THE RESULTS OF THE EXCAVATIONS MADE ON BEHALF OF THE TURKISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY AT ALACA HÖYÜK IN THE SUMMER OF 1936

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The results of the excavations made on behalf of the Turkish Historical Society will be published in book form. We shall be satisfied here by giving a summary of the results at hand.

The aimsof the expedition and the area to be excavated this year were more or less determined in advance. First of all it was necessary to clarify definitely the layers uncovered last year, to separate plainly the different architectural levels and as far as possible to obtain new evidence concerning the important material culture of the Copper Age.

It was also desirable this year to establish the cultural sequence of the Alaca Höyük by penetrating to virgin soil. Obviously this could be investigated most conveniently in the area of last year's excavation.

As the expropriation of the houses East and West of the excavated area was not yet completed and as a large amount of rain-water had gathered in the North, where the main drainage of the village passes, there remained only in the South a free area where the work could be carried on. In order to study methodically the cultural contents of the layers, all pieces of pottery within the depth of 20 centimetres were collected separately and their profiles were carefully studied.

Furthermore, in a control excavation made within an area of 2.50-3.00 metres to the East of the main excavated area the subdivisions of the architectural layers were clarified. Here also explanation was sought and found regarding the attribution of the tombs found last year to definite architectural levels.

The deep excavation in the Southern area was continued under great technical difficulties. A constant struggle had to be carried on against the ground water rushing in from the depth of 5.90-10.00 metres on. In spite of this, here also we were able to determine clearly layers of various habitations and, reached the virgin soil at a depth of 13.81 metres.

The stratigraphic outline, based on the evidence given here in the form of photographs and plans showing the different stages of the excavation, and the area (which intentionally was not excavated in order to facilitate subsequent control work) may be drawn as follows:

Depth	Cultural period	Architectural layers		Approximate date
I. 45-200	I	Osmanli Seldjuk Byzantine Roman Hellenistic Phrygian Post-Hittite	1	11 th century B. C. to present day.
3.25	II	Hittite Great Empire (Boğazköy)	2	1600 - 1200 B. C.
3.50			3/a	
4.60			3/b	
5.80		Old Hittite State	4	2000 - 1700 B. C.
6.50	III	Copper Age (tomb B. M., R. M. - à)	5	Approximately the first half of the 3rd millenium B. C.
7.40		(tomb M. a, M. c.)	6	and perhaps the later part of the 4th millennium B. C.
9.06			7	
9.57			8	

		Chalcolithic.
10.7		9
10.76		10
11.40	IV	11
12.05		12
12.80		13
13.78		14
13.81		15

VIRGIN SOİL

With this table in mind let us take a look into the cultural periods:

Chalcolithic Age:

We were able to determine the inhabited layers (9-14) of the oldest cultural period here (IV) — the Chalcolithic Age. The material discovered in these layers - inspite of their poor quality are the same as the Alishar Chacolithic. The pottery made here and the burial methods are similar to those of Alishar. The bodies are deposed in a stone box in a flexed position. The skull of one of the preserved skeletons found will be measured. However, this is a child's skeleton.

Towards the latter part of the Chalcolithic period, we found the prototypes of two kinds of pottery ware of the Copper Age. One with red slip inside and outside, and the other with a black slip inside and a red slip outside. This cultural period may be assigned to the 4th millennium B. C.

The Copper Age:

The 3rd cultural period of the Alaca Höyük is called Copper Age, which we know also from Alishar and Ahlatlibel, and it consists of four architectural layers here occupying a thickness of four metres. It is the most important cultural layer of Alaca Höyük. The "royal" tombs found during the last two years, located at a depth of 6.25; 6.75; 7.80 and 8.50 metres, belong to this period.

The following pottery types may be differentiated in the Copper Age deposits of Alaca Höyük:

1 — Inside and outside red-slipped and burnished, like the Alishar I ware (Copper Age)

2 — Black slipped, burnished and very often grooved like the Ahlatlibel and Yortan type.

3 — Outside red slip and inside black slip, like the Ahlatlibel type.

4 — Hand made grey pottery similar to the later wheel-made ware of the Hittite Period.

5 — Incised pottery with deep traces made either with finger nails or with an instrument.

The prototypes of Nos. 1 and 3 are found scattered in the latter part of the Chalcolithic period. The fragments of the pottery ware No. 2 are so rare that they may have been imported. The grey ware No. 4 is proper to the district. The notched pottery No. 5 is unknown to Troy, Kumtepe, Ahlatlibel and Alishar (only three pieces of this type were found at Alishar). As pots are among the principal things used in daily life, they cannot be looked upon as imported. This ware is either autochthonous or made by the ruling element of this autochthonous people. The notched pottery exists in abundance in Southern Russia and in the Urals. The immigrants coming from the East brought this pottery to Central Europe. With this point in view, it must be accepted that the Copper Age of Alaca Höyük has been strongly influenced by the culture of the North-East. This is confirmed in the relation between the golden and silver objects, and the plastic objects with the Koban culture. On the other hand, for instance, the motive of the diadem found in tomb M. a at Alaca Höyük and the well known double edged dagger of Ur found in the "royal" cemetery, the ornamental articles at Mari and other objects found at Gümüştepe, south of the Caspian Sea are related and bear strong resemblance to the objects mentioned above. The seals of the Jemdetnasr type found at Alishar and the presence of the Alishar I. pottery here compels us to place the beginning of this cultural period either early in the 3rd. millennium B. C. or even earlier.

