





Above and overleaf (detail): Lydian tribute bearers from the eastern stairway relief of the Apadana at Persepolis. Herzfeld Expedition, 1933 (D. 13303)

ÇADIR HÖYÜK

Gregory McMahon

The Çadır Höyük site is located in the Yozgat province of central Turkey. We continue to enjoy the presence of a number of University of Chicago graduate and undergraduate students participating on the project, including three current graduate students, Sarah Adcock, Tony Lauricella, and Josh Cannon; a graduate who now holds a tenure-track position at the University of Washington, Stephanie Selover; and an undergraduate, Rolland Long, here in 2016. The 2015 season was incredibly productive, and we are at present in the midst of an equally successful 2016 season.

June through August 2015

We are fortunate that Hasan Şenyurt remains the Director of the Yozgat Museum, the regional museum which oversees our work. In the 2015 season we benefitted from the help of our government representative Mahmut Aygat. The season began on June 12 and continued until August 2 for a nearly eight-week season. During the season we partially or fully opened a total of fourteen 10 × 10 m trenches and hosted 35 researchers and employed 36 workers at the site. Trenches spanned the Late Chalcolithic (mid-late fourth millennium BCE) to the final century of the Byzantine occupation in the early centuries of the second millennium CE. Five of these trenches are located on the southern slope and date to the fourth millennium BCE (Late Chalcolithic). Two of them, USS 9 and 10, are ably run by Stephanie Selover, our Chicago alumna (fig. 1). In our earliest exposure in the three lower trenches (first half of fourth millennium BCE) we revealed a new architectural plan that includes “agglutinated” (attached) rooms surrounding interior courtyards. This is a typical Late Chalcolithic central Anatolian housing plan, but up until our 2015 excavations, one that had been absent from our site (fig. 2). We now understand that this was the residential norm until the refashioning of this area into the “Burnt House” and “Omphalos Building” that date to the later fourth millennium and which have been extensively reported on in our Oriental Institute reports and elsewhere. These housing (and material culture) alterations at Late Chalcolithic Çadır Höyük seem to correspond roughly with the emergence of the Uruk system in Mesopotamia, but more research on this must be conducted in following seasons.

Just above this complex are the two trenches run by Stephanie. Excavations here through the 2014 season have revealed the Transitional (end of the fourth millennium) and Early Bronze I



Figure 1. Stephanie Selover



Figure 2. Agglutinated rooms, typical of Late Chalcolithic Anatolian houses



Figure 3. Upper slope of the settlement

(early third millennium BCE) occupation at the site. The 2015 season and now 2016 season have proceeded down to the later centuries of the fourth millennium, revealing that at this time occupants resided in a two-tiered settlement, with the lower town described just above, and a higher set of houses and work areas approximately 1.5 m up the slope. We hope in the 2016 season to understand the access points to this higher area; at present we believe residents simply used rooftops to access the higher areas of the slope, but there may have been pathways up the mound as well. Stephanie's trenches have consistently revealed that in the Early Bronze periods this upper slope was industrial in nature (producing ceramics among other things), but as she excavates these earlier periods it appears that the area is turning to more



Figure 4. First-millennium domestic structure

domestic patterns (fig. 3); we hope to understand this higher area of the settlement better in the 2016 season.

On the eastern side of the mound is our second-millennium occupation. In previous seasons we have exposed two Hittite (1600–1300 BCE) casemate defensive walls, an earlier one that is 2 m in width, and a later one, built atop this one, that is over 3 m in width. In 2013 University of Chicago alumnus Jon Clindaniel supervised a trench that exposed more of the larger casemate wall. In 2015 our colleague from the University of Rome, Stefano Spagni, excavated within these walls to identify what type of occupation was to be found in the second-millennium settlement. By the end of the season he had discovered an unusual built subfloor consisting of clay, stones, and what were once wooden posts resting horizontally in a cross-hatch pattern. Above this was over a meter of intentional fill. At present it would seem this is the subfloor to a substantial structure or perhaps terracing for the upper level of occupation belonging to the Hittite empire period. We only exposed part of this built feature in 2015 and hope to completely uncover it in 2016.

We continued our Byzantine operations both on the North Terrace and on the mound summit. Out on the terrace we continued our excavations of the domestic structure that may have begun life in the early first millennium CE as a manor house belonging to a local elite, and transitioned to a multi-family farm house by the ninth–eleventh centuries (fig. 4). We used the season to clarify our phasing on this domestic area and to investigate some of the surrounding areas (which yielded rubbish pits and walls to what may have been non-domestic structures).



Figure 5. Tony Lauricella (center)

Tony Lauricella (fig. 5) continued his excavations on the mound summit, working in two trenches that span the Late Iron to the Middle Byzantine periods (ca. fourth–sixth century BCE to at least the eleventh century CE). Tony’s work revealed a second room next to the first he excavated in 2014, built up against the substantial Byzantine defensive wall (fig. 6). These rooms were largely devoid of domestic materials and may have served as storage areas or perhaps been associated with the defensive wall (shelter for those on duty?).

Tony’s other trench is located just below the Byzantine defensive wall and has been instrumental in not only clarifying how the Byzantine residents built their wall, but also defining the Late Iron Age occupation on which it was constructed. In 2015 Tony continued to expose the complex of mudbrick and stone walls dating to the Late Iron Age, likely the fourth century BCE. He uncovered a cobble-stone pathway that presumably leads into the Iron Age settlement. However, most of this complex was destroyed and covered by the later Byzantine fortification wall. Below this pathway was a set of stone and mudbrick walls and open areas that may have served as an open area on the edge of the Iron Age settlement. It is clearly non-domestic given the lack of cultural materials in the courtyard area.

Our lab/work rooms are very busy during the day, with specialists working on a variety of materials. One of our stalwarts is, of course, Sarah Adcock, who is pursuing her PhD work on the Late Bronze/Iron Age archaeozoological samples (fig. 7). Sarah delivered a paper at the November 2014 American Schools of Oriental Research conference on her findings thus far,



Figure 6. Second room and Byzantine defensive wall



Figure 7. Sarah Adcock



Figure 8. Josh Cannon

which continue to demonstrate changes in industrial activities from the Late Bronze to Iron Age occupation at Çadır. Sarah's work is a critical part of understanding this pivotal period in Anatolian history as it was experienced at Çadır Höyük. Also hard at work is Josh Cannon (fig. 8) who is conducting his dissertation research on the second-millennium BCE ceramics from Çadır. He is interested in determining the differences in domestic/utilitarian versus ritual ceramics in the early Hittite and Hittite empire periods. In 2015 he conducted pXRF analyses as well as detailed observations of hundreds of sherds. He also has made good use of a 3D scanner to capture each sherd in the field, allowing him to take complete data home with him at the end of the season.

Our 2015 season was one of our most productive, yielding tremendous results and answers to many questions while also providing new ones to answer. We left the dig house last August anxious to return to the site, and our work so far this season has more than fulfilled our expectations.