

MARBLE FIGURINES FROM AYIA IRINI IN KEOS

(PLATES 17-22)

INTRODUCTION

EXCAVATIONS at Ayia Irini in the years 1960-1969 produced fragments of 36 marble figurines, chiefly of well-known Cycladic types. All came from the area of the settlement on the promontory, none from graves. They were found in many parts of the site and at many different levels, stratigraphically associated with pottery and other objects of the Early, Middle, and Late Bronze Ages. It is not a large collection, but some of the pieces have an intrinsic interest and the group as a whole is not without significance.

The catalogue which follows is descriptive rather than analytical. In it are recorded: the field inventory number in parentheses; the place of finding, by area (capital letter; see plan, Fig. 1) and by room if any ("surface" means that the object was found on or near the surface of the ground or in earth dumped from the site at some time, disturbed and mixed); the relative date of associated architectural remains and objects (for the sequence of periods at this site and for notes on the chronology, see the commentary following the catalogue); the color and texture of the stone, in layman's terms ("micaceous" means only that there is an obvious glint from particles or facets of the material); the state of preservation; the dimensions as preserved (height, width from side to side, thickness from front to back); a description of features which may be of interest, and occasional references to studies of similar figurines, for clarification.

The relative dates of stratigraphical contexts at Ayia Irini may be defined more precisely after further study of the pottery and architectural remains, but without substantial effect upon the dating of the figurines.

In the catalogue, and more particularly in the commentary, reference is made several times to a recent treatment of the subject by Colin Renfrew, "The Development and Chronology of the Early Cycladic Figurines" in the *American Journal of Archaeology*, LXXIII, 1969, pages 1-32, plates 1-10.

CATALOGUE

1. (K1. 306) Fig. 2; Pl. 17. From Area A, Room XIII; Period III, late. White, fine-grained. Preserved from base of neck to pubic triangle; arms chipped. H. 0.108, W. at shoulders 0.104, Th. chest to back 0.019. **Very flat. Outlines of arms lightly incised. Rump projects; no median groove above, shallow one below.**

Hesperia, XL, 2

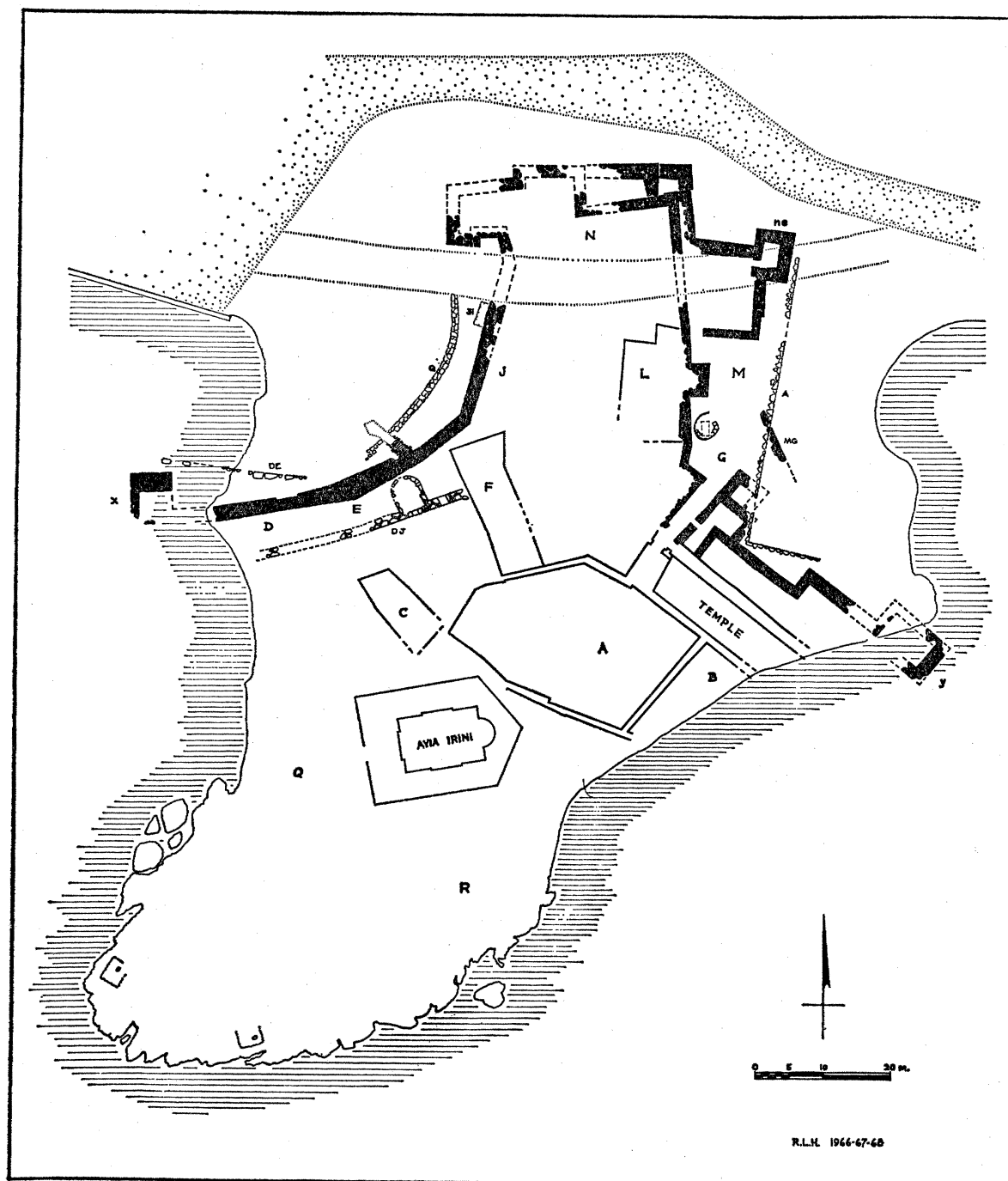


FIG. 1. Plan of Excavations at Ayia Irini in Keos.

