

Göbekli Tepe

- PPNA/PPNB site in southern Anatolia
- Large round structures with T-shaped pillars
- Pillars often have low relief carvings of wild animals, birds and reptiles
- Schmidt say these are the world's first Temples.



Klaus Schmidt's house in Urfa





The world's first temples?





Klaus Schmidt at Gobekli quarry





ARCHAEOLOGY

Seeking the Roots of Ritual

In the hills of Turkey, researchers are slowly uncovering the world's oldest monumental structures, strange monoliths built by hunter-gatherers perhaps 11,000 years ago



Göbekli

- 9 hectares, 15m depth of deposit
- 3 layers, III-I, from PPNA-LPPBB
- Oldest dates 9100-8600 cal BC
- Magnetic survey reveals 20 enclosures
- Circles 10-30 m diameter
- Up to 12 pillars 3-7 m tall in outer circle
- Two taller pillars in center
- Largest pillar weighs 50 tons
- Intentionally buried 3-5 m deep (300-500 m³)



Quarries for columns



Bedrock mortars



QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Carvings

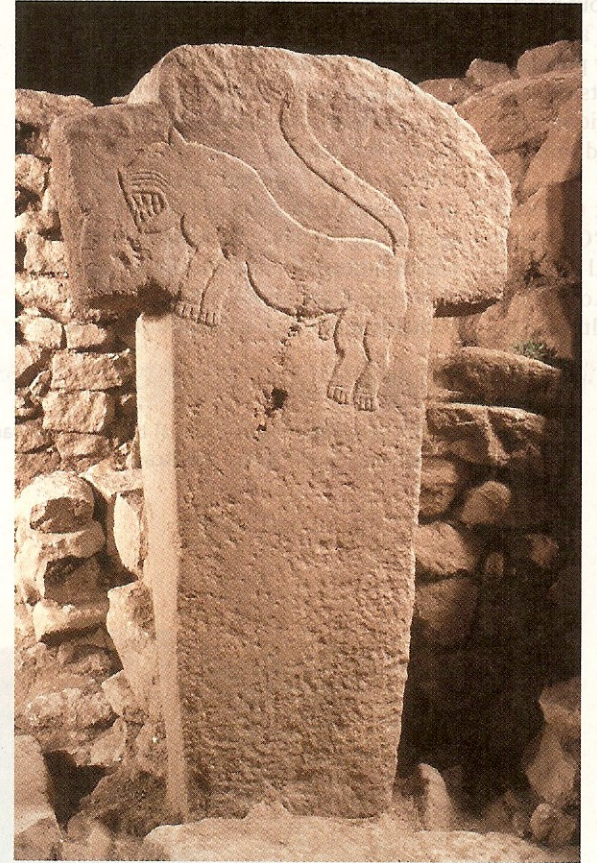
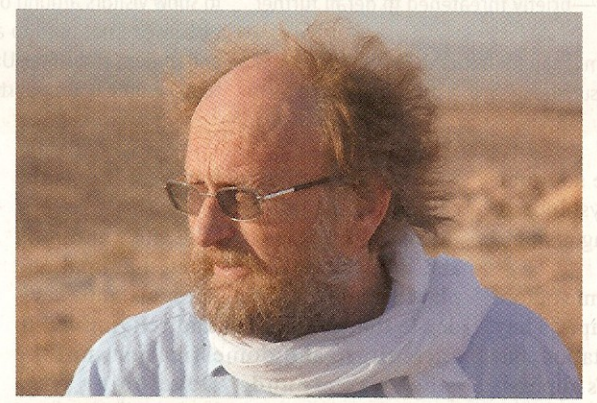
- Wild fauna: lions, bulls, fox, bear, onager, gazelle, cranes, ducks, snakes, quadrupeds
- Some human-like "arms"
- Some erotic incisions and carvings



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Erotic carvings

GÖBEKLİ TEPE. 1. Phallusreliefs C15. – 2. Ritzzeichnung einer Frau C18

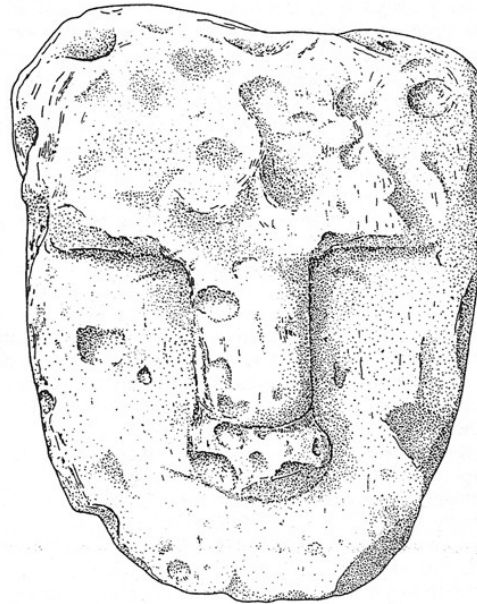


Peering into the past. Klaus Schmidt (*top*) uncovered pillars carved with frightening beasts like this lion.









