

EXCAVATIONS AT KARATAŞ-SEMAYÜK 1969

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The excavations of the Bryn Mawr College expedition were continued from September 1 to November 25, 1969. The work was concentrated in the following areas :

Bağbaşı : Five new trenches were made to check the stratification of the Early Bronze I period of habitation. The houses of this phase are rectangular and predominantly of wattle-and-daub, usually without stone foundations. The hearths of these houses are made in the form of raised clay discs about 1.20 m. in diameter (fig. 1, hearth in trench 116). Several levels of habitation could still be identified in the shallow fields. They belong to the period of c. 3000 B. C. according to the evidence of the pottery, which is of grey burnished, handmade ware. The main shapes are straightrimmed jugs (fig. 2, height 16 cm.) and pitchers, two-handled jars and basins, and large storage vessels. Beaked pitchers do not occur; red polished ware is also still absent; the typical Early Bronze II ware of Karataş is clearly later than the monochrome Bağbaşı pottery. There is some metal at Bağbaşı (needles, awls); among the other domestic finds are grinding stones, stone tools, small clay objects such as whorls and animal figurines.

Evidence for Middle Bronze Age habitation in the Bağbaşı area was again found in the form of domestic pottery scattered over an area of about 100 × 150 m. The houses, probably made of pisé, have left few traces. The pottery is buff wheelmade ware of profiles related to Kanesh Karum I b and Old Hittite forms. A quatrefoil kantharos is illustrated here to show the connections with the pottery of Beycesultan IV, central Anatolia, and Middle Minoan Crete (fig. 3, height 10.2 cm.).

Iron Age houses existed at the West edge of Bağbaşı. They were also made of the familiar pisé and timber construction; the pottery found in association with them is of buff wheelmade ware decorated with painted bands, concentric circles and half-circles. Some of the decoration is bichrome.

Karataş : A new trench of 15 × 20 m. was opened to the SE of the small central mound (fig. 4). In the upper level (latest level V) three semi-circular breadovens stood on a paved ramp which led to the center of the site. Numerous grinding-stones, mortars, and thick ashes were found nearby. Below this level, the South side of the trench was occupied by a megaron on stone foundations (fig. 5, 9.40 × 5.20 m.). This megaron had a similar predecessor and a neighbor made of pisé without stone beddings. Several open fireplaces lay to the N and E of these megara. Their use will be investigated in more detail later.

Among the small finds in this trench were the usual pottery forms of the Early Bronze II period at Karataş, e.g. a black polished pitcher with grooved decoration (fig. 6, height 17 cm.). A silver togglepin is remarkable for its finial in the shape of a boar's head (fig. 7, length 8.4 cm.) with double -curved tusks.

There was no new excavation in the Karataş cemetery but Professor J. Lawrence Angel of the Smithsonian Institution continued his studies of the skeletal material from the c. 450 graves excavated so far. The archaeological analysis of the cemetery is proceeding along with Professor Angel's studies in order to determine the chronological and cultural development of the ancient village and its inhabitants.

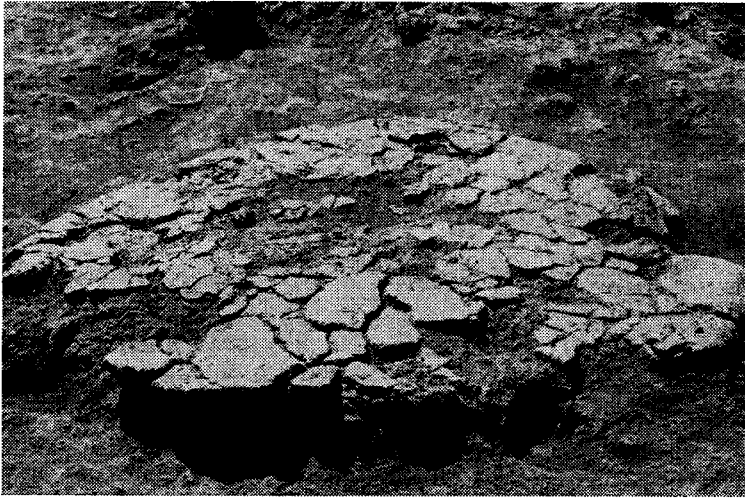


fig. 1. Early Bronze I hearth, Bağbaşı.



fig. 2. Handmade grey jug, Bağbaşı.

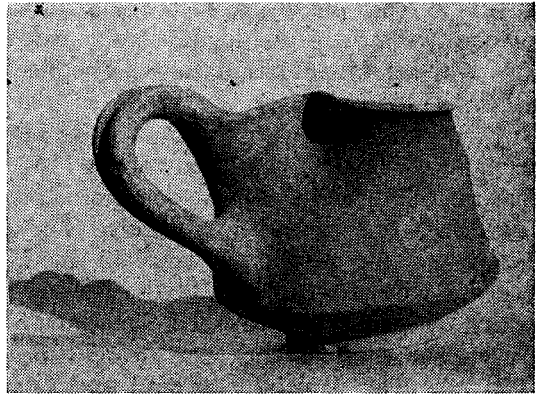


fig. 3. Quatrefoil kantharos fragment, Bağbaşı.



fig. 4. View of new trench, Karataş.



fig. 5. Megaron foundations, Karataş.



fig. 6. Black polished pitcher, Karataş.

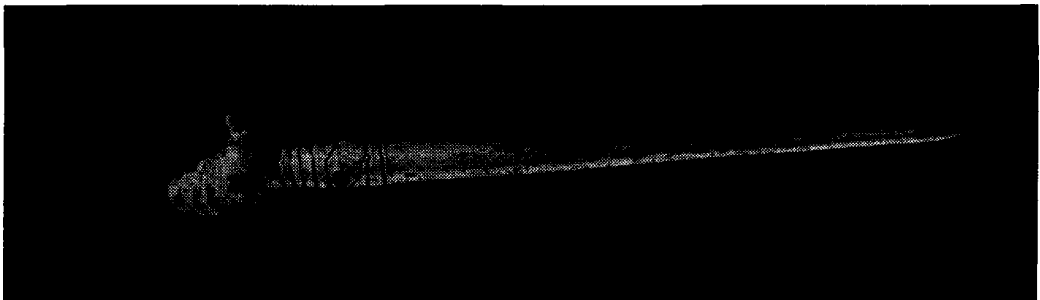


fig. 7. Silver toggle-pin with boar's head finial, Karataş