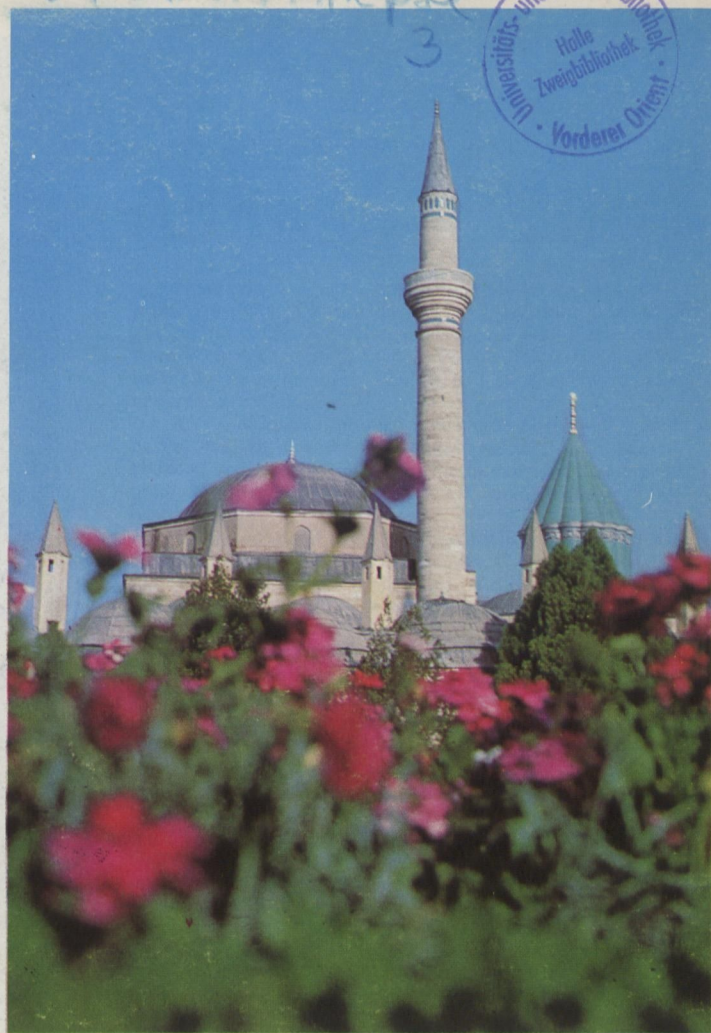


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Cover :

ANKARA : Skyscraper at Night

KONYA : Mevlana Museum

Photo : Edvin Rizl

Photo : Ara Güler





ANKARA

Ankara is a shining new city with an ancient past; a living symbol of a new Turkey. In 1923 when it became the capital of the Republic of Turkey, it was a provincial town with a population of only 30.000. Today the population has risen to over 700.000 and is growing rapidly towards a million.

A city of open tree-lined boulevards and lake-studded parks, Ankara breathes European modernity from the heart of Asiatic Anatolia. Yet, historically, the city is of great interest as a reflection of Turkey's long cultural heritage.

Ankara is itself well worth exploring but it has an added attraction for the tourist. As a capital city it is full of good hotels in all price ranges and makes a superb centre from which to explore inland Turkey—a completely new and exciting experience for any tourist.

This modern metropolis offers a wide variety of attractions within an easy radius—sites of ancient Hittite and classical cities, Roman baths, massive citadels, lakeside bathing, and fishing and shooting expeditions. For short trips round Ankara the hire of a «dolmuş» or «shared» taxi is most inexpensive and it is equally simple and economic to journey farther afield to a host of delightful and impressive places.

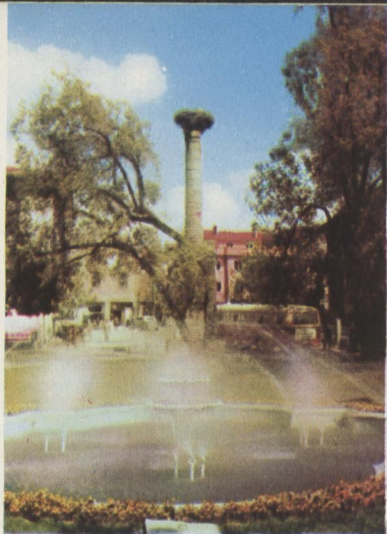
Dominated by a mighty citadel and spread over a number of low hills which cluster around parks and lakes, Ankara is the soul of modern Turkey. From here Kemâl Atatürk planned and directed the Turkish War of Independence in the early 1920's and subsequently built up the fortunes of the Republic which succeeded the Ottoman Empire. In and about Ankara the visitor can savour both the Turkey of today and the Turkey of yesteryear.

Its climate is predominantly continental, although climatic characteristics differ in various parts of the province. Winters are generally cold and summers dry and warm with summer frequently spilling into autumn with pleasant weather into October. In the northern parts

ANKARA: The Hittite Museum

Photo: Sonia Halliday





ANKARA : Julianus's Column Photo : Sami Güner



ANKARA : Temple of August

Photo : Sami Güner

of the province the Black Sea influences the climate which tends to be milder and somewhat wetter than in the south.

There are also important vineyards and the wine made from Ankara grapes is winning an increasing reputation in world markets.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The history of the city of Ankara goes back to the days of the Amazons and the Hittites and the exact date of its foundation is not known. According to legend, however, Ankara is said to have been founded by the Phrygians in the VIIIth century B.C. It was subsequently captured by the Galatians and then the Romans. The Galatians called the town Ancora in the IInd century B.C. and since then it has been known as Ankyra, Ancyre, Enguriye, Engürü, Angara, Angora and finally Ankara. The symbol of the town since Roman times has been a hoe, and this can be seen on coins of the period.

Signs of Hittite culture on Ankara Citadel confirm that the town came under the influence of the Hittite Empire, which was the first political state in Anatolia, even before the Phrygians ruled the town. Then came a succession of ruling powers—Lydians, Persians, the armies of Alexander the Great, and the Galatians in the IIIrd century B.C. The Galatians built walls with half—round tops round the towns they settled and evidence of their habitation in Ankara is clear.

When the Romans captured Ankara they granted it a kind of semi-independence under the Galatians and in return the Galatians built a temple to the Roman Emperor Augustus, giving it the name of Augusteum. Nero referred to Ankara as «Metropol» meaning capital. The Emperor Caracalla repaired and improved the city walls. When the Roman Empire was divided into two, the Ankara region passed to the Byzantine Empire. In the Middle Ages Ankara became one of the main centres of Christianity. By 1073 Ankara was ruled by Turks but the Crusaders captured the town in 1101. Then in 1227 the Seljuk Turks recaptured it. In 1354 the town was taken by Süleyman Paşa, the son of the second Sultan Orhan Gazi, and was incorporated into the Ottoman Empire. The famous Battle of Ankara in 1402 between Sultan Bayezit and the Mongol emperor Tamberlaine was fought on the neighbouring plain of Çubuk. Until the middle of the XVth century the city was a peoples' republic under the leadership of the «Ahi» fraternity. During the XXth century War of Independence the town of Ankara became the centre of the independence movement and in October 1923 was proclaimed the capital of Turkey.

Photo: Sami Güner

ANKARA: View of the City from the Ethnological Museum



HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND PLACES TO VISIT IN THE CITY

The Ankara Citadel : The date of its construction is not known definitely, but it is believed that it was constructed by the Galatians. In the time of the Romans and especially in the Seljuk period it was repaired several times. Twenty towers of the citadel walls are still standing today. The main citadel is divided into two sections, the inner and outer citadels. The outer citadel surrounds the town in the shape of a heart. The inner citadel is built of Ankara stone and partly of stones taken from other ancient buildings and has four storeys.

The Temple of Augustus: Built in the second century B.C. in the Corinthian style. First it was dedicated to Cybele, the mother goddess of the Anatolians, then to Men, the Phrygian God of the Moon and finally to the Emperor Augustus. In the fourth century A.D. it was turned into a church in the time of the Byzantines, and was altered mainly by taking down the back walls and by adding various parts to the main temple. The main door of the temple is 8,5 metres high. During the Ottoman period it was called «Akmedrese». Next to it the Hacı Bayram Mosque has been built, thereby preserving the temple. At the end of the XIX th century however, some parts were pulled down.

The Column of Julian: This column, which stands today in the Hükümet Meydanı (Government Square), is believed to have been erected towards the end of the fourth century A.D.. Its height is approximately 14 metres and its head (capitol) is decorated with acanthus ornaments. It is no monolith but composed of fluted stones, one upon the other.

The Roman Baths: These are on the Çankırı road. They were built by the Emperor Caracalla and dedicated to Aesculapius, the God of Health. This building and contains all the characteristics of Roman baths and consists of the following sections: Frigidarium, Piscina, Apoditerium, Tepidarium and Caldarium. The baths were destroyed as a result of fires in the X th century. They are famous for their column-adorned passage, the gymnasium's pathway and their dimensions.

MOSQUES

The Hacı Bayram Mosque : It was built in the first half of the XV th century.

The sarcophagus of Hacı Bayram Veli (saint) lies next to the mosque. The original gate of the tomb is in the Ethnographical Museum. Towards the end of the XVII th century the mosque was decorated by the well-known artist Mustafa. In the first half of the XVIII th cent. it was ornamented with Kütahya tiles. The artistic value of the mihrab, minber and ceiling is noteworthy.

The Aslanhane Mosque : It is the greatest mosque in Ankara and was built in 1290 by Şerafettin, one of the Ahian leaders. The interior stands on several columns in Selçukid style and the portal is decorated with Selçukid designs. The minaret is built of brick. The altar (mihrab) is decorated with mosaics and its pulpit (minber) is made of walnut. The tomb of the Ahian leader, Şerafettin, is next to the mosque. One of the most significant examples of the Anatolian mosques with wooden columns, this mosque has a very well preserved mihrab, adorned with honeycomb stucco patterns and ornamentation in tile and brick.

The Ahi Elvan Mosque : Built in the XIV th century. Its pulpit and minaret were built in the XV th century. It has wooden columns and a mihrab with stucco decorations. The minber and the window-shutters have extremely fine carvings.

The Alaettin Mosque : Built in the XII th century by Sultan Mesut of the Seljuks. Its pulpit is made of walnut.

The Yeni Mosque: Also known as the Cenabı Ahmet Paşa Mosque. It was built in 1565 in the style of the mosques built by Sinan. Its pulpit (minber) is made of white marble. The Mosque is the tomb of its founder.

Zincirli Mosque : It was built at the close of the XVII th century. The wood ornamentation was carried out by the noted craftsman Mustafa, whose signature can be seen. The mosque has a stucco mihrab. Though the coloured ornamentation of the minber, the ceiling and the doors belong to the time of the decorator, the paintings, due to later renovation, have, to a certain degree, lost their original beauty.

Karacabey Mosque : This mosque, built in 1444, has a ground-plan in a T-shape like the mosques of Bursa. For its construction the remains of the ancient buildings were used. The wooden door and the minaret decorated with tiles are beautiful examples of the art of that period. Next to the mosque there is a tomb, in front of which one can see the twin-baths, one of the best examples of Anatolian baths of the XV th century.

Hacı Musa Mosque : It dates from the XV th century, from the Ahi period. It is important for its wood-carvings.

Kurşunlu Mosque : It was built in the XVII th century.

MUSEUMS

Anıt-Kabir (The Mausoleum of Atatürk) : The sarcophagus of Atatürk rests in this mausoleum. Its construction was started in 1944 and was completed in 1953 when the body of the revered Atatürk was transferred here. This is the most imposing monument in the Turkish Republic.

The Atatürk Museum : Objects belonging to Atatürk

are shown in the precincts of the Mausoleum.

The Hittite (Archaeologicâl) Museum: Located to the north-west of the citadel, it was built in the XV th century as a covered market (bazaar). In this museum the world's richest collections of Hittite relics are exhibited. Objects from the Phrygian, prehistoric and Urartu periods are also on show. The world-renowned collection of 35.000 cuneiform tablets can be seen here.

Atatürk's House : The house where Atatürk lived during the War of Independence is used as a museum today. It is located in the grounds of the Presidential Residence at Çankaya.

The Youth Park : Located between the station and Opera House, with its restaurants, luna park and large artificial lake, the Youth Park is a beautiful and enjoyable place.

The Atatürk Farm : It is 5 km. to the south of Ankara and was first established by Atatürk. There are several parks, restaurants and a zoo in the grounds of the farm.

HISTORICAL PLACES AND EXCURSION IN THE VICINITY

Gordium : To the north-west of Ankara and to the north of Polatlı lies ancient Gordium. The father of king Midas, Gordios, was a farmer. As he was the first to enter the city in the early hours of a certain day he was made king of Phrygia. The oracle had prophesied that the tuture king would, on the said day, enter the city on a cart. Gordios, who thus became king, brought his cart to the temple, where he dedicated it to Zeus. The pole and the yoke he tied together by an intricate knot and an oracle prophesied again that he who would untie the knot would conquer the whole of Asia.

ANKARA : Lake of Eymir

Photo : Emin Hakarar



ANKARA : Elmadağ Skiing Center

Photo : Emin Hakarar





ANKARA: Gordium

Photo: Edvin Rizi

When Alexander the Great arrived at Gordium he too tried his luck but failing to untie the knot he drew his sword and cut it.

Excavations under the direction of American archaeologists are going on at present. Objects dating from the Phrygian and Persian periods have been unearthed. The artistic value of the objects found in the tombs of the kings (throne, metal articles, trinkets etc.) is very high. They are exhibited in the Hittite Museum in Ankara.

Eti Yokuşu : On the road to the Çubuk Dam. From the prehistoric period until the Roman era it was inhabited. Excavations have been carried out and the objects found can be seen in the museum in Ankara.

Gävur Kale : 60 km. to the south-west of Ankara and close to the Haymana road. There are ruins of a citadel from the Roman period.

Kalecik : 70 km. to the north of Ankara. There is a citadel in ruins on the steep and rocky hill overlooking

the town.

The Çubuk Dam : 10 km. to the north of the town. The lake behind the dam and the afforested slopes of the undulating terrain create a beautiful scene.

Gölbasi : 25 km. to the south-west of the town. This site has been turned into a holiday lake. There is a beach and restaurant for use during the summer months.

Söğütözü : There is a house at this site belonging to the mother of Atatürk. This house has been turned into a museum.

Kızılcahamam : 80 km. from Ankara. There are vast forests surrounding the area and the hot springs are widely known.

Soğuksu: A picnic site, close to Kızılcahamam.

Karagöl : (The Black Lake) It is a crater lake in the vicinity of Çubuk and is surrounded by pine forests.

Elmadağ : 18 km. to the north of Ankara. It is an ideal place for winter sports. There is a ski-hut and tele-ski installations.

KONYA

Konya, whose population of over 122,000 makes it the eighth largest city in Turkey, was capital of the Turkish Selçuk Empire. As such, it was an important centre of art and culture and a visit to Konya is essential today for anyone interested in the beginnings of Turkish civilization.

The origin of this ancient city goes back to 3,000 B.C. According to Greek legend, Perseus, son of Jupiter and Danae, came to this region, cut off the head of Medusa and hung it on top of a pillar. Hence the city's ancient name, Iconium, meaning «city with an image».

A modified Continental climate prevails, with cold winters and pleasantly warm summers. Rainfall is moderate and Konya is the largest wheat-producing centre of the country. There are a few lakes on the Konya plain, the largest being the Beyşehir and Salt lakes. Apart from the town of Konya itself major tourist centres include Karaman, Akşehir and Beyşehir, all noted for their scenic beauty.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Old Greek and Latin writings refer to the town of Konya as Iconion, or Iconium and historians of the Middle Ages mention Yconium and Conium. In Arab-Islamic geography books Konya is called Kuniyye and is listed as one of the oldest cities of Central Anatolia.

Konya is believed to have been founded by the Hittites, later passing into the hands of the Phrygians and Lydians, and then coming under Persian rule in the VIth century B.C. Later it became part of the Kingdom of Bergama and then a part of the Roman Empire in 133 B.C., when the town was reconstructed. St. Paul visited Konya



KONYA : Mevlana Museum

Photo : Çağatay Dobada





KONYA: The Interior of the Mevlâna Museum Photo: Sonia Halliday

in 47, 50 and 53 A.D. and from the IInd century onwards the town became an important religious centre. During the VIIth and IXth centuries Konya was attacked by the Arabs and in 1077 it was taken by the Selçuk Turks. During the reign of Kilicaslan I it became the capital of the Anatolian Selçuk State (1097).

