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FROM THE ROMAN SETTLEMENT OF AIGAI TO AYAS

UDC 904:72.033(495.02:560)
Original scientific/scholarly paper

The history of Ayas, today known as Yumurtalik, dates back to the Roman period and probably even before the Roman period. Starting from the XIIth century, the city became important for Mediterranean trade. Information about Ayas which can be derived from historical texts is limited. However, as an important archaeological center this region is well preserved. After the arrival of the Turks in Anatolia, the city maintained its importance and became the most important commercial port on the Mediterranean Sea. Since the Sea Castle has not been used for many years, the archeological findings discovered in that area are considered very important in terms of dating. Cleaning and excavation works conducted in locations A and B have been very useful in terms of understanding the original plan of the locations mentioned.

*Keywords: Ayas, Yumurtalik, Middle Ages, Mediterranean, Armenia Minor.
Ključne riječi: Ayas, Yumurtalik, srednji vijek, Sredozemlje, Mala Armenija.*

This article is aimed at providing an introduction to the port settlement of Ayas which once rose to become the most important Anatolian port in the eastern Mediterranean, and also at providing information relevant to the excavations conducted at the Sea Castle.

Today's name of the district connected to the Adana province that was previously called Ayas is **Yumurtalik** (Figure 2). From the time of the *Seleukids* this ancient city was called **Aigai**, meaning »wave« (LANGLOIS 1947: 67),¹ but during the Middle Ages the Venetians changed the name **Aigai** to **Aiazza-Lajazzo**; over time this name has changed to **Ayas** (UMAR 1993:143).

Geographer and historian Strabo from Amasya mentioned Ayas as **Aigai** in his work *Geographika*, which was probably written in 18/19 A.D.;

»...after Mallos, there is a small village called Aigaia with an anchorage place and then one comes to the gates of Amanides that also has a port.« (Str. XIV.5.18)²

1 Aigai, means, »wave« in Greek, see: LANGLOIS 1947: 67.

2 Strabon 1987: 18, 19.



Figure 1 – General plan (ÇEMİM 1997).

Slika 1 – Opći plan (ÇEMİM 1997).

According to Strabo, Ayas was a small village. Although it was not well populated, as far as we know, during that period Ayas was a Roman settlement and port where ships were accommodated (RAMSAY 1962: 358). However, in the IVth century it acquired the identity of an important military base. The great importance of the military is shown on the »Admiral Ship« monogram of the coins issued in Ayas. During the period of Byzantine rule Ayas was an important episcopal city where Emperor Constantine destroyed the Temple of Asclepius.³

No historic resource was found or event mentioned concerning Ayas starting from this period until the Crusaders arrived and settled in Anatolia and Syria. However, as a result of the Crusades, the trade route changed and starting from the beginning of the VIIth century, Ayas revived and was on its way to become an important trade center. It even for certain period became the most important port on the eastern coast of Anatolia of time:

»...Candelore (Alaiye-Alanya), could not compete with Satalia that was the liveliest Turkish market on the south coast. Only a Christian port called **Lajazzo** could compete with Satalia; since Lajazzo was situated on the crossroads of movement between India and Middle Asia.« (HEYD 1975: 611).

Ayas has always attracted attention as it was a natural port, but the above mentioned commercial viability and importance are supposed to have emerged in the XIII century.

The thirteenth century symbolizes trade balance changes in the Eastern Mediterranean. A large number of the Eastern Mediterranean ports were closed to trade with the west, because the Seljuks of Anatolia took Alaiye (Alanya) as well as a series of coastal cities on the Mediterranean coast and a Crusader state, the Principality of Antioch, fell to the Mamluk state. During this 'tight' course

3 Anonymous, »Adana«, *Yurt Ansiklopedisi*, I. İstanbul, 1981: 64. Today it is possible to see some of city's remains from ancient times in the open-air museum which is

situated in the garden of Ayas District Governorship. Among them there are: column pedestals, capitals and a sarcophagus.

of co-existence the only small areas that could trade with the west were the regions that lay between the land of Seljuk and Mamluk Sultanates. These regions were to become the territory of Armenia Minor that was established by the Armenians who migrated there approximately from the end of the XI century (DARKOT 1993: 510). Commercial activity continued during the reign of King Leon I (1187–1219) in this region, and understandably trade developed and became prevalent (HEYD 1975: 409). During this period, Alaeddin Keykubad I conquered coastal cities but the two fortified castles of Ayas and Gorios were saved from conquest.

The natural port of Ayas was surrounded with strong fortifications.⁴ During the period when ships could hardly approach the port of Tarsus due to alluvial discharge, the only place in the eastern Mediterranean that was able to host a large fleet was the city of Ayas and attracted the attention of traders connected to the Italian city states and thus became a very important port instead of Tarsus (DARKOT 1993: 42; TURAN 1990: 68). Venetian merchants did the same as they used to do in different parts of Anatolia by receiving permission from the Little Kingdom of Armenia and starting from the end of XII century they began to inhabit Ayas and it is evident that in the second half of the XIII century they became a crowded colony. Here they secured houses for themselves, a caravansary to do trade (foundouk) and a Church of St Marco, a place for their worship.⁵

This information forms the first data upon which we can get the idea about the physical structure of the city of Ayas. It is understood that in the end of the XIII century there were some structures in the city that were used for trade. Also, there had to be at least two more churches along with the church of St Marco. Information given by Marco Polo who visited Ayas during the same period is limited, although showing the important commercial potential of Ayas;

»...There is a small town on the coast called Ayas. It is an important commercial center. Goods manufactured in other parts of the country are brought into this port town. Ayas is one of the major markets opened to foreign countries. Venetian and Genoese merchants come here to buy goods. Even those who want to visit the country first stop here, and then they go to the inner regions of the country. In one word, Ayas is a typical small town of Armenia Minor.« (Marco Polo 1921: 16–17)

The famous traveler beyond this record does not give any information about the physical structure of the city. However, a map was published in the same work which we will mention considering the castle, where XIIIth century Ayas settlement has been outlined (Marco Polo 1921: 40, Fig. 16).

