

ACS Archaeology Pilot Project
Trinity University
Mark Garrison

Competition for quality undergraduates continues to grow. Most students in the past have traditionally had the choice between two options: 1) the large research-oriented school (usually a state university), where the depth and scope of educational resources are great, but the quality of undergraduate teaching is often limited (or not considered to be an high priority); 2) the small liberal arts college, where the quality of undergraduate education is very high, but the depth and scope of educational resources are often limited. With the advent of internet technologies (especially through the world-wide web), and the resulting greater ease of communication and information sharing across great distances, a third option has now emerged: a consortium of small liberal colleges working in coordination to offer the student the depth and scope of resources available at the large state schools but in the environment of the small liberal arts college. This proposal seeks to create just such a learning experience under the auspices of the Associated Colleges of the South. The focus of this project is archaeological survey and excavation in an upland plain located in southwestern Turkey. This area, known today as the Elmalı plain, contains a wealth of ancient sites, the most important of which is the mound of Hacimusalar, the largest mound in Lycia and one of the most important sites in the region.

Background on the Elmalı plain and the mound of Hacimusalar may be found below pp. 5-7. Here I shall set out the nature of the workings of the ACS excavation project, and outline what I see to be its advantages for schools in the consortium.

I. OPERATION OF THE ACS EXCAVATION PROJECT

A. Administrative Overview

Any member school of the ACS may join the ACS Excavation Project. The fee to join the project is \$2,000.00. This money is used to cover major expenses incurred by students while in Turkey (i.e., room and board and local transport) and to hire additional workmen to assist the students while excavating in the field. The fee will allow up to three students from the contributing ACS institution to participate in the project. Survey and excavation take place each summer during the months of July and August.

B. On-Line Course Offered to Students Planning to Attend the Excavation and Survey

In the Spring semester before the student goes to Turkey, an on-line course (tentatively entitled *The Archaeology of Western Anatolia in the Greco-Roman Period*) will be offered by Dr. Garrison, co-director of the Hacimusalar excavations. This on-line course will:

- 1) survey the arrival of Greek and Roman cultures in Western Anatolia.
- 2) examine the importance of Anatolia in Greek and Roman cultures.
- 3) explore both the impact of the arrival of Greek and Roman cultures on indigenous Anatolian cultures, and the blending of indigenous and foreign as manifest in the archaeological record.
- 4) concentrate especially on the cultural history of the area of ancient Lycia (where the mound of Hacimusalar is located).

5) provide some basic background on archaeological field method and technique as preparation for actual excavation in the summer months (see more detail, below, p. 2).

Dr. Garrison will initially make available a web syllabus which will outline the major topics and readings. Each week this syllabus will be updated as the course progresses. Students will be asked to read material, some of it available on the web. Once a week the instructor and students will meet at a MOO-site for discussions of the readings. Discussion topics will be made available beforehand in order to provide a framework in which the discussions may proceed, but it is hoped that the students will take the discussion in other directions when they desire. A discussion list will allow students to respond to and discuss issues at their convenience. Students will also work on the Hacimusalar web site, collating and synthesizing work on material from previous seasons. Grading will be based upon periodic written reports, which the students will post at the web site, as well as a final written project.

Credit for the on-line course and following excavation could be arranged through courses currently on the books here at Trinity, or students could simply enroll in existing courses/seminars at their home institutions.

C. Student Participation in Excavation and Survey in Turkey

Once in Turkey, students will participate in all three research programs of the project.

1. Field Survey

Using GIS (global information system) and total stations, the students will survey and map the Elmalı plain. This project is led by Dr. Pedar Foss of the University of Cincinnati. For more information on the field survey, see below, pp. 5-6.

2. Epigraphic Survey

Inscriptions from the Elmalı plain are numerous. They are found still *in situ* (including rock-cut funerary inscriptions), in the modern villages (e.g., reused in the foundations of houses), and in the museums in Elmalı and Antalya. Dr. Gary Reger of Trinity College will direct the epigraphic survey, which will concentrate in the early years on traveling the plain and the surrounding mountainsides to inventory all epigraphic material.

