

# **REPORT ON THE 2007 SEASON OF THE KÜLLÜOBA EXCAVATIONS**

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## **I. Introduction**

The large prehistoric mound of Küllüoba is an irregular oval some 250 x 150 m, rising nearly ten meters above virgin soil in the rolling cultivated fields of the upper Sakarya (Sangarius) basin just north of the Phrygian Highlands: 35 km SE of Eskişehir, 15 km NE of Seyitgazi and 1.3 km south of the village of Yenikent.

The mound itself—on the northern slope of an ancient stream bed, now dry—is comprised almost exclusively of prehistoric deposit; our twelve excavation campaigns suggest that all phases of the Early Bronze Age are represented, underlain by Late Chalcolithic deposit. Although stray finds from the Middle Chalcolithic period also suggest that there are even earlier strata, in the deep sounding in Grid AD 21 where we reached virgin soil this season, we encountered no deposit with such material. We also suspect that there is a prehistoric cemetery in the fields immediately to the NW of the mound. The latest prehistoric material on the settlement mound itself comes from the late EB III, i.e. the period transitional to the Middle Bronze Age. In the general vicinity there are also late Hellenistic remains: a Hellenistic pavement (Grid AJ 26) and walls (Grids AJ 22 and AJ 26) and burnt mudbrick structure that appeared this year on the southern outskirts of the mound (Trench AC 25-26).

As in previous years, we had support from two other institutions in addition to INSTAP: the Research Fund of Istanbul University and DÖSİM of the Turkish Ministry of Tourism and Culture. Once more we sincerely thank the authorities of the Institute for Aegean Prehistory (INSTAP) for the financial assistance we received.

The nucleus of the excavation team convened to reopen and clean the excavation house a few days before fieldwork began on July 11. Work at the site continued until 12 September .

Participants in the 2007 campaign were as follows:

Prof. Dr. Turan Efe (Director of the Excavations)

Gaye Numanoğlu (government representative from the Tire Archaeological Museum)

Deniz Ş.M. Ay-Efe (archaeologist and draftsman)

Murat Türkteki, assistant in our department

Deniz Sarı, "

Erkan Fidan "

Fatma Şahin "

Archeologists:

Shizue Miura, Beyil Öner, Serap Bal, Armağan Tan, Murat Afşar

Undergraduate students of archaeology:

Sevingül Bilgin, Ekrem Akıllı, Fahrettin Ceylan, Halil Buruk, Serap Kuşu, Duygu Apari, Ali Teke, Sevda Ateş, Bekir Anıl, Evren Yıldız, Tunca Şehirli, Muhmmmed Yüksel, Gözde Dinarlı, Zeynep Ozar, Burçin Taşsın, Gülhan Yavuz, Sevilay Demirkır, Fatih Gündüz.

Hidayet Bakırcı (restorer/conservator)

İrem Elçi "

## II. Outline of the Fieldwork in 2007

### II A. Work undertaken to better understand the EB II settlement

We again concentrated on the Eastern Sector of the mound; excavation was generally restricted to the southern and northern slopes to better define both the layout of the EB II settlement on the acropolis. Here we resumed the deep sounding in Grid AD 21 and continued it as far as the virgin soil. For the first time we have opened trial trenches on the southern outskirts of the mound—both to establish stratigraphy in this area and to search for possible outer fortifications belonging to the EB II settlement. In addition, we continued our work in Trenches Aİ 23 and Aİ 24, further exposing the remnants of the “Megaron-house” in the lower city in the fields to the SE. Finally, we continued our work

on stratification of the EB III period in Trench Z 19. Unfortunately we didn't have enough time to work further on the earlier phase of the East Gate as planned.

*II A. 1. Investigation of the fortress on the northern slope (Trench AB/AC/AD/AE 15-16, AE 17, AF 16 and AB 17*

II A.1.a. Trenches AB/AC/AD/AE 15-16, AE 17 and AF 16

This year we continued our investigation of the fortification wall and the houses adjoining it in the northern trenches. First we exposed more of the exterior of the fortification wall in Trench ABAC/AD 15-16. The masonry continues even deeper. Large boulders in the lowest courses exposed suggest that we are reaching the foundation level.

