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# Rough Cilicia Archaeological Survey Project: Report of the 1998 Season

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## Rough Cilicia Archaeological Survey Project: Report of the 1998 Season

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During the 1998 Season Nicholas Rauh (Purdue University), Levent Vardar (General Directorate for Monuments and Museums), Michael Hoff (University of Nebraska at Lincoln), Rhys Townsend (Clark University), LuAnn Wandsnider (University of Nebraska at Lincoln), Mette Korsholm (University of Copenhagen), Ilhami Yetkin (Alanya), and five students -- Yi-Shing Chung (University of Nebraska at Lincoln), Mark Stephan (Purdue University), Jason DeBlock (Bilkent University), Betül Sahin (University of Ankara), and Pinar Bursa (University of Istanbul) -- conducted our third season of the Rough Cilicia Archaeological Survey Project July 17-August 10, 1998 (see figure 1).<sup>1</sup>

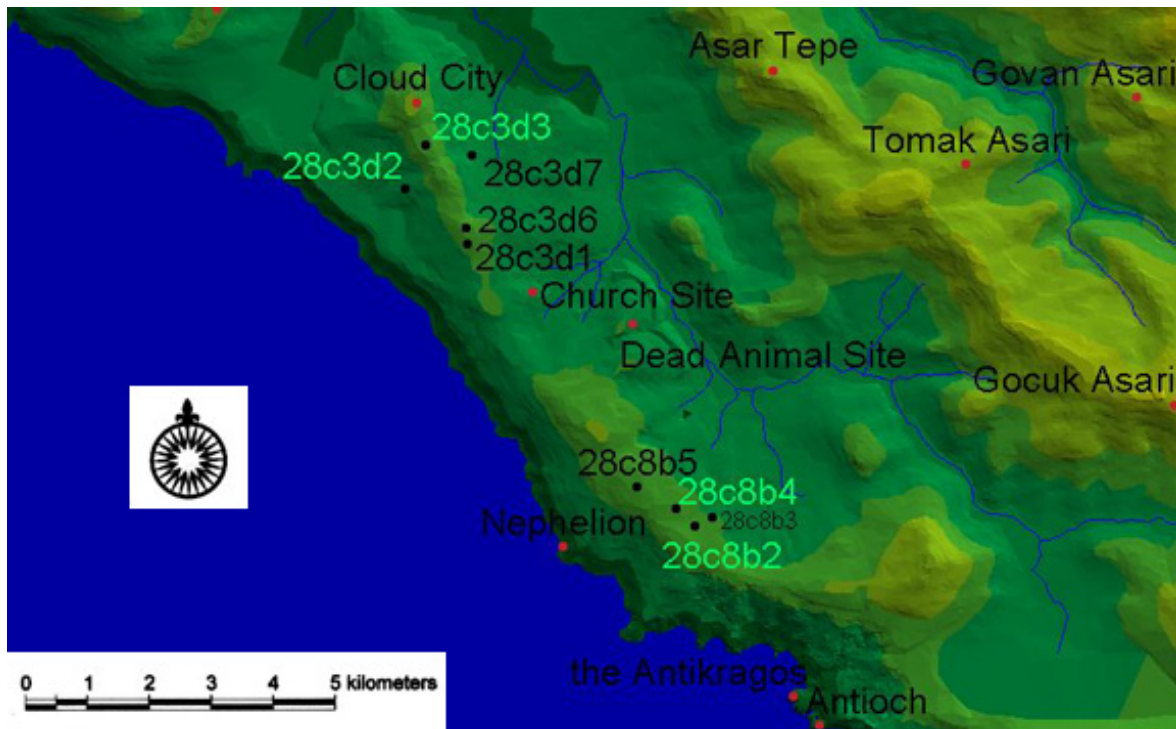


*Figure 1: The 1998 RCSP Survey Team*

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<sup>1</sup> This report was transformed from an html format into a PDF by Stanislav Pejša, the data curator at PURR. The article was lightly edited in order to accommodate the different presentation format. Typos and minor character encoding issues were corrected.

