



Identifying Changes: The Transition from Bronze to Iron Ages in Anatolia and its Neighbouring Regions

Proceedings of the International Workshop
Istanbul, November 8-9, 2002

Edited by

Bettina FISCHER Hermann GENZ
Éric JEAN Kemalettin KÖROĞLU

(in alphabetical order)



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The Stratigraphy of Cyprus WS II & Mycenaean Cups in Soli Höyük Excavations

Remzi YAĞCI

in memory of Dr. Toni M. Cross

Geographically, Soli, today's Mezitli, 11 km. west of the modern city of Mersin, is located on the border between Cilicia Pedias (L. *Campestris*) and Cilicia Tracheia (L. *Aspera*) as recorded in well known classical records such as Strabo's *Geography* (14 V VIII). It must have been in the same location in previous periods.

The Soli/Pompeiopolis Excavation was initiated in June 1999 and has been carried out for four years as a long term project. This project has been carried out as a rescue excavation in collaboration with Mersin Museum and Dokuz Eylül University and supported by the Ministry of Culture and the Municipality of Mezitli.

The aim of this speech is to clarify the stratigraphical context of Cyprus WS II and Mycenaean cups in Soli Höyük, to compare them with the other excavation materials, especially in the Cilician mounds from sites such as Tarsus, Mersin, Kinethöyük, Kilisetepe, Kazanlı etc., and at the same time to establish possible trade relations between Cilicia and the other regions. There are some difficulties in the stratigraphy of the east slope of Soli included in E9/F9 plan squares (fig.25), since this section was badly damaged in ancient times, beginning with the classical ages. One of the other problem was continuous erosion on this steep slope. It has been mixed up for a long time. As can be seen at the table, a considerable quantity of WS II and Mycenaean of sherds found either in concentrations or scattered in various layers. Some sherds are not associated with a clear architectural context¹.

The stratigraphy of Cyprus WS II and Mycenaean cups found in Soli are a valuable source of knowledge about the international trade relations and sea routes of Cilicia with Cyprus, Syria/Palestine and Greece in IInd millennium B.C. The ceramic repertoire in Soli's IInd millennium stratigraphy is well fitted with the stratigraphy of especially Tarsus Gözlükule, Mersin Yümüktepe and other mounds such as Kinet Höyük, Kilisetepe etc. in Cilicia². As it is seen in F8&F9 chart in detail, four main points deserve attention in the stratigraphical context of Soli. These are overlapped in the east slope section of E9&F9 plan square sections and they verify each other in a chronological chart (see the table). They can be classified as follows:

¹ These sherds are added under the table as WS II no: 2; no: 3 Mycenaean no: 7; no: 8.

² Yumuktepe: Level VIII-V (c. 1500-1200 B.C.). Garstang 1953: 236 ff. fig. 3. (Level VI-V are included WS II and Late Mycenaean wares ; Level VI: Hittite fortification). Tarsus Gözlükule: Late Bronze IIa & IIb levels. Goldman 1956: 203 ff., for Kinethöyük: Gates 2001:137 ff. and Kilisetepe: Symington 2001: 169 ff.; Todd 2001: 207-208.

- I. HH bullae (fig.3, 4)
- II. Egyptian scarabe (fig. 5)
- III. Cyprus WS II sherds (fig.15-18)
- IV. Mycenaean sherds (fig.20-24)

As can be seen at the table HH bullae have been found below the Hittite Imperial complex wall (fig. 6, 7; fig.25; 15. 15) in a fire layer together with RLWM juglet (fig.8-9) and the coarse sherds of an Early Hittite character. Its face was quite eroded and it had a broken back (fig. 3). Its upper guilloche motif can be comparable with a fragment of a clay sealing of Tarsus which was found in a Hittite temple (Goldman 1956: fig.401, 405; no.7). The bullae have been dated at the end of XVIth- beginning of XVth c. B.C. by Prof. Dr. Belkıs&Ali Dinçol.³ If this is true, then historically it can be placed with the Hittite king Alluwamna and in the later periods of struggle for the royal succession, i.e. pre-Imperial times⁴. As it is known, there were various parity treaties between Kizzuwadna and Hittites⁵. It is possible that the bullae belonged to the ruler who probably used it for a long time, since it was found badly eroded and had an unclear impression.

Egyptian scarabe (fig. 5; 14.33) is dated to Thutmosis III (1479-1425 B.C.).⁶ It is very important for clearing up stratigraphical chronology of Soli's WS II milk bowls. It was found around an urn together with a golden earring (15.82) and a WS II sherd (fig.15.no.1) around an ashy layer (15.87) in F9. These objects were possibly used as funerary offerings and then scattered around because of fire destruction. They probably became prestige objects for a new 'sub elite' of Soli. It can be considered as luxury foreign goods and prestige vessels. They were found in the same context and dated beginning of XIV c. B.C.⁷. After the ashy layer at F9 (15.87) at the table the Mycenaean pottery has been intensified. There seems to be no architectural context in this section between the layers.

WS II sherds (fig. 15) consist of ten pieces found in Soli between the years 1999 to 2002⁸ associated with Red Lustrous Wheel Made (RLWM) juglets (fig. 6-9, 12 left), pilgrim flasks (fig. 13-14), pitchers with nipple bases (fig.10-11,12 right) and a grooved monochrome stand (fig. 2) and "drab ware"(fig. 13)⁹. They were unearthed in the same context around the imperial

³ Thanks for their contribution. This bullae will be published by Dinçol's (*forthcoming*).

⁴ Alluwamna, Tahurwaili, Hantili II, Zidanta II, Huzziya II, Muwatalli I (ca. 1500-1400 B.C.). The kings of Hittite and Kizzuwadna who are contemporary with each other can be listed in such order: Tahurwaili&Alluwamna-Eheya; Hantili II-Paddati_u (?); Zidanta II-Pilliya-İdrimi (Alalah)-Baratarna (Mitanni)-Thutmosis III (Egypt); Huzziya II-Talzu. Beal 1986:436, 443; Bryce 1998: xiii, 118 ff.

⁵ Kizzuwadna , a new power which had been established in Cilicia Campestris by Hurrians or Indo-Aryan tribes and became an independent state in this interval period until the period before Suppiluliuma I's father's Tuthalia III reign (1400-1344 B.C.).

⁶ Tuthmosis' sole rule began c.1458 B.C. Queen Hatshepsut ruled the state in a period of coregency. Tuthmosis' clear intention was to establish a permanent Egyptian presence in Syria. He made some campaigns to Syria and defeated a coalition of Syrian forces, went into Mitannian territories and crossed the Euphrates river. Zidanta may have been the Hittite king who sent tributary gifts to Tuthmosis on his return from his Syrian campaign in his thirty third year. Bryce 1998: 128 ff.

