

EXCAVATIONS AT SARDIS 1968

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The 1968 season of the Harvard-Cornell Archaeological Exploration of Sardis began on June 20 and continued through August 30; restoration work on the Marble Court of the Roman Gymnasium took place between May 1 and September 30. Work concentrated upon several areas within Sardis itself and at the Early Bronze Age site of Ahlatlı Tepecik on the Gygean Lake (Mermere Gölü) north of Sardis (fig. 1)¹. George M. A. Hanfmann (Harvard University) was Field Director, A. Henry Detweiler (Cornell University) Associate Director, was prevented by illness from taking part in the campaign, and the undersigned as Assistant Director. A total of thirty-six staff members, students, and assistants - Turkish and American - took part in the work. Bay Osman Aksoy (Archaeological Museum, Ankara) served as First Commissioner for the Ministry of Education of the Turkish Republic; Bayan Güldem Yügrüm (Archaeological Museums, Istanbul) was Second Commissioner for Ahlatlı Tepecik. The expedition benefited immensely from their help and advice in all stages of its work.

Investigations continued in two major areas in the western part of the site where extensive levels of the Lydian period had been located. Gustavus F. Swift, Jr. (University of Chicago) continued his investigation of the late seventh century B.C. remains in the western part of "Lydian Trench", a market and industrial complex. The western compound wall of the complex

makes an unusual diversion in a rectangular structure that projects diagonally northwestward from the wall's north-south alignment. Several other large units were explored, some of which contained notable internal features such as benches along walls, hearths and storage spaces. Much interesting Lydian and Greek pottery was also recovered, as well as a small bronze fibula (fig. 2) and a large spit-like iron implement. A vivid reminder of the ferocity of the Kimmerian destruction of Sardis in the third quarter of the seventh century B.C. was the haphazard burial of five individuals; according to David J. Finkel (Cornell), staff anthropologist, they were two men, two women and a child (fig. 3).

At the sector "Pactolus North", Andrew Ramage and Sidney M. Goldstein (Harvard), in cooperation with Richard M. Stone (Conservator, New York University), continued investigation of floor levels around the Lydian masonry altar with recumbent lions discovered in 1967 (fig. 4). A number of clay basins set into a heavily burned floor (fig. 5) proved to have been used in metallurgical processes, probably including cupellation, the extraction of gold from its ores by heating intensely with an admixture of lead. About ninety small samples of gold were recovered from this area, ranging in size from nearly microscopic droplets and splashes to bits of foil and other fragments (fig. 6) up to 0.02 m. wide and 170 mg. in weight. Preliminary X-ray spectroscopic analysis by the laboratory of the Maden Tetkik ve

¹ A separate report, by D.G. Mitten and Bayan Güldem Yügrüm, appears elsewhere in this journal.

Araştırma Enstitüsü, Ankara², and neutron activation analysis by the Nükleer Fizik Merkezi, Büyük Çekmece, Istanbul³, indicate that some samples contain as much as 25 % silver. It is estimated that the area contained up to 300 of the clay basins. A dump to the north of the main working floor yielded sherds distorted by intense heat, some of them from bowls with minute quantities of gold still adhering to them, what appear to be ceramic bellows' nozzles, and other debris associated with the metalworking processes that took place here. A row of five small clay furnaces, perhaps employed in separating gold from silver by cementation, lined the western edge of the area. The associated pottery, Rhodian, Corinthian and Ionian, dates the workshop approximately to the second quarter of the sixth century B.C., and thus in the reign of Croesus (561-547 B.C.). Among the other small finds from the vicinity is an archaic hawk's head in bronze, with lead fillings (fig. 7). The implications of this find of metallurgical installations need to be fully explored by additional excavation and analysis.

In the gymnasium area, John Stevens Crawford (Harvard) cleared the last of the long row of Byzantine shops lining the south side of the gymnasium-synagogue complex. Among the numerous metal and ceramic objects recovered were an iron sword, bronze flagon-like vessels, a bronze tripod base with lions' feet (fig. 8), the tree support and left foot of a small statuary group in ornamental black and white marble, and an ornately decorated large pilgrim flask with raised molded

decoration; one side features two hares nibbling foliage on either side of a cross (fig. 9). An iron window grill was also recovered.

Soundings in the apse area of the Roman synagogue revealed that the cross wall of the apse was later in date than the north and south walls of the main building, and that the cross-wall separating the forecourt and the main hall was likewise secondary. These discoveries add strength to the theory that the synagogue had been a Roman civic basilica before being turned over to the Jewish community of Sardis, perhaps in the late second century A.D. A chance find in a pit near the apse was a tripartite gold earring, of Roman date, inset with green and red cabochon stones.

While examining and resetting the spoils incorporated into the stylobate for the forecourt peristyle colonnade, Mehmet T. Ergene discovered a stele placed face down. This stele, carved in white marble (fig. 10) depicts two tall goddesses dressed in archaic costume and facing front. The small animals that they carry give clues to their identifications: Artemis, to the left, carries a deer, while the slightly shorter Cybele, to the right, carries a lion. Two smaller worshippers gaze upon the goddesses from the right; an oval tympanum hangs over their heads. The stele helps to resolve an old controversy, showing that Artemis and Cybele were two separate deities at Sardis when this sculpture was carved, and that Artemis was at this time considered the senior of the two. The stele probably dates to the late fifth or the early fourth century B.C.