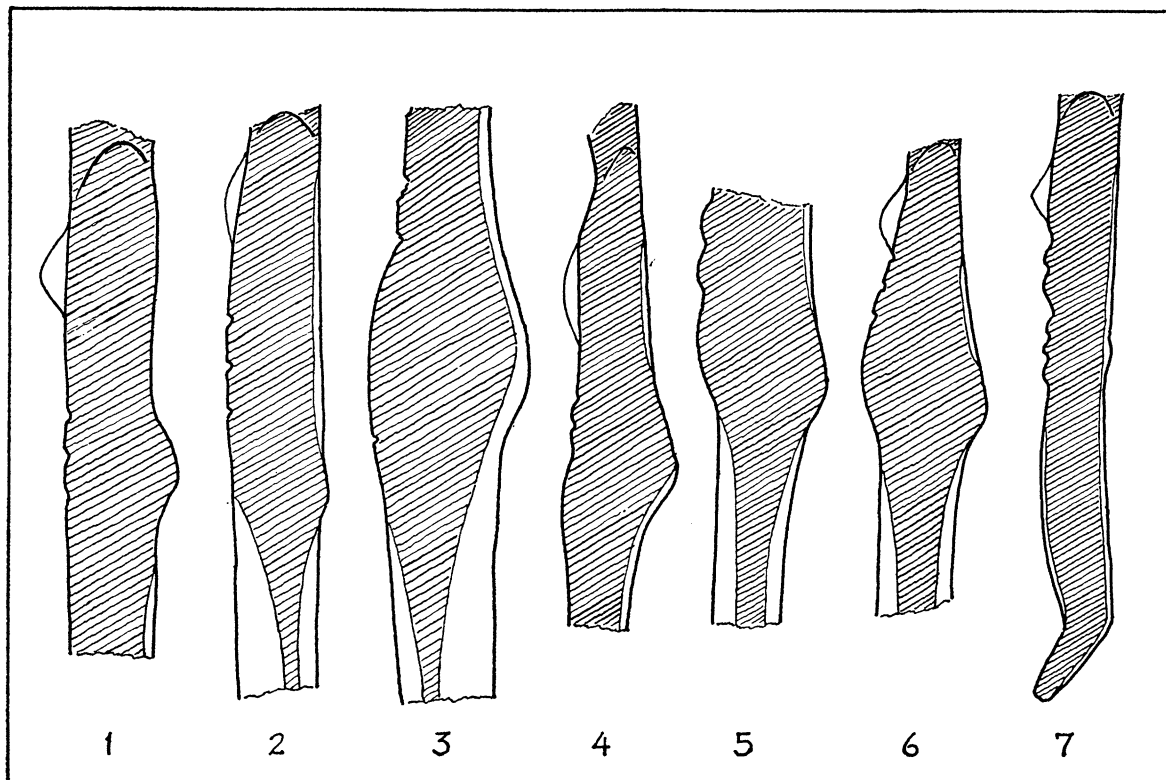


FIG. 2. Profiles of Figurines.

2. (K9.9) Figs. 2, 3; Pl. 17. From Area C, Room XXVI; Period II. White, fine-grained; very smooth; discolored light brown. Preserved from base of neck to knees. H. 0.118; W. at shoulders 0.079, at waist 0.051, at knees 0.035; Th. at chest and belly 0.019. Flat, with suggestion of slight forward bend at hips (more apparent than in the profile drawing, Fig. 2). Arms outlined by straight incisions, schematic. Breasts scarcely rendered, wide apart. Deep groove separates legs in front. Light grooves behind neck and down median of back; buttocks very slightly indicated by horizontal cutting; deeper groove between legs below.

3. (K9.8) Figs. 2, 3; Pl. 17. From Area C; Period II. White, moderately coarse-grained, laminated vertically, micaceous; discolored brown, especially on back; flaked and eroded

in front. Preserved from arms to thighs. H. 0.116; W. at top of fragment 0.101, at hip level 0.082; Th. belly to buttocks 0.032. Flat, with convex belly and pronounced rump. Large pubic triangle. Moderately deep groove between legs at front, very deep behind, continuous from upper back and off-center. Mending-hole through top of left thigh with grooves downward on front and back for bars of clamp.

4. (K4.43) Fig. 2; Pl. 18. Found in surface earth discarded from the site. White, moderately fine-grained; much worn; discolored brown, chiefly on front. Preserved from neck to knees. H. 0.106; W. at elbows 0.076; Th. belly to rump 0.021. Flat; bent forward slightly at waist. Sloping shoulders. Arms schematic. Belly gently convex. Rump projecting. Division of legs not evident in front; shallow median groove on back and below rump.

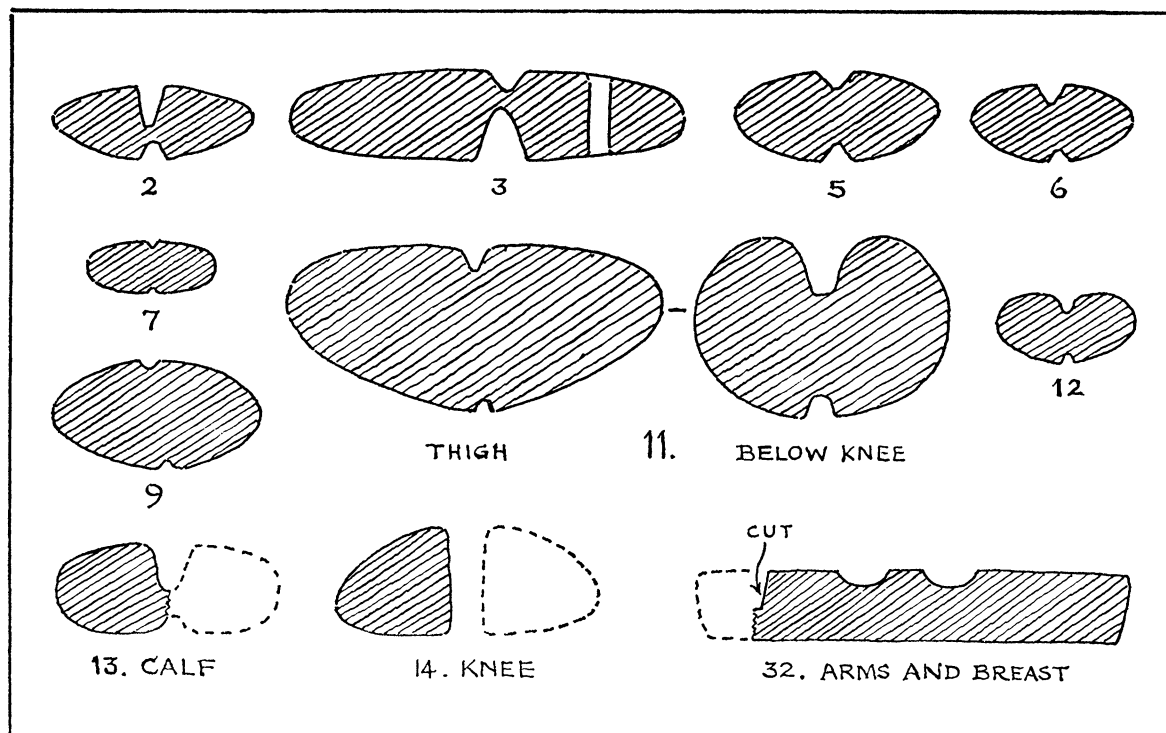


FIG. 3. Horizontal Sections of Figurines as seen from below with Front Surface Upward.

5. (K8.256) Figs. 2, 3; Pl. 18. From Area E, surface. White, fine-grained. Preserved from arms to knees. H. 0.086; W. at waist 0.039, at hips 0.043; Th. belly to back 0.026. Forearms and belly rounded; thighs flat in front and back, convex on sides from hips down. Body bent forward slightly at waist. Deep grooves separate legs before and behind; shallow median groove on back above projection of rump.

6. (Kea museum no. 2) Figs. 2, 3; Pl. 18. Found about 1951 by Miss Katina Peridou (later Mrs. Pantelopoulou) on the surface at Ayia Irini and presented to the collection of local antiquities which was being formed by the high school teacher, Mr. Thomopoulos. White, fine-grained; surface discolored brown, especially on back. Preserved from neck to knees. H. 0.095; W. at shoulders 0.055, at waist 0.034, at hips 0.041; Th. belly to back 0.026. Bit of neck preserved, oval in section, 0.018

side to side, 0.012 front to back. Similar to No. 5, with rounded belly, but arms flat and sketchily rendered. Grooves on either side of neck at back. Vertical grooves on front and back as in No. 5.

