Welcome to the fall issue (2008.6) of the Asia Minor Report! The AMR seeks to inform scholars and students of early Judaism and Christianity in Asia Minor about recent historical and archaeological activities in Turkey. Please circulate this newsletter to colleagues and friends who might also be interested in these subjects. All of the books and journals mentioned below are now part of the library that is being established at the Asia Minor Research Center in Turkey. For more information about the AMRC, or to receive subsequent issues of the AMR, please email me at: markwilson@sevenchurches.org.

**BOOKS**

*Roads of Ancient Anatolia*, edited by Takeko Harada and Fatih Cimok (Istanbul: A Turizm Yayınları, 2008) 2 volumes, 237 pages each, 110 euros each. Volume 1 has 338 pictures, volume 2 has 339 pictures. The books feature over 250 different ancient roads, rock-cut passes, road inscriptions, milestones, bridges, and ruts from the Hittites to the Ottomans. Volume 1 covers Western and Southern Anatolia; volume 2 covers Central Anatolia, the Euphrates and Beyond, and the Black Sea Region. In the foreword the editors describe the conditions under which the volumes were prepared: over ninety days of travel annually for the last six years with a total driving distance of over 200,000 kilometers; long and arduous walks to reach a number of the sites plus accidents and heat, all at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars. This labor of love is a gift to the people of Turkey and to scholars interested in Anatolia’s ancient routes. Pictures in the volume are grouped geographically. The editors acknowledge that many ancient roads are not in the volume and that the volume is not a catalog of roads. They spell out the importance of their project: “The pictures in this book are possibly the first and last pictures of many ancient roads before they are lost forever. This destruction has gained such a speed that in two decades ninety per cent of the pictures in this book may become unrecognizable.” The quality of the photography is generally excellent. The spring shots exude greenery and vitality; the autumn shots depict a dry brownness and sometimes appear washed out. But as the editors say, the dry conditions more fully reveal the contours and stones of the ancient roads. Each photograph has a brief label describing the location with its Greek or Latin name as well old and new Turkish village names. A seven-page historical introduction begins the volume. However, the editors concede that the volume has limited scholarly information or technical details since this was outside the objective of the book as well as beyond their qualifications. Nevertheless, the inclusion of a map of Turkey with the locations of the roads would have been helpful. Therefore the reader needs a good atlas of Turkey such as the *Köy Köy Türkiye* to assist in locating the roads. The editors have laid the foundation for classical and biblical scholars to continue the project by mapping the locations with GPS coordinates. For example, sites related to the march of the Ten Thousand are noted, while routes related to Paul’s journeys are illuminated. Much space is devoted to the Via Sebaste with a long, newly discovered section of its spur to Lystra depicted. My own understanding of the route of Paul’s first journey between Perga and Pisidian Antioch has been clarified by the editors’ work. While acknowledging a debt to the Barrington Atlas, Harada and Cimok’s findings will require corrections and additions to be made to Barrington’s Anatolian pages. These volumes are a must for serious students of Asia Minor and an important contribution to understanding travel in the region.
Volume 16 of *Olba* was released in 2008. Seventeen articles—in Turkish, English, and German with English abstracts—are featured in this issue. Among these are Emanuela Borgia on “Notes on the Architecture of the Roman Temple at Elaiussa Sebaste,” Anne Marie Carstens on “Huwasi Rocks, Baityloi, and Open Air Sanctuaries in Karia, Kilikia, and Cyprus,” A. Kaan Şenol on “Cilician Commercial Relations with Egypt Due to the New Evidence of Amphora Finds,” and Winfried Held writing on the concrete Donuktaş structure in Tarsus. *Olba* is published by the Research Center of Cilician Archaeology at Mersin University directed by Prof. Dr. Serra Durugönül (http://kaam.mersin.edu.tr/engolba.htm).

**INTERVIEW**

From time to time *AMR* will publish interviews with scholars working in Asia Minor. In this report Professor Crawford Greenewalt answers some questions about Sardis and his work there. In 2008 Prof. Greenewalt retired as director of the Sardis excavations. Greenewalt is professor of classical archaeology at the University of California at Berkeley (http://ls.berkeley.edu/dept/ahma/faculty_greenewalt.html).

2008 marks the 50th anniversary of the Sardis Expedition. How was this important milestone celebrated? A symposium on results of fieldwork — what has been learned, and important aspects of the city that have not been clarified — is being planned. A short, one-act opera on the ancient legend “Judgment of Midas,” with music by Kamran Ince, libretto by Miriam Seidel, is being prepared.

