

EXCAVATIONS AT THE URARTIAN CITADEL OF KAYALIDERE (1965 SEASON)

Lloyd, Seton and Burney, C. A.

The following is a brief report of the results obtained by the expedition which undertook archaeological excavations at the Urartian citadel of KAYALIDERE, during a period of seven weeks beginning on 23 rd July 1965. This expedition was the sequel to an archaeological reconnaissance carried out in 1964 with the permission of the Turkish authorities concerned, in the province of Muş, in eastern Turkey. The purpose of this reconnaissance had been to discover a typical fortified site of the kingdom or Urartu. Several important Urartian sites were found in the province of Muş, to be added to those recorded in earlier surveys around Lake Van.

The staff of the expedition comprised eleven members. Included in this number were Professor Seton Lloyd (Director) and Mr. Charles Burney (Assistant Director). The expedition was fortunate to have the help of Dr. Mauritz van Loon (of the Oriental Institute, Chicago), an authority on Urartian art, as field assistant. Mr. Osman Aksoy (of the Department of Antiquities, Ankara) took an active part in the work of the expedition, and was of very great help on a number of occasions: his assistance, and that of the *Vali* of Muş, the *Kaymakam* of Varto and the *millî eğitim memuru* was invaluable, especially in this, the first season of excavations.

The expedition was sponsored by the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara and supported by the University of Lon-

don, by the University of Manchester and by several other institutions.

The site chosen for excavations stands on the summit and higher slopes of a prominent hill overlooking the upper Murat (the southern branch of the Euphrates), which flows past about 100 metres below. It is in a naturally commanding situation, a fact which, together with its size and position in relation to roads, makes it very likely to have served as a district or even a provincial capital in the kingdom of Urartu. The site as a whole is about 300 metres long (north-south) and about 200 metres in maximum width. It is divided into three clearly distinguishable parts, an upper citadel, a lower citadel and a lower town area. Excavations in the 1965 season were confined to the upper citadel. The expedition hopes in due course to be able to extend its work over the whole of the considerable area enclosed by the Urartian fortifications.

The excavations in the 1965 season were started by a trench near the highest part of the upper citadel. This trench soon revealed a stone-paved area, later seen to belong to an approach road up from the lower slopes on the east side. Soon it was found, by an extension of the trench down the slope and by other trenches opened up next to the first one, that there is a series of terraces down the eastern slopes. These were dictated by the contours of the site, and must have represented a great deal of labour in their construction: the Urartians are already known

to have been energetic builders, apparently undaunted by the problems of moving heavy stones over distances. One of these terraces proved to be occupied by a long room, only partially exposed, with rows of very large storage jars, each more than 1.50 metres high and inscribed with two or three groups of pictographs: such storage jars may be compared with those found by the Russian expedition which excavated the Urartian fortress of Karmir-Blur, near Erivan. Stamped on the rims of these jars, before firing, were signs clearly representing numerals, presumably units of capacity or weight. One very fine red polished goblet was found in fragments in one of the storage jars, and was repaired. Below the long room with these jars stood a mud brick wall with stone footings, preserved to a height of over three metres. Terraces further down the slope await future investigation. One of the most interesting architectural features of this area of the upper citadel was the use of columns, probably of wood, of which the stone bases have survived, providing a parallel with Altintepe, the Urartian citadel near Erzincan excavated by a Turkish expedition directed by Professor Tahsin Özgüç. The precise plan of the gateways remains to be clarified by further excavations: it is, however, clear that there was an inner and an outer gateway, with evidence of a secondary building phase.

