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Historica occidentalis et orientalis 2



Diese Publikation geht auf ein Kolloquium zu Fortifikationsbauten in Westanatolien zurück, das im Herbst 2019 in Dalyan / Kaunos stattgefunden hat. Anlass waren eine erstmals systematisch durchgeführte Dokumentation und Analyse der kaunischen Befestigungsbauten, die einen wissenschaftlichen Austausch und eine neue Zusammenschau der jüngsten Forschungen an westanatolischen Fortifikationen lohnend erscheinen ließ.

Der vorliegende Kolloquiumsband, der Beiträge zu Befestigungen in Kaunos, Knidos, Priene, Selçuk (Keçi Kalesi), Halikarnassos, Pedasa, Termera, Theangela, Alazeytin, Kaplandağ, Kozan (Karasis) und Gadara (Umm Qays) enthält, möchte einen Beitrag zur Erweiterung des Kenntnisstandes dieser so wichtigen Bauten leisten.

This publication stems from a colloquium on fortification structures in western Anatolia that took place in autumn 2019 in Dalyan/ Kaunos. The reason for the symposium was the first systematic documentation and analysis of the Kaunian fortifications, thus making a scientific exchange and a new synopsis of the most recent research on western Anatolian fortifications seem worthwhile.

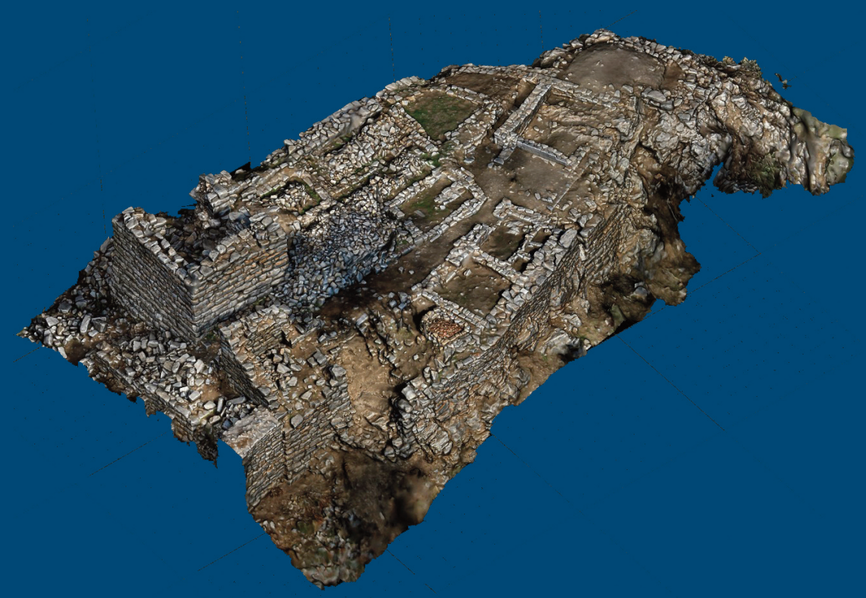
The present colloquium volume, that contains contributions to fortifications in Kaunos, Knidos, Priene, Selçuk (Keçi Kalesi), Halikarnassos, Pedasa, Termera, Theangela, Alazeytin, Kaplandağ, Kozan (Karasis) and Gadara (Umm Qays), contributes to the expanding state of knowledge of these so important buildings.

Befestigungsbauten im westlichen Kleinasien / Fortifications in western Anatolia

Befestigungsbauten im westlichen Kleinasien
Fortifications in western Anatolia

Beiträge des internationalen Kolloquiums in Kaunos 2019
Contributions to the International Colloquium in Caunus 2019

Herausgeber / Editors
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Prof. Dr. Peter Thorau

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The Karasis Kalesi (Kozan, Adana)

Mustafa H. Sayar

Abstract

The structures I present here were first identified by myself in 1994 on Karasis Mountain, located within the Kozan district of Adana, and published in 1995 to be introduced to the scientific world. Since neither an inscription nor a coin could be found on the mountain where Karasis Castle is located, it is not known by whom the castle was built. Some ideas can be put forward about the construction date of the Karasis Kalesi only by evaluating the historical events that took place during the period when this region was in the hands of the Seleucid Empire.

