**Visiting Greece on 2nd April 2012 for 10 days to examine some recently excavated human skeletal remains from Lefkandi, an Early Iron Age Site on the island of Euboea, Greece**

**Symington Report from JH Musgrave**

Lefkandi is a coastal village on the island of Euboea, north of Athens. Its Wikipedia entry at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lefkandi> gives an account of the site’s occupation history — from the 12th to the 8th centuries BC— and archaeological importance. See too <http://lefkandi.classics.ox.ac.uk/Toumba.html>.

Excavation began in 1964 under the direction of the British School at Athens, and continues nearly half a century later. I have examined and published the human skeletal remains—inhumed and cremated—since 1972 (Musgrave 1980, 1991, 2011). I was invited to undertake this study by Professor Irene Lemos of Oxford University, the current director of excavations. My findings will be published in one of the next volumes in the *Lefkandi* series.

On our visit my wife and I catalogued and examined the remains of an eight-year-old child and three fetuses from the 12th century; and a six-year-old child and a fetus from the 8th. The ages of the earlier fetuses were 34.76 ± 2.08, 38.25 ±2.20 and 38.40 ±2.20 intrauterine weeks, by modern standards. The later one was too fragmentary to age.

The age of the fetuses was determined from limb bone shaft length by means of regression equations published by Scheuer, Musgrave and Evans in 1980 and adapted by Scheuer and Black in 2000. Limb bone length and tooth development and eruption were used to age the two children.

I looked for pathological changes to the limb bone diaphyses, inner surface of the ribs, the cranial vault and orbital roofs of the children. None were seen. The cause of their deaths could not be established.

I should like to thank the Trustees of the Symington Bequest Fund for making me an award; and Professor Irene Lemos for inviting me to examine these ancient youngsters.

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