We then removed the southern part of the mudbrick structure north of the Tower to investigate the standing stone partially excavated last year. Another mudbrick wall appeared just underneath, this one stopping at the standing stone. A stone slab (ca 1.80 m high) had been vertically placed against the standing stone as a support.

We continued excavation in Grids AD 16, AE 16-17 and AF 16, clearing the walls to reveal the layout of the rooms here. It is very probable that nearly all these structures, some of which contain cubicles, served as storerooms. Some also contain round clay-lined bins. This strengthens our earlier premise that all the structures around the court formed an even larger unit associated with Complex I.

We traced the fortification wall slightly further to the east and discovered that the disturbance still continues. Then we followed the disturbance on the surface. Turning southward in Grid AE 16, it stops after ca four meters, leaving only the northern part of a mudbrick house wall which originally met the fortifications here. Fortunately, the foundation stones of the fortification wall remained undisturbed in Trench AF 16, as did a house wall adjoining it from the south.

### II A.1.b. Trench AB 17

We first removed the remainder of the 1.5 m-wide strip along the southern scarp, collecting the material according to the layers exposed on the scarp last year. We then excavated the rest of the stone-lined pit from the Transitional Period.

We went on to expose to whole of the rectangular mudbrick room—partially excavated last year—contiguous to the southern extension of the "Tower" wall. The oven in the NE corner has been documented. The mudbrick wall adjacent to the southern end of the Tower wall was without stone foundations and went no deeper. We removed it and excavated further to the south of this wall. Before long there appeared a stone pavement sloping slightly downward toward the south.

To find the wall limiting the pavement on the south we extended the 1.5 m-strip as far as the southern scarp of the trench. Under the topsoil we encountered pits; among the sherds in one, we found the upper part of a necked pot and a beak-spouted jug with a backward-leaning neck. Ca 2.90 m below the surface we finally reached the stone pavement. It had been partially destroyed by a pit in the middle, but otherwise continued uninterrupted as far as the southern scarp.

The northern edge of the pavement runs parallel to the southern wall of the rectangular mudbrick room, leaving an empty strip ca. 50 cm wide. The filling here was soft, reminiscent of a disturbance. Some 30 cm deeper we found the undisturbed part of the stone wall that had once have limited the pavement on the north.

After removal of the stone pavement another stone wall appeared running N-S. The northern end of this wall overlaps with the Tower wall and forms a corner with from the southern wall that limited the pavement. At the south, the stone wall running N-S stops is after 1.90 m, i.e. before the pit that had partially destroyed the pavement above. Between this pit and the southern scarp ran a double mudbrick wall, the northern end of which was destroyed by the pit.

We then completely removed the rectangular mudbrick structure with the oven. Immediately below it appear another structure in the same place. Thus there seems to have been an earlier rectangular room in the same location.

During this operation we also opened the faces of the tower wall and the wall adjoining it from the south. The deeper we go the larger and flatter the stones become.

There seems to be an entrance corridor leading along the northern mudbrick wall to the room in the SW corner of Grid AB 16 adjoining the Tower wall from the west. We reached have now reached a depth of 4.60 below the surface in the west of the trench.

#### II A. 1.c. Trench AB/AC 18

To the south of Trench AB 17, we decided to open another strip in the NE corner of Grid AB 18, eventually removing part of the balk between Grids AB 18 and AC 18. Our purpose here was to establish the relationship between the architectural remnants in Trench AB 17 and the outer walls of Complex I to the south.

The deposit under the topsoil was greatly disturbed by pits. At some 1.30 m below the surface there appeared in the south two stone walls running E-W parallel to one another with a distance of only some 80 cm between them. The eastern prolongation of the southern wall and a stone pavement running alongside it had been partially revealed in previous years. These walls are definitely contemporary with the stone pavement in Trench AB 17 and the upper phase of Complex I (despite the slight difference in level). An oven floor came to light between these two walls. The southern wall and the pavement were documented and removed to expose the prolongation of the mudbrick walls of Complex I beneath this area.

We could follow the double mudbrick wall as far as the western scarp. The partition wall, a small portion of which had appeared in previous years, proceeded northward and under the northern stone wall. Accordingly, we excavated deeper to the north of the stone wall; the northern prolongation of this mudbrick wall appeared from underneath the stone wall and turned westward just along the northern scarp. This wall might very well have limited entrance to the open space between Complex I and the houses in the north, possibly representing an entrance leading from a/the hypothetical North Gate of the Upper Town probably situated further to the west.

