

## REMAINS FROM PREHISTORIC CORINTH<sup>1</sup>

The accidents of archaeological discovery and the circumstances of publication have colored to a large extent the present knowledge of the earliest culture of mainland Greece. Early work on a large scale in Thessaly revealed a well developed neolithic culture. Already twenty-five years ago two careful publications presented the information obtained in these excavations, which has remained the foundation for the study of the Neolithic Period in Greece. The investigation of mounds in Central Greece had already begun and was carried on for a few years more. The relations with Thessaly were soon pointed out, and recently the careful publication of the Orchomenos pottery has made the earliest culture of this region almost as well known as that of Thessaly. The Peloponnesos, however, remained comparatively unknown as a centre of neolithic civilization in the earlier years of prehistoric studies, and it has never quite caught up with the rest of Greece. Its importance in the Bronze Age has been well illustrated at several sites. Of late, increasing numbers of sites occupied in the Neolithic Period have been and are being investigated. The publication of this material, which has begun already,<sup>2</sup> will certainly remove the veil of obscurity from this large region and will reveal it as one of the important centres of occupation in the Neolithic Period as well as in the Bronze Age. The fertile Corinthian plain<sup>3</sup> was particularly favorable to early settlement. The well-watered site of ancient Corinth was the natural centre of this region.

In the first year of the American excavations at Corinth a group of prehistoric rock-cut tombs was found,<sup>4</sup> containing a quantity of pottery which has subsequently been shown to be Early Helladic.<sup>5</sup> The tombs were located to the southeast of the present town-square of Old Corinth. In 1904 "pre-Mycenaean" pottery, together with obsidian and bone tools, was found in what has come to be the northwest corner of the great agora.<sup>6</sup> The following year similar sherds were found a little farther to the north, at the end of the Northwest

<sup>1</sup> The unavoidable delays in the final publication of the prehistoric pottery found at Corinth made it seem advisable to issue a brief preliminary report on the subject. To this end Dr. Weinberg, at my request, dug some exploratory trenches and has written this article.

(Signed) Charles H. Morgan II, Director.

<sup>2</sup> The appearance of Blegen, *Prosymna*, at the same time as the proofs of this article has made it impossible to cite the particular references to similarities with the Corinthian pottery.

<sup>3</sup> The statements by Leaf (*Homer and History*, pp. 209-214) concerning the "barrenness" of the plain have been answered already by Blegen (*A.J.A.*, XXIV, 1920, pp. 9-13). For the earliest periods the abundant remains are answer in themselves.

<sup>4</sup> *A.J.A.*, I, 1897, pp. 313-332.

<sup>5</sup> *A.J.A.*, XXIV, 1920, p. 1.

<sup>6</sup> *A.J.A.*, VIII, 1904, pp. 440-441.

Shops.<sup>1</sup> The investigation of the prehistoric strata, of the Neolithic and Early Helladic periods, found to the north and south of the Temple of Apollo was begun in 1914<sup>2</sup> and in 1920 more trenches were dug here and in the area to the southwest of the Temple Hill,<sup>3</sup> where sherds had been found in 1904 and 1905. A few Mycenaean sherds were found in a pit dug a little to the north of the modern town-square.<sup>4</sup> Neolithic and Early Helladic pottery and an Early Helladic burial came to light in a deep pit sunk to the north of the Peribolos of Apollo, along the east side of the Lechaion Road.<sup>5</sup> More neolithic pottery was found on the opposite side of the road farther to the north.<sup>6</sup> A trench in fill under some of the foundations of the Odeion yielded several sherds of Early Helladic pottery.<sup>7</sup> The excavations of the North Cemetery and of a well at the foot of the Cheliotomylos hill yielded some neolithic pottery, a great quantity of excellently preserved Early Helladic ware, a series of Middle Helladic graves and some Late Helladic pottery.<sup>8</sup> Early Helladic pottery was found in 1930 during the excavation of the Greek Stoa to the north of the Temple of Apollo.<sup>9</sup> In that and the following years remains of a neolithic and Early Helladic settlement were found in the vicinity of the Asklepieion.<sup>10</sup> Neolithic sherds were found in the inside rectangle of the South Basilica. Now neolithic and Early Helladic remains have come from the first room at the east end of the great South Stoa.<sup>11</sup>

Thus, the excavations over a period of forty years have revealed widespread evidence of prehistoric habitation in the immediate limits of ancient Corinth. In an area roughly three hundred metres square about the Temple of Apollo there are scattered abundant remains, and it is significant that, with the exception of the few Mycenaean sherds from one pit, all seem to belong to the Neolithic and Early Helladic Periods. This is also true of the settlement at the Asklepieion, located some five hundred metres north of the Temple of Apollo. Only from the mound of Cheliotomylos and from the North Cemetery which lies below it have more abundant remains of the Middle and Late Helladic Periods been reported.

During the excavations at Corinth in the spring of 1937, the writer was asked to supervise the digging of a new series of trenches in the prehistoric fill on the north and south sides of the hill on which stands the Temple of Apollo, and then to prepare a preliminary

<sup>1</sup> *A.J.A.*, X, 1906, p. 19.

<sup>2</sup> *Arch. Anz.*, 1915, p. 213.

<sup>3</sup> *J.H.S.*, XLI, 1921, p. 260.

<sup>4</sup> *A.J.A.*, XL, 1936, p. 207.

<sup>5</sup> *A.J.A.*, XXXI, 1927, p. 73.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 77.

<sup>7</sup> Broneer, *Corinth*, X, p. 31.

<sup>8</sup> *A.J.A.*, XXXIII, 1929, pp. 538-539; XXXIV, 1930, pp. 404-409.

<sup>9</sup> *A.J.A.*, XXXV, 1931, p. 412.

<sup>10</sup> *A.J.A.*, XXXVII, 1933, p. 420.

<sup>11</sup> I am indebted to Professor Oscar Broneer for the reference to the sherds from the South Basilica and for having shown to me the deposit in the South Stoa. With his permission I dug a very small trial pit close to the west wall of the rear room of shop 1 in the South Stoa (cf. *A.J.A.*, XXXIX, 1935, p. 54, fig. 1). The pottery found here belongs mainly to the later Neolithic and to the Early Helladic Period, with but few pieces of the earlier neolithic wares.

report of the materials found here.<sup>1</sup> Over a period of five weeks, from May 5 to June 9, six trenches were opened, varying in size from 20.00 m.  $\times$  4.00 m. to 6.00 m.  $\times$  2.00 m. (Fig. 1). The location and size of the trenches were dictated by the necessity of finding apparently undisturbed prehistoric deposits with a representative distribution over the hill. The centre of the hill had been partially cleared to rock, on which the temple was bedded, and the surrounding area was cut down for the terracing about the temple. The deep vertical scarps for the Northwest Stoa to the south and for the Greek Stoa and the Roman North Market to the north of the temple removed a large part of the hill itself. The remaining area was occupied almost continuously, into the last century. Naturally, this has resulted in great disturbance of the earliest fill. The accumulated débris of this later occupation was partially removed in the excavations of the temple, and more recently the entire hill has been cleared off to the preserved classical or earlier levels. To the east and west of the temple this later accumulation lay immediately above the rock, which forms a high east-west ridge on which the temple itself rests.

Therefore, the preserved early fill is limited to an area roughly 25.00 m.  $\times$  50.00 m. on either side of the temple. On the north side this fill rests directly on bedrock, which slopes down to the north, falling from a level of *ca.* 2.75 m. below the top of the temple stylobate to *ca.* 4.75 m. below at the northern scarp. The fill on this side varies in thickness from *ca.* 0.90 m. close to the temple to *ca.* 1.70 m. at the northern scarp, with considerable variation due to the irregularities in the rock bed. On the south side, however, the fill rests on hardpan rather than on the rock. This virgin soil comes to the preserved surface near the temple, at *ca.* 1.75 m. below the temple stylobate, and for about ten metres to the south of the temple there is little or no fill above it. There are some intrusions, mainly Byzantine, into this hardpan. Farther to the south this stratum slopes rapidly so that at the southern scarp it is roughly 3.25 m. below the temple stylobate and there is here a metre or more of fill above it.

In trenches I and V (Fig. 1) well preserved areas of prehistoric fill extended for eight or nine metres from the south end of the trench. Beyond this point the area had been completely disturbed in the Classical or Byzantine Period. The prehistoric fill in these trenches now lay under a very thin top fill, generally only 0.10 m. thick. The fill averaged about one metre in thickness and it seems probable that it had been cut down somewhat in the levelling for the temple terrace. On the south side of the temple the areas of early fill are

<sup>1</sup> I am indebted to Professor Charles H. Morgan II, Director of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, for the opportunity to publish this material and for his help. I wish to thank Professor George Oikonomos for permission to study the comparative material in Greek museums. The authorities of the British Museum, of the Birmingham City Art Gallery and Museum, of the Ashmolean Museum and of the Fitzwilliam Museum have very kindly made available for study the materials in their collections from Greece and the neighboring countries. I am indebted to Professor A. J. B. Wace of Cambridge University for many valuable suggestions. I owe my thanks to Professor Oscar Broneer and to Dr. Gladys Davidson for their help and their many suggestions. The plan of figure 1 was drawn by Dr. W. Schaefer.

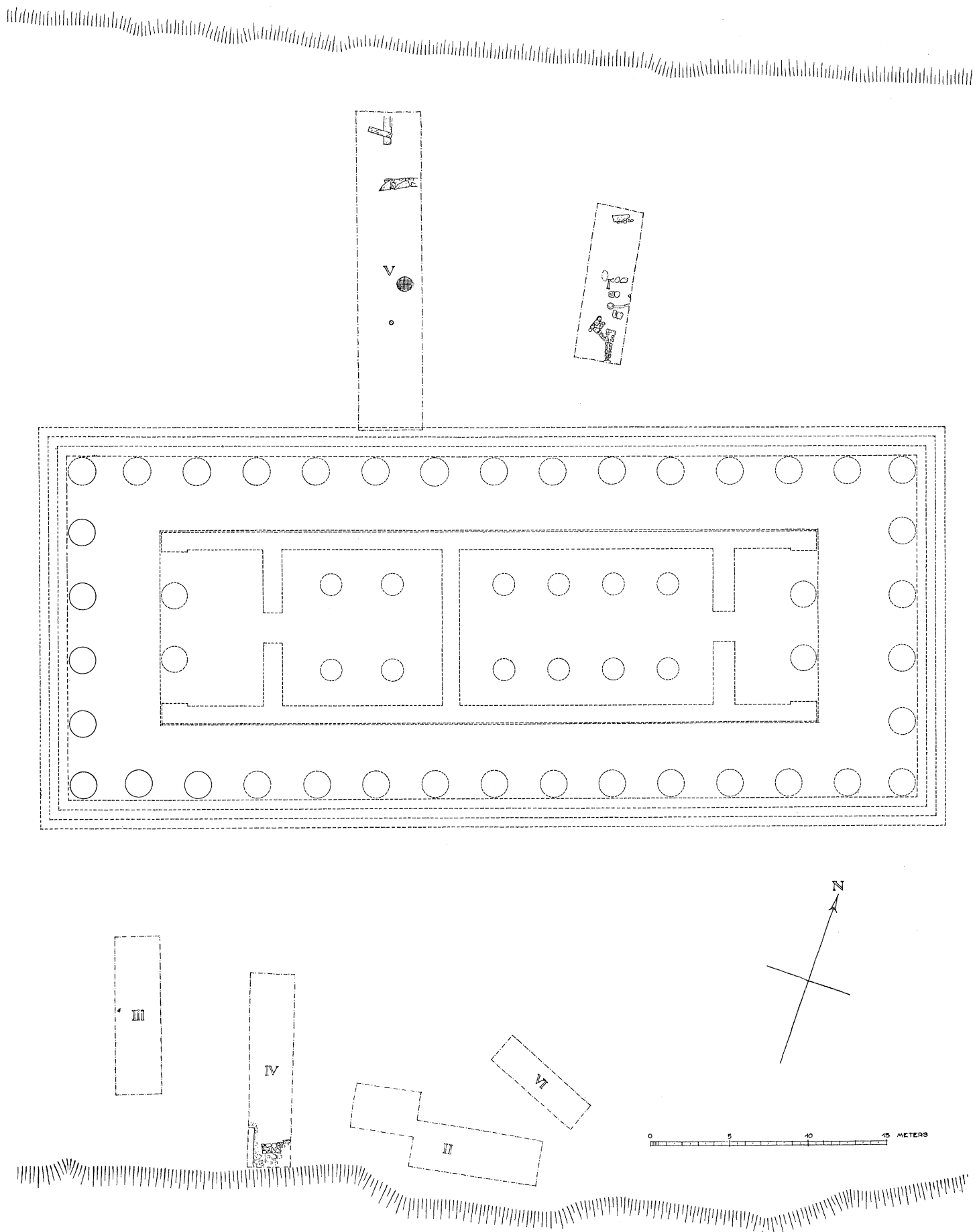


Fig. 1. Plan of Trenches Excavated on Temple Hill

much more limited. In trench II there was only a pit in the hardpan; in trench IV an area about 4.00 m.  $\times$  3.00 m. and 1.20 m. deep (Fig. 2) and a similar area in trench VI contained prehistoric fill. There was practically no undisturbed material in trench III, although there was a quantity of prehistoric pottery mixed in the later fill. This was generally true in all the disturbed areas and it shows the amount of the earliest fill which was destroyed by the later inhabitants of the hill.

In trench excavations only fragmentary architectural remains can be expected. The material from Corinth is particularly poor. A few pieces of walls were found in trench I and another fragment in trench IV. They belong apparently to the Early Helladic Period. All are rectilinear and are built of medium-sized irregular stones laid in two rows, with the

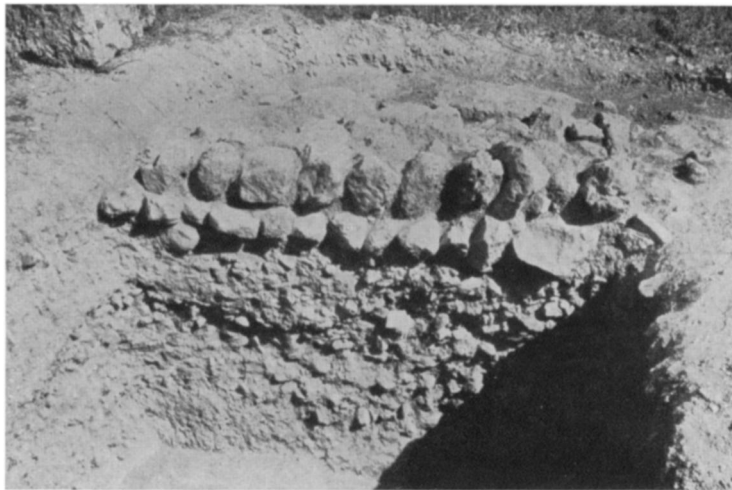


Fig. 2. Early Helladic Wall in Trench IV

smoothest face to the outside. The walls average 0.50 m.—0.60 m. in width. The most carefully built wall is that in trench IV (Fig. 2), a section about two metres long. The lowest course is made of rather flat stones and it is wider than the course above, projecting *ca.* 0.10 m. beyond it on both sides. The second course, the only other one preserved, is built of larger stones, rather carefully chosen and fitted, with smaller stones filling the interstices. Such stepped foundations are characteristic of Early Helladic house walls.<sup>1</sup> No house floors were found which could be connected with these walls and it is possible, especially in trench IV, that the floor lay above the preserved surface.