Information given by Marco Polo is striking. In addition to being an important port, it is understood that Ayas rose to the position of an international market. In fact, trade of the Seljuk country with the Western Mediterranean and thus with Catholic Europe was realized through Armenian merchants from the south Mediterranean ports of Alaiye (Alanya), Antalya and Yumurtalik in Armenia Minor (AKDAĞ 1995: 29). Also, some of the European goods that travelled to Konya came through Ayas port. During same period the Venetians established the industry of fabric weaving known in Europe as Camelot.⁶ It appears that at the same time the Genoese also founded a colony in Ayas. In fact, the first events that devastated the city occurred between the two communities in the year 1294 (DARKOT 1993: 43).

Obtaining the right of free trade from the Armenian Kingdom, the third Italian city state that settled in Armenian towns was a city state, the Republic of Pisa. From the middle of the XIVth centu-

4 TEKİNDAG 1950: 29–34; especially pp. 29–31.

5 This information is given in the above mentioned work by researcher Ş. Turan, but we could not see it; BRATIANU 1929, mentioned from page 171.

6 Besides these, Venetians had caravansarays, wineries, leather and textile workshops and blacksmith shops. Anonymous 1998: 25.

ry, as is written in documents dating from 1340 a Pisa colony governed by a consul existed in Ayas, the countries' most important port and commercial center. It cannot certainly be determined when citizens of Pisa first came to the Armenian land. On the other hand, it was undoubtedly after the Venetians and Genoese (TURAN 1990: 69). The most important acknowledgment in terms of our subject is: at the time citizens from Pisa came to Ayas the Venetians, Genoese and Pisans developed small quarters where they formed their shops and probably some workshops. Thus it could be said that, at least three quarters with places for commerce belonged to these three groups and there were at least three churches connected to them in Ayas.⁷

Due to its very rich commercial potential, from time to time, Ayas was exposed to the attacks of surrounding cultures. The first one took place in 1266 and the second in 1275. It is known that probably after those skilled Mongol raids one of the Mongol commanders Bulargu, came and spent his first winter in Ayas, he also brought engineers and masters who built a mosque in the city. The mosque was illuminated by golden and silver candles and decorated with carpets produced in Anatolia.⁸ It is understandable that, starting from 1303 the situation in Ayas became more complex. At that time Mamluks were increasing their pressure and taking half of the town's income. Armenian leaders started increasing taxes in order to relieve themselves from that burden and the city became disorganized. The Venetian ambassador got hold of one of the towns' bastions and sacked all its goods. After this shock, the Mamluks took over the town and restored the city walls. Although the town was rebuilt after its destruction only the fortresses on the land side were rebuilt. In 1337 Mamluks besieged the city again and, even though they destroyed the ramparts, they did not demolish the city. In 1347 the town definitely fell into the hands of the Mamluks. In the XVIth century, after the conquest of Egypt by Sultan Yavuz Selim, Ayas became a part of the Ottoman lands (DARKOT 1993: 43). During Suleyman the Magnificent's rule, a tower named »Coastal Tower« was built on the west side of the city and a castle that was earlier used by the Armenian leaders was restored. After this date, Ayas became a sub district of the Payas district which was connected to the Cebeli Bereket (Osmaniye) Sanjak as a part of provincial organization. As eastern trade moved away from the Mediterranean, Ayas port lost the importance it had during the Middle Ages. In the XIXth century, there were ten quarters, six villages, 5 hamlets, 1 mosque in the center, 1 workshop, 1 madrasa, 1 Orthodox Church, 1 Armenian Church, 1 bazaar and 1 public bath in Ayas (Anonymous 1998: 64). On the engraving possibly showing the town during the XIX century old urban tissue of the city could be seen. There are many buildings on the hills covered with trees, many of them in ruins (Anonymous 1998).

Due to the historical development of the region where it was situated, Ayas certainly had a history of a very early date. However, by examining the data that we possess, we could conclude that Ayas became a settlement starting in the Roman period. During this period, Ayas, or a place originally named Aigai, was a settlement without a castle with the size of the village.⁹ It is obvious that, starting from the third quarter of the XIIth century, the city started to realize the benefits of its natural port. The reason for increasing importance of the port of Ayas was that its commercial life became important during the period when Armenia Minor was founded and, as a result of the Crusades, this part of the land became a characteristic trade »migration road«. According to the historical events and change of trade direction, it is clear that the city walls of Ayas we see today, date back to as late

7 Anonymous 1998: 25 Clarifies that Genoese and Venetian merchants had their own quarters in Ayas where they lived, as well as their own churches, public baths, shops, public squares, markets and courts.

8 TURAN 1990: 637. There is no archeological evidence about this structure which did not survive.

9 It is notable that a geographer such as Strabon, who was born in a large city, described Aigai as a village, showing that it was a small and insignificant place, at least in the 1st century A.D.

as the end of the XIIth century. As was mentioned above, during the period of Alaeddin Keykubad I, Ayas was surrounded with strong ramparts (HEYD 1975: 409).

