

OENOANDA - A PROJECTED EXCAVATION

1. In August 1976 I visited the site of Oenoanda, near Seki in the ilçe of Fethiye (vilayet Muğla) in SW Turkey, with Mr Alan Hall, director of the Oenoanda surface survey, to study the possibilities and problems of an excavation there.
2. I found that an excavation would be eminently feasible, and was likely to result in important advances in several fields of classical scholarship, but that it would have to be prepared with great care and would be necessarily very expensive.

3. The purposes of excavation at Oenoanda would be:
- Ia) To recover as much as possible of Diogenes' philosophical inscription (DPI)
 - b) To obtain archaeological evidence for the context of DPI and if possible the remains of the original stoa
 - c) To provide a secure and informative display of DPI in the 'Esplanade' area.
- II In broader terms to recover archaeological and epigraphic evidence for the history and architectural history of Oenoanda. Areas of particular interest will be indicated below.
4. Commenting on these purposes:
- a) Private visiting and official surface survey as means of recording DPI have both been stretched to the limits of and beyond the Turkish Antiquities Law. The Department of Antiquities has been exceptionally tolerant in this respect.
 - b) In the issue of an excavation permit to a non-Turkish expedition, the Department of Antiquities is constrained by sundry unpublished but potent directions from higher authority. From the point of view of the non-archaeological civil servant, even the best-behaved group of foreigners is bound to cause some local disruptions. Informal discussion sets the price of overcoming such inconvenience at a minimum annual budget of \$50,000. The Department of Antiquities would consider this^a barely adequate sum to cover excavation on a classical site which in the terms of the permit would require restoration of the monuments excavated, and would, therefore, expect the sum to be guaranteed for a number of years. Such a sum and guarantee are beyond the present means of the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara and the British Academy which have been financing the Oenoanda survey.
 - c) Although in theory it would be possible to carry out most of Purpose Ia - the recovery of DPI - fairly cheaply by disregarding good archaeological method in regard to context, in practice the Department of Antiquities will not permit this.
 - d) Extensive area excavation is, therefore, required, both by the Turkish authorities and by sound archaeological practice. It would be desirable to enter with a good grace on a campaign that will present at the end, both the published scientific results and the monuments restored and made accessible to visitors - a concrete contribution to Turkey's tourism initiatives. Evidently DPI would be a considerable attraction in itself, the mausoleum of Licinnia Flavilla (IGR III 500) and some other buildings can be readily restored and these shall be supported by a site museum/visitors' centre formed from the excavation house.

5. Excavation areas

- 1. Esplanade South This area is one of the most important for the recovery of DPI blocks. The late stoa should be excavated and the finished area used, to house all the DPI blocks recovered. Excavation would also take place outside, i.e. E of the late Roman city wall. The subsidence of this indicates that it passes over an earlier building which would be a priority candidate to have been Diogenes' stoa. Distribution of DPI blocks suggests that the stoa was destroyed when this part of the city wall was built and that previously the Esplanade had been an integral part of the city, linked to the agora by a main street. Rubble clearance in the ruin field of the S stoa would probably be sufficient to reveal building plans and pieces of DPI.

- 2. Esplanade North Excavation of the late N stoa to recover DPI blocks and provide a tidy depot for non-philosophical portable inscriptions. Excavation of the small temple, perhaps of the imperial cult, which is respected by the NE corner of the Late Roman wall.

- 3. Late Roman wall interior Largely a rubble and stone block removal task along the inner face of the wall which has been much disturbed by workmen of the 19th century traveller/epigrapher searching for DPI blocks. Again, part of the original Diogenes' stoa may exist below ground in this area.

- 4. Agora NE Excavation of buildings on an insula between roads running north-east from the agora to the Late Roman wall. These include the well-preserved apsidal 'library' and the Boukonisterion facing onto the agora.

- 5. Agora S Restoration of fallen S gate of agora. Stone clearance of buildings to NE and SW of this. Excavation of large Christian basilica.

