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Preliminary Report of Knidos Excavations 2018

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ABSTRACT

In the seventh season of the excavations we have carried out in Knidos, excavations were carried out in important regions and structures of the city. During the 2018 excavations, drilling was carried out in the arrangement named "Apsis 1" in the western parados section of the Little Theater. In this study, which is very important in terms of the construction phases and techniques of the Little Theater, the basic level of the theater was reached and this level was revealed to the ceramics and other finds dating from the 3rd century BC to the 2nd century BC. Excavations have been continuing since 2016 in the area named East of Liman Street, another study area. In these studies, it was first used as a row of shops in the East of Liman Street in the Late Classical - Early Hellenistic Period, then the shop function was preserved again in the Roman Imperial Period, but the form and function of some spaces were changed and the last there is a complex used as a workshop / atelier and warehouse. During the 2018 excavations, three new additional rooms were found to the east of the first two rooms of the complex. Excavations have resulted in very good contexts regarding the abandonment of these three new sites, the complex and Knidos.

1. INTRODUCTION

Excavations carried out in the ancient city of Knidos in Datça District of Muğla Province continued in two different areas in 2018. The first of these is the "Little Theater", one of the two theaters of the city, located to the east of the Dionysus Terrace. The second important excavation area is the complex located to the east of Liman Caddesi.

The buildings in both excavation areas are located in areas where the social and economic life of the city is intense. Therefore, the archaeological data obtained here have provided us with important clues about the historical process of Knidos.

2. Knidos Small Theater Research Drilling

Excavations in the ancient theater, which is one of the two theaters of Knidos and called the "Little Theater" due to its dimensions, was first carried out between 1857-

1859 by Sir C.T. It was carried out by Newton in the west analemma, vomitorium part and west parados parts of the theater (Newton, 1862; Newton, 1863). After Newton, in the 1970s, Prof. Dr. INNER. Love continued partial excavations in the orchestra, skene, eastern parados and eastern vomitorium of the theater (Love, 1970; Love, 1972). Prof. Dr. Ramazan Özgan, on the other hand, completely unearthed the orchestra part of the building in 2006 (Özgan, 2007; Bruns Özgan, 2013). Within the scope of Knidos Excavations and Researches, the theater was largely unearthed with the Small Theater excavations that have been carried out since 2013. In these studies, studies on the interior of the western analemma and the analemma, the eastern and western parados were completed (Doksanaltı et. al., 2015; Doksanaltı et.al. 2017).

The Small Theater was built leaning on a slope to the south. However, depending on the topography, the slope is cut to the west. Therefore, while the eastern half of the theater section of the theater was placed on the slope, the

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western section of the theater and the west theater leaned on an artificial slope formed by filling, causing the western analemma wall of the theater to be quite high (Doksanalti et. al., 2018b).

During the raising of the analemma, three high walls of apsidal form, made of volcanic tuff stone and built in isodomic style, lined up side by side along the wall, were unearthed (Doksanaltı et. al., 2017). One of these apsidal walls is located to the south of the vomitorium and the other two to the north (Fig. 1). It was found that a similar application was made inside the western parados wall. These tuff stone walls at the height of analemma and parados walls are a technical application made to reduce the weight by spreading the load on the outer analemma

and parados walls. This arrangement between the walls in order to obtain an artificial elevation / slope for the rows of seats is a different application of the vaulted substructure in Roman theaters to raise the floor on flat land. The vaults were replaced by vertical apsidal walls.

There is a volcanic tuff stone 6.60-meter-long, 0.45-meter-thick wall that was built from one end of the apsidal wall to the other, parallel to the parados wall and almost combined. Thus, the south of the apsidal wall was closed with the east-west direction wall made of the same material. In the parados, a half 'U' or arc shaped pool-like area was created. This area is filled with filling to increase the durability of the parados and analemma wall.

