

TPC Area

TPC excavations that have begun to provide links between South and TP Areas, also yielded the largest proportion of ceramic materials since 2012.

This season we focused primarily on pottery from contexts uncovered from 2012 to 2014 seasons. The excavated contexts belonging to later Neolithic levels of the site reflected the disturbance made by activities in later periods (Chalcolithic, Bronze, Hellenistic and Roman Age). So far we processed 12,554 (375.4kg) sherds. The post-Chalcolithic sherds were sorted, counted, weighed and registered in the database. The Neolithic pottery sherds were sorted by their contexts, compared and/or merged with material from previous years and studied in detail. The sherds coming from the later levels of the site, as mentioned earlier, are important to understand the later traditions. For instance, the B.110 is in the same level as B.5, which was excavated by Mellaart in 1960's and has been identified as Level III (see archive report 2014).

The overall assessment of studied materials coming from the TPC Area, and particularly Trench 4, shows similarities with Levels South S-T, North J, TP M-N and IST Area by existence of Collared / S-Profiled forms, larger vessels, more bowl forms rather than deep-jars, enlargements of the wall thickness, increase of red slipping surface treatments and variations of the ware groups. Another thing that should be noted is that the one of the typical wares of Level TP O defined as Shelly Ware was not seen in the TPC Trench 4. This situation strengthens the probability that the material could be earlier than the Level TP O layer. In the long season, intended to clarify this, it is planned to complete further detail analyses of all assemblages uncovered in this area.

Some of the most significant finds in 2015 season are two vessels found in an infill of a Hellenistic pit (21084) in north part of Trench 4. One of these is a simple cooking pot seen in Hellenistic period (Fig. 12.2). The other one is an "oinochoe form" which is a wine pitcher characterized by a trefoil or clover shape mouth and a curved handle extending from the rim (Fig. 12.3). According to records found in Konya Archaeological Museum this pottery form can be dated to 330-300 BC in the Konya region.



Figure 12.2. Hellenistic cooking pot (21084).



Figure 12.3. Hellenistic oinochoe (21084).

Another outstanding find is an incised decorated base sherd (Fig. 12.4) from the infill layer (22764) located in west part of the Trench 4. The very well made curves of this decoration almost look like relief. Horn-like lines that can be seen on this base sherd resemble the bucranium decoration found on the well-

known face pot (Fig. 12.5). The pot is ring based with foot and slightly ellipsoid in shape, like the elaborated ceramics in Catalhoyuk.

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Figure 12.4. Incised Decoration (22764).



Figure 12.5. Face pot.

Whole pots in houses: review of trends

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Were the sizes of pots embedded in the floors of houses systematically related to the size of the community of people who took part in activities in those houses? To address this question, we reviewed the data recorded for 13 complete hole mouth jars of Dark Gritty Ware that were found embedded in the floors of houses. All but three of the buildings (B.3, B.73, and B.75) were recorded as completely excavated. Key re-

Unit No.	Weight (g)	Rim diameter (mm)	Base diameter (mm)	Depth (mm)	Body diameter (mm)	Height (mm)	Width (mm)	Body thickness (mm)
10044.S2	2500	200	100	292	280	310	230	6.4
10664.x1	192	100	60	95	120	119	97	4.6
10673.x1	1500	140	80	221	250	105	160	6.4
11235.x1	380	140	72	182	185	190	173	5
11446.S2	1238	160	83	225	245	235	216	5.6
12839.x1	109.2	100	45	90	45	116	114	4
13925.S1	546.4	120	65	151	170	145	155	7.6
13970.x1	1105	142	65	170	160	177	182	5.3
14515.x1	2300	185	75	270	255	280	255	6.8
15282.x5	1272	100	60	175	180	190	170	7
16221.x1	594	110	50	134	150	145	134	6.2
5417.x1		130	75	185	240	200	210	6.5
5430.S1	1600	110	65	250	250	260	200	7.2

Table 12.1. Complete hole mouth jars from excavated houses.