7. (K9.55) Figs. 2, 3; Pl. 19. From Area C, House E, below the latest floor of Room II; Period I. Grayish, moderately coarse-grained, smooth. Head and neck missing. H. 0.121; W. at shoulders 0.061, at waist 0.04, at ankles 0.022; Th. at chest and knees 0.015. Flat, slightly arched forward. Upper body notably rectangular, tapering from waist to ankles. Feet slant forward, with grooves suggesting toes. Arms in slightly rounded relief. Three pronounced horizontal ridges at belly. Shallow grooves at groin and distinguishing legs at front. Continuous shallow groove on back from shoulder-level to toes. Rump scarcely indicated.

8. (K3.1) Pl. 19. From House A, Room

VIII; Period III, late phase. White, moderately fine-grained, micaceous; discolored light brown. Preserved from neck to knee-level; chipped and worn. H. 0.094; W. at waist 0.034; Th. 0.016. Very similar to No. 7, above, but relatively narrower from waist downward and less carefully made.

9. (K9.56) Fig. 3; Pl. 19. From Area C, below the floor of House D; Period I, late phase. White, moderately grainy; discolored reddish brown. Preserved from mid-thigh downward; front of left foot lost. H. 0.071; W. at mid-thigh 0.039, at ankles 0.032; Th. at mid-thigh 0.021. Possibly like Nos. 7 and 8 but more rounded and relatively thicker, with knees projecting noticeably. Feet slant forward; toes marked as in No. 7. Similar shallow vertical grooves on front and back.

10. (K4.10) Pl. 19. From Area A, Room XXX; Period III, middle or late phase. White, fine-grained, micaceous; slightly discolored. Preserved from neck to forearm across chest. H. 0.035; W. at shoulders 0.037; Th. mid-chest to back 0.014. Form apparently different from that of the others at this site. Neck long, thick, cylindrical (D. 0.012)—contrast Nos. 16 and 17, below—set off by grooves at its base, front and back. Shoulders square; chest relatively full. The bar preserved across the chest is probably the left arm, which rested above the right in the conventional manner, rather than a representation of the two forearms meeting as in Zervos, *L'art des Cyclades*, figs. 48 and 112 (Renfrew's "Plastiras" type); but not quite enough is preserved at the right elbow to make this certain. Back smooth, with very slight trace of vertical groove. The top of the neck, the back, and the broken surfaces of the arms and body are noticeably worn, as if this fragment had been used, after the breaking, as a pestle or buffer (cf. Nos. 34 and 35).

11. (K9.57) Fig. 3; Pl. 19. From Area C, among the chips of stone filling Room III; Period I, late phase. White, moderately coarse-grained, with cracks of lamination; surfaces

eroded and discolored brown, especially on the front. Preserved from top of thighs to below knees. H. 0.118; W. at hips 0.08, at knees 0.054; Th. at mid-thigh 0.033, at knees 0.036. Knees slightly bent and marked by horizontal grooves on either side. Legs divided by deep groove at front and pronounced regular groove at back. Front surface of thighs flat; calves rounded.

12. (K1.418) Fig. 3; Pl. 20. From Area C, Room XVIII; Period II or early III. White, fine-grained, polished; discolored light tan. Preserved from just above knees nearly to ankles. H. 0.041; W. at mid-calf 0.027; Th. there 0.014. Knees bent slightly and set off by grooves at sides. Calves flat in front, well rounded at sides; separated by deep groove in front, shallower uniform groove behind.

13. (K8.44) Fig. 3; Pl. 20. From Area J; Period II. White with gray streaks, fine-grained, micaceous; discolored light brown. Part of right calf preserved. H. 0.058; Th. at mid-calf 0.019. Front surface flat (contrast No. 11). Deep groove in front, shallower behind.

14. (K3.212) Fig. 3; Pl. 20. From Area J, outside of fortification wall; Period III, early phase. White, slightly translucent, moderately fine-grained; well polished; slight brownish discoloration. Right leg preserved from just above knee nearly to ankle. H. 0.048; W. at knee 0.026; Th. at mid-calf 0.021. Knee bent. Inner face of leg completely worked, showing that legs were separate.

15. (K9.65) Pl. 20. From Area J, Building XI; Period I, phase with sauceboats (E.H. II). White, fine-grained, micaceous; discolored light tan. Thigh and calf of right leg preserved. H. 0.043; W. of calf 0.013; Th. of calf 0.014. Leg separate. Knee cap projects. Muscles of thigh and calf strongly rendered.

16. (K3.218) Fig. 4; Pl. 20. From Area A, surface. Grayish white, fine-grained; slightly discolored, chipped. Head and long neck pre-

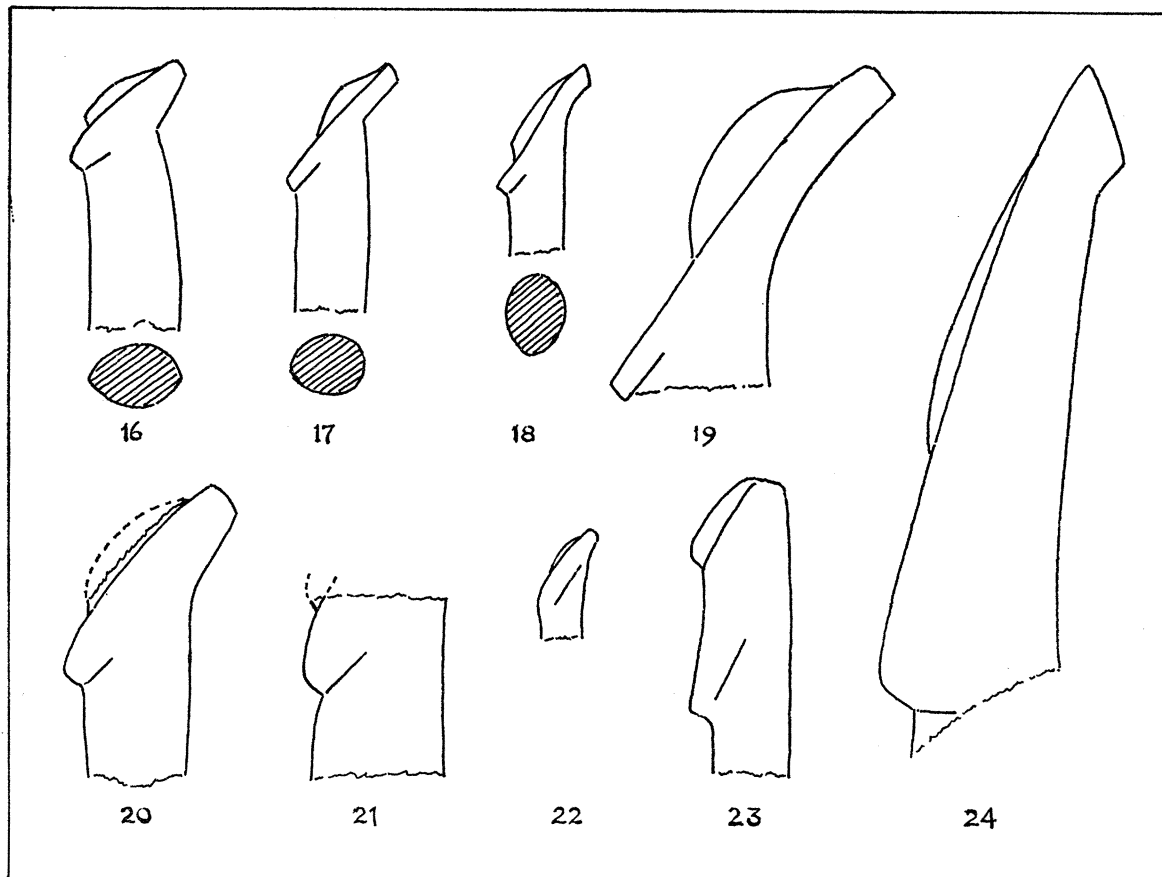


FIG. 4. Profiles of Figurines.

served. H. 0.054; W. of head as preserved 0.027, of neck (average) 0.014; Th. of neck 0.018. Triangular face, pointed chin. Back of neck distinctly curved.