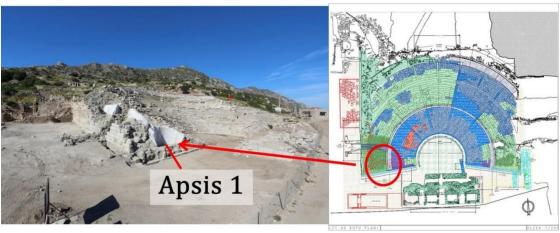


Figure 1. Apsis 1's position in the Theater

In the 2018 season of Knidos Excavations and Researches, a drilling study was carried out in Apsis 1 in order to clarify the relationship between the apsidal form walls and the analemma walls and to obtain possible data about the construction stages of the theater. A sounding of 2.10×3.35 meters was drilled in the western half of the 'U' shaped area in the abscissal wall.

Drilling works were initiated from the level reached in previous excavations - the point equivalent to the seventh row of blocks starting from the top of the apsidal wall. This level also coincides with the initial level of the uppermost row of blocks that have been preserved in the east-west direction of the wall located at the end of the apsidal wall.

In the previous season, seven rows of blocks were removed from the top of the apsidal wall. The lowest three rows of the wall and the foundation blockage were revealed by the drilling work. The blocks of shellac belonging to the apse and newly unearthed are well preserved. So much so that the stains on the blocks are still visible. The apse rises on a floor of rubble stone and soil.

The foundation blockage of the east-west wall at the end of the apsidal wall was exposed with four rows of preserved blocks. With the drilling works, the foundation level of the apsidal wall and the east-west wall was reached.

The blocks at the west end of the apsidal wall and the east-west wall were built to overlap each other. This situation shows that both walls were built according to a plan. In addition, the back faces of the uppermost block

row, which is preserved in the east-west wall of volcanic tuff stone, are arranged to accommodate the back faces of the cross-stones of the marble parados wall. The front faces of the tuff stone blocks of the east-west wall, located at the points where the cross stones of the Parados wall are located, were carved inward in the size of the cross stones. This arrangement shows that the cross stones of the parados wall entered the tuff blocks of the east-west wall like a gear.

The junction point of the apsidal wall and the east-west wall was also seen with the drilling work. The end blocks of the east-west wall partially penetrate into the apsidal wall. Both the parados wall and the east-west wall relationship, and the apsidal wall and the east-west wall relations suggest that all this practice could have been done simultaneously and within a program.

During the drilling works, the depth reached in previous studies, from the preserved top block of the east-west wall, was reached to a depth of 2.60 meters to the bottom of the foundation levels of the walls. A filling of rubble stone and sandstone particles was found in the level from the initial level to the baseline of the apse. This filling is similar to the filling soil seen at the levels corresponding to the apse in previous studies. Not a large amount of ceramic pieces belonging to the 3rd and 2nd centuries BC were found from this fill. At the base level of the apse, there is a Zenon amphora dating from 280-240 BC (Cankardeş - Şenol 2006) and two seals containing the name of Aristotle, who was the ruler during the Rhodes Period IA (Lawall, 2007; Cankardeş-Şenol, 2015), dated to 304 - 235 BC. amphora handle was found (Fig 2).



Figure 2. Research drilling and finds

Below the foundation level of the apse wall, a damp embankment containing seashells, 100-120 cm wide and 50 cm high, was found to contain larger rubble stones. A small amount of sherds of pottery vessels belonging to the 4th and 3rd centuries BC were found in this fill layer. Fragments of West Slope vessels seen at this level date back to BC. They were produced in Knidos during the 2nd century (Kögler, 2000; Doksanaltı, 2006).

In the 'u' shaped area formed by the apse, the eastwest wall and the parados wall, ceramic potsherds belonging to the 3rd and 2nd century BC are generally concentrated in the upper levels. Under the foundation level and foundation level of the apse and the east-west wall, a fill of large rubble stones containing fragments of ceramic vessels and seashells from the 4th and 3rd centuries BC draws attention. This situation raises the idea for now that the volcanic tuff stone apse and eastwest wall might have been built at the end of the 3rd century BC.

