Cover: Measurement at the eastern face of Yenicekale in Boğazköy-Hattuša (Late Bronze Age)

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Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (DAI)
Ayazpaşa Camii Sok. 46
TR-34437 Istanbul
Tel. (0212) 393 76 00 Fax (0212) 393 76 40
e-mail: sekretariat@istanbul.dainst.org

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Events and developments

With 2006 having been a year of new beginnings and innovations, the Istanbul Department has concentrated on continuing its activities at a measured pace in 2007. Customary events like the annual gathering of alumni took place again and the scientific network, established the previous year, held two seminars and one colloquium on the subject of Ancient City Fortifications. The highly gratifying cooperation with the Istanbul Archaeological Museum was continued, too, in the form of joint lecture series, the handing over of another reconstructed relief from the Alexander Sarcophagus, and the creation of the installation on Mythical Creatures and Masks in Byzantium. In view of this, it is particularly pleasing that the director of the Museum, Dr. Ismail Karamut, was elected a corresponding member by the central management of the DAI in May of this year. In addition the cooperation with the Anatolian Civilization Institute at Koç University has been deepened, with joint conferences being planned for 2008, for instance.

The highpoint of the scientific events in 2007 was the international conference on Construction Technology in Ancient and Prehistoric Asia Minor, which took place in June and on which an individual report follows in this publication. The Department’s research profile has benefited from several new projects, among them an archaeological survey at Oinoanda in Lycia, in which ancient historians and epigraphers are involved in addition to archaeologists and construction researchers. Our studies of individual structures and structural elements in Byzantine Istanbul and of traditional wooden house architecture give grounds for us to hope that in the future Istanbul itself may become a major area of activity for us once again.

As a result of foreign scholarships and further training scholarships awarded by the DAI, Dr. Beate Böhlendorf-Arslan and Dr. Soi Agelidis joined the Department in 2007; they report about their projects themselves later in this publication. Dr. Ulf Schoop, on a DAI foreign scholarship since 2006, has left the Department in order to take up a position as lecturer at Edinburgh University.

As in the foregoing years we are much obliged to all friends and patrons of the Department for their generous support, without which we would not have been able to carry on our work in the form presented here. Çok teşekkür ederiz!

Felix Pirson
Research by the DAI and Staff of the Department in 2007

Members of the Institute report about the projects they have directed in separate articles in this publication: Çamlıbel and Boğazköy/Hattuşa (Çorum Province) p. 8 and 9, Oinoanda (Fethiye Province) p. 11, Pergamon and Elia (İzmir Province) p. 12 and 13, Anazarbos (Adana Province) p. 15, Kirse Yanı (Muğla Province) p. 16, Troas Survey (Çanakkale Province) p. 17 and İstanbul (p. 18). Other DAI projects or projects with the involvement of the DAI have taken place in Aizanoi (Kütahya Province) p. 10 and in the following places:

Göbekli Tepe (Şanlıurfa Province): In the 2007 campaign, work continued on the excavation of the monumental pillar structure from the 10th millennium B.C. In addition, exploratory work was commenced on the south-western hill top at the western fringe of the main excavation area, where no digging has been carried out before. As expected, a structure was found there with rectangular rooms with small pillars, only approximately 1.5 m high, as is characteristic of structures of the 9th millennium. At the same time a feature was discovered which in terms of construction typology is totally unknown. The edifice in question is circular and relatively small, with an interior diameter of 8 m, and its pillars are all of one dimension, as is typical of pillar specimens from the 9th millennium. This circular structure appears to be older than the rectangular structures, but it will not be possible to establish a definitive stratigraphic sequence before the next campaign. Among unusual discoveries are the reliefs of a dog-like quadruped and a person standing with legs wide apart, which decorate one of the pillars in the new structure (directed by Klaus Schmidt, Orient Department of the DAI).

