

**İSTANBUL KÜÇÜKÇEKMECE
GÖL HAVZASI KAZILARI
EXCAVATIONS OF KÜÇÜKÇEKMECE LAKE BASIN
(BATHONEA)**

BU KİTAP
MARPORT KÜLTÜR HİZMETİDİR





T.C.
KÜLTÜR VE TURİZM BAKANLIĞI



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Nezih BAŞGELEN

Editör
Şengül G. AYDINGÜN

Yardımcı Editörler
Błażej STANISLAWSKI, Şeniz ATİK, Haldun AYDINGÜN, Dürdane KAYA, Ayberk ENEZ

Fotoğraf Editörü
Haldun AYDINGÜN

İngilizce Editör
Emre KURUÇAYIRLI

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Tel.: 0212 249 92 26

www.arkeolojisanat.com / info@arkeolojisanat.com





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BATHYNIAS - ABOUT IDENTIFICATION AND LOCALISATION OF THE ANCIENT RIVER

Olga WEGLARZ*

Since 2009, the area of Küçükçekmece has been the locale of a multidisciplinary and international archaeological excavations under the direction of Assoc. Prof. Ş. Aydıngün from the Kocaeli University. During the excavations, researchers uncovered remains of structures from Hellenistic, Roman and medieval times. The excavation site is located close to a river that is called Bathynias in ancient sources. The aim of this paper is to present and analyze hypotheses about the identification and localization of this ancient river.

Küçükçekmece is a lake in Turkey, located by the Marmara Sea, at a distance of 15 km from the Bosphorus. The area around the lake was considered by the excavators as a territory, where settlement since prehistoric times might be found due to favorable geographical conditions and its proximity to the prehistoric Yarımburgaz Cave (Aydıngün 2009: 154). Previous archaeological excavations by the Küçükçekmece Lake were carried out in the first half of the 20th century by the Swiss archaeologist E. Mamboury. In recent works, during the preliminary land and underwater surveys in 2007 and 2008, a prehistoric settlement and remains of Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine structures were discovered (Aydıngün and Öniz 2009). Recent archaeological excavations by the Küçükçekmece Lake started in 2009 and joined by the Polish research group from the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Wrocław in 2014. During the excavations, carried out in different parts of the peninsula on the northwestern shore of the Küçükçekmece Lake, the excavators discovered prehistoric finds, structures of two harbors, probably from the Late Roman period, as well as Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine small finds, such as coins, pottery and glass. Ruins of Ottoman buildings were also found in the area (Aydıngün et al. 2011; Aydıngün et. al. 2013; Aydıngün 2013b; Sayar 2013; Tekin 2013a; Tekin 2013b; Kuruçayırılı et al. 2015). Furthermore, in 2013, two votive statues and pottery identified as the Early Hittite type were uncovered (Aydıngün 2013a).

Despite these remarkable discoveries, the problem of identifying this site still remains unsolved. Nevertheless, on the basis of literary sources, E. Mamboury identified another archaeological site on the eastern shore of the lake, which no longer exist, as the ancient city of Rhegion (Greek Ρήγιον) (Eyice 1977-1978: 63). This name appears in texts for the first time, only after the foundation of Constantinople (324 AD), as mansio Regio in "Itinerarium Burdigalense" (v. 570 Geyer). This text is the oldest known Christian itinerarium (a list of cities, villages and stops with the distances in-between), and was written by an anonymous pilgrim from Burdigala, who is describing his journey to the Holy Land in 333-334 AD (Bechtel 1913). The areas around the Marmara Sea were a target of Greek Colonization. In the year 660 BC Megara founded the colony of Byzantion, and about 599 BC Perinthus was founded by Samos.

* Instytut Studiów Klasycznych, Śródziemnomorskich i Orientalnych, University of Wrocław,
o.weglarz@gmail.com

In the 5th century BC the lands around the Propontis were under the control of the Delian League. In and near the excavation area a Roman road, Via Egnatia could be located. To the west of the lake, on the seashore of Beylikdüzü we discovered structures of an ancient port (Öniz et al. 2014). In the vicinity of the excavations carried out in the early 20th century, inscriptions in Greek have been found, on which the name of the Roman Emperor Domitian, and other Roman names (IK Byzantion 30; IK Byzantion 31; IK Byzantion 33; IK Byzantion 34; IK Byzantion 35) can be read. Thus, literary and archaeological evidence allow the conclusion that the area of the Küçükçekmece Lake was inhabited since the mid-1st millennium BC by the Greeks and was under Roman administration beginning with the period of the Roman Empire. The findings relating to earlier periods indicate the presence of the Thracian/Phrygian population in this region in the second millennium BC (Aydingün and Aydingün 2013).

In this part of the paper, I would like to discuss literary references to the river Bathynias, which was located in the vicinity of the current excavation site (Fig. 1), and consider hypotheses about its relationship with ancient and contemporary toponyms. Bathynias (Greek Βαθυνίας) is the ancient name of a river in Thrace, which appears for the first time in texts from the 1st century BC and 1st century AD. The Greek geographer and historian Strabo describes Thrace in his work “Geography” and mentions the name of the river Bathynias among others: μετὰ δὲ Σηλυβρίαν Ἀθύρας ἐστὶ ποταμὸς καὶ Βαθυνίας: εἶτα Βυζάντιον καὶ τὰ ἐφεξῆς μέχρι Κυανέων πετρῶν (“After Selybria come the Rivers Athyras and Bathynias; and then, Byzantion and the places that come thereafter in order as far as the Cyanean Rocks”; Strabo. VII fr. 55[56]). Similar information is given by the Roman author Pliny the Elder (1st century AD) in “Natural History”, in his description of Thrace: “amnes Bathynias, Pidasas sive Athyras. Oppida Selymbria, Perinthus” (“the river Bathynias, Pidasas or Athyras. The cities Selymbria, Perinthus”; Plin. nat. IV.11.47). Besides the name of the river Bathynias, both texts also mention the name of the river Athyras, which was near the ancient Greek city of the same name Athyra in the region of Propontis, in the vicinity of the Küçükçekmece Lake. It is now recognized that the city was located in the present Büyükçekmece district of Istanbul. There is also the name of the ancient Greek city Selymbira, now identified with Silivri, located about 50 km west of the Küçükçekmece Lake. This information about these ancient cities in Thrace and their modern localizations allowed us to identify the river Bathynias as the present river Sazlıdere, which flows into the Küçükçekmece Lake (Oberhummer 1899). It is worth noticing that Strabo’s work was probably not known to Pliny the Elder (Strab. 2-8; Dueck 2000: 14, 151; Litinas 2005: 112). It should also be mentioned that Strabo and Pliny the Elder drew from the same source. It was a geographical commentary by Marcus Vipsanius Agrippa (1st century BC), which was written to make a map (Healy 1999: 42). If Pliny the Elder did not know the work of Strabo, the two sources must be independent of each other, despite the fact that both are based on the same work. Together they confirm the existence of a river in Thrace, called Bathynias, the location of which corresponds to the present Sazlıdere near the Küçükçekmece Lake. The name Bathynias also appears in one more ancient text, “Geography” of Claudius Ptolemy (2nd century AD), a Greek writer from Alexandria. This work is a compilation of geographical knowledge in the Roman Empire of the 2nd century AD. Claudius Ptolemy mentions cities and rivers located in Thrace with their geographical coordinates (Ptol. III. 11.4). These information correspond with those from the works of Strabo and Pliny the Elder.

The river Bathynias is also identified with the ancient river Bithyas, Greek Βιθύας (Smitz 1854: 382). This proposition is based on a reference from the work of Appian of Alexandria (1st/2nd century AD), namely “Roman History” written in Greek. The author describes the march of the Thracians, who had participated in the Trojan War with Rhesus, the mythical Thracian king. According to one version, Appian reports::

Οἱ δὲ πέρασαντας ὑπὲρ τὸ Βυζάντιον ἐς τὴν Θρακῶν τῶν Βιθυνῶν λεγομένων παρὰ Βιθύαν ποταμὸν οἰκῆσαι, καὶ λιμῶπιεσθέντας ἐς Βεβρυκίαν αὐθις ἐπανελθεῖν, καὶ Βιθυνίαν ἀντὶ Βεβρυκίας, ἀπὸ τοῦ ποταμοῦ παρ’ ὃν ὄκουν, ὀνομάσαι, ἢ καὶ τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῖς ἀλόγως σὺν χρόνῳ παρατραπῆναι, οὐκ ἐς

πολλὴ τῆς Βιθυνίας παρὰ τὴν Βεβρυκίαν διαφερούσης. Ὡδὲ μὲν ἔνιοι νομίζουσιν, ἕτεροι δὲ Βίθον ἄρξαι πρῶτον αὐτῶν, παῖδα Διὸς τε καὶ Θράκης, οὓς ἐπωνύμους ἑκατέρω γῆ γενέσθαι.