3. Excavation of the Mound Hacimusalar

The 1997 season will be the fourth season of excavation on the mound. Immediately upon their arrival, students will receive in-depth training in archaeological field method and techniques (supplementing material presented in the on-line course), and participate in the day-to-day excavating. Eventually, they will assume important roles in the documentation of the excavation. This will include drawing, the recording of archaeological strata in the daily field books, and the entering of data onto the excavation database (both dBase and AutoCAD systems). In addition to the mound of Hacimusalar, it is hoped that excavation may commence in 1997 in select areas in the immediate environs of Hacimusalar and on other mounds in the plain.

As well as these three research programs, students will have the opportunity to work on the small finds in the registry, and also to receive training in the sorting and identification of ceramics from the excavations (both tasks will involve significant work with dBase systems).

Conditional upon securing a phone line in Turkey, it would also be possible for the students to conduct an “on-line excavation.” Students could post daily results of their work, both in print and visual format (using a digital camera), on the Hacimusalar web page. The exact format of the daily excavation reports could go in several directions. Perhaps there may exist both an official site web page (all information cleared by the director), and an informal student journal page. It is conceivable that students may actively participate in the “publication” of the results of the excavation through work on the official site web page. This on-line excavation could be followed by all interested parties, both at the home institutions and in other places. The potential which this type of web site has in building interest locally via High School summer programs may be one of its most significant aspects. With a little advance work, it may be possible to structure all or part of a High School summer program to the on-line excavation (see more below, p. 3).

D. Faculty Participation in Excavation and Survey in Turkey

Interested faculty from participating institutions may want to consider working on the ACS excavation project. Certainly, the large size and interdisciplinary scope of the work to be carried on in the Elmalı plain leaves room for many different types of specialists. We seek especially interested faculty in Classical Studies, but research potentials exist for those colleagues in anthropology and sociology (both ancient and modern), history, geology, climatology and computer science (to mention only a few of the disciplines in which research projects exist and could be started almost immediately).

II. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ACS EXCAVATION PROJECT

A. For the ACS Consortium

The ACS excavation project provides a ready-made vehicle which allows for full participation by all members of the consortium. In this sense it may serve as a model for future collaborative endeavors of this type. It is interdisciplinary, appealing to students and faculty of both the humanities and sciences. It requires almost no administrative overhead. It is international in its scope and provides the possibility for wide-spread public exposure of the ACS and its members. It exploits many of the potentials of information technology, both for pedagogy and research. The on-line class and computer work while in the field actively moves computer-based resources into the classroom (and the field). The project would seem tailor-made for technology related initiatives. The stated goals of the ACS Pilot Project in Greek and Roman Studies are all met by the ACS excavation project:

- 1) to make faculty more aware of how technology can help them fulfill their teaching objectives.
- 2) to introduce technology which will demonstrate ways to be more flexible in presenting, discussing and interpreting information.

- 3) to provide opportunities for faculty to explore changing roles, moving toward a more interactive relationship with students.
- 4) to explore the redesign of relationships with students in order to free faculty time to stimulate learning rather than merely collecting information.
- 5) to employ technology to stimulate cross disciplinary collaboration.
- 6) to use the Internet (and collaborative work in the field) to provide opportunities to connect faculty on the same and on many campuses as a means of encouraging them to engage in collaborative research and teaching.
- 7) to introduce collaborative learning among students, stimulating student communication through electronic means.
- 8) to stimulate faculty to explore different ways of assessing student performance.

B. For individual institutions of the ACS

The ACS Excavation Project provides real-life answers to the perennial problems faced by small colleges. It provides students and faculty at different institutions the opportunity to meet and engage with a wider variety of students and faculty than is available in any one school (this is especially desirous in small departments in the Humanities). It provides intellectual access to an important excavation in the eastern Mediterranean at very little cost. This access will be beneficial to both faculty and students. The excavation and the collaborative nature of the project will be powerful tools in the recruitment of future undergraduate students. In this respect the out-reach program to the local High Schools (mentioned above in connection with the on-line excavation) may also be an important recruitment vehicle. This type of exposure in the High Schools can only help to build interest not only in archaeology and the Classics, but the humanities as a whole, which ultimately will serve individual schools. The heightened awareness of the member institution in the community can only be advantageous to the school. At the same time the project may also grow in the other direction, toward major research universities regionally located in reference to the ACS member schools.

