

The Excavations in the Western Sector of Küllüoba (1996-2001)

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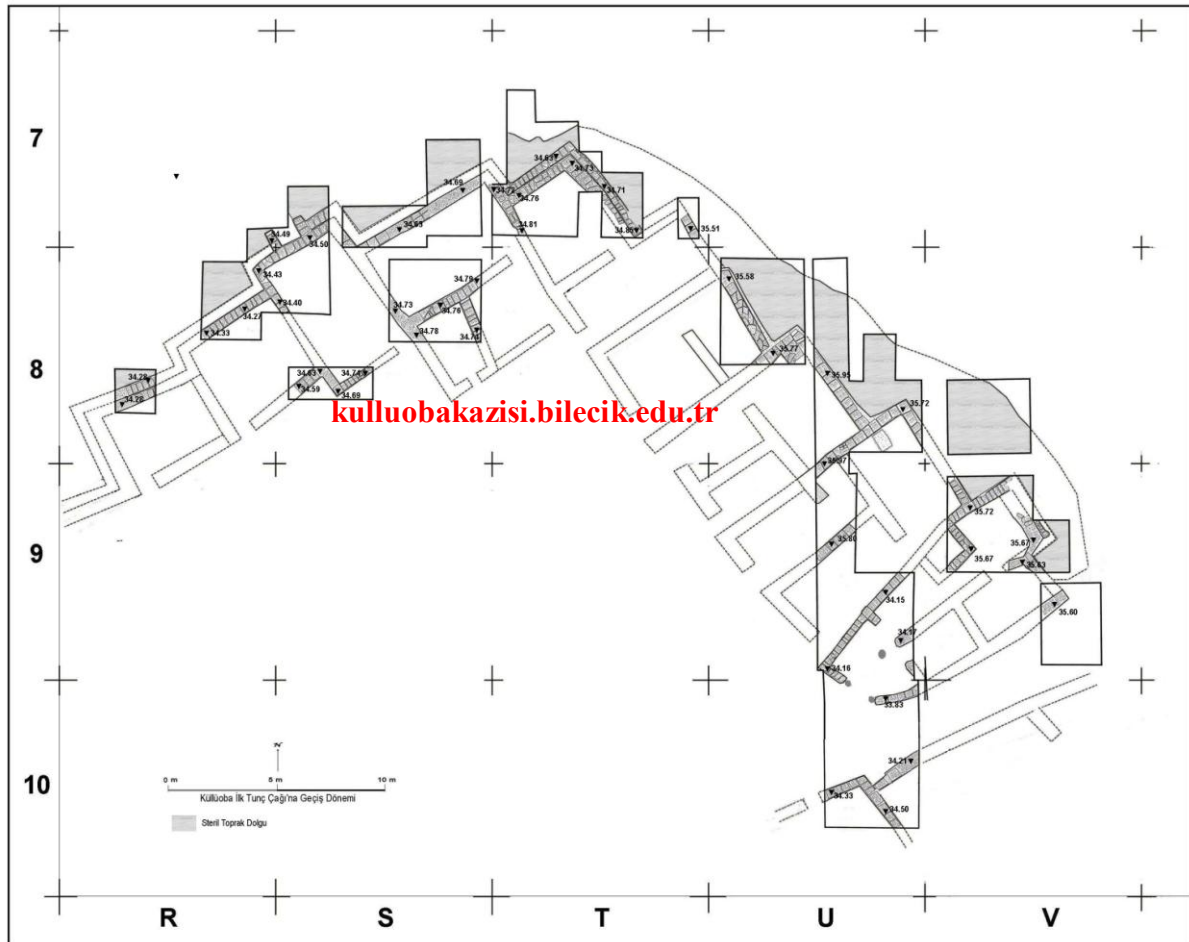
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The excavations carried out here in the so-called Western Sector of the mound comprise work in Trenches R 7/8, S7/8, T7, U7, U8, U9, U10 and V9, varying in size and depth, with only a small area in Trench U9 reaching virgin soil. Six habitation phases were determined in Trenches U9 and U10, and numbered with Arabic numerals from the surface downward

The lowest, Phase 6, is a deposit between 1.0 and 1.5 m thick, so far investigated only in a limited area within Grids U9 and U10). The deposit dates to the very end of the Late Chalcolithic Period. Three storage bins of varying in size have been discovered dug into the virgin soil; they have yielded an abundance of pottery. Phase 6 is characterized by its jet-black burnished pottery; red-slipped and burnished wares have not yet been recorded. Flaring bowls and amphorae count among the most typical forms, and the fruitstand with "windows" also appears.

The following Phases 5 through 3 belong to the period transitional into the Early Bronze Age" and can be synchronized with the pre-Demircihüyük EBA horizon (ca. 3300-3000 BC). The lowest of these, Phase 5, has well preserved and better defined architecture, including a fortification wall that appears in the north of the excavated area; obviously encircling the settlement, it was traced to the southwest during the 2001 season. The wall was constructed in zigzags like that of Mersin Level XVI. The mudbrick wall measures 0.70-0.80 m across, widening as it descends. A layer of beaten sterile earth some 3-3.5 m thick was piled up along the exterior face; the wall thus reaches a width of up to 4.0 m. We cannot be sure whether a second wall or stone facing wall were built against the exterior of the earthen abutments or not. Walls of houses within the settlement were built up against zigzagging interior of the fortifications.

