

# PROJECT REPORTS

## ALIŞAR REGIONAL PROJECT

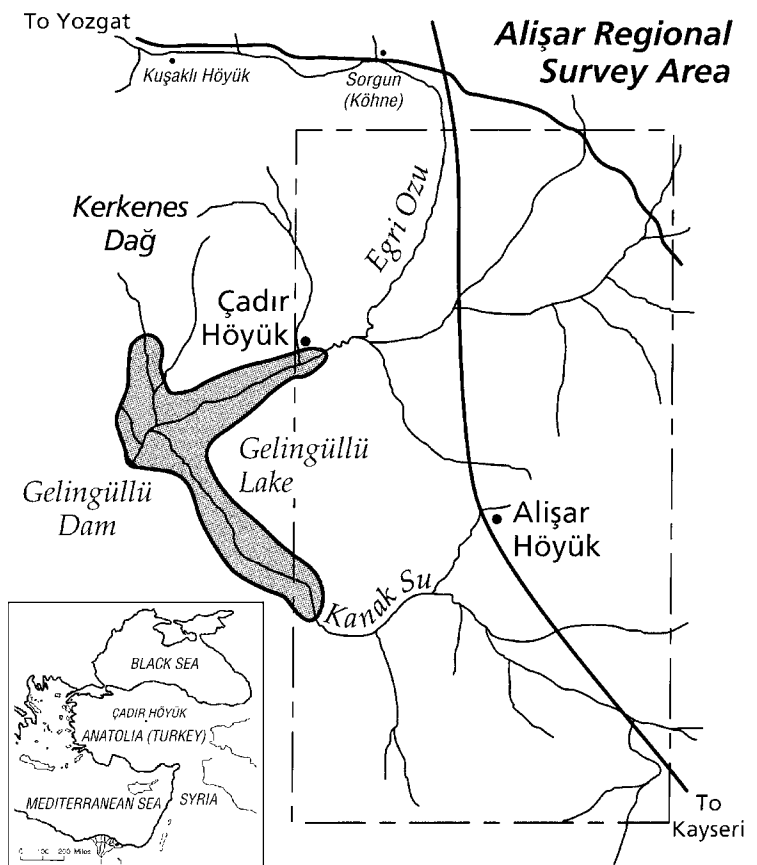
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### Excavations at Çadır Höyük

#### Project Overview

Çadır Höyük continues to be the focus of a broad interdisciplinary study of central Anatolia's cultural development. The large multi-period mound is located near the village of Peyniryemez in central Turkey (fig. 1). Work is carried out from a newly constructed excavation house, complete with our own recently drilled well, that sits on the eastern edge of the village (figs. 2–3). Excavations have been funded through a variety of grants and donations from the National Geographic Society, National Science Foundation, The Foundation for Exploration and Research on Cultural Origins (FERCO), and many private donors. The project has been sustained by excellent workers from Peyniryemez and an ambitious field team composed of students, staff, and instructors from a number of

universities. Preliminary reports are published in Ronald L. Gorny, "The Alişar Regional Project (1993–1994)," *Biblical Archaeologist* 58 (1995) 52–54; Ronald L. Gorny, Gregory McMahon, S. Paley, and L. Kealhofer, "The Alişar Regional Project," *Anatolica* 21 (1995): 65–100; Scott Branting, "The Alişar Regional Project 1993–1994," *Anatolica* 22 (1996): 145–58; Ronald L. Gorny, Gregory McMahon, S. Paley, S. Steadman, and Bruce Verhaaren, "The 1998 Alişar Regional Project Season," *Anatolica* 25 (1999): 149–83; Ronald L. Gorny, Gregory McMahon, S. Paley, et al., "The 1999 Alişar Regional Project Season," *Anatolica* 26 (2000): 153–71; Ronald L. Gorny, Gregory McMahon, S.



Map of survey area in central Anatolia, showing location of Çadır Höyük. After Gorny, "Alişar Regional Project (1993–1994)," p. 53

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Paley, S. Steadman, and Bruce Verhaaren, “The 2000 and 2001 Seasons at Çadır Höyük in Central Turkey,” *Anatolica* 28 (2002): 109–36.

