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Christopher H. Roosevelt
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THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF LYDIA, FROM GYGES TO ALEXANDER

In *The Archaeology of Lydia, From Gyges to Alexander*, Christopher H. Roosevelt provides the first overview of the regional archaeology of Lydia in western Turkey, including much previously unpublished evidence and a fresh synthesis of the archaeology of Sardis, the ancient capital of the region. Combining data from regional surveys, stylistic analyses of artifacts in local museums, ancient texts, and environmental studies, he presents a new perspective on the archaeology of this area. To assess the importance of Lydian landscapes under Lydian and Achaemenid rule, roughly between the seventh and fourth centuries BCE, Roosevelt situates the archaeological evidence within frameworks established by evidence for ancient geography, environmental conditions, and resource availability and exploitation. Drawing on detailed and copiously illustrated evidence presented in a regionally organized catalogue, this book considers the significance of evidence of settlement and burial at Sardis and beyond for understanding Lydian society as a whole and the continuity of cultural traditions across the transition from Lydian to Achaemenid hegemony.

Christopher H. Roosevelt is an Assistant Professor of Archaeology at Boston University. A member of the Archaeological Institute of America, the American Research Institute in Turkey, the British Institute of Archaeology in Ankara, and the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, he is the recipient of a National Science Foundation grant for a project titled "Environmental and Cultural Dynamics in Central Lydia, Western Turkey." He has contributed to the *American Journal of Archaeology*, the *Journal of Field Archaeology*, and other journals and edited volumes.

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CHRISTOPHER H. ROOSEVELT

Boston University



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Preface

After twenty years of excavations at Sardis, G. M. A. Hanfmann, the founder of the Sardis expedition, wrote:

The most urgent need is for more information about Lydia as a region. Through the work of the present Harvard-Cornell expedition and the previous American effort, something has become known about Sardis, capital of Lydia; yet we need excavations at other key sites – both those cited by ancient authors and inscriptions such as Hypaepa and Karoura; and those as yet nameless but known from preliminary archaeological explorations. . . . (Hanfmann 1978, 24)

With the excavations at Sardis now just past their fiftieth year, regional understanding of the archaeology of Lydia is, only recently, gaining clarity. Dispersed excavations of the type Hanfmann advocated remain an ideal to which we can and should aspire. In their absence, however, evidence stemming primarily from surface investigations can tell us quite a lot, especially when juxtaposed with data recovered from the long-term excavations at Sardis.

This book has grown from regional research conducted for my doctoral dissertation at Cornell University (2003) on the subject of settlement in greater Lydia. That research is supplemented by the results of an ongoing project called the Central Lydia Archaeological Survey (CLAS), which, since its first season in 2005, has aimed to elucidate the archaeology of the immediate environs of Sardis surrounding the Gygaean Lake. It is my continuing hope that additional surveys and, perhaps, excavations will be initiated soon to address Hanfmann's thirty-year-old yet still urgent call for archaeological work outside Sardis; such work has great potential to broaden in scope and detail, if not to correct, the introduction that this book aims to provide to the vastly rich archaeology of Lydia.

My introduction to and interest in the archaeology of Lydia came from my studies at Cornell University and were happily perpetuated during

 Preface

fieldwork at Sardis. To past graduate mentors at Cornell (especially A. and N. Ramage, P. I. Kuniholm, and K. Clinton) and to Sardis teams past and present (especially former and current field directors C. H. Greenewalt, jr., and N. D. Cahill, as well as C. S. Alexander, E. Gombosi, K. Keifer, P. T. Stinson, C. Şentürk, and T. Yalçinkaya), many profuse thanks for your stimulating intellectual encouragement and often heroic help.

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Finally, I am extremely grateful for the strong support, encouragement, and understanding patience of my family – both extended and nuclear. Heartfelt thanks to all, especially to Christina and the boys, without whom this book would have been far less enjoyable to research or write.