KTA FROM CORINTH*

(Plates 114–116)

It is both a privilege and a pleasure to acknowledge here a friendship of forty years since I first met and began to work with Oscar Broneer, a friendship and cooperation from which I have derived so much. Under his guidance several generations of archaeologists received their first training in the field, as well as in scholarly research and publication. His, and our, years at Corinth have seen a vast development of the site through major excavations. But much has been learned, as well, through chance finds in and around Corinth, which these excavators have tried to record as faithfully as possible, in a special notebook entitled Kαί τὰ λογία, and to publish. Two such finds are presented here as a tribute to the person who, more than any other, personifies the Corinth Excavations.

In late 1943 and early 1944, while Greece was under heavy oppression during the Second World War, severe rains caused a portion of the south scarp of the Temple Hill at Corinth to fall away, carrying with it many pieces of early Neolithic pottery and revealing a pit in hardpan, just south of the middle column of the south side of the Temple of Apollo.1 The site of the collapse and the material from the pit thus revealed were shown to me by George Kachros, the Head Guard at Corinth, when we returned to Greece in 1946; at that time the chance finds of the war years were recorded in KTA and inventoried.

The pit yielded four hemispherical bowls of fine variegated ware, two biconical bowls of a somewhat heavier and coarser fabric and one large, deep bowl of a much coarser fabric, as well as a painted loomweight of fairly fine fabric; all these are catalogued below.

* The study of the two groups from Corinth is made with the kind permission of the Director of the Corinth Excavations, Mr. Charles K. Williams, II. Dr. Nancy Bookidis, Secretary to the Corinth Excavations, has provided the catalogue descriptions for Nos. 4 and 9-16, has had a new set of photos made of all the objects and has had profiles of the vases made by Sarah H. Rutter; to Dr. Bookidis and Mrs. Rutter I owe many thanks. The drawings of No. 16 were made in 1952 by Marian Holland, now McAllister, at the instigation of Professor John L. Caskey, then Director of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens; I express herewith my thanks to them both.

1 See S. S. Weinberg, “Remains from Prehistoric Corinth,” Hesperia, VI, 1937, p. 490, fig. 1. The pit was south of the eastern end of Trench II of 1937, in which another pit in hardpan had been found (op. cit., p. 491), containing a deposit of similar Early Neolithic pottery which likewise mended into fairly complete bowls (op. cit., figs. 4 and 6).
Fig. 1. Hemispherical Bowls. Scale 1:3.
1. Hemispherical bowl. Fig. 1, Pl. 114.

CP-1916. H. 0.117, max. D. 0.176, D. lip 0.171, D. base 0.046 m.
Clay buff to gray at core, well levigated. Surface smoothed and polished. Upper third of exterior buff, grading to dark gray at bottom; interior all buff.
Nearly complete, several body fragments missing.
Small, very low foot, slightly hollow underneath; hemispherical body with high sides, slight contraction to lip. Handmade.

2. Hemispherical bowl. Fig. 1, Pl. 114.

CP-1917. H. 0.115, max. D. 0.19, D. lip 0.187, D. base 0.056 m.
Clay buff above and gray below, well levigated. Surface smoothed and polished. Exterior and interior buff upper third to dark gray below.
Nearly complete, few large body fragments missing.
Small, very low foot, slightly hollow underneath; hemispherical bowl with high sides, slight contraction at lip. Handmade.

3. Hemispherical bowl. Fig. 1, Pl. 114.

CP-1918. H. 0.159, max. D. 0.245, D. lip 0.238, D. base 0.075 m.
Clay buff to gray, well levigated. Surface smoothed and polished. Exterior buff above to gray below; interior buff.
Nearly complete, few large body fragments missing.
Low ring base, slightly splayed; hemispherical bowl with high sides, slight contraction at lip; walls thin slightly to top and lip rounded. Handmade.

4. Hemispherical bowl. Fig. 1, Pl. 114.

CP-1919. PH. 0.158, max. D. 0.25, D. lip 0.238 m.
Clay buff, well levigated. Surface smoothed and polished. Exterior and interior buff at top to gray below.
Large part of one side of bowl preserved; base missing.
Hemispherical bowl with high sides, slight contraction at lip. Handmade.

