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PHOENIX ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT PERIODICAL PUBLICATION



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Phoenix Archaeological Project 2022

2022 with all its sub-programs, including archaeological excavations and surface research, was extremely fruitful with the entire team displaying the same determination and excitement as in the first day. During the fieldwork, which took place between July 5 and September 30, we carried out projects in the fields of archaeology, history, ecology, cultural heritage, architecture, gastronomy, contemporary art, and social responsibility, as in the previous year, with a team from various disciplines using new generation approaches.



PAP office studies

We Have Started Archaeological Excavations!

Apollo Sanctuary (Kızlan Church) Excavations

We began excavation and cleaning work for surveying purposes at the Phoenix Apollo Sanctuary and Kızlan Church, where we completed archaeological field survey in 2021. These activities were made possible with the permissions of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Türkiye and the General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums, as well as through the generous support of Muğla Valiliği Yatırım İzleme ve Koordinasyon Başkanlığı (YİKOB) and the Marmaris Chamber of Commerce, and our collaboration with the Marmaris Museum. We would like to thank them again for their support.

The excavation work, which was very productive and successful, was carried out for a total of 90 days with the participation of archaeologists İbrahim Ulu, Merve Yeşil, and Kübra Nur Yılmaz, as well as archaeology students Fatih Deli, Ferhat Deli, Hüseyin Yağyudan, Şirin Akan, Ayşe Kahraman, Ayşegül Dikmen, İbrahim Akalın, and Arda Güntekin. Our representative from the Ministry, Mr. Mutlu Karadağ, participated in the work on behalf of the Marmaris Museum. We thank Mr. Mutlu Karadağ and the Director of the Marmaris Museum, Ms. Şehime Atabey, for their support and suggestions, which ensured the smooth running of the work. There was dense vegetation in the vicinity of the Apollo Sanctuary and Kızlan Church and stones of various sizes due to the geomorphological structure of the region. In this area where no work had been

done before, we carefully cleaned the area to avoid obstacles during fieldwork. During the clean-up and landscaping, we opened a visitor and service road to the area and carried out cleaning work on the ancient path. We also completed the documentation of all the architectural blocks we newly identified in the area by removing debris and vegetation inside the structure. We plan to repeat this

cleaning work at regular intervals each year, as we place great importance on showcasing our cultural heritage and providing easy access to the area for visitors. After the cleaning work we carried out in the area, we started excavations in the Kızlan Church which is located inside the Apollo Sanctuary. We adopted the Locus-Lot* system, a proven method for field archaeologists to organize



Apollo Sanctuary (Kızlan Church). 3D scanning: M. Serhat Aydemir



Apollo Sanctuary (Kızlan Church) top view. Photo: İbrahim Ulu

their excavation activities with a standardized terminology. In the first season of excavation, we had a total of 16 sub-trenches. The inscriptions, ceramic data, triglyph metopes and anta capitals, which indicate the Doric order of the late 4th - early 3rd century BCE, prove that the building was used as a temple to Apollo in the early Hellenistic period. The data show that from the second quarter of the 5th century CE structural changes were made in the area with some of the architectural blocks belonging to the temple being remodelled as spolia and the building being converted into a three-nave church with a basilical plan. The archaeological data we have obtained show that this architectural plan change was made in the early Byzantine period, probably during the reign

*According to the Locus-Lot system, the area where the structure is located is defined as the main excavation area or operation area. Within this main area, if there is any spatial, soil condition, or data-based change, sub-trenches are designated as separate Loci. All layers excavated within these Loci are divided into Lots in numerical slices starting from the top layer.



Excavation and landscaping. Photo: İlayda Alikaya

of Emperor Theodosius II (402-450 CE). The tile graves and bronze coins we discovered in the north fill of the building were other important data proving that the Kızlan Church was used in the 7th and 8th centuries CE.