17. (K6.236) Fig. 4; Pl. 20. From Area E; Period II. Grayish white, coarse-grained, micaceous; slightly discolored. Head and long neck preserved. H. 0.05; W. of head 0.02, of neck (average) 0.015; Th. of neck 0.016. Long triangular face. Back of neck slightly curved.

18. (K6.6) Fig. 4; Pl. 20. From Area J, surface. Pure white, fine-grained. Head and neck preserved. H. 0.04; W. of head 0.024, of neck 0.016; Th. of neck 0.012. Chin nearly rounded. Top of head bevelled behind and very

slightly overhanging (cf. marked profile of No. 24). Neck oval in section.

19. (K9.12) Fig. 4; Pl. 20. From Area C; Period II. White, fine-grained; vertically laminated, hence streaked across the face; discolored brown, especially on back. Head and top of neck preserved. H. 0.07; W. of head 0.065, of neck 0.027; Th. of neck 0.03. Triangular face.

20. (K6.100) Fig. 4; Pl. 20. From the summit of the Troullos of Treis Ammoudiés; Period III, late phase. Grayish white, vertically streaked with gray, moderately fine-grained; chipped, eroded; most of nose lost; slightly discolored. H. 0.061; W. of neck 0.019; Th. of neck 0.019. Head probably once angular at

top, now rounded. Chin rounded. Neck cylindrical.

21. (K3.297) Fig. 4; Pl. 21. From Area J, outside of fortification wall; Period III, early phase. White, moderately fine-grained; discolored brown. Neck and lower part of face preserved. H. 0.043; W. of neck at base 0.028; Th. of neck 0.026. Chin pronounced and rounded. Neck thick, nearly cylindrical, tapering upward.

22. (K3.30) Fig. 4; Pl. 21. From Area A, under Room VIII; Period III, early to middle phase. White with gray streaks; discolored tan. Small head and neck preserved. H. 0.028; W. of head 0.019, of neck 0.011; Th. of neck 0.009. Chin rounded. Nose scarcely perceptible (eroded?).

23. (K8.37) Fig. 4; Pl. 21. From Area J; Period III, early to middle phase. White, fine-grained, micaceous; well polished, very slightly discolored. Head and neck preserved. H. 0.058; W. of head 0.045, of neck 0.018; Th. of neck 0.015. Triangular face, softly rounded in outline. Nose at top. Neck oval in section. In form this head superficially resembles Kph 3.13 and Kph 4.5, terracottas from Kephala (*Hesperia*, XXXIII, 1964, pl. 46, c, d), on which the noses are also set very high; unlike them, however, it has no lump behind the crown.

24. (K8.180) Fig. 4; Pl. 21. From Area J; Period III, early phase. Grayish white, fine-grained; chipped; discolored brown on back. Head and bit of neck preserved. H. 0.14; W. at top of head estimated 0.085; W. of neck 0.04; Th. of neck 0.029. Face long and tapering; chin square. Back of head has a marked flat projection along the top (cf. No. 18).

25. (K1.530) Pl. 21. From Area E, surface. White fine-grained, micaceous. Preserved from chin to top of left shoulder. H. 0.026; W. of neck (average) 0.018; Th. of neck 0.015. Chin apparently broad, rounded. Neck oval in section.

26. (K4.250) Pl. 22. From Area M, near surface, with pottery of Periods II and III mixed. Grayish white, moderately fine-grained, laminated vertically; stained brown on smooth front surface; rough, probably eroded, on back. Neck and torso preserved to hip-level; broken along lower edge. All broken surfaces are somewhat worn, as if the remaining piece had been handled repeatedly. H. 0.101; W. of neck 0.021; Th. of neck 0.014; W. of body at waist 0.056; average Th. 0.015. Body flat. The right shoulder and breast are raised a little higher than the left. Two cuts or scratches next to the left breast are probably accidental. The right forearm rests horizontally across the abdomen, the left being held obliquely upward toward the right breast. Each is spindly and ends in five clumsily incised fingers. The upper arms, disproportionately long, may have stood free of the trunk as in British Museum figurine A 14 (F. N. Pryce, *B.M. Cat. of Sculpture*, I, I, p. 8; Renfrew, p. 18, IV.C.12). It is unlikely that ours ended in an unfinished edge at the waist, as implied by Renfrew. Faint horizontal marks just above the break suggest that there was a pubic triangle and, presumably, a normal pair of legs below. No trace of working can be seen on the back of the figure.

27. (K7.10) Pl. 22. From Area G, Room IX; Period III, middle or late phase. White, fine-grained with impurities, laminated vertically. Nearly cylindrical fragment, probably from the neck of a figurine. H. 0.028; D. (average) 0.019.

28. (K1.368) Pl. 22. From Area C, Room III; Period II. White, fine-grained, smooth, slightly yellowed. Probably the neck of a figurine of headless type; chipped at the upper tip, broken off at base of neck near shoulders. H. 0.08; W. at middle 0.014; Th. at middle 0.012.

29. (K4.98) Pl. 22. From Area N; Period III, early phase. Grayish white, fine-grained; some brownish discoloration. Body preserved to base of neck; chipped. H. 0.079; W. at

