

POTTERY REPORT - *Nurcan Yalman, Serap Özdöl*

Abstract

This report covers the pottery recovered in the 2003 season investigations only and mostly concentrates on the 4040 Area. This area produced 6,488 ‘unstratified’ surface pottery sherds of which 4,186 are Neolithic with 29 paint decorated sherds which appear Chalcolithic. 2,273 sherds belong to Late Periods (Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine or Islamic). The spatial analysis indicated that Neolithic sherds were increasing to the south of the 4040 Area and possibly relate to Late Neolithic deposits, probably not earlier than Level III. From the South Summit Area, although the collected sherds are definitely Neolithic, there is little to indicate from which Level at this stage of the excavations. In the TP assemblage, although most of the units still contain some late period material, the purity of the Neolithic sherds seems to be increasing.

Özet

Bu rapor yalnızca 2003 yılında ele geçen keramik kalıntılarını ele alarak, çoğunlukla 4040 metrelik yüzeyi kazınan alan üzerine yoğunlaşmaktadır. Bu alanda 4186’si Neolitik ve 29 boyalı parçası da Kalkolitik olmak üzere, toplam 6488 parça “stratigrafiye dahil olmayan” keramik parçası bulunmuştur. 2273 parça geç dönemlere (Helenistik, Roma, Bizans ve İslam) aittir. Mekansal analizler, Neolitik parçaların 4040 metrelik alanın ve olasılıkla, III. evreden daha öncesi olmamak üzere, geç Neolitik kalıntılarının güneyine doğru arttığını göstermektedir. Güney Zirve Bölgesinden gelen parçaların, Neolitik oldukları kesin olmakla beraber, hangi evreden geldiklerine dair kazının bu aşamasında pek az belirti bulunmaktadır. Ne var ki TP buluntularında, birimlerin çoğunun hala geç dönemle karışık malzeme vermesine rağmen, Neolitik buluntuların saflığının arttığı görülmektedir.

Introduction - Çatalhöyük East

In previous reports and publications (Last 1994; 1996), pottery investigations at Çatalhöyük were explained in detail by making evaluations and comparisons between different areas across the mound. This report covers the pottery recovered in the 2003 season investigations only and mostly concentrates on the 4040 Area, south of the 1995 scraped area (1030-1070E/1135-1175N See Fig. 4). This area produced a large amount of surface pottery sherds, and therefore most have been recorded as “unstratified”. Stratified sherds were however recovered from the BACH, TP and South Summit Areas.

This year a database established for the pottery used a two tier recording system. The first was to record the “unstratified” (4040 surface collections) material for total number of prehistoric and late period sherds. The prehistoric sherds were recorded for external surface colour, texture, and a form code for diagnostic sherds. The second recording system for “stratified” (TP, SUMMIT) material was recorded in more detail with descriptions for each sherd for abrasion, dimension, production details (paste, surface treatment, firing etc) and form details for the diagnostics. Although a large amount of work was carried out TP, South Summit and BACH Area sherds were not all entered on to the database by the end of the season.

South Summit

Most of the sherds recovered in this area were retrieved from cleaning since the last excavations took place in 1997. Many stratified sherds were left in situ as their phase was not released for excavation although they were visible. The collected sherds are definitely Neolithic, but little more can be said at this stage of excavation.

TP

Neolithic pottery continued to be recovered in the TP area this year. Although most of the units still contain some late period material the purity of the Neolithic sherds increases as earlier deposits are excavated such as units (7810), (7813), (7814), (7815) and (7881), (7882). A brief analysis suggests these are Late Neolithic, probably not earlier than Level III as we see some interesting elements like organic tempered sherds especially in units (7881) and (7882) which may indicate even later periods (Levels II-I/0). These sherds are generally coarse and belong to jars but they are different from Level VII or earlier as they contain mineral inclusions as

well as organic temper. This type is mentioned by J.Last (1999 Archive Report) as he reports of their presence in KOPAL the trench. This pottery-type was not mentioned by Mellaart which suggests a characteristic of the 'latest' periods of the Neolithic which is not yet understood.

