



ADAM MICKIEWICZ
UNIVERSITY
POZNAŃ



Treasures of Time

Research of the Faculty of Archaeology
of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań



Location of the main research areas.
Numbering, compare the table of Contents.



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Mirosław, Greater Poland Voivodeship, site 37. Part of the burial equipment.
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ISBN 978-83-946591-9-6

DOI: 10.14746/WA.2021.1.978-83-946591-9-6

The Volume is available online at the Adam Mickiewicz University Repository (AMUR):
<https://repozytorium.amu.edu.pl/>

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Treasures of Time: Research of the Faculty of Archaeology of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań

Introduction

In 2019, archaeology at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan celebrated its honourable 100th anniversary! The establishment of archaeology at this university was associated with the strong influence of the authority of Prof. Józef Kostrzewski and a succession of eminent scholars, many of whom we today call Masters.

The year 2019 was a real breakthrough. We started the second century of existence within the Alma Mater Posnaniensis with a new structural independence and quality that the academic archaeology of Poznań had not yet known for its one hundred years of existence. This change, the formation of the first Polish Faculty of Archaeology, has opened new chances and possibilities of which we are now taking advantage.

6



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Prof. Józef Kostrzewski
(1885-1969)

Currently, the Faculty of Archaeology of Adam Mickiewicz University is formed by a number of teams, each with their own leaders. In the majority of cases, these teams are united by interdisciplinarity, which integrates within selected projects the experience of many so-called 'auxiliary' sciences of archaeology. This trend is paralleled by the development of specialised laboratories armed with the latest equipment in the Faculty of Archaeology.

This publication presents the current scientific interests creatively developed by such teams at the Faculty of Archaeology of Adam Mickiewicz University. The research of these teams covers vast areas in time and space, summing up at least the last 9,000 years of prehistory. The following articles, arranged in chronological order, allow us to explore the prehistory of various areas.

The adventure begins around 7100 BC, in the Neolithic settlement of Çatalhöyük located in Turkey. Then, we move on to the loess uplands near Krakow, where the first farmers from the south of Europe had just arrived (5500 BC). A little later (4000-3500 BC), and a little farther north, in the area of Greater Poland, some of the first megalithic constructions in this part of the world were built. Around the same time, about 800 km to the southeast, a settlement

of the Trypillia culture remains in the phase of development (3950 BC). The end of the Stone Age in Poland was described in the history of Late Neolithic communities on a hill in the center of Kujawy region (3700-2400 BC). Farther east, in the forest-steppe area of Ukraine, significant cultural and social changes resulted in the formation of the Yamnaya culture (3350-2250 BC), beginning the Bronze Age.

Intense elements of this era can be traced in the area of southern Europe in the Greek Anthemous Valley (3350-1150 BC), in Attica (3000-500 BC) on the plains of the Hungarian Lowlands (2600-1450 BC) and to the Upper Dniester Valley, where numerous burial mounds were formed (2800-1500 BC). A similar chronological range is presented in the articles devoted to a unique site in Bruszczewo, Greater Poland (2300-1350 BC), which not only accumulates valuable metal artefacts, but is also the subject of interest of an interdisciplinary team focused on reconstructing its environmental context.

The next text take us far to the east, to the area of Iraqi Kurdistan, where we can appreciate the importance of Mesopotamian influences in shaping the picture of the Early Bronze Age (2200-2150 BC).

Subsequent texts describe the discoveries of Poznań scientists in Syria (1906-1787 BC) and in Greater Poland (1900-1600 BC). These two distant points describe various aspects of life in contemporary communities in the Middle and Early Bronze Age.

The characteristic archaeological materials of the later centuries of the Bronze Age (1800-1200 BC) reveal an intensification of military conflicts and migration processes (1700-1200 BC). The turn of the eras is illustrated in this volume by texts on the interpretation of representations on ancient Greek and Roman sculpture (400 BC-100 AD), as well as the cultural situation in the Polish lands (400 BC-100 AD).

