EXCAVATIONS AT SARDIS IN 1966

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The ninth campaign of the Harvard-Cornell University Expedition sponsored by the American Schools of Oriental Research began in mid - June. The Corning Museum of Glass was again a participant. Excavation activities continued until early September. Restoration work on the Marble Court continued until December under the Special Building Commission.

In the western part of the Royal cemetery of Bin Tepe, on the southern shore of the Gygean Lake, foundations of two Lydian houses (Fig. 2) were excavated and pottery ranging from late seventh to fifth century B. C. was found (Figs. 3-4). During winter and spring of 1966, a great number of grave mounds were penetrated by illicit diggers who did much damage. The expedition could investigate with scientific methods only part of the tombs which had been opened. Thus the small mound BT 63.3, just west of Kir Mutaf Tepe (BASOR 174, p. 54) was found to have contained a small, cist - like burial which had been plundered. Bits of pottery indicate a date around 550 B. C. At the eastern edge of the cemetery, on the ridge known as Duman Tepe, five chamber tombs (BT 66. 1-4,6) and one rock - cut, sarcophagus - like grave (BT 66.5) had been opened and partly ruined. The largest chamber tomb (BT 66.1), though built in Lydian times, had been re - opened in the Late Roman period and re - used for a mass burial of some 150 individuals (Fig. 6). The grave consisted of a long dromos, a long antechamber, and a chamber (Fig. 5). It was much perturbed by recent clandestine diggers, who are said to have removed 300 lamps; some 50 lamps and several minor pieces of personal adornment were found by the expedition, among them a bronze ring showing an angel with a cross (Fig. 7). They indicate a date of ca. 400 A. D. for the burial.

Tunneling in the great central mound (BT 63.1, Karniyarik Tepe) undertaken by Crawford H. Greenewalt, Jr. and Second Commissioner Muharrem Tagtekin failed to locate the grave chamber, but proved that the monumental crepis wall of the inner mound, some 30 meters inside the great mound, continues nortward after a break of ca. 5 meters (Fig. 8); cf. *Dergi* 13: 2 (1964) p. 61 f., figs. 23-29.

Following bulldozer activities by the Highway Department on the east side of the road which leads from the Salihli Highway to the Temple of Artemis (cf. plan *Dergi* 13: 2 (1964) Fig. 1), some 200 m. north of the camp, on the hillock which borders Şaitan Dere, an interesting Lydian sarcophagus burial was excavated and the fragment of a fine archaic stele retrieved (Figs. 9, 10).

South of the Salihli Highway, in the "House of Bronzes" ("Lydian Trench") area, a deep sounding made by G. F. Swift, Jr. revealed Submycenaean and Protogeometric levels of ca. 1200 - 900 B. C. At the depth of six to eight meters below the surface there appeared a stratum with two sub - levels marked by traces of a

rubble wall, shallow pits, a pithos *in situ*, and animal bones, including the skeleton of an equid (Fig. 11). The bulk of the pottery consisted of pithos sherds and plain local wares, but some 250 painted fragments are of Aegean inspiration, Mycenaean, Protogeometric (Fig. 12) and Geometric in style. Other finds included a bronze fibula of high - arch type, three glass beads, a sickle or scythe and knife of iron, and a green stone button seal engraved with a goat (Fig. 13).

In the higher strata of the trench, striking evidence was obtained of the fierce destruction by fire which was inflicted upon the city by the Kimmerians (between 675 and 650 B. C.). The skeleton of an eight - year - old child lay amidst ashes from the burned roof (Fig. 14), and at the northern edge of the trench a shallow pit contained a collective burial of some ten individuals, whose incomplete remains were evidently extracted from the destroyed buildings.

North of the Salihli highway, in the gymnasium area (*Dergi* 13: 2, figs. 6, 16, 20; *BASOR* 182, pp. 31 f.), the northern part of the long hall "BA", lying between the "Marble Court" and the main building of the gymnasium, was cleared. This "Aleipterion" contained a swimming pool which went right across the passageway from the "Marble Court" into the central hall of the main building "B". A new inscription (detail, Fig. 15) relates the renovation *(ananeosis)* of the aleipterion under one Simplikios Severus, Count of the First Order and Prefect, around 400 A. D. The unit flanking the "Marble Court" on the north and now designated as "North Hall" was excavated. Although lime burners had been active in it, its marble floor was partly preserved (Fig. 16). The battered head of a Byzantine emperor (?) was found here (Fig. 17). A test made by F. K. Yegül and M. T. Ergene in order to locate the western colonnade of the palaestra brought to light a fine head of Dionysos from a capital of the (eastern) screen colonade of the "Marble Court", datable around 210 A. D. (Fig. 18). Another test made on the opposite side of the palaestra located a small entrance in the center of the eastern colonnade.

