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SUNA & İNAN KIRAÇ RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON MEDITERRANEAN CIVILIZATIONS

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İçindekiler

Prof. Dr. CEVDET BAYBURTLUOĞLU
(1934-2013)

"…Yaşamınızı arkeolojiye bağladınız. Arkeolojiyi içten gelen duygularla sevdiniz ve onu Türk kamuoyuna sevdirdiniz. Örnek bir bilim adamı olarak Türk arkeolojisinde seçkin bir yeriniz vardır. Sevecen bir hoca, özverili bir kazı yönetmeni, barışı, dostluğu yaşatan bir aydın olarak hizmet görüyorsunuz. Sizin bundan sonra Türkiye ve dünya arkeolojisiyle turizmine olan büyük hizmetlerinizi başarıyla sürdüreceğiniz inancındayım. Sizi sevgiyle, saygıyla selamlarım.[*]"

Ord. Prof. Dr. Ekrem Akurgal
İzmir, 2001.

"…You have dedicated your life to archaeology. You have loved archaeology with the most sincere of feelings and made society love it. You have a special elite place among Turkish archaeological academia. You have been serving as a role model for the embracing teacher, the self-sacrificing excavation director and the enlightened person reviving peace and friendship. I believe that you will continue your great services to Turkish and world tourism and to archaeology. I salute you with love and respect."*

Ord. Prof. Dr. Ekrem Akurgal
İzmir, 2001.

Adalya'nın bu sayısı, bir vefa ve saygı gereği Bilim Danışma Kurulu üyemiz, AKMED Kütüphanesinin nazik ve cömert bağışçısı Cevdet Bayburtluoğlu'nun aziz hatırasına armağandır.

This issue of ADALYA is dedicated, in fidelity and respect, to the dear memory of Cevdet Bayburtluoğlu, a generous and kind donor to the Library and member of the Academic Advisory Board of AKMED.

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* E. Akurgal, "Cevdet Bayburtluoğlu'nun Anadolu Arkeolojisine Katkıları", in: C. Özgünel et al. (eds.), Cevdet Bayburtluoğlu İçin Yazılar – Essays in Honour of Cevdet Bayburtluoğlu (2001) 1.

ADALYA XVII, 2014

A tomb with a view: the rock-cut cemetery at Alahan in Isauria

Emma L. BAYSAL* – Hugh ELTON**

Introduction

The rock-cut cemetery at Alahan is situated on the hillside to the west of the modern village of Alahan which overlies an ancient settlement[1]. The cemetery was cut by the current Karaman - Mut road, built in the 1960s, which destroyed some tombs. The core of the surviving cemetery is about 300 m. (northwest-southeast) by 120 m. (northeast-southwest), but there are burials spread across a much wider area (Figs. 1-2). The cemetery takes advantage of a number of limestone outcrops, positioned on the edge of the drop into the Geçimli Plain in the Göksu Valley, for its most spectacular interments. This cliff edge is unstable, and a combination of a major landslide and ongoing erosion has taken its toll on the southwestern areas of the cemetery, with some tombs being lost, others now on their sides. Human processes have also taken their toll on the cemetery as we see it today and the destruction of some of the tombs and their lids during looting has diminished the quality of evidence available. Those with more archaeological conscience were responsible for the removal of some of the sarcophagi and lids to Karaman Museum and Mut town centre. Modern looting within the cemetery area has revealed that the ground between the rock outcrops is densely packed with human bone. It is not clear to what extent this deposition of bone is *in situ* and to what degree it can be attributed to erosional process and the emptying of the rock-cut tombs by would-be looters. The sheer quantity of bone, in combination with the amounts still present in the chamber and arcosolium tombs suggests that some must derive from interments directly in the ground. The cemetery as experienced in the present is thus far removed from the original, but can give us vital clues as to the character with which it started.

In the seventeenth century, the Turkish traveller Evliya Çelebi wrote the earliest surviving report of the cemetery, 'between the aforementioned Han [in Alahan village] and the castle itself [Alahan churches] are more than 10,000 stone chests of white marble'. This indicates that the cemetery made a considerable visual impact on those who were passing and that there

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1 The work was carried out under a permit granted by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism; Elton et al. 2006a; Elton 2006b; Elton 2008. The authors would like to thank the field teams for their hard work in collecting the data presented here. EB is responsible for the description of and analysis of the Alahan Cemetery, HE for the viewshed analysis and the comparison to other cemeteries

may have been larger numbers of sarcophagi than are currently known[2]. The cemetery is also mentioned by William Leake who travelled between Karaman and Mut in February 1800.

> Not far beyond the khan we stop to examine a tall rock, which, partly by its natural form and partly by the effect of art, represents a high tower. At the foot of it is a niche with a semicircular top, the lower part forming a coffin, cut out of the solid rock; the lid of this sarcophagus, which is a separate stone, lies at the foot of the rock; upon it is the figure of a lion seated in the middle, with a boy at either end; the boy facing the lion has his foot upon the paw of the animal. The sculpture is much defaced and the heads have been purposely destroyed. We find also many entire sarcophagi, with their covers. They had all been opened; in some instances [107] by throwing off the covers, in others by forcing a hole through the sides. The usual ornament is the *caput bovis* with festoons, but some have on side a defaced inscription on a tablet; on either side of this are ornaments varying on different sarcophagi. We observe on some, a garland on one side of the tablet, and a crescent on the other; some have emblems which seem to refer to the profession of the deceased[3].

Paolo Verzone's 1956 publication also included a chapter on the tombs at Alahan. This includes drawings of several ornamented sarcophagi (decorated with garlands and bucrania or with medusa heads) now lost, but unfortunately with no map[4].

A survey of the cemetery was carried out in 2005 as part of the Göksu Archaeological Project. Here we report the results of the survey, the numbers, types and variations between tombs and discuss the possible indications of social hierarchy. The view towards Mahras Dağ over the Geçimli Plain and Göksu Valley is considered as a possible impetus for the design of the cemetery by the inhabitants of Alahan. Finally, we consider how the cemetery at Alahan fits into the wider central Isaurian context.

Survey methodology

In the spirit of the survey carried out at nearby Adrassus 25 km. to the ESE and with the benefit of advanced methodology and survey techniques the Alahan cemetery survey has aimed to accurately report the state of the cemetery as preserved in 2005. This article details the nature of the tombs, the significance of their locations, and uses the survey data to explore how this cemetery relates to others in the region[5].

Initial inspection of the cemetery area in 2003 raised a number of questions to which the research design was addressed. A basic survey was an obvious prerequisite - the number of individual tombs, and the types of tombs would give an idea about the distribution of burials and the level of prestige. The unique situation of the cemetery overlooking the Göksu valley, and the orientation of the tombs in relation to the valley, provided an unusual question relating to the 'design' of the cemetery and the interests of the individuals who were buried there in terms of status during life and prospects for the afterlife. As there was a route passing through the settlement at Alahan and the cemetery, it might have been assumed that the focus would have

2 MacKay 1971, 173-174; cf. de Laborde 1838, 124.

3 Leake 1824, 106-107.

4 Verzone 1956, 57-65.

5 Alföldi-Rosenbaum 1980.

been on the visibility of elaborate tombs by passing travellers. The obvious orientation of some of the most elaborate tombs towards the valley suggests that their occupants may have been interested in their 'view' in the afterlife - and possibly that they wished to be oriented towards the mountain of Mahras Dağ and sites on the other side of the valley.

With these questions in mind a simple research design was created in order to record basic data for each of the tombs including tomb type and layout, orientation, number of burial slots, preservation and any unusual details, this data is summarised in Tab. 4. The cemetery was recorded by a team of students using a standard recording form, which was used to produce a basic description of the tombs for entry into a database. Each tomb was also photographed and coordinates were taken using hand-held GPS (Fig. 2). Because the work was carried out under a survey permit, issued by the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, research was limited to surface materials. A total of 184 records were created, each major rock outcrop containing tombs was allotted an identifying number (seen in Fig. 2) and each individual tomb was also given a unique identifier. The records contain varying levels of detail; some tombs were so badly obscured by thick undergrowth that it was not possible to obtain measurements or an accurate assessment of their condition. In other tombs it was possible to record some of the dimensions, but not all, in many cases the burial slots, chamosoria or sarcophagi were largely filled with debris, or even had their lids still *in situ*, thereby preventing the recording of some internal measurements. The tombs that have been recorded cannot be dated more closely than Hellenistic to Late Roman. It is not possible to determine the frequency with which different types of burial occurred at Alahan, how many interments were made in each tomb, or to determine the span of time for which the cemetery remained in active use. We know that it has remained a landmark within the landscape of the Göksu valley as it has remained within sight of the main road both ancient and modern. Although all the tombs have been opened, it is assumed that surface material in the immediate area of the cemetery came from the graves. 173 ceramic sherds were collected, the vast majority of which were table wares with occasional cooking pots or small storage jars dating from the late Hellenistic to the late Roman periods. No significant differences in type or date were visible in terms of ceramic distribution across the cemetery. In both date and ware types this assemblage was very different from that from the city[6]. No glass or other grave goods were seen.

Layout of the cemetery

There are at least 150 tombs in the cemetery area; the poor visibility caused by the persistent vegetation means that several tombs were probably undetected. The majority of the tombs are cut into major rock outcrops. The practice of burial outside of rock-cut monuments is less clear and basic interments may have followed a very different pattern. It is not possible to date the individual tombs because of the relatively basic and unvarying designs and the lack of surviving decoration. The four main tomb types found in the cemetery are distributed between a variety of locations. However, there are also a variety of single and smaller multiple tomb groups spreading out from the core of the cemetery with a distribution which does not allow identification of a distinct boundary between interment and non-interment areas. In this section each tomb type is described, along with some of its common variations, followed by detailed information about some of the major tomb blocks and examples of tombs that are deemed to be particularly interesting. Summary data for all the tombs can be found in Tab. 4.

