

IN POSEIDON'S REALM XXIV

APRIL 08-14 2019 | BODRUM/TURKEY

Conference & Event Report

The event programme started as early as 9 o'clock on Monday morning, when a small group of divers followed Askin Cambazoglu and his team of the Dive Academy Bodrum to their dive boat at Halikarnass Quay. Askin used to work as an underwater archaeologist in Bodrum before opening his own dive centre and accordingly had a good idea which underwater finds might be a suitable site for this group of archaeology enthusiasts. Unfortunately, the weather conditions did not allow for diving the ancient



wreck sites, but the protection afforded by the bay of the so-called "Black Isle" got us diving in comparatively warm water of 18°C. In 2008, an old transport plane of the Turkish Army,

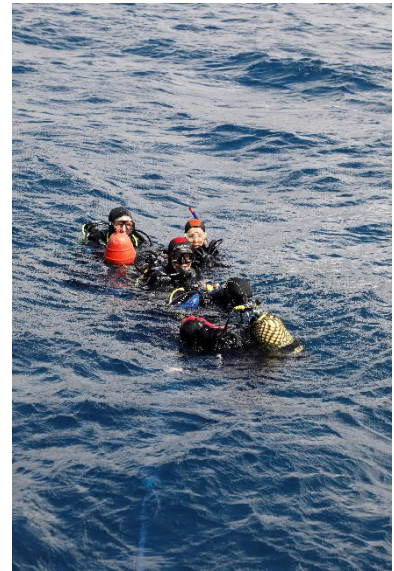


type 30m. After an excellent lunch and a short break, we proceeded to the second dive, at the opposite site of the bay. Besides geological formations, two rather large ancient transport amphora were plainly visible. In the afternoon, we returned to Bodrum's harbour in high spirits, very much looking forward to the next dive day.

While the weather improved during the afternoon and some conference delegates could even enjoy a bit of sunshine in one of the quaint little cafés along the harbour side, the evening brought a thunderstorm down on the town that even resulted in a longer power-cut. The communal fish dinner in the market hall was not to be eaten in complete darkness, though: our resourceful landlords quickly produced a romantic atmosphere with candlelight.

We thought with some concern of our dive trip the next day – however, the region is known for its quick changes in weather. And really, we were lucky. The sky might not be the brightest blue, but diving did at least look possible.

Again, not on all potential sites – the one chosen would have some current but provide a view of some amphora at 25– 30m depth. The way back into the dive boat proved more difficult than anticipated. With a rising wind, waves and currents, it needed our combined forces to heave all divers back on board, and nobody had to be left behind, after all.

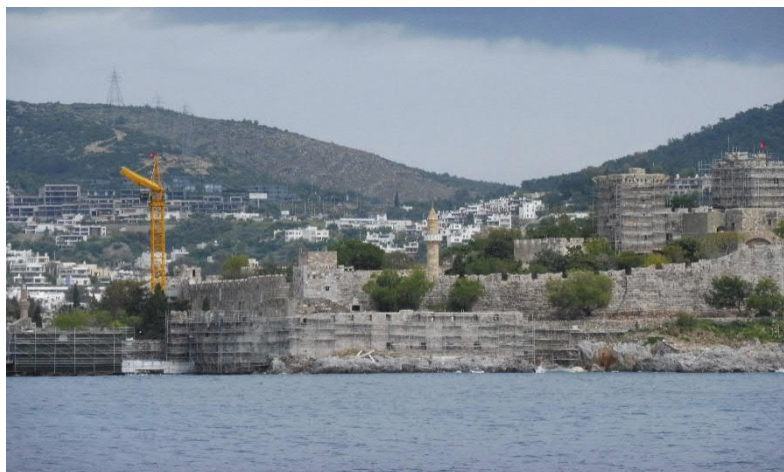


As the weather was unlikely to improved, the second dive was quickly scheduled to follow but first, the captain proved all his nautical skills in manoeuvring the boat, stern ahead, into a more protected position within the narrow bay. It is quite likely that in ancient times, many ships similarly sought protection from sudden changes in the weather in this natural harbour.



