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## THE SITE OF PROSTANNA

By M. H. BALLANCE

THE Pisidian city of Prostanna is mentioned in only two literary sources : Ptolemy (V, 5, 7) gives it as *Prostama*, while the list of bishops attending the Council of Constantinople in 381 includes *Attalus Prostamensis* among the Pisidian bishops.

The only official inscription mentioning it is one from Delos, in which the *Demos* of the *Prostaenneis* honoured a *quaestor propaetore* of the Province Asia in 113 B.C. The comparatively numerous coins give the name as *Prostanna*, and some of them bear representations of a conical mountain entitled *Viaros* (Οὐίapos) or of a river-god *Tioulos*.

As long ago as 1890, Ramsay proposed to equate Mt. Viaros with the conspicuous sugar-loaf of rock at the southern end of Lake Eğirdir, immediately above the town of Eğirdir itself. This identification agrees well enough with the very vague literary sources, but it was not until 1948 that any definite confirmation of this view was forthcoming. A series of boundary-marks discovered by Professor Robert above the village of Bedre (Map, p. 126), some 10 km. in a direct line north-west of Eğirdir, show Par(lais) as lying to north and Pr(ostanna) to south of that point. No other Pisidian cities having these initial letters are known, and the boundary-marks and coins, taken together, show conclusively that Prostanna included the Eğirdir peak in its territory.<sup>1</sup>

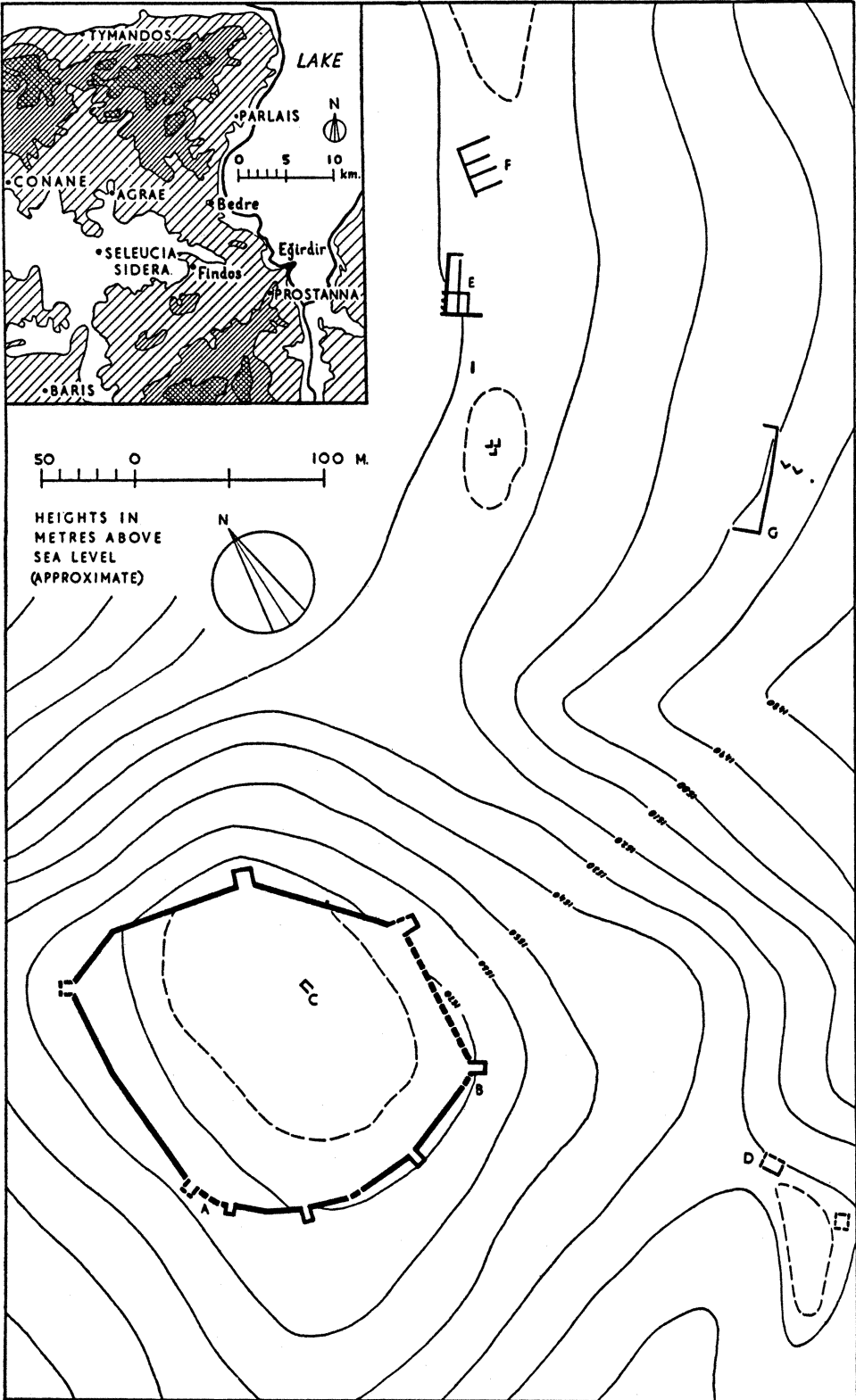
In 1957 Bayan Muhibbe Sarier, herself an archaeologist as well as the wife of an officer stationed in the district, took Mr. and Mrs. Mellaart to a classical site situated on a high shoulder immediately behind (south of) the peak. A few months later, the writer, with Mr. A. S. Hall, also visited it and spent the better part of two days there.<sup>2</sup>

