

**HALIKARNASSOS
2023**

**REPORT OF THE TURKISH-DANISH INVESTIGATIONS AT ANCIENT
HALIKARNASSOS (BODRUM) IN 2023**

The work of the Danish Halikarnassos team took place during the brief period of 7th to 21st of October and comprised **A.** studies of finds and mosaics from the so-called House of Charidemos, excavated in 1991-1994, **B.** study of a recently excavated mosaic floor in Bodrum by Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology, **C.** minor repair works and re-organization of finds in the excavation depot on the Maussolleion Open Air site and **D.** additional documentation of some inscriptions and architectural blocks in the Castle.

A. Preparation of the publication of the finds and mosaic fragments found during the excavation of the so-called House of Charidemos 1990-1993

During the years 1990-1993 the remains of a late-antique building with floor mosaics were found in the center of Bodrum (Firkatayn Sokak) (Fig. 1, no. 3 and Fig. 2, eastern part). The ancient building comprises several rooms arranged around two yards. All the rooms contained wonderful floor mosaics depicting winged female seasons, hunting scenes and a nereid riding on the back of an ichthyocentaur besides many different geometrical patterns. The floor of one of the rooms, the apsidal room F, also contained a long inscription in Greek letters relating that the *domos* (the house) with all its embellishment was made by a certain Charidemos, of whom we unfortunately know no more than his name. The embellishment of the house does, however, indicate that he must have belonged to the very rich elite citizens in ancient Halikarnassos.

It quickly turned out that this part of a building belonged together with a House excavated by Ch. T. Newton in 1856 (Fig. 2, western part). He also found wonderful floor mosaics that he brought to the British Museum where they can be seen today. These mosaics contained besides city personification (Halikarnassos, Berytos, and Alexandria), several mythological motifs like Europe and the bull, Aphrodite carried by tritons, and Dionysos. While the part excavated by Newton is now covered by modern houses, the more recently excavated part is preserved and covered for protection.

During the excavations in the beginning of the 1990s, a large amount of archaeological material was collected and registered, and now kept in the depot of the Maussolleion Open Air site. The finds partly consist of mosaic fragments from the floors excavated by Newton (Figs. 3-4), partly fragments of pottery, glass, wall plaster, bricks, roof tiles and marble revetments. While all the fragments belonging to the building will be published in vol. I, pottery and other finds are due to appear in vol. II, both in preparation.

B. Study of a recently excavated floor mosaic in Bodrum

In 2022 extensive studies were undertaken in relation to two major structures with floor mosaics excavated by colleagues in Bodrum Museum: excavations were carried out at the American hospital (directed by Ece Benli Bağcı and Seda Deniz Kesici) in 2018, situated in the Türkkuyusu area; the other structure was excavated in a private property in Eskiçeşme in 2019 (directed by Gürşans Uzala) (Fig. 1, no. 4 and Fig. 5). Both buildings were presented at the international mosaic conference held at Lyon in October 2022, and the paper is due to appear in autumn 2024.

This year, we also briefly studied an ancient floor mosaic excavated by Bodrum Museum during construction works near the Marina (at the Neyzen Tevfik Cd. 54). Only small part of a floor mosaic with geometrical mosaics have been preserved (Fig. 6).

C. Minor repairs and painting of the Excavation House at the Maussolleion Open Air Museum site, and transfer of the finds to new plastic boxes.

Some maintenance works were carried out on the excavation depot (Fig. 7) including painting of windows and doors, whitewash of walls and ceiling as well as general cleaning. The finds kept in the depot were transferred to new boxes and re-organized in appropriate groups marked with preliminary signs, which are to be replaced by permanent signs in 2024 for permanent storage.

D. Supplementary documentation of some inscriptions and architectural blocks in the Castle of Bodrum.

Work during the year 2023 has primarily focused on the preparation of the archaeological publications and only a few additional documentation had to be done in the Castle in Bodrum this year. One was photographing of a recently found marble stand from outside of the Myndos Gate. Another was photographical documentation of the well-known inscription in the Italian Tower (I.Halik. *49) believed to be a list of priests of Apollo origination from the important sanctuary of Apollo, which must have been situated on top of the Zephyrion (Fig. 8 and 9).

