



## The Istanbul-Chicago Universities' Joint Prehistoric Project

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With no digging this past year, there is no hot news to report. However, it was good to have a breathing spell to catch up on things after four successive fall excavation seasons. Our co-director, Halet Çambel, was also faced with final salvage efforts on a site of her own that will be flooded this coming year. We, ourselves, still faced various editorial details on the final volume of reports on Jarmo and other of our old Iraqi sites, and on various reports for a second Çayönü volume.

Since Turkey — in the old days of the Ottoman Empire — had simply served as a quarry for the burgeoning museums of the West, the Turkish Republic's founder, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, lowered the boom completely on the export of antiquities in the late 1920s. This means that the really heavy load of the first steps in the cataloguing and processing of the materials for final publication must be done either at our base camp or in the laboratory in Istanbul University. Halet has a corps of younger assistants and graduate students who are doing a fine job of completing the records in both Turkish and English.

From the first, we have made sure that duplicate records are available in Istanbul and Chicago. This, of course, includes excavation photographs. Gradually it has become apparent that our system of mounting field photographs by seasons is no longer completely relevant — our German architectural colleagues focus on individual buildings and their find spots, and the excavations of the same or successive buildings may continue over various field seasons. Just as we had decided it would be good to switch to filing the photographs separately, by building and findspot, mounting each photo separately — a horrendous and complicated job — just the right person, Andrée Wood, fortuitously appeared on the scene and volunteered to do the work. The new, and far more practical, arrangement of the photo file is speedily being achieved.

As indicated in another section, the Oriental Institute's Museum planned and mounted an excellent new prehistoric exhibition, based

mainly on the materials from our site of Jarmo, on the slopes of the Zagros mountains in Iraq. (Since foreign expeditions in Iraq at that time were allowed to keep a share of the materials they excavated, the exhibition includes actual objects). The museum provided us with a complete set of illustrations, captions, and descriptive material. These were sent to Istanbul and greatly aided Halet and her people who were creating a prehistoric exhibit (based on Çayönü) for the big XVIIIth Council of Europe art exhibition opening in Istanbul in May. Furthermore, since the Çayönü expedition itself is expected to plan the main exhibit for the new Diyarbakir museum, the Oriental Institute museum materials will again be extremely useful.

Ah, to be back in the field again and really excavating.

We hope to be in Çayönü again by the 1st of September.