

gelitten. So stimmt häufig die Ansicht von Handhaben nicht mit der Darstellung im Profil überein (z. B. Taf. 27, C 430; 85, B 3; 137, A 24); auf Taf. 62, D 1 fehlt eine Knubbe ganz im Profil. Die Bruchenden in den Profilzeichnungen der Scherben könnten weitere Informationen liefern, sind aber ebenso wie die Tiefen der Verzierungslinien nicht dargestellt. Die Fotografien des mittelnolithischen Materials sind überwiegend unscharf, so dass Verzierungsdetails nicht erkannt werden können.

Die abschließend geäußerte Kritik mindert aber nicht das Verdienst der Autorin, eine Landschaft mit oft unbefriedigender Quellenlage ausführlich und unter Ausschöpfung aller sinnvollen Methoden umfassend vorgelegt zu haben. Mit der gründlichen Studie von B. Heide ist eine weitere Lücke innerhalb der bandkeramischen Ökumene geschlossen; aufgrund der angewandten, bereits bewährten Methoden ist sie für Vergleiche, gerade mit ähnlich dürftig erforschten bandkeramischen Siedlungsräumen, bestens geeignet.

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**TURAN EFE (Ed.), The Salvage Excavations at Orman Fidanlığı. A Chalcolithic Site in Inland Northwestern Anatolia.** Contributions by Turan Efe, Deniz Ş. M. Ay-Efe, Ayşe Baykal-Seeher, Hans-Peter Uerpmann. Appendix by Mehmet Özsait. TASK Vakfı, Istanbul 2001. ISBN 975-6637-03-X. XVIII, 229 Seiten mit zahlreichen Abbildungen.

In the last two decades Neolithic Anatolia has shown an unprecedented dynamism as a result of an increasing number of archaeological projects and studies which have covered many parts of southeastern, central and northwestern Anatolia. The results of most of these excavations and regional studies are well known and their impact on the better understanding of the early prehistory of the different parts of Anatolia has been widely felt. A feature they all share which is relevant to the present state of prehistoric research in many parts of Turkey, are the conditions of their discovery, often being part of regional salvage projects. Judging by their often astonishing archaeological outcome such projects are most welcome, not forgetting however, that their scale and fieldwork choices are indirectly dictated by the strict time-table set for their completion and other logistics. The fieldwork carried out in the Kütahya, Bilecik and Eskişehir provinces of Northwestern Anatolia by Prof. Dr. Turan Efe of Istanbul University belongs to this category.

In over two hundred pages of the book the editor gives a detailed and well documented account of his rescue work in the late 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> millennium BC site of Orman Fidanlığı, an important new Chalcolithic site in the upper Porsuk valley close to the Eskişehir plain. The book in the form of a monograph was published in 2001 as part of the survey research carried out by T. Efe between the years 1992–94 in the Eskişehir province and includes the finds from the nearby Chalcolithic site of Pelitler in an appendix. I must admit that there is a feeling of expectation for everyone who studies early prehistoric developments in the Balkans each time a new publication appears dealing with events in this part of Anatolia during the 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> millennia BC. Its long lasting geographical importance as the passageway from the core areas of the Near East to Marmara, Thrace and southeast Europe may have lost some of its

luster but it still appeals to archaeologists as the enduring interest on sites such as Demircihüyük shows. Thus, the recent archaeological investigation by T. Efe and his team in the Eskişehir region has come as a welcome development even more so since it has produced new evidence for human habitation dating back to the Epipalaeolithic and the early food-producing stages.

The cultural layers of the site of Orman Fidanlığı were accidentally found on the eastern and western slopes of an outcrop under considerable sterile colluvial deposits, in a typical ecotone on the edge of a river valley and foothill zone. The two excavation sections of this small hillside settlement and mainly the western one, have revealed seven habitation periods and a number of architectural phases characterized either by flimsily constructed (wattle-and-daub or pise) or stone built houses (an apsidal structure) together with other spatial features (retaining wall). The study of the pottery wares of the site, statistically organized using as criteria twenty seven vessel forms and their occurrence in the different strata, is the main focus of the book with an extensive catalogue of figures with drawings and photos. Although his study of the ceramic evidence of the site has been published elsewhere in a short but informative synthesis (see T. EFE, Recent investigations in inland Northwestern Anatolia and its contribution to Early Balkan-Anatolian connections. In: St. Hiller/V. Nikolov (Ed.), *Karanovo III. Beiträge zum Neolithikum in Südosteuropa* [Wien 2000] 171–184), the author here attempts to go even further, drawing together the Late Neolithic and Chalcolithic ceramic traditions from the Marmara region, Eskişehir area, northern and central Anatolia as well as central Balkans.

