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## Centre for the Greek Language International Conference:

### *Panhellenes at Methone:*

*graphê* in Late Geometric and Protoarchaic Methone, Macedonia  
(ca 700 BCE)

Thessaloniki, June 8-10, 2012

Pavlos Zannas Hall, Olympion Theatre, 10 Aristotelous Square

Organizing Committee:

Jenny Strauss Clay, University of Virginia

Antonios Rengakos, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Yannis Tzifopoulos, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Recent excavations, ongoing since 2003-04, have begun to bring to light ancient Methone in the southern tip of the Haliacmon River Delta, immediately north of modern-day Agathoupolis, ca 35 kilometers south of Thessaloniki. Methone was established, according to the ancient sources, by colonists from Eretria in Euboea during the second colonization (800-500 BCE) and is the oldest colony of the southern Greeks on the northern shores of the Aegean. By the end of the 8th century, with the safest harbor in the Thermaic Gulf, Methone became a chief commercial and industrial centre.

Methone occupies two hills, which were located by the sea before sedimentations of the rivers Axios, Loudias, and especially nearby Haliacmon pushed the coastline ca 500 meters away from the site. On the eastern, lower hill habitation starts already by the late Neolithic (5200 BCE) and continues throughout the Bronze Age (3000-1050 BCE), while a Late Bronze Age (1400-1050 BCE) cemetery has been located on the western, higher hill. During the Early Iron Age (1050-700 BCE) habitation extends on both hills, and the finds from the eastern hill confirm that colonists from Eretria settled in Methone around 733 BCE.

Unique and so far unprecedented for Macedonia are the pots and potsherds unearthed from a rectangular pit of 3.50x4.50 meters in plan and 10.50 meters in depth, apparently used as an *apothetes*. The greatest majority of these sherds dates to ca 700 BCE, and 191 of them, recently pieced together, bear inscriptions, graffiti, and (trade)marks inscribed, incised, scratched and rarely painted, which are published by Matthaios Bessios, Yannis Tzifopoulos, and Antonis Kotsonas (<http://ancdialects.greeklanguage.gr>). The Conference will be devoted to the significance of these finds for archaeology, ancient history, literature, and the study of the Greek dialects.

For further information please contact: Yannis Tzifopoulos ([tzif@lit.auth.gr](mailto:tzif@lit.auth.gr)); Maria Chriti ([glossologia@komvos.edu.gr](mailto:glossologia@komvos.edu.gr)).



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## PROGRAM

### Friday, June 8

9.30-10.00 Registration

10.00-11.00 Welcome

John Kazazis, Jenny Strauss Clay, Antonios Rengakos, Yannis Tzifopoulos

#### Morning session **Chair Michalis Tiverios & Nota Kourou**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 11.00-11.20 | Alan Johnston, "Amphoras have mouths; do they speak?"   |
| 11.20-12.00 | break   |
| 12.00-12.20 | E. Kiriatzis, X. Charalambidou, M. Roumpou, M. Bessios, A. Kotsonas, "Inscribed transport amporae at Methone: provenance and content" |
| 12.20-12.40 | A. Mazarakis-Ainian, Kefala at Skiathos: en route to the Thermaic Gulf  |
| 12.40-13.40 | Discussion  |

#### Afternoon session **Chair Anna Panagiotou & Miltiadis Hatzopoulos**

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 17.00-17.20 | R. D. Woodard, "Alphabet and Dialect at Methone"   |
| 17.20-17.40 | Francesca dell'Oro, "Alphabets and Dialects in the Euboean Colonies of Sicily and Magna Graecia" |
| 17.40-18.30 | Discussion   |
| 18.30-19.00 | break  |
| 19.00-19.20 | Niki Oikonomaki, "Local 'Literacies' in the making"  |
| 19.20-19.40 | Christina Skelton, "Thoughts on the initial aspiration of ΑΚΕΣΑΝΔΡΟ"                             |
| 19.40-20.30 | Discussion   |
|             | Dinner   |

