



---

Cyzicus

Author(s): Robert de Rustafjaell

Source: *The Journal of Hellenic Studies*, Vol. 22 (1902), pp. 174-189

Published by: [The Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/623925>

Accessed: 29/04/2014 00:53

---

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



*The Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies* is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Journal of Hellenic Studies*.

<http://www.jstor.org>

## CYZICUS.

[PLATE XI.]

WHILST travelling in Asia Minor in 1900 I paid a cursory visit to the peninsula of Cyzicus on the Propontis, in ancient Mysia, and had the opportunity of examining the site of the ancient city, and the canal that has been the subject of considerable controversy in bygone ages, and about which the facts are still only partly ascertained. As the site appeared to promise results of peculiar interest, I applied for a concession to excavate it. I had the good fortune to obtain an Imperial Iradé in February, and began tentative operations in May.

From the Admiralty Chart it will be seen that Cyzicus lies on the 30° long. east of Greenwich, and 40°22' N. lat. and within easy reach of Constantinople. To Panderma there is practically a daily service of steamers, which leave Constantinople at sunset and arrive at about four o'clock the next morning. At Panderma a sailing-skiff takes one in about an hour across the bay to Yeni-Keui, the landing stage immediately outside the walls of the city.

The country has suffered from recurrent earthquakes, and with the blocking up and final destruction of the canal, which took place probably in the eleventh century, the city of Cyzicus seems to have lost all significance as a commercial centre; by degrees it became merely a rich quarry from which to draw material, first for the construction of Byzantine Churches, and after the Turkish conquest, for Mussulman mosques and the extensive arsenal at Constantinople. Panderma, Artace, and other neighbouring towns helped themselves also to the ready hewn marble and granite columns and blocks scattered about the surface, and to the stone of the formidable city walls, which, loosened by earthquakes, offered the finest building material imaginable ready for shipment.

Blocks of marble and columns which were not broken up by the earthquakes, but were too cumbersome to move, were reduced on the spot to the requisite sizes, thus increasing the already large quantity of accumulated *débris*. Owing to the absence of roads and the broken nature of the ground, the whole place became overgrown with a thick brushwood during the centuries of profound ignorance, fanaticism, and barbarism that followed. All sculptures and archaeological treasures not immediately on the surface thus became buried under layers of soil and *débris*, and the deposits of silt from the mountain streams, so that they lie to-day some six feet underground.

The greater part of the material for the history of ancient Cyzicus has been collected by Marquardt in the excellent little work *Cyzicus und sein Gebiet*, which, though published so long ago as 1836, still remains the text

book on the subject. From time to time the site has been visited by travellers or archaeologists who have published notes, such as Pococke, Sestini, Leake, Hamilton, and Texier, but these are for the most part very slight; the most considerable attempt to study Cyzicus on the spot being that of Perrot and Guillaume (*Exploration de la Galatie*, &c. pp. 69–90).<sup>1</sup> Beside these sources of information, there are the Greek inscriptions, of which, from the days of Cyriac of Ancona downwards, an increasing supply has been forthcoming, to be scattered through the pages of some twenty or more publications and periodicals.

In this paper I shall merely record my personal impressions of the present conditions obtaining at Cyzicus and in the neighbouring country, formed on the spot and assisted by a few small tentative excavations and various recent excursions into the district round. My notes also include a series of inscriptions which were either discovered by, or pointed out to me by the villagers, and of which I was enabled to bring home squeezes: the inscriptions form the subject of separate papers following this. I am indebted to Mr. Titus Carabella of Constantinople for much information which he kindly placed at my disposal.

The rough plan shown on Plate XI. was sketched on the spot with the aid of a compass and an aneroid: it will be found to differ in some details from the plan published by Perrot and Guillaume (*op. cit.*, Pl. III.), which I had not with me at the time, but which is stated (*ibid.* p. 72) to have been drawn up in two days.<sup>2</sup>

As will be seen, both from the Admiralty Chart and from the panoramic view, Fig. 1, Cyzicus is now a peninsula, united to the main-land by a narrow neck of swampy land about one mile wide and three quarters of a mile long. The peninsula is very mountainous, and rises boldly out of the sea to the height of 2,620 feet at its highest point, sloping gradually from the main ridge, which stretches from east to west towards the coast-line. It is sparsely populated, and with the exception of one or two comparatively modern villages in the interior, the country is void of human life. The higher levels are barren of vegetation, whereas the southern coast-line is very fertile and well watered. Along this a few old Greek settlements are still to be found, such as Heraclea, Rhoda, and Gonia, on the west coast; the town of Artace, now Artaki or Erdek, on the south, and Peramus on the east. At the last-named place many ancient customs are still in vogue, and wrestling and other Olympic games take place annually, about Easter. The other villages are recent settlements. Mihania is said to be a nick-name derived from the Greek *Mi-Hania*—‘Not Candians.’ According to local legend, the first settlers emigrated from Candia two centuries ago, but fearing further persecution denied the fact, saying ‘we are not Candians,’ and from this arose the name which is applied to the village to-day.