("they crossed over to the country beyond Byzantium called Thracian Bithynia and settled along the river Bithya, but were forced by hunger to return to Bebrycia, to which they gave the name of Bithynia from the river where they had previously dwelt; or perhaps the name was changed by them insensibly with the lapse of time, as there is not much difference between Bithynia and Bebrycia. Some think so. Others say that their first ruler was Bithys, the son of Zeus and Thrace, and that the two countries received their names from them."(App. Mith. 1.1).

In this passage Appian gives another etymology of the Thracian Bithynia, which can also be applied to the name of the river. Thus, according to him, the name of the river Bithyas could be associated with the name of the mythical son of Zeus, Bithys (Greek Βίθυς). Not only could the lands adopt the name of a mythical hero, but also the name of the river could have some etymological connection with it. Bithyas (Greek Βιθύας) is also the name of a Thracian tribe, which took its name from the same Thracian mythical hero Aelius Herodianus (2nd century AD), grammaticus of Alexandria writes in "De prosodia Catholica" about the derivation of the name of this Thracian tribe (Ael. Her. pros. cath. p. 53). Likewise, Stephanus of Byzantium (6th century AD) gives the same information about the Thracian tribe called Bithyai (Greek Βιθύαι) in his geographical dictionary "Ethnica" (Steph. Byz. p. 169).

The hypothesis about the Thracian origin of the name Bithyas is supported by the fact that, βιθυς/βειθυς is one of the common Thracian anthroponomical name elements (Duridanov 1995: 827). This component can be observed not only in personal names, but also in many geographical names from this area, like Thracian Bithynia, Bithynia, Bithynion, Bithonopolis (Steph. Byz. p. 169-170). It is possible that the name Bithyas was given by the ancient Greeks, due to association with the Thracians, whom they knew from mythology and oral history to have inhabited this area in the earlier past. It can also be considered a possibility that this name was given by the Thracians and adopted by the Greeks. In favor of identifying the river Bithyas with the present Sazlıdere is the fact that during the excavations on the peninsula by the Küçükçekmece Lake, remains of Thracians were found (Aydingün and Aydingün 2013). This archaeological discovery can be connected with the information from the work of Appian.

Now I would like to consider the identification of the name Bithyas with the river Bathynias. This identification is based only on information from the work of Appian. There are no other reports about the river Bithyas in any literary or epigraphic sources. However, the description from Appian does not give any exact information that could identify the precise location of this river. In that case, only the possibility of an etymological connection between the words Bathynias and Bithyas comprise the argument for this identification. This etymological connection would indicate that the name Bathynias was derived from the original Thracian name Bithyas. This hypothesis may be supported by the fact that in many toponyms used by the Greeks to name the areas located on the eastern and western sides of the Bosphorus, elements of a Thracian origin can be found. Similarly, Bathynias may have Thracian provenance, but only if it is assumed that the changes in spelling caused the transformation of the word Bithyas into Bathynias. It is worthwhile to notice that in Thracian toponyms there often appears the suffix-ia, which is also present in the word Bathynias (Duridanov 1995: 827). On the other hand, the fact that the name Bathynias appears in texts from the 1st century AD, whereas the word Bithyas does not appear until the 2nd century AD constitutes an evidence against this hypothesis. It must be, therefore, considered that the name Bithyas could rather be a later variant of Bathynias. Maybe, it was an anachronism resulting from the association of the area of the Bathynias River with the Thracians, who were previously living in the surrounding lands. However, more precise examinations of the etymological connection between the words Bathynias and Bithys are impossible, because they are not known in any other sources that could provide information on this topic.

