

EXCAVATIONS AT ANEMURIUM (ESKİ ANAMUR 1974)

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A season of restoration and conservation, planned to last for six weeks, was begun 14 July, 1974, with a labour force of twenty workmen. The work was directed by Professor James Russell, University of British Columbia, with Mr. Ian Bristow in charge of architectural restoration and Miss Pamela Pratt, Institute of Archaeology, University of London, in charge of the conservation programme¹.

The original intention was to restore and, where necessary, rebuild the vaults

and walls of four well-preserved tombs in the necropolis. It was also planned simultaneously to clean and conserve the painted decoration of the interiors of these tombs. Unfortunately, as a consequence of the emergency situation arising from the action on Cyprus, the season was terminated on 22 July. Nevertheless, despite this premature suspension, excellent progress was recorded in the one week of normal operations. A description of what was accomplished follows²:

¹ Other members of the staff included Miss Frances Halahan, conservation specialist, Miss Kathryn Walker and Mr. Brian Gilmour, both students at the Institute of Archaeology, London. Bay Yalçın Karalar, archaeologist and assistant at the Adana Regional Museum, once again represented the Eski Eserler ve Müzeler Gn. Müdürlüğü as temsilci. His patience and helpfulness, so much appreciated in previous seasons, were even more valued in the exceptional circumstances of the 1974 season.

Once again we acknowledge the debt of gratitude we owe first to the Republic of Turkey and in particular to the Eski Eserler ve Müzeler Gn. Müdürlüğü for graciously permitting us to continue our work at Anemurium; and second to the Canada Council for the trust it continues to place in us by providing the necessary funds. Of the numerous officials both Turkish and Canadian on whose kindness we rely so heavily we should mention especially the General Director of the Department of Antiquities, Bay Hikmet Gürçay, the Deputy Director, Bay Burhan

Tezcan and Director of Excavations, Bay Çetin Anlağan for their continuing sympathetic interest in our work; to the former Canadian Ambassador to Turkey, H. E. Mr. G. F. G. Hughes and the Charge d'Affaires, Mr. Len Edwards, for their conscientious efforts in our interest; and to the Kaymakam of Anamur, Bay Fahri Görgülü and the other local officials for their never-failing courtesy and concern for our well-being.

A. *Architectural Restoration of Tombs A IV 7a and A III 5*³.

At the commencement of the season, since none of the telltales set in the fissures of their walls in 1973 had recorded any movement, it was decided that operations should start on A IV 7a and A III 5. In the course of the week the vault of A IV 7a was cleared of its natural cover of earth and vegetation and the spaces between the stones of the vault completely cleaned out. The vault top was brushed with a slurry of equal parts lime and cement to ensure good adhesion of the pointing. In the course of the work it was necessary to remove traces of ancient mortar now in a defective state, but

² I am especially indebted to Mr. Bristow for the first section of this report and to Miss Pratt for the second.

³ These numbers refer to the original survey of the necropolis. For details of architecture, cf. E. Alföldi-Rosenbaum, *Anamur Necropolis* (Ankara, 1971), A IV 7 pp. 48-50, 142-144; A III 5 pp. 42-44, 135-136.

samples were retained and recorded. The excavation at the rear (west) of the painted chamber was enlarged and an ancient wall that was revealed cleaned off with the intention that it should be raised to act as a retaining wall. The floor of the upper part of the adjacent chamber to the southwest (A IV 7d) was partially cleared of debris that could potentially hold rain water and part of a mosaic floor was exposed.

The interior of A III 5 was also cleared to reveal a well-preserved mosaic floor in the northern part of the tomb. Its vault and that of the adjoining section were cleared in the same manner as the vault of A IV 7a, all loose and defective mortar being removed and samples again retained.

The necessary tools, sand, gravel, and lime had been obtained, and the slaking of lime was in progress at the time when the season was terminated. Crushing of brick fragments for incorporation in the setting coat had also commenced and the necessary decisions taken on mixes for the various renderings.

B. *The Conservation of Wall-Paintings in Tomb B I 16*⁴.

Since work of restoration was in progress on Tombs A IV 7a and A III 5, it was decided to start the cleaning and conservation programme in Tomb B I 16.

The intention was to remove water-insoluble salt incrustations and mould-growth from the surface, to consolidate the paint-layer where necessary, and to treat the paintings to prevent further mould-growth. Areas of plaster loss were to be infilled with a suitable lime-plaster mixture to strengthen the existing areas of painted plaster and to render the whole more aesthetically pleasing. Where the adhesion between the plaster and the wall support was weak, it had been

decided to inject a lime mortar-mix which preliminary tests had shown to be suitable.