3. East of Liman Street

Work at the Locations East of Liman Street continued in 2016 and 2017 seasons (Doksanaltı et. al., 2018a; Doksanaltı et. al., 2019). The 2018 season study area is located at the intersection point of the Stoa structure to the north of the Dionysos Terrace with the spaces east of Liman Street (Fig.3). The excavation of the area behind Space 1 and 2, which was excavated in previous years and partially to the southwest of Terrace II, was carried out in the 2018 season. In these studies, chambers associated with Space 1 and 2 were exposed.

During the studies, two chambers associated with this space were unearthed behind Space 1. These chambers are named as Space 1A and 1B.

Room 1A (Fig. 4): The room, which is connected to Room 1 by a door with a width of 0.82 meters, measures 2.05×2.37 meters. The south wall of the room also forms the north wall of the Building at the west end of the Stoa and is 0.90 meter wide, made of white limestone with an isodomic technique. The west wall, where the door to the connection with Place 1 is located, was built with a lot of rubble stones or re-used architectural elements. This wall is 2.05 m long and 0.55 m thick and joins the southern wall as a primitive.

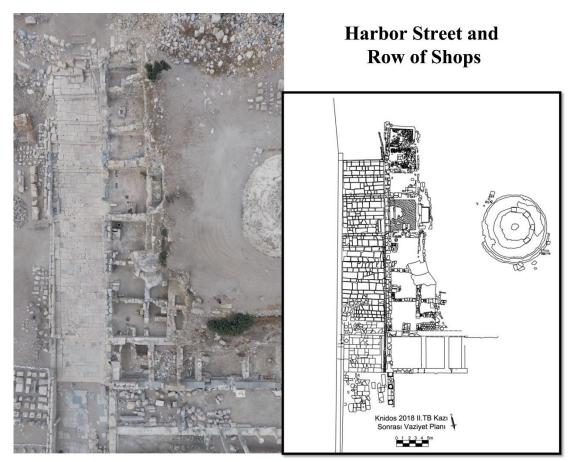


Figure 3. Harbor Street and Venues to the East



Figure 4. Room 1A

The eastern wall of the space continues along the east of Space 2 as well as Space 1. In the construction of the wall, embossed limestone and smooth cut conglomerate blocks were generally used. In addition to these, smaller size rubble stones of different shapes and sizes were used in the construction of walls to equalize the levels of large blocks. Terracotta floor coverings and roof tiles were also used in the wall as filling material. On the wall, the blocks are attached to each other with lime mortar. In addition, a mortar filling of up to 5 cm thickness is made between the joints in order to fill the joints between the blocks and to create a suitable surface for plaster. This wall is generally similar to the comglomerate rectangular or limestone polygonal terrace walls of Knidos, except for the repairs, rubble and mortar additives it has seen.

The north wall of Space 1A is 0.63 meters wide and is 2.30 meters in the east-west direction. In its construction, rubble stone and terracotta floor coverings were used together as well as reused wall blocks, and lime mortar was used extensively on the wall. The 0.73×0.63 meter door opening on the north wall provides the transition to Space 1B.

The floor code of Space 1A is 0.70 meters higher than Space 1, and the floor is completely covered with 0.27x 0.27 meter terracotta square plates. However, only the southern part of the floor covered with plates has survived.

The joint thicknesses between the terracotta plates are uneven, and these thicknesses vary between 0.5 cm and 4.5 cm, which have a very poor workmanship. Another feature seen on terracotta plates is the "S"-like decorations made of two or three rows made on the plates while the dough is wet. These decorations are not in every floor and do not show a certain order. In addition, the Greek letters " $P\Pi$ ", which is probably an abbreviation of the name of a manufacturer / workshop, are seen on the floor covering located on the intersection

of the west and south walls in the southwest corner of the

Paint and burn marks are seen on the terracotta floor coverings in an area of 0.80×0.75 meter in the northeast corner of Space 1A. The paint traces seen on the floor plates are dark red, and again in the same area at +4.55 m elevation, amphora fragments with the same color paint residues were found. A black burnt / paint residue was found inside an amphora base fragment inside the room. These types of finds are similar to the workshop finds previously identified in the spaces located in the west of Liman Street.

