

EXCAVATION AND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES AT SARDIS IN 1971

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The fourteenth campaign of the Archaeological Exploration of Sardis, a joint Harvard - Cornell program began with restoration activities under the Special Building Commission early in June. Excavation and research were initiated by Professors A. Ramage and C. H. Greenewalt, Jr. on June 22. G. M. A. Hanfmann conducted the campaign from June 30 to September 8. Under Supervising Architect, Mehmet Cemal Bolgil restoration continued until October 1.

Upon request of Commissioners G. Yügrüm and R. Meriç, A. Ramage undertook the excavation of a Lydian chamber tomb which had been illicitly opened at the hamlet of Keskinler (village of Başlıoğlu-koy) ca. 3 km. south of Sardis, on the eastern bank of the Pactouls valley. This was one of a group of five mounds, clearly a "family" outside the city limits of Sardis. The tomb was beautifully built of limestone masonry and had a couch of limestone inside (Figs. 1-2). It measured 2.76 m. north - south and 1.7 m. east - west. Internal height was 1.71 m. Fragments of two alabastra of alabaster (Fig. 3) and some Lydian sherds suggested a general date in the sixth or fifth century B. C. S. L. Carter and K. J. Frazer made the topographical and architectural record (Fig. 4). Digging lasted from June 25 to July 3.

From July 15 to August 16, C. H. Greenewalt, Jr. cleaned and made small-scale excavations on the acropolis. A major discovery, based on observations by S.

L. Carter, was the Lydian wall of ashlar masonry found slightly above the great limestone - sandstone wall (Fig. 5) discovered in 1960. The wall found in 1960 is now called AcN (Acropolis North) 1 and 2 and that of 1971, AcN 3 (Fig. 6). Wall AcN 3 is L-shaped in plan; the shorter segment measures 2.57 m. The longer segment, oriented NNE/SSW measures 9.35m. Both ends ran into native conglomerate. For a ten meter stretch the wall has five courses of blocks with "rusticated" faces and drafted edges. A number of masons' marks appear in the centers of the blocks. Lydian sherds found on the working layer made when the wall was constructed may date from late seventh to early fifth century and thus provide no close dating. There is, however, little doubt that these walls on the northern slope of the citadel date from the time of the Lydian kings. The way in which wall AcN 3 rises above wall AcN 1 and the existence of an external staircase in AcN 1 shows that, as C. H. Greenewalt rightly notes, the architecture was possibly palatial rather than purely military. Up the slope above AcN 3 a thick wall, 3.27m. high, belongs to a Byzantine or Islamic construction but contains some Lydian stones.

These findings indicate that there may yet be found scattered fragments of Lydian architecture on the acropolis, if the northern slope is systematically explored.

Greenewalt also re-studied the Lydian house wall and floor on the central

platform of the acropolis and reviewed the Byzantine structures. He cleared part of the large cave within the acropolis peak, where L. J. Majewski had observed superposed layers of fresco. He found graves made in the southern part of the rectangular major space. It seems possible that the cave served as a Christian chapel and burial ground.

A welcome addition to Lydian linguistic material was an inscription of 18 lines acquired for the Manisa Museum (In 71. 1). Found last spring, allegedly in the Pactolus bed south of the Artemis temple, it contains some 60 words, of which 30, according to R. Gusmani, are new additions to the Lydian vocabulary (Fig. 7). Gusmani, who will publish the inscription, indicates that it contains religious terms, terms relating to real estate, as well as terms of family relationship.

In the study of topography and architecture preparatory to publication, D. Van Zanten completed a new survey of the Artemis temple precinct. The description and mapping of the city wall of Sardis was carried forward and completed by Van Zanten, G. M. A. Hanfmann and R. S. Thomas (Fig. 8). To permit a section to be made, a sounding was made at the "UT" (Upper Terrace) stretch (Section 30) at the south side of the wall (Fig. 9). The wall was found, in general, to be of very homogeneous construction, made of river stones laid in mortar, with a foundation ca. 3m. high, and walls rising up to 7m. above the foundation. The debris which was artificially laid down as platform contained material from houses destroyed by the earthquake of 17 A. D. and used for terracing in the first or early second century A. D. This does not, however, determine the date of the wall. No material was found in the foundation trench which would date its construction. On historical grounds, the earliest probable date is mid-third century A. D. but mid - fourth century is equally tenable.

The study of the Roman - Byzantine complex at Pactolus North was pursued (without excavations) by A. Ramage, who believes this private bath complex and adjacent apartments were constructed between 400 and 450 A. D.

Research concerning the plan and development of the Roman gymnasium carried on at Cambridge by F. K. Yegül was implemented at Sardis by several investigations conducted by G. M. A. Hanfmann, M. C. Bolgil, S. W. Jacobs, R. L. Vann, K. P. Zygas and F. Akca. To determine the plan of the oblong central hall of the main building, a trench on the west side revealed that the openings here did not correspond to those of the west wall. The beautiful, though not completely preserved, marble floor (Fig. 10) of the entrance court to the main building, the so-called "Marble Court" (Fig. 11), was recorded and drawn by Vann and Zygas. According to the report by R. Meriç, this pavement consists of thirteen bays, each containing seven *opus sectile* panels, a total of 91 panels having fifteen different patterns. Seventeen different kinds of colored marbles and stones were used (Figs. 11, 12). Later repairs were often in shape of larger slabs with the patterns incised on them.

Excavation of parts not previously excavated and hitherto concealed under earth piled up to protect the floor during the restoration activities, showed that at least in Byzantine times the "Marble Court" was roofed. Many roof tiles and iron nails were found. A number of areas of the floor are burned, perhaps by the collapsed and burning roof.

On several east - west bands in the central area of the court (E 24.65; E 30.5 /N. 56) were incised inscriptions (IN 71. 6 a, b, c). One, with sun and tree, reads: *gerousias synphoriou*; another, *Topos Boules*; *Rouphm [os] egraphe*; a third, *boules, Pikridis egraphe*; a fourth, *topos boules*. They refer to the Council of Elders and (general) Council, who apparently sometimes met in this hall.

A number of fragments of large decorative revetment panels with floral (acanthus and lozenges) designs were found, and some partially repaired. It is not yet safely known where these panels, which belong to the Byzantine restoration, were placed. They reach a height of 1.70m. width of 0.76m. and thickness of 0.065m. Together with porphyry columns, also yet unplaced, these strongly painted panels might have made quite a powerful effect.

To determine whether an earlier mosaic floor existed and whether the court was supported on artificial vaults, a pit was dug at E 30-32/N 63-65. A layer of red mortar was perhaps originally support for mosaic. No supporting vaults were found, only rubble and earth fill.

The western palaestra colonnade (PAW) which lies in front of the "Marble Court" was almost completely excavated in July and early August. In general, all of the stylobate top course and all of the floor is gone, with the exception of a late, marble - paved passage in the central area, originally ca. 8m. wide, which led toward the entrance into the "Marble Court" (E 33-39/N 60-65). The pattern of marble slabs is in long rows lying east-west, probably arranged in three east-west oblong panels. Elsewhere within the colonnade, there were stretches of red mortar setting bed for mosaics and, under it, a good cobbled floor. The external part of the stylobate shows alternation of fairly large (1. 50-1. 78m. x 1. 50-1. 65m.) stone platforms with centering marks for column bases and cemented rubble. These platforms are set 0.80-1. 25m. apart.

