

Manavgat Castle in the Late Middle Ages Turkish Period (1071-1453)

Geç Orta Çağ Türk Dönemi'nde Manavgat Kalesi (1071-1453)

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Abstract: The subject of this article is the usage process of the Manavgat Castle in the late Mediavel Ages Turkish period. There are many studies about the historical development of the settlements in Manavgat and its surroundings. However, no detailed publication work has been make about Manavgat Castle so far. As a result of the on-site investigations and research, the ground plan of the castle has been drawn, attempts have been made to determine its architectural phases made based on the existing architectural traces. Since a large part of the castle has been destroyed, the castle is no longer in use today. The castle, which had been built the Roman period, was also used in the Byzantine, Seljuk, Princely and Ottoman periods. After the conquest by the Turks, the small castle was extended to the south with new walls and became a settlement center in the area. Manavgat Castle, a very important structure in the history of Manavgat, played a key role as an administrative center in the process of Turkishization of the region in the 13th and 14th centuries. The rulers of Manavgat Castle acted as an autonomous principality and minted coins in their own mint, albeit for a short time.

Keywords: Melas • Manavgat Castle • Middle Ages • Turkish Period

Öz: Bu makalenin konusunu, Manavgat Kalesi'nin geç Orta Çağ Türk dönemi kullanım süreci oluşturmaktadır. Manavgat ve yakın çevresindeki yerleşimlerin tarihi süreci hakkında birçok çalışma mevcuttur. Fakat, Manavgat Kalesi ile ilgili herhangi bir detaylı yayın çalışması yapılmamıştır. Yerde yapılan inceleme ve araştırmalar neticesinde kalenin planı çıkarılmış, mimari evreleri saptanmaya çalışılmış ve mevcut mimari izlerden kalenin üç boyutlu restitüsyon çizimleri yapılmıştır. Kalenin büyük bir bölümünün yıkılmış olmasından dolayı, kale günümüzde kullanılmamaktadır. Türk fethi ardından bu küçük kale, güneye doğru yeni surlarla genişlemiş ve çevredeki yerleşim merkezi durumuna gelmiştir. Manavgat tarihi açısından çok önemli bir yapı olan Manavgat Kalesi, 13 ve 14. yüzyılda bölgenin Türkleşmesi sürecinde yönetim merkezi olarak kilit rol oynamıştır. Manavgat Kalesi'nin yöneticileri, özerk bir beylik gibi hareket etmiş ve kendi darphanesinde kısa bir süre de olsa sikke basmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Melas • Manavgat Kalesi • Orta Çağ • Türk Dönemi

Introduction

The main purpose of this research is to reveal the usage period of Manavgat castle in the late Medieval Turkish period¹. This research contains the architectural remains of Manavgat castle and the period between 1071-1453. In this research, information about the history of the Manavgat district is given to understand the historical period of the castle more clearly. Since there was no study about the castle before, a detailed architectural description of the castle was made for the first time, scale plan was

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drawn and three-dimensional model was designed. It is believed that this research will make very important scientific contributions to the history of Manavgat Castle, which has not yet been enlightened.

Manavgat Castle is located in Eskihisar district in the center of Manavgat district in Antalya province. The castle is about 300 meters away from the Antalya-Alanya highway. It is located on the west side of the Manavgat Stream, on the north side of the stream. The castle was built on the conglomerate rock that rises slightly from east to west and on a flat area to the south of this small elevation, in an east-west direction (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. North Facade General View

During the investigation and research studies carried out at Manavgat Castle², it was found that the castle had three different phase of use, both in terms of materials and from the dilatation traces found on the interior and exterior walls. Two rooms with thick and high walls were added to the eastern facade of the castle, which was built with large, smooth cut stone blocks in a later period. Fortification walls that surround the castle in the east, west and south directions and whose traces can be followed today were added to the south side of this castle.

The rectangular planned section, built with smooth cut block stones, is 'Roman Castle' and the places which was built to the east of this castle by using mortar-filled rubble and cut stone together was named as 'Byzantine Extension' and the walls, built with mortar-filled rubble stones to the south of the castle, were called the 'Anatolian Seljuk Walls'. Of the two places that are Byzantine annexes, the bastion to the north was called the Bastion; the one to the south was called to the Rectangular Building.

