

SOMA 2009

Proceedings of the XIII Symposium on
Mediterranean Archaeology,
Selcuk University of Konya, Turkey
23-24 April 2009

Edited by

Hakan Oniz
Erdogan Aslan

BAR International Series 2200
2011

Published by

Archaeopress
Publishers of British Archaeological Reports
Gordon House
276 Banbury Road
Oxford OX2 7ED
England
bar@archaeopress.com
www.archaeopress.com

BAR S2200

*SOMA 2009: Proceedings of the XIII Symposium on Mediterranean Archaeology,
Selcuk University of Konya, Turkey, 23-24 April 2009*

© Archaeopress and the individual authors 2011

ISBN 978 1 4073 0756 5

The conference was supported by the General Association of Mediterranean Archaeology www.genama.info

Printed in England by Blenheim Colour Ltd

All BAR titles are available from:

Hadrian Books Ltd
122 Banbury Road
Oxford
OX2 7BP
England
www.hadrianbooks.co.uk

The current BAR catalogue with details of all titles in print, prices and means of payment is available free from Hadrian Books or may be downloaded from www.archaeopress.com

ITA (Istanbul Prehistoric Survey) Researches in 2008

Sengul Aydingun and Emre Guldogan

Department of Archaeology, Kocaeli University, Kocaeli, Turkey

Department of Archaeology, Istanbul University, İstanbul, Turkey

The ‘Istanbul Prehistoric Survey’ (ITA) unit’s archaeological studies at Istanbul, with an international science team, has revealed evidence of prehistoric times. The archaeological importance of Yarımburgaz Cave in prehistoric times is known. In 2007, some clues were found of a PPNB Neolithic settlement on the Avcılar Firuzkoy coast of Lake Kucukcekmece (see the previous contribution in this volume). Well-arranged stone rows on the peninsula’s edge, and reaching into the lake, singled out this area for studies in 2008.

The team also started new researches at the Selimpasa Mound, Central Silivri, Alipaşa, Küçük Sinekli, Büyük Sinekli, Danamandıra, Sayalar, Fenerköy and Çilingöz. This season revealed new data, especially near the Lake Küçükçekmece area. We found chipped stones, ground stones, pottery samples and regular stone groups near Lake Küçükçekmece’s coast. We believe that these areas are very important for Istanbul’s cultural history. Further excavations in these areas will take place in future seasons.

At the time the Marmara Sea was a closed river basin, the area near Istanbul where Lake Kuçukcekmece occurs, included deep river valleys. When the last period of glaciation ended sea level increased and the sea water that separates Istanbul and the Canakkale Bosphorus filled the Marmara basin to a depth of between 90-120m. As a consequence of this sea influx the old valley edges were choked and a ‘ria’ system appeared (Map 1).

The south side of Lake Kucukcekmece is on the Avcilar boundaries. The investigations done here provided very interesting information, especially about the prehistory of Istanbul. At a point 100m up from where the River Eskinoz and the lake are connected at Avcilar Firuzkoy, local farmers dug two wells and uncovered ceramic finds that have never been seen before at Kucukcekmece. These included hand-thrown items made of a black-mud paste and crudely-fired ware (Fig. 1). Some beige-coloured ceramic pieces come from a cultural layer at a sea level between -4 and -3.50m.

Well 2, which was opened about 80m north of Well 1, is wider and deeper and presents a clearer picture (Fig. 2). Well 2 has at its lowest level (2-2.25m) a coarse sand, thin pebble, fossiliferous horizontal layer, grey and yellow. The level above is 0.5-0.6m thick, grey sandy clay and stones. The grey in this level is indicative of marshy conditions. The base of this level contains a zone of *Ostrea* shells that reaches 0.2m (Fig. 3). This zone is sometimes inconstant and lens-shaped. Among the grey level on the *Ostrea* zone, there are much smaller shells. Probably these clays were used for the ceramics. The best examples are the hand-

thrown, black-grey, lightly fired, primitive ceramic pieces that are thought to have come from this level.