During the first half of the XIIIth century, during the reign of Alâeddin Keykubat (1219-1256) and his successors, scientists, artists and men of learning from all over the Near East flocked to Konya. Noted personalities of the Islamic world, such as Muhittin Arabî, Mevlâna Celâleddin Rumi and Sadruddin Konyevi lived in Konya. This golden age lasted into the middle of the XIIIth century. Upon the collapse of the Selçuk State the Karamanoğulları became masters of the city until 1467 when the Ottoman armies led by Fatih Sultan Mehmet seized it.

HISTORICAL MONUMENTS

Selçuk Palace : It is believed that this renowned palace was built by Kılıç Aslan II and completed by

Alâeddin. Only one wall, which was restored recently, remains today. The palace is situated at the northern foot of Alâeddin Hill, and was built on the walls of the castle.

İplikçi Mosque : This was built by Şemsettin Altınapa, a Selçuk Minister. One room of the İplikçi Theological School remains behind the mosque.

Alâeddin Mosque : On Alâeddin Hill. It is believed that this was the palace mosque. Its construction began towards the end of Sultan Rukniddin Mesut's reign (1116-1156) but was completed by Alâeddin Keykubat I and is therefore called the Mosque of Alaeddin Keykubat. Its plan is in the shape of an irregular rectangle consisting of three parts, namely the tiled dome in front of the altar, the supports on all sides and the central part supported by rows of columns.

Hacı Ferruh Mosque : Constructed in 1215.

The Small Mosque of Besharebey : In the Ferhuniye quarter of Konya. It was built by Emir Zeynettin Besharebey in 1213.

The Theological School of Karatay : This was built by Celaleddin Karatay, a Seljuk Minister, in 1251. It is to the east of Alâeddin Hill. Behind it there is the tomb of Karatay. The school has many domes and is famous for its black and blue porcelain decorations. The spherical dome is reached from the square Harim (private place) through triangular fans. The verses of the Koran (Ayetulkursi and Bakara) engraved in Cufic characters on the drum of the cupola and on the walls in bands are exceedingly beautiful examples of inlaid and openwork carving resembling embroidery.

Ince Minaret (Darulhadis) : This stands to the west of the Alâeddin Mosque. It was built by Fahruttin Ali, a Seljuk Minister, and designed by Keluk Bin Abdullah. Its door is a masterpiece of stonework. Its dome is decorated plainly with bricks and porcelain tiles. The portal is in the middle. Two wide bands of religious inscriptions decorate the pointed arch of the entrance.

Sırçalı Medrese : Built by Bedreddin Muslih in the time of the Seljuk ruler, Giyaseddin Keyhusrev II. in 1242. It is called Sırçalı (crystal) Bedrese because its walls are covered with beautiful coloured tiles. The entrance is through a magnificent archway with delicate decorations in blue and white, green and several shades of brown.

The Tomb and the Monastery of Mevlana: Mevlâna Celâleddin Rumi is one of the greatest sufis (mystics) of the Turkish-Islamic world, and founder of the Order of the Whirling Dervishes. He was born at the beginning of the XIIIth century at the city of Belh in Horasan. His

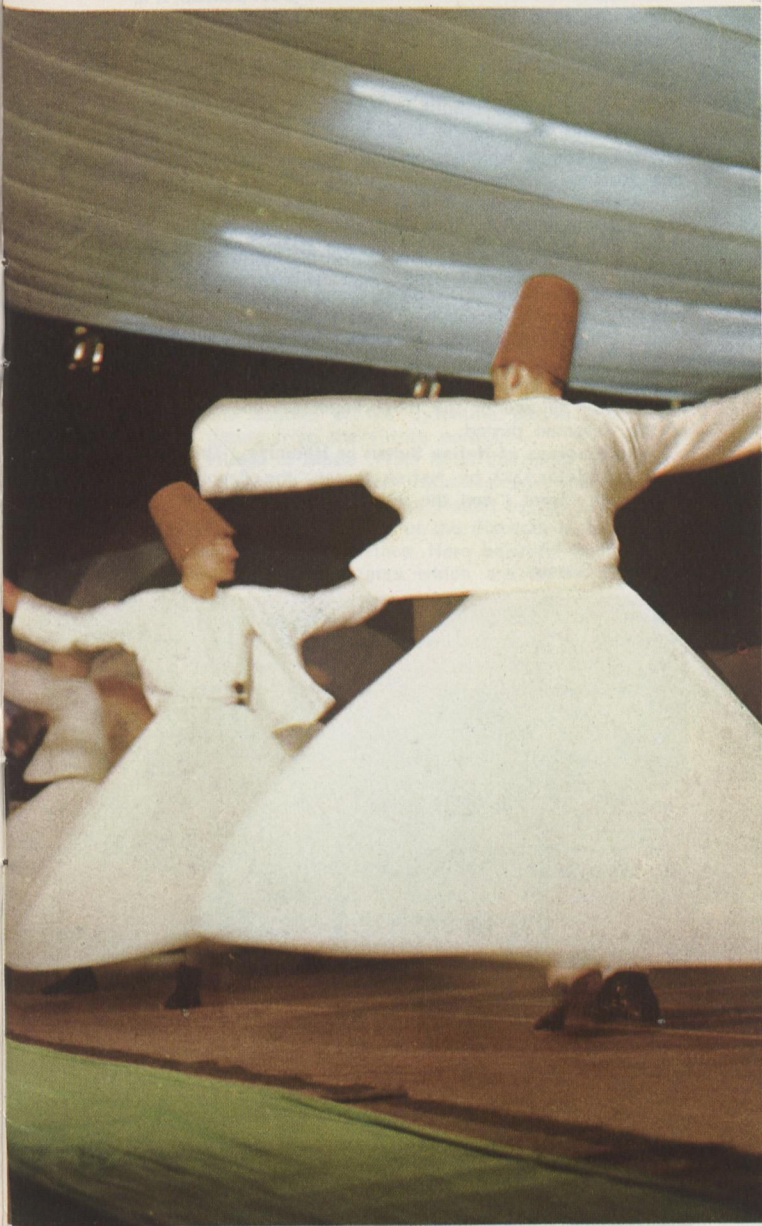


Photo : Çağatay Dobada

KONYA : Whirling Dervishes

mother was Mumine Hatun and his father, Muhammed Bahaeddin known as Sultanul Ulema, was amongst the famous learned men of the city. Bahaeddin left Belh with his son Mevlâna and family, and after wandering extensively finally came to Larende (Karaman). They settled in Konya in 1228 during the Seljuk period at the invitation of Sultan Alâeddin Keykubad I. Mevlâna died at Konya on September 17, 1273. His funeral was followed by a big crowd and he was buried in his present tomb. The famous works of the mystic poet are: Mesnevi, Divan-ı Kebir, Fihi Ma-fih, Mecalis-i Seb'a, Mektubat.

Other Mosques : Hatuniye Camii (1213), Şeracettin Camii, Hasbey Darül Hüffazi Camii, Selimiye Camii, kapı Camii (1659), Aziziye Camii Piri Mehmet Paşa Camii (1523) Nakipoğlu Camii (1762), Oraloğlu Camii (1764).

Mescits (small Mosques) : Şekerfuruş, Erdemşah, Sırçalı, Mihmandar, Karaaslan, Karatay, Beyhekim, Abdülaziz, Cevizaltı, Abdülmümin, Tahir - Zühre, Zenbiri and Hoca Hasan.

THE MUSEUMS OF KONYA

Mevlâna Museum : This is housed in the mausoleum and monastery of Mevlâna. Works of art of the Seljuk and Ottoman periods are on display. In addition to the small mosque and «Semahane» (where the dervishes used to dance) the dervish cells are utilized for displays of carpets, cloth, books and manuscripts and old kitchen utensils. There is also an ethnographic collection and an exhibition of Mevlevi tombstones.

The Museum of Stone and Wood/Carving of the Seljuk Period : This is in the mosque of the İnce Minaret.

The Museum of Tombstones : At the Sırçalı Medrese. Historical and artistic tombstones dating from the Seljuk, Karamanoğlu, and Ottoman periods are on exhibition here.

Museum of Mosaics : Housed in the Karatay Medrese to the east of Alâeddin Hill this museum displays examples of outstanding decorative tiles produced in both the Seljuk and Ottoman periods.

Archeological Museum : This is in a new building to the west of Sahipata mosque. Shields, inscriptions, statues, tombs, and architectural items of ancient times found at Konya and its environs are exhibited in this museum. There are sarcophagi of Pamphylia and Sidamara types in the covered hall. The most famous of these sarcophagi are those of the Sidamara type dating from the III. rd century A.D., found near the village of Yunuslar, Beyşehir, in 1958.

Konya Library : Built in 1795 by Yusuf Ağa. There are 2917 hand-written and 7759 printed books in the Tur-

kish, Arabic and Persian languages in this library.

The Library of the Mevlâna Museum : In the Mevlâna Museum. This was constructed by Said Hemdan Çelebi in 1854. There are 1622 handwritten and 4862 printed books in the museum.

HISTORICAL SITES AND PLACES TO VISIT IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Ehlâton Pınar : This is a spring 40 km west of Konya, regarded as a sacred place from the time of the Hittites. There is a carved relief near the spring.

Ivriz : It is 163 km southeast of Konya. There is a Hittite relief here dating from the VIII th century B.C.

Kubadabad Palace: They are 100 km. south-west of Konya in the vicinity of Beyşehir Lake.

The Thousand and One Churches : It is 100 km. south-east of Konya in the neighbourhood of Karadağ in the Karaman region. There are ruins of magnificent churches dating from the Byzantine period.

Dede Garden : This is a quiet and beautiful place for relaxation with a delightful pool.

Meram: It is 8 km. from Konya. This is a very beautiful spot with its evergreen trees, healing waters and fresh air.

Aladağ : 50 km. west of Konya. It has a particularly lovely landscape.

Karaman: Situated in the middle of a great plateau, it is interesting both for its history and its natural beauty. Karaman is regarded as being important because the Turkish language was first accepted there as the official language on 1277.

Karaman Castle : Built in the XII th century by the Selçuks and restored in 1356 by the Karamanoğulları. The inner castle, which is on a hill and has strong walls, has survived to this day.

Araboğlu Mosque : The gargoyles and original arches are worth inspection. The west door of the mosque is finely decorated. It was built by the Karamanoğulları in 1374.

Other Mosques : Dikbasan Camii (1436), Paşa Camii (XIV. yüzyıl), Hacıbeyler Camii (1358), Çelebi Camii, Yunus Emre Camii (1349), Mader-i Mevlâna Camii (Aktekke) (1371).

The Medrese (Seminary) of Karamanoğlu Emir Musa Paşa : This is one of the most important constructions of the Karaman period.

The Medrese of Nefise Sultan or Hatuniye : This was constructed in 1382 by Nefise Sultan, the daughter of the Sultan Murat I and the wife of Karamanoğlu Alâeddin Bey

KONYA : Sunset

Photo : Ara Güler

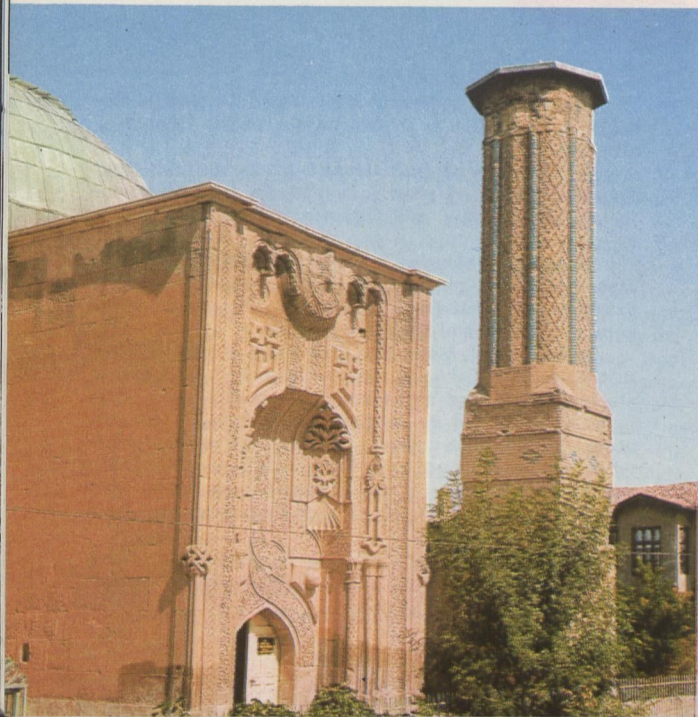
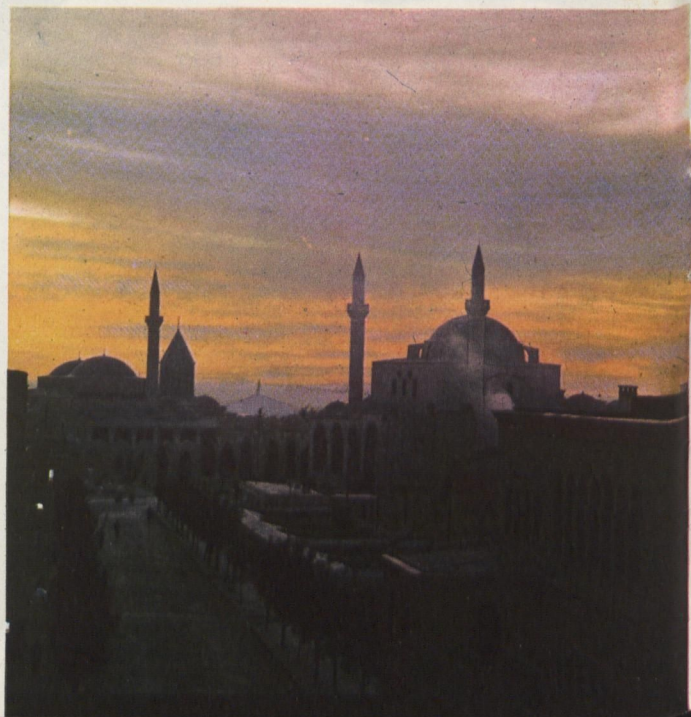


Photo : Sonia Halliday

KONYA : Karatay Medrese



The Buildings of Karamanoğlu Ibrahim Bey II.: These buildings, which include a small mosque, a seminary and other structures, were commissioned by Karamanoğlu Ibrahim Bey II in 1433.

The Tomb of Karamanoğlu Alâeddin Bey: The tomb of Karamanoğlu Alâeddin Bey who died in 1388 is partly in ruins.

Karadağ (Black Mountain) : It is important both for its varied historical sites and as a place for winter sports. Süleymanbacı Lake near Karadağ is a freshwater lake abounding in fish and the reed-beds around the lake are the haunt of wild birds.

The Thousand and One Churches : At the foot of volcanic Mount Karadağ, 30 km. to the north of Karaman. There are hundreds of ruins of churches, cisterns, palaces and castles of the Byzantine period and also remains dating from the Hittite period.

The Village of Derbe : This is on the upper slopes of Karadağ. There are ruined churches and inscriptions here. It was one of the places visited by St. Paul.

Seydişehir : This is one of the districts in the southern region of Konya province. Here beautiful Sugla lake is surrounded by mountains which are partly covered with forests.

Historical remains at Seydişehir: In this vicinity there are prehistoric barrows and remains from the Hittite, Greek and Roman periods. In the Islamic building at Seydişehir stones belonging to the classical and Byzantine periods were used.

Seyyid Harunu Veli Mosque : This is a building of the Eşrefoğlu period, dating from the XIV th century, reconstructed in the XIX century.

Muallim Mosque : This is a work of the Ottoman period.

Ermenek : Located on the Taşeli plateau in the Mediterranean region. In ancient times Ermenek was the city of Germanyleopolis in the region of Isauria. The name Ermenek is a corruption of «Germanilc».

Ulu Mosque : Constructed in 1302 by Mahmut Bey, the son of Karaman Bey.

Other Buildings : Meydan Camii, Keremes'u Kebir Camii, Akça Mescit, Karamanoğlu Bath.

Ermenek Castle : This has a very steep and formidable façade.

Tol Medrese : This seminary is a single storey building with an open courtyard dating from the Karamanoğlu period. One of its domed rooms is a tomb. At present it is being restored.

