



# FRIENDS OF GORDION

# NEWSLETTER



Figure 1: The reconstruction of Megaron 3 (9th century BCE), looking southeast, with the citadel's East Gate in the background.  
Photo by Elisa Del Bono.

We published last year's newsletter shortly after Gordion was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage Site List, and expressed our hope that the number of visitors to the archaeological site and the local museum would rise. We could not have expected that the numbers would increase so substantially, with busloads of visitors filling the museum's galleries and examining the architectural conservation program

at the archaeological site (fig. 1). It was especially gratifying to see so many children discovering the site for the first time, some of whom enrolled in Gordion's Cultural Heritage Education Program, which this summer celebrated its tenth year of operation.

As visitors moved through the Gordion Museum in 2024, they witnessed new vitrines, lighting, and text panels, as well as an increased number

of artifacts on display and a new interior color scheme of purple and gold (figs. 2, 3). This scheme echoes the colors of the textiles that covered the decedent's body in the "Midas Mound" (Tumulus MM), and they complement the colors used for *The Golden Age of King Midas* exhibit at the Penn Museum in 2016.

One other welcome by-product of the UNESCO designation was a greater interest in Gordion by the media. During





Figure 2: The entrance to the renovated Gordion Museum. Photo by Gebhard Bieg.

the summer of 2024 we participated in four documentaries – two Turkish, one British, and one French, all of which will be aired within the coming year. Gordion also forms the centerpiece of this year’s new *Polath International Film Festival*, where the preservation of cultural heritage will be emphasized. A new English-language *Gordion Guidebook*

is now in production, along with a new printing of the Turkish-language version that was published last year.

None of this would have been possible without the active support and engagement of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara, the Belediye and Kaymakamlık of Polatlı, and the Ankara

Cultural Directorate. We are enormously grateful to all of them.

In the following pages we present the activities and preliminary conclusions regarding the 2024 season – beginning with architectural and object conservation, then excavations in Area 1 at the Citadel Mound (the South Gate and Mosaic Building Complex), geophysical





Figure 3: The Tumulus T-52 vitrine in the renovated Gordion Museum. From left to right: Mustafa Metin, İbrahim Bolat, Murat Can Süygün, and Kozaan Uzun. Photo by Brian Rose.

prospection, the Cultural Heritage Education Program, and finally, ongoing research and publication.

Before describing the scope of this year's research activities, we want to highlight a new program developed by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism that is intended to extend the excavation season during the next four years. Due to the U.S. academic calendar, we have only three months in the summer available for fieldwork, and the new program, funded by the Ministry, facilitates additional excavation outside this time bracket. The first project in this new program at Gordion, which began a few weeks



Figure 4: Tumulus T-26 under excavation, looking south. Photo by Ali Can Kırcaali.





Figure 5: Tumulus T-26 excavation, looking northeast. Photo by Ali Can Kircaali.



Figure 6: The reconstruction of Megaron 3 (9th century BCE) with the Terrace Building in the background, looking southwest. Photo by Brian Rose.

ago, is focused on a monumental burial mound or tumulus near the Gordion Museum, Tumulus T-26, which has a height of 6.5 m and a diameter of 60 m (figs. 4, 5). Remote sensing conducted on the tumulus in 2008 revealed a series of radial or guide walls that date to the time of the mound's construction – probably sometime in the 8th century BCE. The excavation is being led by Prof. Dr. Yücel Şenyurt of Ankara's Hacı Bayram Veli University, together with his colleagues Prof. Dr. Atakan Akçay and Dr. Leyla Yorulmaz.

### *Architectural and Object Conservation*

Architectural conservation, again overseen by Elisa Del Bono and Angelo Lanza, focused on Megaron 3, the largest-known of the citadel's megarons, as well as the eighth unit of the Terrace Building (TB-8). Strategic planning for Megaron 3's reconstruction commenced toward the end of the 2022 season, and the project officially began during the last month of the 2023 season (figs. 1, 6). As we mentioned in last year's report, the walls of Megaron 3, constructed in the mid-9th century BCE, are so fragile due to the devastating fire of ca. 800 BCE that we have found it impossible to stabilize them. Since this monumental structure was one of the principal buildings of the Early Phrygian citadel, however, it is vital that we improve its legibility for those walking along the Visitor Circuit.

Our solution has been to cover the remains of the original stones in geotextile and then encase them with new walls, made from appropriately cut, dry-laid limestone blocks, to reconstruct the plan of the 9th century building. These reconstruction walls, with their masonry held in place by cables and stainless-steel bars, are completely



reversible in the event that more effective conservation solutions can be identified in the future. By the end of the 2024 season, we had reconstructed half of the megaron's vestibule, and we hope to have at least half of the entire building completed next year.

Since Megaron 3 is enormous (ca. 30 x 18 m), we needed an abundance of limestone blocks for the reconstruction, and we were fortunate in being able to secure these from the modern village of Kavak, 56 km southeast of Gordion, where stone masonry traditionally used for house construction has been abandoned in favor of concrete. We could not easily have managed the transport of the stones without the unflagging support of Mr. Mürsel Yıldızkaya, Mayor of Polatlı. We are also extremely grateful to Mr. Coşar Yağcı, Deputy Mayor of Polatlı, and Mr. Sabri Erdem, the Director of Public Works in Polatlı.

This year we had hoped to complete the conservation of the multi-unit Terrace Building, which is over 100 m long and one of two near-identical structures in the 9th century BCE "Terrace Complex." This complex, devoted to food processing and textile production, is as close as we get to an industrial sector in Early Phrygian Gordion. Having already conserved seven units of the Terrace Building (TB-1 – TB-7), this season we focused on the final one, TB-8. However, the work was challenging: although all of the Terrace Complex walls had been badly damaged in the conflagration of ca. 800 BCE, those in TB-8 were particularly affected, and some stretches were missing altogether. Nevertheless, by August we had finished the conservation of over half of the unit, using lime-based grout injections for cracked stones, epoxy mixed with calcium carbonate to consolidate fractured blocks, and



Figure 7: The damaged partition wall of the Terrace Building's TB-8 unit (9th century BCE), before conservation, with Angelo Lanza beginning the work. Photo by Elisa Del Bono.



Figure 8: The partition wall of TB-8 (9th century BCE), after conservation. Photo by Elisa Del Bono.

steel cables inserted within the masonry to prevent the wall faces from splaying (figs. 7, 8).

The conservation activities in this area extended also to a magnificent stone

staircase, likewise of 9th century date, that connected an opening in the northern enclosure wall to the megarons at the east and the Terrace Complex at the west (figs. 9, 10). The staircase was 8.15 m long, and





Figure 9: The staircase adjacent to TB-8 (9th century BCE), looking east. Tumulus MM is in the background at upper left. Photo by Brian Rose.



Figure 10: Conservation of the staircase adjacent to TB-8 (9th century BCE), looking southeast. Photo by Brian Rose.



although there were originally as many as 15 steps, only seven now remain in place. This is an unusual structure in that the steps lead directly to the side wall of TB-8; on either side, at the top, are returns of three shorter steps that connect to the megaron and Terrace Complex areas, respectively. Since the staircase is bonded to TB-8, it must have operated at least in part as a stepped retaining wall for the terrace, functionally similar to (though much smaller than) the monumental stepped “glacis” revetting walls that have been excavated at the eastern and southern sides of the Citadel Mound. It is conceivable that the staircase steps also doubled as seats for small assemblies of people, but here we are in the realm of speculation. The masonry, which is primarily of basalt or gray limestone, was badly disintegrated, with severe cracking and fragmentation. Consequently, this season we were only able to conserve part of the staircase’s east side, stabilizing as many stones as possible in situ using microgrout injections. We will likely need the entire 2025 season to finish the rest of the conservation work here and in TB-8. We again record our gratitude for the outstanding work of Elisa Del Bono and Angelo Lanza, assisted by Ali Can Kırcaali (Samsun University), İlayda Şahin (Istanbul Technical University), and Ekin Çiftçi (Politecnico di Milano).

Conservation of the 9th century BCE mosaic floor from Megaron 2 is still ongoing since the mosaic is so large (nearly 11 x 10 m, surviving in 33 segments) and the work is extremely painstaking (fig. 11). Since it is the oldest decorated floor mosaic ever discovered, our ultimate goal is to rehouse it safely indoors, but this will require the construction of a new building. For now, we are focusing on reattaching or, where necessary, replacing all the loose pebbles that originally formed part of the polychrome



Figure 11: Conservation of the Megaron 2 pebble mosaic (ca. 825 BCE) in the Gordion Museum, by Cricket Harbeck (left) and Kris Forrest (right). Photo by Gebhard Bieg.

designs. To that end, we developed a new bonding agent, a “mortar” composed of fine sand and a dilute acrylic adhesive. In addition, Richard Liebhart created a new vitrine to house the one mosaic segment that has so far been fully conserved (this had been temporarily displayed in the Penn Museum’s *The Golden Age of King Midas* exhibit in 2016). Finally, among other projects, Kozan Uzun finished the conservation of an Early Phrygian (9th century BCE) pithos from TB-8, as well as the ceramics from the 2019 Tumulus T-52 excavation, no small task since the T-52 tomb chamber contained 22 small cauldrons or dinoi, and two one-handled cooking pots. The many ongoing object conservation projects (fig. 12) were expertly overseen by Jessie Johnson, Cricket Harbeck, and Kozan Uzun, with assistance provided by Amber Swanson, Murat Can Süygün, Ekin Çiftçi, Çilem Yürekli, and Malwina Melis Güran.

