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APOLLONIA AD RHYNDACUM AND THE SANCTUARY OF APOLLO IN MYSIA, NORTHWESTERN TURKEY

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ABSTRACT

The article describes one of the results of archaeological survey, which is carried out since 2000, at Apollonia ad Rhyndacum in Mysia. The topic found on the preliminary survey on that site and following article published at 2004[1].

Apollonia Ad Rhyndacum is situated on the northern bank of the Lake Apolloniatis (Apolyont, Uluabat) located south of the Propontis (Sea of Marmara), 35 km west of Bursa in northwestern Turkey *(Map I)*. The Lake Apolloniatis is a large and shallow lake with small islands and extensive reed beds; inhabited by wetland birds during summer and passage periods. The lake is linked to the Sea of Marmara via River Kocaçay, while Rhyndacus (River Mustafakemalpaşa) constitutes the main river west of lake. The city situated on a peninsula, which penetrates straight into the lake at its northern shore *(Map II)*. Modern Apollonia called Gölyazı is situated on this part. It is a small fishing village with narrow streets and timber-framed houses. Ancient city might have occupied the same area as the Gölyazı village today.

It seems that the village follows the ancient grid plan[2] *(Plan I)*. Some ruins at this part indicate connection with antiquity. The most impressive example is the 'podium house'. One can think of it as a monument or even part of the harbour installments [3]*(Fig.1)*. It is preserved *in situ* and its location can be correlated with the ancient city plan. The modern settlement is encircled by a fortification wall. Some parts of it belong to the Hellenistic Period, other parts to Roman and Late Antiquity; in the latter case re-used material can be detected.

Nevertheless, official buildings were built at the northern part of the peninsula. The rock-cut theatre was built onto the south slope of Zambaktepe Hill[4]. It overlooks the modern settlement and it is hardly damaged (*cavea* is completely damaged). The Stadium is located on the north side of the Zambaktepe Hill[5]. But unlike the theatre only its west side was built on the slope and the Necropolis is located east of

[1] Aybek-Öz 2004: 1–25.
[2] Göksu 1998: 23; Aybek-Öz 2004: 5
[3] See for plan Aybek-Öz 2004: 5, Fig. 41.
[4] Yalman 1987: 10.
[5] Ibid 10

Zambaktepe, on both sides of the ancient road[6]. The Road was vital for the city being the one and only with the mainland. The width of the road is 2.50 m and was probably connected in the north with the Prusias-Cyzicus main route[7].

The Sanctuary of Apollo

Southwest of the village, at a slight distance to the shore, is the low island called Maiden Islet *(Fig.5, Plan I)*, still preserving in part the massive quay walls of a Hellenistic *temenos (Fig.2)*. These walls formed a rectangle approximately 70/50 m; the entranceway was arranged in a semi-circle, with steps leading towards the island. The *temenos* wall stood originally approximately 1.50 m above water level *(Fig.3)*. According to the old drawings made by Lé Bas[8], the *temenos* wall was provided with three sets, at different heights, of pierced corbels for mooring the boats. Also within the wall he found two fragments of Ionic columns, and one piece from the entablature from which he restores a hexastyle temple within a colonnade, surrounded by *exedrae (Fig.4)*. Although these drawings look like a complete fantasy, the topographic plan drawn by Gölyazı Municipality in 1995 seems to confirm Lé Bas *temenos*[9]. It's not able to walk inside the *temenos* due to high vegetation. The northeast corner is damaged, although corner blocks can be seen under the water clearly. The eastern side is the best-preserved part. Its maximum height is 1.50m. In the east wall some in-situ-moorings can still be recognized (Fig 3).

Despite some aspects of Le Bas seem to be authentic, but more work needs to be done in order to clarify this building and its function. Another interesting sign about the semi-circular entrance described by Le Bas is the arrangement of the reeds as they grow only in water; their shape is quite clear and informative. This evidence seems to suggest that Apollo's temple might have stood on this islet *(Fig.5)*.

