NEOLITHIC REMAINS AT NEMEA

Excavations of 1925–1926

(Plates A, 57–69)

FOREWORD

THE following report is offered in partial fulfillment of an old obligation. It deals with materials of the Early Neolithic period which were found in 1925, filling a collapsed cave on a hillside west of the Classical sanctuary of Nemean Zeus and the modern village. It was an unexpected discovery, a parergon of unique importance, in the course of the excavations conducted by the American School of Classical Studies in the campaigns of 1924, 1925, and 1926.

An account of those excavations is to be found in the preliminary reports. Now, half a century later and at the outset of new excavations by the University of California, it may be appropriate to summarize the somewhat checkered history of the older enterprise.

It began upon the initiative of Professor W. T. Semple and a group of friends in Cincinnati, who supported it throughout with intense scholarly interest and provided the necessary funds. Mr. Semple had proposed a scheme of this sort to B. H. Hill, Director of the School, who welcomed it and recommended the site of Nemea. Mr. Hill, himself interested especially in the temple of Zeus, assumed general responsibility, but C. W. Blegen, the Assistant Director, took personal charge of work in the field.

Primary attention was paid to the temple and certain other buildings within the sanctuary, but much of the valley was also explored by members of the staff. The site of the stadium was fairly obvious and its position was ascertained by trial-trenching. Far to the east, a deposit of Archaic Greek votives, discovered by chance, was excavated and recovered. On the top and north side of the hill called Tsoungiza a settlement of the Bronze Age was found and excavated under the supervision of J. P. Harland,


Hesperia, XLIV, 3
and on the southeastern slope of the small hill Blegen found and cleared the Early Neolithic cave.

Definitive publication was planned, but progress was interrupted. B. H. Hill left the School in 1926. C. W. Blegen served in 1926–1927 as Acting Director. (In the final season at Nemea he fell ill; B. D. Meritt took charge of operations through the concluding weeks of the campaign.) In the autumn of 1927 Blegen became Professor of Classical Archaeology at the University of Cincinnati. New duties occupied much of his time, but he met former commitments by completing the excavation of Mycenaean chamber tombs at the Argive Heraeum\(^3\) and making thorough tests of a Neolithic site at Hageorgitika in Arcadia,\(^4\) both in 1928.

Chapter headings for the projected book on Nemea are found in some of Blegen’s penciled notes. He himself was to write the general introduction and the account of the cave, and he was to collaborate with Hill on the architecture of the Classical period;\(^5\) W. B. Dinsmoor was to study the metrology of the temple;\(^6\) the Helladic settlement on Tsoungiza was to be presented by Harland,\(^7\) the Greek and Latin inscriptions by A. B. West,\(^8\) the coins by A. R. Bellinger;\(^9\) the Archaic deposit in “Spyro’s field” was entrusted to Marion Rawson;\(^10\) the Christian church was assigned tentatively to Dorothy H. Cox. As in many collaborative projects of this kind, when the colleagues became separated and otherwise engaged, the plan broke down.

Here we take up the Neolithic remains, essentially in the words of the report which Blegen wrote. The document has remained up to now in typescript. He and I dis-

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3 Published by him in *Prosymna*, Cambridge, 1937. Some of his activities in the years 1929–1930 may be discerned in the introductory chapter.
6 Dinsmoor, who died in 1973, seems not to have published a work specifically on this subject.
7 See abstract of a paper, *A.J.A.*, XXXII, 1928, p. 63. Harland wrote an extensive account of the site, which exists in typescript. After his death in 1973, the papers on Tsoungiza, which he had kept at the University of North Carolina, were turned over in accordance to his wishes to Professor G. E. Mylonas in Athens.
9 I find no reference to a completed report on the coins.
10 She drew up a detailed systematic catalogue of 380 pots, chiefly miniatures of Corinthian type, and counted 530 bases of others, as well as masses of sherds. A few lamps and terracotta figurines are listed also. The typescript, a set of photographs, and drawings in watercolor by Piet de Jong are on file at the University of Cincinnati. Copies of these are kept at Corinth, where the objects themselves are stored temporarily. All the material from Nemea now in Corinth will be returned to the site and housed in a new museum which is being planned as part of the program of the new excavations being conducted by the University of California.
cussed it more than once, and in 1970 he asked me to issue it, with revisions and supplementary notes where these might be useful after the long lapse of time. He died in August, 1971. Two months later, I was able to spend some days at Corinth, re-examining the whole pots and a selection of the sherds and miscellaneous objects. C. K. Williams and members of his staff, especially Nancy Bookidis, Sharon Herbert, and Mary Sturgeon, were exceedingly kind and helpful in this work, then and thereafter.

At hand in Cincinnati, besides the text of the report, were Blegen’s handwritten notes on the pottery, a series of excellent photographs, and eight sheets of watercolors by Piet de Jong.

If the report were being written today its scheme and style would be different, but it is not for us to say just what form they might take. Blegen’s unfailing accuracy of observation and clarity of analysis need no comment. I have edited here and there; shortened, omitted, or substituted a few passages; added a few notes and references which are enclosed in square brackets. Plentiful illustration has seemed important. A catalogue of the inventoried pots and objects and a list of all the sherds which appear on the plates have been added at the end of this account. Elizabeth Banks, during a year’s leave of absence from the University of Kansas in 1973–1974, has collaborated both in Greece and in Cincinnati, helping immeasurably in the preparation of the text and illustrations.

Much further work can be done with the masses of broken pottery from the cave. The collection, from which few if any pieces have been discarded at any time, is now stored in more than fifty boxes at Corinth. It has not been analyzed statistically. That large task, undertaken with modern methods and in the light of new knowledge, would undoubtedly yield important results.*

JUNE, 1974

THE EXCAVATION

A chance observation made during the campaign of 1925 led to a small excavation, begun in that year and continued in 1926, which produced some interesting material of very early date. On the southeastern slope of Tsoungiza hill at the edge of the village of Herakleion (Fig. 1; Pl. 57, a) Kostas Koutsouris had recently made for himself a fairly large circular aloni or threshing floor. Because of the steep slope of the ground he

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* Many were taken in 1934 under Blegen’s supervision and are reproduced on the plates herewith. The name of the photographer is not recorded.

** The Classics Fund of the University of Cincinnati has made a contribution toward covering the cost of the plates.

* Two studies on Nemea material are now in progress: John Robert Guy of the University of Cincinnati has assumed responsibility for the publication of the Archaic votive deposit and Ms. Banks has undertaken the study of the Neolithic pottery. J.L.C., July, 1975.
FIG. 1. Survey of the sanctuary and its surroundings at Nemea, with the area of the Tsoungiza cave marked X. Courtesy of Professor Stephen Miller and the University of California Expedition.
was obliged to cut a broad horizontal shelf into the hillside, and the earth and rock thus removed were used to extend the leveled area toward the southeast so as to form a wide terrace, which was supported by a high retaining wall. The aloni consequently lay with its easterly half resting on this artificial embankment, while its westerly part was hewn largely in native rock—the soft limestone which almost everywhere on Tsoungiza appears just below the surface of the ground (Fig. 2; Pl. 57, d). In crossing the aloni we happened to notice that the limestone floor in the westerly half of the circle was not continuous, but ended in an almost straight line running roughly from east to west, beyond which, toward the north, the floor was composed of firm, hard-packed earth that contained potsherds and bones and was clearly recognizable as an ancient deposit. The sharp straight line of demarcation between the rock and the filling of earth led us to hope that we had found one side of a dromos or entrance to an early rock-hewn tomb.

Our first investigation in 1925 was limited to an exploratory pit, some 5 m. long by 4 m. wide. The earth, full of debris of various kinds including potsherds belonging exclusively to the Neolithic period, was found to continue to an average depth of 4.40 m. below the floor of the aloni. Since the deposit obviously extended beyond this first trench, our excavation was considerably enlarged in 1926, both northward and westward. On the eastern side the original limit was not found, for digging in this direction would have necessitated the destruction of the threshing floor, to which the owner would in no circumstances consent.

The area examined is some 30 m. long from east to west, with a maximum width of ca. 8 m. (Pl. 57, b–d). At the western end the earth is not very deep and native rock was soon exposed; we seemed to have uncovered a natural crevice, sloping rather steeply downward toward the east. After ca. 10 m. the crevice broadened considerably and dropped off sharply into a deep cavity, some 20 m. long and ranging from 2.90 to 6 m. wide (Fig. 2). It was excavated to an average depth of ca. 4.50 m., but there were many deeper hollows in the extremely rough and uneven rock which formed the floor and the maximum depth was almost 6 m. (see diagram, p. 256). In the cavity were many large chunks of broken limestone and much debris of shattered rock (Pl. 57, d); these must apparently mean that our deep fissure was originally a cave, roofed by an overhanging ledge of rock which had at sometime collapsed, perhaps as the result of an earthquake. The entrance to the grotto could only have been from the lower eastern end. Hard-packed deposits of earth containing animal bones and potsherds lay alike beneath and above the fallen material.

13 [The drawing gives a schematic section of the area of the aloni and the excavation, looking toward the distinctive flat-topped profile of Mount Phokas in the background. At the left, the cutting in the rock of the hillside for the aloni is clearly visible; at the right, the level of the native limestone where it comes close to the surface. In the center is the cave with the remnants of its overhanging roof. (The name of the artist is not recorded. P. Duell was architect of the excavations in 1924, W. V. Cash in 1925.)]
Diagram of depths (in meters), below the level of the threshing-floor, at which pottery and objects were found in the first excavation ("Aloni"), December 10–19, 1925, and in the extension westward (W), November 18–December 15, 1926, corresponding with C. W. Blegen's notes and labels. The record of a supplementary test (Z), December 21–30, 1926, is incomplete; digging stopped, presumably, around 2.00 m. below the surface.
FIG. 2. Section of the excavation of the cave.
How the cave was used could not be satisfactorily determined. The numerous animal bones recovered represent certainly sheep, goats, swine, and deer, and there is a large joint that belonged to a quadruped not smaller than an ox.\footnote{[It is not recorded that a zoologist examined the bones. Blegen’s notes (around 1930) record the number of pieces in each lot with words like: “Bones—ca. 25 frags. incl. 1 piece of horn (stag?),” “15 pieces incl. 1 beef joint and 1 tooth, all animal, I think.”]} Found in association with vast numbers of broken potsherds, these remains might be taken to suggest that the cavern was merely a rubbish pit, where refuse from a settlement was deposited. And some exploratory trenching in the neighborhood, revealing a thin layer of habitation-debris, indicated that this slope of Tsoungiza was actually occupied by such a Neolithic village, although stone walls of houses were not found. Further digging might disclose vestiges of such walls, but primitive houses of wattle and daub need have left no recognizable traces. It seems evident in any case that our grotto lay in or beside a prehistoric settlement, where a rubbish pit might have been convenient.

Among the many animal bones, however, one fairly large piece of a thick-walled skull\footnote{[The skull fragment was examined by C. M. Fürst, who refers to it in a brief study of skeletal material from a grave excavated by Blegen at Hageorgitika, “Über einem neolithischen Schädel aus Arkadien,” \textit{Lunds Universitets Årsskrift}, n.f. Avd. 2. Bd. 28, Nr. 13; Kungl. Fysiografiska Sällskapets Handlingar, n.f. Bd. 43, Nr. 13, 1932. Fürst notes only that the Nemea fragment, consisting of parts of the parietal and occipital bones, was exceptionally thick (p. 5). J. L. Angel included the skull fragment in his article, “Neolithic Ancestors of the Greeks,” \textit{A.J.A.}, XLIX, 1945, pp. 252–260; Angel has no record of other human bones from the cave (personal communication).]} was definitely recognizable as human; and along with it in the deepest hollow in the floor were recovered some further splinters, including part of an arm bone. At a level approximately 1.50 m. higher in the fill a fragment of a jaw, the upper part of a femur, and a piece of a pelvis also seemed unquestionably to be from a human skeleton. In spite of their wretched state of preservation these remnants make it appear that we have elements of at least two different human skeletons in the debris filling the cave.

Could this, then, have been an ordinary rubbish pit? A parallel discovery, made at the Argive Heraeum in 1927,\footnote{[See Blegen, \textit{op. cit.} (above, note 3), pp. 25–28.]} may have some bearing on the question. There, two burials were found in shallow depressions in the rock floor of a similar collapsed cave. The analogy is close enough to suggest that the Nemea cave was used at one time for sepulchral purposes. Some of the animal bones might then be seen as the remains of sacrifices, and some of the pottery as offerings made in a cult of the dead. On the other hand, one must observe that bones and pots were present in such great quantity as to cast doubt on a theory of this sort; nor have we yet any adequate knowledge of burial customs in this very early period. It will be prudent to withhold judgment until further testimony is forthcoming.\footnote{[I have paraphrased and curtailed some of Blegen’s speculation about the history of the cave. For Early Neolithic burials found in subsequent excavations, see: Argissa, Milojčić, \textit{Arch. Anz.}, LXXI,}
Turning now to the contents of the deposit in the grotto, we shall take up first the pottery, which constituted the overwhelming bulk of the material recovered, and then shall describe the few miscellaneous objects of stone and terracotta.

THE POTTERY

The pottery when it first came to light was very soft and rotten and it could not be cleaned or even washed without losing much of its surface. It was consequently left for a year to dry and harden and was then subjected to very thorough treatment by a trained vase-mender, Dimitrios Bakoulis of Old Corinth, who with two assistants spent many months in working over the material. Since there were tens of thousands of sherds of almost identical fabric and color from vessels of the same shapes, for the most part without any decoration, it was exceedingly difficult to fit many pieces together, but as the result of much patience and industry it was finally possible to reconstruct twenty vases more or less nearly completely. These pots have been placed on exhibit in the museum at Old Corinth.

Except for a few sherds of somewhat later style, found in the upper layers of the deposit, the pottery from the cave is all of an early type related to the A wares of Thessaly and clearly belonging to the First Period of the Neolithic Age. The quantity recovered is very great, filling some seventy baskets and boxes, although the cavern was not completely emptied. The deposit was excavated in a series of some twenty arbitrary layers and the material has been kept in separate containers corresponding to these divisions (diagram, p. 256); but a careful study has failed to reveal any clear indication of stratification in well-marked successive layers. Up to the level of the

[18] [This is, obviously, the “Sesko period” as known before the World Wars. We have not tried to coordinate Blegen’s references with the results of more recent studies of Neolithic chronology. Closer dating of the material from Nemea will undoubtedly be possible in the future. At the present we know that it belongs to the stage which is generally called Early Neolithic—a long period comprising many phases of development in various regions. The “classical” Sesko wares began probably in one of the later of these phases (cf., e.g., S. S. Weinberg in Cam. Anc. Hist. 3, I. 1, pp. 572–575). The “few sherds of somewhat later style” which Blegen mentioned here show a surface coating of urfirms, of the sort which he knew at Corinth and found in the upper strata at Hageorgitika in 1928. These belong to the stage now called Middle Neolithic.]
threshing floor—that is, from the rock to within 1–1.50 m. of the surface of the ground—the deposit, although naturally disturbed by the fall of the roof, seems to be homogeneous, and no stratigraphic sequence is discernible. Above that level some slightly later ceramic elements make their appearance, but their occurrence could not be linked with any obvious change in the stratum.

If we take the quality of the clay as a criterion, all this material may be classified into two main categories. The two kinds, which occur in approximately equal quantities, may for convenience fairly be called “coarse ware” and “fine ware,” but these terms must be understood as relative rather than absolute.

**Fine Ware: Fabrics**

The fine ware is of admirable quality, made of well-screened clay which contains only a few foreign particles. In its fired state the clay is commonly of pinkish buff color, but in the fractures it exhibits great variety, ranging from dark gray to buff and red. The walls are generally thin and smoothly finished, and the exterior, coated with a fine slip, is well polished, sometimes lightly, sometimes brilliantly. This ware forms essentially one homogeneous category, but if one is to be meticulous, five sub-varieties may be recognized, four of which, differentiated only by their superficial color, are so closely related, and so often overlap, that they are frequently difficult to distinguish clearly. These four varieties include undecorated monochrome wares corresponding in part to the Thessalian classification A1 and A5γ and to Kunze’s “Keramik mit buntem polierten Überzug.” The fifth comprises the same kind of pottery decorated with plastic, incised, or painted patterns, in the latter case being analogous to the A3 group in Thessaly.

1. *Buff ware* (e.g. N13, Pl. 60). Vessels of this variety, slipped and polished, are uniformly buff in color, both outside and inside, though the biscuit is often darker toward the core. Relatively few vases can be assigned to this class. Some of the ware included by Kunze in his Group C is of this type.

2. *Variegated ware* (N5, N6, N17, Pls. A and 58). This class is characterized by the brightly variegated color of its polished surface, whence it has been called by Dr. A. L. W. Kosmopoulos “Rainbow Ware.” Many examples are of buff, pink, or red at the top, darkening gradually through gray to black at the bottom, both inside and outside. Sometimes the gradation is regular, sometimes the changes produce an

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19 [In many instances, where the body and apparent surface coating are very closely integrated, this may be a technical or floated slip rather than a slip which was added separately. See S. S. Weinberg, *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, p. 493.]


22 Kunze, *op. cit.*, above, note 20, p. 25.

23 [*The Prehistoric Inhabitation of Corinth*, I, Munich, 1948, p. 1.]
irregular mottling. In other examples the exterior is more or less uniformly buff, while the interior shades from gray to black; and yet in others the interior surface is buff, while the exterior exhibits the variegated range of colors. Altogether these vases produce a striking and attractive effect, and they must have been popular, for the fragments are relatively numerous. Sherds of this kind apparently form the bulk of Kunze's Group C.

3. **Black ware** (e.g. N1, N2, N3, N4, N10, N18, N20, Pls. 59–62). Vessels of this class have an even, beautifully polished slip, either uniformly black or dark gray, inside and outside, or ranging from gray to black. It is a fine type of bucchero, and it must have been much liked, if one may judge by the number of fragments recovered. It seems to be virtually identical with the early type of black ware assigned by Kunze to his Group A,\(^{24}\) and it is similar to the Thessalian fabric recorded under A5 in the classification of Wace and Thompson.\(^{25}\) But it is quite different from a second type of black ware exhibiting some northern affinities, which Kunze also includes in his Orchomenian Group A.

4. **Red ware** (e.g. N7, N9, N11, N12, N14, N15, Pls. 58–61). This variety is coated outside and sometimes also inside with a smooth red slip or paint, and it is for the most part of the same excellent quality as the black ware. It does not occur so commonly as the black, but it is more common than the buff in our deposit. It is of course the southern counterpart of the familiar A1 ware of Tsountas and Wace and Thompson,\(^{26}\) which has been found in quantities at early sites in Thessaly and is abundantly represented in Phokis, Boiotia,\(^{27}\) and elsewhere.

In technique, in shapes, in everything but color, the four foregoing classes are essentially identical, and the differences they exhibit are only such as could easily have been effected by slight variations, no doubt deliberate and governable, in the process of firing. All these vases show a hard durable fabric, well fired; and it is evident that the potters had their kilns under control. These could be muffled, so that the carbon gas could not escape, to produce the bucchero ware; and when buff or red-faced pottery was wanted the kilns could be regulated to admit air during the period of cooling. Exactly how the variegated and mottled style was achieved I do not know, but that it was intentional can hardly be doubted.

5. **Patterned ware** (e.g. N8, Pl. 63). The pottery of this class is exactly like the foregoing wares, except that it is decorated with simple patterns. These were made in three different ways: sometimes by means of applied knobs or plastic strips of clay, sometimes by incised lines or impressed grooves, and sometimes by painted ornaments

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\(^{24}\) Kunze, *op. cit.*, above, note 20, pp. 9–22.

\(^{25}\) Wace and Thompson, *op. cit.*, above, note 20, p. 15.

\(^{26}\) Ch. Tsountas, *Αἱ πρωτότοκαι ἀκροπόλεις Διμηνίου καὶ Σέσκλου*, Athens, 1908, cols. 159–167; Wace and Thompson, see above, note 20, p. 13.

\(^{27}\) Kunze, *op. cit.*, above, note 20, p. 26 (Group D).
in a red pigment which is similar or identical to the coating of the red ware. In this third method, in a few instances, the slip forming the ground for the patterns is whitish instead of buff or mottled; and then the correspondence with the Red-on-white ware of Thessaly (A3β)\textsuperscript{28} is very close and striking. The quantity of patterned ware found in the deposit, though considerable, is relatively small in comparison with that of the undecorated wares. The patterns employed in the three different methods of decoration will be discussed in a separate section after the shapes of the vases have been considered.

**Fine Ware: Shapes**

1. **Deep bowl.** The commonest shape, represented by twelve examples assembled from fragments and restored, is a deep bowl with a wide opening and a slightly swelling

\textsuperscript{28} Wace and Thompson, *op. cit.*, above, note 20, p. 14.
body; the prototype was perhaps copied from half a gourd. One example (N13, Pl. 60) terminates in an elongated, almost pointed bottom; one is rounded (N16, in coarse ware, Pl. 60); one has a flat base (N12, Fig. 3 and Pl. 59); but in most cases the pot stands on a rather well made ring-base or foot, hollow underneath, which gives it a comely appearance. The profile of N11 (Fig. 3, Pl. 59) is typical. Certainly this

![Fig. 4. Profiles of Early Neolithic pots from Corinth. Scale 1:3.](image)

29 [Profile drawings of two examples from Corinth are given here for comparison, Fig. 4, a and d; the former is nearly enough complete to make the restoration of a round bottom almost certain; in the latter it is probable. A shallower example from Corinth also has a rounded bottom, Fig. 4, b. See the photograph of a wholly preserved example, *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, p. 495, fig. 4; also Kosmopoulos, *op. cit.*, above, note 23, pl. I, above.]

30 [A foot of this general kind is common at Corinth also; e.g., a shallower version, on a bowl of relatively wider proportions, shown for comparison in Fig. 4, c. See other examples in *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, p. 495, fig. 5, b and c.]
type of vessel cannot be assigned to a primitive stage in the making of pottery; it must belong to a period of some advancement, not to say sophistication. Except in a few instances the walls are slender and remarkably uniform in thickness; and the characteristic thin, almost sharp-edged rim is finished with precision. Usually it is perfectly plain, but sometimes it is offset by a slight groove below it (e.g., Fig. 5, i and j). In proportions these bowls show a considerable variety, but generally the upper diameter is approximately equal to the height, sometimes a trifle greater, sometimes a trifle less. The exterior always has a convex profile and the greatest diameter of the vessel is about half way down the body. No handles occur on the examples that could be restored; those who lifted these vases must have taken them up in both hands. On N16, the example in coarse ware mentioned above, four small rudimentary lugs appear, but they could have been of little use in handling. Most of these bowls bear a few oval or round knobs, usually more or less symmetrically spaced, either singly or in groups of two, three, or more; they are, however, very small and must have been intended purely for decoration.

Fig. 5. Profiles of fragments of fine and coarse vessels from Nemea. Scale 1:3.
2. **Shallow bowl.** A bowl of shallower type is represented by five examples that could be restored from fragments (N3, N10, N14, N15, N18; Fig. 3, Pls. 61, 62). The profile is convex with a strong curve, and the vessel stands on a well-made low ring-base. The upper diameter measures at least half again as much as the height, frequently much more. Like the deeper bowls, these are often provided with decorative knobs (e.g., Fig. 3, a).

3. **Bowl or dish with angular profile.** A third type of bowl or shallow dish is differentiated from the foregoing by having an angular instead of a curving profile. Only one example, and that not characteristic (N1, Pl. 61), could be restored, but several others are represented among the fragments (e.g., Fig. 3, b). Usually the profile is made up of two convex curves meeting at the angular shoulder, where the body of the vase has its greatest diameter, but in a few instances the uppermost curve is concave. The restored bowl (N1) has its greatest diameter at the rim instead of at the angular shoulder. The angle is seldom very sharp, and is sometimes almost wholly rounded away.

4. **Dish or plate.** A circular shallow dish or plate was represented by a few fragments (e.g., Fig. 5, a and b). One in thick, heavy red-coated ware must have had a diameter of *ca.* 0.40 m.; others were somewhat smaller. No bases of handles could be recognized as belonging to these plates. Superficially they resemble the characteristic (but much later) plates of Troy II.\(^{31}\)

5. **Askoid jug.** One small askoid jug was restored from fragments (N8, Pl. 63). It has a rounded bottom, an ovoid body, and a narrow neck broadening to the mouth. A round loop handle extended from the back of the mouth down to the body. Though virtually the whole rim and most of the handle are missing, the opening seems probably to have had a beaked form, which is represented by other fragments. This example bears a painted pattern of zigzag lines around the body. A good many small pieces in patterned and red wares clearly belong to similar jugs; the inner surface is unfinished (not being accessible through the narrow mouth), and this feature is a clue to the shape. Some fragments may indeed be from jugs of other types not now determinable; and two or three pieces seem to come from askoi of highly individual form.

6. **Vessels with shallow horizontal spout.** A good many shallow spouts came to light in red ware, black ware, and coarse ware (e.g., Pl. 64, 16, 17, 19, 20); but the evidence is insufficient to determine the exact shape of the vessels. They seem, however, to have been fairly deep bowls, similar to those described above under shape 1. The open spout projected horizontally from the lip. Some of the larger examples are 0.10 m. long, while the shortest is barely 0.05 m. The most remarkable feature of these spouts is the curving support or strut below: it seems to have extended, almost like a short loop handle, from the underside of the spout, near its rounded extremity, to the

adjacent wall of the bowl. Several such struts were recovered, but none fits a surviving spout; one example has been restored in plaster (Pl. 64, 19).32

7. Collar-necks. A good many collar-like necks were brought to light, some very low and modest, others relatively high (e.g., Fig. 5, e–h; Pl. 64, 18, Pl. 66, 13 and 16).33 No specimen was well enough preserved to be restored, but the necks apparently belonged to well-formed jars with almost spherical body and probably a ring base. One fragment in red ware has a small loop handle well down on the body at its point of greatest diameter (Fig. 5, f; Pl. 64, 22). These jars occur in monochrome ware, buff and red, but the great majority are decorated with painted patterns. The inside of the collar is regularly coated with pigment, but the interior of the jar itself was left unpainted. The collar seems designed to receive a close-fitting lid, but no such lid was recognized among our fragments.34 Jars of the same shape have been found at other Neolithic sites as far south as Hageorgitika in Arcadia.35

8. Necks with inner flange. Some fragments in plain buff and in patterned ware belong to large jars similar to the foregoing in shape, but they have a peculiar broad flange sloping inward from the rim. One piece (Fig. 5, 1; Pl. 64, 18) has a hole bored through the rim above the flange, perhaps a string-hole for the fastening of a lid.

9. Other shapes. Other shapes are doubtless represented in the material from the cave, but no more could be definitely recognized. Several rather crudely made, sturdy legs were noted; and there were also some large round loop handles, occasionally bearing painted patterns. One sherd seems to belong to a sort of scoop or dipper with a high-swung handle. The fragment shown on Plate 66, 12 is probably from the handle of a jug but possibly from a leg of a pot or even from a figurine.

Fine Ware: Decoration

Fine wares were decorated in three ways: with plastic ornaments in relief, with patterns of impressed or incised grooves and lines, or with painted patterns. All the decorative elements are very simple, and most of the motives recur alike in all three techniques.

1. Plastic ornaments. The commonest are small oval or circular knobs. They are usually placed not far below the rim and are generally repeated at more or less regular

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32 [A similar spout with supporting strut was found in 1973 in Corinth in what appears to be a pure Early Neolithic level. See Hesperia, XLIII, 1974, p. 25, pl. 5, no. 35 (C-73-297).]
33 ["Collar-like neck" is Blegen's term; we should have called them splaying rims, except in a few examples like Fig. 5, g and h.]
34 [Hole-mouth jars were also known; one example is illustrated in Fig. 5, d.]
intervals, four or five times, around the body of the vessel. Sometimes there is a series of single knobs, sometimes they appear in pairs arranged side by side, either vertically or horizontally (e.g., Pl. 64, 9); frequently there are three knobs in a vertical or slanting row (e.g., N9, Pl. 60), sometimes horizontal, once in a triangular formation. In one instance six knobs constitute the group, arranged in two horizontal rows of three (Pl. 64, 1).

Relief bands of clay were also used as decoration. In some cases thin strips of clay appear as much-elongated versions of the knobs. Among other motives are a crescent-shaped figure (e.g., Pl. 64, 11), chevrons or zigzags, horizontal bands, slanting stripes, and in one instance a broad zone bordered above and below by a relief band contains a series of widely spaced diagonal bands (Pl. 64, 2). On other vases appear broad horizontal bands in low relief bearing a succession of incised chevrons lying on their sides (e.g., Pl. 65, 9, 10).

Relief decoration occurs on buff, red, variegated, and black wares, but most frequently by far on the latter. Single knobs are seen on a few fragments of pots with painted patterns (e.g., Pl. 66, 2, 5, 8, 15).

2. \textit{Incised and impressed patterns}. These occur fairly often and it is not always easy to determine whether they have been incised or impressed. Many fragments were noted with a rippled or fluted surface; sometimes the rippling is very fine (Pl. 65, 5); usually it is not so delicate. The whole surface of the vase was not treated in this way, but only certain parts of the field which generally themselves form figures such as triangles or zigzag belts. Sometimes there is a crosshatched pattern, one series of grooves intersecting another roughly at right angles (e.g., Pl. 65, 13). One sherd bears a band of large lozenges, finely incised, each enclosing four or five smaller concentric figures (Pl. 65, 1). Fairly deep, incised lines occasionally form the decoration in a single large zigzag around the pot (e.g., N20, Pl. 60). In not a few instances, as we have seen, incised and impressed motives are thus combined with decoration in relief.

A few fragments of buff and red wares show traces of incision or impressed ornament, but almost all the examples of this decoration occur on black and gray wares. White filling, to emphasize the incised and impressed patterns, seems not to have been used.

3. \textit{Painted patterns}. The patterns in red paint are for the most part purely linear, but several occur also in solid figures. The commonest type consists of groups of parallel lines, either forming a continuous zigzag around the body of the vase or a series of separated zigzags or chevrons (e.g., Pl. 66, 1–7, 9, 10). The lines vary from three or four to ten or more in number; sometimes the bordering lines are broader than those enclosed. Chevrons point upward, downward, or horizontally.

In some instances zigzag patterns overlap and thus produce an area of cross-hatching; but crosshatching is frequently the main pattern itself, appearing in triangles, diamonds, and other figures (e.g., Pl. 66, 13–17, 19–23). Crosshatched figures of
this kind are often bordered by groups of parallel lines (e.g. Pl. 67, 11, 12) or are framed by a single broad band (e.g., Pl. 67, 8). In many examples it appears that the lower part of the vessel was coated solidly in red, while the patterns occupied only the upper zone above the shoulder.

Patterns in solid color are also fairly common, and again we find that the chief motives are the triangle and the diamond, often in combination with bordering groups of parallel lines. Sometimes there are several rows of such triangles, forming contiguous horizontal zones (e.g., Pl. 66, 30, 31; Pl. 67, 7). The triangles are usually placed with a point directed downward, but occasionally they point upward. A chessboard pattern also occurs in which open squares (or diamonds) alternate with those in solid color (e.g., Pl. 67, 14).

In spite of the limited number and the simplicity of the elements in these three different methods of decoration, freshness of effect is obtained by the variety of combinations in which they are used; this ware is by no means monotonous.

The red paint was usually applied on a buff or creamy buff slip, and the whole was then well polished. As mentioned above, however, some sherds show a dull whitish slip more nearly in the manner of the contemporary ware of Thessaly A3β (e.g., Pl. 66, 14, 17, 18). The red color of the paint varies considerably in density, appearing in many shades from a dark maroon to a bright orange. More rarely it is reddish brown, and in a few instances brownish black or even black. A sherd from a large pot illustrates a polychrome style of decoration, with big chevrons in broad black bands bordered by narrower bands in red, all on a buff ground.

One sherd is unique in bearing a crosshatched pattern in jet black on a dark gray ground (Pl. 65, 3). It must be classed with the black ware which is normally decorated only with relief or with incision. Its appearance here, in remarkable contrast to the red-painted ware, is presumably due solely to a reducing treatment during or after firing; if it had been subjected to oxidizing conditions it would no doubt have emerged from the kiln as red-on-buff ware.

COARSE WARE: FABRIC

The clay is relatively coarse, not well screened, containing numerous foreign particles and small pieces of white quartz-like stone, the latter presumably added deliberately as tempering matter. Many of these fragments are thick walled and heavy, but others are thin and moderately fine. In the fractures the clay usually appears black or gray at the core, growing lighter toward the surfaces, which are most commonly buff or pink or red in color, occasionally mottled. The surface of the interior almost always shows numerous small cavities or pits which give it a pock-marked appearance (N19, Pl. 68, 12), perhaps due to the falling out of some of the foreign particles and bits of quartz in the clay during the final shaping or drying of the pot, or during the
This peculiar look of the surface is one which, so far as I know, rarely, if indeed ever, occurs on pottery of any other period. A similar effect often appears on the exterior also, but the outside of the vessel is generally more carefully smoothed and polished (Pl. 64, 25–33; Pl. 66, 33–44). Most of the vases in this category are undecorated, but some bear patterns in relief, or in incision, or in paint, similar to those that occur on the finer ware.

**Coarse Ware: Shapes**

The shapes represented are fairly numerous, but the material is so fragmentary that only a single example could be put together with any approach to completeness.

1. **Deep bowl.** Bowls like those discussed above under Fine Ware, the origin of which may perhaps be traced to imitations of a half gourd, are also well represented by sherds in the coarser fabric. N16 (Pl. 60), which is relatively well preserved, has a form squatter than usual, with a rounded bottom. It has no handles, but four small rudimentary lugs are more or less evenly spaced about the body. Fragments of similar bowls preserve sturdy loop handles, set sometimes horizontally, sometimes vertically. Hundreds of such loop handles came to light, varying in shape and ranging from diminutive examples to heavy utilitarian pieces. Most belong to deep or shallower bowls, but doubtless vessels of other shapes had handles of the same type. A well-made ring-base, hollow underneath, is common (e.g., Pl. 64, 28), and it is presumably to be recognized as belonging to these deep bowls, although rounded and flat bases were also used.

2. **Shallow bowl.** Bowls with curving sides occur, but no example was well enough preserved to be restored. In shape and proportions they are similar to the corresponding pots in fine ware.

3. **Bowl with angular profile.** These are evidently somewhat rare, but the shape is definitely represented in our material. One sherd of this kind still bears part of a small horizontal loop handle.

4. **Plate.** Shallow circular plates of thick, heavy proportions are recognizable from a few sherds (e.g., Fig. 5, c; Pl. 64, 27). One such plate seems to have had an original diameter of ca. 0.35 m. Another with a diameter of ca. 0.21 m. has a body more than 0.02 m. thick, the surface well slipped and smoothly polished.

5. **Jug.** Our material yielded no fragments that could be definitely recognized as belonging to jugs either of the beaked variety or of that with straight neck; but some long rounded handles suggest that the shape was not entirely unknown in coarse ware.

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6. **Horizontal spouts.** Bowls with horizontal, side spouts were apparently not very numerous. The shape exists in coarse ware as well as in fine, however, since a few characteristic spouts were noted still showing the stump of the diagonal support or strut underneath (Pl. 64, 25).

7. **Collar-necked jar.** Jars with collar-like neck are illustrated by a number of fragments, the best being part of a handsome vessel with painted decoration, N19 (Fig. 5; Pl. 67, 1; Pl. 68, 12). It bears two zones of elongated triangles in solid color on the upper part of the body, while the lower part was coated completely in red paint. Around the widest part of its body this jar had a number of small rudimentary lugs, but no trace of a handle was recognized.

8. **(Flanged rim).** One or two fragments may represent jars with flanged rims like those in fine ware.

9. **Other shapes.** Shapes which could be inferred from fragments, but which could not be restored in detail, include small scoop-like vessels or dippers with high-swung loop handles and a cup or mug with one rounded loop handle (e.g., Fig. 5, k; Pl. 64, 31). Particularly noteworthy is a crumbling fragment of a large ringed stem, 0.074 m. in diameter, hollow underneath. In form it seems to be exactly like the stems of sturdy Minyan goblets of the Middle Helladic period. It was coated with red paint and polished. Equally remarkable are fragments of perhaps a dozen or more small, crude, ovoid pots, some with rounded, some with pointed bottom (Pl. 68, 26–29). They seem to be ca. 0.11 m. high with an upper diameter of ca. 0.09 m., but the walls are considerably more than 1 cm. thick. One has a hole pierced through its bottom, one has a rectangular aperture in its side. Exteriors of some are slipped and smoothly finished, others are rough; all have a very roughly finished interior (Pl. 68, 29).

Several large coarse cylindrical objects deserve to be mentioned, although their purpose has not been explained. Examples are shown on Pl. 68, 30–32. None is complete, but one, with a diameter of 0.075 m., is preserved to a height of 0.14 m. The end preserved is slightly concave; but in other examples only flat ends were observed. Another curious fragment appears to be from an open-work stand of some sort (Pl. 64, 33).

Many sherds of large heavy vessels are scored on the interior with deep grooves (Fig. 5, m; Pl. 68, 13–16). The lines run fairly straight and parallel, one series intersecting another. They were cut by a pointed or blunt-tipped tool; a sharp stone, a piece of bone, or a twig would have served.\(^{37}\) A fragment of a coarse base bears a mat-

\(^{37}\) These are presumably the first pieces of the sort to have been recognized in Greece. The shape of the pots was not known at the time of the excavation and could not be reconstructed from the fragments at Nemea. Blegen guessed that the grooves might be impressions of wicker frames used in the building up of the walls, but this explanation has been shown to be wrong. Larger pieces of the same kind, found later at other sites, prove that they were broad deep bowls or basins (examples were found in strata of Lerna I and II; the latter illustrated in Hesperia, XXVI, 1957, pl. 48, e and XXVII, 1958, pl. 38, b). The scored
impression on its underside (Pl. 68, 17). The piece is much damaged and worn. Since it was found near the surface, it might conceivably be an intrusion of Early Helladic date, but the sherds accompanying it are all of Neolithic wares.

COARSE WARE: DECORATION

The coarse ware we have been discussing is often decorated either in relief or with impressed patterns or with painted designs; that is to say, in the same three methods that were used in the finer ware.

The decoration in relief offers little that is new: the repertory is limited to the familiar projecting knobs and a few raised bands. Some of the knobs, which are very regular and disc-like, deserve illustration (Pl. 68, 5–7).

Impressed or incised decoration is relatively rare: the only noteworthy pieces are shown on Plate 68, one having thumb-impressions on a raised border along the rim of a bowl (3), the other a series of wedge-shaped incisions on a plastic band (4).

Painted ware is much more common, and the patterns repeat for the most part those we have noted on the fine ware: groups of parallel lines, zigzags, crosshatching, and solid triangles. In most instances these are painted in the usual red pigment, but occasionally the color verges on a dark brown. A few sherds in a different style stand out conspicuously (Pl. 66, 33–37, 43, 44; Pl. 67, 3). They bear, apparently in zones, patterns of large figures, triangles or a triangular-toothed motive, done in solid red or reddish brown color, but outlined in a dullish white. One fragment, from a rim, has similar elongated triangles in solid creamy white painted on a chocolate-colored ground. These few sherds thus offer evidence that a polychrome style of decoration had already been developed in the early part of the Neolithic Age in the Peloponnese.

MISCELLANEOUS OBJECTS

STONE

The stone objects comprise two fragments of vessels, one sealstone, two buttons, one bead, many blades of obsidian, and six pounders.

1. Fragment of a plate or a dish, of schist-like stone (Pl. 68, 18). L. 0.116 m., W. 0.07 m., Th. 0.02 m. The vessel has a roughly flattened bottom and the top was hollowed out slightly to form the interior. The latter is smooth from rubbing. The original shape seems to have been oval. (I) 38

2. Fragment from side and rim of a shallow dish, surface is often worn at the bottom of the vessel, clearly from the action of rubbing; little if any such wear is seen on the upper parts of the walls. These vessels have been called churns (wrongly) or husking bowls, for which Weinberg saw a parallel in similarly scored trays from Hassūnah (Cam. Anc. Hist. 3, I. 1, p. 595).]

[The references in parentheses are to the levels at which the objects were found; see diagram, p. 256. In some cases the provenience could not be verified from the records available.]
of white marble-like stone (Pl. 68, 19). H. 0.035 m., W. 0.055 m., Th. 0.02 m. The rim is flat on top, and on the exterior of the vessel is an incised pattern consisting of a group of parallel slanting lines under a horizontal line below the rim, which faces downward in the photograph.

3. A button seal of whitish limestone, of flat lentoid shape (Pl. 69, 1). D. 0.03 m., Th. 0.008 m. Surface slightly polished. One side is completely occupied by a gridiron pattern formed by the perpendicular crossing of a group of seven parallel lines by a similar group of five. The other side has a small sinking at its center enclosed in a triangle somewhat carelessly drawn, but apparently meant to be isosceles. There is no string-hole. (W V)

4. A conoid button of polished, greenish gray stone (Pl. 69, 4). H. 0.014 m., D. 0.03 m. There is a depression in the apex of the cone, and two holes for fastening, both worn or broken through, were drilled fairly close together on one side near the edge. (W XIII)

5. Fragment of a conoid button, almost shanked, of hard brownish red stone with highly polished black surface (Pl. 69, 3). H. 0.014 m., D. ca. 0.038 m. Part of one side missing. Slight bevel along lower edge. There were probably holes for fastening and a sinking in the apex, as in the preceding example, but these are not preserved. (W XII)

6. A short and slightly convex cylindrical bead of bright green serpentine, smoothly polished (Pl. 69, 5). L. 3.5 mm., D. 7 mm. The flat ends are not exactly parallel. (W XV)

7. More than a dozen blades of obsidian were found. They are of the usual kind of black obsidian, presumably from Melos, more or less nearly opaque, except where thin along the edges. Most of these blades are relatively large, generally exceeding 0.05 m. in length and 0.01 m. in width. There were also a few pieces of flint.

8. Conoid pounder, approximately ovoid in section, of hard gray stone (Pl. 68, 24). Preserved height 0.068 m.; end broken. (W XX)

9. Conoid pounder, end broken (Pl. 68, 23). D. 0.05 m., H. 0.05 m. (X)

10. Conoid pounder of hard gray stone (Pl. 68, 25). D. 0.04–0.045 m., H. 0.05 m.

11. Rounded pounder, flat on top and bottom, with sides roughly facetted (Pl. 68, 20). L. 0.045 m., W. 0.055 m., Th. 0.048 m.

12. Circular disc-like pounder or rubber, flat on bottom, rounded on top (Pl. 68, 21). D. 0.072 m., H. 0.025 m.

13. Fragment of similar disc-like pounder, with flat bottom and rounded top (Pl. 68, 22). H. 0.03 m., W. 0.06 m., D. est. 0.13 m.

**Terracotta**

The objects of terracotta recovered in the cavern were relatively few, comprising three whorls and three beads.

1. Whorl of flattened spherical shape (Pl. 69, 8). H. 0.016 m., D. 0.025 m. Orangish clay, surface rough and incrusted. Large perforation, apparently punched through from each end before firing. (W II)

2. Whorl of flattened spherical shape (Pl. 69, 10). H. 0.021 m., D. 0.041 m. Badly damaged. Fine, pinkish clay, unpolished buff surface. Fluted with fine incisions which make a sort of melon pattern. Large perforation with diameter of 0.012 m. at ends. (W V)

3. Whorl of double conoid shape (Pl. 69, 9). H. 0.021 m., D. 0.03 m. Very crudely formed. Pinkish clay, mottled brown surface, soft and crumbling. Large perforation, not properly centered. (W VIII)

4. Bead of flattened spherical shape (Pl. 69, 6).
NEOLITHIC REMAINS AT NEMEA

H. 0.01 m., D. 0.013 m. Well shaped and regular. Light buff color throughout, very hard. Extremely small string-hole, 2 mm. in diameter. (W XII)

5. Bead of flattened spherical shape (Pl. 69, 7). H. 0.015 m., D. 0.017 m. Badly damaged. Coarse, red-brown clay containing particles of quartz; whitish incrustation on surface. Large string-hole, 6 mm. in diameter. (W IX)

6. Bead of barrel shape (Pl. 69, 2). Clay blackened and fused from exposure to fire. L. 0.019 m., D. 0.011 m. Surface smoothed and lightly polished. Bored longitudinally for stringing but the hole was not carefully centered along axis. (W VII)

CATALOGUE

INVENTORIED POTS


Restored. H. 0.04 m., D. rim 0.13 m., D. base 0.05 m. Fine, gray biscuit, darker at core; black slip. Angular shoulder; ring-base somewhat off center. (XIII)


Half missing; restored. H. 0.143 m., D. rim 0.128 m., D. base 0.065 m. Fine, light gray biscuit, darker at core; worn gray slip. Three low welts, nearly horizontal, widely spaced, ca. 0.035 m. below rim. (V–VII)

N3. Moderately deep bowl. Fig. 3; Pls. 61, 62.

Lugs missing; restored. H. 0.08 m., D. rim 0.124 m., D. body 0.133 m., D. base 0.072 m. Fine, dark gray biscuit; dark gray slip, well polished inside and out. Places of attachment for three round lugs, vertically pierced (a fourth probable on missing part of side); slanting oval welts between lugs. (Zervos, op. cit. [above, note 35], fig. 118.) (XII)


Restored. Av. H. 0.15 m., D. rim 0.155 m., D. body 0.166 m., D. base 0.064 m. Fine, gray biscuit; black slip. Small, rather high ring-base. (Theocharis, op. cit. [above, note 17], fig. 28.) (XI–XV)


More than half missing; restored. Av. H. 0.208 m., D. rim 0.195 m., D. base 0.077 m. Fine biscuit, gray at core; surface gray at base, shading to reddish tan toward rim; well polished, worn.

Tall cylindrical body, heavy ring-base. Four widely spaced knobs ca. 0.045 m. below rim. (V. S. Titov, Neolit. Grecii, Moscow, 1969, pl. 1.6.) (V)


Restored. Av. H. 0.202 m., D. rim 0.21 m., D. base 0.075 m. Fine, soft biscuit, buff-gray at core; on exterior, slipped surface gray at base, shading to red-brown toward rim; interior more uniformly gray. Three widely spaced, round knobs ca. 0.02 m. below rim (a fourth probable on missing part of side). (IX–XII)


Half missing, including base; restored. H. 0.214 m., D. rim 0.24 m., D. body 0.25 m. Fine, pink-buff biscuit; red slip. Two very low, slanting welts widely spaced ca. 0.035 m. below rim (two more probable on missing half of body). (IX–XIV)


Half missing, including most of rim and handle; restored. H. to rim at handle 0.175 m., D. body front to back 0.155 m., D. body side to side 0.147 m. Fine, buff-tan biscuit, highly polished unslipped surface decorated in moderately lustrous red paint. Bottom rounded; neck ovoid in section and rim probably as restored. Tripartite multiple zigzag band of 8–9 lines, the uppermost broader than the others. (Zervos, op. cit. [above, note 35], fig. 286.) (VIII–XIII)


H. 0.225 m., D. rim 0.225 m., D. body 0.242 m., D. base 0.096 m. Fine, pink-buff biscuit; red-
brown slip, slightly darkened in spots; worn. Four evenly spaced groups of three welts in slanting row. (Zervos, op. cit. [above, note 35], fig. 122.) (IV–V, VIII)

**N10.** Moderately deep bowl. Pls. 61, 62.

Restored. H. 0.115 m., D. rim 0.186 m., D. body 0.198 m., D. base 0.081 m. Fine, gray biscuit; black slip. Single slanting welt 0.033 m. from rim. (Titov, op. cit. [see above, N5], pl. 1.2.) (VII–VIII)

**N11.** Deep bowl. Fig. 3, Pl. 59.

More than half missing; restored. H. 0.21 m., D. rim 0.215 m., D. body 0.227 m., D. base 0.083 m. Fine, moderately soft, pink-buff biscuit, very finely pitted; slip reddish brown on exterior, brownish red on interior. Evenly spaced pairs of slanting welts ca. 0.03 m. below rim (probably four pairs in all).

**N12.** Deep bowl. Fig. 3, Pl. 59.

Half missing; restored. H. 0.18 m., D. rim 0.17 m., D. body 0.194 m., D. base 0.071 m. Fine, pink-buff biscuit; red slip. Flat bottom. Four groups of three welts in slanting row, evenly spaced, ca. 0.05 m. from rim (a fifth probable on missing part of side). (VIII–IX)

**N13.** Deep bowl. Pl. 60.

Slight restoration. H. 0.215 m., D. rim 0.19 m., D. body 0.196 m. Moderately coarse, pink-buff biscuit; slipped exterior surface variegated from light buff on one side to dark buff on the other; well polished, worn. Interior rough and pitted, with finger impressions near bottom. Asymmetric with almost pointed bottom; thick walls, 0.011 m. at flattened rim, 0.04 m. toward bottom. (IV–V)

**N14.** Moderately deep bowl. Pl. 61.

Half missing; restored. H. 0.102 m., D. rim 0.175 m., D. body 0.188 m., D. base 0.08 m. Fine, pink-buff biscuit; red-brown slip. Two pairs of flat round knobs on opposite sides ca. 0.02 m. from rim (probably four pairs in all).

**N15.** Moderately deep bowl. Pl. 61.

Restored. H. 0.06 m., D. rim 0.10 m., D. body 0.107 m., D. base 0.051 m. Fine, buff biscuit, moderately soft; red-brown slip, worn. Base almost flat underneath. (VII–VIII)

**N16.** Deep bowl. Pl. 60.

Slight restoration. H. 0.16 m., D. rim 0.176 m., D. body 0.194 m. Coarse, micaceous biscuit, loaded with white quartz-like inclusions; gray-brown, slightly more reddish on exterior, almost black on interior; moderately burnished surfaces. Rounded bottom, thick rim. Four small unperched horizontal lugs, evenly spaced, ca. 0.048 m. below rim. (IV–V)


Restored. H. 0.218 m., D. rim 0.235 m., D. body 0.246 m., D. base 0.086 m. Fine buff biscuit, gray at core; very smooth, slipped exterior surface mottled light to dark gray at base, shading to buff and red-brown toward rim; interior dark. Four pairs of rounded bumps, evenly spaced, ca. 0.032 m. below rim. (Titov, op. cit. [see above, N5], pl. 1.4.) (VIII–IX, XIV)

**N18.** Moderately deep bowl. Fig. 3, Pl. 61.

Restored. H. 0.085 m., D. rim 0.148 m., D. body 0.155 m., D. base 0.054 m. Fine, dark gray biscuit with some inclusions, black at surface from burnishing. Curving grooves on one side. (Titov, op. cit. [see above, N5], pl. 1.1.)

**N19.** Globular jar, fragment. Fig. 5, Pls. 67, 68.

Large fragment of upper body and rim. H. 0.17 m., D. rim 0.15 m., D. body 0.29 m. Coarse, orange-tan biscuit, gray at core, loaded with quartz-like inclusions, spongy surfaces. Interior very rough; exterior well smoothed and burnished with decoration in lustrous red-brown paint. Low collar-like neck; small unperced lug at maximum diameter. Two contiguous horizontal bands of triangles pendant from solidly coated rim; lower body completely coated.

**N20.** Deep bowl, fragment. Pl. 60.

Two-thirds missing; partially restored. H. 0.153 m., D. rim 0.16 m., D. body 0.17 m., D.
base 0.063 m. Fine biscuit, medium gray throughout; burnished. Impressed decoration on upper body: horizontal line at rim, large single zigzag below. (VI)

SHERDS
Plate 60:
1. Pierced horizontal lug. Light buff biscuit with pale pinkish wash. (XVI)
2. Pierced horizontal lug. Burnished red slip on exterior, interior gray. (W XIII)
3. Rim of bowl with pierced vertical lug. Light red-brown burnished slip on exterior, interior mottled gray in lower half. (VIII)
4. Rim of bowl with small vertical handle. Light buff exterior, gray interior. (VII)
Plate 64:
1. Rim of deep bowl with group of six small knobs. Light gray; burnished, worn. (W XV)
2. Rim of deep bowl with decoration in raised bands, horizontal and oblique. Exterior mottled dark gray, olive, and buff, highly burnished; interior black. (XV)
3. Vertical tubular lug. Gray; worn. (W VI)
4. Pierced horizontal lug. Gray; rough and worn. (W VIII)
5. Rim of bowl with stump of pierced horizontal lug and one small knob. Black, highly burnished.
6. Fragment of large bowl. Mottled gray and black exterior, light grayish buff interior.
7. Carinated bowl with stump of small, pierced horizontal lug. Gray. (W XIX)
8. Rim of bowl with slanting row of low conical knobs. Light buff biscuit with gray core, light brown-buff slip. (Z VI)
9. Rim of bowl with pair of vertical welts. Light buff biscuit, light brown-buff slip. (Z IV)
10. Bowl with large applied V. Light buff biscuit, light brown-buff slip. (VII)
11. Large applied crescent. Light buff biscuit, brown-red slip. (W XVIII)
12. Bowl fragment with mending hole. Light buff. (W XIX)
13. Bowl rim with mending holes. Light buff exterior, gray interior. (W IV)
14. Bowl fragment with mending hole. Light buff biscuit; red-brown slip on the exterior, interior gray and rough. (W XV)
15. Thick-walled vessel, probably askoid jug (base of neck to the right in the photograph). Light buff biscuit, red slip. (XIV)
16. Horizontal spout with strut. Buff biscuit, red slip. (X)
17. Horizontal spout with strut. Buff biscuit, red slip. (W III)
18. Jar rim with inner ledge, hole through low collar-like neck. Crosshatched triangle in red on buff; part of curving line at left; rim and top of ledge completely coated. (Z III)
19. Horizontal spout, strut restored. Buff biscuit, red slip. (VIII)
20. Horizontal spout with strut. Orange-buff, unslipped. (V)
22. Small jar with collar-neck and pierced horizontal lug. Buff biscuit, red slip. (VIII–XVII)
24. Pedestal with row of holes. Buff biscuit, red-brown slip. (W XII)
26. Deep bowl with horizontal groove just below rim. Coarse spongy biscuit, red-brown, darkened on interior. (W VI)
27. Rim of large shallow plate. Coarse, slightly spongy biscuit, red-brown. (W IV)
31. Mug with vertical handle. Hole just below rim where handle was thrust into wall of vessel. Coarse spongy biscuit, red-brown. (W XV)
32. Jar with low collar-neck. Coarse spongy biscuit, orange; rim coated with slip, red on interior, brown on exterior. (W X)
33. Open-work stand (?). Three finished edges (left, right, and lower left). Coarse spongy biscuit, buff with gray core; red slip. (W XII)

Plate 65:
1. Bowl with incised decoration. Rim set off by broad horizontal groove, band of large concentric lozenges below. Mottled dark gray and brown, surface badly worn.
2. Bowl rim with applied crescent. Medium gray biscuit; black slip, worn.
3. Bowl with painted decoration. Dark gray biscuit, lustrous black paint. Crosshatched triangle below stripe at slightly offset rim. (W XIII)
4. Angular bowl with incised decoration. Light gray, polished. Above carination, groups of opposing oblique lines, nearly straight, occasionally completed with short curvilinear strokes.39 (W XIII)
5. Bowl with broad band of oblique flutings below slightly offset rim. Medium gray biscuit; black slip, worn. (W XV)
7. Vertical tubular lug. Medium gray biscuit; black slip, worn.
8. Large bowl decorated with broad horizontal grooves. Medium gray biscuit; black slip.
12. Bowl with applied V. Gray-brown biscuit, possibly slipped.

Plate 66:
1. Askoid jug (?). Cf. N8. Asymmetrical multiple chevrons or zigzag band, in red on buff; lowest stripe broader than the others, or lower body completely coated. (VI)
2. Angular bowl. On upper body oblique stripes converging around small pierced horizontal lug at carination; large oblique welt on unpainted lower body. (XIV)
3. Tall collar-neck. Multiple zigzag band between broad horizontal stripes; red on buff. (W I)
4. Large bowl. Multiple chevrons (or zigzag band) with staggered intersections in red on buff. (W XI)
5. Deep bowl. On upper body slanting stripes, lower body completely coated; red on buff. Small round knob amid stripes. (IX)
6. Like 2 above. Long low welt crossed by stripes; place for attachment of handle at right. (XV)
7. Neck of askoid jug (?). Narrow horizontal stripes with broader stripe below; red on buff. (XII)
8. Bowl with concentric lozenges in red on buff. Large flat-topped knob in center, completely coated, worn; interior coated brown. (I–VI)
9. Bowl with multiple zigzag band or chevrons in red on buff; interior completely coated. (XVII)
10. Rim of bowl with fine oblique stripes in red on buff. (III)
11. Jar with very low collar-neck. Band of horizontal chevrons on shoulder, neck coated inside and out; red on buff. (W XV)

39 [In shape and fabric this piece differs markedly from the other gray ware found in the cave and is reminiscent of the later gray ware found at Corinth; see Hesperia, VI, 1937, pp. 503–511.]
12. Jug handle, elliptical in section. Lattice pattern in red on buff. (W XI)
13. Large jar with collar-neck. Horizontal stripe at juncture of rim and shoulder; below, large crosshatched triangle with broad border. Red on buff; thin brown paint on interior of rim. (XVIII)
14. Bowl with band of fine crosshatching in red on white slip. Orange biscuit with thick gray core. (VI)
15. Angular bowl. See also Pl. 67, 5. Stripe at rim, crosshatched triangles on shoulder, lower body completely coated; red on buff. Low circular knob on carination at intersection of triangles. (XIII)
16. Collar-neck. See also Fig. 5, h. Broad crosshatched V’s on neck, horizontal stripe below at juncture with shoulder; dark red-brown on buff. (W XIII)  
17. Bowl with dense crosshatching (triangle?) in red on white slip. Orange biscuit with thick gray core.
18. Tall collar-neck (?). Band of horizontal stripes with lattice panel in red on white slip. Orange biscuit with thick gray core. (XVI)
19. Shoulder of bowl. See also Pl. 67, 6. Crosshatched triangle (or lozenge) in bold lines; red on buff. (W IV)
20. Neck of jug with crosshatching in red on buff. (XI)
21. Angular bowl. Crosshatching in red on buff on upper body, with blobs of paint at ends of some stripes at carination; grayish brown wash on lower body; interior brownish black. (XI)
22. Bowl with fine crosshatching in red on buff; interior completely coated. (X)
23. Bowl (?) with crosshatching in broad lines, red on buff. (W III)
24. Bowl with elongated solid triangles in red on buff. (W XII)
25. Bowl with pendant solid triangles truncated by broad stripe or by edge of solid coating of lower body. Red on buff. (XIII)
26. Rim of bowl. Solid triangle pointing upward, truncated by horizontal stripe at rim; red on buff. (XVII)
27. Askoid (?) jug rim. Broad stripe in red on buff bordering rim on exterior and continuing over onto interior. (W XV)
28. Askoid (?) jug rim. Very broad stripe in red on buff on exterior of rim; traces of solid pattern (up-turned triangle?) below. (IX)
29. Collar-neck (?). Band of opposing solid triangles in red on buff. (W II)
30. Large bowl. See also Pl. 67, 7. Contiguous bands of solid triangles, orange-red on buff; high polish; interior gray. Rounded knob in reserved triangle. (W XIX)
31. Rim of bowl. Contiguous bands of solid triangles below narrow stripe on edge of rim, red on buff; interior completely coated. (XII)
32. Shoulder of askoid jug (?). Band of interlocking solid triangles and multiple chevrons with broad border above; red on buff. (XVII)
33. Bichrome bowl. Triangle outlined in white on burnished red-slipped surface. Coarse spongy biscuit. (VIII)
35. Polychrome bowl. Triangular-toothed band in solid dark red outlined in white on burnished buff surface. Coarse spongy biscuit. (VIII)
36. Polychrome angular bowl. Triangular-toothed band in solid red outlined in white on burnished surface. Coarse spongy biscuit. (XI)
37. Rim of polychrome bowl. Band of multiple chevrons (lozenges?) in red on mottled orange-tan surface; faint traces of bordering white stripe. Coarse spongy biscuit. (XV)
38. Rim of bowl. Multiple chevrons (lozenges?)

[In shape and fabric this piece is reminiscent of Middle Neolithic urfinnis ware, which Blegen noted in the material from the cave, but only in the upper levels; see above, p. 259, with note 18.]
in dark red on burnished orange-tan surface. Coarse spongy biscuit. (XV)
40. Bowl with handle. Band of alternating solid and crosshatched triangles (lozenges?) in red on burnished light gray surface. Traces of handle attachment (lower left). Coarse spongy biscuit. (XV)
41. Angular bowl. Red paint on burnished buff surface: lattice pattern above, solid below. Coarse spongy biscuit. (W XVIII)
42. Large bowl. Contiguous horizontal bands of solid triangles in red on burnished gray-buff ground. Coarse spongy biscuit. (W XVIII)
43. Hole-mouth jar. Fig. 5, d. Interlocking bands of solid triangles and multiple chevrons in red on burnished buff surface; faint traces of white line outlining chevrons. Coarse spongy biscuit. (XVI)
44. Polychrome bowl. Fabric and decoration like 43. Traces of white outline on triangle as well as on chevrons. (IX)

Plate 68:
5. See above, No. 15 (Plate 66).
6. See above, No. 19 (Plate 66).
7. See above, No. 30 (Plate 66).
8. Bowl rim. Broad stripe at rim; below, crosshatched triangle (lozenge?) with broader bordering line; red on buff. (W XVIII)
9. Bowl rim. Stripe at rim, concentric lozenges below; red on buff.
10. Bowl with band of alternating solid lozenges and groups of oblique stripes (chevrons?); red on buff.
11. Bowl rim with crosshatched triangle (lozenge?) bordered by oblique stripes; red on buff. Small round knob below rim.
12. Bowl rim with pattern as on 11; orange-red on buff. Rim set off by shallow groove. (W XI)
13. Bowl rim with oblique stripes in red on buff.
14. Bowl rim with chessboard pattern in pale orange-red on light buff. (Z VI)
15. Heavy bowl. Horizontal band of solid pendant triangles above, diagonal stripes below; lower body possibly completely coated. Red on creamy buff slip; pale red biscuit.
16. Heavy bowl. Asymmetrical multiple chevrons in orange-red on buff; interior completely coated. (W XV)

Plate 67:
1. See above, p. 274.
5. See above, No. 15 (Plate 66).
6. See above, No. 19 (Plate 66).
7. See above, No. 30 (Plate 66).
8. Bowl rim. Broad stripe at rim; below, crosshatched triangle (lozenge?) with broader bordering line; red on buff. (W XVIII)
9. Bowl rim. Stripe at rim, concentric lozenges below; red on buff.
10. Bowl with band of alternating solid lozenges and groups of oblique stripes (chevrons?); red on buff.
11. Bowl rim with crosshatched triangle (lozenge?) bordered by oblique stripes; red on buff. Small round knob below rim.
12. Bowl rim with pattern as on 11; orange-red on buff. Rim set off by shallow groove. (W XI)
13. Bowl rim with oblique stripes in red on buff.
14. Bowl rim with chessboard pattern in pale orange-red on light buff. (Z VI)
15. Heavy bowl. Horizontal band of solid pendant triangles above, diagonal stripes below; lower body possibly completely coated. Red on creamy buff slip; pale red biscuit.
16. Heavy bowl. Asymmetrical multiple chevrons in orange-red on buff; interior completely coated. (W XV)
of horizontal handle or pierced lug. Spongy, light pink-brown biscuit.

10. Low, rounded, horizontal lug, unpierced. Coarse spongy biscuit, well-smoothed burnished surface; dark red-gray.


13. Scored bowl. Coarse pebbly biscuit, reddish buff, dark at core and on interior. Grooves very slightly worn toward the bottom. (W II)

14. Rim of scored bowl. Coarse pebbly biscuit, reddish buff, gray on interior. Thick squared rim; grooves slightly worn toward bottom. (W II)


17. Base with mat-impression. Coarse, orangish buff biscuit. (W II)


27. Thick-walled vessel. Surface smoothed.

28. Thick-walled vessel with hole near rounded bottom. Exterior well smoothed, interior rough; buff. (W II)

29. Interior of 26, above.

30–32. Heavy clay cylinders. Coarse, buff to gray-buff biscuit.

†Carl W. Blegen
Early Neolithic bowl N17 in variegated ware. (Watercolor by Piet deJong)

CARL W. BLEGEN: NEOLITHIC REMAINS AT NEMEA. EXCAVATIONS OF 1925-1926
a. View from the sanctuary of Zeus toward the slopes of Tsoungiza

b. The excavation seen from the east with part of the aloni in the foreground

c. Trial trench on Tsoungiza. Columns of the temple in the distance

d. Excavation of the cave. Fallen rock in the foreground

Carl W. Blegen: Neolithic Remains at Nemea
PLATE 58

N7

N17

N5

N6

CARL W. BLEGEN: NEO-LITHIC REMAINS AT NEMEA
CARL W. BLEGEN: NEOLITHIC REMAINS AT NEMEA
1-4. Horizontal and vertical handles in variegated ware and red ware

CARL W. BLEGEN: NEOLITHIC REMAINS AT NEMEA
CARL W. BLEGEN: NEOLITHIC REMAINS AT NEMEA
PLATE 62

N3

(From watercolors by Piet deJong)

CARL W. BLEGEN: NEOLITHIC REMAINS AT NEMEA
N8

Carl W. Blegen: Neolithic Remains at Nemea
1-7. Gray and black wares

8-14. Sherds with plastic decoration and mending holes. 15. Askoid jug


25-33. Coarse ware

CARL W. BLEGEN: NEOLITHIC REMAINS AT NEMEA
Decorated gray and black wares. (From watercolors by Piet deJong)

CARL W. BLEGEN: NEOLITHIC REMAINS AT NEMEA
1-11. Painted fine ware, red on buff

12-23. Painted fine ware. 12, 13, 15, 16, 19-23. Red on buff 14, 17, 18. Red on white-slip

24-32. Painted fine ware, red on buff

33-44. Painted coarse ware
1(N19) 4. Painted coarse ware. 5-16. Painted fine ware. (From watercolors by Piet de Jong)

CARL W. BLEGEN: NEOLITHIC REMAINS AT NEMEA
13-16. Deeply scored interiors
17. Base with mat impression
12(N19). Interior 12(N19)
1-11. Decorated coarse ware
26-29. Thick-walled vessels. 30-32. Clay cylinders
CARL W. BLEGEN: NEOLITHIC REMAINS AT NEMEA
Miscellaneous objects of stone and terracotta

CARL W. BLEGEN: NEOLITHIC REMAINS AT NEMEA