That not all of the succeeded and were instead driven unto the cliffs was evidenced by uncountable sherds under water within the bay. Quite impressed but also rather thoughtful, we returned to the dive boat. Lunch was an acrobatic challenge, what with balancing the plates in the swell. All team members superbly succeeded, and we had a fun time returning to the harbour.

On Wednesday, the half-day sailing trip started at 9:30 am. The STSBodrum is a large two-masted yacht of 36m. After leaving the harbour by motor, the aft staysail was hoisted out in the bay.



In sunshine and best sailing weather, we were riding the waves. Later, two headsails were added. The crew treated us to cake, tea, sandwiches and lemonade. When we reached Bodrum harbour again in the early afternoon, we had a good view of the former castle of the Knights of St. John, which is currently being renovated.

(Luisa Goldammer)

At the same time as the sailing trip, another group went on a fieldtrip to ancient Pedasa. It is situated to the North of Bodrum, on the hills of Konacik near Gokceler and is surrounded by green hills without other settlements.

We went to the site by minibus and were welcomed there by Prof. Adnan Diler and his team. Since 2006, he has been directing the annual excavations by Turkish archaeologists in the sanctuary, the necropolis and on the acropolis. The excavations are carried out in cooperation with the Centre of Carian Studies of the Turkish University Muğla.



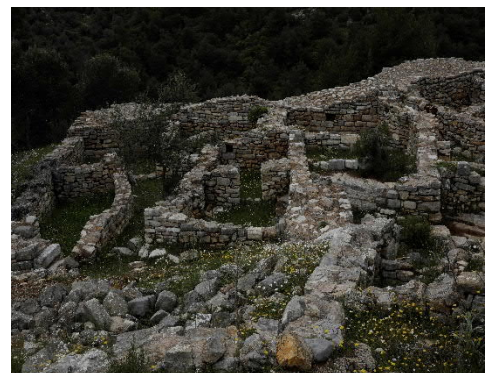
First, we received an introduction into the history and the significance of the ancient town. Pedasa is the most important Lelegian settlement on the Halicarnassus peninsula, built in the 6th - 5th centuries BC, according to ancient sources. Homer maintains that the founders of the Lelegian cities in the Bodrum area originally came from Pedasos near Troy and moved south after the Trojan war. Pedasa was the most important of the eight settlements and figures most prominently in ancient sources. The current excavations allowed a dating of the settlement from the 2nd millennium BC to the 13th century AD.

After this introduction, our host led us through the far-reaching areas of the settlement. The architectural structures and exposed so far show the characteristic structures and constructions of a Lelegian City.

In the South-East of the settlement is a densely built acropolis, which is dominated by a massive citadel. Other focal points are a lower city, with hardly any remains visible on the surface, an Athena sanctuary and an extensive necropolis. Pedasa also has an elaborate and well-preserved fortification system that consists of a ringwall around the Acropolis, a Citadel, a walled lower city and a series of towers and gates.

The Lelegians preferred to settle at high altitudes, slightly removed from the sea for monitoring the coast and as protection against attacks. In this civilization, a typical architectural feature were circular walls. An interesting aspect of their construction techniques was the absence of binding material such as cement or gypsum were used. Our route brought us first uphill to a hill with a small necropolis, before visiting a settlement area with a small number of farmsteads. From there, we returned to the valley to enjoy a delicious snack and to fortify ourselves for the next stages. These were the castle, lower city, acropolis and Athena sanctuary. The going was rather steep during the last third of the way but when we reached the acropolis, we had a fantastic view of the sea in the North and South. A short break, and down we went again for the minibus.

(Tom Reiser)



The afternoon continued the programme with a wine tasting in the mountains, where we went along narrow streets in two minibuses. We were served a snack and three red wines as well as a rosé, all of which tasted great.

After two hours and a farewell photo, we returned to Bodrum.



