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XI

Studi su Kyme eolica
VI

a cura di
ANTONIO LA MARCA



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DIRETTORE DELLA COLLANA:
Giuseppe Roma

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Jean Gouyon, Daniele Manacorda, Giuseppe Sassatelli, Mario Torelli

REDAZIONE SCIENTIFICA:
Paolo Brocato, Adele Coscarella, Maurizio Paoletti

RECAPITI:
Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici - Sezione Archeologia - Università della Calabria
Ponte P. Bucci, Cubo 21b - 87036 Arcavacata di Rende (Cs)
www.studiumanistici.unical.it
E-mail: dipartimento.studiumanistici@unical.it

EDITOR MANAGER:
Giuseppe Francesco Zangaro

EDITING:
Maria Chiara Sgrò

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INDICE

Presentazione <i>Francesco D'Andria</i>	IX
Prefazione <i>Bekir Eskici</i>	XIII
Introduzione <i>Antonio La Marca</i>	XVII
Kyme d'Eolide: dal paesaggio antico a quello moderno <i>Antonio La Marca</i>	1
Dal Protogeometrico all'età arcaica: nuovi rinvenimenti ceramici sulla Collina Sud di Kyme <i>Marco Camera</i>	41
Appunti sull'età geometrica a Kyme eolica. Cenni di storia e cultura materiale <i>Carmelo Colelli</i>	59
Scavi e ricerche sulla Collina Sud di Kyme eolica <i>Massimo Frasca</i>	75
Kyme eolica. Archeologia preventiva nell'area extraurbana della città antica. Resoconto preliminare delle campagne di scavo 2007 e 2008 <i>Fabrizio Sudano</i>	95
Un nuovo capitello a volute verticali da Kyme eolica <i>Roberto Parapetti</i>	121
Ceramica attica dalla Collina Sud <i>Cristina Di Lorenzo</i>	133
La lettera di Filetero a Kyme eolica e i decreti della città relativi a una fornitura di armamenti per la <i>phylakè</i> <i>Biagio Virgilio</i>	147
Testi dipinti e graffiti da Cuma eolica <i>Claudio Biagetti</i>	169
Vasi da mensa in ceramica fine con rivestimento bruno, nero o bicromo (c.d. <i>pergamensis Sigillata</i>) da Kyme eolica <i>Giancarlo Di Martino</i>	189
Augusto a Kyme <i>Lucia A. Scatozza Höricht</i>	203
Dedica onoraria dei <i>mystai</i> di Dioniso <i>Kathegemon</i> e <i>pro poleos</i> <i>Lara Diletta Varotto</i>	229
Kyme eolica nel III secolo d.C.: nuovi dati sulle ceramiche fini <i>Silvio La Paglia</i>	245

Le monete, segno delle relazioni di Kyme: primi risultati di un progetto a più voci <i>Benedetto Carroccio, Pasquale Apolito, Rossella Rizzari, Marianna Spinelli</i>	257
Gli uomini della necropoli bizantina sull'agorà di Kyme. Rapporto preliminare sugli studi antropologici e paleopatologici <i>Wolf-Rüdiger Teegen</i>	299
Gli studi archeometrici sulle malte e gli intonaci nel sito archeologico di Kyme eolica <i>Domenico Miriello, Raffaella De Luca, Andrea Bloise, Carmine Apollaro, Antonio La Marca, Gino Mirocle Crisci</i>	311
First observations regarding the establishment of Aigai (Aeolis) <i>Ersin Doğer</i>	325
Aigai (Aeolis) Excavations 2004-2013 Seasons. Preliminary Reports <i>Yusuf Sezgin</i>	333
Indice delle abbreviazioni bibliografiche	348
Abstracts	351

Aigai (Aeolis) excavations: 2004-2013 seasons. Preliminary reports

YUSUF SEZGIN*

Abstract

Herodotus names Aigai among the twelve cities that Aeolians established in the Aeolis region. Although the historians in the antiquity claimed that the Aeolian migrations to the area began in the beginning of the 12th century B.C.E., the current data obtained from the archaeological excavations indicate a date only as far back as the first half of the 7th century B.C.E. for the establishment of Aigai. According to Polybius' narration, Aigai suffered extensive damage during a battle between Prusias II, the King of Bithynia and Attalus II (156-154 B.C.E.). In fulfillment of the post-war treaty, Prusias II was forced to pay one hundred talents to the cities that he damaged. Following this period, Aigai became an attractive economical and political center probably with the support that it received from the Kingdom of Pergamon and it was adorned with glamorous structures, such as the theater, bouleterion and the agora. It is evident that Aigai was an economically powerful city throughout the Hellenistic period. It is known that the city had a stronghold in the region in textile weaving and wool production.

