

CONTRIBUTIONS TO TURKISH HISTORY THROUGH
THE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES OF THE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION OF
THE TURKISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BETWEEN 1943-1948 X.

By

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Among its various activities, the Turkish Historical Society has always attached a great importance to excavation work. Considering the aims of our society, I think that its main concern is the study of every phase of Turkish History. Therefore in addition to our investigations of documents, we must make excavations and define the value of our findings in relation to the history of our country, since the early history of Anatolia is wrapped in a shroud of obscurity.

With these objects in view, The Turkish Historical Society has successfully concluded numerous excavations and gained an experience of fifteen years. In our first and second congresses we gave the results of our activities which began in 1933 and lasted until 1937 and went on until 1945. Now, in this fourth meeting of our society we shall consider the results of our activities in the field of archaeological research during the years 1943-1948. Some of our committees have achieved important tasks during this period of five years.

These may be considered in two groups:

II — Tours and research activities.

II — Excavations.

As the reports about these activities have already been published, here I shall only give a general outline of them, but

I shall speak at some length about some of the very important recent discoveries made by our society. To be able to do this we must view the different periods of our country in chronological order.

I — The Prehistoric Age (affording no written documentary evidence).

- a) The Palaeolithic Age.
- b) The Mesolithic Age.
- c) The Calcolithic Age.
- d) The Bronze Age.

II — The Hittite and Post Hittite Age. (period).

III — The Phrygian Age. (period)

IV — V The Hellenistic and Roman Age. (period)

V — The Byzantine Age. (period)

VI — The Seljuk Age. (period)

VII — The Ottoman Age. (period)

I — Research into the prehistory of our country consisted mostly of summer tours conducted in certain areas, of collecting traces of the Stone Age and of determining types and locations of ancient settlements. The sources of the history of Anatolia go as far back as prehistoric times. Actually it is on the primitive remains of this period that the whole structure of the history of mankind rests. By making a prehistoric survey of a region we can form an idea of its past and the successive periods it has gone through.

a) In order to understand the prehistoric conditions of life and culture in Anatolia many prehistoric remains had to be examined systematically and carefully. For this purpose Prof. Dr. Shevket Kansu, the head of the Department of Anthropology, Ankara University, arranged tours and made excavations in many parts of Turkey.

A committee formed of the members of this department (Prof. Dr. Kansu, Muzaffer Shenürek, Asistan K. Kökten) made test-excavations on behalf of the Turkish Historical Society near Bradiz, north of Burdur, which had previously been discovered by Prof. Louis, a former professor of the Department of Geography of the University of Ankara. Many microlithic implements were found here.

During this tour the committee's attention was attracted by

the caves at Bozan-önü (slightly to the north of Bradiz) where the committee stopped and made several test excavations and found in one of these caves traces of the aurignacian culture of the upper Palaeolithic Age. This particular cave had also been occupied during later ages. Moreover the committee made several other excavations near Isparta and Burdur. At the same time Assistant Kılıç Kökten toured all over the Black Sea, the Central and North-Western regions of Anatolia and defined the prehistoric features of these areas. In addition to all these there were investigations in the southern and south-eastern regions of Anatolia where many prehistoric remains were observed and studied.

The scientific results of these research tours can be set forth in the following way: -

1 — As far as tools are concerned Achenleean and Chellean axes of the Lower-Paleolithic were found in the eastern and south-eastern regions of Anatolia, and on the terraces of the Euphrates. Some of these tools were marked with local characteristics.

2 — Typical tools of the Mesolithic Age were found in the neighbourhood of Ankara, and in the more easterly regions (Elazığ, Mush).

3 — Tools of the *Middle Paleolithic* were found in the south (Kara-in cave in Antalya) and south-east (Diyarbakır, Urfa). At the same time the discovery of tools made of bones indicate the use of a new material and an advance in technique.