COAST FORTRESS (Figure 2)

Researcher Langlois (1947) has mentioned that there were two fortresses in the district, one on the sea side the other inland (LANGLOIS 1947: 67). The fortress in the southern part of the dis-



Figure 2 – Map (Anonymous 2009).

Slika 2 – Karta (anonimni autor, 2009).

tract was mentioned as **Kestanbol** fortress.¹⁰ This settlement has been the subject of various studies and as was mentioned, a group of fortresses was examined in detail in three different works. The first one by Hellenkemper (1976) and the second one by Edwards (1983 and 1987).¹¹

History

No inscription panels of the structure that could help us reveal its history were found. Although researchers agree that this structure is a medieval work, they were not able to recommend the exact date. Hellenkemper clarified that dating of construction technique gave very little information. Researchers think that semicircular C location connected to the corner of C1 location could be dated to as early as the second half of the XIIIth century (Figure 3; HELLENKEMPER 1976:161). Around 1220, during the conquest of the Mediterranean by the Seljuk Sultan Alaeddin Keykubad, there was one fortified fortress in Ayas. We could say that the settlement was situated in the land of Armenia Minor, that it became important in the third quarter of the XIIth century, and, that the Coast Fortress could have been built at least between 1189 and 1219, during reign of Leon I. However, we do not have evidence that could precisely confirm the above mentioned.

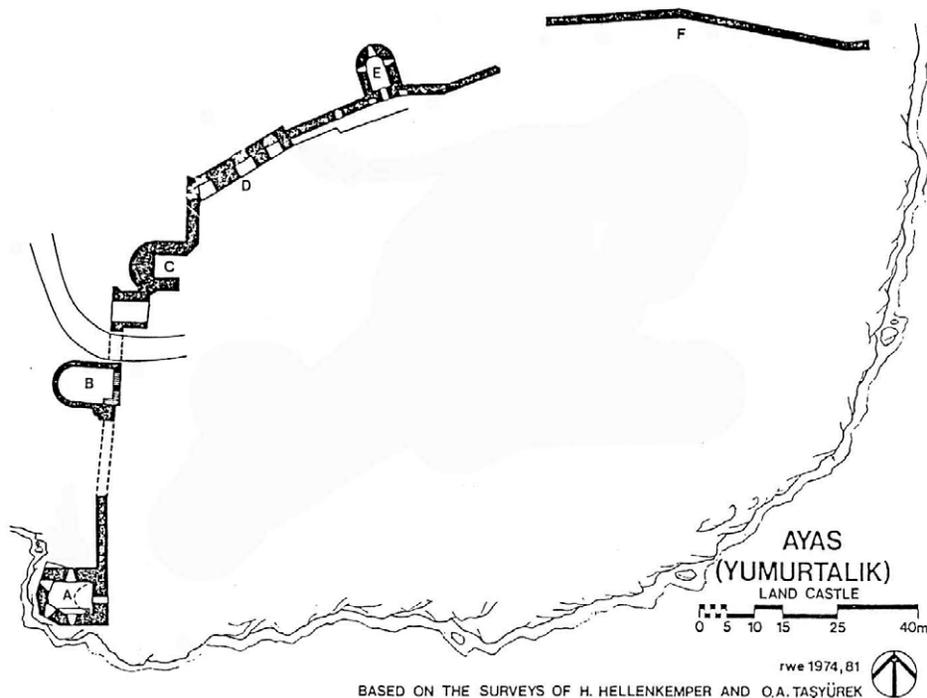


Figure 3 – Coast fortress (EDWARDS 1987).

Slika 3 – Obalna tvrđava (EDWARDS 1987).

10 Anonymous 1990:156; Marco Polo 1921: 16, Figure No 40: on the published map, a thick wall surrounding ruins of the ancient city of Aigai, north from the coast fortress has been shown.

11 EDWARDS 1987. However, the following publications of V. Langlois that, we thought, consisted of important information concerning the castle and the settlement could not be reached: *De la Cilicie*. Paris, 1854; *Voyage dans la Cilicie et dans les montagnes du Taurus*. Paris, 1861; *La Turquie d'Asie*, Vol. 2. Paris, 1891.

Restoration, Material, Techniques

As mentioned above, researcher Hellenkemper has dated one tower of the Coast fortress (C) to the second half of the XIII century (Figure 4). Historical resources indicate that in 1220, Ayas was a very strong fortress. In terms of material and technical features, the fortress does not represent a homogenous structure. In the years 1266, 1275, 1322, 1337 and 1347 as a result of Mongol and Mamluk attacks, the fortress suffered great damage and has been repaired several times. It is known that, particularly in 1322 and 1337, Mamluks demolished the ramparts. Therefore, many parts of the walls are different from each other in shape, size and material. Different from other locations due to its roof, C1 location was most possibly added after the Mamluks conquered the Ayas. However, our opinion is that the section where we believe entrance gates used to stand, was damaged in our century and therefore removed.



Figure 4 – City wall, General view from the west.

Slika 4 – Gradske zidine, pogled sa zapada.

The Sea Fortress, together with its material and technical features has been dated to a later period. According to Hellenkemper, it was apparently built after the Coast Fortress. Indeed, material-technique features are different from the Coast Fortress and in terms of cut stone masonry both structures reflect parallel features with Toprakkale (HELLENKEMPER 1976: 161). The Sea Fortress and Coast fortress that were destroyed during the attack of Mamluks in 1322 have not been restored again (DARKOT 1993: 43).

