

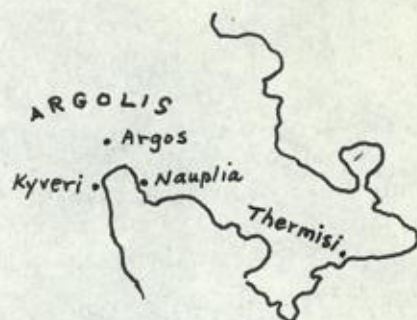
Wallace E. McLeod

American School of Classical Studies,
54 Souidias St., Athens, Greece.

Dear Herr Dr. Schaefer:

Your name was given to me by Dr. Peter Topping, Director of the Gennadius Library, who told me of your researches at Nauplia. He suggested that you might be able to help me.

I am studying the two minor Frankish and Venetian fortresses of Kyveri (above the village of Myloi) and Thermisi, which were outlying dependencies of Argos and Nauplia during the XV. and XVI. centuries.



They are first mentioned in 1347, in the will of Gautier II. de Brienne. At his death in 1356 they passed to his heirs of the family d'Enghien, who called themselves "Seigneurs d'Argos, de Nauplia, et de Kivéri." By them, the territory was sold to Venice in 1388. She retained the forts until 1537-1540.

I have surveyed the castle of Kivéri. It consists of a rectangular keep (very collapsed), ca. 9 metres square; a redout, hexagonal, with six towers — about 30 metres in diameter; and a large outer court filled with buildings — extending about 80 metres down the mountain. The masonry throughout is rubble (dry rubble in the outer walls; rubble with mortar in the redout).

Have you found any indications of building activity in Nauplia which you would date to this period? — Particularly the time just after 1311, when Nauplia was being used as a bridgehead for the reconquest of Athens.

In Venetian records, the latest mention I find of Kivéri as a castle is in 1481 (Miklosich - Müller, *Acta et Diplomata*, III, p. 309); of Thermisi as a castle, 1708 (Lambros, *Δελτίον Ἱστορ. ΕΒ.* V, 1896-1900, p. 684). Do you know of later references which you have met in your reading about the Itsch Káleh?

Any help you could give would be most welcome. And in the event of publication of my researches, I would, of course, be most scrupulous to record your contributions.

Yours truly,

Wallace E. McLeod

March 7th, 1959

Dear Mr. M. L.

you were right in presuming me to share your activities at Riveria & Thermisi with high interest. In fact, I did a survey of Riveria myself in 1957 in order to bring some light into this rather obscure matter, but I cannot give you any definite answer to this question either. The best ideas and references to this problem you will find at Lehmann, *Argolis I* (Athens 1937) v. index "Riveria". Lampugnades, p. 85 is certainly wrong in supposing a Frankish summer-resort at the *château de Chambré*.

I think your idea, to presume Riveria to be the basis for a campaign against Athens as late as 1311, is not very plausible. I rather agree with Lehmann, to take it from an angle of the trigon system. Argos-Nauplia - Riveria with its greatest importance during the Early Frankish Conquest.

In this connection arises again the problem of the siege of Corinthe, v. Lehmann p. 81. I think Bon Corinthe, vol. III, part 2, p. 136 does not give satisfying explanations for the second castle built "versus Traianopolis" whereas those given by Lehmann, p. 81 seem more plausible.

Why don't you go ahead, get yourself the jeep and start with a thorough research of "Almonit" of the Italian version of the Chronicle of Morea, since Lehmann announces there "a well preserved Frankish tower of stately dimensions above the passage of the Kontoporia near the village of Agionori." (ibid.) You might as well add a report about whatever is left of medieval building activities at Agios Basileros.

This all would be of highly needed research, especially connected with the medieval history of Corinthe, Nauplia and Argos, and I am eagerly looking forward to learn your results.

The history of Thermisi is not still connected with this important problem. It is merely a stronghold to "ward some salines," and it might be interested in connection with the whole problem of Venetian Salt Monopoly.

To do a survey of it, must be very difficult, the rocks being so steep, that I despaired in climbing the second hilltop with the inner citadel, when I got there in 1935.

I hope you let me know, when your paper appears. I report will be very soon! Good luck and my compliments to Dr. Topping.

Sincerely yours W. S. Macartney

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