

THE DATING OF THE EARLY LC IIIA PHASE AT ENKOMI

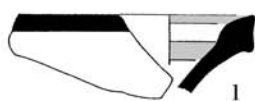
*Penelope A. Mountjoy**

After the destruction of Enkomi Level IIB at the end of LC IIC P. Dikaios suggested there was a gap of ten-twenty years before the LC IIIA Level IIIA buildings were constructed (DIKAIOS 1969-71, 486 table, 520-21). There is indeed a gap. In the make-up of the original floors of the Level IIIA Ashlar Building in Area I mixed with Mycenaean IIIB lustrous painted pottery there is also LH IIIC pottery. It does not belong to the beginning of LH IIIC Early, but to a later phase of this period. Also, it does not differ from the pottery found in the Level IIIA destruction deposits on the floors, suggesting the building was in use for quite a short period. Both the pottery in the

floor make-up and that on the floors is equivalent to LH IIIC Early Phase 2 at Mycenae and at Tiryns, that is the second half of LH IIIC Early (See FRENCH, this volume).

The sequence in Room 14 is particularly instructive. The original floor of the Ashlar Building in this room is Floor V. A pit was subsequently dug through Floor V and sealed by a new floor on which a hearth was built. The hearth had a lower layer of mortar, a middle layer of sherds and an upper layer of concrete (DIKAIOS 1969-71, 176). Dikaios noted LH IIIC pottery in Floor V (Fig. 1.1-4), in the fill of the pit below the floor (Fig. 1.5-7), in the make-up

ROOM 14



In Floor V



2



3



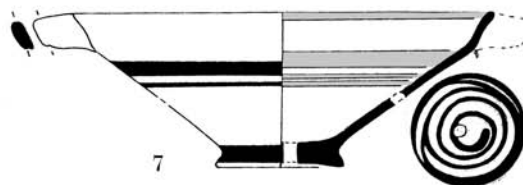
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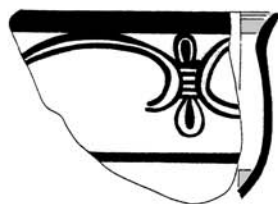
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7

In pit cut through Floor V

ROOM 3



8

Below Floor V

ROOM 13



9

In Floor V

Fig. 1 Enkomi Area I construction: 1-7) Room 14; 8) Room 3; 9) Room 13

* British School at Athens

of the hearth (Fig. 2) and in the Level IIIA destruction on Floor V. He pointed out that the lapse of time from the construction of the Ashlar Building to its destruction must have been very short (DIKAIOS 1969–71, 176). A comparison of the construction and occupation deposits shows that both have the same LH IIIC pottery types. Of particular interest is the presence in both deposits of the linear shallow angular bowl FS 295 with a deep upper body (Fig. 1.4) and (Fig. 2.12). This is a true LH IIIC shallow angular bowl as opposed to the local Cypriot LH IIIB–IIIC type with short upper body, as Fig. 1.7. This type with deep upper body does not begin at Mycenae until LH IIIC Middle (MOUNTJOY 1986, fig. 233.1, FRENCH, this volume Features Chart). Since the Level IIIA Enkomi pottery has its best parallels with the second phase of LH IIIC Early at Mycenae, it may be that this deep type evolved in the eastern Mediterranean and went from here to the Greek Mainland.

Pottery from construction deposits in other rooms (Fig. 1.8–9, Fig. 3) also has parallels to that in the destruction deposits on the floors. The deep bowl with joining semi-circles pendent from the rim in the floor makeup of Room 45 (Fig. 3.16) and Room 13 (Fig. 1.9) has parallels in the occupation deposit in Room 14 (Fig. 2.9). This is one of the most popular motifs on deep bowls in the Enkomi Level IIIA destruction deposits. In the occupation material from Room 14 there is a complete deep bowl (Fig. 2.8) with antithetic streamers rising from the belly band for which there are parallels from the floor make-up of Room 3 (Fig. 1.8) and Room 12 (Fig. 3.1). This is a LH IIIC Middle feature on the Mainland, but LH IIIC Early on Crete (POPHAM and MILBURN 1971, 340, MOUNTJOY 1999b, 513–14). The deep bowl (Fig. 2.10) has a reserved interior rim band and a reserved circle in the interior base. The reserved circle begins in Transitional LH IIIB2/LH IIIC Early on the Mainland (unpublished examples from Tiryns West Wall deposit); the narrow interior rim band begins in LH IIIC Middle (POPHAM and MILBURN 1971, 340, 339, fig. 4.2–3, 5, 11), but is already present in a wider version in LM IIIC Early (MOUNTJOY 1999b, 512–13). There are jug sherds with tassels (Fig. 2.2–3), which are not very common at Enkomi, and a strainer jug with antithetic stemmed spirals flanking a triglyph (Fig. 2.4); the former is a LH IIIC Early Phase 2 motif at Mycenae, the latter is Phase 1 (FRENCH, this volume).

A date in Greek Mainland terms for the Level IIB destruction is suggested by the deep bowl (Fig. 3.9) with fat wavy line and lipped rim from the

make-up of Floor V in Court 64. This vessel would be Transitional LH IIIB2/IIIC Early on the Greek Mainland (MOUNTJOY 1997, 109–37). It was found with the usual admixture of LH IIIC material (Fig. 3.8) and with the lustrous painted Mycenaean IIIB sherds (Fig. 3.10–11). Although the floor make-up of Court 64 is a mixed deposit comprising LH IIIC pottery together with LC IIC destruction material, yet the presence of the transitional bowl suggests that the LC IIC destruction at Enkomi might have taken place in the Transitional phase in Mainland terms.

