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MYCENAE: LH III C LATE: WHAT LITTLE THERE IS

Compared with the previous phases of LH III C we have little evidence for the Late phase at Mycenae. What exists, however, is stratified and does comprise both settlement and tomb deposits (Tab. 1; Figs. 1; 2). This workshop affords a good opportunity to summarize our present knowledge in its totality and to call attention to some interesting features.

The lack of evidence within the Citadel is almost certainly the result of the drastic terracing which preceded building in the Hellenistic period. As can clearly be seen in the sections (Figs. 3; 4) well-founded Hellenistic structures lay over the two settlement deposits which are preserved in the western section of the citadel. There are undoubtedly sherds of this period used within the Hellenistic terraces, but it has not been possible to isolate these, even in more recent excavations. There was probably a reduction in population after the heavy destruction at the end of the LH III C Middle period, but I do not believe that the site was to any extent deserted.

THE CITADEL

This period and its stratigraphic position have been known clearly since 1920 when the area west of the Lion Gate (including the Granary) was excavated. There are habitation levels with restorable pottery immediately above the destruction levels of LH III C Middle. The Bath Grave lies over the eastern habitation deposit beside the Lion Gate. The area west of the Lion Gate was the first area to be systematically investigated when the excavations of the British School began in 1920. There is some discrepancy among the four sources of evidence in the archive with the published account. In the archive we have (in chronological order of production) Wace's field notebook, Wace's director's notebook (written up more carefully at the end of each week), the pottery register, Wace's pottery and finds study notebook. The field notebook gives only depths and the finding of the bath but the director's notebook (Mycenae Archive 001, p. 11) is more explicit:

"At 1.20 appeared the top of an old bath or sarcophagus set at r(igh)t angles to W. Wing of Lion Gate – 1.30 from its outer end. In this level Sub-Mycenae or Early Geometric sherds are common & several more or less whole pots were found – in particular a nest of three lying .30 below its edge on the North side – an oenochoe complete (found at 1.60 inside a large domestic vessel against Acropolis Wall) – Among pots by bath were some bone fragments – so perhaps "bath" was a "coffin" & the burial had been robbed the vases being thrown out – this w'(oul)d account for comparative number of whole pots in this level – in which were also found a bronze ring, a steatite Myc spindle whorl & some other odd pieces of bronze."

From this it would appear that there was a second burial in a pithos accompanied by the unbroken oenochoe¹ though this is not mentioned in the publication.² There is no mention of burning either here or over the Granary.

¹ Note that the original published description and illustration show that the neck and spout were still preserved and only the handle restored.

² The original of the pottery catalogue gives little further information though the statements "coarse pot in bath" are added in pencil in a different hand, probably that of Boethius. The catalogue is written by Wace himself in ink.

In the Citadel House Area a stratum extending over a small area below clear Hellenistic levelling (in the form of a stone terrace) can be assigned to this phase. It has been discussed in detail by Susan Sherratt; an up-dated version of her text will appear in FRENCH forthcoming. She states that the pottery evidence consisted of eight bags of sherds totalling 4559 sherds in all. The proportions represented were:

• Unpainted Buff Wares	1855	40.7%
• Painted Wares	1746	38%
• Patterned Ware	275	6%
• Coarse (cooking) Wares	518	11.4%
• Patterned Pre-LH III C	117	2.6%
• Pre-Mycenaean	48	1.05%

It seems to me likely that some of the features from the previous phase which Sherratt notes as continuing are in fact residual rather than the products of this period. It is important to note also what she says about the fabrics: "On the whole, both the fabric and paint of this phase are markedly inferior to that found in the preceding phase. The paint, particularly on some of the monochrome deep bowls, is often thin and streaky, and haphazardly applied. Brushstrokes running diagonally across the walls of pots, and across rather than around the insides of bases, show that the paint was not always applied on the wheel. The colour is generally a thin, streaky black-brown, in contrast to the rich, even black or dark-brown of much of the preceding pottery. The underlying fabric is now often pink in colour and sandy in texture."

Only five vessels of this period were registered from this stratum by the West Cyclopean Wall. In addition there is one large sherd of a large collar-necked jar, with multiple zones of closely drawn linear patterns, which probably should have been catalogued. It seems probably that this is not a habitation level but another stratum of wash from higher up the citadel which has accumulated against the citadel wall.

