

APHRODISIAS 2018

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SEASON



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Work at Aphrodisias in 2018 was focused on multi-stranded projects in the Tetrastylon Street, South Agora, and Civil Basilica. Much other conservation, study, and publication work was also undertaken. Our research team worked from 25 June to 20 August, and our site conservation team from 11 June to 31 September. Fifty-five archaeologists, architects, conservators, epigraphists, photographers, and numismatists participated – both senior staff and students, from Turkey, the UK, and the US. Sixty local workers were employed in excavation and site conservation. The government representative was Fatih Mehmet Yıldırım (Aydın Archaeological Museum).

1. TETRASTYLON STREET

The Tetrastylon Street runs north-south from the Tetrastylon to the Theatre (Figs. 1-2). Its excavation, begun in 2008, is designed to investigate a key urban artery, to bring new information about late antique, Byzantine, Seljuk, and Ottoman Aphrodisias, and eventually to open it for visitors. Work in 2018 was concentrated in four areas along the street. They were as follows, south to north: (a) excavation south of the Sebasteion Propylon, (b) excavation in front of the Sebasteion Propylon, (c) excavation in front of the Niche Monument, and (d) restoration work on the street paving at the north end of the excavated street. The excavation was supervised by Ine Jacobs with Ceren Ak, İlayda Alikaya, Alis Altnel, Afsheen Leonardo Amiri, Defne Antika, Duru Yağmur Başaran, Ayşegül Çoban, Hazal Dar, Dashiell Jordan, Elif Kumaşçıoğlu, Aybüke Kemik, Mehmet Tarık Öztürk, Peter Thompson, and Ozan Yıldırım. The street project is funded by Aygaz, the Headley Trust, the Friends of Aphrodisias Trust in London, the Malcolm Hewitt Wiener Foundation, and the British Institute at Ankara.

(a) Street south of Sebasteion (SAve 18.1)

In the part of the street immediately south of the Sebasteion Propylon (Figs. 2-4), the aims in 2018 were to complete the excavation of the Seljuk bath building found in 2016-17, to excavate the area to the south of the bath-house to uncover the connection of the street with the back of the Agora Gate at the original Roman level, and to excavate what remains of the late antique street in this area. These aims were fully met in an excavation trench measuring c. 25m north-south x 19m east-west.

Seljuk bath-house (Fig. 3). The remaining parts of the hypocaust in Rooms 2 and 3 of the bath-house were excavated and were found to extend down to the original early Roman imperial street level. Five early street paving slabs were found in Room 2 and under the wall between Rooms 2 and 3, at a level about 1.00 m below the level of the (much larger) late Roman street pavers. The Seljuk construction of the bath-house involved digging through the late Roman street levels to the early imperial pavement. It used large blocks in its lower courses, possibly taken from the stylobate of the late Roman street colonnade. One block, in the east wall of Room 3, is a re-used dentilated raking cornice similar to ones found re-used in the street colonnade. Also uncovered were a fountain on the outside wall of Room 3 (later an animal trough) and a later addition to the bath complex on the west – a larger Room 5 with benches around its walls. In early Ottoman times the bath-house was converted into a housing unit that extended to the west, to Room 5 and the back of the Agora Gate.

Street and colonnade (Figs. 4-5). Excavation south of the bath-house brought to light a spectacular collapse of the late Roman street colonnade. The collapse extended from the Cryptoporticus House in the east to the back of the Agora Gate at the west, where the connection between street and the north tunnel through the Agora Gate was revealed. The earliest elements in this area, of the imperial period, remain the street-wall of the Cryptoporticus House and the cobbled underlay of the covered walkway in front of it (Fig. 5, at right). When the street level was raised in late antiquity, new paving, found in situ, was laid in large blocks, but with an un-paved strip of hard-packed earth at each side. Five new intercolumniations of the late antique street colonnade were excavated this year (Figs. 4-5). A new stylobate made of various re-used cornice blocks was constructed in front of the cobbled walkway. Three of the column bases remained in situ, and the complete order of the street colonnade was excavated in front of them as it had collapsed. The columns and their superstructure of brick arches

had come down directly onto the street paving – the street was therefore still in use at the time of the collapse. The architecture fell in a clear pattern from east to west, the result of a powerful earthquake that brought about the same collapse in other parts of the street. The earthquake is dated precisely by a large coin hoard found in the northern part of the street in 2011, in front of the Niche Building: the hoard was closed in AD 616/17.

The construction and architectural details of the colonnade are of considerable interest (Figs. 6-7). The monolithic columns were doweled to the bases with liberal use of poured lead to level them (Fig. 7). They carried a fascinating set of varied Ionic capitals, each one a thoughtful late antique (fifth century) reception and re-design of the classic Ionic capitals that still dominated the public cityscape (Fig. 6). The capitals carried plain impost blocks for the springing of the brick arches. The Ionic capitals with discrete impost blocks seem to document a short, experimental period in late antique architecture, before the two components became fused in standard sixth-century impost capital designs.

Several of the columns carried painted late antique inscriptions (Fig. 8). They were written in dark red paint on areas of white lime plaster applied to the marble columns at two separate times – that is, the surviving texts were written on new plaster applied over earlier texts. The texts are framed above and below by crosses but are badly fragmented. One praises the Christian God, another the Emperor, ‘lord of the inhabited world’ (I 18-29 a-e).

Immediately in front of the stylobate a 3m-deep manhole was discovered, later sealed with the re-cut abacus of an imperial-period Corinthian capital (visible in Figs. 4-5 in front of the fourth intercolumniation from the south). It served for maintenance of a drain that evacuated water from the east at a level deeper than the main drain channel that runs north-south under the street. At the southwest quadrant of the trench, part of the west street-wall was found in an area already excavated in 1975. The earlier excavation had removed any detailed traces of the access connection between the street and the Agora Gate tunnel, but it seems clear there was a gentle incline between the two. The level of the newly excavated east stylobate proved to be precisely the same as that of the east stylobate found in part of the street excavated further south in the 1980s. The level of the street paving, however, was higher there, indicating that the street continued to rise in a light incline to the south.

After the 616/17 earthquake, this area of the street remained for a long period in a desperate state of disarray, as seen in the broken, sloping, and difficult ruin-surface found in the upper layers of the excavation. Things changed when material and space were cleared for the Seljuk bath-house which was dug down to Roman levels. The bath was surely positioned for access to a water supply. An Ottoman settlement later grew up in the area to the west of the bath and on top of it. The sequence of the main later phases after the seventh century saw first the collapse of the street-wall of the Cryptoporticus House on top of the fallen street colonnade, then much later, Ottoman settlement over the whole area.

