

# TWO PROTOGEOMETRIC VASES IN THE COLLECTION OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL

(PLATE 69)

THE AMERICAN SCHOOL of Classical Studies in Athens is fortunate to have in its collection two Protogeometric vases. Their quality provides justification for their publication here.<sup>1</sup>

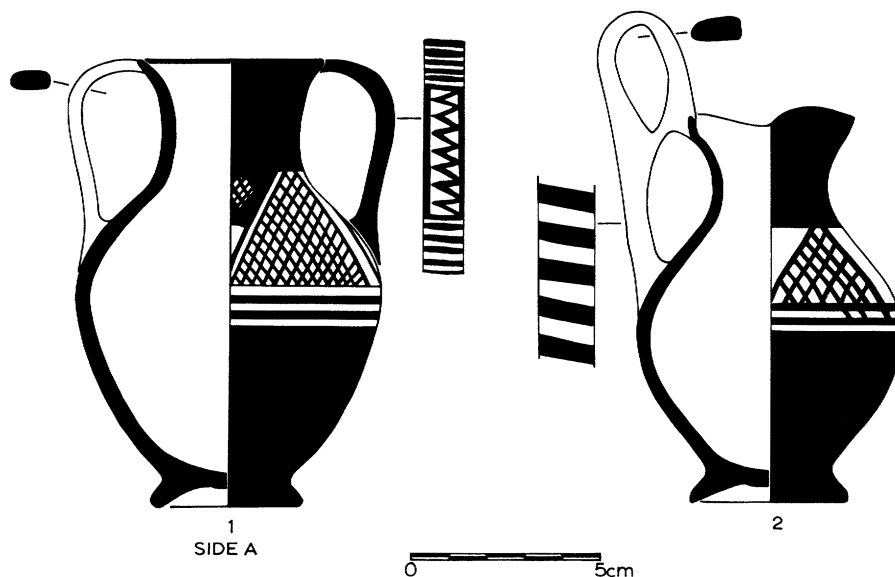


FIG. 1. Vases in the collection of the American School

1 (ASP 106). Amphoriskos

Fig. 1, Pl. 69

H. 0.12, D. mouth 0.05, D. base 0.041 m.

Intact but chipped slightly at rim and base. Globular body with handles from rim to shoulder. Good, fine, reddish yellow clay. Decoration on shoulder varies on each side. Side A (Pl. 69): two framed crosshatched triangles with crosshatching between them at the top; below, two black bands. Side B (Pl. 69): framed crosshatched triangle and triangle with checkerboard fill; below, two black bands. Above and below decoration is monochrome black paint, worn in places. Black paint on side of handles; on top, wavy line between horizontal stripes. Thin band of black paint on inner lip of rim.

<sup>1</sup> The author would like to thank James McCredie, the School's former director, for permission to publish these vases. 1 and 2 represent the only two intact Protogeometric (PG) vases in the American School collection. The remainder of the School's PG holdings consist of some 95 sherds from Amyklai and 26 from Messenia, most probably Koryphasion. These will be discussed by the author in a forthcoming article on Laconian Protogeometric Pottery.

**2** (ASP 20). Oinochoe<sup>2</sup>

Fig. 1, Pl. 69

H. 0.106, H. with handle 0.133, max. D. 0.07, D. base 0.042 m.

Intact but mended from several pieces. Pinkish to reddish yellow clay; surface lumpy in places. Biconical body with high binocular handle attached to rim and shoulder. On shoulder, crosshatched triangles with two black bands below; in places, the lines of crosshatching overlap these bands. Monochrome reddish brown paint on rim and neck, varying to a blackish brown on belly and base and burned in places; paint worn on neck. Horizontal stripes on handle.