The Seleucid kings attached great importance to the territory of Kilikia and especially to the Kilikian Plains in terms of securing land transportation connections between Syria and Anatolia, as it was located just north of Antiocheia and its surroundings, where the capital city of the kingdom was located. The Karasis Kalesi should have begun to be built during the process of determining a new border within the framework of the agreement made with Rome and its allies in 188, after the Seleucid king Antiochos III lost his sovereignty in the lands of Anatolia extending to the Taurus Mountains after the heavy defeat in the Magnesia war in Western Anatolia in 189. Antiochos III needed an ostentatious royal structure as a prestige project while trying to recover militarily and politically in the lands of his kingdom after his heavy defeat. The presence of the residences of the kings, the reception hall, and 9 cisterns in the upper castle built on the summit of the Karasis mountain indicates that this place was planned to live for a long time. In accordance with this evaluation, as the possible beginning date of the construction of the Karasis castle, the time right after the defeat of Antiochus III by the Roman army and its allies in 189 on the Magnesia plain, or, more likely just after the envoys of Antiochos III signed the Apameia agreement with the representatives of the Roman state in 188, can be suggested. The reason why the Karasis fortress was abandoned before its construction was completed is probably the murder of Antiochos III by temple officials while plundering the Bel temple in the Elymais region in 187. The fact that the insides of the cisterns were plastered indicates that they were used during construction. The dating of most of the pottery visible on the surface of the Karasis Kalesi to the 2nd century BC gives an idea about the period when the construction of the castle began.

Keywords: *Karasis Fortress, Kilikia, Antiocheia, Seleucid*

The ruins located on a mountain called Karakesme to the south of the Taurus mountain range in the north of the Kozan district of Adana province in the Cilician plains today are called the Karasis Castle. (Fig. 1) The Karasis Castle, which was discovered by the author of these lines during the surveys carried out in Kozan and its surroundings in 1994 and introduced to the world of science, consists of magnificent defense structures that seems to have been abandoned before it was completed[1]. (Fig. 2) The Istanbul Branch of the German Archeological Institute, which participated in the surveys carried

[1] For the news about the find of the castle in Karasis Mountain, see. Sayar 1995, 279–282; Sayar 1999, 125 –136. The existence of the castle on the Karasis mountain in the region was noticed by the travelers wandering around in the territory in the 19th century, but since they did not climb to the top of the mountain, they thought that this castle was one of the

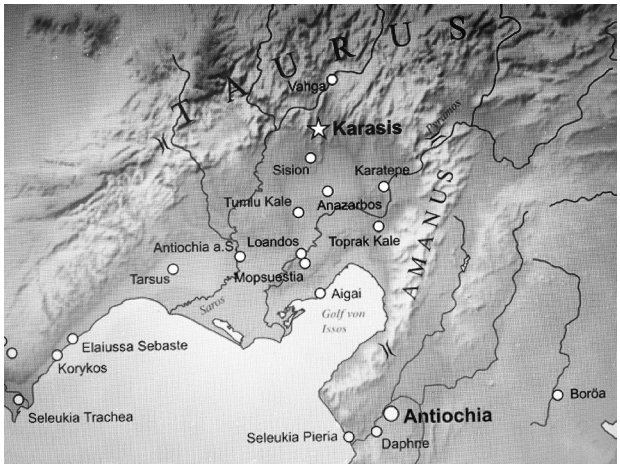


Fig. 1: Map: Map of Cilicia Pedias in Antiquity



Fig. 2: Karasis, Mountain (photo: M.H. Sayar)

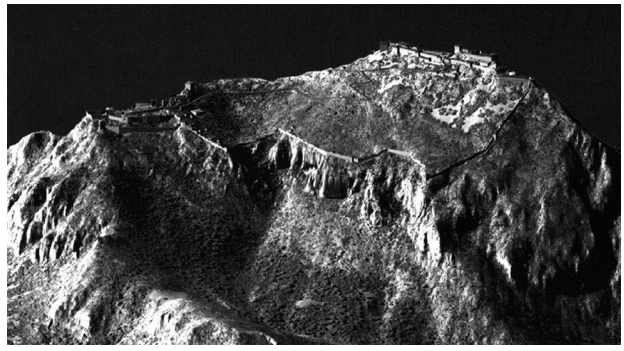


Fig. 3: Karasis, upper and lower castles, IstMitt 57, 2007 371

out by Istanbul University between 2003 and 2005, accomplished an architectural documentation work on the ruins on the Karasis Mountain[2]. With the works completed in 2005, it was not possible to obtain a clue that would determine the name of the Karasis castle in ancient times, which was determined to be abandoned when the construction was about to be completed[3].