Further operations in this area are crucial to establishing the clear layout of the Upper Town.

#### II A. 1.d. Trenches AB 19 and AA 19

We resumed work in AB19 and in the eastern part of Grid AA 19 to search for the possible course of a fortification wall limiting the Complexes I and II (and probably excluding the large low, empty space in the west).

First we cleaned and more carefully exposed the corner of Complex I excavated in previous years. We re-cut the profiles due to the collapse of the scarps in the meantime; the trench now measures 3.5 x 4.5 m. This exposed the corner of another wall, the top of which is disturbed, adjoining the already exposed corner of Complex I. This wall forms an offset protruding slightly to the west. No trace of the fortification wall was encountered in the trench.

Considering that the enclosure wall might have run a little further to the west, we decided to excavate deeper in the northeastern part of Trench AA 19, where we had reached the upper phases of the EB II period in 2005, 3.5 m below the surface. First we removed about one meter of deposit over an area 4.5 x 2.5 m; then we made a two-meter deep sounding 2.5 x 2.5 m just west of this area. There were no interruptions in the cultural strata that might point to any kind of architectural remnants.

#### *II A. 2. Work on the Southern Slope in Grids AE 22, AE 22-23, AE 23, AD/AE 23 and AE/AF/AG 21-22.*

We resumed work in the southeastern part of the upper city to learn more about the general architectural layout of this area and more specifically to investigate the possibility of a southern gate to the upper city.

##### II A. 2.a. Trench AE 22-23

From the surface downward we excavated a 4.5 x 4.5-m area in the northeast corner of Grid AE 22 to discover whether the double wall turns to the east or continues further. In the upper levels we again encountered disturbances. In the northern part of the area we found hard-packed layers of light gray and blue, reflecting crumbled gray bricks and ash. Such layers have also been encountered over a large area in Grids AC 21 and AD 21-AD 23, corresponding mainly to the empty space.

First we removed a mudbrick wall brownish in hue running between the northern end of the double wall and the eastern scarp. A foundation of small stones appeared underneath it. This partially disturbed foundation forms a corner with the double wall. Immediately north of this wall appeared two parallel mudbrick walls, the top of the southern one disturbed. While the southern one was built of grayish and reddish bricks, only the grayer variety had been employed in the northern one. Charcoal particles in the gray bricks clearly indicate that ash had been present in the paste of the bricks. These two walls end 40 cm short of the corner formed by the double wall.

Along the gray wall runs a mudbrick set (a bench?), from which a floor can be traced northward and westward. Along the northern profile the floor slopes steeply downward to the west.

Then we excavated further south in a burnt room limited on the north and west by the stone walls. The middle part of the wall at the west (the eastern face of the double wall) had leaned into the room, proving that the double wall was originally two contiguous walls. The mudbrick wall or platform of three rows of bricks appeared at a slightly lower level along the northern stone foundations. The room has a thick floor which has been interrupted in the north.

We excavated deeper in the entire area between the end of the double wall (uncovered in the earlier seasons) and the southern scarp of the trench until we had reached the bottom courses of stones in the double wall. Both faces of the wall are preserved up to ca. 1.5 m. in height. In the end we realized that the wall at the west does not stop here, but turns westward and enters the scarp.

Thinking that in the west south of the wall there might still be an entrance, we resumed work in the small trench in the south of Grid AE 23, eventually opening all the unexcavated area between Trenches AE 22-23 and AE 23 and thus incorporating the latter into Trench AE 22-23. We found only a large and deep disturbance throughout the area, and after excavating some 80 cm deeper than the level reached last year, we halted work in this extension, as we were well beneath the level where we might expect to find architectural remains contemporary with the double wall.

#### II A. 2.b. Trench AE 23

In a sounding 1.5 x 1.0 m in the southeastern corner of this trench opened last year, we excavated another 2.30 m to search for a westward continuation of the western wall in Trench AE 22. No wall was encountered, even though we went deeper than the lowest of the stone courses. This seems to indicate that the wall turns southward in the balk between the two trenches.

