

## ÇADIR HÖYÜK

Gregory McMahon

The Çadır Höyük site is located in the Yozgat Province of central Turkey. As was reported in 2012, I became the director of the project in 2010 after Ronald Gorny's retirement from archaeology the previous year. We remain delighted that the Çadır project continues to operate under the auspices of the Oriental Institute. We are also thrilled to have increased the number of University of Chicago graduate students participating on the project from three in 2012, to four in 2013, and five in 2014! Already participating on the project in 2012 were Sarah Adcock, Josh Cannon, and Stephanie Selover; in 2013 we were fortunate to add Tony Lauricella to the team, and this year we have benefitted tremendously from the contributions of Susan Penacho. In addition, we have two University of Chicago alums who are vital members of the project: Madelynn von Baeyer, now pursuing her PhD at the University of Connecticut; and Jon Clindaniel, now working on his doctoral degree at Harvard. All these students have made critical contributions to the project, as reported below.

### June through August 2013

We continue to be pleased that Hasan Şenyurt remains the director of the Yozgat Museum, the regional museum that oversees our work. In the 2013 season we benefitted from the help of two government representatives, Süleyman Can and Bahar Hasırcı. We also welcomed our new assistant director, Dr. Emre Şerifoğlu, who is pursuing a much-needed study of landscape



Figure 1. Josh Cannon at Çadır Höyük

use and settlement size during the occupational periods of the site. The season began on June 17 and continued until August 10 for an eight-week season. During the season we partially or fully opened a total of fourteen 10 × 10 meter trenches. These spanned the Late Chalcolithic (mid- to late fourth millennium BC) to the final century of the Byzantine occupation (early eleventh century CE). Three trenches explored our prehistoric/Late Chalcolithic occupation, one of which was run by Josh Cannon, who is working on a dissertation that includes Çadır's second-millennium ceramic assemblage (fig. 1). Josh worked in LSS 3, which was first opened in 2000. This trench has always been a mystery to us given that it is firmly in the Late Chalcolithic area and is full of ceramics and architecture dating to the latter half of the fourth millennium BC. However, the northeast quarter of this trench is a significantly disturbed area, first featuring a large Iron Age pit (excavated in 2001) and then a host of jumbled stones and soft fill full of Hittite ceramics, excavated by Josh in 2012. In 2013 Josh was able to solve the mystery for us. He revealed the stone foundation of a Hittite structure, possibly a silo or a stable, that had been set deep into the Late Chalcolithic occupation. This was likely a tall structure that disrupted much of the earlier occupation there; this area was also heavily used by the Iron Age residents. This structure was left in place for our return in the 2014 season.

To the west of Josh's trench are SES 1 and SES 2, where our Burnt House and Courtyard, and the courtyard/hearth complex (reported on in 2012) are located. Our two supervisors there revealed two interesting rooms in the phase below the courtyard/hearth complex. These rooms, dated to the later fourth millennium, are apsidal in form; they measure approximately 2.5 meters from the top of the apsidal curve to the opposite end of the room, and roughly 1.5 meters across (fig. 2). One has a mudbrick platform in the apsidal curve that may have served as furniture. Each had an exterior hearth and storage area associated with the room. So far, these types of rooms appear to be unique to Late Chalcolithic settlements on the plateau. The poor quality of the mudbrick construction and thin walls suggest that these may represent a fairly ephemeral occupation between periods when this area of the site was more robustly occupied by the permanent Çadır residents.

Farther up the southern side of the mound, Stephanie Selover (fig. 3) supervised two trenches, USS 9 and USS 10, which have offered us an excellent view of the Early Bronze I (ca. 3000–2900 BC) occupation at Çadır Höyük. In addition to a significant "city" wall, reused in later Hittite times, Stephanie has carefully revealed what seems to be a massive industrial complex located just outside this Early Bronze Age wall. Small storage rooms, very large



Figure 2. Two Rooms in the Burnt House

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ovens or furnaces, and well-plastered floors speak to an active economy functioning at Çadır Höyük in the Early Bronze I period. Unfortunately for us, residents left little in the way of material culture to indicate just what activities they may have undertaken in the area. However, due to Stephanie's efforts we now have a much better understanding of the nature of the Early Bronze I occupation at Çadır, which was only minimally represented in the lower southern trenches. It is clear that the upper reaches of the mound were heavily occupied in the early third millennium BC, and we hope to discover more about the Early Bronze Age settlement in future seasons.



*Figure 3. Stephanie Selover at one of the trenches of the southern mound*

On the eastern side of the mound we have the majority of our second-millennium occupation. In previous seasons, including 2012, we exposed a large Hittite (1600–1400 BC) casemate defensive wall that is over 2 meters in width. In 2013 University of Chicago alumnus Jon Clindaniel supervised a trench intended to expose more of the casemate wall. Initially the vast jumble of stones and decayed mudbrick made no sense to us until the latter part of the season when it finally took shape as a Hittite tower. The tower was in poor shape due to erosion and later robbing of the stones, but it offers enough of a footprint for us to determine that the architectural pattern matches that found at other medium-size Hittite sites featuring defensive walls with in-built tower structures. Due to Jon's excellent work it is clear that Çadır was home to a substantial Hittite occupation. The goal now is to expose as much of the occupation inside the city wall as possible in the coming seasons.

