X. EARLY CYCLADIC POTTERY FROM THE INVESTIGATIONS OF THE 1960'S AT KAVOS–DASKALEIO, KEROS: A PRELIMINARY REPORT[1]

by

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INTRODUCTION

Keros is a small, mountainous and now deserted island of 15 km², which along with Ano and Kato Kouphonissi, Schoinoussa, Herakleia and the two Antikeria belongs to a cluster of tiny, hardly populated and agriculturally very marginal islands, recently known as the 'Little Cyclades', which lie between Naxos, Amorgos and Ios in the southeast Cyclades (pls. 1–3).

In the eyes of the archaeologists engaged in the study of the Aegean EBA Keros combines the characteristics of a most fascinating, mysterious and wildly plundered island, on the grounds of the enormous wealth and diversity of finds, in particular the marble ones, from the site at Kavos, situated at its barren western

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extremity, its enigmatic role in early antiquity and its thorough devastation by the looters.

The Keros pottery from the investigations of the 1960's numbers several thousands of fragments, taking up more than sixty boxes in the storerooms of the Naxos Archaeological Museum. In the course of three study seasons during the last two years, I have had the opportunity to look through a large part of the fragments, amounting to about half of the ceramic material collected then. The pottery examined so far is considered in the nine sections which follow. First, the history of research at Kavos–Daskaleio is presented. Then some general remarks on the material follow and then the pottery from each of the three areas of the site investigated in the 1960's is discussed in three separate sections. Following this, the three groups of pottery are compared with each other, then come some comments on the imported wares, and finally the chronology and the controversial subject of the interpretation of the site are discussed. The text is supplemented by four tables of percentage analysis of the pottery from the three areas according to shape, decoration and character, as well as by a number of figures. The conclusions drawn in this report are only preliminary and the quantities are subject to alterations before the detailed study and final publication of the material is finished; however, because of the constant repetition of shapes and types, the percentage rates are not expected to change dramatically.

HISTORY OF RESEARCH AT KAVOS–DASKALEIO

The island of Keros first entered archaeologists' horizons in 1884, when U. Koehler reported[2] the finding, in a grave there, of the famous harper[3] and double-flute player[4], together with two canonical folded-arm figurines recently identified by P. Getz-Preziosi and L. Fitton[5]. Keros, however, became known, in particular, in the aftermath of a series of extensive clandestine excavations in the 1950's and early 1960's, which concentrated on a particularly rich deposit of material at the site of Kavos (pls. 2–4a/b). These major looting events resulted in the illegal export from Greece of a large number of EC objects, which inundated the antiquities

[2] Koehler 1884, 156–162.

[3] Koehler 1884, Taf. 6: right; Zervos 1957, figs. 333–334; Renfrew C. 1977b, 69, fig. 39; Getz-Preziosi 1987a, pls. VIII. B: left; 10: 2; Papathanasopoulos 1981, 205–211, nos. 124–129; Fitton 1989, 57, fig. 49.

[4] Koehler 1884, Taf. 6: left; Zervos 1957, fig. 302; Renfrew C. 1977b, 66, fig. 37; Getz-Preziosi 1987a, pls. VIII. B: right; 10: 1; Papathanasopoulos 1981, 212–215, nos. 130–134; Fitton 1989, 57, fig. 50.

[5] Getz-Preziosi 1987a, 148, n. 57; Fitton 1989, 56–57.

market under the name 'the Keros hoard'. The hoard is said to have included at least 350 marble, mostly fragmentary, figures, a few complete and several fragmentary marble and clay vases, a substantial number of obsidian blades, at least one incised bone tube, and several stone and shell polishers[6].

The first systematic investigation at Kavos was undertaken in September 1963 by Chr. Doumas[7]. Surface collection and some trial trenches opened in the looted area, as well as to the south and north of it, yielded an abundance of fragments of marble figurines and vases, and a wealth of mostly painted potsherds of EC II date. The finds were strewn about the surface and in the fill, at no consistent depth, among small stones and boulders as well as in rock crevices. In a few cases traces of disintegrated bones were noticed. Doumas took these finds to belong to a large EC cemetery, which at some unknown date, was destroyed due to a geological disturbance, such as an earthquake, a landslide or the like. This hypothesis is corroborated by the present appearance of the landscape (pl. 4b): huge rocks, which have been detached from the main mass of the mountain, are lying further down on the slope or have been precipitated into the sea.

About 250 m to the south of the looted area and at the point nearest to the adjacent islet of Daskaleio a building of rectilinear plan, consisting of two rooms (pl. 5), came to light. The house faced the sea, that is westwards. Its preserved length was about 6.50 m and its maximum width about 5 m. The west room, being only 10 m away from the sea, had been, for the most part, washed by the waves, whereas the east room was better preserved. Even so, only its north wall and northeast corner were preserved to a height of 0.90 m, whereas its east and south walls did not exceed 0.15 m in height. The two rooms were divided by a partition wall preserved to a height of about 0.50 m and connected by means of a door in its south part. In the northeast corner of the east room there was a built bench about 1 m long, 0.45–0.85 m wide and 0.20–0.25 m high. The walls were built of slab-like stones embedded in clay, while the floor consisted of strongly beaten earth and preserved intense traces of fire. Traces of ashes and minute fragments of charcoal were also noticed on the bench at the northeast corner.

Trial investigations attempted at the same time on top of the tiny island of Daskaleio (pls. 3; 4a), about 50 m from Kavos, brought to light the remains of some houses and the traces of a fortification wall, possibly with bastions, which, judged by the potsherds collected, Doumas dated to the EC II period[8]. The island itself is a hill emerging from the sea and its size does not seem to exceed 5000 m^2. Taking into consideration that the sea between Keros and Daskaleio is no deeper

[6] Getz-Preziosi 1983; Getz-Preziosi 1987a, 134–139.

[7] Doumas 1964, 409–410.

[8] Doumas 1964, 410–411; Doumas 1972, 163.

than 5–6 m, it is possible that the islet of Daskaleio was, in prehistoric times, connected to the opposite shore of Kavos by a narrow strip of land. The settlement was set on the northeast side of the islet, as its southwest slope is very steep. On top of the island the foundations of a small Christian church were first revealed. To the southeast of this came to light the walls of prehistoric houses, both rectilinear and curvilinear, while about 5 m to the north of it a small room was found, the west wall of which consisted of the rock itself. Both the preserved length and the maximum width of the room were about 3 m, while its north and south walls were preserved to a height of 1.25 m. At the east part of the south wall there was a door opening. At the base of the rock a built bench was found, 0.46 m high, which ran along the whole width of the room. At its northwest and southeast corners traces of ashes were noticed. The house walls at Daskaleio were similar in construction to those of the house at Kavos. Among the finds collected were a great number of large vessels of everyday use, a few fragments of marble vases, stone tools, small rounded slabs used as lids of coarse vessels, sea shells and obsidian. Taking into account the rich finds of marble figurines and vases at the opposite coast of Kavos, Doumas interpreted the Daskaleio settlement as an important commercial port ensuring security against piratical raids and providing a safe anchorage for boats whatever the weather.

In November 1966, in the course of a visit to the east of the area excavated by Doumas, Ph. Zapheiropoulou collected anew a large number of fragmentary marble and clay vases. It was then decided that the site should undergo further excavation with the purpose of completing the work begun by Doumas. The excavation, conducted by Ph. Zapheiropoulou and K. Tsakos in the looted area, lasted from July 20th to August 13th 1967[9]. Again many fragmentary marble figures and vases were found, in particular bowls, pyxides and palettes, painted potsherds, as well as a complete folded-arm figure of the Spedos variety, 0.58 m high[10]. The finds were scattered in an illogical fashion over the site and at various depths, as well as among the stones and earth of the deepest layer. Despite the fact that an intact EC burial containing two conical-necked jars and two obsidian blades was found at that time in the undisturbed area[11], Zapheiropoulou stated that neither she herself nor presumably the looters found any evidence of the existence of an ordinary cemetery at the site. She concluded, then, that Keros must have been an important marble-working centre, as strongly attested by the few unfinished marble objects and the pieces and chips of white marble from the site[12].

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[9] Zapheiropoulou 1968a, 97–100; Zapheiropoulou 1968b, 381.

[10] Zapheiropoulou 1968a, 97, fig. 1; Zapheiropoulou 1968b, 381, pl. 334: α; Zapheiropoulou 1980, 534: no. 8, pl. 240.

[11] Zapheiropoulou 1968b, 381, pl. 332: δ.

[12] Zapheiropoulou 1980, 540; Getz-Preziosi 1987a, 151, n. 109.

In 1975, in the course of her visit to the island, D. Hatzi-Vallianou collected a number of potsherds, a complete biconical pyxis (pl. 12a), two aryballoi full of azurite (pl. 14b), an abundance of obsidian blades, as well as fragments of marble figurines and basins[13] from the looted area of Kavos.

Investigations at Kavos were resumed in 1987 by a combined team from the Universities of Cambridge, Athens and Ioannina, in cooperation with the Ephorate of the Cyclades[14]. The 1987 investigations comprised a gridded surface collection over the whole area of Kavos, supplemented by the opening of a number of small trenches in the looted area (pl. 3: left). Ceramic analysis by C. Broodbank demonstrated that the pottery collected was mainly of EC II date, that varieties of the so-called 'Kastri group' were also represented, and that an exceptionally high percentage (about 50%) of it was imported from elsewhere on the Cyclades or even the mainland (Argolid and/or Attica). The analysis of the finds further suggested that in the looted area there was a deposit of special character, in which marble artifacts and certain ceramic types were discarded in greater quantities than elsewhere on the site. In addition all the ceramic shapes in the 'special deposit' find solid parallels in funerary contexts elsewhere on the Cyclades. These observations led Broodbank to re-formulate the original interpretation of the site and accept Daskaleio–Kavos as a settlement-cemetery pair; he thus identified the settlement as an important village-sized sea-trading centre located at nodes within EB 2 inter-island communication networks and the 'special deposit' found adjacent to it as the remnants of an unusually wealthy cemetery, in which additional rituals, involving deposition, might also have developed[15].

GENERAL REMARKS ON THE KAVOS–DASKALEIO POTTERY

The overwhelming majority of the Kavos–Daskaleio pottery examined so far consists of fragments, which in no case can constitute a complete vessel. The only complete vases found are eight small or miniature pots –in four cases intact– which, with one exception, were recovered from the looted area of Kavos (pls. 9b; 12a-b; 14b); the other pot was found in the course of the investigations on top of Daskaleio (pl. 16a). Two of the former vases, a one-handled red slipped bowl and a dark brown glazed skyphos of Late Classical or Early Hellenistic times, constitute evidence of later activity at the site. The rest are all of EBA date. The breakages are,

[13] Chatzi-Vallianou 1975, 327.

[14] Annual Report of the Managing Committee of the British School at Athens for the session 1986–1987, 33.

[15] Broodbank 2000a, 223–230; Broodbank 2000b, 323–342.

as a rule, ancient and joins could be made in only a few cases. The sherds are, for the most part, coated by a more or less thick layer of lime encrustation, an indication of their long exposure to erosion. This, taken together with the fact that the painted decoration is usually flaking off, results in the fact that any attempt to remove the encrustation from the painted pieces ends, as a rule, in the simultaneous removal of the decoration.

The pottery from the three areas of Kavos–Daskaleio investigated in the 1960's is treated in the three following sections. The shapes are discussed in diminishing order of frequency.

A. POTTERY FROM THE LOOTED AREA OF KAVOS (Table 1)

SHAPES

Of a total of 4201 vases and fragments from the looted area of Kavos examined so far about 80% are of identifiable shape, whereas the rest consists of body sherds, bases and handles of vases, the shapes of which cannot be identified with certainty. This pottery presents a wide variety of shapes. Closed shapes are almost twice as frequent as open. The most commonly encountered shape, far outnumbering the others, is the sauceboat, representing more than one third of the total (34.92%). This is followed by the conical-necked jars, representing more than one quarter of the total (26.87%), and then, far behind the two most common shapes and in diminishing order of frequency, follow the storage jars of various types, the jugs and the pyxides, amounting to less than 10%. The bowls, the tubular spouts of 'lamps', the cups, the pans/hearths and the basins range to amounts which are smaller than 1%, while shapes such as askoi, aryballoi, saucers, cooking pots, palettes and spit supports are very rare, numbering a maximum of five examples each. The body sherds of unidentifiable shapes are either undecorated, with various types of lugs/handles (ledge lugs, horizontal or vertical tubular lugs, single or in pairs, horizontal arched handles, crescent-shaped and vertically pierced handles) or bear incised, stamped-and-incised or painted dark-on-light decoration. The bases are, as a rule, flat and in a few cases bear matt impressions. Ring bases are rare.

DECORATION

The overwhelming majority of the pottery from the looted area of Kavos is undecorated. The decorated vases and fragments represent slightly more than a quarter of the total and comprise most of the known types of decoration: incised, impressed, painted dark-on-light and relief. The painted dark-on-light, found on

50.35% of the decorated pottery, predominates, while the incised is also quite common. On the other hand, the impressed and relief decoration, sometimes in combination with the incised, is comparatively rare.

IDENTIFIABLE SHAPES

Sauceboats (pl. 6: 1–3)

The sauceboats, the most common shape of this group of pottery, are for the most part undecorated. The sauceboat fragments bearing painted dark-on-light decoration represent only 17% of the total. The fact that at least 120 feet and 110 spouts of sauceboats have so far been counted implies that these do constitute a large group of vases. As a rule, they have a low pedestal foot with a reserved area under the base; the ring variety is rare. Two feet have a hole at the base. The handles are usually horizontal, whereas the vertical ones are rarer. In two cases there is a vertical ridged strip added beside the handle. Exact parallels for the rare sauceboats with applied ridge flanking both sides of the handle can be cited from Ayia Irini II-Kea, EM IIA contexts at Knossos and Poros-Herakleion, and Liman Tepe on the western coast of Asia Minor[16].

Surface treatment varies markedly. At least six categories can be discerned. A fairly large category consists of those having a fine buff to light red biscuit and bearing on both the exterior and interior or only the exterior surface generally a matt brown, black-brown, grey-black or black and quite frequently flaking off slip. A very small number of these have a very fine light red biscuit, a, as a rule, lustrous and flaking off black *Urfirnis* slip and usually a reserved area beneath the handle. Their limited number and the unusual fineness of the clay suggest that these sherds are imported. The black slip of the exterior surface may, in certain cases, have a metallic tinge, whereas the interior may either have a mottled appearance, ranging from reddish to black, or bear on the plain buff or light red surface painted dark-on-light decoration, consisting of a series of pendant hatched or crossed-hatched triangles below the rim.

