



THE FRIENDS  
OF APHRODISIAS  
TRUST

9 November 2018

Dear Member,

I am delighted to write that the 2018 season at Aphrodisias saw significant progress with excavation and restoration; and the Friends can be justifiably proud to have made a substantial contribution to this work. Thanks to your generosity (once again the Headley Trust was wonderfully supportive), we were able to donate £40,000 to the ongoing work in the Tetrapylon Street and the restoration work carried out by Trevor Proudfoot and his team.

A sad shadow was cast over us by the death on 1 June of our long-standing trustee and founding member, John Julius Norwich. Most of you will have had at least a passing acquaintance with John Julius, a man of great charm and distinction. Despite the many calls on his time and patronage, he was unstintingly generous towards the Friends of Aphrodisias stretching back to the Trust's inception in 1993. Many of you will remember that as recently as last December he was speaking with his habitual erudition and humour at the launch of *The Palace Lady's Summerhouse*. He will be greatly missed.

Bert and Trevor gave us their regular annual lecture at the Art Workers' Guild in March. This was as fascinating and as beautifully illustrated as ever and it was immensely heartening to see how work at Aphrodisias continues to advance despite the turbulence and uncertainty in the region. Few of us, I suspect, realise what difficulties there are and quite how much effort Bert puts into negotiating political and bureaucratic hurdles, as well as raising money, in order that a season's work can actually take place at all.

In May a substantial group of Friends had the pleasure of visiting Peter and Renate Nahum's remarkable collection of late 19th-century and early 20th-century art at their house in Bloomsbury Square. Peter showed us round, and his amusing and perceptive comments greatly enhanced our understanding and appreciation. Finally for our 'season', it was good to see so many of you at Daunt Books for my book launch party.

Our AGM and Annual Lecture, given by Bert and Trevor, are due to take place at the Art Workers' Guild, 6 Queen Square, London WC1N 3AT, at 6:30pm on **Tuesday, 5 March 2019**. Do please sign up for another year of membership. We have kept the basic subscription at £35 per annum, but please consider if you can give a donation in addition. While we warmly welcome new members, every year we lose some of our older members, and the work at Aphrodisias is of unique importance not just for the advancement of art and archaeology but for the UK's cultural prestige and indeed for international cooperation.

Honorary President: His Excellency The Turkish Ambassador  
Chairman: Lady Daunt  
Trustees: Sir Timothy Daunt,  
Sir Kevin Tebbit, Mr R.D. Wilkinson (Hon. Sec.)  
Director of The Aphrodisias Excavations: Professor R.R.R. Smith

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## 2018 season

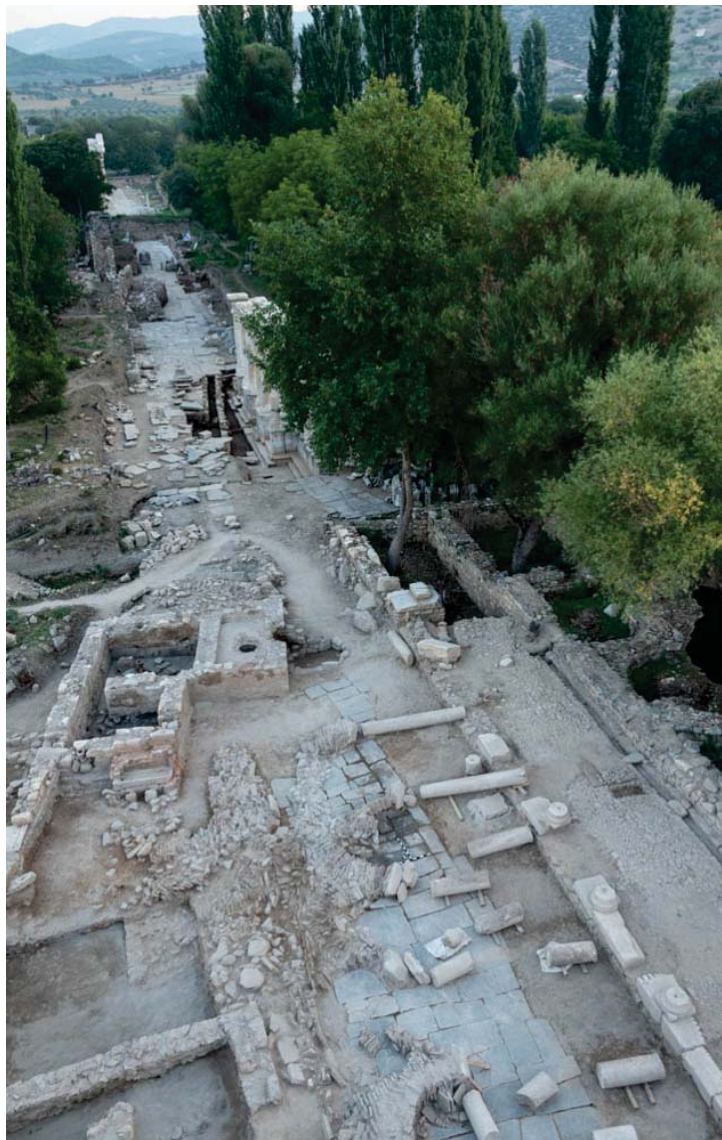
Work at Aphrodisias in 2018 concentrated on excavation and conservation in the Tetrapylon Street, the South Agora and the Civil Basilica (see plan on next page); much other conservation, study and publication work also took place. Fifty five specialist senior staff and students from Turkey, the UK and the USA participated, while some 60 local workers were employed in excavation and site conservation.

