

# The Archaeology of Anatolia, Volume III



# The Archaeology of Anatolia, Volume III:

*Recent Discoveries (2017–2018)*

Edited by

Sharon R. Steadman and Gregory McMahon

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## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION TO *THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF ANATOLIA: VOLUME III*

SHARON R. STEADMAN  
AND GREGORY MCMAHON

It is with great pleasure that we offer the third volume in this series that features recent archaeological fieldwork in Anatolia. At the inception of this new series, it was agreed by the current editors and the publisher that volumes would appear at two-year intervals. Volume I appeared in the fall of 2015 (Steadman and McMahon 2015), and the second volume became available in the fall of 2017. This third volume, to appear in the fall of 2019, will, like the first two, feature reports on both excavations and surveys. In addition, a new section, “The State of the Field,” will offer overviews of where the archaeological discipline stands, in Anatolia, with regard to specific sets of material culture and methodologies.

In addition to the new section, the editors have arranged a new format with the publisher. The series will now be published in A4 format with the inclusion of some color figures. The editors are very pleased to have made this transition and believe it will result in even more significant offerings on current research. Because of the new formatting, the editors have agreed to remain in place through Volume IV to guide the series into this new mode of presentation.

The third volume features projects directed by archaeologists residing and working in Turkey, Europe, and the United States. Submissions to the volume were vetted by the series editorial board, the editorial panel at Cambridge Scholars Publishing, and by the present editors. The chapters included here therefore represent the highest mark in quality, and present the latest findings from research carried out across the breadth of Anatolia.

The time periods covered in the research presented here span the millennia between the Neolithic and the Byzantine and Medieval periods. Data from sites and surveys presented in this volume cover territory from the west coast of Turkey to the eastern province of Van, and from the Anatolian plateau to the southern Mediterranean coast. Although reporting on vastly different time periods and regions, there are some common themes that tie various reports together, creating a continuity of work by myriad scholars and the enormous quantity of data they have collected.

The chapters focusing on excavations (Chs. 2–11) provide new information on periods ranging from the Neolithic at Çatalhöyük to the Byzantine period at Çadır Höyük. One theme that emerged in several chapters was that of monumentality. Several chapters featured recent work on monumental walls and gateways. The Neo-Hittite period excavations at Arslantepe (Ch. 3, Frangipane et al., “Recent Late Chalcolithic and Iron Age Discoveries at Arslantepe”) were resumed after lying dormant for 50 years; excavations in 2018 focused on the citadel dating to this period. The Byzantine fortification wall at Çadır Höyük (Ch. 4, by Steadman, McMahon, and Ross) revealed an early and previously unknown (Late Antique) gate. Brian Rose’s chapter on Gordion (Ch. 6, “Fieldwork at Gordion”) presents the latest work on the early Phrygian citadel and other monumental approaches into the city.

Monumentality was also expressed through the discovery of continued work on massive structures. At Tarsus (Ch. 5, Özyar, Ünlü, and Pilavcı, “Recent Fieldwork at Tarsus”), Late Bronze excavations have revealed a portion of a monumental building similar to that discovered by Mellink in her excavations decades ago. The Tarsus team intends to continue exploring this structure, and identify its function, in coming seasons. At Kerkenes, (Ch. 8, Branting et al., “The Kerkenes Project”), the team continued to explore the large hall in Urban Block 8, which continues to produce unique finds of fine materials such as gold and ivory. Chapter 7 on Ayanis (by Işıklı et al., “A New Place in the Ayanis Citadel”), details the fascinating Hall with Podium, and explores the possible function of this extraordinary structure. At Sardis (Ch. 10 by Nick Cahill, “Recent Fieldwork at Sardis”), the Lydian Palace was further explored, as was the Roman period occupation of the city. Cahill’s work identified a sanctuary of the Imperial Roman Cult, which speaks to the third theme found in the excavation-based chapters, the expression of religion.

In Chapter 3, Frangipane et al. also present their latest finding on the Late Chalcolithic Temple C at Arslantepe, mainly through dismantlement, including evidence of temple administration. The Çadır team (Ch. 4, “Chalcolithic, Iron Age, and Byzantine Investigations”) identified a small chapel within the Byzantine fortification walls on the summit of the mound. Dönmez and Saba (Ch. 9, “New Discoveries at Oluz Höyük”) offer a fascinating look at the Zoroastrian cult place at this site, including the many artifacts and ritual features they have recovered. In many ways, Arslan’s chapter on Assos (Ch. 11, “The Most Perfect Idea of a Greek City”) combines all of these themes in his survey of the beautiful buildings and their perfect construction in a lovely setting on the northwestern Turkish coast.

Chapter 2 on Çatalhöyük (“The Late Neolithic at Çatalhöyük”) does not feature themes of monumentality, not surprisingly given that Marciniak, Filipowicz, and Harabasz’s focus is on the Neolithic. Their work focused on making connections between areas across the TPC area of Çatalhöyük East, and defining the process of abandonment that occurred at the end of the period.

The eight chapters featuring survey offer equally fascinating results from the previous two years of work. Two chapters, the “Taşeli-Karaman Archaeological Project,” (Ch. 13 by Şerifoğlu and Küçükbezci), and the Karaman Eminler Höyük Archaeological Survey Project, (Ch. 17, by Kamış), both offer detailed descriptions of ceramics discovered during survey, data not always presented in survey reports. Both chapters present excellent descriptions of the areas covered, a portion of an entire valley in the case of Ch. 13, and intense examination of Eminler Höyük in Ch. 17.

Two chapters offer readers information on ancient quarrying activities. Johnson and Harmanşah (Ch. 14, “The Political Ecology of Roads and Movement”), in addition to their fascinating discussion of roadways connecting sites across the Yalburt Yaylası landscape, also describe a quarry in the area exploited for several millennia. Varinlioğlu and Esmer, (Ch. 18, “From Abandoned Quarry to a Residential Complex”) present the next stage of their research on Dana Island, tracing the apparent changes from industry to settlement. Kaymakçı’s chapter (Ch. 16, “2017–2018 Results of Archaeological Survey in Districts Bordering the Kelkit Basin”), like Johnson and Harmanşah’s report, offers detailed analysis of how the discovery of settlements dating to contemporary periods reveals roadways connecting different areas of the Kelkit Basin.

Two other chapters present data on the impact of climate on settlement patterns. Chapter 15, “Inside Tarhuntaş: A Systematic Survey of Karapınar, Konya,” by Maner, describes the variations in settlement patterns that correspond to landscape usage and climate throughout the millennia. Similarly, Vandam, Willett, and Poblome, in Ch. 19, “The Results of the 2017 Dereköy Archaeological Survey,” describe both the impact of climatic conditions and regional socio-political structures on how different communities settled the landscape in the Sagalassos region.

Çatalhöyük makes a second appearance in this volume in Ch. 12 (“Drones at Çatalhöyük”), by Forte, Danelon, and Marciniak, in which the authors employ drone technology to better understand the spatial organization of the site, especially in areas beyond the traditional excavations.

The final chapter in the book, Ch. 20, “Reexamining Burials and Cemeteries,” by Selover and Durgun, serves as the first entry in the new section in the Archaeology of Anatolia series, “The State of the Field.” Here Selover and Durgun review changes and new data available regarding Early Bronze Age burial practices, updating findings since the last major publication on the subject nearly a half century ago.

Archaeologists who have the great good fortune to pursue fieldwork in Turkey are motivated not only by commitment to their work, and site or survey area, but also by the opportunity to live, temporarily or permanently, in this crucial part of the ancient Near East which has been home to so many cultures over the past many thousands of years. This volume, like its predecessors, is designed to provide a sense of how wide-ranging are the opportunities for excavation and survey in Turkey, and reflects also the ever-increasing plethora of methodologies and approaches with which Turkish and international scholars continue to investigate this rich legacy of human culture. As always, as we contemplate future seasons of fieldwork; we enjoy the anticipation of continuing our search for understanding Anatolia’s earlier inhabitants while enjoying modern Turkey’s many and varied charms.