Aigai is located near the modern village of Yunddağı Köselers in Manisa Province. The archaeological remains are situated at a rather high altitude almost on top of the Gün Mountain, part of the mountain chain of Yund Mountains, ancient Aspendon. It is 13 km far from the Aegean Sea and 30 km from Pergamon.

Upon considering the placement of Aigai on the Yund mountain chain, it is impossible not to be astonished by the ancient Hellenes' mastery of location choices (fig. 1)¹. Sheltered from the northern winds, the settlement is situated on the western and southern skirts of a hill that, surrounded by two creeks which converge at the southern end, extends like a peninsula. An important stone-paved road that linked Aigai, Myrina and Gryneion to Magnesia-Sardeis was in close proximity to the northern outskirts of the city. Herodotus mentioned Aigai as one of the members of the Aeolian dodecapolis. Though the historians in antiquity claimed that the Aeolian migrations to the area began in the begin-

*Assist. Prof. Dr. Yusuf Sezgin (Vice President of Aigai Excavations). Celal Bayar University, Faculty of Science and Letters, Archaeology Department, Muradiye – Manisa. E-mail: yusufsezgin.aigai@gmail.com

¹ I would like to thank Professor Dr. Ersin Doğer, President of Aigai Excavations, for giving the permission to publish these finds from Aigai Excavations.



Fig. 1. Aerial photo of Aigai.

ning of the 12th century B.C.E., the recent data obtained from the archaeological excavations indicate a date only as far back as the beginning of the 7th century B.C.E. for the establishment of Aigai².

Strabo³, Pseudo Skylax⁴ and Pliny the elder⁵ emphasized that Aigai was not a coastal city and was built on a mountainous area⁶. It is known that the city, in alliance with Temnos, maintained its autonomy and resisted against the Persians who emerged as a threat after 547/46 B.C.E. According to Plutarch⁷, Themistocles, a famous Athenian ruler, visited Aigai during his flight from Athens to Kyme and was secretly received there by his close ally, Nikagenes. Following this, Themistocles began his voyage to Susa in a tent cart, dressed up as a woman. Aigai is among the cities that did not pay taxes to the Delian League in the 5th century B.C.E.

Following the death of Alexander the Great in 323 B.C.E. the *diadochoi*, the successors of the great general, engaged in a political and military battle with each other. In 281 B.C.E., Lysimachus died following his heavy defeat in the battle of Kouroupedion against Seleucus I. The death of Seleucus I shortly after the battle of Kouroupedion led to a chaotic political state in the region and many cities in Asia Minor regained their independence. A decree that has been unearthed during the Aigai excavations provides us with important data from this period⁸. In the decree, Seleucus Nikator I and his son Antiochus Soter I are honored with divinity insignia. Dated to shortly after 281 B.C.E., the date of the battle of Kouroupedion, this inscription documents the day in which the city regained its autonomy and the beneficence that the Seleucid Kings, Seleucus Nikator I and his son Antiochus Soter I bestowed upon Aigai⁹.

² Late Geometric and Archaic pottery of Aigai is being prepared for the publication by Assist. Prof. Dr. Yusuf Sezgin and Assoc. Prof. Dr. M. Nezhir Aytacılar. For an Archaic Aeolic capital from Aigai, see RADT 1991, Taf. 56, 1-4.

³ Strab. XIII, 3, 5.

⁴ Ps.-Scylax. 98.

⁵ Plin., HN, V, 121.

⁶ X., HG, IV, 8, 5.

⁷ Plu., Them., 26.

⁸ DOĞER *et alii* 2008, pp. 210-211.

⁹ MALAY-RİCL 2009.

According to Polybius' narrative¹⁰, Aigai suffered extensive damage during a battle between Prusias II, the King of Bithynia and Attalos II (156-154 B.C.E.)¹¹. In fulfillment of the post-war treaty, Prusias II was forced to pay one hundred talents to the cities he damaged¹². After that, Aigai became an attractive economical and political center probably with the support it received from the Kingdom of Pergamon and it was adorned with glamorous structures, such as the theater, the *bouleuterion* and the *agora* (fig. 2).