4 — Excluding some specimens showing the same technical features as those of the preceding age, no tools were found to enable us to form any definite idea of the Upper Paleolithic phase of the Old Stone Age

It is understood from these finds that the Old Stone Age people inhabited the central, eastern and south-eastern parts of Anatolia. On the other hand the area to the north of Yeshil Irmak and the entire Black Sea region from Ordu to Rize and the north eastern shores of the Sea of Marmora do not show any remains of the Old Stone Age. Thus we may conclude that, as far as different types of tools are concerned the investigated areas show typical Lower and Middle-Palaeolithic specimens.

From the Middle-palaeolithic Age onwards people in Anatolia

as in Europe felt the need to shelter in caves. Therefore a study of caves would be worthwhile.

The Turkish Historical Society has once invited the public to supply them with any information that they could give about any caves that they happened to know. According to the information thus gathered it was known that out of 9549 existing caves 3554 were artificial and 5952 natural: 588 of these were subjected to careful scientific investigations. Some of these show signs of habitation, Samsun = Karain, İsparta = Bozanköy, Eskişehir = İnönü, Haymana = Timurözü which tend to prove that these were inhabited at one particular period of settlement, but we have no evidence that they were inhabited during the periods that followed.

Another novelty of these tours was the discovery of certain rock-monuments called "dolmens,, o "menhirs,,. It is very probable that they are connected with a tradition rooted in those prehistoric times.

During these investigations K. Kökten located 269 different sites of settlements and collected material about their ages. These places are scattered in South-East, South and partly in Eastern and Central Anatolia, A study of these places and their successive periods would throw some light on the conditions of settlement and the density of population in prehistoric Anatolia.

2 — No Mesolithic and Neolithic remains were found during the last five years.

3 — Signs of true settlements appear in the Calcolithic which marks the beginning of the Metal Age. In fact the lower layers of almost every höyük (mound) belong to this age. Therefore layers showing signs of early settlements are usually very deep. At Alacahöyük these layers had to be examined under water.

Our committee (under the guidance of Dr. H. Z. Koshay, Mahmut Akok) which was engaged in research work at Alacahöyük in 1947 discovered a mound only 15 Kms. away, near the village of Büyükgölcük, which shed some light on the Calcolithic Age. Situated on a calcareous hill, this mound had, besides some traces of the Phrygian culture, the most typical remains of the Calcolithic Age. The implements that these earliest settlers of Central Anatolia used, had some resemblances to the

ones found at Alacahöyük. Judging by the technical advance these implements show, we may consider them to belong to the last phase of the Calcolithic Age. Here in an area of about 400 metres, a considerable amount of pottery, flints, lava-rocks and bone-cultures were obtained through at least three architectural layers. It must be noted that only two copper axes were found among these. In terms of relative chronology we can say that they belong to the fourth millenium B. C .

Another place rich in Calcolithic remains is the Mashat Höyük in Zile. The plain of Mashat which connects central Anatolia with the Black Sea region has the conditions necessary for a settlement. At this höyük¹ where a Hittite tablet had been found, our society made several excavations and discovered remains of the Calcolithic Age, including some tools resembling those found in Central Anatolia .

Moreover further traces of the Calcolithic Age were found in some höyüks which had previously been located. As these höyüks had not been excavated properly it is impossible for us to give any information about their stratigraphical position.

4 — Although it is an extension of the Calcolithic Age, the Copper Age, with its very advanced implements, occupies a very important chapter in the archaeology of Anatolia. Prior to the existence of written documents, it is the richest layer we have, and it is very important for the history of civilization in Anatolia. Our best sources of information in this respect are the Alacahöyük excavations. In the IInd and IIIrd congresses of our society we gave detailed accounts of our activities in this field⁴. No important discoveries were made at Alacahöyük during the last five years, and lately the system of work in this area had not been in depth, but over a wide surface.

Among other centres the Mashat Höyük, in the north of Central Anatolia had been inhabited in the Copper Age. Although the implements found here are marked with local characteristics they are in fact contemporary with the Copper Age in

¹ For further information on this höyük see the article in the Review of the Faculty of Letters, Ankara University, Güterbock, D. T. C. E. Dergisi, cilt II, sayı 3, s. 389-391.

Eastern Anatolia. These investigations show that the density of population was particularly high in the middle-eastern regions of Anatolia.