It is always a pleasure to express our gratitude for the support which Turkey provides to facilitate the fieldwork to which we return year after year. Our thanks to the Kültür ve Turizm Bakanlığı, and its Kültür Varlıkları ve Müzeler Genel Müdürlüğü, for the remarkable infrastructure they provide to those of us who work in Turkey. The annual Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı, organized by the General Directorate, provides a unique week-long microcosm of Anatolian archaeology, where everyone you meet, old friends, or new colleagues, shares your passion for excavating in the most interesting place in the world. It is a pleasure to offer our thanks to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the General Directorate of Cultural Monuments and Museums, the museum directors, government representatives, Turkish colleagues, and people of Turkey for making Anatolian archaeology such a satisfying and rewarding calling.

## **PART I:**

## **EXCAVATIONS**

## CHAPTER TWO

### THE LATE NEOLITHIC AT ÇATALHÖYÜK IN THE TPC AREA: AN OVERVIEW

ARKADIUSZ MARCINIAK, PATRYCJA FILIPOWICZ, AND KATARZYNA HARABASZ

#### INTRODUCTION

This chapter aims at providing an overview of the results of excavations in the TPC Area in Çatalhöyük East. The project was carried out during the years 2012–2017 and was directed by Arkadiusz Marciniak. It comprised an integral element of the Çatalhöyük Research Project led by Ian Hodder. The TPC Area is located directly to the south of the Mellaart Area A and is placed directly to the east of the South Area (Fig. 2-1). It consists of four trenches located in a north-south alignment. The northernmost Trench 1 is  $5 \times 5$  m in size and is located directly to the south of Mellaart Area A. Trench 2 has dimensions of  $5 \times 6$  m and is placed directly south of Trench 1. The following Trench 4 measures ca.  $8 \times 6$  m. Directly to the south is Trench 3. It is quadrilateral in shape with southern and eastern edges being 10 m long and the northern edge measuring 6 m in length. Trench 3 was further expanded to the west into the South Area in the form of two rectangular trenches measuring  $2 \times 6$  and  $2 \times 3$  m respectively. The latter trench physically links the TPC and South Area strands. Altogether, an overall surface of ca.  $170 \text{ m}^2$  was excavated in the TPC Area.



Figure 2-1. TPC Area and other excavations areas in the southern part of the East Mound at Çatalhöyük (drawing by Camilla Mazzucato, revised by Gareth Cork).

The TPC Area is located in the previously unexplored zone on the southwestern slope of the southern prominence of the East mound. It was deliberately selected to investigate the hitherto poorly recognized developments at the settlement in the final centuries of its occupation. The Late Neolithic was a period of profound transformation of local

community, marking the disintegration of their constitutive principles, the building up of new arrangements, interaction with the dynamically growing communities in near and further regions, and the eventual failure to cope with these newly emerging challenges leading to the demise of the community and abandonment of the settlement. Accordingly, the project aimed at investigating different dimensions of this rapidly changing community and the circumstances of its existence, including house architecture, organization of space, burial practices, and material culture, as well as farming, husbandry practices, landscape exploitation, procurement of raw materials, exchange patterns, demography, ritual and ceremonial practices, and social organization.

The tempo and scale of these developments can only be revealed by meticulous recognition of the stratigraphic sequence and dating its subsequent stages. An important goal of the project involved also establishing a stratigraphic connection between the TPC and South Area strands (see Bayliss et al. 2015; Hodder 2014) making it possible to build up a new and complete stratigraphy of the Neolithic occupation of the East mound settlement, solely excavated within the Çatalhöyük Research Project. The corresponding goal was also to link the stratigraphic sequence of the TPC Area with the chronologically corresponding sequence in the TP Area, located directly east of Mellaart Area A (Marciniak and Czerniak 2012; Marciniak et al. 2015a).

This chapter presents an outline of the Late Neolithic stratigraphy in the TPC Area as well as the stratigraphic overlap between the uppermost levels in the South Area and the bottommost levels in the TPC Area. Furthermore, the chapter will provide a comprehensive overview of two major aspects of Late Neolithic archaeology in the TPC Area, namely domestic architecture and burial practices. As the corresponding developments revealed in the first three years (2012–2014) of the campaign have already been presented (Marciniak 2015), this chapter will focus on discoveries from the final years of the project (2015–2017). The chapter will conclude by presenting a synthetic overview of major developments in the Late Neolithic at Çatalhöyük, based on the results in the TPC Area and corresponding developments unearthed in the neighboring TP Area excavated in the 2000s (Marciniak and Czerniak 2012).

## THE LATE NEOLITHIC STRATIGRAPHY AND PHASING IN THE TPC AREA: THE SOUTH AND TP STRANDS

The TP strand was developed for the uppermost levels of the East mound at Çatalhöyük in 2010, covering both the Late Neolithic as well as different post-Neolithic phases of the mound occupation. It is an integral element of the new phasing program introduced by the Çatalhöyük Research Project (Farid 2014). It was originally designed for the TP Area and later adopted for the TPC Area. The Late Neolithic levels were labeled using letters of the alphabet from TP M through TP R, substituting for Mellaart's levels 0, I, and II (1967). An implementation of the Late Neolithic phasing development in the TP Area was possible thanks to the recognition of superimposed dwelling structures. A detailed examination of the TPC stratigraphy revealed its direct correspondence with the stratigraphy and phasing developed for the TP Area. Consequently, the TP strand was adopted for this area and all ten dwelling structures (B.121, 122, 150, 166, 110, 152, 109, 115, 133, and Sp.520) unearthed there were ascribed to one of the six Late Neolithic TP Levels (for more, see Marciniak 2019). Consequently, the TP Levels are now used to label all the uppermost strata of the main strand of the East mound at Çatalhöyük. They are placed directly above the South Levels used to delimit the strata from the very bottom of the mound (see, e.g. Bayliss et al. 2015). The early phase of the Late Neolithic in the TP and TPC Areas overlaps with the two uppermost levels in the South sequence, namely Level TP M that corresponds with Level South T, while Level TP N corresponds with Level South S (see Regan 2014).

One of the major achievements of the work in the TPC Area was establishing a physical connection between the TPC and South strands. This made it possible to link both stratigraphic sequences and build up a complete stratigraphic strand from the very bottom to the very top of the East mound. It will eventually make it possible to date subsequent phases of the settlement occupation using a Bayesian modeling framework. As of today, only the beginnings (Bayliss et al. 2015) and the final centuries (Marciniak et al. 2015a) of the occupation of the Neolithic settlement have been dated.

With the aim of discovering the relations between B.166 (see below) in the TPC Area and the corresponding structures in the South Area, a ca. 2 m wide strip was excavated that reached the eastern edge of the structures excavated in 2004 and 2005 (Regan 2004, 2005), particularly the platform F.1312 located next to the western wall of B.44 (F.1340) (Fig. 2-2). A blocking, F.8668, made of very firm clay and one course of bricks, was later built on the platform surface. It most likely closed down the opening between B.44 and the area outside directly to the east. It was later truncated by the foundation cut for later wall F.8667, most likely used to stabilize and strengthen the blocking wall. The zone between B.44 and B.166 was later turned into the dumping area filled in with a number of superimposed midden layers deposited against both the wall F.8667 as well as the western F.8681 and the northern F.1077 walls of B.166 (Marciniak et al. 2017).

The TP strand in the TPC Area is characterized by complicated stratigraphy reflecting a complex occupational history, with numerous reconstructions, rebuildings, and abandonments of houses and their changing relations with open spaces of different character.

The earliest Level TP M is represented by four houses (B.121, B.122, B.150, and B.166). These are solid constructions with distinct floors and numerous built-in structures, such as platforms, hearths, ovens, and bins. They have been intensively used as implied by their numerous reconstructions. The walls in three of them, which have been preserved, were covered by plaster and then painted with black and white geometric designs. The houses from this



level are contemporaneous with B.44 in Level South S (Regan 2014). Their abandonment is followed by a short period in which the area went out of permanent use, as manifested by layers of midden and infill with indications of use in the form of hearths and activity areas.