The fifth registered pot is the pictorial krater (64-439; CROUWEL 1991, E1 – called the 'Late Bird Krater'). This has a pierced base and it has always seemed likely that it originally served as a libation vessel or tomb marker. With the full study of the post-palatial levels, we can now be certain that the base came from an ash layer lying across the middle of $\Gamma 31$ which might be a pyre associated with the cist grave in the $\Gamma 21/31$ Baulk. The absolute level is identical with the pyre found in Trench $\Gamma 21$. This would then be the earliest of the series of graves cut into the curving slope over the Citadel House Area (Fig. 5). Also from a probable grave is a trefoil-lipped jug (62-309, *RMDP*, Argolid no. 392) associated with a pithos found in the North Baulk of the site.

In addition there are eleven graves which we would now consider to be of the Submycenaean or very Early Protogeometric period from within the Citadel. These were first listed by Desborough (DESBOROUGH 1973, 98). Six are from the Northwest Quarter. All are small cists apparently of children. Four were in one room and the others in two different rooms (TSOUNTAS 1891, 27. – IAKOVIDIS 2006, 3, 136–137). The exact location is not identifiable. Only one grave contained pottery: Tsountas illustrated one pot, a flask, now identified for Iakovides by Dr. N. Korou as "Argolid Middle Proto-Geometric with close parallels to the Seraglio Cemetery of Kos". Iakovidis (IAKOVIDIS 2006, pl. 2:4) identifies the other as NMA 1104 – a small jug very similar to that from Grave 8 in $\Gamma 31$.

The other five lie within the Citadel House area and have been numbered on the plan (Fig. 5).³ No. 7 was found in 1920, a cist tomb sunk into the wall dividing the Central and West

³ This is Plan 4 from TAYLOUR *ET AL.* 1981. It shows a complex of walls dating from the later periods of LH III C as understood 25 years ago. Though now inaccurate in detail it does show clearly the line of later tombs cut into the early strata.

rooms of the South House (WACE 1921–23, 88, 90). It contained nothing but the bones of a child. No. 8 in the North Baulk of Γ 31 was excavated in 1964 and was published in detail by Desborough (DESBOROUGH 1973, 94–98). It is important for the number of vases and bronzes it contained. No. 9 also found in Γ 31 in 1964 (Mycenae Archive 1018, p. 46–47; Γ 31'64/124) contained no grave goods, only scraps of bone, but seems to belong to this series though it could be connected to the ashy layer in the middle of the trench in which the base of the Bird Krater was found. No. 10 from Γ 21, 1964, (DESBOROUGH 1973, 92) was as large as the first from Γ 31, but contained only the skeleton and one pin. Further study of the post-palatial levels has, however, confirmed that the ash area around the tomb was certainly associated with it and this is generally now called a pyre. No. 11 from Γ 23, also found in 1964, (DESBOROUGH 1973, 92–93) contained two pots and two bronzes.

The interrelations among the pottery finds (noted both by Desborough and Iakovides) from this series of tombs is striking and makes them a very useful point of definition for pottery of this date at Mycenae. The absence of handmade vessels like that from PG 602, the forerunner of a type which becomes very popular later, may be another indication of the Submycenaean date. The stages of stylistic development, the gradual tightening of both profile and decoration, are also clear in contrast to pottery from the known graves, both earlier and later.

OUTSIDE THE WALLS

There is as yet no evidence known to me for settlement outside the walls in LH III C Late but there is widely scattered grave evidence of all types: cists, pithoi, chamber tombs reused or in continuing use, and simple burials. For Submycenaean there is no evidence of any kind, though three Protogeometric burials (PG 601⁴, 602, 606) were found in the area of the Ivory Houses (DESBOROUGH 1954, 259–260. – DESBOROUGH 1955, 240. – DESBOROUGH 1956, 129).

The two chamber tombs with LH III C Late cover a wide range of date. This latest material comprises in each a large group of small vases. In T 517 these are accompanied by a singleton of the earlier part of LH III C. A similar singleton also occurs in the pithos burial from the Cyclopean Terrace Building. The latter must have been interred at the time of the actual burial. It is not clear what form of funerary usage these signify. The small stirrup jar from the individual grave is in very poor condition and hardly shows in the illustration (WACE 1921–23, fig. 92; a new drawing is shown here in Fig. 6).

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⁴ An interesting feature of this tomb is the presence of the footed stirrup jar with an amphora of simple type, both of which probably indicate an early date in Protogeometric for this tomb. Kilian (discussion at the Mycenaean seminar 18/3/1987) wished to divide Submycenaean from Protogeometric at the point where the stirrup jar disappears.

