

general) religion have been highly influenced by western religious paradigms and Judaeo-Christian monotheistic frameworks.<sup>7</sup> Thus, we need to reflect on how these approaches have usually framed and constrained our research questions, methodologies and interpretations. Meanwhile, the study of past religiosity often tends to neglect the human experience of the numinous (i.e. religion's embodied dimension). Exceptions can be found in phenomenological approaches (usually outside the discipline of Mediterranean archaeology), which have, however, tended to over-intellectualise experience rather than truly explore embodiment. A turn towards the archaeology of spiritualities acknowledges the importance of understanding sacred places for human communities in a holistic way. This approach investigates embodiment and necessitates engaging with living religious communities, whose expert knowledge, practices and religious beliefs can assist scientific enquiry.<sup>8</sup>

GIORGOS PAPANTONIOU  
UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS  
papantoniou.giorgos@ucy.ac.cy

- Baines, J. and E.A. Waraksa. 2017. Popular religion (Volksreligion), in H. Roeder (ed.) *Handbuch der Altägyptischen Religion*. Leiden: Brill (pre-print edition: <https://ora.ox.ac.uk/objects/uuid:846ba37f-e0a8-4f1f-a5bb-a731bf071924>).
- Briggs, R. 2011. Popular religion, in W. Doyle (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of Ancient Régime*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (DOI: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199291205.013.0018).
- Fuchs, M. and J. Rüpke. 2015. Religious individualisation in historical perspective. *Religion* 45.3: 323-329 (DOI: 10.1080/0048721X.2015.1041795).
- Korte, A.-M. and L. van Liere. 2017. Contesting religious identities: an introduction, in B. Becking, A.-M. Korte and L. van Liere (eds) *Contesting Religious Identities. Transformations, Disseminations and Mediations* (Numen Book Series 156): 1-7. Leiden: Brill.
- Papantoniou, G. 2016. Cypriot ritual and cult from the Bronze to the Iron Age: a *longue-durée* approach. *Journal of Greek Archaeology* 1: 73-108.
- Papantoniou, G. 2019. Unlocking sacred landscapes: the applicability of a GIS approach to the territorial formation of the Cypro-Archaic and Cypro-Classical polities, in G. Papantoniou, C.E. Morris and A.K. Vionis (eds) *Unlocking Sacred Landscapes: Spatial Analysis of Ritual and Cult in*

- the Mediterranean* (Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology 151): 3-21. Nicosia: Astrom Editions.
- Papantoniou, G. and N. Kyriakou. 2018. Sacred landscapes and the territoriality of Iron Age Cypriot polities: the applicability of GIS. *American Journal of Archaeology* 122: 541-577.
- Peatfield, A.A.D. and C.E. Morris. 2019. Space, place and performance on the peak sanctuary of Atsipadhes Korakias, Crete, in G. Papantoniou, C. E. Morris and A.K. Vionis (eds) *Unlocking Sacred Landscapes: Spatial Analysis of Ritual and Cult in the Mediterranean*. (Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology 151): 189-200. Nicosia: Astrom Editions.
- Rountree, K, C.E. Morris and A.A.D. Peatfield (eds). 2012. *The Archaeology of Spiritualities*. New York: Springer.
- Zeman-Wisniewska, K. 2015. A portable goddess. On performative and experiential aspects of figures and figurines, in S. Cappel, U. Güntel-Maschek and D. Panagiotopoulos (eds) *Minoan Archaeology Perspectives for the 21st Century*: 319-326. Louvain: Presses Universitaires de Louvain.

**Guy D. R. Sanders, Jennifer Palinkas, Ioulia Tzonou-Herbst, with James Herbst. *Ancient Corinth: Site Guide, 7th Edition*. pp. 208, with col. plates. 2018. Princeton NJ: The American School of Classical Studies at Athens. ISBN 978-0-87661-661-1, hardcover \$19.95.**

Since the beginning of the excavations in Ancient Corinth by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens in 1896, a multi-period, intricate stratigraphy of the urban landscape of this site has been unravelled. This century-long history of excavations in Ancient Corinth has been previously disseminated by six editions of the site guide published by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. Previous editions were curated by the ASCSA director Rhys Carpenter in 1928 and in 1933; the scholar Charles Morgan in 1936; Oscar Broneer in 1947 and 1951, whose 1951 edition was revisited by Robert Scranton in 1954; and, finally, Corinth director Henry Robinson in 1960.