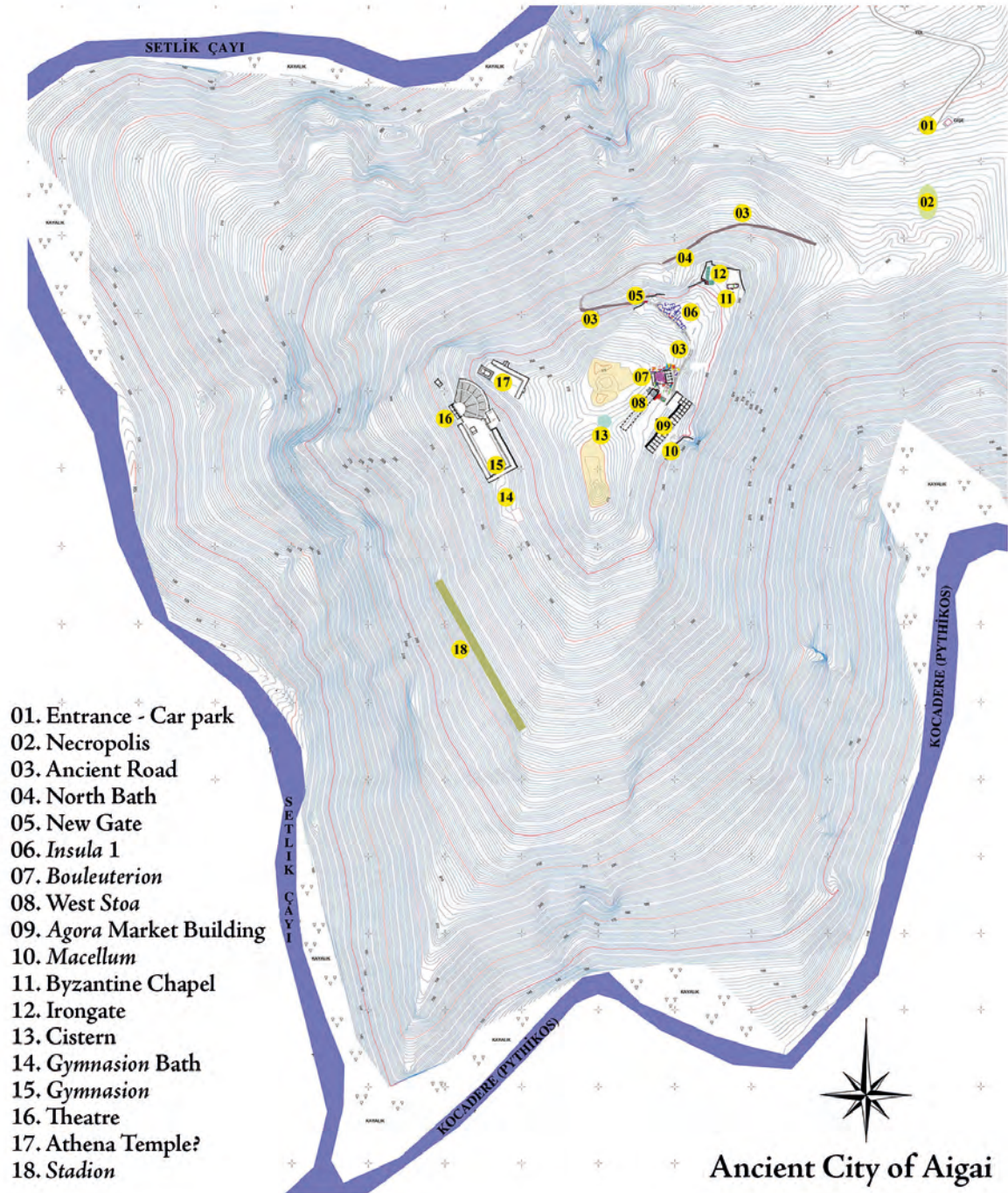


Fig. 2. Topographical map of Aigai.

¹⁰ Plb., *His.*, XXXIII, 13.

¹¹ HANSEN 1971, p. 134; MAGIE 2007, p. 60.

¹² Plb., *His.*, XXXIII, 13, 8; HANSEN 1971, p. 135; ALLEN 1983, p. 99; MAGIE 2007, p. 60.

It is evident that Aigai was an economically powerful city throughout the Hellenistic period. It is known that the city had a stronghold in the region in textile weaving and wool production¹³. Furthermore, vast areas of agricultural lands, which were under the control of the Apollo Chresterios temple, must have been a significant source of income. Supported by suitable geographical conditions, goat depictions on the coins of Aigai indicate that the city may have held the position of a significant center for goat husbandry¹⁴. The first examples of the parchment paper had to be produced using goat or sheep skin, when Egypt imposed a ban on papyrus paper import to Asia Minor¹⁵. As home to one of the largest libraries of the Hellenistic period, the huge amounts of parchment needed by Pergamon must have been supplied by a friendly ally, that is, Aigai¹⁶.