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Settlement

1. Lion Gate Strata Level X (WACE 1921–23, 31)
2. Granary above East Basement (WACE 1921–23, 50. – FRENCH 2007)
3. Citadel House Area Wash Levels by West Citadel Wall (FRENCH forthcoming)

Tomb

1. Lion Gate Strata Level XI, Bath Grave (WACE 1921–23, 36)
2. Lion Gate Strata Level XI, domestic vessel with oenochoe (Mycenae Archive 001, p. 11)
3. Bird Krater Grave/Pyre Γ31, 1964 (FRENCH forthcoming)
4. Citadel House Area Γ10, 1960 (FRENCH forthcoming)
5. Prehistoric Cemetery Grave XXXIX (DESBOROUGH 1954, 258–259)
6. 3rd Kilometre Cemetery T 502 (WACE 1932, 3–10)
7. Panagia Cemetery (Tsountas 1887/88) (SAKELLARIOU 1985, 133, pl. 59. – SHELTON 1993, 100–201)
8. Kalkani North Cemetery T 515 (WACE 1932, 50–63)
9. Kalkani North Cemetery T 517 (WACE 1932, 67–74)
10. Cyclopean Terrace Building, Grave (WACE 1921–23, 406)
11. Cyclopean Terrace Building, Pithos Burial (WACE 1921–23, 406–407)

Tab. 1 LH III C Late: Settlement and Tomb Deposits

RMDP	Ex No	PROVENANCE	MM BE	MM Exhibit	Nauplion	PUBLICATION	SHAPE/DESCRIPTION	MDP
442	20-002	Bath Grave	29020	9	2842	WACE 1921-23, fig. 9b	DB	254,4
-	20-008	Bath Grave	5416			WACE 1921-23, pl. VIa	Cooking Pot Jar	-
-	20-106	Bath Grave	8433			WACE 1921-23, fig. 9a	DB	-
378	20-107	Bath Grave	5397	1	2857	WACE 1921-23, pl. VIb	Jug FS 106	240
392	60-309	CHA burial	15966			FRENCH forthcoming	Trefoil Jug	244,2*
439	64-499	CHA pyre	23771			CROUWEL 1991, E 1	Krater	-
-	20-931	CTB grave	8427			WACE 1921-23, fig. 92	SJ	-
380	20-930	CTB Pithos	8438		2548	WACE 1921-23, pl. LXIIa	Jug FS 115	241,2
415	20-929	CTB Pithos	8435		2544	WACE 1921-23, pl. LXIIb	SJ	-
-	20-019	Granary Upper	8411		8953	WACE 1921-23	DB	-
440	20-020	Granary Upper	8396		2867	WACE 1921-23, p. 50	DB	254,1
438	20-021	Granary Upper	9019	24	2808	WACE 1921-23, fig. 12b	Krater	253*
-	20-022	Granary Upper	8405		8342	WACE 1921-23	Lid	-
446	20-004	LG X	8432	6	2845	WACE 1921-23, fig. 9e	DB	254,3
