

EXCAVATIONS AND RESTORATION IN ANEMURIUM, 1966

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From 1962 to 1965, I carried out a survey of a group of coastal sites in Western Cilicia: Anemurium (Eski Anamur), Antiochia ad Cragum (Güney köy), Selinus (Gazi Paşa Iskele), and Iotape. Some work was also done in Syedra (east of Alanya), and Nagidos - Arsinoe, east of Anamur, near Softa Kalesi. I was fortunate in securing the collaboration of architects, topographers, and students of Archaeology for this work. The actual survey was completed in 1965. Short preliminary reports have appeared regularly in *Anatolian Studies*, and in *Türk Arkeoloji Dergisi* 1964. The main report will appear in book form in the course of 1967, published by Türk Tarih Kurumu (E. Rosenbaum, G. Huber, S. Onurkan, *A Survey of Coastal Cities in Western Cilicia*). It is based on the work of the architect of our team, Dipl. Ing. Gerhard Huber, Vienna, and will contain all the plans and building descriptions done by him. There is also an excursus on the water supply in these cities, by Roderich Regler, Vienna¹.

Of the cities surveyed, Anemurium is the best preserved. The most conspicuous part is the large necropolis, surprisingly well preserved, which was the starting point of the entire survey work. A preliminary study of this necropolis appeared in *Bulleten*, XXIX, 113, pp. 25-48. This necropolis is so vast that it could not be included in the main survey report referred to above, but will have to be treated sepa-

rately: there are over 350 tombs and groups of tombs, and we have planned to publish a fully illustrated detailed description of all these tombs in a separate book.

During the work on the survey it had become apparent that the most interesting problems posed by the surviving ruins in all our cities, and in particular in Anemurium, could only be solved by excavation. Moreover, in view of the fact, that the Turkish south coast is fast becoming a "tourists' paradise" conservation and restoration work seemed to be urgently needed, again, especially in Anemurium. With the help of the Eski Eserler Genel Müdürlüğü (in 1964, 1965, and the Cultural Relations' Programme of CEN-TO (1965), such restoration work was carried out in the necropolis of Anemurium, and preliminary work was done in the best - preserved civic building in Anemurium, the baths (II 7 A), which was cleared of all debris in 1965, and for which a detailed restoration plan was made by G. Huber: not yet carried out because of lack of funds.

For 1966, an excavation permit was applied for and granted by the Turkish authorities. Financially, this season was supported by grants from the American Philosophical Society, the British Institute of Archaeology in Ankara, and by donations by British Petrol in Istanbul and Miss Joyce Reynolds, Newnham College, Cambridge. Eski Eserler Genel Müdürlüğü in Ankara contributed again funds towards the cost of restoration work.

¹ The numbers of the buildings in the present report refer to the plan of Anemurium reproduced in this publication.

I worked this year for a short season of 25 days and only with local staff. Miss Aiten Erder, of the Aya Sofya Museum in Istanbul, who was the representative of the Turkish Department of Antiquities, was of the greatest assistance, beyond her official duties as *komiser*. For one week, Mr. Erhan Gür, senior student of archaeology at Istanbul University, helped as field assistant. I also gratefully acknowledge the help received, as in previous years, from the local authorities at Anamur, notably the acting kaymakam, various officials at the *kamakamlık*, and teachers.

We worked simultaneously on four projects:

1) For the protection of the site and in order to prevent unauthorized quarrying of sand and gravel and camping, 600 m of barbed wire fencing and about 50 m of wall were put up along the north border of the ancient city, and the local road that leads through the site was shut off by a gate.

2) *Tomb A II 14*; major restoration work was carried out in 1965 with the help of a grant from CENTO, mainly in preparation for the cleaning and restoration of the wall mosaics in one of the rooms of the lower storey. This season, this work was completed. The courtyard was paved and closed to the north by a low wall. A concrete floor was laid in the chamber with the mosaics - the original mosaic floor having perished apart from a few tesserae. The entrance to this chamber was closed by an iron padlocked gate. The mosaics, which we had discovered in 1965 on the floors and on top of the *arcosolia* in the upper tomb chamber, were cleaned and their edges secured. During this operation we noticed that these mosaics have simple patterns: black cross-shaped "flowers" on white ground on the floors, on and circles and zigzags, white on white on the tops. The area around the tomb complex was cleaned and levelled, and a path was made providing an easy access from the road. (Figs. 1-6).

Tomb B I 16: the chamber with the frescoes of the Seasons, which had been structurally restored in 1964 and 1965 with the financial help of the Eski Eserler Genel Müdürlüğü, was provided with an iron gate with a padlock.