Unfortunately, the provenience of these two vases is unknown;<sup>3</sup> yet their shape and decoration is fairly distinctive and provide evidence from which both provenience and date can be suggested. Framed crosshatched triangles like those on **1** are a common Argive decorative motif,<sup>4</sup> as is the combination of crosshatching and checkerboard fill.<sup>5</sup> A row of crosshatched triangles as the major decorative element on the shoulder of small pouring vessels and lekythoi is also known from various sites in the Argolid.<sup>6</sup> Most distinctive, however, is the biconical shape of **2** with its high binocular handle which has both Argive and Athenian parallels.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>2</sup> A photograph and brief description only has been published by E. L. Smithson, "A Geometric Cemetery on the Areopagus: 1897, 1932, 1947," *Hesperia* 43, 1974, p. 378, note 50, pl. 80:b.

<sup>3</sup> E. L. Smithson informed the author that neither J. L. Caskey nor C. W. Blegen could provide any information on the acquisition of the oinochoe; it has probably been at the School since before World War II.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. O. Frödin and A. W. Persson, *Asine, Results of the Swedish Excavations*, Stockholm 1938, p. 429, fig. 277 (oinochoe from Tomb P.G. 25); p. 430, fig. 279 (lekythos from Tomb P.G. 27); B. Wells, *Asine, II, Results of the Excavations East of the Acropolis 1970-1974*, iv, *The Protogeometric Period*, Stockholm 1976, p. 19, fig. 28 and p. 27, fig. 33:b (jug F70-30). I is similar in shape to a Late Protogeometric (LPG) amphoriskos from Tomb 22 of the Palia Perivolia Cemetery at Lefkandi; cf. M. R. Popham and L. H. Sackett, *Lefkandi, I, The Iron Age*, London 1979-1981, pl. 137:1. The Lefkandi example, however, is twice as large and has neither the motif of crosshatching between larger, framed crosshatched triangles nor the combination of crosshatching and checkerboard fill. The latter combination also occurs on PG vases from the Kerameikos; cf. W. Kraiker and K. Kübler, *Kerameikos, I, Die Nekropolen des 12. bis 10. Jahrhunderts*, Berlin 1939, pls. 49-50. But the Attic examples consist of these decorative elements placed in metopal panels and not in triangles.

<sup>5</sup> It occurs, for instance, on a high-footed skyphos (F70-31) from Asine, but here as in the Kerameikos the combination of crosshatching and checkerboard fill is in metopal panels (cf. footnote 4 above), rather than in adjacent triangles, as on **1**, Side B (Pl. 69).

<sup>6</sup> Most notably from Argos, Asine, and Mykenai. Cf. K. Kokkou-Viridi, "Four Protogeometric Graves at Argos," *Ἀρχῆ Εφ*, 1977, p. 173, fig. 1, pl. 55:β (jug E 1910 from Grave III); Wells, *op. cit.* (footnote 4 above), p. 12, fig. 4 (jug 1970-6:2); p. 13, fig. 10 (lekythos 1970-10:2); and p. 15, fig. 15 (jug 1970-14:2); V. R. d'A. Desborough, *Protogeometric Pottery*, Oxford 1952, pl. 28:B (lekythos 112 from Mykenai). The variation of rows of hatched and solid triangles on the shoulders of pouring vessels is also common in the Argolid; cf. Kokkou-Viridi, *op. cit.*, p. 173, fig. 1 (nos. E 1911, E 1913, E 1908 from Argos). Rows of crosshatched triangles also appear on lekythoi from the Kerameikos; cf. Kraiker and Kübler, *op. cit.* (footnote 4 above), pl. 47. But these triangles are much more finely drawn than those of either the Argolid or the American School examples; furthermore, they occur on vessels of globular shape, not biconical like **2**.

<sup>7</sup> The term "binocular" is used here to refer to a high, looped handle which is divided in half by a bar connecting the lip to the middle of the handle. Such handles are rather distinctive and occur only on a limited number of examples, most notably from Argos, Asine, and Athens. Parallels are listed below:

a. Argos: cf. Kokkou-Viridi, *op. cit.* (footnote 6 above), p. 173, fig. 1 (oinochoe E 1907).