The first architectoral layer (fifth layer from above) of the Copper Age was destroyed by an extensive fire, as were also the walls of the architectural layere No. 3, (seventh from above). The tombs found this year at a depth of 8.00 - 8.50 metres are of the same layer.

The Hittite Period:

The finds at Boğazköy and Alishar have made this cultural phase extensively known. The foundations of a large building were found in the architectural level of the older Hittite Period, (fourth from above). The small objects found here help to show the high culture of this period. The buildings found may be parts of a palace or temple belonging to the first part of the period of the old Hittite State.

The relatively poor layers 3 (a.) and 3 (b.) are supposed to belong to the period when the ancient Hittite State was disappearing and the New Hittite Empire was under organization. The cultural period of the last Hittite architectural layer (second from above) corresponds, definitely, with the Empire period. A huge and well preserved temple or palace was uncovered in the Eastern side of the excavation. The larger part of this huge construction bears some kind of relation to the never completed Sphinx gate. It is probable that this monumental construction is the last work of this cultural phase. Later on this civilization was destroyed by the great Aegean migration. According to our present knowledge, after this date, Alaca Höyök was not settled any more on a large scale. However, it must be remembered here that only a very small part of the Höyük has so far been excavated. For instance, if a citadel exists at a place 15 metres higher than the level of the Sphinx gate, it may be assumed then that a fortification of the Phrygian period may also have existed there. With the Phrygian inscriptions previously found here it has been proved that a city of the Phrygian period had existed here. Furthermore, the Phrygian citadel at Kalehisar is not very far from this site.

It must be added also that some of the pot-sherds found this year in the topmost layer (burned layer) of the Copper Age deposit resemble the painted and hand-made pottery known from Kültepe and Alishar. It may be possible that future excavations in the citadel will bring more material to light of the Early Bronze Age as found at Alishar between the Copper Age deposit and the Hittite period.

What has the excavation of Alaca Höyük contributed to our historical knowledge? The results may be summarized as follows:

1 — With this year's excavation, a third city in Anatolia is added to Troy and Alishar, which makes it possible to study the sequence of cultural layers from prehistoric to historic times.

The various cultural layers at Alaca Höyük are clearly separated from each other. Therefore, in later excavations Alaca Höyük will bave to be considered as a reliable site which will help future studies as a firmly established basis.

2. As a result of the Alaca Höyük excavations very interesting material, which will throw light on the cultural developments of the first half of 3rd millenium B. C. (perhaps of the latter part of 4th millenium B. C.), was found in the buildings levels of the Copper Age. Through the material found in the second city of Troy we know about the existence of a high civilization on the Western coast of Anatolia, going back to the beginning of the 3 rd mill. B. C. Judging from the material found there this city has been more of a commercial centre. The Ahlatlibel excavation, has proved that both cultures, the Copper Age of Alishar and the second city of Troy, are contemporary. Alaca höyük, both as a political centre and as regards its material remains, is of the same high standing as its contemporary cultures of Mesopotamia aud Egypt. The remains, in fact, eclipse the treasures of the second city of Troy.

3 — The pottery fragments in the shape of human faces and the rim pieces with knobs perforated with stringholes which are found in the lower levels at Troy, are also found in the Copper Age deposits of Alaca Höyük. This shows clearly that the culture of Troy II is not entirely independent of the contemporary Central Anatolian Culture.

4 — The so-called Nordic long - sword (Griffzungenschwert) the origin of which is traced to Northern countries shows the attachment of the handle formed by the tongue - shaped thinning of blade. The finding of this kind of sword in the tomb M (a.) belonging to the Copper Age deposit of Alaca höyük requires a revision of this statement.

5 — In this season's excavation, worked iron was found among mortuary gifts in the tombs at 8.00 - 8.50 metres deep, (end of 4 th or beginning of 3 rd millennium B. C.). In view of the condition of the finds it is impossible to suppose that they were intrusive or to suppose that these tombs belong to any other period than the Copper Age Period. The historical importance of these discoveries may be summarized as follows: —

We know that the Assyrian merchant colonies at Kültepe brought with them, about 2000 B. C. (the date of the final fall, was 1950 B. C.), tin and clothing and exchanged it for copper. The value of copper in relation to silver varies between $\frac{1}{4\,6} - \frac{1}{1\,8\,0}$. In the

inscriptions of Assyrian tablets from Kültepe, the existence of a metal (14 times more valuable than silver and five times more valuable than gold) used for ornamental purposes is mentioned. Several scientists suppose that this unknown and valuable metal was iron (See, Götze K. A. Page 75). Some of the Western historians consider, to this day, North-East Anatolia and the Southern Caucasus as the mother countries of iron-working. We accept the fact that the iron and copper in Anatolia have given great impetus to the development of metal-work. Yet we are convinced that it originated in central Asia.

Undoubtedly the iron found at Alaca Höyük is approximately one thousand years older than the iron which is mentioned in Assyrian sources to be five times more valuable than gold There is no doubt that this is among the oldest wrought iron to have been discovered thus far. The small amount of iron among the several kilogrammes of gold objects help to give a clear idea about its value. The most ancient wrought iron was found by G. A. Wainright in 1911 in two predynastic tombs in Gerzak, Egypt. The "finds" here consist of five iron beads which belong to the middle of the predynastiç age. (about 3200 B. C.).

