

PREHISTORIC INVESTIGATIONS AT CORINTH

(PLATES 104-112)

THREE CAMPAIGNS of excavations, 1968-1970, conducted by the American School of Classical Studies¹ in the west end of the Roman forum of Ancient Corinth have produced a quantity of prehistoric material, principally of the Neolithic Age. The most important finds are of the Late Neolithic period, while the Early Neolithic, Middle Neolithic, and Early Helladic periods are also represented.

The area of the excavations at the west end of the Corinthian forum is divisible into two sub-areas. The "Babbius area" or "Babbius excavations" comprises trenches dug during the 1968 season, west and north of the core of the Babbius monument. The second or "Forum West" sub-area is comprised of trenches excavated in 1969 and 1970 west of temples J, H, G, and of the gap between temples H and G. The Babbius and Forum West trenches together provide a systematic (though incomplete) survey of prehistoric remains along the more northern portions of the west end of the Roman forum of Corinth. This region was a terrace in Roman times, built up along the natural western slopes of the geological upper valley of the Lechaion Road, framed on the north by Temple Hill and on the west by Museum Hill, as the eminence upon which the Corinth Museum stands may be called.

Prior excavations in this area had left at most only Roman and earlier levels and in many places had already cleared to bedrock or hardpan (stereo) and then refilled. The locations selected for new trenches with a view to investigating all periods but also adjacent to, and the logical expansion of, some of the deeper soundings, were therefore in large part pre-determined.

This report concerns the prehistoric aspects of these investigations and mentions later levels only insofar as they bear upon excavation of the prehistoric periods.

¹ The excavations were directed by Charles K. Williams, II, Field Director of the Corinth Excavations. To Mr. Williams I express my thanks for permission to study and to publish this material, as well as for unfailing advice, counsel, and patience; and to successive Secretaries of the Corinth Excavations, particularly K. Butt, S. Herbert and Dr. N. Bookidis, for their assistance.

Trenchmasters were, in 1968, the writer; in 1969, members of the Training Session from the American School; and in 1970, R. L. Pounder and the writer. Most of the photography is by I. Ioannidou and L. Bartzioti; some field photographs are by Mr. Williams or the writer. Excavation plans were prepared by Mr. Williams, while final drawings of pottery profiles are by Diane G. Peck and S. H. Rutter. Finally, I would like to thank several visitors to Corinth for their comments on the excavation and finds, especially Saul S. Weinberg, but also Sara A. Immerwahr, John E. Coleman, William Phelps, and Rainer C. Felsch.

My work in Greece on this material was made possible in part by an Edward L. Ryerson Fellowship in Archaeology from the University of Chicago. This article is adapted with some revisions from my dissertation, submitted to the University of Chicago in 1973.

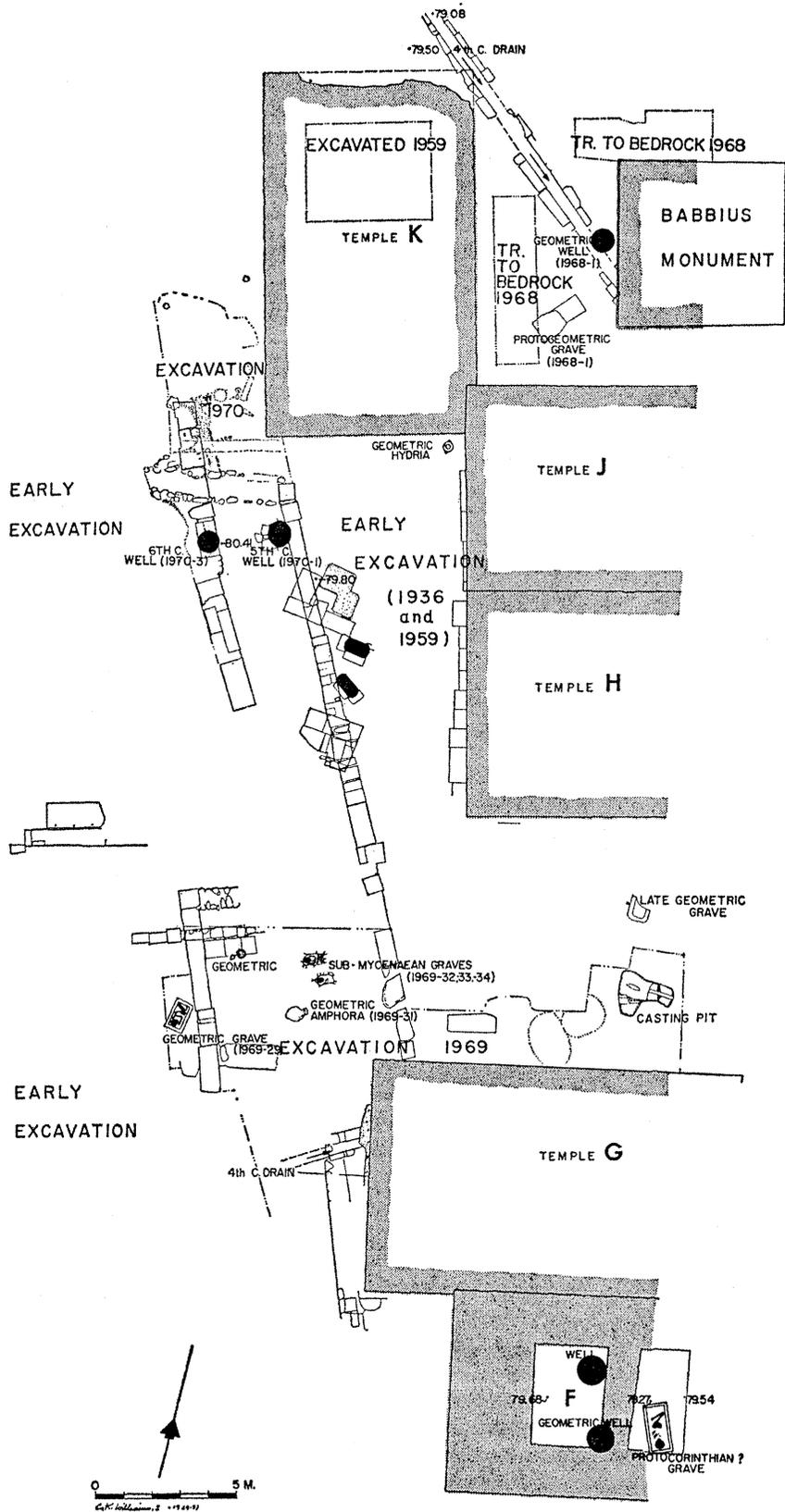


FIG. 1. Plan of prehistoric investigations: Babbius and Forum West Areas

EARLY NEOLITHIC AND MIDDLE NEOLITHIC DEPOSITS
WEST AND NORTH OF THE BABBIUS MONUMENT CORE

Trenches dug slightly west or immediately north of the Babbius monument core confirmed expectations² by producing stratified deposits of pottery and other artifacts assignable to the Early Neolithic (EN) and Middle Neolithic (MN) periods. Much of the area had been disturbed by intrusions of later periods, including Late Neolithic, Early Helladic, Protogeometric, Geometric, Classical, Roman, and Byzantine; but two trenches carried down to hardpan produced substantially pure MN and EN strata in sequence. These strata, however, clearly represent for the most part dump fills and erosion from the higher land to the west and north rather than habitation levels, so that the stratigraphical development at best only approximates the chronological development of the pottery. Later leveling or grading activities in the area have also had their effect: for example, a drain of the 4th century B.C. was cut through the Neolithic deposit from northwest to southeast (Pl. 104: a, center), later to be packed over with seemingly pure Neolithic fill which served as road metal.³ But despite the considerable activity in this area during the Classical period or later, which possibly affected the Neolithic fill, it was clearly already in place at least as early as the Late Protogeometric period, for a Late Protogeometric-Early Geometric cist grave (Pl. 104: a, top center) was cut into it.⁴ Indeed, scattered traces of earlier periods, Early Helladic and Late Neolithic, as well as subsequent findings in nearby areas of the west end of the forum, indicate that the MN and EN layers in the Babbius area were deposited, by dumping or erosion chiefly, at a very early date and can be regarded as stratigraphically valid examples of MN and EN dump fills.

The Babbius West Trench (Pl. 104: c), parallel to the monument core, some 2.90 m. west of it and just south of the drain of the 4th century B.C., measured 6.00 m. north-south by 1.50 m. east-west; it was carried down from 79.23 m. above sea level to hardpan. Hardpan sloped downward from south to north, from + 78.95 rather abruptly to + 78.76, then more gently to a minimum elevation of + 78.49 at the north. The upper strata of this trench consisted of a hard-packed red soil containing many cobbles; the finds are MN. In the southern part of the trench, the next lower stratum was of a similar soil and cobbles but with the addition of whitish clay flecks, suggestive of disintegrated mud bricks, perhaps structural debris; the pottery suggests a phase transitional from EN to MN, or at least includes examples considered characteristic of those two periods. The third stratum here, a very cobbly red soil

² H. S. Robinson and S. S. Weinberg, "Excavations at Corinth, 1959," *Hesperia* 29, 1960, pp. 247 ff.

³ The drain ran over a well that had gone out of use in a late phase of the Geometric period and was itself cut into by a robbed-out foundation trench. The fill of the trench gives a late Hellenistic date for the destruction of the structure it was originally meant to receive. Two Byzantine bothroi also cut into the drain.

⁴ C. K. Williams, II, "Corinth, 1969: Forum Area," *Hesperia* 39, 1970, pp. 16 ff.

terminating on hardpan, produced pottery assignable to a late stage of EN. In the northern part of the trench, two strata of black soil with cobbles, the upper soft and the lower more hard packed, yielded finds typical of MN. The one exception here, and to the general dump-fill nature of the deposits in this area, is a relatively small patch of soft black soil containing much carbonized and ashy matter, along with many small stones, that was found at the western edge of the middle of the trench. This burnt deposit including charred sherds seems to be of EN date; it measured 1.65 m. north-south broadening to a maximum width, at its south end, of 1.10 m. east-west and was some twenty centimeters in depth (+ 78.70 to + 78.50), resting on hardpan.⁵

The Babbius North Trench (Pl. 104: b), along the north face of the monument core and extending westward from it, measured approximately 4.90 m. east-west by a maximum north-south width of 1.80 m. at the east, narrowing to 1.40 m. at the west. Irregularity in the plan of this trench results from the policy of allowing certain features to remain in place, including a small unexcavated "control" section at the northwest corner of the monument core (Pl. 104: a, upper left). Prehistoric levels began at + 79.02 maximum and came down on hardpan at + 78.14 minimum, with a slight and uneven downward slope from west to east. Prehistoric fill consisted of successive strata of reddish soils, generally with an admixture of pebbles or cobbles and white flecks of clay. The finds are divisible into three groups: MN (probably an early phase), MN/EN transitional, and EN. The soil conditions, along with the typical state of preservation of the sherds (fairly sharp breaks, occasional but not frequent joins), correspond with the suggested dump nature of the fills; the frequent white clayey flecks may indicate that these fills consist in part of rubble from simple earthen constructions broken up by the inhabitants of such higher land as Temple Hill and the then adjoining eminence of Museum Hill.⁶

Finds from the Babbius trenches include sixteen lots of pottery,⁷ now totaling approximately 1850 sherds, or some 35 per cent of the original total which has been reduced by sorting; these are essentially EN and MN.

In the best EN contexts represented, the major component is variegated ("rainbow") ware, followed by about half as much black monochrome ware, plus lesser amounts of spongy ware, red-slip ware, coarse ware, and a few sherds of red-on-buff patterned ware. In the variegated ware, low ring and disk bases are fairly common, and some plastic decoration and lug handles occur. The black ware is similar but finer, and includes ring and disk bases, plus beaded or plastic-ribbing decoration. Although no whole profiles could be obtained, in each of these wares the rim sherds and bases indicate that the deep or hemispherical bowl is the dominant shape.⁸ Among the other

⁵ The entry *s.v.* "Corinth" in *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Classical Sites* (R. Stillwell *et al.*, edd.), Princeton, N. J. 1976, should be revised to take into account EN and MN Corinth.

⁶ Williams, *Hesperia* 39, 1970, p. 33; A. L. W. Kosmopoulos, *The Prehistoric Inhabitation of Corinth I*, Munich 1948, p. 23, note 47.

⁷ Corinth Pottery Lots 5585-5600.

⁸ Cf. S. S. Weinberg, "Remains from Prehistoric Corinth," *Hesperia* 6, 1937, pp. 495 f., figs. 4-6. (Cf. also Weinberg, "KTA from Corinth," *Hesperia* 43, 1974, pp. 522-524, nos. 1-4.)

wares, the presence of burnishing on a few examples of spongy ware is to be noted. A still later phase of EN is represented by contexts (including the burnt deposit in the Babbius West Trench) in which there is a sharp increase in the percentage of red-slip ware and red-on-buff ware.

Contexts seeming to belong to a phase transitional from EN to MN are marked by the presence of the first examples of Urфирnis ware, including a few patterned sherds. EN wares are still three times as frequent as the Urфирnis examples, but include a relatively high percentage of red-on-buff patterned ware and red-slip ware. Here, too, occurs the first clear evidence for the agricultural side of the economy, a chert blade with sickle sheen (a lustre on the working edge such as results from prolonged use in cutting grain or grass).

Contexts identifiable as MN, occurring chiefly in the Babbius West Trench, are rich in sherds tentatively assigned to a relatively early phase or phases of the period with a plentiful admixture of EN and transitional potteries. The MN pottery is generally of well-known Urфирnis and patterned Urфирnis varieties, with the fine buff or orangey buff fabric well described by S. S. Weinberg.⁹ A wide variety of shapes is recognizable, although no complete profiles are preserved. Common shapes are collared and piriform jars,¹⁰ fruitstands with simple tapered rims, pedestaled open carinated bowls (high-flaring bowls),¹¹ gently carinated deep bowls on low ring bases (these frequently patterned Urфирnis),¹² askoi or askoid jugs,¹³ and heavy or coarse shapes including so-called "husking bowls",¹⁴ as well as shallow carinated bowls. Oc-

⁹ Weinberg, *Hesperia* 6, 1937, pp. 500 ff.

¹⁰ For piriform jars, *ibid.*, p. 502, figs. 12 and 13 (there referred to as "jugs").

¹¹ E. g., Kosmopoulos (footnote 6 above), pl. I: b; or T. W. Jacobsen, "Excavations at Porto Cheli and Vicinity, Preliminary Report, II: The Franchthi Cave, 1967-1968," *Hesperia* 38, 1969, pl. 95: c (left).

¹² E. g., J. L. Caskey, "Excavations at Lerna: 1956," *Hesperia* 26, 1957, pl. 48: f; or E. J. Holmberg, *The Neolithic Pottery of Mainland Greece*, Göteborg 1964, color plate (frontispiece): b, from Asea.

¹³ Cf. T. W. Jacobsen, "Excavations in the Franchthi Cave, 1969-1971. Part II," *Hesperia* 42, 1973, p. 265, fig. 4. Askoid shapes occur in the northeastern Peloponnesos as early as EN, e.g., C. W. Blegen, "Neolithic Remains at Nemea," *Hesperia* 44, 1975, pl. 63.

¹⁴ Cf. S. S. Weinberg, "The Relative Chronology of the Aegean in the Stone and Early Bronze Ages" (in *Chronologies in Old World Archaeology*, R. W. Ehrich, ed., Chicago and London 1965), p. 293. Other examples occur in MN or EN contexts at Nemea (Blegen, *op. cit.*, p. 270, pl. 68: 13-16), Phlius (W. R. Biers, "Excavations at Phlius 1924, The Prehistoric Deposits," *Hesperia* 38, 1969, p. 448), Lerna (Caskey, *Hesperia* 26, 1957, pl. 48: e, and "Excavations at Lerna, 1957," *Hesperia* 27, 1958, pl. 38: b), the Franchthi Cave (Jacobsen, *Hesperia* 38, 1969, pl. 96: a, lower left), Asea (Holmberg, *The Swedish Excavations at Asea in Arcadia*, Lund and Leipzig 1944, pp. 44 ff., fig. 45), and Hageorgitika and Loukas-Rakhi t'Ambelia (R. Howell, "A Survey of Eastern Arcadia in Prehistory," *BSA* 65, 1970, pp. 88, 90, 105, fig. 2: 14, pls. 29: d [15, 16], 30: c [9]). The Near Eastern analogue whence the name was coined was first described in S. Lloyd and F. Safar, "Tell Hassuna. Excavations by the Iraq Government Directorate General of Antiquities in 1943 and 1944," *JournNEStud* 4, 1945, pp. 255-280. Lloyd suggested that these vessels might have been "used for 'husking' wheat or barley" (p. 262), while Safar said "this, for want of a better explanation of its purpose, we have called a 'husking-tray,'" and cautioned

casional examples of other shapes also occur, such as hole-mouthed jars or bowls with everted rims. A fair number of handles and lugs are present: mostly ribbon-type handles (presumably set vertically on askoi or jugs and globular "amphoras"), although roll handles occur, and a variety of lugs including vertically pierced lunate. At least one ladle-handle fragment is present.¹⁵ The patterned Urfirnis motifs are mostly of familiar styles, showing a preference for linear stripe-and-band arrangements, e. g. in chevrons or intersecting diagonals. Languettes dependent from rims are common; curvilinear or wavy patterns are rare but do occur. Patterns inside only, outside only, and in-and-out (including at least one fruitstand rim) occur. A number of examples of dappled Urfirnis¹⁶ are similar to those from Asea and the caves at Franchthi and Kephalaria. A very small number of scribble-burnished Urfirnis sherds form another decorative category, but no true pattern burnishing is to be found on Urfirnis pottery from the Babbius excavations. Allowing for the possibility of disturbances in the excavated areas, the MN pottery probably should be considered as being mostly of earlier rather than later types and styles; this would corroborate the early relative date suggested by the presence of EN potteries.

There are rather few stone and miscellaneous finds from the Babbius prehistoric excavations. It may be accidental that very little obsidian was recovered: only a few pieces from EN and scarcely more from MN contexts. Yet red chert is six times as common overall: this stone is a very adequate substitute for obsidian and is found locally at Corinth.¹⁷ Among the red-chert finds are a few blades (one good EN example), one lunate blade with sickle sheen (probably meant to be hafted with a wooden or bone handle), and a few other possible tools (perhaps scraper, awl, borer) besides waste flakes and chips. Very few other stone tools were recognized: a few pounding

that the identification was "extremely tentative" (pp. 277 f.; cf. fig. 3: 8-10, and pl. XVIII:I). The examples from Greece are often deeper vessels and in essential respects (fabric, scoring, finish) finer than those from the Near East (coincidentally, the Aztec Indians in the New World developed a similar type of vessel, though on a low pedestal base, some six millennia later). The actual function remains uncertain: they could perhaps have served as suribachis or ὄλμοι for the preparation of spices or herbs and the like, or maybe even as beehives; but K. D. Vitelli, *The Greek Neolithic Patterned Urfirnis Ware from the Franchthi Cave and Lerna*, Philadelphia 1974 (diss. University of Pennsylvania; Xerox microfilm copy at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens), pp. 91 f., suggests that these gouged bowls may have been used in the manufacture of felt.

¹⁵ Cf. Jacobsen, *Hesperia* 38, 1969, p. 97: b, from the Franchthi Cave.

¹⁶ This term is used for a thick, coarse or semicoarse, Urfirnis ware, almost always monochrome dark brown outside and spotted or "dappled" inside; the shape at least in some cases was a very large storage jar (e.g., Corinth C-37-2760, unpublished). Cf. Holmberg (footnote 14 above), pp. 43 ff.; Jacobsen, *Hesperia* 38, 1969, pl. 96: a, lower middle (he suggests, p. 366, this "may be accidental rather than intentional," but at Corinth the number of examples is large enough to support the belief that dappled Urfirnis was indeed intentional); R. C. Felsch, "Neolithische Keramik aus der Höhle von Kephalaria," *AthMitt* 86, 1971, 7 ff., pl. 4:10, 12.

¹⁷ In the absence of expert petrological analysis, the term red chert seems preferable for this dark and flinty local stone (occasionally veined lighter or darker), reserving the term "red flint" for clearly distinct bright red specimens of another kind entirely. Large raw nodules of red chert can be seen on the surface in the vicinity of the excavation zone at Corinth.

or pecking stones, some rubbing or polishing stones, and one fragmentary greenish stone celt.

Bone and shell were not found in abundance; none of the few bone fragments (a few epiphyses, some cranial, tooth, and horn fragments) was very large or whole. A few burnt bones were found in the EN burnt deposit in the Babbius West Trench. Among the few shells is one Noah's Ark from MN context.¹⁸

Three fragmentary figurines (8, 9, and 10) were found, all of MN patterned Urfirnis fabric. Two were found out of closed stratigraphical contexts, the other in a MN stratum of the Babbius West Trench. Each represents the buttock and thigh, and in one case the lower leg also, of a standing female figure with prominent, heavy buttocks (although not so markedly so that it can be called steatopygous). Two bear traces, small scarred disconformities in the clay surface, near the front abdominal area, which are probably from the attachment of the figure's hand. The vertical glaze-painted patterns on all three may be meant to indicate drapery (not necessarily incompatible with the apparently nude modeling), or perhaps tattooing or cicatrization, or, on the other hand, may be simply decorative and not "representational" at all. Similar figurines or fragments have been found previously elsewhere,¹⁹ but among those found over the years at Corinth the closest parallels are among unpublished finds. The contexts of the figurines from the Babbius excavation are not favorable to assigning them a specific function or interpretation.

¹⁸ The Noah's Ark shell, scientifically *Arca (Arca) noae (Linné)*, has been recognized at many Aegean Neolithic and Early Bronze Age sites, among them Saliagos; cf. J. D. Evans and C. Renfrew, *Excavations at Saliagos near Antiparos (BSA, Suppl. V)*, London 1968, pp. 124 ff., pl. LVIII: 8, suggesting the bivalve may have been a food source. This MN appearance at Corinth is among the earliest so far reported for the Aegean.

¹⁹ E.g., Caskey, *Hesperia* 27, 1958, pl. 36: d-e, from Lerna, preserving both legs, whereas all three of the Corinth examples have split along the groove which separates the legs (split examples have been found at Lerna also). On the significance of such figurines, cf. P. J. Ucko, *Anthropomorphic Figurines of Predynastic Egypt and Neolithic Crete with Comparative Material from the Near East and Mainland Greece*, London 1968, especially pp. 413, 442 f., arguing cogently that it is not safe to refer to a "mother goddess" in explanation of these figurines. Corinth unpublished parallels: MF 9948, MF-70-24; fragments of upper bodies of figurines of this type have also been found at Corinth: S. S. Weinberg, "A Cross-Section of Corinthian Antiquities (Excavations of 1940)," *Hesperia* 17, 1948, pp. 199 f., and *Cambridge Ancient History*, 3rd ed., I, i, p. 596 with note 7. I wish to thank Professor Caskey for providing photographs of Lerna examples as well as the composite Lerna-Corinth view mentioned by Weinberg (*ibid.*), and for drawing my attention to the abraded condition of the buttocks frequent in these figurines (*per litt.*, 5 April 1972). For further consideration, see the comprehensive study of prehistoric figurines from Corinth by William Phelps (forthcoming).

