

Neolithic Revolution.

By Sadhbh MacGabhann

“Hi, my name is Dr. Sadhbh MacGabhann. Right now I am preparing to land after a long flight at Anatalia Airport in southern Turkey.” Tomorrow we will reach the site of Catalhoyuk. This is an amazing archaeologist site throughout where dozens of mud brick dwellings have been unearthed. These findings date back to an estimated 9,500 years before the Common Era.. This was a fascinating time! These findings were the work of the early neolithic man.

This period marks the change mankind made from living as nomadic hunters and gatherers moving around in small groups chasing their food, to a more settled civilized society close to how we live today. Scientists say that there wasn't just one cause for this change at this period, but possible causes include warming of the climate [global warming] as they left the ice age. Another cause of such change may simply be the development of mankind. Wild grains such as barley and wheat began to grow. These plants may be how these early farmers developed agriculture as we know it . The domestication of animals started in this period, although it may have taken many years to develop. Pigs from wild boars, sheep from wild goats, dogs from wolves. Horses, oxen and even camels came much later and were used not to eat but as tools to work and transportation. That brings me to a section of the discovery that I am most interested in. This is some of the materials that were discovered at this

sight here at Catalhoyuk. My interest is in a hand held mill type tool that may have been used to grind the grains of barley and wheat to make them easier to digest the food not unlike the flour we use for bread today. They used a round flat stone and an oval stone, they may have placed the grains in between the two or the rocks rolling the stone back forth until the grain became a millet. A similar tool is still used today. In China rice paddies have been found in swamps dating back to 7,000 years BCE .in Mexico signs of early growing of squash have been found dating back as early as the Catalhoyuk but it does show how the Neolithic revolution crossed the world.

This period also shows evidence of man's interest in religion and even art. Images of female goddesses and hunters and gathers have been found on the walls of these early houses. These houses were so close together that they could have entered through a hole in the roof. Earlier stone age men did not live so close together in any form of community
To conclude living in larger communities people began to live in safer and more healthy conditions with more balanced lifestyles and diets.
Socializing more and supporting one another more like life as we know it today.

My responsibility is to bring back to the USA the stones used to grind the grains and show to students around the country before donating the specimen to the museum of natural history. Wish me luck!