The structures on the Karasis Mountain, whose summit is 1056 meters above sea level, consisted of two different building areas, Upper and Lower Castle. (Fig. 3) The Lower Castle was intended for the accomodation of the military unit stationed here. (Figs. 4–5) The Upper Castle was reserved as the residence of the Citadel commander or members of the Seleucid dynasty or the Seleucid king who came directly to the castle[4]. (Figs. 6–7)

On the blocks of the walls of the Karasis Castle, which were cut from the rocks at the top of the mountain and built of polygonal and isodomic blocks (Figs. 8–9) in accordance with the landscape, there are letters that are thought to belong to the stonemasons. (Fig. 10–11) When these are examined as a whole, it is understood that they are incised within the scope of a certain system[5]. It is thought that the letters have a numerical symbology and were used in the calculation of the labor of the Seleucid army members who worked for the

medieval castles which have hundreds of examples on the Taurus mountain range. Favre – Mandrot 1878, 128; Hogarth – Munro 1893. The travelers wandering around in this region in the second half of the 20th century mentioned about a castle called the Karasis Castle, but since they did not climb the Karasis Mountain, they did not give information about the characteristics and the date of this castle; Cam 1969, 60; Hild – Hellenkemper 1990, 291; If these travelers had reached the summit of the Karasis Mountain, they would have immediately realized that the castle here was very different from the medieval defense structures in the Taurus Mountains and they would have introduced this important defense structureof the ancient period to the world of science in detail in the 19th century.

2 For the preliminary report of the field work, s. Hoffmann – Sayar 2007, 365–468.

3 For the documentation work done on the Karasis Mountain in 2003 and 2005 see Hoffmann – Sayar 2007, 365–468.

4 See Radt 2010, 195–217.

5 See Radt 2009, 269–294.



Fig. 4: Lower castle on the Karasis Mountain (photo: M.H. Sayar)



Fig. 5: Lower castle on the Karasis Mountain (photo: M.H. Sayar)



Fig. 6: Upper castle on the peak of Karasis Mountain (photo: M.H. Sayar)



Fig. 7: Upper castle, audience hall (photo: M.H. Sayar)



Fig. 8: The fortifications of the lower castle of Karasis. (photo: M.H. Sayar)



Fig. 9: Outer wall of the granary (photo: M.H. Sayar)



Fig. 10: Letter of a stonemason (photo: M.H. Sayar)



Fig. 11: Letter of a stonemason (photo: M.H. Sayar)



Fig. 12: Lower castle and granary from north. (photo: M.H. Sayar)



Fig. 13: Granary on the Karasis Mountain (photo: M.H. Sayar)



Fig. 14: Granary on the Karasis Mountain (photo: M.H. Sayar)



Fig. 15: Entrance of the fountain house on the west slope of the Karasis Mountain (photo: M. de Vos Raaijmakers)



Fig. 16: Fountain House on the west slope of the Karasis Mountain (photo: M. de Vos Raaijmakers)



Fig. 17: Fountain House on the west slope of the Karasis Mountain (photo: M. de Vos Raaijmakers)

construction of the building[6]. The granary on the north end of the Karasis Castle was intended for the guards and personal of the residence of the king, especially for the care in the case of a long siege. (Figs. 12–14) The Fountain House on the west slope of mount Karasis was built in addition to the nine cisterns on the mountain for the water supply[7]. (Figs. 15–17)

The elephant relief above the entrance of one of the towers of the Lower Castle gives a clue about who built the castle. (Figs. 18–20) The elephant was used as a royal stamp on the coins of some of the Seleucid kings. For this reason, it appears as a strong possibility that the Karasis Castle was built by one of the Seleucid kings.

From the available data it cannot be determined which of the Seleucid kings built the castle. Since there was neither an inscription nor a coin found during the survey work carried out at the Karasis Castle, it could not be understood at what period of the Seleucid Kingdom this castle was built. Trying to obtain clues about who built the Karasis Kalesi through evaluations to be made within the scope of the historical events that took place in Cilicia and its surroundings during the Seleucid period seems to be the only possibility for dating this important building for now.