On the southern side of the gymnasium complex, between the apse of the Synagogue and the main building "B" of the gymnasium (Fig. 19), T. A. Kraabel excavated completely two units (A', B'). The hall C' lying just north of these units was excavated in part. Units A' and B' seem to have originally belonged to the gymnasium but later (in the third and fourth century were A. D.?) annexed to the Synagogue. In its latest phase A' appears to have served as a blacksmith shop, probably after the Sassanian invasion of 615 A. D., for coins of Constantius II (ca. 650 A. D.) were found here and elsewhere in the area. Room B' (Fig. 20) displayed a complex system of water pipes and drains. Hall C' was designed as a passage between the main building of the gymnasium and the palaestra, but was then partially blocked when the apse of the Synagogue was constructed. An expressive, over life-size late antique (sixth century A. D.?) head was found at the doorway leading from C' into unit B' (Fig. 21).

The apse of the Synagogue was investigated by Kraabel, A. H. Detweiler, and A. M. Shapiro, architectural consultant for the Synagogue. It appears that two diagonal passaged led originally into the apse. Detweiler suggests they may have been designed as entrances for a tribunal and that the synagogue was originally designed and built as a Roman civil basilica and only later turned over to the Jewish community.

Kraabel also excavated the southwest corner of the palaestra (Fig. 22) and proved that the palaestra did have a western colonnade. A gold tremissis of Tiberius II (578-582 A. D.) was found.

Intensive work of research and recording and the first steps toward restoration were undertaken in the Synagogue.

L. J. Majewski was in charge of orgainizing the investigation and restoration of the interior. He was assisted by R. Meriç and H. Özlu. A team of specialized workmen was engaged in cleaning and consolidation of the mosaic of the main hall and in sorting and classifying the thousands of marble fragments of the revetments which constituted the decoration of the interior. The field architect for the Synagogue project, A. R. Seager, devoted himself to the recording of the existing condition of the building. He resurveyed the main hall and made drawings of the entire synagogue as well as a number of sections and other details. His assistant, N. Güler, drew elevations of all major walls and the apse and began a catalogue of all significant architectural fragments. In cooperation with Seager, and in consultation with A. H. Detweiler, A. M. Shapiro, architectural consultant, developed an over-all work schedule for proposed conservation and partial restoration as well as a number of tentative graphic solutions for the original appearance of the Synagogue. Photographic recording of existing conditions was undertaken with new techniques (bipod, balloon) by J. Whittlesey. The special working group for the project also included T. A. Kraabel, J. H. Kroll, and G. M. A. Hanfmann.

The entire mosaic of the main hall covering originally an area of over 600 sqm. was cleaned and drawings showing its original state were completed by Majewski and Özlü. Four new donors' inscriptions came to light. The earliest, that of Aurelius Alexandros (Fig. 23) indicated that in the third century A. D. the mosaic floor was laid down in seven bays, which were counted from west (from the apse) to east. Subsequently, in the fourth century, parts of the pavement were relaid. Thus another donor's inscription, which reads looking west, may belong to the fourth century. It occupied a central position under the baldacchino structure discovered in 1965 and commemorated the donation of a *hiereus kai sophodidaskalos*, thus showing that a school must have been attached to the Synagogue (Fig. 24). The restored design of the second bay is seen in Fig. 25.

In his study of the marble decoration, Majewski was able to establish that its system featured engaged pilasters; the capitals of some 80 are preserved (Fig. 26). From imprints in the plaster and from data supplied by the study of inscriptions which decorated the walls, he was able to propose a tentative scheme for the decoration of the lower part of the apse.

J. H. Kroll correlated, recomposed and studied the donors' inscriptions on marble plaques which formed part of the interior decoration of the apse and the walls of the main hall. He was able to show that with the exception of the eastern cross wall the entire decoration was installed in the third century A. D. and apparently remained in place until the Synagogue was abandoned. The result is crucial for the dating of the construction; it is clear that the entire hall including the apse was constructed about 200 A. D.

Toward the end of the season, a small part of the southern palaestra colonnade and the adjacent part of the eastern palaestra colonnade was excavated. A storage shed for the classified marble revetments and the most important parts of the mosaic was constructed in the southeast corner of the palaestra. The mosaic inscriptions and a few other panels of the mosaic of the main hall were lifted and thus preserved against any accidents.

Good progress was made on the major restoration project, that of the "Marble Court" of the Roman gymnasium. J.W. Yarnell and M. T. Ergene were supervisors with F. K. Yegül (design), and T. Akalin (construction, procurement) taking part. Architect M. C. Bolgil participated in the work from mid - August on. During the season most of the western wall (Fig. 27) and all columns of the monumental gate were re - erected and work was partly-completed on pouring of the concrete

arch which will hold in place the marble members of the arch of the pediment. Repair of the western bench was also carried on, and a first sample of the column base and shaft which stood on this bench was set in place (Fig. 28). Numerous detailed investigations were carried out to clarify problems of design. Some fifty drawings relating to design and to the construction system were made. The committee for the project, which met regularly, included also A. H. Detweiler, G. M. A. Hanfmann, J. Whittlesey, and occasional visiting critics. The Ministry of National Education and the Department of Antiquities and Museums made a grant toward the work through the Special Building Commission on which it was represented by Commissioner Musa Baran, and subsequently by K. Z. Polatkan, Director of the Manisa Museum. In September, the Building Commission took over the work, which proceeded until mid - December. During that time the concrete arch for the pediment and certain parts of the western wall were completed, and restoration of the southern wall was taken in hand.

