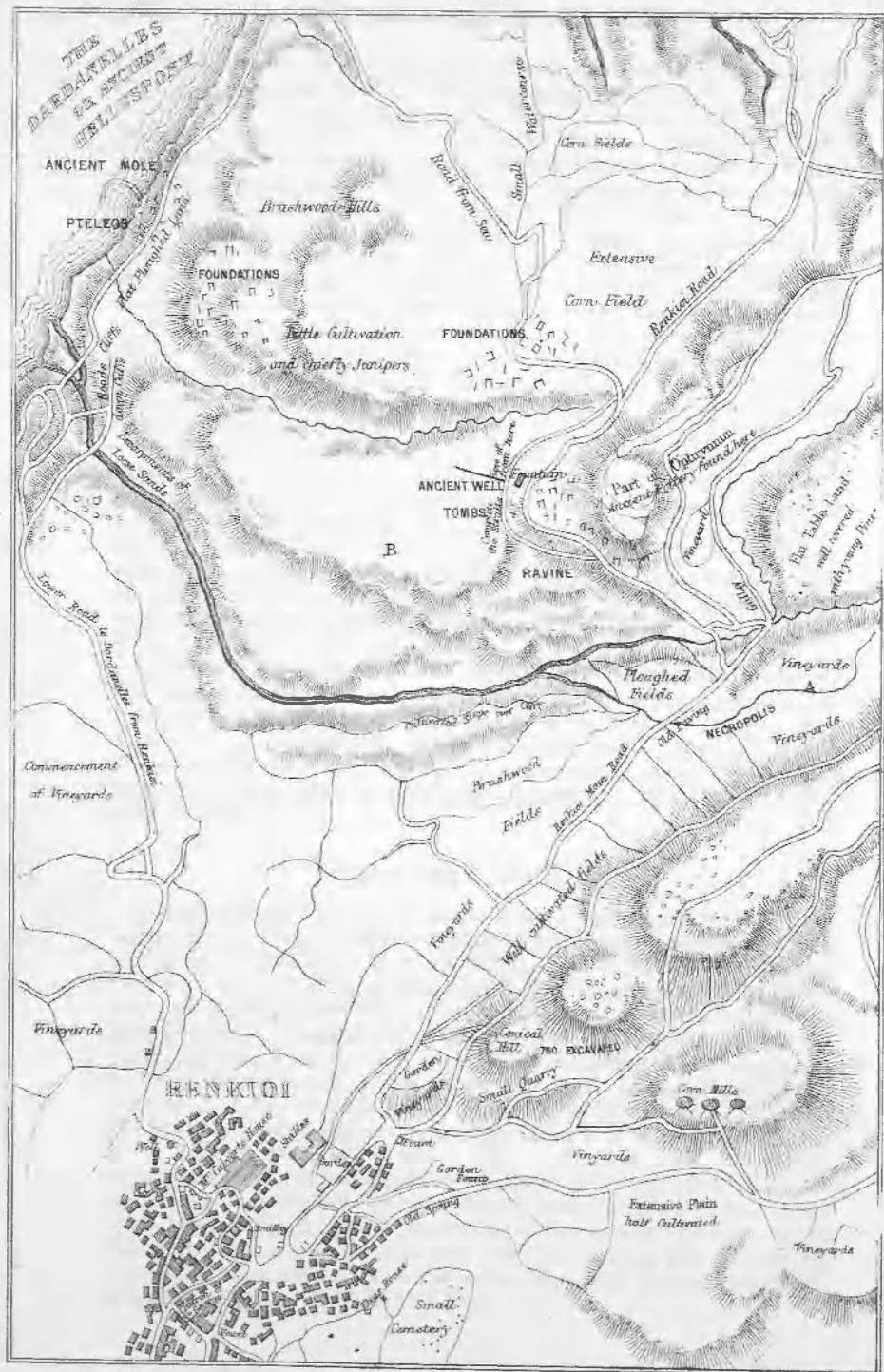


MAP SHEWING THE SITE OF THE ANCIENT OPHRYNIUM, IN THE TROAD



The Archaeological Journal.

