

IASOS (TURKEY). PORT'S TOWER RESTORATION

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Abstract

The tower was constructed to defend the entrance of the Iasos western harbour. It rests on the concrete of the submerged eastern mole, probably of the Roman imperial period. The tower was in ruinous state because of the battering of the waves which have caused the collapse of the southern side and have created large gaps in the other sides. The priority of the restoration, respect many other works necessary in Iasos, was clear at the Direction of the Italian Archaeological Mission in order to save an important document of its medieval life. The date of the tower is still not certain; some comparisons are in favour of the middle Byzantine Age, but against this there is the notice of some interventions of fortification in the harbour under the Sultan Bayazid (II) Han (1481-1512).

The drawing of the existent was the main tool for the interpretation of the monument. The preliminary study have examined the effective condition of preservation and in detail the traces of secondary structures: holes for the scaffolding, floors, etc. To avoid arbitrary interpretations the restoration has pointed mainly to the preservation of the extent walls, and the reconstruction of the elevation has been purely graphical.

The work was done in August and September 1996. A low platform built in stone walls protects the ancient concrete on the South side, on the other sides we have filled the gaps at the walls foot. During the works no information have been lost, and we have used many cubic meters of new stone concrete, because we didn't want to destroy any minimal part of ancient concrete. The new structures are distinguishable and theoretically reversible by the use of a mortar of slightly different composition respect the ancient and by the position of the new surfaces (3cm back from the oldest).

Bibliography: N. Masturzo, La torre del porto occidentale e le fortificazioni post-classiche di Iasos, in *Iasos di Caria. Un contributo ferrarese all'archeologia microasiatica. Progetti e lavori di restauro* (Atti dell'Accademia delle Scienze di Ferrara, suppl. al n. 71), Ferrara 1993-94.