



THE ATHENS GREEK RELIGION SEMINAR, Tuesday November 3, 2026

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The Asklepieion of Paros: New sources and the re-study of the site

ABSTRACT

Asklepios was the main healing deity of Classical Antiquity and his sacred precincts served both as religious sites and as medical facilities where the sick came for healing. One of the smaller Asklepieia is located on the island of Paros in the Cyclades, on two terraces about 3 km southwest of the centre of Parikia. The site was partially excavated in 1898-1899 by the German archaeologist Otto Rubensohn (1867-1964) and incompletely published in 1902. Over the last few years, I have been working (together with my wife Pavla Alušíková Dostalíková) on a project to (re)identify all surviving finds based on original descriptions and original excavation documentation, and to better understand the healing practices at the site. Since 2018, several study seasons of the artefacts and the site on Paros (especially in the Archaeological Museum) and several study sessions of the archival documents in Berlin and Athens (since 2020) have been conducted. Through the study of archival documentation, it was possible to create a plan of the excavation trenches and to identify new, often previously unknown and unpublished artefacts from Rubensohn's excavations. This research confirms that Asklepieion on Paros is a very important site, most probably the oldest place of worship of Asklepios in the Cyclades. Although some newly identified artefacts attest to the earliest activity on the site as early as the end of 8th century, the nature of its use and especially the origins of the worship there are not clear.

The seminar takes place Tuesday November 3, 2026, 17.00 (Athens time) with live presence at the Swedish Institute or via zoom link.

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