Ermeni-Keui, the name of another modern settlement, means ‘Arme-

<sup>1</sup> Their stay at the site was limited to parts of three days (Perrot, *Voyage en As. Min.* pp. 92 foll.)

<sup>2</sup> In the plan, for Demir Kapen read Demir Kapou.

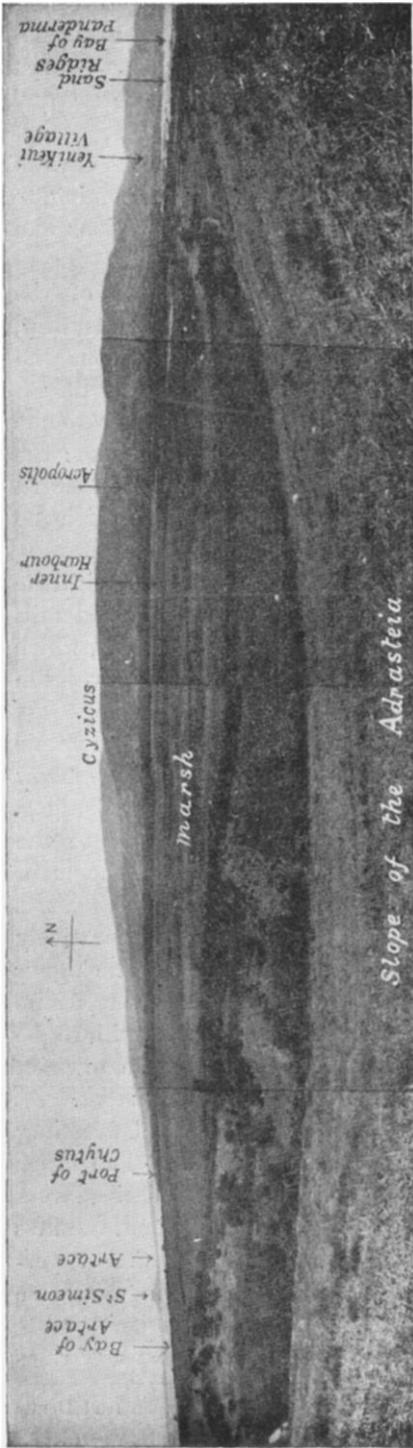


FIG. 1.—PANORAMIC VIEW OF CYZICUS FROM THE MAINLAND.

nian village.' The first settlers came from Persia about 150 years ago, having been driven out from their own country. They seem now to be fairly prosperous.

Yapidji-Keui lies inland, about an hour's travel from the coast, at an altitude of 950 feet above sea-level. It was founded by seven families of Slavs, masons and builders by trade, who came over from Macedonia some time during the eighteenth century. There are now 200 families in the village, which is comparatively well built. The Government, they say, has repeatedly offered them lands elsewhere, but they prefer to live in the hills, which have so far afforded them a safe shelter.

Yeni-Keui, the village on the coast near the eastern wall of Cyzicus, is an offshoot of Yapidji-Keui, and consists of less than fifty families. They are poor, and ignorant in proportion, and have no land beyond that on which the village is built. They depend mainly on the granite quarries for a livelihood. During the German Emperor's visit to Constantinople, when a few streets were paved, there was a temporary boom in the quarries, which are plentiful on the peninsula, though most of them are now closed. Another source of income to the villagers is also gradually disappearing through the wanton destruction of the ruins at Cyzicus, the cartage of the building material from the site, and its shipment to Panderma and Constantinople.

Hamamli lies just above, and to the north of the site of Cyzicus, in a picturesque spot, 275 feet

above sea level. It is the oldest of the recent settlements, having received its Firman from Sultan Bayazid II, at the end of the fifteenth century. The inhabitants, who are purely Mussulman, were granted a considerable amount of land by the charter, and the country for miles around, both on the peninsula and the main-land, belongs to them. They are, however, indolent and ignorant, and notwithstanding their wealth in landed property, and other privileges, seem to lack comfort and prosperity as compared with the people of Yapidji-Keui and Ermeni-Keui. I was told of a curious custom affecting the water rights of the village of Yapidji-Keui. Although the small mountain stream has its source some little distance above the village, the inhabitants are not entitled to use the water more than one day a week for irrigation. For the other six days the water belongs to Hamamli in virtue of its prior rights.

