

## Introduction

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Bronze finds are patchy, unsuccessfully documented and generally not well-known in Turkey in comparison with Greece and Italy. The number of studies is fewer than in Italy and Greece, even though there are several hundreds of excavations, museums and surveys across Turkey with thousands of bronze finds of almost all periods. The art of Greek, Roman, and Byzantine bronzes from Anatolia is not widely known and the number of publications on Bronze and Iron Age examples is larger than the classical and Byzantine bronzes. Most of the previous literature on Greek, Roman, and Byzantine bronzes from Anatolia is based only on excavation reports. In Turkey the main sites for the study of bronze finds of the Early Byzantine period are Ephesus and Sardis (**fig. 1.1**). So far, very few catalogues of such excavated finds have been created; of these, the recent publication of Andrea M. Pülz is very crucial.<sup>1</sup> Archaeometric research on bronze finds from Asia Minor have been undertaken since the 1980s, but there is still a need for research concerning production, main typologies, distribution, chronology, mining technologies etc. which have been neglected.

This book focuses on Greek, Roman, and Byzantine bronzes from Anatolia and neighbouring regions including bronze and other metal finds from several ancient sites of Asia Minor and other regions in the Mediterranean. It consists of four main parts and 45 papers in total. The greater part of this book concerns ancient Anatolia, but other presented countries are as follows (in alphabetical order; **fig. 1.1**): Georgia, Greece, Italy, Iran, Serbia and Slovenia. Presented sites and museums in Turkey are as follows (in alphabetical order; **fig. 1.1**): Museum of Afyonkarahisar, Allianoi, Aycanda, Boğazköy-Ḫattuša, Cremna, Ephesus, Juliopolis, Kastamonu, Museum of Isparta, Museum of Karaman, Nicomedia, Nif-Olympus, Museum of Şanlıurfa and Olba; and in other countries (in alphabetical order; **fig. 1.1**): Phocian Anticyra in Greece, Gonio Fortress-Apsarus in Georgia, Köhn Pāsgāh Tepesi in Iran, Luzzi and Bisignano in Italy, Persepolis in Iran, Sillene in Italy, Šljivovac in Serbia, Slovenia, Timacum Maius in Serbia, Vani in Georgia and Upper Moesia.

Examples of the following bronze groups are dealt in this book: figurines, finger rings, lamps, inscribed objects, vessels, statues, surgical instruments and other genres of *instrumenta domestica*. The book also covers following periods (chronologically): the Hittite period, Late Bronze Age, second millennium BC., Iron Age, Geometric period, Archaic period, Classical period, Hellenistic period, Roman period, Early Byzantine period and Middle Byzantine period. Although our focus in this book is Greek, Roman, and Byzantine periods, a few papers dealt with the second millennium BC. and include Near Eastern bronzes. Lead, silver, gold and other metals are excluded from this book. There are also some papers dealing with archaeometric (chapter 43) and other technical issues (chapters 35 and 42).

All the references used in this book are collected in a joint bibliography in part 4. The aim was to summarise all previous main works on Greek, Roman, and Byzantine bronzes from Anatolia and neighbouring regions.

A few of the present papers were presented or offered to the 17th International Congress of Ancient Bronzes which was held in 2011 in Izmir, Turkey (**figs. 1.2-3**). The abstracts booklet of this congress was published in 2011.<sup>2</sup>

All the papers are in English, each with abstracts and keywords both in English and Turkish. Chapters 9 and 42 were originally in German, but translated by myself into English. At the beginning of the book we have abstracts and keywords in English, French, German, Italian and Turkish.

Abbreviations are applied through the whole book and listed at the beginning. A list of figures has been added in one single unit at the beginning for whole book.

The preparation of this book spanned from May 2018 to January 2021 without any interruption. In May 2018 BAR Publishing Ltd. accepted our proposal to publish this book in BAR Int. Ser. The text was finally submitted to Oxford on 1 March 2021. Both Coronavirus disease pandemic and

<sup>1</sup> Pülz 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Lafli 2011.



Figure 1.1. Map of the eastern Mediterranean with represented archaeological sites and museums in this volume (by S. Pataci, 2020).



Figure 1.2. Participants to the 17th International Congress on Ancient Bronzes, held in 2011, in Izmir, Turkey (by A. Sideris, 2011).



Figure 1.3. Poster of the 17th International Congress on Ancient Bronzes (by C. Köktürk, 2010).

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the earthquake in Izmir in 2020 have, however, made its preparation more difficult.

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