Another category is formed by those having a fine biscuit, ranging in colour from buff to orange and reddish, and a red, orange or red-brown and sometimes burnished slip, occasionally with black-brown and black patches depending upon the firing; these sometimes have a reserved area beneath the handle.

A third category is formed by the sauceboats with a grey surface, which is covered by a thin whitish to bluish-grey slip on the exterior and at least the upper part of the interior.

[16] Wilson 1999, 72.

To a fourth category belong those having a mottled appearance, with a bichrome or polychrome effect. In some cases, the buff slip has black patches at places; in other cases, the surface is grey with orange/red patches and is sometimes covered on the exterior and at least the upper part of the interior by a thin whitish slip; in other cases, the exterior surface appears to have a grey zone below the rim and a flaking off black slip at the lower part, while in others it appears to have been divided into two zones, one ranging in colour from buff to orange-red and red-brown, the other from black-brown to black, which are sometimes separated by thin bluish grey bands with a metallic tinge; in these cases, the interior surface may sometimes be plain buff and bear a dark-on-light painted decoration consisting of a series of pendant cross-hatched triangles below the rim. Finally, in other cases, there are patches of a solid white slip on the grey mottled exterior surface and a thin white slip on the interior.

To a fifth category belong the sauceboats which bear on both the exterior and interior surface a solid and sometimes flaking off whitish or yellowish slip. A small group of very fine and thin sherds is included to this, which are very small in size and bear on both the exterior and interior or only on the interior surface a solid whitish, yellowish or pinkish slip. Just as in the case of the *Urfirnis* sauceboats, the small number of these sherds and the exceptional fineness of the clay suggest that this ware may also have been imported.

Finally, the painted dark-on-light sauceboats[17] (pl. 8a) belong to a sixth category. These have a fine buff, pink or light red biscuit, an either plain buff surface or a slip ranging in colour from buff to yellowish, whitish and pinkish, and decoration rendered in a black-brown, black or red paint. The painted decoration which, in quite a few cases has flaked off, is restricted to the upper part of the body on the exterior, whereas on the interior it extends to the bottom of the vase. The decorative scheme is particularly rich and includes a solid painted rim, horizontal bands below the spout, hatched or cross-hatched triangles or zones, sometimes with dots at the centres of the lozenges formed, superimposed chevrons, pendant dotted lozenge chains, dotted and double-outlined lozenge chains, zig-zag lines in vertical arrangement, the chain motif, solid triangles and solid running spirals. The surface of the vase is sometimes painted solid red or black-brown below the decorated zone of the rim.

Some of these categories find parallels in other Cycladic islands. *Urfirnis* and '*Urfirnis*-related' sauceboats are seen at Ayia Irini II and III-Kea[18], Phylakopi-

[17] Zapheiropoulou 1975, 79, figs. 1–2; 3: δ, θ; 4: γ, ε, ζ, θ, ι, ν, ξ.

[18] Wilson 1999, 24–25, pl. 44, nos. II-1 – II-7; 72–75, pls. 19–20, 66–67, nos. II-612 – II-650; 79, 81, pl. 69, nos. II-711 – II-713.

Melos, phase A2[19], Akrotiri-Thera[20], Mt. Kynthos-Delos[21], and Chalandriani-Syros[22]. *Urfirnis* surface treatment is a ubiquitous feature of the mainland in EH II, but it is also found in EC wares. D.E. Wilson argues that the *Urfirnis* sauceboats at Ayia Irini, despite their mainland affinities, are, for the most part, of (Western?) Cycladic origin[23], while C. Renfrew considers the *Urfirnis* ware found at Phylakopi to be imported, but possibly Cycladic[24]. Red and red-brown burnished sauceboats, similar to those of Kavos, have come from Ayia Irini II and III-Kea[25] and Mt. Kynthos-Delos[26]. A white-slipped sauceboat sherd, said to be imported, is reported from Akrotiri-Thera[27]. The very fine yellow mottled sauceboats from Ayia Irini II and III-Kea[28] appear to have some similarities to the very fine Keros sherds with a solid whitish, yellowish or pinkish slip. Finally, the painted dark-on-light sauceboats find parallels as regards to both surface finish and decorative motifs at Ayia Irini II-Kea[29], Spedos-Naxos[30], Phylakopi-Melos, phase A2[31] and Akrotiri-Thera[32].

Conical-necked jars (pl. 6: 4–8)

Second in order of frequency is the conical-necked jar with a flaring or plain rim which either has a trumpet-shaped pedestal or is footless. The majority of these jars (about 39%) bear incised decoration, eight are stamped-and-incised, about 29% are undecorated, and the rest belong to trumpet-shaped pedestals, sometimes together with the base of the vase, which might come from all three varieties of these jars. One base has a hole opened after firing. There are also four fragments belonging to miniature jars of similar shape.

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[19] Evans – Renfrew C. 1984, 66, fig. 1: d.
[20] Sotirakopoulou 1999, 115, pl. 71.
[21] MacGillivray 1980, 13, fig. 3, nos. 412, 432.
[22] Art and Culture of the Cyclades, 359, 536, no. 421; Fitton 1989, 46, fig. 33.
[23] Wilson 1999, 72, 231.
[24] Renfrew C., Wagstaff M. (eds.), An Island Polity. The archaeology of exploitation in Melos, Cambridge 1982, 223.
[25] Wilson 1999, 60–61, pl. 62, nos. II-473 – II-476; 119, pl. 82, nos. III-241 – III-243.
[26] MacGillivray 1980, 12, 13, fig. 3, no. 4.
[27] Sotirakopoulou 1999, 115, pl. 70: second row, middle.
[28] Wilson 1999, 77, pl. 62, nos. II-662 – II-673; 134, pl. 90, nos. III-444 – III-445.
[29] Wilson 1999, 78–81, pls. 20, 68–69, nos. II-677 – II-710; 135, pl. 90, nos. III-447 – III-450.
[30] Zervos 1957, figs. 152, 154; Papathanasopoulos 1961–62, 116–117, pls. 49 α-β, inserted pls. A-B; Papathanasopoulos 1981, 157–159, nos. 81–82.
[31] Evans – Renfrew C. 1984, 64, fig. 1: b.
[32] Sotirakopoulou 1999, 116, pl. 70.

The eight fragments with stamped-and-incised decoration (pl. 8b) have a flaring rim and a brown burnished slip on the exterior surface. The decoration consists of a horizontal zone of false spirals bordered by zones of *Kerbschnitt* on the neck and shoulder. Sometimes the motifs preserve traces of the white chalky substance with which they were originally filled. This type of jar (pl. 6: 4) is mainly known from Chalandriani-Syros[33], while isolated examples have been found at Phylakopi-Melos, phase A2[34] and Askitario-Attica[35]. Another jar of this type is of unknown provenance[36]. The large number of these vessels at Chalandriani and their rarity outside Syros indicates that it is from there that the examples from the other sites must have been imported. A body sherd with a dark brown exterior surface and decoration consisting of superimposed chevrons and a *Kerbschnitt* filling (pl. 8b: bottom right) is identical in decorative motifs to a small footed jar from Chalandriani[37] and may also have been imported from Syros.

The large number of fragments with incised decoration have a flaring rim and an exterior surface which is either plain and ranging in colour from light red to light brown or is covered by a thin whitish slip. The decoration consists of horizontal bands of vertical strokes or oblique lines set in opposite directions on the neck and oblique parallel lines on the upper part of the belly. The small tubular lugs at the point of maximum diameter are sometimes decorated with a series of vertical strokes. Similar decoration is seen on two of the miniature jars. The jars of this type (pl. 6: 5) are so far rare outside Keros: one is reported from Amorgos[38], two have been found at Spedos T10 on Naxos[39], two came from Kato Kouphonissi[40], three are of unknown provenance[41] and one sherd is known from Akrotiri-Thera[42]. It is striking that, with the exception of the latter, these jars have all come from the area extending from southern Naxos via the Little Cyclades to Amorgos. This, taken together with the exceptionally large number of the Keros examples, suggests that the type is indigenous to this area.

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[33] Tsountas 1899, pl. 8: 1; Zervos 1957, figs. 201, 203, 212–217; Renfrew 1972, 171, fig. 11.1: 1, pl. 8: 10; Art and Culture of the Cyclades, 347, 528–529, nos. 386–387; Rambach 2000a, Taf. 29: 6; 32: 13; 33: 5; 37: 8; 38: 1; 41: 5; 46: 5; 47: 8; 49: 2, 7; 51: 1; 53: 1; 60: 7; 62: 7; 108; 109: 1–5.

[34] Evans – Renfrew C. 1984, 64, 65, fig. 1: c, top row.

[35] Theocharis 1953–54, 73, fig. 26.

[36] Art and Culture of the Cyclades, 345, 528, no. 384; Doumas 2000, 97, no. 75.

[37] Tsountas 1899, 88–89, pl. 8: 9; Zervos 1957, fig. 202; Rambach 2000a, Taf. 55: 4; 109: 6.

[38] Marangou L. 1984, 111: 6, cat. no. K 30, fig. 17.

[39] Papathanasopoulos 1961–62, 118–119, pl. 50: β-γ.

[40] Zapheiropoulou 1970, 429, pl. 373: α.

[41] Brouscari 1981, 531: cat. no. 222, fig. 25: b; Doumas 2000, 101–102, nos. 83–84.

[42] Sotirakopoulou 1999, 165, pl. 186: right.

As for the undecorated jars, these can be classed into two categories. The first category includes those having a red, brown or dark brown slip imitating *Urfirnis* on the exterior and sometimes horizontal tubular lugs at the point of maximum diameter (pl. 6: 6). Similar jars, with or without lugs/handles, have come from Chalandriani-Syros[43] and Avdeli T1 on Naxos[44]. Three different types of jars: white slipped with horizontal tubular lugs at the neck (pl. 6: 7), white slipped with horizontal strap handles or vertical tubular lugs at the point of maximum diameter (pl. 6: 8) and jars with a smoothed buff or red exterior surface and groups of four vertical, unpierced and diagonally slashed lugs at the shoulder (pl. 9a) belong to the second category. The fragments of the two other miniature jars also belong to the latter type; on these, however, the lugs are undecorated. The first two types find parallels in two jars from Amorgos[45] and in three examples of unknown provenance[46], whereas the third is unknown in the Cyclades. The only parallels for the slashing of the lugs that can be cited are the similarly slashed vertical strips which flank the handles of two sauceboats, one from Naxos[47] and the other from Ayia Irini II-Kea[48].

Finally, a white-slipped pedestal having a dark brown band on top may belong to the rare type of conical-necked jar with painted dark-on-light decoration, which is known from Ayia Irini II-Kea[49], Askitario[50] and reputedly Ios[51].

Storage jars (pl. 6: 9–15)

There are various types of storage jars. As a rule, they have a smoothed exterior surface in various shades of brown or red. The commonest of them are the jars with a low funnel-shaped neck[52] (pls. 6: 9; 9b). Of equally frequent occurrence are the jars with an everted rim and a cylindrical or concave-profile neck (pl. 6: 10), in one case with a rope band at its base[53]. There follow, in diminishing order

[43] Bossert 1965, 93, Abb. 3: 2; Rambach 2000a, Taf. 31: 5–6; 37: 3; 49: 1; 105: 1, 3; 107: 6–7.

[44] Doumas 1977a, 124, pl. XLIX: j.

[45] Tsountas 1898, 154, pl. 9: 21; Zervos 1957, figs. 67, 77; Rambach 2000a, Taf. 3: 3; 104: 6.

[46] Brouscari 1981, 529, cat. no. 159, fig. 24: f; Doumas 2000, 100, no. 82; 102, no. 85.

[47] Zervos 1957, fig. 156.

[48] Wilson 1999, 25, pl. 44, no. II-3.

[49] Wilson 1999, 43–44, pls. 11, 52, nos. II-287 – II-293.

[50] Theocharis 1953–54, 73–75, pl. II.

[51] Art and Culture of the Cyclades, 346, 528, no. 385.

[52] For the type and its occurrences see Sotirakopoulou 1999, 148–149: Type K-A, 1, with references; Wilson 1999, 38, no. II-211; 133, no. III-427.

[53] See Sotirakopoulou 1999, 167–170: Type K-B, 2, with references.

of frequency, the barrel jars with a projecting horizontal rim[54] (pl. 6: 11), the rather unusual type of jar with a ledge below the rim and horizontally pierced lugs attached to the ledge[55] (pl. 6: 12), the deep open jars with a, as a rule, plain rim[56] (pl. 6: 13) and the jars with a two-stage neck-profile[57] (pl. 6: 14). The two first types of jars are quite common in the Cyclades and elsewhere in the Aegean, whereas the rest are rarer. The sites at Ayia Irini II/III-Kea, Mt. Kynthos-Delos, Akrotiri-Thera and Mikre Vigla-Naxos comprise almost all these types in their ceramic repertoire.

A few sherds with rope decoration, as well as a considerable number of handles come from similar types of jars. Rope decoration is a trait of the Aegean *koine*, which is seen in the Cyclades already in the LN period, but is mainly characteristic of EC II and the transitional EC II-III 'Kastri group' phase[58]. As for the handles, these are mostly arched horizontal, either undecorated or, more usually, with radiate incisions on the upper surface, of a type seen on most EC sites and considered to be characteristic of the EC II period[59]. A small number of them are large tubular handles, of a type commonly seen in various Aegean sites already in the LN period and almost throughout the EBA[60], while an equally small number belong to horizontal crescent-shaped handles, whether vertically pierced or not. These are first seen in EH/EC II and are most common from EH/EC III onwards[61].

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[54] See Sotirakopoulou 1999, 149–151: Type K-A, 2α, with references; Wilson 1999, 47, nos. II-319, II-322; 111, no. III-152.

[55] See Wilson 1999, 111, nos. III-153 – III-154, with references.

[56] See Sotirakopoulou 1999, 123–125: Type A-Z, with references; Wilson 1999, 32–33, nos. II-138 – II-141; 70, nos. II-583 – II-584, II-599.

[57] See Sotirakopoulou 1999, 170–171: Type K-B, 3, with references; Wilson 1999, 36–38, nos. II-196 – II-204; 66, no. II-537; 110, no. II-137.

[58] See Sotirakopoulou 1999, 217–219: Type Δ-O, 2α, with references. Also: Wilson 1999, 48, no. II-341; 70, nos. II-586, II-588 – II-589; 106, nos. III-88 – III-89; 111, nos. III-148 – III-151; 115–116, nos. III-190 – III-191, III-195, III-206 – III-213; 132, no. III-409; 139–140, nos. III-505 – III-509.

