
RELIEFS FROM 2th B.C. DISCOVERED IN ŞANLIURFA

M.Ö. II. BİNDE ŞANLIURFA'DA BULUNAN KABARTMALAR

НАЙДЕННЫЕ НАСКАЛЬНЫЕ РЕЛЬЕФЫ В, ШАНЛЫУРФЕ II ТЫСЯЧЕЛЕТИЯ ДО Н.Э.

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ABSTRACT

During the surface surveys conducted in Şanlıurfa in recent years, a large number of reliefs dating back to the timeframe from 2th B.C. to 1th B.C. were discovered. Dağyamacı reliefs, located 500 m east of the Harran Plain within Tek Tek Mountains region, are reliefs dating back to 2th B.C. Said reliefs dating back to 2th B.C. were unearthed at some quarry-like location. The location where Dağyamacı reliefs were discovered is the only limestone quarry that has been dated to 2th B.C. in the region. Orthostatic relief sketches, embossed friezes and stone blocks extracted in the form of cubes were unearthed in the quarry located at Dağyamacı. The reliefs depict sitting figures, standing nude figures, fauna and flora motifs. These reliefs, estimated to be fabricated between the first quarter and the last quarter of 2th B.C., present features similar in style to some artifacts previously unearthed in the region and delivered to Şanlıurfa Museum. Discovery of the rock tombs from Early Bronze Age and the relief of a lion dating to 1th B.C. in the ancient settlement of Soğmatar located close to the Dağyamacı reliefs indicates that the region around Tek Tek Mountains has been a key region for stonemasonry since early times. The blocks of limestone from the valleys of Tek Tek Mountains should be extracted rather easily thanks to the natural slopes of the valley, and should have been transported from these valleys to the settlements established in Harran Plain. Absence of limestone resources in Harran Plain should have led to emergence of the quarries where such reliefs were fabricated in Tek Tek Mountains region. The fact that Dağyamacı reliefs are fabricated in small sizes in line with the prevailing fashion trends of the era and that such reliefs present similar features in style allows us to date such reliefs back to 2th B.C. This study intends to introduce the reliefs from 2th B.C. unearthed in Şanlıurfa either recently or during previous excavations.

Key Words: Bronze Age reliefs, 2th B.C., Harran Plain, Relief, Quarries, Şanlıurfa.

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Reliefs from 2th B.C. Discovered in Şanlıurfa

ÖZ

Şanlıurfa'da son yıllarda yapılan yüzey araştırmalarında, M.Ö. II. Binden M.Ö. I. Bine kadar olan zaman dilimine ait çok sayıda kabartmalara rastlanmıştır. Harran Ovasının 500 m doğusunda bulunan ve Tek Tek Dağları bölgesi içinde yer alan Dağyamacı kabartmaları, M.Ö. II. Bine tarihendirilen kabartmalardır. M.Ö. II. Bine tarihlenen bu kabartmalar taş ocağı benzeri bir yerde ele geçmişlerdir. Dağyamacı kabartmalarının bulunduğu yer şimdide kadar bölgede M.Ö. II. Bine tarihendirilen tek kireçtaşı taş ocağıdır. Dağyamacı'nda yer alan taş ocağında, ortostat kabartma taslakları, kabartmalı frizler ve küp şeklinde çıkarılmış taş bloklar ele geçmişdir. Bu kabartmalarla oturan figürler, ayakta duran çıplak figürler, hayvanlar ve bitki motifleri tasvir edilmektedir. M.Ö. II. Binin ilk çeyreği ile son çeyreği arasında yapılmış olduğu tahmin edilen bu kabartmalar, bölgede daha önce bulunmuş ve Şanlıurfa Müzesi'ne getirilmiş olan bazı eserlerle de stil açısından benzer özellikler taşımaktadırlar. Dağyamacı kabartmalarına yakın bir yerde ele geçen Soğmatar antik yerleşiminde Erken Tunç Çağına ait kaya mezarlarının ve M.Ö. I. Bine ait bir aslan kabartmasının bulunmuş olması, Tek Tek Dağları bölgesinin taş işçiliğinde erken dönemlerden itibaren önemli bir bölge olduğunu göstermektedir. Tek Tek Dağları vadilerinde bulunan kireçtaşı blokları vadinin doğal eğimleri sayesinde çok kolay bir şekilde çıkarılmakta ve yine bu vadilerden Harran Ovasındaki yerleşimlere doğru taşınmış olmalıdır. Harran Ovası'nda kireçtaşı kaynaklarının olmaması, Tek Tek Dağları bölgesinde bu tür kabartmaların yapıldığı taş ocaklarının ortaya çıkmasına sebep olmuş olmalıdır. Dağyamacı kabartmalarının, dönemin modasına uygun olarak küçük yapılmış olması ve stil açısından benzer özellikler göstermesi nedeniyle M.Ö. II. Bine ait olduğu tahmin edilmektedir. Bu çalışmada, Şanlıurfa'da yeni veya daha önceden ele geçmiş olan M.Ö. II. Bine ait kabartmalar tanıtılmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Tunç Çağı kabartmaları, M.Ö. II. Bin, Harran Ovası, Kabartma, Taş Ocakları, Şanlıurfa.