The excavations at Çadır Höyük are part of the Alişar Regional Project, an initiative planned with the Turkish Department of Monuments and Museums to be a long-term investigation into the cultural and historical development of central Anatolia. The project is an offshoot of the pioneering work done in the region by the Oriental Institute’s Hans Henning von der Osten from 1926 to 1932. Our work at Çadır began in 1993, inspired by von der Osten’s explorations at Alişar, and has continued up to the present time. The latest seasons have aimed at resolving outstanding chronological problems, examining significant historical trends, and illuminating the relationship of environment to the various periods under investigation, all in hopes of filling the historical canvas with a more detailed picture of how and why central Anatolia developed the way it did.

## Excavation Areas

### Area 1. The Eastern Trench

Primary excavations continued in the eastern step trench during the 2003 season. Since its inception in 1994, the trench has expanded into a 40 m long step trench that reaches from the top of the mound to the bottom (fig. 4). At the top of the trench is the Byzantine phase of settlement



Figure 1. Aerial view of Çadır Höyük in 1994, courtesy of Geoff and Françoise Summers

that has at least three subphases (Phases IXa–c). Subphase IXa represents a final attempt to rebuild the site that was never completed. Subphase IXb is dominated by a large structure dated to the eleventh century that may be part of a *kastron*. The *kastron* was a symbolic representation of power in late Byzantine Anatolia and was at the center of every sphere of life during the period. In essence, it served as the administrative, economic, and social hub of the community, offering security for both humans and animals in time of threat, as well as provision for armies on the march. The *kastron* was typically a fortified citadel that protected a walled lower city but could also be a smaller fortification, lookout, or tower that was manned by local guards. *Kastrons* could also be associated with monastic buildings or religious centers.

The eleventh century structure was heavily damaged, though it remains unclear what brought an end to the town’s existence. The final attempt at rebuilding the site sealed a thick layer of animal bones within the eastern portion of the eleventh century building. The animals were apparently brought into the fortification to safeguard them. Unfortunately, this precaution did not succeed.



*Figure 2. Excavation house dorm*



*Figure 3. Excavation house complex from the southeast*

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*Figure 4. Çadır Höyük showing the southern trench (left) and the eastern step trench (right)*

Subphase IXc is a 2 m wide mortared fortification wall that predates the eleventh century citadel fortifications. This subphase rings the mound and is just coming to light. Monastic ware sherds suggest a date no later than the ninth century, but perhaps as early as the seventh century. The reason for this structure's demise remains unknown.

The two phases of occupation below the Byzantine levels appear to be Hellenistic and Late Iron Age (Phases VII and VI). While Roman settlement (Phase VIII) is present in the region, and even on the terrace itself, a Roman period level does not seem to exist on the mound. The Iron Age level produced typical Middle Iron Age wares (Phase V) including the so-called stag or silhouette ware, but it also yielded a very high percentage of Hittite sherds suggesting that the Hittite empire period settlement was located much higher on the mound than we suspected. Among these sherds were several pieces of red burnished ware spindle bottle sherds typical of empire period cultic deposits at Boğazkale-Ḫattuša. Judging from the collection of empire period materials, I believe that we are close to the high point of the Hittite citadel and that it was adorned with a Hittite temple from which the numerous cultic sherds are derived.

Below the Hittite empire remains is a series of Old Hittite levels followed by Old Assyrian remains. These remains, first uncovered in 1994, represent the beginning of the second millennium. The earliest element in this series of constructions is the eastern pier of a gate system that was built over the Early Bronze Age III circuit wall. This gate is from the Karum II period and has a  $^{14}\text{C}$  date of ca. 2000 B.C. Built over the gate and utilizing the remains of the destroyed Karum II structure is a 6 m wide Karum Ib casemate wall. The wall still stands intact to a height of 1.6 m but was leveled at that point to allow for the erection of a transitional Karum Ia wall, which has a  $^{14}\text{C}$  date of approximately 1750 B.C. This wall can be traced around much of the mound and displays evidence of burning and destruction everywhere. Several bronze blades



*Figure 5. Çadır Höyük showing the lower and upper south trench*

have been found in the wall's destruction, an event that must have occurred during the turmoil and infighting that resulted in the incorporation of the region into the Hittite Old Kingdom.