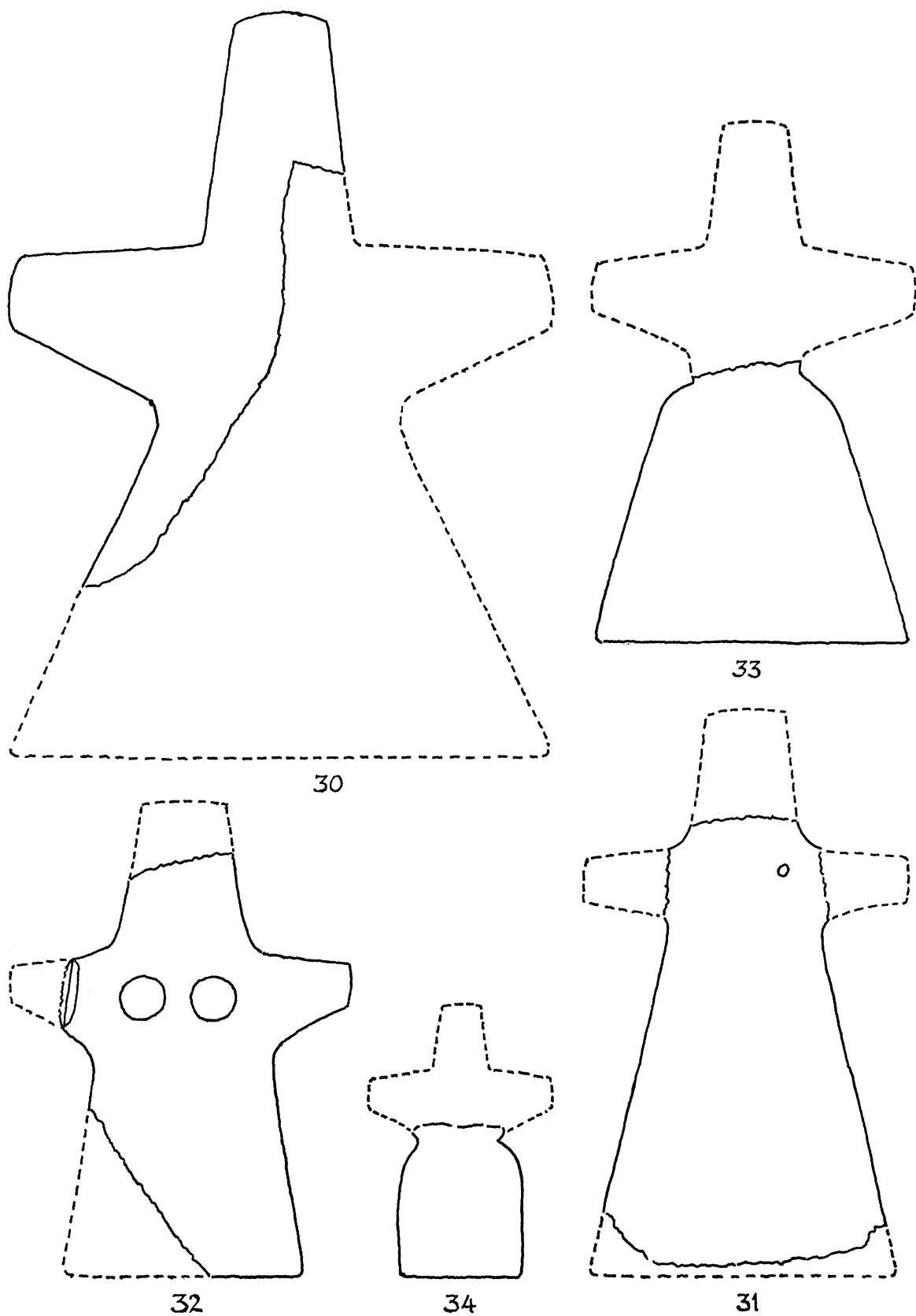


FIG. 5. Fragmentary Figurines Restored, Front Views.

arms 0.057, lower body 0.059; average Th. 0.009. Flat; fiddle-shaped.

30. (K8.182) Fig. 5; Pl. 22. From Area C; Period III, late phase. White, fine-grained, micaceous; polished; yellowed. Preserved: head, one arm, and part of one edge of lower body or skirt. H. 0.143; maximum Th. 0.014, tapering to head and arm. All edges rounded. Unmarked, unarticulated on either side.

31. (K1.231) Fig. 5; Pl. 22. From the temple, with or just under the clay floor of Room BB; L. H. III C. White, very fine-grained; polished smooth; discolored brown in patches. Most of lower body or skirt preserved; chipped at lower edge; head and arms missing. H. 0.111; maximum W. 0.07; Th. 0.01-0.012. All edges rounded. Unmarked, unarticulated. One hole drilled horizontally into the body from the place of the arm, as for a dowel; another from flat side, above level of the former but just meeting it, filled with lead. Presumably these were for reattaching a broken arm.

32. (K3.107) Figs. 3, 5; Pl. 22. From Area B, over the top, as preserved, of the rear wall of the temple; associated pottery is chiefly of Period III, late phase, but the deposit was near the modern surface, subject to disturbance. White, fine-grained, micaceous; polished; discolored brown in patches. Preserved except tip of head, right arm, and corner of lower body or skirt. Right arm sawn half way through from the front. H. 0.106; W. of waist below arms 0.046; average Th. 0.014. All edges rounded. Like No. **31**, above, but shorter and with two cavities, 0.0115 in diameter, in place of convex breasts.

33. (K8.181) Fig. 5; Pl. 22. From Area C, Room XXXIV; Period III, late phase. White, fine-grained, micaceous; polished; yellowed on one side, discolored brown on the other. Preserved from waist down. H. 0.073; W. at bottom 0.079; Th. 0.011-0.013. Smooth, flat, with bevelled edges; like Nos. **30-32**, above, but the waist is contracted and the skirt bell-shaped.

34. (K7.163) Fig. 5; Pl. 22. From Area R; Period III, late phase. White, fine-grained; polished; traces of brown discoloration. By analogy with No. **33**, a lower body or skirt from the waist down; the upper edge has irregularities, as if broken and then worked moderately smooth by rubbing, perhaps through use as a buffer. H. 0.038; W. at waist 0.022, at bottom 0.031; Th. at top 0.008, at bottom 0.012. Smooth, flat, with rounded and bevelled edges, like the preceding examples of this type.

35. (K8.371) Pl. 22. From Area C, surface. White with gray-brown impurities, micaceous; polished. Probably an arm of a figurine like No. **30**, above, though shown vertical in the illustration. Length 0.059; W. at tip 0.021, at broad end 0.032; Th. 0.008-0.01. Smooth, flat; the edges more rounded toward one face than the other. The broad end, where the piece was broken off, has been worked down, again perhaps through use as a buffer (cf. Nos. **10** and **34**).

36. (K8.145) Pl. 22. From Area J, near surface; with pottery of Period III, late phase. White, fine-grained, micaceous; polished. Probably the head or arm of a figurine. Length 0.047; W. at broken end 0.024; Th. 0.011. Smooth, flat, with rounded tip and edges.

COMMENTARY

RELATIVE CHRONOLOGY

The following chronological designations are being used provisionally during the study of objects found at Ayia Irini. They are subject to minor alteration when all the pertinent evidence has been examined and collated.

Period I: Early Bronze Age. A very early occupation of the site is attested by a deposit with potsherds of crude types, perhaps to be called sub-neolithic, found in a pocket in the bedrock. Next in sequence are buildings and deposits of debris with abundant sauceboats and related objects (E.H. II / E.C. II). Later there was a phase with red and black burnished wares, marked by distinctive shapes: plates, shallow bowls, cups, jugs, and *depa amphikypella*, apparently derived from an Anatolian tradition and closely related to material from the earliest strata yet excavated at Lefkandi in Euboia.

Period II: early phases of the Middle Bronze Age, corresponding in part to the Early Palatial period in Crete (chiefly M.M. II). The promontory was fortified on the landward side. Notable types of pottery in this period include Cycladic red and gray-brown burnished wares, gray Minyan like that of the mainland, several versions of Matt-painted, and a few small bits of Kamares ware. It will be possible to distinguish early and late phases of this settlement, but no break in continuity is evident.

Period III: beginning with the construction of the greater system of fortifications which in the time of M.M. III replaced that of Period II and enlarged the space enclosed. In this third period the town was occupied continuously until it was destroyed by earthquake in the time when L.M. IB and L.H. II pottery was being imported in large quantity. Thus it was approximately coterminous with the period of the later palaces in Crete. This was the most flourishing and prosperous settlement on the site. Its first and last phases are clearly marked by imported goods. Intermediate phases, with L.M. IA pottery and that of the Shaft Graves at Mycenae, are known to have existed but representative deposits have not yet been analysed in detail.

Post-earthquake periods: After the catastrophe certain buildings were reoccupied, as may be seen in repaired walls and the presence of L.H. III A1 pottery in some rooms. Evidence of habitation in later Mycenaean times is scanty except in the temple, which was restored and re-used for religious purposes to the end of the Bronze Age (late in the time of L.H. III C) and, in some of its parts, thereafter into Classical times.

