

EXCAVATIONS AT HACILAR 1959

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The third season at Hacilar lasted from 10th August until 11th September. The Assistant Director was in charge, ably assisted by Mrs. Mellaart, Miss Clare Goff (surveyor), Mr. David Stronach (field assistant and photographer) and Mr. David French (pottery expert). Bay Osman Aksoy again represented the Turkish Department of Antiquities. As in previous years we were shown much courtesy and assistance by the local authorities in Burdur and the Vali, Bay Turhan Kapanlı once more with great generosity took upon himself the task of filling in the excavation by bulldozer.

Three trained men from Beycesultan and Alaca and forty local workmen were employed.

At the end of the previous season we had established the presence of a large fortified Level I settlement surrounding the remains of burnt Level II houses on top of the mound. We had not been able to reach the outer wall of the Level I fortifications and this evidently was one of the 1959 season's objectives. Moreover, a small trench linking the remains of both settlements dug in 1958 had encountered part of a big wall, suggesting that the Level II settlement also had been contained within an enclosure. Altogether, our knowledge of the Level II settlement was extremely meagre and the absence of later remains above it made a more thorough investigation imperative. Accordingly, a trench 55 m. long and 5 m. wide was laid out at the beginning of the season on the western half of the mound hitherto untouched by excavations. At the end of the first week we had determined the limit of both Level I and II settlements on the western half of the mound by finding both enclosure walls

and the next week was spent in clearing the N. W. corner of Level II. With only a fortnight left it was considered inadvisable to proceed with our third objective, a deep sounding in the centre of the mound on a scale sufficient to obtain house plans (and not floors and pottery only). It was therefore decided to concentrate on obtaining the maximum amount of architectural information about both the Level I fortress and the walled settlement of Level II. As seven earlier building levels remain to be explored below the structures of Level II it would have been futile to make such an attempt in the remaining fortnight.

The Level I Fortress (Figs. 1 - 2).

Mr. David Stronach was put in charge of the clearance of another section of the fortress and linking it up with the previously excavated block of rooms in Area E. The outer wall was not found until the last day and it therefore could not be traced around the block so that the main entrance has not yet been found. Many rooms are again of majestic proportions and once more is there evidence for at least one upper storey. Two great insulae have now been excavated, so that the character of the Level I fortress has become much clearer.

This fortress consisted of an open area c. 100 metres in diameter, enclosed by blocks of rooms grouped into large insulae radially arranged. Between them walled courtyards gave access into the fortress. Its full diameter was probably c. 150 metres and it therefore had been larger than Troy II, (*) but unlike Troy, the

(*) *Two thousand five hundred years later.*

absence of dwellings within the enclosed area suggests that the ruler's "palace" should be sought among the insulae.

The remains of poorly built stone walls in that area appear to belong almost entirely to the period immediately post-dating the destruction of the fortress (phase Ic). It may now be suggested that the main settlement had then moved some 400 yards northwards to a new site west of the present village. Hacilar I pottery has been found there as well as Late Chalcolithic of Beycesultan type and S. W. Anatolian E. B. 2.

The Level II Settlement (Figs. 3 - 4).

Three quarters of the settlement have now been excavated and we have a unique opportunity to observe the lay-out of an early chalcolithic settlement in the second half of the 6th millennium B. C. An area of about 57x36 metres on top of the mound was surrounded by a wall, 1,5 to 3 m. thick and provided with small towers or buttresses. Narrow passageways led into the settlement could be closed by a door. Proper gates as such do not exist. Three of these entrances have been found: two in the north wall, a third in the south wall, but none in the short west wall. Only one of these three doorways led straight into a house; the others led through a passage or anteroom into the West and South courts respectively.

The houses were arranged around courts, of which there were at least three. Two pairs of small houses, each with an anteroom and a main room, are placed on either side of the entrance passage in the N. W. corner of the settlement. Their walls are extraordinarily thick and an upper storey might have existed, also covering

the entrance passage. To the west lay a granary and facing the houses across the west court were two larger buildings.

The south-east quarter has not yet been excavated, but in the eastern half of the settlement we have evidence for two phases, with a complete rebuilding after a disastrous fire laid the previous quarter in ashes. Here we found a well appointed building with plastered floors and walls and elaborate colonnades. Several doorways led from it into a series of courtyards, separated by partitions and each provided with a raised hearth with a bread oven behind it and numerous other domestic arrangements. This area produced not less than a hundred pottery vessels, about half of which were gaily painted. In one of these courtyards we found a stone-lined well, from which a considerable quantity of carbonised wheat, barley and almonds or plumstones was recovered. The large house produced another surprise: sunk in its floor one single and two double burials were found, a feature hitherto not encountered at Hacilar. The dead had been buried in tightly contracted position without any consistent orientation and the only funerary gifts consisted of some finely painted pots. A few other fragmentary skeletons were found in the burnt debris of the house. This skeletal material will be examined in Ankara by Prof. Dr. M. Şenyürek.

Although the most important results of this year's work at Hacilar are definitely in the field of architecture, not less than a hundred painted vessels were found, mostly new types, as well as numerous small finds including the first complete figurine.