The occupation material from Room 27 (Fig. 4) comes from below Floor III, from a pit dug when a rearrangement took place on the original floor of the Ashlar Building. This original floor was repaired as Floor III (DIKAIOS 1969–71, 177). The deep carinated bowl (Fig. 4.9–10) is present, as in the floor makeup deposits (Fig. 1.4). There is also a carinated krater (Fig. 4.3). This would be LH IIIC Middle Phase 1 (Developed) on the Greek Mainland (MOUNTJOY 1986, 156), but it may have evolved earlier in the eastern Mediterranean, perhaps deriving from LC IIC Rude Style kraters. Some of these vessels have carinated bodies (for example KARAGEORGHIS 1965, pls. 23.1–2, 28.5). The carination is low on the body of the Rude Style kraters, but it is possible that by LH IIIC Early Phase 2 it had moved higher up the body.

The pottery from the destruction debris of the Level IIIA Ashlar Building also has parallels to that from the occupation and construction deposits. The destruction deposit in Room 27 has deep bowls with stemmed spirals pendent from the rim (Fig. 5.6), as in the occupation pottery (Fig. 4.6); the deep shallow angular bowl (Fig. 5.8), is seen in the occupation pottery (Fig. 4.9–10) and also in the floor make-up pottery (Fig. 1.4). The antithetic spirals with lozenge instead of a central triglyph (Fig. 5.7) are a LH IIIC Early Phase 1/2 feature at Mycenae (FRENCH this volume), and the deep bowl with pendent joining semi-circles from the rim (Fig. 5.4) also has parallels in the occupation and floor make-up pottery (Fig. 2.9, Fig. 3.16). The sherds with birds (Fig. 5.1–2) belong to strainer jugs. Birds with a similar body with filled centre surrounded by dots are also found on vases from Maa Period I (KARAGEORGHIS and DEMAS 1988, pl. CXCII.354) and Kition (KARAGEORGHIS 1981, pl. 9.12, pl. 13). They need not be from the same workshop, but they are certainly the same date. The krater sherd from Court 64 with filled tail to the spiral (Fig. 6.5) has a very good parallel on a mug from LH IIIC Early Phase 2 at Tiryns (Fig. 6.9).

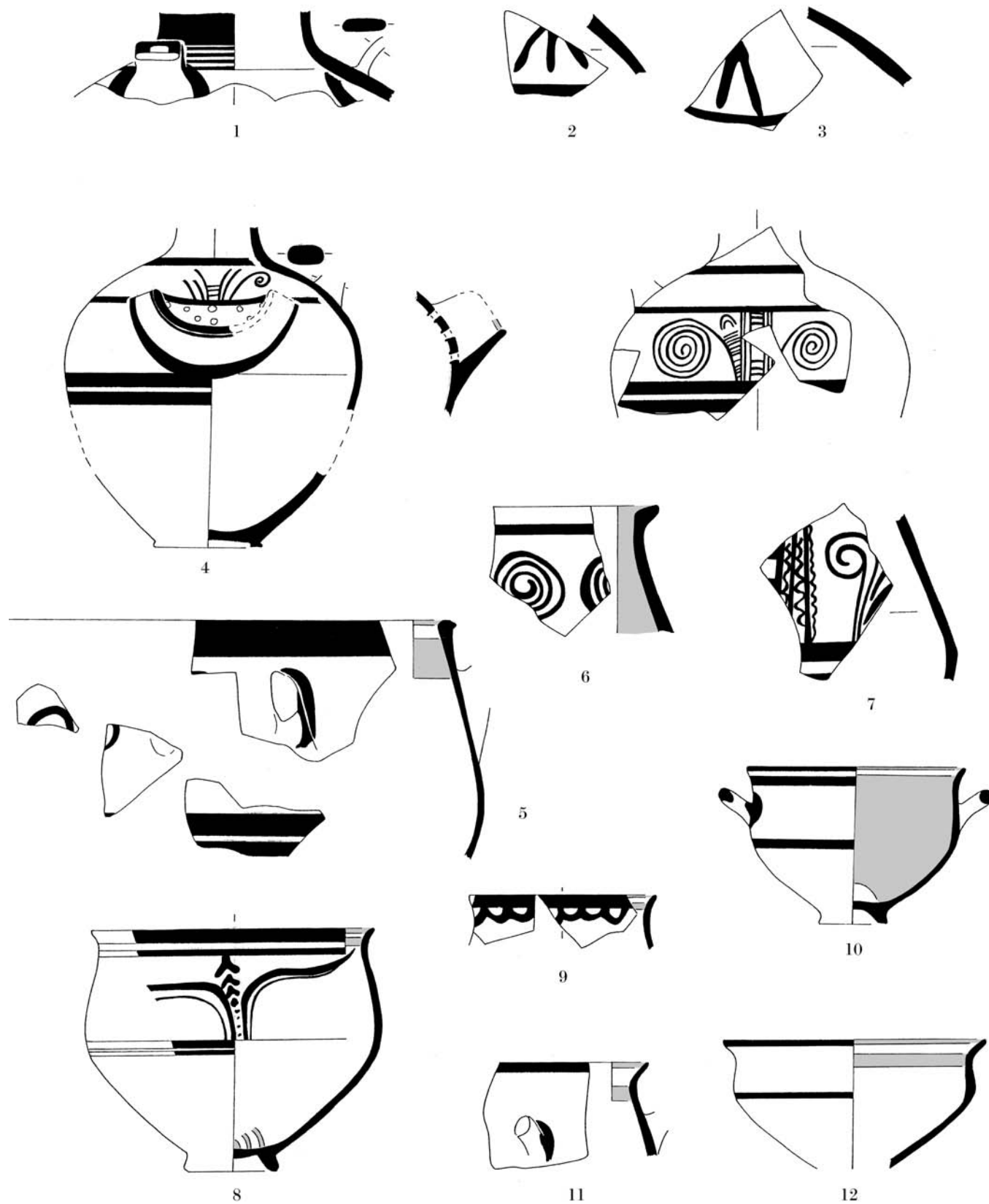
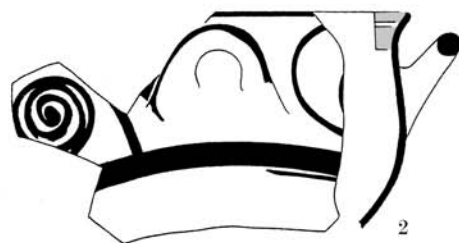


