XVIII.
KAZİ SONUÇLARI
TOPLANTISI

27-31 MAYIS 1996
ANKARA
EXCAVATIONS AT TİTRİŞ HÖYÜK:
THE 1995 SEASON

Guillermo ALGAZE*

INTRODUCTION

Tîtrîş Höyük was the capital of a small EBA city-state that emerged and collapsed alongside an important east-west overland route in the Atatürk Dam area of the Upper Euphrates basin of southeastern Anatolia between the Mid EBA (ca. 2600/2500-2300) and the Late EBA (ca. 2300-2200/2100 B.C.). At its apogee in the Mid-Late EBA, Tîtrîş was composed of a central acropolis area (Area 1) surrounded by a much more extensive lower city (Areas 2-4), about 35 ha in extent. The main occupation just described is surrounded, in turn, by a number of discontinuous and apparently ephemeral "suburb" occupations (Area 5) that add a further 8 ha or so to the extent of the ancient city (Fig. 1). Five seasons of excavations and research centered at the site have been conducted thus far (Algaze et al. 1992, Algaze and Mısıır 1994, 1995; Algaze et al. 1995; and Matney and Algaze 1996).

The fifth season of work at the site was conducted between July 10 and August 30, 1995. The main goal of the season was to continue

(*) Dr. Guillermo ALGAZE, 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, Anthropology La Jolla CA-92093, USA
(1) The 1995 season was directed by Dr. Guillermo Algaze (University of California, San Diego). Dr. Timothy Matney (Whitman College) acted as field director. Full and part-time staff included 6 archaeologists: Mr. Murat Arslan (Bilkent University), Ms. Francesca De Lillis (University of Rome), Mr. Bekir Gürdil (University of Istanbul), Mr. Clemens Reichel (University of Chicago), Mr. Eric Rupley (University of Michigan), and Mr. Duncan Schlee (Cambridge Archaeological Unit). Mr. John Kelly (University of California, Berkeley) and Ms. İgıl Özer (Middle Eastern Technical University) served as architects. Ms. Virginia Badler (University of Toronto) conducted residue analysis and assisted in pottery drawing. Archaeological conservation was supervised by Ms. Jessica Johnson (Texas Memorial Museum, University of Texas), helped by Ms. Tania Collins (Conservation Analytical Laboratory, Smithsonian Institution). As always, help in all aspects of our research was provided by Mr. Adnan Mısıır, director of Şanlıurfa Museum. Ms. Songül Ceylan (Şanlıurfa Museum) served as the representative of the Ministry of Culture.
clarifying the nature of the urban structure of the settlement in its latest (Late EBA) occupational phase (Fig. 1). We pursued this goal by means of: (1) broad area excavations of domestic housing in the Outer Town (Area 4) sector; (2) a single exposure of comparable domestic housing in the western sector of Lower Town (Area 2), and (3) surveys in one the suburb areas surrounding the site (Area 5). What follows is a brief report of the principal results of our work in these various areas of the site in 1995.

**OUTER TOWN (AREA 4) EXCAVATIONS**

*Domestic Housing in the Outer Town: Trenches 79-84/87, 80-84/86, 81-84/86, and 82-86.* Remote sensing (magnetometry) results from the 1992-94 seasons (Somers in Algaze et al. 1995) had indicated the presence of small-roomed structures extending over a large portion of the eastern sector of the Outer Town. Large-scale exposures of these structures were initiated in 1994, when an area of 600 sq. m was uncovered (Matney in Algaze et al. 1995). The continuation of this work in 1995 exposed a further 575 sq. m, for a total exposure of 1,175 sq. m. The bulk of this exposure was contained within 12 contiguous trenches arranged in 4 north-south oriented rows (Figs. 2-3). Over fifty rooms, courtyards, and passageways forming at least 4 discrete building units aligned at either side of a sherd and stone paved central street are contained within these trenches. To the south, the exposed units face an open midblock sector which appears to have been used as communal space for various production activities and for dumping garbage. These remains are contemporary with and adjoin a defensive system girdling the Outer Town, which was partially cleared in 1994 (Matney in Algaze et al. 1995).

