

# BOEOTIAN POTTERY FROM THE ATHENIAN AGORA

(PLATES 111–113)

THE amount of pottery found in the excavations of the Agora at Athens which can with confidence be attributed to Boeotia<sup>1</sup> is small, and all comes from one or other of two deposits that came to light near the north foot of the Areopagus. The one, K 14:1, comprises a quantity of vases and fragments of various dates and fabrics found in a fill of loose rubble considerably higher than the ancient level, much of it used to fill up a trench in which modern sewer pipes had been laid. The other, O 17:2, equally miscellaneous, formed a more compact deposit about 0.30 m. deep, extending over less than one square meter and resting on the floor of a pit or cellar bounded by modern walls on the north and south. There can be little doubt that both these groups of pottery were stored in cellars in modern times and that they represent the stock in trade of dealers in antiquities.

The vases and fragments which belong to known Boeotian classes are here numbered **1-16**. Those numbered from **17** onward, from various parts of the Agora, have features that are compatible with Boeotian origin, but they cannot in the present state of our knowledge be assigned with certainty to any Boeotian workshop or locality, while some of them appear to have closer relations with the neighboring island of Euboea.

**1. Ribbon-handled SKYRHOΣ. Pl. 111.**

P 3885. Deposit K 14:1. H. 0.12 m. D. 0.163 m.

Restored: one handle and parts of the walls. Body deep and full, ribbon handles, low foot. Clay pinkish buff, glaze dull black, thin and rather streaky.

*Ext.* Decoration in five rows separated by pairs of black lines. Handle zone: outlined lotuses, the outer petals red painted over black,

alternating with mop-like palmettes, all linked by interlacing stalks; below: open cable; the pattern of the handle zone inverted; three rows of dots; rays. *Int.* Black with five bands of superposed red at regular intervals. Footring black outside, inside reserved with a black line round the top, resting surface reserved. On the underside a black spot within a circle.

This shape was much favored in Boeotia. It is found with human and animal figures in the

<sup>1</sup> I am very much indebted to Professor H. A. Thompson for inviting me to study the Boeotian pottery from the agora, and to Miss Lucy Talcott and all the staff of the excavations for much help and friendly cooperation, as well as innumerable personal kindnesses, when I was working in Athens. In particular I wish to thank Miss Alison Frantz for making many photographs for me to work from as well as those here published. For permission to publish photographs of vases in Athens, Chalkis and Jena my thanks are due to Mrs. Semne Karouzou, Dr. J. Papademetriou and Dr. G. Zinserling.

The abbreviations *BGP* and *Sixth* stand for P. N. Ure, *Black Glaze Pottery from Rhitsona in Boeotia*, London, 1913, and *Sixth and Fifth Century Pottery from Rhitsona*, London, 1927.

Geometricizing style (*J.H.S.*, XLIX, 1929, pls. XI, XII), with formal patterns as here, with plain black bands on a reserved ground, black with red bands inside and out, or plain black (*Sixth*, pp. 21 f.). In decoration the nearest parallel is Rhitsona 102.34 (*ibid.*, pl. VII) where the two upper rows are identical. The Rhitsona grave 102, a single interment with 107 vases of various kinds, provides a contemporary setting for skyphoi of this class (grave inventory *ibid.*, pp. 85 f.). The motives of the decoration connect them also with a number of long-necked oinochoai of the shape used by Gamedes.

Last quarter of the sixth century.

**2. Ribbon-handled SKYPHOS. Pl. 111.**

P 3886. Deposit K 14:1. H. 0.11 m. D. 0.155 m.

Restored: most of one side, about one-third of the other, most of the foot and part of one handle. Clay pinkish buff, glaze good black.

*Ext.* Decoration in five rows separated by pairs of thin black bands or lines, a red band being painted over the black immediately below the handle zone. Handle zone as **1**; below: tongues alternately black and red; open cable; dots three or four deep; rays. *Int.* as **1**, but the lowest red band is missing.

See under **1**.

**3. Ribbon-handled SKYPHOS. Pl. 111.**

P 3887. Deposit K 14:1. H. 0.113 m. D. 0.163 m.

Restored: most of one side and part of the foot. Clay pale buff in the handle zone, but a purplish pink over the rest of the vase, probably due to its being placed inside another in the kiln. Glaze fired red.