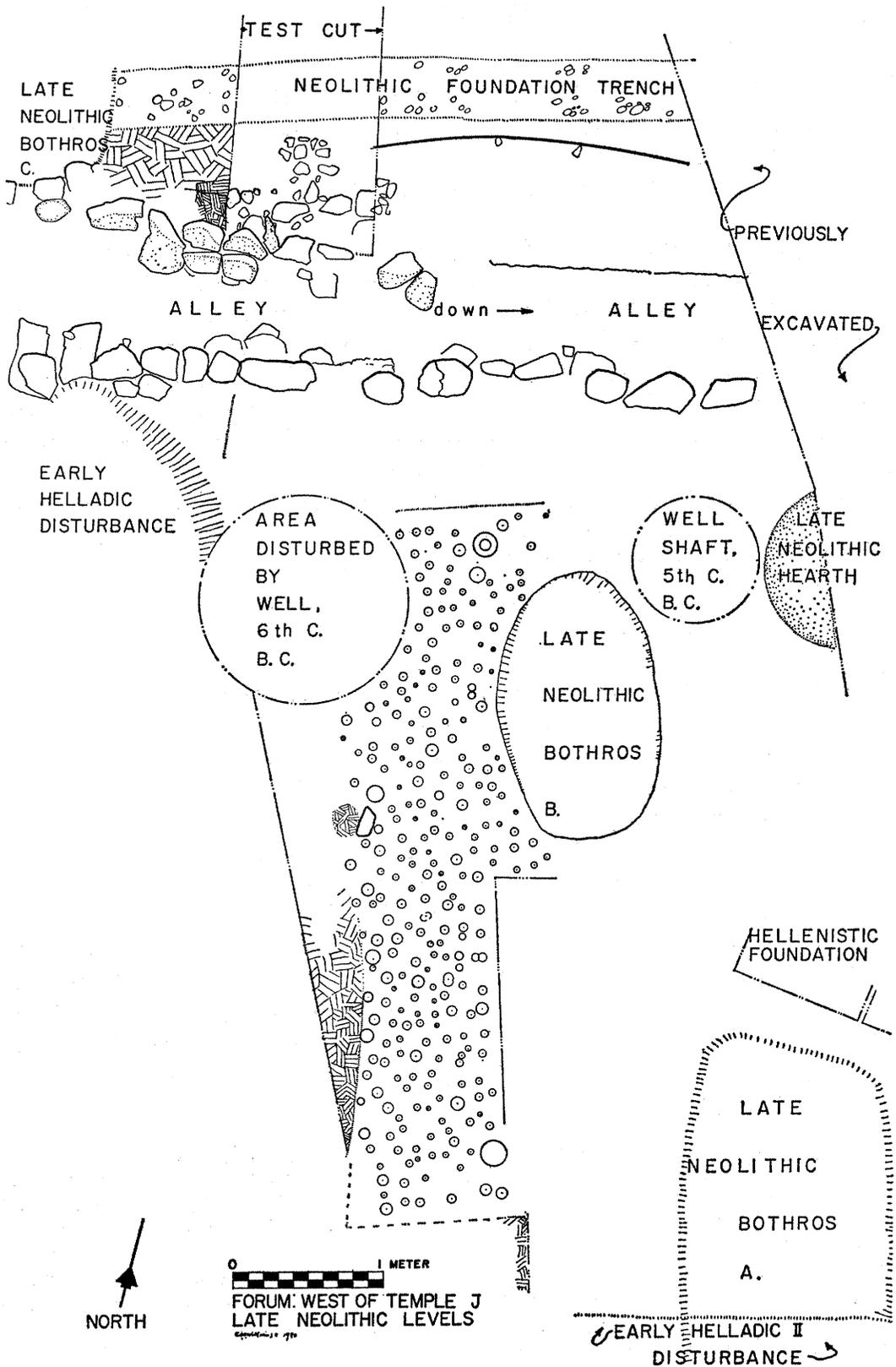


FIG. 2. Forum West Area

MIDDLE NEOLITHIC, LATE NEOLITHIC, AND EARLY HELLADIC DEPOSITS IN THE FORUM WEST AREA

(Fig. 2; Pls. 106-112)

Excavations in 1969 and particularly in 1970, west of Roman temples G, H, and J and east of the West Shops, uncovered significant remains of the Late Neolithic period (LN), plus related MN and Early Helladic (EH) deposits. In 1969, tests around temples G and H revealed extensive, but for the most part mixed, prehistoric fills. Relevant material from these excavations is stored in 11 pottery lots,²⁰ some 7000 sherds out of a slightly higher pre-sorting total. Most of these sherds are of LN classes, but admixed are a small amount of EH pottery (red slipped and polished, and glazed wares) and a handful of later wheelmade sherds. Much of the early pottery came from fills overlying such later remains as three Sub-Mycenaean burials.²¹ The value of this material, then, is chiefly comparative. Bone, obsidian, chert, shell, and other miscellaneous objects were also recovered in varying quantities. Noteworthy finds include a large fragment of a matt-painted bowl, a peculiar tubular fragment also in matt-painted ware (59), and a small disk cut from Urfirnis ware, plus some obsidian points.

The 1970 excavations west of temples H and J came upon undisturbed Neolithic habitation deposits which rank among the few such yet found in Corinth.²² The area excavated includes fills beneath two late walls and the area between them—walls which ran roughly north-south, the more easterly of which marked the west side of the old St. John's monastery complex.²³ Both of these walls were dismantled in the course of the season's work.²⁴ Prehistoric levels were encountered from a maximum elevation of 80.48 m. above sea level to a minimum of + 78.84; in other words, there was not more than about a meter and a half of prehistoric deposit at most, in fact often less. Although an area with a total north-south length of some 27 meters was tested, Neolithic remains occurred over not more than 16.50 m. Approximately within the meter immediately to the south of the Neolithic deposit lies an EH II pit with a cobbly soil fill, parts of which remain undug. Generally speaking, only three

²⁰ Corinth Pottery Lots 5761-5771.

²¹ Cf. Williams, *Hesperia* 39, 1970, pp. 12 ff.

²² Kosmopoulos (footnote 6 above), pp. 16 f., 25, cites apparently pure habitation deposits on the south side of Temple Hill and in the Forum West area, tested in 1914 and 1920 respectively.

²³ For St. John's monastery, cf. R. L. Scranton, *Corinth*, XVI, *Mediaeval Architecture in the Central Area of Corinth*, Princeton, N. J. 1957, pp. 61-66, plan VI (where the road is labeled "St. John's Road").

²⁴ Other remains of the historical era investigated as part of the excavation included Byzantine to Recent dumps and fills, Late Roman pockets, very scrappy and thin Hellenistic or Late Classical strata, and several wells, some which had been cleared by earlier excavations and two that were dug in 1970, of the 6th and 5th centuries B.C. (Pl. 106: a, center).

bothroi and upper strata of the LN deposit were excavated, plus small areas of MN deposit; a considerable amount of stratified material is yet to be excavated.

From this Forum West area, 58 lots²⁶ of prehistoric pottery (MN, LN, and EH) have been saved, totaling over 8000 sherds; most of these lots are complete, i. e., none of the pottery from them has been discarded (the principal exceptions being the mixed EH lots, of which up to 40% was discarded). In addition to the relatively thick LN deposits, besides the EH II dump fill, there is underlying stratified material of MN characteristics. In some areas thin strata of a stage of EH, apparently pre-sauceboat and with only a few sherds classifiable as "EH Urfirnis", were found overlying the LN layer.

ARCHITECTURAL REMAINS

Distinguishable architectural features include a series of walls or beddings for walls, both EH and LN, among them a LN wall of sun-dried mud brick, a LN alleyway running east-west across the excavated area, a large number of LN man-made holes sunk into a series of clay platforms or built levels, and part of what was probably a hearth. There are also three LN bothroi, labeled A, B, and C from south to north.

These architectural features are at times elusive or perplexing, especially those of EH I. Just north of the alleyway, at a high level virtually indicative of the depth to which Roman and Hellenistic terracing had penetrated into the earlier deposits leaving at most about thirty centimeters of fill assignable to EH I, from + 80.55 to + 80.24, there occurred an irregular north-south course of small stones (Pl. 107: a, center), seemingly turning to the east near the northern limit of LN Bothros C. Pottery associated with the hard, brownish red soil in which these fist-sized or smaller stones were impacted was mixed in character, including Classical, EH, and LN classes. The virtually stoneless but otherwise similar soil enclosed within the angle formed by the stony deposit, and at the same levels, contained only a few sherds, of which the only datable one was of LN matt-painted ware. Below the fist-sized stones and mixed pottery lay another stony stratum, soft, brown, with stones still fist sized but generally a little smaller than those overlying them. This lower, softer, stony stratum, + 80.24 to + 79.94, included not only LN pottery but also EH fabrics, mostly of red-slipped and polished ware (including incurved rims) and seemingly belonging to a phase of EH I, since no certain sauceboat fragments were recognized.²⁶ It seems reasonable to consider this course of stones as part of a much effaced and disturbed wall of an EH I structure, perhaps a house. To the west and southwest of these structural traces, at similar high levels, were found stony dump fills²⁷ of a corresponding early EH phase which may have been debris from the structure.

²⁵ Corinth Pottery Lots 6365-6391 and 6461-6491. Cf. also Corinth Bone Lots 70-43 to 70-49.

²⁶ Corinth Pottery Lot 6368.

²⁷ Corinth Pottery Lots 6366 and 6491.

There is insufficient evidence to postulate continuity between this latest habitation phase and the earlier, Neolithic phases discussed below, and ceramic taxonomy argues against it. This will become clearer in the discussion of relative chronology.

The Late Neolithic architectural remains, truncated by repeated later intrusions and disturbances, may belong to three separate but related elements. At the north, scant remains suggest the presence of a house, though the area is too destroyed to indicate its shape. At the south is a sector extending to a mud-brick wall, which may have enclosed it. Only a small segment, however, survives of this wall. Within this southern sector was laid a clay floor or platform, resurfaced at least two times. All three surfaces are punctuated by small, man-made holes, which are very perplexing. To be associated with the uppermost surface is a simple, round hearth, as well as two big bothroi, A and B. This southern sector appears to have been an open-air work yard. Dividing the northern, house area from the southern, work-yard sector is an alleyway with pebble-packed pavement.

Perhaps the clearest LN architectural remains are those of the alleyway running approximately east-west across the excavated area and located west of Roman temple J and southwest of temple K (Pl. 107: a-c). The alley consists of two rows of upright slabs or large stones in two or more courses lining a pathway roughly one half to three quarters of a meter wide and composed of many successive layers of compacted earth and pebbly packed pavements.²⁸ High levels in the area had been disturbed by intrusions, Classical or later. Purely Neolithic levels began from + 80.25 in the west and + 80.01 in the east. The alley generally maintained this slope downward to the east, i. e., at a ratio of about one in twenty. The topmost levels of the two lining rows of orthostatic stones rose to + 80.36 (at the west). The upper portion of the south row had, in its eastern half, been damaged or removed, apparently in Neolithic times and seemingly in connection with the deposition of Bothros B to its south²⁹ (intrusions—an oblong east-west pit of Late Roman times, situated north of and between 6th- and 5th-century B.C. wells, as well as the 5th-century shaft and lip itself—have eliminated evidence for the extent of Bothros B to the north and east). The lowest stroses of the alleyway excavated, still of uniformly LN character, reached + 79.83.

North of the alleyway, hardpan slopes sharply upward, while Roman and Hellenistic deposits remain nearly constant at levels in the range of the first half meter above + 80.00; as a result, prehistoric fill at the north was very shallow. Hardpan at the northeast is reached at + 80.19. The shallowness of the Neolithic fill here and lack of any traces of connecting structure make speculative the assessment of two probably man-made holes at the north, cut shallowly into hardpan; they may be related to the Neolithic remains farther south.

²⁸ Although as many as 11 stroses have been excavated over parts of the alley, nevertheless undug strata remained when work had to be terminated at the end of the 1970 season.

²⁹ Note that the plan, Fig. 1, shows a later stage of the excavations, at which the north row had been excavated at the east and the lower levels of the south row were exposed.

BOTHROS C

Northwest of the alleyway (Pl. 107: a, center foreground) was excavated LN Bothros C, which cut into the west edge of the prehistoric deposits; apparently part of this bothros had been removed in the course of earlier excavations immediately to the west of the area excavated in 1970.³⁰ But a large part of it remained and was excavated from + 80.32 to + 79.80 (hardpan). The earth fill was soft, reddish brown, with black carbonized or ashy patches, and contained much pottery as well as bones and miscellaneous objects.³¹ This bothros had been cut through what seems to be an earlier LN foundation trench (Pl. 107: b, center, parallel to alley), which runs eastward from the edge of Bothros C. The trench, about 0.38 m. wide, held a brownish red, pebbly fill from + 80.25 to + 80.15, and had at one time, it seems, provided a bedding for a wall which stood only for a relatively brief time. The bedding trench cuts into and is later than a clay floor which runs under but not south of the north wall of the alleyway and into which that wall seems to have been set. Hence, the foundation trench held a wall which was erected after the walls of the alleyway were erected and was dismantled while the alleyway was still in use.

A second, much smaller bothros-like pit deposit to the north and east of Bothros C and north of the foundation trench (Pl. 107: a, center), which was overlapped by the eastern return of the EH structure discussed above, consisted of a soft red fill with white clayey streaks, in depth from + 80.14 to + 79.24. This deposit included only a small amount of pottery and other objects of early LN character.³²

BOTHROI A AND B

South of the alleyway, the clearest features are the two large LN Bothroi A and B. Bothros B (Pl. 106: a, center) lay at relatively high levels, from a preserved maximum elevation at + 80.37 to a minimum at + 79.48 irregularly, and focused south and southwest of a well of the 5th century B.C.; its exact spatial definition, however, has proved difficult because of later disturbances to its form.³³ Indications from finds as well as soil are that this bothros was intruded upon by the 5th-century well and by a rectangular Late Roman rubbish pit running approximately from the northwest edge of the well westward to the northeast edge of a well of the 6th century

³⁰ Early records are unfortunately insufficient to allow complete certainty, but the prior excavation in question would seem to be either that carried out by Kosmopoulos in 1920 (Kosmopoulos [footnote 6 above], pp. 23 ff.) or that of H. R. Hastings and T. W. Heermance in 1904 (Heermance, "Excavations at Corinth in 1904, Preliminary Report," *AJA*, n.s. 8, 1904, pp. 440 ff., pl. XVII).

³¹ Bothros C: Corinth Pottery Lot 6367; inventoried finds: MF-70-31, MF-70-32, MF-70-35; C-70-151, C-70-270—C-70-273, C-70-330, C-70-354, C-70-371, C-70-372, C-70-470.

³² Corinth Pottery Lot 6370. This pit is visible in Plate 107: a, upper center.

³³ Bothros B: Corinth Pottery Lots 6485-6489; inventoried finds: MF-70-53, MF-70-70; MF-70-71; C-70-158, C-70-159, C-70-202, C-70-218, C-70-219, C-70-224, C-70-227, C-70-230 C-70-231, C-70-241, C-70-244—C-70-246, C-70-252—C-70-254, C-70-258, C-70-260, C-70-359, C-70-474—C-70-476, C-70-561.

B.C.³⁴ The soil in the bothros was soft and black, with occasional inclusions of pebbles or of bits of red and white clay, plus unbaked red-clay fragments, seemingly of brick, mostly in the western part of it. Undug Neolithic fill remains under the area of Bothros B.

Bothros A (Pl. 106: a), located at the south of the preserved Neolithic habitation deposit, southwest of the irregularly shaped Hellenistic cistern (Pl. 106: a, center right),³⁵ extended from a maximum elevation + 80.03 to a minimum + 79.14. Its greatest east-west width is *ca.* 1.30 m., while its original north-south length must remain unknown because of the intrusion of an EH II pit with dump fill at the south, destroying an indefinable portion of the bothros. There is, however, some reason to suspect that a large portion was destroyed: generally, the levels sloped down in the bothros from all sides to a depression just north of the EH dump, so that, if the depression represents the approximate center of the bothros, as much as one third was obliterated by the Early Bronze Age people. The bothros fill was a black soil, with admixed flecks or patches mostly of white clay, plus ashy carbon bits signifying burning. Pottery, bones, and obsidian from Bothros A are relatively abundant, even though the EH intrusion has reduced its extent.³⁶ This EH fill included soft red soil and many cobbles, and the portion excavated went from + 79.91 to a depth of + 79.09.³⁷ The pottery, including fragments of deep or stumpy sauceboats, indicates deposition in an advanced phase of EH II.³⁸ The origin of this EH debris is not evident, but the material suggests habitation in the immediate vicinity.³⁹ Underlying Bothros A, a layer with MN pottery was found, ending with a very thin stratum spread over hardpan (minimum elevation + 78.98), containing tiny fragments of pottery.

Immediately east of the 5th-century well, removal of a black soil fill with LN

³⁴ This Roman pit reached a depth of +80.18 and had itself been cut into at the east by a small Byzantine rubbish pit reaching +80.01.

³⁵ Hellenistic cistern: R. Stillwell, "Excavations at Corinth, 1934-1935," *AJA* 40, 1936, p. 43; R. L. Scranton, *Corinth*, I, iii, *Monuments in the Lower Agora and North of the Archaic Temple*, Princeton, N. J. 1951, p. 5, plan A; Robinson and Weinberg, *Hesperia* 29, 1960, p. 248; G. R. Edwards, *Corinth*, VII, iii, *Corinthian Hellenistic Pottery*, Princeton, N. J. 1975, pp. 210 f., deposit 44, dated to *ca.* 200 B.C.

³⁶ Bothros A: Corinth Pottery Lots 6477-6480; inventoried finds: MF-70-33, MF-70-48, MF-70-52, MF-70-68, MF-70-69, MF-70-86; C-70-97, C-70-160, C-70-201, C-70-216, C-70-220—C-70-223, C-70-225, C-70-226, C-70-228, C-70-229, C-70-232, C-70-233, C-70-242, C-70-243, C-70-247—C-70-249, C-70-356—C-70-358, C-70-471—C-70-473, C-70-549—C-70-559.

³⁷ Corinth Pottery Lot 6490. Segments of this EH deposit remain undug to the east (below an area of poros slab paving not later than the 4th century B.C.) and to the west of the area excavated in 1970.

³⁸ E. g., sauceboat spout C-70-262; other inventoried EH II artifacts from this deposit include a small saucer or cup, C-70-137, and terracotta loomweights, MF-70-46 and MF-70-47.

³⁹ The EH cobbly deposit had in turn been disturbed at the south by a large intrusive dump with Byzantine pottery.

pottery revealed at + 79.96 a compacted, rich, black mud layer, semicircular in shape to the east edge of the preserved segment, bedded, as it appears in the east scarp, upon a layer of stones or large pebbles. The dark, rich coloration suggests burning, and the surface of the mud platform is very smooth and level. This partially preserved construction is interpreted as a LN hearth. It is a simple hearth, diameter slightly over one meter, with no trace of superstructure or surrounding rim-wall. It is probably to be associated with the uppermost of the clay platforms discussed immediately below.

CLAY PLATFORM LEVELS

West of Bothroi A and B, and extending southeastward from the 6th-century well, the most perplexing architectural feature of the 1970 excavation is a series of clay and mud platforms dotted with a large number of man-made holes (Pl. 106: a). The uppermost of these platforms or built levels lies at an elevation of about + 80.10. It has a length from north to south of about 4.50 m.; its width is preserved to not much over 1.50 m. In it there are over 260 man-made holes, all less than 0.20 m. in diameter and most in the 0.05—0.10 m. range. They are sunk to no great depth in hard-packed reddish earth. A portion of an underlying platform or level at approximately + 79.91 was exposed at the southeast in the space between the upper platform at the west and Bothros A at the east, and 52 more holes were cleared. Finally, a very limited area of a still lower, third level (el. *ca.* + 79.75) was tested along the west edge of Bothros A and added another 13 holes to the accumulated number discovered. The upper platform was found to have a kind of edging or liner of fine white clay along its southwest side. The nature of these platforms and the holes in them is not clear. No pattern was discernable in the distribution of the holes, which are close to one another all over the preserved extent of the platform.

Two additional features are relevant. First is the segment of a substantial wall of unbaked mud brick, presumably sun dried. A cross-section of this mud brick was revealed in the scarp at the southeast side of the area of the platforms and abutting on the south the area of the EH II cobbly intrusion.⁴⁰ The wall is part of the LN architectural complex. Its top, as preserved, can be read at *ca.* + 80.23 in the scarp, while it is bedded at + 79.61, upon which level rests a socle stone (?) at the south; there seems to be a corresponding socle at the north, giving the wall a width of *ca.* 0.90 m. Between the top of the south socle at + 79.87 and the preserved top of the wall, three courses of bricks can be distinguished. The mud-brick wall¹ seems to have run east-west or perhaps somewhat northwest-southeast. The wall has not been traced to the west, and no sign of it appears eastward, i. e., in the east scarps of the zone excavated in 1970; probably only a very short stretch of the wall is preserved (excavations between 1904 and 1930 apparently removed the westward portions). Further

⁴⁰ On the plan, Fig. 2, the vertical strip of counter-hatching just right of the scale marks the position of this scarp. It appears as if the EH fill was in part thrown up against the wall, rather than cutting into it, although this is uncertain.

excavation may reveal whether the wall forms a right angle with the west edge of the platforms. Its original function is not clear, but ultimately it seems to have served as a terrace-retaining wall for the holed platforms north of it.

Second, a stratigraphic test, in the form of a stepped scarp-cut for a limited width, was made along the west edge the Neolithic deposit, running south and slightly eastward from southwest of the 6th-century well and back to the southern limit of the platforms (Pl. 106: a). Fills excavated in this test included narrow strips of LN and MN layers, down to a thin, sterile silt stratum of bright red and sandy soil at *ca.* + 78.78 and hardpan at *ca.* + 78.70 in the form of whitish clay. This test has slightly altered the configuration on the west of the platforms.

The clay platform levels and the holes sunk into them form an area which, although relatively large, has nevertheless been much disturbed by bothroi, well, Roman pit, etc. E. g., the largest hole, in the second level, was directly overlaid by a Roman deposit which mingled almost imperceptibly into the similar LN fill; for the holes, in the upper level especially, contained varying soil fills.⁴¹ Some contained red and hard soil, others softer black soil; some were sealed over by red platform clay, others were evident on the surface. Any possible pattern that might have been revealed by the soil differences in the holes, however, was unfortunately not secured. These are probably not postholes in the strict sense, for which they seem too small and shallow, and their density seems to speak against any conventional view of a posthole-construction, such as a wall. Several other possibilities can be suggested. An adequate interpretation must account for the multiplicity of holes, for their varying diameters (although most are rather small, a few are distinctively larger), for their varying fills, and for the general configuration, as well as for the red-clay platforms and their function, and that of the white-clay edging or liner noted at some points; obstacles beset the path to understanding. Very provisionally, then, the interpretation which most commends itself is one involving much of the Forum West area.

It is possible that the space adjoining the alleyway on the south was an outdoor working yard or court for a house sited north of the alleyway. The clay platforms would be working floors or surfaces; Bothroi A and B would be explainable as rubbish and cooking pits as well perhaps even as clay pits for the raw material for mud bricks; the hearth would be the remains of a surface-cooking and fire area. The holes might be for some kind of "industrial frame", as, e. g., meat-slaughtering, rendering, and curing-smoking racks, frequently reset into new holes as need arose for dismantling and later reassembling, or moving, the apparatus. The whole area might be termed a LN meat processing and preparation zone.

Two test cuts were made immediately north of the alleyway for the purpose of observing the stratigraphy (Pl. 107: a). In the more westerly of these cuts, 2.25 m.

⁴¹ With the particular exception of the large hole in the second stratum, the whole 325-plus holes yielded three sherds, three bones, one shell fragment, and two stones (each object in a separate hole; all, except two of the bones, in the upper stratum).

north-south by 1.00 m. east-west, we examined five LN stroses from + 80.18 to +80.00. In the eastern test cut north of the alleyway, 0.70 m. east of the other, measuring 1.80 m. north-south by 1.00 m. east-west, we examined a series of red soil stroses, ranging from soft to hard with admixed clay, sand, or pebbles. A cobbled floor was revealed at + 80.05, while a deeper probe reached hardpan sloping upwards towards the north (+ 79.48 at the northwest corner of the probe, but + 79.08 at the southeast corner); hardpan was covered by thin MN strata.

THE POTTERY AND OTHER FINDS

The prehistoric pottery found in 1970 is divisible into four major groups: MN, LN, early EH, and advanced EH II. Of these, the LN is the largest and most significant group, and in several instances joins with pottery excavated in 1959 in the area immediately adjacent on the east.⁴² The other groups are of interest for the chronological indications they provide.

Middle Neolithic wares

The MN pottery is all of known varieties.⁴³ Overwhelmingly most common is monochrome Urfirnis ware. There is a much smaller quantity of patterned Urfirnis ware, as well as examples of dappled Urfirnis. A few sherds of scribble-burnished Urfirnis occur, mostly in MN/LN context. There are also several dozen examples of variegated ware (like that customarily considered EN), plus a few sherds each of spongy ware and red-slip ware. Coarse wares are fairly well represented. In the seemingly transitional or mixed MN/LN contexts, the LN pottery is overwhelmingly black burnished ware. A much smaller amount of matt-painted ware occurs. Aside from the coarse ware, some of which is probably "LN", virtually no other LN category is represented in these contexts.

Late Neolithic wares

The LN pottery provides a good picture of a distinctive horizon, as it belongs essentially to a single phase.⁴⁴ For the analysis presented here, the sherds have been grouped into several classes and statistics compiled in which fragments consisting

⁴² Robinson and Weinberg, *Hesperia* 29, 1960, pp. 247 ff.