In the work of Pomponius Mela, "De Chorographia"(1st century AD), there appears information about the city Bytinis: "Deinde est Bosphorus et Propontis, in Bosphoro Byzantion, in Propontide Selymbria,

Perinthos, Bytinis; amnesque qui interfluent Erginos et Atyras”, “Next there are Bosphorus and Propontis, on the Bosphorus Byzantion, on the Propontis Selymbria, Perinthos, Bytinis and rivers Erginos and Athyras” (Mela II.2.24). Some researchers claim that it can be identified with the river Bithyas, about which Appian writes. K.H. Tzschucke points out that in the manuscripts of the work of Pomponius Mela there are a couple of variants of this word: bithunis, bithinis, Bythynis, Bithynis, Bithinis, and the conjectured Bathynis, which appears only in some editions. He claims that the accepted variant should be Bithynis, because it appears in many manuscripts; and he identifies it with Bithyas known from Appian’s work. He also argues that this city could have adopted its name from the river on which it was possibly situated; analogously to many other examples like the city Athyra and the river Athyras (Mela p. 97-98). Thus, it can be assumed that the city Bithynis (or Bathynis) is in the vicinity of the river Bithyas. If it is assumed that the river Bithyas is the same as the river Bathynias, it would indicate that the text of Pomponius Mela is the first literary source to indicate that the city took its name from the river Bathynias. Unfortunately however, this text can not be used as a strong evidence for the localization of the city Bithynis on the river Bathynias. This proposition is based on the association of the names Bithynis and Bithyas and in turn of the names Bithyas and Bathynias. However, one hypothesis cannot be based on top of another. In the text of Pomponius Mela, the city Bithynis is mentioned among Selymbria and Perinthos, but not in the same order as in the works of Strabo, Pliny the Elder and Ptolemy, in which Selymbria comes first, followed by Perinthos and then by Bithynis. If the city Bithynis was situated on the river Bathynias, this order does not correspond to the order of these cities on the map looking either from the east or from the west. In the texts of other ancient authors mentioned above, these cities are listed in the order that corresponds to the actual situation, which allows us to determine their most probable localizations. The way of listing the cities by Pomponius Mela can indicate that he goes from the Bosphorus to the west and mentions Selymbria, Perinthos and then a city called Bithynis. This argument is against the localization of the city Bithynis on the river Bathynias. Furthermore, in many editions there occurs another accepted variant, Bytinis, which is identified with Vize, a city in Thrace, located to the north of Perinthos (Romer 1998: 75).

The last hypothesis proposed on the basis of literary sources, identifies the river Bathynias with the name Bathysros (Smitz 1854: 382). In the text of “Chronographia” (10th century AD) of Theophanes Continuatus (*or Scriptores post Theophanem*) there is a description of the church of Saint Kallinikos on the river Bathysros (Greek Βαθύρσοϛ), near the city Rhegion (Theoph. Cont. p. 340). Unfortunately this is the only surviving reference to this river. It may be associated with the river Bathynias; but it could equally likely refer to another river in the vicinity of Rhegion. Maybe the church of Saint Kallinikos is the same as the church of Saints Stratonikos and Kallinikos, which, as Theophanes Confessor writes, was in Rhegion (Theoph. Conf. p. 231, v. 23-24 de Boor). If it was the same church, this would indicate that perhaps Bathysros is the later name of the river Bathynias. In that case, Rhegion would not only be lying to the southeast of the Küçükçekmece Lake, on the Marmara Sea, but also stretching all the way to the river Bathynias, which probably flowed into the lake from the north. The other eventuality is also possible, namely that Bathysros is not the other name of the river Bathynias, but just another river or stream in or near Rhegion, where the church of Saint Stratonikos and Kallinikos was located.

The other interesting reference to the river that could be associated both with the name Bathysros and the city Rhegion can be found in the work of Anna Komnene, the “Alexiad” (12th century AD). She writes about a site called Bathys Rhyax, where there was a church in honor of the martyr Theodore (Comnena VIII.3.1) (not in the bibliography). The name Bathys Rhyax (Greek Βαθύς ῥύαξ - deep stream) can be associated with Bathysros, due to similarity of the two forms. It is possible that these two names have an etymological connection and one form is derived from the other. Accordingly, Bathys Rhyax could be placed on this river, from which it possibly took its name.

In this part of the paper, I would like to consider those hypotheses arguing for the identification of the river Bathynias with bathonea, proposed for the first time by G. Seure (Seure 1912: 558-559). In order

to better present these assumptions, I will first discuss the references to this word.. The name Bathonea does not appear in any literary sources in Greek or Latin. The word bathoneas (Greek βαθωνήας) occurs only in two inscriptions from Thrace dated around the 1st century AD.

