

# Past and Present Research at Notion, Turkey: Using Museum and Archival Material to Contextualize New Results

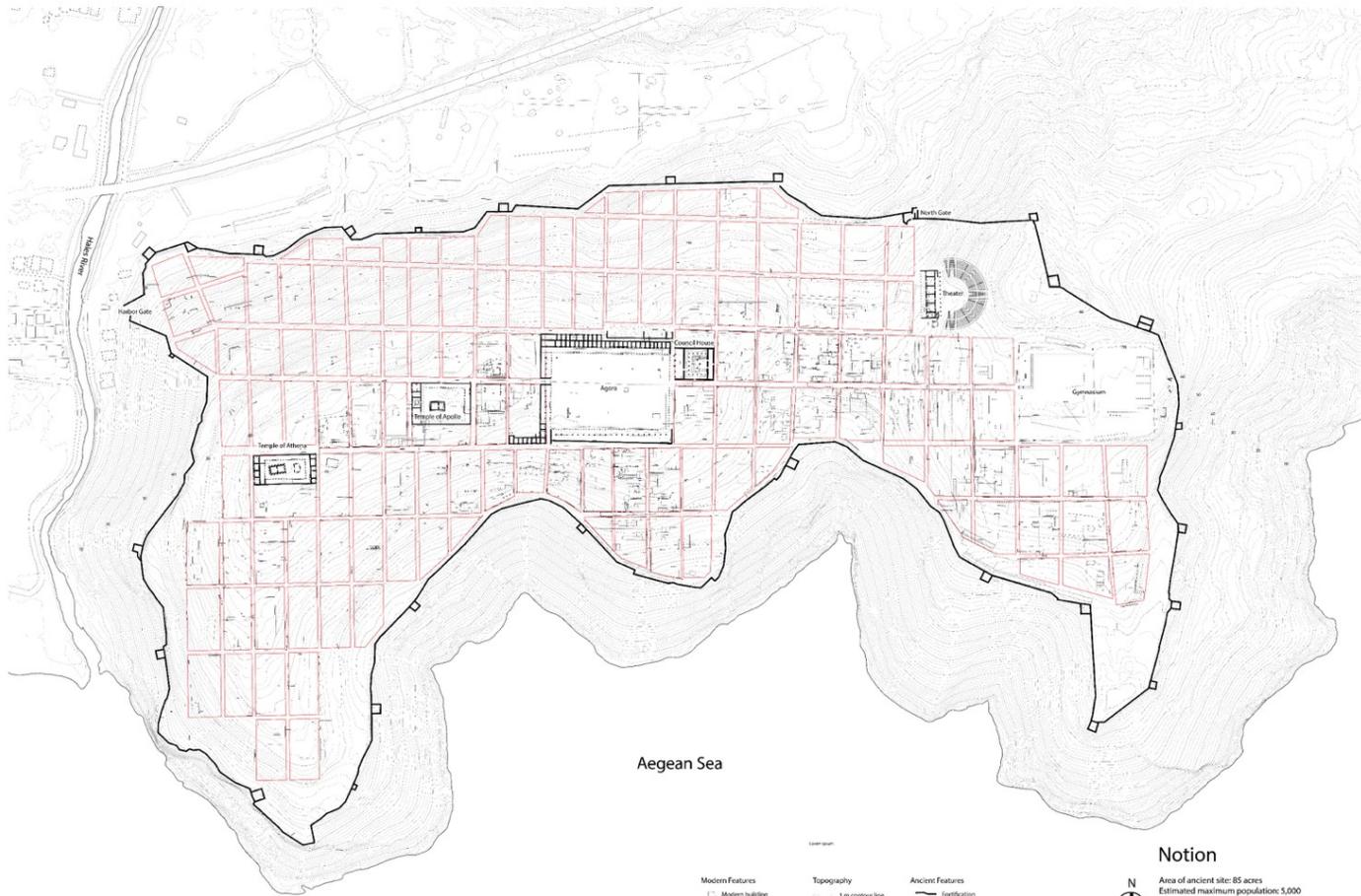


Christina DiFabio

University of Michigan, Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and Archaeology



[cdifabio@umich.edu](mailto:cdifabio@umich.edu)



Aegean Sea

- Legend
- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Modern Features</b>  | <b>Topography</b>  | <b>Ancient Features</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Modern building</li> <li>— Modern street or road</li> <li>~ Stone wall or fence</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— 1 m contour line</li> <li>— 5 m contour line</li> <li>30 (Elevation in meters)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Fortification</li> <li>— Street</li> <li>— Visible feature</li> <li>— Subsurface feature detected by geophysical survey</li> <li>□ Threshold block</li> </ul> |

