

## THE PREHISTORIC PROJECT

*Linda & Robert J. Braidwood*

**J**UST AS FOR INDIVIDUALS, so also for expeditions, there comes the time to pay for pleasures past. For archeologists, fieldwork itself makes up the obvious pleasures—the excitement of travel, the matter of living as part of a more folk-like and less frantic culture, the good companionship of an enthusiastic field staff, the daily expectancy of fascinating results from the excavation itself and the way the past seems to come alive again as the digging proceeds. All this is difficult to explain without sounding corny but the pleasures are indeed there. The penalty follows, however—the duty to *publish*. Our reckoning is that it probably takes (for people with a normal load of other academic responsibilities as well) some six to eight times as much time and effort to finish a *full and final* publication as it does to excavate the raw materials which the publication will contain.

In the late spring of 1978, the final editing of the full and final publication on the Prehistoric Project's early village site excavations in Iraq was at last completed. A stack of manuscript twelve and one-half inches high; the sites of Karim Shahir, Jarmo, Banahilk, Ali Azha, al-Khan and M'lefaat; some seventeen different authors and specialists. We actually turned the last spadeful on these sites in the Iraqi Zagros region in 1955. We did publish a preliminary report in 1960 but there is still the matter of 23 years between that last spadeful and being ready for printer's ink.

We should now be very happy and we are. Nevertheless, we still ruefully face the same task all over again for our work on the site of Çayönü in southeastern Turkey. Fortunately, however, our now emeritus status relieves us of all other University duties and we—and our Turkish colleague, Professor Dr. Halet Çambel—can concentrate full time on the *full and final*

publication of the yield from Çayönü. By Turkish law, no excavated materials may leave the country; hence the processing, classifying, illustrating, and interpreting of the Çayönü finds must be done in Turkey. This will mean a year and a half or so of living and working in the expedition house near the site. It will seem strange indeed to be in the field but for the first time in our lives not for the prime purpose of digging. We fear that the temptation to pleasure will be strong but more digging will simply add to that penalty of more publication duties. Hopefully we can restrict ourselves to a few modest architectural clearances.

There is one aspect in particular concerning the effort in Turkey in which we have very considerable satisfaction. Since it started work in the autumn of 1963, our (to give it its full name) Joint Istanbul-Chicago Universities' Prehistoric Project has provided the opportunity for field training for at least two dozen American and European students. Our old friend and field companion, Bruce Howe, has spent a semester teaching in Halet Çambel's Prehistory Department in Istanbul University almost every year since 1967. We firmly believe that the Project's impact on the coming generation of Turkish archeologists will pay good dividends.

The final publication of the work on the early village site of Çayönü (of about 7250 B.C.) will be printed in Turkey in both English and Turkish. When Halet Çambel was with us here a couple of summers ago, we already began working on translating manuscript from English to Turkish. Halet's English is excellent but she appeared to us to be struggling overly hard to get an exact word-for-word translation. When we suggested that she relax and simply translate for the general spirit of the meaning, she smiled sweetly and said, "You see how it is—generations of Turkish students may learn their English by comparing the two texts so we must be correct."

It will be sad to say goodbye to Çayönü when the time finally comes but by then the Oriental Institute should already be deeply involved with the archeological salvage effort on the southern stretch of the Euphrates in Turkey.