

1947 yılına ait kazı programını hazırlarken ve Kurum'a bu kazı hakkındaki teklifimi sunmadan önce, daima iki höyüğün üstünde, yani Aksaray yanındaki Achemhöyük'le, Karahöyük üstünde duruyor ve birini diğerine tercihte mütereddit kalıyordum. Bunun üzerine, Prof. Landsberger ve Dr. Nimet Özgüç'le uzun uzun konuştuk. Onlar ciddi sebepler ileri sürerek Karahöyük'ü tercih etmemi teklif etmişler ve benim de bu teklife katılmamı sağlamışlardır.

TAHSİN ÖZGÜÇ



ARCHAEOLOGICAL JOURNEYS IN THE PLAIN OF ELBISTAN AND THE AXCAVATION OF KARAHÖYÜK

The «Société d'Historie Turque» this year has started investigations in an area which has never been studied from the archaeological point of view. In my proposal to the Society, I indicated the importance of the plains of Elbistan and Afşin from the stand points of the historical geography and history of human settlement, and pointed out that one should study the archaeology and prehistory of this area which was a great cultural center in ancient and medieval times and excels in many surface monuments and höyüks.

The area of Elbistan, which is linked at the one side to Maraş and even more to the south, at the other to Malatya, and in the north to Kayseri, and Sivas, indeed had to be studied, as its medieval period has been studied by Prof. H. Yınanç¹, its prehistoric and early historic period by H. Grothe² and Prof. von der Osten³. Thus our group, comprising the author, Dr. Nimet Özgüç, the architect Mr. Lem'i Mery and Mr. Burhan Tezcan, had two aims: to study the plain of Elbistan and to start an excavation.

A) Archaeological trips: This year we travelled in the alluvial plains of Elbistan and Yarpus (Afşin) which are separated by low hills along the river Hurman which flows in a south-easterly direction, in the permo-carboniferous slopes of the mountains and especially in the northern, eastern and western part of our area. Together with already known archaeological monuments of different periods, our findings are as follows:

Höyük: apart from the 21 höyüks seen by v. d. Osten, we found 9 others still; three of the earlier höyüks were found to be tumulus. As most of these höyüks are destroyed to the greater part, it will not be possible to study them further. According to surface findings, they had settlements from the beginning of the 4th millenium B. C., and specimens of Copper Period, Hittite and pottery from the first millenium were found. According to local investigations to be made by future excavators and especially after the results of the excavation of Karahöyük, Yassihöyük near the village Tanır, Tedevin near Kuş-

¹ see "Elbistan, (in: Encyclopaedie de l'Islam, Turkish edition, No. 31).

² see Hugo Grothe: "Meine Vorderasien-Expedition 1906 und 1907.", I, CCLXXXIII sq. and II, 24, 33-38.

³ Oriental Institute Communications, No. 8, p. 105-119 (OIC).

kaya, and the höyük of İğde will certainly be set on the program for excavations.

Dikilitaş: This monument which has not yet been studied⁴ intensely, is to be found on the slope of the Kızıl Dağ at a place dominating the whole plain. The block which is put into a hole in a flat basis is as high as the highest similar monuments of this kind in France (fig. 1). The basis which is put in a specially made cavity, is surrounded by a stone-wall of 4m diameter. There existed formerly still other buildings at the same place, but their stelae all have been removed. The connection of this menhir-like monument and its wall-like surrounding with «cromlek»s will be separately studied later. It is not easy to determine the date of these monuments which occur in Europe, Syria and Palestine from the Neolithicum down to metal age, and even more difficult to explain their meaning. Still we plan to excavate the environment of this type which is so rare in Anatolia yet.

Tumulus: Tumulus -interments are very common in the plain of Elbistan which measures 25 : 30 km. and especially frequent in the mountains around the plain. As in many other places in Anatolia these also are covered with stones or earth. Some of these tumulus have been opened by grave-robbers; they have one or two grave-rooms with vaults and domes. From finds made on neighbouring ruin-places it is clear that these tumulus were made in Roman and pre-Roman times.

