistant; Greece)
Mary E. Voyatzis (finds responsible; USA)
Knut Ødegård (trenchmaster; Norway)
Erik Østby (field director; Norway)

1994: 4 July – 5 August (fifth field season)

Anne-Claire Chauveau (student assistant; France)
Øystein Ekroll (architect; Norway)
Anna Ekström (student assistant; Sweden)
Peo Ekström (field assistant; Sweden)
Fredrik Fahlander (field assistant; Sweden)
Eva Benedicte Gran (student assistant; Norway)
Håkon Ingvaldsen (numismatist; Norway)
Lena Johansson (student assistant; Sweden)
Christina Maria Joslin (student assistant; Sweden/Norway)
Lois Kain (draughtsperson; USA)
Marianne Knutsen (student assistant; Norway)
Knut Krzywinski (palynologist; Norway)
Jonathan Krzywinski (student assistant; Norway)
Jean-Marc Luce (trenchmaster; France)
Teresa Moreno (student assistant; USA)
Deborah Newton (student assistant; USA)
Gullög C. Nordquist (trenchmaster; Sweden)
Marianne Nystad (palynological assistant; Norway)
Jari Pakkanen (architectural specialist; Finland)
Tom Pfauth (field assistant; USA)
Frode Pilskog (student assistant; Norway)
Torbjørn Refvem (student assistant; Norway)
Christina Risberg (field assistant; Sweden)
Heather Russell (student assistant; USA)

Chiara Tarditi (trenchmaster; Italy)
Lia Tsesmeli (field assistant; Greece)
Tracy Verkuilen (student assistant; USA)
Mary E. Voyatzis (finds responsible; USA)
Erik Østby (field director; Norway)

1995: 26 June – 21 July (first study season)

Espen Amundsen (student assistant; Norway)
Yannis Bassiakos (metallurgical specialist; Greece)
Leslie Hammond (pottery specialist; USA)
Teresa Moreno (student assistant; USA)
Deborah Newton (assistant, photographer; USA)
Gullög C. Nordquist (archaeologist; Sweden)
Chris Nyborg (student assistant; Norway)
Jari Pakkanen (architectural specialist; Finland)
Petra Pakkanen (architectural assistant; Finland)
Heather Russell (student assistant; USA)
Tracy Verkuilen (student assistant; USA)
Mary E. Voyatzis (finds responsible; USA)
Erik Østby (project director; Norway)

1996: 24 June – 19 July (second study season)

Espen Amundsen (student assistant; Norway)
Jørgen Bakke (assistant, photographer; Norway)
Leslie Hammond (pottery specialist; USA)
Mario Iozzo (pottery specialist; Italy)
Marianne Knutsen (draughtsperson; Norway)
Jean-Marc Luce (archaeologist; France)
Marie Mauzy (photographer; Sweden/Greece)
Deborah Newton (assistant, photographer; USA)
Chris Nyborg (student assistant; Norway)
Jari Pakkanen (architectural specialist; Finland)
Tuula Pöyhiä (architect; Finland)
Dag Iver Sonerud (architect; Norway)
Chiara Tarditi (archaeologist; Italy)
Emmanuelle Vila (archaeozoologist; France)
Mary E. Voyatzis (finds responsible; USA)
Erik Østby (project director; Norway)

2004: 26 June – 16 July (supplementary field season)

Richard Anderson (architect; USA/Greece)
Silvia Baresi (student assistant; Italy)
Ayelet Blattstein (student assistant; USA)
Sigrid Eliassen (field assistant; Norway)
Matt McCallum (field assistant; Australia)
David Harris (student assistant; USA)
Tom Baefver Kopperud (student assistant; Norway)
Thomas Losnegård (student assistant; Norway)
Margharet Nicolardi (student assistant; Italy)
Gry Nymo (student assistant; Norway)
Tatiana Smekalova (geomagnetic specialist; Russia)
Sergej Smekalov (field assistant; Russia)
Chiara Tarditi (trenchmaster; Italy)
Laura Tomasini (student assistant; Italy)
Knut Ødegård (archaeologist; Norway)
Erik Østby (field director; Norway)



Figure 2. The temple excavation in 1992, with Building 2 below right and remains of Building 1 at a higher level, below left and behind the baulk. Jørgen Solstad to the right. (Photo: Østby)

on how to organize the work the following seasons in as productive a way as possible.

