

# THE EARLIEST SETTLEMENTS AT EUTRESIS SUPPLEMENTARY EXCAVATIONS, 1958

(PLATES 40-53)

EUTRESIS in Boeotia, investigated by Hetty Goldman in the years 1924-1927, continues to be a principal source of our knowledge of the Bronze Age on the Greek mainland. It is a rich, well-stratified site; the excavations were conducted with skill and precision; and the definitive publication<sup>1</sup> provides an admirably clear report of what was found.

Although much of the hill was left untouched in the campaigns of the 1920's, the areas examined were sufficient to furnish reliable information about the Mycenaean and Middle Helladic settlements and about the remains of the three principal stages of Early Helladic habitations. Only the very earliest strata, lying on and just over virgin soil, proved relatively inaccessible. These were tested in six deep pits;<sup>2</sup> but owing to the presence of later structures, which were scrupulously respected by the excavators, the area at the bottom of the soundings was limited, amounting altogether to no more than 45 square meters. Two of the shafts revealed circular recesses cut in the hardpan, apparently the sites of huts; and the earliest deposits contained broken pottery of Neolithic types, mixed with relatively greater quantities of Early Helladic wares.<sup>3</sup>

The nature and significance of these earliest remains at Eutresis have been subjects of speculation during the past generation of prehistoric research. In the spring of 1958 Miss Goldman visited the site with the authors of this report and discussed the question again. It was agreed that a further test of the most ancient strata was worth undertaking, and a suitable region was noted for another deep sounding, considerably larger than any of the pits that had been excavated in 1927. Miss Goldman asked us to make this supplementary investigation, a proposal which we eagerly accepted. She generously provided the necessary funds.

A brief campaign was carried out in September, 1958, permission having been granted by the Department of Antiquities to the American School. Mr. John Threpsiades, Ephor for the district, lent his authority as representative of the Archaeological Service. Supervision of the digging was shared by the authors of this report, E. G. Caskey also keeping the field notes while J. L. Caskey did the surveying and took the photographs. Evangelos Lekkas was foreman, directing the activities of a dozen men.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Hetty Goldman, *Excavations at Eutresis in Boeotia*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1931.

<sup>2</sup> *Eutresis*, pp. xviii-xix, 9, 10, 76, 227.

<sup>3</sup> *Eutresis*, p. 12.

<sup>4</sup> The workmen comprised three experienced diggers, P. Nikolopoulos and K. Raptopoulos of

Work began on the first of the month, was impeded by unseasonable rains on several days, and had to be suspended on September 14 after a severe storm had brought damaging floods to Boeotia and Phokis. It was resumed and completed on September 25 and 26. The objects found were taken to Athens and kept in the working quarters of the Stoa of Attalos for study; here Mrs. Grace F. Muscarella made drawings of the pottery. In July, 1959, the collection was deposited in storerooms of the museum at Thebes, the main building of which was under reconstruction.

We would express special thanks to Mr. Threpsiades for his assistance and good advice; to the British School at Athens for a loan of three tents; and to the staff of the Agora Excavations for invaluable facilities. We are grateful also to the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, where the greater part of this report has been written during a term of residence.

## THE EXCAVATION

The area chosen for supplementary investigation was near the top of the hill, in the southwestern section of the old excavations (*Eutresis*, plan II c). A main trench, A, laid out by magnetic compass, ran 11.20 m. east and west and was 4 m. wide. It took in Miss Goldman's Pit III, Building O, and the northwestern part of House L. A second smaller sounding, Trench B, 3 m. long by 1.50 m. wide, was made just south of the western part of House M. The relationship of these trenches to the walls known previously is shown in Figure 1. For vertical measurements we used Miss Goldman's datum.<sup>5</sup>

### TRENCH A

Accumulations of the past 30 years were removed and digging began at a level around + 3 m. along the north side of Trench A. Building O (Early Helladic III) was much dilapidated and almost no traces of contemporary deposits remained. On the

Old Corinth and P. Kalios of Myloi, and men from the villages of Levktra (formerly Parapoungia) and Kapareli in Boeotia. N. Didaskalou, assistant technician at the Corinth museum, cleaned the pottery and did some of the mending at the site, completing the work later in Athens. The Boeotians, some of whom were sons of Miss Goldman's former workmen, were cooperative and remarkably quick to learn the technique of digging.

<sup>5</sup> An east-west baseline for surveying was established with a theodolite, 0.50 m. south of Trench A. It was marked by iron spikes at 10 m. intervals, one being at the western edge of the excavated area, another south of House M. These were covered over and left in place after the campaign, to serve again if ever needed. Two of the surveying points are indicated on the plan, Fig. 1. Vertical measurements, calculated by the original surveyor, Miss D. H. Cox, from virgin soil in Pit I (*Eutresis*, p. xix), were based by us on the flat stone at the south end of the more easterly cross wall in House M, the altitude of which had been recorded as +4.58 m. (*Eutresis*, plan II b and fig. 44).

shelf just north of our trench a few short segments of walls were still in place (Pl. 40, b).

The little horseshoe-shaped structure was removed and the surviving remains of House L (E. H. II) were then exposed and reexamined (Pl. 40, 3). Minor architectural details that had remained hidden from the earlier excavators were noted and some pottery was collected from patches of undisturbed floor-deposits. A large bothros

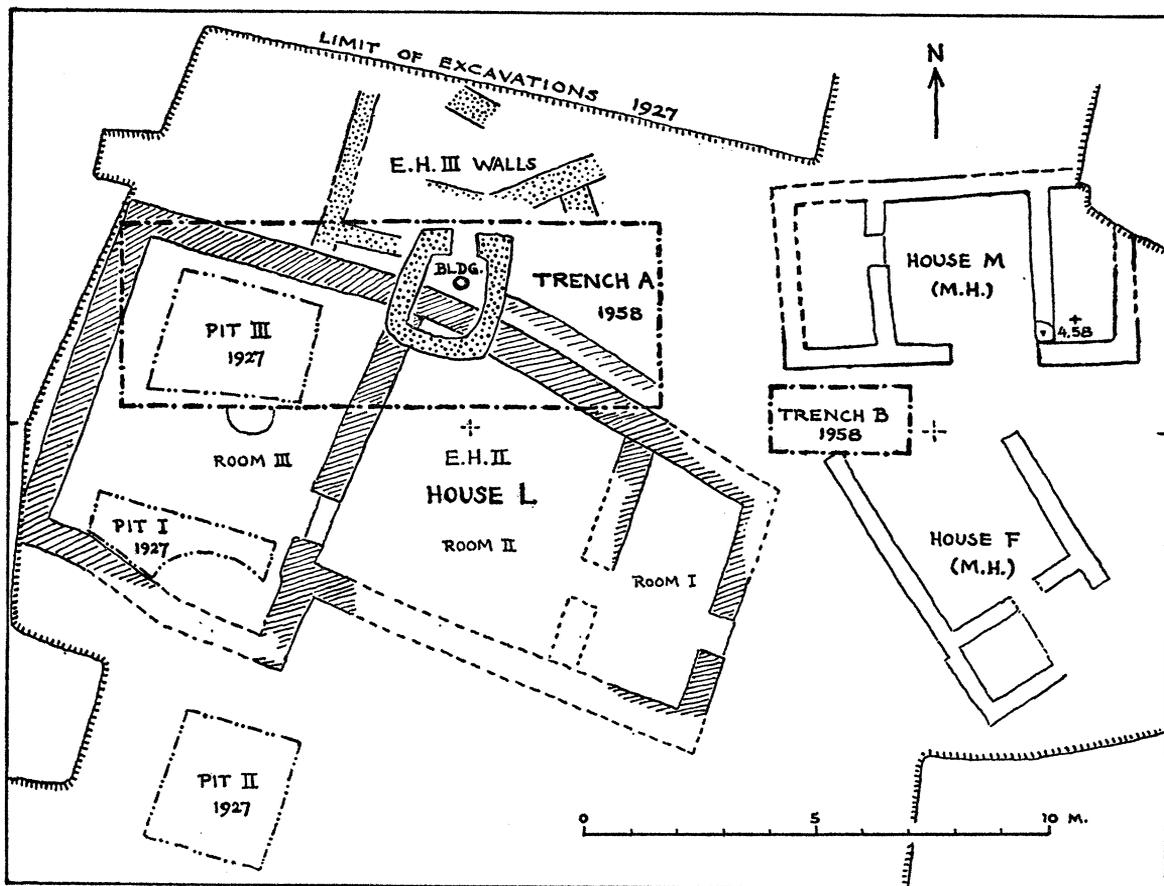


FIG. 1. General Plan, Showing Position of Trenches A and B (after *Eutresis*, plans II B, II C).

was found in Room III, west of the pan-hearth (*Eutresis*, fig. 13). Outlines of a large cavity filled with loose earth began to appear north of Room II.

With much regret we sacrificed the part of House L that lay within the trench, in order to reach the underlying strata. Below Room III another building soon emerged, and as excavation proceeded it became evident that this had stood for a considerable length of time, being wholly rebuilt at least once (Pl. 41, a, b). The later stage is designated in this report as House 6, the earlier as House 9. Pottery associated with House 9 was of types assignable to Early Helladic I, but at this

level the filling of the deep depression in the northeastern part of the trench still yielded wares of Early Helladic II in great quantity.

Architectural remains were scanty in the next earlier strata, consisting chiefly of successive stone pavements which were constructed now of moderate-sized cobbles, now again of quite small rounded pebbles or gravel (e.g. Pl. 41, c-e). These pavings, irregular for the most part and probably incomplete, were first encountered around + 1.83 m. and continued to be found through the next meter of deposits, almost to virgin soil.

Remnants of two structures assignable to an early stage of E. H. I came to light at this low level. One, in the western part of the trench, was a straight wall. The other, in the northeastern part and just below the area of subsiding strata that had been observed from the level of House L downwards, was the socle of a broad curving wall. It formed an arc of a circle roughly 6.40 m. in diameter (Pl. 42, a). At the center of this hypothetical circle was a great well-like shaft descending into the earth, filled with debris, too deep for us to dig out. This somewhat awesome pit we called the Chasm (Pl. 42, b).

Under the earliest stone structures was the pinkish clayey virgin soil, its surface irregular and cut by numerous pits and cavities of various shapes and depths (Pl. 42, c, d). Generally they were rounded in outline, 0.50 m. to 1.50 m. in diameter, and 0.10 m. to 0.60 m. deep. All contained sherds of early pottery; at least one, Pit X, completely covered and sealed by the first of the pebble pavements, held an unmixed deposit of Neolithic wares.

#### TRENCH B

A small sounding was made in order to relate the upper Early Helladic and first Middle Helladic strata to the series tested in Trench A. Digging began at the present general level in this sector, around +4.50 m. Traces of a cobblestone paving were found near the top, then part of a gravel paving. Next came a stratum of burnt debris 0.25 m. thick. Below this was brown earth, without walls or discernible floor-levels. Excavation was halted at +3.30 m.

In the following account we present a description of the remains in chronological order with brief catalogues of the objects found. The successive deposits and strata are grouped under headings I to X. Material from the earliest periods is presented in relatively greater detail than that from the later, better known, contexts. Commentary upon the evidence observed is reserved to the closing section of the report.

#### GROUP I. PIT X.

Pit X (Fig. 3, Plan A) was similar in appearance to several of the other cavities in virgin soil but its contents were different. Therefore it is described here separately.

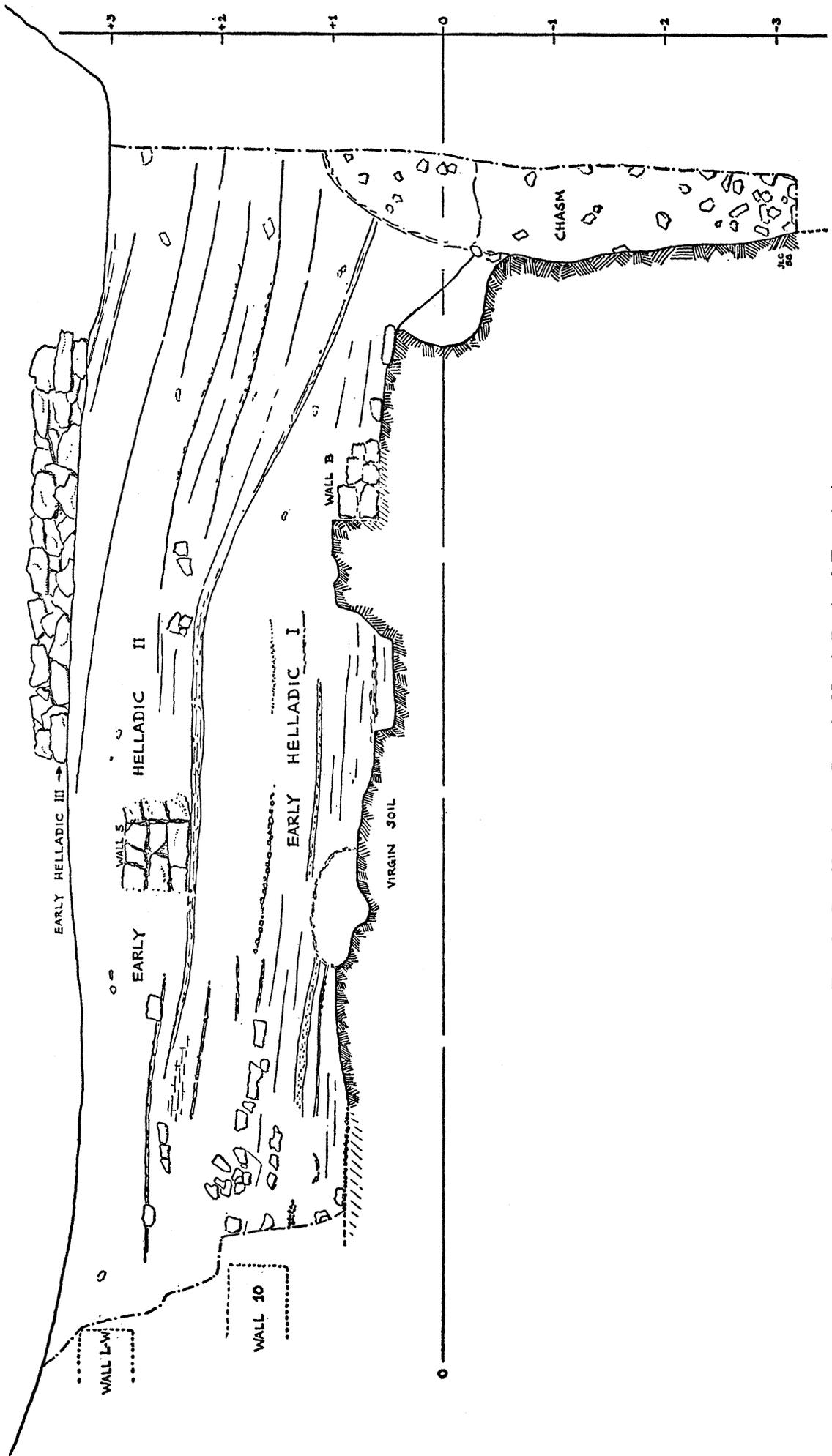


Fig. 2. Stratification as Seen in North Bank of Trench A.

It was nearly circular, regular in outline, about 1.35 m. in diameter and 0.55 m. deep, its bottom at +0.35 m. Adjoining it and extending westward to Pit Y there was a broad shallow depression only 0.10 m. to 0.15 m. deep. Pit X lay beneath the earliest of the tight pebble pavements, which was 0.04 m. to 0.05 m. thick and rested at an average level of +0.92 m. It contained dark earth and burnt matter. From it were recovered one-third of a tinful of pottery, a fragment of a figurine, bits of flint and obsidian, and some animal bones.

#### POTTERY

*Red-brown glazed ware.* Firm, fine-textured buff or light brown biscuit, coated with lustrous glaze that is generally red but may verge on buff, orange, or brown. The glaze resembles, and is presumably identical with, the Neolithic *urfirmis* of Orchomenos and Peloponnesian sites. Shapes: rounded and carinated bowls; jars, e.g. **I.1-2**, Pl. 43; collar-necks and bases (like II.4-6, Pl. 43).

*Patterned ware; lustrous or semilustrous paint.* Fine buff to light brown biscuit, like the preceding; surface burnished; linear patterns in moderately lustrous glaze-paint, e.g. **I.3-4**, Pl. 43.

*Patterned ware; dull paint.* Moderately fine biscuit, sandy in texture, containing particles of white matter; generally darker in color than the above, less carefully made. The surface may be left plain; more frequently it shows light or moderately thorough burnishing; in some cases it is wholly coated with a thin dull wash, irregularly and smearily applied. Decorative patterns are casually drawn in dull paint: single lines or groups of lines in dark purplish or brownish gray; broad bands in light reddish brown bordered with dark gray or near-black; groups of reddish and gray-black lines. Shapes: chiefly large vessels, e.g. **I.5-7**, Pl. 44; fragments of tall collar-necks (of jugs?) with slightly outturned plain rim, **I.8-9**, Fig. 4, Pl. 44; small jar, **I.10**, Pl. 44; asymmetrical vessel, perhaps askoid, with deep red-brown surface, **I.11-12**, Pl. 44 (cf. *Black Matt-paint on Red, Eutresis*, pp. 77-78).

*Thin black burnished ware.* Fine-textured compact gray biscuit; thin walls; surfaces carefully and thoroughly burnished except, occasionally, in small panels, triangles, or bands, which appear as reserved areas of gray against the black or near-black ground. In these spaces occur patterns of slanting lines, chevrons, and cross-hatching, produced by burnishing; the lines may be very fine and neat, or rough and careless. A few sherds preserve traces of plastic decoration in chains of very small pellets or elongated lozenges. Holes were bored for the mending of cracked vessels. The fabric is discussed as *Burnish-decorated ware, Eutresis*, pp. 76-77. Shapes: principally or exclusively deep bowls or beakers with upright, slightly concave sides, and a sharp carination at the joint of sides and lower body; the rims are plain,

occasionally turning outward. Photograph of sherds **I.13-24**, Pl. 43; profiles **I.25-30**, Fig. 4. Burnished patterns, **I.15, I.21, I.22** (cf. II.22, II.25), Pl. 43. Plastic decoration like II.20-21, Pl. 43.

*Coarse semiburnished ware.* Rough fabric; clay of biscuit contains foreign matter; sometimes spongy; usually gray, varying toward brown or black; surface incompletely smoothed or burnished. Fragments of large open jar show parallel lines carelessly painted in dull dark paint on gray ground. Other shapes: chiefly open bowls; a few small, e.g. **I.31** with nearly upright rim and **I.32** spreading, with knob or lug (Fig. 4), the rest larger and thicker like those of the heavy burnished class in Group II.

*Pithoi.* Fragments of very large storage jars. Biscuit moderately fine; surfaces smoothed.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

*Obsidian.* Awl or point: Inv. M117. Also three blades, three chips.

*Flint.* One blade.

*Terracotta.* Fragment of figurine: **I.33** (Inv. M40), Pl. 52. H. pres. 0.059. Fine micaceous orange-tan biscuit; surface coated, burnished, reddish. Left leg, hip, and buttock preserved, broken away from the right leg and from the body, which were formed of other lumps of clay. Buttock was probably formed of a separate lump, here coalesced with leg. Groove between belly and thigh; vertical groove to mark sex; horizontal groove near bottom of fragment, probably to set off slight pedestal that indicated the foot. At top of thigh, toward front, surface broken away where hand had rested (see commentary).

**(I).34** (Inv. M34), Pl. 52. Found in upper filling of the Chasm with pottery of E.H.II, obviously out of context; presumably belongs chronologically with I.33. H. pres. 0.079. Moderately fine clay, gray at core, pink at surface. Navel punched; roll of fat at waist above a broad flat zone; vertical cuts between thighs and between buttocks; median groove in center of back. As in the case of I.33, the surface of the upper thighs shows where the hands have been detached.

#### GROUP II. DEPOSITS ON VIRGIN SOIL AND IN CAVITIES EXCEPT PIT X.

The principal cuttings in virgin soil are indicated on Plan A, Figure 3, and the general contours may be seen in photographs, Plate 42, c and d. Fillings of the various pits and cavities, as well as other deposits that extended over the rest of the undulating surface, below the level of the earliest structures, were of fairly uniform character. The earth was brownish, here and there holding considerable quantities of carbonized

wood and other vegetable matter scattered in very small particles. There were some animal bones and many potsherds, the latter consistent in types, and a number of miscellaneous objects. Obsidian was plentiful. It seems probable that much of this material belongs chronologically together. Some pieces, particularly the sherds, may of course be appreciably earlier than the general run, but there is no way of separating them stratigraphically and they are therefore recorded here in a single catalogue.

