

TOPAKLI-1971 FIELD EXPEDITION DIG PRELIMINARY REPORT

Prof. Luigi POLACCO

The 1971 Field Expedition digging on the Topakli "hüyük" started on June 30 th and ended on September 9 th¹.

The Anatolian hills, this summer, donned soft green garments as if to welcome us. Already driving up from Izmit to Bolu in our Land Rover we could clearly feel the difference: the woods were cooler and of dazzling beauty, there seemed to be many more brooks with a wealth of foamy water tumbling down from them. Once on the plateau, a long rainy Spring had retarded the wheat crop and our "hüyük", which last year was grey and bare, was entirely covered by a fresh layer of green grass dotted with a mass of white flowers and the surrounding countryside showed purple beds of blossom here and there. Thus, for the entire duration of our stay at Topakli, we had fewer windy days than in the past², but to counterbalance this, we had several unprecedented rainy days, and, occasionally we climbed up to our work entirely enveloped by a thick grey

mist which only dispersed when the sun was high in the sky.

Our Mission was composed as follows: Professor Luigi Polacco, Head of Mission - Professor Elena Di Filippo and Dott. Paolo Emilio Pecorella, Excavation Directors - Dott. Alfonso Archi, Mirosalvo Salvini and Umberto Dalle Mulle, Excavation Assistants - Dott. ssa Marisa Rigoni attached to Staff for Cataloguing and Storage - Architect Mario Balestrazzi and Geometrician Giovanni Meng, Survey specialists - Mr. Giuseppe Penello and Antonio Martin, Draghtsmen and Restoration experts - Mr. Aulo Fiorentin, Photographer - Mr. Severino Ton, Housing and Personnel Manager. Also attached to the Mission Staff were Professor Cleto Corrain and Mr. Giuseppe Barbieri of the Anthropological Institute of Padova University. Mr. Kadri Sayilgan, the Turkish Government Inspector, is Assistant for the Kayseri Museum.

From year to year, each time we went back to Turkey, we were clearly able to perceive the differences that the Turkish people had brought to their country both on the economic as in the social spheres. In 1971, our feeling was that quite a big step forwards had been taken owing to several innovations such as the availability of electric power and the construction of a few public works (a small Hospital and a Secondary School) and quite a substantial renewal of private dwellings - the latter enterprises due, above all, to the savings

¹ L. POLACCO, *Topakli. Campagna di scavo 1967. Relazione preliminare* in "SMEA" VIII 1969, p. 76 ss.; *Topakli. Campagna di scavo 1968. Relazione preliminare* in "SMEA" X 1969, p. 54 ss.; *Topakli. Campagna di scavo 1969. Relazione preliminare* in "SMEA" XIII 1971 p. 7 ss.; *Topakli. Campagna di scavo 1970. Relazione preliminare* in "SMEA" XIII 1971, p. 27 ss.; *Topakli 1967 Kazisi* in "Türk Ark. Derg". XVI 1967, p. 177 ss.; *Topakli. Campaign of Excavations 1968* in "Türk Ark. Derg." XVII 1969, p. 165 ss. Reports published in the "SMEA" are cited *Topakli 1967* etc.

² *Topakli 1969*, p. 8; *Topakli 1970*, p. 27.

or remittances of emigrants. As friends of the Turkish people, we were extremely glad to such improvements, however they did bring a somewhat negative influence to bear on the activities of our Mission. Apart from a sentimental aspect which, however, had all the special flavour of magic for us, namely the particular quality of the dusk that renders of exceptional splendour the starry vault of Anatolia and that now, with electricity has rather lost this quality; what I should actually like to say is that for first time, this year we had great difficulty in recruiting a gang of workmen from the neighbourhood; in fact, some of the men from the village had emigrated to Germany, others were engaged to work with nearby and local industries and building concerns, still others were busy with the summer agricultural work to replace the ones who were away. However, with the good will of all concerned, we were able to engage an average daily number of approximately thirty to thirtyfive workmen.

This year, our Mission was highly honoured by the visit of several distinguished guests. The Vali of Nevsehir came to see us, Mr. Mehmet Aldan, the General Director for Monuments and Antiquities Mr. Hikmet Gürçay, Turkish and foreign colleagues, members of our Ankara Embassy besides a few friends from Italy.

On our part, during our usual Sunday excursions, we paid our respects to colleagues from the surrounding Museums to return their visits, and, of particular interest for us, to the digs that Turkish Archaeologists are carrying out with great ability at Hacibektas, Kültepe and Kululu, where we could compare methods, finds and stratigraphic procedures.

Ulterior inquiries about the complete disappearance of the barbed wire fence that used to stand around the foot of the "hüyük" revealed³ that this was not a theft (as local gossip had led us to believe), but

the consequence of a legitimate order issued by the Avanos State Agricultural Department which, long before Archaeological Excavations had been initiated, placed the fence there to protect a reforestation project⁴. Once this objective had ceased to exist, when digging began on the Archaeological site, the fence had been removed. According to our opinion, however, the fact remains that it would have been far better had the fence been left to mark the boundaries of State Land property. With the dexterity that distinguishes Surveyor Meng, he replaced the measured squares once again on the Hüyük site and, instead of wooden fence poles⁵, this time we used cement cubes, well fixed underground.

Furthermore the problem of earth-shifting chutes that had always been a thorn in our side⁶, was finally solved by the purchase of a stock of metal scaffolding tubes, supplied by the Milan Dalmine Co. This acquisition proved a very lucky one such a type of "meccano for adults" made it easy to solve many other problems besides the earth disposal chutes: we built a bridge over "fossa diacronica" (Stratum Levels Trench = SLT), we used them for sheds, work benches, construction towers, scaffolding, and various other props (fig.1). The practical advantage of these metal tubes is invaluable as once the excavation is over, this material can all be recuperated and, what's more it can be mounted in no time, and dismantled just as quickly. As far as we know, it is, perhaps, the first time that matériel such as these building tubes, has ever been used before for Archaeological purposes; in Turkey, however, we never saw them employed as they are generally used, namely in building constructions.

With careful patience and fervour, our restorers proceeded in their work of reco-

³ Topakli 1970, p. 32

⁴ Topakli 1967, p. 77.

⁵ Topakli 1970, p. 32.

⁶ Topakli 1968, p. 56; Topakli 1969, p. 8.

vering the finds that resulted from our 1971 dig as well as a few pieces from the 1970 Field Expedition whose restoration had not been completed the year before; such as the large basin that, owing to its size and shape required an infinite amount of careful work⁷. The pithos fragments found at Çaliş in 1970 which had been brought to our storeroom proved - after close examination to belong to two different jars, very incomplete and not worth restoring. The other large pithoi from Çaliş⁸ are now at the Nevşehir Museum together with the important epigraph of Maximinus⁹.

Explorations:

Work on our exploration of the surroundings of Topakli has proceeded apace. The plateau was thickly scattered with mounds of various sizes. In most cases these piles of earth have been flattened out through the ages by rainfall erosion and the plough, to such an extent, that they can only be identified at close quarters, when actually standing over them. Two groups of seven mounds situated at three kilometres North/East of Topakli drew my attention in a particular way. A wide straight stretch of road - ruins crossed right through them, running in a NW/SE direction. The artefact, obviously ancient, in fact certainly Roman, was in a beautiful state of preservation (fig. 2). My curiosity aroused, I decided to follow it. Today a path runs alongside, at times crossing over it. The "runderatio", however, which is of very solid build, has by now been practically all uncovered but is not an easy road for carts. Proceeding along this magnificent road, after a few kilometres I found that I had come straight to the exact spot where Bel-Kuyu is situated. Needless to say that I was extremely surprized. The presence of this monumental artefact from ancient times was a guarantee of the importance of last years evidence and the obser-

vations made at this point¹⁰. In consequence, I went on with my explorations during the following days but this time using Bel-Kuyu as my starting point. We followed the road North West for 19,5 kilometres and North East for 1,5 kilometres-at all points it was splendidly visible (except for a brief stretch of 2,5 kilometres between Yeni Abdi and Eski Abdi, where a modern asphalt road had been built over it) - as straight as an arrow, using embankments to pass over the minor hollows and skirting the major slopes over artificial ramparts. Obviously a rare feat of engineering.

It was built with two lanes clearly separated one from the other by an alignment of large stones most of them flat, and fixed in a standing position deep down in the road-bed; the same type of stone alignments marked the outside edges of the two lanes. Each lane measured three metres wide. It would be worth while to drive a trench through this road in order to ascertain the structure of the foundation; at one point where some peasants (or treasure hunters?) had dug a large hole, it was evident that the "runderatio" went down more than half a metre.

As mentioned, the road, flanked by burial mounds, descended from Bel-Kuyu towards the North West. Dead straight for about 11 kilometres, it crossed the Topakli-Kosakli modern highway at approximately 6 kilometres from Topakli where the cross-road for Gerce-Kalaycik is situated. From here it continued straight up to Eski Abdi (2,5 kilometres) under the modern road as mentioned before. Eski Abdi is a deserted village. It was abandoned recently owing to lack of water. In fact, it was amazing to see the innumerable wells breaking up the ground everywhere in a desperate attempt to find a water-bearing stratum. The site of the village is most interesting, it lies lengthwise on top of a spur of land that reaches out towards the

⁷ Topakli 1969, p. 15.

⁸ Topakli 1970, p. 29.

⁹ Topakli 1970, p. 29 ss.

