

EXCAVATIONS AT ANEMURIUM (ESKİ ANAMUR) 1973

Prof. JAMES RUSSELL

A seven week season of excavation and restoration was conducted commencing 12 June and concluding 31 July, 1973 with a maximum of fifty-four workmen employed at any one time. The work was directed by Professor James Russell, University of British Columbia, with Professor E. H. Williams of the same University as assistant director¹.

Several projects were undertaken (fig. 1). Those begun in previous seasons included work on A) the Large Baths (III 2 B)²; B) the peripheral areas of the pal-

¹ Other senior members of the staff were Professor C.W.J. Eliot, American School of Classical Studies, Athens, and Dr. Erika von Conta-Bruce, the Canada Council, Ottawa, as archaeologists, Mr. Tom Boyd, Indiana University, as architect, and Mr. Ian Bristow, London, as restoration consultant. Our staff also included five students, Miss Alison Dale and Mrs. Caroline Williams, University of British Columbia, Miss Victoria Cameron and Miss Sheila Campbell, University of Toronto, as field assistants, and Miss Milfie Howell, Institute of Archaeology, London, as conservator. In addition we were fortunate to have once again as our Representative Bay Yalçın Karalar, archaeologist and assistant of the Adana Regional Museum, whose good nature and constant helpfulness are deeply appreciated.

Besides the staff on the site, however, the success of the excavation depends on many friends and institutions, both Turkish and Canadian. It is a pleasure to acknowledge once again this debt of gratitude. We should mention especially the Eski Eserler ve Müzeler Genel Müdürlüğü and in particular the Director, Bay Hikmet Gürçay, the Deputy Director, Bay Burhan Tezcan and Bay Çetin Anlağan for their gracious support in securing the renewal of the permit to excavate at Anemurium; the Canada Council for the continuing trust they have shown in our work in providing generous funds; the Canadian Ambassador to

aestra (E III 2 B) to the east and north; C) the exedra building (II 12 E) and preceding area. Two new projects were also commenced, D) the small baths (III 15) and E) the necropolis church (A II 1). F) In addition several minor explorations were conducted. A summary of these various projects follows.

A. *The Baths* (III 2 B) (Figs. 2-3). The task of clearing this enormous complex was begun in 1972 after the adjoining palaestra E III 2 B had been in large measure exposed. Excavation was carried out in four chambers, B-C (here considered as a single unit), D, F and G, though the clearing of only two (B-C and D) was completed. Much of Room D had in fact been excavated in 1972 and the work of the latest season (fig. 4) merely confirmed the plan already established as composed of two halves. At the north is a rectangular piscina (10.35 m. N-S × 7.85 m. E-W) with a depth of 1.40 m. paved by a floor of plain white mosaic consisting of very large tesserae. A passage 1.10 m. wide surrounds the piscina on three sides, with access to the pool by means of a narrow staircase of four steps located at each corner. One perplexing feature of

Turkey, His Excellency Mr. G.F.G. Hughes and his staff for their prompt and practical help in matters great and small; and last, but not least, the local officials at Anamur for their unfailing courtesy and good humour in their dealings with us.

² This and all other references are to the plan of the city in E. Rosenbaum, G. Huber and S. Onurkan, *A Survey of Coastal Cities in Western Cilicia* (Ankara, 1967), plan I.

the room, however, remains unresolved in the apparent absence of any system for filling or draining the piscina. It was at first thought that a long slab of marble apparently inserted into the mosaic at the time of its construction and running along the central axis of the piscina from its north wall may have been a drain cover, but a trench sunk in line with it on the outside of the building failed to produce any sign of a drain. One is left with the conjecture that the piscina was allowed to empty naturally either by evaporation or by seepage through the mosaic.

Separated from the piscina by a slightly raised wall at its south end is an area extending 5.65 m. to the south wall, and occupying the full width of the hall (10.20 m.). The floor of this area, exposed in 1972, was paved in mosaic of polychrome geometric design, well preserved around much of its border, but its central panel, composed of elaborate guilloche circles, is lost for the most part. Further scrutiny of the top surfaces of the east and west walls respectively, which still stand to their full height of approximately 8.00 m., revealed along their inner faces traces of shallow cuttings and a narrow ledge, presumably intended to receive the cross-beams of a wooden roof. This would explain the absence of heavy masses of concrete and large stones in the fill, a feature so noticeable in the excavation of the other rooms where vaulted roofs are certain.

West of Room D lies a longer hall (N-S 17.80 × E-W 5.80), indicated separately as B and C in the original survey (fig. 5). Excavation of both was completed, from which it became clear that the entire area was conceived as a single chamber. Nevertheless the two elements were constructed separately, C as part of the original structure, while B to the north, containing a small piscina, was added later.

In many respects B-C duplicates the function of Room D. Like the latter the southern end (in effect C) was paved in mosaic and separated along its northern border by a slightly raised wall (0.65 m.

wide) from a second piscina (B). Only the merest fragments of the central panels of the mosaic survive, but a substantial part of the border decoration emerged at the northern end (fig. 6). Consisting of panels of lozenges enclosing circles set within guilloche and crow-stepped borders the design bears a striking resemblance to motifs already encountered in the palaestra (E III 2 B) and in the unidentified establishment discovered in 1972 located beyond the NE corner of the palaestra.

The piscina (4.50 m. × 4.87 m.), much smaller than that in Room D, has a depth of approximately 1.15 m. with floor paved in plain white mosaic, largely obscured by a hard film of mortar. A narrow ledge hardly wide enough for a walk surrounds the pool on three sides (E, N and W), while access was limited to a single staircase located in the SE corner, of which only rudimentary foundations survive. Unlike the piscina in Room D traces of a channel for feeding the pool and a drainage system are both evident, though neither has been investigated.

Another interesting feature is a sunken basin contained within a niche, 1.04 m. deep, set within the thickness of the east wall of Room C (fig. 7). The basin was laid in tile, as were the two steps which provide access to it from the west and encroached on the mosaic pavement of the room. Water for the basin was clearly supplied from a pipe originally housed in a continuous cutting that commences at the NE corner of Room B, before passing into Room D whence it issues through the rear wall of the niche. To the south of the basin on the same wall is the doorway linking Rooms C and D. The removal of the original lintel block had resulted in the collapse of the relieving arch and wide-spread damage to the surrounding masonry. This was repaired by reconstructing the wall on either side of the passage and the relieving arch in masonry, while the missing lintel block was replaced in concrete. In the course of

clearing patches of mosaic were found in the passageway.

South of Rooms D and B-C lie Rooms G and F respectively. Excavation of these rooms involves the removal of fill extending to a depth in places of 4-5 metres. In the case of G approximately half of the chamber has been exposed on one side of a diagonal line through the centre of the room, to the floor-level of its hypocaust system (fig. 8). This occupies the main rectangular body of the room but does not extend into the apse at its southern end, which is separated by a wall running across the chord. The hypocaust system consists of regular rows of piers, for the most part composed of round tiles. None of the piers survives to a height of more than five tiles and consequently none of the original floor supported by them remains *in situ*. Many fragments of the floor tiles have been found in the fill, however, and a substantial section of collapsed flooring has been identified. This presumably lay originally on the same level as the floor of Room D, i.e. at a height of 1.22 m. above the floor of the hypocaust system.

