

## Phrygian Marble In Rome\*

*Roma'da Phryg Mermeri*

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### *Abstarct*

The basic elements of the historical, cultural and geopolitical structure of a region are closely related with the geographical position of that region. Geography is the destiny of a country and it determines the geopolitical power of a nation. The geopolitical position of the states appears as a determinant factor in their historical role. Asia Minor is a unique land from which many civilizations emerged and confronted with each other. Phrygia, as one of the most important kingdoms of the first half of the 1st millennium B.C. was located in west-central Anatolia. By means of its geopolitical position, Phrygia created an important role for the civilization movement from the East to the West and left a lasting mark on this era. Phrygia, as a pioneer kingdom, led to the transition of the light in the East to the West. The art, mind and mythology of the East transferred to the West through the agency of Phrygia. The richness of Asia Minor has not only been a source of living for the residents of Asia Minor but it has also been a colonial target for the occupying forces. Roman Empire became one of the colonial powers that exploited the natural resources of Asia Minor. Marble is one the natural resource that was obtained from Asia Minor by the Roman Empire. Marble is one of the precious stones that has been preferred in many different points of life and used as a construction item to show off by the upper-class. In this context, Phrygia, with its rich source of marble, was an indispensable region for the decoration of Rome. The Phrygian marble, called "pavonazetto" or "Synnadic" was brought from around the Docimeion and Synnada regions in Phrygia and embedded in Roman monuments. In our study we would like to state the Phrygian marble, as the natural resources of Asia Minor that was identified as one of the richest countries of the Ancient world and its transportation to Rome.

*Key Words:* Phrygia, Marble, Rome, Pavonazetto.

### *Özet*

Bir bölgenin tarihi, kültürel ve coğrafi yapısının temel unsurları, o bölgenin coğrafi konumu ile yakından ilgilidir. Coğrafya, bir ülkenin kaderidir ve bir ulusun jeopolitik gücünü belirler. Ülkelerin jeopolitik konumları, ülkelerin tarihsel rollerinde belirleyici faktör olarak karşımıza çıkar. Küçük Asya, pek çok medeniyetin ortaya çıktığı ve birbirleriyle karşılaştığı eşsiz bir coğrafyadır. Phrygia, M.Ö. Birinci Bin Yılın ilk yarısında Batı Anadolu'da ortaya çıkan önemli devletlerden birisidir. Phrygia, sahip olduğu coğrafi konum sayesinde Doğu'dan Batı'ya hareket eden medeniyet hareketinde önemli bir rol üstlenmiş ve bu döneme unutulmayacak bir iz bırakmıştır. Öncü bir krallık olarak ışığın Doğu'dan Batı'ya geçişinde önderlik etmiştir. Doğu'nun sanatı, zihinsel yapısı ve mitolojisi Batı'ya Phrygia aracılığıyla intikal etmiştir. Küçük Asya'nın zenginliği, içinde yaşayan halklara kaynak olmakla kalmayıp, işgalci güçleri cezbeden bir sömürge hedefi olmuştur. Roma İmparatorluğu da Küçük Asya'nın doğal kaynaklarını kendi çıkarları doğrultusunda kullanan sömürgeci güçlerden birisi olmuştur. Mermer, Roma'nın Küçük Asya'dan elde ettiği kaynaklardan birisidir. Hayatın pek çok noktasında değerli bir taş olarak kullanılan mermer, üst sınıf insanlar tarafından da inşaat alanında bir böbürlenme aracı olarak kullanılır. Phrygia bu bağlamda zengin mermer kaynaklarıyla Roma'nın dekorasyonu için vazgeçilmez bir bölge olmuştur. "Pavonazetto ya da Synnadic" adı verilen Phryg mermerleri Phrygia'nın Docimeion and Synnada bölgelerinden getirilmiş ve Roma anıtlarında yerini almıştır. Çalışmamızda Eski Çağ Tarihi'nin kaynak yönünden en zengin ülkelerinden birisi olan Küçük Asya'nın doğal bir zenginliği olan Phryg mermeri ve Roma'ya olan transferine değinmeye çalışacağız.

*Anahtar Kelimeler:* Phrygia, Mermer, Roma, Pavonazetto.

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Geliş Tarihi & First Received : 30.09.2017

Kabul Tarihi & Accepted : 31.10.2017

\* This paper was presented verbally at the International Symposium called as International Journal of Art and Sciences held in Rome (29th October-1st November 2012) and has not published anywhere.

