RESTORATION WORK IN THE ODEON OF ANEMURIUM, 1969

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The Odeon is situated on the southern slope of the ancient city, where architectural remains are not very numerous. The cavea faces east. The analemmata sourrounding the seats on three sides are based on the west side on the rock of the slope. In the *skene* part we see the analemmata as the wall separating the *skene* from the orchestra (plan 2, fig. 1).

A speciality of the Anemurium odeon is the vaulted tunnel that serves as a substructure of the seats (Plan 1). The width of this tunnel is 3.13 m., and the length of its north tract is 18.62 m up to the entrance arch. The interior walls have a coat of coarse plaster, and the floor is covered with mosaics of a simple geometric design (Fig. 2). The soil that had accumulated in the tunnel to about one meter in height protected the mosaics so that they emerged practically undamaged when the soil was cleared away).[1] There are arched entrances to the tunnel on either side of the *skene*, and there are also arched doorways leading into the orchestra (Plan 1). The latter is semicircular in shape and its floor was paved with mosaics. The *scenae frons* has three doors and four niches, the two smaller of which were probably for statues (plan 2). The stage building is the worst destroyed part of the Odeon. It has two passageways leading outside to the right and the left. The barrel-vaulted ceiling has completely collapsed, but the supporting east wall is still standing although not to a great height.

[1] The north and the west tract of the tunnel were cleared in 1968 and 69.

No restoration work had been carried out in this building up to now, and in 1969 only very little could be done owing to the shortage of time and funds. But some urgent work was undertaken to prevent further collapse at the north end the *scenae frons*.

In this part, some dangerous damage was repaired: on the south frame of the north door, which is surmounted by a false arch, and on the north side of the niche south of it. The south frame of the door (which is 2.70 m. high) was restored up to the springing of the arch (Plan 2-3 a) in the building technique current at ancient Anemurium and using only limestone from the ruins without breaking or in any way working them. The facing stones —all rough-dressed— were laid horizontally; the same kind of stone was used for the fill, and for bonding cement mortar was used (Fig. 3). Care was taken to preserve the recess into which originally a beam or a lintel was fitted.

The second point, where some restoration was carried out, is at the entrance to the north track of the tunnel supporting the seats. The north corner of this entrance was found to be hollowed out to a depth of 2 m., and thus it was feared that it would not be strong enough to carry the weight of the wall on top. For the repair, original stones from the site were used, bonded with cement mortar. The facing, up to the springing of the vault (2.50 m from the ground), was made again by horizontal courses of this stone, and for the filling, the same

technique was used as on the *scenae frons* (Fig. 4-5-6).

Another notable feature of this tunnel entrance is the use of large limestone blocks (50 × 75 × 50 cm.) at the sides and above the arch. Two of these blocks are still *in situ* on the left and on the right. (Plan 1-2-3). One of them contains fossilized sea-shells, and it is possible that these stones were quarried elsewhere and transported to Anemurium[2]. The use of large stones is rare at Anemurium, and thus, their occurrance in the Odeon may be of significance.

Much work still remains to be done on the Odeon at Anemurium. It is certainly the best-preserved building of its kind in Cilicia. Although it suffered much damage from natural causes, it is still standing to this day in a remarkably good state of preservation, and that is probably due to the following reasons:

a) Since the building material consists of small, only roughly dressed quarry-stone, there was no temptation for neighbouring villagers to make use of it for their own buildings.

b) There is no modern settlement in the immediate vicinity of the ancient city.

c) The area is not subject to erosion or earthquakes.

d) The semi-nomadic people living on the site found the Odeon useful as a shelter for their flocks.

It would be desirable to preserve this building, and that could be done by designing an annual restoration programme. Priority should be given to the stage building and the analemmata wall, with complementary restorations to follow. Thus, this building, which is a testimony to the art and culture of the Roman period of Cilicia, could be studied and fully evaluated.

[2] Similar stones can be seen in the ruins of the sea wall.

