



Summary :

Synada was a Phrygian city probably founded around the late 4th century BC. It was situated in a strategic position along a major route. In the Early Byzantine period the city was included in the province of Phrygia Salutaris. However, in the Middle Byzantine period the city was incorporated into the theme of Anatolikon. The Byzantine dominion ended when the Byzantines were heavily defeated by the Seljuks in the battle of Manzikert in AD 1071.

Other Names

Synnada, Şuhut, Çifut Kasaba

Geographical Location

central Asia Minor, modern central-western Turkey

Historical Region

Phrygia

Administrative Dependence

province of Phrygia II or Phrygia Salutaris, theme of Anatolikon

1. Geography – Road Network

Synada was a [Phrygian](#) city. It is identified with the modern city of Şuhut, at the western end of a well-irrigated plain. The city is within 26 km to the south of Akroinon (modern Afyonkarahisar) along a major route. Roads connected the city to the north with Prynnessos, Akroinon and, at least in the Roman period, Dokimion, while to the south and west roads led to [Apamea Kibotus](#) and [Attaleia](#).

2. Foundation – Ancient History

Synada was known already from the late 4th century. According to tradition, the city was founded by Akamas, who wandered in Phrygia on his way back from the Trojan War.¹ Possibly in the Hellenistic period Macedonian colonists settled in the area.² In the Roman years the *conventus iuridicus* of the [province of Asia](#) was based in the city, which minted its own coins,³ although it is described as a small town.⁴

3. Byzantine Synada

In the Byzantine period Synada was a key strategic position. Around the mid-4th century the city was ecclesiastically and politically incorporated into the province of Phrygia II or [Phrygia Salutaris](#). Synada is reported by *Synekdemos* of Hierocles as a city of Phrygia Salutaris.⁵ In the Middle Byzantine period the city was under the [theme of Anatolikon](#). About 800 Arabs who escaped death and captivity after their heavy defeat by the Byzantines in [Akroinon](#) found shelter in Synada in 740.⁶ The city came permanently under the Seljuks when the Byzantines were shattered in the [battle of Mantzikert](#) in 1071.

4. Society

Synada had a remarkable [Jewish community](#) evidenced already from the mid-9th century. The Jews of Synada maintained their own synagogue in the city. The most known member of the Synada Jewish community was [Constantine the Jew](#) (9th century).⁷ Synada was the birthplace of the distinguished Byzantine families of [Synadenos](#)⁸ and [Botaneiates](#).⁹



5. Economy

Between the 1st and the 3rd c. Synada had workshops extracting and processing marble at the imperial quarries of Dokimion (40 km N-NE of Synada). It seems that in the Early Byzantine period the management of the quarries of Dokimion was no longer based there.¹⁰ Marble processing in the wider area of Synada continued throughout the Byzantine years.¹¹ The product was promoted through the road system of the area, which connected Synada to the north with Prymnessos, Akroinon and, at least in the Roman period, Dokimion, while to the south and west roads led to Apamea Kibotus and Attaleia.

Olive trees were cultivated in Synada already from the Roman years.¹² Significant evidence concerning the economy of the city in the Byzantine period, particularly in the 10th century, is provided by the letters of the [metropolitan of the city](#), Leo of Synada describing the infertile land of the area and barley production. According to the same source, because of the lack of basic products –the area did not produce any oil, wine or wheat– the citizens of Synada had to import goods from the theme of [Thrakesion](#) and Attaleia.¹³ But livestock farming thrived in the city.

6. Monuments

The hill with the acropolis and the settlement of Synada is situated to the west of the modern city and to the east of Kumalar Suyu. The Roman-Byzantine necropolis of the settlement is within 1.5 km to the south of Şuhut, at the foot of a rocky hill. A possibly medieval castle has also been traced, while in the city of Şuhut and the wider area a large number of Roman and early-middle Byzantine inscriptions as well as architectural remains have been found. Inscriptions and architectural remains have also been found in various positions near the city of Şuhut.

