

ÇADIR HÖYÜK

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The Çadır Höyük site is located in the Yozgat Province of central Turkey. We are three weeks into the 2017 season, following up on the exciting discoveries made in the 2016 season. Both seasons have benefitted from the presence of University of Chicago graduate students and alumni. With us in 2016 were: Josh Cannon, finishing his field research on Hittite pottery for his doctoral dissertation; Sarah Adcock, finishing her archaeofaunal work on second millennium materials for her dissertation; and Tony Lauricella, who is a Senior Field Supervisor. Also with us was Stephanie Selover, now in a tenure track position at the University of Washington, a proud Oriental Institute graduate. In our 2016 season we were also fortunate to have Roland Long with us, who graduated from the Oriental Institute this past June and is set to start graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania this fall.

JUNE THROUGH AUGUST 2016

Hasan Şenyurt remains the Director of the Yozgat Museum, the regional museum which oversees our work. He has been a wonderful help to us over the years, and we are happy that he remains at the Yozgat Museum. In the 2016 season we benefitted from the guidance of our government representative, Adem Bedir. We had a nearly eight week season, extending from mid-June until early August. During the season we partially or fully opened a total of eighteen 10 × 10 m trenches, hosted thirty-five researchers, and employed thirty-six workers at the site. Trenches spanned the Late Chalcolithic (mid-late fourth millennium BCE) to the final century of the Byzantine occupation in the early centuries of the second millennium CE. The trenches featuring the prehistoric periods are on the southern slope of the mound. Here we have seven trenches offering Late Chalcolithic (ca. 3800–3100 BCE) architectural remains. Two of these, USS 9 and USS 10, are supervised by Stephanie Selover (fig. 1). Stephanie's trenches are quite important because they are helping us to understand how the fourth millennium residents used the mound. She has spent the last several seasons defining the transition from the Late Chalcolithic to the Early Bronze Age, when there were some quite substantial changes to the prehistoric occupation of Çadır Höyük. Her work has defined the very complicated stratigraphy that shows us that in the Early Bronze Age, residents who had abandoned the lower town moved up the mound and built a large perimeter wall. In the 2015



Figure 1. USS 9 and USS 10 trenches, supervised by Stephanie Selover



Figure 2. Bronze Age perimeter wall and fourth millennium warren of rooms

season, and then in 2016 (fig. 2) and now continuing into the current 2017 season, Stephanie has shown that at the end of the fourth millennium residents were in the process of moving up the mound, building a literal warren of rooms in which to conduct mostly industrial activities. However, just a few decades or a century before (which she is now excavating in 2017), residents inhabited larger and more spacious spaces, built with better architecture. The types of changes that occurred in the lower town, reported on before in these reports and in other publications, are mirrored in Stephanie’s trenches, evident due to her exceedingly careful work.

In our lower town, in trenches SES 1–2 and LSS 3–5, we continue to define the agglutinated architectural phase reported on last year. This occupation dates to the first half of the fourth millennium. The western area of these trenches is not yet at this earliest agglutinated phase. Burcu Yıldırım, from the American Research Institute in Turkey, is carefully removing the next latest phase, which included a kiln and ceramic working area that were likely installed by the later “Omphalos Building” occupants (dating to the second half of the fourth millennium and reported on in many publications). We hope that by the end of the 2017 campaign all five of the southernmost trenches will be in phase, bringing together Burcu’s trenches and those excavated by our other area supervisor, Laurel Hackley, revealing what we believe to

be two agglutinated phase architectural units separated by a street (fig. 3). This compound perhaps housed a cooperative group of people who may have been kin-related.

The eastern side of the mound features our main second millennium occupation. In the 2016 season we spent a great deal of time exposing the eastern end of a very substantial



Figure 3. An illustration of what the team believes the site will look like by the end of 2017



Figure 4. Occupation on the eastern side of the mound featuring two courtyards

building foundation consisting of stones, clay, and what once were wooden posts running through the foundations. This building was fronted by two courtyards (fig. 4). Next to the wall of one of these courtyards was an infant burial, and what appears to have been the dedication of a three-footed stone vessel holding organic remains (fig. 5). Unfortunately, the majority of this building is inside the mound, under meters of later overburden, and it is unlikely that we will be able to uncover it any time soon. Instead, in the present 2017 season, we have chosen to expand northward from this area, in hopes of revealing other areas inside the large Hittite period casemate walls that have been reported on here in past seasons.



Figure 5. Three-footed stone vessel



Figure 6. Two of the three newly opened trenches

We opened six 10 × 10 m trenches on the mound summit, all offering mainly Byzantine remains. Tony Lauricella is the area supervisor on the summit and is also directly in charge of two trenches. It is in one of these trenches that one of our most important discoveries of the season was made. First, however, a brief description of our 2016 Byzantine excavations are in order. The main goal in the 2016 season was to further define the architecture associated with the tenth–eleventh century defensive wall that rings the mound. We opened three new trenches, two of which exposed more of the major wall and its interior architecture (fig. 6 shows one of these trenches). As has been discovered in previous seasons, in trenches mainly excavated by Tony, we discovered small rooms, roughly 3 × 3 m in size, ringing the interior of the wall. These rooms appear to be utilitarian rather than domestic. There is no evidence of household activities in these rooms. Rather, in the contexts excavated in 2016 we discovered some materials that appear to have a military usage, including arrowhead points, part of a Byzantine helmet, and one small piece of chain mail. A number of crosses were also recovered (fig. 7). In addition to these, some tools that may have been for agricultural use were recovered. These rooms seem to have been related to activities associated with the defensive wall, and also perhaps for storage purposes.



Figure 8. Trench SMT 9, under Tony Lauricella's supervision



Figure 7. Small recovered cross



Figure 9. Recovered cat-faced metal artifact



Figure 10. Sarah Adcock



Figure 11. Josh Cannon

One of these new trenches, SMT 9, was under Tony’s direct supervision (fig. 8). As was the case in other summit trenches, he found a number of walls extending inward from the Byzantine defensive wall. These walls were slightly different from the others, however, in that they had been topped with mudbrick that appears to go over the defensive wall, suggesting that they were built very late in the Çadır sequence. The remarkable discovery by Tony was not just this architecture, but the artifacts found inside one of these rooms. Several metal objects were recovered. One depicts the face of a cat, possibly a leopard, on a curved metal piece that might have been a handle (fig. 9). The fine work on this piece is likely Seljuk in origin, suggesting that Çadır was occupied during or after the Battle of Manzikert (1071 CE), the date that we had previously believed identified the abandonment of the settlement. Tony’s work has largely demonstrated that occupation extended beyond this into the twelfth or even thirteenth century. This is also demonstrated by some of our recent ceramic analysis. Therefore, as of the 2016 season we can extend the occupation of Çadır by several centuries.

Everyday after fieldwork we have busy lab hours with both the field supervisors and the various experts toiling until dinnertime. In 2016 one of these experts was Sarah Adcock (Chicago Anthropology Department) who is at the present moment finishing her work on her doctoral dissertation treating our Late Bronze Age/Iron Age faunal materials (fig. 10). Also working on second millennium materials, in this case ceramics, is the Josh Cannon (fig. 11) who was in the field completing his own dissertation fieldwork at the Oriental Institute. Both of these scholars are home working during our present 2017 season and are heartily missed.

At the close of the 2016 season the hard work of all the Chicago students as well as our other fine team members resulted in incredible progress in our understanding of the site, and excitement about returning in 2017. Thus far our work in all the periods mentioned above has continued, and we are continuing to acquire very interesting data, including further evidence of potential Seljuk presence. We look forward to reporting on our 2017 season next year.