



THE ASIA MINOR REPORT

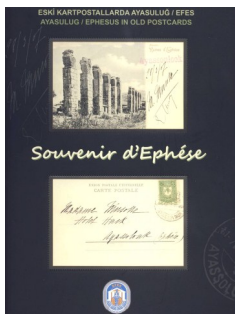
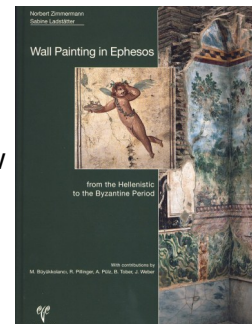
NEWS OF BIBLICAL TURKEY

Welcome to the Spring issue (2011.11) of the Asia Minor Report! The AMR seeks to inform scholars and students of early Judaism and Christianity in Asia Minor about recent historical and archaeological activities in Turkey. Please circulate this newsletter to colleagues and friends who might also be interested in these subjects. The Asia Minor Report is a publication of the Asia Minor Research Center and edited by its director, Dr. Mark Wilson. His contact information is: markwilson@sevenchurches.org.

BOOKS

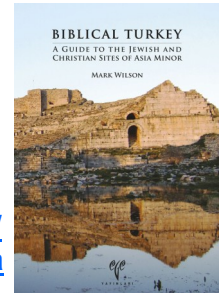
Wall Painting in Ephesos from the Hellenistic to the Byzantine Period by Norbert Zimmermann and Sabine Ladstätter, Istanbul: Ege Yayınları, 2011, hardcover, 224 pages with bibliography and glossary, map of ancient Ephesus inside covers. For anyone touring Ephesus the visit to the Terrace Houses is often one of the most memorable parts of the tour. Now a descriptive analysis of the wall paintings of this area as well as others in Ephesus has been published in a lavishly illustrated volume. First published in German in 2010 by Phoibos Verlag in Vienna, English and Turkish translations are now available. The book begins with a survey of Roman wall painting followed by a history of the excavation of Ephesus.

Then a brief survey of Hellenistic wall painting in the city incorporates a section contributed by Barbara Tober. Much of the volume explores wall painting during the Roman imperial period exemplified especially in Terrace House 2. In the final two sections comprising Late Antique/Early Christian wall painting and Byzantine wall painting three other specialists contribute articles. Renate Pillinger's discussion of the Grotto of St. Paul provides stunning photos and a plan of the grotto's interior. Andreas Pülz summarizes briefly the findings of his recently published monograph on the so-called Tomb of Luke. Stunning 3-D reconstructions of the cemetery of the Seven Sleepers suggest that this pilgrimage site, often bypassed by biblical tours, needs to be included on their itinerary. In an interesting aside in the introduction to Ephesus in late Antiquity, the authors maintain that the Artemis statues in the Prytaneion were not ritually interred to protect them from destruction by Christians; they "instead remained at their place of display until they fell down to the ground" (p. 160-61). This is a highly recommended volume!

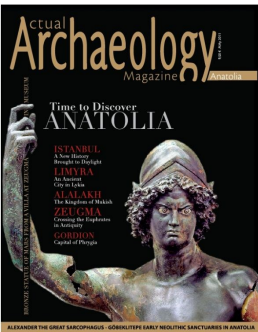


Ayasulug / Ephesus in Old Postcards edited by Ali Can (2010) is the latest publication of the Municipality of Selçuk. The bilingual paperback volume, Turkish and English, runs 167 pages. It is fascinating to look at such ancient sites as they existed 100-150 years ago before excavation. This volume presents such views of Ephesus through the medium of postcards. The two main sections feature the main monuments in Selçuk and then at Ephesus. Each is presented with a brief, informative description. A list of editors who published postcards of Ephesus as well a list of people who photographed the sites are provided at the end of the volume. One minor irritation was the editor's choice of Ayasulug for the English spelling when the postmark on the cards is consistently spelled "Ayassoulouk" which has come into modern usage as Ayasoluk.

The AMR editor's new volume *Biblical Turkey: A Guide to the Jewish and Christian Sites in Turkey* is now being distributed in the UK through Oxbow Books and through its partner David Brown Books in North America. It is also being sold via Amazon and other web sites in both places as well. The book was recently reviewed in *Biblical Archaeology Review* (<http://www.bib-arch.org/reviews/review-pilgrimage-biblical-turkey.asp>). Leen Ritmeyer has recommended the book on his web site: <http://www.ritmeyer.com/2010/11/29/recommended-biblical-turkey-a-guide-to-the-jewish-and-christian-sites-of-asia-minor/>. For those wishing to buy a copy in Turkey, the museum shops at the various sites stock the book as well as *Actual Archaeology Magazine* mentioned next.