## Introduction

The design of civilizations is greatly attached by their geography (Braudel 1992: 104). Anatolia is one of the remarkable samples that confirm this reality. It has been the crossroads of many cultures and civilizations. The center of Neolithic settlements, the Hittites, the Phrygians, the Urartians, the Hellenistic settlements, the Romans, the Byzantines, the Seljukids and the Ottomans are some of the major civilizations that emerged from Anatolia.

With the missionary journeys of the Apostles, and notably St. Paul, Christianity has been spread all over Anatolia since AD 40. The first Christian church in history which was built in a cave in Antioch (Antakya), Myra (Demre), the birth place of St. Nicholas (the famous Santa Claus) are important cities for Christian history. Constantinople, Ephesus, Chalcedon and Nicaea are places that hosted many ecumenical types of council that contributed to the formation of Christianity. Anatolia is home to all *seven* of the *churches* mentioned in the opening chapters of the Book of Revelation. These cultural heritage sites are just a few examples that we can stated related with Christianity. This cultural and religious richness made Anatolia the capital of many civilizations and offers visitors many opportunities to discover and observe many cultural heritages.

Anatolia is the hinge of the world, especially around the three continents called Europe, Asia and Africa. The lock over this hinge can only be unlocked by the role of Anatolia. It can lock or unlock the north-south and east-west lines. This characteristic has been maintained throughout history (Celerier, 1985: 76).

The Phrygian civilization is one of the outstanding kingdoms that contributed a lot to the culture of Anatolia and deserved its awareness throughout the world. They settled in ancient Anatolia in the first half of the first millennium BC (725-695-675 BC). Their settlement was around the west-central Anatolia (Ramsay, 1960: 163).

## The Geopolitical Position of Phrygia

If the geography is regarded as the influence of the physical features and the situation of the country upon the people who live in it, Asia Minor can be the best example in this geographical perspective (Ramsay, 1902: 259). Anatolia had taken the role of bridge between the East and the West and also contributed to the civilizations that visited its region. Thus, Anatolia also became a pot in which many cultures were harmonized. In every aspect of early Greek history, we can easily find the traces of Anatolia (Ramsay, 1902, 270). The civilizations were born in Mesopotamia and then moved from the East to the West. This civilization movement had to choose the way of Anatolia for the shortest passage through East and West (Spykman, 1938: 45)

Phrygia, as a kingdom in the middle of Anatolia, and also as a neighboring country to the West, especially to the Greek civilization, plays an important role with its geographical position and its culture for the world cultural heritage and world civilizations. Greece took the spirit of the East and absorbed it in art, religion, philosophy, literature and science and brought a new form to Western traditions. Phrygia is one of the kingdoms linking Asia to Europe. The justification of the old phrase *Ex Oriente Lux* and the regard of Anatolia as a cultural corridor between East and West were supported with the archeological sites in Anatolia (Mellink, 1966: 129). Phrygia is one of the best examples that hold many historical assets regarding East and West linkage.

In ancient times, three factors drew people together: *geology, water and mines* (Crawford, 1922: 257). These three factors were also important factors to establish the Phrygian Kingdom. At first, the geology of the Phrygia was highly suitable to settle down. The Phrygian lands are available for agriculture and animal husbandry. Secondly, the water resources of Phrygia were so rich: *The Parthenius, Tembris, Sangarius, Rhyndakus, Hermes, Maiandros, Lykus and the Halys* were the main Phrygian rivers. Heredotos' remarks supported the significance of rivers for the Phrygian people. He defined the Phrygians as the society that lives around the Halys (Heredotos,

I, 28). At last, the Phrygian marble was so precious that the Romans preferred to use it in their constructions and decoration. This unique characteristic of Phrygia raised the importance of geopolitical position of Phrygia.

### **The Economical and Commercial Power of Phrygia in History**

German economist, August Losch, stated that the destiny of a country is closely related with the domestic economy. In modern times, the West has been dominated over the East as its economy is based on industry (Sen, 1975, 12). Therefore, both in past and present periods, economy is a significant factor for a country. Anatolia is one of the best samples of a land that stands out with its rich economical resources. The rich resources of Anatolia not only were the means of livelihood for the nations who inhabited here but also used as colonial resources for the invaders (Malay, 1983:50). Ramsay identifies Asia Minor as the wealthiest region in the world<sup>1</sup> (Ramsay, 1923:279). Cicero stated that Asia Minor surpassed the other countries in terms of product diversity, fertile land and export items<sup>2</sup> (Cicero, 1908:6.14). The interests of the Phoenicians for Asia Minor chiefly depended on raw material of copper and iron (Denel, 2010:68).