Pergamon, as a Hellenistic royal capital, was one of the most important political and economic forces and its close relationship with Aigai was remarkable¹⁷. Philetairos donated to the Temple of Apollo Chresterios and tried to show the impact on the city. Pergamon affected Aigai strongly in terms of architecture and urban planning after the peace of Apamea. Potteries and sculptures from the excavations at Aigai, clearly show the direct relationship between Aigai and Pergamon.

The Necropolis-Cemetery

The northeastern skirts of the Gün Mountain, where Aigai was situated, and the area north of it, the northern foothills of the valley, identified as the ancient road to Gryneion-Magnesia, were almost entirely used for burials¹⁸. The burial types include: small *tumuli* with borders of low stone rows, a small number of burial chambers, burial chests, square structures that surround the chest burials, inhumations, sarcophagi and amphora burials (fig. 3)¹⁹. The archaeological excavations have yielded



Fig. 3. Chest burials from Necropolis (2005 excavations).

¹³ For an inscription about Aigai as a regional monopoly on weaving, see REINACH 1891; HANSEN 1971, pp. 213-214; MALAY 1983, p. 58.

¹⁴ SAYLES 2007, p. 87.

¹⁵ FORBES 1966, p. 65.

¹⁶ SEZGIN 2013, p. 99.

¹⁷ SEZGIN 2013.

¹⁸ DOĞER *et alii* 2008, pp. 208-209; 2012, p. 199; SEZGIN 2010, p. 53; GÜNEŞ 2007.

¹⁹ M.A. Clerc states that in 1882 he excavated 450 graves in Aigai necropolis. For the types and finds of those graves, see CLERC 1891.

an array of burials that are dated from the archaic period to the 3rd century C.E. The data from the Hellenistic period, parallel to the urban expansion, points toward an intensification of burials in the necropolis area, the emergence of burial groups with stone wall surrounds and an increase in the number of stone burial chests accompanied with valuable votives/gifts. During the Roman period, numerous andesite sarcophagi dated between the late 2nd century and early 3rd century C.E., in Attic, framed and garland ornamented styles were widely used in the necropolis area.

The New Gate

On a section of Doric architrave of the New Gate, which marks one of the major points of entry to the city, a fragmentary inscription was found (fig. 4)²⁰. The Latin text reads: ..]PORE XII[. Above it, on a second section of architrave another text reads: ..]VRBIV[. This inscription is a generic model for a type that documents the presence of the Roman Emperor Tiberius in the cities of Asia Minor which he rebuilt after the earthquake of 17 C.E. The full text reads as follows:

TI-CAESAR-DIVI-AVG-F-DIVI-IVLI-N-AVG-P-M-TR-POT-XXXVI-IMP-VIII
-COS-V-CONDITOR-VNO-TEMPORE-XII-VRBIVM-TERRAE-MOTV
-VEXATARVM-TEMPLVM-RESTITVIT.

With the help of this inscription, the restoration period of the New Gate is dated to 34-35 C.E. and it points out to an earlier date of construction (fig. 5)²¹.



Fig. 4. Inscription fragment from 'New Gate'.

²⁰ DOĞER *et alii* 2008, pp. 211-214; 2012, pp. 203, 205.

²¹ Tac., *ann.*, II, 47. The inscription in question can be complemented with the one Fontrier found in Hacilar, two hours east of Magnesia. For the inscription, see FONTRIER 1887, pp. 89-90.



Fig. 5. 'New Gate' after the excavations.

The Bouleuterion

The *Bouleuterion* dates to the late Hellenistic period, shortly after the mid 2nd century B.C.E.²². The structure is built in the shape of a twelve-stepped *odeion* and has a suggested capacity of at least one hundred and eighty persons (fig. 6).

The inscribed architrave fragments from earlier studies of the German Team in the 1880's indicate the dedication of a building by Antiphanes, the son of Apollonidas, to Zeus Bollaïos, to Hestia Bollaïa and to the Demos²³. The excavations carried out in the *Bouleuterion* unearthed inscribed marble honorary bases which carry the name of Apollonidas as well as Antiphanes²⁴.

