

# Field Course on Archaeology at Kaman-Kalehöyük 2007

*Sachihiro OMURA*

*Tokyo*

The Japanese Institute of Anatolian Archaeology (JIAA) held the *Archaeology Field Course 2007* during its 22<sup>nd</sup> Kaman-Kalehöyük Excavation Survey in Kaman, Turkey. Two sessions of the course were held: from Sunday 5 August to Saturday 18 August, and from Sunday 19 August to Saturday 1 September. This was the second time the course had been taught; the first was in 2001.

The purposes of this course were to offer participants the opportunity to take part in an archaeological excavation in Anatolia and to provide an introduction to Anatolian archaeology and ancient history.

As the course was for undergraduate and graduate students in Japan, JIAA sent leaflets to several universities, mainly in the Kanto region, that have archaeology and/or history departments. Recruitment began at the end of October 2006, and on Saturday 25 November, JIAA held an orientation for the course at the Middle Eastern Culture Center in Japan, Tokyo.

At the orientation, we gave a PowerPoint presentation showing the Kaman-Kalehöyük site and the 2001 field course, and we discussed our objectives for the Kaman-Kalehöyük excavation and the aims and content of the field course. After a question and answer period, candidates wrote about their motivation for the course and had interviews. Students applied not only from archaeology and history departments, but also from international relations, Spanish language, and chemistry departments. Some of them knew about Kaman-Kalehöyük and wished to visit there, and some wanted to see and experience overseas excavation sites.

Fourteen students attended the orientation, and after reviewing and interviews, nine became participants of *Archaeology Field Course 2007* (three for the first session and six for the second session). They were from a variety of study fields, grades, and universities.

They came from Sophia University, Tsuda College, Tokai University, Tokyo University of Science, Hosei University, Risscho University, Waseda University and the Open University of Japan. This year, we did not receive any applications from graduate students.

In Tokyo, the participants joined various events held by JIAA in order to meet other excavation members and learn about Anatolian archaeology. These events included the Anatolian study sessions held about once a month from autumn to spring, the “Research Debrief Session” and the “17<sup>th</sup> Conference on Survey in Turkey in 2006” (held 24–25 March 2007) and the “22<sup>nd</sup> Kaman-Kalehöyük Excavation Survey Member’s Meeting” on Saturday 12 May 2007.

The three main components of the field course were 1) excavation survey, 2) study of archaeological artifacts, and 3) lectures.

## **1) Excavation Survey**

- Experiencing excavation survey at Kaman-Kalehöyük, participants learned the overall system of excavation.
- They learned and practiced correct methods and techniques of excavation survey.
- They learned how to handle archaeological artifacts, and to understand the concepts of conservation for archaeological remains and artifacts.

## **2) Study of Archaeological Artifacts**

- Studying artifacts excavated at Kaman-Kalehöyük, they learned about the archaeological research process.
- Each participant chose one artifact to study, measure, and interpret. Based on their research, they were required to give an oral presentation and write a report on the artifact’s style, age, function and purpose.

### 3) Lectures

- Participants attended several introductory and specialist lectures on archaeology and related topics.

The total course fee was 50,000 yen including accommodation and expenses. Participants made their own travel arrangements from Japan to Kaman. For some, it was their first time going abroad, but they traveled with other participants and all made their way without any problem.

The field course began on Sunday afternoon, when participants arrived at JIAA in Kaman. During the tea time at 17:00, they introduced themselves and checked the course schedule. The full program began on the second day.

Starting at 6:00 on the second day, JIAA director Dr. Sachihiko Omura gave the lecture “The Meaning of Kaman-Kalehöyük Excavation Survey in Anatolia and Problems in Ancient Anatolian Chronology” (Fig.1).



Fig.1



Fig.2

After the lecture, the class moved to the Kaman-Kalehöyük site and Dr. Kimiyoshi Matsumura gave the lecture “Stratigraphic Excavation Method and Provisional Layer System” (Fig.2). Later in the day, they entered the excavation grids and learned some hands-on excavation skills.

From the third day, participants followed the same program as the other members of the excavation team. At the site, each course participant was assigned to an excavation sector. The first assignment for them was to understand the stratigraphy of the sector. Each sector is directed by a veteran Turkish worker called a “master”. After an explanation by Dr. Omura and Dr. Matsumura, participants followed their masters’ directions in Turkish (Fig.3). If they had questions, they solved them with their masters.

A master and five or six Turkish workers worked in each sector. Some of the workers have been part of the Kaman-Kalehöyük team for years and others have little experience. Japanese people are familiar to Turkish workers, and the workers taught the new participants how to excavate in easy Turkish and with body language. Participants were seen talking with the workers and holding their language dictionaries.

While they followed the same program as the other members, participants also attended lectures at the site. Mr. Takayuki Oshima gave a lecture on basic methods of photography at an archaeological site, and Ms. Serap Çelik gave a lecture and demonstration on conservation, how to pick up the artifacts, and how to treat them.

In the daily meeting at 18:00, all the team members regularly give a presentation on the day’s work and



Fig.3



Fig.4

discoveries. The course participants also did the same. As our members are from various countries, our common language is English. This was sometimes difficult for Japanese students at first, but they got used to it in a few days.

During the first few days after dinner, participants attended classes to learn how to write the excavation diary and fill out provisional layer sheets and artifact bag labels, and also how to wash the artifacts. After those first days, they used the time after dinner for writing the diary or studying the artifacts. Often, they spent most of the time preparing for the meeting and writing the diary, and only few could spend enough time studying the artifacts (Fig.4).

On Saturday of the first week of the course, participants and the rest of the members visited other major Anatolian excavation sites. The first session went to Çatalhöyük and the second session went to Boğazköy. These opportunities to visit and learn about other sites were very fruitful for the participants, who took in the sites with great interest.

Several lectures were given during the field course, some of them by visiting specialists who were performing research at JIAA during the period of the course. Instructors were V. Hunt (specialist for physical anthropology), N. Zaitseva (conservation chemistry), M. Yamashita (bronze, especially fibula), M. Masubuchi (iron analysis), T. Omori (C14) and K. Kumagai (magnetic survey). These lectures with photographs and artifacts were easy to follow. Taking notes, participants listened to them diligently and curiously.

Two lectures were given on methods for studying



Fig.5

archaeological artifacts, including how to measure them. Veteran Turkish workers taught measuring in detail. For some of the participants, the measuring skill was difficult, but in the end all of them obtained it (Fig.5).

For the artifact study component of the course, participants chose an artifact excavated in the previous season from the same sector in which he/she worked. For many of the participants, it was the first time studying artifacts. Advised by other members, they gathered information on the artifacts by reading the excavation diaries and researching in the library. In parallel with the study, they measured the artifacts. Some took more time to measure and investigate the artifacts, some focused on the stratigraphic relationship between the artifact and any architectural remains, and some focused on the age of the artifact, comparing it to finds from other sites. On Saturday, the last day of the course, each participant gave a presentation on his or her study to the other team members and discussed their results with them. Their studies and presentations were earnest and impressive.

Each session of the *Archaeology Field Course 2007* was successful. We plan to hold the course every year from now on.

*Sachihiko Omura*

*Japanese Institute of Anatolian Archaeology*

*The Middle Eastern Culture Center in Japan*

*3-10-31, Ohsawa, Mitaka, Tokyo 181-0015*

*Japan*

*tokyo@jiaa-kaman.org*

