

The Archaeology of Anatolia:

Recent Discoveries (2011-2014)
Volume I

Edited by

Sharon R. Steadman
and Gregory McMahon

Cambridge
Scholars
Publishing



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This book first published 2015

Cambridge Scholars Publishing

Lady Stephenson Library, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 2PA, UK

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

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ISBN (10): 1-4438-7815-4

ISBN (13): 978-1-4438-7815-9

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CHAPTER TEN

ANTIOCHIA AD CRAGUM IN WESTERN ROUGH CILICIA

MICHAEL HOFF, RHYS TOWNSEND,
ECE ERDOĞMUŞ, BIROL CAN,
AND TIMOTHY HOWE

Along the western fringes of a Taurus mountain spur that descends rapidly towards the sea, creating a rugged, cliff-filled coastline, the center of the ancient city of Antiochia ad Cragum lies perched high upon a natural terrace over 350 m above its own port (Fig. 10-1). Its lofty position along the coast of western Rough Cilicia contrasts with its well-known coastal neighbors on either side; Selinus to the west and Anemurium to the east sit comfortably at sea level. Projecting into the sea below the cliffs is a promontory, approximately 250 m across at its widest point and jutting into the sea about 125 m. The promontory is fortified, apparently in the Byzantine era, with well-built walls and towers; a church can still be visited within its walls.

No pre-Hellenistic structures are so far known at the site, although during the survey conducted by the *Rough Cilicia Archaeological Survey Project* (RCSP) in 1997 some late Classical sherds were recorded that are clearly suggestive of some sort of interest in the site before it was founded as a city in the mid-first century CE (Rauh et al. 2009: 269, Table 3). Also, a preliminary harbor survey conducted in 2014 by Michael Hoff and Hakan Öviz (Selçuk University) observed several anchors that appear to be of Bronze Age date. It does seem likely therefore that the site, with its harbor, natural fortifications, and resources, was attractive to settlers and occupiers from very early on.

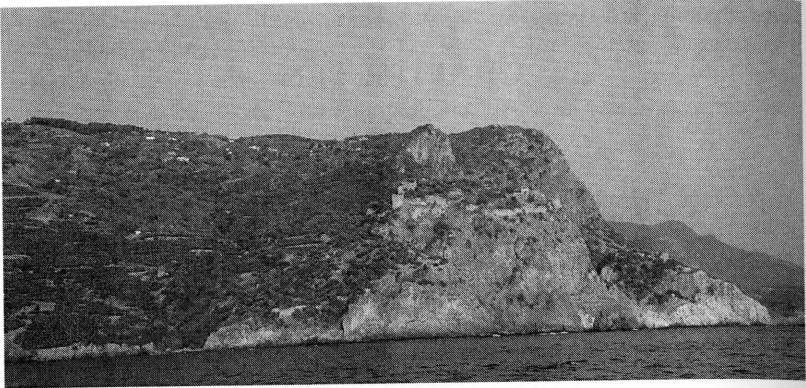


Figure 10-1. View of Antiochia ad Cragum from the northwest.

In his account of Pompey's war against the Cilician pirates in 67 BCE, Appian (*Mith.* 96) labels the two geographical highpoints of the site as the Cragus and Anticragus respectively. It is fair to assume the cliff to be the Cragus and the promontory with Byzantine remains to be the Anticragus, since the latter lies opposite the cliff-faced mainland (Fig. 10-2). Appian also mentions that these two natural strongholds served as the pirates' "strongest citadels," from which they preyed upon shipping sailing along the north Mediterranean corridor. These pirates may have operated from a semi-sheltered cove situated northwest of the Anticragus that would serve the later imperial-era city of Antiochia ad Cragum as its harbor (Rauh 2003: 169-200; De Souza 2013).

An earlier underwater survey of the cove/harbor in 2004 by members of the RCSP discovered several lead anchor stocks that could belong to the pirate period. In addition to the stocks, the underwater survey team recovered Italian amphora fragments that were identified as dating to the late Hellenistic period and also, perhaps more significantly, a small figured bronze ship socket. Originally the piece, decorated in the form of the winged horse Pegasus, likely ornamented the end of a ship timber. Radiocarbon dating of residual wood within the socket yielded an approximate date of 125 BCE.¹ This date accords with the timeframe of pirate occupation at Antiochia.²

¹ On anchor stocks in the harbor, Will Type 10 amphora (first century BCE), and the bronze Pegasus ornament, see Rauh et al. 2009: 273-75.

² Additional classical-era anchors were observed in the 2014 survey by Hoff and Öniç. A comprehensive underwater survey of the harbor is planned for 2015.

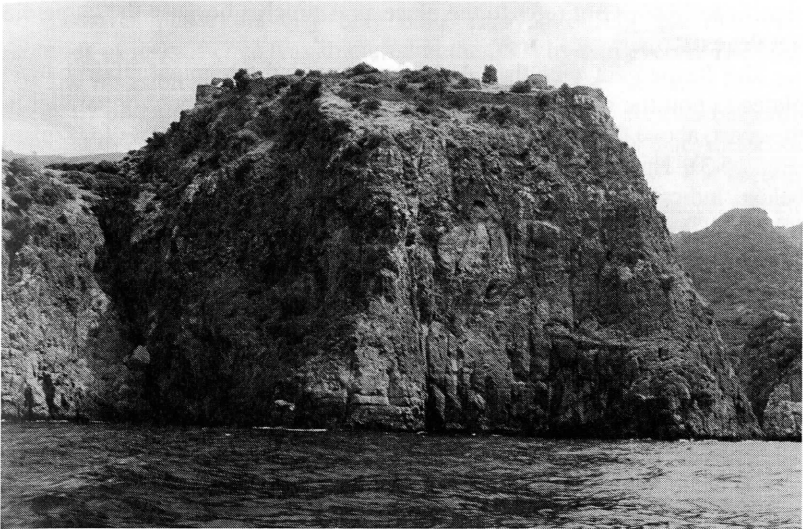


Figure 10-2. The “Anticragus,” overlooking the sea, from the west.

