

CAN HASAN - KARAMAN 1967

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The season at Can Hasan in 1967 began on September 9th; excavation stopped on October 28th but a further week was spent working on the finds and on the site. The site supervisors were Bay Altan Atilgan, and Messrs. S. Helms, R. Howell, and J. N. Postgate. In the House the work was undertaken by Bayan Behin Aksoy, Bayan Ülge Göker, Miss Carolyn Prater, Mrs Cressida Ridley, and Miss Monika van der Zwann. Bay Bedri Yalman represented the Turkish Government for a short period until called away to military service; his place was taken by Bay Cengiz Karadağ.

A new method of sieving was introduced this year. Instead of small hand sieves, "shakers" were used. Basically "shakers" are three removable trays with mesh of differing size (10 mm, 5 mm, 1mm) set on a sprung metal framework. It was also found more practicable with soils containing a lot of grain to "wash out" the grain from the soil remaining in the last tray after the soil had been hand-searched.

The aims of the 1967 season were three-fold : 1) to continue work on layer 2 A in the trenches on the western side of the excavation area where architecture of this period had first been discovered in 1966; 2) to clear a further area of the burnt settlement of layer 2 B to check the evidence (drawn mainly from the 1962 season) for this layer and to try to find the southern edge of this settlement; 3) to investigate more widely the early layers which had previously been only slightly tested. Interesting results were obtained in all these sections.

LAYER 2 A ("Middle Chalcolithic")

Architecture: In square Q 22 a (the only square in which this layer was tested) a single small but substantially built house was cleared. The walls which were preserved to a height of approx. 1 metre were faced with mud plaster and contained reinforcement of wood beams. The size of the bricks used in layer 2 A is smaller than that used in layer 2 B.

Pottery: Good samples of pottery were recovered from both within and north of the house. This can be dated to the early phases of the layer and shows good evidence of continuity from layer 2 B. A complete jar of early style was found in the debris north of the house, apparently resting on an external surface. It was smashed and might have fallen from the roof. This has now been restored for exhibit in the Ankara Museum.

Small Objects: Stone: More fine stone objects often of marble, such as bracelets, bowls and studs, were found. A good range of general domestic equipment, pounders, rubbers, querns, mortars etc., was recovered from the house area.

Obsidian: No new features were noted though a large number of specimens was recovered.

Clay: Of particular interest, though they were often very hard to preserve and harder to explain, was the range of unbaked clay objects from the house area. These included andirons, "bobbins" or stands, and "caps" or lids. There were many rough animal figurines, also often unbaked, and several small human figurines of very varied types.

Metal: A fragment of copper marks the first identification of the metal from this layer though metal has been found in layer 2 B.

Bone, shell etc: New this year is the wide range of wellmade bone implements. These include points, sleeves of antler, axes, an antler hammer, gouges, spatulas, a toggle and a scoop. One spatula was carved with a geometric design.

Grain: A good sample was recovered from the fill of the house.

Bones: The skeleton of an infant was found in the middle of the wall of the house in Q.22 a. A pit burial containing an adult and an infant had been cut into the layer 2 B levels in the baulk S 24 c/25 a. In square Q 22 a the debris both within and outside the house produced very large samples of animal bone.

LAYER 2 B ("Early Chalcolithic")

Architecture: In squares R 24 c and d another house burnt in the great destruction was cleared. The most important new evidence recovered concerns the ceiling and the upper storey. One of the lower rooms was covered with mud plaster throughout, the other apparently was not; the ceiling was held up by logs and brushwood. The upper storey seems to have been plastered throughout and there is evidence that some at least was patterned in red on white and had the shaping and bevelling noted in that from House 3. The walls of the upper storey were thinner than those of the lower.

Pottery: The range of wares found in the burnt houses previously was duplicated with year though few were complete.

Small objects: Stone: The range of heavy domestic equipment was similar to that already known. New however were fine objects of marble, such as bracelets and studs.

Obsidian: Some good blades as well as a copious general sample were collected.

Clay: Domestic equipment of clay, sling bullets, a stud, animal figurines and

another seated figurine painted in red on a white slip were found.

Metal: Another piece of copper was recovered from this phase (3) of the settlement.

Bone, shell etc. The range of objects, both fine and utilitarian, in these materials has been greatly widened by this year's work. Particularly notable: a belt fastening of carved bone and a bone handle bearing the tiny head of a calf.

Grain: A large quantity of grain was recovered from work on 2 B levels in square S 24 c as well as some from the western room of the house.

Carbon: 79 separate carbon samples were lifted from the west room of the house and 10 from the east room.

Bone: Only small quantities of animal bone were recovered from this layer.

LAYER 3 (Beginnig of "Early chalcolithic")

Architecture: In squares R 21 a and b at least two more structural phases of this period have been identified. The walls are much more massive and substantial than those of layers 5-4 and are covered with mud plaster. The width of brick is 0.80 m. (as in layer 2 B). The plans of the buildings also resemble those of layer 2B. Interesting is the deliberate use of earlier walls as partial support and foundation for the house walls. Another structure of layer 3 was found in square S 24 c.

Pottery: Though the pottery sample from this layer is still not very large, it has made clear the outlines at least of the typical wares. These are a fine and a heavy plain burnished ware, usually light or medium brown in colour, and patterned ware. At least two techniques are used in the patterned ware: red or brown paint on a natural clay ground, often burnished while the paint was still slightly wet, producing a blurred effect; bright red paint on a thick white slip. The shapes continue those known from earlier periods, deep holemouth bowls or jars and shallower carinated holemouth bowls. Other shapes

such as tubs and small necked jars anticipate those of layer 2 B.