Edges of paving of the Palaestra Court were exposed to a width of 1.50m. It seems disrupted in the southern part, but very well preserved in the northern part of the eastern front of the colonnade PAW.

Several fragmentary pieces of sculpture were found in the Marble Court and Palaestra West (PAW) colonnade. The most interesting was an Early Byzantine relief fragment of a charioteer in rayed crown

swinging the whip in his right hand (Fig. 13), S. 71. 3 8130, H. 0.135m. A small satyr torso found in 1966 received an additional fragment (S 71.5 8133) Fig. 14). A fine fragment of a female head (S 71.6) from the synagogue might be as late as the time of Constantine.

The northern (PAN) and the eastern (PAE) colonnades were outlined along the front line of their stylobates but the units themselves, which have preserved mosaic floors, were not excavated. Suitable slopes of earth are being arranged in the back and in front of the excavated edge.

The clearance and outlining of palaestra colonnades were also part of the plan to proceed toward finishing the restoration and entering upon a stage in which the Marble Court can be displayed to full effect to the public. A very welcome aid toward this end was a grant made by the Department of Antiquities and Museums through a Special Building Commission (Emanet Komisyonu) for double the previous amount. In the Marble Court structure itself, the top ends of east and west walls were completed. Parts of architectural articulation (entablatures, wall ends adjoining pilaster of screen colonnade) were finished and other parts completed in the adjacent North and South Rooms. A major decorative feature was restored in the series of pilasters echoing the columns; this restoration was carried out for two pilasters of the great western gate and most of the pilasters of the northern half of the structure (Fig. 15).

The fronts of the long platform or podium (bench) on which the columns stand was cleaned to reveal clearly the pattern of revetment imprints and hooks. After discussion with S. W. Jacobs and L. J. Majewski, it was felt by the Supervising Architect, M. C. Bolgil, that further design study is needed before attempting any restoration of these revetments.

R. Meric began the sorting and study of many decorative elements, notably the Early Byzantine marble revetments men-

tioned under excavation activities. Plans to store this material in suitable storage facilities were made. They need further study and recomposition of suitable examples.

Considerable cleaning activities and protective measures were initiated in the North and South Rooms and in the "Aleipterion" (Sardis M I: G. E. Bates, *Byzantine Coins* (1971) Cambridge, Mass.) (Fig. 4, BE-S, BE-N, BE-W).

Activities planned for the synagogue included the cleaning, lifting and resetting of mosaics in Bays 4-7 of the Main Hall (Fig. 16) and the eastern entrance porch (except for the well - preserved mosaic in the northern part of the porch). Concurrently, the subfloors of these areas were to be investigated for important architectural features and dating evidence, with special attention to floors of earlier phases. A number of specific requests concerning architectural features in and outside the Main Hall and Rooms A and B just west of the Main Hall were submitted by A. R. Seager and F. K. Yegul in conjunction with preparation of publications. Professor L. J. Majewski guided the work from June 20 to July 28; R. Meric, Second Commissioner, took an active part until his resignation late in July. J. Wrabetz was archaeologist in charge. Conservator Ph. A. Lins and architect Faruk Akca together with Wrabetz carried on the work. The restoration aspect lasted through September.

Major findings of archaeological evidence included several places between piers where falls of brick from above had damaged the mosaics. These bricks themselves carried parts of wall mosaics including many kinds of glass cubes. It is thus proved that the upper walls of the interior of the Synagogue were covered with gorgeous wall mosaics, even though only a handful of tesserae survive. Cleaning and lifting of the mosaics themselves brought one important discovery. Concealed by a fall of brick was a mosaic insc-

ription just south of axis of the Main Hall, on the border between mosaic bays 5 and 6. In a *tabula ansata* it carried the inscription Ε[υ]χὴ Παύλου κόμητος "Dedication of (Pa) ulos the Count (*comes*)."² The inscription (IN 71. 15) read looking west (Fig. 17).

Coins found in significant positions within the bedding or immediately under the mosaic floors were largely of the third quarter of the fourth century A. D. A great number of the smallest Byzantine denominations was found in the porch area (minimi of the fifth century A.D.).

The marble floor, found in 1970 in Bay 1 and surmised to have rested on a careful cobbled leveling course and to have belonged to an earlier phase of the building, was observed in small fragments in Bay 4 and again in Bay 7, in the area immediately west of the threshold of the central entrance door into the Main Hall. The extent of cobbling in various bays was recorded. Several east - west drains leading into the main vaulted drain, which lies under Bay 4, were observed (Fig. 18).

Despite the best efforts of the supervisors and crews, the slow and laborious work of lifting and resetting the mosaics will apparently not be completed in 1971. It now also appears that measures necessary to complete the small gaps in mosaics and to attain the correct finish for colors will need to be carried out in 1972. Casting of mosaics which will be taken to the Manisa Museum because they are particularly valuable (apse mosaic with polychrome fountain of life and inscription; other inscription mosaics) has been proceeding but their coloring, which requires comparison with originals, is to be undertaken by Prof. Majewski in 1972.

Investigation of the two rooms belonging at one time to the synagogue was carried out by J. Wrabetz and F. Akca. They lie just west of the synagogue apse. Of special interest is Room B, where a vertical drainpipe in the center of the room seems to form the center of a well - like

circle of rubble. These water installations will need to be clarified in 1972. Their exact form is of interest because ritual baths are known in various synagogues.

The final ordering of Byzantine shops located along the southern side of the synagogue and the gymnasium will need to be carried out in 1972.

Good progress was made by Professor S. W. Jacobs of Cornell with final review for publication of the Church "M" near the Artemis temple. R. Lindley Vann has completed fieldwork on the publication of "Unexcavated Buildings."

Other activities of the expedition were concerned with research on materials excavated between 1958 and 1971. From June 24 to July 23, Professor T. V. and Mrs. A. E. M. Buttery, University of Michigan, with the assistance of Mrs. Theda Vann, catalogued several hundred Greek, and over three thousand Roman coins. Dr. George C. Miles, American Numismatic Society, came in September to catalogue several hundred Islamic coins. Professor George M. A. Hanfmann proceeded with the study of ancient sculptures found at Sardis, working both at Sardis and in the museums of Izmir and Manisa. Professor C. H. Greenewalt worked on tomb groups from Indere.

A final corrected survey of the Artemis precinct was prepared by Professor David Van Zanten. Mr. K. J. Frazer took part in review of the finding concerning the temple and the altar of Artemis. Dr. R. S. Thomas worked on the Artemis precinct monuments and revised various parts of the manuscript of the first Final Report which is in preparation.

The visit of an inspector of the Department, Miss Suheyla Keskil, on August 19, gave a welcome opportunity to review plans for 1972 and later years. It was agreed that finishing some of the less completely excavated units of the gymnasium to produce a clear line between excavated and unexcavated buildings was desirable. In the gymnasium area this concerns Unit "C" and the Aleipterion. It was thought desirable to lower the earth level in the palaestra to near the preserved marble floor level. A suggestion to attempt to find appropriate techniques to conserve the Lydian gold refining installation at "Pactolus North" will be given close study. There is also work to be done in regularizing and freeing from much earth the area immediately south of the synagogue.

