

# Fieldwork Report on the Panormos Project Survey, Turkey for The British Institute at Ankara

By Lindsey J. Fine

In 2015, aided by a generous fieldwork grant from British Institute at Ankara and the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, I joined the Panormos Project Survey to investigate the relationship between regional networks and the development of social changes in the Eastern Mediterranean. Located along the western Anatolian coast in the heart of the Milesian peninsula, the Panormos Project is a multi-year, interdisciplinary programme directed in the field by Drs. Anja Slawisch and Toby Wilkinson (DAI) in collaboration with Hasibe Akat (director of the Milet Archaeological Museum), which aims to examine the landscape between the sanctuary of Didyma-Branchidae and the sea over a 2500-year period. As the most renowned oracle of the Hellenic world after Delphi, the sanctuary at Didyma was a significant nexus in the cultural, economic and political life of the region for several centuries, thus providing an ideal case with which to investigate the networks of routine activities and ritual practices of the Hellenic world.

Archaeological and textual evidence for the existence of a 'sacred road' between Didyma and Miletus attest to the importance of the sanctuary in local and regional networks from at least the Archaic period onwards. Previous attempts by archaeologists to identify this route, however, have tended to overlook the relationship between the sanctuary and its neighbouring port, which ancient Greek sources (e.g., Herodotos 1.157.3) refer to as 'Panormos' ('sacred harbour'). Recent excavations surrounding the modern bay of Panormos have revealed both a classic Bronze Age twin-harbour port settlement on the modern island of Tavşan Adası and an Archaic burial ground. Considering that the burial ground was potentially located along an ancient roadway guiding pilgrims to the sanctuary at Didyma, these findings suggest a high degree of importance for the land around the bay, as well as a possible location for the ancient port. Nevertheless, despite this newly uncovered evidence, questions remain as to the extent social, cultural or even spatial continuity in the Milesian peninsula may be said to exist between different eras.

For their first season, the Panormos Project Survey team set out to document the rise of the sanctuary at Didyma through its harbour zone with a four-week intensive pedestrian survey around the Archaic necropolis. Work days usually began around six in the morning, with team members grabbing a typical Turkish breakfast at the hotel before heading out to the site at half past six. Once in the field, teams of six to seven individuals spent three two-hour blocks walking 50m by 50m units aligned to the WGS 84 / UTM zone 35N coordinate system. For each unit, two tract walkers with handheld GPS units guided three other fieldwalkers in the same cardinal direction along parallel tracts spaced 10m apart. For each tract, fieldwalkers counted the visible sherds, collected those that were diagnostic, noted the surrounding vegetation and other observable features, and estimated the percentage of ground currently visible. At the end of each tract, this information was digitally recorded into another GPS unit by the team leader along with

photographs of the tract and surrounding environment before moving on to the next survey unit. At the end of each day, finds were taken back to the DAI project house in Didyma where they were washed, processed, drawn, and photographed. Data recorded by the team leader was also uploaded to a computer at this time for further processing.

Methodologically, the Panormos Survey Project utilised several innovative approaches in its research design, including application of an experimental ‘reproducible science’ methodology. Integrated into every stage of analysis, this methodology was aimed at increasing research transparency and reducing turn-around time from data collection to the public dissemination of results. In addition to implementation of on-the-spot computer-aided data collection, each participant was responsible for contributing entries to an online daily log made visible to the public (<http://www.panormos.de/pp/>). Efforts by the directors to analyse finds immediately from the field also proved particularly fruitful as it enabled Néhémie Strupler to create a preliminary map of settlement distributions by period before the season had officially ended.

At times, surveying the Panormos region could be physically demanding, with steep slopes, vicious dogs, stifling weather and thick maquis providing plenty of challenges for participants. The benefits of actually being in the field were nevertheless immense, offering opportunities not only to collect relevant data, but also to obtain a more thorough bodily understanding of the landscape. Hiking through the area around Didyma placed the sheer scale of the landscape into perspective and revealed both the practicalities and potential difficulties of moving through such an environment. It also provided a better appreciation of how the inter-visibility of specific sites such as the Temple of Apollo, Panormos harbour and nearby mountains created a sense of connectivity within the landscape. Weekend trips to Magnesia on the Meander and Ephesus further contextualised these connections with comparative material culture from the wider region. Personally transversing the region around Panormos harbour thus brought a sense of place to topological space that succeeded in anchoring my thoughts regarding locations to the landscape in ways other types of research had not.

Ultimately, participation in the Panormos Survey allowed me to acquire a greater knowledge of the material culture and regional connections of the Milesian Peninsula. Furthermore, the training I received in survey methodology, ceramic analysis, and object photography throughout the project have also provided me with a stronger foundation from which to pursue my own research, both now and in the future. It is therefore with my sincerest appreciation that I would like to thank the British Institute at Ankara and the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies for the generous grant that enabled me to join the Panormos Project for the 2015 season.

Personal Fieldwork Expenses for the Panormos Project Survey, Turkey  
for The British Institute at Ankara  
Project Participant: Lindsey J. Fine

<b>Item</b>	<b>Estimated</b>	<b>Actual</b>
International Travel	£300	£247
Internal Travel	£45	£70
Accommodation and subsistence		*
Other (please provide details) VISA FEES	£130	£147†
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£475</b>	<b>£464</b>

\*Accommodation and subsistence funding was provided by the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut Istanbul (DAI).

†Visa expenses were higher than expected due to complications that arose during visa processing.