DECEMBER, 1860.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ANCIENT GEOGRAPHY OF THE TROAD.

By FRANK CALVERT, Esq.,

Honorary Corresponding Member of the Archaeological Institute.

ON THE SITE AND REMAINS OF COLŌNCE.

THE topography of the ancient towns of the Troad is still involved in obscurity, but few of the sites having been verified, and for the most part founded only on conjecture. Desirous to throw, if possible, some light on the subject, I formed the project, whilst on an excursion in the summer of 1859, in the vicinity of Alexandria Troas, of determining the sites of one or more of the ancient towns situated between that place and Cape Lectum, and of which I felt assured some traces must exist.

With this view, the first place I resolved on searching for was Colōnce, which, according to Strabo, was situated next to Alexandria Troas, and on the exterior Hellespontic sea, at the distance of 140 stadia from Ilium Novum.

“Μιλησίων δ' εἰσὶ καὶ αἱ Κωλωναὶ αἱ ὑπὲρ Λαμφάκου ἐν τῇ μεσογαίᾳ τῆς Λαμφακηνῆς· ἀλλὰ δ' εἰσὶν ἐπὶ τῇ ἐκτὸς Ἑλλησποντίᾳ θαλάττῃ, Ἰλίου διέχουσαι σταδίους τετταράκοντα πρὸς τοῖς ἑκατόν.”¹

This geographer also informs us that Colōnce formerly belonged to the people of Tenedos, who occupied the opposite coast, and that it was contiguous with the Achæum, and further that Alexandria Troas was founded subsequently between those two places.²

¹ Strabo, 589.

² *Ib.* 604.

Dr. Chandler, following Pliny, has erroneously placed Colônæ inland at Chemanli, a Turkish village, distant four miles from the coast. Hobhouse remarks that, according to Pausanias, it must be nearer the coast, and exactly opposite Tenedos.³ Sir William Gell places it at Liman tepeli (harbour hill), half way between Alexandria Troas and Cape Lectum, and conjectures that this eminence gave the name of "the Hills" to Colônæ;⁴ but this site is too far distant from Ilium Novum, being no less than 21 miles, or upwards of 200 stadia.

Strabo mentions that the Scepsians, Cebrenians, and Neandrians, and the inhabitants of Colônæ, Larissa, and many other small towns, were transferred by Antigonos to Alexandria Troas;⁵ and a little later Pliny states that Colônæ had perished, as also Palæscepsis, Gergithos, and Neandros. Strabo, moreover, states, after Daes of Colônæ, that the temple of Apollo Cillæus was founded there by the Eolians, who came by sea from Greece.

"Φησὶ δὲ Δάης ὁ Κολωναεὺς ἐν Κολωναῖς ἰδρυθῆναι πρῶτον ὑπὸ τῶν ἐκ τῆς Ἑλλάδος πλευσάντων Αἰολέων τὸ τοῦ Κιλλαίου Ἀπόλλωνος ἱερόν."⁶

Thucydides mentions Colônæ as the spot where Pausanias, the Spartan general, who had been accused of conspiracy, in conjunction with Themistocles, against the liberties of Greece, received the order from the government of Lacedæmon to accompany the messenger who conducted him back to prison.⁷ This town is also noticed in the works of several other ancient writers.

Starting from Alexandria Troas along the sea-shore in a northerly direction, I entered the fertile plain of Aktash Ovasi⁸ (white stone plain). It is composed of disintegrated granite washed down from the hills in the interior, and is watered by two small mountain torrents, which fall into the Egean Sea separately, one of which receives the hot mineral springs of Alexandria Troas, called "Hidgia," mentioned by

³ Hobhouse's Travels, p. 684.

⁴ Topography of Troy, p. 19.

