

KARATEPE : FOURTH CAMPAIGN

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The fourth season's work at Karatepe¹ was undertaken under the auspices of the Turkish Historical Society and the Department of Museums and Antiquities. The session lasted for 11 weeks from 23 August to 7 November 1949, the party consisting of Professor Dr. H. Th. Bossert, Dr. U. Bahadır Alkım, Dr. Halet Çambel and Dursun Cankut, the expedition's photographer. We are indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Gough, Dr. Muhibbe Anstock-Darga and Dr. Franz Steinherr who gave voluntary assistance to us in our work. The completed session's activities can conveniently be divided to fall under three main categories.

I. Soundings at Domuztepe

II. Work at Karatepe

III. Exploratory excursions in the general neighbourhood of Karatepe

I. SOUNDINGS AT DOMUZTEPE

a) A Hittite hieroglyphic inscription was observed on the statue base². This had not been noted during preceding sessions, since the signs themselves were very faint, and shadows from trees in the wooded area where the base

¹ For the preliminary reports on the Karatepe excavations cf. U. B. Alkım : *Les resultats archéologiques des fouilles de Karatepe*, Revue Hittite et Asiatique, vol. IX, fasc. 50 (1948-49), pp. 1-35 ; H. Th. Bossert - U. Bahadır Alkım and associates : Karatepe Kazıları, Birinci ön-rapor (Ausgrabungen auf dem Karatepe. Erster Vorbericht), Ankara 1950. For the informative reports on the Karatepe excavations cf. U. B. Alkım : Karatepe Kazısı, Belleten vol. XII (1948), pp. 241-248 (Excavations at Karatepe, ibid. pp. 249-255) ; H. Çambel : Orinetalia N. S. 17 (1948), p. 256 ; H. Th. Bossert : Orientalia N. S. 17 (1948), pp. 530-531 ; H. Th. Bossert : Illustrated London News (May 14 th 1949, pp. 664-668 ; H. Çambel : Orientalia N. S. 18 (1949), pp. 369-370 ; U. B. Alkım : Üçüncü mevsim Karatepe çalışmaları, Belleten vol. XIII (1949), pp. 363-370 (Third Season's Work at Karatepe, ibid. pp. 371-374) ; H. Th. Bossert : Die Stadt "Löwenstein,, am Berg Karatepe, Atlantis XXI (1949), pp. 492-496.

Further cf. A. A. Kampman : *Archaeologie der Hethitische Rijken*, Jaarbericht No. 11, Ex Oriente Lux, 1949-1950, pp. 84-90; Machteld J. Mellink : *Karatepe. More light on the dark Ages*, Bibliotheca Orientalis, VII, No. 5 (1950), pp. 141-150.

² cf. H. Th. Bossert-U. B. Alkım and associates : Ausgrabungen auf dem Karatepe. Erster Vorbericht, Ankara 1950, p. 67 and Plate XXX.

is situated, made it almost impossible for the inscription to be seen except in an exceptionally favourable light. A few Hittite hieroglyphic signs, also in a poor state of preservation, were seen on fragments of a basalt orthostat which came to light after a sounding near the same statue base. These inscriptions will be dealt by Professor Bossert in the coming preliminary report.

Two soundings were made on Domuztepe. The first, on the summit of the hill, revealed traces of Cyclopean walls of as yet uncertain plan. Iron Age sherds were also found, together with Hellenistic sherds and of the Roman Imperial period, at which time the destroyed site had once again been reoccupied. A broken basalt orthostat was also found during the sounding. On it was depicted in relief a warrior with his spear and quiver. It appears that originally there was another figure behind him, as part of his hand and spear is visible. This relief belongs to the Late-Hittite period and can probably be dated 8th century B. C. Late-Hittite sherds were plentiful, amongst them being part of an incised basalt dish of very delicate workmanship.

The second sounding at Domuztepe was made near the statue base. There some five fragments of a basalt orthostat with Late-Hittite relief carving were discovered.

b) *Survey of Domuztepe:*

1. - After trees on the west slope of the hill had been felled, traces were found of an outer wall encircling the citadel. This discovery proved that the area enclosed by the walls was larger than had at first been thought³ and necessitated an alteration of the existing plan of Domuztepe.