A marble ante-capital observed on the southside of the English Tower many years ago among other architectural spolia was measured and photographed. It is suspected that it may have belonged to an early Classical temple of Apollo in Samian Ionic order placed on the summit of the Zephyrion Hill (Fig. 10 and 11).

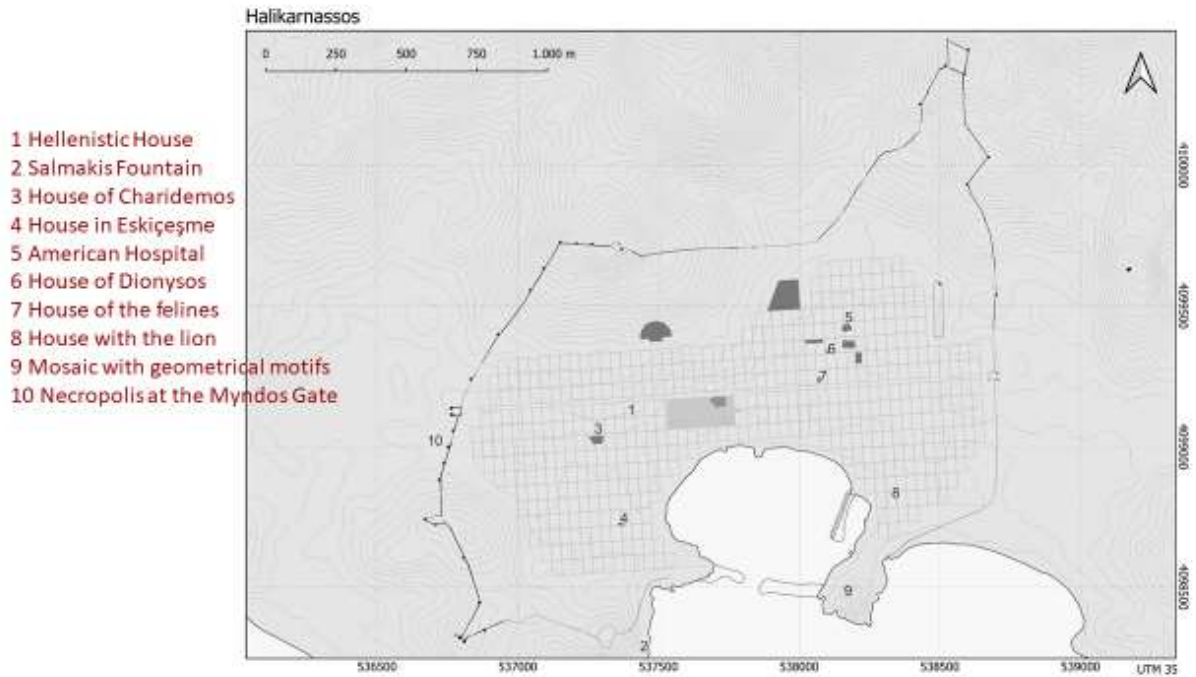


Fig. 1 Plan of Bodrum with ancient sites indicated (N. Bargfeldt).

