

THE HITTITE PROJECT

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As in 1958, 1959, and 1961, the Oriental Institute in 1964 again co-operated with the German Archaeological Institute in the excavations of Boghazköy, the Hittite capital in Turkey. Apart from a financial contribution this co-operation consisted in the participation of Professor Hans G. Güterbock in the actual excavation as well as in the philological work on the Boghazköy tablets kept in the Ankara Museum. The excavation, which lasted from August 1 to November 1, 1964, was directed, in the absence of Professor Kurt Bittel, by the architect, Mr. Peter Neve; archeologists were Dr. Winfried Orthmann and Dr. Ruth Opificius. Professor Heinrich Otten shared the work on the tablets with Mr. Güterbock.

Work in 1964 concentrated on Büyük Kale ("The Great Fortress"), the royal acropolis. The goal was to bring the work here near completion; in particular, the objectives were (1) to complete the plan of the Empire Period (thirteenth century B.C.), especially in the southwestern part of the acropolis; (2) to complete the stratigraphy of the earlier periods; and (3) to restore the Empire buildings to a state in which they are protected and clearly visible.

This goal was reached—not completely, but to a substantial measure. The plan of the imperial acropolis can be considered complete, after the discovery of a ruined building on the west edge which seems to have been a gate structure, and the complete clearing of the buildings enclosing the first courtyard on its west and south sides.

Deep soundings in the court and inside the buildings surrounding it gave a good opportunity to confirm the older stratigraphy observed in previous years and yielded well-preserved dwellings in Levels IVd (period of the Assyrian merchant colonies) and Vc (early Middle Bronze).

Restoration went on simultaneously, wherever possible. Foundations of Empire buildings were partly rebuilt and brought up to the ancient floor level, and the spaces between them were filled with dump to the floor level, so that visitors will now be able to see the ground plan of the acropolis while walking over it.

During the last two weeks of the campaign a test trench opened on the west slope of the acropolis led to the discovery of a stepped and paved pathway leading to a well at the foot of the slope. This structure probably dates from the post-Hittite, or Phrygian, period. An investigation of its continuation toward the interior had to be left for a future campaign.

Cuneiform tablets were found mainly in debris overlying the Empire level in the northwestern part of the acropolis. Of about three hundred fragments recovered in this area, about seventy were fragmentary letters pertaining to the administration.