EXCAVATIONS AT KARATAŞ - ŞEMAYÜK AND ELMALI, 1976

MACHTELD J. MELLINK

The work in 1976 was principally devoted to the painted tomb chamber in tumulus II at Karaburun.[1] A tripartite building was made to protect the tomb and to provide a modern entrance system similar to constructions made for the Kızılbel tomb and tumulus in 1974[2].

(1) The season lasted from June 16 to October 8, 1976.
Special thanks are due to the authorities of the Ministry of Culture and the Department of Antiquities and Museums for their firm support of the work at Karaburun, for the provision of two liberal subsidies towards the costs of construction, and for advice in many matters of importance. Assistant Secretary of Culture, Professor Emin Bilgiç and Director General Hikmet Gürçay paid much appreciated visits to the site; Deputy Director Burhan Tezcan and Director of Excavations Çetin Anlağan were ever ready with aid and advice. Bay Altay Kiracıoğlu of the Antalya Museum was again the representative of the Department of Antiquities and Museums at Elmalı; we thank him for his patient assistance through a season of many practical challenges. Director Tanju Özoral of the Antalya Museum and his staff aided us with advice for which we continue to be most grateful. Bay İbrahim Işıldağ of the administrative staff of the Antalya Museum has been our administrative advisor for every season; his loyalty and help are warmly acknowledged. The construction work at Karaburun and all calculations for the armed concrete were generously supervised by architect-engineer M. Tuncay Günay whose kindness we acknowledge again with profound gratitude; Bay Cevat Tarim of the Antalya Museum staff also deserves our continuing thanks for his supervision of the construction work and official mediation. In Elmalı, the Kaymakam and the members of the city administration again aided and supported our work with heart-warming interest; we again express our deep felt appreciation of the local Lycian backing.

The staff of the 1976 season consisted of: restorer Franca Callori di Vignale (Rome), her assistant Serra Bereket (Rome), Professor Robert A. Bridges, Jr. (study of the architecture of the tomb chambers), Mrs. Ilknur Özgen (M.A., Bryn Mawr College, work in the area of the base-monument), Christine Eslick (Ph. D. candidate, Bryn Mawr College, work on Chalcolithic material), and Professor Martin Harrison (University of Newcastle) who worked on the inscriptions from Ovacık, separately reported upon at the VIII[th] congress of the Türk Tarih Kurumu in Ankara, October 1976.

(2) For the report on the Kızılbel construction see **Türk Arkeoloji Dergisi** XXIII-1 (1976) pp. 87-92, **American Journal of Archaeology** 79 (1975) pp. 349-355.

EXCAVATION

In preparation for the construction, the area previously excavated in front of and over the tomb chamber at Karaburun II was widened and deepened. This work allowed a number of observations concerning the various stages of the ancient building operations.

1. On the natural ridge a terrace of bedrock had been prepared for the tomb and the transportation of building materials from the East side[3] As the chamber was erected to wall height, a stone packing was put against the side and rear walls, held in place by cyclopean retaining walls (Figs. 1 - 3) in front, leaving a short (and temporary) dromos for access to the tomb via the opening (the place for the plug block) in the East wall. This dromos was originally 3 m. wide near the tomb; its North and South walls, diverging slightly to a width of 3.30 m. over a length of 2.40 m., then turned away to encircle the tomb chamber. Next, the South retaining wall was given an added ledge in front which resembles a bench or couch, measuring 2,05 × 1.00 m. with a height of 0.80 m. This narrowed the width of the dromos to 2.10 - 2.40 m. The East edge of the bench was formed by an added thickness of blocks starting along the East contour of the South retaining buttress, visible as an anta after removal of the bench in Fig. 3. The length of the South buttress wall thus became 3 m.

2. An intermediate layer of limestone chips in the rockpile of the tumulus corresponds to the level of the top of the lateral walls, the stage of preparation for the fitting of the central interior pediment and the two large roof slabs. The rockpiles have rather steep retaining walls also along their curving outer edges (cf. Fig. 3), but as work progressed, sloping layers of rubble and clay were laid against the stone walls to provide access ramps as well as support. These accessory fills themselves needed low retaining edges in line with the North and South dromos boundaries, adding a length of 2.60 m. along the South side, less on the North.

