Pavement Signs Typology (PST)
Berlin 2012 Edition

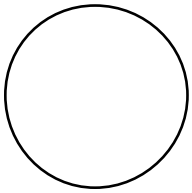
The purpose of this publication is to present as large a selection as possible of examples of the pavement designs found in buildings and spaces used in the Graeco-Roman period, with a simple terminology. Some of these are definitely gameboards, others may be, many more may have a function which we cannot determine. We are offering both a very brief letter and number code, and a simple description. It is our hope that in future publications those responsible for publishing archaeological materials will mention the designs which they find, using this terminology; this may enable scholars to develop a better understanding of the functions of such signs. We have tried to devise a numbering system which allows for additions, and we would welcome any such additions, comments and further illustrations; we would hope to publish a revised and expanded version before long, and in any case in time for the next international Epigraphic Congress.

A summary of this material was provided in C. Roueché, *Performers and Partisans at Aphrodisias* (London, 1993), 249-252. A full typology, but without references to published images, was published (with the late R. C. Bell) as 'Graeco-Roman pavement signs and gameboards: a British Museum Working Typology' in I. Finkel ed., *Ancient Board Games in Perspective* (London, 2007), 106-109.

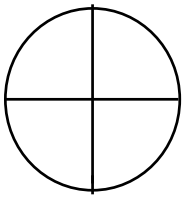
CIRCLES

C. Single circles

C.1 A simple circle

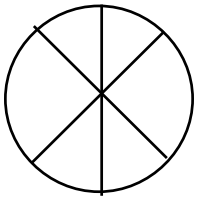


C.2 Circle with 4 spokes

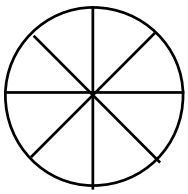


Example, with photograph: *IAph2007* 10.9.C.i: available at http://insaph.kcl.ac.uk/iaph2007/iAph100009.html

C.3 Circle with 6 spokes

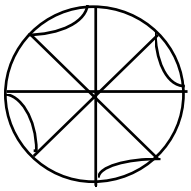


C.4 Circle with 8 spokes

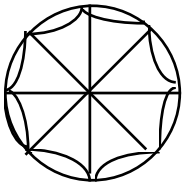


Example, with photograph: *IAph2007* 8.601.v: available at http://insaph.kcl.ac.uk/iaph2007/iAph080601.html

C.5 Circle with 8 spokes, 4 arcs

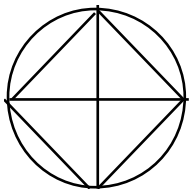


C.6 Circle with 8 spokes and 8 arcs



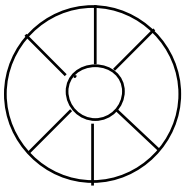
Example, with photograph: *IAph2007* 11.201: available at http://insaph.kcl.ac.uk/iaph2007/iAph110201.html

C.7 Circle with 4 spokes, 4 chords

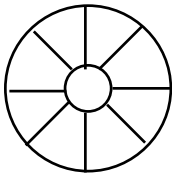


CC Two concentric circles

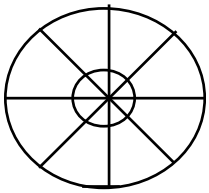
CC.1 Circle with 6 spokes, central circle



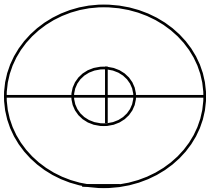
CC.2 Circle with 8 spokes, central circle



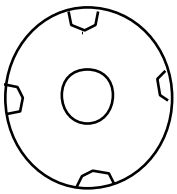
CC.3 Two concentric circles with 8 spokes



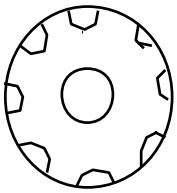
CC.4 Concentric circles; 4 spokes in inner circle, of which 2 extend to outer circle.