Other desirable matters such as consolidating and preserving the marble floor of the Marble Court (which, at present, has been covered up again) would need much time and means. Planning for a monuments zone must wait until the present TC Highway 68 has been re-located; action towards this end is promised for 1972.

Among the objects brought by local finders and purchased for the Manisa Museum is an attractive though battered "Eastern Greek" Late Hellenistic relief (NoEx 71. 1) showing two women and a man, presumably a mother (tall figure) with her daughter and son. The piece is probably of the first century B.C. (Fig. 19). The inscribed funerary stele of one Menandros Apolloniou (IN 71.7 - NoEx 71.7), possibly of the third century A.D., displays a bizarre Gorgoneion in its pediment (Fig. 20). Both sculptures have been brought to the Manisa Museum.

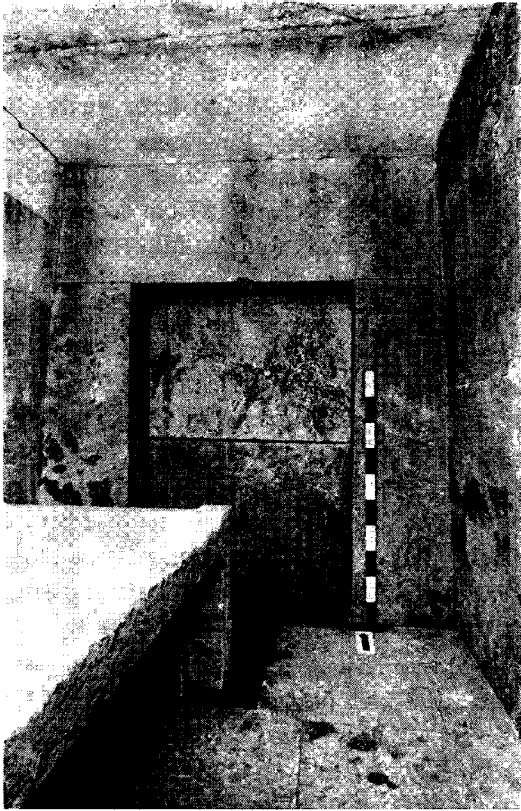


Fig. 1. View of Interior of Lydian Chamber Tomb at Keskinler - Baslıoğluköy, Tomb BK 71.1

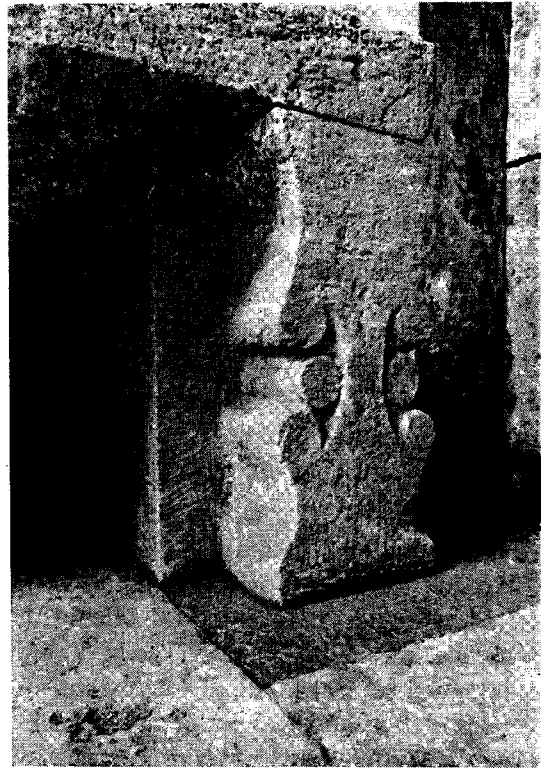


Fig. 2. Detail of Stone Couch in Lydian Chamber Tomb BK 71.1.

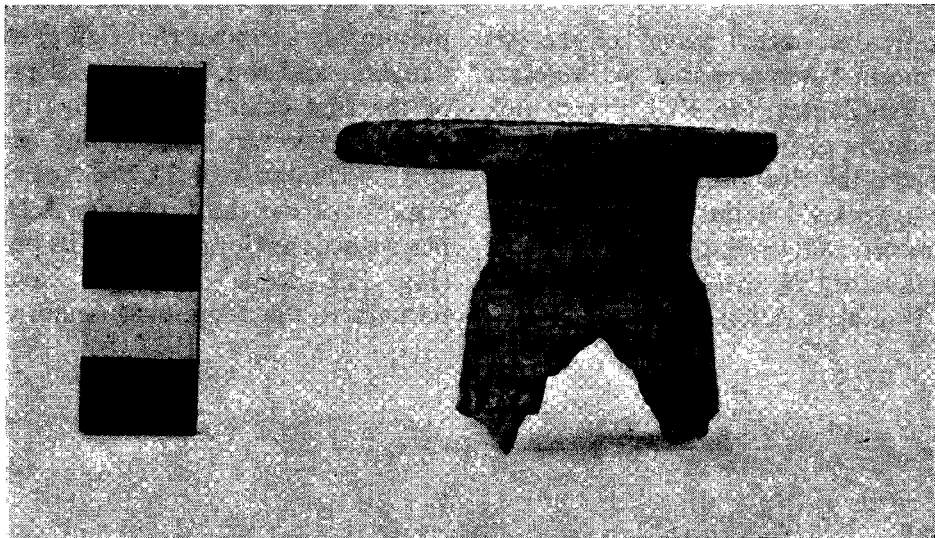


Fig. 3. Alabastron Fragment S 71. 2 (8126) from Tomb BK 71. 1.

