



THE FRIENDS
OF APHRODISIAS
TRUST

25 October 2014

Dear Member,

This has been another crucial year when conservation work by the British members of the archaeological team at Aphrodisias went forward entirely thanks to the Trust's contribution: *'without which not'*. Their and my sincerest thanks to you all for the loyal support and generosity which made this possible.

The opening to the three-month 2014 Aphrodisias season was delayed but it didn't appear to hamper the seventy local workers and the sixty archaeologists, architects, conservators, epigraphists and numismatists from making solid progress. Not only were there interesting new discoveries, from lewd graffiti to beautiful Byzantine lead seals, but also considerable advances on four major projects. Full justice to the achievements of the year will be done when we return to the Art Workers' Guild in Queen Square, Bloomsbury, at 6.30pm on **Wednesday 25 February 2015** to hear the Director, Professor R.R.R. Smith, deliver the 21st Kenan Erim Memorial Lecture. As usual there will be a contribution from Trevor Proudfoot, Director of Cliveden Conservation Workshop. I do hope you can come.

Conservation in the Hadrianic Baths



Painstaking work on the sensitive marble covering of the circular pool in Room 12 of the Hadrianic Baths; the floor, walls and hypocausts are now fully restored.

Honorary President: His Excellency The Turkish Ambassador

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

Trust Secretary: Mrs Alev Karagülle

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

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Trevor Proudfoot and his conservation team are justly proud of the results of the 2014 season. Funded by the World Monuments Fund and ourselves, this was the fifth year of a major campaign to arrest the decay of this sophisticated installation considered the finest Roman bathing complex in Asia Minor. The aim is to stabilise, conserve and partially restore its remains, so that it can be opened for tourists as a kind of open-air Museum for the Art and Culture of Ancient Bathing. Work this season focused on two of the fourteen rooms and, on 30 September, four of them were opened to the public for the first time, with three large panels providing information on the Baths' history.



Conserving the sloping collapse of Room 5's marble floor and hypocausts.

Anastylosis of the Sebasteion Propylon

With re-erection of the Sebasteion's spectacular three-storeyed South Building virtually completed, attention shifted to the Sebasteion's west-facing Propylon, which gives on to the Tetrapylon Street. With the foundation of the whole structure properly established and blocks repaired and moulds of existing pieces made to complete the missing parts, the re-erection of the first-storey columns over the northern part of the foundation took place in September.



Repairing columns and piers of the Sebasteion Propylon in the conservation workshop.



The Sebasteion Propylon during the 2014 season: anastylosis of its Ionic columns and architrave friezes.

Excavation of the South Agora and Tetrapylon Street

These two substantial projects, involving the painstaking excavation of tons of spoil, are of outstanding interest for the later history of Aphrodisias, from the Roman to the Ottoman period, as well as of great importance for the organisation and accessibility of the site. They are (incidentally) designed to create a visitor's route through the city centre as well as help solve the problem of its rising ground water.

2014 was the second of an ambitious five-year project sponsored by Mica and Ahmet Ertegun to complete the excavation of the **South Agora Pool**, started by Kenan Erim in the 1980s. This season, apart from documenting standing and re-erected architecture, concentrated on a large trench laid out across an area measuring 52.59m east-west and 37.27m north-south. Its aim was to investigate sections of the Pool as well as the north stoa ('Portico of Tiberius' beneath the Theatre wall) and the central doorway between the North and South Agoras. About 1,000m³ of topsoil were removed. Excavation revealed construction deposits of the imperial period thought to be related to the rebuilding operations undertaken on the Agora Gate by Ampelios and Dulcitus. Rich graffiti and fragments of an inscribed epitaph and an inscribed acclamation or epigram came to light this year.



During the winter water was pumped from the South Agora Pool to make ready for the 2014 trench.



It was slow work clearing damaged and truncated surfaces in the South Agora in preparation for excavation next year.

Excavation in the **Tetrapylon Street**, now in its seventh year, continued to provide invaluable detailed archaeological evidence of Aphrodisias's post-antique life and later occupation.

A single trench dug 2m north of the Sebasteion's North Building to the width of the street itself, removing an excavated Ottoman layer, exposed a series of channels. Within a concrete-like layer, hundreds of tenth- and eleventh-century thumbnail-sized glass fragments, glass slag, jewellery and large cups were found, with two lead seals with obverse images of Christ, corroborating a mid-Byzantine date. In all likelihood, the compartment walls and channels formed part of a large industrial zone whose primary production was glass made from Roman and late antique cullet. Excavation also showed that this Byzantine workshop was preceded by earlier walls set directly into the burnt destruction debris of the late Roman colonnade.