5. Biconical bowl. Fig. 2, Pl. 114.

CP-1920. PH. 0.087, PW. 0.122 m.
Clay gray to buff at surfaces, well levigated. Surface smoothed and polished. Surface color buff to reddish buff.
One large section of bowl, including lip and a handle, preserved.
Biconical shape with rounded carination, upper part ending in simple thin lip; horizontal pierced lug a little above carination, probably four in all. Handmade.

6. Biconical bowl. Fig. 2, Pl. 114.

CP-1921. PH. 0.10, PW. 0.15 m.
Clay buff to gray, slight impurities. Exterior surface smoothed and polished, but slightly rough; interior rough smoothed. Surface color buff on interior and exterior.

The bowls from the pit, three nearly complete and one fragmentary, are typical examples of the Early Neolithic Variegated ware already well known from Corinth,2 as well as many other Peloponnesian sites. While round-bottomed examples do not occur in this group, the rudimentary base of Nos. 1 and 2 and the higher ring base of No. 3 illustrate the development of the footed shape that occurs early in the Early Neolithic period.

2 Weinberg, op. cit., pp. 493-495; Leslie Walker Kosmopoulos, The Prehistoric Inhabitation of Corinth, Munich, 1948, pp. 1 and 16, where it is called Rainbow Ware.
Fig. 2. Biconical Bowls. Large Coarse Bowl. Scale 1:3.
One large section of bowl, including lip and a handle, preserved. Biconical shape with rounded carination, upper part ending in simple thin lip; horizontal pierced lug a little above carination, probably four in all. Handmade.

The biconical shape is here reported from Corinth for the first time and I have not found mention of it at other Peloponnesian sites. Among the Early Neolithic shapes found at Elateia in Phoci, there are bowls with "a slight but definite angle, usually rather near the base, tending thus toward a biconical form." These seem similar to the keeled bowls found in the lowest Early Neolithic layer at Otzaki Magula in Thessaly, but not reported elsewhere in Thessaly, to my knowledge. The lugs, which appear on both of the biconical bowls from Corinth, are not known elsewhere. If, as is generally supposed, they were used to hold cords by which the bowl was suspended, four lugs would be desirable, as on a round-bottomed bowl from Corinth. In a ware which has thus far been known in only two shapes—the hemispherical bowl and a globular collared jar—the addition of a third shape, and particularly one which is carinated and thus seems more advanced than the others, is important. It indicates, too, that there is probably much more to learn about the Corinthian Early Neolithic pottery through further excavation.

7. Large coarse bowl. Fig. 2, Pl. 114.

CP-1922. PH. 0.21, max. D. 0.232, D. lip 0.185 m.

Clay reddish brown at surfaces to gray at core, quite gritty. Interior and exterior surfaces pared smooth with visible paring marks. About one-half circumference preserved, from near base to lip; two lugs preserved.

Full-bodied shape, contracting slowly to wide mouth with rounded lip; base missing. Four horizontal pierced lugs placed above belly, where there is very slight carination. Handmade.

While the coarse monochrome ware of the Corinthian Early Neolithic period was already set apart in the first publication, this bowl differs in both surface treatment and shape from the usual coarse ware found there. The greater contraction towards the lip makes this bowl verge on the hole-mouthed jar type. The four lugs again suggest that the bowl was suspended. The coarse, and very visible, burnishing of the surfaces is unparalleled at Corinth in this period.


MF 9036. H. 0.07, D. base 0.055 m.

Clay buff, slightly gritty.

Slightly chipped at lower edge, otherwise intact.

Truncated, high conical shape, flat top and bottom; slightly beveled at top and bottom. Suspension hole pierced near top.

We have, thus far, only preliminary reports from the two major sites which have recently produced large quantities of Early Neolithic pottery—Lerna and the Franchthi Cave—and in these little of the early material is published.


Kosmopoulos, op. cit. (note 2), pl. Ia.

Weinberg, Hesperia, VI, 1937, p. 497.
Horizontal stripes of red-brown paint from top to near bottom; crossed lines of same paint on top and bottom.


While this loomweight is unique at Corinth, two painted loomweights from Phthiotic Thebes, one conical and one pyramidal, are published by Christian Zervos in *Naissance de la civilisation en Grèce*, II, Paris, 1963, p. 344, figs. 476-477. They are dated to the Late Neolithic by Zervos, but they are probably without context and an examination of the fabric would be necessary to date them more accurately. Further confirmation of the use of loomweights at least by the Middle Neolithic period comes from the Franchthi Cave, in the most recent publication of which there is mention of "spherical weights," ca. 110 grams in weight, which Miss Carrington Smith is inclined to regard as loomweights.