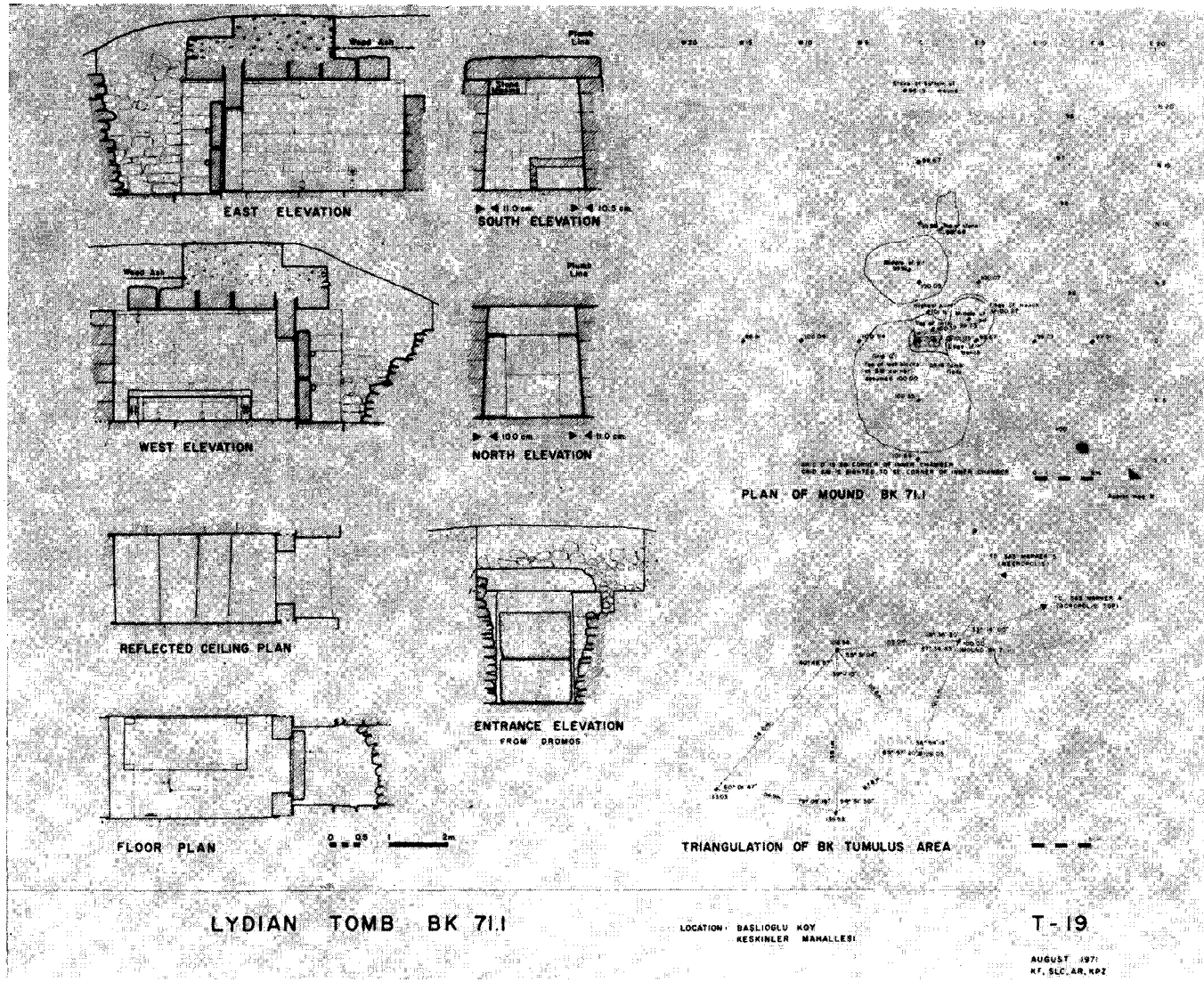


Fig. 4. Lydian Chamber Tomb BK 71. 1. Drawings by K. J. Frazer, S. L. Carter, and K. P. Zygas.

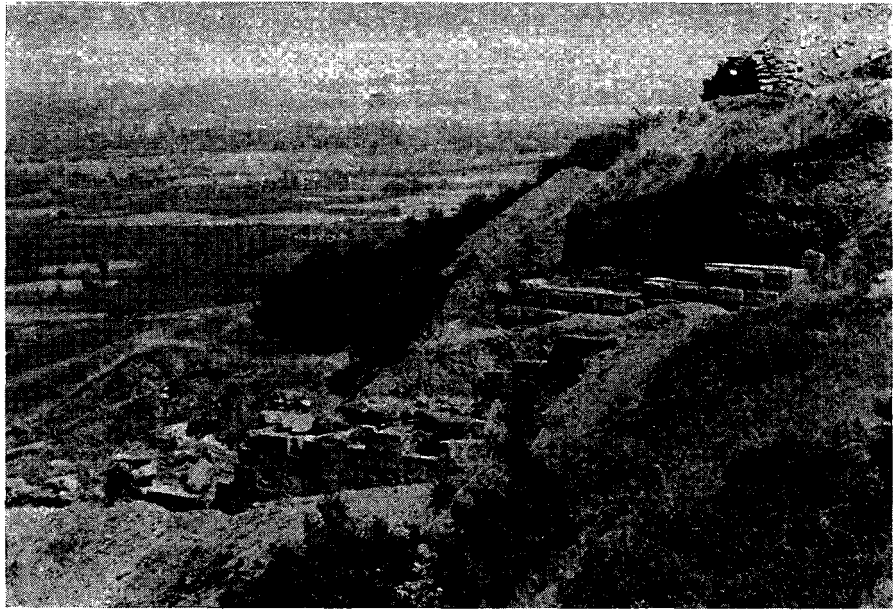


Fig. 5. Lydian Masonry Walls AcN 1, 2, and 3. Elevations.
Drawing by C. H. Greenwalt, Jr.

