



THETIS
FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

The Mazotos Shipwreck



(photo: 17.06.2011, A. Neophytou, © University of Cyprus)

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EDITORIAL

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Last July, the Mazotos shipwreck team mourned the loss of Navy Commander, Captain Andreas Ioannides. Andreas was one of the keenest advocates of the endeavour to develop maritime archaeology on the island. His support, both material and moral, was invaluable to us. We pay homage to Andreas Ioannides, who departed so prematurely, by devoting the current issue of THETIS Newsletter to him. It is a small tribute to a man who embraced our efforts with great commitment and devotion.

Five years have passed since the launching of underwater archaeological research at the Mazotos Shipwreck, which is conducted by the Archaeological Research Unit (ARU) of the University of Cyprus, under the direction of Dr Stella Demesticha (Assistant professor of Underwater Archaeology, Chair of THETIS Foundation). With the support of people who share our vision, we have managed during this time to create the necessary prerequisites for the development of underwater archaeological research in Cyprus.

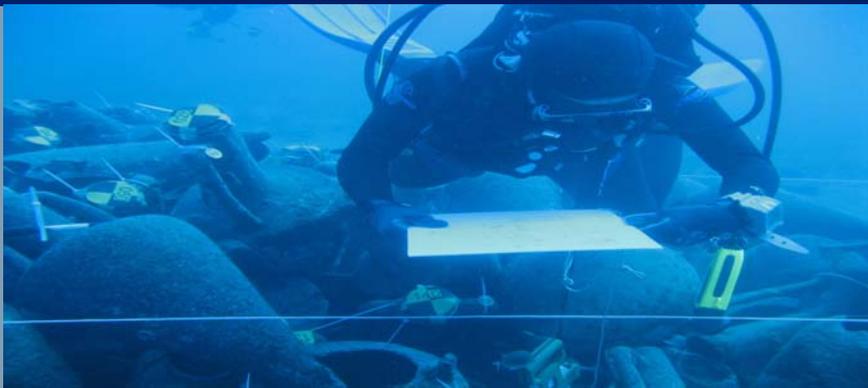
The equipment required to back up underwater archaeological research, is now available. At the same time, multi-disciplinary cooperation has been initiated to ensure the scientific documentation of the findings. However, the most significant achievement is the setting up of a team from different specialties, from Cyprus as well as from other countries, who offer their knowledge

and experience to the organization and the completion of each expedition.

This issue of THETIS Newsletter attempts an overall presentation of the Mazotos Shipwreck Project. A particular mention is also made to the practical training of students of the University of Cyprus on underwater archaeological research.

The aim is not only to present the five-year successful cooperation between the THETIS Foundation and the University of Cyprus. More significantly, we highlight the importance of the work carried out over these years, as well as the needs that have emerged. These needs have to be met in order to promote further advancement of a section that contributes significantly to the cultural, as well as the scientific development of Cyprus.

Diver at the Mazotos Shipwreck during the first expedition conducted in 2007 (photo: © University of Cyprus).



THE MAZOTOS SHIPWRECK 2007 - 2011

The underwater archaeological research at the Mazotos Shipwreck has been conducted over the last five years by the ARU of the University of Cyprus, under the directorship of Dr. Stella Demesticha.

The report to the Department of Antiquities (DoA) regarding the location of an ancient shipwreck at the sea area of Mazotos was made in 2006. At the time, Cyprus did not have the necessary infrastructure in equipment or human resources, necessary to undertake a research. However, certain developments at the time prepared the field for such an endeavour. The agreement between the THETIS Foundation and the University of Cyprus, whereby THETIS undertook to fund the introduction of courses of Underwater Archaeology in the Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Cyprus, brought to Cyprus for the first time scientific personnel able to undertake an underwater archaeological research.