A small oval pit had been dug to a depth of *ca.* 0.40 m. into the rock floor of trench I. The hole runs diagonally rather than vertically into the rock, the sides are smoothed, the bottom rounded. A shallow channel cut in the rock runs into the pit from the east, its source being outside the trench. No pottery was found inside this pit.

<sup>1</sup> Blegen, *Zygouries*, p. 4.

The great abundance of ceramic remains compensates in a measure for the poverty of architectural remains. Everywhere the characteristic prehistoric fill, of rather soft brown earth heavily intermixed with small stones, was full of pottery. The material was badly shattered and only a few vases could be reconstructed to any great extent. However, with such a wealth of sherds it is possible to determine the common shapes in each class of wares and to reconstruct these on paper at least.

The prehistoric fill varied in thickness from a minimum of 0.75 m. to a maximum of 1.70 m., with an average of 1.00 m. Within this relatively shallow accumulation there was no physical differentiation into marked strata, no floors to divide one level from another. However, in the least disturbed sections there was a regular progression from the bottom up, beginning with the neolithic wares and following into a deposit of mixed neolithic and Early Helladic pottery and then into the predominantly Early Helladic fill. No regular Middle Helladic layer was found above the Early Helladic fill; no Late Helladic pottery has been noticed on the hill. The chronological arrangement of the pottery is equally dependent on the several groups of wares which were found in isolated deposits. Two such deposits of the earlier neolithic wares were found, one on the rock in trench V and the other in the pit in hardpan in trench II. The pottery from the first deposit was very badly broken, much of it crammed into the irregular holes in the rock floor. The material from the pit, on the other hand, was much less broken and from it come the bowls in figures 4 and 6 as well as numerous large fragments of such bowls. A large deposit of the later neolithic glazed wares was found in trench VI, much of it in rather large pieces. Finally, there was the deposit of Early Helladic pottery in trench V, from which fifteen vases have been reconstructed, while a great many more have not been completed.

Thus the general stratigraphic change noted in the best preserved areas and the association of wares in the deposits has made possible a fairly accurate determination of the chronological sequence of the neolithic and Early Helladic wares. A closer scheme must wait for further excavation, preferably in more clearly stratified deposits, if such exist on the Temple Hill. For the present preliminary report, the description of the wares follows the chronological scheme determined in these trial excavations. This sequence agrees in general with the chronological and typological arrangement of similar pottery from other sites, particularly with the wares from the Peloponnesos and Central Greece, with which it has been possible to compare this new material.

## I. Earlier Neolithic Wares

In large deposits in trenches II and V and everywhere in the lowest levels of the prehistoric accumulation were found quantities of a ware, or wares, which both by stratigraphic position and by shapes and technique must be the earliest pottery from the Temple Hill settlement. In all but color the pottery can be classed together, for accidents of primitive firing have produced a wide range of surface tones. By means of these the pottery can

be divided roughly into red and black monochrome wares.<sup>1</sup> The name "monochrome" would be a misnomer for a large part of the red wares, which might better be called "variegated,"<sup>2</sup> but its use will show more clearly the place of the ware in the generally accepted terminology. Besides the "variegated" wares, there are two other classes of red monochrome pottery: 1) a ware closely associated with the early group and distinguished by its polished red-slipped surface, the red-polished wares of Orchomenos;<sup>3</sup> 2) the Thessalian A 1 ware,<sup>4</sup> the Orchomenos red monochrome class.<sup>5</sup>

Of the latter class, only a few fragments were found together with the earlier wares; the majority was in deposits of the later types. This ware is technically different from the early ware and the shapes are more advanced. Although implying a difference in his terminology and treating them somewhat individually, Kunze has used one class (D) for the two wares. The Corinthian material seems to indicate that this is an over-simplification, for there is here a stratigraphic difference as well.

A similar subdivision in the black wares, Orchomenos class A, has already been pointed out by Blegen.<sup>6</sup> This is clearly substantiated by the evidence from Corinth. Again, the early type of black burnished ware, recognized by Kunze as being typologically most primitive and placed by him at the beginning of the series, is found in large quantities in the early deposits together with the red wares. None of the later slipped or decorated varieties was found with these.

### A. Red Monochrome or "Variegated" Ware

A large majority of the earliest pottery belongs to this class. The ware is of good quality, generally well formed and made of fairly pure clay. In all but a group of small crucible-like bowls with very thick walls, the surface has been smoothed so that little or no trace remains of tooling marks. The light polish resulting from this process is characteristic of most of the vases. In some examples, however, the surface has been burnished to a high lustre. Some of these sherds seem to have a light watery slip, the color of the clay, applied to the surface, but it is more likely a technical or "floated" slip due to the polishing. In a few instances the vases seem to have been coated with a thin white slip, but the examples are too few to be classified separately.

<sup>1</sup> The same association of wares has been noted at Nemea (cf. Blegen, *Gnomon*, VIII, 1932, p. 661). The connection of the red with the black wares at Orchomenos, classes C and D with class A, has been suggested by Kunze (*Orchomenos II*, pp. 25, 29). Mylonas made one general class of monochrome ware for the equivalent material at Chaironea (*Ἡ Νεολιθική Ἐποχὴ ἐν Ἑλλάδι*, p. 53).

<sup>2</sup> This Corinthian ware had already been termed "rainbow-ware" (Kunze, *Orchomenos II*, p. 26, n. 4; Frankfort, *Studies in Early Pottery of the Near East, II*, p. 11); and class C at Orchomenos is called "Keramik mit buntem polierten Überzug" (*Orchomenos II*, p. 25).

<sup>3</sup> *Orchomenos II*, p. 29.

<sup>4</sup> Wace and Thompson, *Prehistoric Thessaly*, p. 13.

<sup>5</sup> *Orchomenos II*, p. 26.

<sup>6</sup> *Gnomon*, VIII, 1932, p. 661.

The irregularities of firing have produced a wide variety in the hardness of the fabric as well as in the colors of the surface and the biscuit. In general the clay is well baked and the breaks are sharp, but in many bowls the clay is crumbly. The predominant color in the well baked examples is an even buff over the exterior and at times over all or much of the interior. The colors of the exterior vary, however, from a light cream or yellow through shades of buff, light and dark red and brown, often changing from one to another on the same vase. These colors frequently grade sharply into black near the bottom of the vase, while in a few examples the black comes close to the rim (Fig. 3*a*). The interiors are almost always predominantly black or gray, with a light band of varying width at the rim.

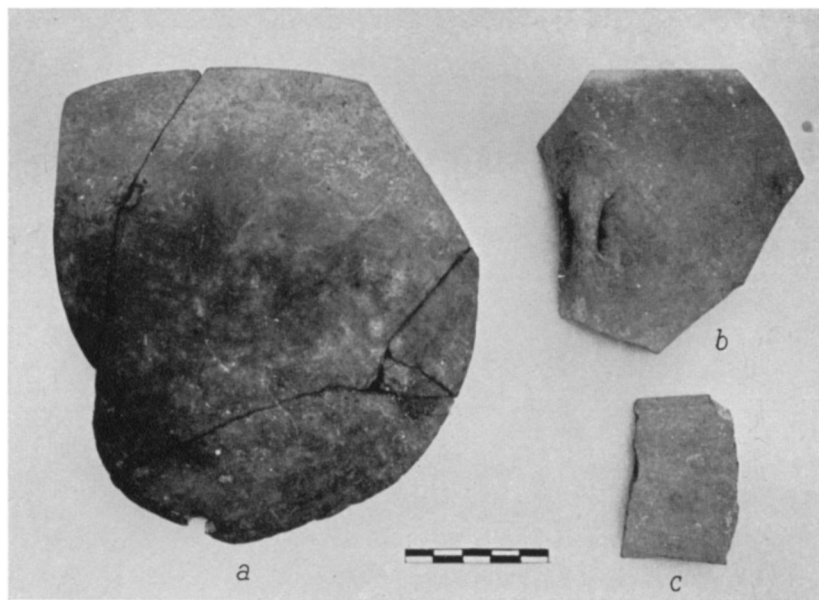


Fig. 3. Sherds of Early Neolithic "Variegated" Ware

From the material at Corinth, much of it very fragmentary, only one shape is known for this ware—a hemispherical bowl (Fig. 4). There is one sherd which probably belongs to a globular jug with a low splayed rim, such as is common in this ware in Central Greece.<sup>1</sup> The bowls vary somewhat in shape; the true hemisphere, the hemisphere with the walls brought up straight at the greatest circumference (Fig. 4), a bowl in which the walls contract slightly towards the lip (Fig. 6). The walls vary in thickness from 0.003 m. in the fine small bowls to 0.015 m. in the large bowls. They usually narrow considerably close to the lip, which is then very thin and is rounded. In some large bowls the lip is merely cut flat on top. The bowls frequently have a rounded bottom with no foot (Fig. 4) or a simple flat bottom. Others show a development from a base slightly set off from the wall of the

<sup>1</sup> Soteriades, *Ἐφ. Ἀρχ.*, 1908, p. 68, fig. 2.



vase and hollowed at the bottom to the rather high conical foot (Fig. 5 *a-c*). Handles are rare in this class and consist almost entirely of pierced lugs set either vertically or horizontally. The handle in figure 3 *b* is really a small band handle set perpendicular to the lip. The only decoration on this ware consists of groups of small round pellets of clay applied to the surface, as shown in figure 3 *c*.<sup>1</sup> Only a few small fragments with such decoration were found and no design is evident in the arrangement of the pellets.

A fine example of this ware is the large bowl shown in figure 4. It is of the rounded form with high sides, has a diameter at the lip of 0.268 m. and stands 0.202 m. high. The walls average 0.005 m. in thickness. The exterior seems to have been covered with a thin white slip, well polished, of which only a few patches remain. The present surface has an even buff tone on the outside, except at the rounded bottom, where a dark circle marks the place on which a smaller bowl had evidently been set during the firing. The interior is a dark gray except

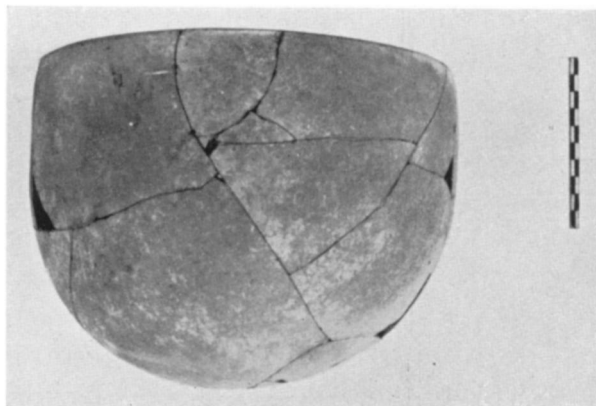


Fig. 4. Bowl of Early Neolithic "Variegated" Ware

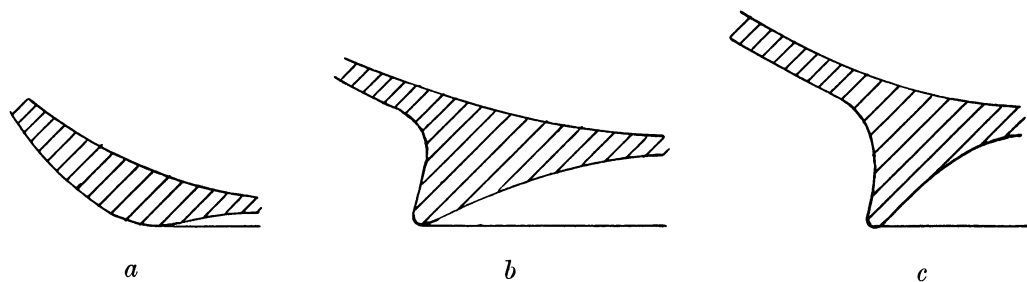


Fig. 5 (1:1). Bases of Early Neolithic "Variegated" Ware

for a narrow band at the lip. Only about half of the vase remains, and at the broken edge on either side near the lip are holes for mending. When the fine bowl could no longer be mended for use, one half was thrown into the pit in trench II, the other half elsewhere.

## B. Red Slipped Ware

A small quantity of the wares found in the early deposits was covered with a highly polished red slip. Other fragments of this ware came from the lowest levels of the pre-

<sup>1</sup> Cf. *Orchomenos II*, pl. XIII, 2 b-c.

historic fill. The fragments seem to belong almost entirely to large open bowls, such as those described in class A. The vases are less well baked than those of the previous class and the biscuit is soft and powdery at the edges. The exteriors of the bowls, and occasionally also the interiors, were covered with a heavy slip. On a single vase this slip has an even tone, but the color may vary from light red to dark red or reddish-brown on separate examples. The slip is polished to a high lustre, is quite firm and rarely chips off.<sup>1</sup> When the interiors are not coated, they are black to within a short distance from the lip, if not all black, and they resemble in every way the interiors of the "variegated" bowls.

In this class the bowls seem generally to have had low bases of the type shown in figure 5 *b* and *c*. Also much more common are the pierced lugs for handles, as well as

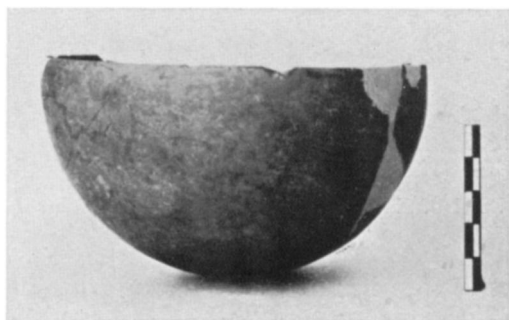


Fig. 6. Early Neolithic Black Burnished Bowl

a primitive strap handle which may be only a more open and developed pierced lug. The use of the red slip, together with the greater frequency of both bases and handles, indicates a higher typological development in this class. However, the condition of the accumulated fill in which some of the pieces were found was not such as to allow any stratigraphical distinctions, and the wares are shown to have been at least in part contemporaneous by their association in the two large deposits.

### C. Black Monochrome Ware

The early black monochrome ware at Corinth again consists of only the simple round bowls, generally small, thin-walled and carefully made. The clay is well levigated and well baked. The biscuit is usually gray and the surface itself is more often a dark gray than true black. The vases are well burnished both within and without, the surface so smoothed that all tooling marks have disappeared. Some of the bowls have rounded bottoms, but there are also flat bottoms and low bases similar to those of the red monochrome bowls (Fig. 5). As in the red monochrome ware, small clay pellets are the only form of decoration. Here, however, the pellets are oval in shape and are arranged in rows or strings (Fig. 29 *a*, *b*).<sup>2</sup>

A good example of these small bowls came from the deposit in trench II (Fig. 6). The dark gray surface is lightly burnished. The walls, only 0.005 m. thick, narrow to an edge at the lip. The diameter at the lip is 0.126 m., the height 0.074 m.

<sup>1</sup> Some of the sherds of the Orchomenos class D which I have seen are of this type. They are distinguished by the name "rot-polierte." The Orchomenos material presents a greater variety of shapes than is evident as yet at Corinth.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. *Orchomenos II*, pl. VI, 2.

