



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Time and Temper: Changing Ceramic Fabric Formulas across Climate Crises at Çad?r Höyük (Türkiye)

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Abstract

At the site of Çad?r Höyük, on the central plateau of Türkiye, several years of excavation have been devoted to the exploration of climate and environmental change over the course of several millennia of occupation. Of particular interest have been two phases of well-documented aridification and significant cultural change: the end of the fourth millennium, the transition of the Late Chalcolithic period to the Early Bronze Age, and in the late second millennium, the period of the collapse of the Hittite Empire and the end of the Bronze Age. At Çad?r Höyük, both transitions are attested in the archaeological evidence, as is a significant level of continuity in occupation. There is a stark break during both of these transitional phases in the dominant clay “formula” for the production of the majority of vessels, with addition of chaff or vegetal temper to the clay mix at particular times in the site’s history. The benefits of vegetal inclusions are well known, particularly the reduction of shrinkage during drying and firing. This paper explores the questions surrounding the choice by potters at Çad?r Höyük to add vegetal temper during precisely those periods of aridification and cultural/socioeconomic disruption, though avoiding depopulation and abandonment.

Keywords

climate, ceramic production, technological change, Late Chalcolithic, Hittite Empire

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