



Fig. 1. Mount Parnassus at Gerasa: Seven of the nine Olympian Muses were found during the European-Jordanian excavations in the eastern Roman Baths. They are today on display in the Jerash Archaeological Museum on the Resthouse Hill at Jerash. (Photo by Thomas M. Weber-Karyotakis.)

The joint European-Jordanian excavations at the East Baths of Jerash (Roman Gerasa) came to an end with the 2018 campaign. The basin located between the northern pillared hall and the thermal complex was also uncovered in its western section by the team of the Mission française archéologique de Jérash (with then director Dr. Thomas Lapaon). As in previous years, numerous Roman marble statues were brought to light. The *natatio* (swimming pool) closes off on its western narrow side with an open staircase leading to a vestibule through a portal with two columns set on pedestals. From there, the pillared hall is accessible from the south through a smaller door. The stratigraphic finding of the destruction horizon caused by the earthquake of AD 749 also extended through the newly explored areas. Under the fallen decorated entablature blocks, there were also various fragments of marble statues, some of which were well preserved. A charred piece of wood found in this context was suitable for a radiocarbon analysis carried out by Khaled al-Bashaireh (Yarmuk University, Irbid). According to this, the period for the deposition of the marble statues can be limited between the beginning of the 7th century and the catastrophic year 749.

The new finds completed the group of the Muses enthroned on rocks to a total of six figures. All of them were carved from Pentelic marble, according to the petrographic investigations of Khaled al-Bashaireh. Besides the

Jerash East Baths

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Fig. 2. Fragmented statue of enthroned Cybele/Demeter with two crouching lions at her feet. The preserved right armrest of the throne shows the Greek signature of the sculptor Antoneinos, son of Antiochos, from Alexandreia. (Photo by Thomas M. Weber-Karyotakis.)

statuettes of Melpomene and Urania, Erato (plucking a cithara) and Clio (with an opened book-scroll on her lap) are now identifiable. Two of the muses can still not be named due to missing attributes. Because of their stylistic elaboration and dimension, the plinth of the dancing Muse (Terpsichore) of the Miletus type, which had already been found during the Jordanian salvage excavations in the area of the northern hall, must also belong to the group. In contrast to the others, this goddess was once depicted in an upright bending dance posture. The artist's signature on the front of the plinth identifies this sculpture as a work of the Alexandrian sculptor Antoneinos, son of Antiochus. According to an inscription of a statue base reused in the modern suq of Jerash, all these Muses (Fig. 1) were purchased by the Gerasene citizen Lysias, son of Arist(i)on in the workshop of Antoneinos and were exhibited there in AD 118/19 as a donation to his hometown.

Interestingly, among the new sculptural finds there is another statue from the Alexandrian workshop of Antoneinos: On the support of the armrest of a draped statue of a female figure depicted seated on a Greek throne (identifiable as Cybele because of the two lions crouching at her feet) (Fig. 2), the Greek signature can be read in the same wording as on the plinth of Terpsichore. The sculptural deposit under the tumble of AD 749 contained—among other fragments—the statue of a standing Dionysus, preserved in various fragments and corresponding to the statue of Zeus in its format, for which an exact parallel from Scythopolis/Beisan is known.

The greater part of the statues from the Eastern Baths of Gerasa were restored by the Italian conservator Franco Sciorilli with the assistance of several Jordanian specialists in September and October 2018. Since November 1st, 2018, these fine marble sculptures have been on public display in the Jerash Visitor Center and the Jerash Archaeological Museum. These works were financed by The Gerda Henkel-Foundation, Düsseldorf, Germany.