We are introduced to the new era by an article on the funerary customs of communities from the Polish lowlands describing discoveries at the site of Mirosław (160-175 AD). Moments of the formation of elements of Polish statehood are referred to in texts describing towns at Grzybowo (919-1050 AD) and Poznań in the early Middle Ages (950-1000 AD).

Later parts of the Middle Ages are described by sacral monuments located also in the area of the contemporary city of Poznań: the Collegiate Church of St Mary Magdalene (1263-1802 AD) and the still extant Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Ostrów Tumski, founded around 1431 AD in the immediate vicinity of the previously described early medieval site of the 'origin' of the city of Poznań.

The final texts of the volume do not refer directly to a particular period of prehistory, but present the history of Polish archaeological research on the Iberian Peninsula, the contemporary perception of prehistoric art by the inhabitants of present-day Canada and Siberia, and the development of methodological thought among Poznań archaeologists.

The volume closes with a text describing one of the many perspectives currently faced by the staff of the Faculty of Archaeology of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań: the new ArchaeoMicroLab.

We look to the future with great hope that the Staff of the Faculty will provide ideas for many more volumes of Treasures of Time. We trust that this set of articles will present archaeology at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań in its new structure as a Faculty and show its potential. We would thus like to encourage you to get acquainted with our Poznań perspective on archaeological studies, and to reflect on ways of exploring the past.

Andrzej Michałowski

Danuta Żurkiewicz



Location of the main research areas.
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7100-5950 BC

Treasures of Time:

Research of the Faculty of Archaeology of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań

DOI 10.14746/WA.2021.2.978-83-946591-9-6

Late Neolithic and post-Neolithic settlements and burial grounds in the TPC Area at Çatalhöyük: The research project of the archaeological team from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań

Patrycja Filipowicz, Katarzyna Harabas, Jędrzej Hordecki, Karolina Joka, Arkadiusz Marciniak

Abstract

The chapter presents the results of the research project conducted by the team of archaeologists from Adam Mickiewicz University at the World Heritage site of Çatalhöyük in Turkey. The section of this large Neolithic settlement located in the uppermost part of the south eminence of East mound is named the Team Poznań Connection (TPC) Area and was excavated in the years 2012-2017. The unearthed stratigraphic sequence is dated to the period from ca. 6350 to 6000 BC. The project led to the discovery of nine Late Neolithic houses with associated built-in structures and numerous burials. The paper outlines the most important discoveries in house architecture, burial practice, and material culture. The research has contributed significantly to a better understanding of the last centuries of the settlement's occupation, as well as enhanced our knowledge of the Near Eastern Neolithic. This paper provides an overview of the major transformations of Neolithic lifeways in this period. In addition to architecture, the organization of space, burial practices, and material culture, the changes also affected farming, husbandry practices, landscape exploitation, procurement of raw materials, exchange patterns, demography, and social organization. The paper also provides an overview of the Hellenistic settlement as well as the Ottoman burial ground located above the Neolithic strata.

Keywords: Çatalhöyük, Anatolia, Late Neolithic, Hellenistic period, Ottoman period

The Çatalhöyük settlement

Çatalhöyük is one of the most important Neolithic settlements in the Near East. It is located on the Konya Plain in the central part of Turkey and was designated a World Heritage Site in 2012. The Neolithic settlement at Çatalhöyük was occupied for more than one thousand years from 7100 to 5950 BC. The site underwent a series of transformations throughout its long existence. Right from its emergence, it expanded and the population gradually increased. People constructed large buildings and subdivided them into multiple rooms. Buildings were constructed in clusters, were accessed through the roof, and included space to store food and areas for production activities. In the period between 6700 and 6500 BC, the settlement reached its climax. The buildings had numerous built-in structures, including platforms, benches, bins, and fire installations. Buildings were used intensively and rebuilt many times. At the peak of its existence, the settlement was occupied by ca. 1800 people.

This form of settlement organization came to an end at around 6400/6300 BC. Its abandonment marked the beginning of a 400-year-long period of steady disarrangement and reconstruction of building clusters in different settlement areas. The size of the population also significantly decreased (Marciniak, 2019). This complicated process was thoroughly investigated in the excavation zone named the Team Poznań Connection (TPC) Area by the team of archaeologists from Adam Mickiewicz University led by Prof. Arkadiusz Marciniak. The work was conducted in the years 2012-2017. The TPC Area excavation project is an intrinsic part of the continuous work of archaeologists from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań at Çatalhöyük that started in 2001.