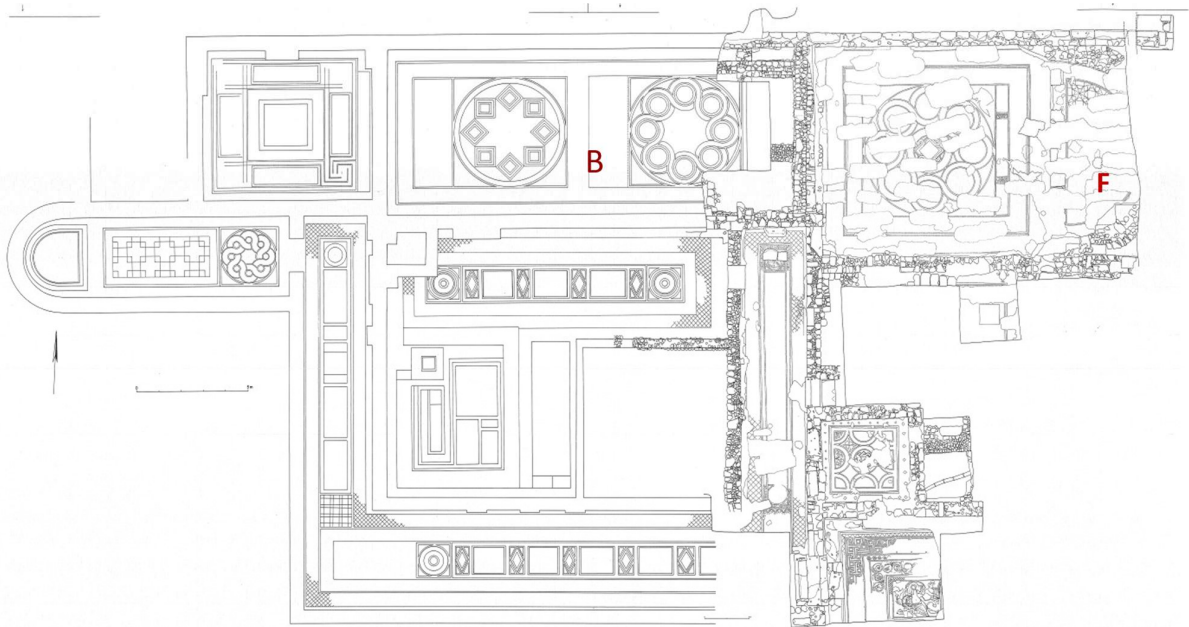


Fig. 2 Plan of the House of Charidemos (I. Bjerg Poulsen).



Fig. 3 Fragment of floor mosaic with depiction of a foot. Excavated by Ch. T. Newton in 1856. (J. Munk Højte).



Fig. 4 Fragment of floor mosaic with elaborate border belonging to Room B. Excavated by Ch. T. Newton in 1856 (J. Munk Højte).

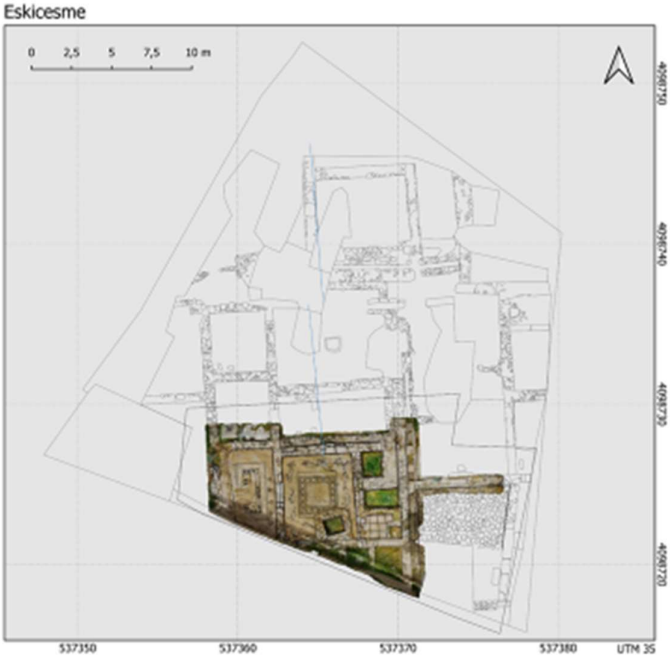


Fig. 5 Building with floor mosaics excavated by Bodrum Museum in Eskiçesme in 2019 (Bodrum Museum and N. Bargfeldt).



Fig. 6 Remains of floor mosaic at Neyzen Tevfik Cd. 54 (B. Poulsen).



Fig. 7 Excavation depot in the Mausoleum site (J. Munk Højte).



Fig. 8 Window recess in the Italian tower, Bodrum Museum (P. Pedersen).