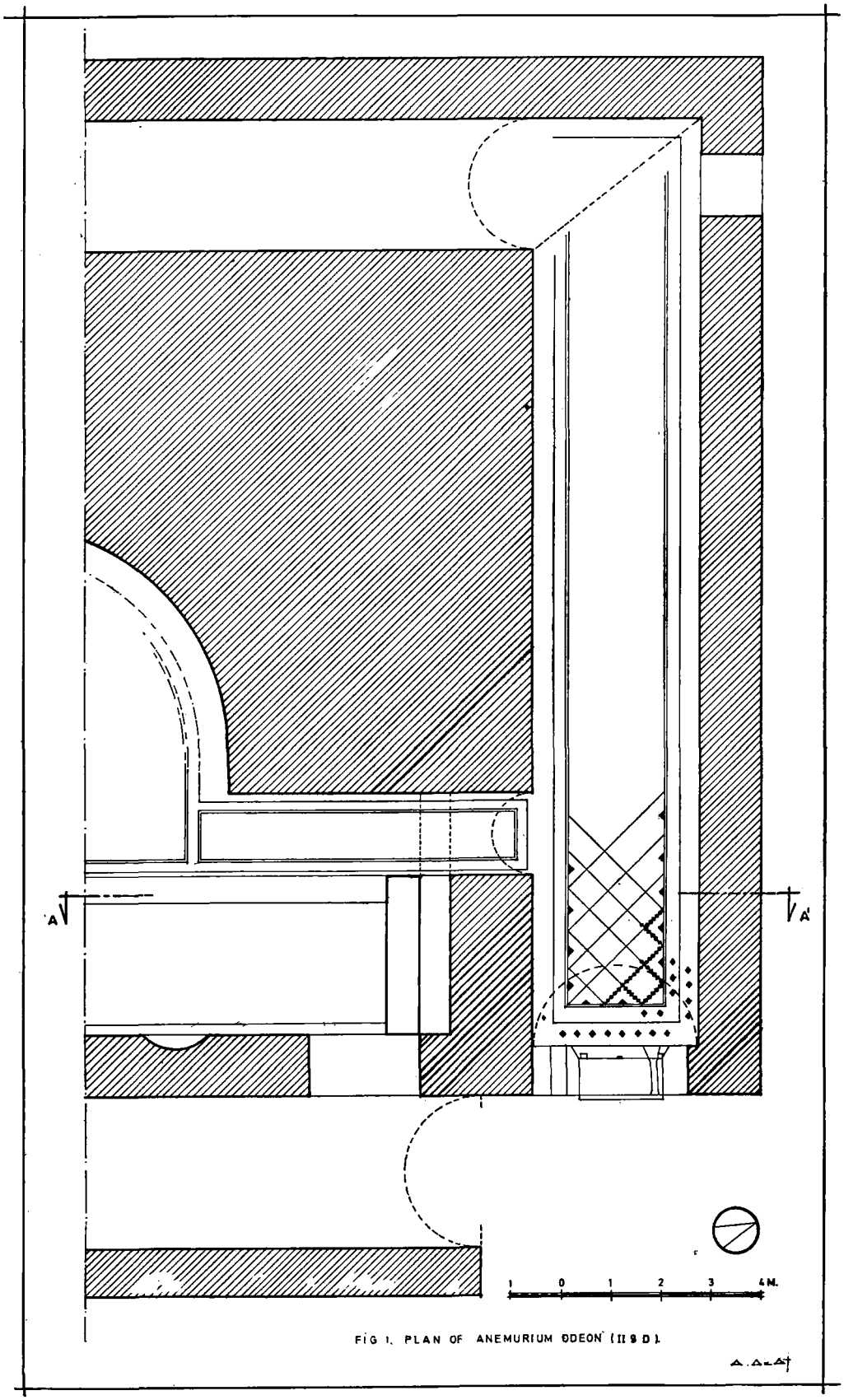
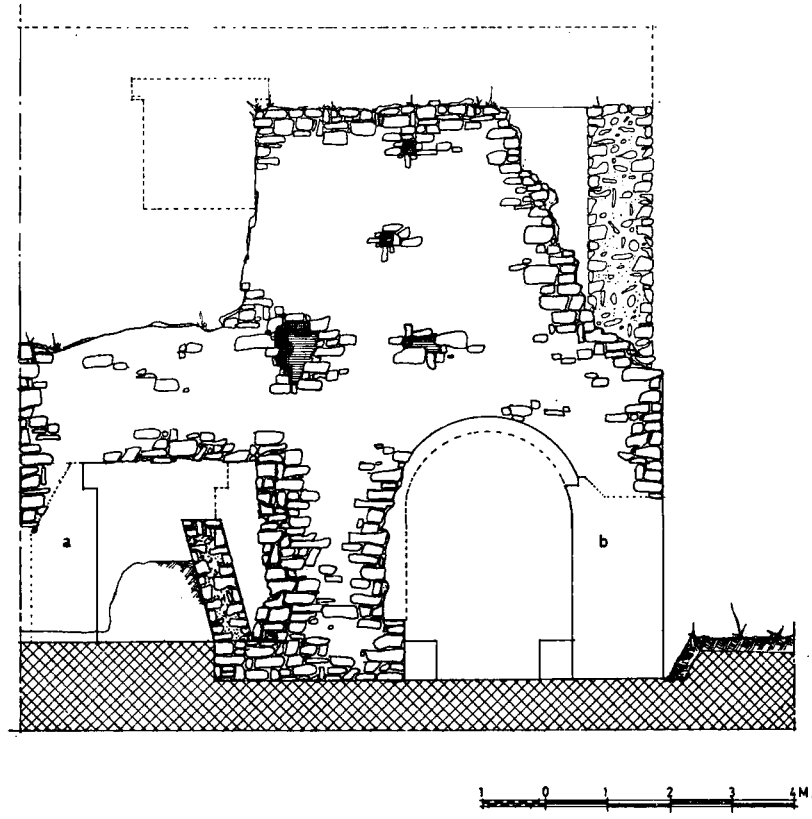