2. The most important find at Domuztepe was a great portal-lion (length 1.60 m., height 1.10 m.) amongst the tangled mass of brushwood, undergrowth and trees on the southern slope of the hill. It would appear that it fell from an important building higher up on the hill and that it formed part of the gateway of this building. The front part of another portal-lion was found on this same wooded slope, and its paws were later discovered about 25 metres to the south east. Evidently this lion too had fallen from above, and once stood on the other side of the lion Gate.

These portal-lions are of grey basalt, and are very similar in type to those found at Zincirli⁴, which are usually dated 9th century B. C. The fact that these belong to this period is particularly interesting, since the Karatepe sculpture cannot be earlier than the 8th century B. C. Thus it can be seen that the citadel of Domuztepe was constructed before that of Karatepe. This raises an important question. Was Domuztepe one of the fortresses built by Asitawa(n)das, the King of the Danunians?

³ cf. op. c., Plate XXVII.

⁴ E. Akurgal : *Spaethethische Bildkunst*, Ankara 1949, Plates IV and V.

The fact that basalt was the material used for the sculptures adorning the two main entrances of Karatepe, that the style of some of the Domuztepe sculpture is similar to that on the neighbouring fortress, and that this king in his Phoenician and Hittite hieroglyphic inscriptions records that he "built fortifications in the remotest parts upon the borders⁵,, make it most probable that Domuztepe was one of the royal strongholds of Asitawa(n)das.

Further problems concerned with such questions will certainly be solved, if new Hittite hieroglyphic inscriptions are found on Domuztepe during future sessions.

3. - A small party of men detailed to search the area east and south east of the statue base discovered a quarry of basalt, the native stone of Domuztepe, and also olive presses probably of Roman date.

II. WORK AT KARATEPE

a) *Complementary architectural work :*

Soundings were made at various points along the walls which determined the dimensions and position of several towers, and also the course of the walls, especially those to the west and east. A further wall was discovered which ran at an angle to the main ramparts as far as the River Ceyhan.

Another sounding was made in the area due east of the upper entrance building.⁶ Small rectangular rooms, connecting with one another and yielding a large quantity of small finds, were brought to light. -Two of them contained a single basalt column base, but the columns, of which there were no traces, must have been of wood.

(b) *Excavations.* These were undertaken at the postern-gate to the west, and also due west of the upper entrance building.

1. - At the postern-gate⁷ the excavation was continued which began during the third session. A long trench of 10 metres wide by 30 metres long was dug, but, in the upshot, it was found that, contrary to what we had considered, there was no entrance building at this point. A ramp, however, was discovered running up to this secondary gate, which was flanked by a single tower on either side.

2. - The excavations near the west of the upper entrance building⁸ revealed

⁵ The inscription on the statue, column II, line 1 (cf. H. Th. Bossert and U. Bahadır Alkım : Karatepe, Kadirli and its Environments, Plate XLII) and the stele inscription, column I, lines 13-14 (cf. U. B. Alkım, *Revue Hittite et Asiatique*, vol. IX, fasc. 50, p. 26, Fig. 27 a). For its equivalent in the Hittite hieroglyphic text cf. H. Th. Bossert : *Die phönizisch-hethitischen Bilinguen vom Karatepe*, *Oriens* II, 1 (1949), p. 95, sentence XIX, No. 95-101.

⁶ cf. H. Th. Bossert-U. B. Alkım and associates ; *op. cit.* Plate XXXVI, J / 13-14.

⁷ *ibid.* Plate XXXVI, E-F / 20-21.

⁸ *ibid.* Plate XXXVI, I / 16.

several sunken pits hewn from the virgin rock. The average depth of these was 1 m. -2 m. and their diameter similar. Some of these pits were connected with one another and we consider it probable that they were storage pits for grain or water cisterns.

3. - Philological work, directed by Professor Bossert in collaboration with Dr. Steinherr, continued, and preparations for the restoration of hundreds of orthostat fragments were also carried out during this session.

