

# PRELIMINARY REPORT ON TEST EXCAVATIONS AT BÜYÜK GÜLLÜCEK

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## **Introduction**

During our excavation at Hüyük near Alaca, conducted on behalf of the Turkish Historical Society, a man called Hüseyin from the village of Büyük Güllücek, province of Çorum, came to tell us that shepherds had dug into a hill called Kaletepe in search of treasures, and that some objects had been unearthed. Since the exploration of the environs of Hüyük is part of our program and immediate measures had to be taken, we rode to Büyük Güllücek at once and found there, to our surprise, not a tumulus but a *hüyük* (mound).

The potsherds found by the shepherds in the pit of 2×1.5 m they had opened, were of the same type as the chalcolithic ware that has been found also in the deepest layers of Alacahüyük, but only with great difficulties. At Güllücek there was the possibility of investigating the chalcolithic culture of Central Anatolia without great expense on the surface, a very attractive task indeed.

After having made the necessary arrangements for a temporary suspension of our work at Hüyük, we made a test excavation at Büyük Güllücek from November 1st to November 7th, 1947, with an average of 35 workmen.

## **Situation of Büyük Güllücek (Map 1):**

Büyük Güllücek is a village of about 60 houses and 350 inhabitants, belonging to the central district of the province of Çorum and situated about 15 km north of Alacahüyük in a wooded country. The inhabitants, although knowing Kurdish, speak Turkish well, too; they are Sunnites. They have settled here about 200 years ago. The distance from the village to Çorum is said to be 6, to Alaca 4 hours on foot. The neighbour-

ring villages are: Küçük Güllücek (NE, 30 houses), Balımsultan (SE, 20 houses), Kirenlik (W, 20 houses), and Ellicek (S, 50 houses).

The site of the dig is at a place called Kaletepe, about a 15 minutes' walk SW of the village, between the valleys of Kaledere and Ağceviran Deresi. The latter stream which flows past the village of Büyük Güllücek, further west unites with the Koparan Deresi and later on with the river Yılğın. The fortress of Koparan Kalesi, situated above two mills on the west side of Koparan Deresi and yielding traces of Phrygian and Classical habitation, deserves thorough investigation.

#### **Kaletepe :**

Kaletepe, where the test excavation was made, is a hill of limestone, rising about 50 m above its environs and covered with oak brushwood and some pines. It is easy to understand that it was, at a time, in a thick forest and fit for hunting as well as for defence. In the valley of Kaledere, near the mound, there is a spring.

The mound on top of Kaletepe measures about 50 m in diameter. West of it there is the mountain range of Bakacak, and another place opposite to it is called Kazamet. It was seen at once that the slope descending toward the Ağceviran valley had been inhabited in Phrygian and Classical times. On top of the mound itself there were remains of the Phrygian period, but no traces of continuous habitation in the time between the chalcolithic and the Phrygian periods. The Phrygian remains being much destroyed, the chalcolithic layers were met almost immediately.

The northern slope of the Ağceviran valley, too, was inhabited in Classical times, and it is even said that the village of Büyük Güllücek was built of the building stones found there.

#### **The test excavation at Kaletepe :**

The test excavation carried out at Kaletepe in 1947 covered an area of 400 m<sup>2</sup>. Although it was clear that the chalcolithic objects belonged to at least three building levels, it will become possible to make a final statement about these levels only after further investigation. It is hoped that the remaining part of the

mound contains less disturbed and more parallel layers and thus will yield the possibility of deciding whether there can be discerned older and younger chalcolithic layers and whether or not there are real neolithic remains in some part of the mound.

For the moment we may say that we see a homogenous chalcolithic culture with no distinct differences between the upper and lower levels. This culture is closely related to that of the deepest layers of Alacahüyük. Considering its high standard of technical achievement one may assume that it belongs to the last phase of the chalcolithic period. This period as a whole may be dated in the fourth millennium B. C.

**Architecture** (Plan 1):

When excavating an area of 400 m<sup>2</sup> on the top of Kaletepe and on its eastern part, we moved a layer of earth about 2.5 m thick, reaching at some spots a depth of 4-4.5 m measured from the highest point. Rows of stones indicating buildings are to be seen on several parts of the mound. Especially on the northern slope, at places well fit for defence, the ends of thick walls which might belong to fortifications are visible. These will be included in our plan later on.

**Architectural remains in the excavated area:**

As will be seen from the plan, the first traces of walls were encountered 30 cm below the surface. Some of them continue to a depth of 1 m. According to the cultural remains found between them, these walls belong to the Phrygian period. They resemble those excavated at Alacahüyük and Pazarlı. At the eastern and part of the southern side of the excavated area there are some wall remains of the same period. Owing to the small extension of the area, the wall remains are not sufficient to reconstruct an intelligible plan of the building they belonged to. The walls in the west point to a building with two rooms; those in the east and south may rather belong to simple enclosures. At the south end of the area there is another piece of wall, 2.5 m thick; probably this is part of the wall of the inner citadel. The foundations of the walls of this period are made of middle-sized

limestone blocks; the thickness of the house walls does not exceed 50 cm (Fig. 4 - 6).