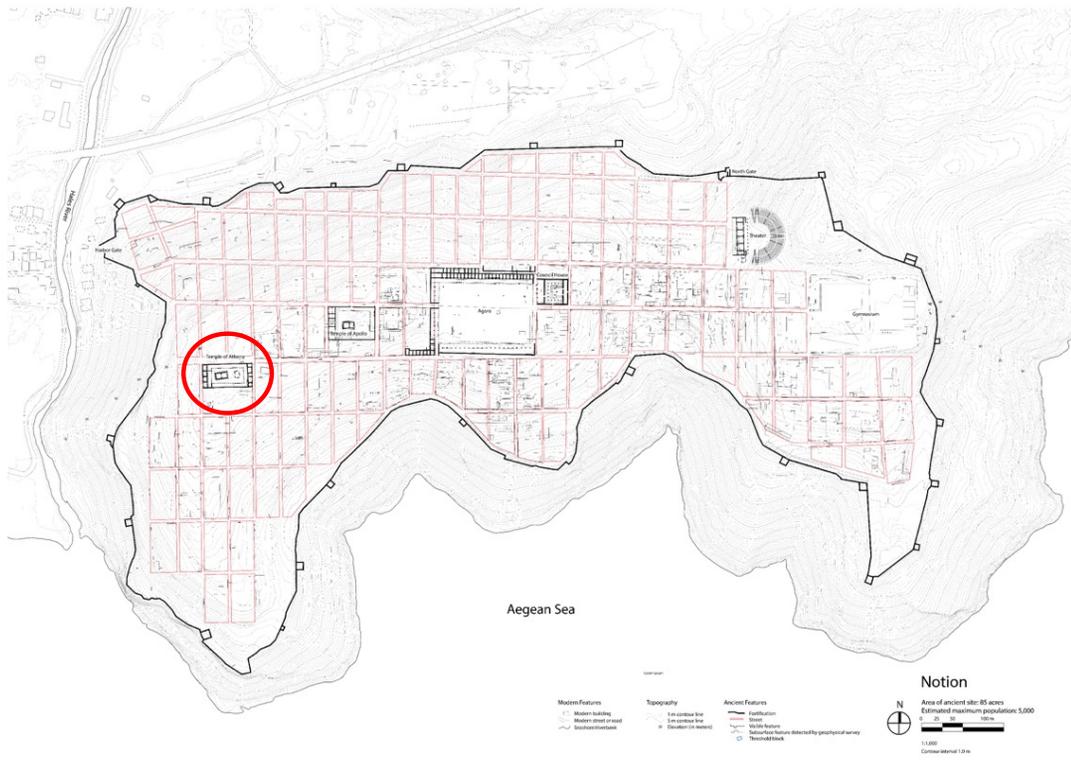
**Notion**

Area of ancient site: 85 acres  
 Estimated maximum population: 5,000

0 25 50 100 m

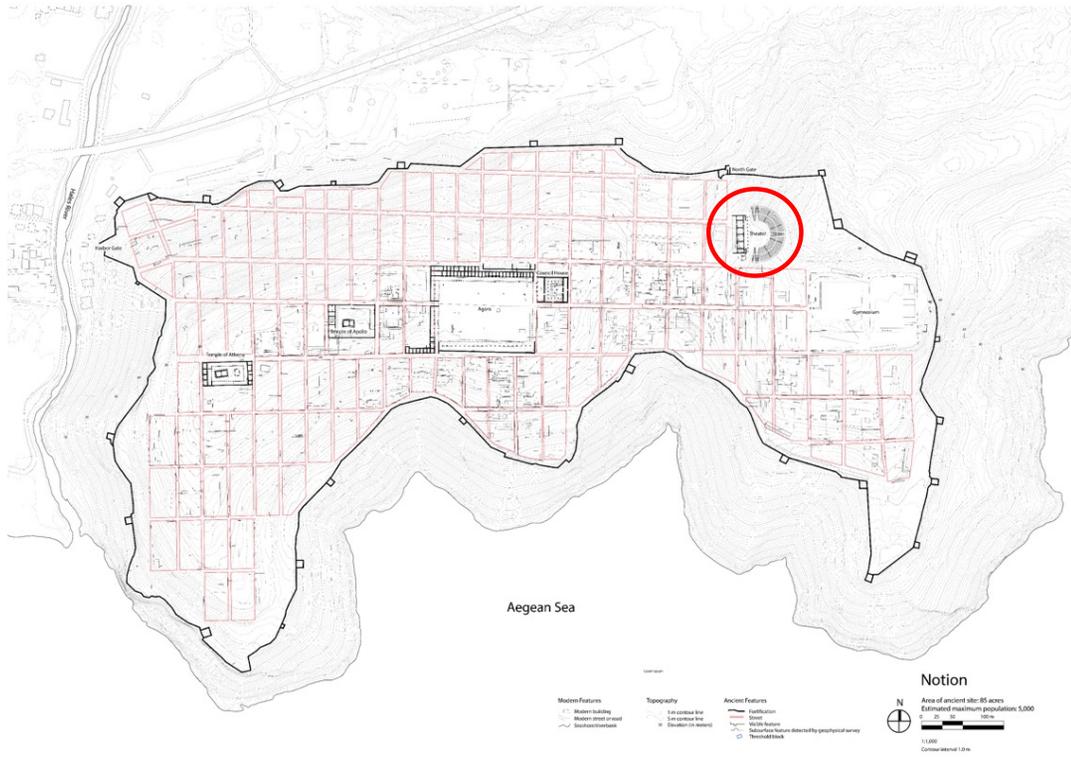
1:1,000  
 Contour interval: 1.0 m

# Temple of Athena Excavated by Robert Demangel and Alfred Laumonier in 1921

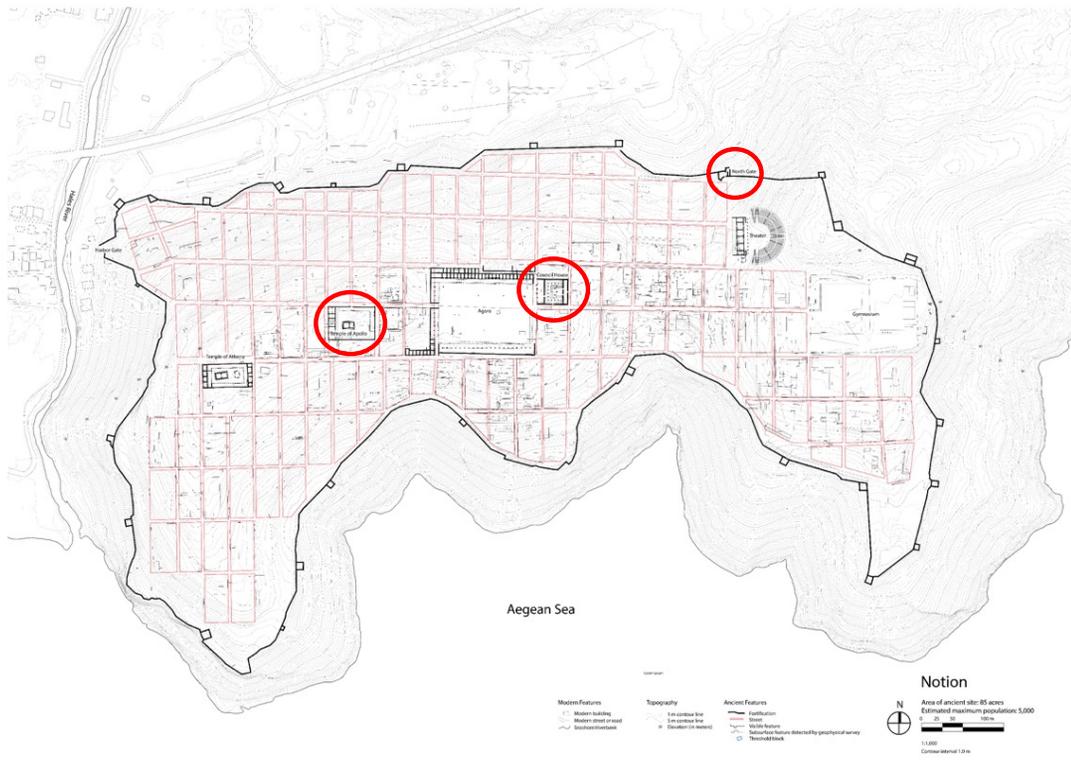


# Theater

Excavated by Erol Atalay in 1985 to 1986



“Heron” (west; pictured), Bouleuterion (center), and “North Fortification Wall Entrance” (east)  
Excavated by Mustafa Büyükkolancı in 1994



Excavators

Years of Project

Location and  
Published/Saved  
Objects

---

Robert Demangel and  
Alfred Laumonier

1921

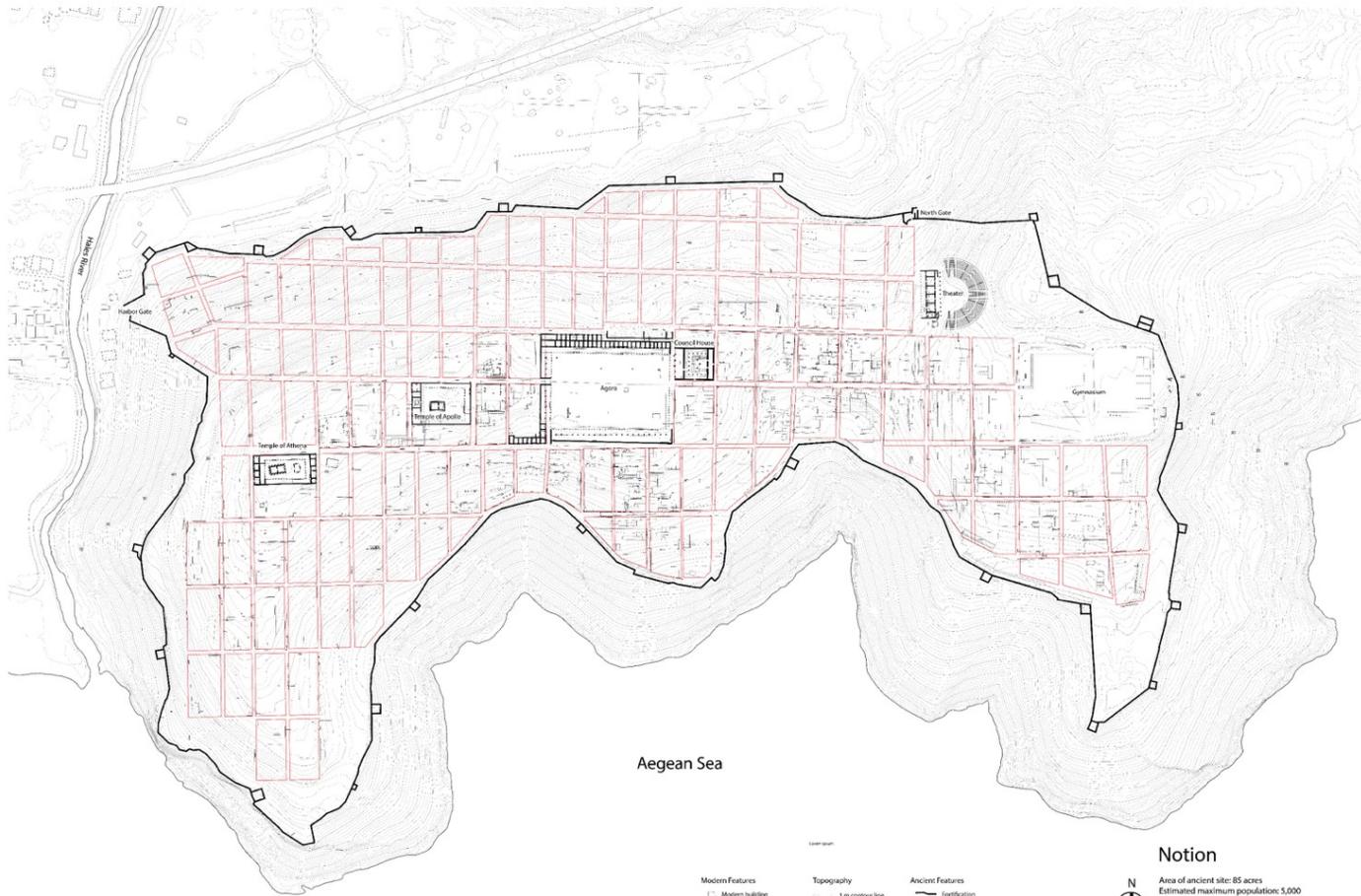
Temple of Athena  
about 150 objects

---

Mustafa Büyükkolancı

1994

“Heroon,”  
Bouleuterion,  
North City Wall  
77 objects



Aegean Sea

- Legend
- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Modern Features</b>  | <b>Topography</b>  | <b>Ancient Features</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Modern building</li> <li>— Modern street or road</li> <li>~ Stone wall or fence</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— 1 m contour line</li> <li>— 5 m contour line</li> <li>30 (Elevation in meters)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Fortification</li> <li>— Street</li> <li>— Visible feature</li> <li>— Subsurface feature detected by geophysical survey</li> <li>□ Threshold block</li> </ul> |

