

KARATEPE : SEVENTH CAMPAIGN *

by

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The sixth season's work at Karatepe could not begin until after the 22nd International Congress of Orientalists in Istanbul (Sept. 15th-22nd, 1951), and as the excavation party was obliged to return to Istanbul at the end of October for the new academic year, work on the site was restricted to one month¹, and certain operations had to be left half finished. It was accordingly decided to complete these in a seventh campaign during the February vacation in 1952. The work was carried out in the name of the Turkish Historical Society by a team, under the direction of Professor H. Th. Bossert, consisting of Dr. Uluğ B. Alkim and Kemal Akman, surveyor, and lasted from January 31st till March 3rd.

I TOPOGRAPHICAL OPERATIONS

A. *Karatepe*: In the first season in the autumn of 1947, a plan of Karatepe was drawn², but it was not possible to extend this plan down to the level of the Ceyhan river at the east foot of the hill. Mr. Süzen at the same time prepared a rough sketch-plan of the whole site, including Karatepe, Domuztepe and the river between³, but this was not suitable for a final publication. Kemal Akman has now drawn a finished plan, on a scale of 1 in 500 of the steep east side of Karatepe and has extended this across the river as far as Domuztepe.

B. *Domuztepe*: A scale plan of Domuztepe also was drawn out. Hitherto only a general sketch-plan had been available⁴.

C. *Danakaya*: In the autumn of 1947 our party examined the natural rocky hill of Danakaya, 4 km. south of Karatepe, and found there remains of dry

* The English translation of this preliminary report was made by Prof. G. E. Bean, to whom the author wishes to express his gratitude.

¹ Cf. U. BAHADIR ALKIM: Sixth Season's Work at Karatepe, *Belleten*, vol. XVI, No. 61 (January 1952), pp. 134-136.

² This plan has already been published in *Belleten*, vol. XII, No. 47 (July 1948), Pl. CXVII; *Revue Hittite et Asiatique*, vol. XIX, fasc. 50 (1948-1949), p. 6 (=RHA); H. TH. BOSSERT - U. B. ALKIM - H. ÇAMBEL and others: *Ausgrabungen auf dem Karatepe. I. Erster Vorbericht*, Ankara 1950, Pls. XXXV, XXXVI (=Ausgrabungen).

³ See *Belleten* vol. XII (1948), Pl. CXVI; RHA (1948-1949), p. 4; *Oriens* vol. I, 2 (1948), p. 148, Fig. 2; *Illustrated London News* (May 14, 1949), p. 664; *Jaarbericht 11. Ex Oriente Lux* (1949-1950), p. 85, Fig. 11; *Ausgrabungen*, Pl. XXVII.

⁴ See note 3 above.

rubble walls constructed of large blocks, contemporary with Karatepe, and also ruins of buildings and fragments of pottery of Roman date⁵. In October 1950, when work at Karatepe was finished, the present writer, accompanied by Mrs. M. Gough and Dursun Cankut, photographer, went to Danakaya for the purpose of drawing a sketch-plan and taking photographs. In February 1952, in view of the important position of the site, commanding as it does a view of the various sections of the road⁶ which runs up the valley from Hierapolis-Castabala (Bodrum) and Babaoğlan to Karatepe, a scale-plan of Danakaya was drawn out.

II. SUPPLEMENTARY EXCAVATIONS AT KARATEPE

A. Lower Gateway: 1) A small-scale excavation was undertaken with the object of determining exactly the limits of the west side⁷ of this entrance-building and the junction with it of the *enceinte* that approaches it from the north-west, the clearance of this part having been left unfinished in the first season. It was established that the wall, which is 4.25 m. thick, joins the west side of the gateway⁸ in exactly the same manner as on the east side. On the surface of the top-most course of stone blocks are traces of approximately square beds for blocks of mud-brick⁹, converted by the conflagration virtually into baked brick. At the same time fragments of charcoal were found, and also a solid heap of fragments of mud-brick. From these facts it appears that the upper part of the *enceinte* was of mud-brick; the charcoal fragments evidently belong to a tie-beam course between this portion of the wall and the stone portion.

2) A further sounding brought to light the outer part of the south wall on the west side of this Lower Gateway, and in this way the outer south-west corner (Ö/32) of the Gateway was determined¹⁰.

⁵ U. BAHADIR ALKIM: *Excavations at Karatepe*, *Belleten* vol. XII, No. 45. (January 1948), p. 255; *Ausgrabungen*, p. 42.

⁶ This road, called Akyol ("White Road"), after passing under the western slope of Karatepe, descends into the plain of Andırın, and from there up the Har Boğazi to Andırın itself. It then crosses the pass of Meryemçil to Göksun (Cocusus). In the latter part of its course beyond Andırın it bears the name Göç Yolu ("Nomad's Way"). This road has since antiquity afforded communication between Cilicia and Cappadocia. We intend to publish an article on the historical road-system of the eastern Antitaurus; for the present, see *Belleten* vol. XIV (1950), pp. 549-559, 658-659; *Anatolian Studies* vol. 1 (1951), p. 19-20; *Anadolu* vol. I (1951), pp. 26-27.