⁴³ Corinth Pottery Lots 6390, 6475, 6476, 6482-6484 (essentially MN); 6389 and 6481 have MN/LN transitional aspects and are considered here with the MN pottery. Altogether, these lots include about 675 sherds; inventoried examples include C-70-240, C-70-250, C-70-251, C-70-327, and (MN/LN) C-70-325, C-70-326. Weinberg's MN stratum of 1959 in St. John's trench 4 (Robinson and Weinberg, *Hesperia* 29, 1960, pp. 248 ff.) is directly related to that of Forum West 1970.

⁴⁴ Corinth Pottery Lots 6365, 6367, 6369-6377, 6379-6388, 6391, 6461-6474, 6477-6480, 6485-6489. Adding the approximately 150 inventoried specimens, the total sherd count for the LN layer is nearly 5850; of these, less than a score can be identified as EH intrusions, while some forty are later intrusions (mostly Classical and small) and about 120 elude satisfactory identification.

of any number of joined sherds, or of non-joining sherds clearly from the same vessel, have been counted as one only. Noteworthy is the remarkably wide range of fabrics plainly in contemporaneous use. Although the Forum West LN sherds can be considered divisible into about a dozen classes, each class includes a range of variation in fabric sometimes quite wide. The three largest classes comprise about 85% of the total: black burnished wares, matt-painted and probably matt-painted wares, and coarse or coarse burnished wares, in order of quantities. Other sherds include monochrome Urfirnis wares (over 6½%), matt-black-on-red wares (about 2½%), and small quantities of plain buff, patterned Urfirnis, and miscellaneous sherds not assignable to a defined class; comment is called for by 14 gray-ware sherds, a dozen variegated- (rainbow-) ware sherds, and 7 tiny fragments of gray-on-gray (Tsountas and Wace-Thompson Γ1β) ware.

Handmade pottery surviving as broken fragments, sometimes very small ones, is not always easy to classify typologically. Of the lotted sherds, just a little over 14% could be said with assurance to be of some particular type of vessel, while most of the inventoried examples are of recognizable shape; so that, in total, about 16% of the sherds from the LN layer are assigned to some particular type of vessel. Sometimes even a type may be only a broad generalization of shape, such as "bowl". Many more sherds, of course, presented some evidence of vessel shape, but where any ambiguity might exist, they were not assigned to specific shapes. Results of this cautious typological assessment indicate that bowls, in all their variations of shape, are most prevalent (cup-bowls, "soup-dishes", carinated bowls, pedestaled bowls, and offset- or bevel-offset-rim bowls, as well as examples classed just generally as "bowls"), followed closely by fruitstands⁴⁵ and collared jars. Other types counted include generalized jars, hole-mouthed jars, and a small but noteworthy number of tumblers. Shapes uncommon or identified in only a few specimens include askos, tripod, pan, and pyxis. There is a curiously large number of four-legged so-called ritual vessels or rhyta (virtually all fragments were inventoried). Decorative techniques exemplified include painting, mostly dark-on-light but including light-on-dark and some polychrome, plastic decoration,⁴⁶ incision, punctation, pattern burnishing and scribble burnishing, and some possible rippling.

Black burnished wares include approximately 30 1/3% of the LN sherds, including 51 inventoried specimens. The fabric varies from extremely fine and thin walled, well cleaned and hard and evenly fired, to heavy and semicoarse, ill fired. Not surprisingly, most examples belong to the middle ground between these extremes. Generally, the pots tend to be fairly fine and well made but rather pedestrian. The surface color may be rather light and grayish (but always distinguishable from gray-

⁴⁵ Since fruitstand fragments are uncommonly easy to recognize and identify, it is possible, even likely, that they constitute a misleadingly high proportion of identified shapes.

⁴⁶ It has been suggested that some Neolithic applied or plastic decoration may be potters' marks (K. D. Vitelli, "Neolithic Potters' Marks," *AJA* 75, 1971, p. 216); in most cases in the Corinth pottery such decoration is adequately explained on other grounds (e. g., aesthetic-artistic or functional).

ware fabrics) at one extreme, or an intense black at the other extreme; some examples are tannish. "Kiln-mottling" is not infrequent.⁴⁷ The range of black burnished bowls is typified by **20** to **24**, yet the latter pedestal fragment is unique at Corinth thus far. **25** and **26** illustrate black burnished-ware fruitstands, of which many examples were found. Analysis of their profiles showed in almost all cases an offset or hooked rim, in contrast to the unarticulated rims of fruitstands common in Urfrinis and matt-black-on-red wares, while in matt-painted-ware fruitstands both unarticulated and offset rims are common.⁴⁸ The range of black burnished jars is illustrated by **27** to **30**, varying from small, almost cup sized to large storage jars, but usually of fine fabric. Decoration is relatively abundant and inventive. The number of pieces with what are commonly called mend holes is striking, not only here but in other shapes and wares as well.⁴⁹ Fragments **31** to **33** illustrate the three classes of pattern burnishing found in the Forum West excavations. The broad-band style is favored in a decorative scheme for the inside of shallow bowls, while the fine-line style is used, usually in reserved panels or zones, on the outside of pots and appears in many variations; the concentric-lozenge pattern is a rarity at Corinth.⁵⁰

⁴⁷ Since Neolithic pottery in Greece seems probably to have been fired without a kiln, as experiments and comparison with the practice of some modern potters show (K. D. Vitelli, "Some Implications of Greek Neolithic Ceramic Technology," paper presented before the Seventy-Sixth General Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America, 1974; F. R. Matson, "The Archaeological Present: Near Eastern Village Potters at Work," *AJA* 78, 1974, p. 345), the term "kiln-mottling" is, strictly, a misnomer. The conventional view, however, still assumes the use of a kiln by Neolithic potters in Greece (cf. C. Renfrew in D. R. Theochares, *Neolithic Greece*, Athens 1973, p. 189).

⁴⁸ Fruitstand rim typology is exemplified in material from Elateia of similar date: Weinberg, "Excavations at Prehistoric Elateia, 1959," *Hesperia* 31, 1962, p. 183, fig. 8:9, 10 (black burnished ware, hooked), fig. 8:7 (matt-black-on-red ware, unarticulated), and p. 197 (both types in matt-painted ware).

⁴⁹ Mend holes seem so common, indeed, that their use merits some consideration. Unlike the familiar lead clamps of the Bronze Age (cf. C. Renfrew, "Cycladic Metallurgy and the Aegean Early Bronze Age," *AJA* 71, 1967, p. 4 and pl. 2:b) and classical archaeology, it is commonly asserted that in the LN era of metallurgy incipient at best, thongs or other animal-derived fibrous elements were probably the binding medium (e. g. Holmberg, [footnote 14 above], p. 131). Without some kind of sealing substance, no trace of which was found, this technique would seem unsatisfactory for containing fluids. Many questions remain in the absence of more definite evidence for sealers or for Neolithic metallurgy.

⁵⁰ While the broad-band and fine-line styles of pattern burnishing have numerous parallels in Thessaly, Central Greece, the Peloponnesos, and elsewhere, the rather ambitious (if not entirely successfully executed) lozenge motif is not common in pattern-burnished wares. Although similarities exist in some examples of the red wares, dating to a later phase of LN, of Thorikos (J. Servais in H. F. Mussche *et al.*, *Thorikos 1965, Rapport préliminaire sur la troisième campagne de fouilles*, Brussels 1967, p. 25, fig. 21), of Kephala on Kea (J. E. Coleman, *Keos, I, Kephala, A Late Neolithic Settlement and Cemetery*, Princeton, N. J. 1977, pp. 11 f. *et passim*; cf. J. L. Caskey, "Excavations in Keos, 1963," *Hesperia* 33, 1964, pp. 314 f., pl. 47:i), and perhaps of the Athenian Agora (S. A. Immerwahr, *The Athenian Agora, XIII, The Neolithic and Bronze Ages*, Princeton, N. J. 1971, p. 27, no. 35, pls. 4, 69), the closest parallels are from Central Greece, as, e.g., a brownish-ware sherd with lozenge motif from Hagia Marina (Chaironea Museum; DAI, Athens, photo no. Loc.-Ph. 156, top row center). The Corinth example is thus far apparently unique in the Pelopon-

The four-legged ritual-vessel (rhyton) fragments comprise a special subclass of the black burnished wares; only a selection of the many found is presented here.⁵¹ The thick, heavy forms of the ritual vessel may explain its tendency to be of coarser or more impure fabric than other, morphologically finer, black burnished pottery. Perhaps grit or sand was added to the clay as a temper, so that the pot would not crack apart in firing. The heavy legs were at least in some cases built up in a layered or rolled technique, and even the handle and body are usually hefty. Ritual vessels cannot have been easy for the Neolithic potter to fire perfectly. Lavish decoration affords a compensating aspect and in combination with the peculiar shape results in a manneristic richness. The number of ritual vessels, illustrated by 34 to 41, is not merely striking. Such vessels have hitherto been best known, at least among Aegean archaeologists, from those found in excavations in Central Greece at Elateia and Chaironea,⁵² and there are also examples from earlier excavations at Corinth.⁵³ Other instances in Greece, however, have been rare: one or two ritual vessels found at Tsangli in Thessaly have been little noted,⁵⁴ there is one possible handle fragment from Orchomenos,⁵⁵ a handful of examples have been found at the Franchthi Cave in the Argolid,⁵⁶ at least one has been reported from Alepotrypa in the Mani.⁵⁷ It is the connection with Yugoslavian and Albanian finds that is most provocative; virtually identical vessel types occur at Danilo-Bitinj,⁵⁸ Obre I,⁵⁹ and other sites⁶⁰ mostly in the Dalmatian region or the nearby upper Bosna valley area, and southward in Albania.⁶¹

nesos. Similar pattern-burnished motifs also occur in the Vinča culture (cf. Sheffield City Museum, *The Arts of the First Farmers* [exhibition catalogue], Sheffield 1969, p. 35, no. 83).

⁵¹ The 1969 and 1970 campaigns yielded as many as 44 inventoried fragmentary examples, while many others found in prior or subsequent excavations raise the number in the Corinth inventory to over 150.

⁵² Many of these are discussed and illustrated in Weinberg, *Hesperia* 31, 1962, pp. 190-195, fig. 12, pls. 63-65 (including comparanda and earlier bibliography).

⁵³ E.g., Kosmopoulos (footnote 6 above), p. 31, figs. 5 (incorrectly restored) and 6, pl. IV : j ; Weinberg, *Hesperia* 6, 1937, p. 512, fig. 30.

⁵⁴ A. J. B. Wace and M. Thompson, *Prehistoric Thessaly*, Cambridge 1912, pp. 99 ff., fig. 50 : a.

⁵⁵ E. Kunze, *Orchomenos*, II, *Die neolithische Keramik*, Munich 1931, pp. 15 ff. and fig. 15 (noted by J. Korošec).

⁵⁶ Jacobsen, *Hesperia* 42, 1973, p. 269 and (p. 268) fig. 6.

⁵⁷ H. Hauptmann in F. Schachermeyr *et al.*, "Forschungsbericht über die Ausgrabungen und Neufunde zur ägäischen Frühzeit, 1961-1965," *ArchAnz* [86], 1971, p. 352 (on display in the Sparta Museum).

⁵⁸ F. Dujmović, "Neolitska obredna posuda iz Danila u Dalmaciji," *Vjesnik za arheologiju i historiju Dalmatinsku* 54, 1952, pp. 73-75, fig. 1, pl. III ; J. Korošec, *Neolitska naseobina u Danilu Bitinju*, Zagreb 1958, pp. 55-59, figs. 9-11, pls. XVII-XXVI : 1, and *idem*, *Danilo in Danilska Kultura*, Ljubljana 1964, pp. 28-30, pls. 8-11, 36.

⁵⁹ M. Gimbutas, "Obre, Yugoslavia, Two Neolithic Sites," *Archaeology* 23, 1970, pp. 288-295.

⁶⁰ Among these are Arnautovići, Kakanj, and Smilčić; many are discussed in A. Benac, "Studien zur Stein- und Kupferzeit im nordwestlichen Balkan," *RomGerKom* 42, 1961, pp. 1-170, *passim*.

⁶¹ M. Korkuti, "Fouilles archéologiques 1967-1969 en Albanie," *Studia Albanica* 8, 1971, pp.

The four-legged ritual vessels from the 1969 and 1970 Forum West excavations are so numerous (the largest concentrated find of such vessels as yet made in Greece) that questions arise concerning their purpose and use.⁶² Distinctions between religious or magical *cult*, and between cultic and non-cultic (profane) *ritual* are precarious. Between *household* and *public* cult or ritual the choice is also difficult. Although detailed discussion must be reserved for another occasion, our studies thus far find the balance of likelihood in favor of a *household, ritual* use of the four-legged vessels, possibly in connection with already age-old hunting magic, perhaps even ultimately with a *Potnia Therōn*, though this becomes speculative.

The matt-painted wares include almost 29% of the sherds from the LN layer, including 54 inventoried examples; this class, however, is the most generous in definition. Almost 22½% of the sherds allotted to this class bear no paint at all themselves, but are each judged to be from the unpainted portions of vessels which did bear painted decoration. In addition, this class subsumes small numbers of polychrome sherds and of semigloss painted sherds. Generally speaking, it includes pottery decorated with dark paint on a light ground which may or may not be slipped itself. The fabric ranges from exceptionally fine, hard thin walled in a few cases to virtually coarse; it is often rather soft and powdery, sometimes crumbly. In color, it ranges from very light creamy buff through a wide spectrum to dark browns or grays; many examples occur of the greenish buff tones known in Corinthian pottery of the historic era. 42—44 illustrate the characteristic shallow, open bowls with offset rim or bevel-offset rim and decorated in brown or black on a light buff or creamy ground with simple patterns, often irregular or free stripes, which are a steady component of the matt-painted wares in the Forum West area and perhaps distinguishable from the more varied jars and deep bowls, etc., of this class. The collared or open jars illustrated by 45—47 are a common shape in this fabric and give the impression of having served heavily in day-to-day normal use. Askoid vessels like 48, by contrast, are less common. 49—52 give some idea of the variety of tumblers and deep bowls in matt-painted wares which served the Neolithic community of Corinth as containers for liquid or dry measures. Some of the variety possible in the shapes and decoration of this class shows in 53—58: handled shapes such as 53 and 54 represent have not been common at Corinth; 55 may not be of Corinthian origin; 56—58 are examples of the multicolored vessels very rare in the pottery of the Forum West LN layer. To the tendency, common among matt-painted wares, to an application of painted decoration not rigorously and geometrically tidy (e. g., 43, 44), one finds many exceptions.

130-132, fig. 1; M. Korkuti and Z. Andrea, "Fouilles 1967-1970 dans l'agglomération néolithique de Cakran (Fieri)," *Studia Albanica* 9, 1972, pp. 25-27, pls. X-XI. Cf. N. G. L. Hammond, *Migrations and Invasions in Greece and Adjacent Areas*, Park Ridge, N. J. 1976, pp. 93 f.

⁶² From the first chance find at Danilo-Bitinj, these have been referred to as ritual or cult vessels: Dujmović [footnote 58 above], p. 75. Cf., *inter alia*, S. S. Weinberg, "Ceramics and the Supernatural: Cult and Burial Evidence in the Aegean World," *Ceramics and Man*, F. R. Matson, ed., New York 1965, pp. 197 ff., and A. Benac, *RomGerKom* 42, 1961, p. 64.

These neater renditions are more marked in cases where the fabric is hard and fine.⁶³ In general, however, the undistinguished rendering is befittingly matched by the stodgily pedestrian linear patterns, for which so often the term "motif" sounds too elegant. A piece like the tumbler 49 is extraordinary in its competence, decoration included.

Coarse wares, including coarse burnished wares, account for fractionally less than 26% of the pottery sherds from the LN layer. Because the sherds are frequently large and heavy, coarse wares would tally as an even higher percentage by bulk. Only a few inventoried examples, however, are included in this total. Fabrics in this class include ill-made and poorly compacted examples, plus those with gross inclusions (grit, mudstone, etc.), and also heavy thick-walled examples which may be relatively well made and well fired. Coarse wares run to as much as 0.025 m. thick, and thicknesses of the order of 0.015 m. are not infrequent. Colors range from light tones through buff and red tones to gray and dark. Decoration as such is not found very often; especially to be noted is the general absence of incised varieties (the main exceptions being a few scored rims and the handle fragment 62). There are, however, some instances of other kinds of decoration, the more if rude scribble burnishing is considered decorative.⁶⁴ On the other hand, slip or wash occur commonly, as well as some examples of Urfirnis-like glaze. Although almost no profiles could be restored entirely, recognized shapes include bowls and jars (both collared and hole-mouthed types) and storage pots. Flat or flattened rims occur, as well as rounded, tapered, or offset rims: flat bases or flanged flat bases are notable. Regular occurrences are handles (ribbon, band, strap, and loop types, often set horizontally) and lugs (tab, knob). Also, there are examples of mend holes. The coarse wares, finally, include many burnt or fire-darkened examples, no doubt commonly resulting from their ordinary use in cooking and the like.

Among the classes of less common pottery, consistently fine and interesting is the matt-black-on-red ware, present in most of the LN pottery lots.⁶⁵ The fabric is usually fine and hard, with inconsequential scattered small inclusions, evenly cleaned and fired, and in some instances can be reminiscent of Urfirnis ware. The characteristic orangey red slip is often quite thick and sometimes is like a glaze. It too can recall Urfirnis ware. Normally, all visible surfaces are slipped; the interior and bearing surfaces of fruitstand pedestals may be unslipped. The fruitstand is far and away the most common shape. A few possible examples of other types were tentatively recognized: fragments of matt-black-on-red ware adjudged to be from bowls occur sporadically and include

⁶³ It is arguable that the incipient equation between tidier painting and harder, finer fabric is in part due to the increased physical facility the painter would thus be afforded, and perhaps also in part to a desire to complement better pottery with "better" painting.

⁶⁴ Examples of scribble-burnished coarse ware occur in Lots 6478 and 6485; a single example of finger-impressed, "dimpled" coarse ware is in Lot 6487 (cf. Kosmopoulos [footnote 6 above], p. 37, fig. 12).

⁶⁵ In no case does a LN lot with at least the average number of sherds lack matt-black-on-red ware. None occurs in purely MN Forum West lots, only one sherd in the MN/LN lots.

rims beaded or offset to the outside. In the case of the much more common fruitstands, pedestals generally have flattened, or flared and flattened, bottoms, while cutouts in the sides of the pedestals are not uncommon. Mend holes are not rare; and it is worth remarking that the slip or near-glaze in some cases has a metallic sheen. The close resemblance of some matt-black-on-red ware to Urfirnis ware (some small sherds are indistinguishable) raises speculative questions concerning the relationship of the two, such as whether matt-black-on-red ware might be a development from Urfirnis, perhaps under some influence from the matt-painted tradition.⁶⁶

Although Neolithic Urfirnis ware occurs in sufficient quantity (*ca.* 7%) in the LN contexts to make it quite certain that Urfirnis continued to be made and used in early LN times at least, there seems, indeed, to be little to distinguish this LN Urfirnis from MN Urfirnis, with the suspected exception of greater use of pattern burnishing at the later date. On the other hand, LN monochrome Urfirnis is more than ten times as common as the patterned variety, though this statistic may be misleading. One particularly interesting example, 64, describable as bichrome patterned Urfirnis ware, is probably LN, albeit from a contaminated stratum overlying the Neolithic deposit.

Among miscellaneous pottery, a fragment of brown burnished ware, 65, is an excellent example of a sherd difficult to classify. Of the remaining infrequent wares, only the plain buff category need be remarked upon; at that, its less than 1½% of all LN pottery might be assimilable into other classes (coarse, possibly matt-painted, etc.).

Early Helladic wares

The earlier Early Helladic pottery⁶⁷ is rather sparse. Fabrics include red-slipped ware, red burnished ware (usually of dark or chestnut hue), and coarse wares. A few sherds seem to be "EH Urfirnis" glazed ware, while some sherds appear red slipped inside and glazed outside, or vice versa. Some fine plain buff and greenish sherds are also probably early EH. Shapes represented include smallish inturned-rim bowls, collared jars, askoi (represented by broad incised or herringbone-incised handle fragments), jugs (roll- or incised roll-handle fragments), pithoid jars in coarse ware (often with plastic "rope"-band decoration), and a variety of bowl types ranging from shallow and carinated to deep and open. Besides the incision and plastic decoration, there occur punctation (in rows on jar or jug shoulders), mottling, scribble burnishing, and plastic ribbing. Handle fragments in addition to those already noted include ribbon, flanged ribbon (in chestnut burnished ware, set horizontally and twisting into the body), band, and heavy coarse-ware types. Bases of bowls, saucers, or jars are usually flat or flat with a shallow impressed area.⁶⁸ This pottery is neither

⁶⁶ For matt-black-on-red ware, cf. Weinberg, *Hesperia* 31, 1962, pp. 182 ff.

⁶⁷ Corinth Pottery Lots 6366, 6368, 6378, 6491. These lots total over 1400 sherds, of which, however, the majority are of LN categories. It is worth remarking that over 140 of the 170 LN gray-ware sherds found during 1970 occur in these lots, as do the only examples found of LN polychrome-painted, "Goniá style" ware.

⁶⁸ The term "delled" (deeply hollowed) is inappropriate to these Corinth bases; "slightly delled" (*BSA* 65, 1970, p. 108) seems self-contradictory.

so extensive nor so well preserved as to allow of complete certainty, but it would seem to be most appropriate to a late phase of EH I, in which direction the absence of certifiable sauceboats but presence of a few examples of glazed ware and developed shapes seem to point.⁶⁹

The EH II pottery⁷⁰ belongs to known, easily recognized categories. Fragments of at least two dozen sauceboats are the clearest guide to the chronology. They belong to the middle and late types as defined at Lerna.⁷¹ Most are glazed with a dark or reddish "Urfirnis" inside and outside, but are too incompletely preserved to allow classifying them as partially or wholly glazed. Most of the many base fragments, which might belong to either sauceboats or saucer/bowls, are either of low ring or disk types, but at least one glazed, high-flared ringfoot of the "Attic type" occurs.⁷² A variety of handle fragments include broad ribbon and depressed ribbon types, some glazed, from jugs or askoi; tubular or ribbon thrust-handles; and twisted, band, or strut handles (jugs or tankards), besides the small fine sauceboat handles (some doubled). Bowl fragments are common, often with flattened or in-thickened rims, and not uncommonly with ledge-lugs set just below the lip, although trumpet-lugs also occur. Coarse wares include pithoi or pithoid-jar fragments, some with plastic "rope"-band decoration. Fine plain buff, yellow, and creamy ("ivory") EH II wares also occur.

Stone and other finds

Stone and miscellaneous finds from the 1970 excavation are not particularly abundant; especially from the MN (and MN/LN) and EH contexts such finds are relatively few in number and for the most part of undistinguished character and quality. Considering these in conjunction with the Babbis excavation finds and with the LN material, though, an interesting change in the relative proportion of obsidian and chert from EN through MN, LN, and EH is apparent; obsidian becomes far

⁶⁹ EH I is still imperfectly known, and it would be rash to be too insistent on phases of the period; but perhaps unslipped ware could represent in part an earlier phase, and slipped ware a later phase (classes AI and AII of C. W. Blegen, *Korakou, a Prehistoric Settlement near Corinth*, Boston and New York 1921, pp. 4 ff.). EH I is discussed in J. L. Caskey and E. G. Caskey, "The Earliest Settlements at Eutresis, Supplementary Excavations, 1958," *Hesperia* 29, 1960, pp. 126-167, and J. M. Fossey, "The Prehistoric Settlement by Lake Vouliagmeni, Perachora," *BSA* 64, 1969, pp. 53-69. Fossey was shown some of this Corinth material in 1972 and provisionally concurred with the suggested date.

⁷⁰ Corinth Pottery Lot 6490. Of some 300 sherds retained in this lot, about two thirds are of EH categories, the rest being mostly LN.

⁷¹ Cf. J. L. Caskey, "The Early Helladic Period in the Argolid," *Hesperia* 29, 1960, pp. 290 and 291 (fig. 1).

⁷² The high "Attic type" foot is so called because it is frequent on sauceboats and occasional inturred-rim bowls at such sites as Askitarion and Hagios Kosmas in Attika, but rarer in the Argolid. Both high "Attic type" and low "Argive type" feet occur in Corinth, but the latter is commoner. Cf. sauceboats and bowls found on Temple Hill, *Hesperia* 6, 1937, p. 517, fig. 36, p. 519, figs. 37-39.

more plentiful in LN (and in relative proportion also in EH) than it had been in EN and MN.⁷³ Indeed, stone and miscellaneous finds from the LN layer outnumber those from the earlier and later periods combined and include some fine specimens.