All of the structures exposed in 1994/95 form part of a single coherent building phase. Associated ceramics allow us to equate this occupation with Phase IVA of the neighboring site of Kurban Höyük.

---

(2) Financial support for the 1995 season was provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities, an independent agency of the United States Government, The Samuel H. Kress Foundation (New York), The Richard Lounsbery Foundation (New York), the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research and a small number of private donors.
This date is supported by radiocarbon determinations from carbonized wood samples found in associated room floor or exterior surface deposits. Four samples have been analyzed thus far (below). One of the samples (TH 6162), yielded a date range in the first half of the third millennium BC and appears too early for its Late EBA context. However, the other three samples (TH 3771, TH 8267, TH 8274) yielded dates that are internally consistent and which indicate a temporal range focused in the last three centuries of the third millennium.

The Late EBA architecture in the eastern sector of the Outer Town is terraced into the slope of the mound (from NW to SE) and, like the street, follow its natural contours. In several places where excavation penetrated beneath the original floor surfaces, the remains of extensive, well-built stone drains (made necessary by the steep terracing) were recovered. Architectural features such as plaster and stone basins, hearths and ovens (of various types), and benches are common within the

(3) More specifically, the Late EBA materials from the upper (and final) Building Phase of the Titris Outer Town correlate precisely with the Phase 21 materials in Area A at Kurban Höyük (Algaze 1990: 108, Fig. 68). The Titris materials thus predate the Period III sequence at Kurban (Area A, Phase 22 and Area D, Building Phase IIc-A) (Algaze 1990: 369-390; Fig. 135), assigned to the EB/MB Transition period. The Late EBA assemblage at Titris shares many types with the earlier Mid EBA phase at the settlement. However, the later phase can be distinguished because of the relatively low proportions of Metallic, Horizontally Reserve Slipped, and Karababa Painted Wares (for definitions, see Algaze 1990). Particularly sensitive for chronological differentiation between the two phases are the associated small cups and cooking pots. Whereas mid Early Bronze Age cups are conical and have band rims (type as Algaze 1990: Pl. 53 M-V), Late EBA cups have inturned walls (e.g., Matney and Algaze 1996 Fig. 8 B) and become increasingly taller and barrel shaped -- a development that eventually culminates in Hama Goblets. Late EBA cooking pots, similarly, are easily distinguished from their Mid EBA counterparts. Both have triangular ledge lugs, but those of the earlier phase are commonly highly burnished and have outflaring rims (type as Algaze 1990: Pl. 93 A-M), while those of the later phase are usually only crudely burnished and have sharply inturning upper walls, approaching a hole-mouth shape (type as Algaze 1990: Pl. 135 A-F). A thorough analysis of the ceramic assemblages characteristic for these two chronological phases at Titris is now in preparation.

(4) Samples were run by Beta Analytic Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory (Florida) and all have been recalibrated using the latest calibration curves from the University of Washington (Calib, revision 3.0.3).
Outer Town Uppermost Architectural Level C\textsuperscript{14} Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lab No.</th>
<th>Beta-80446</th>
<th>Beta-80449</th>
<th>Beta-80447</th>
<th>Beta-80448</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Locus</td>
<td>Floor</td>
<td>Street</td>
<td>Floor</td>
<td>Floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Context</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample No.</td>
<td>TH 6162</td>
<td>TH 3771</td>
<td>TH 8267</td>
<td>TH 8274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BP Date</td>
<td>4260 ± 170</td>
<td>3860 ± 180</td>
<td>3630 ± 60</td>
<td>3860 ± 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercepts</td>
<td>2888 B.C.</td>
<td>2397, 2391,</td>
<td>2008, 1995</td>
<td>2397, 2391,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2309, 2300,</td>
<td>1952 B.C.</td>
<td>2309, 2300,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2291 B.C.</td>
<td></td>
<td>2291 B.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Sigma</td>
<td>3080-2579 B.C.</td>
<td>2566-1982 B.C.</td>
<td>2108-1834 B.C.</td>
<td>2462-2200 B.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calibration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Sigma</td>
<td>3359-2361 B.C.</td>
<td>2881-1755 B.C.</td>
<td>2119-1772 B.C.</td>
<td>2554-2042 B.C.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

rooms (Fig. 4). Limestone wall foundations commonly rise to a height of about 1 meter above the floors. Interior floors were made of either hard packed earth or, occasionally, plaster.