⁵ Strabo, 597, 607.

⁶ Strabo, 612.

⁷ Thucydides, L. 1.

⁸ In almost all the maps of this country, this plain is strangely named "Ne-

sorakdereh." Ne-sorak being the Turkish for "What is he asking about?" the compiler of the original may possibly have taken that to be the name of the plain, when, not understanding his question, the Turkish peasant asked for an explanation.

most travellers in the Troad. On the southern side of this plain, a narrow range of hills of oolitic formation stretches a considerable way along the coast. I was at once struck by the appearance of an oval hill forming the highest and northern end of the range called Beshik tepeh (cradle mound or hill). If the name of Colonæ originated from the remarkable appearance of the hill on which the town stood, as conjectured by Sir William Gell, it would be more aptly applied to this mound than to Liman tepeh, which is comparatively much less striking. It possesses those natural facilities for defence which generally characterise the sites of ancient Greek towns. Its slopes are abrupt, especially towards the sea, where they form cliffs which are separated from it by a narrow beach. On reaching the summit, I found evidence of an ancient site in the heaps of stones, and unmistakable tokens of Hellenic occupation in the numerous fragments of black glazed pottery which were scattered over the surface. This small city, as Strabo calls it, appears to have covered no more than the flattened summit of the hill, which measures only 720 paces in length, and 230 in its greatest breadth. That it cannot have extended further is proved by the absence of remains on the southern declivity, the necropolis occupying the northern and eastern bases, whilst the sea is towards the west. Within the limits of the above dimensions, the hill, at its southern extremity, has a second elevation with a level surface about 200 paces in length, which formed the acropolis. Here the foundations of a square tower can be traced, as well as of a wall in a lateral direction facing the town. It was about this spot, on the surface of the ground, that I picked up a small brass coin of this town, with the word ΚΟΛΟΝΑΩΝ (in inverted letters) inscribed round the figure of the sun. Some remains of the wall of the town itself can be distinguished in the large blocks of stone which are found in a few places round the extreme edge of the entire hill. Few vestiges of buildings, and none whatever of the temple of Apollo Cillæus, however, exist, which may be accounted for by the proximity of Colonæ to Alexandria Troas (distant only three miles), and latterly to the Turkish villages of Kestambol, Alamisha, and Feranli, for whose inhabitants the hewn stones offered ready material for building.

Turning my attention to the necropolis, I caused excava-

tions to be made. Few of the tombs had escaped ransack, although lying beneath the surface of the ground. One of these which I opened, was constructed of large stones, accurately squared, and placed at right angles; the interior measured 6 ft. 8 in. in length, 3 ft. 4 in. in breadth, and 3 ft. 8 in. in depth. It was built inside a larger excavation with flat sides and rounded extremities made in a soft oolite rock, covered with several large flat stones, which were overlaid with a few inches of earth. It was not possible to ascertain the exact number of bodies contained in this tomb, as the bones were in a state of great decay; but judging from appearances, there might have been four or five skeletons. The interior of the tomb was entirely filled with fine sand, identical with that of the beach close by, which had been artificially placed there. Near the surface, together with fragments of bones, were found several fictile vases, one of which was in the shape of an almond. Proceeding downwards, these became more numerous, and the greater part of the whole number were at the bottom of the tomb. About sixty vases of different shapes were found, of which one half were broken. Amongst these were several of yellow and blue glass, besides several terra cotta penates, an iron spear-head, and two illegible coins in a very corroded state. The painted fictile ware is of different styles; one of these vases, with a trilabial mouth, has the letters +OTPINΑΣ incised upon its neck, above three figures colored red on a black ground, and the same letters are repeated below. These may prove of interest as further tending to remove the old preconceived notion that painted vases were not to be found in Asia Minor.