Excavations were carried out also in the area of the summit of the upper citadel, immediately next to the rocky cliff overlooking the steep slope down to the River Murat below. Some blocks of masonry, appearing to be rather better dressed than the other walls visible above the surface elsewhere on the site, had been noticed in this area: these were soon found to belong to the facade of a building of almost square plan, about 12×12 metres, with shallow corner buttresses. From knowledge of excavations at other Urartian sites it was clear that this must be a temple. It had been thoroughly pillaged,

and many of its stones overturned, so that no trace of any construction remained inside the building. The area of the interior was very small, approximately 5×5 metres, the greater part of the space covered by the temple being occupied by the thickness of the massive walls. In front of the temple stretches an extensive paved forecourt, not all of which has yet been uncovered. A ruined structure, in line with and of the same width as the doorway, stands in the forecourt: this may be the remains of the base for a stele, a suggestion supported by the presence, close by, of a small area of paving slabs, on which three small depressions of hoof shape are discernible. These marks almost certainly indicate the emplacement for a bronze cauldron standing on a tripod with bull's-hoof feet, such as appears on the well known Assyrian relief of the temple of Musair, sacked by Sargon II. The temple itself is of the plan which can now probably be described as the standard Urartian plan, although the size of the blocks is unique among temples so far discovered in Urartu. Possibly this was the work of a provincial governor trying to imitate the fashions set by the royal house. If in architecture this effort was not entirely successful, in bronzework it seems to have been much more so. Among objects discovered near the temple are a fragment of what was probably a decorated belt, finely executed in repoussé and engraving, showing part of a hunting scene, in which soldiers in chariots are being attacked by lions; and, secondly, a lion, of solid bronze, with finely engraved detail, in style suggesting a date in the mid- or late eighth century B. C. Other bronzes were found at some distance from the temple, but very probably looted from it or from store-rooms nearby: among these were many fragments of furniture, a large shield, two heavy ritual pegs (probably torn from the temple walls, and each weighing 2.50 kilos) and several quivers. These objects seem to have been buried or dropped by looters, and never reco-

vered, after the destruction of the citadel, which may have occurred c. 700 B. C., though this is only a provisional date. Numerous iron arrowheads witness to the destruction.

Apart from the main excavations, in the area occupied by the upper citadel, work was also carried out in the clearance of an extensive rock-cut tomb, of which six rooms were wholly or partially cleared. This tomb is entirely cut out of the rock at the south end of the citadel, and has suffered from roof falls, owing to the friable character of the rock and the prevalence of earthquakes in the region. Two of the rooms contained wall-niches with rounded tops, perhaps for offerings, and one of these two rooms contained a small sarcophagus cut into the rock floor. Two deep shafts, over seven metres deep and over five metres in diameter at the bottom,

are accessible only from rooms above, through a small round aperture originally closed by a stone lid: the function of these shafts is uncertain, and they have no exit from below. The wall-niches in the rooms above are, however, a sure indication that this tomb is of Urartian date, a fact further proved by the discovery of fragments of the contents of the tomb, apparently dropped by the robbers who had looted it, in the outermost room. It seems that the robbery took place in medieval times. At least one large room remains to be cleared, though this is extensively blocked by fallen rock from the roof.

This brief summary of the discoveries made in the course of the first season of excavations at this site may suffice to show that further work gives good promise of rewarding results.



Plate 1 — The upper citadel from near the river Murat.