Fig. 2 Enkomi, Area I Level IIIA occupation: Room 14, hearth deposit

ROOM 12



1



2



3

Below Floor III



4



5



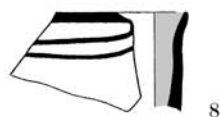
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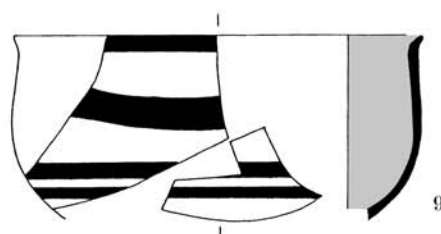
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In Floor III

COURT 64



8



9



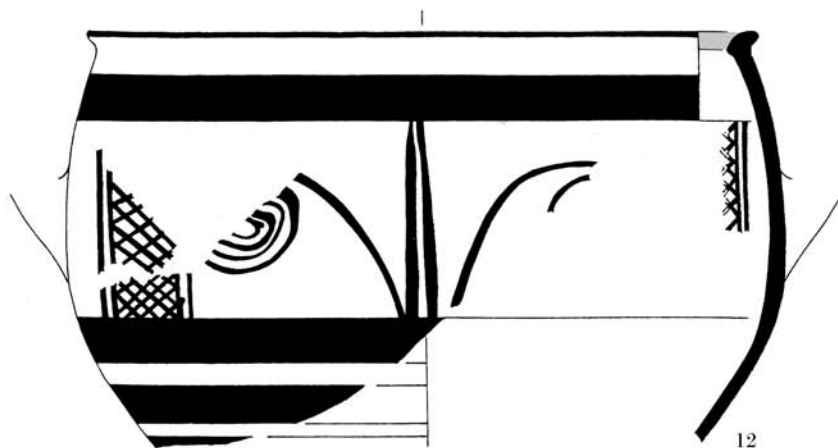
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11