Maraspolis : This is one of the most interesting caves in the world. There are countless stalactites and stalagmites in it as well as an underground river.

Ereğli : Located north of the Taurus Mountains. Ereğli has been a resting place on the road to the Taurus mountains since ancient times. The Arabs conquered it in the time of Harun -el-Rashid in 806. Later it came under the rule of Byzantium and was conquered by the Seljuks towards the end of the XI th century. Then the Karamanoğulları seized the city which was later taken by the Ottomans in 1466.

Ivriz: 12 km. from Ereğli, there is an important historical carving dating from Hittite times - a statue

KONYA: Akşehir, the Mausoleum of Nasrettin Hoca

Photo: Sami Güner





KONYA: Karaman, the Yerköprü Falls

Photo: Rıza Tuğcu



of a god holding grapes and wheat in his hand.

Some interesting historical buildings dating from the periods of the Karamanoğulları and Ottomans can also be seen in the town. The Caravanserai of Mimar Sinan is especially worth a visit.

Ilgın: is famous for its hot spring, whose health giving properties been known for centuries. These hot springs, are beneficial to those suffering from rheumatism and other illnesses. Lala Mustafa Paşa are a magnificent creation of Mimar Sinan complete with caravanserai, bath, minaret, harem, medrese, kitchen, etc. The tomb and Hüseyin Paşa mosque dating from the Seljuk period are also interesting.

AKŞEHİR

This is an agricultural district of Konya in Central Anatolia, characterized by flat plains to the east and north and by the impressive Sultan Mountains in the west.

Akşehir is on the site of ancient Philomenion, a resting place midway on the route between Phrygia and Cappadocia. The Phrygians used the spring of «Ulu Pınar», known as the Midas fountain. Akşehir was also on the famous Baghdad to Istanbul road and during the Middle Ages was a very busy centre.

Its present name was given to it by the Turks. In «The Book of Travels», the famous work of Evliya Çelebi, Akşehir is mentioned as «Avşar». The Ottomans captured the city in 1467, destroying its castle in the process. The city played an important role in the Turkish War of Independence. The municipal building where the decision for the Grand Attack was made is now a museum of revolutionary Turkey.

Akşehir is also the birthplace of Nasrettin Hoca who flourished in the XIII th century during the Selçuk period. He became famous the world over for his witty remarks and moral anecdotes. He died in 1284 at the age of 75 and was buried in Akşehir.

Ulu Mosque : The minaret of this mosque was built in the Seljuk period. The upper part and the galleries of the mosque were restored in 1877. According to the inscriptions inside, this mosque was built by Ebu Saîd İbrahim in 1263.

Küçük Mosque (Guduk Minaret) : Built by Hacı Hasan in 1226, during the period of Muhtesip Emuriddin. It was restored in 1889.

The Museum of the Stone Medrese : The inscriptions found here show that it was built in 1250 by Emîdat Sanip Ata Fahrettin Ali in the time of Keykavus II. the Anatolian Seljuk Sultan. It was originally constructed

as a group of buildings. The guest house is now in the museum yard. The remains of this building reveal all the characteristics of Seljuk art. The seminary has a courtyard in the middle and a minaret with two galleries. The architecture of the tomb is an unusual example of Turkish art. The originals of the three tombs found here are now in the Istanbul Museum of Turkish-Islamic Art.

İmaret Mosque : Built by Hasan Paşa in 1510 A.D.. The Mosque and the minaret which are beautiful examples of Ottoman architecture, are built with evenly cut stones. Its door is a masterpiece of wood carving. There is a main cupola in the middle and a small half cupola at each corner. The calligraphy on the second column to the left of the mosque is in the hand of Evliya Çelebi, as he mentions in his «Book of Travels»

The Tomb of Hacı İbrahim Sultan : This is in the village of Marif 7 km. to the northwest of Akşehir. It was built in 1379 on the orders of Hacı İbrahim Sultan. The frames of its doors and windows made of marble are beautiful examples of stonework. The door of the tomb is made of delicate woodwork. The wooden coffin found inside was taken to Germany.

Cemeteries : With its various cemeteries dating from the XIIth century, Akşehir is like an open-air museum. Some of the head-stones have been removed to the public museum.

Hıdırlık : A very beautiful resting place to the south of Akşehir.

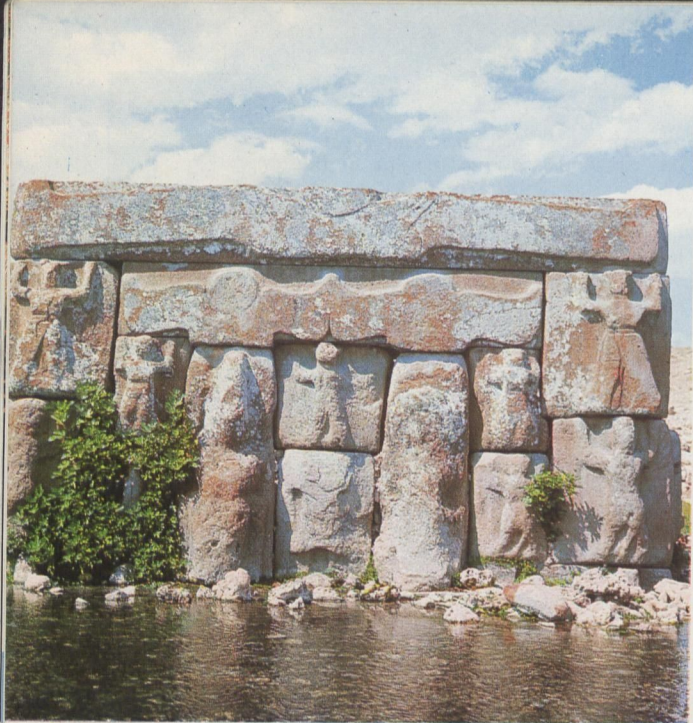
Vahap Gazi (Kesikbaş) : To the northwest of the town. It is a pleasant walk with its springs and green trees. The grave of Vahap Gazi is here.

Nimetullah Nahcuvani : The Great Islamic Thinker lies here in a lovely valley of fir trees.

BEYŞEHİR

This is one of the most picturesque districts in the southern Mediterranean region of Konya province, situated on a low plateau in the western Taurus mountains. The fabulous Beyşehir Lake occupies a large part of the plateau, and is the third largest lake in Turkey. The natural beauties of the lake and its surroundings are breathtaking. There are no fewer than 23 islands of various sizes in the lake. On the largest of these islands, Moda, there is a fascinating small village. The lake itself abounds in fish.

Beyşehir was founded in the time of Alâeddin I, the Seljuk sultan, and was one of the important cities of the Hamidoğulları State at the beginning of the XIV th century. After the Battle of Ankara it passed into the



KONYA: Eflâton Pınar, Hittite Reliefs

Photo: Rıza Tuğcu

ESKİŞEHİR

Eskişehir, founded by the Hittites and famous for its jewellery and meerschaum, is today an important railway centre and industrial town.

The largest part of the province lies in the upper Sakarya area of Central Anatolia.

The province is typical steppe-land, dotted here and there with areas of oak and pine trees. Winters are cold but summers are dry and hot by day and cool and refreshing by night. There is little rainfall, but the River Sakarya and its longest tributary, the Porsuk, flow through the province. Sheep are raised in the province and there is a considerable amount of wheat grown.

The city of Eskişehir is built on the site of the old Phrygian city of Dorylaion and was at its most prosperous during the Byzantine period.

The Persians ruled the city in the VIth century B.C. and two centuries later Alexander the Great incorporated it into his Macedonian State. The Romans ruled it for a time in the IV th century B.C. It passed into Seljuk hands in 1073 and the Crusaders fought valiantly on the Eskişehir plain. Towards the end of the XIII th century it became part of the Ottoman State and was then taken by Tamberlaine. On his retreat from Anatolia it reverted to the Ottoman Turks. During the War of Independence it was occupied by the enemy in 1921 but relieved in 1922.

HISTORICAL MONUMENTS

The Alâeddin Mosque : Built in 1262 by Giyaseddin Keyhüsrev, the Seljukid sovereign.

The Kurşunlu (leaded) Mosque : Built in 1525, during the rule of the Ottomans by Mevlâna Mustafa Paşa, one of the viziers to Suleyman the Magnificent. It has a medrese, an imaret and a caravanseraï.

Hot Springs : The Erler Bath, Şengülcük Yenice and Kıymet Hot Springs are thought to date back to the Byzantine period.

Tombs : The tomb of Ishak Fakih (XV th cent.) and the tomb of Sheikh Edebili (XIV th cent.)

MONUMENTS AND PLACES TO VISIT IN THE VICINITY

Karacaşehir Village : 6 km. to the west of the town. There is a citadel on the steep slopes west of the village which was built by Manuel, the Byzantine Emperor, as a protection against the Seljuks.

hands of the Karamanoğulları and subsequently came under the rule of the Ottomans in the time of Çelebi Sultan Mehmet. There are many old buildings and monuments at Beyşehir dating from the Ottoman Period.

Eşrefoğlu Mosque : This is one of the most famous mosques of the Seljuk period in Anatolia, and also one of the most noted types of Ulucami (great mosque).

Medrese : The seminary stands to the west of the mosque. There was originally a central courtyard but today only the Taçkapı (gateway) and the Saint's grave with one cupola remain.

Bedesten : This is one of the most famous buildings of the Beylik period. It has six domes and four doors. Its exterior was surrounded by shops.

Two Baths : One of the baths dating from the Beylik period is opposite the Bedesten and is in still in good condition

Demirci Mescit : This is one of two small mosques dating from the Beylik period.

Walks : Bademli and Anamos forests. The Anamos forest is reached by boat across the lake.



ESKİŞEHİR: The Porsuk River

Photo: Hayri Tuncer



Yunus Emre : The monument of Yunus Emre who is one of the oldest Turkish folk poets and mystics stands here and every year there is a commemoration ceremony in his honour.

Seyyit Battal Gazi Totality : 43 km. south of Eskişehir. There are city walls and a citadel, remains dating from the Byzantine period and mausoleums of the Seljukid and Ottoman commanders. It is a unique and imposing complex, with many additions since the XIII th century.

Büyük Yayla (The Great Pasture) : Located west of Seyyit Gazi. On the hill are tombs and some ruins dating back to the Hittite, Phrygian and Byzantine periods.

Şeh Sacceddin Türbesi (The Mausoleum of Şeh Sacceddin) : It is 5 km. to the north-west of Seyyit Gazi. Other tombs are nearby.

Yazılı Kayalar (Inscribed Rocks) : The town of Midas is 89 km. from Eskişehir in the Çifteler district. This was a Phrygian town founded in the VII th century B.C. The tomb of King Midas is said to be here. There are various inscriptions in the Phrygian language, graves carved in the rock and other historical ruins which are worth seeing. Near the Yazılı Kayalar (Inscribed Rocks) at sites called Büyük Yazılı and Küçük Yazılı and also at the villages of Kümbet and Çukurca, there are caves known as Gerdek Kale, Doğanlı Kale and Aslanlı Mabet which are believed to have been used as dwelling places during prehistoric times.

Sivrihisar : 98 km. from Eskişehir. There are Seljukid, Ahiyan and Ottoman monuments and ruins worth a visit.

Buildings : Hızırbey Mosque (XV th century), Yunus Hoca's Tomb (1276), Seyyit Bath (1329), cloister, tomb and medrese (1348) of Mahmut Suzam, the Kurşunlu Mosque (1493), Hamdi Baba's Tomb (XVI th cent.), Balalum Mosque (XIV th cent.), Bath. In Karahisar Köyü : an ancient Mosque.

Ballıhisar : 15 km. to the south-east of Sivrihisar. The ruins of the town of Pessinus founded by the Phrygians are to be found here. This was a place of worship to the Mother Goddess, Cybele. There are also ruins of the temple, mausoleum, the small theatre and a church to be seen. The famous, ancient Road of Kings connecting Izmir and Ankara passed through here.

Güngüzü : 49 km. to the east of Sivrihisar. Ruins and monuments from the periods of the Romans, Byzantines, Seljukids and Ottomans are to be seen here.

Sakarya Başı (The Source of the Sakarya River) : It is close to Çifteler and is the source of the Sakarya River. There is a small but very deep lake surrounded by pastures.

Taycılar Eşmeleri : This summer resort is in the Alçı district and is noted for its curative hot springs and pine woods.

Büyük Yayla (The Great Pastureland) : This village near Seyit Gazi surrounded by thick pine forests and with its hot springs, makes an ideal camping site.

ESKİŞEHİR: Kilim Weaving

Photo: Hayri Tuncer



KAYSERİ

The town of Kayseri is situated on a large plain in Central Anatolia at the foot of the towering Mount Erciyeş. Of major interest to tourists because of its many important monuments Kayseri is, nevertheless, a key commercial centre noted for its production of textiles, smoked meat and sugar.

Mount Erciyeş is the highest mountain in the province and plays a major role in local folklore as well as providing a place for winter sports.

Winters in the province are cold and snowy but summers are dry and hot.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

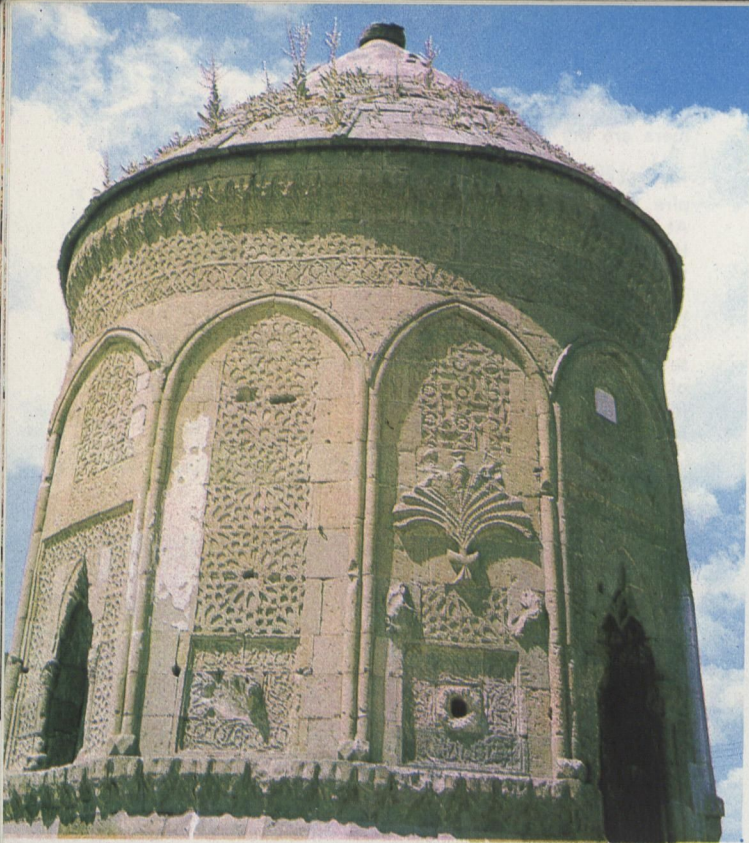
Kayseri was within the territory of the Hittite Empire, the first legislative and political state in Anatolia. At Karahöyük or Kültepe to the north-east of the town, Hittite inscriptions and works of arts have been found that date back to the XXV th century B.C.

At one time in the hands of the Babylonians and the Assyrians the region fell to the Persians in the VI th century B.C. In about 38 B.C. the Capadocian state was established in the Kayseri region with the town of Kayseri as its capital. In the first century A.D. the town became part of the Roman Empire and developed into an important centre of Christianity. In the Roman

Photo : Sami Güner

KAYSERİ : View of the City





KAYSERİ: Döner Kümbet (A Seljuk Mausoleum)

Photo: Celâl Çelikten

Empire there were many towns called «Caesarea» so in order to distinguish Kayseri from the others it was called «Caeserea Mazeca»

Kılıç Aslan I, made it a part of the Seljuk State. For a short time, the town was held by the Mongols and then by the Ertena Beylik. In 1515, during the reign of Sultan Selim the Brave, it became a part of the Ottoman Empire.

HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND PLACES IN THE TOWN

The City Wall and The Inner Citadel : The walls to the north of the town were constructed during the time of the Byzantine Emperor Justinian. The other parts were

built by Alâeddin Keykubat and repaired by the Karmanoğulları and the Ottomans. They remain in good condition today. The Inner Citadel, 200 m. long, has been kept in fairly good condition and is now being completely restored.

