

Recent Archaeological Research in Turkey

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thousand sling stones made of clay were found which had been left to harden in special niches close to the hearths and ovens inside these buildings in the Halaf levels which spread up to the south west of the mound. This seems to prove that the population of Tülintepe, though mainly occupied in farming and animal husbandry, also spent a considerable time hunting. Some of the tools in the repertoire of the obsidian tool industry are made in the tradition of the obsidian tools of Çayönü and Boytepe. However these are only few in number. These finds point to the fact that the aceramic traditions of tool making were not forgotten by the population of Tülintepe. Axes and adzes made of stone, antler and bone and grinding stones complete the finds of a chalcolithic culture. Relief figures, human portraiture, eyes and other decorations on the pottery show surprising similarities to Hacilar VI in the Lake District of Central Anatolia, and especially to Nea Nicomedia which is a neolithic site in West Macedonia.

However, although similarities can be found in Habus Körtepe, the fact that the other sites have not been excavated extensively, as yet, gives the Halaf levels of Tülintepe a unique position.

In contrast to the circular house plans in the Halaf culture of North Syria and Mesopotamia, here the buildings are square, attesting to the coexistence of the two systems in the Halaf culture as a whole; probably the variations were local.

It will only be possible to determine how much later the early chalcolithic levels of Norşuntepe, widely excavated this year, are than the early chalcolithic levels of Tülintepe, after a thorough comparative analysis of chalcolithic finds from Tepecik-Tülintepe-Norşuntepe has taken place. There is a considerable duration of the Ubaid culture in the area according to the finds from the late chalcolithic levels of Tülintepe. While the Ubaid levels at Norşuntepe complete our information about this period, Norşuntepe surprisingly lacks any trace of Uruk levels. This gap in the Uruk level is supplemented by the late chalcolithic finds at Tülintepe and the sequence is completed by the chalcolithic finds at Korucutepe.

Thus, to summarize, in 1974 the first Halaf period levels were excavated in a large area and examples of painted Halaf pottery and other finds characteristic of Halaf material culture were obtained.

#### *VAN KALE, 1974<sup>1</sup>*

Excavations and soundings were conducted in the following areas in the 1974 season:

##### *I. Madır Burç*

Work was continued in this architectural complex which was excavated last season. This year's work was concentrated in both area excavations and foundation trials on a second structural complex built next to the eastern wall of "Madır Burç".

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<sup>1</sup>Information kindly provided by Professor Dr. Afif Erzen.

*II. Research on the acropolis*

Various trials were conducted in the citadel area in order to determine the archaeological stratigraphy of the Urartian capital, Tuşpa.

(a) *Trial I*: This trench measured 4 x 4 m. and it reached down to a depth of 5.00 m. The stratigraphy thus determined is briefly the following. Up to 2.50 m. from the surface are Medieval levels comprising "Late Ottoman", "Ottoman" and "Selcuk" and small finds together with architectural remains that document these levels. Below 2.50 m. are the remains of an Urartu Cyclopean wall. Moreover, typical Urartian mudbrick fill continues from this level onwards. This fill has been followed down to a depth of 5.00 m. The "monochrome" and "painted" sherds recovered are interesting.

(b) *Trial II*: This trench, measuring 2.00 x 4.00 m., reached bedrock at a depth of 2.90 m. The stratigraphy follows the same sequence as in No. I.