

PART I.

CHAPTER I.

CYZICUS.

TOWARDS the western end of the Sea of Marmora, where it begins to narrow to the Dardanelles, lies the **Kapu Dagh** (Arctonnesus). quondam island of Kapu Dagh, now a peninsula connected by three-quarters of a mile of marshy land with the southern shore of the little sea. It is an imposing mountainous mass rising at several points to a height of 2500 feet, and roughly triangular in shape: the base, which has an extreme length of seventeen miles, faces the Thracian shore, and the two sides taper in towards the isthmus: from north to south the "island" measures about nine miles. Of this triangle the western corner—west, that is, of a line drawn from Gonia to Vathy—is taken up by the peak of Klapsi (2530 feet), while the corresponding eastern corner consists of low rolling country capable of supporting the considerable village ports of Mihaniona and Peramo. The intermediate section is almost entirely mountainous and contains the chief range of the island, running roughly north-east and south-west, with the twin peaks of Dédé Bair and Adam Kaya, from which the Turkish name of the island, Kapu Dagh or Gate Mountain, is perhaps derived.

On the gentle slope facing the Asiatic shore at the narrowest point of the original channel, stand the last remnants of the once important maritime city of Cyzicus, commanding to the west the bay of Artaki¹, to the east the gulf of Panderma.

¹ Called Port S. Pierre on Lechevalier's map (which I surmise to be a bad reading of Porto Spiga on one of the earlier Italian *portolani*, cf. Golfe de Spiga on the Catalan) and Sin. Aidine on the map of Has (1743).

The question whether the Kapu Dagh was originally an island or a peninsula has been much discussed¹. Th. Reinach especially has been at pains to prove that the severing of the isthmus was artificial. This is, however, contrary not only to tradition but to the evidence afforded by the site². The isthmus of to-day is a dead level of swampy land some three-quarters of a mile broad, contrasting both with the low cliffs of the mainland and the fertile slopes of the peninsula. Narrow strips of sand along the sea on each side, heaped into dunes of a slight elevation on the east by the action of the prevalent north-easterly winds³, enclose a marsh, inundated in winter, which is being gradually reclaimed to cultivation. On the side of the island, too, beyond the actual isthmus, a good deal of the land outside the western walls is flat, and has every appearance of a recent formation.

This coincides with the general opinion of antiquity: Apollonius⁴, who drew, as we know, on earlier and local authorities, despite his ambiguities, calls it *νησος*, and the scholiast explains his mention of the isthmus⁵ by annotating *νησος ὑστερον χερρόνησος*. Apollonius' relation of the Argonaut myth shews that tradition regarded Cyzicus as an island at least in prehistoric times, since the Argonauts evidently sailed through the strait which divided it from the mainland: we shall discuss Apollonius' topography at length in connection with the Argonaut myth.

The passage of Scylax⁶ mentioning the isthmus, on which Reinach lays stress as being our earliest record, is no evidence for the original condition of the island, and the date is at most but a few years before Alexander to whom Pliny⁷ attributes

¹ Mannert vi. 3, 522. Th. Reinach (*R.E.G.* vii. 1894, 48).

² Cf. Perrot, *Galatie et Bithynie* i. 49. Judeich, *Sitzb. Kön. Preuss. Akad.* 1898, II. 551. Kiepert, *Lehrbuch* 107. Texier, *Asie Mineure* i. 164. Ruge, *Petermann's Mitth.* 1892, 226. Marquardt, *Cyzicus* 10.

³ Consequently soundings average $\frac{1}{2}$ fathom close in shore on the eastern, as against $1\frac{1}{2}$ on the western side of the isthmus.

⁴ *Arg.* i. 936, and scholiast.

⁵ Str. 682 uses the word twice of the long headlands of Cyprus, which are not *isthmi* in the modern sense.

⁶ § 70 = *Geog. Min.* i. 68.

⁷ *N.H.* v. 32.

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-01040-5 - Cyzicus
 F. W. Hasluck
 Excerpt
[More information](#)

the connection of the town with the mainland. Anaximenes, quoted by Strabo¹, calls the Arctonnesus an island.

Of writers subsequent to Scylax, Mela² places Cyzicus "on the neck of the peninsula," Stephanus³ "on the peninsula," while Strabo⁴, Pliny⁵ and Frontinus⁶ call it an island joined to the mainland, quite harmonising with the rhetorical ambiguity of Aristides⁷ who calls it "both island and peninsula." In addition to these authors we have three inscriptions⁸ relating to the restoration of the port in the first century after Christ, shewing that there was then a passage through the bridges which could be blocked at will.