By the end of the 1968 season, the columns of the forecourt peristyle colonnade of the synagogue had been mended or replaced, and re-erected, under the supervision of Emin Balay (Robert College). The north columned shrine at the east end of the main hall was rebuilt to architect-rave level, and the wall back of it rebuilt to a height of over 3 meters (figs. 11, 12).

² We are happy to thank Dr. Sadrettin Alpan, Director of the Maden Tetkik ve Araştırma Enstitüsü, and Dr. Nilüfer Bayçın of the laboratory for their invaluable assistance in arranging for and performing these analyses.

³ We are exceedingly grateful to Dr. Sait Akpınar, Director of the T.A.E.C. Çekmece Nuclear Center (Nükleer Fizik Merkezi) for his cooperation in arranging for neutron activation analysis to be made on selected samples, and to Prof. M. Talat Erben and Dr. Sevim Okar for undertaking the tests.

A sample bay of the richly decorated *opus sectile* (*skoutlosis*) wall decoration (fig. 13), was reconstituted with panels of the marble revetment based upon elements recovered during excavation, upon synagogue mosaic patterns, and contemporary designs from wall revetments elsewhere. Placed between Corinthian pilasters and crowned by one of the dedicatory inscriptions in replica, the revetment was attached to the south-east corner of the main hall under the supervision of R.E. Stone and Halis Aydıntaşbaş (Middle Eastern Technical University). Field Architect in charge was Andrew R. Seager (Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana); M.T. Ergene (Harvard) acted as Construction Supervisor. Emin Balay procured most of the scarce colored marbles employed for the *opus sectile* panels and revetments from various sources in western Turkey. The project benefited from the expert advice of geologist Arhan Tekvar, Maden Tetkik ve Araştırma Enstitüsü, Ankara.

In the long rectangular building "Long North Hall" (LNH), which adjoins the north side of the palaestra, Guy Metraux (Harvard) uncovered a series of large kilns of medieval Byzantine date. The precise plan, character and date of the Roman building into which they were placed remains uncertain.

Under the supervision of architect Mehmet Cemal Bolgil (Moran and Bolgil, Istanbul) and with the help of K.Z. Polatkan (Director, Manisa Museum, member of the Emanet Komisyonu), restoration of the Marble Court of the Roman gymnasium was resumed on May 1, and continued through September 30, 1968. The Department of Antiquities and Museums, Ministry of Education, greatly aided the work by an appropriation made through the above Special Commission. The team included David De Long, who taught architecture at Middle Eastern Technical University, Ankara, as design architect, and Fikret K. Yeğül, architect, who continued his studies toward publication of the Marble Court. He was assisted

by Necati Güler (Middle East Technical University, Ankara). The aim of the season's work, to re-erect all of the decorative pavilions of the first stroy, was fulfilled. Important design advances were made by De Long, especially in proposing a plausible solution to the transition of the eastern screen colonnade, which separated the Marble Court from the palaestra, to the rest of the building. Yeğül's studies also revealed that the rooms in the gymnasium north of the large "West Hall" (Aleipterion) were symmetrical with those to the south. It is hoped during the 1969 season to finish re-erection of the two storey pedimental gateway in the western side of the Marble Court (figs. 14, 15).

Studies of the urban plan of Sardis progressed with several test trenches cut across the course of a colonnaded street that ran northeastward across the city from the Pactolus toward the main east-west avenue in Roman times. While the full course of this street has not yet been definitely fixed, more information about the plan and form of the large structure "R", southeast of the House of Bronzes, was obtained. This building, an irregular polygon in shape, now appears to have a central court with rooms opening off to the sides. At the building's northeast corner, the street seems to have taken a slight turn. Fallen here, on two blocks, was an inscription of Early Byzantine date, which mentions the construction of a colonnade "up to the Tetracylon". These blocks may well have belonged to a pier, perhaps at the end of the colonnade.

The detailed cleaning and study for publication of sectors excavated in previous campaigns began in two areas. On the Acropolis, Crawford H. Greenewalt, Jr., (University of California, Berkeley), was able to demonstrate that a stairway descended along the limestone and sandstone wall and tower of Lydian date, originally excavated in 1960. With L.J. Majewski, Director, Conservation Center, New York University, he investigated a large

cave under the highest peak of the Acropolis. Majewski's analysis of the eight layers of painted stucco on the walls suggests that the cave may once have served as an early Christian chapel. Further investigation of the early and medieval Byzantine occupation was made through small trenches.

South of the Temple of Artemis, the large Roman building (Building "L"), originally excavated in 1958 by Baki Ögün, was reinvestigated with some additional excavation by G.M.A. Hanfmann. Two phases emerge: an early Roman one (after 17 A.D.), and a late Roman-early Byzantine period, ending in destruction by fire. An earlier layer of debris beneath the building may relate to the destruction of Sardis by Antiochos III (213 B.C.).