(Tom Reiser)

On Thursday, we met at 9 o'clock at the designated conference accommodation, the Marina Vista hotel, to start for a guided tour of the town. We walked the narrow streets of the old town with their pretty whitewashed houses and blue window frames that building regulations decree for this area of town. First stop was the famous Mausoleum of Halicarnassos, formerly one of the ancient Seven Wonders of the World – or what remains of it. Not much is left to be seen, and it was a good thing our guides Semih Adiyaman and Winfried Held reconstructed it for us in their explanations. As curiously as befits archaeologists, we investigated the varieties of marble and the impressive stone block that used to seal the tomb chamber. Even the immensely patient kids made a discovery: tadpoles wriggled in the little ponds of rainwater that lingered, rather green, between the stones. Archaeology for Wildlife Conservation! Interdisciplinarity is every-where...



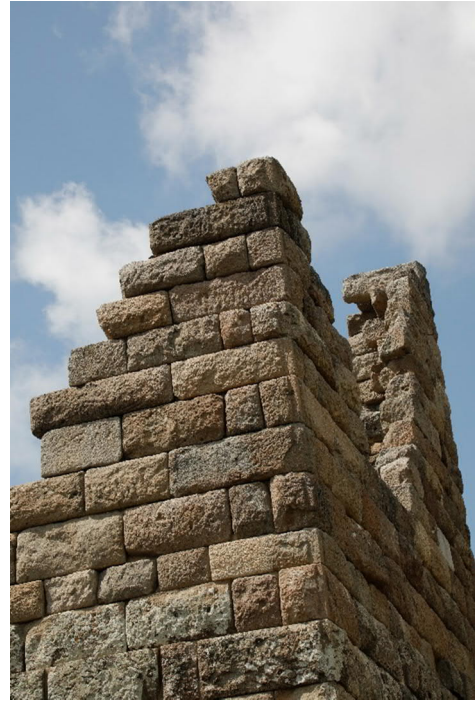
We moved on, past one of the cisterns that were apparently characteristic for Bodrum in the past, past many ancient spolia now decorating gardens and entrances, to the amphitheatre high above the town.



“Oh, another one of those”, the experienced visitor of ancient towns was apt to think but Winfried Held made it interesting, showing us a number of easily overlooked details that this theatre was one of the oldest in Asia Minor. How remarkable that it has never been fully documented archaeologically!



A few minutes' walk brought us to the Myndos Gate and the ancient city walls with their unusual construction technique. Promptly and characteristically, the group took to animated discussion and it took some herding skill by our guide to bring us to the nearby tombs, interestingly situated beside a modern hotel pool - a setting the families that used to come together here to commemorate their dead certainly never dreamed of!



In an afternoon workshop, Peta Knott - Education Officer of the Nautical Archaeology Society, introduced us to the possibilities of the so-called “revised NAS-system”. This is a system of a course range training leisure divers in underwater archaeological methods. It is offered in Germany by a number of DEGUWA members.



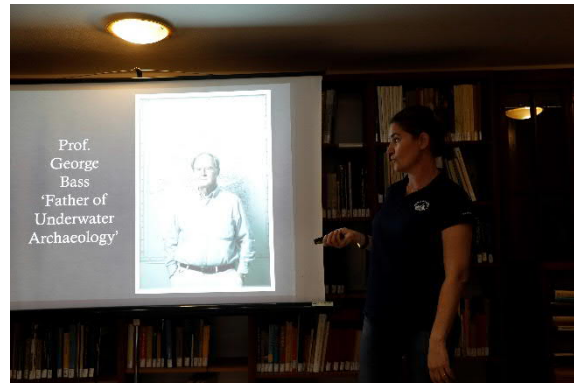
The programme continued in the evening with a poster session, amazingly tasty snacks and a first round of the famous DEGUWA schnapps awards – a given at all DEGUWA conferences and greatly looked forward to by all seasoned delegates. A special mention is due to the fantastic underwater photographs that decorated the walls of the poster session venue, showing scenes of maritime archaeology during research conducted by the Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology of the Dokuz Eylül University Izmir, one of DEGUWA's partners for this conference.



After half a day of lectures on Friday, we met in the afternoon for a tour of the Bodrum Research Center / Institute of Nautical Archaeology (BRC/INA), where we were welcomed by Tuba Ekmekçi Littlefield, Deborah Carlson and Cemal Pulak.