Pompey the Great ended the pirate wars in 67 BCE with a naval battle in the waters off nearby Coracesium (modern Alanya). Although the newly-pacified remnants of the pirate force were settled in other areas of the Cilicia coast, Pompey with great prudence did not allow the old pirate citadels of the Cragus and Anticragus to be re-occupied by former outlaws. Over a century later, the emperor Caligula gave Antiochus IV of Commagene a client-kingship over his homeland as well as Cilicia Tracheia; though he was subsequently deposed, Claudius soon restored him to power in 41 (Borgia 2013). It would be shortly after this date that Antiochus founded the cities of the eponymously-named Antiochia ad Cragum and nearby Iotape, named after his sister-wife.

Other than the few tantalizing remains described above, no remains of the period of Cilician pirates are extant today. It can be safely assumed, however, that there was some continuous occupation at the site of the future Antiochia in the years following the pirate defeat, but, similar to the near complete absence of pirate-associated remains at the site, no feature or building survives from this “interregnum.” The possibility of some sort of post-pirate occupation of the site does seem likely, however, as Strabo, writing mainly during the Augustan period and early into Tiberius’ principate, includes “Cragos” among the coastal cities of western Rough Cilicia and describes it as situated on a precipitous rock (14.5.3). Strabo

significantly does not refer to the place as Antiochia because the name did not yet exist.³

The Roman-era city that Antiochus founded occupies a fairly level plateau upon the coastal side of a small ridge running roughly parallel to the coast, above the Anticragus, approximately 25 km southeast of Gazipaşa (Fig. 10-3). This plateau falls precipitously to the sea, approximately 350 m below, indicative of the city's epithet "cragum," meaning cliffs. Ptolemy (*Geog.* 5.7) follows Strabo and other earlier geographers in referring to the city as "epi Krago," but its coastal character is reflected on the city's coinage by the epithet "tis paraliou."⁴ That the city enjoyed urban status is indicated by a few inscriptions that refer to its character as a polis, and its urban institutions: demos and boule.⁵



Figure 10-3. Aerial view of Antiochia ad Cragum, towards the west.

³ Strabo 14.5.3: Κράγος, πέτρα περίκρημος πρὸς θάλασση.

⁴ Even after the foundation of the city as Antiochia, it continued to be referred to as "Cragos," e.g., by the author of the anonymous *Stadiasmus Maris Magni* of the second half of the third century; see *GGM* 486 §200. For the coinage, see Head 1911: 717.

⁵ Cf. Hagel and Tomaschitz 1998: 35-43, AnK 4.20.21 and 4.11b.15.24.26. Also, see Rauh et al. 2009: 255 note 10.

Whatever peace the city may have enjoyed during the first two centuries of its existence was shattered in the 260s by two events. The first was the invasion of the coastal cities of Cilicia by the Sassanid Persian forces of Shapur I that occurred after the capture of the Roman emperor Valerian in 260. Shapur's own record of the invasion shows that Antiochia was among the Rough Cilician cities that fell to the Persians.⁶ The second event occurred later that same decade when an Isaurian leader named Trebellianus mounted a rebellion and gained control of Cilicia. This rebellion prompted the fortification of sites within Rough Cilicia and the dispatch of forces to quell the rebellion. One such site was nearby Lamos, whose fortification walls were built during the tenure of the emperor Gallienus (260-268), as its dedicatory inscription explicitly records (Hagel and Tomaschitz 1998: 14, Ada 6; Rauh et al. 2009: 301). Although there is no evidence that indicates that Antiochia was directly affected by Trebellianus, hastily-prepared fortifications of this time period may be seen at the city gate. Some of the material incorporated into the fabric of these walls includes damaged statue bases, perhaps as a result of Shapur's recent attack on the city.

Modern study of Antiochia began in 1812 when Francis Beaufort was engaged by the British Admiralty to document and map the southern coastline of Turkey. This opportunity allowed Beaufort to match the various ancient ruins he encountered with Ptolemy's atlas of ancient sites along the coast. When Beaufort sailed into Antiochia's harbor he apparently did not take the opportunity to visit the ancient town located high upon the cliffs. Instead he was content to record the few harbor installations before sailing farther on towards the east.⁷

Subsequent visitors to the site include the Austrian scholars Rudolf Heberdey and Adolf Wilhelm, who came through western Rough Cilicia in 1891. Although very little of their attention was given over to a description of the architectural remains they encountered during the short period they spent at the site, they did record a number of inscriptions which have largely disappeared since then (Heberdey and Wilhelm 1896). The epigraphers George Bean and Terence Mitford traveled through western Rough Cilicia in the late 1950s and early 1960s, principally to record inscriptions they encountered, but they also noted in passing the preservation of some structures (Bean and Mitford 1962, 1965, 1970). In

⁶ *Res Gestae Divi Saporis* §31; see Maricq 1958: 313; cf. Rauh et al. 2009: 301; and Lenski 1999: 445.

⁷ In the harbor Beaufort (1817: 185) noted flights of steps cut into the rock leading down the base of the Anticragus towards the water as well as a possible boat slip. These steps can still be seen today.

the 1960s E. Rosenbaum conducted an architectural survey of specific large sites in western Rough Cilicia, Antiochia ad Cragum among them. The description of the city's monuments by G. Huber, albeit cursory, represents the first major effort to record and document the standing architecture of the ancient city.⁸ Finally, the recent survey project (RCSP) directed by Nicholas Rauh undertook methodical pedestrian surveys of the site, along with documentation of the preserved architecture.⁹

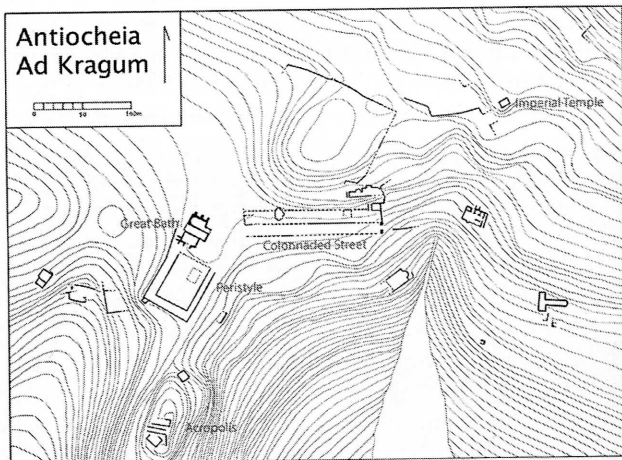


Figure 10-4. Plan of Antiochia ad Cragum.

Excavations at Antiochia began in 2005 with the creation of the *Antiochia ad Cragum Archaeological Research Project* (ACARP). The project has just completed its first decade of archaeological investigation.¹⁰

⁸ Rosenbaum et al. 1967. Turkish archaeologists improved upon Huber's plans in the 1970s; see Erdemgil and Özoral 1975: 55-63.

⁹ For the preliminary report of the survey project see Rauh et al. 2009. The final report of the project's architectural survey by R. Townsend and M. Hoff is currently under preparation.

¹⁰ We are grateful to the Archaeological Directorate of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism for awarding us the necessary excavation permits. We are also thankful to Seher Türkmen, director of the Alanya Archaeological Museum, for her assistance in all things related to the archaeology in the Alanya area. We also acknowledge with gratitude the mayors of Gazipaşa during the past decade, Mr. Cemburak Özgenç and Dr. Adil Çelik, for their efforts on our behalf. We also thank Konrad Gerats for his continued assistance and friendship. Funding for the Project has

The following is a summary of the principal results of research to date, in particular focusing on activities from 2013 to 2014 (Figs. 10-4 and 10-5).

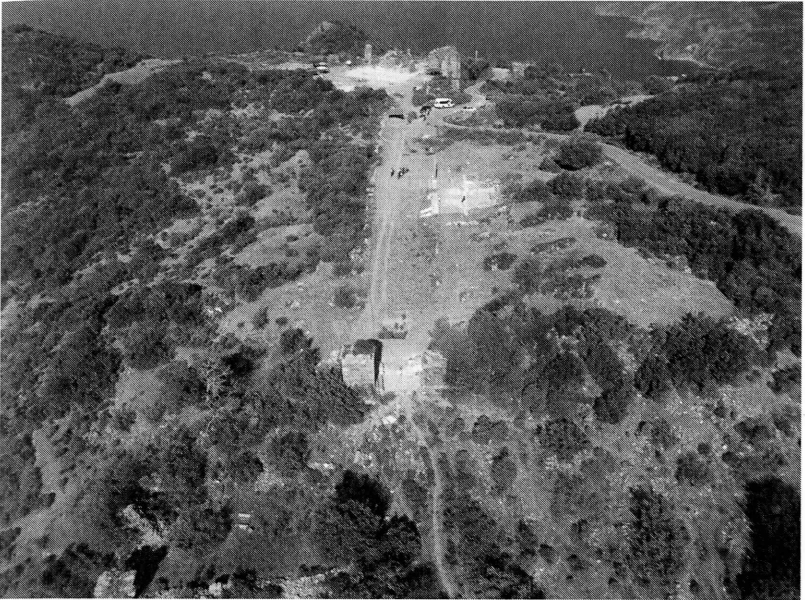


Figure 10-5. Aerial view of Antiochia ad Cragum. Monumental Gate and Colonnaded Street beyond.

Northeast Temple

ACARP's initial investigation of the site, following negotiations with the Alanya Archaeological Museum and the Archaeological Directorate, concerned the study of a collapsed temple located in the northeast sector of the ancient city (Fig. 10-6). Over the course of six seasons over 750 architectural fragments of whole or fragmented blocks were documented through survey of the findspots, photography, and architectural drawing. All blocks were subsequently removed from the collapsed heap and

been generously provided by the following: The University of Nebraska, UNL Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts, National Science Foundation, Loeb Classical Library Foundation, Clark University, and St. Olaf College. Finally, we owe a debt of gratitude to the students, staff, and volunteers who made these seasons a wonderful success.

transported to block fields where they are currently being assessed for eventual anastylosis.

We are now able to determine the basic form of the temple: a single cella structure, 16.465 m long x 10.32 m wide, with broad stairs at the south leading to a tetrastyle prostyle porch. The temple was ornately decorated with Corinthian capitals and relief decoration of floral, figural, and mythological subjects which were carved on the porch's architrave soffits as well as on the projecting modillions of the cornice. The on-going block study is investigating construction techniques as well as reconstructing the original positioning of the architectural fabric.

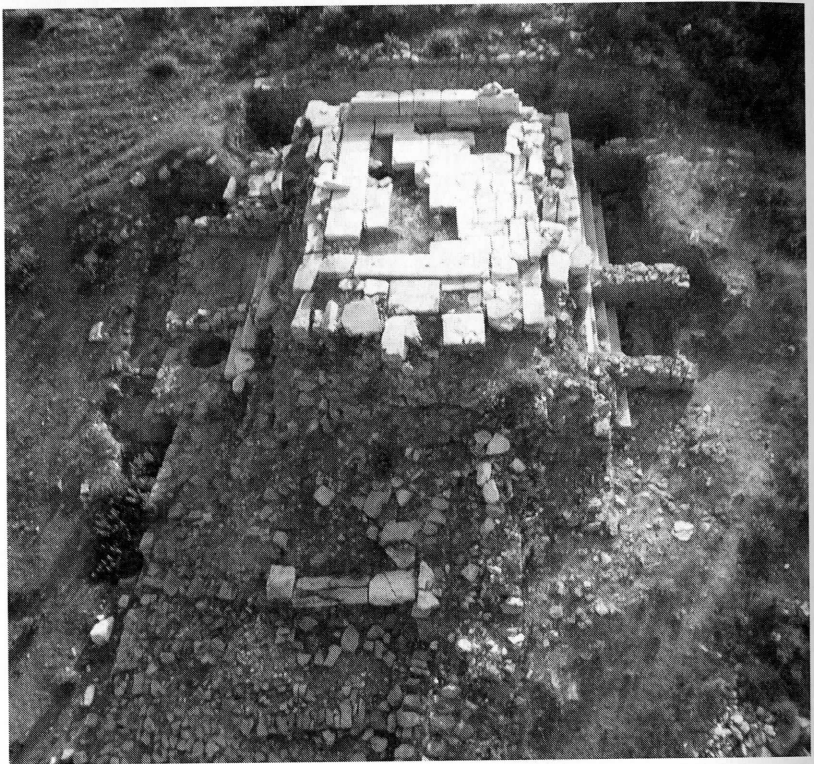


Figure 10-6. Northeast Temple. Aerial view from the southwest.

The dedicatee of the temple has not been identified, as no preserved inscription thus far reveals any evidence of the temple's nature, although evidence points to an imperial purpose. The pediment that once stood atop

the entryway is preserved. Despite what appears to have been purposeful damage, the male bust within the clipeus may be identified as Apollo, complete with appropriate attributes of a quiver, bow, and hair fillets; the clipeus is held by flanking winged Victories (Fig. 10-7). The iconographical formula suggests an imperial personage, but which Roman emperor is represented still remains open to question. The bust's sculptural style indicates a late second/early third century date, likely in the Antonine or early Severan periods.

Ece Erdoğan, the architectural engineer, has initiated an analysis of the blocks and the lime mortar found at the site in order to 1) gather the authentic material properties (i.e., mechanical and chemical characteristics), and 2) assess the condition and the capacity of the existing materials for repair and strengthening plans.

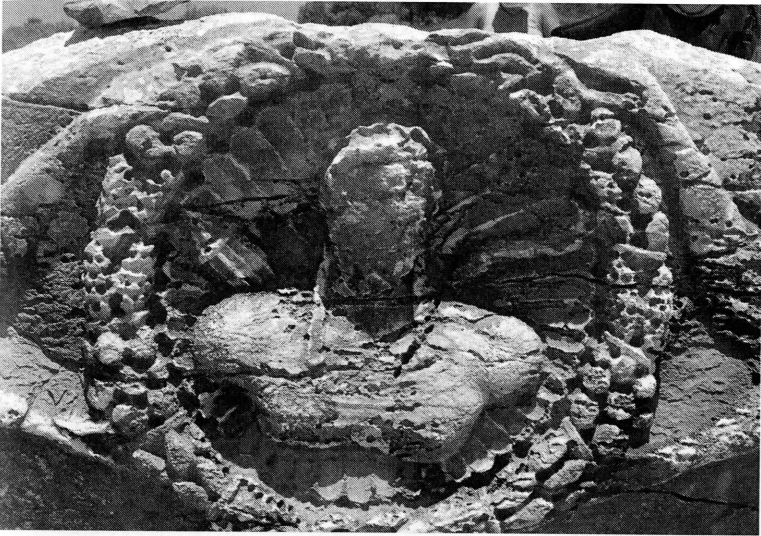


Figure 10-7. Northeast Temple. Detail of pediment, Apollo within clipeus.

After the majority of the architectural material had been removed from the mound, excavation of the temple, including the platform and the perimeter, began in 2009 and continued until 2012. These excavations uncovered the remnants of Christian/Byzantine burials inside the cella; several marble paving blocks of the floor had been removed in order for the emplacement of burials. These burials had been heavily disturbed; none were found intact, and in fact only one still contained any burial

material at all, most notably a few assorted skeletal bones and jewelry. The clearing of the podium floor also exposed the cella threshold as well as the position for the temple's cult statue; these details, together with the uncovering of *in situ* architectural elements along the temple flanks, provide us with an understanding of the temple's basic layout.

Excavation along the exterior perimeter of the temple has provided information regarding the structure's early history as well as post-antique use. Along the rear of the temple, pottery finds from the foundation trenches indicate a construction date at the end of the second/early third century CE, which conforms to the stylistic dating evidence of the pedimental sculpture. On the northwest flank of the temple excavation revealed a well-preserved wine press installation for which ceramic evidence points to a mid-Byzantine date (ca. 11th century).

Colonnaded Street

Connecting the monumental Gate of the city with the center is a Colonnaded Street that stretches approximately 150 m between the two areas. Apparently only the north side of the street contained a colonnade; many intact granite columns can be found on the ground as they toppled off the stylobate (Figs. 10-5 and 10-8). The north side also contained a series of shops, at least along part of the portico. To date, excavation has revealed parts of two shops as well as evidence for water management. The absence of any structure on the south side may have been in order to allow for an unimpeded vista of the seacoast beyond.

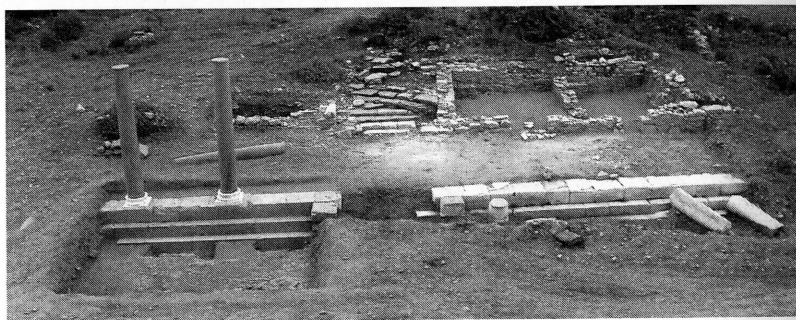


Figure 10-8. Colonnaded Street. Excavation of peristyle and shops.

Recently, ACARP began the restoration of columns on the north colonnade in conjunction with the Historical Preservation authorities in

Antalya. Two columns were chosen for re-erection principally because of their state of preservation and the viability of the existing colonnade. Also, these columns were designated to be returned to their original positions because they fell extremely close to where they originally stood; the weathering on the top surface of the stylobate shows clear evidence of their original placement. The columns measure 4.10 m in height and are roughly 0.57 m in diameter. Although many granite columns survive, none of the marble bases could be located. Therefore, to recreate the colonnade bases we utilized the dimensions of bases from the Northeast Temple. We acquired two blocks of freshly quarried marble from a nearby active quarry and brought in a sculptor, Mustafa Bulat (Atatürk University) and his team, who carved the new bases (Fig. 10-9). Ece Erdoğan and Birol Can devised a method for attaching the column shaft to the base and the base to the stylobate, using fiberglass rods and epoxy that would help protect the restored columns from damage during a seismic event (Fig. 10-10).¹¹ This marks an approach that we hope other excavations and ancient restorations will find useful.