The *Bouleuterion* is placed on a slope on an EW axis. The façade oversees the *Agora Street* which has a three-storey structure. The rectangle building is 22 m long and 14 m wide. It has three stairways of which the central one divides the *cavea* into two equal parts. The semi-circular orchestra has the characteristics of the Hellenistic style. The northern wall of the *Bouleuterion* and the niche, which housed statues on the same wall, had collapsed into the rooms²⁵ situated in the basement level.

Six portrait heads and their bodies were found in the debris (fig. 7)²⁶. It is certain that these statues were originally set on 6 m long marble bases. On the other hand, the dimension of the statue niche is 70 cm wider on each side with a total length of seven meters. More remarkably an inscription that read: ΜΕΝΕΪΣΤΡΑΤΟΣ Ἰππίου Περγαμηνὸς ἔποίηι, and which was found on the statue bases, indicate

²² BOHN-SCHUCHHARDT 1889, pp. 34-35; GNEISZ 1990, p. 301, Abb. 18; RUMSCHEID 1994, cat. no. 3; DOĞER *et alii* 2008, pp. 214-218; 2012, pp. 188-194; SEZGIN 2010, pp. 50-51; YAMAN 2008; TUL 1995, pp. 21-22.

²³ BOHN-SCHUCHHARDT 1889, p. 34, Abb. 35.

²⁴ CLERC 1886, p. 290; BOHN-SCHUCHHARDT 1889, p. 8, Abb. 3; p. 34, Abb. 35.

²⁵ Also in Morgantina there are three pairs of shops adjacent to the *Bouleuterion*: SJÖQVIST 1964, p. 140 ss.

²⁶ DOĞER *et alii* 2008, p. 215; 2012, pp. 183, 189, Res. 3, 192, Res. 5.



Fig. 6. General view of *Bouleuterion*.



Fig. 7. *Hestia Bollaia* statue in debris.

that at least two of these statues were produced by “Menestratos, the son of Hippias of Pergamon” (fig. 8)²⁷.

The detailed stylistic features of the statues of Aigai, namely the meticulous treatment of small details, such as the folds on the garments, as well as the basic body parts and their separate manufacture and the final creation of the statue when all the separate parts come together, are details attested to the Pergamon school of sculpture.

²⁷ DOĞER *et alii* 2012, p. 192, Res. 5.6; SEZGIN 2013, p. 86, fig. 8; KANSTEINER *et alii* 2014, p. 349, no. 3955 (SEG 58, 1368).



Fig. 8. Signature of the sculptor Menestratos.

The statue of Hestia Bollaia was situated on a base in the central part of the orchestra, on the natural bedrock. The base was elevated to the floor level of the orchestra. Right under the base of the statue a *bothros*, extending to the walking level of the orchestra, was carved in the bedrock. The finds of the *bothros* indicate that it was used during a ritual prior to the construction of the building²⁸. All the finds coming from the *bothros* are dated to the third quarter of the 2nd century B.C.E., therefore the construction must have begun right after the destruction of Prusias II, i.e. around 156 B.C.E.

Some 2nd and 3rd century C.E. pottery fragments, found on the room floors and in the *peristasis*²⁹ situated between the *Bouleuterion* and a group of chambers added on a later date, provide us with decisive data in terms of the final phase of use of the *Bouleuterion*.

The finds which belong to the original floor surface of the rooms proved that they were still in use as a part of the *Bouleuterion* or with a different function during the 2nd and 3rd centuries C.E. The statue fragments unearthed on the debris level contain huge amounts of roof tiles, which shows that the roof of the *Bouleuterion* that covered all the *cavea* and these rooms collapsed first, then the statues in the niche fell down on its debris. According to this context, statues must have been dedicated in the mid 2nd century B.C.E. and they stood intact until the second half of the 2nd century C.E.

The sounding that was applied in the damaged southern section of the seating area of the *Bouleuterion* in the orchestra and in the backstage, revealed a structure dated to an earlier period. During the construction of the *Bouleuterion* the earlier structure was extensively damaged and the *in-situ* finds related to that structure are scarce (fig. 9).

A jug, dated between the late 3rd and early 2nd centuries B.C.E. was found *in situ*, right under the floor of the earlier structure, situated in a narrow plot close to the eastern wall of the structure, which had been identified as the backstage³⁰. This date provides the *terminus* in relation to the final stages of usage of the earlier structure.

The sounding that was applied on the stage area of the *Bouleuterion* yielded a *bothros*, which is understood to be in relation with the earlier structure³¹.