In another tomb, hollowed out of the same oolite rock which I opened, I found evidence of the excavation having been originally closed with huge stones, which have since been carried away. The vases in this tomb were of an inferior description to those found in the other. Several stone coffins and large earthen jars (similar to those found at Hanai tepeh⁹) buried in another part of the necropolis were also opened, but they contained nothing but human remains.

About three quarters of a mile distant from Colönæ,

⁹ See *Archæol. Journ.* vol. xvi. p. 2.

towards the east-south-east, on an undulating hill, is a small tumulus which might be that of Cynus, king of Colōnæ, a Thracian by descent, and father of Tennes, according to the following passage in Strabo :—

“ Μυθέουσι δ' ἐν αὐτῇ (Τενέδῳ) τὰ περὶ τὸν Τέννην, ἀφ' οὗ καὶ τοῦνομα τῇ νήσῳ, καὶ τὰ περὶ τὸν Κύκνον, Θράκα τὸ γένος, πατέρα δ', ὥς τινες, τοῦ Τέννου, βασιλέα δὲ Κολωνῶν.”¹

There can be no doubt as to the identity of the site of Colōnæ, as its situation and distance from Ilium Novum coincide exactly with Strabo's account, calculating the actual distance of fifteen geographical miles as equal to about 140 stadia ; and having carefully examined the country, I can safely aver that no traces of any other site exist along the sea-shore between it and Alexandria Troas.

ON THE SITE AND REMAINS OF OPHRYNIUM.

THE first mention of this town occurs in Herodotus. Xerxes, in his expedition to Greece, suddenly departs from Ilium ; a panic having seized the Persian army, it leaves Rhœteum, the city, Ophrynum and Dardanus (which borders on Abydos) on the left, and on their right Gergithe and the Teucri.²

In Xenophon we also find that, on the return homeward of the mercenaries employed by Cyrus in his expedition into Persia, they landed at Lampsacus, and next day marched to Ophrynum, where Xenophon sacrificed, as had been his custom, to Jupiter Meilichius, according to the ancient Attic rites.³

Strabo, in describing the *sea-coast* between Abydos and Sigæum, says :—“ Near Dardanus is Ophrynum, on which is the grove dedicated to Hector, in a conspicuous situation, and next is Pteleos, a lake.”⁴

From Webb I gather the following extract :—

“ Near Frankkeia, or Erinkeia, which is an abbreviation of the word Ophrynum, is the precise place indicated by

¹ Strabo, 604.

² Herodotus, vii. § 43.

³ Xenoph. Exped. Cyri, Lib. viii. cap.

4, § 3.

⁴ Strabo, Causab. 395.

geographers as that where the tomb of Hector is situated, in a conspicuous situation.”⁵

But he does not precisely indicate the spot.

Dr. Forschammer remarks that “Choiseul Gouffier has placed the ruins of Rhœteum at It Ghelmez, and the ruins of Ophrynum at Renkioi. It Ghelmez and Renkioi are the names of the same place, and there are no ruins there. The ruins on the brow of the ridge to the west of It Ghelmez evidently belong to Ophrynum.”⁶

Dr. Forschammer is so far right in correcting Choiseul Gouffier in his obvious error, but the ruins (to the west) are most certainly not those of Ophrynum. I am of opinion that the site exists at about half a mile distant from, and to the north-north-east of the village of Renkioi, where I have discovered unmistakable remains of an ancient Greek town. Its commanding position (on the brow of a hill) shows the derivation of its name from ΟΦΡΥΣ to have been peculiarly appropriate; the acropolis occupying literally the brow of one of the highest hills in this vicinity. The descents of the hill at this point are abrupt, especially towards the south, where they terminate almost precipitously in a ravine about 300 feet deep, whose steep sides formed a natural defence to the town. It now bears the name of It Ghelmez,⁷ from which Turkish appellation that of the Greek village of Renkioi is derived. This ravine was most probably very deep in ancient times, though doubtless it has considerably increased since then. It is annually widened by landslips, which are of frequent occurrence, owing to the soft nature of many of the strata along its sides. These belong to the Pliocene freshwater formation, consisting of clay and extensive beds of oolitic drift, in which I have discovered remains of mastodons and other pachydermata, ruminantia, and other species of animals. The remaining strata consist of hard rock, composed almost entirely of bivalves and oolite, both of which stones were extensively used for building at Ophrynum, and are employed at present by the villagers of Renkioi.

