

EXCAVATIONS AND RESEARCHES AT SARDIS — 1974

GEORGE M. A. HANFMANN

The seventeenth campaign of the Archaeological Exploration of Sardis, a Harvard-Cornell project, was conducted by C. H. Greenewalt, Jr. as Field Director. Of the fourteen foreign and four Turkish members, two were unable to come. A. Tulga, Manisa Museum was an ever helpful Government Representative. Work began on June 23 and the campaign ended officially on September 8. The Director of the entire project, G. M. A. Hanfmann was delayed and took part from August 19 on. Excavations on a small scale were carried out in the gymnasium area (Fig. 1, at W 23-48/N 12) and on the north slope of the Acropolis (Fig. 1, at 20.2). Cleaning was undertaken on the east bank of the Pactolus, where an important inscription was found built into a Late Roman structure (Fig. 1, at 42).

In the gymnasium¹, the repair of arches in the Hall with the swimming pool (BE-H; previously BE-W) was completed (Fig. 2) and the fill left as a "beridge" within the swimming pool in 1973 was removed. Measures were also initiated to protect the floor of the pool (Fig. 3). Work was proceeding on protection of floors of the entrance hall and palaestra colonnades. T. Yalçinkaya (İzmir) was in immediate charge of restoration activities with M. C. Bolgil (Tema, Ltd., İstanbul) as consultant.

On August 15, in connection with general security measures, upon request

of the Department of Antiquities and Museums, excavations were suspended; permission for resumption was given on September 6. Research activities continued until the end of season.

Following up reports by government guard İsmet Serin and camp guard Ahmet Ali Akyel, C. H. Greenewalt, Jr. and A. Ramage studied and subsequently moved to the expedition camp an important inscription which had become visible during the winter in the east scarp of the Pactolus. This inscription (IN 74.1) was built into a Late Roman building named the "Building with Hypocaust Floor" (Hypocaust Building, No. 42 in plan Fig. 1). Partial collapse of the cliff had exposed parts of the structure at levels of ca. 117-120 a.s.l. As no excavation was undertaken, only the broken parts visible in section in the cliff could be studied. The northern part, visible in Fig. 4, features hypocaust pillars over a mortared rubble foundation. Immediately to the south, at a somewhat higher level is a floor which ends against an east-west wall foundation. The inscription (*in situ*, white rectangle in Fig. 4) was part of the top of the wall foundation. Earth and debris lying above the inscription block indicated that the foundation with the inscription did not support a wall above the floor level in the last phase of the structure. South of the inscription is a mosaic floor (ca. 119.30 a.s.l.) at roughly the same level as the top of the inscription. It continues southward (beyond what is visible in Fig. 4) and seems to have belonged to more than one room.

¹ Recent plan in *BASOR* 211 (October 1973) 16, fig. 1.

From fragments of the mosaic it appears that it displayed a pattern of intersecting circles forming quatrefoils and quadrangles with curving sides. The major pattern is in white and blue-black tesserae (ca. 0.012 m. square). Red, yellow, and white tesserae were used for cross-like patterns in the center of each quadrangle. A similar pattern is known from Synagogue mosaics of the fourth century². The coarse workmanship suggests either fourth or fifth century for the floor of the "Hypocaust Building." It is thus roughly contemporaneous with the Late Roman - Early Byzantine bath at Pactolus North and the partially excavated Late Roman structure with mosaics at Pactolus Cliff (Fig. 1, No. 13)³. Apparently many villa-like structures were built along the banks of the Pactolus Valley during the Late Roman-Early Byzantine period (ca. 400-616).

The marble block, on which the inscription IN 74.1 was inscribed did not originally belong to the Late Roman structure but was reused. It is an L-shaped architectural block, possibly the right hand corner block. The inscription was carved on the narrower front face (not visible in Fig. 5, right). The inscribed face is 0.46 m. high and 0.64 m. wide. The depth of the block is 1.05 m. and its width at the back is 0.73 m. Cuttings for clamps preserved near the (spectator's) left front corner and right rear corner indicate that other stones joined to left and back. Each has next to it an unusual circular cutting, as if for a vertical rod which linked it with the stone course above. This and the anathyrosis on the top make it clear that there was originally at least one more course above the inscribed block. The finish of the face and the trimming of the sides appear to resemble technically Early Roman rather than classical or Hellenistic Greek work-

manship. The monument, which may have been a platform or statue base rather than the wall of a building, was probably built after the earthquake of A.D. 17. One would like to know whether it might have carried statues of Zeus Baradates and other Persian gods; and whether it might have had a number of inscriptions on it like the "Archive" wall at Aphrodisias of which Christian Habicht reminded us.