Investigation and recording of the plan of the ancient city in its various phases was undertaken by F. Hammann III, and A. Hyatt. This work was supplemented by small test digging. Thus, west of the Byzantine shops uncovered in 1959 (*Dergi* 10-:1, 1960, p. 22, fig. 4), the alignment of the Main Avenue was traced westward, and the existence of a narrow (4.5 m.) north - south street or lane ascertained. To clarify the street pattern along the southern part of the city wall, a trench was made south of the modern village road which leads from the Pactolus to the Salihli highway. It revealed a city gate, apparently of the Early Byzantine period in its present form, through which the ancient predecessor of the village road may have entered the city area (Fig. 29). A preliminary analysis of the data gained in the western part of the city area indicates the existence of at least three, possibly four (Lydian, Hellenistic, Early Roman, Late Roman?) phases of urban planning (Fig. 1). A first hypothetical attempt was made by Hammann to delineate the presumable extent and general pattern of the urban area (Fig. 30).

Considerable apprehension was felt by the expedition and the authorities concerned with the preservation of antiquities about the plan to use the present Turgutlu-Salihli highway as a major highway. The highway built in 1953 cuts right through a major part of the ruins and overlies the ancient Main Avenue of the city. It is clear that its use for heavy traffic would endanger the ruins and make any controlled development of Sardis as a touristic - monumental zone impossible. In cooperation with the Department of Antiquities and the Ministry of Tourism, the problem was brought to the attention of the Supreme Council for the Protection of Monuments. In August 1966, the Council ruled that the major highway should follow an alternate route, previously surveyed by the Ministry of Highways, but that the present road be kept as a secondary artery.

Throughout the work of the 1966 season, the Sardis expedition benefited by the advice and assistance of its new Commissioner M. Baran. It was assisted in many ways by K. Z. Polatkan, Director of the Manisa Museum and Member of the Building Commission for the restoration of the Marble Court. We were greatly helped by the sympathetic interest of H. Gürçay, Director of the Department of Antiquities, and M. Önder, Assistant to the Secretary of Cultural Affairs. On August 23, the Sardis program was signally honored by the visit of the President of the Turkish Republic, Cevdet Sunay, who expressed his approval of the work and extended his best wishes for its continuation.