Woolley found at Ur pieces of what seems to be an iron dagger, now dated at 3,100. B. C. It is supposed that this dagger is made of meteoric iron, for, like meteorie iron, it contains a certain proportion of nickel, Further, meteoric iron can be worked while cold, as this dagger must have been. The iron pieces found in a tomb at Cnossos in 1927 belong to the middle Minoan period of 2000 B. C. These pieces also are supposed to be of meteoric iron. The flat piece of iron found at the Cheops Pyramid in Egypt (about 2900 B. C.) and the iron meteor found at Abidos, Syria, during the VI dynasty (about 2,900 B. C.) and wrapped up in a cloth like a valuable object, is supposed to be of terrestrial rather than a sidereal iron.

(See : A. Person: Eisen und Eisen Bereitung in Altester Zeit 1934 Lund E. Kirsten: Criticism in Gnomon, January 1935).

The ironwork found by H. Frankfort at Telasmar belongs to the 3rd millenium. B. C. and is of wrought iron according to this authority. (Irak Excavations of the Oriental Institute, 1932/1933, H. Frankfort).

Although the iron objects found at Alaca höyük are not of meteoric iron, they cannot be later than 3,000. B. C.

Therefore, these iron objects may be looked upon as some of the most ancient ones of wrought iron.

6 — The Copper Age culture of Alaca Höyük is definitely related with the Koban culture and the Preskytic culture of Southern Russia. The metal culture in Anatolia was developed by immigrants coming from the North-east. The animal figures together with the conventionalized sun disks at Alaca Höyük represent cult objects which are symbolic expressions of zoomorphic thought. Each of the figures of the deers and bulls used as banner heads is a totem or, in other words, is an ancestor in the form of a miraculous animal showing the theriomorphic "Weltanschauung". According to authorities on Eurasian questions we find the vestiges of this culture in the so - called horse - back riding immigrants (Reitervölker). And, according to the evidence on hand, the mother country of this primary culture is certainly Central Asia. Later on this culture spread from China to Scandinavia and was an imporlant step in the development of human culture. According to Alföldi, Menghin, and particularly Cooper, the peoples from the Altais perhaps to some extent from the Ural-Altais are the chief representatives of this culture. (Coopers, Die Indogermanenfrage in Anthropos 1935). These facts have a direct bearing on the Turkish history.

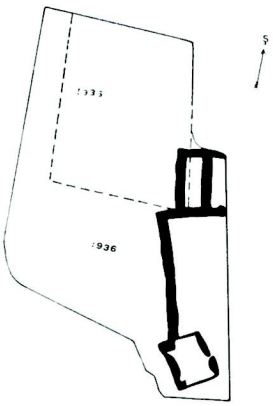
As is well known, although the ruler of the Western Turks was believed to descend from a wolf, they also had sacred deers. This deer was at the same time the *mater genetrix* of the tribe. According to the legend of the origin of the Huns this miraculous deer led the heroes who were the founders of their country. Even today this legend still exists in Antolia. [In the epic of Kaygusuz Aptal and Aptal Musa Sultan, Kaygusuz goes hunting. He sees a deer and thereupon shoots at it with his bow and arrow; but the deer escapes. He follows the deer and finally arrives at the place of worship of Aptal Musa at Elmali (Teke Köy). Then he enters into the holy place and asks about the deer. Whereupon Kaygusuz, called Gaybi at the time, is well received by Aptal Musa Sultan who takes from under his cloak the arrow and presents it to Kaygusuz. This was the arrow with which Kaygusuz had tried to shoot the deer.

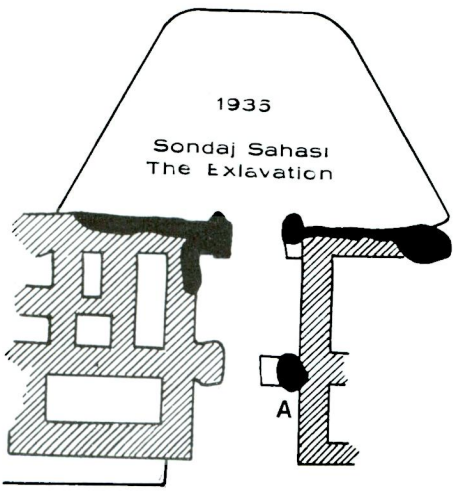
We find the following verses in a poem collected by Mr. Naci Kumun : —

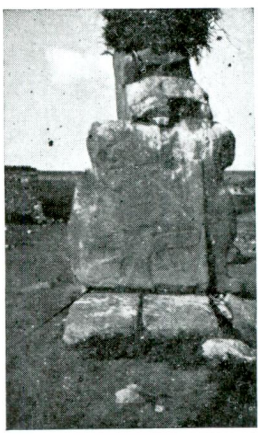
Sana derim sana geyik erenler,
Bize sevda sana dalga verenler,
Diyorum Mevlâdan onmaz vuranlar
Kaçma geyik kaçma avcı değilim.]