АННОТАЦИЯ

В результате исследований, проведенных в Шанлыурфе в последние годы, было обнаружено множество наскальных рельефов, относящихся к периоду времени от II тысячелетия до н.э. до I тысячелетия н.э. Наскальные рельефы, которые датируются около II тысячелетием до н.э., были найдены внутри территории гор Тек Тек, расположенные в 500 м к востоку от равнины Харрана. Эти наскальные рельефы, датированные II тысячами лет до н.э., были найдены в местах, проводимых раскопки. Место нахождение наскальных рельефов, до сегодняшнего дня, является единственным на этой территории, датированным II тысячами лет до н.э. известняковым карьером. В расположенному на склоне горы карьере, были найдены тисненные фризы и извлеченные в форме куба каменные плиты. На этих рельефах изображены – сидящие или стоящие обнаженные фигуры, а также животные и связанные с растениями мотивы. Эти рельефы, которые, по приблизительным оценкам, были сделаны между первой и последней четвертью тысячелетия до н.э., имеют сходные черты по стилю с некоторыми артефактами, ранее найденными в этом регионе и привезенными в музей Шанлыурфа. Рядом с наскальными рельефами, расположеными в одном ряду, с античными скальными гробницами, относящимися к раннему бронзовому веку в Согматар, обнаруженный рельеф льва, относящийся к I тысячелетию до н.э., показывает, что регион гор Тек-Тек является важным в археологическом отношении регионом каменной кладки, начиная еще с древнейших времен. Глыбы известняка, найденные в долинах гор Тек Тек, благодаря своему естественному географическому склону, очень легко могут перемещены в сторону

поселения на равнины Харран.Отсутствие ресурсов известняка на равнине Харран, должно быть, привело к появлению карьеров, где такие рельефы были сделаны в районе гор Тек Тек.Из-за того, что наскальные рельефы делались небольшими размерами в соответствии с эпохой и демонстрировали сходные мотивы стиля того времени, их можно отнести ко II тысячелетию до н.э. В этом исследовании, будут даны новые или ранее обнаруженные в Шанлыурфе наскальные рельефы, относящиеся ко II тысячелетию до н.э.

Ключевые слова: рельефы бронзового века, 2-е тысячелетие до н.э., равнина Харран, рельеф, карьеры, Шанлыурфа.

1. Introduction

During the surface surveys conducted in Şanlıurfa in recent years, a large number of reliefs and quarries dating back to the timeframe from 2th B.C. to 1th B.C. were discovered. Majority of the reliefs recovered were found in the vicinity of the quarries. Subdivided into two categories as basalt and limestone reliefs, said reliefs appear mostly as limestone reliefs in the early periods and basalt reliefs in the late periods. The quarries where limestone reliefs are recovered were mostly established in areas with calcareous cliffs. The sites where basalt reliefs and quarries are located were mostly in the vicinity of the mounds. In this manner, both the problem of transporting the stones is resolved and the transportation cost for the stones is reduced. The tradition of exploiting the calcareous rocks as quarries in Urfa region is observed starting from the Pre-Pottery Neolithic Period (Dietrich et al. 2017, 113-117, fig.5.21; Çelik 2011, 242, fig.6; 2010, 258-259, fig. 6-7; 2015a, 357-358, fig.20).

In particular, it is comprehended that the finds dating back to 1th B.C. are extremely dense in this region (Map 1). New artifacts dating back to 1th B.C. are recovered during the surface surveys conducted in this region at sites such as Gölpinar, Kabahaydar-Edene/Gürpinar, Külafli Tepe, Siverek-Merkez district, Mehmedihan-Aşağı Seyek, Hilvan-Aslanlı, Şanlıurfa / Merkez, Haçgöz (Yeşilçat), Harran, Til Hinta and Kap village (Kulakoğlu 1999, 167-181; 2000, 1-5; 2001a, 57-66; 2001b, 27-33; 2003, 65-87). Furthermore, the rock tombs recently discovered at Soğmatar archeological site indicates that stonemasonry was practices in the region also during 3th B.C. (Albayrak and Mutlu 2018, 530-537, pic. 6-9).