6 Elton et al. 2009, 93-97.

Arcosolia

An *arcosolium* (Figs. 4b, 5b) is a deep arch cut into living rock, either a rock face or a free-standing outcrop, which acts as a shelter for a sarcophagus of the *chamosorion* form (cut down into the rock) or the freestanding form (in which rock is cut away to form an upstanding sarcophagus). Many of the Alahan arcosolia contained stone sarcophagi. In the cases where there is no rock-cut slot the tomb may have been unfinished, there is also a possibility that an alternative vessel of wood or ceramic could have been employed although we have no evidence to suggest that this was the case. In some atypical examples there may be two sarcophagi housed within the same arch. Each sarcophagus has the typical heavy stone lid (Fig. 4c). The majority of sarcophagi are quite plain, though a few have some carved decoration. Of all the tomb types found in Alahan cemetery the arcosolia have the greatest visual impact from a distance. They were designed and positioned to be seen from afar, and with the addition of painted details (as indicated by occasional traces of remnants of red paint) they could be further highlighted within their surroundings. However, none of the arcosolia in the cemetery area is as elaborate as the early Christian examples in the Alahan ecclesiastical complex and even mouldings around the arch are unusual[7]. There are no examples with legible inscriptions in the cemetery area. It has been suggested that the sarcophagi at Adrassus were made to be re-opened and reused by the addition of further interments. The depth of the sarcophagi, both freestanding and chamosorion types at Alahan (where it has been possible to determine) suggests that this was probably also the case in this cemetery. This is further reinforced by the presence of shelf-like devices behind the sarcophagi to facilitate the removal of the lid[8]. Multiple burials within each sarcophagus or slot could render the estimate of occupancy greater by a factor of at least two and probably more. Reuse of tombs is also suggested by the numerous Isaurian inscriptions limiting the use of the sarcophagus to a husband and wife, their children, and their descendants.

The greatest variation among the arcosolia comes in their positioning within the rock outcrops of the cemetery. Some are at or near to ground level (for example block F128, F1008, 1009, 1010, 1011), in positions with very poor visibility, others are located within the rock face of the larger tomb blocks in such a way that they could only have been reached by ladder (for example Block F129, F1021, 1034). These single arcosolia are also oriented in all directions with no apparent preference for visibility from or to the road, settlement, or Göksu valley. The only exception to this is F1071 in block F147, an arcosolium that faces directly towards the Alahan settlement and also differs from the other examples in its design. There is a large flat area to the left of the arch resembling a wide column, while above the arch is an area which has been extensively shaped, although the desired result is not clear; figured representations may have been planned, or it is even possible that a second arcosolium might have been intended above the first.

There are 49 examples of single arcosolia recorded in the central cemetery area, their most notable feature being the variability in location. This contrasts strongly with the paired examples which show a very different pattern in both location and orientation. There are nine pairs of arcosolia at Alahan cemetery that are positioned to face towards Mahras Dağ and the Geçimli Plain (orientations varying between 175 and 285°, average 220°). It was this apparent desire to face towards a 'view' rather than the more conventional road leading to the settlement at Alahan that first raised the question of how and why the cemetery was designed.

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7 Gough 1985, 139-140.

8 Alföldi-Rosenbaum 1980, 29.

In considering these 'sets' of tombs the overall impression is of similarity, but with some variations in prominence and quality.

Although all these pairs of arcosolia are similar in their basic design (Fig. 7) there are some minor variations. F1035 in block F127 is a finished and used tomb, while its partner F1036 was abandoned after the front platform was prepared and the arch outlined in the rock face, perhaps because the masons thought the rock too unstable to continue. The pair of arcosolia in block F128 (F1001 and 1002) were planned as a single entity, sharing the same frontage, and incorporating a set of steps which form a convenient route up the outcrop. Including the extensive platform area in front of the tombs, the removal of a very large volume of rock was necessary to create this design. They are barely visible from ground level. The paired arcosolia in block F129 are large; F1022 is the largest arcosolium in the cemetery (2.23 m. tall, 3.58 m. wide and dwarfs its partner F1027 (1.39x2.3 m.) although they share the same frontage and also have a set of steps to provide easy access (Fig. 7). The least imposing of the paired arcosolia are those of block F142 which contains no other tombs. The F306 (F1109 and 1110) and F308 (F1079 and 1080) examples are less coherent as a pair than the other sets in that they do not share a common flattened frontage, nor do they sit at the same level despite being adjacent and oriented in the same direction. The pairs situated in blocks F329 and F330 are at modern ground level (and were thus slightly raised above the original ground level) and are therefore much less prominently positioned than more imposing sets. They share, however, the similar paired formation and orientation. These less prominent pairs were also placed in very small rock outcrops, suggestive of how locals might have defined prestigious tombs.

Rock cut chambers

The rock cut chambers (Figs. 4a, 5a) have a standard entrance design in which a shallow miniature arch between one to one and a half metres tall frames and shelters a rectangular entrance hole which is raised above ground level (presumably to prevent flooding). There are sockets for wooden doors in some instances. The presence of a useable door indicates that these were regarded as tombs which were in active use over some period of time. It may also indicate that individuals were unlikely to be buried in these chambers with very valuable grave goods as access for thieves would have been simple. The number of burial slots within the chambers varies, as does the size of the chamber. In the larger examples the individual burials may be within their own internal arcosolia similar to Uzuncaburç and Adrassus[9]. The tombs at Alahan have only minor variations in the internal design of the chambers. Some have steps leading down into the chamber; some have internal 'shelves' either at the back or side of the chamber. Some are very carefully finished inside with a slightly curved ceiling. None of these tombs show any signs of being decorated internally with painted plaster, though tombs in the Göksu valley at Topkaya preserve this. Most of the rock-cut chambers in the Alahan cemetery are of the simplest and most compact form, generally there is no space at all between the burial slots. The number of slots varies between one and five, though four slots is the most common. There are some examples where slots were abandoned part-way through manufacture (such as F1043) and also some to which extensions were made as an afterthought including F1074 which started as a typical four slot scheme and was extended to five. Well-finished examples exhibit narrower dividers between slots and often have internal arcosolia to the rear (total eight examples). Tomb block F147 contains the most elaborate selection of chamber tombs in which three examples have rear arcosolia and one (F1063) has a rear arcosolium that verges on being apsidal, oriented to the east suggesting that this may be a Christian burial.

9 Keil - Wilhelm 1931, 59-62, Taf. 21; Alföldi-Rosenbaum 1980, 22.

Freestanding sarcophagi

Freestanding sarcophagi (Figs. 4c, 5c) are carved from the living rock. They are not as ostentatious as the arcosolia positioned high on rock outcrops but they are visually striking when viewed closely, especially those examples with carved decoration. They are not common in the Alahan cemetery itself, with only two examples, but there are specimens at the eastern edge of the city. Some of these have been transported elsewhere because of their decoration and portability. The low number of these sarcophagi in the cemetery area can be attributed to the scarcity of suitable, relatively flat, areas of sound limestone from which they could be carved. Most of the rock outcrops lend themselves better to chambers or arcosolia.

Rock-cut lidded tombs at ground level (chamosoria)

Unlike the freestanding sarcophagi which have suffered the ravages of time, the sarcophagi cut into the rock (Figs. 4d, 5d) were preserved well, although their lids were often either destroyed or far removed. This is a very simple form of rock cut tomb. There is no room for elaboration, the surviving lids are free from decoration, and the tomb cannot be seen from a distance. The chamosoria thus display the least variation and worst quality of the tomb types. There were at least nine unfinished examples in various locations in the cemetery area. These mostly consisted of outline shapes carved into the rock surface as narrow gulleys, and in some cases partially excavated slots of less than half the normal finished depth - and not deep enough to be used. The only design variation is a lip around the edge of some examples to hold the lid. They have a considerable size range (Tab. 2). The smallest examples raise the question of how they were used. They were not long enough for fully extended burial, suggesting that a body would either be contracted in some way, that they were used for the deposition of bones moved from other locations, or that they were intended for children. The latter option is less likely given that tombs were reused for multiple individuals.

Tab. 1 Average dimensions of the various tomb types in Alahan cemetery (see Tab. 4 for individual tomb statistics).

	Minimum (m.)	Maximum (m.)	Average (m.)
Sarcophagus			
Length	1.29	3	1.84
Width	0.46	1.8	0.83
Chamosorion			
Length	0.75	1.87	1.53
Width	0.44	0.78	0.63
Arcosolium			
Height	0.91	1.97	1.49
Width	1.55	3.09	2.33
Slot length	1.36	1.95	1.69
Chamber			
Length	1.37	3.37	2.39
Width	1.4	4.01	2.14
Chamber slot length	1.4	2	1.73

Lids

The lids for the tombs in arcosolia and chamosoria and for freestanding sarcophagi (Fig. 4c) are of the typical Roman form of a pitched roof, the majority with corner acroteria. Although they exhibit no signs of decoration it is possible that they were painted in order to draw attention to the more prominent tombs.

Technology

The surviving tombs were made using a selection of chisels. Within the Alahan chamber tombs and arcosolia three distinct types of chisel mark are identifiable, one wide and flat bladed (straight chisel), a medium size that was toothed, and a narrower finer toothed chisel (claw chisels) used for the most detailed work such as the door frames and hinge fittings. All these tools were part of the standard toolkit of ancient stonecutters and were used with a mallet or mason's hammer[10]. There is a single example of the use of masonry as a means of augmenting the naturally available rock outcrops of the cemetery area, in the back wall of a chamber tomb (F327/1), possibly because a miscalculation of the size.