During our work, we discovered two tile graves. The fact that the tiles were made of wave-patterned roof tiles used in the Byzantine period and that the graves were located directly on the edge of the structure suggest that these tombs may have belonged to church priests. After completing the documentation of the tile graves, we carefully removed all the artifacts. The yellow and green glazed ceramic pieces we found during the excavation showed that the Apollon Sanctuary and Kızlan Church were actively used until the 11th century CE. Scientific research and publications on the temple phase of the structure are meticulously carried out by Dr. Taylan Doğan, a faculty member

of Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, and studies on the Byzantine period are conducted by Dr. Asil Yaman and Dr. Anna Sitz.

The documentation of the artifacts uncovered during the archaeological excavation and cleaning works were undertaken by experts employed within the scope of the excavation. We conducted these works under five different categories: mapping and orthophoto production, architectural survey, documentation of architectural blocks, documentation of epigraphic data, and ceramic research. In the 2022 season, we uncovered new architectural blocks and completed the technical drawing and photography process of all data. We also produced the technical drawing and documentation of the ceramic data we obtained. In addition to architectural and ceramic findings, we successfully implemented restoration works of small findings



Ceramic documentation by archaeologist Merve Yeşil. Photo: İlayda Alikaya

such as coins, beads, and rings.

Archaeological Field Survey

In the second season of the Phoenix Archaeological Project, we focused our archaeological field survey on Chora, the southern rural area of the city, Aşağı-Yukarı Fenaket, Sindilli Mevkii, Bahçakise, Pırnal, Kırkmermerler Mevkii, Çakallık Tepesi, Badrik Tepesi, Namlıalan Tepesi, Gedik, and Taşlıca Island (Makri). According to the planned schedule and work plan, we carried out these surveys between September 1st and September 30th, 2022, for a period of thirty days, with the participation of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Koray Konuk, Dr. Anna Sitz, archaeologist İlayda Alikaya, and art historian Dilara Tak. This year, Mr. Alper Serhan Daltekin, a specialist from the Kocaeli Regional Directorate for Cultural Heritage Preservation, accompanied us as the representative of the Ministry. We are grateful for the support we received from Mr. Alper Serhan



Çakallık Tepesi, stepped tomb stones. Photo: Asil Yaman

Daltekin during the project.

In the first phase of the field survey in 2022, we conducted research on the ruins of Aşağı Fenaket (Phoinikoudi), located on the southeastern slope of the Acropolis of ancient Phoenix at

Hisar Tepe.

As a result of our work in the area, we identified a total of 44 houses and olive oil workshops dating back to the Middle Ages. We also noted the use of spolia of architectural materials on the walls, on the streets, and scattered around the houses. We also documented three cisterns used by the villagers in the area. In addition to the field surveys, we conducted oral history interviews with local people and learned that the Greek population of Aşağı Fenaket abandoned the village in 1923 during the population exchange. We recorded the geolocations of all movable and immovable cultural assets in the area, mapped them and completed the documentation by measuring the ground plans of the buildings.

After completing the fieldwork around the ruins of Aşağı Fenaket, we continued our investigations in another neighborhood, Yukarı Fenaket (Phoinikoudi), which was



Yukarı Fenaket. Photo: M. Rumeysa Çakan

also said to have been abandoned during the population exchange in 1923. In this area, we identified 38 village houses similar to the houses of Aşağı Fenaket, 7 cisterns, and olive oil workshops used in the Middle Ages and the Late Ottoman period. We completed the documentation of all the structures, reused architectural blocks, and ceramic finds that we identified. Our team members, urban planner Aslıhan Şentürk and Doğukan Tokçin, did meticulous work in digitizing the documented data and creating a map of the city. We thank them for their contributions.

In 2022, we continued our fieldwork in Bahçakise Tepesi and Pırnal. In this area, we identified agricultural terraces, olive oil workshops, cisterns, and a chapel from the Middle Byzantine period, which reflect the agricultural production of the city. We documented that an ancient road leads to this rural settlement from the north towards the Acropolis and runs south towards Serçe Harbor. Archaeological data shows that this area was in use from the Early Hellenistic period to the Middle and Late Byzantine periods.

In the southern rural area of Phoenix, in Kirkmermerler, we carried out extensive field surveys and identified a large public building measuring 110 meters in length. By evaluating the three different types of walls observed in the structure, along with other data, we concluded that this public building was used from the Archaic period to the end of the Late Antique period. Based on the niches and walls observed in this area, it is suggested that the large structure was used as an open-air

cult area during the early phases of the Archaic period and was later extended with annexes to serve another public function, such as an Agora. The proximity of the site to the Acropolis of Phoenix also supports this idea.