We call the culture of Central Asia mentioned here the Turkish culture. The peoples of the Turkish race known by their historical names as Hungunus, Siyempis, Juvan - juvans, Topas, Gôk Turks, Uygurs. Balamirs and Attila - Huns, Avars, Protobulgars, Ciuntry (home) building Macas, Pechenegs, Kuns, Karahanis, Kalçes, Seldjuks, Tolonis, Turkis - Mamelouks, Altınordu havs, Havarizshahs, Akkoyuns, Karakoyuns, Karamans, Timoris, the dynasty of the Indian Turkish Empire and Ottomans have been historical factors of the first importance. On the shores of the Pacific, on the shores of the Mediterranean and even on the shores of the Atlantic, they have shown great ability in state organization. They undertook the defence of the ideas of great religions like Buddhism, Manichaeism, and finally Islam. They carried artistic conceptions from East to West and from West to East, and, above all, they created worthy civilizations.

The Turkish race is active now as it has been in prehistoric periods. It would be foolish to suppose that the Turks who, a few centuries ago, established a great empire extending from the Pacific Ocean to the Caspian Sea, appeared suddenly in history. With the light shed from the documents found at Alaca and other excavations, our organizing ancestors are emerging out of the darkness of the past from where they went forth from Asia all over the world. We are certain that future studies will reveal the truth in a still better light.





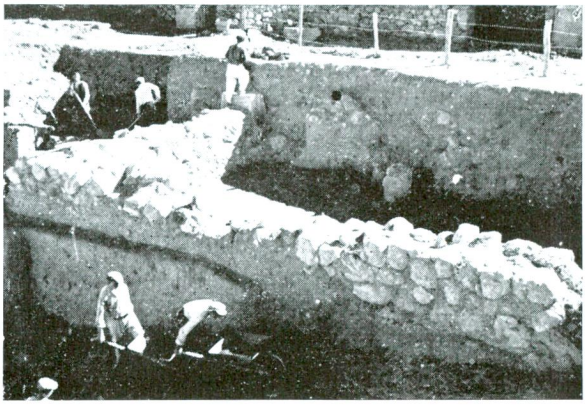


A

Sfenksli Kapı ve Saray
1936 The Sphinx gate and part of a palace

2.30 m. de görünen Eti Sarayı şimal ve garp duvarları

The North and West walls of a Hittite Palace at the depth of 2.30 m.



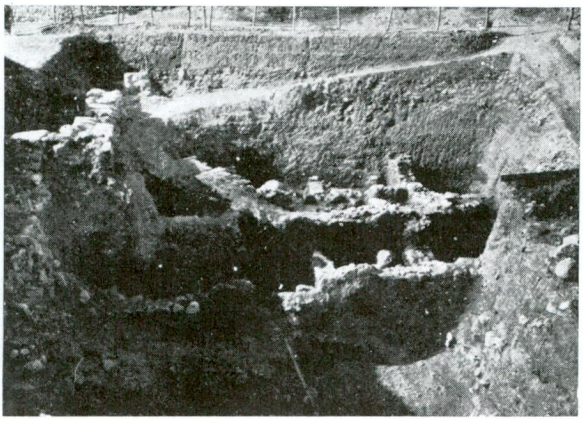
Eti sarayının şimalden görünüşü

View of the Hittite palace seen from the north

Saray cenup garp köşesi

The South - west Corner of the Palace

3/a Mimarî tabakasında
Fırın (Eti)
Oven in level 3/a (Hittite)

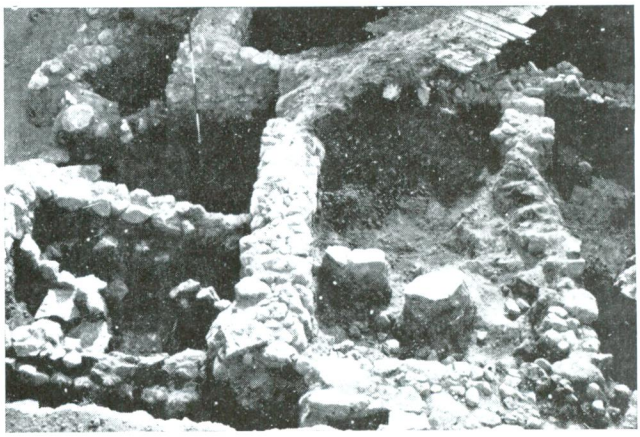


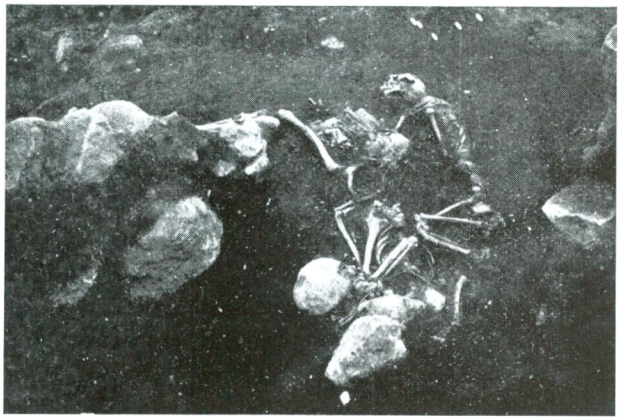
Üstte Eski Eti ve altında
Bakır çağları temelleri
Above-the foundation of
the ancient Hittite and
below the foundations
of the Copper Age.