A series of trenches from NE to SW were cut diagonally across Room F, which lies adjacent to Room G on the west, but only in the SW extremity was the floor level reached. Here too a collapsed hypocaust system was encountered with two distinct periods of construction evident. It is now clear therefore that the entire south range of this complex was composed of three heated halls, E, F, G), while the north range (B-C and D) served the dual role of frigidarium and cold plunge. The precise arrangement for circulation between these various rooms has still to be established but without doubt the plan of III 2 B together with its palaestra and associated halls (E III 2 B) (fig. 9) must eventually contribute an interesting and novel scheme to the corpus of Roman Imperial baths.

B. Peripheral Areas of E III 2 B: – Further excavation was carried out in the

two areas lying to the east and north-east respectively of the palaestra proper where interesting results were obtained in 1972.

1) *The East Area:* – Work here was limited to the area extending between two walls running in an east-west direction and apparently coinciding with the width of the lower vault of the great drain that runs below this part of the building. In 1972 a mosaic pavement had been discovered in one of the diagonal trenches at the SE corner, but the rest of the area remained uncleared. This was now completed to reveal a mosaic floor throughout, though in very fragmentary condition. Enough survives, however, to restore a polychrome design consisting of three large panels of adjoining triangles ('butterfly design') and an overall external border of circles enclosing diamonds on the east, south, and west sides. No trace of this border exists on the northern side of the room, so that the mosaic may well extend beyond the northern E-W wall, the present boundary of the area, but now recognised as a later addition. There is other evidence of later modifications in the drains cut through the floor to issue into the underlying sewer and in the several patches and cuttings in the mosaic.

2) *The Northeast Area:* – The discovery of two small chambers paved in mosaic and a third with a tile-floor in 1972 aroused hopes that another substantial complex of comparable quality lay beyond the northeast corner of the palaestra. The mosaic-paved chambers in fact proved to be merely recesses opening on the north into a much larger room, itself paved in mosaic (fig. 10). In the east wall of this latter a wide doorway with threshold block still intact was discovered. This, taken together with the fine quality of mosaic and marble revetment found throughout this corner, suggested that we were dealing with a building of some importance and originally of considerable dimensions of which we had uncovered only the south-east corner. Trenches were

therefore opened to the west and north in the hope of confirming this conjecture. The results were disappointing, however, for while some traces of mortar floors that may perhaps have served as a base for mosaic pavement appeared towards the west no structural remains of any kind were revealed. Towards the north a complicated series of walls and floors was uncovered, for the most part of coarse construction. The presence of a hearth and the well-preserved remains of a bakery-oven and the general resemblance of the area to the premises erected at a later date on the palaestra indicate the domestic character of this complex. An early Byzantine date may be assumed for these buildings from the pottery and coins, for the most part belonging to the first half of the seventh century, found in the fill. Material of earlier date was produced from probes beneath the floors, but no masonry or floors were found. It may be concluded that, with the exception of the south-east corner, the earlier buildings in this area have been largely obscured or obliterated by later construction.

C. The Exedra Area: – Work in the 1972 season had led to several discoveries that made a reinterpretation and further examination of the exedra complex south of the palaestra area (E III 2 B) necessary. Most important of these was the discovery of a stylobate foundation, 0.93 m. wide running south from the face of the exedra and at a distance of 4.70 m. from the western perimeter wall. A series of trenches was therefore opened in the peribolus area extending to the south of the facade of the exedra. The line of the west stylobate was established extending for the entire length of the area (48.00 m.) and the presence of a matching stylobate on the east side was confirmed (fig. 11). This discovery, however, posed problems, for whereas the east stylobate had a regular series of piers, spaced at intervals of approximately 1.70 m. commencing from the south wall, only traces of one pier were found on the west stylobate.

Moreover no sign of any piers was found in the northern half of either stylobate although a check on respective levels indicated that they were to be expected.

Another zone of special interest was the area in front of the two side rooms of the exedra building. Here some fine pieces of the original revetment were found *in situ* especially in the NW and NE corners of the peribolus area (fig. 12). The revetment had been held in place by bronze hooks and was fitted against a narrow ledge that jutted out from the face of the building on a level with the top of the stylobate. Many of these slabs were consolidated by a backing of cement to preserve them *in situ*.

In the exedra building proper, investigation was restricted to the east wing. Two stages in the construction of the south wall were identified, the second involving the walling up of the doorway leading to the staircase that descends to the peribolus area. The presence of marble revetment and plaster *in situ*, however, on the lower portions of the walled-up portion seems to indicate that the change of plan may date to an early period in the history of the building.

Many aspects of this complex remain unresolved, including its original purpose if that was ever realized; for evidence is accumulating that the building was never completed. There is first the anomalous nature of the stylobate piers, already mentioned. This may be related secondly to the general absence of tile or column fragments anywhere in the area excavated. Conceivably they may have been removed at a later date, but the survival of two substantial fragments of column shafts immediately in front of the facade of the exedra seems to belie this. Thirdly there is virtually no evidence anywhere in the enclosed area for anything more substantial than a flimsy dirt floor where one might have anticipated a mortar or stone pavement. Despite these defects the plan clearly points to a single complex entered through

the doorway at the centre of the south wall which is aligned with the central niche of the exedra on the long axis of the building. It had previously been assumed that the area in front of the exedra was hypaethral, but the discovery of the stylobates suggests that the intention may have been to provide porticoes on either side, or indeed to roof the entire structure. In the second case, the resemblance of the plan with its apsidal "tribunal" at one end to a civil basilica may be noted. Furthermore its proximity to the odeon-bouluterion with which it is clearly aligned does indeed lend some substance to this theory. As for the date, a series of sondages was carried out along the line of the stylobates to a depth of over one metre below their upper surface. No coins were found and pottery generally was scarce, but the fine wares comprised a mixed group of Eastern Sigillata A and C and Cypriot Sigillata of the first two centuries after Christ. An early third century date still seems the most plausible for the complex.

D. *The Baths* (III 15) : - This small complex consisting of a range of 3 adjacent rooms, first recognized as baths in 1971, is one of the best preserved structures in the whole city. All of the walls and part of the vaults of all three rooms still stand and the relative shallowness of the overburden enabled us to clear almost the entire building (fig. 13).

Of the three rooms that constitute the baths proper, the central and southern chambers were completely cleared, while two quadrants of the northern were excavated. In addition, the area to the southwest of the south room was explored and proved to be an enclosed area belonging to the baths. There is little doubt that it served as the apodyterium, for it was equipped with benches (averaging 0.75 m. in width), along each of its walls. The most remarkable feature, however, was the floor paved entirely in mosaic, for the most part in perfect state of preservation (fig. 14). The designs are almost entirely

geometric, the most striking being a central panel (6.50 m. \times 3.90 m.) consisting of a network of 23 rows of octagonal frames, each row containing an individual motif. At the centre lies a *tabella ansata* enclosing an inscription flanked on each side by octagons containing ducks, and supported by a stylized column and bracket (fig. 15). Unfortunately this is the only portion of the mosaic to have suffered serious damage. Nevertheless enough of the text is legible to restore completely four lines in iambic verse honouring Mousesos, probably a 'strategos,' presumably the donor of the mosaic, for his admirable qualities. Letter forms and ligatures and designs generally suggest a fifth century date for this work.