On the inscription itself, which is of great interest for the history of the Persian period, L. Robert has kindly communicated the following statement :

L'inscription, complète en 13 lignes, a été gravée à l'époque romaine avancée, pas avant le IIe siècle de notre ère. Elle résume un document, écrit en dialecte ionien, qui était daté de la 39e année du règne d'Artaxerxes II Mnemon. Le gouverneur de la Lydie, appelé "hyparque", le Perse Droaphernès (nom iranien nouveau, mais très bien formé et de sens clair), a élevé la statue de Zeus, lequel est l'apparence grecque du grand dieu iranien Ahura Mazda. Il donne l'ordre aux néocores qui ont le droit de pénétrer dans l'adyton, serviteurs du dieu (il faut rapprocher de ces expressions *Sardis*, n. 22,⁴ qui doit provenir du même lieu d'origine, sanctuaire de Zeus Polieus, que la nouvelle inscription) et qui "couronnent le dieu", de ne pas participer aux mystères de divers dieux indigènes, Sabazios, Agdistis et Ma. A cette époque tardive, on a tenu à tirer des archives un règlement perse du milieu du IVe siècle, qui voulait lutter contre un rapprochement que certains faisaient avec des dieux indigènes de l'Anatolie, en participant à des mystères. Cela est très intéressant à la fois pour la

² *BASOR* 187 (October 1967) 32, figs. 50, 52, 54, 55

³ *BASOR* 162 (April 1961) 170; *T.A.D.* XI-2 (1962) 45, fig. 19.

⁴ W. H. Buckler and D. M. Robinson, *Sardis VII, Greek and Latin Inscriptions*, Part 1 (Leyden 1932).

situation religieuse à Sardes au IV^e siècle, pour l'existence de mystères des trois divinités nommées et pour la politique religieuse des Perses et leur souci de pureté du culte de leur grand dieu. Intéressant aussi qu'on ait jugé bon de graver ce document dans l'époque impériale. Louis Robert publiera au printemps 1975 ce texte, avec photographie et commentaire, dans les *Comptes rendus de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres*.

In the western part of the gymnasium (Building West B, Fig. 1, No. 1) F. K. Yegül dug a trench from W 23-48/N 11.50-13 along an alignment of piers. The piers are connected by a brick and rubble wall. Between the third and fourth pier from east, the upper part of a handsome marble door with dentillated cornice was found intact; also preserved is part of the relieving brick arch above (Fig. 6). According to Yegül, the piers belong to a vaulted hall on the south which was probably paralleled on the north, on the long sides of a central caldarium. The piers seem to indicate several rectangular halls in parallel arrangement on both sides of the east-west axis of the gymnasium complex. In the entrance hall known as the "Marble Court" Yegül completed the architectural recording of the second-story pavillions of the Severan phase.

Important advance was made in studying the history of the marble paved "Main Avenue" which ran east-west just south of the gymnasium (Fig. 1, at No. 3). The late phase of the "Byzantine Shops" (Fig. 1, No. 3) and the colonnade in front of them, has been studied by J. S. Crawford. Now, by combining various preserved parts in a reconstruction drawing of their Corinthian columns, Yegül was able to suggest the general aspect of the earlier stage or stages of the southern colonnade (Fig. 7, "South Road" is actually "Main Avenue"). His reconstruction includes comparisons with the

columns of the East Road colonnade (Fig. 1, at No. 60) and columns of the Palaestra of the gymnasium. In attempting to explore possible roofing solutions for the southern colonnade and the gymnasium complex units which are immediately to the north of the colonnade (central building and units known as BE-A and BE-B), Yegül proposes two phases. In the first phase, which has two subphases (Fig. 8, upper left and center left), the tall Early Roman Corinthian columns, 5.60 m. high with a shaft of ca. 4.20 m., were used presumably between the mid-2nd and early 4th centuries. In the second, later phase, studied also by Crawford, the columns were only a little over 3 m. high (Fig. 8) and date after A.D. 400. Some of these were restored by the expedition in 1973.

