

Summary

The Tomb at Bodrum, Patara

This tomb is situated on the plain in the Bodrum neighborhood, which lies away from the center of the site of Patara, with its arched façade rising directly from the ground, with its flat roof and sarcophagus in the burial chamber is the first known example of this type of tomb at Patara. We find it convenient to name the tomb a “chamber tomb” to distinguish it from the “temple tombs” which were popular during the Roman period in Lycia and because of its similarity to the chamber tombs which are to be found in Cilicia, Pamphylia and East Lycia. The scarcity of this type in Lycia during this period enabled us to compare it more accurately with other examples in the area.

The sarcophagus in the burial chamber is of the Docimeion style. It is noteworthy that the hyposorion-type sarcophagus here. Moreover, being placed on a hyposorion over a podium, the sarcophagus differs from the sarcophagi which are placed on a podium or a bench within, among the Classical and Roman examples. The coins found inside another podium adjacent to the wall of the tomb, date at the earliest from the time of Domitian, at the latest from the time of Constantine. The east wall being placed over the foundations of the reign of Domitian. The astragal and the egg-and-dart decoration, with their close parallels, date from the late-Antonine (late 2nd century) and this date applies as well for this tomb.