In the following seasons the project grew, slowly, but steadily. In 1991, Gullög Nordquist joined the team and started working in the trench between the Archaic foundations in the temple. Solid evidence for the Archaic date of those foundations, which was the reason why the project had been conceived in the first place, came forth almost immediately, as did the initial evidence for the earlier of the two successive Geometric cult buildings, Building 2. The later Building 1 was discovered in the next season, in 1992, when the trench was extended. (*Fig. 2*) That year, investigations were also started in the pronaos area of the Classical temple, leading to the initial discovery of the metal workshop; this part of the investigation was then pursued by two Swedish experts, Christina Risberg and Yvonne Backe-Forsberg, in 1993 and 1994. (*Fig. 3*) In the northern sector progress was slower, because Luce, Tarditi and their collaborators had to cut their way with simple means through the hard and sterile layers of clay and silt after the Early Medieval floods, and could not really start working on the ancient layers until 1993. The almost total lack of evidence for the long centuries of the Hellenistic and



Figure 3. Christina Risberg (left) and Tracy Verkuilen at work in the metal workshop, summer 1994. (Photo: Østby)

Roman periods, when it is clear from literary sources that the sanctuary was alive and functioning, remains an unexplained problem for further research; apart from a few coins and scraps of Roman glass, only the discovery early in the 1992 season of a Hellenistic marble statue, found in a medieval context, contributes to fill this gap for us. Underneath the surface apparently created by the work on the Classical temple in the second half of the 4th century B.C., which remained in use practically without changes until the end of antiquity, the results became more rewarding: a series of successive surfaces dated to the 5th and 6th centuries could be identified, and during the final 1994 season exciting discoveries were made of a wall of mud-brick, and a group of small stones whose function remains a mystery. We were also able to note some evidence for a series of structures at lower levels; these were probably somehow connected with attempts to control the behaviour of that river which, as was becoming clear, had played a decisive role in the development of the sanctuary. It is probably also in this context that we must understand the discovery made by Knut Ødegård in 1993, when he directed an excavation team of his own for the first time, of a large structure of mud-brick at the northern end of the excavation area, just underneath the level which had been reached with disappointing results during the first season.

During these first years the size of the team grew steadily, as more funds became available after the very meagre first two seasons. From the 1991 season onwards we received support from the Norwegian research council (NAVF), from 1992 also from the Swedish research council for humanities (HSFR) and from the National Geographic Society and other funds in the USA. We could thus extend the seasons (five weeks for the final stint in 1994), and were also able to take in more students and specialists for particular tasks which appeared as the work proceeded, and for which our extensive, international network proved absolutely essential. In 1993 and 1994 the team consisted of 29 persons (*Fig. 4*), and six-seven locally hired Greek workmen. One important addition from 1993 onwards was Jari Pakkanen, a Finnish archaeologist specializing in Greek architecture, who set up a separate project to



Figure 4. The team working at Tegea in 1993.

inventory and study the more than 800 blocks from the Classical temple which were lying scattered around the site. This material, supplemented with some new blocks that were discovered during the excavation, has provided significant new results for this building which remains one of the best documented examples of 4th-century B.C. monumental architecture. Some of Jari's studies have appeared elsewhere,⁷ but his catalogue and some important observations correcting previous publications are included in the second volume of this publication. His results are fundamental for the updated discussion of the temple which is included in the same volume.

