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EARRINGS FROM NICAEEA IN BITHYNIA (SOUTH-EASTERN MARMARA)

FATİH HAKAN KAYA, MUSA ALBAYRAK
MARTIN HENIG, ERGÜN LAFLI

Dedicated to the 60th birthday of Stefano Magnani

ABSTRACT:

In this paper 34 earrings are presented, all of which are curated in the Archaeological Museum of İznik in south-western Marmara region of Turkey. They are significant, as very few items of jewellery from Bithynia have been published.

RÉSUMÉ: BOUCLES D'OREILLES DE NICAÉE EN BITHYNIE (SUD-EST DE MARMARA)

Dans ce article, 34 boucles d'oreilles sont présentées, toutes conservées au musée archéologique d'İznik, dans la région sud-ouest de Marmara en Turquie. Ils sont significatifs car très peu de bijoux de Bithynie ont été édités.

KEYWORDS : Earrings, Graeco-Roman jewellery, İznik, Nicaea, Bithynia, Asia Minor, south-eastern Marmara, Hellenistic period, Roman period, Byzantine period, Anatolian archaeology, classical archaeology.

MOTS-CLÉS : Boucles d'oreilles, bijoux gréco-romains, İznik, Nicée, Bithynie, Asie Mineure, sud-est de Marmara, période hellénistique, période romaine, période byzantine, archéologie anatolienne, archéologie classique.

1. Introduction

Numerous unpublished jewellery items are preserved in two museums, i.e. İznik (ancient Nicaea)¹ and İzmit (ancient Nicomedia)², situated within the vast territory of ancient Bithynia in south-eastern Marmara (ancient Propontis) and north-western Turkey (**map 1**)³. In this short paper 34 earrings in total which are curated in the Archaeological Museum of İznik (ancient Nicaea) are listed and discussed. To a large degree this is a rescue publication of locally important items, none of which have been published before and they are now made available to the public and the scholarly world for the first time, providing new additions to the corpus of jewellery, though in most cases they lack stratigraphical context and have to be dated stylistically by comparison with similar earrings. The object of this study is, therefore, to bring together in one paper most of the significant earrings, dating to the Roman period, in the collection of a Turkish local museum in north-western Anatolia. A comprehensive study of all such finds would yield important information about the material culture of Nicaea and other sites in Bithynia during the Roman period.

Methodologically the entry for each earring is given as completely as possible, with at least the following information included: catalogue number in boldface; the museum accession number (within parentheses); reference to illustrations; classification by type; the facts concerning the discovery; measurements; the present condition of the piece; a description of the piece; and a date. Comparanda are provided where applicable.

¹ For the gems, and finger-rings in gold and glass in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, cf. Kaya, Albayrak, Henig and Laflı 2024.

² For the jewellery from Bithynia, cf. Ergil 1979, and 1983; and Akyay Meriçboyu 2001.

³ There are also items of jewelry from the sites in and around ancient Nicaea in the township of İznik conserved in the Archaeological Museums of Istanbul, Bursa and elsewhere, as well as in collections abroad.



Map 1. Nicaea and other sites in Bithynia in north-western Turkey to which reference is made in the text (by F. H. Kaya, 2024).

2. Bithynia, Nicaea, the Archaeological Museum of İznik and its jewellery collection

Bithynia was an ancient region, kingdom and province in north-western Turkey, adjoining the Sea of Marmara, the Bosphorus, and the Black Sea. Nicaea was one of the largest cities of Bithynia, primarily known as the site of the First and Second Councils of Nicaea. It is located within the modern Turkish town of İznik in the province of Bursa, which is ca. 140 km south-east of Istanbul and 120 south-west of İzmit. Along with the rest of Bithynia, Nicaea came under the rule of the Roman Republic in 72 BC. The city remained one of the most important urban centres of Asia Minor throughout the Roman period, and continued as before to compete with Nicomedia for pre-eminence and the location of the seat of the Roman governor of Bithynia and Pontus. Very little is known about the material culture of this large Bithynian metropolis in the Roman period; but it seems that the city retained its Hellenistic character into this later period. Hadrian visited the city in AD 123 after it had been severely damaged by an earthquake and began to rebuild it. The Roman theatre of Nicaea was excavated by Bedri Yalman between 1980 and 2001, and since 2016 there have been new excavations in this area by Dokuz Eylül University in Izmir, which revealed that the theatre was built on a Hellenistic stratum. Although it ceased to function as a theatre in the fourth century AD, it was used for different purposes in the later Byzantine and Ottoman periods as a cemetery area and tile factory.

The Archaeological Museum of İznik has existed since 1960 and was opened to visitors in its new building in 2023. Most of the excavated finds from Nicaea are kept in this museum. The previous museum building of İznik was constructed as an almshouse (a lodging house) in 1388 in memory of Nilüfer Hatun, a daughter of a Byzantine *tekfür* and therefore known as Holofira, but after her conversion to Islam she became the second Ottoman sultana and mother of Murad I. The building is one of the most beautiful examples of 14th century Ottoman architecture. Nilüfer Hatun Imaret was used as a warehouse for various needs during the Early Turkish Republican period in the 1930s and was restored in 1960 and opened to visitors as a museum in the same year. This earlier museum included various finds from prehistoric times to the Ottoman period collected in and around İznik, as well as artifacts unearthed during the excavations of Ilipinar, the Roman Theatre and the Late Medieval and Ottoman Tile Kilns, all in İznik. Between 2020 and 2022, a new museum building was built in İznik by the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism and archaeological artifacts were moved to the new building. While the Nilüfer Hatun Soup Kitchen continues to serve as the Turkish-Islamic Arts Museum, the new museum building has been opened to visitors since January 16, 2023, as a museum where archaeological material is exhibited. Nearly 1,500 archaeological finds are exhibited in this museum.

