Cover: Byzantine stonemasonry from the vicinity of Germia (Galatia), cf. page 18

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Events and developments

For the Istanbul Department, the year 2009 was characterized in particular by intensive scientific exchange, taking place within networks, workshops and international conferences (see p. 7). For exchange within the Department itself and with colleagues from universities, a new scientific network is of particular significance: „Epoch Change and Historical Transformation Processes in Anatolia“, in whose framework two seminars and one workshop on the subject of the „Dark Ages“ in Anatolia were held. Contacts between German and Turkish archaeologists, furthermore, are now facilitated by the “Serviceportal Istanbul”, added this year to the Department’s homepage; the portal presents a collection of links and information on various subjects relating to archaeology in Turkey. We are delighted that the Department’s good international relations led to the conclusion, in 2009, of cooperation agreements with the Ephesus Excavation of the Austrian Archaeological Institute and with the Japanese Institute of Anatolian Archaeology.

The Department’s numerous research projects have been continued this year with much success. They have been joined by a new project on Byzantine Germia (see p. 18). Furthermore, another milestone in the field of conservation and heritage management, so important to the Department, has been completed with the ceremonial opening of the south rotunda of the Red Hall in Pergamon in the presence of the Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey, Ertuğrul Günay, and the German Ambassador, Dr. Eckart Cuntz (below and p. 14).

On page 4 of the brochure you will find information about changes in personnel in the Department. We thank Ute Kelp for her fine work in the editorial office, and we wish the new colleagues Dominique Krüger, Anja Slawisch, Alexandra Wirsching and Eric Laufer a successful and rewarding stint in Istanbul.

Our wide range of activities would not have been possible without the support of many sponsors, whom we were able to convince of the quality and importance of our work even amid the economic difficulties of 2009. We offer them special thanks once again this year!

Felix Pirson
Stairs in the Western Quarter at Priene
Research work of the DAI and the personnel of the Department in 2009

In this issue, the Institute’s researchers report about their projects on the following pages: Boğazköy/Hattuša (Province Çorum) p. 10-11, Oinoanda (Province Fethiye) p. 13, Pergamon and surroundings (Province İzmir) p. 14-16, Germia (Province Eskişehir) p. 18 and Istanbul (p. 19-20). Other DAI projects or projects with DAI involvement took place at the following places.

Boğazköy/Hattuša (Province Çorum): In this issue, the Institute’s researchers report about their projects on the following pages: Boğazköy/Hattuša (Province Çorum) p. 10-11, Oinoanda (Province Fethiye) p. 13, Pergamon and surroundings (Province İzmir) p. 14-16, Germia (Province Eskişehir) p. 18 and Istanbul (p. 19-20). Other DAI projects or projects with DAI involvement took place at the following places.

Göbekli Tepe (Province Şanlıurfa): In 2009, the shaft of the western central pillar of Enclosure C, which was found broken in two, was re-erected; it is preserved to the height of 4 m. In Enclosure D, as the previous year in Enclosure C, excavators reached the carefully smoothed bedrock which constitutes the floor of the enclosure. In contrast to Enclosure C, the central pillars in Enclosure D survive in situ undamaged with a height of 5 m. Both of the pillars bear depictions in shallow relief of arms and hands. Underneath the hands a belt is carved on both pillars; on the eastern pillar the belt is decorated with abstract symbols. On both pillars, a loincloth in the form of an animal skin hangs down from the belt. During the campaign, investigation of the north-west peak began. On it, as expected, structures of Stratum II in the form of small rectangular rooms and small pillars were encountered (directed by Klaus Schmidt, Orient Department of the DAI).

Priene (Province Aydın): In the 2009 campaign, excavation continued at the temple of the Egyptian gods, in the “eastern rock sanctuary”, in the chapel at the agora as well as in the north-west residential district. In addition, structural documentation was carried out on the western houses, in the temple of the Egyptian gods, at the city wall and various building complexes from post-antiquity. A very surprising result was the discovery that the plateau on the summit of the Teloneia overlooking the city was densely occupied in late antiquity and the Byzantine era and possessed at least two churches. Therefore, at the present state of knowledge, late Priene had an acropolis, and the city consisted of two geographically separate settlements (directed by Wulf Raeck, Institute of Archaeology, Goethe University, Frankfurt a. M.).