²⁸ DOĞER *et alii* 2008, p. 227, Res. 8; 2012, p. 192, Çiz. 3.

²⁹ DOĞER-SEZGIN-GÜRBÜZER 2010, pp. 355-356, Res. 6-9; DOĞER *et alii* 2012, p. 191, Res. 5.

³⁰ ROTROFF 1982, pls. 69, 89, 406; DOĞER *et alii* 2012, p. 192, Res. 7.

³¹ DOĞER *et alii* 2012, p. 190, Res. 4; SEZGIN 2013, p. 101.



Fig. 9. Earlier structure under the *Bouleuterion* (Earlier *Bouleuterion*?).

Finds from the *bothros* consist mainly of eating and drinking vessels and a large number of pottery and bones; the *bothros* was probably opened for a ritual relating to the construction of the earlier structure – a ritual that was to be carried prior to the construction. In the cases where dating is possible, the finds indicate the 4th century B.C.E. Situated under the *Bouleuterion* and barely revealing traces in a very limited number of areas, the earlier structure has a different plan than the *Bouleuterion* whose architecture survives partially intact. It must be within our scope of consideration that this structure may belong to a smaller and earlier *Bouleuterion*.

The Agora Building

The *Agora Building*³² has been constructed on the NE outskirts of the hill that also houses the city; its façade is built on an EW orientation although the actual orientation of the structure sits on a NE axis (fig. 10). Measuring up to 80 m in length and 11 m in height, this 2nd century B.C.E. building still does not fail to impress despite the damage incurred by several violent earthquakes. The structure is constructed on a three-floor plan; the ground floor houses a row of partitioned shops facing the eastern street. The mezzanine floor must have possibly been used as a storage area accessed by a large gate situated on the northwestern façade. The third floor of the building is accessible by a small number of stairs and was built as a *stoà*, sheltered by a roof carried by two rows of columns. The third floor of this building, dating to the mid 2nd century B.C.E., also forms the eastern end of the square.

³² For the Aigai *Agora Building*, see RAMSAY 1881, pp. 293-294; CLERC 1886, pp. 280-285; BOHN-SCHUCHHARDT 1889, pp. 14-27; TÜL 1995, pp. 23-28; DOĞER *et alii* 2008, pp. 218-219; 2012, pp. 194-197; SEZGIN 2010, pp. 51-52; 2013, pp. 102-104.

The excavations carried out in one of the *Agora* shops revealed two ionic columns, consisting of three column bases, and a number of column heads (fig. 11). Of these collapsed columns, the first one was found on a NS direction; the other was discovered laying on an EW axis. These pillars-columns must have fallen from the colonnaded portico that constituted the third floor of the building. In close proximity to the northeastern corner of the shop, a marble male bust, dating most probably to the Julio-Claudian Dynasty, was discovered.



Fig. 10. *Agora* Building.



Fig. 11. Ionic column capitals, drums and bases in a shop of *Agora* Building.

The Macellum

Upon the terrace built for the *Agora* building, a market for meat or fish was discovered. These fish or meat markets were named as *Macellum* by the Romans and *Makellon* by the Greeks (fig. 12)³³. This building, measuring 8,5 m in diameter, is accessible by four flights of stairs made of smooth stone-panels. On some of the block-stones that form the first row of the structure there are some inscriptions carved in Greek letters such as: Γ, Μ, Ν, Δ, Ζ. The *macellum* has channels for clean and discarded water and since it had a 'wet' surface, the floor was tiled with smooth block stones. To ensure insulation, the stone slabs were embedded in the lime mortar of the floor. This structure must have been built in the 1st century C.E., during the work that was carried out to widen the area of the underlying terrace.



Fig. 12. *Macellum* of Aigai.

The Roman Cistern

Throughout its history, the city of Aigai depended on rain water³⁴. Consequently, the alley and streets of the city were stone-paved; underneath the stone surface a channel system was devised to direct the rain water into hundreds of small and large cisterns. One of these cisterns was cleaned during the 2012 excavation season (fig. 13). The cistern was carved on the main rock: the upper part was raised with regular stones of block and a high ring was placed on the purposefully left opening. In the cistern, 70 bronze coins and a large number of daily life ceramic vessels, many of which are still intact, were discovered. These finds allow us to date the cistern to the second half of the 3rd century C.E. (fig. 14).

³³ DOĞER 2006, pp. 12-14; DOĞER *et alii* 2008, p. 219; SEZGIN 2010, p. 52.

