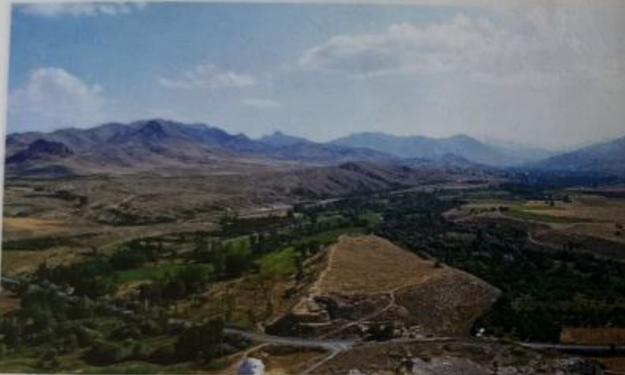
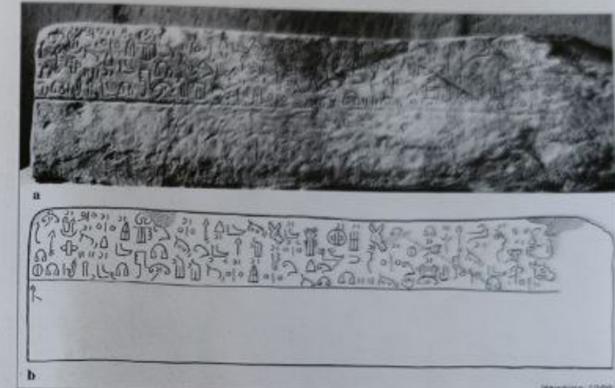


PORSUK HÖYÜK

Porsuk Höyük, also known as Zeyve Höyük, is located 9 km from the Ulukışla district of the province of Niğde. The triangular-shaped site measures 450 m long from east to west and 200 m from the north to its southern tip. The archaeological layers, 5.50 to 8.50 m thick, rest on a conglomerate table reaching 16 m in height in some places. Situated near the northern foot hills of the Taurus Mountains, rich in minerals and forests, on the route connecting the Anatolian plateau to the Mediterranean via the Gülek Pass, the Cilician Gates of Antiquity, and surrounded to the north and south by two rivers that meet in the east, the location of the site is clearly strategic. Its height and the steepness of its northern and eastern slopes also give it the appearance of a natural citadel. It is worth noting that Porsuk, although located north of the Taurus, belongs to the Çakıt Çayı watershed that crosses the entire mountain range to join to the south, in Cilicia (the Kizzuwatna of the 2nd millennium BC), the Seyhan River and the Mediterranean.



William Ramsay was the first to mention the site in 1903 after visiting it in 1891. Following Ramsay, Emil Forrer, in 1926, drew attention to its entrance in the form of a Hittite-type vaulted tunnel (postern) and suggested the identification of Porsuk with the Tunna/Dunna mentioned in Hittite texts, which probably corresponds to the Assyrian Tuna and Ptolemaic Tynna. In 1960, during road construction along the western slope of the höyük, a bulldozer uncovered a stone slab bearing an inscription in Luwian hieroglyphic. A few years later, Hittitologist Emmanuel Laroche, then director of the French Institute of Archaeology in Istanbul, was able to confirm that this inscription belonged to the Neo-Hittite period and dated it to the end of the 8th century BC.



Luwian hieroglyphic inscription (ca. 700 BC)

Surveys were carried out on the höyük in 1968 under the direction of E. Laroche, followed by 33 excavation campaigns during the successive leaderships of Olivier Pelon, Dominique Beyer and Claire Barat between 1969 and 2023.



and of Éric Jean from 2024 onwards, on behalf of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the French Institute of Anatolian Studies (formerly the French Institute of Archaeology), with the financial support of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.