Almost all of the earrings from İznik presented here were assembled by acquisition from a single local saleswoman, Mrs Muhterem Altınölçek from İznik, who sold them between 1972 and 1978, while two items were bought from her husband, Mr Emin Altınölçek, also from İznik, who sold them in 1966 (nos. 11 and 19). Therefore, they lack any archaeological context, although they seem to be Nicaean funerary finds as suggested by their very good

condition, and because systematically excavated tombs in İznik contain a remarkable assemblage of grave gifts, including gold jewellery and engraved gems.

In this small collection there is therefore a large number of pairs of earrings which were found together in tomb groups, many of them dating from around the third century AD. Two earrings with dove pendants hanging from them (nos. 1–2) are of Hellenistic date, as is most probably an earring with an attached figure of Harpocrates (no. 3). Earlier Roman types of earrings such as the gold ball earrings and simple hanging pearls or jewelled pendants so familiar from Pompeii and Herculaneum⁴ characteristic of the first century AD, seem to be lacking in this group. A very popular type in the Bithynian assemblage features a circular shield or breast-like attachment (nos. 6, 7, 9–10, 13, 15, 17 and 22). There are two openwork rosettes especially characteristic of the third and fourth centuries AD (nos. 23 and 31) and lunate earrings which are probably Early Byzantine in date (nos. 32–34).

3. Earrings in Greek, Roman and Byzantine Asia Minor

In Turkey most of the known jewellery examples belong to the earlier Iron Age civilizations such as Neo-Assyrian⁵, Neo-Babylonian, Neo-Hittite, Urartian, Phrygian, Lydian, or Persian-Achaemenid⁶, but our knowledge of Greek, Roman and Byzantine examples and their chronology in Asia Minor is generally poor. Most of the Turkish museums have extensive collections of jewellery from the Hellenistic and Roman periods, especially in the western and central parts of the country. The largest collections by far are those of the Archaeological Museums of Istanbul⁷ and the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara⁸. Most of these collections remain, however, largely unpublished. There are also some brief notes on jewellery in the local Turkish museums, such as the Archaeological Museum of Izmir⁹ and Museum of Bilecik¹⁰ (see **map 2**).

As an introduction, a listing of the earlier publications on earrings will be enormously useful, enabling further research to take place on this material. In the following section we evaluate some of these, as there are surprisingly few monographs on jewellery finds from excavations in Turkey and of very few excavations in the eastern Mediterranean in general, contain Roman earrings been published in context¹¹. From the Turkish annual publications of excavations and rescue excavations undertaken in Turkey, one gains the impression that most of the finds of the Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods are from graves, although not enough is known about their find contexts. Earrings and other jewellery finds from the excavations conducted to date at some large Roman sites – Ephesus, Sardis and Kyme – are recorded to some extent (cf. below); but other sites including Miletus, Didyma, Priene, Sagalassus, Side, Tarsus, Antioch-on-the-Orontes and most of the sites on southern Black Sea littoral have been only very sparsely published or remain almost entirely unknown. In general earrings of the Classical period are represented least, and most of the material dates from the second and third centuries AD, and is of gold or silver. Earrings found in various excavations in Turkey are reported mostly without any detailed information: from west to east (cp. **map 2**), e.g. Aenus (in a Late Hellenistic–Early Roman burial)¹², Thracian Hadrianopolis (in a second-century AD sarcophagus excavated in the necropolis site at Hıdırlık Tabya, with high quality cameos)¹³, Byzantium/Constantinople (fourth to seventh century AD earrings excavated during the construction of metro stations)¹⁴, Parium (Late Classical–Early Hellenistic earrings from the necropolis¹⁵, in a tomb dated to the second half of the fourth century BC¹⁶ and another one of the same date¹⁷), Assos (Hellenistic material from the necropolis area in western gate¹⁸ and Hellenistic finds

⁴ D'Ambrosio and De Carolis 1997, nos. 6–30, 183–189 and 251–270.

⁵ For example in Üçtepe höyük site in Diyarbakır in south-eastern Turkey, cf. Sevin 1990, 107, Figs. 11 and 13–14.

⁶ On these jewellery traditions, cf. local literature, e.g. Ergil 1983; Akyay Meriçboyu 2001 (with finds from, e.g., Cyzicus, Sardis, Kula in Manisa, Gediz in Kütahya, Xanthus, Silifke, Heraclea Pontica and Rize); Türe and Savaşçın 2002; and Türkoğlu 2013; on the stage of ancient jewellery research in Turkey, cf. Dili 2011.

⁷ Ergil 1983 (earrings); and Akyay Meriçboyu 2001 (all jewellery).

⁸ Bingöl 1999.

⁹ For earrings in the Izmir collection, cf. Sokullu 2003, 180, Fig. 59 (acc. no. 15606) and 183, Fig. 62 (acc. no. 13366).

¹⁰ For earrings in the Museum of Bilecik in the territories of ancient Mysia, cf. Karaca 2023, 77ff, pls. 10–15, Cat. nos. K1–16. Some of the earrings in this small museum were transferred from the region of Afyonkarahisar to Bilecik.

¹¹ For example in Corinth, cf. Slane 2017, 47–49, 62–63, 65, 97, 100, 103, 112, 212–214 and 229.