### *Excavation in Area 1: The South Gate*

This campaign marked our tenth year of excavation at the South Gate, which has emerged as one of our most significant discoveries (fig. 13). This was the principal entrance to the citadel for over 1,200 years, from the 9th century BCE to at least the 4th century CE, and the most fascinating feature of the gate is how many times it was rebuilt. It was originally constructed in the mid-9th century BCE, at the same time as the citadel’s East Gate; it was then rebuilt in the early 8th century BCE, after the great fire of ca. 800 and the subsequent heightening of the citadel’s ground level; further work took place in the later 6th century BCE, after the Persian attack; and yet again in the 4th century CE, when Gordion served as a Roman fort (figs. 13, 14).



Figure 12: Cricket Harbeck reattaching gold leaf to the ivory sphinx discovered in the Mosaic Building Complex in 2023. Photo by Gebhard Bieg.

What is perhaps most surprising is the continual reuse of the older walls centuries after they had been built, as fig. 15 makes clear. The ramp's upper surface, a polychrome stone pavement, dates to the Late Roman period (4th century CE) yet it was used in tandem with the walls of

the original Early Phrygian (9th century BCE) construction, which still stand to a height of over 4 m in places. In other words, the Early and Middle Phrygian walls were built to last, and often they did.

Last year we discovered the South Gate's Early Phrygian portal (the "South

Gatehouse"), near the top of the Citadel Mound, and this apparently continued in operation until at least the end of the Hellenistic-period occupation. Once visitors had passed through the gatehouse, they would have traveled along a road extending northwest ca. 100 m into the citadel, although here the periods of its use are still unclear since our knowledge of the road currently derives solely from remote sensing.

This year we extended our investigations to immediately north of the South Gatehouse, in an attempt to determine what lay directly beyond the gate, and how the use of that area changed over time. The initial stratum we encountered, as in last year's campaign, was probably Medieval in date—ca. 13th – 14th century CE—when the area to the west and north of the gate had developed into a cemetery. The results from our 2023 and 2024 excavations here—56 graves in total—are just as important as the information we have obtained about the citadel's fortifications, and we discuss this cemetery in some detail after describing the material of Phrygian and Roman date.

More of the Early Phrygian (9th century BCE) gate complex was uncovered as we excavated across an area measuring nearly 44 m east-west (figs. 13, 14, 16). This included part of the Early Phrygian citadel's upper perimeter wall which must have encircled the entire Citadel Mound. On the west flank of the South Gatehouse, this wall also probably served as the northern side of a large bastion, nearly 18 m wide, the existence of which has been indicated by remote sensing. To the south and west of it there is evidence for a second road approaching the South Gatehouse, from the west, and similar no doubt to the one approaching from the east that we have been excavating over the past several





Figure 13: Aerial view of the South Gate (at left) and Mosaic Building Complex (at right). Photo by Ali Can Kurcaali.



Figure 14: Color phase plan of the South Gatehouse area, by Simon Greenslade, with modifications by Gareth Darbyshire and Ardeth Anderson.





Figure 15: The South Gate's eastern ramped approach road: The Late Roman paved resurfacing (4th century CE) is prominently visible in the middle distance, alongside the original Early Phrygian (9th century BCE) flanking wall (at right). Photo by Brian Rose.

years. This western road probably led down to the northwestern side of the Southern Lower Town, and then on to the Western Outer Town. To the west of the South Gatehouse, we uncovered a terrace wall formed from two lines of stones that created a platform for more buildings here, and based on our remote sensing results, its width was nearly 15 m.

During the Middle Phrygian period (ca. 800–540 BCE), considerable reconstruction took place along the South Gate's eastern approach road, although we have found very little evidence of such building activity at the South Gatehouse itself – only repairs to the eastern wall flanking the gate passageway. We did, however, obtain important new dating information for the beginning of Middle Phrygian

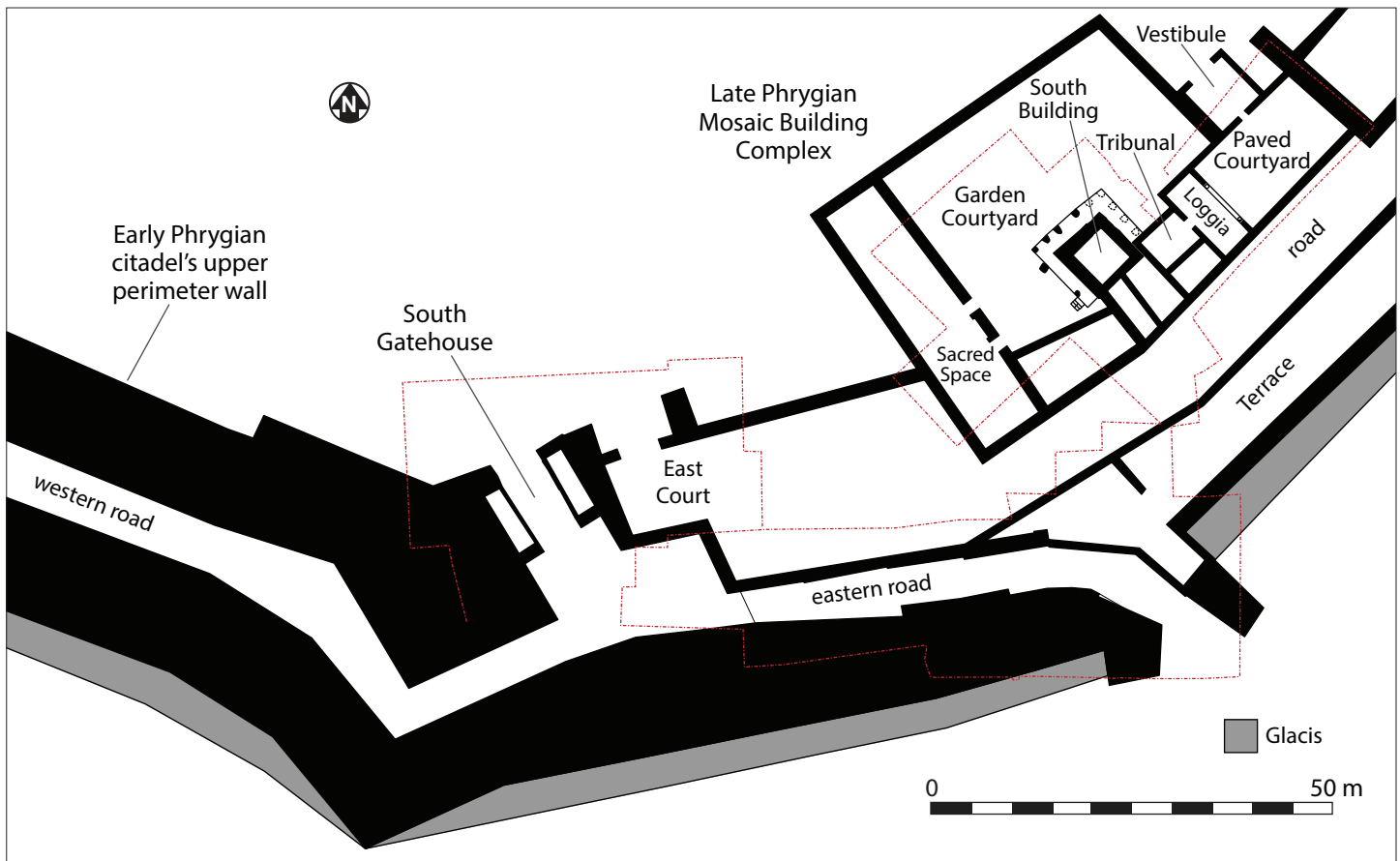


Figure 16: Tentative reconstruction of the South Gate's eastern and western approach roads, leading to the South Gatehouse. The Mosaic Building Complex is at upper right. Plan by Simon Greenslade, with modifications by Gareth Darbyshire and Ardeth Anderson.



construction in the area. This was derived from dendrochronological analysis of several wood samples from the South Gate, conducted by Prof. Dr. Ünal Akkemik and Prof. Dr. Nesibe Köse (Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa), and Prof. Dr. Tomasz Wazny (Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń). Behind the north wall of the E–W approach road, the rubble construction packing there had been stabilized with large juniper logs 2.40 – 3.40 m long, laid parallel to each other. The dendrochronological analysis of these timbers has produced a reliable felling date of ca. 800 BCE for four of the logs, which still retain their final growth ring, thereby giving us a *terminus post quem* for the construction of the wall. Also present within the same construction fill were two miniature bronze fibulae, one of which can be typologically dated to around 800 BCE, consonant with the dating evidence provided by the timbers. All of this confirms our dating of Gordion’s Early Phrygian Destruction Level to ca. 800 BCE, with the rebuilding of the citadel commencing immediately thereafter.

The next major phase of construction at the South Gate did not occur until the Late Roman period (4th century CE), by which time Gordion had become a Roman military base (fig. 14). New building work around the South Gatehouse was now extensive. The construction of the new walls occurred at the same time as the major resurfacing of the ramped approach road, an event which is well dated by ceramics to the first half of the fourth century.

On the western side of the South Gatehouse two large rooms were added, and clearly these were part of a larger, multi-room complex. One of them was long and rectangular, 3.40 x at least 8.60 m, with a series of large stone slabs forming a doorway. One of the stones



Figure 17: Late Hellenistic bronze lamp from the South Gate. Photo by Gebhard Bieg.

