

AN ANCIENT ROAD-SYSTEM IN THE SOUTH-WESTERN ANTITAURUS *

by

U. BAHADIR ALKIM

(S u m m a r y)

During our excavations at Karatepe from 1947 to 1952 and in 1955 we took the opportunity of exploring a region hitherto unknown in the Antitaurus in order to determine lines of communication from Karatepe to the North and South.

The area covered in the investigations lies in the rough arc between Bodrum (Hierapolis-Castabala) - Hemite - Kadirli - Mehmetli and Göksun (Cocusus), some 100 km. to the North (see Map 1). It is composed largely of thickly-wooded mountain complexes which here and there enclose well-watered plateaus of varying size. I should point out that anyone who is to travel from South to North must use the Bağdaş - and Mazgeç Passes to the West, and the Meryemçil Pass to the East (see Map 2), since the mountains form a continuous range. Indeed the two main roads which I traced and studied here, one in the East, one in the West, follow these passes.

The course of the main road in the East is: Cilician Plain-Karatepe -the George of Har - Andırın - Meryemçil Pass (=the Geben Pass)-Göksun; this road is called the *Akyol* (=the White Road). The course of the main road in the West is: Cilician Plain - Kadirli- Mehmetli the Valley of the Çiçeklidere - Bağdaş Pass - Mazgeç Pass - Göksun; this road is called the *Çiçeklidere Yolu* (see Map 3). The area between these two main routes is divided by secondary tracks which also make use of the Bağdaş, Mazgaç and Meryemçil Passes.

* Paper read to the 23rd International Congress of Orientalists (Cambridge, 21-28 August 1954), cf. *Proceedings of the Twenty-Third International Congress of Orientalists*, London 1957, pp. 147-148. The German translation of this paper was published in *Jahrbuch für Kleinasitische Forschung* (= *Anadolu Araştırmaları*) III, 2 (=N. S. I, 2), İstanbul 1958, pp. 207-223.

These main and secondary routes can be traced throughout their length, and numerous monuments occur along them (see Map 3). It is clear that in antiquity they afforded communication between Cappadocia (Assyrian: *Tabal*) and Cilicia (Assyrian: *Que*).

Not only the difficult nature of the country, but also its insecure condition down to the time of the Turkish Republic was, I feel sure, the principal reason why European travellers never penetrated this region.

The exceptional geographical position of this part of the Antitaurus leads us to suggest:

Firstly, '*The men of Hilakku*' in the Assyrian records and '*the lawless men*' in the Karatepe bilingual inscriptions seem to be identical. Accordingly the Land of Hilakku is to be located at least in the 8th and 7th centuries B. C. in the mountainous area to the North of Karatepe.

Secondly, we have Cicero's remarkable reference to the '*People of Tebara*' (Tebarani), who seem to be descendants of the '*People of Tabal*' mentioned in the Assyrian records.

Thirdly, it appears that one of the roads leading from *Tabal* to *Que* followed the course of the *Akyol* (see Map 3), probably the route of the Hilakkus.

The present paper will be published as a book in the publications of the Turkish Historical Society (=Türk Tarih Kurumu) Ankara.

A P P E N D I X

A glossary of Turkish terms used in the Maps.

MAP 2 : Roman Roads in South - East Anatolia.