3. The lateral walls of the tomb and the North and South ends of the «Phrygian» type interior central gable block are clamped together. Each end of the gable block rests in a cutting near, but not at the end of a monolithic lateral wall block; each end is clamped twice, once simply to the block in which it is embedded, but on the other side, to the remaining ledge of this wall block and to the next wall block, across the vertical joint in the wall (Fig. 8). The iron clamps are of double swallowtail

(3) In all preliminary reports the practical references to orientation are to a «North» which in fact is NW; «East» therefore stands for SE, etc.

type, leaded into place, 20 and 26 cm. long respectively. All four clamps are well preserved. It should be noted that swallowtail clamps also held the two blocks of the base on the East slope of the tumulus together.

4. The two large roof blocks were prepared and fitted carefully in place, bevelled at their lower edges and leaving a triangular open slot along the outer top edges of the lateral blocks. This slot was filled with small more or less wedge shaped stones, as at Kızılbel (Figs. 4 and 7). The joint at the roof ridge, where the South roof block overlaps the end of the North block, is covered with a reddish mortar containing ground pottery (horasan, coccio pisto).

5. Large flat boulders were laid on the roof to complete the stone tumulus to a height of about 30 cm. above the roof ridge. A shallow cutting was made in the roof ridge at 2 m. from the front, in what is the approximate center of the tomb structure; here a centering post must have been erected. A clay dome was put over the stone tumulus as a waterproof cover. This clay mantle is 10 - 20 cm. thick; it had been disturbed by tomb robbers in the center and front of the tomb, but is was found intact and smooth in the rear (Figs. 5 and 6).

6. After the burial had been put in the tomb chamber, the plug block was inserted in the front wall, a packing of boulders was put in front of the tomb to fill the dromos, and the final layers of the tumulus were built in radial sections with the aid of the centering post set on the roof. Radiating lines of field stones act as dividers of sectors of clay fill (Fig. 2, visible in upper fill, in scarp); we found evidence for nine lines set approximately at 20° angles; they start right over the white dome and slope down along the edges of the tumulus where we did not open up the ground. These stone lines double as interim retaining lines for the fill as it is piled up; different types of clay can be seen behind and in front of such walls. The filling operation, however, was gradual and these stone walls were never freestanding. Such radiating ribs can also be seen in tumulus Karaburun I which covers the stone sarcophagus. The system of centering posts and radiating stone lines is known from Phrygian tumuli at Gordion, starting with the earliest group[4].

(4) G. and A. Koerte, **Gordion. Ergebnisse der Ausgrabung im Jahre 1900** (Berlin 1904) pp. 39 - 40, tumulus III; Rodney S. Young in **American Journal of Archaeology** 61 (1957) p. 325, tumulus P. Guiding lines were seen in other tumuli at Gordion. Perhaps a similar system was used in the building of stone tumuli to judge by the drawings of the «Tomb of Tantalus» near Bayraklı, Perrot - Chipiez, **Histoire de l'Art dans l'Antiquité** V (1890) p. 49 and G. E. Bean, **Aegean Turkey** (London 1966) p. 60, Fig. 6.

7. The final covering of the tumulus is lost now. At the lower East slopes we still have rising layers of rubble which covered the clay layers with their radiating guidelines; over the rubble layers, final layers of clay were added. There is no evidence for a krepis; where the layers of rubble start to rise from bedrock, they are covered with additional clay and soil strata. The approximate diameter of the tumulus is 32 m., its preserved height, 5 - 6 m.

8. At the East side of the tumulus is a prepared terrace cut to accommodate the limestone base and monument discovered in 1974. The base could have been set in place before the burial was put in the tomb chamber, but in the final stages of tumulus building the rubble strata were packed against the sides and rear of the base. Retaining walls must have held the rubble and clay fill back from the edges of the monument. The base is set at the very edge of the tumulus and the slope of the stone strata does not rise more than 60 cm. where it intersects the rear edge of the base, The situation as found was badly disturbed.

The two blocks of which the base consists were worked each in a different manner. The South block was finished smoothly on the side and rear, as if it had been planned to remain freestanding; the North block was not finished in the rear, although smooth on the side; this implies a change of mind on the part of the builders. Both parapet blocks were left rough on their exterior faces; they were added in the final stage of tumulus building (Fig. 11, North side of base exposed with parapet block at left).