The TPC excavation area at Çatalhöyük

The TPC excavation area comprises four interrelated trenches. It is located in a previously unexplored zone on the southwestern slope of the southern prominence of the East mound and is placed between the Team Poznań (TP) Area and Mellaart Area A to the east and north and the South Area to the west and south (Figure 1). Altogether, six chronological levels dated to the Late Neolithic were discovered. They were labelled using letters of the alphabet from TP.M through TP.R. The sequence is dated from ca. 6350 to 6000 BC.

The project led to the discovery of nine Late Neolithic houses with associated built-in structures and numerous burials. It revealed major transformations in the final centuries of settlement occupation. These comprised changes in house architecture, the organization of space, burial practices, and material culture, as well as farming, husbandry practices, landscape exploitation, procurement of raw materials, exchange patterns, demography, and social organization. The tempo and scale of these developments was revealed by meticulous recognition of the stratigraphic sequence and dating its subsequent stages. An important achievement involved the establishment of a stratigraphic connection between the TPC and South Area strata, making it possible to reconstruct a new and complete stratigraphy of the Neolithic occupation of the East mound settlement. In addition to the Neolithic deposits, this work also led to the discovery of a Hellenistic settlement as well as an Ottoman burial ground.

The Late Neolithic architecture

The earliest Late Neolithic houses unearthed in the TPC Area are dated to Level TP.M (ca. 6350-6300 BC). Altogether, four such buildings were unearthed: B.121, B.122, B.150, and B.166. These are large structures that were intensively used and rebuilt many times. The walls were plastered and decorated. Internal furnishing comprised distinct floors as well as numerous built-in structures such as platforms with burials underneath, benches, bins, and fire installations. Their internal division resembles the Early Neolithic tradition: the northern part of the structures served ceremonial purposes, while its southern counterpart was devoted to domestic tasks.

The most representative for this phase is Building 150 (B.150) in Trench 4 (Marciniak et al., 2019). This ca. 50 m² structure (Figure 2) was reconstructed at least four times, as indicated by a sequence of superimposed floors with corresponding platforms. The walls were plastered over and probably painted. An internal layout of the house comprised a series of platforms and benches alongside its eastern and northern walls and a sequence of superimposed ovens with solid bases in the southern part.