Figure 2-2. Çatalhöyük East, TPC Area, western wall of B.44 (F. 1340) and the platform F.1312.

The following TP N is represented by three solid multi-roomed houses (B.110 and B.152, Sp.520) with compound walls but without distinct floors and burials beneath them. They were built either on middens or infill deposits, which marks a discontinuity in the sequence and layout of buildings. They are contemporaneous with B.10 in Level South T (Regan 2014).

Levels TP O and TP P mark a major discontinuity in the occupational sequence. The area might have been abandoned and later re-occupied in the form of some kind of open space, as identified by a solidly made bricky layer with fragments of a tramped floor (20256). After some time, the area went out of use and was transformed into a midden (20232 and 20215). In the TP Area, a hut-type construction, with a light roof, was identified.

Levels TP Q and TP R are characterized by distinct multi-roomed dwelling structures of significant size. They were built directly on top of the midden and infill layers of the open area from the preceding level. Small fragments of two superimposed buildings were recognized in Trench 1 and 2. In the former case, earlier B.115 is represented only by a fragment of an unspecified platform built on a layer of bricks, itself placed directly on midden (20213), and the following make-up layer made of small pebbles (20207). Two distinct superimposed floors were identified. As the house is only preserved in very small fragments, no details of its construction and layout are available. B.109 was fragmentarily preserved, consisting of walls made of greyish/beige bricks of a poor quality. B.133 from Trench 3 and 4 was a large structure composed of rooms of different size.

## THE LATE NEOLITHIC ARCHITECTURE IN THE TPC AREA

The earliest dwelling structures unearthed in the TPC Area represent the latest classic houses. They come from Level TPM and are dated back to ca. 6400–6300 BCE. Altogether, four such structures were recognized: B.121, B.122, B.150, and B.166; they have been thoroughly investigated but none of them completely excavated. These are relatively large buildings that were intensively used and rebuilt many times. The walls were plastered and extensively decorated. Internal furnishing comprised distinct floors as well as numerous built-in structures such as platforms, benches, bins, and fire installations. Numerous burials were interred beneath platforms inside the house. Similar to their predecessors from earlier phases, the northern parts of the structures were of ceremonial character while the southern parts served more domestic purposes.

The most clearly recognizable house from this phase is Building 150 in Trench 4 (Marciniak et al. 2017). This ca. 50 m<sup>2</sup> building (Fig. 2-3) has been reconstructed at least four times (Spaces 639, 637, 612, and 594), as indicated by a

sequence of superimposed floors with corresponding platforms and fire installations. It may have been occupied even longer, as its foundations, and thus earliest occupation, have not been unearthed due to termination of the Çatalhöyük Research Project.



Figure 2-3. Çatalhöyük East, TPC Area, Building 150.

All four walls of the building have been exposed: west wall (F.7357), north wall (F.8288, F.8267), south wall (F.7499), and east wall (F.8762) (Marciniak et al. 2017). They were plastered over and most likely painted. An internal layout of the house comprised a series of platforms and benches alongside its eastern and northern walls and ovens in the southern part. The north-central platform contained numerous burials (see below). A sequence of superimposed ovens with solidly constructed bases was placed against the southern wall. Next to the ovens, circular pits deliberately cut into the floor contained intentionally placed standing vessels. Similar pot deposits have been recorded in contemporaneous B.166 in Trench 3 (Marciniak et al. 2017) and in B.44 in the South Area (Regan 2014).

The southwest corner of the house (F.8672) seemed to have a special significance, as indicated by a rich concentration of various objects (Marciniak et al. 2017). It was the oldest structure unearthed to date in the entire building, and most likely it is associated with one of the earliest phases of building occupation. It was constructed in the place where the older large platform might have been deliberately cut off to make a space for this room. Three features were sitting directly on this floor: two bins (F.8674, F.8692) with white plastered walls, and an unspecified and plastered clay construction (F.8752), placed against the room's northern wall.

The room contained more than 200 items, mostly worked stones, including stone tools such as querns, pestles, and abrading or polishing items, and a concentration of large animal bones, mostly cattle scapulae and mandibles. It also comprised a rich cluster of special finds (F.8678), including a piece of wooden pounding tool, two extremely well preserved reed containers with seeds (lentils, barley, almond), and a dozen astragali. A clay stamp seal in the shape of a hand with carved geometric patterns came out from a dry sieve of the room infill (23993). The exceptional finds were two large stone anthropomorphic female figurines (32806.x1 and 32806.x2) found nearby (Marciniak et al. 2017). The first (32806.x1) (see below, Fig. 2-8, is around 10 cm high and depicts a seated female, with a corpulent body with breasts, and exaggerated stomach and buttocks. The second very large (see below, Fig. 2-9, 25 cm high) and heavy figurine (32806.x2) made of marble depicts a standing female. Additionally, a cluster of 35 stone tools and worked stones, including a polished mace-head made of red marble and two nicely finished pounding tools, was deposited in rectangular bin F.8674 built on the room floor. Of very similar character was the southwestern room in the neighboring contemporaneous B.44 in the South Area (Regan 2014).

Another distinctive dwelling from this phase is Building 122 from Trench 3 (Marciniak et al. 2017). As only its two last phases have been unearthed, its construction as well as the character of earlier occupational levels remain unknown. Moreover, a large section of its western portion is situated outside the excavated area. This rectangular longitudinal house was oriented along an east-west axis. It was 4 m wide; the area located within the trench was ca. 5 m long. An earlier phase of B.122 comprised a storage room (Space 493) of ca. 3 m<sup>2</sup> with five rectangular bins. It was



inserted into the previously existing structure, most likely the platform, and was located in the northeastern part of the building. The room infill yielded a great amount of carbonized botanical remains, and a large deposit of naked barley and wheat was found inside the bins (Marciniak et al. 2015b).

The later phase of its occupation involved a construction the room west of this older storage room (Space 562; Fig. 2-4). Its eastern wall re-used the western wall of the latter structure. Its outer surface was plastered and painted with



Figure 2-4. Çatalhöyük East, TPC Area, Building 122, Space 562.



Figure 2-5. Çatalhöyük East, TPC Area, Building 122, Space 562, geometric decoration of the northern wall.

black and white geometric designs in the form of vertical and transverse sets of parallel lines (Fig. 2-5). A similar decoration was applied on the northern wall. The room had numerous internal features, such as platforms with burials underneath (see below), benches and bucranium in its northern and eastern parts, and ovens and hearths in the



southern part. Two extraordinary features comprised small painted pillars placed on the bench against the northern wall of the room.

A similar dwelling is Building 166 located in the western part of Trench 3 and southeastern part of the South Area (Marciniak et al. 2017). The northern (F.3878) and southern (F.7174, F.8680) walls in Trench 3 continued westwards into the South Area. The eastern wall (F.3879) was placed in Trench 3, while the western wall (F.8681) of the building was placed in the South Area. Only the eastern part of the building in Trench 3 was excavated.

The earliest phase (Sp.515) is represented by a sequence of platforms in the northeastern part and the floor area with fire installations in the south. Two platforms (F.8669 and F.8670) were placed one next to the other along the eastern wall of the building. Their surfaces were plastered but not painted. The southernmost platform (F.8670) abutted the bench-like feature (F.8686). Interestingly, the platforms appear to have been inserted into the room with their eastern edges abutting the already existing plastered surface of the eastern wall of the building. The following two platforms were built directly on top of their predecessors, respecting their shape and size. The northern platform (F.8660) was constructed above platform F.8669, while the southern platform (F.8661) was above F.8670. The latest platform (F.7173) was most likely the only built-in structure, representing the final phase of the B.166 usage. The burials were interred beneath the platforms (see below). The dirty area in the southern part of the structure underwent some kind of reconstruction after the fire installation went out of use. This involved the construction of a north-south partition wall (F.8684), the floor surface (32824), and the bench-like construction (F.8686).

These three buildings are contemporary with B.121 in TPC Trench 2 (Marciniak 2015). They represent the last classic Neolithic houses. Their end marks a major departure in the architectural forms, construction tradition, exploitation character, and abandonment practices of the Neolithic house.