Pits Z and W clearly antedate Wall B (Group III), lying in part below its bedding. Pit W is also seen to be earlier than the Chasm, which cut away some of its northern half, presumably in the next phase of the settlement. Pit Y, at the south-

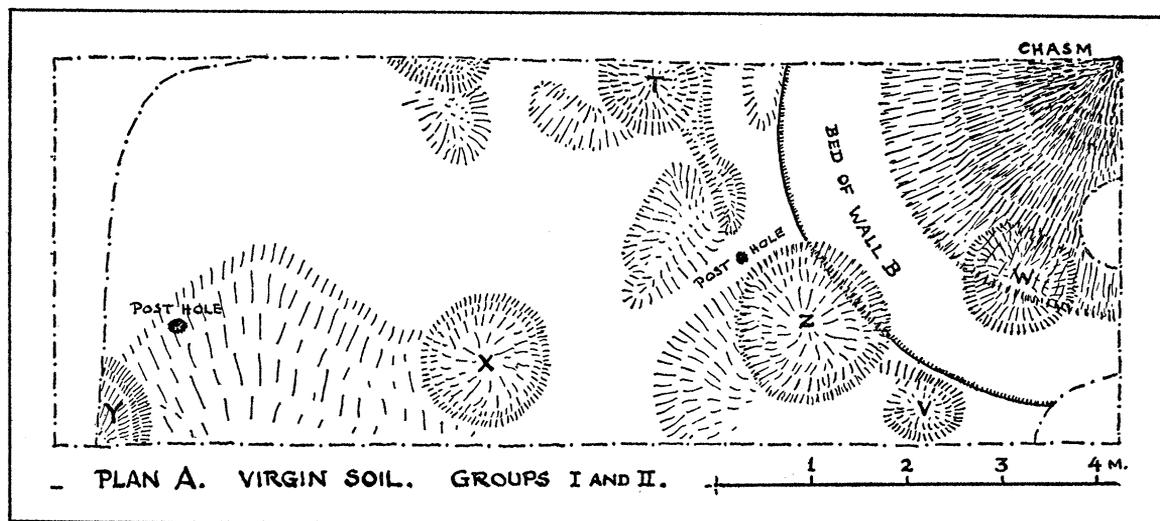


FIG. 3.

western corner of the excavated area, must once have been covered by the first of the pebble pavements (Fig. 5, Plan B), and might be expected to yield objects exactly parallel to those of Pit X; in fact, however, it contained also some pottery of the thick burnished class that was absent in Pit X though plentiful in the rest of Group II. Pit Y lay below the big bothros that was dug from House L in Early Helladic II (see Group VIII and Fig. 10, Plan K). We had no difficulty in distinguishing the contents of the bothros from the older material in Pit Y, but it is possible that the very digging of the deep shaft in the time of House L may have disturbed and partially mixed some remains of two or more strata at the lowest levels. One cannot be sure that this happened; it is safer, however, to consider the pottery of Pit Y with that of Group II in general than to suppose it must all be contemporary with that of Group I.

Two small cavities, 0.12 m. to 0.15 m. in diameter, came to light. One was near the west end of the trench, under the first pebble pavement, the other just northwest

of Pit Z (Fig. 3, Plan A, and Pl. 42, a, lower left). They probably once held upright wooden posts, perhaps parts of early shelters. An irregular channel ran roughly northward from a point near the latter; whether associated or not was uncertain. The channel appeared to have been cut by another pit, T. In several places shallow depressions intersected, or were intersected by, deeper ones. Caked mud lay in some of the hollows, suggesting that water had seeped down into them from the earth above in later times.

#### POTTERY

*Red-brown glazed ware.* Fabric as in Group I. A few fragments. Shapes: plain rims of open vessels, **II.1-2**, Pl. 43; base (?), **II.3**, Pl. 43; collar-bases of rounded jars or open basins, **II.4-6**, Pl. 43; upright neck, **II.7**, Pl. 44; large vessels, **II.8**, Pl. 44.

*Patterned ware; lustrous or semilustrous paint.* Very few small fragments, e.g. **II.9-10**, Pl. 44.

*Patterned ware; dull paint.* Fabric as in Group I. A few sherds in Pits T, Y, and Z; considerable numbers in the thin stratum of deposits extending over the central and western parts of Trench A immediately above virgin soil. Shapes and patterns in general as in Group I. Large vessels, jugs or jars, **II.11-15**, Pl. 44; cylindrical base, **II.16**, Fig. 4, Pl. 44; fragment **II.17** with dark pattern on red-brown coated ground, like I.11-12, Pl. 44; "butterfly-motive" (opposed triangles) on side, **II.15**, Pl. 44.

Two fragments represent a different variety of ware, light buff in color, fairly rough in texture, with plain uncoated surfaces. **II.18**, Pl. 44, is from a sharply carinated vessel with decoration in dull black. **II.19**, Pl. 44, from the shoulder of a jug or closed jar, has spots of dull brownish paint near the root of the handle.

*Thin black burnished ware.* Fabric, shapes, and decoration as in Group I. Found principally in the general stratum; a few fragments in Pit Z. Examples, **II.20-27**, Pl. 43.

*Heavy slipped and burnished ware.* Biscuit moderately coarse, containing uneven particles of stone; grayish brown to lighter tan. Surfaces sometimes carefully smoothed, in other instances casually and irregularly finished; normally coated with a thick slip of fine texture, but in some cases this apparent coating may have been produced by burnishing. The surface is characteristically lustrous, often with a high gloss. Marks of the burnishing tool are usually visible. Colors generally dark, from near-black to gray and brown. The type is presumably included in the category of *Polished ware, Eutresis*, p. 83. Shapes: open bowls and small basins; rims rounded or flattened; broad handles like horizontal lugs at or near rim; lugs, often solid or incompletely perforated, with ends bevelled.

Bowl: **II.28** (Inv. P17), Pl. 46. From upper filling of Pit Z. H. to rim 0.114;

H. to top of tab 0.123; D. 0.229; D. bottom 0.061. Restored. Moderately fine brown biscuit with gray core. Surface coated with thick slip, lightly burnished, brown to black. Rim flattened; rising at one side to tab-handle; width of tab uncertain. Bottom slightly concave.

Others bowls and basins: **II.29** (D. more than 0.40), Fig. 4, Pl. 45; **II.30-31**, Pl. 45; **II.32**, fragment with handle swelling from horizontal ridges on body and with white-filled slashes on top of rim, Fig. 4, Pl. 45; rim profiles **II.33-35**, Fig. 4; with solid lugs, **II.36**, Fig. 4, and **II.37**, Pl. 46.

**II.38-39**, fragments of small flaring basin in reddish brown burnished ware with pattern in dull buff paint, Fig. 4, Pl. 45. D. estimated *ca.* 0.32.

Small vessels in black burnished ware with distinct slip: bowls, **II.40-41**, Pl. 45; jar or pyxis **II.42**, Fig. 4, Pl. 45.

*Red slipped ware.* A few fragments of small bowls or saucers like those characteristic of Groups III-V, found chiefly in the general stratum; only two or three sherds in Pits Y and Z.

*Coarse semiburnished ware.* Fabric generally as in Group I. Many fragments, particularly in Pits Y and Z.

Scoop: **II.43** (Inv. P16), Pl. 47. From upper filling of Pit Z. L. restored 0.213; W. at rim restored 0.182. About half, including most of rim, missing. Compact brown biscuit, gray at core; marks of vegetable tempering. Surfaces lightly burnished; interior burnt, exterior mottled brown to black.

Other vessels represented: bowls, basins, open jars; rims rounded or flattened; horizontal lugs; flat bottoms. Traces of streaky paint on a few fragments.

*Pithoi.* Fragments in Pits T and Z and in general stratum.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

*Obsidian.* Blades: Inv. M 115, M 127, and 37 other pieces, including many of broad form. Awl: Inv. M 116. Also 39 chips, 5 large pieces.

*Flint.* Blade: Inv. M 114; dull red; broad form.

*Bone.* Tubular handles: **II.44** (Inv. M 37), Pl. 52; L. 0.084. **II.45** (Inv. M 39), Pl. 52; L. pres. 0.081. Awl: **II.46** (Inv. M 30), Pl. 53; L. pres. 0.074; flat, made from rib.

*Terracotta.* Stamp seal or *pintadera*: **II.47** (Inv. M 35), Pl. 52. From upper filling of Pit Z. L. pres. 0.052, W. 0.038, H. with part of handle 0.019. Tips of seal and top of handle lost in antiquity, breaks worn. Red-brown clay of moderately fine

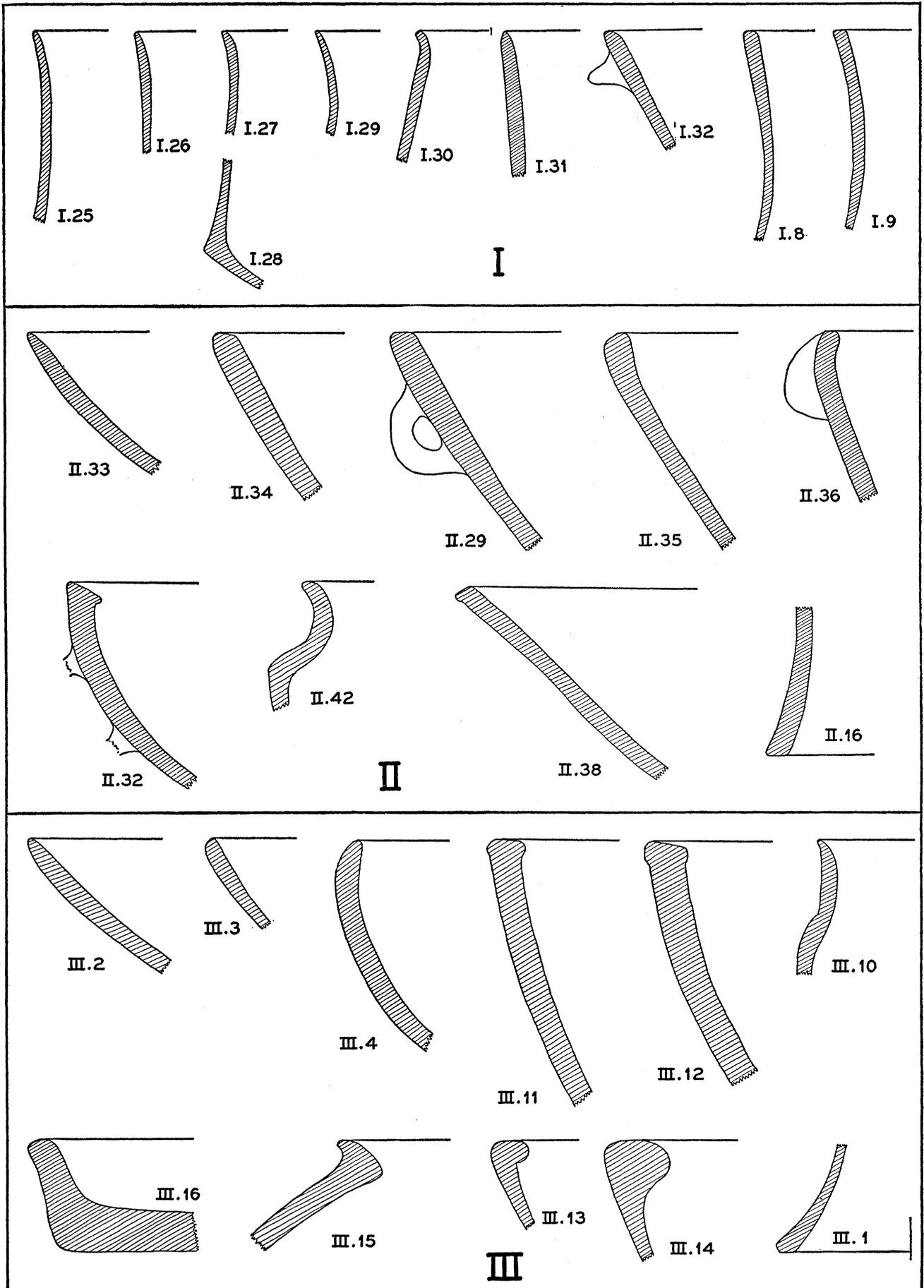


FIG. 4. Profiles of Pottery, Groups I-III. Scale 1:2.

texture; surface smoothed. Whorl: **II.48** (Inv. M 36), Pl. 53; H. 0.026, D. 0.052. Orange-brown clay, mottled gray.

### GROUP III. FIRST BUILDINGS AND PAVEMENTS.

In the third group of remains we include the earliest pebble pavement (Fig. 5, Plan B) which covered the deposits of Groups I-II, and the surviving parts of several

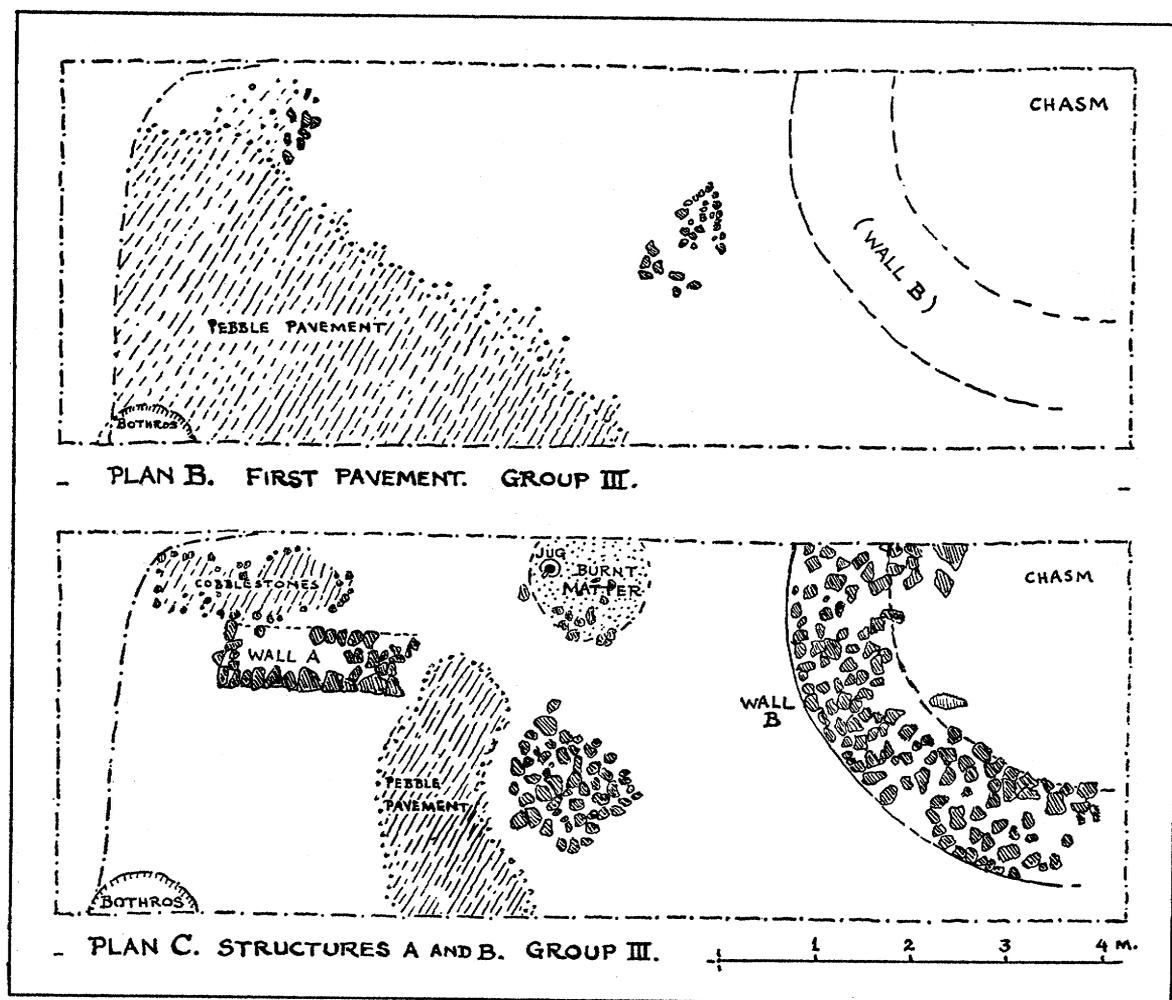


FIG. 5.

other structures that came next in chronological sequence, namely a second pavement, a fireplace, and stone foundations of two buildings (Fig. 5, Plan C).

The first pavement covered a roughly triangular area totalling nearly nine square meters within the space of Trench A. It was made of small pebbles tightly set, resembling the later one shown on Plate 41, e. The top surface was approximately

level at an average of +0.95 m. Excavation of Pit III in 1927 stopped at this pavement (the record of a "pebble court" at +1.27 m. in *Eutresis*, pl. II c, refers to another paving in the series, our Fig. 8, Plan D). To north and east there were groups of stones. The bottom of the foundations of Wall B rested at this level, but it seems certain that the round building was constructed a little later.

Part of a second pavement, belonging to this subsequent phase, lay over the first, its top surface at an average of +1.06 m. It too was made of small rounded pebbles, three to five centimeters in diameter. Near it were the remains of Wall A, about 2 m. long. This was a straight wall, some 0.65 m. thick, running east and west. It rested at +1.03 m. and was clearly later than the first pavement, which it overlapped. Some cobblestones lay just north of the wall and another group further east. At the north bank of our trench, about the middle of its length (Fig. 5, Plan C), there was a circular patch of burnt matter with small stones lying in it, probably an open hearth that had been used for some time. The accumulation of ashes was thick, and on them lay a small red jug, **III.7**, nearly complete.

The most notable structure encountered at this level was in the northeastern part of the trench, a broad curving wall, B, describing an arc of a circle and enclosing the large deep pit which we call the Chasm. A bedding for Wall B was cut into the virgin soil to a depth of some 0.25 m. to 0.40 m. (section, Fig. 2). The wall had an average thickness of about 1.05 m., its foundations being made of irregular stones of moderate size (Pl. 42, a). It was much dilapidated, standing in only a few places to a height of two courses, and the superstructure was entirely lost. Exact restoration is not possible, but Wall B appears to represent a circular building about 6.40 m. in diameter (Fig. 6).

A large depression in the general contours of the strata, observed at the level of House L (E.H.II) and continuously from there downward, had contracted like the cone of a funnel as the excavation proceeded. At the level of Structure B we came to the shaft of this funnel, roughly circular, descending vertically into the virgin soil. The shaft may be about 1.50 m. in diameter, judged by the part that could be seen, but even this segment was difficult to investigate, being in the extreme corner of our trench. The position appears in a photograph, Plate 42, a, taken before the close of digging; the rim of the shaft scraped clean is shown in Plate 42, b. Excavation was carried as deep as possible, to 3.20 m. below datum zero (Fig. 2). There we were obliged to stop, since the banks to north and east were made up of rather loose fill with sizeable stones, still within the shaft, and the danger of a collapse became too serious to risk. As may be seen in Plate 42, d, to clear a space all around Structure B and the Chasm would have required very extensive digging through deep accumulations of later debris, a task that could not be undertaken in the time available.

The top of the shaft, like the cone of the funnel above it, held much pottery of types assignable to Early Helladic II. Lower in the shaft the pottery was less plentiful,

and seemed to correspond with the styles of E.H.I. These earlier pieces are treated in the following catalogue with the material of Group III in general. Altogether a considerable quantity of pottery was recovered from this stratum, along with miscellaneous objects and many animal bones.

#### POTTERY

Total quantity about seven tinfuls.

*Patterned ware; dull paint.* Fabric as in Group I. A handful of sherds, including a fragment apparently from a pedestal, **III.1** (Fig. 4).