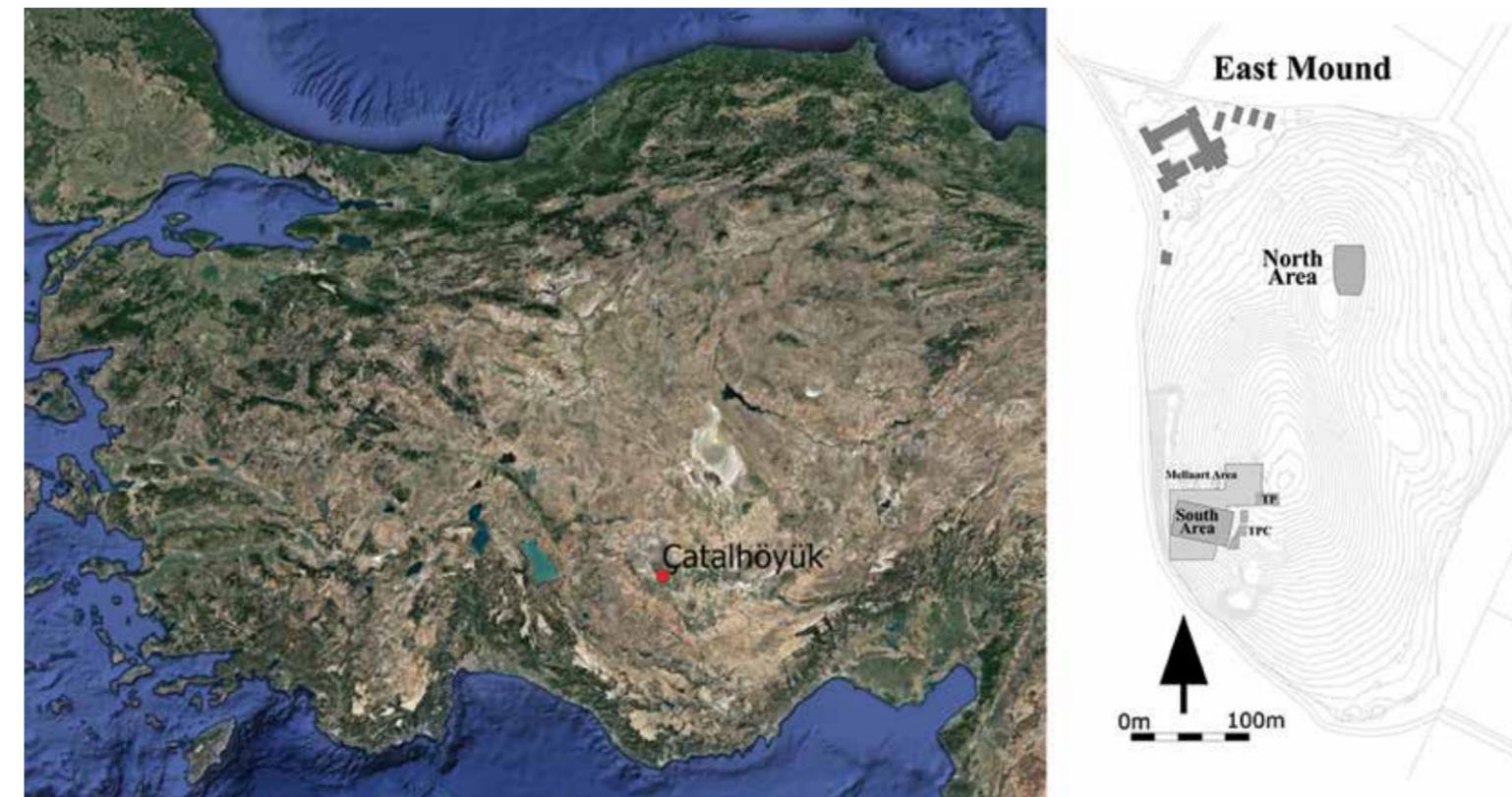


Figure 1. Çatalhöyük. TPC Area and other excavation areas in the southern part of the East Mound at Çatalhöyük (© Çatalhöyük Research Project).



Figure 2. Çatalhöyük. TPC Area, Building 150 – a general view
(© Çatalhöyük Research Project).

The southwestern room of the house seemed to have a special significance as a rich concentration of various objects (more than 200) was deposited inside (Marciniak et al., 2019). These comprised numerous worked stones and a cluster of large animal bones. The most distinct was a cluster of unique finds, including a piece of a wooden pounding tool, two extremely well-preserved reed containers with seeds (lentils, barley, almond), and sheep and cattle astragali. Additionally, 35 stone tools and ground stones, including a polished mace-head made of red marble, were placed in a rectangular bin built on the floor. The most exceptional finds were a hand-shaped clay stamp seal with a carved geometric pattern and two large stone anthropomorphic figurines (Marciniak et al., 2019, Figure 3). The larger figurine is 25 cm high and depicts a standing woman, while the smaller one is around 10 cm high and depicts a seated, corpulent female.

Another distinct house from this phase is Building 122 from Trench 3 (Marciniak et al., 2019). This rectangular house was oriented along an east-west axis. It was 4 m wide and about 5 m long. The building's earlier phase comprised a storage room of approximately 3 m² with five rectangular bins, located in the north-eastern part. The room infill yielded a great number of carbonized botanical remains and a large deposit of hulled barley and wheat (Marciniak et



Figure 3. Çatalhöyük. TPC Area, Two female figurines from the south-western room of Building 150 (© Çatalhöyük Research Project).

al., 2019). The later phase of the building's occupation involved the construction of the room west of the storage room (Figure 4). Its surface was painted with black and white geometric designs. The room had numerous internal features, such as platforms with burials (see below), benches and bucranium in its northern and eastern parts, and ovens and hearths in the southern section. Two unique features comprised small painted pillars constructed on the bench against the northern wall of the room.