The three winged marble thrones of the South Agora, excavated earlier from the foundations of the stoa's north wall, were reassessed to establish their context.



The tall masonry structure on the western side of Tetracylon Street is now repaired and reunited with its inscribed base for Myon Eusebes, found in 2013. A copy of the himation statues – found nearby in 2011 – will be placed on the base next season.

Tetracylon Street showing the single large trench dug 2m north of the Sebasteion's North Building to the width of the street.



A fragmentary late antique glass stem cup (left); a ninth/tenth century lead seal with an image of Christ (right) joins a series of twenty already known from Aphrodisias.

Documentation

The usual (and indispensable) research and documentation continued: one by-product of work in the depot was the identification by Hikmet Apaydin of a missing bull's head from the composite pier capital from the Civil Basilica's South Hall; it was reattached to the pier.



Composite pier capital from the South Hall of the Civil Basilica with newly-identified and restored bull's head from the depot.

The Friends

Our Trust has a new President. His Excellency Abdurrahman Bilgiç, the new Turkish Ambassador, has kindly agreed to assume the office which his predecessors have held over the past 21 years. We are grateful for the support which each has given us. Abdurrahman Bey writes that he will do his best to attend the lecture on 25 February.

The good news is that circulation by e-mail is proving a success, not only cutting costs, but giving Friends a chance to respond on-line. The bad news is that, ever since the Friends Trust was established in its present form in 1992, membership dues have remained £20. The Bank of England calculator tells me that the 2013 equivalent is £36.11. If the Trust is to continue its vital support of the British team working at Aphrodisias, it means a begging bowl for donations or a 'top up' of the annual subscription. I am hoping I am not pushing my luck by increasing membership from £20 to £35 per annum!

Friends' Events

On 4 December 2013 we launched Bert Smith's splendid tome *Aphrodisias VI: The Marble Reliefs from the Julio-Claudian Sebasteion* in the Marylebone Branch of Daunt Books. Drink in hand, we heard Bert 'in conversation' with fellow-scholar Julia Lenaghan. (The purpose and focus of the book is a complete documentation and understanding of the eighty-odd reliefs in their local context and in their monumental setting.) This great achievement is crafted in prose and illustration that allows the layman, as much as the scholar, to revel in the rediscovery of the miraculous marble panels.

The well attended Annual Lecture on 5 March was held a second time in the Art Workers' Guild, 6 Queen Square, Bloomsbury. Once again we are extremely grateful to Mrs Elspeth Denniston, the Guild Steward, for welcoming us so warmly and agreeing to our holding next year's lecture in this beautiful building. (The Art Workers' Guild itself is raising money through an Auction on 17 November. It is to bring 6 Queen Square up to scratch, the building being crucial to promoting excellence and craftsmanship. The flyer is attached. Auction details are available on-line at www.artworkersguild.org, with viewing at 6 Queen Square on the **16 and 17 November**. Further details from Monica@artworkersguild.org.)

We are enormously grateful to Dr Ian Jenkins, Senior Curator at the British Museum responsible for the ancient Greek collections. On Thursday 23 January, he took fifteen Friends on a hectic and unforgettable tour of the Museum's unrivalled collection of Lycian and Carian architecture and sculpture.

On Tuesday 25 February, another treat: an afternoon for fifteen Friends for which we were all hugely grateful! We visited the collection of Peter and Renate Nahum now installed in their fine Georgian house at 5 Bloomsbury Square.

In September, fellow-Trustee Dick Wilkinson lead a successful Friends' visit to southwestern Turkey. A party of nine, complete with guide and driver, visited eighteen major sites in nine days. At Aphrodisias they were delighted to stay in the hotel newly opened in Geyre village belonging to Mehmet of the Anatolia Restaurant. It has six double rooms set in a pretty garden complete with filtered pool. For details, please Google 'Anatolia Restaurant, Geyre'.

Friends' Events 2014/15

The Annual Lecture will be held in the Art Workers' Guild, 6 Queen's Square, London WC1N 3AT on **Wednesday 25 February 2015 at 6.30pm**. Please put it firmly in your 2015 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 the other events for 2015 will be issued by the New Year.

As usual, a big thank you goes to Bert Smith and Trevor Proudfoot for their continued close involvement with the Friends as well as to Ian Jenkins, Peter and Renate Nahum, Julia Lenaghan and, last but not least, to Gina Coulthard for her indispensable administrative assistance throughout the year as well as to all of you who have supported the Trust so generously, enabling us to make another vital contribution towards the projects in the Sebasteion and Hadrianic Baths.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Daunt". The signature is written in dark ink and is centered on the page.

Patricia Daunt