Phrygia is one of the well-known kingdoms located in Asia Minor. The various types of natural resources of Phrygia make a great contribution to the economical and commercial power of Phrygia. The metal items found in Phrygian graves proved the metal richness of the region (Ulmann, 1936: 151). The main factor in choosing to the central and western part of Anatolia for the Hittites depended on resources. This region became the Phrygian settlement in the following years by adapting this practice (Jesus, 1978, 97). Hyginus stated that lead and tin were first discovered by Midas, the king of Phrygia (Hyginus, 1960: CCLXXIV). The presence of the Urartian findings such as iron fibula, cauldrons with bull- figures and sirens on the Aegean Sea coasts and in Greece indicate a commercial route from the Urartian region to the Aegean coasts (Denel, 2010: 68). All of these samples confirmed the economical power of Phrygia.

The trade network between Phrygia and North Syria dates back to the Early Phrygian periods. The clay obtained from the Sangarius River was an indispensable item for ceramic fabrication (Voight et al, 2000:50). Some architecture of the houses in Gordion indicates relations between the Phrygians and the New Hittite Kingdoms (formed in the 9<sup>th</sup> century BC) in North Syria. The architecture of the Phrygian houses was influenced by the North Syrian monumental constructions in terms of style, architecture, image and techniques. Additionally, glass beads were probably imported from North Syria. The ornament import of Phrygia from the glass production was the first steps of the international trade of Phrygia. The struted handles used in the pottery production were clear traces of the interaction between these two regions (Sams, 1993:549).

Bronze production was highly affected by the Near Eastern technology, especially from the New Hittite Kingdoms established around Syria. The cultural and economic relation between Phrygia and the Near East is supported by the archeological data. The bull- headed cauldron, bowls with omphalos base and ivory objects are some examples that indicate this economical and cultural relation (Sams, 1993: 50).

The Phrygian geometrical decorations of painted wares and the decorations observed in Greek artifacts are so close in resemblance that it is difficult to say that they are different (Boardman, 1999: 87-88). Herodotus says that a "Midas son of Gordias" donated his throne as a gift to Delphi. (Herodotos, I:13). So, it is more acceptable that the Phrygians learned Greek

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<sup>1</sup> The land which is now Asiatic Turkey was of old the wealthiest country in the world (Ramsay, 1923: 279).

<sup>2</sup> Asia vero tam opima est ac fertilis ut et ubertate agrorum et varietate fructuum et magnitudine pastionis et multitudine earum rerum quae exportentur facile omnibus terris antecellat (Cicero, 1908: 6.14).

matters and oracle traditions from the western coast of Greek cities. Both archeological findings and the written texts indicate the trade between Phrygia and its neighbors.

### **Phrygia and Marble**

Products made of solid materials, such as stone, can provide substantial information to reconstruct past. Marble is one of the solid materials that shed light on past. Marble has been used for various directions throughout the history. It has been an indispensable item for mankind and has been used as a construction, covering and architectural material for many years. It has been used as a symbol of dedication to Gods and Goddesses and symbolizes *immortality, dignity, magnificence, purity and love* in many temples and the other monuments.

Marble is derived from the Greek word “marmarios” meaning “shining stone”. Indeed, there is no item that can present the artistic interpretation and aesthetics except for marble. Marble was symptomatic of a wide range of sculptural materials that were treated and embellished to produce subtle and realistic effects of color.

Marble is a kind of rock type that is mostly composed of calcite and dolomite. Pure marble is white and looks with a blue hue but the colored marble varieties are usually caused by various mineral impurities such as silt, clay, sand and iron oxides which were originally present as layers in the limestone. (Monroe and Wicander, 1977: 177). Today, Turkey holds 2.5 percent of the global industrial minerals reserves, and it holds 33 percent of global marble reserves. More than 80 types of marble and over than 120 colors and designs marble are found in Turkey (Ketin, 1984: 13).

Marble remains the sine qua non raw material of the Ancient Greeks and Romans. Marble sculpture began in Bronze Age and continued throughout the classical times and ornamented the cities, temples and houses within the form of sculpture, reliefs, monuments, pillars and columns. So the study of marble reveals the history of Greek and Roman history (Herz and Waelkens, 1998: 11). The Roman Empire seized the natural resources of many kingdoms throughout its history and used it for the decoration of Roman cities. Marble represented luxury, wealth, and power in Roman Empire. The Roman Empire, with its baths, stadiums, temples and state houses, emerged with amazing engineering feats. The leading cities of the Roman Empire stand out with their outstanding and impressive architecture. (Hopkins, 1980: 102).