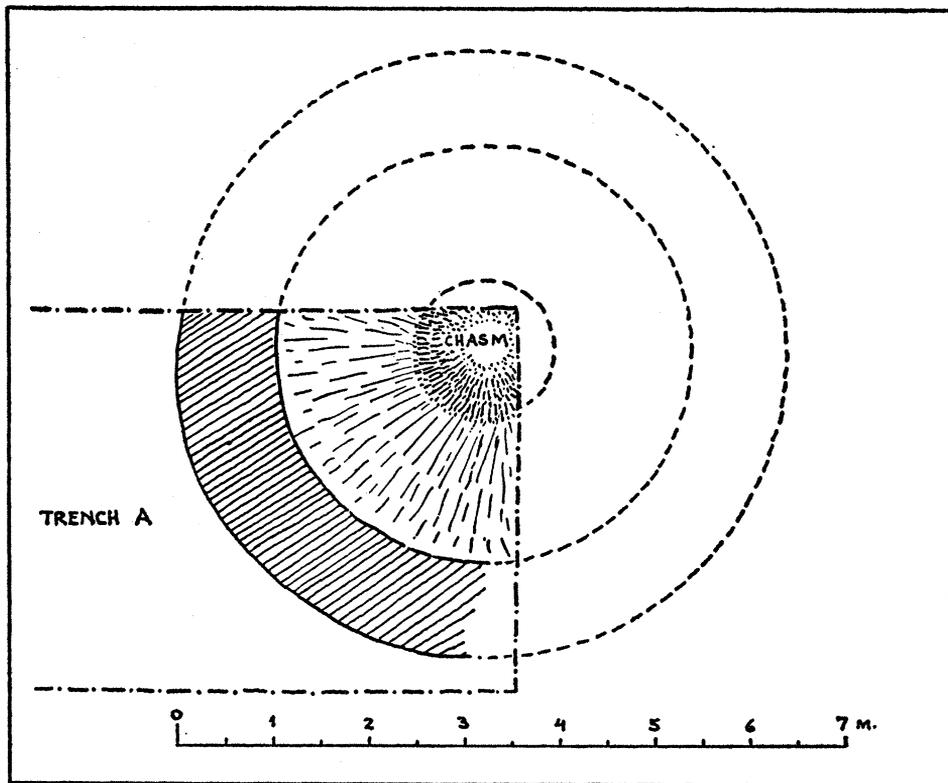


FIG. 6. Building B, Restored in Outline.

*Thin black burnished ware.* Fabric as in Group I. About ten sherds.

*Heavy slipped and burnished ware.* Fabric as in Group II. A moderate number of fragments, chiefly from large open bowls or small basins like II.34-36; perhaps all earlier than Group III.

*Red slipped ware.* Moderately fine biscuit with occasional impurities, lumps, and particles of stone; surface coated with slip and well burnished, often to a high luster;

normally deep red, varying to brown, sometimes discolored grayish. It is included as one of the types of *Polished ware, Eutresis*, p. 83. Occurs plentifully in this stratum, making up some 25 per cent of the total. Shapes: small bowls or saucers, e.g. **III.2-3**, Fig. 4; large open bowls, e.g. **III.4**, Fig. 4; pyxides; jugs, e.g. **III.5**, Pl. 46 and **III.6**, Fig. 7, from filling of the Chasm, and the following:

Jug: **III.7** (Inv. P 12), Pl. 46. Found on hearth at +1.06 m. H. to rim 0.101; D. 0.126. Chips missing; restored. Moderately rough orange-tan biscuit; surface smoothed, coated on exterior with thick red-brown slip; well burnished; worn. Rim thickened on outer side; profile of neck has characteristic double curve; bottom slightly concave; handle round in section, spreading at upper and lower attachments.

The good slipped ware occurs in a variant which may be called red washed ware, having a much thinner coating, usually lighter in color and showing little luster.

Closed jar: **III.8** (Inv. P 32, a-b), Pl. 47. H. pres. 0.167; D. as restored 0.355; D. rim 0.174. L. of fragment b with handle 0.115. Both fragments filled out with plaster; the curve of the shoulder as seen at left in the photograph is too broad. Hard yellowish buff biscuit of sandy texture, gray at core. Surface smoothed and apparently coated on exterior and on interior of rim and lower body with buff milky wash, over which appear traces of orange-red paint, possibly laid on as a decorative pattern; much worn. Very small horizontal lug on shoulder. The jar originally had two broad handles, or hollow grips,<sup>6</sup> one of which is preserved in fragment b.

Horizontal lugs occur frequently at or near the rims of bowls. They are solid, sometimes pierced vertically.

Fragment with lug: **III.9**, Pl. 47. Found in the lower filling of the Chasm but possibly intrusive from later deposits. L. of lug 0.105. Buff biscuit; surface coated, brown, slightly lustrous, but unlike the normal red slipped type. Apparently a rounded bowl with plain rim flattened at top. Ends of lug drawn out as disks.

*Burnished ware.* Moderately fine to moderately coarse biscuit; surfaces burnished, sometimes producing a "floated" or technical slip; colors dark gray-brown, gray, black, or mottled, occasionally with reddish or olive tinges (see *Polished ware, Eutresis*, p. 83). Parallel to red slipped ware, but the differences are not accidental. Shapes: shallow one-handled saucers or "spoons" (see Group IV); bowls.

Small ribbed jar or bowl: **III.10**, Fig. 4, Pl. 47. Gray-brown. Vertical ribbing on body made by pressure with round-tipped implement.

*Light-colored plain ware.* Fine to moderately fine biscuit; surfaces smoothed,

<sup>6</sup> Various called "ribbon loop handles," *Eutresis*, fig. 116; "large loop handles," C. W. Blegen, *Zygouries*, fig. 99; "tubular handles," W. A. Heurtley, *Prehistoric Macedonia*, fig. 57; "Schlaufenhenkel," K. Müller, *Tiryns*, IV, pp. 48-49. They were grasped on the outer surface, which offers excellent purchase.

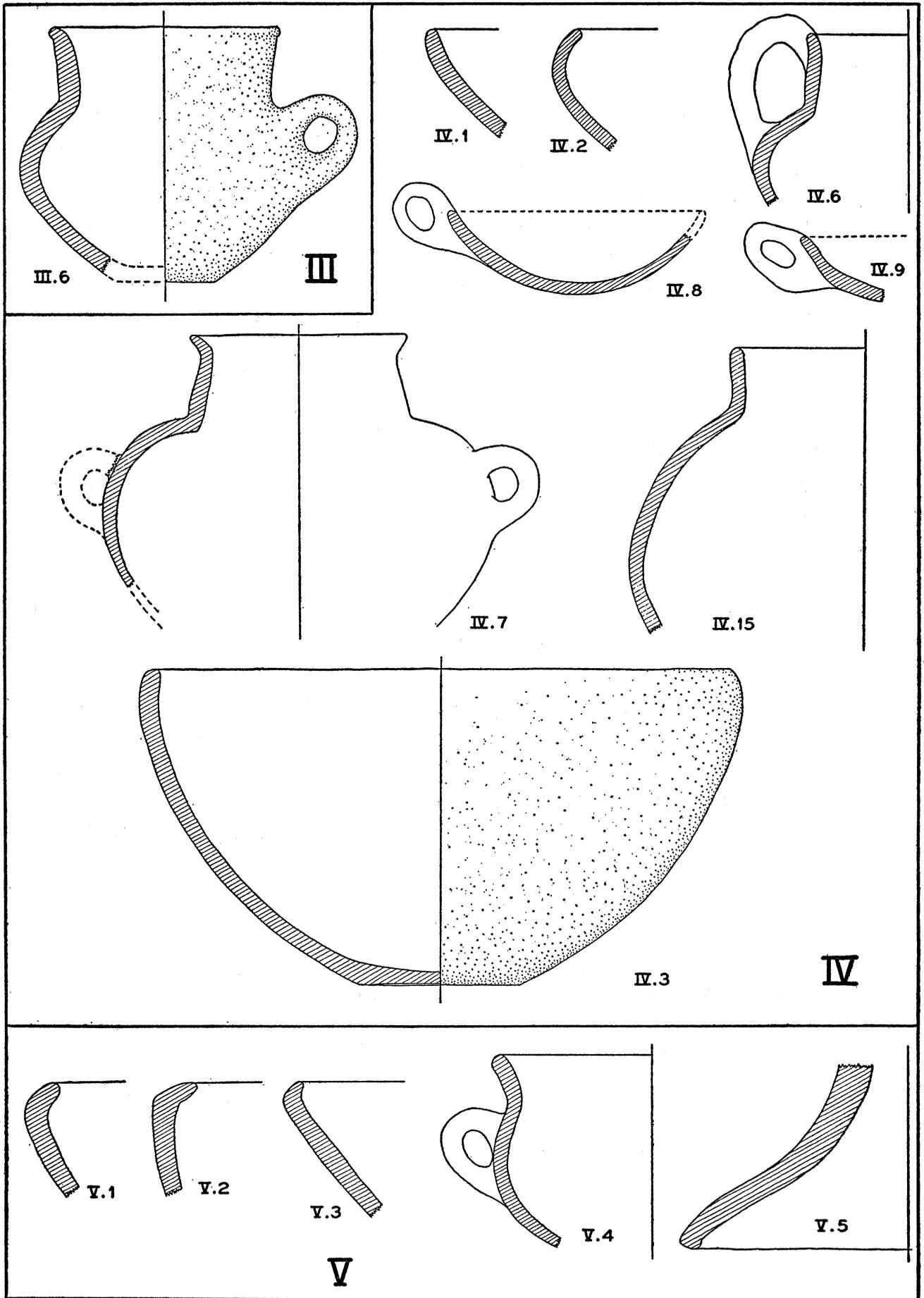


FIG. 7. Profiles of Pottery, Groups III-IV. Scale 1:2.

sometimes burnished; colors near-white to pale yellow, pinkish, and light buff, reminiscent of Corinthian fabrics. (Miss Goldman's *White ware*, *Eutresis*, p. 83). Shapes: small bowls or saucers with flaring or incurving rims, large and small jars (and jugs?) with flat or slightly concave bottoms; broad hollow grips at sides of large vessels; mat impressions on bases. No whole examples.

*Coarse ware*. Rough biscuit with particles of stone, moderately coarse to very coarse; colors gray to brown; surfaces usually smoothed, occasionally showing light incomplete burnishing. Shapes: open jars or deep basins with rims flattened and thickened, e.g. **III.11-12**, Fig. 4; vessels with pronounced roll on inside of rim and relatively thin walls, form of lower body uncertain, e.g. **III.13-14**, Fig. 4; rounded jar with contracted mouth, **III.15**, Fig. 4; flat pans, e.g. **III.16**, Fig. 4, Pl. 47; parts of stands probably used at the hearth (cf. IV.16-17, Pl. 47). Mat-impressions on flat bottoms of large vessels.

*Pithoi*. A score of fragments.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

*Obsidian*. Blades: Inv. M. 45-49, M 51, M 122, M 124, M 126, M 128-130, and 124 other blades and fragments; 123 chips; 3 large pieces.

*Flint*. Blades: Inv. M 52, M 125 (dull red), M 123 (gray), and one uninventoried; one large piece.

*Stone*. Beads: **III.17** (Inv. M 32), Pl. 53; D. av. 0.011, Th. 0.004; light green steatite. **III.18** (Inv. M 33), Pl. 53; D. av. 0.009, Th. 0.003; bluish green steatite.

*Bone*. Tubular handle: **III.19** (Inv. M 41), Pl. 52; L. pres. 0.061; made from leg bone, polished; incised chevrons.

*Terracotta*. Scraper (?): **III.20** (Inv. M 25), Pl. 52; L. 0.04, W. 0.025; made from sherd with pinkish buff biscuit, thick pale buff slip.

Spool: **III.21** (Inv. M 26), Pl. 52; L. 0.049; D. 0.048-0.051; yellowish tan biscuit, clumsily fashioned; central groove showing fingerprints.

Whorls: **III.22** (Inv. M 19), Pl. 53; H. 0.041, D. 0.046; pinkish buff biscuit. **III.23** (Inv. M 24), Pl. 53; H. 0.02, D. 0.04, pinkish buff biscuit.

#### GROUP IV. LEVELS +1.20 M. TO +1.60 M.

The structures and levels of habitation described under Group III were succeeded by others in the next phases of occupation.

A third in the series of pebble pavements lay in the western part of our Trench A

at an average elevation of  $+1.20$  m. (maximum  $+1.32$  m., minimum  $+1.17$  m.). Its position and shape appear in Plan D (Fig. 8). This is the "pebble court" that was seen in 1927 at  $+1.27$  m. in Miss Goldman's Pit III. It was found by us well preserved, retaining its rectangular form at least on the north side. To the southwest it seems to have spread outward. The stones shown on Plan D toward the east of the

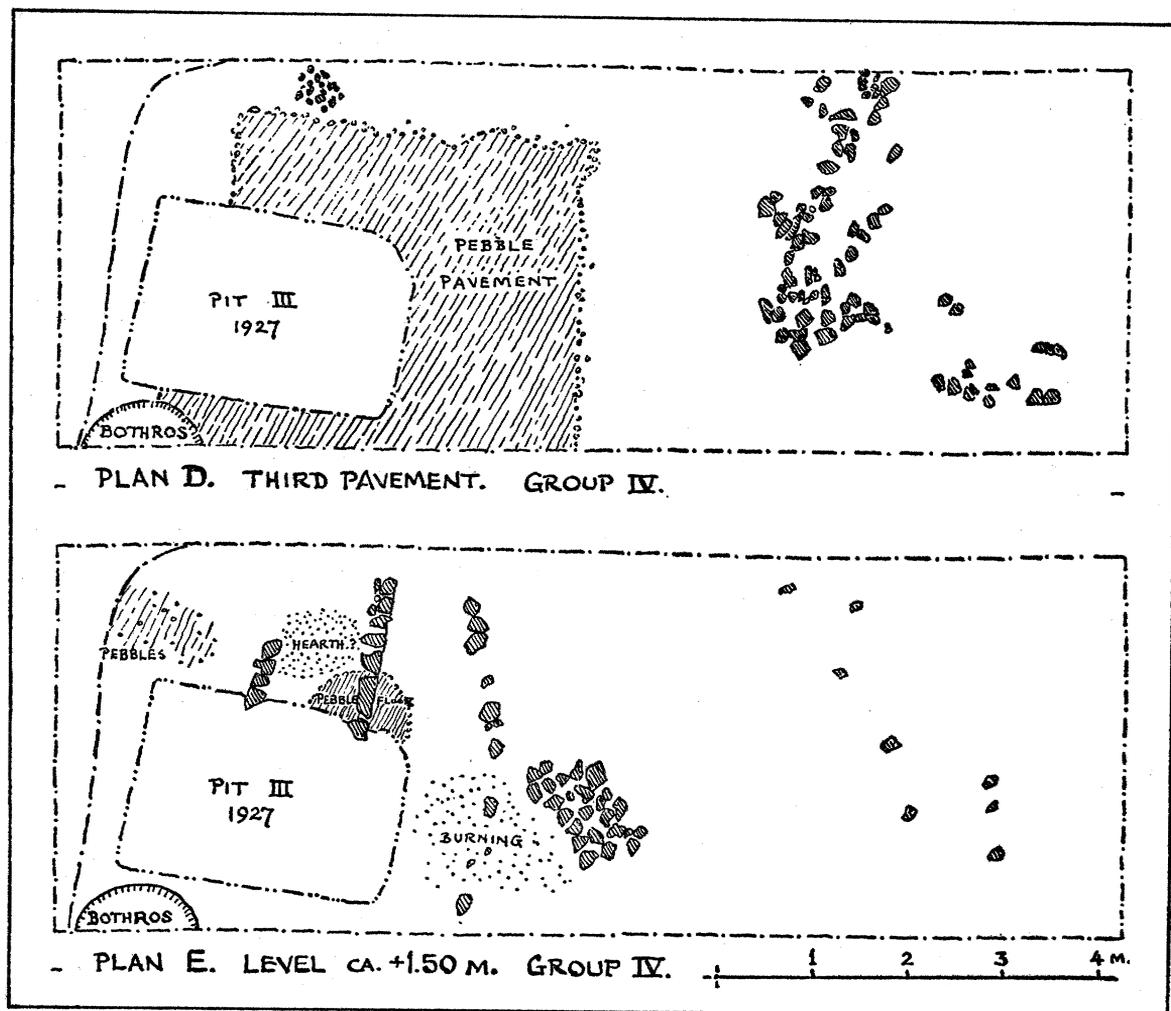


FIG. 8.

trench lay at random on the rim of the Chasm, the upper part of which remained an open hollow.

Plan E (Fig. 8) shows remains of the next stage, small floors of pebbles, patches of burning, and lines of stones that may once have been parts of walls. They were found resting at levels around  $+1.50$  m., on earth and deposits that had accumulated

above the rectangular pavement. It is useless to speculate about the structures that are represented by these scanty remains. They were not all exactly contemporary; one of the lines of stones north of Pit III crosses a circular flooring, which must have been slightly earlier.

The strata considered together here as Group IV probably reflect the passage of considerable time. Styles of pottery and other objects did not change rapidly, however. A representative selection of the material is described below.

#### POTTERY

Total about five tinfuls.

*Heavy slipped and burnished ware.* Fabric as in Group II. Only a few sherds were found; these may have worked up from below.

*Red slipped ware.* Fabric generally as in Group III. Plentiful in Group IV, the quality of the biscuit apparently deteriorating slightly and the color verging more toward brown as time went on. Shapes: bowls, e.g. rims **IV.1-2**, Fig. 7, restored profile **IV.3**, Fig. 7, fragments **IV.4-5**, Pl. 46; smaller saucers; a few "spoons" (see also Burnished ware); small jugs, e.g. **IV.6**, Fig. 7, Pl. 47, with incised lines on shoulder and slanting grooves on handle; small jars, e.g. **IV.7**, Fig. 7; larger jars.

Some vessels were coated with thinner red wash, lighter in color and less lustrous than the typical red slip. A few pieces have a red-brown coating that resembles glaze and may be a forerunner of the substance generally used in Groups VII-VIII (E.H.II).

*Burnished ware.* Fabrics as in Group III. Shapes: "spoons," small shallow saucers with single ring-handle rising slightly above rim, e.g. **IV.8-9**, Fig. 7, **IV.10-12**, Pl. 46; small jars with vertical ripple markings on sides; jar with collar neck.

*Incised fine ware.* The fabric in general resembles that of Burnished ware, Groups III and IV. Several fragments were found, like those described in *Eutresis*, pp. 80-82. Patterns consist chiefly of series of incised straight lines, sometimes in cross-hatching, and punctated dots, all originally filled with white matter. Decoration occurs on the outer side of rims, e.g. **IV.13**, Pl. 46, on flanged lids, e.g. **IV.14**, Pl. 46, and on one flat handle. Note also incision on pithoi.

*Plain ware.* Fabric as in Group III. Found plentifully in the strata of Group IV and in increasing amounts from the earlier to the later. A number of pieces show careful burnishing. Shapes: jug with oval handle set from rim to shoulder; many jars, some with high cylindrical necks and outturned rims, one with handle set vertically on body; flat bottoms.

*Coarse ware.* Fabric as in Group III. Shapes: bowls; jugs; various jars, e.g.

**IV.15**, Fig. 7 and one with hole-mouth; thin-walled vessels with rims much thickened on inner side, like III.13-14; stands used probably at hearth, e.g. **IV.16-17**, Pl. 47; flat and concave bottoms; horizontal solid lugs.

Handles possibly from "frying pans" of cycladic type: **IV.18-19**, Pl. 47.

Small cup or feeding bottle: **IV.20** (Inv. P 19), Pl. 47; H. 0.078, D. 0.095. Two-thirds missing; restored. Brown biscuit with gray core, vegetable-tempered. Surface smoothed. Fragment of tubular spout found near by may belong to this vessel but does not join.

*Pithoi*. Numerous fragments of very large storage jars; walls up to 0.045 thick. Top of rim with bands of incised hatching and a row of punched circles. Fragments with applied plastic strips or bands.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

*Obsidian*. Blades: Inv. M 53, M 56, M 58, M 61, M 68, and 127 other blades and fragments. Awl or point: Inv. M 67. Scraper: Inv. M 62. Cores: Inv. M 59 and one other. Also 77 chips and one large irregular piece.

*Flint*. Blades: Inv. M 54, M 55 (red), M 60 (greenish brown), and one other. Also one chip, one core, and one irregular piece.

*Chert*. Blade: Inv. M 66 (yellow-tan).

*Bone*. Awls: **IV.21** (Inv. M 27), Pl. 53; L. 0.073; complete. **IV.22** (Inv. M 28), Pl. 53; L. pres. 0.052; point missing; made from split rib.

*Terracotta*. Whorls: **IV.23** (Inv. M 18), Pl. 53; H. 0.045, D. 0.05; dark brown. **IV.24** (Inv. M 20), Pl. 53; H. 0.043, D. 0.045; dark reddish brown, blackened; thick surface layer applied to a core. **IV.25** (Inv. M 21), Pl. 53; H. 0.043, D. 0.049; orange-brown. **IV.26** (Inv. M 22), Pl. 53; H. 0.029, D. 0.05; pinkish buff to gray, darkened.

#### GROUP V. LEVELS FROM +1.60 M. TO +1.90 M. HOUSE 9.

Remains of at least three successive phases of occupation are here combined as Group V. The development continued to be gradual; there was no evidence of unusual interruption or sudden change in the cultural sequence.