*Ext.* Decoration in six rows separated by pairs of thin black bands or lines, a red band being painted over the black immediately below the handle zone. Handle zone: a double row of ragged brush-like palmettes with straight leaves united by a horizontal line on which circles with a central dot alternate with the palmettes; below: small metopes each contain-

ing a black spot; zigzags; framed tongues, more leaf-like than those on **2**; dots more unevenly placed than those on **1** and **2**, generally three deep; rays. *Int.* Black with bands of red placed closer together than in **1** and **2**, probably seven in all. They are hard to distinguish against the red of the ill-fired glaze. On the underside a black spot within a circle.

See under **1**. Cf. for this vase especially the oinochoe Athens 12576 which has a similar cable with mop-like palmettes, Plate 113, and one in Jena where there are dots in metopes as well as leaf-like tongues and zigzags, Plate 113.

**4. BOWL. Pl. 111.**

P 3894. Deposit K 14:1. H. 0.079 m. D. 0.16 m.

Restored: parts of the wall. Deep bowl with flat rim and almost vertical walls curving abruptly inwards to the low foot. Below the rim two holes for suspension 0.03 m. apart, one of them visible on the right of the illustration on Plate III. The whole of the vase, including the base, painted black.

*Ext.* Two rows of ivy leaves in applied white between two red bands, each row separated from its neighbors by a pair of incised lines, with another pair below the lower red band and a single incised line above the upper. A red line at the junction of wall and footring. *Int.* Two pairs of red lines, one 0.03 m. below the rim, the other defining the floor of the vase, and a small red circle in the center. On the black base red circles: a small one at the center, a pair midway between center and circumference and a single at the junction of footring and base of vase.

Handleless bowls with holes pierced below the rim to take a cord or metal ring for suspension occur in Boeotia from the second half of the sixth century to the early years of the fourth. There seems to be no parallel for the decoration of the outside with its numerous incised lines. The black base with red circles connects the vase with the all-black pottery decorated only with red lines very popular around 500 B.C.

## 5. Fragments of a ΣΚΥΡΗΟΣ. Fig. 1; Pl. 111.

P 3899. Deposit K 14:1. Original D. ca. 0.21 m.

Three fragments of rim and upper part of wall, each made up of several pieces. Rim offset, slightly concave. Clay in parts gray from burning. Good black glaze covers the whole surface.

*Ext.* On the rim a wreath of myrtle; the stalks of both leaves and berries and the outline of the leaves are incised, the leaves painted red, the berries white. Below the wreath a single red line. *Int.* Black with a red line 0.03 m. below the lip.

From a skyphos such as Toronto 346, *Cat.* pl. LII, signed by the potter Teisias, and Rhitsona grave 31 no. 217, *BGP*, pl. VI, un-

