The House of Agnostos in Hellenistic Halos

Preliminary report on the 2010 and 2011 field seasons

TAMARA DIJKSTRA, DESPINA EFSTATHIOU, JAIME VAN DER HEUL, DIES VAN DER LINDE, IOANNA MAMALOUDI & EVAGELIA STAMELOU

Abstract

Hellenistic Halos, situated in southern Thessaly (Greece), was founded around 302 BC and abandoned following an earthquake around 265 BC. A long city wall encircled both the upper and lower town of Halos. A geometric street grid consisting of four avenues and a multitude of streets running east-west divided the lower city into 64 housing blocks. In the years 2010-2011 fieldwork concentrated on a private dwelling of Halos, the House of Agnostos, located immediately west of the House of the Tub. This article is a preliminary report on these field seasons. It contains an analysis of the architecture, a reconstruction of the house as well as a discussion of the excavated artefacts, including several kinds of pottery, loom weights, metal artefacts, bone and shell fragments. An analysis of the coins provides information about the regional relations of Halos. All in all, the article contributes to the study of Hellenistic houses and their inhabitants.

Keywords

Thessaly – Hellenistic Halos – housing – coin circulation.

Introduction

The Hellenistic town of Halos is situated in the ancient region of Achaia Phthiotis between a spur of Mount Othris and the Pagasitic Gulf. It was founded in 302 BC and was abandoned a mere 40 years later around 265 BC when an earthquake hit the city. Halos has been the subject of archaeological research from 1976 onwards. The Groningen Institute of Archaeology and the Netherlands Institute at Athens have been engaged in frequent investigation of the city and its surroundings. The 13th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities at Volos has joined in the research from the 1990s onwards. In the past 35 years of research a small sanctuary of Demeter and Persephone, city walls and towers, the South Gate and the impressive Southeast Gate have been investigated, as well as several private houses. The study of these houses was the main focus of the Halos excavations in
the period 1978-1993 and this work was resumed in the period 2007-2011.\(^1\) Seven houses have been studied so far and despite differences their building techniques and main layout are relatively uniform.\(^2\) The uncovered finds give us a good idea of the life and activities of the inhabitants of Halos.

The 2011 field season was a collaborative project of the Groningen Institute of Archaeology and the 13th Ephorate, under the direction of Reinder Reinders, Vasso Rondiri and Zoe Malakasioti. The field season aimed at the study of an eighth house of which the foundations were laid bare in 2010. Since no distinctive feature or find had come to light at the end of this campaign, the name ‘House of Agnostos’ (the House of the Unknown Man) was chosen. The house is located directly next to the House of the Tub in housing block 6.5, with its entrance opening onto street 11 (Figure 1). Unfortunately the house could not be excavated in its entirety because it is partly covered by the modern road from Almiros to Sourpi. The main objective was to explore the layout and construction technique used to build the house and the rest of building block 6.5, combined with the spatial and functional analysis of the artefacts in the various rooms of the house.

Below we present a preliminary report on the excavations of 2010-2011 and the study of artefacts conducted in 2011. We discuss the work performed during the field season, provide an analysis of the architectural remains and give a suggestion for the reconstruction of its floor plan. We also describe the various finds that were discovered during the field season. Special attention is given to the coins and the issue of local coin circulation.

**Excavating the House of Agnostos**

The first work in the plot in which the House of Agnostos is located was carried out during the 2007 survey. This survey was aimed at mapping the remains of the two houses which were known to exist in this location as there were walls visible on the surface. The site was divided in a survey grid consisting of eighty units of 3 x 3 m, and finds were collected per unit. The surface material from the plot comprised worn sherds of pottery and roof tile as well as loom weights. A selection of the units was then excavated to locate the boundaries of the houses. As soon as it became clear that the plot contained one complete house, the House of the Tub, excavations were commenced.\(^3\)

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\(^3\) See Reinders et al. 2009-2010 for the preliminary results of the excavation.
From 2007 to 2009 the investigations focused on the House of the Tub\(^4\), but when this excavation was completed at the end of the 2010 field season, attention turned to the neighbouring house. During a period of five weeks, from July 7 to August 5, 2010, the topsoil over the house was removed. The excavation stopped when the habitation layer was reached in order to leave the artefacts in situ. After the removal of the topsoil the layout of the house became clearly visible as most of the foundation stones had remained in place. The topsoil itself did not yield many finds of pottery nor other material, but we did excavate about 100 kilograms of roof tile fragments. A plan of the house foundations was made which formed the basis for the excavation in 2011.