The LN stone finds are obsidian primarily, but there are also occasional examples of chert and a variety of flints, as well as a few other kinds of stone for larger artifacts such as querns. Of the lotted obsidian, totaling approximately 260 pieces, nearly 65% are waste flakes and chips, by a conservative reckoning.⁷⁴ Of the remaining lotted obsidian, over 40% can be classed as blade tools or fragments, while the others are virtually all flake tools of various kinds, including side and disk scrapers, points, a few possible awls and burins, and some possible complex tools; a few pieces appear to be utilized core fragments.⁷⁵ Among the handful of chert specimens (less than a score), a bifacial tanged point is worth mention.⁷⁶ Specimens of flint collected include one or more each of white, gray, honey, ochre, tan, red, and brown varieties.⁷⁷ It is provisionally accepted that virtually all of the obsidian is of Melian origin;⁷⁸ the chert seems to be local to Corinth; the sources of the different kinds of flint are not known. Inventoried pieces from the chipped-stone industry include about a dozen examples of obsidian, notably points, and several of flint or chert. The variety of points illustrated by **66—71** served several distinguishable functions, including those of knife/dagger or awl, arrowhead, and possibly leister-tip, and played an increasingly clear rôle in the economy of the LN society.⁷⁹ Blade-tool forms, among them **72—74**, indicate a wider range of shapes and materials than hitherto known from LN Corinth and complement the rich selection of points.

⁷³ In the Forum West MN and MN/LN strata, the findings are consistent with the six-to-one preponderance of chert over obsidian in the Babbis EN and MN layers, although the actual numbers involved are very small. In the Forum West LN layer, obsidian is more common than chert by a ratio of almost fifteen to one, and in the EH deposits, where once again the numbers are small, obsidian is four times as frequent as chert. Cf. Robinson and Weinberg, *Hesperia* 29, 1960, p. 251; P. Mellars in Jacobsen, *Hesperia* 38, 1969, p. 359, reports a similar phenomenon at the Franchthi Cave.

⁷⁴ Well within the normal range for Stone Age layers, 50% to 90% (J. Bordaz, *Tools of the Old and New Stone Age*, Garden City, N. J. 1970, p. 45).

⁷⁵ The value of the statistics indicated is perhaps dubious in view of the relatively small number of pieces; by way of contrast the study of the Saliagos chipped-stone industry dealt with over 25,000 fragments of obsidian (Evans and Renfrew [footnote 18 above], p. 49).

⁷⁶ Lot 6477 (Bothros A). Cf. the developed barbed chert point, Kosmopoulos [footnote 6 above], pp. 52, 70, pl. IV: e.

⁷⁷ Respective lots: 6488, 6371, 6372, 6464, 6375, 6376 and 6391, 6464 and 6485.

⁷⁸ Cf. C. Renfrew, J. R. Cann, and J. E. Dixon, "Obsidian in the Aegean," *BSA* 60, 1965, pp. 225-247.

⁷⁹ J. S. Belmont and C. Renfrew, "Two Prehistoric Sites on Mykonos," *AJA* 68, 1964, pp. 395-400, e. g., referred to all the Mykonos points as arrowheads; and Evans and Renfrew (footnote 18 above), p. 84, were "doubtful if an industry of any complexity, with the same range of well-worked tools as is seen at Saliagos, exists at all the Aegean." It is undeniable that an equally comprehensive study of the chipped stone industry at any other Aegean site has been lacking.

Yet if the chipped-stone industry is adequately represented in the Forum West excavations, ground-stone artifacts, although traditionally suggested by the term "Neolithic", are infrequent. Most notable is a pierced pendant, **75**. A few other stone artifacts were recovered, among them a small deeply scored plaque which may have served as a whetstone; a crumbly, gritty, greenish stone, oblong and almost rod shaped, with one face worn flat from use as a rubbing stone or grindstone; and a flat, rather rhomboidal stone with one edge worn from use apparently as a burnishing stone.⁸⁰ Two stone saddle querns were noted during the excavation. A few more possibly worked pieces occur among the stone samples retained with the pottery lots.

LN miscellaneous finds other than stone are principally of terracotta or bone and are not plentiful. Several of the terracotta objects are adapted from pottery fragments. Among these is a sherd burnisher, i. e., a fragment of fine black burnished ware, roughly tongue-shaped, with edges worn from a rubbing action and presumably used in burnishing objects.⁸¹ There are also two pierced pottery disks, cut from black burnished ware, the function of which is not known with certainty.⁸² In addition to these re-used pottery fragments, terracotta finds include a large fragmentary potstand of coarse fabric, **76**, meant for use at hearth. A single figurine fragment, **77**, found in a later context, may be of LN origin. Other small finds consist chiefly of a small number of shells (including at least two Noah's Ark and a thick spiny shell apparently *Spondylus gaederopus*) and rather more bones and bone fragments. The bones or fragments are mostly only in fair condition, owing presumably to the corrosive effects of Corinthian soil. Although the bones have been water washed and examined expectantly, only one bone artifact was recognized. Other instances of human agency, i. e., traces of cutting or sawing and similar marks made by man, were dubious at best, if frequent traces of burning are excepted. The one bone artifact is a point, possibly a needle or pin, **78**. The bones otherwise are medium sized, generally, and a specialist would probably find ovicaprids well represented. There are also horn cores, and several large vertebrae must be from a large animal, possibly *bos*. Additionally, bones from the 1969 trenches seem to include some with such traces of human agency as cutting or sawing marks.

⁸⁰ Respectively MF-70-37, MF-70-86, MF-70-34.

⁸¹ Sherd burnishers were found in some abundance at Saliagos, especially in the earliest stratum; several were made from sherds of imported dark-on-light painted pottery: Evans and Renfrew (footnote 18 above), pp. 69 f., 88, fig. 83, pls. L: 1-9, LV: 4, 5.

⁸² Pierced pottery disks found at Saliagos are identified with some confidence as spindle whorls, *idem*, pp. 70, 88, fig. 84: 1-11, pl. LI: 1-8. More tentative was J. D. Evans, "Excavations in the Neolithic Settlement of Knossos, 1959-60. Part I," *BSA* 59, 1964, p. 235, pl. 58: 1; pierced pottery disks have also been called spindle whorls in R. J. Rodden, "Excavations at the Early Neolithic Site at Nea Nikomedeia, Greek Macedonia (1961 Season)," *ProcPreSoc* 28, 1962, p. 285; and in Kosmopoulos (footnote 6 above), p. 41, fig. 16. Holmberg (footnote 14 above), p. 118, fig. 113: 4, 5, has called such disks loomweights. Examples from Elateia: Weinberg, *Hesperia* 31, 1962, p. 204, pl. 69: c, 5-7.

CHRONOLOGY AND COMMENTARY

The sequence of ceramic development evinced in the 1968 Babbuius finds, with earlier and later EN and earlier MN phases, finds a continuation in the later MN pottery from the layer, some 0.20 m. thick, underlying the Forum West LN deposit. This EN and MN sequence may be compared to others in the northeastern Peloponnesos, e. g., at Lerna,⁸³ Phlius,⁸⁴ and the Franchthi Cave,⁸⁵ as well as to previously accumulated evidence at Corinth. The sequence at Elateia in Phokis also is similar in some respects,⁸⁶ and the Babbuius-Forum West MN pottery finds further parallels in assemblages from the Kephalaria Cave⁸⁷ and from other sites extending to Varka in Euboia.⁸⁸ There is no gap apparent in the development at Corinth from earliest pottery-using times through the period characterized by the use of Neolithic Urfirnis ware (and indeed beyond, as shall be seen), although the Babbuius-Forum West picture must be filled out with both earlier and subsequent finds at Corinth. In general, the pattern of development observable here corresponds to the EN and MN pattern emergent in a wide area of northern and eastern Peloponnesos⁸⁹ and Central Greece.

The stratified LN material from the Forum West excavation represents essentially a single phase, LN I of Corinthian facies (i. e., LN I in its Corinthian aspect, or insofar as this layer differs from others elsewhere of the same age), and mostly a later, more developed part of that phase, or "LN IB". Pointing to a LN I date are the presence of black burnished, matt-painted, and coarse wares, plus in lesser quantities matt-black-on-red ware, Urfirnis ware, and fragments of Π1β gray-on-gray ware, variegated ware, and red-on-white painted ware like that of MN classes, and the absence of brown glazed ware, gray ware in quantity, polychrome-painted ware of Goniá style, fine-line incised ware like that of Prosymna, red pattern-burnished ware or crusted ware. Also suggestive of an early LN date are such shapes as ritual vessels and tumblers. The Corinthian LN I phase is roughly contemporary with the Tsangli Phase, LN I in the Thessalian culture zone, and is at least partially contemporary with the settlement on the island of Saliagos.

⁸³ Cf. Caskey, *Hesperia* 27, 1958, pp. 136-139, 143.

⁸⁴ Cf. Biers, *Hesperia* 38, 1969, pp. 446-450.

⁸⁵ Cf. Jacobsen, *Hesperia* 38, 1969, pp. 376-378; 42, 1973, pp. 259-266.

⁸⁶ Cf. Weinberg, *Hesperia* 31, 1962, pp. 167-181.

⁸⁷ Cf. Felsch, *AthMitt* 86, 1971, pp. 2-11.

⁸⁸ Cf. D. R. Theochares, "Ἐκ τῆς προϊστορίας τῆς Ἐβόλας καὶ τῆς Σκύρου," *ἈρχἘνῶμελ* 6, 1959, pp. 285-292; L. H. Sackett, V. Hankey, R. J. Howell, T. W. Jacobsen, and M. R. Popham, "Prehistoric Euboia: Contributions toward a Survey," *BSA* 61, 1966, pp. 54-56, 83-86. The fragmentary single vessel of patterned Urfirnis found at Pyrasos, Theochares, "Πύρασος," *Θεσσαλικά* 2, 1959, pp. 52-54, ill. 21, is probably of non-local origin (possibly from Varka, as Theochares implies, p. 53) and should be looked upon as evidence of inter-regional contact during the MN period.

⁸⁹ The southern Peloponnesos (Lakonia and Messenia) in EN and MN remains mostly *terra incognita* except for hints provided by surveys and stray finds. E.g., W. A. McDonald and R. Hope-Simpson, "Further Explorations in Southwestern Peloponnese: 1964-1968," *AJA* 63, 1969, pp. 156, 167-169, 171; site no. 76a, Kokora Troupa, may be an EN cave site (but the profile, pl. 46:1, looks later, MN or even LN).

Gray-on-gray ware ($\Gamma 1\beta$) is a Thessalian fabric, not often found south of that region nor north of Servia on the right bank of the Haliakmon.⁹⁰ Two sherds from the bothros in trench 3 at Elateia were hitherto the southernmost examples.⁹¹ The 1970 Forum West excavations at Corinth, however, produced eight tiny but unmistakable fragments of gray-on-gray ware, one in a mixed EH II context, the other seven distributed among the LN bothroi, three in Bothros A, three in Bothros B, and one in Bothros C.⁹² These fragments are from at least three separate vessels, of which one definitely and possibly all three are of the tumbler shape well attested for this ware in Thessaly; rims are simple and straight, with a band of paint, and there are sets of thin vertical stripes. Although Miložčić has associated this ware with his Larissa Period, there is no need to doubt the stratigraphical findings from Tsangli, and, as Hauptmann argues, typological, technical, and formal traits all support placing this ware at a stage including the latest Sesklo-class wares and the subsequent flourishing of Tsangli Phase wares, i. e., the end of MN and LN I in Thessaly.⁹³ The Corinth fragments from the bothroi are in a corresponding context, and it would be perverse to insist that they are all intrusive. Besides the gray-on-gray, a further pattern of correspondences exists between Corinthian LN I and Tsangli stratum V (Thessalian LN I): the Tsangli ritual vessel ("B2 incised ware") is from stratum V, $\Gamma 1\alpha 1$ ware (black burnished with added white) is commonest in stratum V, and B3ε (black-on-buff) tumblers are common in stratum V as well as in VI; all are paralleled at Corinth in the Forum West finds.⁹⁴

The presence of a dozen sherds of variegated ware in the Corinthian LN deposits might be attributed to intrusion, i. e., it may be said that the sherds have been percolated or cast up from earlier, EN, deposits in the vicinity. Or it may be allowed that they are "hangovers", late examples of a pottery tradition long past prime. Specimens of variegated ware were found, e. g., in the bothros of trench 3 at Elateia,⁹⁵

⁹⁰ Cf. W. A. Heurtley, *Prehistoric Macedonia*, Cambridge 1939, pp. 54 ff., 66 ff., 141 (nos. 15-18) with fig. 10, pl. VI, and frontispiece; C. Ridley and K. Rhomiopoulou, "Prehistoric Settlement of Servia (W. Macedonia). Excavation 1971," *AAA* 5, 1972, 27 ff.

⁹¹ Weinberg, *Hesperia* 31, 1962, p. 188, pl. 62: a, 6, 7. Cf. the comments in H. Hauptmann and V. Miložčić, *Die Funde der frühen Dimini-Zeit aus der Arapi-Magoula, Thessalien*, Bonn 1969, p. 46 (especially note 196).

⁹² Respectively: Lot 6490 (EH II); C-70-471—C-70-473 (Bothros A), C-70-474—C-70-476 (Bothros B); C-70-470 (Bothros C).

⁹³ V. Miložčić, *Hauptergebnisse der deutschen Ausgrabungen in Thessalien 1953-1958*, Bonn 1960, pp. 15 ff.; Wace and Thompson (footnote 54 above), pp. 102, 111 (Tsangli), 142 f., pl. IV: 5, 6 (Tsani); Hauptmann and Miložčić (footnote 91 above), pp. 44-48, Beil. 3.

⁹⁴ Wace and Thompson, *op. cit.*, pp. 98 ff. for the Tsangli elements. Several typical shapes of the Tsangli Phase, as seen at Arapi Magoula (Hauptmann and Miložčić, *op. cit.*, Beil. 1), have Corinthian analogues (such as the fruitstands, *ibid.*, shapes 21 and 22, and the collared jars, shapes 28 and 30, as well as the tumbler, shape 24), and the flat bases (mostly hypothetical at Arapi) are also characteristic in Corinthian LN I; but the dishes with concave-offset shoulder common at Arapi (*ibid.*, shapes 1-18, cf. pp. 21, 29, "Schüssel mit geknickter Schulter") seem to be the counterpart of the Corinthian shallow bowl with bevel-offset rim.

⁹⁵ Weinberg, *Hesperia* 31, 1962, p. 195.

a deposit similar in some respects to the LN I layer at Corinth, and also in association with the later Neolithic wares at Asea.⁹⁶ Either way, the variegated ware is less discomfiting in an early rather than a late phase of LN.

If the unusual fragment 55 is indeed to be classed with the A3β red-on-white wares of Thessaly, or even those of Central Greece, its presence in Bothros A will constitute further evidence both of the likelihood of an early date for that deposit and also for contact between Corinth and regions north of it.⁹⁷ It will also be recalled that a few sherds of red-on-white wares have come from MN contexts in the Babbis and Forum West excavations.⁹⁸

Matt-black-on-red ware and Urfirnis ware (both monochrome and patterned) together amount to approximately 10% of the total pottery from the LN layer and are further supportive of a LN I date. Urfirnis ware is widely considered the chief fabric of the MN period in the Peloponnesos, but its continued use in LN times is attested wherever the stratigraphy is sufficiently clear, such as at the Franchthi Cave,⁹⁹ Nea Makri,¹⁰⁰ the Kitsos Cave,¹⁰¹ and probably Varka;¹⁰² in LN the quantity of Urfirnis ware is a smaller proportion of the aggregate pottery.¹⁰³ The matt-black-on-red ware is best known from Elateia, where Weinberg isolated sufficient examples to form a separate class convincingly. At Elateia, the chief deposit containing matt-black-on-red ware was the bothros in trench 3, which also contained Urfirnis ware in relatively small amount.¹⁰⁴ It also contained black burnished ware, coarse wares, and small quantities of variegated, red-slipped, white-slipped, and red-on-white painted wares, but, it is stated repeatedly, no matt-painted wares.¹⁰⁵ Withal, it can be argued

⁹⁶ Holmberg (footnote 14 above), pp. 32-34 (Asea class A 2 ware). The stratigraphy and contexts at Asea, however, are less clear cut than at Elateia or Corinth.

⁹⁷ At Tsangli, A3β ware was found with Π1β ware in House T; occurrences of A3β ware in association with wares that are basically LN have been noted at, e.g., Pyrasos (Theochares, *Θεσσαλικά* 2, 1959, p. 52, fig. 20:2); and at Elateia "some twenty pieces of red-on-white painted ware" were found in the bothros in trench 3 (Weinberg, *Hesperia* 31, 1962, p. 195).

⁹⁸ E.g., 7. Kosmopoulos (footnote 6 above), p. 16, reported "some pieces of Red on White Painted Ware" of Thessalian aspect from a disturbed pit on the south side of Temple Hill.

⁹⁹ Jacobsen, *Hesperia* 38, 1969, p. 370; 42, 1973, pp. 266, 269, note 43.

¹⁰⁰ D. R. Theochares, "Nea Makri, eine grosse neolithische Seidlung in der Nähe von Marathon," *AthMitt* 71, 1956, p. 20.

¹⁰¹ N. Lambert, "Grotte de Kitsos," *BCH* 93, 1969, pp. 961 ff.

¹⁰² Theochares, *Ἀρχαῖα ΒΜε* 6, 1959, pp. 285 ff.

¹⁰³ The continued use of Urfirnis ware in LN is possibly also to be recognized at Prosymna: C. W. Blegen, *Prosymna, the Helladic Settlement preceding the Argive Heraeum*, Cambridge, Mass. 1937, pp. 22-29 (contexts), 368-375 (pottery).

¹⁰⁴ Weinberg, *Hesperia* 31, 1962, pp. 181 (the bothros: "the amount of real Neolithic Urfirnis pottery is small, consisting of scattered bits"), 182-186 (matt-black-on-red ware). Matt-black-on-red ware had already been found at Corinth (Kosmopoulos [footnote 6 above], p. 51, pl. II:h) and elsewhere.

¹⁰⁵ Weinberg, *Hesperia* 31, 1962, pp. 195-196, maintaining that it is the appearance of matt-painted ware which marks the beginning of LN in Greece, as he has proposed in *Chronologies in Old World Archaeology*, pp. 297 ff., and in "The Stone Age in the Aegean," *Cambridge Ancient History*, 3rd ed., I, i, p. 601 ff.

that this Elateia bothros dates to early LN, particularly if it is accepted that matt-black on red is a LN ware (in some cases at Elateia, too, matt-painted, Urfirnis, and black burnished wares did occur in association, albeit in small numbers, such as in trench 1 at the lowest level called LN).¹⁰⁶ Although the situation at Elateia in comparison with Corinth presents some anomalies, still it supports an early LN date for the Forum West layer. Indeed, excavation of the remaining portions of the Forum West deposits may reveal a situation more closely akin to that of Elateia and in some respects to that of the Franchthi Cave:¹⁰⁷ although stratigraphic test results are inconclusive concerning exact details of the LN-MN interface, they do not exclude but rather suggest the possibility of a slight precedence of black burnished ware over matt-painted wares.¹⁰⁸

Four-legged "ritual vessels" are another correspondence between the Elateia trench 3 bothros and the Forum West LN layer at Corinth; they suggest similar early dates for each. The ritual vessels found in Yugoslavia, e. g., are assignable to an early date, perhaps even earlier than those in Greece, through the use of C-14 determinations.¹⁰⁹ The example from Tsangli stratum V also fits this equation. Finally, at Saliagos a number of parallels were found for objects from the Forum West LN layer, which, with some other evidence, suggest that the settlement at Saliagos is roughly contemporary with the LN I layer at Corinth, although the two differ in many ways, not least in their pottery traditions. At Saliagos, however, there were found over a dozen sherds of dark-on-light painted pottery identified as imports from the mainland.¹¹⁰ These are in effect identified as LN matt-painted ware, and in several instances the fabric even "would seem to link it with the matt-painted ware of Corinth." Some of these sherds must indeed be LN matt-painted ware, and, whether some are actually from Corinth or not, their presence at Saliagos, beginning in the

¹⁰⁶ Weinberg, *Hesperia* 31, 1962, p. 181 (five matt-painted, three Urfirnis, several black burnished); the remarks on the stratigraphy, pp. 180 ff., require careful consideration. Holmberg, "The Appearance of Neolithic Black Burnished Ware in Mainland Greece," *AJA* 68, 1964, pp. 343-348, concludes that the arrival of black burnished ware marks the beginning of LN in Greece. A remark by Milošević concerning Thessaly seems fair even extrapolated to broader application (Hauptmann and Milošević [footnote 91 above], p. 2): "Die Ausgrabungen zeigten dann auch, dass, wenn überhaupt von einer ersten 'Welle' mit schwarzpolierter Keramik gesprochen werden kann, die soeben erwähnten Gattungen [sc. B3δ, ε, Z] dieser Stufe angehören und es eine reine 'frühe' Phase mit nur schwarzpolierten Keramik nicht gegeben hat."

¹⁰⁷ Jacobsen, *Hesperia* 42, 1973, p. 266.

¹⁰⁸ Cf. 30.

¹⁰⁹ Cf. Gimbutas, *Archaeology* 23, 1970, pp. 288, 290, 295; also R. W. Ehrich, "Geographical and Chronological Patterns in East Central Europe," *Chronologies in Old World Archaeology*, pp. 423 f., 445 (chart). Milošević has argued that ritual vessels with spiral decoration are of a much later LN phase (approximately equivalent to the classic Dimini phase, i.e., Thessalian LN IV), but this remains questionable: "Die Kulturbeziehungen zwischen Griechenland und Dalmatien während der jüngeren Steinzeit," *Adriatica, Praehistorica et antiqua. Zbornik radova posvećen Grgi Novaku*, V. Miroslavljević, D. Rendić-Miočević, and M. Suić, ed., Zagreb 1970, p. 84.

¹¹⁰ Evans and Renfrew (footnote 18 above), pp. 42, 44 f., 82 f. with fig. 56:20, 21, pls. XXIV:b, LV:4, 5 (burnishers, the references to which are slightly confused).

earliest stratum, shows that that settlement is at least in part contemporary with the LN period on the Greek mainland. In fact, the Saliagos settlement is argued to be contemporary with the transition from MN to LN in mainland Greece,¹¹¹ and hence it follows from the presence of matt-painted ware, with the LN I layer at Corinth.

The relative chronological position of the Forum West LN I layer is thus established, approximately parallel with Tsangli V, Arapi Magoula LN I (Tsangli Phase), and the corresponding phase at several other sites in Thessaly, with the phase represented by the bothros in trench 3 at Elateia (though matt-painted ware is absent there), with the earliest LN phase at Nea Makri, and with the settlement at Saliagos in the Cyclades. The absolute chronology suggested by consideration of published C-14 determinations for Neolithic Greece would put Corinthian LN IB at around 4500 B.C. in actual calendar years.¹¹²

If the ritual vessels are indeed a manifestation of hunting magic (see p. 421 above), they would be an appropriate religious expression of a bow-and-arrow using culture. Use of the bow and arrow in Corinthian LN I times is indicated by the worked stone points, such as 68—71, which are likely to be arrowheads. It has even been proposed that the appearance in Greece of archery at about this time may be connected with the arrival of black burnished wares,¹¹³ whencesoever these be derived. Archery, though it might have or develop defensive or aggressive military applications, would more ordinarily be an adjunct to the subsistence economy. It would be primarily a technique of the hunt. For the hunt, the bow and arrow would probably offer increased efficiency over the sling and bullet of stone or clay as a projectile device and hence the prospect of an expanded take of game for both meat and by-products. The balance struck in the economic system among agriculture, pastoralism, hunting, fishing, etc., is not yet known for Neolithic Corinth, but it seems reasonable to conjecture, on the basis of what is documented and by comparison with the pattern of development known elsewhere, that the people of the LN I phase at Corinth practiced a fairly simple form of agriculture and maintained flocks (or herds) of animals, which were a source of meat, and probably also added some seafoods from the nearby Gulf of Corinth to their diet. Such a mixed basic economy is perhaps comparable in some respects to that followed in parts of rural Greece even to modern times. Yet, without larger areas of pure strata, and without the collegial findings of natural sciences, not a few questions remain about the economic and social organization of the settlement at Corinth: one should not speak with serene assurance even of a "village", as the settlement may have been greater, or less, than that.

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 88-91.

¹¹² The absolute chronology is discussed in my dissertation, *Prehistoric Investigations at Corinth, 1968-1970*, University of Chicago, 1973, pp. 122-134.

¹¹³ V. G. Childe, "The Significance of the Sling for Greek Prehistory," *Studies Presented to David M. Robinson*, G. E. Mylonas, ed., I, St. Louis 1951, p. 4; Weinberg, *Cambridge Ancient History*, 3rd ed., I, i, pp. 599 ff.

If the LN settlement was perennial, as seems likely,¹¹⁴ it is questionable whether the slope at the west end of the upper valley of the Lechaion Road was its center; the Forum West area would more likely be part of the fringe or "lower town" section of a settlement established on the higher ridge to west and north.¹¹⁵ The extensive terrace, however, on the lee side of the ridge, following roughly the + 80.00 m. contour, with direct access to abundant sources of water, would be a favorable location for either human or animal shelter, offering some protection against the weather, especially the north winds, though heavy rains might still present a problem, and so, too, earthquakes.¹¹⁶

The people of the settlement engaged in or at least felt the effects of exchange or trade, and in historic times the advantages of the location of Corinth for trade and communications have always been recognized and significant. There are grounds for belief that this geographical advantage of Corinth was already making itself strongly felt by LN I. Exotica present here—Thessalian or Central Greek pottery fabrics, distinctive ritual vessels with a geographical distribution ranging up the Adriatic littoral virtually to Trieste, Melian obsidian in greater quantity than for earlier periods—bespeak intercommunity contacts in many directions and over long distances. It is likely that some sort of exchange of goods, or trade, is involved. Evidence for connections between Corinth and the northwest, by sea, is especially noteworthy; scholars have begun drawing attention to the possible rôle of the Adriatic Sea as a unifying element (not unlike the Aegean in this respect) in prehistoric times, and certain features of Corinthian LN I tend to confirm this assessment.¹¹⁷ There is also evidence for contacts found at other sites, such as the matt-painted ware at Aegean Saliagos which could even come from Corinth. Other, more indirect, hints of inter-area contact in the LN period might include similarities of vessel shapes. The settlement at Corinth, in consequence, may already have begun its historic rôle as an entrepôt serving Greece and the Aegean and Adriatic areas. That seafaring was practiced is certain from the distribution of Melian obsidian, and it is easy to believe that many small vessels plied the Aegean, the Corinthian Gulf, and even the Adriatic during the LN

¹¹⁴ But Kosmopoulos had some interesting observations on the possible seasonal nature of early inhabitation in the Peirene (i.e., Lechaion Road) Valley in relation to migratory sheepherding; pp. 20-22.

¹¹⁵ Neolithic finds have been abundant in these areas (it is also true that evidence of Neolithic culture has been found in widely separated parts of Corinth—not just in the central excavation zone).

¹¹⁶ The climate of Corinth in LN I remains uncertain in the absence of palynological or similar tests; meanwhile, it seems fair to proceed on the assumption that the climate then was not drastically different from what now prevails.

¹¹⁷ The "northwest connection": N. G. L. Hammond, *Epirus*, Oxford 1967, pp. 290 f., 293 f., 312; W. Bray, "Neolithic Painted Ware in the Adriatic," *Antiquity* 40, 1966, pp. 130 ff.; B. Jovanović, "Teritorijalni i chronologiki odnos jadraskog i kontinentalnog neolita," *Starinar* 19, 1968, p. 38; R. W. Ehrich, "On the Yugoslavian Adriatic Drainage as a Culture Area through Time," *Adriatica, Praehistorica et antiqua* (footnote 109 above), pp. 57-62; Milojević (footnote 109 above), pp. 81-86.

period, following the coasts from landing point to landing point, occasionally venturing further to sea, though possibly never out of sight of land. The sea was already an important highway for Greece, uniting rather than dividing.¹¹⁸ Some of the sailors and ships may well have been Corinthian.

CATALOGUE

BABBIOUS AREA

1. EN black monochrome bowl. Fig. 3; Pl. 105
 MF-68-336. North Trench. Max. pres. L. 0.034 m.
 C-68-312. North Trench, lowest strata. Max. pres. H. 0.066 m. Outside near 7.5YR 3/0 (very dark gray).¹¹⁹
 Blade on flake, lunate shape. Clear traces of sickle sheen on concave working edge, especially on bulbar face.
 Rim fragment, mended. Fine gray to black fabric, lightly micaceous. Outward-thickened beaded rim. Three shallow plastic pellets in oblique row.
2. EN red-slip bowl. Pl. 105
 C-68-324. West Trench, stratum on hardpan at south. Max. pres. H. 0.040 m. Outside near 2.5YR 5/8 (red).
 Rim fragment. Fine tannish buff to orangey buff fabric, micaceous. Slipped orangey red and polished in and out. Downward sloping horn lug near rim.
 Context MN, date could be EN. Cf. C-59-248, EN, smaller but otherwise very similar, from 1959 excavation east of Lechaion Road.
3. EN chert blade. Pl. 104
 MF-68-99. North Trench. Max. pres. L. 0.043 m.
 Blade on flake; rough retouch ventral surface only.
4. EN/MN transitional chert lunate. Pl. 104
5. MN (?) red-slip open bowl. Pl. 105
 C-68-327. West Trench. Max. pres. H. 0.048 m. Outside near 2.5YR 5/8 (red).
 Rim fragment. Fine orangey buff fabric, micaceous. Slipped orangey red and polished in and out. Downward sloping horn lug near rim.
 Context MN, date could be EN. Cf. C-59-248, EN, smaller but otherwise very similar, from 1959 excavation east of Lechaion Road.
6. MN coarse Urфирnis gouged bowl or "husking bowl". Pl. 105
 C-68-328. West Trench. Max. pres. H. 0.067 m. Outside varies, 10R 3/3 (dusky red) to 2.5YR 2.5/1 (black/very dusky red).
 Rim fragment, mended. Medium quality, gray to reddish buff fabric, lightly micaceous. Glazed crackly brown to chestnut red in and out, more thinly inside. Flattened rim. Inside deeply scored from ca. 0.035 m. below rim. Slight bump on outside.
 Cf. C-68-316, also from West Trench, and examples in Corinth Pottery Lots 5586, 5588, 5597, 5598.

¹¹⁸ Cf. Kosmopoulos (footnote 6 above), pp. 11-13. Although evidence from Corinth for seafaring goes back to the EN period, at the Franchthi Cave (Melian) obsidian occurs even in Mesolithic strata (Jacobsen, *Hesperia* 38, 1969, pp. 355, 376; cf. Renfrew in Theochares [footnote 47 above], p. 180), as perhaps also on Skyros (Theochares, *Ἀρχαῖα ΒΜεΛ* 6, 1959, pp. 323-325; cf. Weinberg [footnote 14 above], pp. 285 ff.).

¹¹⁹ *Munsell Soil Color Charts*, Baltimore 1973. Munsell readings made in natural light.

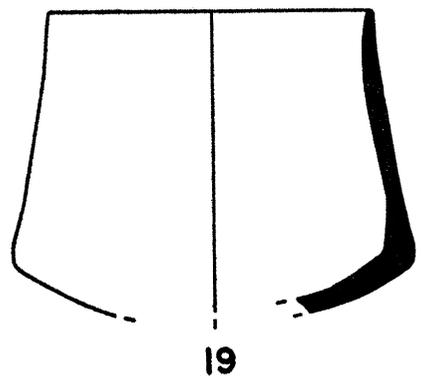
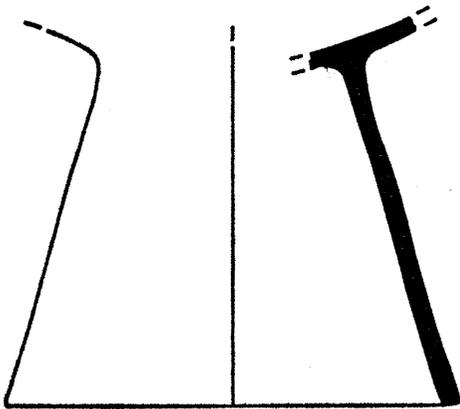
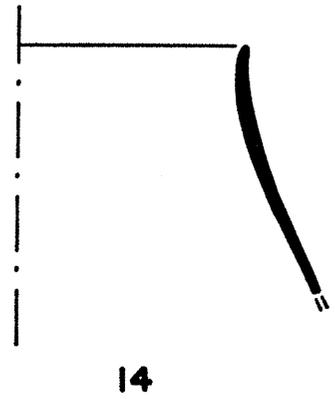
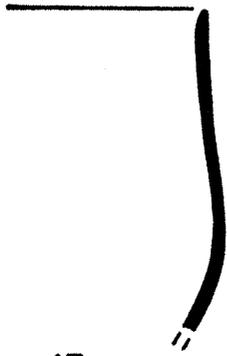
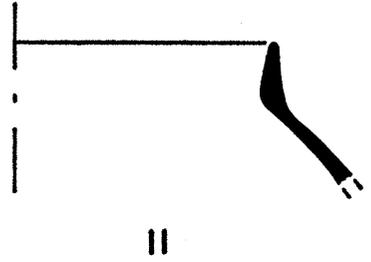
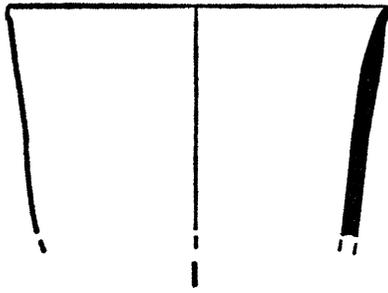


FIG. 3. Pottery from the Babbus Area

7. MN red-on-white jar. Pl. 105
C-68-131. West Trench. Max. pres. H. 0:051 m. Outside 10YR 8/1 (white).
Rim fragment. Fine and hard, very micaceous light gray fabric. Slipped matt grayish white in and out, polished outside. Globular jar, gently offset low vertical rim. Multiple chevron and lip band in dull brownish red paint.
Cf. Central Greek red-on-white ware or Thesalian A3β. Non-Corinthian?
8. MN patterned Urfirnis figurine. Pl. 104
MF-68-94. Mixed context SW of Babbius core. Max. pres. H. 0.054 m. Outside near 7.5YR 7/6 (reddish yellow).
Fragment, proper left waist to foot. Tannish buff fabric, micaceous. Lightly polished. Dark brown glazed vertical stripes angling forward at buttock. Traces of attachment (for hand?) at abdomen.
9. MN patterned Urfirnis figurine. Pl. 104
MF-68-95. Mixed context W of Babbius core. Max. pres. H. 0.048 m. Outside near 10YR 6/2 (light brownish gray).
Fragment, proper right waist to thigh. Tannish buff fabric, fire darkened. Polished. Dark brown glazed waves and feathered stripes. Trace of attachment at abdomen.
10. MN patterned Urfirnis figurine. Pl. 104
MF-68-96. West Trench, upper stratum. Max. pres. H. 0.064 m. Outside near 7.5YR 6/4 (light brown); core 2.5YR 6/8 (light red).
Fragment, proper left buttock and upper thigh. Tannish buff fabric with bright orangey red core, micaceous. Polished. Reddish brown to dark brown glazed vertical stripes.
11. MN patterned Urfirnis Fig. 3; Pl. 105
collared jar.
C-68-130. North Trench, upper stratum. Max. pres. H. 0.038; est. Diam. rim 0.135-0.140 m. Outside near 7.5YR 7/6 (reddish yellow).
Rim fragment, mended. Hard buff fabric with gray core, micaceous. Polished. Glaze rich brown or dilute: outside, sloping languettes pendent from lip band and, on shoulder, crosshatched triangle (?) inside, pendent languettes on collar.
12. MN patterned Urfirnis Pl. 105
askos (?).
C-68-320. West Trench. Max. pres. H. 0.029 m. Outside 5YR 6/6 (reddish yellow).
Rim fragment. Orangey buff fabric, lightly micaceous. Well polished. Brown glazed necking band and incompletely preserved motifs on collar. Necking articulation curves askew to rim and narrows at shorter end, indicating an asymmetrical profile.
13. MN patterned Urfirnis Fig. 3; Pl. 105
bowl.
C-68-322. West Trench. Max. pres. H. 0.078 m. Outside near 7.5YR 7/6 (reddish yellow); glaze, as dark as 5YR 2.5/2 (dark reddish brown).
Rim fragment, mended. Tannish buff to orangey buff fabric, micaceous. Outside, well polished; dark brown glazed diagonal bands above monochrome zone beginning below greatest diameter. Inside, monochrome brown glaze. Small deep bowl, S-curved body.
14. MN patterned Urfirnis Fig. 3; Pl. 105
jar.
C-68-323. West Trench. Max. pres. H. 0.069 m. Outside near 7.5YR 7/6 (reddish yellow); glaze inside near 2.5YR 5/8 (red).
Rim fragment. Light orangey buff to buff fabric, micaceous. Outside, well polished; orangey red glazed diagonal band between standing and pendent crosshatched triangles (?). Lip and inside, thick monochrome orangey red glaze. Piriform jar.
15. MN patterned Urfirnis Pl. 105
fragment.
C-68-321. West Trench. Max. pres. H. 0.052 m. Outside near 7.5YR 6/4 (light brown); inside near 5YR 6.5/6 (reddish yellow).
Mended. Gray to tannish buff fabric, mica-

ceous. Outside, well polished; brown glazed vertical and oblique stripes and bands. Inside smoothed. Apparently closed shape (jar?).

16. MN patterned Urfirnis handle. Pl. 105

C-68-317. West Trench. Max. pres. L. 0.055 m. Ventral near 7.5YR 6/4 (light yellow).

Fragment from jar or jug. Orange buff to tannish buff fabric, micaceous. Dorsal: polished; dark brown-glazed, lengthwise stripes on buff ground, plus lip band. Ventral: finger smoothed and pressed. Interior of vessel, monochrome glazed light reddish brown. Ribbon handle, vertical, "in one" with rim.

17. MN patterned Urfirnis Pl. 105
pedestaled bowl.

C-68-313. West Trench. Max. pres. H. 0.089 m. Pedestal outside 2.5YR 4.5/8 (red); bowl inside near 5YR 6.5/6 (reddish yellow).

Bowl-floor and pedestal fragment, mended. Orange buff fabric, lightly micaceous. Pedestal outside, monochrome glazed reddish orange; inside, plain and well smoothed. Bowl inside, fugitive brown glazed checkered and cross-hatched pattern on buff ground. Slightly concave pedestal with flat bottom.

18. MN Urfirnis pedestaled Fig. 3; Pl. 105
bowl.

20. Black burnished bowl. Fig. 4; Pl. 108

C-70-330. Bothros C (for full list of inventoried material see footnote 31). H. 0.055; Diam. rim 0.120; Diam. base 0.040 m. Lighter parts including interior, 5Y 7/1 (light gray); darker near 2.5Y 5/0 (gray).

About two-thirds complete; mended, restored in plaster. Fine, light dull to blackish gray fabric, micaceous. Small shallow bowl, bevel-offset rim and high rounded lip. Exterior burnished lustrous dark gray; interior burnished to just below greatest diameter and remainder

C-68-325. West Trench, upper stratum. Max. pres. H. 0.102 m. Outside: darkest, 2.5YR 2.5/2 (very dusky red); bowl inside 2.5YR 5/6 (red); pedestal inside near 7.5YR 5/2 (brown).

Pedestal fragment, mended. Dark gray to reddish fabric, micaceous. Pedestal outside, monochrome glazed dark metallic brown becoming reddish brown around bowl; inside, plain and finger smoothed. Bowl inside plain and lightly polished. Slender, high pedestal rising from flattened bottom inward to unarticulated wide-spreading bowl. Overfired?

Cf. C-68-318, another monochrome Urfirnis pedestal fragment, with "reverse punctation" and cutouts.

19. MN Urfirnis carinated Fig. 3; Pl. 105
bowl.

CP 2654 (selected from earlier, *ca.* 1938, excavation material; associated pottery mostly MN). St. John's South (Babbis area). Max. pres. H. 0.082 m. Outside varies, 2.5YR 3/6 (dark red) to 4/8 (red).

Rim and body fragment, mended. Orange buff fabric, micaceous. Outside monochrome glazed streaky reddish brown; inside the same but becoming orangey red lower down. Carinated shallow open bowl.

FORUM WEST AREA (Late Neolithic)

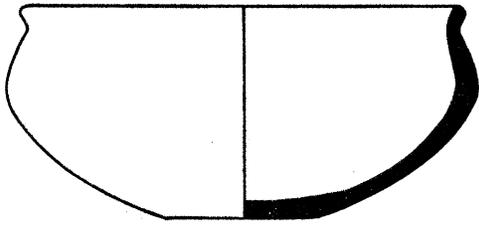
polished only. Exterior scar at carinate zone (from detached knob?).

Cf. C-70-269.

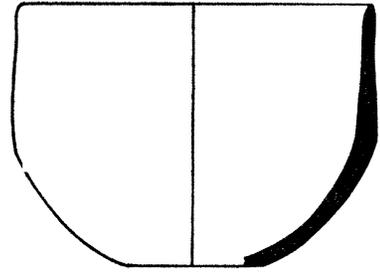
21. Black burnished bowl. Fig. 4; Pl. 111

C-70-160. Bothros A (for full list of inventoried material see footnote 36). Max. pres. H. 0.053; max. pres. W. 0.246; est. Diam. *ca.* 0.25 m. Outside mottled 7.5YR 2/0 (black) to 10YR 8/1 (white) with much 7.5YR 6/5 (light brown/reddish yellow).

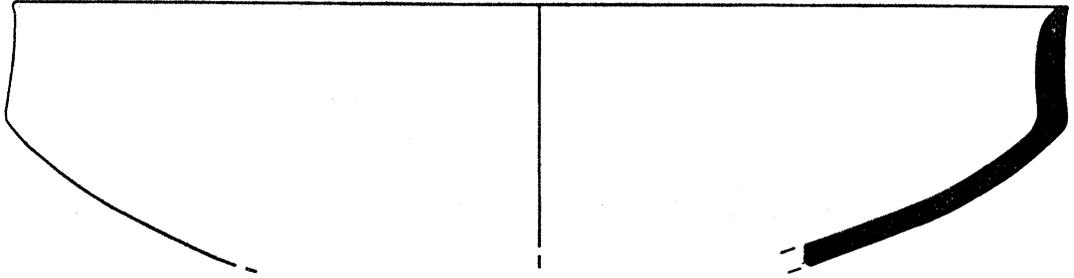
Rim fragment, about two-fifths complete, mended. Fine dark gray fabric ranging lighter



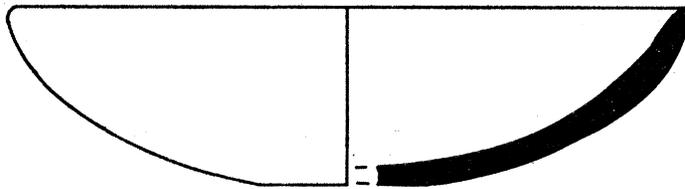
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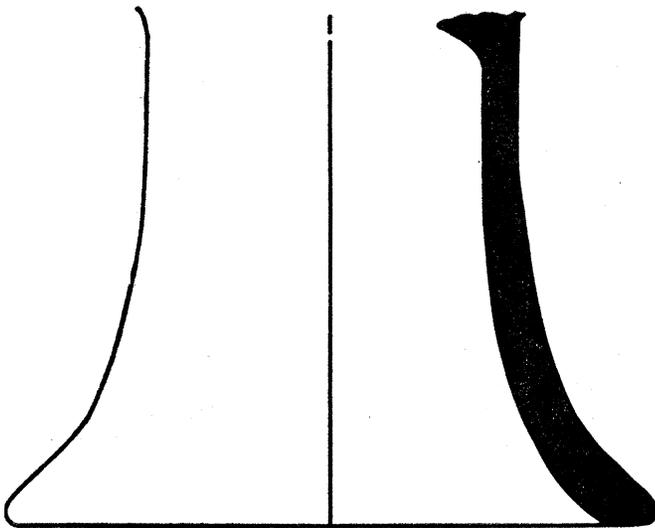
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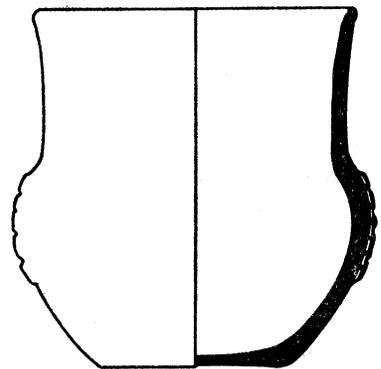
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FIG. 4. Pottery from the Forum West Area: black burnished ware

inside, slightly micaceous; mottled in firing, exterior black below and orangey grays above. Shallow carinated bowl or "soupdish" (though probably meant for dry contents). Exterior well burnished, interior lightly burnished to carination, then lower down smoothed only. Mend hole on upper body, drilled from outside.

22. Black burnished bowl. Fig. 4; Pl. 108

C-70-242. Bothros A. H. 0.069; est. Diam. rim *ca.* 0.094 m. Outside near 2.5YR 4/0 dark gray).

Rim fragment, mended, complete profile. Fine black fabric, micaceous. Small, gently carinated bowl or cup, simple rounded rim. Highly burnished inside and out. On concave upper body, white painted vertical stripes intersecting pairs of M's, faded. The motif, reminiscent of grain stalks, is not common in black burnished wares.

23. Black burnished bowl. Fig. 4; Pl. 108

C-70-245. Bothros B (for full list of inventoried material see footnote 33). Max. pres. L. 0.113; est. Diam. rim *ca.* 0.18 m. Outside near 2.5YR 2/0 (black).

Rim fragment, complete profile. Fine black fabric with many lime particles; exterior worn. Simple shallow bowl. Irregularly shaped; unevenly lustre burnished inside and out.

24. Black burnished pedestaled bowl. Pl. 108

C-70-354. Bothros C. Max. pres. H. 0.120; Diam. base 0.076 m. Outside, no close chip, but somewhat like 10YR 4/1 to 4/2 (dark gray—dark grayish brown)

Virtually complete pedestal. Fine fabric, evenly fired dull reddish brown, micaceous. High, flaring, burnished. Single torsional rib from foot to top. Lower half hollowed. Presumably from pedestaled bowl or chalice.

25. Black burnished fruitstand. Pl. 111

C-70-298 a, b. Alley. Max. pres. L. 0.120 (a), 0.108 (b); est. Diam. rim *ca.* 0.31-0.32 m. Inside, near 5YR 5/3 (reddish brown).

Two large, mended, non-joining rim fragments. Fine fabric, blackish gray core, mottled black and tan exterior and brownish tan interior surfaces;¹²⁰ heavily micaceous. From bowl portion of large fruitstand. Profile S-curved, offset rounded lip. Mend hole drilled from both sides of a.

26. Black burnished fruitstand. Fig. 4; Pl. 111

C-70-226: Bothros A. Max. pres. H. 0.131; Diam. top 0.104 m. Outside mottled, 7.5YR 2/0 to 5/8 (black—strong brown).

About one half of pedestal, mended. Fine but thick fabric, light gray at core to steel gray near surface, surface mottled black to yellowish brown; micaceous. Large but squat fruitstand with flaring foot. Exterior lustre burnished, interior rough smoothed. Large mend hole at flare of foot.

27. Black burnished collared jar. Fig. 4; Pl. 108

C-70-151. Bothros C. H. (restored) 0.094; Diam. rim 0.087; Diam. base 0.045 m. Outside 7.5YR 5/4 to 2/0 (brown—black).

Almost complete, mended, restored in plaster (base does not form true join with upper portion). Fine grayish fabric, darker at core, uneven reddish black surfaces (redder especially at rim). Small globular jar, high broad collar slightly thickened at rim. Four notched vertical ridges applied on body, at approximately even intervals. Six mend holes (two in collar, four in body).

¹²⁰ The surface color variations presumably reflect firing conditions. Studies indicate that the coloring agent in at least some LN black finishes is manganese; M. Farnsworth and I. Simmons, "Coloring Agents for Greek Glazes," *AJA* 67, 1963, pp. 389-396. But manganese is said to produce a uniform color, and mottling would appear to be more appropriate to an iron oxide agent; further analyses are needed.

28. Black burnished collared jar. Fig. 5; Pl. 111

C-70-332. Bothros C and near by. Max. pres. H. 0.220; est. max. Diam. *ca.* 0.295; est. Diam. rim. *ca.* 0.245 m. Outside 2.5Y 2/0 (black) to 5Y 4/1 (dark gray).