Miletus (Aydın Province): In the 2007 campaign the excavation work at the sanctuaries of Aphrodite and Artemis Khitone continued. Again rich votive offerings from the 7th and 6th century BC were found in the sanctuary of Aphrodite. At the south-western edge of the hill on which the sanctuary stood a secular phase of occupation was discovered, dating from the 4th century BC, with installations for oil or wine production. At the sanctuary of Artemis Khitone the main result of the excavation (M. Kerschner) is the exposure of a free-standing structure from the 8th century BC, whose walls survive to a height of more than two metres and which presumably served a religious function. The sondage work at the large cemetery church outside the city (Ph. Niewöhner) was brought to an end with the establishment of the ground plan and with a solid dating to the second half of the 6th century AD. In addition the investigatory work at the Delphinion (A.Herda) continued, as did the new construction research at the Faustina thermae - including the analysis of its sculpture programme in the Byzantine era (O. Dally, P. Maischberger, P. Schneider, A. Scholl). (Directed by Volkmar von Graeve, Institute of Archaeology, Ruhr-Universität Bochum).

Priene (Aydın Province): After many years’ preparation the rebuilding of the excavation depot, supported by many bodies, was completed in the 2007 campaign and thereby a necessary precondition for the continuation of the Priene excavation was fulfilled. The excavations brought to light evidence of a previously unknown Cybele sanctuary on the northern edge of the city, where further cult sites are expected to lie. As for the temple of Egyptian gods, it has been confirmed that the central podium, long held to be an altar, does date from the late Hellenistic / Augustinian period, as had been conjectured. In the early Hellenistic period, buildings of the Prostas house type stood at the site, but their function remains to be ascertained. At the temple itself partial restoration of the plinth zone was commenced.
As part of a new research project focusing on Priene in late and post antiquity, two previously unknown church edifices beyond the city wall were discovered, as were a military installation on the plateau on top of the city mountain and a probably late imperial bathing facility in the southern part of the urban area (directed by Wulf Raeck of the Archaeological Institute of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main).

**Selinus** (Antalya Province): The building known as the Şekerhane Köşkü is associated with a conjectured cenotaph for Emperor Trajan, who died in Selinus in 117 AD. A project intended to determine the original function of the Şekerhane Köşkü is in progress, and construction historians from the Architecture Department of the DAI and from the Institute of Construction History at Karlsruhe University concluded their on-site documentation of the building structures in the summer of 2007. In addition to this, several trenches were sunk in the foundations of the central structure and in the area of the surrounding colonnaded halls. These sondages, effected in cooperation with archaeologists from Alanya Museum, provided information on the situation of structures at the site and clarified certain construction-related questions (directed by A. Hoffmann and C. Winterstein, Architecture Department of the DAI in cooperation with Alanya Museum).

Throughout the winter months a large number of evening lectures will be held for the public, at which domestic and foreign researchers will be invited to report on their own ongoing projects. A second series of talks, known as the Colloquia, provides an opportunity above all for young academics to present new research results for discussion. In addition, in early summer staff of the Institute offer regular guided tours of the districts of Istanbul, monuments and collections. Information on the various programmes may be found at our website: www.dainst.org/istanbul.
Publications of the Department in 2007

The annual journal ‘Istanbuler Mitteilungen’ serves as a general forum on topics related to archaeology in Turkey. We also publish two series of monographs under the title ‘Istanbuler Forschungen’ and ‘Byzas’, and independent publications appear as well.

Istanbuler Mitteilungen 56, 2006

Vierzig Jahre in der Türkei - Vortrag zum Abschied von Istanbul von Wolfgang Radt
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Oliver Hülden, Ein Felsheiligtum mit Dreifigurenrelief im nördlichen Yavu-Bergland (Lykien)
Fahri Işık, Von der anatolischen Halle zur griechischen Stoa
Bruno Jacobs – Anke Schütte-Maischatz, Statue eines Bogenschützen aus dem Stadtgebiet von Urfa
Michael Kerschner, Zur Herkunftsbestimmung archaisch-ostgriechischer Keramik: Die Funde aus Berezan im Akademischen Kunstmuseum der Universität Bonn und im Robertinum der Universität Halle-Wittenberg
Abuzer Kızıl – Frank Rumscheid, Ein neugefundenes Pfeilerkapitell aus dem frühhellenistischen Mylasa
Ulrich Mania, Eine neue Werkstatt früher türkischer Keramik – Miletware aus Pergamon
Gabriele Mietke, Studien zur frühbyzantinischen Bauornamentik im Rauen Kilikien: Vorbilder und Datierungsmöglichkeiten von Kapitellen
Philipp Niewöhner, Frühbyzantinische Steinmetzarbeiten in Kutahya. Zu Topographie, Steinmetzwesen und Siedlungsgeschichte einer zentralanatolischen Region
Richard Posamentir – Mustafa Hamdi Sayar, Anazarbos – ein Zwischenbericht aus einer kilikischen Großstadt
Richard Posamentir – Sergey Solovyov, Zur Herkunftsbestimmung archaischostgriechischer Keramik: die Funde aus Berezan in der Ermitage von St. Petersburg
Richard Posamentir – Michael Wörle, Der Zeustempel von Aizanoi, ein Großbau flussicher Zeit
Stephan Westphalen, Studien zur frühbyzantinischen Bauornamentik im Rauen Kilikien: Diokaisareia/Uzuncaburç
Derya Yalçıklı, Zwei Bronzeschwerter aus Westanatolien
Turgut Haci Zeyrek – Ilksen Özbay, Statuen und Reliefs aus Nikomediea

