



The City of Hartapu: A Royal Inscription and Survey Results from Türkmen-Karahöyük in the Konya Plain

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The Türkmen-Karahöyük Intensive Survey Project (TISP) is a recently launched site survey in the Konya Plain being undertaken in collaboration with the Konya Regional Archaeological Survey Project (KRASP). Türkmen-Karahöyük forms a large, multi-period site with an upper mound approximately 30 ha in areal extent reaching 35 m in height. First settled in the Late Chalcolithic period, the site appears to have been occupied continuously until the mid-late first millennium BCE. For most of this timespan occupation was limited to the höyük itself, but during the Late Bronze and Iron Ages surface collections and a magnetometry survey indicate that the site expanded dramatically, extending to at least 125 ha in size, making Türkmen-Karahöyük one of the largest sites in Anatolia during the late second and early first millennium BCE. Accompanying this discovery was the chance find of a stele inscribed in Hieroglyphic Luwian composed by the “Great King Hartapu,” whose name is also found in the nearby inscriptions of Kızıldağ and Karadağ. The text describes Hartapu’s conquest over the kingdom of Phrygia. This inscription, coupled with the size of the city during the LB-IA, indicates that Türkmen-Karahöyük was likely the royal seat of Hartapu himself, a hitherto unknown capital city of a Tabalian kingdom, and a descendant of an equally significant Late Bronze Age city.