

DISCOVERIES IN LITTLE SIDON

Claude Doumet-Serhal

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1 Map showing Sidon's mediaeval ramparts and the location of the three downtown sites (H. Barnes):
1. College site
2. Sandikli site
3. College site

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el Amoud” at the extreme south end of Sidon’s tell.

THE “SAINT LOUIS CASTLE” (APPROXIMATELY 5 000 SQ. M) AND MUREX HILL (FIG. 1-4)

Factual information relevant to “Little Sidon” as mentioned in ancient texts is based on the remains found over the years at the three sites (Saint Louis Castle and Murex Hill, Sandikli and College) and which were subsequently expropriated in the 1960’s by the DGA.

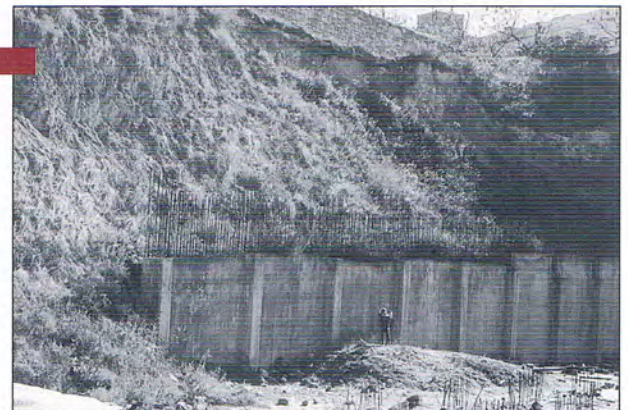
An updated collation of both this and new results obtained in recent years reveals a clearer picture of the ancient city. The 1998 results emanate from updated information gathered from stratified deposits.

Any comprehensive summary would not be possible without also mentioning the Sidonian Mithraeum which does not strictly belong in the parameters of the three previously mentioned sites as well the discoveries made at a site called “Bostan

In the spring of 1913 an agreement was reached between the French and Turkish authorities to resume excavation in Sidon. Georges Contenau was appointed Head of Mission and upon arriving in Sidon took a sounding in the moat of the land castle discovering, according to him, debris contemporary to the end of the 2nd Millennium BC and the beginning of the 1st. A first **sounding (A)** was dug in the castle’s ditch thus allowing direct access to the ancient remains before the First World War brought a pause to the excavations in Sidon. These were resumed in 1920 by Contenau¹ and more soundings were taken in the land castle. Here follows a short synopsis of Contenau’s work and discoveries in the land castle.

1 G. Contenau, 1920, “Mission archéologique à Sidon (1914)”, *Syria*, I, p. 1- 147; G. Contenau 1923, “Deuxième mission archéologique à Sidon (1929)”, *Syria*, IV, p. 261-281; G. Contenau, 1924, “Deuxième mission archéologique à Sidon (1920), deuxième article”, *Syria*, V, p. 9-23; G. Contenau, 1924, “Deuxième mission archéologique à Sidon (1920), troisième article”, *Syria*, V, p. 123-134.

- 2 Sidon’s land castle in 1914-1920 and 1998
- 3 Murex hill in 1914-1920 and 1998
- 4 Plan of Contenau’s soundings in the land castle



Contenau's Excavation

1914

Sounding A was dug on the eastern slope of the castle and revealed debris contemporary to the end of the 2nd Millennium and the beginning of the first.

The sounding was dug in the castle's ditch thus allowing direct access to the ancient remains (fig. 4).

1920

The remains of a building were found at 2m and 3.50 m. Nothing further was found beyond these layers (sounding J - stopped at 8m; sounding K - stopped at 5.50m; sounding G - stopped at 9.85m; sounding H - stopped at 7m) (fig. 4).

Sounding I was chosen as a point of reference with respect to the 1914 excavations. The remains of a building were found at 2 and 3.50m. At 7m pottery sherds were found contemporary to the end of the 2nd Millennium and the beginning of the 1st (comparable to the ones found in Sounding A). Beyond 8.50m nothing further was found. The excavation was stopped at 11m. A list of finds from the early levels of sounding I includes: Roman ceramic; Greek vases, a few statuettes in Cypriot style and local pottery dating back to the early centuries of the 1st Millennium. A prophylactic terracotta eye-mould in the Egyptian style was also found.

Trench F

14m long and 6.50m wide it uncovered a wall sloping towards the dungeons. A halt was called to the excavation at 7m due to the terrain becoming increasingly unstable.

Trench E

10m long and 4m wide. The trench was dug to a depth of 8m narrowing as it declined. A wall was uncovered at the 2m level, formed by two large blocks each 1.20m thick and facing south-west/north-west. It formed part of the inside of a

building. Remnants found at this site were thought to be Graeco-Roman. The dig was halted at 8m.

Sounding D

Running between two existing walls in an east-west direction, it led to the discovery of ivory statuettes and spindle whorls of the Graeco-Roman Period which were found in a drain. The dig was stopped at 5.70m.

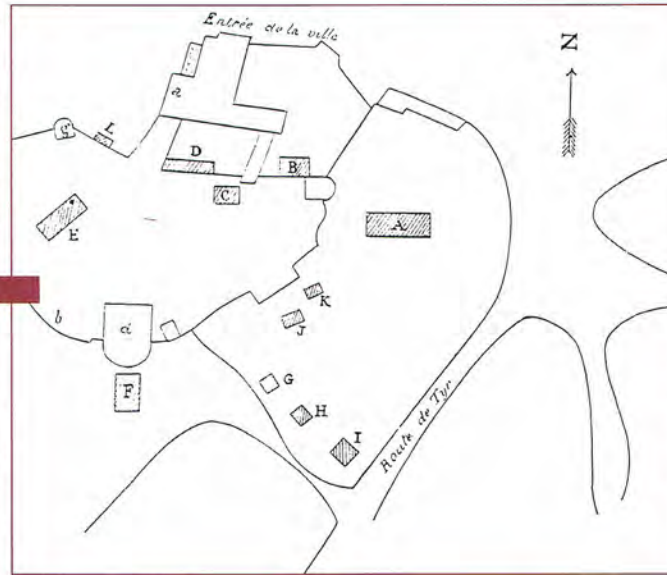
Sounding B and C

These revealed the castle's underground tunnels 28.50m long and leading to the east tower with which they had formally been connected. At sites B and D, fragments of large columns were uncovered.

