

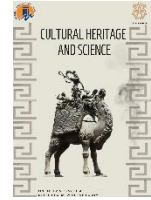


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Survey of Urbanization and Rural Settlements in Rough Cilicia during Antiquity

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ABSTRACT

Our surveys in the eastern part of Rough Cilicia led to the identification of numerous ru-ral settlements. The survey area is bounded by the Kalykadnos (Göksu) and Lamos (Limonlu) rivers and lies between Erdemli and Silifke, districts of Mersin province. In the course of our surveys in the region numerous settlements of varying sizes and dating to various periods have been documented. Areas were visited and surveyed using total station and GPS and their topographic maps were drawn. Aerial photos were taken, as well. Evaluation and interpretation of data obtained from the surveys started to be made using different techniques. In this context, we initiated the interpretation of the spatial organization and settlement stages of agricultural activities in Rough Cilicia by employ-ing geographical information systems and spatial-correlative analysis methods. Thus, we hope to derive scenarios regarding the spatial organization of agricultural activities in Antiquity based on common model(s) identified by transferring the archaeological finds to GIS and employing the spatial correlative analysis methods. Studies brought to light new data regarding the geographic/climatic and social/political conditions that paved the way for the emergence of the rural settlements in this region. Archaeological evidence supports the existence of architecture and relevant production increasing toward the end of the 2nd century and into the 3rd century A.D. Most of settlements stand out with their well-preserved remains. Remains recorded at settlements belong to a time span from the Hellenistic period through late antiquity. As a result of the surveys completed in the region, a large number of rural settlements displaying typological variety were documented. Among these were both simple and complex farms; small, medium and large villages that were situated close to towns; and workshops for processing agricul-tural products, either in a village or in independent operations. The existence of these ru-ral settlements indicates the important role different types of agricultural production played in antiquity's regional economy. Further, it shows how these rural settlements gave shape to the settlement of the region. Within these settlements, a large number of agricultural installations were encountered and documented. Conservation, reinforcement and restoration of architectural heritage requires

1. INTRODUCTION

Our surveys in the eastern part of Rough Cilicia led to the identification of numerous rural settle-ments. The survey area is bounded by the Kalykadnos (Göksu) and Lamos (Limonlu) rivers and lies between Erdemli and Silifke, districts of Mersin province. It is known that this area was within the territory of Olba ruled by a priest-dynasty during the Hellenistic period and became part of the province of Isauria during the reign of Diocletian. The

surveys of the rural settlements from the Hel-lenistic through Byzantine periods aimed at identifying similarities and differences among these settlements and the evolution of a settlement pattern through time.

With its long coastline, Rough Cilicia not only forms part of the southern coastline of Anatolia but also is at an important position in the East Mediterranean. Taking into consideration this strategic importance the region has it would be expected to encounter developed urbanization; however, wide land is limited due to the

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Taurus Mountains extending parallel to the coastline and the rugged topography affects urbanization. Therefore, the settlement pattern of the region encompasses ancient cities located on the coastline and rural settlements in the rough terrain connected with those cities.

In the course of our surveys in the region numerous settlements of varying sizes and dating to various periods have been documented. Areas were visited and surveyed using total station and GPS and their topographic maps were drawn. Aerial photos were taken, as well. Evaluation and interpretation of data obtained from the surveys started to be made using different techniques. In this context, we initiated the interpretation of the spatial organization and settlement stages of agricultural activities in Rough Cilicia by employing geographical information systems and spatial-correlative analysis methods. Thus, we hope to derive scenarios regarding the spatial organization of agricultural activities in Antiquity based on common model(s) identified by transferring the archaeological finds to GIS and employing the spatial correlative analysis methods. Upon completion of this work we plan to reveal our model of the settlement staging that occurred between the urban and rural settlement areas in Antiquity by transferring to GIS the settlement network in Rough Cilicia.