¹² Başaran 1997, 492, Fig. 9.

¹³ Karakaya and Kırçın 2013, 398, Figs. 5–6.

¹⁴ Çelik 2023, 229, Cat. nos. YAK 1–2, 230, Cat. nos. VAK 1–2 and 231, Cat. no. SPK 1.

¹⁵ Aydın Tavukçu 2007, 26–28, 16–27, Cat. no. 7, Pl. 16, Figs. 33–34 (an Eros earring; late fourth century BC), 27–28, Cat. no. 8, Pl. 17, Fig. 35 (earring with a lion-protome; early third century BC).

¹⁶ Başaran and Tavukçu 2007, 614, Fig. 6.

¹⁷ Başaran 2011, 284, Fig. 2.

¹⁸ Cf. Freydank 2000.

from a votive area¹⁹), Zeytinliada near Erdek (Byzantine)²⁰, Nicomedia²¹, Pergamum²², Kyme²³ (in the Late Classical–Early Hellenistic necropolis site at Iron-Steel Factory of Izmir²⁴, in the eastern necropolis with finds from the third century BC to the first century AD²⁵ and in the south-eastern necropolis area of the Hellenistic period²⁶), Old Smyrna (in Archaic burials)²⁷, Mount Olympus (silver earrings recovered from Trench BM 15, dated to the 12th century AD)²⁸, Ephesus (Archaic finds from Artemision²⁹, in a third-century AD burial³⁰ and Middle Byzantine earrings³¹), Iasos (in a Byzantine burial)³², Mylasa (in a fourth-century BC burial³³ and Hellenistic finds³⁴), Euromus (second–third century AD without any clear find context)³⁵, Idyma (in the Hellenistic

¹⁹ Arslan, Bakan and Böhlendorf-Arslan 2016, Fig. 6.

²⁰ Öztürk and Kavaz 2014, 51, Fig. 13.

²¹ For a gold earring with a Nike, cf. Ergil 1979.

²² Byzantine gold and silver earrings from Pergamum in the Museum of Bergama, e.g. acc. nos. 115 and 5555–5556.

²³ Generally for earrings from the necropolis area, cf. La Marca 2010, 405, Fig. 11; and Karaca 2017, 78, Fig. 36.

²⁴ Çırak and Kaya 2011, 218–220, Figs. 7 and 12–13.

²⁵ Atıcı and Karakaş 2013, 232, Figs 2 and 14.

²⁶ Atıcı and Beyazçam 2016, 374–375, Fig. 6.

²⁷ Akurgal 1999, Fig. 1, 36, Fig. 14; and Foça 2021, 101, Fig. 17.

²⁸ Tulunay 2013, 242, Fig. 16.

²⁹ Pülz 2009, 82–86, Pl. 12; Muss 2005.

³⁰ Ladstätter 2015, 605, Fig. 10.

³¹ Pülz, Kat and Bühler 2011, 326, Figs. 6–10.

³² Berti 1989, 10, Fig. 3.

³³ Çakıcı 2007, 86, Fig. 7.

³⁴ Savran and Yıldız 2016, 520, 522, Figs. 2 and 6.

³⁵ Kızıl 2023, 23, Fig. 9.



Map 2. The main find spots of Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine earrings in Asia Minor (by F. H. Kaya, 2024).

burial chambers)³⁶, Sardis³⁷ (in an Archaic grave deposit³⁸, a Roman find³⁹ in a “late” grave at sector F49⁴⁰ and a seventh century AD gold earring above the remains of a sarcophagus in a tomb⁴¹), Aphrodisias (from a third-century AD tomb found during the construction of Karacasu Dam)⁴², Hierapolis (in a third-century BC monumental tomb at the northern necropolis⁴³ and a simple gold earring in a Jewish burial of the Roman period in the northern cemetery)⁴⁴, Byzantine earrings in rock-cut tombs located 1 km east of Emirazizli district in Honaz (ancient Chonae near Colossae)⁴⁵, Aybey necropolis site in Uşak (from Roman burials also containing finger-rings set with engraved gems)⁴⁶, Amorium (in an eleventh-century AD grave excavated in the atrium of Lower City Church)⁴⁷, Limyra⁴⁸, Roman necropolis of Juliopolis (several types of earrings from the second to the fourth centuries AD⁴⁹ and a pair of gold earrings with carnelian and jasper insets, both with depictions of wreaths and garlands, picked out by leaching of the gems)⁵⁰, Perge (in Roman burials of first to third century AD date in the eastern necropolis)⁵¹, Kelenderis (from the Hellenistic necropolis)⁵², Silifke⁵³, Roman necropolis of Boyalık district (near Oyaca, in the township of Haymana, c. 63 km south-west of Ankara; in the territories of ancient Galatia)⁵⁴, fifth-century AD necropolis in Bahçecik district located 31 km south-west of Haymana⁵⁵, Çağlamaz tumuli near Sungurlu in Çorum (in a sarcophagus dated by a coin of Nerva, i.e. AD 96–98)⁵⁶, Köşk Höyük near Tyana in Cappadocia (excavated in Byzantine tombs)⁵⁷, Amisus (finds of fourth-third century BC from a burial chamber⁵⁸, two gold Late Hellenistic earrings from a monumental tomb⁵⁹ and other finds from Dikilitaş burial chambers dated to the reign of Mithradates VI, i.e. 120–63 BC)⁶⁰, Şamlar necropolis in Amaseia (with coins of Antonius Pius, i.e. AD 138–161)⁶¹ and Perrhe in Commagene (a gold earring found together with a coin of Constans, i.e. AD 337–350, and a gold finger-ring in a burial)⁶². From these publications it is difficult to draw any conclusions concerning local jewellers in Greek and Roman Asia Minor. So far there are few studies in Anatolia which attempts to identify products of a local workshop, with features that distinguishes it from other jewellery production centres. In Asia Minor as elsewhere actual jewellery “workshops” are very rare. One can therefore assume that several jewellers and their workshops existed, with the main centres most probably established at Sardis, Ephesus, Pergamum, Kyme and Smyrna in the west, at an unknown centre in eastern Lydia (most probably in the region of Uşak) and/or in Phrygia (in the region of Afyonkarahisar), in Byzantium/Constantinople, Nicomedia, Lampsacus⁶³ and Heraclea Pontica in the north-west, Gordion and Ancyra in Central Anatolia, in Xanthus and Tarsus in the south and in Antioch-on-the Orontes, Zeugma and Edessa in the south-east (cf. **map 2**). In the Hellenistic and Roman periods the jewellers of high-end products seem to have moved, possibly to work in more prosperous new provincial courts in various cities in Asia Minor. Certainly there was more than one jewellery workshop in Roman

