

permanent  
address

c/o Brit. Consulate  
Smyrna



Cambridge

Dec. 5, 1882

Dear Mr Poywater,

I think that the exploration of Asia Minor, in so far as it is related to the history of the West, may be placed under four heads

(1) The Aegean coast and adjacent islands. Here the best time for exploration is the late autumn and the early spring. Great part of this district is very dangerous through-

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out the summer and early autumn. The best centre for exploration is Smyrna; and I think the best method is to go out for an excursion of two or three weeks at a time, and work a particular district, returning to Smyrna to rest. I have found that travelling on this coast generally costs from 20/ to 25/ per day, everything included.

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(2). The interior of Asia Minor, the western portion of the great central plateau, including Phrygia, the mountainous parts of Lycia & Caria, Pisidia. This district lies so high that it can be explored only in the summer & early autumn from June 1 to Nov. 1. The wet cold season sets in at some point of November.

There are two ways of exploring this district

(a) to settle in a large town, preferably Kutayah, and make it a centre round

which to work in shorter excursions.

(b) to make one <sup>or two</sup> long jour-  
neys starting from & returning  
to Smyrna.

Both ways have certain ad-  
vantages; and circumstances  
must be left to decide between  
them, so far as I can at pre-  
sent judge.

In this district there is no  
danger from brigands, but  
the officials cause frequent  
trouble and interruption. In  
my journey last autumn I  
was much troubled from the  
want of a firman; on two



occasions I narrowly escaped  
being turned back, and in gen-  
eral I got on only by making  
the servants tell every one  
that I had a firman. In  
this autumn a decree has  
been issued by the Turkish  
Government that any travel-  
ler taking notes & making  
plans of the country is to be  
arrested as a spy. ~~Dr.~~ Prof.  
Hirschfeld, on a mission in  
Paphlagonia, was arrested,  
imprisoned for some time &

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finally released without being allowed to travel any more. Devran Effendi, the secretary to the Pasha of Smyrna, has received strict orders to issue no travelling orders in his province. In these circumstances I regard a formian, specifying that I am allowed to travel and examine the antiquities of the country, as a sine qua non. Without it the whole scheme will certainly be an utter failure.

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Travelling in this district is much more expensive <sup>than</sup> on the Aegean coast: the accounts of the expedition of Oct.-Nov. 1882, sent in to the Secr. ~~Natural~~ Society Hell. Stud., give some information on the point. ~~It~~

(3) The south coast of Asia Minor, Lycia, Cilicia, Pamphylia, the coast-parts of Lycia ~~and~~.

The best centre here is Adalia, the chief port of the south coast. Time the same as for (1).

(4) The north coast from the

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Bosphorus to Siniope and Amisus. of this coast I know nothing. It has never been explored, but the very full information handed down from antiquity enables geographers to place on the map the many Greek colonies. I have no idea what are the facilities or possibilities of exploration here.

Such seems to me an outline of the work to be done in Asia Minor. The plan of work that recommends itself to me is to make some exploration on the Aegean coast during the spring of 1883, and in June to go into Phrygia,

and to spend there most of the fine season. September is usually rather wet — i.e. a fortnight of continuous down-pour makes work impossible — but October is the most delightful time of the year. June — August & October might be spent on the high ground of the plateau.

The parts of the coast that I am most anxious to examine are

(a) Erythrae & the district

which I have long been studying as opportunity offered.

(b) Samos

But there might be time to do several other districts in the spring.

The districts of the plateau which I wish to examine first are

(a) the Katakekaumene round Koula and Gerdiz (Gordis). A number of very interesting little inscriptions relating to the hieron

of Artemis Anacitis at Coloe come from this district.

(b) The district round the Midas-necropolis

(c) The district between Pessinus and Gordium.

(d) The upper <sup>northern</sup> Maeander valley from Apamea <sup>n</sup> to Eumeneia and ~~B~~ Pelte, and thence west to Dionysopolis and Hyrgalea.

(e) The route of the Ten-Thousand between Pelte and Thymbriou.

These districts are selected

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because (a) they have hardly ever been traversed

(b) the evidence of coins and of references in history leads us to hope that important inscriptions, perhaps even monuments of art, may be found.

The results which may be expected as certain are <sup>topo</sup> geographical: and the determination of the <sup>topo</sup> geography of Phrygia will throw light on many

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historical difficulties — the march of the Ten Thousand, the wars of the Diadochi in Phrygia e.g. the campaign of Spon, the Hellenisation of the country through the Grecised colonies Apameia, Laodiceia &c, the March of Manlius, the boundaries of the Roman Provinces, the establishment of Christianity in Phrygia.

The discovery of new inscriptions & monuments

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cannot be reckoned on with certainty, but may be hoped with some confidence.

There is in the present time more than usual difficulty in dealing with the Mohammedan population & officials. Everything leads to the belief that the Turkish rule is in the agonies of dissolution: there is therefore a certainty that the officials will be doubly suspicious of

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spies, and the possibility that an outbreak of fanaticism might usher the Ottoman Sultans into a better world. It is impossible to say how much or how little might occur before June 1883: but at present, while in a Mohammedan district like Phrygia, one would always like to be ready to leave at an hour's notice. The situation may be less intense next summer, but now it looks as if, out

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of the two methods described on pp. 3, 4, the second would be more prudent.

I have now indicated in outline the views I entertain as to the <sup>(immediately)</sup> most profitable fields of exploration. The decision on the subject lies with others.

Yours

Yours Truly,

W. M. Ramsay.

P. S. I have only to add that though circumstances might block the opening to one field there may be others open, and that the exploration of the interior might require two seasons.