These buildings are contemporary with the exposed, but not fully excavated Building 121 in Trench 2 (Marciniak, 2015). The eastern wall was plastered and painted with a black and white geometric design in the form of vertical and transverse sets of parallel lines (Figure 5). The solidly built structure followed a division into "clean" and "dirty" parts typical for the classic



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Figure 4. Çatalhöyük. TPC Area, Building 122
(© Çatalhöyük Research Project).

phase of settlement occupation at this site. The house had five subsequently built platforms located in the eastern and western parts of the building, a hearth, a circular bin and a large, rectangular fire installation placed in the centre. The house was then deliberately abandoned, but shortly afterward, it was temporarily used, as suggested by the presence of a fire spot and two pits of unspecified character in its fill.

House architecture changed significantly in subsequent occupational phases. The following Level TP.N is represented by solid, multi-roomed houses with compound walls that lack floors and corresponding built-in features as well as burials inside the houses. Two buildings from this phase were identified: a large, two-roomed structure (8 x 6 m) Building 110 in Trench 2



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Figure 5. Çatalhöyük. TPC Area, Geometric painting on the eastern wall
of Building 121 (© Çatalhöyük Research Project).

(Figure 6) and Building 152 in Trench 4. Later, the architecture changed significantly. Levels TP.O and TP.P mark a major discontinuity in the occupational sequence in the TPC Area. This part of the settlement was turned into some kind of open space and, after some time, it fell out of use and was transformed into a midden (Marciniak, 2015). Levels TP.Q and TP.R are characterized by distinct, large multi-roomed dwellings, built directly on top of the open area from the preceding level. The latest dwelling structures in the TPC Area comprised Building 109 (Trench 2) and Building 133 (Trenches 3 and 4). However, their reconstruction is tentative due to the destruction caused by post-Neolithic occupation as well as erosion processes.



Figure 6. Çatalhöyük. TPC Area, Building 110
(© Çatalhöyük Research Project).

Living in the Late Neolithic house

One of the most hotly debated issues in Near Eastern Neolithic archaeology is the organization and use of house space. The recently developed heavy residue analysis offers unprecedented opportunities for these studies (Shillito, 2017). This method involves both qualitative and quantitative analysis of manufacturing debris (e.g., obsidian shards and clay fragments), microfaunal (e.g., bones, shells, and eggshells) and botanical remains, as well as microartefacts (e.g., beads and figurine fragments) acquired during the floatation of different types of deposits. These materials are obtained by sieving comparable samples from deposits originating from relevant contexts with water through 4.2 mm then 1.0 mm mesh screen, causing lighter materials (i.e., seeds and charcoal) to float on the water's surface. The organic and inorganic material left on the screen (i.e., the heavy fraction) is then sorted from the remaining soil for microscopic analysis. The rigorous application of this method makes it possible to recognize the details of spatial organization and how this changed through time

(Mitrović & Vasić, 2013). Heavy residue analysis can recover very special artefacts and unique objects – such as refined beads (most smaller than 3mm) or small figurines – showing the elaborate skill sets of Neolithic craftsmen, but also their mistakes such as half-finished beads or tools. Therefore, heavy residue analysis does not simply show the distribution of material, but also enlivens the household. It shows that different people – a craftsman, cook, and potter – lived and worked there in the past.

In the Late Neolithic deposits in the TPC Area, animal bone, plant remains, mollusc shell, obsidian, stone, and eggshell are the most ubiquitous material categories on-site and occur as the vast majority of samples – over 60% – whilst the other categories referred to as non-ubiquitous (e.g., clay ball, clay figurine, clay object, shaped clay, flint, pottery, beads, worked bone, and worked stone) are less frequent (Joka, in press). It is worth noting that obsidian is much more common than flint and mollusc shells are much more common than eggshell, although the significance of eggshell grows through time, perhaps suggesting that the diet had changed. What is of interest is that pottery – a material classified as non-ubiquitous – occurs in nearly the same frequency in middens as ubiquitous materials. The occurrence of non-ubiquitous categories in middens is also higher than in other deposits. Interestingly, no clay objects (i.e., clay balls, figurines, or shaped clay) were detected in the final TP.Q-R levels – this may indicate that their manufacture had moved beyond the household area.