Byzas 6: Peter Baumeister, Der Fries des Hekateions von Laguna. Neue Untersuchungen zu Monument und Kontext (Istanbul 2007)
Byzas 7: Beate Böhlerdorfer-Arslan, Ali Osman Uysal, Johanna Witte-Orr (Hrsg.), Çanak. Late Antique and Medieval Pottery and Tiles in Mediterranean Archaeological Contexts (Istanbul 2007)

In press:

Istanbuler Mitteilungen 57, 2007
Istanbuler Forschungen 50: Hakan Mert, Zur hellenistischen und kaiserzeitlichen Bauornamentik von Stratonikeia
Byzas 8: Peter I. Schneider, Die Rizk-Moschee in Hasankeyf. Bauforschung und Baugeschichte
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Support of the Bogazköy/Hattusa-Project:

Support of the Pergamon-Project:

Support of the Anazarbos-Project:
Library of the Istanbul Department of the DAI rated among the ten best libraries in Turkey

A ten-member panel of scholars, writers and journalists was commissioned by Hürriyet newspaper to compare and rank the public libraries in Turkey. The results of their investigations were published on 9 March 2007. The Istanbul Department of the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) was the only foreign institution to figure on the list:

1. Atatürk Library, Istanbul
2. Library of the Centre for Islamic Research, Istanbul
3. National Library, Ankara
4. Beyazid State Library, Istanbul
5. Sermet Çifter Library, Istanbul
6. Library of the German Archaeological Institute, Istanbul
7. National Library, İzmir
8. Library of the Istanbul Research Institute, Istanbul
9. Atatürk Municipal Library, İzmir
10. Süleymaniye Library, Istanbul

The library of the German Archaeological Institute in Istanbul has been in existence since 1929 and now has around 53,000 books and 270 regularly acquired journals in its collection. At present, between 800 and 1,000 new volumes are added to its stocks every year. Last year the library was used by about 4,600 readers.

The main areas of the collection are Classical Archaeology and Construction Research, Prehistory, Archaeology of the Near and Middle East, Byzantine Art History, Orientalism / Ottoman History, and Travelogues, and it is the largest library of its kind in Turkey. It also has a particularly valuable collection of historical and contemporary maps and plans. Its potential as a research resource is substantially enhanced, furthermore, by the photographic archive of the Institute, which contains around 120,000 images from the period from 1870 to the present day.

Jürgen Seeher
Construction research in ancient and prehistoric Asia Minor

The standard works on history of construction in Asia Minor are now in many cases decades old. Moreover, very considerable advances have recently been made in the state of knowledge thanks to a multitude of new find assemblages from excavations, through a number of experimental archaeology projects and through studies of construction history. In order to provide an overview of the state of research as it stands, and to bring together the various techniques and methods in use, the Istanbul Department of the DAI organised a conference, held from June 13 to 16, 2007, in which 35 researchers/scientists took part and presented papers.

The three-day programme spanned all epochs from the Neolithic to late antiquity, with speakers coming from the USA, the UK, Austria, Italy, Germany and from a number of Turkish research institutes. Among the topics on which presentations were given were the first quarries in human history, highpoints in stone-working from the Hittite and Urartian periods, prehistoric mudbrick and wattle-and-daub construction techniques, the sophisticated planning and measuring systems in the construction of ancient wooden and solid structures, regional specificities of construction technology in late antiquity, and much more besides. One focal point was the experimental archaeology used in Boğazköy/Hattuša which has yielded sensational results.

