

THE FOURTH GAMPAIGN AT SARDIS (1961)

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This report covers the activities of the Sardis Expedition during the season of 1961. Excavation was carried on from June 26 to August 29; the staff was in residence from June 15 to September 9. A labor force averaging 150 (maximum 192) was employed. The sectors at which excavation or conservation activities took place are shown in the sketch plan (Fig.1).

In the "Lydian Trench" of the House of Bronzes" area, a total of 975 sqm. was excavated (Fig.1. no.2; Fig. 2, plan). In the western part of the trench, around 99m. level, three buildings can now be distinguished. Two of these are small rectangular structures, probably shops (A,B). These are thought to be Lydian of the sixth century B.C. The westernmost structure (C) is as yet not completely excavated. It is of considerable size (so far 11 m. E.W by 8m N-S). Within it, along its E-W axis were found a rectangular and a round marble slab with central hollows, on bases for roof supports; A.H. Detweiler suggested that they might be work benches. It is possible that these marble slabs were parts of monuments and were only re-used in building C. The date of the building is as yet uncertain, but its walls ride over earlier Lydian walls.

Somewhat to the east the excavator has traced a roughly circular area of stones ("Stone Circle", Fig.2) associated with much evidence of burning. Slag and terracotta pieces resemble casting moulds suggest a bronze foundry. As far as present indications go, this industrial

establishment was active into Hellenistic times, as a Rhodian stamped handle of Hellanikos was found. An unfinished bronze plaque (Fig. 3) with circular ornaments belongs either to the Persian or late Lydian phase. Centers of the ornament are drilled.

The complex character of the remains limited the penetration in depth. This was undertaken in a part of the trench to the east of the remains described. In squares E 5-10, S 90-100, levels down to "Upper Burnt Level," known from last year, were reached (at 97.60). Middle Protocorinthian sherds above this floor (in fill) indicate that its date (675-650 B. C.) would permit an association with Kimmerian destruction of ca. 670 B. C.

Only a row of large stones (not shown in Fig.2) irregularly set at somewhat higher level but possibly of the same period (tops at 98.40) is noteworthy among architectural pieces.

The area continued to produce, large numbers of "sets" of Lydian vases, usually a plate, a skyphos, and two jugs (Fig.4). Their sudden abandonment suggests some sudden surprise, such as the Ionian attack of 499 B. C. Numerous Eastern Greek vase fragments have been found and also a few fragments of terracotta relief friezes. Among them is a very fine horsehead (Fig. 5). Mention should be made of three sherds with incised inscriptions, two of them from a bowl (Fig. 11, top), one from a jug (Fig. 11, bottom). They were found in the Lydian

sixth century level. Professor E. Laroche considers them Carian.

The area of the gymnasium "B" (Plan of B and HOB area, Fig. 6) was the scene of three enterprises directed toward elucidation of both this mighty structure and the urban plan of Sardis. Perhaps the most important result of the 1961 campaign was the uncovering by D.G. Mitten of the wide marble-paved avenue flanked by two colonnades (Fig.7), which may have been the major east-west artery of Sardis. The trench of ca.600 sqm. revealed that under the Ottoman Road extending from ca. S 4/5 to S 18 at a level of ca. 97.90, there was a Byzantine road bedded on debris of Late Roman and Early Byzantine building. It took for its level the crown of the Roman Road (at ca. 96.7-8) but then filled in the sloping shoulders. It seems to have extended somewhat farther south than the Ottoman road, to ca. S 21; the latter, conversely, reached somewhat farther to north to the front alignment of the Early Byzantine shops (section, Fig. 8).

No definite dates could be established for either the Ottoman or the Byzantine roads. The latter must, however, be posterior to the destruction of the Byzantine shops under Heraklios (ca. 615 -7 A D.). And as their debris was utilized quite rapidly and as the columns of the Late Roman colonnade still lay as they fell, presumably during the same destruction by the Sassanian Persians, it is possible that the road was constructed during the seventh century A. D.