The longitudinal houses generally consist of front and back rooms. The back rooms have been excavated almost to the floor level in a cut between Trenches U8 and U9. Most of the walls are preserved up to roof level (2.5 m), revealing sockets into which horizontal beams were inserted. A doorway connects the two rooms. The front parts of these houses with an entrance were located in Trenches U9 and U10. These do not yet represent the characteristic "long house," for some of the rectangular rooms are situated parallel to the fortification wall. The plan of the settlement is, however, similar in principle to that of Demircihüyük and therefore most significant in tracing the development of the radial settlement layout named the Anatolian Settlement Plan (*Anatolisches Siedlungsschema*) by M. Korfmann in the Eskişehir area.



Western sector architectural plan of transition period to EBA I

Building remains with the same orientation are encountered in Phase 4 as well; typical of Phase 3 were many garbage pits. In Phases 3 through 5, transitional into the Early Bronze Age), the black burnished pottery is gradually replaced by gray burnished and red-slipped and burnished wares. The simple forms of the beak-spouted jug, one of the forms characterizing the Early Bronze Age, first appears in this transitional period.

In Phase 2 above we also encountered a plethora of garbage pits. The pottery of this phase demonstrates many parallels with that of the earlier EBA phases of Demircihüyük (Phases D-F). Since the shallow fluting and barbotine decoration of Beycesultan Levels XVIII and XVII are also known from this phase, it is now possible to synchronize the above-mentioned phases at these three sites. According to the C-14 dates, Demircihüyük Phases D-F roughly correspond to early Troy I. Thus, the Beycesultan EB 1 levels may be synchronized—indirectly over Küllüoba and Demircihüyük—with early Troy I. Küllüoba Phase 1 has been excavated only in a very small area. The pottery parallels that of Demircihüyük phases G-I.

From the Transitional Period onward, the Küllüoba pottery, gradually developed its own characteristics, culminating in the EB 2 period. These characteristics differ in quite many aspects from those of the neighboring pottery groups of Kütahya, Demircihüyük and Afyon. According to our survey results in the region. The distribution area of this group stretches from the immediate vicinity of Küllüoba as far as the Sivrihisar range in the east and covers the eastern reaches of the Phrygian Highlands. We suggest calling it the "Upper Sakarya Pottery Group."

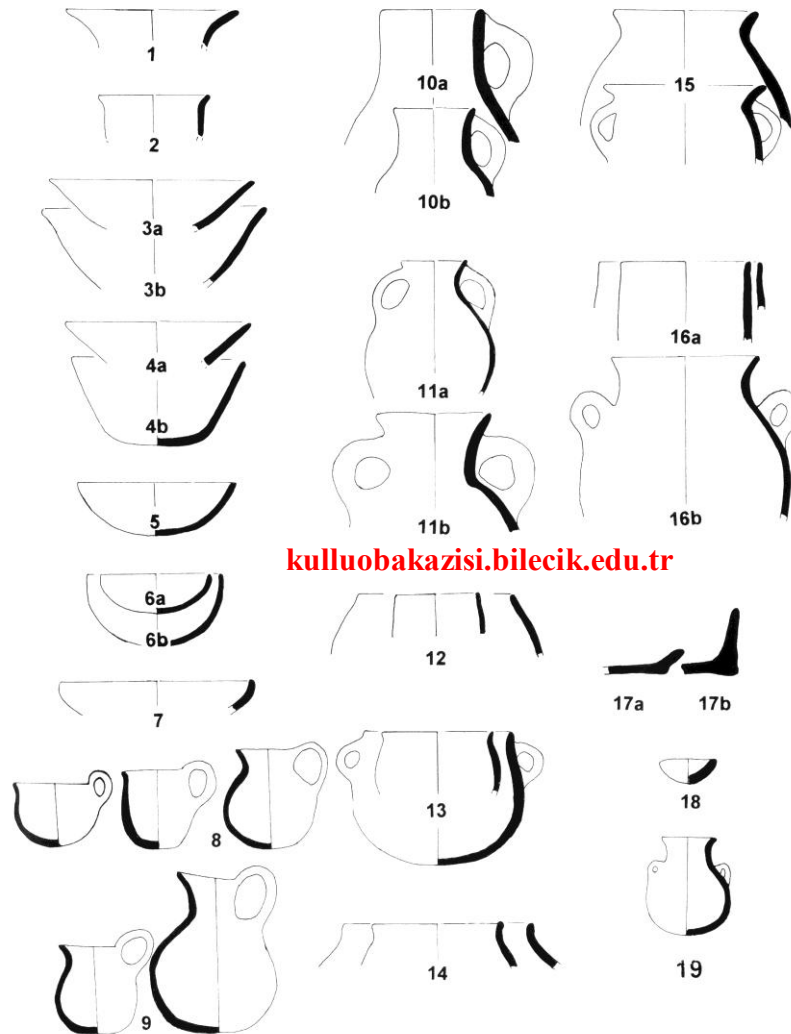


Table of vessel forms (EBA I)