Studies brought to light new data regarding the geographic/climatic and social/political conditions that paved the way for the emergence of the rural settlements in this region. Archaeological evidence supports the existence of architecture and relevant production increasing toward the end of the 2nd century and into the 3rd century A.D. Most of settlements stand out with their well preserved remains. Remains recorded at settlements belong to a time span from the Hellenistic period through late antiquity. Settlements of Hellenistic character within the survey area are parts of a common defense and settlement system. Our recent surveys have noted a high number of Hellenistic settlements in the countryside in the survey region. These settlements remained inhabited after the Hellenistic period. Furthermore, many more settlements of rural character were also founded during and after the Roman period.

In the concerned region, valleys and roads connecting the coastline to the interior facilitating communication constitute an important geographic factor leading to the foundation of settlements. That many settlements have been identified along these routes is of importance to cast light onto the connection between the ancient cities and chora.

As a result of the surveys completed in the region, a large number of rural settlements displaying typological variety were documented. Among these were both simple and complex farms; small, medium and large villages that were situated close to towns; and workshops for processing agricultural products, either in a village or in independent operations. The existence of these rural settlements indicates the important role different types of agricultural production played in antiquity's regional economy. Further, it shows how these rural settlements gave shape to the settlement of the region. Within these settlements, a large number of agricultural installations were encountered and documented.

1.1. The Survey of the Rural Settlements

The ancient site of Tapureli is one of them. Tapureli is nearly 36 km northwest of Erdemli in Mersin province. The objective of this study was to determine the character of the settlement and to review the changes it underwent throughout different periods, as well as to learn its layout and plan. To achieve this, archaeological studies conducted in this area focused on documentation under the three main headings: 1) determine the borders of the settlement so as to understand the fabric of the rural settlement, 2) evaluate the settlement's fabric, and 3) use new technology for this. Tapureli stands out with its ruins and location among the rural settlements in the region. The settlement was established on three hills on the side of an important valley known as the Lamos Valley. It was also situated on a route used during antiquity. It appears that the settlement kept the valley roads under control as well. The data we obtained reveals that the site was inhabited from the Hellenistic period into Late Antiquity.

Hellenistic Period Settlement:

The settlement is located as an acropolis on the edge of the valley. In previous seasons, a tower dominating the valley road from the shore had been identified on the West Hill. Studies from this season, on the other hand, have uncovered another castle from the Hellenistic period on the north end of the same hill. In terms of its location, the castle overlooks the northern connections of the route and stands out with development around it. This area encompassed two large, well-preserved cisterns, and remains of numerous spaces. Both the acropolis location of this tower and castle, and the polygonal wall technique they feature, are among the characteristics of the Hellenistic citadel settlements in the region. Many buildings dated to the Hellenistic Period were also identified in the settlement. These buildings are located on the southern slopes of West Hill. One of these stands out with its polygonal walls of fine workmanship and well-preserved state. The size of the two-story building and its current condition indicate the splendor of the settlement during the Hellenistic Period. Another building with polygonal walls in the settlement, on the other hand, features a relief of a shield and sword. This relief is one of the known Olba symbols of the Hellenistic Period in the region.

Roman Period Settlement:

There is plenty of evidence indicating that Tapureli was also an important settlement during the Roman Period. Among this evidence are the numerous examples of houses that stand out. There is also data signaling that buildings of Hellenistic Period were used, albeit with annexes, during the Roman Period. Houses on the north slope of East Hill were identified as Roman. The large ashlar blocks used in their construction, the door and window workmanship, and the niche and the eagle relief inside one of the spaces are all characteristic of buildings from the Roman Period. Among the other remains that point to the Roman Period are the rock-cut reliefs. The well-preserved reliefs of soldiers in the housing areas within the settlement are among these. The soldier reliefs in question were previously studied and