Manavgat Castle was largely destroyed and it is in ruins today. The east and southeast facades of the castle are densely covered with thorny vegetation such as large and small trees, broad-leaved green ivy, bushes and blackberries. Today the north facade of the castle opens to a large park, which was created by the Manavgat Municipality and serves as a recreational area. The western facade of the Roman Castle has been almost completely destroyed. On the ruins of this facade, there is a two-storey residence and a business serving as a cafe. In addition, since residences were built on the south and west facades of the Roman Castle at different times, the fortification walls of these facades have become almost invisible. A part of the eastern wing of the southern city wall, which



Fig. 2. Roman Fortress East Wall

² I would like to thank the Deputy Mayor of Manavgat, Master Architect Hakime YILMAZ, Master Architect Kıymet YILMAZ, Researcher Writer Mahmut ÖZ, Architect İzel ÖZÇINAR, Aykut PALALI and Emin SAIN, who helped a lot during these studies.

formed the basis for the houses on which it was built, can still be seen in the lower floor of some houses today. Although the upper parts and buttresses of the northern facade wall have been partially destroyed, the fortress wall has been largely preserved. The western part of the east facade wall has remained intact up to the roof level (Fig. 2).

The north, south and west walls of the Byzantine Extension bastion have been survived until today, almost up to the roof. The western wall of the second floor of the bastion was demolished up to the foundation level and there are spills on the inner and outer surfaces of the other walls. It was found during the last repair works, a flat floor was created by applying a concrete screed. The western part of the northern wall of the bastion, the vaulted ceiling of the second floor and the roof of the bastion were destroyed. Intense spills occurred on the stones on the inner and outer surfaces of the wall connecting the bastion and the Roman Castle (Fig. 3). In the middle of the second floor of the eastern facade of the bastion, a large ruin or opening can be seen. There is another debris opening just above this opening. The eastern wall of the rectangular building, located to the south of the bastion, has largely collapsed up to the foundation and is covered with vegetation. The south wall of this site is preserved up to the second floor, and the west wall is the east facade of the Roman Castle (Fig. 4).



Fig. 3. Roman Fortress North Facade and Bastion Structure



Fig. 4. Bastion Structure East Facade

Since the area surrounded by the Seljuk Walls is a residential area today consisting of concrete buildings and some two-storey masonry houses, it has been determined that the walls have largely collapsed. Despite this dense modern settlement pattern, it is seen that some parts of the walls in the east, west and south directions are still standing. An excavation was carried out in 2007 by the Side Museum in the cemetery located in this area and to the south of the cemetery (Fig. 5). During the excavations, the remains of the south fortification wall, which was under the foundation of a building and partly visible, were unearthed and taken under protection in the south of the cemetery. The marble tombstones and sarcophagi unearthed were moved to the Side Museum as a result of the excavations.



Fig. 5. Late Medieval Turkish Period Cemetery

History of Manavgat Castle

The ancient name of Manavgat Stream and its surroundings is Melas³. The name of Manavgat Castle,

³ Str. XIV. 4. 2.

which was built as a small castle during the Roman period, was known as Manaua⁴, Monovgat⁵ and Manavgad during the Byzantine and Turkish Periods. Due to the fact that the Manavgat (Melas) River was very wide in the Roman period, it was assumed thought that it was crossed by a large boat or ship⁶.

Manavgat Castle, whose historical role in the early and middle Byzantine period is not known, was administratively subordinated to Antalya for the most part in the late medieval Byzantine period, after which it was administered as a subject of Alanya. The Byzantine Emperor, Alexios Komnenos I, entrusted Antalya to the Duke of Cyprus Eumathios Philokales against the Turkish raids after 1099, and Antalya was united with the Kingdom of Cyprus politically and economically. After the 1071 Malazgirt Victory, the Turkmens raided all over Anatolia and settled in the Taurus Mountains⁷. Byzantine emperor against the Turks Ioannes Komnenos II had “many castles” built around Antalya in 1120 and reinforced the existing ones. It has been known that the emperor came to Antalya during the Syrian conquests in 1137 and 1142 and tried to ensure the security of the coastal areas. Despite these measures, the Antalya-Korkuteli road and the Düden Stream region were under the control of the Turks in 1148. When the Crusaders set up camp in front of the Antalya walls, they obtained permission from the Turks to feed the horses around the Düden Çayı. The Crusaders of 3-4 thousand people who wanted to go to Tarsus managed to cross the Aksu River, but since Köprüçay was under the control of the Turks, most of the soldiers were caught or killed while escaping⁸. It has been thought that the Manavgat Castle was under the control of the feudal barons of the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia at this time, because the borders of the sovereignty of the Armenian Kingdom reached as far as the Manavgat Stream in the west. In the 12th century AD, there were constant disputes between the Armenian Kings of Cilicia and the Byzantine Emperors for the dominance of the region, after which an alliance of friendship was established⁹. In 1159, Emperor Manuel gathered a large army and conquered the city of Missis (Mamistra) in Cilicia. Prince Toros, son of Armenian King Leon, took refuge in the mountains for a few days, then went before the emperor with many gifts and accepted the protection of the emperor¹⁰. In the Armenian Smbat Chronicle, the names of the clergy and the ruling Armenian princes of the Cilicia region from Kahramanmaraş to Manavgat between the years 1180-1221 have been given. In this list, Prince of Alanya (Kalanonorsoy)¹¹ was Kyr Vard in 1199 and The Prince of Alara (Alar) and Manavgat (Manovghat) was Mixayl¹². At the end of the 12th century AD, it appears

⁴ Hellenkemper & Hild 2004, 260-261.