Sounding L

This was dug in a narrow street running along the side of the castle. At the foot of the castle wall the base of a marble column was discovered

similar to one found at the front door of a house in the western part of the city.



“Les dunes qui bordent le bassin vers l’est sont recouvertes d’un amas énorme de coquillages appartenant à l’espèce appelée Murex Trunculus, et qui servait à faire la pourpre...”,

V. Guérin, 1880, *Description géographique historique et archéologique de la Palestine*, 3 Galilée, tome. 1.2, Paris, p. 489.

On “Murex Hill” south of Saint Louis castle, outside the city walls, exploratory work had begun in 1914 with two separate soundings being undertaken. The first, at the base of the hill, revealed numerous traces of burning as well as sherds of local pottery which according to Contenau were of indeterminate age. However, at this layer, murex shells were non-existent and any traces of Attic pottery had disappeared. The second sounding, on the southern side, produced the same results. Contenau notes that the south side of the hill where the soundings

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were taken is not as elevated as the northern side. Considerably less rubble generated from the manufacture of purple dye, such as discarded murex shells and broken pottery, was dumped here.

**Dunand's excavation²
1939-1942/1964-1965**

A deep trench was dug at the foot of the southern rampart that surrounded the mediaeval city. The idea was to open a channel to the sea for the disposal of excavation waste. In doing so a glacis was found. Closer to the shore, the trench was dug deeper until it reached the coastal road. First layers of Roman and Hellenistic remains were found before sherds of 5th century Attic pottery appeared. At the other extreme, opposite the end of the trench, by the foot of the castle and therefore at the bottom of the castle moat, two child-size tombs dating to the Hyksos period were unexpectedly unearthed. However no further evidence was found of either the Iron Age or of the Late Bronze Age. On the southern slope, Arab, Byzantine, Roman and Greek remains were found.

**Kalayan's Excavation
1970**

Another sounding was taken inside the castle in 1970 by the Directorate General of Antiquities with no apparent result. The earth there had obviously been disturbed because of the discovery of Greek

sherds found on the surface layers and mediaeval remains found further down. The sounding was taken in an attempt to prove H. Kalayan's theory that the castle was built on the site of an ancient theatre³. Many sculptures were found including a statue of Venus now housed in the Beirut National Museum⁴.

**The Latest Assessment
1998**

Previous excavations have left the centre of the castle in a confused mess of wall lines belonging to different periods at the bottom of collapsing, detritus-filled trenches. Debris from the excavations that was tipped over the south east wall and presumably cleared from the bottom of the ditch, has probably protected the wall line that remains covered. The land castle's remains are in poor condition and in need of repair.

The Murex Hill has been heavily dug into during recent years revealing a large section behind the foundations of a new building (fig. 3). Although the first aim last year was to clear the section it was found not to be secure enough for the workers.

**"SANDIKLI SITE" EAST OF THE
CASTLE (APPROXIMATELY 5000
SQ. M.) (FIG. 1, 5)**

Part of the site is now covered by a modern mosaic storeroom built by backfilling part of the excavations. The remaining uncovered area is approximately 3400 sq. m. in size.

- 2 M. Dunand, 1939, "Chronique", *Bulletin du Musée de Beyrouth*, III, p. 79-81; M. Dunand, 1940, "Chronique", *Bulletin du Musée de Beyrouth*, IV, p. 118; M. Dunand, 1941, "Chronique", *Bulletin du Musée de Beyrouth*, V, p. 88-89; M. Dunand, 1942-43, "Chronique", *Bulletin du Musée de Beyrouth*, VI, p. 82-83; M. Dunand, 1967, "Rapport préliminaire sur les fouilles de Sidon en 1964-1965", *Bulletin du Musée de Beyrouth*, XX, p. 27-44.
- 3 R. Donceel, 1965, "Notes archéologiques concernant les fouilles et études entreprises au Liban de 1962 à 1965, suite (II)", *Les cahiers de l'Oronte*, p. 98-99.
- 4 C. Doumet-Serhal, A.-M. Maïla-Afeïche, F. El Dahdah, A. Rabate, 1998, *Stones and Creed; 100 Artefacts from Lebanon's Antiquity*, Beirut, p. 96, 178.
- 5 M. Dunand, 1967, *op cit*.
- 6 H. H. Jessup, 1910, *Fifty-Three Years in Syria*, vol. II, London, p. 516. The Gerard Institute for boys (1882-1909). In May 1900, the name Sidon Academy was changed to Gerard Institute in honour of the maiden name of Mrs. George Wood.
- 7 M. Dunand, 1967, *op cit*, p. 35.
- 8 I. Bird, 1872, *Bible Work in Bible Lands or Events in the History of the Syria Mission*, Philadelphia, p. 403-405.
- 9 ŞDN MŞL (Sidon Mashal), has been interpreted by J. Elayi, 1989, *Sidon cité autonome de l'empire perse*, Paris, p. 80 and 84, because of the meaning of MŞL (to dominate, to command) as the city's "power centre". The location for Elayi's ŞDN MŞL would have to be located according to her description, on the site where the bull protome capital was found; if this is the case then the city's "power centre" would have to be in turn located on the College site in "Little Sidon" and not in "Greater Sidon" where the more modern college building was later constructed.
- 10 C. Asmar, 1997, "Histoire des collections du Musée National de Beyrouth, la collection Ford", *National Museum News*, 5, p. 2-6.