The 2011 field season took place during two months, from June 27 to August 27. The first five weeks were spent in the field and during the last four the excavated material was studied in the storeroom at Almiros.

The habitation layer in the seven rooms, 15-20 cm thick, was removed while carefully documenting and mapping the artefacts that were uncovered in the process. A total amount of 298.9 kg of roof tile fragments and 48.5 kg of pottery was removed from the house, as well as dozens of metal objects, coins, bone and shell fragments, weights and other objects. All of these finds were transported to the storeroom at Almiros where they were cleaned in preparation for further study. After the completion of the excavation a more detailed drawing of the foundations was made, which was later added to the plan of the House of the Tub and the excavated street section in order to put it into its wider context (Figure 2).

The goals of the four week study of artefacts in 2011 were the identification, reconstruction, cataloguing, photographing and drawing of the finds recovered during the 2010 and 2011 excavations. The work in the storeroom has resulted in the identification of most of the finds, catalogues for every find category (roof tiles, pottery, weights, metal, coins, bone, shell, stone and miscellaneous), a set of 252 photographs of the artefacts and 55 drawings of the most complete or diagnostic artefacts. As the coins had to be cleaned before they could be studied, the detailed cataloguing of the coins was postponed until the end of 2012.

The architecture

By the end of the excavations the floor plan of the House of Agnostos became visible, except for the south-west part which is covered by the modern road. The remains of the foundations made it possible to gain insight into the layout of the house and into the construction techniques and methods used in the building of

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\(^4\) A preliminary report on the excavation of the House of the Tub was published in a previous volume of *Pharos* (Reinders et al. 2009-2010).
the house. The construction techniques of building block 6.5 were analysed by studying the structural relationship to the House of the Tub and the house to its south (the ‘South House’).

**Dimensions**

The House of Agnostos is the second house from the west in block 6.5 (Figure 1). The excavated surface area of the House of Agnostos measures 123 m²; 91 m² of this was actual floor space, the rest of it consisted of walls. As is clear from the floor plan, only half of the house could be excavated, but we do have an idea of the original size of the house as we know the size of the housing block. The end of the housing block is located 30 m west of the east wall of Agnostos. If we assume that both the House of Agnostos and the neighbouring house to its west have the same width, that is 15 m, the dimensions of the House of Agnostos would...
have been $15 \times 15.5$ m. The original surface area would have been $232.5 \text{ m}^2$. If we compare this to the other houses of Halos we see that it is smaller than the House of the Tub and has nearly the same size as the House of the Snakes (Table 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Dimensions (plot)</th>
<th>Surface area (plot)</th>
<th>Surface area (habitable)</th>
<th>No. Rooms</th>
<th>% Surface area</th>
<th>% Walls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ptolemaic Coins</td>
<td>14.80 x 12.70</td>
<td>187.95 m$^2$</td>
<td>154.70 m$^2$</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>82.31</td>
<td>17.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agathon</td>
<td>15.20 x 13.50</td>
<td>205.20 m$^2$</td>
<td>147.20 m$^2$</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>71.73</td>
<td>28.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koroplast</td>
<td>15.00 x 13.75</td>
<td>206.25 m$^2$</td>
<td>166.55 m$^2$</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>80.75</td>
<td>19.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphorai</td>
<td>15.50 x 14.30</td>
<td>221.65 m$^2$</td>
<td>Indet</td>
<td>Min. 7</td>
<td>Indet</td>
<td>Indet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agnostos</td>
<td>15.50 x 15.00</td>
<td>232.50 m$^2$</td>
<td>Indet</td>
<td>Min. 7</td>
<td>Indet</td>
<td>Indet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snakes</td>
<td>15.10 x 15.45</td>
<td>233.30 m$^2$</td>
<td>207.30 m$^2$</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>88.86</td>
<td>11.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tub</td>
<td>15.50 x 17.40</td>
<td>269.70 m$^2$</td>
<td>204.20 m$^2$</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>75.71</td>
<td>24.29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Layout**

The foundations of the house were relatively well preserved; in only a few places the foundation stones had been removed. Therefore, the layout of the House of Agnostos was clear. It contains elements previously encountered in the House of the Tub and the House of the Snakes. Seven rooms were identified and it is assumed that at least one more room remains unexcavated (see the section on Reconstruction).