Large rim and body, non-joining smaller fragments; mended, partially restored in plaster, nearly complete profile. Very fine, thin fabric, black core and exterior, tannish gray

interior; slightly micaceous. Large globular jar, concave collar, slightly thickened rim. Interior unevenly low burnished, exterior finely lustre burnished. Low plastic arcs on shoulder (originally four?), between which matt white-painted Y-patterns to neck whence sets of three vertical stripes to rim. Six mend holes, drilled from both sides. A superior example of the Neolithic potter's art and obviously a prized piece.

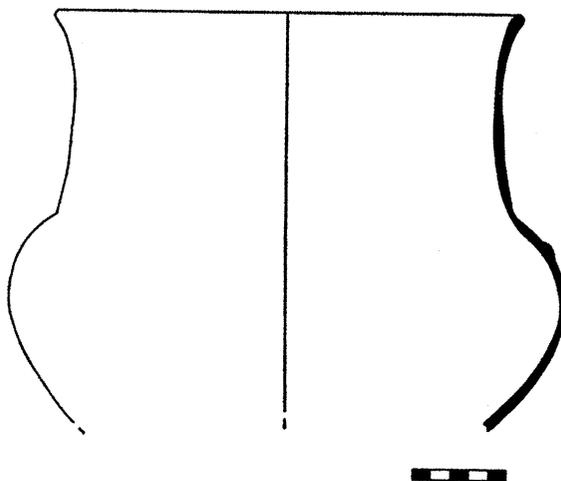


FIG. 5. 28, black burnished collared jar

29. Black burnished collared jar. Pl. 111

C-70-273 a, b. Bothros C. Max. pres. H. 0.143; est. Diam. rim *ca.* 0.205 m. Outside mostly 2.5Y 2/0 (black).

Rim fragment, mended. Fine, dull gray fabric, micaceous. Substantial jar, collar rising concavely from shoulder articulation to simple rounded lip. Black lustre burnished in and out, shading tannish inside. "Ghosts" of four matt white stripes from bottom of collar to just below lip, and a broader stripe at right. On shoulder, flaring vertical false (non-pierced) lug. b, non-joining fragment.

Cf. C-70-246.

30. Black burnished collared jar. Fig. 6; Pl. 111

C-70-215, West stratigraphic test. Max.

pres. H. 0.142 m. Varies from outside 2.5Y 4/0 (dark gray) to core 2.5 YR 5/6 (red).

About one third of jar, mended, partially restored in plaster. Intensely reburnt and damaged fabric, now dull red at core to dull smoky gray surface, with white discolorations. Moderate size; flattened bottom. Vestiges of low plastic striped chevron with fine bead outline on shoulder; articulating groove at neck. Found at + 78.97-78.91 level, context transitional from MN; badly burnt either in original lifetime or perhaps in connection with post-Classical lime-burning activities intrusive upon this area.

31. Black burnished fragment. Pl. 108

C-70-235. Southern area. Max. pres. H. 0.050 m. Outside 2.5Y 2/0 (black).

Single body sherd from open bowl. Fine,

evenly black fabric, some tannish surface discoloration inside. Exterior well burnished, interior pattern burnished in irregular, broad-band lattice motif. Found in large, second-stratum posthole.

For this style of pattern burnishing, mostly on bowl interiors: cf. C-70-260, C-70-290; on the exterior of a vessel with string lug appears a small part of a panel possibly of this style: C-70-258.

32. Black burnished fragments. Pl. 108

C-70-292 a-c. Alley (1970) and St. John's trench 4 (1959). Max. pres. dims. 0.064, 0.058, 0.079 m. Inside burnished 2.5Y 4/0 (dark gray), unburnished near 2.5Y 6/1 (light gray/light brownish gray).

Three non-joining fragments, mended. Fine, dark steel-gray fabric with lime inclusions and burn-out pocking; micaceous. The fabric is unusual even in the broad range of black burnished wares at Corinth. Open bowl, *vel sim.* Inside, pattern-burnished concentric lozenges, possibly parts of an overall diaper motif. Mend hole in b. The more worn part of c is from the 1959 excavation.

33. Black burnished fragment. Pl. 108

C-70-286. Alley and north. Max. pres. dim. 0.075 m. Outside burnished 7.5YR 2/0 (black).

Mended. Fine, dull brownish gray fabric, micaceous; possibly reburnt. Inside surface totally fractured away, original shape uncertain. Outside black burnished, with reserved panel pattern burnished in fine-line style crosshatching and zigzag. Oddly oriented panel on a flat area which may be the bottom of vessel.

For the decoration, cf. C-70-283, C-70-357.

34. Ritual vessel. Fig. 6; Pl. 108

C-70-155. North and south of Alley. Max. pres. W. 0.114; max. pres. L. 0.054 m. Outside mottled, 5YR 7/6 (reddish yellow) to 5YR 4/6 (yellowish red) and 10YR 7/3 (very pale brown); inside 7.5YR 3/0 (very dark gray).

Body-rim-handle fragment, mended. Heavy, medium-fine fabric with inclusions and burn-out pocking, micaceous; buff to orangey buff core, light orangey buff to grayish buff surface except where blackened by secondary firing. Four-legged vessel with basket handle circular in section, set at angle to the obliquely frontal rounded-rectangular mouth; rear legs very near front. Coloration, tending to a salmon hue on the finely burnished exterior, is unusual; extensive traces seemingly of secondary burning on rough-smoothed interior, which preserves traces of depressions for three of the legs. Single incised line sets off lip and apparently also legs. Upper part of body found at a high level south of the Alley, lower part north of the Alley (some five meters away). This is the most nearly complete body yet found in Corinth.

35. Ritual vessel fragment. Pl. 108

C-70-95. West well. Max. pres. L. 0.070 m. Outside 2.5Y 7/2 (light gray) to 3/0 (very dark gray).

Mended body-handle fragment. Medium-fine fabric with dark inclusions, gray core to black or orangey tan surface layers, micaceous. Top of body, handle roughly triangular in section rising at shallow angle to body front. Inside, polished and scribble burnished; outside burnished. Short incised vertical strokes with traces of white filling set off handle and appear at left rear. Context, upper level of 6th-century B.C. well; date clearly LN.

36. Ritual vessel handle. Pl. 108

C-70-159. Bothros B. Max. pres. W. 0.080; max. pres. Th. 0.024 m. 10YR 6/3 (pale brown) to 2.5Y 4/0 (dark gray).

Single fragment. Fine fabric with inclusions and burn-out pocking; light gray core going to lighter yellowish gray. Subtriangular in section, becoming rounder at thicker end. Burnished, mottled exterior; flattish inner face bears crusted red paint.

Other handle fragments, basically similar: C-70-93, C-70-147, C-70-148, C-70-157, C-70-284.

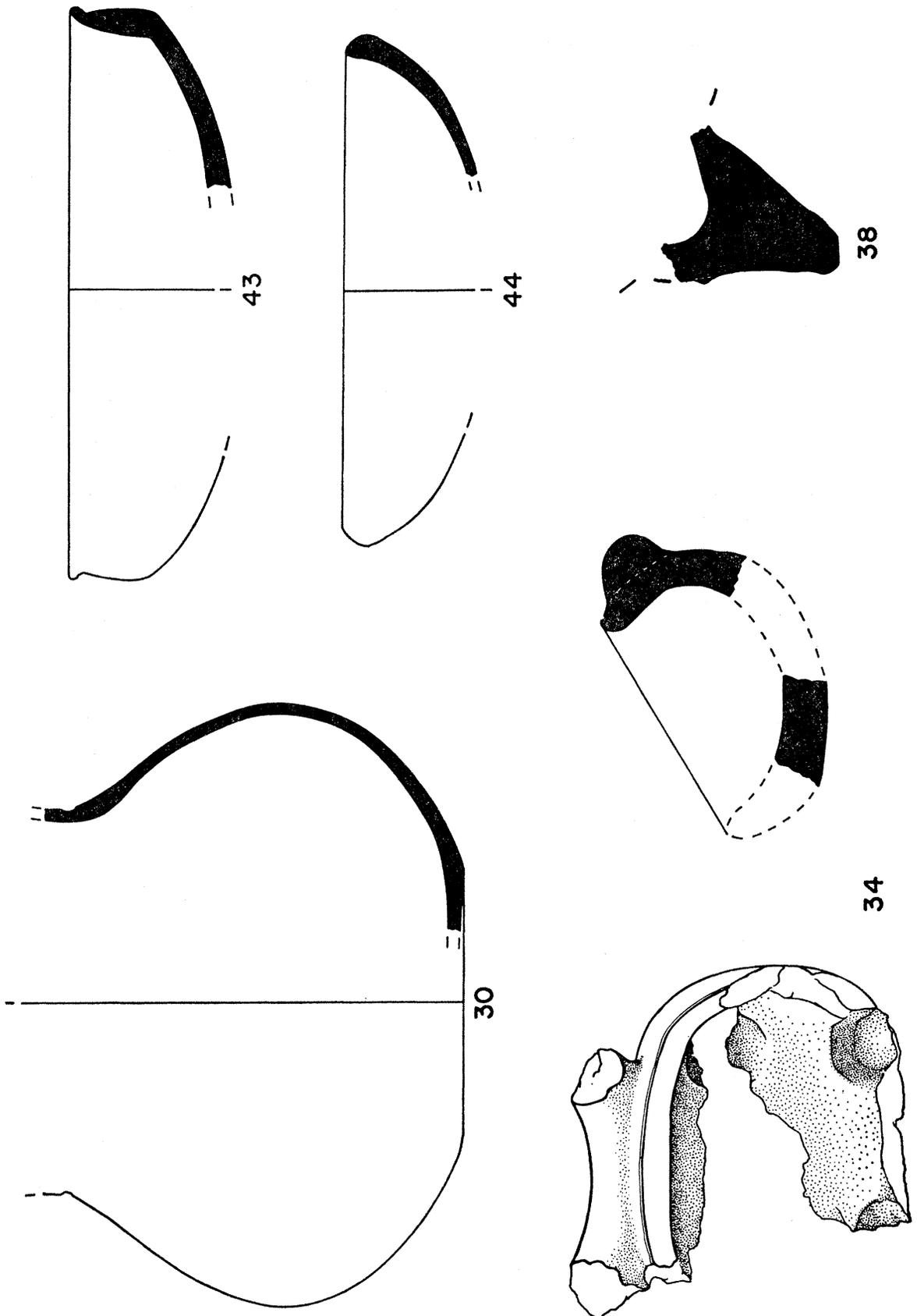


FIG. 6. Pottery from the Forum West Area: black burnished ware, ritual vessels, matt-painted bowls

37. Ritual vessel fragment. Pl. 109

C-70-149. Alley. Max. pres. H. 0.070 m. Outside 10YR 2/1 (black) to 5/2 (grayish brown).

Mended. Medium-fine, dark tan-gray fabric with inclusions. Right front leg, ellipsoidal in section, and part of rim; depression inside vessel at top of leg, with crusted red paint, as also on inner side of leg. Leg bears multiple incised hatched bands curving horizontally and is set off at front by incised strokes.

38. Ritual vessel leg. Fig. 6; Pl. 109

C-70-97. Bothros A. Max. pres. H. 0.085 m. Outside 7.5YR 2/0 (black) to *ca.* 5/6 (strong brown).

Mended. Fine fabric with inclusions, fired fairly evenly tannish gray-black to black; slightly micaceous. Left front leg and part of lip; leg at angle to body and swelling double conical in shape. Inside depressed and smoothed, lightly polished; outside lustre burnished. On "thigh", half-preserved circular area with raised circumference whence radiate short incised strokes; on "ankle", incised stripe with strokes rising from it. Shallow groove running up inside-front of leg, and demarcating incised band at body; along this band, on vessel lip, and on inside of leg are extensive traces of crusted red paint.

39. Ritual vessel leg. Pl. 109

C-70-88. Northern area. Max. pres. H. 0.102 m. Outside 2.5Y 2/0 (black); crusted red, 10R 4/8 (red).

Single fragment. Fine fabric with inclusions, dark gray ranging to black at surface. Conical in section, tapering rapidly toward bottom. Burnished. Outer face: incised, hatched pendent swags, traces of white filling. Leg set off from body by groove, in which crusted red paint band continues around to back, there extending down inner face. Much red pigment remains also on inside surface of vessel.

40. Ritual vessel leg. Pl. 109

C-70-145. Alley. Max. pres. H. 0.112 m. Outside 10YR 2/1 (black) to 6/4 (light yel-

lowish brown); core 10YR 6/3 (pale brown) to 6/1 (light gray).

Single fragment, medium-fine fabric with inclusions, gray to tannish buff with buff core. Splayed, tapering. Front, burnished black, ending abruptly at rough-smoothed sides and back, and with incised crosshatched swags with traces of white filling. Crusted red paint on back and in depression at top.

41. Ritual vessel leg. Pl. 109

C-70-371. Bothros C. Max. pres. H. 0.067 m. Outside near 7.5YR 3/0 (very dark gray).

Single fragment. Fine fabric, dull tannish gray at core to black surface layers; micaceous. Squat, compound-curved profile. Front burnished; back rough smoothed; finger-smoothed depression in top. Incised intersecting fine-toothed swags on front; traces of crusted red paint on back.

42. Matt-painted bowl. Pl. 109

C-59-187. Alley (1970) and St. John's trench 4 (1959). Max. pres. H. 0.047; est. Diam. rim *ca.* 0.202 m. Outside slip 2.5Y 8/2 (white).

Rim fragment, mended. Fine buff fabric, thin washed or self-slipped cream. Shallow bowl, offset rim, thickened lip. Outside, low burnished; inside, smoothed. Matt-brown painted lip and rim band, pendent squiggles inside and out, part of squiggle on lower body.

43. Matt-painted bowl. Fig. 6; Pl. 109

C-70-289. Northern area (high level). Max. pres. H. 0.055; est. Diam. rim *ca.* 0.19 m. Outside 10YR 8/4 (very pale brown) to 7.5YR 7/4 (pink).

Substantial fragment, mended. Fine, pinkish buff fabric, micaceous. Polished inside, outside to self-slip; washed over rim down to greatest diameter. Shallow, gently carinated bowl, bevel-offset rounded rim. Matt-brown painted lip and rim band outside, whence descend groups of long curving oblique stripes; inside, close system of stripes.

- 44. Matt-painted bowl.** Fig. 6; Pl. 109
C-70-224. Bothros B. Max. pres. H. 0.046; est. Diam. rim *ca.* 0.17 m. Outside near 5Y 8/2 (white); paint 7.5YR 5/2 (brown).
Rim fragment, mended. Fine fabric, varying from light pinkish buff core to light creamy or slightly greenish buff surface layers; slipped. Shallow bowl, slightly incurved rim, simple rounded lip. Over polished creamy slip, matt-brown painted diagonals left or right from rim; inside, close system of quirks.
- 45. Matt-painted collared jar.** Fig. 7; Pl. 112
C-70-243 a, b. Bothros A. Max. pres. H. 0.082, 0.068; est. Diam. rim *ca.* 0.13 m. Outside near 2.5Y 8/3 (white/pale yellow).
Two non-joining rim fragments, mended. Fine, powdery fabric, pinkish buff to light buff, micaceous; slipped. Upper shoulder of jar and collar rising concavely from finger groove to simple rounded lip. Inside roughly wet smoothed; outside slipped light creamy buff, burnished; flaky dark matt-brown painted necking band to which rise sets of curving diagonals on shoulder, plus collar frieze with sets of three vertical stripes and panels with opposed pendent and standing filled semicircles, plus rim band.
- 46. Matt-painted collared jar.** Pl. 112
C-70-364. Alley. Max. pres. H. 0.147 m. Outside near 5Y 8/2 (white).
Body and handle fragment, mended; non-joining collar and body fragments. Medium-fine fabric with inclusions, salmon-pink inside to greenish cream outside, lightly micaceous; inside pitted, outside slipped. Shoulder, belly of baggy globular jar, shallow groove articulating gently concave collar; one preserved of possible pair of sagging vertical loop handles at greatest diameter. Greenish cream slipped outside, and matt-brown painted chevron motif plus necking band. One of the non-joining sherds is associated with Bothros C, which is immediately adjacent to the west end of the Alley.
- 47. Matt-painted jar.** Pl. 109
C-70-244. Bothros B. Max. pres. H. 0.077 m. Outside 10YR 8/4 (very pale brown) to 7.5YR 7/4 (pink).
Single fragment. Fine fabric with inclusions and burn-out pocking, light orange buff, slipped. From area of greatest diameter of angular squat-globular to biconical jar. About half of a slightly askew horizontal flattened-roll handle on upper body. Inside smoothed; outside slipped buff to peach buff; matt-brown painted close system of curving stripes, squiggles, band, possible chevron or triangular motif. Polished overall.
- 48. Matt-painted askoid jar.** Pl. 109
C-70-538. Northern area. Max. pres. W. 0.067 m. Outside near 7.5YR 7/4 (pink).
Rim fragment. Fine fabric with lime and dark inclusions, tannish buff core to orangey buff surface layers; lightly micaceous. Shoulder curves in sharply to articulated low collar which becomes taller toward left; taper-rounded rim. Inside rough smoothed below, becoming washed near rim; outside washed and low polished. Faded matt-brown painted stripe on inside of rim broadening at shorter end, outside stripe dropping below lip at taller end, stripe at junction of neck and shoulder, series of hooks on shoulder.
- 49. Matt-painted tumbler.** Fig. 7; Pl. 112
C-70-299. Alley (1970) and St. John's trench 4 (1959). H. 0.138; est. Diam. rim *ca.* 0.186-0.210 m. (uneven). Outside 7.5YR 7/5 (pink/reddish yellow).
Over one fourth of pot, mended; non-joining sherds. Fine fabric, well and evenly fired light tannish buff, micaceous; slipped. Flat bottom, angular profile flaring to simple rounded lip. Creamy buff slipped, thickly outside, inside progressively more thinly from top to bottom. Matt-brown painted circumferential band at edge of bottom and outside; on or above this stand narrow horizontal zigzags, between vertical zigzags running up stripes to rim band which carries over inside, whence depend ob-

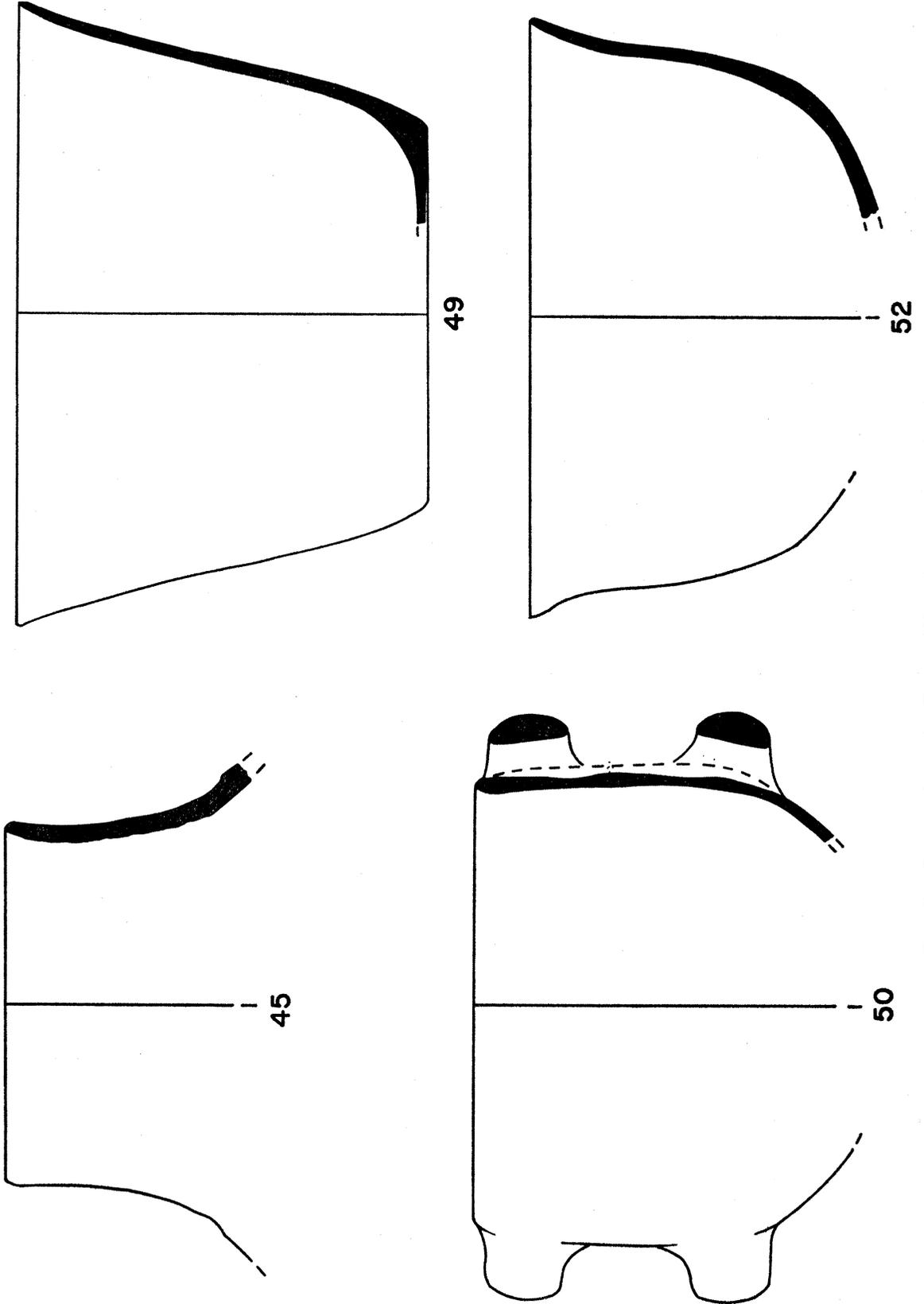


FIG. 7. Pottery from the Forum West Area: matt-painted ware

lique strokes, below which are vertical strokes. This fine specimen is reconstructed from sherds found scattered in the eastern half of the Alley, at or a little below the + 80.00 level, plus two joining sherds from separate lots of the 1959 trench immediately to the east.

The shape is distinctive, commonly considered at home in Thessaly, notably at Tsangli.¹²¹ Other inventoried tumbler fragments include C-70-241, C-70-541, C-70-543, and probably C-70-545. There are also lotted examples, mostly from the Alley and Bothros B.

50. Matt-painted bowl. Fig. 7; Pl. 112

C-70-218. Bothros B. Max. pres. H. 0.127; est. Diam. rim *ca.* 0.145 m. Outside 10YR 8/4 (very pale brown) to 5YR 7/6 (reddish yellow); inside 5YR 7/6 (reddish yellow).

Rim and body fragment, mended. Fine, evenly orangey buff fabric, some pocking, micaceous; slipped. Deep, somewhat angular hemispherical bowl, plain rounded lip; two bulging, horizontally set, large tunnel lugs vertically pierced, set as a vertical pair near rim and low on body. Outside slipped creamy to pinkish buff, polished; inside, slip continued for short way over rim, lightly polished. Dark to light brown matt-painted open pattern including horizontal, vertical, and diagonal bands. Mend hole at upper right.

Unique save for C-31-533 and C-76-307 (both as yet unpublished).

51. Matt-painted bowl. Pl. 110

C-70-202. Bothros B. Max. pres. H. 0.087; est. max. Diam. *ca.* 0.17. Outside 5YR 6/6 (reddish yellow).

Body and bottom fragment, mended. Fine orangey buff fabric with brown inclusions, micaceous; recalls Urfirnis. Outside burnished (horizontal strokes visible in part). Matt-orange painted long vertical stripes, sometimes

overlapping or yoking, on inside, outside, and base.

General appearance uncommon at Corinth.

52. Matt-painted bowl. Fig. 7; Pl. 112

C-70-219. Bothros B. Max. pres. H. 0.119; est. Diam. rim *ca.* 0.19 m. Core, largely 2.5YR 6/6 (light red).

Rim and body fragment, mended. Thin, well-made but gritty fabric with inclusions, dull red; slightly micaceous. Gently carinated deep bowl, flaring mouth. Washed and polished inside and out. Surface variegated through secondary burning, yellowish pink ranging to almost black. Outside, orange crusted-appearing matt-painted vertical zigzag over burnish-prepared ground.

Shape recalls some Saliagos flaring-rim bowls.¹²² Surface treatment, decorative technique seem unusual for Corinth.

53. Matt-painted high handle. Pl. 110

C-70-297. Alley. Max. pres. L 0.098 m. Outside, near 10YR 8/3 (very pale brown).

Mended. Fine fabric with inclusions, light gray core through light pinkish buff to light buff surface layers, micaceous; slipped. Two unevenly shaped roll struts converging to distinct "elbow". Thin, creamy buff slip, polished and enhanced on front-top especially. Matt-brown painted zigzags and stripes converging into large blob on elbow. Possibly from a ladle or other one-handed shape: seems made for right-handed user, as more pronounced curvatures and elaborate decor are at proper right.

