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Rough Cilicia Archaeological Survey Project: Report of the 1996 Season

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THE ROUGH CILICIA REGIONAL SURVEY

PROJECT

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PROVINCE: ANTALYA**; DISTRICT:** ALANYA

Map 1

Rough Cilicia Regional Archaeological Survey Project: Report of the 1996 Season.

Jennifer Tobin (Bilkent University, Ankara Turkey), **Richard Blanton** (Purdue University; **Mette Korsholm** (Danish Institute in Athens), **Nicholas Rauh** (Purdue University), **Rhys Townsend** (Clark University), **Stephen Tracy** (Ohio State University).

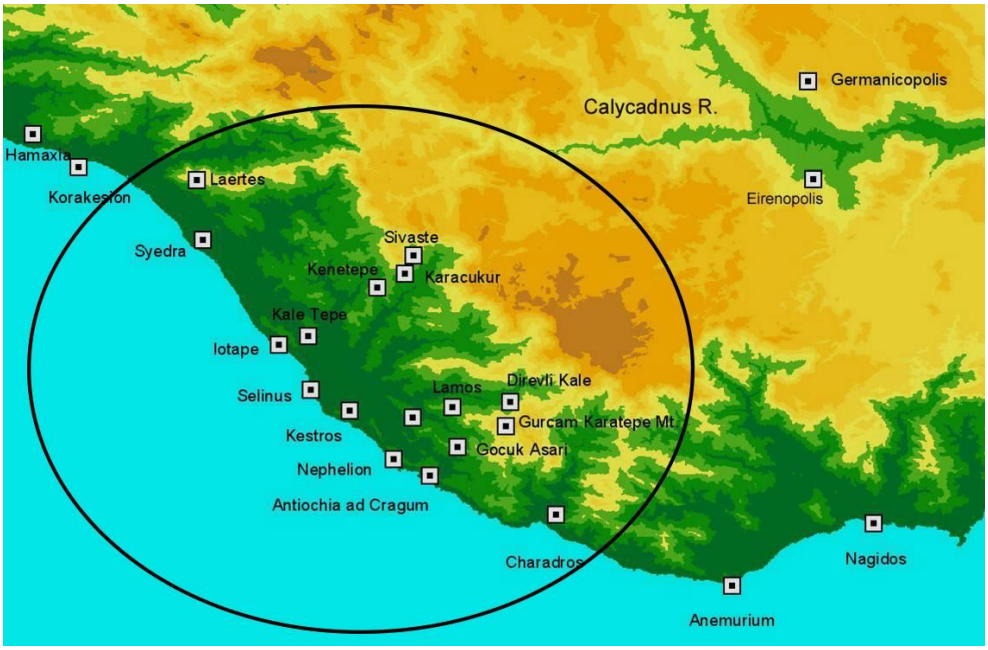
The historical character of the Mediterranean reflects the importance of extensive long-distance sea travel that moved commodities, culture, and people, and that figured into military strategy and state formation. A growing number of archaeological researchers in the Mediterranean recognize the utility of social

theories that address the consequences of interaction at the scales of world-system, area, and region. Intensive, systematic archaeological survey has proven one of the most productive methods capable of resolving issues raised by a world-system theoretical orientation, and the results of this research illustrate that the social outcomes of extra-mural contact vary according to the nature of resources and the role of a region in a larger interactive arena.

The Rough Cilician Archaeological Survey Project is contributing new data and ideas to this growing research orientation (Map 2). The study region, while environmentally marginal, and never the site of a major polity, was well situated in a way other marginal regions were not to intermediate in major sea-borne commercial flows along the boundaries of important polities, and between major Mediterranean sea routes and the inland populations of the Anatolian Plateau. Rough Cilician was an ideal setting for the development of semi periphery and boundary polities, a process most clearly expressed in the growth of the powerful Cilician pirate societies of the Late Hellenistic period (C. 139-67 BC). These pirates emerged in 139 BC from mercenary naval elements inured to violence during the anarchic break-up of Hellenistic realms in the eastern Mediterranean, particularly the Seleucid realm of Syria. The pirates found sanctuary in fortified naval bases located along this remote, rugged coast of western Cilicia Tracheia (Coracesium and the "Kragos Mountain," later refounded as Antioch on the Kragos, are specifically mentioned by literary sources--Figures 3 and 4).[1] For more than 70 years, the pirates waged economic war with neighboring Hellenistic realms, especially with the forces of the Roman