Miletus (Province Aydın): Excavation work continued in the archaic bothros discovered in the sanctuary of Aphrodite during the 2008 campaign; the objects found have been restored and documented ahead of publication. Ph. Niewöhner successfully continued investigations in a new bath complex to the south of the İlyas Bey Camii. The work of the Berlin Project on the Faustina Thermae was continued by M. Maischberger and P. Schneider, as was A. Herda’s exploratory work in the Delphinion (directed by Volkmar von Graeve).

Didyma (Province Aydın): Excavations of the final stretch of the Sacred Way north of the later Didymaion (Temple of Apollo) continued. Here, an early archaic statue of an enthroned figure in a weathered and fragmented state was unearthed. On Taxiarchis Hill it again proved possible to recover a large number of small finds from the “Persian debris”. Topographical re-surveying continued in order to create a digitalized and phase-orientated plan of the temple. The restoration and consolidation work at the later Didymaion also continued. Test excavations on the island of Tavşan Adası off the Mavişehir peninsula were extended and provided evidence of temporary Minoan occupation of the site (MM III-LM I). Numerous finds from the most recent excavations confirm a local Anatolian phase of occupancy during the early Bronze Age (directed by Andreas Furtwängler, Institute of Archaeology, Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg).
Selinus (Province Antalya): To supplement the documentation work on Şekerhane Köşkü, believed to be the cenotaph of Emperor Trajan, who died at Selinus, geoarchaeological investigations were carried out in September 2009 in the floodplain surrounding the ancient site. Using pile-core sampling the geoarchaeology, geomorphology & landscape development team from Philipps University, Marburg, led by Helmut Brückner, succeeded in obtaining revealing stratigraphic data for the reconstruction of the former coastline and alterations of the landscape (directed by Adolf Hoffmann and Claudia Winterstein, division of Building Archaeology at the Head Office of the DAI).

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

Personnel:

PD Dr. Felix Pirson (director of the department)
Dr.-Ing. Martin Bachmann (deputy director)
Division heads: Dr. Philipp Niewöhner, Dr. Andreas Schachner, Dr. Jürgen Seeher, Dr. Anja Slawisch (from 1 March)
Scholarship holder: Dr. Ralf Becks (DAI-research scholarship)
Graduate assistants: Alexandra Wirsching (from 15 January), Eric Laufer (from 15 August)
Editor: Ute Kelp (until 21 November), Dominique Krüger (from 1 December)

Library: Gudrun Walter, 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: Hülya Çatak
Administration: Heiko Tessin, Hülya Çotelioğlu
Technical staff: Ahmet Attila, Ali Topkaya, Hamza Fırat, Sinan Nesil, Coşkun Parmak, Metin Öztürk
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General support of the department:

Support of the Boğazköy/Ḫattuša project:

Support of the Pergamon project:
Publications of the Department in 2009

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 58, 2008

Harald Hauptmann – In Memoriam Ufuk Esin
Kai Michael Sommerey, Die Chora von Pergamon. Studien zu Grenzen, Siedlungsstruktur und Wirtschaft
Ramazan Özgan, Eine spätrepublikanische Porträtbüste aus Magnesia a. M.
Eric Laifer, Ein Wasserspiel in Labyrinthform im Museum von Manisa – römisch oder islamisch?
Robert Fleischer, Unbekannte Felsheiligtümer in Termessos
Ulf Weber, Eine neue Orakelinschrift aus Didyma zum Kult der Horen in der späten Kaiserzeit
Elif Keser Kayaalp, A Newly Discovered Rock-Cut Complex: Monastery of Phesiltha?
Philipp Niewöhner, Mittelbyzantinische Templonanlagen aus Anatolien. Die Sammlung des Archäologischen Museums Kütahya und ihr Kontext (mit epigraphischen Beiträgen von Michael Grünbart)
Rainer Warland, Die byzantinische Höhlensiedlung von Gökçe/Momoasson in Kappadokien. Gehöfte, Grabkapellen mit Wandmalerei und ein vermögender Salbölhändler
Beate Böhler-Arslan, Keramikproduktion im byzantinischen und türkischen Milet Kurzmitteilungen
Andreas Schachner – Haluk Sağlamtimur, Xenophons Überquerung des Kentrites – ein archäologischer Nachtrag
Wolfgang Messerschmidt, Basis einer Ehrenstatue für Philokles, König der Sidonier, aus Kaunos


