



## THE FRIENDS OF APHRODISIAS TRUST

10 November 2011

Dear Member,

It's November, so again time for the annual news from Aphrodisias, sent with my sincerest thanks for your support for the work of the British members of the Aphrodisias team. Thanks to you, we have once again contributed considerable funds both for work at Aphrodisias and to Aphrodisias-related work at Oxford.

This year's five-month season at Aphrodisias was again a good one, including a number of significant finds. You will, I hope, be able to come and hear all about it when the project's Director, Professor R.R.R. Smith, delivers the Trust's annual lecture at 6.30pm on 1 March 2012. The lecture will be at the Art Workers' Guild, in 6 Queen Square, Bloomsbury, rather than at the British Museum – 6 Queen Square is a fine early 18th century house with fascinating pictures and Arts & Crafts furniture. As usual, there will be a contribution from Trevor Proudfoot, Director of the Cliveden Conservation Workshop, who is central to the work to conserve the Hadrianic Baths (on which more below) to which we contribute significantly.

Last year I wrote of the importance of the multi-year excavation – begun in 2008 – of the city's main north-south thoroughfare, running from the Tetracylon to the Sebasteion. The north end of the avenue, which passes to the east of the Tetracylon, had already been exposed for about 50m in 1983–1986. The new excavations, aiming to improve visitor circulation, as well as providing detailed archaeological evidence for Aphrodisias's post-antique life and later occupation, began with four trenches immediately to the south.

Five new trenches were opened this year, two of which ran the width of the east stoa of the colonnade, where three elaborate bronze knob-like door ornaments were found. A third trench, investigating the full width of the west stoa, revealed a late fourth or early fifth century pilaster capital of a young putto or Eros (photo right) hunting a collapsing cloven-hooved animal, probably a deer, as well as animal bones, domestic pottery, glass mosaic tesserae and 237 small bronze coins. In the fourth trench, begun in 2010, the team found a seventh century hoard of 338 coins, covering a chronological range from Justinian to Heraclius, buried in a fabric bag.



Honorary President: His Excellency The Turkish Ambassador  
Chairman: Lady Daunt

Trustees: Mrs Cenan Camoğlu, Viscount Norwich, Sir Kevin Tebbit, Dr R.D. Wilkinson

Trust Secretary: Mrs Alev Karagülle

Director of The Aphrodisias Excavations: Professor R.R.R. Smith

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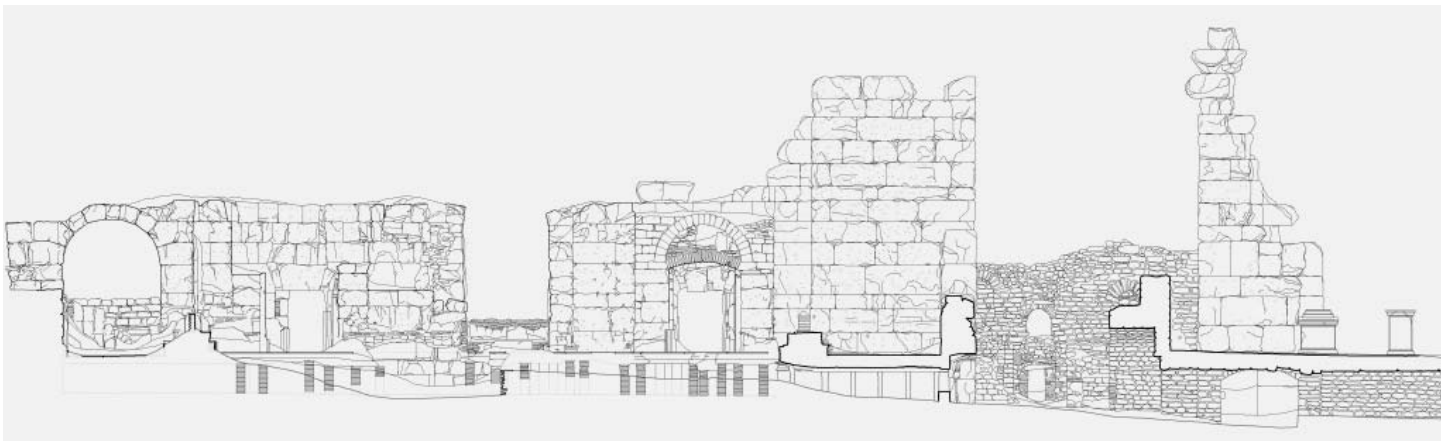
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The fifth was a new trench dug on the known line of the street close to the Propylon of the Sebasteion (photo left). An Ottoman period workshop – perhaps for the production of olive oil, wine, soap or *pekmez* – of five raised stone platforms with open terracotta vessels mounted inside them was found in situ, together with a large quantity of charcoal. Below the modern and Ottoman road layers, an over-life-size male statue was found in debris of bricks and tiles (photo below). Of the early imperial period, well worked, both front and back, it probably came from the nearby Propylon of the Sebasteion.