A wall composed of stones in a single course ran north and south across Trench A, along the end of Pit III, at a level around +1.60 m. (Fig. 9, Plan F). Immediately associated with it on the east was a pebble pavement, at +1.62 m. (Pl. 41, e; visible also in c and d), the fourth in the series above virgin soil, and beyond this an area covered with fine gravel. In the northeastern corner of the trench was the depression caused by the Chasm, again with a few loose stones along its rim. The wall pre-

sumably belonged to a building on the west; there were traces of a floor at +1.64 m. but no further remains of the house were found at this level.

The next phase is marked by a fifth pavement, this time not of small pebbles but of medium-sized stones of irregular shape that might be called cobbles (Fig. 9, Plan G; Pl. 41, c, d). Its top surface lay at an average level of +1.83 m. There was a U-shaped gap, where stones had perhaps been removed later for use in other construction. A channel some 0.20 m. wide, visible on the plan and in the photographs, divided the cobblestones and ran roughly northeast toward the Chasm. The pavement covered the wall of the preceding phase.

In the third phase a building which we designate as House 9 occupied the space exposed in the western end of the trench (Fig. 5, Plan H; Pl. 41, a, b). It might perhaps better be called a room, since other integral parts of the building may lie on any of three sides. It is oriented roughly to the cardinal points. Wall 9 on the north and Wall 11 on the east had an average thickness of 0.40 m.; Wall 10 on the west, which we left in place, was apparently somewhat heavier. The width of the room from east to west was 3.25 m. Its floor, on which few remains of habitation were found, lay at +1.89 m.

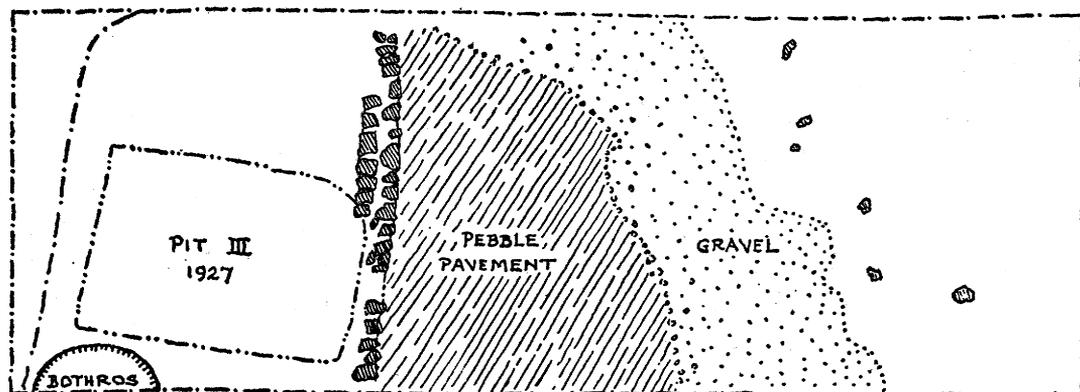
#### POTTERY

Smaller quantities than in Group IV; total about three tinfuls.

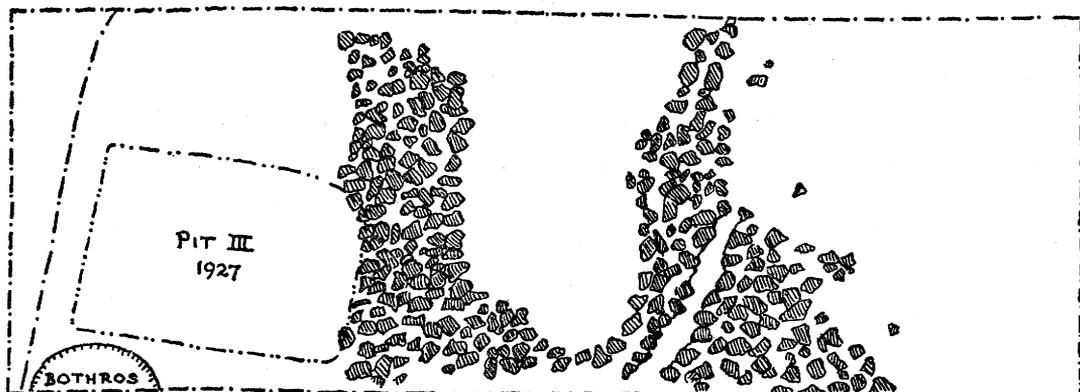
*Slipped and burnished wares, red-brown to gray-black.* The fabrics of these classes, which resembled each other in some respects in the preceding phase, now become still more alike. Some pieces of each retain their special qualities, e.g. the deep red slip, but the greater number cannot be assigned with certainty to one category or the other. An appreciable number show mottled colors; some few are black on one side and red on the other. The composition of the biscuit is as before; walls of vessels appear somewhat thicker. Shapes: large and small bowls, occasionally with nearly straight tapering rim profiles, usually with incurving or carinated rims, e.g. **V.1-3**, Fig. 7; small bowl or saucer with short offset rim; **V.4**, Fig. 7, rounded bowl with one or two small vertical handles and distinctly splaying rim; one large low ring-base and one high ring-base or pedestal (occurring here for the first time); "spoons" in dark gray-brown ware; jug; vertical lug; long horn-like lug or attachment.

*Plain ware.* Fabric as in Groups III-IV; a few pieces light red; a few greenish. Quantity about one-quarter of total. Shapes: small saucers, burnished; small and large bowls, some with slightly thickened rim; jugs; jars with collar-neck or flaring rim; spout of askoid vessel; broad hollow grips; vertical ribbon handle; bottoms flat and concave.

*Coarse ware.* Fabric as in Group IV; usually micaceous, some of spongy texture. Shapes: bowls or basins; closed jar with flaring rim; **V.5**, Fig. 7, funnel-shaped frag-



PLAN F. FOURTH PAVEMENT. GROUP V.



PLAN G. FIFTH PAVEMENT. GROUP V.



PLAN H. HOUSE 9. GROUP V.

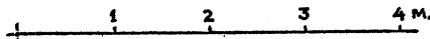


FIG. 9.

ment, probably from a pedestal; a few ring-bases; fragments of stands for use at hearth.

*Pithoi.* A few fragments; one with triangular impressions in a pattern on the rim.

*Glazed ware of E.H.II type.* A few small fragments, including two of sauceboats and others of small bowls, with coatings of grayish brown glaze. These are probably intrusive from above, perhaps coming in part from the big bothros of House L in the southwest bank of the trench, which we failed to recognize at the upper levels (see Group VIII). Possibly, on the other hand, they represent stages in the development of the later types, as we have noted in connection with a handful of similar sherds that appeared in the material of Group IV.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

*Obsidian.* Blades: Inv. M 63, M 65, plus 67 other blades or fragments. Awl: Inv. M 81. Core: Inv. M 64. Also 40 chips.

*Flint.* Two blades.

*Terracotta.* Pendant: **V.6** (Inv. M 42), Pl. 52. From floor at +1.64 m. under House 9. H. 0.0285, W. 0.028, Th. 0.006. Orange-buff biscuit. The object was worked from a potsherd, the broad side opposite the perforated tip being the rim of the vessel. Hole bored from both sides.

#### GROUP VI. HOUSE 6. LEVELS +1.90 M. TO +2.20 M.

Above House 9 of Group V lay the walls of House 6, similar in size and orientation, almost certainly a rebuilding of the former (Fig. 10, Plan J). Its north and east walls, 6 and 7, were 0.55 m. to 0.60 m. thick; the west wall, 8, like wall 10 below it, was apparently somewhat thicker. The room was 2.70 m. wide, and its floor of earth, not very distinctly marked, lay at a level around +2.08 m. East of the house there was an open space. At the farther end of our trench the broad funnel above the Chasm continued at this time to serve as a rubbish pit if not for some more solemn purpose. It proved impossible to isolate the pottery that was deposited in this pit in the time of House 6 from that which may have come in from higher levels. In general the earlier wares were relatively more plentiful in and around the house, the later types at the eastern end of the trench; this suggests some contamination.

#### POTTERY

*Slipped and burnished wares, red-brown to gray-black.* Fabric as in Group V. Shapes: Small bowls or saucers and medium-sized bowls with convex sides and incurving rims; jars.

*Plain ware.* Fabric generally as in Groups III-V; fine to semifine, light colors, yellow, some tan. Shapes: small bowls or saucers of higher type with ring-base and of lower type with flat bottom; jugs;

*Coarse ware.* Fabric as in earlier groups, but with many fragments of light

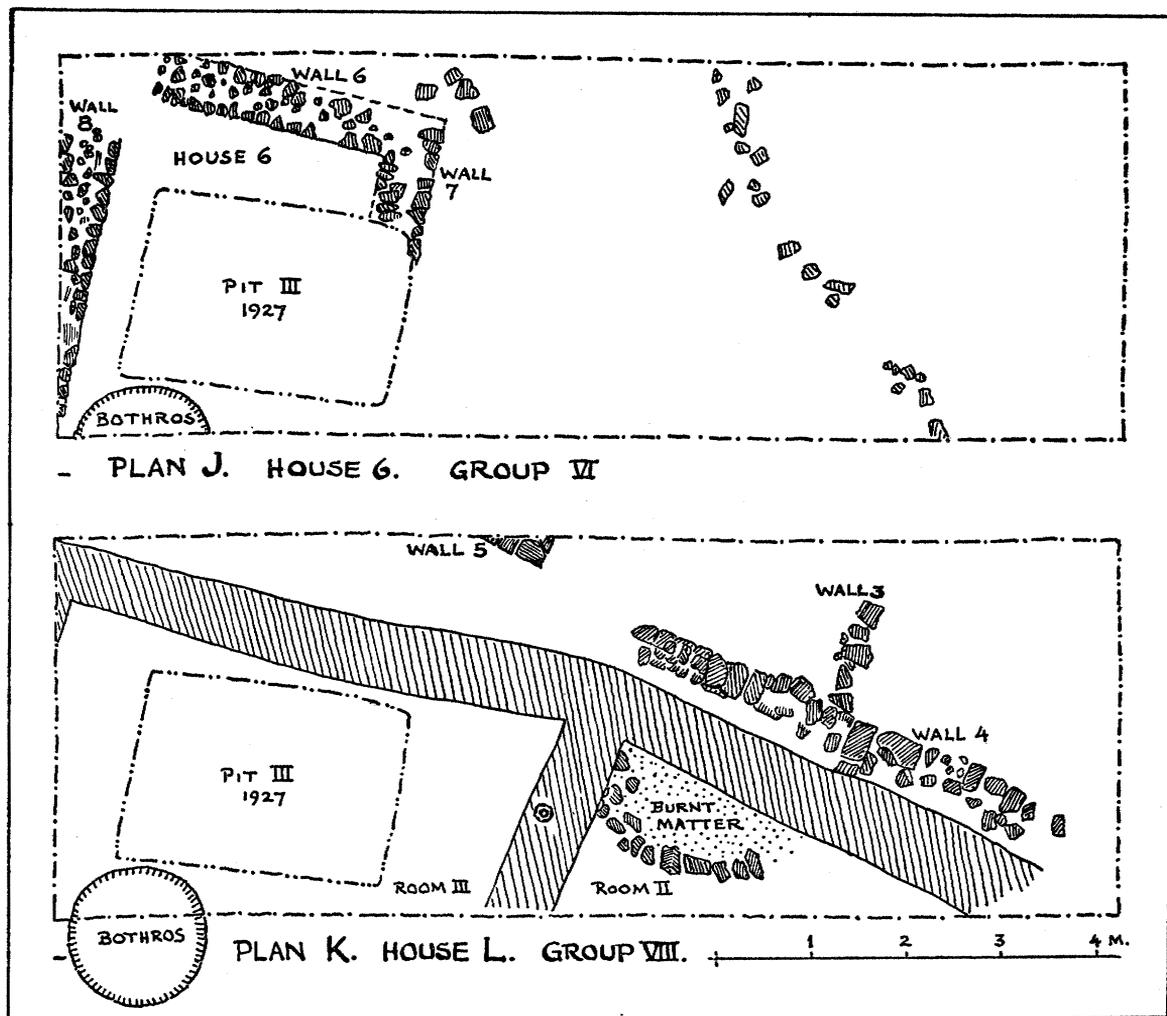


FIG. 10.

color and of types that are characteristic of Group VIII. Some of the latter are probably intrusive. Shapes: small bowls and saucers; medium-sized bowls; cup; large open bowls or basins, some with coating of glaze on interior (cf. Group VIII); jars with broad hollow grips; baking pans; pedestal-base; large flaring base, plastic rope-pattern.

*Glazed ware of E.H.II type.* Fabric as in Groups VII and VIII. In House 6

and the western and central parts of the trench about 30 small sherds of this ware were found, chiefly fragments of small bowls and saucers, a few certainly from sauceboats. At the eastern end of the trench, in the area of the Chasm, sherds of this ware made up more than half of the total. Some had undoubtedly come down from above, but it is not impossible that pottery of this type was made in the time of House 6.

Nine small fragments of a sauceboat with bits of rectilinear pattern in dark glaze on a light ground were found in the filling of the Chasm.

*Fine mottled ware.* Biscuit of fine texture, thin and hard, coated with a light colored slip, basically yellow but frequently mottled olive, bluish gray, and black (cf. VIII.27, Pl. 51). The slip tends to flake off. Five sherds were found in House 6, a score or more in the Chasm, representing sauceboat, askos, and pyxis. (See Group VIII and cf. *Eutresis*, pp. 97-98).

#### MISCELLANEOUS

*Obsidian.* From the area of House 6: parts of 17 blades and 7 chips. From the area of the Chasm: blade, Inv. M 70; arrow head (?), Inv. M 71; trapeze, Inv. M 84; flake, Inv. M 85; piercer (?), Inv. M 86; plus 112 other pieces of blades and 73 chips.

*Flint.* From the area of the Chasm: blades, Inv. M 69 (olive brown), M 87-88 (red), M 89 (mottled red to green); core, Inv. M 90 (red).

#### GROUP VII. STREET AND LEVELS AROUND +2.30 M.

Stones, gravel, and deposits of scattered rubbish showed that a street had run in a northwesterly direction through the central part of Trench A. It may well have existed during the later years of House 6, passing close to the northeast corner of the building (Fig. 10, Plan J). It continued to pass through this area after House 6 was demolished and until House L was built in the next period. No other structures belonging to this intermediate phase came to light, but some pottery and other objects can be assigned here in their proper chronological sequence.

#### POTTERY

*Slipped and burnished wares, red-brown to gray-black.* Fabric as in Groups V-VI; somewhat rough and friable. Fragments of small and medium-sized rounded bowls; long horizontal lug below rim; fragments of jug or jar.

*Glazed ware.* The standard fabric of Early Helladic II (*Eutresis*, p. 97). Moderately fine to very fine biscuit, thin, well baked; surfaces coated with glaze (E.H. *urfirnis*) that fires red, brown, gray or black, sometimes glossy and iridescent, sometimes fairly dull. Plentiful in deposits of Group VII. Shapes: saucers; sauceboats;

jug with long thin neck; basin with glaze on interior only; ring-bases and pedestals; horizontal handles.

*Fine mottled ware.* Fabric as described under Group VI. A few fragments in Group VII. Shapes: sauceboat; askos.

*Plain ware.* Some fine textured, burnished; the rest rougher, yellow to light pinkish buff, as in Groups III-VI. Shapes: saucer with outturned rim; bowl; jug; jar; large ring-base.

*Burnished ware with stamped pattern.* Fragment of jar or pyxis: **VII.1** (Inv. P 33), Fig. 11, Pl. 48. H. pres. 0.065; D. rim estimated 0.25. Moderately fine compact orange-brown biscuit, thickly coated with brown slip, highly burnished. Pattern of vertical and horizontal bands made by deep punching with triangular tip of tool, leaving zigzag lines; punched rings in broad panel; cavities filled with white matter. See sherds VIII.52-53, probably from same vessel.

*Coarse ware.* Fabric as in preceding groups; some highly micaceous. Shapes: bowls; miniature cup; open jars; closed jar with collar-neck; tripod leg; flat bottoms; ring-bases; spout; lugs.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

*Bronze.* Tweezers: **VII.2** (Inv. M 10), Pl. 53; L. ca. 0.07; flat strip of bronze, slightly narrower at bend than at tips.

*Obsidian.* Blades: Inv. M 104-105, M 108, M 111, plus 22 pieces of others. Trapeze: Inv. M 106. Scraper: Inv. M 112. Also 14 chips.

*Flint.* Blades: Inv. M 107, M 109 (red).

*Quartz.* Bead: Inv. M 13, W. 0.01 by 0.0095, Th. 0.0055. Nearly square, with round perforation at center.

*Black stone.* Polisher: Inv. M 14, L. 0.029, W. 0.012; irregular in shape, rubbed flat at one end, pointed at other.

*Terracotta.* Whorl: **VII.3** (Inv. M 9), Pl. 53; H. 0.04, D. 0.046; orange-brown, burnt gray.

#### GROUP VIII. HOUSE L AND SURROUNDINGS.

House L, the largest and most important building of Early Helladic II that was excavated by Miss Goldman at Eutresis, has been described thoroughly by her in the general report (*Eutresis*, pp. 15-20, 26). Here we need to mention only the part reexamined in 1958 and to record a selection of the objects found.

A section of the house occupied about half of Trench A, its north wall running from northwest to southeast. The north end of the partition wall between Rooms II and III fell within our area. These are shown in Plan K (Fig. 10) and in a photograph, Plate 40, c; they appear to have been displaced slightly by pressure and dilapidation since 1927. Here and there within the rooms we found traces of the floors untouched in the earlier excavations. The first level of occupation in Room II was at an average of +2.30 m. In the northwest corner of this room there was a curving row of stones enclosing a thick deposit of burnt matter, sandy in texture and pinkish white, presumably the remains of an oven or hearth. When this was in use there may have been an opening near it in the north end of the cross wall between Rooms II and III. Certainly in the final stage of occupation a section of the wall had been taken down, for we found a complete saucer lying just above the stones of the socle (No. VIII.12; its position marked on Plan K). Perhaps the original doorway further south (Fig. 1) had been replaced in the course of a remodelling. Room II gave evidence of long continued occupation, the latest floor lying some 0.55 m. above the earliest.

In the western room, III, we found traces of an early floor at an average of +2.50 m., a second around +2.70 m., and a third at +2.85 m. Associated with the first of these was a very large bothros, which had not been seen by Miss Goldman and was not recognized by us until we had cut away a part of its north side (Plan K, southwest corner). Around 1.40 m. in diameter at the top and 1.70 m. deep, it had penetrated all but the earliest of the preceding strata (see Plans B-J). It was situated due west of the pan-hearth and north of the stone bench that had been found in the excavations of the 1920's (*Eutresis*, fig. 13, A and B). Filled with animal bones, ashes, and rubbish that included large quantities of broken pottery, this bothros had gone out of use after the first occupation of House L and had been replaced by the smaller pit that was discovered between the pan-hearth and the bench.

The north wall of House L follows one line along Room III and is then drawn inward toward the south as it borders Rooms II and I (Fig. 1). Although it is unwise, as Miss Goldman has remarked, to offer explanations of early buildings in terms of our own logic, one practical reason may now be observed for the shift in direction that is taken by this wall. In the time of House L the great funnel of the Chasm still made a conspicuous depression immediately north of Room II. The position of the wall was undoubtedly determined by this topographical feature. Further to strengthen the foundations a retaining wall, 4, was built along the north side. In 1958 we also found a spur, Wall 3, extending northward; this seems to have marked the western side of the pit.

What appeared to be a corner of another building, contemporary with House L, was seen projecting into our trench from the north. It is indicated in Figure 2 and Figure 10, Plan K as Wall 5.

Since pottery and other objects of the period represented by Group VIII have been published extensively in the comprehensive report of Eutresis and are well known from other sites also, the following catalogue lists only a small selection of the very large body of material collected. Each part of the catalogue is divided into three sections: A, objects from the floors of House L and from contemporary deposits to the north; B, objects from the bothros in Room III; C, objects from the filling of the Chasm.

POTTERY. (A)

*Burnished wares of E.H.I types.* These occur in negligible quantities, having come up from earlier strata.