Limited conservation work on the Temple of Artemis itself was carried out under the supervision of M.T. Ergene. The stairs at the north side of the west end of the temple, which had been seriously disrupted and dislocated, were rep-

laced in their original positions, and the capital of the Apphion Secunda monument, which stands nearby, was replaced.

Additional conservation work undertaken by L.J. Majewski included detachment and remounting of the frescoes from the two long sides of the vaulted "Peacock Tomb" (fourth or fifth century A.D.) in a form suitable for museum display (fig. 16), reconstruction of the large marble krater from the fountain in the forecourt of the synagogue, and definitive reconstruction of the two pairs of marble lions from the synagogue.

Among several chance finds from Sardis and vicinity was an unusual Corinthian pilaster capital featuring a goddess with serpent and fruit (?) (fig. 17). The goddess, Roman in date, and provincial in her workmanship, is a late descendant of the kind of deity represented on the stele from the synagogue, and an intriguing addition to the growing collection of Sardian divinities in sculpture. The capital may be dated in the third century A.D.

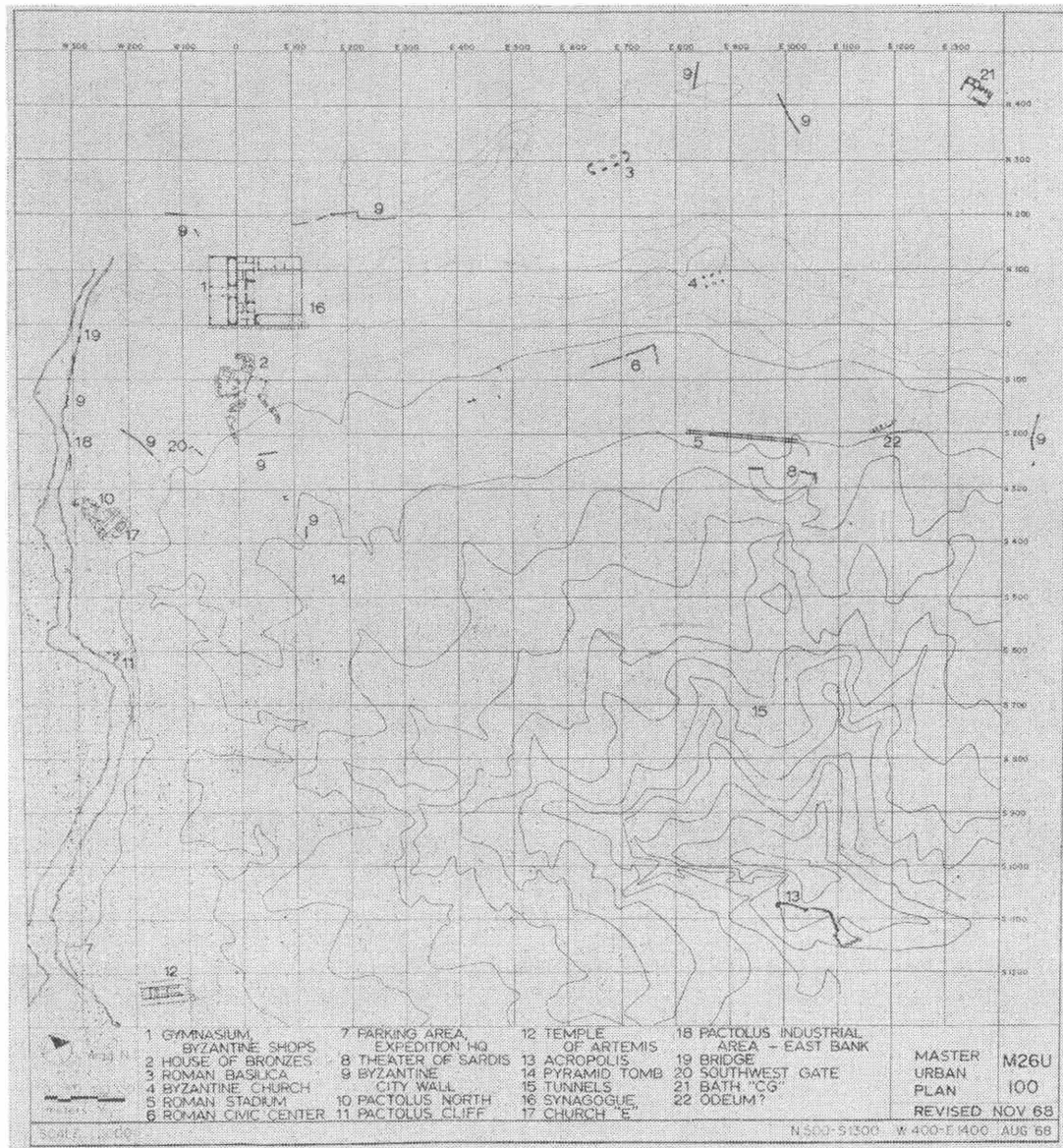


Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

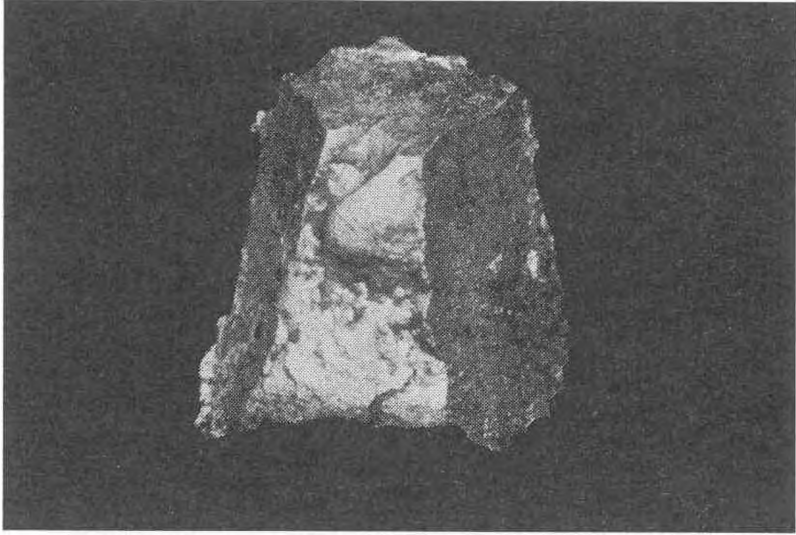


Fig. 6



Fig. 7

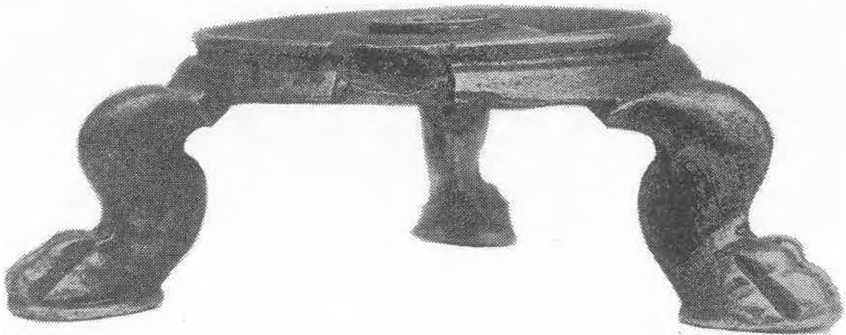


Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

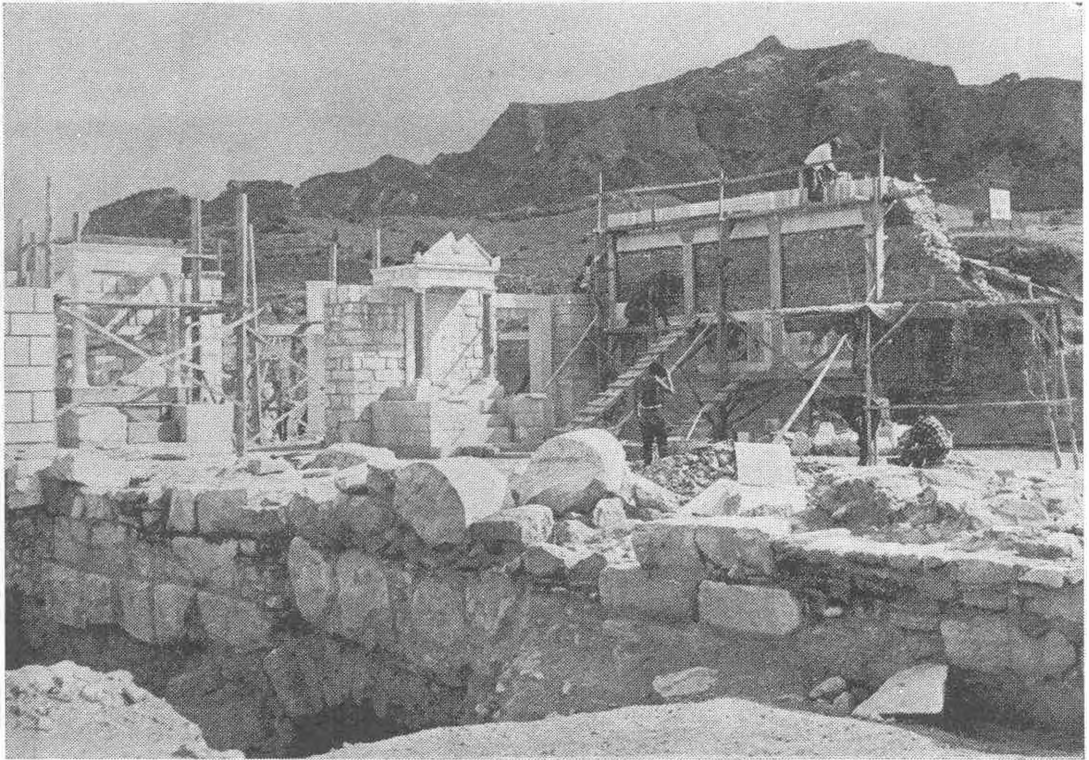
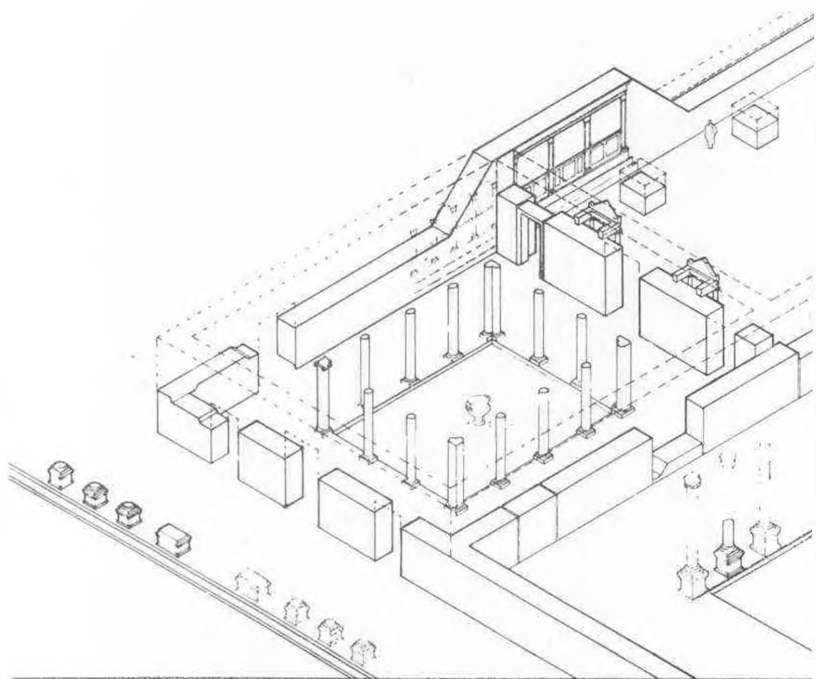


