

PORT ON THE FIRST CAMPAIGN AT SARDIS, 1958

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The project known as "Archaeological Exploration of Sardis" began in the summer of 1958. The mission stayed at Sardis from June 10 to September 9. The actual excavation campaign took place from June 20 through August 30, with a labor force varying from 35 to ca. 100 workmen. Notable results were accomplished in the exploration of some major buildings of the Roman city and in the discovery of a complex of the Lydian period.

The Archaeological Exploration of Sardis is a joint undertaking of the Fogg Art Museum of Harvard University and Cornell University under the auspices of the American Schools of Oriental Research. The general purpose of this project is the exploration of Sardis from its beginnings as a human community in Pre-historic times through all subsequent periods of the urban development of the capital of Lydia. Financial means for the 1958 campaign were provided by Cornell University, the Fogg Museum of Harvard University, and the Bollingen Foundation of New York through a grant made to the American Schools of Oriental Research. Additional means were received from a group of interested persons known as the Supporters of Sardis. We are greatly indebted to President John D. Barrett of the Bollingen Foundation, President Deane Malott of Cornell University, to the President and Trustees of the American Schools of Oriental Research, and to Professor John P. Coolidge, Director of the Fogg Museum, for their helpful interest in the project.

We owe a profound debt of gratitude

to the Ministry of National Education of the Turkish Republic and to its Department of Antiquities and Museums, whose generous cooperation enabled us to initiate the project. Bay Kamil Su, Director General of Museums and Antiquities, has been unfailing in giving us the benefit of his help and encouragement. The Department was represented during the 1958 campaign at Sardis by Bay Kemal Ziya Polatkan, Director of the Manisa Museum, Commissioner, whose energy and experience were unstintingly placed at our disposal, and by Dr. Baki Ögün of the University of Ankara, as Assistant Commissioner, who also served as a member of the excavation staff and was always ready to help. The construction of an excavation house and museum was undertaken jointly by the Department of Antiquities and the Sardis Expedition. This structure has been now (H 59) completed. It will become the property of the Department of Antiquities and serve as a museum after the work of the expedition to Sardis has ended.

It is a pleasure to record here the interest shown in the Sardis project by His Excellency, the Vali of Manisa, by the Director of Education of the Vilayet of Manisa, Bay Ferit Çamoğlu, by the Kaymakam of Kaza Salihli, and by other representatives of the Turkish authorities. Their willingness to assist us enabled us to secure temporary quarters in the Primary School of Sart Mustafa and helped solve many other problems attendant upon housing of our staff and the start of our operation.

We should also like to thank the

Honorable Fletcher Warren, Ambassador of the United States to Turkey, Mr. John Gootyear, Counselor of the Embassy of the United States, Mr. Donald H. Shalman, Deputy American Consul in Izmir, and various members of the American community in Izmir for their help and advice.

The campaign of 1958 was directed by Professor George M. A. Hanfmann, Harvard University, as Field Director, and Dean A. Henry Detweiler, Cornell University, President of the American Schools of Oriental Research, as Field Advisor. Other regular members of the staff were: Professor Thomas H. Canfield, Cornell, and Professor Marion Dean Ross, University of Oregon, architects; Mr. Donald P. Hansen, Harvard, archaeologist; Mr. John Washeba, Harvard, conservator; Dean Sherman E. Johnson, The Church Divinity School of the Pacific, epigrapher and archaeologist; Mrs. Catherine S. Detweiler, numismatist; Mrs. Ilse Hanfmann, recorder. Mr. Güven Bakir was employed as draftsman.

The only previous major effort to excavate Sardis had been made by an American expedition organized by Howard Crosby Butler of Princeton University. This expedition worked from 1910 - 1914 and again, briefly, under T. L. Shear, likewise, of Princeton; in 1921-2. It accomplished the tremendous task of freeing the large marble temple of Artemis, which is located in the side valley of the Pactolus (Fig. 1). Butler and his colleagues also made a survey of the area of Sardis (but not of the Royal Cemetery of Bin Tepe), opened over a thousand graves, chiefly in the Pactolus valley, and did some work at the Royal Cemetery of Bin Tepe, about four miles north of Sardis (1).