The first inscription (IK Byzantion 315) is an epitaph on a sarcophagus found by the Golden Horn in Istanbul, now kept in the collection of the Istanbul Archaeological Museums (Łajtar 2000: 1, 218).

- | | |
|-----|--|
| (a) | Καλὰ Ἡρ<α>κ- Ἡρακλέοντος
λε [οντος] Διονυσίου
ζῆ |
| (b) | Ματροδώρα Ἡρα-
κλέοντος. |
| (c) | Δαμᾶς Ρούφου Βαθωνήας
ἐτῶν λγ´ ἐπὶ Κοίν(του). |
| (d) | ἐπὶ Εὐδᾶ·
Ῥοῦφος Ῥούφου
τοῦ Στράτωνος ἐτῶν
κς´. |

The inscription is dated by A.G Woodhead to the 3rd century AD (Woodhead 2015). However, A. Łajtar believes that it was probably from the 1st century AD (Łajtar 2000: 1, 218). The relief and inscriptions refer to two families: the inscriptions (a) and (b) refer to Herakleon, son of Dionysios and his two daughters, Kala and Matrodora. The relief and inscriptions (c) and (d) present names from the family of Rufus (Łajtar 2000: 1, 219). In line(c) there appears the word bathoneas: Δαμᾶς Ρούφου Βαθωνήας which can be translated as: “Damas, son of Rufus Bathoneas/from Bathonea”. Damas is a Greek name and Rufus is one of the common Roman cognomina. The word bathoneas is more problematic. It can be considered referring to a place, where Rufus came from; and can be translated as “from Bathonea”. Or, it could be another cognomen, in which case it can be regarded either a name of unknown derivation, or a cognomen created from a toponym.

The second inscription (IK Byzantion S23), where the word bathoneas appears, is a stele presenting a sacrificial scene (Seure 1912: 558), found in Eski Ereğli, located between Silivri (ancient Selymbria) and Marmara Ereğlisi (ancient Herakleia-Perinthus). As A. Łajtar points out, it was probably transferred here from Selymbria (Łajtar 2000: 1, 278). The text of the inscription is as follows:

[(ἐπὶ) ἱεροναμον]ούσης θεᾶς Ὑγείας οἱ κατο[ικοῦντες]
[ἐν Σαλυμβρία στεφα]νοῦντι Στρατόνεικ[ον — — — —]
[— — — — —]άκωντος Παρ[— — — — —]
4 [— — — — —ο]υ Βαθωνήας.Ι[— — — — —]
[— — — — — Κα]ι νῶ Φρουρίῳ [— — — — —]
[— — — — —]ταν φιάλ[αν — — — — —]
[— — — — — Πυθ]ίου Ἀπόλ[λωνος — — — — —]

The inscription was published in 1912 by G. Seure (Seure 1912: 558), and dated by him to the 1st century AD, because of Ζ et Σ, ligatures (Seure 1912: 559). A. Łajtar conjectures that it could be from

the period of the Roman Empire (Łajtar 2000: 1, 278). Unfortunately, the text of the inscription is too damaged to allow a complete reading. However, some information can be obtained from intact letters. In the first line there is the name of the goddess Hygeia. G. Seure suggests that despite this reference, it is not a votive monument but a commemoration of the honor of, and a reward for the service of a local official named Stratonikos (lines 1 and 2) (Seure 1912: 559). In line 3 $\acute{\alpha}\kappa\omega\nu\tau\omicron\varsigma$ can be reconstructed as $[Μη]ν\acute{\alpha}\kappa\omega\nu\tau\omicron\varsigma$, which G. Seure considers as a patronymic known in the region (Seure 1912: 559). A. Łajtar suggests that it could be $[Μην]\acute{\alpha}\kappa\omega\nu\tau\omicron\varsigma$ or $[Ηρ]\acute{\alpha}\kappa\omega\nu\tau\omicron\varsigma$. The suffix $-\acute{\alpha}\kappa\omega\nu$ is typical for Megara and its colonies (Łajtar 2000: 1-279). $\Pi\alpha\rho[$ is probably the beginning of the name of a hekatostys (Łajtar 2000:1-279), which is one of the institutions like phratrys, trittys, chiliastys or pentekostys. This unit is defined as a minor or micro-community of the city (polis), but it cannot be determined whether it is a subdivision of the tribe (Ferraioli 2011: 93). According to N.F. Jones, the hekatostys could be a segment of the phyle and, with one exception, is the only lower-level division known in the cities of the Propontis and Black Sea (Jones 1987: 266).