In November 2007, with the support of THETIS Foundation, Dr Stella Demesticha, then Visiting Lecturer of Underwater Archaeology at the University of Cyprus, set up a small team of divers from Cyprus and specialists from Greece in order to conduct the first archaeological inspection at the Shipwreck. The team, with its limited means, focused on the photographic documentation of the Shipwreck. This documentation evidenced that the wreck was of a merchant ship of the late classical period (4th cent. B.C) which carried amphorae, mainly from Chios. The finding was of great scientific importance since it was the first shipwreck found in the south eastern Mediterranean at a depth where divers could work. Therefore, its research could bring light on issues such as Cyprus' role in the nautical routes of that period, the trade between the Aegean and the South Eastern Mediterranean, as well as the types and sizes of vessels of that period etc.

The following year, in 2008, the University of Cyprus,

supported by THETIS Foundation, conducted two expeditions at the site. During the surface research of May 2008, with the participation of volunteer divers from Cyprus as well as specialized personnel from the Hellenic Institute of Maritime Archaeology (Greece), the photography and mapping of the Shipwreck was completed. At the same time, characteristic types of amphorae were lifted from the Shipwreck and transferred to the Municipal Museum of Larnaka where the DoA undertook their conservation. The research continued in October of 2008, when the team proceeded to a first trial excavation trench.

Even though at that time the available means in Cyprus were limited, the foundations were set for the development of the discipline. Gradually, Cypriot volunteers started to acquire experience on the sector. The necessary conditions were created which allowed personnel to practice in underwater excavation as well as in the conservation of the findings. At the same time, governmental and private organizations began to acknowledge the significance of the project for Cyprus and offer their support (Cyprus Tourism Organization, Cyprus Port Authority, Scientific Committee of the Cypriot Federation of Underwater Activities, Aldiana Hotel, Municipal Council of Mazotos).

During the next expedition (March 2009), the ARU cooperated with the research team of the Laboratory of Marine Geology and Physical Oceanography of the University of Patras. The research focused on the geophysical prospecting of the Shipwreck area using proton magnetometer and sub-bottom profiler, aiming to investigate the extend of the shipwreck's non visible sections.

In 2010, the first excavation season was conducted focusing on the excavation at the southern part of the assemblage, a spot that was indicated by the geophysical results.

Apart from the cargo's amphorae, two lead stocks with remains of wood, part of the tow of one of the ship's anchor, were found during the excavation. Also, a large number of olive pips were found which provided information on the conditions under which the sailors in antiquity lived. All the findings were transferred to the District Museum of Larnaka where the DoA took over their conservation. Apart from the results of the excavation, the significance of the 2010 expedition lies in another development. For the first time the University of Cyprus collaborated with the Technological University of Cyprus for the documentation of the excavation using photogrammetry, under the directorship of Dr Demetris Scarlatos (Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics). Moreover, it was the first time that researchers and divers from various countries participated in the project. During the most recent expedition (2 May – 25 June 2011), the team continued the systematic excavation of the trench first opened the previous year. According to the preliminary view of the archaeologists, it should have been the bow area. Most of the amphorae recovered belong to the main

type of the cargo originating from the island of Chios in the Aegean. One amphora from the island of Kos was also found outside the main assemblage and it may have been part of the crew's provisions. Moreover, parts of two anchor stocks were also excavated which, in addition to the one found the previous year, provide valuable information on the sailing equipment of ancient ships. Of prime importance was the discovery of the keel and part of the wooden hull of the ship, as it proves that a considerable part of the ancient ship is still lying under the main concentration of the amphorae.

The richness and the magic of the Mazotos Shipwreck had just started to reveal itself. This was only the beginning of the beautiful trip of knowledge and discovery.

Procedures of lifting, cleaning, documenting and conserving amphorae during the second excavation season conducted in 2011 (photo: © University of Cyprus).



*Excavation with the air lift
(photo: 17.06.2011, A.
Neophytou, © University of
Cyprus).*



DEVELOPMENT OF MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY IN CYPRUS

During 2007- 2009 the foundations were laid for the promotion of the research of the Mazotos Shipwreck but also for the development of underwater archaeology on the island. From a scientific point of view, the photographic and mapping documentation of the shipwreck in conjunction with the trial lifting of amphorae, as well as the geophysical prospecting in the area, provided very important information which led to the first excavation season at the Mazotos Shipwreck in 2010.