During the 1998 season the Rough Cilicia Survey team shifted the focus of our research to the discovery and analysis of rural sites and rural field tracks in the southern coastal portion of the survey zone (between ancient Selinus, modern Gazipasha, and ancient Nephelion (modern Muzkent) (see figure 2). To learn more about historic landscape use in the area, the field team surveyed 21 transects comprising more than 17 linear kilometers of survey terrain. To record our finds we employed GPS tracking devices to track our progress on 1:5000 topographical maps acquired from the Tapu ve Kadastro Genel Müdürlüğü (all sites are identified by these map codes), The architectural team, meanwhile, used a GPS device together with a Sokkia electronic total station (lent to the project by Hickerson Instruments Co. of Indianapolis IN) to map six rural sites (preliminarily identified as fortified settlements, villages, and farm houses). Two fortified sites revealed Hellenistic featural and artefactual remains that appear contemporaneous to the Cilician pirate phenomenon (c. 146-67 BC). A third village site revealed very poorly preserved remains together with a large cache of Cilician imitations of Cypro-archaic painted pottery. Although the pottery needs to be evaluated by a specialist during the coming season, by every indication it posits this site chronologically as the earliest one currently identified in the region of western Rough Cilicia.



*Figure 2: Southern Survey Area of the 1998 Season*

The 1998 Season of the Rough Cilicia Archaeological Survey Project was funded by grants from the Research Council of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and the Division of International Programs at Purdue University.

## The 1998 Systematic Field Survey

### LuAnn Wandsnider

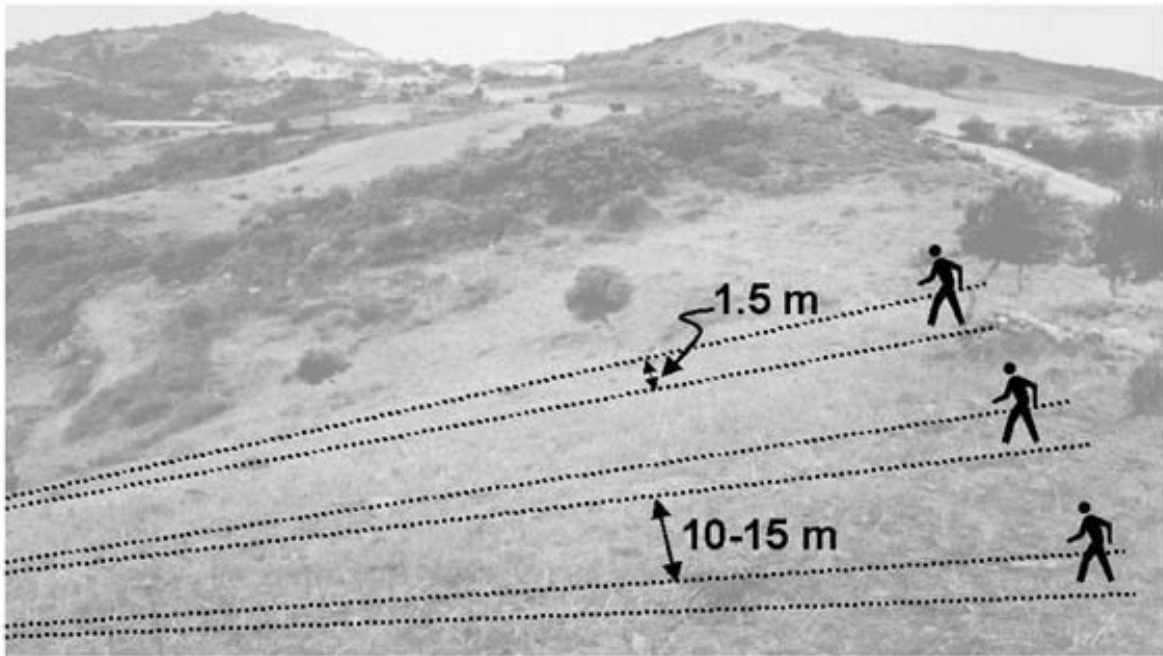
The 1998 systematic field survey was designed to develop and to evaluate a survey method that would incorporate evaluation of landscape human ecological questions. Landscape ecology refers to the study of the flow of energy, organisms, material, and information across the landscape. Landscape elements (defined as land parcels that are homogeneous with respect to specific criteria) with different characteristics and neighborhoods will differentially attract and deflect these flows. In turn, the configuration of these flows would signify the nature of the human-land system. As different political and economic structures prevailed in western Rough Cilicia, we expect that the use of the landscape by the local population may have been differentially organized. To evaluate these questions we employed the following strategies:

1. Collecting information on ceramic densities from landscape elements that are differentially located with respect to sites that vary by age, structural complexity, location, and so forth. Special attention was paid to those ceramics with known manufacture and distribution dates.
2. Collecting information on ceramic sherd attributes sensitive to deposition history. Sherd size, thickness, and degrees of abrasion and angularity are important in this area.
3. Collecting whatever information can be gleaned about the differential distribution of ceramics with different functions. For example, do we find fine ware sherds in low-density situations? If yes, are these associated with utilitarian wares or not?
4. Assessing the difficulty in defining landscape elements. Obviously, the definition to be used will depend on the anticipated human-land configurations. Preliminary landscape element stratification was based on distances to the coast, to a possible coastal road, to refuge in the hills; distances to agricultural land suitable for viticulture, olive tree growth, and or wheat agriculture as well as potentially pastoral land; or, defined in terms of potential defensibility.

To address these objectives, data were collected according to the following protocol:

- Survey areas were designed to sample areas differentially located with respect to previously identified sites as well as potentially different landscape elements (i.e., valley areas, hilltops, coastal slopes, inland slopes, potentially defensible hilltops). East-west trending survey transects were established. Along these transects, survey units with potentially high surface visibility (such as field) were sought and systematically inspected by a crew of four to five using a transect interval that ranged from 10-15 m (units were approximately 100 m in area) (see figure 3). Within each unit, subunits with different surface visibilities would be identified, characterized, and separately surveyed. Attributes of the subunits such as information about landform,

soil or sediments, surface visibility, vegetation, current use, as well as geographic location were recorded.



*Figure 3: Close Interval Survey Transect, 1998 Season*

- Surveyors were responsible for walking a linear traverse and inspecting an area approximately 1.5 m wide. (In areas of high sherd densities, this traverse width was decreased to 50 cm, as necessary.) Ceramic sherd totals were noted on the Survey Unit Description Form for individual transects, as was the total length of the area traversed. Survey members also picked up all possibly temporally diagnostic sherds, which was referred to as the "Grab Sample" and was labeled on collection tags as "GS." In addition, Yi-Shing Chung collected all ceramics along his traverse, referred to as the "Systematic Sample" and labeled on collection tags as "SS."
- Sites were defined as locations with pre-Ottoman architecture, however unspectacular, with at least two articulating walls. Features were defined as anthropic, nonportable phenomenon that did not meet the definitional criteria for architecture. In general, wall alignments inferred to be terrace or retaining walls were identified as features.
- Several biases deserve mention. Identification of ceramic sherds on surfaces with different textures and color schemes depends on the contrast between those sherds and the surface on which they reside, or the sherd's "obtrusiveness." Given the surfaces encountered during the 1998 survey, it is likely that Roman era ceramics tend to be highly obtrusive, and Hellenistic era ceramics are less obtrusive by virtue of their color, size, roundedness, and degree of surface lichenation or mineralization. Thus, it is quite likely that Hellenistic era sherds are under-represented in these survey results.



- Also, areas with thick scrub were mostly avoided as it became clear with the survey of Transect 2 that much effort would need to be expended to gain little information. In high brush areas where architecture came to be anticipated, an inspection team composed of two, usually Rauh and İlhami Yetkin, visited the area searching for architecture and collecting temporally diagnostic sherds. Thus, this survey method takes advantage of the high surface afforded by agricultural activities, with the potential risk that high scrub areas that were heavily used in the past are under-represented.
- A GIS (Geographic Information System)-compatible dBase file containing information about the surveyed subunits (from the Survey Unit Description Forms) has been constructed. These data will be cross-referenced with ceramic analytic data produced by Rauh and Chung.