THE EXCAVATION AND SURVEY PROJECT IN THE ELMALI PLAIN

I. Abstract:

One of the largest mounds in SW Turkey, the site of Hacimusalar holds tremendous potential for establishing a complete occupational sequence for ancient Lycia. It is expected that excavation of the site will contribute especially to our understanding of early Iron Age levels in Anatolia. Although the Greek and Roman cultures of western Anatolia are abundantly and spectacularly documented, we are poorly informed about the period 1000-500 B.C., not only in central and northern Lycia, but in western Anatolia as a whole (with a few notable exceptions, such as Sardis and Gordion). Excavation of Hacimusalar promises to help fill this gap; architecture and ceramic from the site should establish the definitive sequences for the region, and have broader implications for the whole of western Anatolia.

Hacimusalar is located in the Elmalı plain, which contains a wealth of ancient sites, few of which have been explored in any detail (at least 8 prehistoric mounds [3rd millennium B.C. or earlier], Iron Age burial tumuli, tombs and occupation sites dating from the Persian period through modern times). Through excavation and survey (both field survey and epigraphic survey), the project seeks to articulate more clearly the nature of the relationships of these surrounding sites with the principal site of Hacimusalar, and thereby to understand, in more general terms, patterns of human occupation and landscape exploitation through time (and under varying political structures).

II. Background on the mound of Hacimusalar and the surrounding area:

In the western Lycian Taurus mountains in Turkey there are several plains oriented in a southwest-northeast direction, separated by ridges of mountains composed of limestone which was laid down in the Mesozoic era. The plains are generally around 15 kms. in length. The mound of Hacimusalar is located in the most westerly of these plains, known today as the Elmalı plain (the modern town of Elmalı is located at the head of the eastern side of the plain). Hacimusalar lies southwest of Elmalı, on the road to Kalkan, and is situated virtually in the center of the Elmalı plain (see the accompanying map and photograph, figs. 1-2).

Communications are easy in the Elmalı plain, and passes through the mountains are not difficult. Ancient roads ran from central Anatolia through the mountains to the Elmalı plain and then on down to the coast to cities such as Antepheilos-Kaß, Myra and Limyra. The most important river in northern Lycia is the Akçay, which runs through the Elmalı plain 750 meters to the south of Hacimusalar, ending in the Avlan plain. The recent draining of lakes in the Elmalı plain has resulted in drought, and the ecology of the plain has changed unfavorably. In antiquity the inhabitants of this region made their living from fishing, hunting, and the production of articles made from reeds. The lakes overflowed roughly every 10 years, thereby naturally irrigating the fields. It is probable that during ancient times there was also agricultural activity in the vicinity of these lakes. An additional resource would have been the cedar forests which were abundant on the west slopes of the Bey Dag mountains at the eastern side of the plain. It can be assumed that Hacimusalar and other settlements in the plain were surrounded by rich and favorable resources in antiquity.

Hacımusalar is the largest mound in the Elmalı plain and one of the largest in the whole of southwestern Anatolia (fig. 2). The highest point of the mound is 13 meters above the plain. The mound is approximately circular in shape, measuring 300 by 350 meters. It is high around the perimeter, sloping downward gradually to the center of the mound.

III. Background on previous research in the region:

No scientific excavation was carried out in the region until relatively recently. Between 1963 and 1974 Machteld Mellink directed excavations at Karatas*-Semayük, which produced definite evidence for Early Bronze Age occupation in the plain, and indicated that Lycia played an important role among the 3rd millennium cultures of western Anatolia (see annual reports by M. Mellink in *AJA* 68-78 [1964-74] and *Türk Arkeoloji Dergisi* [1964-1975]; Eslick 1992; Warner 1994). More recent research which has added to our knowledge of the characteristics of northern Lycian cultures has been carried out by James Coulton, both in the general area, and in particular at Balboura (Coulton 1987; 1988; 1989; 1992; 1993). Important Iron Age tumuli have been excavated at Bayındır (Özgen and Özgen 1992, pp. 32-49, figs. 29-62). Finds from the tumuli show affinities with Phrygian and Lydian cultures of the 8-6 centuries B.C. The excavated material includes silver and ivory figurines, bronze and silver horse-trappings, bronze and silver bowls and cauldrons and bronze fibulae, all of which find their counterparts at Gordion and other Phrygian sites. Persian and Archaic and Classical East Greek influence is also abundantly documented in plain and the surrounding mountainsides. Notable examples include the wall paintings of the chamber tombs at Karaburun and Kızıbel, which were excavated by Machteld Mellink (Mellink 1970; 1972; 1973; 1974). The mound of Hacımusalar and its surroundings were investigated (but not excavated) in the 1960's by Martin Harrison and George Bean, who discovered epigraphic evidence in the vicinity to suggest that this was the site of ancient Choma (Bean and Harrison 1967). Since 1994 teams from Bilkent University in Ankara (directed by Dr. İlknur Özgen and Dr. Mark B. Garrison) have carried out survey in the Elmalı Plain and excavation at Hacımusalar (Özgen, 1996; in press).

Survey work carried out by teams from Bilkent University has shown that in the Elmalı plain there are at least 8 prehistoric mounds dating to the 3rd millennium B.C. There is apparently an hiatus in occupation in the Elmalı plain in the late Middle Bronze and Late Bronze ages, but thereafter the plain is inhabited continuously into modern times. Numerous sites dating from the Iron Age through the Medieval period dot the plain and the flanks of the surrounding mountains. The emphasis of the recent Bilkent survey has not been, however, systematic field survey; rather, the survey work has concentrated on understanding the geomorphological setting of the region. Led by Dr. F. Sancar Ozaner, the survey produced in 1994 a detailed geomorphological map (fig. 1) of the region. This map also includes the location of some of the more prominent mounds and tumuli in the region, but no attempt was made to include all ancient sites (which have yet to be surveyed and recorded accurately).

Teams from Bilkent University have also conducted three short seasons of excavation at Hacımusalar (approximately 10 weeks total of excavation). The Bilkent excavations have

concentrated on attempting to obtain: 1) a sense of the horizontal distribution of occupation in the very latest levels of the mound; 2) the nature of the vertical stratification of the mound in one test square. The excavations to date suggest that most of the northern half of the mound is covered with substantial and densely concentrated domestic structures probably dating to the late Roman period. These structures, found immediately under the modern surface of the mound, are remarkably well preserved, the walls standing to a height of almost 2.00 m. in some areas. The structures of the latest phase of occupation on the site have multiple building phases, and lie directly above another phase of substantial architectural remains, which have yet to be revealed or explored in detail. The southern half of the mound is marked by burials which, in some places, disturb domestic structures;. These burials, based on their stratigraphic position, orientation, layout and simplicity, appear to be late Roman or early Byzantine in date. The trench to test the stratification of the mound is now four meters below the modern surface. The excavations in this trench have revealed that the late burials rest above a thick layer of tips and spills, perhaps associated with dumping. Ceramics, not yet analyzed in detail, suggest that this layer of tips and spills dates to the 3-2 centuries B.C. The excavations in 1996 appear to have reached the bottom of this level. Ceramics in general from all the trenches show that the site was inhabited from Neolithic to Late Roman, with an hiatus in occupation in the Middle and Late Bronze Ages (see comments above). The quality of the ceramics (collected from the site in surface survey and from the excavation of the upper levels) is exceptionally high in all periods. Lydian and Phrygian wares occur regularly, as do wares from east Greece; a few sherds of Attic Red Figure have also been found in survey and excavation on the mound. In addition, there exists substantial amounts of ceramic of local manufacture.

IV. Goals of the current project:

The Elmalı plain contains a wealth of ancient material and sites, most of which, for all intents and purposes, are unstudied. Clearly the mound of Hacimusalar is a large and important regional center for interior Lycia. Hacimusalar and other sites in the plain hold great potential for answering many questions which exist concerning the inhabitants of the region during antiquity. The position of Hacimusalar within an clearly delimited valley environment also offers an excellent opportunity to pursue a regionally-based research agenda.

Obviously, proper study of the mound Hacimusalar and the Elmalı plain represents a long term project. In many ways the mound is daunting, both in its size and depth of accumulation. The importance of the mound for the region of ancient Lycia dictates, however, that exploration be undertaken. In addition, the time seems right for an intense period of study. Much preliminary groundwork has already been laid in the previous three seasons of survey and excavation. An infrastructure is already in place, and intense work could start immediately on our proposed goals.

The overarching goals of the project are the following:

- 1) to create a material culture sequence from the Neolithic through the Roman periods for central Lycia (through excavations at Hacimusalar). At present, this sequence does not exist, owing to the lack of excavation of any long-lived site such as Hacimusalar in this region.

Excavation of Hacimusalar in essence will create the material cultural sequences which will become the reference standard for the region.

2) to document settlement and cemetery distribution in the plain and on the surrounding mountainsides through time, and to explain changes in site distribution in the plain through time (through field survey).

3) to explore especially how changes in site distribution correlate with known periods of highly centralized authority (especially the Lydian and Achaemenid Persian periods; we are particularly interested to understand the nature of changes that occur in a well-defined region when political power from afar [e.g., Persia] is introduced).

4) to understand the exact role of Hacimusalar through time, both within the Elmalı plain and beyond (through excavations at Hacimusalar, through survey of and limited excavations in the Elmalı plain and through geophysical and remote sensing survey in the plain). As the most important site in the plain and beyond, Hacimusalar may be investigated both as a central site (within its own region) and a peripheral one (within, e.g., the context of the Achaemenid Persian empire).

5) to explore in detail the period c. 1000-400 B.C. in the region (through excavations at Hacimusalar and through survey of and limited excavations in the Elmalı plain), a period for which we are poorly informed, not only in central and northern Lycia, but in western Anatolia as a whole (with a few notable exceptions, such as Sardis and Gordion).

6) to collect, collate and edit the epigraphic material from the Elmalı plain and the surrounding mountainsides (epigraphic project to be led by Dr. Reger).

V. Directors and Specialists

Dr. Mark B. Garrison, Co-Director of the Project

Trinity University - Associate Professor, Department of Classical Studies.

PhD (Classical Art and Archaeology) 1988, University of Michigan; MA (Classics) 1981, University of Ottawa; BA (History) 1978, University of Oklahoma.

Dr. Garrison is a specialist in the early Iron Age cultures of Anatolia, Mesopotamia and Iran, and has published articles and monographs on these areas and periods (see cv). He has sixteen years of archaeological field experience, and has directed archaeological excavations in Turkey (since 1995) and Tunisia (1987-91).

Dr. Ilknur Özgen, Co-Director of the Project

Bilkent University - Chair, Department of Archaeology and Art History.

PhD (Classical Archaeology) 1982 and MA (Classical Archaeology) 1976, Bryn Mawr College.

Dr. Özgen is a specialist in the early Iron Age cultures of Anatolia, and has published articles and monographs on these areas and periods (see cv). She has extensive archaeological field experience in Turkey.

Dr. Gary Reger, Epigraphic Specialist

Trinity College - Associate Professor, Department of History.

PhD and MA (History) 1987 and 1984, University of Wisconsin-Madison; BA (History) 1975, University of Illinois-Urbana.

Dr. Pedar Foss, Field Survey and Computer Information Specialist

University of Cincinnati - Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Classics.

PhD and MA (Classical Art and Archaeology) 1994 and 1991, University of Michigan; BA (Classics and Chemistry) 1988, Gustavus Adolphus College.

Dr. Karen Eva Carr, Ceramic Specialist

Portland State University - Assistant Professor, Department of History.

PhD and MA (Classical Art and Archaeology) 1992 and 1989, University of Michigan; BA (Classics and Archaeology) 1985, Cornell University.

VI. List of figures

1. Geomorphological map of the Elmalı plain.
2. View of the mound of Hacimusalar.

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