



THE FRIENDS
OF APHRODISIAS
TRUST

4 November 2019

Dear Member,

This last year has been overshadowed by the death in September of Trevor Proudfoot, whose loss has affected so many of us, not least Timothy and me, who knew Trevor for over 30 years. Trevor was already working at Aphrodisias when the Friends first resumed activity in the early '90s. We were privileged to be able from the start to help support the work of such a master-craftsman, and year after year Trevor joined Bert Smith at our annual lecture, describing for us with scholarship, humour and self-deprecation some of the masterpieces on which he had been working.

Trevor was able to be with us on 5 March and contribute for one last time to the 25th annual Kenan Erim memorial lecture, delivered by Bert Smith. Bert's short tribute to Trevor is included in his report below. He will doubtless speak about Trevor when he gives the 26th annual lecture, which will be at **6.30 pm on Wednesday 4th March at the Art Workers' Guild, 6 Queen's Square, London WC1N 3AT**. We also hope to organise one or two other events, in particular a visit to the outstanding Pompeii exhibition at the Ashmolean, before it closes on 12 January, and to the coin collections there where the curator Volker Heuchert has kindly offered to show us coins of the kind that might have circulated at Aphrodisias in ancient times.

This last year we held three particularly interesting events. In January Ine Jacobs of Oxford University, who works closely with Bert on the excavations at Aphrodisias, gave us a fascinating talk on the Tetracylon Street. In February Bert himself showed a group of us round the special exhibition he was curating at the Ashmolean on the cult of Antinous. And then in May he treated a rather larger group of Friends first to a masterclass on classical sculpture in the cast gallery of the Ashmolean and then to a delicious and convivial lunch at Lincoln College.

This year, thanks to your continuing generosity, the Friends were able to donate £40,000 towards the work on the Tetracylon Street at Aphrodisias (including £15,000 kindly contributed by the Headley Trust). The following is a synopsis of Bert's report on the results of this and other work carried out at Aphrodisias this last season.

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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Fieldwork

There were two months of excavation and research and four months of conservation and restoration at Aphrodisias this year. The team from New York, Oxford and several Turkish universities (seen below in front of the Tetrapylon) did major work in the Tetrapylon Street, Civil Basilica and South Agora.



Tetrapylon Street

Major excavation focused on the late antique Tetrapylon Street (shown below left, looking north), at both its northern and southern ends. At the south, the long access ramp from the street to the tunnel into the South Agora (shown below right) was excavated to reveal a complicated series of drains, water pipes and discrete phases of the ramp's life, from the second to the seventh century.

At the northern end of the Tetrapylon Street, the remaining part of the old Geyre road and adjoining street wall were removed, and soundings were made on both sides of the street paving to look for datable material. Pottery showed the surviving marble street paving to be later than expected – a final (it turned out) sixth-century restoration of the road surface. Even more surprising, both associated ceramics and its almost complete lack of foundations below the early imperial street level showed that the tall Niche Monument cannot be of the mid-first century AD, as formerly thought, but is also most likely of the sixth century AD. The early Imperial statue base that belongs in its central niche was most likely redeployed here from elsewhere.



Work being undertaken in the Tetrapylon Street



Civil Basilica

The new project to excavate fully, conserve and present the façade of the early Imperial Civil Basilica, begun in 2018, achieved major results. The tiled marble floor of the vestibule was restored. The fragmentary mosaic floors of the long side aisles were excavated, lovingly conserved and closely documented. The eastern side of the building was excavated to allow the eventual positioning of panels carrying the famous Aphrodisias version of Diocletian's Prices Edict, which was inscribed on the façade of the building in AD 301. The massive columnar architecture of the building's façade was conserved in our marble workshop-depot and four colossal columns were set up in position towards the end of the season. They are already a striking new landmark on the site (shown right).



South Agora

Work on the South Agora and its magnificent 170m pool (shown below) focused on publication and conservation. Two teams of marble conservators worked in opposite directions around the delicate marble pool surround, lifting, repairing and resetting broken and damaged elements.



Kybele House

One of the most impressive mansions of the late antique city, excavated in the 1980s near the northeastern city wall, was completely cleared, cleaned and drawn in a new state plan – in readiness for an exciting new project.

Study



Workers fixing a lion-head console

Much other study and publication work was undertaken – on coins, ceramics and environmental remains of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman periods, on late antique statuary, on inscriptions and graffiti of all kinds, and on such major buildings as the Bouleuterion, Sebasteion, Stadium and the Ottoman bath-house on Pekmez Hill. Major new joins were made during the study of the giant figured consoles from the Hadrianic Baths. New pieces were added to the colossal fragmentary statue found in the drain in front of the Sebasteion Propylon in 2018. Two new sarcophagi appeared from the southeastern necropolis and major plans were developed for a new covered display space in the courtyard of the Aphrodisias Museum. Construction begins in 2020.

Trevor Proudfoot

At the end of the season came the horribly sad news that Trevor Proudfoot passed away in early September. Trevor was our chief stone expert – sculptor, conservator, restorer and educator – and he worked at Aphrodisias every year from 1989 to 2018. He designed and carried out all the major sculpture restorations at the site, many of them characteristically bold and innovative: the shield portraits, the Zoilos Frieze, the Young Togatus, the Seasons Sarcophagus, the Blue Horse and no less than sixty-five life-size marble reliefs from the Sebasteion. All these extraordinary pieces and many others that Trevor restored are on display in the Aphrodisias Museum. Trevor worked tirelessly on site conservation as well as high-specification sculpture. He devised the lime-mortar wall-capping programme that continues with his methods to this day. He led the recent major programme of restoration and conservation in the Hadrianic Baths, and in the South Agora in 2018 he made a complete survey of the damaged marble perimeter of the pool and devised the strategy for its conservation. He was a towering figure who did great things for Aphrodisias. He will be much missed by the Aphrodisias team.



Looking forward

In addition to our annual lecture on 4 March, as has been mentioned we hope to organise another trip to Oxford, this time to visit the Pompeii exhibition currently on display at the Ashmolean, where we hope the curator Dr Paul Roberts will show us round, and to see some of the coins associated with Aphrodisias. So the Friends continue to flourish and Aphrodisias itself continually opens up new projects and perspectives of excavation, conservation and research. But the trustees themselves get no younger and some time in the near future decisions will need to be taken about the future of the Friends. In particular, Dick Wilkinson, to whom I am deeply indebted for running the Trust ever since I was incapacitated, has to be relieved soon. Any suggestions or ideas, and above all any volunteers ready and willing to assume some of the task of running this remarkable organisation, will be very welcome.

Many thanks as usual to Bert Smith and Ine Jacobs for involving us so closely in their work, to the Trustees for ensuring that the Friends are run with maximum efficiency and minimum administrative expenditure, and to Gina Coulthard for her help with the formatting and editing of this newsletter and other aspects of electronic communication. Email is in many ways less pleasant and user-friendly than paper, but it does save the Trust much time and money which can then be used for our proper objectives of supporting archaeological education and research.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Daunt". The script is cursive and fluid, with a large initial 'P'.

Patricia Daunt
Chairman, The Friends of Aphrodisias Trust