### *The Tetrapylon Street*

The Tetrapylon Street runs north-south from the Tetrapylon to the Theatre (see plan and photo to right). It was a key urban artery and its excavation is designed to bring new information about Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Aphrodisias; and eventually to open it up to visitors, thus allowing them to circulate from the Tetrapylon past the Sebasteion and into the South Agora. Work in 2018 also involved restoration work on the street paving. The archaeological work was supervised by Dr Ine Jacobs (who will talk to the Friends about her work on the Street at a meeting at Daunt Books on 10 January).

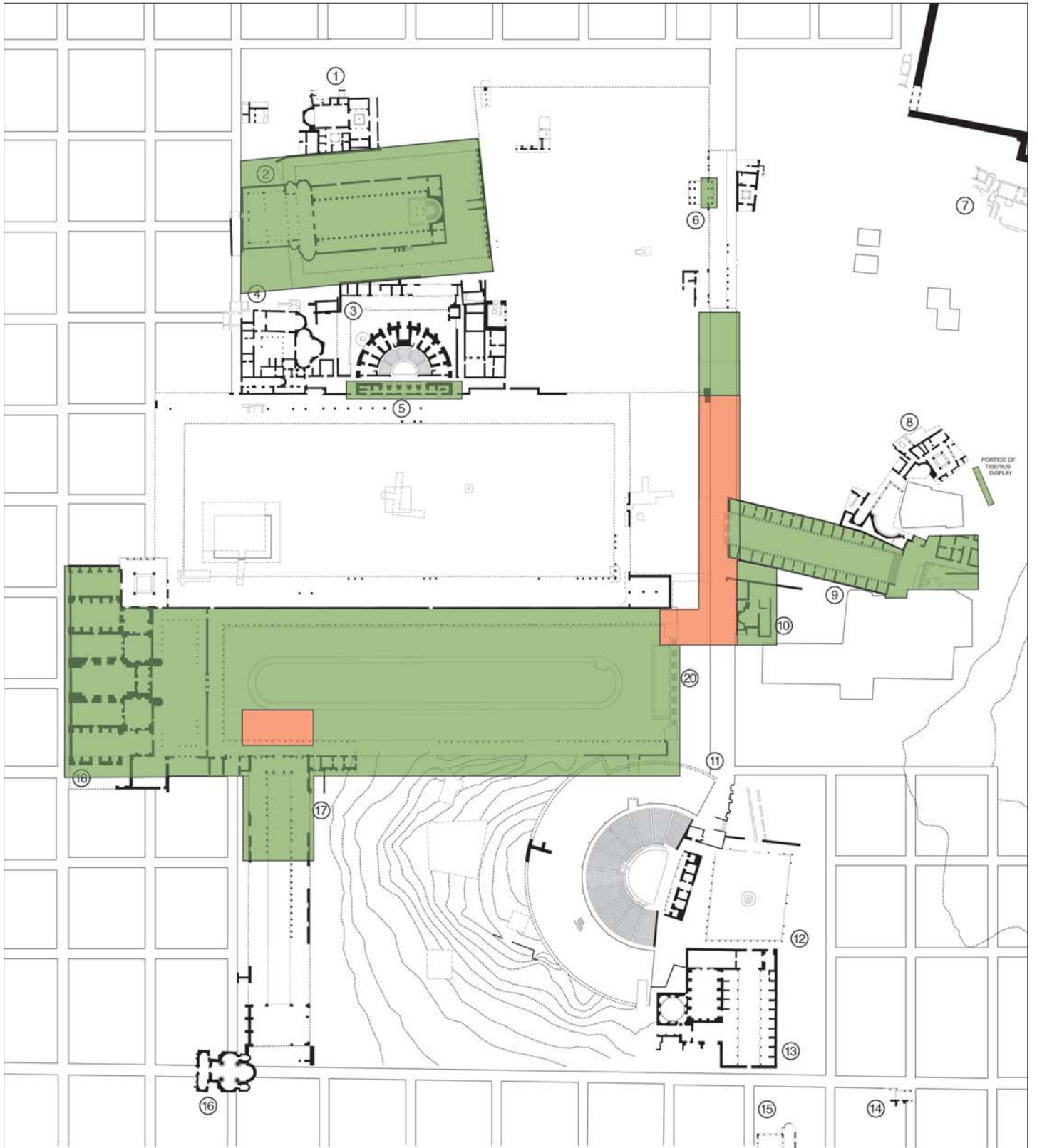
In the part of the Street immediately to the south of the Sebasteion Propylon the aims were to complete the excavation of the Seljuk Bath building found in 2016–2017, to excavate the area to the south of the bath-house, in order to uncover the connection of the Street with the back of the Agora Gate at the original Roman level, and to excavate what remains of the late antique Street in this area. These aims were fully realised with interesting results. Bert will elaborate on 5 March.

Excavation south of the bath-house brought to light a spectacular collapse of the late Roman street colonnade. When the street level was raised in late antiquity new paving, found *in situ*, was laid in large blocks with an unpaved strip of hard-packed earth at each side.