### D. Coarse Monochrome Ware

A number of large round bowls of coarser fabric belong to the group of earlier neolithic wares. The clay is less well purified and the smoothed surfaces are pitted with innumerable small holes, giving a spongy appearance. The biscuit also is full of these small holes. The clay is well baked and the biscuit is dark red or gray in color. The bowls vary in color from terracotta red to a dark brown or black. The surface is generally smooth and at times even lightly polished. Both round and flat bottomed bowls are found, but there are no raised bases. Pierced lugs are common, set near the rim both horizontally and vertically. There are also a few plain lugs.

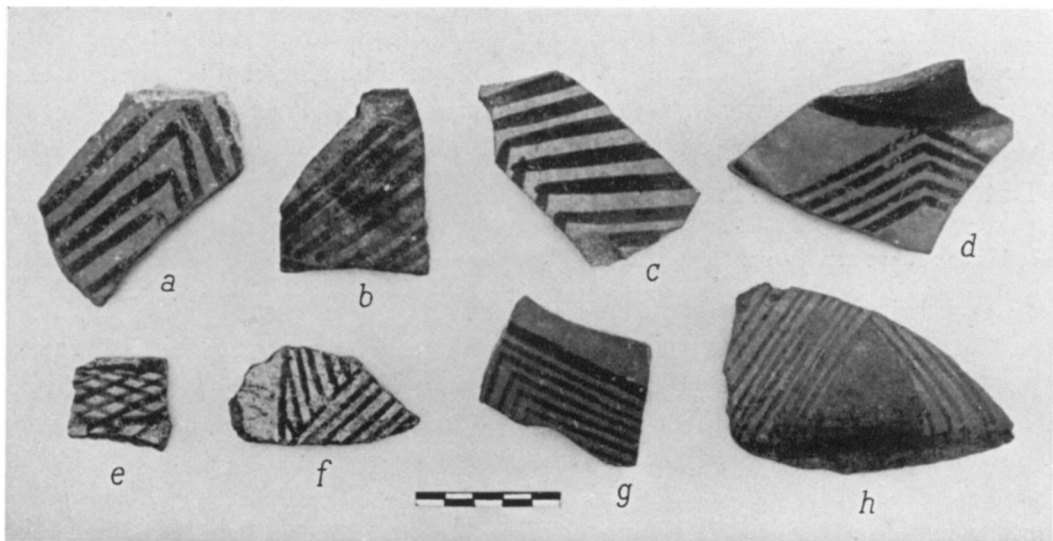


Fig. 7. Sherds of Early Neolithic Patterned Ware

### E. Painted Ware

A small amount of painted ware was found together with the early monochrome wares. The sherds all belong to the red on white or red on buff wares of the early Neolithic Period—the “Chaironea” wares and the Thessalian A 3 $\beta$  and A 3 $\gamma$  wares.<sup>1</sup> Of the red on white wares there are only a few fragments (Fig. 7 *b*, *e*, *f*) and these so closely resemble the wares from Central Greece that they may be from that region. Other fragments have the decoration painted directly on the buff surface of the vase. The paint, red or light purple in color, is often dull in contrast with the polished surface. In many examples the whole vase has been highly polished after the paint was applied, giving a very smooth surface into which the paint seems to have sunk (Fig. 7 *c*, *g*). The fabric itself is generally

<sup>1</sup> *Orchomenos II*, Class F, p. 35 (particularly the bibliography of note 1); Wace and Thompson, *Prehistoric Thessaly*, p. 14.

good, the clay well cleaned and rather well baked, the biscuit an even buff or light gray. One fragment (Fig. 7 *a*) has the red polished slip of class B on the inside.

The designs on these painted wares are mainly simple linear schemes; generally parallel lines, chevron and net patterns (Fig. 7).<sup>1</sup> One sherd has a pattern of filled triangles, the so-called "hour-glass" motive. In others there are wavy lines. The sherds seem to belong to large open bowls and to globular jugs with high cylindrical necks. A fragment of the latter shape (Fig. 7 *d*) has the typical later neolithic glaze on the inside of the neck and was, indeed, found with the later ware. A similar piece showing the continued use of this ware was found in Orchomenos.<sup>2</sup>

Numerous fragments of all of these early wares were found mixed with the later neolithic types and even with the Early Helladic wares. This is due, however, rather to the intrusion into the early fill by the later settlers than to a continued use of much of the early pottery in later periods. That this is true is shown by the absence of the early monochrome ware in the isolated deposits of the later neolithic wares.

## II. Later Neolithic Wares

### A. Red Monochrome Ware

Although a few fragments of this ware—the A 1 class of Thessaly,<sup>3</sup> the "rote monochrome" of Orchomenos<sup>4</sup> and Central Greece—were found together with the earlier pottery, many more were found in a large deposit of later wares in trench VI. We have, therefore, put them in the beginning of this later group, in a transitional position. Indeed, several of the pieces from the Temple Hill combine the typical slip of this class with the red polished slip of the earlier wares, while others have both the red slip of this ware and the glaze of the later neolithic "Urfirnis" class. In all, the sherds of this type are not abundant here and the material is badly broken. This shattered condition may be due in part to the hard, well baked fabric, which is very brittle and breaks with sharp edges. This quality clearly differentiates the ware from the crumbly early fabrics. The contrast is also shown in the even terracotta tone of the biscuit when compared to the buff or gray color of the earlier wares. The surface is rarely smoothed, but shows the narrow parallel strokes of the burnishing tool. The surface color, an even red or reddish brown, seems due to a slip, very much the color of the clay. There is a good light polish, but rarely the high burnish of the earlier red slipped wares.

Only a few shapes could be obtained from our material. There is the high conical base so common in Thessaly, but no fragments have been found of the bowls with convex rims

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Blegen, *Metropolitan Museum Studies*, III, 1930, figs. 3 and 14 for similar ware from the neighboring site of Gonia and from Nemea.

<sup>2</sup> *Orchomenos II*, p. 36, pl. XVII, 2 c.

<sup>3</sup> Wace and Thompson, *Prehistoric Thessaly*, p. 13, figs. 40–42.

<sup>4</sup> *Orchomenos II*, pp. 26–30.

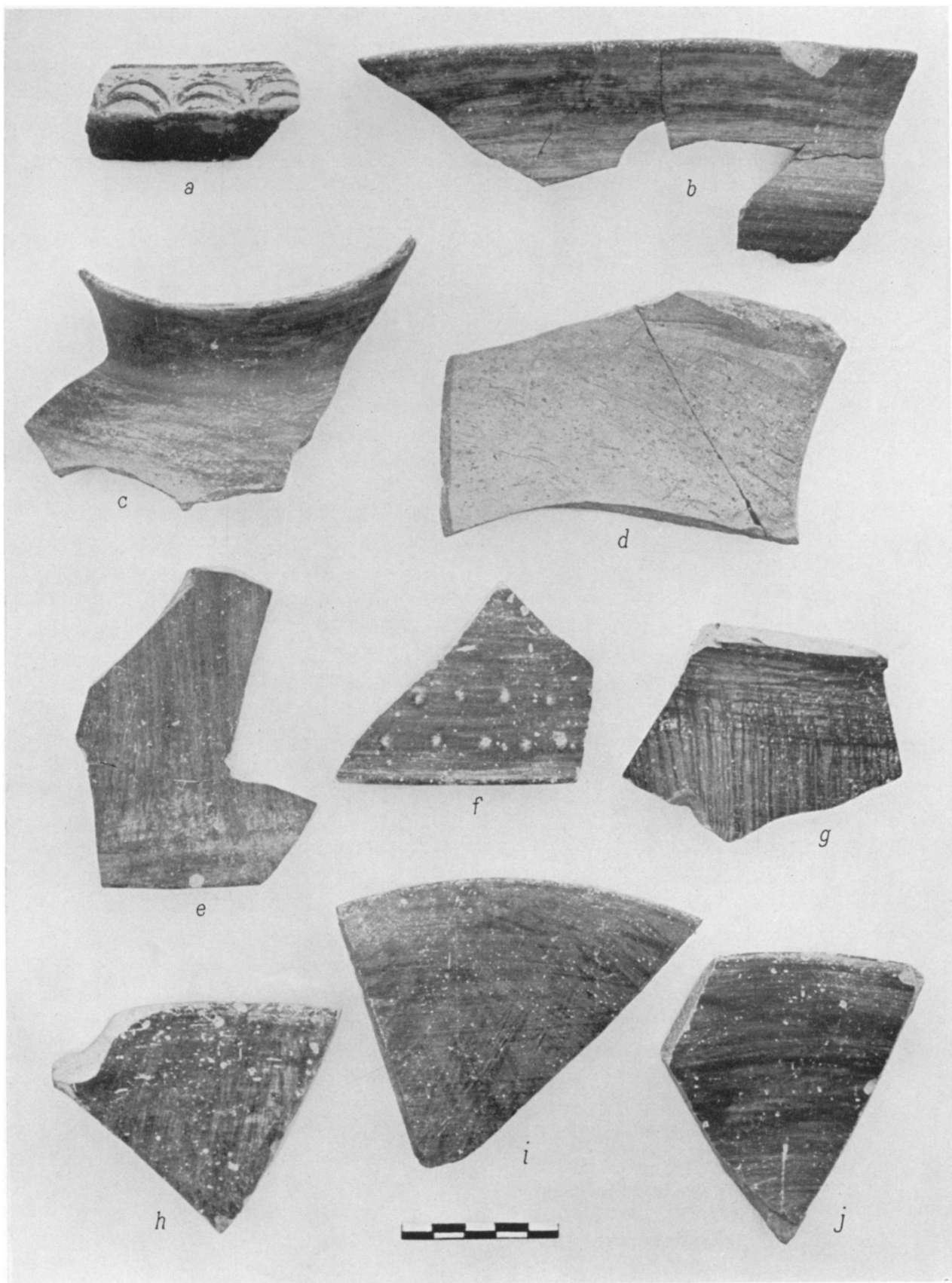


Fig. 8. Sherds of Neolithic "Urfirnis" Ware

which are connected with these bases in the North.<sup>1</sup> Most common are fragments of globular jugs with high cylindrical necks sometimes sharply set off from the body. No form of decoration was evident in the Corinthian material.

### B. Neolithic "Urfirnis"

This ware was first recognized as a separate class of neolithic pottery by Kunze in his study of the Orchomenos pottery; it was named and carefully described by him.<sup>2</sup> He considered the ware to be a later development of the red monochrome ware described above and this supposition has been confirmed on stratigraphic grounds at the Arcadian site of Hageorgitika.<sup>3</sup> The same seems true also at Corinth, where large quantities of this pottery were found, particularly in a large deposit in trench VI. In this mass of material there is a richer variety of shapes and decoration than was found at Orchomenos and further description of this ware is warranted.

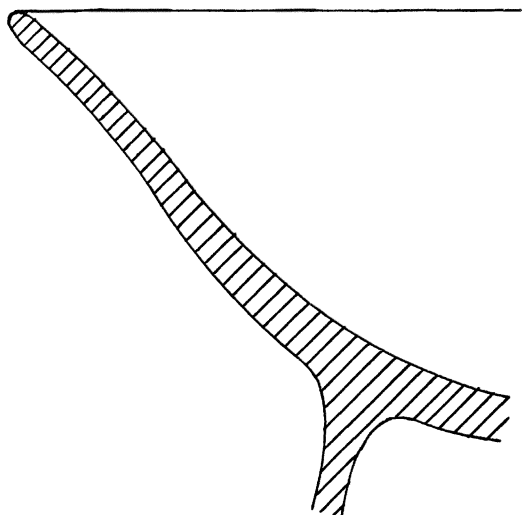


Fig. 9 (1:1). Bowl of Neolithic "Urfirnis" Ware

The ware is distinguished from all the other neolithic wares by the peculiar streaky glaze, the inherent glossy quality of which makes burnishing unnecessary, as well as by the appearance of the unglazed interior surfaces. The quality of the pottery is uniformly good; it is well formed, thin walled, carefully finished and baked hard. The clay seems to be tempered with some gritty material. The biscuit is hard and of an even buff, brick red or brown tone,

speckled with white foreign particles and sometimes micaceous. The inner surfaces of the more closed shapes have been worked with a broad blunt tool which results in a series of wide, very shallow grooves meeting in almost imperceptible ridges. The whole surface within these grooves is cut up by innumerable small sharp incisions, made by the gritty particles when drawn across the surface by the broad tool (Fig. 8 *d*).<sup>4</sup> Some of the interior surfaces have been further smoothed and covered with a light glaze wash. These often are pitted with small holes and have the spongy appearance noted in the coarser early wares. In the finished and glazed surfaces, the fine strokes of the finishing tool are frequently visible, but often even these have been smoothed away.

<sup>1</sup> Wace and Thompson, *op. cit.*, fig. 40 e—g.

<sup>2</sup> *Orchomenos II*, pp. 31—35.

<sup>3</sup> Blegen, *Gnomon*, VIII, 1932, p. 661.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. *Orchomenos II*, figs. 29, 30 A.

The glaze was apparently applied with a brush and the streaky effect is due both to the brush marks and to the uneven distribution of the glaze, which is heavy in places and elsewhere is brushed out thinly (Fig. 8 *b, c, e, j*). The glaze comes in varying shades of light and dark red and brown and at times it is almost black. One of the most frequent colors is a warm reddish-brown or mahogany tone. The lustrous quality of the glaze varies considerably, probably due in part to the clay to which it is applied. On some of the thick-walled coarser wares the glaze is dull, but on the well-smoothed fine vases it attains a high lustre.



Fig. 10. Bowl of Neolithic "Urfirnis" Ware

The "Urfirnis" ware was produced in a large variety of shapes, all of them typically neolithic. The predominant shape is the wide open bowl on a high conical stand. The shape is well illustrated by the example of figures 9 and 10, in which only the height of the stand is uncertain. The diameter of this restored bowl is 0.165 m., its height 0.082 m. The walls of the stand are straight, but the diameter increases toward the base. The walls of the bowl flare up and out in a gentle S-curve; their thickness diminishes to the simple rounded lip. Although there is considerable variation in the size of the examples found—the stands range from 0.03 m. to at least 0.10 m. in height (Fig. 8 *e-g* are stand fragments); the bowls are perhaps as great as 0.30 m. in diameter (Fig. 8 *h-j*)—the shape is usually much the same. Sometimes the bowl has a continuous lightly convex curve rather than the S-curve.<sup>1</sup>

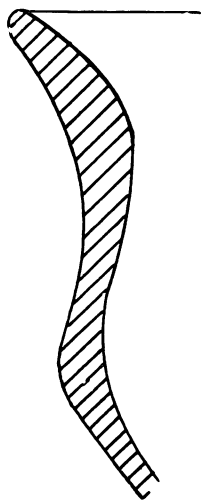


Fig. 11 (1:1).  
Profile of Neolithic  
"Urfirnis" Frag-  
ment, Fig. 8 *b*

Another common type of deep open bowl has a high rim sharply set off from the body and splayed towards the lip (Figs. 8 *a* and 11). The shape is not completed in the Corinthian material, but the base may be of the low ring type, of which several are preserved. A squat jug with wide belly and a narrower mouth is shown by two rather well preserved examples (Figs. 12 and 13) and by several fragments. The vase of figures 12 *a* and 13 certainly stood on its shallow rounded bottom, with no base. Other examples may have had low conical bases, such as are found with a similar shape in red monochrome and early painted ware in Thessaly and Central Greece.<sup>2</sup> The small bowls with

<sup>1</sup> *Orchomenos II*, pl. III is of this latter type.