Dunand's excavation ⁵ 1964-1965

The site was excavated by M. Dunand revealing the remains of a Roman Bath house.

The Latest Assessment 1998

A plan was made of the most important features remaining from Dunand's excavation (fig. 5). Small isolated areas of flooring can still be seen but most stratigraphical links between features have been removed except remnants of water channels and heating ducts. Dunand's plan mapping his initial excavation is missing. An in-depth search of his archives could still bring it to light.

THE "COLLEGE SITE" NORTH OF THE CASTLE (APPROXIMATELY 6500 SQ. M) (FIG. 1, 11)

Named after the American Protestant Mission college ⁶ and the Marist college, built on the site. Both buildings were demolished between 1959 and 1961. The Marist college consisted of two separate buildings. One, erected in 1925, was made of stone with rock and cement-based foundation pillars sunk to a depth of 2.05m. The other was built in the local architectural style known as "Fakhr al-Din's bathhouse" ⁷. In 1856 this building, which had belonged to a Turkish dignitary, was bought by the "Companions of Jesus" and later by the Marist Order in 1908. The Marists extended the building by adding two floors after flattening a cupola on the original terraced roof.

"The first hostile act was the cutting down and destroying of the royal park in which the Persian Kings were wont to take recreation",
Diodorus of Sicily, Book XVI.

1880

Sidon, as described by the Reverend Isaac Bird ⁸, had become by 1872 a prosperous station of the American Protestant Mission. During foundation work for the construction of their new college ⁹, marble remains were found (fig. 6). Amongst these were fragments from the shaft and the base of a column, as well as a double protome capital featuring two bulls crouching back to back (Beirut National Museum) ¹⁰. M. Clermont-Ganneau (see p.34) based on the writings of Diodorus of Sicily came to



- 5 The Sandikli site. Remains of Dunand's excavation (H. Barnes)
- 6 The Gerard Institute for boys (1882-1909) (H. H. Jessup, 1910)

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the conclusion that these finds could be the remains of the pleasure gardens or *Paradeisos* of the Persians during the era of Artaxerxes III, Ochus and Tennes of Sidon. The Sidon protome has the typical forked silhouette very similar to the

ones found at Persopolis and Susa (fig. 10). Three other protomes were also discovered. One from Eshmun¹¹ (fig. 9) and another from the island of Arvad (Damascus Museum)¹² (fig. 8), with four bulls crouching back to back in a cross design dating back to the end of the Persian and the beginning of the Hellenistic Period. The third, discovered in 1890 by Tubbs and Munro¹³ (now housed in the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities at the British Museum), dating back to the 3rd century AD, was a support for a statue (fig. 7). In place of the forked silhouette of the Achaemenean capitals, or the horizontal ones of the Delian, it substitutes by the slope of the necks and the lowered heads of the bulls, a silhouette reminiscent of an Ionic capital.

LE PARADEISOS ROYAL ACHEMENIDE DE SIDON

Ch. Clermont-Ganneau, *Revue biblique* XXX, 1921, p. 106-109.

A la séance du 17 décembre 1920 de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, M. Clermont-Ganneau a la parole à propos de la "correspondance". La note suivante contient le résumé de sa communication.

"Il y a quelque vingt ans, le 11 juillet 1900, je recevais du Rev. Samuel Jessup, de passage à Paris, une lettre dont je m'excuse de donner connaissance seulement aujourd'hui, à notre Compagnie. Ce retard - de plus de 246 mois! - est dû des circonstances particulières, tout à fait indépendantes de ma volonté; il ne retire rien comme on

va le voir, à l'intérêt de cette correspondance remise à l'ordre du jour par certains faits dont je parlerai tout à l'heure et qui lui redonnent un caractère d'actualité.

M. Samuel Jessup, membre de la mission presbytérienne américaine de Saïda - l'antique Sidon - était chargé par le Rev. Dr Ford, directeur de cette mission, de me consulter au sujet de diverses antiquités qu'on venait d'exhumer en creusant les fondations de l'école américaine édifiée immédiatement au sortir de la porte méridionale de la ville.

Il me remit une photographie sommaire de ce groupe d'objets. Sans parler des autres pièces qu'on y distingue plus ou moins nettement, je fus vivement frappé d'y voir des fragments de sculpture en ronde bosse représentant les avant-corps de grands taureaux agenouillés qui ressemblent tout à fait, par leur style, par leur pose et leur agencement, aux protomés des taureaux adossés constituant les chapiteaux des palais perses de Persépolis et de Suse, chapiteaux dont on peut voir au Louvre un spécimen caractéristique.

Comment expliquer l'existence à Sidon de tels chapiteaux si nettement marqués au coin de l'art perse? Je me rappelai aussitôt le passage de Diodore de Sicile (XVI, 41-45) (p. 33) qui raconte en détail l'insurrection du roi phénicien de Sidon, le roi Tennes, contre son suzerain le roi de Perse Artaxerxès III Ochus, en 351 avant notre ère. Un des premiers actes des insurgés avait été la destruction du parc royal, où les rois de Perse avaient coutume de venir se reposer. On sait le rôle important que jouaient chez les Perses ces "paradis", ces jardins de plaisance, qui, naturellement, impliquaient l'existence d'édifices plus ou moins considérables servant de résidence pour les villégiatures et les chasses royales. Il pouvait y avoir de ces "paradis" dans les principales satrapies. En tout cas, il en était ainsi en Phénicie; le grand roi y avait son paradis royal où il pouvait s'installer quand la fantaisie lui prenait de venir visiter sa bonne ville de Sidon, capitale de la satrapie. Entre temps, le palais royal du type dit *apadana*, voire pavillon plus simple - avec son parc avant, annexe, devait servir aux satrapes et aux généraux perses comme nous l'apprend Diodore, fixé leur résidence à Sidon- même.