⁷ Yağcı (*in press*) But actually this urn can be dated at end of of XIIIth c. B.C . in the stratigraphical context of Soli as the scarabe can be reused as a souvenir. The urn can give an idea about the burial custom in this period.

⁸ The first three specimens of Cypriot WS II imports listed on the table were published in Adalya VI (Yağcı *in press*). see. fig. 18. These bowls are hard-fired and of grey fabric, all heavily tempered with small black and white grit and shiny black inclusions like at Sanidha, Herscher 1991: 52 ff.

⁹ According to Gates 2001 "A monochrome fabric known as "Drab Ware" was manufactured in a limited range of shapes and widely distributed, in effect replacing local traditions. It thus displays the features of mass production". It was suggested that Cilicia in general was drawn into a centralized organizations involving more than political control as a part of Hittite the Empire in the XIVth-XIIIth century B.C. Gates 2001: 137 ff., fig. 8-9; "Drab ware" was also found in Kilisetepe LB II context. Symington 2001:170.

large building complex. It must have been built up in Tuthalia I/II period¹⁰. The walls of the Imperial Hittite large building complex are inserted into the last phase of Early Hittite layers which are represented by a fire layer (14.24) and two floors (I;14.40-II;14.32) overlapped in E9/F9 (This context is not in the scope of this article) (fig. 6-7). This section can be referred to as the beginning of WS II's (and of the others which are mentioned above in the stratigraphical analysis, see the table. It also can be taken to be the beginning of the LB IIa layer. Fig. 1 It has, a clear context. But it can be dated LB I if the sherds are compared with the Tarsus layers) Goldman 1956: fig. 314).

There is only one example of a pilgrim flask in Soli so far. It has a pair of handles and a lentoid body which has the same convex structure on both sides (fig. 14). Its handles are from mid-neck to shoulder. There are some circular painting traces on the body¹¹. A variety of pilgrim flask forms were scattered over the eastern Mediterranean during the LB II. This form seems to have been influenced by similar vessels from Anatolian origin (Eriksson 1993: 25 ff.).

Red Lustrous Wheel-made (RLWM) juglets can be described as a narrow-necked pitcher with pointed base, its form is also called "spindle bottle" (Comparable with Tarsus Late Bronze II; Goldman 1956: no.1191 and 1192). This type was thought to have functioned as a "Transportgefäße" for an oil, resin, perfume or possible for ritual use since its mouth was suitable for pouring small quantities of a costly oily substance¹².

RLWM with its characteristic shapes of spindle bottle, lentoid flask and arm shaped vessel has been found over a wide geographical area such as Egypt, Palestine, Syria and Anatolia. Particularly Cyprus is regarded as homeland for this ware and it was seen as being invented and manufactured only in Cyprus between LC IA:2 (c. 1550-1540/1525/1500 B.C.) (Fischer 2001: 170) and LCIIIA:1 (c.1220-1190 B.C.) It also occurs with a minimal presence in the Aegean Islands such as Rhodos and Crete (for the chronological table and distribution of RLWM see Eriksson 1993: fig. 2, 8, 37; Todd 2001: fig. 1; 206 ff.). The definite origins of RLWM is still in discussion. Mainly two regions are favoured by the scholars: 1) Cyprus 2) N. Syria (Eriksson 1993:12 ff.) 3) Anatolia (especially, in Rough Cilicia) (Ovacik, Anamur, see Symington 2001: 170).

A grooved monochrome stand (fig. 2) was found in WSII sherds context. These types of vessels decorated with incised herring bone pattern are defined as pilgrim flasks with fenestrated stands (Eriksson 1993: Type VIIAe; fig. 6). Small quantities of these stands were found in Tarsus together with WS II cups in Late Bronze II layers¹³ and a very similar example was found in Kilisetepe (Symington 2001: fig. 8).

¹⁰ Kizzuwadna was integrated into a territory ruled by the Hittite empire from the region's annexation under Tudhalia I/II (c. 1400 B.C.) until the collapsed in early XIIth c. B.C.

¹¹ Comparable with Pritchard 1980: 82; type 52 with one handle (tomb 108). The assemblage included asymmetrical, seamless pilgrim flasks which had been found in Kilisetepe and other Hittite centers such as Boğazköy, Tarsus, Maşat and Kinet Höyük in LB II XIIIth century context. Symington 2001: 17; Gates 2001: fig.5, no. 10.

¹² Goldman 1956: 204; Eriksson 1993: 11, 16. Eriksson 1993:10 stated that: "In Egypt the occurrence of spindle bottles in graves dated to the reign of Thutmose III, and no later than Thutmose IV". Eriksson - Stressed that "RLWM vessels were predominantly exported to Egypt at the beginning of the production of the ware, but after the end of the reign of Thutmose III they all but disappeared from the Nile valley. By the time Suppiluliumas I (ca. 1380 B.C.) the export of RLWM ware was directed mainly to Anatolia. By the same time Cypriote allegiance was transferred to Hatti from Egypt. A concomitant change in type also occurred with spindle bottles being most common in Egypt while arm shaped vessel was predominant in Anatolia. The connection posited by Eriksson between the distribution of the ware and the political situation on the mainland is convincing" Todd 2001: 212.

¹³ These type stands are introduced from Syria, Cyprus and Anatolia and were becoming widespread over the eastern Mediterranean during the LB II. Goldman 1956: 204; no.329, Eriksson 1993: 27.

Cyprus White Slip (WS) II sherds were unearthed around the Early Hittite Imperial walls in Soli. WS II sherds in this context occur in larger quantities but are extremely fragmentary, in total six sherds at E9 and F9¹⁴. Three of these were published (Yağcı 2003) (fig. 15, no. 2, 3; fig. 15, no. 2; fig. 18), and a new one (fig. 15, no. 9) was added. Others (fig. 15) that had been found in D6, D8, F6 plan squares were unearthed around the Hittite Imperial complex wall (fig. 6,7 and see table). These sherds are well fitted to complete bowls which are known as milk bowls (Artzy 2001: 112; Yon 2001: 123) with wishbone handle seen in fig. 16. The decoration of the sherds are classified according to decorative combinations as "parallel line style", "ladder-lattice based style", "ladder framed lozenge" or "hooked chains of lozenges" in horizontal or vertical pattern¹⁵ (fig.15-17).

WS sherds became popular in the Levant during the XIVth c. B.C. and further amplified during the XIIIth c. B.C. Its latest appearance seems to be the end of the XIIIth c. B.C or beginning of the XIIth c. B.C. (Fischer 2001: 168; Sherratt 1998: 296) If the scarabe and WS II pieces are considered to be found in the same context, WS II sherds of Soli can be said to begin with "WS II early period"¹⁶.