The authors of this new 7th edition, therefore, have provided an up-to-date summary of the archaeological research carried out over the last 58 years by the American School of Classical Studies in Ancient Corinth, further set within the context

<sup>7</sup> Korte and van Liere 2017: 2-3.

<sup>8</sup> cf. Rountree, Morris and Peatfield 2012; Fuchs and Rüpke 2015.

of recent investigations carried out by the Greek Archaeological Service in this area. This guide, which appears as a compact, handy book suitable for curious tourists and for professional archaeologists alike, details a complex reading of the archaeological features of Ancient Corinth with comprehensible and concise language and supported by visual aids, including 178 coloured and black and white figures, most of which have been pulled from the American School Corinth Excavations Archives. Additionally, seven black and white archaeological plans are attached to this guide. On the back of this site guide, there is a coloured folded plan, the front side of which provides a map of the Forum Area with a list of the 47 monuments described in the chapter on this area. On the reverse, there is a modern map of Corinth and its surroundings with the locations of all the sites presented in the fourth chapter listed, along with indications of modern roads, topographical notes and points of interest.

A main feature of this site guide is to focus one substantial chapter on the major excavated area in the modern town of Ancient Corinth that primarily corresponds to the fenced archaeological site area known as the Roman Forum. However, the guide also introduces less popular destinations for casual visitors. These sites are presented in a chapter entitled 'Outside the Forum', which describes several sites surrounding Ancient Corinth, heading north towards the sites located along the seashore of the Corinthian gulf and, moving inland, east as far as the Kenchrean Gate and west towards the famous Potters' - Quarter. The visitor is guided to the south to discover the sacred space dedicated to the sanctuary of Demeter and Kore and to the majestic fortifications of Acrocorinth. This chapter, leading the tourist outside the traditional path for a visit to Ancient Corinth, encourages the visitor to discover and to enjoy a Mediterranean historic landscape.

To set things in context, the first chapter of this site guide provides a synthesis of the history of Ancient Corinth. Each paragraph is dedicated to diverse periods, beginning from paragraph no. 1. entitled, 'Prehistoric to Geometric periods (6500-700 BC)', no. 2. is on the 'Archaic Period (700-480 BC)', no. 3 is on 'Classical and Hellenistic periods (480-146 BC)', no. 4. is on 'Roman and Late Antique Periods (44 BC- 6th Century AD)', and finally the last section is on 'Medieval to Modern Periods (7th century AD-present)'. In these sections the major monuments that can be observed in the archaeological site are listed and are described in relation to the main historical events that determined their construction, their use and their ultimate abandonment or dismantlement. The goal of this first chapter appears

to be to bring the reader on a first tour through the profound transformations of the topography of Ancient Corinth over the centuries with the support of seven different site plans, each of which is based on scientific archaeological publications that are illustrated in the final pages of this guide.

The second chapter introduces the reader to the long history of the American School excavations at Corinth, providing fascinating archival photos and reproductions of paintings portraying Ancient Corinth's landscape in the 16th and 17th centuries. Among those, worth noting are the photos showing the landscape of Ancient Corinth before the archaeological excavations began and those showing the first years of the excavations and the substantial excavation crews. Photos of the temple of Apollo surrounded by the countryside, immediately communicates to the reader an idea of the tons of soil excavated during the first decades of the excavations, which created the artificial hill of excavation debris visible north of the Temple. The archival photos are also useful to illustrate how the methodology of archaeological research and the excavation procedures changed over the century-long history of excavations at the site. In 1896 research started with the goal of bringing back to light the major monuments that characterized the ancient topography of Corinth. Between 1925 and the 1940s research transitioned to investigating typological and chronological questions. These interests were further developed in major publications, volumes that have established Corinth as a reference site for archaeological research in the Mediterranean world. Some examples of this phenomenon would be volume VIII from the *Corinth* series on *Greek Inscriptions* by Benjamin Dean Meritt in 1931, volume VIII.2 on *Latin Inscriptions* by Allen Brown West (1931), volume VII.1 on *The Geometric and Orientalizing Pottery*, by Saul S. Weinberg published in 1943 and the volume on Byzantine ceramics, by Charles Morgan in 1942.