On the whole, the progress of our excavation endorsed the old truth that the most important results of an excavation project always come at the end. During the very last days of the 1994 season, so late that it was not even possible to empty the pit completely, a votive pit (bothros) with material reaching back to the 10th century B.C. was discovered underneath the metal workshop in the pronaos area. (*Fig. 5*) Thanks to this fortunate last-minute discovery, which might easily have escaped us, we now know that the sanctuary existed as such at least two centuries before we have evidence for the earlier of the two cult buildings. Thus we can state with confidence that the sanctuary is one of the earliest safely attested ones in the Peloponnese. In addition to this, stray material of sherds and small objects of Mycenaean, Early Helladic and even Final Neolithic date suggests



Figure 5. Tracy Verkuilen at work in the bothros during the final days of the 1994 season. (Photo: Østby)

that human activity at the site may stretch far back into prehistoric periods; and both in the temple and in the northern sector preliminary drilling tests have confirmed that archaeological layers exist to a depth far below the levels it has been possible for us to investigate. We can at least consider the possibility that religious activity at the site may go as far back as the Bronze Age, but much more investigation and excavation at the site will be necessary before that question can be faced on a serious basis.

In short, we can be satisfied with the results of our five years of work. But even so, we know that we have just scratched the surface of what this site has to offer.

The study and documentation of the material we had recovered took two more years. The first season in the summer of 1995 was devoted to the material from the temple excavation, another in 1996 to the material from the northern sector. In the latter year we were honoured with an informal visit by Her Majesty Queen Sonja of Norway. (*Figs 6–7*)

⁷ J. Pakkanen, "The height and reconstruction of the interior Corinthian columns in Greek Classical buildings," *Arctos* 30, 1996, 153–64; *id.*, *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.



Figure 6. H.M. Queen Sonja (left) inspecting finds from our excavation, guided by Mary Voyatzis, during her visit in 1996. (Photo: J. Bakke)



Figure 7. Gullög Nordquist at work with her sherd material during the study season of 1995. (Photo: Østby)

More people with special knowledge and competence then became involved in our work, enlisted on a truly international scale. Through our connections with the French School and the French archaeological environment it was possible to obtain the services of Dr Emmanuelle Vila, who through the good offices of professor François Poplin came to the site and studied the animal bones for us. Afterwards Dr Nicolas Drocourt provided for us a short survey of the source material for the Byzantine period at Tegea. The two Swedish experts, Christina Risberg and Yvonne Backe-Forsberg, who assisted with the work in the metal workshop, collaborated with a Greek expert, Dr Yannis Bassiakos, to study the evidence for metalworking

which was discovered there. He has had samples analyzed at the Greek archaeometric laboratory “Dimokritos” and prepared the report which is published in this volume. Another Swedish expert, Dr Anne Ingvarsson-Sundström, studied the skeletal remains from the Byzantine tombs in the northern sector and prepared them for publication, and Dr Jeannette Forsén has dealt with prehistoric pottery for which she has a special competence. In 1996 Mario Iozzo came from his work at the archeological service of Tuscany in Italy to study the pottery from the northern sector for us. An American expert, Leslie Hammond, studied the not exactly attractive, but plentiful and interesting material of miniature votive pottery, more thoroughly than such