The kingdom of Pergamum is bequeathed by King Attalus III to Rome in 133 BC and then the political and military hegemony of the Roman Empire in Asia Minor began with exploitation of Anatolian resources (Yıldırım, 2016: 92). The roads were built and restored during the Roman Period of Anatolia to improve and maintain trade and transportation (Arslan, 2011: 97-107). Phrygia is one of the kingdoms that was annexed and exploited by the Roman Empire. Marble Quarries in Phrygia were seized and worked out by the Roman Empire. It is a conscious option to choose marble instead of choosing the cheaper materials such as wood and local stone. Because producing marble covers great expense, skilled workmanship and an efficient trade system (Greenhalgh, 2009: 33).

The wealthy people chose marble to indicate their affluence and the Roman Empire chose it as a symbol of political power and never neglected to import tons of marble (Greenhalgh, 2009:34). The Empire used marble to decorate the buildings and the marble on the buildings served as maps symbolizing the conquered cities (Hirt 2010:11, fig I). The marble not only had an aesthetic impact but it also provided “material maps” of the Empire as a physical statement of the conquests of distant lands and people. Only a strong empire can carry out this task that requires tons of marble from the farthest reaches of the Empire (Greenhalgh, 2009: 33). The extensive marble usage in Rome by the rich people is criticized by some writers and poets such as Pliny and Juvenal (Greenhalgh, 2009: 38-39). On the other side some Roman poets appreciated the Phrygian marble in their lines.



Fig 1. Marble Quarries in the Roman Empire (Hirt 2010:11)

Horace, the leading Roman poet in the time of Emperor Augustus mentioned Phrygian marble in the following lines (Horace, Book I):

*If neither Phrygian marble nor the wearing of purple,  
brighter than a star, nor the Falernian vine,  
nor Persian nard brings solace to the aggrieved,  
why should I erect a lofty hall in the new style with enviable columns?  
why should I exchange my Sabine dale for more laborious riches?*

Ovid, a contemporary of the older Virgil and Horace, with whom he is often ranked as one of the three canonical poets of Latin literature was another Roman poet underlined Phrygian marble in his lines;

*There I behold the Caves beset with rugged Cliffs,  
that to me were more pleasant than the finest Phrygian Marble*

Tibullus (c. 55 BC - c. 19 BC), the Roman poet, was among the persons who stated the Phrygian marble in Rome (Tibullus, 1822: 247). He mentions three kinds of marble:

- 1-The Phrygian Marble, which was the most in esteem.
- 2-The Lacedemonian.
- 3-The Eubaeian.

Pliny describes the Basilica Aemilia at Rome built in 179 B.C. as notable for its Dokimian marble columns (NH, 36.102):

*“Basilicam Pauli Columnis e Phrygibus mirabitem”  
The Basilica of Aemilius is highly remarkable for its columns from Phrygia.*

Pliny, on the other lines of Natural History complained about the superfluous luxury and made a request from the state to stop the import of marble:

*There are still in existence censorial laws, which forbid the kernels in the neck of swine to be served at table, dormice too, and other things too trifling to mention: and yet there has been no law passed, forbidding marble to be imported, or the seas to be traversed in search of it. (NH, 36. 2).*

### The Docimeian Marble Quarry in Phrygia

Docimeian marble had a position of prestige in the production of marble furnishings and architectural decoration in the Roman Empire. Docimeian, a settlement in Phrygia located 20 km. away in the northeast of Afyon was famous for its marble quarries (Akyol, 2006: 75, fig : 2). Docimeian was also very close to another place that was famous for its marble quarry called Synnada (Koch, 2001:17). Strabon described Docimeian as a village (Strabon, XII.8:14) but in 2 B.C. some coins bore the name of Docimium. These coins represented the trade relation between Docimeian and Ephesus (Head, 1977: 672). We can conclude that in 2 B.C. Docimeian was a small town and most of the dwellers in this town engaged with the works related with marble. Docimeian was the settlement of Procurator Phrygia located in Synnada during the Roman period. The Docimeian marble trade was generally managed through Synnada, so Docimeian marble was called 'marmor synnadicum' (Fant, 1989:7). It was mainly used for architectural items such as pedestals, columns and cover floorings.