The tomb blocks

The majority (47) of the individual tombs are grouped together into a central cluster of four rock outcrops (numbers 128, 129, 140 and 142, Fig. 2) and now form the most striking element of the cemetery. Tomb blocks F128 and F129 form the core of the Alahan rock cut cemetery and have both the largest volume of natural rock and the greatest intensity of typical examples of the tombs found at Alahan (F128: 7 arcosolia and 9 chamber tombs; F129: 8 arcosolia and 15 chamber tombs, Tab. 1). In these blocks, and most of the smaller ones, the tombs are arranged at different levels and face in all directions. Both these blocks provide good examples of the variation between highly accessible tombs, both chambers and arcosolia, at or near ground level (such as F1015, 1016, 1017), and those located higher up the block reached by rock-cut stairs or ladders. The change in ground level since the construction of the cemetery is made clear by the almost complete blockage of some of the chamber doorways by later sediments. The stone itself has also decomposed; there are examples of partially collapsed arcosolia. In block F128 there were places for at least 27 burials in 16 tombs, although the extent of two chambers is unknown due to excessive undergrowth. Long bones still remaining in the tombs indicate that there were, in fact, many more individuals than the number of slots alone would indicate. In both these blocks the majority of tombs were of the types described previously but there are some unusual examples, F1003 is a small 2 slot chamber with a set of steps leading into the chamber, a shelf along the wall to the left of the entrance and a ceiling which curves into the walls, a pseudo-arcosolium. It also has an accessible entranceway leading to the doorway. F1012 is an example of a larger, relatively elaborate chamber tomb with an entrance arch deep enough that it could be called a vestibule. The rectangular doorway is particularly well executed with an inner 'frame' which can only be seen when standing in the chamber. There are two large and well-made steps leading into the chamber and four burial slots with a large square shelf in the back right corner, perhaps intended as a place for offerings. In block F129, three arcosolia (F1127, 1128 and 1129) were roughed-out but never finished, perhaps due to a change of location or because the faults in the rock were deemed to be too great for work to continue.

[10] Adam 1994, 32

Another significant tomb block is F307. This block is not a rock outcrop but a giant boulder that has rolled onto its side in a landslide at some point after the tombs were carved, thus rendering the original orientation of the tombs unknown. It can be suggested however that the block originally rested slightly further up the slope of the cemetery closer to tomb block F308 (and to the northeast of its current position) (Fig. 2). This block hosts some of the most interesting tombs surviving in the cemetery including one arcosolium, one chamosorion, one sarcophagus, one chamber tomb, one indeterminate very broken tomb, and one area that had been flattened in preparation for carving a tomb. Chamber F1082 unusually has a double arch carved around the arch of the doorway, giving extra emphasis to the entrance although the carving is neither very deep nor very high quality. The internal design is typical of the arcosolium backed chamber tomb although the left hand slot was not finished, being carved to only about half the depth of the others. This brings into question whether this tomb was ever used. Arcosolium F1083 is the most elaborate of the arcosolia in the cemetery, though unfortunately both on its side and half covered by debris. There was a Maltese cross in a circle above the door, similar to many others at Alahan. More unusually it also has a *tabula ansata* on the back wall of the arched area. Interestingly this is not finished, the working marks around its edge are very rough, and an inscription was not made. This is despite the fact that the tomb clearly was inhabited since the lid (somewhat surprisingly given the current angle of the whole) is still more or less *in situ*. Perhaps the tomb was awaiting a further burial before the inscription was added. This could date the movement of the block to a relatively early period if this was the reason for its abandonment. The original top surface of the boulder plays host to tombs F1084 and F1085. The former is an extraordinary example within the context of this cemetery, a very large garland sarcophagus which was cut down into the rock in such a way that it had a surrounding rock backdrop on three sides. Although creating a dramatic effect when viewed from a distance this arrangement renders three sides of the sarcophagus almost impossible to see unless standing in direct proximity to them. The sarcophagus itself is very robust and is designed with a very large ledge block at the rear (effectively an extremely thick rear wall), which acted as a support when the lid was removed. The lid was not recovered during the survey. The decoration remaining on the, albeit somewhat broken, sarcophagus consists of a single large garland which covers most of the end surface, the base of the sarcophagus is carved to give the impression of a step or podium, intended no doubt to make it seem bigger and more imposing. There is a set of steps up from the left side of the sarcophagus which allow access to F1085 which is a chamosorion effectively set at approximately the same level as the sarcophagus, suggesting that the two were related to each other.

Additional tombs

In addition to the main body of the cemetery, there were numerous other tombs in and close to the city. These had the same characteristics as the tombs in the main cemetery itself and are not described in detail here. There are a number of possible reasons for location outside the core of the cemetery area, there may have been a shortage of available rock, as it is certainly true that almost all available locations were filled in the cemetery. Individuals may have had personal reasons to distance themselves from the rest of the population, or may have had a link to a certain area. Similar outlying burials are also reported from Trebenna[11]. A small group of tombs was located within the walled circuit of the city, though as preserved these were mostly chamosoria. At the eastern end of the modern village, outside the walled area

[11] Çevik 2006, 183.

of the ancient settlement, a line of four sarcophagi was recorded (though since destroyed). These marked the line of the ancient road which ran towards Mut, probably lying outside the city's wall circuit. One of these sarcophagi was decorated with a garland and bucranion, dating to the mid-second to mid-third century AD. Part of a sarcophagus with a similar pattern was moved from Alahan to the Karaman museum (inv. 2273)[12]. At the northwest edge of the ancient cemetery was an area of several blocks with cyma recta mouldings, ashlars, roof tiles, and a doorpost. These came from a monumental public building, over 600 m. from the city's defensive wall. The location in the cemetery suggests a church[13]. Some material from this building was later recycled into a large (post-Roman) building at least 15x5 m. made of unmortared rubble blocks, divided into rooms.

The views from the tombs

Despite the limited variety of surviving tombs, there is a clear social hierarchy within the cemetery. In many other Roman cemeteries, inscriptions give some guide to hierarchies[14]. Here, only two of the tombs had inscriptions, of which one was illegible, though probably from the Early Imperial Roman era, the other reads only *Apoll...* The lack of inscriptions and the large number of surviving simple tombs suggests that other factors contributed significantly to the social hierarchy. Many Roman cemeteries were located on roads, with regional examples at Gökçeseki, Kızkalesi (Corycus), Ayaş (Elaeussa/Sebaste), and Uzuncaburç (Diocaesarea). Here, the cemetery lay on the ancient route from Karaman to Mut via Alahan, though the construction of the modern Mut-Karaman road in the 1960s means the ancient route can only be traced in a few areas. Nonetheless, even if the exact path is unknown, constraints on the route caused by cliffs are easy to determine. The layout of the tombs suggests that the cemetery was not arranged in a linear fashion with respect to the road. The deciding factor in tomb placement was not the visibility of the tombs, which varies not only by type but also by position. Many of the arcosolia, for example, are not easily visible despite their size. Furthermore, the view from the rock outcrops is often spectacular. In some cases, the tombs on top of the rock outcrops cannot be seen from the road, i.e. they are oriented for the view rather than to catch the attention of passing travellers. In this respect, the cemetery appears similar to others in southern Anatolia such as Ariassus in Pisidia[15], Etenna in Pamphylia[16], and Trebenna in Lycia[17].

Tab. 2 Orientation of the tombs at Alahan and number facing towards Mahras Dağ/Geçimli Plain/Göksu Valley (170-260°).

	Average direction (°)	Between 170-260°
Arcosolium	184	28 (49%)
Twin arcosolia	220	16 (89%)
Chamber	215	15 (35%)

12 Verzone 1956, 58-61; Koch - Sichtermann 1982, 552-553.

13 Elton 2013.

14 Çevik 2006.

15 Cormack 1996, 5.

16 Çevik 2003.

17 Çevik 2006.

The views from the tombs can be analysed using the Viewshed tool found in many GIS programmes. Calculating viewsheds is a simple process, though this is not a precise tool[18]. It does suggest that views of the Geçimli Plain and of Mahras Dağ were important, whereas views of the city at Alahan and the terrace containing the churches were not seen as important. This is significant given the ease of finding suitable areas for both rock-cut and free-standing burials. The viewsheds from the Alahan cemetery can be compared with those from several other tombs in the immediate area. At the same elevation to the north, the tombs at F0029 (Leake's rock tower) and at F0743 (a garland sarcophagus on a living rock base) had similar views. Like the exploitation of the boulders in the cemetery, location of these tombs was primarily determined by the availability of suitable rock. However, a second factor was proximity to a road, with many of the tombs in the immediate area sited next to ancient routes such as the one leading from Geçimli past Karacaağaç to a bridge over the Göksu River. Proximity to a road and view of or from it were, however, different factors. Although suitable rock and proximity to roads were important factors in locating tombs, the way in which even small boulders were exploited for paired arcosolia looking towards Mahras Dağ shows that other factors were important. Lastly, we are analysing what survives, rather than what originally existed. In the village of Karacaağaç a large though undecorated freestanding sarcophagus (F0626) survives, overlooking the ravine to west of the village. From here, Mahras Dağ can be seen, as well as the area of the Alahan cemetery, the Alahan city, the churches, and the associated settlement of Gözenek. The view of the Geçimli Plain, however, is very much restricted, suggesting that this was a lesser priority. It seems likely, however, that in the core area of Alahan cemetery a statistically significant number of arcosolia and nearly all twin arcosolia were positioned with the view rather than visibility in mind. These were probably the most prestigious burial spaces in the cemetery, especially considering the lack of visual impact of the chamber and chamosorion tomb types and the scarcity of sarcophagi.