The following Level TP N represents the first departure from the hitherto dominant architecture. These are solid multi-roomed houses with compound walls that lack floors and corresponding built-in features as well as in-house burials. These are represented by two buildings: B.110 (see Marciniak 2015), B.152, and Sp.520. B.152 can only be partially reconstructed, as its southern part is outside the limit of excavation (Marciniak 2019). The house is made of the solid northwest-southeast wall (F.3852) and two perpendicular walls (F.3850, F.3851). In the northern area, these walls form three small rooms serving unspecified purposes. These walls do not respect the alignment of the preceding B.150 and have been placed directly on the platforms and floors from the previous phase (Sp.594). The building had neither its own floor nor any built-in structures.

Later in time, the site architecture underwent further changes, and the look of the buildings changed significantly. B.133 from Level TP R is the latest building in the TPC Area discovered in the last three years of the project. It is contemporary with B.115 and 109 discovered earlier (see Marciniak 2015). It was composed of a number of small rooms, most likely surrounding some kind of large room. Altogether, three rooms have been identified in Trenches 3 and 4. The most southern room (Sp.517) had a distinct floor. The second room (Sp.557) is placed directly north of Sp.517, but its floor was indistinct. The northernmost room (Sp.560) had three partition walls and two postholes. The building had neither built-in structures nor burials beneath the floor. However, the reconstruction of B.133 is very tentative due to its considerable destruction by the post-Neolithic occupation and post-depositional processes.

## THE LATE NEOLITHIC BURIAL PRACTICES IN THE TPC AREA

The excavations in the TPC Area in the years 2015–2017 brought about a discovery of 37 individuals interred beneath the floor of the latest classic houses: B.122, 150, and 160 from Level TP M. No burials were found in any of the later Levels TP N–R (Table 2-1).

The deceased were assembled in specially prepared burial pits placed, in most instances, in the north or northeastern parts of the building. They were buried in a flexed position, predominantly on the left side. The deceased were sometimes decorated with beaded necklaces made of stones or shells. Plant-based mats comprised an important element of the grave goods. The remains of new individuals were often put either in an already-occupied burial pit or associated burial contexts, destroying the remains of the earlier buried individuals. The deceased were placed in the grave within a short span of time, as indicated by a very similar condition and color of the bone.

The largest number of burials comes from B.150. In total, as many as 23 individuals were found beneath this structure's northeastern platform. The remains were heavily commingled, their body condition varied due to multiple openings of the grave and the intentional manipulation of previously-interred remains. Among them were nineteen adults over 20 years of age and four pre-adults, i.e. juveniles (Marciniak et al. 2017). During these burial activities, some anatomical parts of remains buried previously were deliberately removed and then placed among different individuals, most likely as a part of some kind of ritual practice.

The sequence of burials deposited in the burial pit beneath the eastern platform begins with two primary individuals. The first inhumation was a woman aged 25–35 years, who died in childbirth and was buried along with the 40<sup>th</sup> week fetus (Fig. 2-6). The body of the deceased was in an articulated position, lying on the left side. Her bones showed traces of cured rib fractures, osteoporosis, and spinal fusion, which indicates a large calcification, loss of bone mass during pregnancy, as well as an injury that occurred during the woman's life.

The second individual, who is of particular interest in terms of funeral practices occurring in the Late Neolithic period, was a middle-aged man (Fig. 2-7). Red pigment in the form of a straight stroke of paint was placed on the

| TP Level | Building | Sp/F/Sk        | Age | Sex | Deposition | MNI |
|----------|----------|----------------|-----|-----|------------|-----|
| TP M     | 150      | 594/3868/32848 | 3   | 5   | 6          | 23  |
| TP M     |          | 594/3868/32835 | 3   | 5   | 6          |     |
| TP M     |          | 594/3868/23972 | 5   | 4   | 6          |     |
| TP M     |          | 594/3868/23965 | 5   | 3   | 6          |     |
| TP M     |          | 594/3868/23954 | 3   | 8   | 5          |     |
| TP M     |          | 594/3868/23953 | 1   | 3   | 6          |     |
| TP M     |          | 594/3868/23904 | 6   | 9   | 1          |     |
| TP M     |          | 594/3868/23903 | 5   | 5   | 6          |     |
| TP M     |          | 594/3868/23902 | 3   | 5   | 6          |     |
| TP M     |          | 594/3868/23901 | 1   | 7   | 6          |     |
| TP M     |          | 594/3868/23900 | 3   | 7   | 6          |     |
| TP M     |          | 594/3868/23799 | 1   | 4   | 1          |     |
| TP M     |          | 594/3868/23798 | 1   | 4   | 4          |     |
| TP M     |          | 594/3868/23783 | 1   | 5   | 2          |     |
| TP M     |          | 594/3867/32818 | 5   | 5   | 4          |     |
| TP M     |          | 594/3867/23957 | 5   | 6   | 6          |     |
| TP M     |          | 594/3867/23955 | 3   | 8   | 6          |     |
| TP M     |          | 594/3867/23911 | 6   | 2   | 6          |     |
| TP M     |          | 594/3867/23910 | 5   | 5   | 6          |     |
| TP M     |          | 594/3867/23909 | 6   | 2   | 6          |     |
| TP M     |          | 594/3867/23906 | 6   | 2   | 6          |     |
| TP M     |          | 594/3867/23905 | 3   | 5   | 6          |     |
| TP M     |          | 594/3867/23760 | 3   | 5   | 4          |     |
| TP M     | 122      | 562/3888/23781 | 6   | 2   | 1          | 8   |
| TP M     |          | 562/3889/23751 | 1   | 5   | 1          |     |
| TP M     |          | 562/3889/23754 | 4   | 7   | 2          |     |
| TP M     |          | 562/3890/23920 | 2   | 3   | 4          |     |
| TP M     |          | 562/8691/32856 | 2   | 4   | 2          |     |
| TP M     |          | 562/8676/32801 | 1   | 5   | 1          |     |
| TP M     |          | 562/8685/32841 | 3   | 4   | 4          |     |
| TP M     |          | 562/8671/23983 | 6   | 1   | 1          |     |
| TP M     | 166      | 515/3891/23752 | 5   | 6   | 1          | 6   |
| TP M     |          | 515/3891/23746 | 6   | 2   | 1          |     |
| TP M     |          | 515/3896/23921 | 1   | 6   | 1          |     |
| TP M     |          | 515/3896/23787 | 1   | 6   | 1          |     |
| TP M     |          | 515/3896/23772 | 3   | 6   | 4          |     |
| TP M     |          | 515/8662/23961 | 6   | 1   | 4          |     |

| LEGEND       |      |                             |      |                        |      |                         |
|--------------|------|-----------------------------|------|------------------------|------|-------------------------|
| Sp- Space    | Code | Age                         | Code | Sex                    | Code | Deposition              |
| F- Feature   | 0    | Neonate (birth- 2 months)   | 1    | Female                 | 1    | Primary                 |
| Sk- Skeleton | 1    | Infant (2 months- 3 years)  | 2    | Female?                | 2    | Secondary               |
|              | 2    | Child (3- 12 years)         | 3    | Indeterminate          | 3    | Tertiary                |
|              | 3    | Adolescent (12- 20 years)   | 4    | Male?                  | 4    | Primary disturbed       |
|              | 4    | Young Adult (20- 35 years)  | 5    | Male?                  | 5    | Unknown                 |
|              | 5    | Middle Adult (35- 50 years) | 6    | too young to determine | 6    | Primary disturbed loose |
|              | 6    | Old Adult (50+ years)       |      |                        |      |                         |
|              | 7    | Adult (20 + years)          |      |                        |      |                         |
|              | 8    | Age not determinable        |      |                        |      |                         |
|              | 9    | Prenatal (pre- fullterm)    |      |                        |      |                         |

Table 2-1. A list of the Neolithic skeletons from the TPC Area.

