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Archaeological field work in ancient Kalydon 2005

Second preliminary report

Søren Dietz & Maria Stavropoulou-Gatsi

Acknowledgements

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The following persons participated in the field work in Kalydon (2005):

Søren Dietz, director
(Maria Stavropoulou-Gatsi represented the Greek part)
Elizabeth Bollen, pottery
Irimi Gkion, architectural measurements
Sachiko Hemmi, conservator/excavator
Erik Ole Hjelms, excavation
Mikkel Mayerhofer, IT-responsible
Sacha Mauel, excavation
Leonidas Paulatos, conservator
Rikke Lund Pedersen, excavation
Ingrid Sofianou, photographer
Ben Streat, excavation

Spiros Pittas, technician
Apostolis Zarkadoulas, technician
and
Richard A. Tomlinson (16.10 to 27.10. 2005).

Preface

The recent Danish-Greek excavations at ancient Kalydon were initiated in 2001. The first four years of the campaign (2001–2004), previous field work, the history of the excavations as well as the aims and methods were described in the First Preliminary Report published in the *Proceedings of the Danish Institute at Athens V*, 2007, 35–60. The field work in October 2005 was the last and fifth excavation campaign in the new series of excavations in ancient Kalydon. Compared to the previous campaigns, the 2005 campaign was of restricted scale; the aim, first of all, was to get an impression of the plan and construction of the peristyle building partly excavated the previous years.

During the month of July 2005 a careful cleaning of the East Gate of the town was carried out by Sascha Mauel and a plan was drawn later the same year. In April 2006, a three-dimensional plan of the peristyle building was measured by Sigrid Rasdahl Eliassen and Matthew McCallum and supplementary geomagnetic surveys were carried out the same year. Finally, the walls, gates, and towers of Kalydon were studied during the study seasons in 2006, 2007 and 2008. The city inside the walls measures approximately 2.4 ha and of this approximately 80% consists of built up areas. Non-settled areas include the steep slopes on the SW of the Acropolis and WNW slope of