The evolution of underwater archaeology on the island is reflected in the second excavation season of the Mazotos Shipwreck (2 May – 25 June 2011). The scientific collaborations, the infrastructure for the support of relevant projects, the growing number of volunteers as well as the financial support provided, necessary for the successful completion and continuation of the project, are a result of the hard work of the previous four years.

The project was conducted by the ARU of the University of Cyprus in collaboration with THETIS Foundation and the DoA. During the last two years more organizations extended their support to the project.

The Technological University of Cyprus undertook documentation of the excavation under the directorship of Dr Demetris Scarlatos, Lecturer at the Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics. At the same time, the **Eastern Mediterranean Maritime Institute** offered support on technical issues, a very important aspect of an underwater archaeological project.

Significant steps towards the development of underwater archaeological research were also observed in infrastructure. Additional diving equipment was acquired, invaluable for the support of underwater archaeological research. Moreover, the DoA established the Laboratory of Conservation of Underwater Antiquities, which makes possible the lifting of finding and therefore the continuation of the excavation of the Shipwreck.

Another indication of the development of underwater archaeological research noted on the island is the growth in human resources supporting the Mazotos Shipwreck Project. Particularly, 95 volunteers of different specialties (archaeologists, topographers, architects, conservators, technicians and divers) from 16 countries constituted the team of the project in 2011. Their contribution in the successful completion of this year's field season was indispensable.

This team of volunteers and researchers, with different academic background, created the necessary prerequisites for the exchange of knowledge and experience. The educational aspect of the Mazotos Shipwreck Project can also be traced in another area: twenty five students of the University of Cyprus as well as four post graduate and eleven doctorate students from different Universities participated in the project this year.

Equally significant is that governmental departments, private organizations as well as individuals acknowledged the value of the underwater archaeological research.

This is expressed through the offer of material or financial support, both vital for the successful completion of each field season. **Apart from the THETIS Foundation, which is the main supporter of the project, the Navy Command of the Ministry of Defense provided the project with the floating means, while the Greek Contingent in Cyprus provided free accommodation. Important practical support was also afforded by the companies Archirodon, Nautilus Trading, Petrolina, Maragkos Bakeries and A. Charalambous company.**

Finally, the financial contribution on the part of the Cyprus Telecommunication Authority, the Frederic University and the Bishop of Kykkos, was invaluable.

STUDENTS' PRACTICAL TRAINING

*Collection of small remains extracted from the air lift
(photo: 30.05.2011, © University of Cyprus).*



Students of the University of Cyprus participated in the Mazotos Shipwreck Project 2011, in the framework of the practical training for the module “Methods and Techniques of Underwater Archaeological Research”. The aim of the module was to inform the students on the history and the development of the underwater archaeological discipline as well as to familiarize with underwater archaeological research. More specifically, the module focuses on issues concerning the history of underwater archaeological research, the evaluation of maritime remains as well as the special characteristics of the work taking place underwater. In an attempt to promote bi-disciplinary cooperation, important for underwater archaeological projects, the course was also attended this year by students from departments of the University of Cyprus other than the department of History and Archaeology. Consequently, ten archaeology and

seven biology students participated in the Mazotos Shipwreck Project during 25 May – 15 June 2011.

The students had the opportunity to see in practice the various aspects and characteristics of an underwater archaeological project which had been discussed during the lectures: the organization and carrying out of an underwater excavation, the characteristics of the underwater working environment, the use of boats during the project, the significance of using new technology and the cooperation with different disciplines for the successful completion of the research.

Aiming to acquire a comprehensive overview of an underwater archaeological research project, the students actively participated in the various phases of the Mazotos Shipwreck Project, on the boat as well as on land.

Kyrenia – Liberty at the Mazotos Shipwreck (photo: 04.06.2011, C. Lozzano, © University of Cyprus).



While on the boat, the students followed the preliminary procedures of an underwater archaeological research project on the site: preparations of the equipment, planning, security conditions of the divers etc. Thus, they were able to comprehend the limitations that the underwater working environment and the depth of the shipwreck pose. The students also participated in the various tasks on the boat: collection of information for the database through updating the log books and photography documentation, cleaning the mud from the finds that were lifted as well as their documentation. The students also participated in the first conservation procedures of the underwater findings which were lifted.