Soli's Mycenaean sherds consist of eight pieces of deep bowls which were decorated with antithetic spirals (fig. 20-24). They start at the altitude 16.00 at the table and this context is the beginning of LB IIb. They can be divided in two groups according to E. French's classification for Tarsus (French 1975: 60) : 1) with central panel (fig. 20, no.3)¹⁷ (2) with no central feature (fig. 20, no. 1-2). Soli's Mycenaean group is very similar to the Tarsus sherds (Goldman 1956: 203 ff., and fig. 330). The prime feature is the popularity of spiral, particularly antithetic spiral. It is possible that they were made in the same workshop. This feature is known at mainland sites in Cyprus such as Paphos and Enkomi¹⁸. Although Tarsus' Late Bronze IIB levels were very much disturbed and the Mycenaean pottery was unstratified as in Soli, this group is basically dated to LHIIIC with some features of IIIB¹⁹. Fig. 19 is an exceptional finding unearthed in a Mycenaean context²⁰.

¹⁴ According to Gittlen (1975: 117) "WS II pottery was introduced into Palestine at least early as c. 1500 B.C. It is stratigraphically contemporary with WS I and PWS". This statement is also acceptable for Cilicia.

¹⁵ Kromholz divided the WS II bowls into two main groups according to the decorative patterns. Principal horizontal pattern consist of lattice or a pair of lattices or a number of parallel horizontal lines. For comparison for the parallel examples of Soli see especially A/B1, A/B 11, D/B1, J/B1 combinations. Kromholz 1978: 116; Malmgren 1999: 80 ff. Comp. for example; Artzy 2001: 109; Cadogan-Herscher-Russell- Manning 2001: 84 ff., fig. 12; Eriksson 1993: 58, fig. 2; South-Steel 2001: 66 ff.

¹⁶ e. Thutmosis III and onwards. LC IB late-IIA:1 Fischer 2001: 167. Tell el-Dabca: WS II body sherds found together with a rounded-bottomed squat jar and a bottle made from Nile clay imitating a RLWM ware spindle bottle which are common from the time of Thutmosis III onwards. Bietak - Hein 2001:179.

¹⁷ It is kind of a deep bowl with antithetic spirals, a lipless and one or two handle cup, see. Sanders 1985: fig. 102; Deger-Jalkotzy 1998: 360; fig. 2, no. 360.

¹⁸ Argolid is referred as the possible import center on the mainland. Goldman 1956: 206. Other variants are found in Cyprus, coastal Anatolia and even Palestine and generally made locally. Sanders 1985: 153.

¹⁹ French 1975: 70, 74; Mee 1978: 145. In Cilicia, Kazanlı has a high proportion of LH IIIC pottery. Mee 1976:151. Kinethöyük and Kilisetepe have smaller numbers in comparison for LBA levels. Todd 2001: 208. Mycenaean pottery is reported from 23 sites, either local or imported. Mee 1978: 150.

²⁰ It may be a local production because it is a coarse made cup imitating on LH IIIC type decoration. For example, Mountjoy 1999: fig. 123; Mommsen - Hertel - Mountjoy 2001: fig. 19, no.63.

As a result, the status of WS II and Mycenaean pottery in the stratigraphical context of Soli are exactly overlapped in different periods of Late Bronze Age such as LB Ila (14.24 - 15.87) and LB Iib (15.87 - 16.15)²¹. These two layers are separated with an ashy layer (15.87). As mentioned above, WS II sherds are associated with Red Lustrous Wheel Made (RLWM) juglet (fig. 8-9, 12 left), pilgrim flasks (fig. 14), pitchers with nipple base (fig. 10-11, 12 right) and a grooved monochrome stand (fig. 2), and a "drab ware" sherd with incised potmark (fig. 13); all are placed in the same context (around the Early Hittite Imperial walls). According to these findings, starting in the early phase of the Hittite Imperial period, ie. Tuthalia I/II (c. 1400 B.C.), it can be stated that there was both restricted coastal activities with Egypt and Cyprus and also the existence of some workshops with a standard mass production under the control of the state because of "drab ware". WS II's can be followed until the "urn layer" (16.00) which was found together with funerary offerings such as an Egyptian scarabe and the golden earring. The period between the fire level of HH (14.24) and ashy layer of Egyptian scarabe (15.98) can be dated from the middle of the XVth to end of the XIIIth c. B.C. Egyptian scarabe cannot be taken as a terminus ante quem for the Mycenaean sherds because it was reused as a funerary offering at the end of c. XIIIth c. B.C. But the upper part of this layer (16.15) can be seen as a dramatic turning point of Soli at the last phase of the Late Bronze Age. Since Mycenaean IIIC is one of the hallmarks of new people, Mycenaean pottery is certainly a useful indicator of foreign connections of Soli in the Late Bronze Age. It represents the arrival of a new cultural element in Cilicia²². This does not suggest a Mycenaean settlement but sporadic contacts, possibly with Cyprus. After these fire layers, Early Geometrical Style started to appear.

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²¹ As stated for Akko in Israel: "associated in their lowest level with local late LB pottery and with Cypriot White Slip II and Base Ring II, and in the higher levels with pottery akin to the Mycenaean IIIC: 1", Sherratt 1998: 304; footnote 24.

²² As Sherratt stated "It's clear that with the the loosening of tight Hittite control in this period coastal Cilicia also became active participant in maritime economic and cultural community which was rapidly created in the east Mediterranean". Sherratt 1998: 303; footnote 21.