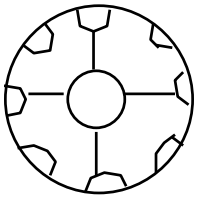
CC.5 Circle with central circle, 4 semicircles on perimeter



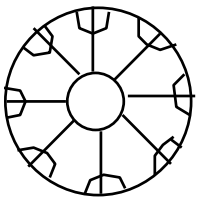
CC.6 Circle with central circle, 8 semicircles on perimeter



CC.7 Circle with 4 spokes, central circle, 8 semicircles

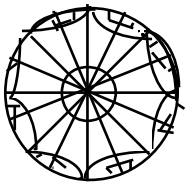


CC.7 Circle with central circle, 8 spokes, and 8 semicircles



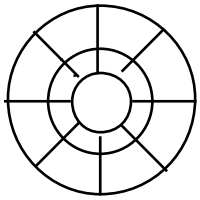
Example, with photograph: *IAph2007* 4.6.iii.a: available at http://insaph.kcl.ac.uk/iaph2007/iAph040006.html

CC.8 Concentric circles with 16 spokes (decorated ends) and 8 arcs

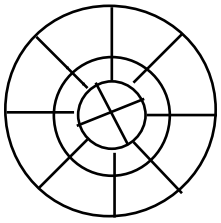


CCC Three concentric circles

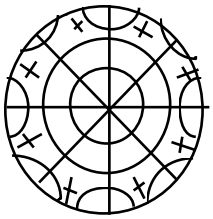
CCC.1 Central circle, two outer circles with 8 spokes



CCC.2 Central circle with 4 spokes, two outer circles with 6 spokes

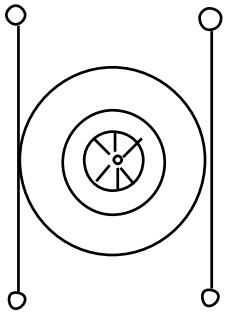


CCC.3 3 concentric circles with 8 spokes ending in arcs on outer perimeter; crosses in outer circles between arcs.



CCCC Four concentric circles

CCCC.1 Central circle, second circle with 8 spokes, two outer circles, and four ? beacons

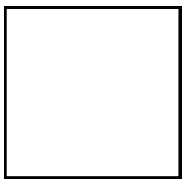


Example, with photograph: *IAph2007* 2.401.ii - a slight variant: available at http://insaph.kcl.ac.uk/iaph2007/iAph020401.html

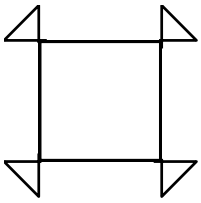
SQUARES

S Simple Squares

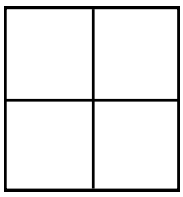
S.1 Single Square



S.2 Square with external triangles

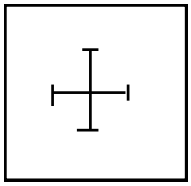


S.3 Square, four spokes

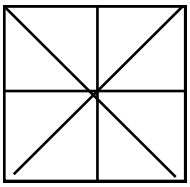


Example, with photograph: *IAph2007* 4.6.i (mislabelled as S.2): available at http://insaph.kcl.ac.uk/iaph2007/iAph040006.html

S.4 Square, central cross

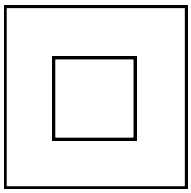


S.5 Square, 8 spokes



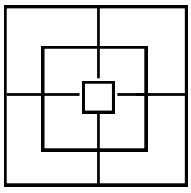
SS Two Concentric squares

SS.1



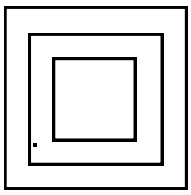
SSS Three Concentric Squares

SSS.1 Mill design or Nine Men's Morris



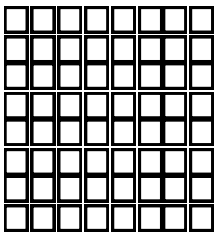
Example, with photograph: *IAph2007* 1.10: available at http://insaph.kcl.ac.uk/iaph2007/iAph010010.html