The highest level is made up of about 0.1-0.25m-thick vegetable soil. At its base it meets yellow clay levels. In these, there are cultural layers. According to the investigations done by geologists Şükrü Ersoy and Timur Ustaomer in both of the wells where the ceramics were found, just above the lowest water level (-2.20m), the existence of *Ostreas* (sea mussels) shows the formation of the sea. Our observations show that the ceramics come from the muddy sand additive area just above the *Ostreas*. Much higher there is a layer full of pebbles from stream sediments. Pebbles are generally silica gels occurring from circular pebbles, such as silex, agate and chalcedony. There are also circular pebbles formed of volcanic lava. Some of these pebbles are milky quartz pebbles. According to these conclusions, this point equates to the parts of the old riverbed terrace. It is 15-20m higher than the present river base. In this area, it is understood that at one time the sea filled the valley then drew back, so the area was under the influence of the stream. The flint tools and naviform seeds on the lake’s peninsula, and the soil thrown out from these openings (Fig. 4), are expressed as the first encountered foreign materials in the area by Mehmet Ozdogan and are dated as PPN B Pre-Pots and Pans B.

As a conclusion of the various scientific data from the Kucukcekmece river basin, it is understood that in this area there was probably a village in prehistoric times. As a result of GPR, the sloping area created by the filling of Lake Kucukcekmece at Avcılar-Firuzkoy by the River Eskinoz gives an appearance of a former bay. This small bay might have been filled with landslides. As mentioned above, the two wells dug in this area have indicated a cultural level about 0.50m deep in all of the profiles. In the measurement area (300x100m), this 300x70m-size cultural layer can be seen (Figs. 5, 6). When the defined layers are compared, by considering the variations in depth, the probable areas where ancient settlement ruins might occur become more evident. As a result of all the measurements, the layer which is defined as being of clays and organic content can be defined as an occupation layer. By estimating that there were wooden and vegetable structural features used here since Neolithic times, it is possible that structures existed where the thicknesses occur. The location of the area at that time, the water and productive soil, all point to suitable conditions for agriculture – as remains the case today.

When the area where the ceramics and tools come from is examined from a geographical perspective, it can be understood that the area consisted of the small bay connected to the river and lake, providing a very favourable

human environment. The opposite side of the river offers a peninsula that formed later. On the south of this peninsula many meat cleavers, weights and stone tools were found, which were very similar to the lithic industries of Yarımburgaz's Palaeolithic times. This situation, therefore, makes us think that the people living in Yarımburgaz might have hunted around the Kuçukçekmece area. It is possible that on the peninsula, which is 6km south of the cave near Firuzkoy, the Palaeolithic inhabitants prepared the meat from the animals they hunted. Taking all the evidence into account, and with more researches planned, we think that we will be able to ascertain whether the above area is a Palaeolithic workshop or not. This location has also revealed naviform seeds (dated as PPNB). These seeds are very important because they are found here for the first time in European geography.