material has ever been studied before, as we believe. Her contribution to the publication is an abbreviated version of her PhD thesis on this material for the university of Missouri,⁸ but even so it is a more extensive study of such material than in any other publication of an excavation in Greece (to my knowledge). Another Anglo-American project developed from the excavation and included in our publication is the chemical analysis of the clay in a special group of pottery, the so-called Laconian Protogeometric, which was found in the early votive pit in such quantities that a local production for it was at first a possibility that had to be seriously considered. We now know that this is not so and that the origin is in all probability Laconian, thanks to the analysis of samples from those sherds which was initiated by Mary Voyatzis and carried out with the assistance of Dr Ian Whitbread the Fitch laboratory at the British School at Athens and with her close collaborators Thomas Fenn and Matthew Ponting. We could enlist Norwegian experts to deal with our coins (Håkon Ingvaldsen), with stone artefacts (Hege Agathe Bakke-Alisøy), and with the Hellenistic marble statue (Siri Sande). Since the lower layers at the site are safely sealed by the heavy silt deposits, they provide unusually (for Greece) good conditions for the conservation of pollen material, a project for an analysis of such material was initiated toward the end of the excavation, to be directed by Dr Knut Krzywinski from the University of Bergen. Because of lack of adequate funding the project could not be implemented as it was intended, but a preliminary study of some such samples was carried out by two of his master students, Anne Bjune and Anette Overland, and their MA theses from 1997⁹ are the basis of the report included here. Some similar work has also been added in later years: the geomagnetic study in the temple sector by the Russian expert Dr Tatyana Smekalova from the University of St Petersburg was carried out as late as 2004, as a spin-off from the general geomagnetical survey of the Tegean plain which was then started under the direction of Knut Ødegård. Thanks to the survey projects which have been carried out by him and his collaborators in those years we now have a better knowledge of the surrounding environment and the topographical context of the sanctuary; these results have also benefitted this publication, and are set out in the short, preliminary report co-authored by Ødegård and the Norwegian geologist Harald Klempe in the second volume. In 2004 a short, supplementary excavation season – the last one, so far – was carried out in the northern sector of the sanctuary under the direction of Chiara Tarditi with a small team of Norwegian and Italian students. A minor discovery of an epigraphical nature was made on this occasion by one of the Italian students, Margherita Nicolardi, and her report is included in the second volume of this publication.

⁸ Hammond, *MVV*.

⁹ A summary has been produced as an internal report from the Botanical Institute, University of Bergen: A.E. Bjune, A. Overland and K. Krzywinski, *Palynological investigations of the Athena Alea temple in Tegea, Greece*, Bergen 1997.

We know that with our project we have just scratched the surface of what this site has to offer for a long-term, archaeological investigation. It is not only a particularly important sanctuary site in Arcadia, it is one of the oldest and most important ones anywhere in the Peloponnese, and today it is almost the last large, Classical sanctuary site anywhere in Greece where most of the surface of the sanctuary remains untouched by earlier excavations so that it can become available for archaeological work carried out with modern methods and technologies. Our project was carried out using traditional methods, during the last years before the digital revolution which then totally changed the world of archaeological fieldwork. This has had consequences for the preparation of the publication, and was one cause of the delay: much of the paper-based documentation is old-fashioned and labyrinthine, written in three different languages, and during the editorial process it has revealed some shortcomings. It is our hope, however, that the publication will serve to draw attention to one of the most promising sites for the study of early Greek sanctuaries in the years to come. We know that our work has opened many questions, more than those which it has been possible to answer, and many of them are important. We have evidence for human activity at the site going unexpectedly far back in time, an almost continuous stratigraphy stretches from the late 7th century B.C. down to modern times, and architectural material which cannot be connected with any of the temples indicates that Archaic and Classical structures exist in the parts of the sanctuary which have not yet been touched. Much work remains to be done at this site.

Working in the summer months at Tegea, in the company of good colleagues and friends and eager, young students from as many as seven different nations, has been an unforgettable experience for me who directed this undertaking. The pleasant atmosphere during the daytime work and at the evening meals in the nearby taverna was an important factor for the positive results which were obtained. Contacts with the local community in the village of Alea have always been pleasant and friendly. The international composition of the team has in some ways been a challenge, but also a source of fine experiences and good memories.

The financial and practical support indispensable for such an undertaking was also truly international. Firstly we must thank the three principal financial sponsors: the NAVF (Norwegian Council of General Research, now NFR) in Norway (from 1991), the HSFR (Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences) in Sweden (from 1992), and the National Geographic Society in the USA (from 1992). More limited funds for particular purposes have been forthcoming from the Benneche Foundation at the University of Oslo, from the Nansen Foundation administrated by the Norwegian Academy of Sciences, from the Swedish Gunhild and Josef Anér Foundation, from the association Svenska Atheninstitutets Vänner (Friends of the Swedish Institute at Athens), and