## Preliminary Findings

Between July 17 and August 10 1998, intensive systematic survey was undertaken along almost 20 km of transects in the central portion of the Rough Cilicia study area (see figures 4 and 5). During this time, 21 transects were surveyed by survey personnel. Three-hundred-ninety-five (395) parcels of land were characterized and inventoried with respect to ceramic sherd density and type. In addition, ten small new sites were located as were several features, including large areas with terracing. These data will be used in analyses of historic land use.

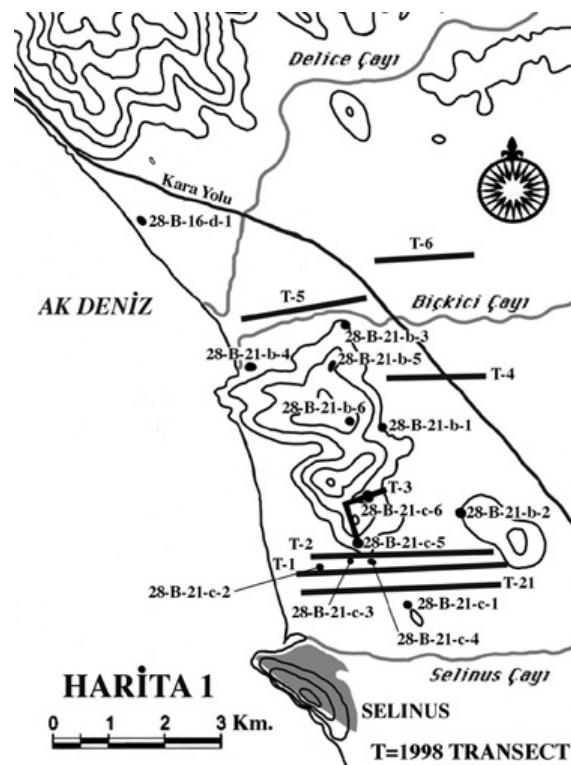


Figure 4: Survey transects investigated in the Selinus plain in 1998



*Figure 5: Survey transects investigated on the “Coastal Ridge” between Kestros and Nephelion in 1998*

Our preliminary findings include:

1. There is tremendous variation in sherd densities across the Rough Cilicia landscape and sherds were recovered from almost all surfaces. In the vicinity of architectural sites, densities are highest, ranging up to 20/linear meter surveyed. For other areas, ceramic sherds were conspicuously absent. These include valley areas near rivers (which may host more recent sediments), some high table land areas (which may not have been farmed until the recent advent of tractors). In other areas, dense scrub brush may have prevented the discovery of ceramic sherds. Areas with moderate sherd densities include areas with inferred agricultural terraces, both clearly ancient and possibly ancient. In some but not all cases, low to moderate sherd densities occur near structural sites and sherds were likely transported from them by natural agents. More specific interpretations about land use and chronology await the incorporation of the ceramic analyses undertaken by Nicholas Rauh and Yi-Shing Chung.
2. Terrace walls of varying ages, some of them ancient, abound. It may be possible to develop a chronologically sensitive typology of terrace walls that depends on the

"freshness" of the boulders and the size and species of the lichen colonies found thereon.

3. At least in the Selinus-Nephelion coastal area, nearly every landscape element that is high (above 250 m), with a commanding view of a valley, steep slopes on almost all sides, and at least 400 m. in area, exhibits a structural site (some with fortification walls). Importantly, landscape elements lacking one or more of these characteristics were deliberately examined for structural remains with no positive findings.