445	20-005	LG X	8436	1080	2849	WACE 1921-23, fig. 9f	DB	254,2
449	20-006	LG X	8424		2858	WACE 1921-23, fig. 8a	Kalathos	255
390	20-010	LG X	35298		2810	WACE 1921-23, fig. 8c	Hydria	243
429	20-104	LG X	8429		2843	WACE 1921-23, fig. 9d	Cup	249
394	20-011	LG X ?burial	8423		2840	WACE 1921-23, fig. 8b	Trefoil Jug	245,1
-	20-012	LG X/XI	9022			WACE 1921-23	"Coarse pot in bath"	-
-	20-027	LG X/XI	NF			1920 Catalogue		-
-	20-105	LG X/XI	8431	5		WACE 1921-23, fig. 9c	SAB	-
-	20-107	LG X/XI	NF			1920 Catalogue	"Coarse pot near N side of Bath"	-
430		Panagia 1887/8			NMA2258	SAKELLARIOU 1985, pl. 59	Cup	-
-	20-123	T502:9	8087		2620	WACE 1932, pl. 11	Trefoil Jug	245,2
409	20-122	T502:10	28511		2616	WACE 1932, pl. 11	SJ	247,1
375	20-117	T502:11	8077	534	2609	WACE 1932, pl. 11	CNJ	238
372	20-119	T502:12	8084	535	2615	WACE 1932, pl. 11	Amphoriskos	236
377	20-124	T502:5	9021	537	2612	WACE 1932, pl. 12	Amphora	239,1
381	20-118	T502:6	8079		3843	WACE 1932, pl. 11	Jug FS 115	241,1
426	20-121	T502:7	8085	540	3939	WACE 1932, pl. 11	Ring Vase	-
425	20-120	T502:8	28516	539	4190	WACE 1932, pl. 11	Ring Vase	-
443	20-227	T515:59	8139	575	2721	WACE 1932, pl. 31	DB	254,6
-	20-238	T515:54	8138	1089		WACE 1932, pl. 31	Amphoriskos	-
-	20-228	T515:55	8131	576		WACE 1932, pl. 31	Amphoriskos	-
-	20-231	T515:56	8128	577		WACE 1932, pl. 31	Amphoriskos	-
-	20-229	T515:57	8134			WACE 1932, pl. 31	DB Unpainted	-
-	20-230	T515:58	6955	578		WACE 1932, pl. 31	Jug	-
-	20-226	T515:60	8135			WACE 1932, pl. 31	Jug	-
-	20-253	T515:61	8137			WACE 1932, pl. 31	Jug	-
389	20-188	T517:49	8155	1082	2697	WACE 1932, pl. 34	Lekythos	-
-	53-079	PC XXXIX	8703		11074	DESBOROUGH 1954, pl. 43	DB	-
-	53-080	PC XXXIX	8716		11075	DESBOROUGH 1954, pl. 43	Jug	-
-	64-495	CHA G32 Wash	16228			FRENCH forthcoming	SJ	-
-	64-982	CHA G32 Wash	16239			FRENCH forthcoming	Krater	-
-	64-485	CHA G32 Wash	16229			FRENCH forthcoming	DB	-
-	64-496	CHA G32 Wash	16226			FRENCH forthcoming	DB	-