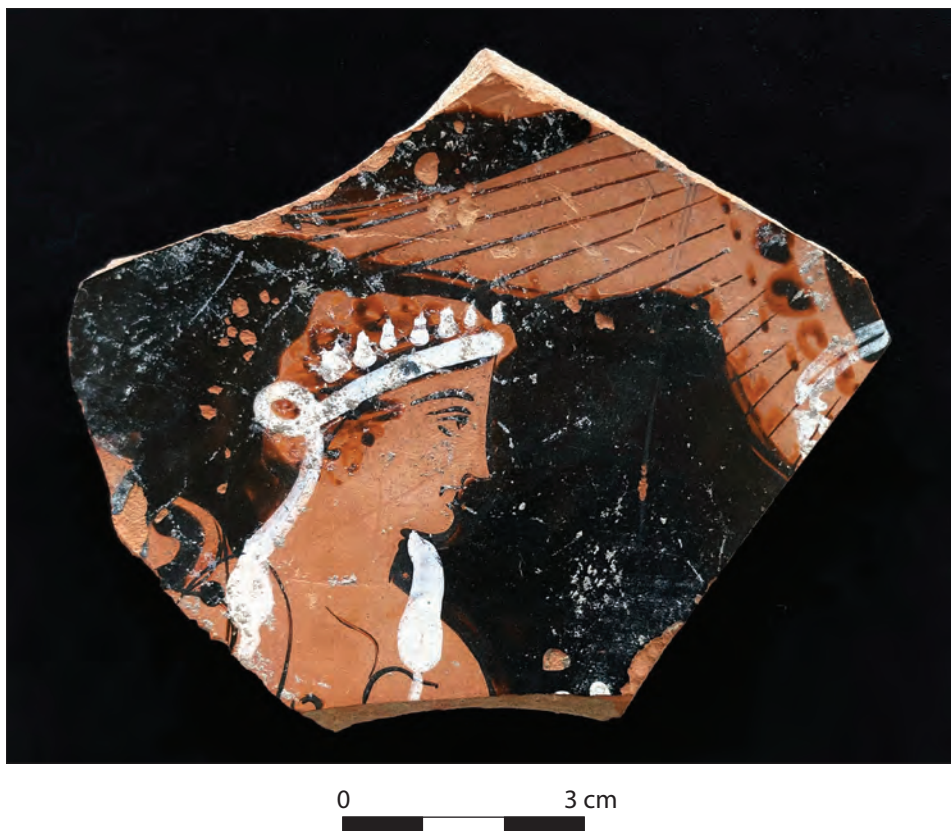


Figure 18: Fragment of a red-figure krater, ca. 375 BCE, showing Dionysus and a Nike. Photo by Gebhard Bieg.





Figure 19: Fragments of a hydria or water container found at the South Gate (ca. 350–325 BCE). The hydria is decorated with a gilded spearhead necklace motif in added clay, with ovolo decoration on the lip. Photo by Kozan Uzun.



Figure 20: Fragments of a hydria or water container found at the South Gate (ca. 350–325 BCE). Detail of incised dedication to the mother goddess. Photo by Kozan Uzun.

to ca. 375 BCE, showing Dionysus and a Nike (fig. 18). The third is by far the most interesting: a fine, black glazed hydria or water container, dating to ca. 350–325 BCE and assembled from joining sherds discovered in both 2023 and 2024 in different contexts at the South Gate (figs. 19, 20). The hydria is decorated with a gilded spearhead necklace motif in added clay, with ovolo decoration on the lip. On the neck is a two-line incised inscription once filled with gypsum, indicating that a man named Chairigenes dedicated this vessel to the mother goddess. This goddess, referred to as Matar during the Phrygian period, was frequently venerated at Gordion. It is therefore not surprising to find another dedication to her, although nothing of this kind has been discovered before. The hydria was probably originally housed in the adjacent Mosaic Building Complex, which was a locus of great sanctity and the likely exhibition site of the Gordian Knot cut by Alexander the Great.

### *The Roman Military Altars*

had a circular impression on its surface, 0.31 m in diameter, undoubtedly the site of a now-lost column. There was also a stone staircase leading up to the room from the road.

The floor of the room had a mixed clay and mortar surface, while a smaller room at the southwest (measuring 3.10 x 3.85 m) had a floor that was almost 1 m higher and covered with white plaster. The northwest corner of this latter room still stood to a height of 1.75 m, the walls of which were covered with a thick white plaster, and a hearth was set against the east wall. Mixed within its floor were small pieces of alabaster, while larger alabaster pieces, some of which were burned, were found in the later infilling of the room. More rooms, only parts of which we have excavated, extend to the north, west, and

east sides of the South Gatehouse.

The walls of some of these buildings were strengthened in the second half of the fourth century (fig. 14). The most prominent of these new walls was built on the western side of the road, along the east wall of the large rectangular room with the staircase. This new wall encroached upon the still accessible roadway, thereby further narrowing the entrance into the citadel.

There were a number of important finds here of much earlier date—Late Phrygian (4th century BCE) and Hellenistic (3rd–2nd century BCE)—but these were discovered in fill deposits lying over the Late Roman road. One of them was a nearly perfectly preserved bronze lamp, likely of second century BCE date (fig. 17), and the second was a fragment of a red-figure krater, datable

The Late Roman rebuilding of the South Gatehouse for the military base on the Citadel Mound prompted us to look again at the twin military altars that were pulled from the Sakarya River in 2008 (figs. 21, 22). These have a height of just over 1 m and were fashioned of marble – a material that is extremely rare at Gordion. Both date to the early third century CE and feature dedications to Caracalla and Geta, the sons of the emperor Septimius Severus (193–211 CE). The two altars have identical decoration: a Victory on the face with the inscribed decoration, a laurel wreath on the side panels, and a round shield with three spears on the back. The duplicate decoration and double wreaths on the altars indicate the joint authority of the





Figure 21: Roman military altar with dedication to the emperor Caracalla (211 CE). Height ca. 1 m. Photo by Gebhard Bieg.



Figure 22: Roman military altar with battered dedication to Geta, brother of Caracalla. Height ca. 1 m. Photo by Gebhard Bieg.

two men, and both dedicators were set up by a regiment identified as the First Cyrenaican Cohort. The inscription to Caracalla, which celebrates his victory, is intact (fig. 21), but that of his brother Geta, who was assassinated in the first year of their joint rule (211 CE), has been battered (fig. 22).

Caracalla is referred to as both “Augustus,” and “Imperator,” which indicates a date of carving after his father Septimius’ death at the beginning of February, 211 CE.

Geta’s memory was damned at the beginning of 212, so the stone would not

have stood in pristine condition for long. We can assume that Gordion received word of the accession of the new emperors; the regiment then ordered the carving of the twin altars, and erected them before the news of the *damnatio* was received. After Geta’s inscription was erased, the word “to Victory” was inscribed on the upper molding, and in the absence of the associated inscription and the proximity of the first base, the victory in question would have been interpreted as that of Caracalla. The kind of dedication that the emperor received was related to the function of the dedicating group: priests

would offer dedications to the piety of the emperors, while the army would celebrate the victory of the new emperors. A specific victory need not have occurred — it was simply a standard manner of celebrating the new rulers.

### *The Area 1 Cemetery*

After the 4th century CE, the South Gate area appears to have been largely unused for the next eight centuries, except for occasional stone robbing and levelling activities. A spread of large, finished blocks found in the middle of the road





Figure 23: Excavation of the stone pile at the South Gate, with the destroyed fort of Küçük Höyük in the distance, looking southeast. Photo by Gebhard Bieg.

may form part of a stockpile that, for some reason, was abandoned by stone robbers (fig. 23). Given the blocks' dimensions and tooling, the stones probably ultimately derive from one of the Early Phrygian walls in the vicinity. All of this robbing would have created an uneven terrain, and at some uncertain date new leveling fills were deposited here, using earth probably brought from adjacent areas. This dumped material contained large amounts of much earlier (1st–2nd century CE) Roman fine wares, including a green-

glazed bowl with garland decoration.

Probably in the 13th century the area became a cemetery, of which we are currently excavating its southeastern part (fig. 14). Evidently it extended much further to the northwest, at least ca. 100 m along the top of the Citadel Mound, since similar burials were found there during earlier excavations in 1900 and 1950. This season we seem to have located the eastern perimeter, which was dominated by infant and child burials. The excavations were again

carried out by Gareth Darbyshire and by Tuğba Gençer who also conducted the osteological analyses, periodically assisted by Tuana Eren and Dr. Osman Çağrı Köker. Sixteen graves were identified in 2023 but this season many more were found, 41 in total, of which 31 were completely excavated. Virtually all of the graves (36) were Islamic burials; only two were Christian and three could not be identified conclusively. In addition, the scattered remains of 17 human skeletons were identified, evidently from graves destroyed in antiquity.

In the Islamic burial rite, the decedents were typically lying on their right sides, with the head—at the western end of the grave—facing south toward Mecca. Preliminary osteological analysis indicates that 6 of the Muslim skeletons are adult females, 4 are adult males, 5 are children, and 10 are infants (fig. 24).

Two main types of Islamic grave were identified this season. By far the commonest (29 examples) were those with a proportionately large grave pit, at the base of which, cut into the southern edge, there was a narrow niche. The body was laid to rest in the niche, which was then covered by sloping stone slabs set on edge, before the grave pit was finally backfilled (fig. 25); in two such graves, the stones included broken millstones. Some of these graves were intercutting, indicating that the cemetery was in use for a long period, several generations at least. The other grave type, which may be an earlier form, was a simple rectangular pit backfilled with earth.

