

The Joint Istanbul-Chicago Prehistoric Project

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Since the Prehistoric Project's early post-World War II work at Jarmo, an ever increasing number of colleagues, foreign and domestic, have undertaken excavations focused on the problem of the appearance of effective village-farming communities in southwestern Asia. At the same time, the site of Çayönü, in southeastern Turkey remains our single source of evidence, so far, for the area of the uppermost Tigris-Euphrates drainage system. It also is essentially a unique example of inter-university cooperation with both students and senior staff in active participation on the excavation and in the analysis and interpretation of the excavated materials. Great credit is due to the Turkish co-director, Professor Doctor Halet Çambel of Istanbul University for her persisting enthusiasm and commitment of time and thought to the Joint Prehistoric Project's affairs.

A combination of circumstances prevented the resumption of excavations at Çayönü in the 1971/72 field season. It is anticipated that there will be an autumn campaign in 1972.

Happily, we received a grant from the National Science Foundation for the processing for publication of the materials from our earlier campaigns. Charles and Linda Redman (Department of Anthropology, New York University) were thus able to spend six weeks in the Prehistory Laboratory of Istanbul University in the late summer of 1971. Charles experimented with new microphotographic techniques for the study of different types of use wear on the edges of flint and obsidian tools—a step toward fuller understanding of the uses to which the Çayönü people put these artifacts. Barbara Lawrence (Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard) spent more than two months in the autumn in the Istanbul laboratory classifying the large yield of animal bones by species, domesticated or not, and by frequency. Although only an approximate 2.5 per cent of the total bulk of the Çayönü mound has yet been sampled, it does appear that the dog was the only fully domesticated species of animal when the occupation began. Sheep, goat and pig came into the record as domesticates as time went by.

Willem van Zeist (Biologisch-Archaeologisch Instituut, Groningen, The Netherlands) has completed his report on the yield

of botanical material of the 1970 field season. Contrary to the situation with the animals, Willem found evidence of domesticated emmer and einkorn wheat even in the earliest levels of the site. Our immediate impression in the field had been that a transition to both plant and animal domestication came within the duration of the site's occupation, but the evidence now available to Willem changes this picture.

Charles Redman's detailed preliminary report on the work accomplished at Çayönü will be published in both English and Turkish in the *Bulletin of the Turkish Historical Society*.



Field superintendent Abdullah Said Osman al-Sudani with Patty Jo Watson in the Zagros Mountains in 1954. Photo by Robert J. Braidwood

We must end on a note of sadness. On June 3, 1972, at his home in Cairo our old excavation superintendent and well loved field companion of many happy campaigns, Abdullah Said Osman al-Sudani died at the age of seventy-two. Abdullah came, already experienced under French colleagues in Syria, to the Institute's 'Amuq excavations in 1932. He was with us throughout our Syrian excavations. He served as chief local foreman on the construction of the Allied military airbase in Cairo during World War II. In 1947, he rejoined us for the newly formed Prehistoric Project and served throughout our Iraqi and Iranian campaigns. In the early 1960's, we relinquished his services to the archeological salvage efforts in Nubia. Abdullah was a prime example that it is not only those of high academic degree who have served this Institute and the increase of archeological knowledge both faithfully and very well.