

AINA NEWSLETTER

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Summer 74

1974 was not a good year for Classical archaeology. At the outbreak of hostilities on Cyprus, most excavations in Cyprus, Greece and Turkey were brought to a halt. Years of preparation and many hundreds of thousands of dollars were wasted. Yet, at a time when many have been widowed and orphaned, when many have lost homes, businesses and savings, at such a time it seems petty to complain too loudly.

For AINA the blow was severe, as this was to have been its first full year of major projects: a four- to five-month excavation in Turkey had been funded, staffed and equipped, and the Kyrenia Shipwreck Museum was to have opened on Cyprus. Although our schedules have now been set back, we have much to be thankful for: none of our staff, volunteers or students were harmed, and none of the photographic negatives, plans, catalogues, and manuscripts of fourteen years' underwater work were disturbed in Kyrenia where heavy fighting occurred. Older archaeological institutes have suffered through worse and longer periods.

AINA President, Dr. George Bass, has provided this account of the summer:

Preparations

Our spirits were high when John Gifford and I arrived in Turkey at the end of May to begin preparations. We planned to spend a month at Yassi Ada, to complete the excavation of the fourth-century Roman wreck previously excavated in 1967 and 1969, and then move to the newly discovered Archaic wreck (AINA Newsletter vol. 1, no. 1), which we were prepared to work on through October if necessary. Largely for the benefit of its first summer school, AINA had assembled probably the most experienced team of nautical archaeologists ever to work

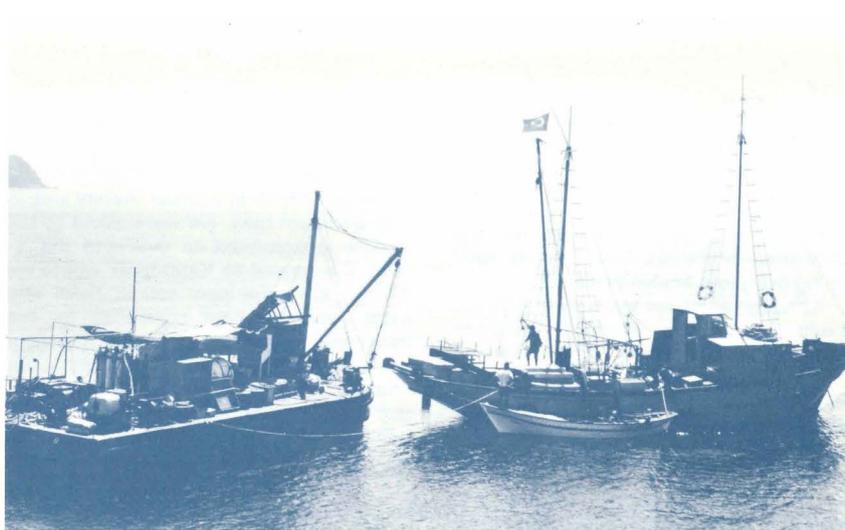


Fig. 1. Diving barge (left) and Günüel, unloading equipment onto Yassi Ada.

Photo by T. Walker Lloyd

together, with key people from the past excavations at Kyrenia (Cyprus), Yassi Ada (Turkey), and Porticello (Italy); and underwater surveys in Turkey and Greece. Roger Williamson, M.D., on leave from the navy where he had experimented with the limits of compressed-air saturation diving, was anxious to make a feasibility study of the use of an underwater habitat for one of our future operations.