The main entrance of the house is located in room 7 and is 85 cm wide. Because of its small width, room 7 is identified as an interior corridor from which both the living quarters and the courtyard would have been accessed. A similar corridor is seen in the House of the Snakes. The arrangement of the living quarters is characteristic for Halos and practically mirrors that of the House of the Tub. Room 2 is located directly next to the entrance of the house and was most likely entered through the corridor, if it follows the arrangement of the corresponding rooms 2 and 7 of the House of the Tub. Room 3 was the central room from which three additional rooms, namely 1, 4 and 5, could be reached. Even though the poros structure in room 3 is incomplete, it is easily recognizable as the hearth. It was placed in the centre of the room against what seems to be a dividing wall built from roughly hewn limestone blocks. Near the hearth an *opaion*, a perforated roof tile through which the smoke could escape, was found. An additional room, room 6, was placed along the southern side of the house. During the excavation it was assumed that room 6 was part of the courtyard, but no proof was found of this identification when the finds from the room were analysed.
Walls

The walls of the house consisted of a footing of two faces of limestone blocks with a core of soil, stones and pottery debris, in some instances placed on flat limestone foundation slabs. The limestone footing supported upper walls that were made of mud brick. An intact burnt mud brick, measuring $45 \times 45 \times 8$ cm, was found in the House of the Tub in the excavation of 2008. The outer walls of the house have a thickness of 50 cm. The outer faces of the north and south wall consisted of blocks that were larger than the inner faces, clearly evidencing the load distribution of the roof. The foundations of the inner walls were similarly constructed, but their width generally is 40-45 cm. It is interesting to note that none of the interior walls of the house bond directly with the exterior walls. This is a clear indication that the interior walls were built at a later stage of construction, possibly leaving the layout of the house open to the preferences of the occupants.

Floor

Finding the floor level of the house, which as in other houses at Halos would have consisted of trodden earth and pebbles, proved to be difficult due to an ill-defined stratification and in some rooms we may have dug through it. The level of the floors seems to have differed per room as the house is built on terrain that is slightly sloping from west to east.

Roof

The roof of the House of Agnostos could have collapsed either as a direct consequence of the earthquake responsible for the abandonment of the city or following a long period of neglect. Evidence for the construction of the roof is scanty, even though roof tile, expressed in weight, is the largest find category of the excavation; in 2010 and 2011 a total of 423.91 kg of roof tile was lifted from within the boundaries of the house. The density of roof tile per room of both Agnostos and the Tub is shown in Figure 3.

An almost complete roof tile was excavated at the Southeast Gate of Halos in an earlier field season. The tile was slightly concave and measured $51 \times 87$ cm, but the length was incomplete. The thickness varied between 2 and 3 cm. The weight of this nearly complete tile was 9.5 kg. If we assume that a complete roof tile would have weighed about 10 kg, the House of Agnostos has yielded enough material for 42 roof tiles. These would have spanned a surface of 21 m². As the surface area of the living quarters measures 123 m², only about 17 % can be covered with the excavated tiles. That is, when we neglect the slope of the roof, the degree of which remains elusive.
It should be noted, however, that large roof tiles were valuable objects. Some of the tiles will certainly have fallen and broken by the violence of the earthquake, while part of the roof with complete tiles had remained more or less intact for a short period. These tiles will have drawn the attention of passers-by and may have been looted on a large scale.

The original shape of the roof is unclear, but most probably a sturdy timber framework supported a simple sloping roof covering rooms 1-6. The only room for which roofing is not certain is room 7. It is possible that this corridor was unroofed, but the matter remains unresolved because of the disturbance by ploughing in this area.

No evidence for a second storey has been uncovered, either in the House of Agnostos, or in the other houses of Halos. The courtyard would have been open to the sky, but as is clear from Figure 3 none of the rooms has yielded a weight of roof tiles low enough to securely identify one of them as the courtyard of the house.

Reconstruction

Although the House of Agnostos has only been partially excavated, we have sufficient evidence to reconstruct its floor plan. The size of the complete house, as discussed above, probably was 15 × 15.5 m. The surface area of the entire plot is thus estimated at 232.5 m². A reconstruction of the floor plan of the House of
Agnostos may serve to clarify the layout of the house and the use of the individual rooms. The reconstruction is made by comparing the dimensions and layout of the other houses in Halos. Here we provide a description of these calculations.