The most important find of Synada is a part of a richly decorated and inscribed epistyle of an iconostasis, today exhibited at the museum of Afyon; it was found among the ruins of a Christian church in the area of Şuhut. Moreover, a part of another epistyle dated to 1063/1064 has also survived and bears an inscription with the name of a certain martyr called John.

1. Ramsay, W.M., *The Historical Geography of Asia Minor* (London 1890; repr. Amsterdam 1962), pp. 14, 36.

2. Jones, A.H.M., *The Cities of the Eastern Roman Provinces* (Oxford 1971), p. 45.

3. Pliny, *Natural History*, Rackham, H. (ed.), vol. 2, (s.l. 1942; repr. Cambridge Mass., London 1969), ch. V, p. 105. For a short period, around the mid-1st c. BC, the conventus of Synada was incorporated into Cilicia; see Jones, A.H.M., *The Cities of the Eastern Roman Provinces* (Oxford 1971), pp. 61, 65-67.

4. Strabo, *The Geography of Strabo*, Jones, H.L. (ed.), vol. 5 (s.l. 1928; repr. London, Cambridge Mass. 1969), XII, 8, 14; Ramsay W.M., *The Historical Geography of Asia Minor* (London 1890; repr. Amsterdam 1962), p. 85.

5. *Le Synekdèmos d'Hiéroklos et l'opuscule géographique de Georges de Chypre*, Honigmann, E. (ed.), (Bruxelles 1939), p. 28.

6. *Theophanis Chronographia*, de Boor, C. (ed.), vol. 1 (Lipsiae 1883), p. 411; Lilie, R.J., *Die byzantinische Reaktion auf die Ausbreitung der Araber. Studien zur Strukturwandlung des byzantinischen Staates im 7. und 8. Jhd.* (München 1976), p. 152; Brandes, W., *Die Städte Kleinasiens im 7. und 8. Jahrhundert* (Berlin 1989), p. 71.

7. About the Jews of Synada, see Starr, J., *The Jews in the Byzantine Empire, 641-1204* (Athens 1939), pp. 30, 45, 50, 119-122 (no. 54).

8. Hannick, Ch. – Schmalzbauer, G., "Die Synadenoi. Prosopographische Untersuchung zu einer byzantinischen Familie", *Jahrbuch der Österreichischen Byzantinistik* 25 (1976), pp. 125-161, esp. 125-126.

9. Buckler, G., "A Sixth Century Botaniates", *Byzantion* 6 (1931) pp. 405-410; Αμαντος, Κ., "Οι Βοτανιάται", *Ελληνικά* 8 (1935) p. 48; Βλυσίδου, Β. κ.ά., *Η Μικρά Ασία των θεμάτων. Ερευνες πάνω στην γεωγραφική φυσιογνωμία και προσωπογραφία των βυζαντινών θεμάτων της Μικράς Ασίας (7ος-11ος αι.)*.



(EIE/IBEE, Ερευνητική Βιβλιοθήκη 1, Athens 1998), p. 108.

10. Strabo, *The Geography of Strabo*, Jones, H.L. (ed.), vol. 5 (s.l. 1928; repr. London, Cambridge Mass. 1969), XII, 8, 14.

11. Βλυσίδου, Β. κ.ά., *Η Μικρά Ασία των θεμάτων. Έρευνες πάνω στην γεωγραφική φυσιογνωμία και προσωπογραφία των βυζαντινών θεμάτων της Μικράς Ασίας (7ος-11ος αι.)*, (EIE/IBEE, Ερευνητική Βιβλιοθήκη 1, Athens 1998), p. 97.

12. Strabo, *The Geography of Strabo*, ed. Jones, H.L., vol. 5 (s.l. 1928; repr. London, Cambridge Mass. 1969), XII, 8, 14.

13. *Épistoliers byzantins du Xe siècle*, Darrouzès, J. (ed.) (Paris 1960), pp. 198-199 (no. 43); Βλυσίδου, Β. κ.ά., *Η Μικρά Ασία των θεμάτων. Έρευνες πάνω στην γεωγραφική φυσιογνωμία και προσωπογραφία των βυζαντινών θεμάτων της Μικράς Ασίας (7ος-11ος αι.)*, (EIE/IBEE, Ερευνητική Βιβλιοθήκη 1, Athens), pp 97-98.

