Welcome to the Winter issue (2008.7) of the Asia Minor Report! The AMR seeks to inform scholars and students of early Judaism and Christianity in Asia Minor about recent historical and archaeological activities in Turkey. Please circulate this newsletter to colleagues and friends who might also be interested in these subjects. We want to thank Sinan Özşahinler for redesigning our logo. For more information about the AMRC, or to receive subsequent issues of the AMR, please email: markwilson@sevenchurches.org.

**BOOKS**

*Ephesian Lead Tesserata* by Onur Gülbay and Hasan Kireç (Selçuk: Selçuk Belediyesi, 2008), paperback, 165 pages, Turkish and English. In this volume Gülbay publishes Kireç’s collection of 269 lead tesserae from Ephesus. The book opens with a general history of tesserae, noting their three intended uses as coins, as tokens or tickets, and as remembrances or with purposes related to openings. Rather than adopt these categories, Gülbay instead places the Ephesian tesserae in ten groups bases on their figures: 1) Standing, 2) Animals, 3) Mask, 4) Rosette, 5) Plant Ornament Motifs, 6) Ephesus Artemisia, 7) Portrait, 8) Drinking Cup, 9) Epigraphic Data, and 10) Miscellaneous. The tessarae are then presented in these groups using high-quality black and white photos. The weight and diameter of each is given with a brief description and photo of the obverse and reverse (if any). Archaeologist Yusuf Yağış, director of the municipality’s cultural publications, told AMR that this is the first of a series of books to be published on Ephesus and its surroundings. We are grateful for this first installment and look forward to future publications.

*The Hittites and Hattusa* edited by Fatih Cimok (İstanbul: A Turizm Yayıncılıarı, 2008), hardback, 184 pages, English, 80 euros. This volume is a general introduction to the Hittite people of Anatolia. Typical of Cimok’s publications, the volume is lavishly illustrated with 270 color photographs, 90 black-and-white drawings, and 10 maps and plans. The book opens with an Introduction and discussion of Political and Military History including a chronological review of the Hittite kings. The chapters are largely built around sites such as Kaneş/Neša, with the presentation of Hattuša being the longest with 44 pages. Other sites featured are Alaca Höyük, Sarissa, and Tabal. There are also chapters on Biblical Hittites and Hittite Myths. The rock sanctuary at Yazılıkaya is meticulously presented, with line drawings illustrating each of the 83 stone reliefs, some of which are only faintly observable in situ. A bit puzzling is the orthography for some place names. Hattusa is usually spelled Hattusha (as in Jürgen Seeher’s guidebook), Ḫattuša in academic texts, or Hattuša in Turkish spelling. Karkamis neither reflects the English Carchemish or the Turkish Karkamiş. Nonetheless, for readers interested in a well-written introduction to the Hittites, the volume is a good investment; for specialists the excellent illustrations and photographs will still be of interest. Indeed favorite photograph of AMR is that of Mt. Zaphon/Cassius shot from the sea (p. 156).
An important but little-known resource available to scholars are the archaeological culture inventories now available in various provinces throughout Turkey. These inventories are being prepared by Turkish archaeologists familiar with the local historical sites. For example, the inventory for Mersin province was published in 2007 by the Mersin Valiliği; the volume was edited by Dr. Ümit Aydinoğlu of the archaeology faculty of Mersin University. The 270 page volume is divided into sections according to the province’s eight districts (ilçeler). Accompanying a complete description in Turkish are color pictures of the site. A bibliography is included whenever possible. The culture inventory for Burdur province was also published in 2007 by the Burdur Valiliği. It consists of two volumes: the first catalogue mostly historical buildings within the city of Burdur, while the second the archaeological, monumental, and natural sites within the ten other districts. Needless to say, this province is archaeologically rich with sites like Sagalassus, Cremna, and Olbasa. These volumes were prepared under the auspices of the director of the Burdur Archaeological Museum and its archaeologists. Maps, drawings, and color photographs enhance the presentation of each site. The province of Antalya has also prepared an eight-volume culture inventory, which is available online for download at: http://www.antalya.gov.tr/oku.asp?blm=17. Other provinces are in the process of preparing their inventories. The archaeology department of Muğla University is heading up the inventory for its province. The process is described in Turkish on its web site: http://arkeoloji.mu.edu.tr/tr//KaryaMerkez/kulturenvanteri.asp. If you know of other provincial culture inventories that are completed or in the process, please let AMR know. These volumes are a storehouse of information for those interested in Turkey’s archaeological treasures.

Aktüel Arkeoloji, a bi-monthly archaeology magazine, has just released its eleventh issue for Nisan (April) 2009. The newsstand price is 7.5 TL; subscriptions (abonelik) in Turkey are available at www.aktuelarkeoloji.com. Foreign subscribers should write info@aktuelarkeoloji.com for rates to your country. Each full-color issue is 104 pages long and features numerous articles on archaeological sites in Turkey. Starting in the tenth issue several articles are being published in both Turkish and English. In the current issue the articles on Tilmen Höyük, Aphrodisias, Iasos, Labraunda, and Göbekli Tepe as well as a site in Bulgaria all have English translation. The cover article in Turkish celebrates the 100th anniversary of excavations at the Hittite site at Alaca Höyük. Aktüel Arkeoloji is a “must have” for libraries as well as for those interested in Anatolian archaeology.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism will sponsor the 31st International Symposium of Excavations, Surveys and Archaeometry in Denizli on May 25-29, 2009. The symposium will be held on the campus of Pamukkale University. Archaeologists, epigraphers, and museum directors will make their annual reports at the symposium. While most of the reports are in Turkish, they are usually accompanied by PowerPoint presentations. The sessions are open to interested observers, so up-to-date information about archaeology in Turkey can be gained by attending each symposia. Prof. Dr. Celal Şimşek, head of the Archaeology Faculty there and host for the conference, informs AMR that the program has not yet been sent out by the General Directorate but once it is received, it will be posted on the university web site: www.pau.edu.tr.

Hierapolis Castabala is a Greco-Roman site north of Osmaniye in southeastern Turkey. Possibly the city had one of the churches of Cilicia mentioned in the book of Acts (15:23, 41). The site is under threat of development, and a petition drive has begun that requests a cement factory interested in developing the area to cease from doing so. To add your name to the list opposing the project, please visit the web site: http://www.osmaniyearkeolijikmiras.com/kastabala.html. Ozan Yıldırım, one of the organizers of the campaign, wrote AMR recently: “Even though for a while entrepreneurs of the cement factory are silent, yet there has been no solid and official resolution. There are rumours that they have been looking for another place close by, which is also archaeological area with land good for agriculture. Thus, we would appreciate to have you support with signatures.” The dam projects that threatened to submerge Hasan Keyf and Allianoi have been stopped. So opposition to the development of archaeological sites is having an impact. Let’s hope Hierapolis Castabala can be saved too.

CONFERENCES

An international conference on the glass from Anatolia dating to the Late Antique period (A.D. 4th to 8th cent.) will take place on October 26th-28th, 2009, at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences of the Dokuz Eylül University (DEU) in Izmir, Turkey. For more information see the web site: http://www.deu.edu.tr/DEUWeb/English/Etkinlik/Etkinlik.php?etkinlik_no=1698&title=guncel. Hopefully the outcome will be more successful than the symposium on Pontus and Pamphylia that was scheduled at Dokuz Eylül in 2008, then unexpectedly canceled at the last minute.