The site lies on a narrow saddle of land connecting the peak to the main mass of Davras Dağı. Just south of the lowest point of the saddle there rises a steep-sided but almost flat-topped hill, forming an acropolis about 200 m. in diameter (Pl. xxiiia). The general line of the walls can be followed with comparative certainty, but it is only in a few places that the facing can be

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<sup>1</sup> The location of Prostanna has been discussed by the following : W. M. Ramsay, *Historical Geography of Asia Minor* (R.G.S. Supplementary Papers, Vol. IV) 1890, pp. 406 f., and in *BSA*, IX, 1902-3, pp. 257 ff. ; G. F. Hill, *B.M. Catalogue of Greek Coins, Lycia, etc.*, 1897, p. cvi ; L. Robert, in *Comptes Rendus de l'Acad. des Inscr.*, 1948, p. 402 ; D. Magie, *Roman Rule in Asia Minor*, 1950, I, p. 457 ; II, p. 1316, note 23 ; E. Kirsten in *RE.*, XXIII, i (1957), Col. 899, who however does not mention Robert's discovery.

<sup>2</sup> The best means of access by car is to take the road to Camili Yayla, which branches off the Eğirdir-Isparta road just by a railway bridge. After a considerable climb a small white-washed cottage with a corrugated iron roof is reached. From here the site is a quarter of an hour's easy walking, in the direction of the peak.



Sketch plan of the site of Prostanna.

seen among the fallen stones (Plan, p. 126). Signs of possible gates were noticed at the points marked A and B on the plan.

The walls are about 2 m. thick and are built for the most part of large, rather roughly cut, blocks of local limestone (Pl. xxii*b*). Some blocks have marginal drafting. A certain amount of mortar was used in parts of the interior of the wall. One stretch of wall on the north-east side of the acropolis is constructed of small blocks, some 25 × 50 cm. on the outer face, with a core of mortared rubble. This presumably represents a later rebuilding.

The summit of the acropolis is crowned by a rectangular building, perhaps a small temple (C), while another temple (D), with some architectural fragments still visible, lies outside the walls on the south-east.

Three other buildings (E, F and G) were of considerable size and must have been of a public nature. None of them is preserved to any height above the ground, and their most notable remains are, in fact, the terrace walls that supported them. The masonry is in many cases massive and well cut, but there is little architectural detail of any interest (Pl. xxiii *a, b*).

For water, the inhabitants must have relied largely on cisterns, though there is a small spring of good water a few hundred metres south of the acropolis.

We could see no sign of a church, or any remains certainly of Byzantine date.

A total of four inscriptions was found on the acropolis.

1. On the north-east side of the acropolis, within the walls. Cream-coloured local limestone block, curved to form part of a small apse or



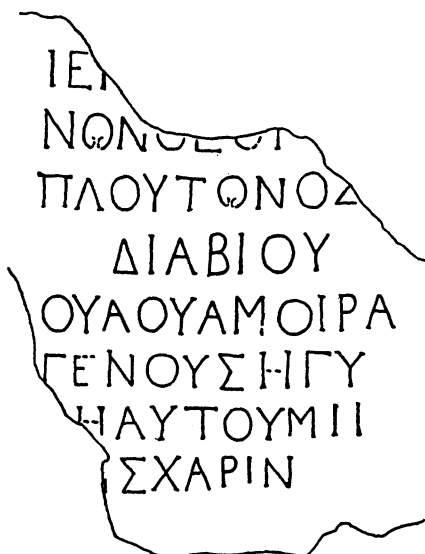
exedra, moulded above. Buried above, broken left and right. Ht. .34 m., w. .80 m., th. .46 m., letters .03 m., well cut but very worn.

Προσταννέων ἡ βου] λῆ καὶ ὁ δῆμος[ . . .

Parts of two more lines are preserved, but are illegible. The formula βουλῆ καὶ δῆμος as opposed to δῆμος alone, should be sufficient proof that this was the site of a city with regular municipal institutions, and in view of the other evidence summarized above, there can be little doubt that that city was Prostan-na.

2. On the north-east side of the acropolis, within the walls. Column of local limestone, partly buried, broken above and below. Ht. .95 m., diameter .70 m. (?), letters .045 m.

