

SIXTH SEASON'S WORK AT KARATEPE

by

U. BAHADIR ALKIM

The sixth season's work at Karatepe under the auspices of the Turkish Historical Society lasted from September 24th to October 26th, 1951. The expedition under the direction of Professor Dr. H. Th. Bossert, consisted of Dr. U. Bahadır Alkım, Dr. H. Çambel, Dr. Muhibbe Darga and Mr. Polat Reyhan, the architect of the expedition. Excavations were carried out both at Karatepe and at Domuztepe.

I. At Karatepe itself a number of architectural problems were elucidated, and considerable additions, as well as alterations, were made to the plan of the palace¹ at the summit which was excavated in 1948; the chambers to the west, south and east of the courtyard of this palace were cleared; thus an almost complete plan of this great building (about 38 × 54 m.) may now be drawn².

A few more rooms belonging to the complex of well built rooms³ excavated in 1950, were cleared; thus the plan of a rectangular building (about 18 × 28 m.) was obtained⁴. The southern wall of this building, which is about 25 m. to the north-west of the Upper Gateway and 15 m. to the south of the palace, is contiguous with the inner part of the *enceinte*. It is to be remembered that in Zincirli⁵ and in Carchemish⁶ a similar construction is to be seen.

¹ Cf. U. Bahadır Alkım : Karatepe -Third Campaign, *Belleten* vol. XIV (1950), pp. 543-544; and Pl. XCII, 1; H. Th. Bossert-U. B. Alkım-H. Çambel and others: *Die Ausgrabungen auf dem Karatepe*, Ankara 1950, pp. 53-55 and Plate XXXVI, I-K/23-24.

² These rooms are to be put in I-J/21-22, cf. *op. cit.* Pl. XXXVI.

³ U. B. Alkım: *The Fifth Season's Work at Karatepe*, *Belleten* vol. XIV (1950), pp. 681-682; *Anadolu* vol. I (1951), p. 28; *Anatolian Studies* vol. I (1951), p. 10.

⁴ This building is to be put in H-I/17-20, cf. *Die Ausgrabungen auf dem Karatepe*, Pl. XXXVI.

⁵ R. Koldewey: *Ausgrabungen in Sendschirli* vol. II, Berlin 1898, Pl. XXVIII; cf. *ibid* vol. IV, 1911 p. 262, Fig. 168 and Pl. L.

⁶ C. L. Woolley: *Carchemish II*, London 1921, Pl. 7.

Architectural investigations undertaken this season revealed that the existence of an earlier building level is certain at Karatepe⁷, which is of course very important for the history of the site.

II. At Domuztepe an excavation on a wider scale brought to light the existence of three building levels⁸, excluding the Roman and Hellenistic. These levels are provisionally called A, B, and C.

Level A is immediately beneath the foundations of Roman and Hellenistic walls, which are almost completely destroyed. To judge by the small finds and architectural style, this level is contemporary with the *Danunian* fortress of Karatepe, under King Asitawa(n)da- (8th century B.C.¹).

Level B: There is a burnt level, 75-100 cm. thick, under the foundations of level A, and level B is under this burnt level. In level B only Iron Age painted potsherds showing Cypriote influence, very similar to those at Malatya⁹, Tarsus¹⁰ and Zincirli¹¹, were found. Monochrome ware is very rare. Most of these Iron Age sherds are locally made, and a few of them are imported Cyprus ware. These sherds are almost identical with the painted sherds found in the cisterns, at Karatepe in 1949, 1950 and those during the present season, and this fact shows that the inhabitants of Level B at Domuztepe lived at Karatepe as well. This is further evidence for an earlier architectural layer at Karatepe. It appears that level B at Domuztepe belongs to the 9th century B. C.

Level C: Under the foundations of the walls of level B there is again a burnt level, 20-30 cm. thick, under which foundations of a mudbrick wall (Level C) were cleared. It is a remarkable fact that there are no painted Iron Age sherds in this level, but only monoch-

⁷ Cf. *Belleten* vol. XIV (1950), p. 681; *Anadolu* vol. I (1951), pp. 27-28; *Anatolian Studies* vol. I (1951), p. 10.

⁸ Only two architectural levels could be distinguished in 1950 at Domuztepe, as the area of the sounding was rather small. Cf. U. B. Alkım: in *Belleten* vol. XIV (1950), p. 680; *Anatolian Studies* vol. I (1951), p. 10.

⁹ L. Delaporte: *Malatia, Céramique du Hittite récent*, *RHA* vol. II (1932-34), Pls. M. 28,8; M. 30, 13; M. 31, 12

¹⁰ H. Goldman: *Excavations at Gözlükule, Tarsus 1938*, *AJA* vol. XLI (1937), pp. 271, 272.

¹¹ F. von Luschan (edited by W. Andrae): *Die Kleinfunde von Sendschirli. Die Ausgrabungen in Sendschirli* vol. V, Berlin 1943, Pls. 17 a; 18 c-h.

rome ware, shiny and slightly polished of red, grey, brown and cream colour, very similar to the Late Bronze Age sherds of Tarsus¹² and also to the rough ware of the Hittite Imperial period. The fact that at Karatepe also, again in the cisterns, a few samples of potsherds of this kind were found, shows that the earliest inhabitants of Domuztepe occupied Karatepe as well. Since the natural rock is very near to the surface and since in consequence any walls of this period must have been carried away by the rain water, it is certainly quite impossible to find traces of walls belonging to the earliest level at Karatepe.

The date of Level C at Domuztepe seems to be earlier than the 9th century B. C. Under this level is the virgin rock.

¹² H. Golman: Excavations at Gözlükule, Tarsus 1938, *AJA* (1940), pp. 61-64, Figs. 4-5.