

## A Dedication to Βασιλεὺς Ὅσιρις from the Inner Troad

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The fragmentary inscription introduced here was found by Ziya Özer, a farmer from Bahçeli village, on the surface of what appears to be a rural site dating to the Roman era near the village of Pazarköy in the province of Çanakkale, Turkey (see the Map below).<sup>1</sup> The artifact scatters identified over the surface of this rural site includes Roman pot sherds, fragments of grinding stone implements, fragments of cooking wares and large containers. The small size of the area in which these artifact scatters were found points to small rural site with domestic activities. The surface finds overall indicate that there may have been a rustic villa in this location.<sup>2</sup>

The inscribed stone is currently kept at the Çanakkale Archaeological Museum. It is a fragment of a small pedestal made of brownish local stone which is broken on the left-hand side and back side. The right-hand side of the pedestal is intact. A shallow depression on top is partly preserved. It measures 0.15 m wide, 0.095 m high, and 0.115 m deep. The height of the letters varies between 0.008 m and 0.02 m. Date: Roman Imperial period.




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<sup>1</sup> The coordinates of the find-place of the inscription are 39°49'50.3"N 26°25'20.6"E.

<sup>2</sup> During his surveys in the Troad, J. M. Cook (1974, 368-374, especially 369, 371, 372) located several comparable archaeological sites which he identified as *villae rusticae* or villages in rural parts of the Troad, including the Middle Scamander basin, where habitation mostly began from the late second or third century AD, with a few exceptions.