- 6. Agora W Stone clearance and selective excavation of buildings west of the agora. Reconstruction of monumental W corner gate of agora.

- 7. Agora N Excavation of well-preserved public building in the N extension of the city wall. Selective investigation in steeply sloping area between NW city wall and N side of agora.

- 8. City walls A detailed study of the surviving Hellenistic wall to the south with stratigraphic soundings and test trenches to complete knowledge of the original circuit.

- 9. Letoon A small independent shrine under a cliff to the NW. This was discovered during the survey and has already yielded important new inscriptions.

- 10. Mausoleum of Licinnia Flavella, below the Hellenistic S wall. Has suffered much from overthrow of walls in modern times, but removal of stone is unlikely. A reconstruction is likely to lead to completion of the genealogical text which could not be totally recovered even in the 19th century.

- 11. Aqueduct A very limited amount of trenching to prove the line is required together with a small amount of tidying and consolidation of the bridge.

- 12. Theatre Excavation of the orchestra and stage building.

- 13. Necropolis A certain amount of tidying up is necessary for epigraphic purposes. Some excavation may be desirable in relation to tombs along the ancient road linking Oenoanda to Termessus Minor.

- 14. Some stratigraphic work on the earlier acropolis is desirable for a full history of the site.
- 15. Extension of the survey may reveal other areas of some importance which need to be worked into the programme.

6. Practical aspects of preparing the excavation.

- 1. Oenoanda lies in the saddle of a large, double-peaked hill with a medium cover of twisted pine trees reinforced with prickly scrub. The whole site down to the edge of the hamlet of Inceyalılar is state property administered by the Forestry Ministry. Therefore, no private compensation would be payable but Forestry Ministry permission to work and to cut trees would be necessary. No problems are foreseen here provided good local contacts are made with Forestry Ministry staff.

- 2. Forestry Ministry permission would also be necessary for the construction of an excavation house. The best site seen for this is in the gentle lower valley of the approach to Oenoanda from Inceyalılar at the outskirts of the village. Local information is that there is untapped water up the side of the valley which could be led down.

- 3. The excavation house needs to be of some size and solidly constructed for security. A two-storey quadrangle is recommended. The ground floor of reinforced concrete should accommodate a vehicle entrance and watchman's room, a large depot for study material, work rooms, conservation laboratory and drawing office, common and dining rooms, kitchen and store, ablutions and generator housing. The courtyard would be used as car park and sherd yard. The upper storey of local wood and stone construction should provide bed space for 35 - 40 persons plus the water tank and further ablution facilities. Access to the upper storey to be by stairs from the courtyard to an open balcony. Tiled roof.

- 4. Access roads. i) A track capable of bearing trucks could readily be constructed to link the house site to the village road passing behind the village. Co-operation of Highways Department and Forestry Ministry would be necessary. ii) From the house a track for 4-wheel drive vehicles could be constructed up to the valley crossed by the aqueduct. It would be advisable to persuade local authority to ban unauthorized vehicles from this track. The present footpath leading direct to the 'Esplanade' does not seem adaptable to wheeled traffic. iii) From the aqueduct a relatively gentle contour footpath can be cleared leading via the S roadway to the S gate of the agora. iv) Spoil clearance and the formation of 'stone gardens' are considerable problems in working nearly all areas. To relieve this situation the W gate and the road leading to it from the agora must be fully cleared before a full excavation season starts. Thus a level spoil heap with a stone garden on the top of it can be built out on the hillside below the W wall. Similarly, the main road from the agora to the NE wall must be cleared and the gateway in the NE wall opened to give easy access from the SW to the Esplanade. A dump and stone garden for the Esplanade areas can be formed on the valley slope E of the Esplanade south ruin field. A small dump can also be made when necessary, E of the large basilica in area 5.

7. Excavation strategy. Excavation of this extended nature can be approached in two ways, both expensive.

A. A series of some 20 annual campaigns costing about \$75,000 per annum (plus inflation). At this scale the first year would do little more than construct the excavation house and free the site access tracks. Each succeeding season would only be able to approach 2 or 3 areas of the city at a time. Visiting experts would probably remain under exploited. Enthusiasm for fund-raising and continuity of staffing would be difficult to maintain. Publication would be severely delayed.

B. A 'Blitzkrieg' aiming to complete the whole operation in five years at a total cost less than 1 million dollars. Before starting excavation the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara/British Academy survey should continue its valuable work on the site plan and applications should be made for the permit in time for it to be available by April 1st to conduct a preliminary season to build the dig house and clear all the access ways. This would be followed by a full 10 - week season July 1st - September 15th, during which eight of the excavation areas would be worked for five weeks each. Material studies leading to a preliminary report would follow the main excavation season. A similar pattern of excavation and study seasons would occupy the second and third years. The fourth year would be largely devoted to restoration work and completion of on-site-studies, while the final publication would be prepared in the fifth year.

8. Estimate of costs, assuming strategy B (Year 1 - 1978).
Present exchange rate TL 16 - \$1 assumed, also inflation and rate of amelioration in workmen's wages.

<u>Year 1</u>	
2 x long wheel base Land Rovers	\$ 10,000
Director's Salary	15,000
20 x assistants' honoraria	20,000
26 x travel ex UK at \$500	13,000
Excavation House built and equipped	30,000
Tracks bulldozed	2,500
Excavation tools and lifting gear	16,000
Labour to clear access tracks on site 20 men x 60 days x \$15	18,000
Preliminary camp 5 persons x 90 days x \$6.50	3,000
Preliminary local transport	1,000
Labour main season 95 men x 70 days x x \$15	100,000
Camp main season 35 pers. x 70 days x \$6.50	16,000
Transport main season (local)	1,500
Study season	5,000
Watchman	4,000
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	\$255,000
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<u>Year 2</u>	
Director's salary	\$ 15,000
Service of vehicles	2,000
Assistants' honoraria	20,000
Assistants' travel	15,000
Service and replacement of equipment	4,000
Labour	110,000
Camp	18,000
Transport	2,000
Watchman	4,000
Study season	5,000
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	\$195,000
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<u>Year 3</u>	
As year 2 + 10%	\$220,000
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<u>Year 4</u>	
Restoration work	\$150,000
Study season	50,000
Honoraria and salary	25,000
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	\$225,000
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Total for 4 years \$895,000

Year 5 Publication expenses

9. Staff required for a main season, including those already involved.

Field Director	R P Harper
Assistant to the Director (Administration)	
	Y M Harper
Assistant Director (Architecture)	J Coulton
Assistant Director (Epigraphy)	A S Hall
Assistant Director (Site)	D Clay
7 Trenchmaster/materials processors	
3 Assistant architects	
2 Surveyors	
2 Conservators	
2 Pottery specialists	
2 Small finds draughtsmen	
1 Photographer	
eg. 3 Visiting experts - Diogenes' philosophical inscription	M F Smith
	- animal bone (eg)
	- physical anthropologist (eg)
1 Representative of Antiquities Department	
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28	
c. 8 Student assistants	
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c.36	
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10. Job description of the above staff.

- 1. By the antiquities regulations the Field Director personally holds the permit and is held responsible for all aspects of the excavation, whether academic, financial, or the behaviour of the team. He must, therefore, be made aware of all developments of individuals work by daily report or as appropriate and approve any individual initiative. Staff must accept his decisions in that field even to the point of moderating their personal activities. He must have full financial control. Will recruit staff, will decide the order of work, will arrange outside assistance, conduct relations with Turkish authorities, co-ordinate experts' reports into preliminary and final publications.

- 2. The Assistant (Administration) will be responsible for maintaining good order in the excavation records and in all movements of material. Will administer the domestic staff of the excavation house, will assist the Director with taxation and insurance records.