In addition to purely technical aspects of construction history, there was also an analysis of questions of social history and the history of knowledge. Thus it proved possible to identify lines of tradition in mudbrick and wattle-and-daub construction which reach from the Neolithic to the present day, whereas the sophisticated culture of Hittite stone-working was not carried on directly for various reasons. In many of these questions research is still very much in the early stages, and hence the conference can be seen as the first, important step towards a more thorough examination of the issues. A basis for this will be formed by the publication of the contributions, which is scheduled for a forthcoming volume of the Byzas series.

Martin Bachmann
Çamlıbel Tarlası – a window on pre-Hittite times

Little is known yet about the times preceding the Hittite kingdom in the north of Central Anatolia. A sub-project of the Boğazköy Expedition was initiated in 2007 to explore these remote beginnings. Çamlıbel Tarlası, the site chosen for excavation, is a prehistoric settlement close to the Hittite capital but 4,000 years older than it. This village dates to the beginning of human settlement in this formerly heavily forested highland. Like other early settlements in the region, it is located on a rocky ridge overlooking a small stream passing below. This particular location appears to have enjoyed some prehistoric popularity as it turned out upon excavation that we are dealing here with two villages, superimposed on each other and separated by a temporal gap.

Çamlıbel Tarlası was surrounded by a simple circumference wall. In both of its layers building remains were encountered. Some of these belong to large houses with mud walls on stone bases. On the beaten-earth floors the remains of domed ovens were found. Under the floors, a number of infant inhumations in pottery vessels came to light; even after death, children were in need of spiritual protection by the living community.

The objects of everyday life are of a relatively simple nature. Some of the pottery vessels, however, are decorated with complex designs. These were first incised into the wet clay, and the lines then filled with a white contrasting paste. Astonishing for the early date are indications of metal working, as shown by the finds of some small copper objects and slag remains. Other finds demonstrate the wide-ranging contacts maintained by the community at Çamlıbel Tarlası. Among them there is imported obsidian from Cappadocian sources (a raw material in high demand for the manufacture of stone tools); even a cockle shell found its way inland from the distant seaboard.

The scientific investigation of Çamlıbel Tarlası has just begun. It is quite clear, however, that this settlement will provide us with a flood of new information on the prehistory of Central Anatolia.

Ulf-Dietrich Schoop
New Perspectives of an ancient city –
Geophysical investigations at Boğazköy-Hattuša

For some time now extensive geophysical surveys have been carried out at Hattuša, both inside and outside the city. The aim is to acquire an overview of areas which have not been investigated to date. In addition to geo-magnetic surveying, earth resistance measurements were taken. Despite occasional geological disturbances the combination of these two methods afforded good insights into existing structures. An especially important finding shall be described here briefly.

Immediately to the north-east of the city – in the vicinity of the Osmankayası necropolis and also between Büyükkaya and Yazılıkaya – large areas were surveyed in order to clarify how the city was integrated in the surrounding countryside and in particular what the city’s relationship with its sanctuary at Yazılıkaya was. In spite of certain gaps, what was found was a scattering of large isolated buildings which may be deemed Hittite in view of their regularity and structural characteristics. Overlying them in some cases are buildings which may be presumed to be Byzantine on account of their more irregular structure and surface pottery finds. Finds made further to the east in the direction of Yazılıkaya are of particular significance. Two structures discovered here can probably be regarded water reservoirs. The south-lying one corresponds to one of the eastern ponds in the Upper City, while a second, lying slightly further to the east at right angles to a natural depression, is comparable to excavated dams in Kuşaklı-Sarissa. These results show for the first time that the Hittite capital, too, was integrated in a surrounding landscape that was fashioned deliberately.

Andreas Schachner
Oinoanda – queen of inscriptions

The interest of the academic world was attracted to the ancient site of Oinoanda in Lycia by the discovery of inscription fragments there in the 19th century. It turned out that the fragments were all part of a monumental inscription of philosophical content which once covered the entire rear wall of a large stoa (colonnaded hall). The text was the work of the Epicurean Diogenes of Oinoanda. Further finds in the 20th century made it clear that the inscription is the largest known from the ancient world, and also represents one of the most important sources of Epicurean philosophy. Although the urban area has been investigated and documented during the last decades, many unanswered questions remain with regard to the original location of the inscription and its integration among surrounding buildings, as well as the overall urban development of Oinoanda and specificities in the construction of the city’s buildings. Moreover, as explorations continue at the site, we can expect that further inscription fragments will come to light.

