COMMUNITIES IN TRANSITION

The Circum-Aegean Area During the 5th and 4th Millennia BC



EDITED BY

Søren Dietz, Fanis Mavridis, Žarko Tankosić and Turan Takaoğlu

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Front cover: Ships carved into a rock from the site of Strophilas on Andros (photograph from the personal archive of C. Televantou); drawing of a rock carving from the main bastion on the wall at the site of Strophilas on Andros representing a procession of ships (drawing by C. Televantou).

49

The Middle Chalcolithic period in the Troad: A new look from Gülpınar

Turan Takaoğlu and Abdulkadir Özdemir

Introduction

Archaeological excavations conducted in the Western Anatolian littoral have revealed limited evidence that could illuminate the so far poorly documented nearly millennium-long Late Chalcolithic period between roughly 4300 and 3300 BC. This vagueness is particularly evident in the Troad in North-Western Anatolia. Archaeological investigations in the Western Anatolian littoral have increased yearly over the last decade, however, and have begun to shed new light on another vaguely understood, near-millennium-long period preceding 4300 BC, namely the Middle Chalcolithic in the conventional tripartite division of the Western Anatolian Chalcolithic period. Despite these new discoveries, available data still do not allow for the substantiation of arguments for a local transition both from Early to Middle Chalcolithic and from Middle to Late Chalcolithic in Western Anatolian chronology. It was discussed elsewhere that the impetus behind the appearance of new Middle Chalcolithic cultural tradition in Western Anatolia may be internal, generated by factors such as population growth or technological change, or may be the result of external stimuli at the regional or super-regional level, such as long distance trade or the arrival of new peoples.[1] Any information related to this transitional Middle Chalcolithic period will clearly contribute to our understanding of the chronological issues, as well as the aspects of cultural change that took place in Western Anatolian littoral zones in the Chalcolithic period. The lack of uniform chronological terminology for the 5th and 4th millennia BC causes problems in synchronising the cultures of the Western Anatolian littoral with those of the Eastern Aegean islands. This is particularly important in view of the fact that, in terms of material remains, Western Anatolian Middle Chalcolithic sites exhibit more links to those of the Greek Late Neolithic I period than they do to other parts of Anatolia. It is clear that the Middle Chalcolithic in Western Anatolia was more or less coastal-oriented and followed a line of development that was, to a large extent, separate from the cultures of the inner parts of Western Anatolia.

Gülpınar (Prehistoric Smintheion) is one of those sites that broaden our knowledge of the 5th millennium BC in the region (Fig. 49.1). Before the discovery of Gülpınar, situated in the south-western corner of the Troad, most of our knowledge of the region pre-dating the earliest settlement at Troy had depended on two major sites: Beşik-Sivritepe, identified initially through H. Schliemann's soundings at the tumulus in 1879, and Kumtepe, excavated in 1934 by J. Sperling from the University of Cincinnati and H.Z. Koşay, director of the Turkish archaeological service at that time.[2] Re-excavation of these two sites in the 1980s and 1990s as part of the Troy Excavation Project clarified that the pre-Bronze Age in the Troad could be characterised by two different horizons of occupation separated by a thousand-year-long gap: the Kumtepe IA/Beşik-Sivritepe horizon representing mainly the first half of the 5th millennium BC in the Middle Chalcolithic and the Kumtepe IB horizon comprising the last several centuries of the 4th millennium BC in the Late Chalcolithic period. At present, there is still no archaeological evidence in hand to fill in the thousand-year gap between the Kumtepe IA/Beşik-Sivritepe and Kumtepe IB horizons in the Troad, where preserved stratigraphic evidence is scarce at both sites.[3]

The site of Beşik-Sivritepe, located nearly 10 km south of Kumtepe, was thought to be the tomb of Achilles when it was dug by Schliemann. Recent excavations determined that the mound was originally built in the Hellenistic period as a cenotaph in the shape of a tumulus and formed by different layers of earth gathered from an earlier settlement