Buildings and objects from the successive periods have been illustrated and described briefly in preliminary reports¹ and will be summarized with further chronological information in another article in this journal.

¹ Bibliography through 1965 in *Hesperia*, XXXV, 1966, p. 363, note 2. Subsequent reports annually in "News Letter from Greece," *A.J.A.*; *Χρονικά, Δελτ.*; "Chronique des fouilles," *B.C.H.*; "Archaeological Reports," *J.H.S.*; and in *Ἐπετηρίς τῆς Ἑταιρείας Κυκλαδικῶν Μελετῶν*. See also "Crises in the Minoan-Mycenaean World," *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*, CXIII, 1969, pp. 433-449.

STRATIGRAPHY AND THE FIGURINES

A tabulation of the stratigraphical contexts in which the 36 pieces were found at Ayia Irini is of some interest, showing that the distribution is largely fortuitous:

Period	Examples of Normal Cycladic Types	Examples of Flat Cruciform Type
I	4	
II	6	
II-III	2	
III, early	4	
III, early to middle	2	
III, middle to late	2	
III, late (LM I B / LH II)	3	5
LH III C		1
Surface	6	1

Nobody supposes that figurines of the well-known Cycladic types were made in the Late Bronze Age, yet 13 of the 29 were found in deposits of that date or in surface earth just above such deposits. Of the four examples found in Early Bronze Age strata only one, No. **15**, came from a firmly attested context of E.C. II/E.H. II, where its occurrence might seem most normal. Apropos of this fact, it is worth observing that of all our collection it is precisely No. **15**, small fragment though it be, which shows characteristics of the free and naturalistic style—the style, that is, of the famous flute player and seated figures which some students of the subject have supposed to come late in the series. Furthermore, a fairly common speculation that the early tradition was carried on into the Middle Bronze Age finds little support in the fact that six of our pieces came from deposits of that time (Period II), for all six (Nos. **2, 3, 13, 17, 19, 28**) are of types which have close parallels of reasonably well attested Early Cycladic date on other islands.

Clearly, then, statistics of this sort from Ayia Irini, and probably most of those from similar town-sites, will be of value in only a few instances. The reasons, furthermore, seem fairly obvious: (1) a vastly greater volume of debris has been excavated from the later, uppermost, buildings than from those of Periods II and I, and (2) the construction of deep cellars in the late period inevitably dislodged objects of older times. Any single object can be, and frequently is, displaced upward at a stratified site; and a small, distinctive, attractive object like these figurines is more likely to be picked up and kept about than most other bits of furniture. Three of our pieces (Nos. **10, 34, 35**) seem even to have been used as tools after they were broken.

At only one place does the table show a clear and apparently valid distinction. There are seven examples of the flat cruciform type (Nos. **30-36**), and not one of

these was found in a deposit older than L.M. I B / L.H. II. Although there is no final proof it seems at least plausible, therefore, that this quite different form of figurine was a new invention.

VARIETIES OF FIGURINES

Figurines from Ayia Irini are too few to provide a basis for typological study. What strikes us is the prevalence of small individual variations within the range of the familiar Cycladic forms.

Smooth flat pebbles, classed sometimes as aniconic idols (e.g. by Renfrew, Form I.D), have generally not been gathered or recorded in this excavation.² At any town on the shore many will appear in the debris, whether brought in deliberately or not. To count them would serve no useful purpose.

The largest class of figurines is that with the arms resting across the body, the left above the right (chiefly Renfrew's FAF). This posture is seen certainly in nine or ten pieces (Nos. 1-8, 10?, 26) and may be imagined in sixteen others (Nos. 9, 11-14, 15?, 16-25). Some individual features deserve attention: the left arm raised obliquely (No. 26), the swollen abdomen (Nos. 3, 5, 6), the wrinkled abdomen (Nos. 7, 8), and the wide variety in the shape of the faces (Nos. 16-24). Notable also are the differences in the modelling, from schematically flat to fully rounded, and in the depth of the grooves that divide the legs (Figs. 2, 3). In Nos. 14 and 15 the legs were quite separated; as observed above, the latter is distinct from all the others in degree of naturalism.

The long tapering fragment, No. 28, may be taken to be the neck of a figurine like those illustrated by Tsountas ('Εφ. 'Αρχ., 1898, pl. 11) and Pryce (*B.M. Cat. of Sculpture*, I, I, pl. 1); new photographs in Zervos, *L'art des Cyclades*, figs. 44, 53, 56-58. They seem usually to have had fiddle-shaped bodies (cf. our No. 29).

Nos. 30-36 make up a wholly different category, not only in date, as mentioned above, but in general conception and form, if my reconstruction of the type from the fragments is correct (Fig. 5). They are singularly smooth and flat, the only bodily marking being the strange sunken breasts of No. 32 (Fig. 3). Their edges are bevelled and rounded, not "very flat" as Renfrew reported of two of them; nor can I see any reason to think that they were "probably carved with a metal tool" (*A.J.A.*, LXXIII, 1969, p. 24). They are not necessarily related to the thicker stump-armed pieces from Phylakopi which he cites. That their "cultural context is systematically different" from that of the earlier schematic types (if I understand his meaning) is probably quite true. Here if anywhere I think we may have a special

² Two small stones, not flat but smooth of surface, rounded, and beautifully striated with red, brown and purple, were entered in the inventory (K1.237, K4.69). Who would not have picked them up? Half a dozen others, flat, plain, worked and/or worn artificially, have been called "implements"; perhaps whetstones, buffers, or pestles?

class of figurine, made probably at Ayia Irini and in the Late Bronze Age, in accordance with a local preference. It is to be noted that they were found in various parts of the site, not only around the temple but also in Areas C (three pieces) and J and R (Fig. 1).

CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions that may be drawn from this collection at present are largely negative.

The old and pertinacious theory that figurines were made primarily or solely as offerings to the dead is not applicable at Ayia Irini. It arose of course because most of the known pieces were found, or were thought to have been found, in tombs throughout the Cyclades. Ours all come from places frequented by the living (and surely it would be perverse to think that all the people who made them were busily preoccupied with preparations for dying). Early Bronze Age cemeteries have not yet been discovered in Keos.³ A fair number of graves belonging to our Period II have come to light; some held offerings, but no figurines were among them. It seems reasonable to guess that these objects were pleasing, or thought to be useful in some way, to living people, and that in various communities it was customary to place them, along with other offerings of household goods, in tombs of the dead.⁴

The figurines from Ayia Irini show diversity of material, form, and workmanship. The marble of which they are made is of different colors and textures. Small sources are known to exist in Keos but their product has not been analysed; nor indeed has it been demonstrated as yet, in spite of various laudable attempts, that pieces of marble can be assigned by any practical method to their geographical places of origin. Methods of that sort may be devised and applied in the future; meanwhile it is probably better to refrain from guessing.

In the study by Renfrew shapes of figurines have been examined and classified at length. His gathering together of many examples and especially his sorting out of the relatively few pieces of known provenience are very valuable services. Most of the fragments from Keos can be likened to the corresponding parts of one or another figurine in his lists. His classification by types is complex, however, and his description of details necessarily superficial, so large is the whole body of material. Therefore the system may appear to be more accurate and it may inspire more confidence than is in fact warranted at present. Its value is reduced, moreover, by

³ Two marble vases, a rounded bowl and a pedestalled jar of familiar shape (cf., e.g., C. Dumas, *Goulandris Collection of Early Cycladic Art*, Athens, 1968, no. 258) were found by chance during road-building in the western part of the island and rescued by Miss E. Lazaridou; Kea museum nos. 44, 45. They look like furniture of a grave.