<sup>2</sup> Wace and Thompson, *op. cit.*, p. 90, fig. 40 h; here the shape occurs both with and without base. I have seen a piece of a similar vase among the "D" wares from Orchomenos and there is a small jug of this shape among the red monochrome

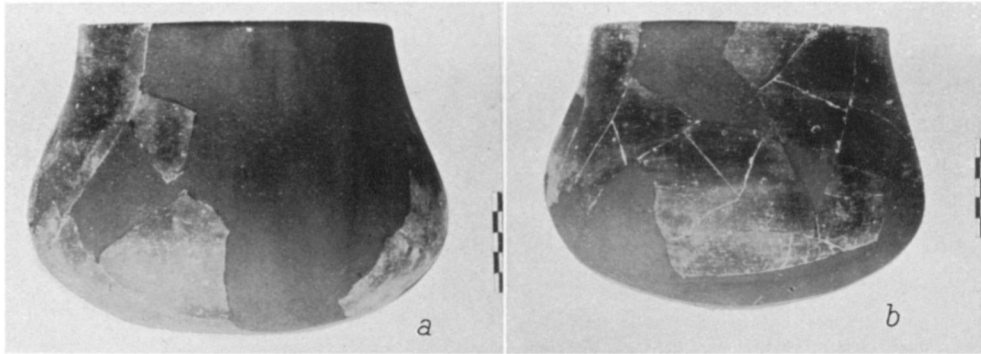


Fig. 12. Jugs of Neolithic "Urfirnis" Ware

incurved rim (Figs. 8 *a*, 14) are rare at Corinth in comparison with Orchomenos. Much more common are the small bowls or cups with a high concave rim, often sharply set off from the body of the vase (Figs. 15, 19), a very common shape in neolithic pottery (cf. Figs. 23 *a-e*, 24, 25 *a*, 29 *c*, *f-h*). Finally there are numerous fragments of globular jugs with high necks, either vertical or splayed, more or less sharply set off from the round body (Figs. 8 *c*, 16). Handles are common only in this last shape. These are usually broad ribbon handles extending from the lip to the shoulder. Some small globular jugs have pierced lug handles at the broadest part of the belly. On three of the fragments from the common open bowls there are small knobs or lugs on the outside at the rim.<sup>1</sup>

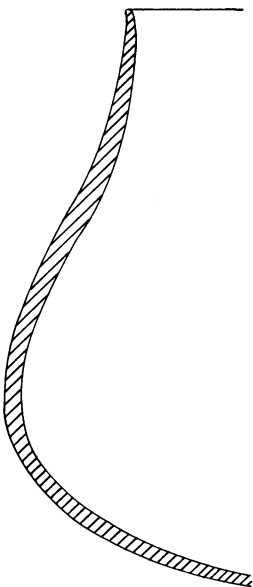


Fig. 13 (1:2). Profile of Neolithic "Urfirnis" Jug, Fig. 12 *a*

This ware, already bright with its variegated surfaces, is further decorated in a number of ways. Small round pellets of clay are found only on the squat jug in figure 12 *a*. A similar effect was obtained in a few of the high conical bases by piercing the clay from the back so that the surface buckled, forming rows of small round knobs (Fig. 8 *f*). In several of the high conical stands there are open cut designs, none of which could be reconstructed.<sup>2</sup> Frequent use was made of a stroke-burnishing technique, resulting in black bands where the glaze had been worked over (Figs. 8 *g*, 19 *a*, *b*). Incised designs are rare at Corinth; some of the bowls with incurved rims are so decorated (Fig. 8 *a*).

It is impossible to class or consider separately the painted examples of this "Urfirnis" ware, for the decoration covers only a part of the vase, the rest of which is coated with the regular glaze.

wares from Hagia Marina in the Chaironea Museum. At Orchomenos the shape also occurs in the "Chaironea" ware (*Orchomenos II*, fig. 34).

<sup>1</sup> *Orchomenos II*, fig. 26 shows a similar fragment in red monochrome ware and the restored profile, based on a bowl of the same type in "Chaironea" ware.

<sup>2</sup> One of the fragments of such a stand from Orchomenos has a triangular cut-out design.



Such partially painted vases form a large part of the "Urfirnis" examples and occur in all of the most common shapes.<sup>1</sup> The interiors of the open bowls on high stands are very often decorated (Figs. 17, 18), but in only one instance is the stand painted (Fig. 17 *f*) and no examples of a painted bowl exterior have been found. In the bowls with high concave rims, the rim is decorated and there is a sharp division of the painted and unpainted surfaces at the carination or offset of the rim (Fig. 19). Both neck and shoulder of the globular jugs are painted (Fig. 20). The decoration may be divided into two classes: patterns painted in a rather dull black paint on the already glazed surfaces (Figs. 18 *a*; 19 *c, d*; 20 *d, h, m*) and those painted in a lustrous glaze on the buff or red clay ground, which has been carefully polished (Figs. 17; 18 *b-l*; 19 *e-i*; 20 *a-c, e-g, i-l*). The glaze in the second type varies in color from light red to black.

Although the patterns are composed mainly of combinations of straight and wavy lines, there is an unusual variety of schemes and a highly colorful effect, often polychromatic, is obtained by varying the consistency of the glaze. The most frequent designs are groups of parallel lines, often with heavier and darker lines at the outside (Figs. 18 *c, i, k, l*; 20 *e, i, k*). Bands limited by broad black lines are filled with a lattice or net pattern (Figs. 17 *a*; 18 *a, d, h*; 19 *i*) or with wavy lines (Figs. 17 *c*; 18 *f, j*). A common "tree" motive consists of a heavy line with thinner lines shooting off from it obliquely (Figs. 17 *b*, 18 *e*). Cross-hatched triangles (Fig. 20 *f*) and black dots with a trail of red glaze behind them (Fig. 20 *g*) are among the odd designs that are better illustrated than described. The effect is bright; both the fabric and the decoration are delicate. The walls of this painted ware are frequently not more than 0.002 m. or 0.003 m. thick.

### C. Gray Monochrome Ware

In the large deposit of later neolithic wares in trench VI and throughout the neolithic fill, especially in association

<sup>1</sup> Of the fragments of wares with painted ornaments from Orchomenos, class G, those illustrated in *Orchomenos II*, pl. XX, 2 *a* and XXIII, 1 *a, c* are decorated "Urfirnis" ware. A fragment from Gonia illustrated in *Metropolitan Museum Studies*, III, 1930, p. 65, fig. 14 *o*, seems to belong to this same class, as do also some of the fragments from Hagegeorgitika shown in figure 1 of the same article.

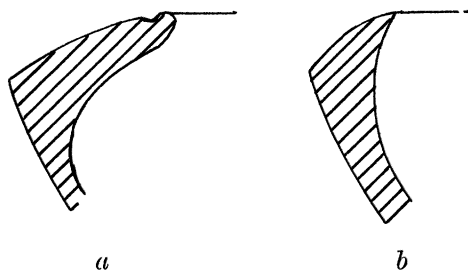


Fig. 14 (1:1). Rims of Bowls, Neolithic "Urfirnis" Ware

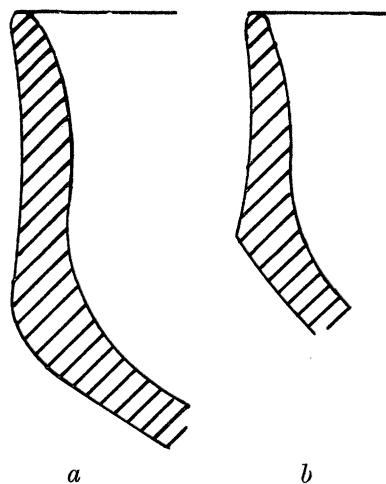


Fig. 15 (1:1). Rims of Bowls, Neolithic "Urfirnis" Ware

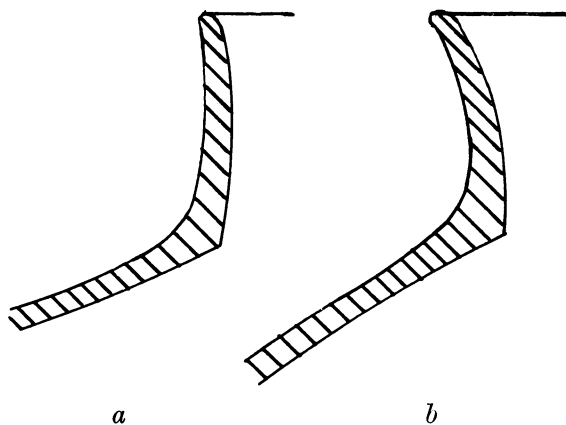


Fig. 16 (1:1). Necks of Jugs, Neolithic "Urfirnis" Ware

examples have a dark reddish-brown biscuit. The surface is frequently covered with a fine slip, the color of the clay or slightly darker. It is well polished, but rarely has a high burnish. The slipped surfaces are exceedingly smooth, and tool marks are infrequent. In numerous other examples there is no slip visible, but the surface is burnished to a light polish, and the narrow burnishing strokes are frequently visible. The ware comes in varying shades of gray, but the most usual is a very light silvery gray tone.

The pottery of this class was so shattered that no complete shape could be reconstructed. However, the profiled examples are so numerous that the principal shapes can be known with some degree of certainty. The predominant shape is a wide open, rather shallow bowl on a high stand which flares towards the bottom—the common neolithic

with the "Urfirnis" ware, were found quantities of a gray monochrome ware. To my knowledge, this ware is reported here for the first time. That the ware is certainly neolithic is clear from the fabric and the shapes as well as from the context in which it was found. The vases are usually finely profiled; they have thin walls and are well finished and baked. The clay is well levigated, the fabric is hard and the fractures are usually quite sharp. The biscuit is with few exceptions of an even gray color, varying from a very light gray to medium gray. A few rare

