

## THE PREHISTORIC PROJECT

*Robert J. Braidwood, Field Director*

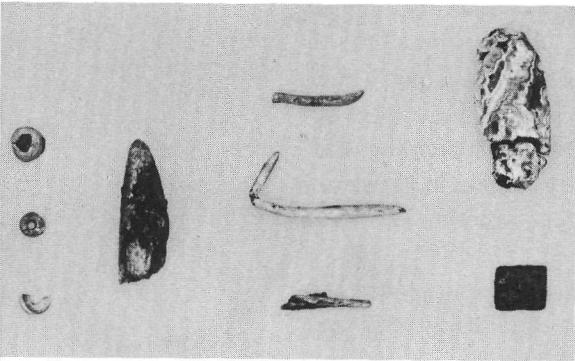
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The Prehistoric Project finished off its 1963–64 field season at Çayönü near Ergani in the Diyarbakir province of southeastern Turkey in late June, 1964. Since that time the processing and interpretation of the excavated materials has proceeded in both Istanbul and in Europe and the United States.

To the degree to which the radioactive carbon age determination method allows fixing a firm chronology, Çayönü appears to have flourished around 7000 B.C. Age determinations have been secured on Çayönü charcoal samples from both the University of Groningen, Holland, and the University of Michigan. As we had anticipated, this gives reasonable assurance that the southeastern flanks of the Taurus Mountains in Turkey was also a region of prime importance in the formation of the village farming community way of life.

Under Turkish law, all antiquities must remain within Turkey. Thanks to our very successful collaboration with Professor Halet Çambel of the Department of Prehistory, Istanbul University, one of our graduate students (Mr. Peter Benedict, with his wife, Cordelia) was kept on as an assistant in Professor Çambel's department for the 1964–65 academic year. This has allowed Mr. Benedict both to process a block of the excavated materials and to continue the training of a small core of Istanbul students at the same time. Robert and Linda Braidwood and Bruce Howe, the American archaeological seniors on the staff, received a National Science Foundation travel supplement to spend a month in Istanbul in March, 1965, for further material processing. It was our pleasure to find that Mr. and Mrs. Benedict had been representing the American end of our joint effort with Istanbul most happily. In May, 1965, Professor Çambel was able to be in Chicago for a fortnight's work with the Braidwoods.

*Malachite and copper objects from Çayönü*



The Turkish law does allow non-artifactual materials (e.g., unworked animal bones, plant materials, geological and pollen analytical specimens) to be exported. The processing and interpretation of these materials goes forward under the hands of Barbara Lawrence (Harvard), Jack R. Harlan (Oklahoma State), Herbert E. Wright (Minnesota), and Willem van Zeist (Groningen). Further, Professor Çambel was able to take the important collection of early copper artifacts from Çayönü to Dr. Junghau's laboratory in Stuttgart. There is now no question but that copper working, in part by the hot hammering method, was being done by the Çayönü people.

The next field season is not anticipated until the autumn of 1967, when an attempt will be made—among other things—to clear all of two remarkable buildings which the 1964 campaign exposed in part.