As to the difference in the heights of the colonnades of the Main Avenue and East Road (ca. 6.40 m.), Yegül suggests that this discrepancy may have been resolved at the intersection of the two streets by means of a tetrapylon arch with openings of different heights.

On the Acropolis, C. H. Greenewalt, Jr. excavated a trench near the top of the northern slope (AcN; Fig. 1, No. 20.2) from August 2-15. The trench went downhill from pre-Hellenistic walls discovered in 1960 and 1971⁵. A huge L-shaped block of limestone (2.80 by 1.15 by 0.90 m.) lies on the slope at the northern end of the trench (W 193.4-195.5/N 103-105.7). Although the trench reached the native conglomerate in most places, no architectural features came to light. Burned fill, partly banked up on a platform-like cutting in the conglomerate was interpreted as possibly destruction fill dumped downhill after the siege and capture of the Citadel by Antiochus III in 213 B.C. Pottery in a deposit in the upper part of the trench was diagnosed by A. Oliver,

⁵ *T. A. D.* XI-1 (1962) 20, pl. XXII, fig. 33; XX-1 (1973) 89, figs. 5-6; G. M. A. Hanfmann, *Letters from Sardis* (1972) 306-307, figs. 229-230.

Jr. as Hellenistic. Three catapult balls of stone were also found, one inscribed IE (Fig. 9). In a stratum of gravel with material of different periods, there appeared an archaic terracotta revetment fragment showing parts of a horse and a dog running to right, undoubtedly from a chariot scene (Fig. 10, T 74.1 : 8300).

Pre-Hellenistic walls discovered in 1972 and 1973 on the southern side of the citadel (Fig. 1, No. 52 and *BASOR* 211 [October 1973] 31) were remeasured by Greenewalt and S. L. Carter. Measurements and levels of the Byzantine fortification walls of the Acropolis (Fig. 1, Nos. 20.1 and 20.3) were taken by R. L. Vann and Carter.

The pre-publication study of the architecture of the Early Christian basilica at Pactolus North discovered in 1973 which was to be undertaken by H. Buchwald and G. M. A. Hanfmann was postponed to the 1975 season.

Chance finds brought in by farmers included an altar inscribed and dedicated to emperor Hadrian by a Demetrios Hermogenous. It features in fine workmanship an eagle with thunderbolt and three sacrificial bowls over garlands (Fig. 11, NoEx 74.1; IN 74.2).

Members of the expedition accompanied the Government Representative A. Tulga to Allahdienköy, south of Sardis, to view structures recently discovered by chance by local inhabitants. These included part of a mosaic of fine quality showing an ivy border, various geometric patterns, and a rendering of a bird (Fig. 12). A statue base with an inscription of 19 lines celebrating the victory of an athlete in wrestling was found nearby and removed to the expedition camp for repair.

Intensive research was undertaken on several classes of objects. Decisive progress in the study of Hellenistic pottery was made by A. Oliver, Jr. He studied the painted and plain wares and made a survey of the entire Hellenistic ceramic material. He distinguishes three major

groups. One is constituted by pottery following Attic traditions. It includes both black-glazed pottery, imported and imitated, and the West Slope ware and its Asia Minor imitations. A second group consists of fabrics following Lydian traditions. It consists largely of undecorated wares and appears to end with the destruction of Sardis in 213 B.C. A third group comprises the new styles of the Hellenistic period such as the relief wares and appliqué, which are being studied by I. Hanfmann, the sigillate wares being studied by J. Wrabetz, and the interesting, well-represented group of white-ground wares, including the well known "Lagynos Group" which flourished from ca. 160-60 B.C. Oliver proposes for Sardis a chronological division into an Early Hellenistic, 334-213 B.C.; a Middle Hellenistic, 213-ca. 150/125 B.C.; and a Late Hellenistic period, ca. 150/125 B.C.-17 A.D.