A new collaborative project directed by the Istanbul Department with the involvement of Cologne University (J. Hammerstaedt), Hacettepe University in Ankara (V. Köse), the BIAA in Ankara and M. F. Smith (formerly of Durham University) is to tackle these open questions. In a two-week preliminary campaign in 2007 the known inscription fragments, which lie scattered all over the site, were located and in some cases freshly documented. In the process four more fragments of the Diogenes inscription were discovered. In addition, at the older market place of the city – known as the Esplanade, presumed to be the place where the inscription was displayed – a trial area was documented with the laser scanner, a measurement method which proved to be suitable in spite of the presence of trees. These investigations and the documentation of the inscription will be continued and extended next year.

Martin Bachmann
Aizanoi – Urbanism and culture of a pre-Hellenistic and Hellenistic settlement in Central Anatolia

In 2007, a new research project began in Aizanoi, today’s Çavdarhisar. Considerable interest had been raised by the excavations in the preceding years which brought to light the remains of a pre-Roman settlement. These lay on a prehistoric settlement mound upon which the Temple of Zeus, which still stands today, was erected under Emperor Domitian. Greek colonists had begun settling here in the 2nd c. BC at the latest, erecting mudbrick houses. In 2001 polychrome wall paintings, ceramics imported from Pergamon and an archive with surviving clay seals were found. The settlement was destroyed by fire and a fortification wall was built on top of it, resting on wooden piles. As yet we know no more details about pre-Roman Aizanoi; it is not known, for instance, how a community of Macedonian settlers came to be established in the alien cultural environment of Phrygia or what immediately preceded that. The new project is intended to supply answers to these questions. To this end, an excavation in 2007 at the foot of the temple plateau investigated the remains of the Byzantine settlement of the 11th / 12th c. BC which lie above the ancient finds and in whose walls sculptures from antiquity were used as building material. Geophysical surveys have established the existence of another tower in the Byzantine fortifications. They have also revealed evidence of the boundary of the settlement of ancient Aizanoi to the south-west of the Temple of Zeus site. It appears that prior to the construction of the Temple of Zeus in the 1st c. BC / early 1st c. AD, elaborate architectural edifices had already stood on the settlement mound. Hellenistic pottery finds and mudbrick debris indicate that the coming excavations will yield well preserved Hellenistic finds.

Ralf von den Hoff
Archaeology and conservation in Pergamon

In 2007 as in previous years a great number of archaeological and conservation projects were carried out as part of the excavations at the ancient city of Pergamon, of which only a few can be mentioned here. In the spring, by way of preparation for the planned construction of an aerial cable-way in cooperation with Bergama Museum, excavations were carried out on the lower part of the south-eastern slope of the Acropolis hill. Immediately in front of the city wall a Roman necropolis with several elaborate funerary monuments came to light. This discovery represents a considerable enrichment of our still rather fragmentary picture of Pergamon’s ancient necropoleis and of the burial customs that were practised there. In addition, we continued our work at the Gymnasium and our explorations on the still unexcavated eastern slope, where the reconstruction of the street grid has made an important contribution to the systematic study of the general organisation of the Hellenistic polis. This has further consolidated the impression we gained last year of a fan-shaped street system, and we have been able to advance our first hypotheses concerning the size of the blocks of houses.

As to conservation, the focus has again been on the Red Hall, where last year we launched a project to conserve the edifice and convert it into a museum thanks to the generous funding of the Studiosus Foundation. The project has received further assistance from the Cultural Foundation of the German-Turkish Business Association. Our activities focus on the southern round tower, which is being restored so that the ancient space can house an exhibition of inscriptions and sculpture finds. This work has been completed except for the re-covering of the dome. An extraordinary round space has thus been re-created which is absolutely without parallel in the eastern part of the Roman Empire!

Felix Pirson
Discovery of a Hellenistic military harbour?