INTRODUCTION TO ARCHITECTURE

The group of fortresses consists of the Coast Fortress, situated on the southeastern coast of Ayas and the Sea Fortress, situated on an island, approximately four hundred meters distance from the coast.

Coast Fortress

The structure consists of 340 m long ramparts with five towers situated on the approximately 12.000 square meters area (Figure 7). Langlois says (1947);



Figure 5 – City wall, North side, General View.
Slika 5 – Gradske zidine. Pogled na sjevernu stranu.



Figure 6 – City wall, East side, General view.
Slika 6 – Gradske zidine. Pogled na istočnu stranu.

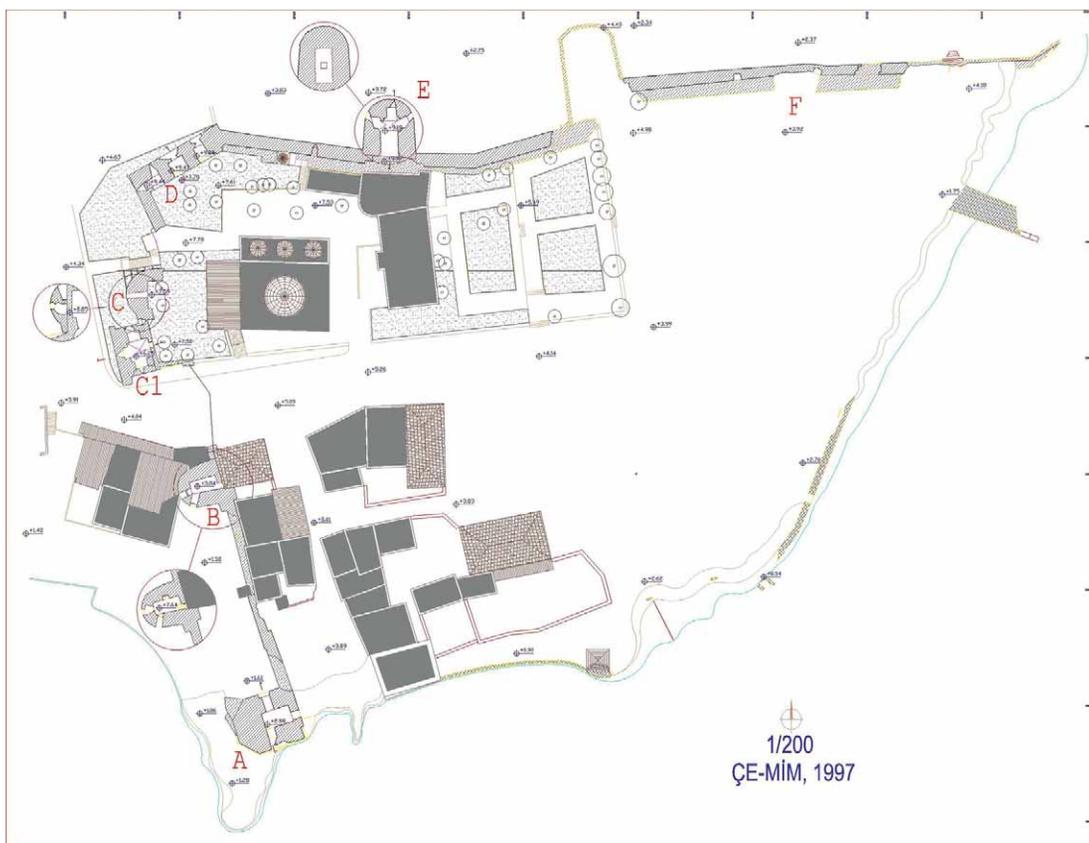


Figure 7 – Coast fortress, Plan (ÇEMİM 1997).
Slika 7 – Obalna tvrđava, tlocrt (ÇEMİM 1997).



Figure 8 – City wall, South side, General view
Slika 8 – Gradske zidine. Pogled na južnu stranu.



Figure 9 – City wall, South side, Tower A.
Slika 9 – Gradske zidine. Južna strana, Kula A.

»Ayas fortress built by Armenians is still in good condition. The fortress was repaired by Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent. There are double walls and a trench surrounding it.« (LANGLOIS 1947: 67).

During recent excavations, the second wall and the trench has not been found. However, as seen on the map in Marco Polo's travel book, a wall (?) stretching from the A bastion of the Coast Fortress to the north and then parallel to E location extending with slight refractions towards shore

