

## **BEYCE SULTAN – A FORTIFIED SETTLEMENT IN BYZANTINE PHRYGIA**

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### **THE EXCAVATIONS 1954-55**

During the seasons 1954, 1955, at the beginning of the excavations at Beyce Sultan, the remains of a Mid Byzantine settlement were discovered immediately below the surface of the large Bronze Age mound. Notice of this discovery was communicated by the excavators in their first preliminary report (A. St 5 1955 pp. 39-92 at pp. 9-10); and recently some cursory account has been provided of the finds from these levels (the architectural stones A. St 47 1997 pp. 177-93; the metal objects, A. St 50 2000 pp. 159-70). However the geographical location of the site together with the nature of the settlement confers a more ecumenical interest in the unlooked for discovery of 50 years ago. Beyce Sultan is situated in southern Phrygia at the heart of Western Turkey. It lies on the headwaters (or tributary head waters) of the Meander River, and thus by a principal east-west communication route across Turkey. The chronology of the finds recovered in 1954-55 extends from the Early Byzantine to the Middle Byzantine Period (ca. 6<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> century AD). The remains of the Byzantine settlement at Beyce Sultan thus provide information concerning a factor of world history – the Islamising of Turkey (figs 1, 2, 3).

First due admission is made of the limitation of the record. The British Excavations were directed towards investigating the massive Bronze Age remains revealed by the surface pottery to exist at the site – and thereby to provide a complementary picture to that available for Eastern Turkey from the sustained excavation of Hittite sites. With this interest the Byzantine levels were not investigated stratigraphically as a part of the excavation programme. So it was that only the salient finds were drawn and photographed. Nevertheless with all these reservations a considerable amount of information was recovered. A well organised expedition was in the field for several months each season, comprehending a large work force and experienced archaeological direction. It is only just to put to the best advantage its findings – otherwise to some degree wasted effort.

The essential facts concerning the Byzantine settlements on the Bronze Age mound of Beyce Sultan revealed by the excavations are as follows:

Mid Byzantine habitation remains were encountered immediately below the modern surface level in the first areas to be excavated on the Western Summit. In the light of this slight ridges or scarp lines could be discerned at or about the limits of the summit area, sufficiently well defined to be marked on the plan. They were absolutely straight (thus not entirely conformable to the contour lines) and occurred on the four sides

of the summit area. Thus they were taken to mark the enceinte walls of the Byzantine settlement. These indications in plan showed that the enceinte so delimited was accurately laid out as a square, with sides ca 150 m in length, and thus enclosing an area of ca 2 hectares. The orientation was obviously predetermined by the conformation of the mound and its summit. Accordingly it was disposed more or less parallel to the line of a country road which, after fording an old tributary of the Meander nearby to the South, traversed the saddle back of the mound between its twin summits. Clearly the principal entry to the settlement was from the East by way of this road, which mounted at its crest to within about 5 or 6 metres of the summit level. From this road an approach way of some 60 metres would have led up to a gate in the East-West wall of the settlement (fig 4).

Further information regarding the settlement was revealed in section as the excavations were carried down through it to encounter the Late Bronze Age remains immediately below. Although the Byzantine remains were not drawn in detail in the published section, the excavation shows that these remains comprised three principal building levels conformably succeeding one another. Also the excavations indicated that the city wall (as marked by surface indications) was of massive construction, comprising a main wall ca 3m thick of boulder facing and rubble fill, together with an apron extending outwards a further 3m. It is, of course, possible that the superstructure of this wall was of mud brick (fig 5). The other (eastern) summit was not built over in Byzantine times, but was used a cemetery for simple inhumation burials, the graves in general being defined with Byzantine building refuse, e.g. tiles, broken stones etc.

Additionally to the foregoing considerable information of another type came to hand during the excavations. This consisted of quite notable finds – surface finds and also finds made in area excavations. These finds comprised in the first instance numerous architectural fragments of finely dressed stone, moulded and with carved decoration – but all without significant context (figs 7-17). Also there was a striking collection of bronze objects which exceptionally came from a closed deposit in a house belonging to the second Byzantine building level (figs 18, 19). Finally a considerable quantity of glazed pottery littered the surface of the mound and emerged from the excavations (fig 20). These finds in their ensemble when subject to analysis had much to say concerning the possible chronology of the settlement – not all of which was evident from the clearances on the ground.

#### THE RECORDED FINDS

##### **Architectural fragments**

Obviously the most salient evidence of Byzantine occupation on or about the Bronze Age mound of Beyce Sultan was the presence of dressed and ornamented masonry blocks. Following on the yield of such blocks from the excavations of 1954-55 it was possible to discuss the nature of the building(s) from which they came (v A. St XLVII 1997 pp. 177-93). Yet it must be emphasized that, in spite of the extensive and widespread areas of excavation, not one finely dressed block of Byzantine date was

discovered *in situ*. Thus it remains logically possible that all these blocks originated elsewhere and were brought to the mound for one reason or another at one time or another.

In short, pushing things to the extreme, it is possible that these finely dressed blocks from Byzantine monumental building have virtually nothing to say regarding the chronology of Byzantine habitation immediately below the surface of the mound.

On the other hand, accepting the general tenor of the evidence, these blocks of monumental masonry present on the mound of Beyce Sultan, by their nature, pose problems in establishing the chronology of the Byzantine occupation. The gist of the problem is that the blocks appear to date from two widely separate periods of time – and it is difficult to envisage the habitation remains on the summit of the mound encompassing such an extended time range. The question precedent here is thus the dating of individual blocks of masonry divorced from the structure to which they belonged.

A previous effort has been made to separate the Byzantine architectural fragments found at Beyce Sultan into two chronologically distinct groups, and this enquiry can be referred to for detailed analysis (v A. St XLVII, 1997 pp. 177-93). Here only summary conclusions are presented, together with previously unpublished photographs which afford an improved documentation.

In spite of difficulties arising out of Byzantine Art History, it is possible to recognise that two epochs are represented in these blocks – although this is not to assert that in every instance it is certain to which epoch the block belongs. However joint application of the following three criteria generally points to one group or the other:

- (1) Style – both motifs and execution (e.g. surviving traces of classical mouldings and ornament as opposed to their complete absence).
- (2) Function – where the structural function of a block can be identified, then it may be possible to ascribe its origin to a building of an architectural type proper to one epoch or the other (e.g. a block may be recognised as belonging to a low chancel screen or to a high iconostasis/*templon*).
- (3) Material – the stone employed may be marble or crystalline lime-stone on the one hand, or coarse grained limestone on the other.

Considered on this basis there can be little doubt that the Byzantine architectural fragments from Beyce Sultan include blocks from the 6th century AD (age of Justinian) and from later Byzantine times (essentially 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> centuries AD). The following material can be ascribed to an Early Byzantine Basilican church.

- (1) Pierced screen fragments with classical mouldings and ornamental devices (bead and reel) out of crystalline limestone (fig 12).
- (2) Closure slabs and posts from chancel screens out of marble and crystalline limestone (figs 7, 8, 11, 13).

Clearly later (Mid) Byzantine are epistyle blocks with incised decoration from an iconostasis (*templon*) out of granular limestone (fig 9, 16). As also are closure slabs and an epistyle block from an iconostasis decorated with birds and beasts. While e.g. the birds

go back to classical exemplars (cf mosaics) the blocked out rendering is later Byzantine (fig 17). In addition there are a considerable number of colonette capitals, dossierets; some with cuttings to take wooden screen posts. Those with simple chamfered forms out of granular limestone decorated with stylised plant forms are later Byzantine. Some other of more sophisticated form and decoration may be earlier (figs 10, 16).

The gap in time between the earlier and later groups of architectural fragments could well be four centuries – and it is not indicated that the building remains *in situ* on the summit of the mound would have spanned this lapse of time.

