Introduction

The field known as the Papaz Tarlau ('priest's field') is located in the Karaçay Mahallesi on the southern edge of the plateau that stretches northward and westward from Vezirköprü towards the Kızılmarkt river (ancient Halys). The shape of the field is irregular and its size approximately 8,420 m². At the southeastern corner, the field drops towards the southeast, and the southern edge of the field is defined by the remnant of the river, the Uba. To the west, the field abuts the road leading from Vezirköprü northwards to Adatpe, Oymaçık and Türkmenköy. To the east and north, it abuts on other fields (Fig. 3).

The surface of the Papaz Tarlau is densely scattered with ceramics and the sub-surface structures are immediately visible on the ground in high density areas, as well as small elevations on the surface (Fig. 3). The finds include numerous architectural remains: fragments of roof tiles, floor tiles and bricks, as well as a stone threshold (Figs 7-8) and a broken column (Figs 9-10). In the ravine to the south, foundations are visible in the slope and according to the local informants, bosters have uncovered masonry and a small vaulted chamber in the field.

Georesistivity survey

In April 2010, a georesistivity survey of the central part of the Papaz Tarlau was carried out by a team from the Norrköping excavation project under the direction of Prof. Dr. Rainer Caechen and Dr. Harald von der Osten-Wol DENburg. The survey, which covered a surface of 6,000 m², revealed the foundations of a large building complex composed of three main elements oriented east-west (Figs 4-5): in the west was a quadrangle 43 x 43 m lined by structures on all four sides. From the georesistivity scan it is not possible to say with certainty whether the plan is completely regular or whether the northern side is slightly skewed in relation to the others. At the centre of the quadrangle, a hexagonal structure approximately 10 m in diameter can be seen. To the east lies a structure in the shape of a Greek cross, measuring 21 x 21 m; its western arm is attached to the quadrangle although its axis is not aligned with it, nor with the central structure, but shifted approximately 3 m northwards (hereafter the complex with the cruciform structure). The plans of the cruciform and hexagonal structures show up on the georesistivity plot as distinct, dark areas, indicating that their foundations remain in situ. The foundations of the quadrangle, on the other hand, appear to be best preserved on the western and eastern sides; in the north and south, its contours show up as two parallel grey lines, suggesting that the foundations have been removed, leaving only a robber trench.

Two additional structures are visible on the map: just northeast of the cruciform structure is a small rectangular structure approximately 4 x 2 m and of a slightly different orientation. Also in the northeastern corner of the area

Fig. 4. Georesistivity map of the Papaz Tarlau (Plan: Harald von der Osten-WolDEnburg).

Fig. 6. Silver coins of the emperor Arcadius collected in 2010.