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TÜBA Yayın Danışmanı: Serpil Demirtaş Teknik Yönetmen: Bülent Yüksel
BASKI: Stil Matbaa - Seyrantepe/İstanbul Tel: 0212 281 92 81

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Edebiyat Fakültesi İstanbul Üniversitesi, 34459 Beyazıt, İstanbul, TÜRKİYE
Tel: 0 212-519 45 92 Faks: 0 212-519 45 92

ISSN 1301-8566

Fiyatı: 25.000.000 TL. Kurumlar: 40.000.000 TL. Yurtdışı: 40 \$
Banka Hesap No: Türkiye İş Bankası Başkent Şubesi 4299 304210 452824

TÜBA (TÜRKİYE BİLİMLER AKADEMİSİ)

Atatürk Bulvarı No.: 221, 06100 Kavaklıdere Ankara, TÜRKİYE
Tel.: 0 312-426 03 94 Faks: 0 312-467 32 13
e-posta: tuba-ar@tubitak.gov.tr Internet: www.tuba.gov.tr

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Turkish Academy of Sciences Journal of Archaeology

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TUBA Publishing Editor: Serpil Demirtaş Technical Manager: Bülent Yüksel
PRINTED BY: Stil Matbaa - Seyrantepe/Istanbul Tel: 0212 281 92 81

CORRESPONDENCE ADRESS

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Phone: +90.212-519 45 92 Fax: +90.212-519 45 92

ISSN 1301-8566

Price: 25.000.000 TL. Institutions: 40.000.000 TL. Foreign Countries: 40 \$
Bank Account Nr: Türkiye İş Bankası Başkent Şubesi 4299 304210 452824

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TO LINBOB

*Halet ÇAMBEL

Over 40 years of work together, of close friendship with Bob and Linda Braidwood -with LINBOB- it feels like the close of an era.

The basic idea in their research was to test in the field the great, ingenious Gordon Childe's idea of the "Neolithic Revolution", the steps from a non-productive to a productive economy, in other words, from a nomadic hunting and gathering way of life to a sedentary village life with agriculture and the domestication of animals.

They realized this on various sites in the Near East, like Iran, Iraq, and Turkey of which Jarmo and Çayönü are probably the best known. Their basic problem has now grown into a wide field of research in its own right, with numerous projects by groups of scholars that have led to a broadening, a deepening, and a ramification of our knowledge on the processes of change in the human career.

Of the various projects the Braidwoods were pioneering, the most consequential one was probably the Istanbul-Chicago Universities Joint Prehistoric Research Project in Southeastern Anatolia from 1963 onward.

Today I shall speak to you for Istanbul University and my colleagues there on the history of the Project which may be less known here, its scope, its implementation, the

Braidwood's impact on prehistoric studies in Turkey, and on the training of a young new generation of scholars.

I first met Bob and Linda Braidwood in 1950, on the occasion of the International Prehistoric and Protohistoric Congress in Zurich, where they sought me out having earlier met my parents in Ankara.

When after the War, Bob Braidwood tried to move his Prehistory Project to southeastern Turkey, he first applied for support through Bruce Howe to a Turkish colleague, a former classmate of Bruce's in the States, and later again to another Turkish colleague. In both cases the outcome was negative –they were not in a favor of the project.

Upon Prof. Ufuk Esin's suggestion, while she was a Fulbright Research Scholar in Chicago, to apply directly to me, the Braidwoods on their way back from the Prehistoric Congress in Rome in September 1962 came to see us, my husband Nail and me, in Saarbrücken, Germany, where I happened to be a visiting guest professor and lecturer.

Their proposition of working in southeastern Turkey, which was since some time a military zone and therefore inaccessible to non-Turks, seemed most unrealistic to me. Nail, however,

insisted that the project was so important that it should and could be carried out—that despite my known shyness, I had to approach İsmet İnönü, the Prime Minister of Turkey personally, since İnönü was a friend of my father and fond of me.

That is what we did. Back in Turkey, I was received by İnönü in the Prime Ministry. He listened attentively, standing at a large military map on the wall, took great interest in the project, and then asked me to convoke my colleagues and make the necessary preparations.