Eti eserlerinden
Al. a 73
Hittite object

Eti eserlerinden
Al. a. 90
Hittite object

4 ve 5 inci mimarî
katları
The 4th and 5th
architectural layers



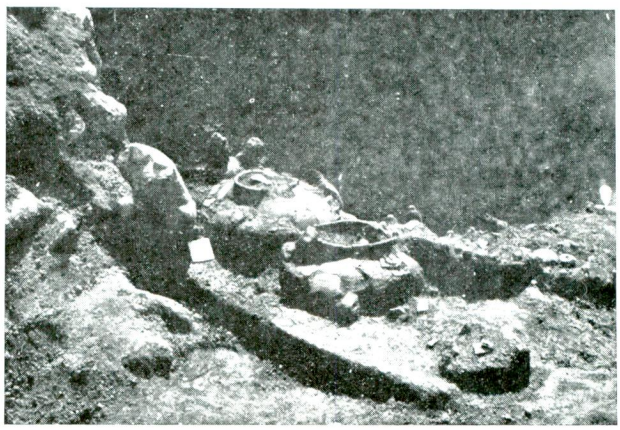


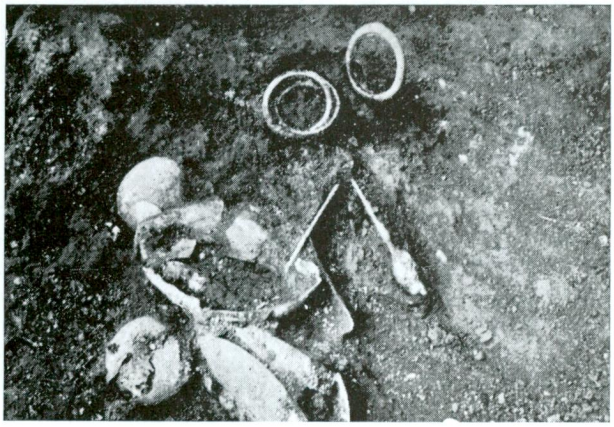
5 inci mimarî kat
duvar altında çıkan
üç insan iskeleti
Three buman skeletons
below the wall of
the 5th architectural
layer

M. A. mezarı. İskelet kısmen görünüyor
The M. A. Tomb. Skeleton partly visible

M. A′. mezarı genel görünüş
General view of M. A′. Tomb.

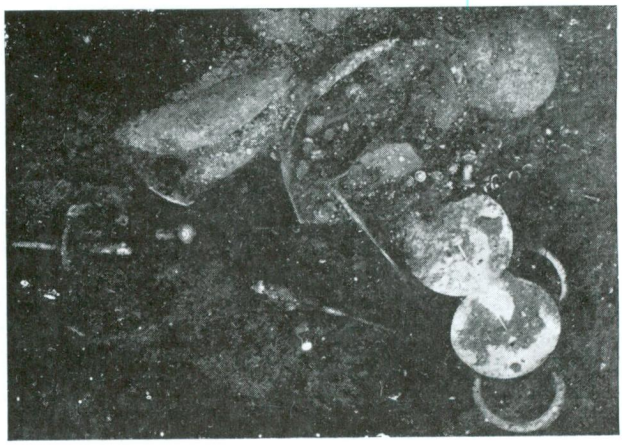
M. C. mezarı
The M. C. Tomb.





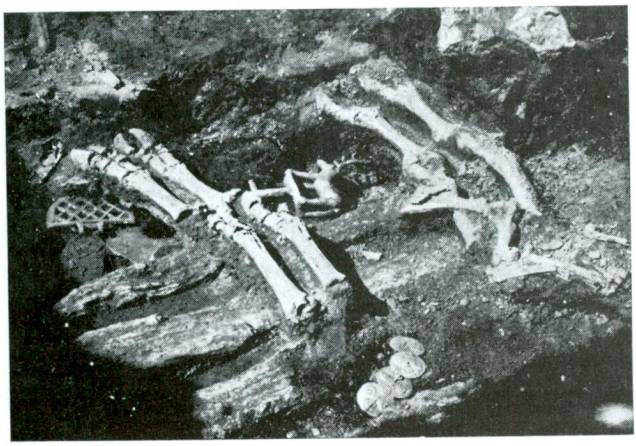
M. A′. mezarında bulunan altın bilezikler ve gümüş taslar

Gold bracelets and silver bowls found in the M. A′. Tomb.



M. A′. mezarında bulunan altın toka ve süs taneleri

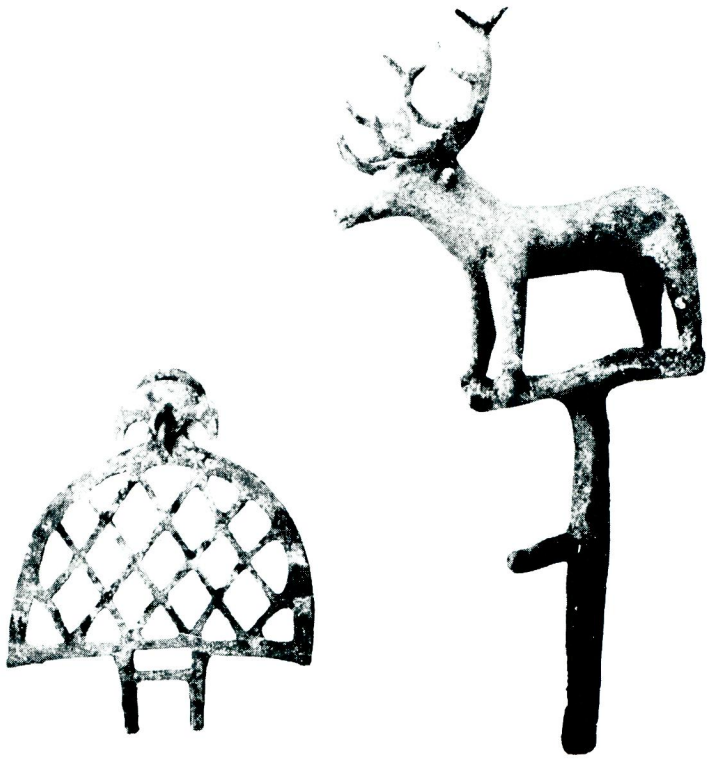
The golden objects found in the M. A′. Tomb.



