OBITUARY:

Robert J. Buck (5.7.1926 - 21.9.2012)

The death of Bob Buck has deprived the world of Boiotian studies of one of its senior and most prestigious members. He was one of the earliest scholars in the English-speaking world to publish substantial works on ancient Boiotia. His two books on Boiotia -- A History of Boeotia (1979), and Boiotia and the Boiotian League, 432-371 B.C. (1994) -- were pioneering works in the field, and they remain influential to this day.

He died in Edmonton, Alberta, after a long struggle with motor neuron disease, which, although it tried him sorely physically, did not harm his spirit or diminish his intellect.

Bob Buck was an excellent scholar, a loyal friend, and a helpful mentor to those who sought his advice. It was a privilege to know him.

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Robert J. Buck, Emeritus Professor of Classics at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, was born in Vermilion, Alberta. After service in both the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Army during the Second World War, he obtained a BA at the University of Alberta, followed by an MA at the University of Kentucky, and a PhD (on Middle Helladic Matt-painted Pottery) at the University of Cincinnati, under the direction of Carl Blegen.

He taught first at the University of Kentucky, and in 1960 returned to Edmonton and the Department of Classics there, where he remained for the rest of his career, serving as Head -- later Chairman -- of the department from 1964 to 1972. In addition to his work on Boiotia, he was co-director (with Alastair Small) from 1977-1984 of the University of Alberta's excavations at San Giovanni di Ruoti in Lucania. He retired in 1992.

He is survived by his wife, Helen, and their children George and Zoe.
EDITORIAL NOTES

Pdfs of Paul Roesch’s “Epigraphica”, which were published in Teiresias from 1976 to 1986, are now available on application to the Editor. Please specify whether you prefer to have everything in one file or files for individual years.

WORK IN PROGRESS

122.0.01 John Bintliff of Leiden University, The Netherlands, sends the following report:

Leiden Ancient Cities of Boeotia Project 2012

This project completed its last surface ceramic survey collection in 2010, and is now in a phase of studying the finds from previous urban and rural surveys, and adding supplementary material for these surveys through documenting surface architecture and undertaking geophysical tests. All these operations are in connection with the final publication of the individual major and minor sites studied by the current project (directed by Prof. J. Bintliff and Prof. B. Slapšak, assistant directors Prof. V. Stissi and Dr. A. Vionis), and its predecessor the Cambridge-Bradford Boeotia Project (directed by Prof. Bintliff and Prof. A. Snodgrass). The publication schedule is planned as follows:

The first monograph of the Boeotia Project is already published, Testing the Hinterland (Bintliff, Howard and Snodgrass 2007), and dealt with the southern rural hinterland of the ancient town of Thespiai. The second monograph will present the urban survey of Thespiai itself. In 2012 the ceramic restudy programme finished all the material from this ancient city, which has already had a full architectural survey and trial geophysics in earlier years. This volume will be sent for publication in 2013.

The third Boeotia monograph will deal with the city and countryside of ancient Hyettos. Restudy of the ceramic finds began in 2010 and continued in 2011 and 2012, and will hopefully be completed in 2013. The study of standing architecture at Hyettos has been carried out in 2011 and 2012 and will continue through 2013. In parallel geophysical work, following a pilot study in 2012, will be conducted in 2013 and 2014 by Prof. A. Sarris, University of Crete. The remote sensing programme is needed to prepare a town plan, and also to define the city borders in order to assist the Ephoria in creating the archaeologically-protected zone. It is intended to send this volume for publication in 2014 or early 2015. In 2012 a geodetic team (led by Bart Noordervliet) and Prof. Bintliff made microscale topographic maps for the 17 rural sites discovered by an earlier survey in the hinterland of Hyettos in order to analyze their locational priorities [Figure 1].