In Floor V

ROOM 45



12

Below Floor IV



13



14



15



16

In Floor IV

Fig. 3 Enkomi Area I construction: 1-7) Room 12; 8-11) Court 64; 12-16) Room 45

ROOM 27

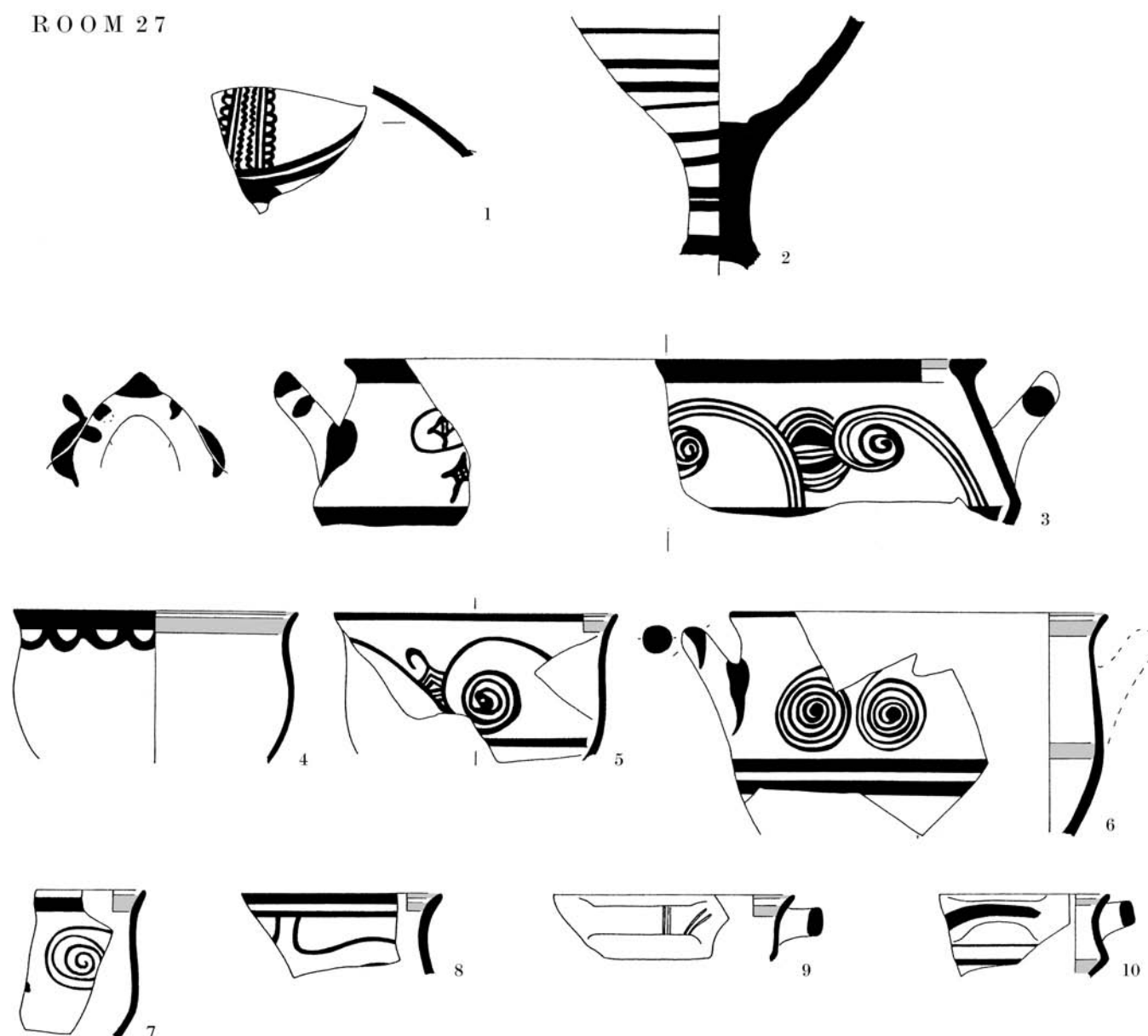


Fig. 4 Enkomi, Area I, Level IIIA occupation: Room 27

Phase 2 at Tiryns is borderline with LH IIIC Middle. The deep bowl with monochrome interior with reserved rim band (Fig. 6.8) is similar to that in Room 14 (Fig. 2.10). The bowl from Room 35 (Fig. 6.1) has antithetic streamers linked by chevrons; there is a very good LH IIIC Early Phase 1/2 parallel from Mycenae (FRENCH this volume).

This is a very brief overview of the construction, occupation and destruction deposits in Level IIIA at Enkomi. There seems to be no development between the LH IIIC pottery below the floors of the building and that on the floors in the destruction level, suggesting a short phase. The parallels to the pottery are LH IIIC Early Phase 2 at Mycenae and Tiryns going

into LH IIIC Middle. In Greek Mainland terms the construction of the Level IIIA buildings took place in the second phase of LH IIIC Early and the destruction took place when LH IIIC Middle was just being produced. There is certainly a gap at Enkomi between the LC IIC destruction and the Level IIIA reoccupation, at least in the area excavated by Dikaïos. However, it is quite possible that in other unexcavated areas of this very large site there was immediate re-occupation after the LC IIC destruction and no gap.

It is suggested above that the carinated krater and deep shallow angular bowl possibly developed in the eastern Mediterranean and went from there to