3) *Baths II 7 A*: debris was cleared away along the east façade, and an attempt was made to find the ancient street of access to the stepped lane ascending along north façade of the building. The road did not emerge, but we found the bottom step of the lane. In the debris immediately in front of the building we found fragments of the basin that was in the — now collapsed — easternmost room of the baths.

4) *Building III 5*: The most conspicuous feature of this building still standing was an apse with glass mosaic in its conch. In order to be able to clean and restore this mosaic at a later date, the area north and west of the apse, which consisted of a mound of debris almost as high as the apse, had to be excavated. We found soon that we were in the presence of another bath building, smaller in scale than building II 7 A. We excavated three rooms down to their floor level. The apsed room 1, and the adjoining rectangular room 2 have a hypocaust system. In room 2 (figs. 7 - 10), the pillars consisting of circular tiles are well preserved, whereas only a few of them are still standing in room 1 (figs. 11 - 12). The two rooms communicate on the hypocaust level by two arches in the partition wall (fig. 7). Fragments of the surrounds of the doors of the main level were found in the debris (see, e. g., part of a lintel on fig. 7). A *praefurnium* was found at the north end of room 1 (opposite the apse), above which are the remains of a basin (fig. 21). There was also a basin in the apse itself (fig. 11) with three pipes leading into it. A narrow outlet is still extant, and a fragment of the tiled floor was found still *in situ*. This basin was 1.25 m deep, and its wall was probably lined with tiles,

whereas the wall above to the lower edge of the mosaic may have had marble revetment. The floor of the hypocaust level in both rooms 1 and 2 was paved with square tiles, of which those in room 2 are in a very good state of repair.

A large portion of the upper wall separating rooms 1 and 2 with a door lintel and earthenware pipes on both sides was left as it was found (fig. 10) with a view to a possible re-erection in a later season. Among the debris were also found two larger fragments of the upper walls of room 1, both with remains of glass mosaic of the same kind as that in the apse, and, like the latter, coated with plaster.

The actual floors of rooms 1 and 2 were found in sadly broken up fragments, all of which we collected and stored. Room 1 was paved with thin marble slabs, room 2 had a mosaic floor with large limestone tesserae arranged in geometric patterns in light blue and pink on a white ground.

Room 3 adjoins room 2 to the west, along its northern end. Along its north wall is a low bench built of tiles; there is a door in its south wall, and another, arched, doorway in its west wall leads to a room not yet excavated. In room 3 no floor paving was found.

The marble floor of room 1 consists to a large part of re-used materials, among which are several moulded revetments datable in the 2nd - 3rd centuries. But more important than these were 11 fragments of an inscription of which 9 join. They constitute the left third of an 82 cm high slab, 1 cm thick, inscribed with 10 lines.

Two names can still be read (Rufus) or restored (Ioannes). The words *narthex* and *apsis* occur, and the inscription was dated by an indiction, the number of which is unfortunately missing. In spite of the fragmentary state, it is certain that the inscription referred to some work done in a church. The letter forms suggest a date in the 5th or 6th century². The

ruins of a church, dating in its original form probably to the pre-Justinianic period, are immediately north of our baths building, so that it is possible that the inscription may have been taken from there. In any case, the fragments of this inscription show that the building was repaired some time after the 6th century. There are other signs of repair, especially in room 1. The walls in the hypocaust level were very crudely patched up in several places. The hypocaust system itself was also mended: the original brick pillars were partly replaced by pillars of stone, taken—as the moulding on one of them shows—from other buildings. The thick coat of plaster covering the mosaics in the apse and on the walls dates perhaps from the same restoration.

It is premature to propose a definite date for this building, but certain facts about its history have emerged even at this stage. The mosaic in the apse has an inscription at its base of which the names Nestor and Anastasia can be read. The letter forms do not provide a definite clue for the date, but the fragments of a mosaic inscription in the apse of a church east of Iotape show the same letter forms and the same technique (white letters on dark red glass ground). This church is unlikely to be later than the time of Justinian, and probably earlier. Thus it is likely that the mosaic in our building dates from between the 4th and the 6th centuries, and what can be made out of the design beneath the plaster suggests the 4th century rather than the later part of this period. At the time the mosaic was covered over it had already suffered damage in places. The marble pavement in room 1 cannot have been laid before the 5th - 6th centuries, and was, in fact, probably laid a considerable time later, since the church to the restoration of which the inscription refers, must have been in disrepair again when the inscription was broken up and used for the floor. The pottery found in the building consisted—apart from a few fragments of finer Ro-