2. Reliefs and Quarries from 1th B.C.

Quarries are located to east and west of Haçgöz Höyügü dated back to 1th B.C. and located in Şanlıurfa Siverek district (Kulakoğlu 2000, 3; 2001a, 58-59; 2001b, 31; 2003, 71, 73). The basalt quarry first discovered in 1979 by Şanlıurfa Museum, wherein an outline of a lion depiction is recovered, is located to the east of the mound (Kulakoğlu 2000, 3, pic. 13). This quarry contains a lion outline approximately 3.10 m in length, 2.26 m in height and 0.54 m in thickness. Furthermore, a stele pedestal is also discovered at the same site during the excavations in 2005 (Çelik 2005, 15-26, fig.1-4). Based on the style characteristics, Haçgöz stela is dated to Late Hittite Period II (Çelik 2005, 17; Orthmann 1971, 31, 504, 543; Kulakoğlu 1999, 169). A second quarry 150 m west of the mound was

Reliefs from 2th B.C. Discovered in Şanlıurfa

discovered during the surveys conducted in 2011 at Haçgöz settlement. In Haçgöz quarry, first of all, a flat, non-porous and crack-free basalt base was identified in order to fabricate the lion relief. Then, a deep groove was cut around the outer contours of the lion and all rough details of the lion outline were carved. (Picture 1). Furthermore, the claws and head portion of the line was sculpted with a little more detailed fashion. As the quarries and reliefs discovered at Haçgöz are located at immediate vicinity of the mound, it is highly likely that such quarries are local quarries, as there are massive basalt masses almost everywhere in the region. Therefore, the settlements in the region should have preferred to exploit nearby basalt masses.

On the other hand, a lion depiction that must be dated back to 1th B.C. was recovered at the surveys conducted at Soğmatar located 70 km southeast of Şanlıurfa province (Çelik 2019, 136-143, pic. 2-4, drawing 1; Albayrak and Mutlu 2014, 338, pic. 5). The lion depiction is discovered in a limestone quarry (Picture 2). The lion relief is 3.35 m in length, 3.60 m in width and has a thickness of 80 cm. The quarry unearthed in Soğmatar Höyük is the sole limestone quarry with lion depiction dating back to 1th B.C. in the region (Çelik 2019, 136-143, pic. 2).

3. Reliefs and Quarries from 2th B.C.

3.1. Dağyamacı Depictions and Dağyamacı Quarry

Dağyamacı depictions and quarry were discovered in 2014 (Çelik 2016, 413, pic.9; 2015b, 83, pic. 11-12; Çelik and Bingöl 2016, 3-4, pic.2-3). It is the second largest limestone quarry in the region (Picture 3). The quarry is located on the northern portion of an asphalt road leading to Tek tek Mountains, 1 km east of Dağyamacı Village located 45 km southeast of Şanlıurfa. It is rumored by the local community that this road is a caravan route extending east-west direction from Soğmatar to Harran*. Reliefs carved into the bedrock were found on the north-facing slope of the quarry, which is located in a valley extending towards Harran Plain. (Çelik and Bingöl 2016, 3-4, pic.2-3).

The reliefs are highly eroded, and the details are therefore not so pronounced. Such reliefs were studied in three groups. The first group of reliefs consists of four consecutive relief panels (Picture 4) having dimensions of approx. 40 cm. x 70 cm. The second group consists of one-piece frieze with dimensions of about 80 cm. x 2.5m. The third group, on the other hand, illustrates depictions of women sitting around a tree of life in two groups sitting similar to the ones in the first group.

3.2. Relief Group No. 1

In this relief group, the left portion of the first relief panel from the left has been destroyed and its current size is approximately 130 cm x 40 cm. Starting from the left of the panel, there are, as arranged in order, a human figure depicted as standing wherein the upper part was destroyed; a donkey-like animal figure most possibly mounted by someone, followed by four naked male figures, and three long-dressed human figures standing as slightly bent over the person sitting on the far

* Private conversation with Şaban Yılmaz, a resident of Karakuş Village, on 20.09.2014

right. The person sitting on the far right is also wears a long dress and is depicted to be at the identical height as the people standing. An unidentified object is placed between the person standing and slightly bent and the person sitting (Picture 5). Such depictions in this relief panel are usually in the form of trophies presented to a ruler, and represents a scene rather seen in Mesopotamia during every era.