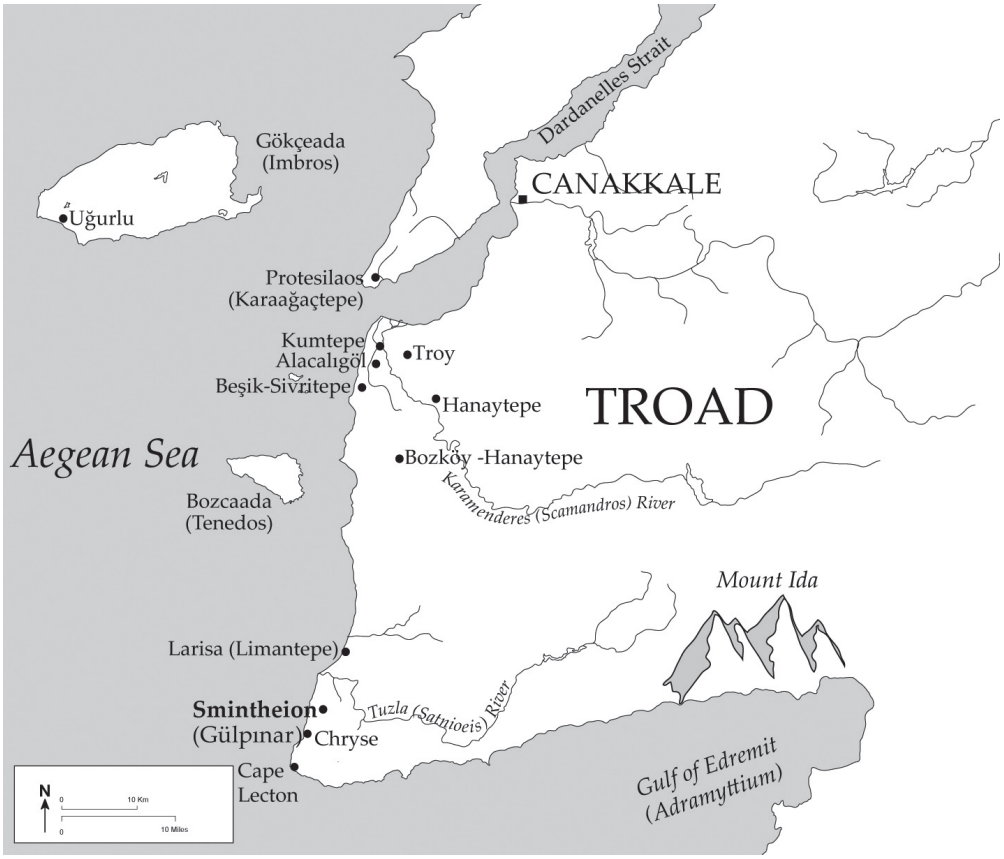


Figure 49.1. Map of the Troad. Smintheion with neighboring sites mentioned in the text.

which was likely located nearby. Attempts to find the burial chamber in the 1980s failed, yet resulted in the identification of 5th millennium BC finds that show some links with the previously-identified cultural assemblage of Kumtepe IA.[4] W. Lamb was the first to recognise the presence of pre-Trojan elements among the Beşik-Sivritepe finds long ago, upon examining the finds from H. Schliemann's 1879 soundings kept at the Berlin Museum.[5] The excavation of Beşik-Sivritepe by a team from the Troy Excavation Project in the 1980s was of short duration because of the nature of the site. The 5th millennium BC finds retrieved from the tumulus during the brief excavations helped us better understand the cultural traits represented by the material collected at the site.[6]

Although re-excavation of Kumtepe in the 1990s provided a great deal of new data regarding the Kumtepe IB period, excavations were not able to add much to what was already known about the Kumtepe IA period because the site was seriously harmed by extensive farming activities since the days of its first excavation in 1934.[7] Other sites of archaeological significance in the region also include the mounds of Hanay Tepe near Troy and Karaağaçtepe (Protesilas) near the tip of the Gallipoli peninsula. Hanay Tepe was first excavated by F. Calvert himself in 1853 and then in 1879 with the help of Schliemann, while Karaağaçtepe (thought to be the tumulus of the Achaean hero Protesilaos) was excavated by the Frenchman, R. Demangel, in 1921–3.[8] Future excavations of these two largely-overlooked sites will probably solve several questions regarding the missing centuries of the Chalcolithic period in the Troad.