⁵ Makhairas 1932, 109.

⁶ Hellenkemper & Hild 2004, 260-261. While bridges built in different periods can be seen on many large and small rivers between Alanya and Antalya, the bridge was not built due to the wide beds of Aksu and Manavgat Streams, and these rivers were crossed by boat. It was stated in an Ottoman document from 1897 that the voyage of small sailing ships on the Manavgat River in summer and winter will make things easier for the ships going between Antalya and Alanya, shows that this situation still continues (For detailed information, see Yörük 2019a, 396).

⁷ Komnena 2021, 26-27.

⁸ Hellenkemper & Hild 2004, 127-130.

⁹ Smbat 2005, 95.

¹⁰ Smbat 2005, 80-81.

¹¹ Hellenkemper & Hild 2004, 431-432.

¹² Smbat 2005, 96.

that the administrative center of the region have shifted from Side, which was once thriving and populated but now depicted as desolate and in ruins, to Antalya¹³ and Manavgat.

On March 5, 1207, Anatolian Seljuk Sultan I. Gıyaseddin Keyhüsrev conquered Antalya and began Turkish rule in Kaleiçi¹⁴. In 1221, after Alaaddin Keykubat conquered Alanya first, then Alara and Manavgat Castle, Antalya, Alanya and Manavgat surroundings were completely under the control of the Turks¹⁵. The Anatolian Seljuk state, which was defeated by the Mongols in the Battle of Köseadağ in 1243, began to lose its dominance in Anatolia and powerful principalities took over the administration in many regions of Anatolia. Manavgat Castle and its surroundings were ruled in the 14th century by Muhammed Bey (d.1365) and Resul Bey (d.1369), son of Emir Shah¹⁶.

When Mongolian soldiers and the troops of Rükneddin Kılıç Arslan besieged his brother Izzeddin Keykavus II in Antalya in 1261, Izzeddin Keykavus II had to flee to Istanbul. After this escape in 1261, the coast of Antalya lost its function as the winter residence of the Anatolian Seljuk sultans and was administered by a coastal emir appointed by the Mongols. In the same year, Karaman Bey took the title of Emir from Sultan Rükneddin Kılıç Arslan and established the Karamanoğlu Principality, and Karamanoğlu lords conquered Alanya in 1293¹⁷. Between these dates, Manavgat Castle assumed the rule of the Mongols. The Ilkhanid ruler Gazan Mahmud Han, who ruled from 1295-1304, entrusted Abişga Noyin with the administration of Anatolia¹⁸. During this period, Anatolia was ruled by the Anatolian Seljuk sultans, who were enthroned or dethroned at the request of the Ilkhanid rulers in Tabriz¹⁹. The governor of Manavgat Castle also accepted the supremacy of the Ilkhanid ruler Gazan Khan and had coins minted in his name in Manavgat in 1299-1300. It has been known that coins were minted in Manavgat in the name of Ilkhanid ruler Hudabende Muhammad between 1305-1315. It is believed that Karamanoğulları minted coins between 1320-1360 in Manavgat Castle/Pazarcık settlement²⁰. Coins were minted in Manavgat on behalf of Mamluk sultan Melik an-Nasır Nasıruddin

¹³ Piesker 2017, 300.

¹⁴ Karaca 2002, 35.

¹⁵ İbn Bibi 1996, 261-268; Yörük 2019b, 139. Mahmut Öz, it has been thought that Beğdili – Beydili Turkmens from the Oghuz tribes settled in Manavgat Castle and its surroundings after this conquest. See Yıldız & Öz 2020, 21.

¹⁶ The tombs of these Beys are exhibited in the Side Archeology Museum today.

¹⁷ Hellenkemper & Hild 2004, 133.

¹⁸ Ahmet Eflaki 1973, 222.

¹⁹ Yuvalı 1996, 430. Gazan Han dethroned Anatolian Seljuk Sultan Mesut II in 1298 and he enthroned Alaaddin Keykubat III. He dethroned him and enthroned again Mesut II, accepted as the last Anatolian Seljuk sultan.

²⁰ Öztürk & Perk 2011, 61. There are different views on where Pazarcık settlement is. M. Öz and A. Yıldız think that it is the Pazar region located in the east of the bridge, which is in the center of the district today, and Y. İzmirlier thinks that it may be where the Manavgat River empties into the sea. N. Akbayar, on the other hand, stated Pazarcık as the name given to Manavgat Center on page 113 of the Ottoman Dictionary of Places. In the article of Saim Yörük, coins were already minted between 1300-1315 for the center of Manavgat town of Pazarcık settlement in 1914. The construction of a new mint outside the castle 5 years later in 1320 to mint coins does not fit the historical process of the period and the region. In addition, as a result of the researches we made in Manavgat Castle and its surroundings, no historical building remains were found except for Manavgat Castle. In this case, it can be argued that the coins, seen as Manavgat and Pazarcık, were minted in the same place and the names of the two settlements were the same.