#### II A. 2.c. Trench AD/AE 23

We decided therefore to open a trench 4.5 x 2.0 in Grids AD/AE 23 to see if there was there was a wall connecting the mudbrick wall in the west with the double wall in Trench AE 22-23. Indeed we did bring to light a sturdy stone foundation running SW-NE from the mudbrick wall in the west to the eastern scarp of the trench. The deep disturbance on the eastern scarp, however, had disturbed the wall down to its lowest course.

#### II A. 2.d. Trench AE 23

Then we opened a new trench in Grid AE 23, immediately east of Trench AD/AE 23 to see if the stone foundations in Trench AD/AE 23 would meet up with the walls in Trench AE 22. To our chagrin the large disturbance slightly to the northeast covered the entire trench. After reaching 2.20 m below the surface we stopped the work here.

#### II A. 2.e. Trench AF/AG 21-22-23

Since the hard-packed layers continued to the east along the gray wall in the northeast corner of the trench AE 2-23, we anticipated finding a main gate to the upper city nearby. This was one good reason to work here; another aim was to excavate the remainder of the burnt room in Grid AF 22, where we had found *in situ* vessels last year. The work in this trench was very rewarding. Indeed, we finally exposed the elusive and quite impressive gate here.

The burnt room stood on a strong foundation of large stones in the north. A well preserved oven was discovered in the NW corner, and a storage bin had been built in the SW corner. A door next to the bin opened to the south. Immediate east of the oven we



again found *in situ* vessels, including a huge beak-spouted jug with a cutaway spout. It has a graceful twisted double handle, ears plugged with clay nails, eyes on the exterior below the spout and two ibex motives executed in relief on the shoulder.

We extended the area eastward to excavate a third burnt room to the east. Here we found two bins against the western wall and a pithos upright against the northern wall. The western wall of this room continues further to the south, indicating either that the room had been longer than the other two in line with it, or that there had been another room attached at the south.

We opened trenches to the north of the burnt rooms to learn the general layout of the gate. Immediately beneath the surface there were deep disturbances covering large areas. The gray wall discovered in Grid AE 22 continued all the way along the exterior of the northern walls of the three burnt rooms and continued for another three meters eastward. This constitutes the southern wall of the gate. The northern wall is thicker and sturdier, running nearly parallel with—but at a slight angle to—its southern counterpart, narrowing the passage somewhat towards the west. The two walls then turn in towards one another for about a meter and a half, leaving between them a wide entrance with a threshold of large flat stones, an eastern doorway to the entrance hall of the gate. The threshold is partially interrupted by a modern disturbance. On the west end, the hall is limited by a cubical and a partition wall. Here between the cubicle and the partition wall there is a gateway with at least three building phases. A door at the SE corner of the cubical opens directly onto the gateway. A watchman or guards in charge of the gate were most probably stationed in the cubicle.

There is also the possibility that another partition wall is hidden under the balk between Grids AE 22 and AF 22. In the west the northern exterior wall of the gate may have turned just in line with the end of the southern gray wall to join the lateral walls (still to be excavated) of two superimposed houses uncovered in Grid AD 21. The earlier phases of the gate, which are probably better preserved, will be investigated next year.

We began work in Grid AD 21 by extending the deep sounding in the eastern half of the trench one meter to the west (so that it now measures 5.5 x 9.0 m) and excavating the part left on a higher level in the SE corner of the grid down to the level of the stone

foundations from two structures partially excavated last year. In order to remove the earth from the deep sounding more efficiently, we then formed a platform 2.5 x 3.0 m at the SW corner of Grid AD 21 (enlarged to encompass a 1.5 m-wide strip cut through the balk between AD 21 and AD 22 and excavated in the same width to the same level from the surface downward along the western scarp of Trench AD 22).

We continued by removing the foundation stones of the upper house in the deeper part of the trench to reveal those of the earlier structure underneath. After removing this earlier structure as well and excavating another 30 cm downward, we decided to reduce the working area to the north of the trench to 5.5 x 5.5 m.

This way we were able to excavate a one-meter deposit of very early EB II context below the earlier structure: many ashy layers with remains of wood (flooring?) and rows of loose stones if no tangible architecture. A few human figurines are found in these levels both from grids AD 21 and AD 22.

Then, we excavated one meter down in an area measuring 1.5x3.0 m in the northwestern part of the platform serving as a step to access the deep trench and take the earth out more efficiently.