The remains of the town are extensive, spreading from

⁵ Osservazioni intorno allo stato antico e presente dell' Agro Trojano, p. 35.

⁶ Royal Geographical Society's Journal for 1842; Dr. Forschammer on the

Topography of Troy.

⁷ The literal translation of It Ghelmez is, “animal cannot come,” or inaccessible to animals.

the acropolis to the west and north-west, down a steep and irregular descent towards the Hellespont. In this latter direction, at the distance of a few hundred yards on the sea-shore, is a small flattened hill, where there are other remains of a similar description ; and here, under water, traces of a semicircular mole are still to be seen on a calm day. It is so situated as to have afforded shelter against the prevailing northerly winds, and evidently served as the port of Ophrynum. On the accompanying map, in which the country south of the site of Renkioi Hospital is shown, the position of both town and harbour are marked. I pointed out the acropolis to the compilers of the map, which they have correctly inserted ; but following out their own ideas, they have erroneously placed part of Ophrynum at the hospital itself, whereas the mole and ruins indicated by them are isolated and distant about a mile.⁸ These, judging from the coins found there, and the entire absence of black glazed pottery, are, to all appearances, Byzantine.

The foundations of the walls of the acropolis, about 6 feet thick, and built without cement, still exist, and can be traced nearly round its entire circumference. The upper part of the acropolis is separated from the rest of the hill by a deep excavation, with an embankment of earth thrown up on the inside. The remains of Roman occupation are especially apparent about this place ; part of a coarse mosaic, and buildings laid in cement, are still to be seen. Coins both Greek and Roman are to be found amongst all the ruins, but most frequently at the upper part of the town. I have myself picked up at different times as many as fourteen brass coins of Ophrynum, which greatly confirms my supposition of the identity of the site. I have also found other autonomous but solitary specimens of Sigeum, Neandria, Gergithe, and Assos ; of silver, Megiste (ins. Rhode) and Mytelene. The Roman coins include most of the emperors from Tiberius to Constantine and Arcadius.

Besides coins, I have found about the acropolis several bronze arrow-heads, and part of an earthen mould, about 6 inches in diameter, for making casts representing the full

⁸ Chart of Renkioi British Hospital, and part of the country adjacent, on the shore of the Dardanelles ; by John Brunton, C.E. The map which accompanies

this memoir gives only the portion of this Chart, in which the ancient vestiges of Ophrynum above described are laid down, with the adjacent town of Renkioi.

face of Apollo, and at the ruins near the port fish-hooks and netting-needles in bronze.

I may here mention that numbers of celts made of serpentine and other hard stone are found in the neighbourhood of Ophrynum, but they are not peculiar to the place, for they are to be met with all over the surrounding country.

The necropolis was situated on the opposite slope of the valley, extending as far as the village of Renkioi. A few tombs, however, lay to the west below the acropolis. These tombs consist principally of earthen jars, with the exception of a few stone coffins. The painted fictilia found in these are, with one exception, of the earliest period of the art, representing animals and simple designs of a black or brown colour, on a light yellow ground. The exception is a black vase with a female head in red. On a highly glazed fragment, forming the neck of some vessel, are the words incised—ΑΦΡΟΔΙΤΙ ΧΡΥΣΟΣΤΕΦΑΝΟ. I have not been able to make many excavations in this necropolis, as it is occupied in great part by vineyards belonging to the village of Renkioi, and producing excellent wine; they maintain the reputation Ophrynum appears to have had in ancient times, judging from the representation of Bacchus on its coins.

