

THE CORPUS OF MOSAIC PAVEMENTS IN TURKEY

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A proposal for a Corpus of Asia Minor Mosaic was presented at the 10th International Congress of Classical Archaeology in İzmir, September 1973. The purpose of this project is to record and document all the known mosaic pavements in Turkey, from the Hellenistic period to the end of the Justinianic period. We shall of course, respect all rights of primary publication. Our chief intention is to see that all of these floors are fully documented before any further loss occurs, and to collect all the available information in one or two locations where it can be of use to scholars who wish to utilize it. A preliminary survey was made in 1973 to provide a foundation for the project. Because of the size and scope of this undertaking it is of necessity an international venture. The chief participants at present are Austria, Canada, and Turkey. The balance of this report refers only to the Canadian segment of the project. This comprises the area of Cilicia and westward as far as Gaziantep.

Work in the 1974 season was impossible as the entire south coast region was allocated as a military zone during the Cyprus crisis. However, in 1975 work was resumed, with excellent results. The permit from the Department of Antiquities granted research in the areas of İçel - Anamur, Ermenek, Mut, Silifke, Gaziantep, An-

talya, Gazipaşa, Adana, Anawarza, Kadirli, Karlık, Ayaş - Yumurtalık. With the assistance of staff from the Adana Museum, I visited the following known mosaic sites: Karlık, Anawarza, Ayaş - Yumurtalık, Silifke, Mut, Dağ Pazarı, plus the Adana Museum itself. In some cases, i.e. Silifke and the Adana Museum, the mosaics were exposed and could be fully recorded. In others, i.e. Karlık, Anawarza, Ayaş - Yumurtalık, Dağ Pazarı, partial recording at least could be undertaken. In addition I was able to document two hitherto unknown mosaics, one at Cıvıklı, the other in a house in Feke, where the owner very kindly allowed us to inspect and photograph all the floors of his house.

At the site of Ayaş - Yumurtalık one previously known and insufficiently recorded mosaic has «disappeared». This example points out the urgency of the work we have undertaken. A second mosaic on this site was completely covered, but it has been well published already by the late Professor Michael Gough. However, four more unknown and unexcavated mosaic pavements were pointed out to me. These floors are uncovered in small patches and exposed to damage from people, animals and weather.

At Anawarza I was able to supplement the records on one of the two published mosaics there, while the se-

cond was completely covered. There are a number of other mosaic pavements on the site and these will be recorded by the Adana Museum staff who are conducting excavations there.

In Silifke there is one exposed mosaic in a house, already published² and a second which is covered. There is also an excavation site near Silifke where a large expanse of mosaic pavement has been uncovered and we hope that the director of this excavation will provide the necessary information on this area.

The 1975 excavation season at Eski Anamur uncovered four new mosaics and these have been duly catalogued, as have all the mosaics uncovered thus far at Afrodissos. (This site is, of course, not in the general geographical region for which we are responsible, but the present writer has been working there for the past three seasons.)

I visited the Gaziantep Museum primarily to assess the amount of work to be done there, and discussed the project with the director. There are in the Museum itself many panels of lif-

ted mosaic. There are also several mosaic sites in the region which are only partially excavated, often falling into the category of «chance finds.» In this area in particular, as well as any others previously mentioned, we are acutely conscious of the problems of security and preservation of these floors. If attention is drawn to them, then measures must also be taken to protect them. Thus an assessment of the necessary protective measures is an integral part of all the documenting procedures.

My thanks are extended to the Eski Eserler, in particular the director Hikmet Gürçay and Çetin Anlatan for their kind permission and assistance, and also to the staff of the Adana Museum, especially the director, Dr. O. Aytuğ Toşyürek, Yalcın Karalar, and other assistants there whose cheerful help and co-operation made our task much easier.

I thank also Prof. Kenan Erim, director of the excavation at Afrodissos, and Prof. James Russell, director of the excavation at Anamur, for their participation in this project.