³⁶ Gürbüzler 2006, 83–84, Cat. nos. 92a–b, Pl. 29.

³⁷ For the main publication of earrings in Sardis, cf. Waldbaum 1983, 10–125, 173, Pls. 45–46; and Curtis 1925.

³⁸ Greenewalt 1999, 4, Fig. 12.

³⁹ Waldbaum 1983, 123 and Pl. 45, nos. 723–730.

⁴⁰ Cahill 2012, 213, Fig. 10.

⁴¹ Greenewalt 2009, 193, Fig. 6.

⁴² Yılmaz 2013, 262, Fig. 10.

⁴³ Okunak 2005, 98–99, Cat. nos. 28–29, Figs. 59–60.

⁴⁴ Sevinç 2015, 60, Fig. 15.

⁴⁵ Yılmaz and Yılmaz 2010, 178, 180, Fig. 13. On this site, cf. <<https://korumakurullari.ktb.gov.tr/Eklenti/24906,denizli-ili-honaz-ilcesi-emirazizli-koyu-kumbet-tepe-me-.pdf?0>> (accessed on 31 December 2023).

⁴⁶ Gün 2016, 594–596, Fig. 7, 598, Fig. 10.

⁴⁷ Lightfoot, Koçyiğit and Yaman 2008, 446, drawing 1, Fig. 6.

⁴⁸ Borchhardt 1990.

⁴⁹ Arslan, Metin, Cinemre, Çelik and Devecioğlu 2011, 275, 277–280, 283, 285, 287, Figs. 2–3, 6, 12 and 30.

⁵⁰ Arslan, Metin, Cinemre, Çelik and Türkmen 2012, 183, fig. 5; Laflı and Buora 2023, Pl. 11, Fig. 5 (not in pair).

⁵¹ Çokay-Kepçe 2009, 244, Figs. 7–8.

⁵² For a pair of gold earrings with lion protomes in the private collection of Mr Aslan Eyce in Silifke which were found in Kelenderis, cf. Zoroğlu 1994, 63, Fig. 83. For similar earrings, cf. Aydın Tavukçu 2007, 27–28, Cat. no. 8, Pl. 17, Fig. 35 (early third century BC; note 15 above).

⁵³ Akyay Meriçboyu 2001, 161, Fig. 1 (a gold earring with a female protome in the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara; beginning of the second century BC).

⁵⁴ Çetin and Kaya 2010, 80–81, Fig. 9.

⁵⁵ Arslan, Ateşoğulları and Şahin 2011, 235, 239, 242–243, Figs. 8–9.

⁵⁶ İpek and İbiş 2016, 160, Fig. 6.

⁵⁷ Öztan, Özkan, Erek and Faydalı 2005, 106, Fig. 9.

⁵⁸ Ünal 2016, 182, drawing 3, 183, Fig. 4.

⁵⁹ Patacı and Laflı 2015, 315–316, Figs. 31–m.

⁶⁰ Endoğlu and Ünan 2011, 205–207 and 209, Fig. 12.

⁶¹ Özdemir and Doğanbaş 2011, 151–152, Fig. 8.

⁶² Erarslan, İnce and Alkan 2009, 177, Fig. 11.

⁶³ Cf. Akyay Meriçboyu 2006.

Pontus and perhaps in Paphlagonia as well, most probably in one of the larger cities on the southern Black Sea coast, such as Trapezus, Amisus, Heraclea Pontica, or Sinope.

As for a preliminary conclusion, from some of these previous publications on Roman earrings from Asia Minor one receives the impression that the ordinary, mainly copper alloy Roman trinket earrings were worn by relatively poor members of ancient Anatolian society, and are sometimes rather hard to date unless one has a context⁶⁴. They were sometimes gilded or when new the brass or copper colour would have substituted for gold.

4. Catalogue of the earrings in the Archaeological Museum of İznik

No. 1 (figs. 1a–e).

Acc. no. 1256.

Provenance. Found in the village of Cin (present name unknown) in Kaynarca in the province of Adapazarı and assigned from the local court of Adapazarı to the museum on 30 January 1973.

Dimensions. H. 27 mm, H. of figure 16 mm, W. 28 mm, W. of figure 18 mm, Th. 2 mm, Wg. 4.15 gr.

