

Reprint

Advisory Board

Ofer Bar-Yosef  
Harvard University

Jacques et Marie-Claire Cauvin  
Institut Préhistoire Orientale, Jales

Frank Hole  
Yale University

Marie-Louise Inizan  
C.N.R.S., Paris

Peder Mortensen  
Moesgaard Museum, Århus

Hans J. Nissen  
Freie Universität Berlin

Mehmet Özdogan  
University of Istanbul

*Editorial Note*

*Field Research*

Danielle Stordeur, B. Jammous, Daniel Helmer, and George Willcox: Jerf el Ahmar, a New Mureybetian site (PPNA Period) on the Middle Euphrates  
Klaus Schmidt: The Urfa- Project 1996  
Stuart Campbell and Elizabeth Healey: Domuztepe, A Late Pottery Neolithic Site in Southeast Turkey  
Reinhard Bernbeck, Cheryl Coursey, and Susan Pollock: Excavations of Halaf Levels at Kazane, Southeastern Turkey  
Gary O. Rollefson: 'Ain Ghazal 1996  
Alan Simmons and Mohammed Najjar: Current Investigations at Ghwair I, a Neolithic Settlement in Southern Jordan

*Contributions*

Ian Kuijt: Where are the Microliths? Lithic Technology and Neolithic Chronology as Seen from the PPNA Occupation at Dhra', Jordan  
Jane Peterson: The "Other" Lithics: Ground Stone from Tor al-Tareeq, Jordan  
Klaus Schmidt and Manuela Beile-Bohn: A LPPNB Variant of Byblos Points from Gürcütepe II - "Palmyra Points?"  
Bo Dahl Hermansen and Hans Georg Gebel: More "Pillow-Shaped Pieces" from LPPNB Basta

*Notes and News from Excavations (by Roger J. Matthews, Eric Coqueugniot, Zeidan Kafafi & Gaetano Palumbo, and Abbas Alizadeh)*

*Request for Cooperation in Research*

*Recent Dissertations and Theses*

*New and Forthcoming Books*

*Forthcoming Warsaw Proceedings*

*Conferences*

Editorial Board

Hans Georg Gebel  
Stefan Karol Koziowski  
Gary O. Rollefson

Address

NEO-LITHICS  
c/o Gary O. Rollefson  
Ain Ghazal Research Institute  
Prägelatostr. 20  
D - 64372 Ober-Ramstadt  
tel./fax 0049 6154 53642  
e-mail: gorikr@t-online.de

layout and distribution by *ex oriente*, Berlin

# NEO-LITHICS 2/96

## A Newsletter of Southwest Asian Lithics Research

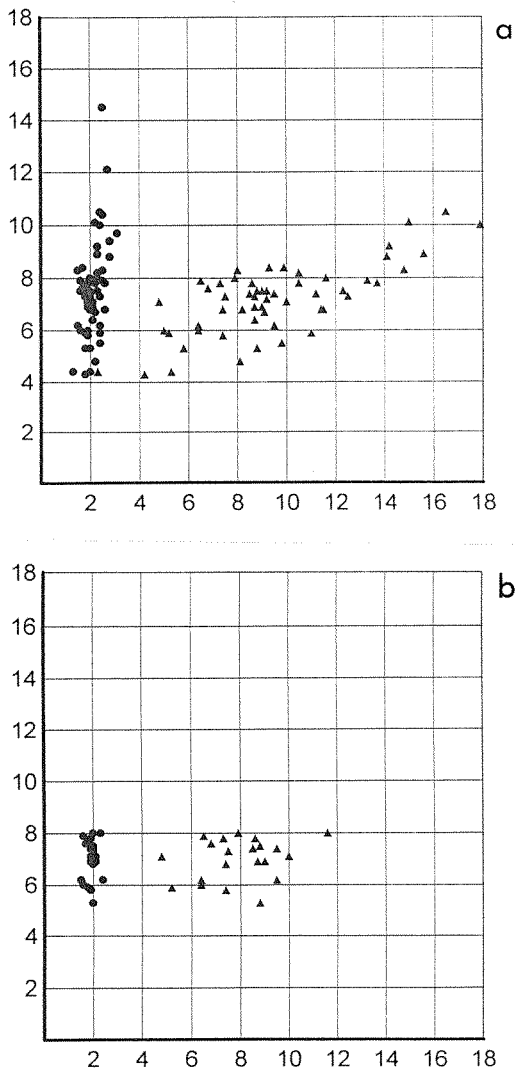


Fig. 3. Gürcütepe II: a Byblos points, including Palmyra points; b Palmyra points <dots: x = width in cm, y = length in cm; triangles: x = weight in gr, y = length in cm>.

