

CAN HASAN 1970

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A short season of excavation was carried out at Can Hasan in May and June. Our purpose was to complete the work unfinished in December 1969:

1) the surface stripping of an extensive area on top of the mound.

2) the deep sounding.

Both these objectives were achieved.

Work began on 23 May and ended on 22 June. Those participating included Mrs. David French, Messrs. C. Ridler, M. Smith, N. Yemede M. Weaver and Misses G. Durbin, J. Pike and P. T. Winkoff. Bay Gürbüz Alp and then Bay Mustafa Anbar represented the Turkish Government. A small force of men was employed for digging; a larger number of women, already trained in the work, were employed for sieving, sorting and cleaning.

The surface stripping was quickly completed; approximately 0.20 - 0.25 m. of top soil was removed and the lines of walls and features marked and planned. The total area exposed in 1969 and 1970 measured 20 x 30 m. i.e. 600 m²; the whole exposure has now been back-filled. All the excavated soil was sieved, first dry on a 5 mm mesh and then wet on a 1 mm. mesh. The residues were then sorted for artifactual and non-artifactual materials; from this material came a series of obsidian tools, some of them with incised decoration. One piece, originally a leaf point, had been incised with the outline of a ship; the point was then re-shaped into a tanged point.

The deep sounding took up the remaining time. The area selected for this

operation was the South-east quadrant of Trench 49 L.

Structures:

in the deep sounding, only 2 x 2 m. in size, structural remains were hardly to be expected but the corner of a substantial building with redpainted walls and floors was encountered just above the water-table. In all, five major occupation layers were recognized before water made further digging impossible. By the use, however, of Dachnowsky corer a further 1.50 m. of occupation debris was sampled. The resulting core indicates that the site was first located on a white/grey marl which may perhaps represent the soil formed by the desiccation of an ancient lake or marsh. The total depth of deposits is c. 6.75 m. of which 2.25 m. represent the present height of the mound and 4.50 m. are now buried below existing plain-level.

Artifacts:

Obsidian : a fair quantity of worked material was recovered; flint was very rare.

Bone: worked animal-bone was recovered from the deep sounding. The range of tools known from the upper layers is well-represented.

Clay: large, semi-baked lumps, probably representing oven fragments, were very common.

Stone: a number of small polished pendants and beads were found together with several polished stone axes.

Non-Artifactual Materials:

Animal Bone: the samples recovered were adequate but not very large. The bulk of the material was recovered from surfaces or floor: whenever there was a fill of fallen and disintegrated brick or clay lumps, very little animal bone was present.

Plant-remains: the best preserved evidence comes from the numerous heaps of fire hardened clay; these have preserved grain and other plant impressions. The largest sample of carbonized grains and seeds came from an oven which was located in the surface-stripping operation. The soil from this oven was very finely water-sieved; the product was a wide ranging collection of grains, fruits and seeds: *Triticum* spp., *Hordeum* sp., *Secale* sp., *Ranunculus* sp., *Chenopodiaceae*, *Cyperaceae*, *Labiatae*, *Graminae*, *Prunus* sp., *Vitis* sp., *Celtis* sp.

Mollusca: from the water-sieving and occasionally in the trench came a number of marine and land-mollusca. Some of the marine-species are fossil specimens, presumably originating from the Neogen limestone terraces on the south side of the Karaman plain. Tentative identifications include *Cypraea* sp., *Columbella* sp., *Conus* sp., *Nerita* sp. (marine) and *Lymnaea* sp. (including ? *auriculata*) and *Planorbis* sp. (land).

Publication:

The programme of publication is as follows:

1 Excavation and structures : David French

2) Animal bone: Sebastian Payne

3) Worked bone: Mrs. Sebastian Payne

4) Plant remains: Gordon Hillman it is hoped that the complete publication will have appeared in the course of

1972.