[1] For Coracesium, see Strabo 14.5.2 (668); Plut. *Pomp*. 27.1. For the Kragos and the Antikragos, see App. *Mith*. 96. Appian is the only source to mention this bastion in connection with piracy and he clearly states that Pompey assaulted it upon arrival "in Cilicia." The place name is frequently confused with the mountains Strabo describes in western Lycia, despite the remoteness of the latter location from known pirate enclaves: 14.3.5 (665); 14.5.3 (669); Ormerod 1924: 240 n.1. We suspect that the places were simply synonymous. For the site see S. Erdemgil and F. Özoral 1975: 55-71; G. Huber 1964: 143-4; E. Rosenbaum, G. Huber, S. Onurkan 1967: 18-29, 49-52, 67 f., 90 f.; F. Hild and H. Hellenkemper 1990: 322.

Republic and its far-flung provincial empire. Reportedly, the pirates recruited massive armed forces (more than 1000 warships and 30,000 combatants) and by the 70s BC extended the force of their maritime violence from Rough Cilicia to the eastern coast of Spain. According to historical sources, the pirates established vast naval facilities at their Cilician and Lycian fortress harbors.[2] Although Roman republican authorities commissioned a number of generals to confront the pirate menace, their efforts remained desultory and inconsistent, particularly during periods of protracted warfare in Italy and the provinces. In 67 BC, however, the Roman people commissioned Cn. Pompeius Magnus with sweeping Mediterranean-wide authority to eradicate the pirate menace.



Map 2: Rough Cilicia Regional Survey Project Area

[2] Including ports equipped with dockyards, shipsheds, large quantities of naval supplies, and captured artisans and craftsmen to build and maintain their navy.

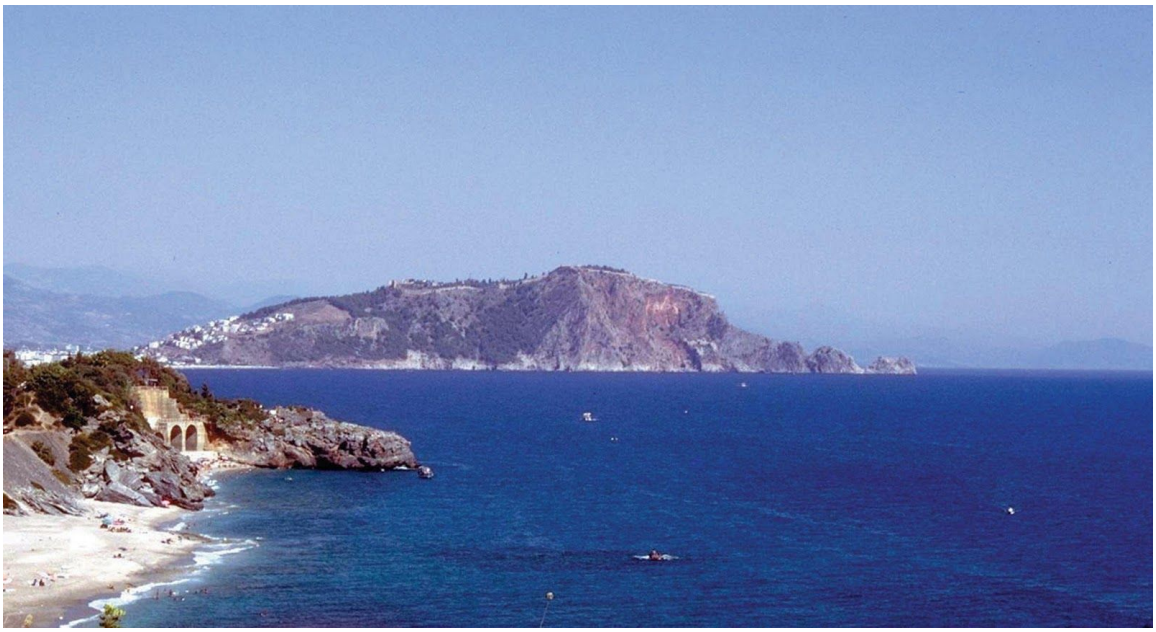


Figure 3: Coracesium (modern Alanya)

Figure 4: The "Antikragos" of Antioch on the Kragos

Our intensive, systematic archaeological survey in the vicinity of "known" Cilician pirate bases and their hinterlands offers a unique opportunity to evaluate the material remains of a distinctly nontraditional "culture" of the Hellenistic world, a culture receiving little previous archaeological attention. Our intention is to complete a surface survey of the sustaining areas of the three main sites, **Coracesium** (Alanya), **Selinus** (Gazipasha--**Figure 5**), and **Antioch ad Cragum** (Güney), including the intervening coastal strips as well as the major ridges that connect the coastal area with the Anatolian Plateau.