Artace, the modern Erdek, is half Greek, the remainder being made up of Turks and Tcherkess (Circassian) emigrants from the Caucasus. The town was originally a Milesian colony, and is mentioned by Herodotus (iv. 3 and vi. 33) as having been destroyed during the Ionian revolt. It seems never to have recovered from this catastrophe, and by the second century A.D. was merely a suburb of Cyzicus. To-day the place preserves little appearance of its ancient importance; it is in a filthy and unwholesome state, refuse is thrown out in the streets, and the sewers are exposed. I was forced to leave the hotel on account of the bad smells from all quarters. The town has a Caimakam (Vice-Governor) and is the see of a Greek Metropolitan, who still retains his title, derived from the ancient metropolis of Cyzicus, considered to be one of the most important ones in the Orthodox Church.

Opposite the site of Cyzicus, on the main-land, stretches a ridge of mountains, the Adrasteia, rising 1,150 feet above sea level, and immediately to the west, in a saddle of the same ridge, lies Aidinjik, whence one gets a splendid view of the whole peninsula. It was from here that Sultan Bayazid the Second, in making his victorious descent from Broussa, when he reduced Karaman and the whole of Asia Minor to an Ottoman Province in 1486, obtained his first view of the Sea of Marmora and the ruined Cyzicus, and is said by the inhabitants of Hamamli to have wept at the sight of the once magnificent city, which at that time resembled a Cyclopean cemetery of granite and marble monuments.

The ancient Panormos, the modern Panderma, lies to the south east of Cyzicus on the main-land. Its population consists of Turks, Greeks, Armenians, and a few Jews. It also has a Caimakam.

The populations of all the non-Greek villages and towns speak both Turkish and Greek. The official language, however, is Turkish. All the local authorities profess in true Oriental fashion great affability, friendship, and willingness to help in the work of exploration, and are no doubt perfectly sincere in their own peculiar way. Labour is plentiful and cheap, and can be had from any of the surrounding villages at from one shilling to one shilling and fourpence per day.

The local Turkish name for the ruins of Cyzicus is Bal-Kis. As to the

origin of this name, various conjectures have been offered; some have connected it with the Arabic name for the Queen of Sheba, who, according to Texier, in other parts also of Asia Minor is similarly associated by local tradition with ancient remains. Another explanation (quoted by Leake) is that Bal in Turkish stands for 'honey' and Kiz for 'girl.' A certain king, so the story runs, had a beautiful daughter, as sweet as honey, who at her death was buried among the ruins of Cyzicus. Perhaps the most plausible explanation of the name is that of Leake (*Journal of a Tour in Asia Minor*, p. 271), who considers it to be a Turkish corruption of the two Greek words *παλαιὰ Κύζικος*: Leake quotes other examples of this process; probably the most familiar (which however Leake does not give) is the formation of the word Stamboul.

According to Strabo the island was 500 stadia in circumference, and the city was built on the southern slope of the spur of the Bear Hill (*ἄρκτων ὄρος*) which formed the Acropolis; at a date which is not quite certain, but which was comparatively late in its history, the town was enclosed within granite walls of solid masonry which can still be traced (as shown on the Plan) in nearly their entire circuit; these are more particularly clear on the southern side, which was contiguous to the ancient inner harbour, now an immense marsh overgrown with reeds.

Pliny says that by nature Cyzicus was a peninsula, but to secure themselves against enemies, the inhabitants cut a canal through the isthmus. This I have no doubt is true as regards the time of Alexander, but not of the very earliest period of the city's history, when Cyzicus must have been an island separated from the main-land by a shallow passage which silted up by the action of natural elements, a process which must have been already well advanced before the Macedonian conquest, and is still going on at the present day. The bottom of the marshy swamp between the two shores of the isthmus is still about three feet below sea level.

The climate is mild, the sea breeze moderating the temperature along the coast. The hottest summer days are never unbearable, neither is the winter cold. The site to-day is one big garden, rich in vegetation, which includes mulberry trees, olives, vines, Valonea oak, walnut, arbutus, laurustinus, myrtle, bay, ilex, honeysuckle, arum, ranunculus, cherry, plane, and hundreds of other species; the ruins and mounds of *débris* are overgrown with brush-wood, but, owing to the scarcity of fresh water, there are no habitable houses within the boundaries of the ancient walls; the nearest are a small cluster of sheds and huts for the culture of silkworms, recently built on a hillside in a south-westerly direction from the amphitheatre. Agriculture is profitable, but land is scarce. The patches of land that have been cleared among the ruins are used for vineyards, and for the cultivation of mulberry, olive, and other fruit trees. The soil, which is very fertile, is derived from the decomposition of the granite rocks surrounding the city. The disintegration of the granite produces alumina, and owing to the large proportion of felspar, the soil is enriched.

There is also a great variety of wild flowers, particularly the *Styrax*

*officinalis* and the modern Iris (*Cyzicena amaracus*), of which an unguent was made, called Oleum Irinum, famed for its perfume and power of healing (Pliny, *H.N.* xiii. 1). Round about Cyzicus, Artace, and for a considerable distance along the north-west coast, more than twenty-one different kinds of grapes were known, some of which are under cultivation at the present day, the wine being exported to Constantinople and elsewhere.