Bibliography

- Abdullah Bey 1869. 'Die Umgebung des See's Kütschücktschekmetche in Rumelien', *Verhandlungen der k.k. Geologischen Reichsanstalt* 12, 263-265.
- Ariç, C. 1955. Haliç ve Küçükçekmece Gölü bölgesinin Jeolojisi: İTÜ Maden Fak. (Doktora Tezi).
- Arsebük, G. 1993. 'Yarımburgaz, a Lower Paleolithic Cave Site near İstanbul', in M. Frangipane *et al.* (eds.), *Between the Rivers and over the Mountains, Archaeologica Anatolica et Mezopotamica Alba Palmieri Dedicata*, 23-36. Dipartimento di Scienze Storiche Archeologiche e Antropologiche dell' Antichita Università di Roma, Roma.
- Arsebük, G. 1996. 'The Cave of Yarımburgaz (The Oldest Stratified Site Yet Known in Turkey)', in U. Magen and M. Rashad (eds.), *Vom Halys zum Euphrat*: 1-13. Ugarit-Verlag, Münster.
- Arsebük, G. 1998. Yarımburgaz Mağarası Pleistosen Arkeolojisi ile İlgili Son Çalışmalara 1997, Gözüyle Özet Bir Bakış – Pleistocene Archaeology at the Cave of Yarımburgaz", TÜBA-AR 1, 9-25.
- Arsebük, G. 2004. 'The Cave of Yarımburgaz: A Brief Reassessment', in *Proceedings of International Symposium on Earth System Sciences 2004, İstanbul-Turkey*, 165-167. Kelebe, İstanbul.
- Arsebük, G., F.C. Howell and M. Özbaşaran 1988. *Yarımburgaz 1988*. Yıllık Rapor, İstanbul.
- Arsebük, G., F.C. Howell and M. Özbaşaran 1990. *Yarımburgaz 1989*. Yıllık Rapor, İstanbul.
- Arsebük, G. and M. Özbaşaran 1990. 'Yarımburgaz Mağarası', *Rehber Dünyası* 2, 11-17.
- Arsebük, G. and M. Özbaşaran 1992. 'Yarımburgaz'da Pleistosen Arkeolojisi', in M. Aktar (ed.), *1. Speleoloji Sempozyumu*, 56-59, Boğaziçi Üniversitesi Matbaası, İstanbul.
- Arsebük, G. and M. Özbaşaran 1999. 'Pleistocene Archaeology at the Cave of Yarımburgaz in Eastern Thrace/Turkey: Preliminary Results', in G.N. Bailey *et al.* (eds.), *The Paleolithic Archaeology of Greece and Adjacent Areas*, 59-72, Nottingham.
- Bousquet, R. 1901. 'Les Grottes de Yarem-Bourgaz', *Echos d'Orient* 4, 295-302.
- Cantay, T. 2003. 'Sophrone Rabois-Bousquet (1864-1911) Prehistory'nın İçinde Doğmak ve Yaşamak', in M. Özbaşaran, O. Tanındı and A. Boratav (eds.), *Archaeological Essays in Honour of Homo amatus: Güven Arsebük İçin Armağan Yazılar*, 55-56. Ege Yayınları, İstanbul.
- Erol, O. and Nuttal, C.P. 1973. Çanakkale bazı denizel Kuvaterner depoları: Coğrafya Araş. Derg., 5,6, 27-91.
- Erol, O. and İnal, A. 1980. Çanakkale Yöresi Karacaviran köyü çevresindeki Kuvaterner depoları ve denizel fosilleri: Jeomorfoloji Derg., 9, 1-35.
- Eyice, S. 1978. 'Tarihte Küçükçekmece', *Güney-Doğu Avrupa Araştırmaları Dergisi* 6/7, 57-120.
- Farrand, W.R. and J.P. McMahon 1997. 'History of the Sedimentary Infilling of Yarımburgaz Cave, Turkey', *Geoarchaeology: An International Journal* 12.6, 537-565.
- Hochstetter, F.V. 1870. 'Reise durch Rumelien im Sommer 1869', *Mitteilungen der k.k. Geographische Gesellschaft* 5, 193-212.
- Kansu, Ş.A. 1963. 'Marmara Bölgesi ve Trakya'da Prehistorik İskan Tarihi Bakımından Araştırmalar', *Belleten* 28.108, 657-705.
- Kuhn, S.L. 2003. 'Flexibility and Variation in the Lower Paleolithic: A. View from Yarımburgaz Cave', in M. Özbaşaran, O. Tanındı and A. Boratav (eds.), *Archaeological Essays in Honour of Homo amatus: Güven Arsebük İçin Armağan Yazılar*, 149-157. Ege Yayınları, İstanbul.
- Kuhn, S.L., G. Arsebük and F.C. Howell 1996. 'Middle Pleistocene Lithic Assemblage from Yarımburgaz Cave, Turkey', *Paleorient* 22.1, 31-49.
- Lichardus, J. and M. Itten 1990. 'Der Komplex mit schwarzbraun und graupolierter Keramik und der beginn des Mittelneolitikums in Südosteuropa', *Starinar* XL/XLI, 43-49.
- Muller, W. 1998. 'Bizans'tan Osmanlı'ya İstanbul Limanı', 8-34. Tarih Vakfı Yurt Yayınları, İstanbul.
- Özbaşaran, M. 1995. 'The Historical Background of Researches at the Caves of Yarımburgaz', *Halet Çambel İçin Prehistorya Yazıları*, 27-39. Grapıs Yayınları, İstanbul.
- Özdoğan, M. 1985. 'The Late Chalcolithic of Yarımburgaz Cave', in A. Palmieri and R. Peroni (eds.), *Studi di Paleologia in Onore di Salvatore M. Puglisi*, 177-189. Università di Roma, Roma.
- Özdoğan, M. 1986. 'Trakya Bölgesinde Yapılan Tarihöncesi Araştırmaları', IX. Türk Tarih Kongresi I, 29-37.
- Özdoğan, M. 1990. 'Yarımburgaz Mağarası', X. Türk Tarih Kongresi I, 373-388.
- Özdoğan, M. 1992. 'Tarih Öncesi Dönemde İstanbul', in Semavi Eyice Armağanı, İstanbul Yazıları, 39-45 Türkiye Turing ve Otomobil Kurumu, İstanbul.
- Özdoğan, M. 1996. 'Tarihöncesi Dönemde Trakya: Araştırma Projesinin 16. Yılında Genel Bir Değerlendirme', Anadolu Araştırmaları XIV, 329-360.