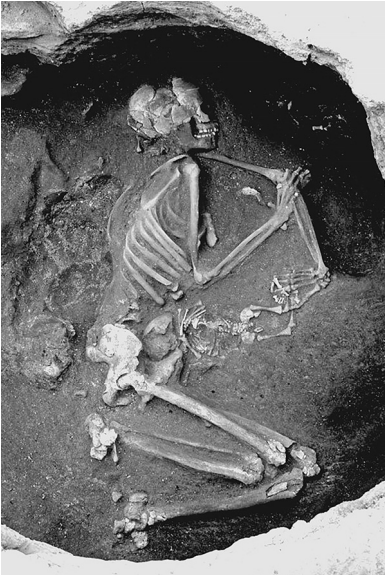


Figure 2-6. Çatalhöyük East, TPC Area, Building 150, Space 594, burial of a woman with fetus.



Figure 2-7. Çatalhöyük East, TPC Area, Building 150, Space 594, burial of a man.

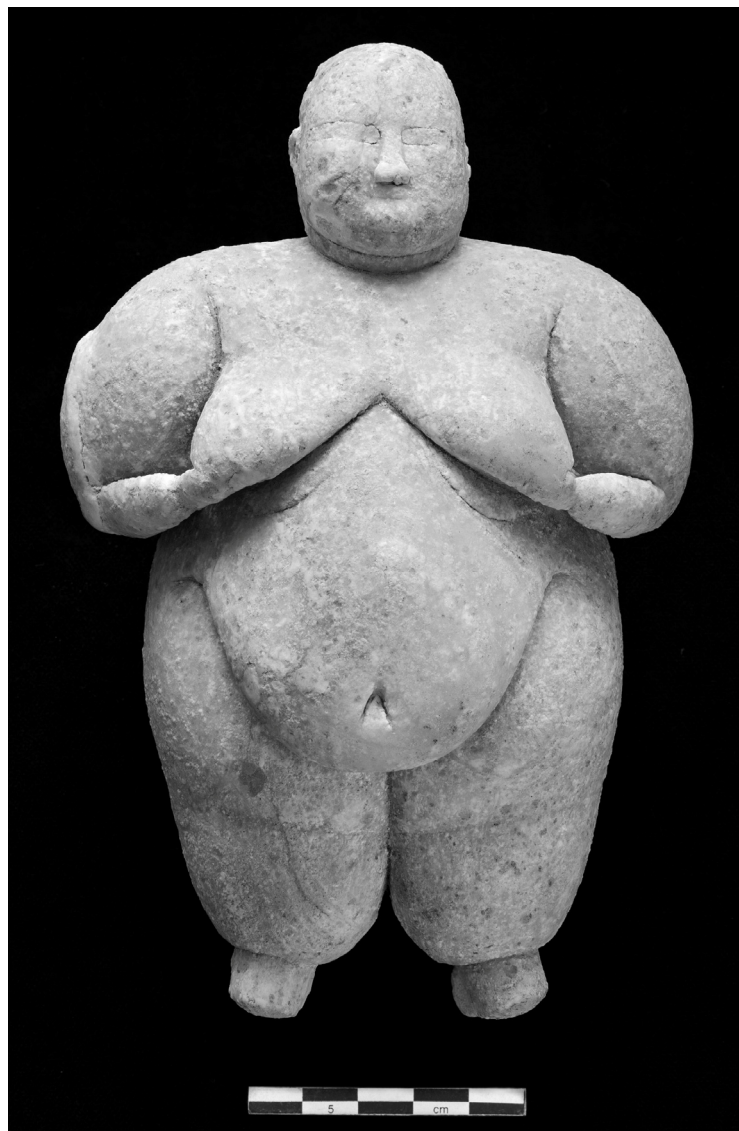


Figure 2-8. Çatalhöyük East, TPC Area, Building 150, Space 594, big female figurine (32806.x1).

frontal part of the skull. The pigment was applied sometime after the death of the individual, and after significant decomposition of his soft tissues; the excarnation probably took place outside of the settlement. The individual was buried with the remains of food, as indicated by the animal bone remains positioned at the level of the cervical and abdominal regions. Unlike most of the dead, this individual was facing east, which was unusual, because in the same context the preferential orientation was westward. It is possible that this individual had a special social status, as he was provided with an elaborate post-mortem treatment of the corpse before the final burial into the burial pit.

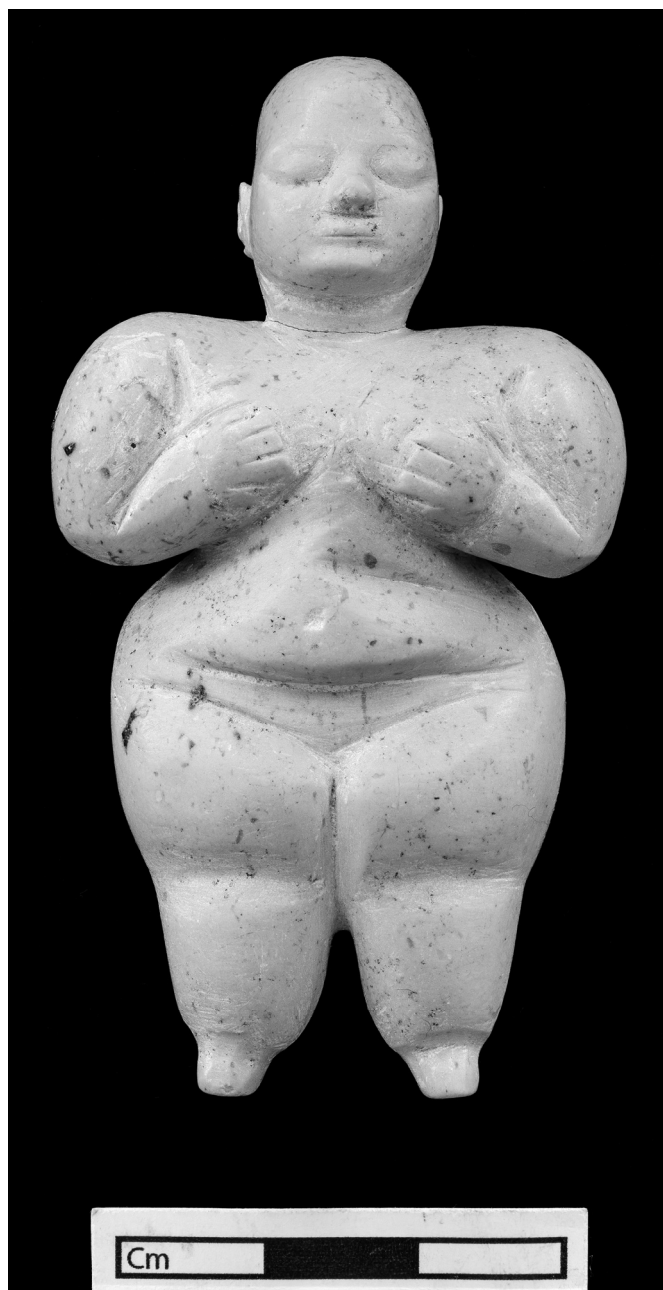


Figure 2-9. Çatalhöyük East, TPC Area, Building 150, Space 594, small female figurine (32806.x2).

Two figurines were discovered on the surface of the eastern platform of Building 150. They were probably placed during the intentional final closing of the burial pit which contained the pregnant woman (Marciniak et al. 2016). The platform then was covered with a limestone layer, which also covered both figurines. The larger figurine was about 17 cm tall and weighed about one kilogram (Fig. 2-8). The corpulent figure of a standing woman was depicted with her arms folded under her breasts. The ears, nose, and mouth are marked with clear lines. The smaller figure was made of yellow limestone (Fig. 2-9). It was only 7 cm in height and weighed 55 g. It was made in an extremely careful manner, with precise elaboration of anatomical details, including physiognomic features of the face. There were traces of red dye on the right foot and ears. Two holes on the top of the head indicate that the figure could serve as a pendant. The find may suggest that in the Late Neolithic period, some figurative practices could mediate relationships between the living and the dead, perhaps treating these figures as a reference to human burials under the platforms. It is also possible that some figurines depict dead individuals (Meskell et al. 2016: 141). In the grave itself, objects, such as an obsidian blade, a blue pigment, an orange stone bead, a bone blade, and a mineral crystal, were also identified.