Other Isaurian cemeteries

Although there are widespread examples of comparable funerary architecture within the Anatolian context Isauria provides many useful comparative examples for the cemetery at Alahan. The region is large, with great diversity in the surviving evidence for Hellenistic and Roman funerary practices, the result of good preservation of rock-cut architecture in an area with generally low population[19]. The abundant tomb remains can be divided into three geographical areas. The first is the coastal area where the majority of the tombs are built grave houses of various forms, though where suitable rock was available there were also instances of sarcophagi and rock-cut tombs[20]. The second group is the rock-cut tombs of the interior, starting around Olba (Ura) and Diocaesarea (Uzuncaburç), and spreading up to Adrassus and the Upper Göksu Valley, and south to Duruhan. The third area is a northern cluster around Isaura Vetus (Bozkır), spreading south through the mountains, dominated by funerary altars and larnaces, though with some highly ornamental tombs[21]. These are broad generalizations with numerous exceptions. Thus free-standing sarcophagi are found in numbers in central Isauria at Sinobuç and Adrassus, while there are rock-cut tombs on or near the coast at Corycus and at

18 Viewshed analysis conducted in ArcGIS 10 using the ASTER 2 DEM (30 m. cell size); for further details see Baysal - Elton, forthcoming.

19 Cormack 1997; Doğanay 2009; Mitford 1990, 2155-2157; Scarborough 1991; Scarborough 1998; Spanu 2000.

20 Machatschek 1967; Collignon - Duchesne 1880; Durukan 2005; Alföldi-Rosenbaum 1971.

21 Buckler - Calder - Cox 1924; Ramsay 1904; Ramsay 1906.

Diocaesarea. Subterranean tombs are only occasionally found in Isauria, though examples are known at Kelenderis (Aydıncık) and in Cilicia at Yüceören near Adana[22]. In some cases, particular tombs can be dated more closely because of their inscriptions or decoration, but since the vast majority of tombs are undateable, it would be rash to conclude that the construction of any particular type was confined to any period(s); temple tombs found throughout the area however do appear to be restricted to the second and third centuries AD[23]. Christian era tombs can only be distinguished from those from earlier periods by inscriptions or the addition of Christian motifs. Inscriptions which often list permitted occupants or fines for non-permitted use suggest that reuse and unauthorised use of tombs was common.

The cemetery at Alahan is typical of the central Isaurian group. In the number of tombs it can be compared to cemeteries belonging to other inland cities at Adrassus, Dağpazarı, Gökçeseki (previously İmsiören), and Sinobuç. All of these small cities have more tombs than at Ermenek and Mut, but in both cases little work has taken place and modern cities overlie the ancient ones. As well as the urban cemeteries, there are numerous other Isaurian sites with funerary remains. Some of the larger complexes like that at Uğurlu may belong to cities, but the majority are from village sites such as Köristan or Duruhan[24]. In terms of the views, though the city at Sinobuç has a clear view of Mahras Dağ, its tombs are not sited so as to face the mountain. In two other well-preserved nearby cemeteries, the tombs at Gökçeseki mostly look towards roads, while at Adrassus the majority of the surviving tombs face the ravine to the south of the city.

Tab. 3 Cemeteries in Isaurian Cities

	Arcosolia	Chamber tomb	Free-standing sarcophagus	Lion-lidded sarcophagus	Estimated number of tombs	Number of inscriptions from site*
Alahan	Y	Y	Y	Y	150+	12+
Adrassus	Y	Y (rare)	Y	Y	225+	18
Dağpazarı	Y	Y	Y	Not known	100+	10+
Ermenek	Y	Y	Y	Y	25+	8
Gökçeseki	Y	Y	N	Y	97+	9
Mut	Not known	Not known	Y	Not known	10+	32
Sinobuç	N	Y	Y	Y	110+	54

* Using counts from Hagel – Tomaschitz 1998, + means additional unpublished material has been discovered by GAP.

The choice of which tomb type to use was at least partly dependent on the availability of suitable rock. Where there were large cliff faces available, the arcosolia could be cut in layers as at Adrassus and at Gökçeseki, and outside central Isauria at Kanlıdivane[25]. Some rock faces have not weathered well, though the severe degradation of rock faces and tomb fronts

22 Zoroğlu 2000; Şenyurt 2005 or http://agt.si.edu/images/uncover_more/site_reports/site_report_pdf/turkey/Yuceoren_English.pdf (12.03.2014); cf. Çevik 2003, 109.

23 Hoff - Townsend 2004, 265, 275; Durukan 2005, 109, 111-112; Cormack 2004.

24 Doğanay - Karauğuz - Kunt 2005; Davesne 1996, 155-163.

25 Alföldi-Rosenbaum 1980, 21-27.

at Uğurlu and Dağpazarı was probably not visible while the cemeteries were in use. Large freestanding rock-outcrops were less common than cliffs, so there are only a few regional parallels such as Güneyyurt and Köristan, both close to Ermenek[26]. This poor rock quality may help to explain the frequent lack of decoration. Some regional chamber tombs did have elaborate facades, as at Duruhan, Topkaya, Ermenek, and Köristan, though it was common for them to be undecorated. In the same way, decorated sarcophagi were rare, though many of those that did exist have been relocated or vandalised. When there was decoration, this included garlands (and sometimes bucrania), *tabulae ansatae*, and various flowers, roundels, crosses, rosettes, or wreaths. The standard form of lid was pitched with corner acroteria, occasionally with some decoration such as lion masks (at Sinobuç) or carved patterns suggestive of roof tiles (at Adrassus) making a literal association of the tomb with the house of the dead. Regionally, a few sarcophagus lids were carved to resemble lions, a feature found elsewhere in southern Anatolia. The quality of the carving varies greatly, from crude examples at Sinobuç to more elaborate examples at Adrassus, one of which is now on display next to the Mut tea garden after being moved from Adrassus between 1966 and 1973[27]. Lion-lids were also found in the interior at Ermenek, Lafşa, and Gökçeseki, while east of Silifke there are examples from Kızkalesi, Tekkadın, and Imbriogon[28]. One of these was recorded at Alahan by Leake in 1800 (cited above), but has been lost. More elaborate sarcophagi did exist, but are very rare regionally, even taking into account losses over time[29]. When compared to the funerary architecture of other parts of southern Anatolia, the Isaurian tombs are generally poorly decorated. They are, however, entirely characteristic of central Isauria. However, the types of decoration that are present, together with the occasional presence of monuments of high quality, suggest that this was the result of poverty rather than isolation.

Conclusion

The impression given by the tombs recorded at Alahan is that it was a relatively austere place, lacking in the decorative exuberance seen in some Roman cemeteries on the coast or in areas such as Pisidia or Lycia. However, it is possible that some of the elaboration has been lost through the various destructive processes that have ravaged the area. It is also likely that the local decorative tradition involved the extensive use of colourful paint, occasionally surviving in some of the arcosolia. Despite the relative austerity of the cemetery there is still enough variation in the size and elaboration of the tombs to be able to conclude that there was considerable social differentiation manifested in differential burial types. There is also much distinction in the workmanship of the tombs, some of which were beautifully finished both inside and out while others have a very tidy facade but a roughly finished interior. Although population numbers and the time of use of the cemetery remain unknown it is clear from the low overall number of rock cut tombs that only a very small proportion of the population of the city of Alahan was ever afforded such a privileged burial. This social distinction is perhaps more important than the differentiation between rock-cut tomb types.

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26 Bean - Mitford 1970, 210, 212; Doğanay - Karauğuz - Kunt 2005.

27 Alföldi-Rosenbaum 1980, 10, 61-62.

28 Money 1990; Adrassus, Alföldi-Rosenbaum 1980, 47-52; Sinobuç, 2 examples seen by Gough, unpublished; Germanicopolis, Bean - Mitford 1970, 200; Lauzada, Bean - Mitford 1970, 210; Imsiören, Bean - Mitford 1970, 216; Kızkalesi, Machatschek 1967, 38, fig. 22; Tekkadın, unpublished; Imbriogon, Heberdey - Wilhelm 1896, 83.

29 Durugönül - Kaplan - Tepebaş 2013; Özgen 2003.

The most prestigious tombs in the cemetery were probably the twin arcosolia placed on top of the majority of rock outcrops. All face towards the Geçimli Plain and Mahras Dağ, and suggest that there was something desirable in that view, whether reflecting natural beauty, local religious belief, or other factors. The same is probably true of the garland sarcophagus at F307, cut with a distinct orientation. This practice of obscuring the most visually striking tombs from the view of the road and/or settlement, while ensuring that they had a 'view', as well as the 'twinning' are unique characteristics of the Alahan cemetery. The remainder of the arcosolia in the cemetery do not appear in pairs, suggesting a positive relationship between orientation and design. Was it the case that that the most prized location in Alahan cemetery was a tomb with a view?

Tab. 4 Summary of the tomb data collected from Alahan cemetery during the Göksu Archaeology Project in 2005.

