

## TWO POTS RECOVERED IN THE EXCAVATIONS AT SAMSAT BELONGING TO THE LATE CHALCOLITHIC PERIOD

ALİYE ÖZTEN

At that part of Samsat which will be submerged by the waters of Atatürk Dam, the excavations under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Nimet Özgüç on behalf of Lower Euphrates Project have been going on since 1978. I would like to express my sincere thanks to my instructor Prof. Dr. Nimet Özgüç who gave me the permission to publish some of the findings founded at Samsat, and being one of the members of the staff.

Samsat is one of the largest ancient settlements of this region, and consists of a mound and its lower city. The mound has 405-455 m. above sea-level. Excavations are being carried out in large areas at the mound and the lower city. Moreover, trial excavations to establish the thicknesses of cultural layers in these ancient settlement areas have been made on the slopes of the mound. The first of these was opened an x/8-9 plansquare of 417 m. above sea-level on the eastern slope of the mound. In this area which is one of the steepest slopes of the mound, the trial excavation which was started at a width of 1 m. was stopped at 1.5 m. depth. A rich collection made up of piece of El-Ubaid and Halaf has been obtained at this region. Together with sherds most of which were composed of Ubaid sherds, numerous nuclei of silex and obsidian, chips and tools were unearthed.

The second trial excavation made with the same purpose was made on b/14 plansquare at 435 m. on the western slope of the mound. In this study the vase and beaker which were recovered constitute our subject.

### 1- Baked Clay Vase:

The vase bearing the inventory number of St. 82-48 (Pl. I, 1; Fig. 1) has the following dimensions: height 9 cm., width 11.1 cm., the width

of the mouth 5.9 cm., the width of its base 4.1 cm. It has a dirty cream fabric, with finely sieved clay and it's shaped on a turning-wheel. The well baked vase has purplish red slip, has been plastered all over its external surface and mouth including its bottom. The vase having a bright polished has polishing traces made with a hard object. These are horizontal on the shoulder, and vertical on the lower body. The edge of the mouth turned outward has made a sharp line of the external surface. It has a short cylindrical neck, broad and sharp shoulder, narrowing with a slightly convex outward line, and has a small ring-shaped base.

### 2- Steatite Beaker:

With the inventory record no. St. 82-6 greenish grey coloured beaker made of steatite has a height of 10.9 cm., a width of mouth 7.9 and 5 cm. width of base. It has a simple-edged sided mouth, with a body narrowing towards the bottom, with a smooth base of slightly defined edge (Pl.I, 2; Fig.2). Its wall has thickened towards the bottom. The beaker is smoothly polished on the external surface. The inside carries traces which were made during the manufacture of the beaker. Concentric circle close to the bottom, while at a higher part there are small notches.

### 3. Baked Clay Nail:

The existing length of the nail under the inventory number St. 82-51 is 14.5 cm., the width of the head 3.3 cm. Buff clay and its surface has not been slipped. Polished. The middle of the head has been deepened, and has the shape of a cone (Pl. II, 1; Fig3).

The Samsat Vase has the technical and configurational features of the red-type pots of Uruk IV. These shape of pots is known to increase widely in Uruk III<sup>1</sup>. The recovery of these pots<sup>2</sup> which are well

1 A.L.Perkins, *The Comparative Archaeology of Early Mesopotamia*. Chicago (1957) p.103 ff.; B.Hrouda, *Vorderasien I.München* (1971) p.77 ff.

2 H.R.Hall-L.Woolley, *Ur Excavations Vol.I.Al-'Ubaid*. Oxford (1927) p.195, 207, Pl. LVII, XLII; L.Woolley, *Ur Excavations Vol.IV*. Philadelphia (1955) Pl.57; D. Sürenhagen, *Untersuchungen zur Keramikproduktion innerhalb der Spät-Urukzeitlichen Siedlung Habūba Kabira-Süd in Nordsyrien*. *Acta praehistorica et archaeologica* 5/6 (1974/5) p.77 ff.

known in Mesopotamia in Southeastern Anatolia show that the area of the spread of this civilization extended its limits up to our region. The pot closes to this technically and as regards shape was unearthed at the layer dated as late Chalcolitic period by the excavations of Hassek Mound during the 1982 excavation season<sup>3</sup>.

The area of spread in Mesopotamia of the steatite beaker which was recovered at the same place shows a conformity to this vase<sup>4</sup>. A closely resembling one to this beaker was again recovered at Hassek Mound.

The baked earthen nails which are used in decorating the external surfaces of the walls show a continuously changing variety from Uruk VI to Uruk III<sup>5</sup>. On the eastern and western slopes of Samsat Mound, these nails many varieties of which were recovered are identified at Hassek Mound, too<sup>6</sup>.

These works which were obtained at Samsat witness the fact that the late Chalcolitic culture of Mesopotamia spread as far as the northern part of Southeastern Anatolia. Further investigations will hold high to the establishment of local features, and relationship of Samsat with the areas which it had set up, dictated by geographical requirements.

3 I acknowledge my thanks to Dr.Manfred Behm-Blancke who showed me this work, and provided information about the site of recovery during our visit to the site of excavation.

4 H.R.Hall-L.Woolley, *Ur Excavations Vol.I.Al-'Ubaid*. Oxford (1927) p.193, 204, Pl. LXII, XXXIII; L.Woolley, *Ur Excavations Vol.IV*. Philadelphia (1955) p.156, Pl.66.

5 B.Hrouda, *Vorderasien I.München* (1971) p.87.

6 M.Behm-Blancke, "Hassek Höyük 1980 Kazı Dönemi" III. Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı. Ankara (1981) p.107.