As all the observations made within this group of Byblos points from Gürcütepe II seem to be true also for most of the other Byblos points with Palmyran retouch, the separation of that group under the name "Palmyra points" is proposed. Their characteristics are, as described, a proximal burin blow partly removing the acentric bulb at the left ventral edge and a torsion of the blade. As Palmyran retouch was already dated to the final Syrian PPNB by Fujii, and since the Palmyra points from Gürcütepe II can be attributed to a building layer which seems to be parallel in date with Çayönü Large Room phase, a new *fossile directeur* for Upper Mesopotamian-North Syrian LPPNB industries might be established. So far the Palmyra points are completely absent at Göbekli Tepe, a PPN site several kilometers northeast of Gürcütepe, where LPPNB does not seem to exist (SCHMIDT 1995, 1997; GERBER 1996; BEILE-BOHN *et al.* 1997).

#### Bibliography

- BEILE-BOHN M., GERBER CH., MORSCH M., and SCHMIDT K.  
1997 Frühneolithische Forschungen in Obermesopotamien. Göbekli Tepe und Gürcütepe. *Istanbuler Mitteilungen* 47 (in press).
- FUJII S.  
1986 "Palmyran Retouch" – unique technique on proximal end of flint artifact in the inland Syrian PPNB industries. *Bulletin of the Museum of Tokyo* 8: 25–39.
- GERBER CH.  
1996 Frühneolithische Forschungen in Obermesopotamien. *Orient Express* (in press).
- NISHIAKI Y.  
1990 Corner-Thinned Blades: a new tool type from a Pottery Neolithic mound in the Khabur Basin, Syria. *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* 280: 1–14.
- ÖZDOĞAN M.  
1995 Neolithization of Europe: a view from Anatolia, Part I: the problem and the evidence of east Anatolia. *Porocilo o razkovanju paleolitika, neolitika in eneolitika v Sloveniji* 22: 25–61.

- RIZKANA I. and SEEHER J.  
1988 *Maadi II. The Lithic Industry of the Predynastic Settlement*. Archiv des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts in Kairo 65.
- SCHMIDT K.  
1986 Die lithischen Kleinfunde. In: TH. VON DER WAY, Tell el-Fara'in-Buto. 1. Bericht. *Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts in Kairo* 42: 201–208.
- 1995 Investigations in the Upper Mesopotamian Early Neolithic: Göbekli Tepe and Gürcütepe. *Neo-Lithics* 2/95: 9–10.
- 1996 *Norsuntepe. Kleinfunde I. Die lithische Industrie*. Archaeologica Euphratica 1.
- 1997 "News from the Hilly Flanks". Zum Forschungsstand des obermesopotamischen Frühneolithikums. *Archäologisches Nachrichtenblatt* 2/1 (in press).
- WATTENMAKER P. and MISIR A.  
1993 Kazane Höyük, 1992. *Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı* 15.1: 177–192.

### More "Pillow-Shaped Pieces" from LPPNB Basta

Bo Dahl Hermansen and Hans Georg Gebel  
Carsten Niebuhr Institute, Copenhagen University and  
Seminar für Vorderasiat. Altertumskunde, Free University of Berlin

The outstanding pieces published in this issue from PPNA Jerf el-Ahmar encourage us to present similar but later examples from Late PPNB Basta. The few pieces from Basta, of which we illustrate two from the 1992 season, certainly represent a distinctive but rarely attested PPNB artefact class that we expect is imperfectly described as a "shaft straightener". Most (but not all) of these tablet or "pillow"-shaped pieces, made of what looks like chlorite (no mineralogical identifications have been made yet), show the grooves typical of "shaft straighteners".

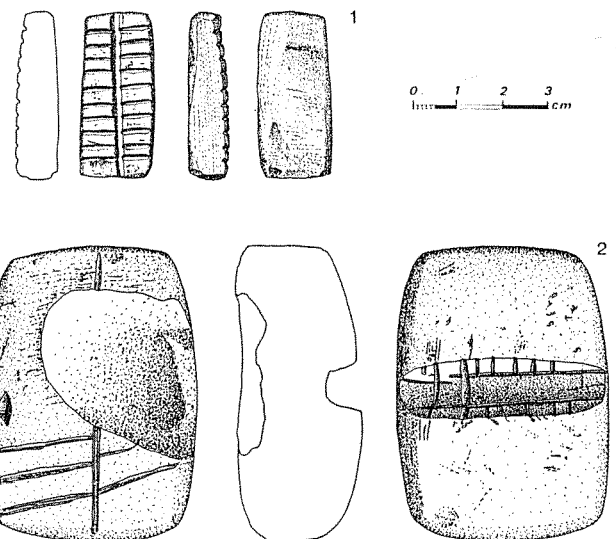


Fig. 1. Basta: 1-2 "Pillow-shaped pieces" from Late PPNB levels <Piece 2 was found damaged on the side opposite the groove.>.

