

APHRODISIAS 2014

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SEASON



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The New York University team carried out a three-month program of conservation and archaeological work at Aphrodisias this year (14 June to 26 August 2014). Conservation work continues for a fourth month, until 30 September. Our team consisted of seventy local workers and sixty archaeologists, architects, conservators, epigraphists, and numismatists, both senior staff and graduate students. The government representatives were Resul İbiş from Çorum Museum and Mustafa Kolağasıoğlu from Samsun Museum. We are as ever most grateful to the Ministry of Culture in Ankara for fundamental permissions for our work. There were four large field projects, in the Hadrianic Baths, the Sebasteion, the South Agora Pool, and the Tetrapylon Street, as well as research and publication projects.

1. CONSERVATION: HADRIANIC BATHS (Figs. 2-6)

The project in the Hadrianic Baths, begun in 2010, was pursued with conservation and restoration work on the fabric of the complex, supervised by Thomas Kaefer, Gerhard Paul, and Trevor Proudfoot. The project is funded by the World Monuments Fund, the Geyre Vakfı, and the Friends of Aphrodisias Trust in London. Detailed architectural documentation was at the same time continued by Arzu Öztürk and her team, and by PhD student Allyson McDavid (Fig. 2).

The main conservation work was focused in Rooms 5 and 12, where the floors, hypocausts, and walls were restored. In Room 12, the long painstaking work on the sensitive marble covering of the circular hot pool and its hypocausts was brought to a close (Figs. 3-4). In Room 5, the sloping collapse of the marble floor on the east side of the room was stabilised and conserved for presentation (Figs. 5-6). The hypocaust on the east and north walls was repaired. Structural repair was carried out on the west part of the north wall, and wall capping was undertaken on top of the wall between Rooms 5 and 6. Three large information panels (90 x 120 cm) are ready for installation in the arched south wall of Room 6. They describe ancient bathing, the architecture of the Hadrianic Baths, and the recent conservation work. At the end of the season, in September, four large, fully-restored chambers of the baths (the inter-connecting Rooms 6, 7, 13, and 14) will be open to the public.

2. ANASTYLOSIS: PROPYLON OF SEBASTEION (Figs. 7-11)

Physical anastylosis of the Propylon at the Sebasteion's west end was begun in 2012 and is supervised by Gerhard Paul and Thomas Kaefer. The project is funded by the J.M. Kaplan Fund. In 2013, work concentrated on the southern part of the building, in 2014 on the northern part. The projecting podia were repaired, reinforced, and prepared for the columns that stood on them (Fig. 8). The bases, drums, capitals, and architraves were conserved and repaired in order for them to function again as load-bearing members. Missing parts were restored in steel-reinforced artificial stone and then hand-carved (Figs. 9-11). Some elements that are missing entirely (some column drums and capitals) were also cast in reinforced artificial stone. The re-erecting of the first-storey columns over the northern part of the foundation will take place in September.

3. EXCAVATION: SOUTH AGORA AND TETRAPYLON STREET (Figs. 12-26)

Excavation concentrated on two projects: (a) the South Agora, directed by Andrew Wilson, and (b) the Tetrapylon Street, directed by Alexander Sokolicek. These two projects are connected parts of a larger vision for making the centre of Aphrodisias and its major monuments accessible – the monuments that have been restored by our team in recent years (Tetrapylon, Sebasteion, North Agora colonnades, and Hadrianic Baths). The two projects are

designed to create a new, enhanced visitor route through the centre of the site, and they are both of outstanding interest for the later history of Aphrodisias from the Roman to Ottoman periods. Generous sponsorship has come from Mica and Ahmet Erteğün, Baron Lorne Thyssen, the Headley Trust, the Malcolm Hewitt Wiener Foundation, and the Gilbert and Ildiko Butler Family Foundation.

South Agora and pool (Figs. 12-20). The east and west ends of the South Agora pool were excavated by Kenan Erim in the 1980s. After a detailed survey of the water system of the pool in the South Agora in 2011 and test trenches in 2012, a five-year project to complete the excavation of the pool and its surrounding basin construction was begun in 2013, funded in the name of Mica and Ahmet Erteğün. Water was pumped from the pool through the year, from October 2013 to May 2014, to keep it dry and clean, ready for renewed work this season.

Work in 2014 comprised the documentation of standing and re-erected architecture, large-scale area excavation of much of the eastern half of the pool, and more limited excavation and sondages in the space between the pool and the north portico. Excavation was conducted by Hazal Avcı, Paige Chandler, Allison Kidd, and Amanda Sharp, and directed by Andrew Wilson and Ben Russell.