Block/number	Type	Length	Width	No of slots	Orientation	Notes
127/1035	Arcosolium	1.88	2.68	1	280	-
127/1036	Arcosolium	1.55	2.79	-	285	Unfinished
127/1037	Chamber	1.91	2.03	?	220	Door hinge socket, right side
127/1038	Chamber	2.0	2.43	3	225	Doorway broken
127/1039	Chamber	2.61	2.42	4	135	-
128/1011	Arcosolium	1.49	2.2	1	65	Partially collapsed
128/1010	Arcosolium	1.32	1.87	1	75	Obscured by collapsed block
128/1009	Arcosolium	1.14	2.08	1	20	-
128/1008	Arcosolium	1.36	2.31	1	35	-
128/1014	Arcosolium	1.55	1.42	1	315	-
128/1001	Arcosolium	1.69	2.46	1	237	-
128/1002	Arcosolium	1.81	2.48	1	231	-
128/1013	Chamber	2.38	1.91	3	310	Back slot has arched roof
128/1012	Chamber	2.86	2.75	4	295	3 stone steps inside door
128/1003	Chamber	3.37	1.5	4	147	Hole in west wall
128/1007	Chamber	2.42	1.63	-	222	-
128/1006	Chamber	2.0	1.98	2	260	-
128/1005	Chamber	2.73	1.62	3	239	-
128/1004	Chamber	1.37	1.4	2	277	-
128/1132	Chamber	-	-	-	-	Obscured by undergrowth
128/1133	Chamber	-	-	-	-	Obscured by undergrowth
129/-	Unfinished	1.82	4.31	0	235	Flat prepared surface
129/-	Possible arcosolium	-	2.86	0	185	Horizontal/vertical prepared surfaces
129/1034	Arcosolium	1.8	2.66	1	310	-
129/1020	Arcosolium	1.48	2.66	1	45	-
129/1021	Arcosolium	1.54	2.4	1	50	-
129/1024	Arcosolium	1.2	2.21	1	180	-
129/1023	Arcosolium	1.3	2.26	1	185	-

Block/number	Type	Length	Width	No of slots	Orientation	Notes
129/1026	Arcosolium	1.31	2.4	1	112	-
129/-	Unfinished arcosolium	1.48	2.18	0	-	Unfinished arcosolium
129/1027	Arcosolium	1.39	2.3	1	220	-
129/1022	Arcosolium	2.23	3.58	1	215	Very high quality finish, wide platform at front
129/1029	Chamber	1.6	1.66	-	240	Slots filled with debris
129/1030	Chamber	-	-	-	270	Internal measurements not possible
129/1031	Chamber	2.54	1.99	4	280	-
129/1032	Chamber	-	-	-	275	Entrance blocked with rubble
129/1015	Chamber	2.44	1.96	4	70	-
129/1028	Chamber	2.82	2.72	4	240	Hinge slots at right of door, opens inwards
129/1033	Chamber	2.64	2.32	4	300	Arch over back slot
129/1016	Chamber	2.53	2.01	4	55	-
129/1017	Chamber	1.8	2.03	3	70	-
129/1018	Chamber	-	-	-	40	Door blocked with rubble
129/1019	Chamber	-	-	-	20	Door is at left side of chamber
129/1025	Chamber	2.69	2.26	4	155	Back slot has arch
139/1046	Arcosolium	1.34	1.96	1	-	Arch collapsed
139/1047	Chamber	-	-	-	-	Collapsed block, no measurements
139/1048	Chamber	2.52	2.13	4	320	Arch over back slot
140/1040	Sarcophagus	1.53	0.44	1	130-310	Chamosorion type, simple rock-cut slot
140/1041	Sarcophagus	1.4	0.46	1	290-110	Chamosorion type, lid slot around edge
140/1042	Arcosolium	1.64	2.47	1	90	-
140/1045	Arcosolium	1.15	2.34	1	235	-
140/1043	Chamber	2.41	2.5	3	90	Unfinished chamber, outline arch at back
140/1044	Chamber	2.46	1.9	4	265	Arch over back slot
141/1057	Sarcophagus	1.76	0.65	1	-	Chamosorion type
141/1059	Sarcophagus?	1.86	0.91	1	130-310	Partially carved chamosorion type
141/1049	Sarcophagus?	0.91	0.54	1	-	Abandoned preparation for chamosorion type
141/1050	Sarcophagus	1.87	0.62	1	140-320	Chamosorion type, carved rim for lid
141/1051	Sarcophagus	1.85	0.59	1	50-230	Chamosorion type, carved rim for lid
141/1058	Sarcophagus?	1.17	-	-	-	Abandoned partially carved chamosorion type

Block/number	Type	Length	Width	No of slots	Orientation	Notes
141/1060	Sarcophagus?	1.42	0.78	1	220-40	Partially carved chamosorion type
141/1056	Sarcophagus?	-	-	-	-	Broken area, at least two tombs partially preserved
141/1052	Arcosolium	1.36	2,51	1	120	Cross carved above arch
141/1053	Arcosolium	1.62	2.5	1	195	-
141/1054	Arcosolium	1.67	2.56	1	195	Good quality example
141/1055	Arcosolium	1.17	2.28	1	240	Badly collapsed
142/1073	Arcosolium	1.18	2.23	1	225	-
142/1072	Arcosolium	1.51	2.76	1	230	Recessed area on front platform
143	Sarcophagus	1.55	0.66	1	210-30	Chamosorion type
144	Sarcophagus	1.84	0.91	1	350-170	Three sides carved, one integrated with body of rock
145/1124	Sarcophagus?	-	0.9	-	208	Very small, either chamosorion or broken chamber
145/1125	Sarcophagus?	1.44	0.56	1	210-30	May be unfinished, poor preservation
145/1126	Sarcophagus?	-	-	-	-	3 separate cuttings, probably chamosoria
145/1122	Chamber	1.25	0.7	1	284	May be part of larger tomb, badly collapsed
145/1123	Chamber	2.24	1.89	4	258	Collapsed
146	Unfinished	-	-	-	190	Flattened area of rock surface, abandoned
147/1069	Arcosolium	1.05	2.12	1	80	-
147/1061	Arcosolium	1.49	2.52	1	30	-
147/1062	Arcosolium	1.38	2.31	1	30	-
147/1071	Arcosolium	1.7	2.36	1	180	Column carved at left side, unclear carving above
147/1065	Arcosolium	1.54	2.15	1	285	-
147/1073	Unfinished arcosolium	2.9	0.7	-	120	Flattened rock face indicating unfinished arcosolium
147/1070	Chamber	2.78	4.01	5	220	Largest of the chamber tombs
147/1130	Chamber	2.45	2.11	4	120	Door hinge, opening inwards, inscription above door
147/1063	Chamber	2.57	2.15	4	285	Apsidal arch over back slot, oriented east
147/1064	Chamber	2.63	2.15	4	285	Arch over back slot
147/1066	Chamber	-	-	-	-	Completely hidden by undergrowth
301/1097	Arcosolium	-	-	1	190	Face of tomb is walled up
301/1098	Chamber	-	2.4	4	190	Front half missing

Block/number	Type	Length	Width	No of slots	Orientation	Notes
302/1118	Sarcophagus	1.74	0.66	1	-	Broken block, sarcophagus lying on its side
302/1120	Chamber	-	2.18	-	205	Back portion of chamber, one slot visible
302/1119	Chamber	2.9	2.55	4	175	Steps inside, headrest in each slot, arch over back slot
302/1117	Chamber	2.68	2.37	4	270	-
302/1116	Chamber?	-	-	-	-	Broken pieces of large block, probably chamber tomb
302/1115	Chamber	2.52	2.14	4	215	Steps inside, door hinge holes
302/1114	Chamber	-	-	-	265	Not possible to enter
302/1113	Chamber	2.46	2.24	4	310	Steps inside, head rests, platform to left of back slot
302/1121	Chamber	-	-	-	175	Obscured by landslide
303	Sarcophagus	1.67	0.46	-	200-20	-
304	Sarcophagus	1.7	0.63	1	150-330	-
305	Arcosolium	1.38	3.09	1	280	-
306/1110	Arcosolium	>0.72	1.93	1	175	Largely obscured by rubble
306/1109	Arcosolium	1.42	2.51	1	175	-
306/1108	Arcosolium	-	-	-	215	Cannot be reached for measuring
307/1084	Sarcophagus (garland)	1.78	1.8	1	-	Tipped at 90° angle, garland at foot end, platform for lid
307/1085	Sarcophagus	1.7	0.65	1	-	Tipped at 90° angle, chamosorion type
307/1086	Chamber/ Arcosolium	-	-	-	-	Tipped at 90° angle, two pieces of indeterminate tombs
307/1083	Arcosolium	1.25	-	1	-	Tipped at 90° angle, cross above arch, inscription space
307/1087	Unfinished	-	-	-	-	Tipped at 90° angle, carved flattened surface
308/1078	Arcosolium	0.91	1.76	1	85	Partially carved
308/1077	Arcosolium	1.76	2.2	1	80	Arch carved around main arch
308/1080	Arcosolium	1.53	2.7	1	200	-
308/1079	Arcosolium	1.56	2.5	1	200	-
308/1081	Chamber	1.65	2.31	3	270	Step inside door
309	Unfinished	-	-	-	-	Flattened area of rock face, abandoned
310/1074	Sarcophagus	1.5	0.68	1	135-315	Chamosorion type but with flat front