10 CM

98-942

Fig. 1. Göbekli Tepe: human face from a larger-than-life sculpture found in a pile of field stones (limestone; drawing by B. Cockson).

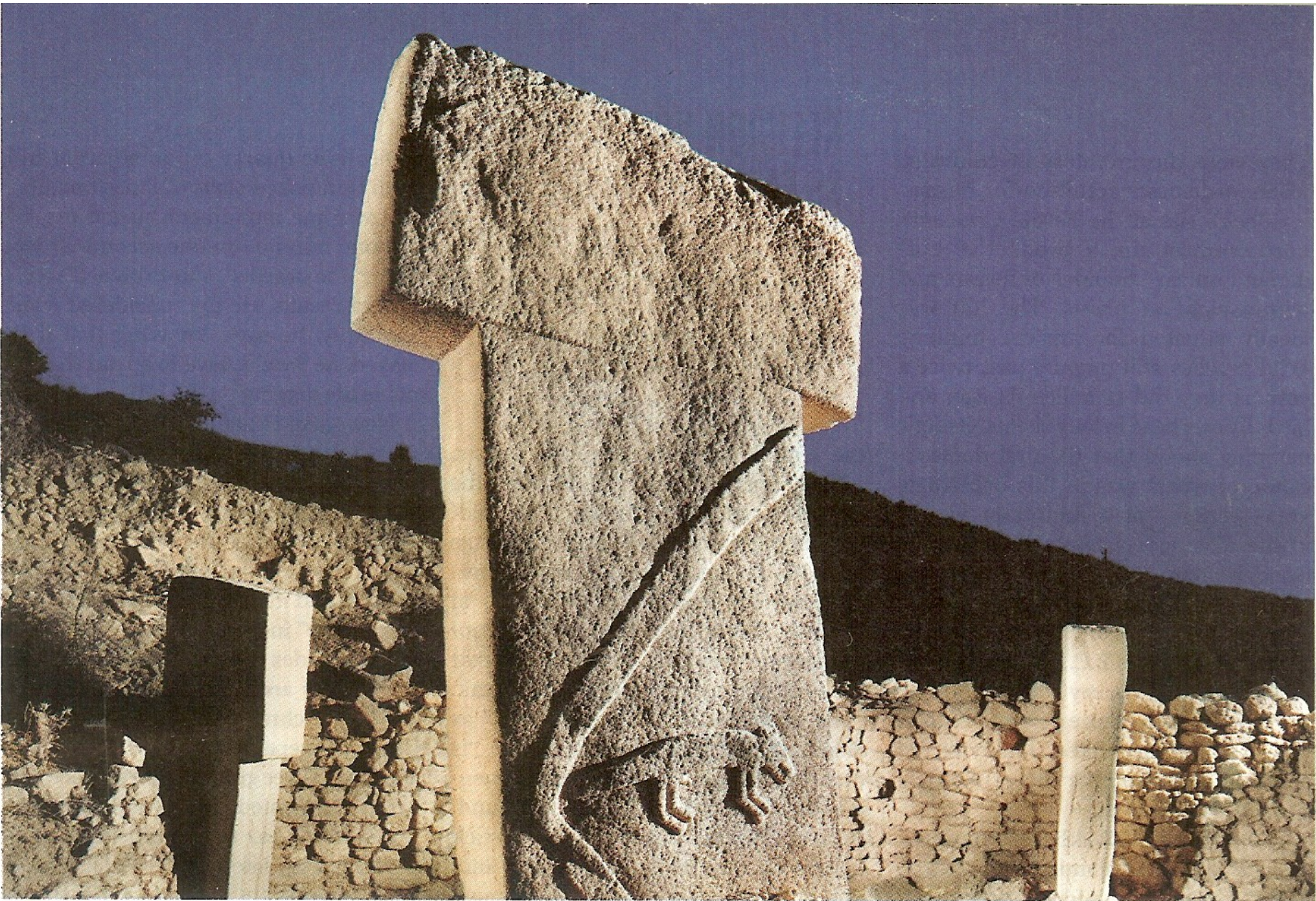




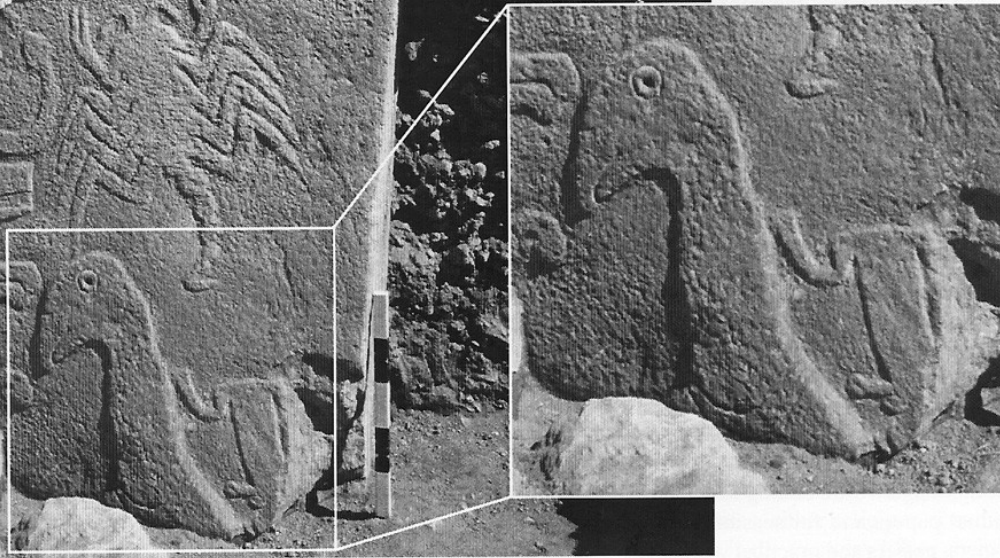
Fig. 1a Göbekli Tepe: The high-relief on Pillar 27, Enclosure C, from the east; about 9000 BC.



Fig. 1b Göbekli Tepe: The high-relief on Pillar 27, Enclosure C, about 9000 BC.



Fig. 2 Göbekli Tepe: Pillar 43, Enclosure D; about 9000 BC.