Tab. 2 Concordance of numbering for the Pottery of LH III C Late

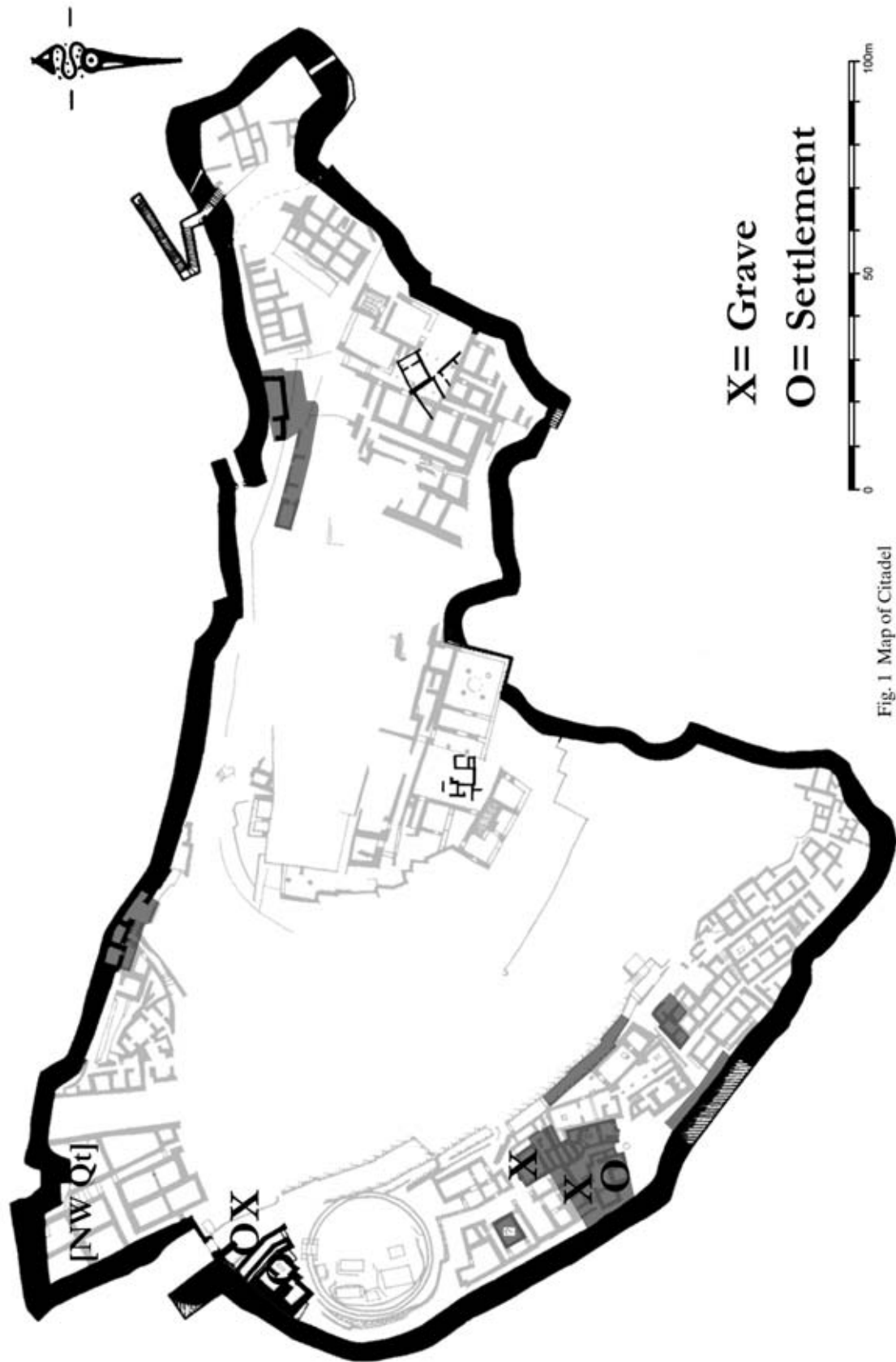