In press:

ISTANBULER MITTEILUNGEN 59, 2009

ISTANBULER FORSCHUNGEN 52: Ina Eichner, Frühbyzantinische Wohnhäuser in Kilikien. Baugeschichtliche Untersuchung zu den Wohnformen in der Region um Seleukeia am Kalykadnos
BYZAS 10: Janet Lorentzen – Felix Pirson – Peter I. Schneider – Ulrike Wulf-Rheidt (Hrsg.), Aktuelle Forschungen zur Konstruktion, Funktion und Semantik antiker Stadtbefestigungen
Conferences at the DAI Istanbul

In April 2009, as part of the DAI’s research cluster no. 1 – “From sedentariness to the complex society: settlement, economy, environment” – a working meeting was held at the Istanbul Department. Archaeologists working on projects exploring neolithization in north-western Anatolia, in the Aegean and south-eastern Europe thus had an opportunity to engage in direct exchange about ongoing excavations. The questions discussed included the results of natural scientific investigations, particularly climate research and palaeogenetics. Once more it became plain that the process known as the Neolithic Revolution, the spread of agriculture and animal husbandry from the Near East to Europe in the 7th-6th millennium BC, can only be unravelled through the collective efforts of a range of disciplines. The papers given at the meeting will be published in the near future in a volume of Byzas. Organization: Dan Ciobotaru (Muzeul Banatului Timișoara), Barbara Horejs (Austrian Archaeological Institute), Raiko Krauss (Eberhard Karls University, Tübingen).

In June, an international conference on the burial form of the tumulus was jointly organized by the Department, the Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations at Koç University and the Excellence Cluster TOPOI. Tumuli are the most widespread and numerous class of ancient monument; they occur from western Europe to eastern Anatolia, and deep into the Eurasian continent. In many cases these elaborate structures dominate landscapes, appearing like symbols of a glorious past. The conference brought together researchers active in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions with the aim of generating discussion of their latest research on the tumuli of the 1st millennium BC and the communities who built them. The results will be published as part of the TOPOI project. Organization: Olivier Henry (RCAC Koç University), Ute Kelp (DAI Istanbul).
Çamlıbel Tarlası – early metal-working in Central Anatolia

In summer 2009, investigations focused primarily on the older layers of the late Chalcolithic village of Çamlıbel Tarlası near Boğazköy (middle of the 4th mill. BC). The findings indicate that metal-working played a more important role in the choice of the location than was originally supposed. Before the construction of permanent structures the site was repeatedly visited – perhaps on a seasonal basis – by the community that subsequently settled there, and copper ore was reduced in a number of small bowl furnaces. The bowl furnaces display a complex internal structure with several superimposed insulation layers. An outcrop of copper ore has been discovered only 2.5 km away from Çamlıbel Tarlası, which could explain why the location was attractive.

Craftsmen from the community engaged in other pyrotechnic activities, too. A small kiln was used in the elaborate process of producing slake lime. This special material was laid on the floor of a building inside which, it appears, ritual acts involving cattle bones took place. The broken-off head of a bovine statuette of clay underlines the symbolic significance of the animal in this period.

A number of new graves provide evidence not only of the high rate of infant mortality at the time but also of funeral rites that were differentiated according to the age of those interred. For the first time graves have been found that belong to adults, some of whom were of considerable stature. Several sea shell finds as well as a jade bead show that Çamlıbel Tarlası participated in long-distance exchange systems reaching as far as the coasts and perhaps even further.

Ulf-Dietrich Schoop
Patara – Investigations of the earliest settlement on Tepecik

In cooperation with Prof. Dr. F. Işık, Prof. Dr. H. İşkan-Işık and Prof. Dr. G. Işın from the Akdeniz University of Antalya, excavations have been in progress on Tepecik Hill at Patara annually since 2004. The objective of the investigations is to determine the beginning of the settlement history of this significant seaport, meeting place of the Lycian League and capital of the Roman Province of Lycia.

