



THE FRIENDS
OF APHRODISIAS
TRUST

25 October 2013

Dear Member,

As with every newsletter for the last twenty years, this one is sent with **sincerest** thanks for your unfailing loyalty to the Trust, which would not exist without your support.

Last year only a few of you received your newsletter by e-mail. This year I am hoping that everyone familiar with paperless formulas will find the method as easy to read and respond to as yesteryear's hard copy. If the attached 2014 membership forms, which all Friends should **please** complete and return either electronically or by mailing, reach me safe and sound, I will know that the Trust has successfully moved into the 21st century.

Another sign of modern times is that the Trust now has a website: www.aprodisias.org.uk. I am enormously grateful to Gordon Robinson and to Craig Encer for setting it up. The website, which already has over ten visitors a day (best day so far 39) has sections for both the casual visitor and for you, the Friends. Please have a look: if you have suggestions for improvement or contributions, whether written or photographic, please send them to Gordon, who can be contacted through the website.



2013 projects

This year's Aphrodisias season concentrated on four major projects in addition to the usual important work on research and publication (note the book launch to which you are invited on Wednesday 4 December – see below): conservation in the Hadrianic Baths, *anastylosis* in the Julio-Claudian Sebasteion, excavation of the South Agora and Pool, and excavation in the Tetrasyon Street.

Hadrianic Baths: Rooms 5–6 (in background) and 12–13 (in foreground), after conservation in 2013

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Trust Secretary: Mrs Alev Karagülle

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

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Hadrianic Baths

Funded by the World Monuments Fund and ourselves, the Hadrianic Baths project is now in its fourth year. Trevor Proudfoot (Clivedon Conservation) and his team of local craftsmen are closely involved, as they are also in work on the Sebasteion. Bit by bit the chaotic and unstable ruin is being cleared of rubble, stabilised and consolidated. This year conservation work was focused mainly on three of the twelve rooms: visitors now have some access and can start to appreciate the splendor of one of the finest Roman bathhouses in all Asia.

Sebasteion

By the end of the season, the re-erection of the Sebasteion's spectacular three-storeyed South Building was all but complete: a cast of the Claudius and Agrippina relief from the Corinthian storey of Room 1 was fixed into its position, missing columns, capitals and architrave-frieze blocks copied and installed within the façade, cracks and gaps filled with mortars and all copied reliefs and architectural parts toned to a light tan-brown. All that is left for next season is the placing of the final cornice layer.

Huge progress was also made on the west-facing Propylon which gives on to the Tetrapylon Street. The foundation of the whole structure was repaired and properly established. Blocks of the Ionic order were repaired and moulds and casts of existing pieces made to complete the missing parts. Work then started on re-erecting the columns of the first storey.



Propylon: re-erection of the first storey (left) and Trevor Proudfoot at work on the last day of the season (above)

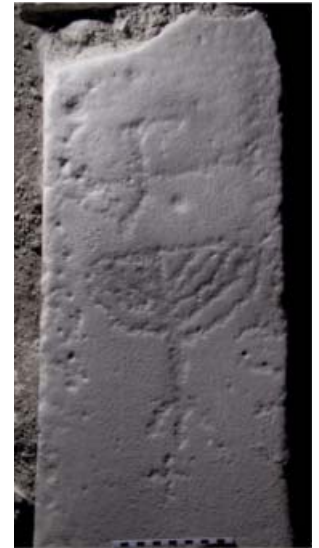
The South Agora and Pool and Tetrapylon Street

These two projects are of great importance for the organisation and accessibility of the site. They are designed to create a visitor's route through the city centre as well as help solve the problem of its rising ground water. A five-year project will complete the excavation of the South Agora Pool, started by Kenan Erim in the 1980s. A major contribution to this year's funding was made via us by the Headley Trust.

Trenches were dug at both ends of the central area which was left unexcavated in the 1980s. Both revealed complex structures and, in the East trench, a wealth of inscribed graffiti, game boards, slogan and symbols. The two trenches confirmed and added detail to the broad phasing of the Pool: construction in the first century AD with surrounding palm grove; major renovation in the fifth century; slow sedimentation after the seventh century; major collapse of the colonnade before the eleventh century; then medieval and Ottoman structures built on top of the long-forgotten pool.



Grey marble frog-fountain, found in the South Agora in 1986



South Agora Pool: general view (above), graffiti (above right) and fountain spout in the form of ship's prow (right)

Some of the sculpture which formed part of the original decoration of the pool was identified – a statue of a boy on a dolphin in fine white marble probably flanked the central inlet; a channel block carved in the form of a ship's prow probably formed the main inlet of the pool at the East end.

The way should now be clear, starting next season, to solve the remaining puzzles, notably over the way water was managed and the nature and extent of the surrounding palm grove.

Good progress was made on the Tetracylon Street, with no less than four trenches being dug. Much modern material above the level of the seventh-century collapse was recorded and removed, yielding information on Aphrodisias in Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman times. An important statue base and sarcophagus fragments were recovered. Intriguing work was done analysing the contents of a blocked down-pipe of a latrine in an apartment built over the street colonnade: a strong similarity with 'latrine assemblages' in first-century Herculaneum was noted!

Friends' Events 2013

On Thursday 28 February the nineteenth Annual Lecture followed the Trust's AGM in the Art Workers' Guild, 6 Queen Square, Bloomsbury. We were as grateful to Mrs Elspeth Dennison, the Guild Steward, for her warm welcome as we are to her for agreeing to our holding next year's lecture in this beautiful building on **Wednesday 5 March**.

On 12 March Professor Christopher Miles and Professor George Janossy put on a splendid show, shared with the Anglo-Turkish Society, in the Yunus Emre Cultural Centre on Malet Street. Christopher's iconic film on Aphrodisias in 1985 was shown alongside George's video of the 2012 visit to the site by a party of Friends. Suzy Miles's charming prints and lithographs of Aphrodisias which she had executed during the 1980s were on sale and proceeds were generously donated to the Trust.



Tetrapylon Street: views from the south

On 10 April 23 Friends enjoyed a private guided tour of Painshill, the finest remaining example of an eighteenth-century landscaped park enriched by the on-going restorations of its follies. We are most grateful to Michael Gove, Painshill's Chief Executive Officer, and his welcoming staff for making this a memorable spring day in Cobham.

Friends' Events 2014

The Annual Lecture will be held in the Art Workers' Guild on **Wednesday 5 March 2014 at 6.30pm**. Please put it firmly in your 2014 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. 'Extras' can be accommodated if there is room.

Details of other events for 2014 will be issued in the New Year. Meanwhile I do hope you are able to attend the launch of Bert Smith's splendid tome on the Sebasteion sculptures on **Wednesday 4 December 2013**. Your invitation to this, together with 2014 membership application form, gift aid declaration and annual lecture response form are attached. **Please respond!**

Again, a big thank you to Bert Smith and Trevor Proudfoot for their continued close involvement with the Friends, as to Gina Coulthard and Claire McCafferty for their indispensable administrative assistance throughout the year. My gratitude to Gina is immeasurable. Without her genius, these newsletters over the years could never have been put together. Thank you too 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 South Agora, Hadrianic Baths and Tetrapylon Street. See you, I hope, on Wednesday 4 December in the Marylebone Branch of Daunt Books at 6.30pm, as well as (of course) at the Twentieth Kenan Erim Memorial Lecture on 5 March 2014.

Patricia Daunt

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