Additionally, in chapter 2 the authors highlight how, since the 1960s, another important change in the methodology of archaeological research adopted by American scholars has been implemented, which moved the research from monuments to 'people behind artefact', to misquote Sir Mortimer Wheeler. Under the directorship of C. K Williams II, the modern concept of archaeological excavations was fully adopted into the Corinth excavation to include a systematic documentation and analysis of the archaeological stratification. The new methods applied, significantly impacted on our current understanding of the urban landscape (pp. 24-26). The development of these archaeological

practices and recording strategies at Ancient Corinth over the last six decades led to the current excavation methodologies and recording system, as summarised in the *Corinth Excavations Archaeological Manual* and more recently to the adoption in the field of the digital app *iDig*.<sup>1</sup>

Furthermore, in this chapter the literature that has been generated since the beginning of the American excavations at Corinth is described and is further augmented with a complete list of the main publications concerning the excavations added at the end of the site guide (pp. 200-202). Finally, this chapter also lists the other main international projects that investigate the Corinthian landscape, providing a glimpse into the questions that have moved archaeological research throughout the long history of these American excavations. The reader and researcher interested in the Corinth Excavations can find more information in the extensive archive freely accessible online on ASCSA.net, an online archive mentioned on p. 7 in the foreword. This online archive includes objects and their records, photos, drawings, plans and excavation diaries since the beginning of the American excavations in Corinth.

The third chapter of this site guide provides a tour of the Forum area. This area encompasses the fenced area of the archaeological site, to which the authors add a paragraph on the Odeion and one on the Theatre, located northwest of the Forum area. The label 'forum' might be misleading since the reader is guided not only through the vestiges of the Roman colony of Corinth. This chapter presents all the major buildings and excavated features brought to light in an area that mainly corresponds to the Roman Forum, but it highlights the major phases of occupation from prehistory to modern times as documented in the archaeological record.

The visitor is conducted on a tour that does not include a visit or description of the site's archaeological museum, since a future publication will focus on the museum exhibitions. The tour begins south of the museum, from the site of the so-called Temple E. For each monument, directions of the route to follow are provided, along with suggestions for the best viewpoint. At the end of each monument entry relevant academic bibliography is listed for the monument under examination. The

archaeological record of each monument or area under discussion is described, explaining to the visitor the remains that are currently preserved/visible and providing historical, artistic, and architectural information on the area, as well as information on the interpretations of its intended use and any open questions. To make this description comprehensible to non-specialists the authors have included a glossary in the final section of this site guide, with definitions and contexts for technical words. Finally, diverse pencil drawings pulled from the Corinth Excavations Archive, together with new drawings, are included in this site guide, providing reconstructions of the elevation of each monument, along with a plan to show the full planimetry of the building under discussion.

Among the buildings included in this chapter, it is worth noting that visitors are introduced to the single architectural complex still closed to the public at the time of publication of the site guide and of this review, the so-called 'Frankish Area' (pp. 32-35). This complex is included based on its relevance in the context of Medieval archaeology and of public archaeology in Greece, both of which most likely impacted on the decision to present this neighbourhood to the general public. The Frankish complex becomes an extremely relevant example of a Medieval urban landscape, with a small church, located in Unit 2, set in the context of a market street area and in close proximity to a monastic complex. Moreover, close to this large open plaza, there was a hostel and a pharmacy, from which some artefacts are on display in the museum. The importance of this excavation, therefore, should be noted as an example of a Medieval neighbourhood, which can shed light on everyday secular and religious life disseminated to the public through its restoration and musealization. The director emeritus of Corinth Excavations, C. K. Williams II, began excavations in this area in the late 1980s to investigate the Roman temenos of Temple E, located beyond the west end of the Roman Forum, in order to determine the chronology and architectural history of this complex.<sup>2</sup> However, the significance of the Frankish architectural remains encountered during these excavations and the historic importance of the artefacts related to the Frankish domination in Corinth, led him to foresee the potential informative nature of this intricate neighbourhood; therefore, Williams decided to focus the excavations in this area for several years.<sup>3</sup> Excavations were renewed

<sup>1</sup> Sanders G. D. R., S. A. James, A. Carter Johnson, 2017. *Corinth excavations: archaeological manual*. Digital Press at the University of North Dakota. The digital app *iDig* was developed and field-tested by Bruce Hartzler at the Athenian Agora Excavations of the ASCSA. More information is available at: <http://idig.tips/>. It was implemented in Corinth for the first time in the 2018 excavation season under the directorship of Christopher Pfaff.

<sup>2</sup> Williams and Zervos 1990.