In line 4 there occurs the word bathoneas. G. Seure says that, subject to the difference in spelling, it can be identified with the river Bathynias, which, according to him, is in the area of Selymbria. He states that Bathynias can be identified with the river Karasou (now known as Karasudere), which flows into the Büyükçekmece Lake, about 20 km away from the Küçükçekmece Lake (Seure 1912: 558-559). However, it is rather unlikely that the river Bathynias can be identified as the river Karasudere, as literary sources indicate that Karasudere can be identified as the ancient river Athyras (Plin. nat. VI.11.47; Strabo. VII fr. 56). In general, there is no evidence to lead to the hypothesis that Bathonea is a river. G. Seure uses the argument that Bathonea is a river located in the region of Selymbria to support a hypothesis about the localization of the ancient city Ceanophrurium. In line 5 of the inscription there appears $\nu\tilde{\omega}$ $\Phi\rho\upsilon\rho\acute{\iota}\omega$ reconstructed as $\text{Και}\nu\tilde{\omega}$ $\Phi\rho\upsilon\rho\acute{\iota}\omega$. This word is in dative, which can indicate localization. Caenophrurium (“New Fortress”) is the name of a city in Thrace, situated to the north of Selymbria between Herakleia-Perinthus and Byzantion (Łajtar 2000:1-279). It is known from literary sources that it was the location of the murder of the Emperor Aurelian in 275 AD (Drinkwater 1996). The localization of this city is still not certain. G. Seure, however, claims that it can be identified with the village Kourfali (present Kurfalli) (Seure 1912: 560-562).

The other hypothesis claiming that the river Bathynias can be identified with Bathonea is posed by S. Eyice (Eyice 1977-1978). This researcher relies on the fact that in the manuscript of the text of Strabo, the letters $\dots\omicron\upsilon\nu\iota\alpha\varsigma$ can be read (Strabo. 378) in the passage about Bathynias, which can be reconstructed as Βαθουνίας (Bathounias). S. Eyice associates this with (as he writes) *Batheos-rhyax*, which he locates by the Küçükçekmece Lake. As mentioned above, *Bathys Rhyax* is mentioned only in the work of Anna Komnene, the “Alexiad” (12th century AD), in which she writes about a site of this name, where there was a church in honor of the martyr Theodore (Comnena VIII.3.1). R. Janin localized it in Rhesion, a suburban quarter of Constantinople (Janin 1953: 158). S. Eyice, however, claims that the meaning of this name - “deep creek”, is an indication to identify it with the river Bathynias. But he also claims that a small settlement or phyle named Bathonea could be located near the Küçükçekmece Lake, because these two names sound similar (Eyice 1977-1978: 59). However, it must be noted that the form “*Batheos-rhyax*” is not correct, because in Anna Komnene’s work this name is given in the genitive case Βαθέος ρύακος , and thus, its nominative form would appear as Βαθός ρύαξ - *Bathys Rhyax*. S. Eyice also uses this form as “Bathounias” in transliteration, which should be rather “Bathounias”. In 2009, Ş. Aydıngün proposed the identification of the excavated site on the northwestern peninsula of the Küçükçekmece Lake as the ancient city Bathonea, on the basis of the work of S. Eyice (Aydıngün 2013b: 51-53). Since that time, this archaeological team uses the name Bathonea to refer to the site.

To resolve the issue of Bathonea, another hypothesis was proposed. L. Robert posited that Bathonea is a subdivision of a city, probably a hekatostys (Robert 1946: 61-62). In that case Bathonea would be a hekatostys of Selymbria, which, according to L. Robert, was itself dependent on Byzantion at this time