Figure 5: View of Selinus

As envisioned, the survey region encompasses approximately 600 square kilometers, extending from the coast to approximately the first high mountain range behind each center, probably somewhere near the 2,000 m contour line, although the details of our strategy in each case inevitably depend on local topography and the nature of site distributions.

Our basic units of field recording are survey tracts, defined by natural features such as portions of ridgelines or groups of agricultural fields (**Figure 6**). The tracts themselves range from about 5 to 30 ha. in area in rural terrain to smaller probably 1 to 2 ha. sectors in areas of dense archaeological surface remains. After identifying a survey tract by measuring its boundaries through pacing, the crew leader completes a field map. Crews then make passes through the tract, maintaining a 20 m average spacing, covering its entire surface, and calling out to the crew leader regarding any evidence of past human activity. Tract locations are recorded on 1:5,000 topographic maps acquired from the Turkish Mapping and Cadastral Central Administration. In addition, each tract's location and elevations are corroborated by means of a global positioning device (GPS). Tract maps indicate the density of artifact scatters and the locations of archaeological features. When necessary, separate maps are produced for complex features such as architectural remains. Such features, as well as general environmental information describing the tract (soil type and depth, topography, vegetation, modern land use), are recorded on a standardized survey form for each tract, as are summaries of the nature and density of artifactual remains where present.

The employment of this comparatively intensive field method obviously restricts the survey to "mesoscale" size. This scale is larger than the sustaining area of a particular center, but smaller than that the larger surveys conducted in Mesopotamia. This regional scale appears adequate to address the questions of changing demographic, political and economic structure that the project is addressing, because it allows us to evaluate the nature of secondary center growth along the boundary zones of multiple dominant centers

Figure 6: Survey Tract 28-b-21-c-2 and northward from the Selinus Acropolis

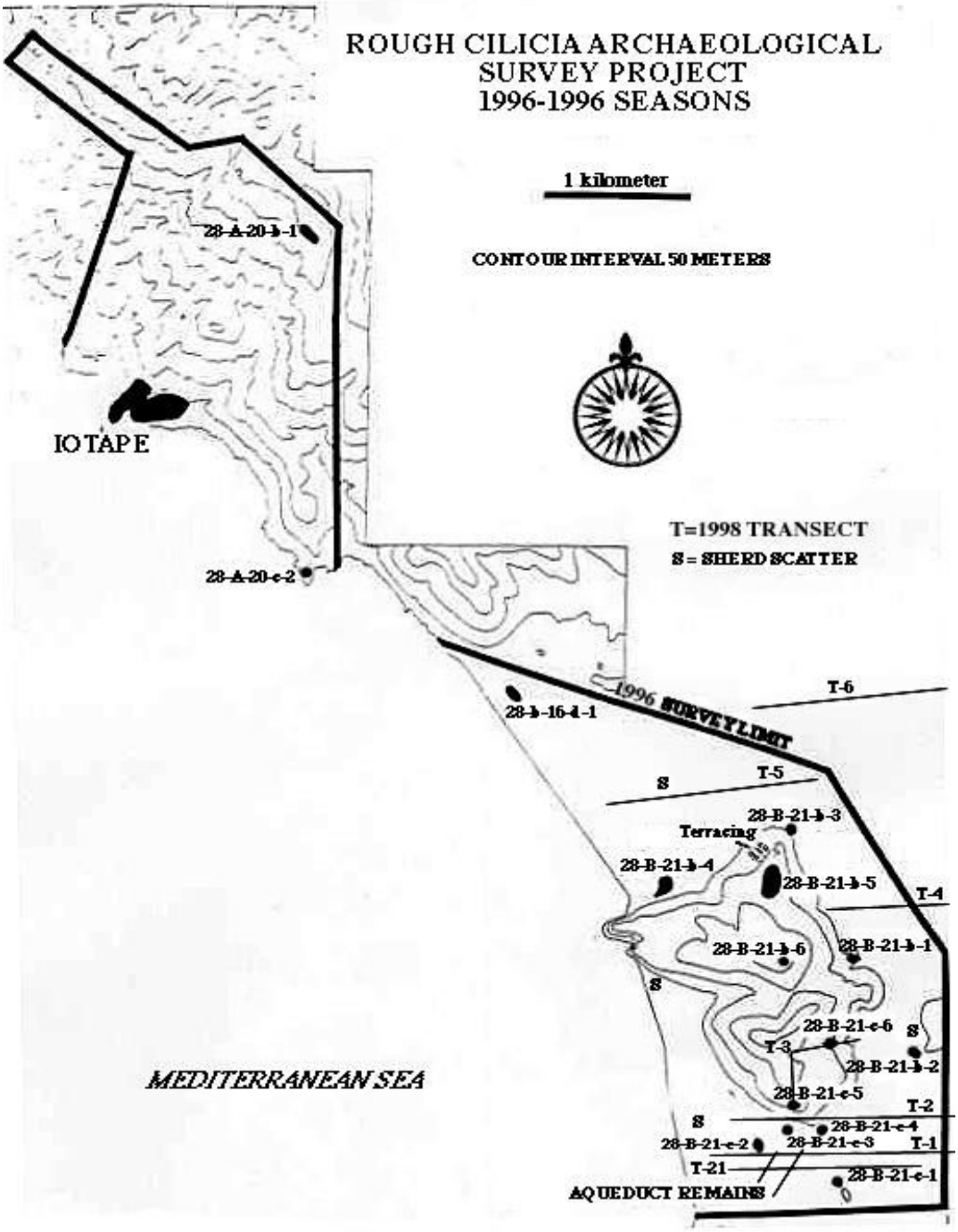
By collecting data on all periods of occupation in the Rough Cilician region, we intend to contextualize the growth of the pirate systems by reference to the nature of long-term demographic and social change in this environmentally and politically marginal region. Some of the questions we are examining are as