The site of Gülpınar

The prehistoric settlement of Gülpınar was identified beneath the Greek and Roman remains of the Sanctuary of Apollo Smintheus (Smintheion), on a flat area at an elevation of 60 m above sea level, 1 km east of the Aegean coast (Fig. 49.1). Upon analysing a small assemblage of prehistoric finds recovered from these trial trenches in 1981, J. Seeher was the first to identify the presence of a 5th millennium BC settlement that could be closely related to the Kumtepe IA and Beşik-Sivritepe cultural horizon at the site.[9] It was then deemed necessary to conduct a systematic exploration of prehistoric Gülpınar and excavations were initiated in 2004. With the support of the Institute for Aegean Prehistory (INSTAP) and the Turkish Ministry of Culture, a team led by the present authors was in charge of

the prehistoric excavations at Gülpınar between the years 2004 and 2014, which were carried out in parallel with the excavation of the Greek and Roman remains of the sanctuary.[10] Eleven seasons of excavations conducted there unearthed an area of 1200 square meters with evidence for prehistoric occupations mainly representing the Early Chalcolithic 2 (level II) and the Middle Chalcolithic (level III) of Western Anatolian Chalcolithic, though the Late Neolithic period (level I) in Western Anatolian chronology has also been identified at the site.

Available radiocarbon dates indicate that level II began around 5320 BC and lasted until *ca.* 4940 BC, while the succeeding level III expanded between 4930 BC and 4450 BC. The lack of significant change in pottery forms, architecture, subsistence strategies, and various categories of artefacts indicates a steady continuum with no obvious breaks between levels II and III at the site. The architectural remains belonging to level II were levelled down to several rows of stone foundations, which followed the inclination of the bedrock. The architectural layout was renewed in level III by re-using some of the foundations of the structures from level II. A deposit of brown soil with a thickness ranging from 10 to 50 cm covered the occupational debris of level III. Remains representing Roman and Early Byzantine occupations overlay this deposit in two different excavated sectors which were located close to one another in the settlement.

Architecture

Because the sites of Kumtepe IA and Beşik-Sivritepe did not yield much architectural evidence, the finds from Gülpınar demonstrate how the Early and Middle Chalcolithic settlements might have looked in terms of layout and spatial use. The architectural remains belonging to level II at Gülpınar were revealed in three different sectors located close to one another in the settlement. In each of these sectors, a system of adjoined quadrangular and rectangular rooms, sometimes separated by corridors or courtyards, came to light. All these buildings pertaining to level II houses were built of stone up to a height of at least 1.5 m in order to withstand flowing and standing rainwater. In sector 1, a long stone-built enclosure wall delineates the northern, western and eastern parts of the cluster of buildings, perhaps for defensive purposes (Fig. 49.2).

Building A, one of the two largest buildings at the site, adjoined the long enclosure wall in the north-eastern part of the excavated area. Building A was divided into two rooms by partition walls and the rear room to the north yielded *in situ* evidence for food production, including numerous grinding slabs and hand stones. No floor was found intact inside the building but a hard clay floor with signs of burning which could be associated with two ovens was preserved just outside the south-western corner of Building A. This indicates that the level II settlers of Gülpınar built their hearth structures often outdoors near dwellings.

Another distinctive building of level II is Building B with a stone-paved floor (Fig. 49.3). The floor of this structure was covered entirely with stones forming a drain, the surface of which was originally levelled with mud. A stone platform with grinding slabs for food processing was found attached inside the north-west corner of Building B. Such platforms might have been used for placing grinding slabs; the uneven surface of the platform may have once been plastered with clay to provide a smooth surface for grinding activities. Two depressions for central poles observed in the centre of the floor probably indicate the use of wooden posts to support the roof.