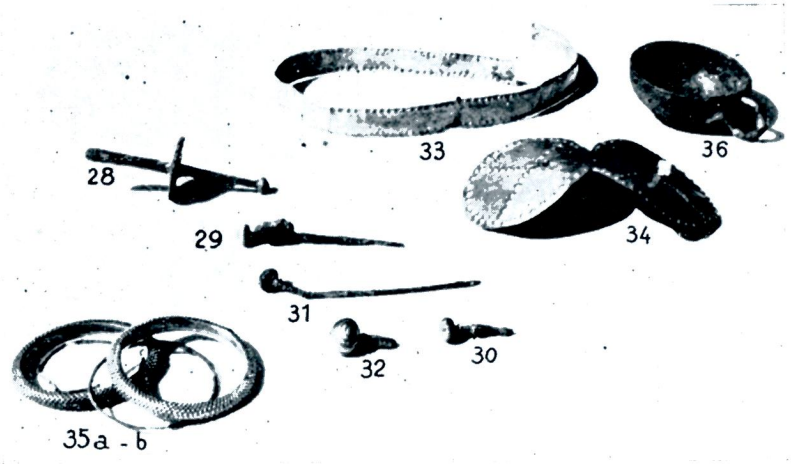
M. A. mezarında bulunan eşyadan bazıları

Some of the objects found in the M. A. Tomb.

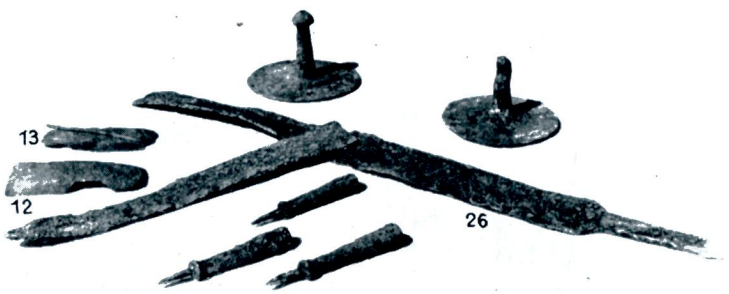
M. A. da çıkan altın eserlerden
Golden objects found at M. A.



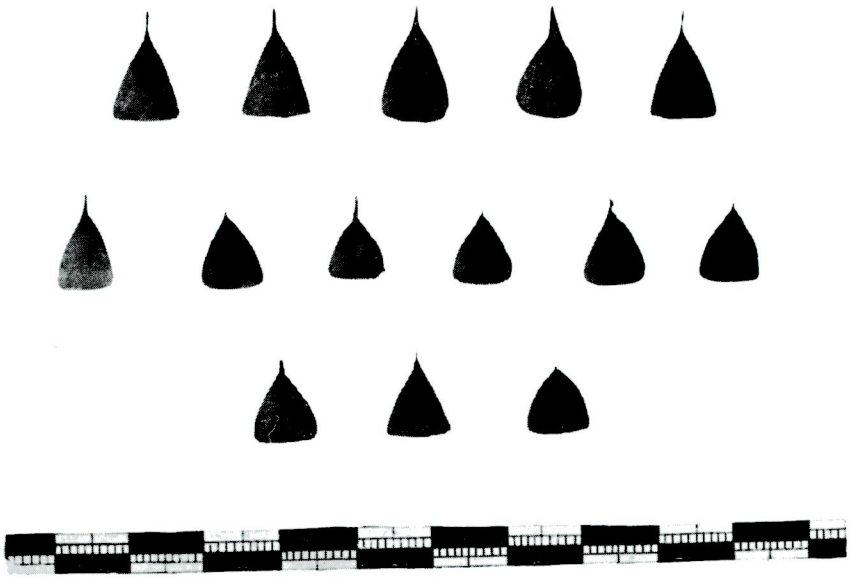
M. A. da çıkan bronz geyik figürini ve güneş kurslarından biri
The bronze figure of a deer and of the sun disk found in M. A.



