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REFERENCES

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The "painstaking" excavation of a huge rectangular dump in the southwestern sector of the Citadel Mound of Gordion has been conducted over several field campaigns, producing one of the few existing sealed mid-6th-century deposits in Anatolia – the other famous deposit coming from Sardis. The topmost layer of Gordion's dump (as for the one in Sardis) is dated to ca. 540 BCE, allowing the Authors to associate the latest use of the dump to the period immediately after the Achaemenid conquest of the site, as part of the cleanup following the attack on the city. The construction of the dump is associated by the Authors to the reuse of what remained of a preexisting pithouse, a type of semi-subterranean storage unit or house well documented in the eastern sector of the mound in the Middle Phrygian period, even though the Authors also state that its first use as cannot be dated before the Achaemenid arrival at Gordion.

- 2 The analysis of the deposit from stratigraphic units excavated in 1995 and 1996 has yielded important results and reveals its unique archaeological and historical value. The deposit was composed, for its largest part, of pottery. A few imported vessels secure its chronological sequence and the *terminus post quem* around 550-540 BCE. The pottery assemblage from the dump is essentially composed of vessels related to food storage and preparation, food and drink consumption as well as food and drink presentation — evidence that permits the Authors to conclude that these materials originally belonged to a single household, not necessarily representative of the city's elites, but probably a mid-level household that had the means to use fine pottery and to offer commensal events. Among several objects found in the filling layers of the dump, a particular meaning must be attributed to an incomplete terracotta object interpreted as a sort of portable niche used in household cults.
 - 3 A few pottery fragments and a possible "Persian rider" figurine may suggest the circulation, already before 540 BCE, of materials that are usually connected to the Achaemenid expansion. However, the Authors interpret the data as proof of the fact that the final layer of the dump documents the cleanup which occurred immediately after the Achaemenid conquest of the city.
 - 4 Even though the materials analyzed in this study pre-date the Achaemenid period, in reality they may instead reflect the first Achaemenids at Gordion by showing us what these new arrivals had decided to discard. It is clear, in fact, that the materials found in the upper filling layer were not only, in some cases, valuable, but they were discarded almost complete and in general still usable. This leads to the hypothesis that those who were responsible for the choice of which objects to discard made an ideological choice and not just a simple cleaning up operation. Following this thought, the first inhabitants of Gordion after the Achaemenid conquest thus decided not to engage in commensal events which may have been perceived as a social and cultural marker tied to the defeated city.
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