

9 Preparation for publication

After season ends, we'll prepare a preliminary report on the excavation, which will be published in the *Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome*. The 2000 report appeared in *MAAR* 46 (2001) pp. 153-72, the 2001 report in *MAAR* 47 (2002) pp. 253-98, and the 2002 report in *MAAR* 48 (2003) pp. 243-315. The 2003 report is currently under review for the next volume of *MAAR*, and can be found on the dig website. Our first Italian-language site report, covering the 2000-2002 seasons, will appear in *Sicilia Archeologica* 37 (2004), and thereafter we'll publish annually in both English and Italian. We'll also be posting the reports on our website. These preliminary reports are the major way for scholars around the world to learn about the site. The reports depend on everyone doing their jobs accurately and punctually. All the context sheets, drawings, photographs, and site notes have to be in good order, which is why we'll be checking them so often.

Excavations have their own rhythms. Some last just one season; others have been going for a century or more, interrupted only by wars. But even in the longest-lived projects there are breaks when an area is completely excavated or the returns to further inputs diminish to unrewarding levels. As this happens, we'll close down parts of the site and concentrate on producing a final official publication. This has already happened at Monte Polizzo House I, where the Scandinavian team dug from 1998 through 2001. In March-April 2002 they had a study season to work on the finds, and hope to have a final publication very soon.

We only started on the acropolis in 2000, and in the first four seasons we were interested in getting samples from several different areas. But now we're also approaching the point of preparing final publications. In 2004 most of the team will be digging in zone A. If all goes well, by the end of August we'll be ready to close that part of the excavation, and start work in 2005 on writing the definitive account of the evidence from this part of the site. We'll then move on to the other zones in turn, completing each one, and publishing a series of volumes on the acropolis. As we move into the publication stage, we'll shift resources away from digging to lab work. There's plenty of scope for students interested in taking part in the final writing-up process to do so; just talk to Dr Blake.