

The Amorium Excavations Project

January 2007 Newsletter

The 2006 excavation season was a great success with many satisfying results on a number of different



Site guard Selahattin Arıözsoy and Chris Lightfoot take a well-earned break (no pun intended!) at the Dig House in 2006

fronts. The team members all worked well together, and so it is very pleasing to announce that many will be returning in 2007 to continue their work. It was particularly nice to welcome back last summer Johanna Witte-Orr who, as well as continuing her study of Amorian brick and tile, turned her attention to early Byzantine fineware pottery. She later joined other team members at the Byzantine Studies Conference in St. Louis despite the fact she was about to leave Iowa and move to Germany. So, special thanks are owed to her and her husband Larry for making the effort for Amorium's sake at such a stressful time. In November Serhat Karakaya came on a visit to the US to help Director Chris Lightfoot in putting in order and completing the excavation's electronic archives. This has enabled us to scan all of the trench context sheets, notebooks, drawings, and photos for ease of reference in the future. In addition, Serhat has helped prepare the artwork for *Amorium Reports III*, which is now (at last) nearing completion. Meanwhile, over his Christmas vacation Eric Ivison has headed out to Israel to work there with Benny Arubas and the other surveyors on the preparation of various plans and drawings. This means that good progress is being made in the preparation of Eric's *Final Report* on the Lower City Church. Other team members have also been very industrious. Murat Şen has begun a masters degree at Van University, while Oğuz Koçyiğit and Hüseyin Yaman, having successfully finished their masters at Çanakkale, are now about to enrol as doctoral students. All three are also actively engaged in presenting results from Amorium at conferences in Turkey. The major news in recent weeks is the publication of the all-new Amorium guide. Copies have yet to arrive in New York from the publisher in Istanbul, but we are very pleased and proud to have two such handsome volumes – one in English, the other in Turkish. Greek team members Nikos Tzivikis and Yorgos Brokalakis are now considering whether to do a Greek version, recognising the keen interest there is in Greece in the story of Amorium. Perhaps we should also contemplate an Arabic version... Offers anyone?

The permit application has now been sent off to the Turkish authorities in Ankara, and our thoughts turn once again to the warm, sunny days at Amorium that await us in the summer. Details of the 2007 team and the provisional timetable for the summer are now posted on the website, www.amoriumexcavations.org, together with further information about the Project, including a short report on the 2006 season. Please write to the address below if you would like to make a contribution to the Amorium Excavations Project. Funding is currently being sought to support both the excavations and the very extensive programme of conservation and restoration at the site.

Email address: amoriumproject@msn.com

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Murat Şen and Nikos Tzivikis discuss excavation strategy in the Church during the 2006 season