The fauna comprises a great variety of small birds, while storks are numerous and live on reptiles. There are many snakes on the peninsula, some measuring from six to eight feet having been seen by the local guardians of the vineyards (Bekdjis). Hedgehogs and tortoises are very common, and rabbits and weasels are found occasionally. The bear has been seen on the peninsula; wolves are known to exist, and jackals are numerous.

The peninsula is also rich in minerals; good marketable granite and marble of a great variety of colours, asbestos, antimony, etc., are plentiful, and are easy to work and ship, but there is absolutely no enterprise. It was from Cyzicus that the marble was shipped to Halicarnassus for the Mausoleum. According to Böckh it was probably also from here that the material for the stele of Phanodicus was obtained; Ptolemy of Egypt is supposed to have got the building materials for the Temple of Heraclea from the same place, while Constantine the Great built two arches at Constantinople of stone from Cyzicus (Marquardt, *Cyzicus*, p. 34).

While speaking of the natural wealth of the country, we may also mention that of the sea, which was famed in olden times, and is still today, for the quantity and variety of its fish, including porpoises, tunny-fish, sardines, etc., and turtles, lobsters, and oysters. On the last named Pliny (*H.N.* xxxii. 62) bestows an enthusiastic panegyric, which reads strangely like a modern advertisement, and ends with the statement that 'for sweetness and tenderness they cannot be surpassed by any oysters.'

Of the earliest period of Cyzicene history, very few remains are now traceable above ground. The Cyclopean walls of Artace, where the Argonauts landed on their way to Colchis, are still standing 20 feet wide and in a fair state of preservation on a small peninsula, the modern St. Simeon; and in the immediate vicinity, to the north of Artace, is an ancient well, which bears the local name of the 'Well of the Argonauts.' No other well of note or antiquity is known to exist in the neighbourhood. Another site associated in legend with the Argonauts is Mount Dindymene, on the summit of which, 2430 feet above sea level, they are said to have built a temple to the mother of the gods: ruins may still be traced here, but await investigation.

It is somewhat remarkable, as Perrot has pointed out (*Rev. Arch.* xxx. p. 106), that of all the many inscriptions which have as yet come from Cyzicus, only a very few can be assigned to a period before the Roman epoch, and none before the third century B.C. This is probably due to the fact that the city was in continuous occupation down to the year 1063, when it was destroyed by an earthquake. The destruction must have been sudden and complete, for the earthquake not only overwhelmed the city, its approaches,

and nearly all of its inhabitants, but it also cut off the supply of fresh water, thereby making the place impossible for habitation. Under the combined effects of natural elements, time, and the vandalism that followed, the accumulation of one layer upon another of silt and *débris*, and the growth of thick and luxurious brushwood, the city became hidden, and its site was almost lost and forgotten by the world at large. Such is its condition at the present day.

In the panoramic view, Fig. 1, Cyzicus, like the surrounding country, appears to be an extensive garden covering the slopes and spurs of a number of hillsides, but a closer examination, made in walking over the ground itself, discloses the positions of former buildings, the remains of which are distinctly discernible. Some of them rise to a height of from 20 to 40 feet above the average level of the site. In all of them more or less brick, marble, and granite masonry will be found clustered together.

Long stretches of the walls can likewise be seen, and although the upper structure has been removed, the remains can be traced in the direction indicated in Pl. XI. until the next portion of the wall is met with, and in such a manner an almost complete chain may be followed round the city. It is only at two places on the western side of the city that all traces of a connection become indistinct—namely, below the amphitheatre after crossing the River Kleite towards the Temple of Hadrian, and again for a short distance between the easternmost tower at the port of Chytus and the extreme end of the southern wall. These places are marked on the Plan 'Probable city wall.' This part of the wall was perhaps destroyed in the time of the Romans, when peace and tranquillity prevailed in the country, and the city spread westward where the Temple of Hadrian and other public buildings were erected. There are indications of several large buildings and a Roman cemetery in this neighbourhood. A splendid sarcophagus of the Roman period was unearched some three years ago, and probably others may be found. No excavations whatever have been made here. The sarcophagus referred to remains in the ground with only the lid and the upper edges visible. Its contents were removed by the peasants who found it. The body, which I have recently had cleared, is without moulding or ornamentation of any kind; but the lid, which is roof-shaped, has at each end a pediment surmounted by acroteria; the central one over the apex is carved with a palmette; the two side ones, which are of exaggerated size, have the surface covered with a fine acanthus ornament. The tympanon of each pediment is deeply recessed, bordered on each side with a row of dentils, and filled with an elaborate acanthus design, also very finely treated.

In the portion of the northern wall, diagonally facing the entrance to the amphitheatre, are the remains of the only city gate still intact. It is about 20 feet high by 10 wide.