¹⁰ Topakli 1970, p. 30.

valley of the Kalaycik Deresi (the water course that springs from the Ismail Zirvesi and flows through Topakli)¹¹; at this point the valley is deeply embedded in the plateau for a distance of about 40 metres and, according to a rough estimate, about 200 metres wide. At the edge of the spur a very long, narrow hüyük (mound) is situated (approximately 120x40 metres). Shortly before the village Eski Abdi we found the ancient road again, which here changes direction and goes off at an oblique angle towards the North. We followed it for another 6 kilometres and noted that its direction clearly pointed towards a passage over the Kalaycik Deresi, a few kilometres North of Gerce: to attain which its course was shaped in a movement of wide curves instead of the straight progress it had followed up to here in order to lead lightly down in a smooth constant manner. Once we had reached the terrace over the Kalaycik Deresi valley, the road which had been following along a hillside entered a gully but, just as soon as it started descending, we completely lost all traces of it. Evidently from this spot up to the river although it had originally functioned, in the course of centuries it had been washed away by the impetus of flood waters rushing into the gully. Where had the road crossed the river? Today, at the bottom of the valley a carriage road along the left bank and a path along the right. A few kilometres further to the South the village of Gerce is situated on the left of the river, lying on the slope over the valley; today the bridge is here and, because of the presence of this village, we suppose that this should be the ideal place for a passage. We must, however, exclude any supposition that the Roman road, once down at the bottom of the valley should rise again: it would have reached the Gerce passage directly from Eski Abdi, just as the modern road does. The passage was certainly in connection with the gully there-

fore further to the North. During our next Field Expedition we plan to examine the left bank and the embankments above: here some remarkable burial mounds are to be seen.

A few kilometres further North, always on the left bank, one can also see the village of Kalaycik: there must have been some good reason why, at this particular spot, a village bears the same name as the river (whether it gave the river its name or vice versa). On the bulwark of the right bank, where all traces of the road have disappeared many potsherds can be picked up from the ploughed fields - certainly of Roman origin, perhaps even Hellenistic.

Back again at Bel-Kuyu it was ascertained that the road ceased abruptly on the North West edge of the Archaeological area discovered last year; a few hundred meters past this site, on its South Eastern edge the road recommences. As said before, Bel-Kuyu is an open valley to the North West, circled by a series of small crests all studded with burial mounds¹². Here, however, the road climbed up more steeply taking a wide curve of 1,5 kilometres and reached a pass where two much larger burial mounds were situated, one on each side of the road. We did not proceed any further, but, from this high point of vantage we could clearly discern the road descending in the direction of Kalaba. We decided to postpone the exploration of this further tract to our next Field Expedition.

The existence of this splendid artefact was not unknown to Von der Osten¹³; to us, however, it is of the greatest importance because it is situated in strict relations with Bel-kuyu. If we read again the Maximinus epigraph to refresh our memory, we might possibly, even from this moment, venture some solutions: a) The

¹² Topakli 1970, p. 30.

¹³ H. H. von der OSTEN, *Explorations in Hittite Asia Minor 1929*, Chicago 111. 1930, p. 21 map II.

¹¹ Topakli 1967, p. 76.

epigraph refers to this road; b) The *vias vetustate cunlapsas* - should they not be interpreted as "more" roads, or would it not be better to deduce that allusion is made to two "viae" (i. e. the two lanes) of which the road consists. c) The bridge mentioned therein is not, perhaps, to be sought as we originally thought¹⁴ on the better known Kizil Irmak but rather on the Kalaycik Deresi. In order to solve these questions we greatly hope that we will be able to gather further evidence during our next Field Expedition.

Anthropological research:

During the 1971 Field Expedition Anthropologist Professor Cleto Corrain was a member of the Mission together with his specialized assistant, Mr. Giuseppe Barbieri. He made a careful study of the remains of human skeletons which had come to light so far from the Byzantine Level¹⁵. According to his findings the result was: 194 skeletons of which 112 young people under the age of 20 while the adult skeletons (43 male and 39 female) gave him the possibility of reconstructing an anthropological picture. They were of moderate height, rather thick-set with an average long high head, narrow enough, however, as to supply an unforeseen low horizontal cephalic index, the face and the nose of rather variable proportions. Another three skeletons were in a condition to be measured and came from the Hellenistic Levels¹⁶ show pronounced dolicocephaly. Professor Corrain felt that it would be interesting to compare the large group of Byzantine (Paleocristian) remains with a group of living Turks from the village of Topakli itself. This test, carried out with the kind help of the Turkish Inspector Mr. K. Sayilgan and the obliging willingness of the inhabitants, has, according

to Professor Corrain, given excellent results. The morphological picture appeared, all in all, not very dissimilar, with the exception of a strong increase (about 9 centesimal units) of the horizontal cephalic index which, in the context of absolute cephalic measurements seems to be the consequence of a heavy widening of the head and a slight reduction. Corrain believes however, that even if the phenomena of brachycephalization is rather well known in various countries, such a great difference in averages has never taken place in such a short period of time.

A first ample report of this research was submitted by the Scientist to the Acts of the Istituto Veneto di Scienze Lettere ed Arti¹⁷ and consequently the finds will be re-examined and organically elaborated together with other eventual data found in the Field upon the conclusion of our Excavation of the Topakli "hüyük".

Once examined, all the anthropological remains were handed over to the Ankara University Anthropological Institute.

Excavation

Stratum Levels Trench

(SLT) (Plates I-II)

By now, since the 1970 Field Expedition, our chief effort has been concentrated on this sector. During 1971, Field work excavation went deeper-from an altitude of 8,50 metres to 13,30. This portion of about 5 metres totalled 5 Levels (N - R), all firmly belonging to the Phrygian culture. The pottery pattern is, in fact exclusively represented by those models that correspond to Late and Middle Phrygian (figg. 3-5); starting from Level R, we come upon old Phrygian. From Level O, however, Hittite fragments begin to appear with their typical red varnish and also the characteristic pottery forms with spouts; these sherds increased in number the further down we went and were nearly

¹⁴ *Topakli 1970*, p. 30.

¹⁵ *Topakli 1967*, p. 78; *Topakli 1968*, p. 56 ss.

¹⁶ *Topakli 1968*, p. 63 fig. 28 (at the time, erroneously considered of the different sexes by us, while they are both male); *Topakli 1969*, p. 24.

¹⁷ Vol. CXXX 1971 - 1972 in course of printing.

all found towards the crest of the hüyük. We shall speak of the probable reason for this later.

As to the wall building techniques, starting from Level *M*, but above all in Level *N*, we began to see the use of a material which the higher levels had practically ignored, namely the white or grey tufo (limestone) that is of a light consistency and easy to cut; this material was represented in copious quantities in the first *A - B* Levels: late Roman and Byzantine¹⁸.

Still at Level *N*, a bronze coin came to light of Ariauamne, King of Capadocia (280 - (?) - 230 (?) B.C.). According to my point of view, this was not in direct association. Amongst the more significant finds we have to report a gem of vitreous paste with engraved upon it the figure of a stag (*P* Level) a seal of semi-precious stone with an ostrich engraved on one side and a figure in movement on the other (*R* Level). At the same Level two sandstones were unearthed whose natural shape, aided by the appropriate corrections, can be attributed in one case to a human figure and in the other to the skull head of an ox (bucrane). The latter is of a certain importance owing to the position in which it was found as we shall see later.

In the Levels investigated this year the remarkable fact observed at the higher altitudes towards the crest, and seen more or less in various measure throughout nearly all the preceding Levels became increased in a stratling manner: at Level *R* the presence of a powerful enclosure embankment or rampart could definitely not be denied (fig. 6). This circumstance made it particularly difficult for our research and it required much fine work to cut away the Levels soil particularly owing to the complete difference in altitude between the edge structures and those situated behind. Besides an examination of the architectural ruins - and here, for the first

time, they were of a monumental quality-particular attention was spent on reading the stratification on the Southern Levels Wall and the Northern Level wall of the SLT.

First Phase:

At this point, we saw before us the first great defence construction found on the Topakli hüyük (*R* Level). This is an embankment of trapezoidal section approximately 9 metres wide at the base and about 3,50 high (that is to say, according to what has remained). It is built of a darkish coloured earth, well rammed in and contained between partition walls built in a radial sense and covered towards the inner side by an escarp of stone chips forming stairs. Most of the Hittite fragments where found in here, obviously brought to this spot in the earth that had been taken from another superficial Hittite Level. This fact leads us to suppose that the Hittite levels are very near, by now. Towards the outside, the embankment is in ruins, but quality and direction of the inside partition walls, graduated towards the outside face, seems to prove that on this side too there must have been a similar finish as that of the inner face even though it was steeper. The three partition walls, *A*, *B*, and *C*, brought to light on the SLT are not spaced at regular intervals but the measurement between *A* and *B* is of 1,60 metres and between *B* and *C*, approximately 3 metres. Only one face of these walls have exposed masonry, namely *A* towards the South, *B* and *C* towards the North. In reality, it is not a matter of exposed masonry in the actual sens of the word, but rather of the building procedure technique: the ancient workman, or group of workmen allotted to build each wall took special care to construct the wall facing opposite to him with a perfectly aligned smooth surface. However, the counterposition of *A* to *B*, the different spacing between *A-B* and *B-C*, the presence of a small drain (*A1*) along the Southern base of *A* and of a

¹⁸ Topakli 1970, p. 28.

rough cobbled pavement between *A* and *B* seem to evince the fact that in the past there existed a passage between *A* and *B*. This can be confirmed by further observations that we shall state below.