*Glazed ware.* Fine hard biscuit, coated with a thin glaze that is lustrous without burnishing. There are many variations. When the surface is smooth and well prepared the coating may be very shiny; on a rougher surface it tends to be moderately dull. The color varies with the thickness of the glaze and the degree of firing, from iridescent black and dark gray to grayish brown, brown, red, and orange-tan. Open vessels are normally coated all over, but the glaze may occur only on the exterior or only on the interior or in bands and stripes. No fine patterned ware was found. Shapes:

Saucers. Fragments of many hundreds. A conspectus of the forms appears in Figure 11 and on Plate 50. **VIII.1** (Inv. P 9), Fig. 11, Pl. 50; H. 0.034, D. 0.153; black. **VIII.2** (Inv. P 18), Pl. 50; H. 0.035, D. 0.141; black. **VIII.3-4**, profiles only, Fig. 11. Inv. P 2, not figured; H. 0.072, D. 0.13; brown. **VIII.5** (Inv. P 4), Pl. 50; H. 0.047, D. rim 0.12; orange-tan to gray; rim drawn out into three tabs.

Bowls. Some plain shallow, e.g. **VIII.6**, Fig. 11; others deep.

Sauceboats. Scores of fragments. The form with deep cylindrical bowl normally has a vertical handle, that with shallower rounded bowl has a horizontal handle. Ring-bases; a few low pedestals. Miniature: **VIII.7** (Inv. P 13), Pl. 49; H. *ca.* 0.10; restored; dark brown.

Open jars and basins. Many examples, with a variety of rim profiles and surface coatings, e.g. **VIII.8-9**, Fig. 11, and **VIII.10-11**, Pl. 51.

Also askoi, pyxides, pans.

*Fine slipped and burnished wares; fine mottled ware.* Refined biscuit, like that of glazed ware. The coating appears in many variations. Normally it has a palpable thickness and sometimes flakes off. The luster appears to depend upon burnishing. In some cases there may be a floated or technical slip produced by burnishing alone. Not infrequently this is difficult to distinguish from the glaze of the preceding class. Colors range from gray-brown to brown, red, and yellow-buff; the last is often mottled with olive, silver-gray, and black (fine mottled ware). Shapes:

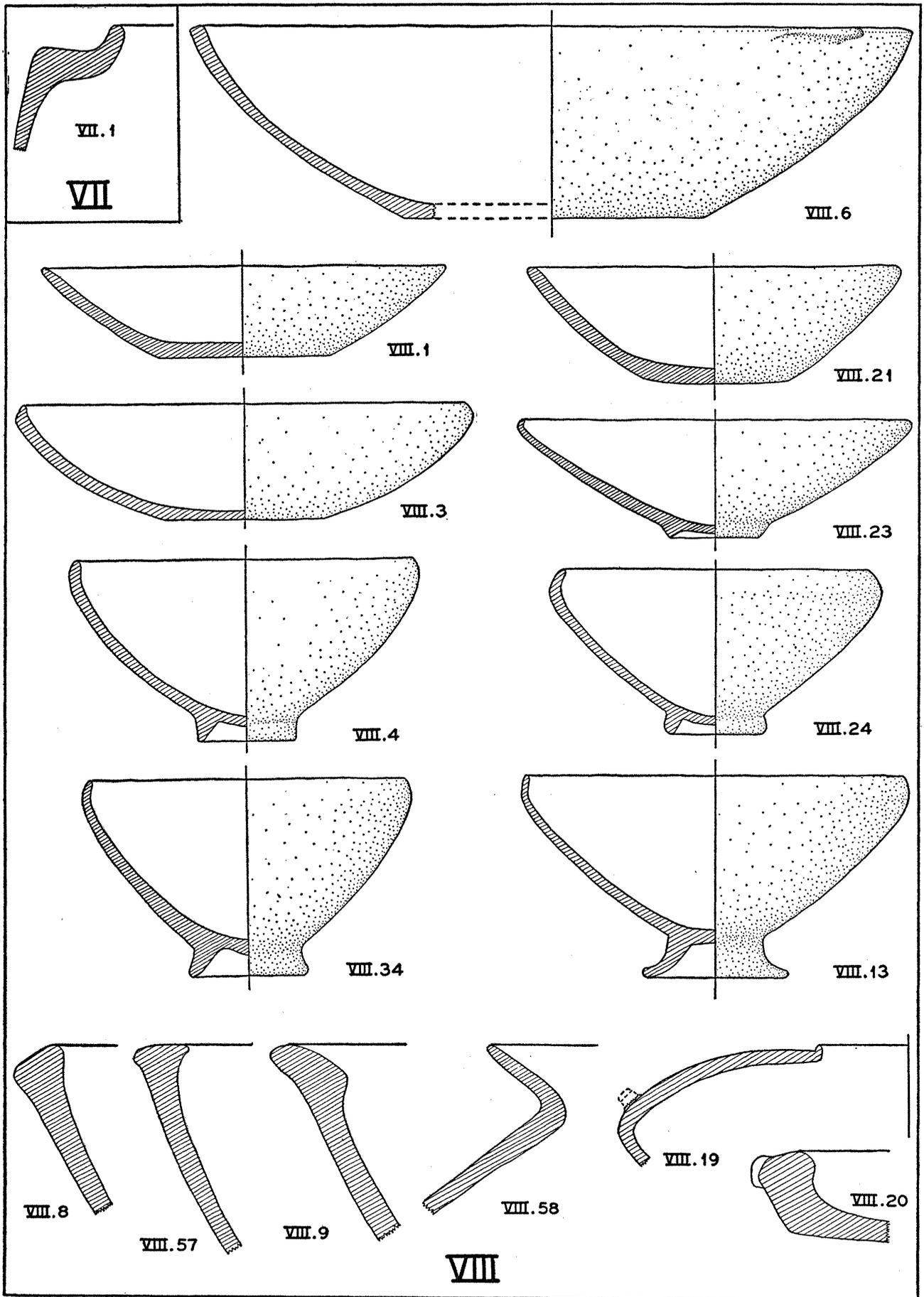


FIG. 11. Profiles of Pottery, Groups VII-VIII. Scale 1:2.

Saucers. **VIII.12** (Inv. P 1), Pl. 50; H. 0.06, D. 0.121; brown. Inv. P 3, not figured; H. 0.065, D. 0.122; brown-tan, coated with milky wash. **VIII.13** (Inv. P 14), Fig. 11, Pl. 50; H. 0.08, D. 0.145; surface dull, mottled. **VIII.14** (Inv. P 15), Pl. 50; H. 0.08, D. 0.14; yellowish buff. Inv. P 23, not figured; H. pres. without foot 0.041, D. 0.148; mottled yellow to black.

Sauceboats. Many fragments. **VIII.15** (Inv. P 10), Pl. 49; H. pres. 0.249; biscuit blistered; mottled gray to brown.

Small jug. **VIII.16**, Pl. 51; upper part coated white, lower red.

Askoi. Numerous. **VIII.17** (Inv. P 27), Pl. 49; H. restored 0.165; very fine surface, mottled orange-brown, yellow, blue-gray. **VIII.18** (Inv. P 28), Pl. 49; H. 0.162; very fine surface, brown.

Pyxides. **VIII.19**, Fig. 11, Pl. 48.

*Plain ware.* Some fine, burnished; some moderately fine to moderately coarse. Shapes: saucer; bowl; sauceboat; jug; jar; pyxis.

*Coarse ware.* Fabric as in Groups VI-VII. Shapes: cup; bowl; jug; jar; pan, e.g. **VIII.20**, Fig. 11.

#### POTTERY. (B)

##### *Glazed ware.*

Saucers. **VIII.21** (Inv. P 20), Fig. 11, Pl. 50; H. 0.049, D. 0.14; tan mottled black. **VIII.22** (Inv. P 25), Pl. 50; H. 0.061, D. 0.114; brown. Inv. P 30, not figured; H. 0.066, D. 0.123; dark brown, mottled black. **VIII.23-24**, Fig. 11.

Also sauceboats, closed jars.

##### *Fine slipped wares.*

Saucers. **VIII.25** (Inv. P 5), Pl. 50; H. 0.064, D. 0.127; tan. **VIII.26** (Inv. P 21), Pl. 50; H. 0.078, D. 0.117; coated with buff milky wash.

Sauceboats. **VIII.27**, Pl. 51; fine mottled ware, light buff and black.

Jug: **VIII.28** (Inv. P 11), Pl. 51; H. restored 0.18, D. 0.161; coated with light buff wash; handle spreads at root.

Fragment of handle with incised ornament: **VIII.29**, Pl. 48; gray, slipped, in technique probably not related to the other pieces listed in this class; rectangular bar broken at left and cylindrical bar broken below, as seen in photograph; spiral groove on upper surface of disk, horizontal and vertical lines bordering rows of punctated dots on sides, filled with white matter.

##### *Plain ware.*

Saucer: **VIII.30** (Inv. P 29), Pl. 50; H. 0.054, D. 0.089; brown biscuit, surface smoothed.

*Coarse ware.* Rim of pan hearth: **VIII.31**, Pl. 48.

## POTTERY. (C)

*Glazed ware.*

Saucers. **VIII.32** (Inv. P 24), Pl. 50; H. 0.076, D. 0.145; black. **VIII.33** (Inv. P 26), Pl. 50; H. 0.067, D. 0.128; black, mottled red. **VIII.34**, Fig. 11.

Sauceboats. **VIII.35**, Pl. 49; rounded body. Vertical handles, **VIII.36-38**, Pl. 48.

Fragments of double sauceboat(?): **VIII.39** (Inv. P 34), Pl. 49; coated with light brown glaze, mottled gray. A small vessel, the bowl apparently divided from front to back by a vertical partition; at the front troughs branched to right and left, probably with wing-tipped spouts.

Askoi. Fragment of plaited handle, **VIII.40**, Pl. 48.

Pyxides. Single and double lugs, **VIII.41-42**, Pl. 48.

*Fine slipped wares.*

Saucers. Numerous fragments.

Sauceboats. **VIII.43** (Inv. P 7), Pl. 49; H. pres. 0.204; dull red, mottled black. **VIII.44**, Pl. 49; buff, mottled black.

Askos with incised pattern: **VIII.45**, Pl. 48, fragment of handle.

Fragment of pedestal (?) with openwork: **VIII.46**, Pl. 48.

*Burnished ware with stamped patterns.*

Bowls and jars; e.g. **VIII.47-54**, Pl. 48. Cf. VII.1.

*Plain ware.*

Basins, coated with glaze-paint on rim. Many fragments, e.g. **VIII.55-56**, Pl. 51, and **VIII.57**, Fig. 11.

Closed jars. Rim fragment: **VIII.58**, Fig. 11.

*Coarse ware.*

Cup: **VIII.59** (Inv. P 8), Pl. 51; H. 0.08, D. 0.121; micaceous dark brown, smoothed.

## MISCELLANEOUS. (A)

*Bronze.* Fish hook: **VIII.60** (Inv. M 7), Pl. 53; L. 0.055, D. shaft 0.004; flattened at upper end. Pin: **VIII.61** (Inv. M 8), Pl. 53; L. 0.078, D. shaft 0.005; rectangular in section, pointed at one end, flattened at the other.

*Obsidian.* Blades: Inv. M 93-95, M 100-102, M 110, plus 117 other pieces. Trapezes: Inv. M 96-97, M 113. Also 17 chips.

*Flint.* Blades: Inv. M 92 (mottled brown-tan), M 98 (mottled brown-green), M 99, M 103 (red).

*Bone.* Tube: **VIII.62** (Inv. M 6), Pl. 53; L. 0.15; one end cut to spatulate form, the other grooved at rim by passage of thread.

*Terracotta*. Ball: **VIII.63** (Inv. M 5), Pl. 53; D. 0.022. Whorl: **VIII.64** (Inv. M 4), Pl. 53; H. 0.037, D. 0.048; reddish brown.

MISCELLANEOUS. (B)

*Obsidian*. Blades: Inv. M 119-121. Trapeze: Inv. M 118.

*Terracotta*. Animal figurine: **VIII.65** (Inv. M 44), Pl. 53; H. 0.032, L. 0.05; gray-brown; legs and tips missing; crudely modelled but with some observation of natural forms, e.g. in ridge at back of neck and curve of belly.

MISCELLANEOUS. (C)

*Obsidian*. Blades: Inv. M 50, M 76-80, M 82, M 91, plus 42 other pieces. Trapeze: Inv. M 72. Flake: Inv. M 57. Cores: Inv. M 74-75, plus three pieces. Also one irregular piece and 170 chips.

*Flint*. One blade.

*Chert*. Blade: Inv. M 83.

*Marble*. Pestle: Inv. M 12; L. 0.054, D. 0.018; cylindrical, worked to flat ridge at one end.

*Bone*. Awls: **VIII.66** (Inv. M 11), Pl. 53; L. 0.092, W. 0.019; flat, made from split rib. **VIII.67** (Inv. M 29), Pl. 53; L. 0.07, W. 0.015; flat, made from split rib.

*Terracotta*. Steatopygous figurine found in upper filling of Chasm, described above as (I).34. Whorls: **VIII.68** (Inv. M 15), Pl. 53; H. 0.036, D. 0.052; orange-buff. **VIII.69** (Inv. M 16), Pl. 53; H. 0.029, D. 0.048; light brown. **VIII.70** (Inv. M 17), Pl. 53; H. 0.027, D. 0.039; pinkish buff.

GROUP IX. EARLY HELLADIC LEVELS ABOVE HOUSE L.

Since most of the ground in the area of Trench A had been cleared in the earlier excavations to the level of House L, very little of later date remained to be seen in 1958. Building O and the retaining wall that Miss Goldman had constructed in an attempt to preserve it were distinguishable (Pl. 40, b). We removed these and found a few traces of deposits that might be assigned to Early Helladic III. Short sections of walls belonging to that period could be seen on the shelf north of Trench A (on the right in the photographs, Pl. 40, b, c; cf. the plan, Fig. 1).

Trench B, the small sounding that we made at a higher level to the east of Trench A (Pl. 42, d), yielded sherds of E.H.III wares between +3.30 m. and +3.95m., below a stratum of burnt debris. No walls were encountered.

## POTTERY

*Gray ware.* One small and one minute sherd, possibly of gray Minyan ware, in Trench B, +3.50 m. to +3.80 m.

*Patterned ware; dark on light.* Semilustrous paint. One sherd with diagonal hatching; eleven with single lines or bands.

*Patterned ware; light on dark.* Surface coated with moderately dull slip or wash, usually dark brown to black, rarely red-brown. Sixteen sherds. Shapes: tankard; bowl with chevrons on inner surface of outturned rim. (Cf. *Eutresis*, pp. 116 ff.).

*Dark coated ware.* Similar to the preceding or identical, but without patterns. Numerous fragments. Shapes: tankard; jug or jar; trefoil rim.

*Plain buff ware.* Fragments of bowls and of jug or jar.

*Coarse ware.* Fragments of large vessels.

## MISCELLANEOUS

(Obsidian found in small quantities, not recorded).

*Stone.* Fragment of basin or mortar: **IX.1** (Inv. M 2), Pl. 53; H. 0.067, Th. of bottom 0.037.

*Bone.* Awl: **IX.2** (Inv. M 31), Pl. 53; L. 0.066; made from leg bone.

*Terracotta.* Spool: **IX.3** (Inv. M 3), Pl. 53; L. 0.047; light brown, rough, perforation off center.

## GROUP X. MIDDLE HELLADIC STRATUM IN TRENCH B.

A stratum of burnt matter about 0.25 m. thick was found in Trench B between +4 m. and +4.25 m., covering the deposits of Group IX and antedating the construction of House M. Above the burnt stratum there was a pavement of small pebbles at the west end of the trench (+4.25 m.) and a pavement of larger cobblestones (+4.40 m.), the latter undoubtedly part of the "cobble paving" that is recorded with the figures 4.36 and 4.46 in *Eutresis*, plan II B.

## POTTERY

*Gray Minyan ware.* Fragments of small bowls, ring-stemmed goblets, and jars. One arched handle with excrescent knob at either end.

*Matt-painted ware.* Bowl with curving rim; jars.

*Dark slipped ware.* Several sherds, possibly Argive Minyan. Fragment of bowl with outturned rim.

*Coarse ware.* Jars, partially burnished. Sherd with incised herringbone pattern.

## MISCELLANEOUS

*Obsidian.* Six blades, 25 chips.

*Terracotta.* Whorls: **X.1** (Inv. M 23), Pl. 53; H. 0.038, D. 0.043; orange-brown. **X.2** (Inv. M 38), Pl. 53; H. 0.027, D. 0.039; dark brown.

## COMMENTARY

The architectural remains that were revealed and the objects that were recovered in the brief excavation of 1958 are described and illustrated in considerable detail in the foregoing account, since no further presentation is contemplated. Even at best, however, a series of words, photographs, and drawings gives an imperfect image of the objects themselves, and it is hoped that a representative part of this material, along with that of the earlier excavations of Eutresis, may soon be made accessible to students in the museum at Thebes.

It remains here to comment briefly upon the stratigraphical sequence observed and to cite certain parallels that may shed light on connections with other regions and on the relative chronology. Exhaustive treatment is not called for in this report.

All the pottery and the fragment of a figurine that were found in Pit X are assignable to the Neolithic period. Glazed ware of the type here represented is abundant at Orchomenos and has been gathered at other sites in this region, e.g., at Thespiiai.<sup>7</sup> It is exactly paralleled furthermore in the Peloponnesos: at Corinth, Mycenae, and Tiryns, in the second major layer at Lerna, and at Asea in Arcadia.<sup>8</sup> Clearly it does not belong to the very early stages of the period as a whole, but we may be sure that it was invented or introduced, possibly as a development of the red slipped "Sesklo" ware, long before the end of the Neolithic age in Greece. At Lerna it is characteristic of the entire second period, in which eight successive architectural phases have been observed. Pots decorated with patterns in the same kind of glaze, e.g. **I.3**, are contemporary with those wholly coated.

The two figurines found at Eutresis in 1958 may well belong to the period of the glazed pottery. Both are quite certainly Neolithic, although (**I**).**34** had escaped from its proper stratigraphical context. **I.33** came from Pit X. The steatopygous type is well known throughout Greece. Examples picked up at Thespiiai have been published recently by G. F. Bass,<sup>9</sup> who comments upon the manner in which the fat bodies were

<sup>7</sup> *Orchomenos*, II, pp. 31 ff. Thespiiai, *Hesperia*, XX, 1951, pl. 87, nos. 22, 23, 26.

<sup>8</sup> Kosmopoulos, *The Prehistoric Inhabitation of Corinth*, e.g. pp. 46-47, pl. I, b ("Corinthian Brown Ware"); Weinberg, *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, pp. 500-503 ("Neolithic Urфирnis"). Mycenae, *Ergon*, 1955, p. 74 (sherds shown to us by Dr. Papadimitriou). Tiryns, IV, pp. 5-6. Lerna, e.g. *Hesperia*, XXVII, 1958, pl. 37, d-f. Holmberg, *Asea*, pp. 42 ff. ("Glazed Monochrome or Neolithic Urфирnis Ware").

<sup>9</sup> *Hesperia*, XXVIII, 1959, pp. 344-349.

built up with pellets of clay. This technique was undoubtedly used in the fashioning of the two figurines at Eutresis. Another feature to be noticed is the position of the hands on the thighs. Legs of several figures from Lerna II show that the hands rested in this position; and the upper parts of bodies of others, found at Corinth and quite certainly representing the same type, indicate that the arms projected outward at the shoulders and curved downward, free of the body as far as the groin.<sup>10</sup> Just possibly, Bass's No. 2 may have had this posture. The whole series belongs, we suppose, to one general period of cultural development, the limits of which cannot, however, be closely defined even in Greece. Still less is it safe to suppose that resemblances which may be noted in figurines from other parts of the Mediterranean world or farther afield are indications of exact contemporaneity. Among Neolithic peoples, especially, the margin of subsistence was frighteningly narrow and an ever-present threat to survival; hence the constant preoccupation with fertility and regeneration, and a quite natural choice of the exuberant female body as a prime symbol. Such a symbol it undoubtedly was in many regions and over long periods of time, but not necessarily the same periods in all places.

Pottery with patterns in dull paint (**I.5-12**) is less well known than the glazed class but it is not unparalleled in Boeotia and Phokis. The designs occur in single colors or in combinations of two colors.<sup>11</sup> The change from glossy paint to dull seems to have happened toward the end of the Neolithic period in Corinthia and the Argolid.<sup>12</sup> Another fabric that marks our first group at Eutresis, the thin black burnished ware (**I.13-30**), appears also to be characteristic of late Neolithic phases; it occurs near by at Orchomenos and Thespiiai,<sup>13</sup> in Thessaly,<sup>14</sup> and in slightly different versions in Northeastern Peloponnesos.<sup>15</sup>

Group I thus offers evidence that Eutresis was inhabited in the Neolithic period, before the arrival of any elements bearing a stamp of the Bronze Age. We cannot be sure when the Neolithic settlement was first established. Pit X is only a single receptacle, not a series of stratified deposits; no houses of this age have yet been discovered at the site. In the light of our present knowledge, which is admittedly

<sup>10</sup> *Hesperia*, XXVII, 1958, p. 136, pl. 36, d. Fragments from Corinth, *Hesperia*, XVII, 1948, pl. LXX, 1-2. S. S. Weinberg made this observation with us.