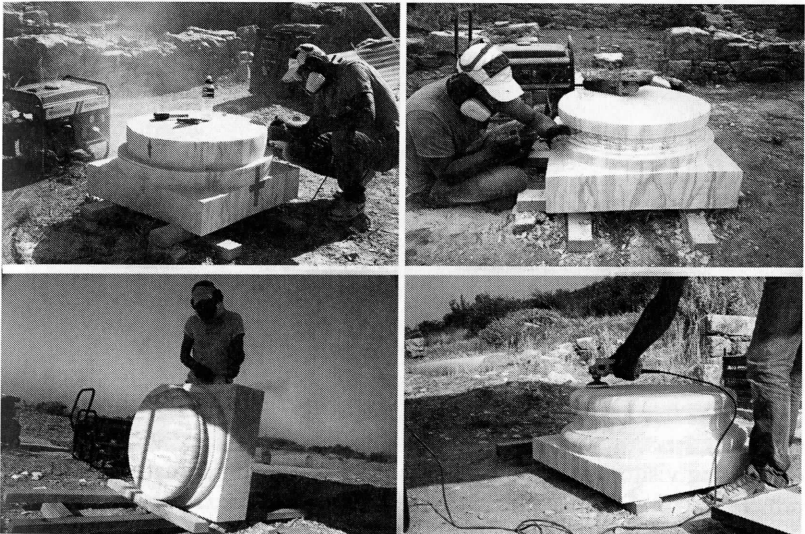


Figure 10-9. Colonnaded Street. Carving of new column bases for *anastylosis*.

¹¹ For technical information regarding column attachment, see Erdoğan et al. (forthcoming).



Figure 10-10. Colonnaded Street. Anastylosis of original column upon new base.

Great Bath Complex

Covered Court

The public urban center of Antiochia is arranged upon a single, relatively long terrace. This terrace stretches from the Monumental Gate of the city at its eastern end to the Great Bath Complex at its western extremity (Hoff et al. 2014a). The Colonnaded Street served as a conduit channeling visitors towards the heart of the urban center that is comprised principally of the Great Bath and an enclosed, covered portico adjoining the bath at the east (Fig. 10-11). The total area encompassed by the complex is 1600 m². A sondage conducted by the Alanya Archaeological Museum in 2002 revealed a small portion of this court, including part of a mosaic and *natio*. Beginning in 2012 ACARP further explored this area, revealing a walled, mosaic-paved portico, 24.86 x 14.50 m that would

have been covered with a roof (Figs. 10-12 and 10-13). Stone foundations (0.65 x 0.65 m) are preserved, indicating the presence of columns to support the roof; no fragments of columns, bases, capitals, or entablature are preserved from these interior columns, suggesting that the columns may have been wooden. The middle of the court was open to the sky, however, and there a marble-lined and paved *natatio* was uncovered, measuring 11.53 x 4.82 m. The shorter ends of the *natatio* are curved (Fig. 10-14). Its depth would have been 1.03 m below the level of the pavement, although the roughly hewn nature of the top surface indicates that there was another course placed on top, perhaps moulded edging. Ringing the bottom of the pool was a single bench upon which bathers could have stood or, if the water level was low enough, comfortably sat. Located at the center of both curved ends are step blocks to facilitate access and egress.



Figure 10-11. Urban Center of Antiochia ad Cragum. Covered Court, left; Great Bath, right; Peristyle, top.

The mosaic and pool were apparently done of a piece, as the mosaic is laid over the intake and outflow drains of the pool. The drain is equipped with three vertical access shafts located on the south, east, and north sides of the pool that are all covered with nicely decorated manhole covers

measuring 0.63 x 0.45 m. The inflow pipe—a considerable segment of lead pipe is preserved—extends under the mosaic pavement and enters high in the eastern wall—and lower than the court floor—of the pool drain. This pipe presumably supplied fresh water to the pool, although this has not been confirmed (Hoff et al. 2014b: 11–12). Within the drain located at the north, where water flowed out of the bottom of the pool, over 150 bronze coins and a gold pendant earring were found; these are still being cleaned and identified. Although much of the outflow drain has been explored and mapped towards the north, its complete route is still unclear and awaits continued excavation of the Great Bath Complex.

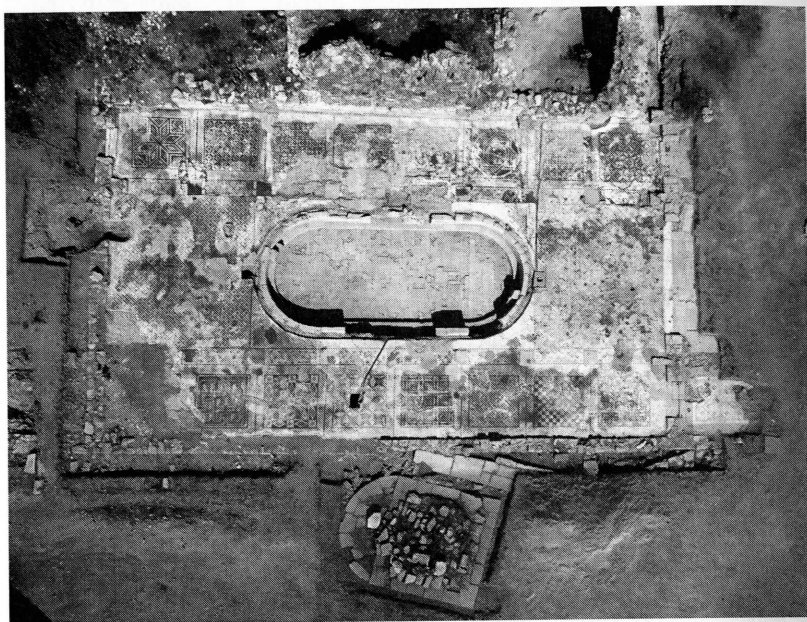


Figure 10-12. Aerial view of Covered Court.