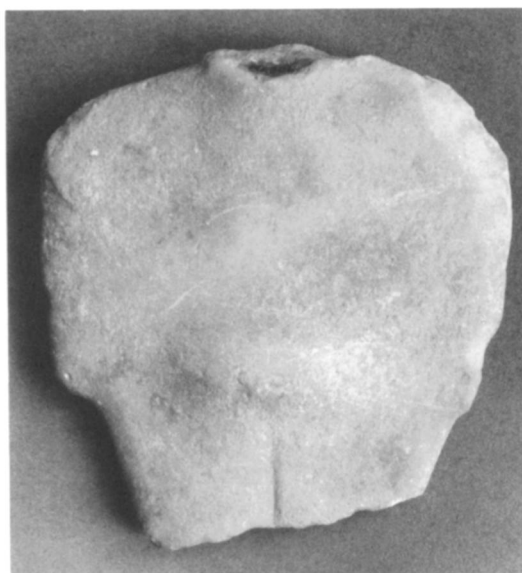
⁴ They have been found in the settlements at Ayios Kosmas in Attica and at Phylakopi; the latter well reported in Renfrew's article, pp. 25-26.

the choice of terminology: for instance, Renfrew's naming of "cultures," "types," and "varieties" after places and regions of the Aegean is erratic, unnecessary, and misleading. When one reads of the "Kea Variety" (sc. those with the wrinkled belly), he might fairly assume that it was invented or widely represented on this island, but he then discovers that the author knew of only three examples in all, and that of these only one came from Ayia Irini. Possibly this variety does belong here; a second example, our No. 7, was found in the campaign of 1969. But there is no proof, not even a valid presumption, that this is the case.

The long neck, No. 28, and the fiddle-shaped body, No. 29, would fall into Renfrew's class of "schematic figurines," and No. 10 might possibly be restored after examples of his "Plastiras" type. These ought all to be dated, then, in his early phase, the "Grotta-Pelos Culture." But Ayia Irini is outside of the sphere of that so-called culture, not having marble saucers, bowls and jars, or pots like those of the Pelos cemetery; whereas our first considerable settlement has sauceboats and related objects, which Renfrew places in the succeeding period of his "Keros-Syros Culture" along with the (more advanced?) figurines of the type with folded arms. Indeed the evidence observed up to now at Ayia Irini suggests that the site was not occupied at all in the time of Grotta and Pelos, if "time" is the right word and those sites do in fact represent an earlier stage of habitation in the Cyclades. I suppose that they do, and that it is the chronological stage which may properly be called Early Cycladic I. But much further excavation and detailed factual reporting are needed before the sequences can be established securely.

JOHN L. CASKEY

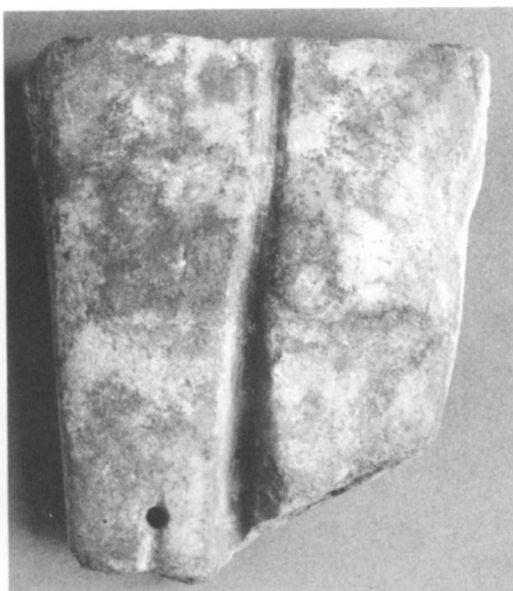
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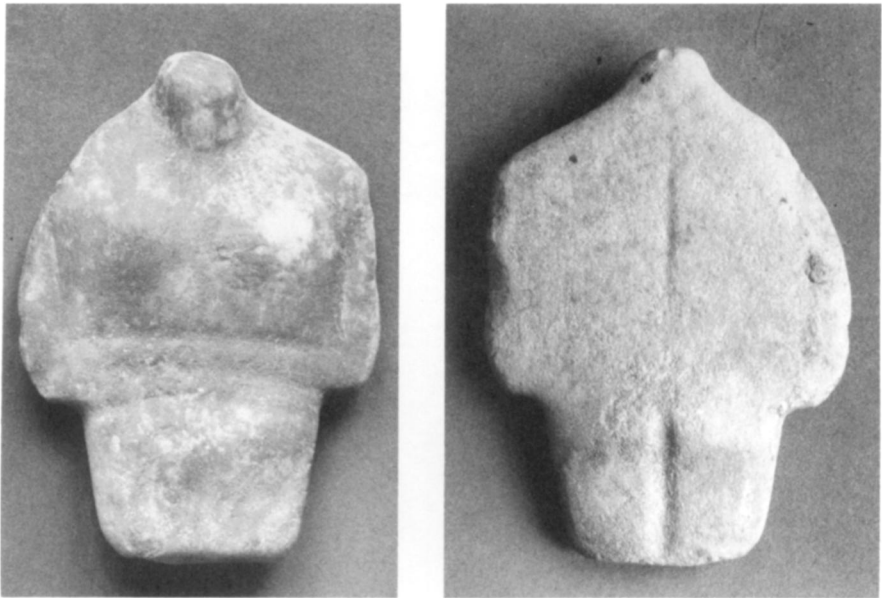
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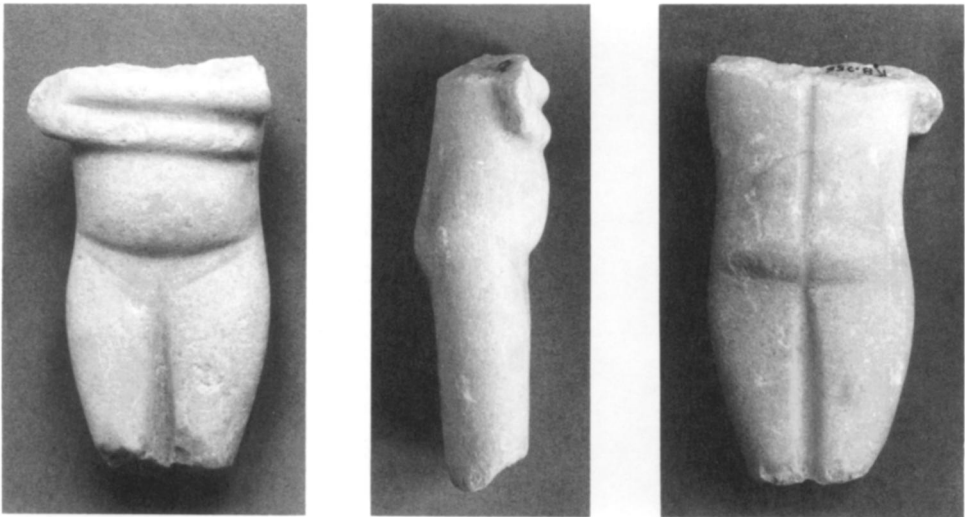
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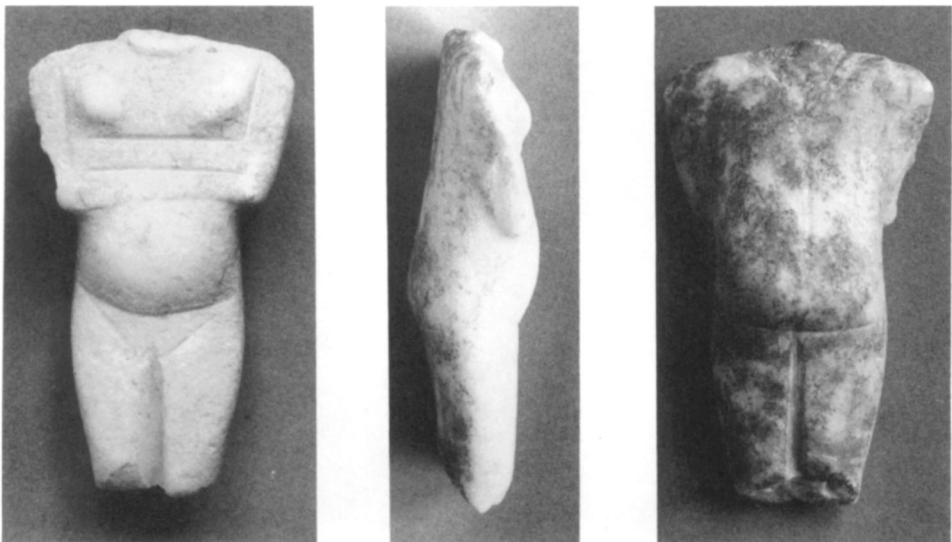
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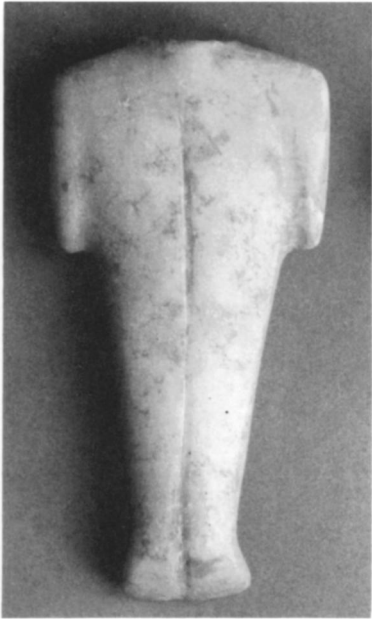
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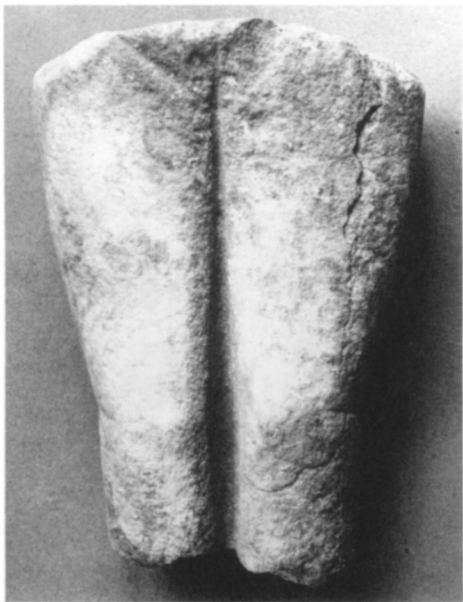
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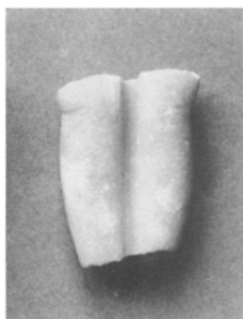


