

CAN HASAN 1965

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The excavations at Can Hasan were continued this year from September 1st to October 14th. The number of assistants in addition to my wife and myself was six: S. Payne and J. N. Postgate, field assistants, and Miss E. Dowman, conservator, Miss R. J. Worth, pottery assistant, and Misses A. C. Hird, and S. M. Page, general assistants in the house. Bay Hayrettin Solmaz of the Konya Museum represented the Turkish Government. For most of the season we employed about eight men from the village. At the end of the work, the registered objects were brought to the Ankara Archaeological Museum, together with all the sherd materials. All other materials are now stored in the depot in the excavation house on the site.

There were four aims to this year's excavations: firstly to complete the excavation of House 7 (Layer 2 B, Early Chalcolithic) started in 1962 and continued but not finished in 1964; secondly to excavate to Layer 3 and below if possible; thirdly to excavate through the floors of the Late Chalcolithic (Layer 1) houses found in 1963 and 1964; fourthly to find deposits, and if possible building levels, of the later phases of the Middle Chalcolithic period (Layer 2 A) which have so far been represented only by surface sherds (see *Anatolian Studies* XIII (1963) 7, Fig. 5 nos. 15, 16).

House 7 and Layer 3

House 7 (Fig. 1) (belonging to Layer 2 B) had been only partly excavated in

1962. Further work was done in 1964 below the upper floor levels at which excavation had stopped in 1962; this work had shown that another building lay just below the floors and walls of House 7. Two trenches (R 21 a and R 21 b) were opened up to the north of the 1962 excavations. The upper levels belonged to the Byzantine and Late Chalcolithic periods. Below these upper levels there came a layer of pure Middle Chalcolithic (Layer 2 A), probably an early phase or two phases of this period. Below this came layers of Early Chalcolithic (Layer 2 B) and finally the original floor of the house. The north wall of House 7 did not fall within the line of the trenches. Below the earliest floor there is a well-preserved building of Layer 3. House 7 is partly built over the top of the earlier walls. The Layer 3 house (Fig. 2) is large, the sides are buttressed and the corners are roughly right-angled. There is a floor and wall plaster of red clay.

The finds from House 7 were mostly fragments of pottery; there were no complete pots. Extremely interesting was a deposit of bones lying behind a partition between a buttress and the south wall of the house. These consisted of over 100 sheep's jaws, some 30 skeletons of frogs as well as a certain amount of miscellaneous bone.

From Layer 3, there were a few sherds only. In the next seasons it is hoped to expand work on this layer and to be able to define the pottery and other materials which can be assigned to it.

The Late Chalcolithic Houses in S 25 c and S 25 a

In these trenches more evidence was found of the development of the buildings of the Chalcolithic period. Work this year stopped at the earliest floor level of the houses found in 1964. It is now clear that there are at least six phases of construction in this single area. The lowest floor of the earliest phase lies directly on top of a Middle Chalcolithic deposit. Very little was found from the Late Chalcolithic layers but a group of pots came to light on an upper floor; these were mostly heavy or coarse ware and among them was a complete four-handled jar of the scored ware category.

The Middle Chalcolithic deposit in S 25 c

The lowest floor of the earliest Late Chalcolithic phase in square S 25 c is laid directly over the top of a Middle Chalcolithic deposit. There was a small part of a wall in the South East corner but there were no floors associated with it. Fragments of pottery were found in abundance (Fig. 3). These were somewhat different in type from the Middle Chalcolithic pottery found in previous years. Polychrome pottery (Fig. 3: 6-10) was

almost equal in quantity to the Black on Cream painted ware. Among sherds from this deposit were found several fragments (Fig. 3: 1-5) which might prove to be pieces imported from the area of Mersin and the Çukurova.

Summary

Stratigraphically the results of the 1965 season have been good. There are now at least six building phases of the Late Chalcolithic period (Layer 1), one of which may be tied on the basis of an imported sherd to the Late Chalcolithic levels (XIV-XII a) at Mersin. For the Middle Chalcolithic period (Layer 2 A) there is evidence for three minor phases of pottery development. There are however no buildings of this period. There is also new evidence of development with the Early Chalcolithic period (Layer 2 B) and the transition to the Middle Chalcolithic period (Layer 2 A). Finally Layer 3 is now represented by a large, well-preserved building.