Conventional signs

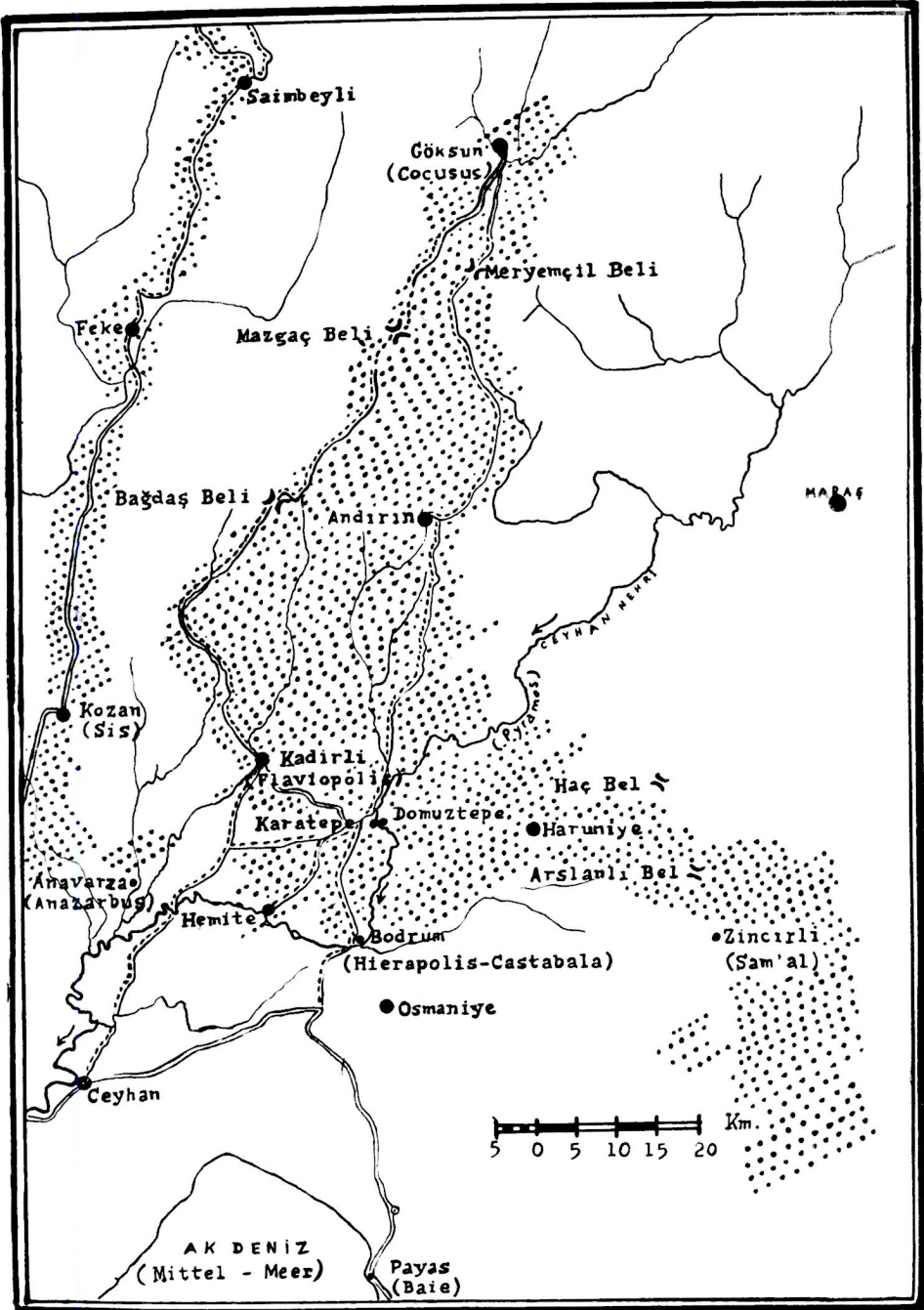
===== : Roman roads.

----- : Roads discovered by the present writer.