9. Some new pieces were found belonging to the superstructure of the base, which last year was assumed to have been in the shape of a pair of doors in an architectural framework (jambs, lintel, roofing) to which fragments of lifesize lion sculpture belong[5]. Additional work was done on the door fragments, the largest piece of which now measures about 75 cm. in height. For the lion sculpture importan additions are two corners of a plinth with the right and left paws of a lion respectively, of a size corresponding to the head fragments found previously (Fig. 12). The plinth is 6 cm. high. It is not clear where we have to put this lion on the monument; there may have been one or two lions crowning the entablature as akroteria. The lion fragments indicate that the lion was reclining in the manner of known Lydian lions, e. g. the lions crowning the Lydian altar at Sardis[6].

(5) See **Türk Arkeoloji Dergisi** XXIV - I (1977) p. 139 - 140 Fig. 12; **American Journal of Archaeology** 80 (1976) pp. 382 - 384.

(6) G.M.A. Hanfmann, **From Croesus to Constantine** (Ann Arbor 1975) Figs. 31 - 34, p. 14; **Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research** 191 (1968) p. 13, Fig. 11. Cf. Ekrem Akurgal, **Ancient Civilizations and Ruins of Turkey** (Istanbul 1973) pl. 43 b, c.

THE PROTECTIVE BUILDING

A gabled room was constructed in front of the tomb chamber analogous to the anteroom constructed at Kızılbel. The room measures 4.80×2.50 m. in the interior. It has thick stone walls with an interior batter to counteract the pressure of the tumulus fill. The roof is of reinforced concrete; it extends ca. 50 cm. over the roof of the tomb, suspended at an interval of 12 cm. along the gable (Fig. 5, seen from the rear). The interstices were later blocked with clay and small stones. The internal height of the new anteroom is 3.20 m. in the center. Steel doors close this room off from the tunnel which leads over a distance of 11 m. to the outer entrance building. The tunnel is 1.50 m. wide and almost completely embedded in the restored tumulus fill. It slopes down to the level of the monument-base on the East slope, with a level difference of about 1.50 m. The monument-base now stands near the rear wall of the new entrance room which also can house the fragments of the superstructure. The entrance building measures 8.00×6.50 m. on the exterior (Figs. 9, 10); it has a door on the South side and windows to the East. A retaining wall holds the restored tumulus fill back from the entrance area on the South side.

The basic construction is finished. In 1977, the interior floors, steps, and the plaster of the entrance building will need to be added; permanent drainage provisions have to be made around the entrance building. During the latter operation further fragments of the broken base-monument may come to light in the disturbed area between tumuli Karaburun I and II.

PAINTINGS AND ARCHITECTURE

The painted walls of the tomb chamber continue to demand the dedicated work of restorer Franca Callori di Vignale. In 1976, she worked with her assitant Serra Bereket to improve the health and appearance of the unpainted part of the plaster zone below the friezes, and of the red painted dado which runs abeve the floor to a height of about 18 cm. Many fallen fragments of intonaco and upper plaster were fitted back into place, and precariously preserved areas were consolidated. The floor blocks which had been pulled out and damaged by ancient tomb robbers were put back in their original locations; they are quadrilateral, irregular in size and shope with small plug blocks of triangular and quadrilateral shapes. The floor was cleaned by the restorers. It has a thick lime stucco with solid blue paint, partly well preserved in spite of the vicisslitudes of the tomb after robbers opened it to repeated plunder in the Roman period. The cleaning of the floor has added considerably to the appearance of the tomb chamber; it also adds reflected light to the paintings.

Minor repairs are still being made to the painted friezes and some fragments were fitted back into place, notably in the face of the woman in the main scene. The kline was cleaned and repaired with modern stucco. The table awaits final repairs. Its place in the Southeast corner is established.

The architecture of the tomb chamber is being studied by Robert A. Bridges, Jr. He discovered extensive use of leaded dowels in the superposed courses of the façade. Oblique drill holes containing lead had been masked with lime plaster. These and other details will be examined closely in 1977.

KIZILBEL

The preservation and condition of the Kızılbel paintings were checked and minor adjustments were made to control the humidity in the tomb chamber. The study of the architecture was continued by Robert A. Bridges, Jr.