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Figure 1 LB I Pottery



Figure 2 LB II grooved monochrome stand



Figure 3 HH bullae



Figure 4 HH bullae



Figure 5
Egyptian scarabe

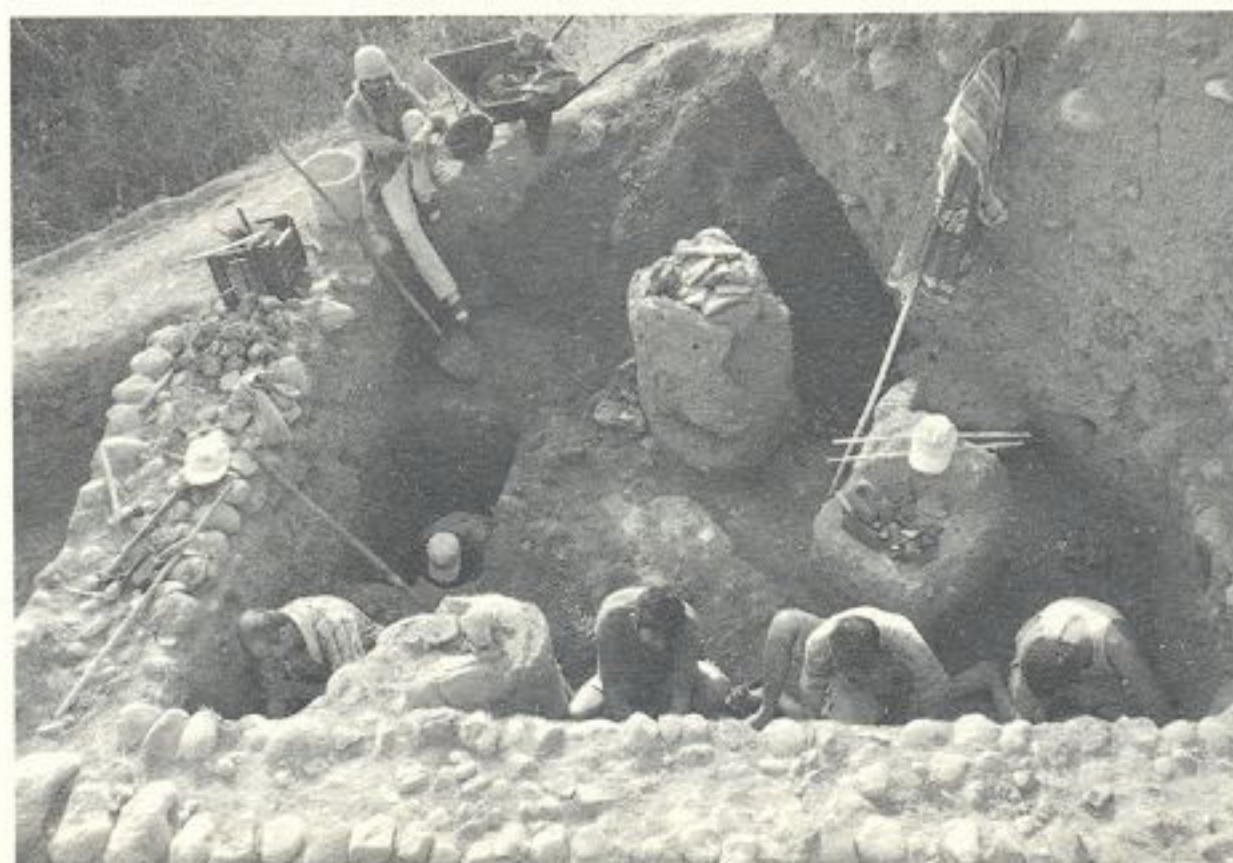


Figure 6
Hittite
Imperial Large
Complex Wall