In level III, the walls of the structures from level II were levelled down to several rows of stone foundations, which followed the inclination of the bedrock. The renewal of the architectural layout in level III was conducted by re-using most of the foundations of the structures from level II. In sector 2, the long stone-built enclosure wall delineating the northern part of the settlement was reinforced with buttresses laid along the outer face of the preceding level II long wall (Fig. 49.4). The level III buildings to the south of this wall were generally quadrangular or rectangular in plan. The rooms had beaten earth floors. Most houses contained hearths, ovens, and stone platforms for the processing of food such as grinding grain for flour. A particularly distinctive feature of level III buildings are small semi-circular silo bases. The foundations of these silos were laid in stone and often covered by a layer of clayey earth. A stack of eight saddle querns found in direct association with a stone platform in Building M, dated to level III in sector 2, demonstrates one of the ways in which these indoor stone platforms might have functioned. Plastered basins of oval ovens were found in almost every building in both phases of occupation. Each oven was placed above a base formed of small irregular stones. Some of these ovens show evidence for multiple re-plastering.

Building E in sector 1 is a clear illustration of what domestic structures looked like. A hard clay floor with signs of burning which could be associated with an oven was found intact inside Building E (Fig. 49.5). Several longitudinally grooved stone artefacts, which could be loom weights or fishnet sinkers, were found around this hard clay floor in the centre of Building E. Supplies of food and other perishable substances were kept mainly in a large storage jar that was placed in a small unit in the corner of the building. These separate square units in the corners of the house were formed by small interior partition walls. A small unit is also attached to the north-western exterior corner of the building.

Pottery

The level II pottery at Gülpınar is handmade with four main fabrics. The pottery can be divided into two general



Figure 49.2. Plan of sector 1 at Chalcolithic Gülpınar.

classes, burnished and semi-coarse. Finely-burnished wares with surface colours ranging from black to various shades of brown and orange occur about three times as often as coarse wares. Among the most common shapes, the fenestrated pedestalled bowls, horn-handled bowls with flat or ring bases, and four-footed or high ring based bowls with incision-decorated exteriors form the hallmark of level II pottery (Fig. 49.6), although all these shapes continued to be used in the next phase as well. Open bowls with curving sides and bowls with inward plain or internally thickened rims have either horn-handles, lug handles, pointed side handles, semi-perforated lugs or circular pellets.

Pattern burnishing is observed particularly on the interiors of four-footed bowls, fenestrated pedestalled bowls, and horn-handled bowls with flat or raised feet. Pattern-burnished decoration, achieved by rubbing a pointed implement back and forth over the surface of the pots before firing, appears on the surface as shiny successive lines. Motifs, such as vertical panels composed of closely spaced oblique parallel thin lines between two broader



Figure 49.3. View of Building B in sector 1, level II.



Figure 49.4. Stone foundations of the enclosure wall with buttresses in the northern part of settlement. Note walls of a Roman structure overlying level II and level III walls.



Figure 49.5. Building E with small storage units: one on an interior corner and another attached to an exterior corner, level III.

bands, vertically-arranged dots between two vertical broader bands, panels filled with cross-hatching or horizontally placed zigzags, multiple chevrons, and chevrons formed of obliquely running parallel thin lines, are very common (Fig. 49.7). This type of burnishing, ubiquitous at Gülpınar, is largely identical to the pottery of Beşik-Sivritepe, though it does not appear to have been common at Kumtepe IA.

Incision decorated four-footed bowls, with or without horn-handles, are very common among the level II pottery assemblage (Fig. 49.8). Patterns such as superimposed chevrons, lozenges, hourglasses and zig-zags dominate, while curvilinear patterns are rare and limited to concentric circles and curving lines. *Pointillé* also appears occasionally on the exterior of these bowls. These incisions and dots were frequently filled with white paste to help decorations stand out. The closest parallel for this type of incised decoration is found at Beşik-Sivritepe.

White paint on dark burnished surfaces is also very common on the interiors of bowls with curved sides and internally-thickened rims, as well as on the exteriors of bowls with inward-leaning rims (Fig. 49.9). The patterns consist mainly of simple linear lines forming single or superimposed chevrons, lozenges, parallel zig-zags, and vertical or slanting lines in groups. These patterns were executed in matte white or red paint over the finely burnished surface of vessels usually after the pots were fired. Sometimes only the traces of vanished decoration are noticeable leaving a matte area on the finely burnished surfaces, since white or red paint applied on the surface could be flaked off during use.