The project was initiated as a result of the discovery of prehistoric artefacts, including stone hatchets and ceramic shards, at various points on Tepecik Hill in the course of previous digs. The ancient Lycian name of the site, Pttara, is known to us from Hittite sources from the 13th c. BC. Archaeologically, the earliest settlement of Tepecik Hill can at present be attested only as far back as the 8th c. BC. Stratigraphic excavations have revealed a continuous settlement sequence from the late Geometric / early Archaic period to the late Roman period.

Initially, Tepecik Hill was the site of the fortified residence of the ruler of Patara. As the city expanded at the end of the 4th c. BC, the ruler’s palace was moved to the higher Doğucasan. Given the hill’s favourable location at the inner harbour, tradesmen and craftsmen became established there. A section of such a merchants’ quarter dating from the late Roman period has been exposed on the southern slope of the hill; it was destroyed in a major conflagration. In the Byzantine era, Tepecik Hill lay outside the fortified city and was no longer inhabited, serving only as a cemetery.

Ralf Becks
New horizons – excavations in the Lower City of Boğazköy-Hattuša

Following the remarkable progress made at Boğazköy over the last decade in reconstructing the chronological development of the Upper City, which has shed new light on the development of the city as a whole, the newly acquired knowledge will now be applied to the Lower City, too. More than three decades after research work in the Lower City ceased, it will be necessary for the stratigraphic development to be checked again and supported by modern natural-science dating methods.

In the excavations between the monumental structures of the Great Temple and the Postern Wall, a settlement sequence has been established which displays at least two Hittite construction layers and one from the older Karum period. The latter layer has yielded outstanding small finds in addition to one cuneiform tablet. Evidence of a settlement of the Karum-period in the southern part of the Lower City proves that the city at this time covered a considerably larger area than was previously assumed. The rich finds provide a new basis for the evaluation of cultural developments during the barely understood transition from the Karum period to the Hittite epoch.

Excavation work at the Postern Wall (photo above), which protected the old town to the south from at least the late 17th century onwards, has fully exposed a gateway (photo opposite page). This discovery is a substantial contribution to our understanding of the infrastructure connecting the Lower and the Upper City.

Andreas Schachner
Didyma – Metal finds from the campaigns of 2004–2009

Archaeological investigations at Didyma in and around the Sanctuary of Apollo have continued now for seven campaigns under the direction of Prof. Dr. Andreas E. Furtwängler (Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg). The objective throughout has been to develop a comprehensive understanding of the entire sanctuary complex and its finds during the Archaic period. To this end, a number of trial excavations have been carried out and important measures like the reconstruction of the ancient street plan in the immediate vicinity of the Temple of Apollo have been undertaken. In the forthcoming publication of the project’s results, the stratigraphy and specific categories of finds, such as metal finds, will be presented together according to context.

Although the find spectrum is by and large what is to be expected from Greek temples for the period from the 8th to the 6th centuries BC, it still displays certain peculiarities. Weaponry, particularly arrow points and spear heads, figure especially prominently among the finds, as do more or less ornate objects of sheet metal, some of which may have been round shields. A second very numerous category of finds comprises fragments of vessels such as bowls or tripods. Jewellery and dress items on the other hand occur relatively seldom by comparison, and the same is true of figurines. In the publication, particular attention will be paid to the relationship between the metal finds and the ceramic sequence in order that more precise inferences can be made with regard to the relative chronology of the material. In addition, interesting aspects of the distribution of certain categories of finds within the sanctuary are becoming apparent. In order to arrive at a clearer understanding of this, the finds from old excavations will be reviewed and published, if this has not happened before (photos: D. Morche).

Anja Slawisch
Non-Platonic inscription finds from ancient Oinoanda

In 2009, the Department’s survey work at Oinoanda once again resulted in a spectacular inscription find. The find is yet another fragment of the great philosophical inscription of Diogenes of Oinoanda, which is a central focus of the investigations at the Lycian city and which yielded, in 2008, a remarkable epigraphic new find in the form of a critique of Plato.

