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ON THE TUMULUS OF CHOBAN TEPEH IN THE TROAD.

I DERIVE the materials of the present paper from some memoranda which I find amongst my archaeological notes and which relate to certain explorations to which I was not a party, made so long ago as 1887. I have thought that the particulars then obtained may be deemed sufficiently interesting to deserve a record in the history of Trojan archaeological discovery.

The subject is one of the four small tumuli dotted about and near the hill of Balli-Dagh, the crest of which according to the now exploded theory of Le Chevalier (1785) was supposed to represent the Pergamos of Troy. In a memoir contributed to the *Journal of the Archaeological Institute* of 1864, I proved that the site in question was no other than that of the ancient city of Gergis. In the same paper I gave an account of the results of the excavation of one of the group of three tumuli on Balli-Dagh, the so-named Tomb of Priam. The other two, namely Le Chevalier's Tomb of Hector, and an unnamed hillock, were excavated respectively by Sir John Lubbock (about 1878) and Dr. Schliemann (1882) without result. The present relates to the fourth mound on the road between the villages of Bournarbashi and Arablar (as shown in the published maps), which goes by the name of Choban Tepeh (Shepherd's hillock) and the Tomb of Paris, according to Rancklin (1799). This tumulus was secretly excavated at night by some workmen under the direction of a Turkish village priest, in the usual hope of finding treasure, and the enclosed tomb was rifled on the 6/7th March, 1887. Some valuable and interesting objects were in effect found, with others of archaeological interest as affording still further proof of the non-identity of Balli-Dagh with ancient Troy. The Turkish authorities, having got wind of the matter, imprisoned the priest, and took possession of the objects found, which they forwarded to the Imperial Museum at Constantinople. I had the opportunity of seeing the articles at the Government House before they were sent on.

They consisted of the following :—

A solid golden chaplet with thin oak leaves and small acorns on long vibrating stems.

Three golden fillets, with embossed pattern.

A number of fine strips of gold.

Fragments of sprigs of myrtle, with stems in lead and bronze leaves and berries gilt.

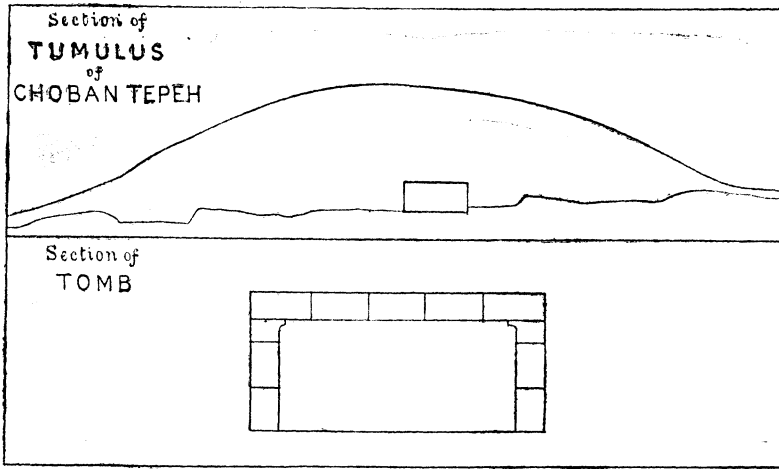
A bronze speculum—plain.

- A small bronze patera.
- An alabastron of alabaster.
- Some iron nails.

The above were found in the tomb resting on the solid rock near the centre of the tumulus. I lost no time in visiting the place and the results of my examination are best shown in the accompanying diagrams of the tumulus and tomb. An open trench intersected the mound to the surface level of the tomb, of which one of the covering slabs had been broken in effecting entrance. The position of the tomb in the tumulus is more towards the east which is the longitudinal direction.

The dimensions of the tumulus are :—

- Diameter at the base, about 130 feet,
- Height above the level of the slope, about 20 feet ;



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of the tomb :—

	ft. in.
Interior length of chamber	8.
Breadth " "	4 8.
Height " "	4.
Thickness of masonry	10.

I have only to add that the masonry of the tomb is of well dressed stones fitted closely together, without cement, and the roof formed of five slabs. The material is from an ancient quarry on the banks of the Scamander at the foot of the hills. It is not of the same formation as the rock on which the tumulus stands, but is a peculiar one, composed of the débris from the heights on the side of the rivers Scamander and Thymbrius, which have been indurated by the *coulées* of trachyte flowing over them in the valleys of these rivers. The stone is of good quality and easily dressed.

FRANK CALVERT.

DARDANELLES, 25TH November, 1897.