Fig. 1 Map of Citadel

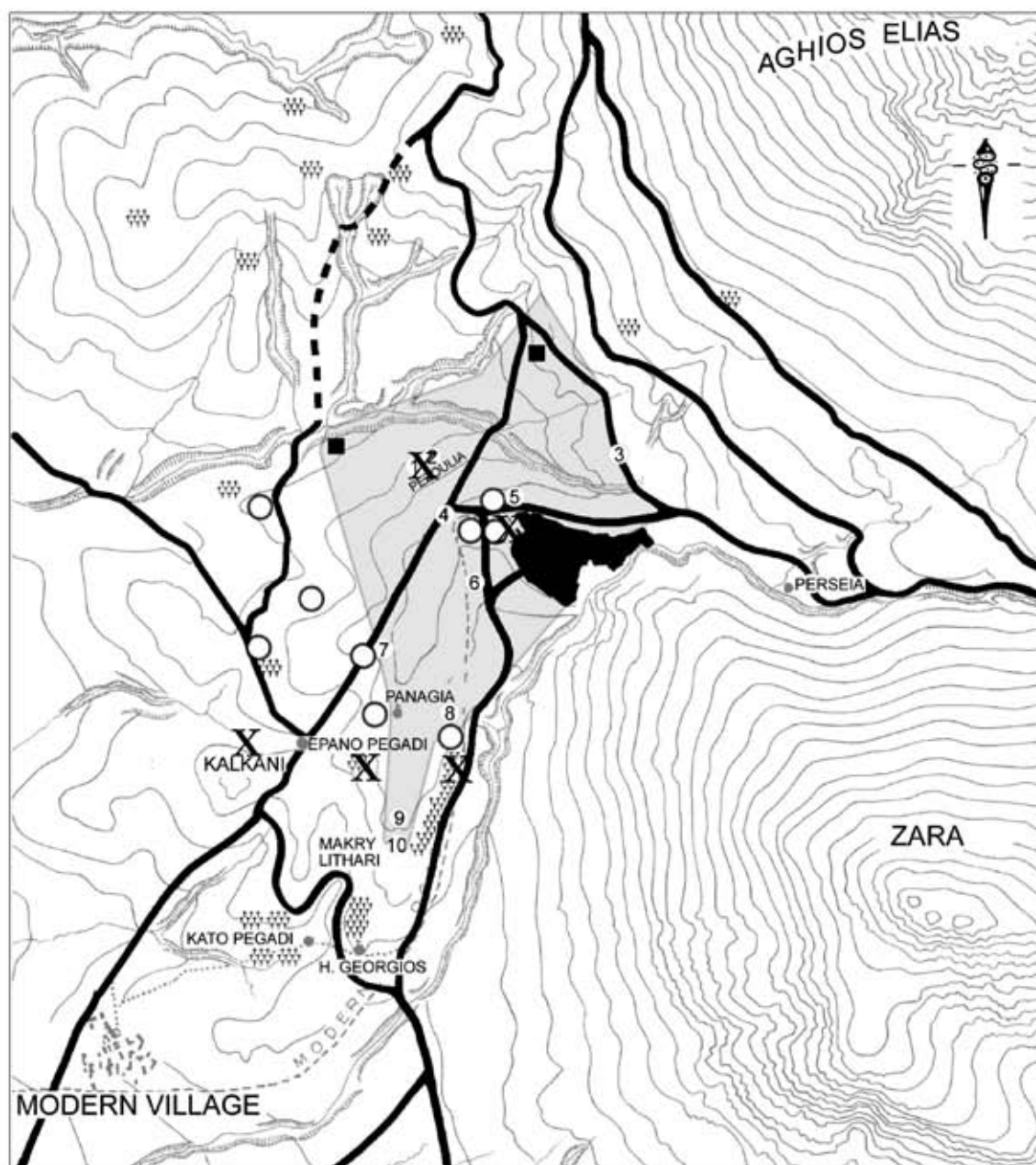


Fig. 2 Map of outer area

