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Erzurum İkiztepeler Tumuli: The Re-Evaluation of Tumulus IV with Tomb Finds

Erzurum İkiztepeler Tümülüsleri: IV Numaralı Tümülüsün Mezar Buluntuları ile Yeniden Değerlendirilmesi

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Abstract: The İkiztepeler Tumuli, located approximately 14 km north of Erzurum, consist of five tumuli, located in a 34 acre area of land between the Gülpınar and Kırmızıtaş neighborhoods. Three of the five tumuli excavations were carried out in 1965 by Hamid Z. Herman Vary Kosay. Number I, IV and V tumuli excavated provide important data for the history of the region. In the excavation reports examined, it is seen that in particular Tumuli IV has important data with its architectural features and tomb finds. The tumuli were superficially evaluated in the studies of Koşay and Vary, as belonging to a Hellenistic Period context. Tumulus IV and its tomb finds, which were re-examined within the scope of this research, are here dated to a more specific time period. This paper aims to shed light on the history of Erzurum and its environs, where relatively little information is available concerning its Hellenistic past and to provide data for more comprehensive studies to be carried out in the future.

Keywords: Tumulus • Eastern Anatolia • Erzurum • Hellenistic Period • İkiztepeler

Öz: Erzurum'un yaklaşık 14 km kuzeyinde yer alan İkiztepeler Tümülüsleri, Gülpınar ve Kırmızıtaş mahalleleri arasında 34 dönümlük bir araziye konumlanan beş adet tümülüsten oluşmaktadır. 1965 yılında beş adet tümülüsün üçünde Hamit Z. Koşay ve Herman Vary tarafından kazı çalışmaları gerçekleştirilmiştir. Kazısı gerçekleştirilen I, IV ve V numaralı tümülüsler, bölge tarihi için önemli veriler sunmaktadır. İncelenen kazı raporlarında, özellikle IV numaralı tümülüsün mimari özellikleri ve mezar buluntuları ile nitelikli verilere sahip olduğu görülmektedir. Koşay ve Vary'nin çalışmalarında kabaca Hellenistik Dönem içerisinde değerlendirilen tümülüsler; araştırmamız kapsamında yeniden incelenen IV numaralı tümülüs ve buluntuları özelinde daha belirli bir zaman aralığına tarihlendirilmiştir. Çalışmanın, Hellenistik dönemi hakkında görece az bilgiye sahip olunan Erzurum ve çevresinin tarihine ışık tutması ve gelecekte yapılacak daha kapsamlı çalışmalar adına veri sağlaması beklenmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Tümülüs • Doğu Anadolu • Erzurum • Hellenistik Dönem • İkiztepeler

Introduction

Tumuli are monumental tombs which can defined as mound hill, hill or grave hill where royals or nobles are buried with their gifts. The diameters and depths of tumuli from their first examples in VIII B.C. in Phrygia in Anatolia, vary depending on the social status of the tomb owner[1]. While tumuli built for people of higher social classes have a larger diameter and height, tumuli built for people with relatively low social status have smaller dimensions. The İkiztepeler tumuli, located approximately 14 km north of Erzurum city center, are examples of small sized tumuli with an average height of 4 m and a diameter of 20 m.

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1 Yıldırım 2008, 133.

Excavations were carried out by Koşay and Vary at three of the five tumuli in this location in 1965[2]. The excavated tumuli I, IV and V provide significant data for the history of the region. Besides, it is observed that particularly the tumulus IV has architectural characteristics and tomb finds and qualitative data. In the study, the tumuli and their finds were evaluated within a broad date spectrum with a possible classification to the *Hellenistic Period*. However, when the finds and data of the study are re-evaluated today, it is assumed that the tumuli may be dated to a more specific date range rather than simply the Hellenistic Period. Hence, the current status of five tumuli in Ikiztepe was laid out. Then tumulus IV, which provides qualitative archaeological data, and the finds obtained from this tumulus were examined in detail and evaluated. The comprehensive evaluation of the data obtained from the tumulus IV and burial chambers constitute the scope of this study and are important in terms of contributing to the history of Erzurum and its surroundings, particularly its Hellenistic period.