## Area 2. The Terrace

The intention of our work on the terrace has been to test the occupation of the terrace and to see whether settlement existed there earlier than the classical periods. Byzantine remains have been excavated in two areas of the terrace and the analyses of Byzantine pottery from those excavations indicate that there is not only a tenth and eleventh century level, as we expected, but an earlier seventh–eighth century level. In one trench (1050.1000), we dug through the classical remains, and after excavating a 1 m layer of sterile soil, came down on a second-millennium level 3.5 m below the surface. One of our priorities is to provide a wider exposure of the second-millennium materials on the terrace in order to see if we can determine whether Çadır was an active participant in the activities of the Old Assyrian trade colonies and what role, if any, the terrace played in the activities of the Hittite city.



*Figure 5b. South trench excavation area*

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### Area 3. The Lower South Trench

The southern trench was begun where a sounding had been made in 1994 (figs. 4–5). Our surface survey had indicated a great deal of early pottery, but we were surprised at the outset of excavation just how early that settlement was. Our first shovelfuls of earth yielded Chalcolithic period pottery, which to our amazement continued down for 8 m! What we had encountered was



*Figure 6. Some of the "fruit stands" from the Chalcolithic shrine room, ca. 3200 B.C.*

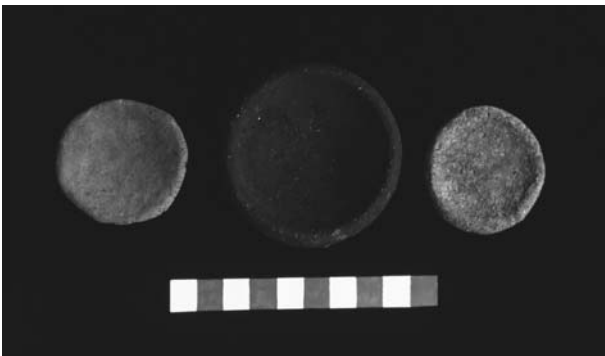
evidence of a massive expansion of settlement in the late Chalcolithic period that mirrored what had been found at nearby Alişar Höyük. As we were to realize later, the reason for finding the Chalcolithic materials so close to the surface was that the edge of the mound hung on what was then a natural limestone ridge overlooking the Egri Su valley below. Rather than encircling the original point of settlement, as it happens at most sites, the direction of settlement continued to move back away from the ridge towards the northeast, leaving a nice line of Chalcolithic remains along the edge of the

ridge. This pattern continued to develop through each succeeding period with the largest settlements apparently encompassing both the mound and the entire terrace during the Hittite and Byzantine periods.

Materials from the southern trench fall into two main periods, the Chalcolithic and the second millennium, though elements of other periods have appeared in various contexts. The earliest Chalcolithic levels come from a pit at the bottom of the deep sounding that has a  $^{14}\text{C}$  date of ca. 5200 B.C. An interesting sidelight is that the pit contained beads and bead-making materials, an indication of early industry at the site. The element of greatest interest, however, may be the settlement's large stone enclosure wall that prominently displays a 4.2 m wide central gate with guardhouses on either side. The wall is approximately 1 m wide and stands intact to a height of 1.5 m. Upon entering the 9.5 m long gate, one must take a right angle (easterly) turn directly behind the eastern guard house in order to enter the settlement.

The gate and wall are associated with what appears to be a shrine room just east of the gate and a "burned room" or courtyard still farther east.  $^{14}\text{C}$  dates for the first subphase of this complex are ca. 3600 B.C. The second subphase of the gate is set by  $^{14}\text{C}$  tests at 3200 B.C.

Noteworthy is the fact that during this subphase, the entire area was littered with an assortment of the fruit stands known so well from Alişar, along with numerous omphalos bowls. The shrine room had several collections of these vessels on the floor and on a nearby bench (fig. 6). One of the fruit stands from this area was covered with yellow ochre. Several bull figurines were also found in this area that has a decidedly cultic feel to it. All the buildings are ori-



*Figure 7. Hittite votive bowls from the lower south slope, ca. 1300 B.C.*

ented towards Çaltepe, which seems to be a sacred mountain in the later Hittite period. A great deal of burning characterized the last phase of settlement, an indication that the final Chalcolithic destruction was not localized but fairly extensive.