The two Christian burials were a 9-month old baby and a child aged around 10 years. Each was in a different part of the cemetery, and surrounded by Islamic graves, although their chronological relationship to the latter is uncertain. They were noticeably different from the Muslim interments, with the





Figure 24: Gareth Darbyshire excavating the grave of an infant (ca. 13th century CE) in the South Gate cemetery. Photo by Brian Rose.



Figure 25: The South Gate cemetery excavations, with Gareth Darbyshire (foreground left), Brian Rose (foreground right), and Simon Greenslade (middle background). Tumulus MM is in the distance at upper left. Photo by Gebhard Bieg.

body laid on its back (rather than on its right side), oriented roughly west–east, in a stone-lined cist grave.

Tuğba Gençer's preliminary osteological analysis provides the following results. Pathologically, no trauma can be identified on the skeletons, although the adults evidently suffered from osteoarthritis and age-related osteoporosis, mostly in their vertebrae and long bones. There was a tragically high rate of infant mortality, with most of the infants and children suffering from anemia (due to iron deficiency), rickets (due to vitamin D

intake deficiency), and osteopenia. Also frequent is *cribra orbitalia*, a condition often associated with anemia and resulting in swollen, porous bone, especially in the eye sockets. This may be taken as evidence that the population suffered from chronic malnutrition.

The excavation of the South Gate has been particularly challenging since the project began, and we want to single out Simon Greenslade, Sarah Leppard, Gareth Darbyshire, and Tuğba Gençer for their stratigraphic acuity and perseverance. Additional assistance this year was provided by Matt Reichelt

(Penn), Ali Can Kırcaali, and Zekeriya Utğu (drone photography).

### ***Excavation in the Mosaic Building Complex***

First excavated in the early 1950s, this complex has been the focus of renewed excavations since 2019, and these have yielded a series of extraordinary discoveries: iron and bronze scale armor of 6th century BCE date, a gilded ivory sphinx that probably decorated a wooden chair or throne (fig. 12), also made in the 6th century, and a columnar shrine





Figure 26: Aerial view of the Mosaic Building Complex. A: northeastern wall with numbering system, found in 2022; B: southwestern wall with numbering system, discovered in 2024.

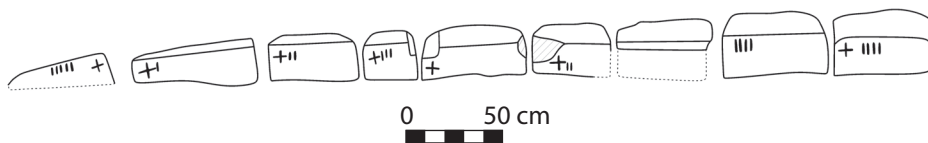


Figure 27: Numbering system of the newly discovered southwestern wall of the Mosaic Building Complex. Drawing by Ali Can Kırcaali.

framing an andesite omphalos or navel, marking the space as one of great sanctity (figs. 13, 16, 26).

Excavation in 2024 was conducted in a 12 x 12 m trench to the southwest of the wall where the omphalos was discovered in 2022 (figs. 16, 26). What we found was another rectangular space, this one clearly roofed, with a width of 8.3 m. The length was at least 20 m and probably as much as 35 m if its length matched that of the adjacent courtyard. The floor had been repaired at least four times, which attests to a long period of extensive foot traffic. For most of its use, it was surfaced

with a bright yellow clay, although at one point it seems to have been plastered.

When we unearthed the southwestern wall of the room, we found that the blocks had been labeled with the same numbering system—of Lydian derivation—that we had discovered on the northeastern wall in 2022 and 2023 (discussed further below; figs. 26, 27). In the case of both walls, the stones in question must first have been numbered and used elsewhere, in some early 6th century BCE structure, and then relocated for reuse here in the late 6th century, after the Persian takeover of Gordion.

At the southwestern wall, two of the blocks, separated by ca. 3 m, extend from the northeast face into the room’s interior. One of these blocks is aligned with the protruding column base at the northeastern wall, which is likewise separated from its neighboring column base by ca. 3 m. In other words, there may have been columnar decoration on both of the room’s two long walls, which is a highly unusual feature at Gordion, and one not found in any of the earlier, Phrygian period buildings.

In front of the northeast face of the southwestern wall were a series of collapsed polychrome stones that had once formed the wall’s upper fabric (fig. 28). Some of these also featured incised Lydian numbers, so the scheme was not simply confined to the foundation blocks. Since this is a numbering system unfamiliar to many, including us, we asked our epigrapher Rostyslav Oreshko to offer some comments, which appear below.

“The Gordion numbering system employed for lower numbers (at least for those below 30, but probably up to 99) involved three types of characters which, in a way, are closely comparable to the Roman numbering system. A simple vertical stroke (I) was used to indicate units, corresponding to the use of I in the Roman system; a sign looking like an inverted horseshoe (∩) was used for fives, just as V was used in the Roman numbers, and a cross (+) stands for tens, just like X in the Roman system.

The first preserved block of the row (Block 1) has + in the right part (fig. 27). Its left part is damaged, but seems to have traces of other characters, which should probably be ∩IIII (‘9’). The practice of using two successive numbers on the same stone is attested on the wall of the adjacent room found in 2022. The following three blocks (Blocks 2–4) have +I, +II and +III respectively. Due





Figure 28: Excavation of the collapsed wall blocks in the Mosaic Building Complex. The view is looking south.  
Photo by Gebhard Bieg.

to erosion of the stone surface, only + can be clearly seen on Block 5, while the four expected vertical strokes are nearly gone. Block 6 contains +∩, with the upper part of ∩ damaged. The lateral surface of the next block is hidden by another block in front of it. Block 8, which should contain the number 17 (+∩II) is partly damaged, but seems to contain ∩II, with + being broken off. The last excavated block of the row contains +∩III with first two characters partially damaged. As we mentioned in the 2022 and 2023 newsletter, this numbering system probably came to Gordion from the Lydian capital of Sardis, since several characters find exact parallels on the blocks used in monumental architecture there.”

Within the room itself there were



Figure 29: Terracotta antefixes with heraldic lions from the Mosaic Building Complex.  
Photo by Gebhard Bieg.





Figure 30: Terracotta pendent frieze showing hunting scene with chariot (early 6th century BCE). Photo by Gareth Darbyshire.



Figure 31: The phasing in the northwestern sector of the Mosaic Building Complex, looking southwest, including the human burial and adjacent structures. Annotated photo by Eda Mollahüseynoğlu, with modifications by Gareth Darbyshire and Ardeth Anderson.

few finds. We discovered the impression of a large wooden beam on the floor, 1.35 in length and 0.11 m wide, around which there were iron nails and two iron hinges, probably for a door. Grain had been spilled on the floor, judging by impressions in the floor surface, and the burned reeds mixed with mud that we found had clearly formed part of the roof. Several nearly complete architectural terracottas were also discovered, of which we illustrate examples with heraldic lions (fig. 29), and another with a hunting scene in which a soldier leads a horse-drawn chariot with two riders, one of them an archer (fig. 30). There was also an alabaster figurine with crossed arms, unfortunately headless, with a preserved height of nearly 7 cm.

This side of the Mosaic Building Complex did not collapse until the first half of the third century BCE, but its destruction does not signal the end of the story. Toward the end of the 2024 season, a remarkable find came to light in the northwestern sector of the trench. This was a highly unusual human burial, that of an adult female (aged 36–48 years and about 1.57 m tall) in an extremely tight contracted position, lying on her right side and clasping her legs (figs. 31, 32, 33). With visible disfiguration on her fingers and teeth, she most likely worked as a weaver.

No specific grave pit was identified. Instead, the body lay within a deposit of stony earth with a variety of animal bones (some partially articulated), directly below scattered terracotta roof and wall tiles of 6th century BCE type, all sealed by a layer of hard earth. The burial deposit overlay a cobbled surface as well as the demolished southwest wall of the Mosaic Building Complex. The body was squeezed into a narrow space less than 1 meter wide, between the two earlier wall lines. Preliminary conclusions



indicate that the narrow wall and cobbled surface were built in the Early Hellenistic period (late 4th – early 3rd century BCE), so the burial should date somewhat later, when both of the walls and the surface had passed out of use.

It is extremely unusual to find a human burial in a settlement context at Gordion, and there is no convincing indication that the person was the victim of warfare or some natural disaster such as an earthquake (indeed the cause of death is still unknown). Rather, the woman appears to have been deliberately and carefully interred, and in fact she was contracted so tightly that some kind of wrapping or binding would seem to have been required. The particular arrangement of the body, the absence of a formal grave pit, and the association with animal remains, exhibit significant similarities with Galatian ritual human deposits at Gordion and Kaman Kalehöyük (in Anatolia), and more broadly in Bronze and Iron Age Europe. Furthermore, Gençer's osteological analysis reveals significant correspondences between this particular skeleton and the Hellenistic skeletons from the Lower Town.

A Middle Hellenistic date seems by far the most likely (later 3rd – early 2nd



Figure 32: (top) The burial in the western part of the Mosaic Building Complex, looking northeast, with an architectural terracotta visible to the left of the body. The probable Hellenistic wall appears at the bottom of the photo, and the southwestern wall of the Mosaic Building Complex at the top.  
Photo by Gareth Darbyshire.

Figure 33: (bottom) Tuğba Gençer replicating the pose of the decedent in the Mosaic Building Complex burial. Photo by Brian Rose.