² This tentative date, based on a photograph, was suggested by Professor Ihor Sevcenko.

man ware used in the mortar - almost exclusively of parts of large two-handled wide-bellied pots of coarse clay. Not a single sherd of Byzantine sgraffiato ware was found, which occurred in large quantities along with Seljuk and Armenian coins in the baths II 7 A and is also found in other parts of the site, notably on the citadel. It seems to be likely, then, that the building was erected about the 4th century when the mosaic decoration was made, was repaired for continued use as a baths some time after the 6th century, and was ultimately destroyed before glazed sgraffiato ware came into use, that is, probably before the 12th century.

Other finds in the building were the marble head of a lion that served as a water spout probably in a basin, and a limestone impost capital decorated on one side with a Maltese cross. Both pieces were found among the debris, out of context, and are likely to have been used as building material for the walls.

Two chance finds of the 1966 season deserve special mention. One is an inscribed statue base of dark limestone, found

immediately north of the excavated rooms of III 5 during the removal of shrubs. The top of the base bears marks for the insertion of the feet of the statue. The inscription, which is almost entirely preserved, has seven lines and tells us that the statue was put up by the *demos* to Philokrates, the son of Ptolemaios, the "hero", who loved his fatherland, the yearly gymnasiarch for ever:

Ὁ δῆμ[ος] | Φιλοκράτη
Πτο|λεμαίου ἥρωα φι|
[λ]όπατριν τὸς παρ' ἐνιαυτὸν
εἰς αἰ|ῶνα γυμνασιάρ|
χον (*vacat*).

The second of these finds is a coin picked up by the local children in the course of the summer and handed over to us. It has the portrait of Valerian on the obverse and the legend *Anemourieon* in a laurel wreath on the reverse. A coin of the same type is listed (but not reproduced) in the relevant volume of the catalogue of coins in the British Museum, but the present coin is the first coin minted in Anemurium actually found on the site.



Fig. 1 — Anemurium, Southern section of the Necropolis.

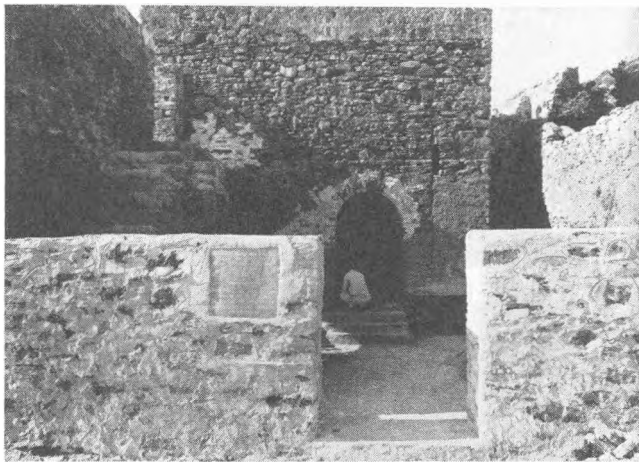


Fig. 2 — Anemurium, Tomb A II 14,
North Side.



Fig. 3 — Anemurium, Tomb A II 14,
Courtyard.



Fig. 4 — Anemurium, Tomb A II 14, Restored Stairs to Upper Floor.



Fig. 5 — Anemurium, Tomb A II 14, East Side before Restoration.



Fig. 6 — Anemurium, Tomb A II 14. East Side after Restoration.

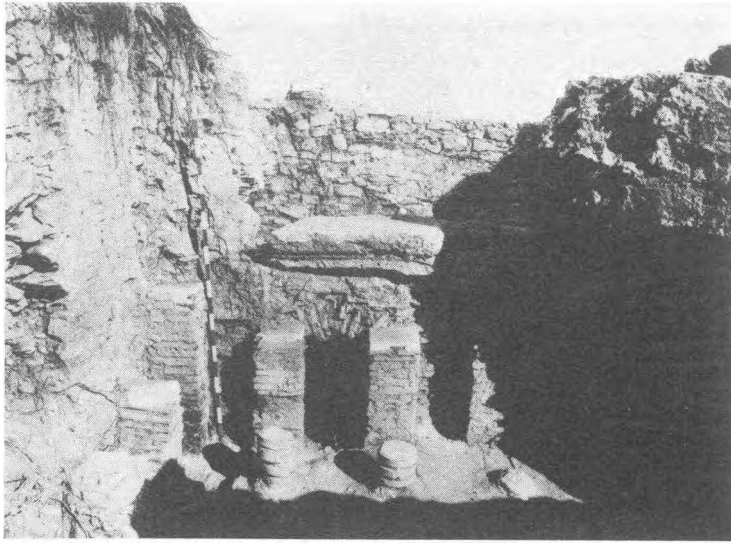


Fig. 7 — Anemurium, Building III 5, Room 2, North-East Corner.