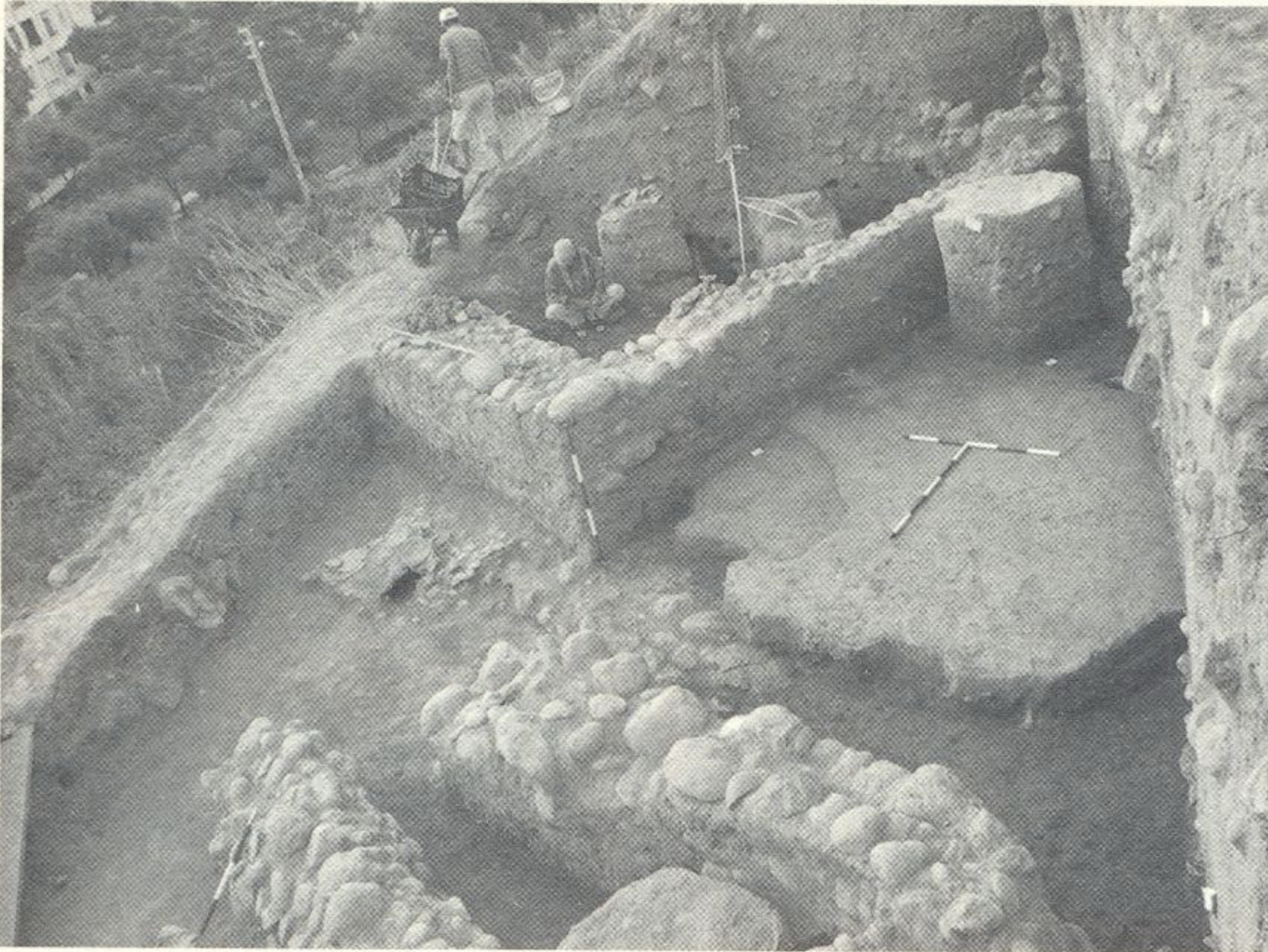


Figure 7
Hittite Imperial Large
Complex Wall

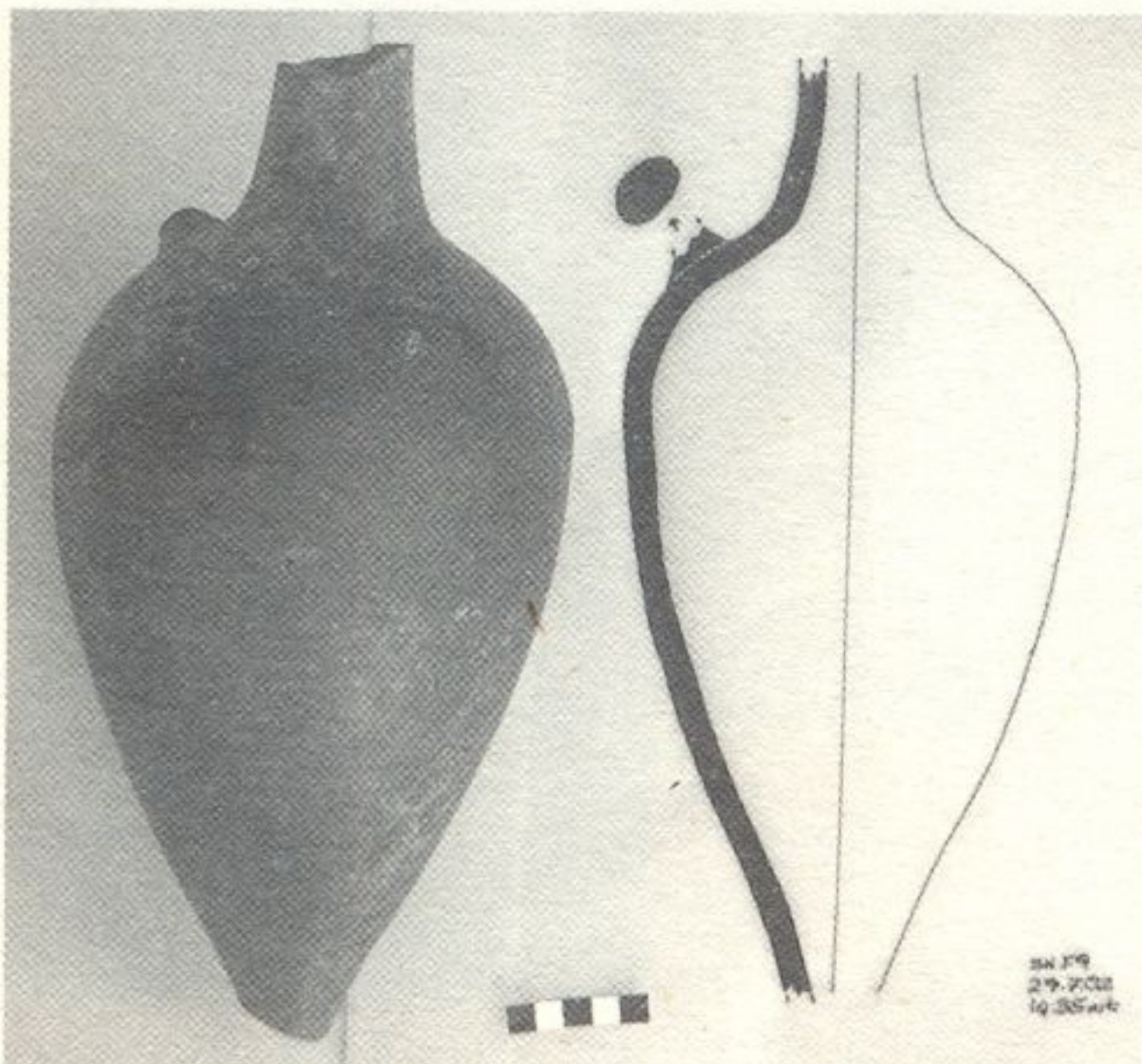


Figure 8 RLWM juglet

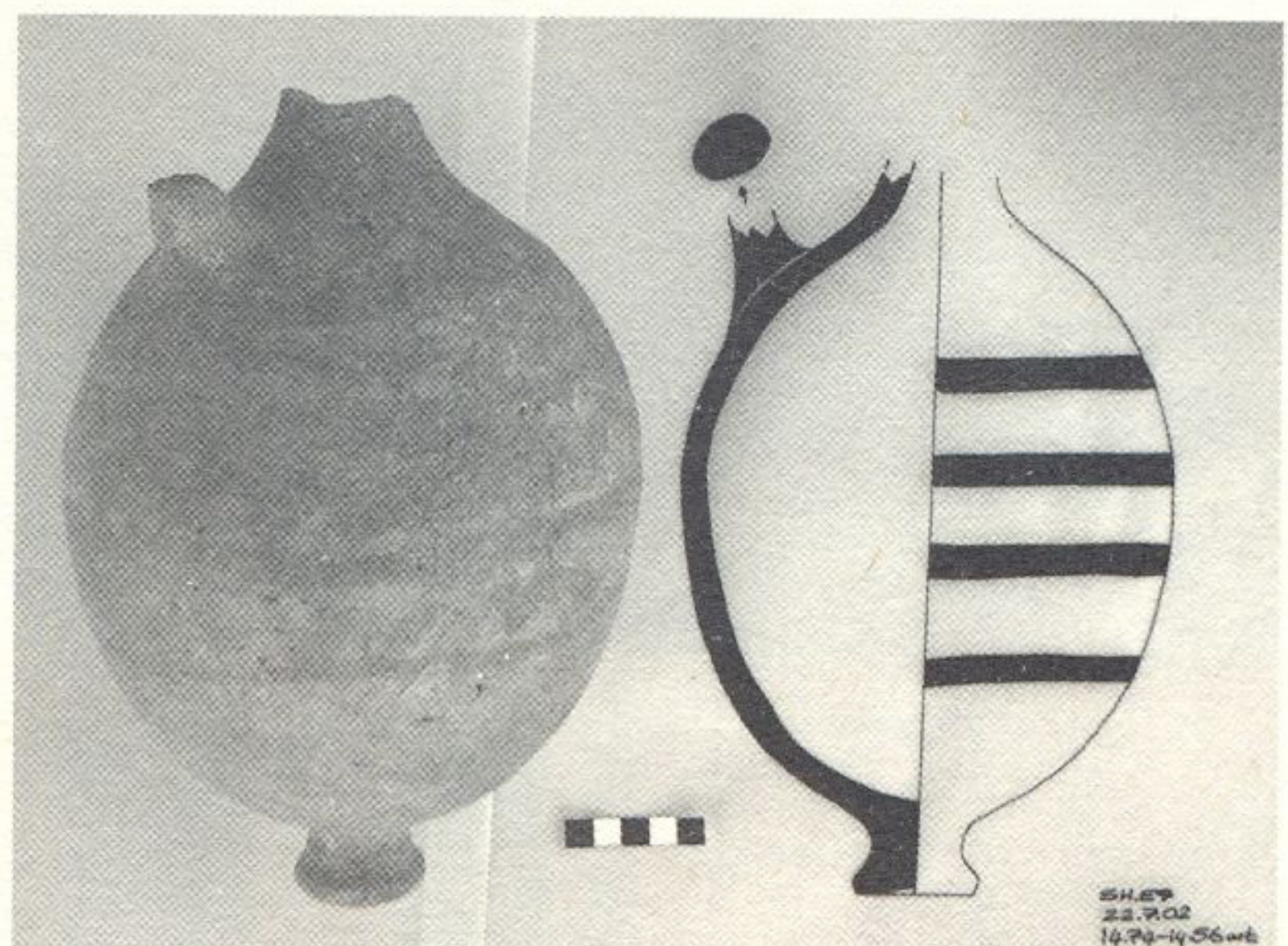


Figure 10 Pitcher with nipple base

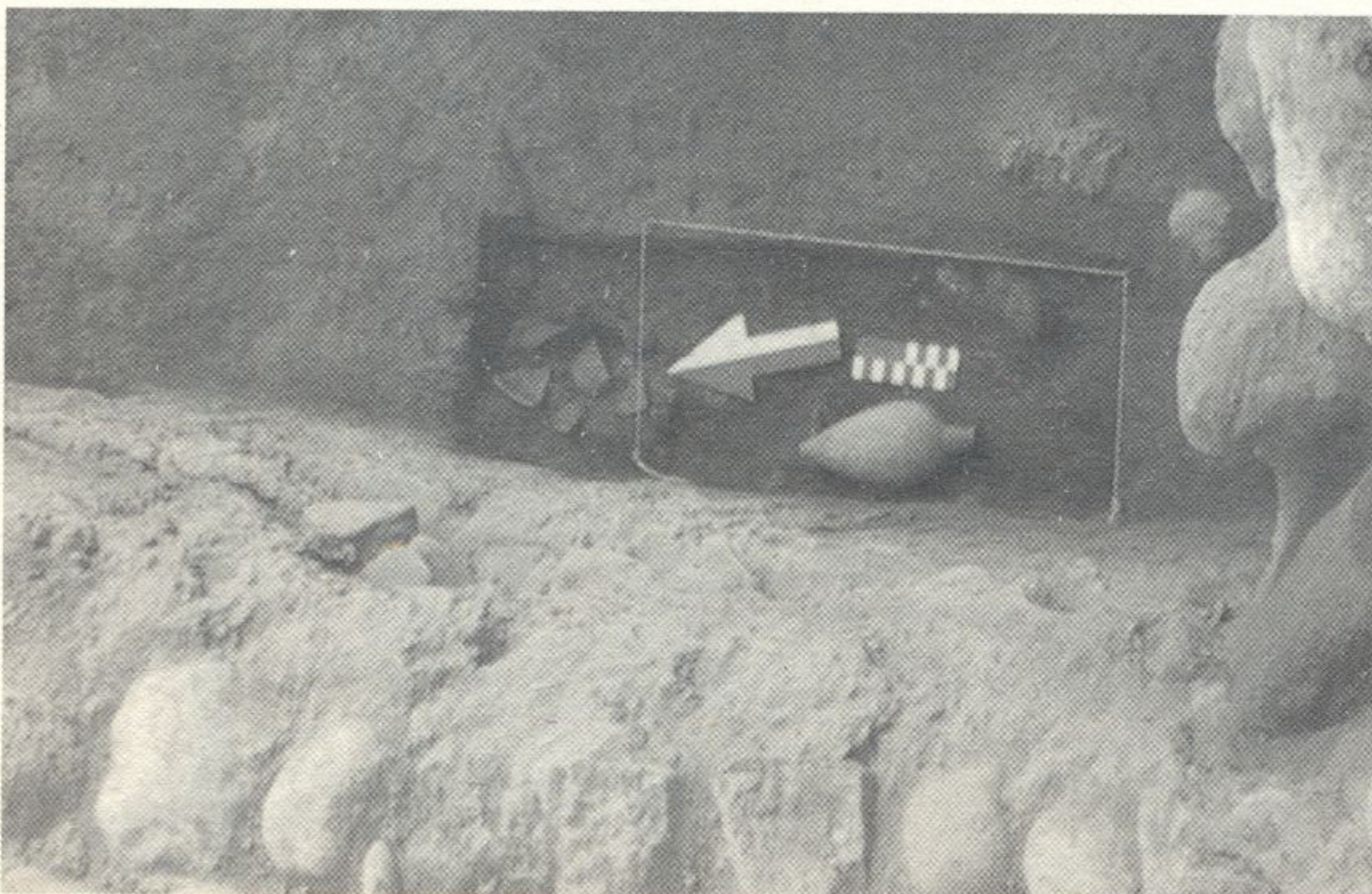