It remains from these data to construct a consistent history of the isthmus. I suppose that the original island always approached the mainland most closely at the point of the present isthmus, and that this point and that of S. Simeon were the ἀμφίδυμοι ἄκται forming the original harbour Panormus: in the eastern corner of this bay was the built harbour of Chytus. This represents the half-imaginary state of things pictured by Apollonius. Some time in the fourth century, probably before Alexander⁹, and very possibly when the city gained her independence (which as we shall see was the starting point of the Cyzicene empire, both on land and sea), the point above-mentioned was connected with the mainland by a causeway and bridge—Frontinus insists that there was but one bridge at the time of the Mithradatic siege¹⁰. By Strabo's time a second bridge, west of the first, had been added, enclosing the sheet of water represented by the present marsh and retaining the name of Panormus, though popularly called the

¹ Str. 635 = Frag. 4.

² Inscr. I. 19.

³ s.v. Κύζικος.

⁴ 575.

⁵ N.H. v. 32.

⁶ III. 13. 6.

⁷ I. 386, Dind. Cf. also Ov. *Trist.* IX. 29, haerentem Propontiacis oris. Inscr. (Inscr. IV. 69 B) *νησαίη Κύζικος* in *Anth. Pal.* 7. 868. Strabo 656 describes Cnidus in almost the same words. Cf. also 757.

⁸ Inscr. I. 14, IV. 68, IV. 69.

⁹ Cf. the attempt of Memnon: the moles may be falsely attributed to Alexander on the analogy of Tyre (cf. Str. 757). Alexander seems to have had little enough to do with Cyzicus.

¹⁰ Frontin. IV. 13. 6, unus et angustus introitus. Cf. also Plut. *Lucull.* 9, τὸν ἀπὸ τῆς ἡπείρου διέρχοντα τὴν πύλιν εὐρειπὸν and the plural εὐρειπῶν of the Tryphaena inscription, *χώματα καὶ γεφύρας* in Aristides I. 386 (Dind.).

Pool (λίμνη). A waterway was secured through the isthmus by cuttings (εὐρειοποιί)¹ in the embankments, presumably spanned by drawbridges. In the first century after Christ these passages were deliberately blocked to assure communication with the mainland and with the Roman forces in the event of a raid from the pirates who infested the Hellespont at this time². Natural processes, aided by neglect, were responsible for the silting up of the now entirely enclosed harbour; a thorough dredging was undertaken by Tryphaena in the reign of Tiberius, and the channels were kept open as late, apparently, as the third century (when Syncellus mentions the πόρθμιον of Cyzicus³), while a century later Procopius was compelled to attack the town by sea. The last hint of the “island” is Clavijo’s mention of “a cape on the Turkish side called Quinisco, and they say that when Timour Beg defeated the Turk, certain troops who were in the battle fled to this cape and converted it into an island⁴.”

The harbour mentioned by Marcellinus⁵ as closed by a chain I take to be the northern portion of the Pool which was protected by projections of the city wall. By this time, however, the connection of the two seas was not essential, as Cyzicus had little importance except as a purveyor to Constantinople. The earthquake of Justinian’s reign was practically the end of the city, and the natural result of its decadence would be the substitution of the obvious roadsteads of Panderma and Artaki as the shipping ports of the Cyzicus district.

¹ 575, γεφυραῖς δυσι συναππομένη. Phaselis also had three harbours and a pool. *Ib.* 666; cf. also 673.

² Cf. *C.I.G.* 3612. I cannot believe with Ruge (*loc. cit.* p. 226) that the passage had remained closed ever since the Mithradatic war.

³ But this may refer rather to the channel between the Kapu Dagħ and Marmara.

⁴ Hakluyt Society’s ed. p. 28. There is no inherent improbability in the story, and Clavijo is contemporary. Ducas 72 B. says that Timour εἰς Φρυγίαν τὴν κάτω ἀφίκετο καὶ πορθήσας ἅπαντα πολίχμιά τε καὶ πόλεις ἦλθεν εἰς Ἀσίαν καὶ διαβὰς Ἀδραμύντιον καὶ Ἀσσον ἦλθεν εἰς Πιέργαμον. Chalcondyles, 157 B., ἐπὶ τὴν χώραν ἐτρέποντο ἐπὶ διαρπαγὴν ἐπιδρομῇ χρησάμενοι ἐς τε τὴν Ἰωνίαν καὶ τὸν Ἑλλήσποντον. The *History of Tamerlane* describes these raids in general terms.