Since 2006 the German Archaeological Institute has been carrying out archaeological investigations at Elaia, the port of the ancient city of Pergamon on the west coast of Turkey. The first plan of the city was proposed at the end of the 19th century by members of the Pergamon excavation campaign. Since that time no further explorations have taken place at this historically highly significant site. The aim of the new project, which is being funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, is to reconstruct the plan of the town and the harbour by means of archaeological survey, measurements in the shallow waters, and geophysical prospecting (cooperation with Kiel University). A ceramics survey enables the localisation of settlement concentrations and affords insights into the material culture of the city. It is hoped that by this means we can clarify how the ancient polis of Elaia, under the influence of the Pergamene kings, became an important military base and trading centre. On the basis of pottery finds and a stone axe it can be demonstrated that an initial settlement already existed on the Acropolis in the early Bronze Age (3rd Mill. BC). The city expanded appreciably in the Hellenistic period when it became the maritime satellite of the Pergamenes. This is attested by an enlarged harbour zone with mighty fortifications which was detected with the aid of geomagnetic measurements. A complete surprise was the discovery, in the autumn of this year, of further harbour structures in the shallow waters off the coast. Thanks to the help of local fishermen we found numerous remains of moles or breakwaters extending across an area of about 1 x 2 km; the construction technology indicates that they could be of Hellenistic provenance. This important discovery could in future shed entirely new light on Pergamon’s significance as a Hellenistic sea power.

Felix Pirson
The road to the deity: processions and their monuments in western Asia Minor

Processions are an important phenomenon of ancient ritual culture. They were carried out as part of a ceremony in honour of a particular deity and they could serve as an act of remembrance of historical or mythical events. Generally speaking, processions had as their destination the sanctuary of the deity concerned, where a substantial sacrifice would be made upon arrival.

The spectrum of persons involved was relatively wide. The participants in a procession would come from the citizenry of the town in question; occasionally foreign dignitaries would participate. The remainder of the populace could take part in the ritual as onlookers along the roadside or at the sanctuary itself. The participation of the public at large made the procession significant as an expression of religiosity and common identity, as a means of communicating certain content, and indeed as a platform for the self-presentation of certain of individuals.

The routes along which processions passed varied in terms of their form and design. In some cases the processional route was a city street which was marked out as a ritual site only during the festivities. In other cases the routes were lavishly endowed with architecture and decorative sculpture. Funerary monuments were commonly placed along processional ways that lay beyond the city walls.

The processions and their routes in some cities of western Asia Minor during the Hellenistic and the Imperial periods are to be considered collectively as part of a project which the DAI is supporting by means of a scholarship. Particular attention will be paid to how the processions evolved, of whom they were composed, what course they followed and how the routes were decorated, in order to cast light on the interaction of ritual practice with the site itself, and to clarify its effect on religion and politics.

Soi Agelidis
Anazarbos, or How far you can get with a survey…

Summer 2007 saw the final campaign of the Anazarbos survey project, which has been in progress since 2004 and is dedicated to the investigation of this largely unknown city (in cooperation with the University of Istanbul; Prof. Dr. M. H. Sayar). Much of this year’s work was concerned with continuing and completing various activities begun in previous seasons; for instance the measurement of the fortifications on the citadel hill was brought to a conclusion, as was the geophysical surveying of certain representative sections of the urban area on the plain below. In this campaign, however, the primary focus was on intensifying the analysis of surface finds, by means of which certain buildings can be identified and, ideally, the organic evolutionary process of a city can be discerned. In 2007, surface finds analysis led to the discovery of hitherto unknown structures (such as another church, not visible on the surface) and to the procurement of valuable information concerning the extent of Anazarbos in the various epochs. The pottery record indicates for instance that the limited space on top of the rocky massif was certainly the earliest settlement site, and that in the first two centuries AD it continued to play a role, albeit a less important one. The period in which the city flourished – from the 2nd to the 6th c. AD – on the other hand is hardly represented at all in the collection of finds from the citadel, while an extraordinary density of finds of a variety of wares (ARS, LR) has come to light in the urban area at the foot of the massif. Later in history the rocky massif became important once again as an area of settlement, which was then concentrated entirely on the rock from the 12 c. AD onwards - the city, as it were, going back to its 'roots'.

Richard Posamentir
Kirse Yanı – A Byzantine residence in the Carian mountains

Kirse Yanı lies in a mountainous part of Caria north of the Gulf of Gökova approximately half way between Bodrum/Halikarnassos to the west and Ören/Keramos to the east. At the centre of a small dell, an isolated building stands beside a stream, rectangular in plan and covering an area of around 350 m².