(Robert and Robert 1959: 207). Referring to L. Robert, N. F. Jones also says that Bathonea is a hekatostys of Selymbria (Jones 1987: 285-286). On the other hand, O. Tekin proposes that the ancient remains on the western shore of the Küçükçekmece Lake indeed belonged to Bathonea; but it was a hekatostys of Byzantion rather than a city as Ş. Aydıngün argues. His argument is based on the proximity of the site to the city of Byzantion (Tekin 2011). Likewise, in the doctoral thesis of F. Ferraioli from 2011, Bathonea is considered to be one of the 10 hekatostyses of Byzantion, on the basis of some inscriptions from Thrace (Ferraioli 2011: 53). O. Tekin also refers to the inscription IK Byzantion 315c, which refers to Rufus Bathoneas. He believes that the word bathoneas is part of the name of Rufus and derived from the hekatostys Bathonea (Tekin 2011: 140). This is probable. The name of citizens could be derived from those of toponyms to distinguish them from persons with the same name or to record their membership in a civic subdivision (Hansen 2004: 127-128). If Bathonea was the name of a hekatostys, the sub-ethnic name Bathoneas could have been derived from it. M.H. Hansen makes the presumption that, “in many cities the use of sub-ethnics was a convention that spread in the Hellenistic period, noting that they are found in both Hellenistic and Roman inscriptions (Hansen 2004: 128).

The inscriptions with the word bathoneas can be treated as examples of the use of sub-ethnic names. However, if Bathonea was a hekatostys, I would favor the hypothesis of L. Robert that it is a hekatostys of Selymbria. This is based on the fact that both inscriptions have been found at some distance from the site of the present excavations; and one of them can be considered to have come from Selymbria or its vicinity. No inscription containing this word has yet been discovered at the site or the vicinity of the current excavations.

To conclude, the evidence provided by Strabo, Pliny the Elder and Claudius Ptolemy allow us to say with high probability that the ancient river Bathynias can be identified with the present Sazlı Dere. Because the same sources also indicate that Karasudere is the ancient river Athyras, the hypothesis of G. Seure arguing for the identification Bathynias with the present river Karasudere must be rejected. The hypothesis identifying Bathynias with the ancient river Bithyas is based only on the single passage from the work of Appian. A Thracian etymology of the word Bathynias can be considered a possibility. This is supported by analogical examples of Thracian toponyms used by the Greeks, and also by the archaeological discoveries of Thracian presence by the Küçükçekmece Lake. However, these arguments are not sufficient to categorize them as hypotheses based on solid foundations.

The hypothesis identifying Bathynias with the river Bathyrsos is possible. This argument may be supported by the evidence from Theophanes the Confessor for the existence of the church of Saint Stratonikos and Kallinikos in Rhegion, which may be the same as the church of Saint Kallinikos mentioned in the text of Theophanes Continuatus. However, even if we assume that these sources refer to the river Bathyros, it should be remembered that they may not refer to the river Bathynias, but to some other river or stream in the vicinity of Rhegion. It is important to point out that Bathynias and other names associated with it are always (with one exception, which can hardly be considered) referring to a river or stream, and not to an ancient city or hekatostys. When considering the identification of Bathynias, it should be remembered that this is the name of a river and should not be applied too quickly to a city, village, suburb or region. In those literary sources that I consider very informative about ancient cities in the Propontis, there is no mention of the existence of a city on the western shore of the Küçükçekmece Lake. Therefore, we can neither speak about the ancient city Bathonea in the vicinity of this lake, nor in some other part of Thrace. It should be assumed that the ancient remains in the excavation area on the northwestern peninsula belonged to a village, or a hekatostys of Byzantion, or maybe, after the founding of Constantinople, the site of Rhegion. The hypothesis, which considers these ancient structures to belong to a hekatostys of Byzantion is probable, both due to their proximity to this city and their important location. Even if we can consider the possibility of the existence of a hekatostys on the western shore of the Küçükçekmece Lake, there is no evidence in literary or archaeological sources to suggest that this suburb should be called Bathonea. There is indeed no evidence of any kind for the name

of this ancient site. The identification of Bathonea with Bathynias is based cannot be proven without any new information on this subject. Concerning the issue of Bathonea, the most probable hypothesis is the one of L. Robert, who has identified it as a hekatostys of Selymbria. Although, A. Mansel, O. Tekin and F. Ferraioli accept Bathonea as hekatostys of Byzantion, and T. Russel argue that Bathonea could be located on the Küçükçekmece Lake. On the basis of the literary sources, the identification of the site being excavated by the Küçükçekmece Lake is hard for today. However, one of the 19th-century authors Jirecek states that “the first and second century geographers called that the region’s the name before the Regium, as Bathynias River” (Jireček 1877:51). The ceramics found in this zone came not only from levels from time after foundation of Rhegion, but also from lower levels - classical and hellenistic period. Still the name of this area before the foundation of Constantinople remains unknown. Future discoveries may bring to light new evidence that could allow us to resolve this question.