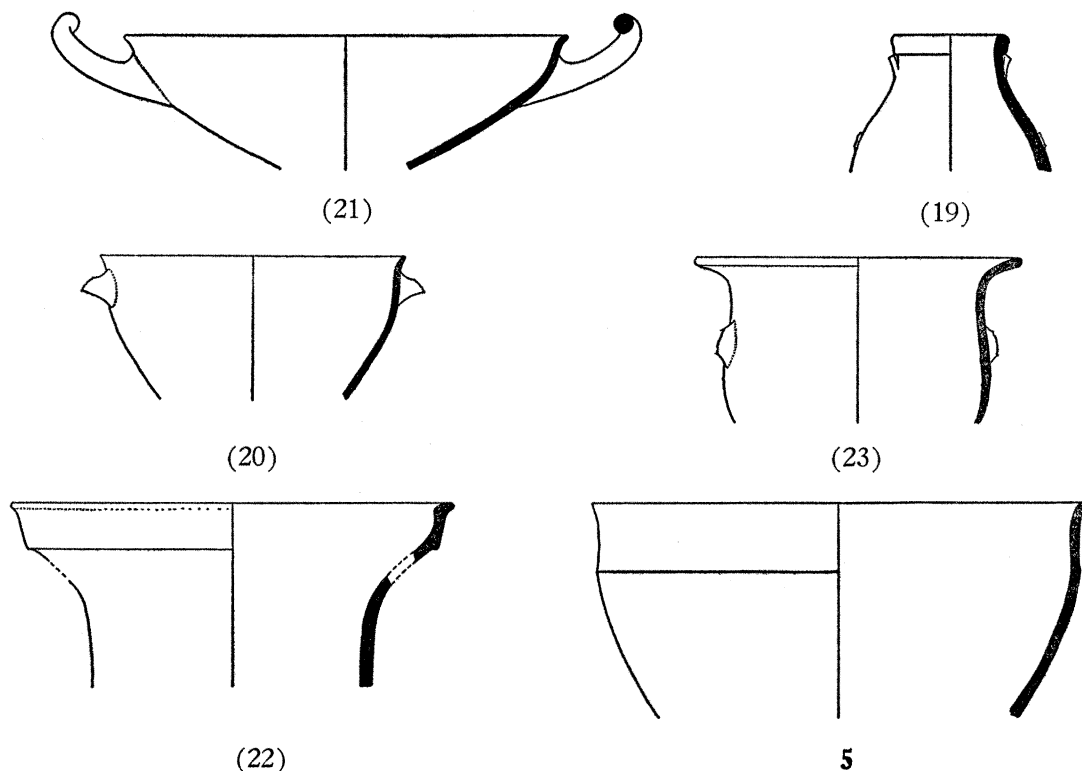


Fig. 1.

signed. For this potter, who signed himself "Teisias the Athenian" but worked in Boeotia, see D. M. Robinson, C. G. Harcum and J. H. Iliffe, *Catalogue of Greek Vases in the Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology*, Toronto, 1930, pp. 150 f. Other vases signed by him are four kantharoi in Thebes from Rhitsona (18.133, *B.S.A.*, XIV, 1907-08, pp. 263, 293, fig. 12, 18; 18.134 and 135, *BGP*, pl. VI; 133.55, *Sixth*, p. 103, fig. 6), one in Tanagra Museum, one complete specimen and several fragments in

Athens from Tanagra, G. Nicole, *Catalogue des vases peints du Musée National d'Athènes, supplément*, Paris, 1911, 1150, and a skyphos of Corinthian shape, Toronto 347, *Cat.* pl. LII. There is also a pair of kantharos handles, unmistakably his, in Göttingen, *Arch. Anz.*, 1938, pp. 68 f. The fine quality of the Agora fragments and their close similarity to the signed skyphos in Toronto justify their attribution to the hand of Teisias himself.

About 500 B.C.

## 6. Stemless KYLIX. Pl. 111.

P 3883. Deposit K 14:1. H. 0.089 m. D. 0.222 m.

Missing: both handles and parts of the wall. Bowl deep with offset rim; ring foot, resting surface reserved. In the bottom of the black-painted bowl is a disk fired red, no doubt caused by the foot of a vase standing in it in the kiln. Clay buff, pink in fracture.

*Ext.* On each side two palmettes alternating with two lotuses, all linked by sinuous tendrils which end in volutes under the handles. Beneath one handle there springs from one volute an ivy leaf and from the other a bud and leaf; beneath the other the same, except that the ivy is replaced by a narrow shapeless leaf. The palmettes and lotuses extend upwards over the rim, of which only the upper part is painted black. Below: a broad black band; above the foot a reserved band. *Int.* Black. On the base a broad black ring.

The sinuous tendril and the fleshy kind of lotus seen on this kylix are near to those of Boeotian floral cups of around 425 B.C. (e.g. *J.H.S.*, XLVI, 1926, p. 56, fig. 1, 2, in Tannagra Museum; *Sixth*, pl. XXIV, 123.32, in Thebes, from Rhitsona; Brussels A 75 and A 2187, *C.V.A.*, III, pl. 113, 5, 7), though it does not conform precisely to this class.

## 7. KYLIX. Pl. 111.

P 3884. Deposit K 14:1. Pres. H. 0.069 m. D. 0.18 m.

Missing: both handles, stem, foot and parts of walls. Bowl deep, curving slightly inwards at the rim; a slight depression in the bottom. Fine buff clay. Black glaze poor and in parts very thin.

*Ext. A.* Two palmettes with no hearts, the leaves springing directly from the ground, and one lotus. *B.* Two palmettes; on the left of them a cluster of ten dots. Beneath handles nothing. On the rim a black band of uneven depth. *Int.* Black.

These characterless, ill-drawn palmettes are hard to place.

Probably early fourth century.

## 8. BOLSAL. Pl. 112.

P 3896. Deposit K 14:1. H. 0.07 m. D. 0.125 m.

Missing: a few pieces of wall and of rim. Walls almost vertical, curving only slightly out at the rim, but otherwise with a profile similar to that of 4. Low footing with unusually broad resting surface (0.014 m. wide). Heavy fabric. Clay burnt gray; glaze a good black underneath the foot, elsewhere dull from burning. The whole of the vase, including the underside, painted black as 4.

