Events and developments

Last year brought repeated confirmation of how firmly anchored the international activities of the DAI are in the cultural foreign policy of Germany. Our conservation project in the Red Hall at Pergamon, for example, has been incorporated into the “Ernst Reuter Initiative for Dialogue and Understanding between Cultures”, which is under the auspices of the foreign ministers of Germany and Turkey. At the Frankfurt Book Fair the Istanbul Department participated in the Foreign Office’s International Centre by hosting a panel discussion on the subject of Archaeological Tourism; and lastly we were able to contribute to the German-Turkish Culture Weeks with an exhibition on the Wooden Houses of Istanbul. You can find out more about these and other activities of the Istanbul Department on the following pages.

The prominent position of Turkey within the spectrum of international research conducted by the DAI is demonstrated by the fact that the first foreign visit of the Institute’s new president, Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Gehrke, was to Istanbul and Ankara, where he was received by the Minister of Culture and Tourism, Ertuğrul Günay. Other highlights of the year were the symposium “Byzantine Small Finds in the Archaeological Context” organised jointly with Koç Üniversitesi, and the discovery of important inscription fragments at Oinoanda in Lycia.

Turning to personnel matters, we would first of all like to pay tribute to Ufuk Esin, professor of early Anatolian history at the University of Istanbul and a particularly close friend and partner of the DAI, who passed away on 19 January 2008.

Information on personnel changes in the Department is given on page 4 of the brochure. Those who are leaving are to be thanked for their successful work, and we wish their successors all the best in coping with their new tasks and responsibilities!

Felix Pirson
Research by the DAI and staff of the department in 2008

Members of the Institute report about the projects they have directed in separate articles in this publication: **Boğazköy/Hattuşa** (Corum Province) p. 9, **Oinoanda** (Fethiye Province) p. 12, **Pergamon** and the surrounding area (Izmir Province) p. 13 – 16, **Andriake** (Antalya Province) p. 17 and **Istanbul** (p. 19). Other DAI projects or projects with the involvement of the DAI have taken place in **Miletus** (Aydın Province) p. 10-11 and in the following places:

**Göbekli Tepe** (Şanlıurfa Province): In 2008, work continued on the excavation of the monumental Pillar Structure C dating from the 10th millennium BC in the south hollow of the hill. Inside the oval enclosure the floor on the bedrock has been reached. Gargoyle-like animal sculptures protrude from pillars and from the walls which survive to a height of over 3 m (ill. left). The central pillars of the oval structure, which were totally destroyed in the post-neolithic period, were certainly more than 5 m high. Investigations continued also on the south-west crest of the hill. In Circular Structure F, which was discovered there, a terrazzo floor has been exposed. The northern central pillar bears a low relief of a motif known from Structure D: a fox in the crook of the arm of the stylised stone-pillar being (directed by Klaus Schmidt, Orient Department of the DAI).

**Priene** (Aydın Province): Clearly discernible after the 2008 campaign is a monumental terrace in the area of the temple of the Egyptian gods; it dates from the early to high Hellenistic age, and possibly represents an early stage of the sanctuary. In the immediate vicinity of a ritual site for Cybele which was discovered in 2007 in the north-east section of the town, we have uncovered architectural remains of one or more sanctuaries where many female votive terracottas were among the finds. Excavations and architectural surveys in the north-western residential district have brought to light an abundance of find material from the late Hellenistic demolition layer, which gives us a much more detailed picture of building developments and alterations. The Byzantine chapel east of the Agora turned out to be a medieval installation built into a fairly large imperial era complex. The church located last year to the east of the East Gate seems to have been a three-aisle basilica, probably of early Byzantine origin (directed by Wulf Raeck, Institute of Archaeological Sciences, J. W. Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main).

**Aizanoi** (Kütahya Province): The remains of a “hydraulic engineering structure” at the south edge of the Zeus Temenos which were touched on in the 2007 campaign were investigated more intensively in 2008. In the early Roman Imperial era a monument was erected here which is probably to be interpreted as a fountain of the Meta-Sudans Type. It stood on mighty foundations of opus caementitium measuring approx. 15 x 15 m and over 2 m high. The structure was destroyed after a few decades. The foundations were integrated into the courtyard halls of the new Temple of Zeus. The phases of urban renewal at Aizanoi at the transition to the Roman Imperial era thereby appear in a new light. A few metres to the west of the well system, the remains of a Hellenistic fortification wall and an older Hellenistic settlement have been exposed (directed by Ralf von den Hoff, Institute of Archaeological Sciences, University of Freiburg).