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	Belke K., Mersich N. , <i>Phrygien und Pisidien</i> , Wien 1990, Tabula Imperii Byzantini 7
	Starr J. , <i>The Jews in the Byzantine Empire 641-1204</i> , Berlin – Amsterdam 1939, Texte und Forschungen zur byzantinisch-neugriechischen Philologie 30
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	Sodini J.P. , "Le commerce des marbres à l'époque protobyzantine", <i>Hommes et richesses dans l'Empire byzantin, vol. 1, IVe-VIIe siècle</i> , Paris 1989, 163-186
	Foss C. , "Synada", A. Kazhdan (ed.), <i>The Oxford dictionary of Byzantium</i> , τόμ. 3, Oxford, New York 1991, 1390
	Schmalzbauer G., Hannick Ch. , "Die Synadenoî. Prosopographische Untersuchung zu einer byzantinischen Familie", <i>Jahrbuch der Österreichischen Byzantinistik</i> , 25, 1976, 125-161

Webliography :

	Phrygien
http://www.gottwein.de/latine/map/as02_phryg.php	

Glossary :

	conventus, us
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In the Roman provinces, the term referred to the meetings of the provincials in places appointed by the praetor or the proconsul of the province for the purpose of administering justice. In order to facilitate the procedure, the province was divided into districts or circuits called conventus, forum or jurisdictio. The Roman citizens living in a province under the jurisdiction of the proconsul, and accordingly had to settle any business at a conventus had to appear there.



Synekdemos of Hierokles

A geographical text book composed a little before 535 by Hierokles the Grammarian. It constitutes a list of 64 provinces and 923 (originally 935) cities of the Empire, being the most important source for the administrative and political geography of the Byzantine Empire prior to the Arab raids. It is assumed to have been based on state documents, and presents the political, administrative, and, to an extent, the ecclesiastical geography from mid-5th c. However, it contains additions from the age of Justinian I, while some of its evidence is still under discussion. Constantine VII Porphyrogenetos used it as a major source, along with Stephen of Byzantium, for the composition of the work "De thematibus". This most important work of Hierokles was published by G. Parthey (Hieroclis Synecdemus, Berlin, 1866), and A. Burckhardt (Hieroclis Synecdemus, Leipzig, 1893). The last and most authoritative edition is E. Honigmann (ed.), *Le Synekdesmos d'Hieroklès et l'opuscule géographique de Georges de Chypre* (Brussels 1939).

Sources

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Stephanos Byzantini [ie. Stephani Byzantii], *Stephani Byzantini Ethicorum quae supersunt*, Meineke, A. (ed.), (Berlin 1849; repr. Chicago, Illinois 1992).

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Quotations

a) The conventus of Synada in the Roman years

"Alter conventus a Synnade accepit nomen; conveniunt Lycaones, Appiani, Corpeni, Dorylaei, Midaei, Iulienses et reliqui ignobiles populi XV"

Pliny, *Natural History*, ed. Rackham, H., vol. 2 (s.l. 1942; repr. Cambridge Mass., London 1969), ch. V, p. 105.