The platform with burials in B.122 was built against the eastern wall and was decorated with white geometric wall paintings (see above). Altogether, eight individuals were interred, lying in flexed anatomical position, mostly on the left side. Half of them were identified as women in early adulthood. Some of the individuals had funerary equipment in the form of beads lying in situ around the neck and hands. The beads were made of stones or shells. Among the grave goods there were also the remains of mats made of plants. In some cases, the deceased body was wrapped in a mat. A very similar condition of bones as well as their color seem to imply a very short break between the interments of the deceased. In the neighboring B.166 house, six adults of various sexes and ages were buried in flexed anatomical position beneath the northeastern platform. The individuals were interred in shallow burial pits in the crouched position on the right or left side.

Available evidence from the latest phase of the classic phase of the Neolithic occupation at Çatalhöyük implies a continuation of funerary practices known from preceding centuries. Repetitive practices continued, as indicated by placement of the adult deceased in the same pits dug under the north and northeastern platforms. Newborns were often interred in benches or in very shallow depressions beneath the platform. Considerable post-inhumation corpse manipulation also took place, in particular in B.150. The burial customs in the TPC Area, in particular in B.122 and 166, reveal striking similarities with the contemporaneous B.44 from the South Area. This makes the reported practices representative for the final phase of the classic phase of the settlement occupation.

However, these practices rapidly ceased as a result of significant social re-arrangements, well manifested by the immediate departure from the construction of elaborated and richly decorated houses. This change also involved a removal of burial practices from the domestic domain. No Neolithic burials were found in the TPC Area in any of the latest Levels TP N–R. Changes in funerary practices remain poorly understood due to the dearth of relevant evidence.



One represented form comprises special purpose burial chambers inserted into the previously used dwelling structures. Two such chambers (Sp.327 and Sp.248) were constructed in the TP Area around 150 and 300 years, respectively, after the last occurrence of in-house inhumation (e.g. Marciniak et al. 2015a).

## ÇATALHÖYÜK IN THE LATE NEOLITHIC—A VIEW FROM THE TPC AREA

The second half of the seventh millennium cal BC marks a major threshold in the development of Neolithic communities in the Near East. It was a period of important re-evaluation of the constituent elements of the Neolithic revolution, including procurement strategies, modes of production, subsistence basis, the character of arable economy, and husbandry practices and social relations (Marciniak 2016). A significant portion of the lifetime of the settlement at Çatalhöyük fell into this turbulent period. This large urban center was exposed to these large-scale transformations, which not only changed its character but led to its ultimate demise. What makes this process even more interesting is that the site had been occupied throughout the so-called “8.2-kyBP event” (Roffet-Salque et al. 2018). This sudden climatic crisis put to test the farming communities in the Near East and may have accelerated the spread of early farmers out of Anatolia to new pastures in Greek Macedonia, Thessaly, and Bulgaria.

The settlement at Çatalhöyük emerged around 7100 BCE (Bayliss et al. 2015). Through centuries of steady and uninterrupted development it became a densely packed semi-urban agglomeration around the middle of the 7<sup>th</sup> millennium BCE. Houses were built of loam. Their interior was carefully designed and richly decorated and built with distinct platforms, benches, and ovens. The walls were decorated with elaborate painting. The entrance to the house was through the southern part of the roof. The inhabitants buried their dead beneath the platforms and floors. The houses were clustered in streetless neighborhoods, which were separated from each other by alleys and courtyards. Houses were continuously used by 3–4 generations, being rebuilt on the same location, with the same proportions and interior arrangements.

The final phase of the construction and use of these houses took place around 6300 BCE, indicating the emergence of some problems of unspecified character. As in previous centuries, the houses were deliberately abandoned by filling in their interior with sand and rubbish. However, instead of constructing a new house on top of these older structures, people started to use this area in a different fashion by constructing hearths and other fire installations. Soon afterwards, the inhabitants made an attempt to reconstruct new houses that differed significantly from their predecessors. These were solid multi-roomed structures with neither distinct floors nor burials underneath them. They were slightly bigger than previously (ca. 50–75 m<sup>2</sup>) and were made of orange/dark yellow walls carefully bonded with each other. They were composed of two to four distinct rooms. They appear to be unfinished and most likely never occupied. Comparable structures from the neighboring TP Area were in use for a relatively short period of time, around 15–20 years, encompassing no more than one generation (Marciniak et al. 2015a).

The problem that inhabitants of Çatalhöyük faced was real and serious. It challenged the hitherto practiced mode of life and required a speedy response. Constructing solid architectural structures was no longer feasible, so they were replaced by light shelters and open spaces. The unfinished solid buildings were re-used. Some of their parts were turned into a hut-type construction with a light roof while others served as open areas, most likely delimited by the walls of the earlier house. The latter areas were intensively used, as indicated by numerous fire spots. They were later turned into a continuously used kitchen midden, as demonstrated by fire installations and rich occupational debris.

This period lasted until 6100 BCE. The climatic turbulence ceased, creating better living conditions for those inhabitants of Çatalhöyük who still remained at the settlement. They started to develop a new strategy of existence, which differed significantly from the bygone time of more luxurious living in the settlement. They began building new houses which were composed of a series of small, cell-like spaces surrounding a larger central “living room,” and which lacked symbolic elaboration. The main room had a central hearth and hardly any other built-in structures. The houses had neither platforms nor intramural burials. They underwent numerous reconstructions, as indicated by a complex sequence of floors and partition walls.

This new strategy proved to be unsustainable in the short term to the extent that the settlement was rapidly shrinking and unable to avoid its collapse and ultimate abandonment. It did not keep pace with the developments in other neighboring regions by not adopting new ideas and solutions. For example, the inhabitants avoided stone architecture, painted pottery, or new forms of vessels, and continued living by their old habits, using wild cattle in ceremonial settings. The Neolithic Çatalhöyük remained occupied until around 5950 BCE and then was abandoned.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## CHAPTER THREE

### RECENT LATE CHALCOLITHIC AND IRON AGE DISCOVERIES AT ARSLANTEPE: THE 2017–2018 CAMPAIGNS

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#### INTRODUCTION

Arslantepe<sup>1</sup> is a mound which rises 30 m high in the Malatya plain, a few kilometres from the west bank of the Euphrates, and was formed by a long continuous sequence of superimposed settlements from at least the 6<sup>th</sup> millennium BCE to the Byzantine age. A long-term systematic excavation project was carried out at the site for many decades, bringing to light wide areas of each settlement period, from the Late Chalcolithic 1–2 period (4500–4000 BCE) to the Iron Age (1200–700 BCE), with additional minor investigations of a Late Roman village and a Byzantine cemetery on the top of the mound. The site is located at a crossroads between Mesopotamia, central Anatolia, and the Caucasus, and its long and complex history reflects its changing relations and the remarkable associated cultural and political changes.

The most noteworthy discoveries have highlighted, on the one hand, the formation of an original early state society, albeit related to the Mesopotamian world, in the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium BCE (LC 3–5), and on the other hand, the revival of the centre, firstly as an important political core connected with the expanding Hittite Empire in the Late Bronze Age (LBA) and, subsequently, as the capital of the Neo-Hittite kingdom of Melid in the Iron Age.

The 2017 and 2018 campaigns at Arslantepe concentrated on these two poles of the sequence (Fig. 3-1): (1) The Late Chalcolithic 3–4 levels (Period VII of Arslantepe, 3900–3400 BCE), for which we set out to investigate the developmental process leading to the foundation of an imposing palace complex attesting to the rise of a state political system in the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium BCE (Frangipane 2016, 2018, 2019); and (2) the Iron Age II phases (Period III B of Arslantepe, 1000–800 BCE), which have provided new and interesting data on the foundation of the autonomous Neo-Hittite kingdom of Melid in the early 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BCE (Frangipane and Liverani 2013).