Associated with all these layers there is a good collection of animal bone, obsidian, clay and stone, as well as carbonized grains and seeds. This is the kind of evidence on which the life and environment of the successive settlements at Can Hasan may be reconstructed.

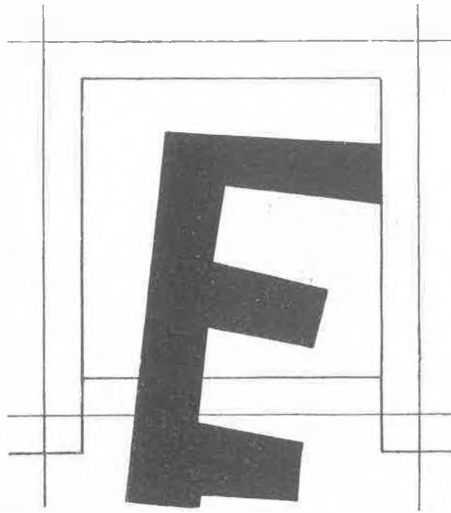


Fig. : 1

Figure 1 — Plan of House 7, Early Chalcolithic (Layer 2 B); Squares R 21 a, b, c, d.

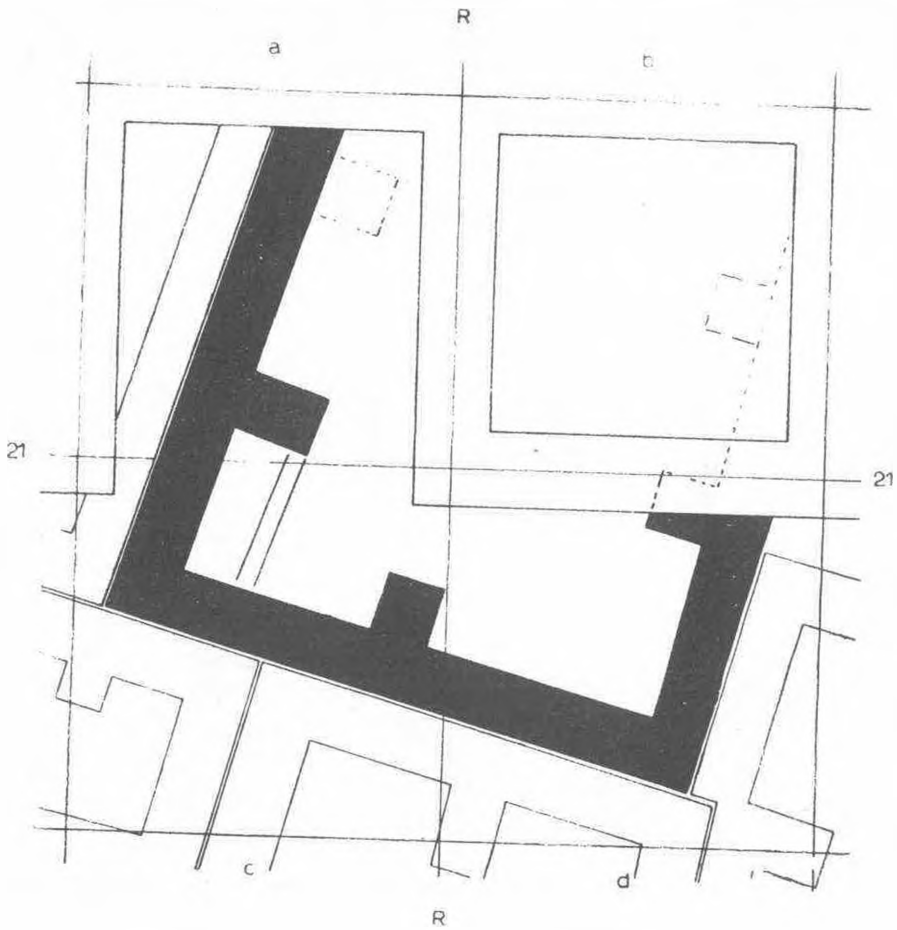


Figure 2 — Plan of Layer 3 House; Squares R 21 a and c.