Ulu Camii (The Great Mosque) : Built in 1335 by Melik Mehmet Gazi of the Danişmentöğulları. The minaret is of tiles in a mosaic design. The mosque has two domes and its wooden «minber» (pulpit) is very finely carved.

The Güllük Mosque : Built in 1205. Its «mihrab» (altar) is beautifully decorated with tiles. The «medrese» and the bath adjoining the mosque are in ruins.

The Honat Hatun Mosque : This mosque, one of the finest monuments in Kayseri, is located next to a «Medrese» and a tomb which are identically named. It was built in 1237, in honour of Mehpare Hatun who was the wife of Alâeddin Keykubat and the mother of Gıyasettin Keyhüsrev II. It is built of dark coloured stones. The frame of the portal is adorned with fine designs. The double arches show fine workmanship. The minaret on the east side of the door has been recently built.

The Honat Hatun Tomb : This tomb is octagonal, the sides encircled by double bands decorated with fine geometrical designs. The interior of the tomb is very simple. Of the three sarcophagi in the tomb, the white marble one belongs to Mehpare Hatun. The inscription on it is the most artistic «Sülüs» of its period. Today this tomb is a museum.

The Hacı Kılıç Mosque and the Medrese: Built in 1249 by Abdül Kasım Ali Tosil, the Seljukid vizier. The doors of the Medrese and the mosque are very finely worked.

The Sahabiye Medrese : Built in 1267 by Sahipata, one of the Seljuk viziers. The geometrical carving on the top and sides of the door, represent one of the most beautiful works of art of the late Seljuk period.

Kurşunlu Camii (The Leaded Mosque) or Ahmet Paşa Mosque : Designed by the architect Sinan and built in 1584. The name was derived from the fact that the dome is covered with lead.

KÜMBET (MAUSOLEA OR FUNERAL VAULTS)

The Kasbek Kümbet : Built in 1281 in the Seljuk period, it is one of the oldest of its kind. It is octagonal and its dome is conical.

Döner Kümbet (The Turning Kümbet) : Built in the middle of the XII th century, it is twelve-sided and has

a conical roof. It is the grave of Sultan Şah Cihan, and is decorated with reliefs of twin eagles, panther figures, palm leaves and arabesque motifs.

Sırçalı Kümbet (The Crystal Kümbet) : Built in 1247. It is octagonal and its roof is also conical.

Twin Kümbet : Built in 1247. It is octagonal with a conical roof.

OTHER KÜMBETS ARE :

Ali Cafer Kümbet (1247), Köşk Kümbet (1341), Emir Şahap Kümbet (1310) and Emir Sultan Kümbet (1397).

Gıyasiye - Şifahiye : This was the first medical school and was opened in 1205. The two buildings are joined by an internal passage. Its door is beautifully worked.

Baths : Sultan Bath (1205), Cafer Bey Bath (1151), aKdı Bath (1548) and Selâhattin Bath (1590).

MUSEUMS

The Regional Museum : The Mehpere Hatun Tomb is used as a museum today. Inscriptions, reliefs, sarcophagi, tablets, sealed pottery and seals from the Phrygian and Hittite periods are exhibited here.

The Seljuk Museum : The Sahabiye Medrese is used to display Seljuk art today.

MONUMENTS AND PLACES TO VISIT IN THE VICINITY Caravanserais :

The Sultan Inn : This is one of the most beautiful inns in the Middle East. It is on the road from Kayseri to Sivas and was built by Alâeddin Keykubat.

The Karatay Inn : It is located at the village of Karatay, in the district of Bünyan. It was built in 1255 by Celâlettin Karatay, one of the Seljuk viziers.

The Karamustafa Paşa Caravanserai : 35 km. from Kayseri. It was built in 1081 by Karamustafa Paşa of Merzifon. Adjacent to the caravanserai there is a mosque, a bath and a covered market.

Develi Town : It is at the foot of Mount Erciyes to the south of Kayseri. Founded by the Seljuk Turks it flourished during their rule.

The monuments worth seeing are : The Develi Mosque (1281) and the Seyit Şerif Tomb (1276).

Kültepe Town : 22 Km. to the north-east of Kayseri. From excavations it is believed that Kaneş, a Hittite and Assyrian town was located here. The Kültepe excavations are in two sections : The first is the Kültepe Höyük (Mound) where the settlement began and the second section is at Karum. The Kültepe excavations revealed four different cultures, the Bronze and Copper Age, the Hittite Phrygian and Roman periods.

Karum : This was a town where Assyrian traders established a colony. Four different cultures were revealed in the excavations at different levels. In the IInd and IIIrd levels were found tablets with figures and hieroglyphics which revealed Assyrian trade transactions between 2000-1500 B.C. The lower levels unveiled the Hittite period in the XIXth and the XVIIIth centuries B.C. Among the objects found during the excavations, there were approximately 15.000 tablets, seals, female idols and ceramics. Some of these objects are kept in the Kayseri Museum and others are exhibited in the Hittite Archeology Museum at Ankara.

Fraktin : 78 km. to the south of Kayseri. It is one of the important historical places of the Hittite period.

KAYSERİ: Sultan Han (A Seljuk Caravanserai)

Photo: Rıza Tuğcu





KAYSERİ: Peasant Girls

Photo: Sami Güner

where a monument called the Yazılı Kaya (The Inscribed Rock) consists of reliefs .

Şimşek Kaya : Very close to İmam Kulu. In this region Hittite inscriptions and carved reliefs are found on a great rock. The inscriptions found here were transferred to the Kayseri Museum and are exhibited there. In addition, there are the Çok Göz Köprüsü (The Many Arched Bridge) and the Mehmet Paşa Mosque (1722) which can be seen in Erkiilet.

Mount Erciyeş : It is a high mountain to the south of Kayseri, covered by snow all the year round and an excellent spot for winter sports and sking. There is a hotel and a ski-hut.

Tekir : It is at the foot of Mount Erciyeş and a pleasant holiday resort.

Talas : A very attractive town, 8 km. from Kayseri.

SİVAS

The town of Sivas is rich in historical monuments, particularly those of the Seljuk Turks. It has always been an important commercial centre and today still functions as an agricultural market town.

Kösedağı, Tekelidağı, Asmalıdağı and Yıldızdağı are the main mountains of the province and lie between the Kelkit and Kızılırmak rivers. To the southeast are the Gulverlik and Teçer mountains. Vast plateaux range between these chains of mountains. The most important river is the Kızılırmak but the Çaltı and Tohma, tributaries of the Euphrates, are important for irrigation.

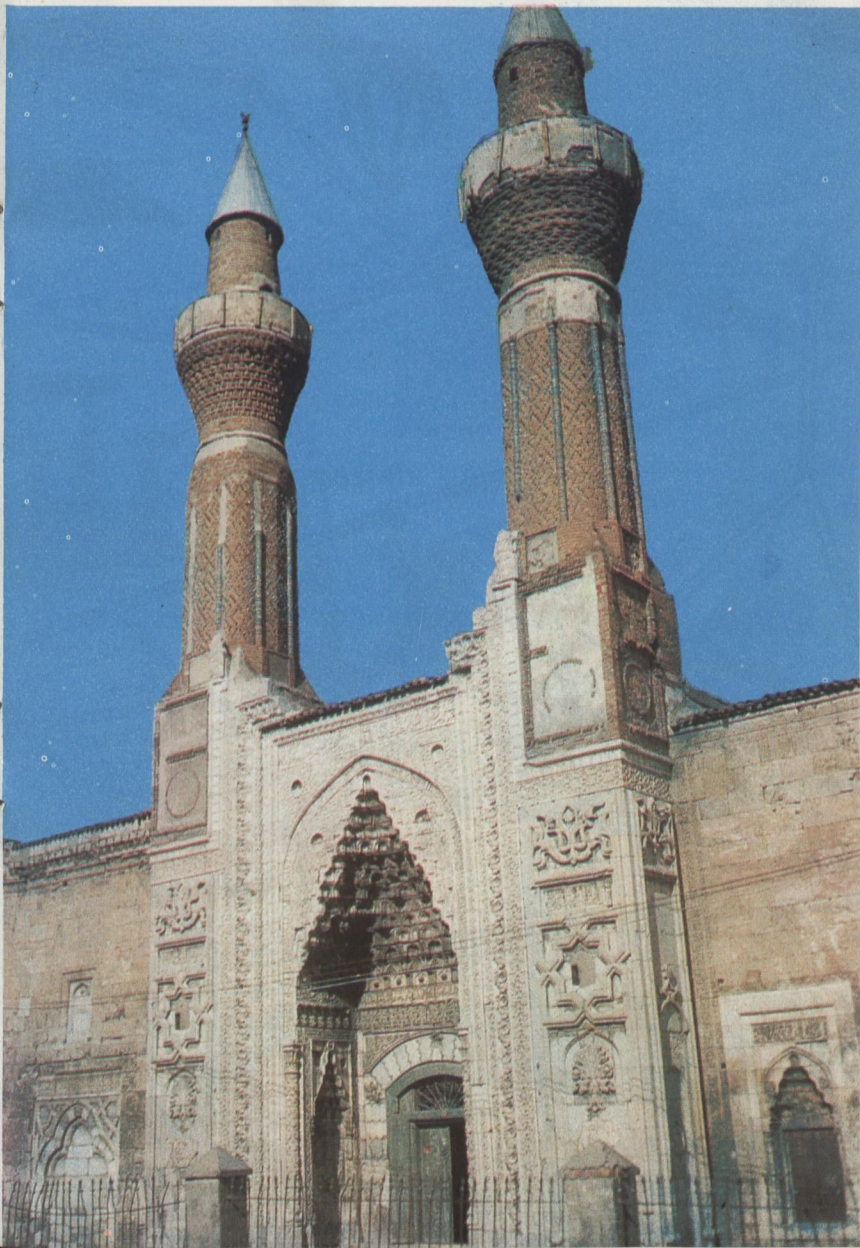
The economy of the province is basically agricultural, with emphasis on grain and livestock. Deposits of iron are being worked at Divrik and there are lignite deposits at Gemerek.

Winters are severe with snow often remaining until April, but summers are hot and dry.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The province has been settled since ancient times for there are barrows from very early times. Excavations at Kelhidir have yielded objects from the Stone, Bronze and Copper Ages. Items found in the Dölek region of the town of Sarkisla have proved that the area was under Hittite rule in 2000 B.C.

It is thought that the town of Sivas was founded on Toprakkale by the Hittites and that its name is derived from «Sibasip», the name of one of the Hittite tribes. The Phrygians, the Assyrians, the Romans and the Byzantines have all ruled over the area. During the time of the Byzantines Sivas was a bishopric. Later King Sene Kerim Hovhannes of Armenia established a state in the region and made Sivas his capital, but the Seljuk Turks took over the area in 1059. By 1081 it was the centre of the Danişment Beylik, then came under the İlhanlı and by the XIV th century came under the government of Kadi Burhanettin. At the beginning of the XV th century it



was included in the Ottoman Empire by Sultan Beyazıt, the Thunderbolt. Sivas showed great heroism during the War of Independence.

HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND PLACES TO VISIT IN THE TOWN

The Citadel : It is divided into two sections, the Upper Citadel and Lower Citadel. The Lower Citadel had five gates with walls 25 metres high. They were repaired in the reigns of Justinian, the Byzantine Emperor, the Danişmentoğulları, Alâeddin Keykubat I and Kadı Burhanettin, but today there is no trace of the Upper Citadel walls.

Şifaiye: It was built as a hospital in 1277 by İzzettin Keykuvüs I the Seljukid Sultan, and contains his tomb. The interior is decorated with tiles. This most significant institution of the period belongs to a group of buildings concentrated there, including a bath, medrese, mosque etc. There are four exedras. The part that serves as a mausoleum has very beautiful tiles. To the east of the medrese is a bath dating from the Ottoman period.

Çifte Minare (The Twin Minaret) : Built in 1271 by Şemseddin Mehmet, one of the Seljuk viziers. The main building, in the form of a rectangle, is in ruins today, except for the façade. Its main gate, 20 metres high and made of stone is one of the most beautiful examples of the stone carving workmanship of the period. The gate is flanked on both sides by a minaret with a single gallery and decorated with tiles.

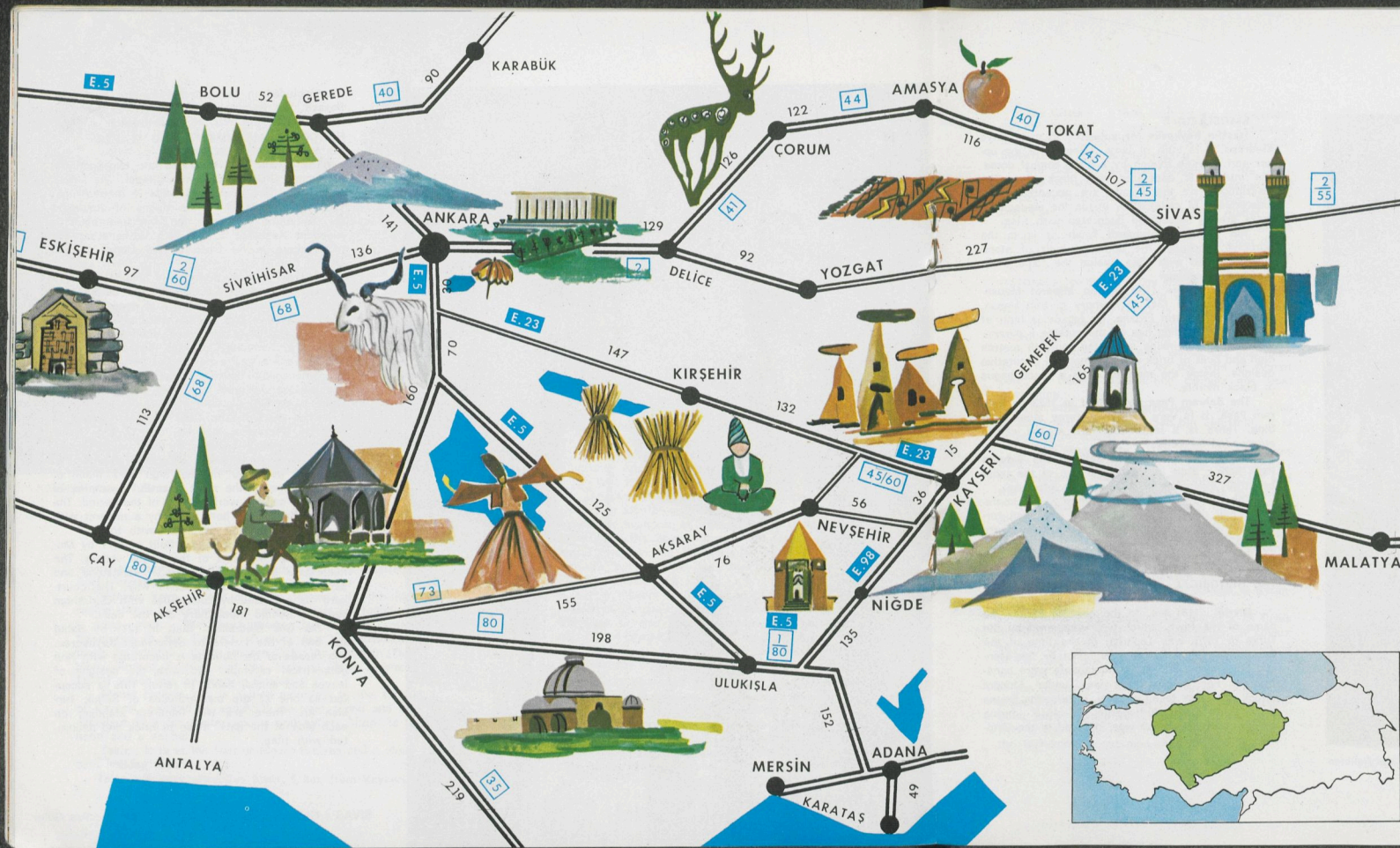
The Bürüciye Medrese : Built in 1271 by Muzafer Bürüricirci, one of the Seljuk viziers. The main gate is made of yellowish sandstone and decorated in a most attractive way. The courtyard is encircled by colonnades with Corinthian capitals. Behind them there are the cells.