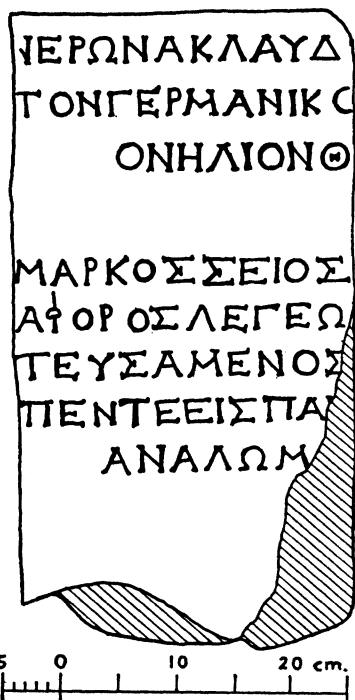
.....  
 ἱερ[εῖ ἐκ προγό-]  
 νων Θεοῦ  
 Πλούτωνος  
 διὰ βίου  
 Οὔασα Μοιρα-  
 γένους ἢ γυ-  
 ν]ῇ αὐτοῦ μνη-  
 μη]ς χάριν.



Scale  $\frac{1}{10}$

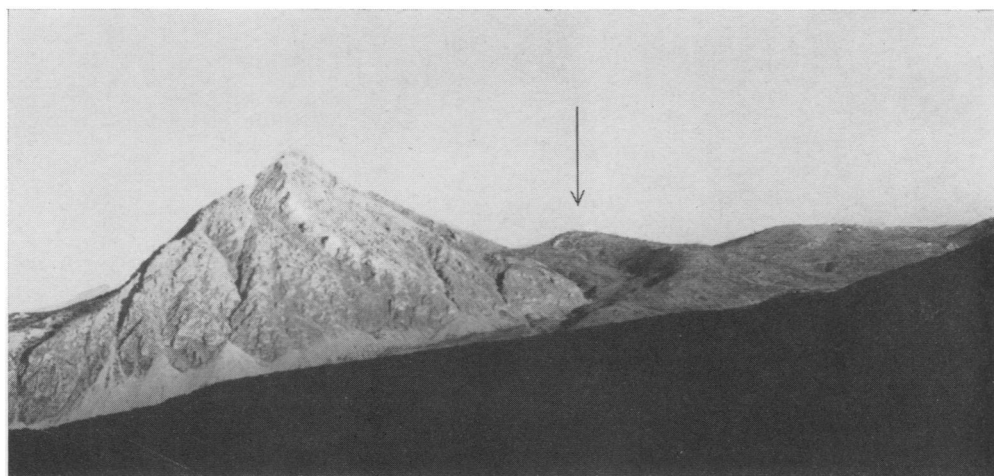
3. South-east of building C, re-used in a rough wall. Marble block, broken below. The inscription must have been continued on a second block to the right. Ht. .70 m., w. .29 m., th. .78 m., letters .02 m.

Νέρωνα Κλαύδ[ιον Καίσαρα Σεβασ-  
 τὸν Γερμανικὸν αὐτοκράτορα νέ-  
 ον ἡλίον θεὸν ἐπιφανῆ  
 Μάρκος Σεῖος [Ίουλιανὸς σημι-  
 ἀφορος λεγεὼ[νος ὑ' Γεμίνης στρα-  
 τευσάμενος [ἔτη τριάκοντα καὶ  
 πέντε εἰς Πα[ννωνίαν ἐκ τῶν ἰδίων  
 ἀναλωμ[άτων ἀνέστησεν.



5 0 10 20 cm.

Restoration *exempli gratia*. If Πα[ννωνίαν in line seven is correct, the legion is likely to have been either XIII Gemina, which was sent to Poetovio in 45 or 46 and remained there until after the death of Nero (Ritterling in *RE*. XII, 1713) or XV Apollinaris, which was stationed at Carnuntum from early in the principate of Tiberius until 62 (*ibid.* 1749–50).



(a) Mt. Viaros from North. Arrow marks acropolis.



(b) Prostanna. Ruins of acropolis wall.



(a) Prostanna, terrace wall of Building G.



(b) Prostanna, terrace wall of Building E.

The fourth inscription, a long but extremely weathered astragalomantic text, of which we were able to record only a part, has been passed on by Mr. Hall to Dr. G. Maresch of Vienna, and will shortly be published by him.

The general characteristics of the site suggest that in origin it was a pre-Hellenistic foundation, more a stronghold than a city, but developed on more peaceful lines when the greater security of Roman rule permitted; it appears to have been virtually abandoned in Byzantine times. This sequence of events was common enough in Pisidia, and agrees well with the little that is known of Prostanna from other sources. It has been suggested that Prostanna was superseded as a bishopric by Eudoxiupolis, and this in its turn by Bindeon or Bindos.<sup>3</sup> If Robert (*loc. cit.*) is right in locating Bindos at the modern Findos, at the point where the pass from Eğirdir opens out into the plain of Isparta, one of the major problems of Pisidian topography will have been solved.

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<sup>3</sup> Prostanna and Eudoxiupolis, A. H. M. Jones, *Cities of the Eastern Roman Provinces*, 1937, p. 143 and note 36; Eudoxiupolis and Bindeos, Ramsay, *op. cit.*, pp. 404 f., *BSA*. IX, pp. 255 f. As Ruge, in *RE*, VI, Col. 929, points out, the evidence for these equations is very tenuous.