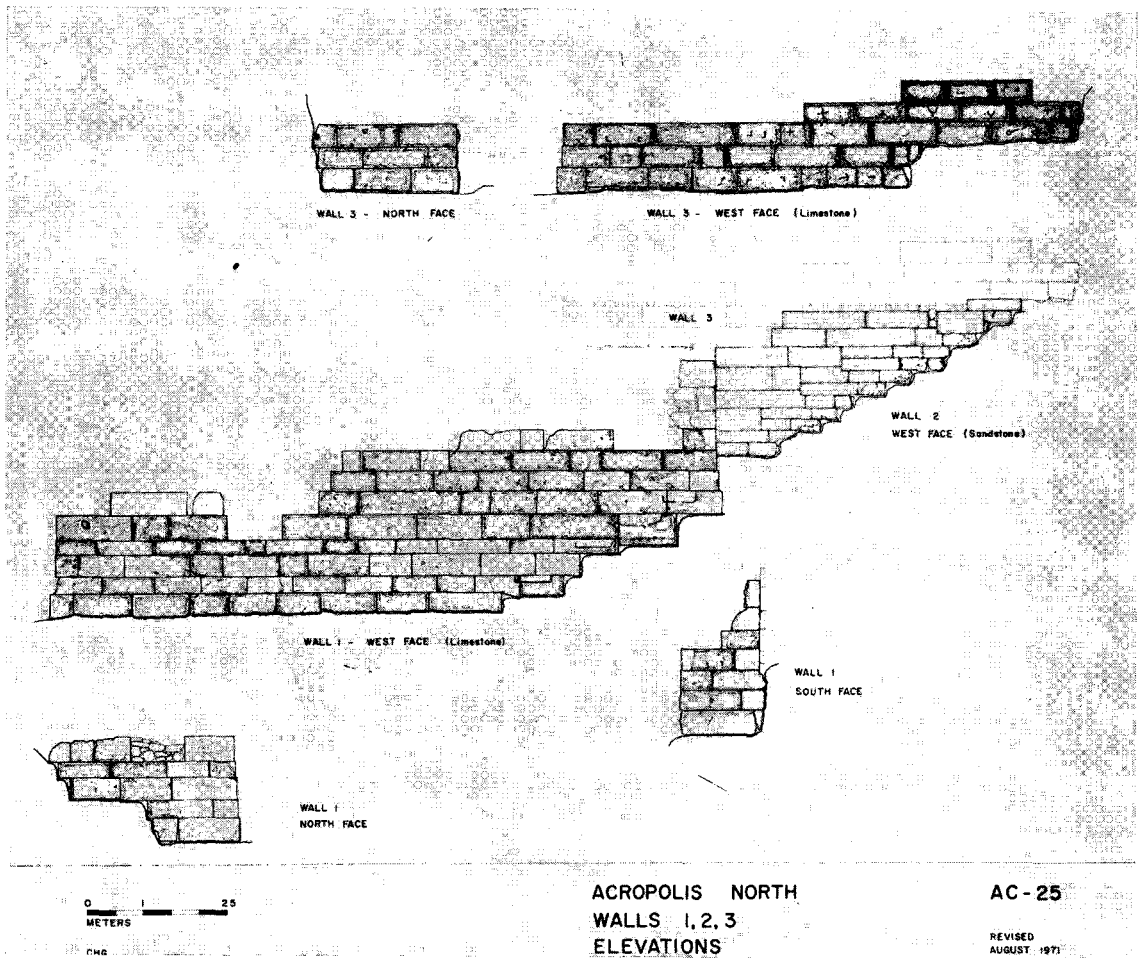


Fig. 6. Photograph of Walls AcN 1, 2, and 3, on the North Side of the Acropolis of Sardis, looking east.

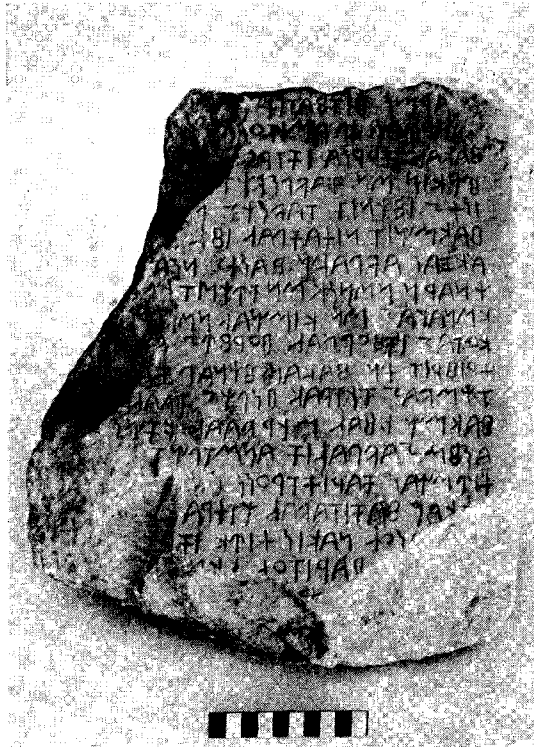


Fig. 7 Lydian Inscription from Sardis, IN 71.1.
Fourth century B. C.

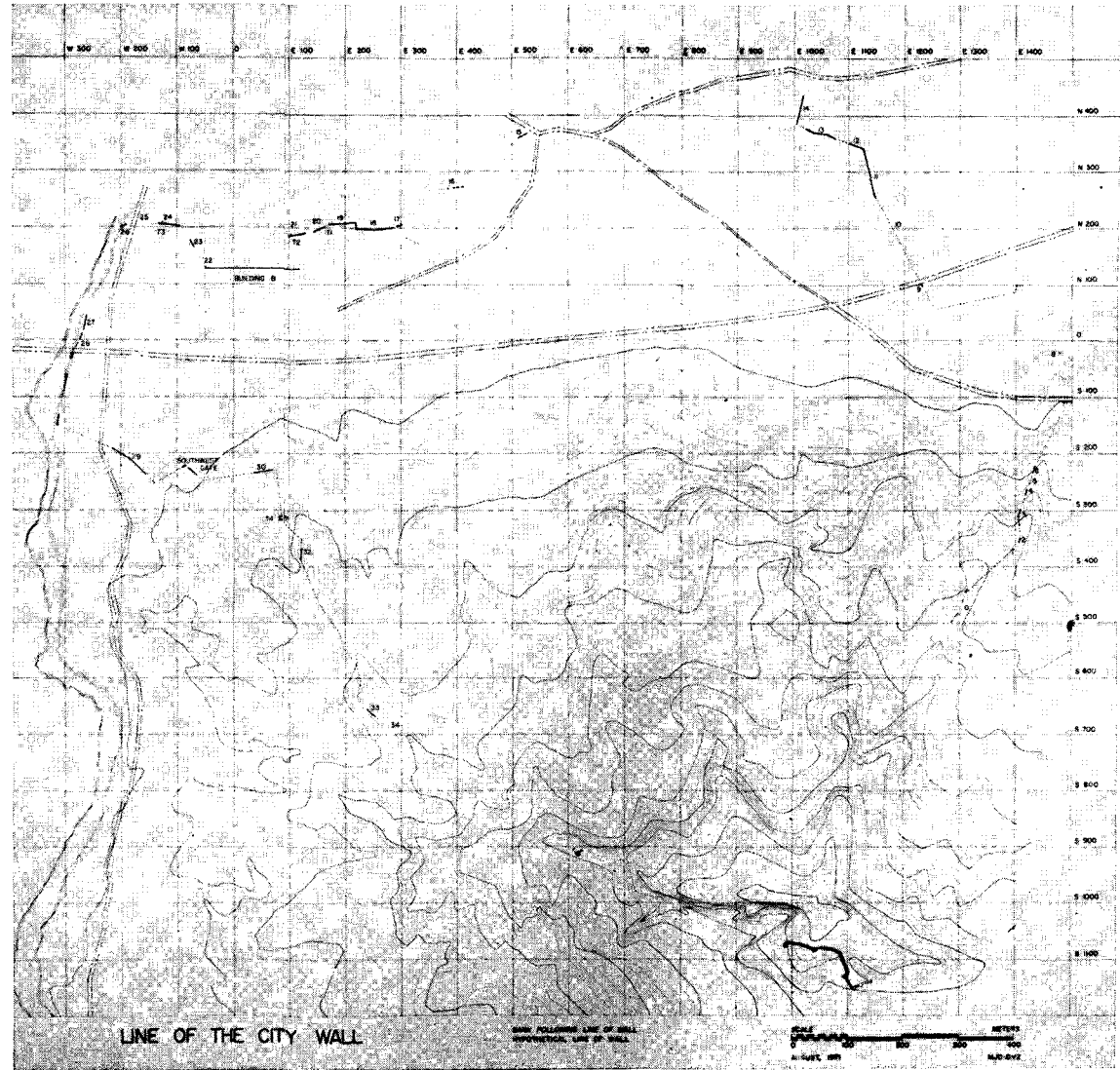


Fig. 8. Plan of the Late Roman City Wall of Sardis. Drawing by D. Van Zanten.

