

EXCAVATIONS AT PREHISTORIC ELATEIA, 1959

(PLATES 49-70)

THE Neolithic period in Central Greece—that is in Boeotia and Phokis—is known chiefly from large quantities of material excavated mainly during the first decade of this century. Two series of excavations were responsible: 1) those of Soteriades at Chaeronea, Ayia Marina and the sites around Drachmani (now Elateia), and 2) the Bavarian excavations at Orchomenos and other sites on the rim of the Copaic Basin. Only preliminary reports, which present a very small fraction of the finds, have appeared for the excavations of Soteriades.¹ While an account of the German excavations soon appeared,² the Neolithic pottery was not published until more than two decades later,³ and then without the help of stratigraphic indications except those obtained in a small test excavation done as part of the publication. It was not until the excavation of Eutresis (1924-1927) that Neolithic remains were again found in Boeotia in controlled circumstances, but there were only small quantities from the very bottom of a deep Bronze Age accumulation.⁴ A recent test of the lowest levels at Eutresis revealed more of this Neolithic deposit, and the publication gives reliable stratigraphic information for the latter part of the Central Greek Neolithic period.⁵

The need for a well stratified sequence covering the entire span of the Neolithic period in Central Greece remained paramount. In considering the possibilities of many sites which had already been tested or which were known from surface indications, or both, one site seemed especially suitable. This was the low mound, situated about a mile to the northeast of modern Elateia, which was tested by Soteriades between 1904 and 1910 and referred to by him as the mound on the property of Dr. Chevas.⁶ Especially intriguing was his statement⁷ to the effect that, while both monochrome and painted pottery occurred in the top two meters of the deposit, in the last meter to virgin soil the painted pottery stopped altogether and only monochrome

¹ Πρακτικά, 1902, pp. 55-59; 1904, pp. 40-45, 51-57; 1906, pp. 140-142; 1907, pp. 108-112; 1909, pp. 123-127; 1910, pp. 160-167; 1911, pp. 205-235; *Ath. Mitt.*, XXX, 1905, pp. 113-140; XXXI, 1906, pp. 396-404; Έφ. Ἀρχ., 1908, pp. 63-96; *R.E.G.*, XXV, 1912, pp. 253-299.

² H. Bulle, *Orchomenos*, I, Munich, 1909.

³ E. Kunze, *Orchomenos*, II, Munich, 1931.

⁴ H. Goldman, *Excavations at Eutresis in Boeotia*, Cambridge, Mass., 1931, pp. 9-12, 76-79.

⁵ J. L. and E. G. Caskey, *Hesperia*, XXIX, 1960, pp. 126-167.

⁶ Πρακτικά, 1904, pp. 53-56; 1906, pp. 140-142; 1910, pp. 160-161; *Ath. Mitt.*, XXX, 1905, pp. 135-140; XXXI, 1906, pp. 397-402; *R.E.G.*, XXV, 1912, pp. 263, 270.

⁷ Πρακτικά, 1910, p. 161.

ware appeared; thus he was able to distinguish two periods. While Early Neolithic levels without painted pottery may now be appearing in Thessaly, I know of no others in Central Greece or the Peloponnesos. The promise of this mound northeast of Elateia was certainly sufficient to warrant another test, and it was decided to make one in the spring of 1959.⁸

EXCAVATION

On June 1, 1959, the grain was ripening in the fields about Elateia, but on the prehistoric mound we had chosen to investigate, (Pl. 49, a) roughly 200 m. in diameter and about 4.00 m. high, a wide swath had been cut early for fodder. Here, somewhat below the top of the low mound, on its south slope, we could dig. Since the earlier excavations had apparently been on the top of the mound, the location was suitable, and in the east-west clearing, about 4.00 m. wide, we dug three trenches. The first, near the western edge of the field, was 2.00 m. wide and 4.00 m. long; the

⁸ Since the former excavation on the site had been conducted under the sponsorship of the Greek Archaeological Society, its permission was sought and quickly given for the new excavation. We are greatly indebted to the Council of the Society and to its Secretary, Professor A. K. Orlandos, for this kindness. Application for the excavation permit was made through the American School of Classical Studies at Athens whose Director, Professor J. L. Caskey, afforded every help and encouragement for the undertaking. To the Council of the Archaeological Service and to its Director, Dr. J. Papadimitriou, to the Ephor of Phokis, Miss J. Konstantinou, and to the Ephor of Boeotia, Mr. J. Threpsiades, we are indebted not only for the permit to excavate, but also for much help in carrying out the work. To Mr. Threpsiades we are especially grateful for making available to us the facilities and collections of the Chaeronea Museum and for permitting the use of some Chaeronea pottery for comparative purposes. Miss E. Protonotariou (now Mrs. Deilaki) represented the Archaeological Service and was most helpful.

The excavation was financed through a grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research. We wish to express our thanks especially to its Director of Research, Dr. Paul Fejos. Work was begun on June 1, 1959; the trenches were filled on June 16, after fourteen days of digging. We are greatly indebted to Mr. Manoli Aspropotamitis of Elateia, owner of the field covering the part of the mound in which we chose to excavate, for permission to do so. To the citizens of Elateia we owe a debt of gratitude for their kind reception, to their Mayor for help with details of organization, and especially to Mr. Andreas Stamopoulos and his family for their warm hospitality. The undersigned directed the excavations, assisted by Dr. Gladys Davidson Weinberg and Miss E. Protonotariou. Mr. Perry A. Bialor inventoried and studied the objects of stone. Two experienced workmen, P. Dolias and K. Raptopoulos, came from Corinth and were joined by six local men.

The finds from the excavation were brought to the Chaeronea Museum, where they joined the material found both by Soteriades and by the Bavarian Expedition. To the guard of the museum we owe many thanks for his solicitous care during our stay there. The author returned to Greece in the summer of 1960 on a Summer Research Fellowship of the University of Missouri, supplemented by a travel grant from its Research Council, to complete the sorting, mending, photographing and studying of the finds. The drawing of much of the pottery and the inking of the plans and sections was done by Miss E. Athanassiadou; Miss I. Travlou drew the rest of the pottery. Mr. Barney McMillian gave assistance with photography.

second, 8.00 m. to the east, was the same size; the third, 16.00 m. to the east of the second, was 2.50 m. x 4.00 m. Thus the distance from the west edge of Trench 1 to the east edge of Trench 3 was 36.00 m. Trench 3 was at the high point of the cleared strip; the land falls gently to east, west and south, rises slightly to the north. The top of Trenches 2 and 1 was thus slightly lower than that of Trench 3.⁹ In all the trenches soft black top soil was 0.40-0.50 m. thick. Immediately below was more compact fill which in every case proved to be of Neolithic date, and a succession of Neolithic levels followed to virgin soil. Trenches 2 and 3 were dug to bottom over their entire area; Trench 1 was so dug only in part because of the appearance in its upper levels of a substantial structure. The depth to virgin soil in Trench 1 was 3.35 m.; in Trench 2 it was 3.30 m., and in Trench 3 it was 3.15 m. This indicates that the earliest settlement stood on a low rise, the slope of which was slightly more pronounced than that of the present mound. In each trench virgin soil was tested in a small cut, but hardpan was encountered in 0.20-0.40 m.; there seems thus no possibility of a pre-pottery phase in the areas dug and most likely there was none at this site.

TRENCH 1

In Trench 1 areas of hard red fill, as contrasted with top soil, began to appear at 0.50 m. from the top; in another 0.15-0.30 m. this hard fill was general over the trench, its top sloping down gently from east to west and from north to south. As soon as harder soil was reached, there appeared numerous small round channels going down to considerable depths; they were usually 0.05-0.06 m. in diameter but a few were somewhat larger. We soon found them in the other trenches as well, and after some puzzlement decided they were the burrows of a small animal. One was still being used by a small field mouse, who for several days played hide-and-seek with the workmen in Trench 3, but we do not know whether the burrows were dug originally by such a mouse or only later appropriated by one. In some cases such burrows reached below 2.50 m. While it is possible that such burrowing may have been responsible for some contamination of the strata, the fill around was so much harder than that in the burrows that it was easy to clean out the channels ahead of excavation of the various levels, and we noted no evidence of contamination.

The tops of walls showed at *ca.* 0.75 m. and at the same time the northeast quadrant of Trench 1 was seen to yield hard, burnt red fill mixed with black burnt debris. The trench was now bisected by a substantial wall running almost north-south, while another perpendicular to it ran to the southeast corner of the trench. The walls averaged 0.60 m. in thickness and were made of field stones of varying size set in mud mortar (Fig. 1; Pl. 49, b). These walls were found ultimately to have a height

⁹ For the purpose of the trial excavation, a common datum was not established; rather, depths were taken from the top of each trench.

of 1.00-1.20 m., only the lower few courses of which seem to have been foundations (Fig. 2). The west side of the structure may have been the exterior, or there may have been a court here, for at *ca.* 1.45 m. there was a pavement of large flat stones; another floor about 0.10 m. below showed large areas of burning, possibly hearths. The house had clearly been subjected to a violent conflagration, during which it collapsed. The east-west wall was inclined towards the south. While the area south of this wall was too narrow to investigate, that to the north was found to be filled

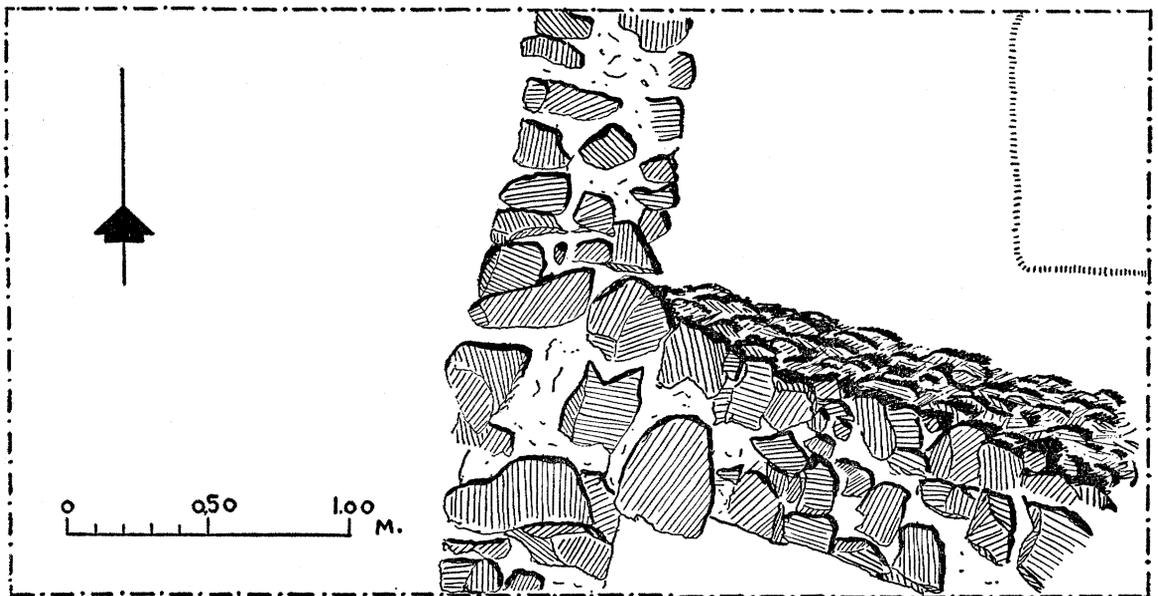


FIG. 1. Trench 1, Plan of Burnt House.

to an average depth of 0.50 m., down to a floor at *ca.* 1.15-1.30 m., with a mass of debris from the superstructure and roof of the building. Most of the fill consisted of large lumps of clay which had been fired in the conflagration, some apparently the remains of mud bricks, others clearly from wattle-and-daub construction that probably came from the roof of the building (Pl. 50, a). Numerous large fragments bearing the impressions of branches and reeds (Pl. 49, c-f) were separated from the mass. They fall into two groups, those with the impressions of large poles or branches and those with reed impressions; a few have both kinds of impressions. The poles, some round and others somewhat squared, were usually laid parallel and fairly close together, although in three instances poles were laid at an angle (20° - 30°) to one another (Pl. 49, d). The largest single piece, that shown standing on end in Plate 50, a, is 0.37 m. x 0.35 m. The three large poles are 0.04-0.045 m. in diameter (the center one is somewhat squared) and are about 0.07 m. apart. A smaller pole,

0.03 m. x 0.015 m., lay between two of the poles and at a slightly higher level; its full impression is preserved. At one end of the center impression there are small reed impressions at right angles. The poles were covered on the under side(?) with a coating of clay (or mud) mixed with small stones and probably chaff as well that varies in thickness from 0.04-0.13 m. There seems to be an exterior coating of finer clay *ca.* 0.01 m. thick. The surface is only roughly smoothed and is somewhat wavy. Two of the fragments in Plate 49, d show impressions meeting at an angle, otherwise

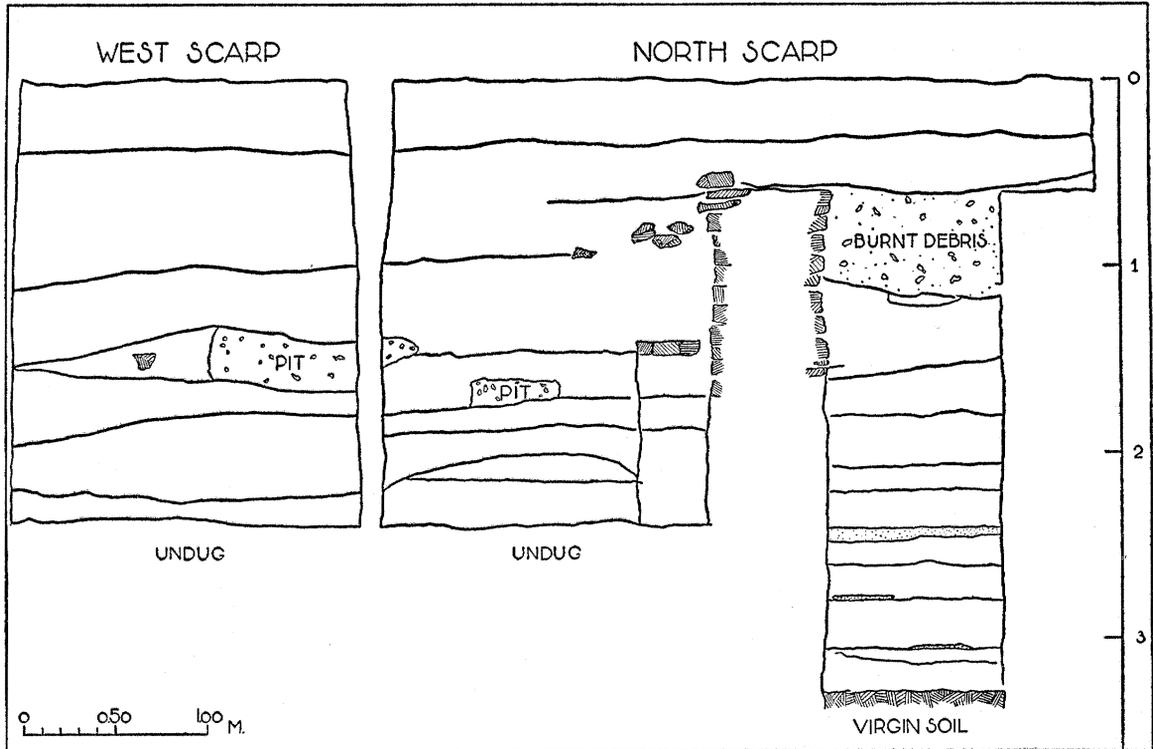


FIG. 2. Trench 1, Sections of West and North Scarps.

they are similar to the largest fragment; that on the left clearly has an outer coating of finer clay 0.01-0.015 m. thick. The largest pole of which there is an impression (Pl. 49, c) was 0.065 m. in diameter; one squared pole was 0.06 m. wide. Plate 49, f shows three fragments bearing impressions of reeds laid close together; in that at the left the impressions are on a convex surface. The thickness of clay in the fragment at the right varies from 0.02-0.075 m.; the outer surface is fairly smooth as compared with that of the pieces with pole impressions, and this surface forms an 80° angle with the side of the piece, meeting it in a small lip. In the center fragment the coating of clay is 0.023-0.07 m. thick; the outer surface is very flat and has the same angle

with the side and the same lip as in the above piece. The third fragment has a thickness of 0.015-0.048 m.; the back is also rather flat. The roof is thus seen to have been formed of poles laid one way, reeds laid over and at right angles to the poles, clay or mud plastered roughly under the poles and better smoothed where it is applied over the reeds. Some pieces may indicate a sloping roof, but this is not certain. The burnt debris extends to the north of the trench, and there is probably much more similar debris to be found.

In the northeast quadrant of Trench 1 a pit was dug to hardpan after removing the burnt debris. The debris rested on a floor of well beaten earth on which were heavy traces of burning, three millstones, a large pestle-like grinder, a celt and a small rubbing stone, as well as several obsidian flakes. A hemispherical bowl two-thirds complete was found lying in the burnt debris (Pl. 50, b). The other pottery in the debris and on the floor is very similar to that in the large pit in Trench 3 and suggests a date just before the beginning of the Late Neolithic period, if matt-painted ware is taken as the indicator of the late phase. Below the burnt debris there followed a succession of well marked strata (Fig. 2) separated by beaten earth floors, on some of which were areas of ash and carbonized matter that suggest hearths; other floors showed cobbled areas. Ten such floors divided the accumulation of over two meters down to hardpan; in the floor at 3.15 m. were traces of a post hole and the floor itself was covered with a thin layer of black carbonized matter. Hardpan was reached at 3.35 m. An excellent series of pottery came from successive strata in this small area, proving of great value in establishing the pottery sequence to be discussed later. The western half of Trench 1 was dug only to the 2.40 m. level, yielding a sequence of strata corresponding with that to the east.

TRENCH 2

Since Trench 2 yielded no architecture such as that in Trench 1, it could be dug in its total area to virgin soil. Soft black fill extended to a quite hard floor over the entire trench at *ca.* 0.65 m. On this floor, and at about a meter from the east edge of the trench, lay the skeleton of a child, its head against the south edge of the trench, the body oriented north-south, lying on the left side and so facing west, the legs tightly contracted (Pl. 50, d). There was no trace of a cutting for the grave; the skeleton was badly disintegrated. In and about the area of the burial were numerous burrows of the kind already noticed in Trench 1. The burial must be of Late Neolithic date, to judge by the mass of pottery found on and above the floor. Just to the northwest of the burial and on the same floor was a hard baked, roughly circular surface, lightly concave and consisting of two layers of whitish clay *ca.* 0.01-0.015 m. thick. Under the central part of this hearth, if it was that, was a thick layer of what seemed to be lime. On removal of the structure a black burnt circle *ca.* 0.80 m. in

diameter appeared in the floor. Digging beneath the floor at 0.65 m., well marked floors appeared at 1.10 m., 1.20 m., 1.35 m. (in which there is a cobbled area in the eastern half of the trench), 1.50 m., 1.65 m. (except for the easternmost meter), 1.85 m., 1.95 m. (with an area of cobbles *ca.* 1.00 m. in diameter at about the center of the trench), 2.00 m. (in which there is a large area, roughly one meter square, in the northwest corner of the trench paved with white clay *ca.* 0.02-0.13 m. thick), 2.20 m. (in which there are two post holes), 2.30 m. (with abundant traces of burning over the entire trench), 2.35 m. (with much carbonized matter on it), 2.45 m. and 2.55 m. (also with much burnt matter), 2.60 m., 2.70 m., 2.85 m. (which has a very hard surface and shows traces of burning on the light clay) and 3.00 m. (another very hard floor with traces of burning). There were no floors below the 3.00 m. level, but pottery continued to appear in the hard crumbly earth down to 3.30 m. At 3.35 m. we were clearly in hardpan, and a cut made into it revealed bed-rock at 3.60 m. This succession of strata (Pl. 50, c), very little disturbed, provided an excellent pottery sequence as well as numerous small objects of all kinds which are thus securely placed in a relative sequence. We shall return to these after describing the last trench.

TRENCH 3

Trench 3 was slightly larger than the other two, 2.50 m. x 4.00 m. Top soil was only *ca.* 0.40 m. thick here at the highest point at which we excavated. In the first harder fill, at the 0.40 m. level, numerous burrows were evident, as in Trenches 1 and 2. On reaching somewhat harder fill at 0.50 m., a slight depression with blacker earth was noted in the western half of the trench; at about 0.70 m., there was in the same position as the depression a clearly defined burnt circle *ca.* 1.00 m. in diameter, evidently a hearth. At 0.10 m. below, the hearth was even more clearly marked; it had a slight depression at the center, a red burnt rim forming a circle and beyond this a white strip forming a second circle. At 0.95 m. a hard floor extended over much of the western half of the trench, and on it the hearth is marked by a whitish circle *ca.* 0.80 m. in diameter. At this level there was a stone at the southwest side of the hearth (Pl. 51, a). A large pit in the northwest corner of the trench had cut this and other floors below, for it extended down to the 2.30 m. level (Fig. 3). At the east end of the trench there was an "island" of hard baked clay at this same level, surrounded by softer fill. Hard packed floors occurred at 1.20 m. and 1.30 m., on both of which were several fragments of mud brick; the latter floor in a large section in the eastern half of the trench was of light clay, very hard and compact. This area was roughly triangular in shape with a quite straight southeast side which suggested that there might have been a wall here. A circular pit in the northeast corner of the trench extended from this floor to a depth of 1.80 m. and in a smaller circle down to 2.00 m. (Pl. 51, b). In a floor at 1.60 m. a large stone was found in the western half

of the trench, and all about it was soft fill. This was the first indication of a very large bothros, or pit, which occupied much of the western half of the trench down to a depth of 2.70 m. It is perhaps not coincidence that the hearth visible in several floors down to the 0.95 m. level was exactly over the center of the bothros. When cleaned, the bothros had a roughly oval shape, *ca.* 2.15 m. long and 1.80 m. across (Pl. 51, c). It was filled with soft dark fill, large chunks of hard light clay, a few large stones and many cobbles, many bones, masses of pottery found in clusters (Pl. 51, d) and numerous other objects; here and there in the fill were areas of ash and charred matter. The objects found in the bothros will be discussed below.

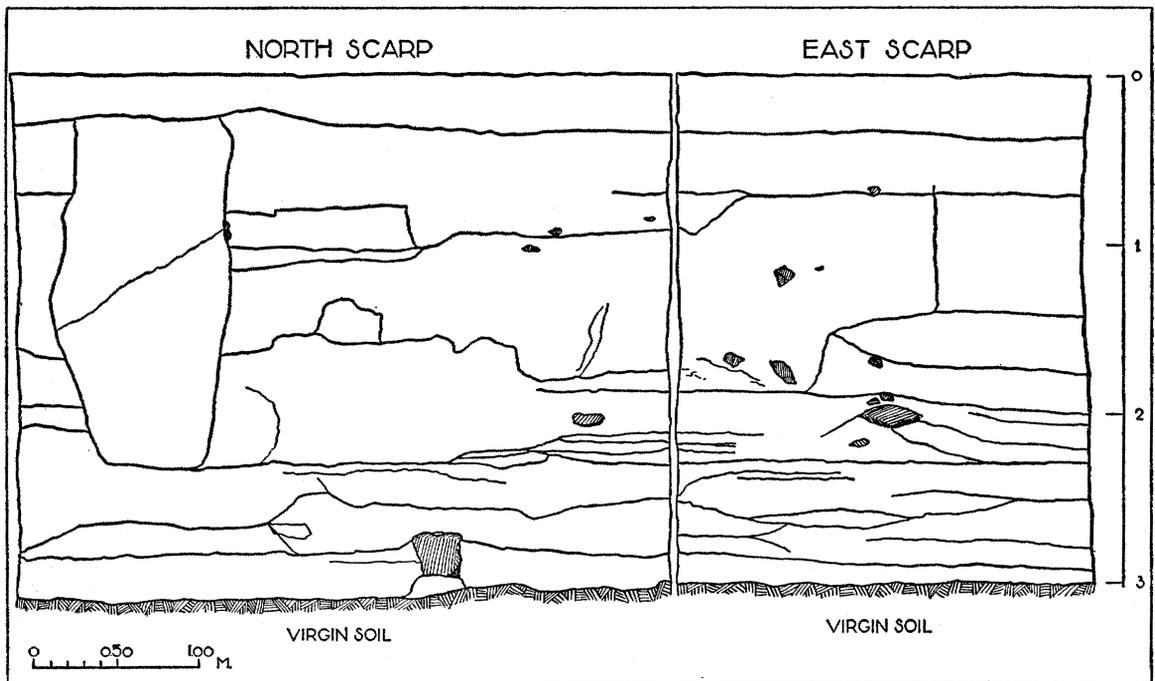


FIG. 3. Trench 3, Sections of North and East Scarps.

After the bothros was cleaned out, and a pit between it and the northwest corner of the trench was also dug (Pl. 51, c), it was possible to proceed with the excavation of what remained of the lower strata in Trench 3. Floors occurred at 1.80 m., 1.95 m. and 2.10 m., on which was a cluster of spool-like objects of unbaked clay (Pl. 69, a) and a post hole at the very northern edge of the trench. There may have been a stone foundation for a wall that would have run east-west at about a meter from the north side of the trench; it was cut by the bothros. A floor at 2.30 m. was flecked with carbon and here there seemed also to be a clear division at *ca.* 0.90 m. from the northern edge of the trench, probably indicating a wall. At 2.40 m. there was a clear change in the fill, but without a marked floor; at 2.70 m. was the floor which also served as the

bottom of the large bothros. In a floor at 2.80 m. (Fig. 4) there were clear traces of a hearth *ca.* 0.80 m. in diameter at about the center of the north side of the trench; a large stone was at its northern edge. A large pestle (Fig. 4) lay a little to the northwest of the hearth, a few clay sling bullets lay on the floor just to the south, while to the southeast the top of a pivot stone began to appear. At a slightly lower level the top of another pivot stone appeared close against the north face of the trench. A floor at 2.95 m. covered the northern half of the trench and on it, just west of

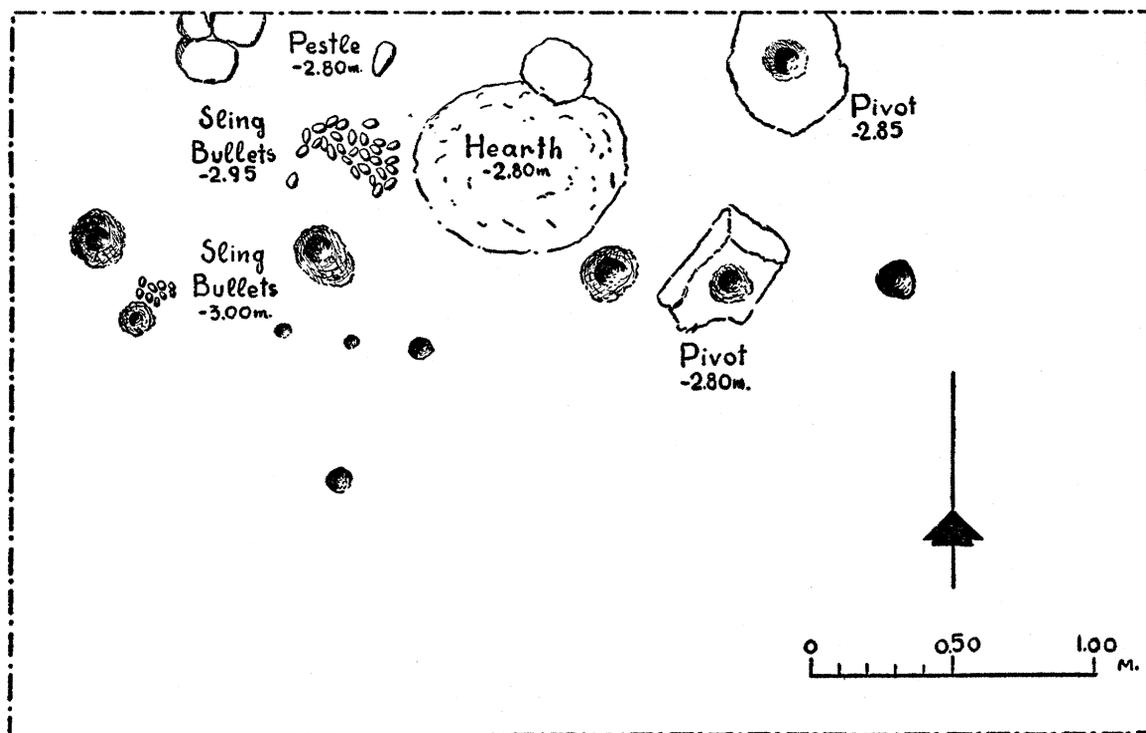


FIG. 4. Trench 3, Plan of Early Neolithic House.

the hearth, was a cluster of twenty-eight clay sling bullets, somewhat fired but very crumbly (Pl. 51, e); several stone implements also lay on this floor. Another floor occurred at 3.00 m. and again there was a cluster of sling bullets and clay spoons. Both of the large stones with pivot holes rested on this floor. A large post hole appeared in this floor, and when we cleaned to the next floor, at 3.10 m., it was found to be one of a series of four large post holes in a straight line running roughly east-west (Fig. 4); one of the pivot stones proved to be in the same line. A second and parallel line of smaller post holes was found toward the western edge of the trench. This whole complex is to be interpreted as the remains of a house with walls of wattle-and-daub supported on a line of posts; a door existed in the wall, of which the line is

preserved, and another door is indicated by the second pivot stone. A succession of at least four floors belongs to the occupancy of the house and each produced ample evidence of the economy of the time. Only some 0.05 m. of fill separated the lowest floor from hardpan and in another 0.20 m. bed rock was reached. Thus, despite the numerous pits which disturbed the fill of this trench down to the 2.70 m. level, the lowest strata were well preserved and provided excellent evidence for the Early Neolithic Period.

POTTERY

The three trenches yielded large amounts of pottery, 102 lots in all; each trench provided a full sequence and together they afford a triple check of the stratigraphy. In describing the pottery, it will be considered in three distinct phases: 1) the earliest phase, in which no painted pottery occurred; 2) a second phase marked by the introduction and development of the red-on-white painted pottery (Chaeronea Ware); 3) the final phase beginning with the appearance of matt-painted ware and polychrome ware such as is universal in Late Neolithic Greece. However, the pottery from the large bothros in Trench 3, as well as from the pit to the north of it and from a few other deposits including perhaps the burnt house in Trench 1, may represent a phase intermediate between our second and third phases, one which possibly was largely cut away in leveling operations incidental to the beginning of the final phase and so survives only in pits that extended below the levels which were removed.

EARLIEST PHASE

In all three trenches there was an average of a meter of deposit above hardpan in which only monochrome pottery occurred. In Trench 1, with hardpan at 3.35 m., the first sherds of painted pottery were found at 2.30 m. in the deep pit in the north-east quadrant, at 2.20 m. in the western half of the trench. Virgin soil was reached in Trench 2 at 3.30 m. and painted pottery began to appear above the floor at 2.35 m. Hardpan in Trench 3 was at 3.15 m.; painted pottery occurred first above the 2.30 m. level, except for the various intrusions below that level. The pottery sequence starts out very simply. From the very beginning there are wide variations in color, both of surface and of fabric. The former varies from light brown, rarely buff, through shades of brown, red-brown, gray-brown and gray to dark gray, never really black; the interior surface is often darker than the exterior. Mottled or variegated surfaces are common from the lowest levels; red spots on brown, dark gray or brown on red-brown are most usual (Pl. 52, a). Another form of variegation, noted especially on open bowls with an offset or everted lip, is a dark lip band about 0.01 m. wide on the exterior of vases otherwise of fairly uniform light color (Pl. 52, a, 2, 5). While both light and dark shades appear from the first and continue not only throughout this

lowest meter of deposit but also in upper levels, the general tone of the monochrome ware becomes lighter with time, due to improved firing methods. However, from the first there is also wide variation in firing. In the lowest levels the great majority of the pottery is rather incompletely fired, and while the surfaces often achieve light tones, the core of the fabric is usually dark gray or black. Yet even from the lowest level there is some pottery that is fairly well fired throughout and has an even brown or red-brown core. The proportion of such ware increases in higher levels and is predominant by the time the first painted decoration appears.

Another marked characteristic of this earliest pottery is the spongy appearance of the fabric, which is pitted both in the core and on the surface with innumerable small holes, apparently caused by the burning and washing out of the fine limestone grit used to temper the clay.¹⁰ In the less well refined examples the white grits are visible both in the core and on the surface, but especially in the core. In the lowest levels a large proportion of the pottery has the spongy core with considerable pitting of the surface. With better burnishing, the surface became more compact and showed few and smaller holes, amounting in extreme cases to virtual elimination of surface pitting. However, this spongy fabric continued in use in all varieties, although in decreasing proportion, well into the following period alongside the painted pottery, for which it also formed the basic fabric. Even in the lowest levels, some of this pottery was slipped, in shades varying from dark red through red-brown to a variety of browns, and was usually polished at least to some extent; there are some examples of highly polished slipped ware. While slipped ware occurs in small amounts from the lowest levels, it is found in increasing proportion above. The slipped surfaces are fairly uniform in color, although variegation does occur, and slipped wares were often more completely fired. Obvious burnishing strokes occur on many vases; more usually they have been smoothed off.

Although the spongy fabric predominates throughout the lowest meter of deposit, non-spongy wares are found from the start and increase proportionately in higher levels; they are both fine or coarse, slipped or plain, roughly smoothed to highly polished, in all shades from light brown to dark gray. One is almost white. There are a few examples of white-slipped ware even in the lowest meter of deposit, such as were noted among the Early Neolithic wares at Corinth.¹¹ On the whole, however,

¹⁰ The fabric was found in quantity at Corinth and described in *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, p. 497. Much of it occurred as well at Asea (Holmberg, *Excavations at Asea in Arcadia*, Lund, 1944, p. 36) and recently at Lerna (*Hesperia*, XXVII, 1958, p. 138), again in Early Neolithic context. At Corinth, as at Asea, this fabric continued into and formed one of the transitional links with the Middle Neolithic period; it was often slipped, glazed or painted with patterns (*Hesperia*, XXIX, 1960, p. 249). Holmberg has already remarked (*op. cit.*, p. 36, note 3) that it forms part of the group of *Gebrauchsgeschirr* at Orchomenos (*Orch.*, II, pp. 44-45).

