

ÇADIR HÖYÜK

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Our 2014 season was extremely successful, in large part because we benefitted from the work by Chicago students Stephanie Selover, Tony Lauricella, and Sarah Adcock. We continued excavations in all the periods represented at the site, including the Byzantine, Late Bronze Age (second millennium BCE), Iron Age (first millennium BCE), and Late Chalcolithic/Early Bronze I (fourth and third millennia BCE).

The Byzantine is represented on the North Terrace and the mound summit. We opened one new trench on the North Terrace and continued work in another, both designed to better understand the domestic architecture located in that area of the site. In Trench NTN 8, first opened in 2013, we further exposed the extensive architecture associated with the Middle Byzantine large house that was first constructed as early as the fifth century CE (fig. 1).

The new 10 × 10 meter trench NTN 5 was opened in 2014. Its location is based on magnetometry work completed in 2008. Results indicated a large anomaly at this location, possibly representing a large building. The shape of the potential structure suggested that it might have been a stable, or possibly a cistern. The first days of excavation in 2014 revealed



Figure 1. Trench NTN 8

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Figure 2. Trench SMT 4

numerous head and fist-sized stones lying across the eastern half of the trench. They may have served as a support for a surface that was once paved. However, proximity to the surface (only roughly 20 cm below the current surface) has probably eroded any plaster or other material that may have covered the stones. By the end of the season four poorly built stone walls had been revealed, and one small portion (40 × 50 cm) of a cobblestone surface had emerged. Our 2015 season is currently in progress, and a number of new stone foundations have come to light in this trench. We continue to believe that there may be a cistern below our current level of excavation. We will report on the final results of our 2015 season in this trench in next year's report.

On the mound summit Tony Lauricella continued work in SMT 4 (fig. 2) and opened a new trench, SMT 3. Excavation in SMT 4 has revealed an interesting building technique used in the construction of the Byzantine defensive wall. In order to account for

the significant slope of the mound toward the north, the builders constructed packed mud supports, likely contained in some sort of "box" made of organic materials such as reeds or wood. This allowed the wall to remain level rather than sloping with the mound. Below the Byzantine defensive wall an earlier building phase has been exposed. This likely dates to the later Iron Age. It seems to be an outdoor area, composed of a single rectangular room entered along a cobblestone path. The function of this room has not yet been determined.

Further excavation revealed that there was a second course of cobblestone paving underlying the first. Ceramics continue to suggest that this area and level date to the Late Iron Age. During the last week of the 2014 season two additional walls were found farther down the slope that seem to pre-date this stone cobble surface. These are also probably Late Iron Age walls, but dating to slightly earlier in this phase. Work has continued in this trench in the early part of the 2015 season, with little new to report at this stage. No significant small finds were recovered from this trench to date.

We decided to reopen Trench SMT 15 on the east side of the mound summit (fig. 3); the trench was last excavated in 2008. Excavation was ably supervised by Jon Clindaniel, a former Chicago student now at Harvard. This trench includes part of the Byzantine defensive wall, below which, on the eastern side, 2008 excavations revealed Iron Age remains. In 2014 we excavated on both sides of the wall to reveal both the Byzantine occupation on the western side of the wall, and more Iron Age, and potentially Late Bronze Age, on the eastern side.

By the end of the season the western half of the trench had revealed no new architecture, but only a few layers were removed in this area. The eastern half, below the Byzantine wall, was very productive. The Late Iron Age remains last revealed in 2008 turned out to

be a wall with an associated paving of flat-topped stones. It is interesting that this paving extends to the very edge of the eastern extent of the Iron Age period mound summit. This paving may be associated with a formal entryway into the Late Iron Age settlement on top of the mound. At present we estimate that this occupation east of and below the Byzantine defensive wall dates to approximately the sixth century BCE. There were no significant finds from this trench.