Above the last phase of the Chalcolithic period were found nine child burials that had been dug into the Chalcolithic remains. These burials and pieces of a unique ceramic andiron date to the Early Bronze Age. The andiron was of the Early Transcaucasian style and displayed the face of a bull on each end of the andiron. <sup>14</sup>C dates associated with these finds are from ca. 2800 B.C.

While Hittite remains were largely removed from this area by the construction of a Byzantine terrace wall and Phrygian period construction, we did find the remnants of a Hittite grain silo that had been dug, in turn, into the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age levels. It was built with a rock foundation similar to those known from Boğazköy. Trench 780.890 also revealed several pits that were filled with pottery from the period of the Hittite empire, including miniature votive bowls (fig. 7), and dug into a large mudbrick structure we presume to be the Hittite citadel wall. The pits, along with two cross-walls, are dated by pottery and <sup>14</sup>C tests to the later Hittite empire period (ca. 1300 B.C.) while the mudbricks into which these walls were dug date to the period between 1500 and 1400 B.C. Farther to the west is another large mudbrick structure in which a cylinder seal was found that dates to ca. 1400 B.C. (fig. 8).



*Figure 8. Cylinder seal from the lower south slope, ca. 1400 B.C.*



*Figure 9. Byzantine storerooms on the citadel*

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**Area 4. The Citadel**

We continue to make excellent progress exposing the Byzantine settlement that sat atop the mound (fig. 9). In 2003 we uncovered portions of two large rooms (rooms A and B), along with a third room (room C) that was filled with a thick layer of animal bones. Room C contained a mix of animals that included pig, sheep, horse, and cow. Current thinking is that this room represents a holding pen of some sort. It seems that the animals perished there after having been left in the room and perhaps tethered there during a time of danger. Numerous coins were also found under the animals (fig. 10), probably from a purse dropped by an inhabitant as he fled in haste once the animals had been secured. Apparently, the local inhabitants left the animals there in hopes of returning for them once the danger passed.

Despite the precautions taken by the local inhabitants to protect their animals, the creatures did not survive. Evidence of heavy burning in the western part of the room has led to speculation that the animals may have died from smoke inhalation.

It appears that the animals were tied to a line along the wall and then locked in the room. If this were the case, one would easily understand how the beasts could have panicked and choked to death, either through smoke inhalation or by choking on their bonds. No evidence exists to say for certain whether the fire was accidental or set deliberately. The coins tell us that the end of this settlement was probably around 1070 B.C. The final settlement at Çadır was an ephemeral rebuilding that was never completed.

**Area 5. The North Slope**

Excavations were opened on the north slope due, in part, to robber trenches that had exposed two areas of massive stones apparently used as the foundations of a structure located three-quarters of the way up the north face of the mound. This rock construction in trench 950.900 appeared to be restricted to one area of the slope and did not continue around the mound. In order to investigate this structure, we opened a small east-west trench in 2003 that connected the two robber trenches and found what appear to be the foundations of a large monumental structure



*Figure 10. Byzantine coins from the citadel, ca. eleventh century A.D.*





*Figure 11. Foundations of the monumental gateway, ca. 1200 B.C.*

(fig. 11). It is now possible to see that the wall had a narrow entry. Pottery from above the entry was a combination of Phrygian and Hellenistic wares, including several pieces of what we take to be white painted Achaemenid ware with some Hittite pottery thrown in. A clear narrowing of the entryway indicated, however, that this entry was a reuse in later times of a much wider gate.

Time precluded a major effort in this area, but an abbreviated sounding was undertaken in order to test the date of the structure. Two rooms were identified directly below the massive rocks that had tumbled from the larger structure. Inside the higher of the two rooms were found materials from the late Hittite empire period. Small stones just west of it may be part of a glacis or a cobbled path leading into the gate itself. At this point, the dating of the gate complex is still in doubt. The excavated rooms are clearly Hittite in date, but it remains unclear whether those rooms are connected to the monumental construction, which rests just above them, or are earlier. The Hittite pottery found at the base of the stones suggests that the Hittites were involved with its construction, but more of the structure needs to be cleared before we can provide a firm date for this massive construction project.