Another striking monument related with sanctuary is undoubtedly the square tower[10], the so-called Kastro, a free-standing building nowadays, located back of the Town Mosque; in the Kastro inscribed epistyle blocks, presumably from a *stoa* erected in honor of Hadrian on the Maiden Islet, can be found in secondary use[11]. The south tower was seen in the beginning of the 19th century and was drawn by Lé Bas[12]. Today almost half of it is under the surface. Le Bas mentions one more piece, now missing, at Maiden Islet and he made a sketch[13]. According to his observations, the epistyle was probably another part of the *stoa* or portico, epistyle inscription. As a matter of fact, a rectangular altar now re-used in a modern house, bears an interesting inscription in which Hadrian is mentioned as savoir and builder[14].

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[6] Aybek-Öz 2004: 4
[7] Numerous milestones have been found along this route; French 1992: Cat.Nr. 213, 214, 216, 218, 221, 302, 304, 305, 306.
[8] Lé Bas 1888: Pl.45-49.
[9] Aybek-Öz 2004: 14, Fig.10.
[10] See for early picture; Hasluck 1910: 68.
[11] Hasluck 1910: 69; Abmeier 1990: 15. "Αυτοκρατωρ Κα]ισαρ Τραι[ανος Αδρι]ανος Αυ[γου]στος, θεου Νε[ρονα νιονος την στοαν?] τη πολει κα[τεσκενασεν.
[12] Lé Bas 1888: 38, Pl.48
[13] Ibid: Pl.1-II, 2.
[14] Abmeier 1990:15.

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The Cult

The Apollo Cult of Apollonia territory can be clarified by the recent epigraphical researches in this area. Tanrıver has mentioned six inscriptions from Akçapınar village which is situated on the south-eastern shore of the Lake Apolloniatis are important[15]. Because the epithet Δαφνουσιος for Apollo have shown on the stelai thus they referred probable Apollo Daphnousios sanctuary here. Apollo figures on that stelai are similar with *Citharoedus Type*[16] *(Fig.6)*, it also could be seen on the city coins[17] that Linfert associated with Bryaxis' Apollo Daphnasios[18]. On the one hand Apollo has seen in his temple as the best popular figure of Roman Coins especially during the reign of Gallienus (253-268), the depiction of Apollo inside a tetrastyle temple becomes the dominant type[19] *(Fig.7)*. In addition the portrait of God was depicted on coins from the Hellenistic period, as he was the city patron so tentatively information about the cult statue of Apollo can be extracted from them.

This is variation of the Praxiteles' Apollo Sauroktonos[20] certainly *(Fig.8)* related Apollo Smintheus cult statue[21] probable made by Scopas from Paros for Smintheion in Chryse[22] just as Lippold emphasized that the one variation of this statue might have came from Apollonia[23]. We can also learn different type Apollo known in the city from Roman Coins like *Pythoctonus* the naked God described here while attacking python with arrow holding his right hand[24] *(Fig.9)*. The God is also frequently associated with Artemis and the usual triad is completed Zeus Hypsistus who is known at Apollonia[25].

While, it couldn't be found any inscriptions[26] about Apollo Cult of city it is possible to understand that the cult from city coins. As Apollo has been a depicted different type or poses on them and all these evident is enough get us to persuade for Apollo Temple on Maiden Islet and the cult center here as well.

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Abbreviations

[15] Tanrıver 1993: 99: Şahin 2000:232-237.
[16] Tanrıver 1993: 100 also see for description and parallels; LIMC II.1 (1984): 200; Boardman 1995:26, Fig.14.2: Tanrıver 1996: 193-196; Özgan 1999: 32-33, Taf.8a-b.
[17] Fritze 1913: 71, Nr.215; Wroth 1964: Pl.II.11.
[18] Tanrıver 1996: 195; Linfert 1983: 165-173 and also this type can be compare with Apollo Patroos by Euphranor see. Boardman 1995: 55, Fig.30
[19] Fritze 1913: 100 Nr.314; SNG Mysien 1957: Nr.1066 Gallienus.
[20] Boardman 1995: 54, Fig.27
[21] Özgünel 2001: 22–26.
[22] Ibid: 22-23.
[23] Lippold 1950: 136.
[24] Wroth 1964: 11, Nr.21, Pl.II.14.
[25] Hasluck 1910: 72.
[26] Abmeier 1990: 1-16.

AMStud	*Asia Minor Studien.*
Anatolia	*Anatolia. Revue annuelle de l'Institut d'archéologie de l'Université d'Ankara.*
EpigAnat	*Epigraphica Anatolica. Zeitschrift für Epigraphik und historische Geographie Anatoliens.*

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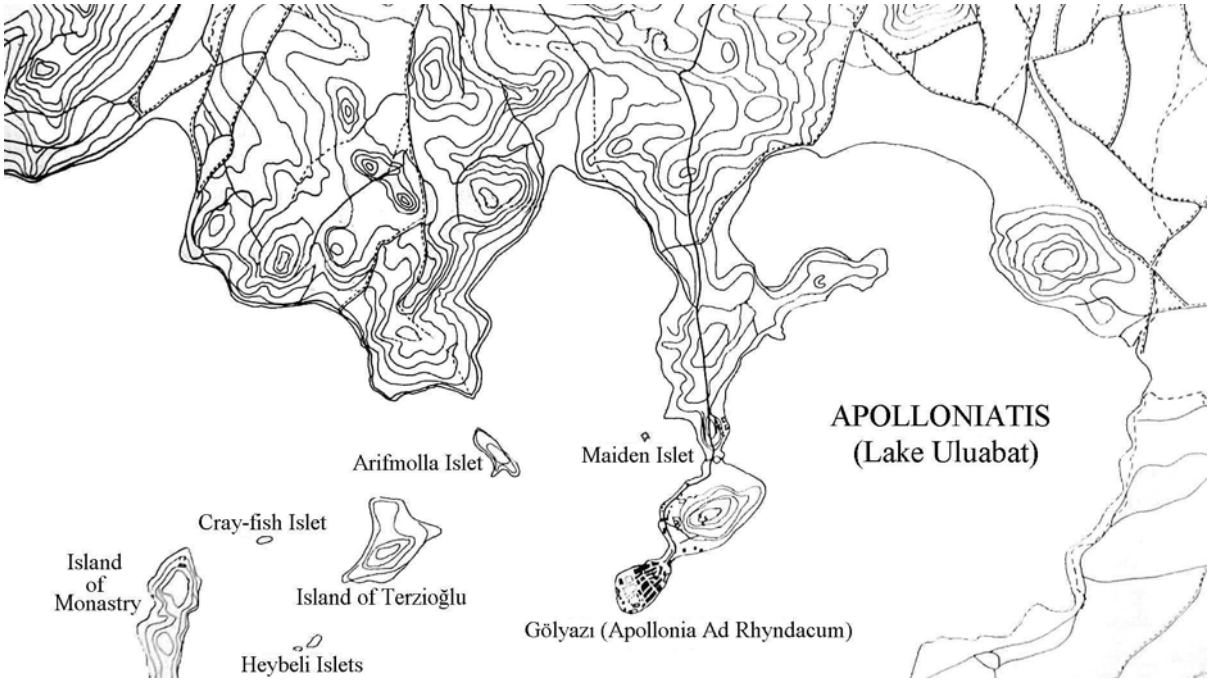
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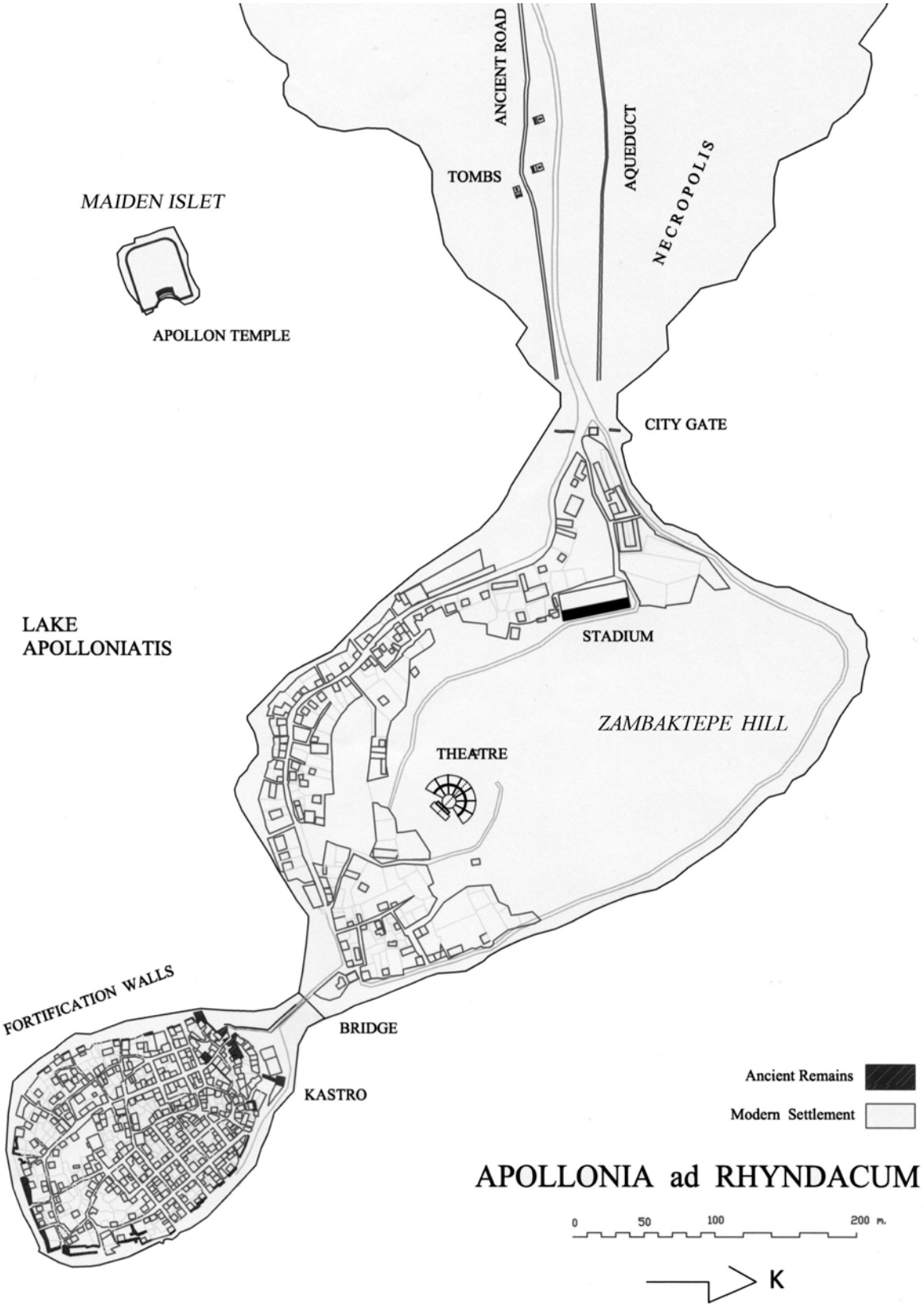
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THRACE
BLACK SEA
ISTANBUL
Byzantium
PROPONTIS
BURSA
Apollonia ad Rhyndacum
(Gölyazı)
Apolloniatis
(Lake Uluabat)
Rhyndacus
(River M.Kemalpasa)
Pergamum
AEGEAN
SEA
IZMIR
Ephesus
Miletus

Map I


APOLLONIATIS
(Lake Uluabat)
Arifmolla Islet
Maiden Islet
Cray-fish Islet
Island
of
Monastry
Island of Terzioğlu
Gölyazı (Apollonia Ad Rhyndacum)
Heybeli Islets

Map II


ANCIENT ROAD
AQUEDUCT
NECROPOLIS
TOMBS
MAIDEN ISLET
APOLLON TEMPLE
CITY GATE
LAKE
APOLLONIATIS
STADIUM
ZAMBAKTEPE HILL
THEATRE
FORTIFICATION WALLS
BRIDGE
KASTRO
Ancient Remains
Modern Settlement
APOLLONIA ad RHYNDACUM
0
50
100
200 m.
K

Plan I



Fig.1



Fig.2



Fig.3

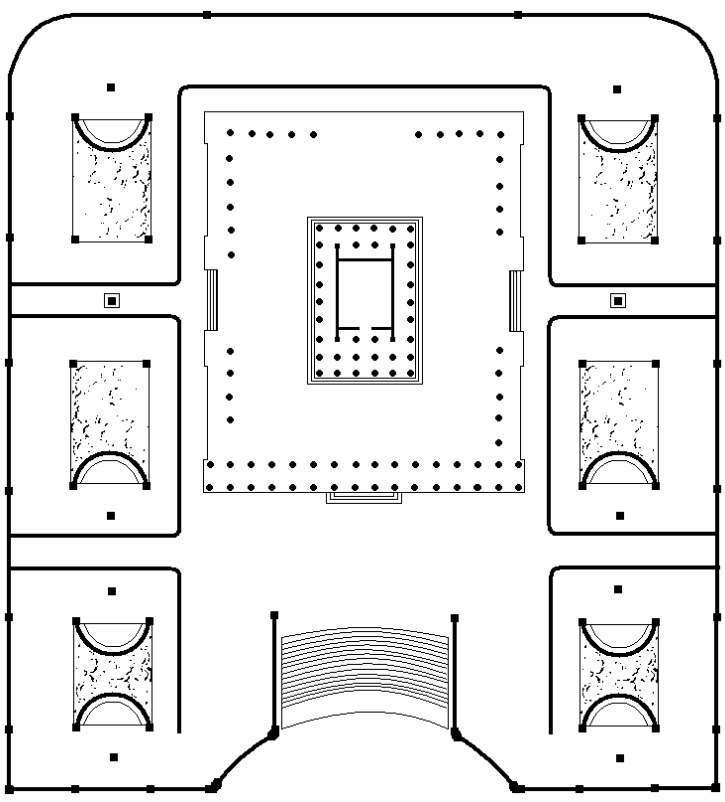


Fig. 4



Fig.5



Fig.6



Fig. 7



Fig.9

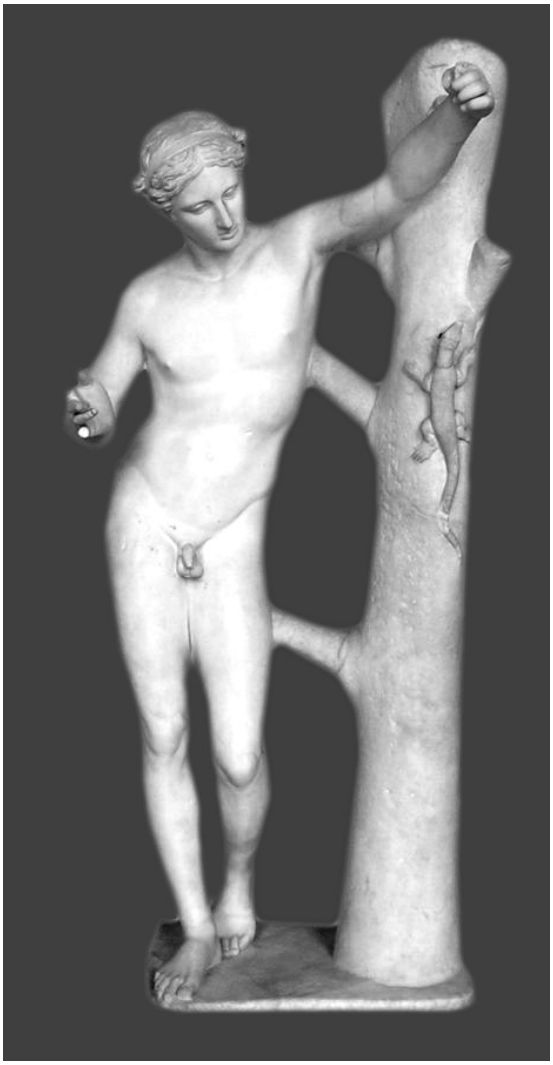


Fig.8