J. C. Waldbaum studied metal objects excavated between 1958 and 1973. They range from the Early Bronze Age to the Turkish era. Jewelry comes from all periods. A number of objects relate to the technology of metal working. A matrix of the archaic period served to raise gold foil. Parts of possible crucibles were found in the Hellenistic installation in the House of Bronzes area. There are six moulds for casting objects (earrings, spoons) and a small jeweller's hammer. A Late Roman pot with specks of gold in slaggy matrix from the vicinity of "Byzantine Shops" may have been used in gilding small objects. Weapons include two main types of arrowheads, one Lydian or Persian found mostly on the Acropolis (sixth to fifth century B.C.?) the other, of iron conceivably Sassanian, perhaps used in the invasion of Khosroes II in A.D. 616. A wide range of tools was found. Particularly informative is the material from the "Byzantine Shops" which illumines a number of activities. It includes fine bronze vessels, bronze and iron locks, and many tools and implements.

The study of Lydian architectural terracottas and of their role in the construction of Lydian houses and other structures was continued by A. Ramage. C. H. Greenewalt, Jr. worked up material for a monographic study of the so-called "pot hoard" or "puppy burial" assemblages of Lydian pottery which also include canid bones and iron knives. Inscriptions were collected by C. Foss. G. M. A. Hanfmann and Theda Vann worked on sculptures; Theda Vann also worked up numismatic materials for publication by A. E. M. Johnston and T. V. Buttrey, and various small objects for publication by R. S. Thomas. J. A. Scott progressed in her study of Byzantine glazed wares.

She has studied the wares represented at Sardis and other Asia Minor sites. They seem to constitute a group of their own with some notable differences from Constantinopolitan wares.

The intensive research on objects necessitated much laboratory work both in restoring, cleaning, and joining of objects and fragments and in investigation of materials. This work was supervised by Ph. A. Lins and J. Souldanian. Some major projects such as the consolidation of the monumental marble table from the Synagogue ("Eagle Table") could not be completed and will need to be finished in 1975.

