

THE EIGHTH SEASON'S WORK AT KARATEPE *

by

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The eighth season's work at Karatepe¹ lasted from September 3rd to November 12th, 1952². It was carried out under the auspices of the Turkish Historical Society and the Directorate-General of the Antiquities and Museums by a working party, under the direction of Professor Bossert, consisting of Dr. U. Bahadır Alkım, Dr. H. Çambel, Mr. Ali Caravella, expert in restoration, and Mr. Dursun Cankut, photographer. The objects in view were, first, to complete certain matters of detail for the forthcoming final publication (Excavations at Karatepe and Domuztepe, 5 vols.), and more particularly, to piece together and restore the fragmentary sculptures.

During our first season (autumn 1947), in addition to the large basalt orthostat reliefs and the Hittite hieroglyphic and Phoenician inscriptions, hundreds of sculptural fragments were discovered. Owing however, to the absence of a professional restorator, and also to the lack of the necessary implements, the work of restoration was postponed until the present season. For supplying the necessary funds for the purchase of a generator, electric drill etc., and so making this important work possible, our sincere thanks are due to the Turkish Directorate-General of Antiquities and Museums and the Director General Dr. Cahit Kınay, who devoted himself unsparingly to the care of the Antiquities from Karatepe, also to the Assistant Directors Messrs. Necati Dolunay, A. Saim Ülgen and Nuri Can.

* The English translation of this preliminary report was made by Prof. G. E. Bean, to whom the author wishes to express his gratitude.

¹ For the Karatepe bibliography cf. U. B. ALKIM: *Revue Hittite et Asiatique*, fasc. 50 (1948—1949), pp. 33-35; id.: *Bulleten* vol. XIV (1950) p. 655, note 1; H. TH. BOSSERT - U. B. ALKIM - H. ÇAMBEL *et al.*: *Die Ausgrabungen auf dem Karatepe*, Ankara 1950, pp. 67-82 (= *Ausgrabungen*); U. B. ALKIM: *Karatepe-Seventh Campaign*, *Bulleten* vol XVI (1952) pp. 620-624.

² We desire particularly to express our gratitude for the friendly help of the people of Kadirli, who afforded us unsparingly very kind material and moral support. Our thanks are also due to Dr. Sedat Barı, the deputy of Seyhan, to Mr. Ahmet Kınık, *Vali* of Seyhan, to the Assistant *Vali*, to the Education Office of Seyhan, to Mr. Kemal Küçüktepepınar, *Kaymakam* of Kadirli, to the Office of Works, to Arif Onat, agricultural technician, to Âdil Şeyhülettıbbı, chemist, and to Murat and Şeref Karamüftüođlu, advocates, for their keen interest and help.

We owe also a debt of gratitude to the *Istituto Centrale del Restauro* in Rome for collaboration and granting us the services of their expert restorer, Signor Ali Caravella. I subjoin a short report of the season's work.

A. AT KARATEPE

1 — Epigraphical: All squeezes and drawings of the Hittite and Phoenician inscriptions were compared with the originals by Prof. Dr. Bossert and prepared for publication.

2 — Archaeological: a) Architectural work was completed at the Upper Entrance (H-J/13-16),³ the Lower Entrance (Ö-S/31-35), the Palace at the summit (I-K/21-24), the temple and adjoining area (J-M/13-16), and in the section L/19 where the altar⁴ was found.

b) Outer circuit-wall. In 1949 traces of an outer fortification wall were brought to light on the east slope of Karatepe.⁵ Thinking it likely that on the west and north-west also the ramps of the Upper (B-I/13-21) and Lower (R-S/31-35) Entrances may have been joined by a curving outer wall, we had long been intending to carry out investigations in this area; but the work was rendered difficult by the thick forest and undergrowth that covers Karatepe on this side. In the course of a reconnaissance towards the end of the eighth season we discovered with some difficulty, in the area I-J/39-40, a remnant of wall comprising several courses and running NE-SW. Upon clearing away the thick scrub it became clear that this wall was not a mere fragment fallen from above, and we suspect that it belongs to an outer fortification-wall defending this section of the citadel. We could not determine definitely whether or not it continued in either direction, since at each end of it the virgin rock rises to the surface, and it is evidently possible that any remains may have collapsed and been carried away by torrent waters.