Another site excavated in connection with this age is the village of Maltepe Sivas. Examination of this Copper Age Höyük revealed that it consisted of a lower and an upper settlement. If we compare this höyük with the Central, Eastern and Northern Anatolian höyüks we see that it is a branch of the Great Anatolian civilization of the IIIrd millenium. B. C.; that is to say it is a new stage peculiar to the upper Kızılırmak region ¹.

II The documentary history of Anatolia begins with the Capadocian tablets of the IInd millenium B. C. These are records of trade agreements between the Assyrian tradesmen and the Anatolian cities. So far the most important of these were found at Kültepe near Kayseri, and similar documents were noticed at Alishar and Boğazköy (and in Kerkük=Mesopotamia; Nuzi=Yorgantepe)². There was need for a systematic investigation in a part of Kültepe called Karum, which had been occupied by Assyrian tradesmen. This was pointed out by Tahsin Özgüç, one of our members, in a report he presented to the society. He said in this report:

“Our primary aim is to dig this ruin which we know from its ancient name was an important centre., (24. III. 48).

The name of the ancient city of Kanış has been preserved as Karyei-Kınısh in 17 th century Ottoman legal records. At the same time, this höyük, which is uninhabited to-day, is one of the largest höyüks in Anatolia. Karum was some where along the edge of the hüyük where there were fields and open spaces Tahsin Özgüç pointed out the necessity of an excavation on this site and the Turkish Historical Society assigned the job to the committee he set up (Dr. N. Özgüç, M. Akok). The Assyrian trade settlement was dug up during the summer of 1948. Through shafts opened at various parts of Karum, it was possible to get an idea of the general characteristics of the houses, shops, market

¹ Tahsin Özgüç, Belleten 44, s. 641-655.

² I. Gelb, Inscriptions from Alishar and Vicinity (O. I. P. XXVII, 1935). T. J. Meek, Annual of the American School of Oriental Research XIII. (1938).

places, schools, streets, and squares. In Karum, which has a depth of 7.50 metres,, four layers of construction were found of which only the second and third showed signs of large buildings. Besides about 1400 tablets with or without envelopes were discovered here. They appeared as if they were kept in a sort of library. It was further observed that they were kept in groups of 50-100-150 in dwellinges consisting of three or five rooms with stone foundation and mud or brick walls. As these tablets are sealed with barrel-shaped (cylindrical) seals, each show different patterns. Thus an important collection has been added to our museums.

After a visit to Karum Prof. Landsberger submitted a report to the Turkish Historical Society, in which he said :

“This period is the richest in the early history of Anatolia. Up to the present 3000 Cappadocian tablets were known; but we have been trying, with great difficulty, to establish the dates of the various pieces of correspondence according to their internal evidence. Now after these excavations individual firms and their dates are clearly known to us. Therefore the philological study of the Cappadocian tablets will be based on an entirely new principle. „

In the course of these excavations some literary texts were discovered in the house of a man called Uzua. These are entirely new specimens.

Large sarcophagi and pots were found in the basements of some houses. Among the objects offered to the dead there were ornaments, weapons made of bone, gold and amber, painted or plain household utensils, animal-shaped drinking cups which shed more light on the artistry of the people.

With the development of the work started by Dr. Tahsin Özgüç and Nimet Özgüç it will be possible to restore at least one of the ten Karums³ so far known with its town hall, inns, schools, offices and private dwellings. Thus the first great Anatolian city will be known to us.

We hope that when the chronological age of these texts is fixed the Turkish philologists will study them and make new contributions to Turkish history in the field of Economics, Law,

³ Emin Bilgiç, III. Tarih Kongresi Zabıtları, 1948. s. 386 - 393.

and literature. Therefore I feel it is my duty to thank this committee on behalf of the Turkish Historical Society for starting and achieving this undertaking.

Succeeding this age of written documents is another age which begins with the merging of the feudalistic Anatolian states into a political unit which was brought about by the Hittites. The archaeological researches of the Turkish Historical Society have contributed a great deal to the history of this period. The following investigations throw new light upon the Hittite civilization :

I — Very important results were obtained concerning the architectural remains of this period. Some private dwellings of this age were examined and the nature of the city walls understood. The essential facts about the fortifications founded during the Great Hittite Empire were also revealed through these researches. Constructional features of some of the private dwellings built during the Middle and the New State periods were carefully noted, and some domestic utensils obtained. Thus through these extensive researches the nature of the works of architecture built in different periods of the Hittite Empire have become known. During the New State, Alaca specially seems to have played an important part in the way of construction¹.