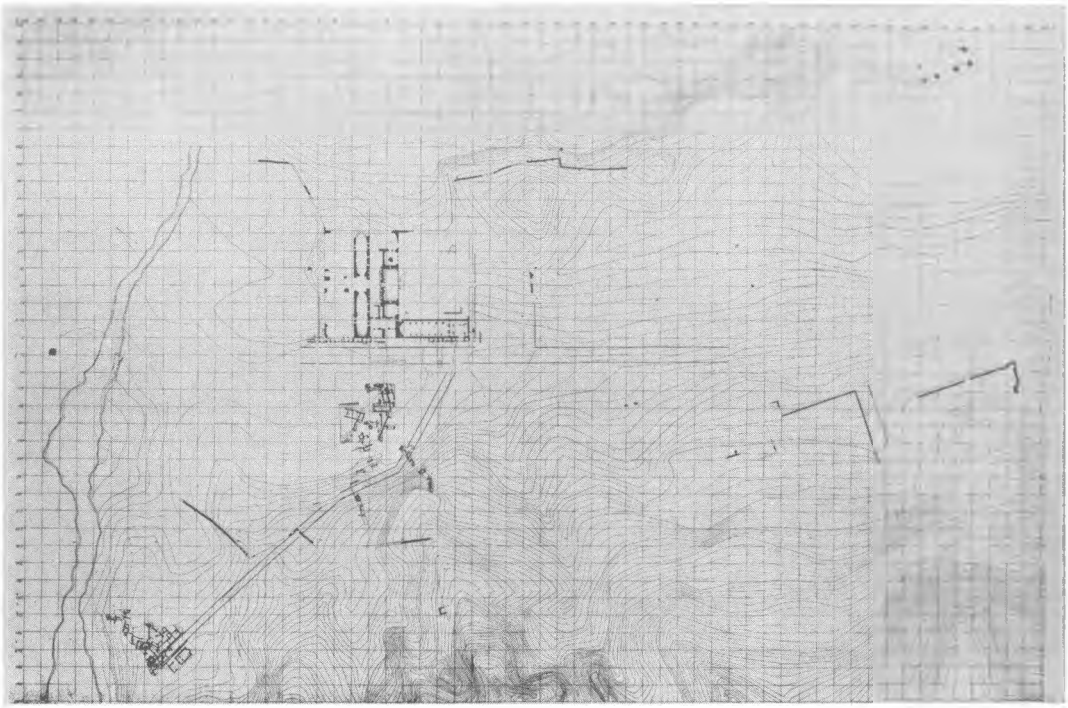

Fig. 1

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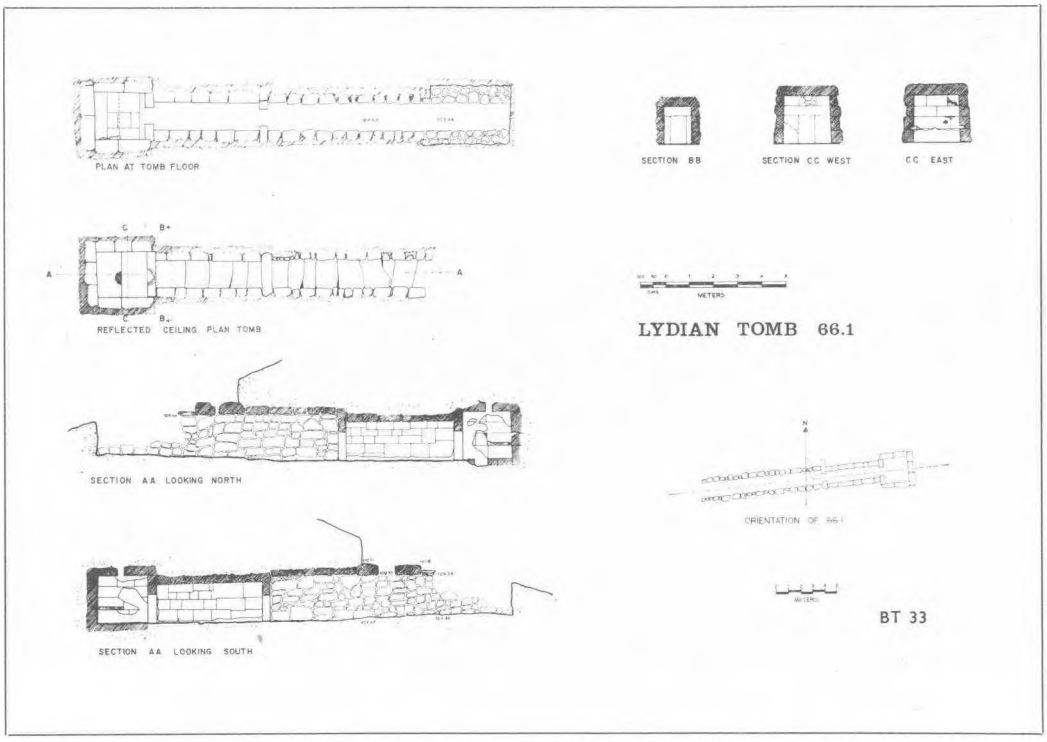