Small objects: Stone: Only beads and domestic equipment, grinders, querns etc. have as yet been found in stone.

Obsidian: Some good blades as well as a fairly extensive general sample were recovered.

Clay: The range of clay objects is also limited : one andiron, three animal figurines, nine figurines of "chessman" type, and one miniature figurine head.

Metal: No evidence of metal has yet been found.

Bone, shell etc.: Shell beads and a tooth pendant, bone points and antler sleeves are the only objects of these materials.

Grain, Carbon etc.: The samples are slight.

Bones: A group of 12 skeletons of infant and children were found, apparently not primary burials and accompanied by pottery (whole and sherds) and a fair quantity of animal bone. Other samples of animal bones came from excavation of the general levels of the layer.

LAYERS 5-4 ("Late Neolithic")

Architecture: House complexes with evidence of frequent rebuildings were found in both layers. The walls are rarely preserved to over a metre; they are considerably thinner than those of later periods; the brick size is only 50 × 30 × 8 cm. There were no foundations but wood was used to give support within the walls; the surfaces were given a facing of mud plaster. Some floors were coated with red ochre. In layer 5 there was preserved an area with bins containing grain and seeds in considerable quantity and accompanied by grinders, querns and mortars (Plan, Fig. 2).

Pottery: The pottery from these layers is all of the plain burnished types. The

cores are usually black and a rich black or chocolate surface colour is typical. The burnish is good. Shapes are varied, including several forms of bowls or jars, often with quite elaborate lips (Fig. 3).

Small Objects: Stone: Apart from the domestic equipment, of interest are two well - shaped blue beads from layer 5.

Obsidian: A good sample was recovered but the industry is not in any way specialized.

Clay: The only objects of clay were animal figurines and many figurines of "chessman" type.

Metal: No evidence of metal has been found.

Bone: Points of bone and various sleeves of antler were frequent. There were also a few more specialized tools such as an awl and two gouges.

Grain and Seed: The birs in layer 5 produced excellent large samples of both grain and seed.

Carbon: Only small samples have so far been recovered.

Bones: The skeleton of an infant was found in layer 5. The most important finds were the skeletons of two *canids* from an early phase of layer 4. The general bone samples from these layers were good, including a lot of antler, the skulls of goats and many relatively complete bones.

The excavations at Can Hasan continue to produce the kind of material evidence which is of the greatest value to environmental archaeology. Already the collection of animal bones is among the largest known from a site of this kind in the Middle East; the carbonized grain is large in quantity, fine and well preserved; and so on. It is hoped that further excavation at Can Hasan will enlarge still further the existing groups of material and will continue to produce the same kind of evidence for environment and ecology in the early layers which have not yet been sampled.



Fig. 1

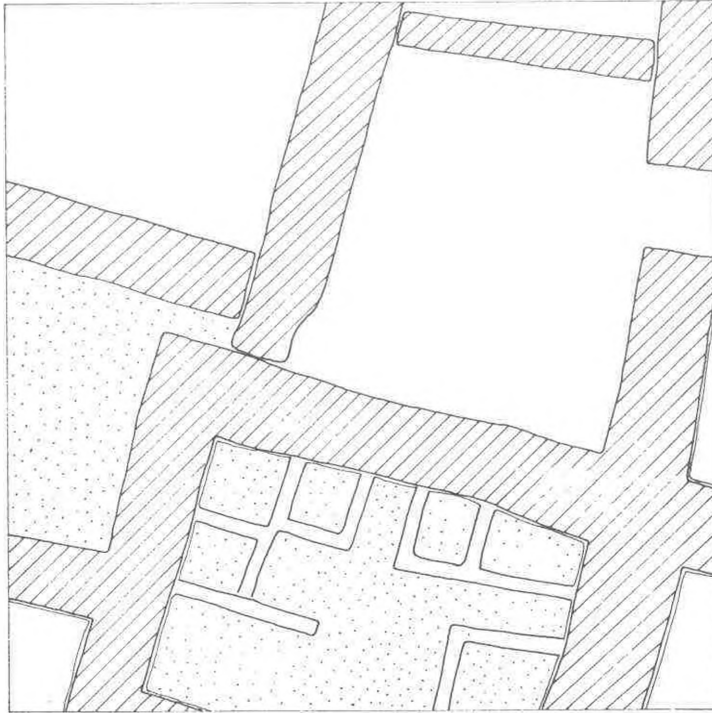


Fig. 2

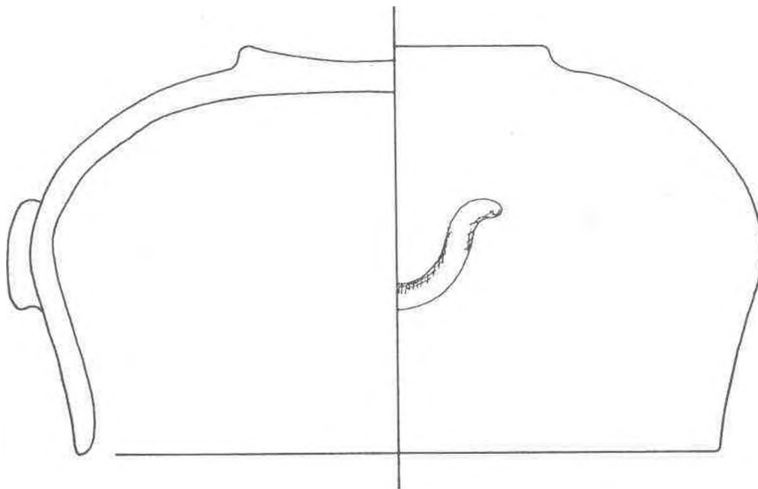


Fig. 3