This area which we have been excavating continuously for thirteen years has now become a model school of Archaeology for the Turkish Historical Society. Many of our young archaeologists have had the opportunity of working here in various seasons of the year². The unsanitary peasant houses on the höyük were pulled down and new well-planned houses were built on a wide slope. We received government help in this work. The large and beautiful Excavation House of the Turkish Historical Society has brought, with its beautiful garden and museum, new life to the place. At the same time nothing has been spared by our committee for the cultural development of the village. Those

¹ The newly and skillfully built city walls, and beautifully decorated city gates, temples, and official buildings set up on sacred grounds are proofs of an intense architectural activity. *Belleten* 38, 1946, s. 220.

² Ekrem Akurgal, Tahsin Özgüç, Mahmut Akok, Nezih Fıratlı, Raci Temizer.

who saw Alacahüyük in 1935 will find a great difference between the old and the new village. The services rendered by our research committee in this way are really worth mentioning.

II — Another important site of excavation for the Hittite civilization is the village of Mashat, Zile which we have already mentioned in connection with the Copper Age. This civilization which could be seen in two architectural layers, is widely spread over the top and slopes of the hüyük. The traces of a big fire were noticed here among the buildings. One of the important remains belonging to this age is a carefully buried horse skeleton in a pit surrounded with stones. In addition to the figures of horses and seals found at Bogazköy, Alaca and Alishar, the Mashat höyük shows the existence of a custom of horse burial. Other objects found here show common features with the Hittite civilization of Central Anatolia³.

III — An excavation was made in Sivas on a site called Toprak Tepe. As a monument was going to be built on top of this hill its historical stratigraphy was asked for, and with the coöperation of the town authorities an excavation was carried out there. The result was as follows:-

Toprak Tepe was actually a natural hill, and when the Hattis noticed this naturally defended place, they came and settled here in the 2nd millenium B. C. It is understood that from this time until the arrival of the Seljuks the hill was never inhabited⁴.

This is a new discovery about the Hittite period, and it enables us to trace the eastern limits of the Hittite civilization.

IV — The hieroglyphic seals, animal-shaped utensils, bull-man reliefs of the Old and New Hittite periods found in Karahöyük (north-east Anatolia) near Elbistan are particularly interesting. With the discovery of these, the existence of a new centre for the Cenral Anatolian Hittite Culture has been understood and various areas of Hittite settlements have been located.

V — Apart from these many rock-drawings of the Hittite period were examined during tours arranged by our society. Rock-reliefs were especially very important in the Hittite Age.

³ Belleten 39, 1946, s. 221.

⁴ Tahsin Özgüç, Halil Edhem Hatıra Kitabı, s. 219-225.

Therefore the Fraktin, Tashji, Imamkulu, and Hanyeri monuments (south-east of Kayseri) were re-considered by Dr. Ekrem Akurgal and Dr. Sedat Alp from the Archaeological and Philological points of view. A new relief was observed about 100 metres north of the monument at Tashji which is understood to have been written during the life time of Ūrhiteshub, the son of the great Hittite King Muvattali.

In all these investigations new facts were discovered about the Hittite religion and archaeology. The monuments at Tashji and Hanyeri stand on strategical routes, whereas Fraktin and Pamuklu were situated away from these routes, and possibly they were residential areas connected with problems of settling.

Again during this tour some opinions were put forward regarding the höyük of Acem, which differed widely from the previous suppositions. Opposed to the belief that this was the position of Kushara, the capital of the Hittite State, it was suggested that it might possibly have been Prushtum which is known to have played an important part during the Old Empire. The archaeological material obtained here belonged to the time of the Old State, however we cannot say anything definite until the place is thoroughly examined. After all, these opinions are merely hypothetical.