III. EXPLORATORY JOURNIES

Journeys were made by Dr. Alkim. This year the writer investigated the Akyol which beginning in Southern Cilicia, climbs to the foot of Karatepe, passes the Har Boğazı (Har-George) and Andırın, and then, following the narrow vallies of the Antitaurus, goes by way of Meryemçil Pass until it reaches Göksun. The Meryemçil Pass is of great importance, since anyone travelling from the south to Göksun and the north is left with no alternative route, except for the more difficult Bağdaş and Mazgaç Passes which the author investigated in 1948.⁹ This historic road, until it reaches Andırın, is called the Akyol (White Road), but between Andırın and Göksun its name is Göçyolu (the Nomads Way). Along this road I observed 5 sites of the late Roman Imperial period, an Aramaic inscription,¹⁰ three ruined mediaeval sites and seven fortresses. Karatepe and Domuztepe also lie along this road, the latter site being on the opposite bank of the Ceyhan (ancient Pyramus). At the same time I studied the secondary routes between the Akyol and the Çiçeklidere yolu which, although they do not lead to Göksun direct and make use of the subsidiary Bağdaş and Mazgaç Passes, are roads of considerable importance. Their names are as follows :

- Mezi yolu : Two late Roman sites.
 Zehli yolu : Two late Roman and one mediaeval site.
 Kalealtı yolu : Two late Roman and three mediaeval sites. Five fortresses.
 Aşılı yolu : Two mediaeval sites and three fortresses.

Both of these two main roads (the Akyol and the Çiçeklidere yolu) as well as the secondary routes are used even to-day by peasants in South Cilicia making their way to the highlands where they reside during the hot summer months. The fact that these roads are protected by larger or smaller castles prove that this road system played a great part in the Middle Ages both from the strategic as well as from commercial point of view. Historical authorities do not give evidence as to

⁹ cf. U. B. Alkim : *Belleten*, vol. XIII (1949), pp. 373-374.

¹⁰ cf. A. Dupont-Sommer : *Fragment d'inscription araméenne decouvert a Bahadırli (Cilicie)*, *Jahrbuch für Kleinasiatische Forschung*, vol. I, No. 1 (March 1950), p. 108 and Pl. IV, Fig. 5.

whether or not these roads were in use under the Ottoman Empire, but the fact that the final battles against the Celâli rebels were fought in the Göksun highlands, shows that the Bağdaş, Mazgaç Passes to the west, and Meryemçil Pass to the east were evidently important bases during this civil war.

During the Roman Imperial period, the route to Cilicia by Gülek Boğazı (The Cilician Gates) was the one most in favour, though it is evident from the architectural and epigraphic remains to be found in this lonely district, that these alternative routes were not neglected.

Thus it was that my research into the historical geography of the Karatepe district was concluded. The archaeological and epigraphic significance of these journeys will be published in collaboration with Prof. G. E. Bean of the Department of Classical Philology in the University of Istanbul, to whom the author is much indebted for his kind and instructive cooperation. As it appears likely that publications of all the inscriptions found may not take place for some time, it is perhaps relevant to quote a single example of more than usual interest. Plate CVII shows an inscription found by the author during a sounding at the village of Taşoluk, 5 kilometres south of Göksun. It was found in situ (?), being one of the five blocks of the bottom course of a rectangular room (length 3.20. m). The local peasants stated that this room had once been floored with marble tiles, but these were not to be seen, having been removed a few years ago. As the remains of a clay water pipe come into this building from the direction of a ruined church nearby, it is possible that it may once have been a baptistry. A fountain too, three metres to the south east, is still working order. Indeed, the author was able to draw drinking water from it. The measurements of this inscription are as follows :

Length90 cm.

Length of inscribed portion 80 cm.

Height of letters5-6 cm.

The interest of this inscription lies in the fact that although the letters employed are Greek, the language in which it is written is not (?). The letters are neatly incised, and I would place it tentatively, on calligraphic evidence, in the third century of our era. This inscription presents us with a very interesting problem. Since the language is apparently not Greek, can it be an example of some local dialect e. g. the Cappadocian, of which up to now no traces have been found ? It seems not impossible, since some Classical authorities and, of course, the famous Pentecost passage in the Acts (II, 10) mention the existence of such dialects. I am particularly anxious to publish this inscription now, in the hope that other scholars, better qualified than myself in such matters, may have the chance to elucidate what may prove to be a most fascinating subject for study.

