

**C. FOSS, *Cities, Fortresses and Villages of Byzantine Asia Minor*,
Norfolk, 1996, pp. VIII + 356 sayfa. Variorum Collected Studies Series,
ISBN: 0-86078-594-7**

Ç. Afşin AYGÜN*

The present volume contains six articles by the author published between 1979 and 1994, and one article that is published here for the first time. The volume is divided by the author into two, with the first section containing three articles concerning Lycia and one new article on Pamphylia, while the second section contains three articles on fortifications. The volume concludes with two pages of addenda and a comprehensive index.

Lycia in History

This article was published as the introductory chapter to J. Morganstern (Ed.), *The Fort at Dereağzı and Other Material Remains in its Vicinity: From Antiquity to the Middle Ages*, IstForsch 40, describing the history of the region as a foundation for the rest of the articles in that volume. Here it likewise serves this same introductory function, opening the series of three articles on Lycia, the second focusing on the Byzantine Era and culminating in the article on St. Nicholas. Clearly written for its original place in print, it has been seen fit to include this article here to likewise describe the history even though this article includes much material relating to earlier periods than that which forms the focus of this volume. The following article, although chiefly on a geographical track (rather than periodical), also includes a few introductory pages regarding history (mainly due to it being an independent work), which might be regarded as being redundant as covered by the first article in this volume. This itself and also the placing of this article within this volume seems to reflect a deliberate approach, first describing the history, sometimes extensively, as in his Nicomedia survey monograph, and then placing the archaeology upon this historical foundation, as is also the case for other survey publications, be it article or monograph, by this author. The article describes Lycian history extending from prehistory to the Ottoman period and concluding with references to the rediscovery of Lycia by modern European travellers in the course of the 19th century.

The Lycian Coast in the Byzantine Age

After a few pages summarizing what has been detailed in the previous article, the Lycian coast is examined, broken into sections, namely the regions of Telmessus, Xanthus, Patara, Aperlae, Cyanaeae, Myra, Limyra and Phaselis, and ending with a concluding section in which the historical geography previously given is relevantly referred to for concluding remarks concerning the history of the region. Myra, with its territorium inevitably takes up more of the article than the other sections, due in particular to the presence of two ancient documents, *The Doings of the Generals*, and *The Life of St. Nicholas of Sion*, the latter also being the subject of the following article, the third in this volume. It is perhaps due to this wealth of relevant information that the author chooses to examine the region of Kekova which would probably have

* Arş. Gör., Akdeniz Üniversitesi, Edebiyat Fakültesi, Arkeoloji Bölümü, caaygun@akdeniz.edu.tr

been better described together with Myra, the harbor of which lies in the same bay, but which is found here under the caption Aperlae, which lies in the next bay to the West, but which is unfortunately much more obscure historically than Myra. An extra map centered around Myra, is inserted into the map of Lycia and is also given as a separate figure.

Cities and Villages of Lycia in the Life of St. Nicholas of Holy Zion

The first section of the article provides a summary of this ancient account (the full text of which has been previously given by G. Anrich and I. Ševčenko with the respective German and English translations). In the rest of the article, the author mainly provides descriptions of Byzantine remains in the previously identified settlements that are mentioned in this text and provides his own suggestions as to the identification of those that remain unidentified (Should the reader be further interested in the latest research on this subject, see, M. Alkan, “Parerga to the Stadiasmus Patavensis (8): On the Named Places in the Journeys of Sacrifice Recorded in the Vita of Saint Nicholas of Holy Zion”, *Gephyra* 8 (2011), 99-124, which provides a more recent attempt at this same task).

The Cities of Pamphylia in the Byzantine Age

The fourth article is published for the first time in this volume. As the title implies, it concerns only the larger and more well known cities in the extensive Pamphylian plain, namely Attaleia, Perge, Syllaion (Syllium), Aspendos and Side, to which most of the second half of the article is devoted, complete with sub-sections on its buildings of the Late-Antique and Byzantine periods. The author explains his focusing on the larger cities with archaeological work being more focused on them rather than on the countryside. In the sixteen years since the publication of this work, the focus mentioned by the author narrowed even further to only the most impressive monuments of the largest cities and to the *Pax Romana* period in which they were erected, mostly serving only to *illustrate* a period on which a wealth has been previously written, in antiquity and modernity alike.

The Defenses of Asia Minor Against the Turks

The second group of articles is about the fortifications of Anatolia. The first article, the fifth in this volume, concerns those constructed in the XIth and XIIth centuries, before the later East Roman Empire decisively lost control of Asia Minor. The article first gives a rather detailed history of this period from the East Roman perspective. In general, the reigns of the East Roman Emperors have been chronologically laid out with the significant events and building works and referring to particular forts where relevant, while the leaders or rulers of the opposition to East Roman rule are only rarely named with their political organization largely omitted. The rest of the article examines the fortifications of the period one by one. Most remains have been described in great detail regarding plan and technique, while also mentioning the political/strategic climate at the time of their construction. Even a few references to later events at the said places have been blended into what would otherwise be a dull, descriptive text; and the end result, the fifty five page article, a large part of which concerns architectural descriptions, reads fluently having a documentary like flavor.

Late Byzantine Fortifications in Lydia

After a few pages summarizing the history, mostly focused on Lydia, during the Comnene and Laskarid periods, most of the sixth article is grouped under the section titled, *The Monuments*, under which there are subsections concerning: Tripolis, Tabala, Maeonia, Satala, Magnesia, Nymphaeum, Palaeapolis, Asar and the Cayster Valley. Despite being so named, this section is not primarily concerned with architecture. Where there is literary evidence on the settlements or

forts, their history is presented through the sources in great detail, with frequent comments made by the author; only after this does the description follow. The geography, plan and design, technique and material, and finally, comparisons drawn between other buildings in the region, is how most of these architectural descriptions are structured, supported by numerous photographic details. A final section entitled *Style and Chronology* forms the conclusion. The suggested dating is derived from historical sources for a few of the structures, then the construction style and material employed are brought together to comparatively evaluate the other forts mentioned earlier. With no excavation work to produce some tangible data regarding the period, this and similar articles are bound to be left mostly dependent upon historical rather than archaeological finds and scientific evidence.

Byzantine Malagina and the Lower Sangarius

The last article in this work aims to identify the district of Malagina on the Sangarius River, east of Nicaea. To this end, the identification of the Castle of Metabole with the remains of an existing castle is regarded as the key, as the position of the castle is explicitly described in Malagina. After discussing two castles near present day settlements of Mekece and Pamukova, the castle to the north east of Pamukova was determined to be more probable location of Metabole. The author tries to identify each geographically from descriptions of ancient routes, then, after determining the latter as being the more probable, goes on to describe the castle in detail. The rest of the article is mainly concerned with the history of the castle and the region, with literary references.

This book is a useful work concerning the Early Byzantine history of Lycia, the first three articles address this subject. With only a little more work, these articles could have been integrated into each other as they form a logical continuity and this volume could then have been entitled *Byzantine Lycia*. The last three articles due to the author's historical rather than thematic perspective, although more distinct from each other, serve to draw attention to the later part of the East Roman-Byzantine Era following on from the first four, more concerned with the earlier periods and with the southwest of Asia Minor.