In this context, the excavation report carried out by Koşay and Vary in 1965 was examined. Then, the finds belonging to the tumulus IV, which are today in the Erzurum Archeology Museum were re-examined in 2018 within the scope of this study and documented with current illustrations and photographs. During the field studies carried out in 2020, the current conditions of İkiztepeler tumuli were recorded with aerial and ground photographs. This study has been completed in line with the field work and find analysis undertaken.

General Information About the İkiztepeler Tumuli

Two of the İkiztepeler Tumuli in the north of Erzurum (Fig. 1), are located to the southwest of the highway connecting the Gülpınar to the Kırmızıtaş neighborhood to its west (I and II); the other three (III, IV and V) are located to the northeast of the highway (Fig. 2). Tumuli I and II are 14 m away from each other. Approximately 60 m northeast of these is tumulus III. Approximately 360 m east of tumulus III are tumuli IV and V. The area of land over which these five tumuli are scattered is approximately 34 acres and they can be clearly seen today.

An excavation was carried out in tumuli I, IV and V in 1965 by Hamit Z. Kosay and Herman Vary[3]. According to their report the tumulus II had been destroyed by illegal excavations and therefore, excavations could not be carried out and excavations of tumulus III were postponed to a later date. In the reports, tumulus I was described as the highest and most robust tumulus. However, we documented its last state, it is possible to say that the tumulus has been almost flattened by geographical and human factors. Kosay and Vary report that hunting weapons and a type of toy specific to children called *"Trochos"* in Antiquity were found in the tumulus[4]. Excavations were carried out in tumulus V. Although it was stated in the report that this tumulus was exposed to illegal excavations, two agate beads, one coin and two gold necklace appliqués were found during the excavations in 1965[5]. Another tumulus examined during the excavations was tumulus IV, which forms the subject of this study. The current state of this tumulus and its condition in 1965 are evaluated in detail below.

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2 Koşay & Vary 1974, 75.

3 Koşay & Vary 1974, 75.

4 Koşay & Vary 1974, 77ff.

5 Koşay & Vary 1974, 85; Yavuz 2021, 140-141.

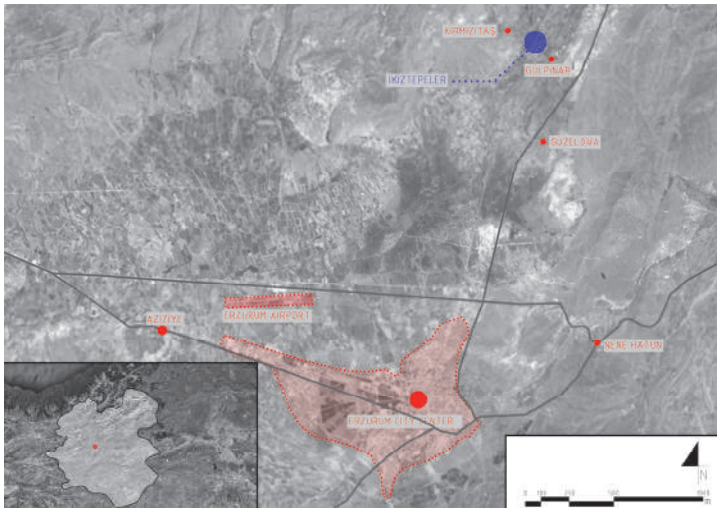


Fig. 1. *Location of Erzurum - İkiztepeler*

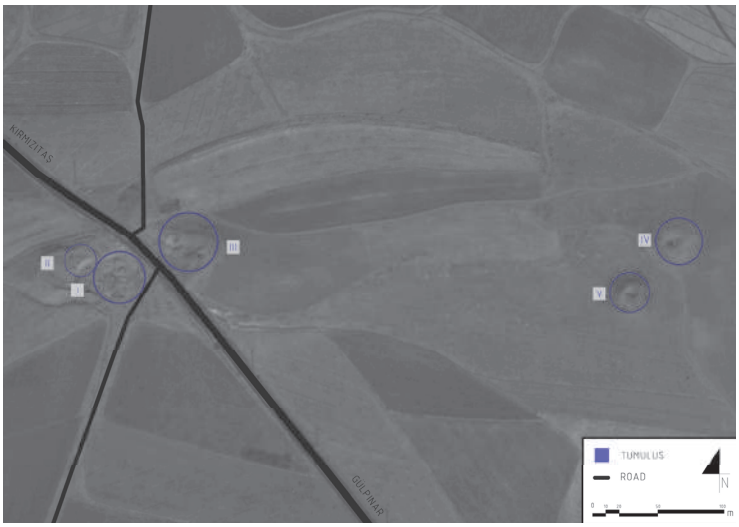


Fig. 2. *Distribution of the Erzurum-İkiztepeler Tumuli*

Evaluation of Tumulus IV

In the 1965 studies conducted in the tumulus IV, the easternmost of the İkiztepeler Tumuli, it was reported that the tumulus was 25 m in diameter and 3.5 m in height. However, its preserved height today is approximately 2 meters. In the tumulus where the double burial chamber is located, the walls of the tombs were built with large stone blocks and the entrance of the dromos was covered with flat stones[6].

A double burial chamber was found in the tomb, which is reported to have an east-west a single dromos. It was determined that the tomb chamber in the north belongs to a female and the one in the south belongs to a male individual. It is not commonly observed in a tumulus that there are double burial chambers with burial in both rooms. However, Uşak Güre Ikiztepe Tumulus[7], Manisa Alahıdır

6 Koşay & Vary 1974, 79.

7 Akbıyıkoğlu 1996, 163; Avşar 2016, 35ff.

Northern Tumulus T.1[8] and the tumulus located in Bulgaria Ivansky[9] can be given as examples of such tumuli. Another striking feature of the tumulus, with its double burial chamber located on a north-south axis, is that the room on the south has no connection with the dromos. The plan of a single dromos double burial chamber is also seen in the tumulus near Ivansky, Bulgaria[10]. The entrance to the burial chamber in the south must have been from another side and was closed after the burial. However, the insufficient information concerning the burial chambers in the report prevents reaching clear conclusions about the architectural structure in the tumulus. In this context, it was appropriate to date the tumulus from the grave finds.



Fig. 3. *İkiztepeler Tumulus IV- V, 2020 Aerial Photo*



Fig. 4. *İkiztepeler Tumulus IV, Current State in 2020*

8 Nayır 1980, 120ff.

9 Atanasov & Stoychev 2016, 102.

10 Atanasov & Stoychev 2016, 102ff.

Burial Chamber I

Located in the north of the dromos a female skeleton was unearthed in tomb chamber I. The skeleton in the tomb chamber, where numerous finds were uncovered, was buried in hocker position and was in poor condition[11]. 15 alabastrons, 6 unguentaria and 3 amphoriskos placed next to the individual were found *in situ* in the tomb (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5. *Koşay & Vary 1974, Tumulus IV Burial Chamber I. Redrawing* (Illust.: H. Dülger, 2020)

All of the 15 alabastrons examined as the first group within the scope of the study were made of alabaster. Alabastrons with an average height of 25.3 cm and a mouth diameter of 3.5 cm have been examined under three types according to the circle form of the rim. Six of the fourteen alabastrons recovered intact have a small flat round mouth (Type 1). The other eight samples have an angular rim ring (Type 2). With its bulging and short body form, an alabastron that differs from the two types in the group in terms of both mouth and body features forms Type 3 (Fig. 6).

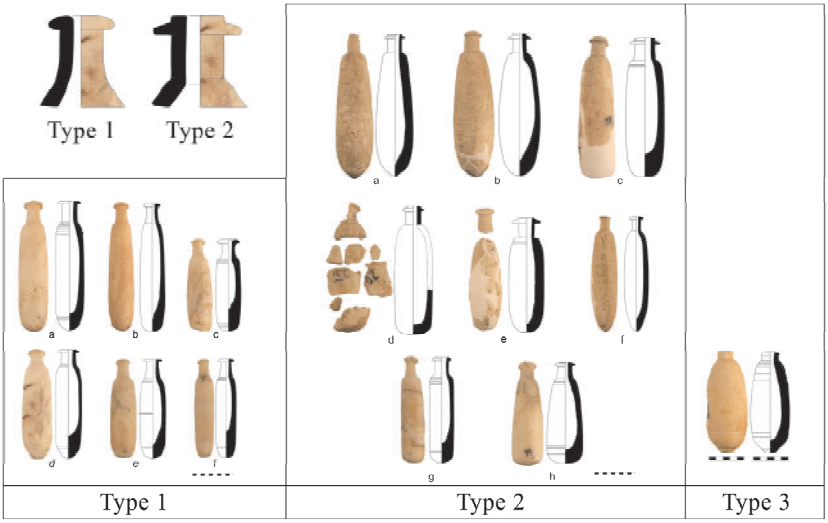


Fig. 6. *Alabastrons Unearthed in Tumulus I*

The albastron bottom is mostly slightly flattened, except for Type 1a, d and Type 2a, b, f examples. However, in the Type 2 a, f examples, the bottom is sharpened sharply. Except for the examples with

[11] Koşay & Vary 1974, 79.

grooves mainly on the shoulder and bottom, there are grooves in the body of Type 1e,. Moreover, there is also a groove in the bracelet under the shoulder in Type 1a. Although examples of alabastrons are known up to 20 cm, the Ikiztepe examples reach 33 cm.

The first known examples of alabastrons date from IIIrd millennium B.C. Egypt, and became a highly preferred form from the VIth century B.C. to the IVth century B.C.[12]. Alabastron examples, which continued to be used in the Hellenistic Period, generally exhibit a very wide mouth structure in the form of a flat circle and a form with a short and coarse neck[13]. Although there are periodic differences in the general form of the alabastron, it has not moved far from the classical form character.

It is possible to state the Ikiztepeler Tumulus I alabastrons differ from Hellenistic period examples, as having small mouth disc, long neck and high cylindrical body features. Contrary to the known mouth form structures, the mouth diameters of the İkiztepeler alabastrons are very small compared to their body diameters. The neck, which has an elongated form in almost all specimens, is sharply separated from the body. Especially these mouth types, which were not seen much in the general form character of the period, exhibit an unusual form. The closest examples of these alabastron mouth and neck types are in the British Museum. These have been found in Iraq and Syria[14]. British Museum Fig. 18: 283 with the form of the rim (IVth century B.C.), example number 286 with both body, neck and rim form (Vth-IVth century B.C.), Fig. 19: 290, 291 (IVth century B.C.) and the examples numbered 294 (IIIrd - Ist century B.C.) which are similar to the İkiztepe alabastrons in their full forms.

In addition, the alabastron example found in Babylon, given a wide date range from between 600-300 B.C., is similar to the Type 1 examples from the İkiztepeler Tumulus IV in its mouth form[15]. Although the Babylon examples show similarity to the mouth part without a prominent shoulder protrusion, they are distinguished from the İkiztepeler examples with their structures that run straight from the neck to the body. Since the dating of both the British Museum and Babylon specimens are not within the scope of any excavation or context finds, the dating of İkiztepeler Tumulus IV alabastrons are based upon the general context of the finds.

All six unguentaria found in burial chamber I contain examples belonging to the derivatives of the main form defined as fusiform[16]. Three broken and three fully recovered unguentaria have heights ranging from 21.5 cm to 43 cm. Among the unguentaria, the most striking piece from its size and 43 cm height is the example Figure 7a. This work, with its 43 cm height, is an example of the largest size found in Anatolia among unguentaria published to date. It is also known that there are unguentarium specimens of approximately the same size that have been found at Patara[17] and in the Akhisar Museum[18].

Figure 7a example has a wide short base, bulging body, thick long neck and slightly everted rim. In addition, there are three horizontal band paint decorations on the neck, shoulder and body. In terms of body form, in Athens Agora (late IVth century B.C.)[19], Izmir Museum (late IVth century

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12 Amyx 1958, 214.

13 Yılmazer 1995, 115ff.

14 Searight *et al.* 2008, 37-38-39. (Fig.18: 283,286; Fig. 19. 290, 291, 294).

15 Finkel & Reade 2002, Fig. 1, Fig. 2.

16 Yavuz 2021, 133.

17 Dündar 2008, Lev. 9, U83.

18 Yıldız 2016, 9, 15. Kat No.4.

19 Thompson 1934, Fig. 22 B44; Stojanovic & Virginia 1987, 108, Fig. 2.

B.C.)[20], Kelenderis (late IVth century B.C.)[21], Sinop (early IIIrd century B.C.)[22], Perge (early IIIrd century B.C.)[23], Ephesos (IIIrd - IInd century B.C.)[24] and Cilicia (Late Hellenistic)[25] can be given as similar examples.

In the same group, Figure 7b-c examples also show partially similar form features to Figure 7a. Unguentaria, which have a more oval body structure compared to Fig. 7a, have horizontal band decorations on the body and shoulder as well as the dipping technique applied on the mouth parts. Examples from Patara (late IVth century B.C. early IIIrd century B.C.)[26], Kerameikos (early IIIrd century B.C.)[27] and Venice National Archaeological Museum (IIIrd – Ist century B.C.)[28] provide equivalents in terms of the body form of these unguentaria.

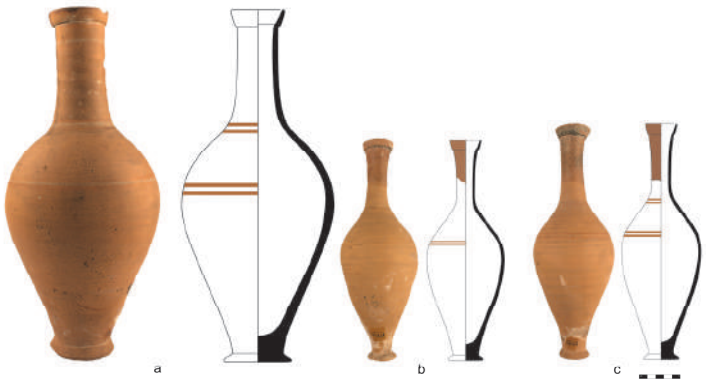


Fig. 7. *Tomb I Unguentarium*

However, it should be noted that with the similar examples given above, Figure 7 samples show partial similarities only, such as neck, body and pedestal. The unguentaria uncovered in the tumulus are separated from similar examples by their mouth structures. No example of a vessel presenting a similarity as a whole has been found in these studies. However, the unguentaria that replaced the lekythos since the IVth century B.C. showed similar form characteristics like the lekythos during this transition process. In this context, it is possible to consider them as intermediate types presenting the reflection of the transition process of the Figure 7 lekythos-unguentarium on unguentaria, or as mixed types presenting slightly lekythos-like forms in later periods. Accordingly, the Plate 2: 4 example[29] of unguentaria found in Kurul Castle dated to the IInd or Ist century B.C. is similar to the Ikiztepe examples in its rim structure. This makes it possible to interpret this mouth structure as revealing periodic as well as

20 Tuluk 1999, Abb. 2- Kat. Nr. 2, 5.

21 Zoroğlu 1997, Resim 12.

22 Süzer 1990, Kat. No. 5.

23 Çokay-Kepçe 2017, La.98. B.12/ Pg.98.21.

24 Mitsopoulos-Leon 1991, Tafel 210, O10.

25 Laflı 2003, Taf. 107- b, d.

26 Dündar 2008, Lev.3, U28.

27 Knigge 1976, Taff. 96, Abb.5, E92 1-2, E96, 123.

28 Florean 2018, 97-67.

29 Şenyurt & Yorulmaz 2020, 19 (3), Levha 2/4, 625.

regional characteristics. From this perspective, we can suggest that this intermediate form, which existed in the transition period, was also regionally applied in different periods.

The large size of the alabastron and unguentaria uncovered in the tomb suggests that these vessels were used for storage rather than for cosmetic purposes. In addition, the great heights of both alabastron and unguentaria and the difference in mouth structures can be interpreted as features that were shaped according to needs of the time.

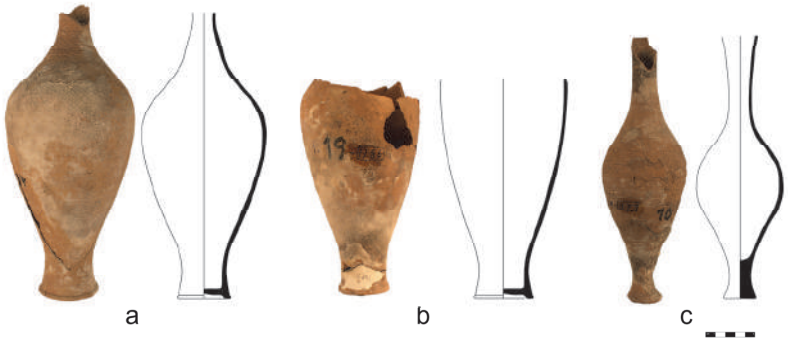


Fig. 8. *Tomb I Unguentarium*

The other three examples in Fig. 8 were found with broken neck and mouth parts. From the unguentaria with eroded surfaces, Figures 8a and b have a body structure that expands upwards with a wide round base. Similar forms of this type have been found in Athens (late IVth century B.C.)[30], Patara (late IVth century B.C. - early IIIrd century B.C.)[31], Izmir Museum (early IIIrd century B.C.)[32], Cilicia (late Hellenistic)[33] and Kurul Castle (IIrd – Ist century B.C.)[34]. Figure 8c shows a complete fusiform pattern with a long neck, bulging body and a tapering thin foot. Similar examples have been found, Kerameikos (IInd century B.C.)[35], Miletus Museum (end of IIIrd century B.C. - IInd century B.C.)[36], Tralleis (IIIrd century B.C.)[37], Stratonikeia (IInd - Ist century B.C.)[38] and Tel Anafa (IInd century B.C.)[39].

The last group of finds from the tumulus consists of two complete amphoriskos, one broken above the body (Fig. 9). Amphoriskos have a cylindrical neck, round double handles that start from half of the neck and sit on the shoulder, an oval body narrowing downwards and a small base. Similar examples are from Tel Anafa (IInd century B.C.)[40], Paphos (IInd century B.C.)[41], Gözlü Kule/ Tarsus (Hellenistic)[42]

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30 Boulter 1963, Pl. 46, I1.

31 Dündar 2006, Lev. V: U30, Lev. VI: U31, U33.

32 Tuluk 1999, Abb. 3. Kat. Nr. 9, Abb. 4. Kat. Nr. 13.

33 Laflı 2003, Taf. 105 e-f.

34 Şenyurt & Yorulmaz 2020, Levha 5/21.

35 Knigge 1976, Taf. 96. Abb. 6 E100 1-3.

36 Yaşar 2010, Levha V- U24, U28.

37 Civelek 2001, XXXI, U14.

38 Baldıran 1990, 18, Levha VI, 1-3.

39 Weinberg 1971, Plate 16, A.

40 Weinberg 1971, Plate 16; Berlin 2015, Plate. 6.1.18: 19,20.

41 Hayes 1991, Figure XXV: 3. s.65.

42 Goldman 1950, Fig. 143: 358,

and Samaria (II[nd] century B.C.)[43]. In addition, Andrea Berlin[44] states that the earliest examples of these forms are the semi-fine amphoriskos that were produced on the southern coast of Phoenicia in the early II[nd] century B.C.

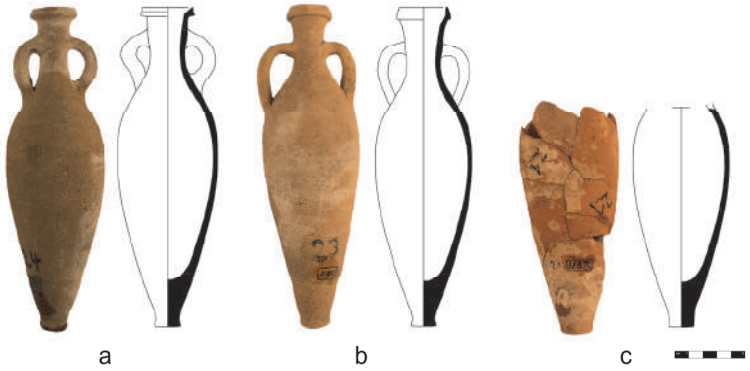


Fig. 9. *Tomb I Amphoriskos*

Burial Chamber II

In the other heavily damaged burial chamber in the south of the dromos, the bones belonging to an individual were uncovered scattered around. In the grave, which is stated to have belonged to a man, only one silver coin was found between the teeth of the individual[45]. As can been seen in Figure 10 below, the head of Heracles is portrayed on the obverse of the coin and Zeus on the reverse. It has a diameter of 17 mm and a weight of 4.05 gram. On the back, Zeus is depicted as sitting on the throne with the eagle in his right hand and the scepter in his left hand. The reverse legend reads: ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟ[Υ]. The reverse face has PA in the left margin and the L monogram under the throne, and the coin was dated between 323-319 B.C. according to reference examples[46].



Fig. 10. *The Silver Coin Found between the Teeth of the Deceased*

Conclusion and Evaluation

In the studies carried out in the Eastern Anatolia Region, there are very few tumuli grave structures recorded. The fact that tumuli[47], which are mostly seen in the province of Malatya, are not seen throughout the region can be explained because of the scarcity of research. Although Çağatay Yücel

43 Reisner *et al.* 1924, I, 302, 19/182; II, Plate 67-k.

44 Berlin 2006, 57, Fig. 2.29: 1-3; Berlin 2015, 638.

45 Koşay & Vary 1974, 79; Can 2010, 35.

46 Price 1991, P47 (a), Plate CXXXVII-Colophon.

47 Although it is known that there are many tumuli in the province of Malatya, the excavations carriedout in the tumuli are almost nonexistent. As an example of these studies; Ayabakan 1991, 49-61.

states in his article[48] that the tumulus structures in Eastern Anatolia are limited to the province of Malatya, five tumuli located in Erzurum, in the Ikiztepeler locality are among the examples recorded in Eastern Anatolia. The Erzurum Ikiztepeler Tumuli are rare examples of tumulus structures of the Eastern Anatolia Region with their tomb structures and unearthed finds.

The Ikiztepeler tumuli, which have partially survived, have a wide variety of finds. They shed light on the Hellenistic Period with their characteristic artifacts. Particularly, Tumulus IV, which has been evaluated within the scope of this study, is an archaeological document in terms of the history of the region with its architectural structures consisting of a single dromos with double burial chambers and various and diverse finds. Partly similar alabastrons, which are included in the Figure 6 tomb group and which are typologically different from the Anatolian examples, are in the British Museum. However these are dated roughly to the IVth to the Ist centuries B.C. The other group of Figure 7 unguentarium examples differ from their counterparts in their mouth structures. The unguentarium examples specified in Figure 7 can be considered as mixed types that present the lekythos-unguentarium-like forms of later periods. In this sense, it is possible to contend that this intermediate form, which exists in the transition period, was regionally applied in later periods. The equivalents of the alabastrons in the tomb are out of context and the mouth structures of the unguentaria are unique, making their dating difficult. On the other hand, the parallels of amphoriskos in the tomb are not encountered before the IInd century B.C. Therefore, in dating the alabastron and unguentarium examples, which are included in the grave finds and do not provide definite data, amphoriskos, which present the feasible data in the current conditions, were used. Thus, within the scope of this study, it is possible to say that the burial took place in the IInd century B.C. Also, the dating of the silver coin that was recovered from burial chamber II does not contradict this argument.

The Erzurum Ikiztepeler Tumuli are significant and rare examples with their architectural structures and numerous finds. Therefore, it is important to conduct studies on Ikiztepeler Tumuli, which are thought to have unique characteristics in terms of regional archeology. The tumuli evaluated roughly to the Hellenistic Period in previous studies have been dated to a more specific time period with the up-to-date analyses made specifically for tumulus IV and its finds within the framework of this research. For the question of to whom the tumuli may have belonged, we can make a few assumptions. First of all, it can be thought that these tumuli contain the prominent people of the region or the administrators that were appointed to the region. Another assumption can be argued that the burials consist of individuals belonging to convoys navigating the trade route. However, in this case, all the buried individuals must die at the same time and time must be spent for tumuli that cannot be built in a short time. Considering both assumptions; the probability that the tumuli accommodate senior executives and family members in the region seems most probable.

Undoubtedly, the most important contribution made by these tumuli to the archeology of the region is that they are archaeological evidence of the Hellenistic period otherwise known from the ancient and written sources concerning the region. Contrary to the belief that there was uncertainty in the region after the Late Iron Age, recent studies conducted within the framework of İkiztepeler and other settlements[49] are extremely important in terms of this period in revealing evidence of its existence.

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48 Yücel 2017, 163.

49 Kasapoğlu *et al.* 2019, 275-332; Yavuz 2021.

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