Zeugma Mosaics at Bowling Green State University
9500 km flight distance
What happened, happened in 1960s

- Illicit excavations took place in Zeugma in 1960s and several mosaics were looted from the site.

- The art-market was less diligent

- The sales were not possible to monitor due to the lack of technological facilities such as; internet

- Awareness on the importance of the provenance was still not so high
How Mosaics ended in BGSU?

- Ways of an art dealer called Peter Marks who had a gallery in New York, and the authorities of the Bowling Green State University crossed in 1965.

- The dealer told the university that these 12 mosaic pieces are from Antioch and he did not receive any claims from any government on the return of the mosaics.

- BGSU given the guarantee of the dealer purchased the mosaics in accordance with the then, valid, US laws.
Rebecca Molholt and Stephanie Langin Hooper conducted a research based on style-critic methodology as they thought the style of the mosaics are unlikely familiar to Antioch mosaics. (the provenance info claimed by the dealer in 1965)
ANTIOCH vs ZEUGMA
Birds

From Exc. Site

From Museum

At BGSU

- Secondary Metopes match up exactly
The parallelograms are similar
Gray black tesserae that are used at the frameworks are similar
In-Situ View
Joining the Fragment[1]
Result of the Research

- The mosaics at BGSU match (or have similarities between) the Zeugma Mosaics by means of:
  - Color Spectrum
  - Depictions
  - Frameworks and etc.

- Scholars either from Turkey or USA all agree that the origin mosaics at BGSU Wolfe Art Center is Zeugma Ancient City.

- Especially, they agree that The Mosaic panels are removed from triclinium (particularly from the wide side border of Gypsy Girl) of the Maenad Villa or from the vestibule of that villa.
Initial steps taken after the identification of the origin of the Mosaics

By BGSU
- Publicized the results of the research without any hesitation
- FBI was got in touch to see if the mosaics are related to a criminal case

By Turkey
- Studied the results of the research and confirmed the origin of the mosaics
- Got in touch with the University to learn more about the background of the acquisition

Negotiations started
“Legally, there's one question, and then there’s what we believe is the right decision,”

BGSU President Rodney Rogers
Thank you very much for your kind attention