The Gök Medrese : Built in 1271 by Sahip Ata one of the viziers to Gıyaseddin Keyhüsrev. The façade of the building is decorated with fine geometrical carvings, and with the designs of leaves and animal heads in relief. This is accepted as one of the masterpieces of Seljuk Turkish art. There are two minarets standing on each side of the gate, made of brick and decorated with tiles.

SIVAS : Gök Medrese

Photo : Ara Güler





Ulu Cami (The Great Mosque) : Built by the Danişmentogulları in the XII th century. The construction of the leaning minaret dates back to the XIV th century and it is banded by tiles with cufic inscriptions. The ground-plan of the mosque is a parallelogram. In the interior there are 45 columns of stone set in rows 5X9 and connected by arches.

The Meydan Mosque : Built in 1562 by Koca Hasan Paşa, one of the viziers to Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent. It is of rectangular design and made of stone. It has no dome and its roof is supported by square pillars. Opposite stand a tomb and a bath.

The Kale (Citadel) Mosque : Built in 1580 by Mahmut Paşa, one of the viziers to Murat III. It has a dome covered with lead and a single minaret made of brick.

The Ali Ağa Mosque : Built in the XVI th century by Mustafa Bey, the son of Behram Paşa. Its dome is covered with lead. The mosque is said to be a work of Sinan.

Yeni Cami (The New Mosque) : Built in the XVIII th century by Alime Hatun, the wife of Seli Ağa. It has been extensively repaired recently.

- ==== Hard surfaced roads
- — — — Loose surfaced roads of good standards
- Provincial centers
- Town centers





SIVAS: Folklore

Photo: Celâl Çelikten

MAUSOLEUMS

İzzettin Keykavüs Mausoleum : In the Şifaiye Medrese, it is built of large stones with the upper part in tiles topped by a high, conical dome. The interior is decorated with black tiles. The inscriptions on the façade are accepted as a masterpiece of calligraphy. Inside the mausoleum there are 13 sarcophagi decorated with tiles.

The Muzaffer Bürücerdi Tomb: It is in the Bürüciye Medrese. The dome is built of stone and decorated with tiles. Inside the tomb there are two sarcophagi.

Güdük Minare (The Broken Minaret Mausoleum) : Built in 1347 in memory of Şeh Hasan, the son of Alâettin Erdana. Its façade is built of marble, the building has on the outside a pyramidal and on the inside a vaulted roof, 10 metres high and built of brick with geometrical decorative designs. Inside the mausoleum is a sarcophagus of black marble.

The Behram Paşa Inn : Built in 1573 by Behram Paşa. It is very solid two-storey stone building. There is a large courtyard at the centre surrounded by cells.

The Kurşunlu (Leaded) Bath or the Behram Paşa Bath : Built in 1576, it is one of the most beautiful examples of Ottoman architecture.

The Museum of the Revolution : The conference hall of the Sivas Congress has been turned into a museum together with the room where Atatürk stayed.

The Kale Park : The old Citadel of Sivas has been transformed into a pleasant Municipal Park.

THE HISTORICAL PLACES AND MONUMENTS IN THE VICINITY

Divriği : 181 km. to the east of Sivas. The name of the town, which was conquered by the Turks in 1070, was Tephrike in the time of the Byzantines. When Divriği was taken by the Mengüç Emirik in 1252, many monuments were constructed. For a period it was under Mongol attack, then was taken over by, in turn, the Eretna Beylik and Kadı Bürhanettin. In 1516, during the reign of Selim I, it was included in the Ottoman territories.

The Citadel : It was built by the Mengüçoğulları in the XIII th century. There is a mosque inside the Citadel which was built by Seyfuddin Şahanaşah 'of the Mengüçoğulları.

Ulu Cami (The Great Mosque) : The Great Mosque of Divriği is one of the masterpieces of Selçuk architecture and the decorative art of that time. It was built in 1228 by Ahmet Şah, the son of Süleyman Şah. The main building is divided into two parts connected with each other. One of the sections was intended to be a hospital, the Hospital of Princess Turan Melik. It is of rectangular design and has three main gates. The gate in the north-east wing which is called Taç Kapısı (The Crown Gate) is decorated with floral and geometrical designs and is a fine example of the stone carving workmanship of the time. The adjoining hospital which was used also as a medrese was built by the wife of Ahmet Şah. Its reliefs representing animals are most interesting.

The Sitte Melik Mausoleum : Built in 1166 by Emin Seif-üddin Şahin Şah bin Süleyman. It is octagonal in shape.

Other Monuments : The Hisar Mosque was built in 1180 in the time of the Mengüçekler; the Kemalettin Mausoleum was built in 1191 and the Keman Kaş Mausoleum dates back to 1241.

The Inns : Yeni Han (The New Inn) : On the Sivas-Tokat road, the Serçe Inn on the Sivas-Malatya road, the Tecer Inn and the Yazı Inn are all examples of Selçuk architecture. On the other hand the Alaca Inn, at the Alaca village near Kangal, was built by the Ottomans and the Ağaca Inn, at the village of Ağaca near Kangal, is Byzantine.

Şarkışla : This one of the districts of Sivas situated in the upper Kızılırmak region. It covers an area of 2614 sq. km. and its population is 61.466. The town, which is located on the railway and on main roads plays an important role in the economy of Sivas. Its carpet industry is especially famous. At the site of Dölek, excavations have yielded relics of the Hittite period. This is the native town of Aşık Veysel Şatıroğlu, the well-known contemporary folk poet.



SIVAS: The Lake of Gök Pınar

Photo: Celâl Çelikten





Photo : Sami Güner

ÇORUM : View of the City



ÇORUM

Çorum is a typical Turkish industrial and market town on the main Ankara-Samsun road, nestling on a plain between mountains.

The mountains nearest the Black Sea are heavily forested while the mountain ranges facing west are covered by steppe.

Although winters in Çorum province are cold, there is little rainfall and summers are usually dry and hot. The major industries are cement and flour and the region is noted for its production of copper objects.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Not much is known about the history of the town of Corum although its ancient name is believed to have been Niconia. The town was taken over from the Byzantines by Ahmet Gazi, the Danişment Melik and was ruled in turn by the Seljuks, the Mongols and the Ilhanlihar. For a period it came under the Eretna State and in the time of Yıldırım Beyazıt was incorporated into the Ottoman Empire. The area was attached to various neighbouring provinces over the centuries but during the Republican period became a province in its own right.

HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND PLACES

TO VISIT IN THE TOWN

Ulu Camii (The Grand Mosque) : Built in the XIII th century in the time of the Seljuks. It was repaired in the XIX th century.

The İnyet Mosque : Built during the XVII-XVIII th centuries.

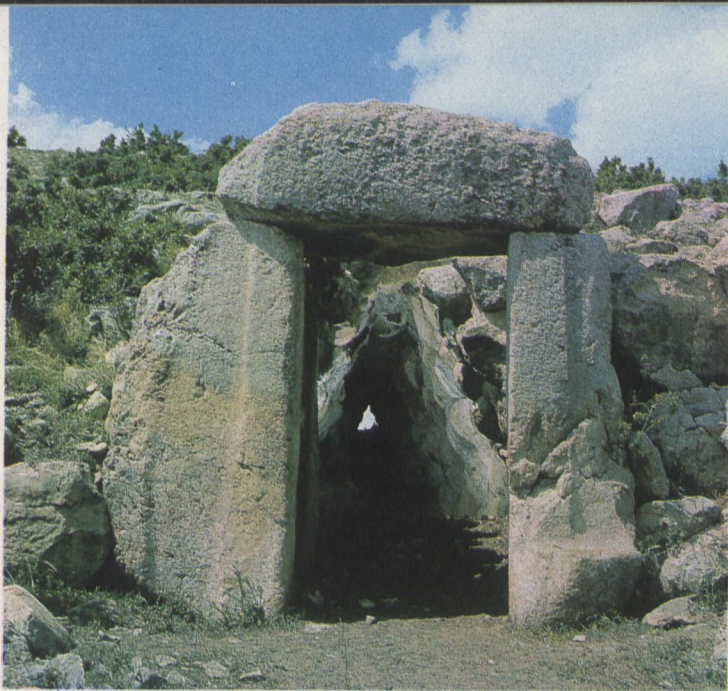
Saat Kulesi : Clock-tower (XIX th cent.)

The Atatürk Monument : Erected in honour of Atatürk, the founder of the Turkish Republic.

İşkilip : 10 Islamic buildings; **Osmancık** : four, **Sungurlu** : six.

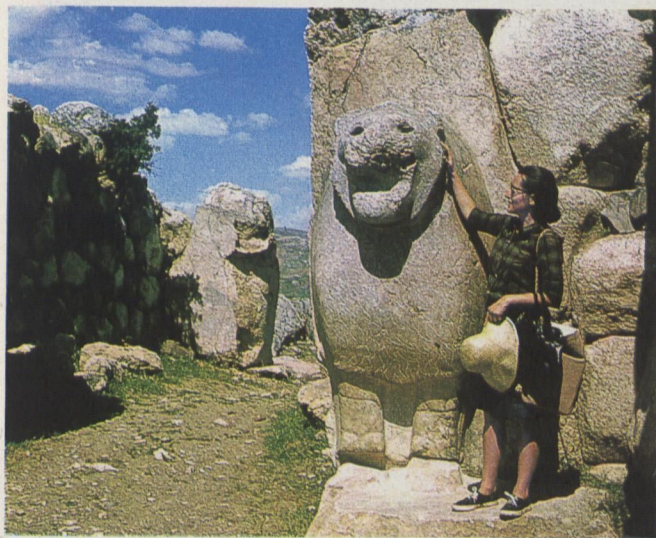
IN THE VICINITY

Alacahöyük (Arinna) : It is 34 km. to the north-east of **Boğazköy** : Excavations reveal that the town, near Sungurlu, was founded towards the middle of the IV th century B.C. Archaeologists have uncovered evidence to show that the Hittites had a settlement here. Other excavations have yielded pottery dating back to the Neolithic period with simple designs on a yellow-grey



ÇORUM: Boğazköy, Yer Kapı (Potern)

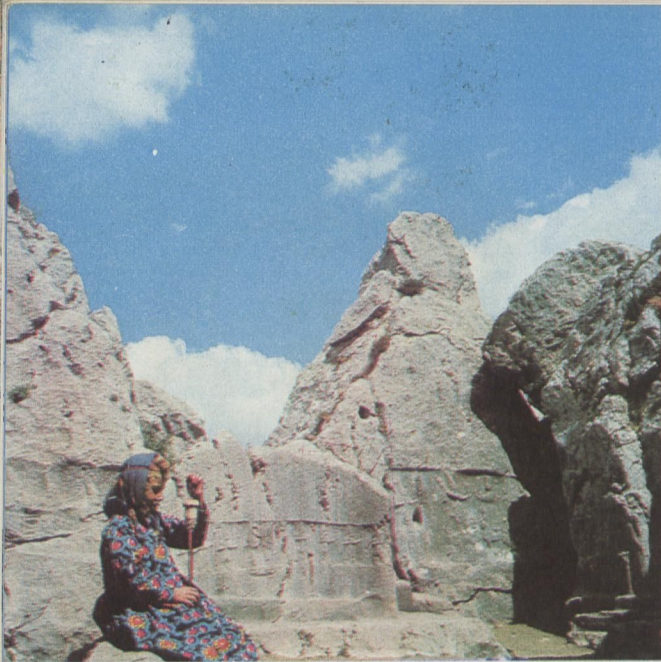
Photo: Sonia Halliday



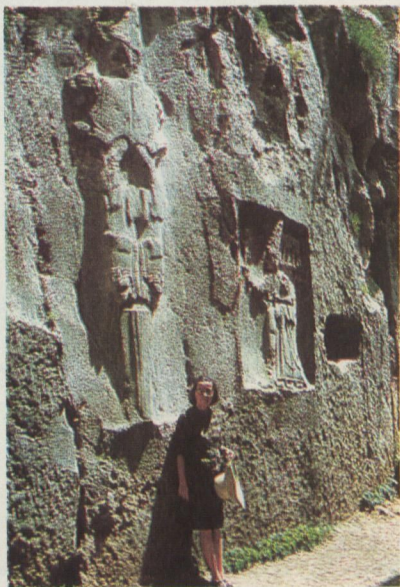
ÇORUM: Boğazköy, Aslanlı Kapı (Lion's Gate)

Photo: Edwin Rizi





ÇORUM : Yazılıkaya Hittite Open Air Temple Photo : Sami Güner



ÇORUM: Boğazköy, Yazılıkaya
Photo: Edvin Rizi

or red background. Ceramics dating from the Calcolithic period carry designs that show they were made by fingertips and fingertails. Objects relating to the Copper and Bronze Ages, the Phrygian, Roman, Byzantine and Turkish periods have also been found. Many of the finds have been taken to the Ankara museum but the small museum in the village is well worth a visit. The Alacahöyük excavations are basically on four distinct levels.

The First Level : Covers the period of 3200-2600 B.C. In this period buildings were set on stone foundations. The upper part of the buildings were built of earth (clay) and the interior surface of the walls was smooth. The walls of the houses were made of bamboo (cane). In this period metal was used for the first time and metal objects were used for the interior decoration of the houses. The corpses of the dead were buried in graves and covered with stones.

The Second Level : Covers the period of 2500—2100 B.C.. A great fire destroyed the works of this period. There remain only 14 tombs that are thought to have belonged to 14 kings, and are attributed to the Copper Age. The construction style with flat roofs, clay or earth floors and ceilings resembles that of contemporary Central Anatolia. In Anatolia, copper and iron were used during this period for the first time. The tombs have yielded copper ornaments and ornamental ware.

The Third Level : Covers the period between 2000—1200 B.C.. There are considerable Hittite works at this level. The foundation stones of the buildings are small and attached to each other with clay. The remains of a temple with a sphinx at its door, iron melting facilities next to the temple, a large sewage system, wide and well planned roads, squares and more comfortable and improved housing facilities, all reflect a developed town system of the Hittite period. The entrance gate of the town is on the south wing of the walls which are in the form of earth vaults.

The sphinxes standing on each side of this gate were taken to the Ankara Hittite Museum.

The Fourth Level : At this top level all the cultures from the Phrygians to the Ottomans can easily be traced side by side. The remains include buildings, pottery and coins.

BOĞAZKÖY (Hattusas) : Located near Sungurlu. The town of Boğazköy, which was the capital of the Hittite Empire, is surrounded by a wall 7 km. in length. There are also small fortifications existing in the town.

The most important ones are the Yenice Citadel, Genç (Young) Citadel, and Nişantepe. The town, which covers a very large area, can be entered through seven main gates. Three of these gates, Aslanlı Kapı (Lion Gate), Sfenksli Kapı (Sphinx Gate) and Kral Kapısı (Royal Gate) are sufficiently well preserved to give a good idea of Hittite architecture. As a result of excavations, a number of underground secret passages were found. The Yerkapı Geçidi (Underground Passage), which is 70 km. long, is still open today. Inside the town are the ruins of a royal palace and five temples. The royal palace is located at the site known as the Büyük Kale (Great Citadel), About 10.000 tablets throwing light on Hittite history have been found here during excavations.