FRÜHE TIER- UND MENSCHENBILDER

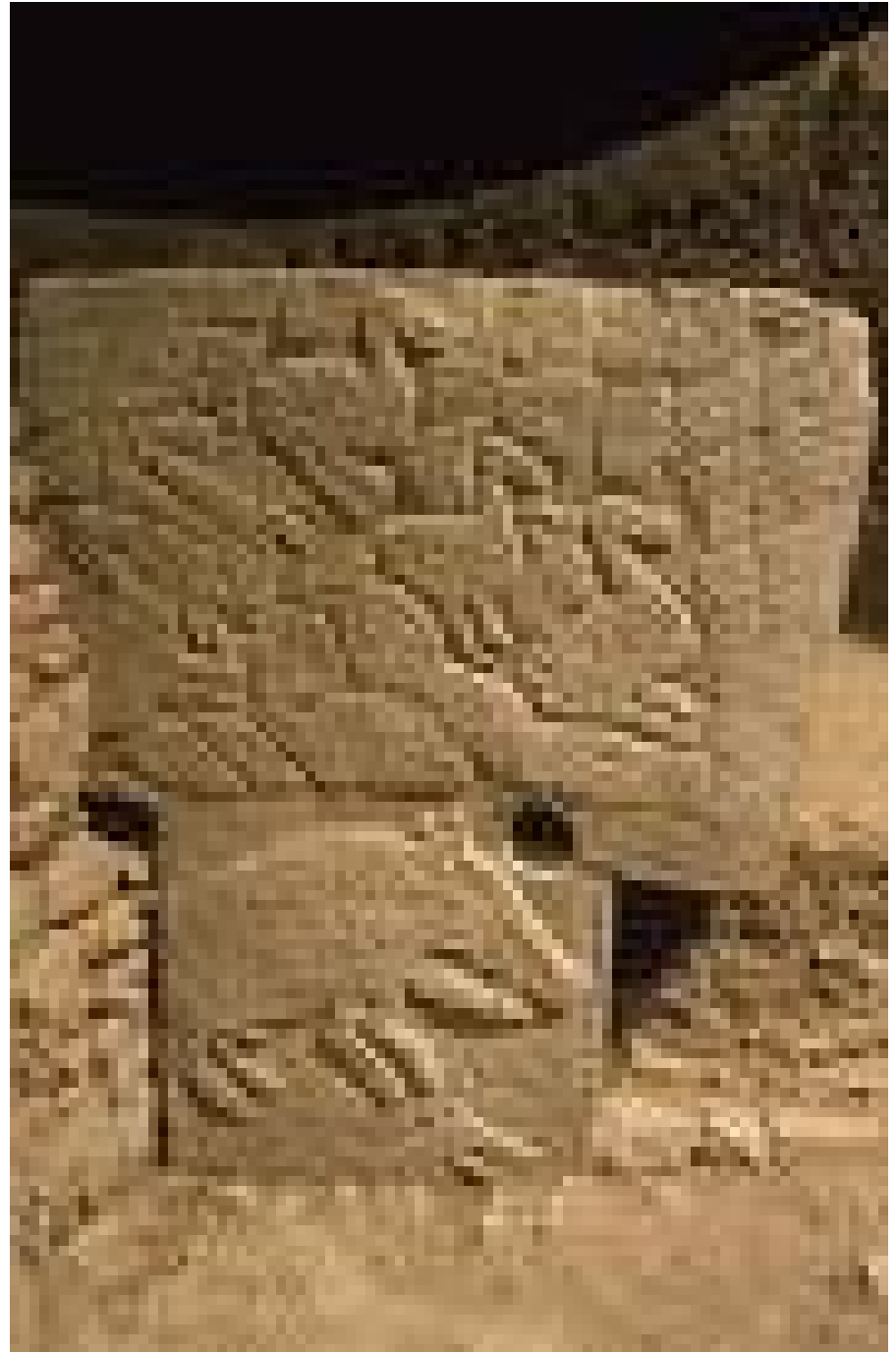


Abb. 2 Schrägaufnahme des 'Löwenpfeilergebäudes' (Nr. B2). Vorne, von links nach rechts, Pfeiler 1 und 2, hinten Pfeiler 3 und 4



GÖBEKLİ TEPE. 'Schlangenpfeilergebäude', Pfeiler 2

Structure A



Miscellaneous

- Plant remains include almond, pistachio, grain(einkorn heartland)
- Animal species include cattle, ass,gazelle, pig
- Lithics are mostly PPNB, but PPNA arrow types include Nemrik, el-Khiam, Aswad
- Obsidian is rare