The Late Antiquity level was found at +5.10 meters elevation in Space 1A, which is seen to be connected with Place 1, and no ceramic finds dating back to the middle of the 7th century AD have been detected in the space from this level. Late Antique period ceramics include amphora rim, bottom and handle fragments, situla base fragments, African red slips, LR1 and LR 2 amphora body fragments, Late Roman C red slips, rim and body fragments of cooking pots, secondary use body fragments (amphora cover) and Bonifay, spatheion 3 Variant C group sample spetheia amphora (Bonifay 2004). Similar spetheia amphoras found in Knidos and other centers are dated to the second quarter of the 7th century AD (Doksanalti, 2020a).

Space 1B (Fig. 5): This room at the back of Space 1 measures 1.76×2.37 meters and is connected to Space 1A to the south by a 0.73×0.63 meter door. In the northern corner of the east wall, which is common with Room 1A, there is a buttress that has been preserved up to 2.67 meters high, where flat cut wall stones attached with lime mortar measuring 0.78×0.60 meters are used together with spolia blocks. The lime mortar and rubble stone layer with dimensions of 0.60×0.40 meters and a height of 0.12 meters at the top block of this buttress suggests that this buttress might be a vaulted pillar.

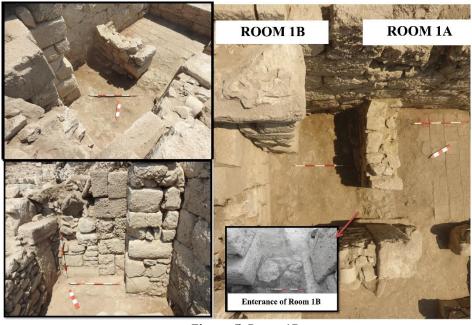


Figure 5. Room 1B

Just behind this buttress in the northeast corner of Space 1B is another pier measuring 1.40x 0.68 meters and has been preserved up to a height of 2.3 meters. This buttress also forms the north wall of Space 1B. The buttress was built from rectangular cut hard limestones in a "pseudo isodomic" style. However, the northern border of the place was formed with an addition formed by combining rubble and reused stones with lime mortar at the end. However, before the addition, there is a 1 meter connection between Space 1B and Space 2A, which seems to have been closed afterwards.

In Room 1B, a burnt layer of approximately 10 cm thickness was encountered in the range of +4.55 m to +4.47 m elevation, which is dense in the north of the room, but is densely seen throughout the room. This layer consists of LR 1 and LR 2 amphora body fragments,

North African Red Lined dishes, kitchen and storage vessels, most of which are dated to Late Antiquity.

Two 'Asia Minor type' / Brooner Type XXIX Group 3 oil lamps dated to the first half of the 7th century AD in Space 1B (Bass et. Al., 1982).

Near the door threshold that provides the passage from Space 1A to 1B, a half-follis, which was minted by Constantinople (Hahn, 1973, 116a), belonged to Emperor Justinian I, 555-556 AD. Between the joint of the wall separating Space 1A and Room 1B, a low condition bronze coin, which is understood to belong to the first half of the 5th century AD, also provides an idea for the construction date of the wall. This dating is also compatible with the change and construction phases of the spaces in the East of Harbor Street (Fig. 6).

