

Archaeologists on Crete find skeleton covered with gold foil in 2,700-year-old grave

ATHENS, Greece — Greek archaeologists have found an ancient skeleton covered with gold foil in a grave on the island of Crete, officials said Tuesday.

Excavator Nicholas Stampolidis said his team discovered more than 3,000 pieces of gold foil in the 7th-century B.C. twin grave near the ancient town of Eleutherna.

Cemeteries there have produced a wealth of outstanding artifacts in recent years.

The tiny gold ornaments, from 1 to 4 centimetres (0.4 to 1.5 inches) long, had been sewn onto a lavish robe or shroud that initially wrapped the body of a woman and has almost completely rotted away but for a few off-white threads.

"The whole length of the (grave) was covered with small pieces of gold foil — square, circular and lozenge-shaped," Stampolidis told The Associated Press.



"We were literally digging up gold interspersed with earth, not earth with some gold in it."

The woman, who presumably had a high social or religious status, was buried with a second skeleton in a large jar sealed with a stone slab weighing more than half a ton. It was hidden be-

hind a false wall, to confuse grave robbers.

Experts are trying to determine the other skeleton's sex.

The grave also contained a copper bowl; pottery; perfume bottles imported from Egypt or Syria and Palestine; hundreds of amber, rock crystal and

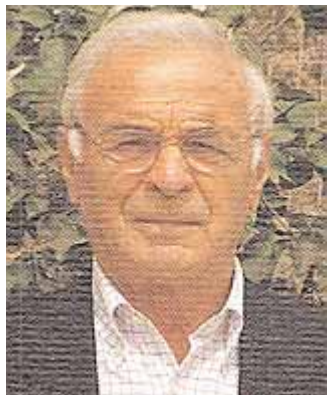
faience beads; as well as a gold pendant in the form of a bee goddess that probably was part of a rock crystal and gold necklace.

"If you look at it one way up, it's shaped like a lily," said Stampolidis, a professor of archaeology at the University of Crete who has worked at Eleutherna for the 25 years. "Turned upside down, you see a female figure holding her breasts, whose lower body is shaped as a bee with wings. The workmanship is exquisite."

The ruins of Eleutherna stand on the northern foothills of Mount Ida — the mythical birthplace of Zeus, chief of the ancient Greek gods. Past excavations have discovered a citadel, homes and an important cemetery with lavish female burials.

The town flourished from the 9th century B.C. — the dark ages of Greek archaeology that followed the fall of Crete's great Minoan palatial culture — and endured until the Middle Ages.

Article from the Canadian Press



Nikos Vournazos' New Book:

"Emigrants, The Ones That Build Foreign Lands"

At the age of 84, famous Melbourne Greek Nikos Vournazos recalls the stories of Greeks who left the motherland with "fake" hopes and fake documents. His new book titled "Emigrants, The Ones That Build Foreign Lands" is already available in Greece. It describes his personal memories from the Italian and German Occupation in Greece, the Civil War, followed by the immigration wave. Vournazos who has been a member of ELAS, the Greek Liberation Army, recalled many interesting and unexpected facts from those times and on his own immigration to Australia. His life there and the lives of other Greek emigrants are illustrated in a direct and honest way, without any effort to idealise the situation.

The writer was born in 1924 in a small village of Achaia and served the ELAS until 1945. Ten years later he left Greece for Australia and became an active member of the Greek community there. In 1987 he was awarded for his service at the Liberation Army. In 2002 he gained a literature degree from the University of New England in Australia at the age of 78! He has previously written three books.

Era ends at Glendi

ONE of the state's oldest multicultural events, the Glendi Greek Festival, has been cancelled this year because of a lack of interest.

Organising committee member George Kondopoulos said the future of the festival, which has been held annually for 32 years, also would be in doubt if more people did not get on board.

"If the Greek community as a whole doesn't get behind it, the state of South Australia will lose this event from its calendar," Mr Kondopoulos said.

A lack of volunteers, exhibitors and sponsors forced organisers to call off the festival, originally planned for this weekend at the Adelaide Showground, Wayville.

Mr Kondopoulos said volunteer numbers had dwindled from about 30 three years ago to 10 this year.

"I think people take it for granted the same people will run it every year, but it doesn't work that way," he said.

The Glendi is run by the Adelaide Hellenic Lions Club and celebrates Greek culture with traditional dance,



music and food.

Organisers last year moved the event from Ellis Park to the Royal Adelaide Showgrounds, at Wayville, and changed the date from March to October in an attempt to boost crowd numbers and avoid unpredictable weather. More than 25,000 people attended last year's event, up 8000 on 2008. Mr Kondopoulos said the venue change did not contribute to the lack of interest.

"I did get comments from people who enjoyed the park feel and the atmosphere of a Greek village, but ma-

majority of people prefer the showground," he said.

Greek Senior Citizens of Norwood and Eastern Suburbs president George Karatassas said the cancellation was "a shame".

"I think a lot of people would be disappointed they don't make it this year," he said.

"Everyone goes and they take their grandchildren."

Mr Kondopoulos appealed to young people to "get on board" and help make next year's Glendi a success.

"We need sponsors, brains and new ideas to re-energise the event if people think it has become stale," he said. St Spyridon College principal Nick Papageorgiou said the school community would "absolutely miss" the festival.

Glendi has been held for 32 years and was shifted to Ellis Park in the early 1990s from Thebarton Oval.

Organisers are calling for volunteers, stallholders, exhibitors and sponsors for Glendi 2011. For more information phone 8297 2444 or e-mail info@glendigreekfestival.com

Article from Eastern Courier Messenger

Olympic Air wins ERA silver award for 2010-11

Olympic Air has won the silver award as the ERA Airline of the Year for 2010/11, an award bestowed by the European Regions Airline Association.

The award was presented during an annual general assembly of ERA in Barcelona. The ERA Airline of the Year award is earned for quality amongst European regional airlines, based on a whole range of activities an air carrier conducts. The ERA award represents a significant recognition in the airline industry. ERA has more than 200 members. It represents 70 airline companies covering 426 destinations in 61 European countries, carrying 70,600,000 passengers through 1.6 million flights annually.