Figure 9
RLWM juglet

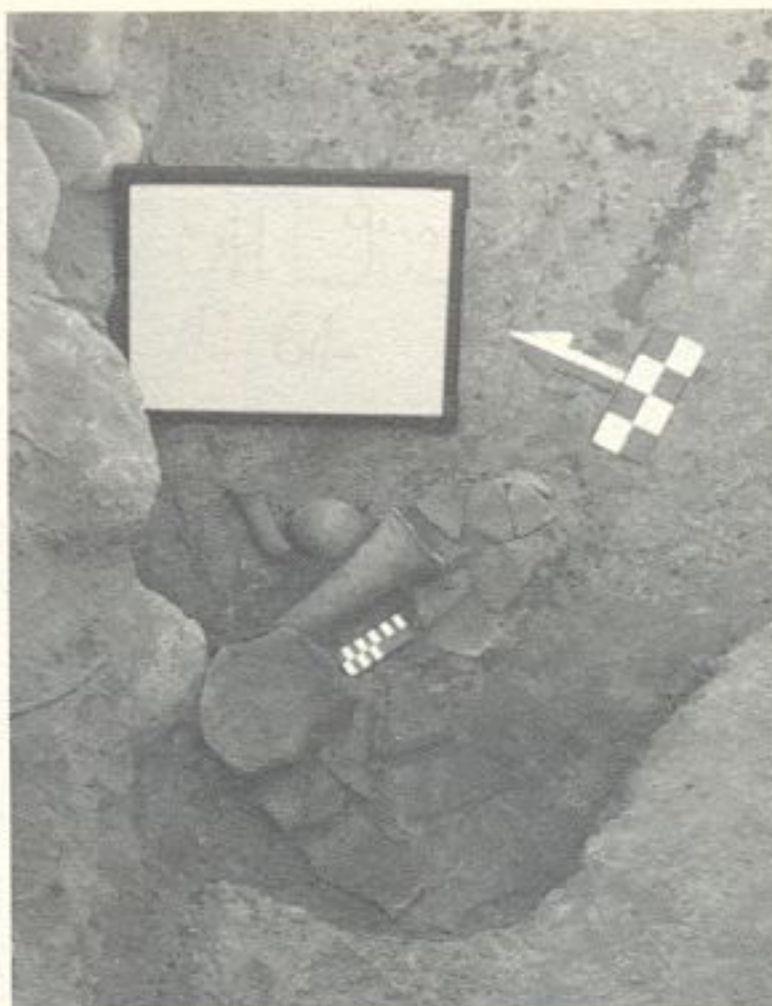


Figure 11
Pitcher with nipple base

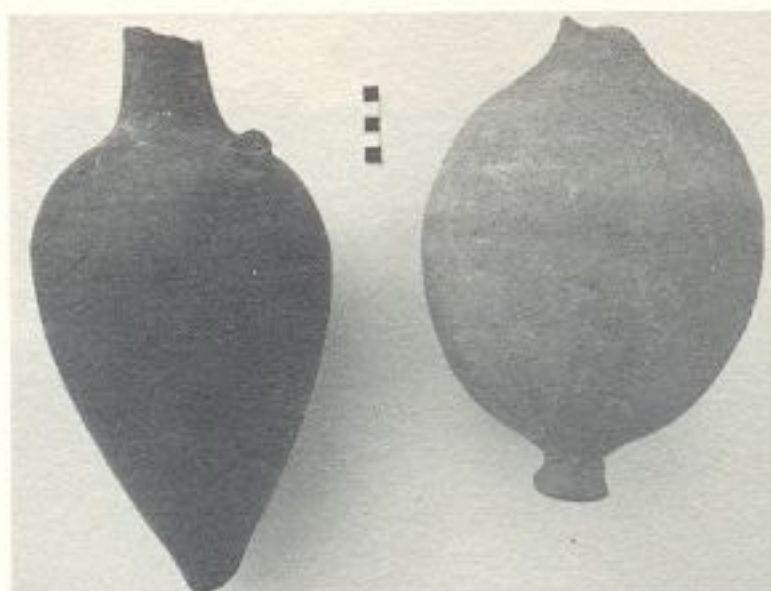


Figure 12 Pitcher with nipple base

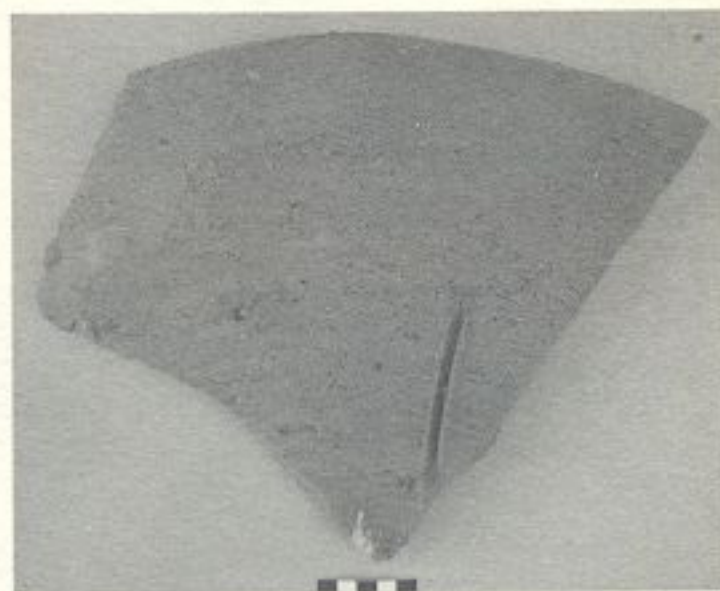


Figure 13 "Drab Ware" bowl with incised portmark