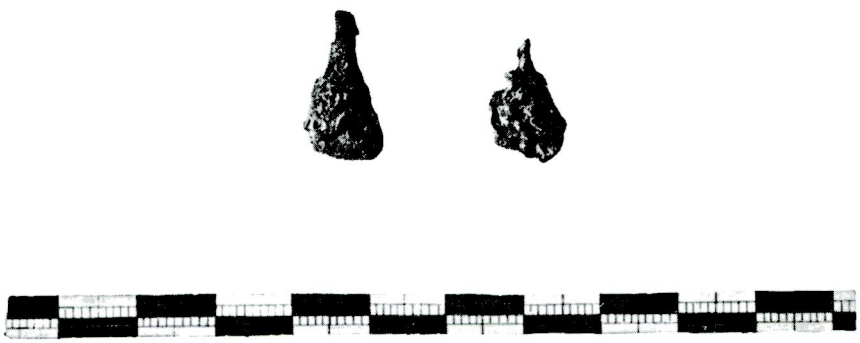
M. A'. de çıkan altın ve gümüş eserlerden bîr kısmı
Some of the golden and silver objects found in M. A'.



M. A'. mezarındo bulunan bronz eserlerden bazıları
Some of the bronze object found in the M. A'. Tomb.

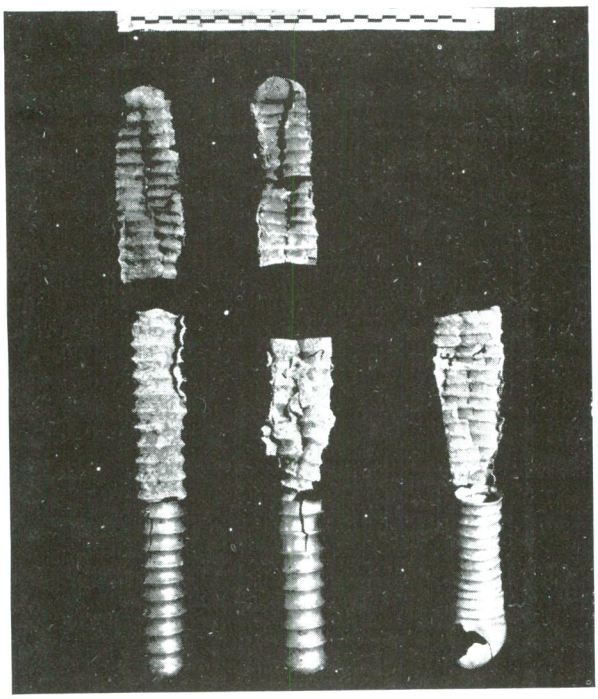


M. a′ mezarında bulunan altın tezyinat daneleri
The golden ornaments found in the Tomb M. A.

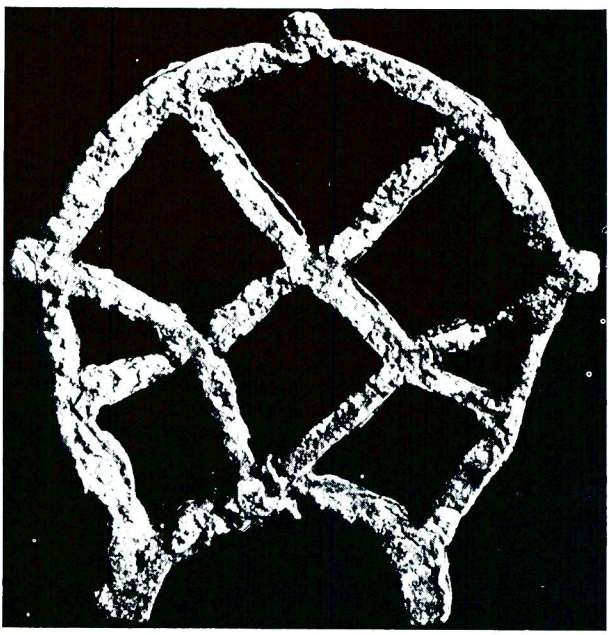


Ayni danelerden ikisi demirdir.
Two iron objects

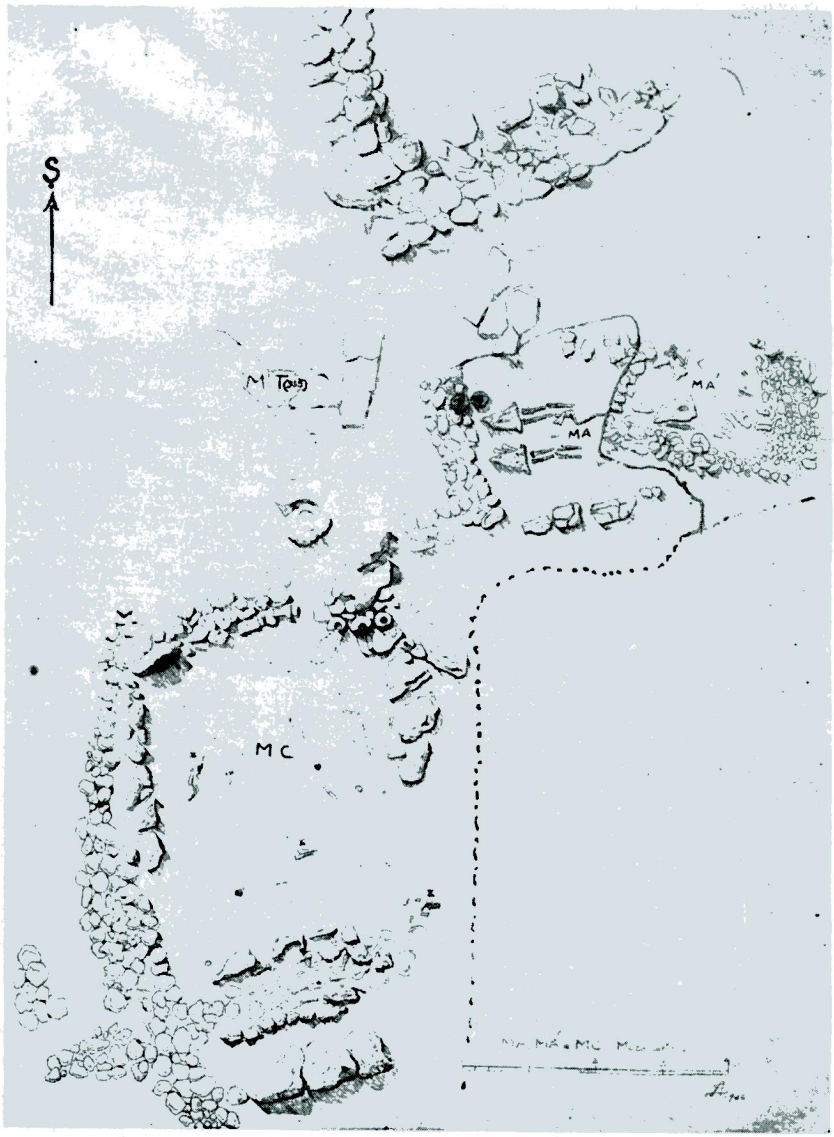
M. C. mezarında çıka figürin Al. 1.
A figure found in the M. C. Tomb.



