

Archaeological Database Creation & Ceramic Analysis

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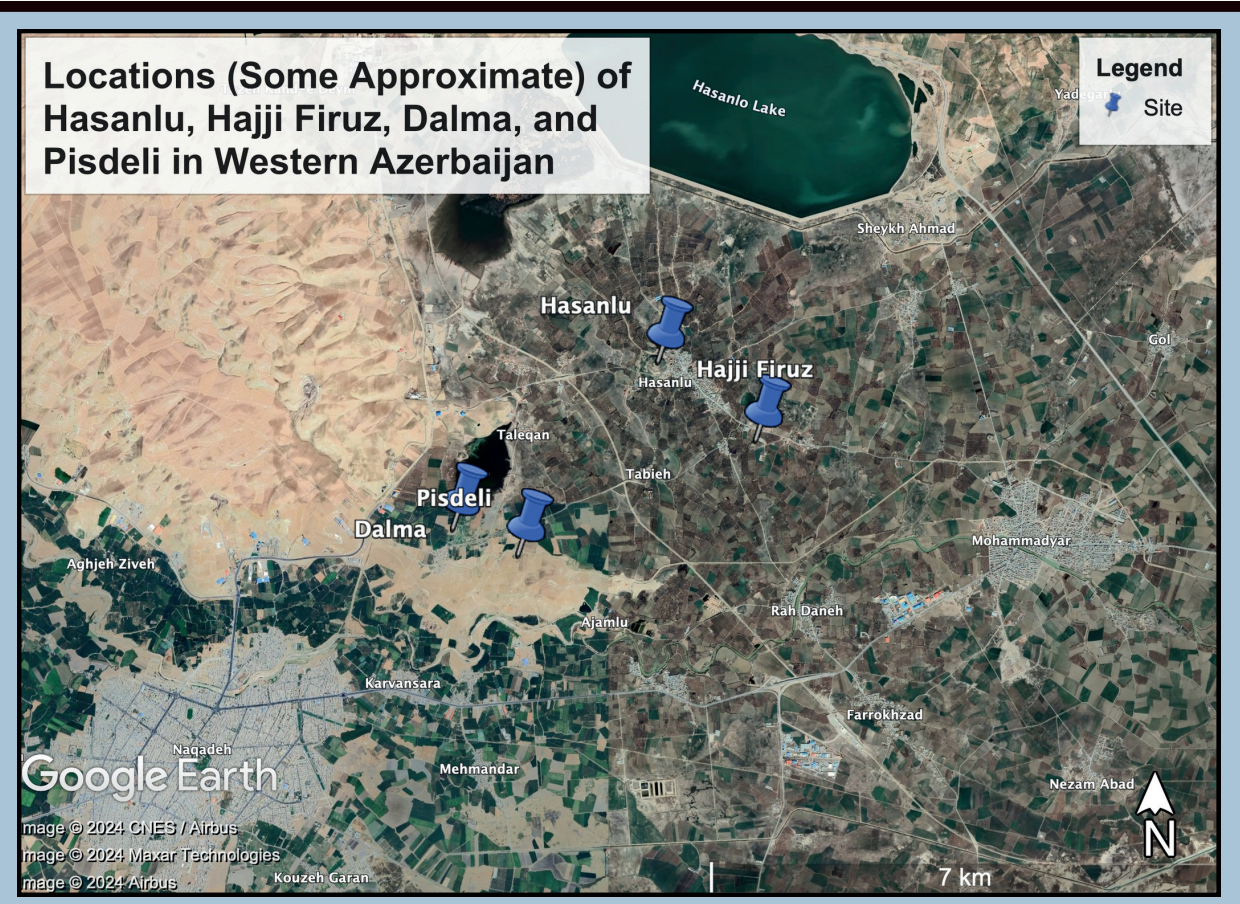


PENN MUSEUM

University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology



Hajji Firuz, Dalma, and Pisdeli Tepe



The mound sites are to the south of Lake Urmia, and occupy an area of about 10 square kilometers.

- Material culture from 3 sites in North-Western Iran
- Dates between c. 6000–3950 BCE (Table 1)
- Project will aid the accessibility of information for researchers in the future

Table 1. Chronology of the Hasanlu Sequence (after Abedi *et al.* 2015, tab. 2; Matthews *et al.* 2022, 113–114; Voigt 1983, 352–353)

Hasanlu Sequence	Period	Approximate dates BCE
Hasanlu VIII	Pisdeli	4700–3950 BCE
Hasanlu IX	Dalma	5350–4700 BCE
Hasanlu X	Hajji Firuz	6000–5000 BCE

Research Aims

- Explore and then implement the approaches and techniques archaeologists utilize in ceramic analysis
- Familiarize myself with the archaeology of the Ushnu-Solduz valley in North-Western Iran between the 6th and 4th millenniums BCE
 - Investigate points of academic discourse in the given region
 - Create a final project demonstrating my improved understanding



An example of *surface-manipulated* (in this case, *jabbed*) ware from Dalma.