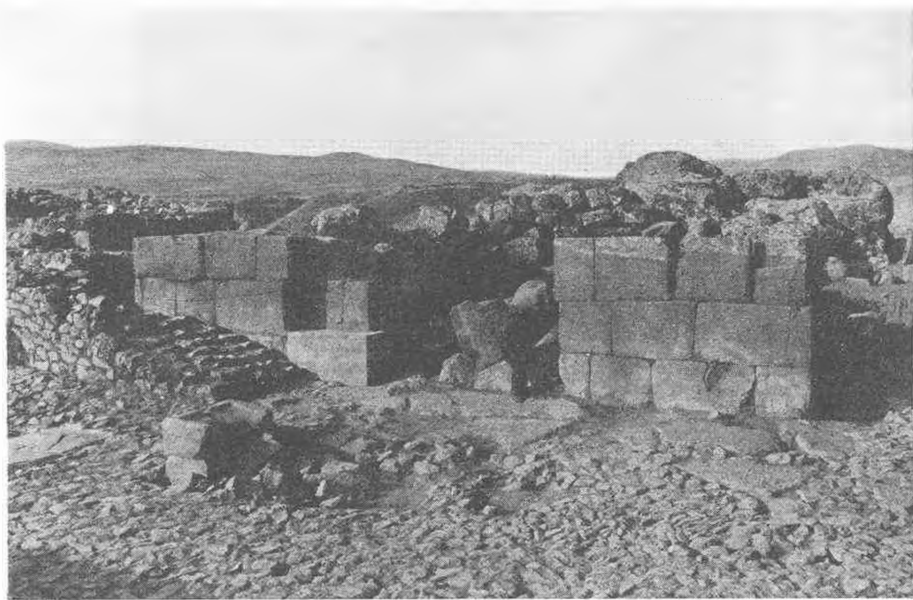


Plate 2 — The facade and forecourt of the temple, showing stele-base.

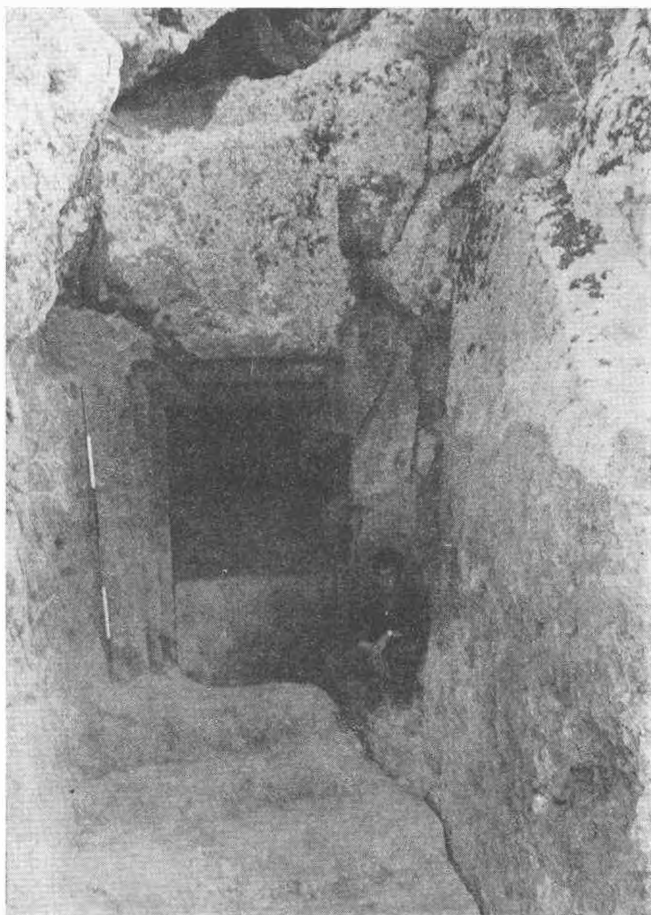


Plate 3 — The entrance-passage and doorway of the tomb.



Plate 4 — The bronze lion, from the torecourt of the temple.

EXCAVATIONS AT KARATAŞ-SEMAYÜK 1965

Prof. Mellink, Machteld J.

The excavations of Bryn Mawr College were continued in September and October 1965. The site at Karataş (cf. *Türk Arkeoloji Dergisi* XIII, I, 1964, 97-98; *American Journal of Archaeology* 68, 1964, 269-287; 69, 1965, 241-251) consists of two parts: a cemetery of the Early Bronze Age and a small mound of the same period.

