

LATE ANTIQUE TROIA/ILION AND TROAD REGION* (PLATE 1)

TEKKÖK, Billur
TÜRKİYE/TURPIYA

ÖZET

XIX. yy. Schliemann kazılarında beri Troia. İlion kentinin geç antik dönemi hiç çalışılmamıştır. Manfred Korfmann kazılarıyla birlikte 1989'dan itibaren kentin ve bölgenin geç antik çağı çalışılmaya başlanmış, bu döneme ilişkin veriler Agora, Aşağı Şehir ve Höyük yerleşiminde ele geçmiştir. Aşağı Şehir evleri bu döneme ilişkin bilgileri gün ışığına çıkmıştır. Aşağı Şehir 109x48.7x54.8 metre karelik alanda orthogonal grid planlı insulalardan oluşan yerleşime sahiptir. Geç Antik Çağ'da Troad Bölgesi'nde yaşayan elit tabakanın yaşantısına dair arkeolojik veriler, Libanius'un Suriye için yaptığı tanımlamalardan çok daha sessizdir. Bölgede, IV. ve V. yüzyıllarda mimari, mimari dekorasyon ve seramik buluntularla saptanan bir ekonomik yükselme söz konusudur. Aşağı Şehirde kazılan iki alanda saptanan geç antik villalarda; H17 ve D20'de, bu döneme ilişkin önemli veriler ele geçmiştir. H17'de bir cam üretim atölyesi, D20'de mozaikli iki ev ele geçmiştir. Bu buluntular ve Troia ekibinin bölgede yaptığı diğer çalışmalar, şu an yayına hazırlanmakta olup, Bölge'nin Geç Antik Çağı'na yeni bir bakış açısı sunacaktır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Geç Antik Troia, İlion, Troad.

The site of Troia/Ilion has been the subject of extensive discussion since Schliemann's excavations in the XIXth Century, but the late antique period has never been the focus of a systematic analysis, in spite of the extensive amount of material that has been uncovered. Remains of the late antique city of Ilion (ca. AD 350-500) have appeared in the Agora, the Lower City, and on top of the mound, near the temple of Athena, but most of the evidence has been uncovered in the houses of the Lower City, which cover an area of approximately 400 square meter south of the mound of Troia.

Based on magnetic prospection, it is clear that the entire Roman Lower City was laid out on an orthogonal grid, with most of the insulae measuring 360x160 or

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180 Roman feet.¹ (**Plate 2**) Unlike Libanius' account on the luxurious residences of the elite in Syria, literary sources are silent about the taste of the urban elite in the Troad.² The coin evidence from the residential quarters of Ilion's Lower City during Late Antiquity, however, points to a rising prosperity during much of the fourth and fifth centuries, as do the remaining architecture, architectural decoration, and ceramics.³ The elaborate mosaics and wall paintings in these structures recall those in the Hillside Houses in Ephesos.

The character of life at Ilion began to change in the middle of the fourth century, as commercial activity moved to the residential areas and the agora began to be used as cemetery. Two major earthquakes sometime around 500 A.D., brought down the public buildings of the city.⁴ By the end of the sixth century, the city appears to have been completely abandoned.

In light of the very few literary references to and inscriptions from late antique Ilion, one has to rely on the ceramic deposits when attempting to reconstruct the history and trading patterns of the city during this period. The latter is particularly important in that Ilion occupied the shortest crossing point between continental Europe and Asia, and lay at the entrance to the Dardanelles, through which ships bound for the Black Sea had to pass. It is also noteworthy that the Roman levels of none of the other sites in the area, such as Alexandria Troas, Lampsacus, Assos, or even Lesbos have been examined. (**Plate 3**)

The stratigraphic excavations at Troia, systematic rural surveys and detailed pottery analysis in the Troad region brought a new understanding of late antiquity in the region. This research then is the only systematic analysis of settlement patterns in the Troad during late antiquity. The investigation of the land use in the western and northern part of the Troad, was published in **Studia Troica 16, 17** and elsewhere.⁵

There are accounts from earlier excavators mentioning Late Antique material, although nothing of substance was published. Excavations in the Agora and Lower City since 1989 have revealed the scope of the city's prosperity during the Late Antique period, which is not apparent in the earlier studies of Greek and Roman Ilion. The public buildings continued to be used, although on a smaller scale, and the Roman houses in the Lower City were altered and reused.⁶

¹ 109. 7 x 48. 7 x 54. 8 m.