Finds. Some notable finds included: (1) a blue-grey marble frog from the backfill for the access to the Agora Gate tunnel (inv. 18-86) (Fig. 9); (2) a small Herakles head found in the rubble of the collapsed Cryptoporticus House west wall (inv. 18-58) (Fig. 10); (3) a remarkably delicate fragment of an alabaster head made for insertion in a larger work, found in an early Ottoman layer over the cobbled walkway on the east side of the street (inv. 18-97) (Fig. 11); (4) part of the ending of an *ethnos* inscription from the north building of the Sebasteion found in a Geyre house wall in the southwest part of the trench (I 18-22) (Fig. 13) – it joins and completes the inscription for the *ethnos* of the *Mezaioi* found in the street excavation in 2016 (the Maezaei were an Illyrian or Dalmatian tribe living on the Pannonian-Dalmatian border conquered by Germanicus in 7 BC); and (5) a completely preserved, light green glazed early Ottoman bowl found face down in rubble over the centre of the street (inv. 18-56) (Fig. 12).

(b) Street in front of Sebasteion Propylon (NAve 18.1)

The Propylon of the Sebasteion was excavated in difficult conditions in 1980-81, when the area was heavily water-logged, and the first storey of the gate was re-erected in a careful anastylosis in 2012-15 (Fig. 14). There had already been severe problems with rising ground water in antiquity, and the street paving in front of the gate had been raised 1.10m, so that it rose over and up against the lower part of

the podium on which the west end of the Sebasteion was built. The original street level, the large lower moulding of the podium, and half of the three stairways through the gate were covered by the new street paving. In late antiquity, only the north stairway retained three (heavily worn) upper steps as access between the Sebasteion and the street. The original early imperial level and paving had previously been exposed only in front of the South Building's west end. The aim of the excavation here in 2018 (Figs. 15-16) was to expose the original lowest level of the Propylon structure and the street in front of it across the remainder of the Sebasteion's west façade, both to understand the phasing of the street and to measure more accurately the curvature that had already been observed in its podium. The dimensions of the trench were c. 28m north-south x minimum 3m and maximum 6m east-west.

Fountains. In the northern part of the trench, the lower part of the brick-floored fountain base that had been uncovered in 2017, built against the west end of the Sebasteion's north building, was removed. The orthostate panels of the fountain's front wall were found to have been secured by 21 surviving dowels leaded into the fountain base (Fig. 17). The lead has 6-9 small curious impressions around the dowel. This base course and the tile floor of the fountain basin were removed to allow excavation below. Another fountain basin was found below it, with its floor about 30cm above the Roman street level. This fountain was no doubt replaced, with the second basin at a higher level, when the street level was raised.

Street drain. Also contemporary with the raising of the street level was the construction of the major north-south drain that runs under the new street (Figs. 16-17). This street drain (depth: 1.20m) was exposed close in front of the Propylon, together with the subsidiary drain joining it from under the Propylon's central stairway. A considerable number of large-diameter, well-laid water-supply pipes were exposed, both running north-south down the street and east-west in the central stairway of the Propylon. The walls of the main north-south drain were found to contain a number of fragmentary statue parts (Fig. 18), broken up for re-use as wall material, bonded with each other and with field stones in a strong hard mortar. Preliminary indications of the recovered pottery suggest the later street paving was laid at the higher level perhaps in the sixth century.

Finds. The most notable of the c. 30 marble statuary fragments from the walls of the north-south drain include: (1) a marble himation statue with a neck socket for a separately added head (Fig. 18) – the figure was heavily worked over for its use as masonry and its back had earlier been re-shaped as part of a gutter or channel (inv. 18-91); and (2) the plinth and lowest part of a colossal heroic portrait statue (inv. 18-87) (Figs. 19-20). Preserved across the back of the plinth is the statue's support in the form of a huge archaic-looking Corinthian helmet with ram's heads on its cheek pieces. The figure stood naked with its right foot raised on a support in a posture common for young heroes and heroic-style commanders. Probably the honorand was an emperor, and the purpose of the Corinthian helmet was to show him armed like the heroes of old.

(c) Street in front of Niche Building (NAve 18.2)

The Niche Building is a large masonry structure 8m high that stands on the line of the west side of the Tetracylon Street (Fig. 21). It carried an honorific statue in its single central niche whose inscribed base records that the honorand, one Myon Eusebes, had paid for many works and for the 'First Gerousian Bath', or 'First Bath for the Council of Elders'. The monument has always been visible but the area of street in front of it was not excavated until the campaigns of 2008-2016, which left however a narrow baulk of earth (1.00m wide and 2.70m high) spanning the street and an area of seventh-century collapse on the street immediately south of the baulk. The aim of work in this area in 2018 was to remove the baulk and to excavate the remaining area of collapse and a platform of earth left against the south side of the Niche Building and the street-wall. The trench measured c. 16m north-south x 7m east-west.

The excavation proved that there was indeed a bath complex behind the west street-wall. Immediately south of the Niche Building, excavation revealed a narrow vaulted opening (Fig. 22) constructed at the late Roman street level giving access into the deep hypocaust of a bath building behind, no doubt the 'First Gerousian Bath' mentioned on the statue base from the niche. Some tubuli had been found here in 2015, suggesting the presence of a bath building which has now been fully confirmed.

Immediately above this opening and built into the depth of the street-wall from the west, a small shallow rectangular marble-lined bathing pool (c. 1.50 x 2.50m) was excavated, located above the hypocaust. The hypocaust however extends much further west and further south than the perimeter of this small pool. The hypocaust was not fully filled up with earth accumulation and could be measured to an east-west depth of c.10 m. The narrow vaulted opening on the street, composed of three brick arches, is framed by two masonry stub walls and has a lot of traces of burning on its surround. There is burnt charcoal in the scarp and traces of burning at street level. The vaulted opening was probably therefore a *praefurnium*. It seems to be of clearly late antique construction, punched through the early imperial street-wall, leaving ragged masonry edges. This late-added *praefurnium* belonged probably to a period when the maintenance of a good bathing temperature was more important than the unusual disposition of a furnace located directly on a public street outside the baths – a solution that would surely have been unacceptable under the early-middle empire.

In the middle and east side of the street, a similar complicated sequence of collapses – like that in the south section of the street – was excavated. Roof tiles, brick, and other building materials from the street colonnade and buildings behind it were found collapsed across the street from east to west (Fig. 23).

(d) Street restoration to north of Niche Building

The Niche Building was fully cleaned in 2018 (Fig. 21), but the planned copy of the statue that belongs in its central niche was not made because permission for it did not come. Conservation work on the damaged and missing street slabs and drain covers of the street was continued to the north of the Niche Building by Hikmet Apaydın and a team of four workers, in preparation for eventual use of the street by visitors. Broken and damaged paving slabs and drain-cover slabs were lifted, cleaned, drilled, doweled, glued, and put back in their original positions (Figs. 24-25). Areas where slabs were missing were cleaned out, lined with sand and geotextile, and pressed with a roller.

Finds. When a drain cover slab was lifted during this work, a small head of an African boy carved in dark grey marble (H: 18cm) was found in the main channel of the street drain in front of the first plain unfluted monolithic column of the street colonnade counting from the north baulk (inv. 18-54) (Fig. 26). The expressive head had separately inlaid eyes and was perhaps part of an elaborate table support.