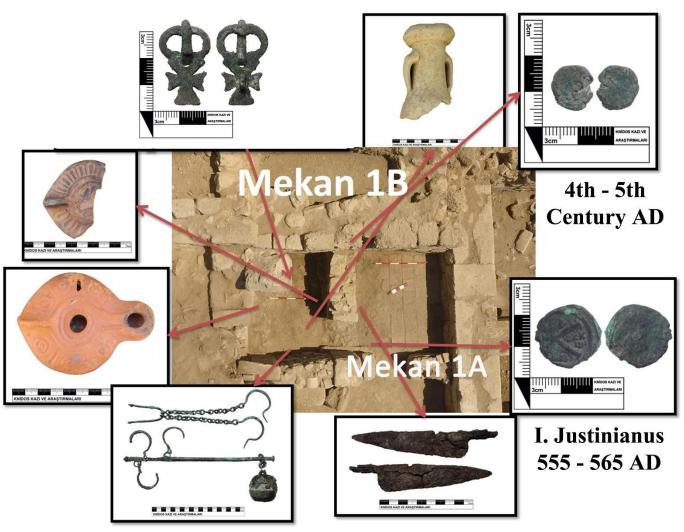


Figure 6. Location 1a and 1b findings

A scale consisting of two chains, five hooks and a square section arm made of bronze was unearthed at the ground level in Room 1B. One of the chains of the scale is 17.3 cm long and the other 16.4 cm. It has marks on the square scale arm showing the units of weight in straight notches. While there are three hooks on the tapered short side of the balance arm, the long part where the main weight is connected is a bronze coated scale weight, inside of which is filled with lead. Libra can be regarded

as data relating to the commercial character of the space or associated spaces (Bass et.al., 1982).

Apart from these finds, a knife made of iron, a bone hairpin, an iron ring and a cross shaped handle or applique made of bronze were unearthed in both places at the ground level.

Space 2A: It is a 2.65x 2.30 meter room, connected to Space 2, located to the east of Liman Street. Due to this connection, this room was named as Space 2A. The passage to Space 2A should probably have been provided

through a passage or door on the east side of LCD Space 2. The connection between the two sites is not clear since the ruined vault fragments in the east of Site 2 could not be removed during the 2018 excavation season.

The eastern wall of Space 2A is the continuation of the eastern wall of Space 1A and 1B. Although the knitting technique and construction concept generally show a great similarity with the southern extension of the wall, it was observed that the use of polygonal / polygonal stones in this section was smaller and more in certain sections compared to Space 1A and 1B.

The west wall of Space 2A also forms its border with Space 2. The north-south wall is 1.82 m long, 0.67 m thick, and its current height is 1.05 m. The western wall was formed by bonding rubble stones of various sizes to each other with lime mortar, and some parts of the wall were also used in spolia blocks. The northern wall of the room is under the thick vault block related to the upper cover of the building. On the other hand, the northern wall is partially visible under this debris. Since the large vault debris could not be removed this season, the quality and dimensions of the wall will be determined in the upcoming seasons.

During the 2018 season excavations of the Locations to the East of the Harbor Street, the chambers behind the two rooms at the south end of the building complex consisting of seven rooms and associated with these spaces (Locations 1A-1B and Space 2) were exposed. However, since the excavation of Space 2A and some parts of the area remained under the large broken vault blocks related to the superstructure of the complex, the completion of the works is left to the 2019 season.

A small-scale excavation was carried out on the southwest end of the upper terrace, the second terrace, in order to perceive this building complex better and to prevent the danger of the weight attached to the terrace on the eastern edge of the building.

With this study, the southeast wall of the spaces in the East of Liman Street (Room 1 A-1B and the eastern wall of Space 2) was thus revealed. This wall continues 7.50 meters behind the spaces and is 0.90 meters thick. The wall with a preserved height of 2.85 meters continues in the northern part, which has not been excavated yet.

In the construction of this wall, embossed limestone and reused smooth cut conglomerate blocks were generally used. In addition, smaller size rubble stones of different shapes and sizes were used to level the levels of large blocks. This wall separates the terraces II and the spaces east of Liman Street. Therefore, it can be stated for now that this wall has the characteristics of a terrace wall.

The work was continued on the terrace filling behind this wall. This area has been deepened in an area of $8x\ 19$ meters. During the excavations here, a cell-planned arrangement of $1.80\ x\ 1.45$ m in the north was unearthed in the south of it and two rooms with no eastern border yet. The excavations here were made only up to 2 meters deep in order to relieve the load on the terrace walls due to the possibility of collapse of the section soil in the future.