² Brown 1982, 155-157.

³ Rose-Tekkök-Heath 2009.

⁴ Tekkök 2009.

⁵ Tekkök-Heath 2008; Rose-Tekkök-Körpe 2007; Bieg-Tekkök-Aslan 2006; Bieg 2002; Tenger 1999.

⁶ Rose 2006a; 2006b. .

During the course of the Late Antique period Beşik Bay may have served as a natural harbour, receiving wine and other goods from the Marmara region, the Black Sea, and the eastern Mediterranean. Ilion may also have benefited from inland trade routes toward the east, judging by the Roman road descriptions in the *Tabula Peutingeriana*.⁷ This map of Renaissance date, ultimately derived from a Late Antique source, provides evidence for a route leading from Ayvacık, near Assos, to the Smintheion, as well as a road from Alexandria Troas to Ilium which may have been a straight route like the present highway. In the *Tabula*, there is mention of internal routes between Abydos and Antandrus that pass Scepsis to the west of the peaks of the Ida Mountains.⁸ **(Plate 4)** There is no evidence for milestones later than the fifth century A.D. in any part of the Empire.⁹

There is ongoing research by the Troia excavation team in the region, including the author, to answer some of these questions which were left open by previous scholars. The aim is to understand the topography, the changing patterns of the countryside, and the use of the natural resources. This will enable to understand changes in land use or *habitat* during late antiquity, as well as Ilion's status in the region.¹⁰ But based on the new investigations, it seems likely that small villages were actively trading with each other, beginning in the Hellenistic period, or were buying their pottery from the same source.¹¹ Based on a variety of evidence one can reconstruct the history of Ilion during the 4th, 5th, and 6th centuries. There are literary references to Constantine I's visit to Ilion, and subsequently Julian's visit in 354 A.D.; after this date, the town became a bishopric which lasted throughout the Byzantine period.¹²

Based on magnetic prospection, it is clear that the Roman Lower City was laid out on an orthogonal grid extending 300 meters to the east of the mound and 500 meters to the south, although the foundation of the grid dates from the early Hellenistic period. The houses were built directly on the foundations of the existing insulae of early and mid Roman date.¹³ **(Plate 2, Plate 5)**

Spoliation of the public buildings had already begun by the mid fifth century, but it increased considerably after the earthquakes.¹⁴

⁷ Brodersen 2003.

⁸ Bieg-Tekkök 2006, 151, note 27; 152, note 29; Cook 1973, 391-394.

⁹ Foss 1979, 6-7; Riel 1997, 85-91.

¹⁰ Bieg-Tekkök-Aslan 2006; Rose-Tekkök-Heath 2009.

¹¹ Cook 1973, Foss 1979, 6, note 14 (Diocletian's repair of the roads between Ephesus and Smyrna in the 4th century).

¹² Zosimus II. 30; Rose 1992, 57; Frisch 1975, 205, n. 99: base with inscription of Constantine II as Caesar (317 A. D.). Caskey in Blegen 1935, 591, n. 5; *ibid.* n. 100: statue of Julian dated around 360, found at Kumköy.

¹³ Rose 1994, 93; Ellis 38-50.

¹⁴ Below footnote 17.

Four of the houses in the Lower City, excavated between 1990 and 1993, are particularly instructive regarding life at Ilion in the Late Antique period. There are two houses each in Quadrat H17 and two in D20, which overlook the Dardanelles. **(Plate 5)** There is no evidence from the excavated quarters of the Lower City for oil or wine production, and the land around the outskirts of the Lower City must have been used for agriculture or for grazing animals as far as the Scamander, as it is today.

Pottery: Quadrat H17

In *Quadrat H17* two houses were excavated: one was located on the southwest side of the trench; the other stretched in an east-west direction. The house on the southwest side was not well preserved, but some of the walls of the east-west house (room D) were elaborately painted with green, and then with white floral designs in a later period. Part of this house was devoted to industrial activity, primarily the working of glass, and there were significant amounts of glass waste and slag in the building.¹⁵

The coin and pottery evidence indicates a *terminus post quem* of 312 A. D. for the construction of the house,¹⁶ and the latest use appears to have occurred during the reign of Anastasius I (491-518 A.D.).¹⁷ The foundation trenches of the walls and the marble floor pavement (room B) contained coins of Constantius II (337-346), and Constans (337-350 A.D.) providing a *terminus post quem* for the reconstruction of the house.¹⁸ Other coins discovered in the trench attest to some activity into the sixth century AD.¹⁹ More sixth century pottery in H17 were found than in any of the other trenches in this area, which included *Phocaeen Red Slip Ware Form 2* plates in small form, and *Form 3 H* plates with feather rouletting interior.²⁰

The evidence for an earthquake is also visible within this trench. There were fallen tiles mixed with charcoal and blackened earth, and the tiles had collapsed directly on the glass slag and wasters.²¹ The latest pottery mixed in with the tiles dates to the late 5th or early 6th century. The forms include *Phocaeen Red Slip*

¹⁵ Rose 1993, 110, note 55.

¹⁶ Rose 1993, 110, note 56.

¹⁷ Rose 1993, 110, note 57.

¹⁸ Rose-Tekkök-Heath 2009. H17. 1061: western wall of room G. The following coins are listed by their Troy Excavation Inventory Numbers: Constantius II: C86; Constans or Constantius II: C87. Above the floor in room A at the far west was a coin of Maximian (C88, 311–312 A. D.).

¹⁹ Ibid. C185. There were three other sixth century coins found in H17: two of Justin/Justinian (C58, 60), and another of Antastasius (C120).

²⁰ Hayes 1972, 328, fig. 66; 335, fig. 68; Rose-Tekkök-Heath 2009, in H17. 1127, 1129, 1133.

²¹ Rose-Tekkök-Heath 2009, for the destruction level; H17. 29, 36 (with L39), H17. 44, 57, 58 (with L49, 51).

Ware Form 3 late, and *Form 8*,²² which was found with the coins of Justin and Justinian.²³ This must relate to cleaning activities after the 500 A.D. earthquake.

New construction did not occur here until the late Byzantine period, when there was a considerable amount of stone robbing, but only a few new walls can be dated to that period. During this period, the center of habitation shifted to the cave area in the northwestern section of the Lower City (t14), since it served as the main water source of Ilion. This area yielded our best evidence for late Byzantine habitation (y7, t14). During the Ottoman period a narrow street from Tevfikiye to Kalafat may have passed in front of the cave. The nature of the Christian worship and the location of the early churches is not clear, although late Byzantine cemeteries were uncovered adjacent to the cave and the large theater, and churches should have been nearby.

Quadrat D20

Quadrat D20 lies further to the west than the other trenches in the center of the Lower City, and it contained part of two adjacent houses divided by a single wall. This was a prime location, with both of the residences overlooking the Dardanelles, and it is conceivable that the residents also owned the surrounding land. The elaborate mosaics and wall paintings in these structures recall those in the Hillside Houses in Ephesos.²⁴

The coin of Julia Domna found beneath the floor provides a *terminus post quem* of 217 A. D. for the construction and decoration of the walls. The pottery mixed with the fallen plaster also dates to the second half of the third century. The damage to the house may have been caused by the Herulian attack in 267. The majority of the fine ware from the trench dates to the mid Roman period, especially the *African Red Slip Ware Form 50a*,²⁵ imported amphora groups that include *Zeest 94* types,²⁶ *Aegean transport amphora Riley Benghazi MR 7*,²⁷ *MR 5*,²⁸ and various other regional variants.

The house was reused during the 5th century A.D. with alterations to the painted plaster. The house on the east featured three well preserved 4th century mosaics, not all of which were completely excavated. The mosaics had a frame formed by two rows of isodomic rectangles flanked by guilloches. The central field was composed of alternating octagons and squares. One of the walls of the house was removed in the 6th or 7th century, but the mosaics remained undisturbed.

²² Hayes 1972, 333-336, fig. 69; 342, fig. 70.

²³ Ibid. C60. The others found in this deposit are of Maximian (C61), and Claudius Gothicus (C84).

²⁴ Rose-Tekkök-Heath 2009, WD64.

²⁵ Hayes 1972, 69-70, fig. 12.

²⁶ Rose-Tekkök-Heath 2009, H17. 748: 1, D20. 17: 26, D20. 290: 2. (Mid Roman)

²⁷ Riley 1979, 193, fig. 84, n. 243.

²⁸ Ibid. 189, n. 240, fig. 83.