Muhammed in 1326 (1310-1341)²¹. It has been understood from these minted coins that with the weakening of Mongolian domination since 1320, Manavgat Emirs accepted Karamanoğulları rule again under the patronage of Mamluks. The fact that Şikari; Karaman Bey, Mirza Bey, Kosun Bey, Hamid Bey and Eretna Bey, with their 17.000 armored soldiers, first came to Mud and Gülnar and then came to the land of Manavgat²² in front of the Mamuriye Castle, confirms that the Manavgat Beys mainly helped the Karamanoğulları and that it was an autonomous principality under their patronage.

The Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia, which was weakened by the attacks of the Egyptian Mamluk state, fell completely out of power after the death of Leon V in 1342 and asked for help from the Kingdom of Cyprus. Since the Karamanoğulları ruled the region and attacked the castles on the Cilician coast, King Pierre of Cyprus first built Kızkalesi (Korykos) in 1361; later conquered Antalya²³.

When the lords of Manavgat and Alanya learned that King Peter had taken Antalya in 1361, they sent their envoys to Antalya and promised to pay the king a fixed amount every year and to place their flags in their towns²⁴. However, just a year later, the principality of Teke attacked Antalya again. After these attacks, the fleet commander of King Peter I Mousty, first attacked the port of Alanya in 1366, then came to Manavgat Castle on the coast and burned the galleys there²⁵. During the period of these mutual attacks, Karamanoğlu Alaaddin Ali Bey (1359-1398) organized continuous expeditions to the Kingdom of Cyprus with the help of the Emirs of Antalya, Alanya and Manavgat²⁶.

Between 1361-1372, the Turks attacked to Antalya, which was under the rule of the Kingdom of Cyprus, from both land and sea, and then agreements were made, but these agreements were broken in a short time. The historical process of Manavgat Castle and the Turkmen settlements in its vicinity was very similar to that of Antalya and Alanya. Since the Beys of Alanya and Manavgat, under the patronage of the Karamanoğulları, constantly assisted the Teke Principality, which attacked Antalya under the Kingdom of Cyprus, Manavgat Castle remained under the rule of the Kingdom of Cyprus for less than a year.

The Bey of Teke interrupted the connection of the Cyprus galleys in Antalya Harbor with Cyprus in 1372, and the Kingdom of Cyprus could no longer supply Antalya with goods. Thereupon, King Peter II had to make an agreement with Teke Bey, and after handing over Antalya to Teke Bey, he returned to Cyprus with his soldiers²⁷. On May 14, 1373, Antalya, Manavgat, Alanya and other coastal cities came under Turkish rule again.

The Ottoman Sultan Yıldırım Bayezid conquered Antalya in 1391 during his struggles for Turkish unity in Anatolia and gave it to his son İsa Bey as a sanjak. At that time, Manavgat and its surroundings remained under the control of the Ottoman state²⁸. During the reign of Murad II, Manavgat was

²¹ Öztürk & Perk 2011, 59. These coins are in the collection of Haluk Perk Museum.

²² Güç 2016, 37.

²³ Tekindağ 1954, 161-165.

²⁴ Makhairas 1932, 109.

²⁵ Yıldız & Öz 2020, 47.

²⁶ Tekindağ 1954, 161-165.

²⁷ Makhairas 1932, 343-345; Bozkuş 2018, 141-143.

²⁸ Yörük 2019b, 140.

finally under Ottoman rule²⁹. In the timar register kept during the reign of Murat II in 1450, the timar revenues of Manavgat and its surroundings were given to the Beylerbeyi Rüstem Pasha³⁰. While Manavgat was recorded as a separate soubashiness in the 1455 cadastral register with Teke Sanjak, in 1471, with the annexation of Alanya to the lands of the Ottoman Empire, it became a sub-district attacked to the Alaiyye Sanjak³¹. Manavgat again became a separate sanjak and a short time later in 1511, it was merged with Alanya and connected to the Anatolian Province as *Alaiyye maa Manavgad Sanjak* in 1522³². From 1530 to 1868, Manavgat was in the status of a district of Alanya Sanjak³³. In 1868, the administrative status of Alanya³⁴ was set as a district, and Manavgat was transformed into a township and reconnected to Antalya, which is the center of the starboard, and was connected to Alanya in 1885 due to distance. With the administrative regulations made in 1914 and 1923, the townships of Beşkonak, Tağıl and Dusenbe, located to the east of the Manavgat Stream, were combined and the district of Manavgat took its final status³⁵. The administrative situation and management style of Manavgat and its surroundings remained under the control of the Ottoman state since the Ottoman Sultan Murat II.

Plan Technique

Since Manavgat Castle has two different periods in terms of architectural mass and two different orientations in terms of seating area, its ground plan features were studied separately accordingly. The castle measures is approximately 91.50 x 26.70 metres and extends in a general east-west direction. It was built on an asymmetrical rectangular area with external dimensions (Fig. 6). Roman Castle's external dimension is 82.80 x 15.60 m its internal dimension is 77.40 x 10.20 m and it has a longitudinal rectangular plan. Thickness of the northern and southern fortifications of the castle is 2.70 m. The width of the eastern wall is 2.00 m. The thickness of the wall could not be determined since the western wall is largely destroyed, but taking into account the existing remains and the thickness of the other walls, it was assumed that the thickness of this facade Wall is approximately 2.00-2.70 m.

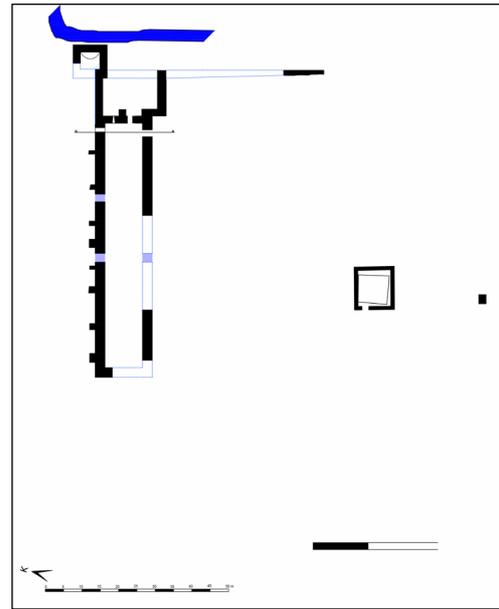


Fig. 6. Manavgat Castle Survey Drawing (Drawn by İzel Özçınar Arıcı)

²⁹ Yörük 2019c, 592. At that time, the borders of Manavgat District were separated from Köprüçay and Teke Sanjak in the west, Manavgat River and Alanya Sanjak and Akseki District in the east by natural borders. It was bounded by İbradı in the north and the Mediterranean in the south.

³⁰ Yıldız & Öz 2020, 51.

³¹ Yörük 2019a, 146.

³² Erdoğan 2013, 21.

³³ Güçlü 2020, 155.

³⁴ Yörük 2019b, 152-159.

³⁵ Yörük 2019a, 389-412.

The highest and strongest wall of the Roman Castle's fortification walls is on the east side. The highest level that can be measured in the middle of the eastern facade is 6.50 meters. The length of the cut stones forming this facade is 0.80 m the height is 0.60 m and the depth is 0.50 m. The height of the preserved walls of the north and south facades varies depending on the collapse. The length of the cut stones forming the north and south facades varies between 1.20-1.70 m. It has been shown that the Roman period city walls on these facades has reached the present day at average 1.00-3.00 m height levels.

On the south side of the east facade of the Roman fort is an entrance opening 1.50 m high and 1.40 m wide. Immediately north of this opening is a castellated window measuring 35 x 80 cm. Only 2.00 m of the northern corner of the western facade remained intact.

There is a round-arched opening in the depth of 2.70 m in the height of 1.60 m and in the width of 1.20 m in the east corner of the north facade. There is a debris opening in the width of 2.40 m between the 4th and 5th buttresses of the northern facade, there is another debris opening in the width of 2.10 m between the 6th and 7th buttresses. wide, from the ground to the upper limit of the fortification wall in the body of the fortification wall in two different places. Although their thickness varies on the northern facade, there are 8 buttresses in size of approximately 1.00 x 1.60 and 1.50 x 2.50 m. The height dimensions of the parts of the northern facade city wall that have survived to the present day vary depending on the slope and collapse. Along this facade, from the east to the west some parts, varying between approximately in the height of 3.10 x 6.70 m have survived to the present day (Fig. 7).



Fig. 7. Roman Fortress North Facade

On the eastern edge of the southern facade there is an entrance door 1.90 m wide, which was filled with small rubble stones. The part of the wall, which has a height of 1.20 m and a length of 10.60 m remained intact from the western corner of the southern city wall to the east. A part of the same wall with a length of 8.10 m. and a height of 2.80 m from the eastern corner to the west has survived to the present day. It was seen that the entrance floor of the concrete house, on which an extension of approximately 4.50 m. of the fortification wall of the Roman castle is built today, forms the main partition wall during on-site investigations. Most of the fortification wall of this facade was destroyed and traces of the foundation remained under the houses built side by side (Fig. 8).



Fig. 8. Roman Fortress South Wall

The two spaces, called extensions of the Byzantine period, have different ground plan characteristics. The bastion, located in the northern direction, was connected by a long wall with a thickness of 2.10 m and in the length of 10.90 m. Considering the external dimensions (east wall is 9.30 m west

wall is 6.00 m north wall is 9.20 m and south wall is 7.05 m), the bastion has an asymmetrical rectangular ground plan. However, the interior space, whose long side is 5.30 m whose short side is 4.70 m has a rectangular ground plan similar to that of a square.

The second building, located to the south of the bastion, was built directly on the east facade of the Roman Castle. The eastern wall is approximately 16.10 m the western wall is about 19.40 m south wall is 12.60 m and north wall is 10.90 m. This place's external dimension is 14.90 m x 10.40 m and it has a transverse rectangular plan. According to the overflows on the inner and outer surfaces of the walls, the wall thicknesses are 2.10 m on the north and east walls. The thickness of the south wall, which is intact, is 2.40 m.

The Turkish period settlement area, the so-called the Anatolian Seljuk Walls, located in the south of the castle, has approximately an external dimension of 106.70 m x 131.85 m and sits on a rectangular area extending in an east-west direction. The parts of western wall, which has approximately 15.00 m length, 5.10 m height and 1.90 m thickness, have survived to the present day. Foundation traces of this fortification wall are approximately 19.00 m length to the west and it can be traced on the foundation of the concrete houses on it (Fig. 9). The traces of the wall cannot be followed from here, as many parts of it remain under the floors of concrete buildings. The parts of the eastern fortification wall, which are approximately 11.00 m length, 1.40 m width and 1.90 m height, are standing. The foundation traces of this fortification wall continue towards the Rectangular Building in the north at ground level (Fig. 10). Approximately 2.10 m of the southern city wall in length, 1.90 m. It was unearthed after the excavations, where it was preserved at the foundation level in a width of 1.90 m and a length of 2.10 m. The northern wall of the city wall is the southern city wall of the Roman Castle.



Fig. 9. Late Medieval Turkish Period Western Wall



Fig. 10. Late Medieval Turkish Period Eastern Wall

Architectural Description

The eastern facade of the Roman Castle was built with smooth cut stone blocks³⁶. On the south side of the east facade there is a door, which was probably opened later, and a crenellated window that opens to the north of this door.

Since on the foundations of the western facade of the Roman fort two rooms used as dwellings and serving as cafes were added, only the corner parts of the fortification wall are visible and a description of this facade is not possible. However, based on the traces found in the northwest corner, it can be assumed that this facade was built with cut stone blocks.

Although the upper parts of the city wall and the buttresses of the northern facade of the Roman

³⁶ Taşkıran 2020, 14.

Castle were destroyed, it has been seen that, the northern fortification wall, made of mortar and quarry stone masonry, was built on smoothly hewn stone blocks, which can be seen at ground level in the central section and in the northwest corner. On this facade, there are eight buttresses made of rubble stones. In the northeast corner there is a round-arched opening made of finely hewn stone blocks (Fig. 7).

There are five masonry and reinforced concrete houses built side by side on the southern city wall of the Roman Castle (Fig. 11). On the other hand, the ruins of two houses built with neatly cut small stones and coarse rubble stones can be seen in the southeast corner. Despite these houses built on the city wall, certain parts of the east and west corner walls of this facade have survived to the present day in their original form. In fact, the remains of the fortification wall belonging to the Roman Castle and formed with smooth cut stone blocks (*opus quadratum*) can be seen on the lower floor of the house on the east side. A large entrance opening was found in the eastern corner of this facade, which was later closed with rubble stones and used as a wooden beam wall.



Fig. 11. Roman Fortress South Facade

In the centre of the eastern facade of the bastion there is a large elliptical opening, which is an extension from the Byzantine period, and above it there is a rectangular opening. Since the western wall has completely collapsed, a description of this facade cannot be described. On the upper border of the north and south facades of the bastion, there is an opening or debris similar to the window openings.

Since the eastern wall of the planned rectangular building in the south of the bastion was destroyed down to the foundation level and covered with dense vegetation, this facade cannot be described. The western facade was partially preserved up to the third floor level, but no opening was found. In the eastern corner of the north facade, three front wooden rafter slots were identified, extending in the east-west direction, in line with each other. Since the west facade is formed by the east wall of the Roman Castle, the entrance opening and the crenellated window open to this structure.

No description could be made, because the Roman Fortress, the bastion, which was an extension of the Byzantine Period, and the covering systems of the rectangular planned building have been completely destroyed.

The remains of the fortification wall, the so-called the Anatolian Seljuk Wall, were built with lime mortar-added rubble stone. No traces of openings or buttresses were found in the fortification walls, a small part of which has survived to the present day. No ornamental elements were found during the investigation and detection work carried out on site at Manavgat Castle.

Material-Technique

Manavgat Castle was built entirely of stone. Although the dimensions of the preserved fortification walls of the Roman fort vary, it was found that they were built using the flat stack method from neatly cut large stone blocks. It was found that the walls and buttresses on the ramparts of the Roman Castle were built with the irregular stacking method using quarry stones mixed with lime mortar.

The surviving east, north and south facades of the bastion were built up to the upper limit of the

second floor, using the straight stacking method of neatly cut block stones. The third floor, on the other hand, was built up to the roof level by flat stacking of large and small coarse rubble stones. The southern facade of the rectangular plan building located south of the bastion, which has survived to the present day, was constructed similarly to the bastion using the shallow stacking method of smoothly cut block stones.

The Anatolian Seljuk city walls were built with the flat stacking method of coarse-cut rubble stones of various sizes.

Bricks were occasionally used in the form of fragments, between the rows of stones, as joint fillers and binding elements with the frame technique in places with late mediaeval additions.

Interpretation

It has been shown that Manavgat Castle, located in the middle of large centers such as Antalya and Alanya, was the most important settlement and administrative center of the region during the Turkish period of the late Middle Ages.

The destruction of the castle and the fact that some of the houses built on the city walls are still in use make it difficult to make an informed assessment. On the other hand, the fact that the preserved architectural remains represent very different material-technical ruins allows to make periodic distinctions. On the basis of the present architectural remains, it is possible to trace the Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk or Pricely periods of Manavgat Castle (Fig. 12).

The reason why the Roman Castle, which was the first phase of the construction, was built in a rectangular ground plan in east-west direction is due to the fact that the conglomerate rock mass forming the main ground ruins in east-west direction towards the Manavgat Stream. While there were mediaeval extensions made of quarry stones on the north, south and west facades of the Roman Castle, built with cut stones, no extensions were found on the east facade. It is assumed that the entrance opening on the eastern facade of the Roman Castle was originally a castellated window, as in the northern direction, and was opened as a door in later times. This is because it does not have straight corners like the main entrance door, which is located just to the southeast, and its height is too low for a door.

No architectural evidence that could belong to a vaulted ceiling was found at the high points of the fortification walls of the Roman castle. No partition wall was found inside the longitudinal rectangular Roman Castle. The collapse of the top floor of the eastern wall, the highest wall of the Roman Castle, is triangular from the center to the sides. In this case, it can be assumed that the castle was covered with a hipped roof sloping in its north-south direction (Fig. 13).

The ruins on the use of Manavgat Castle in the Byzantine period are very insufficient. During the Arab Raids to Side in the VIIth and VIIIth centuries AD, some of the people of the city must have taken

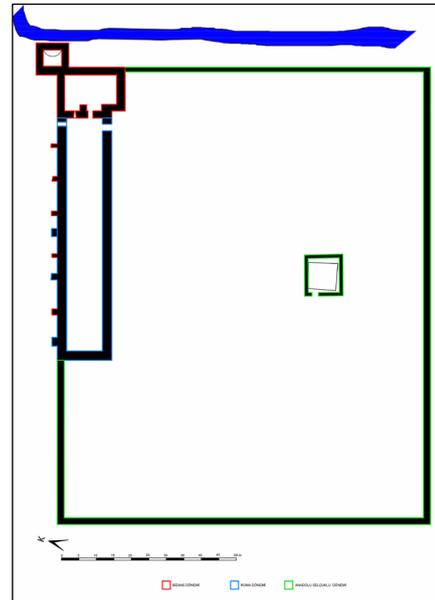


Fig. 12. Manavgat Castle Restitution Plan
(Drawn by İzel Özçınar Arıcı)

shelter in Manavgat Castle³⁷. At that time, the Roman walls were built up with rubble stones and buttresses were added to strengthen the high walls.

It is believed that the bastion and the rectangular room in the eastern part of the castle were added during this period³⁸. The existing traces suggest that the walls and the bastion were built during the reinforcement of the coastal towns on the Mediterranean in the middle of the century against the Turkish raids during the Comnenian period in the 12th century.

It is believed that the castle of Manavgat, which was under the rule of Mixayl, the Armenian Commander of the castle of Alara, may have been a small defensive outpost that provided and controlled the security of the Manavgat River during the Byzantine Period between 1199-1221³⁹.

The physical expansion and historical importance of Manavgat Castle occurred the late Middle Ages, during the Anatolian Seljuk State and Karamanoğlu Principality. The fortification walls, which enclosed the plain south of the castle on all four sides and were built during the Turkish period, strongly resemble the mortared rubble stone masonry of the fortifications of Alanya and Alara Castles in material and technique⁴⁰ (Figs. 13-14).

Our investigations revealed that, no traces of religious structures such as temples, churches or mosques were found in and around the walled castle settlement. It is remarkable that in a settlement that had a high economic potential thanks to agriculture, cattle breeding and the large weekly market that took place during the Turkish period of the late Middle Ages, there is no Koranic school, bath, inn or other important building types.

Conclusion

Since there is no building inscription for Manavgat Castle, it is not known exactly when and by whom

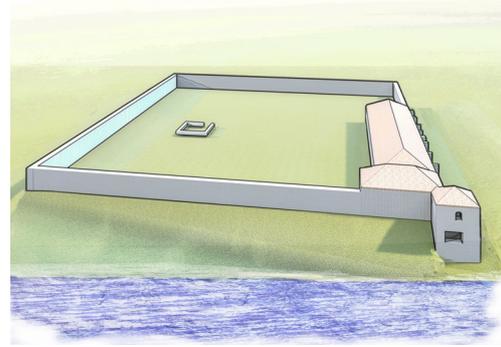


Fig. 13. General View of Manavgat Castle from the Northeast 3D Drawing (Drawn by İzel Özçınar Arıcı)

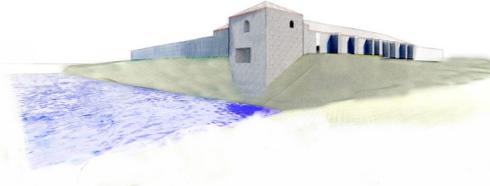


Fig. 14. Manavgat Castle Northeast Facade 3D Drawing (Drawn by İzel Özçınar Arıcı) (1)

³⁷ Ostrogorsky 1959, 65; Foss 1977, 74; Vryonis 2020, 22. There was no complete collapse in Byzantine Anatolian cities in the VIIth and VIIIth centuries AD. The Arab Raids had a temporary effect on the Byzantine settlements in Anatolia, not permanent like the Turkish Campaigns. In this period, some cities shrank in size, some have changed their places slightly and become rural by ascending to more strategic high and dominant points.

³⁸ İşler 2020, 148; Taşkıran 2021, 47. It is very similar in material and technique to the bastion and castron in the acropolis of Sillyon, thought to have built in the VIIIth century AD.

³⁹ Smbat 2005, 96.

⁴⁰ Eravşar 2011, 204; Eravşar & Tay 2020, 625, 639.

the castle was built. However, the investigations and researches carried out in the castle, it was concluded that the castle had three different construction and usage phases. The first construction phase, the rectangular planned section made with smooth cut stone blocks and extending in an east-west direction, was built in the Roman period. The Bastion, the Rectangular Structure and the buttresses on the northern wall, located in the east of the Roman Castle must have been built in the Byzantine period after the VIIth century AD. On the other hand, it is believed that the city walls surrounding the settlement area to the south of the Roman fortress were built in the 13th and 14th centuries AD during the Anatolian Seljuk State or principality of Manavgat.

These views are supported architecturally by the fact that the Castle consists of three separate structures with different floor plan orientations, and that the material-techniques used in all three buildings show very clear and obvious differences. Furthermore, the clearly visible dilatation traces at the seams of the building walls confirm these considerations.

Manavgat Castle, which passed through three different eras in the course of history namely Roman, Byzantine and Turkish-Islamic, is of great importance as the oldest building of the present district center of Manavgat. The historical process of Manavgat Castle ran paralleled the late medieval political and military Turkish history of Anatolia. First Anatolian Seljuk, then Mongolian, Kingdom of Cyprus, Karamanid and Ottoman rule, albeit for a short time, respectively.

Historical information about the Anatolian Seljuk period of Manavgat Castle is very limited and insufficient. Structures such as Beydiğın Kargı Han located in the approximately 40 km north of Manavgat Castle, and Hacıobası Seljuk Hunting Lodge located in the 17 km east of the castle and discovered recently are the most important structures of Manavgat inherited from the Anatolian Seljuk State. After Alaaddin Keykubat I conquered Alanya Castle in 1221, he took Alara Castle without a war while moving towards Antalya. It brings to mind that Manavgat Castle, which was under the control of Mixayl, the Armenian commander of Alara Castle, was taken without a fight during the reign of Alaaddin Keykubat I. The fact that the conquest process of Antalya, Alanya and Alara Castles was explained and the conquest of Manavgat Castle was not mentioned in the work of Ibn Bibi, which was a very important source for the history of the Anatolian Seljuk State, supports this view. After the conquest of many settlements in the coastal region of Antalya by the Anatolian Seljuk State, it has been seen that with the construction of new structures it has grown and developed physically in terms of urbanism. Manavgat Castle, which was used as a small guardhouse in Roman and Byzantine times, was also expanded to the south with the construction of new walls in the late Middle Ages Turkish period and became a coin-mining principality center. This historical settlement pattern, which is located in the Old Hisar District today, constitutes the oldest Turkish-Islamic core of today's Manavgat district center.

It has been thought that with a comprehensive excavation work to be carried out in Manavgat Castle, the usage phases of the castle in the Roman, Byzantine and Turkish-Islamic periods will be determined more accurately and its architectural problems will be revealed.

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