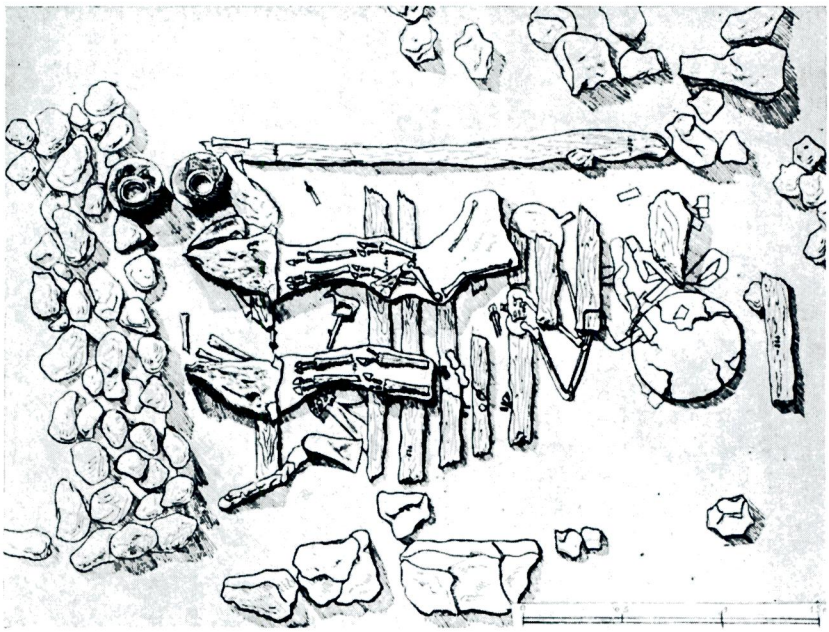
M. C. mezarından çıkan
altın ve gümüş parçalar
Gold and silver pieces
found in the M. C. Tomb



M. C. de çıkan Bronz
(Alem başı)
The Bronze banner head
found in M. C.



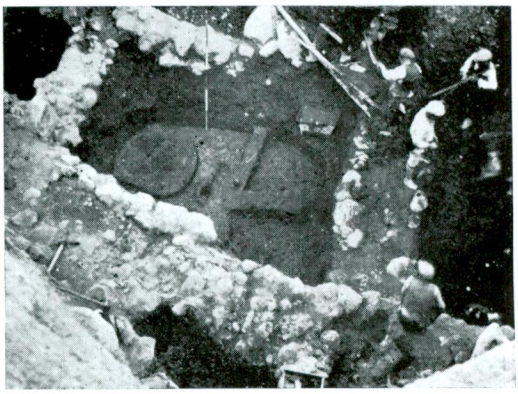
Mezarların genel planı
Genaral plan af the Tombs

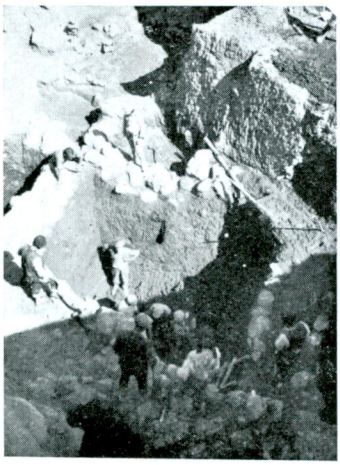


A. mezarı
Tomb M. A.

Bakır çağı ilk mimarî katı. kat : VIII. derinlik : 9.57 m.
The first architectural layer of the Copper Age. level : VIII. depth : 9.57 m.

Kalkolitik çağ kerpiç duvar.
Kat IX, devrimlik 10,7 m.
Chalcolithic Period. Mud wall.
level IX. depth 10.7 m.





Kalkolitik çağ, XII inci mimarî kat derinlik 12.05m.
The XII architectural level. Chalcolithic
depth : 12,05 m.

12.05 m. de çamurlar arasında Kalkolitik çağ mezarı
Chalolithic Tomb.
at 12.05 metres
depth.