

NEA PAPHOS 1989

Wiktor A. Daszewski

The Polish Archaeological Mission of the Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Warsaw, carried out excavations in the Maloutena area in Kato Paphos between 25 August and 24 September. The work was concentrated in three areas.

Within the so called Villa of Theseus, a residential house of the Roman period, a stratigraphic pit was opened under the mosaic pavement of the east portico. An entrance to the building of its early phase, was uncovered. Below this level a large water cistern of the Hellenistic period was explored.

Excavations were continued of an earlier building situated immediately to the south of the Villa of Theseus and dated to the Late Hellenistic period. Further parts of the peristyle were uncovered and a series of rooms adjoining the porticoes on the east and west of the court.

To the east two large rooms paved with large blocks of stone (some of them measure 1.50 x 0.33 m) were found. To the west of the court remains of large rooms of a more official, ceremonious character were partly cleared from debris of fallen walls. One of the rooms has a mosaic pavement made up of white chips of stone with a black band delimiting the central part. Near the other room or hall, a fragment of wall terminating in a pilaster was found. The base of the pilaster reveals painted decoration in green and red. Red, blue and yellow colors were found upon a very large capital of Corinthian-Ptolemaic type, found nearby. Some painted plaster was also preserved on the walls. Many fragments of terracotta figurines of dogs were found in this area, as well as a fine terracotta head of Serapis.

The third area of exploration was inside the so called House of Aion. Two rooms were completely cleared of debris. In one of them hundreds of fragments of wall paintings were recovered from the fill. They point to figural representations of fine quality. It was possible to reassemble parts of paintings depicting heads of young women, possibly Muses.

The other room uncovered this year had plain white plaster upon its walls and a plain mosaic floor made of gray, creamy, red-brown tesserae. Many fragments of clay pots and several coins dating to about the middle of the 4th century AD were recovered from the fill.