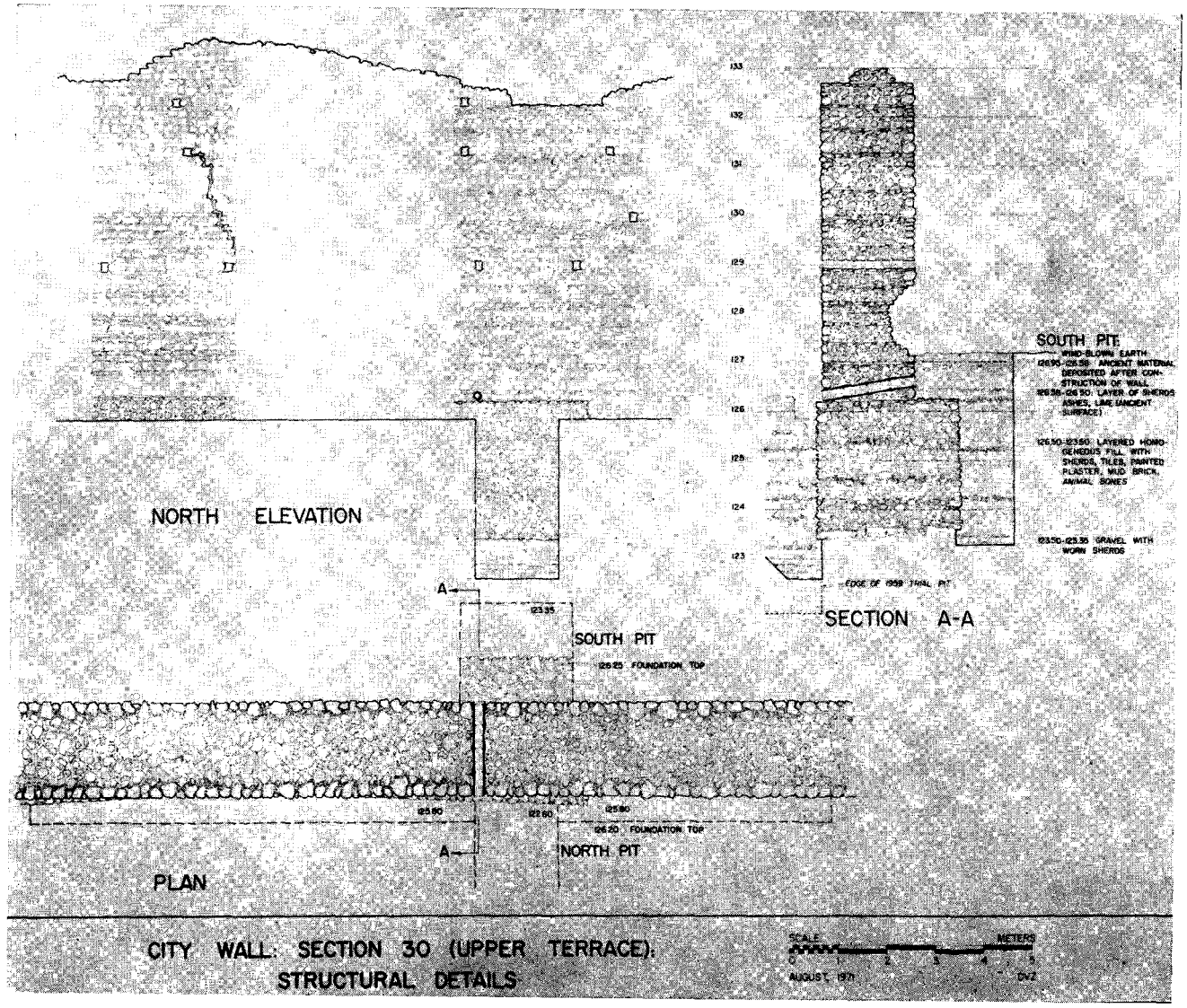


Fig. 9. Section through the City Wall. Drawing by D. Van Zanten.



Fig. 10. View of *Opus Sectile* Floor in "Marble Court", Gymnasium, Sardis. Photograph E. Gombosi.

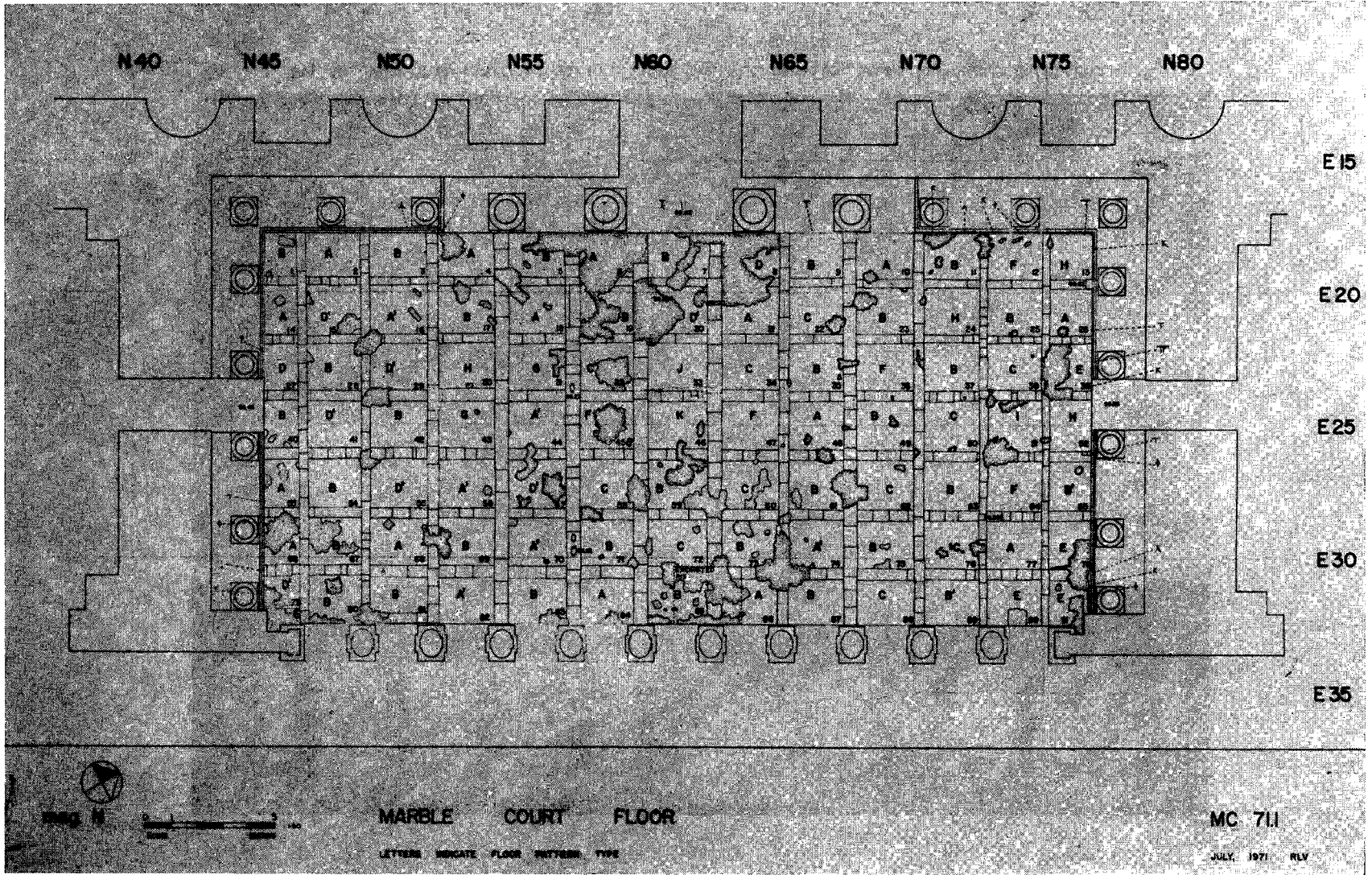


Fig. 11. Marble Court Floor, present condition. Drawing by R. L. Vann and K. P. Zygaz.