These excavations and investigations add a great deal to our knowledge of the culture, settlements, and trade routes of the Hittites who achieved the earliest political unity in the history of our country. No doubt there is still much to be done in this field.

The great Hittite period is followed by the Post-Hittite period, which lasted from the XIIth century to the VII century. This period which came about as a result of weakness in the political sovereignty of the Hittite state, can be called the period of the Hittite principalities. Their cultural traces extend from the Toros to the banks of the Euphrates and Northern Syria.

Some valuable archaeological discoveries were made by our society during the last five years.

There were two excavations:

1 — Karahöyük in Elbistan.

2 — Karatepe in the district of Kadirli, Seyhan.

The historical and archaeological importance of the plain of Elbistan has always been known. Therefore, this and the existence

of some traces of civilization were sufficient to attract the attention of our society. In 1947 the Turkish Historical Society assigned the task of investigating this area to a committee set up by Tahsin Özgüç (Dr. Nimet Özgüç, Lemi Merey). First this committee fixed the localities of all the höyüks that exhibited signs of settlement and noted which were and which were not previously examined. Moreover some Sejuk roads and monuments were studied and coins collected.

It must be pointed out that the main excavation work was centered on the Karahöyük which dominates all the high roads going through the plain of Elbistan. Apart from some well planned five-storied buildings dating back to 1000 B. C., some domestic utensils, bronze and iron implements were also found in this place. However the most important of all was the discovery of a large epitaph having hieroglyphic inscriptions on three sides. This epitaph which was fixed at its base, was found standing in an upright position, covered probably as a means of protection, with stones on all sides. This valuable epitaph, which was erected on a square with a special place reserved in front for sacrificial rites, was unearthed and left in its original place. As it is well kept, the names of great kings and cities found in its long text will furnish us with some fresh data for our historical estimate of this region. According to this epitaph, the capital of the region of Elbistan which is believed to be a dependency of the Milid-Malatya Stade, is Karahöyük.

The second important place of excavation is Karatepe situated in a wood on the right bank of Ceyhan in the Kadirli district of Seyhan. The importance of this hill which was first¹ discovered by a school teacher, was pointed out by Ali Rıza Yalgın in 1937. The first scientific survey of the place was made by the university of Istanbul and the preliminary report about it was published by Prof. Bossert and Dr. Halet Çambel. Considering its importance the Turkish Historical Society decided to make an excavation on the site. Dr. Bahadır Alkım, a member of the society was appointed to the job. With the participation of the General Director of Museums and the University of

¹ Adana Türk sözü gazetesi, 15 nisan 1939.

Istanbul a committee was set up which carried out the excavation successfully and discovered important works. Our society continued its activities there in 1948.

So far the following results have been obtained:

In the ruins along the west bank of the river Ceyhan two porticos (porches) were found which were attached to the main structure. Inside the walls of these towers vertical tablets were found with inscriptions in high relief on them; but the most remarkable thing about the excavation at Karatepe was that it supplied us with the key necessary for the solution of the riddle of the Hittite Hieroglyphs. Because we find here three Phoenician texts together with two texts in Hittite hieroglyphics. Their bilingual condition was particularly important because it facilitated the task of deciphering the Hittite writing. This discovery and the other investigations concerning it are of very great importance to Turkish History². All scholars interested in these matters focussed their attention on this problem and a vigorous research activity was started. At the XXI st meeting of the Oriental Society which met in Paris in July 1948, Dr. Bahadır Alkım gave an interesting account of the discoveries made at Karatepe³.

Two large buildings were unearthed and a side porch was dug at the same place during this year's excavations. Furthermore excavations were made on Domuztepe, on the eastern bank of Ceyhan, exactly opposite Karatepe and some reliefs were found there, which appear to be contemporary with Karatepe. These discoveries have an international significance. On the other hand the most outstanding research of the year has been the investigation of a pass which connects Göksu with Çukurova and passes through the neighbourhood of Karatepe. Along this pass a Roman rock-relief, three Greek rock inscriptions and a prehistoric rock drawing were found. Thus the discoveries made in this region shed much light upon the history of Turkey.