SSS.2 Three concentric squares

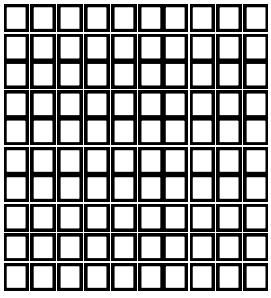


SQUARE GRID

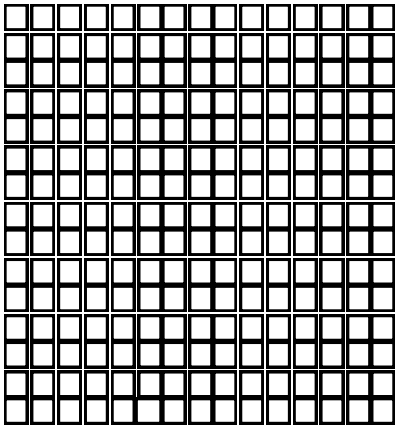
SG.1 8 x 8



SG.2 10 x 10

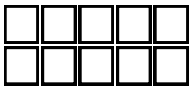


SG.3 15 x 15

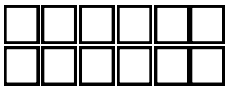


R. RECTANGLES

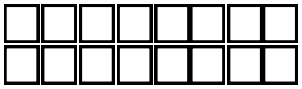
R.1 2 x 5



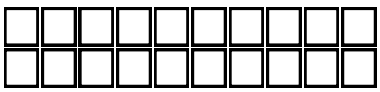
R.2 2 x 6



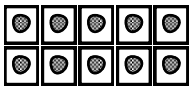
R.3 2 x 8



R.4 2 x 10



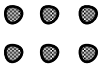
R.5 Rectangles, 2 x 5, with holes



Example, with photograph: *IAph2007* 8.401.iv (misnumbered R.6): available at http://insaph.kcl.ac.uk/iaph2007/iAph080401.html

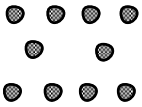
H. HOLES

H.1 2 x 3

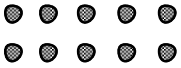


H.2 2 x 4

H.3 2 x 4, with central 2



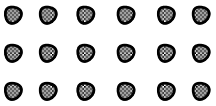
H.4 2 x 5



Example, with photograph: *IAph2007* 10.31: available at http://insaph.kcl.ac.uk/iaph2007/iAph100031.html

H.5 2 x 6

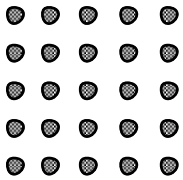
H.6 3 x 6



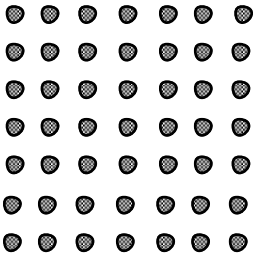
H.7 3 x 3

See British Museum Registration number: 1873,0505.150 (from Eohesus) available online

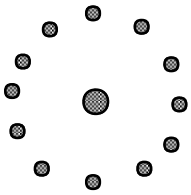
H. 8 5 x 5



H.9 7 x 7



H.10 12 holes surrounding 1

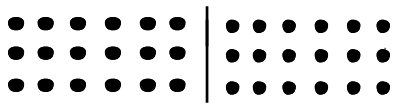


Example, with photograph: *IAph2007* 10.19.AA: available at http://insaph.kcl.ac.uk/iaph2007/iAph100019.html

ROWS

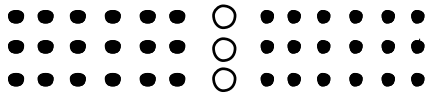
3 Rows (used for 12 scriptorum)

