

STUDIA ASIANA

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Collana fondata da Alfonso Archi, Onofrio Carruba e Franca Pecchioli Daddi

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# Sacred Landscapes of Hittites and Luwians

Proceedings of the International Conference  
in Honour of Franca Pecchioli Daddi  
Florence, February 6th-8th 2014

Edited by  
ANACLETO D'AGOSTINO, VALENTINA ORSI, GIULIA TORRI

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## FOREWORD

*Anacleto D'Agostino, Valentina Orsi, Giulia Torri*

On February 6th-8th 2014 the Department of History, Archaeology, Geography, Fine and Performative Arts (SAGAS) of the University of Florence hosted an international conference, *Sacred Landscapes of Hittites and Luwians*, which brought together scholars from different areas of Anatolian Studies who shared an interest in various aspects of the symbolic landscapes built by the Hittite and post-Hittite societies respectively in the Second and First millennia BC.

We take great pleasure in presenting the proceedings of this conference in the hope that the contributions published here will find the appreciation of the scholarly community and stimulate debate on an important issue of the religious landscape of the Anatolia communities between the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age. We express our gratitude to the colleagues who participated in the conference and those who have contributed to this book.

Our intent was to offer an opportunity to discuss the significance of the intertwining of landscapes, architectures and topographies, which has recently become a very debated topic. The main purpose was to investigate how Hittite and other Anatolian populations represented and built their sacred landscapes in the course of the centuries.

Archaeologists, hittitologists and historians stressed how the populations of the plateau perceived many tangible and intangible elements of the Anatolian environment, like mountains, rivers and rocks, but also atmospheric agents, and natural phenomena as parts of a symbolic construction of the *sacrum*. Human communities transformed Anatolian landscape over the centuries, interpreting it as a natural and essential part of their religious and ideological world. By altering the features of this landscape, performing religious and social actions and reshaping the countryside with their techniques, they created a unity between human beings and Nature, expressing in this way their identity. From the articles published here it emerges that the natural open-air places, rock peaks, springs, as well as cities, buildings and gates or certain portions of the settlements had their own specific sacredness, where ritual practices were enacted. Numerous testimonies of such a state of affairs are contained in Hittite cuneiform scripts but also in the millenary monuments on the Anatolian landscape which are often accompanied by Hieroglyphic inscriptions.

Twenty-seven papers were presented and a large public of scholars and students attended the lectures in the Aula Magna of the Palazzo del Rettorato dell'Università degli Studi di Firenze, in Piazza San Marco, and in the halls of Piazza Brunelleschi (Sala Comparetti) and via Laura (Aula 6). Thirteen colleagues sent their contributions for the present volume.

In addition, a session of works was dedicated to the presentation of recent research. This offered the opportunity to discuss the results of archaeological projects and studies in progress carried out by Italian scholars in the sites of Uşaklı Höyük, Karkemiş and Zincirli.

The conference was conceived by Stefania Mazzoni and Franca Pecchioli Daddi and organized by Carlo Corti, Anacleto D'Agostino, Valentina Orsi and Giulia Torri as a part of a larger project funded by the Italian government on the strategic project (PRIN 2009) *Modelli di costruzione fisica e ideologica del territorio e identità culturali: città sacre, santuari, complessi funerari in Siria, Anatolia e Transcaucasia nelle Età del Bronzo e del Ferro*. Silvana Rubanu worked at the registration desk and as assistant in the halls where the papers were presented.

This publication was funded by the Fondazione Ente Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze as a part of the financed project *Il paesaggio sacro della Siria fra II e I millennio a.C.*

The works of the conference were opened by Alberto Tesi, then Dean of the University of Florence, and Anna Benvenuti, Director of the Department SAGAS, to whom goes our gratitude for their support.

The conference was dedicated to Franca Pecchioli Daddi who was to retire from the academic service at the University of Florence the same year. Franca passed away too soon after this event but the words of Alfonso Archi addressed to her on the occasion of the conference, which now open this volume, are the best way to remember her.

This book is dedicated to her memory by all the contributors of the volume.



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