



The Athens Greek Religion Seminar, December 5 2017, 15.00h

Jorge Bravo: "Cultic Material from the Cave of Pan at Marathon"

Abstract

The Cave of Pan at Marathon, described briefly in antiquity by Pausanias (1.32.8), was first securely located and excavated by I. Papadimitriou in 1958. Consisting of a series of five chambers with two entrances, it has yielded evidence of human activity beginning as early as the Neolithic Period, and during classical antiquity served the cult of Pan and the Nymphs. Prompted by the clear evidence of looting in the Cave, Dr. Alexandra Mari of the Ephorate of Paleoanthropology and Speleology began a project of renewed archaeological investigation in 2013 that is still ongoing. This paper presents a preliminary study of the finds pertaining to the cult practiced at the Cave of Pan, also taking into account the evidence from Papadimitriou's excavation as well as the evidence for the worship of Pan and the Nymphs in Attica and elsewhere in Greece.