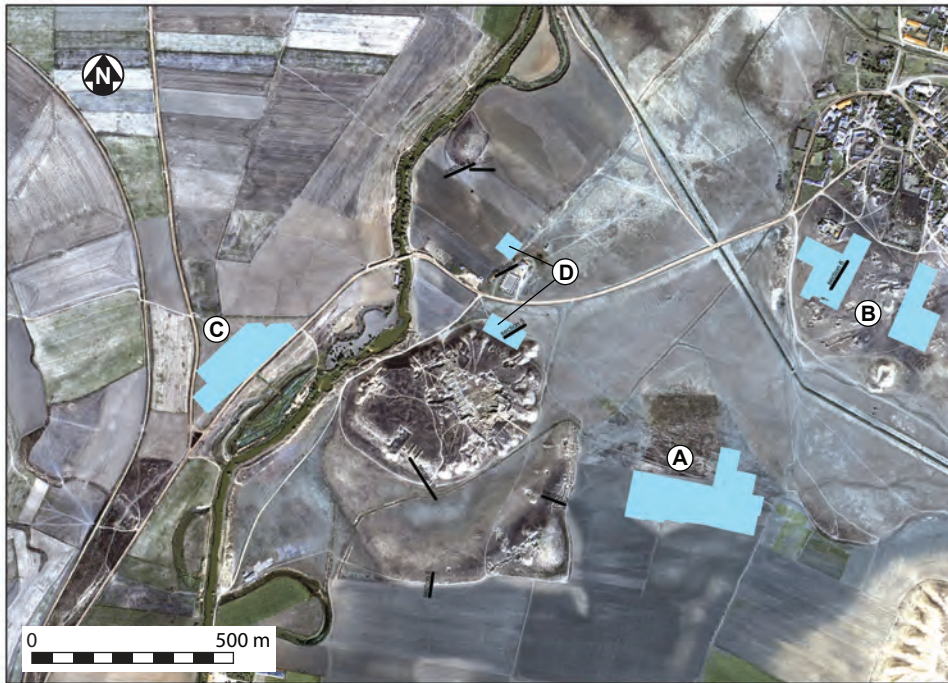


Figure 34: Aerial view of Gordion showing the areas of remote sensing in 2024. A: Eastern Outer Town; B: area south and southeast of the Excavation House; C: Western Outer Town; D: area southeast of Kuştepe. Map by GGH.

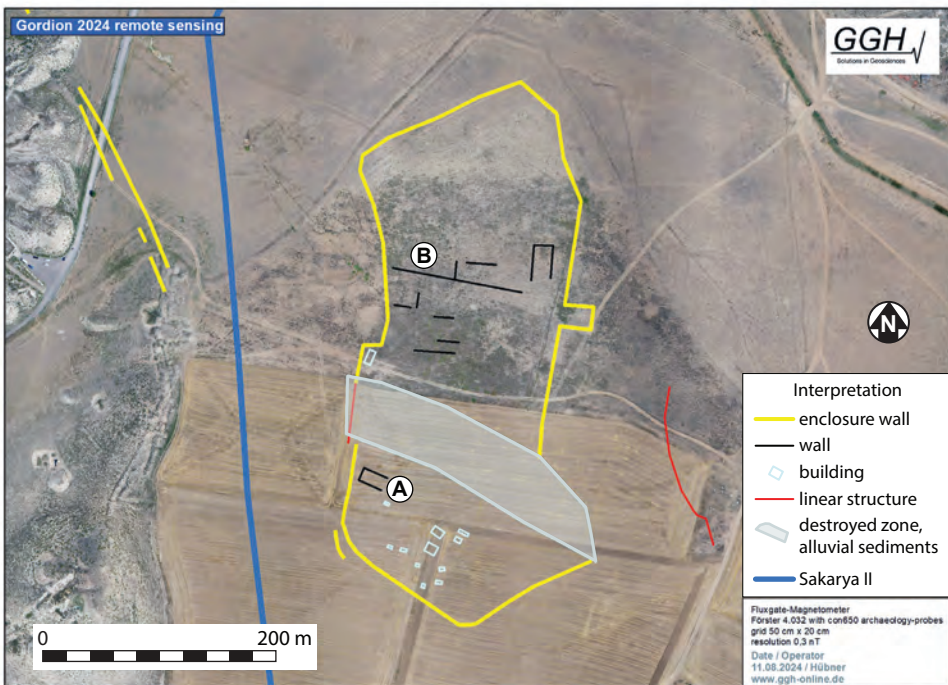


Figure 35: Interpretive plan of the walls in and around the Eastern Outer Town, based on remote sensing in 2024. A: megaron; B: walls of courts? Plan by GGH.

century BCE), coincident with the Celtic Galatian occupation at Gordion, when foreign cultic, ritual, and burial practices were newly introduced to the region. The location of the skeleton, at the edge of the Mosaic Building Complex, could also be highly significant. It may, in fact, indicate a case of human sacrifice, with the person deliberately buried here to mark a special liminal zone. In other words, the burial may have served as a ritual apotropaic or purification deposit signaling the end of (indeed the destruction of) the Mosaic Building Complex and the advent of a new cultural phase at Gordion. No other burials dating to the Phrygian or Hellenistic periods have been discovered on the citadel; this one was clearly special.

This year’s excavation of the Mosaic Building Complex was expertly handled by Eda Mollahüseyinoğlu (Koç University), Şule Duman (Ankara University), and Matt Reichelt (Penn), to whom we extend our heartfelt thanks. As at the South Gate cemetery, the excavation and analysis of the burial in the Mosaic Building Complex were carefully carried out by Gareth Darbyshire and Tuğba Gençer.

### Remote Sensing

Remote sensing activities were as wide-ranging this year as they had been in 2023, and were focused on areas to the east, north, and west of the Citadel Mound (fig. 34). Altogether, Christian Hübner of GGH surveyed nearly 110,000 sq m (11 hectares) using a combination of magnetometry and electric resistivity tomography (ERT).

Last year we described the discovery of the Eastern Outer Town, which included a fortified district on the eastern side of the ancient Sangarios (Sakarya) River, northeast of the sixth century BCE fort of “Küçük Höyük” (fig. 34A). We can



Figure 36: Interpretive plan of the walls uncovered by remote sensing to the south of the Excavation House. A: pithos burials (?); B: enclosure / gateway. Plan by GGH.

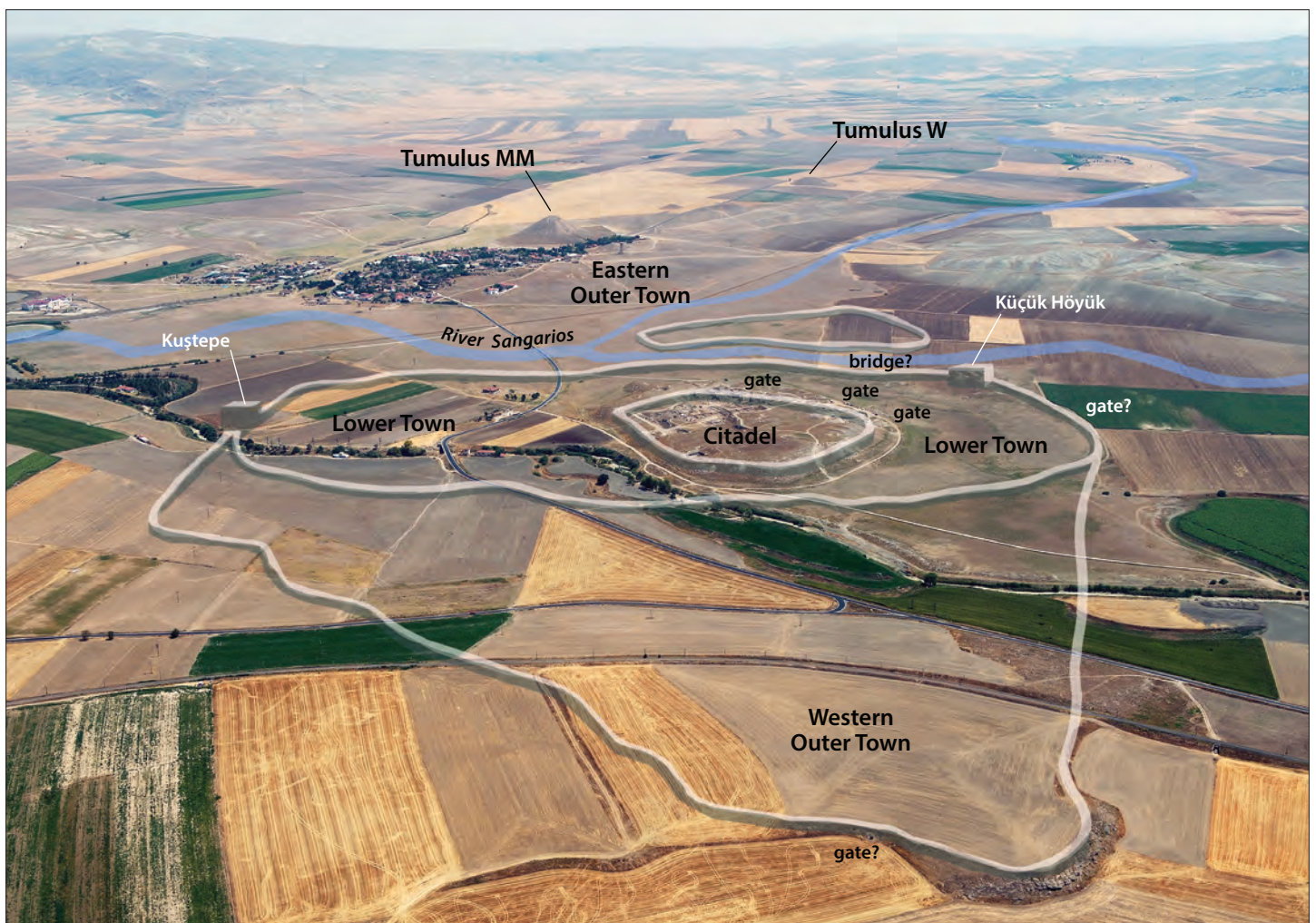
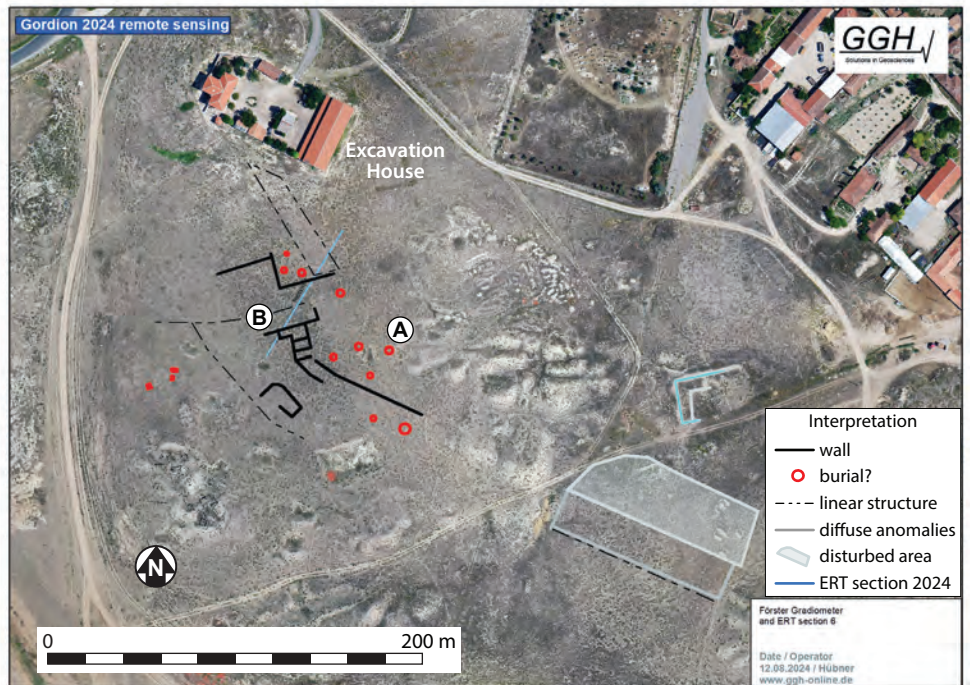