The reason for building the Karasis Kalesi on the road between Cilician Plains and Kappadokia

6 See Bachmann 2008, 77–78.

7 Raaijmakers et al. 2011, 22–29.



Fig. 18: Tower with elephant and shield on the lower castle of Karasis (photo: M.H. Sayar)



Fig. 19: Tower with elephant and shield relief on the lower castle of Karasis (photo: M.H. Sayar)



Fig. 20: Elephant relief on the entrance of the tower in lower castle of Karasis (photo: M.H. Sayar)

at a location that dominates the whole plain from the north, was probably the emergence of the geostrategic role of the region in the political events that took place in Cilicia before the establishment of the Seleucid Kingdom after the death of Alexander. With the founding of the capital city of the Seleucid kingdom under the name Antiocheia in the basin of the Orontes=Asi river, Cilicia was also organized as a region that must have been under its sovereignty for this new state, whose lands extended from India to the Eastern Mediterranean and Anatolia. (Map)

The Karasis Mountain is at a location that can control the road connecting Antiocheia, the capital city of the Seleucid Kingdom, to Kappadokia, the Central Anatolian plateau, via Çukurova. (Map) Due to this strategic location, the units of the Seleucid army, which were supposed to be deployed on the Karasis Mountain, would be able to prevent or at least pause an attack from the north towards the capital of the Seleucid Kingdom and force the capital Antiokheia to take measures before it is too late. If the Seleucid king and members of the dynasty had to leave the capital due to an external security problem, the castle built on the Karasis Mountain could serve as a shelter. Even if the castle of Karasis was surrounded by the enemy, it would take a long time to be captured, and it was in a position to withstand the siege for a long time. The large spaces and a silo structure[8] in the Karasis Yukarıkale, a covered spring at the foot of the mountain, strong defense walls in the Lower and Upper Castle, and casemates and fortification towers built wide enough to place a catapult are noteworthy. What political and military necessity obliged the Seleucid Kingdom to build such a sophisticated fortress? The wars between Alexander's successors during the last quarter 4th century and 3rd century BC indicate that the Cilician Plains was the scene of many political events.

After the death of Alexander in 323 in Babylon, Pleistarchos of Macedonia took charge of the territory of Kilikia. In 321, during the negotiations between Alexander's successors in the town of Triparadeisos, Kilikia remained under Antipatros' responsibility. Two years after the battle of Ipsos, in 299, Demetrios Poliorketes came to the territory of Kilikia. Pleistarchos remained under

8 Bachmann 2011, 171–181.

pressure in this situation and fled to his brother Kassandros in Makedonia. When Kassandros died in 298, Demetrios declared himself as the king of Macedonia. In 294, the territory of Kilikia remained under the sovereignty of Seleucus Nikator, who founded the Seleucid kingdom. The new ruler of Kilikia founded the city of Seleukeia in the basin of the Göksu river[9]. Seleukos, who won the power struggle against Lysimachus, one of the generals of Alexander, in the battle of Kurupedion in 281, was killed near Lysimacheia in the Gallipoli peninsula in 280. During the reign of his son Antiochos I, Kilikia was under the control of the Ptolemaic kingdom, and during the time of Antiochos Teos, it was stated that the Ptolemies were removed from the territory of Kilikia. In 246, during the time of Seleucus Kallinikos II, who succeeded him, the Ptolemies regained the control of Cilicia. In the power struggle between the Seleucids and the Ptolemies, Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean coast and the Southern Anatolian coast were the regions that were constantly tried to be held by both kingdoms. During the time of Seleucus III, Cilicia was dominated by the Ptolemies. Antiochus III, who sat on the throne of the Seleucid Kingdom in 223, had made a secret agreement with Philipp V in 202. In 197, Antiochus III began the offensive against the Ptolemaic settlements in Cilicia[10]. He captured Anatolian lands in a short time with his fleet and land army. However, in 190, the Romans and the kingdom of Pergamon acted together in Western Anatolia and eliminated the gains of Antiochus III in Anatolia. In 189, Antiochus III was defeated by the Romans in the plain of Magnesia and had to evacuate Anatolia as far as the Taurus Mountains with the agreement made in Apameia in 188[11]. In 187, Antiochus III was killed while plundering a temple in the Elymais area to get the war compensation he had to pay to Rome and the Kingdom of Pergamon. First his elder son Seleukos, and then, in 175, his younger son Antiochos IV ascended the throne. During his time, as in many territories of the Seleucid kingdom, IV. Antiochos changed the names of many cities to Antiokheia and Seleukeia. Antiochus IV wanted to consolidate the relations between the Seleucid kingdom and the cities in the Cilician Plains, giving them some important privileges and new rights. With the death of Antiochos IV in 164, it is clear that the sovereignty of the Seleucid kingdom in Cilicia was gradually decreasing.