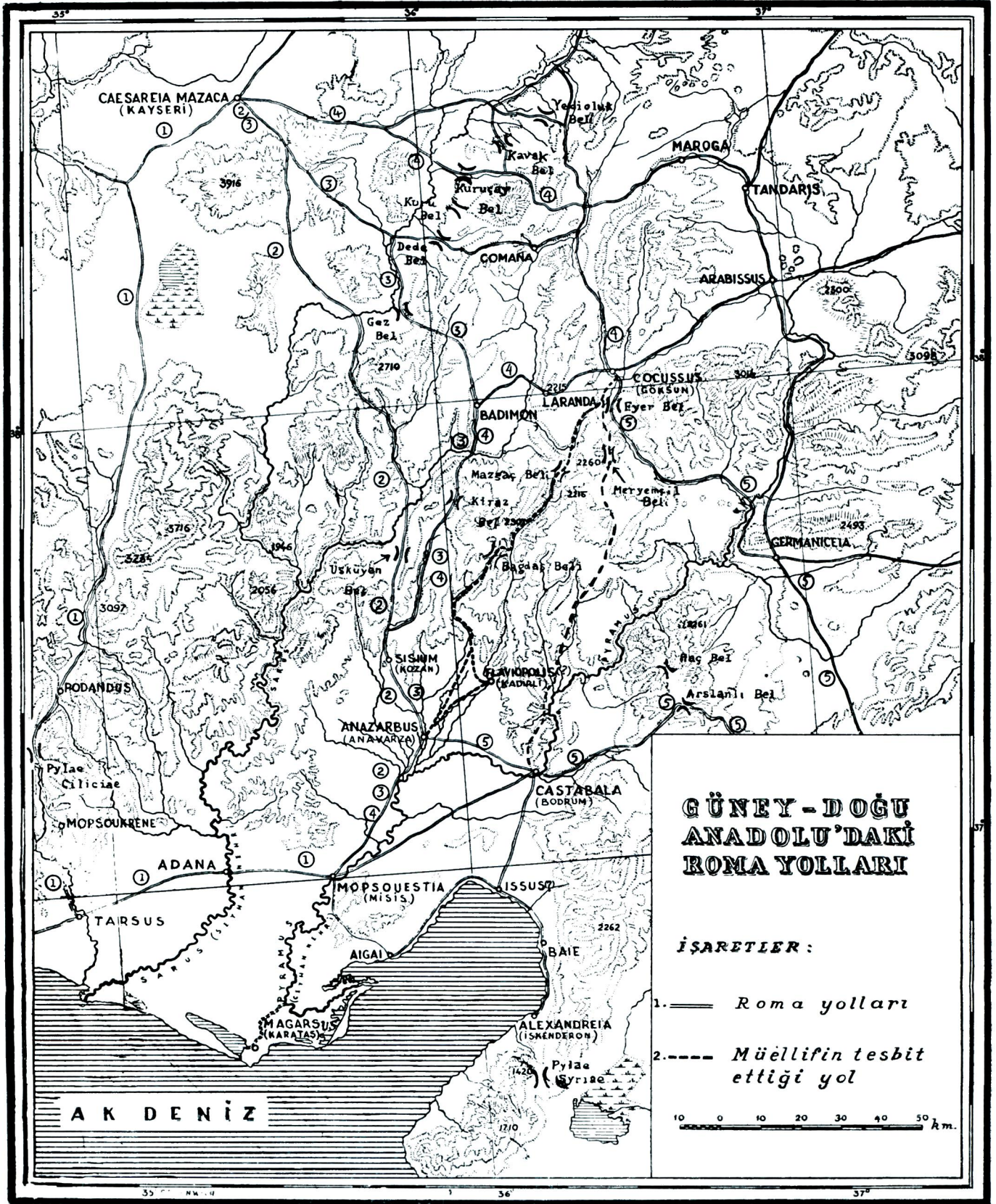
MAP 3 : Map showing the roads connecting Cappadocia with Eastern Cilicia and the ancient monuments of various periods.