One of AINA's aims is to develop future leaders for underwater digs in both the Old World and New. Our first ten summer-school students ranged from undergraduates to associate professors. They quickly learned that there is far more to the work than diving. On July 1, I arrived back in Bodrum at 2 a.m. with the excavation permit in hand, after a two-week stay in Ankara with Dr. Williamson, and in the dark was introduced to some of the students, rudely awakened from their

sleeping places on the diving barge, on the dock alongside which it was tied, and in the fishing boat *Günüel* anchored nearby. They had been loading high-pressure and low-pressure compressors, hoses, tanks, equipment racks, cables and other gear while John Gifford and engineer Phil Stewart finished piping our deck-mounted recompression chamber to its high- and low-pressure air banks. All were kept busy until the arrival ten days later of Oguz Alpözen, chief of the archaeology section of the Antalya Museum, who had originally learned marine archaeology from us a decade ago when he was a student at Istanbul University. Oguz's arrival meant that we could begin work, as he was to act as our commissioner. That night most of us slept on the barge as it was towed out of Bodrum harbor at 3 a.m. to arrive at Yassi Ada just after sunrise.

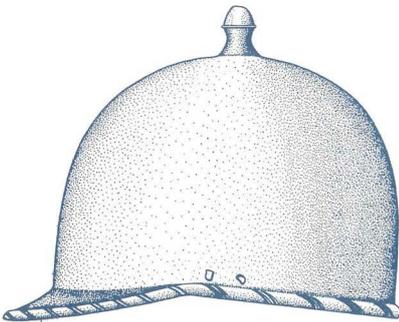


Fig. 2. Bronze helmet found under water near Yassi Ada.

It was still not time to begin excavation. We moored the barge close to the tiny island for shallow-water practice dives while we offloaded equipment. We spent the next days carrying tons of beds, office furniture, kitchen equipment, drafting tables, tools, tents, and electric generators, while sawing timbers, nailing woven mat roofing, and tacking on nylon insect screens for the dormitories and work areas which had fallen into disrepair during five years of abandonment.

Although all of our team were certified divers, we gave a refresher course to everyone on the island. On her second practice dive, in only 30 feet of water, Faith Hentschel of Yale unexpectedly began our season of archaeology by spotting an eight-inch high bronze helmet with copper-covered attachments for cheek pieces or a chin strap. We had no books on armor in our camp library, and could only guess as to its date: is it from either the Byzantine or Roman wreck, from the 17th-century shipwreck lying between them, or is it from some other, unknown wreck closer to shore, perhaps marked by an intriguing pile of ballast stones nearby? Someone suggested that it was from the Karatoprak fire department, pointing to the small town on the coast where we bought occasional supplies — and it is not unlike some modern firemen's helmets. We have not yet identified it, and we welcome our members' guesses and opinions. On her next dive Faith found a plate in the same area, but whether it is from the same ship is of course unknown.

The Excavation

After we were satisfied that all students were diving well, we anchored the barge directly over the Roman wreck and lowered the telephone booth and air lifts onto the site. Each student was assigned an experienced excavator as a

partner as we began to dive twice a day to 140 feet to uncover more of the hull and galley area; Dr. Frederick van Doorninck, on six months' sabbatical leave from the University of California to work with us, directed a special project to clean and study the planking from previously or partially excavated areas the length of the ship.

Fred, Dick Steffy and I lectured on nautical history during afternoons or evenings, Susan Katzev and Gay Piercy gave lessons in drawing artifacts, and chief diver T. Walker Lloyd instructed in underwater photography. Roger Williamson, in addition to a talk on diving medicine, led chamber drills on the barge, where each staff member was assigned a specific task on a roster.

New and old staff members had just jelled into an efficient excavating team when, after only 10 days of diving, word of the coup on Cyprus followed by Turkish landings on the island came to us over the radio. Yassi Ada lies almost directly between Turkish and Greek waters and, in this uncertain time, we were asked by the Turkish government to evacuate the island. We moved to Karatoprak where we almost filled the new tourist hotel and lived under blackout conditions for the next week, our ears glued to transistor radios. Then we moved to Bodrum, for cheaper accommodations in various *pen-sions*, and there were able to continue seminars in which students read and reported on various aspects of ancient

harborworks, naval warfare, and ship construction.

