

SURVEY OF CITIES AND CEMETERIES IN WESTERN CILICIA

Elisabeth ROSENBAUM

I worked this year from the middle of August to the middle of September to complete the survey of the coastal towns of westernmost Cilicia. The sites fully explored were Anemurium (Eski Anamur), Antiochia ad Cragum (Güney köy), Selinus (Gazipaşa İskelesi) and Iotape (some 15 km west of Gazipaşa). Apart from this we visited and made plans and maps of one tomb in a site about 30 km east of Anamur, near Softa Kalesi, the ancient name of which has not yet been established, and of a medieval fortified monastery, Biçkeci Kalesi, near Gazipaşa. We also visited the upper town of Syedra, about 30 km west of Gazipaşa, which is a most interesting site, but does not quite warrant an inclusion in the present survey: it has a number of buildings worth recording and even restoring, but they are not of the same type as found in the other cities explored. Moreover, systematic work on this site will be very difficult: the nearest village is at about an hour's walking distance. There is no water on the site, and everything is heavily overgrown with spiky shrubs. The site has been visited by epigraphists several times, and has been included by Mr. Bean and Mr. Mitford in their epigraphical survey of the area but, although we found that a thorough investigation was needed, we could not do it this year and within the framework of our current work. The lower town of Syedra, however, which is by the sea shore, has been included in the survey: it has tombs of a type found in the other sites explored, and it has a bath building which shares important characteristics with the bath building in Antiochia.

This year's season was financed by a grant from the Buckler Fund of the British Academy, and from private donations: From Dr. W. Rosenberg of Robapharm, Basle, and from Dr. Carl Jaeger, Columbus, Ohio. The Turkish Department of Antiquities gave me a grant for restoration work in Anemurium, and the Turkish Land Survey (Tapu ve Kadastro Genel Müdürlüğü) delegated one of their officials from their Manavgat branch to help complete the mapping of the area. Mr. Ernest Hawkins, of the Istanbul branch of Dumbarton Oaks gave me valuable advice on restoration problems and recommended to me a competent craftsman for the structural restoration of one tomb.

My collaborators were: Mr. Gerhard Huber, Vienna Technical University, as architect, Bay Mehmet Akyüz as topographer, Bay Halil Aktay, as chief mason for the restoration, Miss Somay Onurkan, Istanbul, as chief assistant, and Miss Ufuk Baş and Mr. Ağah Uğur Çilingir, both students of Istanbul University, as general assistants.

We accomplished almost everything we had set out to do this year: The Turkish topographer made maps of our principal sites: they will have to be corrected in some points, but the field work in this respect can be considered as nearly completed. We surveyed all the important buildings in the sites mentioned, and correct plans of all of them will be drawn by our architect within the next two or three months. I myself took photographs of every structure of any importance: thus we collected most of the material for publication.

The principal site in our area is Anemurium, since many buildings in the city and in the necropolis are still standing. It was in the necropolis of Anemurium where, with the financial help of the Turkish Department of Antiquities, we began some restoration work. As we had noted in our very first season, the necropolis of Anemurium is remarkable for its numerous remains of frescoes of the Roman period. These frescoes and also the two wall mosaics (one in a tomb and one in an unidentified building in the city) are worth preserving, and because the new road along the south coast is nearing completion, they will be in danger of being spoiled by unthinking tourists. Prior to any cleaning and restoring of the frescoes the structures in which they are must be made sound. Thus we used the grant from the Turkish Antiquities Department mainly for the structural restoration of the tomb with the fragmentary cycle of the four seasons. This work was carried out with great skill by Mr. Halil Aktay, who has been working for many years on structural restoration work in Istanbul.