Figure 14a Pilgrim flask



Figure 14b Pilgrim flask

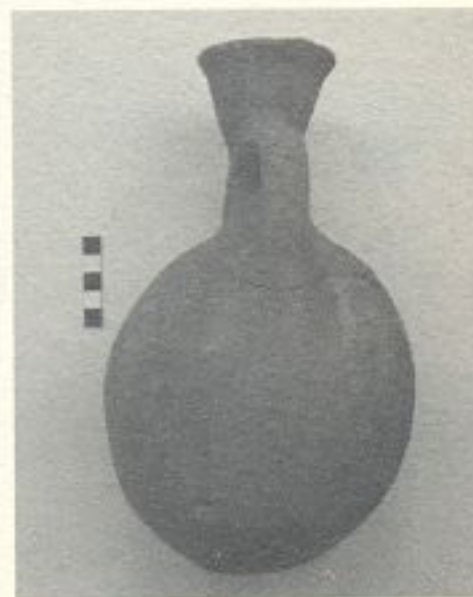


Figure 14c Pilgrim flask

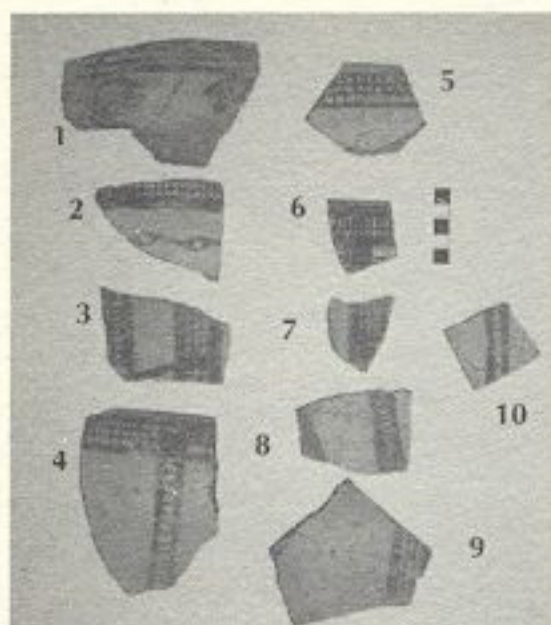


Figure 15 Cyprus WSII

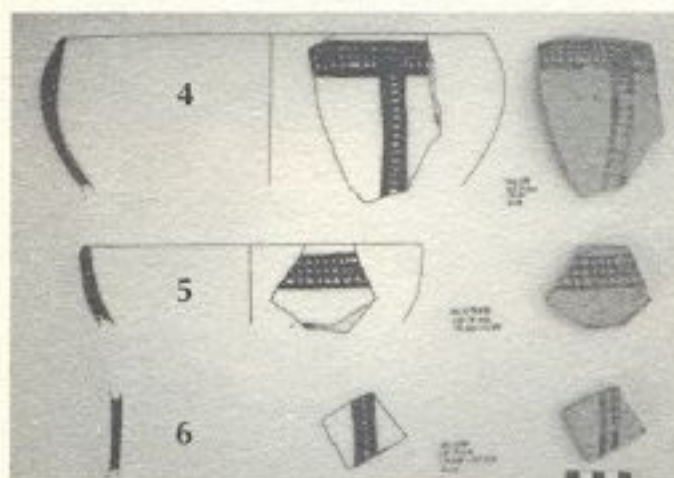
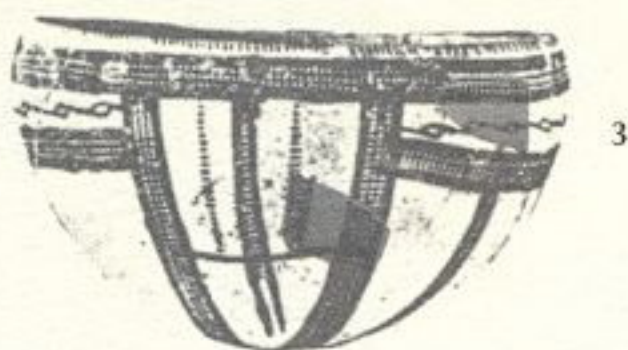