Four years ago, Aphrodisias's Hadrianic Baths (east-west section and photo of rooms 6 and 7 after conservation in 2011 below), the most important Roman Bath complex in Asia Minor, were still choked in vegetation and in urgent need of repair and documentation. During 2008–2009, the forecourt of the baths adjacent to the North Agora was thoroughly cleaned to enable full recording of the positions of the great mass of blocks excavated as long ago as 1904–1905. Tetrastyle Court and adjacent chamber were then chosen as case areas for trying out the different kinds of conservation work needed for the rest of the building.



By the end of the 2009 season, the necessary techniques had been developed and the rear chamber's badly damaged late antique floor and the marble-lined pool in the centre of the Tetrastyle Court both repaired. A cast, financed by us, of the colossal torso of a god – perhaps Achilles – discovered there in 1967 and displayed in the museum, was given pride of place on its original base beside the pool.

2010 saw the first season of the World Monuments Fund-financed six-year project which depends on 'matching funds from non-US sources'. Your generosity enabled us to contribute a substantial amount towards the sum needed to make the project viable. Progress was made both on the black and white floors behind the Tetrastyle Court and on the adjoining late-antique pavement floor composed of re-used wall revetment which at some unspecified time was spectacularly shattered by the falling in of the stone roof.

This season focused on structural repair of those walls and vaults in danger of collapse. The two Austrian architects who lectured to us at the Turkish Embassy in 2009 coordinated the repairs, to which the Cliveden team made a major contribution. Their work, largely carried out by their local Turkish workmen who have over the years become highly skilled, has stabilized and conserved the first of the six great rooms, to which public access will now be possible.

Detailed archaeological documentation was begun in order to integrate archaeological evidence with the detailed epigraphic evidence already held for late antique restorations of the baths by local benefactors. Professor Andrew Wilson, Director of the Institute of Archaeology at Oxford, joined the team for the first time, studying the systems of water supply, drainage and bathing technology, as well as the extensive subterranean service corridors. His expertise has already established that the Baths were even more extensive than was known hitherto.

Progress during this year's season was by no means confined to excavation in the Tetrasyon Street and work on the Hadrianic Baths. Trenches were dug in the North Agora and in the area between the Temple and the Stadium; a new programme of geophysical survey, begun in 2010, went ahead; documentation in the Civil Basilica and the Stadium continued; important repair and conservation of the raised stage of the Theatre was started; architectural, as well as archaeological documentation went on; so did work on further major publications. Bert Smith will say more about all this on the first of March.



*Anastylosis work on the third storey of the Sebasteion's South building (left) and on the northern half of the Theatre's Doric logeion or raised stage (right). In the 1980s important errors were made in the positions of the columns on the stylobate, architraves and cornice blocks. This season, with the aim to repair and correct, it was dismantled, the araldite fixings and rusting ferrous steel dowels removed before being replaced by lighter stainless steel armatures and repositioned*



*The Aphrodite pediment (left) was installed in the Museum in 2011*

### **Friends' events**

On 27 January 2011 Bert Smith most generously invited a party of Friends to lunch with him in Lincoln College Oxford, followed by a private tour of the Ashmolean Museum's renovated Cast Gallery. As keeper of the Cast Gallery, there is no-one better qualified to bring this exciting gallery alive than Bert himself. It was a great treat.

Some of us were lucky enough to visit the Museum of the Order of St John with Dr Alan Borg on 9 February 2011. We were introduced to the recently renovated museum which houses important collections of art and artefacts accumulated since the Knights settled in Clerkenwell around 1140. We are once again extremely grateful to Dr Borg.

The Annual Lecture on 3 March 2011 was a sell-out. We are grateful to the Learning and Audiences Department at the British Museum for being our hosts; although it's time for a change and Queen Square is an exciting prospect, we will miss the 'joint event'.

The Friends' Events for 2012, which have yet to be finalised, will, I hope, be equally rewarding.


The 18th Kenan Erim Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Professor Smith in the Art Workers' Guild, 6 Queen Square, London WC1N 3AT at 6.30pm on Thursday 1 March 2012. Please put it firmly in your 2012 diary. Every paid-up Friend is entitled to one ticket for the lecture: as the Art Workers' Guild accommodates only 100, *please* say if you want yours.

Other events for 2012 will be notified by the New Year.