The structural restoration of this tomb brought us a surprise: on the flat roof of the chamber restored there were the considerable remains of a mosaic which was most probably not a floor but a roof mosaic. At one stage of the history of this tomb an upper storey was built reached by means of a staircase the substructure of which was subsequently used for a burial and adorned internally with frescoes. This staircase led to the roof of the chamber with the season frescoes, which was almost certainly a kind of *entrée*, open to the sky, leading to the chambers erected over the hall adjoining the «season» chamber. After having photographed the new mosaic, which presented us with a decorative motif not yet encountered in Anamur, we covered it up for the time being, but we should

like to make it accessible again in the next season of work. The discovery of this mosaic on the roof of the restored tomb has a two-fold importance to us. We visited this year for the first time a site about 30 km east of Anamur, where Wilhelm and Heberdey, two Austrian epigraphists, had recorded about 75 years ago domed tombs «roofed» with mosaics. As I had never heard of, or seen, a roof mosaic of the Roman period before, I was doubtful as to the correctness of this statement, all the more so, as no sketches or photographs were added to the report. We saw, however, the remains of one such tomb. The dome has caved in - most probably it was wantonly destroyed - but enough of it has remained to show quite clearly that it was decorated with mosaics on the **outside**. The curve of the dome itself has a scale pattern, whereas the flat surround shows various geometric patterns and a very pretty ivy scroll. The mosaic is difficult to date, but there is no reason why it should be later than the 3rd century which seems the date of most of the Anamur frescoes. The new mosaic in Anamur shows that roof mosaics, at least in our area, were nothing exceptional, and, once our eyes were sharpened by these discoveries, we found that a number of tombs in Anamur had had originally mosaic roofs, although mostly without patterns, a fact that had escaped our notice in previous years. The other important aspect of this new find that it promises further discoveries when restoration work can be continued.

Some of the funds at our disposal this year were used to clean the most important public buildings on our sites from thorns and shrubs, which was a most rewarding task. For after the removal of all this vegetation many architectural details emerged which we had never been able to see before. A great deal of research will have to be done in order

to interpret these various features, but we can already say that they will be worth every effort.

Amongst the buildings seen and partly examined during this season for the first time is a middle - Byzantine church on the citadel at Selinus which has a cistern and a room on hypocausts built on to the north side of the apse. The existence of bath buildings in connexion with churches was known from literary sources. These bath houses were for the use of the clergy or for pilgrims. To my knowledge, the church on the citadel of Selinus is the first known example of a church where such an annexe has actually survived. We know from the **Life of St. Thecla** as told by Basilius of Seleucia (Silifke) that there was a sanctuary of St. Thecla's in Selinus. Perhaps the church we recorded, which is of medium size, was a place of pilgrimage.

Another important building on the citadel of Selinus, which we could only

study superficially, is of the Seljuk period: it is built of beautifully cut blocks of a kind of sandstone, similar to some of those used for the rather enigmatic building in the lower town, that has been recorded over 150 years ago, and it has remains of typically Seljuk frescoes.

What remains to be done for the actual survey work is, apart from some additional photography and one or two checks on plans, a more thorough investigation of the medieval citadels of all our sites. We have recorded, but not fully investigated, a number of medieval churches and chapels on the lower citadel of Antiochia ad Cragum, there are a great number of medieval remains, both Byzantine and Seljuk on the citadel of Selinus, and there is still a detailed study to be made of the ruins of the citadel of Anemurium, where we can expect remains dating from Hellenistic - Roman times to at least the 13th century.