The earlier expedition did not attempt the excavation of any of the ruins still

(1) Cf. H. C. Butler, *Sardis I*, *The Excavations 1910 - 1914* (Leyden, 1922). T. L. Shear, *American Journal of Archaeology* 26 (1922) 308 - 409, and 31 (1927) 19 - 25.

visible above ground at Sardis nor had it succeeded in ascertaining the location of the city of the Lydian period (2).

In our initial campaign we had decided to begin the recording of some of the major architectural complexes and to initiate, by soundings the quest for the Lydian strata.

In the side valley of the Pactolus, we undertook three soundings in the vicinity of the temple of Artemis (Fig. 1, 'S', 'L', and 'KG'). The first trench ('S'), marked 'Excavation' on the plan Fig. 2, was c. a. 15 meters long and 10 meters wide. It was started from Butler's "Hellenistic-Lydian" level of the precinct to the south of the Artemis temple and just south of the area previously sounded by Butler (cf. *Sardis* 1, 42 f., for the "Hellenistic-Lydian" level 2, and pp. 134 f., 145, for Butler's excavation south of the temple; also plan 111). Below the mixed surface level (I) we came upon a river bed with two major strata (II, 2.36 - 3.79 m.; III, 3.79 - 4.47 m.). Our levels were measured from Butler's datum line on the south pteroma of the Artemis temple. Underneath strata II and III was hardpan devoid of human artifacts (IV, 4.47 - 6.62 m.). Sherds found in the river bed ranged from the Geometric period through the sixth century B. C. A Lydian graffito (Fig. 3) and a terracotta die (dice, Fig. 4) were most notable finds.

The second trench (Fig. 1, 'L'), on the terrace above and to the south of the first, was expanded into an excavation of a Roman structure (Fig. 2, Building 'L'; plan by A. H. Detweiler) of which three rooms had been partially cleared by Butler (cf. *Sardis* 1, plan 111, lower left corner, on the 100 contour line). This building 'L'

(2) A sounding made in 1914 in a torrent bed northeast of the Temple of Artemis is said to have encountered Lydian walls as well as Lydian pottery, but it was interrupted by the outbreak of World War I and was never reported in detail. Cf. G.M.A. Hanfmann, *Studies D. M. Robinson* 1 (1951) 170 ff.

had at least seven rooms arranged in two parallel rows. Its maximum preserved dimensions are ca. 100 meters (west - east) by 18 meters (north - south). Soundings in depth along the north wall and within the rooms 'A' and 'C' revealed below the Homan floors a level of ashes and sherds (at a depth of 1.0 m in 'C' which seems to begin in the fifth century A.D.). Underneath, there was again a torrent bed (at ca. 1.50 - 4.60 m.) and hardpan. Thus the occupation of the southern part of the precinct of Artemis does not appear to have begun before the fifth century A.D. The results of our soundings throw doubt upon Butler's assumption that an archaic temple of the time of Croesus existed once in the area of the large Hellenistic temple.

The Roman building 'L' remained in use until the 14th century A.D. Burials at its disrupted southern end may belong to the Byzantine cemetery previously encountered by Butler. Cf. *Liaras* 1, pp. 141, 145. A secondary Byzantine occupation of some of the rooms during the twelfth and thirteenth century A.D. is attested by coins.

Our third sounding 'KG' on a flat-topped hill northeast of the Artemis precinct ("Kargirlik Tepe", marked 'KU' in Fig. 1) was a stepped trench, ca. 13 by 3.5 meters. A dozen of Roman graves were found, some built of bricks, others roughly put together of tiles (Fig. 5, plan and section by A. H. Detweiler; Fig. 6, photograph of graves 'G' and 'H'). The soil underneath cemetery was barren of any man-made remains. Grave goods were very scarce but a broken glass bottle (3) and the fragment of a Roman lamp found in grave 'H' seem to indicate a date in the second or third century A.D.

