

Archaeology of Ancient Corinth

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BIB-201
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Archaeology

Corinth was home to rows of shops and merchants, many of these included luxury goods from both the east and west. Corinth was a central hub of trade and commerce, it brought visitors from across the world to Greece.



History of Excavations

Excavations first began in the year 1896 and still continues to this day, it is being excavated by the American School of Classical Studies and is their longest running excavation. It is dominated by major Greek, Roman, and Byzantine monuments and garners more than 150,000 visitors annually.



Archaeological Site

The ancient city of Corinth archaeological site is located in the northern foothills of the Acrocorinth Hill. It is located in Greece in Archaia Korinthos, which is considered to be a historical landmark.



Major Sites

The site of Corinth is home to many sites that have been excavated, these include:

- Acrocorinth
- Amphitheater
- Bema of Saint Paul
- Glauke Fountain
- Temple of Apollo
- Temple of Octavia
- Roman Odeion
- Basilica of Lechaion
- Basilica of Kraneion



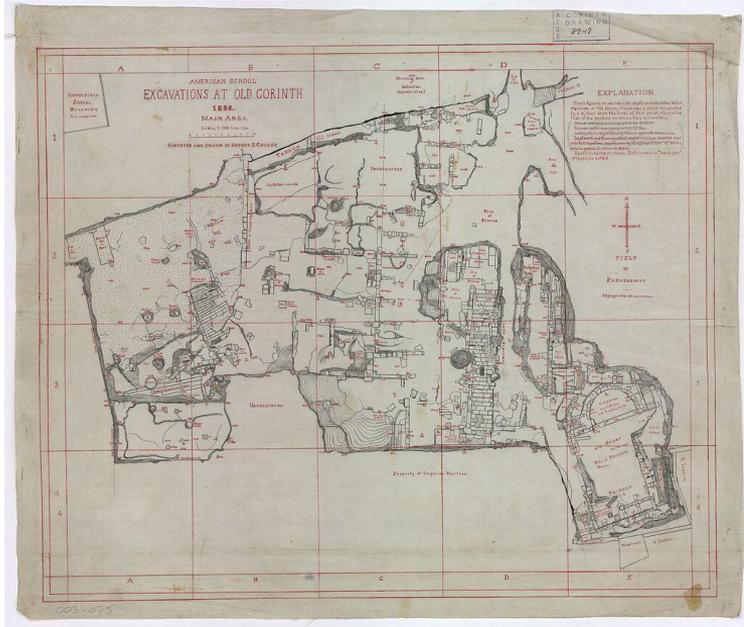
Biblical Significance



Ancient Corinth was one of the largest and most influential cities of Ancient Greece. It was demolished by the Romans in 146 BC and a new town was built on top of it.

Corinth is crucial to Christians because of the letters of Saint Paul in the New Testament, First Corinthians, and Second Corinthians. Corinth is mentioned in the Book of Acts as a place during Paul's missionary journey.