b) Synada and the quarry of Dokimion

"Υπερ δὲ τῆς Ἐπικτήτου πρὸς νότον ἐστὶν ἡ μεγάλη Φρυγία, λείπουσα ἐν ἀριστερᾷ τὴν Πεσσινοῦντα καὶ τὰ περὶ Ὀρκαόρκου καὶ Λυκαονίαν, ἐν δεξιᾷ δὲ Μαίονας καὶ Λυδοὺς καὶ Κάρας· ἐν ἣν ἔστιν τε Παρῶρειος λεγομένη Φρυγία καὶ ἡ πρὸς Πισιδίαν καὶ τὰ περὶ Ἀμόριον καὶ Εὐμένειαν καὶ Σύνναδα, εἶτα Ἀπάμεια ἢ Κιβωτός λεγομένη καὶ Λαοδικεῖα, αἵπερ εἰσὶ μέγιστα τῶν κατὰ τὴν Φρυγίαν πόλεων· περικεῖται δὲ ταῦταις πολίσματα καὶ Ἀφροδισιάς, Κολοσσαί, Θεμισώνιον, Σαναός, Μητρόπολις, Ἀπολλωνιάς· ἐτι δὲ ἀπωτέρω τούτων Πέλαι, Τάβαι, Εὐκαρπία, Λυσιᾶς Σύνναδα δ' ἐστὶν οὐ μεγάλη πόλις· πρόκειται δ' αὐτῆς ἐλαιόφυτον πεδῖον ὅσον ἐξήκοντα σταδίων· ἐπέκεινα δ' ἐστὶ Δοκιμία κώμη, καὶ τὸ λατόμιον Σύνναδικοῦ λίθου (οὕτω μὲν Ῥωμαῖοι καλοῦσιν, οἱ δ' ἐπιχώριοι Δοκιμίτην καὶ Δοκιμαῖον), κατ' ἀρχὰς μὲν μικροὺς βώλους ἐκιδόντος τοῦ μετάλλου, διὰ δὲ τὴν νυνὶ πολυτέλειαν τῶν Ῥωμαίων κίνες ἐξαιρῶνται μονόλιθοι μεγάλοι, πλησιάζοντες τῷ ἀλαβαστροῦ λίθῳ κατὰ τὴν ποικιλίαν· ὥστε, καίπερ πολλῆς οὐσῆς τῆς ἀπὸ θάλατταν ἀγωγῆς τῶν τηλικούτων φορτίων, ὅμως καὶ κίνες καὶ αἱ πλάκες εἰς Ῥώμην κομίζονται θαυμασταὶ κατὰ τὸ μέγεθος καὶ κάλλος."

Strabo, *The Geography of Strabo*, ed. Jones, H.L., vol. 5 (s.l. 1928; repr. London, Cambridge Mass. 1969), XII, 8, 13-14.

c) The mythical hero Akamas founds Synada, as described by Stephanus Byzantius in the Early Byzantine period



“Σύνναδα, πόλις Φρυγίας· ... καὶ Δοκίμεια κώμη ἐπέκεινα αὐτῆς...· οἱ δ’ ἐπιχώριοι Δοκιμίτιν καὶ Δοκιμαίαν· \. Λέγουσι δὲ Ἀκάμαντα μετὰ τὰ Τρωϊκὰ ἀποπλανηθέντα ἐλθεῖν εἰς Φρυγίαν καὶ καταλαβεῖν πολιορκούμενον τὸν τῶν τόπων δυνάστην καὶ βοηθήσαντα αὐτῷ λαβεῖν χώραν καὶ κτίσαι πόλιν· συναθροίσαντα δὲ πολλοὺς οἰκῆτορας τῶν ἀπὸ τῆς Ἑλλάδος Μακεδόνων κατὰ τὴν Ἀσίαν, τὸ μὲν πρῶτον αὐτὴν ἀπὸ τῆς συναγωγῆς καὶ συνοικήσεως Σύνναια προσαγοῦρεσαι, μετὰ δὲ ταῦτα παρεφθαρμένως ὑπὸ τῶν πλησιοχώρων Σύνναδα κληθῆναι. Ὁ πολίτης Σύνναδεὺς. Οὕτω γὰρ καὶ ἀπὸ τοῦ παρόντος λέγεται”

Stephanos Byzantinii [ie. Stephani Byzantii] *Stephani Byzantinii Ethicorum quae supersunt*, ed. Meineke, A. (Berlin 1849; repr. Chicago, Illinois 1992), p. 592, lines 3-13.

d) The Arabs are defeated by the Byzantines at Akroinon and rally their forces at Synada (740 AD)