**Selinus** (Antalya Province): After completion of the documentation work on the edifice Şekerhane Köşkü, believed to be the cenotaph of Emperor Trajan, who died at Selinus, investigations continued in September 2008 with geophysical prospection. Significant data
on how the complex was incorporated into the town were obtained by means of magnetic, radar and electrical measurements carried out by members of Dr. Harald Stümpel’s research team specialising in archaeometry and geophysical engineering from the Christian Albrecht University in Kiel (directed by Adolf Hoffmann and Claudia Winterstein, Division of Building Archaeology at the Head Office of the DAI).

Didyma (Aydın Province): Explorations along the final stretch of the Sacred Way north of the later Didymaion (Temple of Apollo) yielded the base of a statue of a victorious athlete at the Didymaean Games (c. 200 BC). Topographical re-measurement was conducted in order to create a digitalised and phase-orientated plan of the temple. The restoration and processing of the finds continued, as did consolidation and restoration work at the later Didymaion. Excavations have also been carried out on the island of Tavşan Adası (Middle Minoan III – Late Minoan I) off the Mavişehir peninsula (overall direction by Andreas Furtwängler, Institute of Archaeology, Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg).

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 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

The Staff:

PD Dr. Felix Pirson (director of the institute)  
Dr.-Ing. Martin Bachmann (deputy director)  
Division heads: Dr. Philipp Niewöhner, Dr. Richard Posamentir (until 30 November), PD Dr. Andreas Schachner, Dr. Jürgen Seeher  
Scholarship holders: Dr. Soi Agelidis (DAI research scholarship, until 17 August)  
Dr. Beate Böhler-Arslan (DAI research scholarship, until 31 January)  
Dr. Ralf Becks (DAI research scholarship, from 6 October)  
Graduate assistants: Işıl Işıklıkaya (until 31 March), Torsten Zimmer (until 31 December)  
Editor: Ute Kelp

Library: Beate Vollmer (until 13 August), Gudrun Walter (from 15 September), Ali Akkaya, Banu Doğan  
Photo department: Nurhan Özgenler, Secda Saltuk, Ahmet Aydın  
Six graduate trainees were employed in the photo department, the editorial office and the library for several weeks.  
Secretariat: Oya Demirci (until 15 July), Hülya Çatak (from 1 July)  
Administration: Heiko Tessin, Hülya Çötelioğlu  
Technical staff: Ahmet Atıla, Ali Topkaya, Hamza Fırat, Coşkun Parmak, Metin Öztürk, Salih Uzunoğlu
Sponsors of our work

General support of the department:

Support of the Boğazköy/Ḫattuša project:

Support of the Pergamon project:

Support of the Oinoanda project:
Publications of the department in 2008

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 57, 2007

- Jürgen Seeher, Sägen wie die Hethiter: Rekonstruktion einer Steinschneidetechnik im bronzezeitlichen Bauhandwerk
- Alessandra Gilibert, Fünf Quadersteine aus Karkemisch. Eine unbekannte eisenzeitliche Bestattung an der Herald’s Wall?
- Hans Lohmann u.a., Forschungen und Ausgrabungen in der Mykale 2001-2006
- Richard Posamentir – Sergey Solovyov, zur Herkunftsbestimmung archaisch-ionischer Keramik: die Funde aus Berezan in der Eremitage von St. Petersburg II
- Hüseyin Cevizoğlu, Becken und Ständer der klassischen Zeit in Klazomenai: Ein Zwischenbericht
- Erhan Öztepe, Zu den Formen der Liegefalten und eingeritzten Linien in der griechischen Plastik
- Ulrich Ruppe, Neue Forschungen an der Stadtmauer von Priene – Erste Ergebnisse
- Adolf Hoffmann – Mustafa H. Sayar u.a., Vorbericht zu den in den Jahren 2003 bis 2005 auf dem Berg Karasis (bei Kozan / Adana) und in seiner Umgebung durchgeführten Untersuchungen
- Elife Kiraz, Aphrodite-Statuetten aus Kleinasien: Zu Ikonographie, Funktion und Deutung
- Karl Strobel – Christoph Gerber u.a., Tavium (Büyükkale, Provinz Yozgat) – Bericht über die Kampagnen 2003-2005
- Lorenz Korn, Einige abbasidische Inschriften aus der Gazıra