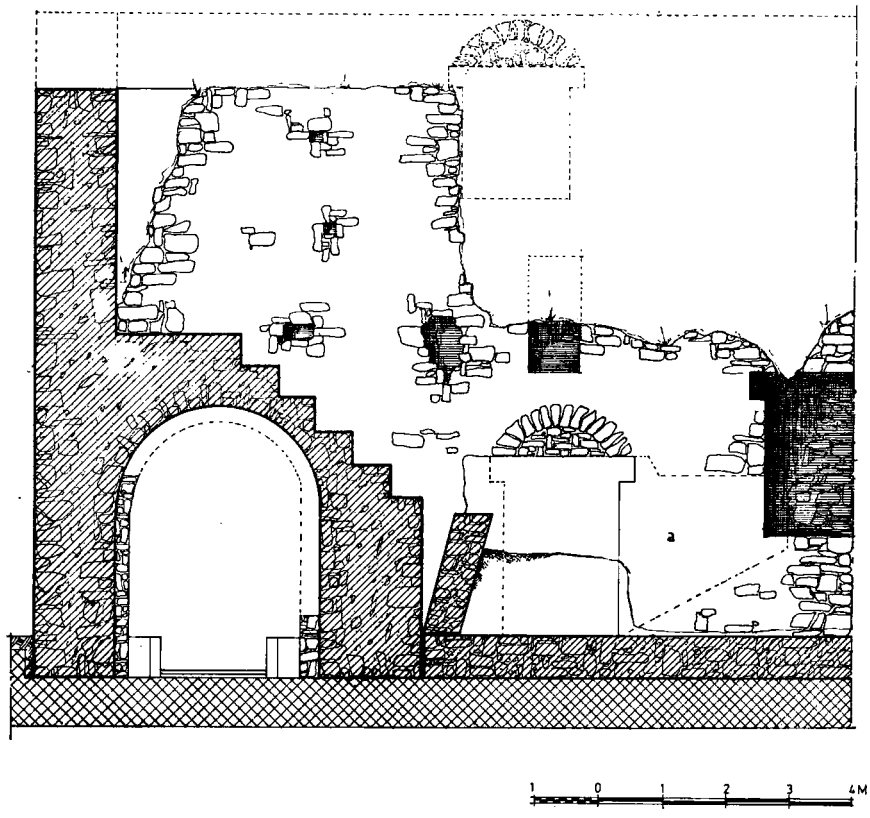
FİG 1. PLAN OF ANEMURIUM ODEON (II S D.)