As can be seen in Table 1, the average percentage of floor space of the houses of Halos is 80%. This means that the average of surface area taken up by walls is 20%. If we apply these percentages to the House of Agnostos, it would mean that roughly 186 m² would be habitable floor space and 46.5 m² would consist of walls. As we already know the amount of habitable surface area and walls of the excavated section, namely 91 m² and 32 m², our reconstruction of the unexcavated section should have 94 m² of habitable surface area and 14.5 m² of walls. Based on the absolute minimum and maximum percentage in Table 1, the habitable surface area must stay within the limits of 167 m² and 207 m². Consequently the walls cannot exceed between 26 m² and 66 m².

The thickness of the walls differs between the interior and exterior walls. As the greatest part of the reconstructed walls will consist of the exterior walls we use an average thickness of 0.50 m for these calculations. The 14.50 m² of walls remaining for the unexcavated section of the house equals 29 m of wall length that we may confidently use for our reconstruction. However, this is practically used up in the completion of the exterior walls, for which we need 28 m.

As the excavated eastern part of the house is almost a complete mirror image of the western part of the House of the Tub, we assume room 6 to be roofed with the entrance in the unexcavated west wall. The entrance to room 2 is placed in the western wall based on the similarity with room 2 of the House of the Tub. In this place a large stone of a different material was found during the excavation which might be identified as a threshold. If we complete the walls of these rooms we need an additional 11 m of walls. In the first phase of the reconstruction we have thus already exceeded the averages. In the next phase we have to make sure that we stay within the attested margins of the known house dimensions in Halos.

As can be seen in Figure 2, it is likely that there once was a room in the north-western corner of the house. To complete this room it requires a wall to the south which would be c. 2 m² or 4 m of wall length. If we add all our reconstructed walls together we need a minimum of 43 m of wall length or 21.5 m² of walls to complete the known layout of the house. In total the house would require 51.5 m² of walls, well within the attested margins.

The courtyard of the House of Agnostos is reconstructed in the south-western corner of the house. If the relative size of the courtyard in this type of houses is compared to the total habitable surface area, it becomes clear that it never exceeds 33%. If we apply this to the House of Agnostos the surface area of the courtyard cannot exceed 59.7 m². To ensure this the reconstructed southern wall of the north-western

5 Haagsma 2010, 84-86 and Table 3.1.
room, room 8, has to be placed further south, making it one of the larger rooms of the house (Figure 4). This brings the total number of rooms in the house to nine.

The reconstruction of the House of Agnostos indicates that the total habitable floor space was 169.6 m². As can be seen in Table 1 this is somewhat larger than the House of the Koroplast and smaller than the House of the Tub. The walls constitute c. 27% of the house. Even though this is well above the average 20% it
comes close to the percentage encountered in the House of Agathon. The size of the courtyard also falls within these bounds; it measures 51.9 m². The reconstruction of the House of Agnostos is presented in Figures 4 and 5.

Artefacts
The total number of artefacts recovered from the House of Agnostos was rather modest, especially compared to those from the neighbouring House of the Tub. Even if we realise that the excavated surface area of the House of Agnostos was smaller than that of the House of the Tub, 91 m² compared to 204 m², the find density in the House of Agnostos is low. However, we should take into account the natural slope of the ground from west to east, erosion and ploughing which made that the archaeological layers of the House of Agnostos were more disturbed than those of the House of the Tub which is located further down the slope. Nonetheless, the artefacts that have been recovered from the house provide information about the daily life of a Hellenistic household. Directly following the excavation the material was studied and here we provide the preliminary results of that work. A more thorough analysis of the material will be undertaken in the future.

Pottery
The pottery collected in 2011 was fragmented and much of it was poorly preserved and quite powdery. Some of the material actually crumbled upon touching it. Furthermore, the pottery was covered with a calcium encrustation that could only be removed with great effort, making identification of fabrics and reconstruction of shapes difficult. The 48.5 kg of pottery that was excavated contained about 37 kg of
diagnostic material and 11 kg of non-diagnostic sherds. All pottery was sorted according to fabric and shape and when possible vessels were refitted. A preliminary functional analysis of the pottery showed that the sherds belonged to table ware, cooking pots, pouring vessels, and certain types of storage vessels such as amphorai and a large storage bin. This is the typical range of pottery found in the houses of Halos. However, no evidence for pithoi was found in the excavated part of the house.

Only two lamp fragments were retrieved; they come from rooms 4 and 6.