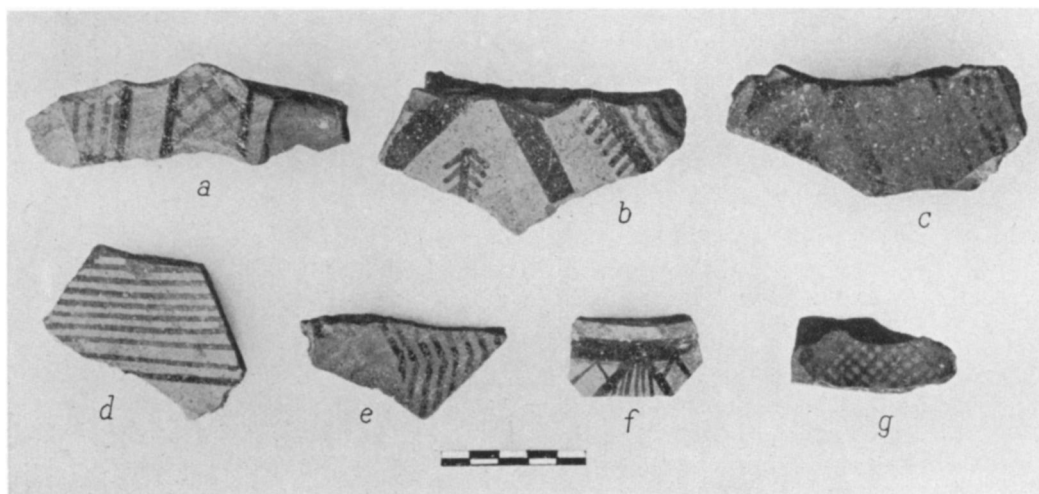


Fig. 17. Sherds of Painted Neolithic "Urfirnis" Ware

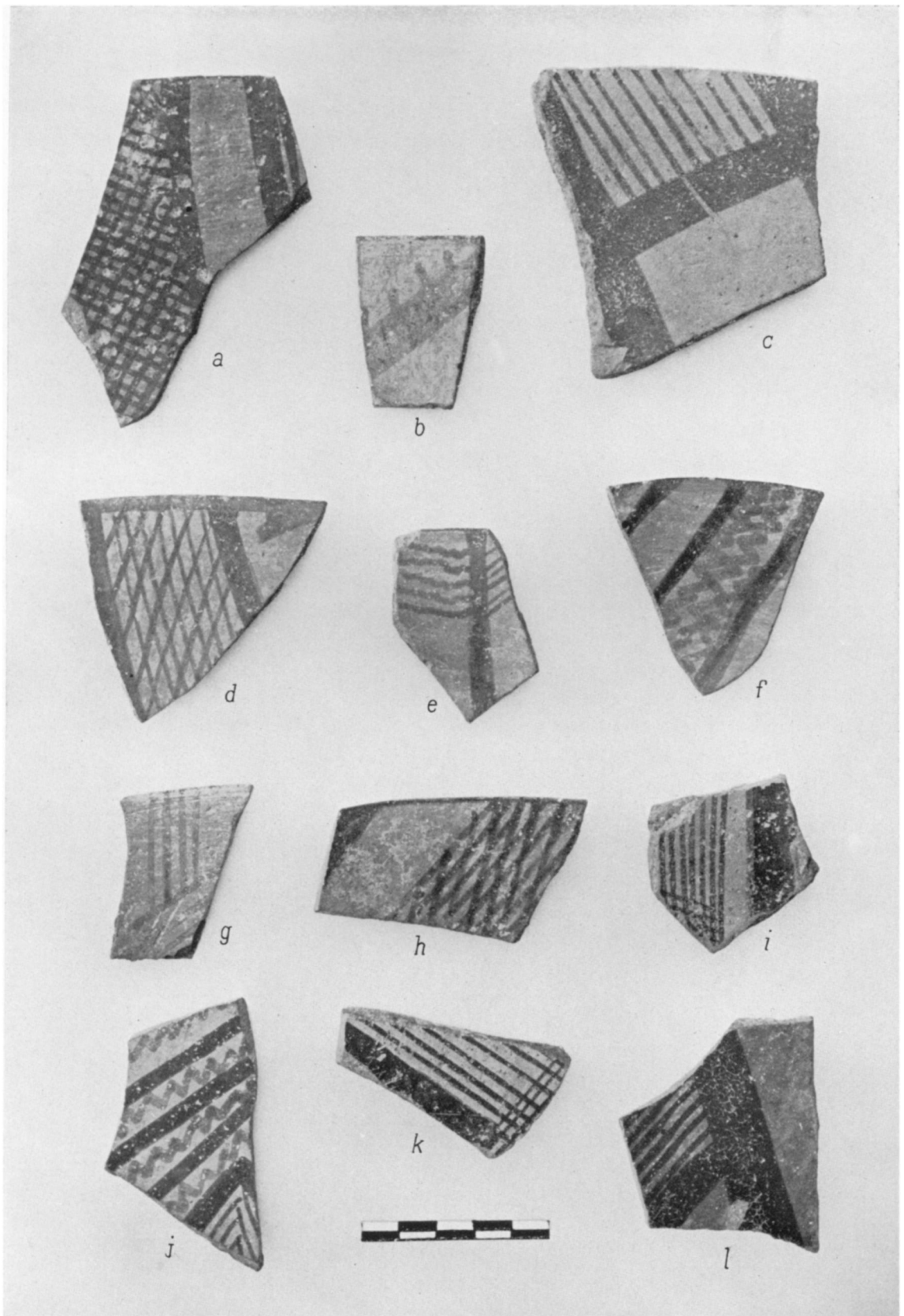


Fig. 18. Sherds of Painted Neolithic "Urfirnis" Ware

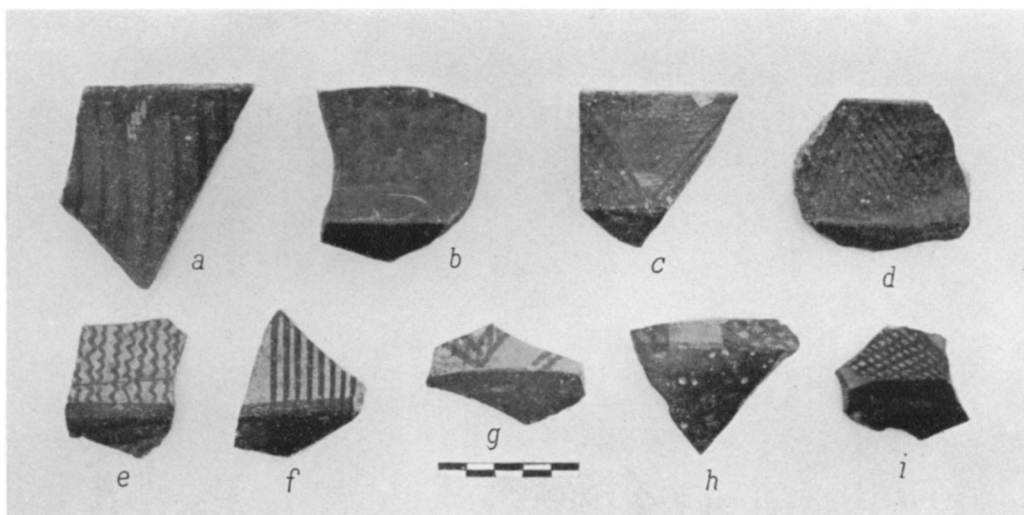


Fig. 19. Sherds of Bowls, Neolithic "Urfirnis" Ware

"fruitstand" (Figs. 21, 22). The profile of figure 22 is a paper reconstruction of the typical shape based on a combination of several fragments. The bowl is often clearly differentiated from the stand by a shallow groove or an angle, but in other examples the two are joined by a curve. The bowl flares up and out in an S-curve; the outer edge of the bowl

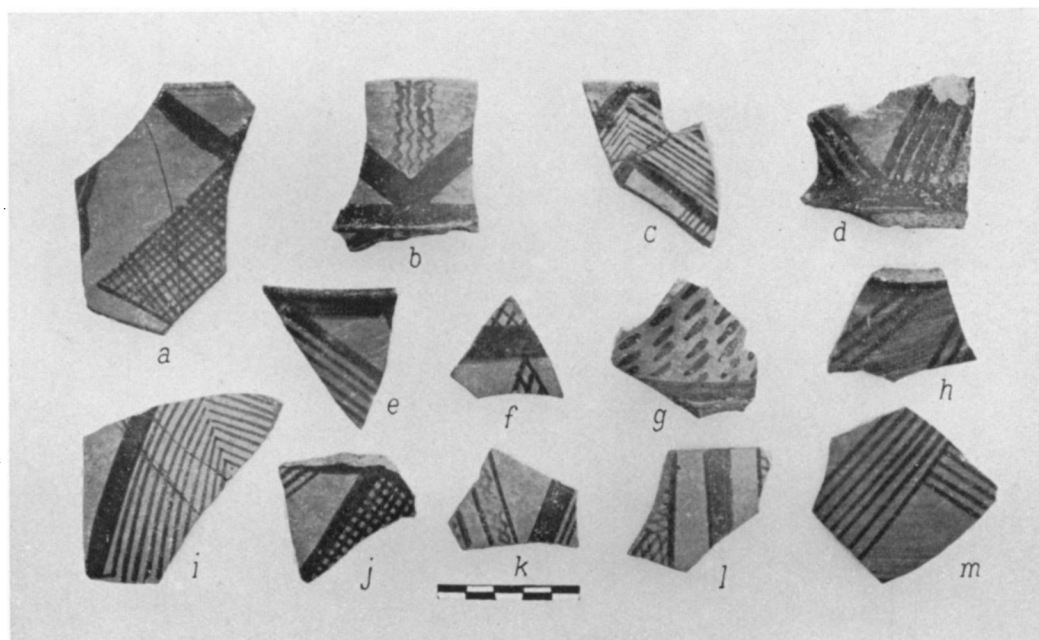


Fig. 20. Fragments of Jugs, Neolithic Painted "Urfirnis" Ware

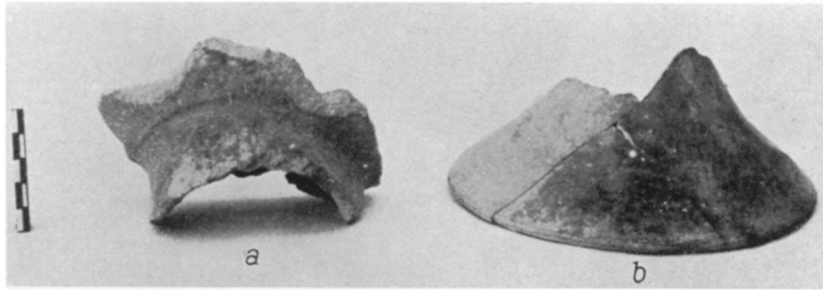


Fig. 21. Fragments of "Fruitstands," Neolithic Gray Ware

and the lip are practically horizontal. The stand may flare towards the base in an even concave curve, but often it falls almost straight down and then spreads sharply towards the bottom. These "fruitstands" vary considerably in size and quality; the better vases have very thin walls and are very well finished.

Apart from the high bases of the "fruitstands," no other type of raised base is found in the gray ware, but there are numerous flat bottoms which seem to have been common to many of the other shapes. Among these shapes are the usual neolithic small bowls with a rather high concave lip, generally separated from the body by a sharp ridge or carination (Fig. 24).<sup>1</sup> The bowls with shallow bottom and a very high concave rim (Figs. 23 *h*, 25 *a*) are well known in the later neolithic black wares.<sup>2</sup> Other bowls of varying size have deeply incurved rims (Figs. 26, 27) that are closely paralleled in the neolithic "Urfirnis" ware (Figs. 8 *a*, 14).<sup>3</sup> There are some examples of small bowls with a bulbous body and a slight flare to the rim of the somewhat narrower mouth (Figs. 23 *f*, 25 *b*). The larger globular jugs with high cylindrical necks (Fig. 23 *k*) are more numerous. An unique shape in the gray ware is given by the fragment of a tripod (?) bowl (Fig. 28).<sup>4</sup>

Handles of various kinds are common in the gray ware. The high-rimmed bowls occur with small lugs at the carination (Fig. 23 *d*) and frequently such bowls have a small ribbon handle extending from the lip to the ridge on the rim (Fig. 23 *g*). Most of the large high-necked jugs had handles

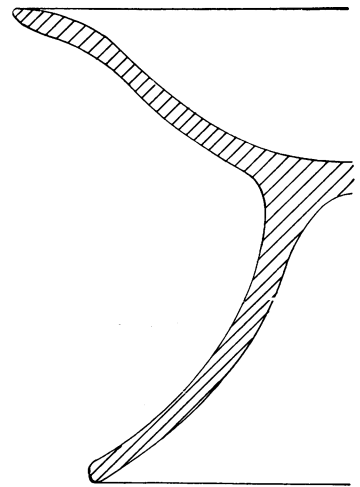


Fig. 22 (1:2). Composite Profile of "Fruitstand," Neolithic Gray Ware

<sup>1</sup> Cf. *Orchomenos II*, fig. 4.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. *Orchomenos II*, pl. I, 2.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. *Orchomenos II*, fig. 33, pl. XIII, 1 d-g; Soteriades, 'Εφ. 'Αρχ., 1908, p. 85, fig. 12, 3.

<sup>4</sup> The depth of the inside of the bowl is 0.03 m.; its reconstructed diameter 0.098 m. The total height of the reconstructed vase is ca. 0.102 m. The bowl may have had four legs, but the curve of the left side of the preserved fragment seems too broad for this and fits a tripod arrangement much better. There is no means of knowing the exact height of the foot.

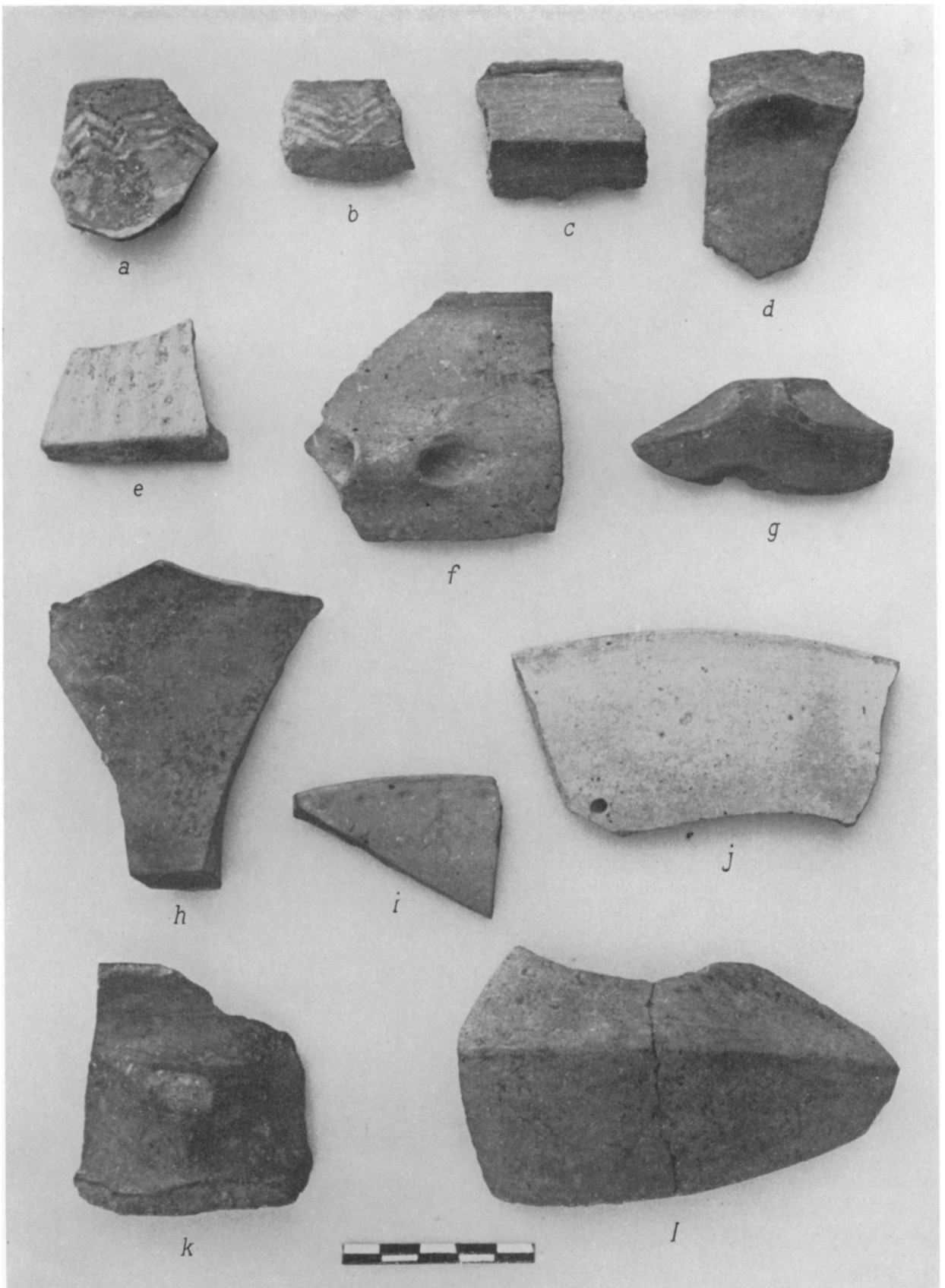


Fig. 23. Sherds of Neolithic Gray Ware

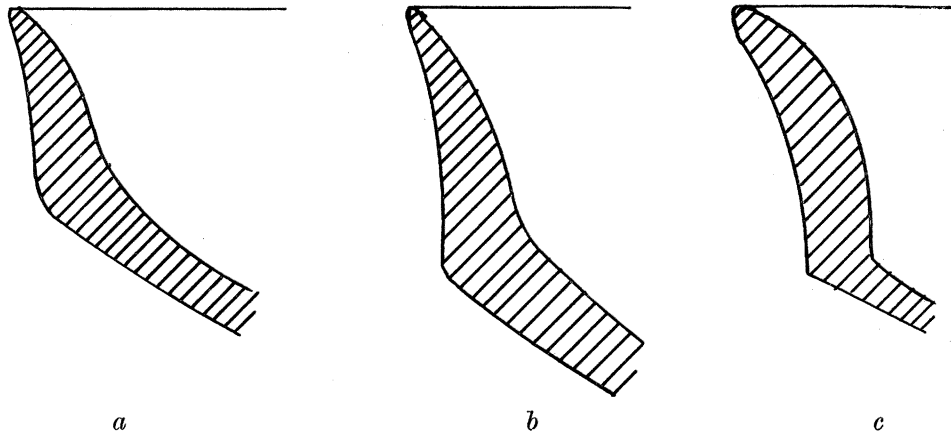


Fig. 24 (1:1). Rims of Bowls, Neolithic Gray Ware

extending from just below the lip to the shoulder. These were either of the broad ribbon type or were more oval or round in cross section (Fig. 23 *k*).

The decoration system in the gray wares is unusually simple. The "fruitstands" generally have a row of small nicks about the lip and frequently there is an added row of small shallow holes just inside the lip (Fig. 23 *i, j*). The high-necked bowls are seldom decorated, but in a few examples the rim either has a rippled surface (Fig. 23 *e*) or is decorated with broad shallow incisions in zig-zag lines (Fig. 23 *a, b*). On one piece there are traces of zig-zag lines painted in a heavy white paint on the gray surface, the only instance of painted decoration in this ware. Frequently the lips of these bowls are also nicked. The most highly decorated shape in the gray ware is the bowl with incurved rim. Here incisions on the rim are the general rule and they vary from broad shallow lines (Fig. 27 *a, b, d, f*) to very sharp incisions (Fig. 27 *c, e*). The patterns are mainly zig-zag lines (Fig. 27 *a, b, d-f*) and curved segments (Fig. 27 *c*). Here, too, the lip is often nicked (Fig. 27 *a, d*). The use of lightly rippled surfaces is frequent in the bodies of many of the shapes (Fig. 23 *l*).