During our field survey at Çakallık Tepesi, located on the modern road leading to Serçe Harbor, we obtained various new data with probable burials associated with the city's southern necropolis, olive oil workshops, cisterns, and



Aerial view of Gedik. Photo: Asil Yaman



Taşlıca Island top view. Photo: Asil Yaman

farm structures. As with Bahçakise, we found that the road coming from the north divided into two branches, one leading to Bahçekise - Kirkmermerler in the east and the other to Çakallık in the west, continuing south in connection with agricultural units. The data showed that two defensive towers were constructed at the southern borders of the city to protect against external threats. The investigations at Çakallık Tepesi and its surroundings revealed that the area in the valleys sloping towards the sea was intensively used for agricultural production. During our work at Badrik Tepesi, we discovered similar ancient agricultural terraces, farms, and workshops. The complex structure dates back to the Hellenistic period and overlooked the strategic position of the northern Phoenix Acropolis and the southern Kasara Acropolis, and controlled the ancient road that ran right beside it. Based on this data, we have been able to

define the present-day region as the political southeastern border of Phoenix. In the plain area surrounded by hills south of Phoenix, we identified agricultural production systems and tombs as well as a Late antiquity village settlement. We continued our intensive archaeological field surveys in Gedik Mevkii. In this area, we identified various public structures, farms, olive oil workshops, and tombs of various nature. We completed the documentation in this area. Finally, we successfully ended our 2022 investigations by conducting aerial documentation on Makri Island (Taşlıca Island), which is located west of Phoenix on the Söğüt bay.

Mapping and Photogrammetry

We continued the mapping, started in 2021, in a much wider area this year. As part of the work carried out by our team member, mapping engineer M. Serhat Aydemir, the current location of the Apollo Sanctuary (Kızlan Church) was determined in detail by unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) imaging before the work and preparations began, and fixed points were marked on the area. As part of the mapping, three orthophotos – before, during and after the works – were taken with coordinates of the project area. After these studies, a topographical map at a scale of 1/1000 was produced for a total area of 450 hectares, covering the excavation and cleaning area. We marked all the cultural assets and their geolocations that we identified during the work on this map in the digital database. The successful completion of this difficult and time-consuming work

was made possible by the skills and efforts of M. Serhat Aydemir.

Epigraphic Studies

As in the previous year, epigraphic investigations at Phoenix were successfully conducted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Koray Konuk from Ausonius Institute in Bordeaux and Dr. Anna Sitz from Heidelberg University. During the excavation and cleaning carried out in the Apollon Sanctuary (Kızlan Church) in 2022, a total of 9 new blocks with inscriptions were unearthed. Another aspect of the epigraphic studies was field surveys. During these surveys, we identified a total of 13 new blocks with inscriptions. We determined the locations of these inscriptions, which provide significant data for the history of the city, with precise GNSS and recorded them in our 1/1000 scale map database. We meticulously completed various documentations, such as stamping and 3D lidar scanning, for some of these blocks that have never been



Mapping studies. Photo: İlayda Alikaya



Epigraphic studies, Dr. Anna Sitz.
Photo: Asil Yaman



Epigraphic studies, Assoc. Prof. Koray Konuk.
Photo: Dilara Taki

published before. We are grateful to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Koray Konuk and Dr. Anna Sitz for their meticulous work in the documentation process.

Documentation of Rural Architecture

This year's work plan included the Phoinikoudi neighborhoods, now known as Aşağı and Yukarı Fenaket, which were the successors to Phoenix in the Middle Ages.