follows: 1) Did characteristic political, economic, and demographic patterns persist over time in the presumably marginal locality of western Rough Cilicia? For example, was the region as a whole tend cohesive politically, or did it tend toward a more fragmented social landscape? 2) Was the Late Hellenistic pirate period unlike prior and subsequent social formations, or was it one built around enduring local themes? 3) What were the relationships among the fortified centers and between the centers and the rural areas of Rough Cilicia? 4) Do interactions beyond the local system in western Rough Cilicia result in settlement nucleation and regional dominance by major centers, or do exterior connections provide economic opportunities for rural producers whose populations increase during periods of increased external ties?

RESULTS OF THE 1996 SEASON

In July 1996 Professors Rauh and Blanton of Purdue University received authorization from the Turkish Directorate of Monuments and Museums to conduct our first survey season with a team of four specialists (Stephen Tracy, Rhys Townsend, Jennifer Tobin, and Mette Korsholm), three students, and our Service Representative, Nursel Uçkan from the National Ethnographical Museum in Ankara. The 1996 Survey Season was funded by grants from the National Science Foundation, Purdue University, Clark University, the Ohio State University, and the Danish Humanities Institute. Our team worked under the supervision of Dr. Ismail Karamut, Director of the Alanya Archaeological Museum, and his staff. In a three-week season we surveyed approximately 20 sq. kms. in the vicinity of the sites of Selinus (the coastal mountain and plains north of the site) and Iotape (see **Map 3**). In the northern vicinity of Selinus (Gazipasha) we identified two aqueduct remains, eight ceramics deposits, one fortified "satellite village" (28-b-21-b-5, "Site 5," **Figures 8-10**), and two amphora production centers (28-b-21-b-4; 28-b-16-d-1). We also mapped the sites of Iotape and Laertes and made a surface collection at an amphora production center on

the shore about 3 kilometers southeast of Syedra (the "Syedra Kiln Site"). In the vicinity of Iotape we identified a second fortified "satellite village" (28-a-20-b-1, **Figure 11**), and a small "work center" characterized by a "cistern" and ceramics deposit (28-1-20-c-2).