Finally we reached the layer of EB I deposit with large pits and no architecture again. This seems to confirm that this area was an open space during the EB I and early EB II periods. The bottom of one pit here, close to the NW corner of the deep sounding, had cut through a very Late Chalcolithic mudbrick cubicle (storage bin) into the virgin soil below (Neogen alluvium).

The Late Chalcolithic material came from a shallow deposit around the pit directly above the compact Neogen sediment yellowish in hue. Corresponding layers of Late Chalcolithic deposit in the western trenches, on the other hand, reached up to 1.5 m in depth. Thus we also managed to reach the virgin soil in the trench—7.50 m below the surface.

Although not testified in the stratigraphy here, an earlier period of Late Chalcolithic must exist somewhere at the site, as testified by a few stray sherds of white-on-black painted ware found in the earlier seasons.

## **II C. Excavations in the fields outside the citadel to the east: Trenches AĪ 23 and AĪ 24**

In addition, we resumed our work in the fields to the SE—immediately west of Trenches AJ 23/24”—in order to expose the western extension of the Megaron-House investigated in the last two years and thus reveal the general layout of the house.

### *II C. 1. Trench AĪ 23.*

Because the work so far done in Trenches AĪ 23-24 and AJ 2-24 had not produced a satisfactory plan of the Megaron-House, this year we continued excavation here by extending the earlier trench in Grid AĪ 23 westward over a an area 3.0 x 3.5 m in an attempt to determine a definite western limit for the house. We exposed a large and deep disturbance with stones scattered throughout. Thus it would seem that the stones we had uncovered last year on the northern profile next to the house wall—and interpreted as a possible indication of a partition wall of the western wall of the house—were only loose, displaced stones.

A stone foundation of a rather wide wall running SW-NE appeared, cut by a disturbance in the east. After the removal of this wall segment, a second wall appeared below it; this lower wall, built of small stones with a thick plaster on the interior face, continues as far as the western wall of the house, where it turns to the south and stops. (It is not clear whether or not it was disturbed here.) A mudbrick wall adjoins it from the south, slightly west of the corner it forms. The area in the SW of the trench limited by these walls revealed a black ashy fill, and a sherd-plastered oven floor in the SW corner of the trench must be associated with this room.

We also extended the trench 1.5 m further to the north to trace the northward course of the western wall of the Megaron-House. In the east we again met disturbances and heaps of large flat stones. Finally we reached the level of the house wall, which here displays mudbrick preserved on the stone foundations. It runs into the northern profile without any signs of an adjoining partition wall. We then removed the flimsy walls of the house to the west of the Megaron-House and found no further architectural remains, an

indication that this area was open space during the early phase of the Megaron-House, perhaps eventually built over with flimsy structures.

We had reached 2.80 m below surface level when we halted the season's work here.

### *II C. 2 Trench AI 24*

In Trench AI 24 we carried out a small operation to search for a possible continuation of those flimsy structures uncovered in Trench AI 23. Here we found a burnt floor with carbonized seeds of wheat and lentils.

In these trenches we were excavating fill mainly from the EB III period. We continued in Trench Z 19-20 opened in the previous season and began two new trenches (AC 25-26 and AC 28) on the outskirts of the mound to the south.

### *II D.1. Trench Z 19-20.*

The southern part of Trench Z 19, initiated last year, was extended westward over an area of 4.0 x 3.5 m, giving the trench an "L"-shape. A very obvious floor found inside and outside the "Megaron House" last year continues into this extension, although interrupted by several pits from above, in one of which was found a nearly complete teapot.

Continuing excavation in this SW extension, we reached a large (prehistoric) disturbance covering the entire working area. When this was cleared, we saw that a stone wall ran NE-SW along its eastern edge. We then reduced the working area to a sounding of 2.0 x 3.5 m. Here we excavated to a depth of 4.20 m below the surface, encountering many cultural layers from early EB III and late EB II, but no architectural remains whatsoever.

Then we removed the stone foundations uncovered to the southeast last year only to find more directly below them. These most probably belonged to an apsidal megaron. We traced this apsidal structure house into Trench Z 20 to the south, partially removing the balk between the two trenches. The house floor continues into Trench Z 20 as well.

We decided then to remove the Megaron-House in the north. Under its floor there appeared a double wall of the same NE-SW orientation. South of this wall we exposed remnants of another apsidal house extending partially below the first.