¹¹ *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, p. 493.

the Elateian monochrome ware of the lowest meter of deposit has a harder fabric than that of the Corinthian Early Neolithic pottery; it is usually better fired and tends more to reds and red-browns in general tone. This is due largely to the difference in clay, for the light clays of Corinth more often produced buff, or even light buff, surfaces. The contrast is well illustrated by a few fragments of Corinthian-type

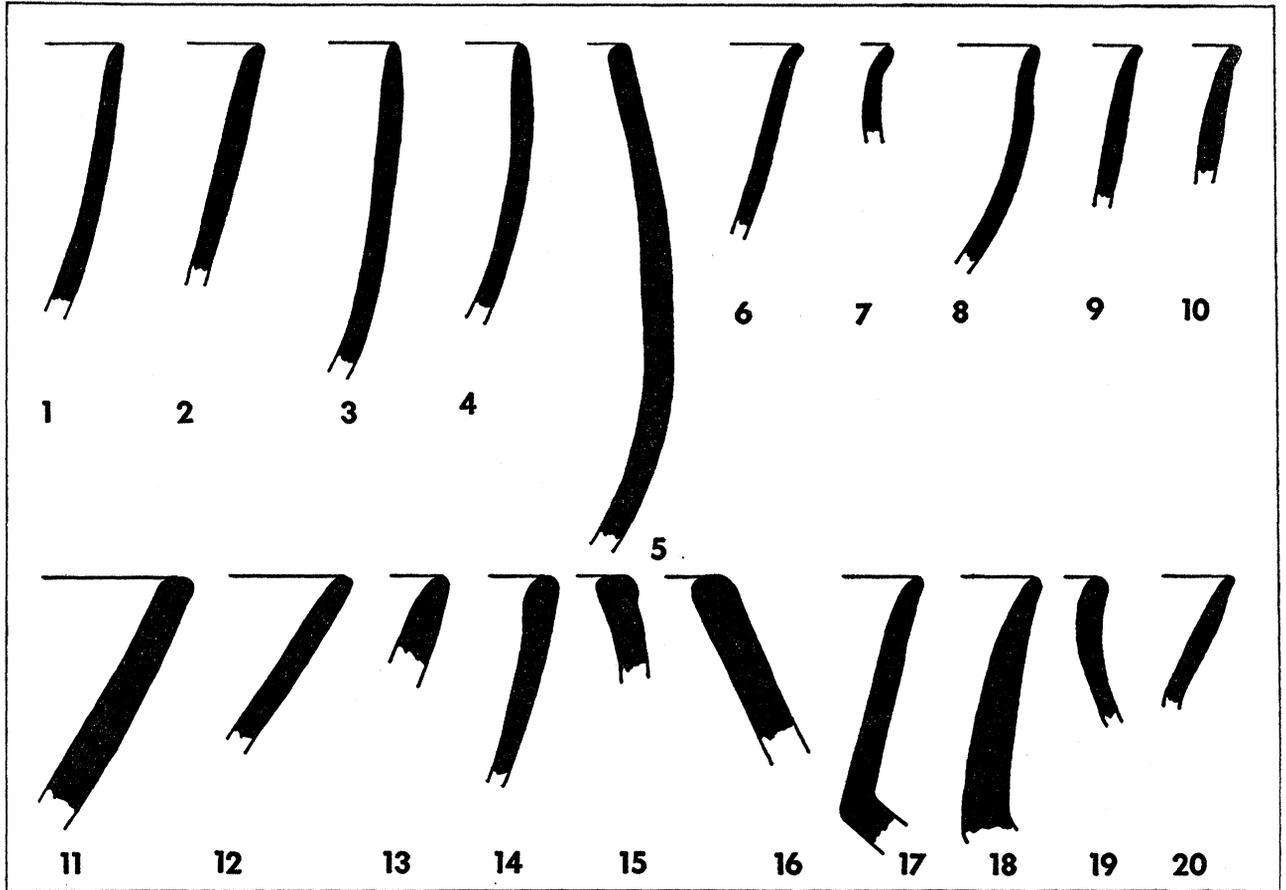


FIG. 5. Profiles of Early Neolithic Bowl Rims and Jar Collars, Pre-painted Pottery Phase. (1:2)

monochrome ware found at Elateia which stand out clearly as imports. Two of these pieces were found on or just above the floor at 3.10 m. in Trench 1, early in the pre-painted pottery phase, and give us a valuable chronological coordination with the Early Neolithic phase at Corinth; other single fragments occurred in the level immediately below the first appearance of painted pottery.

Two shapes predominate in the lowest meter of deposit (as indeed they do in subsequent phases as well), the hemispherical bowl (Fig. 5; Pl. 52, *b-c*), often with the sides carried up beyond the point of greatest diameter, and the globular collared

jar (Fig. 5; Pl. 52, e). The first, an open shape, has its interior surface as well, or almost as well, finished as the exterior; the more closed jars usually have the interior only roughly smoothed. The bowls commonly have a simple thinned and rounded lip, generally diminishing equally from both sides (Fig. 5, 3-4), but sometimes bevelled from only one side, particularly the interior (Fig. 5, 1-2); rather flat lips also occur (Fig. 5, 11), most often in heavy fabrics, and in a few examples there is even a widening of the lip either on the exterior or the interior (Fig. 5, 14-15). Of the finer bowls, a number have a slightly everted lip, sometimes offset by a shallow groove just below it (Fig. 5, 6-10; Pl. 52, a, 2-6). Such offset lips occur in small numbers throughout the lowest meter of deposit. A few early bowls are not hemispherical; they rather have a slight but definite angle, usually rather near the base, tending thus towards a biconical form. As a variant there are also more open bowls (Fig. 5, 12; Pl. 52, d), still fairly deep, and these usually have a flat, cut-off lip or a lip that is broadened on the exterior or interior or both. Applied pellets, most often found in pairs, commonly decorate the outer edge of the rim. The globular jar was as popular as the deep bowl in the earliest period at Elateia; it generally has a fairly high collar, either cylindrical (Pl. 52, e), splaying outward in a straight line or a shallow concave curve (Fig. 5, 17-18), or sometimes even narrowing slightly to the lip (Fig. 5, 19). Collars vary in height from 0.01-0.06 m. Body variations range from truly globular to elongated piriform or flattened spherical shapes, the latter at times developing an almost biconical form. Without a collar, the shape becomes a hole-mouthed jar (Fig. 5, 15-16), a few examples of which were found in the lowest meter of deposit, even at the very bottom; these usually have a flat lip. From the top of the lowest meter of deposit there is a unique example of a deep cup in coarse ware (Fig. 7, 9). While there are a few sherds of very coarse and roughly formed pottery, heavy fabrics and large vases are rare in this earliest phase. There is little evidence for the heavy household pots or the very large storage jars that are common in later periods.

While both bowls and jars began largely as round- or flat-bottomed shapes (Fig. 7, 1; Pl. 53, a, 1-2), the latter often had a slight concavity (Fig. 7, 2; Pl. 53, a, 3). Ring bases, however, occur even in the lowest levels, although they are few in the lowest meter of deposit. Some are hardly more than a disc applied to the bottom of the vase, splaying at the sides and lightly concave underneath (Fig. 7, 3). Yet the very high and deeply concave base shown in Figure 7, 5 was found at 2.80 m. in Trench 3, only 0.35 m. above hardpan. A variety of in-between heights is illustrated among the ring bases from the lowest meter (Pl. 53, a, 4-6). Though bases are fairly well developed yet not common, even in the earliest phase, handles are few and are limited to a type of small pierced lug set either horizontally or vertically (Pl. 53, b). One may generalize that they were usually set vertically at the belly of jars, horizontally somewhat below the lip of bowls; one is from just above the angle of a biconical bowl.

The earliest of these pierced lugs occurs only 0.20 m. above hardpan and is of the spongy fabric, as are most of the lugs. There is one solid lug, one fragment that seems to be from a loop or basket handle off the rim of an open bowl (Pl. 52, d, 9). In this earliest phase there is no evidence for handles off the collars of jars, nor indeed for any type of band handle.

Except for one fragment on which there are a couple of oblique incised lines, the decoration of pottery in the lowest meter of deposit is confined to plastic ornament. Already mentioned is the use of small knobs, usually in pairs, on the rim of open bowls (Pl. 52, d), a form of decoration which may be confined to the first phase. A number of bowls, especially of spongy fabric, have applied oval pellets, often placed horizontally just above the belly of the bowl (Pl. 53, c, 5); such a pellet occurs on a red-slipped bowl as well. One fragment (Pl. 53, c, 10) has a large round disc of clay applied to the side of the vessel. Plastic strips applied in wavy (Pl. 53, c, 7-9) or zigzag lines (Pl. 53, d, 6) form another decorative element. While all the other decorated pieces are in brown or red ware, the last piece mentioned is of dark gray ware which was burnished to a brilliant black after the plastic strip was applied; it was found in the topmost level of the early phase in Trench 2.

The simple pottery of the lowest meter of deposit, never painted and seldom decorated, with no handles but an occasional pierced lug, largely round or flat-bottomed but with ring bases in some cases, showing but two shapes—bowl and jar, is comparable with that found in Early Neolithic levels at many sites from Thessaly to the southern Peloponnesos. Much pottery of this nature had been found in the Kephisos valley and the Copaic Basin, but none of it had been fixed stratigraphically.¹² Outside this region the closest similarities are with the earliest pottery from Thessaly, with which ours shares the early propensity toward everted rims and ring bases,¹³ characteristics which also appear to some extent at the Attic east-coast site of Nea Makri¹⁴ but which are less frequent among the earliest Peloponnesian pottery from Corinth and Lerna, for instance. Yet the few imported pieces of Corinthian variegated ware found in the lowest meter of deposit at Elateia indicate the contemporaneity of our earliest phase with the Early Neolithic of Corinth. This lowest meter of deposit must thus be equated with the "Early Ceramic" and "Protosesklo" periods of Thessaly and the earliest phase of the Early Neolithic period in Attica and the Peloponnesos, all together marking the earliest appearance of a pottery Neolithic culture

¹² *Orch.*, II, passim.

¹³ Pyrasos I: Theochares, *Θεσσαλικά*, II, 1959, pp. 43-46; Sesklo A: Theochares, *Πρακτικά Ἀκ. Ἀθ.*, XXXII, 1957, pp. 155-156; Maghoulitsa A: Papadopoulou, *Θεσσαλικά*, I, 1958, pp. 41-42; Argissa and Otzaki, "Early Ceramic" and "Protosesklo": Miložčić, *Jahrbuch des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums Mainz (JRGZM Mainz)*, VI, 1959, pp. 8-10. I am greatly indebted to both Theochares and Miložčić for affording me the opportunity of examining the pottery from these sites at Volo and Larisa respectively.

¹⁴ Theochares, *Ath. Mitt.*, LXXI, 1956, pp. 6-10.

in Greece, after the pre-ceramic phase. The accumulation of a meter in depth at Elateia makes this one of the most considerable and best stratified deposits of this first ceramic phase, a wider exploitation of which is urgently needed.

SECOND PHASE

While the next phase is marked by the appearance of the first painted pottery, which began to occur at about the same level in all three trenches at Elateia, the vast majority of the pottery is but a development of that of the first phase. Monochrome ware still predominates, though in somewhat lessening proportion; the spongy fabric too gradually becomes less common as well fired and well finished pottery increases in quantity. Vases become larger and there is a slight increase in coarse or heavy fabrics. The same two shapes, bowl and collared jar, continue in almost exclusive use, but there is increasing variety within these shapes. Bowls may be much deeper than before (Fig. 6, 11; Pl. 55, a); everted rims more frequent and more pronounced (Fig. 6, 6-9; Pl. 54, a). While the fabric of bowls in this second phase shows the same wide color range as in the earlier one and variegated ware continues throughout, new monochrome wares appear at the two extremes. It is very soon after the first appearance of painted pottery that the early black burnished ware bowls occur (Pl. 53, d) and they remain a rather scarce fine ware throughout this phase. One fragment of such ware, from the topmost level of the first phase in Trench 2, has already been mentioned; this was decorated with a plastic zigzag (Pl. 53, d, 6). The medium to deep gray fabric of this ware was brought to a rich black on the surface by burnishing, usually after the application of the simple plastic ornaments that are so common on this pottery. Early in this second phase, at almost exactly the same time as the fine black ware, there are also beginning to appear white-slipped wares, which increase in popularity during the period. The bowls (Pl. 54, b) vary from small to quite large, with a variation in fabric from fine to rather heavy. The white slip on some of the earliest pieces (Pl. 54, b, 1) is cream-colored and highly polished, presenting a beautifully smooth and lustrous surface, but more often the slip is dull white and powdery and varies from very thin and transparent to very thick and chalk-like. We shall see that this is the same slip that is used as the basis for painted decoration; it was apparently used for unpainted vases as early as or perhaps even earlier than for the painted ware. With the appearance of white-slipped ware there also occurs for the first time a type of eccentric bowl (Pl. 55, b) produced by making first a large hemispherical bowl, usually with a round or flat bottom or a low disc base, and then pinching in the opposite sides to produce an oval section in the upper part, with the ends forming broad spouts at a slightly higher level than the pinched-in sides.¹⁵ The fragments shown in Plate 54, b, except No. 9, are from such eccentric

¹⁵ *Εφ. Ἀρχ.*, 1908, col. 69-70, fig. 3.

bowls; some pieces with odd shapes and showing the fine yellowish slip (Pl. 54, b, 1, for instance) are disconcertingly similar to those from Early Helladic sauceboats in Yellow Slip ware. As far as I know, such eccentric bowls do not occur outside the Kephisos Valley; within this area they were apparently plentiful in the period of the red-on-white (Chaeronea) ware. Another variant of a bowl in white-slipped ware is

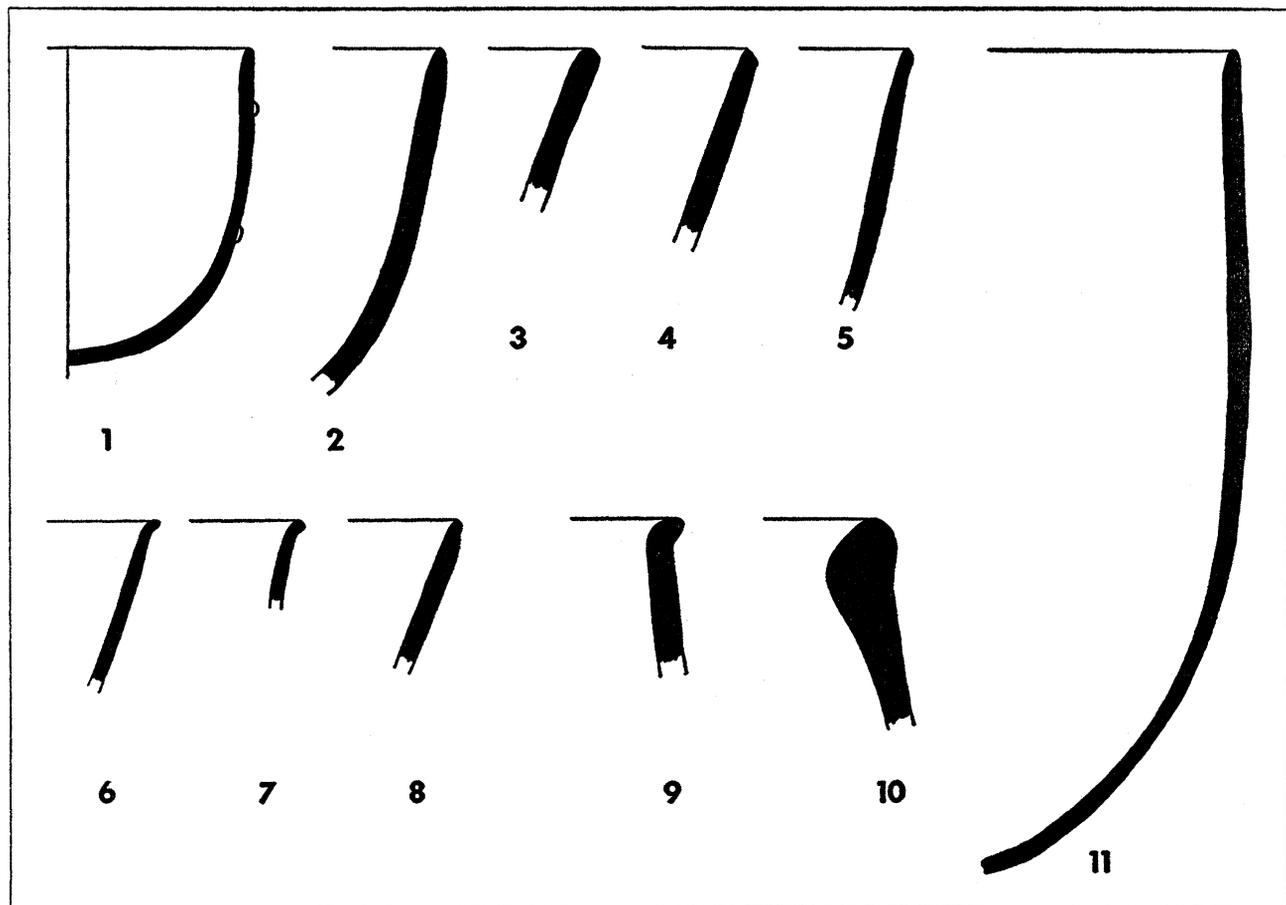


FIG. 6. Profiles of Bowls of the Red-on-white Painted Pottery Phase. Early (1-3, 5-9) and Middle (4, 10-11) Neolithic. (1:2)

shown by a sherd (Fig. 6, 10; Pl. 54, b, 9) which has a heavy rim that swells in the interior and is somewhat everted as well. All of the types of bases known on bowls of the first phase continue in this phase, but ring bases, both low and high, straight or splayed, are now more common. In addition, there are now disc bases made by applying a disc of clay to the bottom of the bowl; these are usually flat-bottomed, but some have a slight bottom concavity. Handles for bowls seem completely absent now; the plain or pierced lugs of the previous phase are gone.

Among jar shapes, too, there are some changes, but the type remains essentially the same. Larger jars occur, but there is still very little coarse or heavy fabric. The non-spongy ware now predominates, mostly well fired and in a wide variety of color with some grays and a few red-slipped pieces. Jars now sometimes show clear paring strokes on the surface. The tendency towards a biconical shape is more pronounced, but most of the jars are still globular. Collars vary from low to high, with a maximum of 0.05 m. Some are cylindrical, a few convex, more concave and flaring slightly. Several collar fragments are red-slipped. While many jars still have flat bottoms,

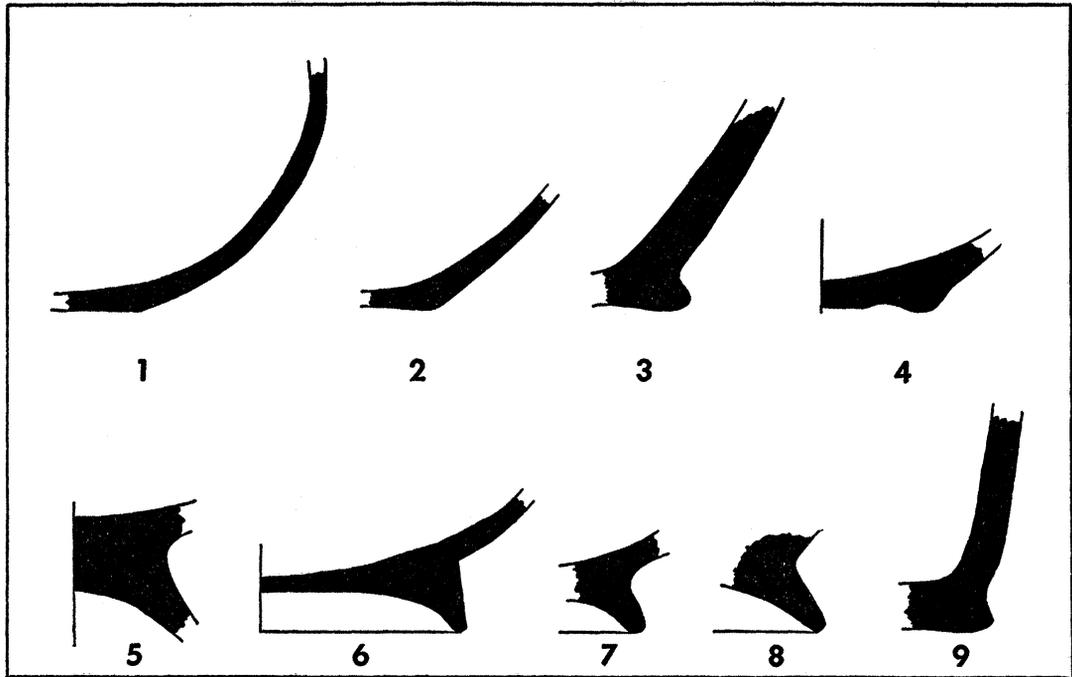


FIG. 7. Profiles of Neolithic Bowl and Jar Bases. Early (1-3, 5-7, 9), Middle (8), and Late (4) Neolithic. (1:2)

there are also slightly concave bottoms, some very low bases (Pl. 54, c, 7) and all varieties of ring bases (Fig. 7, 6-8), as well as disc bases (Pl. 54, c, 8), the latter apparently being limited to white slipped ware. On jars, too, handles are at a minimum. A large lug of coarse ware and a heavy handle with oval section may both be from coarse ware jars of this period. The one interesting handle from this phase may come from a jar of gray-black ware (Pl. 62, b, 1). It has a flat oval section, splaying to a circular attachment and having a round plug that went through the wall of the vase. Since the plug is polished at the end, the interior of the vase to which the handle belonged was also polished at least in the area of the handle attachment. This would be normal for the collar of a jar. The handle might have come, however, from a deep

cup or mug such as exists in this fine gray-black ware at Corinth.¹⁶ Such "thrust-handles" are known from the Early Bronze Age in both Greece and Anatolia,¹⁷ but the example from Elateia gives this type of handle a much more venerable ancestry.

Both incised and plastic ornament are found in this phase as in the first; the former is restricted to short lines cut at the outer edge of the lip of bowls (Pl. 54, d, 5, 7-8), which may be of fine or medium ware but usually do not have a slipped or polished surface. The plastic decoration includes pellets, discs and bands such as are known from the first phase. Now, however, many small pellets, often arranged in simple geometric patterns (Pl. 53, c, 1-4, 6), replace the isolated oval pellet usual earlier. Such small pellets are especially characteristic of the cups of fine gray-black burnished ware (Fig. 6, 1; Pl. 53, d); they may be arranged in vertical or oblique lines or in triangles. The pellets themselves vary from round to long oval shapes.

EARLIEST PAINTED WARE

The important innovation in vase decoration was painting, and its appearance is considered as the most significant feature distinguishing the second phase from the first. In all three trenches the first painted pieces appeared at about the 2.30 m. level. In Trenches 1 and 3 the earliest painted pottery bears simple linear patterns painted with a thick paint of red-brown color directly on the buff to dark red-buff or gray-buff surface of bowls or jars of spongy ware (Pl. 56, a-b). Both the ground and the paint were polished and the painted patterns are sometimes more lustrous than the ground. From the relatively few fragments found one can judge that hemispherical bowls and collared jars were the common shapes. Bowls were decorated on the exterior (Pl. 56, a) from the lip down, we do not know how far, and on the interior only near the lip (Pl. 56, b, 1-4 show the interior of the fragments illustrated in Pl. 56, a, 1-4 respectively). Parallel lines are the main motif, often used in oblique orientation in alternating directions, sometimes in parallel zigzags, frequently filling triangles, especially on the interior of bowls. Where groups of parallel chevrons meet at the lip of a bowl, a cross-hatched triangle is found; cross-hatching occurs in other patterns as well. There are some indications that solid-filled triangles also occur; one pendant from the lip on the interior of a bowl is certain. Collared jars were decorated both on the shoulder and on the collar. Large areas, possibly triangular or lozenge-

¹⁶ This vase, unpublished, is from the early excavations by Mrs. Kosmopoulos. The large semicircular handle runs from just below the lip to just above the base.

¹⁷ The name is that given by the excavators of Troy, where such handles occur as early as the first phase of Troy I (*Troy*, I, p. 65), close to 3000 B.C. Frankfort long ago recognized such handles as one of the features connecting the Aegean and Anatolia (*Studies in Early Pottery of the Near East*, II, London, 1927, p. 86 and note 1) and he cited examples from both areas. To these, and to those cited in *Troy*, I, p. 65, may be added other examples from Macedonia (Heurtley, *Prehistoric Macedonia*, Cambridge, 1939, p. 198, no. 370) and from the islands of Samos (*Ath. Mitt.*, LX-LXI, 1935-1936, p. 125) and Chios.

shaped, were cross-hatched irregularly (Pl. 56, b, 7-8), a carelessness not seen on the bowls. On the other hand, the very delicate lines on the shoulder of one jar (Pl. 56, b, 5) are not equalled in bowl decoration. Such decoration painted directly on the surface of spongy ware is rare and short-lived, occurring only in the lowest strata of the second phase, except for pieces found in the upper levels of Trench 3 and clearly brought up in the digging of the great pit in that trench. This fabric, known also in fragments among the red-on-white painted (Chaeronea) ware of Central Greece, is closely related to the red-on-buff ware of the Early Neolithic period in the Peloponnesos,¹⁸ as well as to the first painted pottery of the Thessalian Early Neolithic ("Protosesklo") culture¹⁹ and that of the Early Neolithic (Level A) at Nea Makri in Attica.²⁰ At Elateia the point at which this earliest type of painted pottery occurs in the long development of the Early Neolithic period is exactly established. It was but a short prelude to the full blossoming of the red-on-white painted pottery.

RED-ON-WHITE PAINTED WARE

Painted pottery began to occur in some quantity together with the practice of using a light slip, rather than the darker surface of the vase, as a ground for the painted decoration. In the two trenches which yielded the early type of painted ware just described (Trenches 1 and 3), there is clearly a lag in the appearance of the slipped ground, and it is not until about the 1.90 m. level that the red-on-white painted ware occurs in other than a few scattered bits. In Trench 2, which produced none of the earliest painted sherds, two pieces with a slipped ground occurred at 2.30 m., the same level at which the unslipped ware had been found in the other two trenches. In the levels between 2.30 m. and 2.10 m. there were ten slipped and painted fragments in all; only above the 2.10 m. level does painted ware occur in quantity. From there on up, Trench 2 with its good, undisturbed strata produced the greatest amount of this ware, more than the other two trenches combined, for the area dug in Trench 1 was restricted and that of Trench 3 was much disturbed by large pits of the next phase. The lack of the earliest painted pottery in Trench 2, together with the appearance of the white-slipped variety at a lower level than in the other two trenches, suggests a possible levelling operation in this particular area which cut away some of the fill of the early part of the second phase; this is strengthened by the fact that even the first white-slipped ware found in Trench 2 is not of as early varieties as that from Trenches 1 and 3.

¹⁸ Corinth: *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, pp. 497-498; Lerna: *Hesperia*, XXVI, 1957, p. 160; XXVII, 1958, p. 143; Nemea: in the Corinth Museum.

¹⁹ Pyrasos I: *Θεσσαλικά*, II, 1959, pp. 41-42; Sesklo A: *Πρακτικὰ Ἀκ. Ἀθ.*, XXXII, 1957, p. 156; Argissa and Otzaki; *JRGZM Mainz*, VI, 1959, pp. 8-9; Maghoulitsa A: *Θεσσαλικά*, I, 1958, pp. 42-43.

²⁰ *Ath. Mitt.*, LXXI, 1956, pp. 14, 16.

The shapes of vases in the red-on-white painted ware are extremely limited; there is hardly anything but bowls and collared jars, such as are illustrated on Plate 55, c-h by well known examples from Chaeronea that are more complete than any from the trial excavations at Elateia. There is a wide variation in the size of bowls, but they are usually of hemispherical shape, sometimes with the sides carried up higher than a hemisphere, sometimes with a more angular than rounded transition from upper to lower half. A simple lip is the rule, but a few everted lips occur. Bottoms are rounded, flat, or slightly concave; bases are rare. Handles, or even simple lugs, seem not to have existed. There is hardly more variety in the jars; only in size is there wide divergence (compare Pl. 55, g-h with Pl. 55, e for the extremes). The jar body may be globular (Pl. 55, h), a somewhat flattened sphere (Pl. 55, e), or a shape tending toward the biconical with the belly somewhat higher than the midpoint between collar and base, giving a rather flattened shoulder and a higher body with less rounded sides (Pl. 55, f-g). Collars vary considerably in height, usually in proportion to the size of the jar; they customarily flare somewhat towards the lip in a simple curve, but there are vertical collars and those with a more sinuous curve as well. On jars, too, rounded, flat, or concave bottoms occur, but there are also many disc bases (Pls. 54, c, 8; 55, e-f), which have a flat or slightly concave bottom; ring bases are unusual. There is but one fragment of a red-on-white painted jar (Pl. 57, d, 17) which shows the attachment for a handle; otherwise handles seem to be as rare as on bowls.

The so-called white slip is, at first, often anything but white. Some of the earliest examples have a thin slip that is streaky and grayish since the ground shows through. There are early appearances, however, of a fine creamy yellow slip, thick and of even tone and usually well polished. Buff tones often occur as well in the slip, and these continue throughout the production of red-on-white ware. Thicker white slip with a more even tone begins to occur when the production of this painted ware becomes large, at about the 1.90 m. level, but it is only towards the end of this phase that the thick, chalky white, matt slip considered characteristic of this ware first occurs. We shall see that its appearance coincides with that of a group of patterns more complicated than is usual in the earlier part of this phase. Throughout, there remains great variety in the color and quality of the slip but, as we have seen, the cream shades are dominant early, the very white color later. Pottery of all phases was often burned, so that the slip has become a dark gray and the paint almost black, but this is accidental.

Patterns were painted on the light slip in a thick, red-brown paint, sometimes almost purplish in tone. Like the slip (except the chalky white variety), the paint usually has a sheen, sometimes more lustrous than that of the slip. In the patterns a distinct development from simple to more complex designs is discernible, though the majority of patterns used throughout are of the simpler varieties. At first, patterns

consisted largely of straight lines, usually in groups of parallel lines, parallel chevrons or zigzags, as hatching in large triangles, perhaps in lozenges as well. Where groups of parallel lines cross, cross-hatched lozenges or triangles result (Pl. 56, c). While a broader line as border to such groups may not have occurred from the start, it was not long delayed and soon became standard. Solid-filled triangles occurred almost from the start, especially at the lip on the interior of bowls (Pl. 56, d); hatched triangles are usual in the same position. Rows of contiguous, solid-filled lozenges also appeared early, and checkerboards are another early pattern using solid-filled forms. Checks, triangles and lozenges are all used to fill the large triangles or lozenges that often decorate the body of jars (Pl. 55, f). A solid-filled triangle pendant from the bottom of such lozenges or from bands of parallel zigzags (Pls. 55, g; 57, c, 5) is an early motif.

With the advent of the chalky white slip, many new and more complicated patterns begin to be used. Wide bands, rather than narrow stripes, are now used in parallel chevrons or zigzags (Pl. 57, c, 1). These are bordered with rows of small triangles, producing a "flame" pattern (Pl. 57, a, 2, 4, 9; d, 1, 6). A similar effect is produced by crossing a thin straight line with a zigzag line (Pl. 57, b, 3-4). A "flame" border may be added to a field of checkerboard pattern (Pl. 57, d, 11), or it may occur at the lip of a jar collar (Pl. 57, b, 5). Short strokes as a border (Pl. 57, d, 2) may occur instead of the solid-filled triangles. Closely related to this is the border of chevrons or bent strokes (Pls. 55, h; 57, b, 11; d, 10), giving wings to some of the linear patterns. Wavy lines (Pls. 57, d, 7-9; 58, a, 9), often as a filling for larger figures, also appear now. To the new repertory belong dots in checks (Pl. 57, a, 10-11; d, 14), large free dots (Pl. 57, a, 12), sometimes edged with short strokes (Pl. 57, d, 5), or a large dot with a border of small dots connected by short strokes, a sort of rosette (Pl. 57, d, 12). The large butterfly on a jar collar (Pl. 57, b, 8) suggests the beginning of a panel arrangement; too little survives of the motif to the right with a rounded edge to indicate how this continued. A somewhat similar pattern occurs on a jar body (Pl. 57, d, 4) in the cross-hatched lozenge with a pair of triangles at the apex forming a wing-like motif.

Thus, from the large quantity of stratified red-on-white painted pottery found at Elateia, it is possible to demonstrate the development within this ware, to distinguish at least an early and a late group. On the basis of the criteria outlined here, it is safe to assign the fine large jar from Chaeronea shown on Plate 55, g, with its thin slip and its simple patterns, to the early group; that of Plate 55, h, characterized by the chalky white slip and the late type of pattern on the collar, clearly belongs to the late group. This classification is at least in one respect just the opposite of that proposed by Kunze on the basis of his stylistic study of the Chaeronea ware from Orchomenos.²¹

²¹ *Orch.* II, pp. 37-38.

While he, too, divides the material into an earlier and a later group, he considers the heavy white slip as characteristic of the former, the thin slip, or the lack of a slip, as belonging to the latter. Kunze was right, however, in assigning a long span to this ware and in placing the earlier phase in what we would now call the Early Neolithic period, the later phase in the Middle Neolithic period.²²

The development at Elateia which we have discussed thus far, in both monochrome and painted wares, was an unbroken one. Its early phases, both that with no painted pottery and that which saw the first attempts at painting, have been equated with the Early Neolithic cultures both to the north, in Thessaly, and to the south, in Attica and the Peloponnesos (see above pp. 169, 171, 176). That at least the earlier variety of Chaeronea ware belongs within the range of the Early Neolithic of the Peloponnesos was indicated in the 1937 excavations at Corinth.²³ That the later variety, especially that with the "flame" pattern, must be equated with the A3 β wares of the Thessaly A, or Thessaly 1, period (Sesklo Culture), in which the "flame" pattern also plays an important role, is clear. The results of the excavations of Milošević at Otzaki-Magula show that the "flame" pattern occurs already in the earliest of the three phases of the Sesklo Culture that he was able to distinguish there;²⁴ it continues in the later phases as well. Yet in Thessaly, too, the earlier Chaeronea ware finds a parallel in the early red-on-white painted wares found by Theochares at Pyrasos in level IB, which he terms Early Neolithic and equates with the Early Neolithic of the Peloponnesos.²⁵ We have discussed elsewhere the equation Thessaly A = Middle Neolithic of the Peloponnesos²⁶ and indicated the transitional character of Chaeronea ware from Early to Middle Neolithic.²⁷ Yet Chaeronea ware, even in its later phase, never exhibits the better techniques and the more articulated shapes that characterize Middle Neolithic pottery both in Thessaly and in the Peloponnesos; it remains always an outgrowth of the Early Neolithic.

