
INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM IN ATHENS PETRAS 1985-2010: 25 YEARS OF EXCAVATIONS AND STUDIES

By Metaxia Tsipopoulou

An international two day symposium to celebrate the 25th anniversary of excavations and studies at Petras, Siteia was held in Athens at the Danish Institute on the 9th and 10th of October 2010, supported by INSTAP. The aim of the symposium was to present to the archaeological community the various aspects of the archaeological site of Petras, including its long history from the Final Neolithic to the Byzantine period, its relations with neighboring sites, and the recent finds from the excavations of the Prepalatial cemetery on the Kephala hill. Twenty-four scholars from six different countries (Greece, the United States, Canada, Italy, England, and Denmark) presented very interesting papers. Nine scholars acted as chairpersons. As the Director of the excavation, I opened the symposium with an overview of the excavations, studies as well as the public outreach at Petras since 1985. Our final discussion was chaired by Alexander MacGillivray.

More than 100 people attended the Symposium and contributed significantly to the lively discussions. The speakers and chairpersons enjoyed two more events, a reception at the house of Metaxia Tsipopoulou and David Rupp on the eve of the Symposium and a dinner at the Cretan restaurant *Katzourbos*.

I wish to express my warmest thanks to all the speakers and chairpersons, and also to the participants of the symposium. My deep gratitude goes to INSTAP and to Philip Betancourt in particular, for his support and his encouragement. Last but not least I wish to acknowledge the significant efforts by Garyfalia Costopoulou and Maria Psallida, who with their hard work, patience, humor, and persistence, assured the success of the Symposium, and made possible the web-site.

The next step will be the publication of the proceedings of the Petras Symposium, and I am pleased to announce that The Danish Institute has accepted to include the volume in its series.