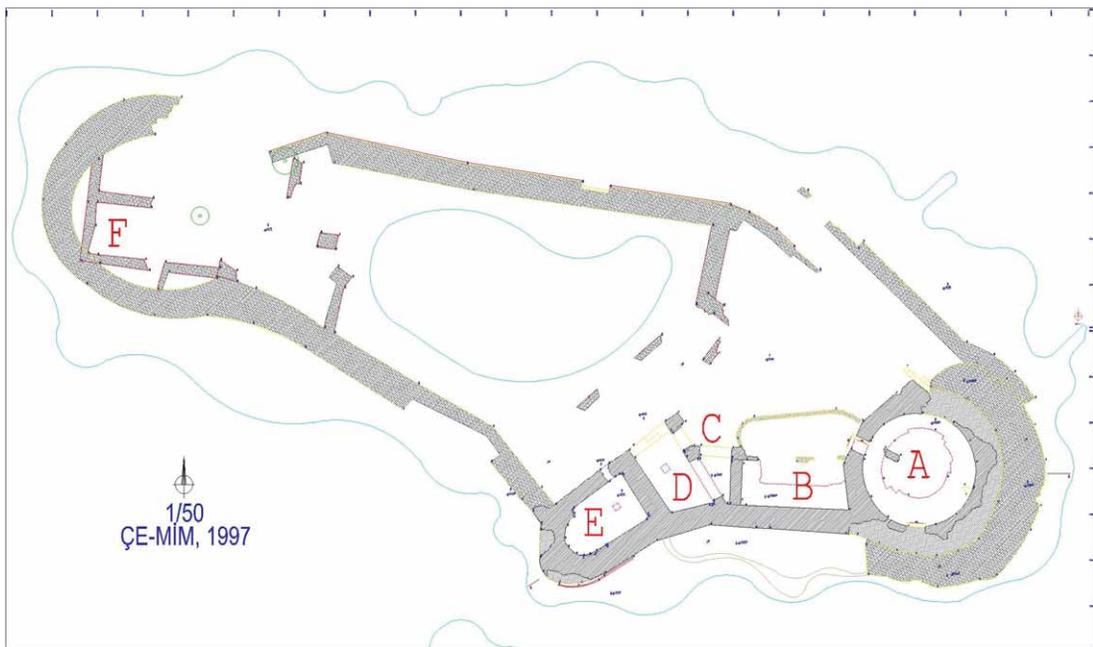


Figure 10 – Sea fortress, Plan (ÇEMİM 1997).
Slika 10 – Plan Morske tvrđave (ÇEMİM 1997).

appears to be drawn.¹² This drawing was probably a trench or a second wall that Langois apparently saw during his travels in the second half of the XIXth century. On the other hand, even though it is possible that one part of the wall in the southwestern corner of bastion A is the beginning of this rampart, the second rampart cannot be seen.

Sea Fortress

Today, there are four big locations on a 120 m long island, lying in north-south direction, covering an area of approximately 4.800 square meters (Figure 10). Here, as well as in the Coast Fortress, no inscription that would make dating less complicated was found. As mentioned in the above restoration section, after the structure was destroyed in XIVth century, no restoration was made (Figure 11). In terms of material and building technique, it reflects original features, which is very important. Researcher Edwards (1987) says that some stone decorations on the traces of foundation which he clarified as location F on the southern corner of the island that could have been seen in 1974, belong to the late Classical period (EDWARDS 1987: 81). Also in the same place, while mentioning the existence of a technique hardly used by the Armenians (metal clamp usage), it is said that at least two different periods could be defined on the island. Today, those clamp holes can be seen on the stones scattered across the island. This practice attracts much attention, since it was a widely used technique during the Roman and Hellenistic period (Figure 12).



Figure 11 – Sea fortress, General view from the east.

Slika 11 – Pogled na Morsku tvrđavu s istoka.



Figure 12 – Location B, C, D, General view.

Slika 12 – Pogled na konstrukcije B, C, D.

Excavations at the Sea Fortress

Between 06.05.2008 and 09.06.2008, the surface fill in A and B locations was cleaned to the level of the original floor. During cleaning of both of those locations and entrance to the B area, 1458 pieces of ceramics and 35 iron objects were found. After the excavation, the excavated objects were delivered to the Adana Archeological Museum.

¹² Marco Polo 1921: 40. The map that mentions its name has no date written.

Location A (Figure 13)

This is situated on the northern corner of the island. It has an inner circle plan and a large part of its coverings together with low dome has collapsed. The middle part of the cross section of the dome is thought to be a hole. Location was apparently later divided into two sections with a wall in the middle section. The entrance is situated in the southwest. There is no window looking outside. It can be seen that the northern section of the location is circular and that section in the south was built at an angle because of the sections situated behind it. A platform surrounding the northern part of location and is reached by a staircase with a few steps (Figure 14).



Figure 13 – Location A, Prior to excavation, General view.

Slika 13 – Pogled na konstrukciju A prije iskopavanja.



Figure 14 – Location A, West side, General view.
Slika 14 – Pogled na zapadnu stranu konstrukcije A.

Location B (Figure 15).

The location stretches in a north-south direction with a regular rectangular shape and is covered with a pointed vault. A large part of the western wall and its cover was destroyed. It was realized that the entrance to the location was from the C location and that walls and its vaults continue to the C area, and that therefore, it was understood that the walls in between were subsequently built.

Archaeological findings**Coins**

Five of the 12 coins found in the excavations were discovered in A location, 2 in B location, 1 at a place filled with earth and 4 found in debris landfills. All coins were covered by a layer of corrosion; on 5 of these bronze and copper coins, no legend or portrait can be seen. On one side of 4 coins, a not very clear cross sign can be seen. On 3 coins, a cross, a legend and a figure were determined, but since it was not possible to read the whole inscription, it is not possible to ascertain the date of these coins.

It is understood that coins containing cross, inscription and a figure belong to the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia. Among coins found, there is one well preserved find: number 10. The legend on the obverse contains a portrait in the center and an inscription in Armenian around it and the reverse contains a patriarchal double cross with an inscription around it. The analyzed coins of kings



Figure 15 – Location B, West side, prior to excavation.

Slika 15. – Zapadna strana konstrukcije B prije iskopavanja.

of the Armenian Kingdom, namely coins minted in the town of Sis during reign of King Leon I (1199–1219) contain a portrait of a king with a 5 point crown, an inscription around it on the obverse and the reverse contains a patriarchal cross with two stars on each side. Therefore, coins found in the Sea Fortress should belong to the period of King Leon I (1187–1219), (Figures 16–17).