⁵ Amm. Marc. XXXVI. 8, 382 A.D.

Beyond the Pool with its canals, an inscription¹ mentions "harbours and projecting moles." Strabo² speaks of two closed harbours, and Apollonius in addition to Panormus³, which is fairly certainly the Pool, from its description as "having two entrances⁴," speaks of harbours known as Chytus⁵ and Threicius⁶. Chytus was an artificial harbour in contradistinction to Panormus, and may probably be identified with the small western marsh. Of the Thracian harbour nothing further is known, but it is possibly represented by the small eastern marsh; in spite of the symmetrical form of the latter, the irregular line of the wall over quite level ground in this quarter suggests a change in coast line, and the harbour may have originally extended further north. The entrances to both these smaller harbours were protected by moles, of which ruins remain⁷.

The site of Cyzicus itself is now devoted to vine and mulberry culture, and shared by the inhabitants of Cyzicus. Hammamli, Yappaji Keui, Yeni Keui and Ermeni Keui; it extended, as is shewn by the remains of the city wall, practically from sea to sea, "blocking the isthmus⁸." The spot is popularly known as Bal-Kiz ("Honey maiden") probably, as Hamilton⁹ suggests, originally a corruption of Παλαιὰ Κύζικος, but associated by popular etymology with the Queen of Sheba, who is held by tradition to have had a palace there¹⁰. The town, as Strabo says¹¹, lay partly (the north-east

¹ = Inscr. IV. 57.² 575.³ Sch. I. 954.⁴ Sch. Ap. Rh. I. 936, 940. *Et. Mag.* s.v. Ἀμφίδυμος.⁵ Ap. Rh. I. 987 and schol. *Et. Mag.* s.v. Χυτὸς.⁶ Ap. Rh. I. 1110. The scholiast is vaguely erudite. It was probably the port patronised by the traders from Byzantium and the Thracian ports; cf. the Egyptian harbour at Tyre (Str. 787) and Aristides' allotment of the three harbours of Rhodes. I. 797, Dind.⁷ *J.H.S.* xxii. 182, 185. G. Cyzicenus gives the following account of the western in his day: *Εἰς δὲ τὸν πλησίον αἰγιαλὸν τοῦ δυτικοῦ μέρους σώζεται καὶ οἰκοδόμημά τι χαμηλὸν ἔνδον τῆς θαλάσσης ἐκτεινόμενον ἕως πύδας 100, ἐκ τετραγώνων μεγάλων λίθων κατεσκευασμένον καὶ ἐν μέρει χαλασμένον, τὸ ὁποῖον οἱ ἐντόπιοι ὀνομάζουσι Σκάλαν· τυχὸν ὅμως νὰ ἐκτίσθη πάλαι ὡς διάφραγμα τῆς θαλάσσης (ff. 83, 84, quoted by Lambros).*⁸ Scylax 70.⁹ II. 102.¹⁰ Texier (II. 169) notes the occurrence of the name in several other parts of Asia Minor. For the Queen of Sheba legend see below, p. 204.¹¹ 575.

corner) on the hill called Bear Mountain (apparently as late as Meletius¹ and Sestini²), either from the alleged metamorphosis of the nurses of Zeus into bears, or because there were bears on it, or because it was so high that it approached the stars (!)³: the second is probably the true explanation, the other two being pedantic fictions of grammarians⁴. This north-east corner of the *enceinte* probably represents the seat of the Pelasgian Kings and the later Acropolis.

The larger half of the city (the southern and western portions) lay on the low ground of the isthmus and the small plain on the Artaki side, where a large suburb probably grew up in imperial times outside the walls about the temple of Hadrian. The existent ruins are meagre and comparatively uninteresting. The city walls can be traced with few breaks throughout their circuit and stand in some places to a considerable height. Inside them is the shapeless remnant of the theatre, overgrown with brushwood⁵, and outside the sub-structures of the temple of Hadrian and a few gaunt piers of the Amphitheatre—a subject rather for the artist than the archaeologist.

The remains of the walls are naturally of various dates. Perrot⁶ assigns the eastern to the middle of the fourth century, when the city seems to have been re-walled after the Spartan

¹ Bithynia 4.

² vi. 53.

³ Sch. Ap. Rh. i. 936.

⁴ The whole peninsula is similarly called Arctonnesus by Stephanus and Pliny (v. 40. Cf. Ap. Rh. i. 941, 1150). Bears, according to De Rustafjaell, are still to be found on the mountains.

