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SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK IN TURKEY, 1952

1. BOĞAZKÖY¹

EXCAVATIONS at Boğazköy by the German Orient Society were resumed after an interval of thirteen years in August 1952. The work, which lasted two months, was carried out at three points within the ancient city or its immediate surroundings : on Büyükkale, the residence of the Hittite kings, at Büyükkaya, and at a grotto called Osmankaya, on the way from Boğazköy to Yazilikaya.

On *Büyükkale* the hitherto untouched area west and south-west of the archive-building was investigated. Beneath two post-Hittite building levels there came to light a large building of the 13th/14th century B.C., oriented at an angle to the archive but forming with it a single building complex. To the west of this building there had been an open space. Under these constructions of the period of the Hittite Empire four earlier levels were exposed, each of which, at least in this part of Büyükkale, was the result of a complete rebuilding of the area, not of alterations to or modifications of what already existed. The earliest level belongs to the turn of the 3rd/2nd millennium B.C., the next to the time around 1700 B.C. The two that follow can at present be dated only roughly to the period between the 17th and 14th centuries. The earliest and the latest levels show only modest architectural constructions, while the two intermediate ones revealed more solid buildings, among which that of the third level is outstanding on account of the size of its rooms and its ground-plan. The pottery sequence was much clarified by these four clearly distinguished levels of the Early Hittite period ; and the link with Kültepe (*Karum Kanesh* 2/3 as well as 1) was established. A fragment of a tablet, in which the "man of Halpa, the man of *Ha-aš-ši* and the Manda warriors" are mentioned, is the first text actually found in an Early Hittite level ; it is also archaic in respect of the forms of the signs and the language. A limestone relief with a mythological scene (battle of gods) comes from the 17th/16th century and is thus the earliest known Hittite relief.

On *Büyükkaya*, where no work had been done apart from the superficial scratching of the year 1911, two long trenches were dug, in order to gain evidence regarding the extent and dating of the occupation of this wide plateau of rock. The post-Hittite settlement proved to be meagre and of relatively short duration. It was valuable, however, since it belonged to an early phase and produced in abundance a type of pottery which only occurred sparingly elsewhere in the city. In Hittite times Büyükkaya carried large and extensive buildings, which cannot, however, be interpreted without more comprehensive excavations. Beneath them, in the middle of the plateau, is a stratum at least 2 metres thick (the bottom has not been reached) containing numerous obsidian tools and a grey pottery, sometimes merely smoothed, sometimes burnished, which in technique and form resembles chalcolithic ware, but in fact is probably much more recent. Its latest examples are found associated with the oldest "Hittite".

Osmankaya forms on its western side, in consequence of the projection of the rock at this point, a naturally protected space about 12 × 6 m., which was used as a place of burial from the first centuries of the 2nd millennium till well into the 14th century B.C. Seventy burials in all were found, more than fifty of which are

¹ From Dr. K. Bittel, Istanbul.

cremations. The ashes were disposed in vessels, i.e. urns, of very various forms. The earliest burial at Osmankaya is a cremation, so that this custom reaches back in central Anatolia to a much earlier time than any one could legitimately have inferred either from the archaeological facts or from the text describing the ritual of a royal burial which was found on Büyükkale in 1936. Cremation and inhumation are shown by the finds at Osmankaya to have been practised simultaneously throughout the whole of the Hittite period. The graves are poor in deposits, yet animals were slaughtered in large numbers to accompany the dead: oxen and horses (the latter predominating), mostly only the heads, but in some cases the whole animals. An adjoining recess in the rock (Bağlarbaşı kaya) also contained graves, and indeed it seems as if the numerous outcrops of rock between the city and Yazılıkaya may be regarded as the necropolis of Hittite Boğazköy.

A preliminary report about the campaign of 1952 will appear in the *MDOG*. The following took part: Bittel (Istanbul), Güterbock (Chicago), Naumann (Hanover), Otten (Berlin), Schröder (Hanover), and two students from Istanbul University.

*SIDE*¹

This year's excavations were carried on in October with Professor Arif Müfid Mansel, of Istanbul University, as Director.