[59] See Sotirakopoulou 1999, 210–212: Type Λ-A, 4, with references; Wilson 1999, 38–39, nos. II-215 – II-221, II-226 – II-228; 111–112, nos. III-155 – III-157; 139, no. III-502, with references.

[60] See Sotirakopoulou 1999, 206–208: Type Λ-A, 1, with references; Wilson 1999, 39, nos. II-231; 115, nos. III-203 – III-204.

[61] See Sotirakopoulou 1999, 209–210: Type Λ-A, 3, with references.

Jugs (pls. 6: 16–18; 7: 19–21)

The overwhelming majority of the jugs (70%) bear painted dark-on-light decoration[62]. A jug fragment with a two-stage neck profile is decorated with vertical ribs on the body and another has a rope band at the base of the neck. The rest have an undecorated body, but sometimes bear incised decoration on the upper surface of the handles.

The painted jugs (pls. 6: 16–17; 10a; 14a: right) have either a plain round or a flaring rim, or a beaked spout, which may be pointed, channel-shaped or tubular. The bases are either flat or sharply inset and the handles either cylindrical or strap and sometimes tripartite. In certain cases, at the upper end of the handle, there are clay pellets imitating rivets. The biscuit is fine to medium and ranges in colour from buff to light brown and brown or from pink to light red and reddish. The decoration is rendered on the mainly smoothed exterior surface in a black, brown, red or orange paint and seems to cover the vase from rim to base. The upper surface of the handle is also decorated. The exterior surface is covered by a whitish slip in only a few cases. The decorative patterns are either arranged in horizontal zones or rendered freely on the surface of the vase and include hatched or cross-hatched triangles, cross-hatched zones, superimposed chevrons, groups of intersecting lines, solid running spirals, dotted bands, dotted lozenge chains, multiple concentric lozenges, as well as representations of birds, quadrupeds and possibly fish with cross-hatched bodies (pl. 10b: top row), reminiscent of the animal representations on vases of Phylakopi I-ii/iii[63]. Similar representations are seen on four other fragments[64] (pl. 10b: bottom row), two of which may also belong to jugs, while the two others come from open vases. Isolated jug fragments bearing decoration of horizontal bands of the so-called 'broad streak' variety resemble similar body sherds from Phylakopi-Melos, phase A2[65] or may come from jugs of Phylakopi I type[66]. From every point of view (number of examples, diversity in form, decorative scheme) the painted jugs from the looted area of Kavos form a particularly rich group in comparison to those known from the contemporary Cycladic sites (Ayia Irini II/III-Kea, Chalandriani-Syros, Spedos and Phyrroges-Naxos, Akrotiri-Thera and reputedly Herakleia)[67].

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[62] Zapheiropoulou 1975, 79, 80–82, figs. 3: α-γ; 4: λ-μ.

[63] Atkinson 1904, 97, 100, 105, pls. VII: 4 A-B; IX: 11; XII: 24, 26–28; Barber 1974, 4.

[64] Zapheiropoulou 1975, 81, fig. 4: δ, ϰ.

[65] Evans – Renfrew C. 1984, 64, fig. 1: b.

[66] For the type and its occurrences see Sotirakopoulou 1999, 179–180: Type K-Γ, 2α-2.

[67] See Sotirakopoulou 1999, 178–179: Type K-Γ, 2α-1, with references; Wilson 1999, 43, nos. II-284 – II-286; 82–83, nos. II-722 – II-727; 137–138, nos. III-475 – III-484, with references.

The jug with vertical ribbed decoration has a dark brown burnished surface and is parallelled to the similar jugs from the islet of Christiana near Thera[68] (pl. 6: 18). Two body sherds with vertical ribs and similar surface treatment may either come from jugs of this type or from jars with similar decoration, of a type which is also known from Christiana[69] (pl. 6: 15). Similar body sherds have also been found at Ayia Irini III-Kea[70] and at Akrotiri-Thera[71]. It is possible, then, that the vases with vertical ribbed decoration were imported to Keros and Kea from the southern Cyclades.

As for the rest of the jugs, these have a buff, grey or reddish biscuit and an exterior surface which is either plainly smoothed or bears a slip in various shades of orange or red. The jug fragment with the rope band at the base of neck is of an unusual type: it has a funnel-shaped mouth and a bipartite handle with imitations of rivets at the upper end. The others are of types quite common in the Cyclades; most of them are beak-spouted, with either a slightly concave[72] (pl. 7: 19) or a two-stage neck profile[73] (pls. 7: 20; 11a: left), or with a tall conical neck similar to that of certain painted jugs from Chalandriani-Syros[74] (pl. 6: 16). Two fragments with a low, concave-profile neck and a flaring rim are reminiscent in form of a small painted jug from Kato Kouphonissi[75]. The handles are either cylindrical or strap, both undecorated and with incised decoration on the upper surface (pl. 11a). In one case, below the incised strap handle there is an incised fish-like motif (pl. 11a: right). Incised motifs beside or below the handle are seen on two other jugs from Panormos-Naxos: in one case the motif depicts a jug, in the other an eye[76]. Finally, two fragments, with a red or black *Urfirnis* slip on the exterior surface may belong to high-necked beaked jugs, similar to the West Anatolian variants known from Kastri-Syros[77] and Ayia Irini III-Kea[78] (pl. 7: 21).

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[68] Doumas 1976a, 3–4, figs. 1–2, pls. 1α; 1β: right.

[69] Doumas 1976a, 5, fig. 4, pl. 1β: left.

[70] Wilson 1999, 141, nos. III-520 – III-522.

[71] Sotirakopoulou 1999, 222: Type Δ-O, 2ε, with references.

[72] For the occurrences of the type see Sotirakopoulou 1999, 171–173: Type K-Γ, 1α, with references; Wilson 1999, 109, no. III-123.

[73] See Sotirakopoulou 1999, 173–176: Type K-Γ, 1β, with references; Wilson 1999, 68, no. II-570; 109–110, nos. III-127 – III-133; 140, nos. III-517 – III-519, with references.

[74] Zervos 1957, figs. 231–232; Rambach 2000a, Taf. 26: 7; 54: 3; 123: 1–2.

[75] Zapheiropoulou 1970, 430, pl. 373: γ.

[76] Naxos in the 3rd millenium B.C., 108–109: nos. 107–108.

[77] Bossert E. M. 1967, 69, 72–73, Abb. 3: 3.

[78] Wilson 1999, 100, 143, nos. III-552 – III-556; 110, no. III-135.

Pyxides (pl. 7: 22–26)

There are various types of pyxides, both decorated and undecorated, the former being more than one and a half as many as the latter. The painted dark-on-light pyxides by far outnumber those with incised decoration, while there is also a pyxis fragment with a stamped-and-incised decoration.

The painted dark-on-light pyxides (pl. 11b) have a globular/lentoid body, an outturned rim and a variety of lugs/handles at the point of maximum diameter: pairs of vertical tubular lugs, horizontal tubular or ledge lugs, each with a pair of vertical perforations, and horizontal arched handles. The lids are dome-shaped and have a perforation at the centre. The biscuit is, as a rule, fine buff or pinkish and the decoration is rendered in a dark brown paint on the smoothed exterior surface. In one or two cases the biscuit is reddish, the exterior surface is covered by a whitish slip and the decoration is painted in red. The decorative motifs include hatched or cross-hatched triangles resting on a horizontal band, superimposed chevrons, horizontal bands of solid running spirals, horizontal zones of cross-hatching and intersecting lines above the lugs. Similar pyxides have been found, in particular, at Chalandriani-Syros, two other complete specimens have come from Amorgos and Paros, and some fragments are reported from Ayia Irini II-Kea, Phylakopi-Melos and Akrotiri-Thera[79]. Among these, the Keros pyxides find their closest parallels in the Amorgos pyxis[80], with its decoration of densely cross-hatched triangles and horizontal ledge lugs, though with one vertical perforation each, and in a pyxis from Chalandriani[81] (pl. 7: 22), to which a Kavos fragment seems to be identical in both lugs form and decorative scheme. Otherwise, the examples known of painted pyxides from the contemporary Cycladic sites differ markedly from the Kavos ones in either the form of the lugs or decorative patterns. This implies that, with the exception of the fragment which is identical to the Chalandriani pyxis, the Kavos pyxides with painted dark-on-light decoration cannot have been imported from any of the above mentioned sites.

There are also two examples of the rare variety of the spool-shaped pyxis (pl. 7: 23), one with painted dark-on-light decoration[82], the other painted red all over. The former finds a parallel in a complete pyxis from Chalandriani-Syros[83], which, however, differs in its decorative scheme, while the latter can be parallelled to a pyxis of the 'Dark-faced' class from Phylakopi I-ii[84] and to a red polished pyxis

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[79] See Sotirakopoulou 1999, 189–190: Type K-Δ, 2γ, with references; Wilson 1999, 83, nos. II-729 – II-731, with references.

[80] Marangou L. 1984, fig. 18: a-b.

[81] Zervos 1957, fig. 237; Rambach 2000a, Taf. 59: 4; 117: 2, 4.

[82] Zapheiropoulou 1975, 81, fig. 4: η.

[83] Tsountas 1899, pl. 8: 11, 11α; Zervos 1957, fig. 234; Coleman 1977, 115, fig. 91; Rambach 2000a, Taf. 38: 3; 121: 1.

[84] Atkinson 1904, 87–88, pl. IV: 4.

lid from Phrourion of Paroikia-Paros[85]. Two lids of similar pyxides, one with traces of a black-burnished slip, the other painted dark-on-light, are in the N.P. Goulandris Collection[86].

The pyxis fragments with incised decoration belong to the type occurring in the Cyclades during the ceramic phase of the so-called 'Kastri group'[87] (pl. 7: 24). The surface is plain, ranging in colour from reddish-grey to light grey and dark brown, while the decorative scheme consists of a horizontal zone of superimposed chevrons. As to a pyxis fragment with stamped-and-incised decoration, which consists of superimposed chevrons alternating with a *Kerbschnitt* filling, this finds parallels in Ayia Irini III-Kea[88]. A small number of body sherds with an exterior surface in various shades of brown and stamped or stamped-and-incised decoration, consisting of superimposed chevrons, groups of vertical or oblique lines and rows of *Kerbschnitt*, may also belong to similar pyxides.

With regard to the undecorated pyxides, there are two types of these: biconical (pl. 7: 25) and globular/lentoid (pl. 7: 26). The biconical pyxides, represented by a complete specimen (pl. 12a) and one fragment, have two vertical tubular lugs below the rim and an exterior surface entirely covered by a red or black-brown *Urfirnis* slip. In particular the complete red-coated pyxis is identical to the pyxides from Ano Kouphonissi[89] and Louros T 26 on Naxos[90]. The globular/lentoid pyxides have a low vertical collar or an outturned rim and vertical tubular lugs, whether single or in pairs, at the point of the maximum diameter. Among them is a complete specimen with four groups of unpierced lugs, set in fours (pl. 12b). This type of pyxis is common in the Aegean and known from a number of Cycladic and mainland sites[91].

Bowls (pl. 7: 27–28)

The bowl fragments belong to types quite common in the EBA Cyclades, that is rolled rim bowls (pl. 7: 27), open bowls with a straight or inverted rim (pl. 7: 28) and deep bowls with curved walls[92], the former slightly outnumbering the others.

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[85] Rubensohn 1917, 25, Abb. 17.

[86] Doumas 2000, 96, nos. 73–74.

[87] For the occurrences of the type see Sotirakopoulou 1999, 188–189: Type K-Δ, 2β, pls. 222: left, 223, with references; Wilson 1999, 129–130, nos. III-378 – III-380, with references.

[88] Wilson 1999, 124, no. III-311; 129, nos. III-377.

[89] Zapheiropoulou 1984, 33, fig. 1: c.

[90] Papathanasopoulos 1961–62, 133–134, pls. 67: α, δ.

[91] For the occurrences of the type see Sotirakopoulou 1999, 183–186: Type K-Δ, 2α, with references; Wilson 1999, 40–41, nos. II-248 – II-249; 112, nos. III-163 – III-168, with references.

[92] For the occurrences of the types see: Sotirakopoulou 1999, 91–102, 109–111, Types A-A, 1–4 and A-Δ, 2–3α.

The biscuit is orange/red to red brown and unevenly fired. The surface is sometimes plainly smoothed and sometimes covered by a red-brown slip.

Tubular spouts of 'lamps' (pl. 13a)

These belong to a rare type of vase, said to have probably served as a lamp, which has come from Kato Kouphonissi[93] (pl. 7: 29). Two complete marble examples of solid 'lamp' models are known from Spedos T 10 on Naxos[94] and from a private collection[95], while marble fragments of similar 'lamp' models have been reported from Keros[96]. The tubular spouts of the clay examples from Kavos are cylindrical or truncated conical in shape and flattened on top, with an outward projecting rim. As a rule, they are hollow and have a central perforation on top. However, a small number of them are solid, presumably belonging to 'lamp' models. The biscuit is light red to orange and gritty, and the exterior surface is mostly covered by a black-brown slip. Most of the spouts bear no decoration; the number of the decorated ones amounts to less than one third of the examples located so far. The decoration is in most cases incised, while stamped or stamped-and-incised also occur. The incised decoration includes horizontal or oblique parallel lines and multiple zigzags, while the stamped or stamped-and-incised decoration consists exclusively of *Kerbschnitt*, whether in rows or as a filling element. There is also an example preserving traces of painted dark-on-light decoration (pl. 13a: bottom right). None of the tubular spouts currently known from Kavos are identical to one another, a fact implying that each of them belonged to a different vase. The concentration of the similar clay and marble vases in SE Naxos and the Little Cyclades suggests that the type is local to this area.

A rim fragment of an open vase, which has an orange biscuit and a worn exterior surface, and preserves part of a small spout with traces of burning, may also belong to a lamp. On the upper part of the exterior surface there is stamped-and-incised decoration consisting of superimposed chevrons, hatched triangles and a *Kerbschnitt* filling.

Cups (pl. 7: 30–31)

Three types of cups have been located so far in the ceramic assemblage from the looted area of Kavos: the one-handled pedestalled cup with painted dark-on-

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[93] Zapheiropoulou 1970, 430, pl. 373: ς; Naxos in the 3rd millenium B.C., 54–55, no. 20.