The second relief panel contains three deer reliefs (Picture 6) depicted in succession. It is estimated that the deer depicted here are the Mesopotamian Deer (*Dama mesopotamica*), whose existence is known since the Neolithic period.

The third relief panel depicts three sheep or goat-like animals and a person herding such animals.

The fourth relief panel depicts a figure holding a scepter in his hand and bringing a sheep or goat-like animal beside two sitting figures (Picture 7). A motive resembling the tree of life is present between the two sitting figures. The depiction of two figures sitting opposite each other is a popular scene in Mesopotamia and the similar depictions were also discovered in Urfa. These depictions mostly appear as scenes of brewing beer or spinning. These scenes are rather frequent in 3rd B.C. and 2nd B.C. (Damerow 2012, fig. 1; Seidl 1989, 458, fig. 1-2). However, as it can be clearly seen that the motif located between the two sitting figures is the tree of life extending downwards, it is contemplated that this scene may rather depicts the gods sitting beside the tree of life. Presence of one figure together with the figure of a sheep or goat as an offering to these gods further supports this notion.

3.3. Relief Group No. 2

This relief is rather in the form of a frieze, and although the relief is not very explicit, the relief depicts two lions standing back-to-back and each grappling with one bull (Picture 8). At the center of this frieze stands the tree of life motif in the same manner. This scene is also a very popular scene in Mesopotamia and is a depiction frequently observed rather in 1st B.C. The first examples for this scene are seen on the friezes in Karkamış (Wooley 1952, 238-249, Pl. B.57.b).

3.4. Relief Group No. 3

This relief group is rather a frieze and again is similar to the fourth panel of relief group no. 1, wherein a scene with two groups of figures sitting opposite each other around a tree of life and a figure bringing animals, presumably sheep or goats, to these figures as sacrificial offering is depicted.

4. Conclusion

We encounter two types of quarries in 1st B.C. in Şanlıurfa. The first type is basalt quarries and the second type is limestone quarries. Both basalt and limestone quarries generally appear to be established in immediate vicinity of the settlement areas. The best example for basalt quarries in the region is the quarry at Haçgöz and the best example for limestone quarries in the region is the quarry at Söğmatar Höyük. Both quarries are dated back to 1st B.C. However, some limestone quarries appear as completely different than others. In particular, Dağyamacı quarry is located

Reliefs from 2th B.C. Discovered in Şanlıurfa

approx. 1 km east of Harran Plain and most probably meeting the demand for the limestone reliefs from many settlements in the plain. Covering an area of approx. 500 acres, Dağyamacı quarry presents the traces of friezes and orthostates extracted from numerous sites (Picture 10). Unfinished friezes were discovered at some sites.

It is contemplated that the reliefs in all three groups discovered at Dağyamacı correspond to different periods. However, the scene depicting the grapple between the lion and the bull in the second group presents similarities with the reliefs recovered in Karkamış and should be from 1th B.C. As this scene resembles the depictions of the struggle between the bull and the lion, it features the characteristics of Early Iron Age. The artifacts in other groups rather feature the characteristics of 2th B.C.

In conclusion, there is only one large scale quarry in Şanlıurfa. Based on its size, this quarry is the limestone workshop that supply the demand of Harran Plain, wherein Dağyamacı reliefs are also discovered, and is probably used for supplying the demands of the settlements in Harran Plain during the period from 2th B.C. to 1th B.C.