The funerary temple in the western Necropolis, partly cleared in 1951, has now been completely uncovered. This temple, of which parts are still standing, is a funerary building, standing on a plinth in a rectangular courtyard surrounded by colonnades. It is oriented towards the south-west and consists of a pronaos with two rows of four Corinthian columns, a "Syrian" pediment, and a rectangular cella, the walls of which were faced with marble both inside and outside and decorated with sculptured pilasters. The cella was roofed with a coffered marble barrel-vault.

A large number of richly ornamented architectural fragments was recovered, and these, it is hoped, will make possible a reconstruction of this interesting building.

In the same area many fragments of sarcophagi of the Sidamara type were found. Some fragments of lids probably belonging to Attic sarcophagi should also be mentioned.

The temple courtyard was surrounded on three sides by colonnades, roofed with domes, and thus closely resembled the courtyard of an Ottoman mosque or *medrese*. The floor of the entrance hall is decorated with mosaics. On stylistic grounds this funerary temple should be attributed to the 3rd or 4th century A.D.

PHRYGIAN TOMBS AT MYRLACA, NEAR BURSA

Bay Muzafer Ramazanoğlu, Director of the Aya Sofya Museum, Istanbul, reports the discovery of six rock-cut tombs of the Phrygian period at Myrlaca (near Kurşunlu, on the coast twenty kilometres from Bursa). He compares Phrygian surface-finds in the vicinity of these tombs to pottery discovered during his own excavations beneath St. Irene in 1950, and postulates an early settlement of the Phrygians in the Marmara area, possibly in the first half of the 2nd millennium B.C. A publication on this subject is in preparation.

¹ Information from Professor Arif Müfid Mansel, of Istanbul University.

EXPLORATIONS IN LYCIA

Mr. G. E. Bean, of Istanbul University, reports a new journey in search of classical inscriptions on the west coast. In June/July he visited the cities of the Cibyratic tetrapolis and continued through central Lycia to Antiphellos. At Oenoanda he found a new Kakasbos relief, and at Comba two more fragments of dedications to the Twelve Gods. He then travelled by boat to Antalya, visiting the coastal cities on the way. This journey produced over fifty new inscriptions, including a Lycian/Greek bilingual at Corydalla, two more fragments of Twelve-Gods reliefs and an epitaph which may help to establish the site of Phellos.

In September Mr. Bean joined Mr. J. Cook, Director of the British School at Athens, in a tour of the Halicarnassus peninsula, for the purpose of completing an investigation begun last year. In addition to the recording of more than forty new inscriptions at Halicarnassus itself, their discoveries are expected to throw new light on problems connected with the life of Mausolus. A fragment of a Hellenistic honorific decree found at Gökbel established the existence at that site of a Greek city, though its name was unfortunately not preserved.

THE PALACE OF THE EMPERORS AT ISTANBUL

Archaeological work was conducted on the site of the palace of the Byzantine Emperors in Constantinople, on behalf of the Walker Trust of St. Andrews, in association with the Institute, in April and May 1952, under the direction of Professor D. Talbot Rice, assisted by Mr. G. U. S. Corbett, as architect, and Mr. Donald Strong as archaeological assistant.

The first task was the conservation of the mosaic floor, unearthed during four seasons of excavation before the war and temporarily covered for protection, which originally extended round three or perhaps four sides of a peristyle court. Practically the whole extent of one side (50 metres) was roofed over, while the mosaics remaining on the other two sides were lifted and taken for preservation into arcades of Turkish date, originally belonging to a bazaar-like street that ran across the site. In the process an additional portion of floor, about 2×1 metres, was discovered. It was a section of the inner border, consisting of scrolls, a running dog and a large human head, seemingly a life-like portrait of a moustached barbarian.

In addition, in an open area south of the peristyle where the ground first dips rapidly towards the sea, a series of buildings and of substructures was excavated, some being so well preserved that it was possible to walk or crawl about inside them. Most important was a massive structure in stone like the letter H in plan. The cross-bar of the H, which ran parallel to the south-east side of the peristyle, was pierced by three great arches, their floors 10 metres below the present surface. The central and largest lay directly on the line of a paved street which had been found earlier underneath the mosaic floor of the peristyle. The stone structure is probably of Constantinian age and with the paved way may then have constituted an entrance to the palace from the region of the Bucoleon harbour.

