

**Interdisciplinary Research on Architecture and Urban Environment of
Ancient Greek Cities of Messene and Phigalia**

Juko Ito

(Kumamoto University, Graduate School of Science and Technology, Professor)

【Outline of survey】

1) Archaeological excavation and architectural survey of Phigalia

Phigalia, an ancient city in Greece, is located in Peloponnesos and ca.100 km down to the south from Olympia. It occupies the area of 2.5km (E-W) by 1.5km (N-W) and there had been many public buildings like temples, theater, gymnasium, etc, but has never been excavated systematically. Our project of five years is to excavate the city site to expose the ancient urban and building remains. Thus, we make clear the urban structure together with the individual architecture.

2) Architectural Survey of the theater at Messene

We have already surveyed and studied some of the ancient buildings in Messene. The theater was newly excavated recently by a Greek archaeologist, and left unstudied. We are going to study its architectural remains, measuring and drawing the plans, elevations, sections to reconstruct the upper structure which was already gone.

【Expected results】

The study is wholesome including architectural history, archaeology and art history based on excavations. Especially, the excavation of Phigalia, which is the archaeologically virgin site, is the first trial and epoch-making not only for Greece but also for Japan. The works at the sites will provide many opportunities for young researchers to train themselves. Without the direct exposure to the fields and objects, the study of ancient things is going to be simply theoretical without proof. Thus, our project will make great academic contributions to the Greek studies in the future.

【References by the principal investigator】

- J. Ito, et al. “New Measurements and Observations of the Treasury of Massaliotes, the Doric Treasury and the Tholos in the Sanctuary of Athena Pronaia at Delphi” 2 vols, 2004
- J. Ito, “A Concave Conical Roof on the Square Grave Monument I at the Hellenistic Site of Messene” G. Lavas, ed., *Sto Belos tou Xronou*, University Studio Press, Athens, 2005, pp. 307-310
- Y. Yoshinobu, J. Ito, R. Yoshitake, “International Cooperative Research of the Architecture of Asklepeion at Ancient Messene” Report for JSPS Grant-in-Aid, No.16254005 (Head: Ito), 212 pages, 2007

【Term of project】 FY2008—2012

【Budget allocation】

92,800,000 yen (direct cost)

【Homepage address】 http://www.arch.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/itobj_lab/home.html