THE PROVINCES OF MALATYA AND SIVAS
An Archaeological Survey of Preclassical Sites

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The Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University has in recent years promoted the active participation and collaboration of some of its members in the field of Anatolian Archaeology and Cultures in various field projects in Turkey. Between 1972 and 1975 Dr. Jak Yakar, a member of the Institute of Archaeology, took part in the archaeological surveys in the Samsun region and in the excavations at Ikıstepe, Bafra conducted by the Samsun Expedition (see Expedition 18, 2 [1976], pp. 43-47). In the summer of 1977, the Institute extended technical and financial assistance to the Malatya-Sivas-Gemerek project undertaken by Dr. Jak Yakar and Mrs. Ayse Gürsan-Salzmann (of the University of Pennsylvania). The following article summarizes the objectives and some of the results.
of this recent field survey in Anatolia.

The survey was carried out within the
triangle of Gereirek-Sivas-Malayis during
August 25-35, 1978, with a permit granted by
the Directorate of Antiquities of the Turkish
Ministry of Culture. It covered the following
geographical regions: [see Map 1]
1. The Malatya plain and the Tohma Su
    basin [this territory probably included the
    Hittite Tekaram and part of the land of
    Armartana]
2. The Gereirek-Sarkisah plain
3. The upland plain of Zeyunyaya and
    the Terek mountain chain [this region may
    have included the Hittite province of "Upper
    Land"]
4. The districts of Hekimhàn and
    Doreend
5. Upper Kizilirmak valley [between
    Gereirek and Sivas]
6. The Tohma Su valley.

The purpose of the survey was to gather
additional data to clarify,

a) The distribution of local pottery
cultures of Malatya and Sivas provinces;
b) The extent of North Syrian and North
    Mesopotamian cultural influence in the north
    of Malatya during pre-historic periods;
c) The type of settlements and their
    distribution patterns;
d) The historical geography of the region
during the 2nd millennium B.C.;
e) The availability of natural resources and
evidence of the early exploitation of
metal sources in the same region. (Lack of
time and qualified personnel did not allow us
to carry out these investigations.)

Our preliminary observations indicate
that in the Malatya and Sivas provinces all of
the surveyed sites (28) were occupied in
the 3rd millennium and three-fourths of the total
in the 2nd millennium; but there are fewer
sites with continuous occupation from the 3rd
to the 2nd millennium. Many of the hovaks
were on natural hills, and smaller settlements
were founded on hill slopes, which sometimes
escaped our observation.

During EB I-II, the Malatya plain, the
Tohma Su valley, and the Keban region
present a homogeneous pottery assemblage
known as East Anatolian dark burnished
wares.

Connections with Northern Syria and
Mesopotamia were established during this
period, as is evidenced by the presence of
Unak-type beveled-rim bowls. At Arslantepe
(Malatya), wheelmade, light ware bowls with
string-cut bases were frequently found in an
EB I context; also, the reserve-slip technique,
North Mesopotamian element, is associated
with cream wares. The Gereirek-Sivas area
was conspicuously lacking in North Meso-
opotamian cultural connections during the 3rd
millennium; rather, connections were estab-
lished with Central Anatolia.

In the EB III period there is some contact
between Malatya and Central Anatolian
regions as far as Amasya and, even further
north, the Pontus region. The fine, red-
slipped, burnished bowls with black interiors
known in north-central Anatolia may have
reached the Malatya plain as a result of trade,
but this is not certain. The wide distribution
of the Malatya painted pottery through the
Tohma Su valley in the north as far as
Kangal, and Kobus to the east, may reflect
the spreading of this tradition fairly rapidly
from one or several centers to areas where it
was locally produced. The Tohma Su valley,
where a large corpus of variants in ware and
decorative motifs is found, may be suggested
as one center of production. In the Sivas
province, especially between Sivas and
Gereirek, painted bichrome wares have close
affinities with the Central Anatolian tradition
of EB II-III, though we observed few pieces
which resembled Malatya painted wares.

In the 2nd millennium the Gereirek-Sivas
region was densely populated. This settle-
ment pattern may have continued east of
Hafik. The Central Anatolian cream-slipped/
burnished wares of the 2nd millennium are
widely distributed along Kizilirmak
(Gereirek-Direkli) and the upper Tohma Su
valley (Kangal and Tersihan), In particular,
the tureen-mouth jugs found at sites near
Sivas are related to the Kültepe Karum II-Ib
types. Similarly, in the Malatya plain and as
far north as Hekimhàn, we were able to trace
the distribution of this ware which has
typologies in Early Bronze Age C and can be
dated to about 1900-1750 B.C.

However, Central Anatolian type pottery
is very sparsely distributed in the Malatya
plain; only further excavations may clarify
the question whether there is a historical
explanation for the fact that Central Ana-
tolian cultural influence in the EB III period was

4 EBA painted pottery
from Malatya province
A hilltop mound overlooking the Tohma felt more strongly in the Kebar than has so far been discovered in Malatya.

It is further suggested that in the 2nd millennium connections between Malatya province and Central Anatolia could have been established by means of routes passing through Gürün and Darende. However, we cannot clearly substantiate the actual use of these routes during the 2nd millennium until further evidence is obtained.

As for the possible locations of such important 2nd millennium settlements as Pitiyaringa, Marassa, Samuha, Arziya in the eastern regions, the Sivas-Gemerek-Malatya triangle seems a likely area to search because of the presence of some mounds in the upper Kizilirmak valley or in the Tohma Su and upper Euphrates valleys.

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Note
Articles in detail based on this survey will appear in Türk Arkeoloji Dergisi and Tel Aviv, 1979.

Jak Yakar is a senior lecturer of Anatolian Archaeology at Tel-Aviv University. A graduate of Istanbul University, he received a Ph.D. in Mediterranean Studies from Brandeis University in 1968. He joined the Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures at Tel-Aviv University in 1970. He has recently concentrated on research involving the historical geography of Anatolia in the second millennium B.C., but he has also concerned himself with general research in early Anatolian cultures. Between 1972 and 1975 he joined the Samsun Expedition and took part in surveys in the Samsun region and in the excavations at Ilkitepo. In 1977, within the framework of his research work, he undertook the Sivas-Gemerek-Malatya archaeological survey.

Ayse Gürsan-Salzmann is a Ph.D candidate in Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania and is currently working on her dissertation which involves third millennium pottery technology and exchange in Central Anatolia, specifically concentrating on the site of Alaca Hoyuk. She spent 1975-1977 researching the material in local and regional museums in Turkey. She has also studied contemporary pottery making practices in Turkey, Romania and Israel. She has participated in excavations in Turkey and North America. Her special interest is prehistoric exchange patterns and early townships in the Near East.