Various sizes and types of finely burnished neck jars and open-mouthed jars with in-turned walls are also found at the site. Most collar-neck jars have a single horn handle joining the rim to the shoulder, though handles occasionally appear on the belly. Neck jars preserve patterned burnish and incision or white paint decoration predominantly on the shoulders. The motifs on jars are almost the same as those documented on bowls. Open mouthed jars with in-turned walls, however, often have loop handles, oblong handles, knobs, notched ribs or various relief decorations.

Nearly all the pot bases bear the negative impressions of mats, woollen cloth, baskets, and vine leaves (Fig. 49.10). An examination of these negative impressions provides clues as to what kind of techniques were used by the mat- and basket-makers and the weavers at the site and how mats, baskets, woollen cloth and vine leaves were used by the potters. At Gülpınar, a plain weaving technique was predominantly preferred in the production of woollen cloth. This is a most elementary technique in which single warps and wefts pass over and under each other at a 90-degree angle in a 1/1 interval. This technique is so far represented only by three examples at Gülpınar. It is clear that such vessels were probably formed on a piece of woollen cloth to prevent wet clay from sticking to the ground, unless these woollen cloth pieces were used as a primitive form of turn-table. Besides scant indirect



Figure 49.6. Representative complete pots from level II.

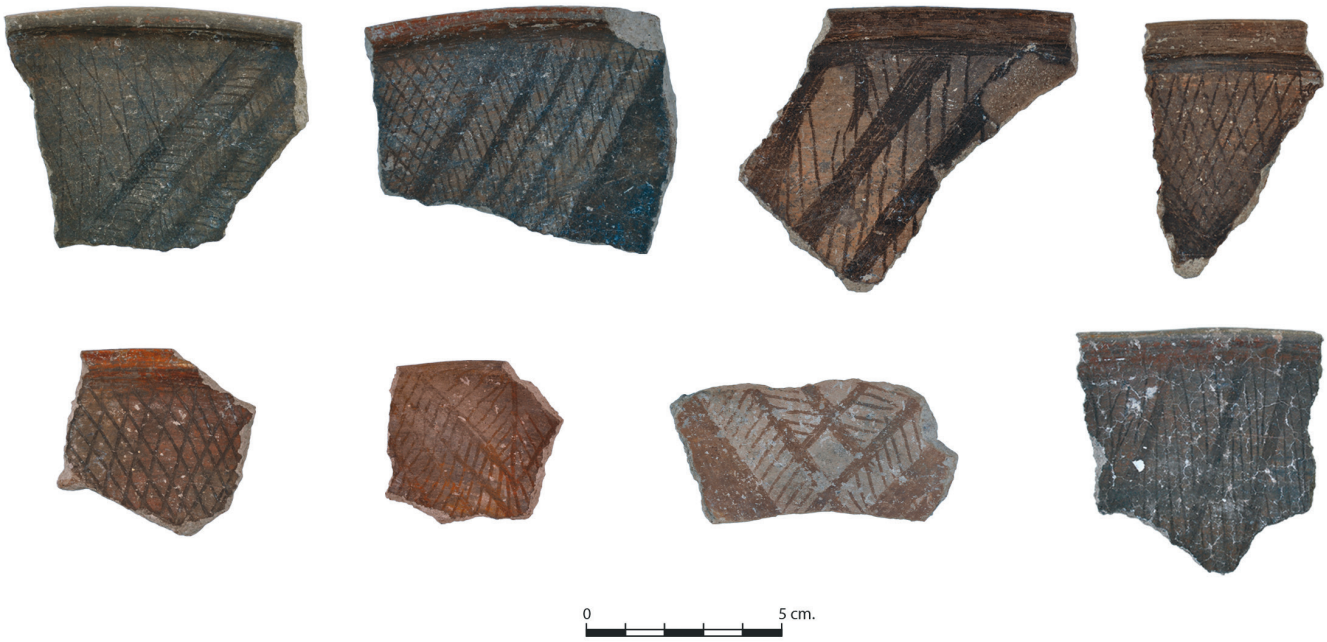


Figure 49.7. Bowl and jar fragments with pattern burnish decoration, level II.

evidence for the use of woollen cloth, there is plenty of evidence regarding the use of mats. Found on nearly a thousand pot bases, twill plaiting and coiling appear to have been the two methods adopted at the site for constructing the mats. In twill plaiting, single elements pass over each other in a 2/2 interval. Bases with negative impressions of twill plaiting are often characterised by a diagonal pattern made by a shift in the grouping of warp



Figure 49.8. Four footed bowls with incision-decorated exteriors, level II.