On the foundations of the extreme north-western angle of the apex of the wall stands a square, tower-shaped block of masonry, 20 feet high. The position is a commanding one, and served as a good landmark in mapping out the plan of the place.

Within the walls in this angle I found a cubic block of marble measuring 3 feet across all sides. It had apparently rolled down from the wall, and bears an inscription given in the succeeding article (p. 193, No. 2). The peasants had already commenced to chip off its sides, and from the circle drawn on one of the surfaces it seems to be intended in the future for a mortar. Quite close by, outside the eastern wall, a marble slab 4 feet long and 2 feet wide, with inscription on both sides, was found four years ago. The spot where it was found is in the bend of the wall, as will be seen on Pl. XI., where it takes an obtuse angle inwards; here the ground is honeycombed with ancient tombs. This inscription, which I saw in the village of Yeni-Keui, had been already prepared for publication by Mr. Cecil Smith with the rest of my series given below, when we learnt that it is to be issued by Dr. Wiegand in the forthcoming number of the *Athenische Mittheilungen*.

The southern wall was built of granite blocks, and had a number of towers. It can be traced across the whole isthmus, and from its solid structure appears to have been one of the main defences of the city. In many places it is more than 15 feet wide and often 30 feet high. I have endeavoured to trace the whole of its direction from sea to sea, and have reproduced the result on the Plan. It will be seen that it surrounds the inner harbour (Panormos) with two granite breakwaters. The eastern one I examined to its extreme end in the marsh. The other is no doubt built of similar material, and can be distinctly traced from the Acropolis with the naked eye. This harbour was probably the most spacious and important of all the harbours at Cyzicus.

Inside this southern wall are the ruins of some very large and important buildings of the city. A marshy ditch runs parallel with the wall, and quite close to it (see the dotted line on the Plan). According to Hamilton and Dr. Macris this should be the former canal, but there are grave reasons to doubt the accuracy of this theory. It is more likely a moat partly filled in.

An eastern harbour, now land-locked and overgrown with reeds, and one not mentioned by any of the classical or other authorities on Cyzicus, but probably constructed soon after the siege of the city by Mithridates, is traceable outside the city walls. It is duly protected by an extension of the southern wall towards the sea, and a hill, with traces of masonry on it, on the east side. It seems to have been constructed on what is, geologically speaking, a comparatively recent land formation.

In the middle of the eastern half of the southern wall is a big square tower, called in Turkish 'Demir Kapou' by the natives, meaning Iron Gate. It was probably at this spot that a bridge spanned the sandhill just outside the wall. The hill in question must have been created by the action of wind and water throwing the sand up on the beach, the mound being artificially increased when the cutting was made for the construction of the moat and city walls. It stretches a considerable distance across the isthmus, and was most likely met by a mole pushed out from the main-land towards the natural sea passage, the junction of the two being effected by another bridge. (See dotted lines on Plan.)

At the extreme eastern end of this portion of the wall will be found the foundations of a large structure in brick and granite, which can be traced for a considerable distance into the sea. When the sea is calm several rows of regularly cut granite blocks can be seen, the uppermost about 3 feet below the surface.

Having carefully taken the directions by compass of these foundations, I can only conclude that it was intended for a breakwater to protect the entrance of the channel leading into the eastern harbour. The extension of the southern wall ends suddenly a short distance from the water's edge, and although the beach is now completely covered with sand, it is not improbable that an entrance from the south existed here between the breakwater and the extreme end of the wall in question. I therefore venture to suggest the existence and position of such an entrance, indicated by dotted lines on the Plan.

The southern and south-western slopes of the hillsides of the peninsula, beginning at the city and extending a couple of miles to the north-east of Ermeni-Keui, are now one mass of decomposed granite, which becomes detached under the influence of changes in temperature, and is then carried down and deposited in the sea by the torrents and mountain streams, the frequent earthquakes, no doubt, aiding the process. The sand is then driven along the coast by the action of the wind and waves and the current from the Bosphorus, united with that of the Rhyndacus and other rivers, until it reaches the low-lying isthmus, where it is piled up in small sand ridges along the beach. The wind blows with the steadiness of trade winds from the east-north-east the whole year round, and as the above-mentioned process must have continued for innumerable ages, it may easily be conceived that the low-lying swampy isthmus of to-day is of comparatively recent creation. Not very long before the beginning of our era, what is now a lagoon and a marshy isthmus was a clear sheet of water dividing the island from the mainland.

In studying this question on the spot, one arrives at the conclusion that when the natural channel began silting up and choking the eastern passage, the Cyzicenes, unable to cope with the accumulating sand, were forced to devise means whereby a channel could be kept clear for their shipping. It was then that the eastern harbour with its breakwater and canal must have been constructed. The natural passage on the western side is partly open, even at the present day, where the low-lying beach, owing to the absence of westerly winds, is perfectly clear of sand ridges.