In the course of a surface investigation we saw other blocks also, which appear to have belonged to a wall, in the areas P/36, O-N/37-40, L-M/39-40, J-K/39-40, G-H/37-38, E-F/35-36, again among thick brushwood; but we could not determine whether they form part of the supposed outer circuit-wall. At the same time, the natural configuration of the ground makes it certain that if such a wall existed on this slope, it cannot have been far from the main inner wall, because at a distance of about 15-30 m. to the west of the main wall is a precipitous drop of some 10-15 m., above which the outer wall would be obliged to pass. We hope to obtain further light on this problem in subsequent campaigns.

3 — Restoration: From among the hundreds, or even thousands, of sculptural fragments, by piecing together those that belonged together, we succeeded in completing more than twenty orthostat reliefs. Of the subjects depicted some repeat those on reliefs already found *in situ*, but a considerable number show new and interesting themes. When the work of restoration is continued in future sea-

³ Cf. *Ausgrabungen*, Pl. XXXVI. Future references to this plan in the text of the present report will be given in brackets without explanation.

⁴ Cf. U. B. ALKIM: *Karatepe-Seventh Campaign*, *Bulleten* (1953), pp. 623-624

⁵ U. B. ALKIM: *Karatepe-Fourth Campaign*, *Bulleten* vol. XIV (1950), p. 657.

sons, we hope to recover still further varieties of design on these Karatepe orthostats, which are so important for the study, not merely of late Hittite reliefs, but in general of the ancient Near Eastern sculptural art in the first millennium B.C.

Two huts were built during this campaign to house the sculptural finds.

4 — **Architectural:** Our architect being at the last minute unable to come, the plans, architectural drawing and restorations could not be completed this year. We hope to remedy this next season.

B. AT DOMUZTEPE

Architectural studies were completed and photographs taken of the sculptures and small finds.

C. INVESTIGATIONS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

1 — **Discovery of a further vein of basalt:** Ever since the first season we had supposed that the basalt used by the Karatepe sculptors came from Domuztepe on the other (east) side of the Ceyhan river⁶. With the object of determining whether basalt was also to be found on the west (Karatepe) side of the river, the surrounding country was explored by Dr. U. B. Alkim in October 1952. The result was the discovery of a basalt vein on a thickly wooded slope, some 500 m. long, which descends steeply to the river about 4 km. south east of Karatepe. This vein is not to be seen at the corresponding level on the east bank of the river, but reappears at Karagedik some 10 km. SW of Domuztepe, again close beside the Ceyhan, and extends as far as the Village of Araplar.

The discovery of this second vein in the neighbourhood raises the question whether this was the source of the basalt used at Karatepe. The country between is very mountainous; and transport of the stone by water against the stream would be difficult. We are therefore inclined to adhere to our former opinion that, in spite of the fact that a river intervenes, the Karatepe basalt was obtained from the abundant quarries on Domuztepe. The newly-discovered vein will have been used for the settlement at Danakaya and for the site at Kastal described below. Danakaya is about 3 km. distant as the crow flies, and no intervening mountain or river forms a serious impediment; furthermore, no other vein of basalt exists in this neighbourhood.

2 — **Ruins of the Roman period:** a) *Kastal.* At a spot called Kastal, 2 km. SE of the new vein of basalt, and some 6 km. from Karatepe, we found ruins of late antiquity covering a fairly wide area. The surface remains indicate that the site, with certain additions and alterations, was also inhabited in the Middle Ages. We saw no inscription, but found numerous ruined buildings and architectural fragments of late Roman date, including basalt columns and troughs, roof-members, large oil —or wine— presses, and two cisterns. We also collected sherds

6 Cf. *Ausgrabungen*, p. 69; U. B. ALKIM: *The Results of the Recent Excavations at Domuztepe*, *Bulleten* vol. XVI (1952), pp. 244-245.

7 *Ausgrabungen*, p. 42; *Bulleten* vol. XII (1948), p. 255.

of Roman date. The walls are carefully constructed of basalt; this stone is not to be found at Kastal, and has evidently been brought from the spot described above.

b) *Ruins south of Kırığılıdere*: In the course of the writers's explorations another site was discovered about 6 km. NW of Karatepe, spread over a considerable area on the crest of the south slope of the Kırığılıdere valley. Information of its existence was supplied by Hüseyin Kıstı, formerly *muhtar* of Kızıyusuflu. The architecture remains point to a date in late antiquity, and this is confirmed by a Greek funerary inscription found on the spot.

A detailed description, with photographs, both of Kastal and of Kırığılıdere will appear in my forthcoming article on the ancient road-system of Cilicia Cappadocia.