### **Area 6. The Upper South Slope**

Area 6 lies beneath the citadel and above the Hittite remains on the Lower South Slope. The most significant settlement remains from that area belong to a gate that was excavated in 2003. So far, only a single pier of the gate has been exposed. Pottery indicates a middle Iron Age date for the gate and it has not gone unnoticed that the western pier of the gate resembles the piers on the Alişar Iron Age gate. An examination of the balk below this area indicates that we are approaching the so-called “Dark Age” level that bracketed the end of the Hittite empire. Since Çadır is one of the few sites known to have such a level, it has become clear that this area will be

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significant in helping to explain the enigmatic fall of the Hittites and the transition to the Iron Age. Perhaps, the most interesting sherds of this area, however, are those belonging to the late Iron Age period (Phase VI). They were found in a pit dug into the middle Iron Age entryway, just east of the pier. While most of the pots were plain ware vessels, one was a beautifully painted vessel whose origin remains unknown (fig. 12). All the vessels, whether painted or plain, had flat bottoms. These vessels provide further evidence of a settlement that was contemporary with the massive settlement that von der Osten also documented at nearby Kerkenes Dağ.

### Conclusion

Çadır Höyük, as we have always maintained, is a very complex and exciting site that has a great deal to tell us about every period of Anatolia's historical development, not to mention the overall dynamics of state formation. We continue to be surprised by the extent and sophistication of the remains. The excavations at Çadır have already documented a rich history of settlement that runs



*Figure 12. Late Iron Age vessel*

from the early Chalcolithic through the Roman-Byzantine period (see table 1, below), but much more remains to be done. While the overarching goal of this project is to examine the ways in which environment impacts the rise and fall of states on the Anatolian plateau, it also addresses smaller self-contained issues that are of special concern to our specialists and researchers. The past decade of work at Çadır Höyük has opened the door of opportunity and we now find ourselves poised on the threshold of making a unique contribution to the study of ancient Anatolia's history and culture. The success of this project will ultimately help us to fulfill the vision that von der Osten and the Oriental Institute had back in 1926 when they undertook the Anatolian Expedition.

The answers we provide for some of the region's most vexing questions should also bring some degree of closure to the Oriental Institute's unfinished work at Alişar Höyük. This would provide a worthy tribute and a lasting legacy for von der Osten, the man who initiated so much of the important research now going on in central Anatolia.

**Table 1. Preliminary Çadır Höyük Chronology**

<i>Period</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Dates/sublevels</i>	<i>Primary Areas</i>	<i>Comments/Highlights</i>
Islamic	X	ca. A.D. 1100 and after	Area around mound	Miscellaneous pottery and a coin in the Egri Su valley
Byzantine	IXa	ca. A.D. 1075, latest rebuild	Area 4 (800.890)	Poorly rebuilt walls (never finished)
Byzantine	IXb	ca. A.D. 1000, Rebuilding of main fort	Area 2 (910.920 1050.1000), Area 4 (800.890)	Ceramics, walls, and numerous coins; ash and burning over a thick layer of animal bones; Imperial seal; Constantine X (A.D. 1059–1067) coin on terrace
Byzantine	IXc	Main sublevel of fort; ca. A.D. 900	Area 4 (Citadel) citadel wall	Large mortared with storerooms
Byzantine	IXd	Early Byzantine	Area 4 (Citadel), 2 (Terrace)	Terra sigillata and Area wavy line, with third–seventh centuries A.D. (?) spiral and vertical burnished; Monastic ware and African red-slipped ware
Roman	VIII	100 B.C.–300 A.D.	Area 2 (910.920)	Pottery and architecture on the terrace
Hellenistic	VII	300–100 B.C.	Area 2 (910.920), Area 3 (770.890 and 770.900)	Pottery from terrace and robber trench Pottery from west slope of the mound
Late Iron (Achaemenid)	VI	500–300 B.C.	Area 6 (790.890), Area 5 (upper south slope)	Painted sherds across site, especially in area of monumental north gate and in pit near south Phrygian Gate area
Middle Iron Age	Va	ca. 1000–500 B.C.	Area 3 (770.890)	“Phrygian” sherds, pots, gate, citadel wall, and installations
Early Iron/Late Bronze Transition	Vb	ca. 1200–1000 B.C.	Area 6 (780.890)	Early Iron and “Dark Age Bronze Age sherds” with wall foundations on upper south slope, <sup>14</sup> C dated
Late Bronze II	IVa	ca. 1400–1200 B.C.	Area 1 (800.930), Area 3 (770.880), Area 6 (790.890)	Hittite empire period: sherds, architecture, citadel wall, and north slope gate
Late Bronze I	IVb	ca. 1600–1400 B.C.	Area 1 (800.930, 800.920, and 800.910)	Old Hittite Kingdom: sherds, pots, and walls throughout whole east trench
Middle Bronze	IIIa	Old Assyrian Colony Age ca. 1700 B.C. (Karum Ia)	Area 1 (800.930)	City Wall with burned bricks, OACP pottery; <sup>14</sup> C dated