published (Durugönül, 1989). Similarly, there is evidence of a cult area/sanctuary with figures from the settlement and the presence of various rock symbols. The most important and richest data of the Roman-Period settlement were derived from the tombs. It was discovered that the South Hill in the settlement was used as the necropolis. The necropolis continues along the skirt of the hill as it descends towards the valley and the interior of the valley. As part of this season's work, the tombs on South Hill were identified and documented. Works on the large necropolis were initiated, but not yet completed. Serious damage and illicit digs were noted in the area, and the necessary legal process regarding this damage was initiated. Rock tombs constitute the largest group among the tombs in the settlement. Fifty rock-cut tombs were documented in the excavations conducted on the slopes of South Hill. In addition to that, forty-five chamosoria, three rock sarcophagi, four vaulted tombs, and six temple-type monumental tombs were identified and documented. The rock-cut tomb examples located along the slopes of the hill have no ornamentation on the façade. The tombs do not contain a special porticus at the entrance. The doors of the tombs open to the middle of the tomb chamber carved into the living rock. The chambers inside the tomb are almost square in shape and have either flat or slightly rounded roofs. Some tombs feature beds elevated from the living rock within the arcosolia, whereas other only contain stone beds or simply use the floor. The chamosoria in the settlement carry triangular lids on the tomb carved in rock. In some examples, the presence of grooves on the side of the rim upon which the lid is set catches the eye. The tombs have a conic form widening towards the base, and the headrest for the deceased's head is slightly elevated from the base. Examples of temple-type tombs were also identified in the settlement. They are comprised of tomb chambers carved into the living rock, as well as front façades of the temple before them. Publications on these tombs are still in progress. A limited number of vaulted tombs identified in the settlement, on the other hand, are damaged. While one single example has been well preserved, further excavations are needed in order to understand its interior structure.

Late Antiquity Settlement:

The extant and preserved buildings of Tapureli point to Late Antiquity as their last period of use. Nevertheless, we observed that buildings from the Hellenistic and Roman Periods were used during Late Antiquity as well. Churches and houses stand out among the remains from this period. Our research across the settlement has revealed the presence of eight churches and a chapel, not seen in any of the ancient cities in the region. Some of these churches were recorded by previous travelers in their well-preserved state. Nevertheless, our research has led to the discovery of four more churches and a chapel. The churches predominantly have a triple-nave layout, and a plethora of evidence suggests the presence of rows of columns constituting the naves. The architectural plastic decorations they feature are rather rich and have been documented. A graduate thesis on the churches in the settlement is still in progress. The houses in the settlement offer important information about the domestic architecture in the region with respect to their

well-preserved state and architectural ornamentation. They are spread across the entirety of the settlement. Built with large ashlar blocks, these buildings have two or three floors. Their façades face southwest. They all have courtyards in the front or inside, and the cisterns in their courtyards stand out. The streets in front of the houses draw attention to their well-preserved state, and it appears that the entire settlement was covered with a web of streets. This condition points to the presence of planning in the settlement.

Our studies have revealed the presence of an avenue surrounding the ancient settlement. This settlement can be observed on the skirts of all three hills and reach the acropolis after traversing the entire hillside across the South Hill. Considerably well preserved in this area, the avenue is supported by terracing at different points. It appears that the avenue crosses underneath a propylon in this area and reaches the hill. Identified in earlier studies, the propylon was documented this year. After crossing beneath, the propylon, the avenue continues in this area and connects to a building, which we believe is possibly a church.