Fig. 11



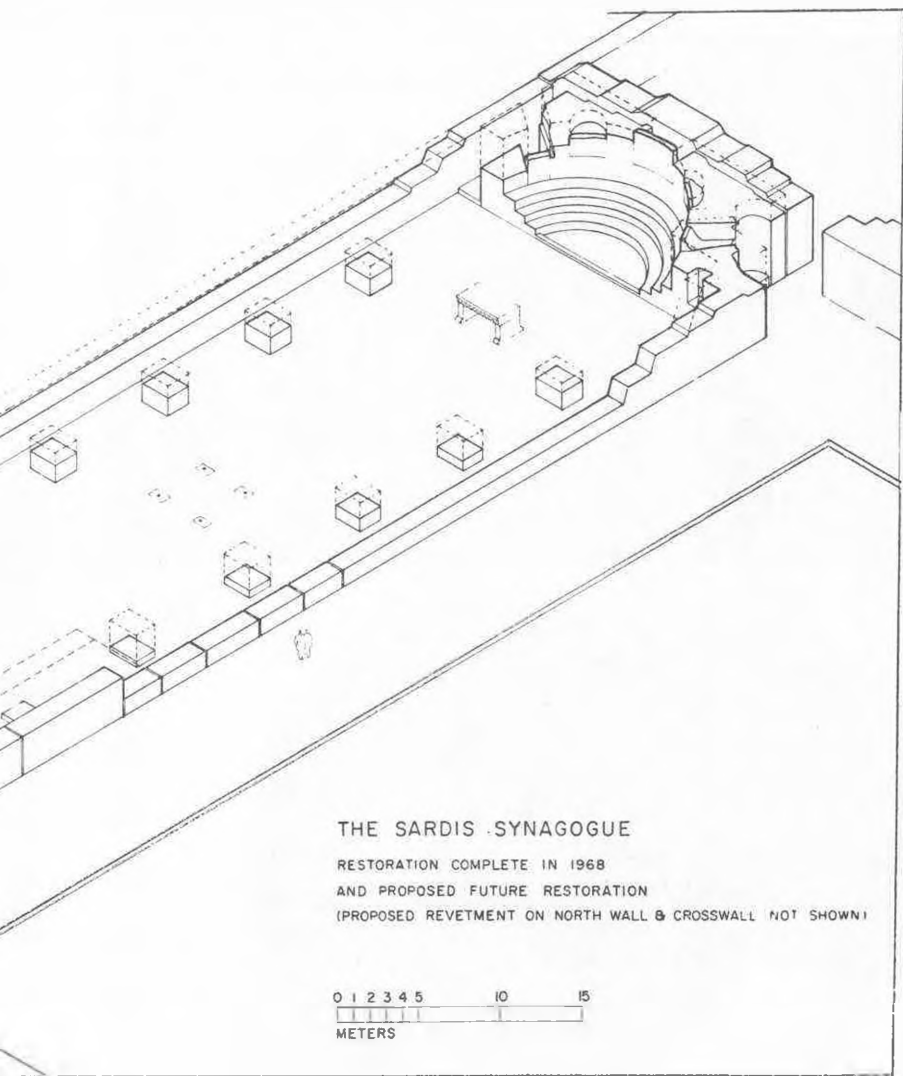
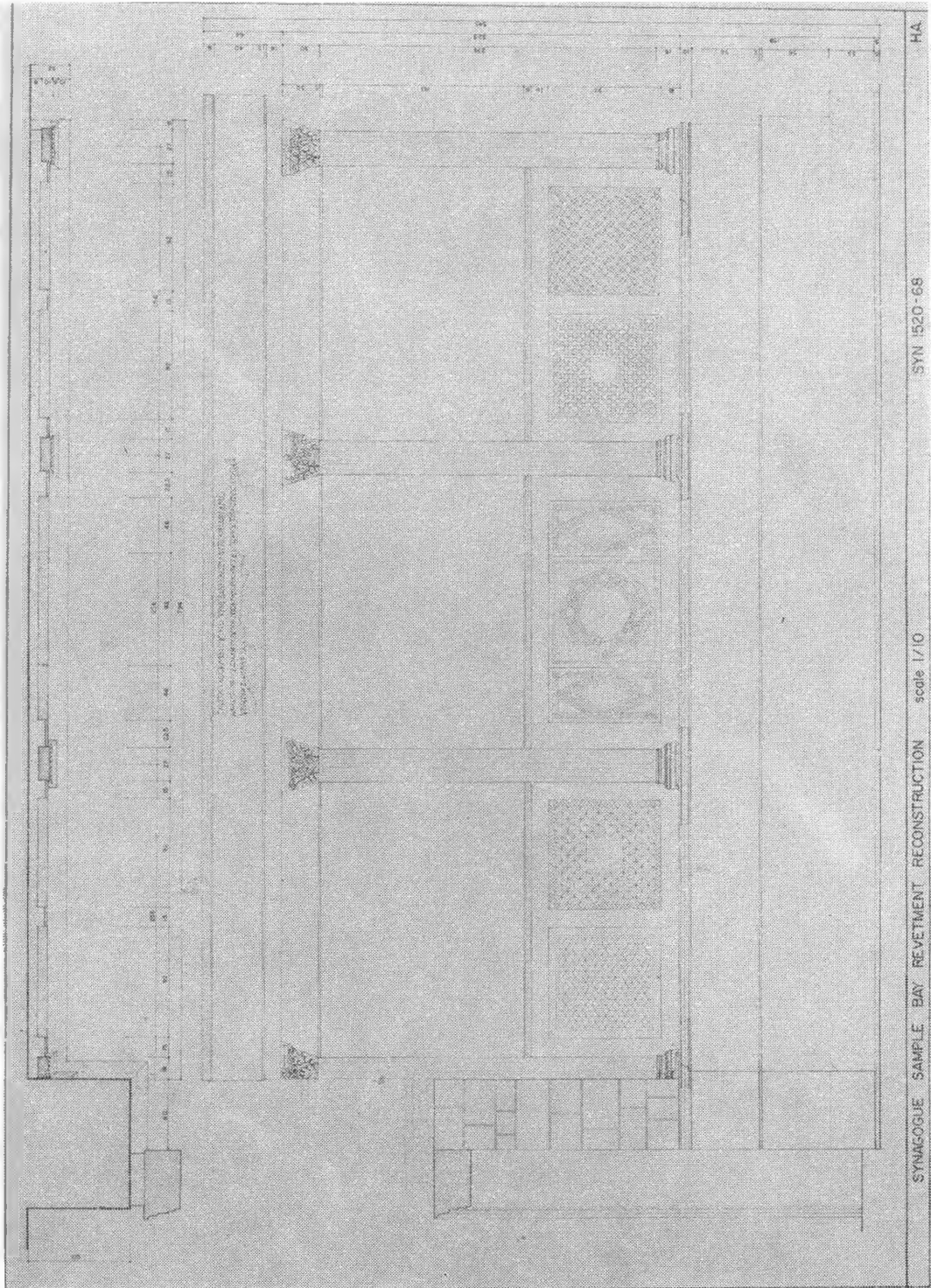