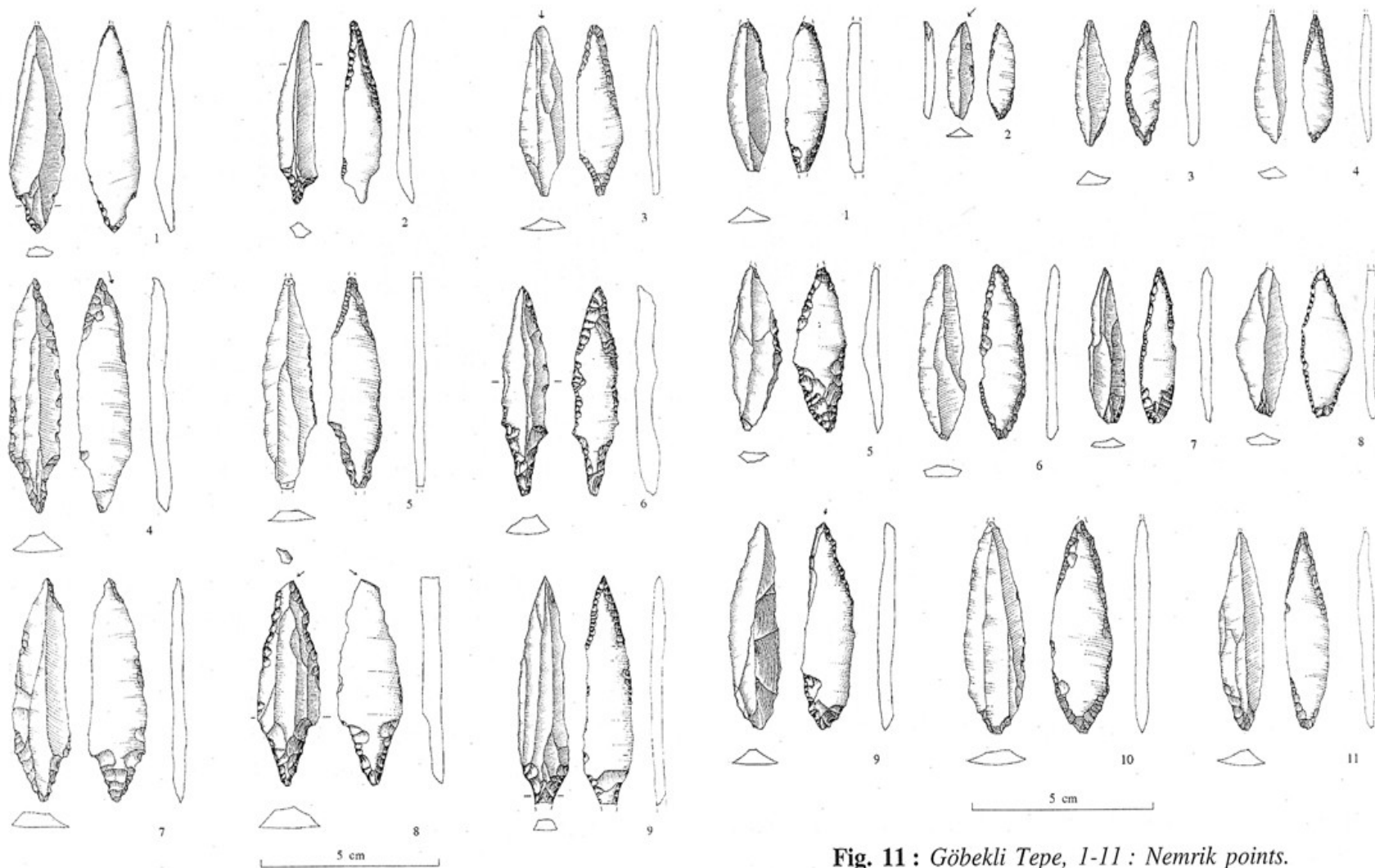


Fig. 11 : Göbekli Tepe, 1-11 : Nemrik points.

Byblos points -PPNB: Byblos points.

