

THE FIFTH SEASON'S WORK AT KARATEPE

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The expedition party consisted of the following members: Prof. Dr. H. Th. Bossert, Dr. U. Bahadır Alkım, Mrs. Michael Gough (architect) and Dursun Cankut (photographer). Work was carried out both at Domuztepe and at Karatepe. The session which took place under the auspices of the General Direction of Antiquities and Museums and the Turkish Historical Society lasted from 6 th September 1950 to 18 th October 1950.

A. EXCAVATIONS AT DOMUZTEPE

1. The citadel was systematically excavated. To the west of this area are two adjoining buildings which recall the *bü-hilâni* architectural style (?), though in this case a single column only stood in the centre of the entrance to each building. The entrance was to the west in either case. Their basalt bases, circular in shape, were found *in situ*, and are very similar to unornamented examples found at Zincirli. Despite the rather extraordinary mixture of sherds in these buildings (the Iron Age together with the Roman and Hellenistic periods were all represented), it is most probable that these buildings are of an earlier period than any found of the *Danunian* site of Karatepe.

2. To the south of the lion-gate (cf. H. Th. Bossert, U. B. Alkım and associates: *Ausgrabungen auf dem Karatepe*, Plate XXIX) two other buildings were partially excavated. In this case only two rooms were brought to light: these were rectangular in shape. In the case of one building a column stood in a central position in each room.

Towards the end of the session the building nearer to the lion-gate was further excavated, and remains of a wall belonging to an even earlier period were disclosed at a depth of 2 m. There had been extensive burning at this level and a single sherd of grey monochrome Phrygian (?) ware was discovered at this point. If others were found it may throw important light on the early history of Cilicia.

3. During the last year's work at Domuztepe a small portion of the outer wall to the west of the citadel was discovered, and this year we succeeded in tracing it for about 200 m., thus indicating that the fortress area was completely ringed by a defensive outer wall.

The fact that an earlier architectural level has been discovered, taken together with the archaic appearance of the portal lions found last year, shows that Domuztepe was inhabited before the *Danunians*, under their King *Asitaua(n)das*, settled Karatepe. It is likely that Domuztepe was a fortress built by one of the earlier *Sam'al*

rulers. When the Danunians captured the fortress they seem to have rebuilt it, re-using the ancient building material and availing themselves of the basalt quarries there for their sculptural work. Sculpture in basalt of the Karatepe type has of course been found at Domuztepe during previous years (cf. Bossert, Alkim and associates, *op. cit.* Plate XXXI).

B. EXCAVATIONS AT KARATEPE

These were carried out at four separate places.

1. Under the pavement of the court, where the statue of the god inscribed with Phoenician inscriptions had been found, a large number of rock-cut cisterns were discovered, of which the average dimensions are 1.80x1.50 m.

Below the stone threshold of the inmost door of the upper entrance building (cf. *loc. cit.* Plate XXXVI, J/15 and Plate IX) which leads into a walled area, which may very well prove to be a temple*, a large and regularly rock-cut cistern, connecting with another and smaller one, was found.

2. Area east of the Upper Entrance building.

At this point the work started last year was continued and the area of excavation enlarged. Further small finds were registered in the small rooms which were uncovered, painted ware of the Iron Age being particularly interesting. To the north of this newly discovered complex of rooms was a short staircase which led upwards to the temple (?) area. Under this staircase a further small cistern came to light. These finds show that there was almost certainly an earlier occupation than that of the Asitawa(n)das fortress at Karatepe, and the position of the cisterns in particular would seem to support this view. The discovery of two architectural levels at Karatepe is most important. It raises new questions concerning the chronological sequence of the sculptures, for it has already been noted that they differ widely stylistically, and the hand of different masters has been recognised. The problem of who were the earlier settlers of Karatepe can be perhaps linked with the discovery, this year, of a pre-Danunian occupation at Domuztepe. This question will be fully discussed in a coming preliminary report.

3. To the west of the same entrance building we uncovered a few more cisterns near those found during last year's work (See above Karatepe: Fourth Campaign II b, 2).

4. North-west of the Upper Entrance Building (cf. *op. cit.* Plate XXXVI, I / 17-18)

* So far the layout of the walls, which are rather poorly preserved, is not completely established.

a new excavation was begun which resulted in the discovery of a building consisting of six rectangular rooms, some of which connected with one another. The walls of these rooms were well constructed of excellent masonry, and a paved road ran between the building and the outer wall of the fortress. To the north of this structure was a court paved with cobbles. Again to the north and north-west of this court there were traces of walls which may belong to the main palace (cf. op. cit. pp. 53-55 and Plate XXXVI, I - J / 23-24) discovered during the third season (1948). Thus the Karatepe palace as a whole may well be compared with those at Arslan-Tash (Hadatu) and Til-Barsip where the different sections are divided from each other by two courts. But the fact that the palace at Karatepe shows such characteristics as, for example the *bû-hilâni* architectural style, indicates that we are in the presence of a fusion of Anatolian and North-West Mesopotamian influences.

5. In the course of the excavation close to the statue of the god in the temple (?) court, small inscribed fragments belonging to the statue were found in a small cavity Professor Bossert further observed during the course of this excavation that there were a few more lines of the Phoenician inscription to be read on the statue base. He and Professor A. Dupont-Sommer, who was our guest for a fortnight, state that these badly damaged lines represent the end of the statue inscription.