

NEA PAPHOS

SEASON 2000

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The focus of the study season carried out in September 2000¹⁾ was a re-examination of material assembled in the site storerooms and deposited at the Archaeological Museum in Pafos. Some on-site verification and clearing work was also executed preparing the way for various conservation and protection activities.

1) The mission, directed by the author, comprised: Dr. Evdoksia Papuci-Władyka and Mr. Henryk Meyza, archaeologists-ceramicists; Dr. Heike Droste, archaeologist-documentalist; and two students of archaeology from Warsaw University, Ms Katarzyna Holderna and Ms Ewa Mielczarczyk.

We are all very much indebted to the Authorities of the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus for assistance throughout the season. We also wish to express our gratitude to our friends in Paphos, especially to the former and current Mayors of Paphos, Messrs. A. Ataliotis and F. Sarikas, as well as Messrs. A. Soteriades and M. Manolis.

The team continued documenting a very rich collection of pottery ranging from Late Classical to Byzantine times, recovered during excavations of the region of Maloutena in the southwest part of the ancient town.

Other objects, such as numerous terracotta figurine fragments, stone and metal items, as well as lamps and stamped amphora handles were also checked, some of them drawn or rephotographed with a view to preparing the final publication of the so-called Villa of Theseus.

Beside the work on the finds coming from the above-mentioned villa and the earlier strata underneath this large edifice, the team also continued recording finds from the so-called House of Aion. The geometric mosaics in the southeastern rooms of the latter building were cleaned

and prepared for a consolidation of the edges to be carried out by a team from the Department of Antiquities.

The mosaics in the Villa of Theseus were re-examined to verify their current state of preservation following the removal of the old protective shelters by the company preparing new tourist walkways on the site. It was concluded that in view of the heavy rains and strong sea winds prevalent in the area, new roofing is urgently needed, if the pavements, especially the figural ones are to be preserved for posterity. A new protective structure is foreseen as the next stage of preparations for the opening of the Archaeological Park.

The coming season will be devoted to a re-examination of the architectural remains.