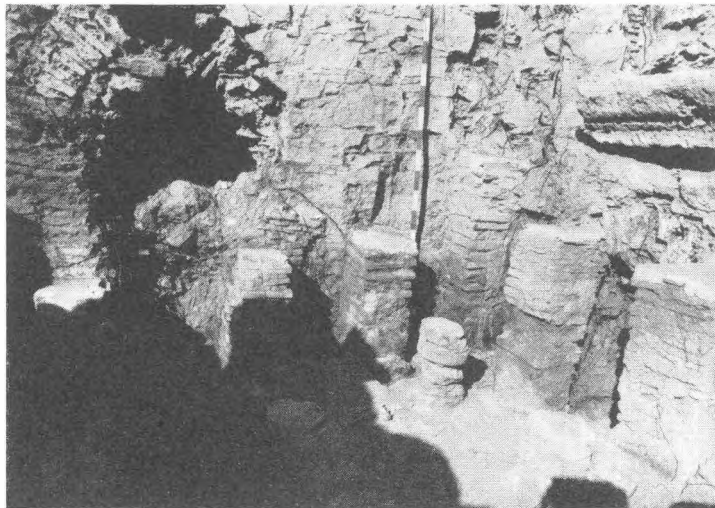


Fig. 8 — Anemurium, Building III 5, Room 2, North End.



Fig. 9 — Anemurium, Building III 5, Parts of Rooms 3 and 2.

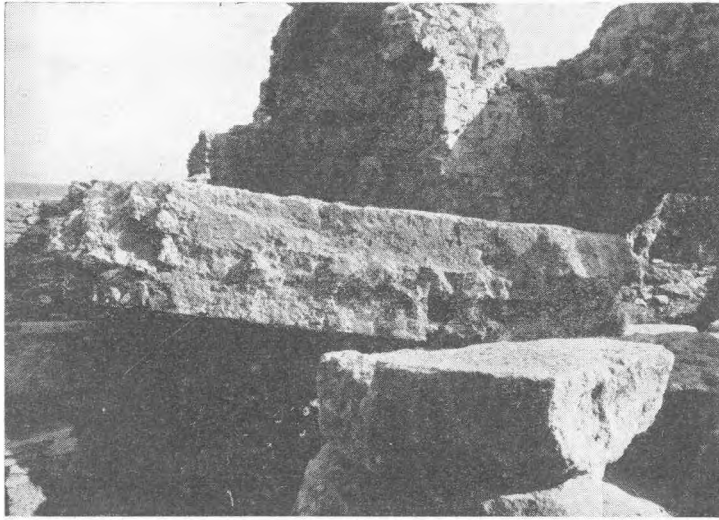


Fig. 10 — Anemurium, Building III 5, Fragment of Fallen Partition Wall between Rooms 1 and 2.



Fig. 11 — Anemurium, Building III 5, South End.

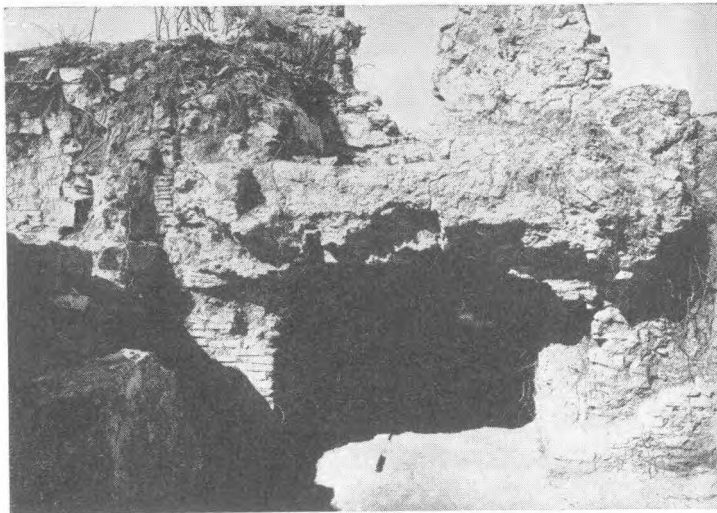


Fig. 12 — Anemurium, Building III 5, North End.