⁵ Pococke says (p. 116) that in his time the stones were already removed and the building overgrown: he was informed by one well acquainted with the place that there were originally 27 seats. West of it he saw the marble seats of the eastern end of a "circus." Texier (p. 174) in 1835 saw two or three seats of the theatre still in place, the brushwood having been burnt off. The *proscenium* had nearly disappeared but enough remained to shew that it was at right angles to the supporting walls of the *cavea*, and had been faced with marble. The same author gives the diameter of the theatre as 100 metres. From the mass of shapeless ruins south of the theatre we may conjecture that it was an important point in the Hellenistic and Roman city. Texier (p. 174) distinguished in this quarter an agora, a portico and a temple, with *temenos*, orientated N. and S., of Roman date. The temple was faced with Synnada marble, and had red columns with white veins: from it may have come the beautiful supports for a table of offering found in the vicinity by Mr Henderson in 1903. Such objects have been found *in situ* at Priene.

⁶ *Galatie* i. 69. Cf. *Inscr.* i. 21 and perhaps i. 22.

occupation, and the upper courses of the southern ramparts to late imperial date. In 1902 we found little of distinctive Hellenic type: large portions, certainly, of the eastern wall are identical in style with the obviously Roman south-western towers, while Roman and even Byzantine detail is not infrequently built in. Much may, however, be allowed for repeated restoration down to the fourteenth century, and subsequent piling of stones from neighbouring vineyards in front of the line of the wall makes it difficult to recognise the original structure. History shews that the town was unwalled in 411, walled again before the attempt of Memnon and continuously, with the exception, perhaps, of local demolitions for convenience' sake in the peaceful Antonine period, down to the siege by Procopius; and that the isthmus wall at least was maintained to protect the Chersonese against the Turks, right down to their final conquest.

The styles of building found in the existing remains of the *enceinte* may be roughly classified as follows:—

I. Granite blocks laid in irregular courses, frequently with diagonal jointing: interstices filled with clay-mortar or small stones. This is the construction of the great south-eastern bastion. Perrot gives a measured drawing of a section of this wall, which he assigns to good Greek date: his opinion was borne out by a fourth century inscription, relating to the building of a tower, which was discovered by Carabella clamped to the base of the wall in this neighbourhood. The wall has evidently suffered since, and it is now difficult to distinguish it from the stones which have been gathered from the vineyards and piled against it. We found no architectural detail built in except a large Doric drum of brown sandstone.

II. Facing of rectangular dark granite blocks slightly bossed and laid in regular courses about 40 m. deep: the blocks are disposed alternate "headers and stretchers," the exposed surface of one stretcher equalling about that of two headers: the jointing is fair in this and the succeeding style (III.); the core of the wall is generally of whitish cement.

The best examples of this style are to be found (*a*) in the stretch of wall between Demir Kapu and the central

harbour, where both facings are preserved, giving a thickness of about 1.50 m., and (*b*) in the fragment immediately south of the Upper Road, where the stretchers have disappeared so as to shew the headers tailing into the cement; (*c*) this is also the construction shewn at the west postern gate.

This style is possibly to be referred to the first century B.C.

III. Facing of very long stretchers (sometimes as much as 2.20 m.) of various granites: headers only a few centimetres in thickness and often of marble; courses vary from 0.50 to 0.30 m. deep.

The best examples are:—(*a*) The hexagonal towers and the curtain wall between them: the towers stand to a height of some 5.00 m., their upper parts being of unfaced rubble set in coarse red cement. This may be a later addition to the substructure, but *inside* the western tower only the quoins are of squared stone, the rest rubble-faced. The wall between the towers is about 1.40 thick:—(*b*) A long stretch south of the conspicuous fragment below the Upper Road standing to the height of about 2.00 m. and well preserved. The style of masonry in (*b*) is better than that in (*a*) and is certainly of Hellenistic date.

IV. Massive but irregular white granite facing with coarse joints, filled with white cement, which is daubed carelessly over the face of the wall. This is shewn (*a*) in the stretch of wall adjoining the Erdek road (where many architectural remains and fragments of tile are built in) and (*b*) in the square tower opposite the head of the aqueduct. This construction may well date from the fourteenth century defences of the isthmus.

V. Rough rubble building with facing of small stones is found in the wall and buttress towers running from Demir Kapu towards the sea. This seems to be a late addition to the *enceinte* probably along the line of the original harbour defences. The building is entirely without character and may be late Roman or Byzantine.