On a further examination of the harbour in question, I noticed that a cutting had been made in the city wall about half way down the western side of the harbour. Immediately inside the wall the configuration of the ground resembles a wide ditch, without a break all the way westward until it reaches the eastern wall of the inner harbour called Panormos. At this particular spot, one is somewhat baffled by the wall and a heap of *débris* across the probable canal; on the other hand, this heap may have been created by an accumulation of bricks, masonry, and other stones from the clearances made

for the vineyards on both sides of the wall. This solution will perhaps be found a correct one. A few days' work ought to decide the matter.

Once the existence of the canal as leading into the inner harbour is

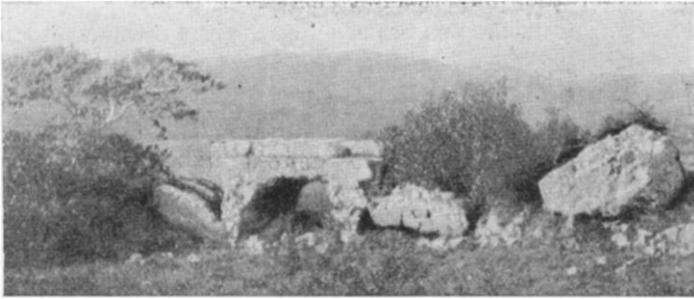


FIG. 2.

established, its further direction can be followed through the marsh, distinctly through the aqueduct, and finally westwards into the sea through the passage across the beach. (The course is marked on the Plan in dotted lines.) In



FIG. 3.

this way the existence of a complete and protected channel, connecting both bays, is established.

The aqueduct, to which a reference has been made, is of Roman

construction, and supplied the city with water from the main-land. It was built on a chain of low granite arches, now 7 feet above water, with a 15 feet base. From the effects of repeated earthquakes, natural decay, and other causes, nothing but a disconnected line of masonry now remains. The ruins answer the purpose of a short and tolerably dry crossing for pedestrians to and from the peninsula. Fig. 2 gives a characteristic piece of the aqueduct, showing one of the arches.

On the peninsula there can also be seen traces of a system of water conduits, which supplied the city with water from the interior, both from the east and west, by means of red earthen pipes, 5 feet long and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet in diameter. The western conduit was the more important one. Traces of a



FIG. 4.

dam to divert a stream from its course into a tunnel cut through the hill can still be seen some distance inland. This tunnel was connected with the pipes by a set of conduits hewn out of the rocks. Earthquakes and time have destroyed these also, but some of the pipes are in a perfect state of preservation, and are used in various ways by the natives. I saved two from destruction by bringing them down to Yeni-Keui. Their weight is about seven hundredweight each.

The 'Balik Tash' monument, on which Mr. Hasluck has contributed a paper in this number of the *Journal* (pp. 126 f.), was excavated by me in the north-western corner of the central harbour of Panormos, near the wall and the entrance to the city. At the bottom of the space excavated were found two blocks of granite and a large number of bones. The presence of the

bones, which are presumably sacrificial, would seem to indicate that the altar is nearly in its original position; a fact which seems to be confirmed by the existence of the granite foundation blocks. During the excavation, a stream of water rushed in when we reached a depth of three feet below the surface, necessitating constant baling. The monument is now covered up again with soil, this being the safest method of securing it against destruction.

Along the western beach of the isthmus no traces whatever can be seen of any constructions. There are no signs either of the moles or bridges, and the ground is only sufficiently raised to separate the marsh from the sea. There is, however, a break in this through which the water oozes out from the marsh into the sea, and this is possibly the former westward passage already mentioned. The westward mole must likewise have been built along

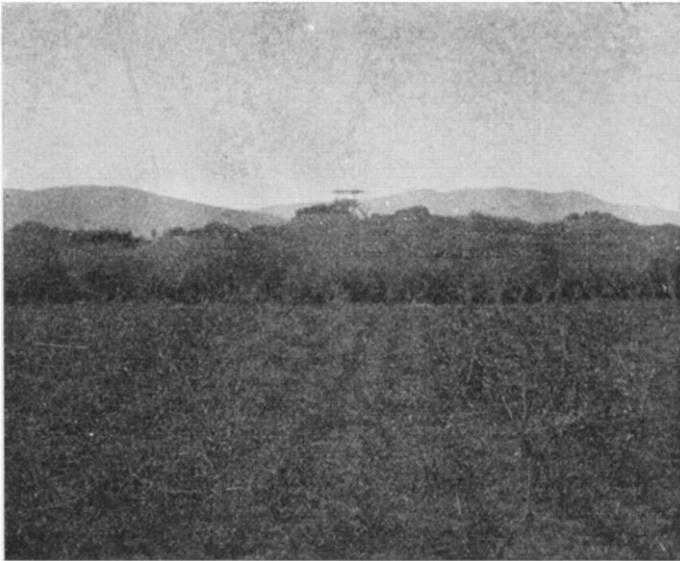


FIG. 5.

this elevation of ground. The western harbour, called Chytus, is also a big swamp overgrown with reeds. There are traces of a granite breakwater, partly submerged, as will be seen on the Plan.