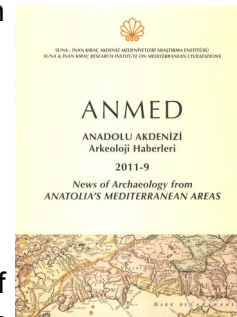


JOURNALS/ARTICLES

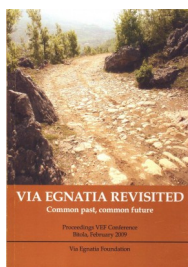


Actual Archaeology Magazine (<http://www.aktuelarkeoloji.com.tr/>), which has published 21 issues in Turkish over the past four years, has now released its first English edition (May 2011; 9.50€). Utilizing its typically outstanding graphics and illustrations, this popular magazine is a joy to read for anyone interested in archaeology and ancient history. The issue contains articles on the Yenikapı excavation of Byzantine ships in Istanbul, the Lycian city of Limyra, and the Greek colonization of the Black Sea. There is also an update on the rescue excavations at Zeugma by Kurtalmış Görkay. Prof. Görkay gave this editor and his friends a wonderful tour of the present work at Zeugma last August. Of special interest to students of the Old Testament world are the articles on the kingdoms at Alalakh and Tell Tayinat near Antakya. The American archaeologists Kenneth Sams and Nicholas Cahill contribute excellent articles on their respective sites, Gordion and Sardis. Cahill's article provides a general history of Sardis from the Lydian through the Roman periods. One photograph in particular caught AMR's eye: that of the interior of the tomb of king Alyattes in Bin Tepe.

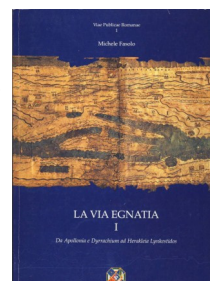
ANMED 2011-9, published by the Antalya-based Suna & Inan Kiraç Research Institute on Mediterranean Civilizations (AKMED) is now available. Always informative, the 255-page bilingual Turkish-English volume provides news of archaeology from Anatolia's Mediterranean areas. For the second year now all of *ANMED*'s photographs are in color. The articles are grouped under three categories: Excavation Reports (21), Survey Reports (13), and Other Reports (7). Four biblical sites are among the excavation reports: Myra, Perge/a, Pisidian Antioch, and Side. The Myra report features the discovery of a well-preserved chapel (12th cent.); at Andriake work continues at the harbor agora and the nearby Murex workshops. 21 inscriptions and 1105 coins were found in and around Myra in 2010. Excavation at Perge continues at the western necropolis as well as excavations at the crossroads at the northern end of the colonnaded street. On a recent visit to Perge it was nice to see the area around the Neronic bath cleaned up. At Pisidian Antioch cleaning continued on the *Cardo Maximus* near the north nymphaeum. At Oinoanda 9 new pieces of the famous Diogenes inscription were found in 2010. Salvage excavations at the necropolis at Attalia continued: of the tomb types excavated 319 were cist, 21 chamosoria, 29 chamber tombs with dromos as well as terracotta cremation vessels and terracotta plaque graves. Numismatic studies on the 9,820 coins in the Side Museum began last year.



NEWS AND NOTES

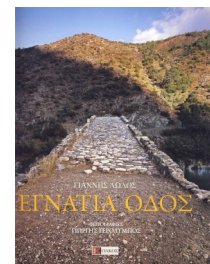


The AMRC library has recently acquired several books on the Via Egnatia, the Roman road that ran from Dyrrachium to Constantinople. Michele Fasolo donated a copy of his *La Via Egnatia I: Da Apollonia e Dyrrachium ad Herakleia Lynkestidos*. A new edition is now available with an English summary. His web site is: www.viaeognatia.net. Mustafa Hamdi Sayar donated a copy of *Via Egnatia Revisited: Common Past, Common Future*, the proceedings of the VEF Conference in Bitola, February 2009. In the volume



Sayar contributes an article on the “Via Egnatia in Eastern Thrace.” The volume is published by the Via Egnatia Foundation:

www.viaeognatiafoundation.eu. AMRC friend Gerhard Hattingh provided money for the purchase of Giannis Lolos’s *Via Egnatia*. Although the text is in Greek, the volume is visually rich with pictures, drawings, and maps of the road and its surroundings. We are grateful for these rich additions to the AMRC collection. On a March return from Rome to Istanbul this editor got a wonderful look at the route of the Via Egnatia from 30,000 feet as the Pegasus flight passed directly overhead. The map in Lolos’s volume proved to be an excellent guide to follow the topography below.



ONLINE

A web site with digitized editions of numerous antiquarian travel books about Turkey is: <http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/book/browse?type=lcsbc&key=Turkey%20-%20Description%20and%20travel&c=x>

The “Kerkenes News,” the excavations reports of the Iron Age site at Kerkenes Dağ in Cappadocia, possibly ancient Pteria, led by Geoffrey and Françoise Summers are published at: <http://www.kerkenes.metu.edu.tr/kerk2/02knews/index.html>

Three Turkish provinces—Kütahya, Eskişehir, and Afyonkarahisar— have banded together to promote Phrygian civilization in north central Turkey. The governor’s offices of the provinces founded the Union for the Protection and Development of Phrygian Cultural Heritage, or FRIGKÜM. This collaboration was developed to promote the Phrygian valley, which can be compared to Turkey’s more famous Cappadocia region due to the area’s fairy chimneys. FRIGKÜM’s website, <http://www.frigvadisi.org/default-en.aspx>, features three-dimensional panoramic photos of the various Phrygian sites (n.b. the labels are in Turkish). The pictures were taken in 160 locations throughout the three provinces as part of the Phrygian Valley 360 Degree Virtual Tour Photography Project. The photography is breathtaking so check it out. The apostle Paul probably saw some of these amazing monuments when he traveled through Phrygia on his second journey (Acts 16:6).

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