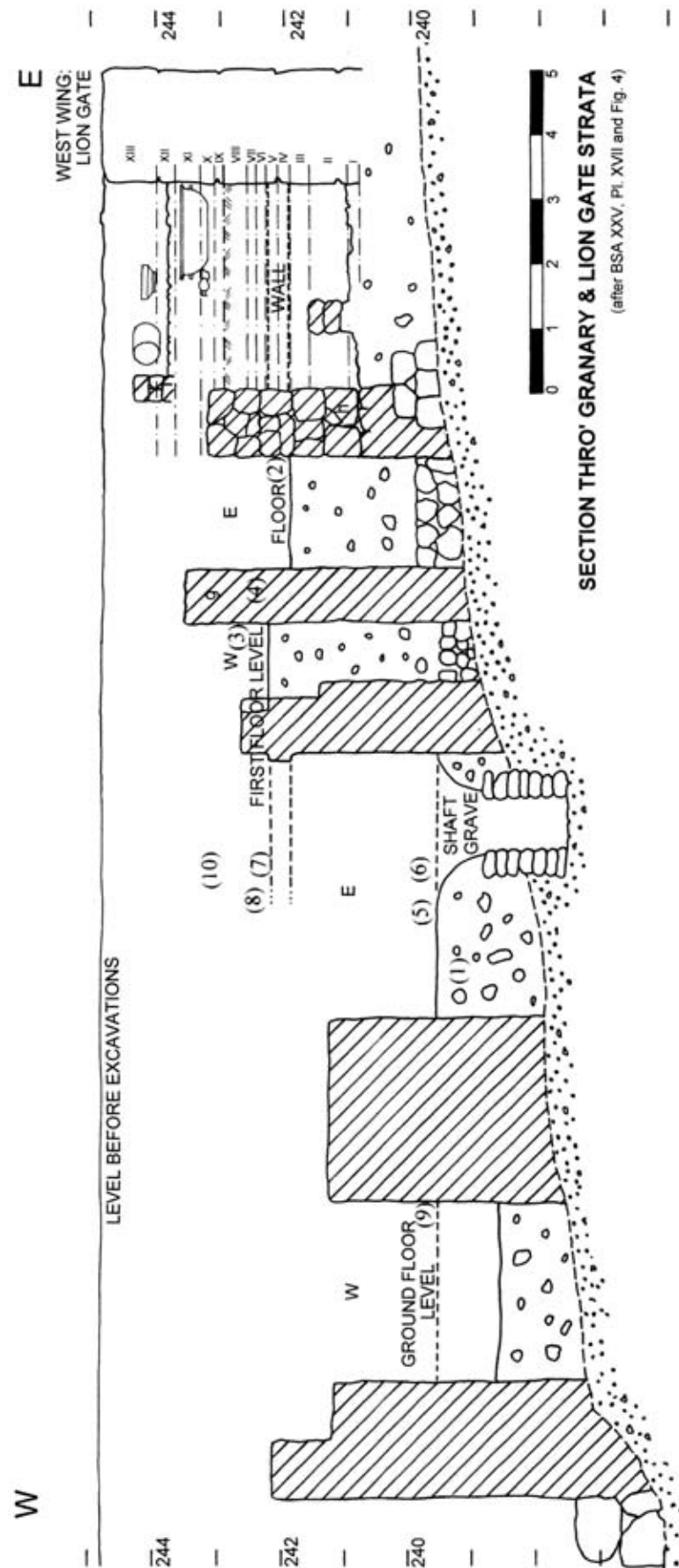
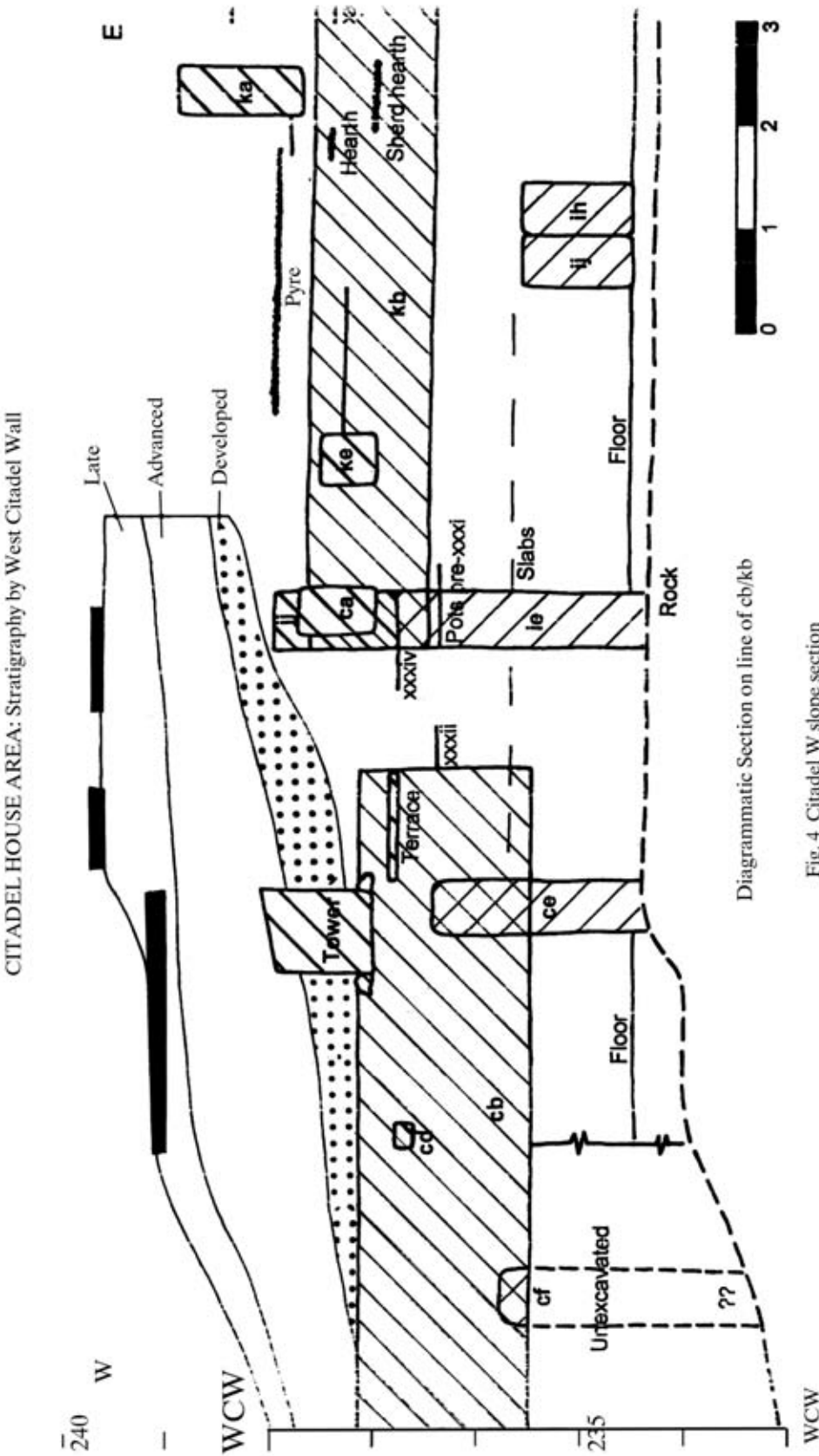