1 *2* *3*

Figure 49.9. Fragment of a bowl with internally-thickened rim and white-paint decorated interior (1) and two shoulder fragments from necked jars with white-paint decorated exterior (2–3), level II.

elements as the weft was plaited through. It appears that wheat stalks formed the main materials used in twill-plaited mat making at Gülpınar, though reeds that look like *Juncus* sp., *Scirpus* sp. and *Typha* sp. have also been used judging by the impressions on pot bases.

The coiling method was rarely utilised at the site. Coiled mats are made by taking a long bundle of grass or straw and coiling it around and around upon itself in a spiral; each new turn of the coil is attached to the preceding by stitching. Negative impressions of coiled matting have so far been identified on the bases of only three vessels at Gülpınar. Examination of these three pot bases indicate that the clay was placed on a circular coiled mat so that it could easily be rotated by hand on the ground. This type of base allowed the potter to turn the pot around as the work progressed. Despite the high number of pot bases with negative impressions of mats, only several pot bases with negative impressions of baskets have been identified among the pottery assemblage. A base of an old basket may have acted as a base into which a newly-formed wet pot was placed to dry before firing. There is no evidence for the use of baskets as moulds, since negative impressions of baskets appear only on the bases of pots rather than their interiors.

In addition to pot bases with negative impressions of woven textiles, mats and baskets, nearly a dozen examples of pot bases with negative impressions of vine leaves have also been identified. It is likely that the potter shaped the wet vessel on a fresh leaf to prevent wet clay sticking to the ground during the first steps of forming the vessel.

A small assemblage of anthropomorphic handle fragments, which were possibly attached the rims of cult vessels, was also obtained from the architectural debris of level II structures (Fig. 49.11.1–7). These examples are mainly made of the same type of grey-black clay with either burnished or finely-smoothed surfaces. These heads with mainly elongated necks were all found broken where the neck connects to the shoulder, that is, where they join the rims of vessels. The heads are noted for having a high forehead, while the noses and sharp ridges of eyes are often modelled in relief. Their maker(s) chose not to portray the mouth for some reason. The preserved ears in several examples bear horizontal piercings, probably for metal earrings. One case likely portrays grief through vertical strokes representing tears, suggesting that some examples belonged to cultic vessels used in certain ritual activities involving mourning. Another is a fragment of an anthropomorphic jar handle, also with preserved tears below eyelids marked with incised strokes (Fig. 49.11.8). Zoomorphic handles are also present in level II. These clay figurines display no obvious concentration in terms



Figure 49.10. Pot bases with negative impressions of woolen cloth, twill-plaited mats, coiled mats, baskets, and vine leaves, levels II-III.

of their spatial distribution in the site. Because they were mainly found in the structural debris of the houses, their archaeological contexts do not offer an explanation for their specific function and meaning. However, the unmarking of the mouth in certain anthropomorphic protomes, which appear to have been detached from vessels, seems to indicate that some of these figurines were intended for use in cultic rites.

There does not seem to have been a very significant change in the shapes of pots and technology associated with their production from level II to level III. The major difference between these two phases is the rise of semi-coarse vessels in the succeeding phase. For instance, the number of pots representing large bowls with curving sides and loop handles, large belly-handled or neck-handled collar neck jars, baking pans (cheese pots), strainers or sieves, open-mouthed and in-turned walled jars with raised bands with fingertip-impressed decorations, and wide-mouthed and out-turned walled bowls with impressed rims increases in level III. Besides utilitarian semi-coarse pottery associated with daily life such as food preparation, large containers, such as large neck jars up to a height of 80 cm and large bowls with a diameter up to 45 cm, are commonly attested in level III.