[94] Zervos 1957, fig. 13; Papathanasopoulos 1961–62, 116, pl. 48: α-β; Papathanasopoulos 1981, 167, no. 89; Naxos in the 3rd millenium B.C., 53, no. 18.

[95] Art and Culture of the Cyclades, 325, 513, no. 325; Getz-Preziosi 1987b, 327, no. 147; Getz-Gentle 1996, 168, pl. 102: d, fig. 98: b.

[96] Getz-Preziosi 1987b, 327, no. 147; Getz-Gentle 1996, 168, 170, 230 n. 356, 361.

light decoration[97], the one-handled tankard and the painted dark-on-light deep cup[98].

The one-handled pedestalled cups (pl. 7: 30) belong to a rare type, which is known exclusively from the Cyclades[99]. The biscuit is fine orange/pinkish, fired pale grey at the core, while the decoration is rendered in a red-brown or dark brown paint on the buff or pinkish exterior surface and restricted to the upper part of the body. The decorative scheme includes cross-hatching, a more open cross-hatched net, made up of intersecting groups of parallel diagonal lines, and multiple zigzag lines in a vertical arrangement. The lower, undecorated part of the body is plain grey. The limited number of examples and their consistency in fabric, shape and decoration with the similar cups from other Cycladic sites suggest that the type was imported to Keros.

The one-handled tankard (pl. 7: 31), whether neck- or shouldered-handled, is a type shape of the so-called 'Kastri group', which is widespread in the Aegean and western Asia Minor, from where it is believed to have originated[100]. The Kavos tankards have a fine pink biscuit and a smooth exterior surface, which in half of the cases preserves traces of a reddish slip. Two fragments of the neck-handled variety preserve the upper attachment of the handle. In this case too, the fabric and the limited number of examples suggest that they are imported to Keros, although at present we cannot say where from.

Finally, the deep cup with the painted dark-on-light decoration is similar in shape, but different in decorative scheme, to the painted cups from Phylakopi-Melos and Akrotiri-Thera, where they are dated to the EC III period[101].

Pans/Hearths

These are of a red/brown coarse fabric, sometimes with white inclusions. The rim is either thickened on the exterior or flattened and projecting inwards. The undersurface is roughened. The exterior surface is sometimes slipped, while the interior is smoothed and bears signs of burning. Four fragments have relief decoration, consisting of horizontal and vertical bands of overlapping discs, rope pat-

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97 Zapheiropoulou 1975, 81, fig. 4: α-β.

98 Zapheiropoulou 1975, 80, fig. 3: ε (shown upside-down).

99 For the occurrences of the type see Sotirakopoulou 1999, 131–132: Type A-H, 4, with references; Wilson 1999, 81–82, nos. II-714 – II-719; 136, nos. III-455 – III-462, with references.

100 For the type, its origin and its occurrences see: Sotirakopoulou 1997, 531–533; Sotirakopoulou 1999, 125–129: Type A-H, 1, with references; Wilson 1999, 26, no. II-13; 61, no. II-482; 67, nos. II-553 – II-554; 94–101; 119–120, nos. III-244 – III-255; 125–126, nos. III-316 – III-326, with references.

101 See Sotirakopoulou 1999, 132–135: Type A-H, 5, with references.

tern or finger impressions below the rim. Similar vessels are reported from the settlements at Ayia Irini II-Kea, Mt. Kynthos-Delos and Akrotiri-Thera[102].

Basins

These have a flattened rim, slightly projecting inwards or outwards, below which there is sometimes a horizontal tubular lug. The type is known from Cycladic settlement sites, such as Ayia Irini II-Kea, Mt. Kynthos-Delos and Akrotiri-Thera[103].

Animal-head protomes (pl. 13b)

Six animal-head protomes in the form of a ram or bull may come from sauceboat spouts similar to those known from Zygouries[104] and Tiryns[105], which end in a ram's head (pl. 7: 32). Such sauceboats are considered to have served as cult vases. The Kavos protomes are hollow and have a fine pink biscuit. The ram's heads have snouts stretching out forwards and horns curving backwards and then downwards and upwards so as to meet on top of the snout. The bull's heads, on the other hand, have horns extending sidewards and preserved traces of a painted dark-on-light decoration on top. One of them also has a painted decoration on top of the snout and painted eyes, another has eyes indicated plastically by two pellets of clay, while the third is turned to the left. Animal-head protomes are rare but not unknown in the EBA Aegean. With the exception of the sauceboat spouts already mentioned, a ram's head is found on an EH stone vase from Tiryns in place of a handle[106], while a clay horse-head protome is reported from Orchomenos in Boeotia[107].

Askoi (pl. 7: 34)

These are currently represented by five fragments. Two of them belong to spouts, while the rest are body sherds. Three have a dark brown biscuit and slip on the exterior surface, while the two others have a buff biscuit and bear a whitish slip. One spout preserves traces of painted dark-on-light decoration (pl. 14a: left), whereas the four other fragments bear incised decoration, sometimes preserving traces of a white chalky substance in the incisions. The motifs include groups of horizontal or vertical lines, superimposed chevrons in horizontal or vertical ar-

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[102] See Sotirakopoulou 1999, 141–146: A-IA, Types A-B and Δ, with references; Wilson 1999, 33–35, nos. II-153 – II-164; 45–46, no. II-300 – II-311.

[103] See Sotirakopoulou 1999, 113–115: Types A-E, 2 α-γ, with references.

[104] Blegen 1928, nos. 260, 251, pl. X: 1–2; Weinberg 1969, 7, pl. 3: 5–6.

[105] Müller 1938, pl. V: 1–5; Weinberg 1969, 7, figs. 3–6.

[106] Buchholz – Karageorghis 1973, 91, 95, 351, no. 1131: a-b.

[107] Buchholz – Karageorghis 1973, 99, 363, no. 1188.

rangement and horizontal zones of oblique lines. The askos is a basic shape of the 'Dark-faced pottery' of Phylakopi I-ii (early EC III), considered to be of Aegean, possibly Cycladic, inspiration. The type is widespread at this time, not only in the Aegean, but also in Cyprus and Anatolia[108].

Aryballoi (pl. 14b)

This type is represented by two complete specimens with a tall cylindrical neck and a squat biconical body, which were found containing azurite[109]. The exterior surface is covered by a dark brown burnished slip and bears an incised decoration consisting of a row of dots at the base of the neck and a horizontal zone of upright hatched triangles at the upper part of the body. The incisions are filled with a white chalky substance. A fragment from a low, slightly truncated conical neck with an outturned rim, which has a brown burnished exterior surface and incised decoration of superimposed chevrons below the rim may also belong to a similar vase. An aryballos which is almost identical to the two complete Kavos examples has been found on Ano Kouphonissi (T 62)[110], and other similar vases have come from Louros T 26–Naxos[111] and Amorgos[112]. The other examples known are of unknown provenance[113]. The tendency of the type to concentrate in the area extending from southwestern Naxos via the Little Cyclades to Amorgos supports the possibility that it is indigenous to this part of the Cyclades.

Saucers

These are represented by two fragments, belonging to two types of saucers. One comes from a ring-footed saucer (pl. 7: 35), a shape of the pottery *koine* of mainland Greece and the Cyclades, which is widely distributed during the EB 2 period[114]. It has a fine buff biscuit, a black slip imitating *Urfirnis* on the exterior and the upper part of the interior surface and a reserved area under the base. At the lower part of the interior surface the slip is fired red. The other fragment has a fine buff biscuit and a painted dark-on-light decoration below the rim. The exterior surface is covered by a whitish slip, whereas the interior is plain buff. The decorative motifs include a horizontal zigzag line on the exterior and pending cross-hatched triangles alternating with superimposed chevrons on the interior. A

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[108] See Sotirakopoulou 1999, 193–196: Type K-E, with references.

[109] Chatzi-Vallianou 1975, 327; Naxos in the 3rd millenium B.C., 68–69, nos. 49–50.

[110] Zapheiropoulou 1984, 34, 36: no. 7, fig. 2: b.

[111] Papathanasopoulos 1961–62, 132–133, pl. 66: γ-δ; Papathanasopoulos 1981, 142–143, nos. 71: 1–5.

[112] Marangou L. 1984, 101, fig. 16.

[113] Art and Culture of the Cyclades, 342, 526, no. 376; Doumas 2000, 91–95, nos. 61–70.

[114] For the type and its occurrences see Sotirakopoulou 1999, 105–106: Type A-B, 2.

fragment of a similar saucer, which bears painted red decoration on the yellow painted interior surface, is reported from Ayia Irini II-Kea[115].

Palette

This is a rare ceramic type of the EBA Aegean, which could have served for the preparation of food or some other substance. The Keros fragment belongs to a coarse quadrilateral vase with a slightly raised rim and a plain smoothed surface. A somewhat similar clay palette from Mt. Kynthos-Delos[116] is burnished all over.

Spit support

A fragment with a coarse reddish biscuit, a plain surface and one indented side, below which there is the circular trace of a handle, may belong to a spit support, similar to those found in LCh and EBA levels at Aphrodisias[117] and in LC levels at Akrotiri-Thera[118].

Unidentifiable shapes

Among these unidentifiable shapes it is worth discussing a few fragments showing particular characteristics.

Two sherds of fine closed vases bear an incised decoration consisting in one case of a fish[119] and in the other of a double-outlined fish-like motif[120] (pl. 15a). The former has a buff biscuit and a black-brown slip on the exterior surface, whereas the latter has a grey biscuit and bears an orange-red slip. With the exception of the jug fragment already discussed (pl. 11a: right), the incised fish motif is currently known in the Cyclades exclusively from frying pans[121]. The fact, however, that these two sherds belong to closed vases excludes the possibility that either of them belonged to a frying pan, as J. E. Coleman has suggested[122].

Two incised talc ware sherds together with four others belong to a specific ceramic category fairly well distributed in the Cyclades and also encountered at Thorikos near Lavrion and in Skyros[123]. The two former are body sherds, whereas

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[115] Wilson 1999, 42, no. II-269.

[116] MacGillivray 1979, 24, pl. 7, no. 267.

[117] Joukowsky 1986, i, 401, fig. 341.

[118] Marinatos 1969, 44–45, pl. 38: 2; Doumas 1983, pl. 64.

[119] Zapheiropoulou 1975, 80, 83, figs. 3: ι, 6.

[120] Zapheiropoulou 1975, 80, fig. 3: ϰ.

[121] Zervos 1957, fig. 228; Papathanasopoulos 1961–62, 132, pl. 66: α-β (Louros T 26, Naxos); Tsountas 1899, 90, figs. 16–22; Zervos 1957, figs. 204, 219, 223; Coleman 1985, 199, fig. III.5 (Chalandriani-Syros).

[122] Coleman 1985, 198, n. 21.

[123] For the occurrences of the talc ware see Sotirakopoulou 1999, 76–79; Wilson 1999, 69–71, nos. II-577 – II-611; 130–134, nos. III-391 – III-443.

of the four others two come from the bases of coarse vessels of unidentifiable shape, one belongs to a storage jar with a cylindrical or concave-profile neck and one is a horizontal strap handle, presumably of an undecorated conical-necked jar. All of them have a biscuit ranging in colour from light brown to red, with white and grey-blue inclusions. The decoration on the two body sherds consists of horizontal zones of herringbone or superimposed chevrons set in opposite directions. The sporadic presence of this ware on Keros corroborates the view that it is imported to the island, perhaps from a single Cycladic or island centre[124]. As possible sources Siphnos, Melos, Tenos or even Skyros have been suggested.

Three tubular body spouts have a fine biscuit, ranging in colour from buff to light red. Two of them come from open vases, whereas the third belongs to a closed vase. The two former are entirely covered by a black *Urfirnis* slip, while the third has a plain surface.

Finally, a body sherd of a fine open vase which preserves an incised potter's mark (pl. 15b: 1) is worth mentioning.

B. POTTERY FROM THE HOUSE AT KAVOS (Table 2)

SHAPES

In sharp contrast to the ceramic finds from the looted area, the pottery from the house at Kavos consists of a very small number of fragments, amounting to only 2.61% of the former. Moreover, the range of shapes is very limited by comparison. Though the overwhelming majority of this pottery comes likewise from closed vases, these mostly belong to storage jars, whether of identifiable shape or not. The medium and fine vases, such as bowls, jugs, conical-necked jars and sauceboats, are represented by only a few specimens, numbering a maximum of six fragments each. There are also a few fragments from the bodies of medium vases of unidentifiable shapes.

DECORATION

The overwhelming majority of this pottery bears no decoration, the number of the undecorated fragments being equal to that of the closed vases. The decorated fragments represent 15.45% of the total and include only two types of decoration, the incised and the relief, the former predominating over the latter.

[124] Vaughan 1990, 478; Vaughan – Wilson 1993, 169, 173.

IDENTIFIABLE SHAPES

The storage jars are of more or less the same types as those coming from the looted area. First, in order of frequency, come the barrel jars with a projecting horizontal rim (pl. 6: 11) as well as those with a ledge below the rim and horizontally pierced lugs attached to the ledge (pl. 6: 12). Then follow the jars with a low funnel-shaped neck (pl. 6: 9), two of which are in talc ware, and finally come the jars with a cylindrical or concave-profile neck (pl. 6: 10). Two fragments with rope decoration as well as a number of handles belong to similar jars. The handles are mainly arched horizontal, in most cases with radiate incisions on the upper surface, but there are also large tubular and crescent-shaped ones. In all the cases the biscuit is coarse and ranges in colour from buff and orange to various shades of red and brown, while the exterior surface is, as a rule, covered by a slip in the shades of brown and red.

Of the bowl fragments, one comes from a deep bowl with curved walls and a horizontal ledge lug below the rim, while the rest belong to open bowls (pl. 7: 28). Of the jugs, only four handles are preserved, three of them cylindrical and the fourth strap, while of the conical-necked jars there are a neck fragment with incised decoration (pl. 6: 5), a fragment of a trumpet-shaped pedestal and a horizontal strap handle (pl. 6: 8).

There are also the fragments of three sauceboats (pl. 6: 1–3), among which one with an incised potter's mark in the shape of a T (pl. 15b: 2). The sign is known from other EBA/LBA sites of the Cyclades, such as Phylakopi-Melos, Mt. Kynthos-Delos, Ayia Irini-Kea and Akrotiri-Thera, as well as from Tiryns[125].

Finally, there are three rim fragments of cooking pots with signs of burning and two fragments of the peculiar vase form called 'mask' (pl. 7: 36); this preserves parts of two holes, a vertical band with finger impressions and part of a 'foot'. The rare examples of this form from Naxos[126], Phylakopi-Melos[127] and Markiani-Amorgos[128] have alternatively been interpreted as masks used for hunting or for ritual purposes, as spit supports or as braziers.