## Bronzes

The discovery during 1954 of a hoard of bronzes within a Byzantine building provided information of a different incidence – for this is the one occasion where Byzantine period finds at Beyce Sultan can be given a stratigraphic context (v A. St 50 2000 pp. 159-70). The original trench (A) set out on the West Summit (May 5th 1954) was extended after 10 days (May 17th 1954) into an area excavation (fig 4) and the bronze hoard was discovered on the floor of a room falling exactly on the line of one face of the original trench (v A. St 50 2000 p. 165 fig 10). In this way (atypically) it was recorded in section (fig 5). This room belongs to the middle stratum of three conformably superposed building levels without any indication of a gap in occupation.

The bronze objects are well preserved and make up an interesting and varied collection (A. St 50 2000 p. 165 fig 11). Unexpectedly they are again divisible into two chronological fragments: viz an Early Byzantine group, ca 6th century AD (fig 18) and a later group Mid Byzantine ca 10th – 12th centuries AD (fig 19). This latter group includes suspension chain / strap, a reliquary cross, and two decorated plaques where all comparisons indicate a Mid Byzantine date.

It is anything but obvious how to account for the two chronologically separate groups. The excavator suggested that the deposit was a metal merchant's store. In any event, these bronzes indicate that the Mound of Beyce Sultan was inhabited during the 10<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> centuries AD.

## Pottery

Quantities of polychrome pottery came to hand at the beginning of the Beyce Sultan Excavations – probably both from the surface of the mound and from the Byzantine levels encountered. A selection of this pottery was sent down to be washed and some photographs were made of it (fig 20). From this material the writer gathered a small representative collection of sherds and accompanied it with some notes. Unfortunately circumstances bore adversely on the consideration of this pottery, which might have settled immediately the chronology of the Byzantine settlement.

The director, Seton Lloyd, referred in his day-book to three successive building levels in the Byzantine Settlement. However it is doubtful that the polychrome pottery was ever correlated with these successive levels or registered in terms of its stratigraphic provenance. If so any such records are no longer to hand. Seton Lloyd's attitude in the

responsible expenditure of his limited resources was that the presence of the polychrome pottery identified the sub-surface building remains at Beyce Sultan as (later) Byzantine, and the best strategy was to leave the investigations of these remains to a separate campaign undertaken by competent « experts ». In the upshot no such campaign was undertaken. It is a principal aim in publishing this note that such a campaign should now be undertaken. The circumstances for this are now no worse than they were 50 years ago, so nothing has been lost on account of delay.

Unfortunately the bagful of sherds and the accompanying notes no longer survive. The writer kept it in his possession for some years on the possible opportunity of including some notice of it in interim excavation reports – but none was forthcoming. After a lapse of time Professor John Carswell, then Professor of Art in the American University of Beirut and occupied with Oriental Pottery, asked to have the material so that he could include it in his researches and arrange for its publication. It was accordingly handed over to him and there is no further record of it.

Seton Lloyd in his excavation day-book referred to the Byzantine pottery in cursory terms. He notes for May 5<sup>th</sup> 1954: « Went down 0.50m ... pottery obviously late Byzantine and Turkish ».

May 6<sup>th</sup> 1954: « Down to Level II. Still very late glazed pottery ».

Presumably partly on the strength of this evidence the date of the Byzantine building remains was said to be 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> centuries AD (in Vol II of the final report 1962, p.9) slightly revised in 1972 to 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries AD (Vol III p.4). However it is likely that this estimate is a general impression only and not based on detailed analysis of the pottery. Beyond these remarks there is only one piece of surviving evidence. This is a photographic print showing a miscellany of about 20 small sherds (fig 20). No provenance is available beyond the fact that they were recovered at the excavations of Beyce Sultan in 1954. It is possible that many of these sherds were surface finds. In any event they support Seton Lloyd's day-book assessment « pottery obviously late Byzantine and Turkish ». Almost all these sherds appear to be post-Byzantine and the two sherds which appear to be Byzantine seem later than the 10<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, suggesting Late Byzantine (polychrome) Sgraffito Ware (cf K. Dark Byzantine Pottery pp. 65-77, figs 55-58).

#### THE FORTIFIED SETTLEMENT

Alerted by the presence of Byzantine objects on and about the site, there was no difficulty in recognising the outlines of a Byzantine settlement crowning the Western Summit of Beyce Sultan. From topographical surface indications as also from evidence incidentally revealed in the Bronze Age Excavations the essential nature of this settlement was demonstrated. Proceeding from the evidence thus available it would have been a straight forward matter to investigate the settlement further – e.g. the angles of the fortification could have been excavated to reveal possible towers; the presence of a possible barbican in the western wall could have been ascertained, etc... Very reasonably

the resources of the British Institute's excavation were not diverted from the planned aim to other and unprepared for ends. And the task of investigating the Byzantine Settlement was left (and remains) for an excavation mounted to this specific end.

Such an expedition begins with unusual advantages – the nature and compass of the site are known in advance. Byzantine Beyce Sultan was not a town or large village of native growth. It was the foundation *de novo* of the central government of the Byzantine Empire. Its confines were accurately surveyed and laid out as a square ca 150m x 150m. It was sited raised up on a height and its enceinte walls were truly massive – a main wall ca 3m thick with a stone faced scarp or apron extending outwards a further 2-3m. The *raison d'être* of the settlement was defence. It was a *castrum*, a fortress. When this nature is coupled with a *floruit* ca 11<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, then quite defined historical junctures emerge.

Before proceeding to discuss the historical significance of this fortified settlement, some mention should be made of the remains which are extraneous to this history, viz the architectural fragments of an Early Byzantine basilican church. It has been mentioned that no architectural blocks were discovered *in situ* during the excavations and various hypothetical possibilities accounting for the random presence of such blocks on the site were set out in A. St 47 1997 pp. 190, 191. However a general issue is worth noting here, since at bottom it may have some relevance to history.

C.H. Emilie Haspels published in 1970 a general survey « The Highlands of Phrygia ». When referring to the architectural evidence from the region she stated (pp. 221- 22) « By the remains of churches we understand fragmentary marble architectural sculpture; columns, capitals, chancel screen posts, ambo slabs, nullion shafts and the like. They are found dispersed over the highlands and must have belonged to constructed church buildings embellished after the Byzantine fashion with relief decoration in imported marble. Of the churches themselves nothing else survives.... They mostly date from the 6<sup>th</sup> century; some may be later ». Again, in his detailed discussion of a particular class of Byzantine architectural members H. Buchwald comments « In Asia Minor frequently the only known remains of churches are carved stone members often broken in fragments which were located on the site, or more commonly reused as spoils in mosques, fountains and houses, others were found in excavation. We may be certain that they were for churches not too distant from where they were found... They represent the only available remains of churches... otherwise unknown (Chancel Barrier Lintels Decorated with Carved Arcades. *Jahrbuch des Osterreichischen Byzantinistik* 45, 1995 pp. 233-76).

The relevance of this general assessment of circumstances obtaining in Phrygia to the particular circumstances obtaining at Beyce Sultan is obvious. Equally it is of significance that these circumstances are quite different from those obtaining in other Byzantine regions, e.g. in Greece. There exactly the same repertoire of decorated architectural members are found, but they are discovered incorporated in the fabric of surviving church buildings, not as random finds of individual blocks. This interesting contrast should be retained as a background to the consideration of the overall historical significance of the Beyce Sultan settlement.



## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Whatever chronological details may eventually be discovered at the Byzantine settlement, there is no question but that the establishment by the central Government of a fortified post in this location is a matter of historical significance. The fact is that this region of Phrygia at the head waters of the Meander River has always been something of a border land. Historical record of this goes back to the Hellenisation of Western Anatolia. Ramsay devoted some notice of the circumstances in his *Historical Geography*. He points out that Civril, the rural centre of the Glaukos Valley in modern Turkish days marks a staging point in both North-South and East-West movement. Two Hellenistic cities were established close by Civril. Eumeneia, at the modern village of Işıklı (ca 10 kms to the North-West of Civril) was on Attalid (Pergamene) foundation, and Peltai (Pella) about the same distance to the South (i.e. very close to Beyce Sultan) was a Seleucid foundation. They both subsisted throughout Antiquity. Also it may be observed here that Civril itself, which was a village at the time of the excavation of 1954-55, has now become a regional town with a University.

The Arab expansion of the 7<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> centuries AD upset the cast of Hellenised Anatolia which had endured for a millennium, and in that region marked the change from Late Antiquity to Mediaeval times. Throughout the century from 650 AD to 750 AD there were continued Arab raids, incursions, and campaigns mounted from Antioch by the Ummayyad Caliphs aimed at harrying and overthrowing the Byzantine Empire. Speaking very broadly the aim of this aggression was not piecemeal penetration and settlement but to deal a knock-out blow to a non-Islamic state as had been done in Egypt, Syria, Mesopotamia, Persia etc; to be followed by conversion of the whole territory to Dar al Islam. The most direct land route from Northern Syria to Constantinople was roughly Antioch – Adana – Tarsus – Konya (Iconium) – Pisidian Antioch – Amorium – Eskişehir (Dorylaeum) – Nicaea. And substantial engagements were fought at Amorium and Acroenum (Afyon) some distance off to the North-West of the Beyce Sultan Area (figs 1, 2).

New fortifications were made to protect regions subject to these Arab attacks and it is historically possible that the summit of Beyce Sultan mound could have been fortified during this period. However, in spite of the random finds of Early Byzantine architecture there are no *in situ* remains to support fortification during this period. With the downfall of the Ummayyad regime in 750 AD and transfer of the Caliphate to Baghdad, Arab campaigns in Anatolia did not close, but the approach was from a different quarter. They were made from the East, i.e. from the upper reaches of the Euphrates near Malatya, passing westward through Ankara to Amorium (fig 1). The urgency of the attacks also declined. Thus after 750 AD Byzantine fortification of Beyce Sultan mound is not particularly likely.

In fact there followed two or three hundred years of Byzantine revival, culminating (ca 1025 AD) in the expansion of the frontiers against Islam far to the South and to the East into Northern Syria and Northern Mesopotamia (Fig 1). However during the 11<sup>th</sup> century AD renewed pressure from Islam was manifested – and of a different nature. There had been continued movement westward of Turkish people from Central

Asia into Persia, Mesopotamia and the Eastern border of Anatolia. The underlying character of this progression was not so much warfare between rival states as the continuing piecemeal occupation of territory and assumption of its control. This, of course, presents itself as an ominous « *longue durée* » factor, an extremely unwelcome prospect to Byzantine rule in Anatolia.

The middle of the 11<sup>th</sup> century was an unfortunate period of Byzantine regression, originating with confused imperial succession at Constantinople and divisive social rivalry. During this period Turkish penetration into Anatolia was little checked. It was only with the accession of Romanus IV Diogenes, a general from Anatolia, that decided and energetic measures were taken to halt and reverse it. By this time Turkish forces had penetrated into Phrygia and had devastated the fortresses at Amorium and Chonai. A surviving inscription dated to 1070 AD shows that Romanus was concerned to refortify this vital inner frontier. The inscription was found near Eumeneia (modern Işıkli) only 20 kms or so from Beyce Sultan. Here at the head waters of the Meander River are vital ways which lead down into the Aegean coast lands.

Romanus IV was equally concerned to bar off the outer frontier of Anatolia at its eastern limits in the mountainous regions of Armenia (near the present day Erzerum). Here he fortified the city of Manzikert, but when campaigning in the area to disable future Turkish penetration, by misfortune and treachery, his army suffered an appalling defeat in 1071 (Fig 1). The result of this was in the immediate sequel Turkish forces moved at will through Anatolia to the West Coast. However the arrival of the 1<sup>st</sup> Crusade in 1097 changed this state of affairs. Although in many ways inimical to Byzantine interests, the successive presence of the first three crusading forces in Anatolia broke up the situation, and enabled the Comnenid Emperors to fight their way back to disputing the possession of Anatolia against Turkish inroads. With this a borderland ran through Phrygia on a line from Amorium to Laodicea – thus along the Glaucus Valley hard by Eumeneia, Civril and Beyce Sultan (Fig 2).

A hundred years after the Battle of Manzikert Manuel Comnenus was in effect repeating the history of Romanus IV, not far to the East in Armenia, but transferred to this inner frontier through Phrygia. He refortified large centres like Dorylaeum (Eskişehir) and military strongholds such as Soublaion near Eumeneia, and advanced as far as Iconium (Konya) in an attempt to negate Turkish aggression. Unfortunately in an uncanny parallel to Manzikert he suffered a crushing defeat at Myriokephalon near Pisidian Antioch (figs 1, 2) in 1176, so that his strenuous efforts to secure a stable and lasting frontier were abortive. When Frederick Barbarossa in 1190 led the German contingent of the Third Crusade eastward through the region from Laodicea to Pisidian Antioch, all semblance of Byzantine control was left behind at Laodicea. Thenceforward his forces on a line of march passing close by Beyce Sultan traversed a region occupied by Turkmen nomads (Fig 2). However it is perhaps possible that after the fall of Constantinople to the Latins in 1204 and the establishment of the relatively stable Greek empire of Nicea, this area of Phrygia again became border territory for Christian habitation (ca 1205 AD-1261 AD).



Such a span of history for the fortified settlement crowning Beyce Sultan would accord reasonably with the time span indicated by the building remains on the ground. That such remains in the only specimen passage recorded in section (Fig 5) also be in accordance with what might be expected of such a fortified settlement: that it may have been overrun and destroyed on several occasions in the course of border warfare. Finally it is to be noted that historical sources support the likelihood that imperial attempts to secure Anatolian frontiers would include measures like establishing new strongly defended fortified settlements on commanding positions as at Beyce Sultan. Byzantine chroniclers emphasize the diversified nature of imperial re-establishment of authority in Anatolia during this period. Such references are conveniently reproduced in the works of C. Foss (e.g. V pp. 151-53) and H. Ahrweiler (e.g. XVII pp. 180-88). The latter notes in detailed terms encomia of Manuel Comnenus to the effect that many settlements were both reconstructed and newly established so that Christian dwellers in the land could again go about peacefully on good roads: towns are now secure, those which were fallen are now standing again, and there are many towns newly founded.

When the site of Beyce Sultan located at a strategic position in Phrygia was selected for large scale excavation by the British Institute at Ankara, it was because of its obvious potential in illuminating a lengthy time range of prehistoric Anatolia. As is sometimes the case in field archaeology it did more than was expected. Eschewing detailed sub-divisions over long prehistoric ages, there are three faces which look out from Anatolian ground: Anatolian, Greek and Turkish – or substantially equivalent: Pagan, Christian and Islamic. The British Excavations were not concerned with the latter two faces, yet Beyce Sultan site contrived to bring them into joint focus. After the campaign of Alexander the Great Greek ways of life and, above all, the Greek language were preserved as significant ethos of the land; and the Christian religion took on a notable development there (from the apostle Paul to the early councils of the Church). This state of affairs endured for a millenium or more. During this lapse of time the prehistoric mound of Beyce Sultan remained deserted in an urban developed landscape (cf nearby Eucarpia, Eumeneia, Apamea, Peltae, Lunda etc). Then history took another turn and over a period of several centuries this face was replaced by a Turkish, Islamic countenance; where not only the Greek language disappeared, but the landscape lost much of its urban development to become pastoral in nature. This was the expression which struck the early European visitors to Anatolia during the later 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries – a beautiful, empty land. And this was exactly the nature of the landscape about Beyce Sultan in 1954, when the excavations began (Fig 6). A most unexpected discovery in these excavations was that the site provided unusual cameo evidence of the transformation between these two faces of Anatolian history.

