

Midas Yazılıkaya

Galatians, Warlike People in the Steppes:
Pessinus Ancient City

Don't Miss



Midas Yazılıkaya Visiting Hours

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8.00 17.00	8.00 17.00	8.00 17.00	8.00 17.00	8.00 17.00	8.00 17.00	8.00 17.00

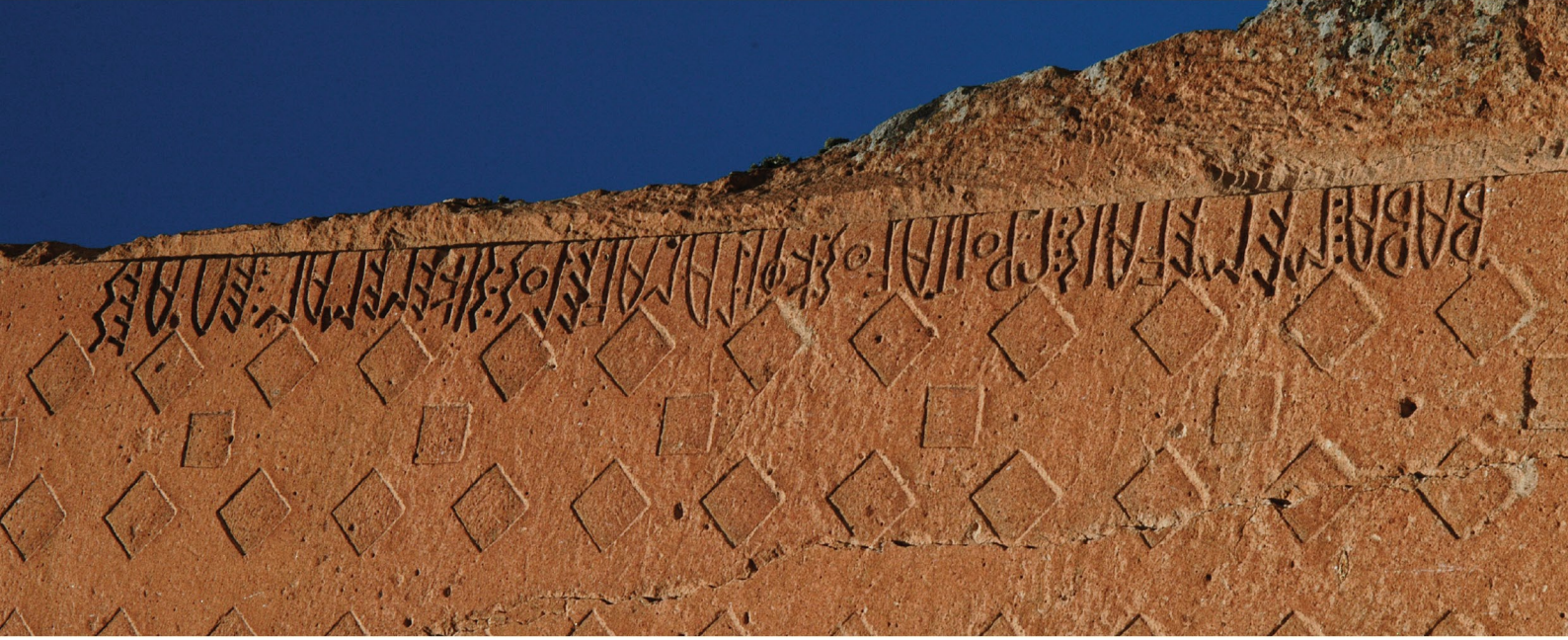
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The Door to House of Mother
Goddess, **Midas Yazılıkaya**





It is located at the southern tip of Yazılıkaya Valley, just west to the Yazılıkaya Village of Han Town of Eskişehir Province. It is seated on Yazılıkaya Plateau, which comprises of Tuff. Its length is 650 m, width 320 m. Its elevation from the bottom of the valley is about 60 - 70 m.

Researches in the mountainous Phrygian Areas and Midas City started when William Martin LEAKE and his friends discovered Midas Yazılıkaya Monument in 1800. The scholar who named Yazılıkaya as Midas City is W. Ramsay. Between 1937 and 1939, Albert Gabriel, Art Historian and Director of Istanbul French Archaeological Institute, C. H. Emilie Haspels, Dutch Archaeologist together started first systematic excavations in Yazılıkaya.

The research and excavations indicate that Midas City was exulted by Phrygians to a privileged status by adorning it many monumental and religious structures cut into rocks. For Phrygians, while the Capital, Gordion was the strongest political center of the state, Midas City was strongest religious center of the kingdom from the very beginning. According to results of the excavations, the first settlement around the city dates back to 3rd Millennium BC. The earliest Phrygian settlement started during the last quarter of 8th Century BC. Following the political demise of Phrygian Kingdom, the city was not abandoned but continued to be used with some additions and changes to the Phrygian rock structures during Persian, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine Eras. It is considered that the monuments and altars of the city were constructed between 8th and 6th Centuries B.C.



Monumental and small sized religious monuments carved into rock within Midas City and Yazılıkaya Valley; reflect deep respect and loyalty that Phrygians felt for Mother Goddess, Matar Kubileya, who represent the nature and all living things.

Even if architectural designs of these monuments which comprise of façades, altars and niches are different from each other, all of them are outdoor temples which are dedicated to Mother Goddess, Matar Kubileya cult. Façades with triangular pediment and pitched roofs represent the front façades of Phrygian houses carved into rocks. Triangular pediment and façade are ornamented with geometric and vegetative motifs. These façade ornaments are very similar to the ornaments in Phrygian woodworks. The most significant part of the façade is portal shaped central rock niche in which a statue or relief of the goddess is present. In this fashion Phrygian people would be able to see in a symbolic sense through epiphany, their Mother Goddess whose presence they felt behind the door opening into depths of rock and whom they dream about. The altars are cult structures where the people pray to the God and slaughter animals and offer sacrifices.



By means of the step in the front, they reach the goddess idol with round head and square body, which represents the goddess. The best examples of these altars are located in Midas City. Niches are oval or rectangular shallow recesses generally carved on vertical surfaces of the rocks but at an easily accessible height. There are seats on their back walls in which goddess statue or idol is placed. There are good examples of this type of niches in Midas Yazılıkaya City.

Midas Yazılıkaya City, which is found eligible for nomination for inclusion into World Cultural and Natural Heritage List is the most precious cultural treasure of the Mountainous Phrygia Region with its unique monumental structures.