

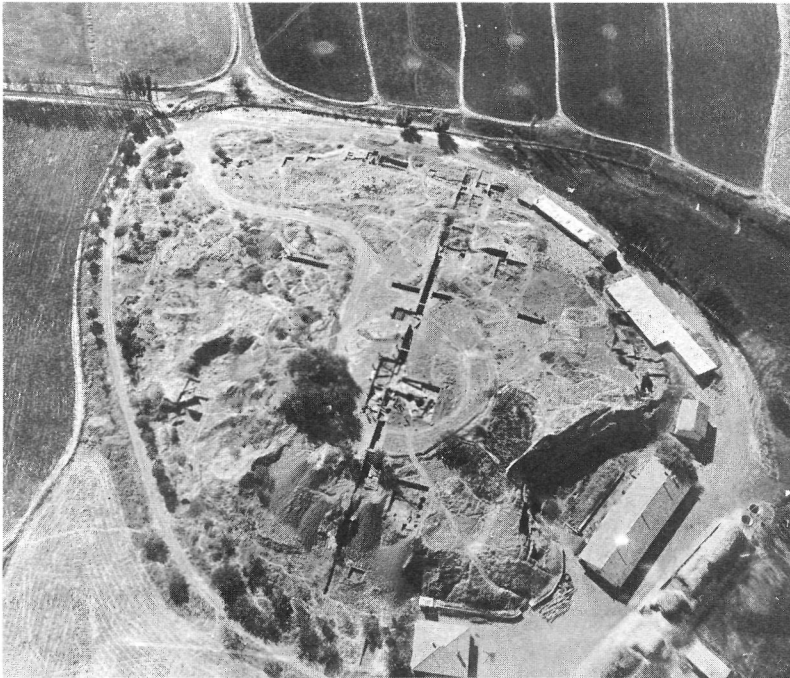
The Euphrates Valley Expedition

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For the third consecutive year we have spent almost three months digging at Korucutepe, the site assigned to us by the Turkish Antiquities Department in the floodpool of the Euphrates Dam being built at Keban. With Turkish, German, and British colleagues working at nearby sites we have pieced together a four-thousand-year record of habitation, now dense, now scattered, in eastern Anatolia before the advent of the Greeks.

The National Science Foundation, which has supported our archeological salvage work in the Syrian and Turkish Euphrates valleys since



View of Korucutepe from a Turkish Air Force helicopter. The early levels at the northwest foot of the mound are in the right foreground, the north-south trench exposing the third-millennium levels goes across the center, and the second-millennium terrace, bisected by east-west trenches as well, is in the foreground. Photo by Jean Grant.

1964, provided funds for the six-man technical staff and the participating natural scientists. Four Ford Foundation traineeships went to students from the universities of Chicago and Texas and New York College, who supervised the Turkish workers and recorded the findings. The University of California at Los Angeles, enabled three students to join us, and various Netherlands universities helped six other students; valuable contributions were also made by such volunteers as Roberta Ellis.

Last season's excavations have yielded architecture and find groups of several hitherto unknown or insufficiently known phases in eastern Anatolia's prehistory.

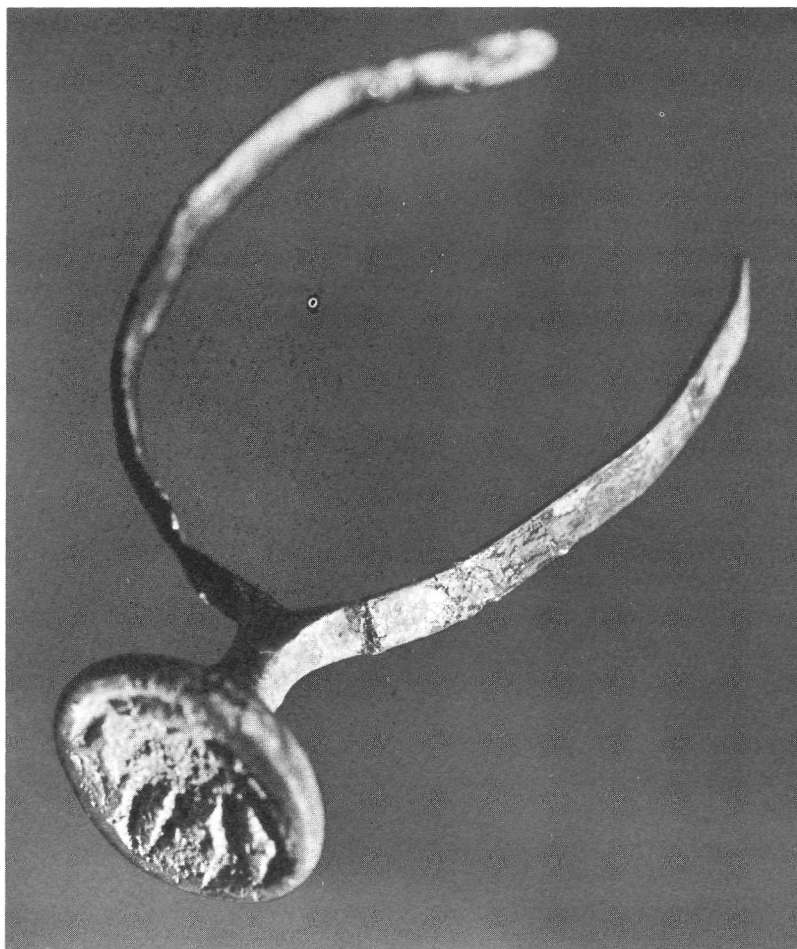
The Earliest Settlement (about 4500–3500 B.C.)