Placing the dead in the Late Neolithic house

Throughout the Çatalhöyük site occupation, the house was distinct as a place for both the living and the dead. The overwhelming majority of burials occurred within the house beneath its floors, mainly in the north and eastern parts of the central room (Haddow et al., 2020). The number of burials inside the houses varied considerably over time and space (Marciniak, 2015). The TPC Area brought about distinct insight into funeral practices in the Late Neolithic. Excavations in both TPC and adjacent contemporaneous TP Areas resulted in the discovery of a total of 53 burials in three houses and two tombs.

In three buildings (B.150, B.122, and B.166) from the TP.M Level, the remains of 37 individuals were identified (Marciniak et al., 2019). Altogether, 23 individuals were interred in B.150, another eight in B.122, and six others in B.166. Contrary to earlier practice, deceased of different sexes and age categories from the TPC Area were not buried in specific areas of the house. However, they were interred in deep pits in a specific area of the house, namely the house platforms (Harabasz, 2019). A majority of the deceased were buried in a flexed position, lying on the right or left side. Nevertheless, fully articulated skeletons, along with disarticulated and partially articulated skeletal elements were observed. Some skeletons had personal adornments such as beads around the neck and hands (e.g., B.122). In some cases, the deceased were bound and likely wrapped in a mat and placed in the burial pit. Furthermore, a very similar state of bone preservation and their comparable colour seems to indicate a short time interval between death and placing individuals into the burial pits.



Figure 7. Çatalhöyük. TPC Area, Burials beneath the eastern platform in Building 150 (© Çatalhöyük Research Project).

Most of the remains of the 23 individuals interred beneath house platforms in B.150 were heavily commingled, probably because of the repeated opening of the burial pit and the displacement of the dead. The sex, age, and body position of these individuals were different. Nonetheless, among the disarticulated human remains, two individuals were placed in anatomical position (Figure 7). The first was a female who died in childbirth between the ages of 25 and 35 years and was buried with a 40-week-old foetus. Her skeleton showed signs of a healed rib fracture, osteoporosis, and surgical immobilization of the spine. The second deceased was a male who died between 35 and 50 years of age, whose frontal bone and right shoulder were covered with red cinnabar (Figure 8). This pigment was applied sometime after the man died and after significant decomposition of his soft tissues. Unlike most of the dead, the man was lying supine with his head facing west. It is worth adding that he was buried with the remains of food, as indicated by animal bones found at the level of his cervical and lumbar vertebrae.

Two figurines were discovered on the surface of the eastern platform of B.150 (Figure 9). They were probably placed during the intentional final closure of the burial pit that contained the female who died in childbirth. The platform then was covered with a limestone layer, which



Figure 8. Çatalhöyük. ÇTPC Area, Skeleton of a man with painted forehead beneath the eastern platform of Building 150 (© Çatalhöyük Research Project).

also covered both figurines. The smaller figure of a standing woman was about 7 cm in height, weighed 55 g, and was made of yellow limestone. This figure was made with the precise elaboration of anatomical details. The larger figurine of a standing woman was more corpulent and less precise and was about 17 cm tall weighing around 1 kg.

Getting back to Çatalhöyük – the Hellenistic settlement

Because the tell is a distinct and highly visible place in a rather flat area of the Konya Plain, it was chosen for habitation many centuries after the Neolithic. After Alexander the Great's conquest of the Persian Empire in 333 BC, the region of Anatolia was divided into several Hellenistic kingdoms. Their rulers were careful about establishing new settlements in their domains. One such settlement was set up at Çatalhöyük, most likely in the first years after the conquest (Hordecki, 2020). The new settlers replaced the previous inhabitants, most likely the Phrygians. The remains of their village were recognized in the TP Area, in close vicinity to the TPC Area.



