

Brief Reviews

Siedlungskammer Kilikien: Studien zur Kultur- und Landschaftsgeschichte des Ebenen Kilikien. By SUSANNE RUTISHAUSER. Schriften zur Vorderasiatischen Archäologie, vol. 16. Wiesbaden: HARRASSOWITZ VERLAG, 2020. Pp. xiii + 212, illus. €88.

This volume, which is also available through open access on the publisher's website, represents the revision of Susanne Rutishauser's 2016 doctoral dissertation at Universität Bern, written under Mirko Novák. Beautifully illustrated with informative maps and photos of landscapes and monuments, the book is a great pleasure just to browse. More importantly, it is an indispensable tool for anyone studying the history and culture of Plain Cilicia (Çukurova) from the Chalcolithic through the Byzantine period.

Rutishauser begins by reviewing the characteristics of the environment in which the history of Cilicia has unfolded, presenting concise accounts of topography, tectonics, geology, glaciology, geomorphology, soil science, hydrology, climate, fauna, and flora. From the viewpoint of the *longue durée*, the development of the Cilician plain since the end of the last glacial maximum has been determined by the interplay of rising sea levels

with the deposition of alluvium by the area's three main rivers, the modern Tarsus, Ceyhan, and Seyhan. After centuries of procession into the sea, the coastline has receded somewhat in recent years following the building of dams upstream on these waterways (pp. 27, 35; see Abb. 2-26 on p. 32 for a map of the approximate coastline in the earlier historical period). Within the plain itself, the meandering typical of streams in alluvial landscapes has frequently altered the environment and doubtless obscured numerous earlier sites (pp. 28-31).

The author herself has been a central participant in the Swiss-Turkish mission to Sirkeli Höyük (ancient Kummanni?), a project that has employed the most advanced archaeological technologies and techniques in exploring the mound and surveying its wider region. She explains clearly the team's use of remote sensing (p. 89) and the exploitation of Corona satellite imagery (pp. 90-93), which has allowed the identification of sites invisible on the ground and of abandoned streambeds/paleocanals (pp. 170-71). Least Cost Path (*kostengünstige Pfade*) analysis (pp. 147-49, 155-57) is employed to determine the optimal routes of travel into and across Cilicia. Significantly, this technique, which in regard to mountain passes takes into account the grade of the trail, the height above sea level, and the breadth of streams along the way, clearly matches the historical record in pointing to the Cilician Gates north of Tarsus as the approach of choice (pp. 151-55).

Also not surprisingly, central places identified in Plain Cilicia cluster west-to-east along the axes of communication (p. 124), generally separated by a distance of 30-40 km, or one day's travel. These primary settlements are all situated fairly near the coast, with none discovered in the central plain (see Abb. 4-80, p. 125).

Of great usefulness for the scholar are the compilations of data in both textual and graphic form. In addition to a thorough bibliography (37 pages), we find a chronological chart summarizing the work of the Cilician Chronology Group (Abb. 3-2, p. 41), a listing of Hittite and Ugaritic cuneiform texts mentioning Cilicia (including those written in Akkadian; pp. 85-87), and a brief discussion of Greek and Roman authors, from Herodotus to Ammianus Marcellinus, who deal with aspects of the region and its history (pp. 54-58). The author further surveys the accounts and maps of medieval travelers, Muslim and Christian (pp. 60-63), those of the early modern era (p. 63), as well as those of the nineteenth (pp. 63-69) and twentieth centuries (pp. 69-73), before turning to the archaeological expeditions active in Plain Cilicia, particularly at Mersin, Tarsus, Sirkeli Höyük, Adana, Karatepe, Kinet Höyük, and Kilise Tepe (pp. 73-79).

Another important section compiles the established and suggested identifications of ancient and modern Cilician place names (pp. 118-23) and yet another considers the free-standing monuments and rock reliefs left by the Hittites in this neighborhood (see the convenient map, Abb. 4-81, p. 126).

The main text opens with an English summary (pp. xii-xiii) and concludes with a concise historical overview (pp. 167-69). The data upon which all of this research has been based are now posted as maps and spreadsheets to the on-line repository zenodo. (The structure of the database is explained on pp. 8-13.) The author and her colleagues at Sirkeli Höyük well deserve the thanks of all Anatolianists—Hittitologists and Classicists alike.

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