Figure 17

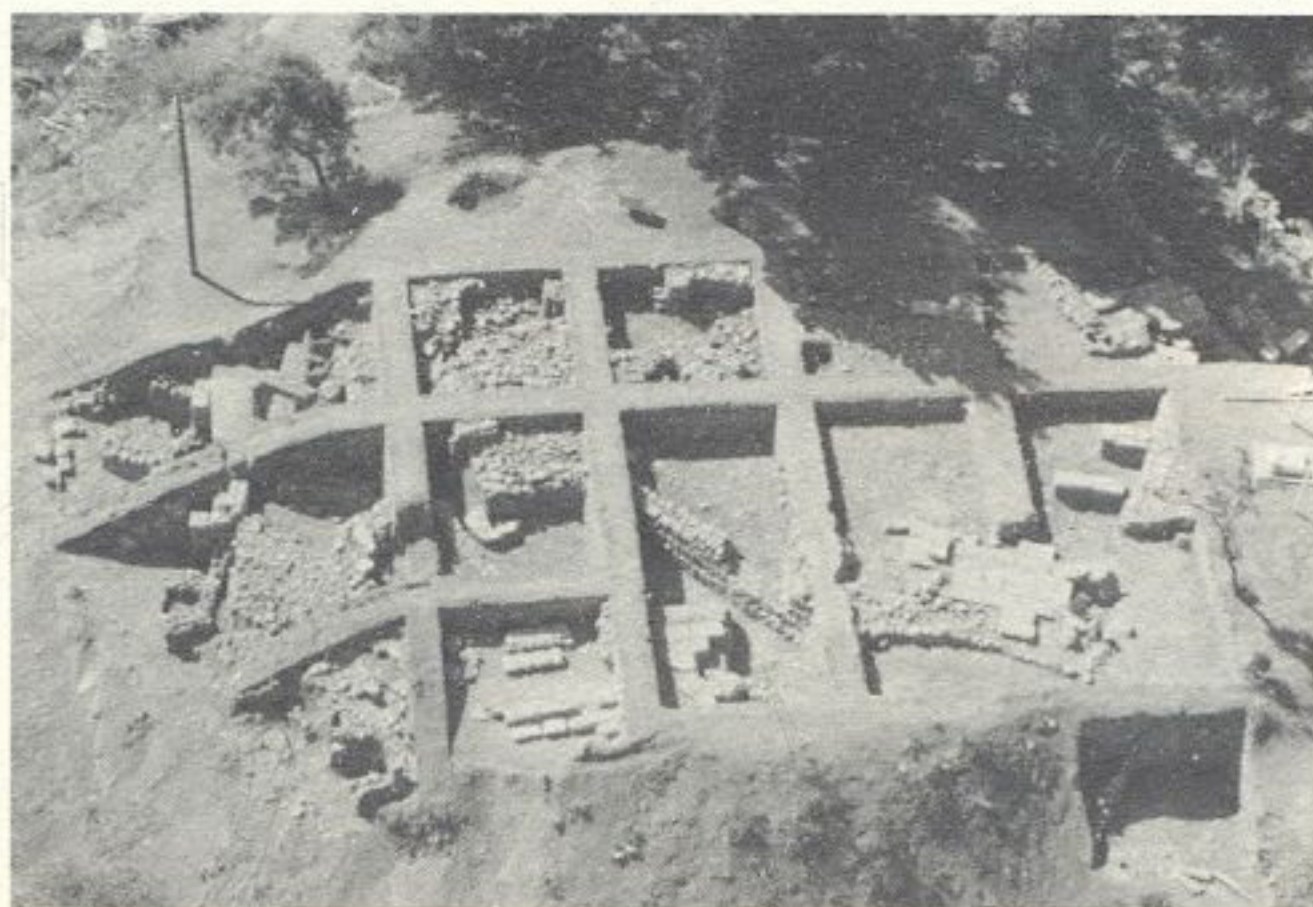
Figure 16
MontageFigure 18
Soli Höyük

F9



15.98 m

F9

No.1
(16.00 m)

D8



No.2 (17.79 m)

D6



No.3 (19.54 m)



Figure 19 LH IIIC type local cup



Figure 20 Mycenaean



Figure 21 Mycenaean



Figure 22 Mycenaean

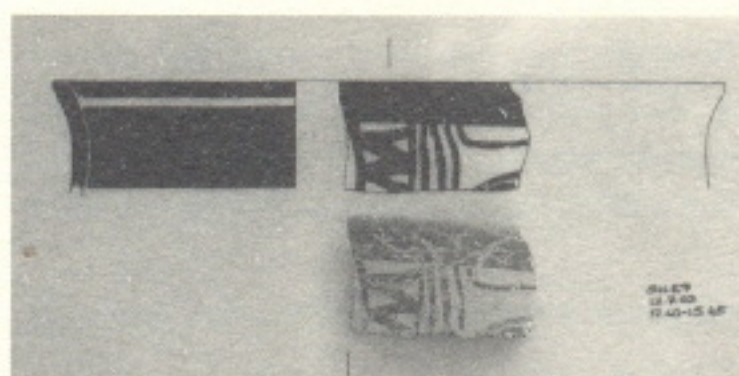


Figure 23 Mycenaean

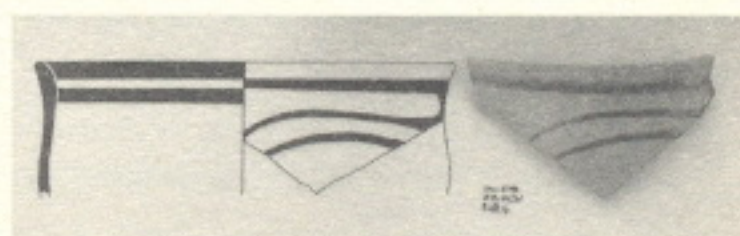


Figure 24 Mycenaean



Figure 25 WSII & Mycenaean sherds in E/F sections