TWO POTS RECOVERED IN THE EXCAVATIONS AT SAMSAT
BELONGING TO THE LATE CHALCOLITHIC PERIOD

ALİYE ÖZTEN

At that part of Samsat which will be submerged by the waters
of Atatürk Dam, the excavations under the supervision of Prof. Dr.
Nimet Özgüç on behalf of Lower Euphrates Project have been going
on since 1978. I would like to express my sincere thanks to my instruc-
tor Prof. Dr. Nimet Özgüç who gave me the permission to publish some
of the findings founded at Samsat, and being one of the members of the
staff.

Samsat is one of the largest ancient settlements of this region, and
consists of a mound and its lower city. The mound has 405–455 m.
above sea-level. Excavations are being carried out in large areas at the
mound and the lower city. Moreover, trial excavations to establish the
thicknesses of cultural layers in these ancient settlement areas have
been made on the slopes of the mound. The first of these was opened an
x/8–9 plansquare of 417 m. above sea-level on the eastern slope of the
mound. In this area which is one of the steepest slopes of the mound,
the trial excavation which was started at a width of 1 m. was stopped
at 1.5 m. depth. A rich collection made up of piece of El-Ubaid and Ha-
lab has been obtained at this region. Together with sherds most of which
were composed of Ubaid sherds, numerous nuclei of silex and obsidian,
chips and tools were unearthed.

The second trial excavation made with the same purpose was made
on b/14 plansquare at 435 m. on the western slope of the mound. In
this study the vase and beaker which were recovered constitute our sub-
ject.

1– Baked Clay Vase:

The vase bearing the inventory number of St. 82–48 (Pl.I, 1; Fig.1)
has the following dimensions: height 9 cm., width 11.1 cm., the width
of the mouth 5.9 cm., the width of its base 4.1 cm. It has a dirty cream fabric, with finely sieved clay and it’s shaped on a turning-wheel. The well baked vase has purplish red slip, has been plastered all over its external surface and mouth including its bottom. The vase having a bright polished has polishing traces made with a hard object. These are horizontal on the shoulder, and vertical on the lower body. The edge of the mouth turned outward has made a sharp line of the external surface. It has a short cylindrical neck, broad and sharp shoulder, narrowing with a slightly convex outward line, and has a small ring-shaped base.

2. Steatite Beaker:

With the inventory record no. St. 82-6 greenish grey coloured beaker made of steatite has a height of 10.9 cm., a width of mouth 7.9 and 5 cm. width of base. It has a simple-edged sided mouth, with a body narrowing towards the bottom, with a smooth base of slightly defined edge (PL. I: 2; Fig. 2). Its wall has thickened towards the bottom. The beaker is smoothly polished on the external surface. The inside carries traces which were made during the manufacture of the beaker. Concentric circle close to the bottom, while at a higher part there are small notches.

3. Baked Clay Nail:

The existing length of the nail under the inventory number St. 82-51 is 14.5 cm., the width of the head 3.3 cm. Buff clay and its surface has not been slipped. Polished. The middle of the head has been deepened, and has the shape of a cone (PL II, 1; Fig 3).

The Samsat Vase has the technical and configurational features of the red-type pots of Uruk IV. These shape of pots is known to increase widely in Uruk IIIa. The recovery of these pots2 which are well

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3 I acknowledge my thanks to Dr.Manfred Behm-Blancke who showed me this work, and provided information about the site of recovery during one visit to the site of excavation.