Whereas individual elements of **1** and **2** can be paralleled, for example, at Lefkandi and Athens, yet it is the especial combination of these elements which suggests that our two vases came from the Argolid. For instance, the shape of **1** occurs at Lefkandi, as does the motif of a row of crosshatched triangles (cf. footnote 4). But it is the combination of framed crosshatched triangles with checkerboard fill that suggests an Argive provenience. Similarly, a binocular handle also occurs at Lefkandi, but on a tall and slender oinochoe<sup>8</sup> quite dissimilar in shape to **2**. Again, it is the combination of the binocular handle with the biconical shape that tends to indicate an Argive origin, although in the case of **2** an Attic origin cannot be entirely discounted.<sup>9</sup> The Lefkandi examples, however, are important for chronology, dating, as they do, to Late Protogeometric. They thus provide a chronological framework of the last half of the 10th century B.C. for the American School vases.

WILLIAM D. E. COULSON

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
Department of Classics  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

b. Asine: cf. Frödin and Persson, *op. cit.* (footnote 4 above), p. 429, fig. 278 (jug from Tomb P.G. 26). See also Desborough, *op. cit.* (footnote 6 above), p. 206 and pl. 27. Desborough (*ibid.*, p. 206) also mentions a precisely similar handle from an unpublished tomb on Kos.

c. Hadrian Street, Athens: cf. Smithson, *op. cit.* (footnote 2 above), p. 378 and pl. 78:e (oinochoe from Phinopoulos Grave Ph. I-NM 15311). A variation of this example comes from the Athenian Agora from a PG grave south of the Hephaisteion. The handle, however, omits the crossbar and is attached directly to the lip; cf. T. L. Shear, "The Campaign of 1935," *Hesperia* 5, 1936, p. 24, fig. 22.

d. Siana, Rhodes: cf. *CVA*, Karlsruhe 2 [Germany 8], 46 [344]:1 and p. 12 (oinochoe B 2326).

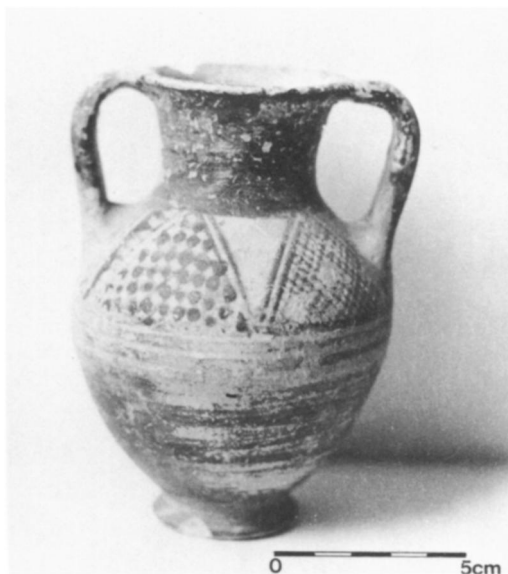
The oinochoai from Athens (c) and Rhodes (d), however, are more elongated in shape than the examples from Argos (a) and Asine (b), which have the biconical body similar to that of **2**.

<sup>8</sup> Popham and Sackett, *op. cit.* (footnote 4 above), pl. 138:9 (LPG oinochoe from Tomb 22 of the Palia Perivolia Cemetery) and pl. 212:b. A second example, but later in date, occurs on an oinochoe of Sub-PG III date (ca. 850–750 B.C. from Tomb 33 of the Toumba Cemetery; cf. Popham and Sackett, *op. cit.*, pl. 188, no. 33.1. The oinochoai from Athens (c) and Rhodes (d) cited in footnote 7 above also have slender bodies similar to the Lefkandi examples.

<sup>9</sup> Smithson (*op. cit.* [footnote 2 above], p. 378, note 50) suggests that the origin of **2** may be Attic but possibly not Athenian.



1 Amphoriskos (Side A)



1 (Side B)



2 Oinochoe