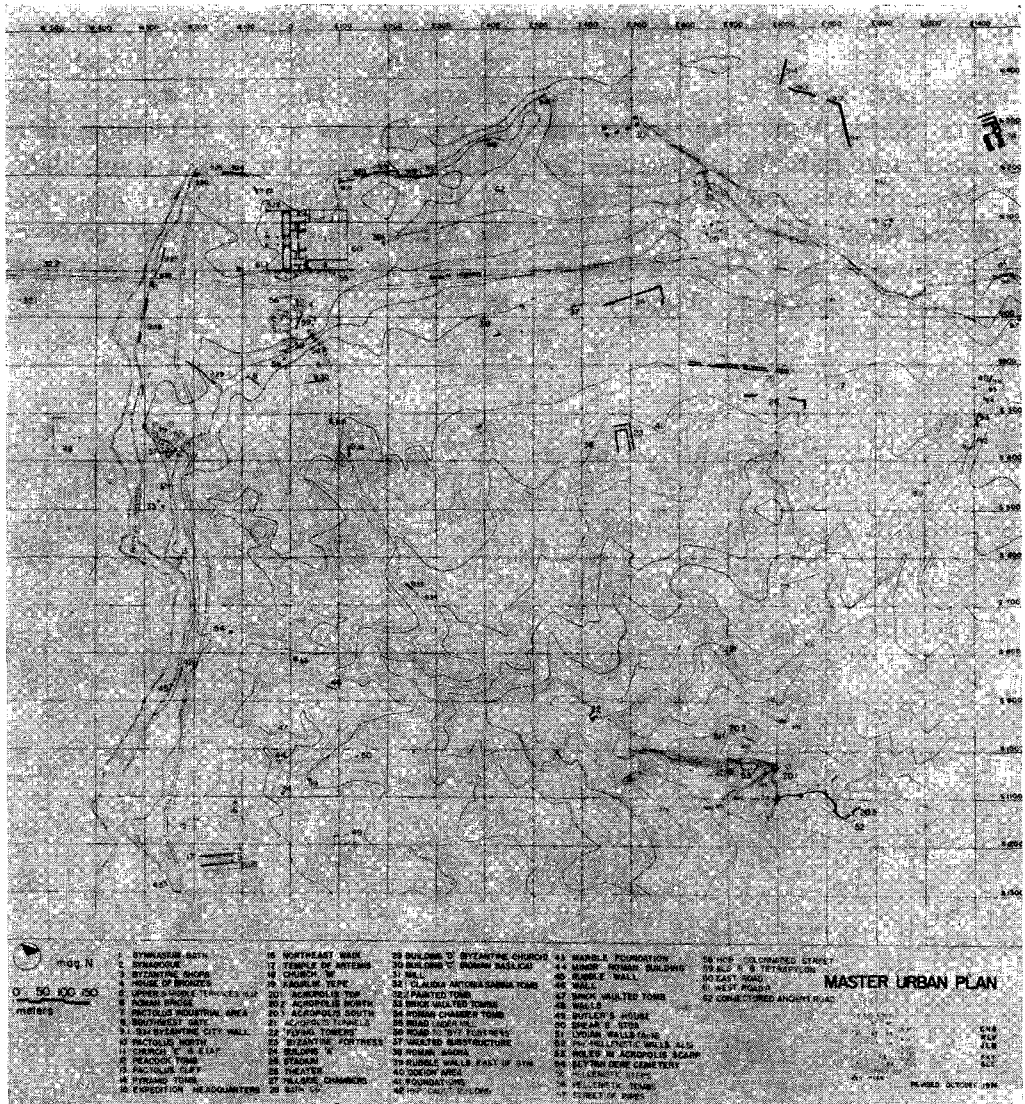


Fig. 1.— Master plan of excavations at Sardis.



Fig. 2 — Gymnasium. Repair of west wall arches; Hall BE-H with swimming pool.

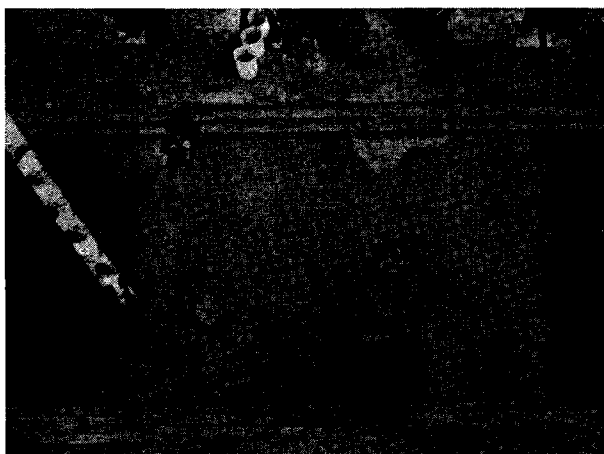


Fig. 3 — Gymnasium. Central part of pool in Hall BE-H excavated in 1974; earth on right and left is to protect the other parts of the pool floor. Looking down and west from top of "Marble Court" Hall.

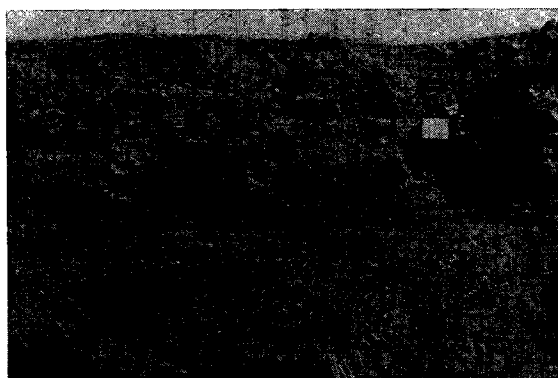


Fig. 4 — Part of Hypocaust Building (left) in east bank of Pactolus with inscription IN 74.1 *in situ* (right).