⁷ Cf. *Ausgrabungen*, Pl. XXXVI, Ö-P/32-33. Future references to this plan in the text of the present report will be given in brackets without explanation.

⁸ *Ausgrabungen*, Pl. X.

⁹ The mud-bricks found at Karatepe hitherto are all approximately square in shape. For a drawing of a Karatepe mud-brick cf. *Oriens* vol. II, 1 (1949), p. 101, Fig. 11 (drawn by İbrahim Süzen).

¹⁰ Karatepe is covered with thick scrub, and its excavation demands expensive special equipment. In the early seasons especially, owing to our limited re-

(3) In the eastern part of the same gateway, the southeast corner and the south wall (P-R/31-32), hitherto unexcavated, were also cleared.

(4) On the west of the entrance-passage, above the sphinx bearing a Hittite hieroglyphic inscription, a pit was opened during the first season's work, from which a mass of mud-brick, scorched by fire, was extracted; during the present season advantage was taken of the wet weather and moist ground to make further probings at the southern edge of this pit, and remains were discovered of at least one wall of mud-brick still *in situ*. This wall rises 1.90 m. above the level of the space between the gate in the entrance-passage and the western side-room, and consists of an upper portion of mud-brick 1 m. high, and a lower portion of stone 0.90 m. high.

(5) The northern walls and corners of the towers R-S/33-34 north of this gateway were also cleared.

(6) The north side of the outer wall of the ramp leading up to the Lower Gateway was cleared, and the wall was traced towards the north-west (Ö-P-36-37). This wall is founded on the virgin rock, and after describing a broad curve abuts on the main citadel-wall near its junction with the eastern portion of the Gateway (R-S/32-34). Its north-western extension is in very bad preservation and it is accordingly uncertain whether it was provided, like the ramp (F/16, B-C/19) leading to the Upper Gateway, with towers at varying intervals ¹¹.

B. The Palace on the summit: (1) Soundings made in the south, east and south-eastern parts of the palace court revealed the foundations of rooms in this area, but in a much damaged condition (H-J/21-22).

(2) Excavations in the court also revealed as many as seven pits, whether store-cellar or cisterns, sunk into the rock (I/22-23). These are mostly circular in shape, with average diameter 1.50 m. and depths varying from 1 m. to 2.50 m.; two of them are interconnected, and in the middle of one of them is a curved step. All the pits were filled with stones together with fragments of local Karatepe monochrome pottery, local Iron Age painted sherds and a few fragments of imported (?) fine Cypriote potsherds; from one of them we recovered a piece of a basalt dish. The latter differs from the three-footed basalt dishes hitherto discovered at Karatepe in having attached to a ring base 2-2.5 cm. high. These

sources, while excavating the Lower Entrance-Building, we cleared certain particular areas and these only were entered on the sketch-plans, the hypothetical completion of the plan being left to the readers' imagination. Having now obtained the necessary funds, and for purposes of final publication, we undertook this season, both at the Lower Entrance and elsewhere, the clearance of the various walls and corners hitherto unexcavated.

¹¹ Since the whole of this slope towards Kırğılıdere is covered with thick woods, and the virgin rock protrudes here and there above the surface, very extensive search would be necessary in order to determine the further course of this wall. We accordingly decided to postpone this task to a later season, when we hope to learn whether or not the continuation of this wall forms an outer *enceinte* on the north-west and west sides of the hill.

regularly-cut pits, filled with rubble blocks often of great size, like the similar pits sunk into the rock at other points (notably, adjoining the Upper Gateway to the courtyard of the temple, and in the middle of the gate that leads from the Upper Gateway to the court)¹², belong evidently to a period anterior to the Karatepe of *Asitawa(n)das* (732-715)¹³. A further point of interest was the discovery in these pits of a few sherds almost identical with the pottery found in level C at Domuz-tepe¹⁴ (earlier than the 9th century B. C.), which in its turn resembles pottery of the late Bronze Age.

C. Eastern Sector of the Temple¹⁵ courtyard: During the first campaign, the sculptured orthostat fragments found in the Upper Gateway were transported for convenience of study to this area (J-L/13-15), of which the clearance was accordingly postponed to a later season. After removal of these stones to a spot prepared north of the guardian's house (L/19-20), a number of rooms were cleared adjoining the walls which we suppose to form the eastern part of the temple. In almost all the rooms we found sherds of monochrome Karatepe ware, and in several of them small pithoi; one room produced a fragment of sculptured basalt belonging to one of the portal-lions, another a small human foot also of basalt (perhaps an object of worship?). The foundation of one of the rooms, exactly as in the western portion of the Upper Gateway, crosses a pit (cistern or store cellar) sunk in the rock. From this it is clear that the foundation dates from a later period than the pit.