2. CIVIL BASILICA

In conjunction with continuing fieldwork in the South Agora, a new study, excavation, and restoration project was begun on the façade of the Civil Basilica (Fig. 27). A preliminary project in 2017 had determined how much of the facade could be restored and how Diocletian's Edict of Maximum Prices, which was inscribed on the panelling of the facade, might be presented. This year the full project began with new excavation inside and outside of the building and detailed conservation work on its floors and on its marble columnar architecture. The conservation work on the architecture was supervised by Gerhard Paul and Thomas Kaefer, on the mosaic and marble floors by Francesca Guiducci with Hanife Durak, Selma Güneşyüz, and Soon Kai Poh, and the archaeological work by Ine Jacobs, Doğuş Coşar, and Miranda Gronow, with Selda Özhan Alp, Blagovesta Atanassova, Sarah Cohen, Merve Günal, İlayda Ötgün, and Özlem Yıldırım. The work is funded by Mr Murat Ülker and pladis.

Excavation (BSAg 18.1). The aim of excavation outside the Basilica to the north was to understand the relationship between the long pool in the South Agora and the Basilica façade (Fig. 27) and to remove a wide and low earth accumulation that impeded seeing and understanding the front of the building. The trench measured c. 29m east-west x 22m north-south. The area was excavated to the walking level of the fifth century. Four coins of Leo I (457-474) found on this surface confirmed the already well-established chronology for the restoration and resurfacing of the area in the late fifth century. No signs of planting trenches were found, but this does not mean there were none. Finds included thirty-five coins and two small fragments of Diocletian's Price Edict (I 18-23 and I 18-24). Investigation and careful cleaning was pursued up to and inside the late antique colonnade running east-west in front of the Basilica. Parts of its entablature were found fallen on c. 15 cm of silt in front of the colonnade.

Conservation and excavation inside Basilica (BSAg 18.2). The aim of investigation inside the Basilica was to examine and stabilise the pavements in the north vestibule and the east aisle. The vestibule pavements, which had been exposed in the original 1970s excavation, were uncovered, cleaned, edged, and conserved (Figs. 28-29). Conservation work focused on the two sections of hexagonal tiled pavement made of slate and marble. In the exposed northern part of the east aisle, earlier excavation had left a medieval vernacular structure composed of large spolia blocks from the collapsed Basilica (Fig. 32). Since it was necessary to remove it, a careful investigation and documentation of this spolia structure was carried out: its in-situ blocks were drawn and its interior excavated in a trench measuring c. 3m x 7m. The spolia construction, probably a medieval dwelling, had been built on top of a thick tile collapse from the Basilica roof. No datable material was found. In contrast to the complete excavation of the west aisle of the Basilica in the 1980s, this part had not been dug.

The excavation this year through the tile collapse came down on a patterned mosaic floor. It had sustained damage from elements falling on it and from tree roots. The mosaic was carefully edged and conserved (Fig. 30). Its main field carries a floral design with a varied meander border punctuated by city-wall and perspective cube patterns. One unusual element in the border is a large single eye with a round wide-staring iris and pupil (Fig. 31). The 'open' inner canthus shows the representation is indeed of an eye. The mosaic is of the same manufacture as that exposed earlier in the 1980s in the west aisle – where the mosaic floor is dated by its inscribed tabula that records the work as that of Flavius Constantius, governor in the AD 350s.

Restoration. Major work began on the architectural restoration of the Basilica façade (Figs. 33-40). First, access routes from the south were cleared and made stable. The numbered blocks of the architecture were then moved by crane from the front of the Basilica to a nearby block field and to the southern part of the building's central nave. The complete clearing of the vestibule and the east aisle was a necessary preliminary to the stabilisation of the tiled and mosaic floors described above. After conservation, the exposed floors were secured with geotextile, sand, and gravel.

The surviving architectural marble elements of the façade and vestibule were studied and checked for cracks and weight-bearing capacity. Many column drums and fragmented parts of column drums from the colossal orders belonging to the façade were removed by crane to the marble conservation workshop (Blue Depot) for cleaning, repair, and restoration (Fig. 34). Fragments of the Ionic capitals and large double-half columns were joined wherever possible (Figs. 35-39). Cracks in the columns were repaired with internal stainless steel dowels and fixed with Hilti HIT-RE 500, a two-component adhesive. Missing parts of columns and bases, needed to ensure their load-bearing capacity, were added in artificial stone and worked by a stone mason (Fig. 40). All the architectural blocks at the building were organised in a new system to allow the identification and classification of blocks belonging to the façade. A full application for the continued restoration was prepared and sent to the Aydın Kurul.

3. SOUTH AGORA – PLACE OF PALMS

Following completion in 2017 of the excavation that was the primary goal of the Mica and Ahmet Ertegun South Agora pool project, activity in the South Agora, or as it is more accurately named in a late antique inscription 'the Place of Palms', consisted of conservation and publication. The conservation work was funded by Ömer Koç and the Geyre Vakfi.

Study, documentation, publication. A team of fourteen collaborators who had worked on the excavation or on the material it produced were assembled to prepare their parts of a collaborative South Agora / Place of Palms volume for the *Aphrodisias* series, under the supervision of Andrew Wilson and Benjamin Russell. Photographs, drawings, reconstructions, catalogues of material, and concise chapters were prepared for the publication of the excavation, the complex, and all the rich and varied material found in it over the six years of the Ertegun Project: ceramics (Ulrike Outschar, Muradiye Öztaşkin), coins (Ahmet Tolga Tek, Hüseyin Köker), inscriptions (Angelos Chaniotis), architecture (Benjamin Russell, Allison Kidd), stratigraphy and water features (Andrew Wilson), animal bones (Angela Trentacoste), plant remains (Erica Rowan), small finds (Hugh Jeffery, Timothy Penn), and marble sculpture (Joshua Thomas, Roland Smith).

New documentation was made of spolia phases, water-saw use, gameboards on the pool perimeter, commercial use of the west stoa, revetment of the north stoa back wall, and architectural elements of the late antique south stoa. New architectural recording was undertaken of the pool walls and the stoa elevations. The iron javelin tips and iron military stirrup of the mid-seventh century, found at the east end of the pool in 1990, were located, studied, and documented (Fig. 45). The stirrup seems to be the earliest so far found in Turkey. Surprise finds among the animal bones from 1980s excavation in the South Agora were parts of the antlers of a large red deer and parts of the leg bones of a camel (Fig. 46).

Conservation. A new conservation project was begun to repair and stabilise the marble perimeter of the pool, focusing on the inner wall which is composed of vertical orthostate slabs, horizontal foot plates, and heavy seat blocks behind (Figs. 41-44). The work was supervised by Trevor Proudfoot, Thomas Kaefer, and Joanna Skwierz. Work began at the east end and proceeded along the more damaged south side, using a movable scaffold rig for lifting and re-positioning blocks (Fig. 43). Part of the drain and accumulated earth behind the orthostate slabs were dug out in order to correct the angle of the slabs. The orthostates were re-positioned and fixed on top, using the ancient cuttings fitted with new stainless steel clamps set in mortar or with Hilti HIT-RE 500 adhesive. Broken foot plates and seat blocks were lifted and repaired with stainless steel dowels (Figs. 43-44). The position of a series of misplaced seat blocks at the east end was corrected. Repaired seat blocks were re-set on a gravel bed, supported where necessary by a new or repaired lime-mortared wall behind. Methods and procedures for repairing the pool perimeter were successfully trialled this year and will be pursued next year with two scaffold rigs, one on each of the pool's long sides.

4. FRIEZE WALL

In 2009, the long series of mask-and-garland frieze blocks from the north stoa of the South Agora or 'Portico of Tiberius' that had been excavated in 1937 was returned to Aphrodisias from Izmir. They had been displayed in the garden of the Izmir Museum where they had suffered from modern traffic pollution (Fig. 49). A two-year project to display the frieze blocks was begun in 2017 and completed this year (Figs. 47-52). The work was funded by Adilcan Karaağaç, Kaan Karaağaç and Efe Karaağaç.

The new frieze wall is 3.50m high and is located on the west side of the square in front of the Aphrodisias Museum and greets visitors as they come from the entrance to the site (Figs. 48 and 51). It is composed of 120 blocks arranged in seven rows 20m long. The blocks were all cleaned before mounting. The wall stands on a secure concrete base faced with local stone, and the blocks rest on themselves with a reversible mortar filling between as necessary. Steel masts behind support a cantilevered gravel-covered roof that projects 1.5m over the face of the frieze blocks. The inventory numbers of the blocks remain visible on their back, and their records and documentation were lodged with the Museum. A new information panel explaining the original context and significance of the mask-and-garland frieze was installed beside the wall (Fig. 52).

5. OTHER SITE CONSERVATION

Other and routine site maintenance and conservation was supervised by Thomas Kaefer. The water supply to the site, museum, and jandarma was renovated with new electric pumps, a new galvanised raised tank, and a new roof for the pump house. The visitor path and stairway up both sides of the Theatre Hill were made anew, together with a viewing platform at the top of the stairway.

In the Hadrianic Baths, the recently conserved floors were cleaned, monitored, and repaired as needed. One of the relief piers, which had split, was repaired. A new roof to protect the conserved floors and walls of Room 6 was designed and an application sent to the Aydın Kurul. A steel viewing platform to place between Rooms 5 and 6 is under design. The Stadium seating was cleared of vegetation and the condition of the adjoining City Wall checked. Designs for a stairway from the Sebasteion Temple to the stepped platform in front of it were prepared.

A programme of cutting grass and vegetation around the site continued throughout the season. The Bouleuterion was completely cleaned. The area east of the Tetrastoon was cleared of vegetation for future use as a block field, and in the area behind the Niche Building the collapsed remains of an old

village house were removed. New information panels were designed and installed at the Hadrianic Baths, the Frieze Wall, and the Tetrapylon Street to explain recent work.

6. PUBLICATION, DOCUMENTATION, RESEARCH

The program of detailed archaeological, architectural, and site recording begun in 1991 was supervised by Julia Lenaghan and Harry Mark. The goals remain to record, study, and publish the finds and building complexes uncovered in the excavations of Kenan Erim (1961-1990) and in succeeding years. In addition to study for the South Agora publication, described above, the following was undertaken.

Buildings: archaeology and architecture. Publication projects were pursued on the Bouleuterion (Ursula Quatember), Stadium (Katherine Welch), Byzantine architectural ornament (Hugh Jeffery), Sebasteion (Phil Stinson with Schuyler Clogston), and Temple of Aphrodite (Andrew Leung for James Coulton). Architectural study of the Sebasteion focused on the recently discovered curvature in the podium of the Propylon (Figs. 14-15) and on the columns of the Temple. One complete column and its capital were erected as a trial in front of the conservation workshop (Fig. 53). In the atrium of the Temple-Church, one of the colossal broken phiale-basins was moved, drawn, and reconstituted (Figs. 54-55).

Ceramics, coins, small finds. The ceramics excavated in the Tetrapylon Street were sorted and studied (Ulrike Outschar, Muradiye Öztaşkın with Deniz Burç). The cataloguing of the excavation coins from recent years, begun in 2013, was pursued by A. Tolga Tek and Hüseyin Köker. The coins and other small finds were conserved by Federica Divita and Francesca Guiducci, with Büşra Arı, Selma Güneşyüz, Soon Kai Poh, Fatma Şenol, Özlem Yıldırım. Future studies of glass finds from the Tetrapylon Street were discussed with Prof. Üzlifat Özgümüş.

Sculpture. Publication projects were pursued on different bodies of figured sculpture: Bouleuterion statues (Christopher Hallett), statues from the Sebasteion Propylon (Julia Lenaghan), terracotta figurines (Elçin Doğan Gürbüzler), and figured consoles from the Hadrianic Baths (Joshua Thomas). Several of the consoles were moved by crane for new photography. A large fragment of a naked female chest from the depots (museum inv. 1238) was found to fit one of the female divine heads from the forecourt of the Hadrianic Baths (inv. 66-269) – the naked bust part was carved for insertion into a clothed body (Fig. 56).

In addition to those already mentioned, some significant new finds may be mentioned. (1) The front of a high-quality sandaled male foot was found exposed in the floor of the South Agora pool at its eastern end (inv. 18-69) (Fig. 57). (2) A strongly muscled male left leg (inv. 18-64) (Fig. 58), found to the north-west of the Niche Building, was shown to belong to the figure of Herakles on the fragmentary *Finding of Telephos* relief from the South Building of the Sebasteion (D 46, inv. 81-118). (3) A youthful life-size male head wearing a thick laurel wreath, probably from a high relief (inv. 18-74) (Fig. 59) was exposed in rubble packing to the south of the South Agora pool by heavy rain; the head was of good quality but is now much battered; it has a short hairstyle with centre-parted fringe. And (4) a complete arcaded sarcophagus chest of the early third century AD was excavated in the south-east necropolis area (S-847) (Figs. 60-61). Unusually the columned arcade design of the sarcophagus continues on all four sides, with an unusual combination of subjects: the front has a central figure of Dionysos flanked by Pan, a Silenos, a nymph, and a satyr, while the back and short sides feature the nine Muses. The left-hand short end also has an unusual and careful repair to one of its arches.

Study of material from the Agora Gate basin led to a trial fitting of one of the heads found in 2017 at the eastern end of the South Agora pool (inv. 17-53 and 17-112) on a seated statue found at the basin in 1977 and now in the museum (inv. 77-77). The two cannot join because the upper neck is shattered, but the head and the statue share a fixing technique by which a new head or an original head undergoing repair was attached to the statue with a dowel set in a large, square-section cutting. The trial mounting showed that the head *could* have belonged to the statue (Fig. 62).

Inscriptions. Epigraphic finds were studied by Angelos Chaniotis with Giorgos Tsolakis. Significant finds not already mentioned included a building inscription from the Hadrianic Baths (I 18-11) and a small altar dedicated to Hadrian Soter from the area to the east of the Theatre and Tetrastoon (I 18-12) (Figs. 63-64). Its size, find location, and epigraphic character suggest it was a private altar. Another

altar to Hadrian of similar form and fragments of two further altars probably also dedicated to Hadrian were known already: *I Aph2007* 8.708 (Theatre Baths); *I Aph2007* 8.256 (from Theatre scaena), *I Aph2007* 9.119 (from the Sebasteion's North Building).

Seminars. Research results were presented and discussed during the season at weekly seminars on the Sebasteion temple, Tetracylon Street, and South Agora, as well as on inscriptions, animal bones, and mosaic conservation (Fig. 65). A workshop in archaeology and history for school children from the surrounding area was run at the site from 18 July to 17 August, coordinated by Gülay Mert and funded by the Geyre Vakfı (Fig. 66). Over the month of the workshop, 600 children attended. A travelling seminar on the theme of 'The Long Lives of Ancient Monuments', funded by the J.P. Getty Foundation and attended by twenty-four colleagues from Bulgaria, Greece, and Turkey, began with three days of study and lectures at Aphrodisias on 9-12 September.

Publications. Two new monographs in the *Aphrodisias* series have been published this year: (1) E. Ögüş, *Aphrodisias IX: The Columnar Sarcophagi* (Reichert 2018) and (2) J. van Voorhis, *Aphrodisias X. The Sculptor's Workshop* (Reichert 2018). A further monograph is in press: (3) M. Berenfeld, *Aphrodisias XI: The Triconch House*.

STAFF 2018 (Figs. 67-68).

Archaeologists: Ceren Ak, Afsheen Leonardo Amiri, İlayda Alikaya, Selda Özhan Alp, Oktay Alp, Alis Altınel, Defne Antika, Eda Doğa Aras, Blagovesta Atanassova, Betül Başak, Duru Yağmur Başaran, Quinn Bolte, Sarah Cohen, Doğuş Coşar, Ayşegül Çoban, Hazal Dar, Durmuş Ersun, Nathalie Defne Gier, Miranda Gronow, Merve Günal, Christopher Hallett, Ine Jacobs, Hugh Jeffrey, Dashiell Jordan, Elçin Doğan Gürbüzler, Aybüke Kemik, Allison Kidd, Elif Kumaşçıoğlu, Julia Lenaghan, Nisan Lordoğlu, Ulrike Outschar, İlayda Ötgün, Muradiye Öztaşkın, Mehmet Tarık Öztürk, Timothy Penn, Ursula Quatember, Erica Rowan, Benjamin John Russell, Roland Smith, Serra Somersan, Phil Stinson, Joshua Thomas, Peter Thompson, Angela Trentacoste, Katherine Elizabeth Welch, Andrew Wilson, Ozan Yıldırım. *Anastylosis Architects:* Thomas Kaefer, Gerhard Paul. *Architects:* Gizem Aliçay, Emma Brown, Schuyler Clogston, Kübra Gür, Dillon Hortwitz, Danielle Lake, Andrew Leung, Harry Mark, Alexa Sternberger. *Conservators:* Fatma Nezihe Ağır, Büşra Arı, Deniz Burç, Federica Divita, Hanife Durak, Francesca Guiducci, Selma Güneşyüz, Soon Kai Poh, Fatma Şenol, Selçuk Somersan, Özlem Yıldırım. *Epigraphists:* Angelos Chanotis, Andrea Raggi, Giorgos Tsolakis. *Marble Conservators:* Trevor Proudfoot, Alexander Rickett, Joanna Skwiercz, James Wheeler. *Numismatists:* Hüseyin Köker, Ahmet Tolga Tek. *Photographer:* Ian Cartwright.

SPONSORS 2018

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R.R.R. Smith, Director, Aphrodisias Excavations
21.10.2018

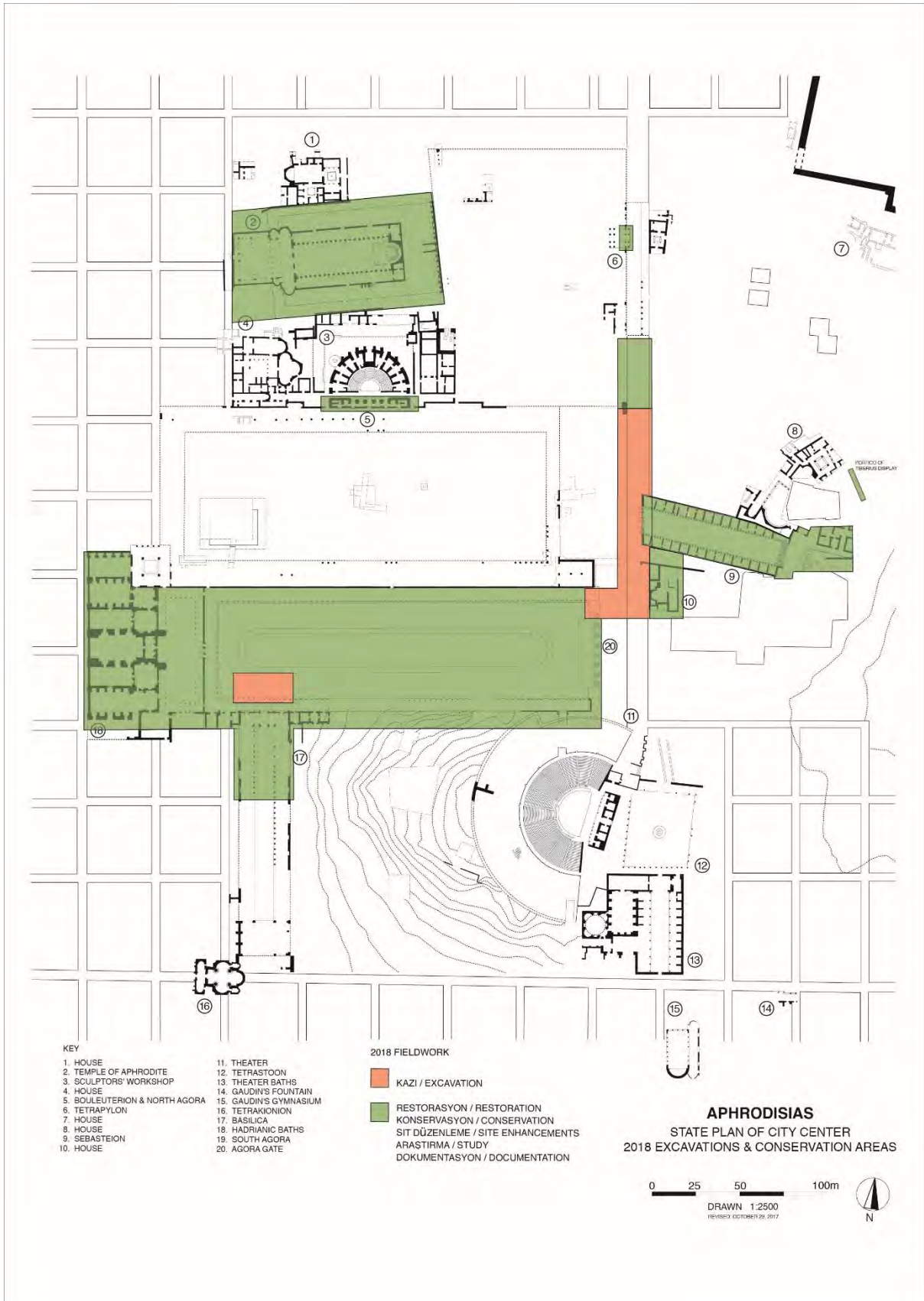


Fig. 1: Aphrodisias city centre plan, work areas in 2018.