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<i>Period</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Dates/sublevels</i>	<i>Primary Areas</i>	<i>Comments/Highlights</i>
Middle Bronze	IIIb	Old Assyrian Colony Age ca. 1800 B.C. (Karum Ib)	Area 1 (800.930), Area 3 (760.880)	Large casemate wall with OACP pottery
Middle Bronze II	IIIc	Old Assyrian Colony Age ca. 2000 B.C. (Karum II)	Area 1 (800.930)	City wall and gate; other architecture; <sup>14</sup> C dated
Early Bronze	Iia	ca. 2300–2000 B.C. (EB III)	Area 1 (800.930), Area 3 (789.890)	Intermediate and Cappadocian wares
Early Bronze	Iib	ca. 2800–2300 B.C. (EB II)	Area 3 (760.880)	Red chaff-tempered pottery sherds
Early Bronze/ Late Chalcolithic Transition	Iic	ca. 3000–2800 B.C. (EB I)	Area 3 (770.890)	Graves cut into Ib; EB I house above “burned room”; heavy black polished pottery and black incised wares; <sup>14</sup> C dated
Late Chalcolithic	Ia1	ca. 3300–3400 B.C.	Area 3 (770.890)	Small, weak wall foundations (1998)
Late Chalcolithic	Ia2	ca. 3300–3400 B.C.	Area 3 (770.890 and 770.900)	Stronger foundations under Ia1 Pithos room above Chalcolithic gate
Late Chalcolithic	Ib1	ca. 3500–3700 B.C.	Area 3 (770.890 and 770.900)	Levels under Ia2 wall foundation, separated from gate by plaster floor and destruction debris; <sup>14</sup> C dated
Late Chalcolithic	Ib2	ca. 3500–3700 B.C.	Area 3 (770.890 and 770.900)	Gate and enclosure wall (latest phase); <sup>14</sup> C dated
Late Chalcolithic	Ib3	ca. 3500–3700 B.C.	Area 3 (770.890 and 770.900)	Gate and enclosure wall (earliest phase); <sup>14</sup> C dated
Early Chalcolithic	Ic	ca. 4500 B.C. ( <sup>14</sup> C)	Deep sounding	Fill layer with F 42; <sup>14</sup> C dated
Early Chalcolithic	Id	ca. 5200 B.C. ( <sup>14</sup> C)	Deep sounding	F 43 wall foundation; <sup>14</sup> C dated
Early Chalcolithic	Ie	ca. 5300 B.C.	Deep sounding	F 44 wall foundation
Neolithic	If	ca. 5500 B.C.	Unexcavated	No evidence

Table 1 provides a chronological outline of the work that has been accomplished at Çadır from 1993 until 2003. Please note that the phases of occupation are numbered in ascending order, on the assumption that we have exposed all the major phases we will find (with the possible exception of the Neolithic) from earliest to latest (I–X). The subphases, on the other hand, are lettered in descending order on the assumption that additional subphases may be uncovered below those already accounted for. I emphasize that while this is a preliminary chart and is susceptible to change and reorganization, it does reflect our current understanding of Çadır’s historical development.