Michael and Susan Katzev, with Robin and Gay Piercy (see *National Geographic*, November 1974), had left their ship restoration project in Kyrenia for a month to help us get underway in Turkey. Now they rushed back to Cyprus to learn if the wreck had been damaged in the fighting; newsreels on Turkish television showed smoke coming from the Kyrenia castle where the ship is housed, and there was no way of determining if the ship was harmed.

Dick Steffy was to have flown back to Cyprus from Turkey on the day fighting began, and for more than a week both we and his family in America lost contact with him before he arrived back in America. Now we lost contact with the Katzevs for some weeks before learning that they had not been caught up in the second wave of fighting, which began the day after they reached Cyprus, and that the Kyrenia ship was intact. Loss of electric power in Kyrenia, however, was endangering the chemically treated wooden hull which must be air conditioned at all times. When last I heard, they were back at work on the restoration.

On August 1 we received in Bodrum word that we could move back to Yassi Ada (AINA student Fredericus "Fik" Meijer, archaeology instructor at Amsterdam University, said that all had received excellent training in "packing and loading, loading and packing"). On the

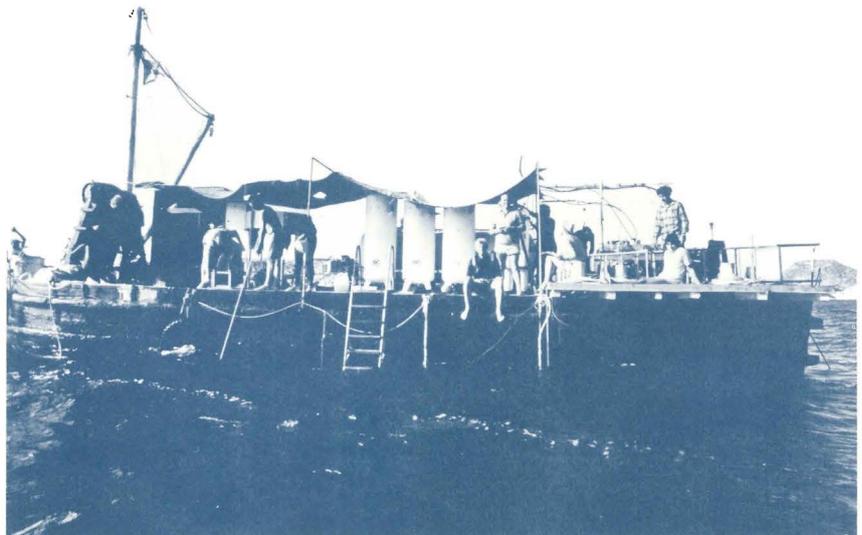


Fig. 3. At work on the diving barge.

same day Cynthia Eiseman joined us for an intended two months, as did Alan Freeman, M.D., formerly medical supervisor at Kyrenia and Porticello. Alan replaced Roger Williamson who had to return to America with fewer than 20 dives in his six weeks with us. I asked student Owen Sutton to take over the compressors and other machinery which had been maintained by Robin Piercy.

Within a few days we had settled back into an efficient routine, with good results. But the situation on Cyprus was not resolved, and after only a week we received instructions to halt the excavation for 1974. This time we broke camp for good, "packing and loading" everything for shipment back to Bodrum storage.

We had dived for a total of only 18 days, but the summer was not a total loss. Although our students had not yet got into the all-important phase of underwater mapping, all went home with an understanding of underwater excavation that they never could have obtained from books — and each and every one expressed interest in returning in the future if possible.

Further, Fred was delighted with the results. Newly uncovered wood, photographed on the last day of diving, provided information which will allow him to make a far more complete picture of the ancient hull and its lines than would otherwise have been possible. Especially interesting were details of naval architecture which are fourth-century harbingers of fully developed techniques found on the seventh-century Byzantine ship (AINA Newsletter vol. 1, no. 2). The first fragment of deck planking, lead hull patches, scarfing patterns, spacing of mortise-and-tenon joints — all details of seeming interest only to the specialist — will enable us to place the ship properly in the history of naval architecture.

Dispersal

With the border between Turkey and Greece closed, staff members and students with tickets home via Athens were momentarily stranded. Some hitched rides on private foreign yachts before tourism was stopped between Turkey and the Greek islands. Don Frey cabled from Edirne that he and Jack and Karen Irion, students from the University of Texas, Austin, were setting out across Bulgaria by bus. Others, with tickets from Istanbul, had no problems.

I still had hopes that peace might allow us to return to work, even with a reduced staff, and kept the barge ready in Bodrum



Fig. 4. Fred van Doorninck lectures about the Byzantine ship to AINA summer school students.

Photo by T. Walker Lloyd

with a skeleton crew until early September. Then, with everyone departed, I sat in an Izmir hotel lobby with my wife, Ann, wondering when we should try to return with our children to our home on Cyprus. Archaeologist Patricia Bikai spotted us as she entered with her bags.

"Where's Pierre?" she asked.

Patricia's husband Pierre, manager of the excavations at ancient Tyre (see the lead article in *National Geographic*, August 1974) and one of our summer students, had expected Patricia to join him from Lebanon so that they might visit archaeological sites in Turkey on a leisurely drive home. The cable announcing her arrival plans had never reached him, and only days before he had set off alone. Patricia telephoned Beirut to say that she was in Turkey, and travelled to Bodrum with us to await an answer — in the meantime suggesting that this would be a good time for me to visit Lebanon to look into the potential for nautical archaeology there.

Trip to Lebanon

Pierre Bikai returned from Lebanon to Bodrum a few days later, and as he and Patricia began their delayed tour Ann and I drove to Ankara to visit Raci Temizer, director of the Ankara Museum, Burhan Tezcan of the Department of Antiquities, and other friends in the archaeological service. From there we drove to the southern Turkish port town of Mersin to

meet the Bikais and set out together for Lebanon.

Pierre arranged for me to meet Emir Maurice Chehab, director general of antiquities in Lebanon and director of the Tyre excavations, to make my visit official; the Emir has a longstanding interest in underwater archaeology. Under Pierre's guidance I also visited the private collections of marine antiquities belonging to Pepe Abed and AINA member Marc Chollot, who had published his findings in the French journal of undersea archaeology; since his publication Marc had acquired from fishermen two unique terracotta boat models of great interest for nautical history.

It was through Pierre, too, that I met Dr. Roger Saida, who called a meeting for us along with Zareh Amadouy, who has published a book on his underwater findings around Tripoli, and medical doctor Fouad Chemali, an amateur diver with an impressive collection of antiquities from the sea. This led to a further meeting between Dr. Chemali and Suham Sidani, head of the diving group at the American University in Beirut, whom I had also met through Pierre.

My visit, therefore, provided the opportunity for a number of divers with a sincere interest in nautical archaeology to meet each other for the first time, and I expect that it will lead them to pool their talents in a concentrated effort to locate well preserved wrecks; all of their finds had been single objects from rock or sand.

That important wrecks do or did exist is amply proven by the great number of jars, from the Canaanite Bronze Age through Byzantine times, which have been raised by sponge divers and fishermen. As along most of the Mediterranean coast, however, looting of wrecks is extensive and time is important. Before long all visible wrecks within diving depth will have been destroyed. The only wood I saw under the seabed in Lebanon was shown to Pierre and me by two young boys near

Tyre; by the time this is published, Suham's group will probably have determined if it is from a wreck, and if the wreck is ancient.

Back on Cyprus I visited Dr. Vassos Karageorghis, director of antiquities, whose enormous help to the Katzevs had made their unique work in Kyrenia possible, to assure him that AINA intends to see the shipwreck restoration through to completion.

We all hope that solutions to the dif-

ficult problems in the eastern Mediterranean can be found, not only for archaeology, but for the many peoples who have suffered so long.

This year I will live near Dick Steffy in Denver, Pa., to continue work on the publications of past work. It is close enough to Philadelphia to allow frequent visits to discuss institute business with Cynthia Eiseman and with her husband James, who is generously acting as AINA's legal counsel.

—George F. Bass

SPECIAL BOOK OFFER TO AINA MEMBERS

The well-received, unique book *A History of Seafaring Based on Underwater Archaeology* can now be purchased by AINA members for just \$5.95 plus \$.50 postage (originally published for \$22.50). Edited by AINA President George F. Bass, with chapters by Dr. Bass and AINA staff members, adjunct professors, and other nautical archaeologists prominent in the field, this lavishly illustrated volume holds fascination for both professionals and the general reader. Twelve chapters cover the history of seafaring from its earliest beginnings to the advent of steam power.

COLOR SLIDES OF THE KYRENIA SHIP EXCAVATION

A set of twelve color transparencies (2" X 2"), including underwater and land views of the hull, cargo, pottery, ship preservation, and Kyrenia ship museum. Each set in an attractive folder is accompanied by a descriptive flyer. These slides are suitable for popular or professional lectures on nautical archaeology, and make exciting home viewing.

\$3.50 per set of twelve. (Available to non-members at \$6.00 per set).

BACK ISSUES OF FIVE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE ARTICLES

Because of their popularity, we are offering again stories of ten years work of AINA staff members:

1. *The Oldest Shipwreck Ever Found*, by Peter Throckmorton. (Cape Gelidonya Shipwreck.)
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3. *Underwater Archaeology: Key to History's Warehouse*, by George F. Bass. (Yassi Ada Byzantine Shipwreck.)
4. *New Tools for Undersea Archaeology*, by George F. Bass. (Yassi Ada Byzantine and Roman Shipwrecks.)
5. *Resurrecting the Oldest Known Greek Ship*, by Michael L. Katzev. (Kyrenia Shipwreck.)

These make excellent gifts for people of all ages.

75¢ each. \$3.00 for set of all five.

Rodney S. Young

With great sadness we report the death of Professor Rodney S. Young, Chairman of the Department of Classical Archaeology at the University of Pennsylvania, in an automobile accident on October 25. Although he never dived, Rodney Young was without question the grandfather of AINA. George Bass, Michael Katzev, Cynthia Eiseman, Frederick van Doorninck, David Owen and Joseph Shaw all studied under him, and it was he who first asked George Bass to learn to dive so that he could go with Peter Throckmorton to Cape Gelidonya in 1960. None of us will forget his encouragement and guidance.

AINA Staff News

Adjunct professor Joseph W. Shaw has definitive plans to begin excavating on Crete in the near future ... Cynthia J. Eiseman is writing a doctoral thesis at the University of Pennsylvania on the Porticello shipwreck ... Susan and Michael Katzev published "Last Harbor for the Oldest Ship" in the November 1974 *National Geographic* ... Adjunct Professor David I. Owen has accepted an appointment in the Department of Semitic Languages and Literatures at Cornell University ... John Gifford published "A Survey of Shipwreck Sites off the Southwest Coast of Turkey," in the first volume of the *Journal of Field Ar-*

chaeology ... John has taken a leave of absence from the Institute to pursue a Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota ... George F. Bass published "Cape Gelidonya and Late Bronze Age Trade," in *Orient and Occident*, 1973; and "Survey for Shipwrecks, 1973," in the *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* (September, 1973) ... In the same volume there appears adjunct professor Frederick H. van Doorninck's "A Brief Note on Basch's Remarks on the 7th Century Byzantine Wreck at Yassi Ada."

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The American Institute of Nautical Archaeology is a nonprofit scientific/educational organization whose purpose is to gather knowledge of man's past as left in the physical remains of his maritime activities and to disseminate this knowledge through scientific and popular publications, seminars, and lectures. The AINA Newsletter is published periodically by AINA and is distributed to its member and Supporting Institutions to inform them of AINA's current activities.

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