The covered portico was accessed through several entrances: two each along the north and south flanks that correspond to the center of the covered sides. In addition to the two side openings along the north flank, there appears to have been a marble-paved, formal central entryway or propylon. Preliminary sondages on the exterior of the portico's north side indicate that the surface is at least partially covered with another mosaic, further adding to the formal character of this part of the city's urban center. There are four other openings on the west wall of the court that

provide access to the interior of the Great Bath. Two arched niches for statuary (H 2.20, W 1.05, D 0.52 m) are noted on the bath's exterior east wall. A block containing the dedicatory inscription of one of the statues is mostly preserved. The inscription mentions two brothers who offer a statue of Asclepius, which presumably stood within the niche.¹²

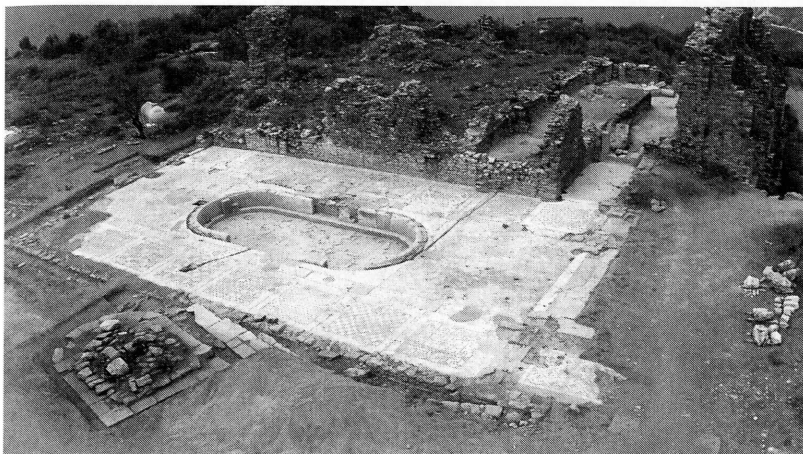


Figure 10-13. Great Bath Complex. Covered court, foreground; Great Bath, background.

The court itself, not including the marble-paved *natatio*, is paved by a single tessellated floor that encompasses an area of approximately 300 m². The general background color of the mosaic is white. Along each of the long sides, and therefore protected by the roof system, the mosaic consists of a series of eight geometric panels, each 5.29 m² in size. The square panels represent various types of geometric forms and elements, utilizing a wide variety of colored tesserae (Fig. 10-15). Cilicia was a major producer of mosaics, and cities of the Cilician coast, such as Anemurium, Celenderis, and Syedra, were adorned with mosaics. Preliminary studies of the mosaic panels from Antiochia suggest an adherence to similar motifs

¹² AE 13.01: [vacat] τοῦ Σοῦρβ | βιος καὶ Σοῦρβις ἰερατεῖ]α β' τοῦ Σοῦρβιος | ἀδελφοὶ τὸν Ἀσκλη[η]πιὸν τῇ πατρίδι. The name Sourbis appears to be common at Antiochia as it is known from two other inscriptions; see Hagel and Tomaschitz 1998: 34 AntK3, 35 AntK 6; a Sourbis is also attested twice at nearby Cestrus; Hagel and Tomaschitz 1998: 146 Kes 4a and Kes 4b, and at Selinus; Hagel and Tomaschitz 1998: 378 SIT 1.

found on examples from nearby Anemurium (Campbell 1998). It has been suggested that, with respect to the Anemurium mosaics, there existed a regional school of Roman-era mosaicists based at Seleucia ad Calycadnum.¹³ These mosaics thus place Antiochia among the ranks of western Rough Cilicia cities containing mosaics. Conservation of the mosaic was given high priority during the two seasons of excavation.



Figure 10-14. *Natatio* of the Covered Court, from north.

¹³ James Russell in Campbell 1998: xiii. Campbell (p. 62) notes more similarities in motifs from the Anemurium mosaics with those from North Africa and Greece than from nearby Syria.

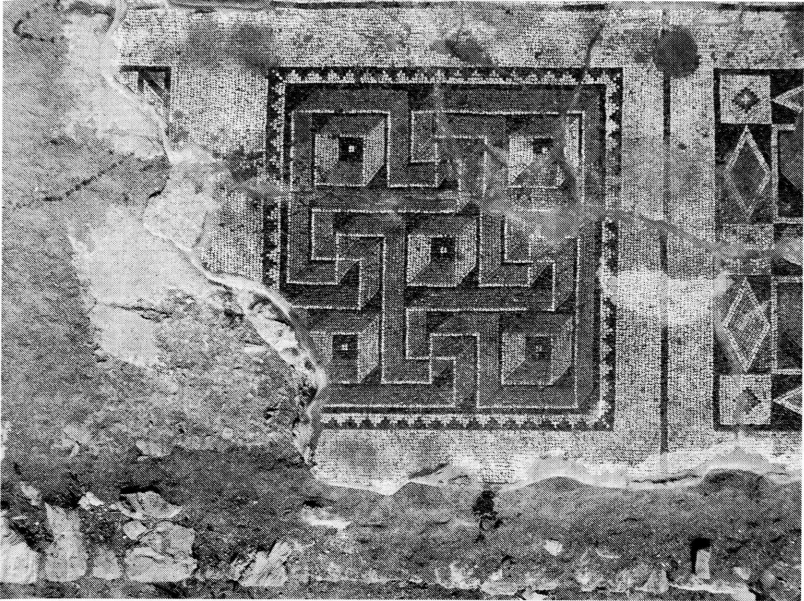


Figure 10-15. Geometric mosaic panel, from the Covered Court.

Excavation of the west flank of the court has revealed a post-classical use for the relatively sturdy flat platform the mosaic provides (Can and Hoff 2014: 381). In this area, the mosaic has revealed a great deal of disturbance, from wear and possibly some burning close to the middle of the west flank. A great deal of glass vessel fragments and wasters in the vicinity indicates that the disturbance belonged to a glass factory, dating to the late Roman/Early Byzantine periods. The furnace for the factory also has been located, built into the south wall of the court.