Description. Earring with a pendant in the form of a dove incorporated in the hoop of the earring.

Comparanda. Greifenhagen 1975, pp. 57–58, nos. 1–11; Bingöl 1999, p. 65 (a pair of earrings with a dove incorporated in the ring in the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara; third century BC)⁶⁵.

Dating. Third–second century BC.



Figs. 1a–e. An earring in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 1256 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 2 (fig. 2a–d).

Acc. no. 1257.

Provenance. Same as no. 1 above.

Dimensions. H. 34 mm, H. of figure 18 mm, W. 28 mm, W. of figure 17 mm, Th. 2 mm, Wg. 4.25 gr.

Description. Earring with a pendant in the form of a dove hanging from the hoop of the earring.

Comparanda. Marshall 1911, p. 288 and Pl. 52, nos. 2446–2447 with ducks hanging from the loop (from Tortosa, Syria).

Dating. Second century BC.



Figs. 2a–d. An earring in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 1257 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).



No. 3 (figs. 3a–e).

Acc. no. 2620.

Provenance. Found with some gold rings set with gems during the construction of a football field in Elbeyli-Karşıbayır which is 7 km north of Nicaea.

Dimensions. H. 20 mm, H. of figure 20 mm, W. 20 mm, W. of figure 6 mm, Th. 1.5 mm, Wg. 4.1 gr.

Description. A simple loop to which is attached a small figure of Harpocrates, his right hand raised

⁶⁴ Waldbaum 1983, 123 and Pl. 45, nos. 723–730.

⁶⁵ The same pair of earrings are dated at Akyay Meriçboyu 2001, 161, Fig. 3 as “first half of the second century BC”.

holding a finger to his lips and a cornucopia in his left arm.

Comparanda. For similar earrings display figures of Eros, cf. Ergil 1983, p. 20, no. 19; Ruseva-Slokoska 1991, p. 116, no. 30; Hoffmann and von Claer 1968, pp. 129–130, nos. 83–84; Rudolph and Rudolph 1973, pp. 57 and 59, no. 46g; Greifenhagen 1975, pp. 53–54, nos. 1–33; Çırak and Kaya, 2011, pp. 218–220, figs. 12–13 (from Kyme, Turkey). The majority of these are of Hellenistic date, see Jackson 2006, pls. 10–25. For Harpocrates figurines worn as pendants from necklaces in gold and silver, all of larger size, see Lunsingh Scheurleer 1996.

Dating. Circa second century BC–first century AD.



Figs. 3a–e. A pair of earrings in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 2620 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 4 (figs. 4a–b).

Acc. no. 2022.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 4 May 1977.

Dimensions. H. 40 mm, H. of pendulum 18 mm, Diam. of pendulum 4 mm, W. 17 mm, Th. 1.5 mm, Wg. 4.45 gr.

Description. Simple open ring with three pendants hanging from it.

Dating. Perhaps in the second century AD.



Figs. 4a–b. An earring in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 2022 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 5 (figs. 5a–b).

Acc. no. 2096.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 28 November 1977.

Dimensions. H. 15 mm, W. 13 mm, Diam. of bead 3 mm, Th. 1–2 mm, Wg. 1.35 gr.

Description. Pair of earrings, simple ring clasped by blue bead.

Comparanda. Allason-Jones 1989, p. 63 and Pl. 29, no. 85 and Ruseva-Slokoska 1991, p. 131, no. 70 (silver ear-rings).

Dating. Mid-second century AD.



Figs. 5a–b. A pair of earrings in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 2096 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 6 (figs. 6a–d).

Acc. no. 1797.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 17 April 1975.*Dimensions.* H. 12 mm, W. 11 mm, Th. 7 mm, Diam. of gem 9 mm, Wg. 1.05 gr.*Description.* A pair, each is in the form of a simple gold hoop with a circular shield or breast-like attachment, and pendant consisting of a wire loop threaded with a blue bead.*Comparanda.* Ergil 1983, pp. 40–41, no. 95. A number of earrings in the collection have almost identical shield like attachments, see below.*Dating.* Second–third century AD.

Figs. 6a–d.
A pair of earrings in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 1797 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 7 (figs. 7a–d).

Acc. no. 1795.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 17 April 1975.*Dimensions.* H. 20 mm, W. 9 mm, W. of gem 5 mm, Th. 5 mm, Wg. 0.9 gr.*Description.* Simple wire loop with circular shield or breast-like attachment with central boss and hanging carnelian bead pendant.*Comparanda.* Ergil 1983, pp. 40–41, no. 95, with a gem-set rilled surround; Ruseva-Slokoska 1991, p. 109, no. 13.*Dating.* Second–third century AD.

Figs. 7a–d. A pair of earrings in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 1795 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 8 (figs. 8a–c).

Acc. no. 1593.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 1 July 1976.

Figs. 8a–c. An earring in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 1593 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

Dimensions. H. 12 mm, H. of gem 5 mm, W. 16 mm, W. of gem 6 mm, Th. 3 mm, Wg. 1.5 gr.

Description. Earring with six-petalled rosette and central green glass or gem attachment.

Comparanda. Ergil 1983, pp. 47 and 50, no. 127; Milovanović 2018, p. 125, fig. 26.

Dating. Second–third century AD.

No. 9 (figs. 9a–h).

Acc. no. 1976.