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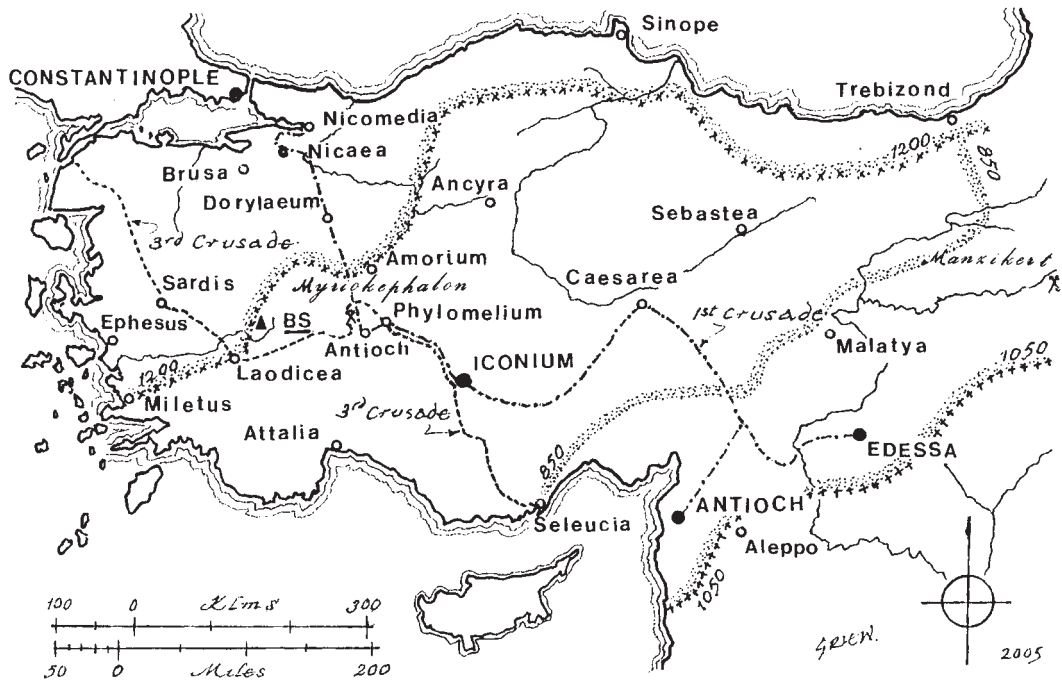


Fig. 1. Christianity and islam in Asia Minor 650 AD-1200 AD

The expansion of Islam through Syria into Asia Minor was continuous, and the first siege of Constantinople took place in 680 AD. Thereafter continued raids and campaigns were conducted by Arab forces. However by 850 AD the Abbasid Caliphs in Baghdad were content to accept a normative North Western border for Islam on a line ca Trebizond - Malatya - Seleucia. With the recovery of Byzantium under the Macedonian and Comnenid Emperors this boundary was refurled ca 200 kms to the South East so as to recover North Syria (Antioch) and North Mesopotamia (Edessa) for Byzantine rule. The Seljuk defeat of the Byzantine forces at Manzikert (1071 AD) made possible a new Islamic penetration into Anatolia by Turks. The first Crusade (1097) fought their way across Anatolia on a direct line of march administering some check to Turkish expansion.

The Seljuk defeat of Manuel Comnenus at Myriokephalon in Central Western Anatolia (1176) brought renewed Turkish incursions and the Byzantine frontier was withdrawn to Western Anatolia on a line ca Miletus, Laodicea, Amorium. The crusading army of Frederick Barbarossa accepted this boundary and marched through Byzantine territory to Laodicea (1190) to reduce as far as possible their passage through Turkish occupied territory.

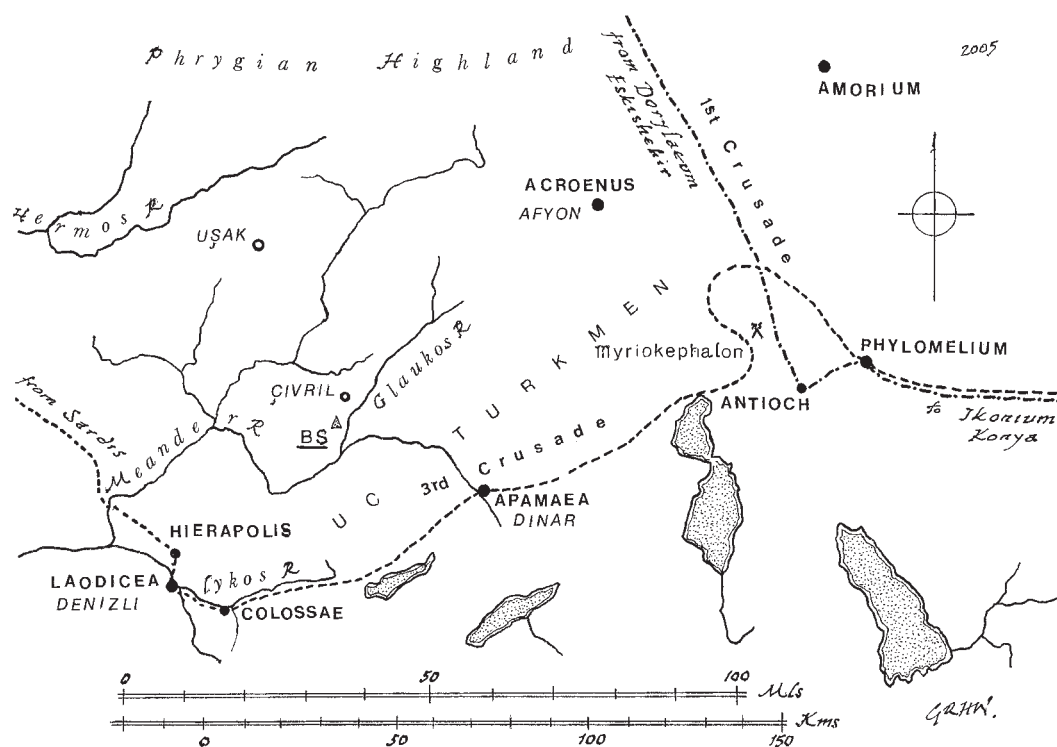


Fig. 2. Beyce Sultan and the byzantine border in the 12th century AD

The borderland extended from Laodicea (Denizli) to Amorium (Emir Dağ) with Byzantine power established to the North and West of this line, and Turks occupying land to the south and east. Manuel Comnenus re fortified the region ca 1170 AD, but after the defeat at Myriokephalon was obliged to dismantle his fortifications. Turkmen nomads (Uc, or border, Turkmen) occupied the vicinity of Beyce Sultan at the time of Frederick Barbarossa's march (1190 AD).

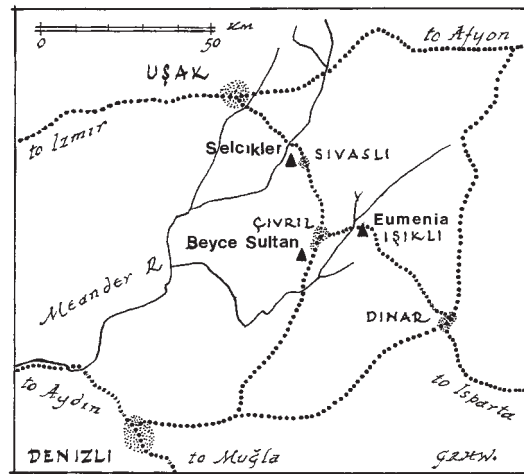


Fig. 3. Location plan of Beyce Sultan, showing present day main roads.