Fig. 12



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SYNAGOGUE SAMPLE BAY REVETMENT RECONSTRUCTION

H.A.

Fig. 13



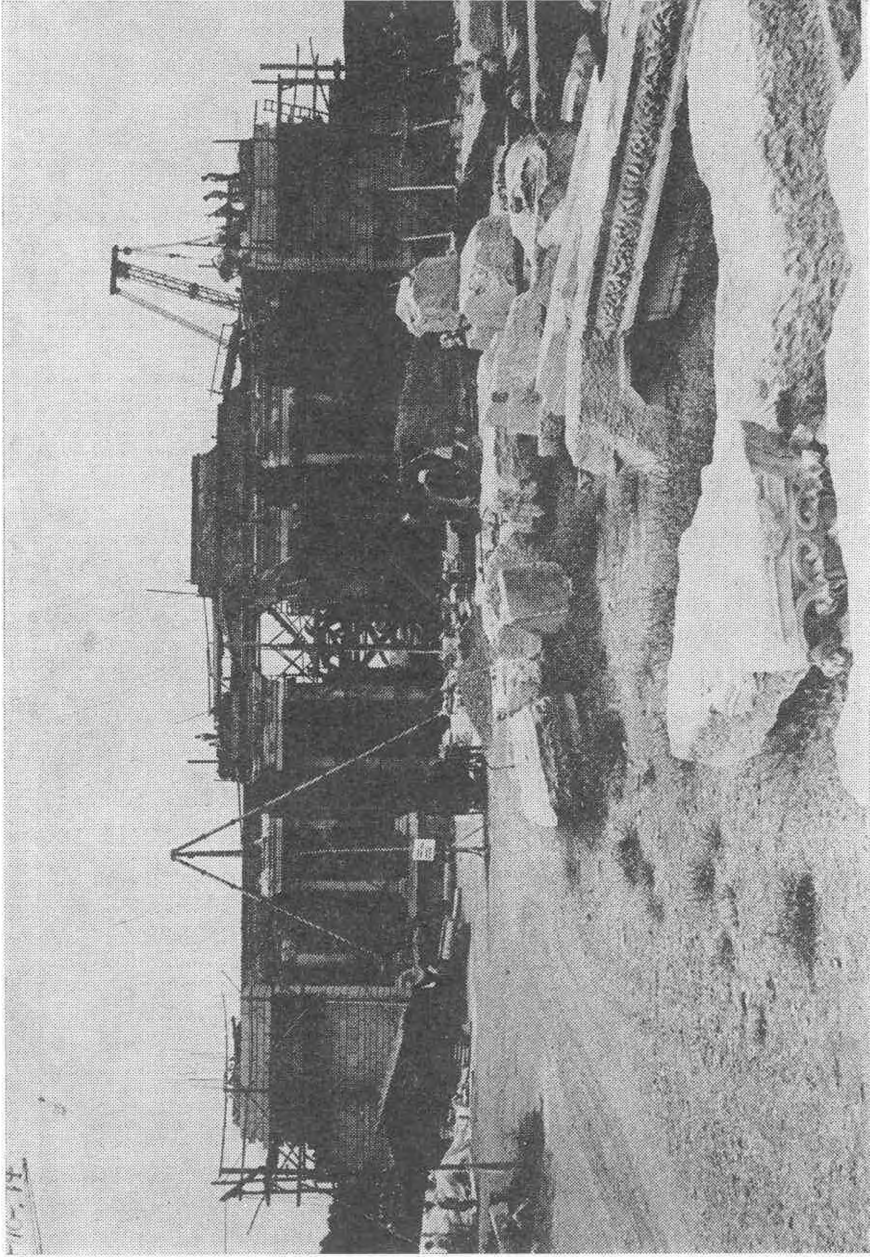
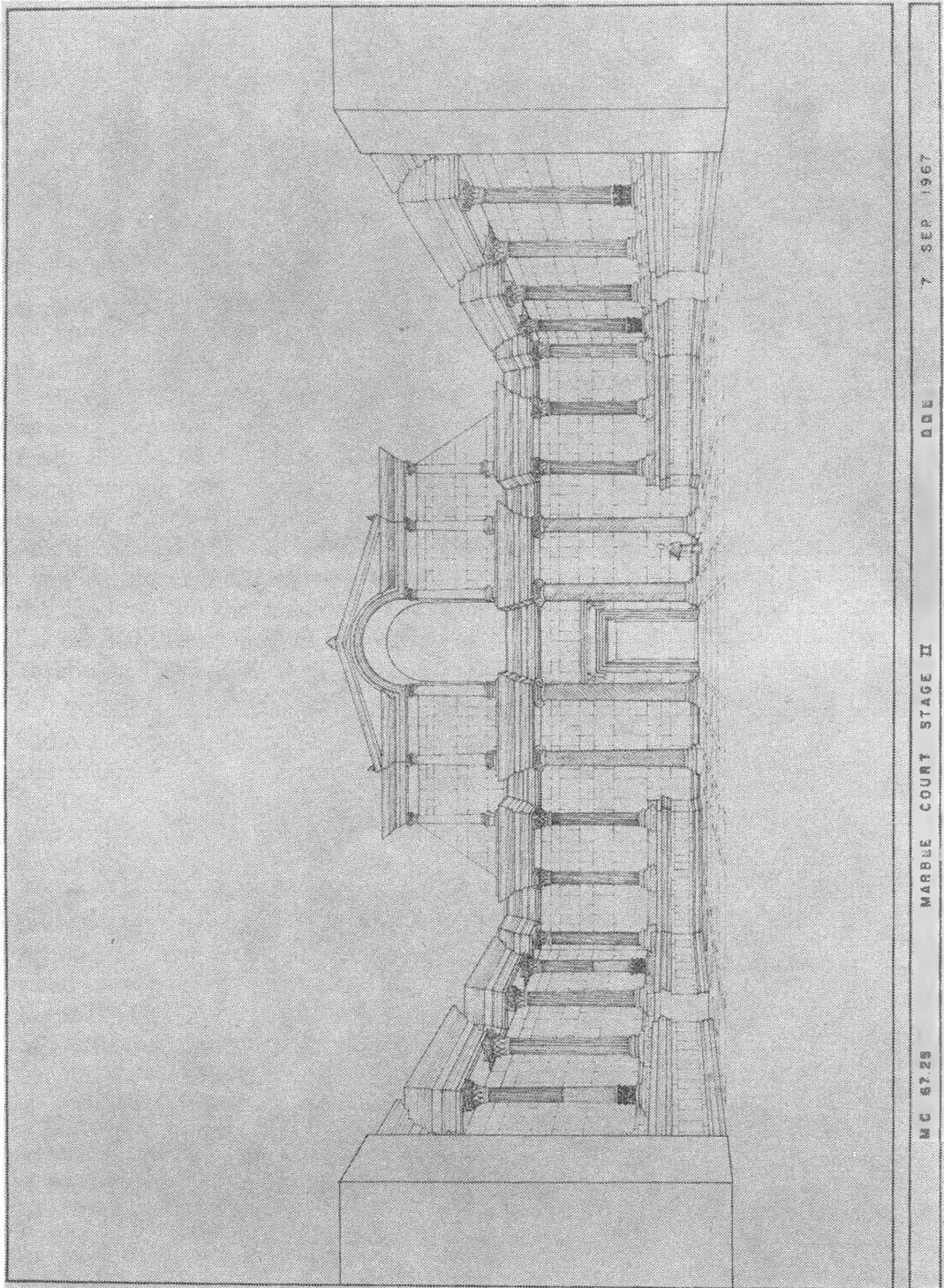