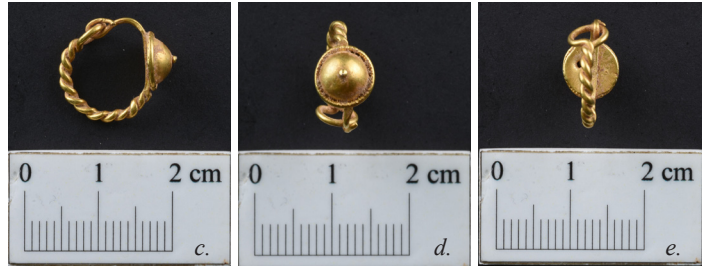
Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 30 July 1976.

Dimensions. H. 16 mm, Diam. of gem 9 mm, W. 13 mm, Th. 1 mm, Wg. 1.35 gr.

Description. Simple shield or breast-like boss attached to a hoop of twisted gold wires.

Comparanda. Marshall 1911, p. 293, Pl. 53, nos. 2516–2517, with plain wire hoop; Milovanović 2018, pp. 119–120, fig. 17.

Dating. Second–third century AD.



Figs. 9a–h. A pair of earrings in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 1976 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 10 (figs. 10a–d).

Acc. no. 2238.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 11 October 1978.

Dimensions. H. 17 mm, Diam. of gem 8 mm, W. 13 mm, Th. 1 mm, Wg. 1 gr.

Description. Simple shield or breast-like boss attached to the hoop.

Comparanda. See no. 9 above.

Dating. Second–third century AD.



Figs. 10a–d. A pair of earrings in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 2238 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 11 (figs. 11a–d).

Acc. no. 713.

Provenance. Acquired from Mr E. Altınölçek on 20 May 1966.

Dimensions. H. 14 mm, H. of attachment 12 mm, W. 11 mm, H. of attachment 7 mm, Th. 2 mm, Wg. 1.1 gr.

Description. Pear-shaped attachment embellished with filigree on a simple hoop.

Comparanda. Milovanović 2018, pp. 1119–1120 and p. 122, fig. 16 (plain) and 19 (set with gems).

Dating. Second–third century AD.



Figs. 11a–d. A pair of earrings in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 713 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 12 (figs. 12a–d).

Acc. no. 2092.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 28 November 1972.

Dimensions. H. 16 mm, Diam. of gem 7 mm, W. 13 mm, Th. 1 mm, Wg. 1.1 gr.

Description. Pair of earrings, wire loop with circular shield or breast-like attachment with central boss.

Dating. Second–third century AD.



Figs. 12a–d. A pair of earrings in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 2092 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 13 (figs. 13a–d).

Acc. no. 1796.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 28 November 1977.

Dimensions. H. 23 mm, H. of bead 7 mm, W. 15 mm, W. of bead 3 mm, Th. 1 mm, Wg. 0.65 gr.

Description. A pair of earrings. Each has imple shield or breast-like boss attached to the hoop, from which hangs a pendant upon which a blue glss bead is threaded.

Dating. Second–third century AD.



Figs. 13a–d: A pair of earrings in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 1796 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 14 (figs. 14a–b).

Acc. no. 2239.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 11 October 1978.

Dimensions. H. 22 mm, W. 16 and 9 mm, Diam. of gem 7 mm, Th. 1 mm, Wg. 0.55 gr.

Description. A pair of earrings, each in the form of a wire hoop, from which hangs a pendant pierced by a bead of dark blue glass.

Comparanda. Deppert-Lippitz 1985, p. 22, nos. 62–63; Ruseva-Slokoska 1991, p. 105, no. 6.

Dating. Second–third century AD.



Figs. 14a–b. A pair of earrings in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 2239 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 15 (figs. 15a–d).

Acc. no. 1945.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 1 July 1976.

Dimensions. H. 22 mm, Diam. of motive 9 mm, W. 18 mm, W. of motive 8 mm, Th. 1.5 mm, Wg. 1.9 gr.

Description. A pair of earrings. Simple shield or breast-like boss ornamented with a band of pellets, attached to the hoop. A pendant which has lost its attached bead.

Dating. Second–third century AD.



Figs. 15a–d. An earring in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 1945 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 16 (figs. 16a–d).

Acc. no. 1685.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 25 November 1974.

Dimensions. H. 22 mm, Diam. of motive 9 mm, W. 16 mm, W. of motive 5 mm, Th. 1–1.5 mm, Wg. 1.8 gr.

Description. A pair of earrings. A gold rosette in place of a shield attached to the hoop.

Dating. Second–third century AD.



Figs. 16a–d. An earring in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 1685 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 17 (figs. 17a–d).

Acc. no. 1794.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 17 April 1975.

Dimensions. H. 29 mm, H. of bead 7 mm, W. 21 mm, W. of bead 6 mm, Th. 1 mm, Wg. 2.05 gr.



Figs. 17a–d. A pair of earrings in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 1794 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

Description. A pair of earrings. Simple shield or breast-like boss attached to the hoop, from which hangs a pendant with hexagonal blue bead.

Dating. Second–third century AD.

No. 18 (figs. 18a–c).

Acc. no. 1596.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 16 July 1974.

Dimensions. H. 59 mm, Diam. of gem 4 x 4–5 x 5–8 mm, W. 19 mm, Th. 2 mm, Wg. 4.5 gr.

Description. Simple hoop from which hangs a pendant with two beads.

Dating. Second–third century AD.



Figs. 18a–c. An earring in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 1596 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 19 (figs. 19a–d).

Acc. no. 715.

Provenance. Acquired from Mr E. Altınölçek on 20 May 1966.