III — The History of Anatolia in the VII th and VIII th

² Bossert, *Belleten* 47, S. 515-522 ; B. Alkım, *ayniyer* S. 533.

³ Bahadır Alkım, *Belleten* 47, 533-548.

centuries is closely connected with the Phrygian period.

Five year's work in this field was centered on the tumuli observed during the construction of Atatürk's tomb. One of these had to be removed during the levelling operations; it was 50 metres in diameter and 8.50 metres in height.

The Turkish Historical Society started a systematic research here and opened the tumulus, where under a heap of earth reaching nearly 8 metres in thickness, a pit (2.90-2.20) was found which was possibly a grave panelled on all sides. It extended from east to west. Among the objects found here there were a trivet standing before a wooden bench, spear-heads, metal bowls, embroidered buckles and pottery containing human ashes. As this site was believed to have been a necropolis composed of several tumuli, a second grave was found about 50 metres to its east; there were various articles in it. The study of these graves is a new addition to the history of Ankara.

IV — As the Hellenistic and Roman periods are not so distant as the above mentioned periods are their remains are on the whole in a better condition.

I shall mention two places connected with this period:

1. The first is the Kalınkaya tumuli in the north-east of Alacahöyük, Central Anatolia. The largest of these was opened (50 metres in diameter 18 metres in height) and a brick sarcophagus was found in it which was possibly of Hellenistic origin. Furthermore two stone grave-chambers) of older age were found on the western slopes of the hill. So we understand that this tumulus was in use during two different periods.

2. Excavations at Perge an Side.

After carrying out some investigations in Pamphilia, the research committee headed by Prof. Arif Mufid Mansel worked at Perge in 1946. The committee included Prof. Bocsh (epigraphist), Assistant Jale İnan, L. Meray (architect). It was understood from the excavation made in the cemetery of this most important town of Pamphilia that a road extended in a westerly direction, and besides there was a collection of 33 sarcophagi here which showed various ornamental patterns in high relief. These belonged to the 3rd century A. D. The Greek epitaphs on these sarcophagi are particularly interesting. Some of them are fairly long and it

seems that they were written as wills to prevent others from using them, so they contain certain terms and conditions concerning inheritors. These texts give us a very clear idea of the position of the rich people in Perge in the 3rd century A. D. Efforts to find the famous temple of Artemis were fruitless, however some clues were obtained which will be of some value for the topography of the town.

Further excavations were made at Side = Selimiye (Eski Antalya) which is 80 kms. from (modern) Antalya and 8 kms. from Manavgat.

The following places were discovered through these excavations:

1 — Two temples built ten metres apart on a promontory called Mermerlik. All the architectural details of the first building, which was standing during the Byzantine period, were found and the building was restored on paper. Both temples resemble each other in appearance and design, but one of them has suffered more destruction than the other. Probably they belong to the IInd century A. D.

2 — A third is built at the end of a street which divides the town into two parts. This temple shows different architectural characteristics with the discovery of its different parts it will be possible to restore the frontal section of the columned prodomos. This belongs to the IIIrd century A. D., but additional structures were built among which there is a Vth century fountain.

Among the statues found in this area there is a head of Dionysos with a long beard and a young Apollon which attracted much attention for their peculiar style.

3 — A part of the street that cuts the town from end to end was uncovered. This street which is paved with large cobbles, and lined with columned galleries on both sides goes past the theatre and terminates at the sea. Several reliefs, pieces of statues, and foundation stones have also been found here. Among the statues there is a bearded Heracles which is believed to be the work of Lysippos.

By means of some texts found among these documents we are able to have an idea of the political and social state of Side.

The city which flourished in the IInd century entered a period of decline in the IIIrd century. 2200 coins were found here which should help us to fix the dates of many monuments. The excavation made in 1945 revealed Agora the market place of the town with its columned galleries, shops and monumental porches.

A circular structure (horologium) which was dug up in the middle of the Agora Square is a real masterpiece of IInd century Roman architecture. During the removal of some debris from the tiers of a theatre near Agora (capable of holding 25000 people) several epitaphs and parts of statues were found which helped determine the main structural details of the building. Again in this region several private dwellings were dug up which consisted of compartments surrounded with columns. Statues, reliefs, mosaics frescos, and a good deal of iron and bronze household goods were also found here.