<sup>11</sup> E.g. *Orchomenos*, II, pls. IV, XX; Thespiiai, *Hesperia*, XX, 1951, pl. 87, nos. 5, 13.

<sup>12</sup> Corinth, *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, pp. 513-515; Gonia, *Metr. Museum Studies*, III, pls. I, II; *Prosymna*, figs. 628-631, pl. III; Lerna, *Hesperia*, XXVIII, 1959, pp. 204-205.

<sup>13</sup> *Orchomenos*, II, pls. I, VII, VIII,1, IX,1, X,1. Thespiiai, *Hesperia*, XX, 1951, pl. 87, 16-18.

<sup>14</sup> E. g. at mounds near Larissa, *Ath. Mitt.*, LVII, 1932, Beilage XXIV, XXV, 2-4, XXVI, 3, 4, 8. Grundmann assigned these to an earlier and a later stage; the chronological sequence should be established in the current series of excavations by Miložčić.

<sup>15</sup> Corinth, *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, pp. 511-512. *Prosymna*, fig. 635 (a red version, assigned by Blegen to the earlier Neolithic stage; perhaps not related to the black burnished class). Lerna, *Hesperia*, XXVII, 1958, pl. 36, a-c (patterns incised, not burnished).

inadequate, it seems evident that middle as well as late phases of the Neolithic age are represented by objects in this pit. One must suppose therefore that the filling occurred during a cleaning or levelling of some area in the vicinity.

Pit X and the other hollows disclosed in Trench A were not floors of huts, of the sort found by Miss Goldman. They are obviously too small. On the other hand they must have been man-made, since if they had been natural, produced for example by the roots of trees, we should not have found artifacts within them. Perhaps the simplest explanation is that the early settlers here dug out the clay that they needed for making their shelters, their ovens, and even their pottery. A little below the surface the natural clay would be moist and pliable; hence cavities of the sort here noted. And it is reasonable to suppose that they were later used as places for disposal of rubbish. The same explanation would account for similar hollows in virgin soil at other sites, for example at Lerna.<sup>16</sup>

The deposits of Group II contained many of the same wares as Pit X but also considerable quantities of a thick slipped and burnished variety. This we are as yet unable to identify certainly with any well-defined class of pottery at other sites, though it bears of course a general resemblance to heavy burnished wares of many early settlements, e.g. Troy I. The drawing out of the rim, like that of **II.28**, is seen also at Troy in early phases of the Early Bronze Age.<sup>17</sup> Yet it is by no means impossible that the ware belongs to a Neolithic stage in Greece. Patterns in white paint on a dark polished ground (**II.38-39**) occur in the late Neolithic period in Macedonia<sup>18</sup> and in Thessaly<sup>19</sup> as well as at Orchomenos.<sup>20</sup> They are found also in the eastern islands of the Aegean and at Troy in contexts of the Early Bronze Age.<sup>21</sup> In Corinthia and Argolis burnished wares of this sort are notably lacking. The scoop from Eutresis, **II.43**, is roughly paralleled, however, by vessels found at Asea.<sup>22</sup> Clay stamps or *pintaderas* like **II.47** are not uncommon in Neolithic contexts in Thessaly.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>16</sup> *Hesperia*, XXVI, 1957, p. 160; XXVII, 1958, pp. 138, 139. Cf. also the hollows found by Tsountas near the main settlement of Sesklo, *Dimini and Sesklo*, cols. 115-118, and Bulle's conjecture about cavities in the clay, *Orchomenos*, I, p. 27.

<sup>17</sup> Troy, I, fig. 224, 33.167, 37.895, fig. 246, 5-9, fig. 257.

<sup>18</sup> E.g. Heurtley, *Prehistoric Macedonia*, figs. 17, 18 (Vardina), fig. 21 (Aivate), fig. 27 (Kritsana).

<sup>19</sup> Near Larissa, *Ath. Mitt.*, LVII, 1932, Beilage XXVI, 6, 7, 9, 10. At Karabayram, Tsountas, *Dimini and Sesklo*, fig. 142 (date uncertain). Tsangli, *Prehistoric Thessaly*, fig. 55, a-l.

<sup>20</sup> *Orchomenos*, II, pl. VIII, 2.

<sup>21</sup> Samos, Heidenreich, *Ath. Mitt.*, LX-LXI, 1935-1936, pls. 39, 40, 63. Lesbos, *Thermi*, pl. XXX. Troy, I, fig. 243, 1-9, fig. 249, 25, 27-29, 32.

<sup>22</sup> *Asea*, fig. 84, a, b. Cf. *Dimini and Sesklo*, pl. 16, 3. At Lerna there were heavy vessels of comparable form, without handles, in the upper strata of the second Neolithic layer; and a scoop-like E. H. askos, *Hesperia*, XXVIII, 1959, pl. 41, e, also bears a general resemblance in shape.

<sup>23</sup> *Dimini and Sesklo*, cols. 339-343. One of stone from Tsani, *Prehistoric Thessaly*, p. 149. Schachermeyer prudently refrains from deciding how they were used, *Die ältesten Kulturen Griechenlands*, p. 76.

Similar features observed in these dispersed areas can scarcely fix our Group II with any precision. They suggest that the heavy burnished pottery is to be dated at the end of the Neolithic period or in a very early, perhaps preliminary, stage of the Early Bronze Age. The presence of two nearly whole pots and large fragments of others indicates that Group II represents at least in part a collection of habitation debris *in situ*, not merely rubbish that has been displaced, but it must be borne in mind that a good deal of the associated pottery is of the same kind as that found in Group I.

Subject to correction when more is known of these classes of pottery, we would regard the heavy burnished ware as somewhat later than the thin black and dull-painted wares. The users of the heavy vessels were perhaps a new group of settlers, coming, one must suppose, rather from the north than from the south. They may well be the people who filled some of the remaining clay-pits, and probably also the curving depressions of the early huts, with rubbish from demolished dwellings. Whether they were direct ancestors of the succeeding people we cannot say. A few fragments of red or reddish bowls with slightly incurving rims in Group II may perhaps represent the precursors of the typical red vessels of Early Helladic I; but these fragments are so very few in number and were found in such a thin stratum that their presence could be regarded as intrusive.

The remains described as Group III present a picture of further change or development. Ceramic fabrics of the preceding phases die out and are replaced by others; among the latter the red slipped ware of E.H. I is typical and distinctive. Small jugs and jars (e.g. **III.5-7**), as well as bowls, are characteristic. This is essentially the beginning of the period recognized by Miss Goldman in the "first meter of deposit."<sup>24</sup> Here are the first of the pebble pavements, platforms built for the convenience of the inhabitants, perhaps as a refuge from the mud of the Boeotian rainy seasons but not necessarily the floors of dwellings. Walls with good stone foundations were built in this same period.

The round building, B, and the Chasm within it inevitably provoke speculation. Circular structures play a role in the Early Helladic period: one thinks first of the monumental tholos at Tiryns, which is assignable to Early Helladic II (corresponding with the House of the Tiles at Lerna), but also of the smaller though still not unimpressive foundations in the first E.H. stratum at Orchomenos.<sup>25</sup> The latter are like our Wall B and belong to buildings of comparable size. The Chasm, however, suggests no contemporary parallels. It is not one of the familiar bothroi, which provided cool storage space or were used primarily as rubbish pits, or served both purposes successively. For that it is much too big. And one can scarcely suppose that it was a

<sup>24</sup> *Eutresis*, pp. 80-93.

<sup>25</sup> *Orchomenos*, I, pp. 19-25.

well, laboriously excavated from a great height, when the natural spring of Arkopodi was only 200 m. away at the foot of the hill. It is hard to avoid the conclusion that this great shaft and its surrounding wall had some religious significance, presumably connected with the worship of Earth and the chthonian powers. Precisely the association of such worship with bothroi and round buildings is the subject of an extensive study by F. Robert, *Thyméléè*, the general conclusions of which seem here to be strengthened by archaeological evidence of unexpectedly early date.

The contents of the shaft, to the lowest level reached in 1958, failed to provide any useful information. Only a little broken pottery of ordinary types was recovered. An extension of the excavation sufficient to allow the complete clearing of the shaft would be a time-consuming operation and might or might not shed further light on the problem. One wonders of course whether the depths conceal objects of intelligible significance and possibly remains of sacrifices. Near the hill of Cheliotomylos at Corinth a well shaft excavated by T. L. Shear in 1930 was found to contain 20 human skeletons and a great number of entire, though broken, pots of types assignable to Early Helladic II.<sup>26</sup> This has left another interesting, though rather gruesome, problem unsolved. If, as we believe, the shaft at Eutresis was associated with cult practices, it is perhaps not too fanciful to inquire whether the Corinthian well may have served a related purpose. But for the time being this remains in a realm of speculation.

Horizontal lugs, and rudimentary handles that resemble lugs, are common in Groups II and III. Some are longitudinally pierced, others are solid but with ends hollowed as if there were an open passage (e.g. **II.36-37**). The most elaborate and artificial in form is **III.9**, which has widely flaring tips<sup>27</sup> and two vertical string-holes. Typologically the line of development appears to have been from the practical toward the decorative. Often the attachment is merely traditional and vestigial (**II.31**). Another related type of handle begins as a plain wide band of clay attached to the side of the vessel in a tight arch, much like a pierced lug (e.g. **II.29**); it is modified with tapering ends that are sometimes prolonged in horizontal ridges (**II.32**), and ultimately becomes what we have called a broad hollow grip (**III.8**). Handles of the last type, normally set low on either side of the body of large rounded jars, are very strong and well fitted to the grasp. They occur in Early Helladic I and are particularly characteristic at many sites in the first phases of the succeeding period.

The period of time represented by the remains that make up our Groups III-V cannot be precisely determined but must have been fairly long, comprising at least seven successive phases of building activity. Assignable to these are five superposed

<sup>26</sup> *A.J.A.*, XXXIV, 1930, pp. 404-406.

<sup>27</sup> Cf. *Prehistoric Macedonia*, fig. 37 (Kritsana); *Troy*, I, fig. 261, 17, 18; *Aghios Kosmas*, fig. 123, 7.

stone pavements, the round building of III, some undetermined structures in IV, and a rectangular house in V.

A sample of carbonized wood that was taken from the stratum of Group III at +1.17 m. in the western part of Trench A and another from a deposit of Group IV around +1.50 m. in the central area were tested by radiocarbon ( $C^{14}$ ) analysis at the University of Pennsylvania in January 1960 and gave dates around 2500 B.C.<sup>28</sup> There was a slight discrepancy, the older sample yielding a date four years later than the younger, whereas it is proven stratigraphically to have been earlier by an appreciable margin, presumably several generations. The margin of error calculated by the laboratory would cover this gap, however, and it must be borne in mind that the  $C^{14}$  date is that of the death of the organism, not of the destruction of the building in which the wood was used. On the basis of archaeological comparisons with other sites and regions the authors of this report would estimate the absolute date of Group III, and even that of Group IV, as somewhat earlier in the third millennium, but the evidence is admittedly insecure.

Characteristic of Group IV are the small shallow saucers with ring-handles at the rim, which have been called spoons (e.g. **IV.8-12**).<sup>29</sup> They are too large to be used like the modern implements; for that size see an example from Lerna.<sup>30</sup> But they would serve well as drinking cups and perhaps for the feeding of small children. Uncomfortably hot soup could be cooled in them. Vessels of roughly similar shape occur in the Copper Age in Anatolia.<sup>31</sup>

Fragmentary handles of unusual shape appeared in deposits of Group IV. **IV.18** may be a wishbone-handle, of a type that became common in somewhat later periods in Macedonia; **IV.19** might be considered a related form. But either or both may possibly have come from frying pans of Cycladic origin or derived types.<sup>32</sup> Incised ware suggesting close relationships with the islands is also found in strata of Early Helladic I at Eutresis (e.g. **IV.13-14**; cf. *Eutresis*, pp. 80-82). A continuation or a revival of this form of decoration will be seen in E.H. II (**VII.1**, **VIII.47-54**).

House 9 belongs to the stage of Miss Goldman's "second meter of deposit" (*Eutresis*, pp. 93 ff.). The pottery shows some change and development but the styles

<sup>28</sup> The sample from Group III (Excavators' No. EC.2, Univ. of Pennsylvania laboratory No. P-307), dates B.C. 2492  $\pm$  64. The sample from Group IV (Exc. No. EC. 3, U. P. lab. No. P-306), dates B.C. 2496  $\pm$  75. We are grateful to the Director of the University Museum and to the staff of the Mediterranean Section, to the Department of Physics of the University, and particularly to Miss E. K. Ralph who conducted the analysis.

<sup>29</sup> Cf. *Eutresis*, p. 86, fig. 106.

<sup>30</sup> *Hesperia*, XXIV, 1955, pl. 23, c.

<sup>31</sup> E.g. H. H. von der Osten, *The Alishar Hüyük, Seasons of 1930-32*, Part I, fig. 168, c282; H. Zübeyr, "Ahlatlıbel Hafriyatı," *Türk Tarih, Arkeologya ve Etnografya Dergisi*, II, 1934, pp. 16-17; *idem* (H. Z. Koşay), *Alaca Höyük Kazısı, 1937-39*, pl. XCVIII, 3.

<sup>32</sup> Cf. G. E. Mylonas, *Aghios Kosmas*, pp. 124-125, drawing 63, e.

are essentially those of Early Helladic I. House 6, superposed on House 9 with approximately the same orientation, was clearly a successor but a distinct entity. It ought probably to be taken as marking the transition from one period to another; by the time when House 6 was demolished the ceramic styles of Early Helladic II had been established. Neither of these two buildings showed signs of violent destruction, nor has any other evidence of a general break in the sequence been observed elsewhere at the site. Yet changes occurred rapidly at this time, initiated by some impulse, perhaps the peaceful arrival of a new group of related people, perhaps by some technological discovery that affected the economic condition of the community. Objects of copper or bronze appear in greater numbers. It is just now that sauceboats and askoi become suddenly prominent in the repertory of pot shapes; the relatively heavy rounded bowls of Early Helladic I are replaced by a myriad of lighter saucers;<sup>33</sup> and the characteristic squat pyxis (**VIII.19**) is common. New pottery need not imply social or economic revolution, but the changes at this stage seem to us to indicate more than a casual alteration in taste.

The next major development is seen in House L, a much larger and more elaborate building than any that preceded it in this area. The few new discoveries and observations that were made in 1958 have been recorded above (Group VIII). A bothros of unusual size, found in Room III, may perhaps be taken as support of Miss Goldman's suggestion that the house had religious associations.<sup>34</sup> One of the objects from the bothros is a figurine of a quadruped, **VIII.65**. The proximity of House L to the place of the Chasm, which may well have been remembered with respect since earlier times, ought also to be noticed in connection with this suggestion. The building was maintained and occupied for many years, being modified and reconstructed on several occasions. Reasons for its ultimate destruction and abandonment were not apparent; the few traces of ash and carbonized matter that were found in the debris seemed no more than those which occur in all normal habitation deposits of early times.

Objects found in association with House L include a pair of bronze tweezers, **VII.2** (very slightly earlier than the building), a pin pointed at both ends, **VIII.61**, and a very well-made fish hook, perfectly preserved, **VIII.60**. One guesses that people from Eutresis would go fishing in the waters of the Corinthian Gulf, down the valley from Leuktra (Pl. 40, a) at no great distance. They may sometimes, however, have

<sup>33</sup> We choose the word *sauce* as a technical term for the little vessels, deliberately attempting to avoid yet another modification of the overworked word *bowl*. It is not always perfectly applicable since there are countless minor variations in the shapes (Fig. 11, Pl. 50). *Sauce* is acceptable English for **VIII.1** and **VIII.2**; it is a less happy name for **VIII.25** and still less for **VIII.26**. But all these vessels were used essentially for the same purposes and in the same way, both for eating and drinking, and to speak of some of them as "small bowls" is hopelessly confusing. Translation, needless to say, adds further pitfalls: the French *saucière*, adopted also in other languages, equals sauceboat, not saucer.

<sup>34</sup> *Eutresis*, pp. 20, 24.

taken the longer path eastward to the Euripos. Importation from the Cyclades, attested by great quantities of Melian obsidian, would come most directly by sea to a port on the east coast of Boeotia,<sup>35</sup> unless indeed it was handled by Attic or Corinthian middlemen. Many coastal villages were emporia of obsidian, Aghios Kosmas in Attica being now the best known thanks to G. E. Mylonas's thorough publication.<sup>36</sup> At Lerna the authors have also found the material in superabundance, but at Eutresis, an inland site, it was if anything still more plentiful.<sup>37</sup> Many pieces are beautifully shaped; the finest, an arrow head (Pl. 53), came in fallen earth and cannot be related to its stratigraphical context.

Another object of special interest is a bone tube, **VIII.62**, from the floor of House L. At one end it was worked into a flat tip, which shows wear from being rubbed. The other end is cut in even section and its rim is indented with fine smooth notches where strings or threads have been drawn over the surface; in miniature it is reminiscent of the familiar stone well-heads that over the years have been grooved by the passage of ropes. We do not know how it was used; probably in some simple, and perhaps obvious, step in spinning or preparing the threads or in weaving. Bone tubes are common implements. At Lerna a pair of them, worn with grooves in just the same manner, was found in a house shortly antedating the House of the Tiles.

In addition to the great numbers of sauceboats, askoi, and little saucers mentioned above, House L and contemporary deposits yielded fragments of jugs and an array of rims of large open basins (e.g. **VIII.10-11**, **VIII.55-56**), glazed, partly glazed, and plain. These belong to the standard repertory of the middle phases of the Early Helladic period over a wide area in central Greece and northeastern Peloponnesos, with distinct similarities in the Cyclades and related forms in Crete. There can be no doubt, we think, that the people who made and used these implements and pots, on the mainland at least, were closely akin in material culture. We suppose that they spoke the same language and held similar religious beliefs (although their burial customs still elude us, very few graves having been found except those of Cycladic or semi-Cycladic type at Aghios Kosmas in Attica). They had technical knowledge to a marked degree, and they seem to have been a vigorous, practical, intelligent, and imaginative people.

Their settlement came to an end rather suddenly but, so far as can be seen at Eutresis, without violence. It was succeeded by another occupation in Early Helladic

<sup>35</sup> Hyria at Dramesi? C. W. Blegen, *Hesperia*, Suppl. VIII, pp. 39-42.

<sup>36</sup> See also the detailed study by J. M. Yeroulanos of the obsidian in his collection at Trachones, *Αρχ. Έφ.*, 1956, pp. 73-105.

<sup>37</sup> 1427 pieces were recovered; of these, 67 were described and entered in the inventory by Mr. Perry Bialor, who is making a comprehensive study of chipped stone implements in the Aegean area.

III. This is represented by our Group IX. Objects found bear out the observations made previously: pottery decorated with patterns in light-colored paint on a dark ground (the "Agia Marina class") is characteristic; dark patterns on a light ground occur but rarely; sauceboats are not found; the tankard is very common, as is the bowl with outturned rim.<sup>88</sup> A layer of burnt debris, which had been recorded by the earlier excavators as overlying the remains of E.H. III in almost all parts of the site,<sup>89</sup> was clearly observable in Trench B. Undoubtedly a major disaster overtook Eutresis at this time. The new settlement that succeeded it had all the well-known features of a Middle Helladic town.