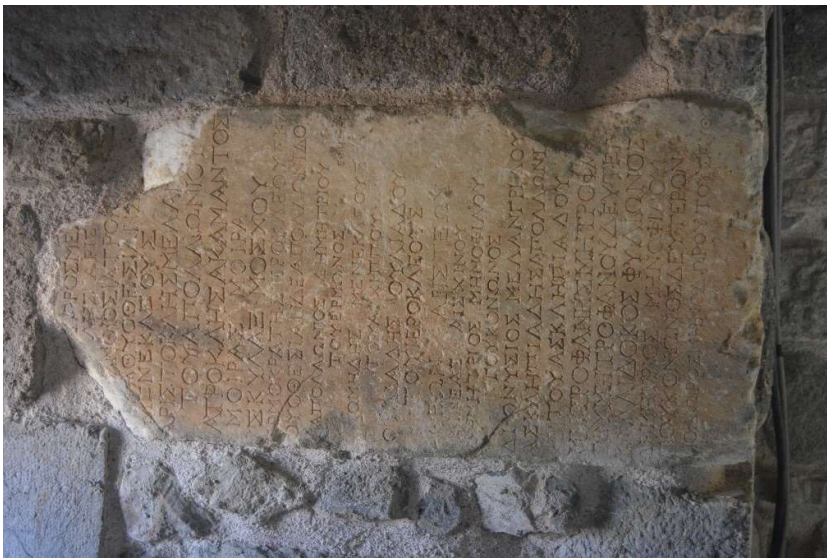


Fig. 9 Inscription in the window recess of the Italian Tower, Bodrum Museum (P. Pedersen).



Fig. 10 Presumed ante capital, in the south wall of the English Tower (P. Pedersen).

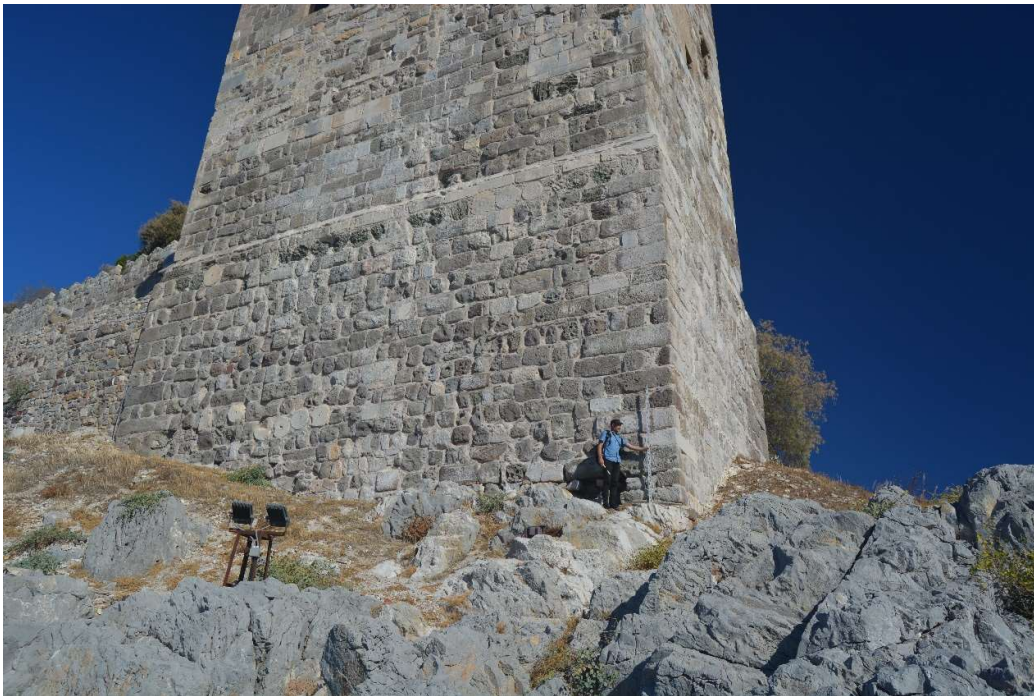


Fig. 11 South wall of the English Tower (P. Pedersen).