Dimensions. H. 20 mm, H. of motive 15 mm, W. 16 mm, W. of motive 14 mm, Th. 1 mm, Th. of motive 3 mm, Wg. 1.45 gr.

Description. A pair of earrings. Pear-shaped boss attached to the hoop.

Dating. Second–third century AD.



Figs. 19a–d. An earring in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 715 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 20 (figs. 20a–b).

Acc. no. 2088.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 28 November 1977.

Dimensions. H. 16 mm, W. 16 mm, W. of motive 6 mm, Th. 1 mm, Wg. 1 gr.

Description. Simple crescentic earring embellished with three bosses, en repoussé.

Comparanda. Marshall 1911, p. 289 and Pl. 53, nos. 2456–2462, from Amathus, Larnaka, Enkomi and Curium in Cyprus. No. 2460 from Amathus is from a tomb with coins down to the third century AD.

Dating. Second–third century AD.



Figs. 20a–b. An earring at the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 2088 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 21 (figs. 21a–d).

Acc. no. 2089.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 28 November 1977.

Dimensions. H. 33 mm, H. of gem 7 mm, W. of gem 5 mm, Th. 5 mm, Wg. 1.65 gr.

Description. A pair each consisting of a pear-shaped rilled setting containing a garnet, from which hang two wire loops, once threaded with beads.

Comparanda. Allason-Jones 1989, pp. 43–44, Pl. 11 (from Bath, UK). Also Marshall 1911, p. 300 and Pl. 54, no. 2595 (from Amathus, Cyprus) for a pear-shaped garnet in an earring.

Dating. Early third century AD.



Figs. 21a–d. A pair of earrings in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 2089 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 22 (figs. 22a–b).

Acc. no. 1823.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 11 July 1975.

Dimensions. H. 31 mm, H. of gem 11–14 mm, W. 15 mm, W. of gem 8–12 mm, Th. 7 mm, Wg. 3.35 gr.

Description. Oval rilled setting containing an oval convex amethyst, from which hang three pendants threaded with emerald beads.

Comparanda. For earrings containing large oval gems, see Marshall 1911, p. 307 and pl. 55, nos. 2668–2669; also Hoffmann and von Claer 1968, p. 143, no. 92; Greifenhagen 1975, p. 63, Pl. 50, no. 2; and Ruseva-Slokoska 1991, p. 127, no. 57a. Note similar earrings on mummy portraits of women from Egypt, Walker and Bierbrier 1997, pp. 99–101, nos. 91 and 93.

Dating. Early third century AD.



Figs. 22a–b. An earring in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 1823 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 23 (figs. 23a–c).

Acc. no. 1943.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 1 July 1976.

Dimensions. H. 19 mm, Diam. of inset 11 mm, W. 13 mm, Th. 1 mm, Wg. 2.05 gr.

Description. Simple hoop with a more elaborate shield ornamented with added embellishment in twisted wire.

Comparanda. Ruseva-Slokoska 1991, p. 127, no. 59 (from the Nikolaevo treasure, Bulgaria).

Dating. Mid-third century AD.



Figs. 23a–c. An earring in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 1943 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 24 (figs. 24a–b).

Acc. no. 1323.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 5 May 1973.

Dimensions. H. 14 mm, W. 13 mm, Th. 1 mm, Wg. 1.35 gr.

Description. A pair of earrings, each with a circular open-work body with a central jewel, here lost and a bar from which hangs three pendants, the outer two terminating in blue beads.

Comparanda. Yeroulanou 1999, pp. 263–275, nos. 357–441; Allason-Jones 1989, p. 57, no. 59, Pl. 25; Ruseva-Slokoska 1991, pp. 123–124, nos. 50–52; Milovanović 2018, pp. 124–125, fig. 27. This is a familiar type of earring, with usually three hanging pendants dating from the second and third centuries AD such as is frequently seen depicted on mummy portraits from Egypt, cf. Walker and Bierbrier 1997, pp. 99–101, nos. 91 and 93.

Dating. Third century AD.



Figs. 24a–b. A pair of earrings in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 1323 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 25 (figs. 25a–d).

Acc. no. 1595.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 16 July 1974.

Dimensions. H. 44 mm, H. of gem 8 mm, W. 11 mm, W. of gem 8 mm, Th. 5 mm, Wg. 3.5 gr.

Description. Earring with square bezel attached, containing a blue glass setting, with a pendant hanging from it.

Comparanda. For earrings with similar attached square bezel see Ergil 1983, p. 49, no. 130; Rudolph and Rudolph 1973, pp. 164–165, no. 132b.

Dating. Third century AD.



Figs. 25a–d. An earring in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 1595 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 26 (figs. 26a–b).

Acc. no. 1492.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 1 July 1976.

Dimensions. H. 33 mm, Diam. of gem 4 mm, W. 13 mm, Th. 1 mm, Wg. 1.1 gr.

Description. A central, twelve petalled rosette with blue bead in the centre and two pendants each containing tiny bezels with red settings.

Comparanda. Rudolph and Rudolph 1973, pp. 110–111, no. 86b. Also, for the central rosette see Besson 2003, pp. 16–17, no. 3, Bj418.

Dating. Third century AD.



Figs. 26a–b. An earring in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 1492 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 27 (figs. 27a–c).

Acc. no. 1867.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 11 December 1975.

Dimensions. H. 26 mm, W. of motive 8 mm, W. 20 mm, W. of motive 7 mm, Th. 1–2 mm, Wg. 1.85 gr.

Description. Pair of earrings, simple ring clasped by openwork gold bead.