Fig. 1 : Eski Anamur, view of city centre from west

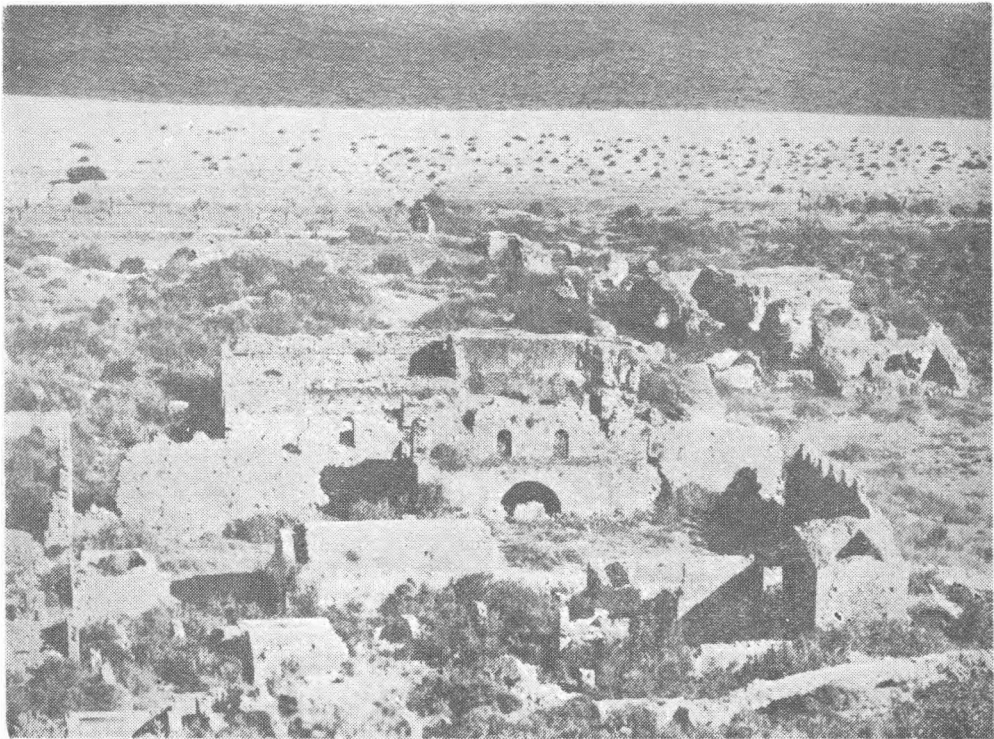


Fig. 2 : Detail of Fig. 1, showing in the centre «basilica I» (See the reports by G. Huber and S. Onurkan)



Fig. 3 : Eski Anamur, Necropolis, general view of section A.

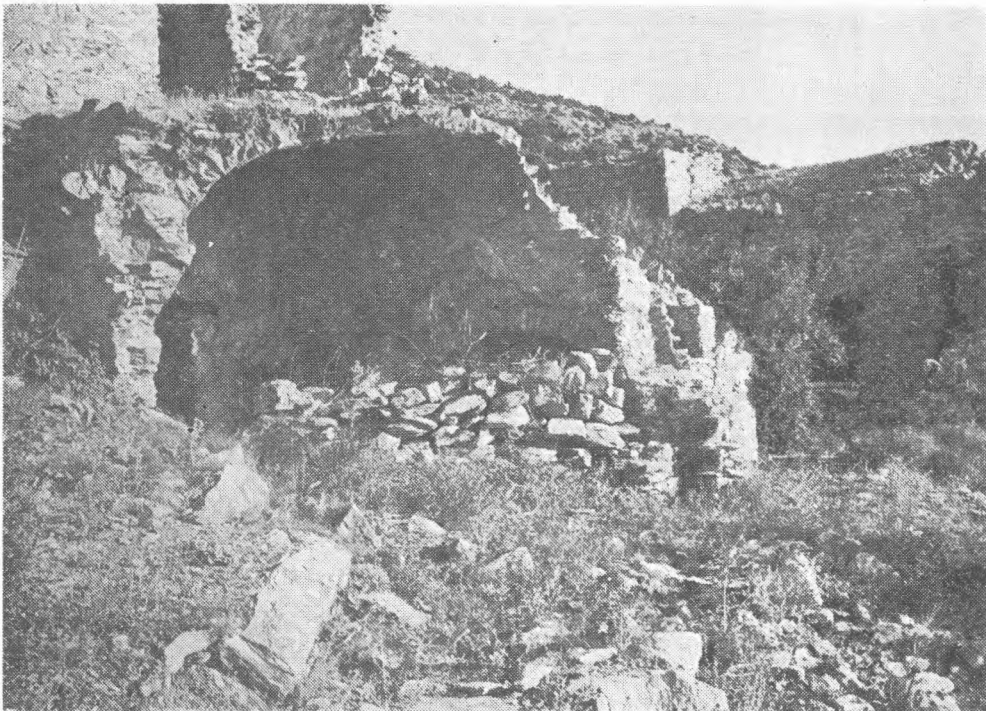


Fig. 4 : Eski Anamur, Tomb B I 16, before restoration.



Fig. 5 : Eski Anamur, Tomb B I 16, after partial restoration.



Fig. 6 : Eski Anamur, Tomb B I 16, floor mosaic found during restoration work.