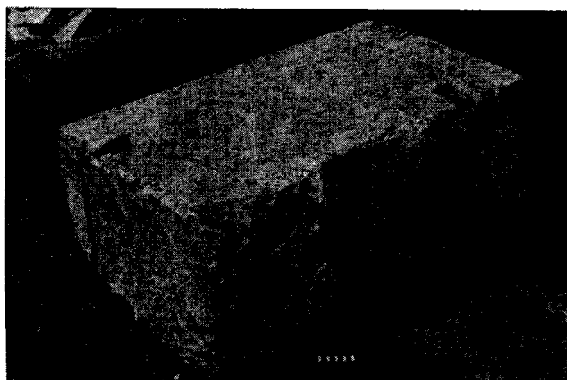


Fig. 5 — Marble block on which inscription IN 74.1 is written (front face on right).

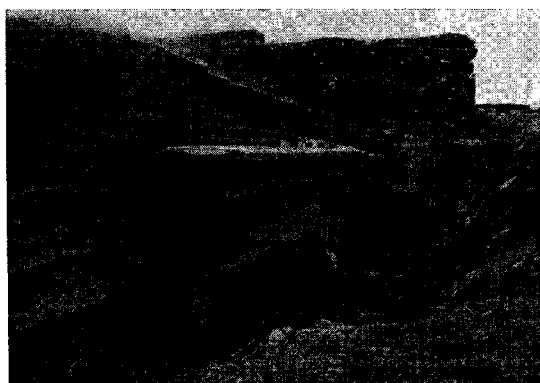


Fig. 6 — Western part of Gymnasium. Alignment of piers with marble door.