Bowls with fenestrated pedestal bases, bowls with or without pattern-burnished decoration and plain in-turned rim, bowls with or without incised decoration and plain in-turned rim, bowls with painted decoration and plain in-turned rim, bowls with either horn handles, uprising knobbed or twisted handles, uprising mushroom handles, circular pellets arched or pointed side handles, semi-perforated lugs or tab handles dominates the fine wares in level III at Gülpınar (Fig. 49.12). In terms of jars of the fine ware group, collar necked jars and open mouthed jars with in-turned walls prevail among the pottery assemblage.



Figure 49.11. Anthropomorphic protomes, which were possibly attached to the rims of cultic vessels (1–7) and an anthropomorphic jar handle (8), level II.

These pottery features identified among the assemblages of both level II and level III at Gülpınar are largely identical to that of the nearby site of Beşik-Sivritepe, where the pottery assemblage lacks stratigraphy because it was found in a secondary deposit in the earth of the tumulus. Excluding channelled decoration, almost all the pot shapes and decorative patterns represented at Beşik-Sivritepe appear at both levels II and III at Gülpınar. The pottery assemblage at Gülpınar also shares a number of similarities with those of Kumtepe $1A_1$ and $1A_2$ These common elements include fenestrated pedestalled bowls, horn-handled bowls, and pattern burnish decoration.

Mortuary evidence

Archaeological excavations at Gülpınar also revealed mortuary evidence that may help to define the end of the Middle Chalcolithic settlement at the site. A total of seven burials representing the latest stages of level III at the site were all found laid over preceding level II walls. Each of these burials contained a single body deposited in a contracted position. Burials 1, 2, and 3 are the best-preserved examples found complete with burial gifts. The deceased in burial 1 was placed on the walls of level III structures and positioned on its left side with knees pulled up and hands resting in front of the body (Fig. 49.13). In contrast to burial 1, the body in burial 2 was laid on its right side on the virgin soil between the walls of level II structures, but positioned in a similar fashion to that of burial 1. Both burials 1 and 2 contain a bowl roughly 20 cm in diameter placed in front of the feet, which might have been a sign of belief associated with the afterlife (Fig. 49.12.1–2). The position of available parts of the skeleton suggests that the body in burial 3 was laid on its left side with knees pulled up and the hands resting in front of the body on the walls of structures. One high pedestalled bowl and part of a jug with uprising rim were found together on the chest of the skeleton in burial 3 (Fig. 49.12.3–4). The deliberate placement of this bowl and jar suggests that they were offered to the deceased during burial. Nonetheless, the remaining four of the seven burials were found in areas around the enclosure wall delineating the northern end of the settlement, yet with no identifiable burial gifts perhaps due to their poor state of preservation caused by activities in the Roman era. It seems from the radiocarbon analyses of bone samples taken from these



Figure 49.12. Pots found in level III burials: 1. Bowl with plain rim (burial 1); 2. bowl with tab handle (burial 2); 3. pedestalled bowl (burial 3); 4. bowl with uprising high handle (burial 3).

burials that a certain area of the settlement to the north of the enclosure wall was used as a burial ground in various stages of level III from around 4675 to until around 4450 cal BC. Using abandoned buildings as a burial ground appears to be a practice adopted particularly in level III at the site.

Conclusions

The contributions of the Gülpınar excavations to our understanding of the Middle Chalcolithic period in the Troad are twofold. First, the finds from Gülpınar provide information on chronological aspects of the Middle Chalcolithic period in the region. The cultural assemblages of Gülpınar II (Early Chalcolithic 2) and Gülpınar III (Middle Chalcolithic), which more or less parallels the so-called Kumtepe IA/Beşik-Sivritepe cultural horizon of the Troad, demonstrate that this period might have been represented by at least two major phases. Radiocarbon dates from Kumtepe IA and Beşik-Sivritepe cluster into two different phases. The first phase could be dated *ca.* 5400/5300–5000/4900 cal BC, while the second phase fall between 5000/4900 and 4300 cal BC. Two dates from Kumtepe IA_1, four dates from A_2 and seven dates from Beşik Sivritepe indicate that the Kumtepe A-Beşik Sivritepe cultural horizon overall could be dated roughly to 5400/5300–4400/4300 cal BC.[11] Kumtepe IA_1 is dated to *ca.* 5400–5100 cal BC, while Kumtepe IA_2 calibrates respectively to 4805–4370 cal BC. The completely disturbed site of Beşik Sivritepe is dated respectively to 4900–4300 cal BC. It must be mentioned that the cultural assemblages from Kumtepe IA and Beşik-Sivritepe had both similar and idiosyncratic traits, implying that the duration of these two