The Roman road, which was freed by August 7 (Plan, Fig.9), is flanked on the north by a colonnade which was clearly planned at the same time as the so-called "Byzantine Shops", i.e. ca. 400 A. D., for the door of the shops open onto it and their drains drain into the drains under the road. Including the stylobate, the northern colonnade is almost 7m. wide.

In the western part of the trench between grid lines 0 and E. 5, a marble-paved entrance led into the gymnasium. In the eastern part, between E 9 and E 17, mosaic floor with geometric pattern is preserved in the northern part of the colonnade. Ionic columns on pedestals and perhaps also on bases were parts of the order or the facade. In a drain just south of the stylobate and under stone drains from the shops lay four terracotta pipe-lines (top at 95.79 level); these may be part of earlier Roman water supply system. The pavement of the road rises from ca. 96.20 at sides to a crown of ca. 96.90 in center. Large ruts are worn into the marble by passing vehicles. The pavement is ca. 15m. wide. On the southern side of the road there was a marble sidewalk, ca. 3m. wide (not included in above width). Because the southern colonnade disappears under the modern highway, only the edge of it was uncovered, for a distance of 12m. and width of 1m. There seems to have been only one stylobate step, as against two of the northern colonnade. Roman and Early Byzantine coins and metal objects were found on the road. The best find however was made within the cemented roadbed under the Byzantine road (at point "A" in Fig.9), namely the beautiful head of a bearded man (Fig. 10.) It probably belonged to an honorary statue which stood in the colonnade.

In order to ascertain whether an earlier Hellenistic and especially the famous Royal Road of the Persian period were to be found underneath, a sounding was made by C.H. Greenewalt, Jr. in squares S 20-25, E 15-20, where the pavement of the Roman road was already considerably disrupted (Fig. 8, 9, Pit). Between August 21 and 29, starting at ca. *96.7 level, a depth of *92.49 was reached in a pit reduced to ca. 4.5 m. east-west, 5 m. north-south. Surprisingly, no traces of any earlier

road were found. Two cemented piers with adjacent rubble walls with tops at 96.19 seem to be parts of the Roman road substructure. From ca. *96m. earth and riverine deposits alternated with Lydian pottery present in considerable quantity. From *94 down the pottery was earlier Lydian Geometric and grey ware, the latter increasing at the 93.5-92.33 levels. The test did not sound an area sufficiently large to eliminate the possibility that an earlier road may be found under the Roman avenue, but the presence of river-laid strata of the same kind as were encountered in the early levels of the deep sounding in the "Lydian Trench" of the House of Bronzes poses the question whether the early road may not have crossed the Pactolus at a different place (higher up to the south?).

In the "Marble Court" of the building complex, "East B" (Plan Fig. 9, N40, E 80-15-35), St. W. Jacobs supervised the excavation, study, and removal to the free area to the east of the magnificent structural elements of the Sevaran marble facades. Prof. Jacobs has developed a detailed-type catalogue with a view to reconstruction on paper of this important complex (located between N38 and N81, E13 E35). After the departure of D. G. Mitten, Chr. Reagan assisted in the archaeological aspect of the work. All but the lowest and largest of the fallen stones have now been excavated over the entire length (ca. 20m.) of the court. No less than four capitals decorated with human heads (Figs. 12,13) have become known in addition to the two found in 1959. Additional fragments of the dedicatory inscription have been found which mention the Roman Senate and People, a *femina consularis*, another noble woman named Flavia Politta, and a proconsul of Hellas. Several blocks of the Byzantine inscription were found in the northwest corner and along the north side. As our epigraphist L. Robert observed, the ins-

cription in the eastern part of the north wall, which is written in two lines, is not a poem as those of the southern and western sides but a factual summary of the Byzantine reconstruction. It gives an *indictio* date in July and offers several interesting architectural terms: *strosis skoutlosis*, and *mouseion*=opus musivum.

Just to the north of the "Marble Court", ca. N 81-100, E 15-35, a large rectangular unit was excavated but only to ca. 1.50 above its floor level. Two large brick arches in the western wall indicate that it communicated with the next unit between it and the main building "B".

