

Building 132

It is known that the amount of ceramics are low in the early levels of Çatalhöyük. For this reason, it was not easy to comment on the B.132 as one of the earlier buildings. But this year a body sherd found in a storage pit slightly changed this. Since the inner surface is red-slipped, we are able to compare with the South Area which we see the similar samples on the Level South J (Mellaart Level X). Such details of early levels will be important in assessing the similarities and differences within the North and South Areas for the forthcoming publication.

South Area

All of the ceramic sherds found from the South Area are from B.162. These roughly shaped, low fired, poor quality sherds similar to samples shown as Level X-XI in the Mellaart collection. There are two uncooked light silty plant tempered uneven sherds in the group which can be described as production wastes. Due to the presence of production wastes and also clearly seen different varieties of early clay sources, it was considered to be a good context for petrographic analysis and sherds were exported to Istanbul to be analyzed.

TPC Area

Almost half of the analyzed ceramics found in the TPC Area 2017 excavations came from Sp.486 which is infill of B.110. They all show Late Neolithic characteristics of Çatalhöyük with some thin-walled Dark Gritty Ware (DGW) sherds and also large-sized Dark Gritty Ware holemouth jars. But it is interesting not to see high number of light ware and red slipped sherds in this upper level space (Level TP M, which correlates with Level South T or Mellaart Level III). Because according to studies we expect to see more light ware and 'S' profiled sherds in the upper levels. But in the Sp.486, the majority of the assemblage consists of DGW wares. This was described by excavators as a very heterogeneous deposit comprising a lot of mixed material, fragments of bricks and containing a large number of animal bones (scapulae, long bones, astragali etc.), several lumps of baked clay and figurine fragments. Perhaps a densely packed midden material of dated earlier than Level TP M may have been used to fill this building.

This year there were three complete vessel uncovered in the TPC Area. It was quite exciting to find them in one season when considered the total number of complete vessels in Çatalhöyük was estimated to be around 20.

(32811.x1) - Within Sp.515 which is a pit, a complete but badly crushed vessel were found sitting at its bottom. The vessel, is a medium-sized, thin-walled typical late types of holemouth jars which are known as cooking vessels of Çatalhöyük (Fig. 2).

(23788.x1) - Found from the infill layer located in the south-western part of Trench 4 which belonged to the south-west room of the B.150 (Fig.3). This one also a holemouth jar-late type cooking vessel can be said to have the same characteristics as (32811.x1).

(23743.x1) - The third holemouth jar from this season found in the same building (B.150) with (23788.x1), in the infill layer located in south-eastern part of the Trench 4. It seems to have been deformed under high pressure due to the fact that it is oval rim that actually should have a rounded rim (Fig. 4). One of the lug is missing.

Also, considering another complete vessel found in the B.150 (Ozdol and Tarkan 2016) in 2016 season, the location, condition and characteristics of these three vessels, there seem to be a continuation of the tradition where seen in the South Area and in the GDN Area.



Figure 2. (32811.x1) holemouth jar.



Figure 3. (23788.x1) holemouth jar.



Figure 4. (23743.x1) holemouth jar.