Along the other side of the harbour stretch the extreme western defences of the city. There are two granite towers of the Greek Period, nearly twenty feet high, called in Turkish 'Bal-kiz Capou' (the Gate of Cyzicus). They are 90 yards apart, and are here connected by a granite wall, of which the lower course of masonry still remains intact. Turner speaks of two octagon towers protecting the entrance of the city; these are, however, six-sided.

Fig. 3 shows a view of the westernmost tower, as seen from the city, and Fig. 4 a characteristic part of the wall; adjoining the point here shown are the ruins of the substructure of Hadrian's temple which has formed the

subject of a paper by Mr. Théodore Reinach in the *Bulletin de Corr. Hellén.*, 1890, pp. 517–545. It is situated in a direction north-east of the two towers, and is the largest ruin at Cyzicus, covering several acres of ground; it is thickly overgrown with brushwood, and rises out of the surrounding vineyards like a flat hill. A rude shelter, built of a few poles and branches, for the guardian of the vineyards (Bekdji), stands on the summit, and affords a commanding view of the neighbourhood. (Fig. 5.)

The whole is thickly overgrown with brushwood, among which a regular network of arches can be traced. These must have been the supports of the flooring. There are also a number of well-preserved vaults inhabited by thousands of bats. The roof of one of them, some 50 feet long, was literally lined with these small animals. Judging from the pieces of fluted

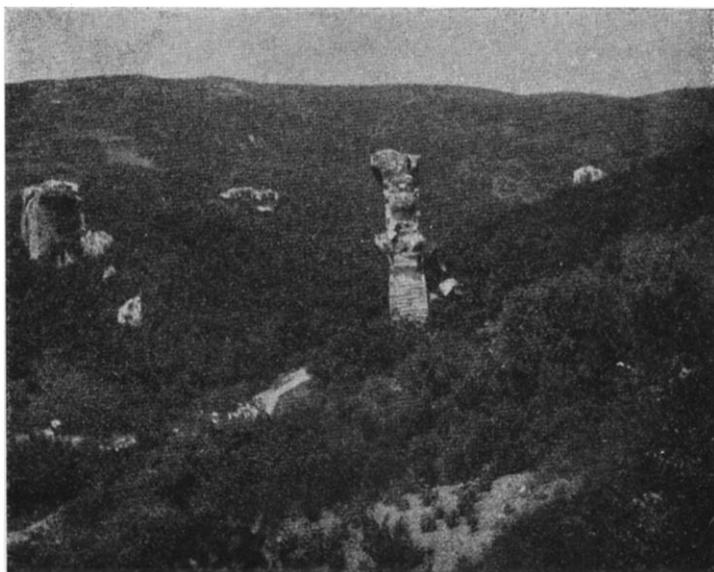


FIG. 6.

marble columns lying about, the columns must have been at least 6 feet in diameter, and if, as Aristides says, they were made of a single piece, each must have weighed hundreds of tons.

Cyzicus was certainly favoured by nature, for besides her many other advantages she had very fine marble quarries close at hand; one at Proconnesus; and another with every facility for shipping near Artace, at the modern St. Simeon, four miles westward on the coast, where pink, white greyish-blue and green marble can be had in unlimited quantities. The wonderful and glowing descriptions of the Temple as given by Aristides, Dio Cassius, and Xiphilinus, have been discredited by Hamilton, but with these facts before us, one is tempted to believe the Temple to have been one of the most magnificent buildings in the world.

On the north side of the Temple is a clear open space, perhaps the site of the Agora, supposed to have been 400 yards long by 100 yards wide, and surrounded by a portico.

The amphitheatre is situated in the valley on both sides of the sloping hills, outside the north-east walls of the city. Its elliptical shape may be traced from six or seven of the pilasters and arches still remaining here and there. The small mountain stream Kleite runs through the middle of the arena, along its longer axis, which measures about 150 yards. Higher up the valley there are signs of a dam to divert the course of the stream into a canal cut through the rocks when the arena was not required for a naumachia. (See Plan.) On a closer examination of the massive ruins a great number of the butt ends of marble columns, blocks, and slabs will be found built into