In terms of the pottery, *Phocaeen Red Slip Ware Form 1* have different fabrics: one is the standard fabric; the other is more micaceous, which may have originated from a different workshop in the region. The form is common in the deposits from the late 4th to the middle of the 5th century A.D.²⁹

Phocaeen Red Slip Ware Form 2 also appears with two different fabrics: the large shallow dishes that show semi slipping on the exterior of the wall usually come from deposits in H17 that date to the middle of the 5th century.³⁰ *Form 5* is relatively rare, and generally comes from deposits dating between the middle of the 5th to the 6th century.³¹

Some examples with slight differences from *Form 2* in terms of rim form and fabric also suggest that they may have come from a different source. Some examples of the *Phocaeen Red Slip 'new' form*, which appear as a flanged bowl, are found in early to mid 4th century contexts in the Lower City.³²

The standard exported type of *Form 3* has the same date range as in Athens. All examples of *Form 3* date from the last quarter of 5th into the first years of 6th century A.D.³³ One piece which lies typologically between *Forms 3* and *4* seems to be transitional. *Forms 4, 6* and *7* are not represented, whereas *Forms 8* and *9* are very rare in the Lower City.³⁴ *Forms 6, 7, 8,* and *9* were not as widely exported as *Form 3*, and Ilion no longer enjoyed prosperity as of ca. 500 A. D. Very few examples of *Form 10* come from the site, which may relate to the robbers' activity at the site.³⁵

The stamps are mostly within the range of *Hayes Group I/II*,³⁶ and feature simple floral patterns such as palm leaves, radial circles or radial giosch pattern, a central Greek cross, abstract circles, or a human or animal figure. The so-called *West Asia Minor Pale Ware* is represented in the mid 5th century deposits.³⁷ In the Lower City, only bowls with interior rouletting are represented, but in the Agora of Ilion the same fabric in a closed jar form is represented by one example.³⁸

The closed jars of local fabric are all regional products. They came mostly from the residential quarters from the middle of the 4th to the 5th century. Consequently, there must have been a small scale local pottery production. One distinct form

²⁹ Hayes 1972, 325-327, fig. 65.

³⁰ Ibid. 327, fig. 66.

³¹ Ibid. 339, fig. 70.

³² Tekkök-Bicken 1996, 138, G69, G70, fig. 85; Rose-Tekkök-Heath 2009, H17. 763: 22.

³³ Hayes 1972, 337, fig. 67 (Type B and C).

³⁴ Ibid. 341-342, fig. 70.

³⁵ Ibid. 343, fig. 71.

³⁶ Ibid. 350, fig. 72; 352, fig. 73; 354, fig. 74; 364, fig. 78; 365, fig. 79; 355, fig. 75; 360, fig. 77.

³⁷ Ibid. 408-409, fig. 92; Rose-Tekkök-Heath 2009, C/D/. 20/21. 413: 13, : 14; I17. 117: 5.

³⁸ Tekkök 2009, E/F10. 170: 21.

intended for special use comes from H17, and its hard fabric is resistant to heat.³⁹ Others include local water jars, beakers, and storage amphorae with wavy incised lines.

Water jars of different variety also appeared, all in local fabrics datable to the 5th century A.D, including one with a Christian graffito incised after firing.⁴⁰ The unguentarium seems to originate from a single provenance, and only one stamped late antique unguentarium has so far been discovered at the site.

Cooking ware of the 5th century has a distinct folded rim, with micaceous fabric.

The basins are of local origin and have heavy fabrics.⁴¹ They are occasionally decorated with wavy lines over the hanging or everted rim. *Riley Benghazi LR 1*,⁴² 2,⁴³ 3⁴⁴ amphorae are the common types from the end of the 4th to the 6th century A.D. *LR 2* amphorae have regional differences in fabric. Similar examples found in the Troad surveys suggest there may have been another regional source for the type.

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³⁹ Rose-Tekkök-Heath 2009, H17. 1175: 4, : 5.

⁴⁰ Ibid. P389.

⁴¹ Tekkök 2009, E/F10. 170: 19, : 23, E/F/10. 125: 4, E/F/10. 209: 1.

⁴² Riley 1979, 212-216, fig. 91.

⁴³ Ibid. 217-219, fig. 92.

⁴⁴ Ibid. 219-222, fig. 92.

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