They appear in three ways: 1) only grooved, 2) with grooves plus a distinctive pattern of geometrical engraving (e.g. Fig. 1:2), or 3) with the engraved pattern without the grooves (e.g. Fig. 1:1). We originally thought (HERMANSEN n.d.) that a piece such as Fig. 1:2 represented a "shaft straightener" that was later modified and re-used for ornamental or symbolic purposes (Please note that the engraved decoration occurs twice inside the groove and repeats roughly the design from the other side!). The piece Fig. 1:1 must represent a subclass of pieces that from the beginning were designed for reasons unassociated directly with the purposes of the grooves. (The dimensions of this piece are outstanding small and not repeated in any other piece found.). It appears doubtful that these engravings are meaningless decorations in a soft but durable material. If the interpretation of "shaft straightener" is correct at all, any meaning has to be sought in the context of hunting and symbolism, leading us into the cognitive spheres of hunting magic.

DAHL HERMANSEN B.  
n.d. In: H.G. GEBEL and N. QADI, Report on the 1992 ex-cavations at Neolithic Basta. (unpubl. manuscript)

---

## Notes and News from Excavations

### Çatal Hoyük 1996, Anatolia

A fourth season of fieldwork at Çatal Hoyük on the Konya Plain took place during August and September 1996. The project is directed by Prof. Ian Hodder (University of Cambridge), and field directed by Dr. Roger Matthews (British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara). During the 1996 season excavation continued in two areas of the site. At the base of the area excavated by Prof. Mellaart in the 1960s a 20x20 m square was cleared and opened, with the aim of long-term exploration of the earliest levels of occupation. In the North Area a single Neolithic building was almost completely excavated. The building had three main phases, starting its life with a classic "shrine" plan, similar in many respects to shrines excavated in the 1960s, with platforms, red-painted walls and other decorative features. After some alterations, the south half of the building was deliberately destroyed by fire and only the north half continued in occupation until final abandonment. At least 37 individuals were buried under the floors of the building, including many children. The last burial in the building had its head missing. Excavations will continue in 1997. (communicated by Roger J. Matthews)

### Dja'de 1996, Syria

The field season in Dja'de this year was limited due to financial restrictions, but the work carried out was quite impressive: study of materials, completion of the excavation of a multiple tomb under an early PPNB house (with at least two burial phases and 15 individuals) and some work in the deep sounding. (communicated by Eric Coqueugniot)

### es-Seyyeh 1996, Central Jordan

A new Jordanian Neolithic site was sounded by the Wadi az-Zarqa/ Wadi adh-Dhulayil Survey Project, 1996 (Universities of Rome, and Yarmouk University, Irbid; co-directors: Zeidan Kafafi and Gaetano Palumbo). The survey area covers the lands between the northern periphery of Zarqa near Amman, the village of Hashemiyeh, and the confluence between the Wadi az-Zarqa and the Wadi adh-Dhulayil. This year's work concentrated on the survey of Pleistocene river terraces, the soundings at a Neolithic site, and the detailed survey of an Early and Middle Islamic site. An Epipaleolithic and a Bronze Age site threatened by expanding agricultural activities were also studied in detail.

The soundings at the Neolithic site of es-Seyyeh, on the right banks of the Zarqa river, near the village of Sukhne, have revealed at least two layers of occupation, dated to the Pre-Pottery Neolithic C (PPNC) and to the Pottery Neolithic (Yarmoukian) period. The soundings revealed the deposit to be of great archaeological potential, with well stratified deposits reaching a depth of over 3 m despite the heavy disturbances suffered by the site due to road works and agricultural activities. Beaten earth floors, remains of structures, and a plethora of artefacts were recovered, allowing establishment of a provisional chronostratigraphic sequence for the transition between Pre-Pottery and Pottery Neolithic in this region of Jordan.