S.Ag.14.1. The trench was laid out across nearly the entire area between last year's trench S.Ag.13.2 and a sondage of 1984 in the centre of the pool, leaving only a 10-m wide strip at the western end for crane access. The trench measured 52.59 m east-west and 37.27 m north-south, giving a surface of 1920 m² (Figs. 12-14). This was excavated to an average depth of a little over 0.5 m. About 1,000 m³ of earth were moved. Topsoil and the uppermost level of field soils were removed across the whole trench; this exposed three post-medieval walls in the southwest part and field walls covered with a layer of rubble. The rubble layer probably represents the collapsed upper parts of walls, consolidated by field clearance into a field boundary. Two fragmentary inscribed marble funerary epitaphs were found in topsoil, and an inscribed marble fragment of an acclamation or epigram was discovered built into a post-medieval wall in the southwest part of the trench.

S.Ag.14.2. The northern part of trench S.Ag.13.1 was extended 16.3 m to the east across the space between north stoa and the line of fallen cornice blocks where the 1985 excavations finished. Work was confined to cleaning the damaged and truncated surface of the ancient deposit which had raised the ground level in this area, in preparation for excavation next year (Fig. 15). Particular care was taken to remove all intrusions, including the fill of the ruts caused by modern vehicle passage.

S.Ag.14.3. A small sondage was dug across the north stoa ('Portico of Tiberius'), adjacent and to the north of Trench 14.2, extending from the southern stylobate to the central doorway between the North Agora and South Agora, to investigate the stoa's construction deposits and late antique repairs and renovations (Fig. 16). Excavation revealed construction deposits of the imperial period, cut by later intrusions: water pipe trenches in the south and centre of the trench, and a deep cut against the back (north) wall of the stoa. The late intrusions may suggest that a stretch of the back wall was reconstructed in late antiquity – perhaps in conjunction with the rebuilding operations undertaken on the Agora Gate by Ampelios and Dulcitus.

S.Ag.14.4. Immediately to the west of S.Ag.14.3, earlier excavations had uncovered three marble thrones, decorated with wings, and a fourth marble seat, set against the foundations of the north wall of the stoa, below the ancient floor level (Fig. 16). A small trench was re-opened around these thrones, to record their context and to establish their stratigraphic relationship to the stoa (Figs. 17-18). Excavation confirmed that they sit below the late antique floor level and below a course of rough stones projecting from the base of the ashlar wall. Their backs had been cut off to ensure they did not project above floor level. The seats thus seem to have been buried against the north wall of the stoa, perhaps in a late antique

(re-)construction trench for the north wall. They sit on a layer of clay which appears similar to that seen in the bottom of the (re)construction cut in S.Ag.14.3. A preliminary hypothesis is that the seats came from the Bouleuterion, perhaps at the time of its conversion into a *palaestra* by the same Ampelios who was active in the South Agora (ALA 43).

Documentation. A composite north-south section through the South Agora was drawn at 1:50, from the retaining wall of the Theatre, through the east end of the pool, to the north stoa (Emily Davidson and Lindsey Wong). The elevation of the theatre retaining wall was drawn at 1:50, from the southeast corner of the complex to the beginning of the vaulted substructures on the Theatre hill (Lindsay Wong). A state plan of the colonnade of the north stoa was drawn at 1:25; it includes gameboards, graffiti, and architectural and construction details (Emily Davidson). A detailed state plan of the basin in front of the Agora Gate was drawn by Harry Mark (Figs. 19-20).

Tetrapylon Street (Figs. 21-26). The Tetrapylon Street runs north-south from the Tetrapylon to the Sebasteion. Its excavation, begun in 2008, is designed to open this part of the street for visitors, and to bring new information about the history of the Byzantine, Seljuk, and Ottoman history of Aphrodisias. The project is funded by Baron Lorne Thyssen, the Headley Trust, the Malcolm Hewitt Wiener Foundation, and the Gilbert and Ildiko Butler Family Foundation. Excavation in 2014 continued immediately north of the Propylon of the Sebasteion, in one large trench (NAve 14.1). The trench encompassed the areas of previous trenches that did not reach the Roman-period paving of the Street. Excavation was conducted by Chelsea Blance, Doğuş Coşar, Hugh Jeffrey, and Alexandra Serman, and directed by Alexander Sokolicek.

NAve 14.1. The single large trench (NAve 14.1, 34 x 12 m) was placed 2 m north of the North Building of the Sebasteion and extended 34 m to the north and 12 m to the west (Fig. 21). It included part of the street colonnade and the full width of the street itself. The Geyre road that was exposed in the trenches NAve 13.2 and 13.3 was removed, except for a stretch in front of an *in situ* Roman door frame (found already in 2013, NAve 13.2). Beneath the Ottoman layers, belonging to a workshop with large, open pithoi (excavated in 2011, removed in 2013) were earlier Byzantine walls and channels that run partly underneath the workshop. The pottery finds now date construction of the Ottoman workshop to the early fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The workshop, built over the Byzantine walls, destroyed an area of c. 8 x 9 m. The Byzantine walls north of the Ottoman workshop were part of a long north-south structure, consisting of a sturdy wall made of spolia and smaller east-west 'compartment' walls. South of the Ottoman workshop a platform and a series of channels emerged.

The structures north and south of the Ottoman workshop were associated with a thick, hard, and concrete-like layer that contained hundreds of thumbnail-sized glass fragments of glass slag, glass jewellery, and larger glass cups. The small fragments are mostly parts of Roman and late antique glass vessels (mostly stem cups). The larger fragments (Fig. 22) have parallels in mid-Byzantine glass bowls and cups, securely dated to the tenth and eleventh centuries, from Amorium. The dating of this layer to the mid-Byzantine period is corroborated by finds of coins, with obverse images of Christ, from the ninth to eleventh centuries. In all likelihood, the compartment walls and the channels formed part of a large mid-Byzantine industrial zone whose primary production was glass made from Roman and late antique cullet. Two lead seals (Fig. 23) from the same layer are evidence of the importance of Byzantine Aphrodisias. They join a series of twenty mid-Byzantine lead seals already known from Aphrodisias: J. Nesbitt, *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 37 (1983), 159-64. Pottery analysis by Muradiye Ozaşkin also confirmed the dating of the post-antique structures.

The Byzantine workshop was preceded by earlier walls set directly into the burnt destruction debris of the colonnade. These walls may have been built to organize the area after the collapse of the colonnade. Finds from the destruction layer, especially the coins

(analyzed by A. Tolga Tek), indicate that the colonnade burnt down in a major conflagration not before the mid-seventh century AD. The last datable coin (C2009.206) is a 40-nummus piece of Constans II (AD 655-57). The removal of this seventh-century debris layer revealed the remains of the colonnade. Its south end was positioned c. 2 m from the North Building of the Sebasteion, leaving probably an east-west access alley running behind the Sebasteion here. (There was a similar alley on the Sebasteion's south side.) The removal of the destruction layer also revealed collapsed brick arches from the upper storey of the late antique colonnade, collapsed onto the Roman paving. Piers from the nearby North Building of the Sebasteion (collapsed in mid-fourth century) were found re-used here in the street colonnade.

Conservation. The tall masonry structure on the west side of the Tetrapylon Street was repaired and stabilised (Figs. 25-26). The inscribed base for Myon Eusebes, found in 2013, was restored to its original position in the central niche of this monument (Fig. 24). A copy of the himation statue found nearby in 2011 will be placed on the base in 2015.

4. RESEARCH & DOCUMENTATION (Figs. 27-36)

The goals of other research and documentation projects remain to record and study the finds and building complexes already uncovered in the excavations directed by Kenan Erim (1961-1990) and to pursue a better understanding of the sculpture, buildings, street plan, and urban development of Aphrodisias.

Architecture and surveying. Documentation and publication projects were pursued on the following complexes: the Hadrianic Baths (Arzu Öztürk, Allyson McDavid), Bouleuterion (Ursula Quatember), the Tetrapylon Street (Alexander Sokolicek), 'Gaudin's Fountain' (Esen Ögüş), the archaic temenos of Aphrodite (Kenan Eren), the Roman and Byzantine phases of the Temple of Aphrodite (James Coulton), the South Agora (Andrew Wilson and Benjamin Russell), the Stadium (Katherine Welch and Andrew Leung), and the Civil Basilica (Phil Stinson). A missing bull's head from the composite pier capital from the Basilica's South Hall was identified by Hikmet Apaydın in a depot and re-attached to the pier (Figs. 27-29). A 3D model of the terrain of the site was made from data collected by a remote-controlled drone (Alexey Gribovsky, Alexandre Habersaat, Christian Kurtze).

Sculpture and epigraphy. The study of different categories of marble sculpture discovered at the site during earlier excavations was pursued with database recording and photography of the objects in the depots. The main publication projects were on the following groups of material: Bouleuterion statues (Christopher Hallett), columnar sarcophagi (Esen Ögüş), and late antique statues and inscribed bases (Julia Lenaghan and Roland Smith). A further series of drawings of late antique bases and statues in context were made for this last project (Ulrike Outschar and Harry Mark), and further trial assemblies of different parts of bases were made at the Hadrianic Baths and at the Museum (Julia Lenaghan). Separate components of bases for Eupeithios and Rhodopaios from the Hadrianic Baths were assembled and tested (Figs. 30-31). New reconstruction drawings were made of the two Boxer statues from the Theatre (Fig. 32). New lightly engraved Christian XMG inscriptions were found on four late antique portrait heads in Museum Depot 1 (XMG was an abbreviation for 'Christ was born to Mary'). Several possible elements of the colossal three-metre female statue from the Basilica were identified in the depots (hand, hair, and head fragments).

The inscriptions and graffiti found in 2013 and 2014 were recorded by Angelos Chaniotis. Among the most important finds of 2014 are a grave altar found in the *praefurnium* of the Hadrianic Baths, recording public burial for a man called Atalos son of Atalos (I 14-10), and a new fragment of Diocletian's Currency Edict of 301 found in the west stoa of the South Agora (I 14-13) (Figs. 33-34).

Coins and ceramics. The initiative to catalogue all the excavation coins from recent years, begun in 2013, was pursued by Ahmet Tolga Tek. Work on Roman and Late Roman

ceramics was supervised by Ulrike Outschar, and the project on Seljuk and Ottoman ceramics begun in 2013 was continued by Muradiye Öztaşkın. Old pottery finds from the excavations of Kenan Erim were sorted and removed from the upper floor of the Eski Ev depot, to allow restoration of its roof (Fig. 36). The coins and small finds were conserved by Brian Castriota, Val Munday, and Bermet Nishanova with Federica Divita.

Seminars. Research results of senior team members were presented and discussed at weekly seminars, on the Sebasteion, sarcophagi, the Blue Horse, the Tetrapylon Street, the Bouleuterion, the Archive Wall in the Theatre, the South Agora, and the Temple of Aphrodite (Fig. 35).

STAFF 2014 (Fig. 37)

Archaeologists: Hazal Avcı, Chelsea Blance, Paige Chandler, Doğuş Coşar, James Coulton, Peter de Staebler, Kenan Eren, Christopher Hallett, Hugh Jeffery, Rebecca Kasmin, Allison Kidd, Julia Lenaghan, Andrew Leung, Durmuş Okten, Ulrike Outschar, Esen Ögüş, Muradiye Öztaşkın, Ursula Quatember, Christopher Ratté, Erica Rowan, Benjamin Russell, Roland Smith, Alexander Sokolicek, Alexandra Stermann, Philip Stinson, Katherine Welch, Andrew Wilson. *Anastylosis architects:* Thomas Kaefler, Gerhard Paul. *Architects:* Emily Davidson, Seth Dugger, Ömer Kıvanç Başak, İdil Malgil, Harry Mark, Allyson McDavid, Arzu Öztürk, Lindsay Wong. *Conservators:* Brian Castriota, Federica Divita, Valerie Munday, Bermet Nishanova. *Epigraphists:* Angelos Chaniotis, Takashi Fujii. *Marble conservators:* Nicholas Barnfield, Mark Lillwhite, Trevor Proudfoot, Joanna Skwiercz, James Wheeler. *Minors & interns:* Gordon Barad, Niamh McDonnell, Giovanni Placidi, Victor Smith, Allegra Wilson, Claudia Wilson. *Numismatist:* Ahmet Tolga Tek. *Photographer:* Ian Cartwright. *Static engineer:* Rudolph Spiel. *Surveyors:* Alexey Gribovsky, Alexandre Habersaat, Christian Kurtze.

SPONSORS 2014

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R. R.R. Smith, 10 September 2014

APHRODISIAS 2014: ILLUSTRATIONS

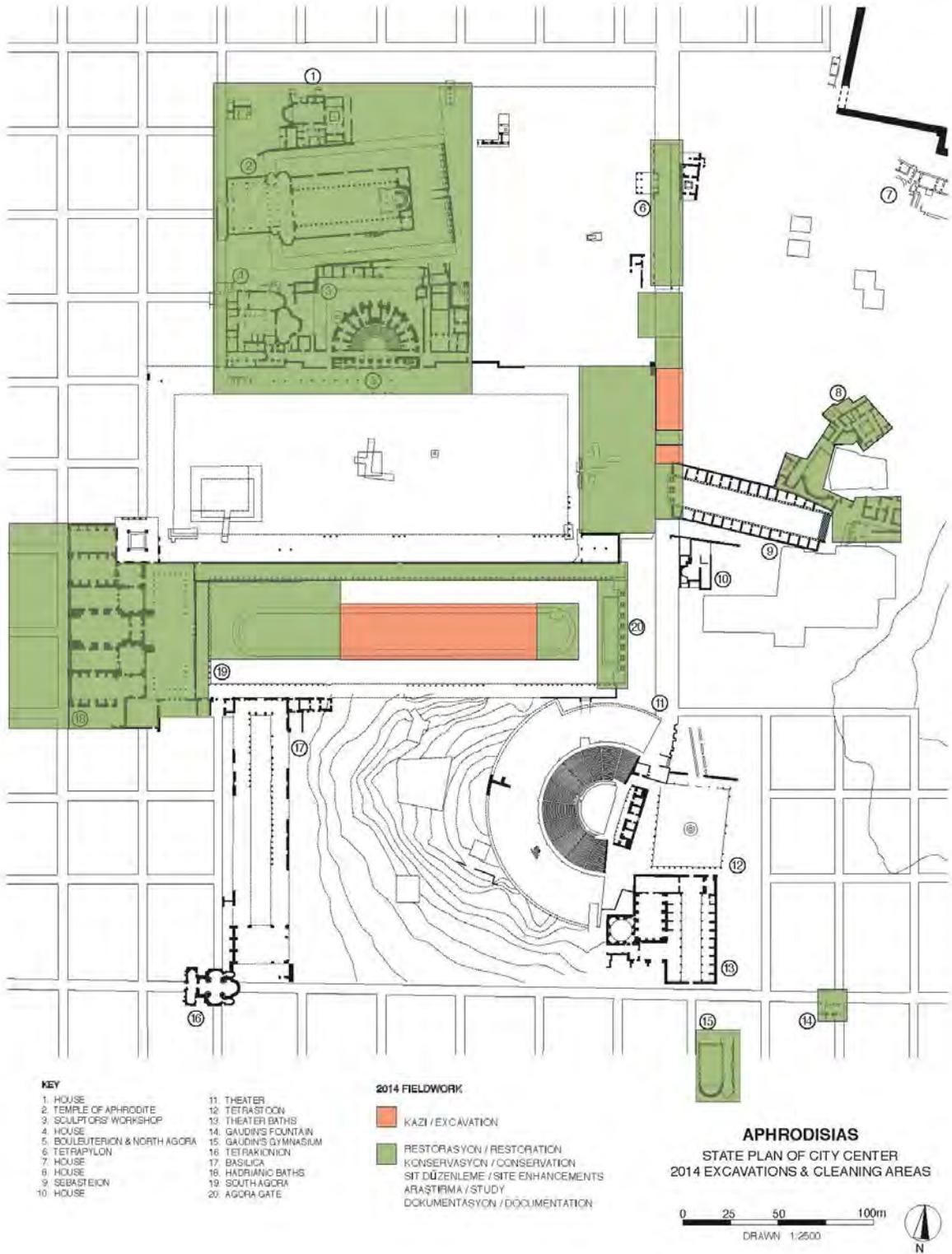


Fig. 1: Aphrodisias. City centre, state plan, with areas of work in 2014.



Fig. 2: Plan of Hadrianic Baths, with findspots of inscriptions (A.McDavid 2014)



Figs. 3-4: Hadrianic Baths, Room 12: work on shattered marble floor of circular hot pool (2014).



Figs. 5-6: Hadrianic Baths, Room 5, conservation of collapsing marble floor and hypocaust (2014).



Fig. 7: Sebasteion Propylon, anastylis, columns and architrave-friezes (2014).



Fig. 8: Sebasteion Propylon, securing foundation of northern aedicula (2014).



Figs. 9-11: Sebasteion Propylon, repairing columns and piers in conservation workshop (2014).



Fig. 12: South Agora and pool, Trench 14.1, from east (2014).



Fig. 13: Theatre hill, retaining wall, South Agora, and pool (2014).



Fig. 14: South Agora and pool, Trench 14.1, from northwest (2014).



Fig. 15: South Agora, Trench 14.2, between pool and north stoa, from west (2014).

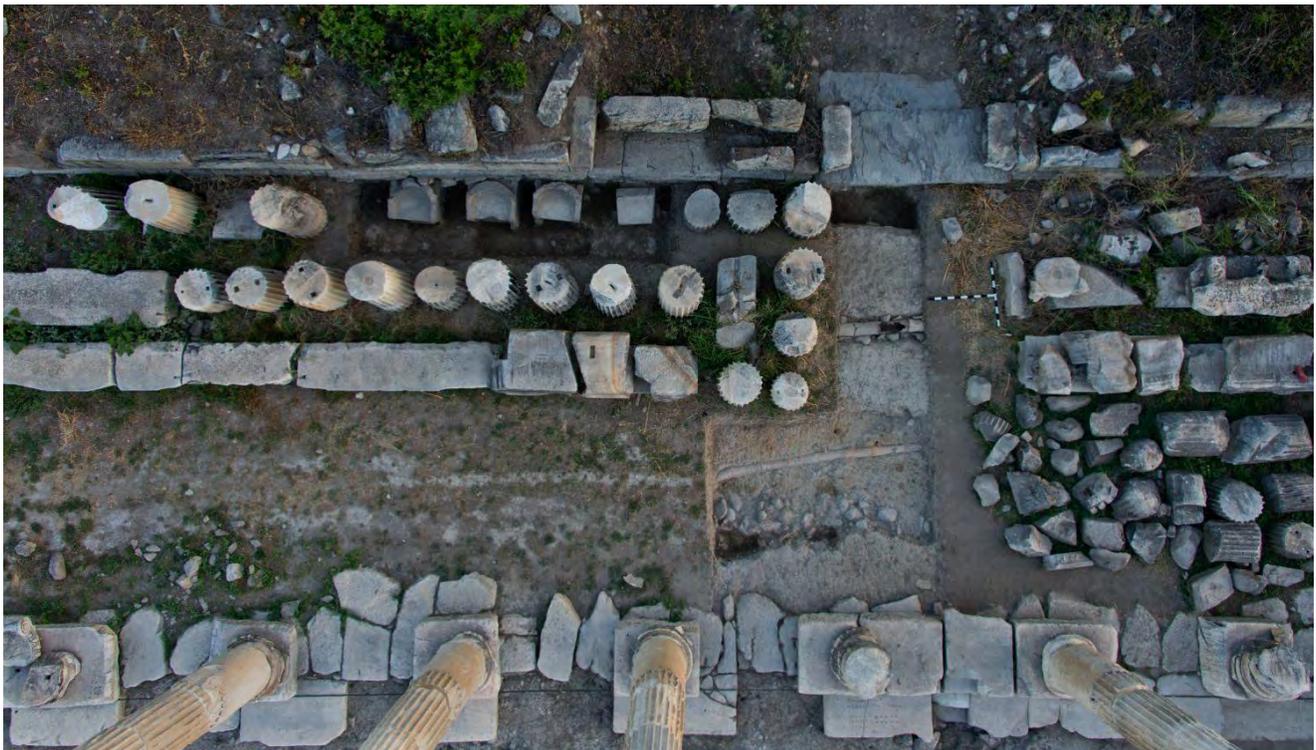
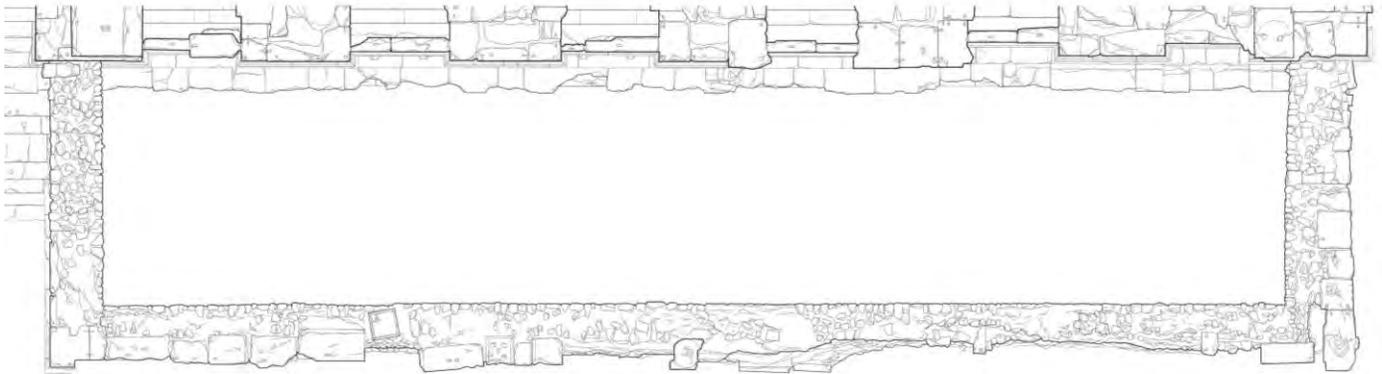


Fig. 16: South Agora, Trenches 14.3 and 14.4, across north stoa and against stoa back wall (2014).



Figs. 17-18: South Agora, Trench 14.4, thrones buried below floor level against stoa back wall, from west (2014).



APHRODISIAS
SOUTH AGORA
AGORA GATE BASIN, STATE PLAN



Figs. 19-20: South Agora, late antique basin in front of Agora Gate, aerial view and state plan (2014)

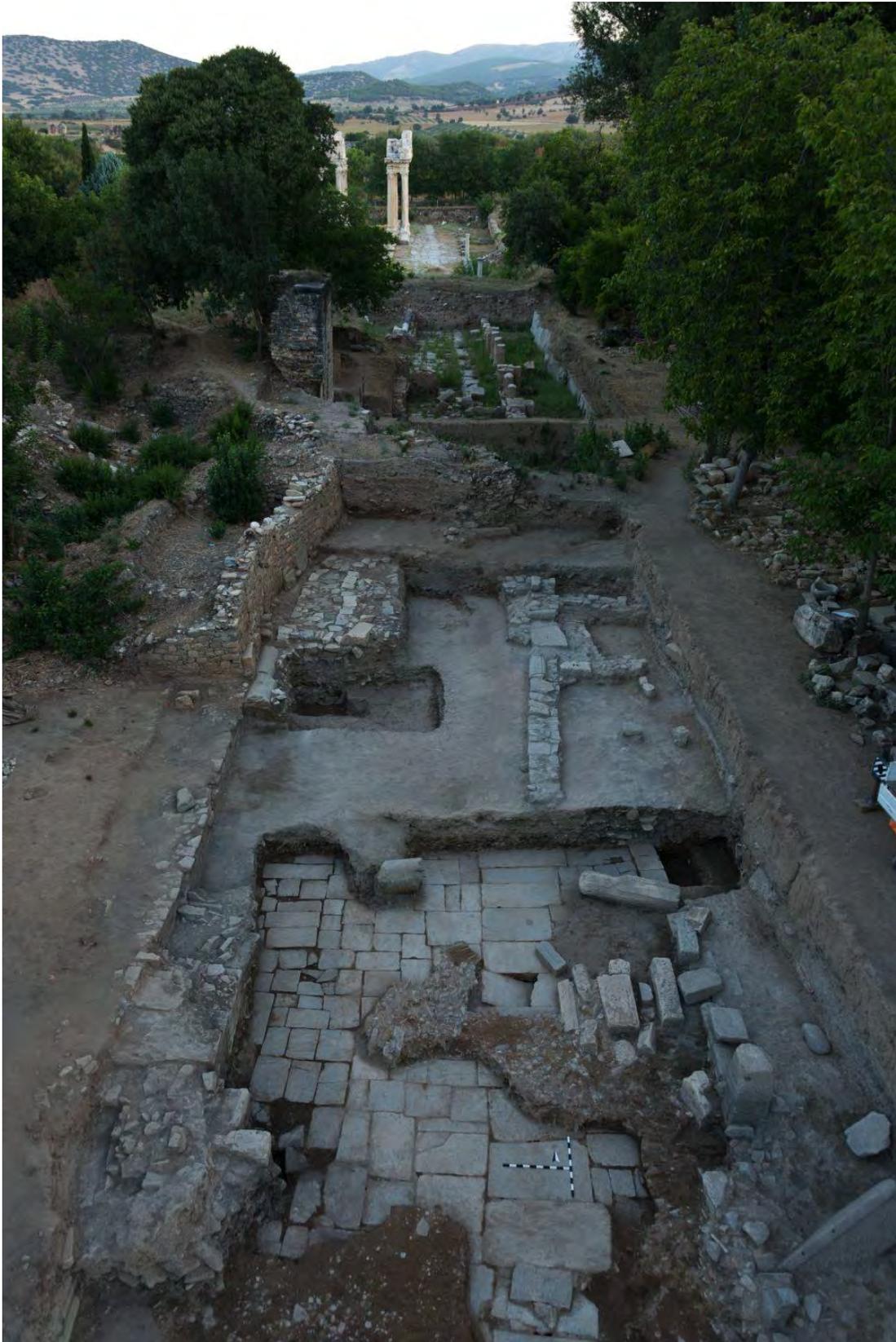


Fig. 21: Tetrpylon Street, view of excavation in Trench 14.1, from south (2014).



Fig. 22: Tetrpylon Street, fragmentary glass late antique stem cup from Trench 14.1 (2014).



Fig. 23: Tetrpylon Street, byzantine lead seal with image of Christ, from Trench 14.1 (2014).



Fig. 24: Tetracylon Street, masonry structure, with inscribed base for Myon Eusebes, found in 2013, fitted into niche (2014).



Figs. 25-26: Tetracylon Street, masonry structure with statue niche, before and after restoration (2014).



Fig. 27-29: Civil Basilica, composite pier capital from South Hall with newly identified and restored bull's head from depot (2014).



Fig. 30: Composite base made of re-used elements for statue of Eupeithios, fourth century AD, Hadrianic Baths (2014).



Figs. 31-32: LEFT, composite base for statue of Rhodopaios, sixth century AD, from Hadrianic Baths, and RIGHT reconstruction drawing of statue of champion boxer Piseas, fourth century AD, from south analemma wall of Theatre (2014).



Fig. 33: Inscribed grave altar for Atalos (I-14-10), first-second century AD, found in *praefurnium* of Hadrianic Baths (2014).

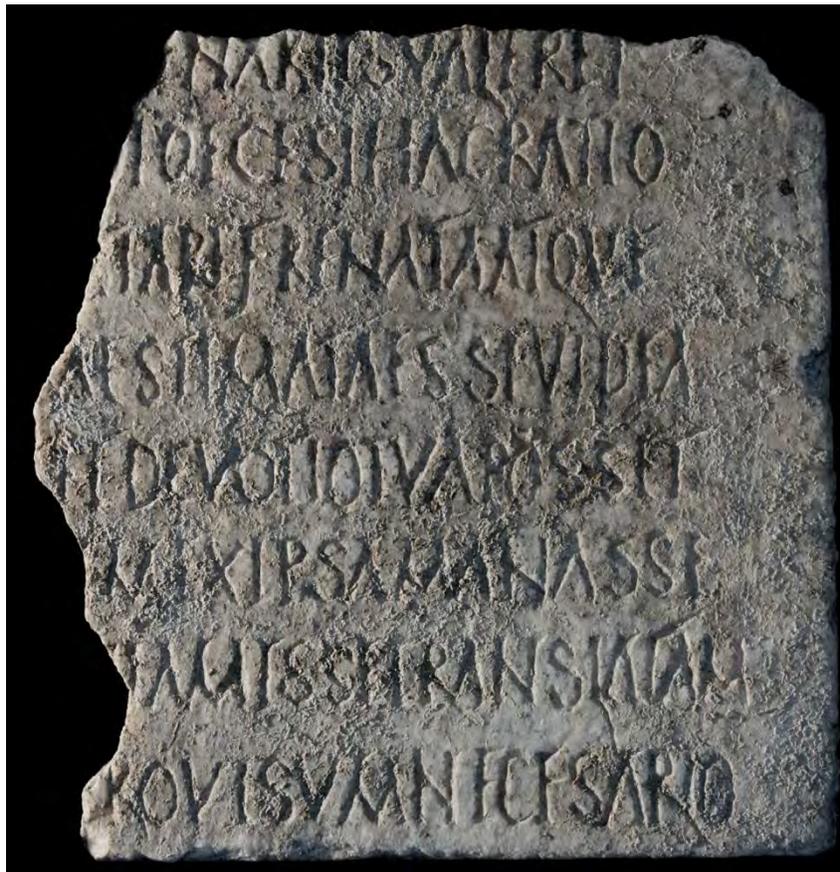


Fig. 34: Fragment of Diocletian's Currency Edict (I-14-13), of AD 301, found in west stoa of South Agora (2014).



Fig. 35: Seminar in South Agora, at Trench 14.3 (2014).



Fig. 36: Sorting of pottery finds of old excavations (1961-1990), from Old Village House depot (2014).



Fig. 37: Aphrodisias Team, 2014.