Map 3: Survey Zone of the 1996 Season

Figure 8: View of "Site 5" (28-b-21-b-5) from the South

Figure 9: Door Sill at "Site 5"

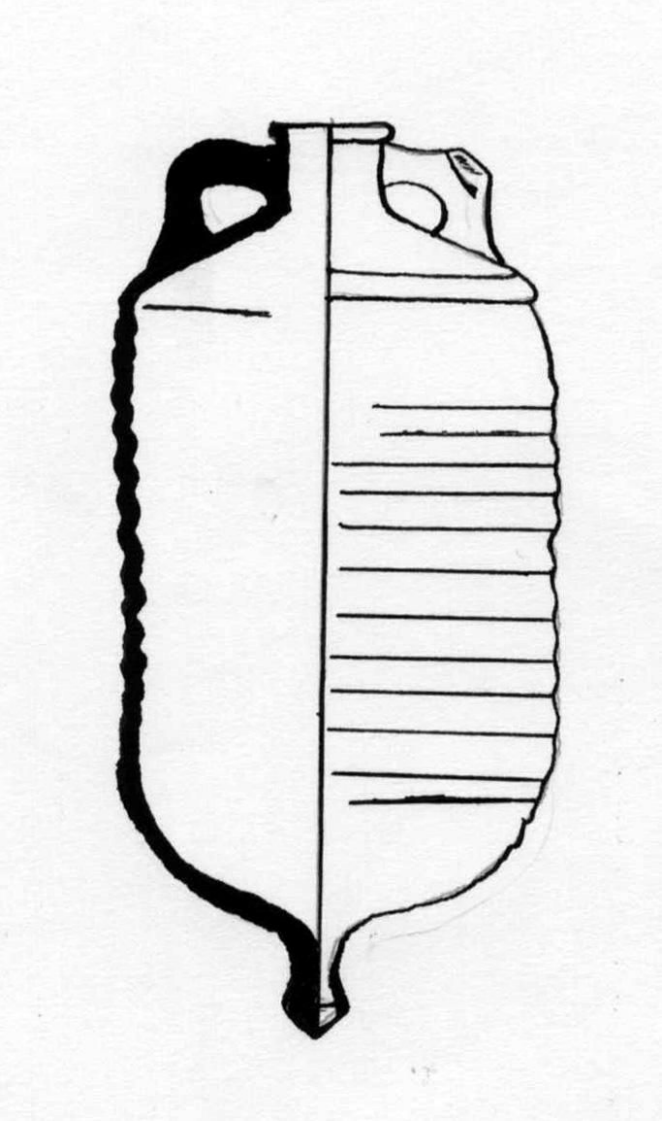
Figure 10: Press Stone at "Site 5"

Figure 11: Remains of "Satellite Village" above Iotape (28-b-20-b-1)

In the course of this fieldwork, the team completed 46 different ceramics collections. Unfortunately, Turkish museum regulations required that we deposit the sherds in sealed containers at the Alanya Archaeological Museum without adequate time to photograph them for this report. We can at least note the following. Our study of the ceramics remains, particularly those from the collections at the three identified amphora-production centers are increasingly identifying Rough Cilicia as the production center for Zemer 41/Williams Type A amphoras (**Figures 12-14**).[3] The Type A amphora is generally assigned to the first to fourth centuries AD and its remains has been identified in Israel, Libya, Athens, Pompeii and coastal southern France. Our collections already identify this amphora as the primary transport container of the region in the early Roman era, with the identification of its sherds at mountain sites as removed from the

[3] See Carolyn Williams 1989: 91, fig. 54-55, form 548-559; Zemer 1977: 52, no. 41; Sciallano and Sibella, 1994: 97. Cf. John Lund, "The 'pinched-handle' transport amphorae as evidence of the wine trade of Roman Cyprus," to appear in the Third International Congress of Cypriot Studies, Nicosia, 16-20 April, 1996.

coast as Laertes pointing to the existence of a significant regional system of wine production.