In field surveys conducted within the remains of the Aşağı and Yukarı Fenaket, where life no longer continues today, we continued our rural architectural documentations. We carried out the Rural Architectural Conservation and Documentation Program of the project under the guidance of architect (MArch) M. Rumeysa Çakan, a lecturer at Alanya Alaaddin Keykubat University. The studies carried out within the scope of M. Rumeysa Çakan's doctoral thesis, revealed that the settlements of Aşağı and

Yukarı Fenaket were largely similar. When looking at the architectural layout features of the dwellings, it was found that they were built in three different plan typologies: a one-room dwelling, a two-room dwelling, and a three-room dwelling, each type fitted with a front yard. It was thus noted

that the front yards were used throughout all the buildings, and the number of rooms varied. The study of the materials and construction techniques used in the buildings was also meticulously carried out. We observed that the walls were made of stone and brick fragments reinforced with



Rural architecture studies, Architect M. Rumeysa Çakan. Photo: M. Serhat Aydemir



Aşağı Fenaket. 3D scanning: M. Serhat Aydemir

red earth mortar. The research revealed that wood was used for the door and window lintels, and that the walls were largely made of reused blocks.

In documenting the mostly standing structures in the field, we used both traditional and modern methods. We took measurements with a tape measure and drew them on site, and we also measured them on the computer using aerial images. With the loss of population in the settlements, the buildings seem to be vulnerable to the disturbances of the natural environment. As a result, vegetation has been observed appearing on the ground and walls of the buildings, and erosion has been seen on the stone surfaces. We plan to continue research in the region in the coming seasons and carry out the necessary cleaning and landscape improvement works.

Cultural Heritage Education Program

In addition to the scientific fieldwork carried out as part of the Phoenix Archaeological Project, cultural heritage studies are being conducted to make a tangible contribution to raising awareness in the region. As part of our project, which is carried out in close collaboration with the residents of Taşlıca, the local community was given a tour of ancient Phoenix and seminars were held to present our work in progress. In addition to these seminars, archaeology clubs were established in schools in cooperation with the Marmaris District National Education Directorate to raise awareness of cultural heritage among students, and visits were arranged to Marmaris Museum and



'Hundred years ago - hundred years later' gastronomy event. Photo: İlayda Alikaya

surrounding ancient cities with students and teachers. We hope to continue our cultural heritage education studies intensively in the coming year.

Social Responsibility and Gastronomy Workshop

We are pleased to announce that we have entered into a new

partnership with Mide Lobisi Association, under the leadership of Gastronomy Program Director Koray Günyavaş, to document and preserve the disappearing food and drink culture of the region, and share it with future generations through events. In this context, in cooperation with the Mide Lobisi Association, we organized a gastronomic event at the Phoenix Research Center for the people of Taşlıca and Söğüt with the theme 'a hundred years ago - a hundred years later'. At the event, which was attended by a large number of locals, we cooked traditional regional dishes reflecting the Ottoman period and shared them around a table with wooden spoons on kilim rugs and pottery dishes. We believe that gastronomy workshops play an important role in preserving the local food and drink culture, and we hope that this event will continue to support this culture. Again we are very grateful to Mide Lobisi and Kapurçuk for their support, to Koray Günyavaş for



Untitled. Photo: Ayşe Özyaydın



Contemporary Art Program Studies field work, Zeynep Okyay.

leading the program with great success, and to Erol Demircan, Zeliha Demircan, Pınar Pişkin and Sergül Özçelik Uçan for their dedicated efforts. Inspired by the joy of sharing a meal together, we are planning new events for 2023.

Contemporary Art Program Studies

The Yukarı Şehir Art Initiative continued its work in 2022 with the participation of Zeynep Okyay, Aslıhan Güçlü, Aslı Dinç, and Ayşe Özyayın. Online meetings were held before July to determine the activities planned for 2022, and applications were submitted to various funds to secure financial support for the project. In July, the Yukarı Şehir Art Initiative collaborated with the Rural Architecture Documentation Program, focusing on the traditional architecture of Taşlıca (Fenaket), Söğüt (Saranda), and Aziziye (Karamaka) villages, which were inhabited until the population exchange of 1923,

as part of the Phoenix ancient city's landscaping and salvage excavation. The initiative recorded the documentation process.

