

A HAND-AXE USED AS A NUCLEUS

Dr. MUZAFFER ŞENYÜREK Dr. ENVER BOSTANCI

Zeuner, in his article published in 1957, described a hand-axe from Wadi Shu'eib (Shu'eib Bridge) in Trans-Jordan which had been used as a nucleus.¹ A nucleus of this kind was found in 1956 at Altınözü during a research we did together. As this nucleus is the first specimen found to date in Turkey, we have deemed it worthwhile to describe it briefly.

This specimen was found in 1956 in a field a little to the south-east of the District Center of Altınözü.² The tip portion of this thin and bifacially worked Acheulean hand-axe was broken at a subsequent date. A large flake was knocked off from one face of this hand-axe (see the plate). The location of the negative bulb of percussion at the butt end shows that the blow which detached the flake came from this direction. The patina on this flake scar is not different from those seen in most parts of the implement. This suggests to us that this specimen was used as a nucleus only a short while after it was utilized as a hand-axe.³

Regarding the nucleus found at Wadi Shu'eib Zeuner remarks: "*This unique specimen, therefore, illustrates how the Levalloisian technique of preparing cores may be based on an Acheulian tradition.*"⁴

¹ See Zeuner, F. E. (With the Co-operation of D. Kirkbride and B. C. Park). 1957. *Stone Age Exploration in Jordan, I*. Palestine Exploration Quarterly, Jan-June, p. 23.

² For the Palaeolithic finds at Altınözü see Şenyürek, M. and Bostancı, E. 1958. *Hatay Vilâyetinin Paleolitik Kültürleri. The Palaeolithic Cultures of the Hatay Province*. Belleten, Vol. XXII, No. 86, pp. 184-186.

³ At the butt end of the implement there are scars of some small flakes that had probably been knocked off later on. The color of the patina on these flake scars is different from that of the patina seen in other parts of the specimen, excepting the tip end.

⁴ Zeuner, 1957, p. 23.

Zeuner points out that this Acheulean implement was used as a nucleus after an interval of time.⁵ On the other hand, the piece we found at Altınözü appears to have been used as a nucleus only a short while after it was employed as a hand-axe, probably by the Acheulean men. It is known that another *biface* used as a nucleus was found at Cagny-la-Garenne in France.⁶

⁵ Zeuner, 1957, p. 23.

⁶ Breuil, H. and Kelley, H. 1956. Les éclats Acheuléens à plan de frappe à facettes de Cagny-la-Garenne (Somme). Bull. de la S. P. F. LIII, No. 3-4, Fig. 5, I.



