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The Greek Archaeological Committee (UK) is very pleased to invite you to its 63rd lecture, entitled, “Excavating the past and its people: a fortified settlement and its cemetery at Xobourgo on the island of Tenos”, by Dr Nota Kourou, Professor Emerita of the University of Athens, on Thursday 31st March 2022 at 6pm UK (8pm Greece). The lecture will be given online via ZOOM. To participate, it is necessary to register in advance, so please click on the following link

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_up12IVzLTjOtmRHOnZ70gw



Dr Nota Kourou read History and Archaeology at the University of Athens and continued her studies at Somerville College, Oxford, where she was awarded her doctorate in 1979. Returning to the

University of Athens she was appointed lecturer and in 2001 Professor of Greek Early Iron Age and Classical Archaeology. Since 2013 she has been directing the University’s excavations at Xobourgo, on the island of Tenos. As a Visiting Professor she has lectured as Onassis Scholar at universities in the United States, as a AIAA scholar in Australia, as well as in Lebanon, Jordan, in France, Italy, Switzerland and Cyprus. She also served as Visiting Professor in 2013-14 at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. Professor Nota Kourou has published three important monographs: *To Νότιο Νεκροταφείο της Νάξου* (Αθήνα 1999), *CVA Greece 8, Athens 5. Attic and Atticizing Amphorae of the Protogeometric and Geometric Periods* (Athens 2002), *Pots and Graves. The Lost Cemeteries of Early Iron Age Tenos*, *Ét. d’Arch. 18* (Bruxelles 2021). She has co-authored four books, two in English, written more than 100 articles published in peer reviewed journals and several book reviews. She has attended more than 100 conferences presenting papers in many of them and is currently serving on editorial committees of several scholarly journals (*AION*, *AURA*, *Annuario*, *Carthage Studies* et al.). She is a member of the Archaeological Society at Athens, the Society of Euboean Studies and of the German Archaeological Institute at Athens. In 2017 her numerous students and colleagues presented her with a *Festschrift* entitled “ΤΕΡΨΙΣ. Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology in honour of Nota Kourou,” *Ét. d’Arch. 10*, Bruxelles.

The large, fortified settlement excavated on the southern slopes of the abrupt granite hill of Xobourgo, at the centre of the southern part of the island of Tenos, seems to have been operating as the main economic and political centre of the island for several centuries from the 10th down to the end of the 4th century BC. Named Polis in ancient inscriptions, it represents a typical island capital and together with the cemetery of the

Classical period excavated outside the walls, it gives a comprehensive idea of the island's past and its people. Traces of ancestral cult revealed just outside the cyclopean fortification of the first settlement, define a 'sacred place', where the ancestors were ritually honoured. The distinct phases of this sacred place excavated at the south-western part of the hill seem to represent the successive steps taken by the inhabitants of the early settlement to keep pace with current political and religious advancements in other main parts of Greece, while some grave stelai of high quality, made of local marble, seem to confirm such challenges during the Classical period, as well. As the excavation continues since 1995, the numerous parts of the settlement revealed, offer a good example of an island capital and its topography, while the large number of finds in clay, metal, marble and even precious materials offer a panorama of an island settlement and its people in antiquity.

This promises to be a fascinating illustrated presentation by a diligent archaeologist. I very much hope that you can join us on 31st March 2022.

Register in advance for the webinar here:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_up12IVzLTjOtmRHOnZ70gw

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information on how to join the webinar.

Dr Zetta Theodoropoulou Polychroniadis
Chair
Greek Archaeological Committee UK