On the edge of the ravine are some excavations in the rock, apparently wells, eight or ten in number. Several of these I endeavoured to have cleared out, but owing to their being only $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter, the workmen had difficulty in removing the earth with which they were filled, and could not descend lower than 9 feet. These wells were filled with black earth, with which were mixed numerous fragments of vases, black glazed and painted, earthenware beads, and one of amber. In one of the wells a number of terra cotta weights were disclosed, apparently placed at regular distances.⁹

The supposition that Hector's tomb was situated in the grove dedicated to him in the vicinity of Ophrynum, is very doubtful. The distance from the battle-field and possible site of Ilium, in the vicinity of which, according to Homer (the only genuine source of information), the hero was

⁹ Terra cotta objects of similar character were found in considerable numbers in the excavations made in the Crimea near Kertch, by Dr. Macpherson; see his *Antiquities of Kertch*, p. 103.

It has been conjectured that they may have served as weights for nets, for weaving purposes, or for measuring the depth of the water in these wells. They are figured also in *Arch. Journ.* vol. xiv. p. 204.

buried, is greatly against this conjecture, and it seems improbable that Strabo should have omitted to notice so important a fact when speaking of the grove.—

“Πλησίον δ’ ἐστὶ τὸ Ὀφρύνιον, ἐφ’ ᾧ τὸ τοῦ Ἑκτορος ἄλσος ἐν περιφανεί τόπῳ.”¹

Choiseul Gouffier, in quoting the passage in Lycophron relative to the ashes of Hector being removed from the tomb of Ophrymium to Bœotia, is of opinion that the poet had confounded the tomb of the hero with the grove consecrated to him—a mistake which might easily have occurred in the time of Ptolemy Philadelphus by a grammarian of Alexandria, who was pleased to imitate, or even to exaggerate, the ordinary obscurity of the oracle, and employed the most ancient and least used words. He adds, Pausanias states positively that Hector’s remains had been brought from Ilium, and that Dycus of Crete and Theocritus mention Hector as having been buried outside of the city of Troy, not far from the tomb of Ilus.²

There are several commanding positions in the immediate neighbourhood of Ophrymium, well calculated to be dedicated as a grove, but hitherto no clue has been discovered to enable me to determine the true spot. A few years since the heights were covered with *Pinus maritima* and *Quercus cægilops* (Valonea oak). The pines have mostly been cut down for fuel, and the oaks have now disappeared from the summit of the hills, though they still abound all over the country, being cultivated for the tanning properties contained in the calyx of the acorn.

The only artificial mound which exists in the neighbourhood is one situated just above the village of Renkioi. It is small, and formed chiefly of earth mixed with stones. It has been excavated, but only a few accidental pieces of pottery and tusks of wild boar were met with, and nothing shows it to have been a sepulchral tumulus.

After the grove of Hector, Strabo mentions the lake Pteleos—καὶ ἐφεξῆς λίμνη Πτελεώς. As there are not the slightest indications of there having been any lake, and the nearest marsh formed by the Dunbrek Sora (or Simois of Strabo) is close to Ilium Novum, three miles lower down than Rhœteum,

¹ Strabo, 595.

² Voyage Pittoresque de la Grece, vol. ii. pp. 240, 241.

and out of the line of succession in which he here describes the coast, I am convinced that the word AIMNH has been erroneously transcribed by the ancient copyists for AIMHN, the two last letters being transposed; an error which may have possibly arisen. I am inclined, therefore, to think that Pteleos was not a lake, but the harbour of Ophrynum already described.

In advancing the foregoing remarks on the site of Ophrynum, I am persuaded as to its certain identity. Entertaining this opinion several years ago, I communicated its situation to the Admiralty, who adopted my suggestion, and inserted it in their Chart of the Dardanelles. Time has since only served to confirm me in my opinion, the more so as it is the next Greek site after Dardanus, and corresponding as it does with the position indicated by Herodotus and Strabo.