Nemrik points -PPNA

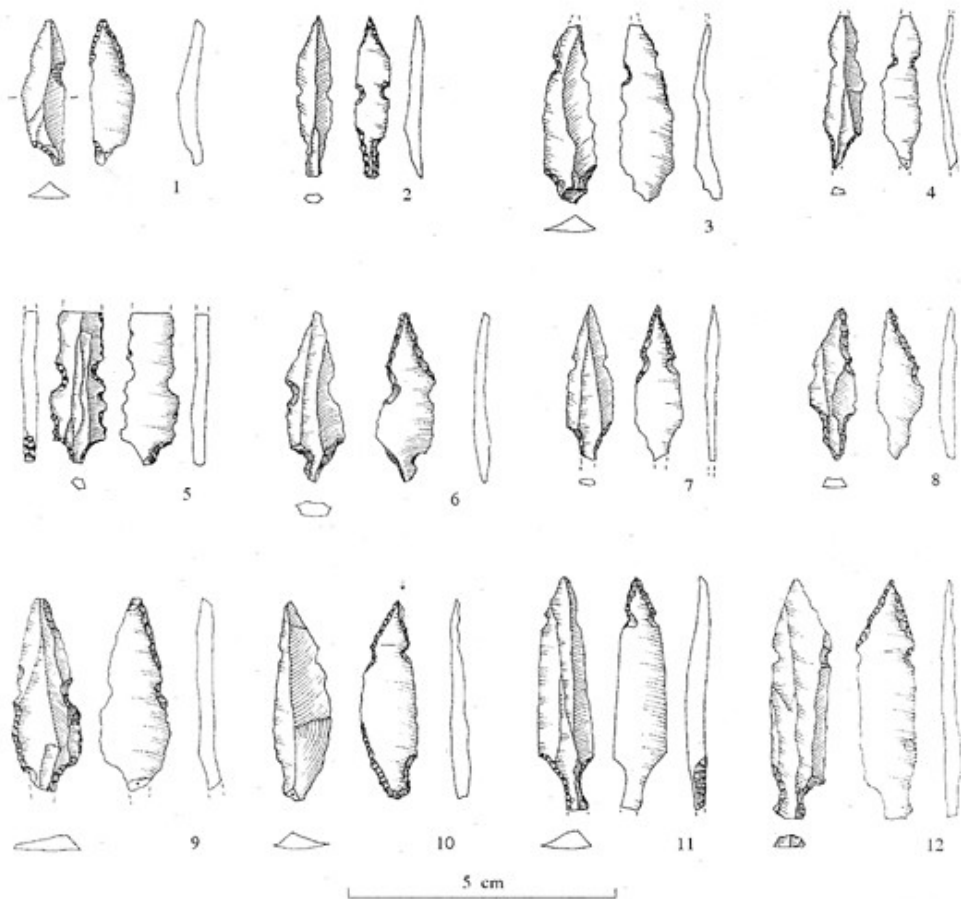


Fig. 12 : Göbekli Tepe, 1-12 : Helwan points.