In September, a working group was formed on the basis on the data obtained through the Mapping and Architectural Documentation Program, which dealt with the translation of scientific data into artistic content. With Dr. Anna M. Stiz from the Epigraphic Program, inscriptions found in the Phoenix area were documented, and the results of these documents archived for the future exhibition of the project. As part of the Gastronomy Workshop, the Yukarı Şehir Art Initiative participated in an event aimed at showcasing the gastronomic values of the region at the PAP Research Center, where the production processes of traditional local dishes were recorded, with the intention of making them visible nationally and internationally.

Our Visitors

Throughout 2022, with excavations, field surveys, and other sub-programs, many visitors came to Taşlıca to see our work in person. We would like to extend our gratitude to the Muğla Deputy Governor and President of YİKÖB, Mr. Baha Başçelik, and to Mr. Mehmet Suphi Olcay, who honored us with their visits and interest; Marmaris District Governor, Mr. Ertuğ Şevket Yılmaz; President and Board of Directors of Marmaris Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Mutlu Ayhan; President of Bahçeşehir Educational Institutions, Mr. Enver Yücel; Trustee Member of Bahçeşehir University, Mr. Saygın Şenel; Marmaris Museum Director, Ms. Şehime Atabay; Members of Marmaris Rotary Club; Gözde Demirel and Ahmet Demirel;



YİKÖB visit. Photo: Merve Yeşil



Marmaris Chamber of Commerce visit.
Photo: Merve Yeşil



Marmaris Rotary Club visit.
Photo: İlayda Alikaya



Visit from people of Taşlıca.
Photo: Merve Yeşil

Yasemin Bilgiç Acar and Ergün Acar; Attouda Research President and Pamukkale University faculty member, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bilge Yılmaz Kolancı and Gözde Adıgüzel, who graced us with their visits; and President of ICOMOS Turkey National Committee Board, Ms. Burçin Altınsay Özgüner, for their support. We also thank the people of Taşlıca who supported us and never left us alone by visiting us frequently.

Publication Works

In addition to the multidisciplinary scientific fieldwork we started in 2021, we have begun to regularly present and report all the work on international scientific platforms. In this regard, our director, Dr. Asil Yaman, presented the work of 2021 and 2022 at the annual meetings organized by the Archaeological Institute of America in San Francisco and

New Orleans. Moreover, the 2021 work was also reported at the '42nd International Symposium of Excavations, Surveys and Archaeometry' organized in Denizli by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Türkiye. Data reflecting the agricultural organization of the region, olive oil and wine production, which we identified in the Phoenix rural area were presented to the scientific community at the '3rd International Symposium of Olive Oil and Wine Production' held in Bodrum in November by Dr. Asil Yaman and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Koray Konuk. The data for this presentation will be included in the symposium book in preparation.

Preliminary reports on the fieldwork are published every year in the *Anatolia Antiqua* journal. In this context, the report on the first year's work was published in the 30th issue of *Anatolia Antiqua* in 2022.

Preparatory work for the publication of the Epigraphic, Rural Architecture, Cult Program and other sub-programs are also underway.

What Are We Planning for 2023 in PAP?

We are planning to continue our excavations at the Phoenix Apollo Sanctuary (Kızlan Church) in 2023, which we started in 2022. We are also looking forward to identifying cultural routes in the area and landscape the designated routes. We actually dream of turning Phoenix and its surrounding areas into an open-air archaeological site. We will focus our third-year field survey on the southern rural areas of the city, especially in Serçe Harbor.

In addition to the excavations and field surveys, we plan to document rural architecture, and carry out gastronomy studies, ethnobotanical research, contemporary archaeology program, contemporary art program, and cultural and ecological heritage education programs for children.



2022, Phoenix team. Photo: Aslıhan Güçlü

Thank you!

In our 2022 season, we wholeheartedly thank all the institutions and organizations that provided all kinds of support to our Phoenix Archaeology Project.

Supporting Institutes

Penn Museum
 Ausonius Institute, CNRS-Bordeaux Montaigne University
 University of Bordeaux, IdEx Grand Projet de Recherche 'Human Past'
 Hellenic College Mary Jaharis Institute for Byzantine Art and Culture
 Heidelberg University
 Marmaris Rotary Club

Supporting Organisations

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 Beko Türkiye
 Kapırcuk
 Mide Lobisi
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Our scientific research, which we continue with modest means, awaits your financial and moral support.