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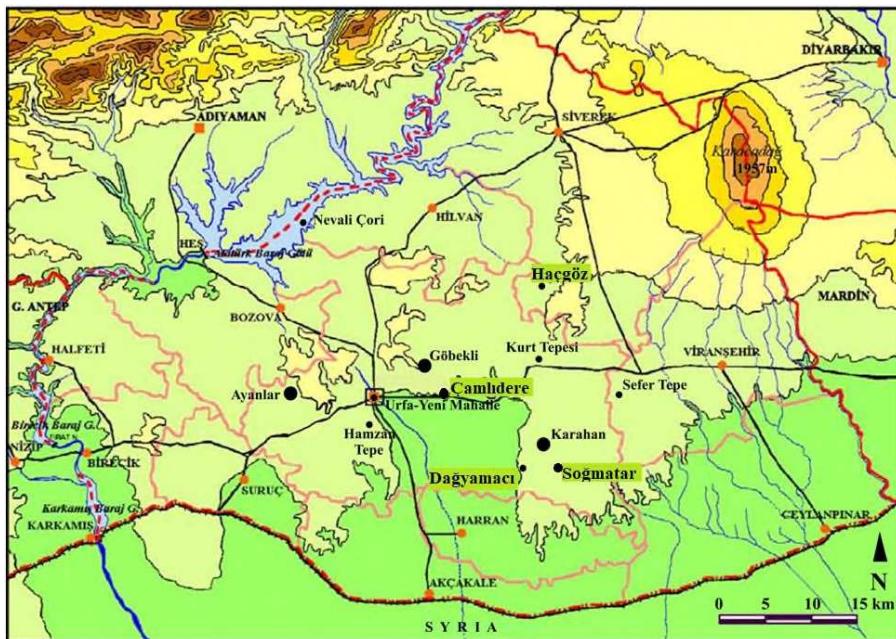
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Reliefs from 2th B.C. Discovered in Şanlıurfa

PICTURES



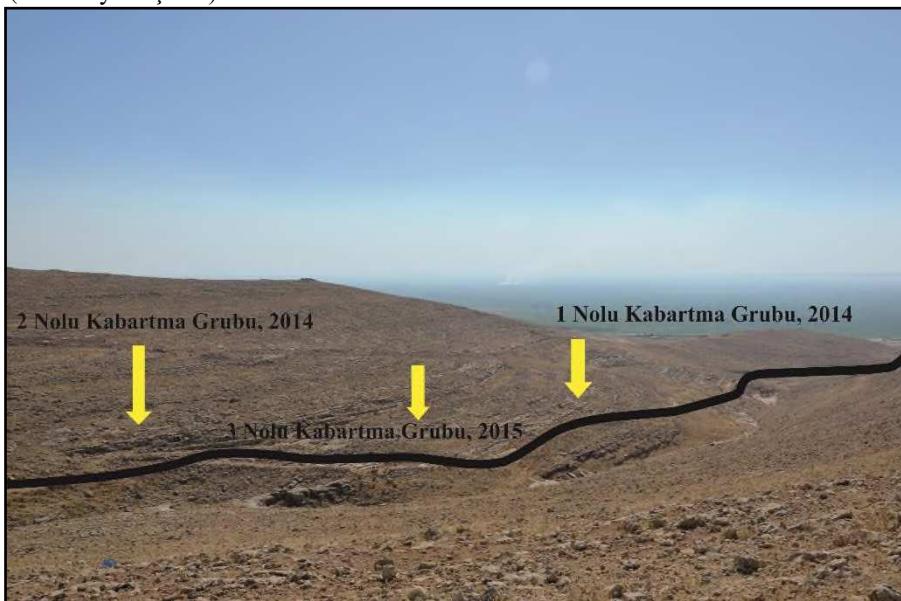
Map 1. The Locations of the Reliefs and Quarries in Şanlıurfa.



Picture 1. The Condition of the Lion Outline Discovered in Haçgöz at the Quarry (Photo by B. Çelik).



Picture 2. View of the Lion Outline Discovered in Soğmatar in a Quarry (Photo by B. Çelik).



Picture 3. View of Dağyamacı Stone Workshop from North and the Positions of the Relief Groups (Photo by B. Çelik)

Reliefs from 2th B.C. Discovered in Şanlıurfa



Picture 4. Relief Group No. 1 Discovered at Dağyamacı Stone Workshop
(Photo by B. Çelik).



Picture 5. The First Relief from Left in Relief Group No. 1 Discovered at Dağyamacı Stone Workshop (Photo by B. Çelik)



Picture 6. The Second Relief in Relief Group No. 1 Discovered at Dağyamacı Stone Workshop (Photo by B. Çelik)



Picture 7. The Fourth Relief of Dağyamacı Relief Group No. 1 (Photo by B. Çelik)

Reliefs from 2th B.C. Discovered in Şanlıurfa



Picture 8. The Relief Frieze of Dağyamacı Group No. 2 and the Drawing Thereof (Photo by B. Çelik).



Picture 9. The Frieze of Dağyamacı Relief Group No. 3 (Photo by B. Çelik)



Picture 10. The Sites Where Frieze and Panels Were Extracted at Dağyamacı Stone Workshop (Photo by B. Çelik).