The most well-known features of the ancient site are the ramparts of the Pre-Classical levels (Bronze and Iron Ages) to the east and west of the höyük, as well as part of a residential area from the Classical periods to the east. Four periods of occupation have been identified at the site:

Hittite Period (Middle and Late Bronze Age): Between Hatti and Kizzuwatna (ca. 1600-1400/1350 BC)

A few decades after the founding of their kingdom around 1650 BC, the Hittites founded or took possession of Porsuk (Level VI). The city, destroyed in the first half of the 16th century BC, was immediately rebuilt (Level Va), then destroyed again and abandoned around the beginning of the 14th century BC (Level Vb), almost 200 years before the end of the Hittite empire at



- Hatti in the 15th century BC
- Mittani in the 15th century BC
- Areas under alternating Hittite and Mittanian influence
- Site that provided Hittite texts

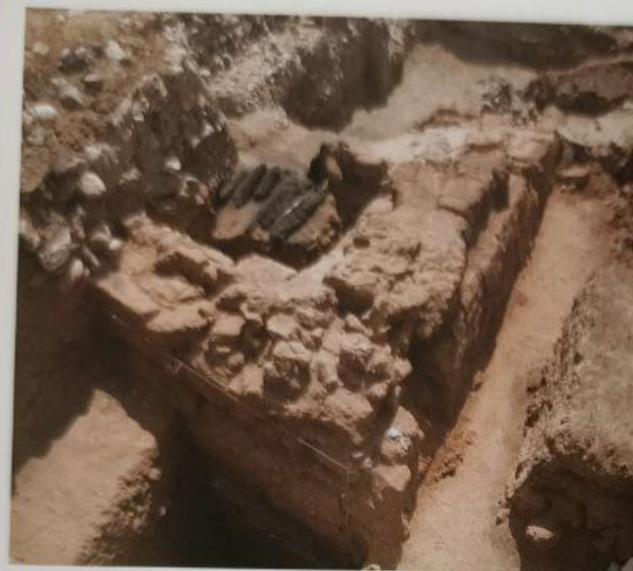
the beginning of the 12th century BC. Porsuk, ancient Dunna, belonged to the Hittite Lower Land, located between Hatti to the north, Arzawa to the west and Kizzuwatna to the east and south. A consideration of the geographical position of the Lower Land, along with that of Porsuk, which controlled the Bulgarmaden mines from the north, and the fact that the site was abandoned at the time when Kizzuwatna lost its independence and became a Hittite province, all suggest that the town may have been controlled by the Kingdom of Kizzuwatna in the 15th century BC.



Hittite postern (Chantier II, 1970)



Hittite postern corridor (Chantier II)



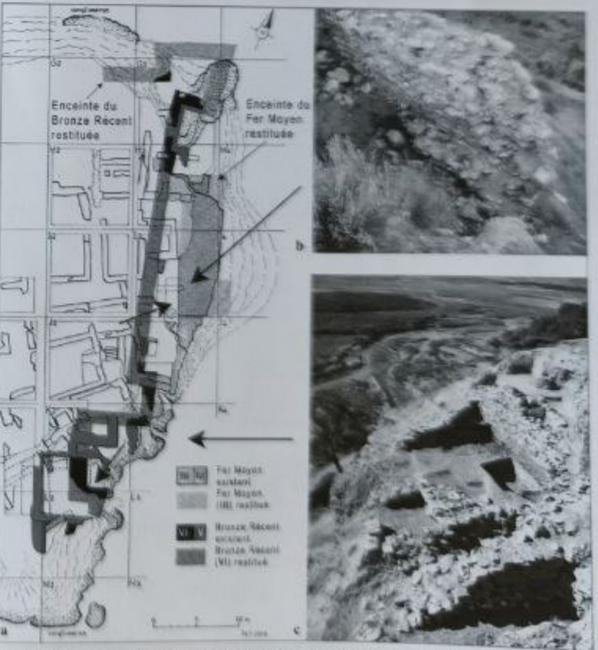
Burnt beams and bricks of the east tower of the Hittite fortification (Chantier II)



Collapsed ceiling or floor (Chantier II)



Jar integrated into a wall (foundation vase?) (Chantier IV, Level VI)



Late Bronze Age Hittite and Middle Iron Age Neo-Hittite fortifications (Chantier IV)