The central room, number 3, contains most of the pottery and in this assemblage all types are represented. A noteworthy find in this room is a fragmentary louterion, a large washing basin, which was found behind the back wall of the hearth.

It is striking that most of the excavated pottery was highly fragmented, without joining sherds in the immediate context, and only a few pots could actually be partly reconstructed. Therefore, it seems that not many vessels have been present in the house at the time of its destruction. May we assume that the house had already been abandoned and emptied prior to the earthquake of 265 BC?

Loom weights

The average number of loom weights per house in Halos is 21. That is, if we exclude the House of the Tub and the House of Agathon, because these distort the image with 54 and 139 loom weights respectively. In the House of Agnostos seven loom weights were found, which is rather modest compared to the other houses, though we should keep in mind that only part of the house was excavated. Five of the loom weights are of the discoid type and two are pyramidal. Both types of loom weights were used for the warp-weighted loom. It is assumed that such a loom needs a minimum of ten weights. Seven loom weights thus indicate the existence of at least one loom. However, their distribution (spread across rooms 2, 3, 5 and 6) does not provide any clear evidence as to where the weaving would have taken place. Other items that were identified as loom weights were four fragments of roof tile that were rounded off and pierced. Another wool working tool, a clay spool, was found in room 3.

Metal artefacts

A total of 47 metal artefacts, including fragments, were recovered from the House of Agnostos; these include material from the 2007 survey and the 2010 and 2011 excavations. The artefacts consist of a spearhead, four ferrules, two bronze rings

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7 Haagsma 2010, 207.
8 Burnier & Hijmans 2003, 120.
(one of which was a finger ring) a bronze buckle, bronze wire and two strips of bronze sheet. A small iron handle was also found, as well as a piece of decorated lead that may have been a reinforcement or rim decoration of a vessel. Structural elements consisted of twenty iron nails. This low number suggests that nails had not been used much in construction. Other metal fragments may be identified as a blade and a fragment of a tool.

**Stone artefacts**

Only two stone artefacts were collected from the House of Agnostos. These have been identified as a polishing stone and a grinding stone.

**Bone and shell**

Shell came to light in every room of the house whereas remains of mammals were only found in rooms 3 and 6. Among the mammal remains were several teeth and bone fragments of cattle, sheep/goat and pig. A peculiar concentration of teeth and molars belonging to horse and cattle was found directly outside the House of Agnostos on street 11 (Figure 6). Fragments of a metapodium of red deer were also encountered. Red deer has been identified in other houses of Halos as well, and we may assume that this species was hunted by the inhabitants of the city.9

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9 Prummel 2003, 200f.
The mollusc remains consisted of lagoon cockle, horn shell, purple dye murex, oyster, corneous wedge shell and warty venus. All of these species are suitable for consumption, either boiled or raw.

Remains of fish have not been found. However, rather than a true absence, the lack of evidence is most likely due the fact that the soil was not sieved during the excavation and small remains were not retrieved. The faunal remains show that the inhabitants of Halos were involved in animal husbandry and hunting. The large amount of shells suggests that they were also active in gathering shells and/or fishing. The distribution of the material, especially the bone concentration in room 3 around the hearth, evidences that the diet included domestic and wild animals, as well as marine animals.

Room functions

The relatively low number of distinctive and complete finds from the House of Agnostos makes it difficult to ascribe functions to rooms, or to indicate which activities took place in the rooms. It is beyond doubt that room 3 functioned as the central room of the living quarters and was the main living area of the house. This is evidenced by the fact that it had a central location, that it was the largest room of the house and that it is the room where the hearth was located. The artefacts found in the room support this identification because of the evidence for food preparation (the hearth, a brazier, burnt cooking pots, table ware and storage amphorai), and for washing (fragments of a louterion were found behind hearth).

Coins and coin circulation

The excavation of the House of Agnostos has yielded 18 bronze coins. A number of 20 to 30 coins per house seems to be the norm in Halos (with almost 100 coins in the House of the Tub as an exception). Since the House of Agnostos has not been entirely excavated, the number of coins does not differ drastically from this norm. Just like the House of the Koroplast and the House of the Amphorai, the House of Agnostos lacked silver coinage. The bronze coins of the House of Agnostos comprise issues both of Macedonian kings and individual cities. Three coins were issued by the Macedonian kings Kassandros (316-297 BC) and Demetrius Poliorketes (294-288 BC). Since the period of reign of these Macedonian rulers is known to us, these coins provide interesting clues for the chronology of the house and of Hellenistic Halos as a whole. They support the proposed period of existence of Halos from c. 302 BC until 265 BC.10 The other 15 coins were local issues of Halos and of various other Hellenistic cities.