*Ext.* A pair of horizontal red lines at the level of the bottom of the handles. *Int.* A single red line at a depth of 0.015 m. below the rim. On the black base a red spot in the center, a pair of red circles midway between the center and the circumference; the inner surface of the footing painted red.

For cups of this class see *Sixth*, p. 29, IV D. This one is specially close to those from grave 46 at Rhitsona (none illustrated in the grave inventory, *J.H.S.*, XXIX, 1909, pp. 321 f.). Practically identical is no. 43 in the unpublished grave 15<sup>2</sup> which has the same exceptionally broad footing. Nauplia 570, a cup with disparate handles, is comparable.

First quarter of the fifth century.

## 9. Conical-footed KANTHAROS. Pl. 112.

P 3909. Deposit K 14:1. H. to rim 0.117 m. D. 0.111 m.

Missing: part of the wall on one side. Above and below the keel that unites the upper and lower parts of the body a shallow ridge. Inside the foot, at the bottom of the cone, there is a groove made with a blunt instrument; from the top of the cone hangs a tiny sharp pendant. In the bottom of the cup there is a shallow depression made by the thumb of the

<sup>2</sup> For grave 15 see P. N. Ure, *Aryballoi and Figurines from Rhitsona*, Cambridge, 1934, p. 2, note 1.

potter. Clay fine, pink in fracture, surface yellowish buff. Glaze fairly good black, streaky only on the foot. The whole vase painted black except the inside of the foot.

For accounts of this shape see *Sixth*, pp. 36 f. class C, and *C.V.A.*, Reading I, p. 51, pl. 33,8. The Agora vase is rather narrower in the body and more angular than those of about 425 B.C. (*Sixth*, pl. X, 123.21,22) and approximates the fourth century shape seen in *BGP*, pl. XIV, 1, though the handles, sweeping round in a wide curve towards the keel, are nearer to the earlier phase.

About the last decade of the fifth century.

#### 10. KANTHAROS. Pl. 112.

P 3910. Deposit K 14:1. Pres. H. to rim 0.14 m. D. 0.113 m.

Missing: stem and foot. Body slender. Clay pinkish buff, glaze leaden black, in places mottled and verging on a chocolate brown.

This vase is slenderer and therefore later than the kantharoi of the end of the third quarter of the fifth century such as those found in the polyandron of the Thespians who fell at Delion in 424 B.C.<sup>3</sup> and the kantharoi in the contemporary grave 123 at Rhitsona (*Sixth*, pl. X, 123.7). It is also later than those decorated in red-figure by the Argos painter (e.g. *A.J.A.*, LXII, 1958, pl. 104), which are to be dated not long before the end of the fifth century.

Early fourth century.

#### 11. KANTHAROS Pl. 112.

P 13579. Deposit O 17:2. H. to rim 0.175 m. D. 0.103 m.

Restored: most of one handle and a piece of the other, bits of the rim and walls. Very slender body on a tall stem which swells to a ridge halfway down; unserviceably small foot. Hard reddish clay, dull black glaze.

The whole of the vase painted black except the inside of the foot, which has merely a smear of paint.

A late shape not known in any datable context. Probably mid-fourth century.

#### 12. Stemless KANTHAROS with high-swung handles. Pl. 112.

P 3906. Deposit K 14:1. H. to rim 0.113 m. D. at lip 0.115 m. D. of foot 0.075 m.

Restored: small parts of body, handles and foot. Heavy fabric. Foot broad, in two steps, base within footring convex, resting surface grooved. Clay coarse, reddish, glaze poor, nearly all fired red.

The vase painted black inside and out, and splodges of black daubed on the greater part of the foot.

Fourth century.

#### 13. Stemless KANTHAROS with high-swung handles. Pl. 112.

P 3908. Deposit K 14:1. H. to rim 0.12 m. D. at lip *ca.* 0.13 m. D. of foot 0.084 m.

Missing: both handles, more than half of the rim and part of the wall. Shape as 12, but the foot heavier and the resting surface not grooved. Clay pinkish, glaze metallic.

Painted black over the inside and on the outside down to the foot. Foot and underside merely splodged with paint.

Fourth century.

#### 14. Stemless KANTHAROS with high-swung handles.

P 3907. Deposit K 14:1. H. to rim 0.124 m. D. at lip *ca.* 0.137 m. D. of foot 0.085 m.