CHALCOLITHIC MATERIAL

The Chalcolithic pottery from the habitation area at Bağbaşı is under study by Miss Christine Eslick. She also has investigated the Chalcolithic material from the slopes of Karaburun and from stratified context underneath the two Karaburun tumuli, also the stray finds of Chalcolithic pottery from the Kızılbel area. It is evident that widespread habitation existed in the Elmalı region in the period antedating Karataş; the analysis of the stages of development and the types of habitation is making progress.

PROGRAM

For 1977, conservation work on the paintings of Karaburun will continue. The interior and exterior details of the entrance building will be completed and drainage provided along the South and East slopes. Photography of the Karaburun and Kızılbel paintings for final publication, architectural recording, study of the base monument are part of the program. The study of the prehistoric material from Karataş, Bağbaşı and Karaburun will continue, including the anthropological evidence.

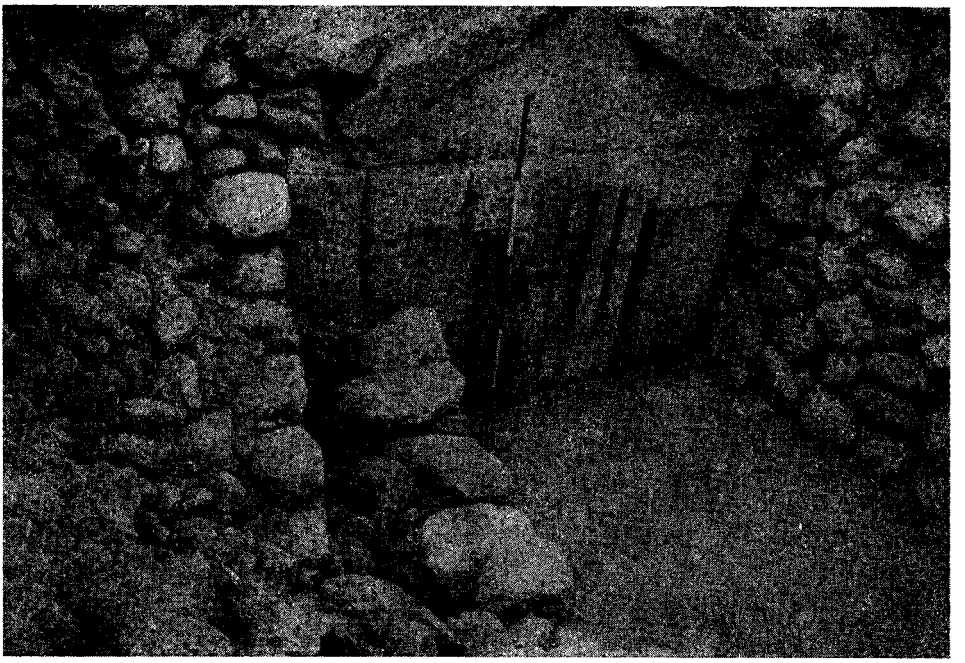

Fig. 1 Façade of tomb chamber with retaining walls of stone tumulus, bench on South side.

Fig. 2 Retainig wal cf stone tumulus and later fills North of tomb chamber; three radiating walls visible in upper scarp.