<sup>3</sup> Excavation reports on this area are: Williams and Zervos 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996; Williams, C. K., L. M. Synder, E. Barnes, and O. H. Zervos, 1997, 1998.

under Sanders' directorship, who promoted the restoration of the complex. The excavation of this area is a good example of the changed methodologies and research interests during the long history of the Corinth Excavations, as synthesised by the authors in Chapter 2.

Following the description of the Frankish Area, the tour then proceeds from the west side of the museum, from the Fountain of Glauke to the Temple of Apollo and the core of the Forum Area. The structure of this chapter raises the debate on how to select and prioritise the sites and monuments to be included in a compact handbook site guide, as the selections will frame and define the image and identity that is attributed to an archaeological site and in general to a whole landscape and cityscape. The structure of this site guide reveals that the aim of the authors is to try not to mislead the reader by focusing on a specific history of Corinth or on a specific timeframe, or by prioritising some topics of the archaeology of Corinth, like, for example, the history of Corinth as a Roman Colony, or Corinth depicted mainly as a destination for Christian pilgrims for the paramount importance of Pauline devotion. The authors find a balance between synthesising the abundant academic bibliography published by the American School of Classical studies at Athens and guiding the visitor in discovering an articulated palimpsest of the cultural landscapes of Ancient Corinth. An illustrative case would be the visit to the north region of the Forum area. Starting from the identification of a portion of a 7th century BC road located on the northern edge of Temple Hill, the reader is guided to observe the overlying Byzantine church on the northeast corner of this road, which was then intersected by an Ottoman house (Monuments nos: 7, 8, and 9 pp. 44-46). Like an archaeologist, the reader is guided to disentangle the intricate sequences of phases, which have determined the current historic landscape of Ancient Corinth.

The fourth chapter is entitled 'Site tour: outside the Forum'. This section provides all the necessary primary information to discover the various historic characteristics of Corinth's landscape. This tour is planned for more audacious and curious tourists who would like to go beyond the conventional two hour long site tour. As in the previous chapter, before each site is described, directions and walking distance are provided. This tour does not provide a fixed route, but starting from the slopes of Acrocorinth, it brings the reader into a diachronic journey of Corinthian landscapes. In this chapter, the largest sanctuary in Greece after Eleusis, the Demeter and Kore Sanctuary, is presented to the

public (Monument n. 49, p. 129-133). A very short entry then follows on the articulated topography of Acrocorinth, which is not explained in detail in this site guide, probably due to limitations in space and probably because a site guide on Acrocorinth itself would be necessary and it already exists.<sup>4</sup> Instead the authors opted to provide an overview on the history of the studies on Acrocorinth from 15th century descriptions composed by the antiquary Cyriacus of Ancona to the excavations carried out by the American School, the investigation of the so-called 'Temple of Aphrodite' and of the Upper Fountain of Peirene. Also included is a timeline chart on the phases of construction and occupation of Acrocorinth from the Hellenistic period to modern times (pp. 134-138).

Once back from Acrocorinth, the tour then continues in a clockwise fashion, starting from the northwest area of Ancient Corinth, including sites like the Potters' Quarter, a famous ceramic workshop in use from the 7th to the 4th century BC (Monument n. 52, pp. 139-142), the Gymnasium Area with a description of the so-called 'Fountain of the Lamps' and the *spina* of the Roman Circus (Monument n. 56, pp. 146-149), the Asklepieion and Lerna (Monument n. 57, pp. 150-153), and the unexcavated Amphitheatre (Monument n. 65, pp. 169-170), situated northeast of the Forum area. Finally, on the Corinthian harbours, the Lechaion Basilica (Monument n. 68, pp. 172-174) and the Bronze Age settlement of Korakou, which probably functioned as a harbour in this period (Monument n. 69, pp. 174-175), are described.

Following the entry on Korakou the authors decided to include a special section on the prehistory of Corinth, which is not abundantly represented in the monumental archaeological record as visited by the reader in Corinth. It is, in fact, better documented in the artefacts found during the long history of excavations of deposits and graves in Corinth. Worth noting in this section is the discussion of the Middle and Late Helladic phases of occupation of Corinth. The scattered evidence preserved led scholars in the past to conclude on the insignificance of Corinth during the Late Bronze Age. However, this analysis brings together the current and most up-to-date archaeological evidence supporting a continuously and densely inhabited Corinth throughout the Bronze Age, from the coastal area to Acrocorinth, that was also a central place of prosperous trade (pp. 176-178).<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Koumoussi 2010.