10 Reinders et al. 2009-2010, 97-100.
The coins from the House of Agnostos were quite evenly distributed over the rooms of the house (Table 2). Room 2 was the only space in which no coins have been found. No room stands out in terms of the quantity of coins, though Room 3, the living room of the house, has yielded the greatest number of coins. The majority of the coins was found close to the walls of the rooms; a pattern that has been recognized in the other houses as well. As no coin concentrations may be identified, the coins should best be regarded as accidental losses.\(^{11}\)

### Table 2. Overview of coins from the House of Agnostos

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Issued by</th>
<th>Obverse and reverse types</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Makedonia</td>
<td>Kassandros</td>
<td>Herakles/Naked youth on horse</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Demetrios Poliorketes</td>
<td>Male head/Prow</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Macedonian shield/Helmet</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelasgiotis</td>
<td>Larisa</td>
<td>Nymph/Horseman</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pherai</td>
<td>Lion’s head/Ennodia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phthiotis</td>
<td>Pharsalos</td>
<td>Athena/Horseman</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achaia</td>
<td>Phthiotis</td>
<td>Halos</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Zeus/Phrixos, series 7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Zeus/Phrixos, series 8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Zeus/Phrixos, series 18(?)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Larisa</td>
<td>Kremaste</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nymph/Harpa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malis</td>
<td>Lamia</td>
<td>Athena/Philoktetes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lokris</td>
<td>Lokris</td>
<td>Athena/Bunch of grapes</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thebai</td>
<td>Boiotian shield/Trident</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since most of the coins were discovered in the occupation layers, they give a good indication of the coin issues that prevailed in Halos around the time of the abandonment of the city in 265 BC. The coin issues provide information on the coin circulation and the inter-city relations in this part of Hellenistic Greece. However, it must be kept in mind that a certain coin may have travelled from city to city and therefore does not necessarily testify direct relations between Halos and the issuing city of the coin. Figure 7 clearly shows that coins minted by Halos and Larisa Kremaste comprise a significant portion of the finds. Several coins

\(^{11}\) Luley 2008, 182
originated from other cities situated relatively close to Halos (Larisa, Lamia and Lokris). In general, these neighbouring cities are also relatively well represented among the coins discovered in the other houses of Halos. The coins minted by the cities of Thebai and Pharsalos are somewhat exceptional because they are bronze issues. The excavation of the other houses at Halos has yielded coins from
these cities as well, but in these cases they were always silver coins. In the Hellenistic period bronze coins generally circulated in the issuing city itself and in neighbouring regional centres.\textsuperscript{12} The provenance of the coins found in the House of Agnostos indicates a similar area of coin circulation.

**Conclusions and further research**

The excavation and preliminary study of the House of Agnostos have resulted in a detailed drawing of the floor plan of the house and a reconstruction of the unexcavated section of the house. We have seen that the construction methods that were used in the House of Agnostos conform to those of the other houses of Halos. By studying the structural relationship of the House of Agnostos within its housing block we hypothesize that while the housing blocks were planned and built in a single effort, the decision about the interior layout of the houses may have been taken by its occupants.

For the moment excavation of private houses at Halos has reached its end since the last undisturbed plot has now been completely excavated. However, the work on the houses will continue: in 2013 the artefacts, especially the structural elements (the iron nails) will undergo thorough study and the cataloguing and analysis of finds from the House of the Tub and Agnostos will be completed. A final publication on the 2007 to 2011 excavations of the House of the Tub and House of Agnostos at Halos will appear in the near future.

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**T.M. DIJKSTRA MA**  
University of Groningen  
t.m.dijkstra@rug.nl

**D. EFSATHIOU MA**  
13th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, Greece  
jennyeff@yahoo.co.uk and defstathiou@culture.gr

**J.S. VAN DER HEUL MA**  
University of Groningen  
jaimevanderheul@gmail.com

**D. VAN DER LINDE BA**  
University of Groningen  
diesvanderlinde@gmail.com

**I. MAMALOUDI BA**  
13th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, Greece  
imamaloudi@hotmail.gr

**E. STAMELOU BA**  
13th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, Greece  
evageliastamelou@yahoo.gr and estamelou@culture.gr

\textsuperscript{12} Reinders et al. 2009-2010, 100-101.
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