We had another architectural surprise in our Iron Age trench on the upper southern slope (USS 4) under the supervision of Dr. Jennifer Ross (Hood College), the project's associate director. The USS 4 trench is in a very important area in that it will give us an unbroken chronological and cultural sequence documenting the Çadır resident's experience during the final centuries of the Hittite empire, including its collapse (late second millennium BC) into the Early Iron Age (late second/early first millennium BC) when the Hittite imperial structure had collapsed. We hope to document how residents at settlements such as Çadır Höyük weathered the rocky decades prior to the Hittite collapse and the post-imperial centuries when economic and political restructuring took place. The USS 4 area, as well as other trenches on the mound, will provide these data. Dr. Ross has already documented the Early Iron Age occupation, which consists of abrupt changes in the material culture including the building of circular rather than rectangular houses, handmade rather than wheel-made pottery (the latter more common in the Hittite and Middle Iron Age periods), and changes in the composition of our metal tools (perhaps reflecting changes in trade routes). At the end of the 2013 season the USS 4 trench was beginning to offer more standard (in Hittite times) rectilinear architecture, which we believe heralds the Late Bronze Age and Hittite occupation within the trench.

The Byzantine occupation of the site was quite extensive and has been revealed on both the mound summit and out on the northern terrace. On the latter we have uncovered a do-



*Figure 4. Tony Lauricella opening a new trench on the mound summit*

mestic complex that in its latest iteration, in the ninth to eleventh centuries, may have served as a farmhouse for several families or one extended family. In its earlier phase, perhaps the fifth or sixth century CE, it may have been more of a manor house in the style of a Roman villa, belonging to the Byzantine elite who was the steward of the region and for whom the farmers worked the lands. At some point in the five or so centuries following its earliest form it fell into some disrepair and was converted into housing for the farmers who may once have served the resident owner of the lands. Our work in the terrace trenches in the 2013 season was mainly devoted to documenting the building sequence from the latest eleventh-century

occupation to the earliest form. Radiometric dating undertaken in the off-season attests that the earliest use of the terrace was certainly as early as the fifth century and may extend back to the fourth century CE. Excavations in the 2014 season are intended to expand our exposure in this area.

We asked Tony Lauricella (fig. 4) to open a new trench on the mound summit designed to better expose the only extant Byzantine tower so that we might better understand the construction of both of the tower and the defensive wall. He did an excellent job on this task, and we were able to determine that a rather unique construction technique was used. First, thick branches or small trees were stripped and laid horizontally at irregular inter-



*Figure 5. A view of the defensive wall and the circular tower*

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vals, between 10 and 25 centimeters apart; these were then mortared into place in approximately 25 centimeters of a mortar base. Upon this construction head-sized stones were mortared into place to create a defensive wall and a circular tower (fig. 5). The wooden supports were likely used to create a stable base on the edge of the mound, and may have aided a Byzantine population who suddenly felt the need to build a substantial wall in an age of increasingly common attacks from a Seljuk threat to the east. Tony also discovered that the Byzantine defensive wall appears to rest almost directly on a Late Iron Age set of architecture which requires further investigation in the 2014 season.



Figure 6. Sarah Adcock at Çadır Höyük

Our lab/work rooms are very busy during the day with specialists working on our lithics (Jeff Geyer, Hood College), archaeobotanical remains (Madelynn von Baeyer), and of course, Sarah Adcock, who is pursuing her PhD work on the Late Bronze/Iron Age archaeozoological samples (fig. 6). Sarah delivered a paper at the November 2013 American Schools of Oriental Research conference on her findings thus far, which mirrors the types of economic changes in the Early Iron Age period noted above (that is, abrupt shifts in the post-Hittite exploitation practices). Sarah's work is a critical part of understanding this pivotal period in Anatolian history as it was experienced at Çadır Höyük.

There is no doubt that our 2013 season was an excellent one, in large part due to our outstanding team. We made tremendous strides toward better documenting and understanding the many periods represented at the site. The successes of the 2013 season created great anticipation for the arrival of the 2014 season.

## June 2014

We arrived in Turkey on June 11 and were able to begin work at the site by June 14. As of the writing of this report we have been in the field for one week. We are fortunate to have a wonderful government representative, Hüseyin Toprak, working with us this year. In addition to the Chicago students mentioned above, we have been extremely fortunate to have Susan Penacho with us before she departs for her season at Kerkenes (ca. 9 kilometers to the northwest of Çadır Höyük). Susan has been assisting in our continued mapping of the mound, trenches, and various architectural features and is helping us to developing some innovative photogrammetry of some of our more substantial extant architecture. We are delighted that Kerkenes will be starting their season very soon but we are indeed sorry to lose Susan!

Most of the trenches noted above have been reopened this season. The first few days were spent cleaning, and excavations commenced approximately four days ago. Most of the trenches are already offering promising results. The coming five weeks of excavation will most certainly provide us with a host of information to report on in 2015.