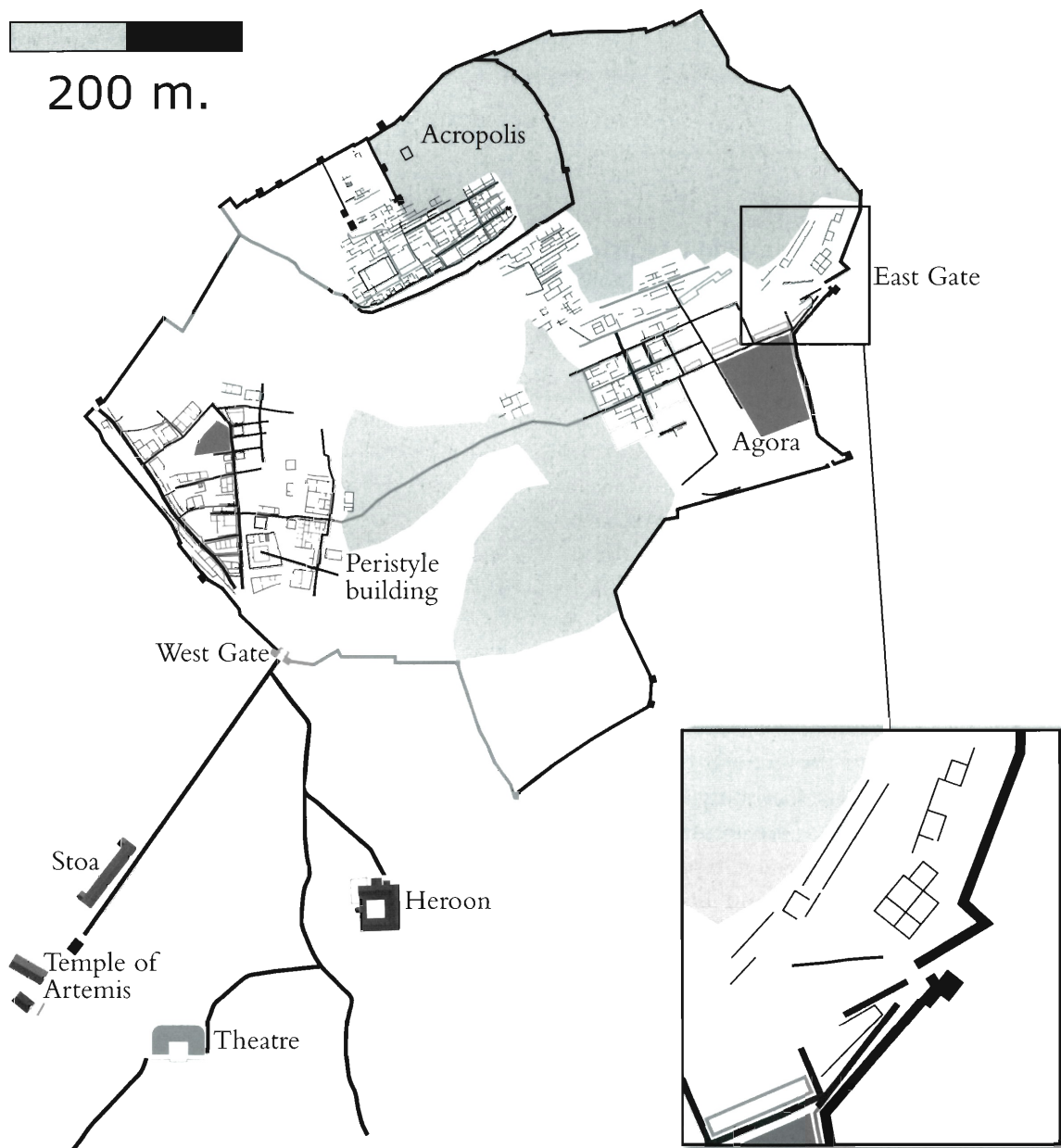


Fig. 1. General plan of ancient Kalydon (Produced by Mikkel Mayerhofer).

the South Hill, areas where there are no traces of structures or cultural remains on the surface.¹ The most spectacular area inside the walls without cultural remains is the area on top of the South Hill, which was probably used for pasture. No cultural remains were found in the suburban area to the north of the city (Fig. 1).

Systematic work towards the publication of these results has been ongoing since 2006.

The East Gate

The communication in and out of the town took place through four gates, two connected with the Lower Town in the western part of the city and two in the eastern part close to the Agora where, in addition, the only registered postern was found (Fig. 1).

¹ Geomagnetic surveys and field surveys undertaken.

Fig. 2. The East Gate from west. Photo: Ingrid Sofianou.



In July 2005 the East Gate was cleaned (Fig. 2) and later on during the same year, the plan of the gate was measured and drawn. In Dyggve's 1934 report only two gates were mentioned, the West Gate and the North West Gate in connection with "...einen direkten Fahrweg (from a passage crossing the Evinos) zu einem östlichen Stadttor denken ..."² Woodhouse gives somewhat confusing information about these gates. In addition to the main gate in the southern wall, there are five subordinate entrances. It seems possible that the four gates recorded in the present survey were already seen by Woodhouse, but we have not been able to locate the last two.³ Woodhouse provides an interesting observation: "Extreme simplicity of design characterises the Kalydonian gates, which are, besides, remarkably few in number – only six in a circuit of two miles. Both points are indications of an early date". The number of gates at Kalydon is, however, not unusually low.

The East Gate at Kalydon is an example of Winter's overlap gate (Winter Type II)⁴ which is regarded as one of the stronger gate types in the Bronze Age and Iron Age.⁵ Lawrence records fifty definite instances of such defensive walls with lateral openings.⁶ The gate at Kalydon is a rather

simple type placed where two curtains join at an oblique angle. The entrance is guarded on its left side as you approach the gate by a tower, and by the small guardroom set parallel with the opposite wall that blocks the entrance on its left side and leaves a rather small passage for traffic (3.70 m) (see Fig. 1). Vertical grooves on the stones on the inside of the gate indicate that a (wooden) door could be placed in the opening to block traffic during the night. The construction of the Kalydon gate is definitely simpler than the more developed types with a longer overlap from Mantinea⁷ and Stymphalos⁸ and is probably older. By the Hellenistic period, this type of gate was only used for secondary entrances.⁹ Near the gate's tower, a staircase was built against the wall on the NW side with a slope of 25 degrees.

² Dyggve *et al.* 1934, 20.

³ Woodhouse 1897, 98–9.

⁴ Winter 1971, 208.

⁵ The type is found regularly in the fortifications of Mycenae and Tiryns and in Emporio and Miletos (Kalabaktepe).