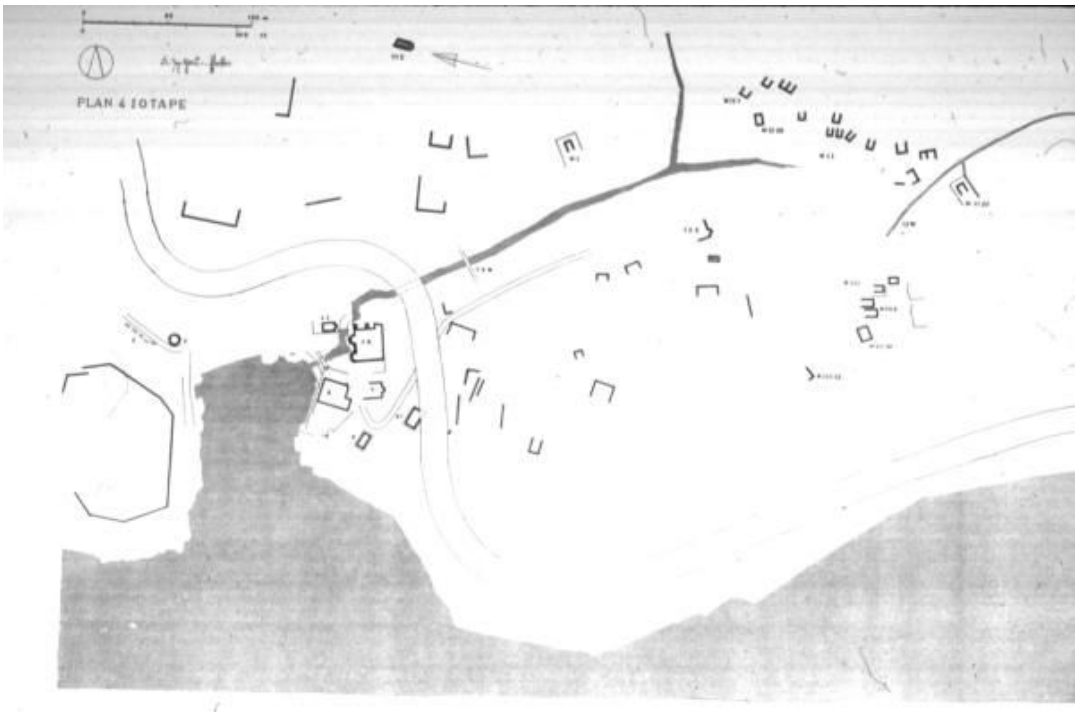
Figures 12: Profile Drawing of the Zemer 41-Williams Type A Amphora

Figure 13: Sherds at the "Syedra Kiln Site"

Figure 14: Fragment of Concrete/Tile Foundation at the "Syedra Kiln Site"

Our work in other respects, ceramic, epigraphical and architectural, remains extremely preliminary. Tentatively, we submit the following observations:

Concerning **Iotape**. Though conspicuous from the modern roadway that cuts directly through the site, Iotape, located approximately 9 km. northwest of Gazipasha, has received little attention. To date, the only plan of the site has focused on the public structures situated between the road and the sea. Drawn in the mid-1960s by Gerhard Huber as part of Elizabeth Rosenbaum's study, *A Survey of Coastal Cities in Western Cilicia* (**Plan 1**), the plan shows two buildings, identified as baths, and two temple platforms (**Figure 15**), all of which are located to the east of a small stream that divides the site before spilling into the bay. To the west of the stream the plan includes the circuit wall of the citadel and the line of an ancient roadway flanked by several large honorific statue bases (**Figure 16**). On the higher ground across the modern road, the position of numerous tombs as well as scant wall traces of no discernible pattern are marked.