The double wall turns to the east; and a few stones protruding beyond the corner here might represent an anta, the further prolongation of which was cut by a sunken storage bin. This building too was most probably a megaron in plan.

Removing this double wall, we exposed another floor 50 cm below the first. The material in the deposit above this floor displays characteristics of both the early and late EB III periods. Finally, reducing the working area to 4.0 x 3.5 m, we excavated below this floor level until we reached the thick light gray flooring which we had uncovered in trenches AA 18 and AA 19 in previous years. At this juncture we reduced the working area once again to a sondage (3.5 x 3.0 m).

We reached a layer (ca 25 cm thick) with burnt material in it. There were a wealth of sherds typical of the early EB III period in the fill and a well preserved floor below. Under this floor we encountered two layers of pebbles. The upper one yielded the earliest EB III material. The layers under it contained late EB II material. Here we excavated no deeper, stopping our work in the northern part of the trench at a level some 4.60 m below the surface.

#### *II D.2. Trench AC 25-26 and AC 28-29*

A first this year was the new series of trial trenches we opened in one line on the southern outskirts of the mound. This was an effort both to obtain stratigraphy and check on the possible existence of an outer fortification wall in the EB II period.

Three trenches (each 1.5 m wide) were opened along the western scarps of Grids AC 25 (5.0 m in length), AC 26 (5 m. in length), and AC 28-29 (17.5 m in length). Eventually we enlarged the trench in Grid AC 26 to an area of 4.5 x 5.0 m and removed the balk between AC 25 and 26.

#### *II D.3.a. Trench AC 25-26*

In Grid AC 25 we first excavated Hellenistic deposit ca 1 m in depth, including part of a severely burnt mudbrick structure with walls of a single row of bricks.

Underneath it we found early EB III material and some pottery from the very early phase of the Transitional Period.

In the SW corner of the trench (in AC 26) appeared walls of a mudbrick structure, probably either a sunken bin or the corner of a house. Its well plastered walls are preserved up to 1.5 m; the floor is plastered as well. A coating of plaster on the face of the western profile demonstrates that there was either a small room or a bin here. A large pit from above cuts some 50 cm down into the eastern wall. The pit, which disturbed only the eastern wall, has a thick packed floor. On the north the pit is bordered by a thinner mudbrick wall that adjoins the NE corner of the house or bin.

In the north of the trench there is a huge, deep votive pit that reaches from the east to the west profile. It proceeds downward 1.80 m below the Hellenistic deposit, containing three main layers of deposit. Toward the center of the two lower strata we found a concentration of small stones, pottery sherds and animal bones. Distinct from this we noted a heap of ashy fill discolored by severe burning; this was located against the northwest edge of the pit, suggesting that burnt material had been pushed over the edge into the pit here. From the pit came an impressive collection of early EB III sherds, a bronze bracelet, and a finely decorated toggle pin 20 cm long with a head that appears to represent a human head with a hat. There are also some wheelmade sherds that can be identified as imports from Cilicia or North Syria.

We removed the mudbrick structure and excavated beneath the floor and then in the very SE corner of the trench we encountered hard-packed layers of light yellowish gray mud laced with thin layers of ash. While cleaning the trench for documentation, what appeared to be a perfectly circular pit four meters in diameter became visible just beneath the votive pit. This "pit" was more likely a round structure. The loose fill within it separated easily from the hard-packed mud layers surrounding it. A mud wall adjoins it from the SW, limiting it from an area immediately to the south displaying the same fill as that in the pit. This area was apparently limited by another wall to the north, protruding from the western scarp; the area between the walls might thus represent a sort of dromos leading into the round structure. As we emptied the fill, it was not long before we reached a white-plastered floor with a central depression of the same red clay that appeared on the floor of the dromos. A low rectangular platform of mudbrick disappears into the north

profile. This would indicate that this round structure was not simply a pit or a bin, but more probably a dwelling. The structure seems to have had an earlier phase perhaps resembling that of the oval structure discovered in Trench AA 18 last year. Through enlargement of the excavation area next year we will be able to further investigate the structure.