As it can be understood from all these political developments and historical events, the Seleucid kings treated Cilician Plains as the core region of their sovereignty, just like Syria. For this reason, they gave great importance to keeping constant contact between Cilicia and Syria by land. After the defeat of Magnesia in 189 and after the Apameia agreement in 188, when Antiochus III had to sign the harsh peace conditions[12], Karasis Castle might have been built as a kind of border post as a defense, observation and, when necessary, as a shelter against the attacks from the north on the Amik Plain and the Orontes basin, where the capital of the Seleucid kingdom is located.

Antiochus III, had to have the Karasis Castle built in order to take precautions against the dangers that might come from the north on one hand, while on the other hand to take measures against the unrest and revolts that occurred within the territory of his kingdom. With this giant project, Antiochos also foresaw regaining the kingdom and especially the prestige he lost in his army[13].

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9 For Seleucos I Nicator, the founder of the Seleucid Kingdom see Mehl 1986.

10 Polybios 18, 39, 3; Livius 33, 19, 8–20; Porphyrios, FGH 260 F 46; Schmitt 1964, 271. 278; Sherwin-White – Kuhrt 1993, 202.; Errington 1989, 271–278; Ma 1999, 82–83; Hölbl 2004, 123.

11 Marek 2010, 288.

12 Marek 2010, 290.

13 About that Karasis Castle was built as a show of power see Bachmann 2008, 67–81; Hoffmann 2011, 63–86; Radt 2011 b, 37–61.

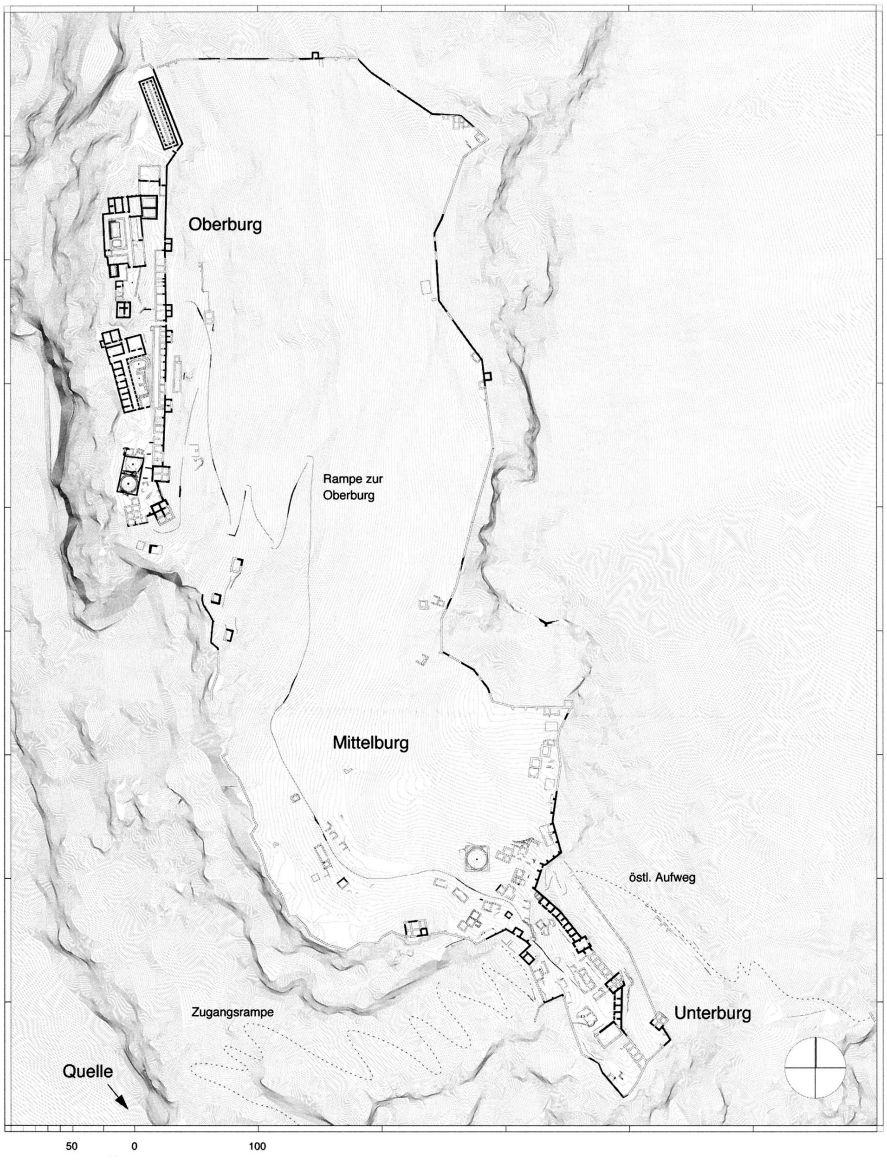


Fig. 21: Karasis, upper and lower castles, IstMitt 57, 2007, 372 (photo: M.H. Sayar)