IStanbuler Forschungen 50: Hakan Mert, Zur hellenistischen und kaiserzeitlichen Bauornamentik von Stratonikeia (Tübingen 2008)


Byzas 9: Martin Bachmann (Hrsg.), Bautechnik im antiken und vorantiken Kleinasien (Istanbul 2008)

In press:

IStanbuler Mitteilungen 58, 2008

IStanbuler FORSCHUNGEN 51: Andreas Schachner, Assyriens Könige an einer der Quellen des Tigris. Archäologische Forschungen im Höhlensystem von Birkley und am so genannten Tigris-Tunnel

Byzas 10: Janet Lorentzen – Felix Pirson – Peter I. Schneider – Ulrike Wulf-Rheidt (Hrsg.), Aktuelle Forschungen zur Konstruktion, Funktion und Semantik antiker Stadtbefestigungen
Archaeological tourism – cultural heritage between conservation and commercialisation

This year, Turkey was the guest country at the Frankfurt Book Fair. This circumstance prompted the Istanbul Department to organise a panel discussion – as part of the International Centre hosted by the Foreign Office – on the subject of archaeological tourism. Discussion centred on the question of cultural heritage, which is on the one hand an object of academic study and conservation, and on the other a resource for the tourist industry. This highly topical matter is a key component of the bilateral culture policy between Germany and Turkey, as is demonstrated by the fact that the Red Hall conservation and museum project at Pergamon has been incorporated into the “Ernst Reuter Initiative for Dialogue and Understanding between Cultures” signed by the foreign ministers of both countries.

The Red Hall project was naturally also one of the chief topics of the panel discussion, which was hosted by Dieter Bartetzko, an editor with the FAZ newspaper (3rd from left). Other participants were (from left to right): Abdullah Kocapınar (Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism), Klaus Dietsch (Studiosus Reisen), Jürgen Kunow (Association of German Archaeologists), Lycienne Thys-Senoçak (Koç University), Felix Pirson (DAI) and Raşit Ürper (mayor of Bergama). The panel also dealt with the question of the justification and utilisation of reconstructions of archaeological monuments. The controversy this question aroused shows that, in spite of broad agreement on the tasks of archaeology, there is still considerable need for debate regarding practical details of the communication of knowledge. In view of this fact we hope that our panel discussion has supplied much food for thought.

Felix Pirson
The DAI Istanbul at the International Congress in Rome

Anatolia has often been described as a territorial bridge, its river valleys and mountain passes serving as a channel by which goods and ideas found their way from east to west and back. Contact zones and modalities of exchange in the ancient world are the central issues that were explored at the 17th International Congress of Classical Archaeology which this year, on its 50th anniversary, was held once again in Rome, the venue of the first post-war conference. Divided into thematic sections, the conference offered an audience of specialists a broad overview of various interpretative approaches and ongoing research reaching from Spain to the Levant.

The Istanbul Department of the DAI was represented by the section “Cultural contacts and exchange – case studies from Anatolia”. The papers that were delivered and discussed illustrated the changing historical circumstances and the resultant diversity of cultural contacts in Anatolia from the archaic-classical period to the Roman Imperial era. Complementing this was a consideration of the modern-era reception history.

Ute Kelp
Ritual vessels from Ḩattuša

As part of the interdisciplinary project investigating the Hittite capital, the excavations in 2008 have concentrated again on exposing a large building on a plateau at the transition from the valley west of Sarıkale to the central upper town. The regularly laid-out edifice was erected in the 2nd half of the 15th century BC, rebuilt after a fire, and then remained in use until another fire in the 13th century. Since the discovery of complete inventories in buildings has been a rare occurrence in Boğazköy/Ḫattuša, particular importance attaches to the finds from two rooms in the south part of the site. The earthenware vessels recovered there represent the largest-ever complete pottery assemblage from the Hittite empire. In addition to more than 80 plates and shallow bowls there are two big vases which are especially worthy of note. One of them has a funnel-shaped neck, hence a familiar form, but stands out for having a rim in a crenelated style. The second vessel, approx. 1.85 m high, has been meticulously reconstructed after being found smashed into countless fragments. It is characterised by an amphora-type body and a tall neck topped by a spout in the shape of a bull’s head. Although large vessels with spouts in the shape of an animal’s head are not unknown in Anatolia from the middle Bronze Age onwards, this find from Ḩattuša is the only one of its kind found so far in the Hittite cultural zone.

