

A NEW SUB-GROUP: THOUGHTS ON THE PHRYGIAN TYPE XII-9/ VARIANT A IV FIBULA FROM SEYİTÖMER HÖYÜK SALVAGE EXCAVATIONS

Emre ERDAN^a, Serdar ÜNAN^b

^a Aydin Adnan Menderes University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Archaeology, Aydin, Turkey; e-mail: erdanemre@gmail.com

^b Kütahya Museum, Kütahya, Turkey; e-mail: ser-un55@hotmail.com

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Abstract: Twenty fibulae have been found so far during the Seyitömer Höyük salvage excavations. The majority of the samples are of the type defined as the Anatolian-Phrygian fibulae. There is a total of 18 fibulae in this type. One of the 18 Anatolian-Phrygian type fibulae is the subject of this study. The fibula is included in the group defined as Type XII-9 by Blinkenberg and later by Muscarella, and appears as Variant A IV in Caner's study, where a more comprehensive typological evaluation was made. The artefact presents a new image that differs from all fibulae found so far. In our example, the three metal bars that make up the main body are separated from each other by two channels. The fibula, which differs from the only similar example in many aspects, is different from all Anatolian-Phrygian type fibulae found in Anatolia, Western Anatolia, the Aegean Islands, Greece, and Italy, where Anatolian-Phrygian type fibulae were found and produced. Our study suggests that the Seyitömer Höyük fibula should be defined as a new sub-group under the term Variant A IV-3b, according to Caner's typology. In addition, the thought that the fibula in question pioneered some belt buckles that were created by emulating the Anatolian-Phrygian fibulae is also emphasized.

Cuvinte-cheie: epoca fierului, Seyitömer Höyük, fibule de tip anatoliano-frigian, variantă, cataramă

Rezumat: Cercetările arheologice de salvare de la Seyitömer Höyük au scos la lumină 20 de fibule. Majoritatea pieselor (18) se încadrează tipului anatoliano-frigian. Una dintre acestea, constituie obiectul studiului de față. Această fibulă a fost atribuită tipului XII-9 de Blinkenberg și mai apoi de Muscarella, iar Caner, în studiul său, o atribuie variantei A IV. La piesa noastră, cele trei bare de metal care formează corpul fibulei sunt separate una de alta prin două șanțuri. Fibula este diferită de altele similare sub diverse aspecte: este diferită de cele de tip anatoliano-frigian din Anatolia, vestul Anatoliei, Insulele Egeene și Italia, unde erau produse și răspândite. Studiul nostru sugerează că fibula de la Seyitömer Höyük ar trebui definită ca un nou sub-grup denumit Varianta IV-3b (după tipologia lui Caner). Mai mult, credem că fibula a reprezentat punctul de plecare pentru anumite cataramă care emulau forma fibulelor anatoliano-frigiene.

INTRODUCTION

Examining the prehistoric and historical periods of Kütahya Province with the help of concrete finds based on research and excavations is extremely important in terms of revealing the integrity of the history of Central Western Anatolia in particular, and Anatolian history in general. The main criterion in revealing these results is the archaeological data. These archaeological data are largely based on the salvage excavations carried out by the Kütahya Museum throughout the province for many years¹. One of the most important of these salvage excavations is ongoing at Seyitömer Höyük.

Seyitömer Höyük salvage excavations were carried out in the context of both the prehistory and protohistory of the Kütahya. The site is located in the coal reserve area of Çelikler Seyitömer Elektrik Üretim AŞ, 26 km northwest of Kütahya city center, within the area where the old town of Seyitömer is located (Fig. 1). Seyitömer Höyük is approximately 150 × 140 m, and its original height was 23.5 m.

¹ For archaeological research ranging from the Ottoman period to the present in Kütahya, see: Ünan, Ünan 2018, p. 131.

RESEARCH HISTORY

In order to make usable the 12 million tons of coal reserves² in the affected area of the mound, salvage excavations were continued by the Eskişehir Museum in the first year from 1989 and by the Afyonkarahisar Museum between 1990 and 1995. After this date, the excavations were interrupted, and from 2006 onwards, Dumlupınar University Archaeology Department continued under the chairmanship of A. N. Bilgen until the end of 2014. The excavations, which were suspended for a while, were resumed in 2019 under the responsibility of the Kütahya Museum and are still ongoing.

STRATIGRAPHY

As a result of the 2008 excavations at Seyitömer Mound, the stratigraphy of the layers was rearranged. Accordingly, layer I (Roman Period), layer II (Hellenistic Period), layer III (Achaemenid Period, 500–334 BC),

² Değer 2019, p. 20.