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TAŞLI GEÇİT HÖYÜK. REPORT ON THE EXCAVATIONS AND SURVEY OF THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE MAIN MOUND

Federico Zaina

1. INTRODUCTION

The site of Taşlı Geçit Höyük (36°55'34.99"N, 36°42'37.68"E) and the so-called Chalcolithic mound (Taşlı Geçit Höyük 2, 36°55'59.41"N, 36°42'21.39"E) are located on a basaltic outcrop system in the south-eastern branch of the valley of Islahiye (Pl. I) in Turkey, about 11 km south of Tilmen Höyük and at a short distance from the bed of the Kara Su river. They lie near a ford through which the road connecting Kilis to Islahiye used to cross until as late as the Ottoman period (Marchetti 2011a).

At Taşlı Geçit Höyük, rescue excavations were conducted between 2009 and 2010 by a joint Turco-Italian expedition, under the direction of Nicolò Marchetti of the University of Bologna.¹ This initiative was of the greatest urgency, since gradual erosion caused by the seasonal flooding of the Tahtaköprü dam reservoir had been seriously damaging the site since the dam's completion in 1974.

¹ The 2009 and 2010 excavations at Taşlı Geçit Höyük were carried out under the scientific direction of Nicolò Marchetti of the Department of History and Cultures of the University of Bologna with the administrative supervision of Gaziantep Museum and its director Ahmet Denizhanogulları and the unfailing support of the Directorate General for Cultural Heritage and Museums, Ankara. I thank Nicolò Marchetti for his guidance and support. The project was financially supported by the University of Bologna and the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research (PRIN 2007 project) and that of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (DGSP directorate – 6th Office). This publication was financed with the contribution of MIUR – Ministry of Education, University and Research through the PRIN project prot. 2015SJMPLF_003. The research and compilation of the manuscript for this publication were made possible through a generous grant from The Shelby White and Leon Levy Program for Archaeological Publications. In particular, this paper is part of the publication project “Taşlı Geçit Höyük. Final Report on the 2009 and 2010 Excavations”, coordinated by Federico Zaina (<https://whitelevy.fas.harvard.edu/excavations-tasli-gecit-hoyuk-2009-2010>). Thanks are also due to my many Turkish and Italian colleagues and friends for their help and suggestions. In particular, I would like to express my gratitude to Federico Poole for English proof reading, to Gabriele Giacosa (University of Bologna) for his comments and criticisms on the pottery assemblage, to Giampaolo Luglio and Massimo Zanfini for the topographic survey, to Marco Valeri for the production of the maps and to Valentina Gallerani for the digital inking of the sherds.

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