**Notion**

Area of ancient site: 85 acres  
 Estimated maximum population: 5,000



1:1,000  
 Contour interval 1.0 m



66/2/95



67/2/95



63/2/95



36/2/95

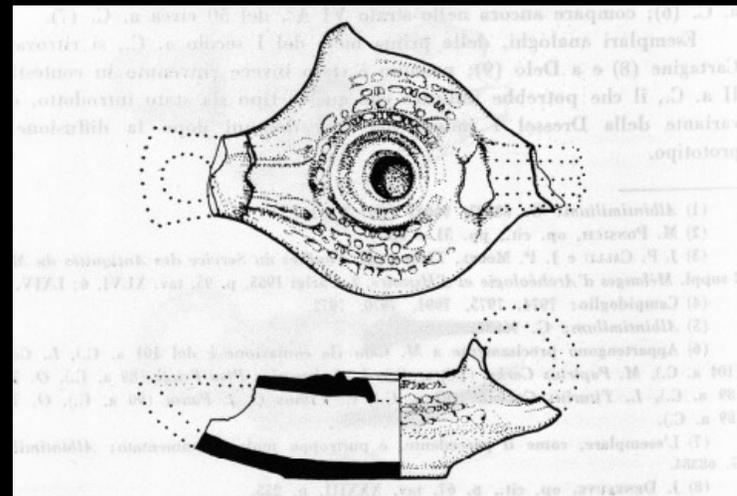
Ephesus Museum  
Ephesian lamps and  
lamp mold from  
survey



Object  
Nos.



55/2/95



Dressel 1A example from pg. 178 of Ricci, M. 1973. "Per una cronologia delle lucerne tardo repubblicane." *Rivista di Studi Liguri* 39.2/4:168–234



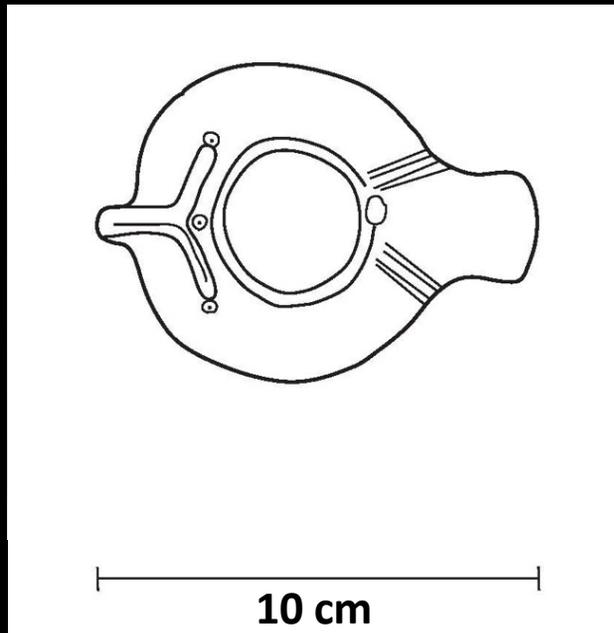
65/2/95  
Dressel 2 "Warzenlamp"



83.AQ.377.357  
Dressel 2 "Warzenlamp" from the Getty  
Digital image courtesy of the Getty's  
Open Content Program



52/2/95 Late Ephesus Type B

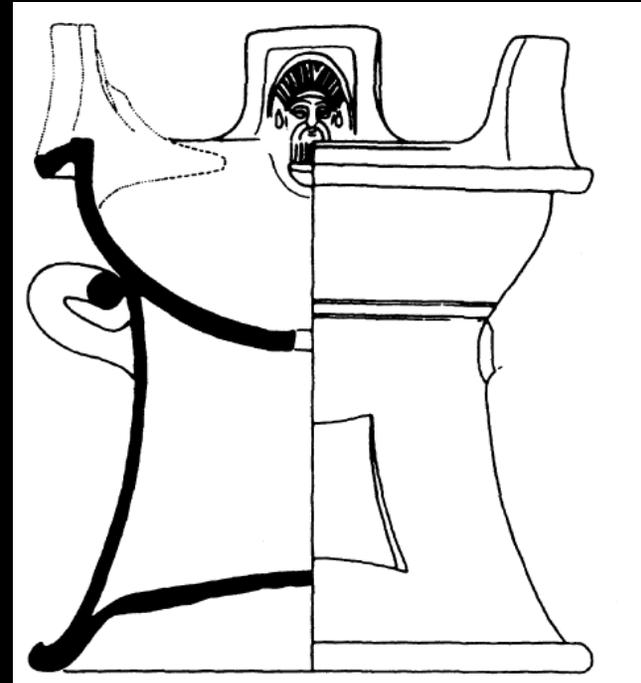


52/2/95 Late Ephesus Type B

## Hellenistic mold made brazier handles



18/2/95



Drawing from pg. 91 of Şahin, Mustafa. 2001.  
“Hellenistic Braziers in the British Museum: Trade  
Contacts between Ancient Mediterranean Cities.”  
*Anatolian Studies* 51: 91-132.



18/2/95



3/2/95



28/2/95



Hellenistic mold made  
brazier handles from  
Ephesus Museum (above)  
and  
2018 survey (left)



33/2/95



71/2/95



34/2/95



62/2/95



30/2/95

Selection of loom weights  
from Ephesus Museum



21/2/95



34/2/95



Loom weights from 2018 survey



Detail of loom weight  
with Artemis of  
Ephesus stamp



51/2/95



31/2/95

Other assorted finds  
from the Efes  
Museum: unguentaria  
and terracotta  
figurines



69/2/95



76/2/95



77/2/95



Metropolitan Museum of Art  
98.11.32  
2<sup>nd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> c. BCE