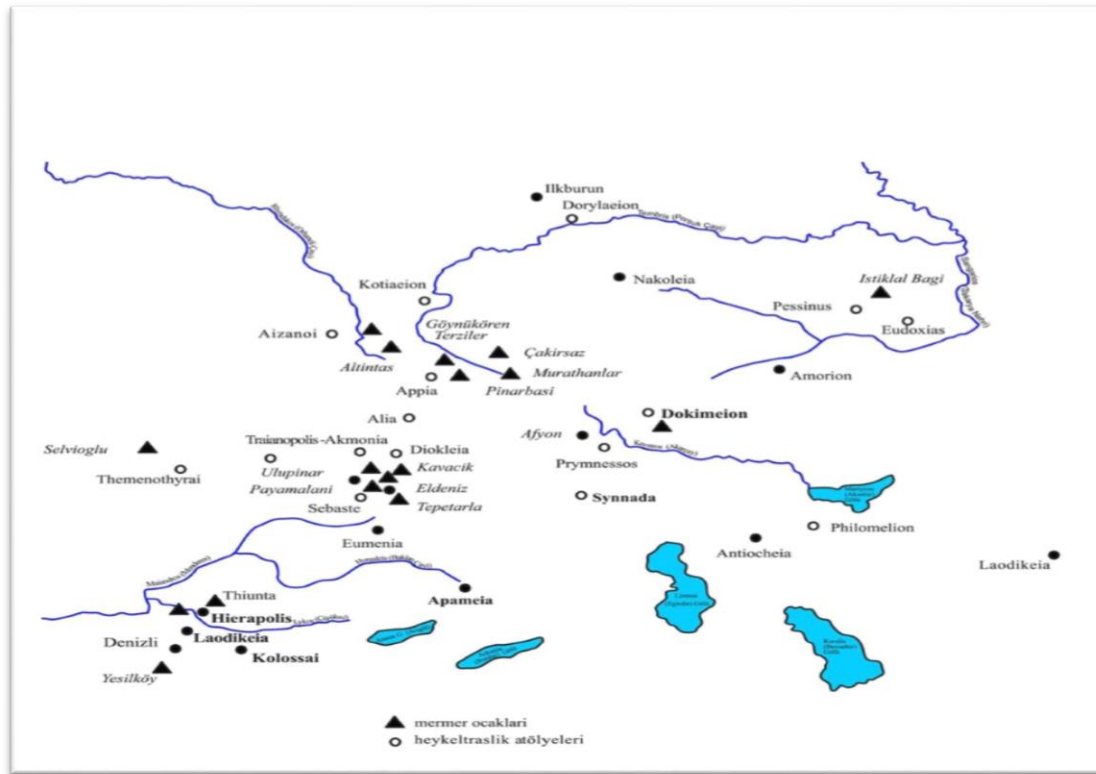


Fig 2. Marble Quarries in the Phrygia Region (Akyol, 2006: 75)

The varieties of marble, ranging from creamy white to colored, which were extracted at Docimeian were also found at Pınarbaşı, Murathanlar and Terziler (Waelkens, 1985: 642, fig 3) in the Upper Tembris Valley (Waelkens, 1985: 642).