Coin findings no: 2, 5, 17, 19, 23 a, and 23 c containing the cross sign on the obverse show similarities with coins minted in XIIIth – XIVth century in the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia.



Figure 16 – Coin, Leon I (1199–1219), obverse.
Slika 16S – Novac, Leon I (1199–1219), avers.



Figure 17 – Coin, Leon I (1199–1219), reverse.
Slika 17 – Novac, Leon I (1199–1219), revers.

In conclusion; even though most of the coins found which play a very important role in terms of dating were covered with a layer of corrosion, the data determined confirms that coins belong to the XIIIth – XIVth century Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia.

Ceramic findings

During the excavations carried out in Ayas Sea fortress a total of 1,458 ceramic findings were collected. A few pieces of whole and partially damaged pots were discovered, but the majority discovered consists of mouth, middle section and bottom parts.

Unglazed ceramics:

Unglazed ceramic consists of whole, partially damaged or pieces of ceramic like amphoras, pots, large jars, kitchen vessels (cooking/storage) and bowls. In general, some of the pottery discovered is formed from red clay, together with those from red and yellow/camel hair clay (Figure 18).



Figure 18 – Examples of unglazed ceramic.

Slika 18 – Primjeri neglazirane keramike.

There is one example of a well preserved amphora with double handle; even though a section of its bottom and mouth are missing it has survived until today giving us information about its shape. There is also one similar amphora with a preserved base, body and shoulder section that also survived. Taking into consideration amphoras, their shape, long bodies, clay and pieces that could belong to those amphoras, we could say that findings dated to XIth–XIIIth century show some similarities between these and the examples of amphoras produced during Crusades.

Two pieces of the mouth of a large jar (pithos) have been discovered. Thick walls, decorations made with finger pressing, all of these are similar to the typical large jars of the Middle East.

Three jugs with one handle, made of different clay in camel hair color and 14–20 cm in height have been discovered together with many pieces of bottoms and bodies discovered at the same place, which indicates that this place was probably used as a kitchen or a depot.

Three small jugs, one of them with broken edge of its mouth and one with partially broken edge were discovered together with pieces of vessels giving us important information about the shape of those vessels.

Discovered damaged pieces, such as flat base, mouth, neck and bodies are also parts of jugs/amphoras. Among the finds with a narrow neck, double-handled jugs, mouth parts, and red clay and glazed parts belonging to jugs, there was also one example belonging to a similar group of typical kitchen vessels with a single or double handle, found in many excavations in Anatolia and dated to XIIth–XIIIth century.

Tobacco pipes (Figure 19)

Two camel-colored tobacco pipes discovered during the excavations are in good condition. They can be studied as belonging to the »Folk type«, named by E. Bakla, and attract attention with their refined shape and decorations. Tobacco pipe manufacturing developed in the XVIIth century, after tobacco and tools for smoking tobacco had been introduced to the Ottoman Empire at the end of the XVIth century. Production under the name Tophane Lüleçilik became known. Since they were less expensive and not the same quality tobacco pipes they were given the name »Folk type« and were produced in all parts of the Ottoman Empire (BAKLA 2007: 130–142). These two examples support the belief that there was life in the Ayas Sea Fortress in the XVIIth century and afterwards.



Figure 19 – Tobacco pipes.

Slika 19 – Duhanske lule.

Glazed ceramics (Figure 20)

Glazed ceramics represent a large group of findings with 2 pots with full profile and pieces of mouth, body and bottom and therefore present important evidence.

Findings such as plate, a bowl and a pot show 3 types of vessels. The edge of the mouth of the vessels shown in full profile is almost parallel to the ground.

There are often damaged mouth edges on jugs, deep bowls and plates with a round base. Mouth edges have a notched or round profile and are approximately parallel or perpendicular to the ground. Generally the body is shaped with sharp edges. All bottoms of glazed vessels have round basis

Concerning decoration, the application of one or more colors under a transparent glaze has been found. The following colors prevail: green, coffee brown, greenish yellow, brownish yellow-red. Scraping technique was used in motifs and figures. One example has been made in relief technique.



Figure 20 – Examples of glazed ceramic.

Slika 20 – Primjeri glazirane keramik.

The inner surface of glazed pieces is decorated and outer surface is unglazed, or glazed in one color. Since decorations are floral, including human and animal figures, they can be analyzed in three groups. Floral motifs are found only on the rim of the vessel and there are four or more flower motifs on the inner surface of the base covering the body in spiral curves. Two examples of human figures have been identified. One figure is sitting cross-legged, as seen and defined on similar examples, holding a glass in one hand. The other human figure is a portrait, situated under the mouth section, on the outer surface of the vessel.

On one of the two examples of figures a small animal figure that belongs to an eagle, with curved feathers, a part of the body and a wing can be seen. Other examples of decoration can be defined according to similar ones and are possibly part of a fantastic decoration of an animal's body and legs.

Glazed ceramics defined by general characteristics can be dated together with the examples discovered during excavations conducted in the region. Most of the finds show integrity according to the shape of vessels, technique, glaze color and motifs. One of the different samples is a piece of thin wall, small mouth and body of vessel which was made of fresh and homogeneous dough. Inner and outer parts of the bowl are covered with green glaze and there is a relief of a human face on the outer surface.