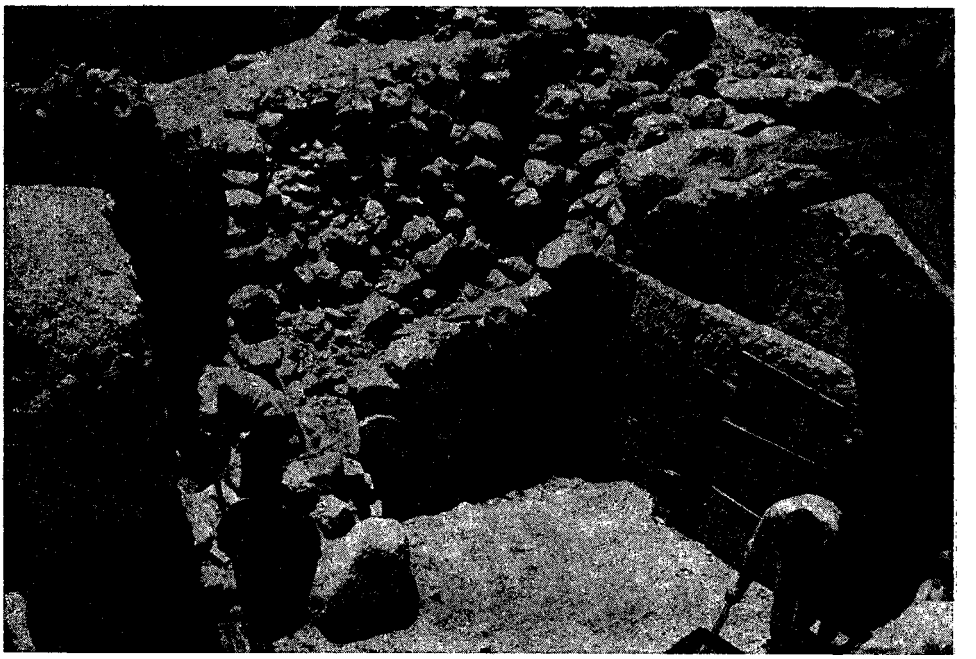

Fig. 3 Tomb chamber with stone pile; retaining wall and compartment of bench on South side (bench removed).

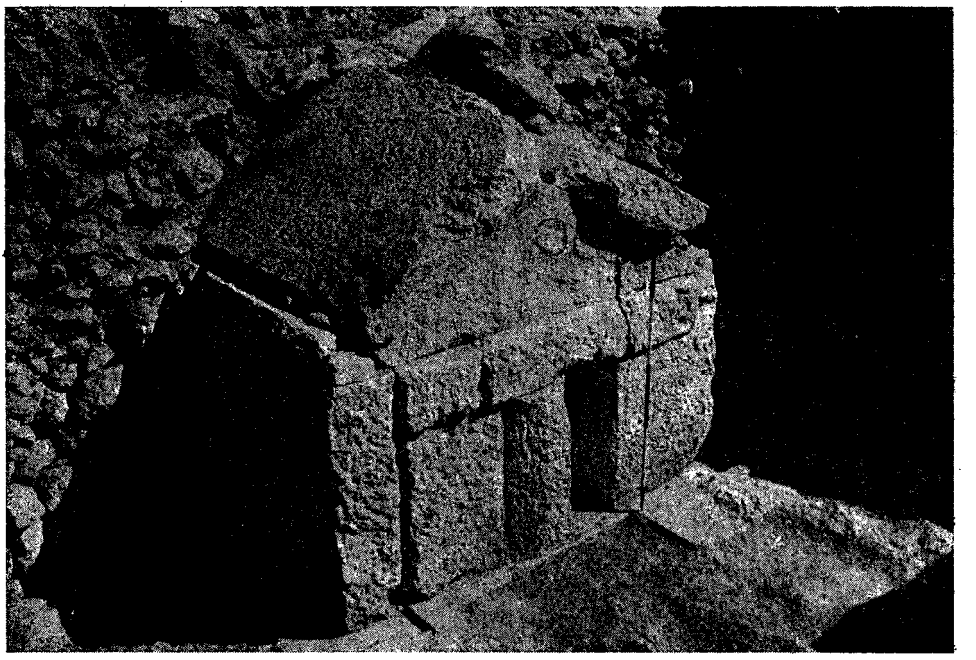

Fig. 4 Tomb chamber partly freed from stone pile.