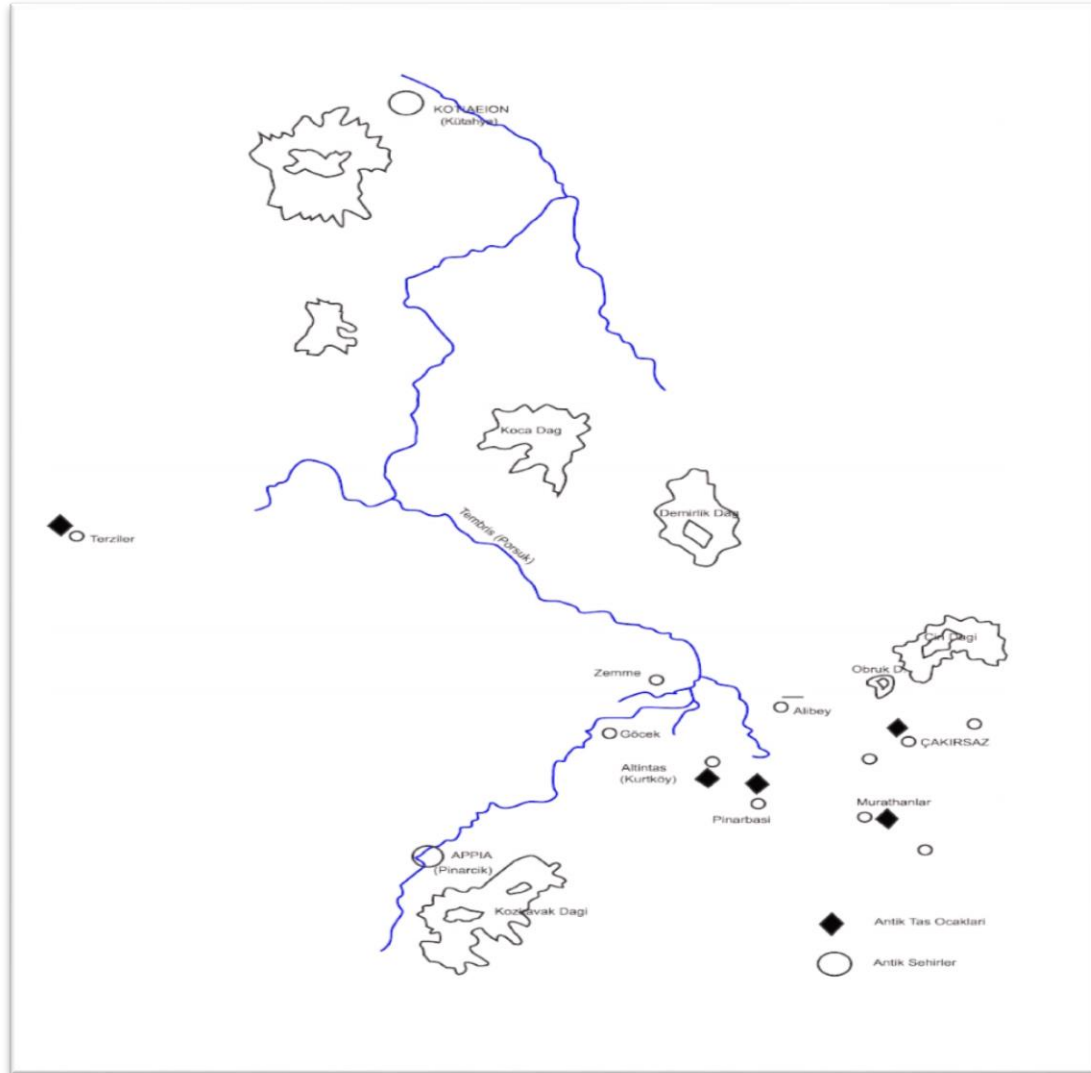


Fig 3. Marble Quarries in the Upper Tembris Valley (Waelkens, 1985: 642)

The name 'pavonazetto' was given by the Roman marble workers to the Phrygian marble as it regularly bears violet- purple to purple-red or brown colored vein structures on a white or yellowish white background (Magie, 2002:34; Perkins, 1951:97). When there are many veins on a white mass background it is called "Braccia" (Hirt, 2010: 292). Today in Turkey it is called "Somaki".

### Rome: City of Marble

Rome is regarded as a city of marble after decorated with marble in all sides. This development is also observed in one of the motto describing Rome: "Rome: from village to Empire". Naturally, the marble decorations were seen in the Pax Romana period

which lasted for over 200 years, beginning with the reign of Augustus (27 BC-14 A.D.). Augustus boasted that he found Rome as a city of brick and left it as a city of marble<sup>3</sup> (Suetonius, 1889: 29: I). Marble decorations were highly common during the reign of Augustus. This splendid period continued from the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C. to the early periods of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century B.C. (Archambeault, 2004: 17).

In Roman times the fine grained, purple veined marble known as pavonazzetto or marmor phrygium or marmor synnadicum and quarried in the province of Afyon in Turkey, was one of the most precious and sought after decorative stones. In spite of being the most high- priced marble mentioned in the Edict of Prices issued by Diocletian it met with great popularity (Borgini, 1992: 55-117; Attanasi et al. 2012: 753).

It was used for decorative purposes in the form of revetment slabs, columns, and other decorative or structural architectural elements in a great extent. In sculpture the color and the unique appearance of this exotic marble was endowed with complex symbolic significances and the stone was frequently used to represent defeated barbarians or mythological figures like Marsyas in which case the color of the marble symbolized the tortures inflicted by Apollo on the Silenus Marsyas (Attanasi et al. 2012: 753).

The Phrygian marble that was brought to Rome dated to 114 B.C. New marble quarries were opened and the old ones were once again used during the reign of Augustus (Perkins 1992: 21-22). The ownership of the marble quarries belonged to the Empire. The administrations of these quarries were controlled by the emperorship. There was an agent of the Empire in Synnada called "Procurator Phrygiae" and in Docimeian called "Procurator Marmorum" (Fant, 1989:7). Synnada was their administrative center. All of the marble quarries were not in use at the same time, they were used consecutively. The function of the quarries continued into the Byzantine period (Waelkens, 1985: 643).