Passing from the mosaic-paved courtyard through a doorway at its NE corner we enter the southernmost of the range of three rooms. Each room has fairly similar dimensions (4.20 m. E-W by 6.25 m. N-S for the south, 3.45 m. by 6.25 m. for the central and 3.40 m. by 5.80 m. for the north, not counting its projecting apse), but, unlike the two northern chambers, the south room has neither the hypocaust system nor the vertical flues in the walls that were discovered in them. Thus the use of this room as frigidarium may reasonably be conjectured. On this premise the central room (fig. 16) with its hypocaust system of six rows of piers from N-S by nine from E-W would have served as tepidarium, while the northern room would have been the caldarium. The hypocaust systems of each room communicate by means of arched apertures opening in the party wall. In some cases the piers are well preserved, in one instance standing to a height of 1.00 m. and composed of 15 individual tiles. The piers themselves rest on a well-made floor of blue limestone flags and originally supported a floor of tiles and mortar, none of it now *in situ*, having collapsed beneath the fall of the vaulted roof. In both of the heated rooms the walls were lined by a series of vertical slots intended to accommodate

flues of terracotta piping that went from the hollow area below the floor to the top of the vaulting. The walls were originally sheathed in marble revetment but none survives *in situ* though the outline of the original plaques is visible in the mortar of the apse of the caldarium and traces of large iron spikes originally employed for attaching the revetment are visible at several points in the wall surface of the northern room. The praefurnium opens through an arched opening below the floor-level of the caldarium apse, but it was left unexplored, as was a second arched opening also at ground-level at the west end of the central room.

No date for the construction of the baths has been determined, nor has it been established when it ceased to function as a bath. About the beginning of the seventh century, however, for a period of about sixty years the complex was again used, but for a different purpose than the original. This may be deduced from the miscellaneous assortment of coins and small finds (lamps, weights etc.), and coarse ware found in the fill. Clearly the pottery was standing on the floor at the time of the collapse of the vaulting, and as the floor gave way fell into the hollow space beneath. This pottery included a distinctive type of 'pot-stand' intended for supporting large vessels. The number of such pots and stands seems rather large for a simple household and the possibility that the room formed part of a potter's establishment may reasonably be proposed, especially when taken with the high incidence of coinage. This secondary occupation was relatively short-lived, however, and after ca. A.D. 660 the building appears to have been abandoned for ever.

E. *The Necropolis Church* (A II 1):— Amongst buildings scheduled for excavation is one of the several churches known to have existed at Anemurium. The one eventually chosen was the necropolis church in the hope that its proximity to the necropolis might throw some light on its

relationship with the neighbouring tombs and vice-versa. Preliminary work involved a careful survey of the ruins visible before excavation (fig. 17) and the recording and storage of all moulded blocks lying on the surface. Excavation was limited to three trenches, two N-S across the breadth of the building and one E-W at its west end. From the first two the position of the stylobates of the north and south colonnades respectively of the nave was established. The church was originally paved in mosaic but this has been badly mutilated throughout the area excavated and in two places specifically to make way for later graves. Constructed roughly of stone slabs on end and cover slabs for the roof, each grave contained one skeleton stretched out lying on its back (fig. 18). No objects or pottery were found in either case. The third trench did little more than establish the line of two walls running N-S, parallel to one another, one perhaps the western limit of the nave, the other wall separating the church proper from the narthex. This in turn is bounded on the west by an arcade, the piers of which still stand full height.

It is premature on the basis of the few details recorded from these trenches to propose any conclusions on the history or chronology of the building, but our preliminary survey has yielded a plan (fig. 19) containing many fascinating anomalies and peculiarities that merit full investigation.

F. *Minor Explorations*:— Two major sondages were carried out with the dual aim a) of locating levels belonging to the pre-Roman period of the city and b) of establishing the line of a colonnaded street presumed to traverse the city from north to south. Neither aim was achieved. In the first sondage, opened at the southern extremity of the site an interesting sequence of five floors was identified with significant varieties of sherds sealed beneath each floor. From these it has been possible to date the earliest floor, founded on the ancient beach level, to ca. A.D.

200 and the latest to the first half of the seventh century. No pottery earlier than the later first century B.C. was found in the fill supporting the earliest floor and no trace of a street was found at this point. In the second sondage (fig. 13) located some 300 metres to the north in front of the baths (III 15), an ancient road surface was revealed, flanked by a complex drainage system on the west and a heavy foundation of masonry on the east, but further probes in the vicinity will be required to confirm the precise nature of these remains.

In addition small sondages were also carried out beneath floors of selected tombs of the necropolis in the hope of establishing secure dates for their construction. With one exception, however, the floors were found to rest on the native rock so that no significant material emerged. One of the side-chambers of tomb A II 14, however, yielded considerable quantities of fine table-wares of the first and second centuries of our era, though nothing of earlier date. Indeed there is still no archaeological evidence that the site was occupied earlier than this period.

Another minor exploration was conducted on the east and west facades respectively of the odeon, the interior of which was cleared from 1967-70. The purpose in each case was to establish the original ground-level in the hope of relating to those of the exedra complex. On the these levels west side unexpected discoveries were made in the form of semicircular staircases of rubble mortar and earth leading up to the two doorways of the facade. The north stairway, the better preserved, consists of the remains of five steps, though originally a total of seven may be restored rising for a height of about 1.25 m. (fig. 20). Of the southern staircase four steps survive with space for a fifth, but an outcrop of bedrock has obstructed a more extensive development.

Two new mosaic pavements of some quality were exposed in areas where their

presence close to the surface was suspected. It was felt that further clearing of the area close to the modern road where figured and geometric mosaics had been found in 1968 would produce more mosaic pavement. This proved to be the case in the discovery of a well-preserved panel (fig. 21) depicting a Sea-Goddess (perhaps Thetis) surrounded by fish and dolphins. Within the diaper border pattern that encloses this centre-piece appear two attractive birds of the partridge variety of a type previously encountered in one of the tombs. Unfortunately nothing of the walls of the building to which they belonged survives, though several rooms may be identified from the arrangement of the mosaics.

The second mosaic was revealed at a depth of barely 5 cm. It belonged to the ground floor of a long building of three rooms located on a terrace to the west of and high above the baths (II 7 A), immediately in front of the lower aqueduct. Originally extending throughout each room, the mosaic appeared in substantial patches only in the southernmost chamber (fig. 22). The motives were entirely geometric with highly convincing perspective effects produced in variations on the Greek key pattern.

As usual all areas yielded considerable quantities of sherds, for the most part of fifth to seventh centuries after Christ. Significant examples of fine wares of earlier date, however, were produced as has been noted from the various sondages. The only inscribed sherd worthy of mention was another mortarium rim signed by one of Hayes' N. Syrian group of potters that he dates to the third or early fourth century after Christ.