Fig. 3 Granary/LG section



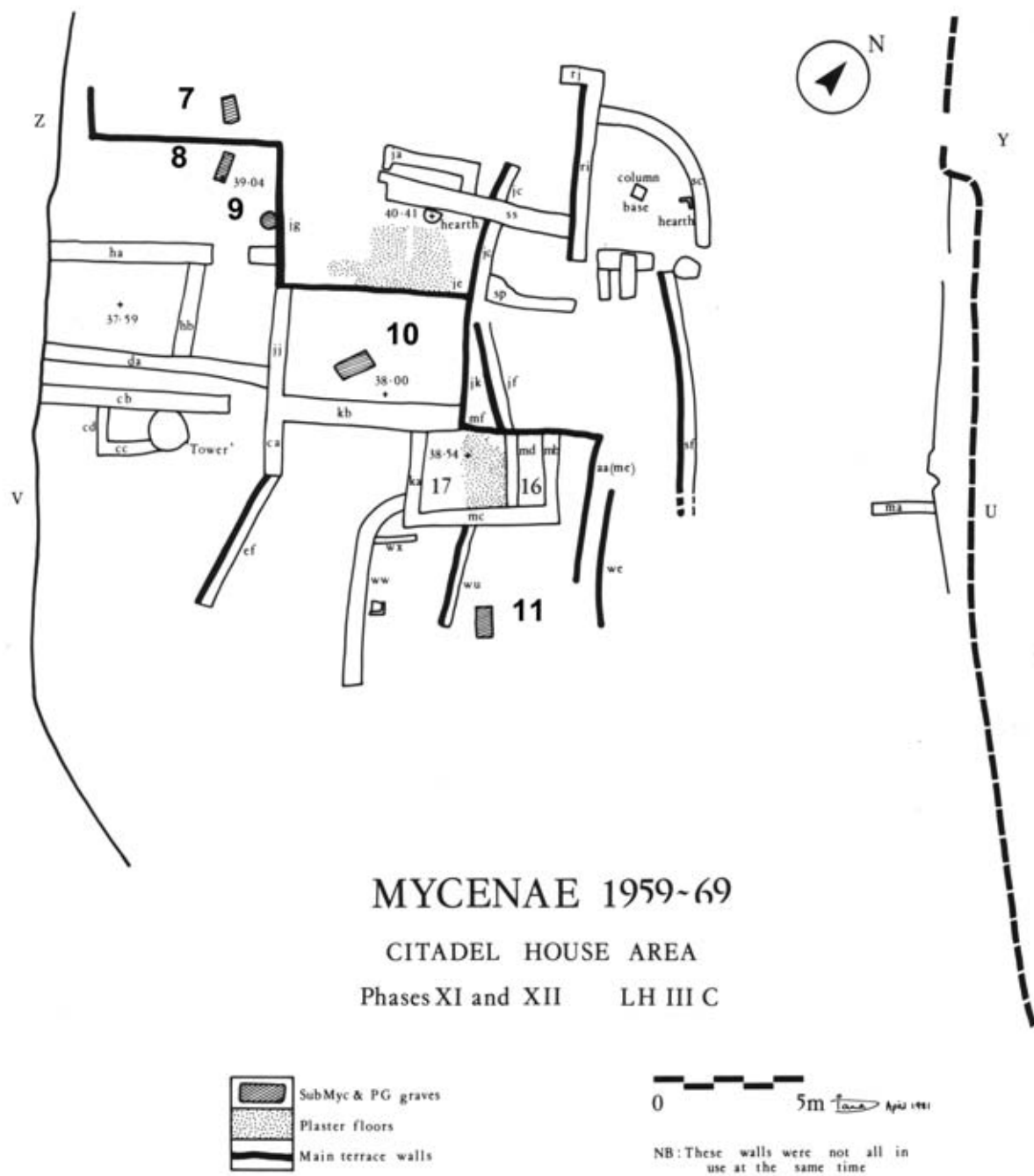


Fig. 5 Plan of late graves over Citadel House Area

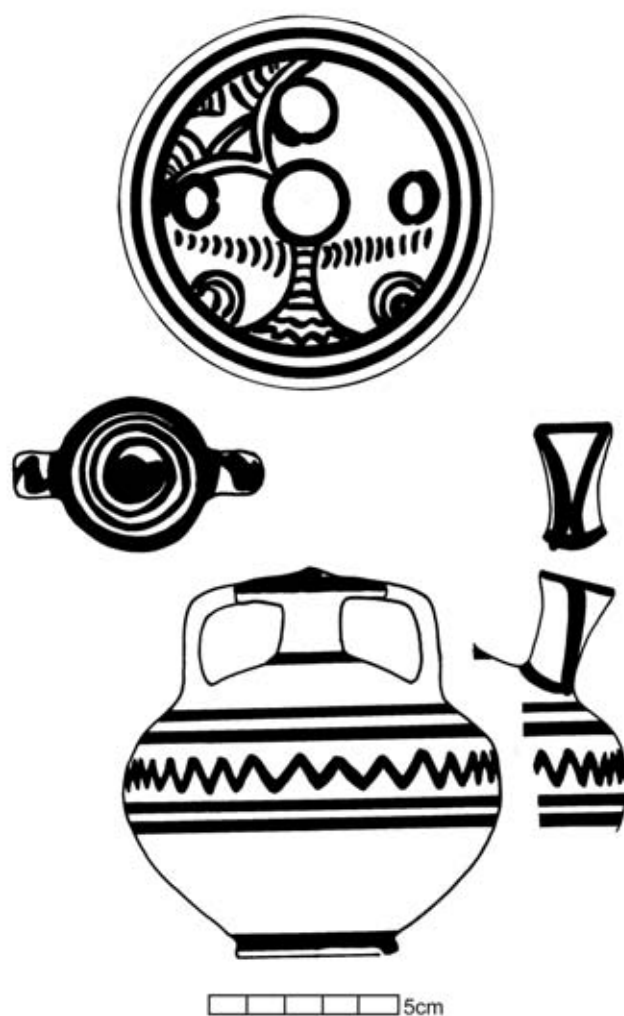


Fig. 6 Cyclopean Terrace Building: Stirrup Jar 1920/23-931