Strabon stated that only the small- sized stones were taken from the quarries in the first years of operations. Then, in the following years, great monolithic pillars were taken from the quarries depending on the excessive demand of the Roman Empire. Strabon also underlines the remarkable size and beauty of the marble and added that it was difficult to transport of the heavy pillars (marble) to Rome. But finally, they were conveyed to Rome in spite of all the difficulties (Strabo, XII.8:14). It should not be forgotten that Apameia (today Dinar) was also an important trade center after Ephesus in Asia Minor (Strabo, XII.8:15).

The marble brought from Phrygia ranged from the poor quality to high quality. It was chosen by the sculptors and the architects to use in statues and buildings. The distinguished marble looked like the Asian pillars and was mostly used for the sarcophagi (Fant, 1985: 656). The weight of the marble was so heavy that the contractor

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<sup>3</sup> Urbem neque pro maiestate imperii ornatam et inundationibus incendiisque obnoxiam excoluit adeo, ut iure sit gloriatus marmoream se relinquere, quam latericiam accepisset (<http://thelatinlibrary.com/suetonius>)



for the public sewers compelled the authorities to give security for the possible damage that might be done in the carriage of them to Palatium.

The marble brought from Docimeian was priced 200 denarii for one piece in the Edict on Maximum Prices issued in 301 by Roman Emperor Diocletian (Fant, 1985: 655). The emperors had an unlimited amount of excellent building materials at their disposal (Waelkens, 1985:42). It was also criticized that no legal sanctions were imposed during the transportation process (Plinius, XXXVI: II).

The earliest usage of the pavonazetto was observed on the floor covering of the Temple of Mars Ultor (fig : 4) in the Forum Augustus<sup>4</sup> (Fant, 1989:7). The Phrygian marble was also used on the Basilica Aemilia (Blake, 1947:59) but we can't see it as the Basilica was renovated after the fire. The Temple of Concord and Horti Lamiani are the other places where the pavonazetto was used in Rome (Blake, 1947:57-60). The floor covering of the Basilica Julia, Domus Flavia, Nero's Villa in Subico are the places paved with pavonazetto. The most remarkable and splendid pavonazetto samples can be seen in the Pantheon (fig: 5) They include two gigantic columns of pavonazetto (Fant, 1989:7).

Phrygian marble was chosen by Hadrian for the columns and pilasters which frame the niches of the Pantheon (Fant, 1984:171). In the Vatican Museum there are some marble blocks brought from Phrygia (Fant, 1989:251). Pavonazetto was used on the pedestals and columns of the Portico of the Danaids that surround the Temple of Apollo on the Palatine Hill (Quenemoen, 2006: 241). A marble fragment found in the Çakırsaz region was probably ordered for Trajan's Forum. The posture, attire, material (pavonazetto) and dimensions clearly show that it was intended to be one of the sculptures of Dacian prisoners which adorned the Forum Traiani at Rome, built between A.D. 107 and 116 (Waelkens, 1985: 644). The Docimeian marble was also used outside of Rome. A sarcophagus was found in Ancona (Koch, 2001: 108) and the Punta Scifo wreck held primarily Phrygian purple-veined pavonazetto objects with a block of white Phrygian marble (Trimble, 2011: 111).



Fig 4. The Temple of Mars Ultor in the Forum Augustus  
([http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Forum\\_Augustus.JPG](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Forum_Augustus.JPG))

<sup>4</sup> The Temple started to build *in 2 B.C.*



Fig 5. The magnificent columns of Phrygian Marble (pavanazetto) in the Pantheon in Rome. (<https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brescia>)

Information on Docimeian marble was revealed by William Ramsay in the 1880's (Waelkens, 1985: 642), then in the following years T. Mommsen published the inscriptions related Docimeian and J. Röder was the initial publisher about the Docimeian marble quarries in 1969. M. Waelkens, J. B. Ward-Perkins, T. Drew Bear, J. C. Fant and N. Asgari are the scholars whose interests focus on Docimeian marble. M. Waelkens classified the sarcophagus in Docimeian and published a book called "Dokimeion: Die Werkstatt der repräsentativen kleinasiatischen Sarkophage". J. B. Ward-Perkins analyzed the marble trade of Docimeian in his analyses (Akyol, 2006: 42).