JOHN L. CASKEY  
ELIZABETH G. CASKEY

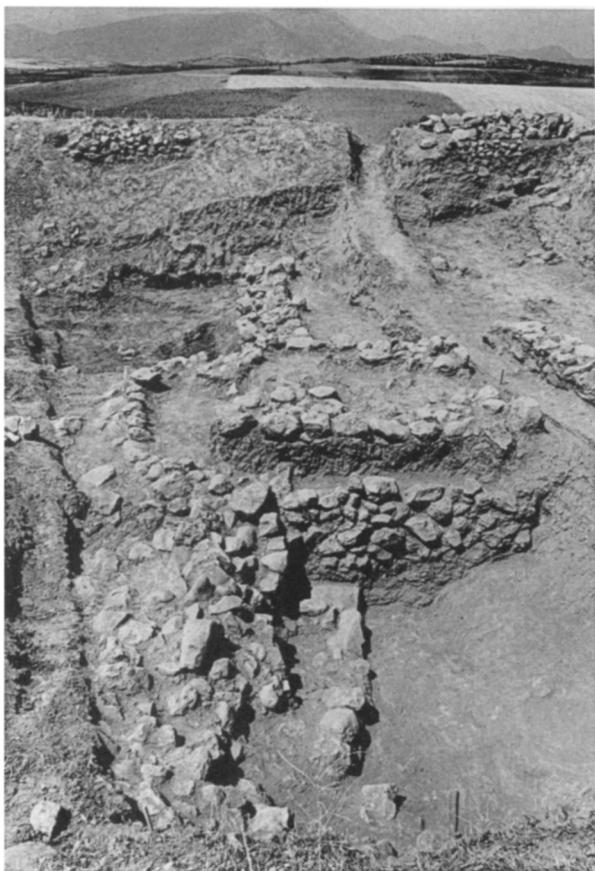
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<sup>88</sup> From Trench B, a fragment like *Eutresis*, fig. 156, 7. For the shape of the bowl, *ibid.*, pl. IX, 4. The coating of the rim in the latter example looks like one of the few features carried over from E.H. II; cf. the fragment of a basin, **VIII.56**, Pl. 51. At Lerna bowls of this shape have two handles and are completely slipped; they are very plentiful in the corresponding period (*Hesperia*, XXIII, 1954, pl. 9, a, and a version in gray ware, c; also XXVI, 1957, pl. 42, f.).

<sup>89</sup> *Eutresis*, p. 231.



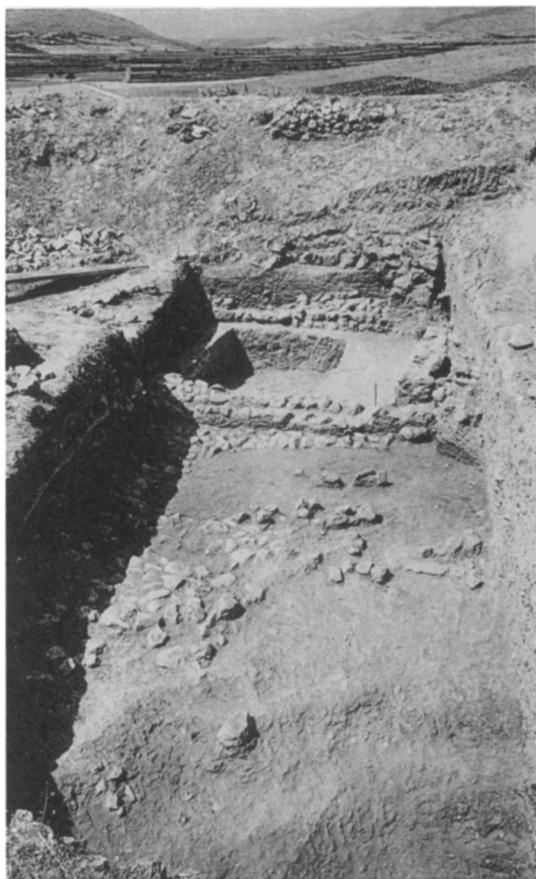
a. The Plain of Leuktra from Eutresis.



b. Trench A from East. Building O and Retaining Wall.



c. Trench A from East. North Wall of House L.



a. Trench A from East. House 9.



b. House 9 from Southeast.



c. Trench A from West. Fifth Pavement.



d. Fifth Pavement above Fourth.



e. Fourth Pavement.



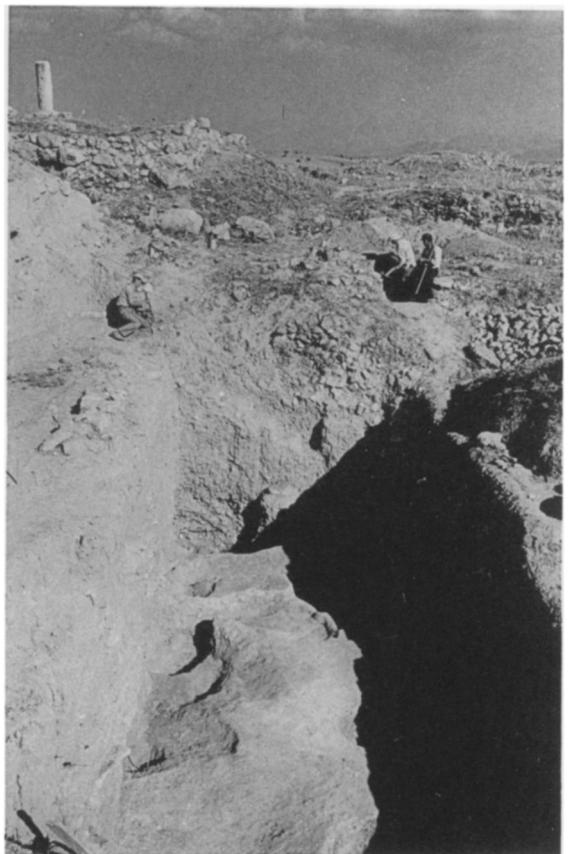
a. Wall of Building B and Shaft of Chasm.



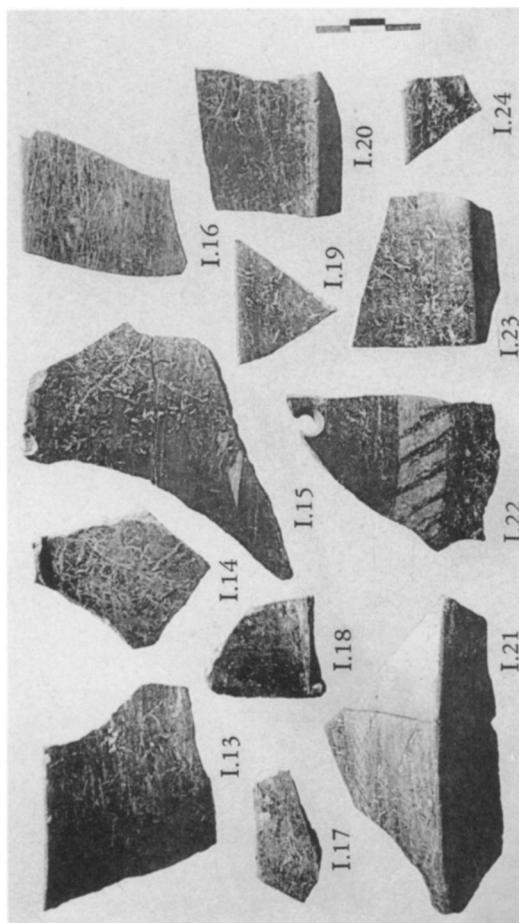
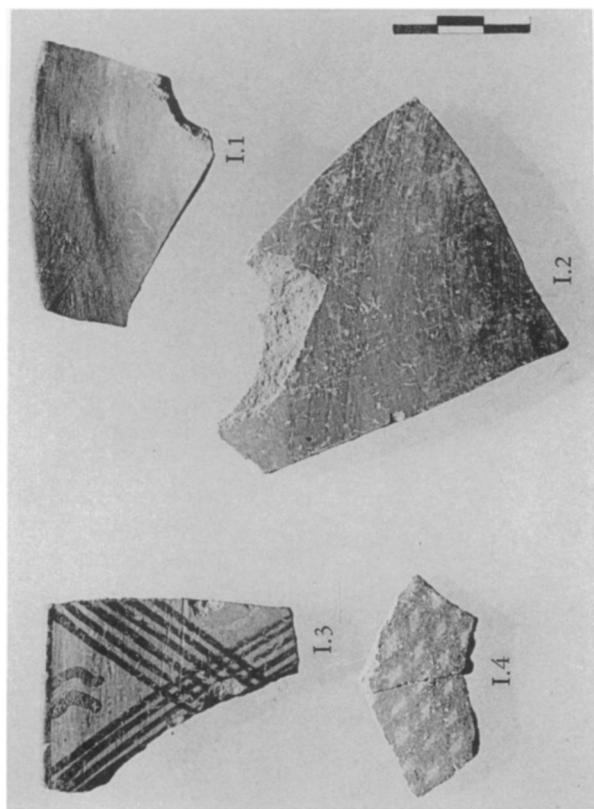
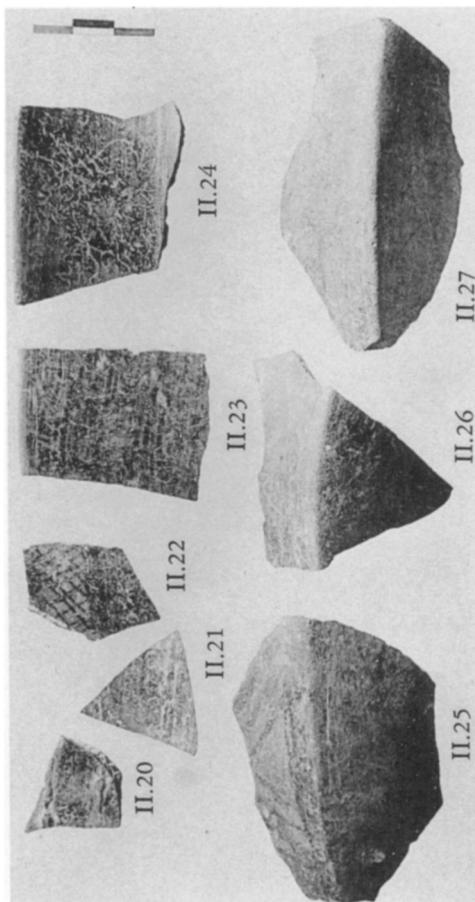
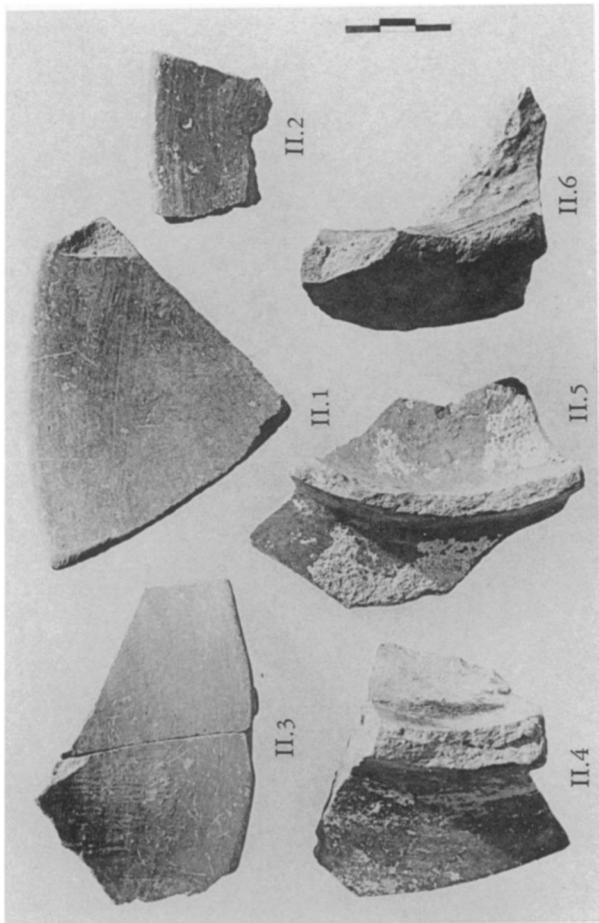
b. Rim of Chasm.



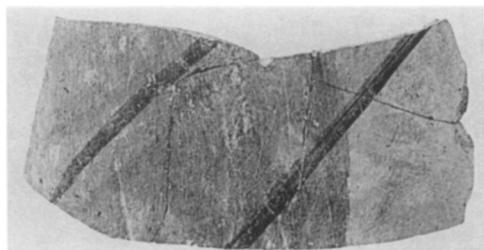
c. Trench A from East. Cavities in Virgin Soil.



d. Trench A from West. Virgin Soil.  
Workmen in Trench B, above.



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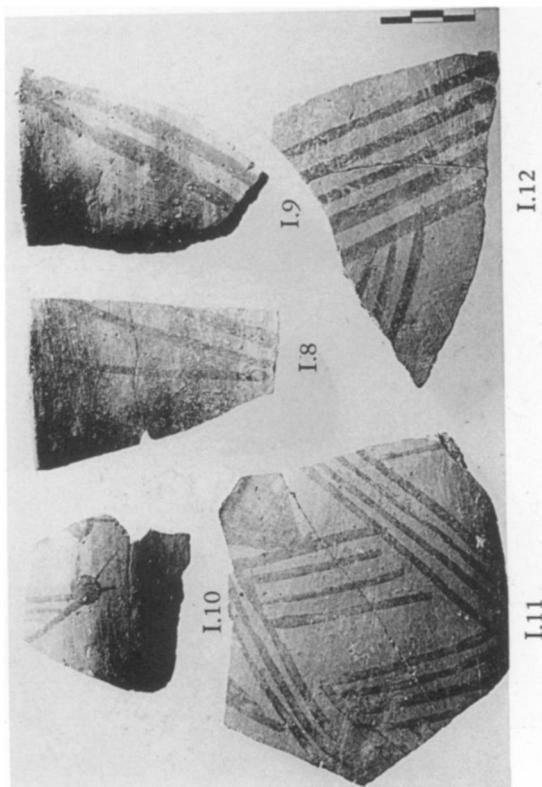
II.11



I.5

I.7

I.6



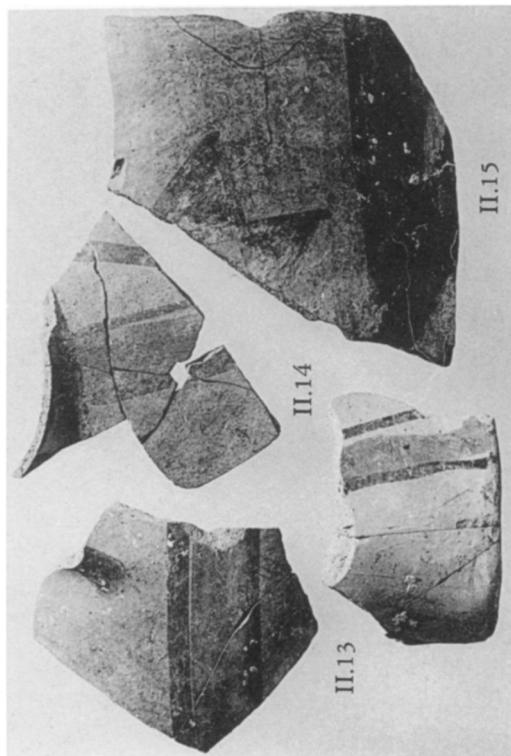
I.9

I.8

I.10

I.12

I.11

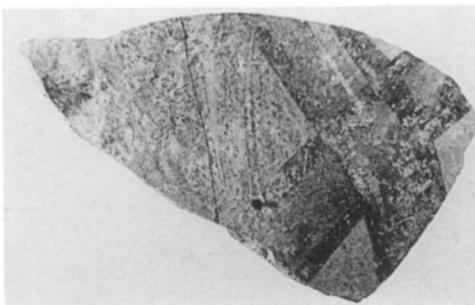


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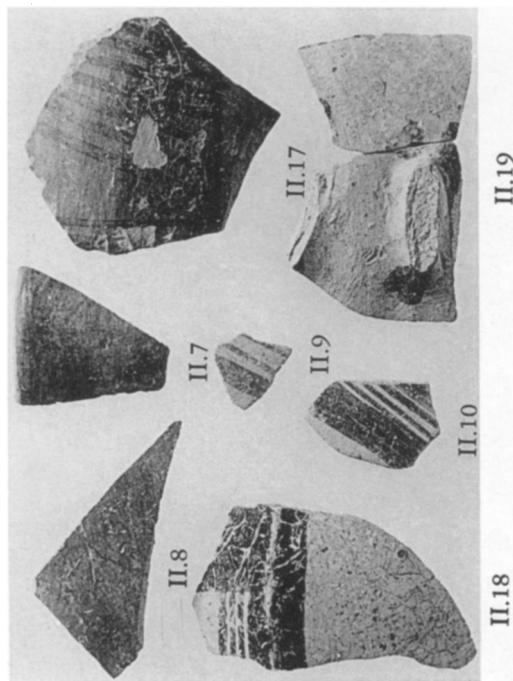
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II.15

II.16



II.12



II.7

II.17

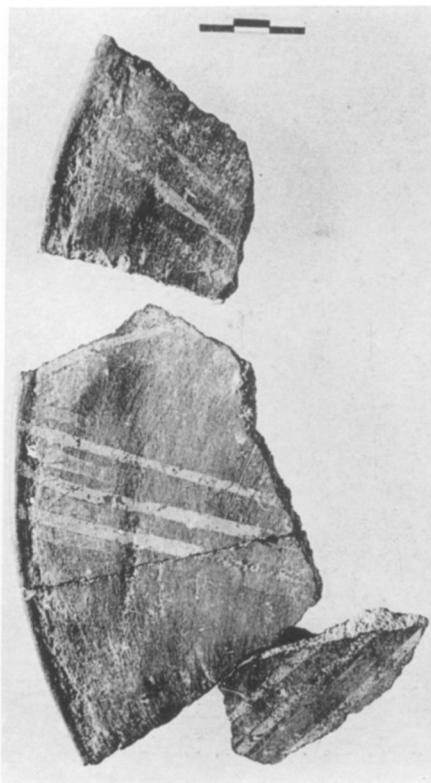
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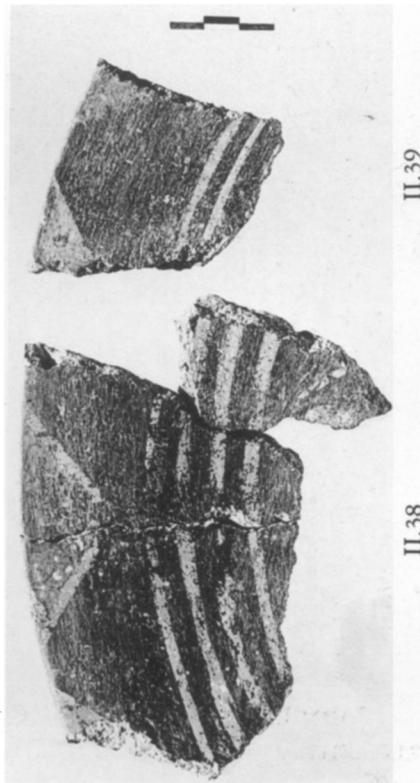
II.18

II.19

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II.38



II.38

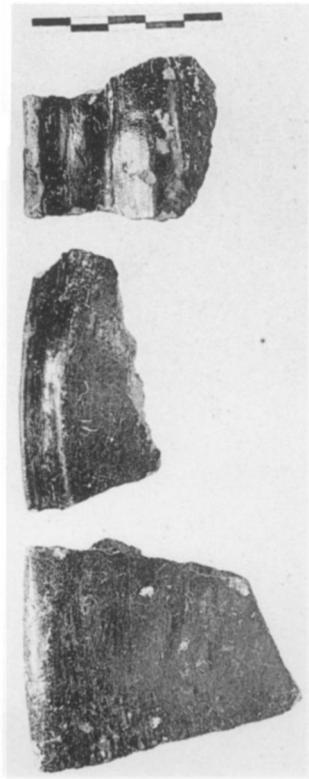
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II.39



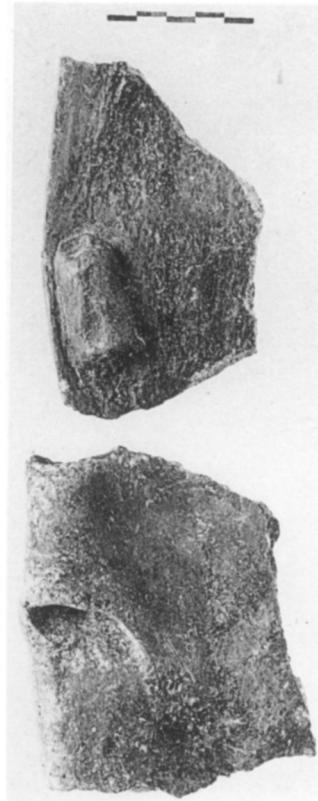
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II.40