from the University of Arizona, the American Council of Learned Studies and the Samuel Kress Foundation in the USA. Practical and also some financial support has been offered by the Norwegian and Swedish institutes, the French and Italian schools and the Tegeatikos Syndesmos in Athens. The expenses during the excavation seasons for our French trenchmaster, Dr Luce, were generously covered by the French School at Athens; for the 2004 season there were significant contributions from the University of Bergen and from the Università Cattolica at Brescia. These are all to be warmly thanked for the support which has made this undertaking possible. Thanks are also due to the staff of the ephorates of Arcadia and Laconia, and since 2002 of Arcadia only, for their assistance not only with the excavation, but also for the repeated visits for study purposes while the publication was prepared. After Dr Spyropoulos these ephorates have been directed by Dr A. Panagiotopoulou, Dr M. Petropoulos and Dr A.V. Karapanagiotou. Many people have assisted, in several countries, with the preparation of texts and illustrations or in other ways during the editorial process and with the preparation of the publication: Richard Anderson (Athens), Sofia Argyropoulou (Athens), Sigrid Eliassen (now Oslo), Alicija Grenberger (Uppsala), Rune Frederiksen (Athens), Suzanne Griset (Tucson), David Hill (Oslo), Annie Hooton (Athens), Lois Kain (Tucson), Nicolò Masturzo (Milan), Marie Mauzy (Athens), Matthew McCallum (now Oslo), Catherine Parnell (Athens), Kate Sarther (Tucson), and Patrick Talatas (Athens). Without their help my task these last years would have been impossible. We are also thankful to the Norwegian Research Council (NFR) and the Norwegian Institute at Athens for generous grants to cover the expenses of this publication.

Norway is not a nation with a heavy tradition in Classical archaeology, and certainly not in the Greek branch. Nevertheless we have, thanks to a fortunate, initial discovery, to the generosity of the Greek Archaeological Service and to the efforts and commitment of our international collaborators, had the privilege of initiating our archaeological activity in Greece at an unusually important and exciting site, in a way which would have been far beyond the modest resources of the small and newborn Norwegian Institute alone back in 1990. The responsibility for producing the publication and presenting the results to the Greek and international scholarly community in an adequate way has, however, remained with us. The preparation of this publication has taken more time than expected: dealing with and coordinating contributions from collaborators living in seven different countries on two continents has been a challenge, and we do not claim that the result is perfect – we have been faced with such an obligation for the first time. But we are aware of its importance, and have done our best to meet it.

While the preparation of this publication has been going on, Norwegian fieldwork in the area of Tegea has developed in other directions, slowly making the place

a cornerstone for Norwegian archaeological activity in Greece. Knut Ødegård and his collaborators have held a key position here, but their survey work and other projects have focused on an analysis of the landscape surrounding Tegea and on the urban centre, not on the sanctuary.¹⁰ We expect, however, that the results from our first excavation project in the sanctuary of Athena Alea, as they are presented here, will encourage work to be continued also there. In such a continuation also the Norwegian institute and Norwegian archaeologists want to participate. In short, we hope that our efforts at the site from 1989 to 1996 will turn out to be precisely what the title of this text suggests: an introduction.

The topographical system

The grid 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 *Pl. I*)

The x- and y-axes were laid out as closely as possible according to the orientation of the Classical temple; they are for this reason close to precisely 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 it has occasionally been refreshed in recent years. There are other marks in the same yellow paint for the x-axis, still visible, on the marble blocks of 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 by an alphanumerical system using upper case letters for the east–west directions 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 and/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 these additions during the 1990–94 excavation.

The grid 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 is 673 m above sea level. Practically all levels referred to in the

¹⁰ For preliminary accounts, see K. Ødegård, “The topography of ancient Tegea: new discoveries and old problems,” in Østby (ed.), *Arcadia*, 209–21, and *id.*, “Urban planning in the Greek motherland: Late Archaic Tegea,” in S. Sande (ed.), *Private and public in the sphere of the ancient city (ActaArtHist 23, N.S. 9)*, Rome 2010, 9–22. The publication of the survey carried out in the years from 1999 to 2001 is in preparation and will be the third volume of this series, *Tegea III*.