The establishment of a distinctive local culture only in part indebted to stimuli from the south can be guessed from the appearance, 20 meters below the summit of the mound, of the earliest architectural level, consisting of two yellow-plastered mud-brick walls enclosing a room with plastered floor. The pottery was of a black burnished local Early Chalcolithic ware. Some painted sherds resembling pottery from Syria and Mesopotamia indicate a date between 4500 and 4000 B.C. for this first settlement at our site.

Ties with the Earliest Cities (about 3500–3000 B.C.)

After a period long enough for 4 meters of occupation remains to accumulate, the potter's wheel had been introduced from the early urban centers of Syria and Mesopotamia, as we could see on some of the "chaff-faced" vessels in a house that burned about 3400 B.C. Lumps of copper ore—a metal mined locally—may be a clue to the motives behind such far-flung contacts.

Into the top of the Late Chalcolithic house remains had been dug two brick-lined adult graves and an infant burial in a jar. In the first grave lay a lady richly adorned with hundreds of tiny limestone beads which once formed a belt, bracelets and anklets, as well as a silver diadem, crescent-shaped gorget and hair rings of the same material. A double burial of the same type was found close to the first. The man had a mace with iron-ore head, a silver wrist-guard and a copper dagger; his lady had near her arm a silver bracelet-stamp seal engraved with a wild goat. The seal design can be paralleled at early urban sites in Syria and Mesopotamia, but the combination of bracelet and stamp seal is unique.



Silver bracelet-stamp seal engraved with wild goat and found on a woman buried around 3000 B.C. The seal is about 2.5 cm. across. Photo by Jean Grant.

A Return to Village Conditions (about 2750–2300 B.C.)

Such advanced technology and attendant division of labor were here eclipsed by a peasant culture of Caucasian affinities, using hand-turned black burnished pottery and elaborate movable hearths or “andirons” of unbaked clay. This Early Bronze II phase is well represented by thin-walled houses, often destroyed by fire, both south and north of the hillock that sticks up from the center of the mound. This



Baked clay figurine of naked woman with triple necklace, about 2600–2300 B.C. Breasts, one arm, and both legs are broken. The figurine is about 8.3 cm. tall. Photo by Jean Grant.

is the last level in which emmer wheat, as opposed to common bread wheat, is found. It is also the last level in which the humidity-loving ash and elm are found alongside oak and poplar. A wide-hipped female figurine with heavy necklace, bird-like head and long hair incised on the back recalls Syrian figurines of the later third millennium B.C. Copper tools were scarce, but the chipped obsidian weapons reached greater perfection than ever before.

Setting the Stage for Anatolia's Palaces and Temples (about 2300–2000 B.C.)

By the next phase, Early Bronze III, copper or bronze had come into regular use for tools and weapons. The traditional black burnished pottery vessels were at this time often fluted along the rim and diagonally down the body with some mechanical device, recalling the fluted silver and gold vessels of central Anatolia.

This period is characterized at our site by a different type of occupation, apparently limited to a single, heavy-walled building, the ruins of which left a conical hillock on the center of the mound. Much of our effort has gone into clearing the main phase of this yellow mud-brick structure, which was subsequently rebuilt with red mud bricks. Its central feature was a whitewashed hall, measuring 6×8 m. and accessible from the south. Against the east wall a podium 1 m. high had been erected and in front of this, on a plastered circular platform, there were three semicircular clay "andirons," the largest one 3 m. in diameter and each one holding a smaller version of itself between its

“arms.” Their triangular façades were framed by double grooves and tapered downward. Next to this triple feature was a large pottery stand or drain, and into a clay strut supporting it from behind had been built a copper dagger and an antler. Otherwise the hall had been cleared of its contents and filled with bricks before its rebuilding at a higher level, which had almost completely eroded away. A row of variously shaped hearths against the outer wall of the hall increases our suspicion that religious ceremonies may have taken place here.

Under the Protection of the Hittite Empire (about 1400–1200 B.C.)

The Late Bronze period is mainly represented on the southern apron of the mound. The “Hittite” buildings were built in terraces on the slope of what must have been a high mound of Early Bronze remains.

The earlier, more prosperous part of this occupation (roughly corresponding to the fourteenth century B.C.) is characterized by red smoothed platters with flat rims like modern plates and a profusion of orange smoothed, slipped or burnished jugs, bowls, and the like. The houses had some foundations of up to six courses on the downhill



Unbaked clay triple andiron being uncovered in late third-millennium hall. Remains of podium are visible at right; the rest was destroyed by a large medieval circular pit. Photo by Jean Grant.

side, sometimes incorporating wooden posts. Horizontal wooden timbers in the mud-brick superstructure were a regular feature, as well as flat mud on straw on wood roofs like those still made today.

In the thirteenth century B.C. there was a tendency to set flat stones against the lower wall courses for protection of the mud brick. Much of the southern mound edge was heavily pitted in this period. Characteristic of the pit contents, among which thirteenth-century seal impressions were found in 1968 and 1969, are orange wheel-marked platters without flat rims and miniature footed bowls. Two disc-shaped seals of Middle Bronze Age type, one carved with a wheel design and the other with a long-necked bird, turned up in this context during the current season.

One of the surprises of the season was the appearance of another, western postern gate, this time of the Late Bronze Age. A sagging platform of red mud brick partly exposed by road and farm building was found to be L-shaped in plan and to cover up a corbeled stone passage of which we have cleared only the entrance and the exit. It seems to run from the settlement west into the platform and thence to emerge southward, having made an angle similar to that of the platform above. The Hittite Emperors appear to have secured their southeastern borders by military installations as well as by dynastic marriages, about which we found evidence in our previous campaigns.