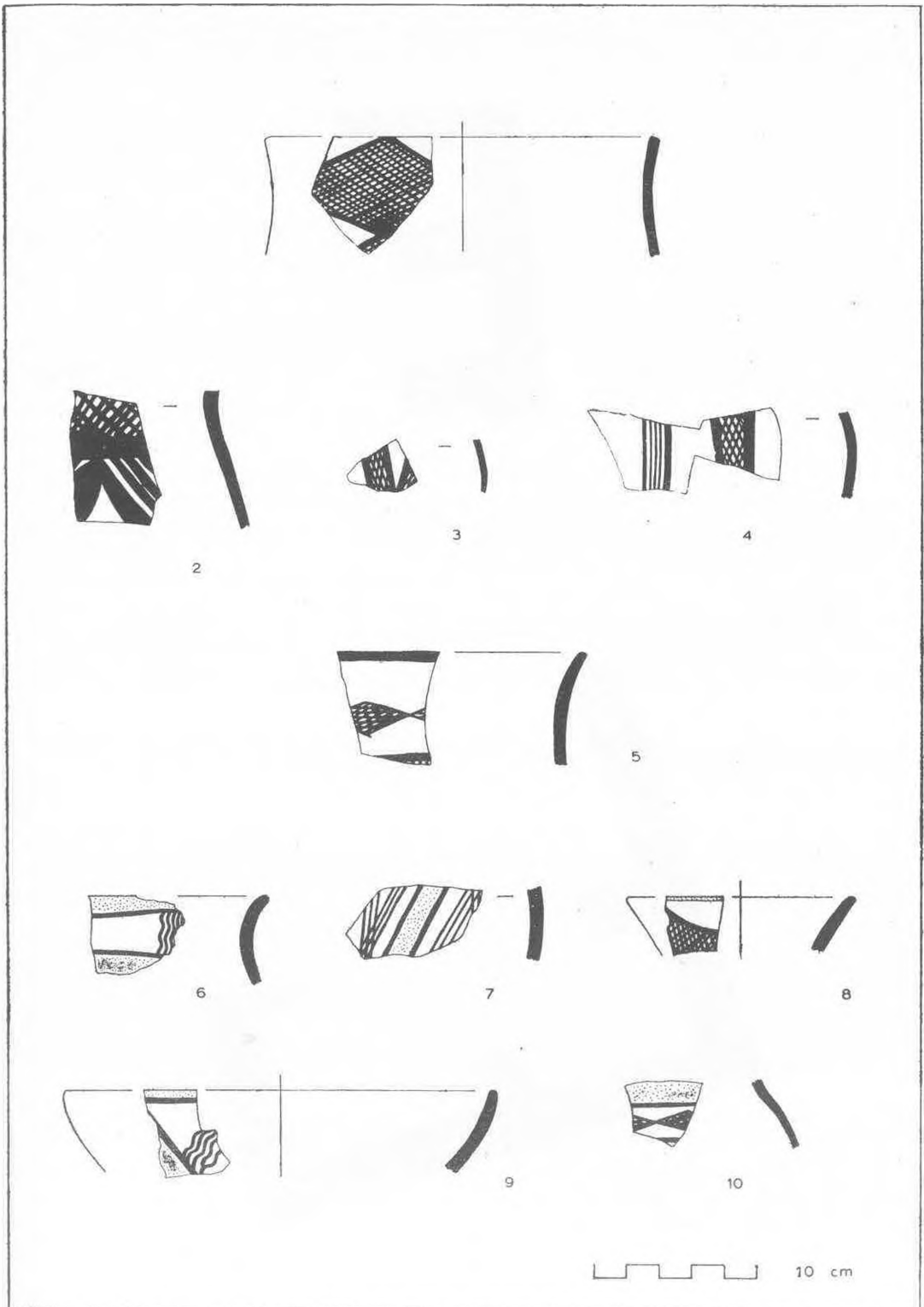


Figure 3 — Polychrome and Imported pottery from Square S 25 c.