Beyce Sultan is ca 8 kms to the south of Çivril about halfway from Ankara to Izmir and in the centre of region extending between Afyon - Uşak - Denizli - Dinar. At Selçukler on the outskirts of Sivasslı (Phrygian Sebastia) are the ruins of a Byzantine church yielding architectural fragments similar to those found at Beyce Sultan.

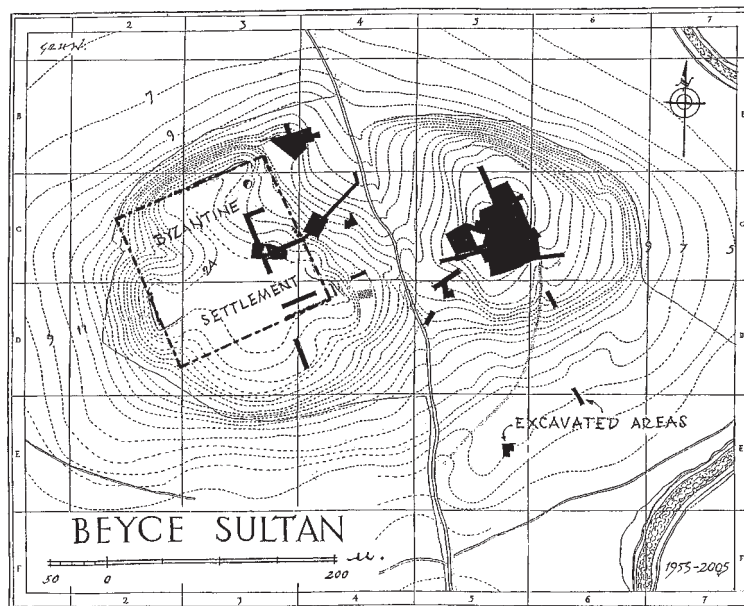


Fig. 4. Enplacement of the fortified byzantine settlement on the bronze age mound of Beyce Sultan

Contoured plan of the 'twin' topped prehistoric mound (Chalcolithic - Late Bronze Age) rising 24m above the surrounding plain and covering an area of ca 10+ hectares. The walled Byzantine settlement laid out on a square plan ca 150m x 150m occupying 2+ hectares was built on the western summit of the long abandoned mound.



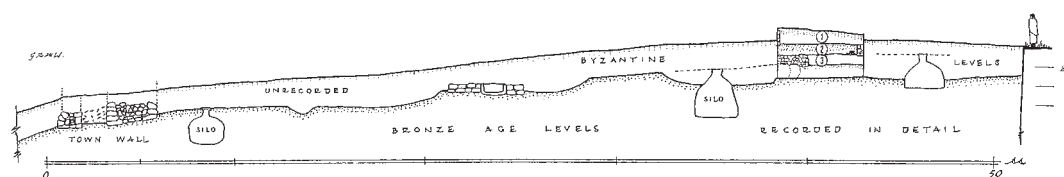


Fig. 5. Beyce Sultan. Schematic east-west section across part of western summit showing byzantine levels.

The Byzantine levels which occupy the uppermost 2m of mound debris were not recorded in full detail during the excavations, as were the underlying 10 of Bronze Age habitation during the 3rd and 2nd millennium BC. However the 2m of Byzantine occupation was seen to comprehend 3 distinct strata which on 'dead' reckoning should account for several centuries' habitation. Unfortunately it was not investigated whether or not this habitation was continuous.



Fig. 6. Beyce Sultan mound in pastoral setting

General view at present day across western summit showing Islamic 'turbe' at surface level standing above Byzantine remains.

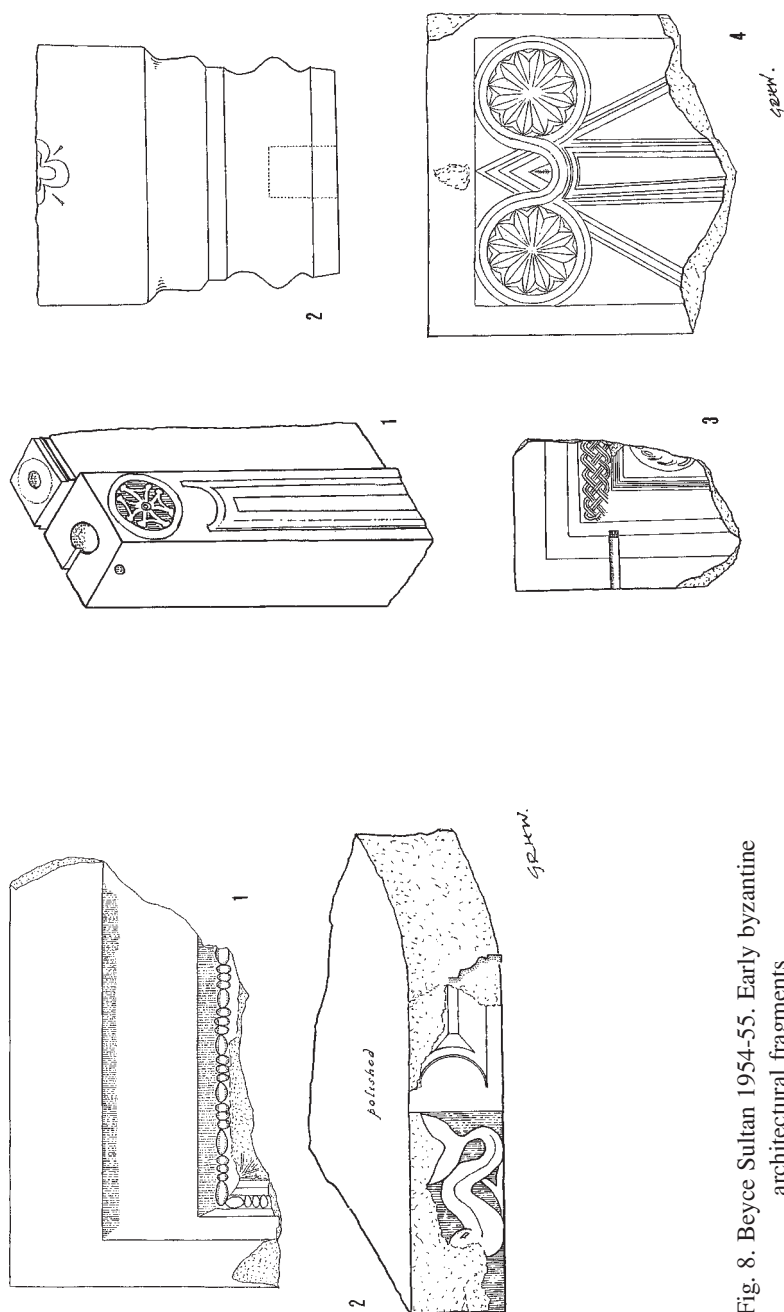


Fig. 8. Beyce Sultan 1954-55. Early byzantine architectural fragments

1. Chancel screen post with emplacement for finials decorated with disc enclosing Maltese Cross. Ext. length 55 cms
2. Crown moulding of small (chancel) post. Marble. Breadth 15.5 cms; ext. height 18 cms.
3. Fragment of closure slab. Guilloche pattern in border with traces of whirling wheel (?) in panel. Ext. dim. 50 cms x 35 cms
4. Fragment of closure slab. Diaper (lozenge) pattern in panel with interlaced 12 petalled discs. Breadth 52 cms; ext. height 52 cms

Fig. 7. Beyce Sultan 1954-55. Early byzantine architectural fragments (6th century AD) showing traces of late classical heritage

1. Fragment of closure slab with bead and real type ornament. Marble. Ext. length 52 cms.
2. Fragment of slab decorated on edge with naturalistic dolphin. Marble. Ext. length ca 30 cms; thickness ca 4.25 cms.