Fig. 5

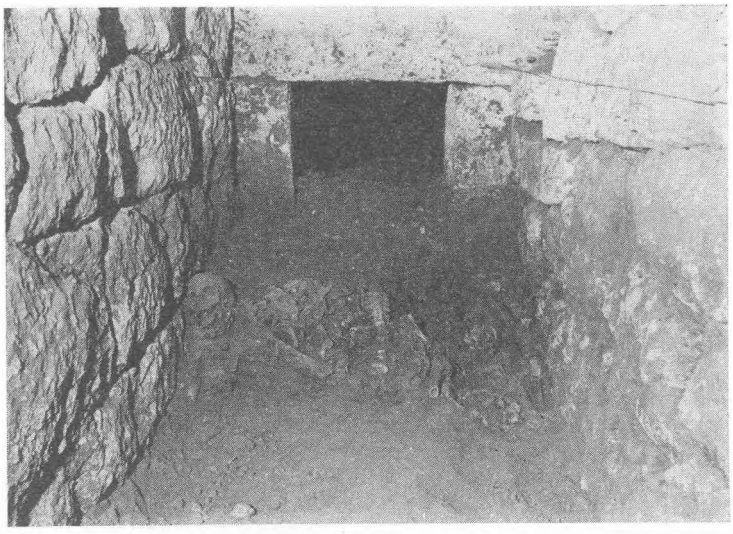

Fig. 6

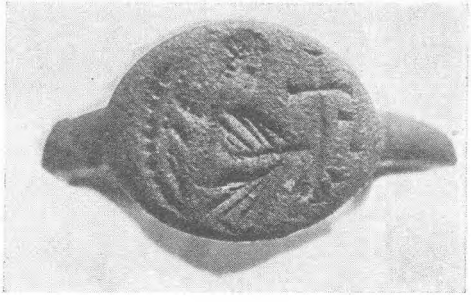

Fig. 7

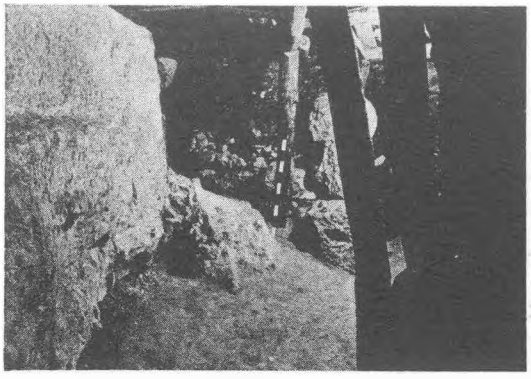

Fig. 8

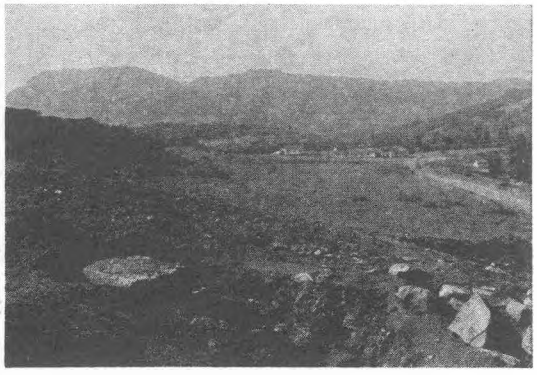

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Fig. 12

Fig. 11

Fig. 13

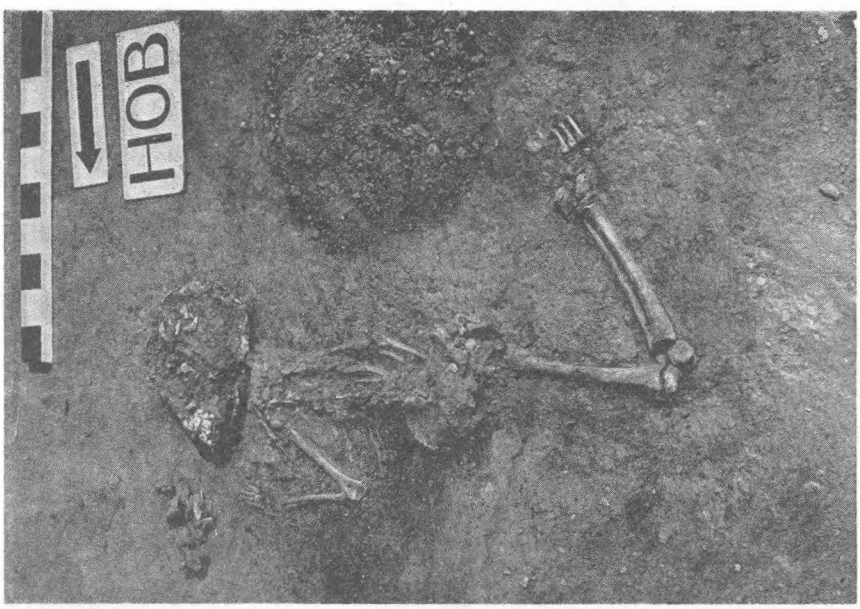