[125] See Sotirakopoulou 1999, 85–86: Φ 130, with references.
[126] Zervos 1957, figs. 99–100; Naxos in the 3rd millenium B.C., 56, no. 22.
[127] Doumas 1965, 60, pl. 39: β.
[128] Naxos in the 3rd millenium B.C., 56, no. 22.

C. POTTERY FROM DASKALEIO (Table 3)

SHAPES

Again this pottery consists of a relatively small number of vases, more than six times as many as those from the house at Kavos, but still amounting to only 6.14% of those from the looted area. The range of shapes is wider than in the pottery from the house at Kavos but limited compared to that from the looted area. The overwhelming majority of this pottery comes again from closed vases, mostly belonging to storage jars (88.74%), which in only a few cases are of an identifiable shape. Other shapes, such as bowls, pans/hearths, conical-necked jars, basins, cooking pots, sauceboats, pyxides, one-handled tankards and animal-head protomes, are represented by only a few specimens, numbering less than ten examples each. There is also a small number of body sherds of medium closed vases as well as a few body sherds of fine open and talc ware vases.

DECORATION

The overwhelming majority of the Daskaleio pottery is again undecorated, but in a much larger percentage than in the previous cases. The decorated fragments represent only 1.75% of the total. Even so, most of the known types of decoration are present (incised, relief, relief-and-incised, painted dark-on-light), the relief predominating over the others.

IDENTIFIABLE SHAPES

The storage jars from Daskaleio show a great variety in form, rivalling that of the jars from the looted area of Kavos. Some of them have large parts of the original vases preserved. Commonest among them are the jars with a cylindrical neck, sometimes with vertically pierced crescent-shaped handles at the point of maximum diameter (pl. 6: 10). Second in order of frequency are the barrel jars with a flattened/horizontal and more or less projecting rim (pl. 6: 11), sometimes with one, two or three rope bands and a low ledge below the rim, and large tubular handles right under the ledge. In one case the relief decoration is enriched by intersecting rope bands and rope lozenges bordering double-outlined and incised ones. Then come the jars with a low funnel-shaped neck (pl. 6: 9), followed by the deep open jars (pl. 6: 13), sometimes spouted, with vertically pierced crescent-shaped handles below the rim or with a bulging rim. Finally, come the jars with a horizontal ledge and a ledge lug below the rim (pl. 6: 12). A single specimen of a miniature jar with a biconical body, a horizontal projecting rim and four vertically pierced lugs at the point of maximum diameter (pl. 16a) is noteworthy. The

type seems to be an evolution of the EC II conical-necked jars[129] and is reminiscent in form of the huge stone pithos from Akrotiri-Thera[130]. Of the handles belonging to storage jars the commonest are the arched horizontal, mostly undecorated ones, whereas the large tubular handles are rarer. A disc-shaped lid, the flat bases and body fragments of coarse closed vessels, among which a base with a leaf impression[131], as well as the body fragments of a coarse closed vase with vertical ribbed decoration, reminiscent of the jars from Christiana near Thera[132] (pl. 6: 15) must also belong to similar storage jars. The latter vase has a buff to pink biscuit and a smoothed buff exterior surface, whereas the rest have a biscuit and an exterior surface ranging to various shades of red or brown.

Of the animal-head protomes (pl. 16b), four are in the form of a ram, one in the form of a bull (pl. 16b: bottom right), one in the form of a hedgehog (pl. 16b: top middle) and one in the form of a duck (pl. 16b: bottom middle). The duck's head is solid, whereas the rest are hollow. With the exception of a ram's head with downward curving horns, an aquiline snout and eyes indicated plastically by two pellets of clay (pl. 16b: bottom left), the ram's and bull's heads from Daskaleio are identical to those from the looted area of Kavos and may again belong to sauceboat spouts similar to those known from Zygouries and Tiryns (pl. 7: 32). The duck's head may belong either to a sauceboat spout or to a bird-shaped vase similar to that from Amorgos[133]. Another bird-like vase from Ano Kouphonissi[134] is considered to have been imported from Crete, while in Karlsruhe there is a two-headed bird vase in marble[135]. Finally, the hedhehog's head, which has eyes indicated plastically by two pellets of clay and a comparatively large hollowness, most probably belongs to a zoomorphic vase. Zoomorphic vases in the form of a sitting bear, hedgehog, pig or some unidentifiable animal are known from Chalan-

[129] Doumas 1977a, 124, pl. XLIX: j; Doumas 2000, 100, no. 82.

[130] Doumas 1983, 115, fig. 17; Sotirakopoulou 1999, 230–231, pl. 163.

[131] The leaf impressions are nearly as common as the matt impressions on the bases of EC vases and are seen on conical bowls, saucers as well as jars (e.g. Tsountas 1899, 85, 122, 155, pl. 9: 11, 11 α; Zervos 1957, figs. 89, 91; Art and Culture of the Cyclades, 357, 535, no. 414; Wilson 1999, 27–29, nos. II-49 – II-70; 84, no. II-733; 104, nos. III-48 – III-54, with references; Rambach 2000a, Taf. 137: 2–3, 5–9; 138: 3).

[132] See n. 69.

[133] Marangou L. 1984, 101, fig. 19: a-c.

[134] Zapheiropoulou 1971, 215, fig. 6; Zapheiropoulou 1983, 86, fig. 16.

[135] Getz-Gentle 1996, 141, pl. 79: c; Rehm 1997, 97: K 47, Abb. 180.

driani-Syros[136] (pl. 7: 33), Ayia Irini II-Kea[137], Naxos[138] and Vari-Attica[139]. Similar vases in the form of a sheep, a pig or a hedgehog are seen at this time in the Cyclades and reputedly Attica in stone too[140]. Both the sauceboats ending in an animal's head and the zoomorphic vases are considered to have served as cult vases.

There are only flat bases of the pans/hearths, sometimes with intense traces of burning. Two of them are in talc ware.

Of conical necked jars there are a rim fragment with the usual incised decoration on the neck (pl. 6: 5), three body fragments of undecorated jars and a fragment from a trumpet-shaped pedestal.

The basins have a horizontal rim, slightly projecting inwards, and are entirely covered by a slip ranging to various shades of red.

The three sauceboats (pl. 6: 1–3) from Daskaleio include a rim, a spout and some body fragments as well as a foot. The foot has a smoothed grey exterior surface, while the rest are entirely covered with an orange-red slip with black-brown patches at places.

Of the pyxis fragments, one is black-burnished with incised decoration preserving traces of a white chalky substance, while the other has decoration painted in black on the smoothed buff exterior surface (pl. 7: 22). In both cases the decorative scheme is unusual. In the former case it consists of groups of superimposed chevrons and a *pointillé* filling in the interspaces, while in the latter it preserves a panel of dense cross-hatching.

The single tankard fragment, where the upper attachment of the handle is preserved, belongs to the neck-handled variety (pl. 7: 31). It has a fine buff biscuit and a light orange slip on the exterior surface. Just as the Kavos tankards, it also seems to be an import.

Finally, three body sherds of relatively fine closed vases bear incised potter's marks, in all cases incompletely preserved (pl. 15b: 3–5).

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[136] Zervos 1957, figs. 238–239; Renfrew 1972, pl. 16: 2; Buchholz – Karageorghis 1973, 98–99, 363, no. 1186; Höckmann 1977a, 47, fig. 27; Papathanasopoulos 1981, 165, no. 87.

[137] Caskey 1972, 363, pl. 77: B1; Höckmann 1977a, 49, fig. 28; Wilson 1999, 83–84, no. II-732.

[138] Buchholz – Karageorghis 1973, 99, 363, no. 1187: a-b; Naxos in the 3rd millenium B.C., 106, no. 102.

[139] Buchholz – Karageorghis 1973, 99, 363, no. 1189.

[140] (1) Zervos 1957, fig. 332; Getz-Preziosi 1977b, 96, 98, fig. 79; Getz-Gentle 1996, 137, fig. 73: a, pl. 78: a; Sherratt S. 2000, 124–125, no. III.6.25; (2) Getz-Preziosi 1977b, 96, 99, fig. 80; Getz-Gentle 1996, 138, fig. 74; Doumas 2000, 77, no. 39; (3) Art and Culture of the Cyclades, 339, 523, no. 366; Getz-Gentle 1996, 137, fig. 73: b, pl. 78: b; (4) Art and Culture of the Cyclades, 339, 523, no. 367; (5) Art and Culture of the Cyclades, 340, 523–524, no. 368; Getz-Gentle 1996, 139, fig. 75: a, pl. 79: a; Rehm 1997, 97: K 46, Abb. 179; (6) Getz-Gentle 1996, 139, fig. 75: b, pl. 79: b.

THE COMPARISON OF THE POTTERY FROM THE LOOTED AREA OF KAVOS, THE KAVOS HOUSE AND DASKALEIO

The pottery from the three areas of Keros discussed above differs markedly in terms of numbers of vases/fragments that each of them comprises, relative prominence of fine, medium and coarse fabrics, dominant vessel shapes, and principal forms of surface treatment and decoration.

Of the 5000 vases and fragments examined so far, the pottery from the looted area of Kavos outnumbers by far that of the Kavos house and Daskaleio, representing more than 84% of the total. It is more than 38 times as much as that from the house at Kavos, more than six times more than that from Daskaleio and more than five times as much as the pottery from these two areas together. Its overwhelming superiority in numbers against that from the two other areas is thus indisputable and is expected to become even more striking, taken into account that most, if not all, of the pottery remaining to be examined also comes from the looted area of Kavos.

This pottery is dominated by fine and medium fabrics and characterized by a wide range of shapes. The sauceboats and the various types of conical-necked jars are predominant among these, by far outnumbering the others. The storage jars, jugs and pyxides, though occurring in a great variety of forms, are far less frequent, whereas the other shapes, including fine, elaborate and domestic vase types, range from scarce to extremely rare. The pottery from the looted area is, for the most part, undecorated. Painted dark-on-light and incised are by far the most popular types of decoration encountered. The stamped-and-incised and relief decoration are rare. The painted decoration is concentrated on the sauceboats, jugs and pyxides, as well as on the rare examples of the one-handled pedestalled cups, deep cups and animal-head protomes. The repertoire of the painted motifs is extremely rich, including hatched and cross-hatched triangles or zones, sometimes with dots at the centres of the lozenges formed, a more open cross-hatched net, made up of intersecting groups of parallel diagonal lines, superimposed chevrons, pendant dotted lozenge chains, dotted and double-outlined lozenge chains, multiple concentric lozenges, multiple zig-zag lines in vertical arrangement, the chain motif, solid triangles, solid running spirals, horizontal bands of the 'thin line' or the 'broad streak' variety, dotted bands, as well as representations of birds, quadrupeds and possibly fish. The incised decoration is found primarily on the conical-necked jars with a trumpet-shaped pedestal and the horizontal arched handles of storage jars, and occasionally on the handles of jugs and on the much rarer tubular spouts of 'lamps', askoi, aryballoi and body sherds of unidentifiable shapes. It usually consists of horizontal bands of vertical strokes or oblique lines set in opposite directions, horizontal or oblique parallel lines, superimposed chev-

rons in horizontal or vertical arrangement, multiple zig-zag lines, rows of hatched triangles, herringbones, as well as the fish and the double-outlined fish-like motif. The stamped-and-incised decoration is used mainly on the conical-necked jars with a trumpet-shaped pedestal and a dark slipped and burnished exterior surface, and occasionally on the pyxides and tubular spouts of 'lamps'. It consists of horizontal zones of false spirals bordered by rows of *Kerbschnitt*, incised superimposed chevrons alternating with a *Kerbschnitt* filling, and *Kerbschnitt* alone. Finally, the relief decoration, is found in the form of diagonally slashed lugs on conical-necked jars, rope bands on the body of storage jars, vertical ribs on the body of beaked jugs or jars with a cylindrical or concave-profile neck, and bands of overlapping discs, rope pattern or finger impressions below the rim of the pans/hearths. With regard to this pottery there are four remarkable points: a) the extremely large number of sauceboats, conical-necked jars with incised decoration and tubular spouts of 'lamps' in comparison to those known from other contemporary Cycladic sites; b) the great diversity of the sauceboats in surface treatment, and of the conical-necked jars, storage jars, jugs and pyxides in form; c) the particularly rich decorative scheme of the painted sauceboats, jugs and pyxides; d) the marked differentiation in form, number of examples and decorative scheme of the painted jugs and pyxides from the other Cycladic specimens.

In sharp contrast to the pottery from the looted area of Kavos, that from the Kavos house constitutes a markedly small group, dominated by coarse fabrics and characterized by a limited range of shapes. Predominant among these and by far outnumbering the others, are the storage jars, which, however, are less diverse in form compared to those from the looted area. The examples of medium and fine vases, such as bowls, jugs, conical-necked jars and sauceboats, are extremely limited in both number and form. However, the presence in this small group of an example of a so-called 'mask' is noteworthy. The overwhelming majority of this pottery is again undecorated. The most popular type of decoration among the small number of decorated pieces is incised. The only other mode of decoration encountered is the relief, but this is rare. The incised decoration is concentrated on the horizontal arched handles of storage jars, and is also seen on a conical-necked jar fragment, while the relief decoration is found in the form of horizontal rope bands on the body of storage jars and a band of finger impressions on the 'mask' fragment.

Finally, the Daskaleio pottery, being more than six times as much as that from the house at Kavos, is similarly dominated by coarse fabrics, followed by the medium ones. The range of shapes is wider than in the pottery from the Kavos house, but limited compared with that from the looted area. In compensation for the absence of the jug form, which in the house at Kavos is represented by four handles, the Daskaleio pottery comprises in its repertoire forms not seen in the Kavos

house ceramic assemblage, but present in that from the looted area: such are the animal-head protomes, pans/hearths, basins, pyxides and a one-handled tankard. The shape by far predominating over the others is the storage jar in a variety of forms, rivalling those from the looted area of Kavos. The other shapes, including bowls, conical-necked jars, cooking pots, sauceboats and the ones not present in the Kavos house pottery are scarce. The fact that domestic vase types, such as bowls, pans/hearths, basins and cooking pots, are represented by only a few specimens is not surprising, taking into consideration that the site is still unexcavated. Noteworthy is, however, the presence of the seven animal-head protomes, which exceed in both number and diversity of forms those from the looted area. Though the decorated pieces represent a very small percentage of the total of vases recovered so far, the diversity of the decorative modes is remarkable. Predominant among these is the relief decoration, consisting of horizontal rope bands or vertical ribs on the bodies of storage jars and of diagonal slashes on the vertical lugs of a conical-necked jar. Then follows the incised decoration, seen on a conical-necked jar fragment, on a horizontal arched handle of a storage jar and on the body of a black-burnished pyxis. The relief-and-incised, consisting of rope bands and incised double-outlined lozenges, is found on the body of a barrel jar, while the painted dark-on-light is seen on a pyxis fragment.