Block/number	Type	Length	Width	No of slots	Orientation	Notes
310/1075	Sarcophagus	1.29	0.56	1	40-220	Chamosorion type
310/1076	Unfinished sarcophagus	-	-	-	135-315	Line carved in rock, probably intended chamosorion type
311	Chamber	-	2.4	3	210	Front half no longer intact
312	Sarcophagus	0.75	0.62	1	-	Chamosorion type
313	Arcosolium	1.97	2.45	1	210	-
314 and 108	Sarcophagus	1.75	0.58	1	-	Recent disturbance has obscured one of the tombs
315/1096	Arcosolium	1.64	2.42	1	135	-
315/1095	Arcosolium	1.52	2.32	1	140	-
315/1094	Arcosolium	-	-	1	215	-
315/1093	Arcosolium	1.23	2.4	1	250	-
315/1092	Arcosolium	0.9	1.9	1	355	-
315/1091	Arcosolium	1.3	2.53	1	350	-
315/	Arcosolium	1.3	2.52	1	5	-
315/1082	Chamber	2.35	1.52	4	300	Double carved arch over door, block at an angle
316	Sarcophagus	1.7	0.63	1	-	-
317	Arcosolium	1.65	2.63	1	155	-
318	Arcosolium	1.39	2.14	1	180	-
324/1111	Sarcophagus	1.68	0.66	1	165-335	-
324/1112	Arcosolium	1.26	2.35	1	250	Rectangular ledge on both sides
325	Sarcophagus	1.72	0.81	1	140-320	Bad condition
327	Sarcophagus	-	0.74	1	225-45	Broken in half
327/1	Chamber	1.53	1.63	-	190	Slots obscured by debris, back wall masonry construction
328	Arcosolium	>0.92	1.81	1	270	-
329/1104	Arcosolium	1.63	2.34	1	220	-
329/1103	Arcosolium	1.62	2.2	1	220	-
329/1102	Arcosolium	>0.72	1.55	1	270	-
330/1107	Arcosolium	1.9	2.45	1	230	-
330/1106	Arcosolium	1.52	2.67	1	230	-
330/1105	Arcosolium	1.51	2.31	1	220	-
332/1101	Arcosolium	-	-	-	-	Tomb walled up, not possible to measure
332/1100	Arcosolium	1	2.14	1	195	-
332/1099	Arcosolium	1.4	2.35	1	225	-
333	Sarcophagus	1.85	0.72	1	-	Very shallow, may not have been finished
334	Arcosolium	1.57	2.26	1	140	-
337	Sarcophagus	3	1.25	1	-	-

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Özet

Manzaralı Bir Mezar:
Isauria Bölgesi Alahan Kaya Mezarı Nekropolü

Orta Isauria Bölgesi'nde, Karaman-Mut karayolu üzerinde yer alan Alahan'ın kaya nekropolü Göksu Arkeoloji Projesi çerçevesinde 2005 yılında araştırılmıştır. Nekropolde, Geçimli Ovası ve Göksu Nehri Vadisi'ne bakan kayalık çıkıntılarda kayaya oyulmuş 150 tane mezar yer alır. Mezarlar, geç Hellenistik Dönem'den geç Roma Dönemi'ne kadar uzanan bir zaman dilimine (M.Ö. geç 1. yy. - M.S. 7. yy.) tarihlenmektedirler ve tipolojik açıdan, varyasyonları bulunan dört ana gruba ayrılır: Arcosolium, oda mezar, lahit ve khamosorion. Araştırmanın henüz başlarında bazı arcosoliumların çiftler halinde gruplandığı ve Roma nekropollerinde alışıldık olduğu şekilde yola yönelik değil de vadiye yönelik oldukları saptanmıştır. 'Manzaralı mezar' inşa etme arzusu bizleri nekropolün tasarımındaki motivasyonu sorgulamaya ve hem mezar tasarımında, bir mezarın mezar blokları dâhilindeki konumunda ve hem de çevreye göre yöneliminde bir hiyerarşi bulunduğu izlenimimizi teyit etmeye yönlendirdi.

Yüzey araştırması, Kültür Bakanlığı'nın verdiği izin çerçevesinde gerçekleştirildi. Mezarlar, standart belgeleme yöntemleri kullanan öğrenci grubu tarafından belgelendi; her bir mezar fotoğraflandı, çizimleri yapıldı ve GPS ölçümleri alındı. Mezar blokları civarından bir miktar seramik toplandı. Fakat bu malzeme münferit mezarların tarihlemesi konusunda yardımcı olmadı.

Mezar tiplerinin, özellikle arcosolium ve khamosorionların oldukça standartlaşmış oldukları görüldü. En zengin çeşitlilik oda mezarlarda saptandı. Gömüt yerlerinin değişken sayısı, ve başka iç mekan tasarım varyasyonları; girişlerinin menteşeli ahşap kapılarla kapatılmış olması ise çoklu kullanım amacını göstermektedir. Lahitler sayıca çok azdır; tasarımları ise kimi zaman doğal kaya formasyonları ve kimi zaman da eklenen bezeme nedeniyle, çok değişiktir.

Mezarların bakışımları açısından bakılınca arcosolium çiftleri her zaman Geçimli Vadisi'ne yöneliktir; tekli arcosoliumların ise yalnızca %50'si ve oda mezarların ise yalnızca %35'i bu yönelimdedir.

Alahan Nekropolü, orta Isauria'daki Adrassus, Dağpazarı, Gökçeseki (İmsiören) ve Sinobuç gibi diğer nekropollerle büyüklük açısından benzerdir. Adı geçen nekropollerdeki mezar tipleri incelemesi sonucu mezar tipi seçiminin mevcut kayalığın doğasına dayandığı anlaşılmıştır. Mezarların yeri için Alahan ve benzeri Güneyyurt ve Feriske'deki gibi kayalık çıkıntılar değil bilakis dik yamaçlar daha çok tercih edilmiştir. Orta Isauria'da mezar bezemesi genelde pek görülmez ve bezemeli lahitler ise çoğu zaman taşınmış veya Vandallar tarafından parçalanmıştır. Bilinen bir bezeme olgusu yaygın görüldüğü üzere aslanlı kapaktır. Alahan'da varlığı bildirilen bir örnek bugün yitiktir.

Genelde Alahan Nekropolü, orta Isauria Bölgesi'nde tipik olduğu üzere sade görünüşlü bir yerdir; diğer bir deyişle, güney kıyılarındaki yerleşimlerin tam tersine. Kanımızca, kasvetli görünüşlü mezarlık alanı renkli boyalarla canlandırılmış olabilir. Nekropolde sosyal farklılaşma söz konusudur ve bunun en güzel örneği yüksek kayalık çıkıntıların tepesindeki Geçimli Ovası'na bakan, iyi işçilikli arcosolium çiftleri ile daha gösterişsiz yerlerdeki münferit arcosoliumlar arasında saptanır. Ebatları, işçilikleri ve ayrıntıları değişken olan mezar odalarında da kalite farklılıkları dikkat çeker. Alahan yerleşimi halkının yalnızca küçük bir bölümünün kaya mezarlarına, özellikle de manzaralı olanlara defnedildiği açıkça görülmektedir.