I. The cemetery.

No new tombs were excavated in 1965. A number of burial jars were cleaned and restored, and sent to the Antalya Museum for display. The largest burial pithos is KA 237 (height 1.78 m.) which belonged to tomb No. 84 excavated in 1964. This pithos is stump-based and originally had three lug-handles. It has now been provided with a modern iron tripod for the sake of the exhibit (fig. 2). The weight of such pithoi, which have an average thickness of 5 cm. at the shoulder, is such that lifting and moving them takes the combined strength of several people. Some burials were contained in lighter weight jars made of a thinner fabric. The lighter jars have flat bases and four loop-handles, e. g. KA 240, shown here in its restored form (fig. 3, burial No. 86, height 0.98 m.). This jar had a relief decoration of a quadruped and ring on the shoulder.

Dr. J. Lawrence Angel, Curator of Physical Anthropology of the Smithsonian Institution, studied the skeletal material from the Karataş cemetery for publication. This includes 132 adults (48 male, 80 female and 4 unknown), average age

at death 33 and 31 years respectively. One female skull (burial 67) had a circular trephine. Dr. Angel's stature estimates are 166.6 cm. average for men, 154.2 cm. for women. The Karataş population turns out have been a composite group, in which skull tendencies of all six types (Angel's classification A-F) are represented. "Karataş has a lot of Eastern Alpine influence, some people (e. g. from burial 56) looking like actual descendants of Cypriotes, some Iranian influences as in burial 84, superimposed on the early farming people background with some general Mediterranean influence. This is a slightly more Alpinoid balance than at Troy and may have been parallel to the kind of combining occurring then in the Cyclades and in Greece."

II. The mound.

The 1964 campaign had uncovered part of a complex consisting of a rectangular house (10.75 × 7.20 m.) set in an oval courtyard surrounded by a gradually strengthened rampart. House and courtyard wall were built of mudbrick, the rampart mostly of pisé. In 1965, the area along the outer face of the rampart was investigated. An additional enclosure or retaining wall, strengthened by buttresses on the exterior, curved around the complex and protected a ramp which climbed from the south side to outer courts on the east and west sides of the house (plan fig. 1, views figs. 4-5). Doorways separated the ramp from these outer courts. The diameter of the complex within the outer

retaining wall is about 32 m. On the west side, cuttings in bedrock indicate the existence of an artificial ditch as an added protection of the house and courtyards, increasing the diameter to some 50-60 m. This cutting still has to be traced along the other sides of the complex.

The original building period (level I) was followed by a rebuilding after minor fire damage. In level II, the ramp was no longer used as a walking surface but covered with a glacis. The pottery found in situ on the house-floor in 1964 belongs to this level, which terminated in plunder and a violent conflagration.

Level III is only partially known because the center of the mound is lost due to erosion. The oval courtyard wall was rebuilt on a new stone foundation and ashlevels of 0.60-1.80 m. thickness accumulated on the south slopes. The nature of the activity which had these neatly stratified ashes as a by-product is a matter of guessing. There are no traces of kilns or pits which might have belonged to potters' establishments. The ash levels contain some stone tools, also some beads and spindlewhorls, the latter incised with fine geometric designs (fig. 11).

Level IV is marked by the construction of a thick new rampart around the small mound, this time with an entrance to the south. The new rampart roughly follows the course of the old level I retaining wall but it lies at a much higher level. Its building material is pisé on an irregular stone foundation.

Levels I-IV clearly contain a series of rebuildings of the dominant architectural feature at Karataş, whatever its original purpose was (probably the house of the local potentate). The date for all

these levels falls within the Early Bronze II period. Troy I, Tarsus E. B. II.

Level V gives us evidence of domestic habitation on the south slope of the mound. Rectangular houses on stone foundations still contain some of their inventory, although their architectural preservation is poor due to surface erosion and ploughing. The most characteristic pottery of this level is the white-on-red painted ware of the Elmalı region also known from the cemetery, where many tomb gifts belong to this local fabric. A cache of pottery of this type comes from level V of the mound. It contained fourteen red polished pitchers and jugs painted in a style which seems to stem from one potter's shop (figs. 6-9).

