

The
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MAGAZINE OF THE INSTITUTE OF NAUTICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Crossroads OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Summer Field Season

From Phoenician Treasures to Klondike Steamers

Artful Shipwrecks

AT THE DALLAS MUSEUM OF ART

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from **BODRUM**



TOP

Ancient pottery in the English Tower storeroom.

MIDDLE

Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology, Bodrum, Turkey

BOTTOM

The Albanian coast shows great promise for significant finds in the future.



Tumbling down a reef off Kekova Adası (Kekova Island) along the southern Turkish coast lie the scattered but intriguing remains of a ceramic cargo from a shipwreck dating probably to the seventh century B.C. No wreck from this century has been excavated in the eastern Mediterranean, and despite its somewhat less than glamorous cargo—a jumble of broken amphorae largely concreted to the seabed along with a pile of ballast stones—two subsequent survey teams have returned to the area to recover additional diagnostic pottery.

In June and July 2007 the humble finds from the Kekova site were seen in a new light in the English Tower of the Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology. An examination of the artifacts raised at Kekova not only confirms a date around the seventh century, but also suggests that the wreck itself deserves another closer look. We identified remains of amphorae and other ceramics associated with wine and olive oil transported from Corinth and Samos or Miletus at a time when these cities were becoming key figures in the trading networks of the eastern Mediterranean. Cypro-Levantine “basket-handle” amphorae, a form seemingly developed in Cyprus and later manufactured in the Levant, were also identified. With its cargo of jars from Corinth, the southeast Aegean, and perhaps Cyprus or the Levant, along with small finds that may have trickled through the crevices of the reef, the Kekova wreck holds the potential to answer questions of trade and economy in the early Archaic eastern Mediterranean—a dynamic period of expanding agricultural production in a pre-monetary economy and reviving international relations between the Aegean and the Levant—as well as important questions about the typology and forms of amphorae that mark this underrepresented period.

Elizabeth S. Greene and Justin Leidwanger are INA Research Associates.

in **ALBANIA**

July of 2007 was an auspicious month for RPM Nautical Foundation as we embarked on our first large-scale coastal survey of Albania. Thanks to Dr. George Bass, who explored coastal locations a decade earlier and formed crucial contacts in the region, this joint project with the Albanian Institute of Archaeology (AIA) came to fruition through the efforts of many individuals, particularly Mr. Auron Tare. Coordinating with Drs. Adrian Anastasi and Neritan Ceka of AIA, the R/V *Hercules* began the survey at Albania’s southern border with Greece with the goal of completing the entire coast over successive seasons. The survey extends to the 100-meter contour, and includes remote sensing with multibeam echosounder and ROV verification, as well as dive operations along the shoreline. During this inaugural field season, multibeam coverage reached the city of Saranda, about 21 kilometers from the Greek border. As dive operations are more laborious, only small sections of this southern shoreline were completed. A total of 15 wreck sites were discovered during operations, with 14 of these being modern and buried in mud from the Butrint River; historic wrecks are undoubtedly buried below this mud and will require magnetometer survey. One wreck discovered near shore dates to the early third century B.C. and carried Greek amphorae of a type produced in Corinth and Apollonia. This site is on a steep, rocky slope and initial investigation indicates areas of buried material. Considering the nature of this site, the extensive individual finds, and the state of deeper material, the submerged cultural material along the Albanian coast is relatively untouched compared to the majority of Mediterranean countries. Based on this initial season, there is great potential for significant finds in the future.

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