Figure 9. Çatalhöyük. TPC Area, Two female figurines from the eastern platform in Building 150 (© Çatalhöyük Research Project).



Figure 10. Çatalhöyük. TPC Area, A dog burial (© Çatalhöyük Research Project).

The newcomers appeared to inhabit the Çatalhöyük tell from the beginning of the fourth century BC onward. They settled on the top of the mound. The first manifestation of their presence is two separate dog burials (Figure 10). Although not fully confirmed, these burials might represent some kind of ritual sacrifice to the gods of the crossroads. That corresponds very well to the placement of the settlement in close proximity to the road running from the east to the west. In the following phase, it grew into a large settlement made of a number of distinct parts. The TPC Area served some kind of storage purpose. This is manifested by numerous pits, some of which have distinctively bell-shaped profiles (Figure 11).

Numerous pieces of pottery (Figure 12) and animal bone were found in these pits. In the following phase in the 3rd century BC, a distinct rectangular building (B.120) was constructed in the southern part of the TPC Area (Figure 13). It measured 16.8 m² within the perimeter of the trench. It had three built-in features made of clay, most likely bins used for grain storage. The final phase in this part of settlement was used as a dumping area for daily consumption waste. The occupation of the settlement came to an end around the mid-2nd century BC.



Figure 11. Çatalhöyük. TPC Area, A 3D model of the Hellenistic bell-shaped pit (© Çatalhöyük Research Project).



Figure 12. Çatalhöyük. TPC Area, Hellenistic ceramic vessels (© Çatalhöyük Research Project).



Figure 13. Çatalhöyük. TPC Area, A 3D model of the Hellenistic Building 120 (© Çatalhöyük Research Project).

The Hellenistic settlement at Çatalhöyük was one of many sites that emerged in this period and comprised an integral element of the newly emerged settlement pattern. The presence of vessels from the eastern part of the Hellenistic world with a lack of some vessels typical for the western part of Anatolia implies a closer connection with the east zone of the Hellenistic empire. The relations of this site with the Hellenistic settlement at the neighbouring Gordion are also well attested.

The last episode – the Ottoman burial ground

The last episode in the history of occupation of the tell at Çatalhöyük was an inhumation burial ground from the Ottoman period. It is dated to between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries AD. The burials from the TPC Area comprise the margin zone of the cemetery with its central part placed directly northeast on the top of the southern eminence of the mound.

Altogether, 16 burials were unearthed in the TPC Area. They had two distinct forms: (i) chronologically earlier simple graves, and (ii) later graves with the niche. In the latter case, the body of the deceased was placed in a deliberately prepared niche in the southern corner of

the grave. The niche was later covered with mudbricks and the remainder of the upper burial pit was covered with sand.

Most of the burials represent adult individuals, lying in the extended supine position as primary disturbed or undisturbed inhumations, oriented east-west with head to the west. No grave goods were found in association with these burials.

Concluding remarks

The long-lasting research project conducted by a team of archaeologists from Adam Mickiewicz in Poznań at the Neolithic settlement at Çatalhöyük has brought about outstanding results and significantly contributed to better understanding of Neolithic lifeways in the Near East. The excavations in the TPC Area, as well as previous work in the TP Area, have revealed one-third of the millennium-long history of occupation of this important site. The team unearthed a unique sequence of the last four centuries of its inhabitation that was not previously known to date. The achieved results challenged the well-established picture of this world-renowned settlement and uncovered significant changes in the Late Neolithic phase of its existence including architecture, burial practices, pottery and lithics technology, a wide range of material culture including anthropomorphic figurines, stamp seals, and bone implements, as well as farming and husbandry practices, raw material procurement strategies, and the exploitation of the local environment. By recognizing the final period of the settlement occupation in the TPC Area, the work of the team has significantly contributed to the constriction of the new relative and absolute chronology of the settlement's occupation from its foundations to its ultimate abandonment. The contribution of the work of archaeologists from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań is also unearthing important episodes of the Neolithic mound use in the Iron Age and in early historic times.

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ISBN 978-83-946591-9-6