In 2008 you also retired as the excavation director. How long have you worked at the site, and when did you take over as its director? I have participated in fieldwork during every season since 1959; and was appointed field director in December 1976.

What were some of the most significant things that occurred at Sardis during your tenure as director? The most significant archaeological discovery is the one made by Nancy and Andrew Ramage of the Lydian city wall. The wall is an impressive architectural monument, in places 65 feet thick at its base and still standing 25-30 feet high; and the thick layer of debris created by those parts of it that were demolished in destruction of the mid 6th century BC accounts for the good preservation of both defenses and nearby houses. If, as seems plausible, the destruction occurred during the siege and capture of Sardis by the Persians in the 540s BC, the archaeological evidence (which includes weapons, armament, and skeletal remains of casualties) richly and vividly complements ancient literary accounts (which focus on King Croesus and the Acropolis). Lydian house ruins that were buried under the destruction debris, largely excavated by Nicholas Cahill and being published by him, preserve rich assemblages of household materials and small industries. Other major discoveries, made by Nicholas Cahill, Christopher Ratté, Christopher Roosevelt, and Philip Stinson, include segments of Lydian city defenses in other parts of the site, monumental terracing that landscaped the Acropolis in Lydian and Persian times, and a well preserved Lydian house underneath the Roman Theater. The re-creation of Lydian roof and revetment tiles and their display in architectural context, supervised by Eric Hostetter and Michael Morris; the creation of a new storage depot with adjoining work spaces by Teoman Yalçinkaya, the monitoring and storage of study materials by Elizabeth Gombosi, and the creation of a comprehensive and flexible data base for inventoried objects, by Gombosi and Cahill also are major accomplishments of fieldwork during the last three decades.
Will a separate volume on the synagogue be published? A volume on the synagogue is indeed planned as part of the Archaeological Exploration of Sardis series, and most of it is at least in draft form. The most complex part is the architectural history, being written by Prof. Andrew Seager, who is now preparing a final draft. Two articles on the Greek and Hebrew inscriptions were published in the Harvard Theological Review in 2001 (Greek inscriptions, by John H. Kroll) and 2002 (Hebrew inscriptions - only six, all short - by Frank M. Cross). There are other sections on the mosaics and the "furniture"; in respectable but not final form. Alas, we do not have a projected publication date.

What projects lie ahead for the Sardis Expedition under the new director Nicholas Cahill? Vast areas of the site remain to be explored, by excavation and other means (including survey, non-invasive geophysical techniques, and the like); and major questions remain to be resolved - e.g., the beginnings of Sardis (did it exist in the Early Bronze Age?); the nature of settlement in the Late Bronze Age (to what extent was it affected by Mycenaean and Hittite cultures?); administrative and religious aspects of the Lydian city; the nature of Sardis in Persian and Hellenistic eras; the history of the decline of Sardis as a great urban center in Byzantine and later eras. Archaeological fieldwork is capable of clarifying all those questions and many others. Preservation of the beautiful landscape setting of Sardis as well as of the archaeological site is also a deeply-felt concern of the Expedition. Professor Cahill, who has participated in fieldwork at Sardis since 1979, loves Sardis and knows site problems and potential; he will set priorities carefully and pursue them with energy, devotion, and wisdom.

At the Gyges tumulus at Bintepe, a monogram was found that appeared twenty-five times. G. M.A. Hanfmann proposed that its interpretation was GuGu, the name of Gyges in the Assyrian records. This name has been linked to the Gog of the Bible. Does this interpretation still stand, or have better suggestions been proposed? The monogram is unlikely to refer to Gyges, as was established by David Neel Smith; and the tumulus probably was created nearly a century after Gyges's death, as established by Christopher Ratté. Ratté suggested that the tumulus may commemorate another member of the Mermnad Dynasty, possibly the son of Croesus who, according to Herodotus, was killed in a hunting accident during his father's lifetime.

Book Note: Love for Lydia: A Sardis Anniversary Volume Presented to Crawford H. Greenewalt, Jr. (Harvard University Press; http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog/CAHLOV.html) will be released in February 2009. The volume not only honors Crawford Greenewalt for his work as field director of the Sardis Expedition for over thirty years but also commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the Harvard–Cornell archaeological excavation. The volume of essays spanning the Archaic to the Late Antique periods is edited by Nicholas D. Cahill, the new director of the Sardis expedition.