Fig. 14



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Fig. 15

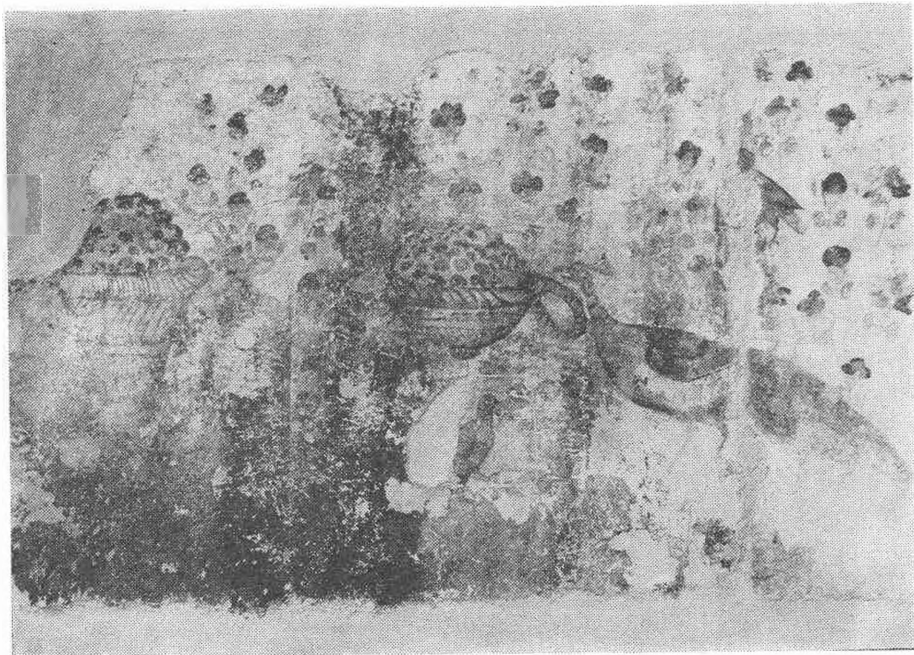


Fig. 16

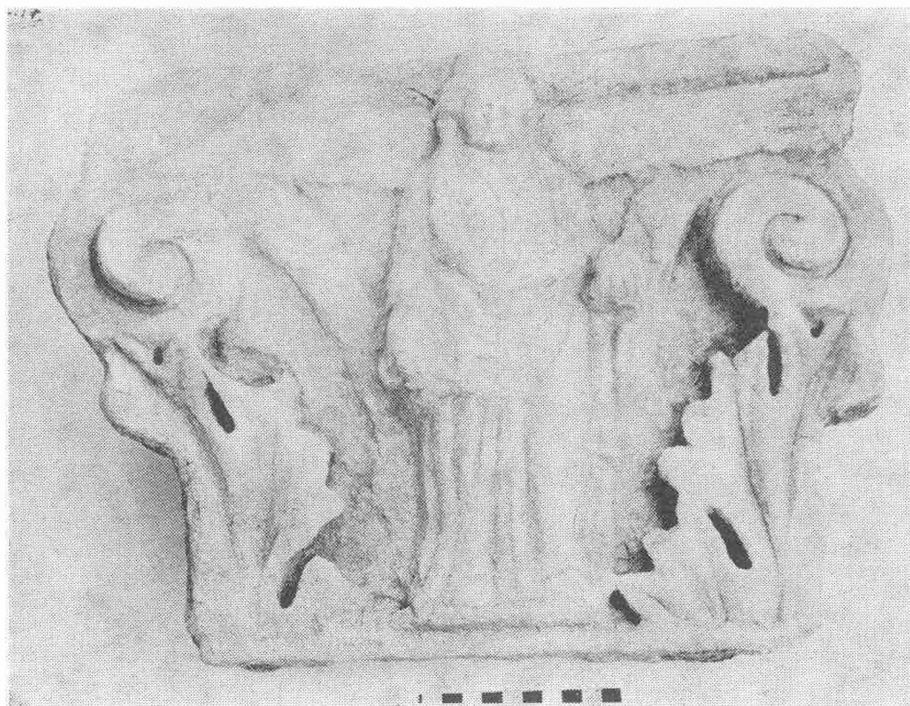


Fig. 17



Fig. 16



Fig. 17