The ancient site of Kanytellis is another of them. It is located in the eastern part of Rough Cilicia 3 km. from the Mersin – Silifke highway about 60 km. west of Mersin. The settlement is situated around the chasm here. Abundant archaeological evidence reveals that the settlement that began in Kanytellis in the Hellenistic Period continued into the following ages, and the surface remains suggest the existence of intense settlements during the Roman Period and Late Antiquity. Furthermore, well-preserved remains of a church by the chasm indicate that the settlement had developed in Late Antiquity and acquired a different character. In addition to the churches from this period, numerous dwellings and olive oil production facilities evidence a significant production centre (Aydinoğlu et al., 2015). Few remains from the Roman period can be discerned on the surface of the Kanytellis settlement. The most remarkable among those are the tombs (Aydinoğlu, 2015). The available evidence suggested that the settlement was surrounded by a necropolis. Dense vegetation does not allow a comprehensive investigation of this area so only some monumental tombs have been studied until now. But as a result of studies made on site, we had a chance to examine several new tombs. Contrary to previous suggestions, we have identified more than two necropoleis that surrounded the settlement. In these were found tombs and mausolea with characteristics entirely different than others discovered previously. Scattered over a large area, new temple tombs and burial chambers were also discovered. The tombs feature different characteristics such as temple tombs, burial chambers, rock tombs, sarcophagi and a monumental exedra tomb. We observed that the terraces rising to the north and dominating the chasm were specifically preferred for the necropoleis, and they contained a rich variety of tombs types. The area terraced on the northern slopes covers around 4.5 ha., and in it many tombs of different types have been identified. One other necropolis in Kanytellis was found on the slopes about 750 m. northwest of the site. It contained numerous individual sarcophagi as well as many sarcophagi with a hypocaust and a temple tomb. Another area with dense

tombs identified southwest of the chasm, where also sarcophagi and monumental tombs are found, seems to have served as a quarry in ancient times. In the sinkhole named Çanakçı, located 350 m. west of the chasm, there is another necropolis with rock tombs. This is the most renowned necropolis of Kanytellis, thanks to its reliefs. After the initial examinations in the necropoleis, we established 100 different tomb types. Three temple tombs in these necropoleis – called T6, T12 and the tristyle prostyle temple tomb – have already taken their place in various publications for their specific characteristics. But one other temple tomb has been recently discovered. Also, burial chambers have been identified throughout the settlement. These structures were built with small stones and mortar. It is understood that they were vaulted over. In some cases, it was observed that the roof was a pitched type and covered with a thin layer of mortar. But the most common type of tombs in Kanytellis is the sarcophagi. On some of the sarcophagi decoration observed both on the basins and the lids provide significant evidence to explain the burial traditions of their period as well as to give essential criteria for their dating. The front sides of the sarcophagi were decorated even though some have decoration on the lateral sides as well. The most common decorations are bunches of grapes, leaves of ivy, altars, inscriptions and reliefs on tabula ansata. On one of them are a female and a male bust as well as a garland. All data collected so far indicate that the sarcophagi appeared first in Kanytellis in the mid-2nd century A.D. and stayed in use throughout the 3rd century A.D. Moreover, we also observed that the use of sarcophagi in Kanytellis from the Roman period continued into the Early Christian period. There are also examples of rock tombs found in the settlement, all of which are located in the Çanakçı necropolis to the west. On the slopes of the sinkhole 18 rock tombs were identified among which 13 were built adjacent to each other on the southern slope as much as the topography would allow. There are plain rock tombs without any decoration on the façade. However, there are inscriptions and reliefs on the tops and sides of the tombs. The semi-circular structure north of the chasm seems to be an exedra tomb. It is significant that there is no other example of this type within the region. Its semi-circular form, blocks with profiled fronts, blocks forming the base profiled as a row of seats and stepped entrance to the monument suggest that the interior of the structure was also used. All of these characteristics reveal its functional features and exedra form. On the other hand, considering its location at the northern necropolis it should have been used as a monumental tomb.