Ruins of towns and fortresses from the classic period: When searching for the city belonging to the tumulus of Beştepe, we found a great fortress near the conflux of the small river Yoğun Söğütlü with the river Söğütlü at a place between the great cliffs of the deep valley between Domuğlar and Beştepe, fortified by nature from three sides. The walls fortifying the cliffs open to the Şerefli Suyu, are even today of 6m height (fig. 2). The tunnel, built in an indigenous, Anatolian manner, as well as the foundations of the buildings of the settlement are well visible. According to ceramics, found here, the technique of the building, and the mortar, this fortress undoubtedly belongs to the Roman period, the 1-3th century A. D.

Tanır: Which is identified by Ramsay⁵ with the ancient Tandaris, lies a place which never lost its importance. In the long period between prehistoric times until the end of the first millenium B. C., Yassıhöyük, near the modern Bozyer, took the place of Tanır. But still, this höyük has preserved its importance till recent times⁶.

We will have to disagree with Grothe's theory that Ptandaris was situated in the area of Göksun, and a mile-stone found at the road Tanır - Hurmankale substantiates our opinion⁷. The great spring near Tanır was decorated in Roman times with square-stones, and some single blocks have been worked in the technique of that time different purposes (fig. 3). Wherever the ancient

4 OIC, No. 8, p. 108; OIP, No. 30, p. 405 and note 14.

5 W. M. Ramsay: "The Historical Geography of Asia Minor", p. 271.

6 F. Taeschner: "Das anatolische Wegenetz nach osmanischen Quellen.", II, 23.

7 H. Grothe, l. c., II, 37.

Ptandarıs may have been, undoubtedly the modern Tanır is situated at the crossing of the way going from Kayseri over Sarız - Marabuz and Hurmankale at the one side to Malatya, the other side to Afşin and Göksun.

In the course of our survey along the mountain road leading from Göksun and Afşin over Gürün to Sivas, we studied several still unpublished archaeological findings from that period as well as a well preserved Roman dam and a well known relief belonging to a tumulus.

Further, we studied the Roman and Byzantine roads of this part of Anatolia and the old city of Arabıssus = Afşin, which has been studied formerly by several scientists, and found that nothing of any importance is left over the surface. However, we heard from eye-witnesses that mosaics had been discovered, comparable to the most beautiful Roman mosaics of Anatolia when deeper diggings were made in the gardens of the city; but these findings have been buried again. The citadel which is typically Byzantine is in ruins now.

Buildings from Seljukian times: As has already been stated by Prof. M. H. Yınanç⁹ there exist great monuments in both plains, belonging to this period.

Çavlıhan: This place is unfortunately destroyed. It was situated on the main road Hurmankale - Elbistan - Malatya at the slope of a höyük. The ruinplace shows that this Han which was made by the governor of Elbistan, Emir Muhâriz-al-Din Çavlı¹⁰ was the greatest han after the Karatay caravansaray. Our investigations in the village and the ruins have brought us to the opinion that this caravansary also was similar to the Karatay caravansary, i. e. it seems to have had two parts and was constructed after a very common Seljuk model.

Hurmankale: This big fortress, the rock inscriptions of which have first been studied by Sterrett¹¹, seems to be the classic Sobagene (?). The fortress, build, on a rock fortified by nature, is in the midst of the triangle beneath the conflux of the Ördek Çayı and the Hurman Suyu. The fortress governs the Kerevin and the Ördek mountain, and the prolongation of the Binboğa, at the same time controlling the three passes of this region which determine the direction of the roads. Small or bigger, quadrangular towers protude from the walls according the shape of the natural rocks (fig. 4). Only on the small fore-front looking towards the main road a double wall has been made, and the two towers have the form of a semicircle. The towers at the doors and the corners of the fortress are larger. While the others smaller. The main door looks towards Kayseri, the small door towards Elbistan. Although the origin of the fortress may be quite early, it is in its modern form a typical Seljuk building. Hurmankale, situated in a very important place, has often been re-

⁸ W. M. Ramsay: I. c. 274.

⁹ Encyclopaedie de l'Islam, Turkish edition, No. 31, 223sq.