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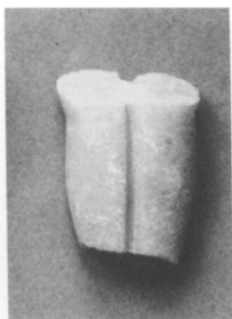


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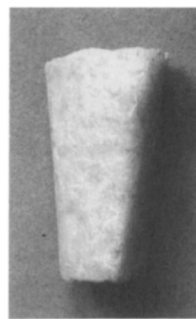
PLATE 20



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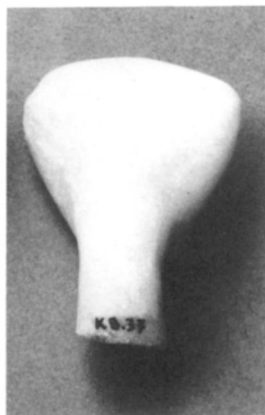




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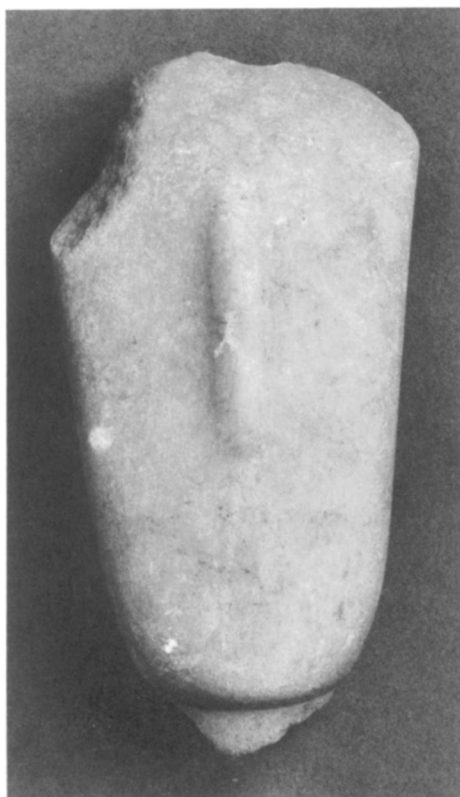
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PLATE 22



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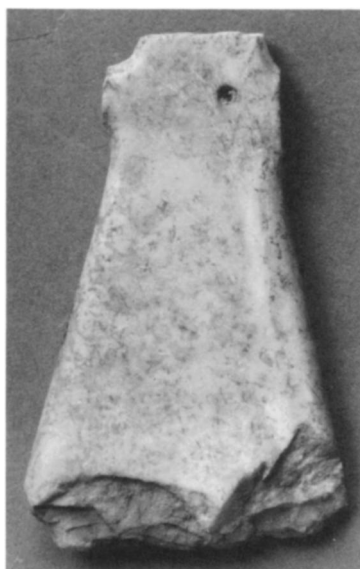
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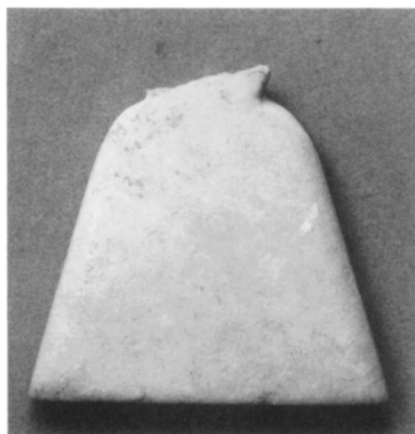
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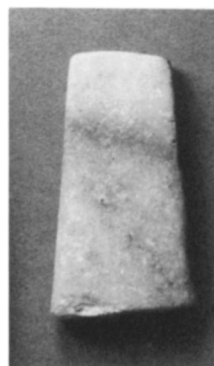
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