Simultaneously, we began the excavation of two large structures in the Hermus Plain. Building 'B' (cf. Fig. 1) is located

(3) it resembles the type discussed by O. Vessberg, "Roman Glass in Cyprus," *Opuscula Archaeologica* 7 (1952) 131 f., pl. 7: 11 - 12.

some 200 meters east of the modern bridge across the Pactolus. This structure which is more than 100 meters long consists of two apsidal halls and a central unit, all aligned on a north - south axis (Fig. 7, preliminary plan by T. H. Cianfield). Its construction features piers of masonry linked by strong walls of brick and rubble laid in horizontal courses (Figs. 8, 9). Its southern facade and about two thirds of the semicircular platform which follows the course of the south apse were excavated as well as the southern part of the long east wall. A well-made floor, originally covered with marble slabs, was reached in a pit at the northern end of the excavation within the building.

In the center of the semicircular platform of the south apse were found the remains of an inscription base for a statue of the Roman Emperor Lucius Verus (CIL - I, 10 A. 111, 11, 1 J. The dedicant, Caius Annius Lepidus, "from the beginning took care of the administration of the gymnasium", according to the translation suggested by Louis Robert. The inscription discloses that he was Cretan Priest of Asia, *archiereus Asiæ*; he dedicated a statue of Faustina the Younger, *Sardis* 7, 1932, No. 619.

Adjacent to the southern facade of "B" was a row of shops, three of which (SW 1, 2, 3) were excavated (Plan Fig. 113, photo Fig. 114). They yielded considerable amounts of coal, animal bones and shells, glass (Figs. 115, 116, 39, 40), and some three hundred bronze coins. The latest coins date from the rule of Heraklios (610 - 641 A.D.).

In the easternmost area of the Roman city we explored the eastern part of a large complex of limestone masonry 'OG' (Fig. 1; cf. *Sardis* 1, III. 18 and p. 30). H. C. Butler had conjectured that it might be the city gate for the Royal Road. This structure consists of an oblong ca. 30 by 9 meters, with a large "Main Arch" (Fig. 17) and semicircular and rectangular recesses which open on the east and west

facades and are roofed by barrel vaults and half - domes of masonry. A hemicycle adjoins the northern end of the oblong (Fig. 18). At a depth of 9 meters below the top of the structure, the appearance under the base of the "Main Arch" of the keystones and voussoirs of another arch showed that a lower story exists below that exposed (Fig. 1,9). The complex extends to the west and to the north. Considerable evidence of Byzantine repairs came to light but nothing to indicate the date of the original construction.

Our last trench was begun on August 2, slightly east of Building "B" and just south of the Turgutlu-Salih highway ('HB' in Fig. 1). It was eventually expanded to ca. 15 m. The original intention was to probe in depth, but almost immediately under the surface we came upon the walls of a residential complex of Homan and Early Christian times. The ten "units" uncovered during three and a half weeks digging in 1958 are certainly only one part of a structure of substantial size. Units 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8 are on a lower level; Units 3, 4, 6, and 10 are on a higher level (cf. Figs. 20, plan, and 21, section by T. H. Canfield). The photograph, Fig. 22, taken from Building "B" shows in the foreground the base of Lucius Verus under the central window of the south apse of "B", then the highway and just beyond it the excavation of this "House of Bronzes".

The building was constructed largely of fairly regular flat river stones laid in cement and of bricks. It had undergone various changes and repairs. It perished in a conflagration, which, on the evidence of the few coins found, may have occurred in the second half of the fourth century A. D.