Plan1: Iotape, by G. Huber, from Rosenbaum: 1967

Figure 15: Temple Platform at Iotape

Figure 16: Street with Statue Bases at Iotape

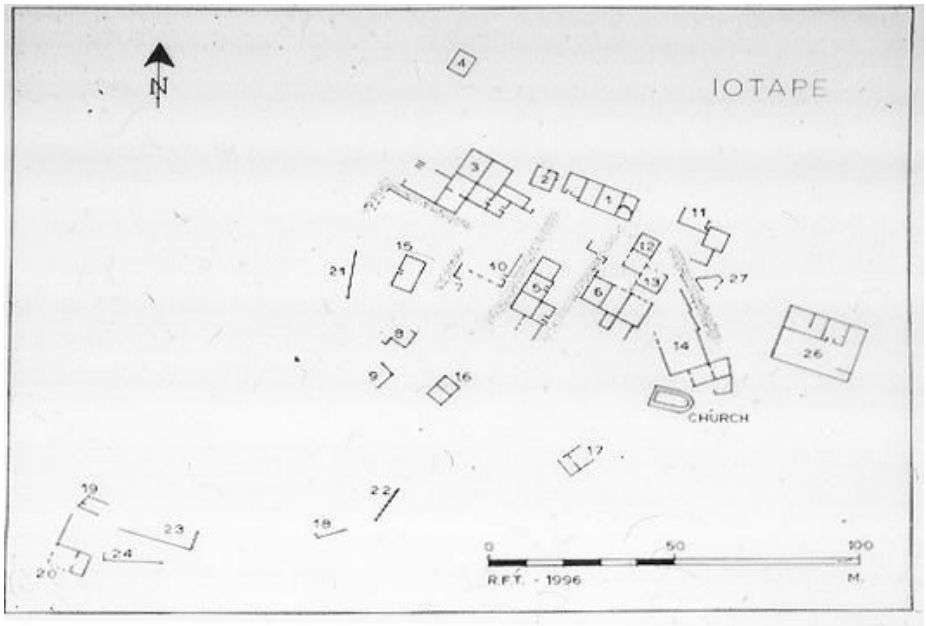
Figure 17: Iotape Acropolis

The architectural team of the survey concentrated its efforts this past season on the citadel and the area of higher ground inland. In each case, though working with only rudimentary instruments--essentially hand held compasses and measuring tapes, we were able to draw extensive surface remains of domestic architecture that provide a more representative view of the site.

The citadel wall encloses a warren of small structures (**Figure 17**). Today this area of approximately 2000 square meters is densely overgrown and obstructed by fallen rubble. Nevertheless, in two days of survey two crew members were able to identify at least 25 rooms. Traces of stairs and vaulting demonstrate that a number of these had more than one storey. This evidence, together with the repeated use of shared walls and narrow passageways, shows that the citadel should be reconstructed as a honeycomb of densely packed inhabitation

Across the modern road, our survey recorded 26 previously unrecognized buildings, mostly houses in the area north and west of the small medieval church that earlier investigators believed to lie at the northernmost extent of the site (**Plan 2**). Here we were able to discern not only individual houses, in many cases with walls standing a meter or more in height, often preserving doorjambs, but lines of streets as well (**Figure 18**). As in the case of the citadel, these structures are to be considered as a representative sample rather than an exhaustive recording of the preserved remains.

There are two periods of construction clearly identifiable in these remains: in the first period, local limestone quarried from the hill itself is roughly cut into square or nearly squared blocks that are joined in a rough ashlar fashion without mortar. In Period II, a rubble masonry of small stones set in a cement mortar is employed. Most often this technique is found as repair or addition to structures of Period I. On the citadel construction is represented primarily by Period II, with the addition of a third technique, probably a separate period, in which fragments of brick are added as part of the rubble construction.