At about 2 metres from the base of the embankment, towards the inner portion we find a continuous structure built of large stones that I shall call *D*, measuring 0,40/0,50 metres in height. This is not the remains of a wall, but a horizontal step. It can clearly be seen on the SLT wall both on the North and on the South that the portion of earthwork included between this step and the base of the embankment is tightly packed in order to form a sort of passageway behind it. This *D* step merely leans against a massive structure *E*, of a nature that cannot be identified as the better part of it is still buried under the Northern wall of the SLT. It is about 2 metres high, 2,60 in length (at least in an East/West direction) and solidly built. Another similar structure *F*, is situated at 0,80 metres to the West. On the base of the SLT section excavated this year, a wall - *G* - runs to the West for the whole width of the Trench, for a distance of 2 and a half metres, this has retained its height owing to the presence of other walls placed on a more or less perpendicular sense to *G*, and these form a series of rooms West of *G*, and here, we seem to see the beginning of the city dwellings. During this phase, however, an open space appeared to exist between the embankment and the dwellings, even though not continuous if we keep *E* and *F* in mind. In fact, one can clearly see on the South SLT wall that the corresponding stratum connects *D* to *G* without interruption.

Second Phase:

Subsequently what I might call the "sentry - walk" gained in height for about 0,50 metres and this modified the inner escarpment of the embankment while the *D* step also became higher. Therefore at about 2,50 metres to the West of this, another

similar horizontal step was placed (*H*) with exposed masonry only on the Western face. This sentry - walk passage between *D* and *H* is packed with earth filling and presents a slight upwards grading towards the embankment so that in this tract, the level is heightened by about 0,40/0,50 metres. Of this too, traces can be seen on the South SLT wall and also partially on the Northern.

Third Phase:

A further thickening of the inner escarpment and the sentry - walk for a height of 0.70/0,80 metres is to be seen. To support this new form of the embankment a stone wall I was raised on the inside and "kerpiç" (green - brick) on the outside, directly East of *D* between this and the embankment on our South SLT wall we can see a compact, homogenous, well - defined yellow mass of crumbled kerpiç. This phase leads us to the supposition that a wall of kerpiç had collapsed at this point after having stood on the upper base of the embankment during preceding phases. The embankment itself, at this stage has lost its trapezoidal shape owing to successive additions kerpiç intended to lift up the sentry-walk: at the foot of the new kerpiç perimetral wall, a lightly inclined surface descends towards the inside and is supported by wall I; alongside this wall is the forementioned step *D* rather like a bit of planking. Further Westwards everything must have remained more or less untouched. In fact the fillings that can be seen on our SLT wall, west of *I* have no relationship with the fillings on the East of *I* but seem to have been poured on top of *I*.

Fourth Phase a)

Subsequent enlargements of the embankment and a correlated raising of the sentry - walk made the gap in the embankment between *A* and *B* increasingly awkward. In order to eliminate this inconvenience, an L-shaped wall was raised (*L*), being a containing wall, only its Southern

face exposed to the East/West side and the East face on the North/South portion. Thus, all the space within this wall *L*, the *E* and *F* structures and wall *I* are filled with earth resulting in an L-shaped ramp that leads up to the entrance of the embankment. South of *L* Level, the ground remains exactly as it was in the preceding phase; then, mounting a few steps (*L* 1), to a Level that between *E* and *F* is formed to make a sort of threshold *R* obtained with a well defined strata of dark earth and rubble we come to the next portion beside it which is in direct relationship with the South Western edge of *E* and here, as mentioned before, we find the strange ox Skull-head shaped stone *S* (bucrane) (fig. 7).

Fourth Phase b)

The entire area between *I* and *G* was filled in, up the level of the preceding phase, namely at the level of the bucrane. A sign of this, is the planking or platform *M*, measuring 0,90 x 0,35 metres near the *G* salient, in relationship with the above threshold *N*. On the face of our SLT Southern wall it is evident that the filling consisted of lumpy clots and stratums. Also on the South wall face we see that the stratification rises to a height of 0,40 metres under the top filling of *G* and then descends on our Western SLT wall till it reaches *M*. In my opinion, this means that the present phase presumes that *G* had already caved in previously then subsequently had been taken in hand again and rebuilt; in fact, the evidence of the wedges and the raised portion is perfectly clear.

Fifth Phase a)

A definite and total collapse of *R* Level. Here we have the entire space between *D* and *G* completely filled with a rather dark homogenous compact mass of crumbled brick - work (kerpic) most of it from the ruins of the wall on the embankment. On this rubble plane, some buildings *O* were raised, protected by the shapeless mass of the heap of embankment earth.

Fifth Phase b)

Here we have the building of a fresh embankment, patched up and of an unpretentious nature on the large string-course that has thus been formed. The plan summarily repeats that of the embankment at *R* Level; a brick - work (kerpic) rampart over the small scarp of stone chips *P*, a sentry - walk, a small retaining wall to support it. All the other structures of the previous phases have by now fallen into complete ruin and been buried.