- Özdoğan, M. 2003. 'Paleolitik Çağ, İstanbul ve Yarımburgaz Mağarası-16 Yıl Sonra Yarımburgaz'ın Düşündürdükleri', in M. Özbaşaran, O. Tanındı and A. Boratav (eds.), *Archaeological Essays in Honour of Homo amatus: Güven Arsebük İçin Armağan Yazılar*, 179-183. Ege Yayınları, İstanbul.
- Özdoğan, M. and A. Koyunlu 1986. 'Yarımburgaz Mağarası, 1986 Yılı Çalışmaları', *Arkeoloji ve Sanat* 32/33, 4-17.
- Özdoğan, M., Y. Miyake and N. Dede 1991. 'An Interim Report on Excavations at Yarımburgaz and Toptepe in Eastern Thrace', *Anatolica* XVII, 59-121.
- Sakıncı, M. and Yalıtırak, C. 1997. Güney Trakya Sahillerinin Denizel Pleyistosen Çökelleri ve Plaeocografyası. *MTA Dergisi* 119, 43-62.
- Seferiades, M. 1990. 'Vinça et l'Archeologic Grecque', in D. Srejiović and N. Tasić (eds.), *Vinça and Its*

World (International Symposium the Danubian Region from 6000 to 3000 B.C., Belgrade, Smederevska Palanka, October 1988), 175-181. Serbian Academy of Philosophy-Serbian Academy of sciences and Arts Symposia, Volume LI, Belgrad.

- Taner, G. 1983. Hamzaköy Formasyonu'nun Çavda (Baküniyen) Bivalvleri, Gelibolu.
- Tunçer, M. 2005. 'Doğal Çevre Koruma Öncelikli Bir Eylem Alanı: İstanbul Küçükçekmece Gölü'. (1), Arkitera.
- Tsoukala, E. 2003. 'Middle Pleistocene Ursid Remains from Yarımburgaz Cave', in M. Özbaşaran, O. Tanındı and A. Boratav (eds.), *Archaeological Essays in Honour of Homo amatus: Güven Arsebük İçin Armağan Yazılar*, 267-298. Ege Yayınları, İstanbul.



Map 1



Figure 1



Figure 2

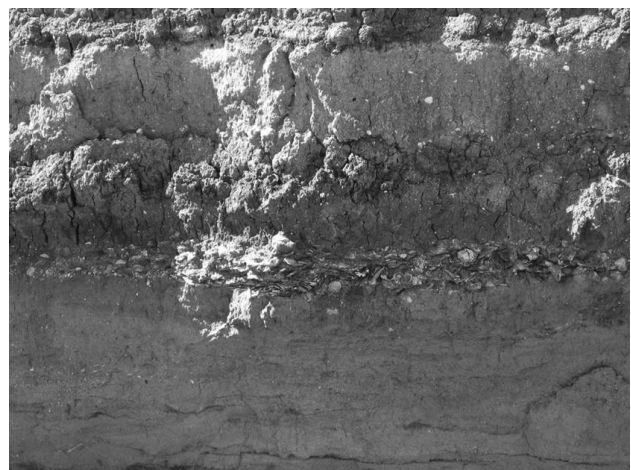
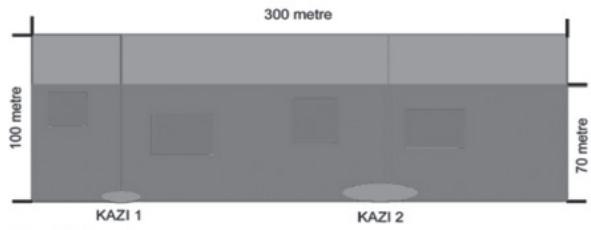


Figure 3



Figure 4



Çalışma alanı
Neolitik katman görüntölenen bölge
Katmanda kalınlaşma bulunan alanlar

Çalışma alanında tespit edilen katmanlı seviye içerisinde rastlanan kalınlıklar ve yapılan yorumlar ile elde edilen alanlar.



Çalışma alanında bulunan kazılı 2. kuyu. Kırmızı seviye neolitik alan.

Figure 5



Figure 6