There was a Vth century Byzantine basilica along the second branch of the colonnaded street which is believed to have been built with the pieces taken from Roman buildings. Apart from these several excavations were made in the city cemetery. In the light of these excavations much has been added to our knowledge of the town of Side, and its map made by the Lanekoronski committee has to be corrected at many points. Thus a model city of the classical Anatolian civilization will be known to the world of learning.

V - Archaeological research on the Byzantine period was carried out at Rhegion, Küçük Çekmece (Istanbul). Work in this area continued for some time during the summer of 1948 and ruins were found which helped us to form a general picture of the large Byzantine buildings previously discovered.

Prof. Mansel who took part in the Fourth Congress of the Oriental Society which met in Paris, gave an interesting account of the latest position of Rhegion and Byzantine civilian architecture.

Remains of Roman sculpture and architecture were found during the removal of debris from a layer between the surface and the basement of the great basilica which limits the northern border of Agora (Smyrna.)

VI - Chronologically we have reached the Seljukian period.

The Seljuk monuments of which we have very beautiful specimens standing almost intact, are objects of our greatest admiration.

Besides these there are some works which need an archaeological examination. One of these is the well used for astrological purposes in the Caca Bey School of Divinity, Kırşehir. According to some rumours, during the reign of Kılıç Aslan (1277 A. D.) a school of astronomy was founded here by Caca, the governor of Kırşehir. The verification of this would be of immense value to the history of science of this period. Dr. Aydın Sayılı and Prof. Ruben made excavations on this site on behalf of the Turkish Historical Society. Judging by the rumours the well was right under the hole in the middle of the dome through which the stars used to be observed. When this spot was dug up a well was found which had been filled with rubble, but excavation had to stop as water appeared after a depth of 5,50 metres. It was further observed that there were three steps descending into the well. The well had a diameter of 3 metres and a depth of 8.60 metres. Inside the well two convex pieces of marble were found. It is very probable that they were originally used as sun dials, and a second piece of marble found on top of the dome was possibly a ruler. Dr. A. Sayılı made further investigations in Tire and Vacidiye mosque in Kütahya. Thus these archaeological investigations proved that there was at least some truth in these ancient rumours.

Further investigations made at Topraktepe in connection with the Seljuk period include some remains of buildings, a large amount of Seljuk pottery, and some enamelled tiles, Seljuk coins found here helped in fixing the ages of these buildings. The citadel that the Seljuks built here was later repaired by the Ottomans. Hurmankale and Seljuk remains of Eshabi Kefh have also been examined, archaeologically and the results obtained are ready for publication.

We have thus considered the excavation scheme achieved by the Turkish Historical Society and its value to Turkish History. I wish to thank all our research workers on behalf of the society.

With the aim of systematizing and improving the efficiency of its archaeological activities the Turkish Historical Society set

up, in 1948, an archaeological and Prehistorical Section.

When I recommended the society to set up such a section, I had two objects in view.

I — To see that discussion meetings are held, and excavations are made at places which are known to be of archaeological value.

II — To arrange general talks for exchange of opinion at the end of every period of excavation.

To achieve these aims a new programme has been made and put into practice.

When we met in last May, the heads of all the excavation committees spoke and we had a very good exchange of opinion.

I must mention that many archaeologists and students of Turkish history attended our meetings who showed a keen scientific interest in our society's work. At the end of this report I wish to tell you of two of my memories.

While thinking over the constitution of the society, I suggested that excavation work should be included in its programme. Yusuf Akçura, our president at that time, gave a look of surprise and said: — "Yes, but who is going to excavate? We won't see that day, but I hope you will,,". So section C of that article read:

"To make excavations and send research parties to places where historical documents and material are likely to be found for the benefit of Turkish History.,,"

It was a windy spring day when Atatürk came out to see the first excavation of the Turkish Historical Society at Ahlatlıbel. I know how much he wanted the young Turkish scientists to work in this branch of learning.

While submitting to the Congress the report of the activities of the society he founded and inspired, I wish that his soul may rest in peace and happiness.