During the last week, August 21-29, an effort was made to ascertain some facts about the entrance into the central hall of the main building "B" which led through the complex "West B" (Plan, Fig. 6) The west wall of "West B" was traced in several places north and south of the axis (at N 61.7). Remains of a large barrel vault of masonry which spanned the entrance were found between two piers. The front of the arch and probably the top of the western wall were crowned with simple but elegant Ionic profile.

The excavation on the Acropolis proceeded until August 20. It was confined to the central platform, the so-called "Acropolis Top," AcT. Here C. H. Greenwalt has freed some 500 sqm. The major structure uncovered consists of a number of terracing walls and rooms (plan Fig. 14). It is quite certainly Byzantine but the exact date of either the original construction and/or its rebuilding is yet to be worked out. A number of Byzantine graves were found, one of which contained an interesting bronze medallion with Anastasis (Fig. 15) dated by Prof. E. Kitzinger between 1000 and 1050 A.D. A gold solidus of Justinian II (708-715 A. D.) was found in fill in

a disrupted Byzantine room at the east part of the trench.

A deep pit made at N 21-23, W 10-20 14-16, from a high point of ca. 406 to ca. 398.91m. (above sea level) revealed that at the earliest time there was a small gorge within the center of the Acropolis. Into this depression masses of loose conglomerate were precipitated already in Lydian times. One of these oblique falls, at ca. 402.49, yielded a number of Geometric Lydian sherds, two small black-burnished Phrygian pieces (P.61 231) identical with Phrygian ware found at Gordion, and a bronze lump which may be a stamp or die, as it has traces of geometric design within an incuse (M. 61.86).

Toward the end of the excavation. below graves Gr.61.19,61.40-41 (Fig.14), the excavator came upon the corner of a room with adjacent part of a mud floor at 400.51. The walls were preserved to heights varying from 0.50-1.50m. Pottery of the sixth or fifth century (marbled, streaked wares) was found. These, the first Lydian walls found on the Acropolis, petered out after a short distance just north of the later floor 402.58 (squares N 3-8, W22-27).

The results of the campaign are of some significance, having yielded Lydian material of ca. 700 B. C. or earlier (in the deep Pit) and having shown the possibility that parts of Lydian structures may survive despite the upheavals caused by nature and by the Byzantine ransacking of earlier buildings.

In addition to the excavation on Acropolis Top, the so-called Byzantine Barracks on the southern platform were cleaned to floor level. A. H. S. Megaw, who visited the excavation, has advanced tentatively an Early Byzantine date for this southern redoubt and for the impressive marble-faced wall of the entire citadel.

In the sector "Pactolus North", a complex situation has developed. Rooms

of a Late Roman or Early Byzantine structure occupy the southernmost end, followed some distance to the north by a bathing complex of the same period (fifth century A. D.). Parts of four rooms contemporaneous with the Roman bath have been found to the south, in squares S 385-395, W 245-255. One of them is approached by three marble steps from above and has a disrupted mosaic of the same style as those of the bath complex. In the area between the two parts, at a high level, a great number of terracotta watermains of Roman type ran from the Pactolus toward the city. At the lower level, the apsidal structures first observed in 1960 can be assigned with some assurance to the Achaemenid period (5th to 4th century B. C.). A remarkable feature of the southern apsidal structure was a carefully constructed circular well which went down 8m. (top 88.30, bottom 79.60) to slightly below modern water level. D. P. Hansen now believes to have established the floor level of the Persian structure at ca. 87.90. Finds of Attic palmette stamped ware and of a black-figure sherd with satyr and maenad would support a date in the fifth and fourth century.

An equivalent level was found and exposed in a small area of another apsidal structure just to the north. A pithos was uncovered on a small area of the floor.

These apsidal structures were sunk deeply into the Lydian level of the sixth century. Among the finds of the Lydian era an interesting painted double lamp (L. 61. 28), a charming Samian aryballos with the bust and head of a pretty archaic maiden (P. 61.312), and an Aeolic fragment with sphinxes (P. 61. 535) (Fig.17) deserve particular mention. At present, we conjecture that the Lydian rooms were destroyed in 547 B. C. It is noteworthy that a well was found

also in this earlier Lydian building level, though in much disrupted condition.

