

SAKÇAGÖZÜ MATERIAL IN THE GAZİANTEP MUSEUM

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After the completion of the new Museum in Gaziantep, the then Director, Bay Hasan Candemir, asked the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara to undertake the task of refurbishing and rearranging the material (in the Gaziantep Museum) from the 1949 excavations. It was not until 1986 that the B.I.A.A. was able to organize a team suitable for the work of restoration and refurbishment. Since 1986 two further seasons have been completed in the Museum of Gaziantep: Spring 1987 and Spring 1988. The report here is based on the activities of Spring 1986 and Spring 1987.

Introduction

The original work at Sakçagözü was, of course, carried out by Professor John Garstang who in 1908 and again in 1911 excavated on the site still called locally Cöba Höyük ("mound A"). His aim was to reveal the Iron Age relief sculptures which had been discovered there. During the course of excavation he encountered pottery and other remains which were clearly earlier than the period represented by the sculptures.

Professor Garstang also excavated at Songrus Höyük ("mound B") and took the opportunity to make trial excavations at Keferdiz Höyük ("mound C").

Later still, in 1949, a team under the directorship of Dr. John Waechter reopened the excavations at Cöba Höyük and carried out a small operation at the so-called "Cave" site (Waechter *et al.* 1951). Test sondages were made at two other sites in the region of Sakçagözü: Dağdan Höyük and Emmioğlu Höyük near the village of Hisar. The material from these sondages together with the sherds from surface surveys made by the excavators will be presented alongside the Cöba Höyük finds. It is the material from these latest excavations, sondages and surveys that is now stored in the depot of the Gaziantep Museum.

Records

The records of Garstang's excavations in 1908 and 1911 have been kept at the Institute of Archaeology, London (Ussishkin 1966: 15 *n.* 1). We are attempting to locate the records of the latest excavations. An inventory of registered objects was kept by the Excavation Komiser, Bayan Sabahat Göğüş.

Location of material

All the finds from the 1949 excavations and surveys are now stored, it seems, in the Gaziantep Museum. The bulk of the objects from 1908 and 1911 went to the Imperial Museum at İstanbul but a selection of the sherds, chipped stone and other materials was presented to Liverpool (as cited by Frankfort 1927: 154 *n.* 2 and reported by Garstang *et al.* 1937: 123). This group of objects is kept in the School of Archaeology and Oriental Studies at the University of Liverpool. Another group of the same objects was transferred to the Liverpool Museum and stored there in seven boxes. This is material published in Garstang's first interim summaries (Garstang 1908 and 1911) and again in his third, latest report (Garstang *et al.* 1937) (A. R. Millard pers. comm. 14.12.1987). A small selection of sherds and chipped stone from the 1908 season at Sakçagözü was received by the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, in 1909 and is now stored there (P. R. S. Moorey pers. comm. 04.03.1988).

Team

Tuğrul Çakar (photographer)
 David French
 Kirsty Norman (conservator)
 Johanna Pinder-Wilson (conservator)
 Françoise Summers
 Geoffrey Summers
 Anne Sutton (illustrator)

Procedures

In 1986 and 1987, the team water-washed, cleaned, marked (with black China ink) and sealed (with PVA) most but not all the sherds from the two sites: Coba Höyük and the “Cave”. The cleaned material was then stored in specially prepared wooden boxes and arranged on dexion shelving.

At the same time, all the remaining material from Coba Höyük and the “Cave” was put into boxes. In addition the unsorted and unwashed sherds from the sondages and surveys in the Sakçagözü area were stored in the same series of wooden boxes.

A certain amount of pottery was drawn and photographed. A selection is illustrated below.

Lists of all surviving material in the museum have been compiled and the register of inventoried objects re-constructed.

Bone and chipped stone have been sorted out and stored separately from the pottery.

Reconstruction of the Coba Höyük sequence has been based on the preliminary report (Taylor *et al.* 1950: 138).

David French and Geoffrey Summers have visited the sites and spoken on matters concerning the work and the trenches with the local villagers.

Acknowledgements

It is a tribute to Sinclair Hood’s assiduous work that so much of the excavation notation has been recovered. We are grateful to Alan Millard and to Roger Moorey for information concerning the Sakçagözü material.

Pottery

As an illustration of the work carried out in 1986 and 1987, a selection of the pottery material is described and illustrated here. Since a great deal of interest has been shown in the earliest sherds from Coba Höyük and in the date of the “Cave” pottery, this report illustrates two groups.

- (1) material from the earliest “period” = “digging levels” nos. 9 and 10 of trench B.1 on Coba Höyük
- (2) material from the so-called “Cave”.

(1) *Coba Höyük:*

The sherds from the earliest “digging levels” (B.1:9 and 10) on Coba Höyük fall into the category “Plain Burnished Ware”. Surface colours vary: red, brown, black, grey. Techniques of decoration include: (1) linear incision with or without white filling, (2) impression and (3) pattern-burnishing. Two techniques were often combined on the same sherd. Degrees of surface finish vary from very fine to perfunctory. Thickness of pot-wall varies according to shape.

It is clear that this Plain Burnished Ware both in technique and in shape bears

no relation to the early Plain Burnished Wares of the Amuq or of Mersin. This assessment reinforces the evidence published by Garstang and by Waechter *et al.*

(2) “Cave” site:

The pottery from the Sakçagözü “Cave” belongs almost entirely to the Ubaid period. In the patterned group of “Ubaid Wares”, there is some variation in the colour of the core and surface, in surface treatment and in colour of the paint. Alongside the patterned group there is a plain (or non-patterned) group, mostly buff coloured, and a plain burnished group, red and black coloured.

There appears to be no earlier or later material except for one or two pieces of EB simple ware and Hellenistic red ware.