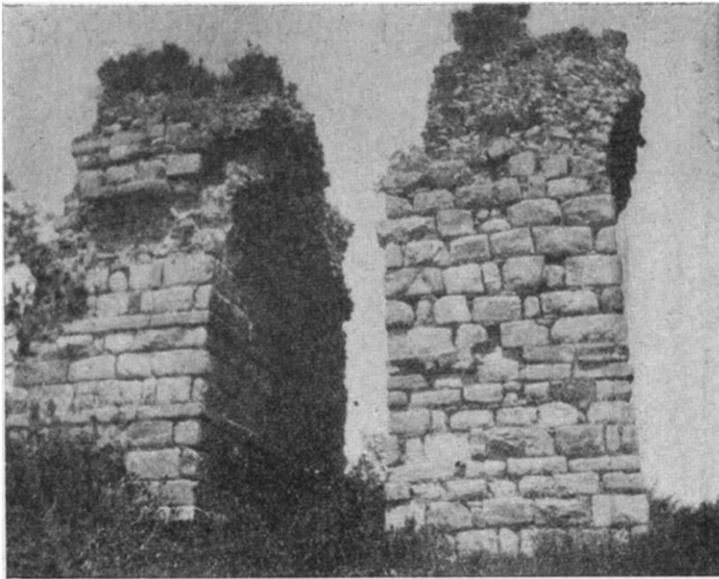


FIG. 7.

the buttresses and archways, and some with inscriptions are discernible in the facings of the southernmost ones. From this it may be inferred that the amphitheatre was constructed with the remnants of former Greek buildings destroyed by the earthquake during the reign of Hadrian.

The two views (Figs. 6 and 7) will serve to illustrate what remains of the amphitheatre to-day.

Fig. 6 is a photograph taken a short distance below the city gate, looking up the valley through the ruins; and Fig. 7 represents two of the pilasters with inscriptions from the northern hillside.

Tombs of the Graeco-Roman period have also been found on the slope of the hillside near the city gate, outside the wall.

A large semicircular building will be seen at the foot of the Acropolis

within the walls. It has the appearance of a Greek construction, facing due south. It measures about 100 yards in diameter and 40 feet high. Like all the other ruins, it is overgrown with heavy brushwood, which made exploration difficult. Inside the building several large marble blocks were found in making the ascent, and seats were discovered high up in the north-western part of the ruin. The site is marked on the Plan.

Near the inner harbour is another ruin built principally of brick, and some of the arches are in a fairly good state of preservation. Judging from its central position, we may suggest that this was possibly the Prytaneum.

The large mass of ruins west of the building last described has the appearance of a temple of Greek construction. It is about 100 yards in length and about 60 wide. The materials used in its construction were marble and granite; very few bricks are to be found. The whole, however, is covered with a thick growth of brushwood. Near it, on the north side, upside down, and three parts buried in the ground, was found the marble

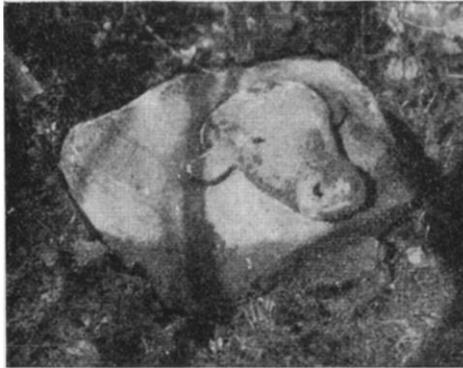


FIG. 8.

slab, bearing the important Philetairos inscription which is given below (p. 193, No. 3). A steep vaulted passage about 50 feet long was found under one of the heaps of ruins near the theatre; this was built of granite.

The other mounds and masses of ruins present externally no particular feature of interest, and no attempt to excavate any of them has yet been made. Whatever they contain is therefore hidden from view by the thick brushwood. Those examined and marked in the Plan belong apparently to the Graeco-Roman period; the ruins that can be seen are mostly of marble and granite.

There are a great number of richly sculptured fragments of marble and parts of figures and columns scattered throughout the site, many of them showing excellent workmanship; these are almost invariably discovered by the natives near some heap of ruins, whilst enlarging the area under cultivation. In one of the heaps near the theatre, I found a chiselled marble cornice with coloured foliage, and a column with an inscription split in half

lengthwise (p. 201, No. 4); and the life-sized head of a bull in relief (Fig. 8) in a heap of ruins near the inner harbour; this appears to have formed part of some architectural member, and may be compared with the bulls' heads on the 'temple des Cornes' at Delos (*Bull. Corr. Hellén.* viii. p. 17), and the bull's head capital from Salamis in the British Museum, *Cat. Sculp.* No. 1510, Pl. 27.

ROBERT DE RUSTAFJÆLL.

**ROUGH SKETCH OF  
THE SITE OF CYZICUS  
AND PROBABLE CHANNEL**  
BY  
ROBERT DE RUSTAFJELL FRGS  
2 JULY 1901



- EXPLANATIONS**
- Visible ruins
  - Ruins under brushwood
  - Traces of masonry
  - Road and mountain trails
  - Rivers & Streams
  - Mulberry and fruit trees
  - Vineyards
  - Hypothetic limits
  - Sand