Five new intercolumniations of the late antique street colonnade were excavated this year. Three of the column bases remained *in situ* and the complete order of the street colonnade was excavated on the pavement in front of them. The columns and their superstructure of brick arches had come down directly onto the street paving – it was, therefore, still in use at the time of the powerful earthquake that brought about the same collapse in the northern part of the street where it was dated by a coin hoard to soon after AD 616/17.

The monolithic columns carried a fascinating set of varied Ionic capitals, each one a thoughtful late antique (fifth-century) redesign of the classic Ionic capitals that still dominated the public cityscape at that time (see photo to left). The columns carried painted late antique inscriptions written in dark-red paint on areas of white lime plaster applied to the columns. The texts are framed above and below by crosses, but are badly fragmented. One praises the Christian God, another the Emperor – ‘Lord of the inhabited world’.



KEY

- |                               |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. HOUSE                      | 11. THEATER            |
| 2. TEMPLE OF APHRODITE        | 12. TETRASTOON         |
| 3. SCULPTORS' WORKSHOP        | 13. THEATER BATHS      |
| 4. HOUSE                      | 14. GAUDIN'S FOUNTAIN  |
| 5. BOULEUTERION & NORTH AGORA | 15. GAUDIN'S GYMNASIUM |
| 6. TETRAPHYLON                | 16. TETRAKTIONION      |
| 7. HOUSE                      | 17. BASILICA           |
| 8. HOUSE                      | 18. HADRIANIC BATHS    |
| 9. SEBASTEION                 | 19. SOUTH AGORA        |
| 10. HOUSE                     | 20. AGORA GATE         |