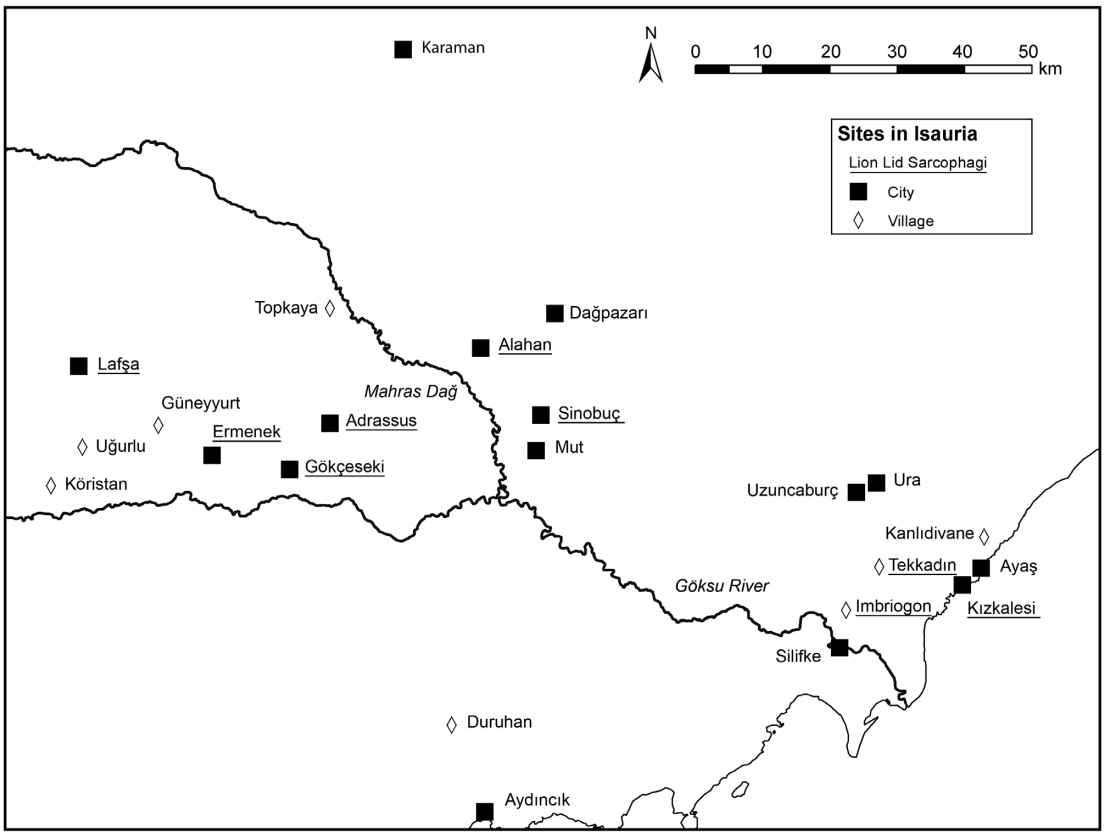

Fig. 1 Area Map

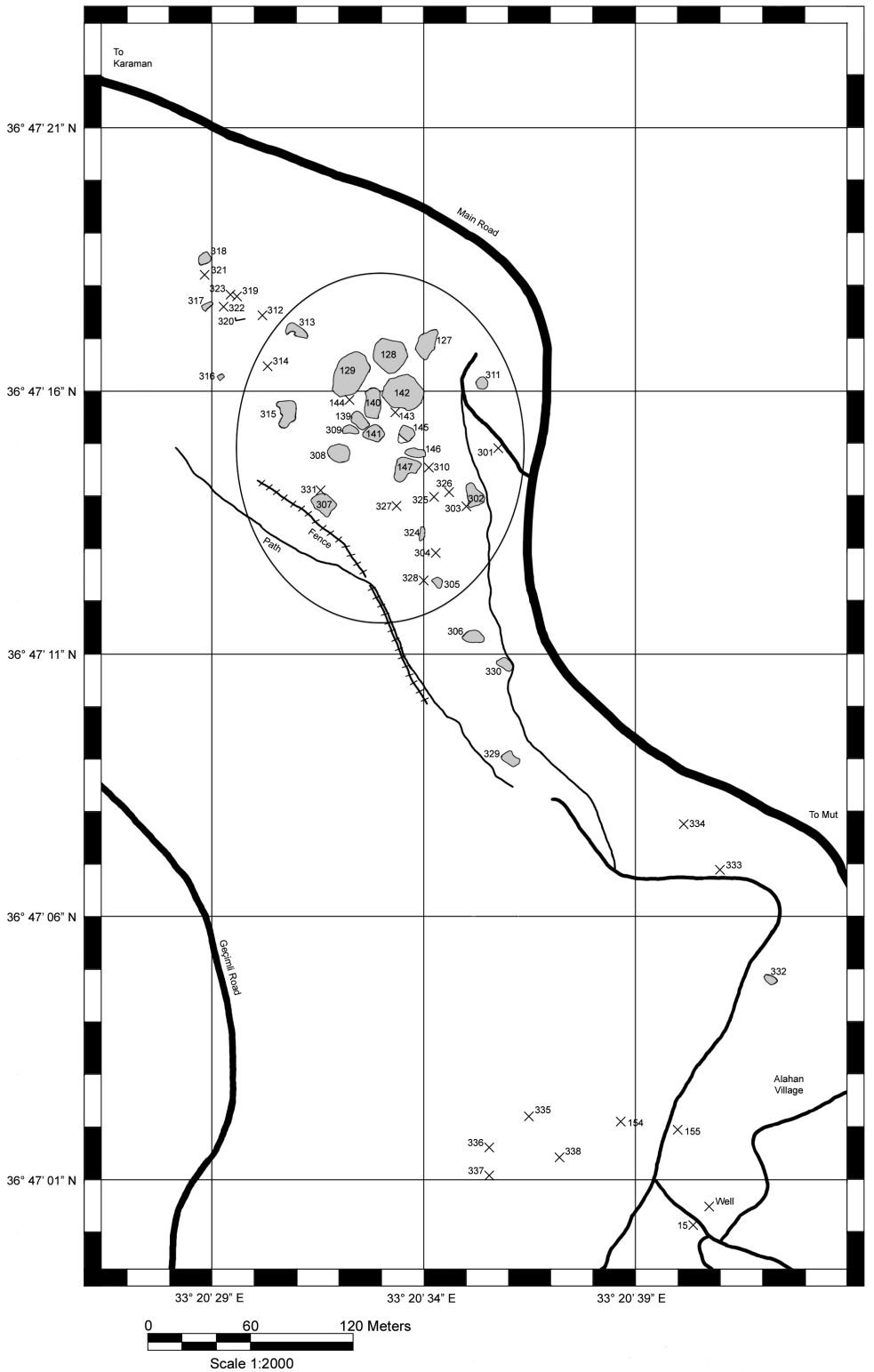

Fig. 2 Alahan Cemetery Map (from original by G. Civay)

Fig. 3
General view of the cemetery showing the main tomb blocks

Chamber Tomb (F1039)

Arcosolium (F1093)

Sarcophagus (F1111)

Chamosorion (F0314)

Fig. 5 Photographs of tomb types at Alahan

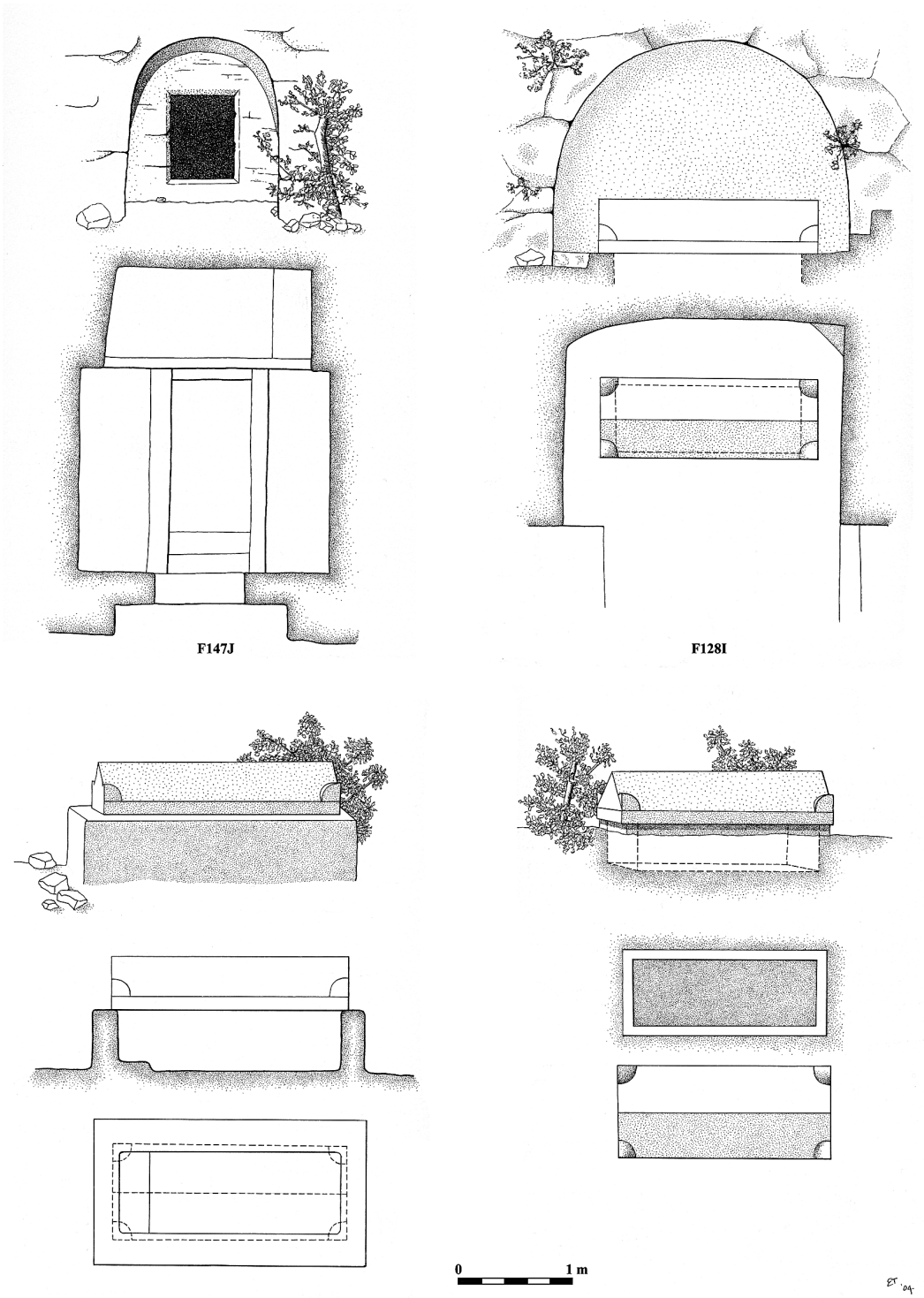

Fig. 4 Schematic versions of the tomb types at Alahan
(previously published in: JRA 19, 2006, 309)