54. Matt-painted handled vessel. Pl. 110

C-70-358. Bothros A and adjacent. Max. pres. H. with handle 0.086 m. Outside near 2.5Y 8/3 (white/pale yellow); core 5YR 7/6 (reddish yellow).

Mended. Fine fabric with inclusions, orangey

¹²¹ Cf. Wace and Thompson (footnote 54 above), p. 104, fig. 54: a, b; the latter also in Hauptmann and Milošević (footnote 91 above), Taf. 22:5. "Common 'tumblers'" were reported from Temple Hill, Weinberg, *Hesperia* 6, 1937, p. 513, but the absence of illustration or description leaves doubt as to the meaning.

¹²² Evans and Renfrew (footnote 18 above), p. 37, fig. 31:2, pl. XVI.

buff, to thin buff surface layers, micaceous; slipped. Angular, open vessel with slightly flared, tapered rim; possibly two-handled cup. Crudely shaped ribbon handle, upper strut flaring out from lip at *ca.* 45° angle. Soft fabric slipped creamy buff in and out; flaking dark matt-brown painted irregular bands, stripes, and blobs in and out. Mend holes right (drilled from inside) and left of handle.

55. Painted vessel leg. Pl. 110

C-70-220. Bothros A. Max. pres. H. 0.102 m. Outside 2.5Y 6/2 (light brownish gray) to 5Y 5/1 (gray); paint 2.5YR 3/2 (dusky red).

Single fragment. Medium-fine fabric with inclusions, grayish red to gray and gray buff at core ranging to light steel-gray or gray-black surface layers, slightly micaceous; slipped. Long, slender, curved and tapering leg of table, tray, or tripod, etc. Exterior slipped light gray, with semilustrous, painted, dark purplish brown vertical band with reserved lozenges and four long squiggles, plus stripe at body-leg junction; small portion of vessel basin, darker surfaced, with two red squiggles.

The question is posed whether this could be a fire-darkened specimen of Central Greek or Thessalian red-on-white ware, in which case broadly comparable examples could be cited from Tsangli and Sesklo.¹²³

56. Matt-painted close-mouthed vessel. Fig. 8; Pl. 110

C-70-270. Bothros C. Max. pres. H. 0.066; est. Diam. rim *ca.* 0.13 m. Outside near 10YR 8/4 (very pale brown); paints 5YR 4/2 (dark reddish gray) and near 10R 4/8 (red).

Mended. Fine, soft fabric with pocking, light yellowish buff; slightly micaceous. Rim fragment with simple rounded lip, probably from piriform jar. Inside "spongy"; lip and out-

side self slipped. Bichrome matt painted; chocolate-brown lip and rim stripes, whence descends vertical red band flanked by brown stripes with zigzags at outsides.

57. Painted fruitstand. Pl. 110

C-59-206. Southern area (1970) and St. John's trench 4 (1959). Max. pres. H. 0.047; est. Diam. rim *ca.* 0.286 m. Outside near 7.5 YR 7/4 (pink); paints 2.5YR 5/8 (red) and 5YR 4/2 (dark reddish gray).

Mended. Fine fabric, light buff tending to pink, micaceous. S-curved body, simple rounded rim. Outside self slipped; inside lightly polished. Bichrome painted inside and out with chevrons of alternating semimatt dark brown and lustrous orangey red stripes with reserved buff ground between, plus brown rim stripe.

This is the pottery which Holmberg identifies with Thessalian Arapi ware.¹²⁴

58. Painted fruitstand. Pl. 110

C-70-295. Alley. Max. pres. H. 0.041; Diam. at narrowest zone 0.062 m. Core and much of outside 7.5YR 7/4 (pink).

Single fragment. Fine buff fabric, micaceous. Junction of fruitstand pedestal and bowl, exhibiting unusual layering: over a finished, lightly polished core an additional fine decorated layer flared into bowl exterior. Pedestal well polished, bichrome painted: horizontal matt-brown band at junction, whence descend five or probably six vertical groups of four matt-brown and three orangey red stripes with reserved buff ground between all.

59. Matt-painted tubular fragment. Pl. 110

C-69-296. Temple H West.¹²⁵ Max. pres. H. 0.050 m. Outside 10YR 8/4 (very pale brown); paint 10R 3/6 to 2.5/2 (dark red-very dusky red).

Single fragment, broken all around. Fine,

¹²³ Wace and Thompson (footnote 54 above), p. 107, fig. 57: g (Tsangli); C. Tsountas, *Αἰ Προϊστορικὰ Ἀκροπόλεις Διμηγίου καὶ Σέσκλου*, Athens 1908, cols. 181-182, figs. 86, 87 (Sesklo).

¹²⁴ Holmberg (footnote 12 above), p. 29.

¹²⁵ Context, an apparently pure LN black-earth pit (bothros?). Corinth Pottery Lot 5768 (this pit also includes Lots 5767 and 5769-5771).

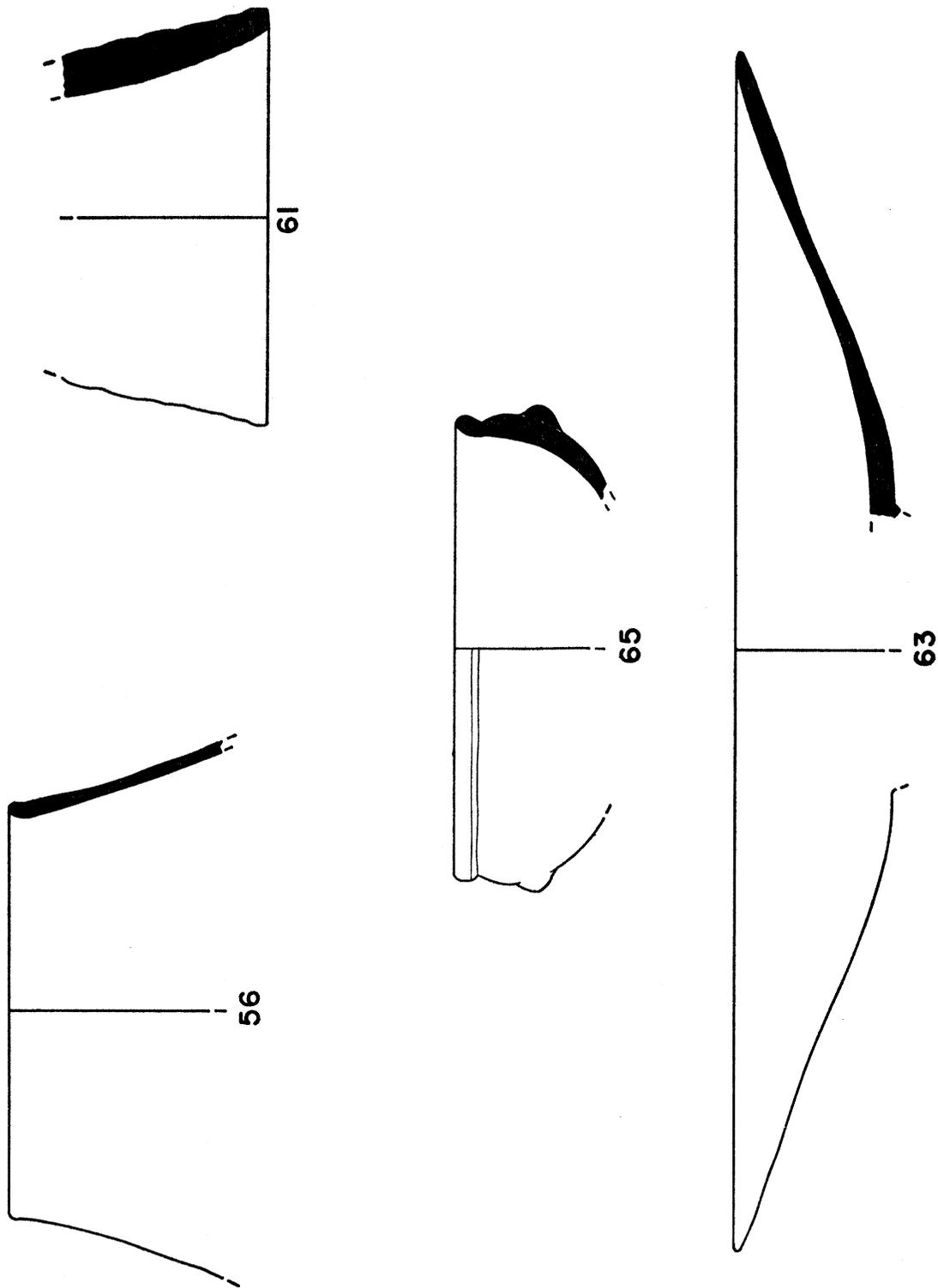


FIG. 8. Pottery from the Forum West Area: miscellaneous

rather brittle fabric, tending to fracture in layers, orangey buff (exterior) and creamy buff (interior), micaceous; slipped. Enigmatic hollow tubular object, finished in and out with a flaring top. Inside finger smoothed; outside slipped creamy buff and polished. Matt-painted reddish band at mouth of tube on inside and top; outside, stripe at junction with top, broad panel dark brown within going reddish at edge, squiggle descending from top to slanted plastic rib painted reddish.

60. Coarse burnished bowl. Pl. 110

C-70-329. Northern area. H. 0.044-max. 0.061; Diam. rim 0.126 m. Outside 10R 5.5/6 (red/light red).

About three-quarters complete, mended. Coarse fabric with grit and smaller inclusions, fired hard but unevenly, chesnut red with dark gray patches. Flattened bottom, uneven simple rounded rim. Crudely formed, all elements of shape irregular. Roughly burnished in and out.

61. Coarse pedestal foot. Fig. 8; Pl. 110

C-70-232. Bothros A. Max. pres. H. 0.066 m. Outside, 2.5YR 4/8 to 2.5/4 (red-dark reddish brown).

Single fragment. Coarse fabric with many large and gritty inclusions, dull light gray to dull tannish red, slightly micaceous; washed. Flaring slightly through rude horizontal ripples to simple flattened foot. Washed salmon pink outside and over foot to an inside band; exterior burnished to streaky dull orange and painted with groups of vertical white stripes.

The light-on-dark technique is more akin to the black burnished wares with painted decoration than to the matt-painted wares.

62. Coarse handle. Pl. 110

C-70-328. South deposit.¹²⁶ Max. pres. L.

0.057 m. Outside 7.5YR 7/6 (reddish yellow) to 5YR 7/6 (reddish yellow).

Single fragment. Medium fabric with many and large inclusions, dark gray at core to light orangey buff surface layers, lightly micaceous; partially washed. Broad strap handle with flared edges, narrowing towards one end; convex overall (possibly from askoid vessel). Back rough smoothed only; front smoothed and lightly washed, with three rough, deep vertical scorings whence run oblique slashes.

63. Matt-black-on-red fruit-stand. Fig. 8; Pl. 112

C-70-331. Alley (1970) and St. John's trench 4 (1959). Max. pres. H. 0.149; est. Diam. rim ca. 0.33 m. Inside near 10R 4/8 (red).

Complete bowl profile, mended. Fine, hard, dull orangey buff fabric, lightly micaceous; slipped. From partially preserved necking groove through low and gentle S-curve to simple tapered rim. Thickly slipped deep orangey red in and out; inside, long hatched matt-black triangles pendent from rim. A lighter-toned area around bottom of bowl may be stained from usage.

64. Patterned Urfirnis fruitstand. Pl. 110

C-70-94. Southern area. Max. pres. H. 0.056; est. Diam. rim ca. 0.22 m. Outside near 7.5YR 7/4 (pink); inside near 5YR 6/6 (reddish yellow).

Single rim fragment. Fine fabric with lime burn-out pocking, outside tannish buff shading to thinner layer of orangey buff inside, micaceous. Bevel-offset rim. Outside well polished, plain buff; inside, orangey ground with dark brown glazed rim band and descending diagonal stripes, plus, in orangey red (dilute) glaze, a curvilinear zigzag with dark brown outlining dots and lower tip (representing a snake?).¹²⁷

From mixed context suggesting LN date.

¹²⁶ Corinth Pottery Lot 6391, result of a special operation, and perhaps relatable to the lots mentioned in the previous note.

¹²⁷ Kosmopoulos found a similarly decorated fragment (footnote 6 above), pl. IV : c, assigned (p. 52) to Period III, i. e. LN. For this chronological nomenclature, cf. Kosmopoulos, "Birch-bark Technique: a Possible Prototype for some Greek Prehistoric Wares?," *Studies Presented to David M. Robinson*, G. E. Mylonas, ed., II, St. Louis 1953, pp. 1-24 (especially pp. 5 f. for LN).

65. Brown burnished bowl. Fig. 8; Pl. 110

C-70-254. Bothros B. Max. pres. H. 0.051; est. Diam. rim *ca.* 0.145 m. Inside near 7.5 YR 6/4 (light brown).

Single rim fragment. Medium-fine fabric with many small inclusions, smoky gray at core to light brownish red surface layers, heavily micaceous. Shallow bowl, bevel-offset rim rather high and rounded. Inside pared and lightly polished; outside pared and burnished (much worn), two oblique knobs at greatest diameter. Faint traces of diagonal stripes appear burnished but alternatively might be the better preserved surface "ghost" under the area of vanished painted decoration.¹²⁸ The dull reddish brown surface has patches of darkening that may indicate secondary burning. Close to a misfired black burnished ware.

Perhaps non-local in origin?

66. Black obsidian point. Pl. 106

MF-70-75. Southern area. Max. L. 0.044; max. W. 0.023 m.

Intact. Bifacially pressure-flaked, shouldered point, some added retouch especially forward of shoulder; somewhat keel-backed in section (max. Th. 0.013 m.), owing largely to removal of a large longitudinal flake on one face opposite the shoulder.

Probably not an arrowhead, but rather a knife dagger, for cutting up game, or perhaps an awl, like the examples discussed by Semenov.¹²⁹

67. Black obsidian point. Pl. 106

MF-70-52. Bothros A. Max. L. 0.046; max. W. 0.029 m.

Intact. Bifacially pressure-flaked, single-barbed shouldered point, with added retouch on one face opposite the shoulder barb.

Finer than **66** and less thick (at 0.009 m. max.), but otherwise similar in dimensions and probably in function (although this would make a more believable projectile point than the former).¹³⁰

68. Black obsidian point. Pl. 106

MF-70-102. Northern area. Max. L. 0.032; max. W. 0.022 m.

Intact. Bifacially pressure-flaked, tanged point. Close to a shouldered point, and the tang constriction is very gentle. On the whole, this point is likely to be an arrowhead.

Somewhat comparable, but more elongated, is Saliagos obs. no. 3, classed as a tanged point.¹³¹ Buchholz type IIa.

69. Black obsidian point. Pl. 106

MF-70-32. Bothros C. Max. L. 0.044; max. W. 0.030 m.

Intact save for chipped end of tang. Bifacially pressure-flaked, tanged and barbed point. Remarkably pronounced lateral barbing, exceeding, e.g., any of the published Saliagos points in this respect. Arrowhead (the respective slight concavity and convexity of the leading edges seems to be an irregularity rather than intentional).

Buchholz type IIa.

70. Black obsidian point. Pl. 106

MF-70-48. Bothros A. Max. pres. L. 0.030; max. pres. W. 0.021 m.

Broken at extremities. Bifacially pressure-

¹²⁸ Cf. Evans and Renfrew (footnote 18 above), p. 40; but contrast Immerwahr (footnote 50 above), p. 5 and note 24.

¹²⁹ S. A. Semenov, *Prehistoric Technology, an Experimental Study of the Oldest Tools and Artefacts from Traces of Manufacture and Wear*, translated by M. W. Thompson, Bath 1964, pp. 92 f. and 101 ff.

¹³⁰ Cf. comparable shouldered points: Jacobsen, *Hesperia* 38, 1969, pp. 359 f. and fig. 5:5; Robinson and Weinberg, *Hesperia* 29, 1960, pl. 63:g, 1; Belmont and Renfrew, *AJA* 68, 1964, pls. 126, 127, figs. 5, 10, no. 16. If an arrowhead, it would fall in type IIb of the schema developed by H.-G. Buchholz, "Der Pfeilglätter aus dem VI. Schachtgrab von Mykene und die helladischen Pfeilspitzen," *Jahrb* 77, 1962, pp. 29-31, Abb. 4, 7.

¹³¹ Evans and Renfrew (footnote 18 above), fig. 63:7 and pls. XXXV:3, XXXVII:21 (Saliagos Class CI).

flaked, tanged and barbed point, with careful additional retouch. Essentially similar to 69. Arrowhead.

Buchholz type IIa.

71. Grayish black obsidian point. Pl. 106

MF-70-87. Bothros A. Max. pres. L. 0.029; max. W. 0.017 m.

Almost intact, broken at distal point. Spine of cortex along one face. Bifacially pressure-flaked, tanged point. Smaller than the knife dagger and arrowhead points discussed above, but apparently some kind of projectile tip, perhaps a small-game arrow or even a leister.

Saliagos has some similar points.¹³² Buchholz type IIa.

72. Black obsidian blade with slight grayish veining. Pl. 106

MF-70-71. Bothros B. Max. pres. L. 0.036; max. pres. W. 0.017 m.

Broken at ends. Notched blade with light, generally unifacial retouch, except notch bifacially retouched. If the slight second inset opposite the notch is not accidental, this may be a strangulated blade.¹³³

73. Flint blade. Pl. 106

MF-70-33. Bothros A. Max. pres. L. 0.054; max. W. 0.013 m.

Preserved for most of estimated original length, broken at tip. Rather brittle, gray-white flint with whiter spotting; some lime incrustation at distal end. Unifacial blade with partial retouch, especially distal half of right edge. Traces of percussion cone at proximal end.

74. Flint blade. Pl. 106

MF-70-70. Bothros B. Max. pres. L. 0.024; max. pres. W. 0.022 m.

¹³² *Ibid.*, pl. XXXVII: 8, 14 (obs. nos. not given). Cf. Robinson and Weinberg, *Hesperia* 29, 1960, pl. 63: g, 4, 5.

¹³³ This is the only notched blade from the Forum West excavation, and the form seems rare in the Neolithic of Greece. At Saliagos, notched blades total 2.2 per cent of the obsidian with secondary working, but are regularly notched on one side only; Evans and Renfrew (footnote 18 above), pp. 49 (Table 14), 52 (form L); cf. fig. 72:8 (obs. no. 772). At the Franchthi Cave, notched blades are "fairly common," but exact details (percentages, stratigraphic distribution) are not yet published; C. Perlès in T. W. Jacobsen, "Excavation in the Franchthi Cave, 1969-1971, Part I," *Hesperia* 42, 1973, pp. 80-82, fig. 10:13.

Broken both ends. Translucent orangey red flint. Fragment of fine bifacial blade, light retouch both edges, both sides. One edge rather steeper than the other, which shows fine short diagonal striations, apparently from use. Saw?

Cf. MF-69-17; similar flint has been found at the Franchthi Cave.

75. Stone pendant. Pl. 106

MF-70-31. Bothros C. Max. pres. H. 0.023; max. W. 0.018 m.

Intact save for chip across top. Bluish gray stone, perhaps schist. Ground and polished to a gloss, bottom rounded and broad; narrowing toward top, where a suspension hole has been drilled. Flattish and weathered one face, somewhat convex opposite face. Probably a personal ornament, though a function as, e.g., a sinker for light fishing gear would not be impossible.

The only other possible Neolithic personal ornament yet found in the Forum West area is a small green stone bead, MF-69-18, from a mixed fill dug in 1969.

76. Terracotta potstand or fire-dog. Pl. 107

MF-70-41. Northern area. Max. pres. W. 0.140; max. pres. Th. 0.035 m. Near 7.5YR 7/4 (pink).

Mended. Coarse buff to gray fabric with much dark grit. Roughly rectangular in section; curved; one end flattened, roughly smoothed, chipped; broken at other end and at outside (handle?) attachment. For use at hearth, where it might also serve as a spit support.

77. Patterned Urfirnis figurine. Pl. 110

MF-70-36. Southern cobbly fill. Max. pres. H. 0.058 m. Outside near 7.5YR 7/5 (pink/reddish yellow); core near 2.5YR 5/0 (gray); paint 10R 5/6 to 5/8 (red).

Fragment, left leg and lower abdominal area.

Fine fabric bluish gray at core to thin pinkish buff surface layer, highly micaceous. Slightly splayed foot, pronounced buttock. Broken (or cut?) from right leg along deeply incised separating groove (front and rear) which at front continues into incised wide triangle marking pubic area. Pared, well polished; on front, thick red glaze irregularly outlines leg grooves.

Context, EH II; date, Neolithic (the type is best known in MN, cf. 8-10, but the associated pottery, almost entirely EH and LN, suggests this specimen may be of LN origin).¹³⁴

78. Bone point. Pl. 107

MF-70-53. Bothros B. Max. pres. L. 0.049; max. pres. W. 0.005 m.

Possibly broken at rear. Polished bone, weathered orangey brown. Carefully shaped to slender, streamlined form with offset "fin" at rear. Perhaps a needle or pin. Right side worn and nicked near tip.

Bone points have been found at many Neolithic sites in Greece, but parallels are not exact.