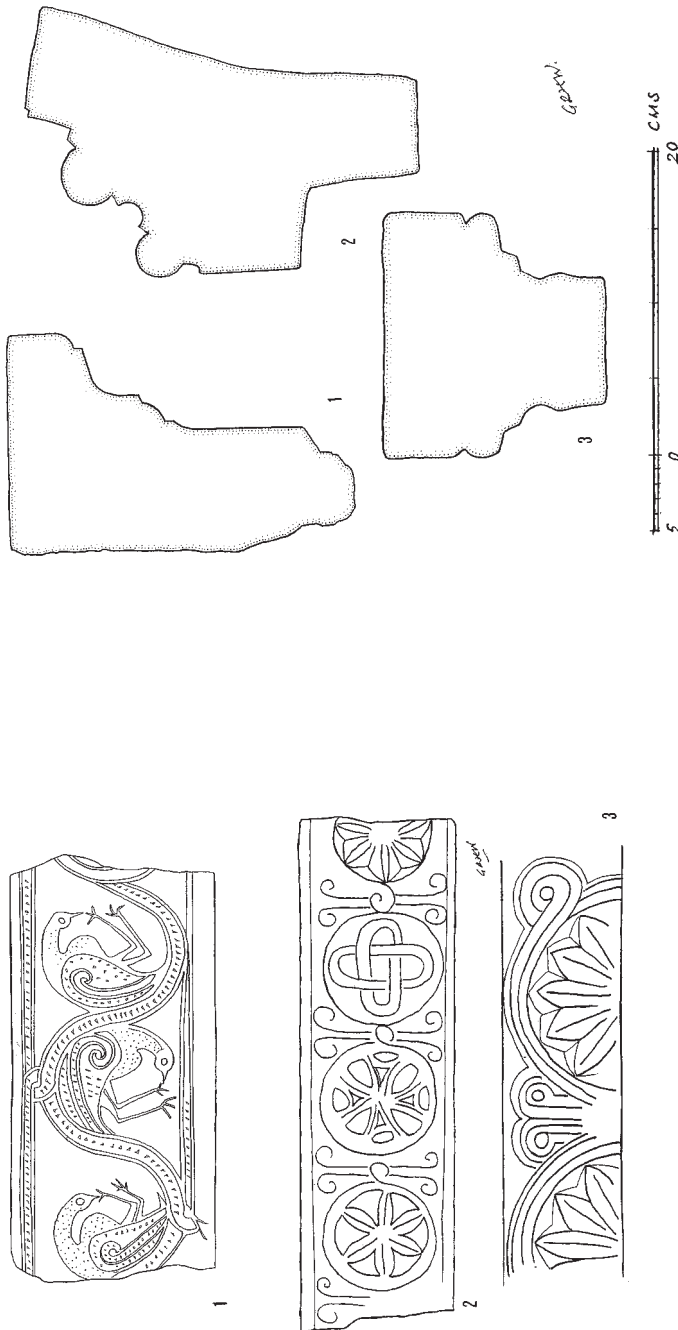


Fig. 9. Beyce Sultan 1954-55. Mid byzantine architectural fragments. Epistyle blocks

1. Fragment of epistyle block decorated with cranes inhabiting scroll work. Granular limestone. Ht 20 cms; ext. length 41 cms.
2. Fragment of epistyle block rudely incised with geometric design consisting of interlaced discs containing severally 6 and 12 petalled devices, maltese cross, links. Granular limestone. Ht 16 cms; ext. length 56 cms.
3. Fragment of epistyle block rudely incised with geometric design consisting of interlaced 6 petalled half discs. Granular limestone. Ht. 6.5 cms; ext. length 26 cms

Fig. 11. Beyce Sultan 1954-55. Moulded fragments

The nearest to classical tradition is 1, which is of marble. It is most likely Early Byzantine. 2, the door frame is a well cut, strong moulding but is mediaeval in style. It is Mid-Byzantine. 3, the railing, appears slip shod work and is also Mid-Byzantine.

1. Fragment of slab or stele. Marble. Ext. Ht. 22.5 cms.
2. Part of door frame. Thickness ca 14 cms.
3. Asymmetric railing. Upper breadth ca 16 cms. Ht 14.5 cms.

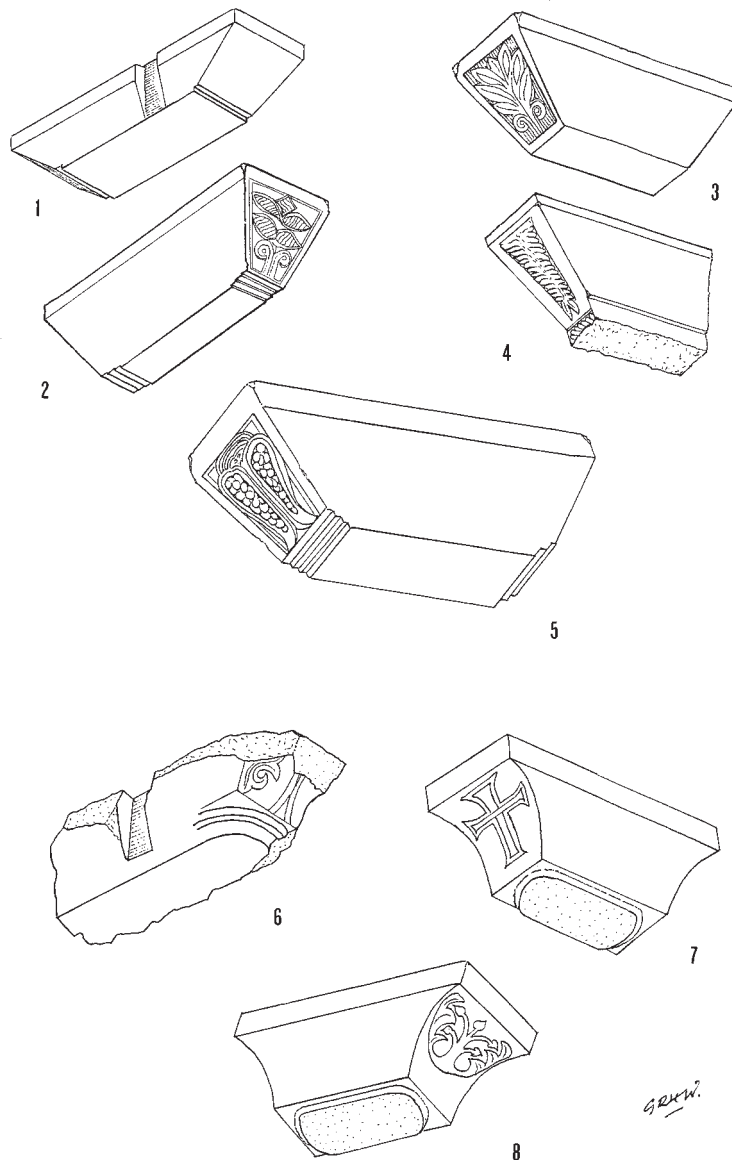


Fig. 10. Beyce Sultan 1954-55. Byzantine architectural fragments.  
Colonnette capitals/dossierets

These are of two designs. A rudimentary form with simple chamfered faces (1-5) and a developed form with cavetto faces (6-8). The simple chamfered examples are certainly Mid-Byzantine. The sophisticated examples with cavetto faces are earlier, but not necessarily Early-Byzantine.