“Τούτῳ τῷ ἔτει μηνὶ Μαΐῳ ἰνδικτιῶνος ἡ' ἐπεστράτευσεν Σουλεϊμᾶν τὴν Ῥωμανίαν ἐν μυριάσιν θ', στρατηγούς τε δ', ὧν Γάμερος ἠγεῖτο λοχίζων ἐν μυρίοις μονοζῶνοις τὰ τῆς Ἀσιάτιδος γῆς μέρη, καὶ τούτου ἐχόμενοι Μελίχ καὶ Βατὰλ ἐν δισμυρίοις ἵππεῦσι περὶ τὸν Ἀκροῖνόν· καὶ μετὰ τούτους Σουλεϊμᾶν ἐν ἑξακισμυρίοις περὶ τὴν τῶν Καππαδόκων Τύανον. Ἀλλ' οἱ μὲν κατὰ τὴν Ἀσίαν καὶ Καππαδοκίαν πολλὴν ἀλῶσιν ἀνδρῶν καὶ γυναικῶν καὶ κτηνῶν ποιησάμενοι ἀβλαβεῖς ἀνέστρεψαν, οἱ δὲ περὶ τὸν Μελίχ καὶ Βατὰλ ἐν τῷ Ἀκροῖνῳ καταπολεμηθέντες ὑπὸ Λέοντος καὶ Κωνσταντίνου ἠττήθησαν. Καὶ οἱ μὲν πλείους ὄπλοις ὤλοντο σὺν τοῖς δυσὶν ἄρχουσιν· ὀκτακόσιοι δὲ πού μαχηταὶ ἐξ αὐτῶν πρὸς ἑξ χιλιάδας ἐνστάντες εἰς Σύνναδα καταφεύγουσι καὶ διασωθέντες συνήφθησαν τῷ Σουλεϊμᾶν καὶ ἀνέκαμψαν εἰς Συρίαν. Τῷ δ' αὐτῷ ἔτει καὶ κατὰ τὴν Ἀφρικὴν πολλοὶ παρ' αὐτῶν ὤλοντο σὺν τῷ στρατηγῶντι ὀνόματι Δαμασκηνῷ”

Theophanis Chronographia, ed. de Boor, C., vol. 1 (Lipsiae 1883), p. 411.14-28.

e) From a letter of the metropolitan of Synada, Leo, to Emperor Basil II (976-1025)

“...Ἐλαιον γὰρ οὐ γεωργοῦμεν· τοῦτο κοινὸν τοῖς Ἀνατολικοῖς ἔχομε πᾶσι· οἶνον ἢ κάθ' ἡμᾶς οὐ δίδωσιν, ὑψηλῆς καὶ ταχινῆς λαχοῦσα τῆς θέσεως· ἀντὶ ξύλου τῷ ζαρχζάκῳ χρῶμεθα, ὅπερ ἐστὶν ἐπιμελείας ἐξιωθεῖσα κόπρος, πρᾶγμα καὶ ἀτιμότατον καὶ δυσωδέστατον· τὰ γὰρ ἄλλα ὅσα νοσοῦσιν ἢ υἰγιαίνουσιν εἰσὶν ἐπιτήδεια ἀπὸ τοῦ Θρακησίου καὶ τῆς Ἀτταλείας καὶ αὐτῆς τῆς βασιλευούσης ἐρασιζόμεθα...Κρίνον οὖν με μετὰ διακρίσεως καὶ μὴ συγκρίνης τοῖς πάντα ἔχουσιν, ἃ οὐκ ἔχομεν, μηδὲ ὁ μέγας σου νοῦς καὶ βασιλικώτατος καὶ διακριτικώτατος ἀλόγως ζῆν ἐάσῃ μὲ κριθῆ τρεφόμενον καὶ χόρτῳ καὶ ἀχύροις· οὐδὲ γὰρ σιτοφόρος ἢ τῶν Συνάδων χώρα, ἀλλὰ κριθοφόρος μόνον...”

Épistoliers byzantins du Xe siècle, ed. Darrouzès, J. (Paris 1960), pp. 198-199 (no. 43).

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Épistoliers byzantins du Xe siècle, ed. Darrouzès, J. (Paris 1960), pp. 198-199 (no. 43).