Sixth Phase:

The total collapse of the second embankment. Two more attempts to build defence works can be noted (6a and 6b) through the accumulation of a simple earth string - course without any masonry support. Nevertheless, we can still perceive two fundamental elements: the embankment and the sentry - walk. The former in stratas of crushed stone chips and the latter upheld by a species of cement mass *T*. Between 6 a and 6b, also above 6 a we have stratums of ashes. After this phase, the differences in Levels are entirely filled in and all the stratums are more or less horizontal except for a slight upward movement in altitude towards the outer portion, due to the presence of the impressive underlying ruins, an ascent that can be seen all the way up to the highest levels.

Here, obviously an epoch ends. If the first three phases of the embankment are in relation to Level *R*, the fourth concerns Level *Q*, the fifth Level *P* and the sixth Level *O*. Therefore Levels *M* and *N* should already be beyond and outside the well-defined and qualified cultural phase represented by the monumental enclosure wall or rampart. The presence of Hittite evidence, circumscribed to the fillings of the embankment persuade us that all these phases have been relatively short - lived, one rapidly succeeding another.

A few observations still remain to be made concerning the gap noted in the defensive enclosure wall at Level *R*. It is curi-

ous indeed that the ridge which can be seen running midway up the hüyük slope for approximately half of its circumference - the Northern portion - should end to the East at exactly the spot where the fore-mentioned gap is situated. It remains at the same altitude (approximately 13/12 metres) up to the North West, then it widens out, notably, and the slope towards the bottom is less steep, hence it leads up abruptly with great inclination towards the West and ends right near our III Excavation centre (quadrants T 15, T 16) where in the past the remains of a big wall and of a door had been discovered, attributed by us to Level C¹⁹. The ridge undoubtedly corresponds to a road that ascends from the North West and branches out into two ways: the one towards the East is more gentle and longer (in fact, it is the most defensible for, whoever should come up would turn his right - hand side towards the up - hill portion) while the one to the South is steeper and shorter. If we exclude a direct correspondance between the door in T 16 and the road (it might, of course be a survival from a preceeding situation); the relationship between the road and the gap in the defensive enclosure wall on the East, is a real and objective hard fact.

South Western Trench:

A new work - yard was opened this year on the South Western edge of our Hüyük, in partial correspondance with Q 9 - R 8.9.10-S8 quadrants.

We chose the site because at this spot the summit of the hüyük abruptly loses altitude, forming a basin. We came to the conclusion that this was owing to a recess (a door perhaps?) in the defensive enclosure wall; also consideration that here the crest reaches an altitude of app-

roximately 10 metres (actually nearly the same altitude that we had reached in our Stratum Levels Trench) therefore the hope of finding particularly important structures at notably low levels seemed to be very logical.

Instead, however, at least from this point of view, the dig which had started out in an area of 12 x 12 metres (being enlarged, of course, little by little, as we went further down), did not give the expected results. In spite of the fact that we dug through a 4 metre breadth, the very few and irrelevant architectural remains were not sufficient to make an exact classification of Levels.

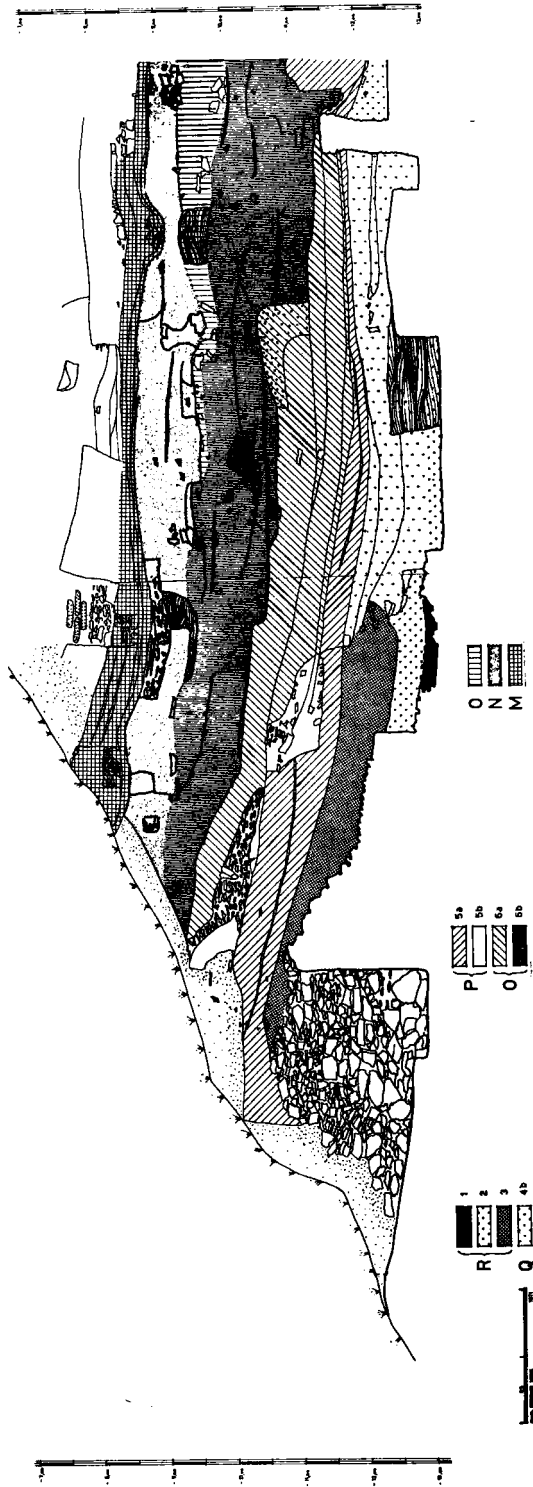
The expert technical skill of Dott. Pecorella, who directed the Excavation on this sector was instrumental in bringing carefully to light the stratification, but essentially, what we had before us was a large heap of earth partly left over from other works and partly that had slid down from the formentioned summit of the hüyük.