Missing: one handle, a small part of the other, large parts of the rim and walls. Shape as 13. Burnt. Clay gray, glaze poor.

Black glaze covers most of the vase, but nearly half the bottom of the inside of the cup and parts of the outside of the foot are left unpainted. Splodges of black on the underside of the foot.

Fourth century.

<sup>3</sup> *Πρακτικά*, 1911, pp. 153 f. A large quantity of pottery was found, of which the red-figured vases were published by Lullies, *Ath. Mitt.*, LXV, 1940, pp. 8 f.

**15.** Stemless KANTHAROS with low handles.  
Pl. 112.

P 3912. Deposit K 14:1. H. 0.07 m. D. 0.084 m.

Complete but for a few small fragments from the rim. Handles carelessly attached and not straight. The upper part of the body, like that of a normal kantharos, curves gently out towards the rim, the wall of the lower part is almost vertical; round the vase immediately below the keel a shallow groove. Footring grooved on the outer edge and on the resting surface.

Clay pink in fracture, clear yellowish buff on the surface, comparable in quality with that of the conical-footed kantharos 9. Black glaze fired mostly chocolate, partly red painted over the whole vase except the base and the inner side and resting surface of the footring, which are reserved with accidental splashes of paint.

The kantharos with low handles derives from deep-bottomed cups with ring foot such as three from the Rhitsona grave 18, dated about 500 B.C., e.g. *BGP*, pl. II, 18.216. It becomes shallower below the keel and approaches its characteristic shape in the middle of the fifth century, see *BGP*, pl. IX, 76.23,24. This Agora vase falls between these and the final shape seen in the mid-fourth century grave 34, *BGP*, pl. XV, 34.38.

Probably early fourth century.

**16.** Stemless KANTHAROS with low handles.  
Pl. 112.

P 3911. Deposit K 14:1. H. 0.088 m. D. 0.085 m.

Complete but for a few fragments of wall and rim. Lip offset; the lower part of the body deeper than that of 15 and ribbed horizontally; thumb-rests on the handles, which are set well below the lip; broad footring grooved on the outer edge and on the resting surface.

Clay in fracture gray from burning, underneath the foot unburnt and a warm buff. Glaze, fairly good except where it is leaden gray from burning, painted over the whole vase except the base and the inner side and resting surface

of the footring, which are reserved with accidental splashes of paint.

For the shape see under 15. 16 belongs to the last and most popular stage of its development. For a list of similar shapes see *C.V.A.*, Reading I, p. 32 under pl. 20, no. 7. To this should be added Yale 493, Baur, *Catalogue of the Rebecca Darlington Stoddard Collection of Greek and Italian Vases in Yale University*, New Haven, 1922, fig. 104, and Alexandria, Benachi, *Berytus*, XI, 1955, p. 137, pl. XXXI, 11. D. von Bothmer has recently added others in Poitiers, Buffalo and New York, *A.J.A.*, LXIII, 1959, p. 310.

Middle of the fourth century.

There is some doubt as to whether the following are Boeotian.

**(17).** Miniature KANTHAROS. Pl. 113.

P 11033. Deposit D 15:1. H. 0.04 m. D. 0.053 m.

Restored: more than half of the walls. Both handles missing. The lower part of the body fairly deep; ring foot. Clay buff; over about half the vase it is gray from burning. Glaze a good black on the inside.

*Ext.* On each side of the upper part above the keel four vertical branches with short twigs projecting from them. Sometimes the twigs are replaced by round spots. On the lower part, between bands with attached billets, a row of widely spaced blobs. *Int.* Black with a reserved band round the lip. On the base a large black spot within a circle.

The stiff branches may be related to those on two ring aryballoi, one in Heidelberg (inv. 286, *C.V.A.*, I, pl. 27, 7, *Hesperia*, XV, 1946, p. 47, no. 13), and one in Reading (inv. 51.7.15, unpublished). Both are of the characteristic Boeotian shape, rectangular in section. The Reading aryballos has no known provenience. That in Heidelberg is inventoried as coming from Keos, but some years ago the writer was informed by the late Professor Zahn that a number of vases he had bought, alleged by the vendor to have come from Keos, were subse-

quently found to be from Boeotia. The Heidelberg aryballos is almost certainly one of these. A miniature basket with similar sprigs was found at the Theban Kabeirion (Wolters-Bruns, *Das Kabirenheiligtum bei Theben*, Berlin, 1940, pl. 49, 7) and is no doubt Boeotian. It is nearer to the ring aryballoi than to the Agora kantharos, which remains without any very close parallel.