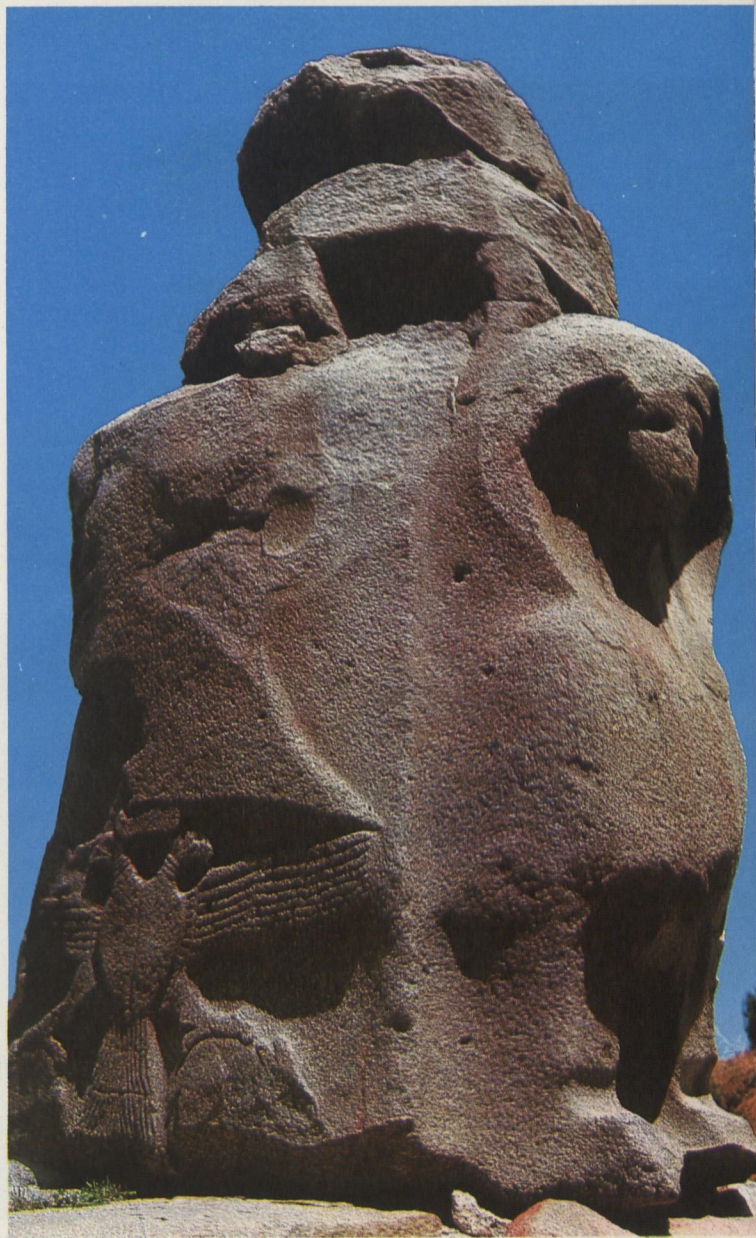
Yazılı Kaya (The Inscribed Rock) : Just 3 km. from Boğazköy, it consists of two galleries, one large and one small, surrounded by numerous rocks. In these galleries reliefs of gods and goddesses are seen on the walls. In the large gallery there are 67 reliefs of gods and goddesses. They are depicted in two processions marching towards each other. The procession on the right is formed by the goddesses and on the left by the gods. Hepatu (Wurusema), the Goddess of the Sun leads the procession of goddesses and Teshup (Tarhundas), the God of Tempests leads his procession. In the small gallery, there are 18 reliefs including a Hittite king protected by a god, the God of the Sword of the Hittites.

Pazarlı : It is 30 km. to the east of Alacahöyük. Here remains from the Bronze, Hittite, Phrygian, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods have been found. The most important of them is the Phrygian castle that dates back to the Vth century B.C.. Most of the pottery and earthenware found here are displayed in the Ankara Archaeology Museum.

Büyük Göllücek : 15 km. to the north of Alacahöyük, it is situated on a hill. In this vault (barrow) were found objects of bone, stone and earth and the ruins of several buildings and a citadel from the Phrygian period.

Mecitözü : 5 km. to the south west of Alacahöyük; its ancient name was Euchaita. In the Işıklar section are graves of the Roman period.

Osmancık : This district is situated on the Kızılırmak river, and is ideal for hunting deer, wild goat, wild boar, rabbit and partridges.



ÇORUM: Alacahöyük

Photo : Edvin Rizl





AMASYA: A View of the City

Photo: Rıza Tuğcu

AMASYA

Amasya is a picturesque and fascinating town lying in the verdant valley of the Yeşilirmak (Green River) surrounded by rugged rocky terrain. It is well worth a visit from both the scenic and historical points of view for it is very rich in interesting monuments, particularly from the Seljuk and Ottoman periods.

Primarily agricultural, Amasya province is noted for its fruit and wine. There are important lignite deposits and textiles are the major industry of the province.

While winters are cold the summers are warm, pleasant and relatively dry.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Excavations on the Suluova plain in the western area of the province have yielded objects dating from Calcolithic, Bronze Age, Hittite and Phrygian periods, showing that the area was inhabited as long ago as 3000 B.C.

The history of the town goes back to ancient times and was once known as «Amaseia». The town is said to have been founded on the hill on which the citadel stands today. It was captured respectively by Phrygians, Cimmerians, Medes, Persians, Macedonians and by the Pontus State. The town is known to have been destroyed in the 1st century B.C. by the Roman general, Pompeius.

Amasya is the birthplace of Strabo, the famed geographer. It was a bishopric in the Byzantine period (323 — 327 A.D.) and was restored by the Emperor Phocas. Captured by the Turks in 1075, Amasya became capital of the Danisment State. In 1193 Amasya was annexed to the Seljuk State and restored to glory. Then the town was captured in turn by the Ilhanlı State, the Eretna State and in 1392 by Yıldırım Beyazid, when it became a province of the Ottoman Empire. Amasya was so important in Ottoman times that many of the Sultans acted directly as governors, including Fatih Mehmet, Beyazid II, and Murat III.

HISTORICAL SITES AND PLACES TO VISIT IN THE TOWN

The Citadel: It is situated on the steep rocks to the north of the Yeşilirmak. Built in Hellenistic times it was repeatedly restored by Byzantines, Romans, Seljuks and Ottoman Turks. Today the ruins of a cistern, mosque, dungeon, tower and a secret underground passage can still be seen.

The Gök Medrese Ensemble : It was built in 1267 by Seyfettin Toruntay, one of the governors of Amasya. It is composed of a mosque, a theological college and a vault (kümbet). The wooden door of the mosque represents a very fine example of wood-carving. Because of the bluegreen tiles the medrese is called Gök Medrese (gök = sky)

Toruntay Türbesi (The Toruntay Mausoleum) : One of the most beautiful of the Seljuk Mausoleums, it was built in 1266 by Seyfettin Toruntay, governor of Amasya.

Burmali Minare (The Twisted Minaret) : This mosque was built in 1242, by Necmettin Ferruh Bey, one of the Seljuk Emirs to Sultan Keyhusrev. During the Ottoman period it was repaired several times. The Twisted Minaret is particularly interesting.

Asylum (Tımarhane) : Built in 1309, during the reign of Sultan Mahmut Olcaytuğ of the İlhanlı State. The front side is decorated with floral ornaments in relief. It is one of the well known hospitals that have survived, and has been restored.

Sultan Mesut Türbesi (The Mausoleum of Sultan Mesut) : The front of this tomb, built in the XIV th century, is ornamented with geometric patterns.

Bayazıt Paşa Camii (The Bayazıt Paşa Mosque) : Built in 1414. At the front it has a colonnade with five arches. Its façade is of marble and the sides of stone.

The Yörgüç Paşa Mosque : It was built in 1430, by Yörgüç Paşa, one of the viziers to the Ottoman Sultan Mehmet I. There are three tombs inside the mosque including that of the founder.

Sultan Bayazıt Mosque : It was built in 1486 by Prince Ahmet, who at that time was governor of Amasya, by order of his father Sultan Bayazıt II. The stone-carvings of its minarets are very beautiful.

The Amasya Museum : Here there are archaeological and ethnographical works on display. The mummies of several personalities belonging to the ruling house of İlhan of the XIV th century can be seen.

Bedesten (The Covered Bazaar) : Built in 1483, by Hüseyin Ağa, during the reign of Sultan Bayazıt. It has four gates.

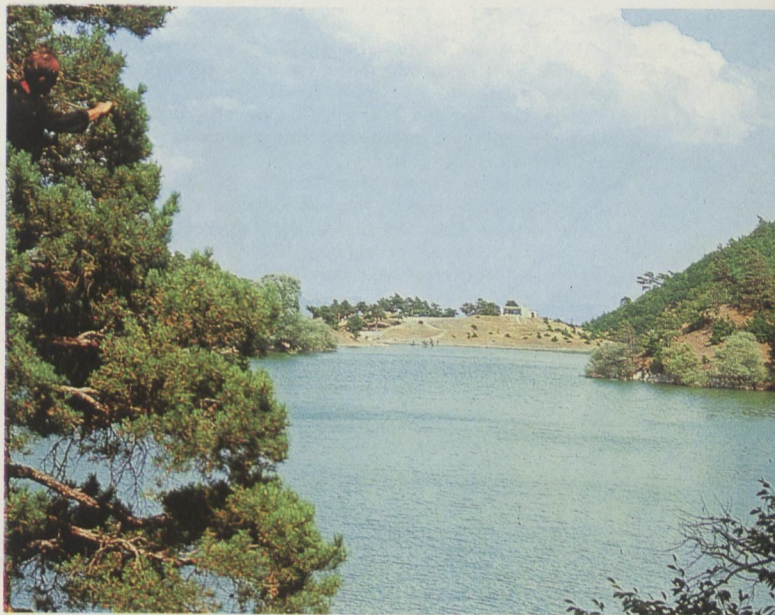
Hatuniye Mosque : It was built in 1509 by Bülbül Hatun the wife of Bayazıt II. and mother of Prince Ahmet. The mosque was originally designed as a minaret and school.

Taşhan (Inn) : This is a caravanserai, a stone structure, erected in 1698 by Hacı Mehmet Paşa.



AMASYA : A Mosque

Photo : Sami Güner



AMASYA: The Lake of Borabay

Photo: Rıza Tuğcu



Alçak Köprü (The Low Bridge) : This is the oldest of the bridges over the Yeşilirmak. The present bridge rests upon the old wooden arches.

The other bridges are : Kuş Köprüsü, Çola Köprüsü, Meydan Köprüsü and Maydanoz Köprüsü.

HISTORICAL SITES AND PLACES TO VISIT IN THE VICINITY

Saray Düzü : This palace standing on the right bank of the Yeşilirmak was built for the Ottoman princes. Today, only some parts of the baths and the outer walls remain.

Ferhat Su Kanalı : According to legend a young man named Ferhat fell in love with Shirin, the daughter of the ruler and to demonstrate how great his love was dug a canal through rock in 39 days to bring water to the city.

Merzifon : Merzifon, the ancient Phazemon, situated 49 km. from Amasya, is one of the historical towns of Anatolia.

The principal architectural monuments are: The Çelebi Sultan Mehmet Medrese (1416), The Merzifonlu Kara Mustafa Paşa Mosque (1666), The Duri Mehmet Efendi Medrese (1733), and the two mosques with baths built by Çelebi Mehmet and his son Murat II.

Gümüşhacıköy : 75 km. to the north-east of Amasya. The town is noted for weaving in cotton, wool and hair. The principal historical buildings are a bazaar erected in 1666 by Köprülü Mehmet Paşa and a Clock Tower of the same period.

Tombs cut into the rocks : On the southern outskirts of the town are graves cut into the rocks, dating from the Hellenistic period.

Aynalı Mağara (The Mirror Cave) : This is a tomb cut into the rock, dating from the Hellenistic period. Its name derives from the fact that it reflects the rays of the sun. In the XI th century it was used by the monks. It is decorated with paintings both inside and out.

Çakallar : South of Amasya, it is a beautiful excursion place famous for its fruit.

Zigere Köyü : This is one of the model-villages, famous since the Seljuk period for its delicious fruit and refreshing waters. The most delicious cherries and apples come from here.

Borabay : 65 km. to the southeast of Amasya, it is a crater lake 900 m long and 30 m deep, encircled by pine and chestnut trees and by weeping-willows. Twelve recreation-houses are at the disposal of tourists and campers are welcome.

Hot Springs : Terziköy, Gözlek (Gök Höyük) and Hamamözü (Gümüş Hacı Köyü).

ÇANKIRI

It is the heart of the Çankırı province in the north of Central Anatolia which has long been noted for its textiles and its salt mines which have been worked since ancient times.

Winters are generally cold while summers are dry and warm with cool evenings.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Çankırı region is believed to have been inhabited since the Hittite period (XIX th century B.C.) and has been occupied in turn by the Phrygians, Lydians, Persians, Macedonians, Galatians, Romans and Byzantines.

Çankırı was occupied by the Seljuks in the XI th century and later by the Danişment Turks. It came under Ottoman rule in the time of Yıldırım Beyazıt. After becoming the principal town of a small feudal state established by İsfendiyaroğlu Kasım Bey following internal struggles, Çankırı again became part of the Ottoman Empire in 1459, during the reign of Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror.

HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND PLACES

Castle (Citadel) : It was constructed by the Byzantines and repaired by the Turks.

Şaimescidi : This hospital was built in 1235 by Alâeddin Keykubat, the Seljuk ruler. Today, although unrestored, the artistic decorations on the staircase and on the entrance door are worth seeing.

Ulucami (The Great Mosque or Sultan Suleiman Mosque) : This mosque stands on the highest point in the town.

HISTORICAL SITES AND PLACES TO VISIT IN THE VICINITY

Eskipazar : There are the ruins of two castles dating back to the Seljuk period.

Kurşunlu : Here there are a mosque and hot springs called Çavundur Hamamı, from the Seljuk period. Beside them is a bridge, called Kara Köprü, that is thought to date back to the Roman period.

Tombs : Sheikh Muhittin's, Sheikh Bayezid's and Hacı Murat Veli's.

Salt Mines : 25 km. to the east of Çankırı. They have been mined since ancient times. The cave where the rock salt is mined is reached by a tunnel 160 metres long.

Beşdut Village : This village is in the Yapraklı district. There is an interesting cave dug in the rocks.





ÇANKIRI : A Shepherd and his flock

Photo: Sami Güner



TOKAT

Tokat, where the cult of Venus once flourished, is today a small and peaceful provincial town, centre of a farm community.

Agriculture dominates the economy and the main crops are tobacco, fruit and beetroot. Considerable livestock is reared today and the major industry, copper, continues to expand.

The climate of the province is not as humid as that of the Black Sea regions to the north nor as severe as the Central Anatolian climate to the south. Winters are moderate, particularly in the low-lying valleys and the summers are pleasantly warm.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Tokat has an ancient history but its exact origin is lost in antiquity. The old name of Tokat was Comana Pontica which was sited some 8 km. to the east of the castle, where the village of Kömenek is now located. It was here that the cult of Venus was practiced. Following the rise of Christianity, the inhabitants left the town to settle on the site of Tokat today.

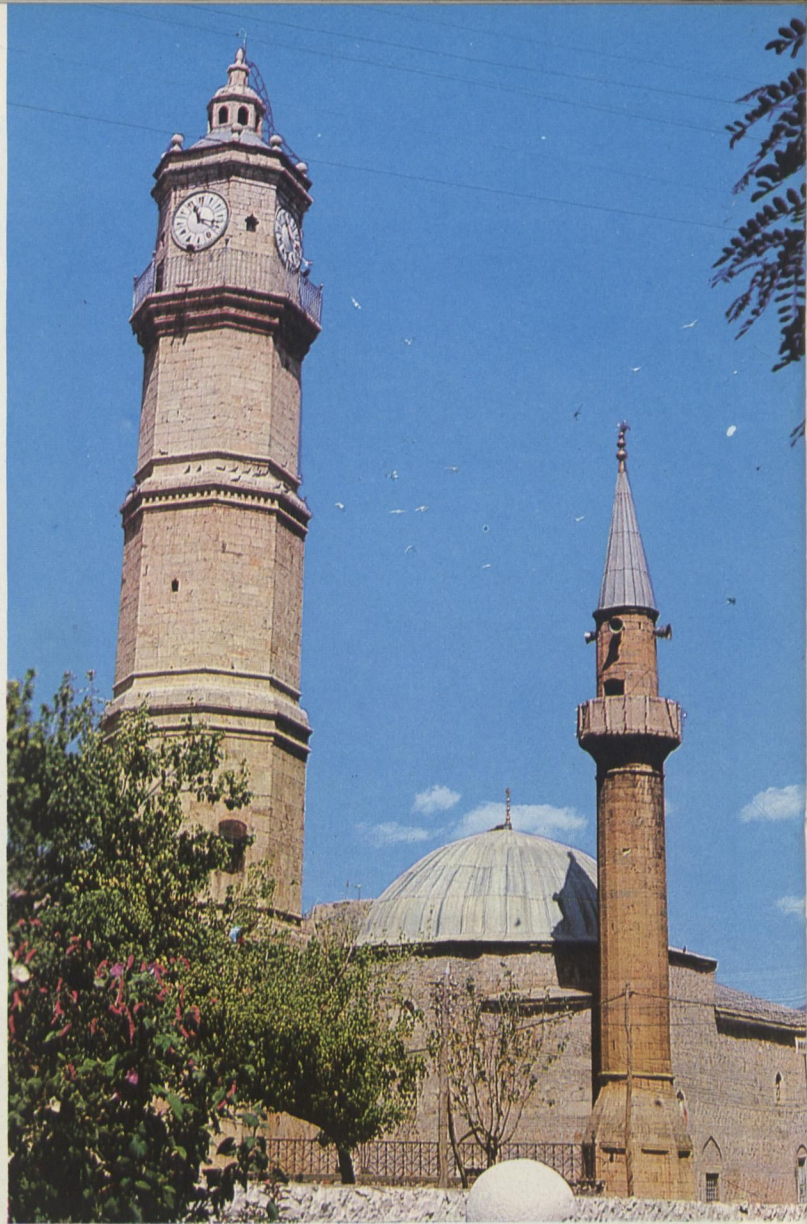
It is known that both the Persians and Macedonians ruled the region before the Byzantines seized it. Following the wars between the Arabs and Byzantines, the Turks captured the town in 1075. After it became part of the Danişment State the town was considerably rebuilt. In 1143 it passed into Seljuk hands, came under the Ilhanlı for a period and then later became part of the Eretna State. In the XIV th century it was incorporated in the Ottoman Empire.

HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND PLACES

The Citadel : It was built on a rocky hill in the Middle Ages. It has 5 sides and 28 towers and consists of the guards quarters, the armoury, food and water store-rooms. It was repaired in the time of the Ottomans.

The Bridge : It was built at the foot of the hill and dates back to the Roman period.

Gök Medrese : Built during the time of the Seljuks in 1275. It has recently been turned into a museum. The exedra, cloister arches and the galleries of the Medrese are decorated with tiles in geometrical and floral patterns. The main colours are pale blue and black.



TOKAT: View of the City

Photo: Rıza Tuğcu



The Tombs of Ebul Kasım and Halet Gazi : They were built in the XIII th century during the Seljuk period.

Hatuniye Mosque and Medrese : Built in 1485 by Sultan Beyazıt the Second in memory of his mother Gülbahar Hatun. The entrance door of the Medrese, decorated with stalactite patterns, is worth seeing.

The Ali Paşa Mosque : Built by the Ottomans in 1572.

The Tomb of Sümbül Baba : Built in 1292..

Inns : The Horozoğlu Inn (XVIII th century), the Voyvoda Inn (1630) and the Yağcı Inn.

Mescits (small mosques) : Kazancılar Mescidi (1616) and Alaca Mescit (1300).

Other Mosques : The Ali Paşa Mosque (1573) and the Güdük Minaret Mosque (IX th century).

Paşa Hamamı (The Paşa Bath) : Built in 1420

HISTORICAL SITES AND PLACES TO VISIT IN THE VICINITY

Zile : 70 km. to the west of Tokat. The ancient name was Zela, and it was here that Caesar pronounced his famous words «Veni, vidi, vici» (I came, I saw, I conquered). There are ruins from the times of the Greeks, Romans and Byzantines.

Niksar (Neo Caesarea) : 70 km. to the north-east of Tokat.

Historical Monuments are :

The Citadel : Built by the Byzantines.

Ulu Cami (The Great Mosque) : Built by the Danişments in the XII th century. Its main door was built in the XV th century.

Yağbasan Medresesi ve Türbesi (The Medrese and the Tomb of Yağbasan) : Built by the Danişments in the XII th century.

Kıkkız Türbesi (The Tomb of Forty Girls) : Built in the XIII th century.

Vaults : The vaults of Melik Gazi, Hacı Çıkrık and Kulak were built in the XII th century.

Turhal : 41 km. to the west of Tokat. The historical monuments include:

The Citadel : Built in the Middle Ages and repaired in Ottoman times.

Ulu Cami (The Great Mosque) : Built in 1453.

Mehmet Dede Türbesi (The Tomb of Mehmet Dede) : Built in 1301.

Ayvaz Summer Resort : At Niksar. Its views, air and waters make it an ideal haven for holiday-makers in the summer months.



TOKAT: Frescoes, the Tokat Museum

Photo: Rıza Tuğcu

Photo : Sami Güner

TOKAT : Museum



NİĞDE

Niğde is a quiet provincial town rich in historical monuments and noted for its folk dancing.

The Taurus mountains flank the province in the south and south-east and the province's pasturelands have fostered the development of the livestock industry. Horticulture and vineyards are the most important sources of agricultural income. Within the province are the picturesque cones of many extinct volcanoes. The Melendiz is the most important river in the province.

The climate is continental with warm and dry summers and rather mild winters.

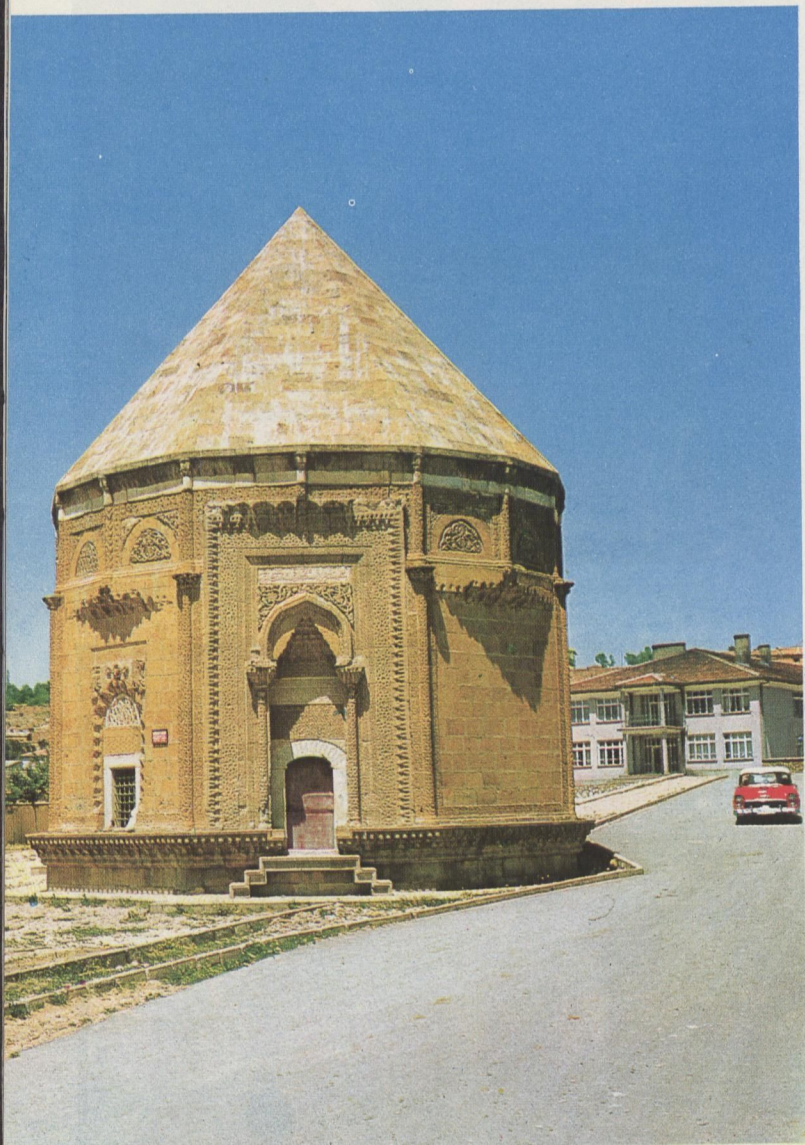
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Niğde province has been inhabited since ancient times and excavations have shown that the first inhabitants were Hittites. In the VIII th century B. C. the Phrygians and in the first century B. C. the Persians were here. When the Roman Empire was divided, Niğde passed to the Byzantine Empire. In those times Niğde was not an important town. The ancient town was 23 km. from the present site and was called Tyana. The Arabs called it «Tavana». The town played an important role in the wars between the Byzantines and the Arabs. After the Battle of Malazgirt (1071) it came under the control of the Seljuks. Following this, the Mongols, Eretna - oğulları and the Karamanoğulları captured the town. In the XIV th century Niğde was captured by Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror and became part of the Ottoman Empire.

HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND PLACES TO VISIT IN THE TOWN

The Citadel : Built on Alâeddin Hill by the Seljuks towards the end of the XI th Century and in 1470 repaired by İshak Paşa. The tower in the north wing still stands and was used as a prison until recently. In the south tower, facing the Alâeddin Mosque, there is a carved bird with a human head.

The Alâeddin Mosque : Built with three domes in 1223 by Alâeddin Keykubat, the Seljuk Sultan. It is the most beautiful mosque in Niğde. The workmanship on the door is particularly interesting.



NİĞDE: The Mausoleum of Hüdavent Hatun

Photo: Sonia Halliday

The Sungur Bey Mosque : Built in 1335 by Sungur Bey, one of the chiefs of the Mongol tribes that had settled in the vicinity of Niğde. The interior of the mosque was destroyed by fire. The architecture of the mosque shows Seljuk influence.

Hüdavent Hatun Türbesi (The Tomb of Hüdavent Hatun) : Built in 1312, for Hüdavent Hatun, the daughter of the Seljuk Sultan Rükneddin. It is an octagonal tomb. Its door and sides are decorated with plants, various birds heads and animal designs. It is one of the most interesting tombs of the period.

Akmedrese : Built in 1409 during the time of the Karamanoğulları by Alâeddin Bey. It has two floors and at present is used as a museum.

Other Monuments : Hanım Camii (the Lady's Mosque, 1452), Paşa Camii (The Paşa Mosque, XV th century), Kığılı Camii (The Kığılı Mosque, XVIII th century), Bedesten (The Covered Market, XVII th century), Eskiçiler Çeşmesi (Eskiçiler Founttain, 1421), Şah Mescidi (The Shah's small mosque, 1413), Dış Camii (The Dış Mosque, XVI th century), and Hatunoğlu Çeşmesi (The Hatunoğlu Fountain, 1267).

PLACES TO VISIT IN THE VICINITY

Kayaardı, Tepeviran, the Kır vineyard and the Tepe Orchards are the most interesting and beautiful places in Niğde and during the month of May demonstrations, folk dances and festivals are held here.

Bor : 14 km. to the south of Niğde. The most important historical monuments are from the time of the Seljuks, and include the Alâeddin Mosque and the Hatun Fountain. From the period of the Ramazanoğulları there is an old bath and from the period of the Ottomans the Paşa Mosque and a bath.

Tyana (Kemerhisar) : 23 km. to the south of Niğde. It is believed that this was the old Tuvanuva Town of the Hittite period. It was called Tyana in the Roman and Byzantine periods and was invaded by the Arabs in 739 and in the XI th century passed under the rule of the Seljuks. There are ruins from the Greek, Roman and Byzantine periods.

Aksaray : 109 km. to the west of Niğde. It gained importance during the Seljuk period. The main monuments are:

The Karamanoğlu Mosque (The Great Mosque) : Built in the XIV th century to a very simple design. It has a single floor and two low domes which are set on 12 columns.



Photo: Sonia Halliday

NIĞDE: Eski Gümüş (An Underground Monastery)

The Ibrahim Bey Medrese : Cloisters surround a square courtyard and in each corner of this courtyard there stands an exedra decorated with geometrical designs.

The Caravanserai : Built by the Seljuks. The outer walls and the mosque in the centre of the courtyard still stand today.

The Nakkaşi Mosque : Its minaret with varnished tiles and mosaics is worth seeing.

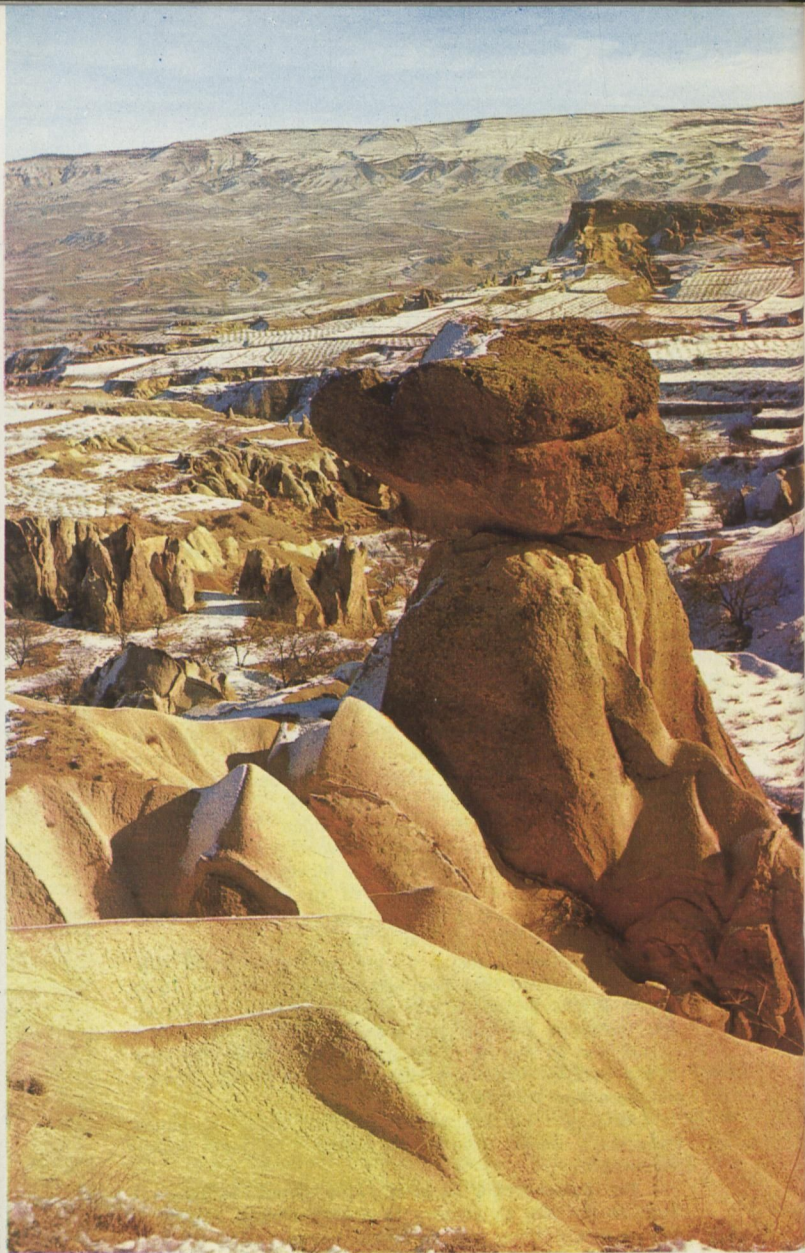
INNS :

The Alâeddin Caravanserai (The Sultan Inn) : 40 km. to the west of Aksaray. It was built in 1229 by Alâeddin Keykubat at Sultan Han Village. It is one of the outstanding examples of Seljuk art. Also on the Akşehir-Nevşehir road are the Ağzı Karahan, which is in good condition although built in 1239 by Keyhüsrev the Second, the Alay Inn and the Yıkık Inn, both of which are in ruins.

Ulukışla : It is in the centre of the Taurus Mountains and is a very ancient, historical town. There is a caravanserai built in 1683 during the time of Öküz Mehmet Paşa. Çifte Han Hot Springs in the vicinity of Ulukışla are rich in sulphur and minerals and famous for their therapeutic value.

Kokarcı Hot Springs : 3 km. from Niğde and a popular health centre.

Kemerhisar Spring : 10 km. from Bor. The waters are radioactive.



NEVŞEHİR: A View of the Göreme Valley

Photo: Allan Cash



NEVŞEHİR

Nevşehir is an ancient and picturesque town in the colourful valley of the Kızılırmak river in Central Anatolia.

The economy of the province is basically agricultural with emphasis on fruit, vegetables and wine production. Near Urgup carpets are manufactured.

The climate is predominantly continental with moderately cold winters and hot, dry summers.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

While the origin of the town is not known excavations indicate that the area was a settlement as early as 3.000 B.C. Documents show that the original name of the town was Nissa and that the region was inhabited by the Hittites, Phrygians, Persians and Macedonians. After the town was taken by the Seljuks in 1071 it was renamed Muskara. It saw its greatest development under the Ottomans when mosques, seminaries, libraries, inns and baths were erected by the Grand Vizier, Damat Ibrahim Pasha.

HISTORICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS

In the town :

The Citadel : Constructed by the Seljuks and restored during the Ottoman period.

Kaya Mosque : The first building to be erected by Ibrahim Pasha.