<sup>5</sup> Recent bibliography on this topic: Sanders et al. 2014, Tzonou-Herbst 2010, 2013, 2015, Tzonou and Morgan 2019.



The tour outside the Forum ends with a walk to its northern Greek city walls (Monument n. 70, pp. 179-180), which connected the city of Corinth to the harbour. The authors suggest three different possible routes to discover the Corinthian countryside, archaeology and flora. Finally, this chapter ends with a paragraph on the Late Roman city walls, with an indication of the two different interpretations regarding their chronology and extension (Monument n. 71, pp. 180-181).

This handy and informative site guide is a thoroughly valuable publication for visitors trying to orient themselves within the multitude of archaeological ruins in Ancient Corinth. In a concise style, it provides the necessary information with a great range of iconographic support, to effectively synthesize academic research for a non-academic audience. This site guide is set in the context of an articulated program of dissemination of archaeological research, which includes the digitization of the Corinth Excavations Archive and museum education and outreach programs.<sup>6</sup> With an increased demand and interest by the general audience in understanding archaeological research, this guide, which has also been translated into Modern Greek, is an important mechanism for disseminating the results of a century of scientific research carried out by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens in Corinth.

ROSSANA VALENTE  
BRITISH SCHOOL AT ATHENS  
r.valente@bsa.ac.uk

- Koumoussi, A. 2010. *The Acrocorinth*. Athens: Ministry of Culture Archaeological Receipts Fund.
- Sanders, G.D.R., S.A. James, I. Tzonou-Herbst and J. Herbst 2014. The Panayia Field Excavations at Corinth. The Neolithic to Hellenistic Phases. *Hesperia* 83: 1-79.
- Tzonou, I. and C. Morgan 2019. The Corinthia, in I.S. Lemos and A. Kotsonas (eds) *A Companion to the Archaeology of Early Greece and the Mediterranean*: 719-741. Hoboken (NJ): Wiley-Blackwell.
- Tzonou-Herbst, I. 2010. Η πρώτη πόλη της Κορίνθου. Έρευνες στο Κοράκου 1915-2008, in T.A. Gritsopoulos, K.L. Kotsōnēs and I.K. Giannaropoulou (eds) *Πρακτικά του Η' Διεθνούς Συνεδρίου Πελοποννησιακών Σπουδών (Κόρινθος 26-28 Σεπτεμβρίου 2008)*, Αφιέρωμα στην Αιώνια Κόρινθο: 47-56. Athens: Εταιρεία Πελοποννησιακών Σπουδών.
- Tzonou-Herbst, I. 2013. Η παράκτια κορινθιακή πεδιάδα στη μυκηναϊκή περίοδο, in K. Kissas and W. – D. Niemeier (eds) *The Corinthia and the Northeast Peloponnese: Topography and History from Prehistoric Times until the End of Antiquity* (Athenaia 4): 35-44. Athens: Hirmer Verlag GmbH.
- Tzonou-Herbst, I. 2015. 'Αφνειός Κόρινθος': Mycenaean Reality or Homeric Fiction?, in A.-L. Shalhin and I. Tournavitou (eds) *Mycenaeans Up to Date: The Archaeology of the NE Peloponnese. Current Concepts and New Directions*: 249-263. Athens: Swedish Institute at Athens.
- Williams, C.K. and O.H. Zervos 1990. Excavations at Corinth, 1989. The Temenos of Temple E. *Hesperia* 59: 285-369.
- Williams, C.K. 1991. Corinth, 1990. Southeast Corner of Temenos E. *Hesperia* 60: 1-58.
- Williams, C.K. 1992. Frankish Corinth: 1991. *Hesperia* 61: 133-191.
- Williams, C.K. 1993. Frankish Corinth: 1992. *Hesperia* 62: 1-52.
- Williams, C.K. 1994. Frankish Corinth: 1993. *Hesperia* 63: 1-56.
- Williams, C.K. 1996. Frankish Corinth: 1995. *Hesperia* 65: 1-55.
- Williams, C.K., L.M. Synder, E. Barnes, and O.H. Zervos. 1997. Frankish Corinth: 1996. *Hesperia* 66: 7-47.
- Williams, C.K., L.M. Synder, E. Barnes, and O.H. Zervos 1998. Frankish Corinth: 1997. *Hesperia* 67: 223-281.

<sup>6</sup> More information on Corinth's digital resources, educational and outreach programs can be found at: <https://www.ascsa.edu.gr/excavations/ancient-corinth>.