2018 FIELDWORK

- KAZI / EXCAVATION
- RESTORASYON / RESTORATION
- KONSERVASYON / CONSERVATION
- SIT DÜZENLEME / SITE ENHANCEMENTS
- ARAŞTIRMA / STUDY
- DOKÜMENTASYON / DOCUMENTATION

**APHRODISIAS**  
STATE PLAN OF CITY CENTER  
2018 EXCAVATIONS & CONSERVATION AREAS

0    25    50    100m



The street in front of the Sebasteion Propylon was first excavated in difficult conditions in 1980–1981, when the area was heavily waterlogged, and these problems with the rising groundwater no doubt explain why the street level was raised by just over a metre in late antiquity. This required a new fountain to be installed against the western end of the North Building of the Sebasteion; careful removal of this fountain revealed, as expected, the remains of an earlier fountain basin some 30cm above the level of the original Roman street (see photo to right).



At the same time as the street was raised, a north-south drain was constructed under the new paving. The walls of this drain were found to contain some 30 marble statuary fragments. The most notable of these were (1) a marble himation statue with a neck socket for a separately added head (the figure was heavily worked over for its use as masonry and its back had earlier been reshaped as part of a gutter or channel) and (2) the plinth and lowest part of a colossal naked portrait statue. Preserved across the back of the plinth is the statue's support in the form of a huge Archaic-looking Corinthian helmet with rams' heads on its cheek pieces (see photo to left). Probably the honorand was an emperor and the purpose of the Corinthian helmet was to show him armed like the heroes of old.

The Niche Building is a large masonry structure, 8m high, that stands on the line of the western side of the Tetrasyon Street. It carried an honorific statue in its single central niche whose inscribed base records that the honorand was one Myon Eusebes, who had paid for many works and for the 'First Gerousian Bath' – that is, the 'First Bath for the Council of Elders'. The monument has always been visible but excavation of the street in front of it did not begin until the campaigns of 2008–2016. The aim of the work this year was to complete the excavation of the building and an area of seventh-century collapse in the area of the Niche Building (the photo to the right shows the cleaned Niche building and a late antique *praeefurnium* tunnel next to it).



The Niche Building was fully cleaned in 2018 but permission to erect a copy of the statue that belongs to the central niche was not obtained. Conservation work on the street to the north of the building was continued in preparation for eventual use of the street by visitors and in the course of this work the small head of an African boy carved in dark-grey marble was discovered under a drain cover. The expressive head had separately inlaid eyes and was perhaps part of an elaborate table support (see photo to left).

### *Other work in 2018*

The excavation of the South Agora pool was completed in 2017 and this season was devoted to conservation and to collaborative publication work. The bones, coins, pottery, small finds and carved marble were written up by a team of specialists. The prizes among the animal remains included the ankle bone of a camel. The long series of mask and garland friezes from the South Agora colonnade, removed to Izmir in 1937 and returned in 2009, were displayed in a magnificent new 'frieze wall' outside the museum.

A major new project to conserve and present the façade of the Civil Basilica was begun: columns and capitals were removed to the workshop for repair and a polychrome mosaic was excavated inside the building. The mosaic contained an unusual eye motif in its border and was carefully conserved.

Trevor and his team were kept busy with all the conservation work (see photo to right). And much other study and publication work was undertaken – on the Sebasteion, Stadium and Temple of Aphrodite, and on graffiti, marble sculpture and Byzantine burials. There were other important finds, including a sarcophagus, as well as an inscribed altar dedicated 'to Hadrian the Saviour'. It suggests that the much-travelled Emperor may well have visited Aphrodisias.



### **Envoi**

This account of the 2018 season is only a taster for the fuller presentation that we shall be privileged to receive from Dr Ine Jacobs on 10 January and then from Bert and Trevor on 5 March 2019. Meanwhile, renewed thanks to them for involving us so fully in their work, particular thanks to the Honorary Secretary and to the other Trustees for ensuring that this charity is run smoothly and with minimal administrative expenses, and to Gina Coulthard, who from her home in Australia continues to help us cope with the demands of electronic communication.

*Patricia Daunt*

Patricia Daunt  
Chairman, The Friends of Aphrodisias Trust