- 3. The Assistant Director (Architecture) will co-ordinate the work of the architectural team in consultation with the Director and trenchmasters, will be responsible for all finished architectural drawings and architectural-historical accounts of individual buildings.

- 4. The Assistant Director (Epigraphy) will continue his review of the known epigraphy of the site, will view all new epigraphic finds. He will make DPI material immediately available to the Diogenes expert. Other material he will record appropriately and either store or restore in situ in collaboration with AD (Arch). He will report the non-philosophical epigraphic material.

- 5. The Assistant Director (Site) will act as a trenchmaster but be additionally responsible for site decisions transcending the competence of an individual trenchmaster in the absence of the Director.

- 6. The 8 trenchmasters will work in shifts on alternate days, 4 with labour teams on site, 4 processing the previous day's small finds at the house, so that in a 10 week season, each of 8 sites will have been excavated for 30 days. The trenchmasters will be experienced excavators, will be expected to master a basic Turkish word-list, to train workmen, to make and justify local excavation decisions. To keep daily records and draw plans and sections as specified by the Director and to co-operate with the various experts. On their house day the trenchmasters will, under the supervision of the Administrator, enter their small finds in the house records and undertake basic cleaning and marking thereof. Any spare time may be devoted to study of sections or plans on site in the absence of labour.

- 7. The architectural team under - 3. the Assistant Director (Architecture) will carry out tasks specified by him with special care to ease the planning burden on the trenchmasters.

- 8. The surveyors will continue and complete the survey work begun under Mr Hall's direction and will provide grids with reference points for the trenchmasters.

- 10. Pottery specialists will analyze the cleaned and marked pottery, provide running notes to the Director and trenchmasters and work towards their final report. Other smaller classes of material (eg. glass, iron, bronze, coins) will probably be dealt with by other individuals as subsidiary tasks.

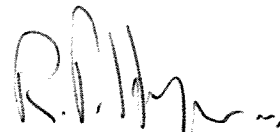
- 11. Small finds draughtsmen will draw materials directed to their attention by Director, Admin. or specialists.

- 12. Photographers will picture objects and sites as required and process record photographs taken by trenchmasters.

- 13. Visiting experts may not need to spend whole seasons with the excavation. The DPI expert will set out his text as it becomes available from the excavation and keep the Director posted of progress. He will prepare preliminary and final reports on new readings and sections for publication with the excavation reports and doubtless eventually produce a new major edition. A rigid impression of DPI suitable for making casts produced with the assistance of conservators would be a desideratum. His collaboration with the architectural team on any eventual restoration or reconstruction of Diogenes' stoa would be valuable. The desirability of the presence, for various periods, of other experts would only become clear with the progress of the excavation.

- 14. The rôle of the Representative of the Antiquities Department is dual. On the one hand, he will assist the Director with general public relations, show round visiting worthies, satisfy local curiosity, assist trenchmasters with special problems of interpretation. On the other hand, it is his duty to report fortnightly on the conduct and progress of the excavation, both archaeologically and in general. In this latter rôle, he is much helped by a flow of information from the Director and by the courteous and responsible behaviour of all members of the staff at all times. He is expected to accompany members of the staff on extracurricular visits etc. on rest days. He is also required to produce an inventory of all museum-worthy finds and to secure their safe delivery at the end of the season to a museum.

- 15. Student assistants. While it is the expectation of the Department of Antiquities that a fully competent team will be deployed, no major excavation should fail to consider the next generation of scholars. A group, therefore, of up to 8 persons with little or no archaeological experience but plenty of motivation to work and to learn, could be usefully involved in this project. Most specialists and some busy trenchmasters always have a use for another pair of hands and the students should be rotated through the various tasks to gain a general experience. No expense to the excavation beyond board and lodging at Oenoanda should be forseen with this group.



R P Harper
August 25th, 1976.