As for the Late Chalcolithic investigation, the operations were conducted in a broad area to the west of the Palace, where, after dismantling the Late Chalcolithic Temple C, an unexpected wide, open area associated with burials and ritual acts was found, which lay on a series of monumental residential buildings. These, together with similar buildings brought to light in previous seasons, formed part of a large elite residential district, offering further support to the idea that this area was set apart for “high-rank” people.

The Iron Age investigations were carried out on the northern part of the mound in the area of the inner citadel, where the remains of paved courtyard floors from the latest Neo-Hittite phases, brought to light in 2016, were removed in order to analyse the Iron Age sequence in the town core.

The results of the last two season’s investigations in both areas are briefly presented in the following sections.

#### MONUMENTALITY, RITUAL, AND DOMESTIC SPACES FROM THE RECENT LATE CHALCOLITHIC 3–4 (PERIOD VII) INVESTIGATIONS

In the SW trenches where Late Chalcolithic levels (Arslantepe Period VII)<sup>2</sup> were previously exposed, the 2017 and 2018 campaigns have both expanded the area of excavation and continued the investigation of the stratigraphic sequence covering the phases preceding 3400 BCE. What remained of Temple C, which we began exposing in 2000, and which was already partially dismantled, was completely removed, except for its northeast corner. This excavation area in fact had to be preserved for the purposes of roof construction over the Period VIA palatial complex; for this reason the remains of Temple D, described in an earlier volume in this series (Frangipane et al. 2017), and a corner of Temple C, were kept in place.

Northwest of Temple C, work was also resumed in an area that had been excavated in the 1990s. The aim was to stratigraphically correlate these two areas. A small new trench of a little more than 50 m<sup>2</sup> was also opened just north of

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<sup>1</sup>The introduction was authored by M. Frangipane.

<sup>2</sup>This section was authored by Francesca Balossi Restelli.

Temple C, and from this came one of the unexpected discoveries of the last campaigns; a pit (K1914) no more than 1.5 m wide was found, inside of which sat a large pithos similar in size to the pit. The pithos contained hundreds of artifacts: beads of different stones and colours, perforated shells, metal ornaments and a small decorative metal plaque, pottery beakers, pedestal bowls, and a couple of large jars. Stratigraphically this pit appears to belong to a very late stage of Period VII, possibly after the abandonment of Temple C, or at its very last period of use.

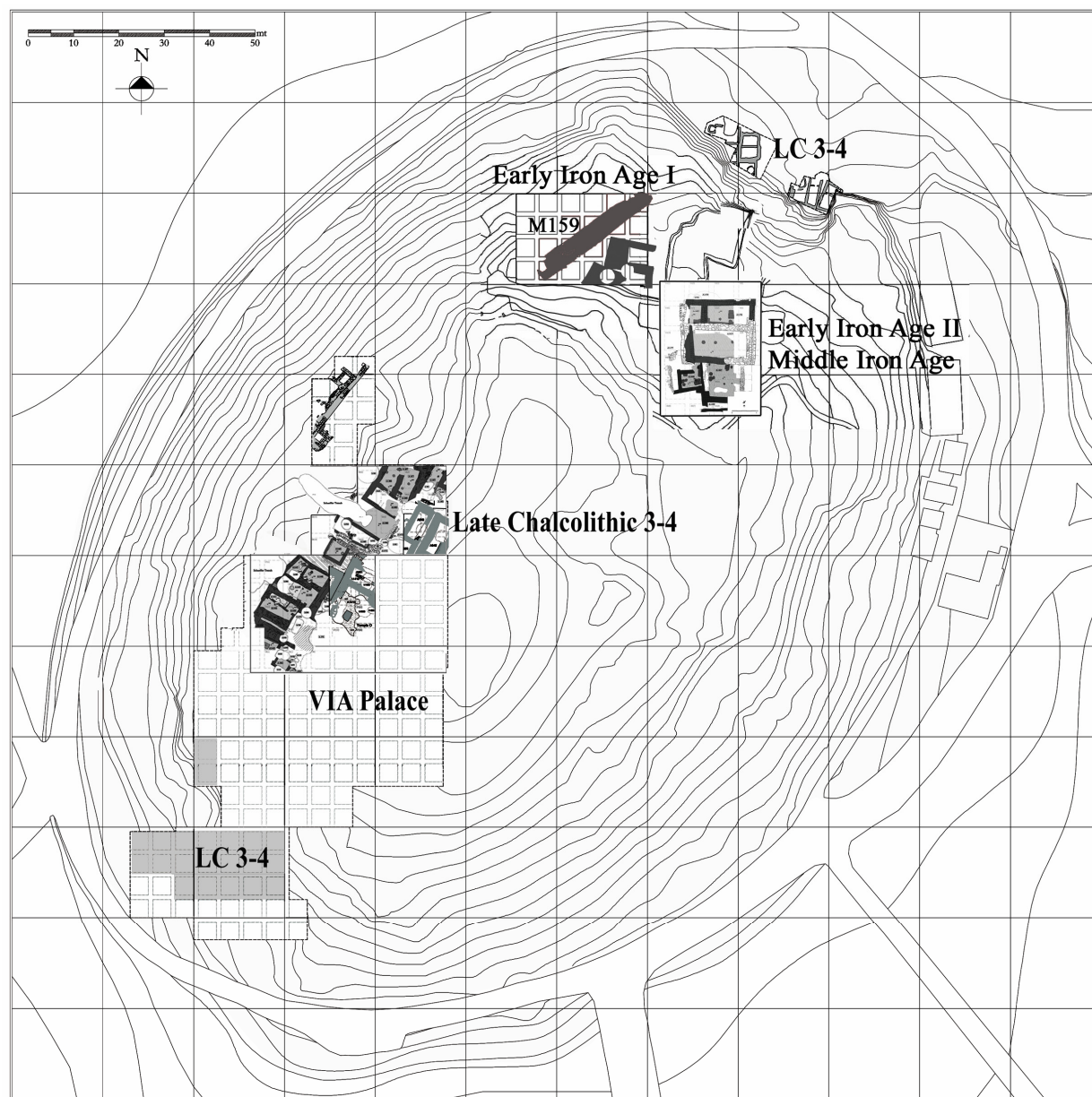


Figure 3-1. The Arslantepe mound with the excavated areas and the major buildings of periods VII (LC 3–4) and III (IA) investigated in 2017–2018. © MAIAO

The dismantling of Temple C exposed an impressive construction technique that as yet has no parallels at contemporary sites. The building was built on an imposing stone platform running all around the perimeter of the building and slightly raising it above the surrounding surface to the south and the west, which was already visible under the impressive mudbrick walls in the eroded or cut parts of the building (Frangipane 2002, 2016). The extremely complex and laborious removal of this imposing platform, made of more than 650 stone slabs, revealed an even more astonishing underlying preparation of mud and horizontal wooden beams (Fig. 3-2). These were laid densely and parallel to each other, and a thick layer of mud covered and embedded them completely. As with the stone slabs that covered them, the beams were only found along the perimeter of the building, in the areas occupied by the walls and the side rooms of the temple. Under the floor of the central room of Temple C there were no stone slabs, nor the wooden and mud base; instead the area was simply filled in with layers of mudbrick-like material. More than a platform, the basement of Temple C is a complex foundation system for this huge and very monumental building. It is probable that the wood and mud forming the first layer of the construction had the function of stabilizing and balancing the overlying heavy structure, regularizing the base and creating a more uniform surface onto which to raise