³⁴ DOĞER *et alii* 2008, pp. 219-221; SEZGIN 2010, p. 53; TÜL 1995, p. 17.



Fig. 13. The Roman Cistern (2012 excavations).

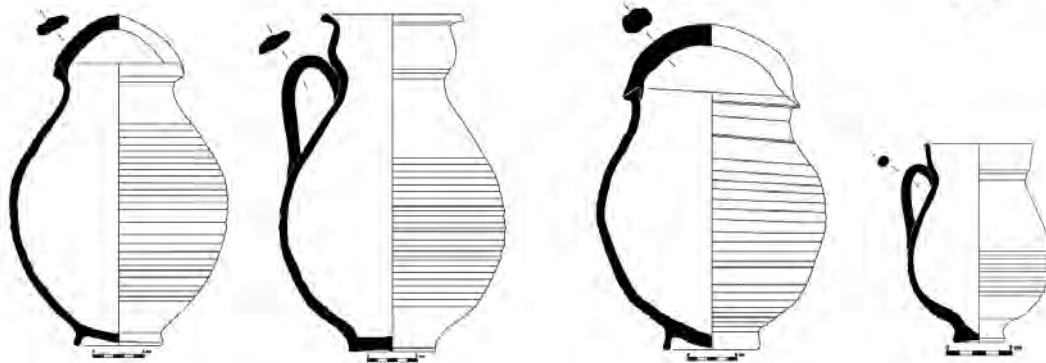


Fig. 14. Findings from the Roman Cistern (2012 excavations).

The Byzantine Cistern

Another cistern that has been excavated was carved entirely in the main rock. The opening section of the cistern measures 2 m × 1,5 m and has a conical form that is wider towards the deeper end. The cistern's depth measures 3,5 m from the upper rim to the bottom. During the final phase of use, it was filled with architectural blocks, large rocks and column pieces. Towards the southern part of the cistern floor, in a small dug out pit, 12 bronze Aigai coins dating to the 2nd century B.C.E. were discovered. These coins were found in a purposefully prepared small hole; and must have been left as an offering during the first phase of usage that coincides with the Hellenistic period. In the subsequent phases, the cistern was cleaned and re-used; however because they were buried under the floor, the coins must have been protected from being discovered.

Insula One (Industrial Quarter)

Insula One represents a complex structure, which consists of rooms that have passages to each other (fig. 15). The latest phase of all rooms is the second half of the 3rd century C.E. In *Insula One*,



Fig. 15. *Insula One* (Industrial Quarter).

almost all of the unearthed doors, which open to the streets, have been closed with walls. This situation must be related with threat of Goths which appears in the same time with the latest phase of the *insula*. While entering the city from the New Gate, the first room of *Insula One* has an asymmetrical plan and probably represents the entrance part of the structure complex.

A stone bench, a floor which was composed by mosaic, a great quantity of bronze coins which have been gathered about at floor level, portraits of women and Herm, point out to the importance of the room. The room in question must have been used as a store for the goods produced in *Insula One*.

Nearly all of the rooms in *Insula One* are related to each other by means of doors. The relations between big rooms and smaller rooms indicate an organization of production and also a need for storing products or raw materials. Production tools, marble fragments gathered for lime production, *pithoi*, many cisterns and the attempts for storing urine in the *Latrina*, may be evaluated as a data for leather production. The main livelihood of the ancient population of Aigai must be stockbreeding. The big amount of parchment need of Pergamon may have been met by Aigai, which was a friend and an ally and also had suitable geographical conditions for raising goats.

The Byzantine Hoard

A hoard has been unearthed in the following locations: on the side of a street that is adjacent to the *Bouleuterion* and leading to the *Agora* and during the removal of an intense layer of rubble in the area adjacent to the southeastern corner of the *Bouleuterion*³⁵. Buried under the rubble, right beneath a rather large square architectural block, it was discovered in a deposit of soil. Originally, the hoard must have been hidden in a fabric or leather pouch; however, its decomposition over the years left the hoard exposed in the soil. The layer in which the hoard was found and the context indicate a post-abandonment date. In other words, the hoard must have been buried here after the buildings were covered with rubble

³⁵ SEZGIN-ÖNDER 2013.

following the abandoning and destruction of the structures. The hoard consists of *scyphate* (cup-shaped) bronze coins known as 'trachy coins' that belong to Byzantine emperors periods, such as: Manuel I, Isaakios II, Aleksios III, Nikeia emperor Theodoros I and some Latin emperors (or Latin imitation).