The ground floor was unusually high at 5 m, but the lower two metres are today filled with the debris of collapsed masonry. Originally the windows were at a height of three metres and therefore the window ledges are inclined in order to maximise the incidence of light. Above a rafted ceiling followed the upper storey. In terms of their design both storeys have an official or public character: the walls were frescoed, niches were dressed in marble, and the main rooms each have one architectural feature that catches the eye. In one case this consists of three arched windows set in the wall facing the main entrance; in another, three arched apertures equally spaced in a wall, the central one of which contains a round niche while the outer ones enclose doors. An inscription declares the building to be the residence of an imperial dignitary of the 6th century AD.

Traditionally such imperial dignitaries resided in the cities, where they erected many splendid atrium houses until around 400 AD. This changed in the 5th / 6th century. The large city villas lost their official character, were divided up into smaller dwellings or abandoned altogether. What became of their occupants is an enigma much speculated on. Some evidently moved out to rural areas, as is now proven archaeologically for the first time by Kirse Yanı. The structural documentation of the building was effected as part of Gökova Körfezi Yüzey Araştırması (GÖKYA) and was most generously supported by Koray Konuk.

Philipp Niewöhner
Searching for evidence in the Troad: where did people live in the Byzantine period?

The question of where the Byzantines actually lived has not been elucidated in detail due to the minimal number of sub-surface Byzantine remains in the Troad. Byzantine evidence in the Troad is particularly few in the Troad when compared to other regions such as Lycia or Cilicia. Because of its strategically important geographic position, the region of Troad continued to play a major role by controlling the Hellespont and serving as a bridge between Asia Minor and Europe.

The research project on the Byzantine Settlements in the Troad, conducted by the DAI since 2007, therefore has the aim of documenting such vestiges from the late antiquity and Middle Ages in the Troad and evaluating them from the viewpoint of settlement archaeology. The basis for the project comprises the Byzantine finds and find assemblages from the survey conducted in the northern part of the Troad by Nurettin Arslan of the University of Çanakkale since 2002, and the results of the surface studies undertaken in the southern Troad in 2006 in association with the University of Freiburg (Christian Archaeology, Dr. Martin Dennert), which is being generously supported by Gerda Henkel Foundation.

Traces of Byzantine settlement activities in the Troad survive in a variety of ways. Sometimes only scattered pottery sherds, worked stone or brick-built walls indicate the existence of a farm or village. Churches, which were often opulently appointed edifices, in some cases probably built on the initiative of a major city, reveal themselves by elements of architectural sculpture like columns, capitals and rood screens. All these vestiges indicate that the Troad was indeed densely populated in the Middle Ages.

Beate Böhlendorf-Arslan
Urban research in Istanbul

Since it was established, the Istanbul Department has carried out research into the urban history of Constantinople/Istanbul. The Byzantine edifices in the city have been of primary interest, as well as the rich Ottoman heritage of Istanbul. As a result of the profound changes now under way in this rapidly expanding capital city, the threat posed to the historical buildings and to the archaeological ground monuments has increased dramatically in the current situation.

Investigations into the urban history were therefore forced and have been divided into two principal areas. Firstly, new research projects have been initiated relating to the Byzantine monuments with the aim of deepening our knowledge of the topography of Constantinople, and communicating it effectively with the help of three-dimensional models and geo-information systems. These projects are profiting from information gained in ongoing studies of Byzantine architectural ornament in major monuments; these studies commenced in 2007 with the documenting of Byzantine entablature fragments in the Istanbul Archaeological Museum.

The second principal area focuses on a construction type that was once prevalent and distinctive in Istanbul but has now all but disappeared – the Ottoman wooden houses. Today these can be found in some numbers only along the shore of the Bosphorus and on the Princes’ Islands. After the investigations at the former summer residence of the German ambassador in Tarabya in 2001 and in the Sadullah Paşa Yalısı in Çengelköy in 2004, a structural inspection and record was made of an original wooden house surviving from the late 19th century and built in art nouveau style on the island of Büyükada. The work was carried out in 2007 by a group of architecture students from Karlsruhe.

Martin Bachmann