Andreas Schachner
Miletus 2008 – Excavations at the sanctuary of Aphrodite

The principal aim of this year’s campaign at Miletus was to finish off the excavation work in the Archaic-era sanctuary of Aphrodite and to process all the finds that have been recovered there since 1990.

During the excavation, which lasted over seven months in all, we explored the last remaining areas on the slopes of the hill on which the sanctuary stood. The investigations revealed that on the western side of the south slope tombs were already present in the early Hellenistic period; on the east side (ill. bottom) we discovered late settlement traces in the vicinity of which, however, many valuable votive offerings from the Archaic sanctuary came to light (ill. right top and centre). On the eastern slope we discovered a wall made of large blocks which presumably flanked the flight of steps leading to the east façade of the temple, as well as a 7th century BC deposit of rubble from the sanctuary from which we were able to recover more than 500 small finds. The most important finding-place, however, was an oval-shaped (approx. 2.00 x 1.70 m) bothros cut into the rock in the upper reaches of the south-east slope. The offerings deposited there in great quantity date from the second half of the 7th cent. BC (ill. left) and significantly extend the find spectrum from the sanctuary.

In addition to the central work at the Aphrodite sanctuary, all other ongoing projects of the Miletus excavation were continued, i.e. the excavation in the sanctuary of Artemis Khitone (M. Kerschner), the construction research at the Faustina Thermae (O. Dally, A. Scholl, M. Maischberger, P. Schneider), the exploratory work at the Delphinion (A. Herda), and the documentations conducted as part of the Byzantine Miletus project (Ph. Niewöhner).

Volkmar von Graeve
Following preliminary investigations in 2007, the first regular exploratory campaign at Oinoanda went ahead this summer. The activities carried out in the ancient town at the northern fringe of Lycia were grouped up into a number of distinct fields. The principal concern of the campaign was the famous monumental inscription of the philosophy of Diogenes of Oinoanda. Firstly, the inscription fragments, which lie scattered across the entire site, were electronically mapped, and a first group of fragments were documented three-dimensionally by means of laser line scanner. Secondly, the so-called esplanade, the centre of the Hellenistic town, was measured by laser line scanner in order to glean information as to where, and in what architectural setting, the inscription was originally displayed. The same objective was pursued by an initial series of geophysical prospections, which yielded some information about the layout and structures of this large public space. Spectacular new discoveries were made while working on the Diogenes inscription. Twenty-six new fragments were found, including complete sentences setting out the position of the philosopher of the 2nd century AD with regard to Plato’s theory of cosmogony.

In addition, field-walking and documentary work was conducted with regard to Oinoanda’s non-philosophical inscriptions, which are also of considerable significance. Here, too, some remarkable discoveries were made. Especially noteworthy are dedicatory inscriptions on the Hellenistic town wall, in which a “Supreme God” (Theos Hypsistos) is invoked. This finding has great importance to an understanding of the evolution of the monotheistic cult which is known to have started spreading across this pagan region in the 1st century AD. Finally, the international research team also conducted topographical explorations in the vicinity of the urban area which have shed light on how Oinoanda was incorporated into a diversely modified, ancient cultural landscape.

Martin Bachmann
In the 1880s the ruins of the palaces of the Hellenistic kings on the acropolis of Pergamon were excavated and made accessible to visitors. Since then the condition of the structural remains has deteriorated sharply as a result of the partial collapse of walls and through erosion.

In September 2008 the Pergamon excavation team in collaboration with excavation technicians from the FHTW Berlin were able to document the current state of the palace ruins photographically. The constant strong winds that blow over the acropolis hill made it possible to use a kite on which a cradle carrying an infra-red-guided camera was mounted. By this means aerial photographs were taken at heights varying from approx. 20 to 40 m. It was particularly difficult to ensure a soft landing for the kite and camera, in order that they could be reused, but the challenge was met masterfully by the kite operators.

As part of a dissertation project, the archaeological features within the palaces and in the vicinity are to be re-analysed with a focus on functional areas and construction phases. The aerial photographs will be used in drawing up new plans of certain sectors of the site. Examination of the images will make it possible, furthermore, to determine what changes have occurred at the site since the first documentation.

Torsten Zimmer
Archaeology and heritage conservation at Pergamon

In line with the new research programme, the excavation and surface survey work conducted at Pergamon this year was again targeted on the Hellenistic-era royal city as a whole organism. In 2005 work began on a computer-assisted 3D model of the city and its environs, extending over 90 hectares, in order that its structures can be more clearly visualized and analysed. The data for the model is drawn from old plans as well as from a new survey of the relief of the acropolis hill. This year a further section of the model was completed, showing the acropolis and parts of the Hellenistic city in three-dimensional form for the first time (in cooperation with the University of Karlsruhe).