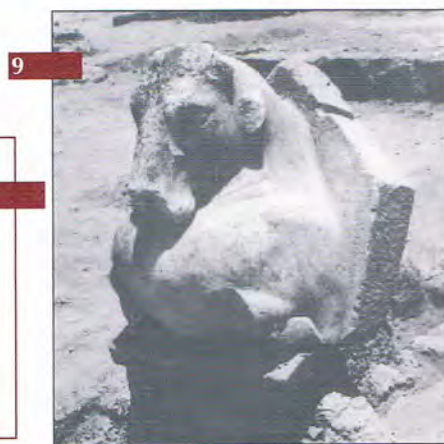
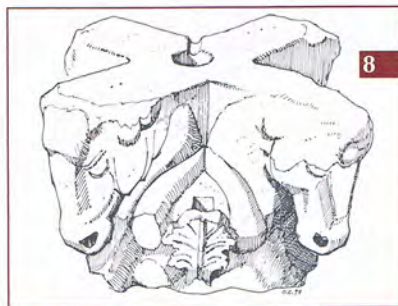
A en juger par la photographie nous avons les restes de quatre protomés de taureaux qui, adossés deux par deux, doivent représenter deux chapiteaux se faisant pendant. Ils pouvaient appartenir soit à deux colonnes flanquant une porte d'entrée, soit à un ensemble architectural plus étendu. La façon dont ces chapiteaux ont été brisés systématiquement, avec un acharnement visible, alors qu'ils étaient encore bien conservés, s'explique par les conditions tragiques dans lesquelles se produisit l'insurrection de Sidon secouant le joug de la domination perse.

Une fois fixé ainsi sur la valeur historique de ces précieux débris, je m'empressai d'en signaler l'existence au Musée du Louvre, dans

11 R. Stucky, 1998, "Le sanctuaire d' Eshmoun à Sidon", *National Museum News*, 7, p. 5, fig. 3.

12 M. Yon-A. Caubet, 1993, "Arouad et Amrit VIII^e - I^{er} siècles av. J.-C. documents", *Transeuphratène*, p. 50-52.

13 V. Wilson, 1980, "The Tubbs-Munro Excavations at Salamis 1890", in M. Yon, *Salamine de Chypre, histoire et archéologie, état des recherches*, Colloques Internationaux du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Lyon 13-17 mars 1978, n° 578, p. 60-70 ; G. Roux, 1980, "le chapiteau à protomés de taureaux découvert à Salamine de Chypre", in M. Yon, *op.cit.*, p. 257-274.



l' espoir qu'on pourrait en enrichir nos collections. A cet effet, j'abouchai avec la conservation compétente M. Samuel Jessup et, plus tard, M. Ford lui-même. Finalement, les pourparlers, qui durent se poursuivre pendant quelques années encore, n'aboutirent pas pour des causes que j' ignore; et, mon rôle étant achevé, les choses restèrent en l' état jusqu'en 1914, sans que je me crusse en droit de sortir de

la réserve que m' imposait ce rôle même joué par moi dans cette négociation délicate.

A cette époque, M. le Dr Contenau, chargé d'une mission archéologique à Saida, voulut bien, sur ma demande, reprendre cette piste interrompue. Je lui donnai, à cet effet, tous les renseignements et documents nécessaires. La guerre vint couper court à cette première tentative. C'est seulement cette année-ci, au cours d'une seconde mission, que M. Contenau réussit à atteindre enfin l'objectif visé. Voici la lettre que, de retour de Syrie, il a bien voulu m'adresser à ce sujet:

Mon cher Maître, Je reviens de Saida où j' ai exécuté la mission dont j' ai été chargé par le ministère de l'Instruction Publique, et par le Haut-Commissariat.

Vous aviez bien voulu, dès ma première mission en 1914, me faire communiquer la photographie d'antiquités trouvées à Sidon, il y a plus de vingt ans, par la Mission Américaine qui était désireuse d'avoir votre jugement sur ces antiquités.

A la suite de cet examen, il vous avait paru désirable de les signaler au Musée du Louvre, en raison de l'intérêt exceptionnel que certaines pièces paraissent présenter.

M. le Dr. Ford, chef de la Mission Américaine avait enterré sa collection d'antiquités pendant la guerre, par mesure de précaution.

Désireux de satisfaire à l' arrêté du Haut-Commissariat prescrivant à tout détenteur d'antiquités d' en faire la déclaration, il a déterré sa collection devant M. Brossé, Inspecteur du Service, qui doit en dresser un inventaire, et devant moi.

J' ai eu la satisfaction d'y retrouver toutes les pièces que reproduit votre photographie, notamment les taureaux que vous m' aviez particulièrement signalés comme provenant d'un monument d' époque perse.

M. Ford m' a dit que ces débris de chapiteaux ont été trouvés lors de la construction de l' école américaine, située près de la porte de Tyr; à deux pas de la butte du château, où j' ai moi-même exécuté des sondages.