In Grid AC 25 we proceeded deeper and found part of a large pit in the NE corner, the contents of which we emptied out. The corner of a mudbrick structure protrudes from the western profile—mainly where the balk between the two grids was removed. Early EB III material came from the upper fill (ca. 50 cm deep) between this wall and the pit to the NE. Beneath this Late EB II material appeared, at 3.50 m from the surface, a stone pavement came to light just north of the round structure. We left the trench in this state, awaiting further excavation next year.

#### II D.3.b. Trench AC 28-29

The main purpose of excavating in these grids was to determine the outer limit of the possibly fortified lower EB II settlement.

A homogenous yellowish gray deposit appeared under the topsoil, corresponding to that of the Hellenistic period. In steps, we proceeded deeper in the center of the area. Along the eastern profile a concentration of small stones appeared from one to two meters below the surface. Below these we have first encountered prehistoric material (from the period transitional into the MBA) mixed with that of the Hellenistic period. A pit filled with ash appeared in the north of the deep trench at 3.40 m beneath the surface; under that level came only Transitional pottery, among which an almost complete bead-rim bowl with vertical handle is worthy of mention. An entrance with a threshold stone came to light 3.80 m below the surface in deposit still yielding pottery of the Transitional Period.

### III. Conclusions

Once again, in this 2007 season, we have very significant results to report. The general layout of the EB II upper town has been better clarified and a much more reliable stratigraphy of the EB III established.

- The plan of the northern part of the upper town has been almost completely established. The structures to the north of the court—as earlier predicted—must have served as storage facilities. This would confirm our hypothesis the previous view that Complex I was the center of a larger unit including the structures around the court in front of it. To the north, the three rooms flush at their backs with the western wall of the so-called "Tower" display an east-west orientation. There was most probably an entranceway into the open space between the north-south oriented rooms east of the tower and the northern wall of Complex I here. This entranceway probably led to the north gate still to be located in the unexcavated area slightly to the west.
- We have discovered the "South Gate" (with at least three building phases) and established its general layout. The back walls of the three burnt rooms abut the gate. Some *in situ* material was recovered in two of these rooms. The second room from the west boasted a well preserved oven and pottery vessels—including an outstanding example of a huge decorated beak-spouted jug with a cutaway spout.
- We completed the deep sounding in Grid AD 21, reaching virgin soil in the Eastern Sector for the first time. The deposit here, nearly eight meters deep, corresponds to the later phases of the Late Chalcolithic, the EB I period and the EB II period (except for the final phase of the latter).
- The work in Grid Aİ 23 has clearly demonstrated that the Megaron-House was comprised of two rows of rooms.



- In Grid Z 19 we have a 4.5 m of stratified deposit representing eight superimposed phases from the entire EB III period; the upper five phases all belong to the period transitional into the Middle Bronze Age. Free-standing long houses are typical of these phases, some of which are megaron in plan with apsidal ends. In this trench we have finally found what we have long been seeking: an excellent stratified sequence of EB III pottery.
- For the first time we have opened trenches on the southern skirts of the mound, AC 25-26 and AC 28-29, to search for possible outer fortifications of the EB I and EB II settlements. We quite unexpectedly encountered here as well thick cultural deposit from the EB III period. Trench AC 25-26 yielded basically Hellenistic and Early EB III material, with architectural remains from the latter. Here we excavated a large, deep votive pit with three distinct accumulations. It yielded a rich collection of EB III pottery, some of which may be imports from the direction of Cilicia, a bronze bracelet and a bronze toggle-pin with fine ornament (and a human head?). Beneath this pit appeared an astonishing round structure four meters in diameter with a dromos-like entrance at the west (and a possible earlier phase that remains to be excavated next year). In the previous season, a similar round structure was excavated in Trench AA 18. Whether round structures are actually characteristic of the mound in the EB III period must be further investigated. If so, this would represent a significant divergence in the traditional architecture of the region and no doubt stimulate heated debates and discussions on the emergence of west Anatolian culture and politics during the EB III period.

At the end of 12 years of excavations at Küllüoba, we finally have a reliable and uninterrupted sequence covering the entirety of the EBA. The rich collection of finds from stratified contexts—providing comparisons with both the immediate surroundings

and areas more remote—refine the EBA chronology of west- and Central Anatolia. We are becoming ever more convinced that inland northwestern Anatolia played an important role for cultural exchange and the transport of materials between Syro-Cilicia and Troy during the EB III period.

At the end of the season we delivered 115 inventoried finds to the Eskişehir Museum.