Biology students also participated in the research of the non governmental organization **Maritime Nature** (the research is conducted by researchers Antonis Petrou, Dr Carlos Jimenez, Louis Hadjioannou and Kallia Aristidou). Samples of sediments as well as of other organisms were taken in order to document the corals that exist in the area of the shipwreck.

Land activities included participation of the students in the procedures for the organization and support of an underwater archaeological project, necessary for its successful outcome. Moreover, the students attended seminars on various topics such as diving, first aid and database and contributed in office work, and more specifically in the collection and classification of the information gathered during the project.

The students also attended an educational seminar on ancient seafaring that took place in collaboration with the **Foundation Chrysokava – Kerynia**. The seminar was held on the boat Kerynia – Liberty, a full size replica of the Hellenistic merchant ship which was revealed during the

excavation of the Kerynia shipwreck in the 60s. During the seminar, the students were informed on the research and the construction of the replica as well as on shipbuilding methods.

The Kerynia Liberty navigated from the **Nautical Base Evangelos Florakis** at Mari, where the ship was anchored, to the Mazotos Shipwreck area. The students were taught the various stages of ancient navigation: sailing out of the port, opening and managing the sails according to the route and the strength of the winds, and actively participated in the whole process guided by the Kerynia – Liberty crew.

The experience that the University of Cyprus offers the students is unique since it is one of the few Universities in Europe that provide the opportunity for practical training in underwater research, on an undergraduate level. It is also worth noting that the Kerynia – Liberty is the only replica of a commercial ship of the Hellenistic era in the world. Appreciation of the value of the practical training can be seen in numbers. So far 60 students of the University of Cyprus attended the course. Of these 7 are continuing their studies in the field. However, most important of all are the feelings of the students who followed the course. We quote just some comments which reveal the power of the experiences of the students *“We leave with luggage full of knowledge and our souls overflowing with unparalleled emotions... Its an experience we will never forget...”*

ANDREAS IOANNIDES

It is very rare in life to meet people with such wealth of inner qualities and at various levels. However, those who participated in the Mazotos project in the last two years had the opportunity to meet such a person, the Navy Commander Captain Andrea Ioannides, who left us so prematurely last July.

I will not describe Andreas' military vocation; many people have already spoken about that. I will describe an unknown aspect of Andreas that we, the Mazotos shipwreck team, knew. An aspect in his character which reveals the greatness of his soul.

Two years ago, when underwater archaeology was taking its first steps on the island, we contacted certain persons and organizations aiming to acquire their support in our endeavor. It was within this framework that we first approached Andreas Ioannides. Moved by the wealth of our culture in the sea that he so much loved, Andreas appreciated the significance of our efforts from the very beginning. He, therefore, stood by our side offering us help, essential for the project. During the first excavation period, he made available the boat Kefallonitis, divers from his unit as well as free tank fills daily at the Nautical Base Evangelos Floriakis at Mari. Last year, during the second excavation period at the shipwreck, he provided the project with a speed boat which was used to transfer the team members to and from the boat where the excursion was taking place.

The floating equipment supplied during both excavation periods was invaluable. However, his contribution was not only material. It expanded beyond that. Andreas appreciated the significance of our attempts and considered the project his own. He spent some of his valuable time to dive with us. He became a member of the diving team, always with a smile on his face, ready to follow the archaeologist's instructions, to work and to contribute.

However, his devotion to the shipwreck and to the team was not only expressed during the expeditions every year. Recognizing the significance maritime archaeology has for our island, Andreas supported our efforts all the year round. Out of a pure personal interest, he tried to encourage the protection of the shipwreck. He was always there, ready to help and to support, practically but mainly

morally whenever we needed him. His love for the shipwreck prompted to become even more involved in our endeavor and to contribute even in what many persons consider "boring" part of the organization of the project. He was there a few days before the loss. On his own initiative and with enthusiasm he started to make plans for the next expedition. He was trying to find solutions to issues that he knew, out of his experience by our side, that we would confront.

This is the memory we will retain of you Andreas. Of a man who, in addition to other ideals, he believed in the effort to promote our maritime cultural heritage and struggled along with us. May your memory live on.