1. Undecorated ends. Rear face with lodgement for screen post. Granular limestone. Length 40 cms; breadth 15 cms.

2. End panel decorated with stylised tree (of life). Length 55 cms; breadth 28 cms.

3. End panel decorated with stylised tree (of life). Length 51 cms; breadth 15 cms.

4. Broken block end panel decorated with plant motif. 2

5. End panel decorated with stylised grape or date clusters. Length 55 cms; breadth 15 cms (cf. No 2).

6. Broken block rear face with lodgement for screen post. End panel decorated with palmette motif. Ext. length 40 cms.

7. End panel decorated with large cross. Crystalline limestone. Length 76 cms; breadth 30 cms.

8. End panel decorated with tree and palmette. Crystalline limestone. Length 76 cms; breadth 30 cms.



Fig. 12. Beyce Sultan 1954-55. Architectural fragments

Remains of an early Byzantine open-work (pierced) screen. Crown moulding with classical motifs: cavetto, dentils, bead and reel.



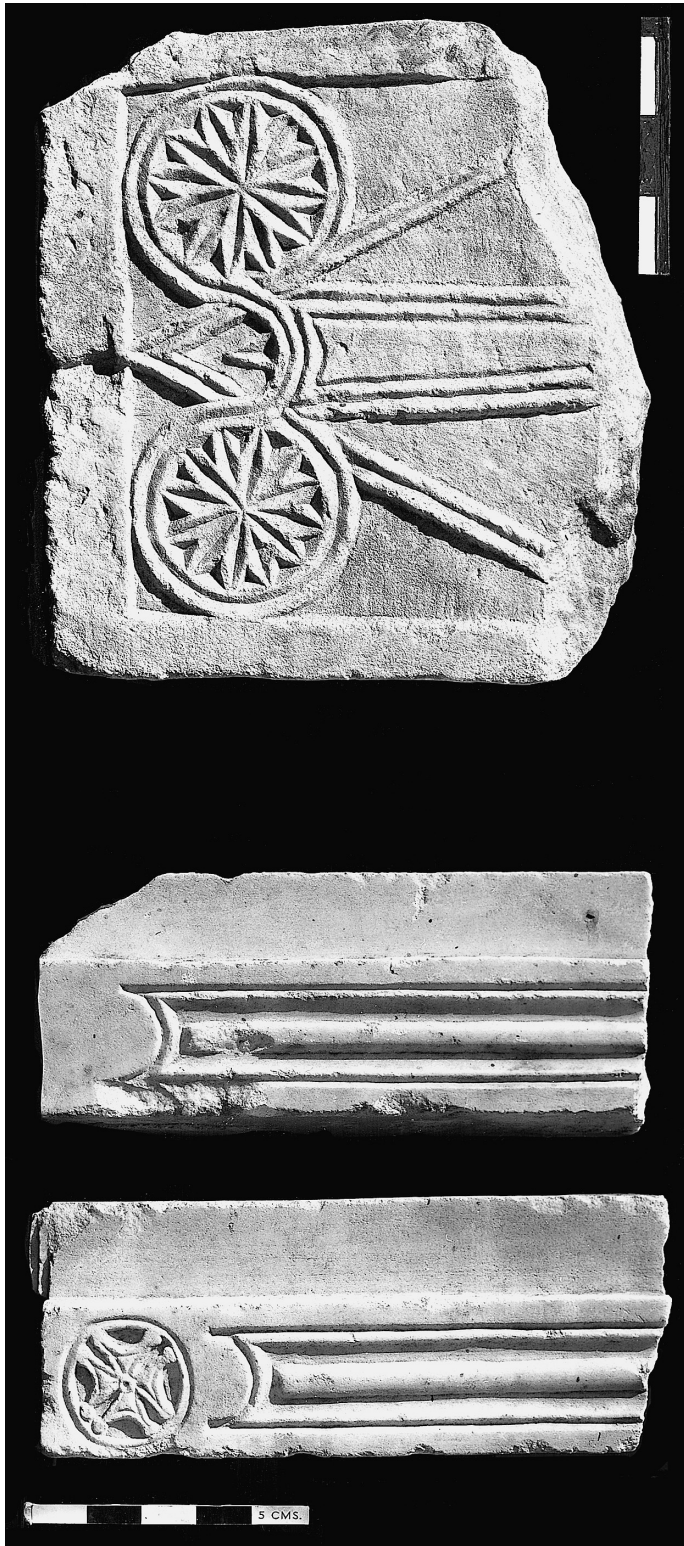


Fig. 13. Beyce Sultan 1954-55. Architectural fragments

Screen post (left) and panel (right).

The post which is of marble is most likely Early Byzantine; the panel of limestone could be either Early or Mid Byzantine work.





Fig. 14. Beyce Sultan 1954-55. Mid byzantine architectural fragment

Mid Byzantine epistyle block from templon (iconostasis). Ext. length 40 cms. Face decorated with arcaded framing of stylised trees of life and a defaced motif; soffite with interlaced 12 petalled discs.



Fig. 15. Beyce Sultan 1954-55. Mid byzantine architectural fragments

Mid Byzantine screen panels with animal figures. (above) Rock pigeon and partridge (soul birds). (below) Griffon.

These figures came down from late Antiquity (cf Mosaics), but the blocked out rendering here is Mid Byzantine work.





Fig. 16. Beyce Sultan 1954-55. Mid byzantine architectural fragments.

Mid byzantine ornamental motifs

(above) impost block end panels with stylised tree of life (date palm)

(below) epistyle block incised with scroll inhabited by cranes (constancy)

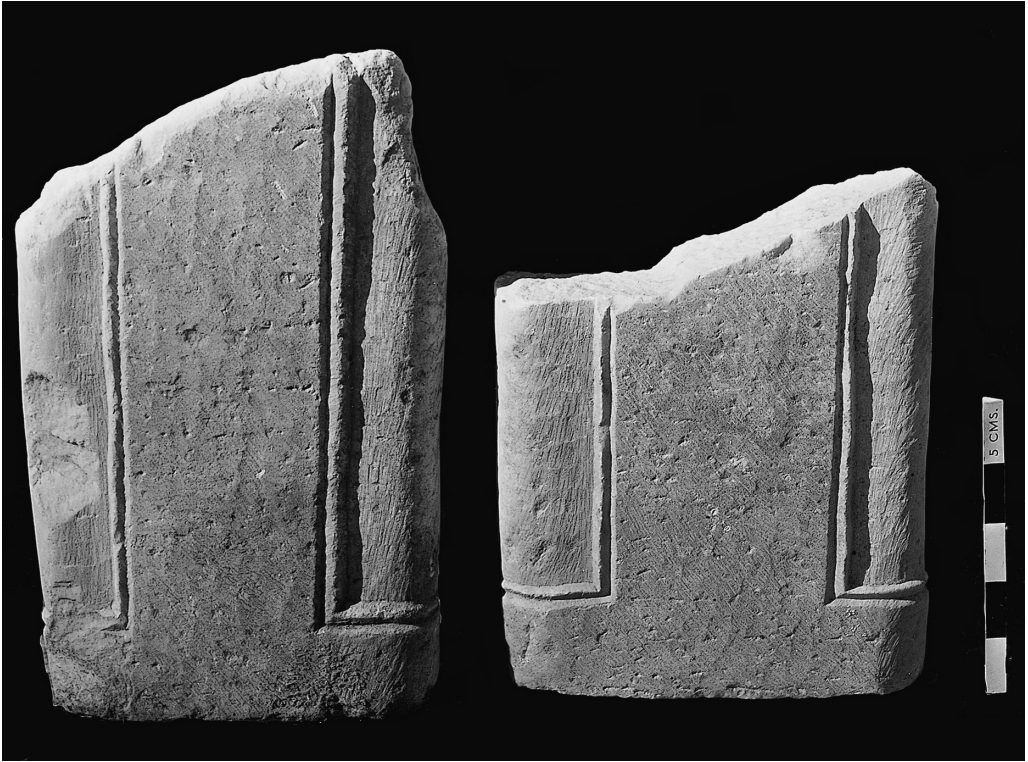


Fig. 17. Beyce Sultan 1954-55. Mid byzantine architectural fragments.  
Mullion slabs from arch headed windows