Gobekli Helwan points

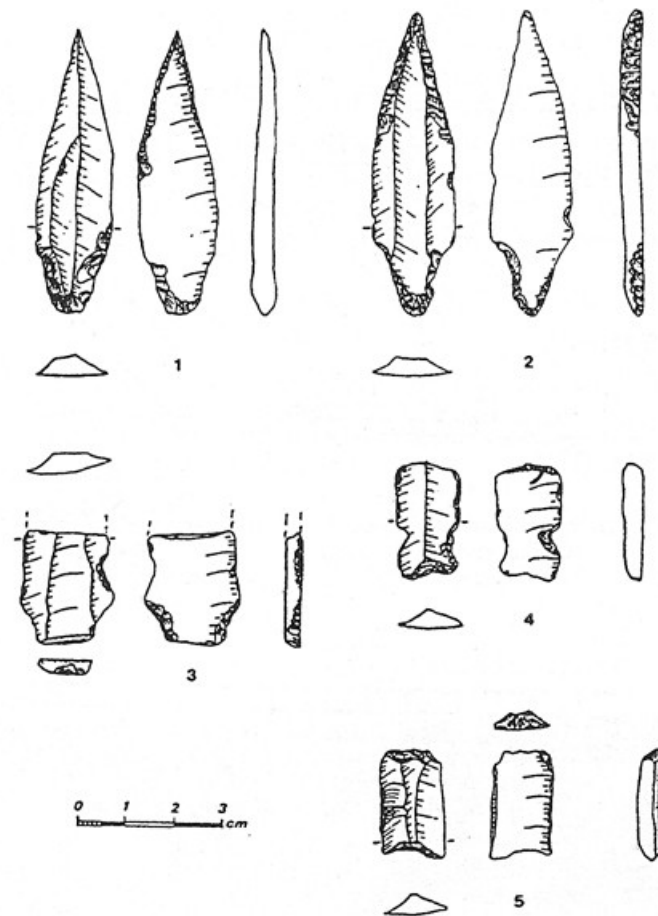


Fig. 5. Şanlıurfa, Yeni Yol Street: Flint arrowheads, and notched and retouched pieces from the 1997 examination of the Yeni Yol profile.

Yeni Yol points

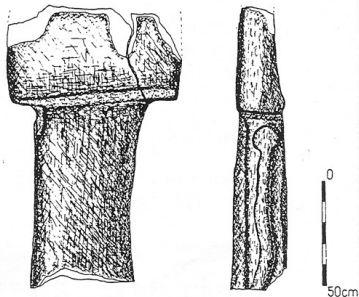


Fig. 1. The limestone "T"-shaped pillar with a snake relief.
 <drawing: B. Çelik>

involved primarily in animal husbandry and some agriculture. This poorly watered area was also settled in Antique Age (Sinclair 1990: 183-184). It is still observed in the autumn that nomadic families come down from Karacadağ Mountain in northern Şanlıurfa to stay in the Tektek Mountain area during winter and graze their animals on the pasture. The vicinity is also very rich in wild

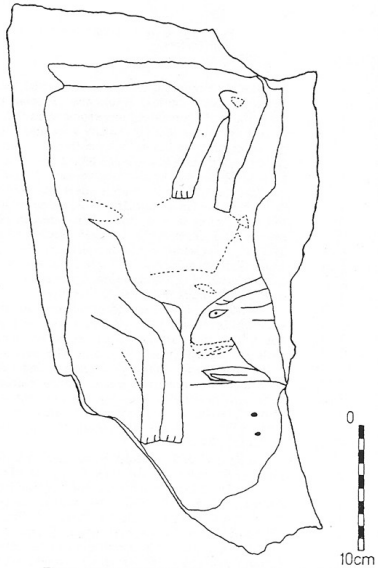


Fig. 2. Part of a limestone pillar decorated with animals.
 <drawing by B. Çelik>

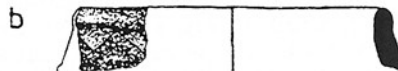
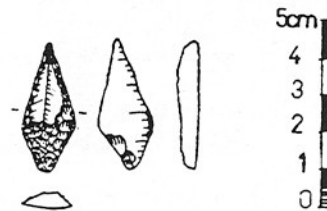
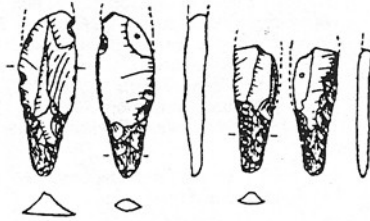
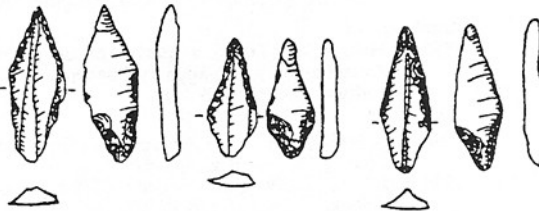
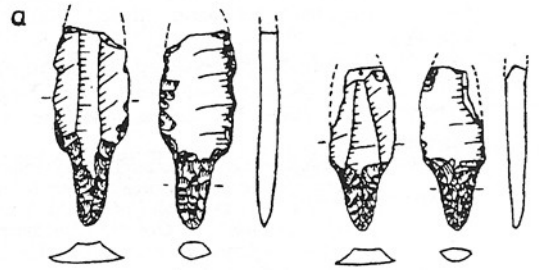


Fig. 4. Selection of flint arrowheads (a) and carved stone bowl (b).
 <drawings: B. Çelik>