Besides pottery, 368 objects were recorded as small finds during the season, including stray finds or coins found on the citadel by the lighthouse keeper and purchased from him. Of this total, 265 were bronze coins falling largely into the by now familiar grouping of 1) third and

early fourth century, including three local Anemurium issues, 2) late fourth century, for the most part belonging to the reigns of Theodosius I, Arcadius and Honorius and 3) first half of the seventh century (reigns of Heraclius and Constans II in particular), the latest belonging to the reign of Constantine IV.

The remaining 103 finds form a now equally familiar heterogeneous collection of small bone, bronze, lead and iron

objects (pins, bodkins, nails, weights, seals, fish-hooks, buckles, rings and terracotta lamps). Of the lamps a high-bodied form hitherto unknown from Anemurium or elsewhere and a fragment of a terracotta lamp mould of a type already known from the site may be specially mentioned. Most of this material may confidently be considered early Byzantine in date. As in previous seasons all finds were deposited in the Alanya Museum.

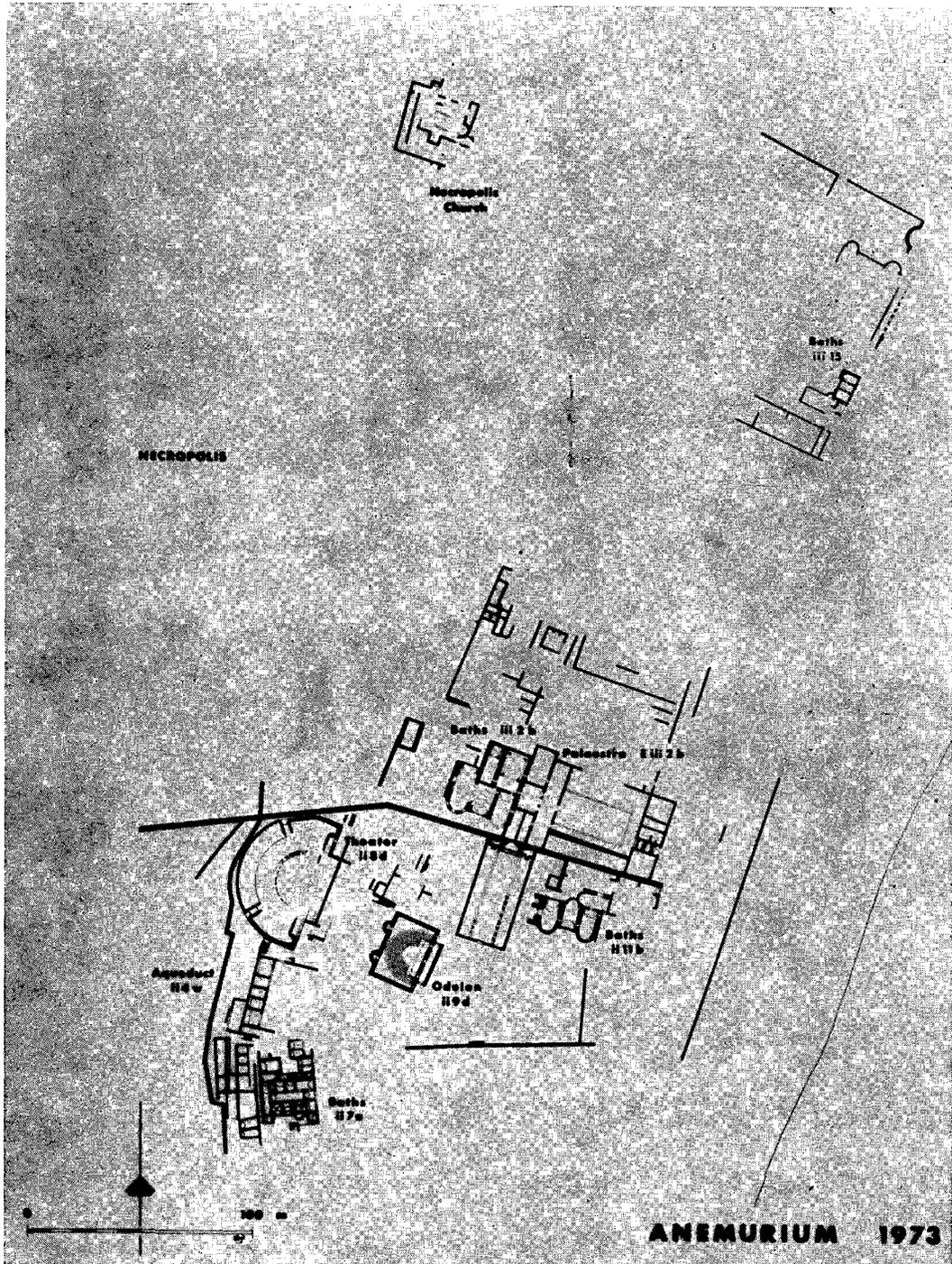


Fig. 1 — Anemurium: general plans of excavations, 1973.

