Intensive Surface Survey around the Sanctuary of Hera at Perachora

FINDING THE PEOPLE IN THE DATA

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The Perachora Peninsula Archaeological Project 2020

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The Perachora Peninsula
The lovely Perachora Lighthouse
Sanctuary of Hera at Perachora
The difficult routes make the Heraion remote, yet the visual connection makes it ever-present.
Over 40 inscriptions dedicated to Hera on votive objects

Most inscriptions are dedicated simply to Hera, but on others we find epithets: Hera Leukolenos, Hera Limenia, and Hera Akraia

“Drachma ego, Hera Leuk[olene]” Ca. 700-650 BCE
The Sanctuary of Hera and Medea in Her Chariot

“I will bury them with my own hands, bringing them to the Sanctuary of Hera Akraia.”
Euripides, Medea 1378–1383
Euripides, *Medea* 1378–1383

I will bury them with my own hands, bringing them to the Sanctuary of Hera Akraia. I will raise their tomb, so that no enemy can insult them, and in this land of Sisyphos I will establish a solemn festival and rites for the future against this diabolical murder.

Apollodoros, *Bibl*. 1.9.28

Another tradition is that on her flight she left behind her children, who were still infants, setting them as suppliants on the altar of Hera Akraia; but the Corinthians removed them and wounded them to death.

Pausanias 2.3, 6-11

[The Corinthians’] children cut their hair for them and wear black clothes.
Periander had sent messengers to the Oracle of the Dead on the river Acheron in Thesprotia to enquire concerning a [treasure] that a friend had left, but Melissa, in an apparition, said that she would tell him nothing, nor reveal where the deposit lay, for she was cold and naked. The garments, she said, with which Periander had buried her had never been burnt, and were of no use to her. Then, as evidence for her husband that she spoke the truth, she added that Periander had put his loaves into a cold oven. When this message was brought back to Periander (for he had had intercourse with the dead body of Melissa and knew her token for true), immediately after the message Periander made a proclamation that all the Corinthian women should come out into the Temple of Hera. They then came out as to a festival, wearing their most beautiful garments, and Periander set his guards there and stripped them all alike, ladies and serving-women, and heaped all the clothes in a pit, where, as he prayed to Melissa, he burnt them.

Translation: The Loeb Classical Library
Archaic Bronze Phialai
Strabo, *Geography* 8.6.22 (Strabo visited Corinth in 29 BCE):

The shore that extends from here to Pagae in Megaris is washed by the Corinthian Gulf; it is concave, and with the shore on the other side, at Schoinus, which is near Kenchreai, it forms the "Diolcus."¹ In the interval between Lechaion and Pagae there used to be, in earlier times, the oracle of Akraian Hera.

Egyptian-Style Scarabs and Other Egyptianizing Objects
Sanctuary of Hera at Perachora
Plan of the Sanctuary of Hera, Perachora

Legend
1. 6th c West court
2. Roman house
3. Geometric apsidal temple
4. 6th c Temple of Hera
5. 4th c Altar
6. 4th c L-shaped stoa
7. 6th c Apsidal cistern
8. 6th c Hestiatorion
9. Water channels
10. Sacred pool
11. 7th (?) Hestiatorion
12. Walls
13. Modern jetty
14. Modern chapel
15. Modern footpath
The Perachora Fountain House
Before and After!
The Perachora Fountain House
(view from the west and plan with storage basins)
Plan of the Shafts and Staircase
Descending into the 160-step staircase
50 m deep Shafts for the Cisterns
The freshly cleared Building A1
Photogrammetry at Perachora

Shawn Ross, Michael Rampe, Joanna Bennetts, Charlie Boyd

26,500+ photos!
7 hours of photography
10 gigapixel image
0.3 mm resolution
3 weeks of processing work

https://mq.pedestal3d.com/r/gDcl3O496F
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfAnZo77cBM
Investigating the Town above the Sanctuary of Hera (9th-2nd c BCE)

‘Substantial town’ or a ‘scattering of houses’?

Humfry Payne (d. 1936)  Richard Tomlinson
Legacy Data:
Ground-truthing the structures in the Upper Plain
The Hidden Blocks of the Upper Plain
The Remains of Temple Z
Intensive Systematic Surface Survey
A representative sample of artefacts is collected from each tract
Cleaning the Pottery
Lamp Fragments and Lithics
Archaic Sherds
An Architectural Fragment
Our GIS system is FAIMS (Field Acquired Information Management System) Developed by Shawn Ross, Adela Sobotkova, Penny Crook, Brian Ballsun-Stanton and Petra Hermankova -- here at Macquarie University
The recording of data is standardized, and the forms don’t allow you to leave critical information unentered, resulting in clean and transparent data that will be accessible and reusable.
Incomplete Detectability has to be accounted for:

In Surface Survey it is very important to record the characteristics of the land as you’re walking. Factors to take into account include:

- Land use
- Topography
- Visibility
- Passability
- Drainage
- Vegetation
- Stoniness
- Shade
- The fieldwalkers
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