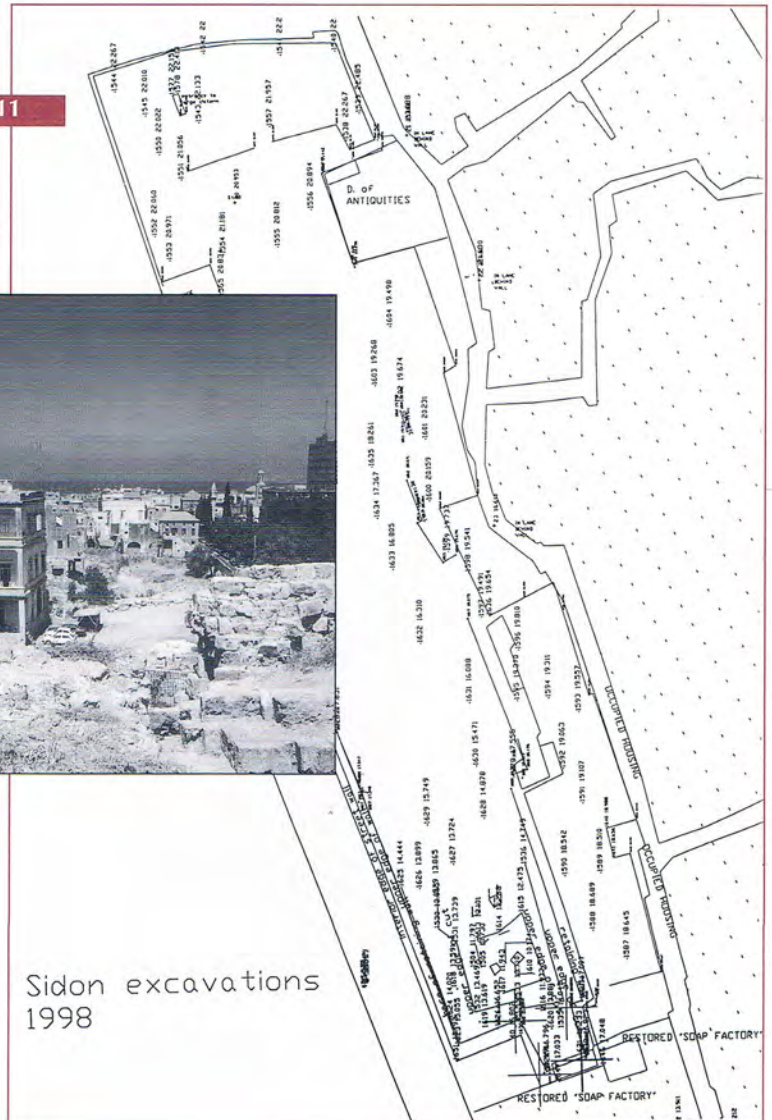
Je pense que ces renseignements vous seront agréables et vous prie d' agréer, mon cher Maître, l' assurance de mes respectueux sentiments.

G. Contenau, Paris, le 15 novembre 1920

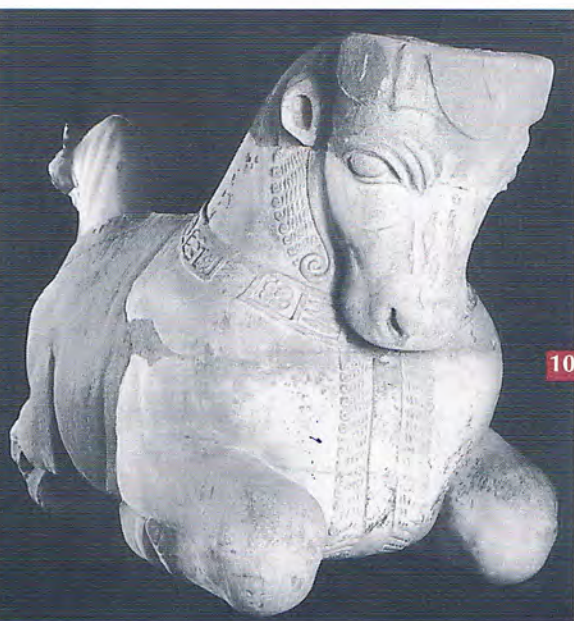
Dunand's Excavation 1964-1965

Demolition of the old college buildings revealed that they had been built of sandstone (ramleh) and its foundations consisted of "large pillars erected at every corner and along the sides and then sunk to a depth of 4 m".

- 7 Bull protome capital discovered by Tubbs and Munro at Salamis
- 8 Bull protome capital from the island of Arvad
- 9 Bull protome capital from Eshmun
- 10 Persian bull protome capital from Sidon, Beirut National Museum
- 11 The "College site"



Sidon excavations
1998



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DISCOVERIES **The Latest Excavation**
IN LITTLE **1998**
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The six foundation pillars (013-018) (fig. 13) aligned on two parallel lines and discovered during this year's excavation, are probably the ones described in 1967 by Dunand. The pillars,

sunk in an earthen hole without any coring of stones, are of a conglomerate of stones of greatly varying size with a large proportion of a light brown mottled mortar with sand, lime and flex. Part of the south face of pillar 013 has a flat surface with a flat cement-like facing (fig. 14). Dunand describes in his 1967 report his experience in excavating this site which was very similar to what we encountered during the 1998 season. *"The disturbance and clutter at the superficial levels of the site made any attempt at stratigraphic research redundant. What is more, having reached a depth of 5 m in the vicinity of the foundations where the Persian capital was originally unearthed, no further fragments of marble were found. The only worthwhile discoveries were fragments of Roman Arezzo pottery and a few oil lamps dating to the 1st century AD. A few fragments of hollow terracotta statuettes, some having belonged to larger objects, were also found"*.

"As for the Sidonians likewise they had encompassed their city with huge triple ditches and constructions of the lofty walls"
 Diodorus of Sicily, Book XVI.

We were aware from Ernest Renan's 1864 publication, *Mission de Phénicie*, that Sidon's mediaeval wall ran north of the castle, through the "College site" (fig. 1, p. 29) and that last year's excavation would take place in its protective ditch. The city wall also ran west of the castle in a steep incline down to the sea (fig. 1, p 29). Based on the 1864 Renan plan, the outline of the mediaeval wall was this season laid out along the ground with tape wherever it ran through Department of Antiquity property.

Because of the large amount of backfill that was expected, work began, under supervision, with a mechanical excavator in the north west corner of the property. Trench 1 A, was excavated as a preliminary sounding in order to provide information on the nature of the soil, the depth of archaeological deposit and the various phases of occupation. The mechanical excavator was used down to 2.30 m, revealing Mamluk pottery and masonry blocks. Trench 1B was then opened (approximately 300 sq. m. wide) revealing at 2.50 m a layer of black sandy earth with Mamluk sherds and large blocks of masonry stones and a mixture of finds ranging from fragments of red marble, the limestone base of a column and a fragment of masonry. The Mamluk pottery was found amongst a great deal of rubble fill (fig. 12).

At approximately 5 m above sea level, undisturbed archaeological deposits were found below a red and yellow 30 cm thick deposit

14 C. Doumet-Serhal, 1999, "First Season of Excavation at Sidon; Preliminary report", *BAAL*.

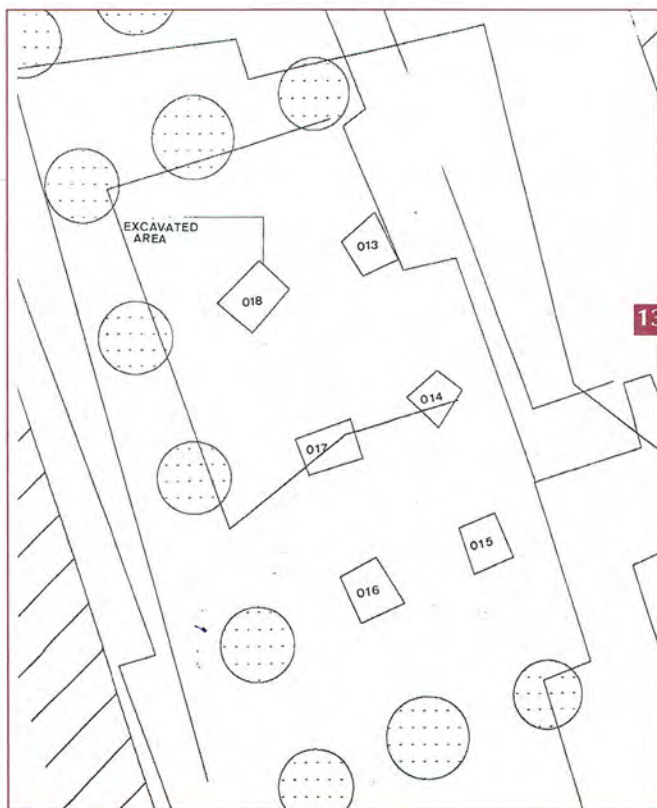


- 12 Excavating trench B
- 13 Foundation pillars (013 - 018) aligned on two parallel lines and excavated square around pillar 018; the circles are where foundation pillars can be expected to be found (H. Barnes)
- 14 Pillar 013

of burned debris and a 40 cm layer of black ash. This deposit was apparent in the north facing sections, (between foundation pillars 014 and 017, and west of foundation pillar 017) and in the south facing section between foundation pillars 018 and 013.

A 3 x 3 m square later extended to 5 x 4.5 m was laid out around foundation pillar 018 (fig. 13). A group of fallen stones and a door socket were found NW/SE of the square with broken pottery *in situ* next to the stones belonging to the Early Bronze Age (fig. 19, p. 39). These were on a black silty floor of a sticky consistency.

Below this a very dense brown silty floor mottled with red sand, large patches of burned soil and a large amount of *in situ* pottery was discovered. Two intersecting walls SW/NE and NW/SE 50 cm thick were cleared in the N/E corner of the square revealing what might prove to be the corner of a building (fig. 20, p. 39). The area facing the N/W section of pillar 018 revealed a white lime plaster floor and a plaster basin adjacent to the pillar (fig. 21, p. 39). What seemed to be the continuation of the NW/SE wall appeared on the other side of pillar 018 exposing what could be, in fact, two different rooms.



A curved wall (fig. 22, p. 39) belonging to a later period was cleared along the east side of the trench. It was apparent from the mortar on top of the wall that at least one further course existed. The wall runs north-south curving as it runs south and westward. The base of a column 75 cm high and 79 cm wide was found on this wall. Two pieces of this column had been found earlier in the back-fill.

The two phases in the sequence of occupation at Sidon were dated by the Early Bronze Age pottery (EBIII). This is described in *BAAL*¹⁴. Interestingly early material (Chalcolithic/Early Bronze Age) was found during the construction of the Sidon Academy and has been reported by Sir J. W. Dawson, 1888, in the *Modern Science in Bible Lands*, London, p. 48-49.

...” Professor West, of the American College, Beyrouth, has given me an illustration from the site of ancient Sidon. In digging foundations for new mission buildings, just outside the modern city wall, the following section was exposed:

City débris	6.80 mètres
Sea sand	.50
Earth,	.60
Burnt earth	.30
Dark earth with flint knives, marine and land shells of recent species still found on this coast, coarse pottery in unworn fragments, streaks of burnt earth	1.20
Sandy loam, a few rounded pieces of pottery, fragment of sea shells	1.10
Red sandstone rock, probably Pleistocene, and about three metres above the sea	3.0
Total	<u>13.50 metres</u>



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Thus the rubbish of old Sidon had been cast forth on a bed of sand, probably blown sand, such as occurs in many places on the coast. Under this are indications of a fire, and below this the *débris* of a primitive station of Stone men. Putting into historical form the details given me by Professor West, we have here the indications of a pre-Phoenician settlement, probably of wooden huts, inhabited by people who

used beautifully chipped flint knives, long and slender, of which Professor West sent me an interesting specimen. ..." (fig.15).

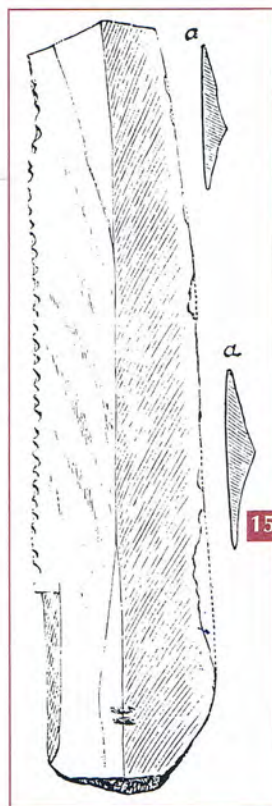
**IN THE SURROUNDING AREAS OF
THE TELL, THERE WERE TWO
IMPORTANT FINDS**

- At the extreme south end of the tell, in an area known as "Bostan el Amoud", (fig. 18) painted funerary steles inscribed with Greek epitaphs were unearthed. The names cited are those of Greek mercenaries killed whilst serving in the Sidon region. No further information has been obtained on this find to elucidate the vague and circumstantial conclusions drawn by the original scientists on the spot.

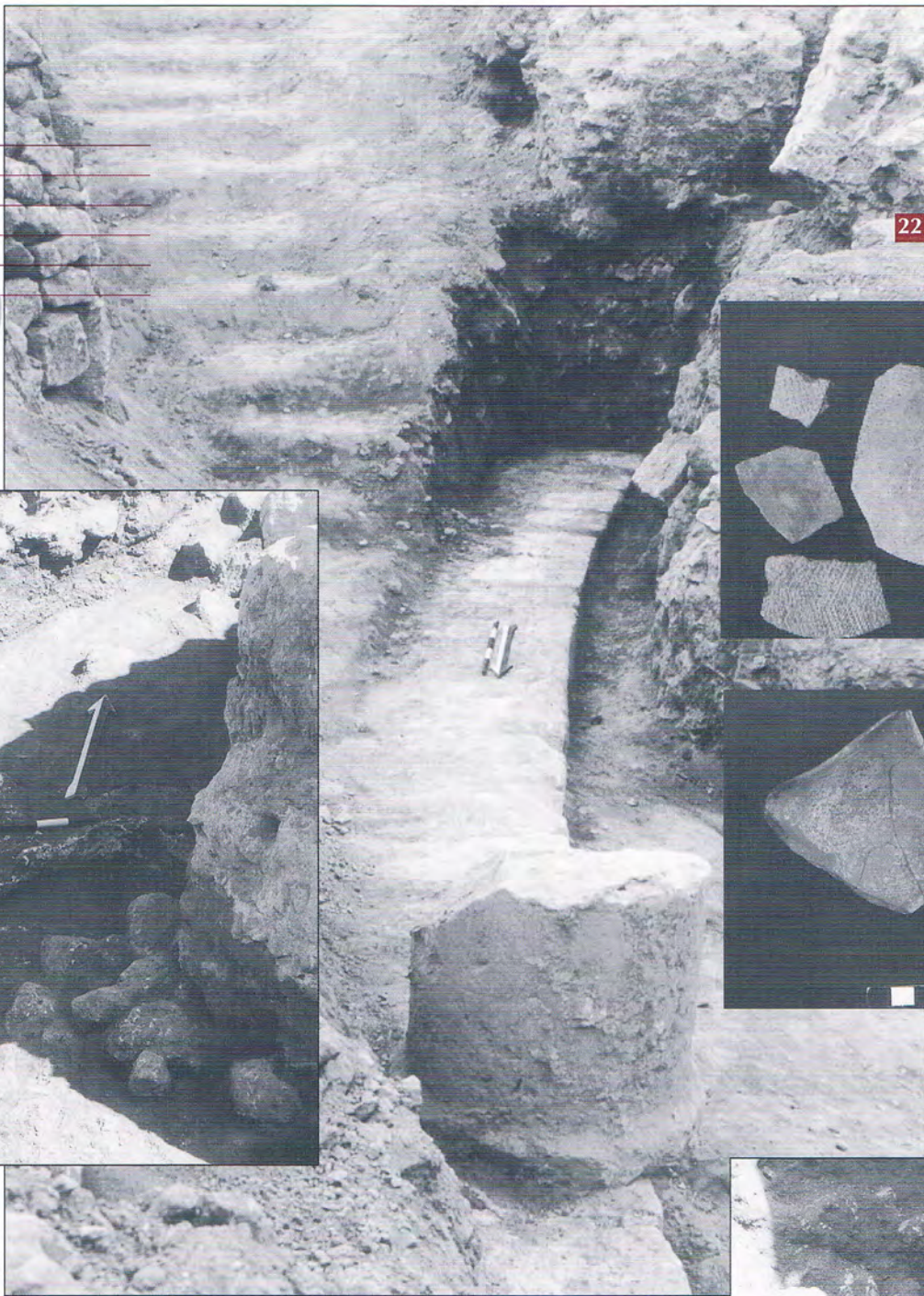
- In 1887 a collection of marble sculptures, mostly statues, arrived in Paris. Most of these were added to the De Clercq Collection known today as the Boisgelin Collection. They

originated from a Mythraeum and their Sidonian origins are undeniable. The only account relating to the discovery of the sculptures is known from the antique dealer Edmond Durighello, famous for his spirited forays into archaeological research and his wrangles with the local administrative authorities. According to records dating from 1924, the Sidonian temple of Mythra is to be found under the building housing the Greek-Catholic archdiocese (fig. 17). It was apparently unearthed when the residence's foundations were being laid and stones from the temple were supposedly used in its construction.