Dating. Third century AD.



Figs. 27a–c. An earring in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 1867 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 28 (figs. 28a–d).

Acc. no. 1950.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 1 July 1976.

Dimensions. H. 14 mm, W. 16 mm, Diam. of gem 4–7 mm, Th. 1 mm, Wg. 1 gr.

Description. A boss attached to the hoop with a blue gem in the centre.

Dating. Third century AD.



Figs. 28a–d. An earring in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 1950 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 29 (figs. 29a–d).

Acc. no. 1684.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 25 November 1974.

Dimensions. H. 21 mm, H. of Eros 7 mm, W. 6 mm, W. of Eros 1 mm, Th. 1 mm, Wg. 1.3 gr.

Description. Simple hoop with pendant containing an onyx cameo depicting Eros Thanatos.



Figs. 29a–d. An earring in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 1684 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

Comparanda. For earrings with pendants containing cameos depicting Eros Thanatos, see Henig and Molesworth 2018, pp. 172–173, nos. 172–175. For two examples in the Museum of Amasya in north-eastern Turkey, cf. Laflı and Henig 2023, p. 277, Cat. nos. 2–3, p. 284, figs 2–3 (figs. 29e–f).

For a sculptural comparison from Mysia figuring Eros Thanatos, cf. fig. 29g in the Archaeological Museum of Bursa.

Dating. Third century AD.



Fig. 29e. A two-layered onyx cameo set in a gold ring depicting a mourning Eros Thanatos in the Museum of Amasya (photo by E. Laflı, 2018).

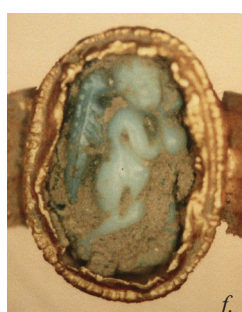


Fig. 29f. A two-layered onyx cameo set in a gold bracelet depicting a mourning Eros Thanatos in the Museum of Amasya (photo by E. Laflı, 2018).

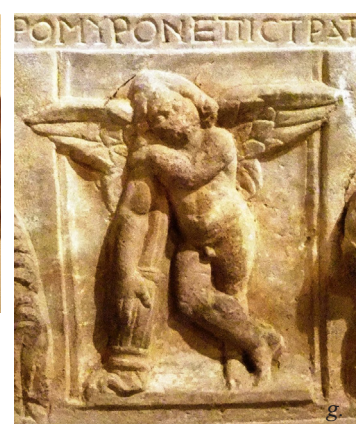


Fig. 29g: The image of Eros Thanatos on a marble funerary monument in the Archaeological Museum of Bursa in north-western Turkey (photo by A. Çetingöz, 2021).

No. 30 (figs. 30a–b).

Acc. no. 2023.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 4 May 1977.

Dimensions. H. 23 mm, H. of gem 6 mm, W. 19 mm, W. of gem 4 mm, Th. 3 mm, Wg. 2.2 gr.

Description. Earring with thickened lower part of the hoop with short projections giving it a rough appearance, rather like a Herakles club. An attached element contains a central triangle.

Dating. Third century AD.



Figs. 30a–b. An earring in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 2023 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 31 (figs. 31a–b).

Acc. no. 1940.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 1 July 1976.

Dimensions. H. 24 mm, Diam. of gem 4 mm, W. 17 mm, Th. 2 mm (wire 1 mm), Wg. 1.6 gr.

Description. Openwork rosette containing a central bead. There were two pendants but the bead has been lost.

Comparanda. Ergil 1983, pp. 47 and 50, no. 127; Ruseva-Slokoska 1991, p. 125, no. 52; Yeroulanou 1999, pp. 263–275, nos. 357–441.

Dating. Third century AD.



Figs. 31a–b. An earring in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 1940 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

globules.

Dating. The form of decoration is suggestive of an Early Byzantine aesthetic, i.e. sixth or seventh century AD or later.



Figs. 32a–d. A pair of earrings in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 1957 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 33 (figs. 33a–b).

Acc. no. 1824.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 11 July 1975.

Dimensions. H. 32 mm, H. of motive 13 mm, W. 20 mm, Th. 1 mm, Wg. 1.7 gr.

Description. Lunate earring with foliate design.

Comparanda. Ergil 1983, pp. 61–62, no. 157; Rudolph and Rudolph 1973, p. 242, no. 196; Greifenhagen 1975, p. 67, nos. 10–11. A common type at this period, see in general Yeroulanou 1999, pp. 279–293, nos. 475–588 and for vegetal designs pp. 292–293, nos. 568–575.

Dating. Sixth–seventh century AD.



Figs. 33a–b. An earring in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 1824 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

No. 34 (figs. 34a–b).

Acc. no. 1817.

Provenance. Acquired from Mrs M. Altınölçek on 11 July 1975.

Dimensions. H. 28 mm, Diam. of motive 6–8 mm, W. 24 mm, Th. 1.5 mm, Wg. 3.05 gr.

Description. Simple hoop, the lower part embellished with circlets and granulation in triangular design.

Comparanda. See Ergil 1983, pp. 56–57, nos. 144–148, but these are of silver. Also Pülz, Kat and Bühler 2011, p. 326, figs. 6–10 (Middle Byzantine earrings from Ephesus).

Dating. Seventh century AD at earliest, more probably later, ninth–tenth century AD.



Figs. 34a–b. An earring in the Archaeological Museum of İznik, acc. no. 1817 (photos by F. H. Kaya and M. Albayrak, 2024).

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