

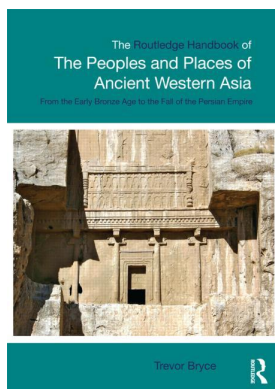
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## **The Routledge Handbook of the Peoples and Places of Ancient Western Asia**

### **The Near East from the Early Bronze Age to the Fall of the Persian Empire**

Trevor Bryce, Heather D. Baker, Daniel T. Potts, Jonathan N. Tubb, Jennifer M. Webb, Paul Zimansky

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## O

**Olymus** City in Caria, southwestern Anatolia, 8 km northwest of Milas (Classical Mylasa). It has been identified with Hylimus (*BAGRW* 61 F3), which appears in the C5 Athenian Tribute Lists as a member of the Athenian Confederacy (see glossary). Inscriptions indicate that a temple of Apollo and Artemis was once located on the site. Bean (1971: 48; *PECS* 646).

**Ophir** In *OT* tradition, the name of a land and its inhabitants who were descended from Shem, son of Noah (Genesis 1:29, 1 Chronicles 1:23). Ophir was famous in biblical tradition for its abundant sources of gold. According to 1 Kings 9:28, ships dispatched to it by Solomon in a collaborative enterprise with Hiram, king of Tyre, brought back 420 talents of the precious metal. 1 Kings 10:11 reports that Hiram's ships also brought back cargoes of almug wood (red sandalwood?) which was used in the construction of Solomon's temple, and precious stones from Ophir. There is no certainty as to where (if anywhere) Ophir lay, the only clue being that it was accessible by ship. Anc. Greek and Roman sources placed it in India or on an island in the Red Sea. Mod. scholars have suggested locations in Sumatra, India, east Africa, and perhaps most plausibly, the southwestern corner of Arabia (Yemen).

Negev and Gibson (2001: 376), D. T. Potts (1995: 1460–1).

**Opis** see Upi (1).

**Ortaköy** see Sapinuwa.

**Orthocorybantes** M1 population group of Central Asia attested in Herodotus (3.92) as forming part of the tenth province of the Persian empire (but see glossary under *satrapy*). An identification has been proposed with the Saka *tigrachauda* people (see *Saka*) who were probably located east of the Caspian Sea.

Hinz (*KP* 4: 365).

**Oxus r. (*Amu Darya*) (map 16)** River of Central Asia flowing northwestwards into the Aral Sea and marking the boundary between the M1 countries Sogdiana and Bactria. Herodotus (1.202) (and also Aristotle) confused it with the Araxes r., which flows eastwards through Armenia into the Caspian Sea. An assemblage of gold and silver objects discovered in 1877 on or near the Oxus (and thus known as the Oxus treasure) is now in the British Museum. The great majority of the items from the hoard, including rings and armlets, statuettes, bowls and plate, and a four-horse model chariot containing a Persian nobleman, are of C5–4 date. The hoard also contains coins of a later period.

Stein (*RE* XVIII: 2006–19), Warmington/Spawforth (*OCD* 1088). Re Oxus treasure: Curtis (*RIA* 10: 153–7).

## OYMAAĞAÇ HÖYÜK

**Oymaağaç Höyük** Bronze and Iron Age settlement-mound, 20 m high and c. 200 m × 180 m in area, located in northeastern Anatolia 7 km northwest of mod. Vezirköprü. Ceramic ware discovered on the surface of the mound indicates the settlement's time-span, from the Early Bronze Age to the late Iron Age. The Hittite period (Late Bronze Age) is not represented in the ceramic material. However, R. Czichon and J. Klinger, who in 2005 conducted a survey in the area to assess whether Oymaağaç could have been the site of the Hittite city of Nerik, report the discovery there of three tablet fragments and a bulla with the seal of a certain Sarini (Yıldırım and Gates, 2007: 300). A scribe of that name is known from Hattusa, the Hittite capital, and Tarsus. The remains of fortifications on the site including a postern may date to the Middle and Late Bronze Ages.

Dönmez (2002: 258–60), Karg (RIA 10: 158–9).