



Recent Archaeological Research in Turkey

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operation was directed to the "Schliemann trench". Its eastern part was cleared of a hundred years of erosion debris, both in plan and in profile.

The structures which had hitherto been understood as rows of stones or as the oldest fortifications walls of Troy (Dörpfeld, walls b, c, d, e, g and k) were uncovered down to their foundations. The eastern elevation was cleaned and recorded by drawing and photogrammetry. These operations resulted in quite new aspects and interpretations. At the same time the gaps between the elevations of the American excavations of the 30's (in the north and the south) were filled.

C-14 test samples were taken for the dating of the oldest phase of Troy I, also samples of mud-bricks from Megaron IIA of Troy II, for various investigations.

UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY.¹

Ulu Burun (Kaş), 1987

We completed our fourth excavation campaign on the Late Bronze Age shipwreck off Ulu Burun. An amphora full of olive pits enlarged what already was a larger sample of organic finds than is normally available on land sites. Four stone anchors brought the total to 16. Of about 200 copper ingots on the site, 73 have now been raised. We discovered that these ingots were laid in overlapping rows like roof shingles from one side of the hull to the other, all lying with their rougher faces upward—an observation that may aid our understanding of marks incised on the smooth faces of some ingots. Study of the ingots also allowed a reconstruction of the curvature of the ship's hull where the wood had not survived.

Notable objects recovered and where deposited

In same Museum as above, 1987: glass, faience and agate beads; gold jewelry; gold and silver scrap; bronze arrowheads; a gold-capped cylinder seal; ostrich eggshell; glass ingots; tin ingot fragments; bronze dagger; ebony logs; weights; hippopotamus tooth; fish-net weights of lead; gold ring.

Recent publications

Cemal Pulak, "The Bronze Age Shipwreck at Ulu Burun, Turkey: 1985 Campaign," *AJA* 92 (1988) 1–37.

George F. Bass, "Oldest Known Shipwreck Reveals Bronze Age Splendors," *National Geographic* 172.6 (December 1987) 692–733.

VAN CASTLE AND OLD CITY, 1987.²

Van Castle, one of the largest castles in Turkey, and the old city of Van on the south side of the castle form an exceptional example of an "historic place" long abandoned but still rich in cultural heritage.

The castle was built on top of the steep rock cliff that forms a natural outcrop in the Van Plain. This is the site of Tušpa, the famous capital of the Urartians. The castle, in particular, contains numerous monumental remains of Urartian architecture and rock carving, as befitted the capital. Traces also survive of the various societies that inhabited the castle after the Urartians. In the Ottoman Period, after further rebuilding, the castle and city took their present, final form. They provide an exemplary model of a site whose history relates directly to the various settlement periods. The cultural heritage of Van stretches back 2800 years, beginning in the 9th century B.C. and reaching up to the end of the First World War. This

¹Information kindly communicated by Prof. George Bass.

²Report kindly contributed by Dr. M. Taner Tarhan.

archaeological site constitutes a splendid open-air Museum. The undertaking is very broad and complicated, comprising aspects relating to the preservation and evaluation of the site's natural and cultural heritage. Its evaluation directed us towards the conception of a project to be called the "National Historic Park" project. Within the scope of this project we started excavations in 1987. At first we worked on the following areas:

(1) "*The New Palace*", located on the western part of the citadel. On its east side there is the rock ditch, and to the west it is flanked by the area to the north of the monumental tomb of the Urartian King, Arğiști I. We worked over an area of 54 × 24 m. and excavated 12 structures. These are the store and work rooms beneath the palace. We gained important knowledge about the foundation layout of the palace at Tuřpa. According to Doc. Dr. Veli Sevin, the second director, this Palace was built by Arğiști I.

(2) "*The Süleyman Han Mosque*", situated on the citadel. According to Evliya Çelebi, there was a temple here in the very ancient times. In 1533–4 it was restored by Süleyman the Lawgiver. During the Ottoman-Russian War in 1915–18 it was used as a munitions depot. Restoration and excavation work was carried out in 1987.

(3) "*The Thousand Stairs*": these stairs, belonging to the Urartian period, are carved into the rock and lead from the citadel to the spring in the city by way of the steep vertical drop on the west side of the citadel.

(4) "*The Group of Royal Tombs*", located below the Upper Citadel. These are the oldest monumental tombs of Tuřpa. We worked on the monumental platform of these royal tombs.

One notable group of objects discovered in 1987 was some Ottoman military records in the Süleyman Han Mosque. These belonged to the artillery company of the Van Castle regiment which formed part of the 8th division of the 4th army. They were taken to İstanbul for evaluation and conservation. When the work on them is complete, they will be given to Van Museum.

Publications

Preliminary works carried out relating to the Historical-National Park Project:

M. T. Tarhan, *II. Arařtırma Sonuçları Toplantısı*, Ankara 1985 pp. 179 ff.

M. T. Tarhan, *III. Arařtırma Sonuçları Toplantısı*, Ankara 1986 pp. 297 ff.

XANTHOS-LETOON, 1987.¹

Dates of season's work: August/September.

Notable objects recovered and where deposited

İstanbul archaeological Museum (archaic pottery, Lycian reliefs).

Antalya archaeological Museum (glass oenochoe of Berenike, Hellenistic statues from the Letoon).

Fethiye archaeological Museum (trilingual stele).

Summary of season's work and results

No excavation in 1987. Study season on the Leto temple (Letoon); study and restoration work on early Christian mosaics in the Xanthos Basilica.

¹Report kindly supplied by Prof. Christian Le Roy.