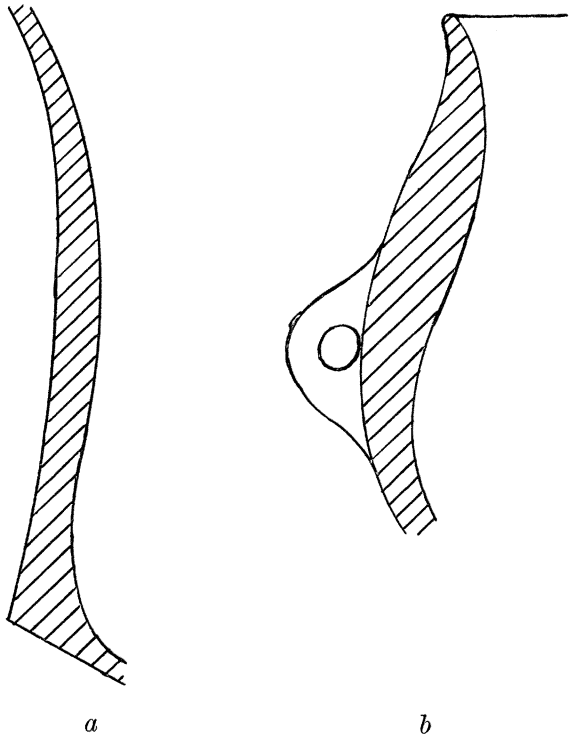


Fig. 25 (1:1). Bowls of Neolithic Gray Ware

I know of only one other solid light gray neolithic ware from Greece, the  $\Gamma 1\beta$  or "grey on grey" ware of Thessaly.<sup>1</sup> Although the fine gray fabric is similar to that of the Corinthian gray ware, the shapes and the decorative systems in the two wares are quite

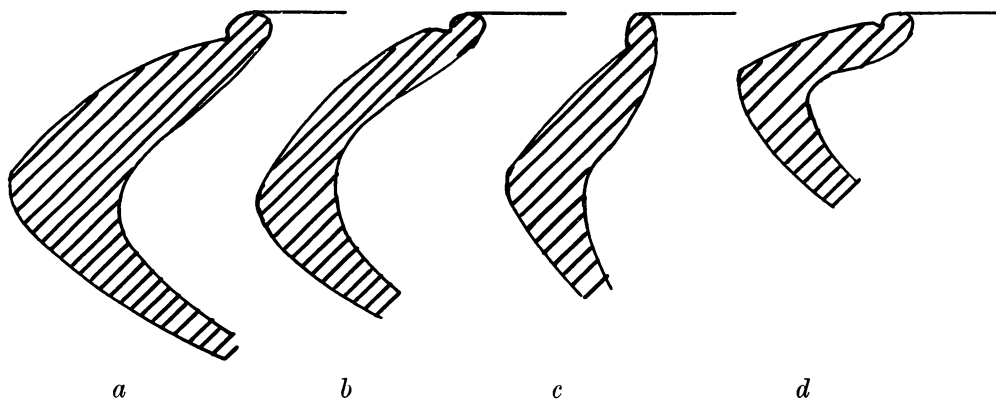


Fig. 26 (1:1). Incurved Rims of Bowls, Neolithic Gray Ware

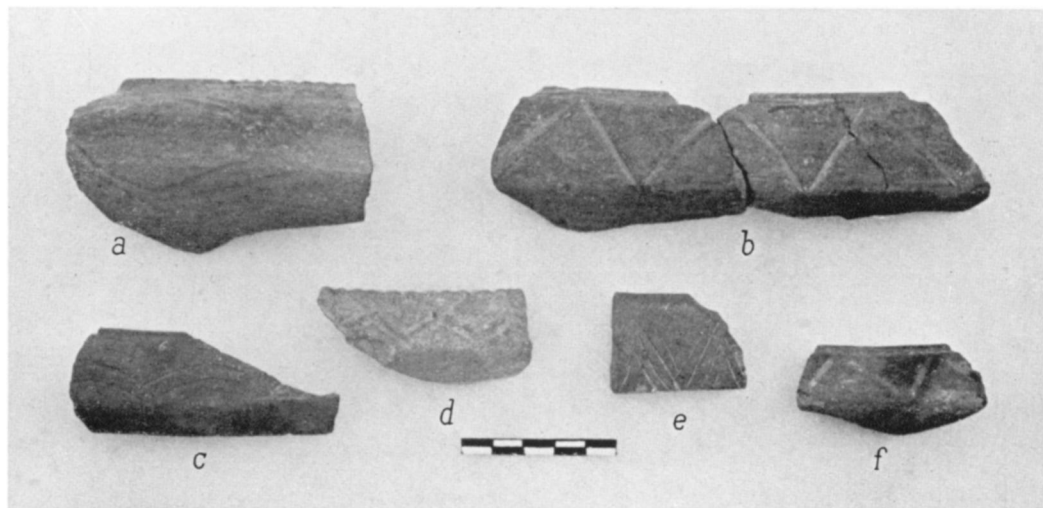


Fig. 27. Incurved Rims, Neolithic Gray Ware

different. No fragments with gray paint occur at Corinth, and so far as I know incisions are absent in the Thessalian gray ware. Some fragments of the Thessalian ware have the carinated, flat-bottomed shape of the high-rimmed bowls. There are also some small jugs with high necks, but the "fruitstands" and the bowls with incurved rims are not common

<sup>1</sup> Wace and Thompson, *Prehistoric Thessaly*, pp. 17, 107, fig. 57, pl. IV, 5 and 6.



to the "grey on grey" wares. The shapes of the Corinthian gray ware are much more closely related to the various late neolithic wares; the "fruitstands" of Thessaly "B" wares,<sup>1</sup> the carinated bowls of the later neolithic black wares and of the "Urfirnis" ware, the bowls with incurved rims of the "Urfirnis"—a shape transitional to the Early Helladic Period. Such a transitional position the ware itself probably occupies, together with the "Urfirnis" ware with which it is usually found.<sup>2</sup>

In the large mass of neolithic pottery from Central Greece now displayed in the Chaironea Museum, there is no ware that can be compared with this. Nor has such a ware yet been reported elsewhere in the Peloponnesos; not from the mound of Gonia only three miles away. Further reports of the excavations of neolithic sites in the Peloponnesos, of which there are now a considerable number, may produce parallels for the Corinthian gray ware. Then its place in the roster of neolithic ware will be

better understood. The probable connections of this ware with gray pottery from outside of Greece cannot be discussed in a preliminary report.<sup>3</sup>

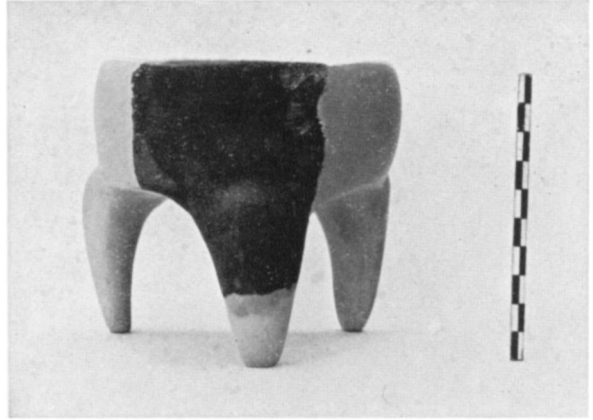


Fig. 28. Reconstructed Tripod Bowl, Neolithic Gray Ware

#### D. Black Monochrome and Decorated Ware

The quantity of the later black wares found at Corinth is small and the material is very fragmentary. There are scattered pieces representing a variety of shapes and systems of decoration, most of which have been carefully described from the Orchomenos material.<sup>4</sup> The considerable variety in such a small quantity of pottery seems to indicate that the ware is imported rather than locally made. What we have is generally well formed, of fine clay and hard-baked. The ware is distinguished from the earlier black wares both by the shapes and by the general use of a black slip, usually highly burnished. It has a rich black tone rather than the more gray color known previously.

The most common shapes are the bowls with concave rims and small bowls with incurved rims and the lip offset by a groove.<sup>5</sup> There are a few examples of high "fruitstand"

<sup>1</sup> Wace and Thompson, *op. cit.*, p. 98, fig. 50 d-j.

<sup>2</sup> *Orchomenos II*, p. 34.

<sup>3</sup> Bittel, *Prähistorische Forschung in Kleinasien*, p. 100, implies a relation with Anatolian wares. I have seen pottery from even farther east, pointed out to me by Mr. Sydney Smith of the British Museum, which in fabric and shapes is curiously like this ware. The gap is a long one, unfilled as yet.

<sup>4</sup> *Orchomenos II*, pp. 9-25.

<sup>5</sup> *Orchomenos II*, fig. 7.

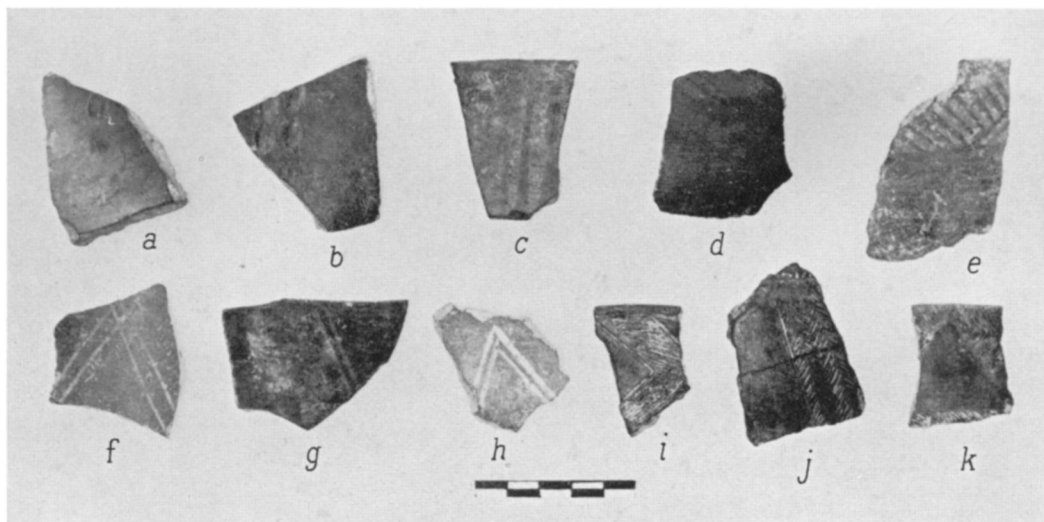


Fig. 29. Sherds of Decorated Neolithic Black Ware

bases and several pieces of wide open bowls of the "fruitstand" type.<sup>1</sup> There are several legs of vases of the type so common in Central Greece.<sup>2</sup> A few fragments belong to jugs with high cylindrical or conical necks.

The decorative systems are varied. There are a few examples of plastic decoration, either oval pellets or long bands running about the vase. More common is the stroke-burnishing (Fig. 29 c-e). In other examples broad bands delimited by incised lines are filled with cross incisions and then with white color. The incised fields are in straight or zig-zag bands or in triangles (Fig. 29 i-k). Finally, there is the decoration with dull white paint on the black polished ground, the designs linear and very simple (Fig. 29 f-h). The last type belongs to the end of the neolithic ceramic series in Thessaly.<sup>3</sup> At Eutresis in Boeotia, the stroke-burnishing occurs in the earliest deposits, which are sub-neolithic.<sup>4</sup>

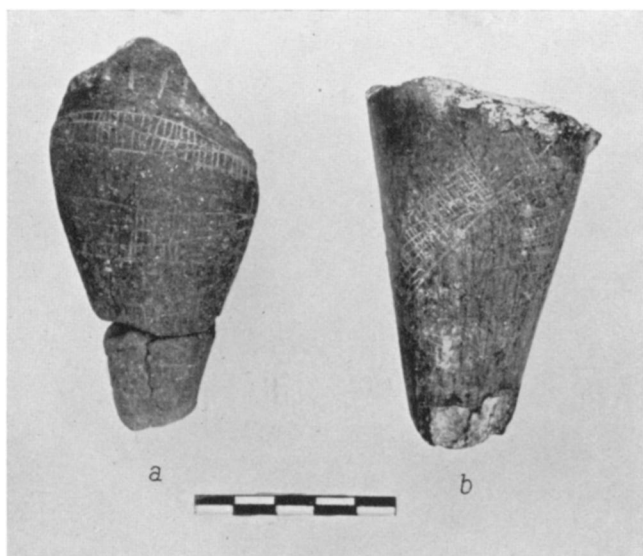


Fig. 30. Incised Feet, Neolithic Black Ware

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*, fig. 11.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Frankfort, *Studies II*, pl. IV, 7.

<sup>3</sup> Hansen, *Early Civilization in Thessaly*, p. 181.

<sup>4</sup> Goldman, *Eutresis*, pp. 77, 227.

### E. Painted Ware

Together with all the above later neolithic wares were found quantities of painted wares of the dark-on-light varieties. The pottery is badly broken and does not warrant an attempt at division into close categories. The examples found here cover the entire range of color schemes of the 'Thessalian B 3 wares, with the exception of the light-on-dark B 3 a 1 variety. The designs are painted in a rather heavy brown or black paint on grounds varying from white to a deep red. As in all of the Corinthian wares, the use of a white slip is not common and the designs are more often painted on the polished buff ground. The

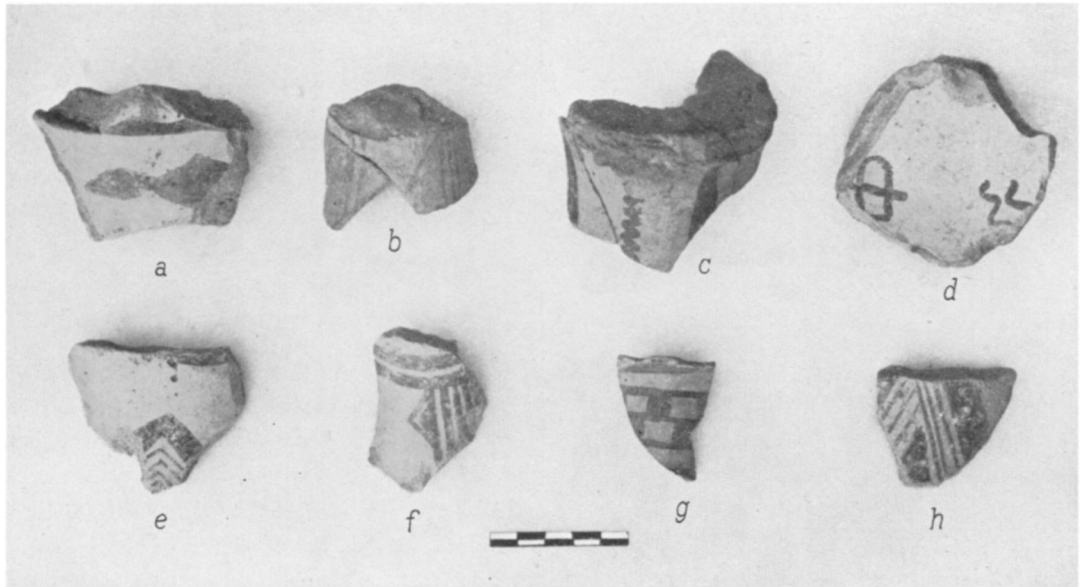


Fig. 31. Fragments of "Fruitstands," Neolithic Painted Ware

paint is very often matt and when applied to a dull surface, as it sometimes is, the effect is very much that of the Middle Helladic matt-painted wares.<sup>1</sup> The designs and the shapes also often suggest this later ware.

The "fruitstand" is again very popular in these painted wares (Fig. 31). There are examples of common "tumblers," of cups with concave rims, of the open bowls with flat bottoms, of bowls with incurved rims and of varieties of rather squat jugs.

