ANCIENT PHRYGIA IN ANATOLIAN CONTEXT

1. Written evidence about the Mushki in cuneiform texts.

In 1902 Hugo Winckler suggested the identification of the Mushki from the Near Eastern texts with the Phrygians from the Greek literature.

1. Mysians and Phrygians probably took part in the battle of Qadesh between Rameses II and Muwatalis II in 1274 BC; they could have been part of the so-called “Sea Peoples”]
2. Tiglatpilesar I (1114-1076 BC) confronted 20 000 Mushki led by 5 kings (their names haven’t been preserved) somewhere between Upper Tigris and Upper Euphrates;
3. We have evidence about the Mushki in the time of Assurnazirpal (884-859 BC);
4. The largest set of evidence originate from the reign of Sargon II (722-705 BC);
	1. In 718 BC Mita, king of the Mushki formed an anti-Assyrian coalition with the king of Tabal: thus Mita=Midas confirms the identification Mushki=Phrygians;
	2. In 717 BC Mita conspired against Assyria with the king of Kargamish; he conquered cities in Que (Cilicia);
	3. In 713 BC Sargon II defeated all kingdoms and punished their rulers but retained good relations with Mita.
5. Greek literary tradition about the Phrygians.
6. Homer mentioned the Phrygians as Trojan alleys but did not know the name Midas; the contingents were led by Phorkys and Ascanios instead; in previous times Priam had helped the Phrygians in their war against the Amazons – implies close relations between both royal courts.
7. Herodotus tells the story about Phrygian mugration from Macedonia/the Balkans to Asia Minor: 7.73. This was the version told by the Macedonians. They were called Brygoi when living in Europe and then changed it to Phrygians when settled down in Anatolia. In 6.45 Herodotus mentions the Brygians as a Thracian tribe without any reference to the Phrygian story;
	* + 8.138 – the Macedonian dynastic legend where Midas’ rose gardens are mentioned where Silen was caught
8. Strabo 7.3.2; 14.5.9 – the Phrygians came to Anatolia after the Trojan War; 12.8.3.
	1. – 10.3.13-15 the similarities between the cult of Dionysos and that of the Mother of Gods in Phrygia;
9. Some Hellenistic writers state that the Phrygians came from Asia Minor to Europe: Euphorion (3rd century BC) and Nicandros (mid-2nd century BC)

Movements of population within a similar ethnic and cultural milieu were possible. There is no evidence for a mass migration from Europe to Anatolia. Similar features in cult and religion could have provoked the Greek literary stories about Phrygian migration.

1. Archaeological investigation of the Phrygian capital city, Gordion.

The site was identified by the German brothers Alfred and Gustav Körte who excavated there in 1900 (published their results in 1904).

Since 1950 the settlement has been excavated by an international team under the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA

1. Early Iron Age (EIA) hand-made pottery was discovered with parallels in Thrace, as well as inTroy and Daskyleion – to some extend it supports the story of migration revealing presence of Balkan population in the EIA, around 1100 BC.

Gordion was a royal citadel, probably built in mid-9th century BC: royal complex of megarons.

* + - The earliest floor mosaic ever found in Megaron 2;
		- The Terrace building – comprising 8 attached rooms of megaron plan: evidence for different crafts was discovered in each of the rooms
		- Orthostates that have parallels in Kargamish in 10th -9th century BC)

Strabo says that King Midas committed suicide by drinking bull’s blood when his country was invaded by the Kimmerians. Till recently scholars assumed that the Kimmerians were to blame for the big destruction of the early Gordion citadel. New samples tested with C14 method showed dates earlier by one century which means that the city could not have been attacked by the Kimmerians. According to these new dates the destruction occurred *c.* 800 BC.

Early Phrygian period: *c*. 950-800 BC

Middle Phrygian period: *c*. 800-540 BC

Late Phrygian period: *c*. 540-330 BC

After the destruction the city was quickly rebuilt: the new city plan repeats in general the former one.

In the 7th century BC Phrygia was under Lydian control and then became part of the Achaemenid Persian Empire, together with the rest of Anatolia. In 333 BC Alexander the Great entered Gordion: the story of the Gordion Knot – probably invented by Alexander’s historians (Arrianos and Quint Curtius Rufus).

1. Gordion tumuli: over a hundred around the city, 35 of which have been excavated

Phrygian tombs are bigger or smaller wooden chambers without an entrance or corridor, meant for one single burial. Covered with huge earthen mounds.

The biggest tumulus at Gordion was nicknamed “Tumulus MM= Midas Mound”: it vis 300 m in diameter and 54 m heigh. Of course, it doesn’t belong to Midas. The investigation shows a date between 744-738 BC when Midas was still alive. Very rich grave goods but without any object of precious metal: hundreds of bronze vessels, 9 pieces of wooden inlaid furniture, hundreds of fibulae, several bronze belts, pottery. The deceased was a man of around 60 years of age.

The other big tumulus is Tumulus P where a child was buried, again with rich inventory. Tumulus W is the earliest of all – probably from the 9th century BC. All the earliest tumuli contained inhumations, later on cremations started to be practiced.

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Вж. прикачените статии на G. K. Sams в същата тема.

www.<http://sites.museum.upenn.edu/gordion>