### Saturday, June 9

#### Morning session **Chair Alan Johnston & Irene Lemos**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 10.00-10.20 | Nota Kourou, "The earliest graffiti from Methoni and their archaeological/epigraphical context: sources, questions and prospects" |
| 10.20-10.40 | Samuel Verdan, "Counting on Pots: a few thoughts about numerical notation systems"  |
| 10.40-11.10 | break   |
| 11.10-11.30 | John Papadopoulos, "To Write and to Paint: More Early Iron Age Potters Marks in the Aegean"                                       |
| 11.30-11.50 | Alexandra Pappas, "Form Follows Function? Toward an Aesthetics of Early Greek Inscriptions at Methone"                            |
| 11.50-13.30 | Discussion  |



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Afternoon session **Chair Jenny Strauss Clay & Richard Hunter**

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 17.00-17.20 | Węcowski Marek, "Hakesandros, Tataie, and the "Cup of Nestor". Symptotic workings of some early first-person poetic vase-inscriptions" |
| 17.20-17.40 | Richard Janko, "From Gordion and Gabii to Eretria and Methone: the rise of the Greek alphabet"   |
| 17.40-18.30 | Discussion   |
| 18.40-19.00 | break  |
| 19.00-20.30 | Conclusion   |
|             | Dinner   |

**Discussants:**

Matthaios (Manthos) Bessios, 27th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities  
Ewen Bowie, University of Oxford, Corpus Christi College  
Albio Cesare Cassio, University of Rome "La Sapienza"  
Jenny Strauss Clay, University of Virginia  
Georg Danek, University of Vienna  
François de Polignac, École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris  
Francesca dell'Oro, University of Zurich  
Julián-Victor Mendez Dosuna, University of Salamanca  
Miltiadis Hatzopoulos, Institute of Greek and Roman Antiquity, Hellenic Research Foundation  
Richard Hunter, University of Cambridge  
Richard Janko, University of Michigan  
Alan Johnston, University College London, Institute of Archaeology  
John Kazazis, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and Centre for the Greek Language  
Anne Kenzelmann Pfyffer, Swiss School of Archaeology in Greece  
Evangelia Kiriatzis, University of Crete and British School at Athens  
Antonis Kotsonas, University of Amsterdam  
Nota Kourou, University of Athens  
Barbara Kowalzig, New York University  
Irene Lemos, University of Oxford  
Irad Malkin, Tel Aviv University  
Węcowski Marek, University of Warsaw  
Angelos Matthaiou, Greek Epigraphic Society  
Alexandros Mazarakis Ainian, University of Thessaly

Franco Montanari, University of Genova  
Niki Oikonomaki, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki  
Anna Panagiotou, University of Cyprus  
John Papadopoulos, University of California at Los Angeles  
Alexandra Pappas, Center for Hellenic Studies and University of Arkansas  
Antonios Rengakos, Academy of Athens and Aristotle University of Thessaloniki  
Katerina Rhomiopoulou, Ministry of Culture  
Maria Roumpou, University of Reading  
Suzanne Said, Columbia University  
Christina Skelton, University of California at Los Angeles and Center for Hellenic Studies  
Nikolas Stampolidis, University of Crete  
Petros Themelis, Society of Messenian Archaeological Studies  
Thierry Theurillat, Swiss School of Archaeology in Greece  
Rosalind Thomas, Oxford University  
Michalis Tiverios, Academy of Athens and Aristotle University of Thessaloniki  
Kyriakos Tsantsanoglou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki  
Yannis Tzifopoulos, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki  
Samuel Verdan, Swiss School of Archaeology in Greece  
Manolis Voutiras, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki  
Rudolph Wachter, University of Basel and Lausanne  
Roger Woodard, The State University of New York at Buffalo

**Sunday, June 10:** Excursion to ancient Methoni and the Storerooms at Makrygialos (departure 9.00 – return 17.00), Lunch at Agathoupoli by the Mayor of Pydna and Kolindros