

## PREFACE

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The University of Florence's archaeological mission to central Anatolia began with an initial survey carried out in August-September 2008 at the site of Uşaklı Höyük and its surroundings, in the Turkish province of Yozgat (Pl. 1). The aim of the mission is to reconstruct, through a multi-disciplinary approach, the settlement landscape and history of this site, previously unexplored despite being located in the very heart of the Hittite area, as well as to examine the phases of its development by analysis of the documentary data collected. Between 2008 and 2012 the mission conducted five survey campaigns, completing an initial phase of surface investigation which included archaeological and archaeometric analyses, studies of the materials as well as historical and philological studies of the related textual sources. The results of this research are presented in this volume which forms the conclusive report on our initial activities in the area. The data and information obtained from the survey on the lengthy occupation of Uşaklı Höyük and its territory, and on its importance during the Hittite and Phrygian periods, formed the essential basis for the subsequent phase of research which got underway in 2013 with the start of excavations.

The archaeological project for Uşaklı Höyük is the result of various research activities and the rich exchange of knowledge between Hittitologists and archaeologists that began many years ago in Florence. The underlying impulse and concept owe much to the farsightedness and determination of Franca Pecchioli Daddi who, through lengthy and heated debates on the numerous unsolved questions relating to Hittite toponymy and history, managed to involve many of us in this shared adventure from 2006 on. In 1996, she organised an initial study trip to central Anatolia to those sites which could be identified as holy cities. The visit to the site of Kuşaklı Höyük (as Uşaklı Höyük was then called in scientific literature) and examination of its natural landscape and morphology made a strong impression on both her and her collaborators which was to be a determining factor in future decisions. These journeys to Anatolia, though brief due to academic commitments (in particular, her duties as President of the Faculty of Letters at Florence University), convinced her to organise archaeological field research in the area.

Between 2006 and 2007 we together began to develop a project that focussed on central Anatolia and on an initial surface survey. In 2007 a meeting in Ankara with those responsible for the archaeology sector from the Turkish Directorate for Antiquities proved quite encouraging and enabled us to start planning for a survey project in central Anatolia. On 19th August, together with Alfonso Archi, we visited the site of Uşaklı Höyük and met the director of the Yozgat Museum who was both helpful and interested in the project. The fortunate geographical location, morphology and topographical development (Pl. 2), the presence of well dressed granite blocks and aligned monumental walls in situ (Pl. 3) with pottery on the surface all confirmed the site's suitability for research and excavation. The importance of Uşaklı Höyük in relation to the Hittite and Phrygian phases had, moreover, been highlighted by an initial survey carried out on the site by Geoffrey D. Summers. This was conducted in the context of the Regional Survey at Kerkenes Dağ, the data from which had enabled O.R. Gurney to suggest that the site be identified with the Hittite holy city of Zippalanda (See here Mazzoni and Torri 1.8).

In fact, the area of Uşaklı fell within the ambit of the concession for the project directed by Geoffrey D. Summers on behalf of the Middle East Technical University of Ankara and the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. We therefore turned to him for scientific support which manifested itself in generous and constructive assistance. From 2008 to 2011 the Mission was not only able to enjoy lodgings in the Kerkenes mission house but also, and importantly, benefit from the Geoffrey and Françoise Summers' experience and extensive knowledge of the territory, their practical contribution regarding geological and geomagnetic investigations and, in general, their generous support for our project. In April 2008, together with Franca Pecchioli Daddi, we revisited the site, taking note of the granite blocks laying on various spots on the surface (Pl. 3: 1a-b), the sherds of different periods and

types (Fig. 7), the already signalled stone alignments on the eastern terrace, quite apart from the large granite slab (without doubt worked during the Hittite period) in the neighbouring village of Aşağı Karakaya Köy indicated by Geoffrey Summers (Pl. 13: 5a).

With the first mission in September 2008 the scientific and operative structure of the project was outlined as a multi-disciplinary operation aimed at gathering information relating to the social and cultural landscape of Uşaklı Höyük from both a historical and anthropological perspective. In this regard the collaboration between archaeologists, topographers, geologists and Hittitologists throughout the survey was of great importance, as was the continuous participation from the very start of students who, together with the archaeologists, conducted the intensive and extensive collection of materials both at the site itself and in the surrounding area. In 2008 this necessitated the laborious preparation and cleaning of the terrain by means of raking and then, in 2012, the scraping of sectors of the acropolis slopes. The recording, sampling and insertion of pottery finds into the database was entirely the result of team-work involving archaeologists and students, under the guidance of Anacleto D'Agostino and Valentina Orsi, who developed and produced an exemplary model documenting the analyses of the pottery corpus of the survey.