The date of level V is late Early Bronze II, perhaps overlapping into Early Bronze III, which would have been too near the surface to leave many traces in the habitation area. E. B. III pottery was recovered from the well cleared in 1964.

Typical Elmalı pottery, apart from the white-on-red painted wares, are jars decorated with relief medallions (fig. 10). Red and black polished pottery is fairly common in the upper levels, but the majority of the wares found on the mound is dull buff or brownish ware finished by smoothing or scraping. Correspondances between the cemetery pottery and the levels of the habitation area exist in all levels but especially in the habitation area of level V.

The 1966 campaign at Karataş will, it is hoped, complete the architectural clearance of the central complex so far as preserved, and make topographical soundings to define the limits of habitation area and cemetery.

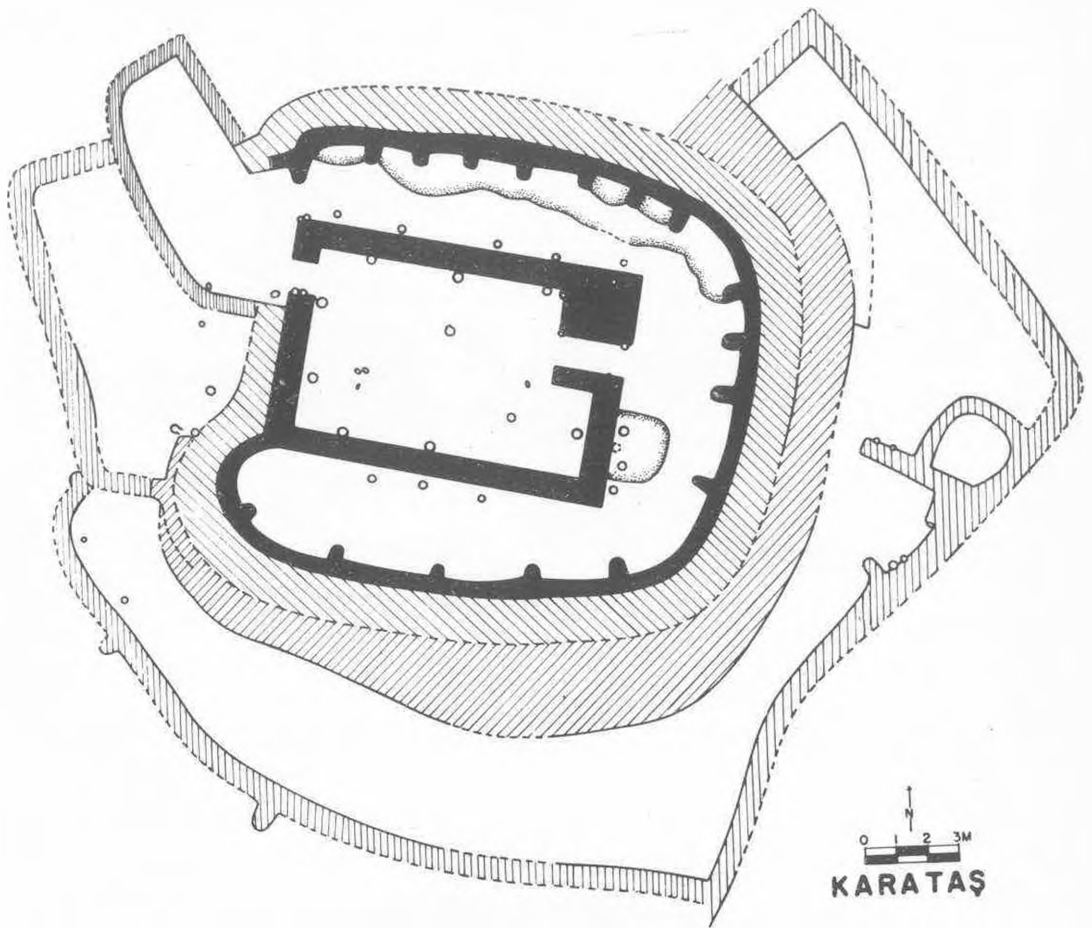


Fig. 1 — Plan of house and surroundings, level 1.