Future campaigns will develop the research initiated this year along the lines of the inter-disciplinary collaboration between Yarmouk and Rome Universities. (communicated by Zeidan Kafafi and Gaetano Palumbo)

### Choga Bonut 1996, Khuzestan

The joint Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization - Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago expedition to Choga Bonut excavated below Archaic Susiana I deposits and reached the so-called "Formative Susiana" remains under which there were occupational debris with some classes of pottery that should be Formative. Below this there is a class of coarse ware that is apparently the earliest class of pottery. Therefore, Ms. Kantor's Formative will have to be "Archaic 0". We also have some 3 m of aceramic deposit with typical round fire pits, paved with pebbles, many blades and microliths, some obsidian, stalk and T-shape figurines, many small geometric tokens, etc. We have collected seeds and bones for analyses. Although we did not find architecture, the presence of lumps of straw-tempered mudbricks indicate that the aceramic level had some kind of solid architecture. (communicated by Abbas Alizadeh)

---

## Request for Cooperation in Research

(from Eric Coqueugniot): I am currently working on the use of obsidian during the late periods (Bronze and Iron Ages, Roman period.etc.), and I am interested in all archaeological and bibliographical information concerning obsidian objects other than tools and weapons. Please reply to Eric Coqueugniot, Maison de l'Orient Méditerranéen, CNRS/Université Lyon 2, UPR 7537 - Equipe n° 17 du C.R.A., 7 rue Raulin, F- 69365 LYON Cedex 07, fax (33) (0)4 72 72 08 65, email: Eric.Coqueugniot@mom.fr.

---

## New Dissertations and Theses

QUINTERO, LESLIE A.

1997 *Evolution of Lithic Economies in the Levantine Neolithic: The Development and Demise of the Naviform Core-and- Blade Technique*. Riverside, University of California: unpubl. Ph.D. Dissertation. Ann Arbor, University Microfilms.

SÖFFNER, WALTER

1996 *Morphometrische Untersuchungen an Caprinen- und Gazellenresten aus prähistorischen Fundorten im Vorderen Orient. Palökologie im Spiegel morphologischer Veränderungen am Säugerskelett*. Tübingen, Universität Tübingen, Geowissenschaftliche Fakultät: unpubl. Dissertation.

This dissertation contains a morphometric discussion of Neolithic gazelles and caprines from: Sabra 1 (Natufian, PPN-A-EPPNB), Shaqarat Musai'id (MPPNB), adh-Dhahan (MPPNB), Basta (1984-sounding, LPPNB), Ba'ja 1 (1984-sounding, LPPNB) (all soundings by H.G. Gebel; adh-Dhahan: H.P. Uerpmann).

MÜLLER-NEUHOF, BERND

1996 *Die yarmoukienzeitliche Silexindustrie aus Abu Snesleh, Jordanien*. Berlin, Freie Universität Berlin, Seminar für Vorderasiatische Altertumskunde: unpubl. M.A. Thesis.

This thesis analyzed the chipped lithics materials from a sounding into the Yarmoukian layers of Abu Snesleh, southeast of Amman (excavations by R. Bernbeck, S. Kerner, and R. Lamprichs).

RASSMANN, P.

1996 *Reciprocal Frontiers in the Halaf: Searching for Material Cultural Correlates*. Stony Brook, State University of New York: Unpublished M.A. Thesis.

---

## New and Forthcoming Books

MOLIST MONTAÑA M.

1996 *Tell Halula (Siria). Un Yacimiento Neolítico del Valle Medio del Éufrates. Campañas de 1991 y 1992*. Madrid, Ministerio de Educación y Cultura.

GEBEL H.G., KAFAFI Z., and ROLLEFSON G.O. (eds).

1997 *The Prehistory of Jordan II. Perspectives from 1966. Studies in Early Near Eastern Production, Subsistence and Environment 4*. Berlin, ex oriente (in prep.).

A monograph on Yiftahel, edited by Eliot Braun, will appear after some 6 months in the Israel Antiquities Authority Monograph Series, containing also contributions by Pat Smith, Liora Kolska-Horwitz, and Steve Rosen, and others. (communicated by Eliot Braun, 3/11/96).

---

## Forthcoming Warsaw Proceedings

Hans Georg Gebel and Stefan K. Kozłowski

Seminar für Vorderasiatische Altertumskunde of Free University of Berlin, and Institute of Archaeology, Warsaw University

At last, some 38 contributions are expected for the Proceedings of the Second Workshop on PPN Chipped Lithic Industries, to be published in mid-1997 as: