



Figure 12: (top) Detail of twisted cord threaded through rolled copper tube and (bottom) the fragment of textile found close by. Photos Jason Quinlan

This is the first evidence of textile found at Çatalhöyük since the 1960s (Mellaart).

Important botanical finds from the 2008 season included plant concentrations recovered from burnt Building 77. A deposit of glume wheat spikelets (pairs of grains still enclosed in their glumes or ‘hulls’) was recovered in front of two large bins in a side room of Building 77.

A second ‘rich’ botanical deposit from burnt Building 77 was recovered in the south-east corner of the main room (Space 336), near the ladder base. Preliminary analysis of this deposit suggests that it consists of mainly charred peas. (Figure 13, unit 16498).



Figure 13: A deposit of peas (16498) was recovered in the corner of the main room in Building 77. Photo Bogaard & Charles

South Area

To compliment our research aims in the 4040 Area covering contemporary neighbourhoods, in the South we aim to explore more fully the temporal processes that produce phases of settlement because the buildings remaining from the Mellaart and our excavations occur at different levels (Figure 14).



Figure 14. An interesting find of this season from South area is a clay stamp with a hand motif found in a midden deposit. During previous excavations hand motifs were seen on wall painting at different areas on site. Photo Jason Quinlan.

TP Area

The team from Poland, headed by Professors Lech Czerniak and Arkadiusz Marciniak from the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Prehistory, University of Poznań direct a team of students from Poland. The TP team have worked in an area at the southern crest of the East mound since 2001 to study the latest phases of tell occupation, dated to the end of the seventh millennium BC which is located next to the 1961 trench where James Mellaart had defined Levels I – III. The study of these later periods is providing significant data for the transition of Neolithic to Chalcolithic at Çatalhöyük and thus providing a link for the East and West Mounds (Figure 15).



Figure 15: One notable example from this season was a miniature female figurine (15839.X10) delicately carved from stone, possibly steatite with a grey-green tint from TP Area. Photo Jason Quinlan.

Also two rather similar rounded points were recovered this year, both probably used as hairpins or for a similarly ornamental function from the TP area (13532.X28). 16262.F1 is complete and similar in shape. Its base is incised in a pattern that evokes a flower or leaf, or perhaps glume wheat; it is set off from the shaft by a strangulating groove (Figure 16).



Figure 16: Rounded points, perhaps to secure clothing or hair, made of large mammal long bone cortex: 16262.F1, two views, top; 13532.X28 two views, bottom. Photo Jason Quinlan

IST Area

Team IST is mainly comprised of members and students from the University of Istanbul, Department of Archaeology, Prehistory Section under the direction of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mihriban Özbaşaran.

Team IST has formerly excavated sites in Central and Southeast Anatolia. Here the team have excavated a series of buildings and external areas up to the site perimeter fence, which clearly indicates that the sequence lies below a public dirt track that runs between the East and West Mounds.

West Mound

The results of the 2006 season defined a new three-fold research approach for the West Mound excavations. It was decided that the new excavations would approach a two fold Chalcolithic research agenda and the third would excavate the Classical and later periods.

Trenches 5, 6 and 7

Led by Dr. Peter Biehl, SUNY Buffalo & Dr. Eva Rosenstock, Free University the aim in Trenches 5, 6 and 7, located on the SE slope of the mound, is to excavate a series of step trenches down to natural in order to assess a full sequence of occupation on the West Chalcolithic Mound. Continuing from Trs. 5 and 6 opened in 2006, Tr. 7 was opened on the same alignment but as a machine cut trench in the side of a ditch that runs along the eastern

edge of the West Mound. This was opened to afford a quick view into the depth and nature of the stratigraphy.

The results combined with those from the TP Area on the East mound will inform on the nature of transition from Late Neolithic on the East Mound to Early Chalcolithic on the West Mound or, illustrate that the two sites were at some stage occupied concurrently.

Trench 8

The team led by Dr Burçin Erdoğu, University of Thrace is investigating an area to the southwest of the mound where later surface collections of pottery indicated ECII activity in order to correlate occupation sequences on Çatalhöyük West to Can Hasan.

The 2008 summer season at West Mound Trench 8 was a short season aiming to expand the plan and complete the excavation of the “Red Building” (Building 78) which was revealed during 2007 excavations. It appeared that the Red Building may have been a two storey structure. Also the floors of the first and second storeys as well as the second storey’s walls were found to be painted red (Figure 17).



Figure 17. Traces of the two storey building with red painted floors and wall. There are no comparable examples from other Chalcolithic sites in Central Anatolia. Photo Nejat Yücel

Classical and Later Activity

The third team led by Drs Ahmet Tırpan and Asuman Baldiran from Selçuk University are conducting excavations of the later activity. It is known that the West Mound was used as a burial ground in the historic periods but so far little by way of occupation or other activity has been found. The Selçuk University team is concentrating on the excavations of the late burials and any other activity in Trenches 5, 6, 7 and 8. This will enable the team to view a much wider and meaningful late burial assemblage in a holistic manner.