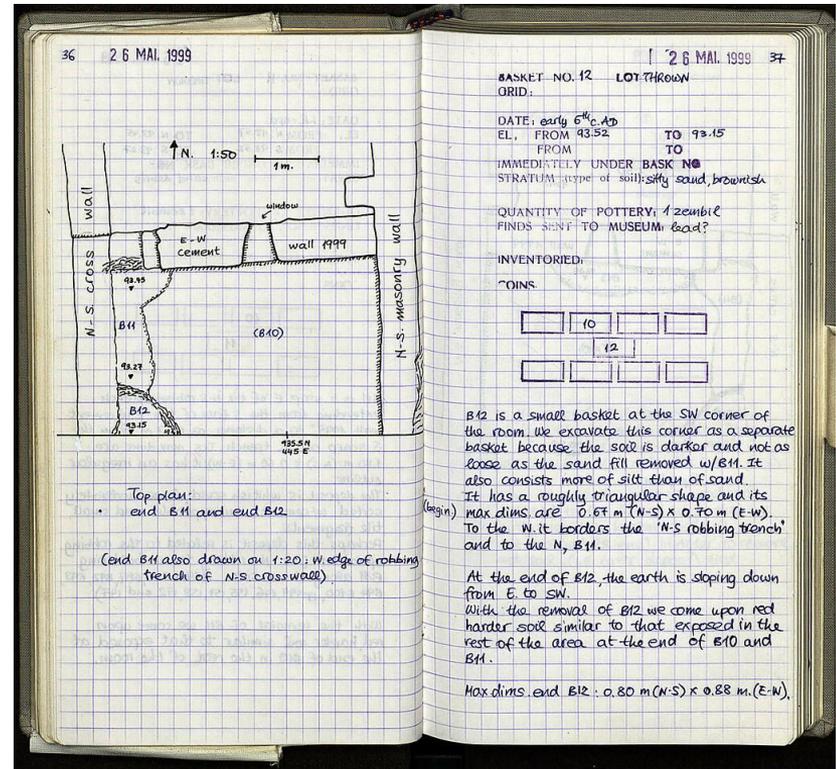
Plans and Drawings



Architectural plans and drawings of objects are used to document the findings of the excavation. Serial numbers are given to specific monuments and excavation areas, which receive further numbers to differentiate them. For example, the serial number 003 is the Central Area, and 010 is the tenth drawing in the series of that area.

Recording the Excavation Process

The excavation process began in 1896 before widespread use of technology, pre-war notebooks were the method of choice for describing the process of dividing areas up and referencing found objects. Since 2007, loose leaf context sheets have replaced notebooks for documenting the process.



Archaeological Findings

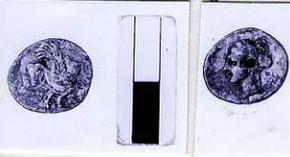
Many objects and materials are recovered and saved for storage in the museum. Major examples include coins, statues, sculptures, pottery, and inscriptions from ancient times.



Organizing artifacts

While notebooks were used to map out the excavation site, a card catalog system was implemented to keep tabs on the artifacts that were found.

In 1977, electronic databases were introduced to the excavation for this first time, but the card catalog is still kept up to date to this day.

COIN	Gr.	Rom.	Gr. Imp.	Byz.	Frank. Ven.	Mod.	Other	
59-1757								
Area: AGORA SW - NE martyra, reddish fill, 0.80-0.95m				City Corinth				Date
Date 21 May 1959 (31)				Obverse				
Bask. -23, 29				Pegasus protome l., curled wing				
NB 214 212 p. 157 p. 80				Reverse				
				Nymph hd l., hair				
				in Sphendone: A - P (to l.+r.)				Exp. 77
				Metal AR ↓		Size hemidr. 1.3mm 1.3mm		Wt. 1.10gr
Neg. 75-12-18a 19a LOT 187				Comments:				
								=in Study Coll. -

Biblical Connections

The temple of Aphrodite was located in Ancient Corinth, this gives context to Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11:

*“....Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **And that is what some of you were.** But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”*

Resources

History in 3D. “Ancient Corinth”. *YouTube*, uploaded by History in 3D, 7 November 2014.

<https://youtu.be/dEHPfMIyLfc>.

“Archaeological Museum of Ancient Corinth - Ephorate of Antiquities of Korinthia Archaeological Museum of Ancient Corinth - Ephorate of Antiquities of Korinthia.” *Archaeological Museum of Ancient Corinth - Ephorate of Antiquities of Korinthia*, <http://www.corinth-museum.gr/en/archaeological-site/>.

“Archaeological Site of Ancient Corinth - Virtual Tour.” *Joy of Museums Virtual Tours*, 29 May 2020, <https://joyofmuseums.com/museums/europe/greece-museums/corinth-museums/archaeological-site-of-ancient-corinth/>.

“Corinth Excavations.” *ASCSA.net*, <https://corinth.ascsa.net/research?v=default>.