Fig. 22: Karasis, fortifications between upper and lower castles of Karasis (photo: M.H. Sayar)

Considering the political developments in Cilicia and Syria, after the year 189 when the Magnesia war was fought or 188 when the Apameia peace was signed, it is reasonable to think that the construction of the defense structures at Karasis Mountain as a prestige project may have started during this period[14]. In fact, the peace of Apameia meant the beginning of the end for the Seleucid kingdom. The construction of the structure should have been continued until 187, when Antiochos III was killed on Elymais[15]. Most likely, the construction activity was stopped when the news of the king's death was heard.

During the survey, it was understood that the walls of a room in the upper castle, which is thought to be a mere reception hall, were plastered. (Figs. 21–22) In addition, it was found out that only one of the 9 open cisterns was plastered. These data show that the building activity on the Karasis Mountain was terminated suddenly. In addition, the small number of pottery finds that can be collected from the surface can be dated to the 2nd century BC[16].

Another Seleucid king, who ordered the construction of the enormous project on the Karasis Mountain could have been Antiochos IV Epiphanes. It could also be thought that, in 175 BC, Antiochos IV, who wanted to return his kingdom to its former glorious days, had the defense structures on the Karasis Mountain built as a prestige project to emphasize that his kingdom was still strong enough to resist Rome and its allies[17]. Antiochos IV did not send all the elephants in the Seleucid army, which were supposed to be handed over to the Kingdom of Pergamon after the peace of Apameia[18]. After the death of Antiochus IV in 164, all the elephants in the Seleucid army were handed over to the Romans and were killed horribly[19]. The elephant relief at the entrance of one of the Lower Castle towers should not be considered in connection with anti-Roman policy of Antiochos IV. Because the elephant was used as the coat of arms of the Kingdom until Pompeius liquidated the Seleucid Kingdom in 64 BC and arranged part of the kingdom's territory as a Syrian province.

Considering the situation of the Seleucid Kingdom during the 2nd century BC, and after the death of Antiochos III, considering that neither during the rule of Seleucus IV, nor during the time Antiochos IV, the Seleucid state did not have the financial means to realize this great project, it should be kept in mind that it is a weak possibility that construction of the castle on the Karasis Mountain was started after Antiochos III. Therefore, Karasis Castle, must have been a great project that was started by Antiochos III with the intention to become a last symbol of defense and resistance after the Apameia agreement in 188 and was left unfinished with the murder of Antiochos III in 187. However, when it is taken into consideration that there was no political development

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14 Polybios 21, 14, 7 etc.; 21, 17, 3; 21, 21, 7–9; 23, 1–10; Livius 37, 56, 1-6; About the state of the city-states in Anatolia after the Magnesian war see Baronowski 1992, 450–461. For an example of a study that evaluates the situation in Anatolia as a result of the Magnesian war and the peace of Apameia from the perspective of Pergamon and Seleucids and compares it with the attitude of Rome see Koehn 2007, 201–213.

15 III. Antiochus was killed while plundering the Bal temple in the Elymais area; Diodoros 35, 3. 29, 15; Iust. 32, 2, 1–2; Strabo 16, 744.

16 Polla 2011, 87–96; See Raaijmakers et al 2011, 19–35 on the classification and dating of the pottery finds during the survey conducted around the foothills of the Karasis mountain.

17 For ideas on the possibility that Antiochos IV had built this castle, see. Radt 2011 a, 63.

18 On Antiochus IV. Epiphanes' show of power against Rome and his efforts for the consolidation of his kingdom, see. Mittag 2006, 282–295 and 336–341.

19 For elephants in the Seleucid army, see. Krebs 1964, 208–211; Bar-Kochva 1976, 76 et al.; Marasco 1984,313; Scullard 1974 (passim).

that would require the Karasis Kalesi to be built before the Apameia agreement signed between Rome-Pergamon and the Seleucid kingdom in 188, and that the construction of a military structure of this kind would not mean anything after the death of Seleucid King Antiochos IV in 164 BC, it is most likely that the construction of this important castle was realized between 188 and 164 in the first half of the 2nd century BC.

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