The conclusions drawn from the preceding comparative analysis of the pottery from the three areas of Kavos–Daskaleio investigated in the 1960's can be summarized in the following three points:

a) the overall superiority of the pottery from the looted area of Kavos in the number of examples, range of shapes, and diversity of decorative modes and motifs in comparison to that from the Kavos house and Daskaleio;

b) the relative richness of the Daskaleio pottery in the number of examples, range of shapes and decorative modes in comparison to that from the house at Kavos;

c) the occurrence among the pottery forms from the looted area, though in comparatively small amounts, of domestic vessels, such as storage jars, bowls, pans/hearths, basins and cooking pots, which constitute the main ceramic repertoire of the Kavos house and Daskaleio, and conversely the appearance, though in very small numbers, of the major shapes of the pottery from the looted area, such as the sauceboats, conical-necked jars and decorated pyxides, in the house at Kavos and the Daskaleio settlement.

IMPORTED WARES AND ATTRIBUTION OF PROVENANCES

The conclusions reached so far in this report hardly differ from those drawn by Broodbank on the basis of the 1987 material. But my impressions of the amounts of imported pottery and attribution of provenances are quite different.

Certainly a number of the Kavos–Daskaleio clay vases may have been imported from nearby islands or more distant areas. However, taking into consideration our ignorance of the clay-beds of Keros as well as the clays and pottery of several Cycladic islands, the determination of imported pottery by visual inspection of the fabrics can only be tentative, particularly since certain types occur far more frequently at Kavos–Daskaleio than elsewhere. Characteristic is the case of the pedestal-based conical-necked jars with incised decoration, which occur in so large numbers on Keros, whereas the Kouphonissia, from where the sandy fabric of which they are made is considered to come[141], have so far only given two examples of the type. Moreover, only three such jars are currently known from the nearby islands, two from Naxos (Spedos) and one from Amorgos. As prerequisites for the determination of imported pottery in this paper the limited number of examples of a certain type, the exceptional fineness of the clay and the consistency in fabric, shape and decoration have been taken; on the other hand, the attribution of provenances has been based on the similarities in surface treatment and decorative patterns to other Cycladic and mainland comparanda.

To start with, it is perfectly possible that many of the Kavos–Daskaleio sauceboats were imported to the site. Those immediately catching the eye as such are the finest *Urfirnis* and the very fine, thin-walled sauceboat fragments bearing a solid whitish, yellowish or pinkish slip. Several of the *Urfirnis* related and the grey ones can also be included with these. The finest *Urfirnis* and the grey sauceboats may come from Attica. The *Urfirnis* related ones may also come from the mainland, though certain scholars argue in support of a Cycladic origin for them[142]. As to the painted sauceboats, if a number of them are to be considered imported, as is probably the case, their similarities in surface treatment and decorative patterns would seem to be rather with the Keian, Melian as well as Naxian examples than with those from Thera. Thus, the proposed Theran origin of the fabric used for the Kavos–Daskaleio fine 'white' vessels, that is painted sauceboats, jugs and pyxides, which has been based on their allegedly close stylistic resemblances primarily with Thera and Naxos[143], is not documented. The case of the Keros painted pyxides is similar, which though differing markedly from the other Cycladic

[141] Broodbank 2000a, 234; Broodbank 2000b, 336.
[142] See nn. 23–24.
[143] Broodbank 2000a, 234; Broodbank 2000b, 337.

examples of the type in both lugs form and decorative scheme, find their closest parallels in Amorgos and in one case Chalandriani-Syros, but neither Thera nor Naxos. On the other hand, the painted jugs from Kavos–Daskaleio do find their closest parallels in surface treatment, decorative motifs and 'thin line' rendering in Naxian examples, but this alone does not prove the mining of the 'white' clay on Thera and its subsequent transformation into pots on Keros or a nearby island; since, as already said, the painted jugs from Kavos form a particularly rich group in comparison to those known from other contemporary Cycladic sites from every point of view.

Besides a perhaps large number of the sauceboats and some of the painted dark-on-light vases just discussed, the Kavos–Daskaleio material, which in all probability has been imported to the island, includes the dark burnished conical-necked jars with stamped-and-incised decoration, most probably from Syros, the jugs and jars with vertical ribbed decoration, probably from the southern Cyclades, the one-handled pedestalled cups with painted dark-on-light decoration, the one-handled tankards, the animal-head protomes of sauceboat spouts or zoomorphic vases, the *Urfirnis* and painted dark-on-light saucers, and the talc ware sherds of coarse vessels.

These amount to 8% of the total pottery examined so far and do not exceed 35%, even if all the sauceboats and painted jugs and pyxides are taken to be imported, which, however, for the reasons already set out, does not seem likely based on present evidence. One cannot, of course, exclude the possibility that other types of vessels as well as a part of the coarse wares normally considered as domestic items were also imported to the site, but this remains to be shown by further study and analysis of the clays and pottery from various Cycladic islands. In any case, based on present evidence, the minimum level of at least 48% imported material suggested by Broodbank[144] seems to be very high.

CHRONOLOGY

The pottery from the looted area of Kavos indicates continuous activity at the spot from the transitional EC I-II 'Kampos group' through to the EC III Phylakopi I phase. The beginning of activity is indicated by the complete biconical pyxis with a red *Urfirnis* slip (pl. 12a) and the two incised aryballoi (pl. 14b), forms characteristic of the so-called 'Kampos group'. The large numbers and great diversity of the EC II forms attests to continuous activity throughout the EC II period, while the sporadic occurrence of characteristic 'Kastri group' forms, such

[144] Broodbank 2000a, 234, fig. 72; Broodbank 2000b, 336.

as one-handled tankards and perhaps high-necked jugs, as well as incised pyxides and jug/jar fragments with vertical ribbed decoration, occurring at the Cycladic sites along with these forms, indicates continuity into the transitional EC II-III phase. The cessation of activity is signified by a few spouts and body sherds of incised askoi of Phylakopi I type[145], and possibly by the single deep cup sherd with painted dark-on-light decoration and the isolated jug fragments with horizontal bands of the so-called 'broad streak' variety.

The small amount of pottery from the house at Kavos belongs exclusively to the EC II period, but continuity into EC II-III is evidenced by the one-handled tankard fragments collected from the area during the 1987 investigations[146].

As to the pottery from Daskaleio, the bulk of it is again of EC II date, though the single one-handled tankard sherd and the body fragments of a coarse closed vase with vertical ribbed decoration indicate continuity into the transitional EC II-III 'Kastri group' phase.

Thus, the evidence of pottery suggests that activity in all three areas of Kavos–Daskaleio is, at least partly, synchronous, though at the looted area of Kavos it seems to have begun somewhat earlier and ceased a bit later. Moreover, given that the pottery from Daskaleio, though constituting a relatively small group, comprises in its repertoire a rather wide range of shapes, which could belong to either early or late EC II, the long standing view that the settlement at Daskaleio might date to later EC II, while the material from Keros is a little earlier[147], is not documented on present evidence.

INTERPRETATION

The occurrence of such an enormous quantity of potsherds and fragmentary marble figurines and vases on such a small and, for the most part, barren island is astonishing. The nature of prehistoric activity at Kavos–Daskaleio has been a topic of much discussion among the specialists in the field and, to repeat P. Getz-Preziosi's felicitous characterization of the so-called 'Keros hoard', still remains 'an EC enigma'.

Some scholars have proposed a radically different explanation for the site from the initial and more recent interpretation of it as a settlement-cemetery pair. O. Höckmann and J. Thimme were the first to imply the religious character of the scattered deposit of fragmentary figurines and vases at Kavos and interpret it as

[145] See also Renfrew 1972, 532.
[146] Broodbank 2000b, 331.
[147] Cycladica, 33; Broodbank 2000a, 223.

one of a distinct type perhaps, connected in unexplained ways with the rituals relating to the dead[148]. Further to this, Renfrew suggested that during the EBA Kavos served as a large, open-air pan-Cycladic sanctuary, involving religious deposition and deliberate breakage of prestige objects[149]. This explanation, also largely accepted by other scholars[150], has also been adopted in recent years by Doumas, who envisages Keros as an 'Isle of the Blessed', to which the bones of the dead from around the Cyclades were transferred together with the grave goods[151].

Based on present evidence the interpretation of the site as a settlement-cemetery pair seems difficult to accept. The main reason for this is the absence of arable land in the site's vicinity. Why should people have selected this spot to found a large settlement, if, in order to find a patch of arable land, they had to go to Yerani in northwestern Keros, about 40 minutes walk away from Kavos, or sail to fields on the nearest neighbouring islands of the Little Cyclades? Only because of its favourable location at nodes within EB 2 mercantile networks? Instead they could have chosen some other coastal site in the area between Naxos and Amorgos, more hospitable to farming and combining an equally favourable location and sheltered anchorage. Moreover, though the destruction caused to the site by both natural factors and the looters is admittedly great, the meagre evidence of house walls and the extreme paucity of identifiable graves do not actually lend any support to the existence of a large settlement and a very unusual and unusually wealthy cemetery on the spot. The interpretation of the 'special deposit' of the looted area as the remnants of a cemetery is further invalidated by the evidence of the pottery (Table 4); for, contrary to the impression given by the 1987 material[152], the majority of the identifiable pottery from this area collected in the 1960's consists of types equally known from settlements and cemeteries, an almost equally large number includes types known exclusively or mainly from graves and only sporadically from settlements, while the rest are of domestic ware, known exclusively or mainly from settlements and only sporadically from graves or cemetery areas. Even so, the types known exclusively from graves or cemetery areas are in fact few and, given our still limited knowledge of the EC settlements, we cannot be sure that the pottery types found so far only in graves were made exclusively for funerary use and did not serve some other purpose in settlements too. In sharp contrast to the ceramic assemblage from the looted area, the overwhelm-

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148 Höckmann 1977a, 46, 50; Art and Culture of the Cyclades, 588.

149 Renfrew C. 1984b, 27–28; Cycladica, 33–35; Renfrew C. 1991, 50, 99–101, 186; Renfrew C. 2003.

150 Barber 1987, 132; Getz-Preziosi 1987a, 138–139; Getz-Preziosi 1985; 1994, 78; Getz-Gentle 1996, 101, 102.

151 Doumas 1990b, 95; Bassiakos – Doumas 1998, 55–64; Doumas 2000, 30.

152 Broodbank 2000b, 338.

ing majority of the identifiable pottery from the Kavos house and Daskaleio belongs to types known exclusively or mainly from settlements, while the rest is divided between types known equally from settlements and cemeteries, and types known mainly from graves or cemetery areas.

The enormous quantities of potsherds and fragments of marble vases and figurines from the looted area, which even with the minimum estimate of 100–200 complete figurines and 150 stone vessels rival – if not outnumber – those known from all the other Cycladic islands and exceed by far those of any individual site of the major Cyclades, as well as their mostly fragmentary state seem to argue in support of the view that this spot served as an area of ritual deposition of objects of high symbolic significance, involving deliberate breakage, a practice not unusual in the EBA Aegean[153]. The small house at Kavos may have been related to the ritual, while the small fortified settlement on the Daskaleio islet might have served as a lookout and protection for this place rather than as an ordinary habitation site[154]. This is undoubtedly an attractive hypothesis, which, by general consent, needs to be tested through detailed excavation at the undisturbed areas of Kavos–Daskaleio and proper geological and topographical exploration of the island.

ABBREVIATIONS

EB	Early Bronze
EBA	Early Bronze Age
EC	Early Cycladic
EH	Early Helladic
LBA	Late Bronze Age
LCh	Late Chalcolithic
LC	Late Cycladic

[153] For a detailed discussion of the occurrence of broken or incomplete marble objects within or outside EBA tombs as well as in settlements see Sotirakopoulou 1998, 153–157.

[154] Getz-Preziosi 1987a, 139.

TABLE 1. Percentage analysis of the pottery from the looted area of Kavos

A. According to shape

Shapes	***Number of examples***	***Rate per total of 4201 vases/ fragments***
Closed	2631	62,62%
Open	1562	37,18%
Unknown	8	0,19%
TOTAL	4201	100%
Identifiable shapes		
Sauceboats	1467	34,92%
Conical-necked jars	1129	26,87%
Storage jars	298	7,09%
Jugs	274	6,52%
Pyxides	62	1,47%
Bowls	35	0,83%
Tubular spouts of 'lamps'	33	0,78%
Cups	16	0,38%
Pans/Hearths	12	0,28%
Basins	11	0,26%
Animal-head protomes	6	
Askoi	5	
Aryballoi	3	
Saucers	2	
Cooking pot	1	
Palette	1	
Lamp?	1	
Lid of coarse vase	1	
Spit support	1	
TOTAL	3358	79,93%
Unidentifiable shapes		
Body sherds of closed vases	525	12,49%
Flat bases of closed coarse/medium vases	174	4,14%
Body sherds of painted jugs/pyxides	73	1,73%
Body sherds of closed vases with various types of lugs/handles	28	0,66%
Body sherds of closed vases with stamped or stamped-and-incised decoration	13	0,31%
Ring bases of coarse vases	8	
Body sherds with painted dark-on-light animal representations	4	

Shapes	*Number of examples*	*Rate per total of 4201 vases/ fragments*
Flat bases of closed coarse vases with matt impressions	4	
Tubular body spouts	3	
Joining sections of double vases	3	
Body sherds of jugs/collared jars with vertical ribbed decoration	2	
Body sherds of closed vases with decoration of incised fish	2	
Incised talc ware sherds	2	
Handles	2	
TOTAL	843	20,06%

B. According to decoration

Category	*Number of examples*	*Rate per total of 4201 vases/ fragments*
Undecorated	2725	64,86%
Decorated	1124	26,75%
Unknown	352	8,37%
TOTAL	4201	100%

Type of decoration	*Number of examples*	*Rate per total of 4201 vases/ fragments*	*Rate per total of decorated vases/ fragments*
Painted dark-on-light	566	13,47%	50,35%
Incised	507	12,06%	45,10%
Stamped-and-Incised	35	0,83%	3,11%
Relief	16	0,38%	1,42%
TOTAL	1124	26,75%	100%