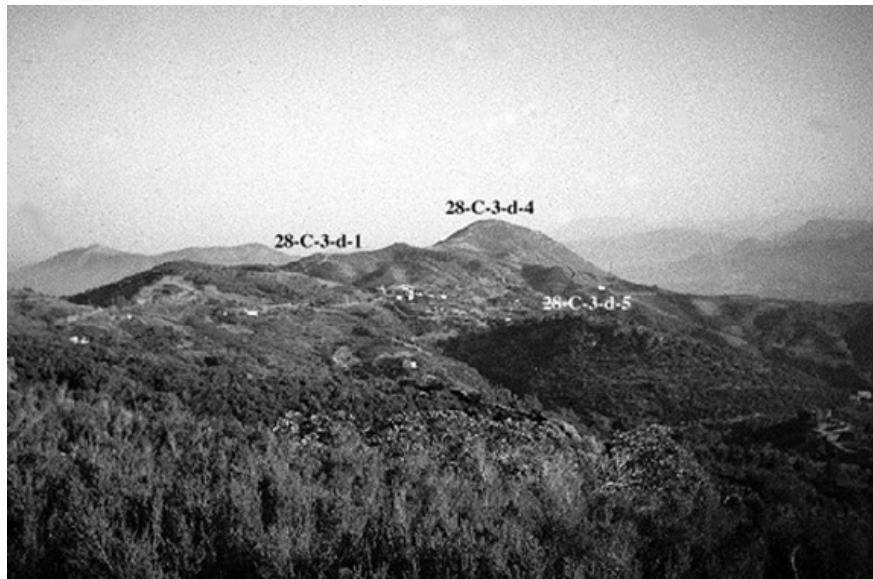
4. No chipped stone was noted, save for a possible obsidian flake recovered at P28-b-16-c-1 on Unit 6-2.

## The 1998 Architectural Survey

Rhys Townsend and Michael Hoff (Pottery data provided by Nicholas Rauh)

During the 1998 season the architecture team recorded and surveyed the remains at five new sites between Gazipasa and Muzkent, and continued our work from last season at the urban site of Selinus.

The largest site we investigated this season is situated atop Guda Tepe, the next peak south of Kestros (Map P28-c-03-a - d, Site 4), referred to by members of the team as "Cloud City" (see figure 6).



*Figure 6: View of ridge harboring Sites 28-C-3-d-1 through 28-C-3-d-5 from the southeast. Cloud City is 28-C-3-d-4; Church is 28-C-3-d-5.*

The upper reaches of the tepe consist of a gentle slope upon a narrow flat area. The architecture extends on the upper region and east and west slopes for more than 100 meters (see figure 7).





*Figure 7: Plan of Cloud City, Site 28-C-3-d-4*

The character of the structures falls essentially into two types: defensive and non-defensive. Along the NW slope are several well-constructed rectangular towers, apparently connected by walls. At the southern extremity of the site is a large round tower, constructed with massive roughly ashlar blocks. Around the SW rim of the site is a smaller circuit wall that joins the round tower. On the eastern side the high bedrock and steep slope may have made defensive fortifications unnecessary, as there is no evidence of wall here (see figure 8).



*Figure 8: View of remains at Site 28-C-3-d-4 (Cloud City)*

The other structures, likely houses, were built on terraces of walls along the east and west slopes. One structure is particularly well preserved to warrant mention. It is a two-room structure (house?) on the west slope whose walls still stand to over 2 meters in height, complete with its lintel in situ. The walls are heavily mortared which must account for its preservation. The interior wall faces of the structure still contain a thick coat of a plastered surface. Because the use of mortared walls and plastered surfaces is quite different than in the rest of the site, it would appear that this structure belongs to a different chronological period. South of Guda Tepe is Dede Tepe, approximately 150 meters in distance. On its east slope is situated a two-chambered roughly rectangular structure (site 7) that may have functioned as a defensive tower.

Pottery collected at this site includes one Rhodian stamped amphora handle, (now in the Study Collection; see figure 9); a possible Hellenistic Koan amphora, a few fragments of Hellenistic black slipped fine ware, and a large number of Early Roman fine ware sherds (including CS P-12, CS P-40 Krater). The predominant era of the pottery is Early Roman, followed by Hellenistic and Late Roman sherds in descending order.