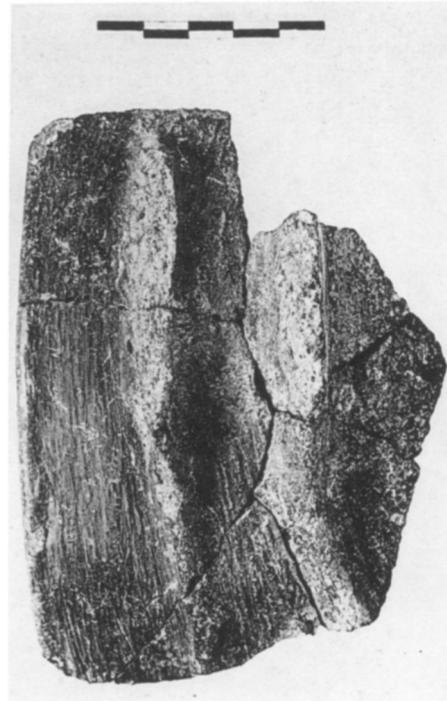
II.41

II.42



II.30

II.31



II.32

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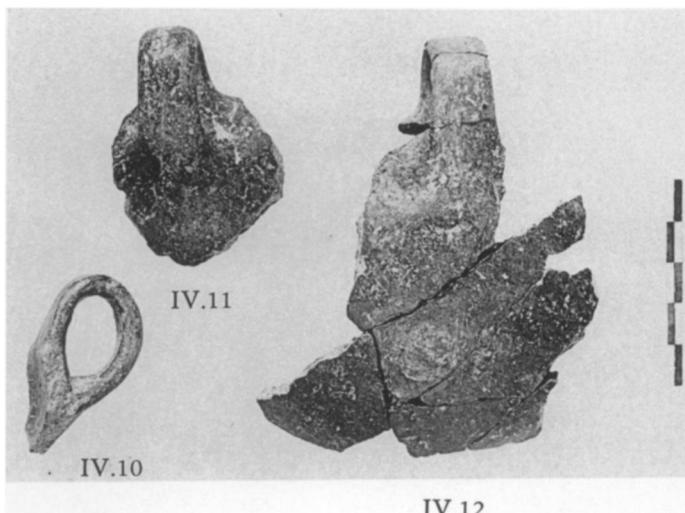
II.37



II.28



III.7



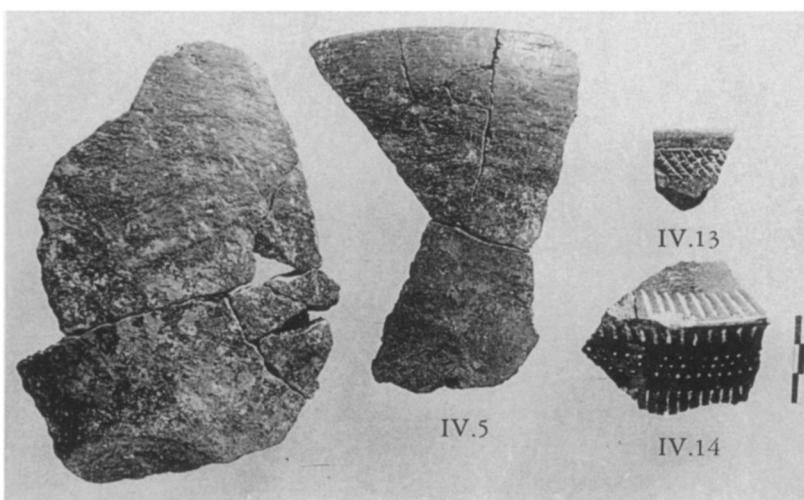
IV.11

IV.10

IV.12



III.5

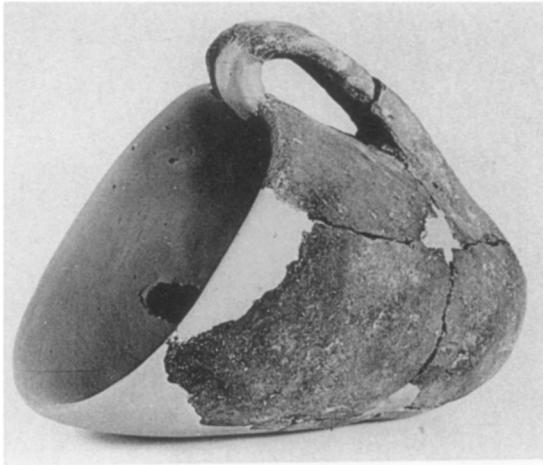


IV.4

IV.5

IV.13

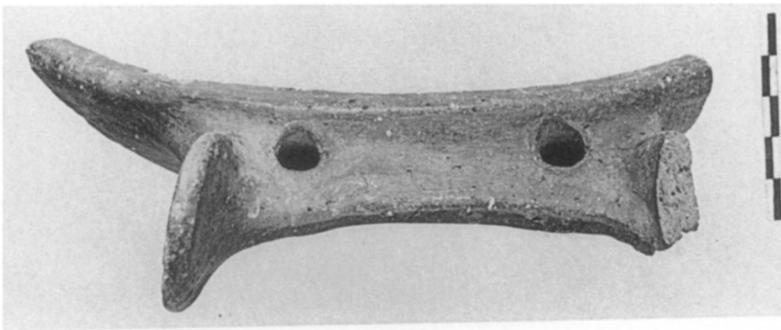
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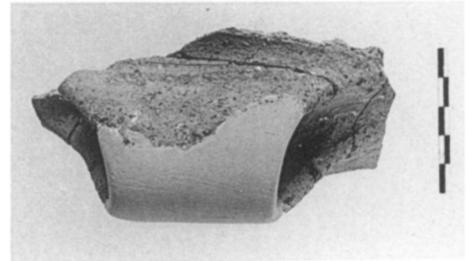
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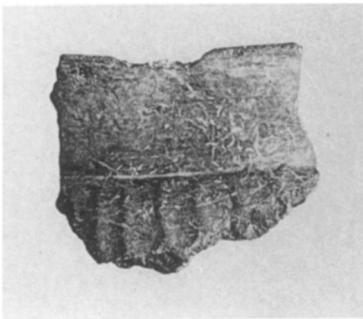
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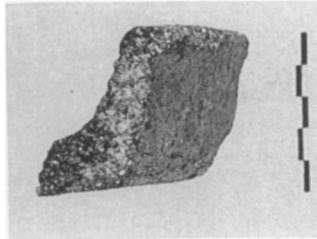
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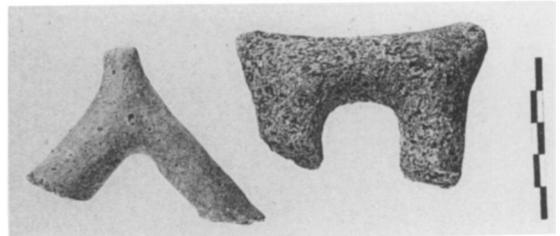
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III.10

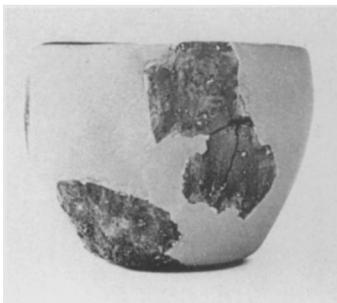


III.16



IV.18

IV.19



IV.20



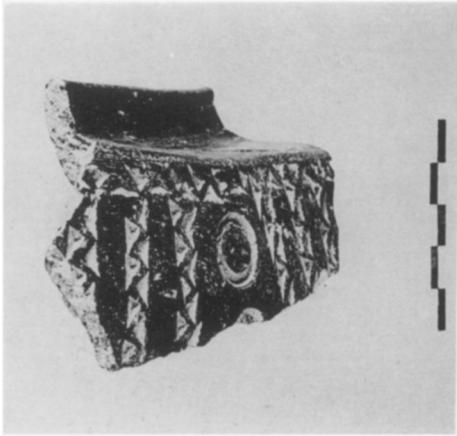
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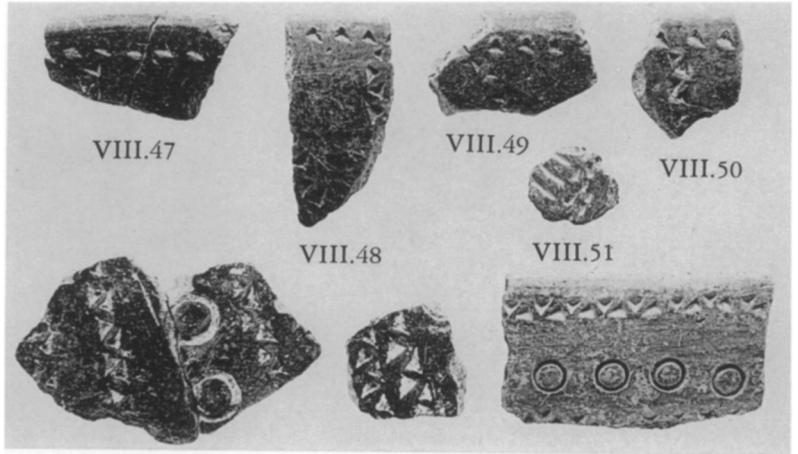
IV.16

IV.17

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VII.1



VIII.47

VIII.49

VIII.50

VIII.48

VIII.51

VIII.52

VIII.53

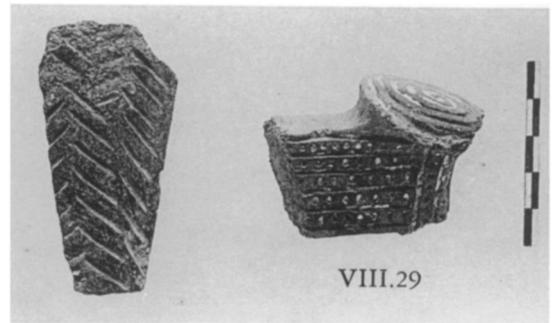
VIII.54



VIII.31

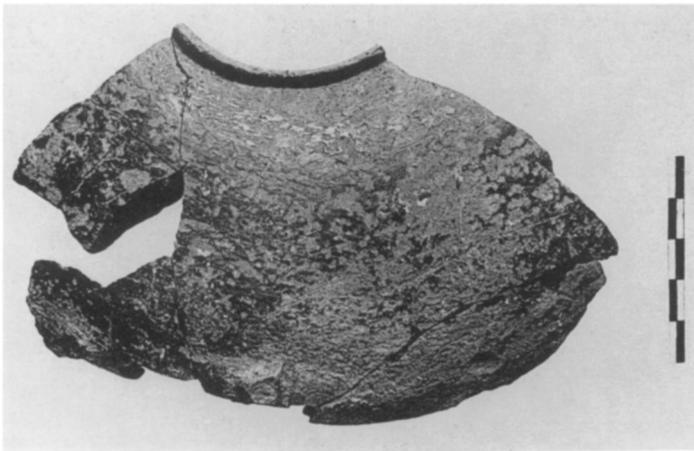


VIII.45

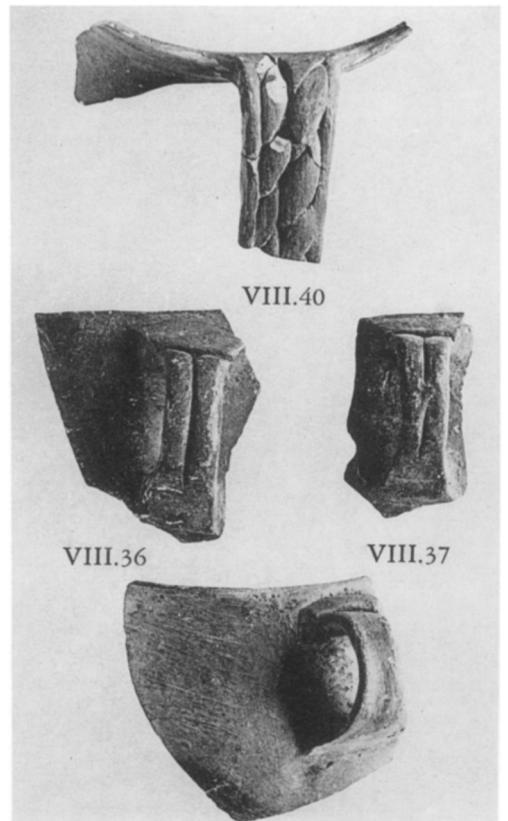


VIII.46

VIII.29



VIII.19



VIII.40

VIII.36

VIII.37

VIII.38



VIII.41

VIII.42



VIII.15



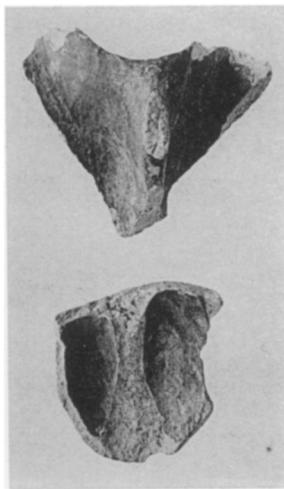
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VIII.43



VIII.44



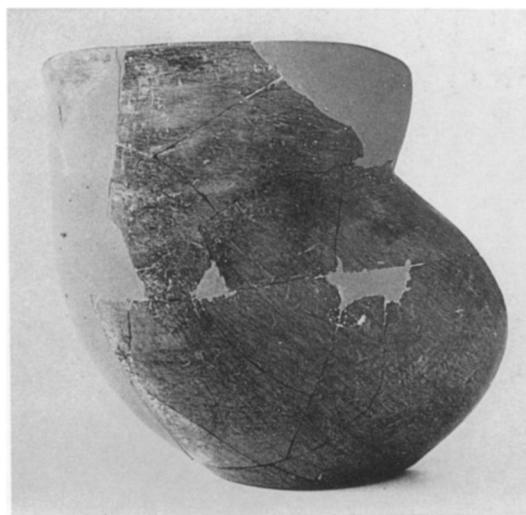
VIII.39



VIII.35



VIII.17



VIII.18

PLATE 50



VIII.1



VIII.2



VIII.21



VIII.12



VIII.13



VIII.5



VIII.14



VIII.5



VIII.25



VIII.26



VIII.22



VIII.30



VIII.32



VIII.33

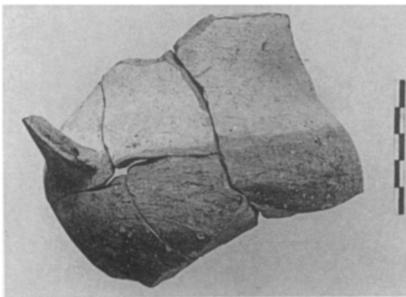
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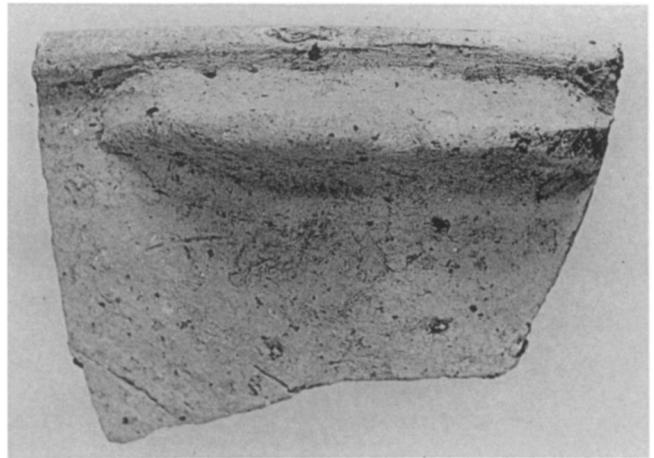
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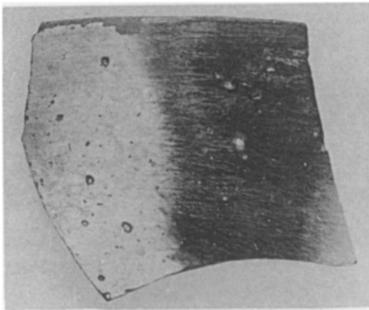
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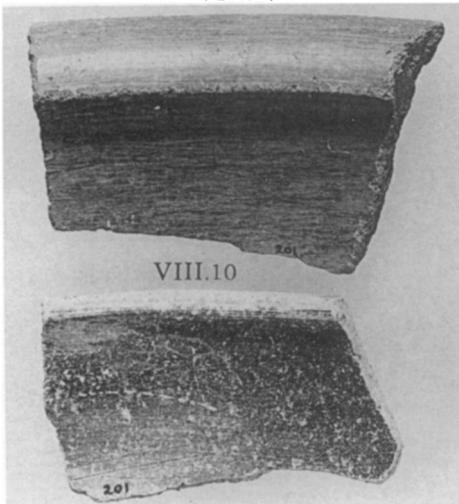
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VIII.55



VIII.27



VIII.10

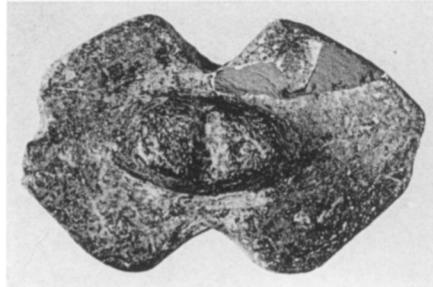
VIII.11



VIII.56



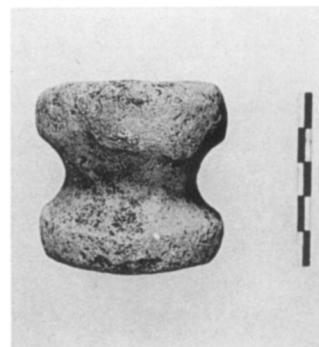
I.33 1:1



II.47 1:1



(I).34 1:1



III.21



II.44

II.45

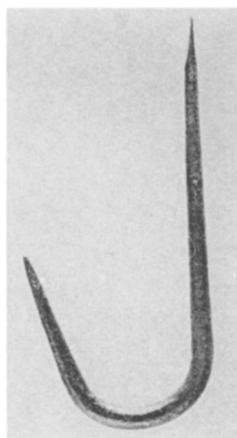
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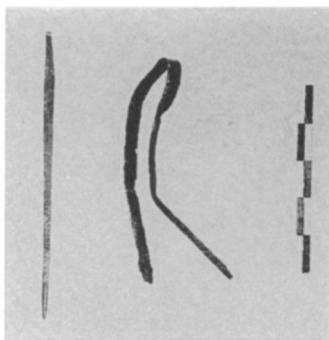
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V.6

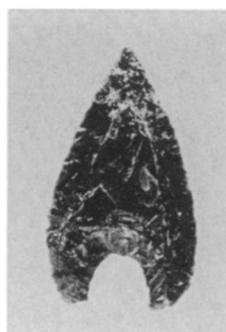
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VIII.60 1:1



VIII.61 VII.2



Unstratified 1:1



IX.1

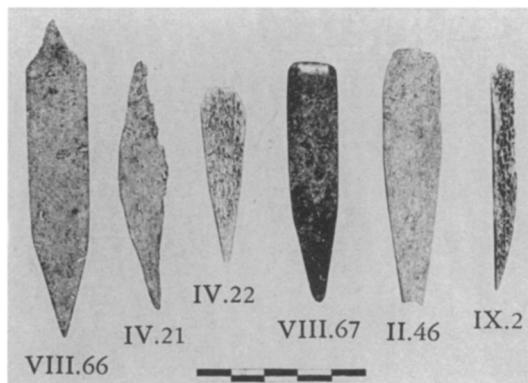


III.17

III.18



VIII.62



VIII.66

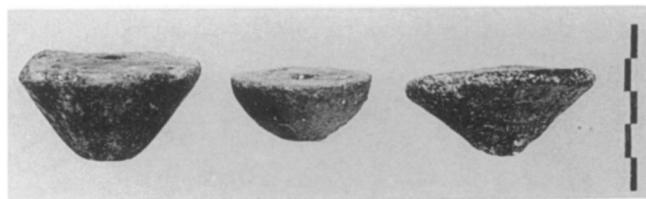
IV.21

IV.22

VIII.67

II.46

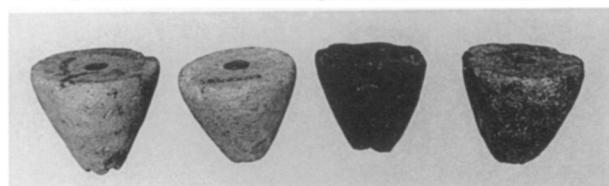
IX.2



IV.26

III.23

II.48



IV.23

III.22

IV.24

IV.25



VIII.64

VII.3

VIII.68

VIII.69



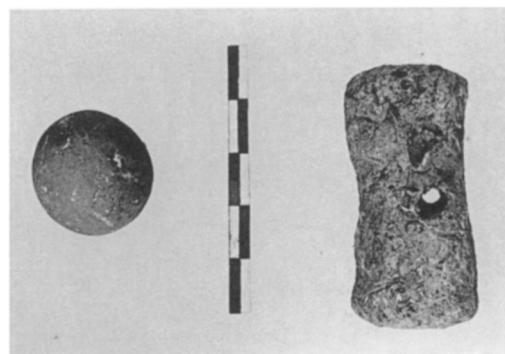
VIII.70

X.1

X.2



VIII.65'1:1



VIII.63

IX.3