In the campaign, extensive focus was turned to farmsteads of rural settlements. The well-preserved remains within the farms made it possible to formulate regional classifications and document their specific characteristics, thereby helping in the dating process. In the survey area, the initial finds showed there were different types of farmsteads, varying from simple to the more complex. Some were quite large and with complex architectural development. Such farmsteads included a farm-house for the farm owner or manager, and rooms used as workshops or depots. Frequently, there were many other houses, as well as different types of graves,

production installations, sacred areas and cisterns. Evidence would indicate these farms, through the entire period of their existence, underwent continuous use and re-use, with some structures added, or enlarged as necessity demanded. The fronts of the owners' farmhouses faced south or southwest, and some opened onto a courtyard. The farmhouses were generally two-storied, with the lower level being devoted to agricultural purposes and the upper level to living space. Embrasures placed in the lower levels of these farmhouses, thus allowing very little light to enter, is an indication the area was used primarily for storage. Doors and large windows on the upper floors are evidence that floor must have been used as a residential area. There does not appear to be a regional standard plan applied to the farmhouses, however. A courtyard is usually found in front of the farmhouses. It is understood from surviving examples that these courtyards were paved with stone. In addition, a large cistern, encompassing almost the entire area under the courtyard was built. Some of the farmsteads were set within a central courtyard, surrounded by a wall. This type of farmstead also had a tower giving the impression that it had been fortified. The widespread existence of towers among the farms is a characteristic of this region and, this leads to the supposition that the farmsteads might have developed around the towers. It can also be assumed that the farmhouses with towers, rather than serving a military function, were the private property of the farm manager or owner, and were used by them. In the complex farmsteads, there are structures around the house used as depots, workshops or living spaces. Installations documented inside these structures provide evidence of production having taken place here. Their existence is important because the farmsteads are considered to have been in continuous use during this entire period and they gave the farmstead the identity of a small village settlement in the Byzantine period. An additional group of structures linked to these are churches whose locations and building techniques show clearly they were added in the later periods of use. The presence of different types of graves on the farms also points to there being continuous living around them.

A considerable amount of olive oil and wine production equipment was identified in the course of the surveys and this evidence points toward the presence of a regional production organization. The favorable climatic conditions in this Mediterranean region must have opened the way for the formation of production and relevant production organization. The equipment necessary for production is the archaeological evidence required for the definition of regional production organization; surveys in this regard brought to our attention numerous pieces of equipment used for olive oil and wine production. Starting in the Roman Imperial period, building activities left behind considerable archaeological evidence regarding production and production organization in the region. Farmsteads built near the farmland for the purposes of checking the produce processing it, storing on site and guarding it are part of this evidence. Many examples of such farmsteads have been identified in the region. According to archaeological evidence obtained, the presence of presses with press-arms fixed in holes carved in bedrock

in the open air, which are proposed to have served for wine production, suggests a prevalence of wine production in the region. The presence of a high number of presses found practically everywhere, close to farmland, within farming settlements in the country-side, on the ancient roads, and in the ancient cities on the coastline, attests to a significant amount of wine production in the region. The various types of presses found points to intense production occurring in the region, variety in use and continuity through the different settlement phases. Much less archaeological evidence exists regarding olive oil production. Although we are aware of the fact that equipment for olive oil production is portable and thus less survivable, it is worth noting that the workshops for olive oil production have been attested mainly in coastal areas and within settlements. Considering the wine production on the interior of the region, a comparison between wine and olive oil production reveals that the olive oil production was relatively limited in amount. This should probably be related to the conditions of cultivation of olive trees. A tree of the Mediterranean region, olive can be found only in the thin strip of land between the coastline and steeply rising mountains; thus, occurrence of temperature variations at higher altitudes would have offered less favorable conditions for olive cultivation. Within the surveys, a number of workshops for olive oil production were identified and documented. As understood from sites, some workshops were within the settlements and these settlements usually had more than one workshop. Some examples identified as olive oil workshop were seen to have been built independent of the settlements in areas where no other types of buildings have been found. In such case, it is seen that either these workshops maintained close ties with ancient cities on the coastline or they were very close to settlements. This is important for clarifying the relationship between settlement and production and also for providing evidence to explain the production organization and settlement arrangement in the region and the relations between them in addition to the identification of production equipment and products in the region.