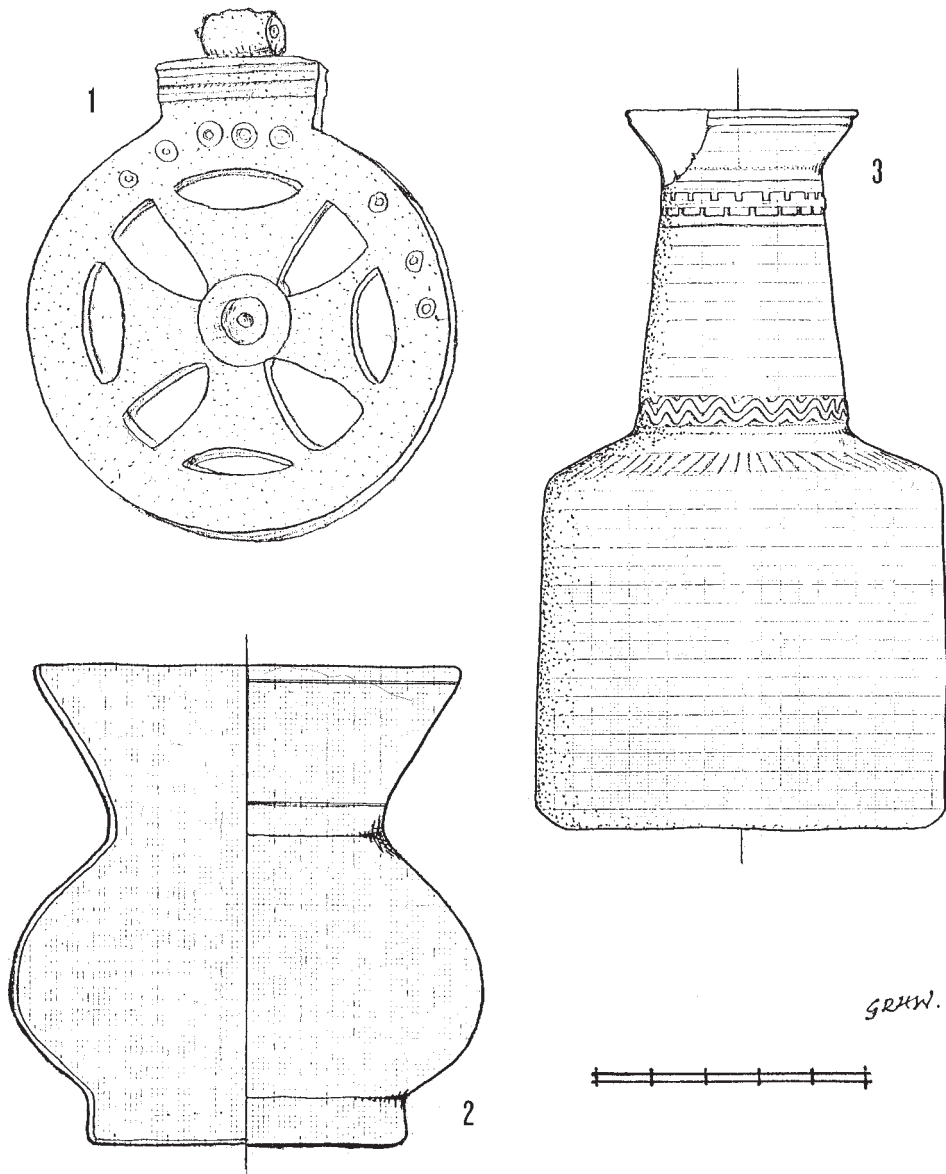


Fig. 18. Beyce Sultan 1954-55. Early byzantine bronze objects from hoard in house of 2nd byzantine building level

1. Apotropaic pendant from horse's harness
2. Standard lamp
3. Very large ewer (shown to 1/4 scale)

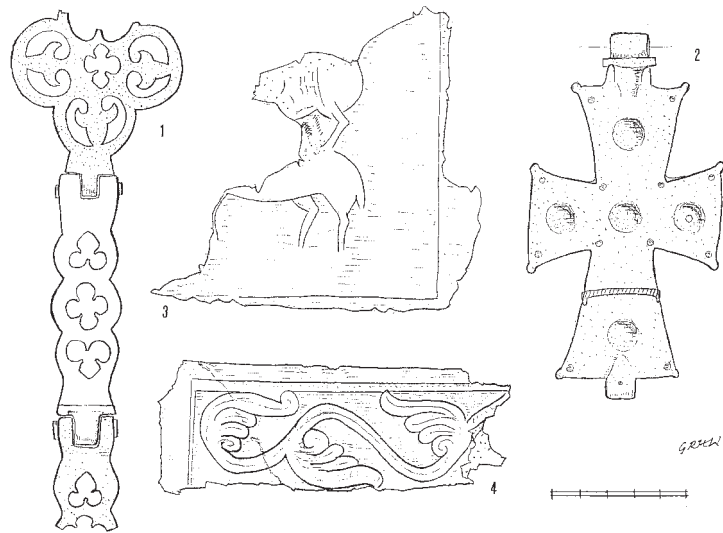


Fig. 19. Beyce Sultan 1954-55.

Mid byzantine bronze objects from hoard in house of 2nd byzantine building level

1. Suspension chain / strap
2. Reliquary cross
3. Plaque embossed with animal design
4. Plaque embossed with foliate design

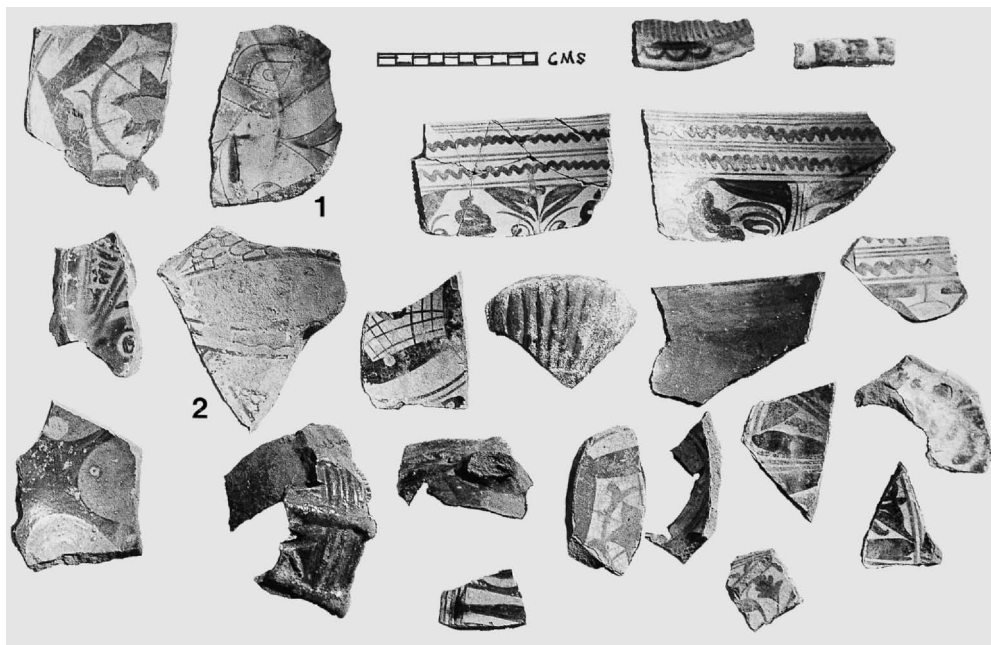


Fig. 20. Beyce Sultan 1954-55. Specimen sherds of late byzantine and turkish age

The great majority of these sherds are Turkish. Only n°s 1 and 2 appear Late Byzantine sgraffito ware.