The fourth Boeotia monograph will deal with the surface ceramic finds from the small town of Askra and its countryside – the Valley of the Muses, surveyed in the 1980’s. In 2012 the survey sites and the site of Askra itself were revisited by Prof. Bintliff, Prof. Snodgrass and a digital mapping team as the first step towards final publication of this survey zone. The Middle Byzantine church at Askra was formally planned for the first time, revealing new details of its episcopal structures [Figure 2]. The redating of the survey ceramics began in 2011 and will be completed in 2014. It is planned for 2013 to continue geophysical tests at Askra with a team led by Professor Frank Vermeulen from Ghent University, as the town plan is completely unknown, and also to continue the 2012 checking of surface architecture survey to see if more remains have appeared in recent years. It is planned to prepare this survey for publication by 2015.
The fifth Boeotia monograph will cover the ancient city of Haliartos and its countryside. Aerial photography and geophysics have already in recent years (work of the Ljubljana team led by Professor Slapšak) revealed important details of the town plan at the city. No study was made in 2012 in this sector, but the remote sensing work will be continued in 2013 and 2014 and the ceramic finds will be redated in 2015. It is hoped that this volume might be completed in 2016.

The sixth Boeotia monograph will cover the town and country survey of ancient Tanagra. The ceramic dating is complete but there remains continuing examination by geophysics of that part of the ancient town lying outside the Late Roman walls, a task which was continued in November 2012 by the Ljubljana team, directed by Prof. Slapšak. It is intended that this volume might be ready for publication in 2016. Dependent on how large the extramural town turns out to be, it may be necessary to complete this remote sensing work in November 2013. In 2012 Dr. Athanasios Vionis (University of Cyprus) and student Andreas Charalambous carried out chemical analysis of 50 samples of coarse-ware pottery (amphorae, cooking pots, jugs and jars), from the surface collection already made from rural sites in the vicinity of Tanagra using a non-destructive technique (XRF), to clarify local production. Dr. Vionis and his team also recorded a digital-elevation model of two rural sites near Tanagra (Agios Thomas and Gnuossasi) for future publication of these settlements. Geophysical tests at Agios Thomas were begun in 2012 and will continue in 2013.

At ancient Koroneia city, dating of the surface ceramics has continued in 2012, as has documentation of the standing architecture. During geological tests on and around the ancient town by Dr. Keith Wilkinson, Winchester University, traces of subsurface architecture were revealed using non-destructive magnetic resonance readings, suggesting public buildings. The ceramic study, the surface architecture documentation, and further geophysical tests will continue in the next few years, and it is hoped that the survey will be ready for publication in 2017 or 2018. Additional research in 2012 included study of the alluvial and slopewash deposits on and around the city of Koroneia, by Dr. K. Wilkinson [Figure 3], to study landscape change in the area of the ancient town and the changing shoreline of nearby Lake Copais. Chiara Piccoli (EU Project PhD, Leiden), has continued to develop the Virtual Reality model of the ancient city of Koroneia [Figure 4], in collaboration with the ongoing studies at that site. This is intended to form a local heritage resource for village schools in the Koroneia region and will be completed by 2014.

Finally the project received two requests to give public community lectures about its research. The first came from the village of Askra and led to a public lecture by Prof. Snodgrass [Figure 5] and Prof. Bintliff on the settlement history of the Valley of the Muses and the origins of the modern village of Askra. The second came from the village of Agios Georgios and led to a public lecture by Prof. Bintliff on the archaeology of ancient Koroneia city and the origins of the village of Agios Georgios. Our project is delighted to communicate its results to local communities and intends to deepen such work in future years.

Acknowledgements

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Publications

The following publications in 2011-2012 reflect work carried out by the Boeotia Project:


Figure 1: B. Noordervliet and students using the Differential GPS device for detailed site recording
Figure 2: Recording the Episcopal church at Askra

Figure 3: Geomorphological coring near Kóroneia city (in the background) by Dr. K. Wilkinson and his team.
Figure 4: Early stage virtual reality reconstruction of the Acropolis and Lower Town of Koroneia by Chiara Piccoli.

Figure 5: Professor Snodgrass giving a public lecture in the main square of the village of Askra.
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