The extent of exposures in the eastern sector of the Outer Town makes it possible to define some basic recurring architectural and spatial configurations of domestic space in the city for the late Early Bronze Age (Fig. 3). We can distinguish several distinct constructional modules within the excavated area. These modules appear to represent recurring measures of space and, possibly, units of construction. Two standard shapes may be recognized within the exposed area: rectangular modules and square modules. Rectangular modules are approximately 7 x 12 m in size and vary in orientation. Three rectangular modules to the north of the street (in Unit 1), for instance, are all oriented downslope (NW-SE), while two facing modules on the south side of the street (in Unit 3) are oriented across slope (SW-NE). Square modules are approximately 11 meters per side. Two such modules face each other across the street within the exposed area (Units 2 and 4). Save for a single exception, the constructions associated with each module are separated from each other by double walls.

While the modules appear to be recurring spatial units, they are not the primary unit of domestic organization in the exposed sector.
Doorways connecting different modules (i.e., across double boundary walls) allow us to distinguish several larger discrete interconnected units forming a single household or building unit. Four such units can be identified in the plan of the excavated remains (Fig. 3: 1-4) and the existence of further units may be extrapolated from the magnetometry map of the area (Fig. 5). These units are of variable size, depending on the number and orientation of the modules they incorporate. Because of their modular construction, each building unit commonly contains a number of cobble- and sherd-paved courtyards, which may serve to identify the activities of nuclear families.

*Mortuary Remains.* Two of the building units just described had associated intramural tombs. One tomb (Locus 80-84: 011), the largest found, was set into the corner of the central courtyard of Building Unit 1 (Figs. 2-3). This tomb (Fig. 6) was built at the time of the initial construction of the surrounding structure. Two further similar but smaller tombs were found in association with Building Unit 3. These latter tombs appear to be sequential. Though of variable size, the tombs always consisted of a stone-lined cist with long, flat capstones and an exterior pit (dromos) leading to a door consisting of one or two large limestone slabs standing on edge (Fig. 7).

Noteworthy among the offerings found inside the largest of the three tombs, was a two-handed *depas* cup of Early Bronze date and Troy II type (Fig. 8, center). This *depas*, no doubt imported into the site from southwestern Anatolia or the Aegean area, is the second such complete vessel to be recovered at Titris (cf. Algaze et al. 1992: fig. 16). Also found within this tomb was a carefully-made loop-handled vessel with a ram's head spout (Fig. 9), a type thus far not attested elsewhere at the site. Finally, included as one of the associated offerings was a vase that had once contained a flower, apparently a thistle. This unique find became apparent only after careful cleaning and conservation, when it could be seen that a cast of the plant's structure had been preserved in mud and salt (Fig. 10a-b).

Though the osteological material within these tombs has not yet been analyzed in detail, preliminary observations show that, invariably, these intramural tombs were communal interments and contained the mostly disarticulated remains of multiple individuals, including adults (of both sexes), juveniles, and even infants. In terms of their constructional technique and use history, these Late EBA intramural tombs are
indistinguishable from, earlier, Mid EBA cist tombs previously excavated in an extramural cemetery area near the site (Hauptmann 1993; Honça in Algaze et al. 1995: 26-28). On account of their location, composition, and long use history we believe that the intramural burials recovered this year may represent family crypts. If so, the association of the crypts with distinct households may well signal an ancestral claim of property rights within the city. However, the significance of the shift in mortuary practice at the site between the extramural cist burials documented for the Mid EBA and the similar but intramural interments common for the Late EBA is difficult to assess.