Finds of human face molding are very important in terms of providing information about the decoration making (Figure 21). Similar examples of ceramic were discovered during excavation in Kubadabad and Ani. A very similar example discovered during excavations at Ani shows this type of human faces which are repeated with empty space in between and presented on the outer surface of vessel. Early examples of similar vessels could be seen in centers like Rakka (Syria), Kashan (Iran), Rey and Nişapur in the XII century. Examples from Eastern Anatolia are dated to XIth – XIIIth



Figure 21 – Vessel with human face.
Slika 21 – Posuda s ljudskim licem.



Figure 22 – Example of glass bracelet.
Slika 22 – Primjer staklene narukvice.

century (ÇEKEN 2007: 119, Foto. 10; KARAMAĞARALI – YAZAR 2007: 123–131, Photo 8, not. 19–21). Even though not exactly similar in terms of style, this ceramic shows the continuation of tradition and probably the existence of trade between the settlements, therefore it is possible to date it to the period after XIth century.

Another example is a piece of body containing a depicted figure of an open-winged eagle in the front. Eagle figures were used as a decorative element on a variety of material during period of Byzantines, Seljuks and the Crusaders. A piece discovered in the Sea fortress, shows similarities with ceramics from the XIIIth century due to its engraving technique and colorful and stylistic features.¹³

The body and front legs of an animal can be seen on yellow glazed inner surface of one bowl base with a partially preserved body. On similar examples dated to XIIIth – XIVth century lions, birds or unidentified fantastic creatures were depicted.¹⁴

Except the before mentioned three examples, floral motifs are common on ceramic decorations, with one example of a human figure holding a cup. According to researchers, a figure holding a cup in his hand represents a noble person. Similar examples of discovered vessels can be found in museums of Adana, Antakya and el-Mina. It is understood that this type of figures depicted on paintings during Abbasid, Fatimid and Seljuk period became very popular subject among masters of El-Mina during reign of Latin Kingdom (DJOBADZE 1986: 189). The first examples similar to the vessels discovered in the tumulus in el-Mina, on the point where the Asi River flows into the Mediterranean, were later found in other settlements in the Mediterranean.

Accepting the fact that port Saint Symeon was the most important port of Antakya and a center of production in the XIIth century, and taking into consideration that these examples were discovered in different regions, according to S. Redford, it indicates that all communities of the Eastern Mediterranean (Christian, Muslim) as well as trade were inseparable.¹⁵

13 For XIIIth century Byzantine examples see, PAPANIKOLA BAKIRTZI – MAVRIKIOU – BAKIRTZIS 1999: 107, no. 214, p. 134, no. 273–274.

14 For similar examples see. TALBOT RICE 1966: Fig.13, no.11; SEVCENKO 1974: 354–330; DJOBADZE 1986: 188, fig. LXVI.

15 For similar examples and dating see: HERZFELD – GUYER 1930; PILTZ 1996; PAPANIKOLA BAKIRTZI – MAVRIKIOU – BAKIRTZIS 1999: 149–173; REDFORD 2001: 485–490.

Glass (Figure 22)

During excavations, a small number of glass objects were discovered: one piece of base, one edge of the mouth and one piece of a bracelet. Bracelets are decorated with spiral in one or two colors. Bracelets are in one color, and two of them are blue and transparent. Bracelets of this type could be seen during periods of Rome, Byzantium and the period before Islam and later in Syria, Palestine, Egypt and Anatolia.¹⁶

During the excavation work 35 metal objects were discovered, among that 1 bronze ring, 1 iron bracelet/ring, one part of bronze necklace/earring, 28 nails, a hook, and 3 pieces of metal plaque. All material was covered with a layer of corrosion. Metal findings as well as their features could not be dated.

CONCLUSION

As a result of the cleaning work conducted in the A location of the Sea Fortress, precise information about the arrangement of the location were reached.

Walls connected to the circled supporting wall in the axis of this location, which is 12 m in diameter and shaped as an approximate circle, are divided into four units (Figure 23). It is understood that units reach openings in the middle section of the walls. It is considered that direct access was provided between units in the southwest and southeast, while units in the northeast and west are considered as more specific locations. When associated with findings, it would be possible that these locations were used as depots (Figure 24).

Stairs in the wall are accessed through the doors situated in the southeastern corner of the location. These stairs are used for accessing the roof. However, the location was damaged together with the wall in this section. It could not be determined whether the location had more than one floor or whether it had a tower. However, taking into consideration the concept of the structure, it is necessary to focus on the possibility that there was more than one floor. At least, it could be assumed that the upper floor was used as a watchtower.

A regular rectangle shaped B location in north-south direction which is situated in the south part of the location A has mostly been repaired but the date of repair could not be determined (Figure 25).

The present state of the details of tiles on the roof, as well as the state of plastered walls, point to the fact that once this place was a cistern. However, some details seen on the western wall during the excavations certify that the area was open to the outside and probably later the arched openings were closed and the area was converted into a cistern.



Figure 23 – Location A, General view after excavation.

Slika 23 – Pogled na konstrukciju A nakon iskopavanja.

¹⁶ For glass bracelets see: ÖTÜKEN 2001: 368–369, res.11–12; KÖROĞLU 2002: 355–372.

