

LITHIC TECHNOLOGY AT CAYÖNÜ: INTERNAL DYNAMICS OF CHANGE

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The aceramic sequence at Cayönü seems to include four main steps which are characterized by changes in lithic raw material, technology and typology.

The earliest stage, related to the Round Building sub-phase and to a considerable part of the Grill Houses sub-phase, shows a variety of well-defined tool categories, mostly of flint. The blanks, often represented by thin, flat and straight blades are likely connected with a well-controlled indirect percussion technique.

In the latest Grill Houses sub-phase and in the Channeled House sub-phase, a remarkable innovation is the introduction of the pressure flaking technique. There is also an increase in tools on obsidian and a tool-specific use both of flint and obsidian.

In the third stage, attested in the Cobble-Paved and in the Cell buildings sub-phases, a blade industry with Byblos points, Cayönü double-backed blades and bipolar naviform cores joins an intensive use of obsidian. Very small microblade flint cores, reduced by pressure technique, suggest a certain production of microlithic blanks already present in the preceding stage and probably aimed at the manufacture of highly standardized tools.

Finally, the Large-Room sub-phase implies a tool-kit composed with very few types and a majority of non-formal tools.

This general picture is integrated with the functional analysis (C. Lemorini) and some remarks on typometry and core-reduction strategies.