Figure 37: Tentative rendering by Gebhard Bieg of Gordion's fortification walls, based on remote sensing. The view is looking east.





Figure 38: Cut-away view of the Tumulus MM tomb chamber. Digital model by Matthew Harpster’s team and Emin Erdal.



Figure 39: Cultural Heritage Education Program: at the ceramics workshop in Polath, students explore how ancient potters practiced their craft. Photo by Ayşe Gürsan-Salzmänn.

now say that this district encompassed 7 hectares (470 m N–S; 150 m E–W) and was enclosed by a fortification wall 3.2 m thick. Moreover, an unusually large building 12 x 22 m was located on the district’s southwestern side (fig. 35A). The plan was that of a megaron and it opened toward the east, although whether it was used for administration, storage, or a combination of the two cannot be determined without excavation. It also looks as if the district was divided by walls into a series of courts, just like the eastern side of the Citadel Mound (fig. 35B).

The Eastern Outer Town continued even further toward the northeast, with new evidence emerging from this season’s magnetic prospection to the south and

southeast of our Excavation House (figs. 34B, 36). Here we found anomalies that can be plausibly interpreted as Bronze Age (second millennium BCE) pithos burials, similar to those excavated immediately to the south in the 1950s and 60s by Machteld Mellink and G. Roger Edwards (fig. 36A).

There was also a structural complex oriented northwest–southeast that looks like a monumental enclosure or fortified gateway (fig. 36B). The magnetic readings indicate that the stone foundations of the walls extend to a depth of ca. 3 m below ground level, and large worked stone blocks still present on the surface undoubtedly formed part of this layout. The southern side of the complex contains

at least four rooms, which connect to a massive wall that continues toward the southeast. Although the chronology and character of these features can only be clarified by excavation, it seems likely they are related to buildings of Iron Age (Middle Phrygian) date that were discovered in the earlier excavations mentioned above, in various locations to both the south and northeast of the 2024 survey area. Continued remote sensing in the area next year will undoubtedly provide new evidence for this district.

Further prospection in the Western Outer Town yielded indications of what may be a dividing wall, creating a series of small districts, as in the Eastern Outer Town (fig. 34C). The remote sensing revealed a linear structure with two straight walls forming an obtuse angle, and adjacent to it, on the surface, were large blocks of worked stone. None of the ancient houses in this area would have had such blocks, but they could easily have belonged to a monumental enclosure wall.

In the northern sector of the Lower Town, between the Citadel Mound and the 6th century BCE fort of “Kuştepe,” we continued our search for the line of the Lower Town’s eastern fortification wall, which has so far eluded us. One of the problems with prospecting in this area is that it is occupied by a former petrol station and nightclub, but renewed remote sensing now suggests that the wall



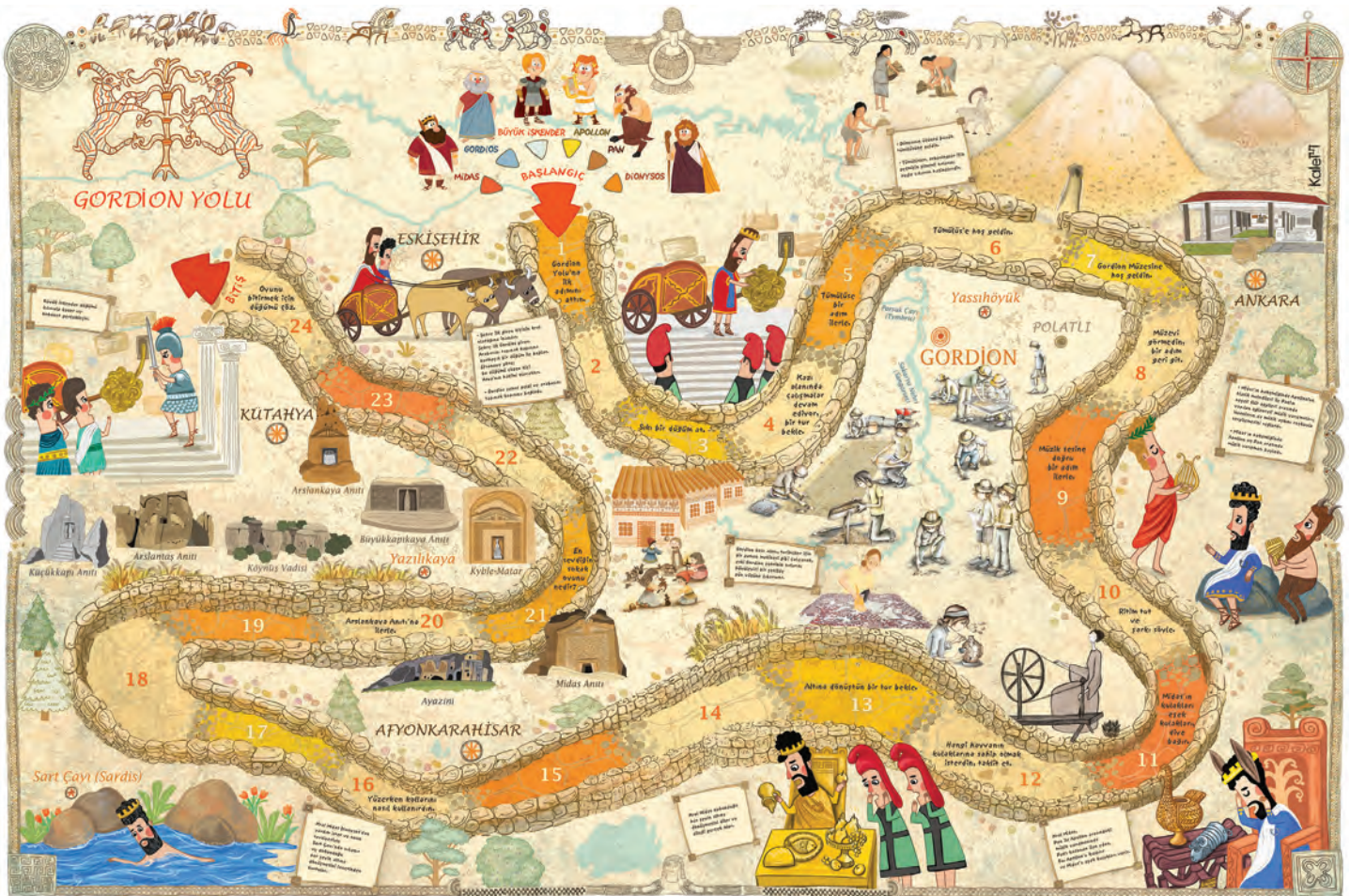


Figure 40: The new *The Road to Gordion* children’s game, by Kale-M Illustrators Group, features an overview of Phrygia with mythological narratives and archaeological monuments. Photo courtesy of Ayşe İnan.

occupied a position further to the west than we had assumed, and it looks as if it had a thickness of 6 m with a ditch along its eastern side (fig. 34D). Verification of this reconstruction by making new ERT sections will have to wait until next year, but the readings look very promising. Utilizing the new geophysical data, Gebhard Bieg has produced a tentative rendering of how Gordion’s fortification walls might have been configured (fig. 37), although this is still a work in progress.