TABLE 2. Percentage analysis of the pottery from the house at Kavos

A. According to shape

Shapes	***Number of examples***	***Rate per total of 110 fragments***
Closed	92	83,63%
Open	13	11,81%
Unknown	5	4,54%
TOTAL	110	100%
Identifiable shapes		
Storage jars	43	39,09%
Bowls	6	5,45%
Jugs	4	3,63%
Conical-necked jars	3	2,72%
Sauceboats	3	2,72%
Cooking pots	3	2,72%
'Mask'	1	0,90%
TOTAL	63	57,27%
Unidentifiable shapes		
Body sherds of coarse closed vases	40	36,36%
Body sherds of medium vases	5	4,54%
Body sherds of medium closed vases	2	1,81%
TOTAL	47	42,72%

B. According to decoration

Category	***Number of examples***	***Rate per total of 110 fragments***
Undecorated	92	83,63%
Decorated	17	15,45%
Unknown	1	0,90%
TOTAL	110	100%

Type of decoration	***Number of examples***	***Rate per total of 110 fragments***	***Rate per total of decorated fragments***
Incised	14	12,72%	82,35%
Relief	3	2,72%	17,64%
TOTAL	17	15,45%	100%

TABLE 3. Percentage analysis of the pottery from Daskaleio

A. According to shape

Shapes	***Number of examples***	***Rate per total of 684 fragments***
Closed	647	94,59%
Open	32	4,67%
Unknown	5	0,73%
TOTAL	684	100%
Identifiable shapes		
Storage jars	44	6,43%
Bowls	7	1,02%
Animal-head protomes	7	1,02%
Pans/Hearths	6	0,87%
Conical-necked jars	5	0,73%
Basins	5	0,73%
Cooking pots	4	0,58%
Sauceboats	3	0,43%
Pyxides	2	0,29%
One-handled tankard	1	0,14%
Disc-shaped lid of a coarse vase	1	0,14%
TOTAL	85	12,42%
Unidentifiable shapes		
Body sherds of coarse/medium closed vases	287	41,95%
Body sherds of coarse closed vases	253	36,98%
Body sherds of medium closed vases	31	4,53%
Flat bases with parts of body of coarse closed vases	22	3,21%
Later wheelmade body sherds	3	0,43%
Talc ware body sherds	2	0,29%
Body sherd of open fine vase	1	0,14%
TOTAL	599	87,57%

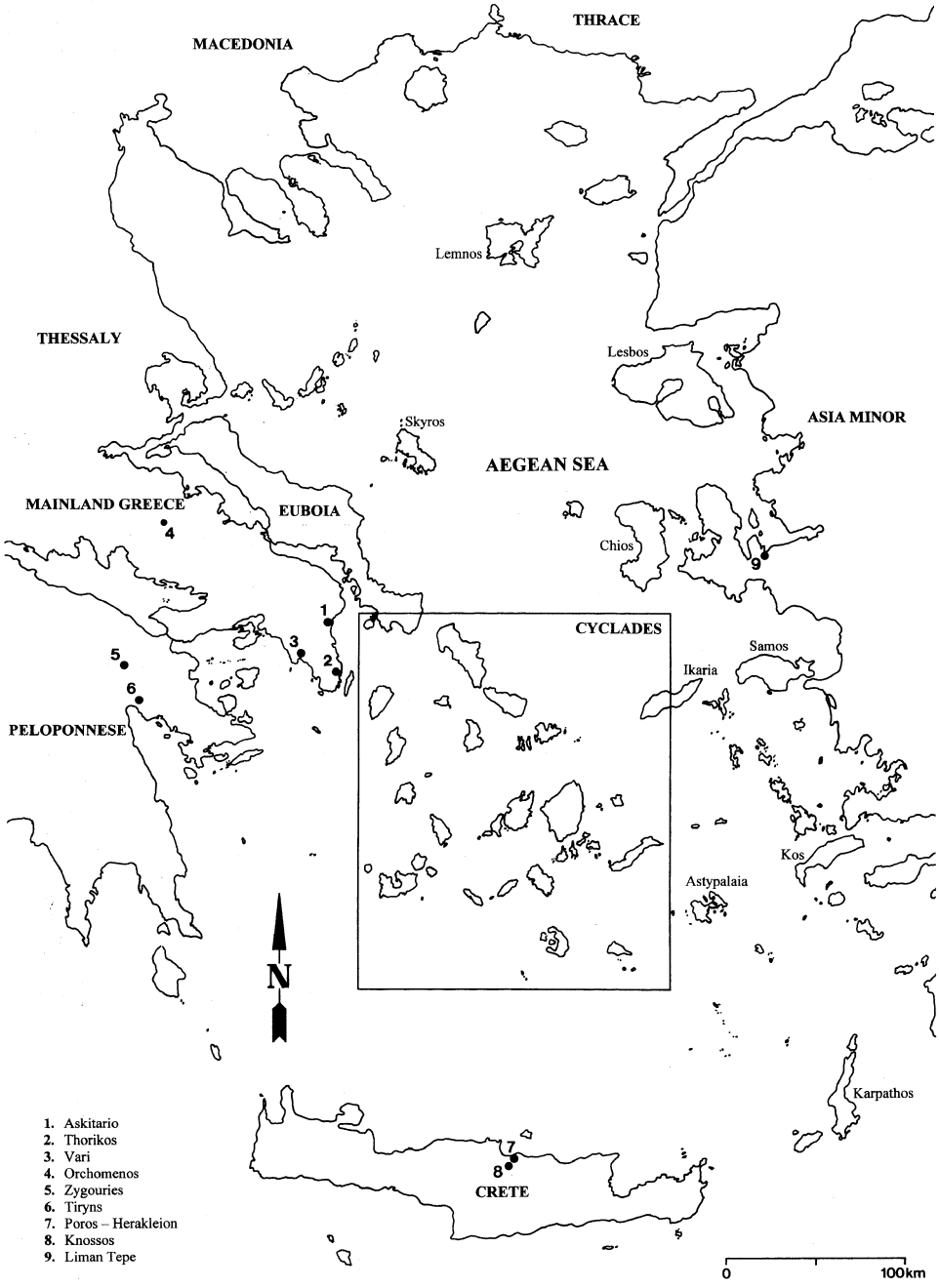
B. According to decoration

Category	*Number of examples*	*Rate per total of 684 fragments*
Undecorated	671	98,09%
Decorated	12	1,75%
Unknown	1	0,14%
TOTAL	684	100%

Type of decoration	*Number of examples*	*Rate per total of 684 fragments*	*Rate per total of decorated fragments*
Relief	7	1,02%	58,33%
Incised	3	0,43%	25%
Relief-and-Incised	1	0,14%	8,33%
Painted dark-on-light	1	0,14%	8,33%
TOTAL	12	1,75%	100%

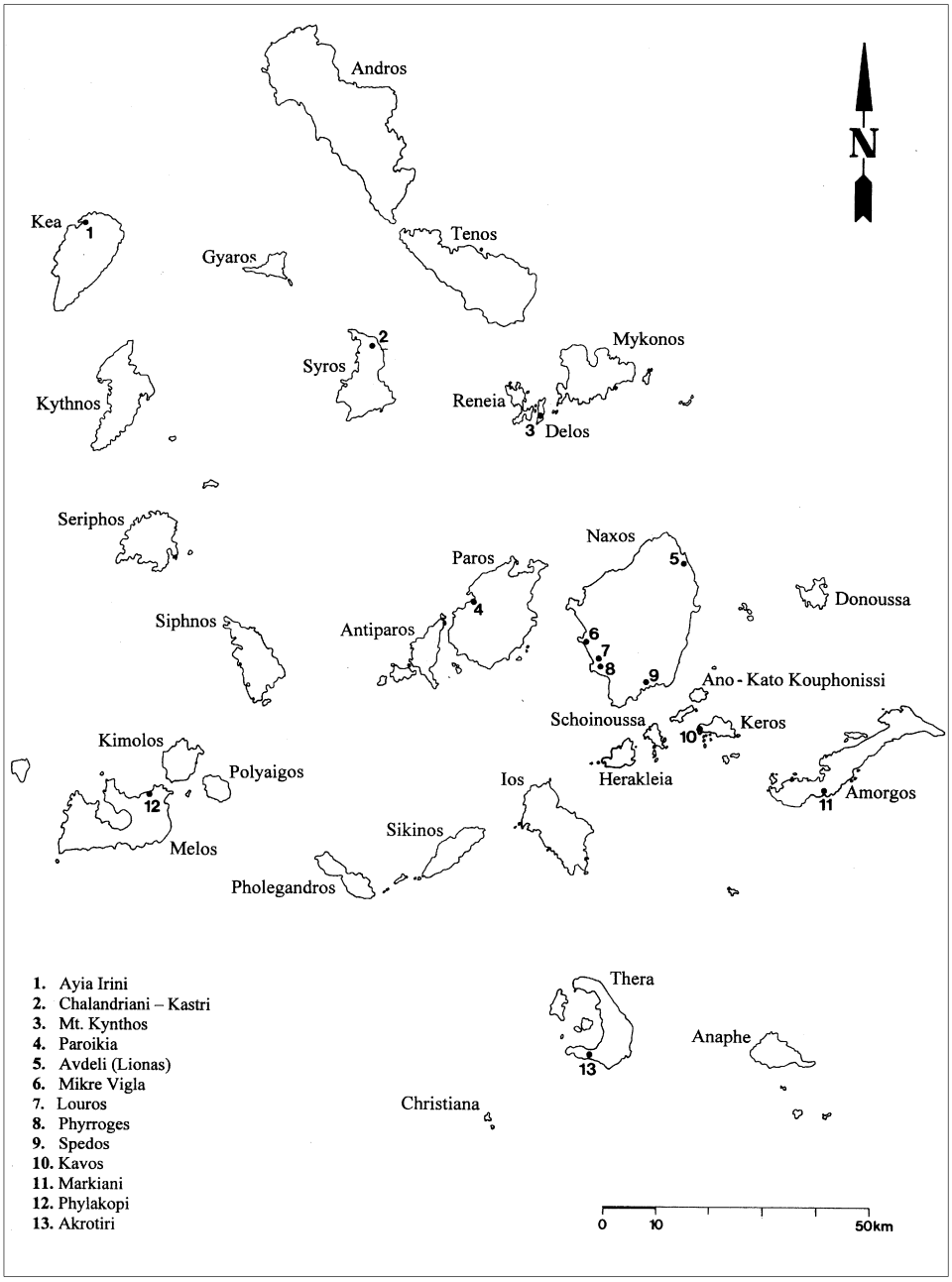
TABLE 4. Character of the pottery from Kavos–Daskaleio

Location	*Mainly of domestic ware*	*Mainly of funerary use*	*Of both domestic and funerary use*
Looted area of Kavos	11,46%	43%	45,53%
House at Kavos	83,87%	4,83%	11,29%
Daskaleio	88,37%	6,97%	4,65%



Map of the Aegean

Plate 2



Inset of the Cyclades

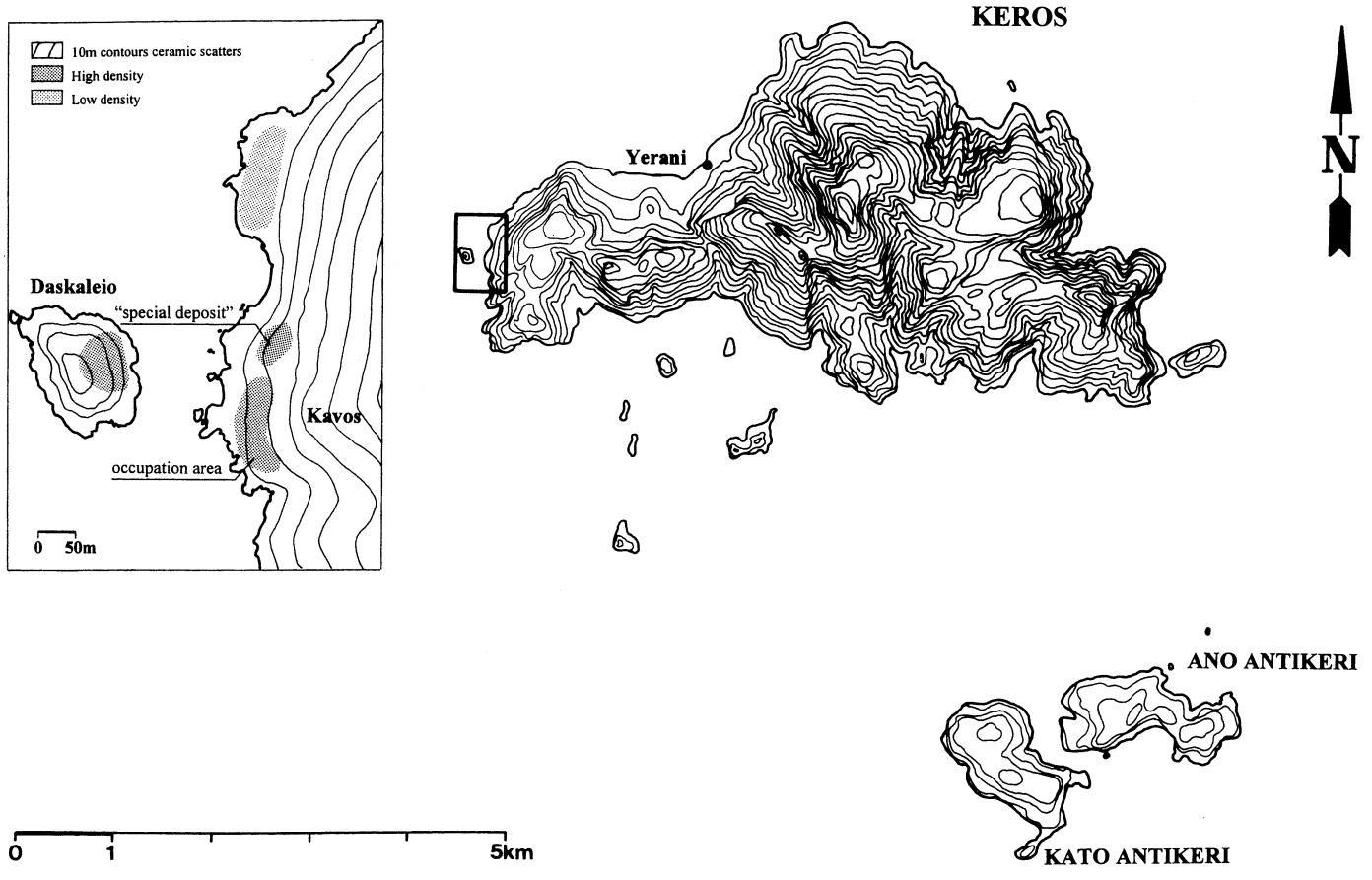


Plate 3

Map of Keros (the plan to the left after Broodbank 2000a, 224, fig. 67: bottom; Broodbank 2000b, 326, fig.2).