Walls which probably correspond to both the Achaemenid and the Lydian levels were found also north of the Roman bath but not enough has been excavated to establish definite correlation with the levels in the southern part of the excavation.

The Roman bath is preserved chiefly at basement level. Its most remarkable features are the furnaces and hypocausts. It was associated with the fragmentary rooms B and C excavated last year. Their mosaic floors are datable to ca. 400 A. D. or shortly after. Since the bathing structure is as yet not completely excavated no detailed discussion will be attempted here. It must suffice to observe that the structure underwent various changes and, including squatters habitation, the area continued to be used until perhaps as late as the 18th century.

Some 50m. south of the sector PN, the "Peacock Tomb" (Gr. 61. 14) was studied in detail by D. P. Hansen and its wall paintings drawn by M. R. Rogers (photographs of a detail, Fig. 16). Some twenty coins found on its floor range from fourth through the sixth century A. D. A fifth of sixth century date is therefore likely. Under the tomb were remains of two or earlier Roman graves of the first or second century A. D. (Gr. 61.24, 61. 25).

Work in the Artemis Temple continued under the supervision of W.C. Kohler until August 8. Virtually all larger sandstone blocks of the image base have now been set up in two courses in an orderly fashion without pretending to a restoration. A fragment of a Roman cuirass statue and the large fragment of the colossal statue of Antoninus Pius (Fig. 18) were removed to the expedition camp, as the latter had already become an object of vandalism. The

head of a second colossal statue, also already observed by the First Sardis Expedition was found south of the temple and identified tentatively by G. M. A. Hanfmann as the fragment of a colossal Hellenistic statue of Zeus.

Upon the initiative of W. C. B. Young all fragments of inscriptions, sculpture and architecture left abandoned by the First Sardis Expedition were brought to the camp of the Harvard-Cornell-ASOR expedition late in July. They are supplemented by several finds of new fragments, notably part of the top of the head of a colossal statue which was discovered in the church at the southeast corner of the temple of Artemis. Another fragment of a colossal head was found built into the foundation of the church and left there for reasons of structural safety.

The repair of the church undertaken after very careful study by St. W. Jacobs, Professor of Architecture at Cornell, was limited to measures designed to stem the deterioration of the structure. Foundations of the west side were strengthened, concrete lintels set over doors where cracks had developed, and the tops of the walls cemented. The interior of the structure was cleaned and the low rubble walls of two units to the north of the church repaired. Some interesting problems were raised by the evidence observed during the work but no decisive evidence for dating has come to light. There is some probability in the view that at least three building phases may be observed and that all of them antedate the catastrophe which resulted in the covering up of the church and the Byzantine water reservoir in the temple (in the eighth century A. D.)?

To prevent unauthorized entry, wooden doors have been provided for three of the entrances and an iron grill for the fourth.

The mosaic specialist kindly sent to the Sardis Expedition by the Department of Antiquities has very successfully raised mosaics from two rooms in the Roman bath complex of Pactolus North, one room in the sector Pactolus Cliff (partly excavated in 1960 and finished in 1961, shown in situ, Fig.19) and a sample from "Byzantine Shop" SW 12 which probably formed the entrance into West B complex². The majority of some twenty-five mosaic sections have been cemented while some nine remain to be backed. For the time being they are stored in the expedition storage building.

As reported to the Department in the field report of July 16, two graves opened illicitly during the winter were completely cleared by the expedition in

the Inderesi Region. Their location is marked "t.2" in Map Fig. 1. Fragments of interesting pottery of the late seventh century B. C. including a skyphos decorated with fishes (Fig.20) came to light. By careful sifting of earth, a granulated gold bead (Fig.21), an agate pendant on gold wire (Fig.22), and a tiny silver hawk (Fig.23) were retrieved from Grave 61.2. Both graves consisted of schist slabs joined to make a trench grave.

In the location Hacı Oglan, two marble sarcophagi were opened (Graves 61.3-4: Location "t.3" in Fig. 1). They had been disturbed, perhaps already in antiquity. Coins and pottery found within and just outside the sarcophagi indicate a date in the first half of the second century B. C.