Fig. 14

Fig. 15

Fig. 16

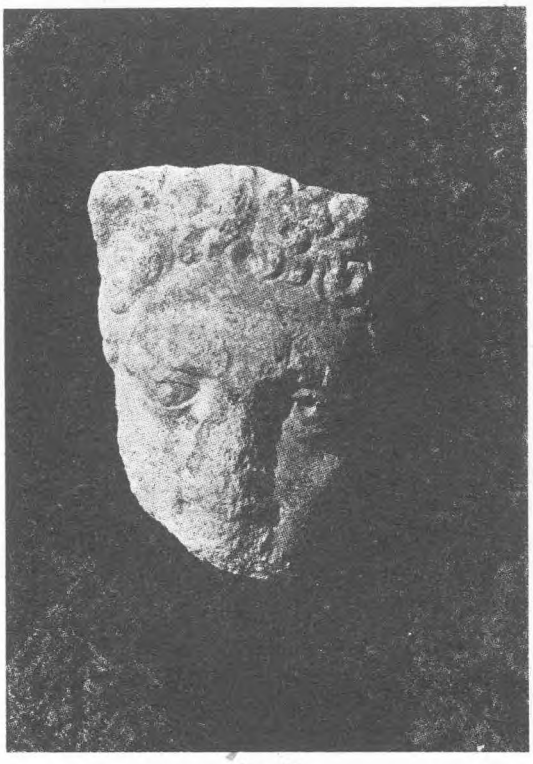


Fig. 17

Fig. 18

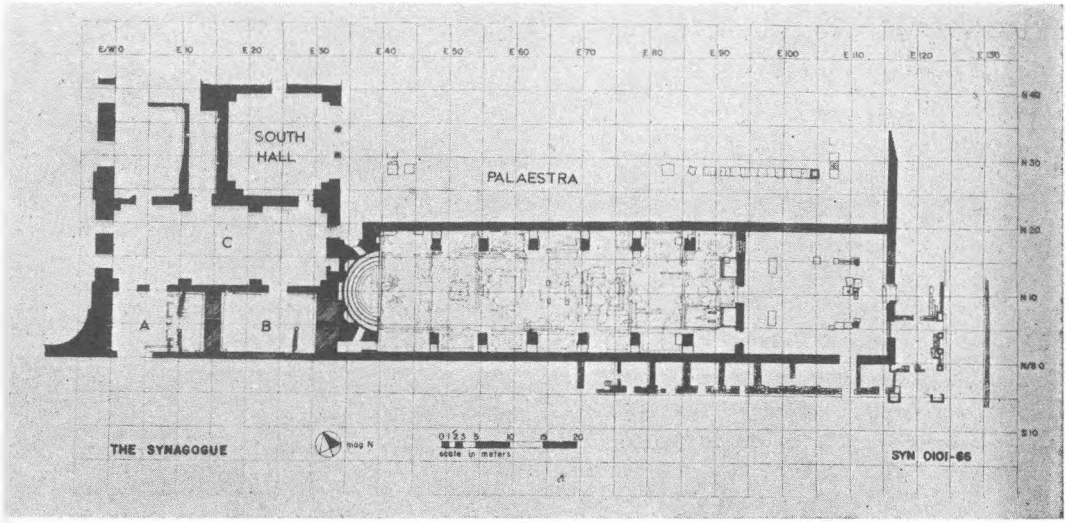


Fig. 19

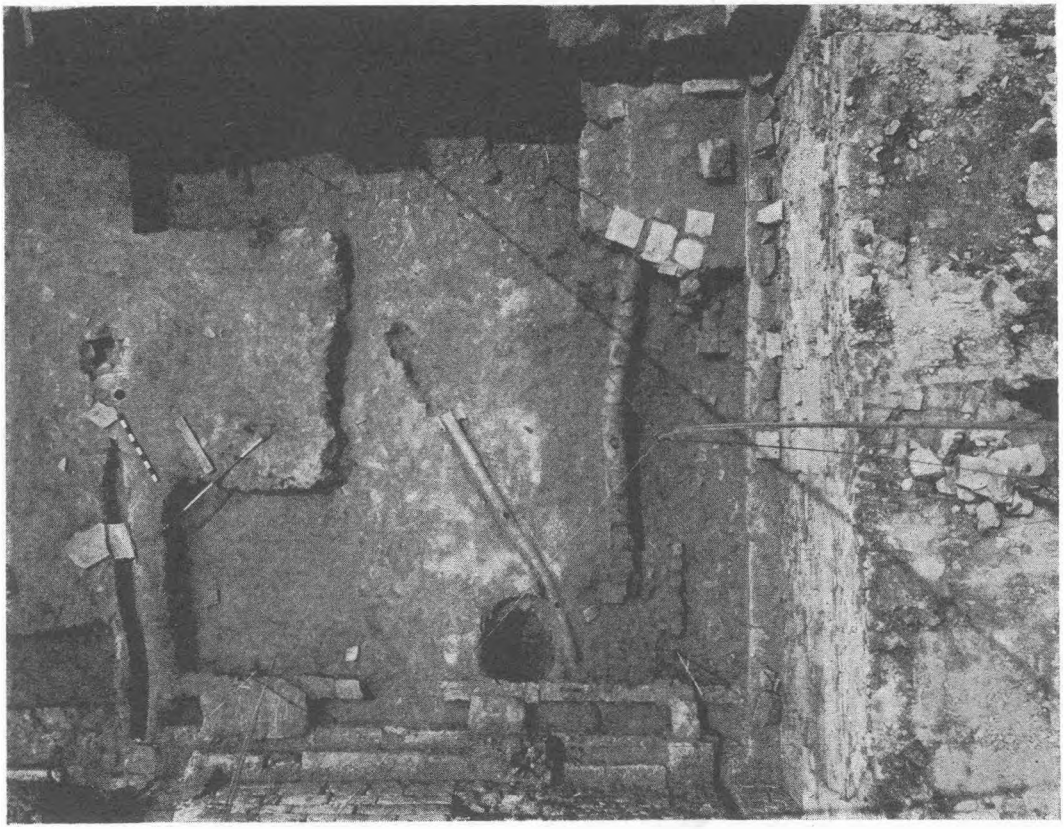


Fig. 20

Fig. 21

Fig. 22

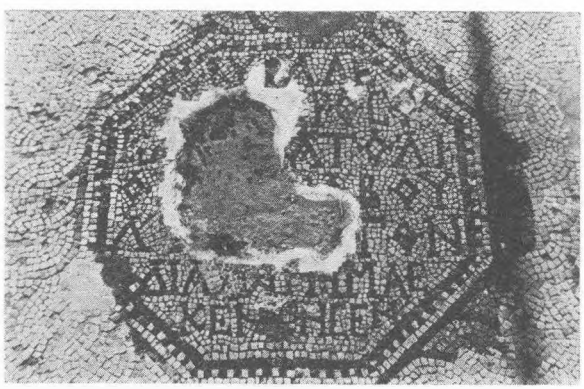
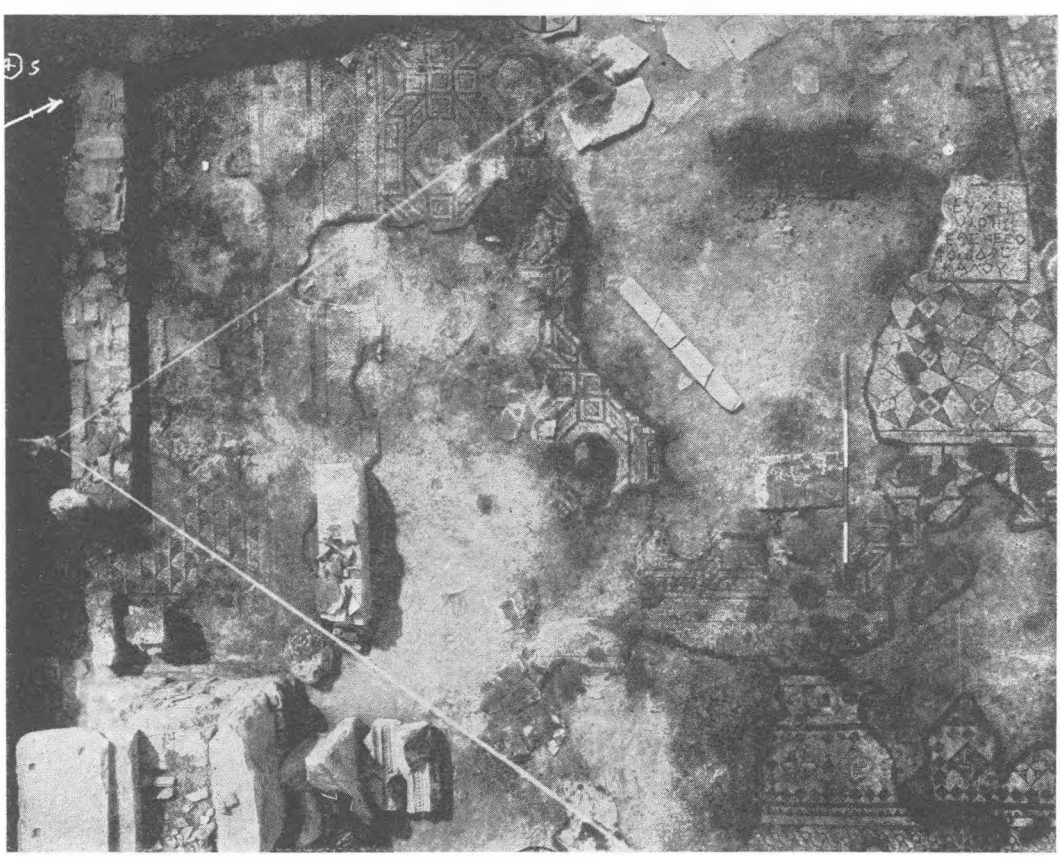