- 15 Flint discovered at College site in digging foundations for the Gerard Institute, published by J. W. Dawson in 1888
- 16 Flint, notcher and borer discovered at College site in 1998
- 17 Location of the Greek-Catholic archdiocese at Sidon
- 18 Location of the site of "Bostan el Amoud"
- 19 *In situ* pottery belonging to the Early Bronze Age III
- 20 *In situ* pottery floor level and intersecting walls, Early Bronze Age III
- 21 Plaster basin
- 22 Curved wall belonging to a later period and base of a column
- 23 Pottery sherds with combing
- 24 Lamps discovered during the 1998 excavation

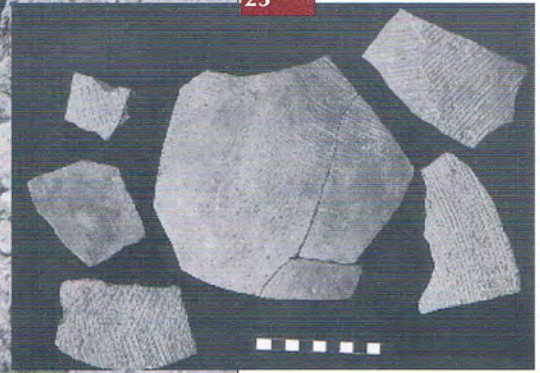


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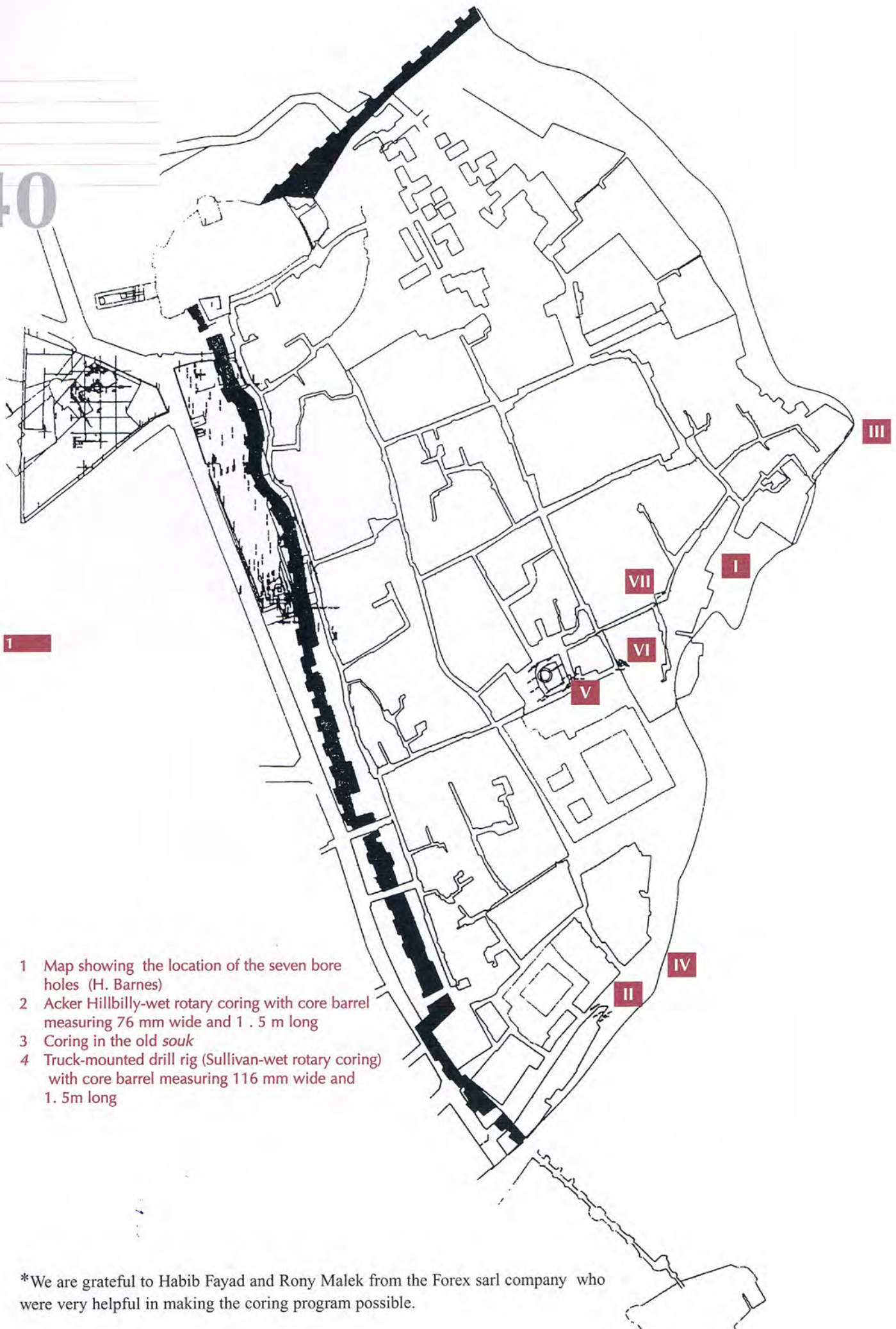


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- 1 Map showing the location of the seven bore holes (H. Barnes)
- 2 Acker Hillbilly-wet rotary coring with core barrel measuring 76 mm wide and 1 . 5 m long
- 3 Coring in the old *souk*
- 4 Truck-mounted drill rig (Sullivan-wet rotary coring) with core barrel measuring 116 mm wide and 1. 5m long

*We are grateful to Habib Fayad and Rony Malek from the Forex sarl company who were very helpful in making the coring program possible.