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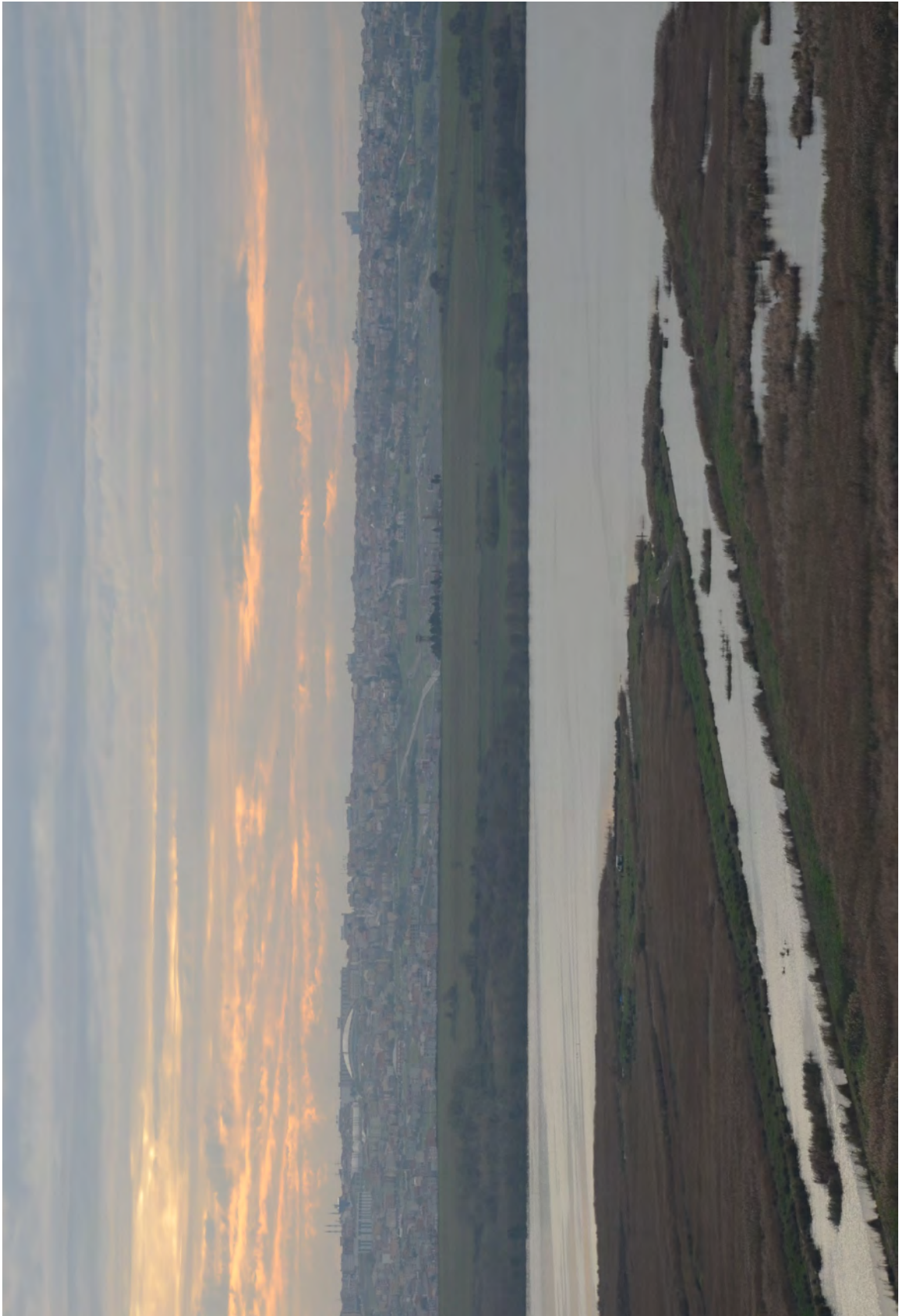


Fig.1 Bathynias River, lake and excavations side.



Fig. 2: Hellenistic coastal walls are unearthed by excavations.