

The TPC Area

Four burial features with a large number of beads were excavated this year in the TPC Area. Two of these features (F. 3867 and F.3868) were located under the eastern platform of B.150, the same platform where two figurines were found last year. In total, 132 beads were found scattered in the fills of these features. The only exception is a group of black and white stone disc beads that were found *in situ*, and their original order has been preserved (Fig. 16). Given the multiple individuals interred in these two features, it is difficult to determine with whom these beads were buried. Furthermore, it is not possible to establish the nature of their deposition, that is, whether these beads were actually scattered on top of a body, or alternatively, whether they had originally formed one or multiple strings (i.e. necklace, bracelet, anklet) that were disturbed together with human remains, once a pit was reopened and more interments occurred.



Figure 16. Group of beads (31884.x28) in their original order (photo by Ekin Ünal).



Figure 17. In situ necklace found associated with Sk (23920) (photo by Katarzyna Harabasz).



Figure 18. Necklace with SK (23920) (photo by Ekin Ünal).



Figure 19. Group of beads associated with legs of SK (23920).



Figure 20. Group of beads (23914.x2) in their original order.

An adult Sk (23920), buried under the northern platform of B.122 was found directly associated with two groups of beads. A group of beads were found around the neck of this individual (23917.x9-x13) (Fig. 17), and when possible, the original order has been preserved (Fig. 18).

Another group of beads was found associated with legs (23917.x2-x8). These beads are very different from beads belonging to the necklace, and include black stone disc beads and white shell and stone cylindrical beads that seem to have been burnt (Fig. 18). When possible, the original order has been recorded, but it is unclear what kind of an ornament this group of beads represented.

An anklet containing stone and heavily eroded *Nassarius* beads was found around the left ankle of an adult Sk (23921) buried in building B.166. Given the excellent preservation of human bone in this burial, it is striking that these beads are so eroded.

Acknowledgments

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