3Rows.1 3 x 12 dots, divided by line



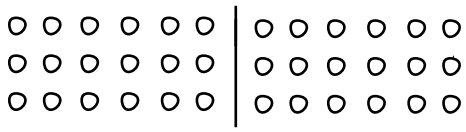
Example, with photograph: *IAph2007* 8.601.iii: available at http://insaph.kcl.ac.uk/iaph2007/iAph080601.html

3Rows.2 3 x 12 dots, divided by circles



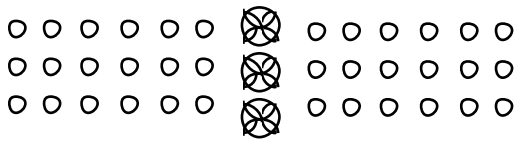
Example, with photograph: *IAph2007* 10.32: available at http://insaph.kcl.ac.uk/iaph2007/iAph100032.html

3Rows.3 3 x 12 circles, divided by line



Example, with photograph: *IAph2007* 10.30.AA: available at http://insaph.kcl.ac.uk/iaph2007/iAph100030.html

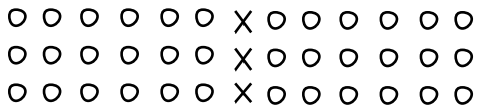
3Rows.4 3 x 12 circles, divided by circle or rosette in circle



Example, with photograph: *IAph2007* 5.14: available at

http://insaph.kcl.ac.uk/iaph2007/iAph050014.html

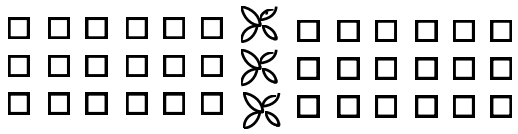
3Rows.5 3 x 12 circles, divided by X/rosette



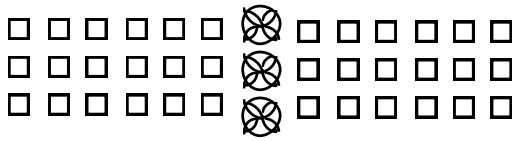
Example, with photograph: *IAph2007* 12.208: available at

http://insaph.kcl.ac.uk/iaph2007/iAph120208.html

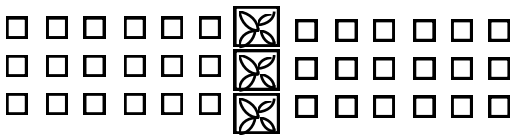
3Rows.6 3 x 12 squares, divided by rosette



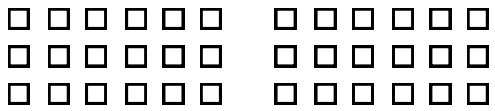
3Rows.7 3 x 12 squares, divided by rosette in circle



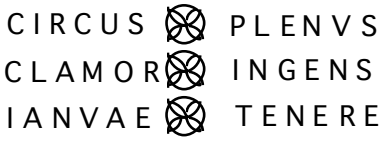
3Rows.8 3 x 12 squares, divided by rosette in square



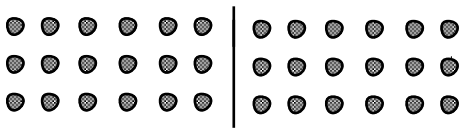
3Rows.9 3 x 12 squares, divided by space



3Rows.10 3 x 12 letters, divided by rosettes

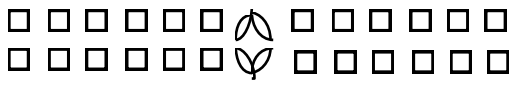


3Rows.11 3 x 12 holes, divided by line



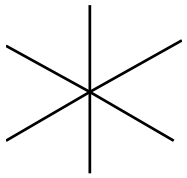
Two Rows (used for alea)

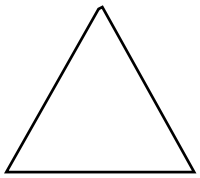
2Rows.1 2 x 12 squares, divided by rosettes



Star

Star.1 3 lines intersecting to form a star.



Triangle

T.1 A plain triangle