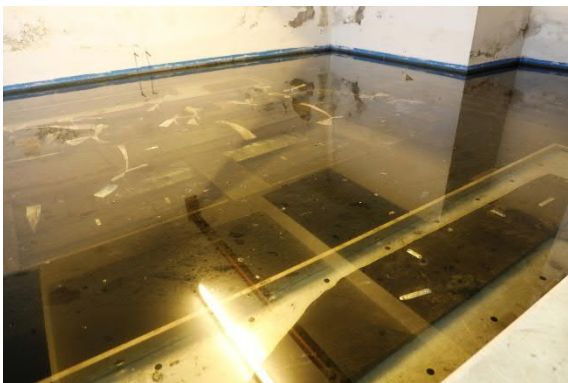
In the beautiful wood-paneled and apparently well-stocked library, Tuba gave us a short introduction into the history of the institute, founded by George Bass, and into underwater archaeology in general (strangely devoid of the female actors of the region).



As we did not all fit into the labs, the group was split in two, with the Institute's students acting as security to make sure nobody strayed off. The first room housed an archive of many reassem-bled amphorae, among others from the Gelidonya and Uluburun wrecks, and some metal objects, such as anchor stocks.



Several tables also displayed conserved ship timbers, wrapped in translucent plastic, from the so-called “Theodosius-harbour” of Constantinople, unearthed during the Marmaray-Project. Cemal Pulak explained to us that the planks had originally been 3 cm thick and had suffered some abrasion during the ship's lifespan. In the same room, some find sketches were being inked up on drawing film. A few steps further on, some employees re-assembled amphorae with blue tape. Tuba Ekmekçi Littlefield led us on to some conserved metal finds, again partly from the famous Gelidonya and Uluburun wrecks. A number of oxhide ingots still rested in their tubs, awaiting the completion of their conservation process. Likewise, some ship timbers were still being soaked in PEG in big vats.



The BRO/INA rally is of an impressive size, both regarding storage facilities as well as laboratories. At the last stop, we saw some massive column drums from the Kizilburun column wreck, outside in the Institute garden. Deborah Carlson explained to us that one ship would not have been able to transport all parts of a column – it would need two ships to transport one complete column.



The day was completed by a reception with drinks and great food in the beautiful BRC/INA grounds – a perfect opportunity to make new contacts and continue old discussions.



We are very grateful to the Institute of Nautical Archaeology and its team for their hospitality.

(Anne-Kathrin Fiele & Anja Rutter)

The next two conference days were amply filled with interesting and demanding presentations on various fields within underwater archaeology. In several sections (Contact Zones I: Lakes and Rivers; Contact Zones II: Sea Shores; Contact Zones III: Harbours; Ancient Technology and Cultural Exchange; Technology in Archaeology; Shipbuilding and Shipwrecks), there were presentations on cultural contacts and trade relations, on a variety of find groups as well as on coastal and settlement structures and how they were impacted by variations in water levels, on harbours, ancient shipbuilding and several wreck sites. Another research focus was placed on methodology, computer-based applications and devices employed in underwater archaeology, such as sonar scans, ROVs or 3D scans.



As is usual, a conference programme with schedules and abstracts had been provided to each participant for their information. After each section, there was an opportunity for discussions.

Another highlight during the weekend was the presentation of Harun Özdaş and Nilhan Kızıldağ about the discovery of two Venetian wrecks from the sea battle near the Oinousses islands in 1695. The evening concluded with a reception by the city of Bodrum in the yacht harbour. In a pleasant atmosphere between Ottoman city walls, modern architecture and elegant yachts, there was an opportunity for relaxed conversation between drinks and



To conclude, the whole conference week was a great success, with a colourful event programme and interesting presentations in great atmosphere and company – we are very much looking forward to the next conference “In Poseidon's Realm”.

Last not least, we are extremely grateful for the great cooperation and extensive support of the Academia Mediterranea Halicarnassensis, the city of Bodrum and the Dokuz Eylül University Izmir as well as the Bodrum Research Center / Institute of Nautical Archaeology. Without them, nothing of the above would have been possible.



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