

THIRD SEASON'S WORK AT KARATEPE*

The first season of excavation at Karatepe¹, undertaken in the name of the Turkish Historical Society, the Department of Museums and Antiquities, and the University of Istanbul, lasted from September 11th to December 7th 1947. In this period the ring-wall surrounding the site was traced, and two entrance-buildings were cleared. Along the inner walls of the towers which stood on either side of these entrances, rows of orthostates were found, covered with reliefs² and inscriptions. These inscriptions were the outstanding discovery of the first season's work. They comprise three identical Phoenician texts and two identical Hittite hieroglyphic texts, and Prof. H. Th. Bossert has established that the Hittite and Phoenician are bilingual versions of the same text³.

Second season's work (June 8th to July 11th 1948). Mrs. Hâlet Çambel was charged with this work which consisted of

* The proofs of the English *résumé* have been read by Mr. G. E. Bean of the Classical Philology Department in Istanbul University, to whom I wish to express my gratitude.

¹ cf. U. Bahadır Alkım, Karatepe Kazısı, Belleten, vol. XII, No. 45 (January 1948), pp. 241-248 (=Excavations at Karatepe, *ibid.* pp. 249-255); Hâlet Çambel, *Orientalia N. S.* 17 (1948), p. 256; H. Th. Bossert, *Orientalia N. S.* 17 (1948), pp. 530-531; H. Th. Bossert, *Die Welt des Orients I* (1948), pp. 250-251; U. Bahadır Alkım, Karatepe Kazısının arkeolojik sonuçları (lecture delivered to the XXIst International Congress of the Orientalists) *Belleten*, vol. XII, No. 47 (July 1948), pp. 533-547.

² For a preliminary study of the Karatepe sculptures cf. Hâlet Çambel, Karatepe: An archaeological introduction to a recently discovered Hittite site in southern Anatolia, *Oriens*, vol. I, No. 2 (31st December 1948), pp. 147-162; H. Çambel, Karatepe heykeltraşlık eserleri hakkında bazı mülâhazalar, *Belleten*, vol. XIII, Nr. 49 (January 1949), pp. 21-34 (=Some observations on the Karatepe sculptures, *ibid.* pp. 35-36).

³ cf. H. Th. Bossert, Karatepe'de bulunan Fenike-Eti bilinguis'leri, *Belleten*, XII No. 47 (July 1948), pp. 515-522 (=Die phönizisch-hethitischen Bilinguen vom Karatepe, *ibid.* pp. 523-531). The same article is published in *Oriens* with new additions and a commentary (vol. I, No. 2 [31st December 1948], pp. 163-197).

supplementary architectural investigations. In the "lower excavation," area further tests revealed the connection between the entrance - building and the ring-wall; and a third excavation, carried down to virgin soil, to the south - east of the entrance - building, brought to light native pottery mixed with abundant Iron Age sherds of delicate workmanship under Cypriote influence, with a pattern of concentric circles. In the "upper excavation," area, tests carried out at the corner of the entrance-building, where it joins the inner side of the ring-wall, disclosed a series of small chambers side by side; inside these, fragments of *pithoi* were found in sufficient quantity to permit restoration and suggest that the chambers were used as magazines.

The third season lasted from September 17 th to November 15 th, 1948. The working-party consisted of Prof. H. Th. Bossert, Dr. Nihal Ongunsu, Mustafa Kalaç, Lütfü Özin (architect), İbrahim Süzen (architect engineer), and the present writer. The work falls under two headings, excavation and exploratory excursions.

I. EXCAVATION

1. *Architectural investigations not completed in the first two campaigns.*

a) The fortification-system, and a number of the towers, were examined by means of trial excavations at various points. So far twenty eight towers have been traced.

b) In the "upper excavation," area, the passage-way of the entrance-building was thoroughly cleared, and a spiral staircase brought to light.

2) *Fresh excavation* was undertaken on the summit of the hill, on the north slope, and at the postern gate on the west.

a) On the summit we unearthed an area 55×45 m, belonging to a large building. It contains a court surrounded by numerous chambers, and was evidently a place of importance. Inside it we found fragments of pottery, some native, others showing Cypriote influence.

b) On the north slope a portion 40 × 30 m. of another large building was excavated.

c) At the postern gate on the west of the site, excavation in

late October revealed a structure which may prove to be another entrance-building; only two of its towers have so far been uncovered. A broken relief found in front of this structure suggests that it too may have been decorated with orthostates. In the coming season we hope to clear this area thoroughly.

3. On *Domuztepe* trial excavations were made in two places:

a) On the south-east side are "Cyclopean," walls of Roman date, constructed of reused ancient blocks; at this point we found a small gateway guarded by a single lion. The lion also is ancient.

b) The second trial revealed numerous fragments of orthostates with reliefs, contemporary with those of Karatepe. (ca. 8th century B. C.). That these too were found among "Cyclopean," wall shows that the site was much disturbed in the Roman period.

Domuztepe has the further importance that a vein of basalt has been found there. Evidently the basalt used at Karatepe came from here.

II. EXPLORATORY EXCURSIONS

For the last two years we have been engaged in exploration with the object of examining the various lines of communication from Karatepe to the north and south, and of determining whether there exist other contemporary sites in the neighbourhood. These explorations were continued during the third campaign, and resulted in the discovery of a road of evident importance for the historical geography of Anatolia; the line of the road is marked by a numerous series of monuments of various ages. This journey, in the country north of Karatepe, was undertaken by the writer in company with Ekrem Kuşçu, schoolmaster at Kadirli.

The road in question runs from Anavarza (*Anazarbus*), by the village of Mehmetli, the valley of Çiçeklidere, the pass of Bağdaş, the valley of the Savrun river, the pass of Mazgaç, and the village of Taşoluk, to Gökşun (Cocussus). Along this road we found eight ruined sites, probably of late Roman date, a number of Greek funeral inscriptions of Roman date, three rock-cut inscriptions (also in Greek of Roman date), a prehistoric rock-carving, and six mediaeval fortresses of varying size, some of which are built over Roman foundations. No mention is made of this road either by ancient authorities, such as the *Antoninian itin-*

rary and the *Peutinger table* or by the travellers and scholars of the nineteenth century. It passes along a narrow valley between high, thickly wooded mountains, through very sparsely inhabited country, and the insecure conditions in the district before the time of the Turkish Republic will no doubt largely explain why European travellers failed to penetrate it.

The rock-carvings are engraved on a rock by the name of Kalkan, some 30 km. to the north-west of Kadirli (formerly Kars Zülkadriye or Kars bazar, perhaps the ancient Flaviopolis); they include mountain-goats and animals of the deer kind (average length 0.12 m., height 0.10 m.). Whether these carvings may be late paleolithic, or rather contemporary with these at Pirun and Bozkır, recently estimated by Kurt Bittel to belong to the early Bronze Age⁴, we cannot at present say; we hope in future campaigns at Karatepe to add a prehistorian to our party, and to include in our programme a thorough investigation of the carvings at Kalkan.

The rock-cut and the funerary inscriptions are also not without importance in several respects. Mr. G. E. Bean of the Classical Philology Department in İstanbul University, has kindly examined these inscriptions; his report will appear together with the detailed account of my journey shortly to be published.

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⁴ Kurt Bittel, *Grundzüge der Vor-und Frühgeschichte Kleinasiens*, Tübingen 1945, p. 7.