



Der Wissenschaftsfonds.

Hellenistic-Roman City Fortifications in Asia Minor. Trends of Development and Function Change in View of Stratigraphic Evidence at the East Gate of Side

Frame data to the project:

P 29636-G25

January 2017 – March 2020

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The East Gate of Side is part of an elaborated fortification system consisting of the so-called Main Gate and a well preserved fortification wall. The site of Side, located on the trade route to Egypt and the Levant, favoured an economic growth of the antique harbour especially in the 2nd and 3rd c. AD. Side was an important city in Pamphylia and the southern region of Asia Minor. The Institute of Archaeology of the University of Graz undertook archaeological investigations at the East Gate of Side since 2011. The gate complex – a '*Hoftor*' after the current terminology – has been dated to the Hellenistic period by most of the scientists dealing with fortification systems. In view of this assumption it was very interesting that the excavations didn't reveal any Hellenistic context. The first building period goes back earliest to Augustan times, when the gate shows the structure of a *Hoftor* flanked by two towers.

The process from the gate as a public building connected to an urban structure to a possible fortress for the possible protection of the Episcopal Palace is an aim of investigation.

The results of the excavations require the research work on the archaeological report and the findings. The investigation of an excavation record in context with the findings constitutes the first presentation of excavation results in Pamphylia generally. Important for the whole region of Pamphylia and its neighbouring provinces of Pisidia and Lykia is the first presentation of a relative sequence of the pottery in connection with a significant chronology of a monumental building complex. The solid presentation of the pottery will give a good overview of the material connected to a contextual framework, and which makes further detailed analysis for pottery studies possible.

While the East Gate has always be considered in terms of a defensive aspect, a new conclusion results from the record is concerning its representative function and concerning the urban structure (and not concerning the imminent enemy). Under this changed point of view new issues arise, which have to be cleared up. First of all the analysis of the stratigraphical excavations at the East Gate have to be done. Of peculiar interest will be the research of the history of utilization of the gate complex in consideration to the site history of Side. Also the integration of the East Gate in the number of the well-known *Hoftore* and the establishment of a basis for a new chronology and typology of the so-called 'Hellenistic' *Hoftore* and later developments will be research issues.