ROOM 27

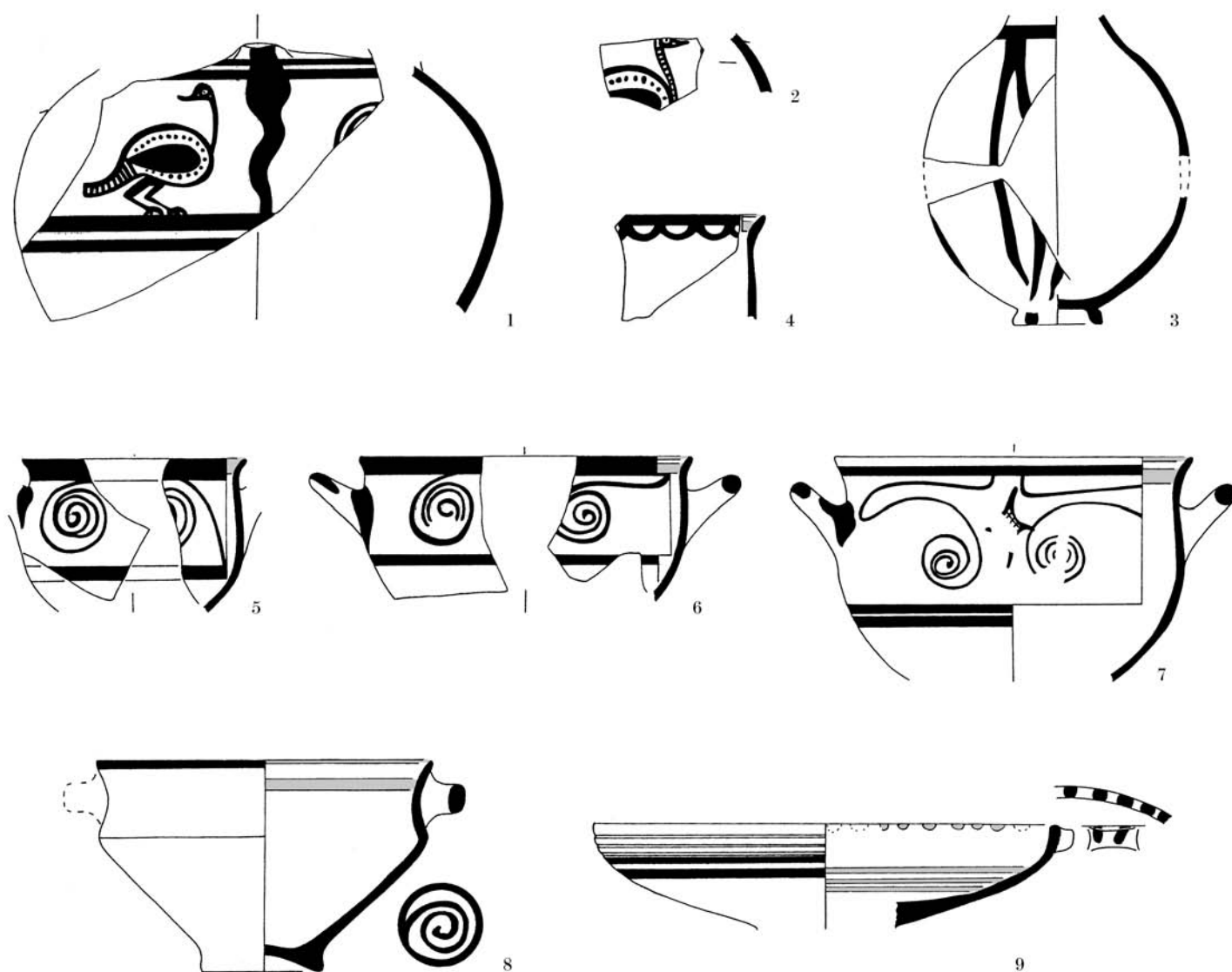
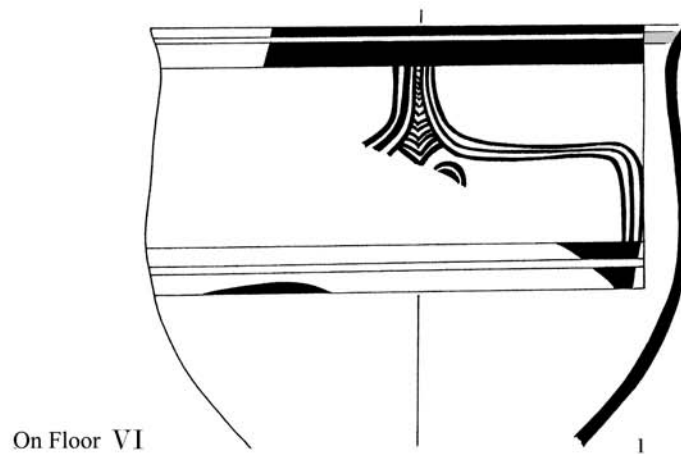


Fig. 5 Enkomi, Area I, Level IIIA destruction: Room 27 on Floor III

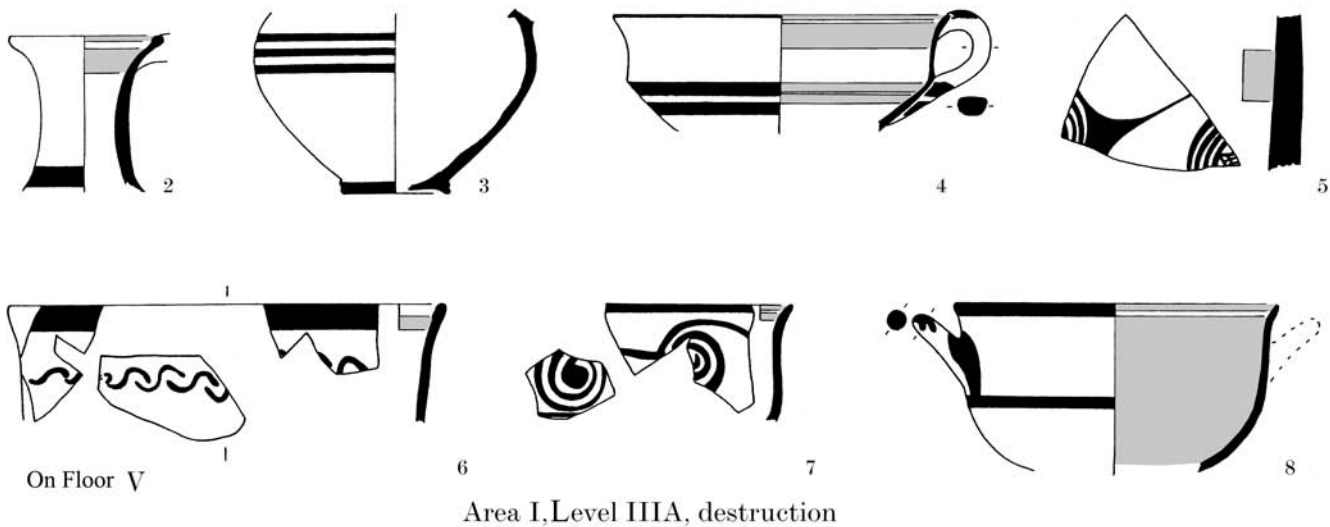
mainland Greece. The one-handed conical bowl FS 242 may also have this derivation. The shape appears in LH IIIC Middle on the Mainland (MOUNTJOY 1986, 155, 172). It is present in both Period I and II at Maa: Palaeokastro (Fig. 7.2–3), which might suggest that both phases of Maa belong to LH IIIC Middle. However, the parallels to the pottery from Maa are with the LH IIIC Early Phase 2 pottery from Enkomi. It is possible that the shape evolved in the eastern Mediterranean in LH IIIC Early and went from there to the Greek Mainland. A forerunner can perhaps be seen in a vase from Kition T.9 Upper Burial (Fig. 7.1). The shape is almost the same as that of Fig. 7.2, but the Kition vase has two strap handles instead of one round handle. The FS 242 might have