Fig. 23



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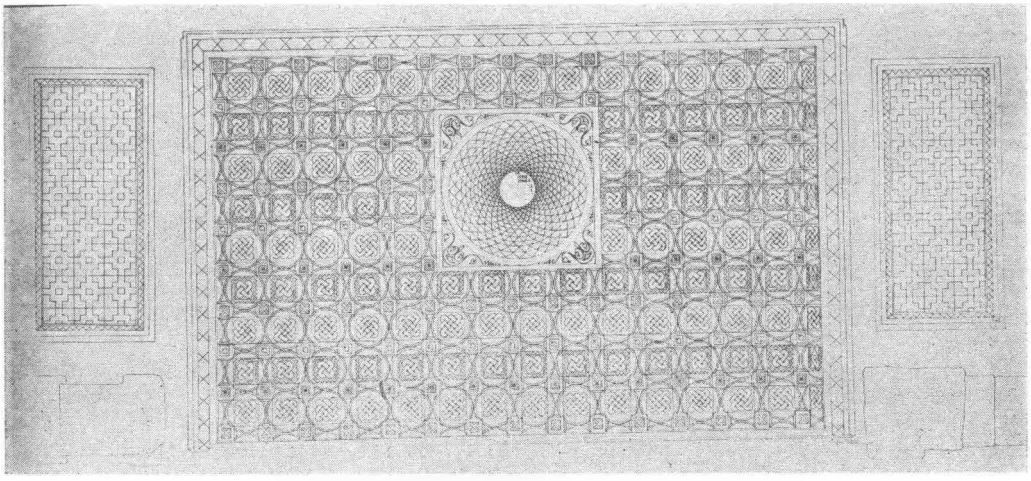

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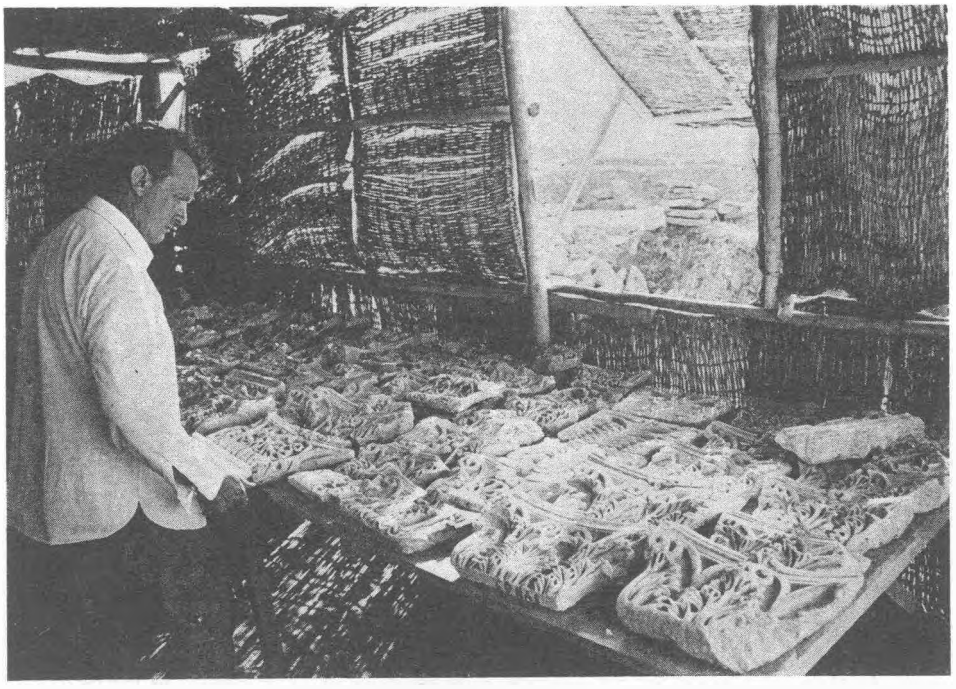