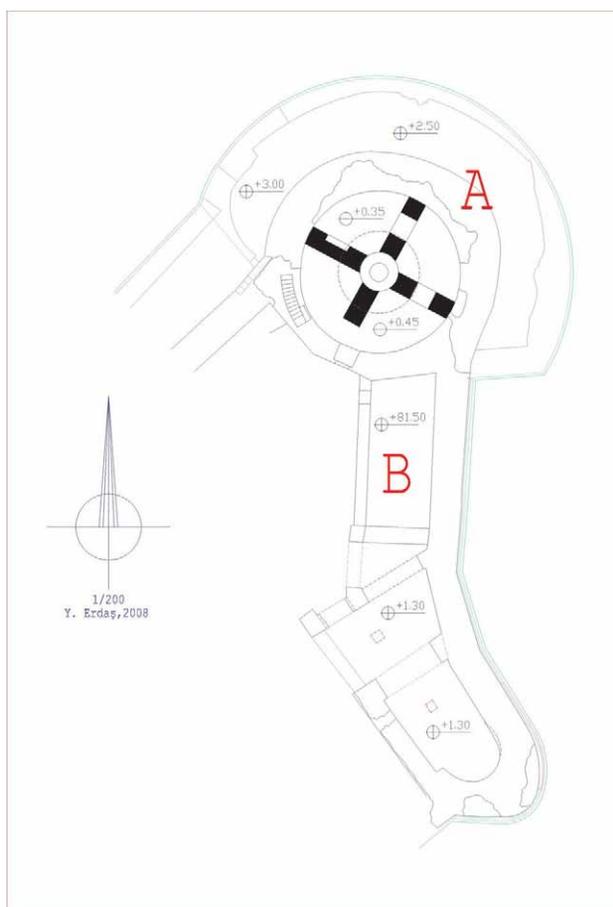


Figure 24 – Plan, after excavation (Y. ERDAŞ 2008)

Slika 24 – Plan nakon iskopavanja (Y. ERDAŞ 2008).

Cleaning work conducted in the A and B locations of the Ayas Sea fortress have provided some data considering the dating of the Sea Fortress on the island.

Firstly, research and studies conducted on the surface and in the vicinity of the island have most certainly revealed two main construction periods. Remains of the walls surrounding the island reflect material and technical characteristics that could be connected to the Roman period.

Secondly, the most important period is symbolized by the Armenians who emerged in this region starting from XIIth and XIIIth century. Small findings and especially coins were da-



Figure 25 – Location B, After excavation, View to the west.

Slika 25 – Pogled na zapadnu stranu konstrukcije B nakon iskopavanja.

ted to the end of the XIIth and the first quarter of the XIIIth century. During that period both Coast fortress and Sea fortress were probably repaired by the Armenians. After the XIVth century, both Sea fortress and Ayas settlement lost their importance.

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SAŽETAK

OD RIMSKOG NASELJA AIGAI DO AYASA

Kao rezultat čišćenja konstrukcije A Morske tvrđave došlo se do preciznih podataka o njezinom uređenju.

Zidovi povezani s kružnim potpornim zidom u osi ove konstrukcije, 12 m u promjeru i gotovo kružnog oblika, podijeljeni su u četiri segmenta (slika 23). Zaključuje se da segmenti dosežu do otvora u središnjem odsječku zidina. Smatra se da je postojao izravni pristup između segmenata na jugozapadu i jugoistoku, dok segmenti na sjeveroistoku i zapadu predstavljaju određeni je konstrukcije. Kada ih povežemo s nalazima, moguće je pretpostaviti da su te konstrukcije služile kao odlagališta (slika 24).

Stubama u zidu prilazi se kroz vrata smještena u jugoistočnom uglu konstrukcije. Njima se moglo popeti do krova. No konstrukcija je na ovom segmentu oštećena zajedno sa zidom. Nije bilo moguće odrediti je li konstrukcija imala više od jednog kata te je li posjedovala kulu. Ali, uzevši u obzir samu zamisao konstrukcije, nužno je pretpostaviti da je postojalo više katova. Barem bi se moglo pretpostaviti da je gornji kat korišten kao promatračnica.

Konstrukcija B, u obliku pravilnog pravokutnika, pruža se u smjeru sjever-jug, a nalazi se u južnom dijelu konstrukcije A. Ona je bila popravljana, ali se vrijeme popravka ne može odrediti (slika 25).

Trenutna situacija detalja krovnih crijepova, kao i ožbukanih zidova, sugeriraju kako je konstrukcija u nekom trenutku služila kao cisterna. No određeni detalji uočeni tijekom iskopavanja na

zapadnom zidu potvrđuju da je ta površina bila otvorena, a lučni otvori su vjerojatno kasnije zatvoreni i konstrukcija je pretvorena u cisternu.

Čišćenje konstrukcija A i B Morske tvrđave Ayas pružilo je određene podatke vezano uz datiranje Morske tvrđave na otoku.

Kao prvo, istraživanja i proučavanja provedena na površini i u blizini otoka nedvojbeno su utvrdila dvije glavne faze gradnje. Ostaci zidova koji okružuju otok odražavaju materijalne i tehničke karakteristike koje se mogu povezati s rimskim razdobljem.

Drugo, najvažniju fazu simboliziraju Armenci koji se pojavljuju u ovom području od 12. i 13. st. Sitni nalazi, a osobito novac, datirani su u kraj 12. i prvu četvrtinu 13. st. Tijekom tog razdoblja Armenci su vjerojatno izvršili popravke na Obalnoj i Morskoj tvrđavi. Nakon 14. st., Morska tvrđava, kao i samo naselje Ayas, gube na važnosti.

Rukopis primljen: 14.XII.2009.
Rukopis prihvaćen: 20.XII.2009.