It had subsequently been modified and repaired, first in stone and then in brick, one of the reconstructions being doubtless contemporary with the construction of the peristyle with its mosaic floor. The latest reconstruction in brick probably took place in the 9th century and the buildings appear to have continued in use until about the period of the Latin conquest (A.D. 1204), after which date they were used as a dump for rubbish, datable by pottery fragments found in it.

*KARATEPE*¹

The sixth season's work at Karatepe had to be curtailed to a month owing to the International Congress of Orientalists, and was supplemented by a short campaign in February, 1952, in the name of the Turkish Historical Society, under the direction of Professor H. Th. Bossert.

The survey of Karatepe was completed by a plan of the west side, not included in the 1947 plan, and a scale plan of Domuztepe was also set out, as was that of Danakaya, a site discovered in 1947, 4 km. south of Karatepe.

At Karatepe itself a small-scale excavation of the west side of the entrance showed that the wall, 4.25 m. thick, joins the west side of the gateway exactly as on the east side. On top of the stone blocks are traces of approximately square beds for blocks of mud bricks, converted by the conflagration virtually into baked brick. It appears that the upper part of the *enceinte* was of mud brick with a tie-beam between this portion of the wall and the stone section.

The outer part of the south wall at the west side of the lower gateway was exposed and the outer south-west corner of the gateway defined, while the south-east corner of the same gateway was also cleared. On the west of the entrance passage above the sphinx one wall of mud brick, rising 1.9 m. above the level of the space between the gateway in the entrance passage and the western side-room was traced in the small area opened up during the first season's work. The northern walls and corners of the towers north of this gateway were also cleared, as was the north side of the outer wall of the ramp leading up to the lower gateway. The latter wall is founded on the virgin rock and, after describing a broad curve, abuts on the main citadel wall near its junction with the eastern portion of the gateway.

Soundings made on the south, east and south-east parts of the palace court revealed the foundations of rooms in this area in a much damaged condition as well as seven pits, mostly circular, about 1.5 m. in diameter and 2.5 m. deep, either cellars or cisterns cut into the rock. Two of them are interconnected and in the middle of one is a curved step. In the pits were found fragments of local Karatepe monochrome pottery, Iron Age painted sherds, and a few fragments of fine imported Cypriote ware. One yielded part of a basalt dish differing from the three-footed type hitherto familiar at Karatepe in having a single ring foot, 2 to 2.5 cm. high on its base. A few sherds, almost identical with the pottery found in level C at Domuztepe, which in its turn resembles Late Bronze Age pottery, were also found. These regularly cut pits, like similar pits cut in the rock at other points, evidently belong to a period anterior to the Karatepe of *Asitawa(n)das* (732-715 B.C.).

In the eastern sector of the temple courtyard a number of rooms were cleared adjoining the walls supposed to form the eastern part of the temple. In most were found sherds of monochrome Karatepe ware and in several of them small *pithoi*. One produced a fragment of basalt belonging to one of the portal lions, another a human foot. The wall of one of the rooms, as in the western portion of the upper gateway, runs across one of the rock-cut pits mentioned above.

West of the guardian's house an area was cleared where in the first campaign a round basalt block set in a circular pit had been discovered. The pit is cut into the rock to a depth of .40 m. and is .65 m. in diameter, while the basalt block, 1.45 m. high, is of irregular cylindrical form. We now believe it to be an altar, since stone altars are known from the Imperial Hittite period and are represented also on seals of the second and first millennia. The former hypothesis, that the stone

¹ Information from Dr. U. Bahadır Alkım.

was a column base, seems to be excluded by its excessive height and by the fact that it stands in no connection with any architectural remains. The altar stands on a small terrace which descends on the east by a step 25-30 cm. high to a second terrace.

An eighth campaign, from 3rd September to 12th November 1952, was devoted to putting together the fragments of sculptures, resulting in the recovery of twenty new figured orthostats, and other preparations for the final publication of the Karatepe excavations.

Dr. U. Bahadır Alkım surveyed the vicinity to see whether a vein of basalt occurred on the Karatepe side of the Ceyhan River, but though an exposure was identified at "Kastal", he thinks the Karatepe sculptors of the 8th century B.C. brought the basalt from Domuztepe, across the River Ceyhan.