In the designs, as in the greater frequency of matt-painted examples, there is a closer relationship with the wares of Central Greece and the Peloponnesos than with those of Thessaly. There is only one fragment with a spiral design among the numerous fragments found. The general system of design is much more open; a simple motive in a large field or arrangements in panels, rather than the all-over patterns of "Dimini"

<sup>1</sup> Blegen, *Metropolitan Museum Studies*, III, 1930, p. 68.

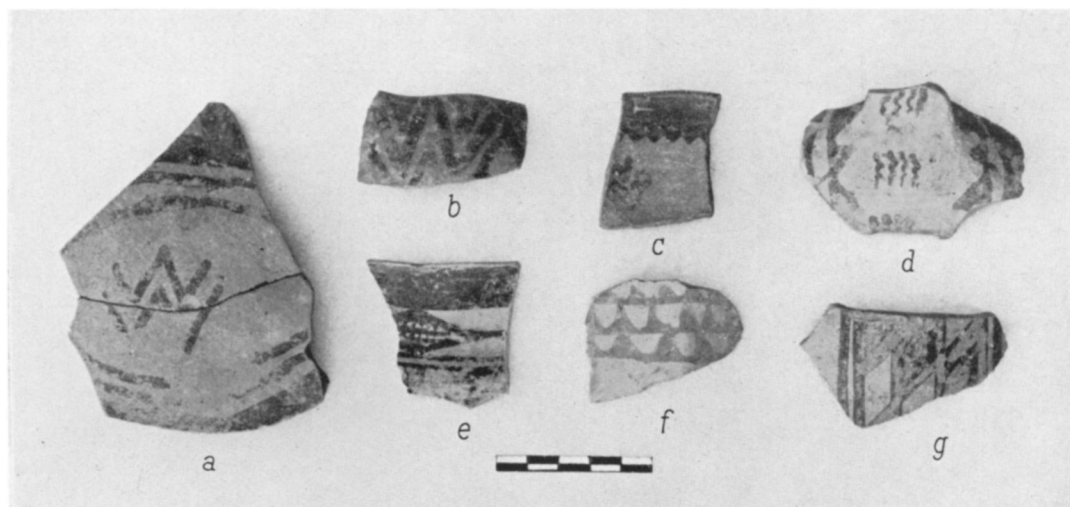


Fig. 32. Sherds of Neolithic Painted Ware

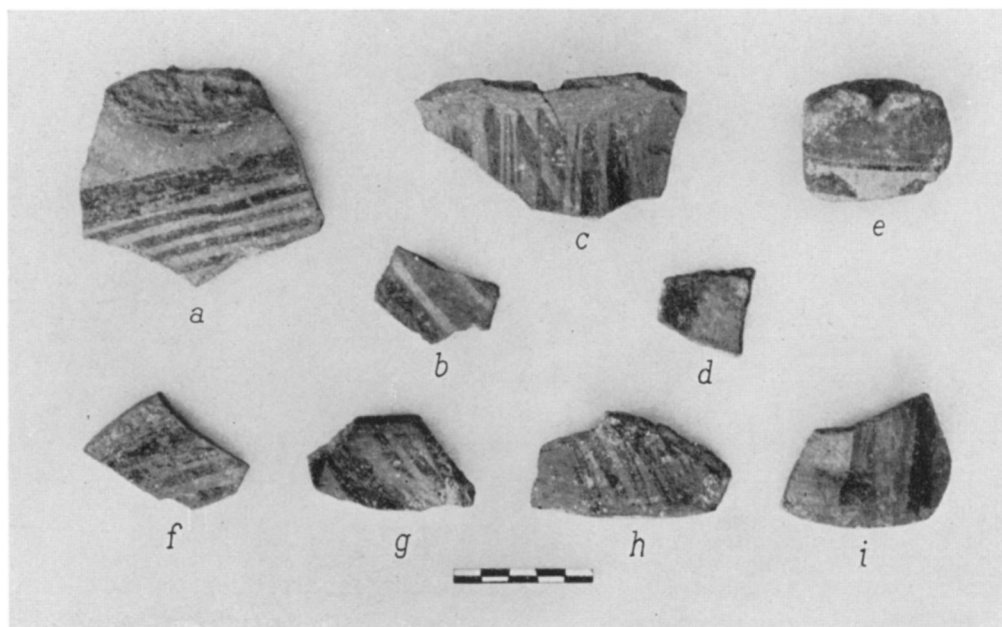


Fig. 33. Sherds of Neolithic Polychrome Ware

ware.<sup>1</sup> Straight and wavy lines occur alone and in various simple combinations, triangles are solidly filled or cross-hatched, the "checkerboard" pattern occurs in a few sherds.

<sup>1</sup> Compare figures 31 and 32; *Orchomenos II*, pl. XIX–XXVI and *Metropolitan Museum Studies*, III, 1930, pl. I with Tsountas, *A–Z*, pl. XX–XXX, and Wace and Thompson, *Prehistoric Thessaly*, pl. 1.

Of all of this painted pottery, only fifteen sherds were recognized as belonging to the polychrome class. Two of these pieces have the designs in broad red lines outlined with black (Fig. 33 *d*), the variety so common at the near-by site of Gonia.<sup>1</sup> The others have a design in one color in a general panel arrangement, the panel delimited by lines of the other color (Fig. 33 *c, g-i*).<sup>2</sup> Such pieces seem to belong to "fruitstands." The scarcity of this ware at Corinth, and particularly of the first variety, seems very unusual when one realizes that it is "the characteristic ware of the 'neolithic' deposit at Gonia."<sup>3</sup>

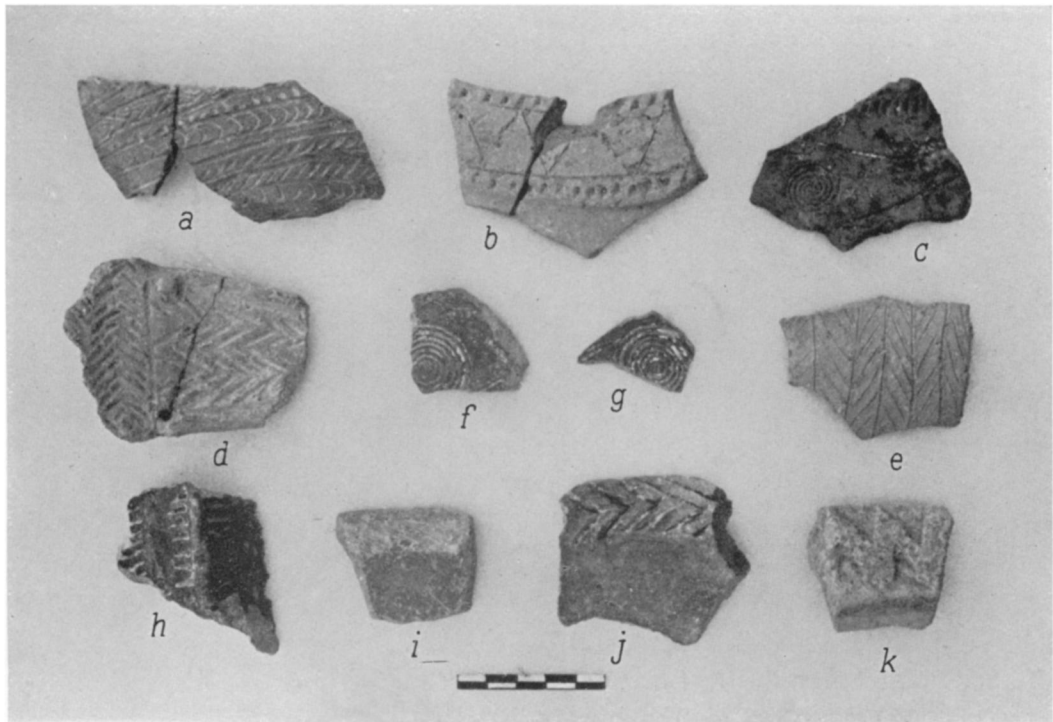


Fig. 34. Early Helladic Sherds with Incised or Stamped Designs

### III. Early Helladic Pottery

In the upper levels of the prehistoric deposits found in all of the trenches on Temple Hill were found quantities of Early Helladic pottery. The Early Helladic fill varied in thickness from 0.50 m. to 0.80 m. In the lower levels these wares were frequently mixed with the later neolithic wares. Above the mixed deposits were found only the Early Helladic wares. In such shallow fill there was no basis for stratigraphic differentiation of the

<sup>1</sup> Blegen, *Metropolitan Museum Studies*, III, 1930, pl. II.

<sup>2</sup> *Orchomenos II*, pl. II, 3.

<sup>3</sup> Blegen, *op. cit.*, p. 69.

pottery. Usually the material was badly broken. In all, seventeen vases have been reconstructed, fifteen of them coming from one large deposit in trench V.

After the careful classification and description of the Early Helladic pottery from such sites as Korakou, Zygouries, Eutresis and Orchomenos, a detailed treatment of the material from a trial dig in the much disturbed fill of Temple Hill is unnecessary. Some of the more complete vases are interesting examples which deserve special mention. The great mass of the pottery will be treated in groups with particular reference to the Zygouries classification.<sup>1</sup>

The early hand-polished ware (A 1) occurs in considerable quantities, but it is so broken that no vase could be reconstructed from the remains. There are, however, several interesting pieces of the incised variety of this ware (Fig. 34 *a-e*). Among the bands filled with small crescents or lines, some of them arranged in "herringbone" fashion, and the zig-zags, there are again the running spirals of Cycladic type (Fig. 34 *c*).<sup>2</sup> The fragments with spirals shown in figure 34 *f-g* are probably pieces of Cycladic pottery, for they have the dark brown polished surface of the island wares and are quite different from the rest of the Early Helladic pottery found at Corinth. The fragment in figure 34 *h* is most likely the rim of a Cycladic "frying-pan," the type of vessel to which the other pieces with spirals may also belong.<sup>3</sup>



Fig. 35. Early Helladic Bowl

About two-thirds of a rather large bowl with incurved rim of the slipped and polished ware (A II) was found in the lower Early Helladic level of the fill in trench I (Fig. 35), in which there were still a few fragments of the later neolithic wares. The bowl is somewhat warped and is oval at the lip. The greatest diameter is 0.207 m., the height is *ca.* 0.095 m. The reddish-brown slip is well polished and the marks of the polishing tool are clear over the surface. The slip has chipped off in scattered small areas. Such bowls are very common and their fragmentary remains are abundant. Some of the bowls have wide flat rims, which are often decorated with incised lines in a chevron pattern (Fig. 34 *i, j*). The use of stamped designs resulting in a relief zig-zag band on the lip is less common (Fig. 34 *k*).<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Blegen, *Zygouries*, pp. 75–125.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Blegen, *Korakou*, p. 5, fig. 3; Goldman, *Eutresis*, pl. III, 2.

<sup>3</sup> Several pieces of such vessels were found in the E.H.I. deposits at Eutresis (Goldman, *Eutresis*, pp. 80–82, fig. 97). Vases of the Cycladic type occur in some quantity at Hagios Kosmas in Attica, especially in the tombs (Mylonas, *A.J.A.*, XXXVIII, 1934, pp. 266, 272–274, fig. 19). The "Cycladic" style is also common in Zygouries in the E.H.I. period (Blegen, *Zygouries*, p. 217).

<sup>4</sup> Blegen, *Zygouries*, pl. V, 2.

At about the centre of the west side of trench V there was an "island" of prehistoric fill about two metres square, almost surrounded by later intrusions. The upper 0.70 m. of this fill contained a large deposit of Early Helladic pottery, from which several vases could be reconstructed. In this deposit there are the remains of at least seventeen sauceboats, only five of which were completed (Figs. 36, 37 *b*, 38). One of these sauceboats (Fig. 36) is a fine example of the yellow slipped variety of A II ware, "technically the most perfected pottery produced in Early Helladic times."<sup>1</sup> Like all of this ware, the vase is made of well levigated clay, is baked hard and has very thin walls, only 0.002–0.003 m. thick. The biscuit has an even gray tone. The yellow slip has retained its original color in a few patches on the base and body; the rest has turned a fine silvery gray and is mottled with large spots of bluish gray. The surface is exceedingly smooth and does not have the tool marks common in this ware. The slip has not peeled or chipped off as it so often does. The high body and the short high spout are characteristic of the sauceboats in this class.<sup>2</sup> The height of the body at the handle is 0.125 m., the height at the tip of the spout 0.21 m.; the width 0.125 m.; the length 0.17 m. As in the Zygouries examples, the handle is vertical. The base, however, is not of the common simple ring type, but flares sharply at the bottom and is carefully hollowed inside. There are several fragments of a second sauceboat of the same ware, with vertical handle also, but here the base is of the crudely formed ring type.

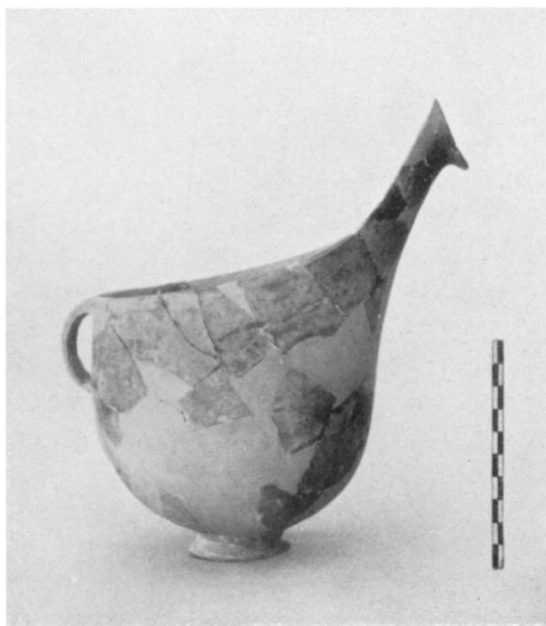


Fig. 36. Sauceboat of Yellow Slipped Ware, Early Helladic Period

To the same class of wares belongs the odd bowl shown in figure 37 *a*. It is less carefully made than the sauceboats and most of the yellow slip has chipped off, leaving the buff surface exposed. The foot of the bowl is higher and more developed in profile than that of the sauceboat of figure 36. It has a high cylindrical upper part and a low wide-flaring base, with a groove separating the two sections. The foot is carefully hollowed out. A very similar foot occurs in a glazed-ware sauceboat (Fig. 37 *b*) and there are three others among the more fragmentary remains.<sup>3</sup> The bowl, which has an unusual hemispherical

<sup>1</sup> Goldman, *Eutresis*, p. 97.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Blegen, *Zygouries*, fig. 66, pl. IX, 1; Goldman, *Eutresis*, pl. VI, 1.

<sup>3</sup> Of some fifty sauceboats and an equal number of small bowls from the Corinthia which are in the Corinth museum, only one, a small yellow slipped bowl from Zygouries (Blegen, *Zygouries*, p. 81, fig. 67,

profile and ends in a simple cut-off lip, reminds one somewhat of the lower part of a sauceboat; indeed, it may be part of one that was spoiled in the making. A shallow dish, quite warped, also belongs to the yellow slipped ware.