Great Bath

The single largest structure of the ancient city, as well as the most visible, is the Great Bath. Much of its exterior walls are preserved, thereby allowing its general layout (east-west axis) to be understood. Its dimensions measure approximately 35 x 20 m, encompassing an area of around 700 m². The best preserved flank is the north, where the hillside slopes rapidly towards the north. On this flank a thick wall was constructed with three ponderous buttresses to help support the vaulted roof. Excavation of the exterior court to the Bath's east revealed several

openings into the Bath, some of which were purposely blocked at a later date, perhaps when the court was transformed into the glass workshop.

The only previous examination of the bath was by G. Huber during the Rosenbaum survey of the 1960s. Huber described a three-chambered structure (Building I.4) with rooms of unequal size and noted that the northernmost chamber was outfitted with an apse containing a niche.¹⁴ Prior to excavation by ACARP in 2014, several large chunks of the collapsed mortared roof structure littering the surface, but no internal walls, were visible. Excavation quickly began to clarify the plan of the building, with the identification of the northernmost chamber as the frigidarium (Can and Hoff 2014: 381–82; Hoff et al. 2015). Although only 60% of the room has been cleared (Fig. 10-16), we have been able to determine its plan; measuring roughly 17 x 9 m overall, it contains five semi-circular niches, presumably for statues, built into the fabric of the apse. Excavation has also revealed a well-preserved mosaic pavement in the apse with a stylized palmette. Within the rest of the frigidarium, however, the mosaic is not well preserved, although enough is present to indicate geometric forms.



Figure 10-16. Aerial view of the Great Bath during excavation, 2014.

¹⁴ Huber in Rosenbaum et al. 1967: 24–26, fig. 20.

The frigidarium was accessed from the court through an entry hall, approximately three meters long and also paved with a mosaic floor. To the north of this entryway, we have just begun to clear what may be a latrine, although more work remains in this area for 2015.

Peristyle

The Peristyle is located immediately south of the Great Bath. There is an approximate difference in elevation of three meters between the Great Bath Court and the Peristyle; a stairway connecting the two terraces is understood but so far remains elusive. The Peristyle measures roughly 60 by 40 m, and is built upon a broad terrace. The terrace walls along the east, west, and south flanks are well preserved, especially at the two southern corners. Prior to excavation, observation showed that in a few locations parts of the interior stylobate were visible, although in no location do we note preservation of the structure's outer walls. The most prominent aspect of the peristyle's pre-excitation state was the number of preserved grey granite columns scattered throughout the square.

In order to test the various parts of the Peristyle, including the stylobate, the surface behind it, the interior of the court itself, and an enigmatic structure within the court, 14 four-meter square trenches were laid out. One trench was laid out near the center of the open court with the intent to probe the Peristyle's surface. The pre-excitation surface of the trench's center measured 0.60 m below the step of the stylobate. This difference in elevation indicates that approximately 60 cm of courtyard fill has eroded away since antiquity. One explanation for the erosion may be water that cascaded down from the higher Great Bath Court to the north over the years, washing much of the soil away from the peristyle court. Based on examination of the stylobate we have been able to determine the intercolumniation to have been 2.975 m, and one intact granite column measures 4.10 m high, the same as the columns of the Colonnaded Street.

Within the relatively flat court of the Peristyle is the feature that was first observed and recorded by G. Huber during the Rosenbaum survey in the 1960s.¹⁵ He noted that the structure, labeled I.3 T, was located off-center and consisted of marble blocks. He also recorded its measurements as 13.80 by 9.00 m. Yet prior to excavation none of the features described by Huber were visible. Local villagers reported, however, that they had noticed scraps of mosaic pavement atop the mound over the years; this observation gained traction within the very first few hours of excavating

¹⁵ Huber in Rosenbaum et al. 1967: 18.

the top of the mound, as loose tesserae began to appear throughout the three trenches under excavation. Two of the three trenches came down upon a mosaic pavement only 0.22 m below the surface, within the central chamber of the structure.

The cella's dimensions form a barely discernible rectangle: N-S, 5.82; E-W, 6.94 m. The tessellated pavement extends throughout the chamber (Fig. 10-17). Working from outside towards the inside, the decoration consists of alternating blue and white bands, followed by a 0.23 m wide chain pattern. This is followed by a 0.43 m band of interlocking floral motifs, composed of blue, white, and red tesserae. These bands form a frame around an approximately three meter central square. The east and west flanks of the square contain an odd number of geometric square motifs. The west side has two parallel rows of five motifs each; the east side has four motifs along the outer row and only two in the inner row. At present there is no known reason to explain this asymmetry.

Near the center of the cella is a N-S series of three installations, but their interpretation cannot yet be determined. The northernmost is a squarish block of marble, whose edges have been partially obscured by mosaic tesserae. There is a setting line that forms a right angle at the SE corner and proceeds in both E and N directions; however, the line disappears or becomes obscured the more distant it moves away from the SE corner. There are four iron clamps, each with lead surrounds that apparently held in place a square monument, approximately 0.50 m N-S and 0.54 m E-W. South of this installation is a wide, nicely squared, marble base, 1.015 m long. The north edge does not form a straight and even edge. The base's top surface, although flat, has been roughly picked. The block currently does not lie at the same level as the mosaic pavement, but instead is tilted up so that the NW corner is the block's highest. It is possible that tectonic force may have caused the base's slight upheaval. The roughly picked surface suggests that another block, now lost, rested upon the block. Farther south still and contiguous with the marble base is a disturbed installation caused perhaps by looters or early vandals. All that remains of the feature is a mortared ledge on the south side of a pit, made presumably by looters, approximately 0.55 m wide and 0.08 m thick.