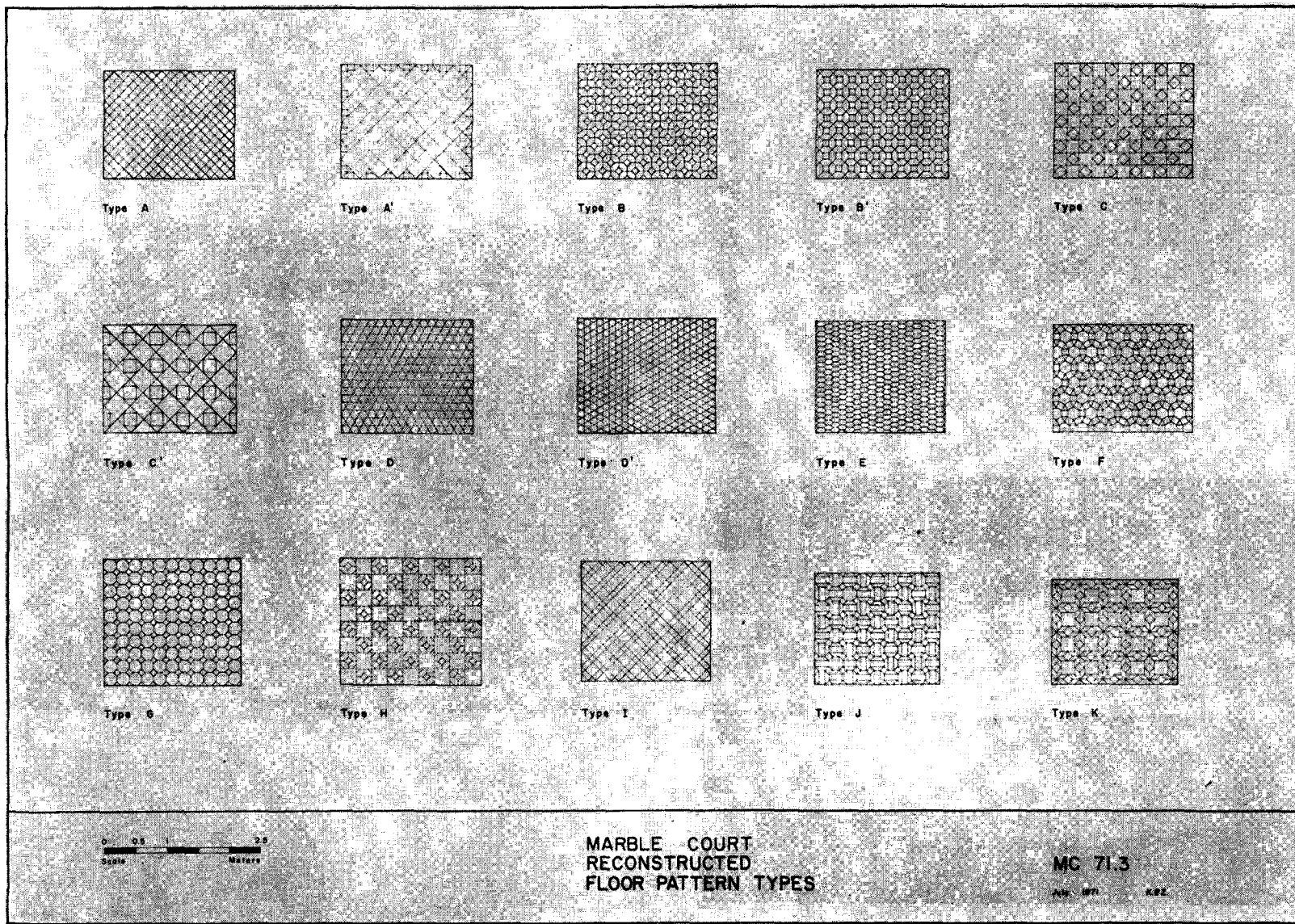


Fig. 12. Marble Court Floor. Reconstructed Floor Pattern Types. Drawing by K. P. Zygas.



Fig. 13. Open - Work Alabaster Charioteer (Helios).
Found in Marble Court. Early Byzantine. S 71.3 (8130).



Fig. 14. Satyr Torso with added Piece. From
Marble Court. S 66. 3 (6960) plus S 71. 5 (8131)



Fig. 15. Center and Northwest Corner of the Marble
Court during Restoration of Pilasters, July 1971.

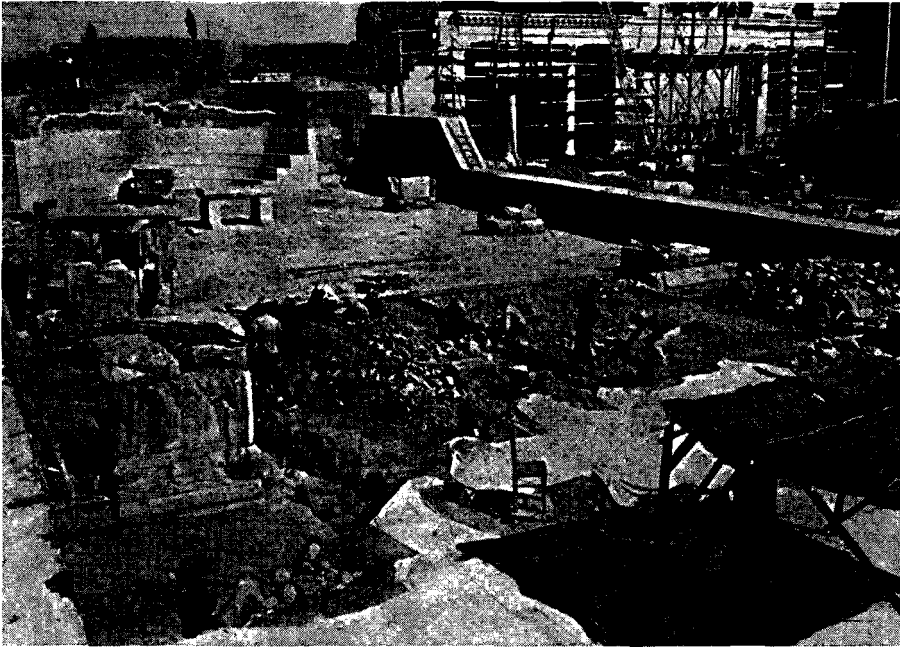


Fig. 16. Laying the Bedding for Resetting of Moasics in Bay 4, the Synagogue, Sardis.