D. West of the Guardian's house: In this region during the first campaign, a roundish basalt block, set in a circular pit, was observed and conjectured to be a column-base. In order better to determine its nature, an area 15x20 m. was cleared (L/18-19). Although the virgin rock is only 15-30 cm. below the surface, interesting results were obtained. In the area J/18-19 remains of a wall were discovered running NE-SW for a length of 12 m. The pit in which it stands is sunk into the rock; it is 0.40 m. deep, 0.65 m. in diameter, and in shape is an almost regular circle. The basalt block is 0.95 m. high, of irregular cylindrical form, and though no tool-marks are visible on it, it was evidently submitted to a preliminary smoothing when it was taken from the quarry. Its upper surface is broken away. We now believe it to be an altar. In the Hittite Imperial period the existence of stone altars in temple

¹² U. BAHADIR ALKIM: *Karatepe-Fourth Campaign*, *Belleten* vol. XIV (1950), p. 659 and *The Fifth Season's Work at Karatepe*, loc. cit., p. 681.

¹³ Cf. H. TH. BOSSERT, *Die phönizisch-hethitischen Bilinguen vom Karatepe, Oriens*, vol. I, 2 (1948), p. 191.

¹⁴ Cf. U. BAHADIR ALKIM: *Belleten* vol. XVI (1952), pp. 135-136, 249.

¹⁵ The badly ruined building in which the statue of a god was found is, we believe, a temple, of which the courtyard (?) is entered from the Upper Entrance-Building, cf. *Belleten*, vol. XIV (1950), p. 681.

courtyards (as at Yazılıkaya¹⁶ and at Tell Açıana¹⁷) and the representations of stone altars (as at Alacahöyük¹⁸, Boğazköy¹⁹, Fıraktın²⁰, Yağrı²¹ and elsewhere), as also of altars inscribed with Hittite hieroglyphs (at Emirgazi²², is well established. Furthermore, representations of stone altars are to be seen on seals both of the second²³ and of the first millenium B. C. It seems therefore permissible to explain the block at Karatepe in this way. The alternative view, that it is a column-base, appears excluded not only by its excessive height but also by the fact that it stands in no connection with any architectural remains. It carries no inscription. As to whether it may have some sacred symbolical significance we cannot at present offer any opinion.

The altar stands on a small terrace which descends on the east by a step 25-30 cm. high to a second terrace. Since this area is very badly ruined—in fact, the natural rock is largely exposed—it was not possible to obtain a precise plan. Nevertheless, it seems clear that we have in this sector an important part of the temple, containing an altar, and of high sanctity²⁴.

¹⁶ K. BITTEL - R. NAUMANN - H. OTTO: *Yazılıkaya*, Leipzig 1941, p. 24 and Pl. 39 (reconstruction on p. 27, Fig. 9) and Pl. 40.

¹⁷ SIR LEONARD WOOLLEY: *Excavations at Achna-Alalakh*, 1946, *Antiquaries Journal* vol. XXX (January-April 1950), p. 4, Fig. 2; p. 7, Fig. 3 and Pls. I, a, and IV, d; id.: *A Forgotten Kingdom*, London 1953, p. 141, Fig. 20 (Plan of the Level III Temple), p. 166, Fig. 25 (Plan of Level I B Temple).

¹⁸ H. TH. BOSSERT, *Altanatolien*, Berlin 1942, Fig. 510 (= *Altanatolien*).

¹⁹ K. BITTEL: *Boğazköy-Die Kleinfunde der Grabungen 1906-1912*, Leipzig 1937, Pl. 9, No. 1-2; cf. *Altanatolien*, Figs. 547, 548.

²⁰ Excellent photograph in K. BITTEL and others, *Yazılıkaya*, p. 121, Fig. 50.

²¹ *Altanatolien*, Fig. 571.

²² B. HROZNY: *Inscriptions Hittites hiéroglyphiques* III, 111, Prague 1937, Pls. LXXII - LXXVI (Altar A), LXXVIII - LXXXI (Altar B, cf. *Altanatolien*, Fig. 549), LXXXII - LXXXIII (Altar C), LXXXIV - LXXXV (Altar D).

²³ D. G. HOGARTH, *Hittite Seals* Oxford 1920 Pl. VII, b (cf. O. R. GURNEY, *The Hittites*, London 1952, Pl. 21, first row, in the middle), Pl. VII, e (cf. GURNEY: *ibid.*, Pl. 21, second row, on the right).

²⁴ For a Karatepe bibliography cf. *RHA*, fasc. 50 (1948-1949), pp. 33-35; *Belleten* vol. XIV (1950), p. 655; note 1; *Ausgrabungen*, pp. 76-82.