*Figure 9: Stamped Rhodian amphora handle from Cloud City*

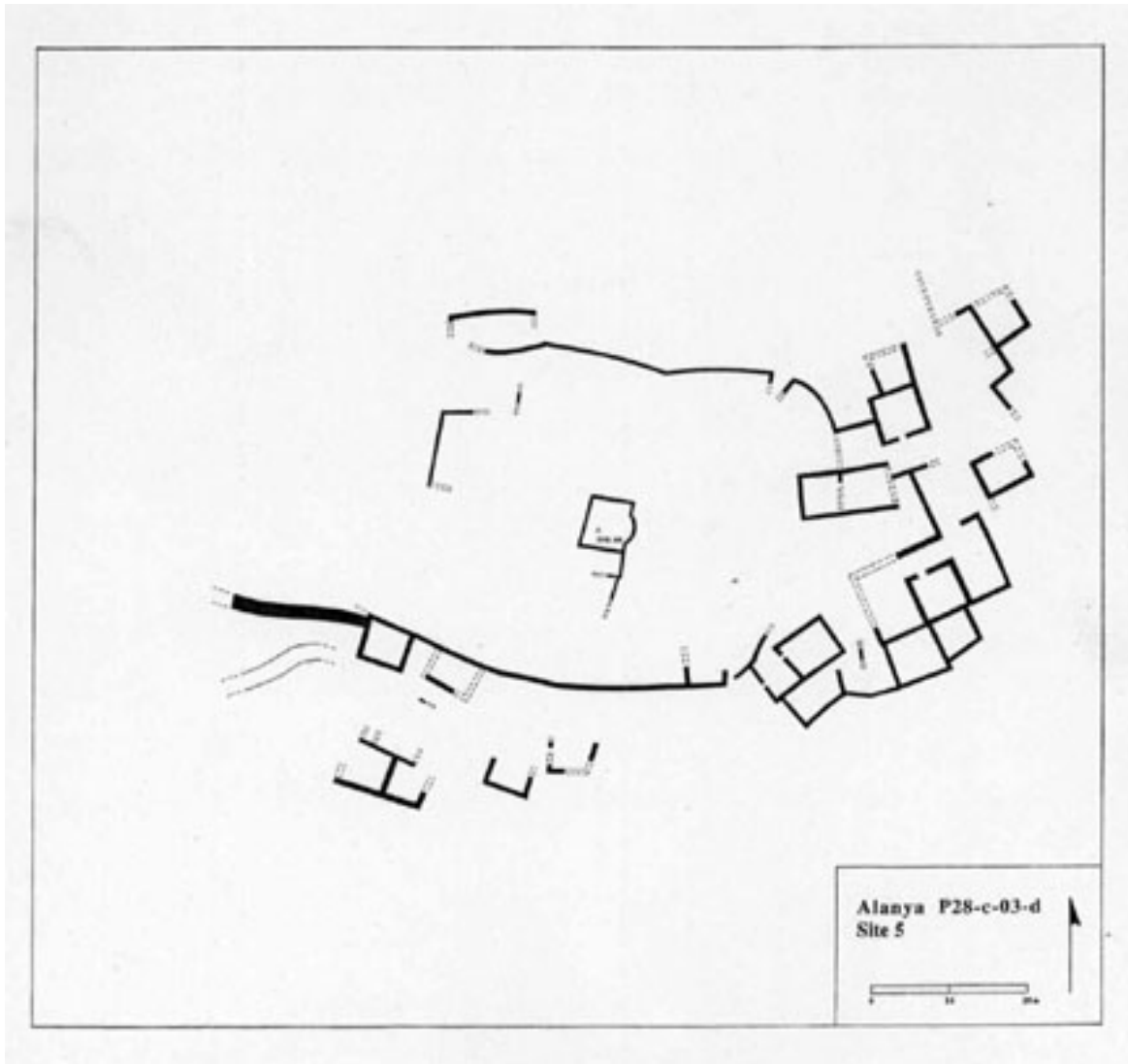
A ridgeline beginning with Guda Tepe and running in a southerly direction terminates at a peak called locally as Güzelce Harman Tepe (see figure 10). This hill also contains a site with several visible structures ([Site 28-c-3-d-5](#)).