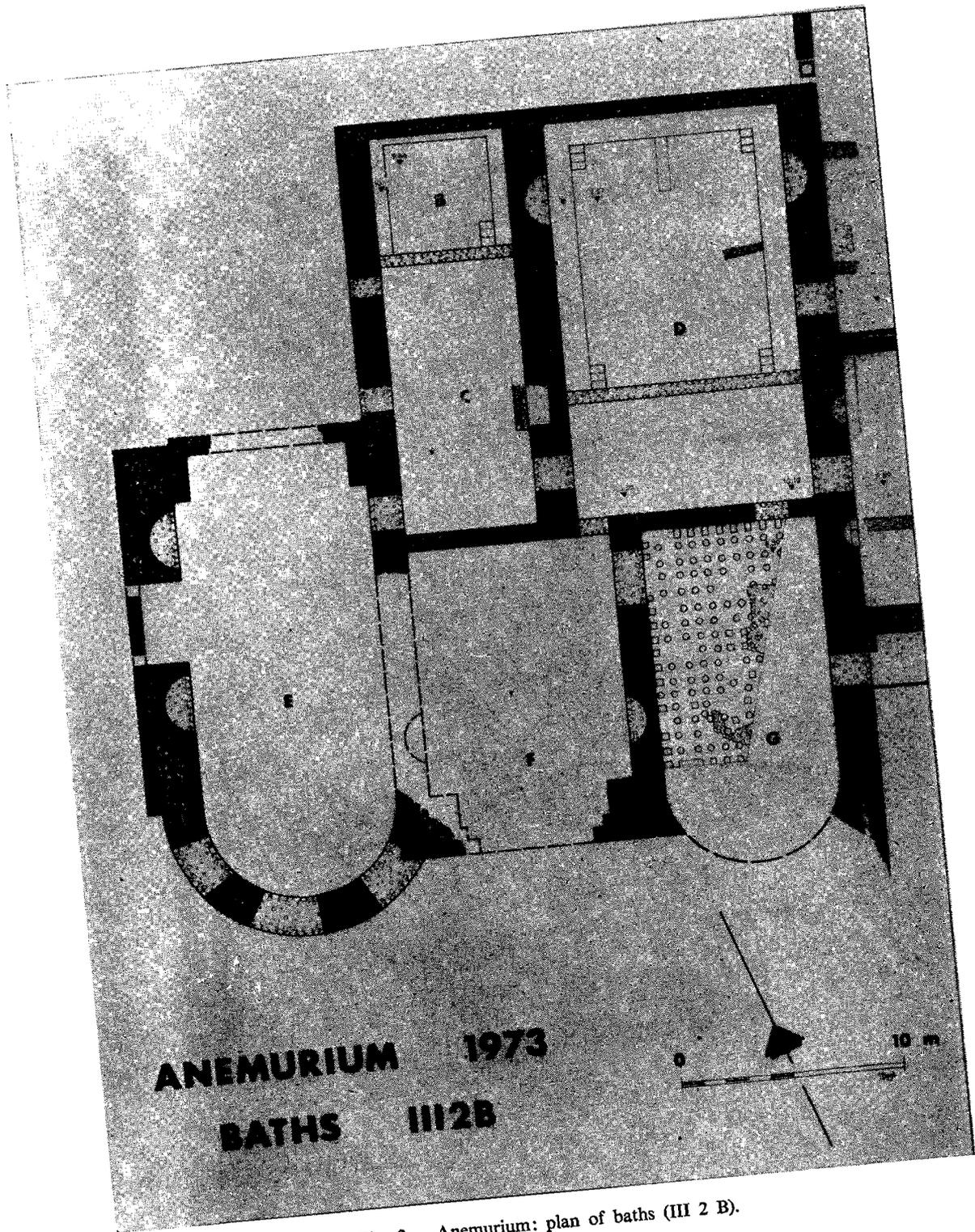


Fig. 2 — Anemurium: plan of baths (III 2 B).

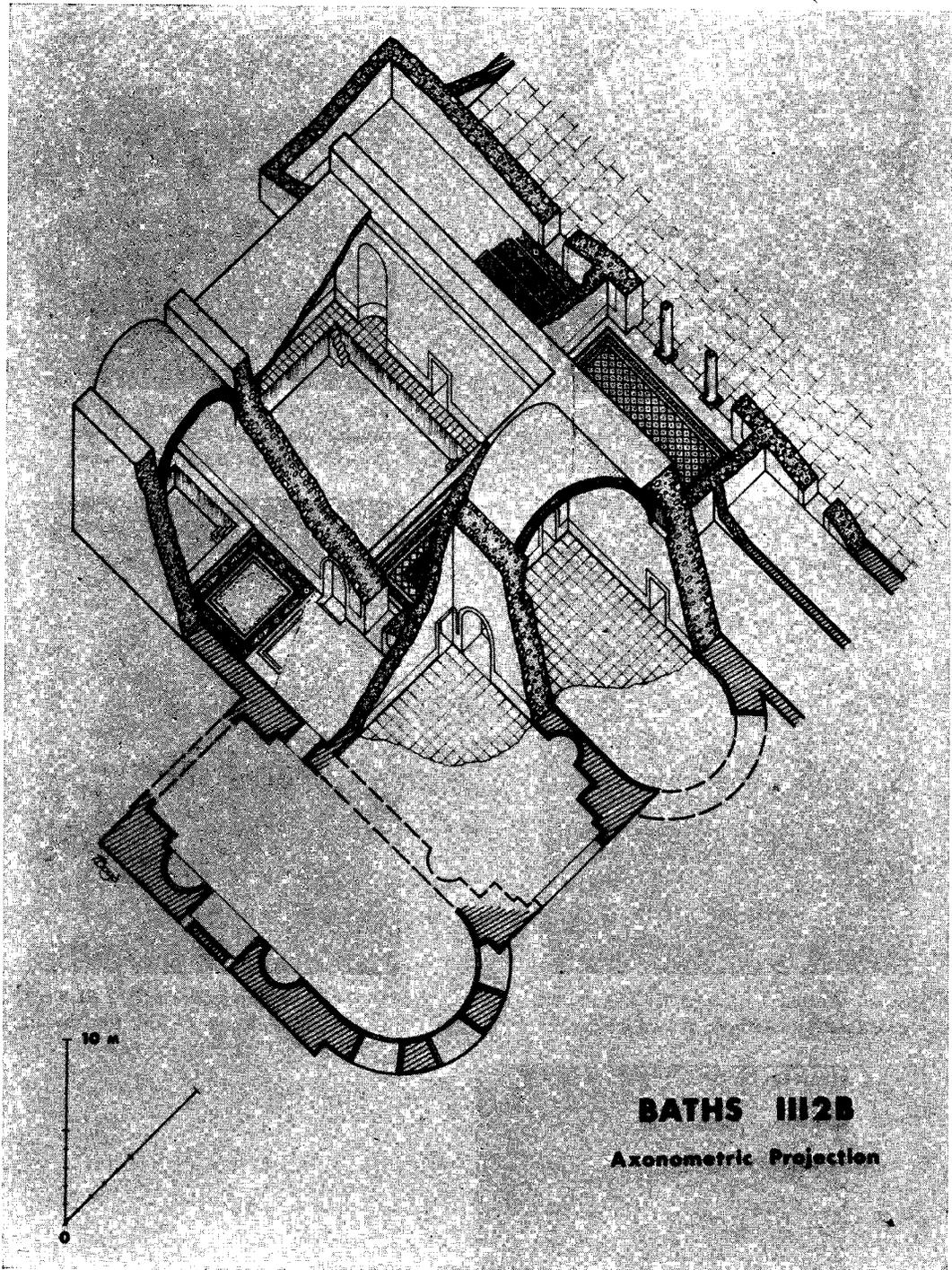


Fig. 3 — Anemurium: baths (III 2 B), axonometric projection. Drawing by T. Boyd.



Fig. 4 — Anemurium: baths (III 2 B), general view from south of Room D (frigidarium with piscina).



Fig. 5 — Anemurium: baths (III 2 B), general view from south of Room C with piscina (Room B) at rear.



Fig. 6 — Anemurium: baths (III 2 B), mosaic decoration at northern end of Room C.



Fig. 7 — Anemurium: baths (III 2 B), niche in east wall of Room C with tiled basin.

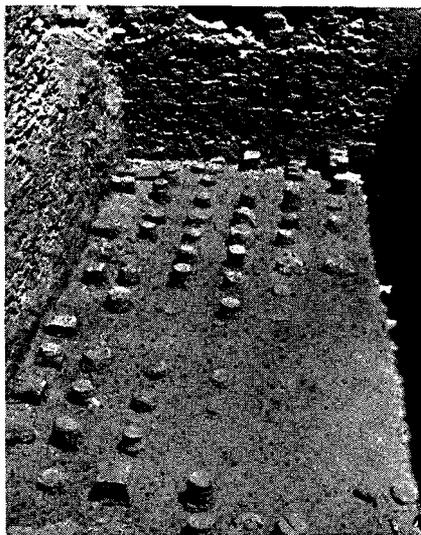


Fig. 8 — Anemurium: baths (III 2 B), hypocaust floor in Room G, viewed from south.