Second half of the sixth century.

(18). Miniature HYDRIA. Pl. 113.

P 13203. Area O 20. H. 0.078 m. D. of foot 0.044 m.

Missing: the neck, all three handles, the front and one side of the vase. The only part of the main zone preserved lies between the base of the vertical handle and that of the horizontal handle on the right. Clay of an orange color, warmer than that of most Boeotian ware. Glaze fairly good black. Rough rustic work.

Beneath the vertical handle is an object which somewhat resembles a large ring-handled kantharos. On the left of this object are two legs which might conceivably belong to a figure of Pan such as that on Amsterdam inv. 2117 (*Gids*, 1937, pl. LXVI). The figure appears to be holding a stick. On the right, facing the problematical Pan, is a warrior with spear uplifted, red helmet (largely lost), round shield with red center surrounded by a black rim with large white spots; behind him a youth reclines on a couch with a low table beside it, the folds of his himation alternately red and white. White is used strangely for the upraised hand and arm of the warrior, for the hand of the figure holding the stick, for a line running obliquely between the caprine legs, and for lines along the rim and across the upper part of the foot of the "kantharos." Below the main zone, bordered by a pair of narrow bands of thinned glaze above and below, a row of lotus flowers hanging down, joined by stems making irregular, but generally shallow arcs. The flower is black with a red tip, and there is a sepal in white applied over black on the left and a smaller one in thinned glaze on the right. No parallel can be

cited for this lopsided lotus. Below the lotus band, rays. On the foot, tongues alternately black and red.

The alternation of red and white folds may point to Boeotian origin, see *Bull. Inst. Cl. Stud.*, VI, 1959, p. 3.

Late sixth century.

(19). Fragment of a small AMPHORA. Fig. 1; Pl. 113.

P 17808. Pit J 18:4. Pres. H. 0.06 m. D. of mouth 0.05 m.

Missing: the body below the shoulder and both handles. The stubs of the handles remain and show that they were set high, just below the narrow rim. Clay pale yellowish buff. What is left of the body and the inside of the neck are covered with good black glaze. The rim and the chevrons on the shoulder are painted in a thin paint that varies from brown to a purplish red.

On the shoulder a continuous band of chevrons; within each a smaller chevron, and within that a large black spot. The glaze has in many cases flaked off these spots, but the outline can always be traced. Beneath the chevron band a heavy line of the same brownish paint.

Chevron bands are not infrequent on Boeotian pottery. This band, however, with its bold spots in hard metallic black standing out in strong contrast to the pale matt lines of the chevrons, may belong to an Euboean variety, in which there is a contrast of light and dark. See *B.S.A.*, LV, 1960, pl. 55, 4, which shows a lekythos in Chalkis Museum, where black chevrons alternate with red.

Late sixth or fifth century.

(20). Fragments of a SKYPHOS. Fig. 1; Pl. 113.

P 8969. Filling G 15:6. Pres. H. 0.067 m.

The greater part of one side of the vase is preserved and the stubs of one handle. Foot missing. Clay brown in fracture, the surface in places fired red. Glaze thin and very streaky, fired red or mottled over the greater part. On the outside of the rim, immediately above the

handle zone, a line in applied red. Inside, similar lines in applied red at intervals of about 0.027 m. (two of these preserved).

In the handle zone decoration in metopes separated by groups of uprights, wavy between straight. Three metopes are preserved: one contains a "butterfly," those on each side of it four broad leaves placed crosswise with a dot between each pair and one in the center.

There is in Reading a cup<sup>4</sup> with similar butterflies in metopes, Plate 113, of unknown provenience. The clay is yellow, resembling that of Euboean pottery rather than Boeotian, and the decoration shows two features that are frequently met with in Euboea, namely, a large spot within a small circle under the foot, as on some Euboean lekanai, e.g. *J.H.S.*, LXXX, 1960, pl. XI, 1, and a reserved band round the bottom of the vase above the foot, such as is found in Euboea from the late seventh century to the fourth, *B.S.A.*, LV, 1960, p. 217. It seems likely that both the Reading vase and the Agora fragments should be assigned to Euboea and dated around 500 B.C.

(21). Fragments of a KYLIX. Fig. 1; Pl. 113.

P 6455. Area P 8. Pres. H. 0.042 m.