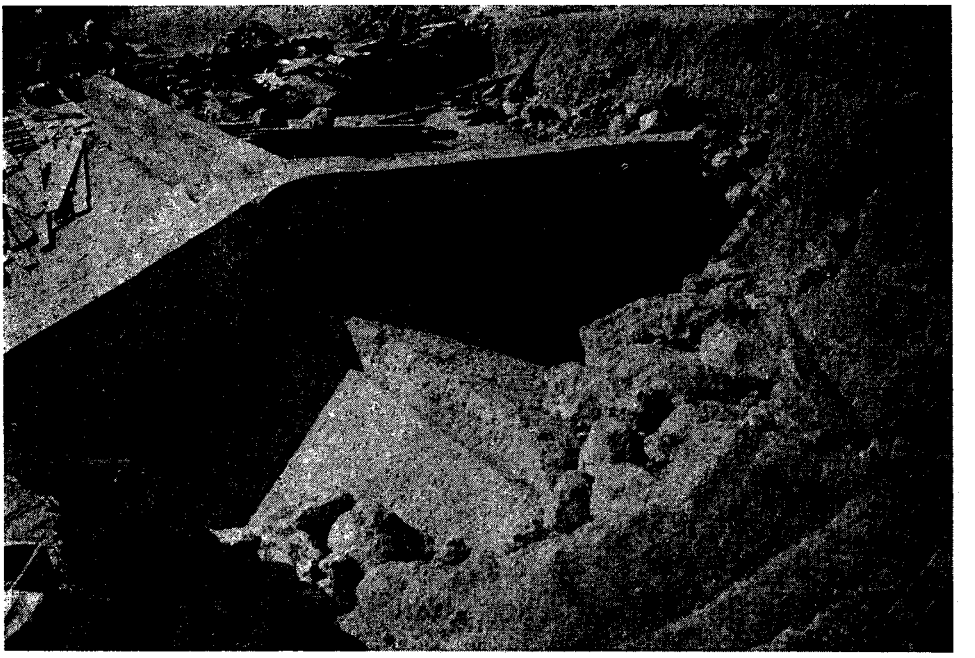

Fig. 5 Roof of anteroom over front of tomb chamber, seen from West. Remnants of stone and clay cover in foreground.

Fig. 6 Roof of stone chamber, rear, with remnants of ston eand white clay packing. Over this, remnants of radiating stone walls.

Fig. 7 South edge of roof. Small stones wedged under edge of South roof slab. To left, large stones belonging to stone tumulus packed against South wall.

Fig. 8 South side of tomb chamber. Clamps tying central gable block to lateral wall blocks.

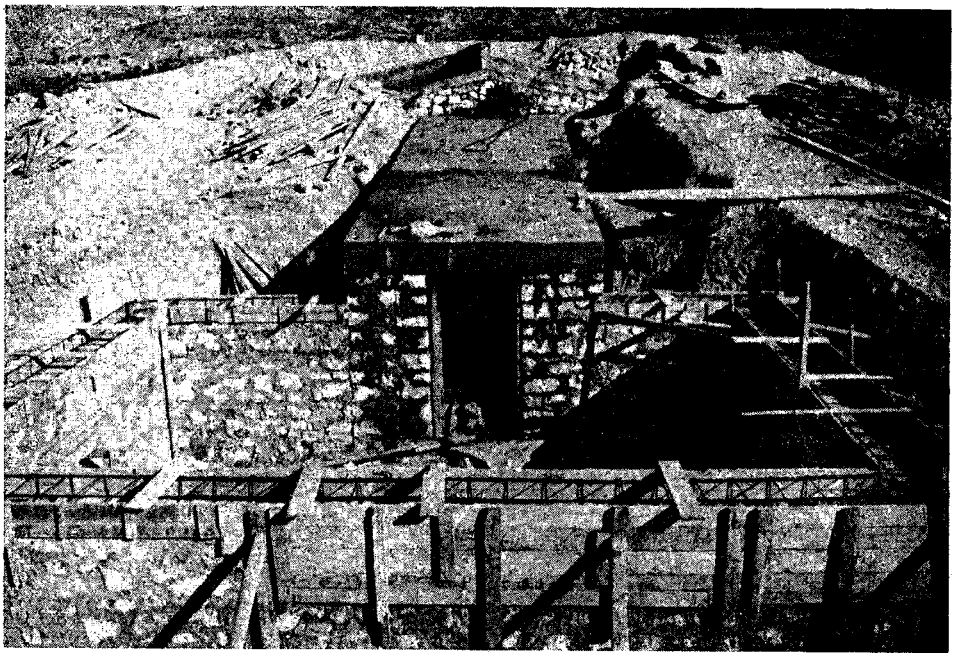

Fig. 9 Construction of protective building partly completed, from East.