The space enclosed by the walls is irregular in shape, as is natural on a hilly site; there is, however, a certain amount of symmetry in the plan of the southern portion. Thus, the recess of the great harbour cuts into the town about the middle of the

southern wall, to the extremities of which, i.e. just east of the Erdek road and at the south-eastern tower called Demir Kapu¹, ran the causeways from the mainland: the extensions of the south wall are of late date, though not contemporary with each other; both may lie along the old foundations of the harbour defences².

The south-eastern and south-western corners of the *enceinte* are occupied by the two smaller ports, protected in each case by the seaward curve of the wall running north, and provided with moles at their entrances. The arrangement of this portion bears a striking resemblance to that of the harbours of ancient Rhodes³, which was laid out during the Peloponnesian wars by the architect of the Piraeus⁴: the central harbour with its enclosed annexe, the flanking harbours, and even the position of the theatre under the acropolis hill are identical.

The subsequent course of the eastern and western walls takes advantage of the valleys of two streams, the so-called Cleite⁵ on the west and an inconsiderable brooklet on the east, which pass each other not more than a quarter of a mile apart, where the northern wall connects the valleys. The western wall, however, crosses the "Cleite" stream on reaching the plain, in order to enclose a portion of the level country in the direction of the Hadrian temple, while the eastern keeps inside of its brook.

Of the gates spoken of by de Stochove⁶ and Cyriac⁷ only one, a postern overlooking the "Cleite" ravine⁸, is still extant. That at Demir Kapu is said to have been standing within living memory, and the name is preserved in the possible harbour gate of Balkiz Kapu. Perrot's southern

Gates.

¹ Duchastel, I find since writing my article on the Topography of Cyzicus, saw the arch of Demir Kapu standing *beside* the "grosse tour carrée."

² Cf. Xiphilinus' description of the harbours of Byzantium, LXXV. 10, which were enclosed by moles defended with towers: and the mediaeval and modern harbours of Rhodes and Candia.

³ Cf. Newton's map and Droysen's in *Hellenismus* I. 477.

⁴ Str. 654.

⁵ See below, on the Argonauts: this stream is evidently the one represented at the feet of the Tyche of Cyzicus on coins (cf. e.g. B.M. 222).

⁶ 184.

⁷ *B.C.H.* XIV. 532.

⁸ Mistaken by Perrot for remains of an arcaded theatre. *J.H.S.* XXII. 185.

postern is doubtful, though there was evidently an aperture in the wall here. The "Thracian Gate" of Pliny is to be referred to Byzantium.

On the plain outside the western walls stand the vaults of the famous temple of Hadrian, first mentioned by Cyriac, and described, though not identified till Perrot, by all subsequent travellers. The ruins are called "Bezestan," or "Magara"¹ in allusion to their vaulted passages. Michaud² records the tradition that the vaults are haunted by demons who guard the treasure concealed in them, and were formerly a resort of brigands³.

Cyriac visited the site of Cyzicus twice, in 1431 and in 1444; on the first occasion he speaks in general terms of the ruins of vast buildings which covered the site, the amphitheatre, walls and gates. Most of all was he impressed by the ruins of the splendid temple of Jupiter, of which the walls (*parietes*) and thirty-three columns with their epistyles still stood erect, while the statues of the gods were still in place in the pediment⁴.

The second visit seems to have been largely devoted to obtaining drawings (unfortunately missing) and measurements of the temple: to the latter we shall refer later. In the interval between his two visits the cella wall and four of the columns with a great part of the epistyle had been carried off by the Turks. No later author mentions so much as a single column standing.

The temple is to-day represented only by the substructures of the podium. A general view shews a great mound, or rather agglomeration of mounds, measuring about 120 × 180 m., rising four to six metres above the surrounding country and overgrown with stunted holly-bushes. While the marble of the

¹ The "Bazar," the "Caves."

² Michaud calls these ruins the Areopagus, 107, 111. They are also said to be called Kodja Kilisse, suggesting that the temple was used in Christian times as a church. Limnios gives this name to the ruins of the theatre; similarly "Bezestan" is applied also to the Byzantine ruin at the N.E. corner of the central harbour.

³ Cf. Michaud 125, Turner 198; there is a grave reputed that of a man killed by brigands on the Artaki road.

⁴ Ornatissima in fronte diversa deorum simulacra. In 1444 "insigni ejus et mirabili in frontispicio eximia deum et praeclarissima illa de marmore simulacra Iove ipso protectore suaeque eximiae celsitudinis patrocinio inlaesae et intactae suo fere prisco splendore manent."