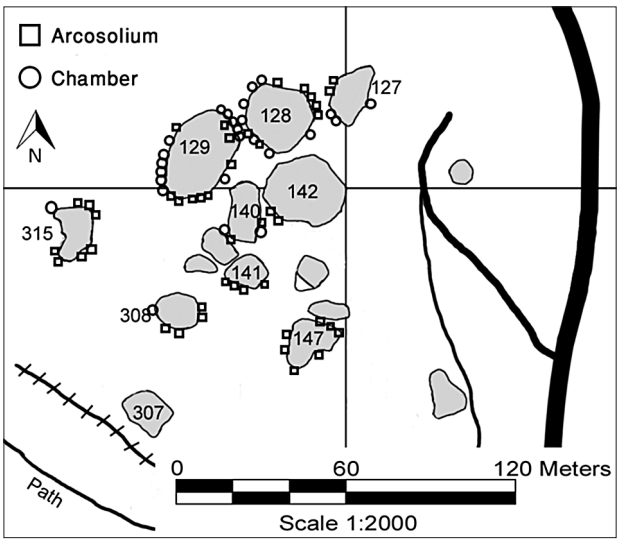

Fig. 6
Tomb blocks showing orientations and type

Fig. 7
F128 showing F1001/1002 tomb pair

Fig. 8
F129 showing the steps to the upper arcosolia

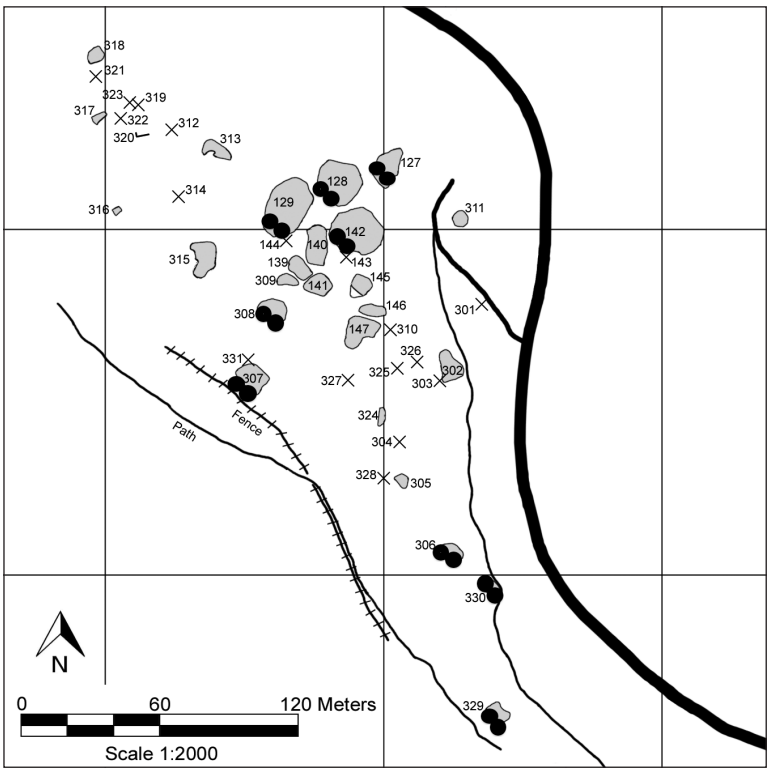

Fig. 9
Arcosolia
'valley' pairs

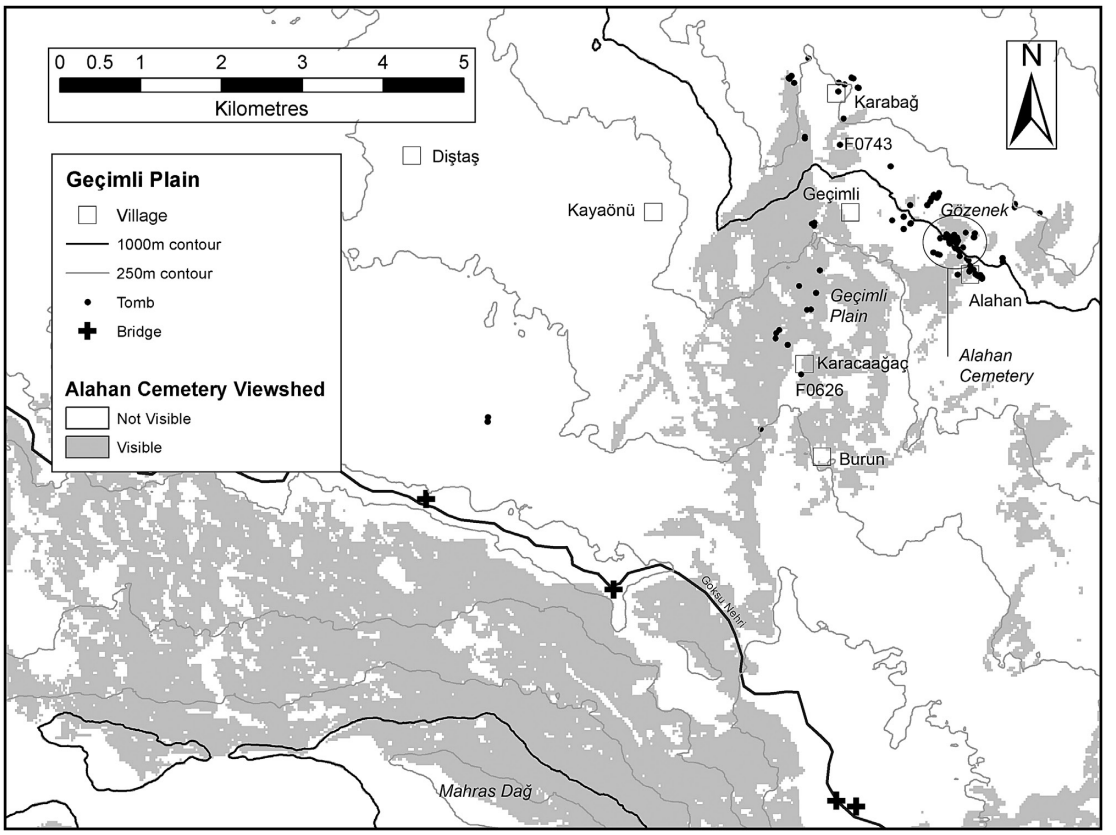

Fig. 10
Alahan area including
cemetery viewshed

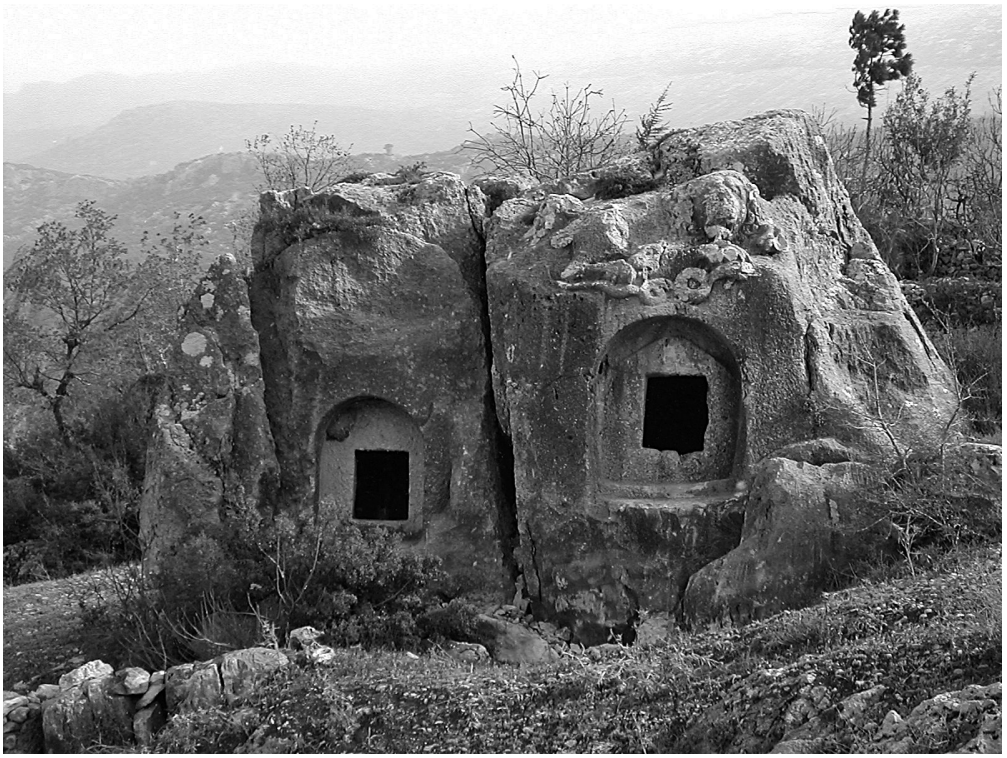

Fig. 11 Tomb in rock outcrop at Güneyyurt

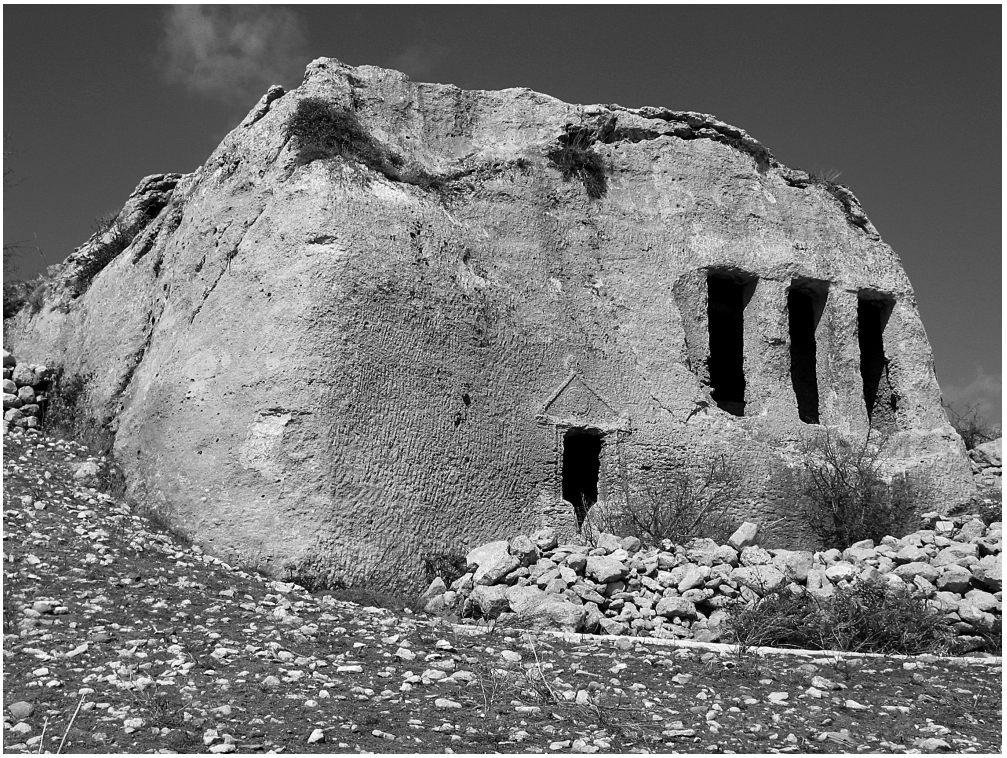

Fig. 12 Tomb in rock outcrop at Köristan