*Figure 10: View of Site 28-C-3-d-5 (Güzelce Harman Tepe or "Church Site")*



At the top of the peak is a small apsidal church, hence, the moniker, “Church Site” (see figure 11). Around the perimeter of the hill we identified traces of a defensive wall over a meter thick in places (see figure 12). Situated on the upper part of the site is a well-preserved multi-room structure of some importance, given the high quality of its construction compared to the rest of the site. Below the circuit wall are a number of terraced structures, similar in type to those of Guda Tepe, with the remains of an approach road that enters into their midst from the south.



*Figure 11: Plan of Site 28-C-3-d-5, Church Site*



*Figure 12: Remains of defensive walls at Site 28-C-3-d-5 (Church Site)*

Pottery collected at this site includes one black-slipped Hellenistic incurved bowl (see figure 13), a few other possible Hellenistic fine ware sherds, one Guttus rim and handle, an Early Roman Tripolitanian amphora rim, some early Roman fineware (including CS P-10, CS P-40, CS Skyphos, one possible ESA flanged bowl), and several fragments of late Roman fine ware (CRS form 8 and 9; Anamur 340 “Brownware”). Although Hellenistic era pottery is visible at this site, its predominant era would appear to be Early to Late Roman.

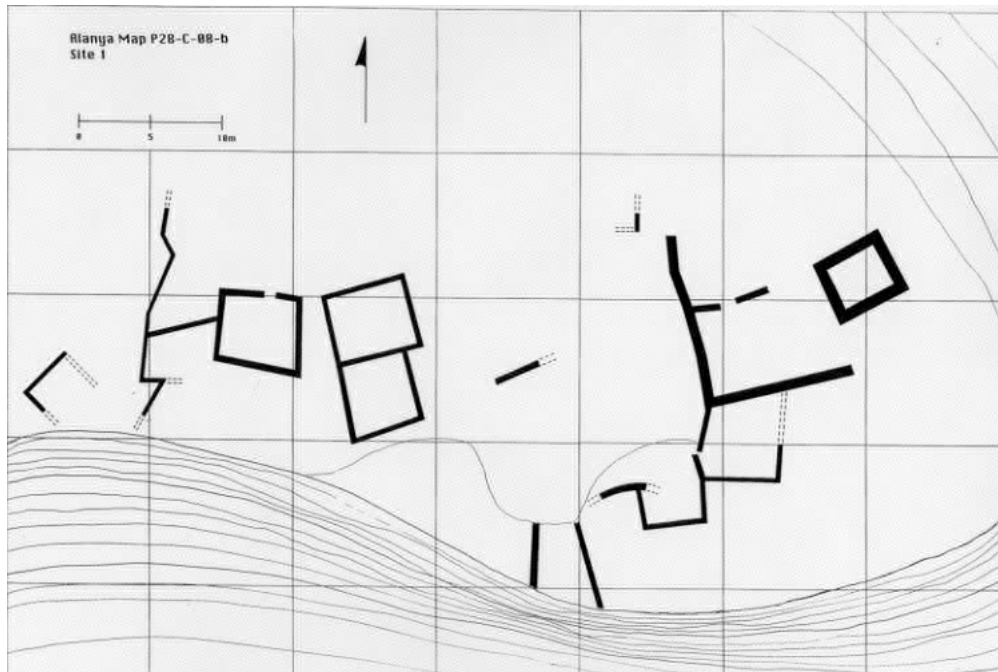


*Figure 13: Hellenistic Incurved Rim Bowl found at Church Site (28-C-3-d-5)*

The fifth new site investigated this season was on a ridge just south of Güzelce Harman Tepe (Site 28-c-8-b-1). On the Kadastral map the hill is identified as Alaca Dağı. Since the



carcass of a large dead animal lay on the track to the site, the remains became known to the team as the "Dead Animal Site." The remains are scanty but of sufficient quantity for us to survey several structures (see figure 14).



*Figure 14: Plan of Site 28-C-8-b-1, Alaca Dağı or "Dead Animal Site"*

While similar in many respects to the other sites, it is notable for the absence of circuit walls. As noted above, during systematic survey of the site a large "cache" of geometric/archaic painted pottery was discovered in erosion holes on a rock ledge outcropping at the northwest end of the site (see figure 15). More than 100 sherds were collected and are currently awaiting analysis at the Alanya Archaeological Museum.