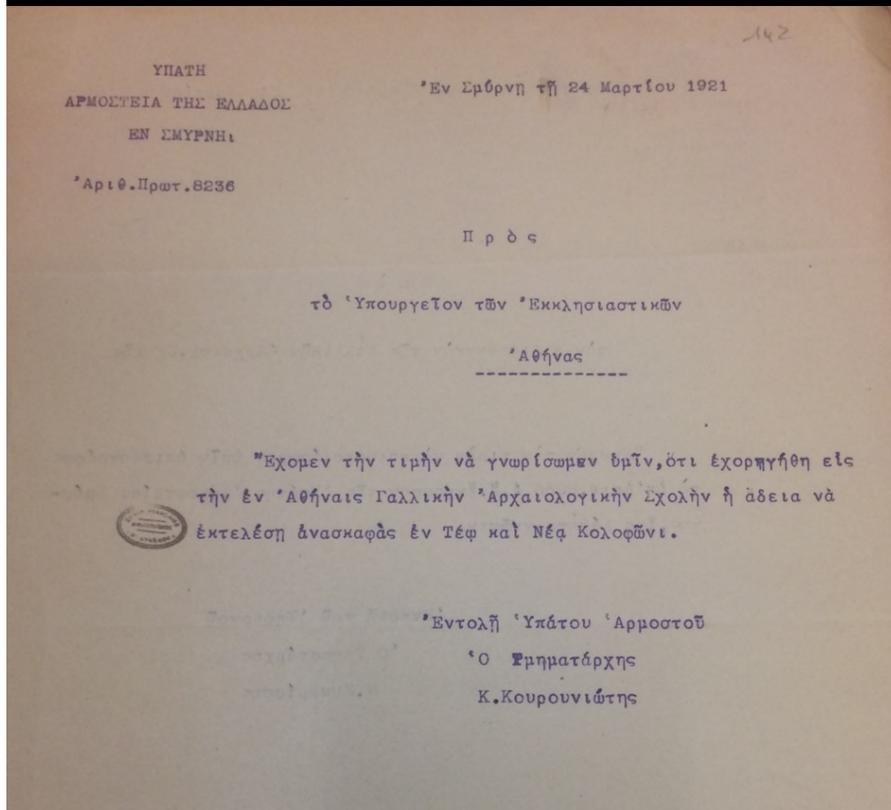


French School at Athens Archives  
AS 1 1905 – 1927

1914 – 1922 Folder  
Letter No. 142

Smyrna 24 March 1921

Letter from K. Kourouniotes granting  
permission to the French School to  
work at Teos and New Colophon  
(Notion).



Les objets peints ont été mis en caisses et expédiés à Smyrne par le paquebot "L'Espérance" au départ d'Athènes le 23 septembre 1921. Les autres restèrent chez André Koo. Le terrain appartenant à M. Koo et cette lettre est en son pouvoir, tel que le dit le titre.

154  
 - Vases et fragments à reliefs divers (gladiateurs - chiens - feuillage avec mesques - scène de banquet) échantillons & vases grecs et romains  
 - Fragm. de statuettes de terre cuite, de toute dimension, beaucoup de têtes intéressantes, dont une de Zeus Olympien de toute beauté, masaron et médaillon en grand nombre et très variés.  
 - Lampes romaines de beaucoup de modèles différents, celles de type courant avec environ 80 dessins différents.  
 - Les fragments de bronze (fibules - petite passoire - anneaux) de verre à relief en grande quantité, les objets en os laqueuses - stylos - jeton & jeu, une petite laque d'apante de la faïence, des fragments de terre, etc.  
 - une dizaine de monnaies dans les magasins et la boutique -

Promenade archéol. autour de la ville

Topographie générale. Relief de ramparts et de principes de murs de ville dans l'acropole (également de plan Schuchhardt).  
 La tour de la nécropole N. Sa fontaine et sa 4 escaliers faibles dans le roc.  
 Sculpture - Découverte de plusieurs statues en pierre de statues, dont 1 relevée sur un socle et l'égore perse, une autre descendue jusqu'à notre Musée. Elle est un wagonnet trouvé en pierre sur la colline, une 3<sup>e</sup> fois intéressante qui doit être un fragment d'une statue monumentale de l'égore principale (le long N. O.).  
 Inscriptions - plusieurs fragments (dont 3 mal connus) ont été publiés par Chaux. et Leprieux.

## French School at Athens Archives AS 1 1905 – 1927

1914 – 1922 Folder  
Letter No. 153/154

Smyrna 23 September 1921

COMMISSION D'ÉVALUATION  
DES  
DOMMAGES SUBIS EN TURQUIE

DELEGATION FRANÇAISE

U.T. 1009

R. 1579/D

66, RUE BOISSIÈRE (XVI<sup>e</sup>)  
TÉLÉPH. : PASSY 46-10 ET 46-16

PARIS, LE 2 OCT. 1926

Monsieur le Directeur,

Par sa lettre adressée en date du 16 mars 1920 au Ministre de France en Grèce, M. PICARD, alors Directeur de l'Ecole Française d'Athènes, attirait l'attention du Gouvernement sur le matériel des fouilles de Notion-Claros, près de Smyrne.

Ce matériel, resté sur place, était évalué à 50.000 drachmes, et la maison de fouilles à 10.000.

Je vous serais très obligé de bien vouloir me faire savoir si ce matériel a été, depuis cette date, restitué à l'Ecole d'Athènes, ou sa valeur remboursée, ou bien si la lettre de M. PICARD doit être considérée comme une réclamation./.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur le Directeur, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

Monsieur le Directeur  
de l'Ecole Française d'Athènes  
Grèce.