Other sites

- Karahan, 63 km east of Urfa
- 266 in situ pillars recorded
- Site covers 32.5 hectares
- Hundreds of bedrock mortars
- Yeni Yol, site discovered in Sanliurfa during construction of street
- Terazzo floor and statue
- Helwan points, but most PPNB

Karahan tepe with
T-shaped pillars
not yet excavated



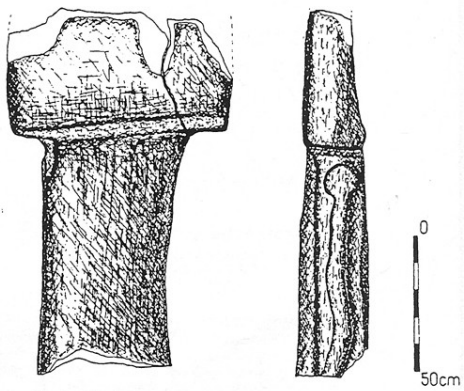


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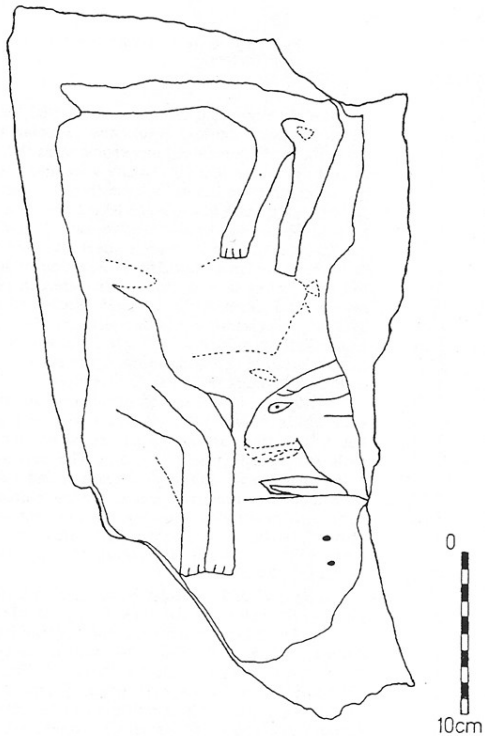


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Karahan pillar and points

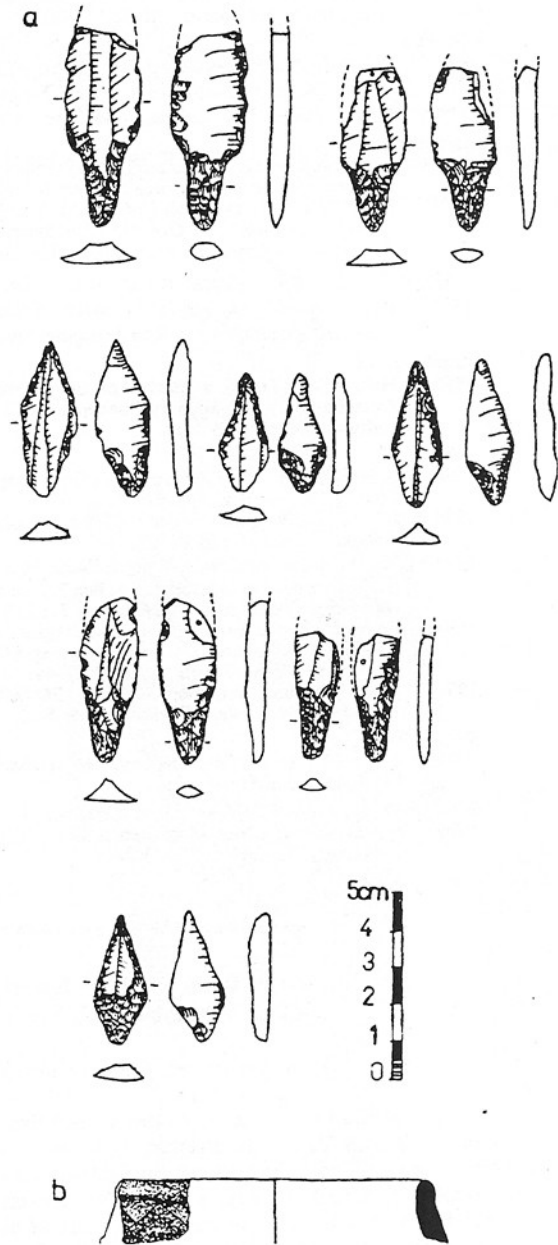


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Using mortar to de-husk grain