Unit 1 was a vaulted room with steps leading down its east side. These are attested by stepping stones projecting from the wall (Fig. 23, left foreground; Fig. 24). The walls were covered with thick grey plaster. A large storage jar stood in the southeast corner, a hwge terracotta plate

lay just north of it, while a terracotta bowl was in the southwest corner. The discovery of bronze vessels and utensils in, this room has induced us to name the entire structure the "House of Bronzes". One of the bronzes, a wine flagon with angular shoulder is seen lying against the south wall in Fig. 2,4. Others (Figs. 42, 43) were found lying near the north wall. Unit, 2, likewise vaulted, was on a somewhat higher level; it may, at one time, have served as a cistern. In this room, the plaster had been reddened and made friable by the violence of fire. In Unit 3, there is preserved a staircase with three steps built of bricks. Unit 5, at approximately the same floor level as Unit 2, had a marble floor with a patterned center piece of *opus sectile*. The two other "basement" units, 7 and 8, communicated through a door. Unit 8 was carefully paved with large tiles. Unit 7 revealed various features suggestive of industrial activity. Thus a tank was found along the east side of the excavated area; two marble containers, one standing against the wall between Unit 7 and Unit 8 and another lying in the northern part of Unit 7 (both shown in plan, Fig. 20) contained sulphur. In addition to fragments of several pithoi, the excavation of this room produced a large bronze basin or brazier (Fig. 44). In the southeast corner of the area excavated, there stood a marble statue of Bacchus (Fig. 45 a, b); behind it lay several stone basins or mortars and a stone pestle in the shape of a human leg. Little is known as yet about the units on the upper level, as Units, 4 and 10 were considerably disrupted and Unit 6 is not as yet completely excavated. Unit 6 is paved with large tiles. A marble block was lying in the center of the floor. Several water pipes or drains run through Units 4 and 10. The walls of the "House of Bronzes" continue northward past Unit 9. The northern part of Unit 7 has revealed part of a vault, yet to be excavated.

As is obvious from the contents of

the lower rooms, the "House of Bronzes" was abandoned in haste; the residents never returned to retrieve their belongings, which we found covered by heavy fall of rubble and bricks.

During the last ten days of the work in this sector, we decided to go down in depth in the area north of Unit 1, designated as Unit 9 on the plan Fig. 20. After two days, numerous closely packed fragments and indeed large parts of Lydian vases began to appear (Fig. 25). An earth floor covered with ashes was discernible at a depth only some 0.70 m. below the Roman and Early Christian floor of Unit 1 (Fig. 26, cf. the section Fig. 21). Eventually, two short stretches of a wall - base of large river stones which ran north - south were uncovered (Fig. 25, foreground). In the southwest corner we found parts of a circular structure of river stones, which seemed to arch as if to make a dome. Its upper part had been either disrupted by or incorporated into the foundation wall of the "House of Bronzes" (photograph Fig. 27; the Roman or Early Christian wall is, seen in the upper right of the photograph and along the west side of Unit 9, on the plan Fig. 20). A channel framed by stones led into the circular structure. The plan and appearance of the circular structure are suggestive of a potter's kiln or an oven. The lower part of the structure was filled with a heavy deposit of black ashes.

The homogeneous character of the pottery and its considerable quantity induce us to believe we have come upon either the sales-shop or the workshop of a Lydian potter. The date is given by a fragment of imported Greek "Wild Goat A" ware (Fig. 37). Apparently the workshop flourished in the late seventh century B. C. and was then suddenly abandoned and covered up. Except for the east wall of Unit 9, the Roman building activity for the "House of Bronzes" did not reach deeply enough to disturb the Lydian deposit.

During the last three days, we made a small sounding in depth in the northeast corner of Unit 9, going down to almost 2 m. below the Lydian floor ("pit" in plan Fig. 20 and section Fig. 21). In the upper part of the "pit", Geometric sherds even earlier than those of the Lydian Shop were accompanied by a monochrome black and grey ware. The lowest half-meter of this pit has, yielded so far only river sand.