URFIRNIS

In the Peloponnesos, especially at Corinth, the appearance in great quantity of Neolithic Urfirnis ware, showing new techniques and shapes, has been taken as the feature which marks the beginning of the Middle Neolithic period. Lerna has more recently produced ample proof of the validity of this division.²⁸ The contemporaneity of the Neolithic Urfirnis ware with the Thessaly A wares had been doubted by

²² *Orch.*, II, p. 47 chart.

²³ *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, p. 487.

²⁴ Milošević, *JRGZM Mainz*, VI, 1959, fig. 10, 1, 3.

²⁵ Theochares, *Θεσσαλικά*, II, 1959, pp. 36, 46, fig. 15, 1-5.

²⁶ *A.J.A.*, LI, 1947, pp. 174-176.

²⁷ Ehrich, *Relative Chronologies in Old World Archeology*, Chicago, 1954, p. 98.

²⁸ Caskey, *Hesperia*, XXVI, 1957, pp. 160-161; XXVII, 1958, pp. 137-138, 143.

Milojčić, who placed the former in the Late Neolithic after the Thessaly B phase,²⁹ but Theochares has now found some of this Neolithic Urfirnis ware in late Thessaly A context at Pyrasos.³⁰ That the Neolithic Urfirnis ware had existed well before it was exported to Thessaly seems sure; this is its farthest outpost. But this ware is known in quantity in Central Greece as well, and it has been assumed that it was contemporary throughout with the appearance of the same ware in the Peloponnesos. It was Kunze, in his study of the Neolithic pottery of Orchomenos, who first isolated it as a separate ware, and he assigned it to the later part of the Neolithic, while still believing it overlapped with the later part of the Chaeronea ware.³¹ While excavating at Elateia, we were much interested in observing the occurrence of Neolithic Urfirnis ware and in establishing it stratigraphically. However, this proved not easy to do, though certain facts are clear. First and most important is the fact that the whole development of the Chaeronea ware described above had run its course before Neolithic Urfirnis ware appeared at Elateia; that is, the later style with heavy white slip and more complicated patterns was already well established. We would conclude from this that the Middle Neolithic phase of Thessaly and the Peloponnesos had been long established before the Neolithic Urfirnis ware came to Central Greece; in this respect Central Greece shows a parallelism with the situation in Thessaly as demonstrated at Pyrasos. But even when it does appear, there is very little Neolithic Urfirnis ware at Elateia, and most of it is found scattered in bits in the uppermost mixed levels, except the one large group of it, or a variant of it, that was found in the great bothros in Trench 3. This large closed deposit is crucial for determining the associations of Neolithic Urfirnis ware. Most important is the total absence from this deposit of any of the matt-painted pottery which we consider as the indicator of the beginning of the Late Neolithic period (see p. 196), and which began to occur in quantity immediately above the bothros. The other pottery in the bothros is largely of the black burnished varieties or is coarse ware. But nowhere is there a stratum representing this phase; over all the area we have dug at Elateia thus far the Late Neolithic level comes immediately above that characterized by the later type of Chaeronea Ware; in this Late Neolithic level there are quantities of Chaeronea ware as well as of the wares known in the bothros and in a few smaller pits. We must conclude from this that the bothros and a few other smaller pits are all that remains of a period of occupation which has been otherwise obliterated by a large-scale leveling operation that took place when the Late Neolithic inhabitants took over the site. I believe that they cut away not only the level from which the pits were sunk, but that possibly the upper part of the pits and also the upper part of the next earlier

²⁹ *Jahrb.*, LXV-LXVI, 1952, p. 32.

³⁰ *Θεσσαλικά*, II, 1959, pp. 53-54.

³¹ *Orch.*, II, pp. 31-35, 47 chart.

level were cut away as well. We have, therefore, a truncation of the site which has robbed us of the evidence for the end of the period of the Chaeronea ware and of the whole record of the subsequent occupation by people using Neolithic Urfirnis pottery as well as the so-called Anatolian black wares. Thus only the bothros and the few smaller pits remain to tell us of this period, which must be contemporary with the later part of the Middle Neolithic period elsewhere.

We turn, then, to a description of the pottery from the bothros and that related to it, first to the Neolithic Urfirnis ware and variants of it. As noted above, the amount of real Neolithic Urfirnis pottery is small, consisting of scattered bits, but in every respect it is typical of the ware as known in the Peloponnesos.³² There are fragments of plain as well as of painted ware, some from open vessels with the usual glaze-like surface on both interior and exterior, some of closed shapes with an unglazed interior which exhibits the scraped surface which characterizes this ware. The wide open bowls on high bases and the incurved rim bowls, already so well known in this ware, are the chief shapes, but there are also some small-mouthed jar shapes. The jars are largely biconical and have a fairly sharp belly (Pl. 58, c, 1, 3); one had a wide band handle, possibly set vertically on the shoulder (Pl. 58, c, 2). While these jar fragments came from the bothros, none of the pieces of incurved rim bowls was found in it; rather, they came from mixed top fill, except for one fragment (Pl. 58, b, 4) which was found in the lowest level in Trench 1 in which matt-painted pottery occurred. In the same level were two pieces of painted Neolithic Urfirnis ware and several pieces of the black pottery which we shall soon describe; there were but five fragments of matt-painted ware in this level.

The incurved-rim bowls exhibit both the rounded and the angular shoulder already well known in this ware (Fig. 8, 1-6; Pl. 58, b); the former generally has an everted and usually offset lip as well.³³ Three fragments from one bowl (Fig. 8, 6; Pl. 58, b, 8-10) make possible the reconstruction of the shape and show that a flat bottom is to be associated with the incurved rims; the type of base has not been clearly indicated by previously published remains. In the decoration of the bowls with incurved rim we find a combination of the usual Neolithic Urfirnis lustrous surface with red or brown slipped areas, in appearance much like Thessalian A-1 ware, and even some areas covered with a matt, dark brown or black paint. Vases with partially slipped and partially lustrous surface were observed at Corinth in 1937³⁴ and had been known earlier from Gonia;³⁵ in connection with these Blegen noted similar ware in the Chaeronea museum. We shall see the same combination in the next group of

³² *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, pp. 500-503.

³³ *Orch.*, II, p. 34, figs. 32-33; *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, p. 503, fig. 14.

³⁴ *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, p. 498.

³⁵ Blegen, *Metropolitan Museum Studies*, III, 1930, p. 66.

vases to be described. The combination of the dark brown lustrous surface and a light red slip is used to achieve a decorative effect, as in the carinated rim of Plate 58, b, 2, which has the light red slip above the carination (as well as on the interior) and the darker surface below. The fragment shown in Plate 58, b, 3 has an incised zigzag on the shoulder with a light red-brown slip above and dark brown below; the interior has the red slip. One piece (Pl. 58, b, 7) has the rim decorated simply with dark brown lines on a light brown surface, while below the carination the body is dark; this is entirely in the Neolithic Urfirnis technique. Also in the glazed ware is the fragment (Fig. 8, 1; Pl. 58, b, 1) decorated with a heavy, plastic wavy band. On the other hand, the fragment shown in Figure 8, 2 and Plate 58, b, 5 is covered both inside and out with an orange-red slip and is further decorated with a stripe of matt black paint on the everted lip as well as on the plastic knob on the shoulder. The black paint covers the entire exterior of the bowl of Figure 8, 6 and Plate 58, b, 8-10, while the interior has a red slip; a plastic knob decorates the carination. It is the combination of the matt dark brown or black paint with the red slip and, as we shall see, with Neolithic Urfirnis glaze as well, which is a new feature. It is rare in the Peloponnesos and was most likely an addition to the decoration of this kind of pottery in Central Greece. That it belongs to the end of the Middle Neolithic period and is probably to be connected with the appearance of matt-painted decoration at the beginning of the Late Neolithic is very likely, though the bothros in Trench 3 certainly indicates that it antedates the latter usage.

BLACK-ON-RED WARE

While matt black paint was commonly used for decoration over a red slipped ground on the open bowls on high stands found in the bothros, some of the bowls also show the lustrous ground typical of Neolithic Urfirnis ware. The series of such vases from the bothros in Trench 3 is the largest and most complete known thus far and helps greatly in explaining many smaller fragments found earlier. The typical profile can be reconstructed from large sections of the bowls, such as those shown in Plate 58, d, and from a complete base (Pl. 58, f). Figure 8, 7 gives the profile of the bowl shown in Plate 58, d, 1, the largest example found, with a diameter of 0.34 m. The diameter of the top of the base is 0.153 m., almost the same as that of the nearly completely preserved base (Pl. 58, f); the height of the latter is 0.155 m. Fragments from other similar bases (Pl. 59, a-c) show that they varied in height from more than 0.18 m., the preserved height of that shown in Plate 59, b, to only 0.07 m., the full height of the fragment in Plate 59, a, 4. That some bases were even taller and thinner is indicated by the vase shown in Figure 9 and Plate 59, g, which will be described below. The whole exterior and the interior of the bowl of all of these vases were covered in most cases with a red-brown to brown slip, but on the piece shown in

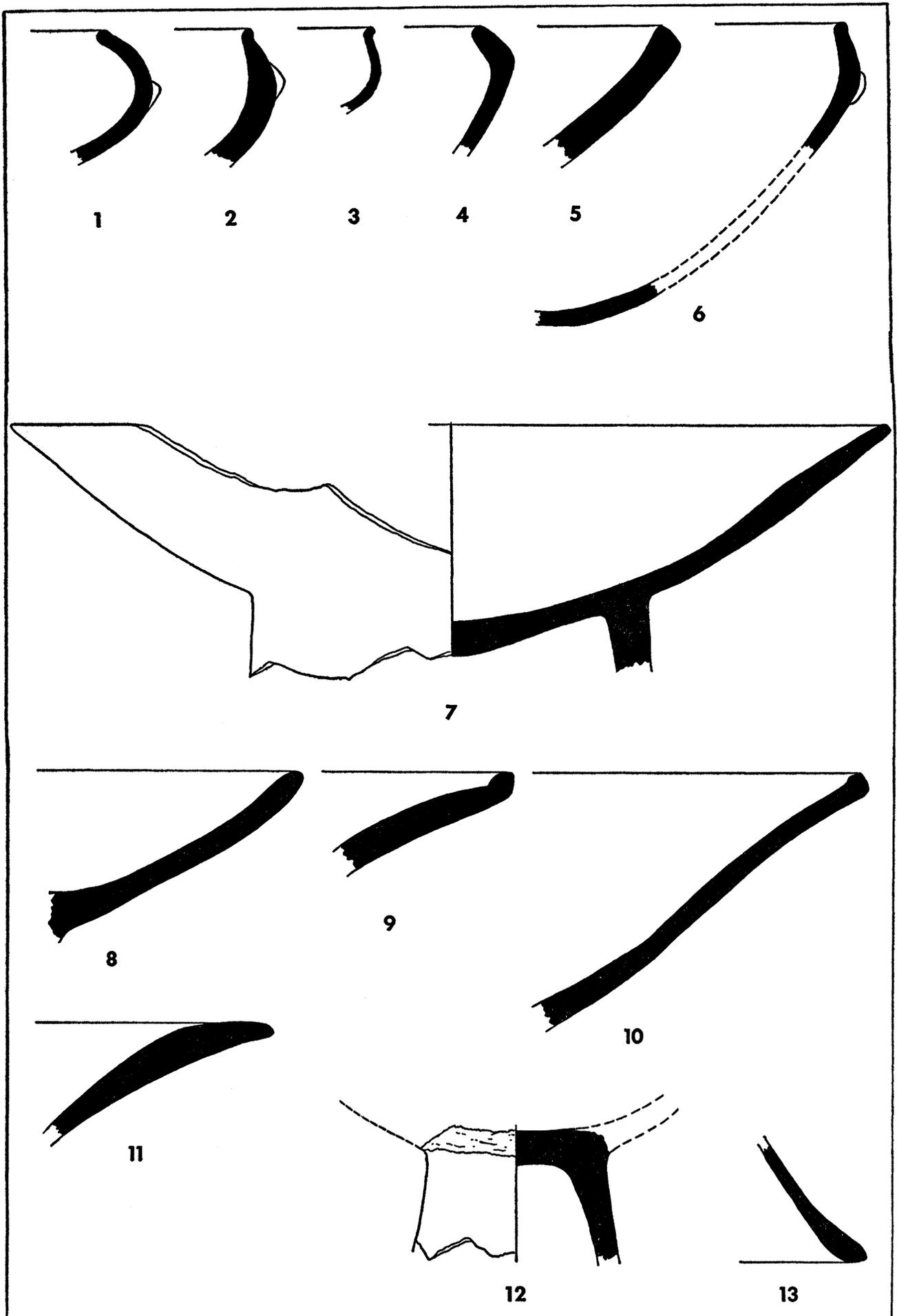


FIG. 8. Profiles of Incurved-rim Bowls of Neolithic Urfirnis Ware (1), Black-on-red Painted Ware (2-6), Large Bowl on Stand from Bothros in Trench 3 (7), Gray-black "Fruitstands" from Bothros in Trench 3 (8, 10) and from Late Neolithic Context (9, 11-13). (1:2)

Plate 59, f, 1 there is instead a true Neolithic Urfirnis glaze and the interior of the bowl shown in Plate 59, e is partially lustrous. The underside of the base is never so coated, though in one example there was a heavy white slip on the interior of the base. All walls of the bases were most probably pierced, usually with triangular cutouts

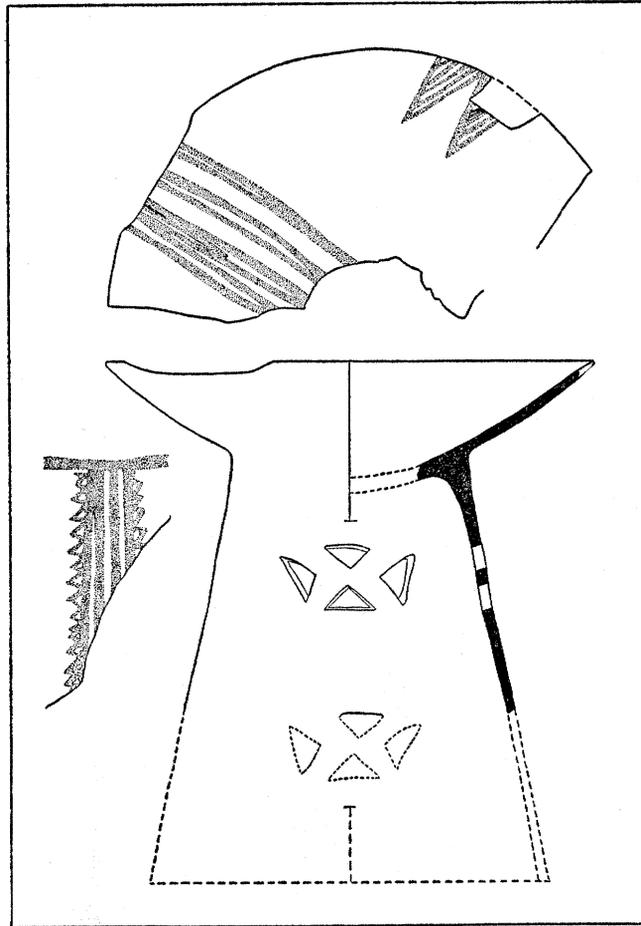


FIG. 9. Drawings, including Reconstructed Profile, of Black-on-red Painted Bowl on Pierced Stand from Bothros in Trench 3. (1:4)

(Pls. 58, f; 59, g), singly or in groups, but sometimes with circular holes (Pl. 59, a, 4). Besides the group of four triangular cutouts on the one example (Fig. 9; Pl. 59, g), the lowest preserved part of this base shows the edge of still another cutout, the position of which suggests strongly that there was a second row with such designs of triangular cutouts, and we have reconstructed the vase with a base 0.225 m. high (Fig. 9); it may have been even higher. The bowl has a diameter of 0.26 m. and would have added about 0.05 m. to the height of the vase. The rim of the bowl was cut

out in wide, shallow indentations, probably two in all, one at either end of the band of painted stripes (Pl. 59, e). All such vases seem to have had painted decoration on the exterior of the base (Pls. 58, f; 59, a-c, g); most of them also had such decoration on the interior of the bowl as well (Pls. 58, d, 2; 59, e-f). All the paint is matt and dark brown to black. The decorative patterns are extremely simple and limited—broad bands, usually at the top and bottom of the base, groups of stripes, used vertically to divide the base into panels (generally three) (Pls. 58, f; 59, a, c) but in one instance on the diameter of the interior of one bowl (Pl. 59, e), solid filled triangles rising from the bottom of the base (Pl. 59, b) and hatched triangles pendant from the edge and on the interior of bowls (Pl. 59, e-f). Wavy lines along the outer edges of a band of stripes add variety (Pl. 59, g), and the same wavy border is appended to a hatched triangle on one of the bases (Pl. 59, a, 2). Besides the large solid triangles, the very large stand shown in Plate 59, b has dots scattered over the upper part of the base. Short vertical strokes rise from the bottom edge of the base shown in Plate 59, c, 5. A few of the bowls show no painted decoration on the interior (Pls. 58, d, 1; 59, f, 3) and these usually have the slip rubbed off the whole center part, that which was over the base; some with painted decoration are also so rubbed (Pl. 58, d, 2). On the interior of the two large bowls shown in Plate 58, d there are clear signs of burning in or at the edge of the rubbed area. On the contrary, no sign of burning was visible on the underside of any of the bases, although the ventilation afforded by the cutouts would suggest that they were meant to be placed over fire. Many of the large vases exhibit mend-holes, possibly an indication of their value.

Except for their greater size, both in the diameter of the bowls and the height of the stands, these vases are the same as the Neolithic Urfirnis ware bowls known from Corinth especially,³⁶ and from many other Peloponnesian sites as well. Like the Elateia bowls, the Neolithic Urfirnis examples are either solidly covered, in this case with lustrous paint,³⁷ or the bowl interiors are decorated with painted patterns, also in the glaze paint.³⁸ Many of the high stands in Neolithic Urfirnis ware also were cut out in simple patterns,³⁹ but few bases were painted.⁴⁰ In general, the painted decoration on the Neolithic Urfirnis ware is considerably more complex than that on the black-on-red ware from Elateia. Clearly, then, the open bowls on high stands from the bothros are a variant of the type known in Neolithic Urfirnis ware, probably a local imitation which did not achieve the niceties of surface treatment and decoration which characterize the original product. Their contemporaneity, however, cannot be questioned, and the occasional piece of imported ware from the Peloponnesos guarantees the correctness of the equation.

³⁶ *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, p. 501, figs. 9-10.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, fig. 8, e-j.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, figs. 17-18.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 502.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, fig. 17, f.

While the open bowls on high stands and the bowls with incurved rim are the main shapes at Elateia in the Neolithic Urfirnis ware and its variants, some other shapes do occasionally occur. From the bothros come fragments of two deep bowls, one covered with a red slip both inside and out and having a distinct angle marking off upper and lower parts (Pl. 59, d, 1), the other covered with a dull red paint; over this crescents arranged in vertical rows are painted with a matt dark brown paint and a stripe of the same color covers the lip (Pl. 59, d, 2). Among the pottery found in top fill in Trench 2 is a piece of an open bowl with a wide, flat rim, on which large solid black triangles are painted over the red slip, which in this case is very close to Neolithic Urfirnis glaze. One piece from top soil in Trench 1 is a jug handle across which double lines in matt black paint occur at intervals, over the red slipped ground. It is curious that the deep bowl with high concave sides, sharply offset from the lower body, so common at Corinth⁴¹ and other Peloponnesian sites, is not in evidence at Elateia in this ware, though it was the chief shape of the black burnished wares from the bothros and other pits.

GRAY-BLACK BURNISHED WARE

The black burnished wares are among the handsomest products of the Greek Neolithic period, and rarely have better examples been found than those from the bothros and adjacent pits in Trench 3 at Elateia.⁴² The vessels are carefully made of clay fired a medium gray color except where burnishing of the surfaces has made it dark gray or black. On some vases a black slip seems to have been applied before polishing, apparently to produce a black surface on clays which fired to a brown rather than a gray color. One of the most common shapes is a fairly large, deep bowl with high sides varying from almost straight to quite concave, separated from the lower body by a sharp carination, the bottom round or possibly slightly flattened, handles (probably two) of hourglass shape with either rounded or angular profile (Fig. 10, 1, 4-5, 7, 10-11). A variant of the type has a lower rim, joined at an angle to a rounded shoulder which in turn is usually separated by a carination from the lower body but sometimes flows into it in a smoother curve (Fig. 10, 2-3, 6, 8-9). The

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, p. 502, figs. 15, 19.

⁴² Kunze described this ware in detail in his discussion of the *Schwarzpolierte Keramik* from Orchomenos (*Orch.*, II, pp. 9-22), but he also included in this group the earlier and apparently unrelated gray-black wares such as we have described above (p. 00). Kunze also published some of the pieces of this ware found by Soteriades, who encountered it at all the Neolithic sites he dug in Phokis and Boeotia and who described the class in general. It occurred in the very lowest level at Eutresis (*Eutresis*, pp. 76-77; *Hesperia*, XXIX, 1960, pp. 131-132). To the south, these black wares are known from Nea Makri in Attica (*Ath. Mitt.*, LXXI, 1956, p. 18) and from Corinth in particular in the Peloponnesos (*Hesperia*, VI, 1937, pp. 511-512). In Thessaly, the black burnished wares are those classed as Γ_{1a} (Wace and Thompson, *Prehistoric Thessaly* [P.T.], Cambridge, 1912, p. 17).

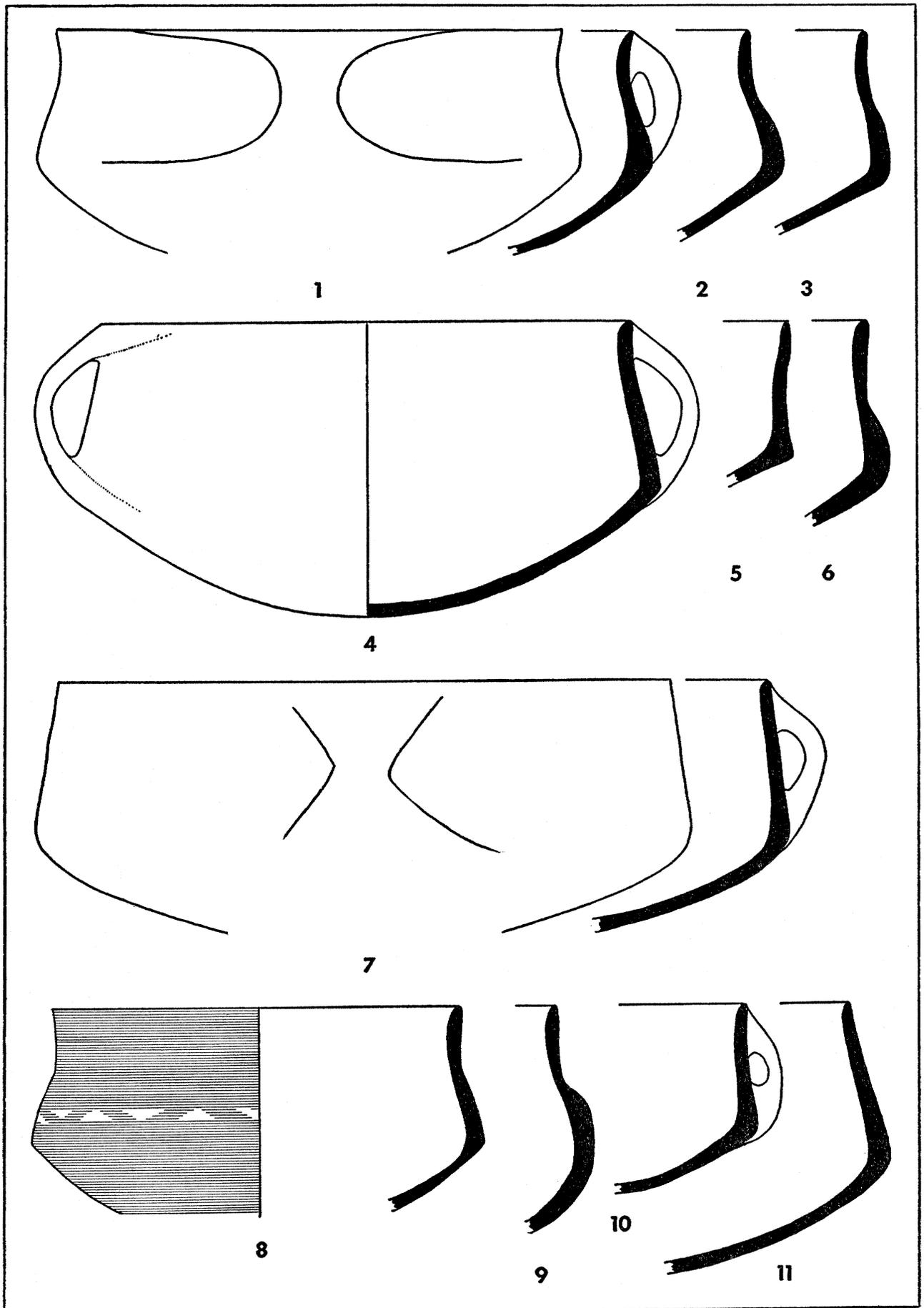


FIG. 10. Profiles of Gray-black Bowls from Bothros in Trench 3. (1:2)

examples shown in Plate 60, a, all from the bothros, are medium to dark gray in color, having been but lightly burnished; 2 is the lightest and has an even dull gray surface both inside and out; 1 and 3 have both been sufficiently burnished on the exterior to leave three unburnished, lighter gray horizontal lines on the rim; 4 has been burnished both inside and out to a dark gray tone. The bowl shown in Plate 60, c, from the smaller pit adjacent to the bothros, is also burnished both inside and out to a dark gray tone, and here again three lines of lighter gray were left unburnished. The very fine piece from the bothros shown in Plate 60, d, 1 has a beautifully burnished dark gray surface both inside and out, but on the shoulder triangles have been left unburnished and are light gray (Fig. 10, 8); the same pattern is seen on a fragment of a high, concave rim, also from the bothros (Pl. 60, d, 2). Still another fragment from the bothros (Pl. 60, d, 10) had a narrow reserved band on the shoulder in which there is cross-hatching done by stroke burnishing. A few random pieces (Pl. 60, d, 4-6, 9), largely from top soil or the uppermost levels just below it in Trench 1, have a coarser kind of cross-hatching done by stroke burnishing over larger areas of the surface rather than in restricted reserved zones; these may be later than the much more careful kind of burnished decoration on fragments from the bothros and the adjacent pits. One of these pieces (Pl. 60, d, 9) clearly has a flat bottom. Some of the finest pieces from the bothros (Pl. 60, b) are highly burnished to a rich velvety black tone, except under the handles and in some cases on the interior, which are left a lighter gray. Fragments of rims of a number of other similar bowls, with both profiles, are shown in Plate 61, a; 2 and 8 are from the bothros, the others largely from top soil. Reserved bands or stroke burnishing were not the only forms of decoration on such bowls. White paint was used in the simplest geometric patterns, parallel lines or parallel chevrons, on the rim (Pl. 62, a, 2-5); the paint was very fugitive and often leaves only a trace on the surface. Two fragments from the bothros (Pl. 62, a, 6-7) are decorated by the use of dark gray paint over a light gray surface; a wide band is at the lip and very narrow stripes run down from it.⁴³ One fragment indicates that rippling was also used on such cups (Pl. 60, d, 8).

The next shape of importance is a "fruitstand," a wide, open bowl on a high foot which is quite narrow at the top and splays widely at the bottom (Fig. 8, 8-13). Some of these are quite large, the estimated diameter of one (Fig. 8, 10; Pl. 61, c, 2) being 0.32 m., and the fabric is consequently heavier than in the bowls just described. The surfaces are more often medium to dark gray than black, though a black slip was used on some examples and is evenly burnished; in a few instances the burnishing strokes are quite distinct, though not arranged in any formal pattern (Pl. 61, c, 1; d, 1). The base fragment shown in Plate 61, d, 2 has fired light gray on one side, dark gray on the other. The profiles of the bowls vary somewhat, at times rising slowly

⁴³ This is the Thessalian $\Gamma 1\beta$ ware (*P.T.*, p. 17).

to the lip in a continuous curve (Fig. 8, 8), often flaring sharply near the lip to form an S-curve (Fig. 8, 11); in both types the simple rounded lip may be replaced by an offset, heavy rim, either rounded or bevelled (Fig. 8, 9-10). Notches cut out of the offset rim (Pl. 61, b, 3) form one of the only kinds of decoration on these "fruit-stands." One bowl (Pl. 61, b, 1) has the interior surface lightly rippled. The profile of the high foot, too, varies somewhat, at times splaying in a continuous curve from the top, at others having a cylindrical section in the upper half and then splaying widely to the base. The two largest fragments of bowls (Pl. 61, c) were found in the bothros, as were pieces of bases as well. Most of the others came from top soil in all three trenches, but there are also pieces from the lowest levels, in which a piece or two of the Late Neolithic matt-painted pottery was found.

Incurved-rim bowls are as common in the gray-black wares (Fig. 11) as in the Neolithic Urfirnis and related wares. Few, if any, are of the sharply carinated variety;

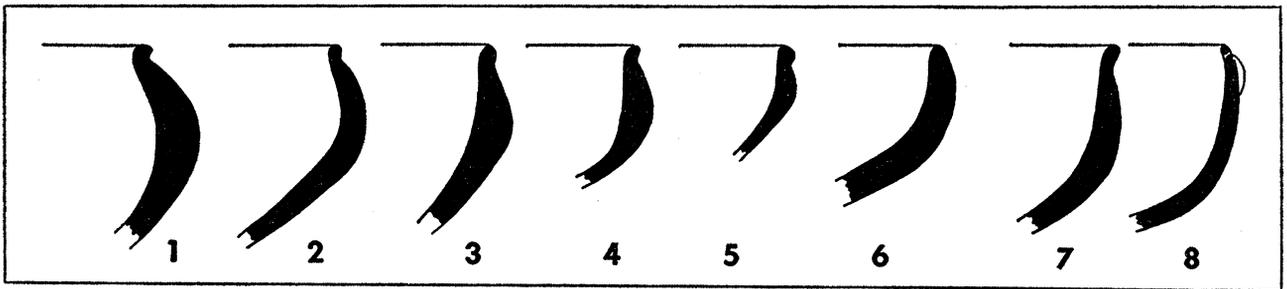


FIG. 11. Profiles of Gray-black Incurved-rim Bowls from Middle (3, 5, 7, 8) and Late (1, 2, 4, 6) Neolithic. (1:2)

they usually have a more rounded shoulder, thick in section, and then an everted and offset lip, but some of these have an angular transition to the lower body. One exception is a piece with a quite thick section curving up to a simple rounded lip (Fig. 11, 6; Pl. 62, c, 4). These bowls are usually dark gray to black, with well smoothed and polished surfaces. Some, however, have a brown core and the surface is mottled gray and brown or is all brown; the piece shown in Plate 62, c, 8 has a distinct line of separation between the dark gray on one side and the gray-brown on the other. For decoration, clay pellets occur (Pl. 62, c, 6; d, 1), as on the bowls of Neolithic Urfirnis or black-on-red ware, and one piece (Pl. 62, c, 3) has large incised concentric arcs above the carination. Pieces of four incurved-rim bowls from the bothros (Pl. 62, d, 1-2, 4-5) have the upper part decorated with ribbon-like bands having incised edges and incised cross-hatching or groups of oblique parallel strokes in alternating directions, all white-filled; another bit of a similar bowl (Pl. 62, d, 3) came from a context including a few pieces of matt-painted ware. We shall see this form of

decoration on the four-legged vases to be described soon. Besides several fragments from the bothros, pieces of incurved-rim bowls were found scattered through the Late Neolithic levels, and many came from top soil.

While large jars are not common in the gray-black ware, several large fragments came from the bothros (Pl. 62, b, 2, 5-6). A biconical shape with rather rounded belly is shown by these pieces; one piece is from a high concave collar. However, some of the pieces are well smoothed on the interior, suggesting a rather wide mouth; the exteriors are well burnished and dark gray to black. The frequency of mend holes (Pl. 62, b) in these pieces, in fact in all the gray-black wares, as compared with any of the other pottery found at Elateia, suggests the value placed on this ware. Several pieces from gray-black jars are decorated with simple linear patterns in white paint (Pl. 62, a, 1, 8-10); the largest piece is from a finely polished collared jar of dark gray tone, on the shoulder of which are alternating groups of two and five parallel lines coming down from the base of the collar. The other, smaller fragments show similar groups of parallel lines. A few pieces show that large jars were also decorated at times with rippling of the surface (Pl. 60, d, 3, 7). An odd piece (Pl. 62, b, 4) from top soil is from a simple open bowl, well burnished on the exterior and with a burnished black band on the interior at the lip.