Le Ministre Plénipotentiaire  
Délégué Français,

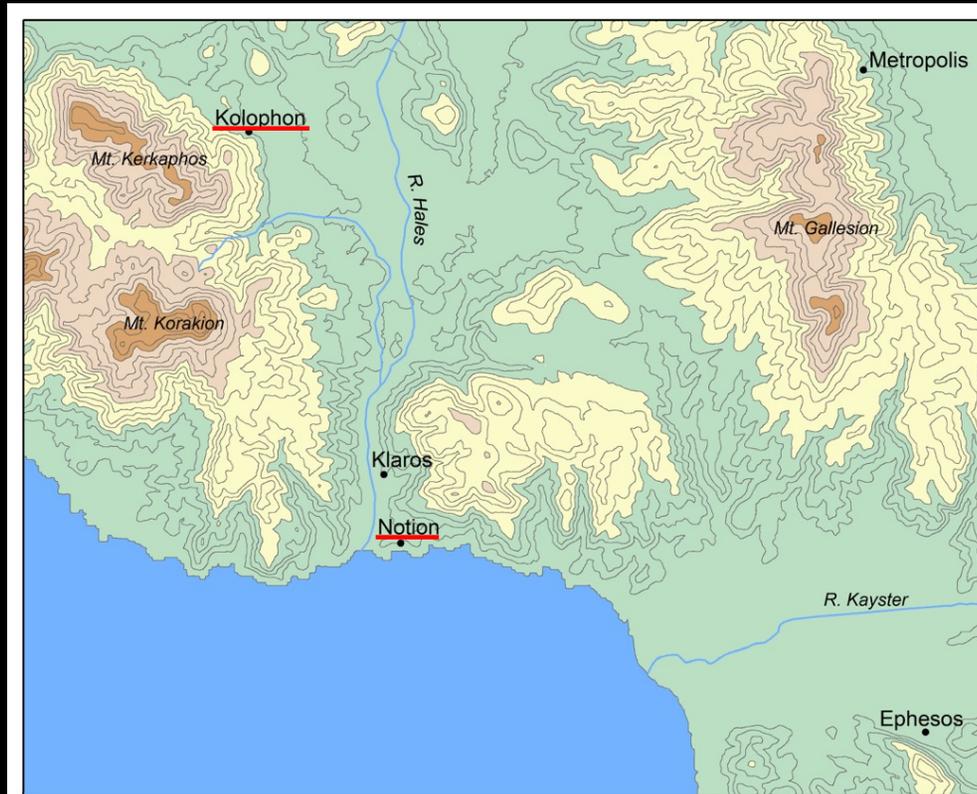
French School at Athens Archives  
AS 1 1905 – 1927

1925 - 1927 Folder

Letter No. 317

R.1579/D; 317

Paris 2 October 1926



Elevation  
0 400-600  
0-200 600-800  
200-400

0 5 10 km N  
Contour interval 50 m

Hetty Goldman to Bert  
Hodge Hill about Kolophon:  
4 February 1922

American School of Classical  
Studies at Athens, Archives  
Bert H. Hill Papers

# Acknowledgements



## Notion Archaeological Survey Team:

Christopher Ratté, Felipe Rojas, Angela Commito, Elvan Tural

Andrea Berlin, Suzanne Davis, Joseph Frankl, Peter Knoop, Christian Kürtze, Alex Marko, Matthew Naglak, Shannon Ness, Catie Steidl, Benjamin Swett, Geoff Thün, Gregory Tucker, Kathy Velikov, Fırat Yiğit

Ephesus Museum: Director Cengiz Topal, Ramazan Çetin, Bayram Karakurt

French School at Athens: Director Alexandre Farnoux, Archivist Marie Stahl

American School of Classical Studies at Athens: Archivist Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan

Photography: Christopher Ratté and Benjamin Swett

Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and Archaeology and University of Michigan

## **Past and Present Research at Notion, Turkey: Using Museum and Archival Material to Contextualize New Results**

AIA 2019 San Diego

Christina DiFabio

### **Slide 1 – Title Slide**

As you just heard, our project aims to be the first comprehensive study of Notion. There were, though, other projects before ours that previously excavated in Notion in particular areas. I am working on a project to contextualize our new survey results with past excavation data by looking at museum and archival collections. This paper will discuss my preliminary findings.

First, I will briefly describe the past projects that have taken place at Notion, and then I will turn to the specific museum and archival collections that supplement our understanding of the history of the site.

My studies of the museum collections will specifically speak to the main dates of occupation of Notion. My archival studies will speak to the historiography of research at the site and how Notion was in a conflicted space between Greece and Turkey in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Slide 2**

Here you see the plan of the city from our survey results. The site was first studied by Ottoman scholar Theodore Macridy with French scholar Charles Picard in 1897, 1904, and 1913. Macridy excavated a Byzantine church and recorded various architectural and sculptural finds.

### **Slide 3**

The French School at Athens continued work at Notion in 1921 when Robert Demangel and Alfred Laumonier excavated the Temple of Athena. They published their findings in two articles in the *Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique*. They did not return to Notion after that year.

### **Slide 4**

The site went unstudied until Turkish projects started targeted excavations in more recent times. The first project was led by Erol Atalay, who excavated the theater and ancient cemetery north of the city in 1985 to 1986.

## **Slide 5**

In 1994, Mustafa Buyukkolanci led a team that excavated the so-called “heroon”—a small temple west of the agora-- the bouleuterion, and an entrance in the northern fortifications. The objects saved from these excavations are now in the Izmir Archaeological Museum and the Ephesus Museum in Selcuk, respectively.

## **Slide 6**

In this paper, I will only discuss material from the French School excavation and Buyukkolanci’s excavation. The material from the French school has still not been located, and I will return to this at the end of my paper. Demangel and Laumonier published about 150 objects in their articles; some descriptions and photographs of their material makes it possible to compare their research to our survey material. For the material excavated by the Turkish teams, so far we have only received permission to study the objects in the Ephesus Museum from Buyukkolanci’s excavations, with the plan that we will study the material from Atalay’s excavations once it is transferred from the Izmir museum to the Ephesus Museum.

77 small finds and pieces of sculpture were kept from Buyukkolanci’s excavations. The French published in detail objects that they found significant (sculpture, terracotta figurines, coins, inscribed pottery, and lamps). Although we are working with pre-selected subsets of the original excavated material, I hope to show how the study of this material supplements our understanding of Notion.