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, and Sonerud added a precise documentation of the remains of the Archaic temple in 1996, at a scale of 1 : 20. Their work is the basis for the general site plan *Pl. I* here, for *Pl. I* at section **i**, and 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 of 2011 and 2012, with the assistance of David Hill who also took care of the final presentation of the plan. 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 the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* (3rd ed. 1996, xxix–liv).

For the systems adopted for the catalogue numbers, see the tables on the introductory pages of sections **iii** and **vii** (Voyatzis) and **v** (Hammond). These 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 *Tegea II* (e.g. **BrN-R 12**; **BoN 4**); there is no such indication for objects from the temple excavation. Numbers of stratigraphical units (in section **ii**, 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 probable 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). When a hyphen and a number after are added, it indicates the find number of an object (F. no.; e.g. D1/26-5), which was applied in the field before further registration and storage. A special concordance at the end of the volume, based on these numbers, includes the coordinates where each object was discovered. 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 2). 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 northern sector, which can be found in *Tegea II*. Inventory numbers (Inv. no.) in the catalogues refer to the official numbers in the inventory protocols of the Tegea museum.¹¹

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 authors are referred to in the same way, using the name of the individual contributor before indicating the editor(s) and title 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. (A separate list has been set up for the second volume.)

- Coldstream, *Geometric Greece* = J.N. Coldstream, *Geometric Greece*, London 1977 (London and New York 2003²).
- Coulson, *Dark Age pottery* = W.D.E. Coulson, “The Dark Age pottery of Sparta,” *BSA* 80, 1985, 29–83.
- Drerup, *Baukunst* = H. Drerup, *Griechische Baukunst in geometrischer Zeit (ArchHom II.O)*, Göttingen 1969.
- 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.
- Fagerström, *Architektur* = K. Fagerström, *Greek Iron Age architecture (SIMA 81)*, Göteborg 1988.
- FM, FS = Furumark, *Motifs / Furumark, Shapes*. (From A. Furumark, *Mycenaean Pottery, Analysis and classification*, Stockholm 1941.)
- Hammond, *MVV* = L.A. Hammond, *The miniature votive vessels from the sanctuary of Athena Alea at Tegea* (PhD diss. University of Missouri-Columbia 1998), Ann Arbor 2000.
- Jost, *Sanctuaires* = M. Jost, *Sanctuaires et cultes d’Arcadie (Études péloponnésiques 9)*, Paris 1985.
- Lemos, *Aegean* = I.S. Lemos, *The Protogeometric Aegean*, Oxford 2002.
- Mazarakis Ainian, *From rulers’ dwellings* = A. Mazarakis Ainian, *From rulers’ dwellings to temples. Architecture, religion and society in Early Iron Age Greece (1100-700 B.C.)*, (SIMA 121), Jonsered 1997.
- Mendel, *Fouilles* = G. Mendel, “Fouilles de Tégée,” *BCH* 25, 1901, 241–81.
- Milchhöfer, *Untersuchungsausgrabungen* = A. Milchhöfer, “Untersuchungsausgrabungen in Tegea,” *AM* 5, 1880, 52–69.
- Østby, *Temple* = E. Østby, “The Archaic temple of Athena Alea at Tegea,” *OpAth* 16, 1986, 75–102.
- Østby (ed.), *Arcadia* = E. Østby (ed.), *Ancient Arcadia* (Papers from the Norwegian Institute at Athens 8), Athens 2005.
- 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.
- Schattner, *Hausmodelle* = Th.G. Schattner, *Griechische Hausmodelle (AM-BH 15)*, Berlin 1990.
- 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.

¹¹ The pottery from the northern sector had not yet been formally inventoried when the publication went to print. Consequently, those catalogues (*Tegea II*, sections **vii–viii**) lack these numbers.