Two fragments of rim and wall which do not join, one complete handle, rising well above the rim, attached to the larger. Foot missing. Clay brownish; fairly good black glaze. Rim black, lower part of body black with a fine line in thinned glaze above it. Inside black with a reserved band half a centimeter wide inside the rim.

On the larger fragment a palmette on the left of the handle has a tendril sweeping round the right side of the palmette, drawing inwards towards the top and ending with a tuft of thin shapeless leaves; on the left of the palmette the curling tip of a lotus petal bordered with dots and a swastika in the field. On the other side of the handle the tips of three leaves of a

palmette and part of the enclosing tendril. On the smaller fragment two lotus petals, the lower bordered with dots, and the tips of two leaves of a palmette. Beneath the handle a flower.

In general appearance these fragments are very like kylikes of the Boeotian floral style, but practically every detail could equally well, if not more easily, be paralleled on Euboean floral vases. For the tuft of thin leaves sprouting from the tendril see the corresponding tendril on the pyxis *B.S.A.*, LV, 1960, pl. 53, 4 which is itself a careless version of the motive on the nuptial lebes *ibid.* pl. 52, 1, 2. Both these vases are in the Chalkis Museum and were found in the neighborhood. Dots bordering the lotus petals and following the curl round to the tip can be seen on the stamnos-pyxis *ibid.* pl. 52, 3, 4, also in the Chalkis Museum and of Euboean provenience. The object that takes the place of the normal Boeotian ivy leaf beneath the handle looks much like that leaf with side petals or sepals added to turn it into a flower.<sup>5</sup> This recalls some sixth century Euboean lotuses, see *J.H.S.*, LXXX, 1960, p. 162, pl. X, 1. It seems on the whole likely that this kylix is Euboean rather than Boeotian.

Early fourth century.

(22). Fragments of a PYXIS. Fig. 1; Pl. 113.

P 6536. Well G 12:21. H. of the largest fragment 0.028 m.

Five fragments, of which the three largest are illustrated. From a pyxis resembling that in Koenigsberg, *Hesperia*, XV, 1946, pl. II, 1 (= Lullies, *Antike Kleinkunst in Koenigsberg*, n.d., pl. 17). Clay yellowish brown on the outside, pinkish on the inside, which is unpainted but carefully smoothed and finished. Glaze varies from black to brown.

Two fragments from the rim of the vase (Pl. 113, below) show unconnected palmettes with leaves springing from a thick horizontal bar which is barely distinguishable, merging

<sup>4</sup> Inv. 56.8.3. H. 0.105 m. D. 0.145 m.

<sup>5</sup> The floral cup Nauplia 546 has somewhat similar projections or sepals on the ivy leaves under the handles, but it bears no other resemblance to the Agora kylix.



as it does into a black band at the bottom of the rim on which the palmettes stand. Below the rim there is a band of net pattern which is seen on all three fragments figured and on two smaller not figured. Below this a band of larger palmettes of the same kind as those on the rim (Pl. 113, above).

The pyxis belongs to a group of vases decorated with palmettes of a similar shape based on a horizontal bar which lies along the ground line. Certain features of this group look Euboean, and one of the vases included in it is a lekane in Chalkis Museum (inv. 582, detail Pl. 113). A kylix of the same group was among the seven floral cups found in the Thespian polyandron (see under 10), which at first seems to tell in favor of Boeotian origin, but the cup has nothing in common with the other six. Four of them are of a group that belongs to the Tanagra-Mykalessos region, and these were very probably acquired at Tanagra, whither the Boeotians retired after taking up their dead at Delion (Thucydides, IV, 97), and subsequently taken with the bodies to Thespieae. The one kylix which goes with the pyxis fragments may have been acquired at the same time, either in Tanagra or at Delion, which is

on the coast facing Euboea<sup>6</sup> and so well placed for importing from Eretria or Chalkis. See further *Bull. Inst. Cl. Stud.*, VIII, 1961, pp. 2f. The date is established by the cup from the Thespian polyandron of 424 B.C.

(23). Fragment of KRATER. Fig. 1; Pl. 113.

P 23139. Area I 12. Pres. H. 0.074 m.

Part of rim, wall and stub of one handle of a small bell krater. Clay pale brown, reddened all over with miltos except an arc under the handle which is left in the natural color of the clay. Black glaze on the lower part of the wall, on the rim and inside, where it is fired a chocolate brown.