The Theatre

The theater in Aigai has the appearance of a typical Greek theatre facing the vista of the environs³⁶. The shape of the seating area, which does not form a complete circle, exhibits some resemblances to the Hellenistic theatre at Pergamon³⁷. The structure is entirely under the soil and is thought to feature two seating areas. The structure of the original Hellenistic stage was modified in the Roman period. Embellished architectural components found in the stage filling area demonstrate that the stage was decorated in line with the classical Roman taste in a high decor. The vaulted *vomitorium* at the eastern side are later Roman and Hellenistic additions and were built in order to provide easy access into the area (fig. 16).



Fig. 16. *Vomitorium* of Aigai Theatre.

³⁶ SEAR 2006, p. 325, plan 315.

³⁷ SEZGIN 2012, p. 85.

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ABSTRACT

Studi su Kyme eolica VI è una miscellanea che raccoglie i risultati di molte tra le più recenti ricerche su questa importante città, con una storia millenaria che inizia alla fine del II millennio a.C. e arriva, senza soluzione di continuità, agli inizi del XV secolo d.C.

Le indagini condotte dalla MAIKE (Missione Archeologica Italiana di Kyme eolica) dal 2008 al 2016 offrono numerose novità nella conoscenza di questa importante colonia greca e contribuiscono a fornire un quadro complessivo, in parte nuovo, dell'organizzazione urbana, dell'economia e della cultura materiale nelle varie epoche.

Il volume rappresenta un consistente contributo alla storia di Kyme e, se vogliamo, aggiunge così un ulteriore tassello utile anche per ricostruire la storia dell'Eolide (grazie ai contributi di E. Doğer e Y. Sezgin, i quali hanno voluto partecipare alla realizzazione del volume presentando le loro ricerche nel sito di Aigai) che, a causa del non elevato numero di scavi e ricerche, presenta ancora una serie di incognite storiche e problematiche archeologiche da indagare e meglio focalizzare.

Attraverso diversi contributi di studiosi italiani e stranieri, in un contesto di collaborazione internazionale, si traccia un quadro di sintesi sulla 'storia archeologica' di questo straordinario centro dell'Eolide. Dall'insieme dei saggi del volume emerge la enorme importanza storica di Kyme, oggi minacciata dalle dinamiche dello sviluppo industriale che, a volte, sembra quasi impossibile conciliare con la protezione del patrimonio culturale, costretta a cedere il passo ad una visione unilaterale dell'economia.

In questo quadro complesso, in cui alcuni problemi sembrano di difficile soluzione, il volume del gruppo di studio di Kyme, validamente coordinato da Antonio La Marca, costituisce un segnale positivo che induce a considerare superabili le attuali difficoltà e permette di esprimere l'auspicio che la Missione italiana a Kyme possa riprendere la sua attività scientifica e continuare a produrre risultati positivi per la ricerca e per la collaborazione tra Italia e Turchia nel settore archeologico.

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Studi su Kyme Eolica VI is a miscellanea collecting the results of the recent research carried out on this important city. The city has a thousand-year history that began at the end of the 2nd millennium B.C. and seamlessly progressed until the beginning of the 15th century A.D.

The research, carried out by MAIKE (*Missione Archeologica Italiana a Kyme eolica*) between 2008 and 2016, highlighted a lot of novelties as to the knowledge of this important Greek colony and contributed to providing an overall framework of its urban organization, its economy and its material culture across the different periods.

The book is an important contribution to the clarification of the history of Cyeme, in so far it adds a further important element to rebuild the history of the Aeolis (thanks to the contributions of E. Doğer and Y. Sezgin, who accepted to participate in the drafting of the book and presented their research on the close site of Aigai). Because of the few excavations and researches carried out in Aeolis, there are a series of historical and archaeological problems that require further research and studies.

In this volume, thanks to a number of contributions by Italian and foreign scholars, for the first time we are able to give an image of the 'archaeological history' of this extraordinary centre of Aeolis. From all the articles of the book, we can infer the enormous historical importance of Cyeme; however, the ancient site is in danger today because of the massive industrial development in the area and the emerging unilateral 'vision' of the economy, which make the protection of cultural heritage increasingly difficult.

In this complex context, where some problems are difficult to solve, the book by the Cyeme study group (effectively coordinated by Antonio La Marca), is a positive signal that induces us think that the current difficulties could be overcome. The book allows to express the hope that the Italian Mission to Cyeme can restart its scientific activity and continue to produce positive results for research and collaboration between Italy and Turkey in the archaeological field.

RICERCHE

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