evolved from this type. The distribution of FS 242 is also significant. It is present unstratified at Tarsus on the south Anatolian coast (FRENCH 1975, 64–65, figs. 14–15), in LH IIIC Late at Emporio on Chios (MOUNTJOY 1999a, 1151 Chios nos. 5–6 with references), in LH IIIC Middle Phase 2 (Advanced) at Aplomata and Kamini on Naxos (MOUNTJOY 1999a, 959 Naxos nos. 61–63), Phylakopi on Melos (MOUNTJOY 1999a, 928, Melos no. 201), Lefkandi on Euboea (POPHAM and MILBURN 1971, 340, 342, 339 fig. 4. 10,11), its type site, and in Attica at Athens and Perati (MOUNTJOY 1999a, 598, nos. 464–465 with references). It cuts a swathe from the LH IIIC Early Phase 2 examples in the east Mediterranean westwards right across the Aegean islands to Lefkandi

ROOM 35



COURT 64



TYRINS Stadt NO

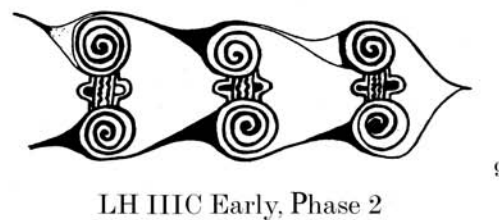


Fig. 6 Enkomi Area I destruction: 1) Room 35, 2-8) Court 64; Tiryns: 9) motif from a mug

and then to Athens; with the exception of Emporio, it appears in all these places in LH IIIC Middle. It is possible that the Tarsus examples are also LH IIIC Early Phase 2, but this cannot be proven.

There are two common motifs on LC IIIA pottery which have been borrowed from LC II White Slip II Ware. A comparison of Fig. 8.1 with the LC

IIIA krater Fig. 8.2 and with the bowl Fig. 8.3 clearly demonstrates the derivation of the LC IIIA straight-sided lozenge. A comparison of the dot filled semi-circles on Fig. 8.1.5 with the LC IIIA alabastron Fig. 8.4 suggests this motif too derives from WS II Ware. This motif is present on a number of Cypriot LH IIIC vessels, for example from Pyla-

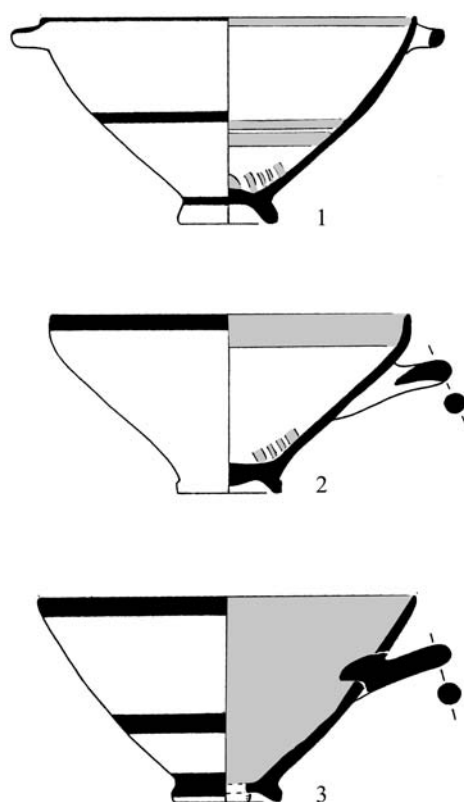


Fig. 7 1) Kition T.9 Upper Burial; 2–3) Maa: Palaeokastro

Kokkinochremos (KARAGEORGHIS 1984, pl. 35.1952.1) and from Kition (KARAGEORGHIS 1981, pl. 13). Both motifs are found on the Greek Mainland, but the dot filled semi-circles are rather rare (MOUNTJOY 1999a, Korinthia nos. 178, 188, Attica nos. 330, 356, 357). It is impossible to say whether these two motifs developed independently on the Greek Mainland or whether they came from Cyprus; indeed, the dot filled semi-circle is so rare on the Mainland it might have gone there from Cyprus, but there is a LH I example from the Shaft Graves at Mycenae (MYLONAS 1973, pl. 45b).

