**The 2019 Excavation Season at the Mazotos Shipwreck**

The eighth excavation season at the 4th century BC Mazotos shipwreck was completed successfully, after five weeks of intensive fieldwork from the 24th September – 29th October 2019. The project has been conducted since 2007, by the Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory (MARELab) of the Archaeological Research Unit, University of Cyprus, in collaboration with the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus, under the direction of Dr Stella Demesticha, Associate Professor in the Department of History and Archaeology. The photogrammetric mapping of the site was coordinated by Dr Dimitrios Skarlatos, Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics, Cyprus University of Technology.

The objective of the 2019 field season was to extend the excavation from the bow towards midships. Excavation confirmed previous indications that well-preserved parts of the hull remained buried under the amphorae stowed in the main hold of the ship. After 133 partly or fully preserved Chian amphorae were excavated, a good part of the starboard side of the hull was exposed, including the keel and eight strakes, with six frames and a stringer still in situ. The exposed hull section suggests that it was a round bottom ship, with a framing pattern that seems to change toward midships, possibly to reinforce the transversal carpentry. To these ‘archaic’ features more can be added that had been detected already during the 2018 field season: sparsely placed frames, as well as tetrahedral openings for ligatures combined with pegged mortise and tenons, by the hooked scarf that joints the keel with the stem. The hull remains are still under study, but provide sufficient evidence to place the ship in its broader technological and cultural context, and complement our limited knowledge for shipbuilding traditions in the eastern Mediterranean during the Classical period.

Along with the excavation, an ethnographic side-project took place in the village of Mazotos. It was conducted by Dr Anna Demetriou and aimed at examining the contemporary social context of the shipwreck and its impact on local society. At the end of the season, a public event on the shipwreck was organised in the centre of the village, in collaboration with the municipality and the local school.

As is the case every year, the excavation team included specialists, young archaeologists, students and volunteers, all of whom gained hands-on experience in a demanding underwater archaeological project, where innovative and high standard research methods are applied. The team was multinational, but most of the participants (30 out of 50) were Cypriots or permanent residents of Cyprus .

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