Thus a pit revealed by accident has added to the Early Neolithic repertory a new pottery shape (the biconical bowl), a new type of coarse ware and a somewhat different shape in this ware, and a loomweight unique at Corinth, as well as a good group of hemispherical bowls of a type already well known. It is indicative of the important contribution which numerous chance finds have made to the total picture of ancient Corinth, built up during almost eighty years of American work at the site.

In January, 1951, a child's grave was revealed when rain caused earth to fall away from a scarp and disclosed the corner of a stone sarcophagus. The grave was found in the first large ravine to the northwest of the excavation house on the way to the church of the Haghioi Anargyroi, at the village of Anaplopa; it was on the west side of the ravine, some 200 m. north of the bridge in the road over this ravine and at a point where the cliff forms an angle with the first east-west ravine that joins it on the west side below the bridge. The burial was in a small sarcophagus, said to be about 0.90 m. long and 0.40 m. wide, which was destroyed by the finders; no cover was reported. The orientation of the sarcophagus was northwest-southeast; around it were packed large cobbles or field stones. Along the southwest side of the exterior of the sarcophagus, and at about its center, were found six small kotylai of the Protocorinthian-Geometric type; the four with geometric linear decoration were found stacked and the two black-glazed kotylai were separate, apparently also one within the other. An unusual feeding bottle, also with linear geometric decoration, and a handmade oinochoe were the first objects brought to the Corinth Museum, apparently having been found inside the sarcophagus when the grave was first discovered and before it was destroyed.

10 The site is shown on the map in *Hesperia*, XXXVIII, 1969, p. 2, at the acute angle formed by two ravines just midway between A and B.
Fig. 3. Kotylai. Scale 1:1.
9. Kotyle. Fig. 3, Pl. 115.

CP-2060. H. 0.048, D. base 0.028, D. rim 0.067 m.
Complete, but broken.
Clay buff, glaze red to red-brown.
Shape: small ring foot, flaring convex body, two horizontal handles set well below rim.
Decoration: underside plain, exterior lower half of body glazed with one narrow reserved line, narrow lines to handle zone; handle zone: hatched diamonds in central panel between flanking panels of vertical strokes. One horizontal line on back of handle, two lines below rim. Interior glazed, two reserved bands near rim.

10. Kotyle. Fig. 3, Pl. 115.

CP-2061. H. 0.049, D. base 0.03, D. rim 0.07 m.
Complete except for fragments of rim.
Clay and shape: same as No. 9.
Decoration: underside glazed, exterior of foot brown glazed, two broad bands on lower body, fine lines to handle zone; handle zone: six crosshatched diamonds in central panel flanked by vertical lines. Two horizontal stripes across handles. Interior glazed; reserved band below rim.

11. Kotyle. Fig. 3, Pl. 115.

CP-2062. H. 0.053, D. base 0.03, D. rim 0.07 m.
Complete profile; part of body and one handle missing.
Clay buff, glaze red-brown.
Shape as above.
Decoration: reserved underside; lower half of body glazed, with one reserved line, narrow lines to handle zone; handle zone: central panel dotted diamonds, vertical strokes to sides. Interior glazed with two reserved lines at rim.

12. Kotyle. Fig. 3, Pl. 115.

CP-2063. H. 0.05, D. base 0.029, D. rim 0.068 m.
Complete, except for chips in rim.
Clay and shape as above.
Decoration: underside glazed with single reserved circle. Exterior of foot glazed, single glazed band above foot, above which zone of rays; horizontal lines to handle zone. Handle zone; central hatched diamonds set off by hourglass panel either side. Interior glazed with two reserved lines below rim.

13. Kotyle. Fig. 3, Pl. 115.

CP-2064. H. 0.048, D. base 0.024, D. rim 0.056 m.
Intact; rim slightly chipped.
Clay buff; glaze brown-black.
Shape as above.
Decoration: underside and exterior glazed to rim, with reserved hourglass at center of handle panel, single white painted line on body near foot; handle zone bordered above and below and delimited at handles by stripes of white paint, all largely gone in this example. Interior glazed, one reserved line just below rim.

14. Kotyle. Fig. 3, Pl. 115.

CP-2065. H. 0.037-0.04, D. base 0.027, D. rim 0.057 m.
Small body fragments and one handle missing.
Clay buff, glaze streaky black.
Shape: small ring base, wide-flaring convex sides, slight contraction to lip; two horizontal handles set well below lip.
Decoration: underside reserved, exterior glazed except for reserved hourglass at center of handle panel. Interior glazed; two reserved bands at rim.

The early history of the kotyle, its relation to the aryballos and the importance of the developmental sequence of the two shapes for dating in the late eighth and seventh centuries B.C. have been much discussed. The most recent summation of the arguments, with full bibliographical references, is Clotilda Brokaw’s article on “The
Dating of the Protocorinthian Kotyle.”  Of the six kotylai found alongside this grave, only one (No. 14) has the rather squat, wide-mouthed shape that is thought to be the earliest, going back to late Geometric predecessors of the second half of the eighth century B.C. But the taller shape, represented by Nos. 9-13, was already in existence by 725 B.C. and continued into the early seventh century. In most respects, the decoration of these six kotylai, as well as the shapes, is consistent with groups from Corinth that have been dated in the last quarter of the eighth century and the closing years of that century. The use of crosshatched or dot-filled lozenges rather than birds, or the s-curves that are a degenerate representation of them, while somewhat rare, is not unknown on late eighth-century kotylai, though it becomes much more common after the turn of the century. So, too, the use of white paint on Nos. 13 and 14, and the appearance of the first short rays at the base of No. 12, are features which appear in the last quarter of the eighth century, but become common only in the next quarter century. The criteria of shape and decoration of the six kotylai thus point to a date around 700 B.C. for them, and for the burial with which they are so clearly associated.

15. Plain oinochoe. Fig. 4, Pl. 116.
   CP-2066. H. 0.089, max. D. 0.069 m.
   Intact.
   Clay buff, unglazed.
   Shape: rounded bottom, squat globular body, short neck to flaring trefoil mouth; high-swung vertical double-band handle from rim to mid-body. Handmade.

16. Baby feeder. Fig. 5, Pl. 116.
   CP-2067. H. 0.051, max. D. 0.098, max. W. with handles 0.128 m.
   Complete but for chips at rim, one handle broken and mended.
   Clay very light buff.

Shape: low ring base, wide-splaying body with sides lightly convex, sharp carination to wide shoulder; mouth filled with sieve, low rim about it; horizontal handles set just below carination. Short spout projecting from one side midway between handles.

Decoration: all decoration in black glaze, much worn. Horizontal stripes at top of base and around body up to handle zone, which is filled between handles, and between handles and spout, with motif of three interlocking zigzag lines forming double row of lozenges. Two stripes around outer edge of shoulder, three more at middle of shoulder, then zone of rays radiating from rim, around which are three more stripes.

11 Essays in Memory of Karl Lehmann, Locust Valley (New York), 1964, pp. 49-54.
14 Ibid., p. 37, figs. 19-20.
15 Weinberg, Corinth, VII, i, p. 38, no. 118, pl. 16, for the earliest appearance of rays at Corinth; p. 37, no. 112, pl. 16, for the use of white paint in the last quarter of the eighth century. See Weinberg, “A Cross-Section of Corinthian Antiquities (Excavations of 1940),” Hesperia, XVII, 1948, p. 209, no. C3, pls. LXXII-LXXIII, for one of the earliest examples of the use of white paint, possibly as early as 725 B.C.
Of the two vases found within the sarcophagus, the plain handmade oinochoe is a common type that occurs as early as the first half of the eighth century B.C. in Grave 18 of the North Cemetery at Corinth. It was still being made with little change in shape in the Middle Corinthian period, the first quarter of the sixth century B.C. The baby feeder, on the other hand, while part of a long series of such vessels that begins at least in Mycenaean times and continues throughout antiquity, is unique in the exact form in which we have it here. The highly angular profile suggests that it is an adaptation of an early covered vessel, such as a pyxis or a lekane, here with cover and bowl in one piece. The knob handle usual on the cover of such vessels has here given place to a sieve with a rim about it; the reflex handles are like those of the suggested prototype. The decoration of the baby feeder is completely in the tradition

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18 *Ibid.*, p. 45, no. 153, pl. 22 is a pyxis dating to about 700 B.C., the exact date indicated for this burial by the six kotylai.
19 K. Friis Johansen, *Les vases sicyoniens*, Paris and Copenhagen, 1923, pls. XI and XII, for a variety of covered pyxides.
of the early Protocorinthian-Geometric style, similar to that of the four kotylai, Nos. 9-12. Thus, it too is consistent with a date of about 700 B.C. for the child burial from which the eight vases derive.