Our second-millennium excavations are mainly found in the east side Step Trench in ST 7 and ST 2 (figs. 4–5). The goal in these trenches was to further expose the second-millennium domestic occupation that was first revealed in the southern half of ST 7 in 2005 and 2006. In the northern area of ST 7 three walls, two courses wide and at present three courses deep, have been revealed; these form a portion of a rectangular room. To the north is what may be an exterior surface. This appears to be a set of courtyards in which outdoor activities took place. In the very northwest corner of ST 2 some downward-sloping stones and mudbrick rubble appeared earlier in the 2014 season. We believed that this might be the very top of the Hittite tower exposed in 2013. By the end of the season we had confirmed that this rubble is both part of the 2013 Hittite tower, as well as a short extension of the casemate wall discovered in 2012.

Our Iron Age excavations in Trench USS 4, on the upper southern slope, continued in 2014. Radiocarbon dating from 2013, and ongoing ceramic analysis, indicate



Figure 3. Trench SMT 15



Figure 4. ST 2 southeast area with Hittite tower



Figure 5. ST 2 and 7 area with outdoor rooms



Figure 6. Trench USS 4

that the present occupational level dates to the Early Iron Age (ca. 1000–1100 BCE) (fig. 6). The goal in this trench is to reach Late Bronze Age levels that will document the material culture changes through the Hittite collapse and the rebuilding of society in the Early Iron Age. The trench continued to produce circular plastered pits which we believe were dedicated to some type of industry, perhaps textile production. The plastered pits had also been lined in clay, presumably for waterproofing. It is possible that they held

water and may have been for soaking wool or other fibers before processing them. Some of the circular features excavated in previous years, particularly in 2013, seem to have been domestic structures, or at least not dedicated to industry. All of those excavated in 2014, however, appear to have been used for working rather than living. Most of the lower level of circular pits and structures had been cut into a mudbrick platform that covers much of the trench, certainly the northern and eastern quadrants. It is possible that this mudbrick platform actually dates to the Late Bronze Age and is the “dividing line” between the Early Iron Age and the Late Bronze periods.

By the end of the season we had removed the mudbrick platform. In the center of the trench several ash pits, a significant quantity of slag, and a plastered area suggest that metal production might have taken place in this area. Other architecture including mudbrick and stone walls were also found underneath the mudbrick platform. Early stages of excavation in 2015 have revealed continuation of some pits and a continued conviction that this area was primarily used for production purposes.

USS 9 and USS 10 (Late 4th/Early 3rd Millennium BCE/ Southern Slope)

Our Late Chalcolithic/Early Bronze I excavations in USS 9 and USS 10 (figs. 7–8) are supervised by Stephanie Selover. Early in the 2014 season the trench continued to demonstrate a strong Early Bronze I occupation of the site in the form of a 1.5-meter-wide wall enclosing the settlement and a series of mudbrick walls and fire installations attached to the outside of the city wall. These are likely related to industrial activities, but exactly what these activities are is as yet unclear. A child burial was excavated which seems to date to a post-Early Bronze I period when the area may have been unused. The burial was placed in an inter-wall area in a small, previously existing mudbrick enclosed space. There were no material goods available to date the burial, but it may be contemporary with early third-millennium jar burials placed elsewhere on the site that date to the late Early Bronze I period. The goal in this



Figure 7. Early Bronze I vessels in USS 10



Figure 8. USS 9 and USS 10

trench is to further expose the Early Bronze I occupation at the site and document the transition from the Late Chalcolithic fourth-millennium period.

During the 2014 season more plastered floors were revealed in the small rooms located in the eastern half of these trenches. We have continued excavation in the southern region of the trenches, which continues to be almost entirely slope wash. We may be coming down on to cultural levels in this outer region as we continue to excavate here in the 2015 season. We are slowly uncovering the next earliest phase in the western half of the trench. We hope that we will be able to document the transition between Late Chalcolithic to Early Bronze I period across the northern portion of the two trenches where the slope wash is nonexistent. One additional infant burial, inside a pottery vessel, was uncovered since the last report. The burial was not well preserved, and the remains were fragmentary.