The remote sensing program was again overseen by Christian Hübner working remotely with Stefan Giese, and assisted by Sheridan Marsh, Grant Bruner, Simay Gökçenaz Yeğin, and Ekin Çiftçi.

### Tumulus MM

With recent support from the Loeb Classical Library Foundation, the efforts to produce a digital model of the “Midas Mound Tumulus” (Tumulus MM) have proceeded quickly over the past few months. As a brief review, in the summers of 2021 and 2022, Matthew Harpster, Michael Barngrover, Günce Öçgüden, Ali Kurultay, and Richard Liebhart used a Faro 3D laser scanner to create a point cloud of the wooden tomb’s structure (see the Penn Museum’s *Expedition* magazine vol. 66.1 for further information). For readers who may be unfamiliar with this system, a point cloud contains the

spatial coordinates of numerous points on the interior and exterior surfaces of a structure, and these points can be used to represent the dimensions, orientations, and surfaces of the object itself. A square table’s surface, for example, may be simply represented by a point at each corner, but more points along the tabletop provide increasing detail. With enough points, features such as surface bumps or gouges can be recorded. After processing the results in 2022 and 2023, the point cloud representing the tomb contained approximately 1.1 billion points, a file that not only taxed the team’s capabilities but their workstation as well.

The support from the Loeb Foundation,





Figure 41: The Gordion Project's new generator, gifted by ANGIAD. At left, Ms. Rukiye Oğuz, ANGIAD's General Coordinator; at right, Dr. Günsel Özbilen Güngör, the Gordion Project's Deputy Director. Photo by Zekeriya Utğu.

however, allowed the team to hire Emin Erdal, a digital artist with experience working on the Netflix specials *The Club* and *Hot Skull*, to refine and optimize the model of the tomb. His latest results are illustrated in figure 38. In addition to its scholastic potential, Emin's portrayal of the tomb will be key to a VR application for mobile devices enabling visitors to the Gordion Museum to explore the structure in ways they currently cannot.

### ***The Cultural Heritage Education Program (CHEP)***

This was the tenth year of operation of Gordion's Cultural Heritage Educational Program (CHEP), directed by Ayşe Gürsan-Salzman, archaeologist/anthropologist at the Penn Museum, and assisted by Halil Demirdelen, archaeologist and museum educator.

The program's goal is to reach out to

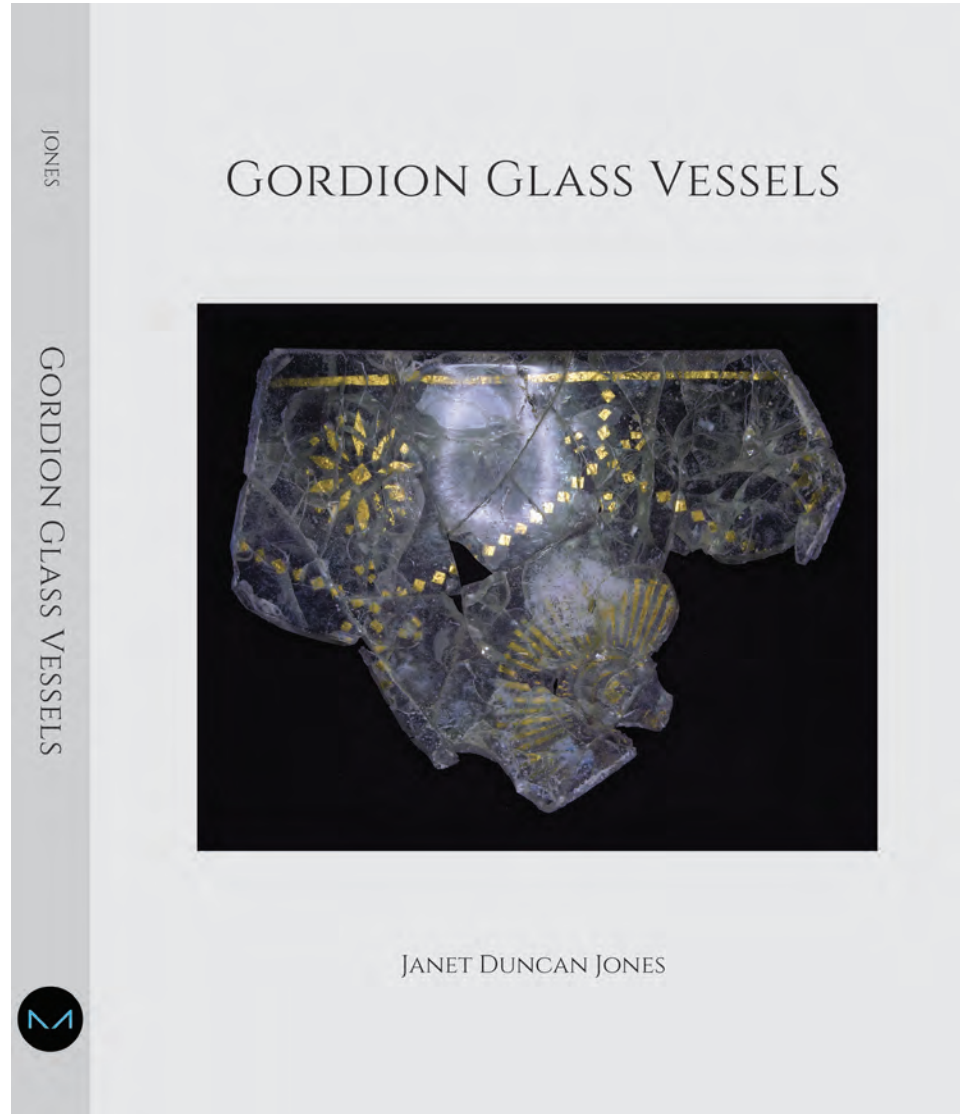


Figure 42: The cover of Prof. Janet Jones' forthcoming volume, *Gordion Glass Vessels*. Vessel photo by Gebhard Bieg. Cover design by Ardeth Anderson.

the children, young adults, teachers, and city officials living near Gordion and to demonstrate that the archaeological site and the surrounding areas are very much a part of their heritage.

The program was even more popular this year due to Gordion's inscription in 2023 on the UNESCO World Heritage Site List: 27 students and two high school teachers from the nearby municipality of Polatlı participated in the six-week program. Guest speakers this year included Ms. Sinem Çakmak, a member

of the Cultural and Natural Heritage Preservation Board at the Ministry of Culture and Tourism; Mr. Kadim Koç, Director of the Center for Promotion of Historic Places in Polatlı (POTA), and Mr. Oğuz B. Soydemir, Director of the Polatlı Public Education Center.

This season a new component was added to the CHEP program: learning about handicrafts so that the students can better understand the life and work of craftspeople in antiquity (fig. 39). The director of the Public Education Center





Figure 43: The 2024 Gordion staff. Photo by Gebhard Bieg.



Figure 44: The 2024 Gordion staff at the July 4th party. Photo by Gebhard Bieg.

in Polath arranged for our participants to attend day-long classes in four workshops: ceramics, weaving on a standing loom, woodworking, and metalworking.

Field trips included visits to three historic sites near the city of Afyon as well as four venues in Ankara. Those in the former city included the 3,000-year-old marble quarries, which supplied marble for export throughout the Mediterranean during the Roman Imperial period;

the Afyon citadel, which provided a diachronic overview of life during the period of the Hittites, Phrygians, Romans, and Ottomans; and the new Afyon Archaeological Museum, which has a large exhibit on the Phrygian mother goddess, Matar/Cybele. In Ankara there were visits to the citadel, the nearby Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, the restored Roman baths and theater, and the new Museum of Biodiversity at

Hacettepe University, which enabled the group to discuss the protection of cultural heritage in an age of climate change.

We would like to highlight one other new project that is intended to bring cultural heritage appreciation to younger audiences in as enjoyable a way as possible. This is a game entitled *The Road to Gordion*, featuring an overview of Phrygia with mythological narratives and archaeological monuments (fig. 40).





Figure 45: Penn graduate students Grant Bruner and Sheridan Marsh assisting Christian Hübner with remote sensing. Tumulus MM is visible in the middle background. Photo by Brian Rose.

It was designed by the Kale-M Illustrators Group, led by Ayşe İnan, and supported by the General Directorate of Libraries and Publications of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, to whom we extend our thanks.

### ***Publication and Staffing***

Our work during the 2024 season was made easier due to the energetic support of our representative, Mr. Mustafa Metin of the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara. We also benefited from the periodic visits of Mr. Yusuf Kıraç, Director of the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, and Mr. Umut Alagöz, the Deputy Director. We extend warm thanks

to the General Directorate for Cultural Heritage and Museums, especially Mr. Gökhan Yazgı, Mr. Birol İnceciköz, Mr. Bülent Gönültaş, Mr. Köksal Özköklü, Mr. Umut Görgülü, Ms. Nihal Metin, and Mr. Ömer Balamir, several of whom visited us this summer, and to Mr. Ali Ayvazoğlu, Director of the Ankara Cultural and Tourism Department.

Equally generous in their assistance were the Kaymakam and Belediye Başkanı of Polatlı, Mr. Murat Bulacak and Mr. Mürsel Yıldızkaya, respectively. Mr. Coşar Yağcı, Deputy Mayor of Polatlı, has been a constant source of support for us, as has Mr. Kadim Koç, Deputy Director of the Polatlı Municipality. We were also honored by a visit from Prof.

Ömer Özyiğit and his family, and by several visits from the staff of the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, who have been among our biggest supporters. We extend our thanks, in particular, to Ms. Gözde Doğan and Ms. Fulya Yavuz, as well as to Mr. Jeff Flake and Mr. Scott Oudkirk, the Ambassador and Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy, respectively, and to Ms. Gabrielle Price, Public Diplomacy Officer. We are also very grateful to ANGIAD (Ankara Young Business People Association), and its Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Ertuğrul Onat, for energetic promotion of the site, and for generously providing us with a new generator (fig. 41).

The excavation house was filled with researchers working on a wide variety of manuscripts that spanned a period from the Bronze Age through the Roman period. These included Gareth Darbyshire (Penn Museum), iron objects, especially those from the Early Phrygian Terrace Complex; Elspeth Dusingberre (University of Colorado, Boulder), Early Phrygian megarons and the Middle Phrygian Mosaic Building; Tuğba Gençer (Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa), human skeletal material from the South Gate; Canan Çakırlar (Groeningen University) and Ramazan Parmaksız (University of Turin), zooarchaeological analysis; Billur Tekkök Karaöz (Başkent University), Roman ceramics; Gülşah Günata (Netherlands Institute in Turkey), Iron Age ceramics; Günsel Özbilen Güngör, lamps; and Rostyslav Oreshko, Phrygian graffiti.

The pace of publication continues to increase. Last year witnessed the appearance of *The Gordion Excavations, 1950–1973: Final Reports Volume II. The Lesser Phrygian Tumuli Part II: The Cremations*, by Ellen Kohler and Elspeth Dusingberre, and Phoebe Sheftel's *Bone*



and *Ivory Objects from Gordion*. Janet Jones' volume *Gordion Glass Vessels* is now in press (fig. 42), and Mustafa Metin (Museum of Anatolian Civilizations), Braden Cordivari (ISAW/NYU), Alimetin Büyükkarakaya (Hacettepe University), and Amanda Gaggioli (University of Memphis) prepared for publication the report on the Tumulus T-52 excavations. Richard Liebhart, Mustafa Metin, and Braden Cordivari finalized their article on the Beyceğiz Tumulus excavation, which will appear in the *American Journal of Archaeology* this year.

Elsbeth Dusingberre and Brian Rose spent a significant part of the summer preparing one of the next volumes in the Gordion Special Studies series, entitled *Middle and Late Phrygian Gordion*. This will include an examination of the architecture, stratigraphy, and small finds of Gordion from ca. 800–330 BCE (Brian Rose), an overview of tumulus burials in Gordion and Ankara, ca. 850–525 BCE (Elsbeth Dusingberre), a survey of Middle Phrygian domestic architecture (Kim Codella and Mary Voigt), and new conclusions regarding Phrygian epigraphy (Rostyslav Oreshko). More in-depth studies of selected buildings will cover the South Cellar (Elsbeth Dusingberre and Maya Vassileva), the North Cellar and Building M (Barış Yılmaz and Elsbeth Dusingberre), and the Painted House (Susanne Berndt). Finally, analyses of architectural decoration will include the ceramic wall-peg mosaics (Samuel Holzman) and two articles on architectural terracottas (Matthew Glendinning and Brigitte Keslinke). This will probably be the next volume to appear after Janet Jones' glass monograph, followed by Andrew Goldman on Roman Gordion, Shannan Stewart and Martin Wells on Hellenistic Gordion, and Kathleen Lynch and Mark Lawall on Greek Imported Ceramics.



Figure 46: Kozan Uzun (left), Murat Can Süyüğü (center), and Çilem Yürekli (right) in the conservation lab with dinoi from Tumulus T-52. Photo by Gebhard Bieg.

We want to single out several members of the staff without whom this summer's work could not have functioned as well as it did (fig. 43): Dr. Günsel Özbilen Güngör, first Deputy Director, Tuğba Gençer, second Deputy Director, and Dr. Gareth Darbyshire, Gordion Project Archivist, all of whom were also instrumental in staging a costume party for the 4th of July (fig. 44); Emilie Prince (Penn), Daria Haner (Penn), and Grant Bruner (Penn), registrars, Prof. Dr. Canan Çakırlar (Groeningen University) and Ramazan Parmaksız (University of Turin), zooarchaeological analysis; Prof. Dr. Edibe Özmen Baysal (Hacettepe University), assisted by Şule Duman (Başkent University) and Simay Gökçenaz Yeğin (Ankara University), archaeobotany; Prof. Dr. Billur Tekkök Karaöz, Dr. Deniz Tamer, Ebru Kırkanlı, Şule Duman, and Elif Şahin (Başkent University), ceramic analysis; Serkan Pamuk (Akdeniz University), pithos project; Braden Cordivari (NYU-

ISAW), Joseph Nigro, Brian Norris, Emily McGowan (surveying); Prof. Dr. Ünal Akkemik (Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa), dendrochronology; Tuğba Gençer (Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa), assisted by Dr. Osman Çağrı Köker (Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa) and Tuana Eren (Ege University), bioarchaeology; Christian Hübner, geophysics, assisted by Sheridan Marsh and Grant Bruner (Penn, fig. 45), Simay Gökçenaz Yeğin (Ankara University), Ekin Çiftçi (Policlinico di Milano), and Serkan Pamuk; Prof. Dr. Ümit Güder (Çanakkale University), archaeometallurgy; and Prof. Scott Redford (SOAS-University of London) and Prof. Dr. Canan Çakırlar (Groeningen University), on Medieval Gordion.

Dr. Ayşe Gürsan-Salzmann (Penn) co-directed the Cultural Heritage Education Project (CHEP) with Mr. Halil Demirdelen. The excavation of the South Gate was supervised by Simon



Greenslade, and the Mosaic Building Complex by Eda Mollahusseyinoğlu (Koç University, Istanbul), assisted by Şule Duman (Başkent University) and Matthew Reichelt (Penn). We are especially grateful to Gebhard Bieg, our photographer, who was also extremely helpful with the remote sensing.

The architectural conservation was overseen by Elisa Del Bono and Angelo Lanza, assisted by Ali Can Kırcaali (Samsun University), İlayda Şahin (Istanbul Technical University), and Ekin Çiftçi (Policinico di Milano). The object conservation work was overseen by Jessica Johnson (Smithsonian) and Cricket Harbeck, assisted by Dr. H. İbrahim Dural (Hacı Bayram Veli University), Amber Swanson (Georgia Archive, Morrow), Ekin Çiftçi, Çilem Yürekli (Ankara University), Malwina Melis Güran (Ankara University), and Kris Forrest (Penn Museum). The conservation of the finds from Tumulus T-52 was supervised by Prof. Dr. Kozan Uzun (Ankara University), assisted by Murat Can Süygün (Ankara University) (fig. 46). The conservation of Tumulus MM was overseen by Jessica Johnson, Cricket Harbeck, and Prof. Richard Liebhart. The drone photography was conducted by Ali Can Kırcaali and Zekeriya Utğu, our house manager and guard. Zekeriya

kept everything running efficiently within the excavation compound and on the Citadel Mound. As every year, Gareth Darbyshire assisted with the preparation of the Gordion newsletter. Ardeth Anderson (Penn Museum) also deserves our heartfelt thanks. Although she is not a member of the Gordion staff in Turkey, she is responsible for the design and layout of each newsletter. She also finalizes the illustrations in our annual permit application and reports, and in our Gordion publications, including the monographs mentioned above.

Within the U.S., we continue to rely on the counsel, guidance, and support of Dr. Charles K. Williams, II, as well as Dr. Christopher Woods, the Williams Director of the Penn Museum, Amanda Mitchell-Boyask, Deputy Director and Chief of Staff, and the Museum's Board of Advisors.

We would like to close by noting again that none of our accomplishments this summer would have been possible without your encouragement and generous support. It is a pleasure to acknowledge, in particular, the assistance offered to us by the Penn Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, the C.K. Williams II Foundation, the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, the Merops Foundation, the Areté Foundation, Matthew J. Storm,

C94, WG00, and Natalia Arias Storm, Paul Williams and Leslie Berger, Alix and Keith Morgan, Nina Robinson Vitow, Robert and Joan Rothberg, and Ben and Jane Ashcom.

At this particular time, when so much cultural heritage throughout the world has been disappearing so rapidly, we're enormously grateful for the investment that you've made in the preservation of the past. We hope to be able to share our results with more of you during this year, at lectures in the U.S. or at Gordion itself. You'll find the latest information about the project on our website:

<https://www.penn.museum/sites/gordion/>

We look forward to welcoming you to the site!

With best wishes,

C. Brian Rose  
Günsel Özbilen Güngör  
Tuğba Gençer  
Gareth Darbyshire



The Friends of Gordion support the ongoing activities of the Gordion Excavation Project, which include site conservation, fieldwork, and publications of the latest discoveries. All Friends of Gordion receive the annual newsletter that provides information about the results of the season's work. Friends are especially welcome at Gordion and are given guided tours of the site, the excavation, and the museum. Every contribution, no matter how small, enables us to further the cause of protecting and publicizing the site. You can support Gordion by making your tax deductible donation at

<https://www.penn.museum/sites/gordion/friends-of-gordion/>