Fig. 2: Tetrapylon Street, looking north over colonnade and bath house in foreground to Sebasteion Propylon and Tetrapylon (2018).



Fig. 3: Tetrapylon Street (north to right). Seljuk bath house from above, with newly excavated chamber at top (on west) with bench around wall (2018).



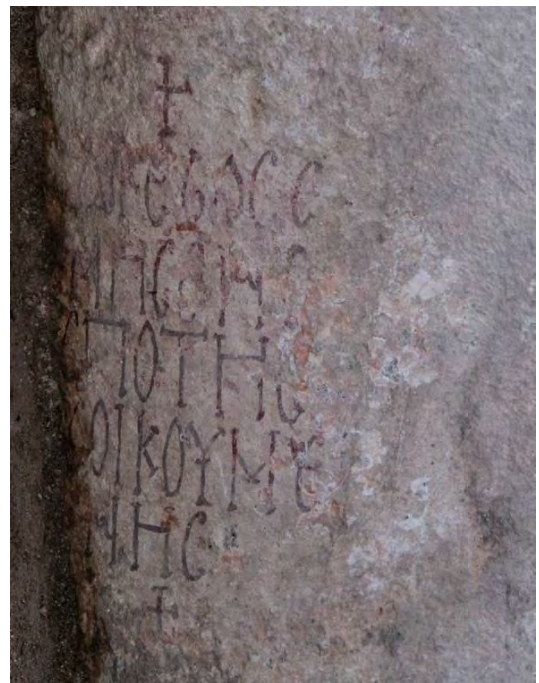
Fig. 4: Tetrapylon Street (north to right). Collapsed late antique colonnade and brick arches on top of street paving (2018).



Fig. 5: Tetrasyon Street (north at top). Late antique colonnade and Seljuk bath house built over street (2018).



Fig. 6: Tetrapylon Street. Collapsed column, Ionic capital, impost block, and brick arches, lying directly on street paving (2018).



*Fig. 7: Tetrapylon Street. Top of column base with poured lead for levelling column when placed on top of it.
 Fig. 8: Tetrapylon Street. Painted inscription on column invoking Emperor as 'lord of the inhabited world' (I 18-29 d)(2018).*



Fig. 9: Tetrápylon Street. Speckled grey marble frog (inv. 18-86).
 Fig. 10: Tetrápylon Street. Small marble head of Herakles wearing lionskin (inv. 18-58).

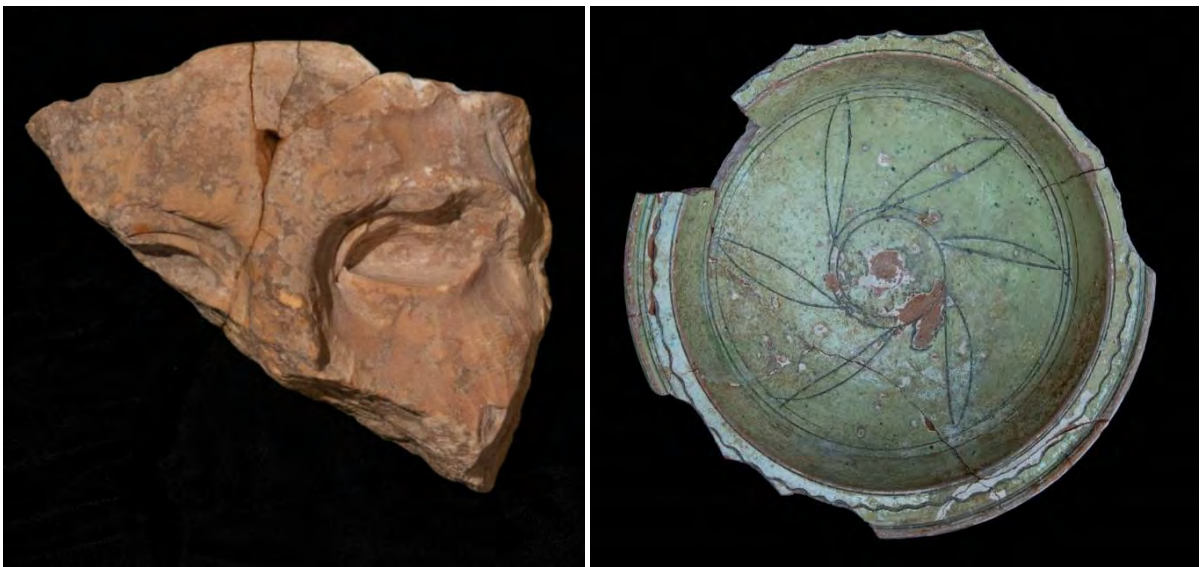


Fig. 11: Tetrápylon Street. Alabaster head fragment (inv. 18-97).
 Fig. 12: green glazed early Ottoman bowl (inv. 18-56).



Fig. 13: Tetrápylon Street. Inscribed base of ethnos of the Maezaei, with new part on right (I 18-22).



Fig. 14: Sebasteion and Propylon, looking east, with trench Nave 18.1 in foreground (2018).



Fig. 15: Sebasteion and Propylon, looking east, with trench Nave 18.1 in foreground (2018).



Fig. 16: Tetrapylon Street (north at left). Trench Nave 18.1 in front of Sebasteion's Propylon (2018).



Fig. 17: Tetrapylon Street. Trench Nave 18.1, looking south, with dowels for fountain orthostate slabs in situ and exposed street drain (2018).



Fig. 18: Tetrapylon Street, Trench Nave 18.1 (north to left), with cut-down himation statue (inv. 18-91) in west wall of street drain (2018).



Figs. 19 - 20: Tetracylon Street. Front and back of statue plinth for colossal naked male figure, with large Corinthian helmet carved behind as statue support (inv. 18-87).



Fig. 21: Tetrapylon Street (looking west). Niche Building after cleaning and completion of trench Nave 18.2 in front of it (2018).



Fig. 22: Tetrapylon Street. Late antique praefurnium aperture inserted through west street wall immediately south of Niche Building (see Fig. 21) (2018).



Fig. 23: Tetrapylon Street (looking north). Masonry, brick, and tile collapse, dated by coin hoard to AD 616/17, directly on street in front of Niche Building (NAve 18.2) (2018).