By the end of the 2014 season most of the small walls and other architectural phases described above had been removed to reveal the occupational phase beneath. In the eastern half of the trenches a number of plaster features emerged that probably are associated with industrial activities. In the western half of the trenches two new mudbrick walls and one possible stone wall emerged. These were left unexcavated in 2014 and have begun to be explored in the 2015 season. Radiocarbon dating will allow us to understand whether we have excavated down to the Late Chalcolithic levels or are still in the late fourth/early third millennium and thus the Early Bronze I period. Significant finds include several vessels from an oven/hearth and several small animal figurines (poorly made and broken) found in an ash pit near the oven/hearth.

The Late Chalcolithic occupation, dating to the mid-fourth millennium, is found in Trenches SES 1 and SES 2 (fig. 9), supervised by Laurel Hackley of Brown University, and LSS 3, supervised by Burcu Yildirim of METU (Middle East Technical University).

In trenches SES 1 and 2 the two mudbrick apsidal rooms left in place at the end of the 2013 season were cleaned and re-evaluated in the 2014 season. We then excavated the apsidal room level to reveal the earlier phase of occupation. The apsidal room level dates to ca. 3400–3200 BCE.

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Figure 9. Late Chalcolithic structure with stone wall, SES 1-2



Figure 10. Child burial under pot emplacement

During the mid-season we removed the apsidal structures to reveal the underlying layer. Careful examination of the building of the apsidal houses has revealed that they were semi-subterranean structures. They were dug into the earlier Late Chalcolithic levels. This has helped us understand the stratigraphy and the architectural phasing in both trenches. Remaining in the trenches at present is a courtyard associated with the westernmost apsidal structure and a stone and mudbrick wall that once separated the two apsidal structures but pre-dates them. We now believe this wall belongs to a larger Late Chalcolithic structure (in the phase prior to the apsidal structure phase), that is rectilinear and possibly quite large (ca. 5 × 4 m). We hope to further define this structure in the coming days.

By the end of the 2014 season we had discovered three pot emplacements inside what appears to be a Late Chalcolithic structure defined by the large stone wall. Beneath two of these pot emplacements were child burials,

each covered by ceramics, a bowl in one case and a storage jar in the other (fig. 10). These were intentional burials. The lack of domestic items in this structure, and the unusual architecture, leads us to believe that this is not a house but rather a public building of some sort. Further work in 2015 has begun to define this building, although more remains to be done in this part of the trench. There were no significant small finds from this trench in 2014.

Our goal in Trench LSS 3 was to recover whatever remained of the “Omphalos Building” first excavated in 2001 (fig. 11). By the end of the 2014 season this Omphalos Building had been exposed and defined. Its most western wall was built of mudbrick and stone, and the floor was thin plaster with ashy deposits within it. There was very little pottery on the floor, suggesting that pottery storage was to the west. The excavations in LSS 3 allowed us



Figure 11. Trench LSS 3



Figure 12. Late Chalcolithic
Figurine from LSS 3

to discover that the size of the Ompholos Building was quite large, perhaps 4.5×3.0 meters in extent, which is larger than average for Late Chalcolithic structures at Çadır Höyük. This building was completely excavated so that we could

thoroughly understand it and its relationship to the very large wall to its west. We believe the most western wall (which remains in the trench) was a Late Chalcolithic wall defining the western limits of the settlement. In the early part of the 2015 season we have dramatically expanded this trench to the east and have begun to find an exceptional amount of pottery in this area. The only significant small find in 2014 was a small animal figurine, partially broken (fig. 12). It is our first Late Chalcolithic figurine at Çadır Höyük.

We had a very successful 2014 season and are now in the midst of our 2015 season, which will be reported more fully in next year's publication. We are pleased that Oriental Institute doctoral student Josh Cannon is with us once again working diligently on the second-millennium ceramics. Stephanie Selover, who received her doctorate from the University in May, is now an assistant professor at the University of Washington and has brought two undergraduates from that school to learn about Anatolian archaeology. Sarah Adcock and Tony Lauricella are with us again as well. The 2015 season to date has yielded the kinds of results we were expecting, and we look forward to sharing those results in our next report.