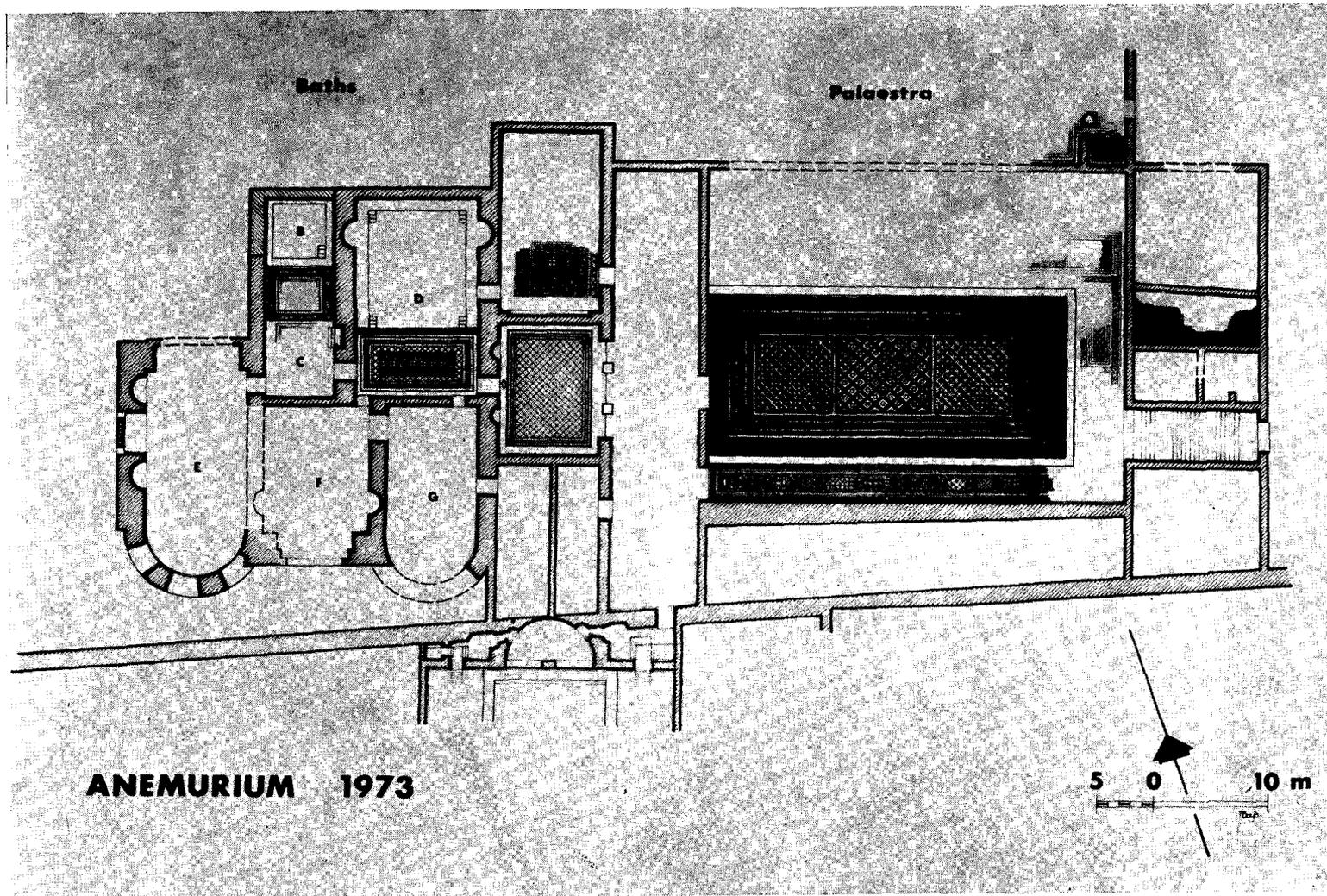


Fig. 9 — Anemurium: restored plan of baths (III 2 B) and palaestra (E III 2 B).

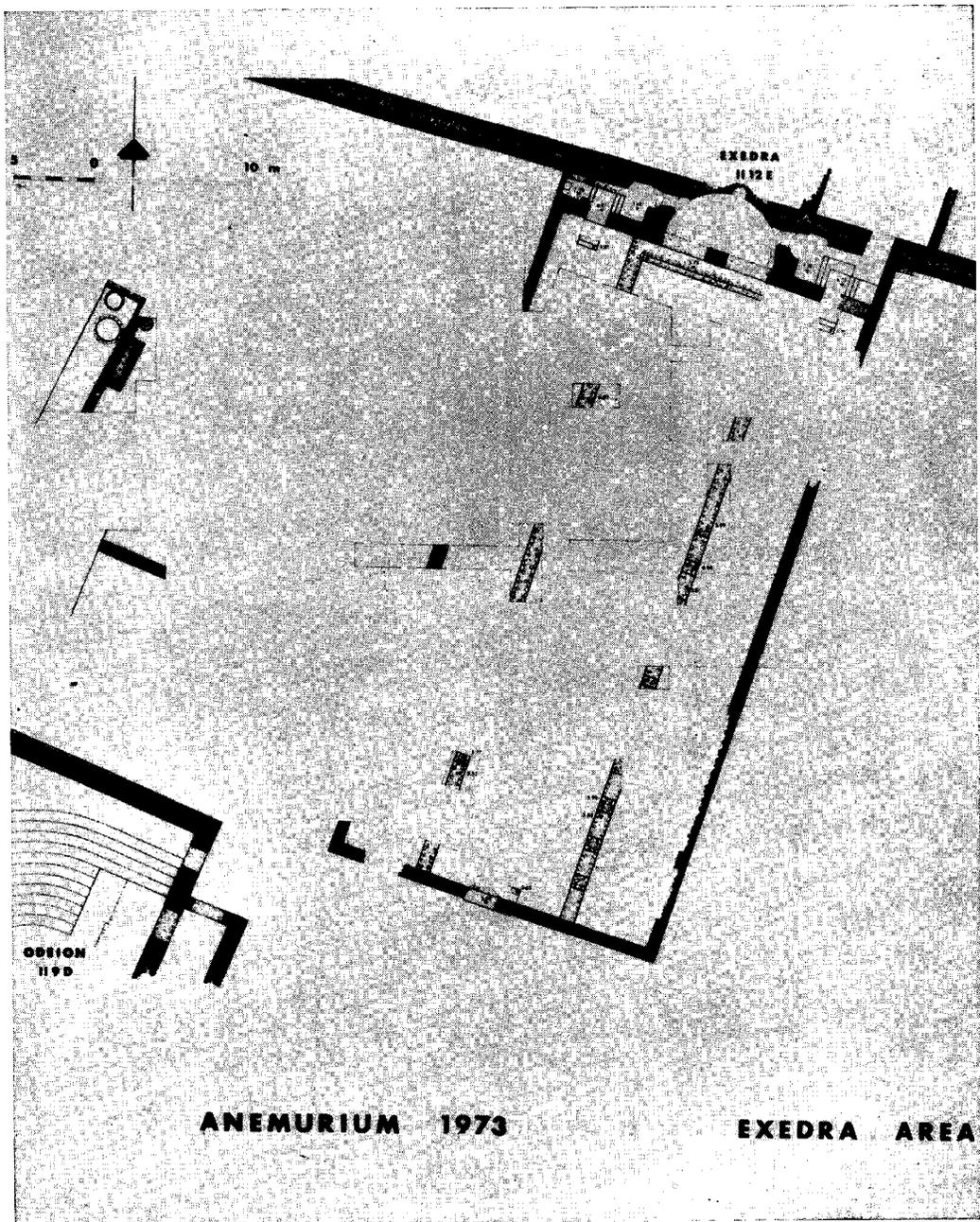


Fig. 11 — Anemurium: general plan of exedra complex (II 12 E).