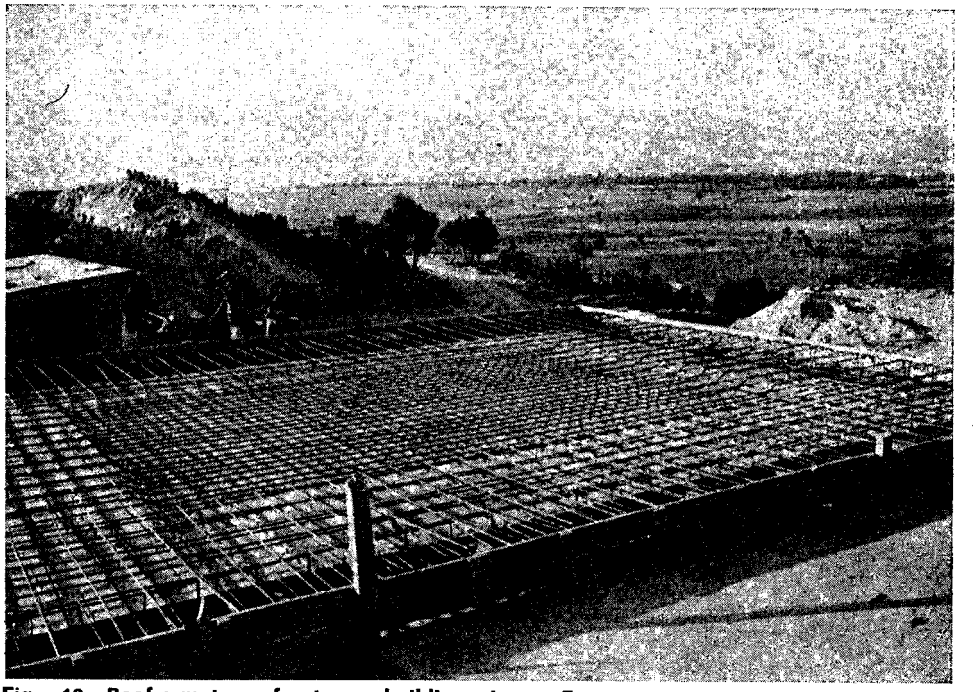

Fig. 10 Roof armature of entrance building, view to East.

Fig. 11 Monument - base on East slope. Finished North edge, unifnished parapet block.

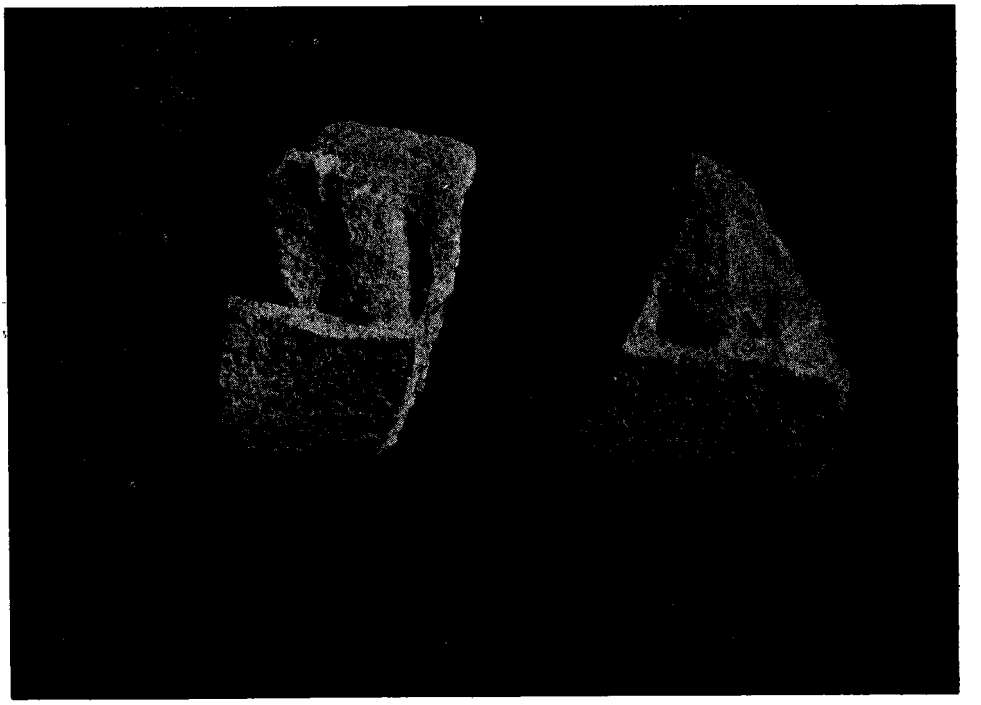

Fig. 12 Fragments of lion paws on corners of plinth, limestone.