Figure 49.13. Burial 1 (left) and burial 2 (right) with bodies laid in a contracted position. Note the complete bowl placed in front of the feet as an offering, level III.

settlements did not entirely overlap.[12] New radiocarbon dates from Gülpınar now also confirm that this cultural horizon had a long duration, which is also demonstrated through architectural remains.

Second, the finds from Gülpınar provide information about aspects of cultural interaction that took place in the Middle Chalcolithic period. The analysis of pottery from levels II and III at Gülpınar shows that the sites of this period derived elements both from the Balkans and the Aegean islands. Pottery features defining the Middle Chalcolithic at Gülpınar prevailed at sites located as far south as Lycia and Pamphylia in Western Anatolia. For instance, the sites of Liman Tepe, Çakmak Tepe, Ulucak, Ege Gübre, Yeşilova, and Çine-Tepecik in Central-Western Anatolia and Malkayası Cave, Tavabaşı Cave, Beçin, Karain Cave, Lower Bağbaşı, and Kızılbel in South-Western Anatolia all yielded finds that coincide with only certain periods in this centuries-long Middle Chalcolithic period. This Middle Chalcolithic pottery tradition of the Western Anatolian littoral finds close parallels among the pottery of numerous sites in the Cyclades and the Eastern Aegean islands, including Emporio and Ayio Gala on Chios, Tigani on Samos, Saliagos, Cave of Antiparos, Cave of Cylopes on Youra, Akrotiri on Thera, Ftelia on Mykonos, Grotta and Zas Cave on Naxos, Kalythies on Rhodes and Vathy Bay Cave on Kalymnos. These similarities indicate that the sites of the Western Anatolian littoral and the Aegean islands began to share a number of common traits in their material assemblages as early as the beginning of the 5th millennium BC. Despite use of different chronologies in western Anatolia and the Aegean islands, there is no reason not to think that these two regions were part of the same cultural formation zone during this period.

The Middle Chalcolithic period could be characterised with a certain rise in the levels of cultural interactions and trade when compared to the preceding Early Chalcolithic 2 period. The appearance of copper tools, marble vessels, jadeite axes and chisels, rock-crystal tool, obsidian from both Melos and Central Anatolia, and certain imported pots clearly proves that the settlers of Gülpınar III had strong external relations during this period.

Overall, the finds from the Gülpınar excavations imply that the Middle Chalcolithic is a cultural tradition that was peculiar to the Western Anatolian littoral and the Eastern Aegean islands. In terms of cultural interactions and mobility, this period was evidently a dynamic stage in the prehistory of the Eastern Aegean world. Throughout the Middle Chalcolithic period, Gülpınar was one of the sites with the longest duration of occupation, since most other sites of the period were settled only for one or several centuries.

Notes

1 Takaoğlu 2005.
2 Koşay and Sperling 1936; Lamb 1932, 124; Schliemann 1881, 727; Sperling 1976.
3 Bertram and Karul 2014; Gabriel 2000; Gabriel 2001a; Gabriel 2006; Korfmann *et al*. 1995; Seeher 1985; Seeher 1987a; Takaoğlu 2006.
4 Gabriel 2000; Gabriel 2001a; Gabriel 2001b; Gabriel 2006; Gabriel 2014; Seeher 1985.
5 Lamb 1932, 124; Schliemann 1881, 727.
6 Seeher 1985.
7 Bertram and Karul 2014; Korfmann *et al*. 1995.
8 Calvert 1880; Demangel 1926; Lamb 1932; Seeher 1987a, 546; Schachner 1999, 9.
9 Seeher 1987a.
10 Takaoğlu 2006.
11 Korfmann and Kromer 1993; Kromer *et al*. 2003.
12 Gabriel 2014.