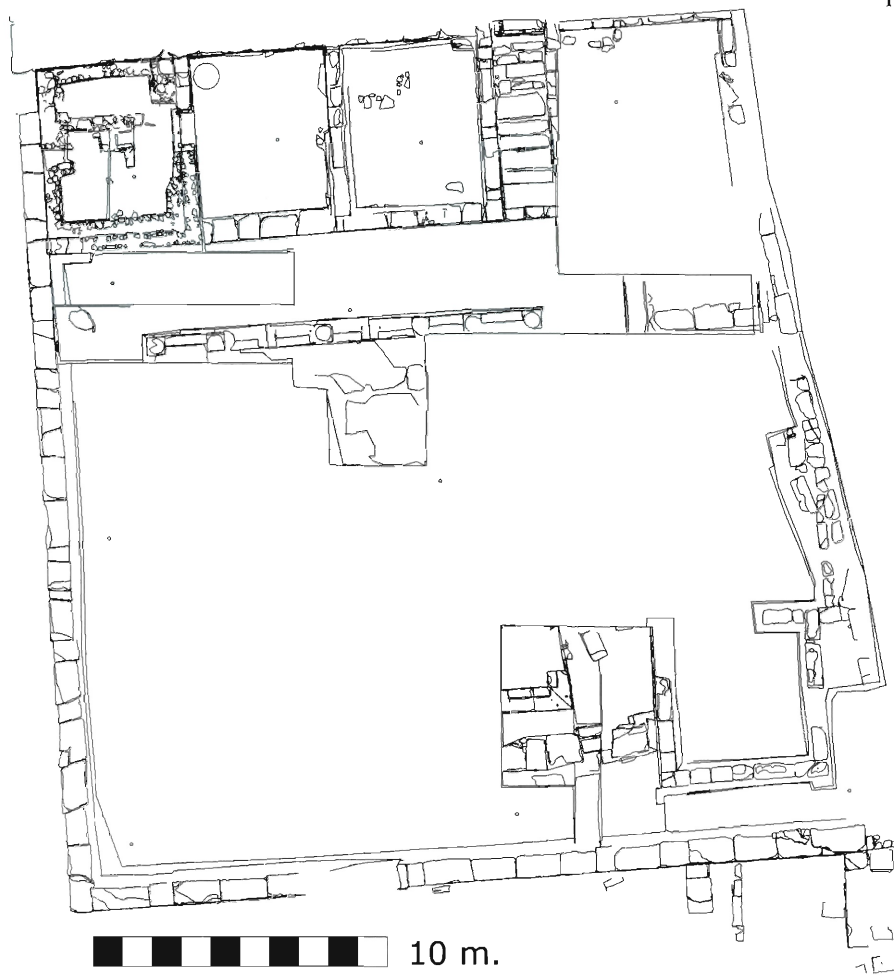
⁶ Lawrence 1979, 332. See also Adam 1982 on gates "à décrochement".

⁷ Adam 1982, 83, figs. 45–6, 371 BC.

⁸ Lawrence 1979, 335, fig. 75. Likewise from 371 BC.

⁹ Winter 1971, 215–22.

Fig. 3. The peristyle building after excavations in 2005.



It formed a *parados* leading to the tower. The East Gate should probably be dated around 400 BC.¹⁰

The peristyle building (Fig. 3)

In October 2005, a small excavation was carried out in the peristyle building.¹¹ Three trenches were opened here to gain clearer evidence for the construction of the building. They include a 2 m wide trench in the western part of the building (Fig. 4), a second 2 m trench in the eastern part of the building, and a third test of one square metre in the southern part of the building (Fig. 5). Figure 3 shows the structure after the 2005 campaign.¹²

Only the northern side and the southeast corner of the peristyle have been excavated. On the northern side the complete length of the euthyn-

teria (Fig. 4) is preserved; portions of the stylobate above are missing. In the south east corner only the foundation level is preserved (Fig. 5). Three courses of ashlar are visible on the east side with one more on the south side. The southern side may continue to the west while the portions of the euthynteria on the east side have been entirely removed at the northern end. The position and orientation of the constructions in the south east corner indicate that the peristyle was square. Sandstone was the material used for all of these constructions (with a few exceptions mentioned below).

The northern side of the peristyle originally supported eight columns; traces of six are preserved.

¹⁰ I am indebted to Professor Richard A. Tomlinson for discussions and dating proposals for this gate (SD).

¹¹ Dietz *et al.* 2007, 48–55.

¹² To be compared with fig. 13 in Dietz *et al.* 2007.



Fig. 4. The euthyteria in the western trench showing the north western corner of the peristyle.

The evidence suggests that the peristyle was square with a length of 13.60 m (measuring the length of the euthyteria). The peristyle on the eastern side has the same orientation as the foundation walls in the room in the south east corner of the building. This suggests that a foundation wall at a distance of three metres (as along the western side of the peristyle) existed parallel to the eastern side of the peristyle, indicating that rooms were situated along the irregular eastern wall of the building. This is supported by the foundation in the eastern trench, southeast of the staircase.

The closest parallel to the peristyle building is the Heroon located outside the walls of Kalydon.¹³ Although the new building inside the walls is only partly excavated, it appears that the buildings are rather similar. The building in the town is somewhat smaller, but both employ a peristyle with 8 columns on each side. Both buildings have entrances in the north eastern corner and in both cases, the cult activities are located along the north side. The columns in the later building are slimmer and the intercolumniation is considerably larger.

¹³ Dyggve *et al.* 1934.



Fig. 5. The trench in the south eastern corner showing the south eastern corner of the peristyle building.

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