Plate 4



a) The looted area of Kavos and the opposite islet of Daskaleio seen from the northeast

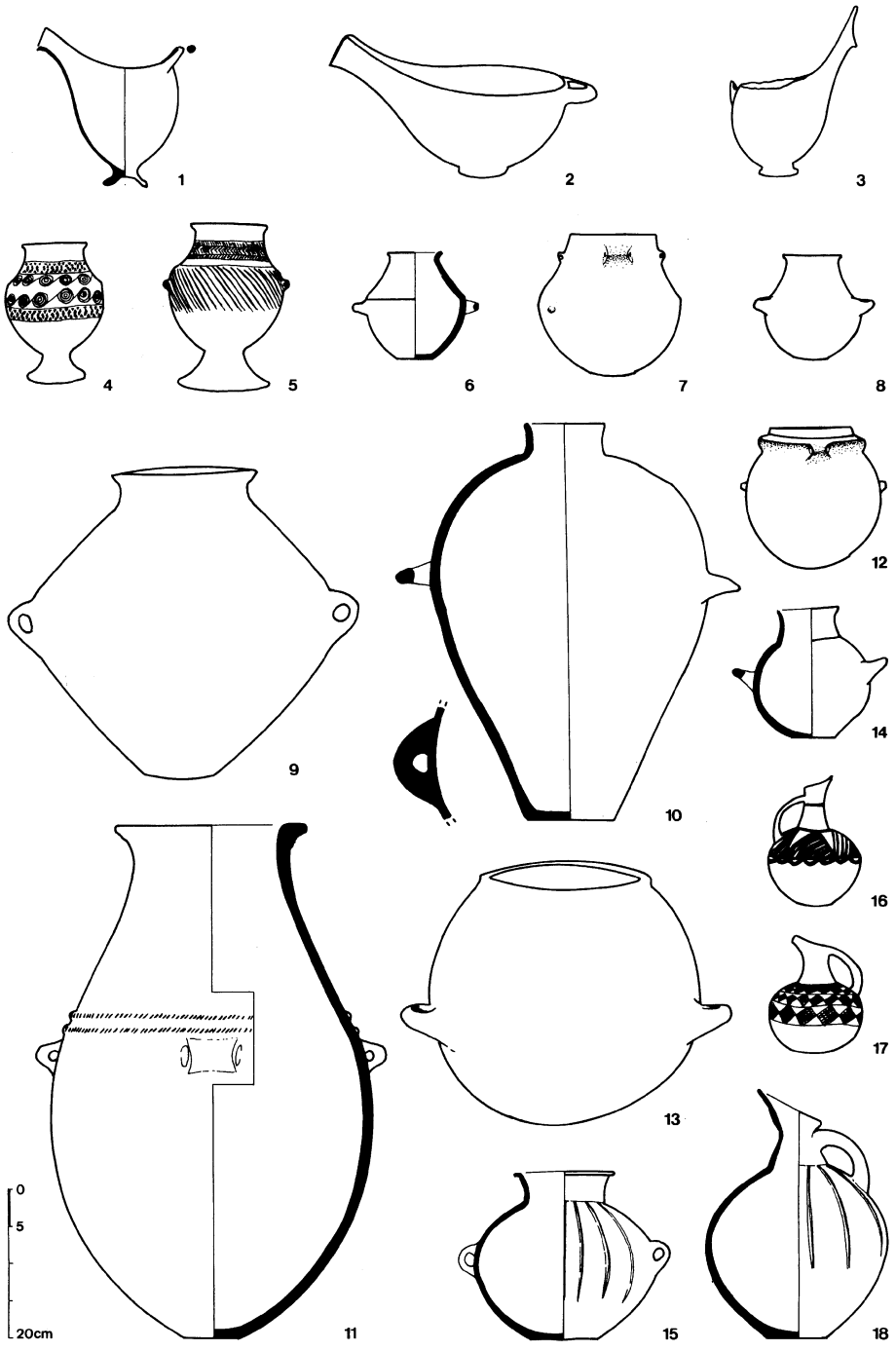


b) The looted area of Kavos seen from the sea

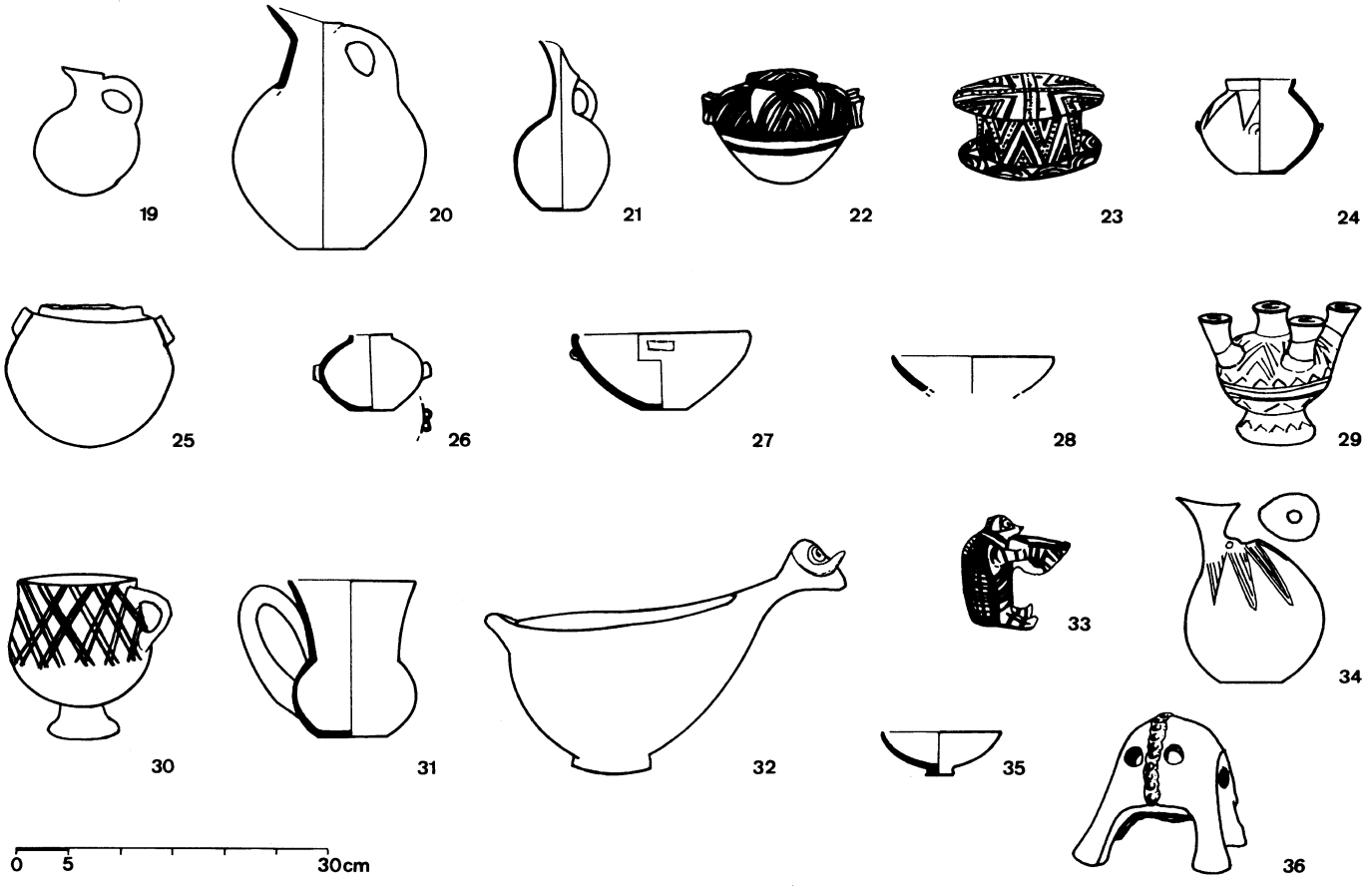


The eastern room of the house at Kavos seen from the south (courtesy of Prof. Chr. Doumas)

Plate 6



The ceramic repertoire of Kavos-Daskaleio



The ceramic repertoire of Kavos-Daskaleio

Plate 7

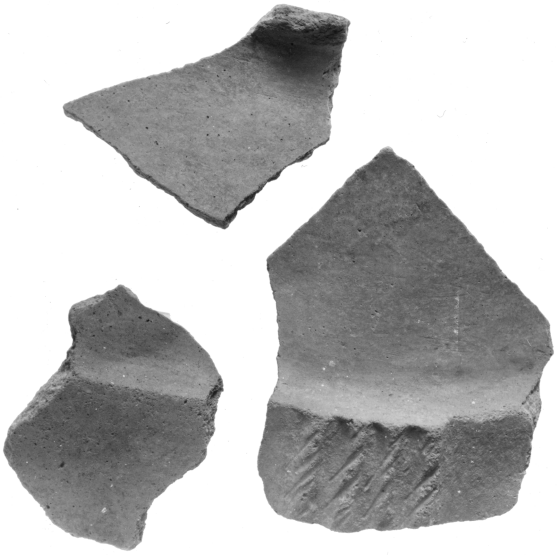
Plate 8



a) Part of a painted sauceboat



b) Conical-necked jars with stamped-and-incised decoration



a) Fragments of a conical-necked jar with diagonally slashed lugs

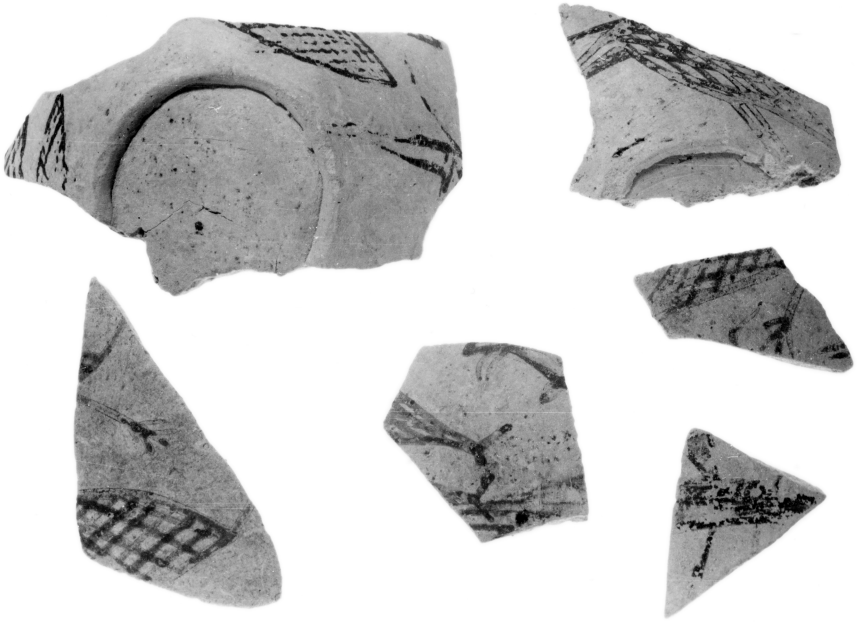


b) Miniature jar with a low funnel-shaped neck

Plate 10



a) Painted jug fragments



b) Bases of jugs (top) and body sherds (bottom) with animal representations



a) Jug fragments with incised handles



b) Painted pyxis fragments

Plate 12



a) Biconical pyxis



b) Globular pyxis



a) Tubular spouts of ‘lamps’ with various types of decoration



b) Animal-head protomes from the looted area of Kavos

Plate 14



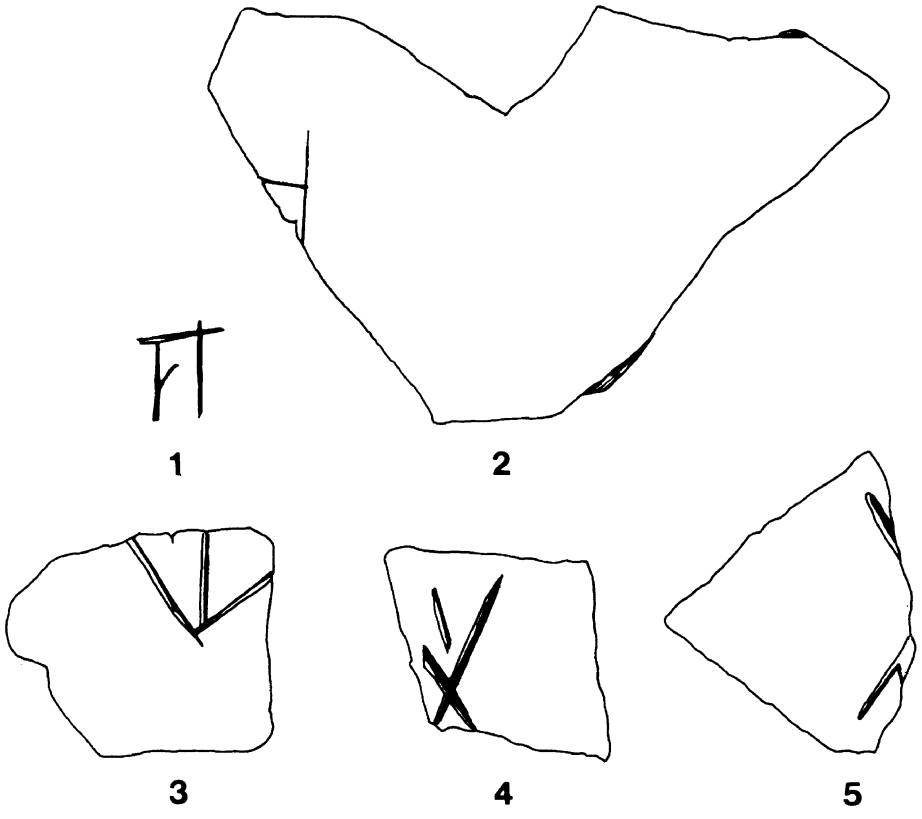
a) Spout of a painted askos (left) and a painted jug fragment (right)



b) Aryballoi



a) Sherds of closed vesels with the incised fish-motif



b) Incised potter´s marks encountered on the Kavos-Daskaleio pottery

Plate 16



a) Miniature iar



b) Animal-head protomes from Daskaleio