*Figure 15: View of Alaca Dağı ("Dead Animal" Site, 28-C-8-b-1). Black arrow shows erosion holes where painted pottery was found.*

Pottery collected at this site includes numerous fragments of what is preliminarily identified as Cypro-geometric / Cypro-archaic white-painted hydria or neck amphora (see figure 16).



*Figure 16: White painted hydria or neck amphora from Alaca Dağı ("Dead Animal Site"; 28-C-8-b-1)*

Many of the sherds exhibit a "whitish" slip on gritty buff fabric, with painted decoration in black and brown. The decoration employs patterns of concentric circles above horizontal painted bands and/or wavy line motifs (see figure 17).

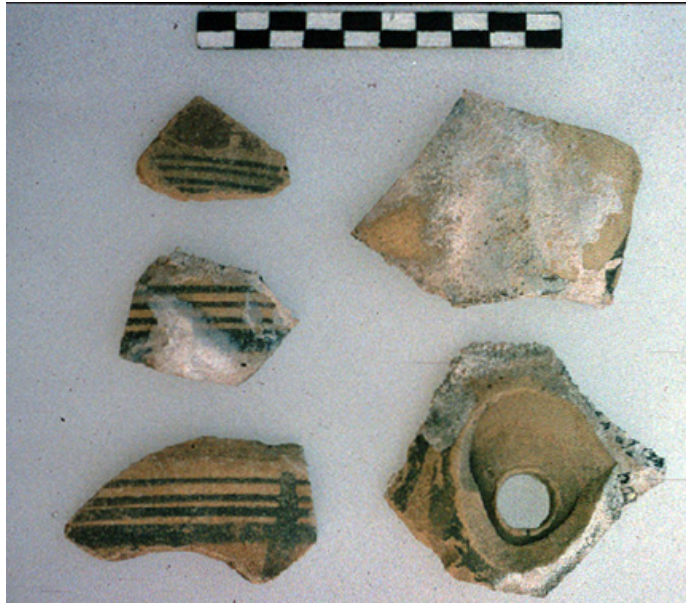


Figure 17: Sherds exhibiting a “whitish” slip on gritty buff fabric, with painted decoration in black and brown from Alaca Dağı.

One fragment exhibits a spout at the top of the shoulder similar in form to geometric/archaic Cypriot spouted jugs and amphoras. The closest parallels identified thus far are E. Gjerstad, *The Swedish Cyprus Expedition, Vol. IV, part 2: The Cypro-Geometric, Cypro-Achaic and Cypro-Classical Periods* (Stockholm, 1948), IV.2, figures 25-6, 28-30: Red-on-Black I (III) ware or White Painted IV ware. However, the concentric circle motif is still in use in Gjerstad’s White Painted V ware, Bichrome V ware, and Black-on-Red III (V) ware, and allows for a broad chronology of c. 700-500 BC. According to George Hanfmann in H. Goldman, *Excavations at Gözli Kule, Tarsus, Vol. III: The Iron Age* (Princeton, 1963), pp. 45-50, 110-1, Cilician imitations of this pottery are prevalent in the region. Hanfmann observes (p. 49),

“The Cypro-cilician white slip is differentiated from the white-painted of Cyprus by certain mineralogical differences, by a number of distinctive shapes...and by the early appearance of the concentric-circle decoration; and from the Cypriote bichrome by an inferior, less white and less cohesive slip, a duller brown-gray paint, and by lack of precision in draftsmanship. The surface of Tarsian vases feels gritty to touch.”

Also included among the collections are numerous very worn fragments of coarse ware employing fabric that is not native to western Rough Cilicia, and numerous other possible Classical/Hellenistic sherds including amphoras (one possibly Classical Phoenician) and a black slipped incurved bowl. The collections made at this site are the first of this survey in which the Archaic/Classical/Hellenistic finds predominate over Early and Late Roman finds.