LOWER TOWN (AREA 2) EXCAVATIONS

Guided by the results of remote sensing surveys conducted in 1994 (Somers in Algaze et al. 1995: fig. 13), we opened a single 10 x 10 m trench in the western lobe of the Lower Town in 1995. This operation, Tr. 34-12, was placed on the western edge of the Lower Town to begin uncovering a coherent neighborhood area that could be compared against the one being revealed in the Outer Town. All or portions of six rooms flanking a cobble and sherd-paved street were uncovered within the trench (Fig. 11). These remains may be assigned to the Late EBA on the basis of the associated ceramics and are similar in both construction technique and scale to the domestic units, discussed above, exposed in the eastern portion of the Outer Town. Also, like the Outer Town exposures described earlier, this architecture has several subphases, suggesting an occupation of significant duration. However, further exposures are needed in this area in future seasons before we can ascertain how configurations of domestic space in the Lower Town resemble or differ from those already described for the Outer Town.

SUBURBS (AREA 5)

To date, no excavations have been conducted in any of the mid-late Early Bronze Age suburb areas surrounding the main settlement at Titris. However, in 1994 we noticed numerous Canaanite blade cores eroding onto the surface of one of the suburbs (Fig. 12), about 320 meters away from the eastern edge of the Outer Town (Fig. 1). We continued plotting the incidence of cores of this area in 1995. Over 100 cores have now been recovered. This concentration of Canaanite blade cores, the densest ever reported in southwest Asia (S. Rosen, pers. comm.), attracted our attention because Canaanite blades are regularly recovered in Mid-Late EBA contexts on the site but none of the cores from which they were produced has yet been found in the excavations. This
extraordinary concentration strongly argues for the existence of a specialized flint blade production area within the eastern site suburbs and will be the focus of future research at the site.

CONCLUSIONS

The 1995 work at Titris helps document the nature of domestic occupations at the site in the Late EBA and suggests the presence of specialized production areas at the periphery of the settlement. This is important because, save for rare exceptions, such domestic and specialized production sectors remain the least understood areas of urban EBA societies in the ancient Near East, both textually and archaeologically. Because of the large size of the houses uncovered and of the number of courtyards and hearths within them, it is likely that the basic unit of organization at the domestic level within the city was the extended family, with each coherent architectural unit formed by a number of closely-related nuclear families sharing a single burial crypt. The evidence for standardized construction modules forming the units and, more importantly, for wall alignments that cut across different units suggest that construction in the exposed sector of the site was organized at a supra-household level.

REFERENCES


Figure 1: Titris Höyük. Contour plan showing the main morphological areas of the settlement and the areas excavated in 1994-95.
Figure 2: Late Early Bronze Age domestic area in the Eastern sector of the Outer Town (79-84/87, 80-84/86, 81-84/86, and 82-86). View toward the northeast.
Figure 3: Schematic plan (original footprint not incorporating numerous later modifications) of Late EBA domestic area in the eastern sector of the Outer Town (Trs. 79-84/87, 80-84/86, 81-84/86, and 82-86). Scale indicated. Map produced by Mr. John Kelly.

Figure 4: Room with in-situ deposits and horse-shoe shaped hearth in Unit 1.
Figure 5: Titris Outer Town. Correlation of geomagnetic data and 1994-95 excavation results (see also Figure 3) in and around the area of Trrs. 79-84/87, 80-84/86, 81-84/86, and 82-86. The data has been processed to highlight only negative magnetic signals (in black), presumed to represent collapsed and in-situ limestone wall foundations. Scale indicated.
Figure 6: Late EBA cist tomb in Trench 80-84 (tomb structure: Locus 011, contents: Loci 026, 048) with capstones removed. View toward the south. View of interior deposits prior to removal.

Figure 7: Late EBA cist tomb in Trench 80-84 (Locus 011) with capstones removed. View (toward the southeast) showing detail of tomb door construction.
Figure 8: Late EBA ceramics from deposits (Loci 026, 048) in interior of Tomb 80-84: 011. Note an Aegean type two-handed depas (TH 11855) toward center.

Figure 9: Late EBA vessel (TH 11878) from deposits (Loci 026, 048) in interior of Tomb 80-84: 011.
Figure 10a: Mineralized flower impression found in vase (TH 11773) from deposits (Loci 026, 048) in interior of Tomb 80-84: 011

Figure 10b: Mineralized flower impression found in vase (TH 11773) from deposits (Loci 026, 048) in Interior of Tomb 80-84: 011
Figure 11: General View (toward the North) of Late EBA street and associated domestic structures in Trench 34-12

Figure 12: Canaanite blade cores from the Eastern Suburb survey area