There is one other group of material I would assign to LH IIIC Early (Fig. 9). Most of it is found outside Cyprus in the Levant, but I think it is a Cypriot export. The well-known Bethshan stirrup jar (Fig. 9.1) is dated to LH IIIC Middle by WARREN and HANKEY (1989, 164–65). It is one of a group of stirrup jars with lozenge chain (Fig. 9). Most of these vases have lustrous paint as on Mycenaean LH IIIB pottery, but some, Fig. 9.2, 4, have matt paint as on LH IIIC pottery in the Near East. The lozenge chain, if adapted from WSH pots, need not be as late as LH IIIC Middle. The vase from Kition (Fig. 8.3) provides a good LH IIIC Early Phase 1 parallel. The dot-

fringed semi-circles on the Bethshan and Tarsus vases also need not be LH IIIC Middle. The motif existed much earlier, as a LH IIIA2 piriform jar from Ialysos demonstrates (BENZI 1992, pl. 90e). The triangular patch on the shoulder of the Tell Keisan vase is popular in LH IIIB2 and LH IIIC Early on the Mainland (for example MOUNTJOY 1986, fig. 151.3, 161.11, 165.4, 173.1, 172). The motif on the Tell Keisan vessel has slightly concave sides suggesting an early LH IIIC date. However, the main diagnostic feature of these stirrup jars is the body banding. All these vases have groups of 3–4 bands all down the body. They were possibly part of a Near Eastern group of which the Tarsus vase (Fig. 9.9), with a different shoulder decoration, provides an example. This very distinctive banding is not found on stirrup jars on the Greek Mainland or on Crete. It is present much earlier in a LH IIIA2 south Rhodian style (MOUNTJOY 1995, 30 fig. 9) and may have originated from the Dodecanese. These stirrup jars are not all from the same workshop. Neutron activation analysis has given Kouklia as a source for the Tell Keisan vase (GUNNEWEG and PERLMAN 1994, 559–61); it may be that they were also produced at Hala Sultan Tekke, since there are several examples from there. The stylistic parallels suggest a LH IIIC Early date for this group. The recent excavations at Bethshan have these vases stratified in Level S4, the earlier layer, which corresponds to the reign of Rameses III (see SHERATT and MAZAR in press, and MAZAR this volume). This level equates mostly to LH IIIC Early Phase 1, but on the low chronology of 1184–53 for this pharaoh, it ends in LH IIIC Early Phase 2. The vases could date to Phase 1 or Phase 2.

To sum up. The LH IIIC Early Phase 2 pottery at Enkomi reflects a pan-Cypriot phenomenon consisting of a large corpus of shapes and motifs based on the Mainland Mycenaean repertoire which suddenly appears on Cyprus. However, in the decoration of this corpus there are elements not only adapted from White Slip Ware, but also from the Rude Style and from Minoan pottery. Space does not allow discussion of the last two. The corpus appears with all the elements fully blended with the Mycenaean elements. Since the Cypriot elements in it can only have come from the island it follows that the final blending must have taken place on the island. More LH IIIC Early Phase 1 contexts are needed to clarify this genesis.

Acknowledgements

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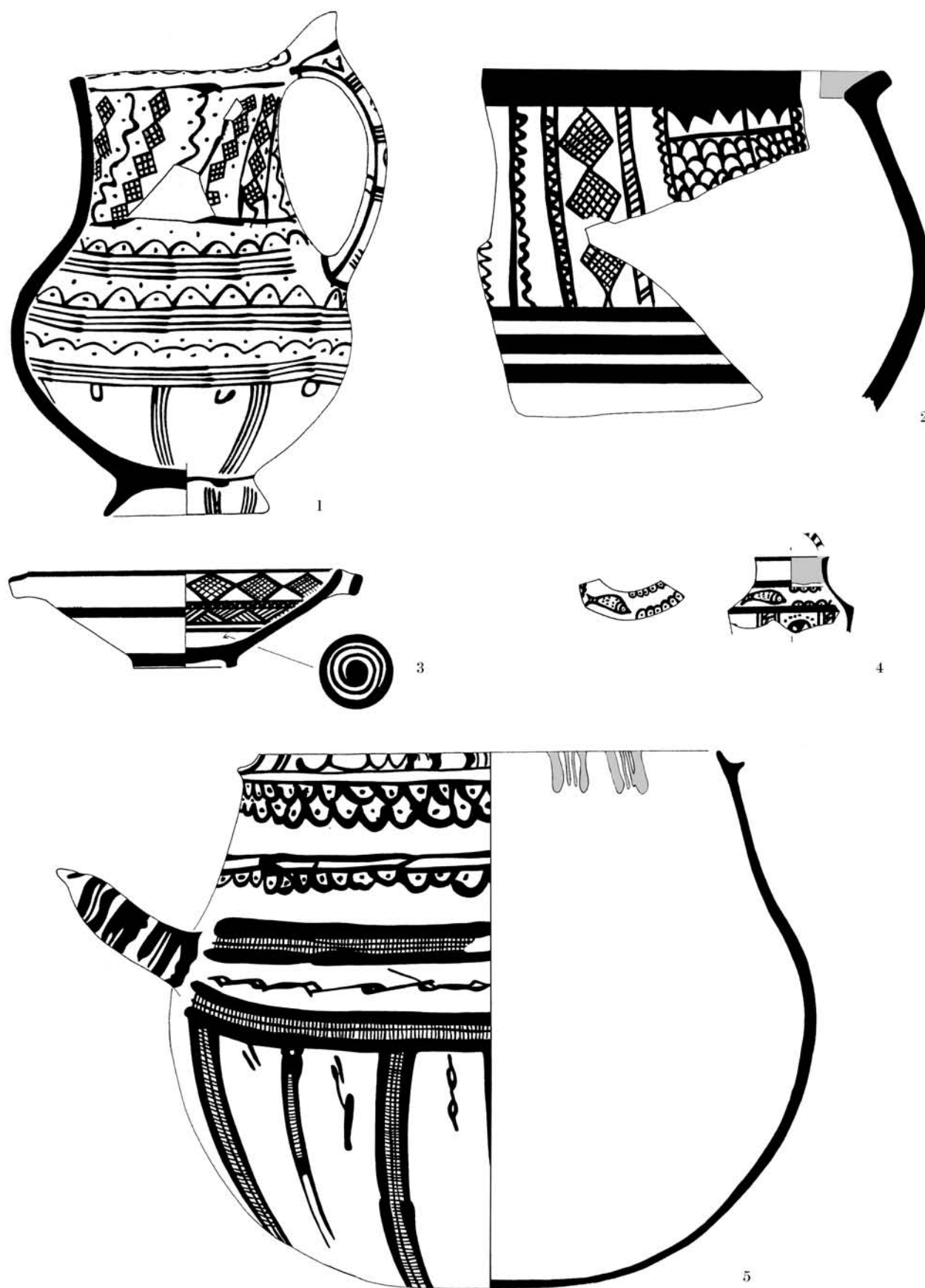


