

Preface

This volume is the seventh in the series presenting the results of archaeological research at Aphrodisias in Caria. It stems from over a decade of field research on the archaeology and architecture of the Roman public building known as the Civil Basilica or Basilica and expands upon my PhD dissertation (Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, 2007), and published articles (Stinson, *Aph-Papers* 4, *Basiliques*, and *Neue Zitten* [see Abbreviations, pp. X-XI]).

The Basilica's early excavations were conducted in the 1970s under the directorship of Kenan Erim. Systematic archaeological documentation of the structure's remains began in the 1990s as part of a new comprehensive program of site documentation, publication, and conservation. I was invited by Christopher Ratté and R.R.R. Smith in 1999 to address, in collaboration with Michael Crawford, a particular problem in the archaeology of the Basilica, the inscription of the emperor Diocletian's edict of maximum prices on the North Facade in the early fourth century AD. The reconstruction of the North Facade was my initial and principal challenge even after the scope of the project substantially widened. I supervised new excavations in 2005 and 2008–10 to address targeted, new questions.

About one-third of the site of the Basilica remains unexcavated. The preservation level varies but is generally good. Even so, the task of reconstructing the appearance of the building was often not straightforward. The Basilica's bilateral symmetry and marble style of architecture have general parallels in hellenistic and early Roman architectural history, but several details are not attested elsewhere. Thus, the process of reconstruction has been largely dependent on painstaking empirical observations made at the site. The reconstructions in this book represent how the Basilica could have appeared based upon my interpretation of the available evidence. Using graphic conventions and text, I have tried to communicate what has been confidently understood, and what has not. My methodology in this respect and in others owes much to the tradition of *Bauforschung*.

The book and its materials are organized as follows. Chapter 1 provides general information: a description of the building, evidence for its construction date, discussion of local setting and function, and history of excavation. Chapter 2 documents the Basilica's material remains and

reconstructs its elaborate architecture. The most important marble elements preserved from the structure are shown in digital drawings. Sketches attempt to re-animate the building's sequence of interior spaces. Chapter 3 analyzes the design of the Basilica as a work of Roman architecture shaped by a number of formal and cultural influences, and as a piece of the urban fabric of Aphrodisias. This chapter concludes with a discussion of the Basilica in comparison to a number of other basilicas that resemble it in the region, the so-called 'Asiatic basilicas.' Chapter 4 treats the later history of the building. The original fabric experienced no major architectural additions or repairs between c. AD 100–500, only relatively minor renovations: new floor pavings, sculptures, and changes to its architectural decoration. Chapter 5 offers a summary and conclusions, and is followed by a translation of that chapter into Turkish (the Özet). There are also three appendices for excavation trench information, ceramics, and inscriptions.

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Most of the archaeological and architectural illustra-

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