Development of the Project

- Shift from the process of pottery analysis in general to the ontology and discussion of transitions reflected in ceramic assemblages
 - Frangipane's (2012) discussion of the concept of a "transition" between the Final Ubaid and Late Chalcolithic periods

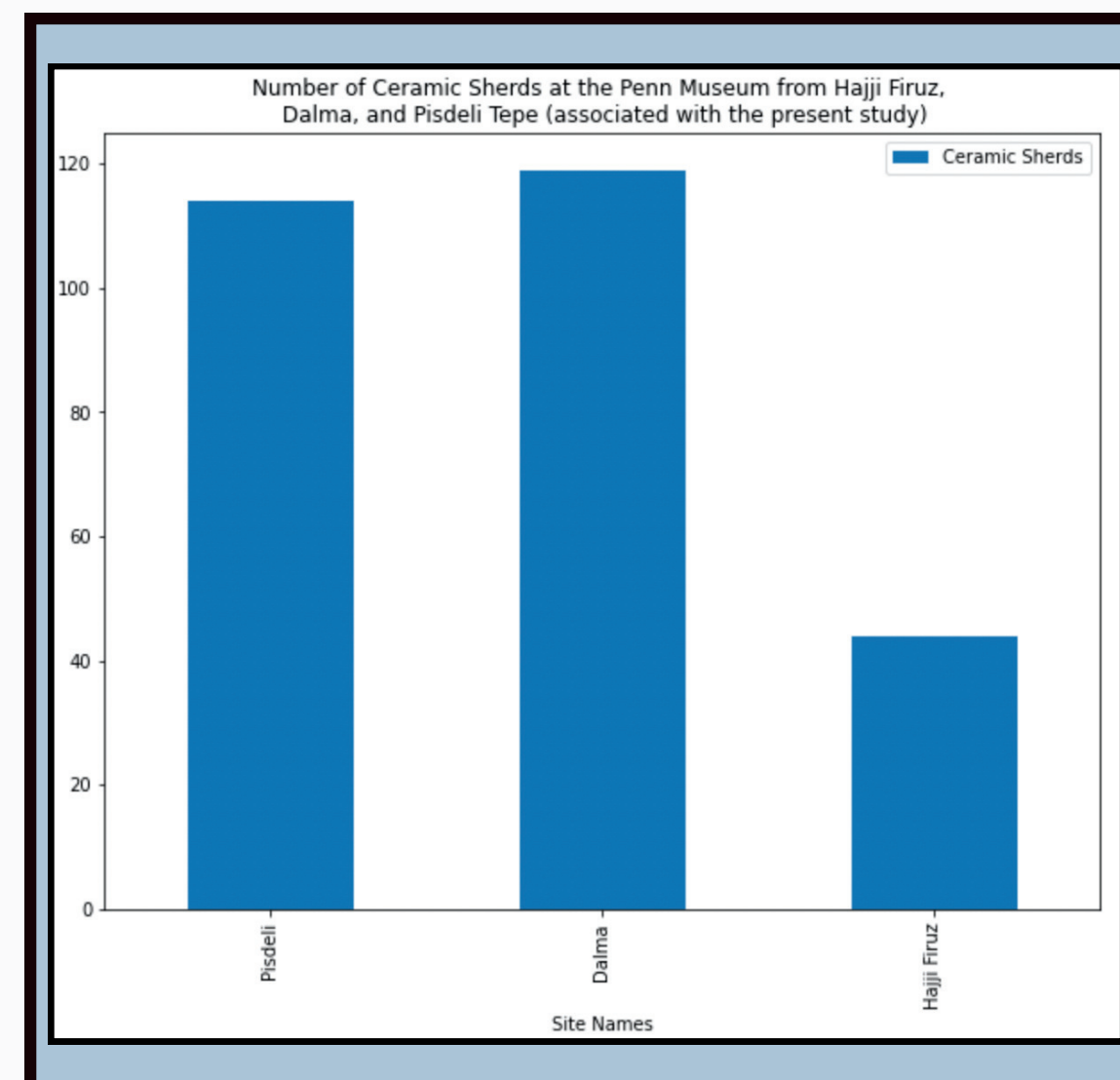


Figure 1. Histogram showing the number of ceramic sherds at the Penn Museum from Hajji Firuz, Dalma, and Pisdeli Tepe (associated with the present study)

- Integrating Python to analyze the data and select a focus; deciding on Dalma III (Figure 1)
 - Renette's (2022) work on the Dalma assemblage: argument that Dalma material culture is indicative of enduring egalitarian lifeways as opposed to nomadic diffusion
- Electing to create a small-scale pottery analyst's report
 - Structured with reference to analyses by Parr (2015), Sala (2012), and from previous publications concerning HF, D, and P (Voigt 1983; Dyson and Young 1960; Hamlin 1975)

Internship Responsibilities

1. Data Creation
2. Photography
3. Data Entry

Foci for analysis include surface treatment and (inferred) vessel shape.

This plot visualizes the distribution of processed material between the sites as of 4/10/24 (out of 277 pieces).



I described this ceramic sherd from Dalma Tepe as a "rim sherd from a vessel made from red clay, painted with dark red designs and burnished on the interior and exterior; previously sampled."

See it as it appears on the Penn Museum website here:

* Images courtesy of the Penn Museum.

Burnishing is a method of surface treatment whereby a product is rubbed smooth.

Retrospective

- Moving forward with developing a pottery report
- Wrapping up processing work; gathering final pieces of data

See Bibliography here:

