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Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities
Greek Ministry of Culture

*Aegean Navigation and the Shipwrecks of Fournoi, Greece: The Archipelago in Context*

Saturday, March 2, 2019
4:00pm
Carlos Museum, Ackerman Hall
Emory University

An extensive underwater survey, conducted between the years 2015-2018 by the Hellenic Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities in cooperation with the R.P.M. Nautical Foundation yielded more than fifty unknown shipwrecks in the Fournoi archipelago, making it one of the Mediterranean’s largest known concentration of shipwrecks. This lecture examines why fifty ships came to grief in this relatively obscure location, which apparently never had settlements larger than villages. It considers navigation in the Aegean and the role that Fournoi played in an extended geographical and historical context that, as the material remains attest, stretched from the Iberian Peninsula to the shores of the Black Sea and Asia Minor. It argues that instead of the usual processes of wreck assemblages (ship traps, hazardous environment, or abandonments), the collection of shipwrecks at Fournoi rather represents individual events resulting from the large volume of ship traffic passing through the Fournoi archipelago in particular time periods. The study of the Fournoi shipwrecks thus helps us historicize the Aegean’s navigational landscape.

This lecture is held in conjunction with Dig It!, Emory’s student-led archaeology festival.