FOUR-LEGGED VASE

By far the most interesting and most important piece of pottery from the bothros is the four-legged vase shown in six views on Plate 63 and in a reconstruction in Figure 12. The two front legs and the whole front and lower part of the mouth are in one piece; one rear leg was found separate and broken, but two pieces of it joined with the large front piece. Later the handle (Pl. 64, a, 2; b, 2) was recognized among the pottery from the bothros. The form of the lower part of the vessel is clear: four stout legs with peg-like feet, the front pair *ca.* 0.066 m. high, the rear pair *ca.* 0.082 m. high; a large mouth with a simple bevelled lip that starts just above the front legs and then swings high, rising at about a 60°-70° angle from the horizontal. Shallow grooves outline the tops of the legs and set them off from the body. On the interior there is a cupped depression over each leg (Fig. 12, 3; Pl. 63, f). The gray clay has been burnished to a rich black on the exterior; on the interior it is only rough-smoothed. The legs are decorated with bands of cross-hatched incisions with incised edges forming parallel chevrons with the points down; a vertical line runs through the angles of the chevrons from top to bottom of each leg; all the incisions are filled with a white substance. On the body side of the grooves outlining the legs is a series of very short incised strokes perpendicular to the groove; these also are white filled. The grooves, the lip all about the mouth, the feet and the whole bottom area among the legs is heavily encrusted, over the polished black surface, with a deep red paint. The entire interior was covered with a white wash which is thin in places and shows

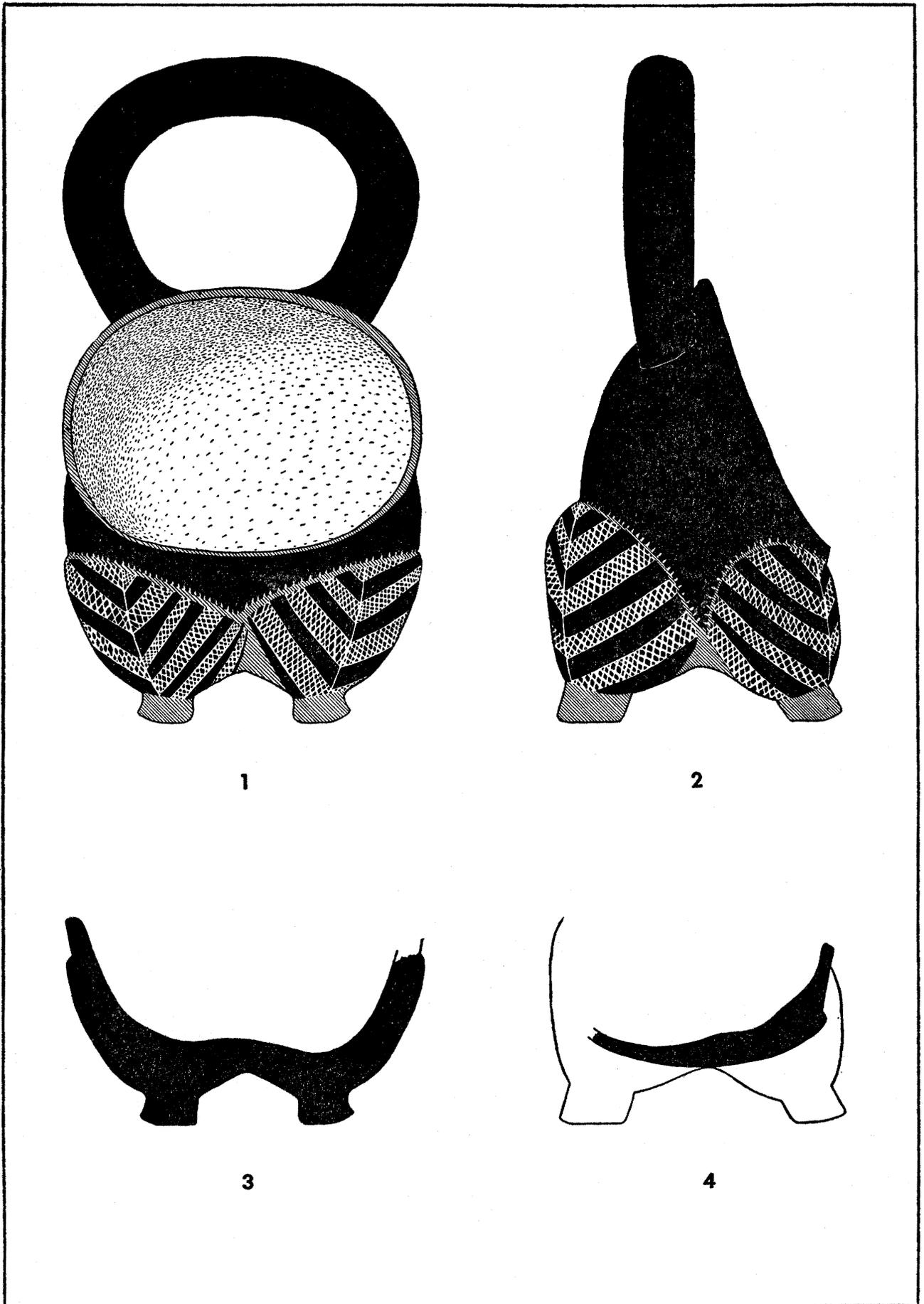


FIG. 12. Reconstruction and Sections of Four-legged Vase from Bothros in Trench 3. (1:2)

the gray surface beneath. Over this white wash and in each cupped depression there is a short, wide stroke of red paint perpendicular to the front of the vase (Pl. 63, f).

As soon as this vase was removed from the bothros, very carefully washed to preserve the color, and mended, it was realized that it brought the solution to a long-standing puzzle. Numerous legs had been found in the early excavations at Drachmani (Pl. 65, a-b)⁴⁴ and several have been found at Corinth (Pl. 64, e),⁴⁵ but to my knowledge no other areas of Neolithic occupation in the Aegean have yielded similar legs. Only the pair from Drachmani (Pl. 65, a, 1) might have suggested the shape of the vase, for the disparity in height of the two legs is plain here and even a bit of the lip is preserved. Despite this, Frankfort connected them with the legged "altars" or "thrones" in painted ware from Thessaly and from farther north in the Balkans.⁴⁶ One fragment from Corinth had a considerable section of the lip preserved, as well as the beginning of one of the rear legs, but the possibility of a vertical mouth seemed so unlikely that the leg was restored horizontally as a handle so that the mouth could be horizontal.⁴⁷ Several other pieces from Drachmani also had sections of the lip preserved (Pl. 65, a, 4-5, 8), and these as well as the piece with the pair of legs show the red paint on the lip, in the groove over the legs and on the bottom among the legs. The white paint on the interior also remains on some of these legs. The white-filled incision is common, either in chevrons or in checkerboards or a variety of curvilinear designs, the more complicated of which are spiraliform. A single leg found in the bothros at Elateia also has checkerboard decoration (Pl. 64, c, 1), while one from a pit in the northeast corner of Trench 3 has parallel-hatched, rather than cross-hatched, bands (Pl. 64, c, 2). The other two legs from our Elateia excavations (Pl. 64; c, 3-4) are from top soil in Trenches 1 and 3 respectively; the first has the usual cross-hatched bands in chevrons and the other has only somewhat irregular vertical lines incised and white-filled. It is notable that the legs decorated with curvilinear patterns tend to be more brown than black in tone, a tendency noted in the incurved-rim bowls and the "fruitstands" as well, where the examples from top soil were often brown or gray-brown. It seems clear from this that we have to do with a later phase, belonging to

⁴⁴ *Εφ. Ἀρχ., 1908, p. 75, fig. 7 shows the only pair of legs from one vase, as well as a single leg. Frankfort (*Studies*, II, pl. IV, 7) illustrates these and six other legs, all said to be from Drachmani. This figure includes those in our Plate 65, a, 1, 3-6, 8, as well as those in Plate 65, b, 1, 3-4. Those in Plate 65, b, 3-4 are now exhibited with material from Chaeronea, but before 1927 they apparently were considered as having been found at Drachmani, which suggests that most of the legs in the Chaeronea Museum may have been found at Drachmani. That at least one was found at Chaeronea is indicated by Soteriades in his report on that site in *Ath. Mitt.*, XXX, 1905, p. 123, fig. 2 c.

⁴⁵ Besides the three shown on Plate 64, e, two of which have been published already in *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, p. 512, fig. 30; three others are published in Kosmopoulos, *The Prehistoric Inhabitation of Corinth*, Munich, 1948, p. 31, figs. 5-6, pl. IV, j.

⁴⁶ Frankfort, *op. cit.*, p. 44, note 1.

⁴⁷ Kosmopoulos, *op. cit.*, fig. 5.

the Late Neolithic period, in which the highly polished black surface was no longer achieved or perhaps desired. The spiraliform decoration must certainly be associated with the Dimini phase of the Late Neolithic period in Thessaly, as well as with the occurrence of spiraliform designs on the polychrome Late Neolithic ware which we shall soon describe.

Although the form of the lower part of the four-legged vase was now established, the upper part remained problematical. Professor Vladimir Miložčić pointed out to me that identical four-legged vases (Pl. 65, c, e) had recently been found near Sibenik in west-central Yugoslavia, where they are a type vessel of the Danilo Culture,⁴⁸ and farther to the east in the vicinity of Kakanj in Central Bosnia, where a related culture is named the Kakanj Culture,⁴⁹ more such vases (Pl. 65, d) were excavated in 1954.⁵⁰ Plate 65, e shows two views of one of the four-legged vases found more recently at Danilo,⁵¹ in which the entire height of the vase, including the handle, is preserved. With the Yugoslav vases as a guide, the reconstruction of the example from Elateia was not difficult. The study of the pottery from the bothros revealed the handle (Pl. 64, a, 2; b, 2), which seems without doubt to belong with the lower part of the four-legged vase already described; it is of the same gray clay, similarly burnished, and the under side of the somewhat oval section (Fig. 13, 4) is covered with the same heavy red paint as on the other parts of the vase. A further examination of the Elateia pottery disclosed at least seven other pieces from handles (Pl. 64, a-b), the sections of which vary from an almost true isosceles triangle, through various rounded-off triangular shapes to semicircles and an oval form (Fig. 13).⁵² One piece is from the bottom of the handle loop and includes a part of the upper body of the vase (Pl. 64, a, 6; b, 7); it too has red color on the inside of the

⁴⁸ The first such vessel (Pl. 65, c, from F. Dujmovič, *Bulletin d'archéologie et d'histoire dalmate*, LIV, 1952, pl. III) was found by chance in 1951 and was almost complete, except for the missing handle; several other handles were found (*ibid.*, pp. 73-75). Regular excavations were undertaken at Danilo in 1953 (J. Korošec, *The Neolithic Settlement at Danilo Bitinj; The Results of Excavations Performed in 1953*, Zagreb, 1958) and produced numerous fragments of similar vases (*ibid.*, pp. 53-59); the excavations have been continued more recently.

⁴⁹ A. Benac, *Bulletin du musée de la république populaire de Bosnie et Herzégovine à Sarajevo*, N.S. XI, 1956, pp. 167-182.

⁵⁰ Plate 65, d (from *ibid.*, pl. VI, 3) shows a reconstruction from fragments found at Kakanj. The important new feature is the handle, based on one piece which has the complete handle preserved with the upper part of the mouth. Another large fragment comprises the upper part of the front and rear legs from the left side of the vessel, as well as a good section of the mouth and body above the legs. Numerous legs were found as well, and the reconstruction is reliable in every feature.

⁵¹ I am indebted for the photographs to Dr. H.-J. Hundt, Director of the Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum in Mainz, where they were made from a copy of the vase in that museum. They are published with the kind permission of Professor J. Korošec, the excavator, to whom I am also indebted for showing me many of the finds from Danilo and for discussing with me the problem of the relationship between the Yugoslav and Greek four-legged vases.

handle and shows the short incised strokes which bordered it. One fragment, including part of the lip as well, illustrates the springing of the handle from the top of the vase (Pl. 64, a, 8; b, 8), here with a twist to allow the handle to rise vertically from the sloping top of the vase. Not only handles, but a large fragment from the side of such a vase, including the attachment of one of the front legs and a long section of the lip (Pl. 64, d) was found. This piece, in mottled gray ware, came from just under top soil in Trench 3, as did the piece of handle and body (Pl. 64, a, 6); several other pieces came from top soil in Trench 2, but two fragments (Pl. 64, a, 5, 7; b, 5-6) came from fill above the bothros. With all this material in hand, there could be little question about the reconstruction given in Figure 12. The body above the legs seems to have been undecorated, except for the short incised strokes around the tops of the legs and possibly similar strokes on the upper body along the edges of the handle. Such strokes

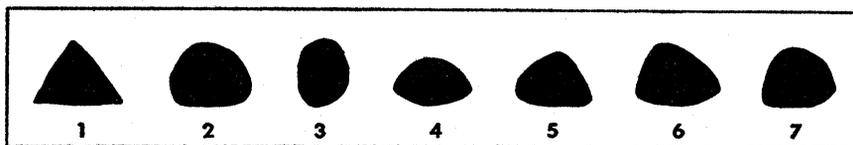


FIG. 13. Sections of Handles from Four-legged Vases. (1:2)

are shown in the small fragment noticed subsequently at Corinth (Pl. 64, e, 1), which comes from the upper part of the body of such a vase and has the beginning of the handle rising on one side.

The identity of the shape of the four-legged vases in Greece and in Yugoslavia is thus well established. But the similarity extends to details of decoration as well. In Yugoslavia such vases are normally decorated, either on the legs only or over all, including the handle, with incised linear patterns composed largely from hatched or cross-hatched bands (Pl. 65, c-d) similar to those used in Greece. White filling in the incisions seems not to have been used. At Danilo both rectilinear and curvilinear (sometimes spiraliform) incised patterns occur,⁵² and the spiraliform patterns occur from the start⁵⁴ alongside the rectilinear. The chevrons of hatched or cross-hatched bands from Kakanj (Pl. 65, d)⁵⁵ are very like those from Elateia (Pls. 63, 64, c, 2-3). In addition, red paint was used at Danilo on the inside of the handle and on the under side among the legs,⁵⁶ exactly as in Greece, where it was also used on the feet, on the lip and in the grooves over the legs. At Kakanj, too, red color was observed on the

⁵² Cf. Korošec, *op. cit.*, p. 58, fig. 11, for the handle sections from Danilo, many of which are very similar to those from Elateia.

⁵³ Korošec, *op. cit.*, pls. XVII-XXV.

⁵⁴ *Op. cit.*, p. 174.

⁵⁵ Benac, *op. cit.*, pl. V, 5.

⁵⁶ Korošec, *op. cit.*, p. 156.

inside of the handle, among the legs on the under side and on the interior of the body.⁵⁷ The white coating of the interior, which we observed at Elateia, has not been recorded as yet for Yugoslav examples.

From the very first, Dujmović termed these ritual vessels (rhyta)⁵⁸ and the same term was used by Benac.⁵⁹ Korošec⁶⁰ calls them cult vessels, reasoning that they could not possibly have served for daily use both because of their odd shape and because of the extensive use of the fugitive red paint.⁶¹ Korošec goes on to connect these vessels with a "water cult,"⁶² an idea which proves very attractive when one considers that the two chief find spots in Greece, Elateia and Corinth, are both sites renowned for the copious flow of their springs, as apparently Danilo was too. That there may also have been a fertility aspect to this cult is suggested by the fact that at Danilo numerous large clay phalloi, decorated with incised designs and with red paint in the same manner as the four-legged vases, were also found;⁶³ the four-legged vases may then have represented the female aspect in such a cult.⁶⁴ The cult nature of the four-legged vase from the bothros at Elateia is further indicated by the associated material, which will be discussed below.

COARSE WARE

Besides the two main groups of pottery from the bothros in Trench 3, the Neolithic Urfirnis and related wares and the gray-black wares, the only other kind of pottery that appeared in any quantity was coarse ware. Much of this was still of the rather spongy fabric; the chief shape was a deep bowl with large ledge handles or lugs at about the widest part of the vase (Pl. 66, a). These vary in color from light to dark brown, or to gray brown or even black in part. They have all the characteristics of standard kitchen pottery. Survivors of earlier phases occur in considerable variety, but not in large numbers—variegated, red-slipped, white-slipped and even some twenty pieces of red-on-white painted ware. We must mention again the important fact that not a bit of Late Neolithic matt-painted ware was found in the bothros.

The combination of Neolithic Urfirnis ware, of black-on-red painted pottery, of

⁵⁷ Benac, *op. cit.*, p. 181.

⁵⁸ Dujmović, *op. cit.*, p. 75.

⁵⁹ Benac, *op. cit.*, p. 181.

⁶⁰ Korošec, *op. cit.*, p. 156.

⁶¹ In a paper prepared for the Wenner-Gren Foundation symposium on "Ceramics and Man," held at Burg Wartenstein in Austria from September 2-12, 1961, I dealt with "Ceramics and the Supernatural—Cult and Burial Evidence in the Aegean World," showing that these two criteria are valid indicators of cult ceramics in all periods.

⁶² Korošec, *op. cit.*, p. 170. He had previously developed this theme, *Bull. d'arch. et d'hist. dalmate*, LIV, 1952, pp. 113-114, 119.

⁶³ Korošec, *Danilo*, p. 157, pl. XXVII, 2-4.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 157.

gray-black ware—stroke burnished, white painted, rippled, incised and white filled—of gray-on-gray painted ware, of even a few pieces of light silvery gray ware (Pl. 61, a, 9), for instance, is one which we have had occasion before to attribute to the latter part of the Middle Neolithic period, with survivals in the next period as well.⁶⁵ The very earliest deposit at Eutresis now exhibits an identical assemblage⁶⁶ and the same is true of the second group, except for the addition of a few pieces of red-slipped ware.⁶⁷ The pottery from the bothros in Trench 3 lends strong support to the unity of this group of wares and shows clearly that they begin earlier than the matt-painted pottery.

FINAL PHASE—LATE NEOLITHIC

It is the appearance of matt-painted pottery which, more than any other feature, marks the beginning of the Late Neolithic period in Greece, from Thessaly⁶⁸ to the Peloponnesos.⁶⁹ In all three trenches at Elateia the heaviest concentration of matt-painted ware was in the top 0.80 m. of fill; from 0.80 m. to 1.20 m. the amount was much less. In Trench 2, which has the best stratification, no matt-painted pottery was found below 1.20 m. and only eight pieces occurred between 0.80 m. and 1.20 m. In Trench 3 there were but four pieces below the 1.20 m. level; in the east half of Trench 1, where the burnt house was found, no matt-painted ware occurred below 1.20 m. and but two pieces between 0.80 and 1.20 m. This is one reason why we suggest above (p. 00) that the burnt house belonged to the end of the Middle Neolithic period and was contemporary with the bothros; its destruction may have been caused by newly arriving inhabitants who brought the matt-painted ware with them. A large Late Neolithic pit in the west half of Trench 1 was responsible for several pieces of matt-painted ware that occur as low as the 1.70 m. level. On the other hand, in all three trenches the earlier red-on-white pottery continued in quantity to the 1.20 m. level and then began to drop off considerably. In Trench 2, always the most reliable, there is very little red-on-white ware above the 1.20 m. level, no matt-painted ware below it. I am inclined to believe that the 1.20 m. level marks, in general, the transition from Middle to Late Neolithic, that the fill from 1.20 m. to 1.60 m. is representative of the Middle Neolithic phase, for in it were found many of the pieces of Neolithic Urfirnis ware, black-on-red painted pottery and gray black ware, all of the kind found

⁶⁵ *A.J.A.*, LI, 1947, pp. 174-175; Ehrich, *Relative Chronologies*, pp. 97-98.

⁶⁶ *Hesperia*, XXIX, 1960, pp. 131-132.

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 134-135. Not a bit of any of the typical Late Neolithic painted wares, matt-painted or polychrome, was found here, which would seem to indicate either that the site was not occupied in the Late Neolithic period or that all traces of such occupation were removed in a large-scale levelling of the site when the E.H.I. inhabitants occupied it.

⁶⁸ Milošević, *JRGZM Mainz*, VI, 1959, p. 14; Theochaes, *Θεσσαλικά*, I, 1958, p. 6.

⁶⁹ *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, pp. 513-515; *A.J.A.*, XLIII, 1939, p. 599.

in the bothros; below 1.60 m. these wares were not encountered. It was at 1.60 m. that the large bothros in Trench 3 was first isolated. Whether the level from 1.60 m. up to 1.20 m. was a true habitation layer or was part of a levelling operation, as suggested above (p. 180), can be decided only on the basis of more extensive excavations. In Trench 3 there are distinct floors over the whole trench at 1.20 m. and 1.60 m.; there are no such clearly defined floors over the entire area in between. Much the same is true in Trench 2; here below 1.60 m. the fill became markedly harder and lighter in color.

MATT-PAINTED WARE

The amount of matt-painted pottery found at Elateia is considerable, though not to be compared with the quantity of the earlier red-on-white painted pottery. There is no indication here of any development in this pottery during the period. It is all very much like that already well known and described from Orchomenos⁷⁰ and from Corinth.⁷¹ The color of the fabric of this ware at Elateia is more often buff, even dark buff, or pink buff rather than the light buff and greenish buff tones so common at Corinth, though these latter do occur; some of the greener examples are partially vitrified. Although all of this matt-painted ware was found in fragments, none of which mended to make any considerable part of a vessel,⁷² the shapes are well known. Collared jars (Pl. 67, a-b) are numerous, the bodies often bulbous and sometimes having a slightly angular belly, the collars at times quite high and concave; wide band handles from collar to shoulder occur. The "fruitstand," very similar in shape to those in gray-black ware (Fig. 8, 8-13), was another common shape in matt-painted ware (Pl. 67, c, 1-2, 6); the bowls had both the simple lip and the heavy offset lip (Pl. 67, c, 1-2) already noted in the gray-black examples. Carinated bowls with high concave sides (Pl. 67, c, 3-5), often with handles, and incurved-rim bowls (Pl. 67, c, 8-9) also occur frequently, giving a repertory of shapes that is almost identical with that in both gray-black and Neolithic Urfirnis wares. The decoration was applied with a matt paint that varied in color from brown to black, in shade from very light to very dark as the paint varied in thickness; in both cases the median was the rule but the extremes occur frequently. The designs are very largely simple rectilinear patterns—parallel lines, parallel chevrons, cross-hatching—or wavy lines, often combined; curvilinear patterns occur, but are less frequent, and some solid filled triangles and checkerboards have been noted. Jars are decorated on both the collar and the

⁷⁰ *Orch.*, II, pp. 38-44, but Kunze considers here all the painted pottery other than the Chaeronea ware, including the Neolithic Urfirnis painted (*Ibid.*, pl. XXIII, 1) as well as the polychrome ware, which we shall discuss separately.

⁷¹ *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, pp. 513-514.

⁷² This is generally true of this ware, but the only complete or nearly complete vases of matt-painted ware which have been found are from Drachmani (*Orch.*, II, pl. XXVI, 2-4).

shoulder, carinated bowls usually on the high rim, "fruitstands" usually both on the stand and in the bowl, sometimes on the exterior of the bowl as well, incurved-rim bowls on the rim. It is a simple and rather monotonous repertory.

POLYCHROME WARE

Found with the matt-painted wares and closely related to them is the polychrome pottery (Pl. 67, d), which was relatively scarce at Elateia and came from only the upper 0.80 m. of deposit. However, the evidence from Elateia is not sufficient to indicate that polychrome ware began later than matt-painted ware; the contrary is indicated for Thessaly, where polychrome ware occurs from the first with matt-painted pottery at Kouphovouno.⁷³ There are two types of polychrome ware in the Late Neolithic period and both are represented at Elateia, though there is very little of the second. The first type has designs made up of both red elements and black elements; in the second the black, often a blue-black or a dark gray, is used as a border to the red. In both cases the black is a matt paint while the red is not. It is the first type that occurs early at Kouphovouno and there is ample evidence to show that it is the earlier and that the second type belongs to the end of the Late Neolithic period.⁷⁴ To the first group belong the "fruitstand" bowls decorated with cross-hatching in which one set of parallel lines is black and the set which crosses it is red (Pl. 67, d, 1-2) and the jar bodies decorated with large chevrons in bands of both red and black (Pl. 67, d, 5-7); probably the patterns composed of heavy red bands with a border of black dots (Pl. 67, d, 3-4, 9, 12) also belong to the earlier group. The one piece shown in Plate 67, d, 10, the bottom of a "fruitstand" base from top soil in Trench 1, has the pattern in red with a blue-black border, the type well known in the Peloponnesos at Corinth, Gonia and Prosymna,⁷⁵ akin to the B3 β ware of Thessaly.⁷⁶

GRAY-BLACK BURNISHED WARE

Alongside these painted wares the gray-black wares seem to have continued in use. In addition to the usual forms of decoration, however, there is a new and different kind of incised ornament represented by four pieces (Pl. 62, d, 6-9), all from the fill immediately above the debris of the burnt house in Trench 1. The incisions are very fine and generally seem to have been white-filled. All the pieces are from the upper parts of bowls with simple lips; three (Pl. 62, d, 7-9) are decorated by parallel zigzags running vertically down from the lip, those in Plate 62, d, 8 being

⁷³ Theochares, *Θεσσαλικά*, I, 1958, p. 7.

⁷⁴ I have documented this at length in a study, not yet published, of Neolithic Urfernis ware and matt-painted and polychrome wares and their East Mediterranean connections.

⁷⁵ Kosmopoulos, *op. cit.*, p. 56, pl. IV, 1; *A.J.A.*, XLIII, 1939, p. 599; *Met. Mus. St.*, III, 1930-31, pp. 69-70, pl. II; Blegen, *Prosymna*, Cambridge, 1937, pp. 373-374, figs. 628-631, pl. III.

⁷⁶ Wace and Thompson, *P.T.*, pp. 60-61, 77, 100, 141.

limited to a wide band; the fourth (Pl. 62, d, 6) shows large triangles (two of which meet at one of their apexes) filled by roughly made zigzags. In the last example the whole triangle may have been covered with a white incrustation. Possibly this is a later kind of incised decoration than that seen on the four-legged vases, for instance, but more material is needed to establish this.⁷⁷

COARSE WARE

A notable feature of the Late Neolithic pottery is the vast increase in the amount of undecorated household pottery, sometimes of good quality but usually rather coarse, often of much larger size than was encountered in earlier levels. The bothros in Trench 3 produced a good quantity of such pottery, but the great increase came in the levels above the bothros, especially in the top 0.60 m. of fill. While this pottery is usually well fired and of the same color throughout, there is a considerable use of clays that fire brown, in shades varying from light to quite dark, or even gray-brown. Often the surface is well smoothed, frequently with plainly visible burnishing or paring strokes, but it is seldom polished. Even at this late date the spongy fabric is not infrequent (Pl. 66, b, 6). Collared jars are among the most common shapes (Pl. 66, b) and the collars were often made separately (Pl. 66, b, 3). Sometimes body and neck flow together in a sinuous curve (Pl. 66, c, 5). Large, deep bowls, such as that illustrated from the bothros (Pl. 66, a), are also very common. With a sufficient contraction of the mouth of such deep vessels, they became hole-mouthed jars, and such were not unusual in the Late Neolithic period, before which they were relatively scarce. Most of the vessels in the kitchen ware have round or flattened bottoms, but some ring-bases occur. Large lugs and handles are much more common on the vases of this period than in previous ones. Lugs, usually at the belly of large bowls or jars, vary from knob-like protrusions (Pl. 66, c, 1) to large semicircular ledges (Pl. 66, c, 2-3), one of which has nicks along the edge (Pl. 66, c, 4). Jars commonly have a handle from neck to shoulder, either cylindrical (Pl. 66, c, 5) or of the wide band variety (Pl. 66, c, 8); one wide band handle was set horizontally on the neck (Pl. 66, c, 6). Plate 66, c, 7 shows a long cylindrical handle of a large spoon or scoop. Decoration is rare on such pottery, but the variegated firing of the surface often gives a decorative effect (Pl. 66, b, 5-6). Plastic additions, such as the pellets shown on Plate 66, d, 6, occur occasionally.

SUMMARY

Before leaving the discussion of the pottery found at Elateia, which is by far the largest and most important category of finds from the site, it seems pertinent to remark

⁷⁷ The same kind of incised ware was found at Lerna and has there been dated to the Late Neolithic phase, most of which was cut away in Early Helladic times (*Hesperia*, XXVII, 1958, p. 137, pl. 36, a-c).

on the unusual conservatism evident in this pottery, especially considering the long period of time represented. From first to last the hemispherical bowl and the collared jar remain the predominant shapes, the latest ones not very different from the earliest. The spongy fabric is in evidence throughout, not in the same proportion late as early, but in far greater quantity towards the end than, for example, in the Late Neolithic pottery from Corinth. The red-on-white painted ware, too, shows a remarkably long development without much change, though we can now distinguish two phases in the development of the decoration. It was the late Middle Neolithic phase represented by the material from the bothros which brought new wares and a new repertory of shapes; along with these the old seem to have survived. There is considerable continuity between this Middle Neolithic pottery and that of the Late Neolithic period, which brought new kinds of painted ornament, matt and polychrome, but continued to use shapes already familiar. Using Corinth as a basis of comparison, it appears that its coastal situation laid it open to more frequent and more decisive influences than did the more sheltered inland location of Elateia, which seems to have received some of these influences only belatedly and in a dilute form. While the general development at the two sites is the same, there are obvious local differences. Thessaly seems to offer a closer parallel to the Corinthian in development than does the Kephisos Valley.

OBJECTS OTHER THAN POTTERY

CLAY

Clay, readily available at Elateia, was used for many objects other than pottery. An exceptionally large number of such objects either were never fired at all or were only partially fired, and perhaps accidentally. The largest and most unusual of such objects is a pillar of clay (Pl. 68, a) found in the bothros in Trench 3. Roughly circular in section, it has an average diameter of 0.14 m. and a height of 0.26 m.; the top is smooth and rounded off all about the edge, the sides are lightly concave and at the bottom they splay out, apparently joining with a horizontal surface. The core of the pillar (Pl. 68, b), *ca.* 0.09 m. in diameter, is made of clay of a lighter color which was mixed with straw; the outer coating varies from 0.002-0.003 m. in thickness. The surface was roughly smoothed and apparently covered with a clay wash. Unfired, the pillar could have had little strength as a support. Some suggestion as to its possible use may come from an analysis of the purpose of the associated finds from the bothros. We have already suggested (p. 195) the cult nature of the four-legged vase. The large bowls on high stands with cut-out designs show clear evidence of having had burning matter in the bowls. The shape alone would suggest that these were incense burners, and the traces of burning and scraping only strengthen this possibility. The quantity of very fine carinated bowls of gray-black ware poses

another puzzle, for each large piece is from one-third to one-half of a bowl, usually in a single unbroken fragment, yet the other part of each bowl was nowhere to be found. We suggest that this may be the result of a ceremonial breaking of vessels used as part of a cult observance, the parts then being thrown into separate deposits. Certainly there are many features about the assemblage in the bothros to indicate that it was associated with some Neolithic cult practice. If this is so, then the pillar may possibly be thought of as an altar or even an aniconic image. We know too little of religion in Neolithic Greece to venture far, but the deposit in the bothros may well illustrate some appurtenances of that religion.

FIGURINES

Figurines, so often associated with religion, are relatively scarce among the finds from Elateia, but one fragment of a figurine was found in the bothros. It is the head and neck (Pl. 68, c, 3) of a figure made of dark, gritty clay which has fired almost black. The head has a rounded-off, knob-like top, small pellets represent the eyes, a protrusion the nose and lips (perhaps the chin) with a horizontal incision indicating the mouth; the height of the fragment is 0.032 m.⁷⁸ Probably of the same date, the latter part of the Middle Neolithic period, is a part of a figurine found in fill just above the bothros. Though badly damaged, it is a highly instructive piece (Pl. 68, d) from the mid-section of what was most probably a steatopygous female figurine. The core of the torso was made of friable, gritty, dark red clay and was apparently well dried, or even partially fired, before the exterior coating of finer clay of a lighter red-brown color was applied, for the two separate sharply and most of the outer coating, except for that of the belly and of the back sloping out widely over the buttocks, is gone. While belly and buttocks gave a wide profile (the preserved depth is 0.057 m.), the upper section was considerably thinner.⁷⁹ Large knobs in the core formed the base for the buttocks (Pl. 68, d, 2-3); on the under side of the core are shallow sockets into which the legs apparently fitted. Since the small section preserved is 0.037 m. high, the entire figure was a large one, as well as one of extremely fine finish, comparable to the excellent example from Lerna.⁸⁰

⁷⁸ Similar bird-like heads on tall, cylindrical necks, always in the same dark brown to black clay, are known widespread over Greece. They are especially numerous from Chaeronea (*Ath. Mitt.*, XXX, 1905, p. 125, fig. 6; *R.E.G.*, XXV, 1912, p. 257, fig. 4), and some of them are still attached to the shoulders and upper parts of typical steatopygous female figurines (*ibid.*, fig. 4, bottom row). The type is known also from Thessaly (Tsountas, *Αἱ προϊστορικαὶ ἀκροπολεῖς Διμηγίου καὶ Ξέσκλου* (*D.S.*), Athens, 1908, p. 299, fig. 224; *P.T.*, fig. 76, a-c, f) and from Corinth (*Hesperia*, VI, 1937, pp. 521-522, fig. 42).

⁷⁹ *D.S.*, pl. 32; *A.J.A.*, LV, 1951, pls. 1-2; *Hesperia*, XXV, 1956, Frontispiece.

⁸⁰ *Hesperia*, XXV, 1956, pp. 175-177. To judge from the description, in which the legs are said to have been built up on cylindrical cores to which a thick coating of clay was applied and modelled, this figurine was made in the same manner as the one from Elateia.

Two other bits are from the feet of clay figurines. One (Pl. 68, c, 1) is apparently part of a large hollow figure⁸¹ made of buff clay, slightly coarse but with a well smoothed exterior, which was covered with white slip and then decorated with designs in red paint. The bottom is flat, and on the rounded part just above it are three incisions which probably mark toes. The other fragment (Pl. 68, c, 4) is of the lower leg and foot of a large, solid figurine of rather coarse brown clay, the surface of which is well burnished.⁸² An incised line across the leg marks the ankle, and further incisions down from it separate the toes. There remains one other object which we have grouped with the figurines, an irregularly shaped piece of gray clay that has been burned (Pl. 68, c, 2). It is cylindrical in section but narrows to one end and has a wider base with two knobs at the other end,⁸³ making it quite phalloid in appearance, and it may have been just that.⁸⁴

SLING BULLETS

Conspicuous among the numerous objects of clay, usually unbaked, that were found at Elateia are the sling bullets, forty-one of which were inventoried. It is significant that all but two are from Early Neolithic context, one group of twenty-eight having been found on the floor at 2.90 m. in Trench 3 (Pl. 51, e), two others at the edge of the hearth close by on the same floor, one on the floor at 2.95 m. and a cluster of six on the floor at 3.00 m.; one bullet lay on a floor at 2.70 m. in Trench 3 and one on a floor at 2.75 m. in Trench 1 (the only one not found in Trench 3). Only two (Pl. 68, e, 1-2) came from later context, one from the side of the bothros at 2.00 m. and the other from a floor at 1.85 m., and these belong in the early phase of the red-on-white painted ware, probably still Early Neolithic in date. They are all essentially the same in shape, round in mid-section, oval in outline with the ends pointed, but occasionally more biconical with a rather pronounced angle separating the two halves. Most are made of rather friable red or brown clay, an occasional one being lighter in color. A few show signs of burning rather than baking (Pl. 68, e, 1-2) and the finding of groups of them near hearths suggests that they were laid along the edge of the hearth to be partially baked but were not thoroughly fired. Plate 68, f

⁸¹ H. 0.033 m., W. 0.044 m. The fragment was found in Trench 2 on a floor at 1.95 m. with pottery that indicates a date in the phase of the early red-on-white painted ware. For a similar large hollow foot from Tsangli, Thessaly, see *P.T.*, fig. 76, k. It is also in red-on-white painted ware and belongs in the Thessaly A period.

⁸² H. 0.027 m., W. 0.021 m. It was found in Trench 2 on a floor at 1.20 m., which we have taken to mark the beginning of the Late Neolithic period.

