

THE PEDDIE SCHOOL

# Chronicle

SPRING 1976



**SPRING ALUMNI DAY—MAY 15**



Considered a major find two years ago, this is the bas-relief unearthed in Corinth by Dr. Martin, now a Peddie faculty member. It is believed to be about 1,800 years old. The discovery may lead to the location of nearby temples and a redefinition of datings in the area.

## Young Archaeologist Brings New Course to Peddie

Archaeology, a science that sounds older than it really is, is the newest course in the Peddie curriculum. It is being taught for the first time at Peddie this Spring by Dr. David G. Martin.

The new faculty member arrived last Fall to teach Latin and Greek and Roman Culture. He had taught Greek and Roman history at Princeton University last year while completing his doctorate in ancient history.

He had previously taken his M.A. at Princeton specializing in archaeology. As a student, he had gone to Greece two years ago to "dig into" the language, culture and history of that ancient land. He literally dug up, with pick and shovel, a two-ton sculpture. It was a major discovery that made international news at the time, and the kind of rarity that makes archaeologists of history students.

The bas-relief is believed to date back to 200 A.D. The nearly life-size, ornately carved figures are thought to represent the Egyptian god Serapis, flanked on the sides of the stone by female figures bringing offerings.

"The discovery was considered important because it could indicate the presence of the temples that went with it," says Dr. Martin. "It could redefine the datings in that whole area of ancient Corinth." Digging at the site has been going on since the 1930's.

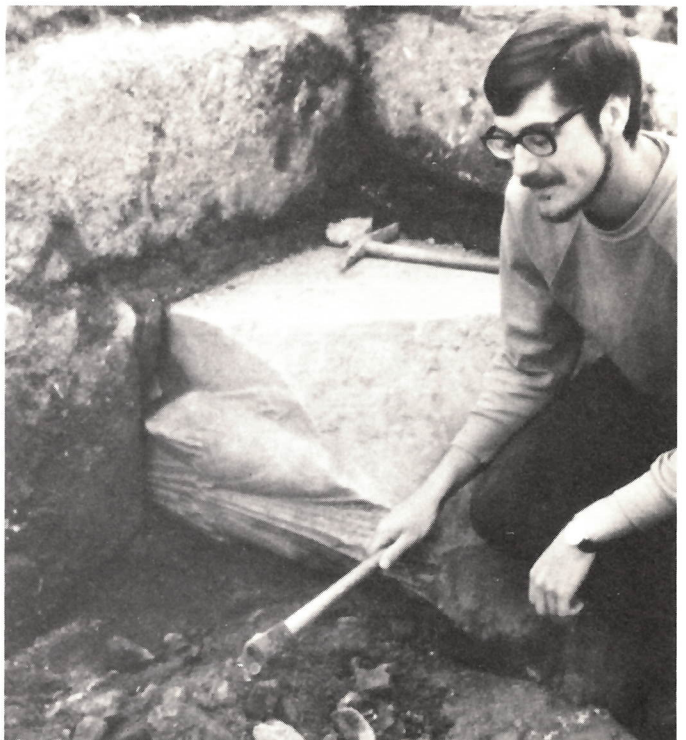
One thing that Dr. Martin can tell his students first hand is that archaeology is exhausting work. "We worked at the excavation site from 7:30 in the morning until 4:30. Then we prepared notes until 9 at night. We spent the weekends examining pottery."

"You can tell the different ages by the earth itself or by the kind of pottery that is found. We were trained all Winter to sort the pottery that is found. All the pottery is set aside in baskets. Notebooks become important in keeping track of what the earth is like as well as what you are finding in it. And workers have to be careful all the time, because what you may also be finding at such sites are—snakes," the teacher explained.

He went to Greece on a fellowship from the American School of Classics, which offers three or four grants each year to U.S. and Canadian students. Competition is keen and final selection involves a 10-hour written examination.

Martin, a graduate of the University of Michigan, placed third in the nation.

A native of Midland, Mich., Dr. Martin received his Ph.D. from Princeton last Fall after completing his dissertation on "The Structure of the Greek Leagues in the Second Century B.C." He was invited to deliver a paper on the subject in December at the 106th Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association in Washington, D.C.



Dr. Martin shown with his find when it was just another building block in a 9th Century wall. The wall builders, instead of smoothing off the stone, preserved the sculpture by hollowing the adjoining stones.