Plânş 1



3 - EAST FRONTAGE OF ANEMURIUM ODEON

Plânş 2



Plânş 3

2 PLAN OF ODEON A_A' SECTION

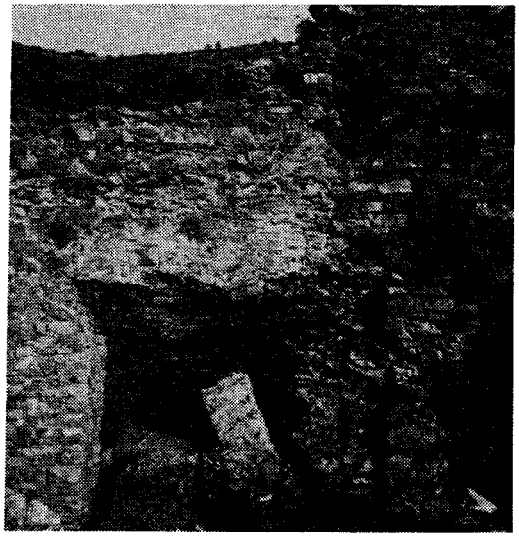


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

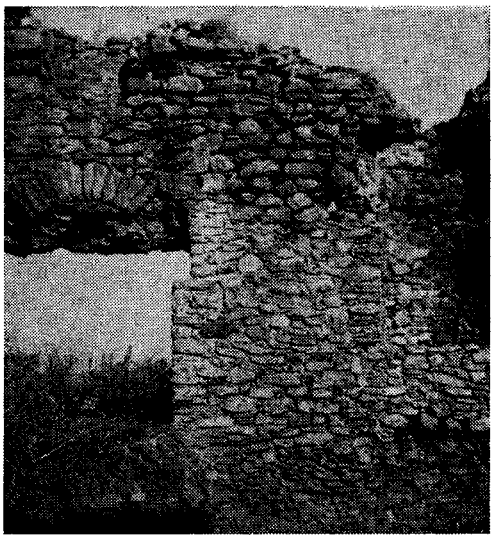


Fig. 3

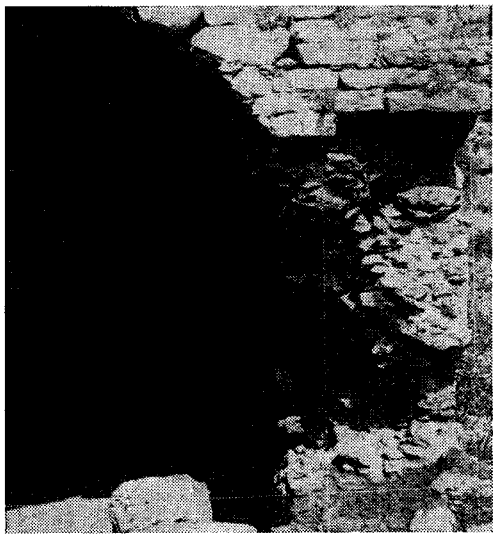


Fig. 4

Fig. 5

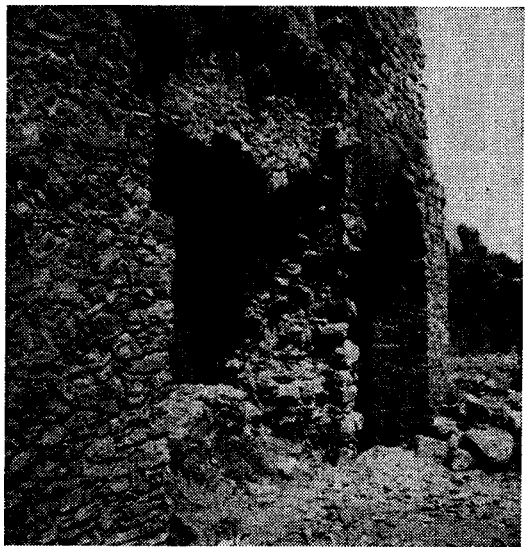


Fig. 6