¹⁰ Encyclopaedie de l'Islam, Turkish edition, 31, p. 225.

¹¹ W. M. Ramsay, I. c. p. 309 and H. Grothe, II, 47, 55, 79, 137.

paired but never changed its main form adapted to the shape of the rocks. The arrangement of the towers, wooden planks, the square stones changing form light to dark colour in every row, the adaptation of the building and its towers to the original rock, all these are typical of Seljuk architecture. The fortress which has been used until recent times is one of the nicest and most solid Anatolian fortresses preserved.

The buildings of *E s a b i K e h f*: These buildings on the top of a low mountain near *Afşin* are made up of a mosque, a «ribat» a caravansaray and some smaller building the plans of which could not yet be studied by us. The two inscriptions which are still preserved have been studied by M. H. Yinanç¹² who also gave many details on the buildings. The upper part of the «ribat», made by the governor of *Maraş*, *Nes-rat al-Din Hasan b. İbrâhim* (612 H) is in ruins but the plan is still well recognizable (fig. 5). Its door, *mihrabıye* and the *mihrab* between the rooms for meditation belong to the most beautiful remains of Seljuk ornamental (fig. 6-7). The long saloons covered with vaults of this «ribat» the second floor of which is made of tiles, its meditation-rooms with their very interesting plan and other details such as its interesting arrangement of the rooms, represent a type of architecture hitherto unknown or not preserved in Anatolia.

The rooms of the caravansary for travelers and for the administration have no colonnades (fig. 8). The vaults, the arched constructions, small doors, technique of architecture and the rectangular plan of the building with an open courtyard in the midst is not new for us, but in this caravansary the stables are made on the right side of the building and all along the wall; thus, this caravansary represents a new, third type of «*Hans*», used by the Seljuks.

The mosque made in front of the famous cave (630 H.) has changed its outer form by later repairs, but its inside has still preserved its original characteristics and has been constructed according to a plan, similar of that of the Seljuk «*Ulu Cami*». The dome in front of the *mihrab* has been changed, but the vaults, based on columns are still in their original form. No trace of any changes is to be seen in the adaption of the mosque to the form of the cave.

It seems necessary to make a trial-excavation and a great cleaning of the place so that other buildings still, which have been here and some traces of which are to be seen even on the surface, can be found, their plans can be reconstructed; only than the whole ensemble can be restored. Undoubtedly the walls on the rocks and the decoration of the cave are of Byzantine origin. The restoration of *E s h a b - i K e h f* will be made during the pursuit of our investigations in *Elbistan*.

B) *Excavation at Karahöyük*: *Karahöyük*, 10 km. in the NW. of *Elbistan*, is a great höyük of 500 m. length and 300 breadth; it is 22 m. height, and situated in the north-west of the plain, on the *Hurman* river¹³. The road from *Hur-*

¹² *Türk Tarih Encümeni Mecmuası*, vol. 15, No. 8, p. 85.

¹³ *OIC*, No. 8, p. 115.

mankale - Çavlıhan to Elbistan and Malatya touches this place. On the other hand, it is connected by the way of Izzın with Afşin. Izzın, as place famous by a great hieroglyphic inscription, and the two höyük near Izzın are 5 km. apart from Karahöyük. The village of Karahöyük with its 105 houses occupies only a small part of the höyük. As the earth of the höyük is used as fertilizer, a great part of the höyük is destroyed and many valuable antiquities came into the hand of antiquaries. This makes it very difficult to reconstruct this great ancient city. In the course of almost one month of excavations, a place of 20 : 20 m. has been opened, and three cultural strata with several architectural strata have been detected.

The first cultural stratum, the *Roman* period, consists of only one architectural stratum. In that period at least the top of the hill was intensely occupied. Discovery of indigenous terra sigillata proves that this settlement came from the 1-3 th centuries A. D., but most of these sherds can be dated into the 1-2 nd century A. D.. On the other hand the sherds from the place of the foundations of the houses of the last architectural period, belong to the 1-3 th century B. C.. Tumuli on the hills of this region belong to that settlement.