Efe's reconstruction of cultural events follows traditional lines as he remains committed to the well-known and long debated chronological schemes of Balkan-Anatolian relative cultural sequence as was exemplified in the past by terms such as the "early" or "late" "Balkan-Anatolian Complexes". Without going into details one would say that such interregional archaeological correlations do not manage to go beyond the establishment of some apparent typological similarities, mainly ceramic, which, however, are in need of more meaningful and conclusive in-site and inter-site cultural reconstructions. The time span and geographical area covered in these reconstruction attempts are so vast that mere stylistic comparisons in the absence of C14 dating are often confusing and certainly not persuasive. However, the author's commanding knowledge of the ceramic sequences available from the wider Anatolian region covering the 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> millennia BC is impressive and in this respect the publication of the ceramic finds from Orman Fidanlığı has enriched our knowledge of the relative cultural sequence of the Chalcolithic period in northwestern Turkey by opening up new regions such as the Porsuk.

In the other sections of the book the study of the small finds and the lithics are presented by D.Ş.M. Ay-Efe and A. Baykal-Seeher respectively. It is unfortunate that the most coherent group of clay finds from the site, the anthropomorphic figurines, bears characteristics common to all of Anatolia and the southern Balkans, making it difficult to establish closer links to specific cultural areas and chronological horizons. By far the most interesting finds from the site remain the two metal implements found on a house floor of phase VI which represent some of the earliest metal tools found in northwestern Anatolia. An interesting though short reference by M. Özsait about the surface material collected by his team from the southern Central Anatolian site of Pelitler, in the Akşehir-Konya region, was included by the editor in the final pages of the monograph.

The Orman Fidanlığı publication also includes a very interesting report by H.-P. Uerpmann about the animal bones from the site itself and from the location of Kes Kaya, dating to the

same period, with important consequences on the understanding of habitation choices in Chalcolithic Anatolia. The bones from both sites indicate a wide range of biotopes with woodlands (red, fallow and roe deer) and open areas (horses, wild sheep). The economy of the settlement relied on the exploitation of sheep with cattle, goat and pig playing a secondary role. The early presence of wild horse bones in 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> millennia BC Orman Fidanlığı, seems, in theory at least, to re-open the discussion for the domestication date of the horse within the wider geographical region of the Black Sea. What is even more interesting in the animal report is the apparent fluctuation of the wild fauna exploitation and the palaeo-environmental implications and subsistence strategy changes which seem to occur during the 6<sup>th</sup> millennium BC due to a suspected cool interval in upland central Anatolia. Although in general it is difficult to estimate the extent of such environmental episodes or their impact on the community's dietary choices because of the cultural issues involved, there is no doubt that similar events must have been of critical importance for the upland sites of northwestern and central Anatolia during the Early and Middle Chalcolithic periods. This might be even more the case for peripheral sites such as Orman Fidanlığı with possibly specialized subsistence practices (pastoralism, hunting) complementary to larger settlements in the area or for sites whose location served certain communication and exchange networks from southeast to northwest Anatolia.

The publication of the salvage excavation at Orman Fidanlığı has, despite its preliminary character, succeeded in opening up a completely new region to archaeological investigation by introducing cultural entities such as the Porsuk group. T. Efe is right to stress that the ceramic finds he presents from this rescue excavation are an inadequate departure point for establishing firm cultural and chronological relationships with neighboring areas. That said, he proceeds to detailed ceramic comparisons attempting to establish intercultural relationships between regions as far apart as the Balkans and mainland Greece, reconstructing "the big prehistoric picture" of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> millennia BC. However, with only single cultural elements available for comparative purposes (ceramic traits or figurines) and with the lack of other socioeconomic parameters and especially without the support of absolute dating (in particular AMS dates) of the stratigraphic sequence that he relies on, this is a very difficult task to achieve. With the increasing recognition of strong regional traits in Balkan and Anatolian developments during the 6<sup>th</sup> millennium BC, any attempt to look for cultural affinities between prehistoric communities would require more than mere ceramic similarities. The Central Anatolian Neolithic Workshop (CANeW) held in Istanbul in November 2001 has adequately discussed such matters for the area of the Central Anatolian Plateau. So, while not underestimating the difficulties involved in the archaeological study of the socioeconomic elements of past social formations, it is interesting to note differences observed in the material record of peripheral or special purpose sites such as the upland site of Orman Fidanlığı where activities focusing periodically on sheep herding, cattle keeping and hunting have resulted in changing habitation choices, architectural habits or production strategies.

Considering the stratigraphic and preservation problems as well as context limitations of small scale rescue excavations, it is nevertheless worth using their distinctive material record to help us understand the essence of "regionalism" among the Neolithic and Chalcolithic Anatolian cultures. The well presented publication of the Orman Fidanlığı material edited by T. Efe has achieved exactly that.

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