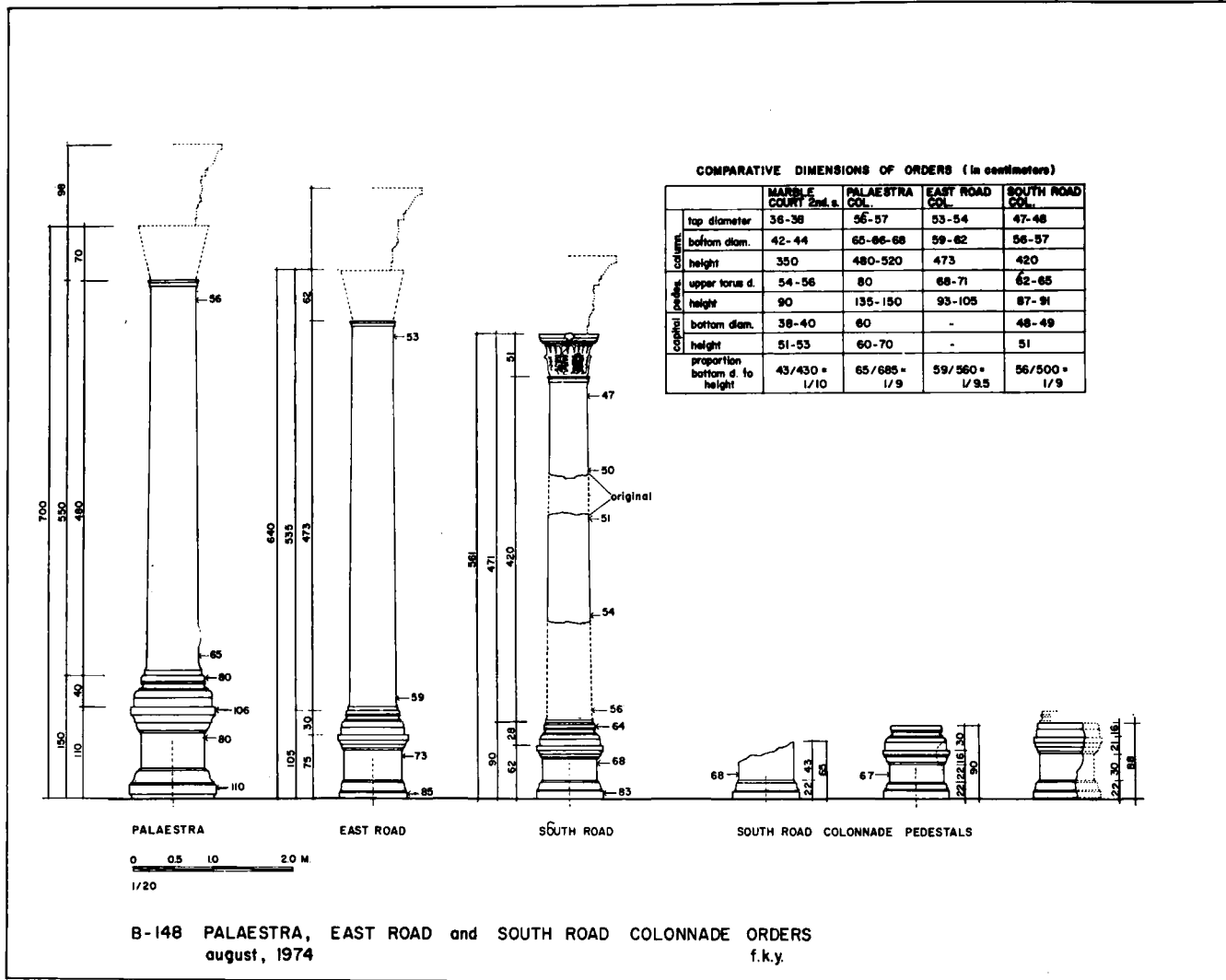


Fig. 7 — Comparison of reconstructed colonnade orders of Palaestra, East Road, and South Road (Main Avenue).

