

GEOPARKEOLOGICAL AND ARCHEOGEOPHYSICAL STUDIES AT THE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION SITE OF SİNOP BALATLAR CHURCH

Fethi Ahmet YÜKSEL, fayuksel@iuc.edu.tr, ORCID:0000-0003-2207-1902

Mahmut Ziya GÖRÜCÜ, gorucu@iuc.edu.tr, ORCID: 0000 0003 1997 7623

Gülğün KÖROĞLU, Mimar Sinan Güzel Sanatlar Üniversitesi, Fen-edebiyat Fakültesi, Sanat Tarihi Bölümü, Batı Sanatı ve Çağdaş Sanat Anabilim Dalı, gulgun.koroglu@msgsu.edu.tr ORCID: 0000-0002-6369-659X

ABSTRACT

Balatlar Church is located on the peninsula in the north of Sinop province of Turkey. The settlement history of the city dates back to 4500 BC. There are Chalcolithic Age finds in Sinop. Sinop became an important port city of the Black Sea in the early periods due to its geographical location. It has been documented that the Balatlar Church building complex is a Roman period imperial bath. Various parts of the building were built in different periods, late 4-5th centuries. From the 19th century to the 20th century, the church and its surroundings were used as a cemetery area. Considering the changing historical and cultural differences of the Christian tombs in the building complex known as Balatlar Church over the centuries, the city has undergone cultural and social transformation over the centuries. Late 4th-5th century Balatlar Church archaeological excavation area. Mosaic-covered tombs dating back to the 19th century were found. Early Byzantine Period 4th–7th century period, there are mosaic-covered tombs and tombs of people who donated or donated to the church. These tombs are decorated with symbols of Christianity. Single or multiple grave examples are also found in the field. The Roman Period frigidarium section dates back to the 5th-7th centuries. It was used as a cemetery area between the centuries. In addition to simple graves dug into the floor of the frigidarium, votive mosaics were also found for the city's dignitaries and clergy. 6th-7th centuries. Vaulted burial cells dating back to the 12th-13th century, 12th-13th century. In addition to a small number of Byzantine tombs dating back to the 17th century, numerous Ottoman-era Greek tombs dating back to the period between the end of the 17th century and the beginning of the 20th century have also been found.

Petrographic, mineralogical and geological analyzes of the samples taken from regional geological studies and the regions where the lithological material was brought to the excavation site were examined. According to the observations that the petrographic examinations coincide exactly, the origins and source areas of each building material were determined. Accordingly, it is understood that the claystones used in the excavation area were taken from the clay-claystone deposits in Ayancık and its surroundings, and the volcanic and tuffite materials and basalts used in the wall masonry were taken from the volcanic areas around Boyabat and Çangaldağ. Erfelek, Hanönü and fossil marl, limestone and dolomitic limestones were taken from the vicinity of Efelek. Boyabat and Akveren were accepted as clay sand, carbonate sand and sandstone areas. It is understood that almost all of the volcanic-clastic rocks found on tombstones and walls and windows were provided from here. Because these are not the same as the volcanoes on the Sinop peninsula. in the excavation area

Archaeogeophysical studies were carried out in Balatlar church and two and three-dimensional images of the underground were obtained. By using these images, the relevant high anomalous places were excavated and architectural elements such as graves, floors, walls, foundations and canals were determined. Underground images obtained by archaeogeophysical GPR surveys of burial structures and individual burial pits under the mosaic pavements in and around the Balatlar Church were determined. Balatlar Church archaeological excavations contributed to the rich archeology of Sinop City.

Keywords: *Balatlar, Archaeogeology, Sinop, Efelek, Petrography, Geophysics, Frigidarium, Mosaic, Byzantion.*