Fig. 26

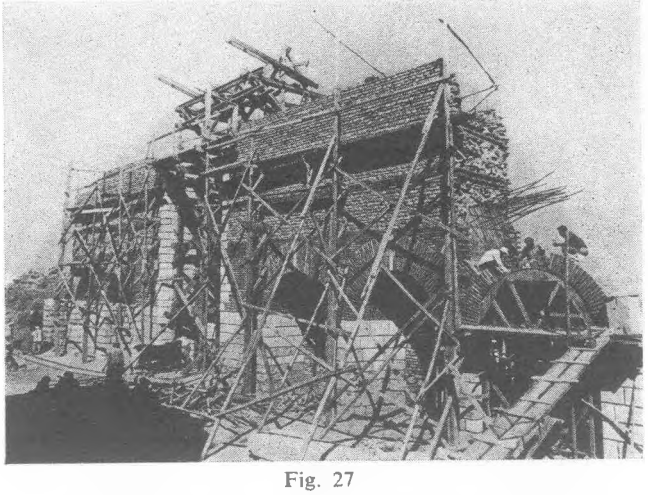

Fig. 27

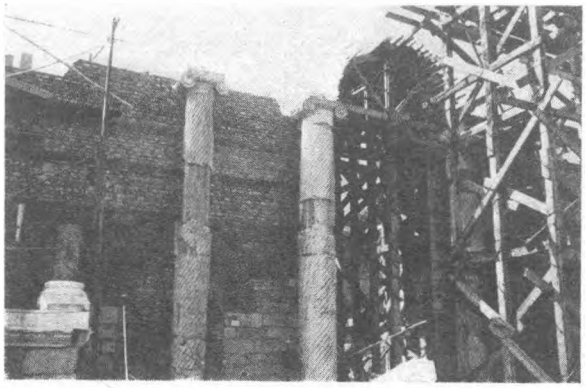

Fig. 28

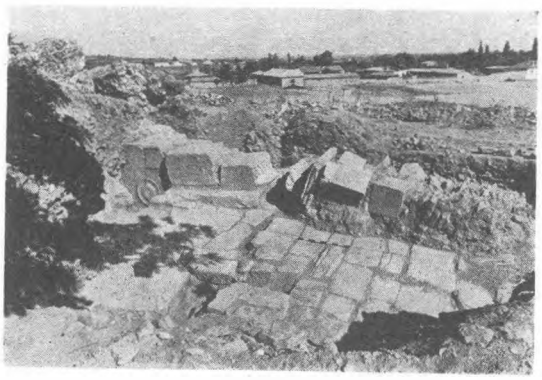

Fig. 29

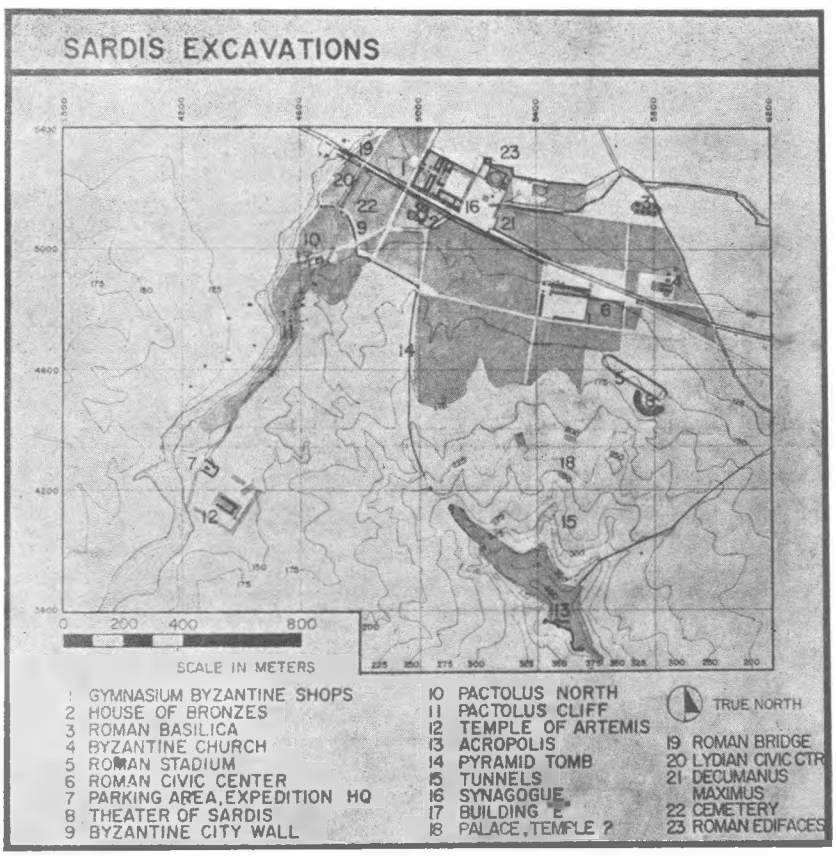

Fig. 30