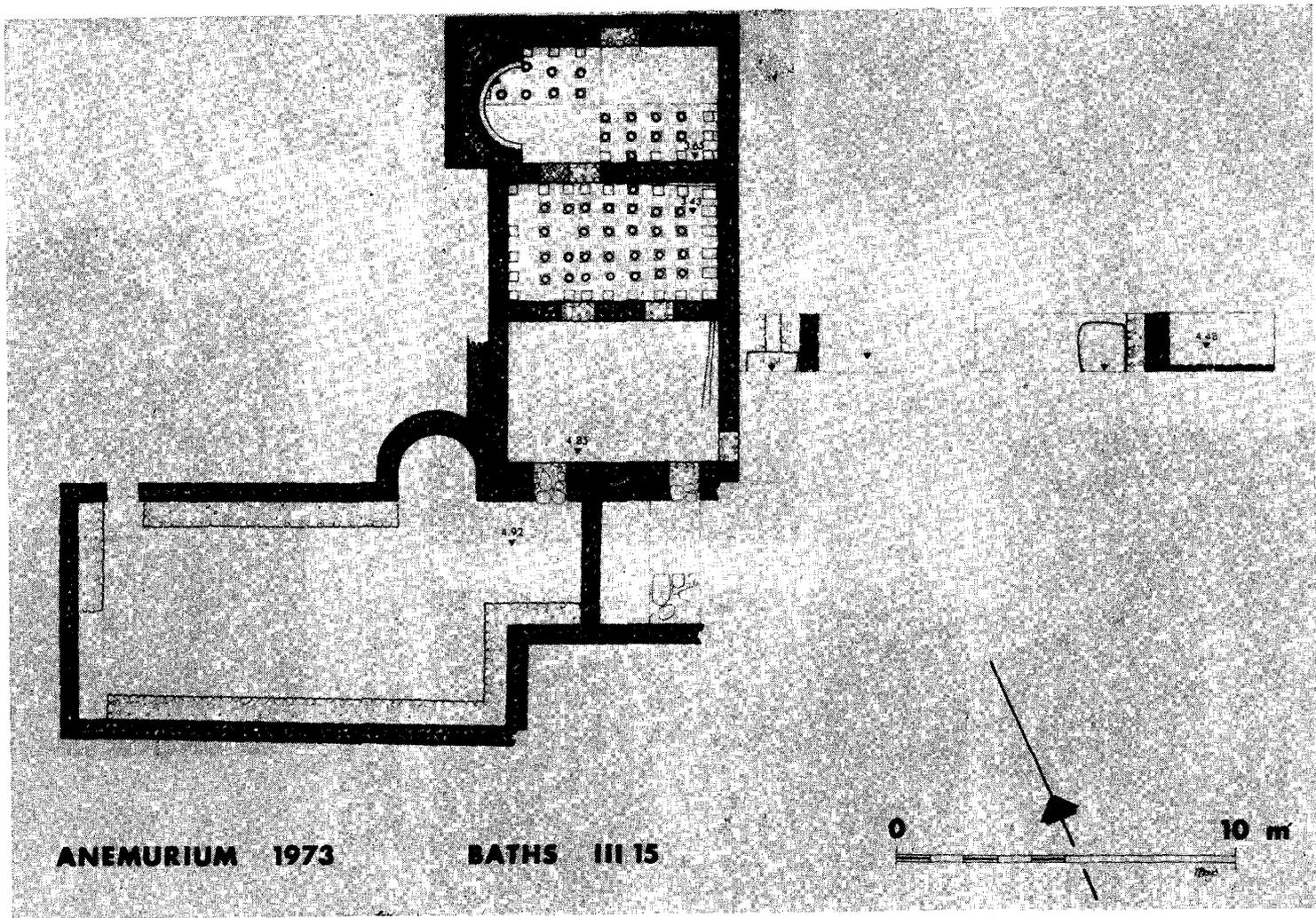


Fig. 13 — Anemurium: general plan of baths III 15 with sondages to the east.

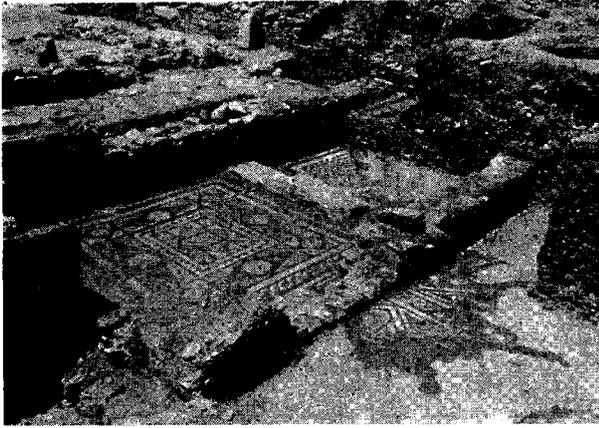


Fig. 10 — Anemurium: general view of Area NE of palaestra from NE.



Fig. 12 — Anemurium: exedra complex (II 12 E); slabs of wall revetment in situ at NE corner of preceding area.



Fig. 14 — Anemurium: baths III 15, view westwards of apodyterium.

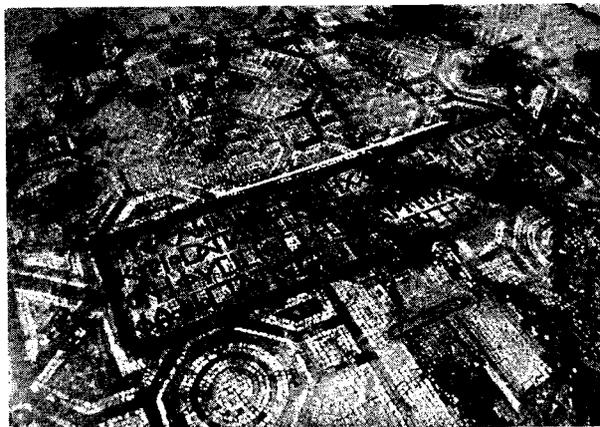


Fig. 15 — Anemurium: baths III 15, inscribed panel of mosaic at centre of apodyterium floor.

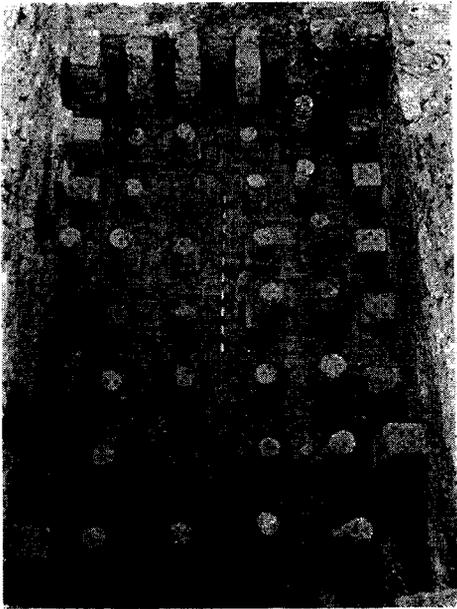


Fig. 16 — Anemurium: baths III 15, hypocaust system of tepidarium viewed from west.