## **Slide 7**

From our surface collection, we have found that Notion was largely developed and occupied in the Hellenistic to early Roman periods, from the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. BCE to the 1<sup>st</sup> c. CE, and my colleague Angela Commito will be discussing the surface collection results in her paper. Overall, the excavated materials from the French and Turkish teams also date to this period and confirm the main dates of occupation we determined from our survey. While I do not have time to discuss every single object I have studied, I will focus on the ones that particularly complement our survey data.

## **Slide 8**

A significant portion of the materials from the Turkish excavations of 1994 currently in the Ephesus Museum were ancient lamps. Unsurprisingly, a majority were lamps of the so-called Ephesus type – mold made biconical lamps made of gray micaceous clay and covered in black slip. Scientific analyses by Roman Sauer and Gerwulf Schneider have proven that some were produced in Ephesus itself, but there is evidence for other regional production centers. Notion itself could have been one, as we have found one mold for an Ephesus-type lamp on our survey.

The majority of Ephesus lamps from Buyukkolanci's excavations are of the Bruneau type V category, which have raised collars around the filling holes, and date to around the 1<sup>st</sup> c. BCE to the 1<sup>st</sup> c. CE, according to comparanda from Nina Fenn's publication of Hellenistic pottery from Priene. Demangel and Laumonier also published six complete lamps of this type from their excavation of the Temple of Athena.

### **Slide 9**

A more unexpected discovery was the presence of two Italian lamps from Buyukkolanci's excavations. While the lamp shown here has been compared to lamps in the British Museum from Tsamourli in the Black Sea by Gamze Gunay Tuluk, I would argue that there are closer comparanda in the British Museum from Sicily, from the French Delos excavations, and in M. Ricci's chronology of late Republican lamps, all of which suggest that it is a Dressel 1A dating to the early to mid 1<sup>st</sup> c. BCE.

### **Slide 10**

The other Italian lamp from Buyukkolanci's excavations is a Dressel 2 "Warzenlamp," so-called due to its concentric rows of raised circles on the body of the lamp, and dates from about 70 BCE to 15 CE. While we have not identified these types of Italian lamps on our survey, these types fall within the main date range we have identified of the materials from surface collection. In addition, we have also found Italian terra sigillata contemporary to these lamps' late Republic to early Augustan dates. Demangel and Laumonier publish several terra sigillata stamps, including those of the well-known potters C. Sentius and Memmius. While this Italian material does not constitute a large portion of our survey finds, it fits within our projected dates of occupation.

### **Slide 11**

A last notable lamp from Buyukkolanci's excavations is a late Ephesus B type, dating from 550 to 650 CE.

### **Slide 12**

It is identifiable by its unique marks on the underside: the two incisions on either side of the nozzle and the Y-shaped, so-called fishtail beneath the handle. The date is surprising since it is so late, but this object was reported as being found in the north wall excavations, where Buyukkolanci found a Byzantine wall that was built into an earlier Hellenistic gate. In our survey we have also found a few indications of later Roman activity north of the city wall (based on ceramics including Candarli ware and Late Roman Amphora 3 sherds). While significant later Roman and late antique activity does not appear to have happened throughout the whole site, it is

important to note that there was some limited later activity, at least around the perimeter of the city, and this broadens our understanding of Notion beyond the Hellenistic period.

### **Slide 13**

Another category of objects in the museum from Buyukkolanci's excavations that corresponded well to our surface collection last summer is Hellenistic mold-made brazier handles. These handles would have been at the top of a vessel's bowl that held charcoal and a cooking pot. The molded projections held rounded bottom cooking pots, and the bottom of the vessel was a stand that had a hole for ventilation.

### **Slide 14**

Three handles are in the museum and two were found during our survey. Four are of the satyr type with parted hair and one is of a man wearing a pilos (bottom right), and they have quartz and volcanic inclusions in the fabrics. In Mustafa Sahin's publication of Hellenistic braziers in the British Museum, he shows how these handles are common in Hellenistic contexts in western and southwestern Turkey (including Halikarnassos and Knidos). He dates the handles of these types to the second quarter to the second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> c. BCE. He suggests that these handles were made in southeast Aegean, probably the Knidos peninsula due to its volcanic deposits. Nina Fenn, in her Priene publication, shows with Neutron Activation Analysis and WD-XRF that the Priene brazier handles do not match with the local Knidos wares, so the exact location of production is still unknown, but importing from the southeast Aegean to Notion could be possible.

### **Slide 15**

The largest proportion of objects saved from Buyukkolanci's excavations were terracotta loom weights. The majority of the loom weights are of the lentoid shape, likely handmade as Susan Wallrodt discusses for similar loom weights from a 4<sup>th</sup> c. BCE ritual deposit in Ilium. Others are of the pyramidal shape, likely pared with a knife (again as suggested by Wallrodt for this type). Overall the shapes of these loom weights correspond with the Hellenistic to early Roman loom weights found in Terrace Houses in Ephesus, published by Elisabeth Trinkl. The loom weights from Notion were likely locally made. Most interestingly, a majority of the loom weights in the museum are stamped (and this is likely why they were kept by the excavators). These stamps likely came from individuals' signet rings that were stamped in the clay before firing, perhaps to indicate ownership or the producer.

### **Slide 16**

Most have no relief decoration, but a few do, and the finest is of a Nike facing left in mid step, holding out the right arm.

### **Slide 17**

Loom weights that we have found in our survey are similar to the excavated loom weights. While we have not found any duplicate stamps on any object from Notion, one lentoid loom weight that we found in surface collection this past summer seems to be an image of Ephesian Artemis, identified by my colleague Shannon Ness. (It was difficult to get a clear close-up image.) The image of the patron goddess of Ephesus is not too surprising given Notion's location, and it can be compared to Wallrodt's deposit from Ilion that included a lentoid loom weight with a stamp that she interprets to be Athena Ilias.

### **Slide 18**

Other assorted finds from Buyukkolanci's excavation appear to be Hellenistic to early Roman in date, such as unguentaria and terracotta figurines.

### **Slide 19**

One interesting find includes a bronze clam shell that could have perhaps been part of a bronze lamp, as shown by this example in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, or the end of a spoon. I would appreciate any ideas concerning this object.

