

## TEST EXCAVATIONS AT GÖLENYE (MARMARIS), 1953

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Gölenye is a modest village at the head of a small flat plain, bordered by the sea on the east and encircled by mountains on the other sides, some 8 km. south of Marmaris and about 6 km. north of the site of Amos at Hisarburnu (Asarcık). Some 8 minutes from the village, at a spot called Bakıcak, in or about 1933, digging was begun with the object, later abandoned, of building a school. During the digging a fine inscribed stele of white marble came to light and was transported to Marmaris. Unfortunately it was there used as a threshold-block in the Belediye building, and nearly all the writing was totally effaced. The stele is published in Fraser and Bean *Rhodian Peraea and Islands* No. 15, and dates to about 200 B. C. In the surviving legible portion mention is made of the *temenos* at Kastabos referred to by Diodorus Siculus V, 62, and at the end instructions are evidently given for erecting the stele in the precinct of Apollo Samnaios. It appeared therefore not unlikely that the precinct of Apollo was at or near Bakıcak, and the present operations were undertaken in the hope of finding it. This hope was not in the event fulfilled.

A surface examination of the plain revealed great quantities of ancient blocks, among them certain in particular that had evidently belonged to a large building. These show on three sides grooves or sinkings of varying depth, and are cut from the bluish limestone of the neighbouring hills (Figs. 1 and 2). They are now lying scattered to the four corners of the plain.

Three points in the plain attracted our particular attention.

1) The first of these was Bakıcak itself, where the stele was found. At this point a low conical hill projects into the plain from the mountains on the south, to which it is joined by a saddle. This saddle is now occupied by the ruins of a church some 20 m. long by 10 m. wide, of poor quality masonry, of which little is standing apart from the apse. A trench driven across the church came almost at once to virgin earth, and revealed only the cement floor of a narrow side-chamber. In this chamber were numerous bones of several persons, lying above the floor. It was here that the inscribed stele was found in 1933. On these grounds alone it seems certain that no building earlier than the church ever stood on this saddle. Non indeed is there room here for a building of the size indicated by the architectural blocks mentioned above. In addition to the area occupied by the church, a further space of some 5 m. all round might be obtained by terracing (and some remains of walls, of dubious date, on the south and north-east suggest that this was done); such an area is quite inadequate for a large temple. In spite of the attractive nature of the site, we feel sure that the precinct of Apollo Samnaios was not here. The inscribed stele must have been brought here to serve in the construction of the church, perhaps as the lintel of a door leading to the side-chamber. In general, the remains at Bakıcak seem to be of quite modern date, apparently contemporary

with a village whose ruins extend all along the foot of the hills from Bakıcak to the sea.

2) We next turned our attention to a spot called Örenardı, in the north-west corner of the plain. Here, a little above the plain, where the ground slopes gently up to the foot of the mountain, are the remains of a massive terrace-wall, shown in Fig. 3. The wall rests on a solid foundation, well constructed; this, and the lowest course of the wall itself, are undoubtedly ancient. From the style, and from the sherds unearthed beside the foundation, we should judge it to be of Roman date. The part of the wall was evidently put together later from the blocks of the collapsed ancient wall; much lime-mortar was used in the process. On the level ground supported by this wall, several other walls apparently constructed of a large blocks were visible protruding above the earth; but the excavation of these showed them to be in every case of very poor quality, and to rest merely on the earth. All these interior walls, were evidently built at a late date, the blocks of the ancient wall being used so long as the supply lasted, after which they were completed with irregular rubble blocks. Below them we found nothing but virgin soil. Apart from a narrow threshold-block, only roughly squared, and a large grooved architectural block belonging to the group mentioned above, we found no architectural material whatever, nor any sherds earlier than the Roman period. Here again, despite the very suitable situation, there is no real evidence to suggest that a temple stood on this terrace.

3) The third point to which we directed our attention is at Kumlu Örençik in the north-east corner of the plain, close to the shore. Here are the ruins of a Byzantine church considerably

larger than that at Bakıcak; ancient blocks have been used in its construction, and also column-capitals (Fig. 4) and fragments of balustrades and thin slabs of marble veneer deriving from an earlier Byzantine church of the sixth century. The church now standing seems to have comprised two main naves, each with an apse at the east end; between and joining them is a narrow aisle, and a similar aisle adjoins the northern nave on the north. The northern nave measures 30.20 m. by 6.60 m.; outside it on the west, at a distance of 3.25 m., is the wall, 0.70 m. thick, of a round structure 7.40 m. in diameter. We sank a trench across both naves; the floor of the northern is of marble; that of the southern of a soft milkstone. Below the floors we found no trace of any earlier building. In the northern nave we unearthed a fragment of an ornamental block, apparently a capital, shown in Fig. 5. The angle between the faces is decorated with a laurel-branch; the faces are convex, and on one of them, inside an oval panel with double rim, is an incomplete inscription in letters 21 - 30 mm. high.

Ζώσιμ [ος]

Κυβε [ρ]

Νη [τη]

If this restoration is correct, it is to be inferred that the church was sacred to "the Pilot", to whom the capital is dedicated by a certain Zosimus. It seems, however, that the restoration is insufficient to fill the available space symmetrically, and it must be considered uncertain.

Learning that similar large grooved architectural blocks were to be seen at a spot called Dereyüzü about two hours south-west of Gölenye, we paid a visit to this place also. At the south end of a small plain, 500 m. above the

plain of Gölenye and approached by a mountain path up a steep gorge, is a large platform some 50 m. by 25 m. in area, orientated NE - SW and supported by a wall on all four sides. The style of the masonry is shown in Fig. 6. The level surface of the platform is now partially occupied by a house; near the east corner we found a short stretch of wall, now buried, 7 m. from the south-east wall and parallel to it, but no other visible ancient remains. But in the near neighbourhood of the platform we saw four grooved architectural blocks similar to those on the plain of Gölenye, and under a walnut - tree a number

of ancient blocks, including a late column 0.25 m. in diameter; this column is convex - fluted in its lower part, spiral - fluted in its upper part.

With regard, therefore, to the inscribed stele found at Bakıcak, our conclusion must be, on the evidence available, that it was in all probability brought there from the site of Amos at Hisarburnu. Apollo Samnaios is in fact mentioned in an inscription found at Hisarburnu (Fraser - Bean *Rhodian Peraea and Islands* No. 12), and it seems now highly likely that his temple or precinct was there, and that the inscribed stele was originally erected in it.