Fig. 17 — Anemurium: Necropolis church (A II 1); general view to east before excavation.

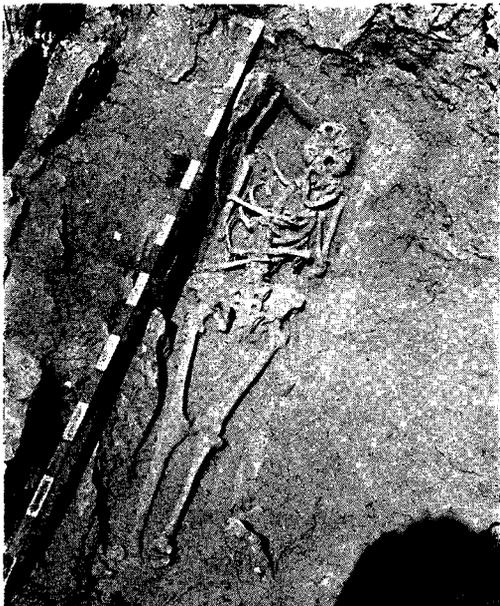


Fig. 18 — Anemurium: grave in nave of necropolis church (A II 1).

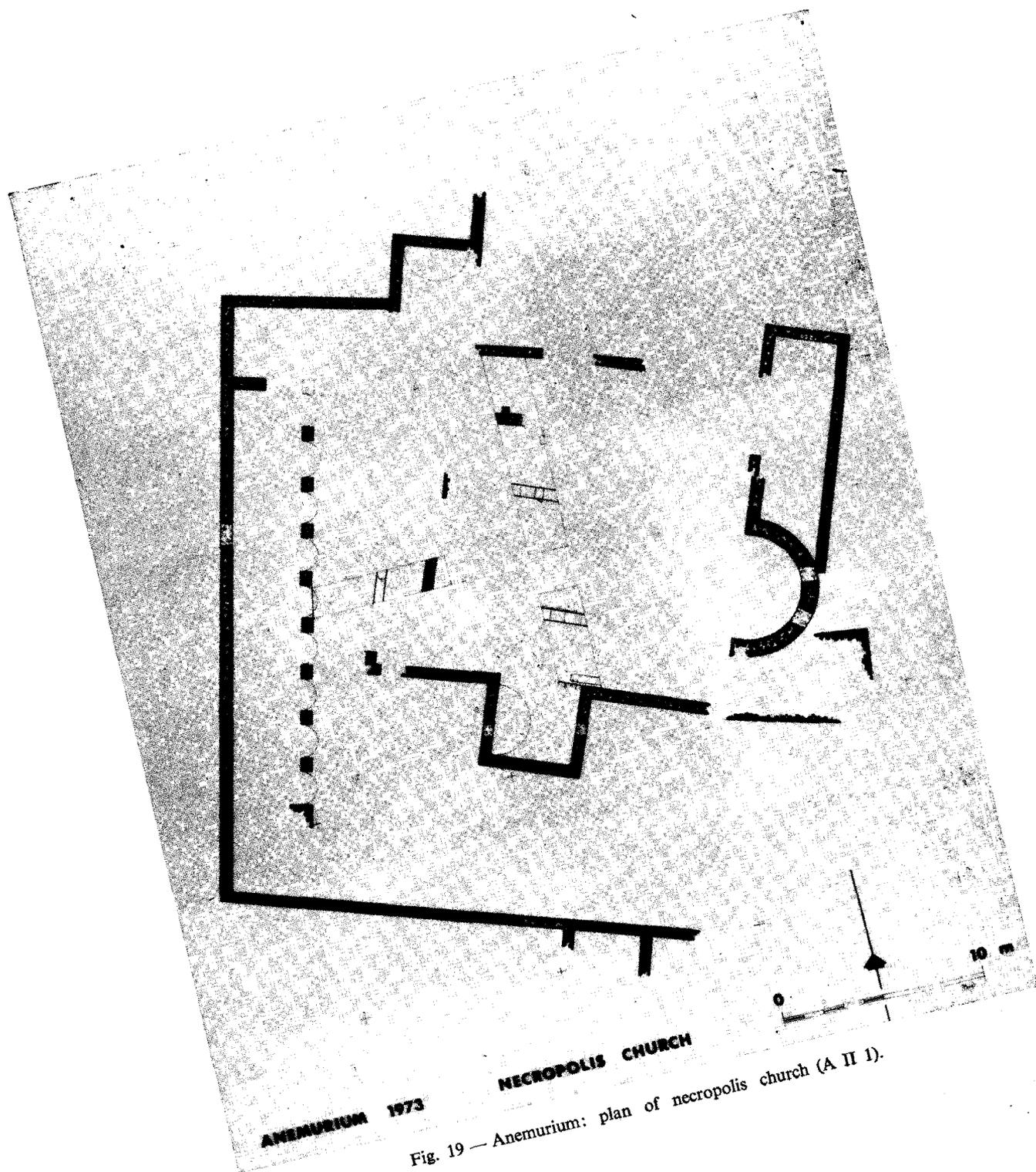


Fig. 19 — Anemurium: plan of necropolis church (A II 1).



Fig. 20 — Anemurium:
odeon (II 9 D), northern
semicircular staircase on
west facade.



Fig. 21 — Anemurium:
mosaic of sea deity surro-
unded by fish.

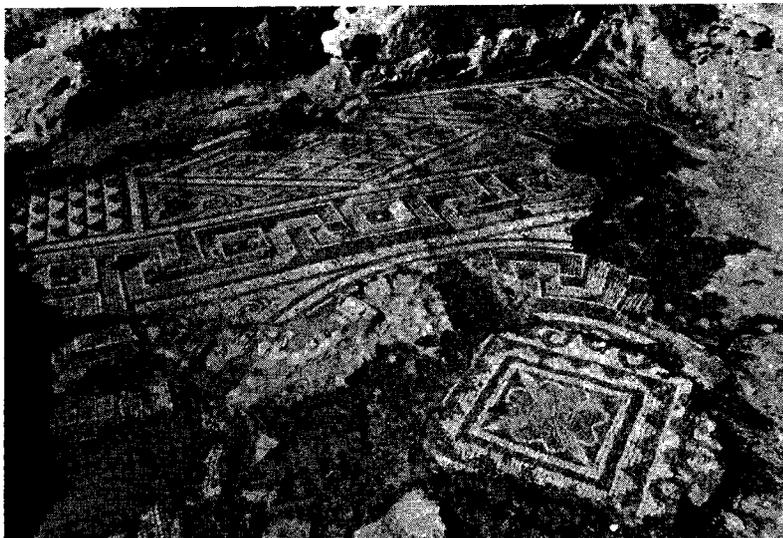


Fig. 22 — Anemurium:
geometric mosaic.