### **Slide 20**

My discussion thus far has centered on objects in a museum collection. As I mentioned earlier, the material from the French School at Athens excavation led by Demangel and Laumonier has not been located. We have asked the Ephesus Museum, the Izmir Museum, and the Louvre with no luck. The Istanbul Archaeological Museum does have some finds related to Notion, but they are now packed away and inaccessible due to museum renovations. I also checked with the French School at Athens itself; unfortunately it does not have the objects either, but it does have a substantial archive of letters related to Notion. I was able to look at these letters in order to see if they provided any hints as to where the material might have gone. The study provided no definitive answers, but gives some insight into the political moment in which early archaeological research at Notion occurred.

As mentioned before, Demangel and Laumonier excavated at Notion in 1921, which was during the Greek occupation of western Anatolia after World War I. The Greek occupation was short-lived, since in September 1922 Mustafa Kemal's soldiers ended the occupation and burned down Smyrna (now Izmir).

Jack Davis has discussed this political moment with regards to the project of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens carried out at Colophon, just 15 km northwest of Notion, led by Hetty Goldman in 1922, also during the Greek occupation.

Davis shows through letters that the American School's expedition was not looked upon kindly after the fact by the new Turkish director of the Istanbul museum at the time, Halil Erdhem Bey, who saw the work in the occupied territory as illegal.

With negotiation, the American team was able to return to Colophon in 1925. Davis argues, however, that this expedition had lasting implications for how the American School shaped itself as an institution focused on Greek archaeology within the modern nation of Greece.

Davis' work shows how the archaeology of Ionia was entangled with the politics of the time and how archival research can enrich our understanding of past archaeological research. by giving insight into the circumstances and decisions that determine who gets to excavate where and their long-lasting effects.

While my goal in looking at the French letters to find the whereabouts of the excavated material from Notion was not fulfilled, I gained an unanticipated glimpse into how the history of archaeological research at Notion was also entangled with the events of the Greco-Turkish War and politics.

## **Slide 21**

During the Greek occupation, a Greek archaeological service was established in Smyrna. Like the American School project at Colophon, the French School was granted permission to work at Notion by Konstantinos Kourouniotes, the Greek superintendent of antiquities in the occupied territory, on March 24, 1921.

After the excavation in the late summer, Demangel and Laumonier report in a footnote in their second BCH article that that the finds considered more precious (bronze, bone, glass, and silver objects as well as marble statuettes) were sent to Smyrna in September 1921 to be under the care of the Greek archaeological service. Demangel and Laumonier say that the objects "should have survived the incident," indicating that they themselves actually did not know whether the objects survived the fire in Smyrna.

## **Slide 22**

A small side note in a letter in the archives dated to September 23, 1921 from Demangel and Laumonier in Smyrna to the French School director, Charles Picard, confirms that the "precious" objects were taken to Smyrna, while the "other" objects stayed in the village near Notion, called Giaor-Koy at the time, under the care of a man named Andrikos Hadjiphotiou. The French School intended to return to Notion, as shown by the director Charles Picard's request in March 1923 to Halil Bey to start a collaborative project at the site with the Istanbul museum. Halil Bey responded in April that the museum did not have the funds in order to start such a collaboration,

but Halil Bey forwarded Picard's request to continue work at Teos, also in Ionia, since the French School had expressed interest in working there before the war.

### **Slide 23**

While I did not find any more details concerning the material from Demangel and Laumonier's excavation, the archives do provide some other hints as to what happened to archaeological material studied by the preceding project by Macridy and Picard. In a letter dated to October 2, 1926 from a "French Plenipotentiary Minister Delegate" to a new director of the French School, the author of the letter inquires about the material from excavation and about the excavation house at Notion and their previously claimed monetary values in drachmas. The letter is headed "the Damage Assessment Board in Turkey: French Delegation," and asks whether the values declared by former director Charles Picard in March 1920 are correct, and if the material now resides in Athens or whether the material was damaged and they were reimbursed for the damages. Picard's claim was made a year before Demangel and Laumonier's excavation occurred, so it may indeed refer to material studied by Macridy and Picard. In any case, there is no response from the French School in the archives to clarify, and as is now known, the ancient material from the French excavations is not located at the French School.

### **Slide 24**

In a link between the projects at Colophon and Notion, the American School of Classical Studies archives has a letter written by Hetty Goldman to Bert Hodge Hill, the then director of the American School, in February 1922, about two months before the Colophon excavations began. She says that "after hearing of the two hundred inscriptions lost to the French at Notium..." she was hesitant to work in Anatolia. She could be referring to the situation when local Turks got angry with Macridy and his involvement with Greeks and he reports that they destroyed objects that were guarded in a courtyard. This material was perhaps included in Picard's 1920 claim. Although this cannot be confirmed with the archival evidence we have, Goldman's letter does show that many inscriptions that were once found at Notion are not preserved today.

Until we are able to study the objects in the Istanbul Museum, we cannot know whether this material is from Demangel and Laumonier's excavation, and if it is, how much survived. It is certainly possible that some of the objects that were left in Smyrna were indeed lost during the fire or its aftermath, and that the objects left in Giaour Koy were lost during the war. Overall, the archives reveal how the history of archaeological research at Notion was linked to political conflict in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and in some cases the conflict resulted in the loss of archaeological material. While there are still unsolved questions, I hope to have shown how my work in the museum and in the archives contributes to our study of Notion by:

Largely validating our hypothesis based on surface finds that the major period of occupation of Notion was during the Hellenistic to early Roman periods

Extending the datable archaeological material into the late antique period, as consistent with some of our surface collection finds

Considering how the political situations in which early archaeological research at Notion took place contributed to what collections we have access to today.

**Slide 25**

I would like to thank my Notion team members, as well as the director and staff at Ephesus Museum in Selcuk for their assistance and hospitality, as well as the French School at Athens and the American School of Classical Studies for the opportunity to share my archival research. Thank you.