4040 Area

The pottery analysis mostly concentrated on the material from the 4040 Area this season. Most of the sherds recovered in this area are unstratified and they were recorded with the first database system as we mentioned above. We also took 4 of 5 x 5 m squares and evaluate them as 10 x 10 square meters because of the similarities and also some of the groups were so small and it was quite hard to be able to get a meaningful results statistically and visually (Figs. 51 & 52).

SQ1	SQ2	SQ3	SQ4
SQ5	SQ6	SQ7	SQ8
SQ9	SQ10	SQ11	SQ12
SQ13	SQ14	SQ15	SQ16



Figure 51: Evaluation of material by grid squares

6,488 'unstratified' sherds were recovered and registered this year. 4186 of them are Neolithic and there are 29 paint decorated sherds which seems like Chalcolithic. 2,273 sherds belong to Late Periods (Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine or Islamic, Table 9).

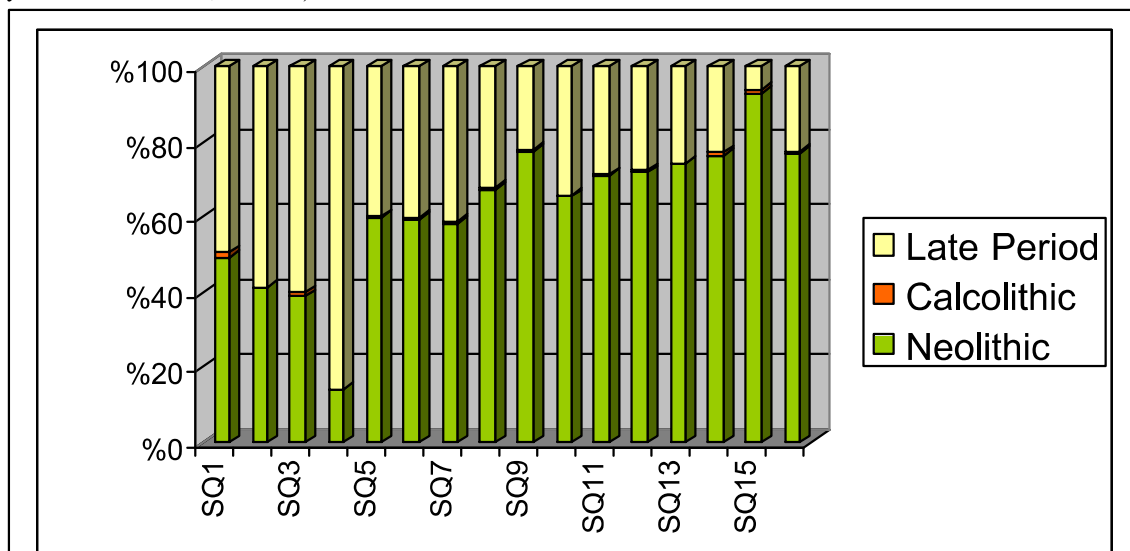


Figure 52: Sherd counts from 4040 Area

According to this analysis, Neolithic sherds increase towards south of the scraped area and also the proportion of the Neolithic sherds are quite high in squares 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 (highest-1050E-1135N) and 16, where the disturbance of later period occupation is less over this part of the mound (Last also mentioned a high percentage of Neolithic sherds in the northern eminence in general, but also he points out that square 1045/1125 indicated an increase in Neolithic pottery). Despite the large late period construction, Building 41, to the west of the area (1030/1155; 1040/1145, 1155) there are relatively more Neolithic sherds than late material, this is probably because the sherds derive from the Neolithic midden deposits through which the late structure is cut. The northern part of the area (1030-1070E/1165-1175N), especially square 4, contained the highest score for late material and may indicate unidentified pits of late dates not visible because of the loose surface soil. The NE sector of the area where there are small spaces and mostly walls have more or less the same proportion for the late and Neolithic sherds. Chalcolithic sherds which are recognised by paint decoration, were quite rare and did not show any meaningful distribution.