Work was started on the removal of salt and mould deposits from the paintings on the walls and vault of the first chamber and from those on the walls of the alcove off the main chamber in Tomb B I 16. The thin sheetlike deposits of insoluble salts were removed from the paint-layer mechanically. Where the incrustations were heavy, cleaning was facilitated by the careful use of a dilute acid solution to remove the upper part of the deposit. The remaining thin layer immediately above the painted surface was then removed with mechanical tools and scalpels. The cleaned areas were washed, using water sprays. Compresses, made of cotton wool soaked in water, were applied to remove any traces of the acid and its by-products produced during the treatment.

Areas, approximately 1 metre square, on the main vault in the first chamber and on the alcove wall were successfully treated, thus exposing a well-preserved painted layer. Unfortunately, work had to be suspended when the treatment of other areas was only partially completed. It is to be hoped that the delay in finishing the treatment will not cause further deterioration to the paint-surface in these areas. The walls and ceilings of the main chamber and the alcove were sprayed with a one per cent phenyl solution of sodium orthophenyl phenate in water, a fungicide, in an attempt to prevent further mould-growth in the coming year.

C. *Matters of Archaeological Interest*:-

The 1974 season was in no sense an excavation season, but, as has been mentioned, mosaic floors were exposed in the course of clearing the tombs and their environs in preparation for restorations. In the chamber A IV 7d, situated to the southwest of the painted chamber A IV 7a, a polychrome mosaic floor was discovered at second floor level at

⁴ For reference numbers and plan, cf. Alföldi-Rosenbaum, pp. 79, 177-79, figs. 11-13.

a depth of 0.15 m. (fig. 1). Only about one half of the area was exposed to reveal a geometric border 0.17 m. in width, well-preserved only at the north-east corner. It was composed of an alternating series of bands in solid colour and stepped pyramids, and enclosed a band of cubes in varying hues. Within this lay the central panel, but only the letters AME of an inscription, followed by a fragment of a wreath, survive at its northeast corner.

in clearing surface earth from the painted chamber of Tomb **A 111 5** it was discovered that the north half of the chamber was paved in polychrome mosaic of geometric design, the southern half being occupied by the arcosolia or tomb benches. The mosaic, about three-quarters intact, consists of a central panel (2.00 m. x 1.20 m.) of six symmetrically arranged octagons in three rows of two, each producing the effect of interlocking 8 point stars. Within the octagons are concentric circles and a stepped diamond at the centre. This central panel is enclosed on three sides by a simple border design, varying in width, of plain bands and stepped pyramids; on the south it consists of a series of four complex circular patterns set against a dark blue ground. In several particulars this mosaic bears a close resemblance to motifs found in the mosaic pavements of the large baths/palaestra complex (**111 2 B**), excavated in previous years, which has been dated to the mid-third century after Christ. On this basis a similar date may reasonably be proposed for the mosaic of this tomb.

From an archaeological point of view also the painted surfaces cleaned in Tomb **B I 16** produced gratifying results. These paintings have of course been described previously in detail by Professor Alföldi-Rosenbaum⁵, but with the removal of the lime-deposits that previously obscured them the colours have emerged far fresher than was suspected (fig. 2). This is especially true of the male bust enclosed in a wreath medallion in the north-west corner of the vault of the anteroom. He is identified as Winter (**XEIMWN**) by an inscription and is the only well-preserved example of four Seasons originally painted in each corner of the vault. The chiaroscuro of the face and the details of the fabric of his dark green mantle are now remarkably clear. Similarly a striking improvement in the clarity of the cleaned portion of the enigmatic panel painted on the north wall of the semi-vault of the same chamber may be noticed.

One further interesting discovery made quite fortuitously in Tomb **A VIII 4** is worthy of note. This is a seven-line grave inscription found in two fragments, one in situ on the lintel of the side chamber of this tomb, the other discovered lying amongst fallen masonry next to the tomb. Though incomplete, the main gist of the document is clear. The first four lines list the various names of the family buried in the tomb, a woman and her husband's two brothers; while the last three lines are in verse and constitute a brief epitaph recording the husband's grief.

⁵ Alföldi-Rosenbaum, pp. 20-25, 80, 112-116, 179-180. For a striking impression of the success of the methods employed in cleaning, compare fig. 2 with the original condition of Winter as illustrated by Alföldi-Rosenbaum, pi. XXVII and coloured pi. IV.



Fig. 2A Anemurišum necropolis tom 7b AIV7Od, mosaic floor: A #()



Fig. 2B Anemurišum necropolis tom 7b BI 16Q fresco depicting head of Wintar, after cleaning. -: