

**RESTORATION AND CLEARANCE IN
AND AROUND THE TEMPLE OF
ARTEMIS COMPOUND IN JERASH.**

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by

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Sarapion passage doors.

The two doors of the passage, from the fountain court to the area west of Artemis compound, pieces belonging to them were identified and restored in their proper places. The southern door bearing the inscription 49 dated 67/68 A.D. is attested by the symmetry of the main entrance to the Cathedral on the *cardo*, on its southern side, to the effect that there was a part of the complex of the Artemis compound in the part now occupied by the Cathedral and the St. Theodore. Some of the stones belonging to the above door was re-employed in a door constructed on the north eastern side of the *cella* of the temple of Artemis. At present the passage between the church compound and the vault of the Artemis courtyard (transformed into a museum) is paved with ceiling stones of Roman period. Thus, most probably, the passage used to end at the level of the door leading down to the museum on its western end. (Pl. XCI, XCII XCIII: 1).

The door bearing the Sarapion inscription, has two doors on its sides, communicating with the upper floors of the Glass court (Kraeling plan XXXIII) and the lower floor of that transformed into the baths of Placcus.

The Podium of The Artemis Temple.

The north eastern part of the podium, the

part to embrace the stairs leading up to the temple, had been devoid of its crowing cornice pieces all along. These pieces probably were knocked down when the corner column drums had fallen on them, and had rolled side wise creating an over- turning moment at their extreme falling position, thus turning down the cornice pieces, and partly braking their decorated projections. The demolishing of this column was a hand work of later period, when the temple was used as a quarry in search of hard lime stones. The core of the base of this columns is lost, while parts of its decorated circumference are scattered around. The die stone, under the base of th column, was cut into two pieces but not taken away. The same fate has left the drums, of the south eastern corner column of the portico of the courtyard, cut into rectangular pieces; some parts are taken away, others are around the site. We have assembled these pieces for future restoration, but some drums are missing. (Pl. XCIII: 2, XCIV: 1).

The pieces of the podium were all complete and they were replaced in their proper places. The wall under these cornice pieces were slightly displaced, and it was left as it is.

The South Western part of the courtyard of Artemis had been partly excavated in the past. Near the temple, the excavation had cleared down to the rock level. On its southern side it was cleared a little higher than the bases of

the portico colonnade. We cleared down to the level of the bases, and beyond the portico colonnade we tried to find out what is left of the rectangular exedrae and the chambers adjoining them. The clearing showed that all the walls of the exedrae and the columns are taken away, leaving only some bases of columns or those of the pilasters of the exedrae. The invasion of the fill has been from the west side, and has saved some of the westerly columns because they were already invaded by debris. These columns bear painted Greek inscriptions. Their interpretation might reveal some constructional dates: (Pl. XCIV: 2).

A water channel starting from the southern side of these western columns, is directed to the south eastern corner of the temple of Artemis; at this point there is distribution of water through a small basin. One channel directs the water to the front part of St. Theodore the other towards the present museum compound, to the east of it, to a large water reservoir, another towards cardo, and one to north easterly direction. All these Byzantine installations, were executed when the courtyard was cleared of its pavement, and most of the walls of the courtyard was demolished, and the courtyard was clear of debris, in early days of Artemis's fall of favour. Later on the debris had started to be thrown down from the western side of the courtyard, thus covering the water channel, and probably blocking its course.

On the debris, on the southern side of the courtyard, there were three superposed layers of stonedresser's chips, showing that it was an unoccupied ground for general use of stone dressing.

The southern wall of the peribole of the

courtyard, has been all demolished, as evidenced on the northern side, and later, to keep the debris from the southern residential quarters, a retaining wall was built. The door noticed on this part (Kraeling XLVI) was a later construction put in the retaining wall.

The Southern Basin.

A long basin situated on the south side of the temple of Artemis, (probably subject of the inscription 28), is partly rock cut, and on top there is a border of well dressed panels of which two layers have survived *in situ*. We could identify some of the blocks from the heap of the stones, gathered on the south eastern side of the courtyard, and place them in their probable places. Quite many of these blocks have been used in St. Theodore. The main entrance, to the peribole of the courtyard of the temple of Artemis, is partly in place. The stones which were piled on it were removed and placed to the north of the sill of the entrance. There are pieces of the lintel covering the doorway. It is a flat arch. We have assembled some of these pieces to determine the width of the door.

To the north eastern side of the kiln, in front of the Artemis temple, we have executed some superficial clearing. There was a room-like place marked by the drums of columns belonging to the courtyard, and one drum in the room cut to serve as an oil press.

The columns of the upper propylaeum of the Artemis temple are in their places on the southern side, and some of them have fallen on the eastern side of their respective places. One of the pieces belonging to a fallen column was taken out, and its base pieces are assembled to restore it in its proper place. These

columns bear alphabetic numbers starting from the southern end, and the drums have the same letter with bars indicating the number of the drum.

The ramp, in front of the Artemis temple on the cardo, was lowered two layers of its construction. The stones taken away were used for the reconstruction of the step arches of two vomitoria of the south theater; this was done because the stones have been assembled from all over the ruins of Jerash, and they are not marked. Some stones surely belonging to the Nyphaeum were saved. We will try to remove the rest when we start the restoration of the Nyphaeum.

The northern side of the Artemis court was cleared of all additional debris. There were many stones deposited on the podium of the temple of Artemis on the same side, when the wall on the entrance of the cella was demolished and some clearance was done at the inside of the cella. These stones were taken down and placed on the south side of the courtyard, their faces up, to differentiate their provenance for future restoration of the temple. Among these blocks we could identify the die of the north eastern column base and placed it in its proper place.

The clearing of this northern side showed that, the under ground passage, in between the cella and the peristyle colonnade, was receiving light through slits from under the base cut on the podium blocks. There are many wedged blocks to be split into pieces, showing that the western part of this northern podium has served as quarry in very recent period.

The sill of the cella has crossway groves, an

evidence that it was covered with a metal sheet to protect the wearing off of the sill. The groves are made where two sheets were overlapping; this is common to all temples and as well to the adyton steps leading up where the statue was placed.

On the Cardo, the southern extreme chamber of the Artemis complex, has a pediment supported by two columns. All pieces belonging to this chamber was identified and collected from the other side of the cardo and at present deposited in front of the chamber and partly in front of the Nyphaeum, but the southern pieces of the pediment could not be found. This will be restored when working on the Nymphaeum. This is the only monument where proper iron dowels are used, inbedded with lead, for the construction of the flat arch covering the entrance.

St. Theodore Entrance.

The southern jamb of the middle entrance to the atrium of St. Theodore had fallen down. It was taken away and placed back to their proper places. A lintel originally in three pieces was found among the blocks, two pieces were placed on the ground in the atrium. We could not find the third one.

Clearing in front of the above mentioned entrance, immediately north of the side entrance, we cleared a double cistern, one inside the other, fed by the water coming from the south eastern corner of the temple of Artemis, (the one shown in Kraeling plan XLVI cist. 2). This cistern is connected with a lead pipe to two niches of water point inside the atrium of the church. These niches are shown in Kraeling on plan XXXIII as additions. It is probable that when the small cistern inside

the larger one was feeding the water points, they were pouring wine. It was specified that the miracle was in the Martyrion, and St. Theodore is so-called. (Kraeling p. 63). Thus the miracle was not in the fountain court where the need is for several cubic meters of wine, while in the atrium of St. Theodore the need is only for 100 or 150 liters of wine, to make the water points function with a faucet.

The Entrance of Cathedral

The pieces belonging to the entrance of the Cathedral on the cardo were indentified assembled and restored in their proper places. The capitals belonging to the front columns could not be identified, neither the pieces belonging to these columns. So the columns are left with-

out copitals, but they are re-enforced by a iron bar through them to the foundation. This is a precaution against tumbling down.

This door due to its symmetry was constructed for a temple of Bacchus, and kept as it is when the Cathedral was built. The Cathedral's symmetry is 8/7, showing that it was dedicated to a heavenly person, and this is sanctified by the niché dedicated to virgin Mary on the top of the steps leading up to the Cathedral. (Pl. XCV).

The intercolumnal spacing of the columns on the cardo on northern side of the main entrance gives evidence about the precinct of Bacchus.

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