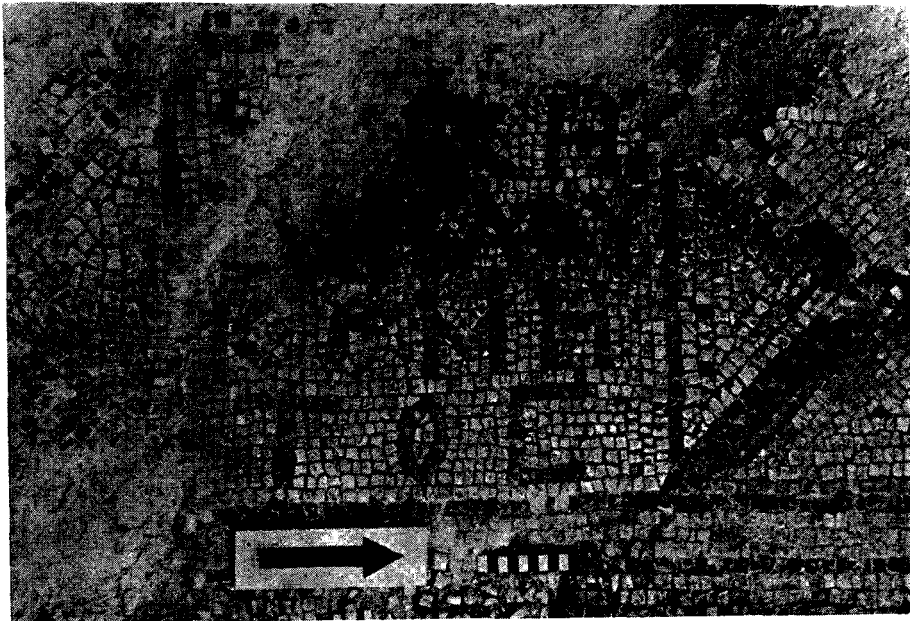


Fig. 17 Mosaic Inscription of a *Comes Paulus* (In 71. 5) Found on the Borderline between Bays 5 and 6, the Synagogue, Sardis

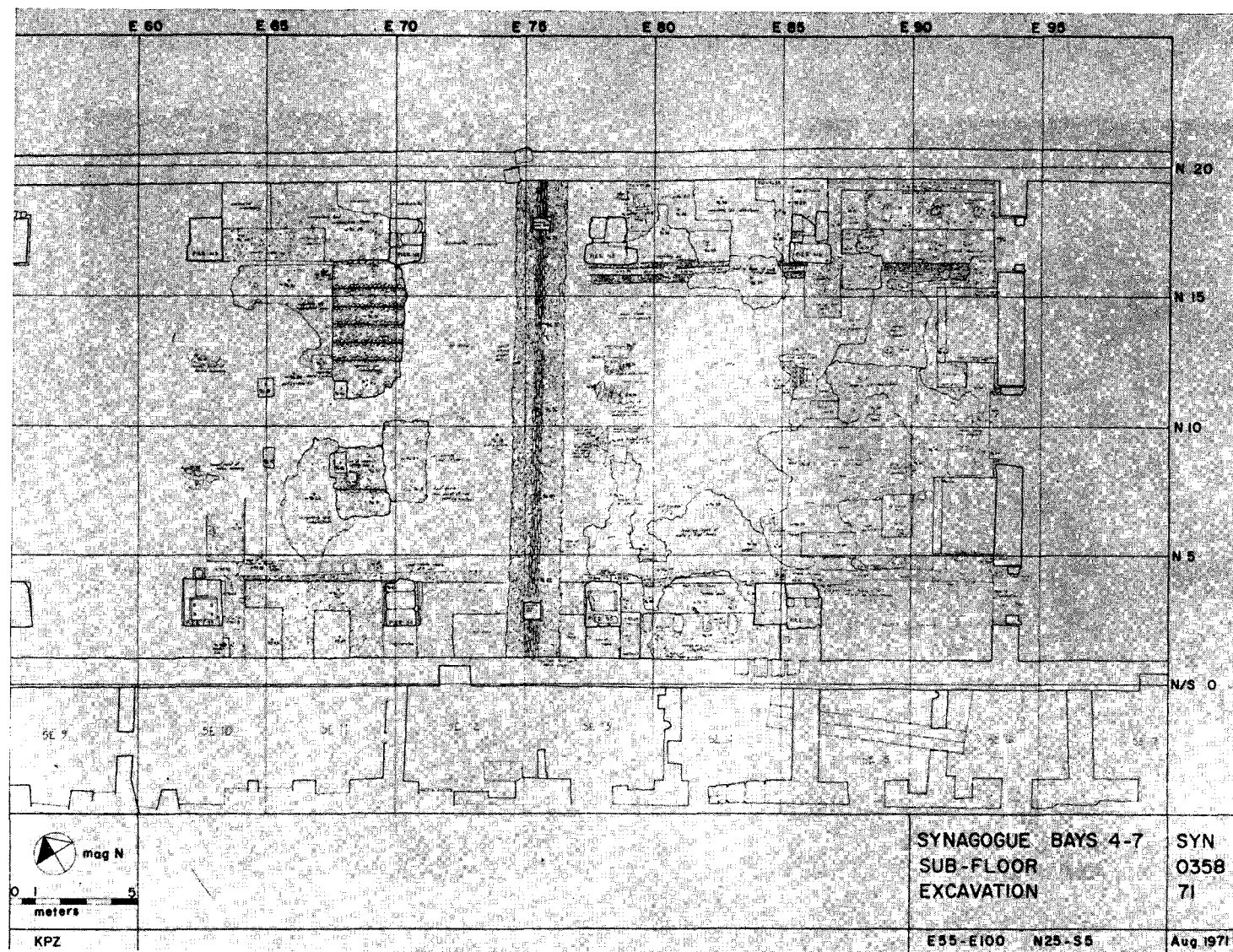


Fig. 18. Plan of Subfloor Excavation in Bays 4-7. Synagogue, Sardis.



Fig. 19. Eastern Greek Funerary Stele from Sardis. NoEx 71. 1, First Century B. C.

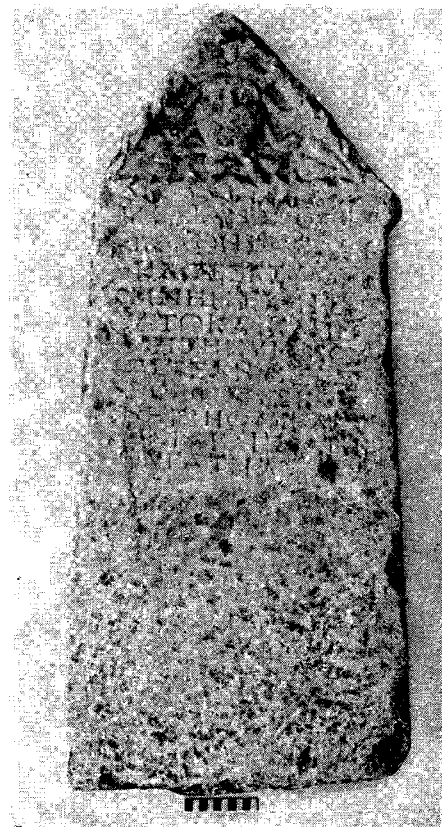


Fig. 20. Funerary Stele of Menandros Apolloniou with Gorgoneion in Pediment. IN 71. 7. Third century A. D.