The 27 new fragments of the inscription of Diogenes (top right) found in 2009 represent a substantial contribution in the attempt to discover more about the unique monumental inscription, its background as well as its urban and architectural context. Considerable advances in this direction have been made in the latest campaign with the completion of the process of exact documentation of building structures on the so-called Esplanade, the Hellenistic market square of Oinoanda and the presumed display site of the great inscription (right, second from top). As a result the detailed architectural record now covers an urban area of some 25,000 m² and will thus serve as the basis for any study of the transformation and development of this key central area of the city. The same objective was pursued by the geophysical investigations conducted over the whole area of the Esplanade. Measurements using terrestrial laser scanner were extended to important peripheral areas where buildings are known to have stood, in order to clarify the structural context of the Esplanade.

The plotting of fragments of the philosophical inscription by means of GPS was finished and their three-dimensional documentation by laser line scanner continued; the excellent quality of these “digital squeeze-copies” was already demonstrated in 2008.

Field-walking also resulted in significant inscription finds of a non-philosophical nature, among them a dedication to Nemesis. Finally the aqueduct, a remarkable edifice probably dating from the Vespasian era, was investigated and documented; the course of the water supply system was tracked from the source to the city, some 3.5 km away, and plotted using GPS coordinates (bottom right).

Martin Bachmann
Completion of the restoration of the southern round tower of the Red Hall in Pergamon

A substantial part of the Red Hall restoration project, in progress since 2006, has been completed in the past year. The southern round tower of the complex has been opened to the public following extensive work conserving the edifice and converting it into a museum. The impressive rotunda is one of the best preserved specimens of Roman domed architecture, although before the restoration work began it stood in grave danger of further deterioration.

In the preceding years, a new floor construction was built in the round interior, the west facade and the coping were consolidated, and the dome was re-roofed with protective lead sheeting. This followed the construction of a new storage depot designed to store sculpture fragments and architectural members from the Red Hall which had previously been kept in unsatisfactory conditions in the rotunda. A number of important finds are now on display inside the tower with accompanying information boards (bottom). The sculpture fragments are attached to large steel panels suggestive of the marble panelling which originally divided up interior wall space (opposite page).

The restoration of the rotunda is a major contribution to the preservation of one of the largest and most important Roman architectural complexes in the eastern Mediterranean area. The work was generously supported by the Studiosus Foundation e. V. and the cultural assistance programme of the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany and was carried out in the framework of the Ernst Reuter Initiative (ERI).

The completed section of the Red Hall was officially opened on 27 September 2009 at a ceremony in Pergamon which was attended by the Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey, Ertuğrul Günay, and the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Turkey, Dr. Eckart Cuntz (cf. page 1).

Martin Bachmann
After the surprise finds of last year, rock sanctuaries have become a new focus of research among the many projects of the Pergamon Excavation. During surface surveys on the hitherto virtually unexplored east slope of the acropolis hill, we observed at various places that the rock had been worked to form niches, steps and one statue base – indications of cultic activities. Thanks to the generous support of the Fritz Thyssen Foundation, excavations were carried out at these spots in 2009. This led to the discovery of a fairly large rock sanctuary which was probably consecrated to the Anatolian mother deity Cybele (photo top left). Evidence of a water basin is characteristic of the cult of this goddess, and some clay fragments of small statuettes of the goddess been found, too. Elsewhere on the slope, at what is possibly a ritual site, an unusual Hellenistic clay lamp with nine nozzles came to light; it has been identified as a votive offering on account of the inscription theo, “to the god” (photo left, second from top).

While the discovery of simple rock sanctuaries within the walled precinct of the city comes as a surprise, such features are well known in the area surrounding Pergamon, above all from excavations at Kapıkaya in the 1970s. Another sanctuary of Kybele-Meter was found during the survey of the Chora of Pergamon (University of Munich; sponsored by the DFG) on a hill very prominently situated in the valley of Kaikos. In addition to a rock niche (photo left, second from bottom) it is above all the numerous clay statuettes of the goddess (photo bottom left) which prove that she was worshipped at the site.

The latest discoveries offer an important insight into the cultic topography of Pergamon and the surrounding area. What is particularly fascinating is the wide spectrum of cults and cult sites in the Hellenistic city, ranging from the magnificent Altar of Zeus and the great temples to primitive features cut into the rock.