2. CONCLUSION

Preliminary results from the surveys point to the presence of rural settlements established in various periods. Some display continuity starting from the Hellenistic period and going into the Byzantine period. Their location within an acropolis on an ancient route as well as their fortifications and towers indicate their defensive (garrison) purpose. It is also seen that a new settlement pattern emerges with the Roman Imperial period. As the Hellenistic fortresses lose their defensive function, rural settlements increase. It is known that Hellenistic settlements continued to be inhabited as rural settlements. Archaeological evidence – numerous farmsteads, workshops, villages and tombs within – shows that such settlements increased in number rapidly beginning in the 2nd century A.D. As the rural settlements retained their existence through the Early Byzantine period, earlier remains were damaged and thus the settlements are taken into account with their latest phase of use. It must be also kept in mind that

numerous new settlements were established. With the spread of Christianity beginning in the last quarter of the 4th century A.D., existing sarcophagi were reused with the addition of a cross motif or an inscription. And this evinces the Early Byzantine period use of Roman Imperial-period rural settlements.

It is understood that geographic conditions of the rural settlements in the region naturally influenced the shaping of the settlement and ascribed a rural character to it. Valleys communicating between the littoral and inner areas influenced the settlement patterns after the Hellenistic period as well. Numerous epigraphic and archaeological evidences prove that these valleys served as roads through the ages. Thus rural settlements developed near these roads and made use of them for the transportation of the produce to the coastline. The rural settlements that were identified show that agricultural production had an important part in the economy of antiquity and that cities on the coast and rural settlements in their hinterland constitute a regional settlement model.

Geographical/climatic and historical/political conditions in the survey region contributed to the emergence of rural settlements. The Mediterranean climate prevailing in the region made possible widespread and varied production while the region's harsher conditions at heights over 1400 m. must have made production and continuous rural development difficult. Despite the difficult terrain, the lower surfaces in the region made the rural settlements possible. These karst collapse areas (i.e. dolines), which are suitable for farming, and comprise one of the basic reasons for choosing this type of area for rural settlement. These areas continue to be used for farming today, with many of the farmsteads identified in the region being built on the hillsides around these lower areas. Valleys and roads that facilitated transport between the inland and the shoreline areas constituted another geographical factor affecting rural settlement in the region (Aydınöglü, 2003). The high number of rural settlements identified along this route is important from the standpoint of the relations between the ancient cities on the shore and their khora. Although the amount of documented archaeological evidence of rural settlements of the Hellenistic period is marginal, a large number of rural settlements and farm production sites, particularly of the Roman and early Byzantine periods, have been identified, thus pointing to the presence of settlement organization. Some conclusions are possible regarding dating the use of the farms. Examples of monumental tombs on the farms are seen during the second half of the 2nd century A.D., and important in showing the farms were functioning during that period (Durukan, 2005). The construction materials of the farmsteads along with their basic ground plans and the smaller rooms within them indicate a close similarity to the rural house architecture of northern Syria, and the estimated period of their use is the 4th-7th centuries (Eichner, 2004; 2005). The manufacturing installations, documented at the farms, support this historical development, and their specific characteristics support increases in this continuous production activity in the region, particularly starting in the 3rd century A.D. From the very high number of documented archaeological finds in the region

it would appear that production activities became more intense, particularly in the late Antiquity period and continued into later periods. It should not be forgotten, however, that agricultural organization in the region has its roots in the Hellenistic period. As to when and until what period the farms were no longer in use, the churches would seem to provide the answer. Structural and decorative elements of the churches in this region indicate they were in use into the middle Byzantine period. The excavations conducted at Elaiussa Sebaste showed settlement had inactive periods, likely in connection with the Arab invasions starting from the second half of the 7th century A.D. This detail is particularly important since churches on the shores of Cilicia also indicate a similar development.

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