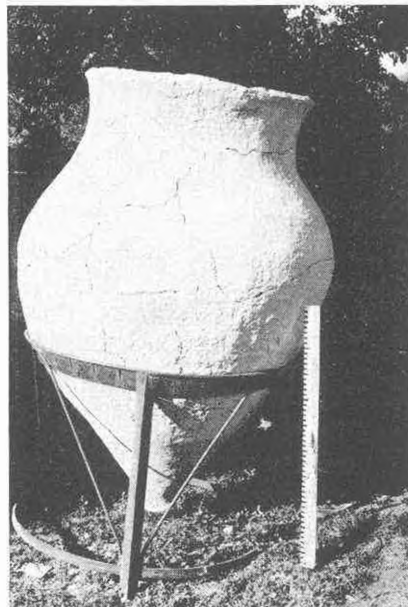


Fig. 2 — Pithos of burial 84 restored, inv. KA 237.



Fig. 3 — Jar of burial 86 restored, Inv. KA 240.



Fig. 4 — Karataş. view of mound to west.



Fig. 5 — Karataş. View of house and oval complex, to west.

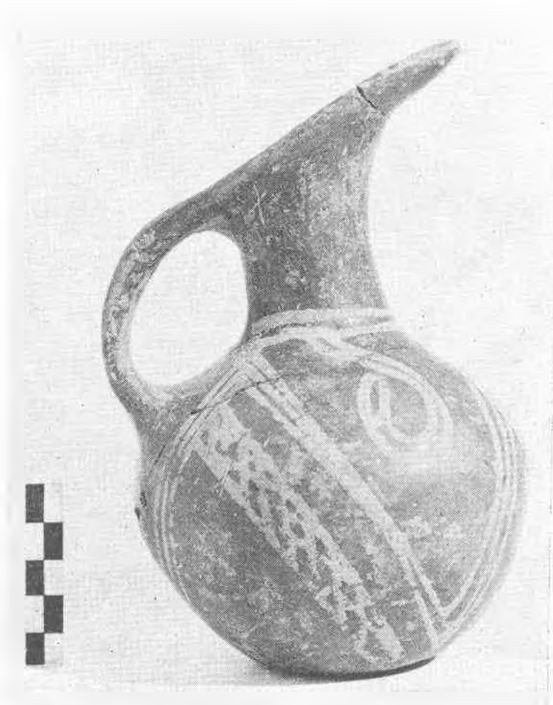


Fig. 6 — Karataş. Level V painted pitcher KA 197.



Fig. 7 — Karataş. Level V painted pitcher KA 205.



Fig. 8 — Karataş. Painted pitcher
KA 196, level V.



Fig. 9 — Karataş. Painted jug
KA 204, level V.



Fig. 10 — Karataş. Jar with relief medallion, level III, KA 185.

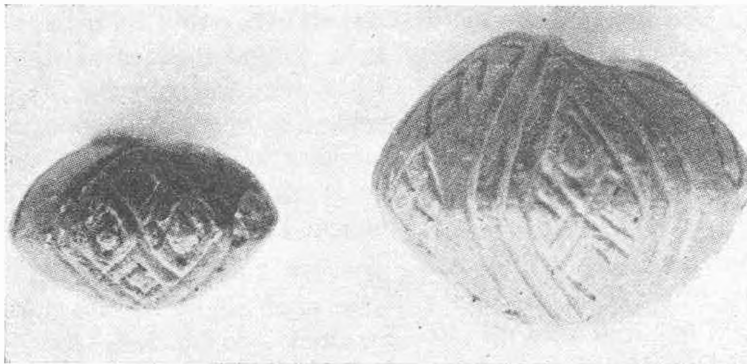


Fig. 11 — Karataş. Spindle whorles KA 171 and KA 169, level III.