### **The Transportation of Phrygian Marble to Rome**

The marble quarries around Phrygia were owned and run by the Imperial institution that was in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D. probably called ratio marmorum or marble bureau. So, the Phrygian marble couldn't be identified as trade product, it was just transported, not exported (Waelkens, 1985: 641). But with the beginning of the second century A.D., the Phrygian marble became commercial product as well as being the state property. The Phrygian marble used in Pantheon and Lepcis Magna brought from Phrygia as state property but some products such as sarcophagus were sold to individuals. The usage of marble by the individuals indicated that they should have been obtained an autonomous status and served both as official and commercial enterprises (Akyol, 2006:58). Frequently the marble used for such furnishings was sent out in rough blocks, which were shaped at their destination, but at times pavonazetto furnishings were exported in finished form. Quarrymen may have only roughed out their products for shipment; detail and finishing were provided by others near the final destination. This may well have been the case for the large marble craters (Herrmann and Tykot, 2009: 60-67).

Ancient quarries indicate traces of a highly rationalized system of organization, both as far as the actual extraction and the means of transporting the blocks to their final destination. The cost of the Phrygian marble was higher than other marble<sup>5</sup>. The cost depended on two factors; the quality of the marble and the transportation distance. The Phrygian marble couldn't compete with the marble quarries located in seashore such as Prokonnessos. Strabon underlines the difficulty of transportation from Phrygia to Rome in the following lines (Strabon XI: 14).

*Although the transportation of such heavy burdens to the sea is difficult, still, both pillars and slabs, remarkable for their size and beauty, are conveyed to Rome.*

Blocks were prepared for transportation near the extraction area. The first need was to transport them to the storage or the loading platform. The storage for the Docimeion marble for Rome is Synnada (Şuhut). *Ephesos, Nicomedia, Perge and Attaleia* were port of exportation for marble trade. The port of exportation to Rome for Phrygian marble was Ephesos (Akyol, 2006: 50).

When the quarry was away from sea, *ramps, sledge paths or paved roads* were required. *Pulleys, winches, capstans were hoisting machines* for loading marble. Backpacking, transport with the help of animals (horses, donkeys, mules, and oxen), sledges, two – wheeled cart and boats were used for transportation (Wurch Kozelj, 1988: 55-65). The painful motorway transportation and a long sea travel were expensive and therefore the whole process of transportation was carried out by the state not the private companies.

### Conclusion

Asia Minor, due to its geographic position, considered as a bridge between the East and the West and therefore hosted many civilizations since ancient times. Not only did it function as a bridge but it also contributed a lot to the cultures and civilizations which were located in its geography. So, we can easily describe it a “melting pot” for its contributions.

Phrygia led the transferring of the light out of East to the West as it was located in west central Anatolia. There are many characteristics of Phrygia that have been continued through ages although it is an ancient kingdom. Its power reflected many scopes ranging from literature to the stones.

With the help of excavations around the world ancient sites, the ancient historians and archeologist find out information about the relations between the countries and societies by means of archeological artifacts. Marble is a kind of artifact that gives us information on ancient history in social and economical aspects.

Marble is one of the objects that contributed to the sustained reputation of Phrygia as a term throughout the world. Especially in ancient history, there are some sources that give information about the past such as stones, sculptures, bowls and ornaments. Phrygian marble is a kind of material that gives us historical information about Rome

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<sup>5</sup> Compare the marble price : [www.imperiumromanum.com/wirtschaft/wert/preisedikt\\_luxus\\_03.htm](http://www.imperiumromanum.com/wirtschaft/wert/preisedikt_luxus_03.htm).

and Asia Minor. So, we can learn many things related with history including social life, management, transportation, emperors, victories and etc.

The Pax Romana came after an extended period of civil conflict in Rome and it created some potential to recover the economical and cultural activities of Greece and Anatolia. The marble brought from Phrygia is the major evidence that indicates this relation between Rome and Asia Minor. The increasing welfare level and addiction to glory triggered the usage of marble consumption in architecture.<sup>6</sup> Many marble workshops were established in Rome by the Greek and Anatolian sculptors. The production power of marble increased during the Roman Empire period in Asia Minor and extended to the regions out of Asia Minor.

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<sup>6</sup> At first this quarry yielded only stones of small size, but on account of the present extravagance of the Romans great monolithic pillars are taken from it, which in their variety of colors are nearly like the alabastrite marble; so that, although the transportation of such heavy burdens to the sea is difficult, still, both pillars and slabs, remarkable for their size and beauty, are conveyed to Rome (Strabo, XII.8:14)

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