⁸³ L. 0.053 m. This was found on a floor at 2.90 m. in Trench 3, next to the cluster of twenty-eight clay sling bullets (Pl. 51, e); the date is Early Neolithic.

⁸⁴ A large phallus in red-on-white painted ware of the Thessaly A period was found at Tsangli in Thessaly (*P.T.*, fig. 76, j); it may be from the same figure as the hollow foot cited in note 81 above.

shows a selection of the best preserved sling bullets from among the twenty-eight found on the floor at 2.90 m.; the group of six found at 3.00 m., the earliest we found, is shown in Plate 68, g. The bullets vary in length from 0.05-0.075 m., averaging 0.06 m.; in diameter they average 0.03 m.

Soteriades mentions such clay sling bullets both from Drachmani and from Chaeronea,⁸⁵ and there are many in the Chaeronea Museum, but there was until now no indication of their date. The Early Neolithic date now given by the Elateia material is confirmed both at Nea Makri in Attica⁸⁶ and at Pyrasos in Thessaly,⁸⁷ at both of which they occur only in the Early Neolithic level. That they continued in use throughout the Neolithic period in Thessaly is indicated at a number of sites. Tsountas⁸⁸ recorded about 110 from Sesklo and mentioned that many more, being unbaked, disintegrated. From the fact that many fewer were found at Dimini, he concluded that they were more commonly used in the Thessaly A period than in Thessaly B. Yet at Rachmani, of 158 clay sling bullets found, 131 were from one hoard found in the Thessaly B level.⁸⁹ Of more than 130 from Tsangli, at least sixty were from House Q of the late Thessaly A period;⁹⁰ here, too, they were poorly baked and many crumbled away. It is now clear, however, that they were a component of the first pottery-making culture of Greece, a matter of importance in determining the affinities of that culture.⁹¹

CLAY SPOOLS

Numerous, as well, were clay "spools," usually unbaked and made of friable buff, red, brown or gray clay, though the gray color may be due to burning. Some twenty were inventoried, eleven of which came from one cluster found at 2.10 m. in the eastern half of Trench 3 (Pl. 69, a). The earliest came from a floor at 3.10 m. in Trench 1 (Pl. 69, b, 4), but also of the Early Neolithic period are three from 2.60 m. in Trench 2 (Pl. 69, b, 1-2), one from 2.70 m. in Trench 3 (Pl. 69, b, 3), one from 2.20 m. in Trench 3 (Pl. 69, b, 7) and one from the same level in Trench 2 (Pl. 69, b, 8). The eleven from the 2.10 m. level may also be Early Neolithic, though they may belong to the subsequent phase. One complete example (Pl. 69, b, 5) and two fragments came from a considerably higher level in Trench 3, a floor at 1.40-1.50 m., with pottery that would indicate a Middle Neolithic date. The later date may

⁸⁵ Έφ. Ἀρχ., 1908, p. 93; *P.T.*, p. 201.

⁸⁶ *Ath. Mitt.*, LXXI, 1956, p. 24, Beil. 17, 1.

⁸⁷ Θεσσαλικά, II, 1959, p. 66, fig. 27, 2.

⁸⁸ *D. S.*, pp. 344-345.

⁸⁹ *P.T.*, p. 43.

⁹⁰ *P.T.*, p. 125.

⁹¹ Childe, in *Studies Presented to David M. Robinson, I*, St. Louis, 1951, pp. 1-5, has discussed the significance of the sling and suggested that it distinguished one large zone from a second in which the bow and arrow was the chief weapon. We shall discuss the dates of arrowheads below.

account for the fact that the latest complete example is the best made. The spools were apparently fashioned by taking a roll of clay in the hand and flattening the ends; they vary in length from 0.04-0.08 m., but most are 0.06-0.07 m. long. Most seem then to have been laid on a flat surface and were often flattened somewhat on the upper side as well. That they may have been laid about the hearth for drying and partial firing is indicated by the carbon flecks imbedded in the surface on which they lay (Pl. 69, a, 5, 7). As in the case of the sling bullets, the number still recognizable is only a small part of the total, for bits of disintegrated spools were found everywhere.

DISCS

Among the miscellaneous objects of clay are three roughly circular discs cut from sherds of Early Neolithic spongy ware (Pl. 69, c, 1-3). Three discs which are pierced (Pl. 69, c, 5-7), the holes usually drilled from both sides, all came from top soil, as did the pierced sherd of almost square shape (Pl. 69, c, 4). One other object of clay we have taken to be a lamp (Pl. 69, d), which from its context at the 2.35 m. level in Trench 3 must be of Early Neolithic date. It is made of fairly coarse, dark gray clay which is rather well burnished on the interior, rough on the exterior. The two preserved sides curve and join to form a kind of spout. The shallow vessel thus formed would have served well as a lamp; the height is 0.025 m., the largest preserved dimension 0.061 m.

BONE

Although large quantities of animal bones were found at all levels, worked bone was relatively scarce. The bothros yielded several pieces of an antler, too broken to determine if it had been worked. Also from the bothros is a boar's tusk (Pl. 69, g, 3), broken at both ends. Two of but nine bone implements came from the bothros, one awl or pin (Pl. 69, e, 9) sharpened to a fine point at one end, cut bluntly at the other, the other (Pl. 69, e, 8) also an awl, but with a joint used for the thick end while the pointed end is very thin. The other seven are all from Early Neolithic context in Trenches 2 and 3; most of them are awls (Pl. 69, e, 2-7) but the largest more probably served as a haft or handle (Pl. 69, e, 1).

STONE

Except for pottery, objects of stone are the most numerous at Elateia, occurring in considerable variety. Stone vessels, however, were rare, and only one fragment of a simple hemispherical bowl was found in top soil (Pl. 69, g, 1); it was made of fine white (island?) marble, well polished both inside and out. Probably also of marble, translucent and white, is a pierced amulet (?) which has the bottom face flat, the top

one lightly convex and cut so that there are five raised, finger-like projections, making it look like a hand or perhaps a shell (Pl. 69, g, 2); it was found at 1.60 m. in Trench 2 in Middle Neolithic context. But by far the largest use of stone was for implements, with some for weapons as well. The finest of the polished stone implements is a large cleaver, 0.15 m. high and 0.125 m. wide (Pl. 69, f), made of a gray veined limestone; unfortunately it was found out of context. It has a sharp cutting edge along one side and the top; the butt end is flattened.⁹² Celts are scarce, only three having been found (Pl. 70, a). Of two axes one (Pl. 70, a, 2) comes from Early Neolithic context in Trench 1, the other (Pl. 70, a, 3) from the floor of the burnt house in that trench, which we have dated late in the Middle Neolithic period. The earlier is black basalt (Pl. 70, a, 2), well polished in an arc along the cutting edge. The one adze (Pl. 70, a, 1), of dark green stone, is of the shoelast type with a bevelled edge; it was found out of context.

The heavy conical pestles, of which four complete examples were found (Pl. 70, b) and possibly the butt end of a fifth, are Early and Middle Neolithic in date, the earliest (Pl. 70, b, 4) having been found at 2.80 m. in Trench 3, while the latest (Pl. 70, b, 1) is from the floor of the burnt house in Trench 1. They seem to increase steadily in size from a length of 0.13 m. for the earliest to 0.17 m. for the latest. A pounder of red flint (Pl. 70, c, 3) is spheroid in shape and about 0.06 m. in diameter; another pounder was two-ended. Rubbing stones occurred in about a half dozen examples (Pl. 70, c, 1-2, 4-6), most of them discoid and varying in diameter from 0.053-0.08 m.; they too are Early and Middle Neolithic in date with one (Pl. 70, c, 2) from the floor of the burnt house and two (Pl. 70, c, 1, 6) from the bothros, while the earliest was found immediately above hardpan in Trench 3. Millstones, too, occur from the very earliest Early Neolithic floors to the late Middle Neolithic bothros and burnt house. Sandstone, possibly local, was used to make most of them. Most of the pieces have been identified as querns, the bottom stone, but some of these may have been handstones. The best preserved are shown in Plate 70, d.

Of the masses of chipped stone found, most of obsidian but some of flint, forty-four pieces have been inventoried. Of these twenty-eight are blades, nine scrapers, three arrowheads, two sickle blades, one a stemmed knife and one a long point and scraper. Blades (Pl. 70, e) are of obsidian except for two which are of red flint. They occur in all phases of the Neolithic period at Elateia, being most numerous in the Early Neolithic (Pl. 70, e, 1-3) and diminishing steadily in quantity; but throughout they are of the narrow type rather than the heavier, wider type common at Lerna.⁹³

⁹² The inventory and study of the stone artifacts from Elateia was made by Mr. Perry A. Bialor as part of his larger study of the lithic industries of prehistoric Greece; I am indebted to him for the data presented here.

⁹³ This comparison is based on Mr. Bialor's work with the Lerna chipped stone artifacts.

The very fine obsidian bladelet shown in Plate 70, e, 10 is from the floor of the burnt house, where another one not so well preserved was found with it. The sickle blades (Pl. 70, e, 8-9) are of flint and of Middle Neolithic date. Of the scrapers, five are of obsidian (Pl. 70, f, 2-4) and four of flint (Pl. 70, f, 1, 5); those of flint are more general in the Early Neolithic period, those of obsidian in the Late Neolithic, but there is an Early Neolithic obsidian scraper (Pl. 70, f, 2). They show much variety in form—side scrapers (Pl. 70, f, 1, 5), end scrapers (Pl. 70, f, 2), nose scrapers (Pl. 70, f, 3) and a concave scraper (Pl. 70, f, 4). Two exceptional implements, both of Middle Neolithic date, are a chert stemmed and shouldered knife blade (Pl. 70, g, 1) and a red flint compound end scraper and long point or awl (Pl. 70, g, 2). Finally, the three obsidian stemmed arrowheads (Pl. 70, h) are probably Late Neolithic in date, though two (Pl. 70, h, 1-2) may belong in the latter part of the Middle Neolithic period. They do not indicate clearly whether the bow and arrow was introduced late in the Middle Neolithic period, as a component of the culture represented by the bothros deposit, or in the Late Neolithic period. However, a Middle Neolithic date for the introduction of the bow and arrow into Greece is supported by recent finds at Corinth.⁹⁴ Is this first appearance of arrowheads perhaps to be connected with the arrival of the gray-black wares towards the end of the Middle Neolithic period?⁹⁵

CARBON 14 SAMPLES

Another important category of material from Elateia consists of the samples of carbonized wood taken for analysis of their C-14 content for dating purposes; six samples in all were taken from what appeared to be significant strata.⁹⁶ That sample

⁹⁴ *Hesperia*, XXIX, 1960, p. 251.

⁹⁵ Childe, *op. cit.*, pp. 4-5, presents a tentative case for such an association. There is as yet no positive evidence to support it. Arrowheads are now known from the Neolithic culture of the South Anatolian plateau, associated with monochrome and largely dark-faced pottery (Mellaart, *Anat. St.*, XI, 1961, pp. 172-177).

⁹⁶ The samples were taken to the Natuurkundig Laboratorium der Rijks-Universiteit at Groningen, Holland, in the summer of 1959, when the late Professor Hl. de Vries undertook to examine them, partly at the expense of the Laboratory. With the untimely death of Dr. de Vries, the work was forwarded by Professor H. de Waard, to whom I wish to express my thanks. The Research Council of the University of Missouri very generously paid for three tests. The results were reported to me between March and September, 1961. Four of the samples were originally selected for testing, the other two possibly being suspect. However, one of the latter was tested as well. The laboratory number (GRN = Groningen New Series, beginning January 1, 1961) is given for each sample. These dates have been corrected (Suess-correction) and are thus about 300 years larger (older) than C-14 dates furnished by most laboratories through 1960.

In May, 1962, the sample from the 2.30 m. floor in Trench 1 was re-run (GRN 3502) and the date given below was obtained by Dr. J. C. Vogel. At the same time, slight re-adjustments in the other dates were made by him; thus all the dates given have been obtained from Dr. Vogel in May, 1962, and we are grateful to him for these new dates.

which we believed to be the oldest stratigraphically (GRN 2973) came from the floor at 3.10 m. in the northeast quadrant of Trench 1, next to the lowest floor above hardpan, the associated pottery being of the early Early Neolithic monochrome variety, including one fragment of imported Corinthian variegated ware. The date yielded by the test is 7480 ± 70 years before the present (B. P.), or 5520 ± 70 B.C. A sample (GRN 3037) taken from the floor of the large bothros in Trench 3, at 2.70 m., gave a date of 7360 ± 90 B. P., or 5400 ± 90 B.C. While we thought that this sample was from the fill of the bothros, the date would suggest rather that it was from the burnt debris on the floor at 2.70 m., noted in other parts of the trench as well. The pottery on this floor was all Early Neolithic monochrome ware, while that in the bothros was much later. The sample (GRN 3041) from the floor at 2.55 m. in Trench 2 gave a date of 7190 ± 100 B. P. (5230 ± 100 B.C.); the associated pottery was all Early Neolithic monochrome ware, including two fragments of Corinthian variegated ware, but of a later type than that from the floor at 3.10 m. in Trench 1. The sample (GRN 3502) from the next higher floor, that at 2.30 m. in the northeast quadrant of Trench 1, was chosen because here the earliest painted pottery had appeared and it gave a date of 7040 ± 130 B.P. (5080 ± 130 B.C.). A date that is much too high, 8240 ± 75 B.P. (6280 ± 75 B.C.) was obtained from the sample (GRN 2933) taken from the 1.55 m. level in the west half of Trench 1, but this sample, as well as one taken from the stratum immediately below, was suspect and thought not worth testing. The pottery associated with the last two samples was of Late Neolithic varieties.

CHRONOLOGY

It is highly significant that we now have a small cluster of four dates (5520 ± 70 B.C., 5400 ± 90 B.C., 5230 ± 100 B.C. and 5080 ± 130 B.C.) from the Early Neolithic period in Greece, suggesting a date of 5500 to 5100 B.C. for that phase in which only monochrome pottery occurred at Elateia. The happy circumstance of finding fragments of Corinthian variegated ware at both the 3.10 m. level and the 2.55 m. level indicates the contemporaneity of the Early Neolithic period in the Peloponnesos. Outside Greece, this early phase without painted pottery is now most closely paralleled by the Early Neolithic pottery from the Konya plain in Anatolia;⁹⁷ this antedates the Late Neolithic as known at Hacilar, for which C-14 tests now suggest dates of 5600 to 5400 B.C.⁹⁸ The similarities between the Early Neolithic of the Konya plain and that of the lowest levels at Mersin in Cilicia go farther in helping to give an approximate idea of the age of the culture, for a date of 6000 ± 250 B.C. was obtained by C-14

⁹⁷ Mellaart, *Anat. St.*, XI, 1961, pp. 160-166.

⁹⁸ Mellaart, *Anat. St.*, XI, 1961, pp. 74-75.

for the lowest level at Mersin.⁹⁹ Thus, while pottery production seems to have been well under way in the Near East by 6000 B.C., we have as yet no evidence of its appearance in Greece much before 5500 B.C., but what is found from this first pottery period in the Aegean is very similar to that of Anatolia and farther east and most likely was introduced from this area. A lag of 500 years now seems unduly long and an earlier date for the oldest pottery of Greece may be expected. Some lag is noticeable for the beginning of painted pottery as well, for while the earliest at Elateia, possibly as early as any in Greece, is thus far not dated before 5100 B.C., the technique of painting pottery may go back to as early as, say, 5600 B.C. at Hacilar, where it occurred already in Level IX.¹⁰⁰ Mellaart has already compared this Hacilar pottery with the earliest painted pottery of Thessaly,¹⁰¹ with which we have also drawn parallels above (p. 00). The development of this painting technique into the red-on-white (Chae-rona) style must have continued well into the fifth millennium. The Halaf style of painted pottery began in the Near East by 5000 B.C.¹⁰² and its influence in Greece in the form of Neolithic Urfirnis ware was probably felt within a few centuries; this in the Peloponnesos rather than in Central Greece. We have noted that at Elateia such wares appeared considerably later than in the Peloponnesos, possibly not before 4500 B.C. The fine gray-black burnished wares also occurred at the end of this phase, which we call Middle Neolithic, and among them are the four-legged vases for which Yugoslav parallels in the Danilo and Kakanj cultures have been pointed out. Benac equates the Kakanj culture with the earliest level at Vinca,¹⁰³ for which there is now a C-14 date which, when corrected, is 4300 ± 85 B.C.¹⁰⁴ The Late Neolithic phase began with the introduction of matt-painted pottery, which I believe to be derived from the Ubaid painted ware of the Near East; for the latter we now have a C-14 date of about 4100 ± 160 B.C.¹⁰⁵ for the Southern Ubaid phase, while the Northern Ubaid began earlier. This influence could well have reached Greece by 4000 B.C. or only slightly later. Although he does not believe in it, Miložčić has given the C-14 evidence for a date of about 3200 B.C. for the end of the Greek Neolithic phase and the beginning of the Bronze Age;¹⁰⁶ this fits very well with the evidence for earlier phases.

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 75. A more direct control for Greece is given by the occurrence in the Early Neolithic levels at Nea Makri in Attica of white-filled incised ware which Theochares has aptly compared with that from Levels XXVI to XXIII at Mersin (*Ath. Mitt.*, LXXI, 1956, pp. 10-14).

¹⁰⁰ Mellaart, *Anat. St.*, XI, 1961, p. 61.

¹⁰¹ *Anat. St.*, X, 1960, p. 91.

¹⁰² R. J. Braidwood and B. Howe, *Prehistoric Investigations in Iraqi Kurdistan*, Chicago, 1960, p. 162.

¹⁰³ *Bull. du Musée . . . à Sarajevo*, N.S. XI, 1956, p. 182.

¹⁰⁴ Waterbolk, *Antiquity*, XXXIV, 1960, p. 15.

¹⁰⁵ Braidwood and Howe, *op. cit.*, p. 160.

¹⁰⁶ *Germania*, XXXVI, 1958, pp. 416-417.

Thus, while C-14 determinations are still few, and for many sites there are but single dates rather than the more satisfactory and significant clusters, those we do have fall well into a scheme that fits the stratigraphic sequence at Elateia in particular and in Greece in general, giving us the basis for a new and considerably longer absolute chronology for the Neolithic period in the Aegean. It is not only the series of C-14 dates published in the last few years which has made this possible, but also the discovery since 1957 of the rich Neolithic and Chalcolithic cultures of Anatolia and the rapid recognition, by Mellaart especially, of the close similarities with the Neolithic culture of the Aegean. Mellaart has already suggested, on the basis of these similarities, a date of 5000 to 4500 B.C. for the Sesklo Culture, the Middle Neolithic phase in Thessaly.¹⁰⁷ The new and well stratified material from Elateia presented here gives not only the first stratification of the entire Neolithic period for Central Greece, but it helps to tie in the chronological scheme for the Aegean with those for both Anatolia and the Near East on one side and the Balkans and Europe on the other. Its key position in this regard makes imperative more intensive exploration of this rich site.

SAUL S. WEINBERG

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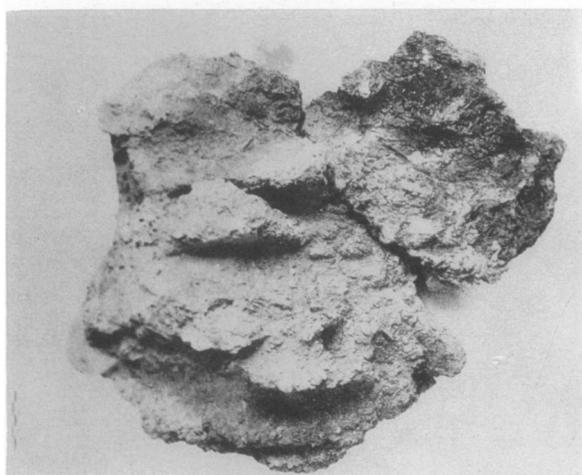
¹⁰⁷ *Anat. St.*, VIII, 1958, p. 156; S. Piggott, (Ed.), *The Dawn of Civilization*, New York, 1961, p. 42 chart.



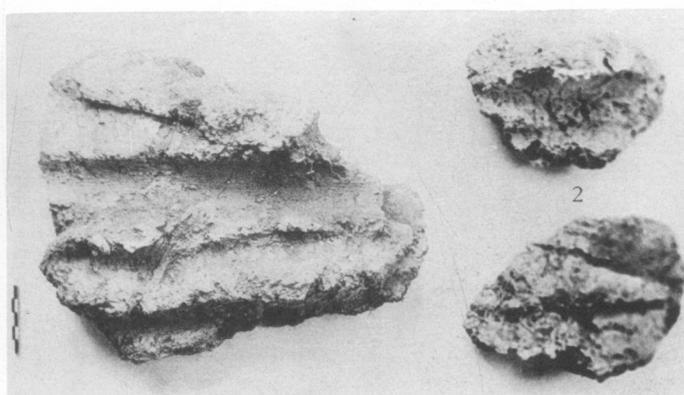
a. Elateia, the Neolithic Mound from South



b. Trench 1, Neolithic House from West



c

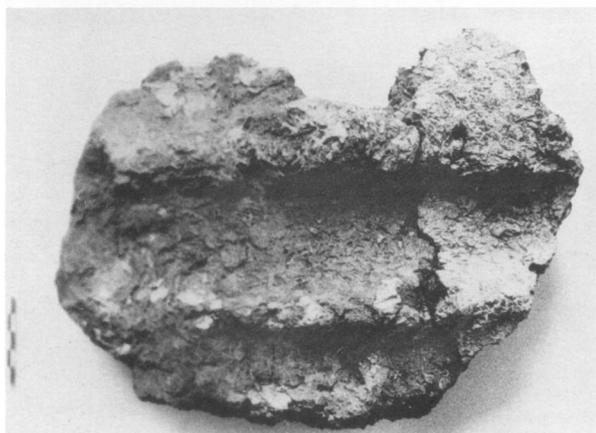


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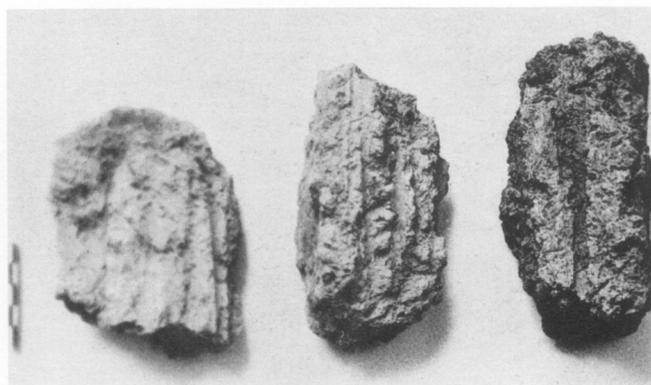
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3

c-f. Trench 1, Fragments of Clay Roofing showing Pole and Reed Impressions, from Neolithic House



e

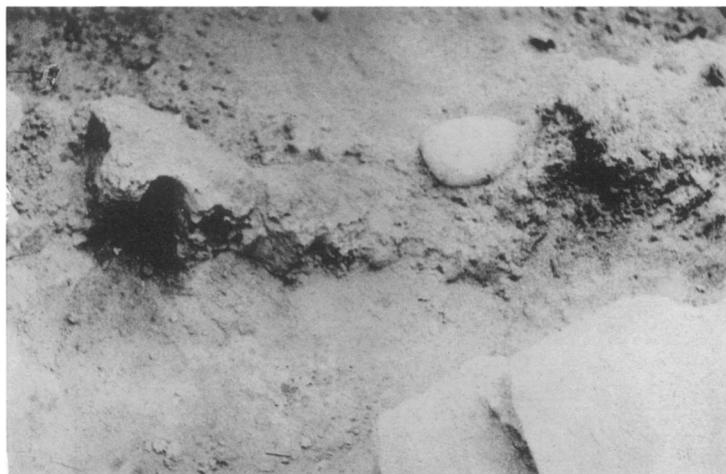


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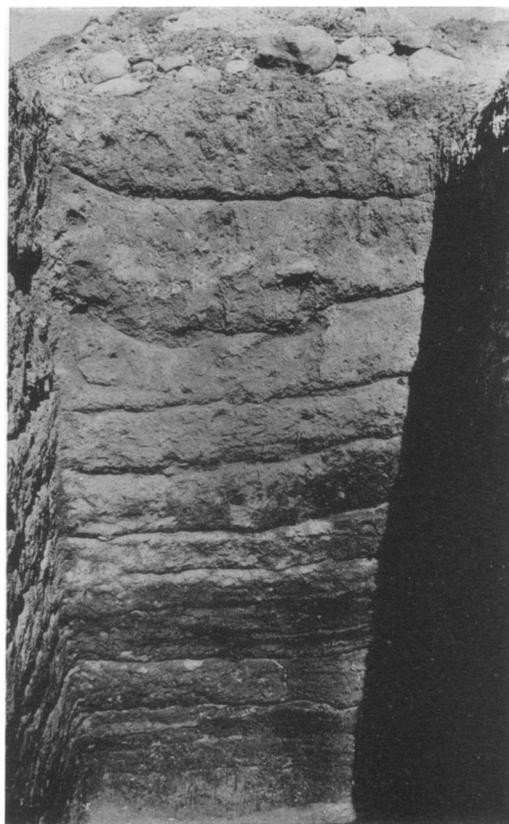
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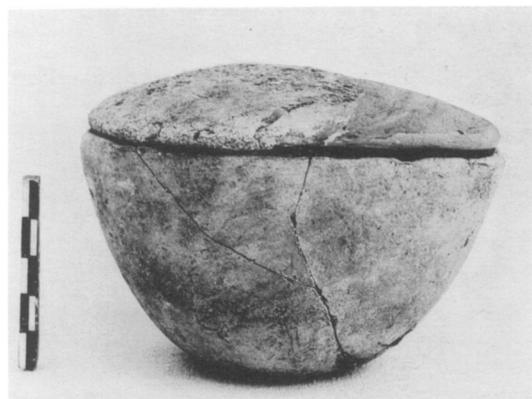
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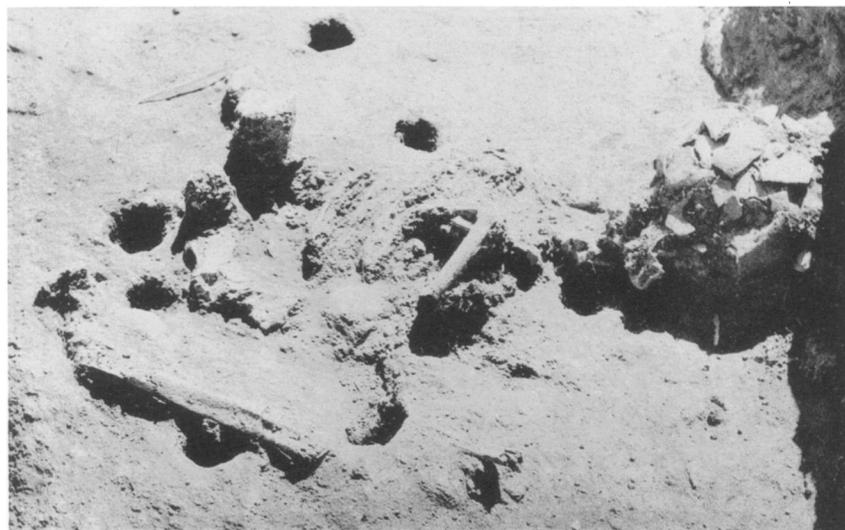
a. Trench 1, Mass of Burnt Roofing Material



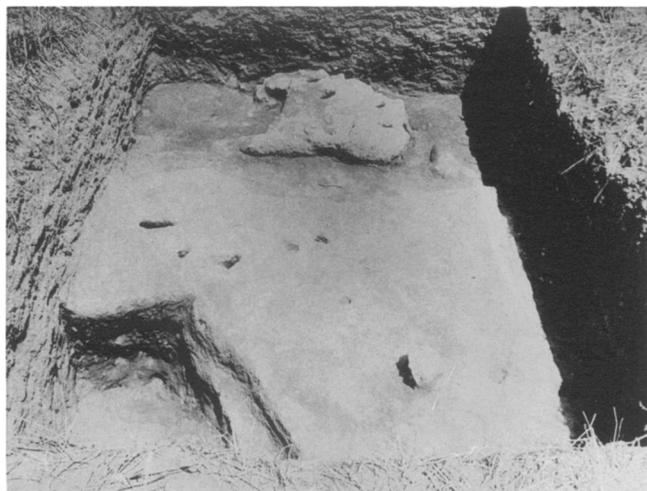
c. Trench 2, Stratification at East End



b. Trench 1, Bowl and Cover from Burnt House



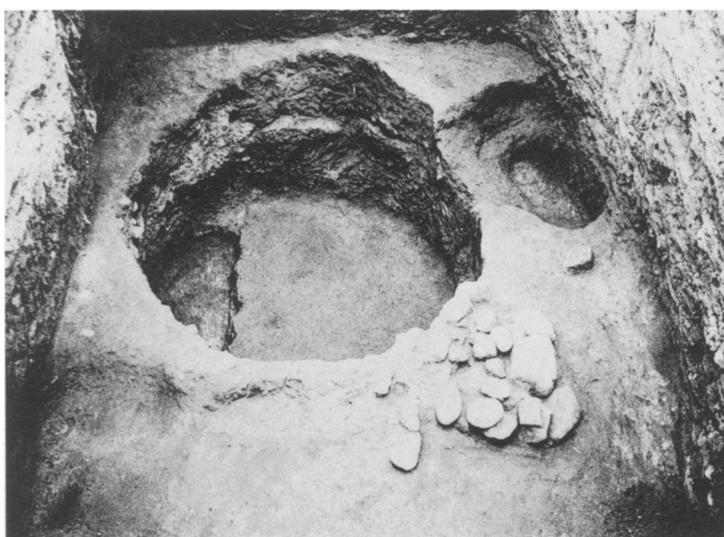
d. Trench 2, Late Neolithic Burial of Child



a. Floor at 0.95 m., from West



b. Floor at 1.30 m., from West



c. Bothros in Western Half, from East

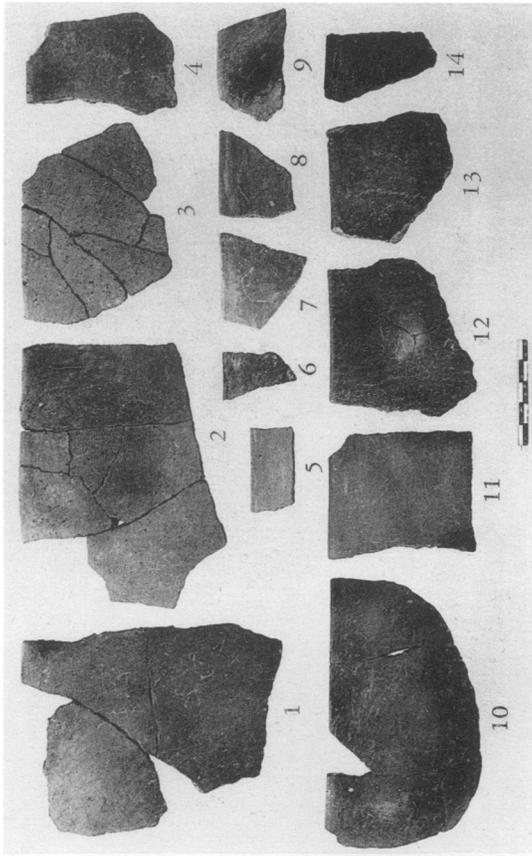


d. Masses of Pottery in Bothros

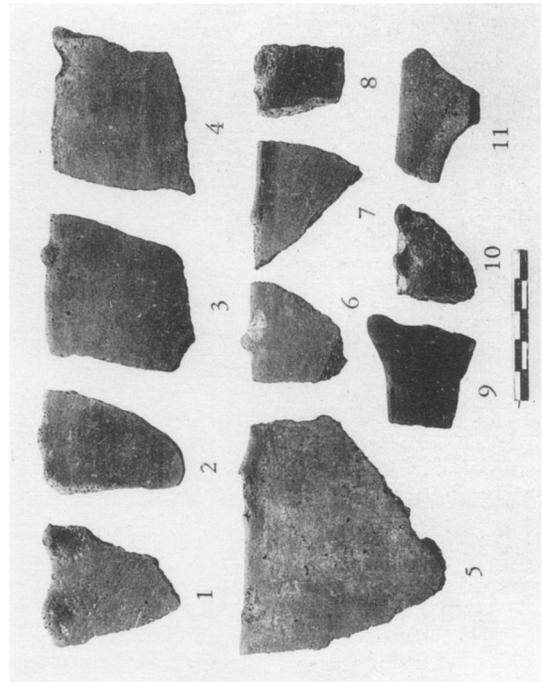
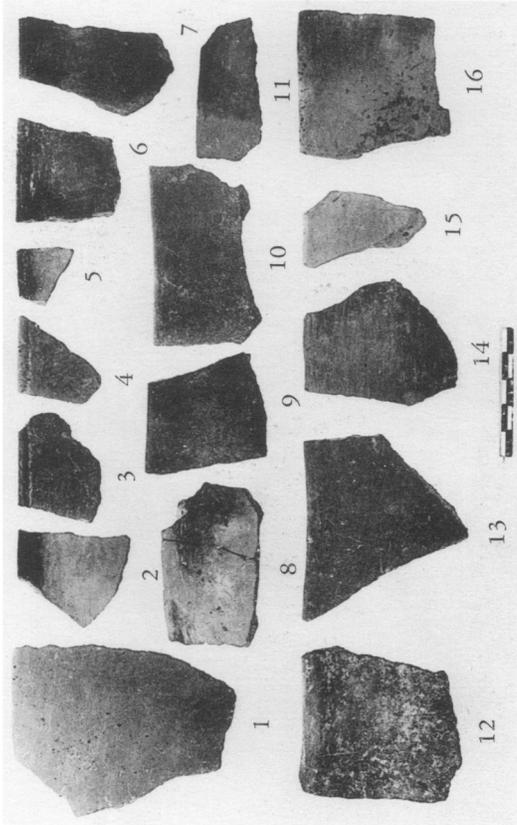


e. Clusters of Clay Sling Bullets on Floor at 2.95 m.

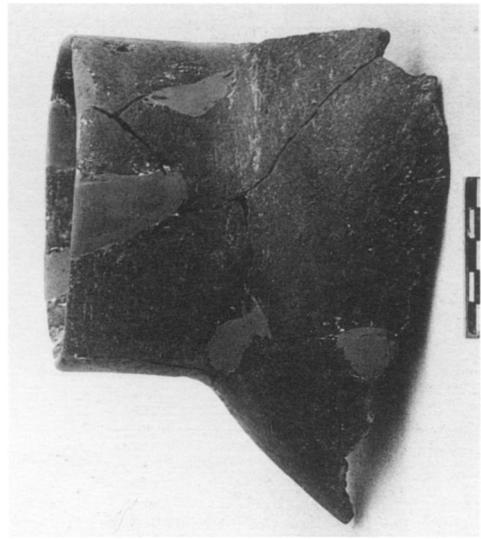
Trench 3



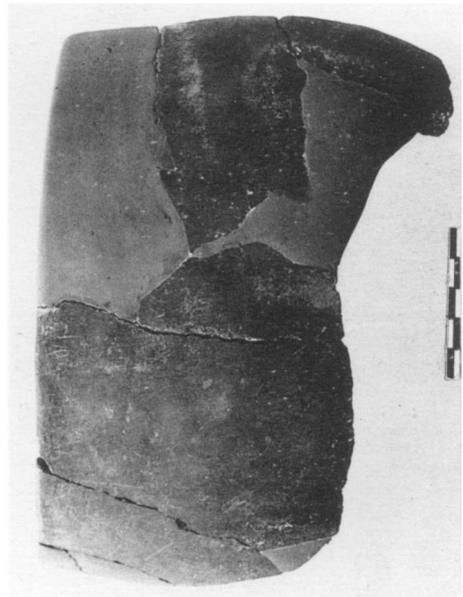
a-b. Rim Fragments of Bowls



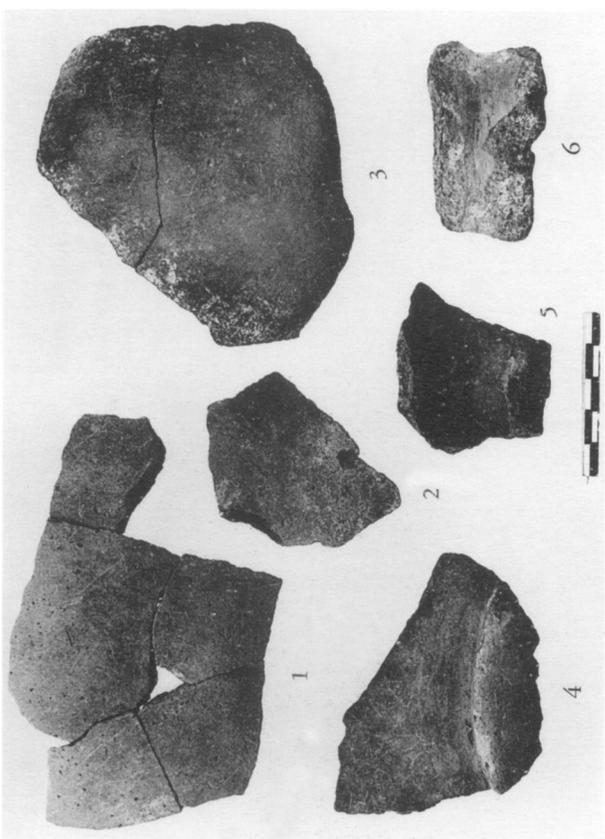
d. Bowl Rims with Knobs
Lowest Meter of Deposit



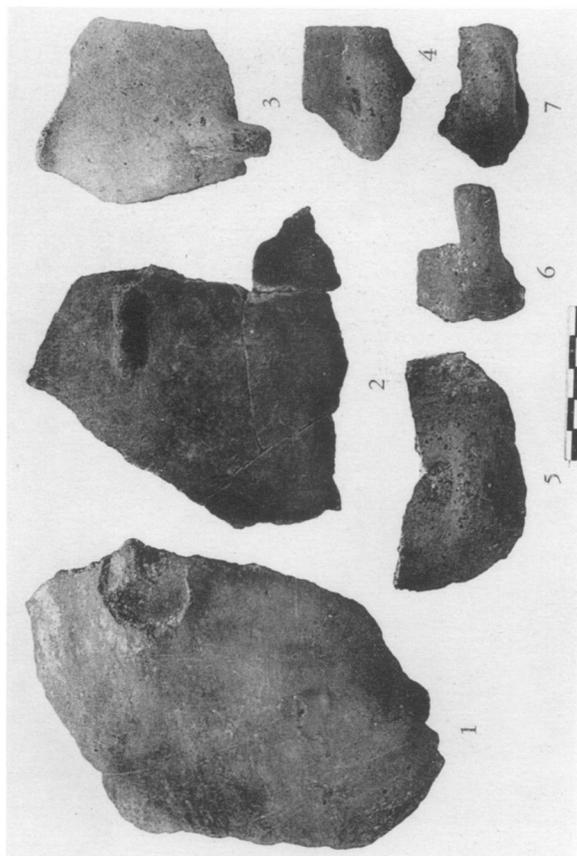
e. Large Fragment of Collared Jar



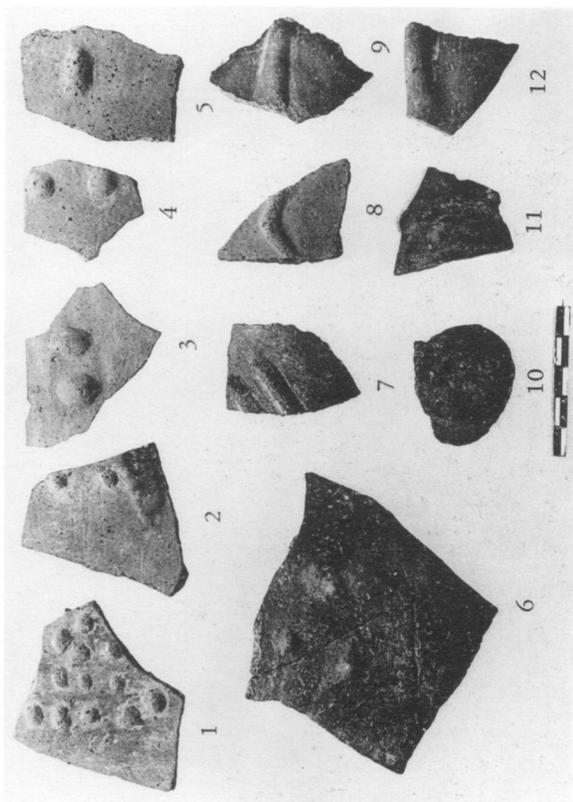
c. Large Bowl Fragment



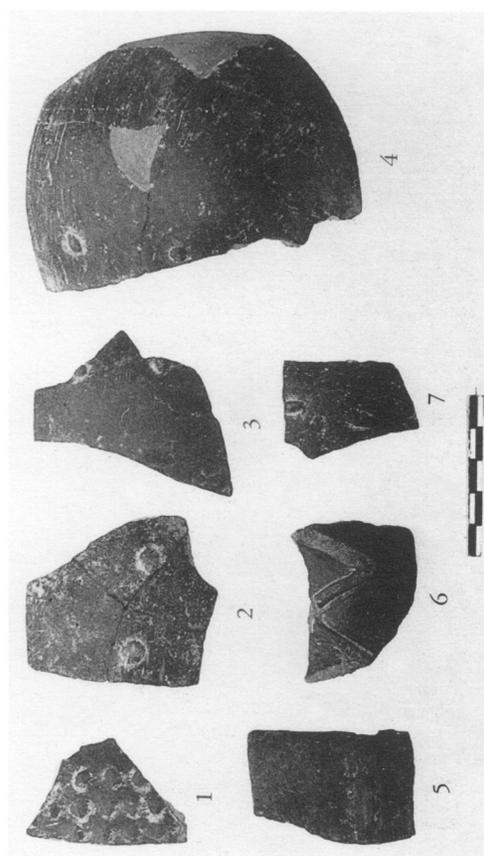
a. Bottoms and Bases



b. Pierced Lugs

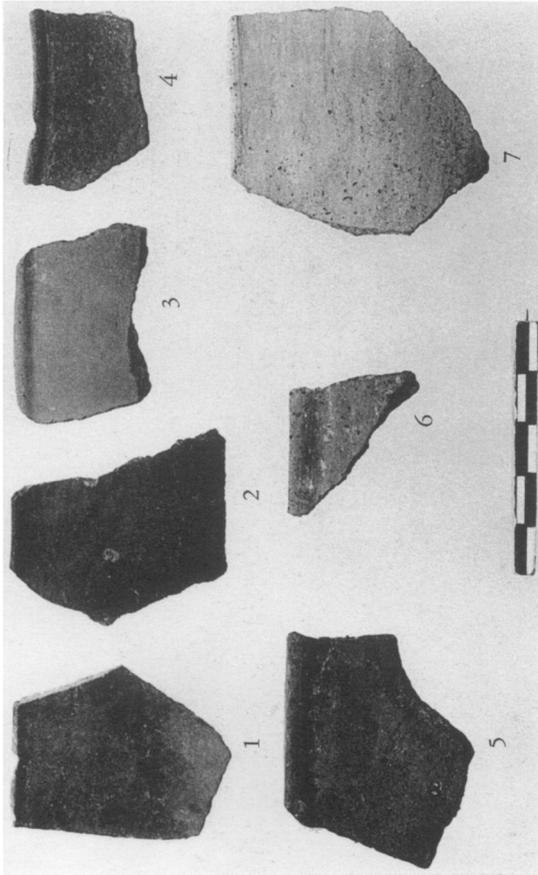


c. Plastic Decoration on Light Ware

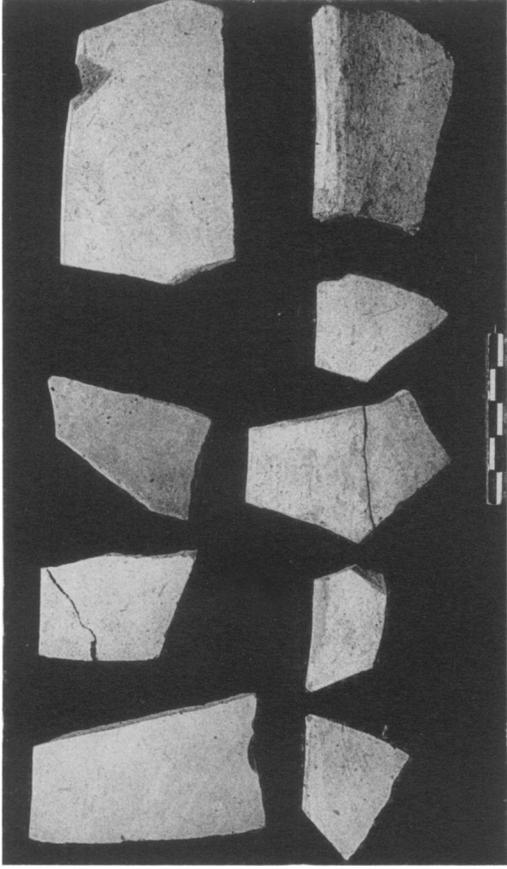


d. Plastic Decoration on Gray-black Burnished Ware

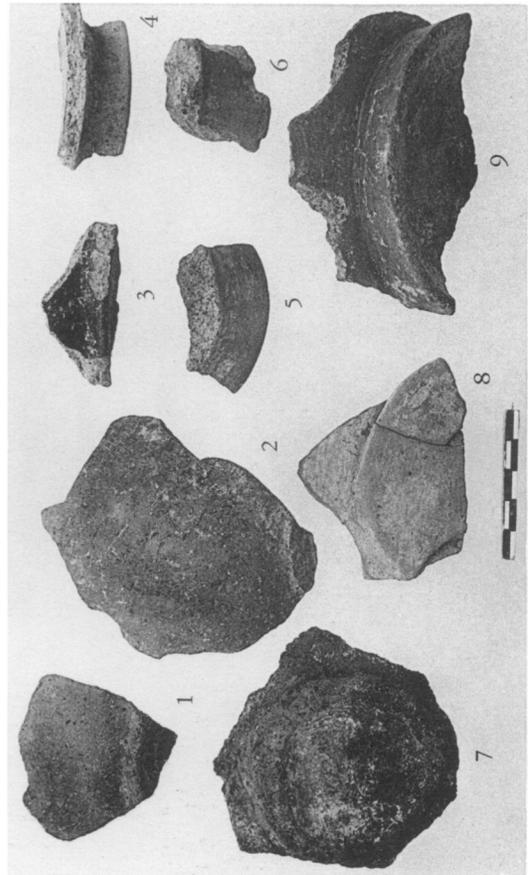
Lowest Meter of Deposit



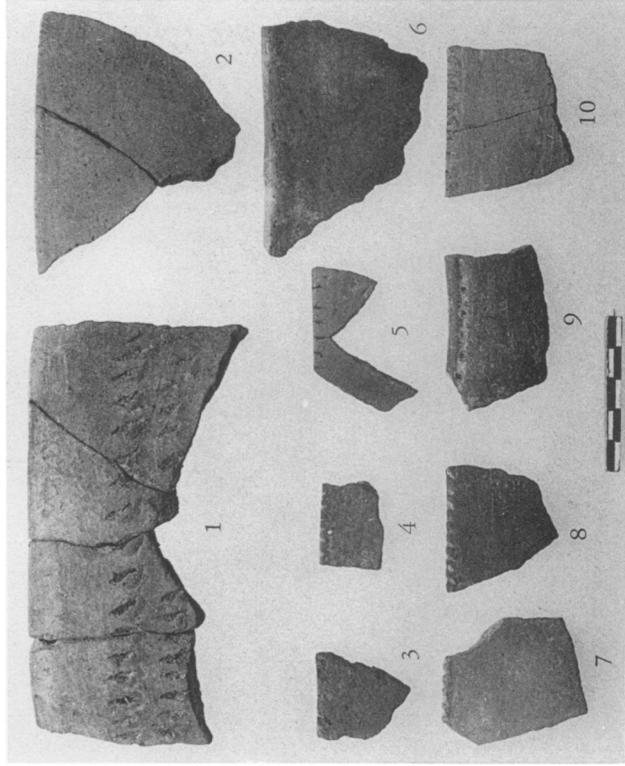
a. Bowl Fragments with Everted Rims, Middle Neolithic



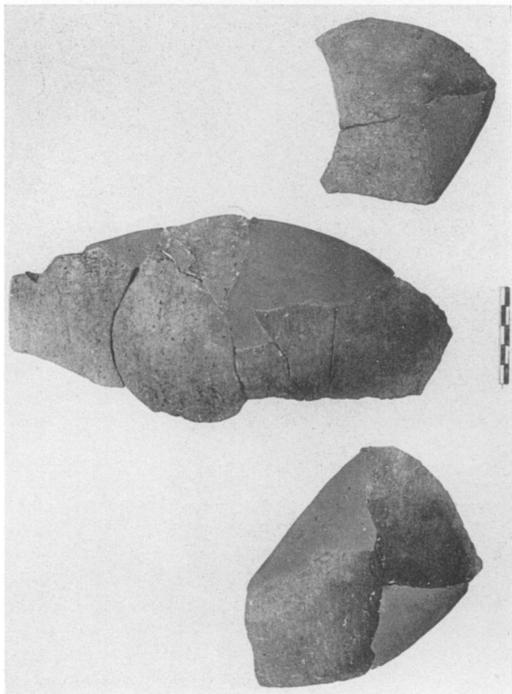
b. Bowl Fragments of White Slipped Ware



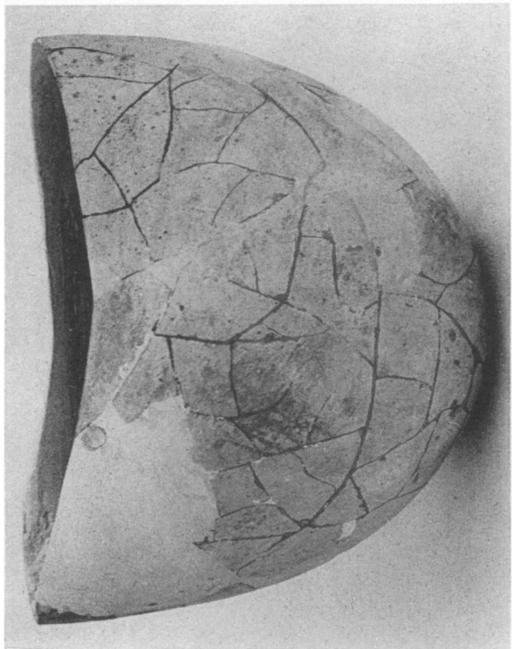
c. Disc and Ring Bases, Middle Neolithic



d. Bowl Fragments with Incised and Punctate Decoration



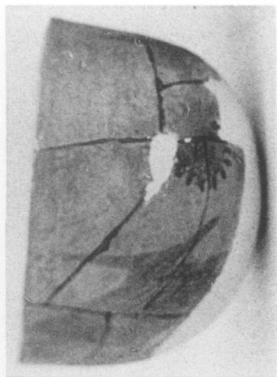
a. Fragments of a Large Bowl, Middle Neolithic



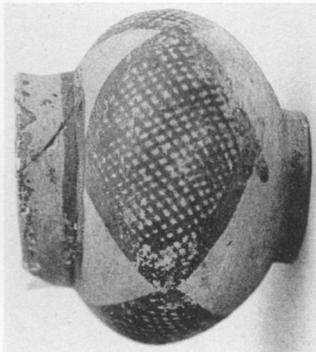
b. Large Bowl with Oval Rim from Chaeronea, Chaeronea Museum



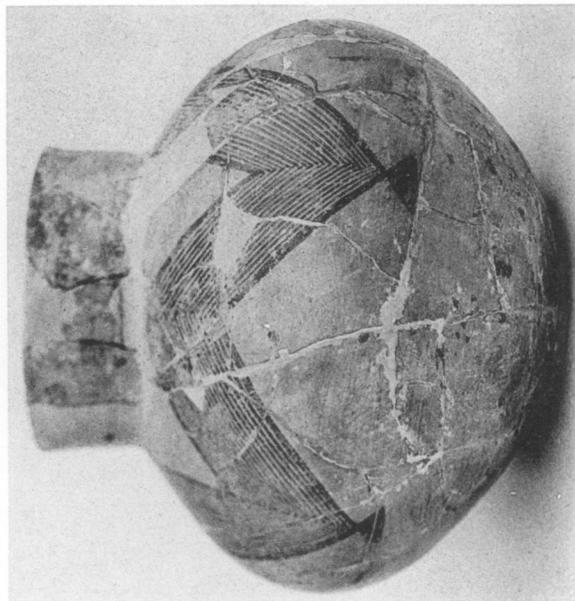
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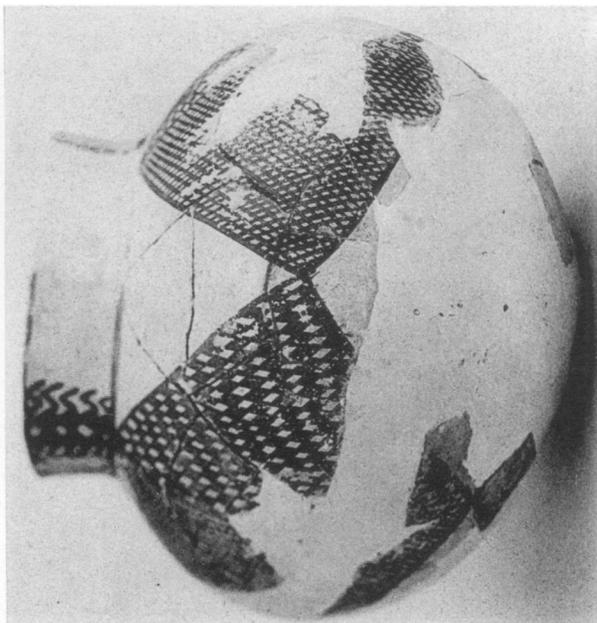
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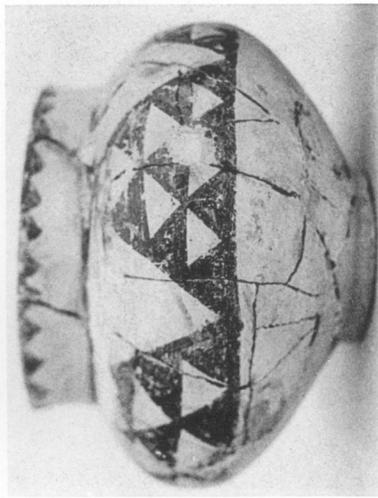
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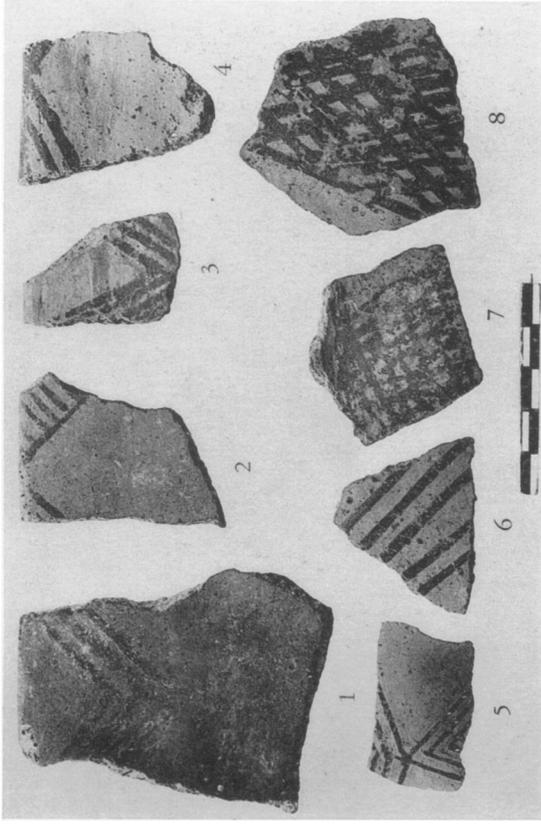


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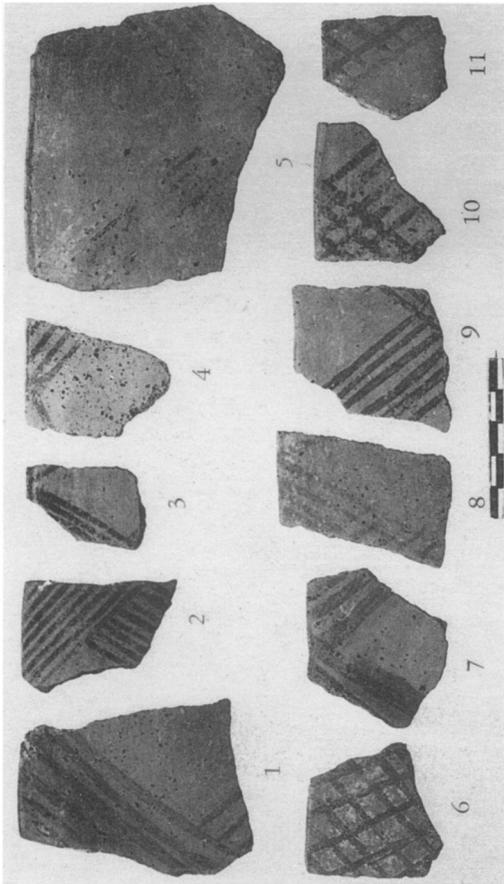


h

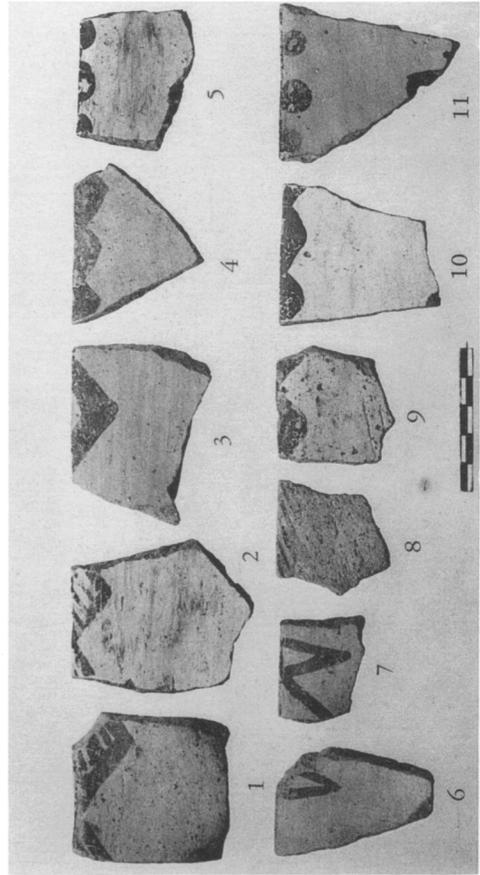
c-h. Vases of Red-on-white Painted Ware from Chaeronea, Chaeronea Museum



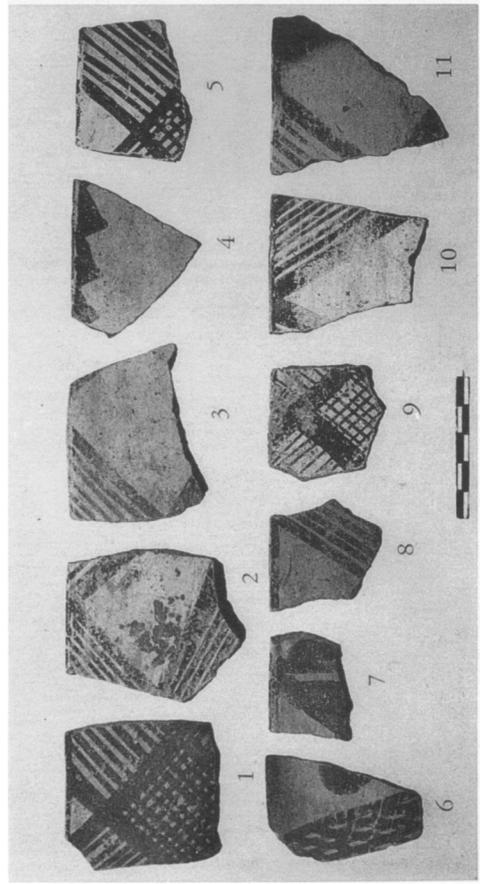
b. Interior of Bowl Fragments (1-4) and Jar Body Fragments (5-8), Earliest Painted Ware



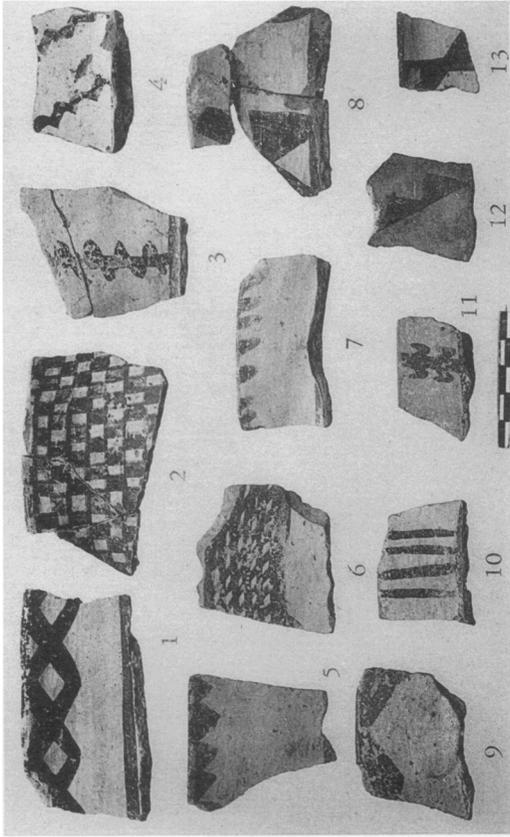
a. Exterior of Bowl Fragments of Earliest Painted Ware



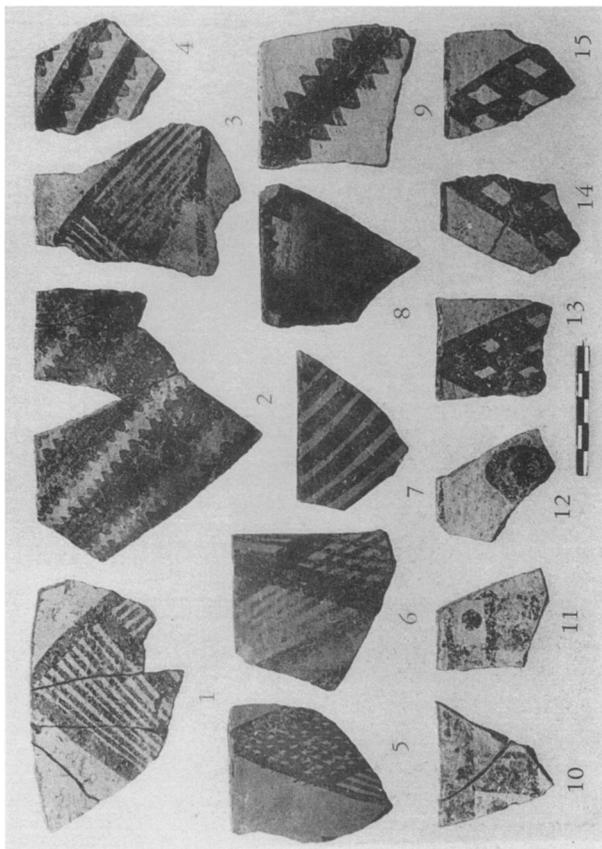
c. Exterior and d. Interior of Bowl Fragments of Early Red-on-white Painted Ware Red-on-white Painted Ware



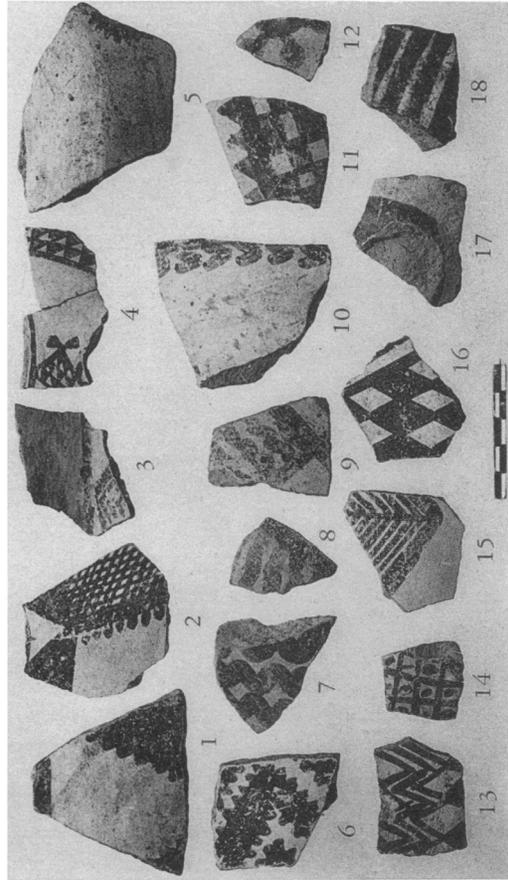
SAUL S. WEINBERG: EXCAVATIONS AT PREHISTORIC ELATEIA, 1959



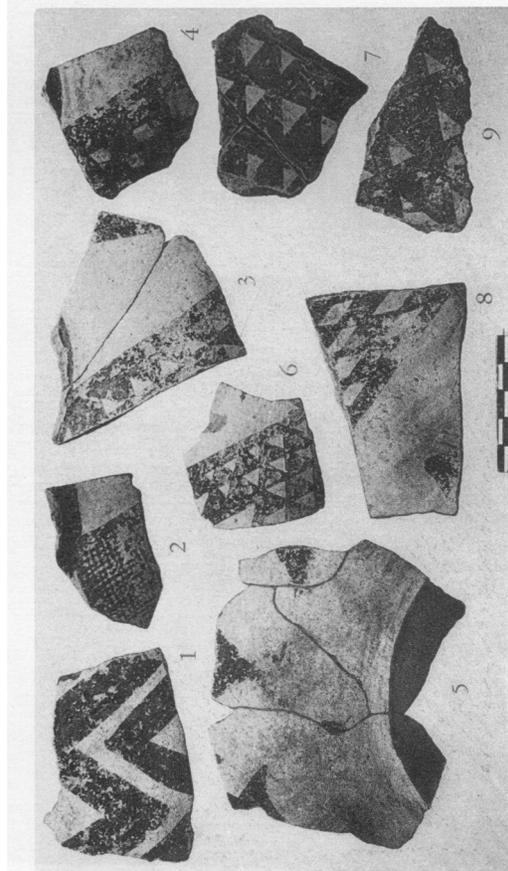
b. Jar Collars



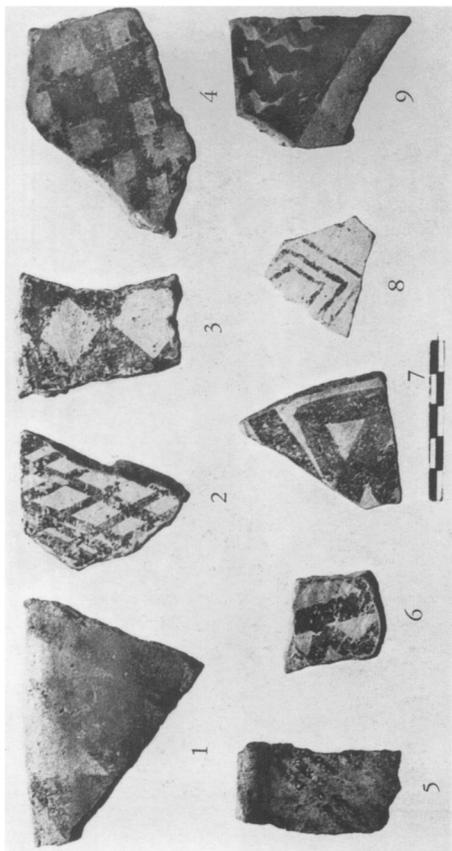
a. Exterior of Bowl Fragments



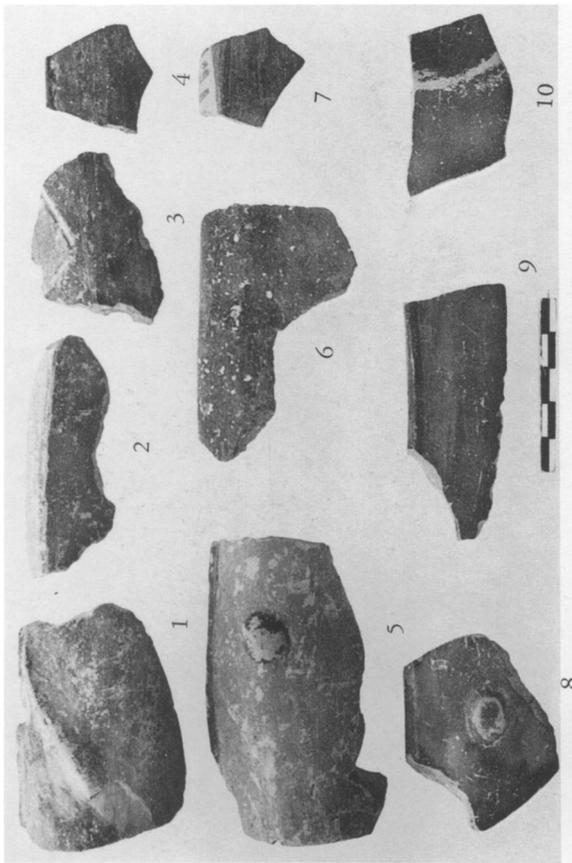
Red-on-White Painted Ware



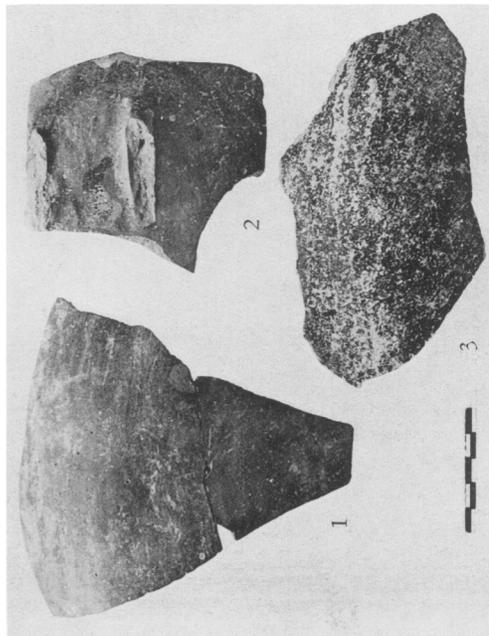
c



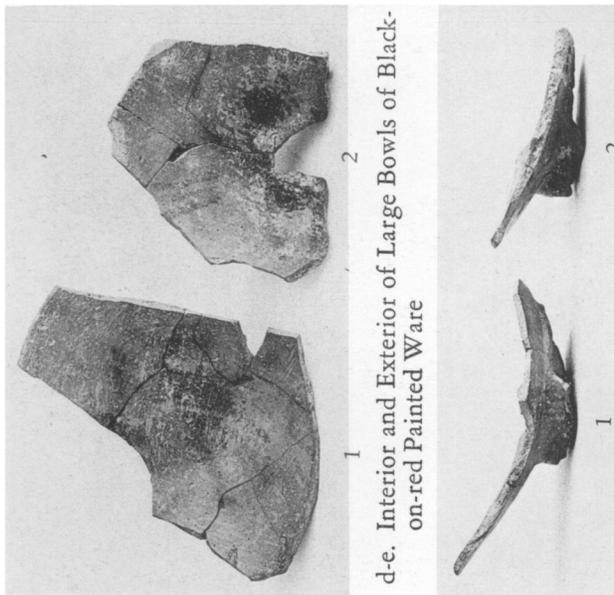
a. Fragments of Red-on-white Painted Ware



b. Incurved-rim Bowl Fragments, Neolithic Urfrnis and Related Wares



c. Fragments of a Large Jar of Neolithic Urfrnis Ware



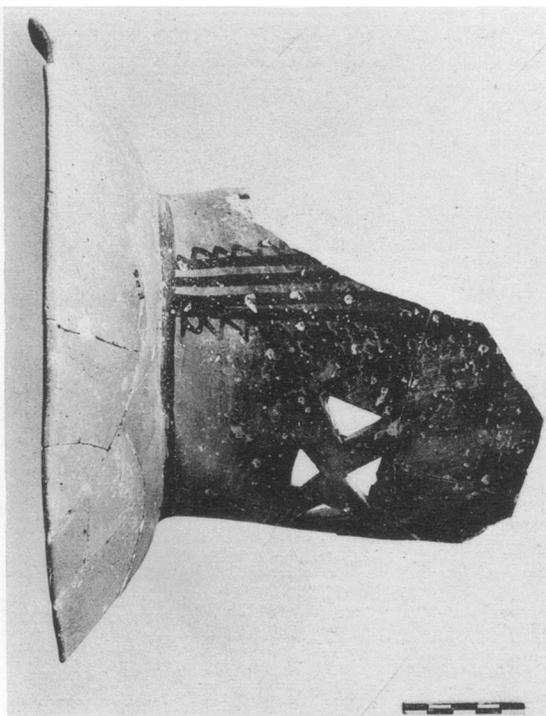
d-e. Interior and Exterior of Large Bowls of Black-on-red Painted Ware



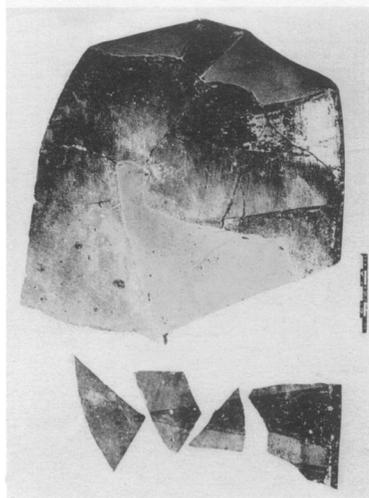
f. Large Base of Black-on-red Painted Ware



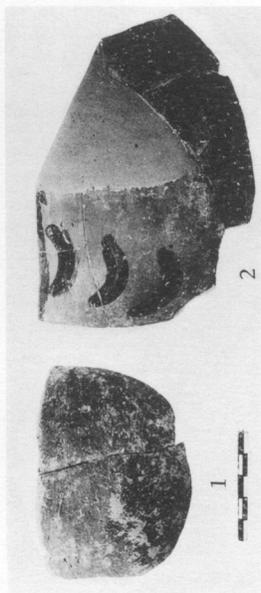
e. Interior of Open Bowl



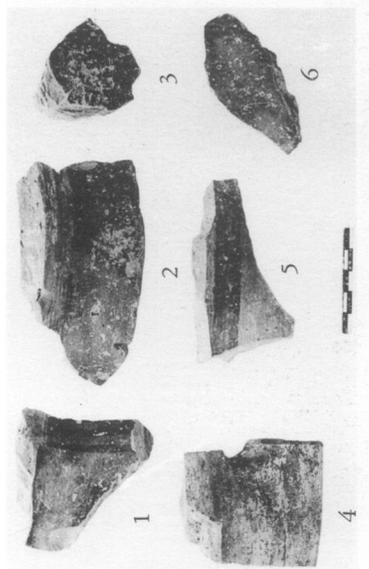
g. Large "Fruitstand"



a. Fragments of Large Bases.



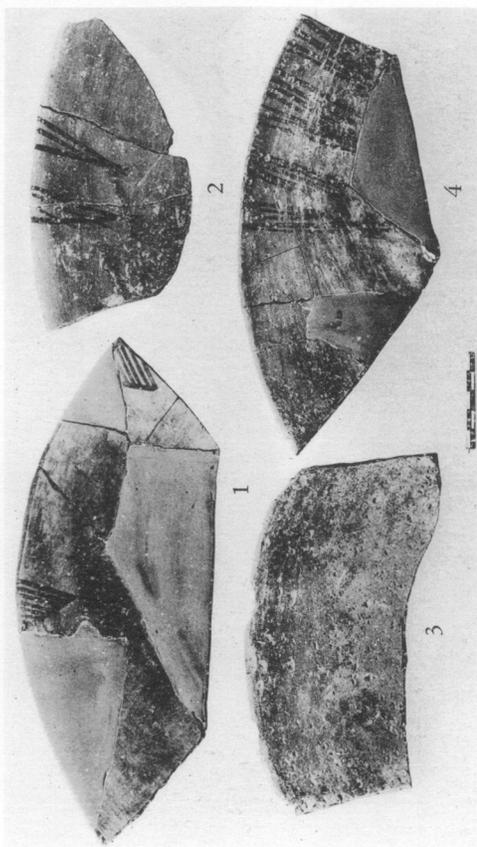
d. Bowls (1, Red Ware)



a

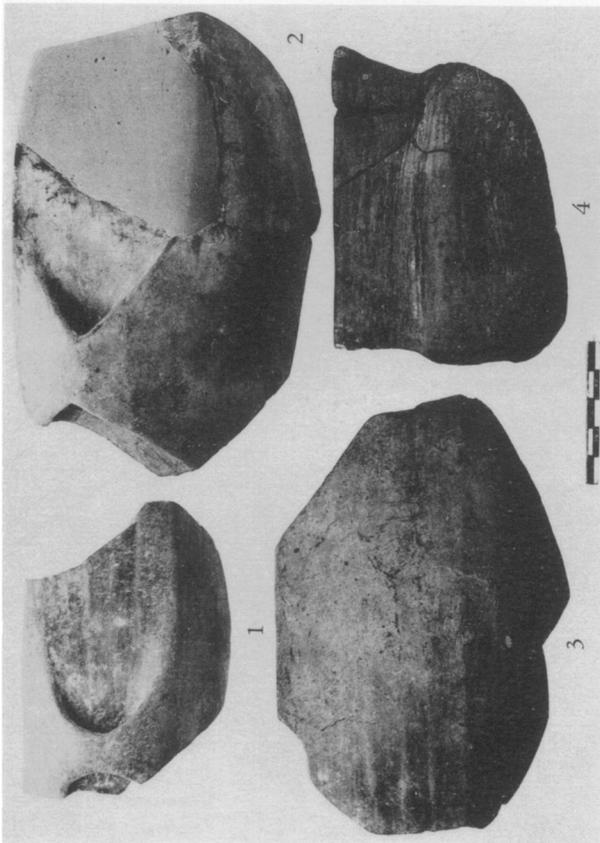


c

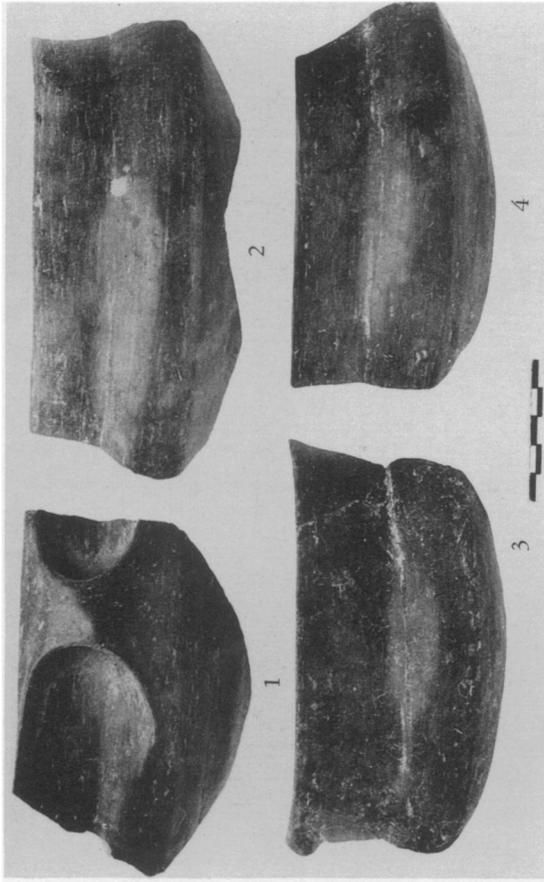


f. Interior of Open Bowls

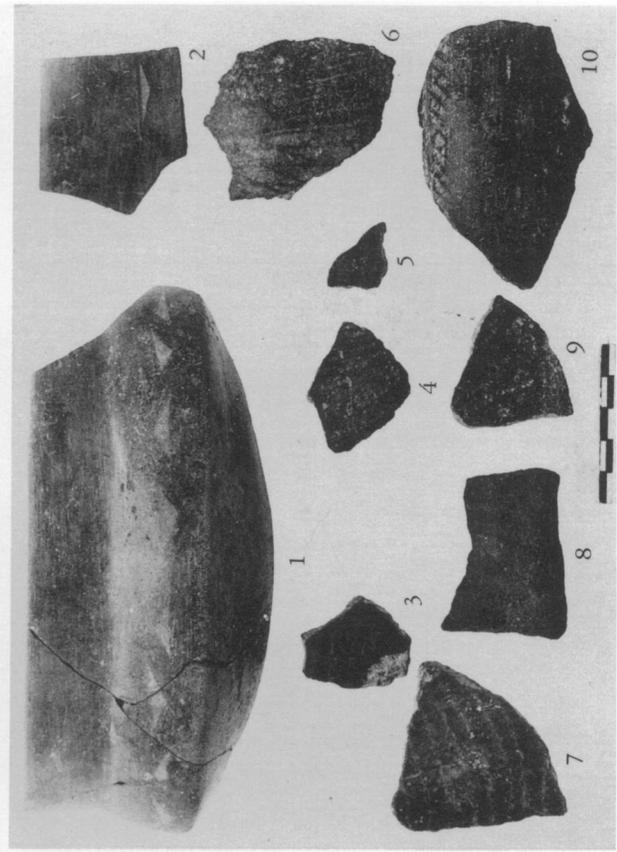
Black-on-red Painted Ware



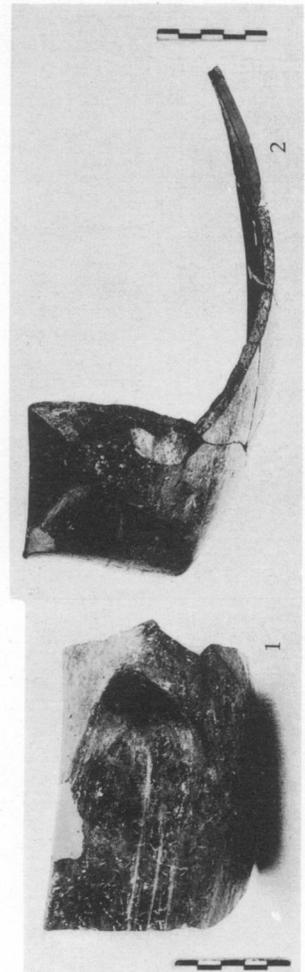
a-b. Bowls from Bothros, Trench 3



b

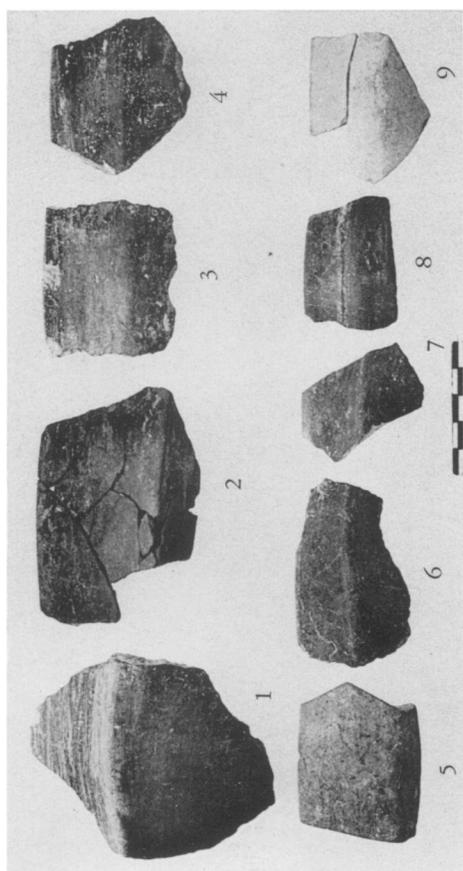


d. Bowls with Stroke-burnished and Rippled Ornament

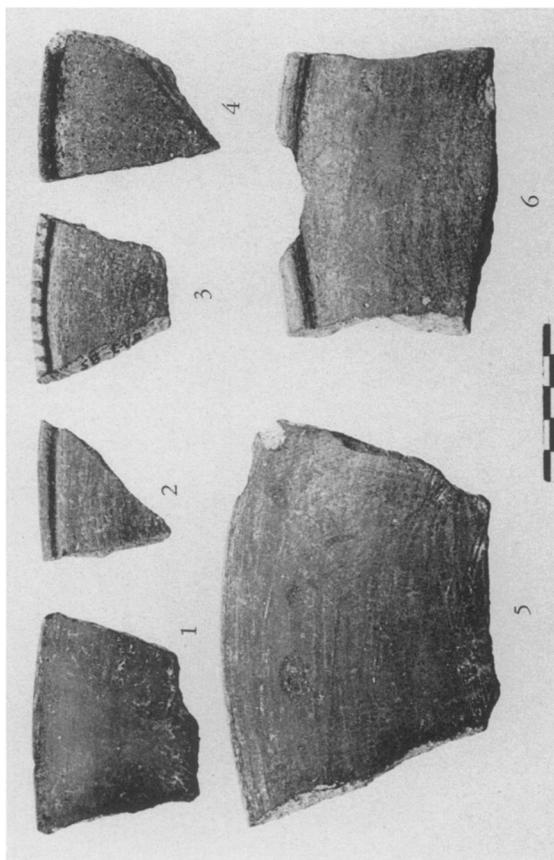


c. Bowl from Small Pit, Trench 3

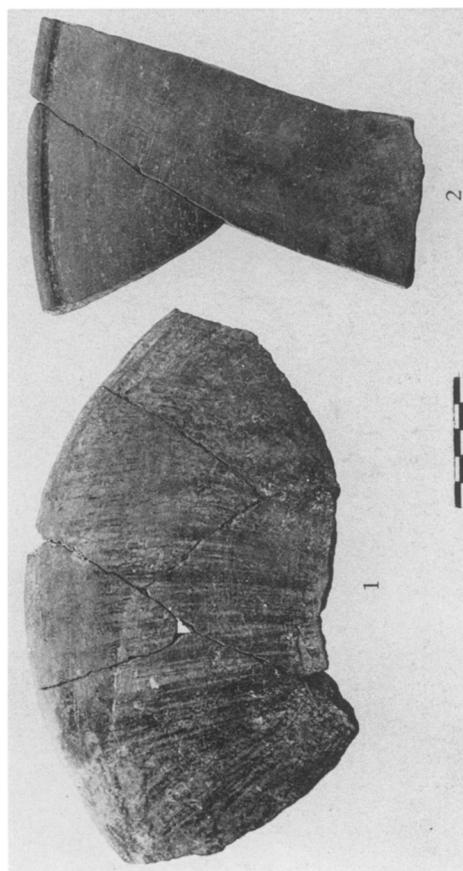
Gray and Gray-black Burnished Ware



a. Fragments of Bowls, Gray and Gray-black

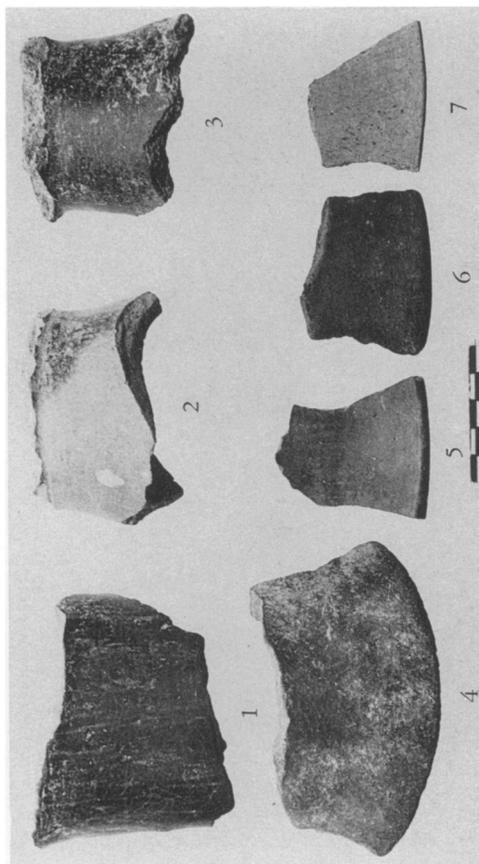


b. Bowl Fragments of "Fruitstands"



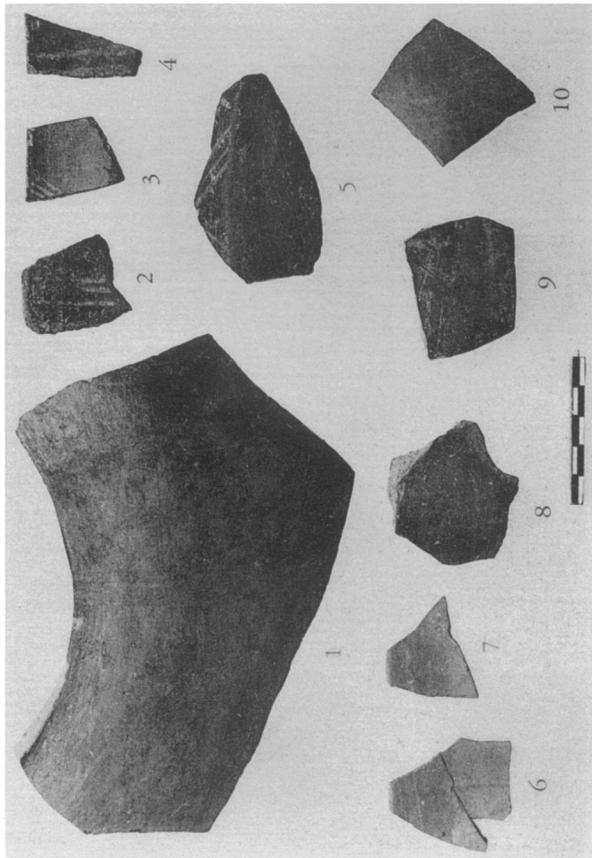
c. Bowl Fragments of "Fruitstands"

Gray-black Burnished Ware

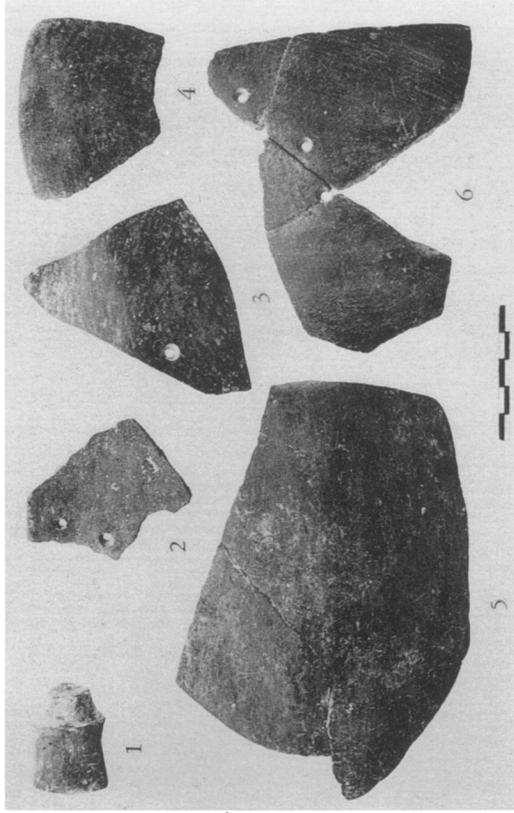


d. Base Fragments of "Fruitstands"

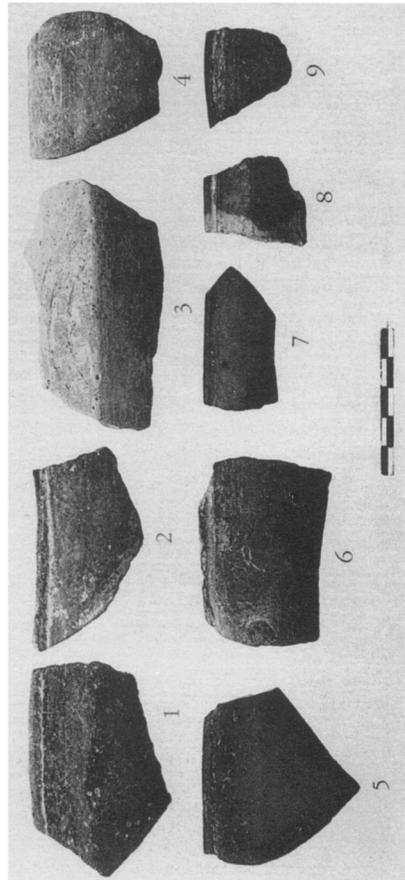
SAUL S. WEINBERG: EXCAVATIONS AT PREHISTORIC ELATEIA, 1959



a. Painted Fragments

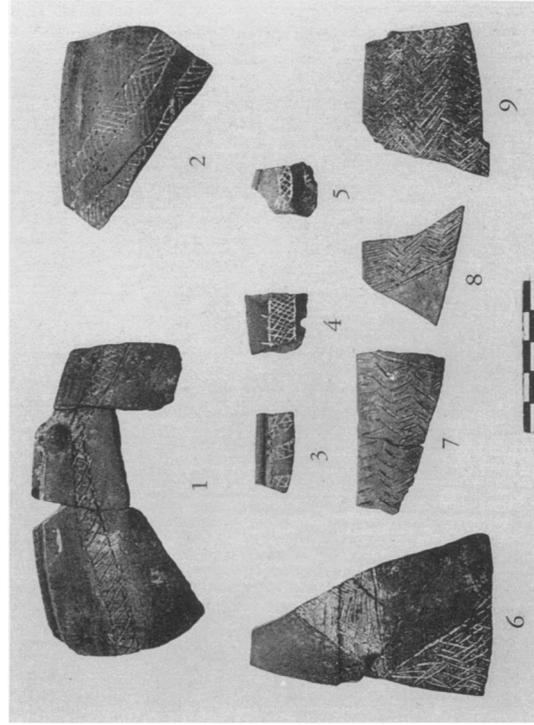


b. Handle (1) and Large Jar Fragments

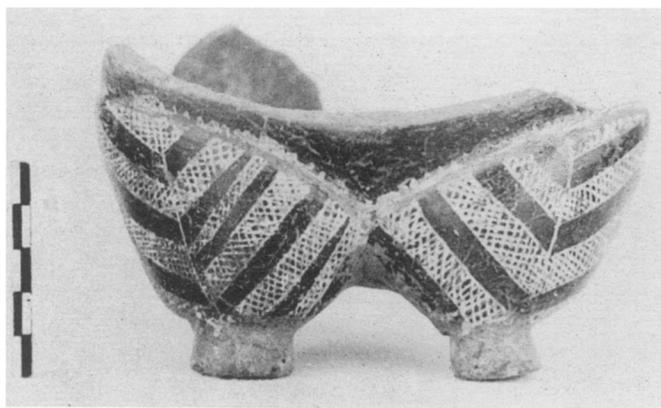


c. Incurved-rim Bowl Fragments

Gray-black Burnished Ware



d. With Incised Decoration



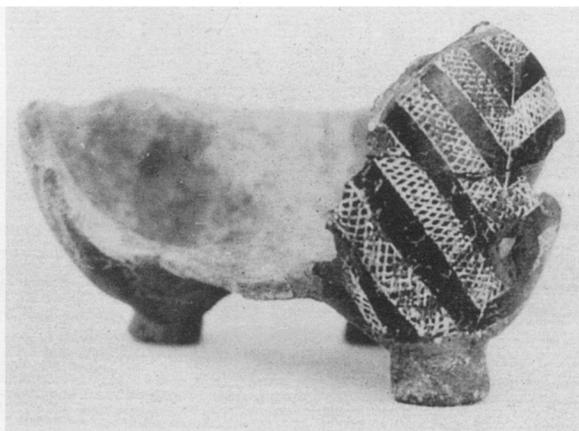
a. Front



b.



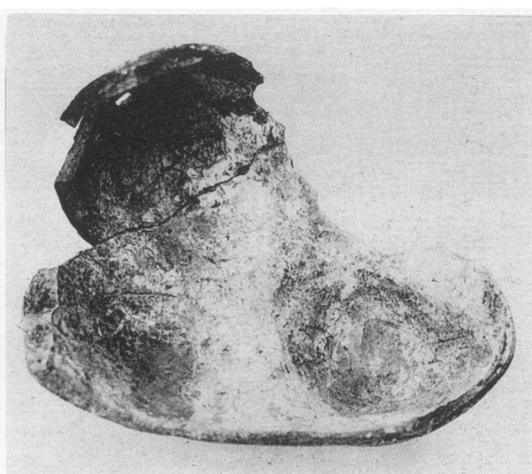
c. Side



d.



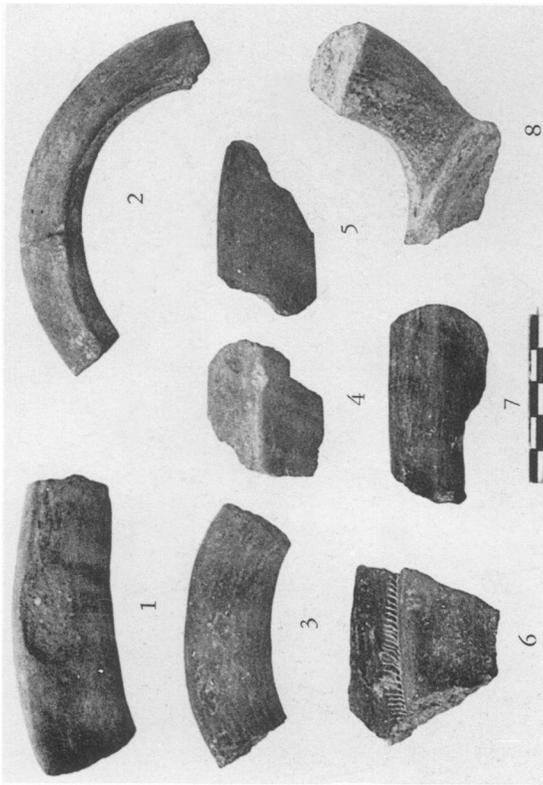
e. Bottom



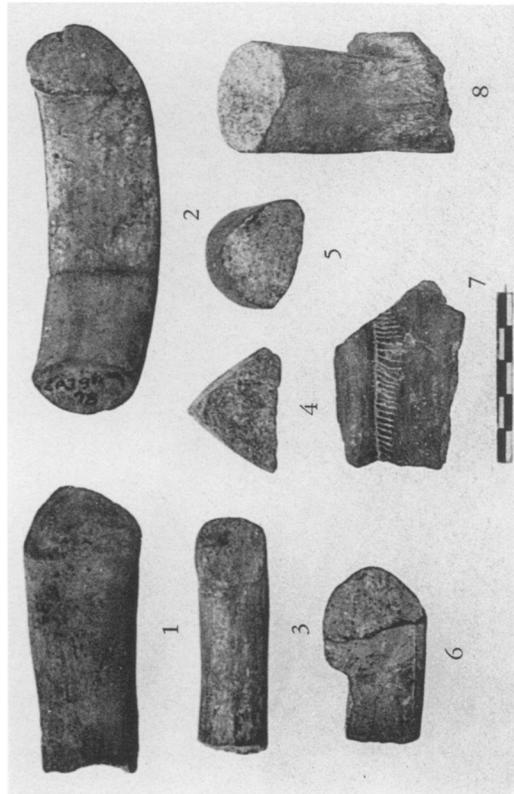
f. Top

Four-legged Vase

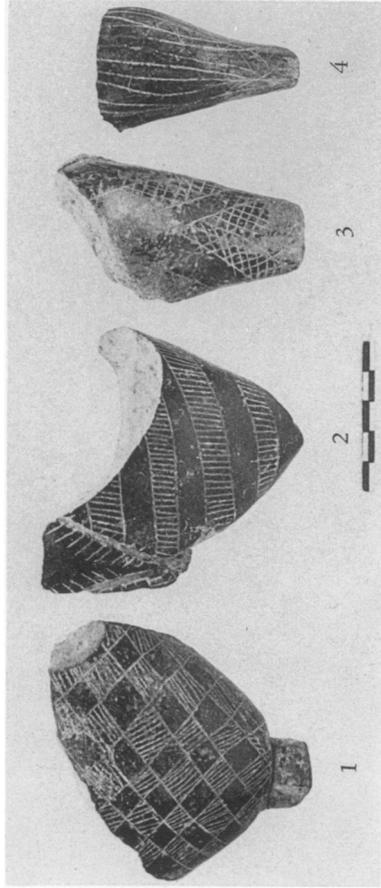
SAUL S. WEINBERG: EXCAVATIONS AT PREHISTORIC ELATEIA, 1959



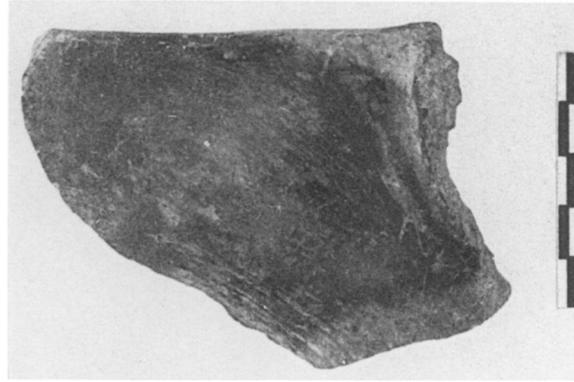
a. Handles



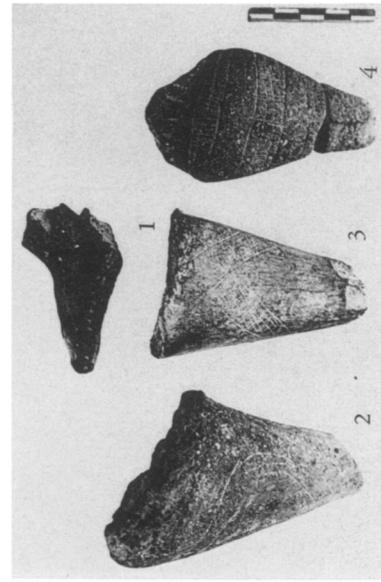
b. Underside of a



c. Legs

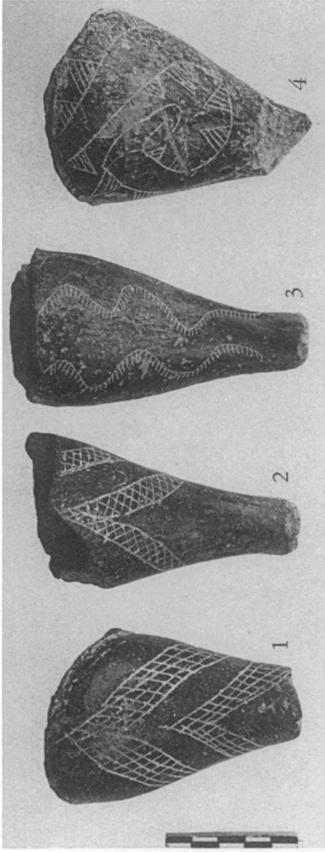


d. Body Fragment



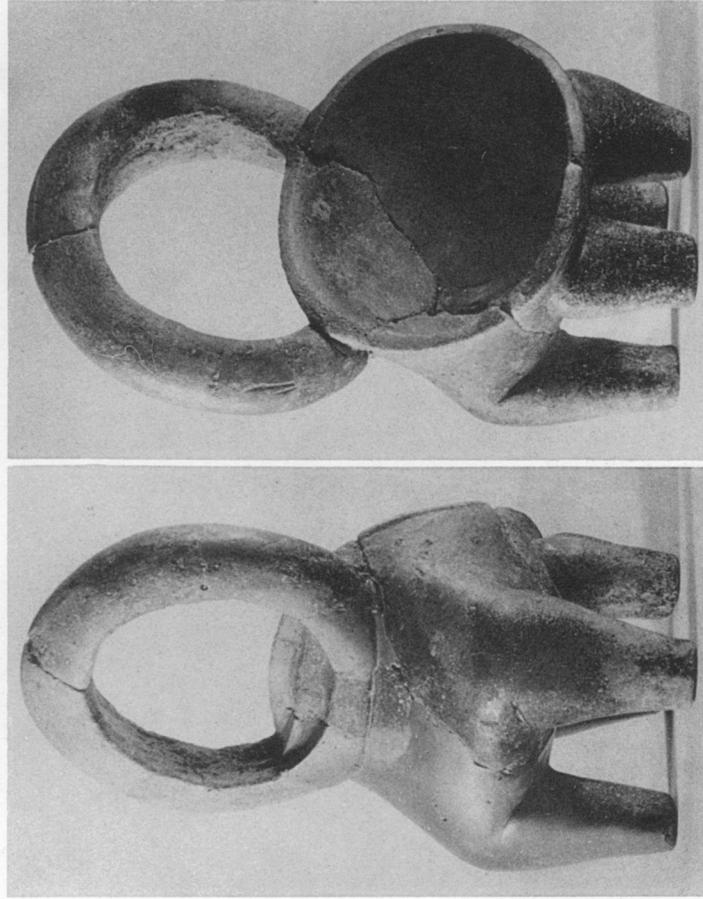
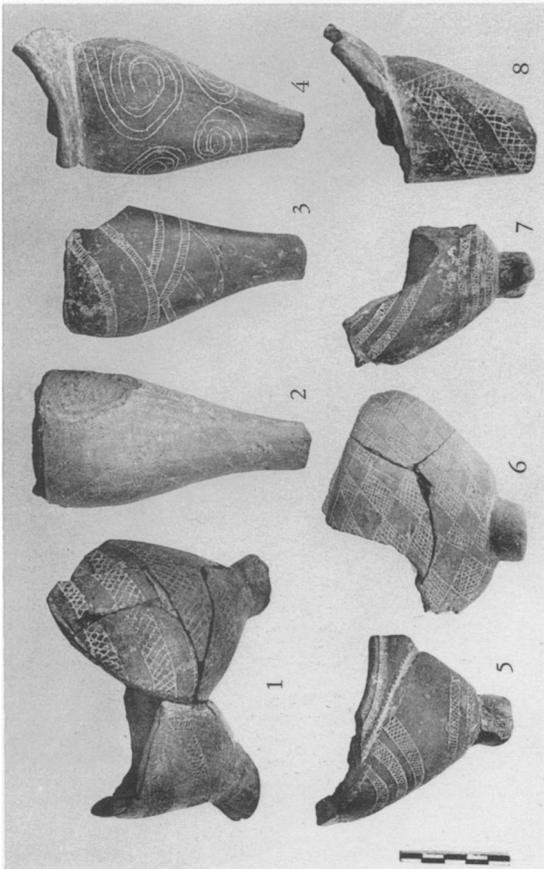
e. Body Fragment and Legs, from Corinth