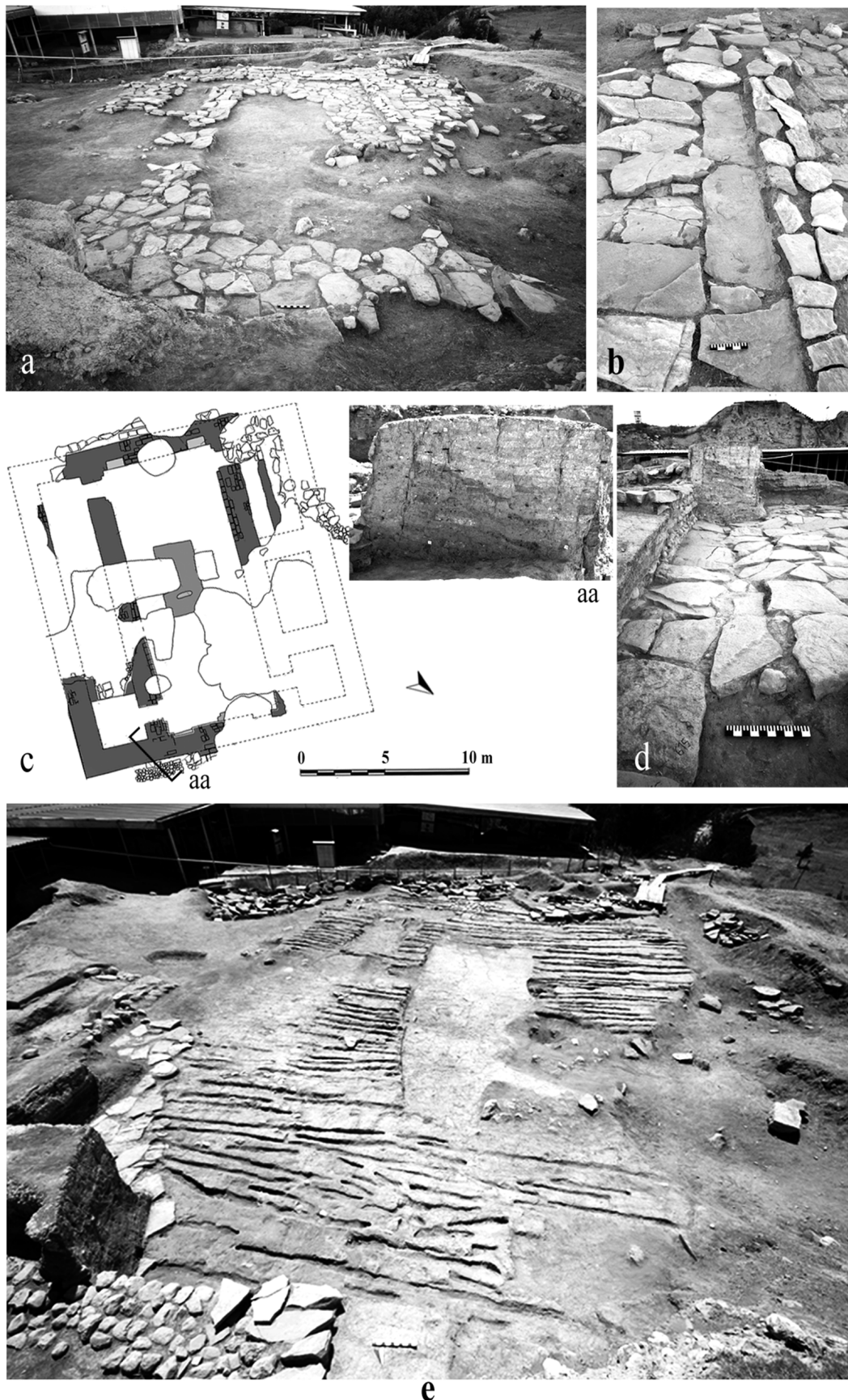


Figure 3-2. Foundations of Temple C; a–d) stone slab “platform” foundation under the walls of the temple; c–d) also evidence of the structural instability and collapse of the stone slab platform and of the northern wall of the temple, possibly due to an earthquake or other geological instability. A crack is clearly visible (1d), and exactly in correspondence with the crack, the overlying wall has evidence of collapse (1c, aa) and rebuilding with mud-bricks of a different colour; e) mud and wooden post preparation for the stone slab foundation. © MAIAO

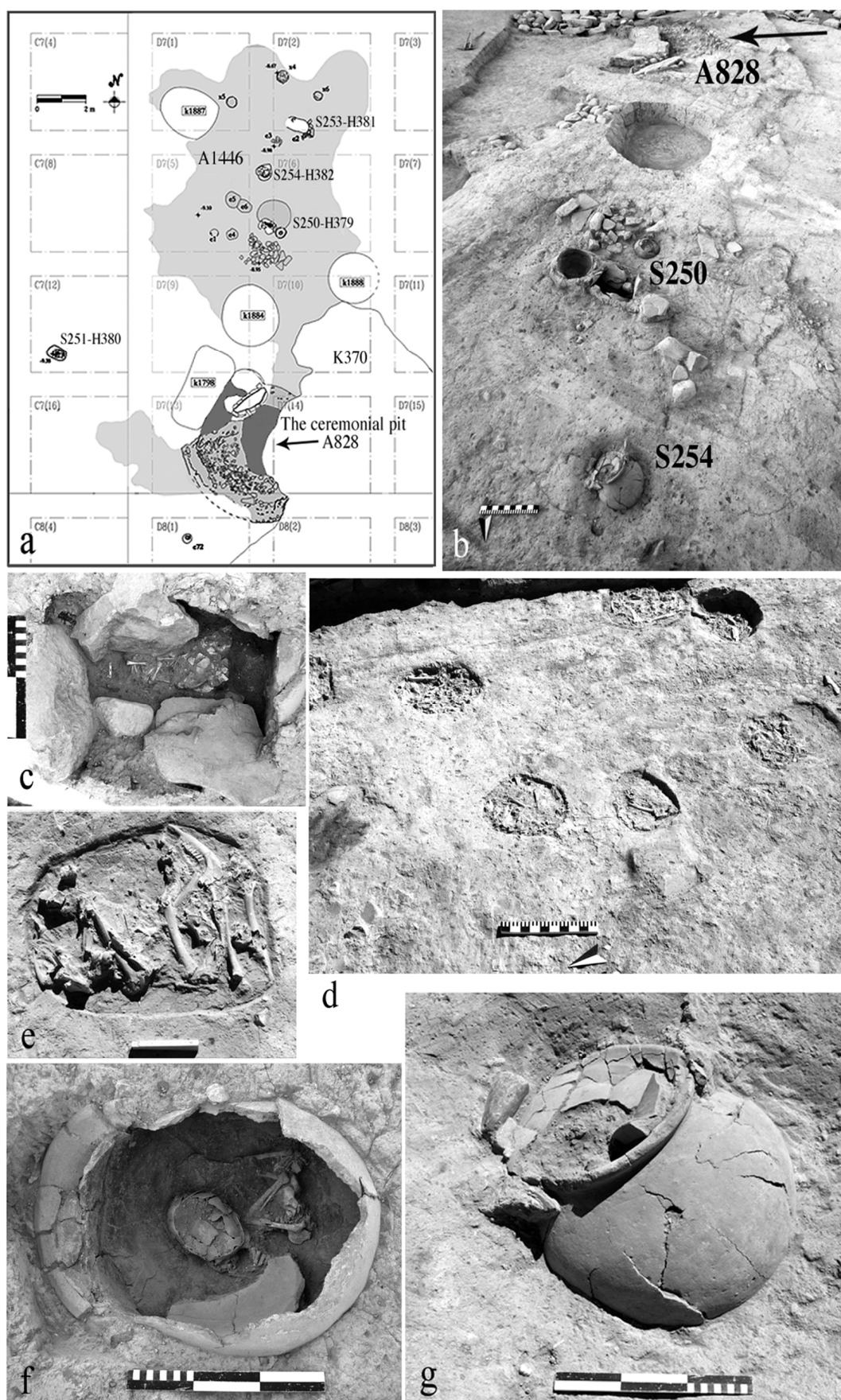


Figure 3-3. Arslantepe Period VII. Open area in cobbles and sherds, used for domestic activities, and also assigned to funerary and ritual events; a–b) southern area with ritual pit, infant urns, and cist grave; c) stone cist with infant burial (S250-Homo 379), d–e) ritual pits with animal bones and ashes; f–g) infant burials in jar (S251-H380 and S254-H382 respectively). © MAIAO