Investigations into the street plan and the settlement history of those portions of the city yet to be excavated have concentrated on its north-eastern fringe, which was less densely populated on account of its peripheral location and evidently served as a quarter for artisans’ workshops. Valuable insights into the ritual topography of Pergamon have been gained through the discovery of up to four natural sanctuaries in which Cybele or other deities were worshipped. The conspicuous concentration of high-quality clay statuettes in this district might be linked to the presence of sanctuaries.

The conservation project in the Red Hall took an important step forward this year with the badly damaged cornice of the approx. 20 m high south tower being secured and the ancient cupola being covered by a lead roof. This work was financed by funds from the Studiosus Foundation and the Foreign Office of the FRG. The Culture Foundation of the German-Turkish Association of Businesses provided further support. We would like to express our gratitude to all the donors!

Felix Pirson
Pergamon – city and landscape

In 1923, the first volume was published in the series *Altertümer von Pergamon* (Ancient Monuments of Pergamon) bearing the programmatic title “Stadt und Landschaft” – i.e. city and landscape. The first generation of German archaeologists working in Pergamon held the conviction that it would be impossible to understand the historical evolution of the city without a detailed knowledge of the surrounding area. This premise remains valid today and underpins the investigation at Pergamon underway since 2006. The excavation includes a number of research projects in the surroundings of the metropolis and is a response to the wide-scale destruction of archaeological monuments through illegal digging, the extraction of precious metals, and construction work.

Undoubtedly the most spectacular result of the new excavation is the discovery of massive harbour facilities at Elaia, which served as the anchorage of the city of Pergamon. In 2008, geomagnetic measurements in the shallow waters off the coast provided further confirmation of very extensive structural remains in the harbour zone. The same methodology has been used successfully on land to identify the street plan of the expanded polis, whose lay-out reveals Pergamene influence.

The nearby town of Atarneus (ill. bottom left) appears to have experienced a contrary development. The investigations there, directed by Martin Zimmermann (University of Munich), have revealed how a polis that once was probably mightier than Pergamon lost its significance due to the ascendancy of the royal residence.

Investigations begun this year on Yeni Yeldeğirmentepe (Barbara Horejs, Austrian Archaeological Institute) lead us back into much earlier epochs. The first surface surveys (ill. bottom right) were enough to persuade us of the great potential of the site, which reached its apogee in the early Bronze Age (3rd mill. BC).

Felix Pirson
Andriake in the Byzantine Age

Andriake is the harbour of Myra in Lycia. In the Byzantine age, when the tomb of Saint Nicholas was venerated in Myra, many pilgrims landed at Andriake. The harbour lay on the route to the Holy Land and played a significant role in the transhipment of grain, too. In addition, purple dye was produced there in the 6th/7th cent., as is attested by 300 m³ of murex (purple-fish) shells found at the site. All of this evidently ushered in a period of great prosperity, since the relatively small settlement was able to build five churches with fine architectural sculpture, two baths with brick vaults, new multi-storey buildings, as well as fortifications.

Since 2006 work has been underway on a plan of the settlement under the direction of Thomas Marksteiner of the Austrian Archaeological Institute in Vienna. In 2008 the investigation of individual buildings of particular interest began. An unusually large and well preserved house resembles the residence at Kirse Yanı in Caria (DAI istanbul 6/2008, 18) and was presumably built at about the same time in the 6th century. The smaller of the two baths is distinguished by brick arches and a more precise manner of building, which may indicate an earlier date of construction or simply different builders.

The fortifications consist for the most part of reused building blocks and may have been built in the 7th/8th century against Arab attacks. Though planned from the beginning, the towers were built separately after construction of the curtain wall and blocks of smaller format were used. Had the towers been destroyed, the curtain would have remained standing behind them and could still have been defended.

Philipp Niewöhner
Byzantine small finds in archaeological context

Byzantine small finds, i.e. non-prestigious everyday objects such as ordinary jewellery, instruments, weapons, implements and tools made of iron, bronze or bone, toys, and glass vessels, are encountered not infrequently in excavations with Byzantine features. Nevertheless they have been insufficiently published and as a result our knowledge concerning interpretation, typology and chronology still has many gaps which can only be filled by a consideration of the find context and stratigraphy of the archaeological site at which the artefacts were found.