The building may have been a temple; the few surviving examples of the building's entablature—columns, geison, capital—suggest the building's purpose as such. There are indications of a stairway at the south of the building, thus indicating a podium-style temple. There are also four preserved granite columns, whole or fragmentary, which are found near the structure's front, suggesting a tetrastyle façade for the structure's entrance. The height of these columns is 4.16 m (composed of the same

granite and only 5 cm taller than the ones associated with the Peristyle). The structure's walls are comprised of a variety of different types of blocks, including spolia (from Shapur's razzia?) from earlier buildings. One such spolion, constructed into the lowest course of the east wall, shows a winged Victory (?), although much of the relief sculpture has been chiseled flat in order to form a level surface for the block above. Another spolion, incorporated into the west wall, is a curved monument base with an inscription carved below a moulding: ΝΑΝΑ[] ΝΟΣΤΟΥΤΟΥΒΩ[...].

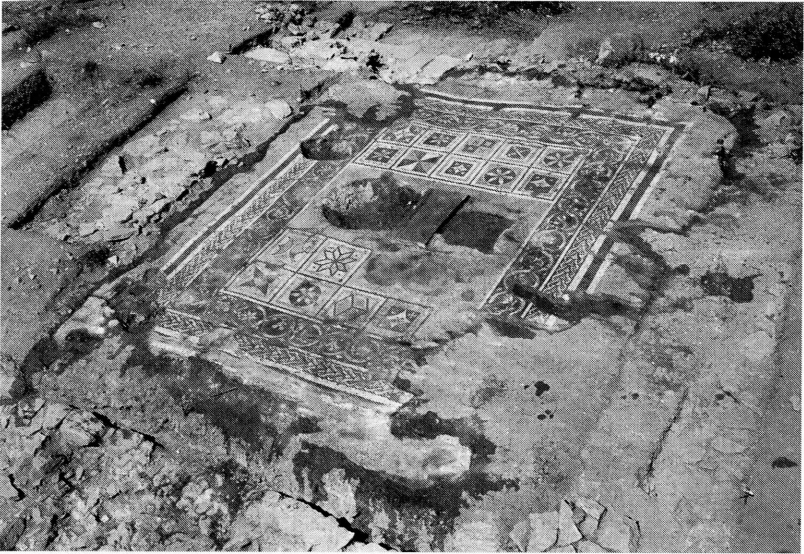


Figure 10-17. Peristyle Building with mosaic, from the northeast.

Acropolis

The term “acropolis” is given to a conical high point of the city, overlooking the sea, just south of the urban center. The acropolis is unfortified, but because of its lofty position overlooking the sea in all directions as well as the city, it must have been held in prominent regard by the city's citizens. Nevertheless the standing preserved architecture appears to belong to the Late Roman/Byzantine era.

Surveys conducted by the *Rough Cilicia Archaeological Survey Project* from 1996-2004 had identified several structures, together with

olive/grape pressing material and pottery dating from the first century BCE to the eleventh century CE, with the largest sample from the fourth–sixth centuries CE. Consequently, initial research questions were framed around the area’s use as an agricultural processing and storage center. Initial excavation of the Acropolis was carried out in the summer of 2014.



Figure 10-18. Aerial view of the Acropolis.

Buildings were located closely together in no particular pattern, resembling most closely a typical mountain village in the region. Three principle structures were identified on the northeastern section of the Acropolis and selected for excavation, arbitrarily named I, II, and IV (Fig. 10-18). A trench was also opened in the “street” area between the southwest wall of Structure II and the northeast wall of Structure IV. Clearing excavation in all three structures removed loose debris, including wall-fall, organic debris, alluvia, and windborne sediments. Architectural pottery predominated, but fine wares and storage amphorae were present, as were glass, bronze, iron, and worked marble and limestone.

Structure I appears to be an industrial work area of two stories, with a porch on the eastern side, a dry-stone dividing wall of much later construction, and an external stairway that extends from the northeastern

wall down to the eastern corner, underneath the porch. A curvilinear wall from an earlier structure emerges beneath the foundations of the southern wall, which Structure I shares with Structure II. Of particular note were the two grave features, lined with large stones and capped with flat flagstones, one along the western wall, which had been robbed, the other along the northern wall, which was undisturbed. The undisturbed grave contained the remains of a mature adult male. Dentition was worn but not particularly so, indicating mature but not advanced age. Fine wares, glass, and glass beads were found in the fill surrounding the human remains.

Structure II appears to be a Christian church with eastern apse, as well as a vaulted ceiling preserved to the west (Fig. 10-19). Excavations uncovered a plaster floor throughout trenches AC2A and AC2C, with interior buttresses and a bench on the southeastern wall of AC2C. Trench AC2B contained a flagstone floor and amphora storage niches, as well as glass, fine ware pottery, and bronze door and furniture pieces. Of particular note was a child burial, neonate or perinate, in a repurposed osteotheke, found along the northeastern wall.



Figure 10-19. Acropolis, Structure II (church), from the southwest.

Structure IV appears to be a residential complex. It is a large two-room building with ashlar walls, regular post-holes in the walls to support floor beams above the ground floor, two well-constructed thresholds and

doorframes in the northeast and southeastern walls, and a small storage room along the northwestern side of the interior, dividing wall. A large cross in low relief in two pieces was found outside the northeast doorway, and the stones to the east of the same doorway bore a number of small inscribed crosses. The wall-stones above the lintel of the northeast doorway were cut and positioned in such a way as to accommodate the large stone bas-relief cross found directly below it in the “street” area between Structures II and IV.

The Acropolis excavations are also conducting 3D scans of all trenches on a daily or bi-daily basis, using Agisoft’s Photoscan according to the protocol used at Tel Akko in Israel.¹⁶ By linking 3D scans to GIS metadata, we were able to document the excavation process more precisely. Photoscan was also used to document all artifacts, from which we were able to create 3D printed models for further study. In addition to 3D imaging, we used Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) on the inscriptions and coins, allowing the capture of surface detail invisible to the naked eye.

Conclusions

The first ten years of excavations have provided a cursory glimpse of the urban life of the ancient city of Antiochia ad Cragum. We have begun to understand the layout of the city and are learning about its history as reflected in the ruins. As we gain more insight into the city’s history, more questions will emerge. Our focus will soon shift from monuments of the public sphere to those of the domestic. We also aim to glean more from surveying the closer territories to inform us of the city’s extent. Overall, the second decade of research looks as promising as the first.

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¹⁶ Olson et al. 2013.

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