An anonymous follis from 970-1092 AD, another anonymous follis B group from 1030 / 1035-1042 and Emperor Kostantinos X period 1059-1067 at the upper levels (between +8.75 m and +7.20 m elevation) and another follis dating to the years was found (Sommer, 2010; Ninety Six, 2020b). These coins are very rare late period finds in Knidos, which is thought to have been abandoned in the middle of the 7th century AD. However, in the preliminary evaluations, no other ceramic finds or remains of buildings that could be associated with the coins dated to the 11th century AD were found (Fig. 7).

In the filling behind the wall, as it deepened, fragments of ceramic pots dating from the 4th to 3rd centuries BC were found in the fill starting from +7.20 m. The amphora handles found are dated between 301 BC and 240 BC. The earliest dated seal among these is the amphora handle found at +7.20 m elevation. The name of Timarchos who served in Rhodes Period Ia (301-271 BC) is written on the amphora produced in Rhodes Paraea. Another important sealed amphora handle found is the Akanthos - Amphipolis seal. These seals are dated before 330 BC (Cankardeş - Şenol, 2006). The handles of the Zenon B group amphora (280 - 240 BC) with the seal of Knidos origin and the amphora Zh monogram (late 3rd century BC) found during the excavations are important. This filling is similar to the theater apse filling finds (Fig. 8).



Figure 7. Late Coin Finds

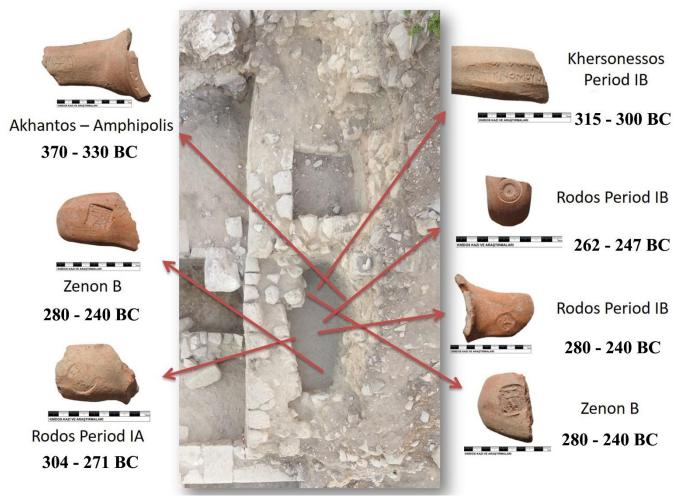


Figure 8. Sealed amphora handles behind the terrace wall

4. CONCLUSION

Excavations carried out in Knidos Little Theater and east of Liman Street provided us with important data about the historical process of the city. The Little Theater Research sounding helped both to verify the construction stages of the theater and to understand the construction date of the apsidal shaped support walls discovered in 2015. It was first built in the last quarter of the 4th century BC with a single diazoma. The building was enlarged in the second construction phase, which is estimated to have been built during the reign of Emperor Augustus. The repair phases seen in the stage building are dated to the 2nd century AD. The finds unearthed as a result of the excavations carried out in Apsis 1 in the West Parados of the Theater show that the support walls made of tuff stone may have been built at the end of the 3rd century BC.

The excavations carried out in the East of Liman Caddesi have resulted in obtaining similar contexts with the previous excavation seasons (2016 and 2017). Some of these spaces, which were used as shops in the Late Classical - Early Hellenistic Period, were used for functions such as heroon by changing their plans in the Roman Imperial Period. The use of the spaces whose functions were changed again in the 4th - 5th centuries AD completely ceased in the middle or second half of the 7th century AD.

The sealed amphora handles and ceramic finds unearthed as a result of the limited excavations carried out behind the terrace wall that forms the eastern border of these places show that this part of the terrace wall was repaired in the 3rd - 2nd centuries BC.

Archaeological data show that Knidos was abandoned from the middle of the 7th century AD. However, it is known that Knidos continued its existence as a bishopric center until the 12th century AD. The coins we date to the 11th century AD are important in that they are rare finds dating back to the 7th century AD. These finds may indicate the existence of a small and limited settlement in the areas close to the city's ports in the 11th century AD.

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