Of the glazed wares, only a very few fragments have both glazed and unglazed surfaces, the B I type. There is, however, a great mass of the completely glazed wares (B II). Most of the pottery of the large deposit belonged to this later class. Everywhere there were remains of numerous sauceboats. The four examples shown in figures 37 *b* and 38 are from the deposit in trench V. The first, already mentioned for its combination of a high base with a horizontal handle, has an oddly shaped high body and a long narrow spout that rises rather high. The back of the body bulges strongly above the base and then slants inward towards the lip; the horizontal handle sits high as on a shoulder. The vase is *ca.* 0.12 m. high at the back and it rises to a height of *ca.* 0.16 m. at the tip of the spout. The width of the body is *ca.* 0.11 m.; the length from back to spout *ca.* 0.17 m. Much of the glaze has chipped off; that which remains varies in color from reddish-brown to black.

The other three sauceboats (Fig. 38) are of the rather low bulbous type with short spout. The body swells above the low ring foot and then curves inward towards the lip. As in almost all of the glazed sauceboats, the handles are set horizontally. In example 38 *b* the glaze is well preserved; in the other two most of it has chipped off. All are made of rather impure clay, are thick-walled and not well finished. The dimensions of the vase of figure 38 *a* are: height at back 0.109 m., at tip of spout 0.128 m.; width 0.11 m.; length *ca.* 0.177 m. The second sauceboat measures 0.104 m. high at the side of the body, 0.17 m. at the tip of the spout; diameter 0.126 m.; length *ca.* 0.18 m. The last one stands 0.093 m. high at the back, *ca.* 0.125 m. at the tip of the spout; width 0.115 m.; length *ca.* 0.172 m.

Fragments of the common small bowls with incurved rims are about as frequent in the glazed wares as are those of the sauceboats. There is considerable variety in the sizes and shapes of these bowls. Some of the variations are shown in the more complete examples

no. 298), has anything but the low ring foot, generally rather crudely made. This is also true of the dozen sauceboats and numerous bowls displayed in the Nauplia Museum. The sauceboats with low feet have either horizontal or vertical handles, the second type being rather uncommon. The six hollow high feet just found are thus very unusual in this region. Even more uncommon is the combination of high foot with horizontal handle in the sauceboat of figure 37 *b*, for elsewhere the high base always seems to be found in combination with vertical handles. This is true at Orchomenos where the high foot is more common (Kunze, *Orchomenos III*, pp. 38–43, 76–77, pl. XV, 2). The low ring foot was scarce there, and Kunze noted the fondness for this type of foot as typically Peloponnesian (*Orchomenos III*, p. 76). At Eutresis the high hollow foot is found in the E.H.I. level and is considered an earlier type (Goldman, *Eutresis*, p. 94, fig. 118). In Attica the high foot occurs commonly. It was the regular type in the settlement on the North Slope of the Acropolis (Broneer, *Hesperia*, II, 1933, p. 356, fig. 26 i). Both high and low bases were found at Hagios Kosmas (Mylonas, *A.J.A.*, XXXVIII, 1934, p. 265). A sauceboat from Phaleron has both the high splayed foot and the vertical handle (Fimmen, *Kretisch-Mykenische Kultur*, fig. 132). The same type occurs in Leukas (Dörpfeld, *Alt-Ithaka*, Beil. 64 1, 3; 65 1).





Fig. 37. Early Helladic Ware

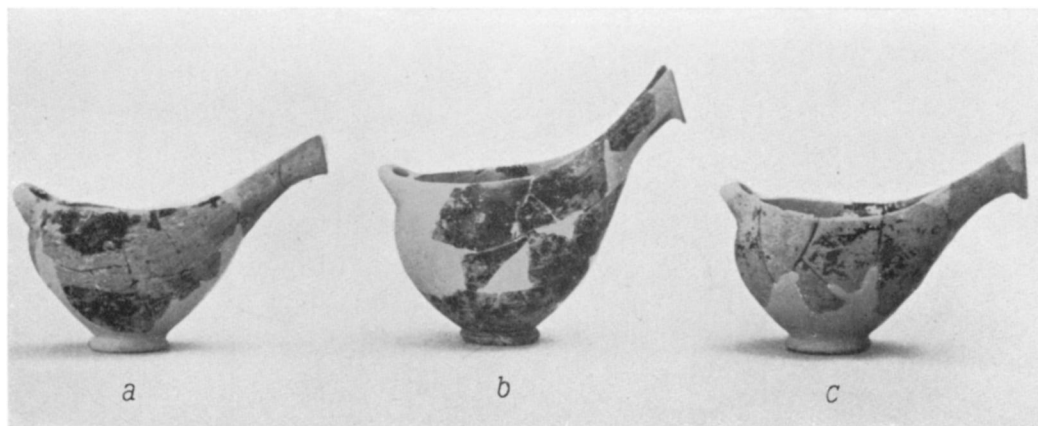


Fig. 38. Sauceboat of Glazed Ware, Early Helladic Period

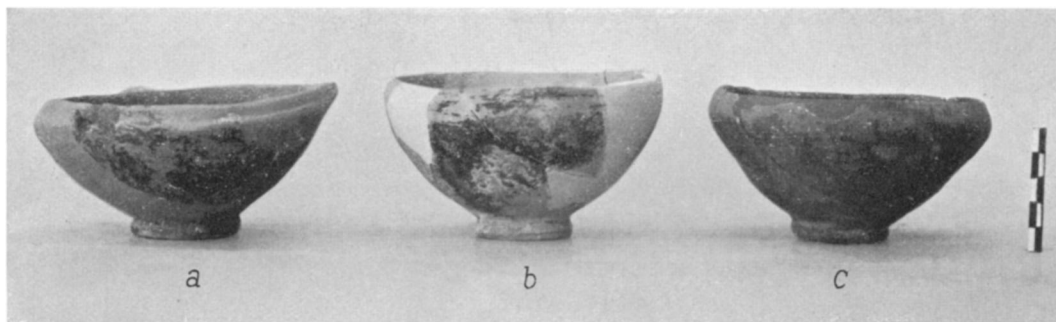


Fig. 39. Bowls with Incurved Rim, Early Helladic Period

of figure 39. The first bowl (Fig. 39 *a*) has a less common type of rim, in which there is a narrow shoulder separating the rim from the body.<sup>1</sup> This bowl is further distinguished by having small vertically pierced knobs at the rim. The vase has been restored with three such knobs, only one of which is preserved. However, enough of the rim remains to show that there could not be four knobs and if they were for suspension cords the restored number is most likely. The height of the bowl is 0.058 m., the diameter 0.12 m. Much of the rather dull black glaze has chipped off.



Fig. 40. Early Helladic Krater

The second bowl has a simple incurved rim, merely a contraction of the circumference toward the lip. It is slightly warped; the diameter varies from 0.116 m. to 0.123 m. The height averages 0.068 m. In the last example the rim curves in sharply, making an almost angular juncture with the body. The bowl is covered with a heavy red glaze, most of which remains. The height is 0.063 m.; the diameter 0.12 m. All of the bowls have the rather crude low ring foot.

Among the fragments of pottery in the large deposit in trench V were found about two-thirds of the large handsome krater shown in figure 40. The base is practically complete, but numerous fragments of the body are missing. However, the shape is well defined by the pre-

served remains. It is one which I do not know elsewhere in Early Helladic pottery. The unique feature is the high stand, reminiscent of the neolithic "fruitstand." This base is paralleled only by the small Early Helladic goblet from Zygouries.<sup>2</sup> The lower diameter of the stand is 0.185 m., the minimum diameter 0.11 m. The large bulbous bowl contracts slightly toward the lip; the rim is broad and flat. The total height of the krater averages 0.34 m.; the greatest diameter of the bowl is *ca.* 0.32 m. For so large a vase, the clay is well levigated. The walls average 0.006 m. in thickness. The biscuit is rather crumbly and the edges of the fragments are not sharp. Most of the black glaze is gone from the exterior, but it is better preserved inside the bowl. The inside of the stand is well finished;

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Blegen, *Zygouries*, p. 88, fig. 76, no. 387.

<sup>2</sup> Blegen, *Zygouries*, p. 125, fig. 117.

the walls remain an even thickness up to the bottom of the bowl and there is a sharp angle at the top where the bowl and stand meet. The heavy handles, one of which is restored, are set horizontally and slope downwards. An applied clay band with oblique incisions runs about the bowl at the level of the handles. The outer edge of the rim has similar slanting incisions.

Together with all of the better Early Helladic wares were found quantities of coarser pottery, very little of which could be put together. The fragments belong to large bowls and jugs and to great pithoi. There are many examples of the heavy rims with plastic bands that look like rows of clay discs, or with stamped designs.<sup>1</sup> Also frequent are the large flat bottoms with mat impressions.

No traces of a Middle Helladic settlement were found above the Early Helladic remains; in the pottery from the Temple Hill, all of which was hand made, not a single Late Helladic sherd was recognized. It is possible that any later settlement may have been destroyed in the course of levelling off the hill in classical times. But it is hardly likely that the traces of it should have vanished, particularly from the many disturbed areas in which pottery from the prehistoric settlement was found. We have already noticed (p. 488) that all of the great area about the Temple Hill and as far as the Asklepion has so far yielded almost nothing but neolithic and Early Helladic remains.<sup>2</sup> It is not surprising, then, that the same thing holds true on the Temple Hill.

## Miscellaneous Objects

Together with the pottery described above were found a number of fragmentary objects of clay, bone, obsidian and stone. One of the best preserved of these objects is the steatopygous female figurine shown in figure 41. The figurine was found in trench V in neolithic fill about 0.05 m. above the rock. The head and extremities are missing, but the body is well preserved. The greatest length is 0.07 m.; the width at the hips 0.049 m.; the depth at the buttocks 0.031 m. The clay is rather well purified and is baked hard. The core is gray, but the surface is buff. The surface is well burnished and has a light polish. Traces of heavy red paint remain in the incised lines above and below the navel and in the hollow between the breasts. The type is the standing steatopygous female with the hands held just under the breasts, a type particularly common in Thessaly in the First Neolithic Period and in Central Greece.<sup>3</sup>

The fragment of a figurine shown in figure 42 has a bird-like head resting on a tall cylindrical neck. The splaying at the bottom of the preserved piece is the connection with the body of the figurine. The piece is only 0.034 m. high and 0.018 m. wide. It is made of rather coarse clay and the biscuit is a dark brown color. The dark surface has been

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Blegen, *Zygouries*, p. 121, figs. 113, 114; *Orchomenos III*, pl. XXVIII.

<sup>2</sup> Broneer, *A.J.A.*, XL, 1936, p. 207 and note 1.

<sup>3</sup> Wace and Thompson, *Prehistoric Thessaly*, pp. 68, 242, fig. 35; Tsountas, *A—Σ*, pl. 32; Mylonas, *Ἡ Νεολιθική Ἐποχὴ ἐν Ἑλλάδι*, pp. 57, 67, fig. 63.

smoothed and shows the burnishing strokes. The head has a beaked nose and two horizontal slits on either side of it. In a similar fragment Tsountas identified these slits as eyes and eye-brows.<sup>1</sup> No mouth is indicated, and here the three dots under the nose of the Thessalian example are missing. The hair is parted at the middle of the crown and falls down on either side; collecting at the back of the neck, it is indicated by incised zig-zag lines. The fragment was found in mixed fill on the top of trench I and cannot be dated from its context. The Thessalian example is dated in the First Neolithic Period.<sup>2</sup>



Fig. 41. Neolithic Steatopygous Female Figurine

The base shown in figure 43 is interpreted as the bottom part of a figurine. The base proper is 0.048 m. high and has an oval section 0.055 m. wide and 0.037 m. deep. At the top there is a sort of shoulder and then an oval broken section from which supposedly rose the upper part of the figurine. The base is made of somewhat gritty clay, well baked; the biscuit has a buff color. The surface has been decorated with a linear design in red paint and the whole was carefully polished over. The technique is that of the early neolithic painted wares (Fig. 7). The piece was found in trench IV in neolithic fill at about 0.25 m. above hardpan.

The only piece of an Early Helladic figurine found is the fragment of an animal shown in figure 44. Only the hind part is preserved; the legs are missing even here. The figurine

<sup>1</sup> Tsountas, *op. cit.*, pp. 299–300, fig. 224.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 284.

was made of rather gritty clay of a light buff color. The surface is roughly tooled and is of a light greenish-gray tone, so common in the Corinthian Early Helladic ware. A stripe down the back and rows of parallel bands running down the sides are put on in the flaky black glaze of the period. The fragment was found in Early Helladic fill in the upper part of trench V. A more complete example of a very similar animal was found in the Early Helladic levels at Gonia.<sup>1</sup>

Among the remaining miscellaneous objects there are two of the common Early Helladic whorls,<sup>2</sup> one of which came from the large Early Helladic deposit in trench V. Of bone implements there were only a few fragments, probably from a pin and a broad spatula. Everywhere in the prehistoric fill there were pieces of obsidian flakes. Only one blade was complete, for the flakes are very thin and fragile. One well worked flint implement was found. There were several fragments of stone celts, all like the Thessalian type A,<sup>3</sup> and only one complete celt of the same type. The celts are generally of green stone and a few of the fragments are very beautifully polished and have sharp edges. A few stone pounders complete the list of such objects.

Although these excavations on Temple Hill consisted only of trial trenches and were of a preliminary nature, several interesting results were obtained from them. Of greatest im-



Fig. 42. Fragment of Neolithic Figurine



Fig. 43. Base of Neolithic Figurine



Fig. 44. Fragment of Early Helladic Animal Figurine

portance is the finding of a large quantity of neolithic pottery. The material again illustrates well the technical skill of the neolithic potters, their imagination which obtained

<sup>1</sup> Blegen, *Metropolitan Museum Studies*, III, 1930, p. 79, fig. 33.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Blegen, *Zygouries*, p. 190, fig. 179 10, 11, 13.

<sup>3</sup> Hansen, *Early Civilization in Thessaly*, p. 183.

great variety despite the limited shapes and decorative motives at their command. The comparison of this pottery with that of the same period elsewhere shows the strong similarities existing between the wares found here and in Central Greece, the somewhat more remote connections with Thessaly. The comparisons with Central Greece may seem exaggerated now, due mainly to the greater availability of the material from there when contrasted with the scarcity of comparative material from the Peloponnesos. The similarities remain, however, and the proper perspective will come with the publication of more Peloponnesian pottery.

The comparison with the Gonia neolithic ware reveals an important fact concerning the localization of neolithic industry. The rarity of the Gonia polychrome ware in Corinth and the absence of the important class of Corinthian gray ware at Gonia are extreme cases, for the sites are only three miles apart. There seem to be no chronological distinctions sufficient to explain away this difference. It is in marked contrast with the subsequent Early Helladic period, in which all of Greece is united by a new influence. There is little to distinguish the Early Helladic ware from Corinth from that found elsewhere on the mainland. This difference in ceramics in the two periods has a greater significance; the advent of a new people has imposed a common culture on all of Greece. That this happened gradually rather than abruptly, that there was a transitional phase, is indicated again at Corinth as it was at Gonia.

Finally, these excavations confirm the evidence from previous prehistoric finds on and about the Temple Hill in showing that this immediate region was inhabited in the Neolithic and Early Helladic periods, but that to our present knowledge no remains sufficiently abundant to indicate regular settlements of a later period exist closer than the mound at Cheliotomylos and the North Cemetery in the plain below.

SAUL S. WEINBERG