Figs. 24 - 25: Tetrapylon Street. Restoration work on street paving north of Niche Building (2018).



Fig. 26: Tetracylon Street. Small head of African boy in dark grey marble (H: 18 cm) found during restoration of street drain north of Niche Building (inv. 18-54) (2018).



Fig. 27: Basilica (north at top). Front of building cleared of blocks with tiled floors restored and area in front excavated to late antique level (2018).



Fig. 28: Basilica (north at top). Front of building with tiled floors restored (2018).



Fig. 29: Basilica (north at top). Conservation work on marble tiled floor at front (north-east corner) of vestibule (2018).



Fig. 30: Basilica. Conservation work on newly exposed tessera mosaic in east aisle (2018).



Fig. 31: Basilica. Detail of mosaic border with representation of round, staring eye, in situ (2018). For position, see Fig. 32.



Fig. 32: Basilica. Mosaic in situ in east aisle, newly exposed, before conservation, framed by spolia blocks of vernacular medieval dwelling (2018).



Fig. 33: Basilica. Moving of numbered blocks from north end of building (2018).



Figs. 34 - 35: Basilica. Moving and trial setting up of double half-columns from facade at conservation workshop (Blue Depot) (2018).



Fig. 36: Basilica. Broken Ionic capitals awaiting repair (2018).



Figs. 37 - 38: Basilica. Doweling of broken Ionic capital of double half-column (2018).



Figs. 39 - 40: Basilica. Column drum and base of double half-column completed with hand-carved artificial stone (2018).



Fig. 41: South Agora – Place of Palms (looking west). Conservation rig over pool perimeter at south-east corner (2018).



Fig. 42: South Agora – Place of Palms. Conservation rig at south-east corner of pool perimeter (2018).



Fig. 43: South Agora – Place of Palms. Moving and repair of seat blocks from inner side of pool perimeter (2018).



Fig. 44: South Agora – Place of Palms. Moving and repair of foot-plate slab from inner side of pool perimeter (2018).



Figs. 45 - 46: South Agora – Place of Palms. Iron stirrup and parts of camel's leg bones found in earlier excavations.



Fig. 47: Frieze Wall. Construction of wall composed of mask- and-garland frieze blocks from north stoa of South Agora – Place of Palms, excavated in 1937 and returned from Izmir to Aphrodisias in 2009 (2018).

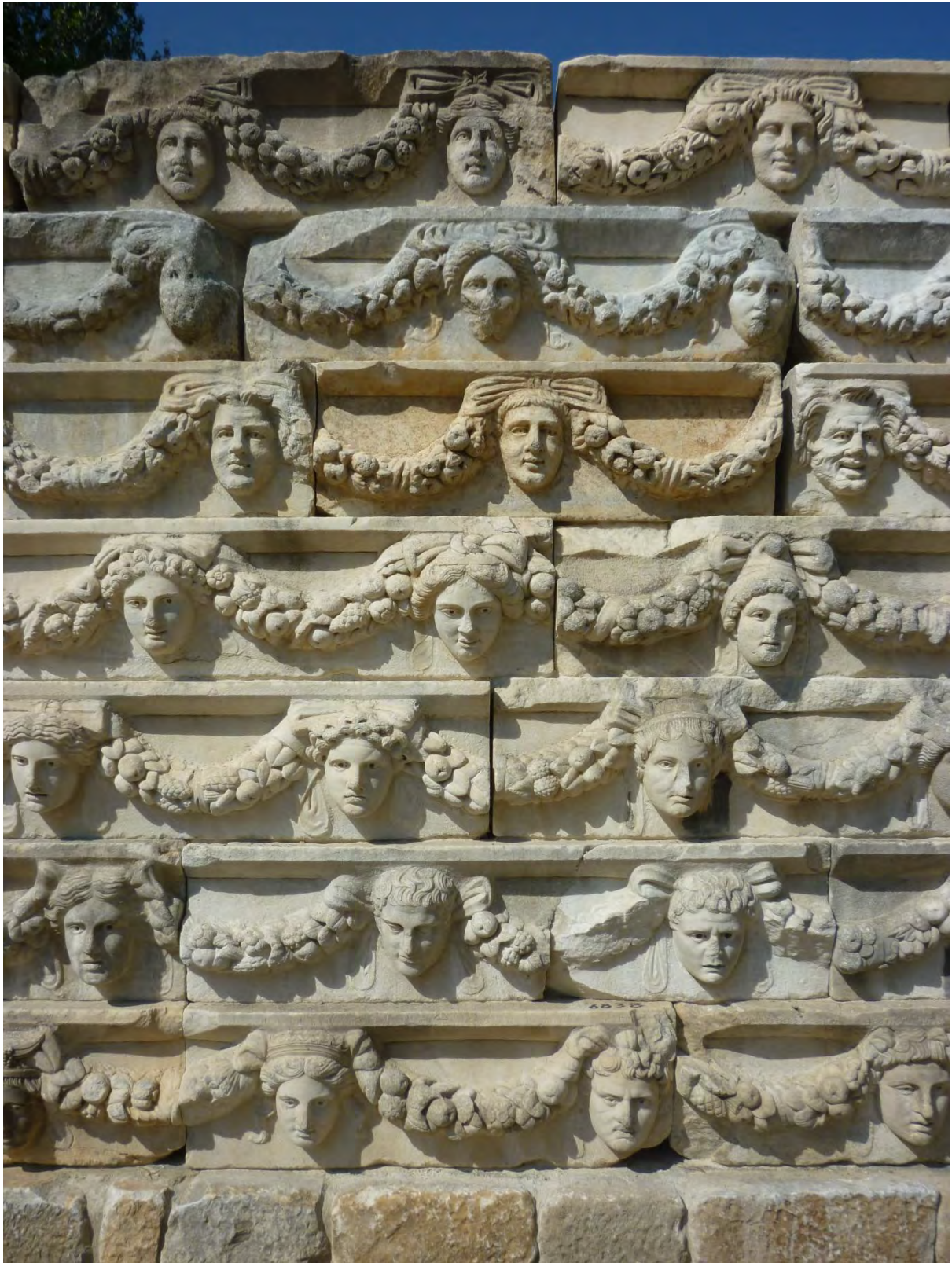
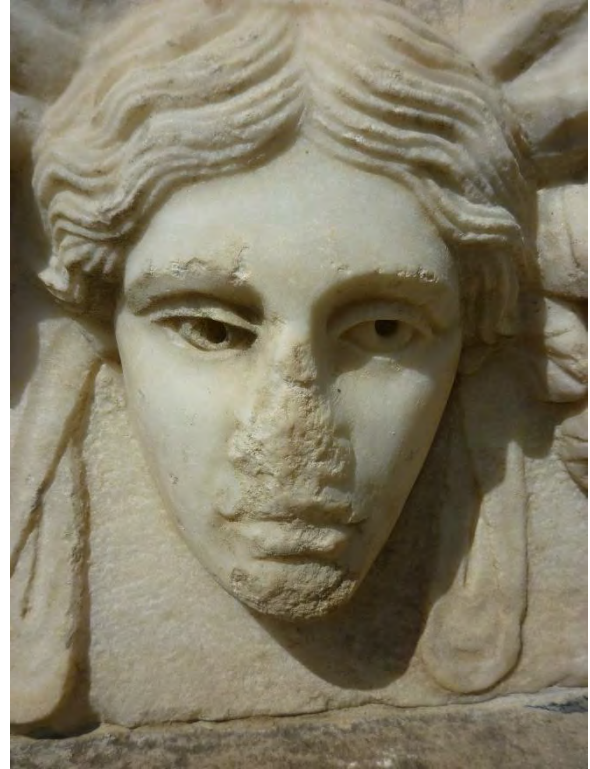


Fig. 48: Frieze Wall, detail: mask-and-garland frieze blocks, H: 3.50m (2018).



Figs. 49 - 50: Frieze Wall. Two masks, one (left) showing features damaged by pollution during seventy-year stay in Izmir, and another (right) that stayed in Aphrodisias, with well-preserved surface (2018).



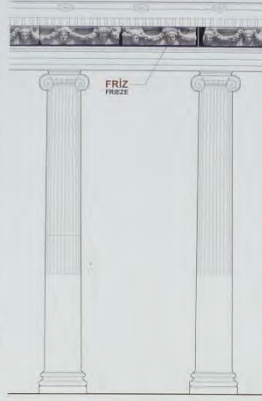
Fig. 51: Frieze Wall. Completed wall of mask-and-garland frieze blocks returned from Izmir to Aphrodisias in 2009 (2018).

MASKE VE GİRLAND FRİZİ MASK AND GARLAND FRIEZE

Maske ve girland frizi Aphrodisias'ta çok sevilen bir mimari bezeme elemanıydı ve şehrin meydanlarında yer alan İon düzenindeki revakları süsledi. Kuzey Agora ve Palmiye Parkı'nı sarar, Bazilika'nın iç mekanını çevreler ve Doğu Propylon boyunca uzanırlardı.

Kundeleler, yapraklar ve çeşitli meyvelerden (elma, üzüm, nar, meşe palamudu, sarımsak meyveleri, çam kozalakları) oluşan sarkık girlandlar, refahi ve halk kutlamalarını temsil ederler. Girlandlar, büyük çeşitlilik gösteren tiyatro maskesi betimlerini üzerinde bağlanmışlardır. Popüler dramadan seçilmiş bu maske betimleri tanrı, kahraman, sade vatandaş, köle, asker ve atlet gibi tipleri temsil ederler.

Burada sergilenen friz bloklarının büyük çoğunluğu Palmiye Parkı'nın kuzey stoa'sına aittir. Bu stoa, yerel bir hayırcı olan Menandros oğlu Diogenes tarafından İmparator Tiberius'a (M.S. 14-37) adanmıştır. Bu bloklar 1937'de Giulio Jacopi liderliğindeki bir ekip tarafından tek bir kazı sezonunda ortaya çıkarılarak İzmir'e götürülmüştür. Uzun yıllar boyunca İzmir Arkeoloji Müzesi'nin bahçesinde sergilenen bloklar 2009 yılında Aphrodisias'a iade edilmişlerdir.



Palmiye Parkı'nın kuzey stoa'sına ait sütunlar
Columns of north stoa in Place of Palms

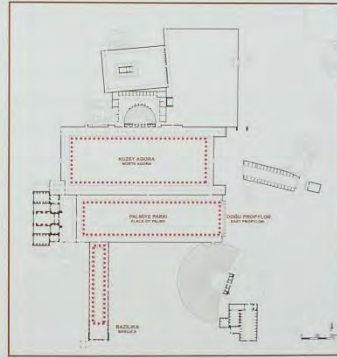
Mask and garland friezes were a much-loved architectural feature at Aphrodisias, decorating the Ionic colonnades of the main public squares of the city centre. They ran around the North Agora and the Place of Palms, inside the Basilica, and across the East Propylon.

The hanging garlands are composed of ribbons, leaves, and a variety of fruits (apples, grapes, pomegranates, acorns, ivy berries, pinecones). They represent prosperity and community celebration. The garland ends are tied over theatre masks representing characters from popular drama. The masks of various gods, heroes, citizens, slaves, soldiers, and athletes can be identified.

Most of the frieze blocks come from the north stoa in the Place of Palms, dedicated by a local benefactor Diogenes son of Menandros to the emperor Tiberius (AD 14-37). They were excavated in a single campaign in 1937 by an Italian team led by Giulio Jacopi and taken to İzmir. The frieze blocks were displayed in the garden of the İzmir Archaeological Museum until 2009 when they were returned to Aphrodisias.



Palmiye Parkı, sergideki frizlerin orijinal konumu
Place of Palms, showing original position of frieze blocks on display



Friz bloklarının bulunduğu bağlca yapılan gösteren Aphrodisias şehir merkezi planı
Aphrodisias city center showing main complexes with mask and garland friezes

The new display was made possible by the generosity of
Adilcan Karaağaç, Kaan Karaağaç, Efe Karaağaç
cömert destekleriyle bu serginin gerçekleşmesini sağlamışlardır.

Fig. 52: Frieze Wall. Information panel for mask-and-garland friezes (2018).



Fig. 53: Sebasteion Temple. Trial setting up of one of the complete Corinthian columns from the Temple, in front of the conservation workshop (Blue Depot) (2018).



Fig. 54: Temple-Church. Moving of grey-marble basin (loutron in form of a phiale) in atrium of Church (2018).



Fig. 55: Temple-Church. Drawing and documentation of grey-marble basin (Fig. 54) (2018).



*Fig. 56: Naked female chest (mus. inv. 1238) joining female head from Hadrianic Baths (inv. 66-269) (2018).
Fig. 57: Front of sandaled male foot from portrait statue, found in floor of South Agora pool (inv. 18-69).*



*Fig. 58: Left upper leg of Herakles in Telephos relief from Sebasteion, found near Niche Building (inv. 18-64).
Fig. 59: Youthful male head wearing laurel wreath, found in rubble packing on south side of pool in South Agora – Place of Palms (inv. 18-74).*



Figs. 60 - 61: Arcaded sarcophagus from south-east necropolis, with Dionysian figures on one long side and Muses on other three sides (S-847) (2018).



Fig. 62: Trial mounting of bearded head found in 2017 at east end of South Agora pool (inv. 17-53 and 17-112) on seated himation statue found in front of Agora Gate basin in 1977 (inv. 77-77) (2018).



Figs. 63 - 64: Small inscribed altar dedicated to Hadrian Soter, found east of Tetrastoon (I 18-12). (2018).



Fig. 65: Team seminar on architecture of Sebasteion temple (2018).



Fig. 66: Group of local school children learning fundamentals of archaeological excavation (2018).



Fig. 67: Aphrodisias team: students, colleagues, and excavation workers on stage of Theatre (2018).



Fig. 68: Students and colleagues from Aphrodisias team, at colonnade of Tetrápylon Street (2018).