We worked out a map with the area where we wanted to work and handed it in with the details of the project during a second interview with Prime Minister İnönü where Bob was also received. After we left, İnönü convoked the Chief of Staff of the Turkish Army.

I was giving a lecture on the same subject at the Turkish Historical Society in Ankara, a creation of Atatürk. Nail was sitting in the back of the hall and noticed two senior staff officers sitting in front of him. They were listening attentively and following my explanations on a map which they were holding. Nail recognized the map as the one we had handed in.

Due to İnönü's unrelenting interest and support, the permit was granted.

The Istanbul-Chicago Universities Joint Prehistoric Research Project in Southeastern Anatolia was established by protocol in 1962 as a joint effort of the Prehistory Section of Istanbul University and the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago.

We organized a seminar for our students to introduce them to the problems of the Project (1962-1963). The survey in the vilayets of Siirt, Diyarbakır and Urfa was implemented in the fall of 1963 (late October through December), after which the yields were studied in the Prehistory Lab of our Section, while Linda was also a Fulbright Fellow (1963-1964) and Bob simulta-

neously taught a course as a visiting professor at the University.

Excavations at Çayönü in Ergani and Bruce Howe's Bozova sites in Urfa began in spring 1964. To be followed by Grikhaciyan under Patty Jo Watson in 1968 and 1970.

Thanks to generous grants from the National Science Foundation, natural scientists, that is zooarchaeologists, archeobotanists, geologists and geographers, were regularly and systematically associated in our field work.

Finds of great importance were recorded. In architecture, planned building, public buildings like the ones with a flagstone floor, a terrazzo pavement, a plaza with standing stele, and the skull building. There was also the earliest worked natural copper, the first example of woven cloth, and a human blood shown by DNA tests by Andrée Wood. The importance of the architecture won us the collaboration of Professor Wulf Schirmer and his team from Karlsruhe University in Germany.

Field work at Çayönü continued with interruptions until the late eighties, when it was decided to concentrate on publishing, and Mehmet Özdoğan took over the direction of further field work at the site until things got problematic in the region.

When I look back, I see our work as a multidisciplinary, multinational project, where we had Americans, Turks, Dutch and Swedes among the experts and additionally Greek, Korean and French among the students.

The project lasted over some 40 years without any internal differences or difficulties, where all worked toward a common goal without putting forth issues of self-interest. "The bliss of field of work" Bob used to say, "is that you participate in the lives of others." They truly did and were like parents to all-true mentors. They were very special people, "ganz besondere Leute" as the

Germans says. The Prehistoric Project was very different from most other expeditions. The Braidwoods did not only come for work, but to instill knowledge, form new ideas, apply new techniques, and to create a new environment, a new soil on which new generations could grow. The Prehistoric Project thus became a basis, a medium for forming new scholars, a medium from which new colleagues emerged.

The Braidwoods were concerned with upgrading the scientific medium or level in the country in which they were working. They invested their royalties in books for our library where we create a Çayönü section in their names, a Braidwood Library.

They believed that young people of Turkey should be trained as experts, especially in the natural sciences, instead of importing such from abroad. They considered Istanbul University and its Prehistoric Section as their home-base. They took meticulous care that this home-base in Istanbul developed so as to get to the level of international standards of scholarship.

With this in mind, they put all their energy and used all their connections in providing the necessary possibilities, facilities, funds and grants to help subsidize young people. Until the end they saw to it that the young got fluent in English as an international language and worked with experts in their field of knowledge. They thus created young experts by helping and subsidizing their work -all this purely out of commitment to their convictions and belief in the Prehistory Section of Istanbul University. Their legacy must be kept up.

A last consideration: the Braidwoods took me graciously all over the Near East. Besides Egypt, Iran, Syria and Lebanon, they took me to Iraq with Uruk, Ur Tell Aswan, and Baghdad and let me participate in their experiences, commitments, and their attachment to these countries. We can only say that they were blessed for having left together and having been spared living through the horrors and monstrosities that have broken out there.

We shall miss them sadly.