Though the baby feeder is apparently the earliest of Corinthian production, and while it introduces a new form for this purpose, it is in many ways the inheritor of a well-established tradition. The feeding bottle starts in Late Helladic III, according to Iakovides, who has forty examples from graves in the Perati cemetery.\(^{20}\) The typical shape is a globular jug with a rather high neck, small mouth, basket handle and a spout rising at about a 45° angle from the shoulder (Pl. 116).\(^{21}\) The same type of globular jug continued to serve as a baby feeder in the Protogeometric period, witness a spouted trefoil oinochoe from a child burial at Tiryns,\(^{22}\) or one from the Athenian Agora.\(^{23}\) But in this same period a one-handled cup on a high conical foot was adapted to use as a baby feeder by the addition of a spout attached to the shoulder.\(^{24}\) While the globular jug with basket handle and spout was still in use as a baby feeder in the Geometric period, a sieve is added in the mouth of one such jug from Eleusis.\(^{25}\) A sieve also fills the wide mouth of a kantharos from Tiryns, which has a spout placed horizontally on one side between the handles;\(^{26}\) its late Geometric decoration, two-handed shape and position of the spout bring it rather close to the first Corinthian baby feeder. Another Late Geometric kantharos made into a baby feeder, but without a sieve, is in Munich.\(^{27}\) Thus, for seven centuries baby feeders had been made by adding a spout, and only in the Geometric period a sieve, to existing shapes. The Protocorinthian-Geometric baby feeder from the child's grave published here is the first one specifically made as such by inventing a new form. Unfortunately, its successors cannot be traced at Corinth during the seventh and early sixth centuries B.C.; it is only with the appearance of a common type of Late Corinthian II baby feeder that the history of the shape resumes at Corinth,\(^{28}\) after the middle of the sixth century. This is the earliest type that appears in the North Cemetery at Corinth, where very few baby feeders were found.\(^{29}\) The shape, with a spout just below the shoulder and

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\(^{20}\) Sp. E. Iakovides, *Perati: The Cemetery*, II, Athens, 1970, pp. 241-244. While most of these "thylastra" are of LH IIIA-B date, a few may go into LH IIIC.

\(^{21}\) The example shown here is from the collections of the Museum of Art and Archaeology, University of Missouri—Columbia (Acc. No. 68.104).

\(^{22}\) V. R. d'A. Desborough, *Protogeometric Pottery*, Oxford, 1952, p. 209, pl. 28, 10, which is the same as *Tiryns*, I, pl. XVI, 10.

\(^{23}\) *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, p. 367, fig. 30.


\(^{25}\) *C.V.A.*, Greece 1, Athens 1, III H d, pl. 3(3), 3.

\(^{26}\) *Tiryns*, I, pl. XVIII, 9.

\(^{27}\) *C.V.A.*, Deutschland 9, München 3, pl. 119 (401), 3-5.


\(^{29}\) *Corinth*, XIII, p. 139, pl. 90, 336-e.
FIG. 5. No. 16, Baby Feeder.
usually a vertical loop handle at right angles to it, is then taken over in the black-glazed examples that are made throughout the Classical period.\footnote{Brian A. Sparkes and Lucy Talcott, *The Athenian Agora, XII, The Black and Plain Pottery of the 6th, 5th, and 4th Centuries B.C.*, Princeton, 1970, p. 161, with footnotes on pertinent literature.}

One of the most important aspects of the child’s grave of about 700 B.C. is that it is the only grave of this period found thus far at Corinth, for the North Cemetery produced no graves of the earliest Protocorinthian period, the latter part of the eighth century B.C.\footnote{Corinth, XIII, p. 52.} It is only in the Middle Protocorinthian that burials were again made in the North Cemetery. The grave reported here may be the first indication of the location of the cemetery of the Early Protocorinthian period.
PLATE 114

SAUL S. WEINBERG: KTV FROM CORINTH
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Late Helladic, III baby feeder

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