Felix Pirson
Aizanoi – New finds and features from the Byzantine settlement

In the 11th/12th c. Aizanoi lay on the unstable border between the regions under Byzantine and Seljuq control. A fortress with towers, not mentioned in written sources, once stood here, enclosing a settlement and built around the Roman Temple of Zeus and a Byzantine church that succeeded it. The picture top right shows Byzantine-era structures north of the Byzantine fortification wall with a deposit pit (on the right) above ancient architectural remains. On historical grounds the fortress is dated to the late phase of Byzantine power in Phrygia, hence the 11th c. One of the previously unidentified towers of the fortress was detected in 2007. In 2008, it was established that some buildings of the settlement had been erected together with the fortification wall.

The excavations in 2009 have revealed further features. In the interior of the fortress a pit belonging to the Byzantine settlement was found to contain a deposition of household effects (bottom). The deposit consists of two iron vessels, a knife, a sickle, iron implements and a bronze flagon decorated with iron fittings. On the basis of coins the deposit has been dated to the 11th c. Furthermore, at other locations in the fortress, iron implements have been found which also originally belonged to deposit finds but are to be dated in some cases to an earlier time of the Byzantine period. Together with the surrounding earth, which also contained the remains of burials, they were moved during construction work to a new location and later built upon. Graves from the period before the 11th c. are known from the area of the Temple of Zeus which was later used as a church. How the finds affect the individually contested datings of the graves and how the apparently extensive, multiple construction phases of the Byzantine fortress are to be dated in the context of the decline of the Byzantine Empire are questions to be addressed in further research.

Ralf von den Hoff
The pilgrimage site of St. Michael at Germia (Galatia)

Germia lies at the eastern foot of the Dindymon mountain (Sivrihisar Dağları) in a fertile fringe on the otherwise barren high plateau between Dorylaion/Eskişehir and Ankyra/Ankara. At Germia the Archangel Michael was venerated and the site became one of the most important places of pilgrimage in Anatolia. It was endowed with a five-aisled domed church and several monasteries and hospices. The specific architecture associated with the cult has left behind substantial ruins in a region that is otherwise lacking in finds. In 2009, work started on mapping (K.-C. Bruhn, F. Ziegler, Mainz), architectural documentation (K. Rheidt, S. Giese, Cottbus), geomagnetic prospection (H. Stümpel, E. Erkul, Kiel) and site management (A. Vardar, Hamburg). A survey of the surrounding area revealed evidence of further settlements which, as their architectural remains (see front page) attest, will have possessed monumental Byzantine buildings, too. They may be identified with the neighbouring communities of Germia which are known from written sources. In the next few years it should thus be possible to obtain a picture of the historical topography of a hitherto almost unknown region.

Philipp Niewöhner
Zeyrek — Historical stratigraphy of an Istanbul district

Istanbul’s historical quarter of Zeyrek – surrounding the Byzantine Pantokrator Church – was very thoroughly documented by the DAI in the 1970s. At that time a substantial portion of the district’s residential housing consisted of wooden houses typical of old Istanbul. Today a significant number of these wooden buildings have disappeared, although the structure of the old quarter largely still survives.

The comprehensive and detailed documentation from the 1970s presents us with the unique opportunity to reconstruct very precisely the former appearance of the district and its historical layering. A considerable quantity of data – plans, building documentations, sketches, photographs and descriptions – needs to be converted into digital form and then collated in a geo-referenced information system which, it is hoped, will greatly assist evaluation and analysis in urban topography investigations of this kind. The information system will be made available to interested parties in the form of a web-based GIS.

Some important steps have been taken in this direction in the past year with the digitalization of all the site plans from the district from the 1970s and of earlier documentation such as the well-known Pervititch cadastre of Zeyrek from the 1930s. On a trial basis, these different historical layers have been superimposed in a prototype version of the web-based GIS (see screenshot below). In addition, 344 building documentation drawings from the seventies have been digitalized and collated. And finally, important historical photographs taken by
photographer Perihan Balçı (top: street scene in Zeyrek in the 1960ies) and by Heike Offen (bottom: situation in Zeyrek in 1977), who was involved in sociological investigations in Zeyrek, have been acquired for the Institute and digitalized. This historical stratigraphy of Zeyrek will be extended back to the layer of the Pantokrator monastery and thus include the archaeological research into the topography of the Byzantine city.

Martin Bachmann