

The Istanbul-Chicago Universities' Joint Prehistoric Project

Linda S. Braidwood and Robert J. Braidwood

The Prehistoric Project's 1985 late summer field season, on the early village-farming community site of Çayönü, was a somewhat shortened and atypical one. Many of this report's readers may recall our field letter that appeared in the Institute's Jan.-Feb. '86 *News & Notes*.

To recapitulate briefly—first, because we knew that our actual digging period in 1985 would be a short one, we dug only in new, untouched areas of the mound. There our immediately sub-surface exposures could easily be covered again (against winter rainwash damage) should complicated architectural or stratigraphic problems appear that needed another season's work. Our

Karlsruhe University architectural colleagues were pleased to have more information on the later building practices of the main prehistoric phase. There was not, however, anything particularly new in the artifactual yield to add to the Çayönü "Sears Roebuck catalogue" as we already know it.

We also spent considerable time on what amounted to a very big house cleaning job. This meant checking, clearing and temporarily packing all of the excavated material in our laboratory and store-rooms, the result of ten successive seasons of excavation since 1964. The new provincial museum at Diyarbakir was at last ready to receive everything and this involved sev-

Çayönü field house.



eral truck runs and many of the staff. For example, Mike Davis, senior field hand over many seasons, saw to it that all the heavy ground stone which he is responsible for publishing got safely to the museum storage rooms. At last we again have elbow room in the expedition house.

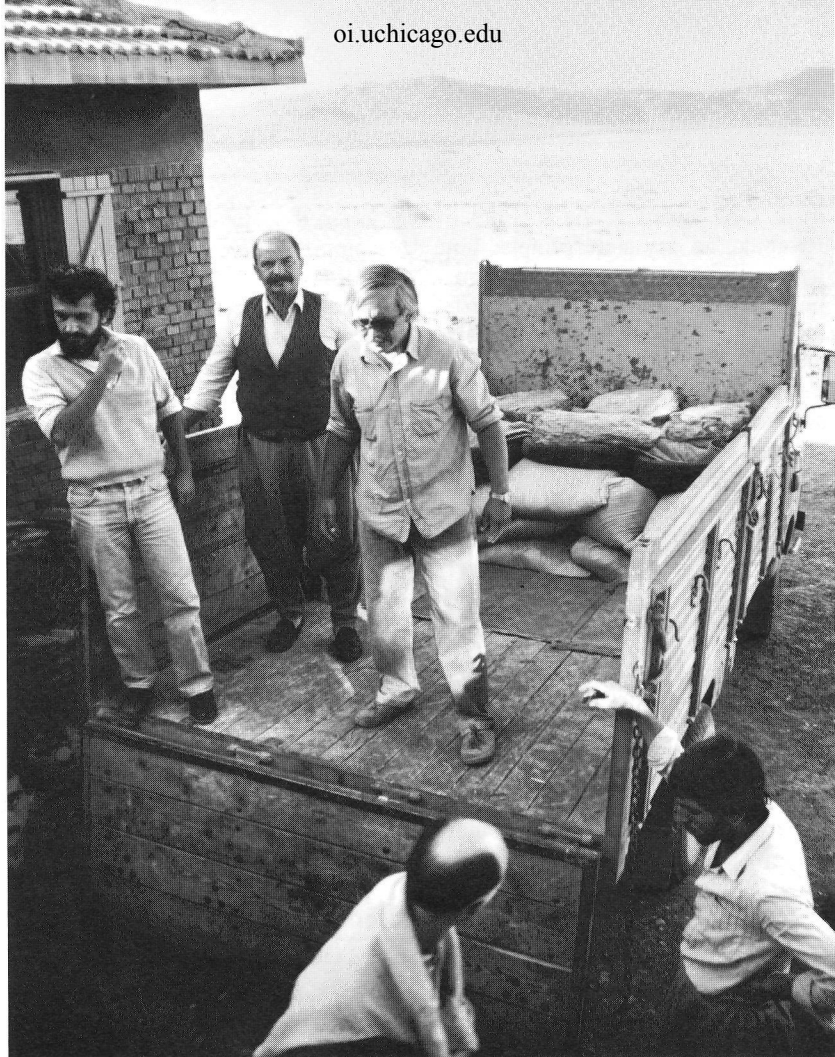
So much for the 1985 field season, save that Andrée Wood continued her exciting work on ancient blood residues. Andrée has had two intensive study sessions with Tom Loy of the British Columbia Provincial Museum in Victoria. Loy first discovered, a few years ago, that one could find infinitesimal traces of ancient blood residues on stone tools and then developed the necessary procedures for analyzing them and identifying, by the shape of the microscopic hemoglobin crystals, the animals—including humans—whose blood was still present on the

tools. Andrée also has been able to recover and analyze blood samples from various animal bones, found in the excavations, which had already been identified as to species by our zoological colleagues.

The various members of the Çayönü team have been very active off-site in 1985-86. Our long-time zoological field companion, Barbara Lawrence, has been instrumental, along with two staunch friends of the expedition, in providing support for final graduate study in the University of London for Berrin Kuşatman who is responsible for publishing the Çayönü bones. Turhan Efe (who has prepared an excellent report on the bone tools from Çayönü), having finished his Ph.D. at Frankfurt, is now on the Istanbul University faculty. Erhan Bicakçi, who has had

Packing materials in the courtyard for shipment to the museum in Diyarbakir.





Loading the truck for the trip to Diyarbakir.

the immediate responsibility for exposing the "Skull Building," is doing graduate work at Schirmer's Institut für Baugeschichte at Karlsruhe. We have often mentioned Mehmet Özdoğan, who came to us as one of Halet's undergraduates in our first (1964) field season. Now, with Halet's retirement from the University, he is the Project's formal Turkish director. Mehmet and his wife Asli, another ex-student of Halet's and a highly competent field person, assure the future quality of the field program at Çayönü.

Halet's retirement, like ours, has certainly not meant repose for her. Surely related to the press releases we each floated on Çayönü last year, Halet was named "scientist of the year" in the Turkish magazine equivalent to *Time*. As we write, she is in Italy to receive a "woman of the year" award, in the past given to such women as Indira Gandhi and Golda Meir.

There were two Fulbright awards for visiting scholars during the year, both relating to our Çayönü activ-

ities. One award given to Güven Arsebük, an associate professor in Istanbul's Prehistory Section, brought him to the Oriental Institute for library research for six months. The other Fulbright award went to Vance Watrous, an associate professor at SUNY Buffalo, taking him and his wife Harriet (an old Çayönü field hand and an expert on chipped stone) to Istanbul. Harriet came to Çayönü for a week to pack up the hundreds of thousands of chipped stone artifacts which we have accumulated in our many seasons of work. The resulting truck load of material was then shipped to Istanbul. Halet managed to track down sufficient space in one of the museums for Harriet to be able to spread out all the material to work on throughout the year. Although she made great inroads in studying these artifacts, it will take many more months of work to finish the

job so that she can prepare the final comprehensive report on all the chipped stone.

Last, but certainly not least, we had the great pleasure of a spring visit to Chicago (their first to the U.S.) of our field colleague Wulf Schirmer of Karlsruhe's Institut für Baugeschichte and his wife Edda. As a highly qualified architectural historian, Wulf is most sensitive to Chicago's place in architectural history. He firmly saw to it that we, too, encountered those of Chicago's historical architectural gems which still remain, and many new ones as well.

For the coming 1986 field season Halet and Mehmet, assisted by Erhan and Asli, will again have their graduate students with us. There will also be five on the German architectural team plus five Americans.

We feel sure that much new information will be recovered.