

THE JOINT PREHISTORIC PROJECT

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At the end of the 1985 field season, with our co-director Halet Çambel's legal retirement from Istanbul University impending (the Braidwoods were already over that legal hump much earlier), we agreed that we would terminate our own involvements in *field operations* at Çayönü in three years. Wulf Schirmer, our architectural colleague of Karlsruhe University also fully agreed. Thus, the last (1988) field season marked the end of earth-moving activities on the site for Halet, Wulf, and the Braidwoods. It also marked the end of The Oriental Institute's financial responsibilities for *actual excavation* at Çayönü. At the same time, however, we still face the moral responsibility of completing the reporting of the evidence we've recovered since our start at Çayönü in 1963/64; thirteen field seasons. ▼ Since by Turkish law all the artifactual yield must remain in Turkey, the processing and much of the interpretation of the evidence from Çayönü has to be done in Turkey. (Happily, non-artifactual, e.g., botanical, geological, and zoological samples, may be sent abroad for analyses.) However, over the years we have been successful in training a core of Halet's graduate students and younger colleagues who are well qualified to undertake much of the task of reporting. For some categories of artifacts, however,



we need to bring non-Turkish experts to Istanbul.

There will, naturally, also be financial requirements: for drawing, photography, typing, editing, computer analyses, and publication costs as well as modest honoraria and/or salaries, in which The Oriental Institute must be involved. At first, there did appear to be the promise of respectable financial aid on the Turkish end. For some years now, we have had the interest of a remarkable Turkish gentleman, a good friend of Hallet's (once a finance minister, also once the president of the Middle East Technical University). In the autumn of 1988, it was our good fortune to have Carlotta Maher come to Istanbul (and Çayönü) with us, and to have her meet with Kemal Bey. She can, better than we, describe his enthusiasm for the creation of a research fund in support of the Çayönü publication program. On our March/April 1990 trip to Istanbul to begin pushing towards publication, we had lunch with Kemal Bey, and heard his plans for contacting various highly placed business people.

It is anticipated that the Prehistory Section of Istanbul University will continue to excavate in a modest way at Çayönü and in the general area under one of Hallet's younger colleagues, Dr. Mehmet Özdoğan, who first came to Çayönü as a young grad student in 1964. Mehmet has already established a very respectable reputation for himself. Among other things, he enjoys a warm friendship with the staff of The University of Rome's team at Aslantepe, near Malatya, now focussed on levels ca. 4000 B.C. (much later than Çayönü). For the present (1990) field season, Rome's Isabella Caneva, a respected prehistorian and an expert on chipped stone, and her husband Alberto Palmieri (a geomorphologist) are joining the Çayönü team. We have every reason to hope that Çayönü will soon formally become a Joint Istanbul-Rome Prehistoric Project (with Italian financial support), probably concentrating on strata somewhat later than those of our own earlier efforts.

During the earliest field seasons, we naively assumed that "our" Çayönü represented the simplest possible village-farming community way of life. How incredibly wrong we were. The social complexity suggested by Çayönü's remains is far from simple and there are even hints of pyrotechnology and metallurgy still to be probed. There is a great deal of raw evidence still to untangle and interpret, and we look forward to it.

Again, we express our warm thanks to the very special volunteers and good friends of the Prehistoric Project who aid and abet us.