Yeni Yol site in Sanliurfa

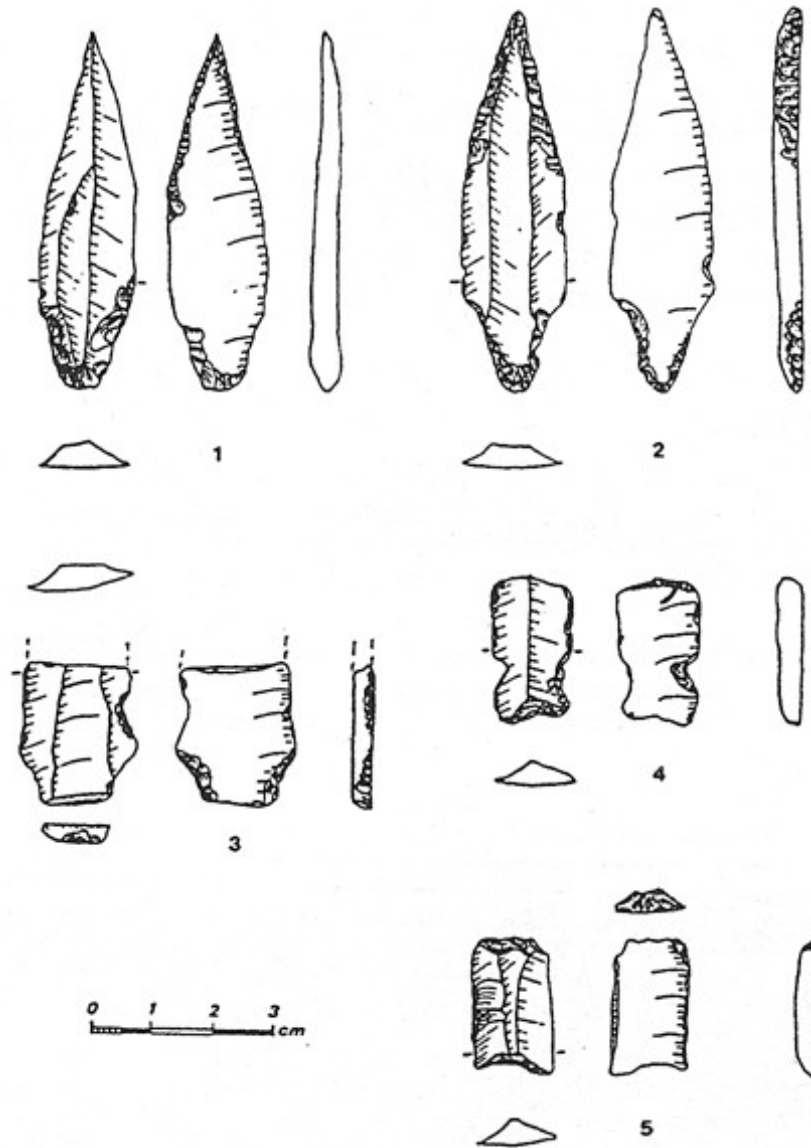


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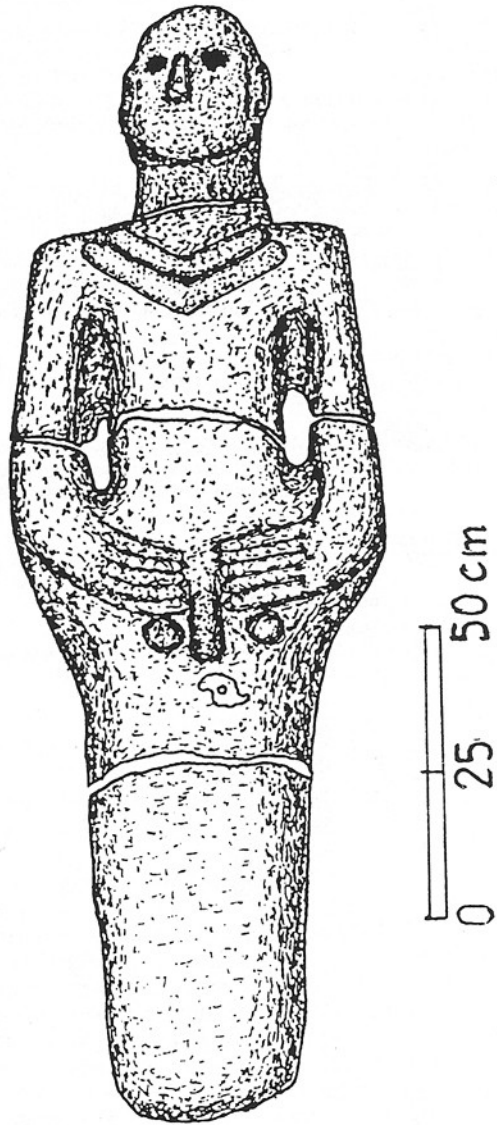


Fig. 2. Şanlıurfa, Yeni Yol Street: The human statue

Statue from Yeni Yol



Storage of carved stones from Gobekli, at the Urfa Museum



Gobekli carvings in Urfa Museum