Conventional signs

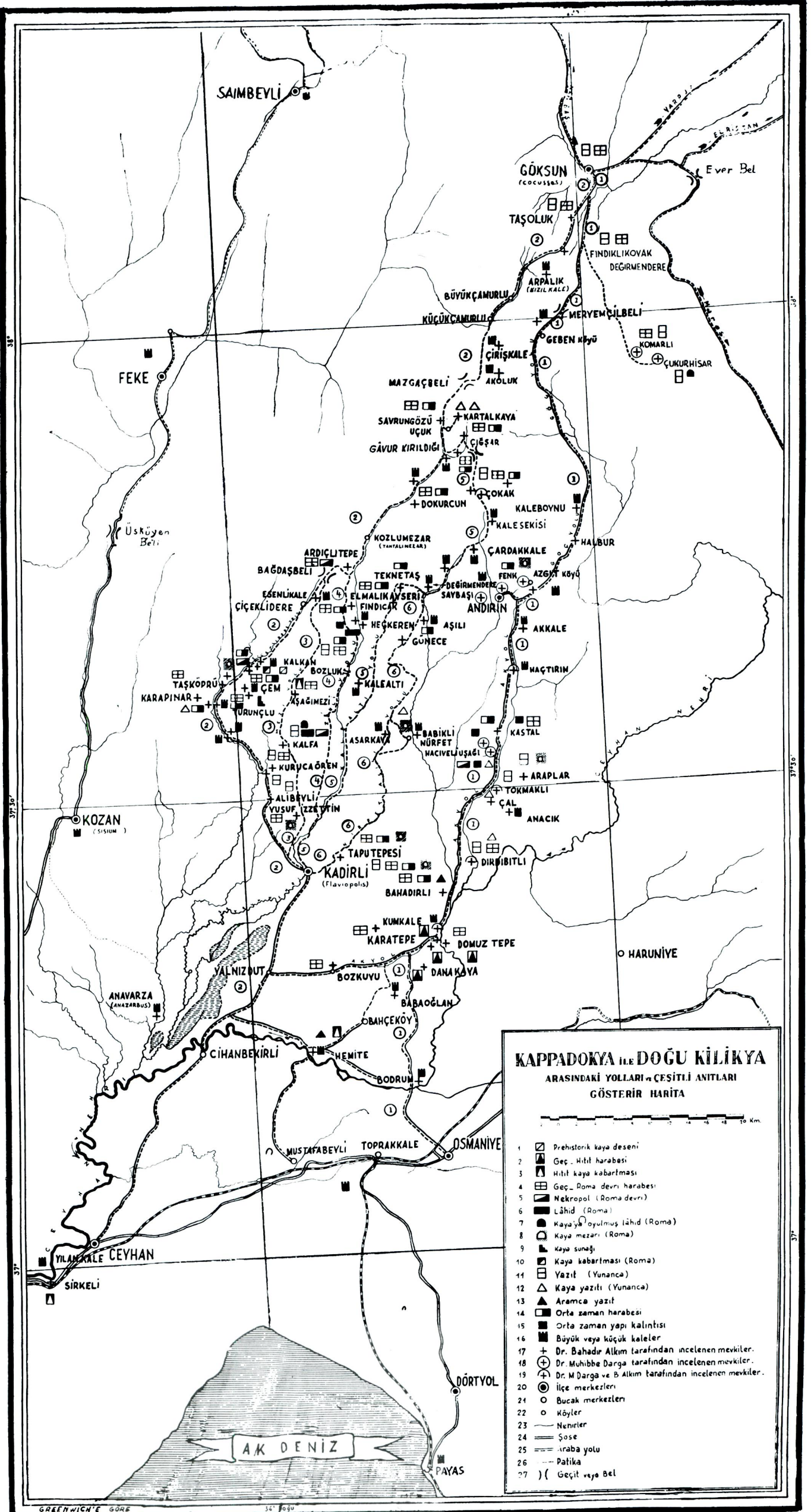
- ¹ Prehistoric rock-carvings.
- ² Late-Hittite sites.
- ³ Rock reliefs (Hittite).
- ⁴ Late Roman sites.
- ⁵ Necropolises (Roman).
- ⁶ Sarcophagi (Roman).
- ⁷ Rock-hewn sarcophagi (Roman).
- ⁸ Rock-hewn tombs (Roman).
- ⁹ Rock altar.
- ¹⁰ Rock relief (Roman).
- ¹¹ Inscriptions (Greek).
- ¹² Rock inscriptions (Greek).
- ¹³ Inscriptions (Aramean).
- ¹⁴ Sites belonging to Middle Ages.
- ¹⁵ Architectural remains (Middle Ages).
- ¹⁶ Large or small fortresses.
- ¹⁷ Sites explored by Dr. U. Bahadır Alkım.
- ¹⁸ Sites explored by Mrs. Muhibbe Darga.
- ¹⁹ Sites explored by Mrs. Darga and U. Bahadır Alkım.
- ²⁰ District centre.
- ²¹ Large village.
- ²² Village.
- ²³ Rivers.
- ²⁴ Metalled road.
- ²⁵ Cart track.
- ²⁶ Bridle path.
- ²⁷ Pass or gorge.



(Harita / Map 1)



(Harita / Map 2)



(Harita / Map 3)