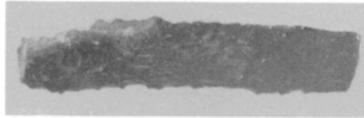
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

JOHN C. LAVEZZI

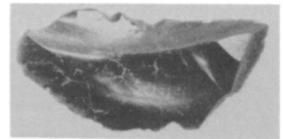
¹³⁴ Another Urfirnis figurine fragment was found in the 1969 excavation (MF-69-24). And in 1959, Weinberg found two figurine fragments in St. John's trench 4, both apparently LN, the one with matt paint in a pure context related to the 1970 LN layer; Robinson and Weinberg, *Hesperia* 29, 1960, pp. 250 ff., pl. 63:e, 1, 2.



a. Excavation from north



3



4



8



9



10

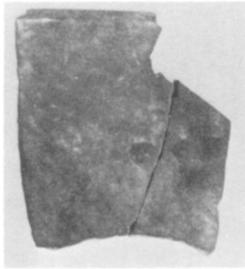
b. North trench from east



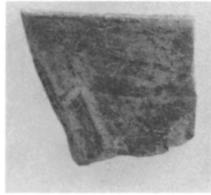
c. West trench from east

Scale (objects) 1:1

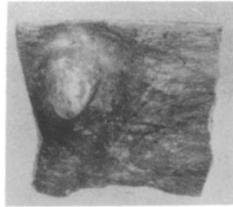
Babbus Area



1



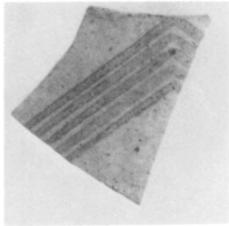
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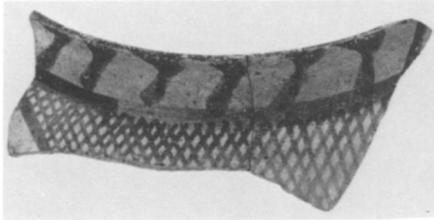
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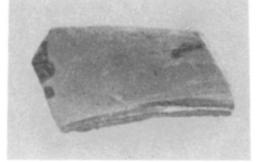
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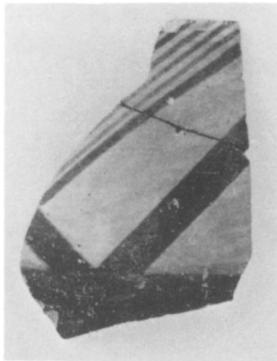
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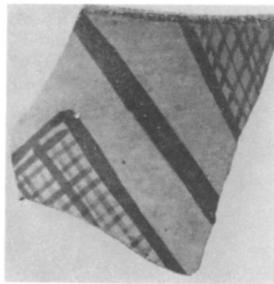
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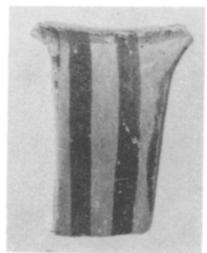
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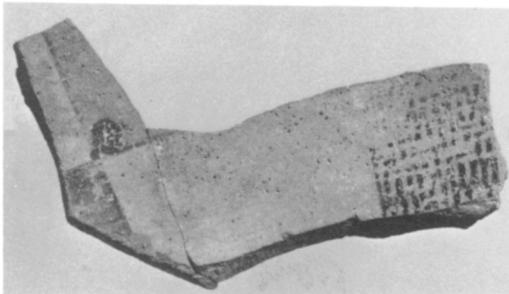
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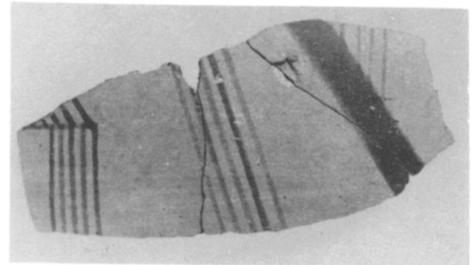


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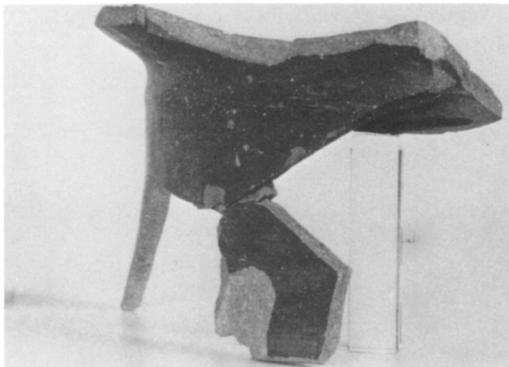


Babbus Area

17, top



15



17

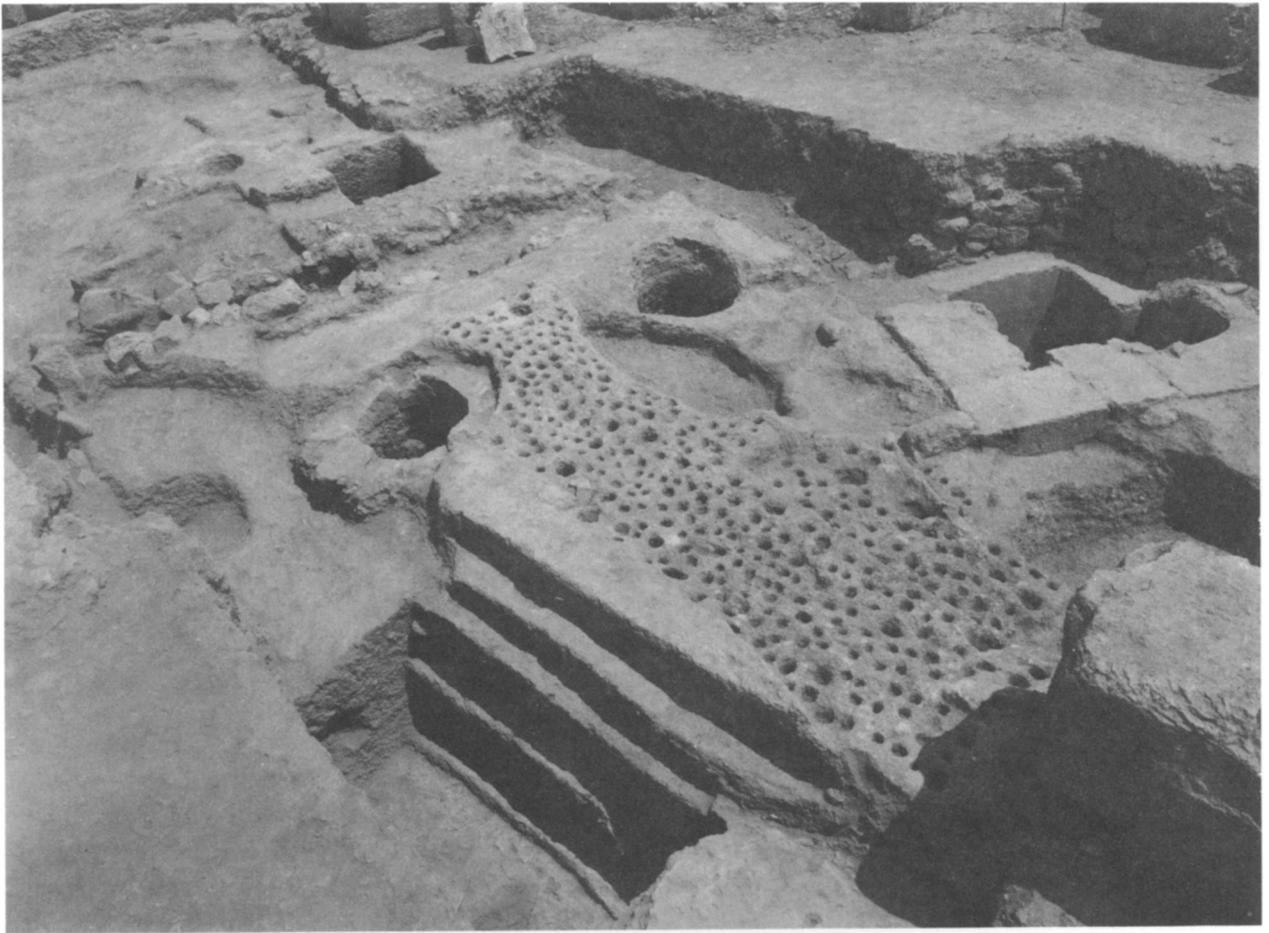


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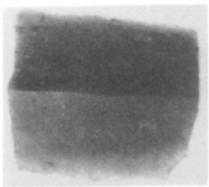


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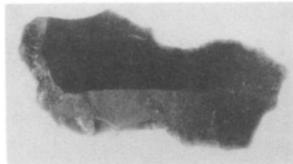
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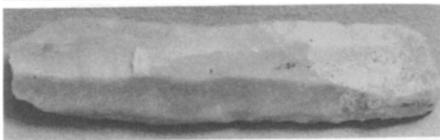
a. Excavation from southwest



74



72



73



75



b. Bothros C during excavation, from west



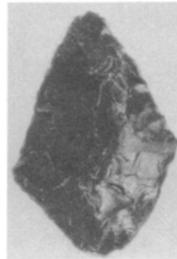
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67



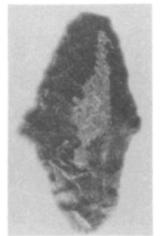
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68



70



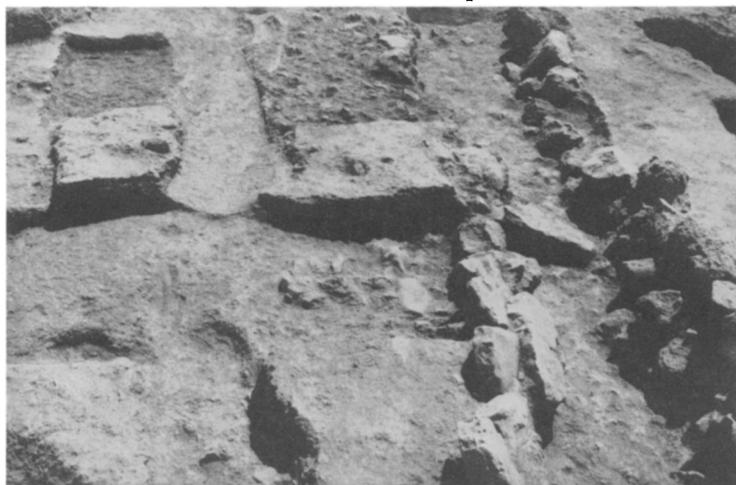
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Forum West Area

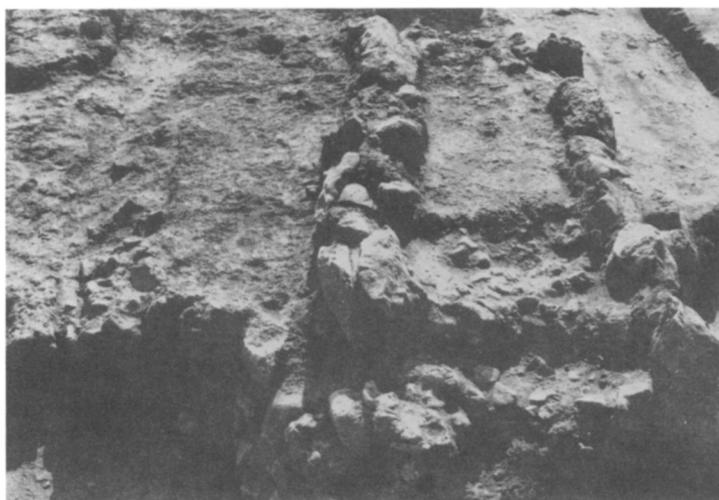
Scale (objects) 1:1



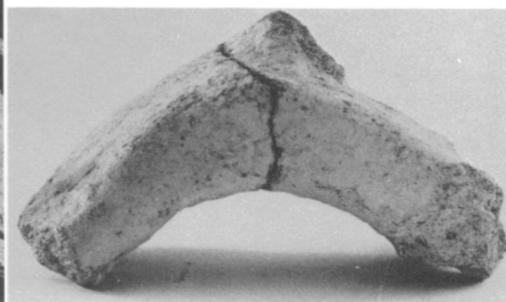
a. Northern part of excavated area from west



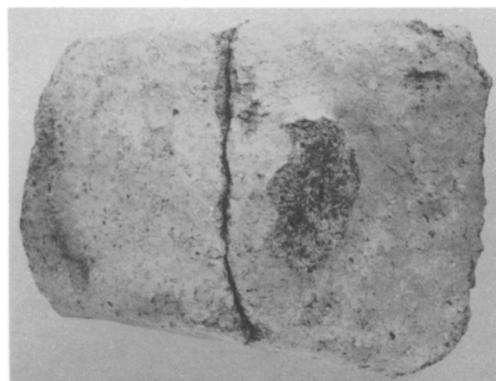
b. Center of northern area from west



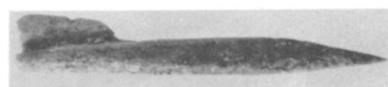
c. West end of alley from west



76, side



76, top. Scale 1:3

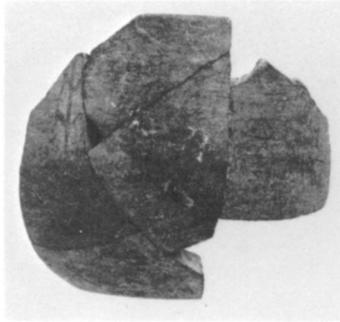


78. Scale 1:1

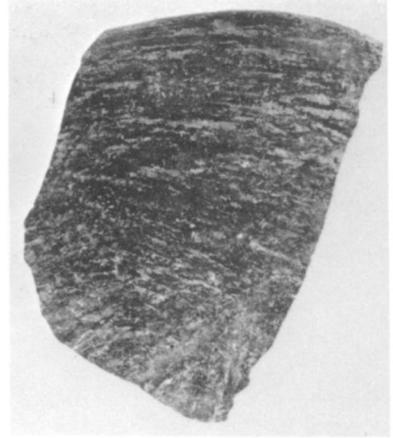
Forum West Area



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22



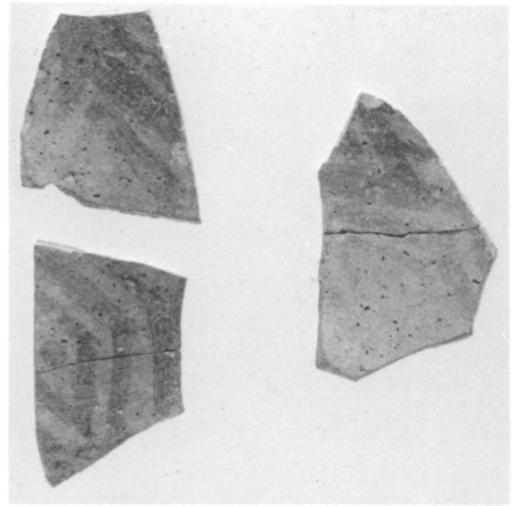
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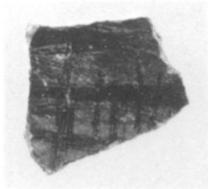
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32

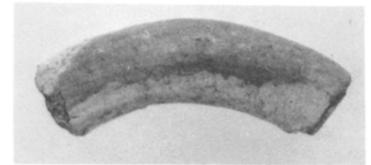


31



33

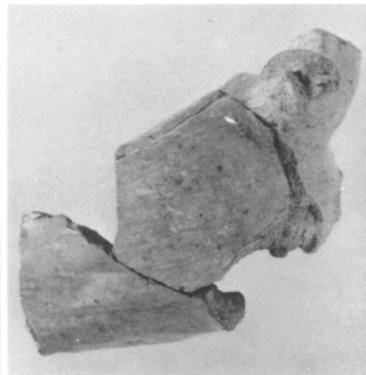
Forum West Area



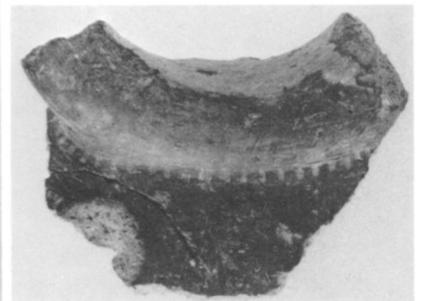
36



34, front

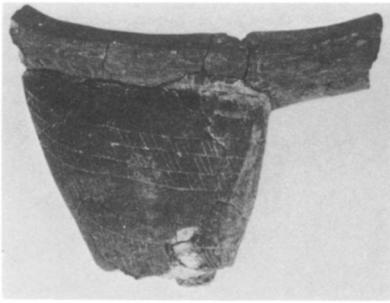


34, side

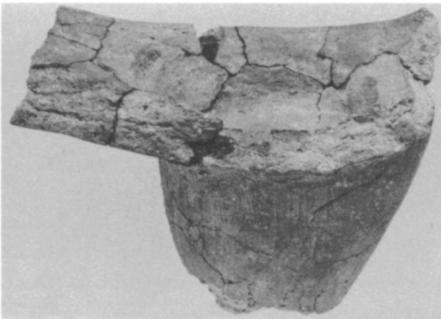


35

Scale 1:2



front



back



38



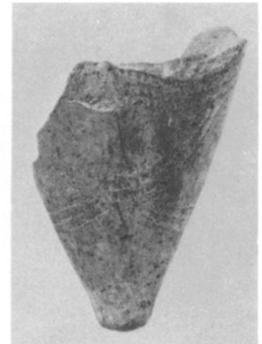
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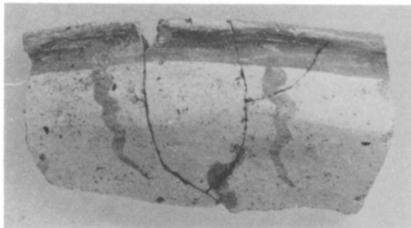
front



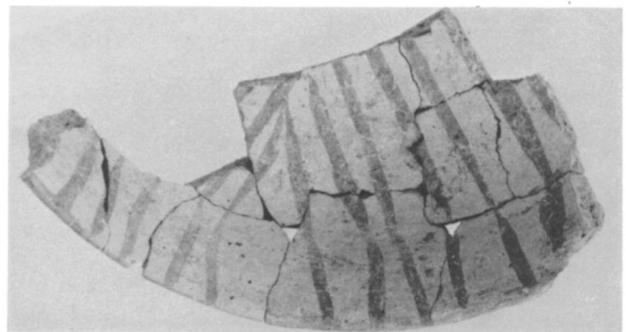
side



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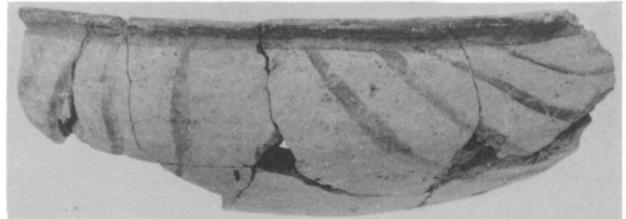
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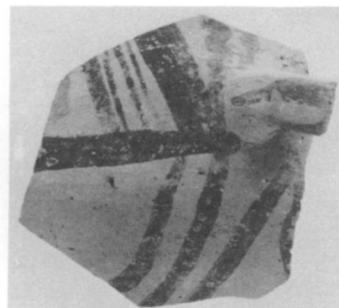
43 (interior above)



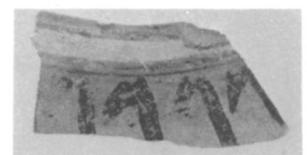
44 (interior above)



Forum West Area



47



48

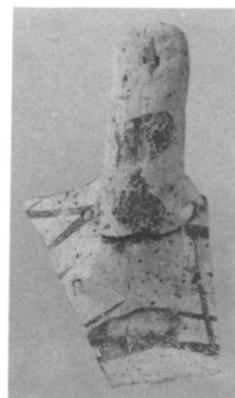
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53



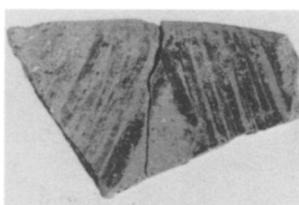
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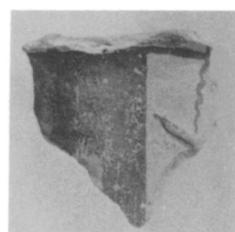
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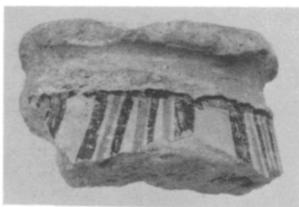
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58



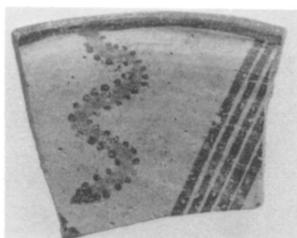
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62



64



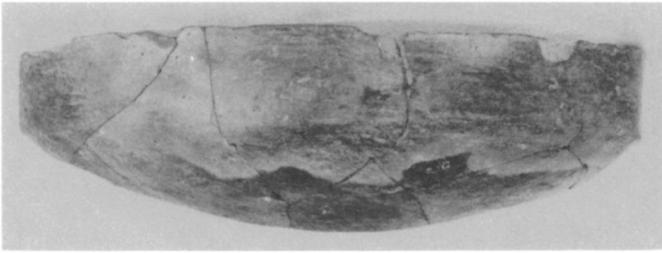
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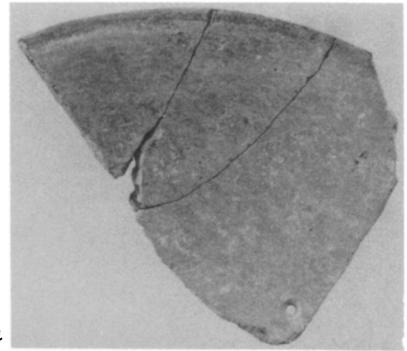
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Scale 1:2

Forum West Area



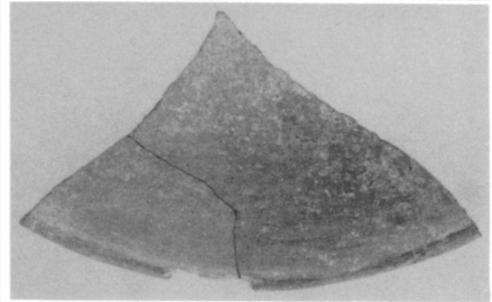
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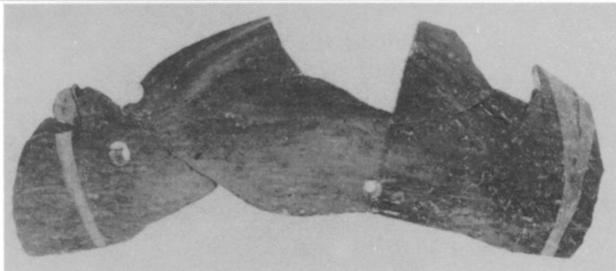
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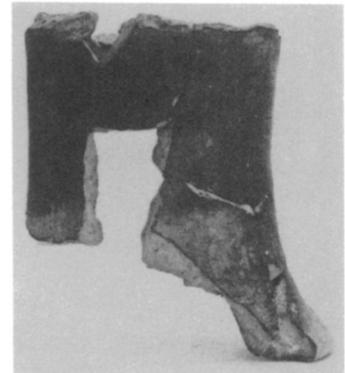
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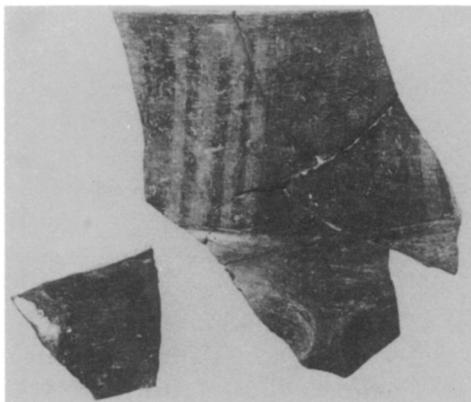
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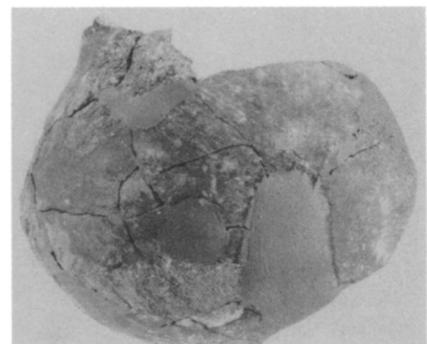
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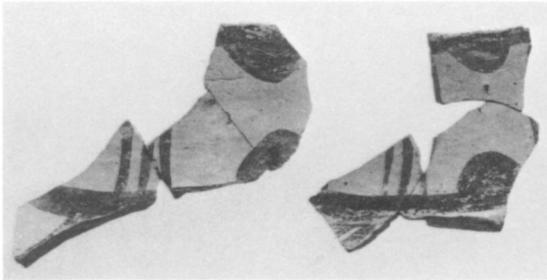
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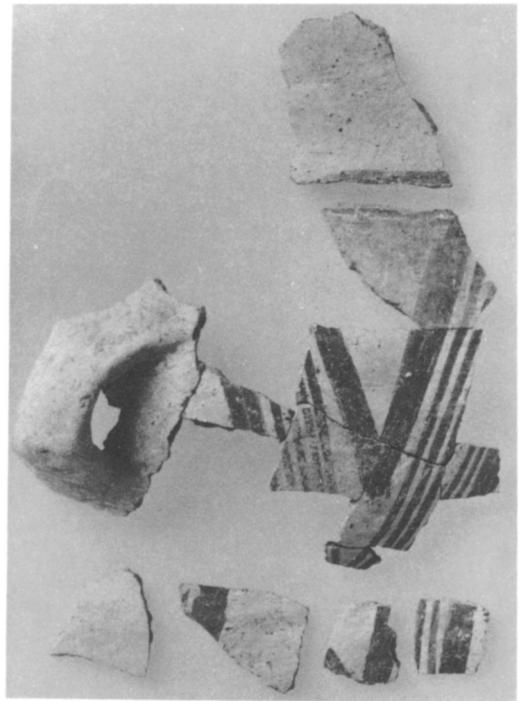
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Forum West Area

Scale 1:3



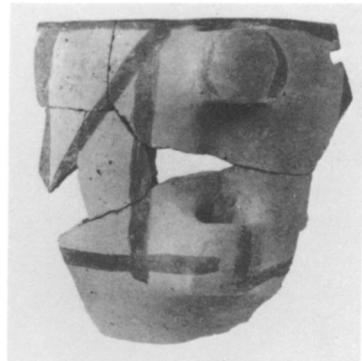
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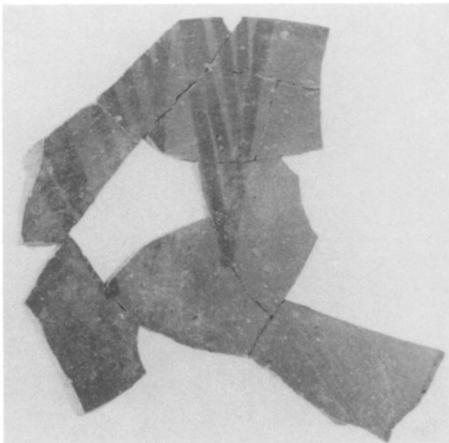
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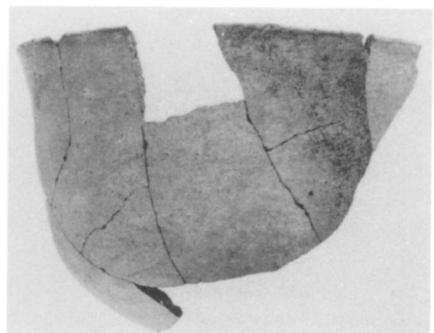
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50



63



52

Forum West Area

Scale 1:3