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## Turkish Salvage Project

### *Leon Marfoe*

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Between June 30 and September 6, 1983, the Turkish Salvage Project carried out its fourth season of excavations at Kurban Hoyuk. The staff, which at one point reached a high of 26, was again built around a core of returning members. From Chicago, Guillermo Algaze, Bruce Verhaaren, Ron Gorny and Mary Evins continued to work on the pottery and areas D and C01 respectively. Michael Ingraham again worked on Area A, Mary McDonald on the chipped stone, Pati Wattenmaker on the bone and Area D, and Naomi Miller on the botanical remains. As before, Tony Wilkinson and Gil Stein carried out the local survey, while Carol Snow undertook the tasks of conservation and Judy Wilkinson heroically fulfilled the roles of registrar, photographer and part-time house mother. Canan Öztürk and Semih Aközlu assisted in Area D and Aslihan Yener studied the objects. New to us this season were Christine Verhaaren, who managed the camp, Susan Wineberg, who supervised in Area D, Gavis Overton and Cemil Bezzmez, who helped in Area C01, Billur Tekkok in Area D, Kathy Ataman who studied the ground stone, and Graham Phillip, who excavated in the A03 sounding. Toni Cross was again helpful in working where she was needed the most, in this case analyzing the artifacts that everyone else wanted to avoid. The team separates neatly into two groups: those who joined the season because they were already in Tur-

key, and those who have been with the dig since its first or second season. To the first group, a large acknowledgement must be made because the overwhelming amount of work that was done could not have been accomplished without their help. To the second group, however, who were recruited as far back as 1978, no acknowledgement is needed. This report is also theirs.

With a comparatively large staff, we hoped to put a greater effort into the excavation of the site than was possible in 1982. The main thrust of the excavation was placed in Area D, on the plateau of the south mound. In past seasons, we had cleared two building levels in this area, the latest of which was an enclosure that we had identified as a 9th century Abbasid period khan. In 1983, Bruce Verhaaren managed to reach the eastern edge of the enclosure, clearly establishing that the structure was square in plan. Beneath this level, the exposure of the terminal Early Bronze (or very early Middle Bronze) Age settlement was virtually doubled by the new excavations. These took place in the southern, northwestern, northeastern and southeastern sectors of the settlement. Unlike the remainder of the settlement excavated so far, the southern sector turned out to be an open area adjacent to a cobbled path. To the east of this sector, an oven-like installation, next to a series of rooms with well preserved pottery vessels, was found. Both of

these lend a more domestic character to the settlement than had been previously encountered.

A second focus of the excavation has been the completion of the two stratigraphic soundings. While the work in Area C01, on the north mound, expanded the clearance of levels already known from previous seasons, the step trench brought a few surprises. Not the least of these was the discovery of several Halaf period levels with circular structures, typical Halaf pottery, a pressure flaked flint blade, a double-axe pendant, and fine stone vessels of steatite or chlorite. It now seems that this may have been the earliest occupation of the site.

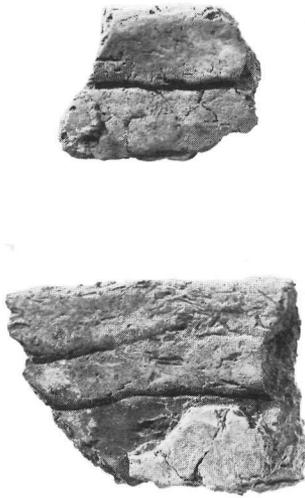
In later levels, several other interesting discoveries were made. One was the confirmation that the Uruk period settlement did extend across most of the site, possibly up around a water source located in the present day saddle. This water source was apparently still tapped, but by wells, in the Early Bronze Age. Also belonging to the Early Bronze Age was an impressive mudbrick building, within which was found a circular stamp seal.

As a result of the 1983 effort, a general outline of the history of the site—history, that is, in a narrow chronological sense—can now be established. Except, that is, for a number of critical transitional periods where further investigation is still needed. One chronological difficulty, however, has been neatly resolved by Guillermo Algaze. In an international symposium in Tübingen last autumn, he was able to demonstrate a more fine-grained analysis of the impact of the Mesopotamian Uruk influence upon the Late Chalcolithic assemblages

of the area than has been possible so far.

If the general history of the site is now fairly well known, at least in outline, the picture drawn from the survey is now virtually complete, at least for the immediate region. The details of the settlement fluctuations in the Cumcume plain can now be amplified by the survey of the lower Incesu valley, where Tony Wilkinson and Gil Stein have tentatively sketched a similar set of settlement nucleation and dispersal. What has also been a particularly satisfying conclusion to their efforts has been the soundings carried out by a joint arrangement with an archaeological team from the Dutch Historical-Archaeological Institute in Istanbul. Directed by Dr. J. J. Roodenberg, this team worked at the nearby site of Kumar tepe last autumn. First discovered by Tony and Gil, this site was thought to be a sizeable settlement of the late Neolithic period. The soundings carried out by the Dutch team were indeed able to confirm these initial suspicions by placing the recovered remains within the time frame of the 6th millennium.

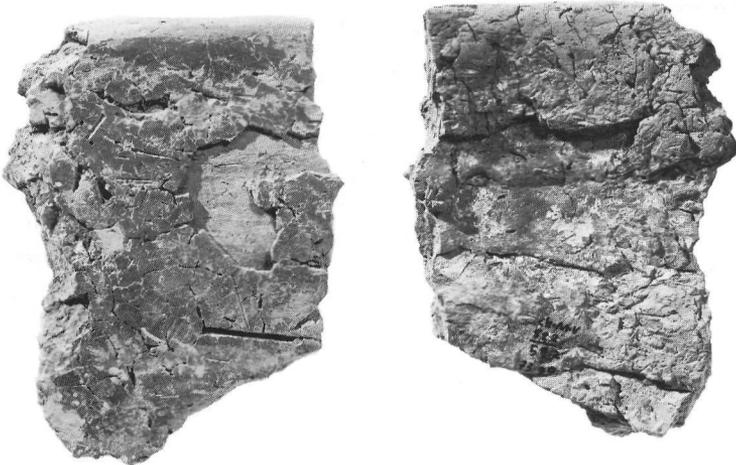
As the time quickly approaches for our fifth and final season, virtually all the digging that we intend to do is close to completion. What remains, however, is a daunting task, the processing and analysis of the artifacts that have accumulated over each season. During the 1983 season, a substantial effort was made to clear this backlog. But although a significant proportion of the artifacts in every category has now received some attention, there is more than enough to do in the 1984 season.



*Fig. 1. Archaic Susiana sherds showing strip-made inner layer*

testify to this continuity and show how the tradition became ever more sophisticated and “industrialized” as time went on. An example of this “industrialized” technology, so different from that of the Archaic Susiana period, is a kiln waster of Middle Susiana 3, ca. 4000 B.C. It consists of parts of four bell-shaped bowls of very thin, fine ware, which had been stacked for firing but which melted together in an over-heated kiln (Fig. 4).

The long cultural sequence at Chogha Mish is of significance not only for Iran but also for the archaeology of Mesopotamia. The Susiana area was geographically one of the main bridges between Iran and Mesopotamia, and pottery provides good evidence for connections between them. For example, the closest relative of the Close-line ware of the final phase of Archaic Susiana is the Chogha Mami Transitional ware from the province of Mandali, one of the



*Fig. 2. Two views of an Archaic Susiana sherd showing three layers; red washed on exterior (right)*