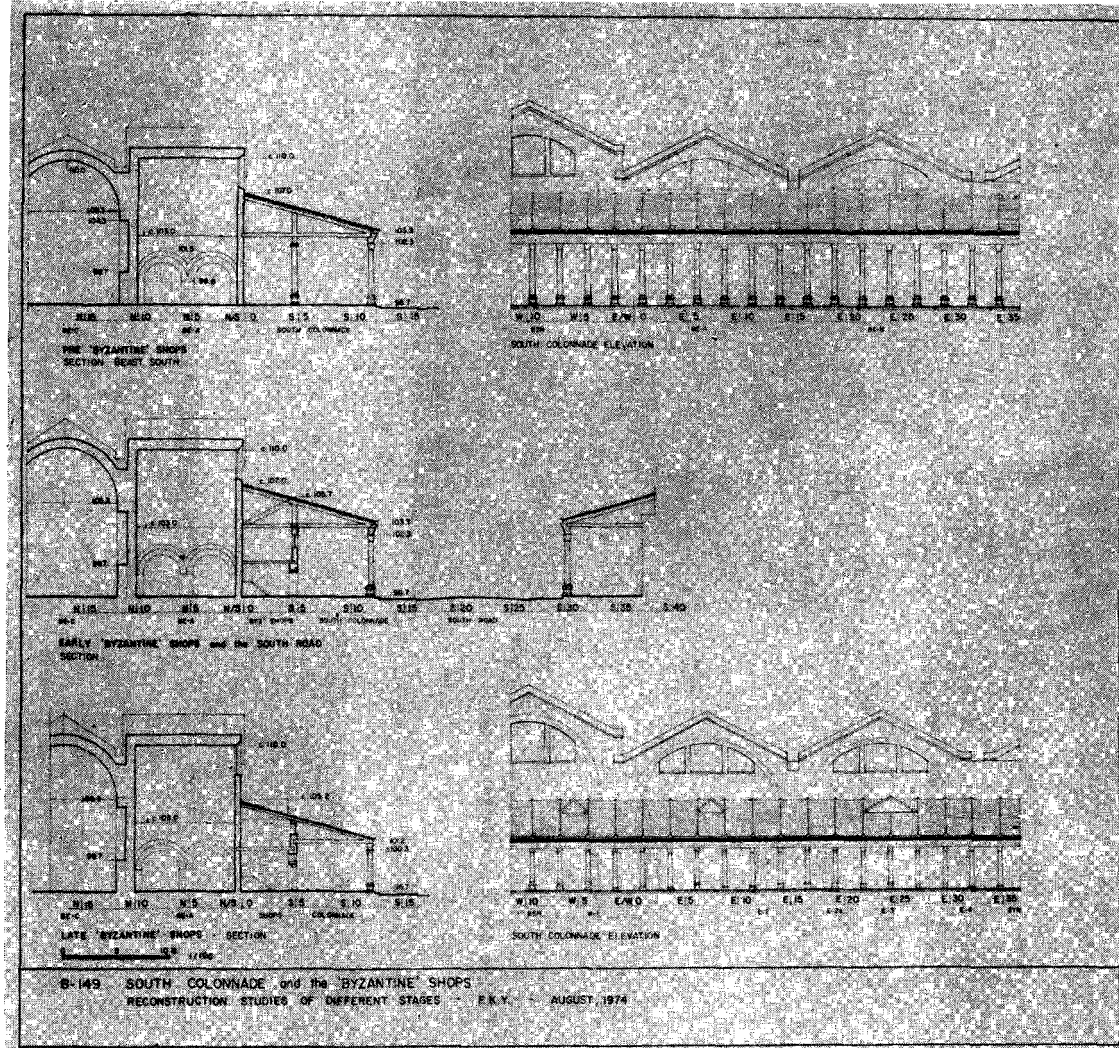


Fig. 8 — Tentative reconstruction of different phases of the south colonnade of Main Avenue (South Road) by F. K. Yegül.

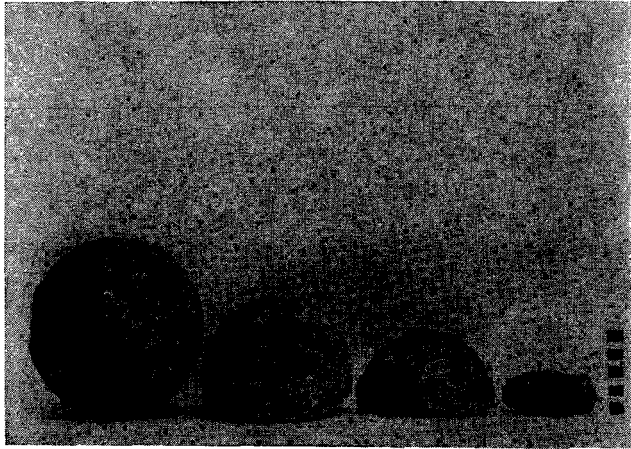


Fig. 9 — Stone catapult balls found on the Citadel.

Fig. 10 — Lydian archaic terracotta tile fragment, T. 74.1 with horse and dog (parts of horse and dog running to right).

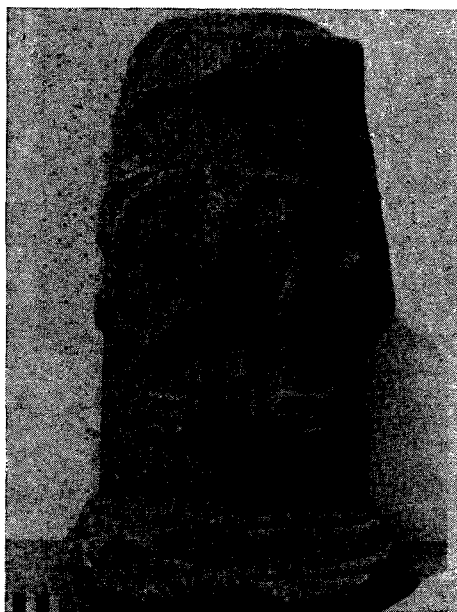
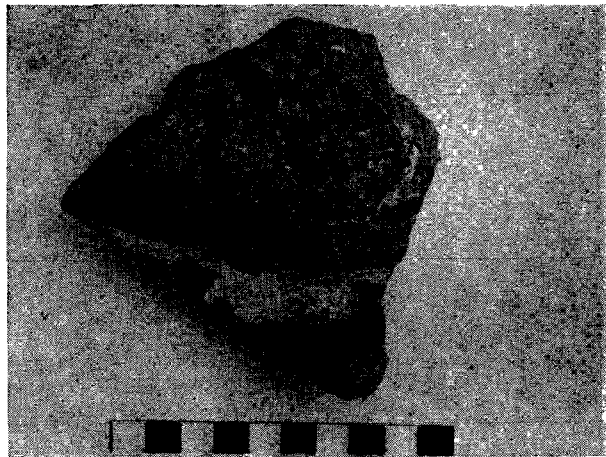


Fig. 11 — Circular altar NoEx 74.1; IN 74.2, dedicated to Emperor Hadrian.



Fig. 12 — Detail of mosaic found at Allahdiyenköy.