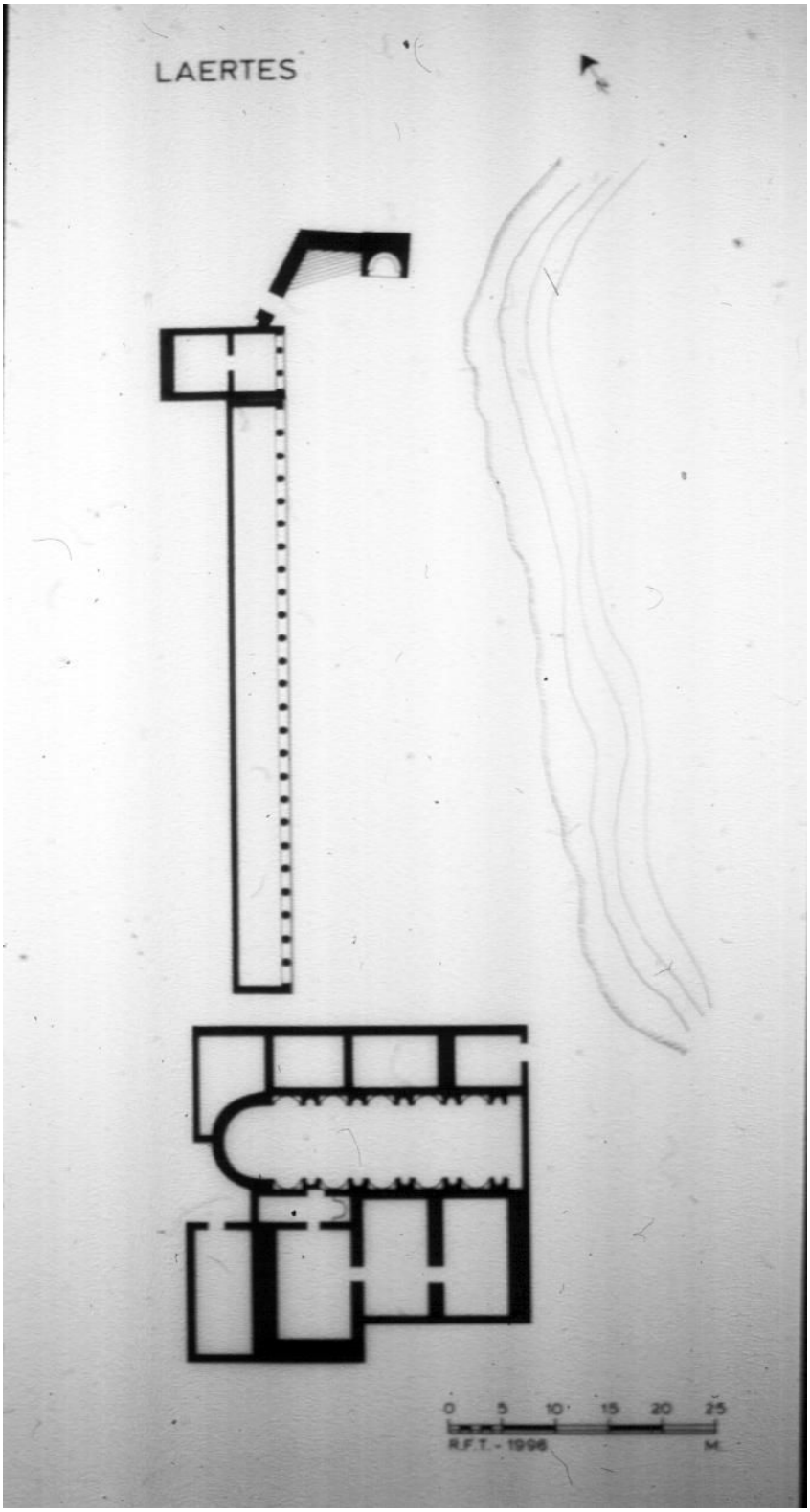
Plan 2: "Domestic Quarters" of Iotape

Figure 18: Remains of Street between Structures 14 and 27 on Plan 2

Together with our study of the principal phases of architectural remains, our preliminary identification and analysis of concentrations of Hellenistic and late Roman sherds in our grab collections suggest that the site was occupied in the Hellenistic era (that is, prior to its supposed founding by Antiochus IV of Commagene, c. 52 AD) and ceased during the Late Roman era (not "Middle Byzantine," as proposed by Hild and Hellenkemper 1990: 276). Based on our preliminary efforts the chronology of the site, and possibly of the entire region, warrants considerable revision.

Turning to Laertes, reportedly the home of Diogenes Laertius, the city is located 17 km. east of Alanya at an height of some 750 meters above sea level. No plan of this site, extremely rich in architectural as well as epigraphical and ceramic remains, has been published. Our survey began mapping the site by drawing the gymnastic complex near the western edge of the city (**Plan 3**). Previously

identified as an agora, the complex is situated in a naturally level area at the foot of a gentle rise that separates it from the rest of the city further east. It is closed off at its southern end by a large bath building (**Figure 19**). The bath design consists of a long central apsidal hall flanked by smaller unheated rooms facing northwards and larger vaulted and heated rooms facing to the south. A stoa 53 meters long extends northward from the bath creating a palaestral space in front of it for running and exercising (**Figure 20**). The north end of the stoa is closed off by a small temple in antis and an elaborate seating area made up of series of raised steps abutting an exedra originally set under a half-dome roof (**Figure 21**). Other public buildings at Laertes include what may be a bouleuterion as well as an agora. We have also identified a large residential area.



Plan 3: Gymnasium Complex at Laertes

Figure 19: Laertes: View of Bath Remains

Figure 20: View of Palaestra from the Bath with Exedra in the Distance

Figure 21: Exedra of Gymnasium Complex at Laertes

Remote and unguarded, Laertes is currently suffering from severe looting with literally scores of small "excavations" visible on the landscape. We brought this to the attention of Ismail Karamut, the Director of the Alanya Museum who informed us that he has repeatedly alerted the Directorate of Museums and Monuments to this problem. One positive outcome of this otherwise deplorable activity is the churning up of lower stratigraphic levels that have brought to the surface a significant amount of Hellenistic ceramics attesting to early settlement at the site.

Despite the relatively brief period we spent in the field in 1996, the results of our efforts already appear to be significant. We look forward to the opportunity to conduct a full summer season of the project in 1997.

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