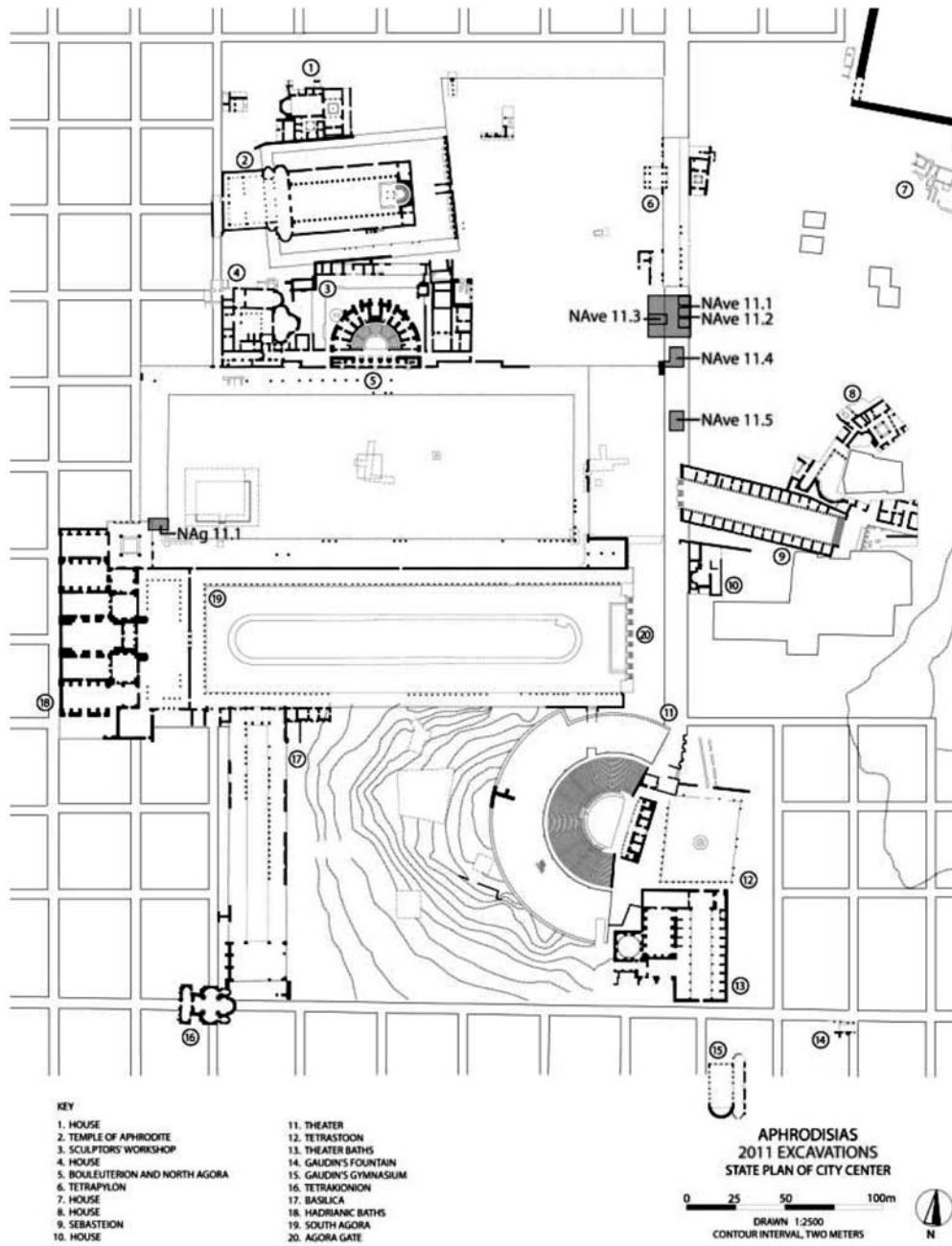
The Trust has a new Trustee. Dr Richard Wilkinson, who worked at Aphrodisias under Professor Erim during the 1960s, served in the British Embassy in Turkey, was Ambassador in Chile and taught at Winchester College after he retired from the Diplomatic Service, has kindly agreed to join us. Dick has rashly offered to lead a trip for Trust members to Aphrodisias (probably plus Ephesus and/or Sardis) next year should there be sufficient interest in joining him. If this is something you might want to do, please let me know, so that we can make proposals.

As usual, a very big thank you goes to Bert Smith and Trevor Proudfoot for their continued close involvement with the Friends; to Gina Coulthard for her indispensable administrative assistance throughout the year; and to all of you who have supported the Trust so generously, not least enabling us to make a valuable contribution towards the projects in the Hadrianic Baths and towards the publication of the reliefs from the Sebasteion by Bert Smith; and the late antique statuary of the site by Julia Lenaghan and Bert Smith.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Daunt". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned centrally below the typed name.

Patricia Daunt



*City centre plan showing position of North Agora and Tetrapylon Street trenches (NAve and NAg 2011)*