

REPORT CAMPAIGN 2001

Abstract

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The Nemrud Dag Project: First interim report

The Nemrud Dag is one of Turkey's most important archaeological sites. It has not been studied profoundly yet, because of its specific character, blending, as the original excavator Theresa Goell states, Graeco-Roman and Persian influences. In 2001 the University of Amsterdam started a project recording all the materials of the Nemrud Dag with an interdisciplinary team in order to create a exhaustive Site Information System (SIS) (comparable to a microtopographical Geographic Information System (GIS)). The first research showed the necessity of renewed studies as the excavation report were delayed and vital information was missing. This first interim reports provide the first detailed information on the site. Obviously, only at the final publication final conclusions will be formulated.

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The Nemrud Dağ Project: first interim report

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Fig. 1. Kommagene (after Wagner 2000).

1 INTRODUCTION

The International Nemrud Foundation (hereafter INF), established in 1998, has worked for a couple of years to obtain a permit from the Turkish Government to carry out archaeological research on and around the monument of Antiochos I of Kommagene on the mountain of Nemrud Dağı in the province of Adiyaman, Southeastern Anatolia, Turkey. The main aim of the Foundation is to protect the monument from further deterioration and destruction as well as to reconstruct the colossal statue groups and some of the relief stelae on the East and West Terraces. In view of the ambitious aims of the project it was deemed necessary to make a new documentation of the remains on the mountain and to study the possibility of a virtual reconstruction.

After a permit had been granted by the Turkish Ministry of Culture to the University of Amsterdam, a team from the Amsterdam Archaeological Centre of this university started research on the

14th of July 2001, the same day as represented on the famous Lion horoscope on the West Terrace (see pp. 97-99). The team was composed of archaeologists, epigraphists, geodesists, construction and AutoCAD engineers.¹

The 2001 research had several goals. In view of the project's overall goals of preservation and restoration most energy was spent to obtain a documentation as complete as possible, the so-called SIS (Site Information System), which may serve to both students and restorers in the future. Archaeologists could profit from this system for their research. At first impression such a basic documentation of the site might seem redundant, as an impressive monograph of the site was published in 1996 presenting the results of the American excavations directed by Theresa B. Goell in the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's.² However, Goell's results and documentation proved to be problematic in several ways. Besides, we expect that new technology (especially the laser scan) could yield a more fundamental documentation

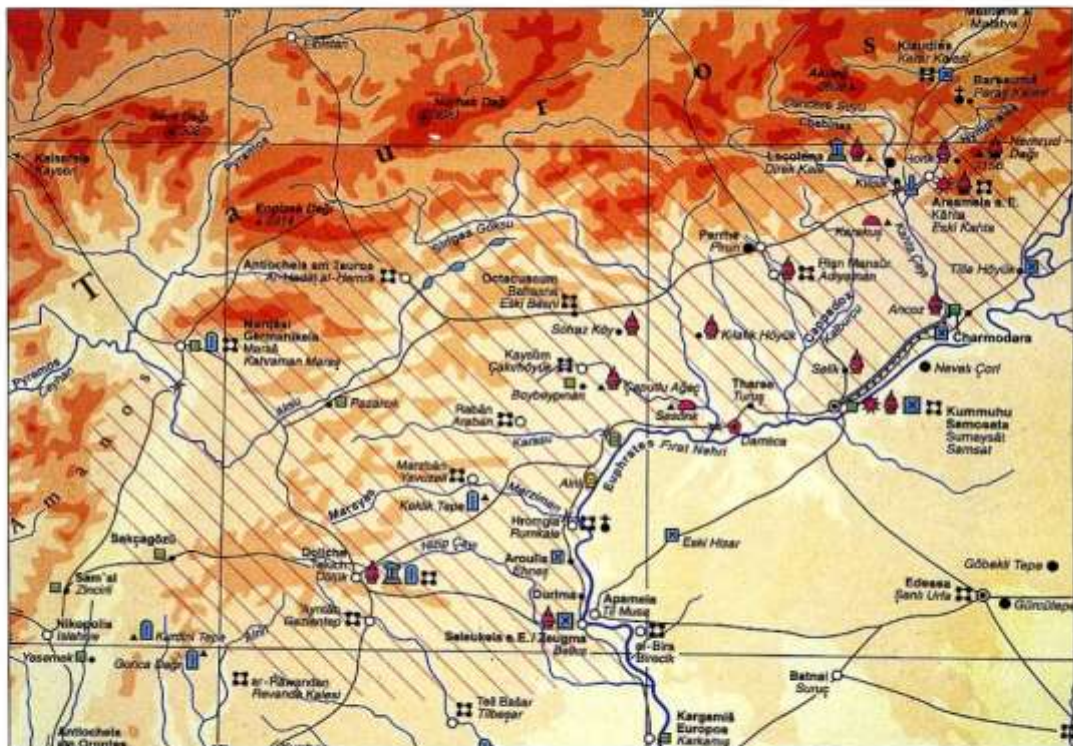


Fig. 2. Map of ancient Kommagene showing the most important archaeological sites (after Wagner 2000).