Fig. 8 1, 5) Kalavassos: Ay.Dhimitrios; 2) Enkomi Area I Room 33; 4) Enkomi; 3) Kition T.9 Upper Burial

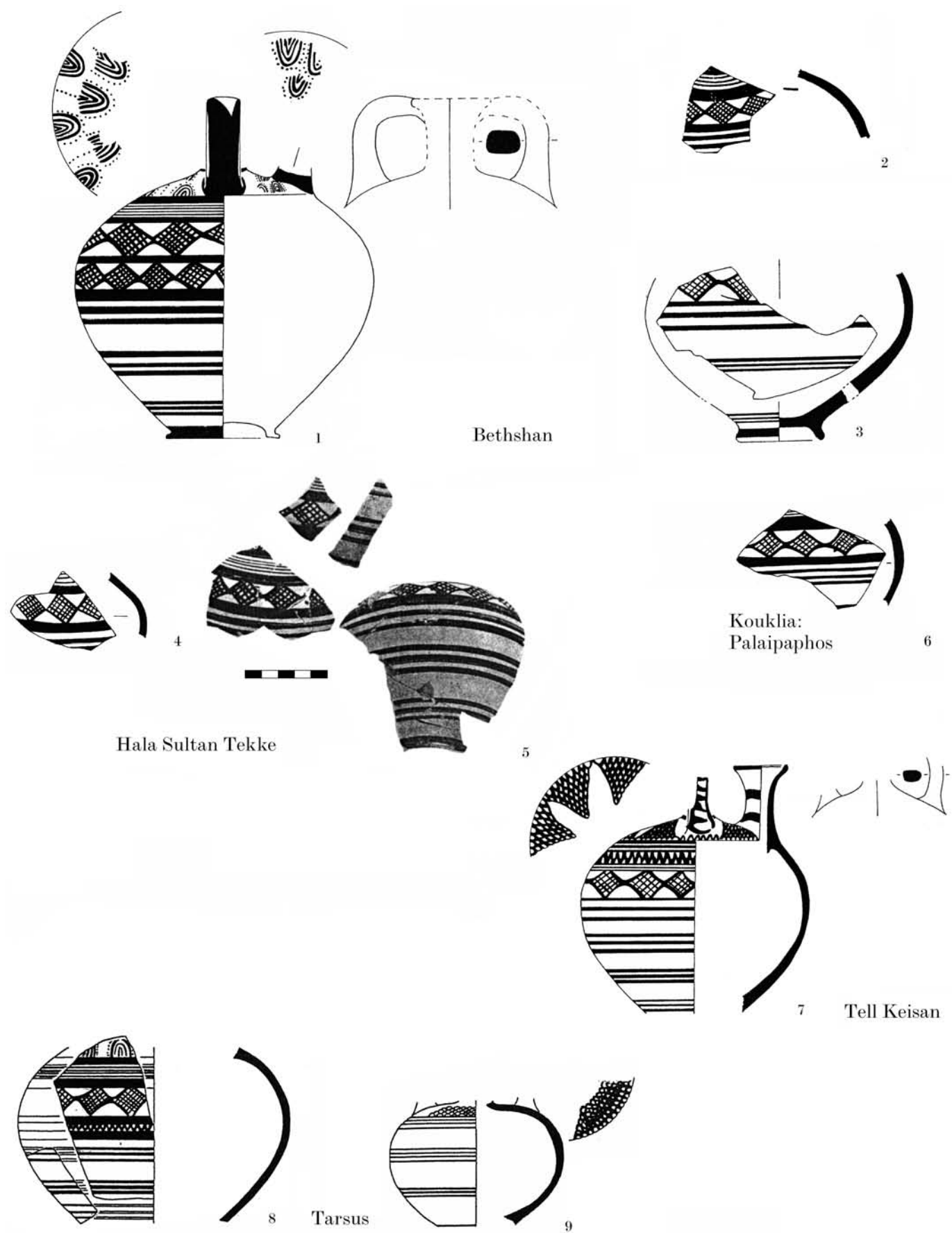


Fig. 9 Stirrup jars belonging to a Near Eastern group

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