

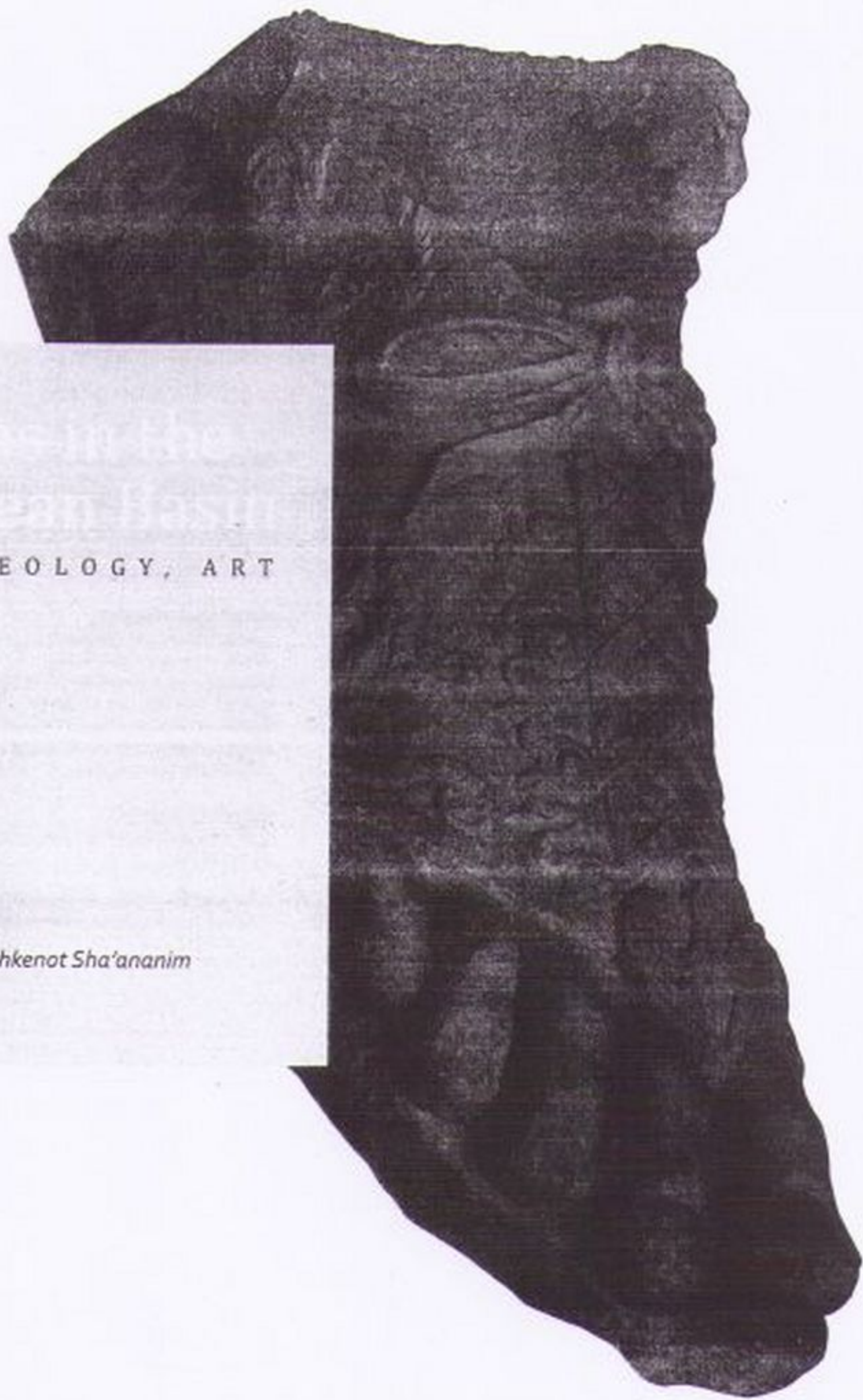


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Mishkenot Sha'ananim

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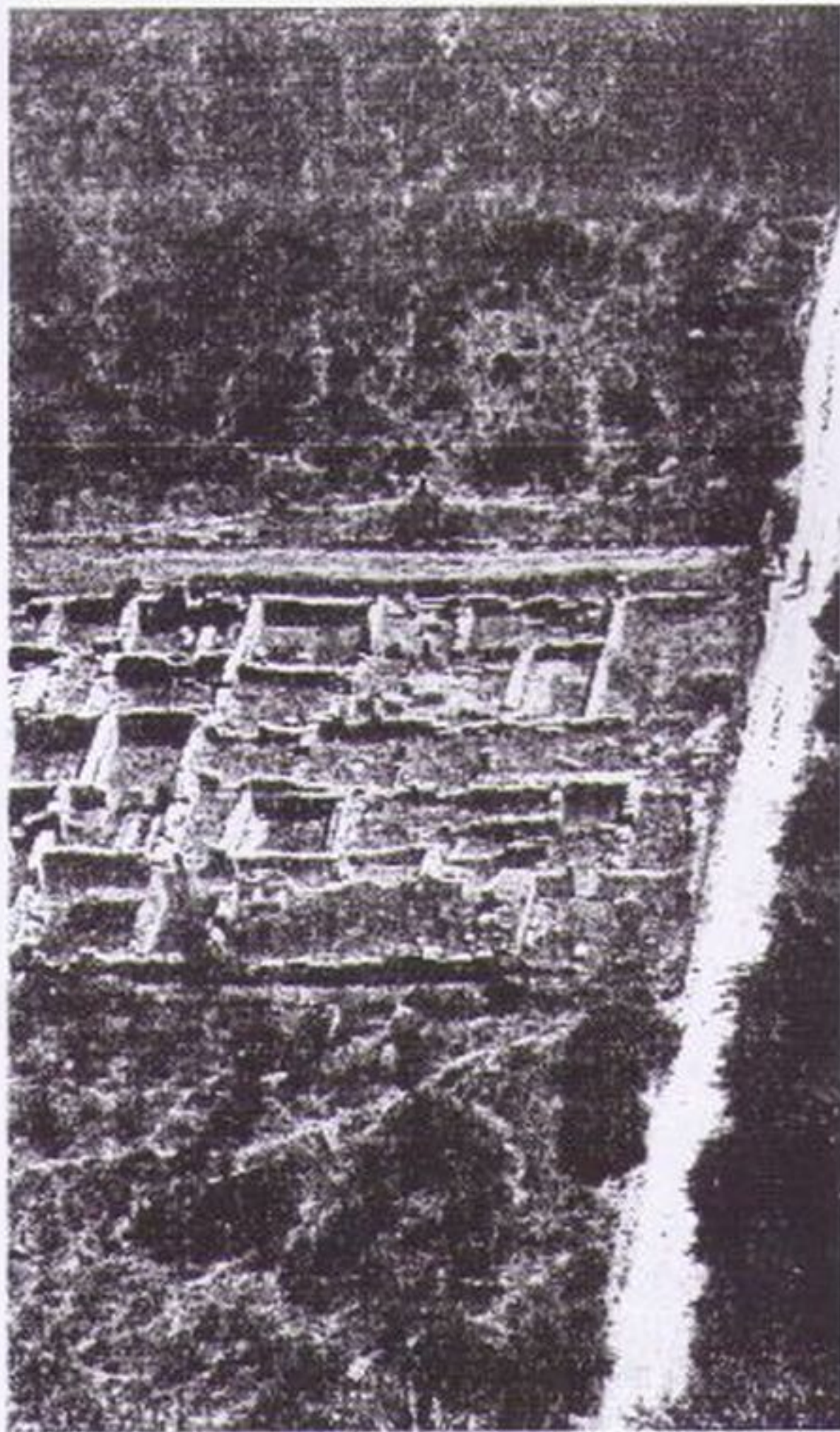
Restoring Ancient Stabiae
FOUNDATION



Koinean Coins in the Mediterranean Basin

HISTORY, ARCHEOLOGY, ART

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Roman dwellings in Asia Minor – new findings during excavations

The period of use of the peristyle houses at Side and Perge from the Roman period until the 7th century AD, can be deduced, whose main characteristic is Hellenistic and this is typical in Apameia, Antiocheia and Ephesos for instance. In this context, the fact that the houses in Ephesos, whose current ground plans date from the 5th-7th century AD, are taken over from the Greek-Hellenistic houses becomes clear. In the West of Asia Minor, additional houses were discovered showing Hellenistic tradition although they have been dated to the late Roman period. This is true for instance for Aphrodisias, Hierapolis, Sardis and Priene. These houses that were described as palace-like houses show a distinctively differ from the smaller, less well-equipped houses in which the poor used to live.

In the South of Asia Minor, this kind of traditional Hellenistic peristyle houses from the later Roman period can be identified. In Karakabakli, a house with peristyle was described. Guided by the cross motif of the capitals of the columns, this house has been dated to the 6th century AD. Some of the houses that were situated here had a second floor. The peristyle houses of Emirzeli and Imbrigon Kone (Demircilli) date from the Roman period, but must still have been inhabited during the late Roman period. Among the houses of Arykanda that have been dated to the 6th century AD, a house has been preserved containing a second floor, the rooms of which framed a courtyard. The bigger houses of Antiocheia, Daphne and Sardis had been built outside the cities, which means they must have been country houses. The Peristyles of Antiocheia were smaller.

With regard to the houses treated above, it is striking that houses with widespread peristyles were already generally established in the late Roman period, however hardly any peristyle houses were built in this period.

The peristyle houses from the late Roman period are architecture of representation, which is why it has been mentioned that the rich used to live in luxurious peristyle houses while the poor lived in smaller houses without peristyles. In the late Roman period, the peristyle houses played an important role in the upper class. In the third architectural phase of the houses of Perge that have to be dated to the late Roman time, it applies with no doubt that the houses that have been discovered in the Insula had only been renovated and enlarged. It has to be emphasized in this context that this phase is characterized by poor building materials. Older building materials had been put together to form new houses as well as possible. The excavated houses B and C of Perge were with absolute certainty houses of the nobility, although there also were modest houses of citizens, for instance the houses A and E.