Kurşunlu (Leaded) Mosque : Built in 1726 the dome is covered with lead. The columns and capitals at the entrance to the mosque were brought from the Marmara region. Around the mosque stand a medrese, soup kitchen and library. Among rare works to be found in the library are volumes relating to the tulip period and Ibrahim Pasha. The library also contains two large carpets of great historical value.

In the vicinity :

GÖREME :

In the heart of Anatolia, 15 km. from Nevşehir, the unsuspecting traveller suddenly, bewilderingly, comes upon a sight so strange he involuntarily sucks in his breath - a moonscape of eerie, unearthly beauty.

As far as the eye can see are thousands of chimneys, needles, cones and pyramids, carved from volcanic rock by the erosive forces of nature into grotesque, surrealist spires.

Cathedrals in a wilderness. For that is what they really are.

Photo : Sonia Halliday

NEVŞEHİR : Ortahisar at Night



NEVŞEHİR: Göreme, Karanlık Kilise (The Dark Church)

Photo: Sonia Halliday



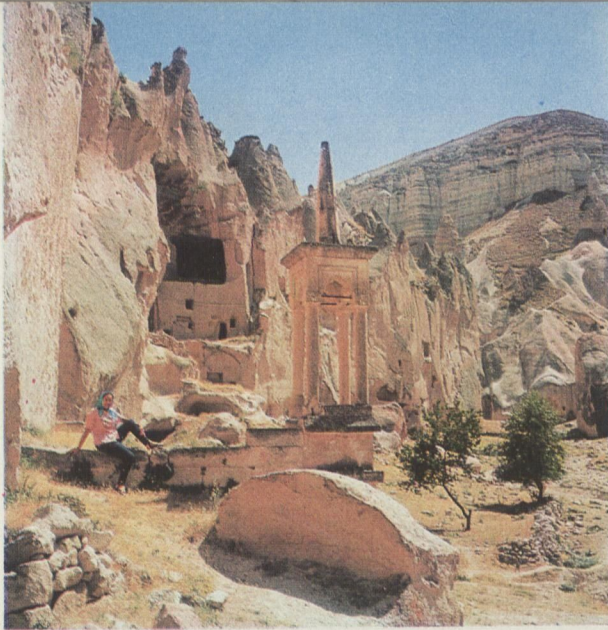


Photo : Sonia Halliday

NEYŞEHİR : Eski Zilver

Over 1,200 years ago Christians gouged and tunnelled 365 churches, chapels and tombs out of living rock - a moving testament to faith and endurance in the wilderness that was Goreme.

Today the fantastic Valley of Goreme draws visitors from all over the world to inspect its troglodyte churches, with their primitive but powerful wall-paintings (amazingly well-preserved after a millenium) depicting the life of Christ and the Saints.

Goreme and the city of Kayseri, 60 miles to the east, were the centre of ancient Cappadocia, a Persian name given to the inhabitants of the region - mainly of Hittite ancestry - at the time of Heroditus.

Beginning in the eighth century, when the first Christians moved in, the population of the valley swelled rapidly. By the end of the 11 th century, when whole communities fled invading Turks from Kayseri (ancient Caesarea), the flood of Christian refugees reached its peak. A second, and probably final, influx occurred during the 13 th and 14 th centuries at the time of the Mongol invasions.

Rediscovered by Father de Jerphanion during expeditions before and after World War I, wall-paintings in the rock churches of Goreme constitute a matchless gallery of Byzantine fresco art, nearly all intact and as fresh as the day they were painted.

Three churches, Karanlık Kilise, Elmalı Kilise and Çarıklı Kilise, known as «the churches with columns», are perhaps the most characteristic, hollowed out in the shape of a Byzantine Cross.

Karanlık Kilise («the dark church») is so dark inside that its wall-paintings can only be seen with the aid of artificial light. A spiral staircase a few yards above ground level leads to a 12-by-9 foot narthex, a portico or ante-nave in early Christian churches reserved for women, penitents or converts under instruction before baptism.

Elmalı Kilise («the church of the apple») contains some of the finest frescos in the valley. Though tiny, its walls, pillars, cupolas and pendentives are so profusely decorated with scenes from the life of Christ, the prophets and saints, that it constitutes a veritable picture gallery.

Çarıklı Kilise («the church of sandals») was so-called because of footprints scooped out of the floor in the southern transept (a copy of those of Christ in the Sanctuary of the Ascension in Jerusalem). It is built in the same rock pillar as Karanlık Kilise, but on another face.

Tokalı Kilise («the church with the buckle»), the largest church in the valley, contains frescos depicting New Testament scenes, from the Annunciation to the Ascension, in chronological order. In other parts of the church are over 100 paintings of saints, most of them of St. Basil, the greatest of Cappadocian saints. In the recess in the left apse, there is a large painting of Christ seated on a throne between two angels.

ÜRGÜP : A town 20 km. from Nevşehir where erosion acting on piles of tufa rock deposited by the lava from Mount Erciyes nearby has produced pillars, cones and fairy chimneys, all honeycombed with caves in which food is stored.

Orta Hisar : 5 km from Ürgüp. There is a gigantic cone of tufa rock resembling a castle.

Üçhisar : 12 km. east of Ürgüp. If one looks towards Göreme from the Uçhisar castle, one can see the tufa rocks which have been deeply eroded showing the different colours of the rock layers.

Castle : This is made from a rock which stands 40 metres high and is divided into sections : Ağa Castle and Çavuş Castle. The feudal-chiefs used these as fortresses during the Byzantine and Seljuk periods.

Avcılar (Maçan) : 10 km. from Ürgüp. There are a number of fairy chimneys in the village.

HACI BEKTAŞ : This is a town on the Nevşehir-Kırşehir road. The main monument is the Tomb of Hacı Bektaş Veli. Around the tomb there are buildings which are connected with the sect. The tomb of Hacı Bektaş which belongs to the founder of the Bektaşî sect of dervishes was built in the XIII th century. The tomb

was repaired extensively in the XIX th century. It contains 39 graves belonging to important members of the sect and those who served Hacı Bektaş Veli.

The Other Buildings are : The tombs of Balum Sultan and of Bektaş Efendi, 16 historical fountains and the Cuma Mosque.

Karahöyük : It is the biggest of the prehistoric tumuli in Anatolia.

Gülşehir (Arapsun) : 20 km. to the north of Nevşehir. Archaeological excavations in the area have yielded works belonging to the Roman and Byzantine periods. The ruins of the Açık Saray (Palace) are to be found 4 km. from Gülşehir. These are, in fact, remains of an underground town carved out of tufa rock. There are wells, water courses, houses and a market carved out of the rock. Particularly around Gülşehir, Açık Palace, and to the north of the Kızılırmak, on the Gülşehir - Cemal road and at the place known as Kozan Kaya one may see pink and white groups of rocks like great mushrooms growing from the ground. Inside the town the most interesting monument is the Kurşunlu

Mosque. It was constructed in the XVIII th century during the time of Kara Vezir Seyyit Mehmet Paşa. Beside the mosque stand a medrese, a bath and six fountains.

Kozaklı : 105 km. to the north of Nevşehir. The valley to the east of the town is full of hot springs.

Derin Kuyu : It is on the Nevşehir-Niğde road. Two large Byzantine churches and a monument of Atatürk may be seen here.

Narköy : To the north of Nevşehir. The Kadrah valley, made by flood water acting on granite rock, and its surrounding trees and waterfall are worth seeing.

Tuzköy : In the district of Arapsun. The Tuzköy Mosque was built in the XIII th century and is worth seeing. In nearby Tuzla, there are salt-mines which supply the whole of Anatolia.

Hacıbektaş Taşı : Out of the mostly pink coloured stone diverse articles such as vases, sugar basins, plates, boxes, rosaries etc. are manufactured here using primitive tools. Shops opposite the entrance of the derwish cloisters specially display these articles for sale.

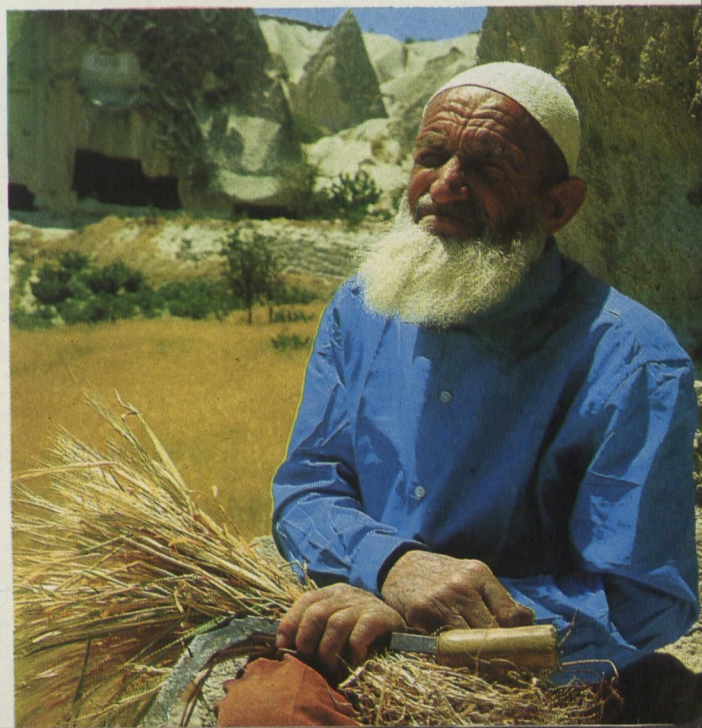
NEVŞEHİR: A View of Göreme

Photo: Sonia Halliday



NEVŞEHİR: Göreme

Photo: Sonia Halliday





KIRŞEHİR

Kırşehir, in the heart of the treeless Central Anatolian steppes, is the major town on the road between Ankara and Kayseri. It has hot springs.

The climate is typical of the steppes with cold winters and hot, dry summers. The province produces grain and a certain amount of livestock, particularly sheep. Vineyards are also fairly well developed. Rug-making is the principal industry. The porphyry obtained from quarries in the town and nearby is used to manufacture fine trinkets and knick-knacks which are much in demand.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The town of Kırşehir was founded by the Hittites and the Höyük Citadel in the centre of the town is characteristic of Hittite architecture. After the Hittites Phrygians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Seljuks, Ilhans, Karamans and Ottomans ruled the region.

The town was once called Gölşehir (Lake Town) because of three streams that emerge from its centre and the many hot springs in the vicinity. The Seljuks changed its name to Gülşehir, meaning Rose Town. After the fall of the Seljuks the Danişment Turks ruled the area. For a short time later it was part of the Eretna State. By the XIV th century Kırşehir was a part of the Ottoman Empire.

A number of important personages, including the folk poet Asik Pasha, lived in the town.

HISTORICAL MONUMENTS IN THE TOWN

Cacabey Mosque and Observatory : Built as an observatory by Cacabey, the vizier of Kılıç Aslan, this building was subsequently turned into a mosque and has been repaired and restored several times.

Alâeddin Camii (The Alâeddin Mosque) : This mosque was built by Alâeddin Keykubat in the XIII th century. Destroyed by an earthquake it was later rebuilt. The portal belongs to the original building.

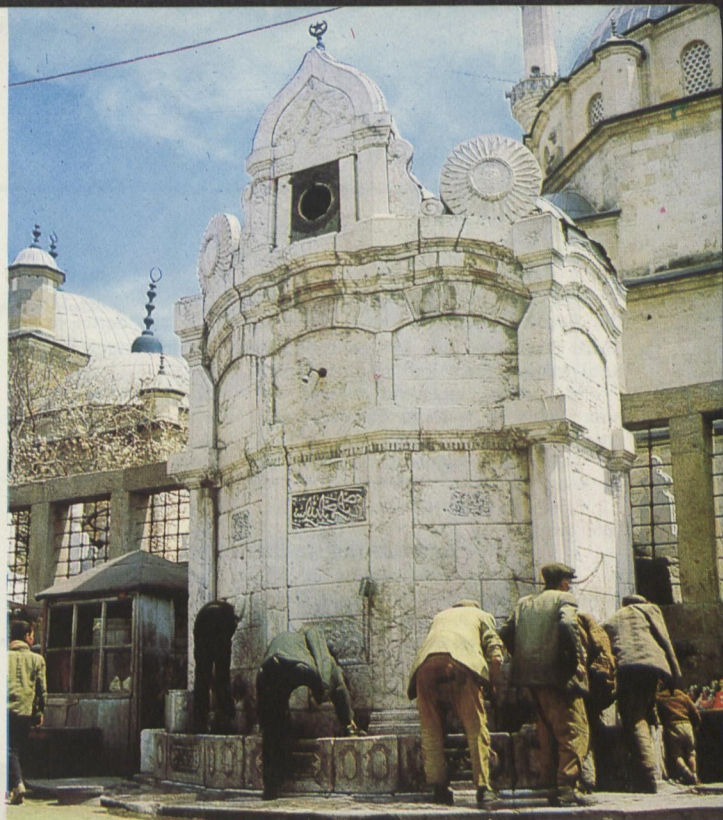
Aşık Paşa Türbesi (The Tomb of Aşık Paşa) : This is the tomb of Aşık Paşa, the celebrated Turkish folk poet.

Muhterem Hatun Türbesi (The Tomb of Muhterem Hatun) : It was built in the Seljuk period (XIII th cent.)

Melik Gazi Türbesi (The Tomb of Melik Gazi) : This also was built in the Seljuk period (XIII th cent.)

Lâle Camii (The Lâle Mosque) : It is believed to date from the Ilhanlı period.

Ahiervan Camii ve Türbesi (The Ahiervan Mosque and



YOZGAT: A Fountain

Photo: Rıza Tuğcu

Tomb) : They date from the period of the Seljuks.

Ilhanlı Kümbeti : XIV th century.

HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND PLACES TO VISIT IN THE VICINITY

Terme Kaplıcası (Terme Hot Springs) : 3 km. from the town. These highly radioactive springs are particularly effective for the treatment of heart diseases. There are modern facilities for treatment.

Hashöyük : In the vicinity remains of the Calcolithic and Hittite periods have been discovered during recent excavations.

Karakurt Kaplıcaları (Karakurt Hot Springs) : 16 km. to the west of the town. The waters are particularly helpful for rheumatics.

Hirfanlı Barajı (The Hirfanlı Dam) : 60 km. from Kırşehir. There is excellent fishing in the lake.

YOZGAT

The town of Yozgat, sitting astride the crossroads linking the Aegean shores to Persia and the Bay of İskenderun to the Black Sea area, has for centuries been an important agricultural market town and trading centre.

Mountains, including Akdağ and Karababa, surmount the area which is watered by the Delice, Konak and Çekerek rivers.

Today the province is primarily agricultural with large herds of livestock.

Summers are hot and dry with contrastingly severe and cold winters.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Archeological excavations at Alişar have proved that this region was inhabited during the Calcolithic, Copper, Early Bronze, Hittite and Phrygian periods.

From the Roman remains found in the vicinity of Yozgat,

it is clear that the Romans ruled in this region for a time. Yozgat came under the sovereignty of the Ottomans in the XVth century.

The town of today is believed to have been founded by Ahmet Paşa of the Turcoman Beys, towards the middle of the XVIIIth century.

HISTORICAL BUILDINGS IN THE CITY

Çapanoğlu Mustafa Paşa Camii (The Çapanoğlu Mustafa Paşa Mosque): This mosque was built by Çapanoğlu Mustafa in 1779 and in 1795 the Süleyman Bey built an adjoining mosque. Today they are referred to as the Inner and Outer Mosques.

Saat Kulesi (The Clock Tower): This tower was constructed in 1870 by the mayor of Yozgat, Ahmet Tefkizade.

HISTORICAL PLACES IN THE VICINITY

Alişar (Ankuva): 68 km. to the east of the town, was an important town of the Hittite Empire. Excavations have yielded pots and ceramics from the late Bronze Age.

Kerkenez: A Hittite settlement to the south-east of the town.

Akdağ: This small town with attractive houses among pine trees is an ideal picnic spot.



YOZGAT: Folklore
Photo: Rıza Tuğcu



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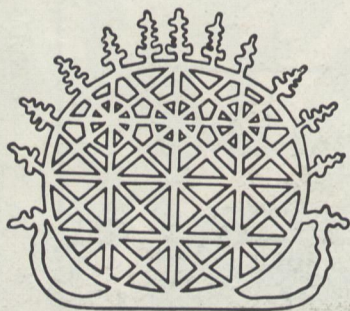
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