The finding of an ascertainable Lydian level only a little over 2 meters below modern surface may have an important bearing on the problem of locating the Lydian city. Butler believed that the city of the Lydian Kings was situated in the Pactolus valley. The discovery of the "Lydian Shop" suggests that the city of the Lydians is to be looked for in the area along the northern foot of the Acropolis, within the boundaries of the Hellenistic and Roman city. We propose to explore this possibility during our next campaigns.

The objects found during the 1958 campaign include an extensive sequence of Lydian pottery. An early phase (Fig. 27 a) shows links to Greek Proto-Geometric and Geometric as well as resemblances to Cypric, Cilician, and Southwest Anatolian Iron Age. It was represented by sherds found under the floor of the "Lydian Shop" (and occasional pieces from the Artemis precinct) (4), while the pottery from the floor level of the "Lydian Shop" exemplifies the mixture of Geometric and Orientalizing elements current in Lydia around 600 B. C. (Figs. 28-3:6). The Rhodian "Wildgoat" sherd was found above the floor (Fig. W7). The later development is mirrored in the material from the Artemis precinct (Fig. 38) which may carry down into Hellenistic times (material found under 'L'). The abundant though poorly preserved finds of glass in

(4) The material to some degree confirms the classification proposed in *D. M. Robinson Studies* but considerably enriches the picture of Early Lydian pottery in many respects,

the shops south of building 'B' include both table ware (Figs. 39, 40) and window glass (Fig. 41), presumably of Early Byzantine date. Only bronze coins were found, the earliest perhaps of Hellenistic times; the latest number seems to date from the time between Constantine and Heraklios (cf. the remarks by H. W. Bell,

Sardis n, 19L6, vii).

The vessels and implements found in the "House of Bronzes" include a remarkable shovel-like implement surmounted by a cross, perhaps a successor to the Roman *vatillum* or *batillum* (Fig. 42); two censers, one round (Fig. 43), one hexagonal, of shapes well known from Coptic and other finds; two heating-vessels (*authepsae*, *caudaria*), one of which has a close parallel found in a Royal grave at BaUana (Nubia); a mighty bronze cauldron or brazier (Fig. 44); and two bronze flagons with angular shoulders. A stone statue (of Bacchus, Fig. 45

... b) was likewise found in the "House of

Bronzes." From Building 'B' comes a marble pilaster capital of the second century A. D. which includes the representation of an archaic Anatolian image (Fig. 46). The same image appears on Roman coins of Sardis (cf. the discussion by B. V. Head, *BMC Lydia*, 1901, cx). A very fine marble foot slightly over life size was also found in "B" (Fig. 47). Parts of a broken statue of a youth leaning against a pillar came to light under the floor of the Byzantine shops south of 'B', and also the base of a two-figure group (Fig. 48).

Among the chance finds made outside of the excavation but brought to the expedition is a fine funerary stele depicting a seated woman named Matis and a standing girl; an epigram of four lines is inscribed above. It is probably early Hellenistic. A modest relief found east of the precinct of Artemis claims attention as the earliest certain representation of Cybele, the great goddess of Sardis, so far to be found at Sardis. It seems to be a work of the fourth century B. C. (Figs. 49 a, b). The goddess holds a lion in her lap while another is seated at her feet.

In addition to the Lydian graffiti (Fig. 3, four letters, RLAM, according to the reading of Professor J. Puhvel; incised on poor black-glaze fragment), two vases from the "Lydian Shop" have "potter's

marks"; one of these (Fig. 34) shows the graffiti *it?* on the foot of a Black-on-Red stemmed cup from the "Lydian Shop." Eight Greek and one Latin inscription (mostly small fragments) were found in the excavation. Sherman E. Johnson also reports five new Greek inscriptions which

he located outside the excavation; one of these mentions a dedication to King Eumenes (the second?) of Pergamon in the sanctuary of Sabazios. Dean Johnson will include in his (forthcoming) report an

account of the present state and location of inscriptions previously known as well as a list of unpublished inscriptions left by the First Sardis expedition in the ruins of their excavation house.