It was decided from the onset that collecting the materials and providing geographical references for them by giving their relative positions on the site on CAD, and developing a geophysical prospection relating these two activities was the best strategy to apply in order to document the complex functional and chronological occupation of the site. The presence of aligned walls in various sectors of the terrace and acropolis suggested, in fact, the presence of consistent buried structures which could be visualised through geophysical survey and their function and chronology possibly determined by means of a systematic collection of surface materials carried out in coordination with the geophysical examination. The survey of the territory was begun by integrating different approaches and methods: apart from the archaeological and geophysical surveys, field-walking was used on the slopes and natural pathways, with attention being paid not only to settlement factors but also to possible use even in the absence of any manmade materials present on the surface. Part of this activity was naturally aimed at evaluating the accessibility from the site of distinctive features in the landscape, especially the nearby hills and valleys with their natural springs. One of the objectives was obviously to reconstruct a possible route connecting the site to the mountain of Kerkenes so as to judge the reliability of the identification of Uşaklı Höyük with Zippalanda and of Kerkenes Dağ with Mount Daha. In this analysis of the territory in terms of historical interpretation we once again benefitted from the precious assistance given by Geoffrey Summers, who had already traced a footpath from Kerkenes to Hattusa (l.3) which passed via our site.

During those years, there was a slight increase in archaeological fieldwork (l.3) in the Yozgat region, which enabled us to reconstruct a dense settlement network spanning a long period, from the prehistoric to the Roman-Byzantine period. Yozgat Museum lent valuable support to the various activities carried out in the area, thanks especially to its director, Hasan K. Şenyurt who encouraged us to continue our work and who, in 2012, permitted us to undertake a joint project for scraping on the site of which he was co-director, together with Serpil Ölmsez of Yozgat Museum.

The General Directorate of the Museums and Cultural Heritage issued the survey permit for the University of Florence mission to Uşaklı Höyük, demonstrating trust and confidence in our scientific goals. Melik Ayaz has helpfully encouraged our project and given wise advice on appropriate procedures to be used. Aliye Usta and Nihal Metin have kindly given their competent and invaluable contribution to helping this new mission address and finalise formalities in a correct manner.

Various representatives of the General Department of the Museums and Cultural Heritage of Turkey have contributed to the success of our shared work: Ertan Yılmaz of the Museum of Ayidin in 2008, Emel Özçelik of the Museum of Eskişehir in 2009, Ozan Corrado Rijavc of the Directorate of Antiquities in Istanbul in 2010, Sadreddin Atukeren of the Manisa Museum in 2011, and Serpil Ölmsez of the Yozgat Museum in 2012. Our warm thanks go to all of them for their support and patience.

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In these years, the authorities of the province of Yozgat and the town of Sorgun, the Vali and Kaymakam and the Sorgun Elgi have generously and efficiently supported our mission and provided facilities essential to our work.

Special thanks are due to Murat Akar, at that time PhD student at the University of Florence, who contributed to the organization of the first campaigns. Ekin Demirci, student at the Bilkent University, also provided his valuable help working with us in the field. Many friends and colleagues have encouraged and helped us with their advice: Marie-Henriette Gates of the Bilkent University of Ankara, Aslihan Yener of the Koç University of Istanbul, Fikri Kulakoğlu, of the University of Ankara and Tayfun Yildirim, also of the University of Ankara, were the first to give us a friendly welcome to the Anatolian plateau.

In the core of this plateau, we started our activities under the shadow of the imposing Kerkenes Dağ, in the house of the Kerkenes mission at Şahmuratlı. The guardian of the mission house, Mehmet Ergiyas, and the then Muhtar, Osman Muhratdağı, were the first to meet me when I arrived, alone and burdened by a heavy total station, on a sunny but cool September day in 2008. Thanks to their help, and to the guidance of their directors, Geoffrey and Françoise, our sojourn became a memorable experience and our work productive.

From Uşaklı Höyük, looking south to the skyline, we now cast our gaze towards the mountain and sense its beneficial presence.



Franca Pecchioli, Boğazköy 2008