

<http://www.parapolitika.gr/article/348299/glas-mia-gigantia-mykinaiki-poli-poy-agnoise-i-arhaiologiki-etaireia>

Glas: A gigantic Mycenaean city that the Archaeological Society snubbed

by **Stavros Papantoniou**

(the first part of the article describes Glas, then proceeds to discuss our archaeological survey and our discoveries that changed the archaeological picture of the site and our different theories about the identification of the site and its function: the text is largely based on our paper that was presented at the AIA and uploaded at <http://glas-excavations.org/news.html>)

“They suspended the excavation

Despite the impressive findings of the field research and the discovery of the Mycenaean city in Glas that change the data of the earlier publications of the Society by Sp. Iakovidis (1989,1998, 2001), the Athens Archaeological Society suspended after only the first two years (2010, 2011), abruptly and without proper cause the archaeological-geophysical survey at Glas which had been approved for five years by the Central Archaeological Council and was fully funded by Dickinson College and the INSTAP, as Prof. Chr. Maggidis informed a stunned audience of Greek and foreign archaeologists, professors and students during his lecture in the crowded ballroom of the AIA meeting.

Based on the revelations of the Greek professor, our reportage brings to light a letter of his (23/11/2011) requesting addition of excavation to the archaeological permit on account of the importance of the finds and the need for protecting the ruins from illegal excavations and looting. Instead, the Board of the Athens Archaeological Society responded with an official letter signed by the secretary general, Mr. B. Petrakos, and the president, Mr. E. Spiliotopoulos (2/1/2012 protocol #2) by which they inform the director of Glas of the suspension of his field research because “the Society feel that the field research which has been conducted at Glas and published in exemplary fashion *fully satisfy the need of knowledge for this site and that any new excavation is useless,*” an argumentation that raises questions as it is coming from a Society founded in 1837 with the aim to promote archaeological research and scientific knowledge.

As Prof. Chr. Maggidis, director of the site, stresses in a letter of complaint (16/1/2012), the untimely suspension of the archaeological investigation at Glas caused multiple damaging effects, including the abandonment of the archaeological site, about which a conservation, restoration, and development study had already been conducted, exposure of the discovered antiquities to increased risk of looting, suspension of the short- and long-term funding of the project, suspension of the research plan of twenty colleagues and scientists and cancellation of participation of collaborating institutions. Despite the persistence of Prof. Maggidis, his letters of complaint and personal contacts with the Society and the leadership of the Ministry of Culture, the issue was “buried” since then.

Furthermore, the suspension of the fieldwork at Glas was followed by the arbitrary decision of the secretary general of the Society, Mr. B. Petrakos, in his capacity of director of

publications, to remove the official report of Prof. Chr. Maggidis with all the scientific data and conclusions of the second year of fieldwork from the *Ergon* and the *Praktika* of the Athens Archaeological Society, as if his fieldwork never took place! This action of the secretary general of the Society was criticized in the archaeological circles as anti-professional, if not intentional suppression of the discovery of the city at Glas from the international scientific community.

The actions of the secretary general of the Society on the issue of Glas formed a stage of conflict between Petrakos and Maggidis already since 2011 that peaked with the discovery of the stone throne of the palace of Mycenae by Maggidis in 2015. The intervention of Petrakos, therefore, by forming a committee in the absence and without knowledge of Maggidis as excavator, and his attempt to downgrade the importance of Maggidis' discovery of the throne should be interpreted as a personal vendetta, rather than a scientific debate.

The throne of Agamemnon

The conflict between Mr. Petrakos and Mr. Maggidis was re-ignited on an issue that enjoyed publicity recently regarding the so-called "throne of Agamemnon." Mr. Maggidis believes that he has discovered a large piece of the grandiose throne, but the Archaeological Society begged to differ. Mr. Petrakos and a committee that, as those who know well say that they are not really specialists or related to prehistoric archaeology, issued a press release against Mr. Maggidis' conclusions. Mr. Maggidis, however, assures that he will soon present all the documentation that reinforces his theory.

Here is Mr. Maggidis' press release and argumentation:"

(text follows copied from [http://mycenae-excavations.org/pdf/Press%20Release\(EN\)%20%232.pdf](http://mycenae-excavations.org/pdf/Press%20Release(EN)%20%232.pdf))