The second cultural stratum with four architectural levels belongs to the «Late Hittite» period. The houses in the uppermost architectural stratum of this period are more solid than the others and their courtyards are covered with stones. The plan and style of these houses are absolutely the same as in all Central-Anatolian buildings on höyüks with citadels and single castles from the first millenium B. C. These houses have 2-3, sometimes even 4 rooms; the foundations are made of stone, the upper part of the walls made of kerpiç (mud brick). The dead were buried under the floor of the houses, but, different from the Phrygian custom, in hocker position. The stoves which are round or in the form of a horse-shoe, are made of stone and kerpiç. The bothros, always containing the most beautiful things, are identical with these from Asia Minor and the Aegean.

The ceramics are of two kinds, painted and unpainted. The painted pottery from the last two architectural strata is of two colours, a light yellow on a white basis. Most of the designs are geometric (fig. 9), some only show representations of flowers, birds, flies and griffons. Omphalos-plates, jugs with clover leaf orifice, found in this level, are imitations of models made of metal. The greatest percentage of sherds is red-brown, of rather simple technique and plain forms. Not more than 2-3 pieces with black and grey foundation, such as the Central-Anatolian type, have been detected. Iron implements have been frequently used in this stratum which are contemporary with late Phrygian culture. But as we know with certainty that Phrygians never lived in this very area, how shall we explain the occurrence of this type of ceramics in Karahöyük? This excavation has proved that it is dangerous to call this kind of pottery «Phrygian», and that it would be preferable to use another name, such as «*Post-Hittite pottery*».

The painted pottery in the last two architectural strata is overlapped by the red and brown jars. These strata belong to the first half of the first millenium or the end of the second B. C.; Iron implements become rarer,

bronze more common. The monochrome pottery has some local particularities, differing from Central-Anatolia, and belongs directly to the style of the 2nd millenium of this region. These monochrome sherds were in use together with the painted pottery which came suddenly and disappeared suddenly, and gained the superiority.

The most important discovery during our excavation was the disclosure of a great inscription with Hittite hieroglyphs on three sides. This inscription was set in a hole in the midst of a great, flat stone foundation. This was still standing, having been purposely covered with great stones when environment of it became inhabitable. This in-situ detected inscription with a hole for offerings in the level of the basis, was at the end of a place, used for the ceremonies and the cults (fig. 10). As no other building has been constructed on that holy or untouchable place in local tradition, the inscription remained undamaged. It does not belong to any building. As the great pavement and a building belonging to it are 50 cm. deeper than the inscription, they could not have had any connection with it. In at least 8-10 m. distance buildings from the same period as the inscription were detected, outside the place. The finding of such a well preserved inscription which has no parallel in Anatolia yet, the fact that the long text contains names of gods, great-kings and cities, has proved our expectations of the area of Elbistan. After the removal of the inscription and its basis and of 40-50 cm. of refuse we found just under the above-mentioned pavement a house with three rooms belonging to the Imperial Hittite Period. This year we found no older building in Karahöyük. Traces of still deeper strata and some small-finds prove that this house corresponds to the only architectural stratum of this period. The period can be dated by a rython in the shape of a ram, by seals with or without hieroglyphs, several ornaments and small animal figures.

In Old Hittite Period which corresponds to no special architectural stratum, we found sherds, the relief of a bull-man, the figure of a horse-head, human reliefs (fig. 11) implements made of bronze, bone and stone, a cylinder seal in Syrian style belonging to the Kültepe Period and different types of figurines. In this stratum also we found hand-made pottery of a type called «Cappadocian painted pottery» in Central-Anatolia together with monochrome, wheel-made Old Hittite pottery. Further we found here a kind of painted pottery, characteristic of Arslantepe.

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ALACA HÖYÜK HAFRIYAT HEYETİNİN 1947 ÇALIŞMALARI

Türk Tarih Kurumu adına Alacahöyükte yapılan arkeolojik kazılara 1935 yılından beri arasız devam olunmaktadır. 1937 mevsimi kazısı da Ekim ve Kasım ayları içinde yapılmıştır. Kazı heyeti, Millî Eğitim Bakanlığı Eski Eserler ve