

Aizanoi

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Aizanoi is situated in western PHRYGIA close to modern Çavdarhisar. The name of the city traces back to Azan, the son of the Arcadian king Arkas and the nymph Erato (Paus. 8.4.3). About pre-Hellenistic Aizanoi, practically nothing is known. During the Hellenistic period, the town was alternately Bithynian or Pergamenian, but was won finally by PERGAMON in 183 BCE. Fifty years later it came under Roman rule and merged into the province of Asia. Since the time of Augustus, festivals are known to have been held every four years and financed by private persons. Under the reign of Hadrian, the city was a member of the Panhellenic League. During the Byzantine period, it was a bishop's seat.

Our knowledge of Hellenistic Aizanoi was improved by the German excavations of K. Rheidt (1991–2007). Of particular interest are remains of a house destroyed by fire in the mid-second century BCE. From a first temple of Zeus, probably built under ATTALOS I, nothing has been found, but the Hellenistic cult statue appears on Augustan coins. The well-preserved temple visible today is an Ionic pseudodipteros (Naumann 1979). Its previously accepted date in the second quarter of the second century BCE must now be replaced by a Flavian date in the year 92 CE on account of a recent reconstruction of the dedicatory inscription (Posamentir and Wörrle 2006).

Besides the temple, the extensive mostly Roman ruins of Aizanoi consist of a unique

combination of theater and stadium (whose first building phase is now dated to the second half of the first century CE), an agora with a heroon, a round building with the edict on prices by Diocletian, two large baths (one with a gymnasium), a long colonnaded street (the main axis of the city), four bridges, and diverse tombs in a spacious necropolis. Somewhat curious are at least two round buildings in combination with an extra-urban natural sanctuary of Meter Steunene (see CYBELE), which are attested by PAUSANIAS (Paus. 8.4.3; 10.32.3). They may have served for carrying out *taurobolia*.

Research in Aizanoi continues to be carried out by R. von den Hoff and the German Archaeological Institute.

SEE ALSO: Edict on prices, Diocletian's; Taurobolium.

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