Below the foundations of the Phrygian walls, a layer of sterile earth of nearly 1 m was observed in all parts of the excavation. The architectural remains of the chalcolithic period begin beneath this layer of earth. The buildings which belong to what we call the first chalcolithic level were found in a layer reaching from —2.00 to —3.00 m in depth. The buildings found in this level are houses consisting of two or three rooms, built of mud bricks on stone foundations which do not surpass 50 cm in width. The walls on the south side of our plan point to two neighbouring houses built closely together. Parts of the partition walls being destroyed by Phrygian walls, a complete plan of these buildings can no more be reconstructed (Fig. 9).

In the center of the excavated area, between the levels of —2.50 and —4.00 m, the foundations of a building consisting of two rooms side by side were found. They belong to a new building level which we call the second chalcolithic level. Here, the stone masonry of the foundations is simple, whereas more care is spent on the mud-brick walls on top of them. In these buildings, door sockets were found *in situ*, indicating the doors of the rooms (Fig. 7-11).

At some places where it was possible to dig deeper, a depth of 4.50 m was reached and one more building level was found. Hoping that further excavation will give the opportunity of clearing this third chalcolithic building level more thoroughly, we content ourselves with merely indicating it in the present plan.

**Finds** (Fig 12-47) :

The pottery found at Büyük Güllücek was collected with great care and the whole material brought to the local museum at Alacahüyük. Among this material there are some complete vessels and some which can be restored. Besides the pottery which will be described below in detail, the chalcolithic culture of Büyük Güllücek is characterized by utensils made of flint, obsidian and bone. During the whole of the work only two metal objects were found : they are axes made of 98.5 % copper (see

analysis, p. 484) (Fig. 36, Inv.-Nr. 18, 19). The following is a general statistic of the objects found:

- 14,585 pots and sherds
- 78 flint implements and fragments (Fig. 32-33)
- 201 obsidian implements and fragments (Fig. 34)
- 50 bone objects (Fig. 30-31)
- 2 copper axes (Fig. 36)
- 8 stone hammers and axes (Fig. 35)
- 2 used shells.

#### **Pottery:**

The pottery of Büyük Güllücek is hand-made (except the Phrygian ware). The clay is plant- and grit-tempered. Decorated pieces form 6 % of the whole. The chalcolithic objects found at Büyük Güllücek show the same characteristics as those from Alacahüyük and, thus, furnish complementary evidence which helps to understand the finds of Hüyük.

The forms of vessels show a sharp break in the profile of the body and tapering rims. As handles one finds: simple knobs; handles formed by pressing the clay with two fingers, without hole; protrusions which seem to be put on to the side of the vessel, ending either in a knob or in an animal's head. Bottoms are either round or slightly elevated toward the center in the shape of an omphalos. Cups with high rims are attested as well. Spouts consist of a lip-shaped protrusion in the break of the body of the vessel. Very simple cups, goblets with a stand, and a clay spoon (Inv.-Nr. 8, Fig. 16-18) have been found, too. A considerable part of the pottery is burnished and provided with a thin slip. On some vessels there are incisions filled out with white paste. In some cases this white material was used as paint, forming geometrical ornaments.

The thick ware is not well baked. But from the carefully manufactured small vessels it becomes clear that the people of that period had reached a high standard in the art of sifting the clay as well as of baking their pottery.

Generally speaking one may say that the chalcolithic culture influenced that of the next period; yet it is possible at first sight to distinguish its own characteristic features.

**Classification of the chalcolithic pottery :**

We distinguish the following types of chalcolithic pottery at Büyük Güllücek :

1. Inside and outside black, mostly burnished.
2. Inside and outside red, some burnished.
3. Inside black burnished, outside red burnished.
4. Inside red burnished, outside black, some burnished.
5. Inside and outside gray, often coarse, some burnished.
6. Incised ornaments ( lines and dots ) on ware of different colours.
7. Inside and outside black, decorated with gray paint. One part of this type has incised lines and dots as well.

The table on the next page indicates the number of sherds of these types found in different levels, together with their percentage according to the total material. The highest percentage is held by the fifth group, next comes the second group.

Since we plan to publish a detailed report after completion of the excavations we abstain from giving a full inventory here. The drawings and photographs published here may suffice to give an idea of the culture of that period. Parallels to the Chalcolithic of Büyük Güllücek are found not only at Alacahüyük but at other places as well. We hope to return on the question of how far this culture spread and of its comparison with other civilizations. Here we add only some pictures of chalcolithic finds from Alacahüyük for comparison (Fig. 37-42).

Extract from Report on Analysis of Two Axes, given by the Laboratory of the Ministry of National Defence, Ankara :

Big ax : 98,7 % copper

Small ax : 98,5 % copper.

This is the material called „pure copper“ in the commercial meaning of the term to-day, *i. e.* copper cleaned by way of smelting only.

Depth in m.	Inside and outs. black	Inside and outs. red	Inside black outside red	Inside red outs. black	Gray	Incised	Painted	Total	Aminal bones left over from meals
0.0-0.2	434	1 115	187	376	2 076	198	4	4 394	53
0.0-0.4	173	572	88	129	664	76	0	1 702	4
0.4-0.6	270	632	101	166	1 044	115	0	2 328	51
0.6-0.8	159	638	125	227	1 198	117	0	2 464	41
0.8-1.0	110	130	21	80	404	67	1	1 413	3
1.0-1.2	190	221	41	126	276	123	0	977	23
1.2-1.4	167	209	51	187	653	41	0	1 307	14
%	12	25	4	9	44	6	0.03	Total: 14 585	