In association with the Koç Research Center for Anatolian Studies and the Istanbul Archaeological Museum, the Istanbul Department of the DAI organised for the first time a workshop on Byzantine small finds from archaeological contexts. The conference was held from 2 to 4 June 2008 and was funded by the Gerda Henkel Foundation. At this event 46 papers were delivered and numerous registered auditors from eleven countries attended.

As regards their topics, the papers could be broadly divided into four categories: theoretical and analytical studies on small finds, relations between Byzantium and the West, the presentation of small finds from excavations (stratification, typology and dating), and the study of particular material or artefact groups like jewellery, textiles, stamps, seals, bone or wood implements and glass.

Since the discussion of Byzantine archaeological small finds has been conducted only in an isolated manner heretofore, many of the papers delivered at the conference provoked a lively debate. The planned publication of the contributions in a volume of the Byzas series issued by the German Archaeological Institute, Istanbul, will consequently be important in forming a basis for further research in this field.

Beate Böhlendorf-Arslan
Istanbul’s wooden houses – examples of its historical residential architecture

Until well into the 20th century, Istanbul was predominantly a city of wooden buildings. Their subsequent disappearance from the cityscape has been dramatic. Over more than forty years the German Archaeological Institute, Istanbul, has devoted a number of studies to these timber structures, and now its research is being presented at an exhibition jointly conceived by the İstanbul Araştırmaları Enstitüsü as part of the German-Turkish Culture Weeks in 2008. The specimens on show give an illustration of the entire history of surviving wooden houses, ranging from the Amcazade Yalısı from the late 17th century to an early 20th century house on the island of Büyükada. As far as typology is concerned, the complete spectrum is represented from the magnificent mansion on the shore of the Bosphorus to the middle class dwellings of Zeyrek. And the wide distribution of the structures demonstrates finally that, in the former topography of the city, wooden housing was by no means restricted to certain well-known zones.

Nonetheless, the old town peninsula with the historical district of Zeyrek does figure prominently in the exhibition. Important and extensive documentation work was carried out there in the late 1970s, thanks to which an area of wooden housing, then still more or less intact, could be recorded for posterity. The exhibition also focuses on the characteristic technique of construction used in Ottoman wooden houses. This section is furnished with a rich selection of historical wood-working tools from the 19th and early 20th centuries. An exact construction model of the Amcazade Yalısı is also on display. The exhibition, furthermore, is illustrated almost exclusively with historical photographs from the image archive of the DAI Istanbul. A trilingual catalogue (German-Turkish-English) with a variety of articles accompanies the exhibition, which is open from 30 October 2008 to 15 March 2009 on the premises of the İstanbul Araştırmaları Enstitüsü.

Martin Bachmann
Networks for scientific exchange

For some years now German universities and research institutes have been endeavouring to sharpen their scientific profile. As part of these efforts the German Archaeological Institute has decided “to work towards greater thematic cross-linking between the various research projects which it conducts around the world and to investigate certain phenomena in a comparative manner”. As a step towards refocusing the research activities around certain general themes, a set of four “research clusters” in which the possibilities and limitations of such an approach are being practically explored has been designed.

The scientific staff of the Istanbul Department are contributing to the research clusters project. Moreover, in order to interlink the Institute’s research activities in Turkey more closely, a scientific network was established in June 2006 with the title “Manifestations of Power and Hierarchies in the Urban and Rural Environment” (a sub-project of the DAI research cluster “Political Spaces”). The aim of this network is to investigate the symbolical endowment and the social, economic and political use of those spatial structures within settlements or territories which became the bearers of power and hierarchy. In addition to the staff of the DAI, scientists from German universities have also been involved in the network, in particular giving opportunities to young scientists.

To this end, four seminars were organised on the topic of the network in 2007 and 2008. The seminars were: “The structuring of space by demarcation”; “Interaction with the natural environment”; “Built spaces as sites of social interaction”; and “The hierarchisation of landscape and territories”. In addition to this, two workshops were held on the subjects of, firstly, “Ongoing research into the construction, function and semantics of ancient town fortifications”; and secondly, “Byzantium - Constantinople - Istanbul: urban spaces from antiquity to the present day”.

This schedule of events has been retained in the planning of a new scientific network for the Istanbul Department in the years 2009-2010. This time the overarching topic will be the “Change of historical eras and transformation processes in Anatolia”. In this network, changes observable in archaeological contexts or construction-history features should be discussed from the methodological and phenomenological point of view.

Jürgen Seeher