However, the strarification that has emerged so far from our excavation of the "acropolis" and the Stratum Levels Trench has been confirmed in synthesis. Namely:

- a) a superficial Bizantine strata
- b) a thick Hellenistic stratification
- c) a thick portion which has given both Hellenistic and Phrygian pottery.

Certain finds, however, have been of unusual interest, amongst which I should like to report a very delicate little cup, two-handed and varnished in red (fig 8); and a small clay (fictile) figurine of a Zebu (fig. 9) the former certainly of Hellenistic origin and the latter Hittite (but perhaps only for the iconography, as it might possibly have been moulded at a later date).

¹⁹ Topakli 1968, p. 65 and number 2 on Pl. VII.



Pl. 2

N°
 TOPAKLI
 FOSSA DIACRONTICA

PARETE SUD

SCALA 1:20

1971

www.orientalx.com

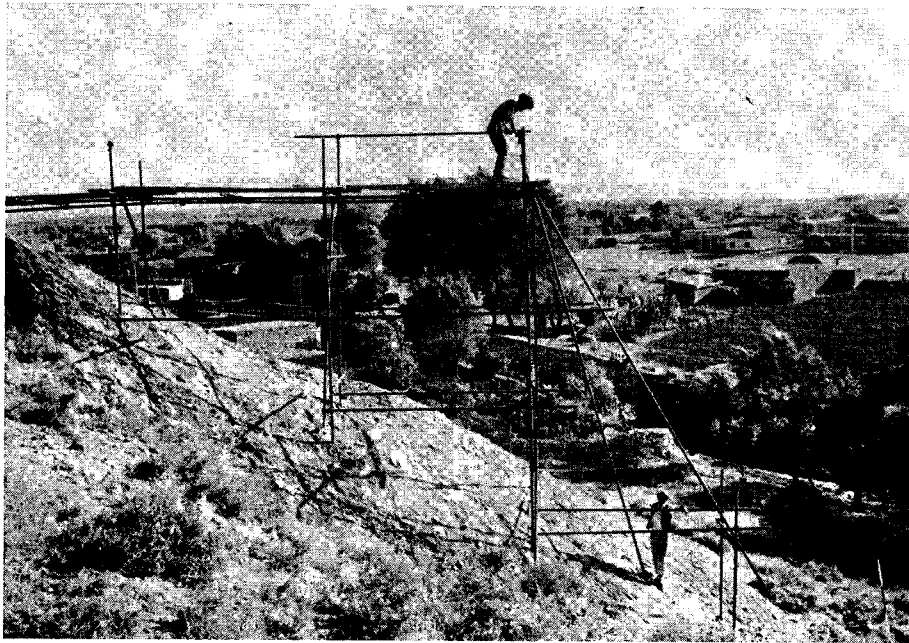


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

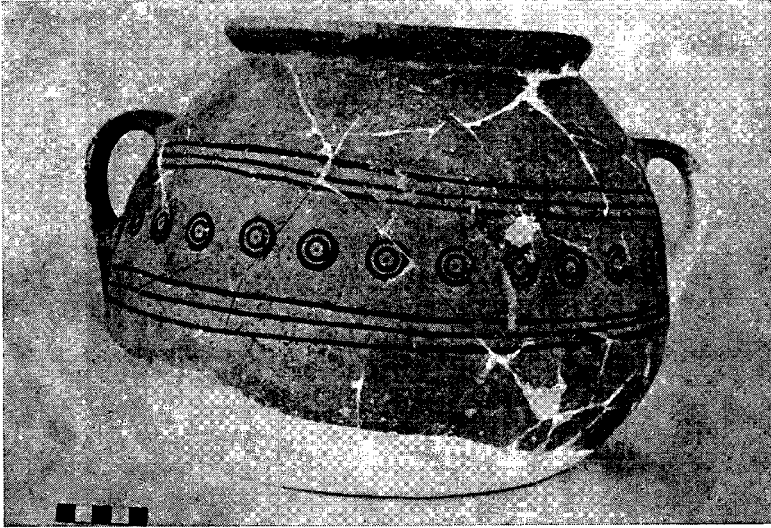


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

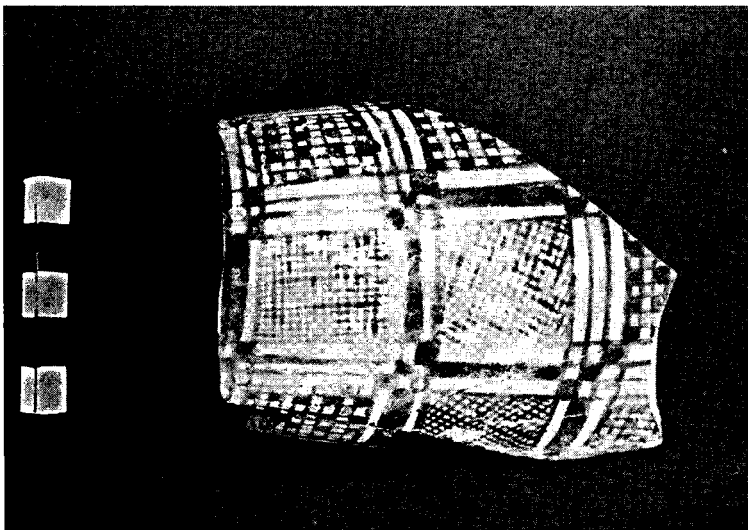


Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

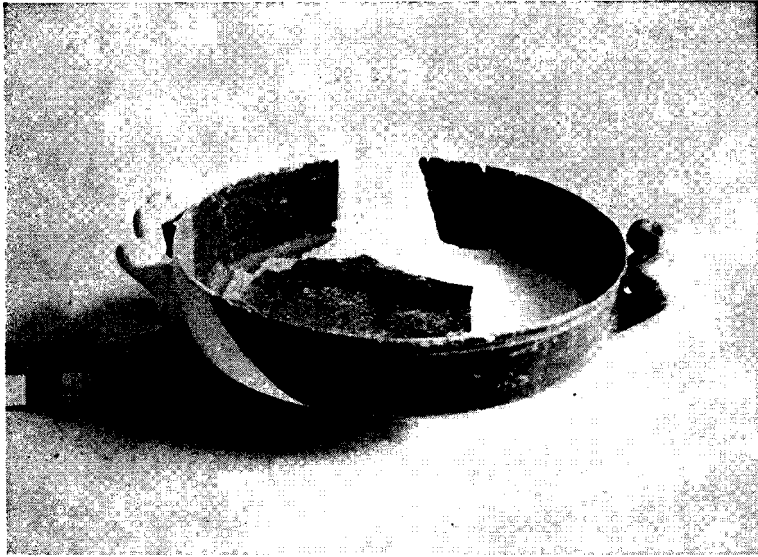


Fig. 8

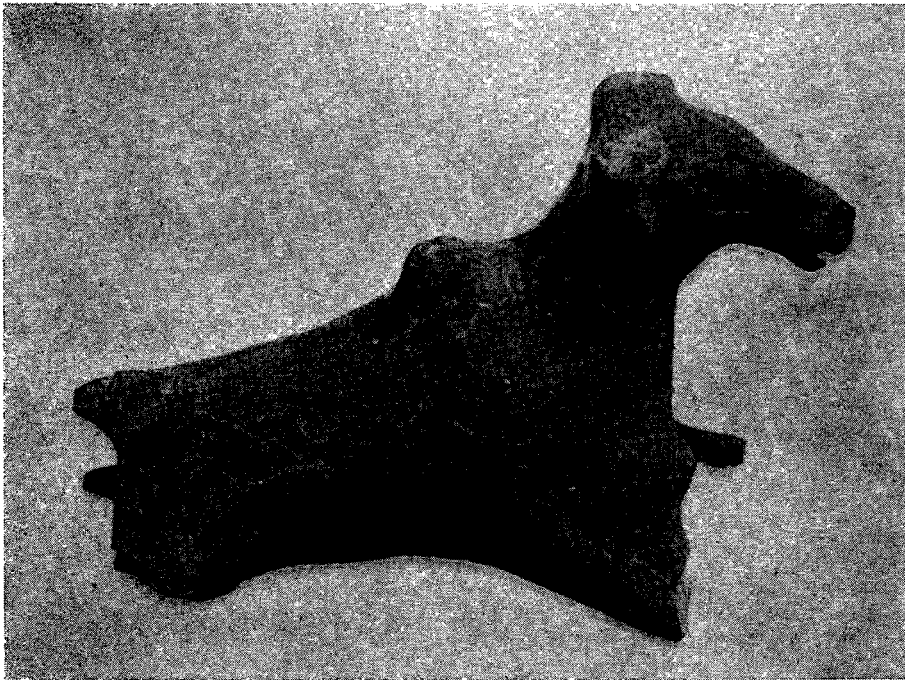


Fig. 9