Main zone: on the left of the handle stub a lotus, the petals springing separately from the ground; on the left of it the tips of two leaves of a palmette; under the handle a star-shaped flower with originally five petals around a central spot; beneath the handle stub a dot rosette. Below the main zone a border of S-pattern.

Boeotian floral black-figure, as far as it is known, provides no parallel for the decoration of this vase.

Late fifth or early fourth century.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Thucydides, IV, 76.

<sup>7</sup> A non-Attic kantharos with ring handles from the Hedgehog Well, P 12699, has been described as probably Boeotian, *Hesperia*, XXIII, 1954, p. 73, no. 3, pl. 24, c. The vases from Rhitsona cited in support of this view are not of precisely the same shape. Until a closer parallel of undoubted Boeotian provenience is found the attribution remains uncertain.



1



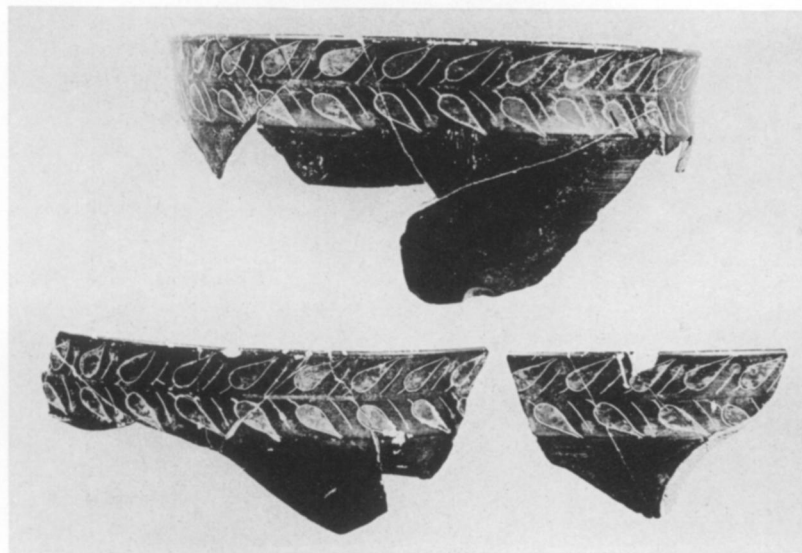
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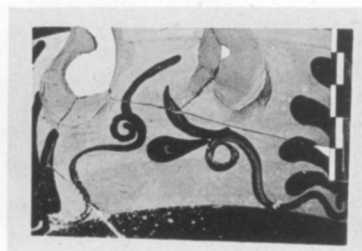
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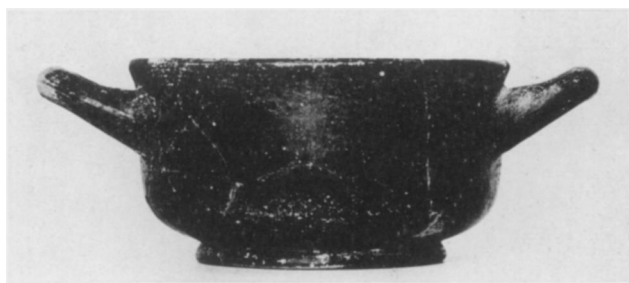


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Scale 2:5



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Scale 2:5

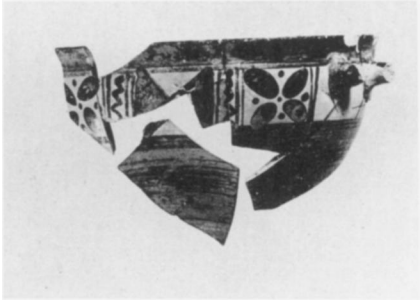


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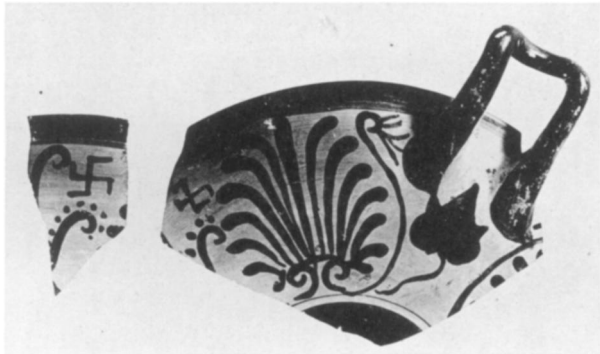


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Reading



Chalkis



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Jena



Athens, National Museum 12576