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DISSERTATION 2024 / ABSTRACT English

The Preservation of the archaeological site Ephesos.

**History of stone conservation and reconstruction as well as current challenges
from a conservation-scientific perspective**

Summary:

Large areas of the ancient metropolis of Ephesos came to light through excavation activities from the middle of the 19th century. Not only the uncovering, but also reconstructions and the conservation of numerous ancient monuments changed the appearance of the ruined site impressively since the beginning of the 20th century. The focus within previous studies of the research history of this archaeological site has been predominantly on the excavations. This dissertation is dedicated to the study of the stone conservation and reconstruction history of Ephesos. Based on these results, the status quo of the preservation of the objects is analysed in order to create a basis for the development of future preservation strategies for the archaeological-architectural cultural heritage. The conservation-scientific study focuses on the in situ cultural heritage of the site and in particular on stone objects and built heritage.

Conservation-scientific and social science methods such as archival research, condition surveys, scientific examinations and qualitative interviews are implemented to answer the research questions.

The activities in conservation-restoration and monument preservation in Ephesos were shaped by individuals as well as international guidelines and trends. Advances in industry and technology influenced the working methods through the introduction of new materials. Today, the UNESCO World Heritage Site presents itself as an evolved construct composed of monuments of various degrees of exploration and preservation, attracting millions of tourists every year.