Four-legged Vases

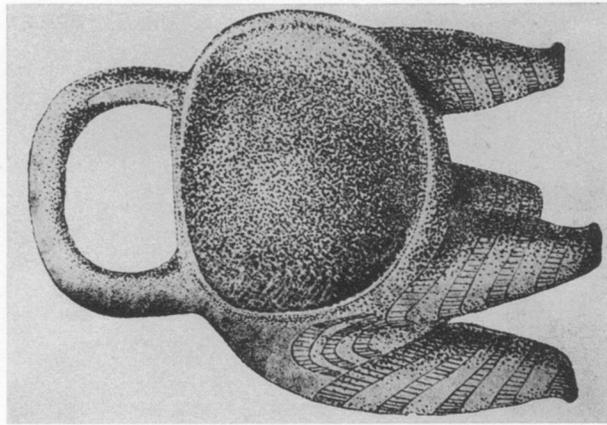


b

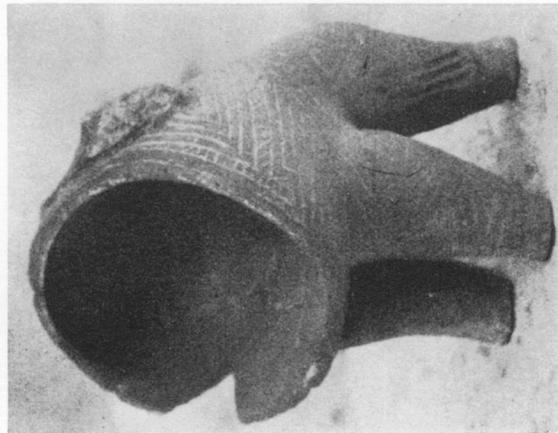
a-b. Legs from Drachmani



e. From Danilo, Yugoslavia



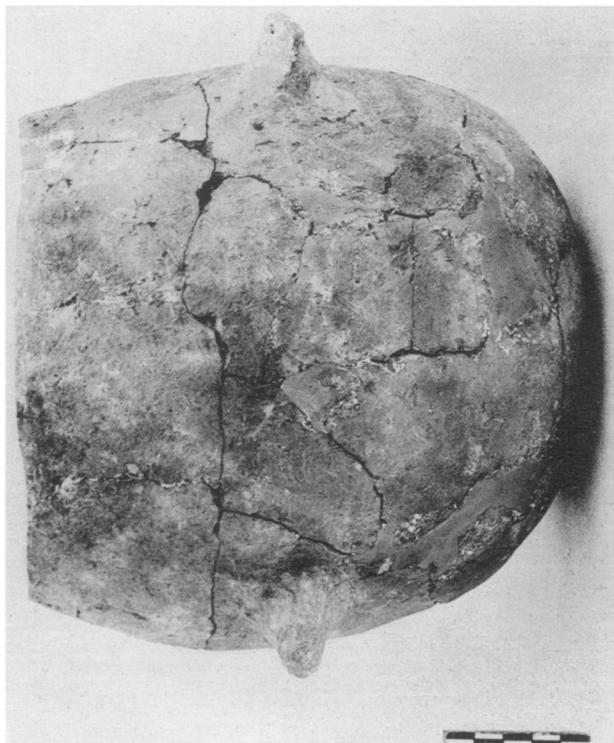
d. From Kakanj, Yugoslavia



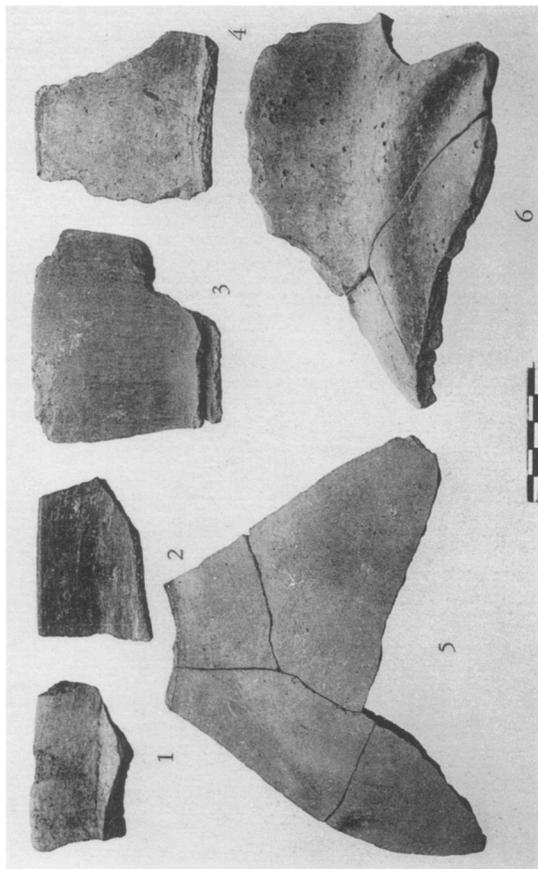
c. From Danilo, Yugoslavia

Four-legged Vases

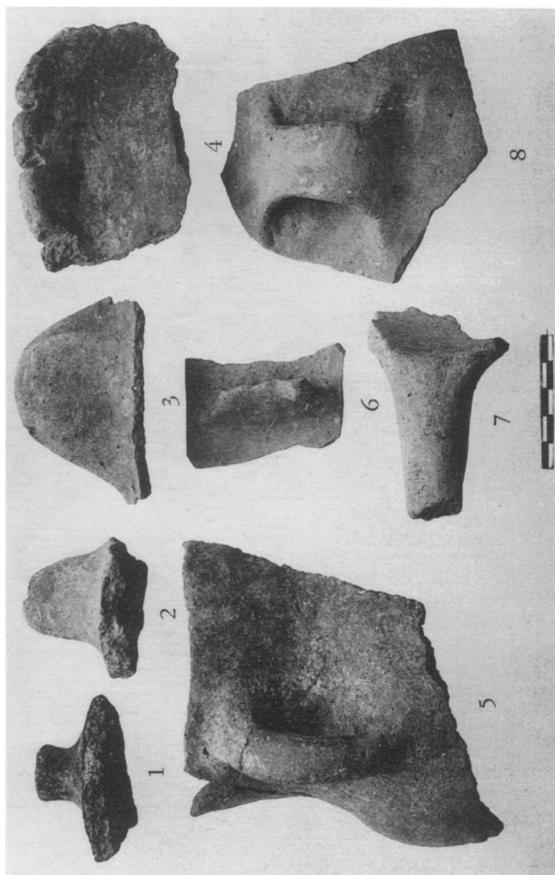
SAUL S. WEINBERG: EXCAVATIONS AT PREHISTORIC ELATEIA, 1959



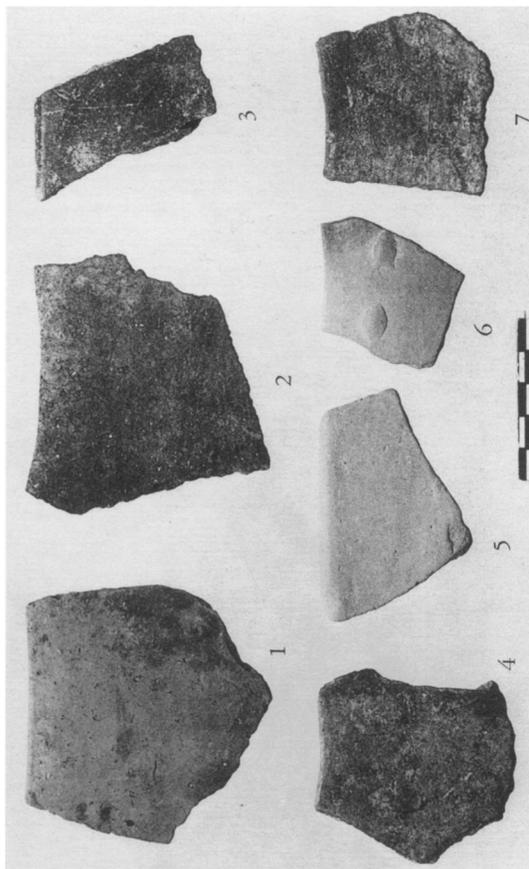
a. Coarse Bowl with Lugs from Bothros, Trench 3



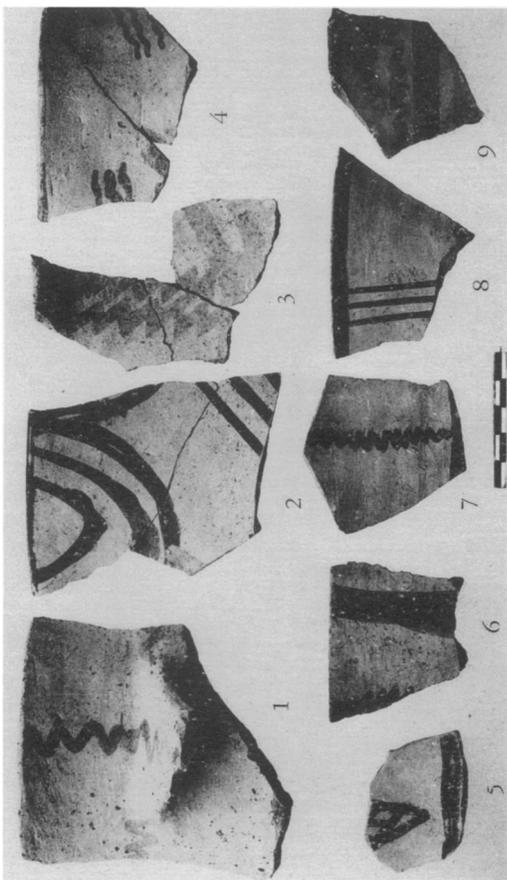
b. Fragments of Collared Jugs, Late Neolithic



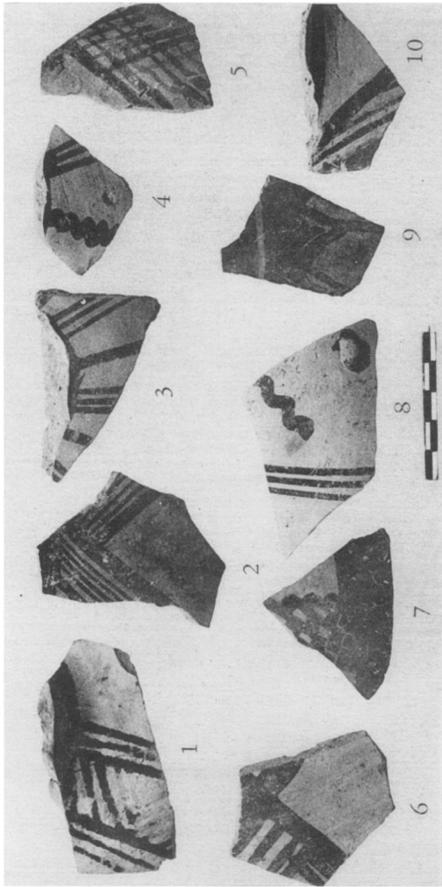
c. Lugs and Handles, Late Neolithic



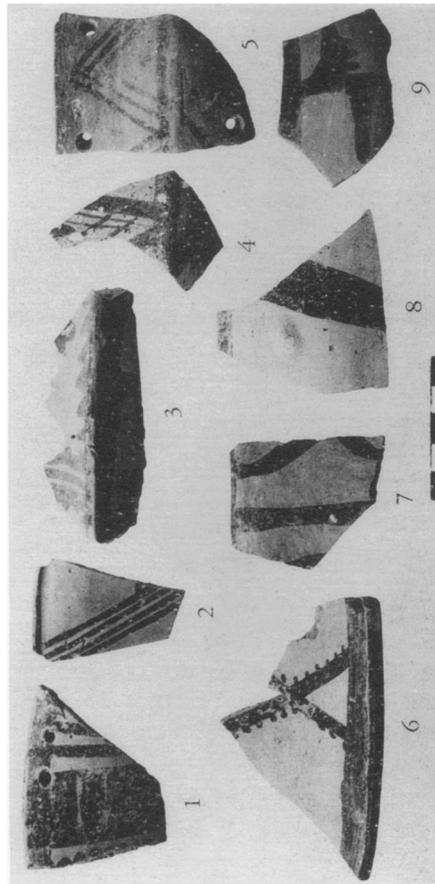
d. Fragments of Hole-mouthed Jars, Late Neolithic



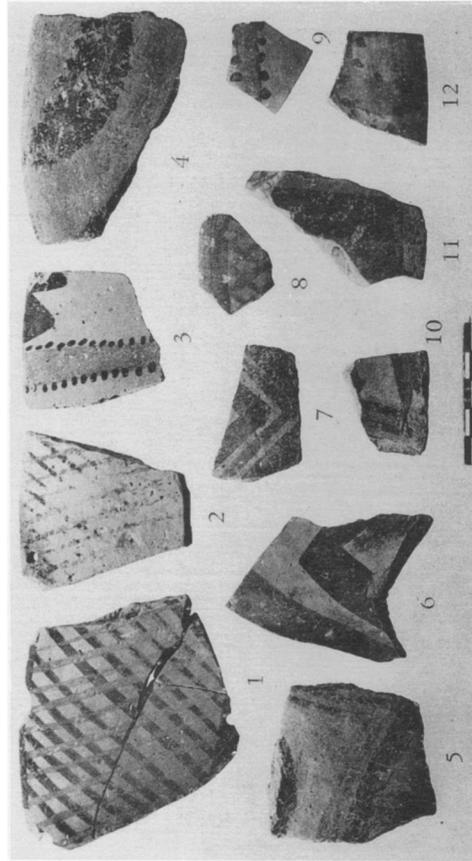
a. Jar Collars, Matt-painted Ware



b. Fragments of Jar Bodies, Matt-painted Ware



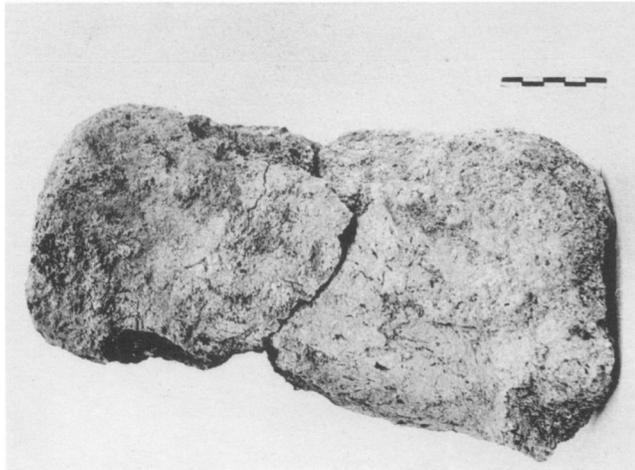
c. Fragments of Carinated Bowls and "Fruitstands," Matt-painted Ware



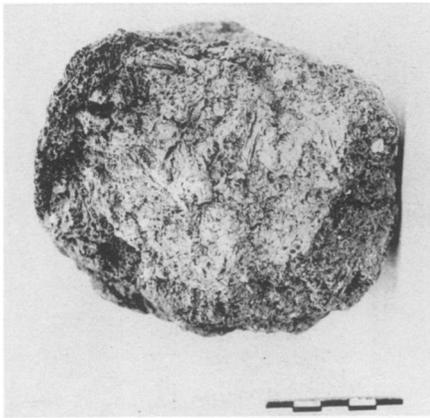
d. Fragments of Polychrome Ware

Late Neolithic

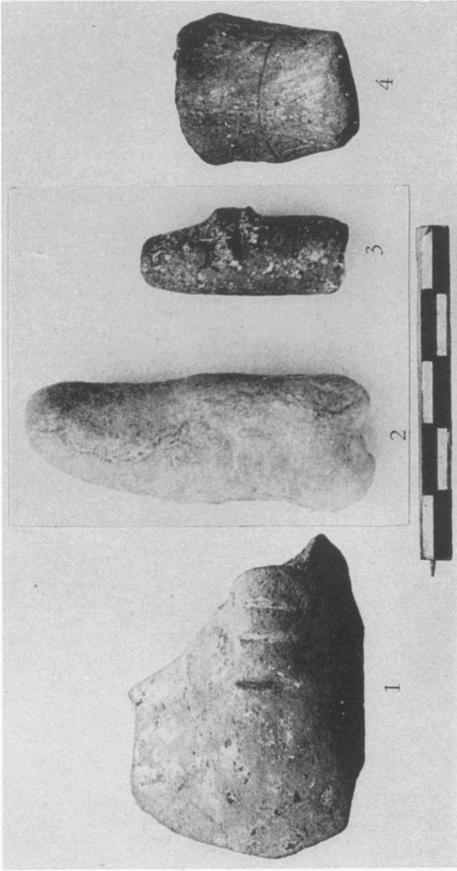
SAUL S. WEINBERG: EXCAVATIONS AT PREHISTORIC ELATEIA, 1959



a. Pillar of Unbaked Clay, from Bothros in Trench 3



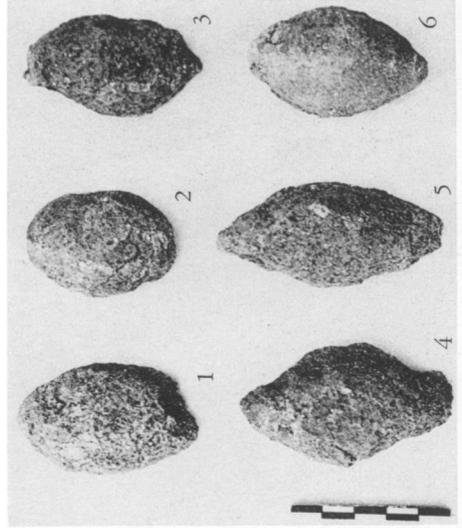
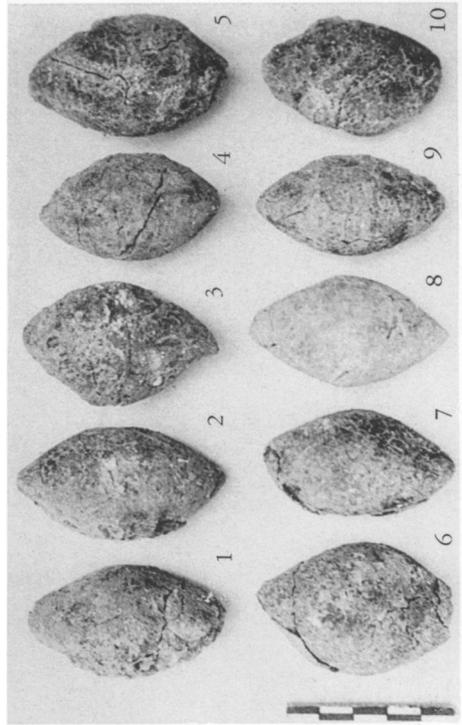
b. Cross-section of a



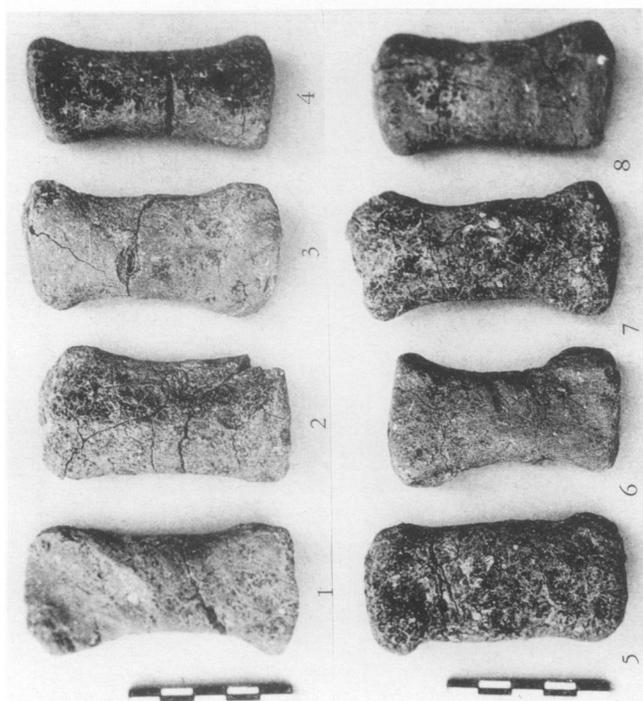
c. Fragments of Figurines and a Phallus (2)



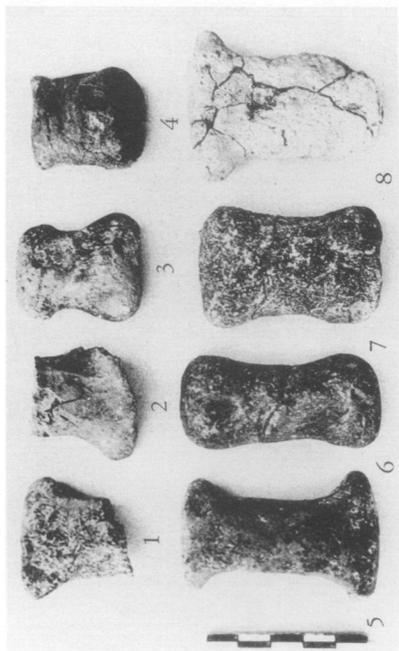
d. Fragment of a Figurine, Middle Neolithic



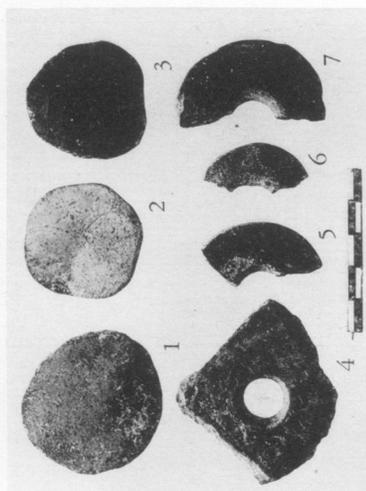
e-g. Sling Bullets of Unbaked Clay, Early Neolithic



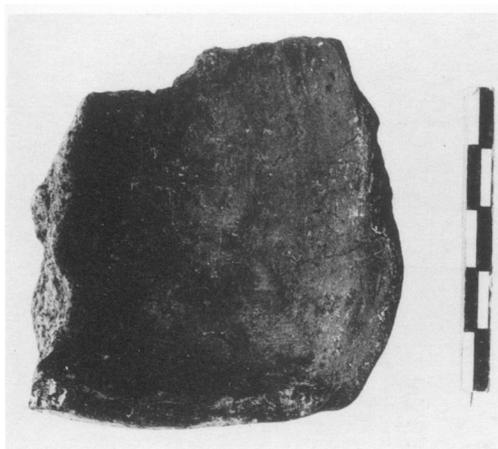
a-b. Spools of Unbaked Clay, Early and Middle Neolithic



b



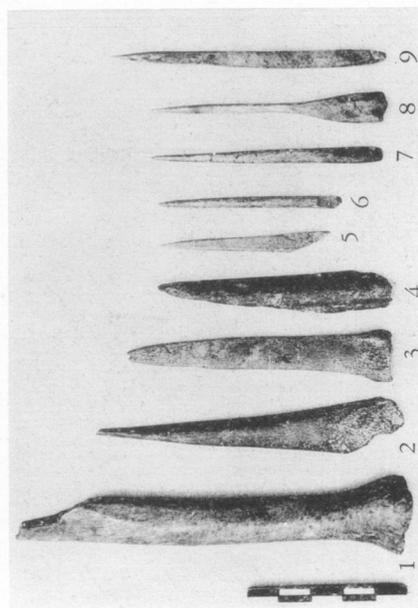
c. Pottery Discs (1-3) and Pierced Discs (5-7)



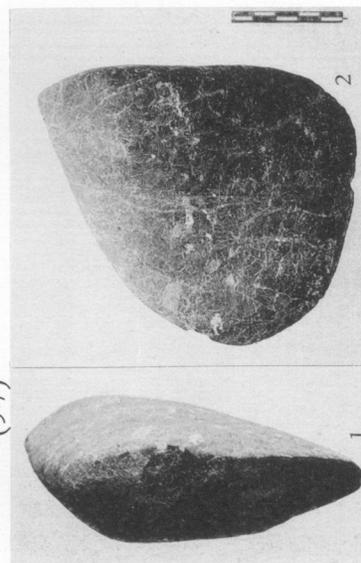
d. Clay Lamp, Early Neolithic



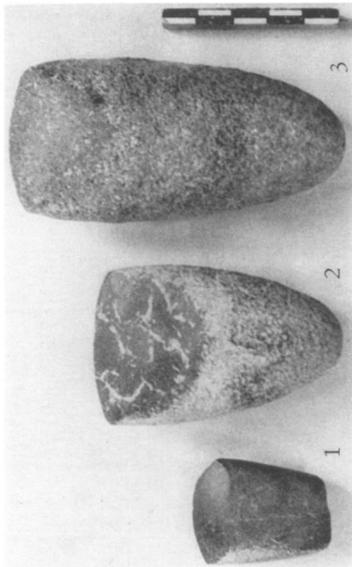
g. Marble Bowl Fragment (1), Marble Amulet (2) and Boar's Tusk (3)



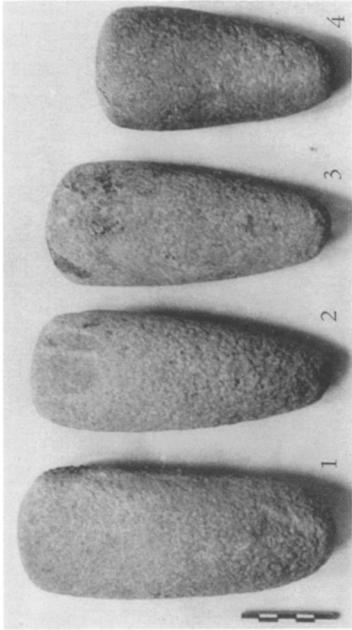
e. Bone Points, Early Neolithic (1-7) and Middle Neolithic (8-9)



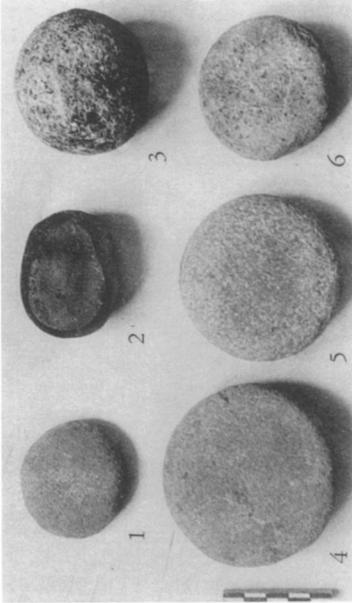
f. Stone Cleaver



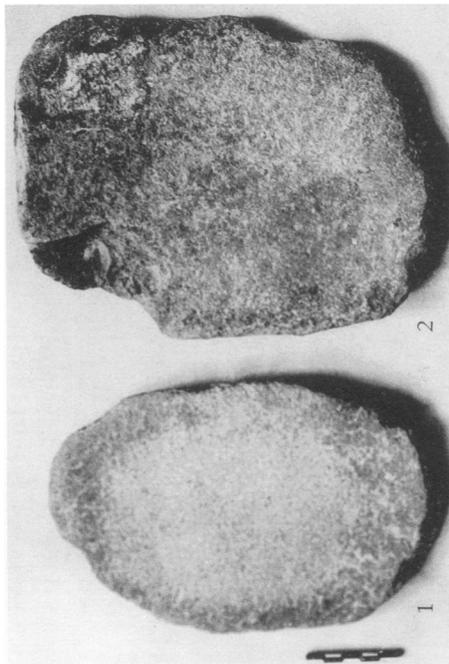
a. Stone Celts



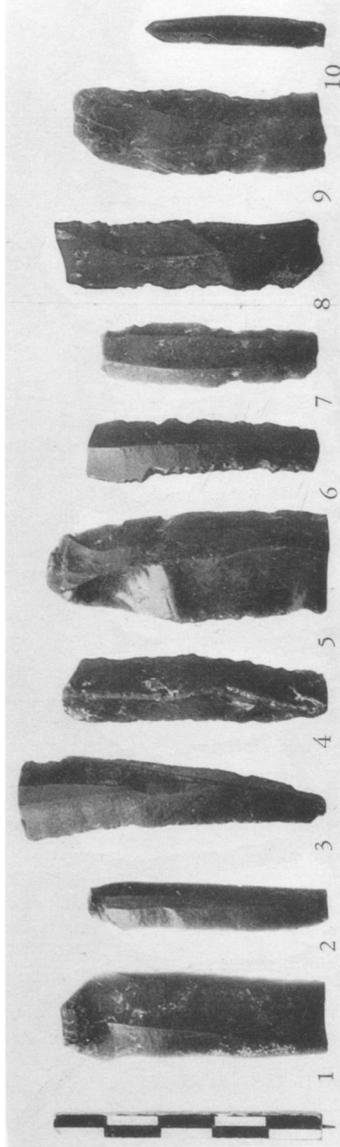
b. Stone Pestles



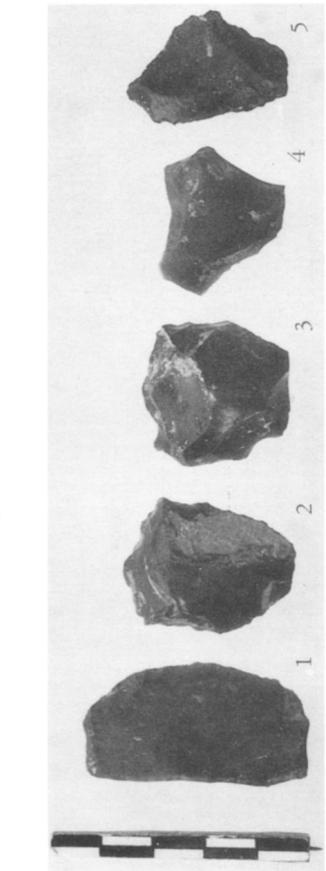
c. Rubbing Stones



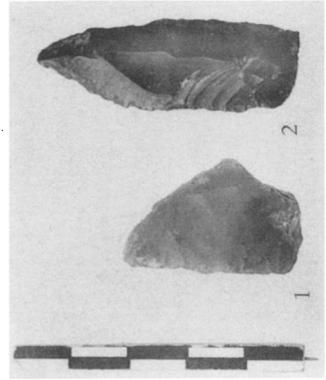
d. Stone Querns



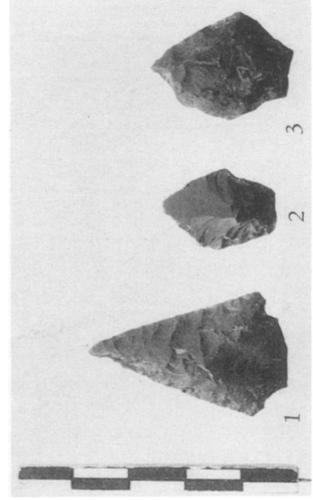
e. Blade Tools of Obsidian and Flint



f. Scrapers of Obsidian (2-4) and Flint (1, 5)



g. Chert Knife Blade (1) and Flint Scraper (2)



h. Obsidian Arrowheads