CATALOGUE OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Scale of drawings = 1:4

Coba Höyük

“Halaf” ware: Fig. 1: 1–3

Plain Burnished ware: Fig. 1: 4–20; and Figs. 2–5

Sakçagözü Cave

Two-colour ware: Fig. 6: 1,2

“Ubaid” wares: Fig. 6: 3–14; and Figs. 7 and 8

Fig. 1 Coba Höyük B.1: 10

- 1 Black on buff (finds no. 292)
- 2 Black on buff (finds no. 293)
- 3 Brown on cream
- 4 Outside brown ?burnished; inside black
- 5 Outside buff burnished; inside brown
- 6 Brown burnished
- 7 Buff burnished
- 8 Black burnished
- 9 Buff
- 10 Brown/buff
- 11 Buff burnished
- 12 Buff grey
- 13 Red
- 14 Black burnished
- 15 Brown burnished
- 16 Black
- 17 Buff burnished
- 18 Brown burnished
- 19 Black burnished
- 20 Brown/buff

Fig. 2 Coba Höyük B.1: 10

- 1 Brown; grooved
- 2 Brown burnished; grooved
- 3 Pink/buff burnished; grooved
- 4 Brown; inside pattern burnished
- 5 Brown burnished; outside impressed; inside pattern burnished
- 6 Brown burnished; inside pattern burnished
- 7 Outside black burnished; inside brown design burnished
- 8 Black burnished; outside impressed
- 9 Black burnished; vertical ridges
- 10 Brown
- 11 Buff
- 12 Buff burnished; ribbed

- 13 Brown/buff; ribbed
- 14 Buff burnished; ribbed

Fig. 3 Caba Höyük B.1: 9

- 1 Buff burnished
- 2 Buff burnished
- 3 Buff burnished
- 4 Brown burnished
- 5 Black burnished
- 6 Brown burnished
- 7 Buff burnished
- 8 Black burnished
- 9 Black burnished
- 10 Brown burnished
- 11 Black burnished
- 12 Dark brown burnished
- 13 Buff
- 14 Buff
- 15 Red buff burnished
- 16 Brown burnished

Fig. 4 Caba Höyük B.1: 9

- 1 Grey; incised
- 2 Black burnished; incised
- 3 Red
- 4 Brown
- 5 Buff burnished
- 6 Brown/black burnished
- 7 Brown/buff burnished
- 8 Brown burnished
- 9 Outside red/brown burnished; inside black
- 10 Buff

Fig. 5 Caba Höyük B.1: 9

- 1 Brown burnished; outside impressed
- 2 Brown burnished; outside impressed; inside pattern burnished
- 3 Brown burnished; outside impressed; inside pattern burnished
- 4 Black burnished; outside impressed; inside pattern burnished
- 5 Brown burnished; outside impressed; inside pattern burnished
- 6 Brown burnished; outside impressed; inside pattern burnished
- 7 Brown/buff burnished; outside impressed; inside pattern burnished
- 8 Brown burnished; inside pattern burnished
- 9 Brown burnished; inside pattern burnished
- 10 Dark brown burnished; inside pattern burnished
- 11 Black burnished; outside impressed; inside pattern burnished
- 12 Buff burnished; inside pattern burnished
- 13 Buff burnished; inside pattern burnished
- 14 Brown burnished; inside pattern burnished
- 15 Black burnished; incised

Fig. 6 Sakçagözü Cave

Letters are trench designations; levels are bracketed and followed by the original sherd numbers.

- | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | A (3 III) | 324 Orange and pale brown on buff |
| 2 | B (4) | 449 Orange and dark brown on buff |
| 3 | B (1-2) | 359 Black on buff |
| 4 | A (3 II) | 214 Black on buff |
| 5 | A (3 II) | 255 Brown on buff |

6	A (3 II)	182 Brown/black on buff
7	A (3 III)	304 Black on buff
8	B (3 III)	441 Dark brown on buff
9	A (3 I)	32 Brown on buff
10	A (3 III)	310 Brown on cream
11	C (PIT 1)	460 Brown on cream
12	A (3 I)	23 Brown on cream
13	A (3 I)	49 & 36 Brown on buff
14	C (PIT 1)	462 Brown on buff

Fig. 7 Sakçagözü Cave

1	B (3 I)	370/377 Red on cream
2	A (3 I)	? Brown on red
3	B (3 I)	384 Brown on red
4	A (3 II)	196 Brown on red
5	C (PIT 1)	455 Brown on red
6	A (3 III)	307/103 Brown on red
7	A (3 III)	298 Brown on red
8	B (3 III)	444 Brown on red
9	B (3 I)	375 Brown on red
10	A (3 I)	102/81 Red and cream
11	A (3 I)	10? Brown on cream
12	B (3 II)	430 Brown on buff
13	C (PIT 1)	459 Brown on buff

Fig. 8 Sakçagözü Cave

1	A (3 II)	282 Dark brown on brown
2	A (3 II)	184 Dark brown on buff
3	B (3 I)	379 Brown on buff
4	A (3 II)	243 Buff
5	A (1-2)	4 Buff
6	A (3 II)	286 Red
7	A (3 II)	257 Red
8	A (1-2)	5&2 Red burnished outside & inside rim
9	A (1-2)	1 Red
10	A (1-2)	19 Red
11	A (3 II)	264 Buff
12	A (3 II)	262 Red
13	A (3 II)	274 Buff
14	A (3 II)	276 Red
15	A (3 II)	290 Buff

CONCORDANCE

Fig. 1 no. 1 = *Iraq* 12 (1950) fig. 12 no. 1Fig. 1 no. 2 = *Iraq* 12 (1950) fig. 12 no. 2Fig. 2 no. 5 = *Iraq* 12 (1950) fig. 12 no. 9

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Fig. 1.

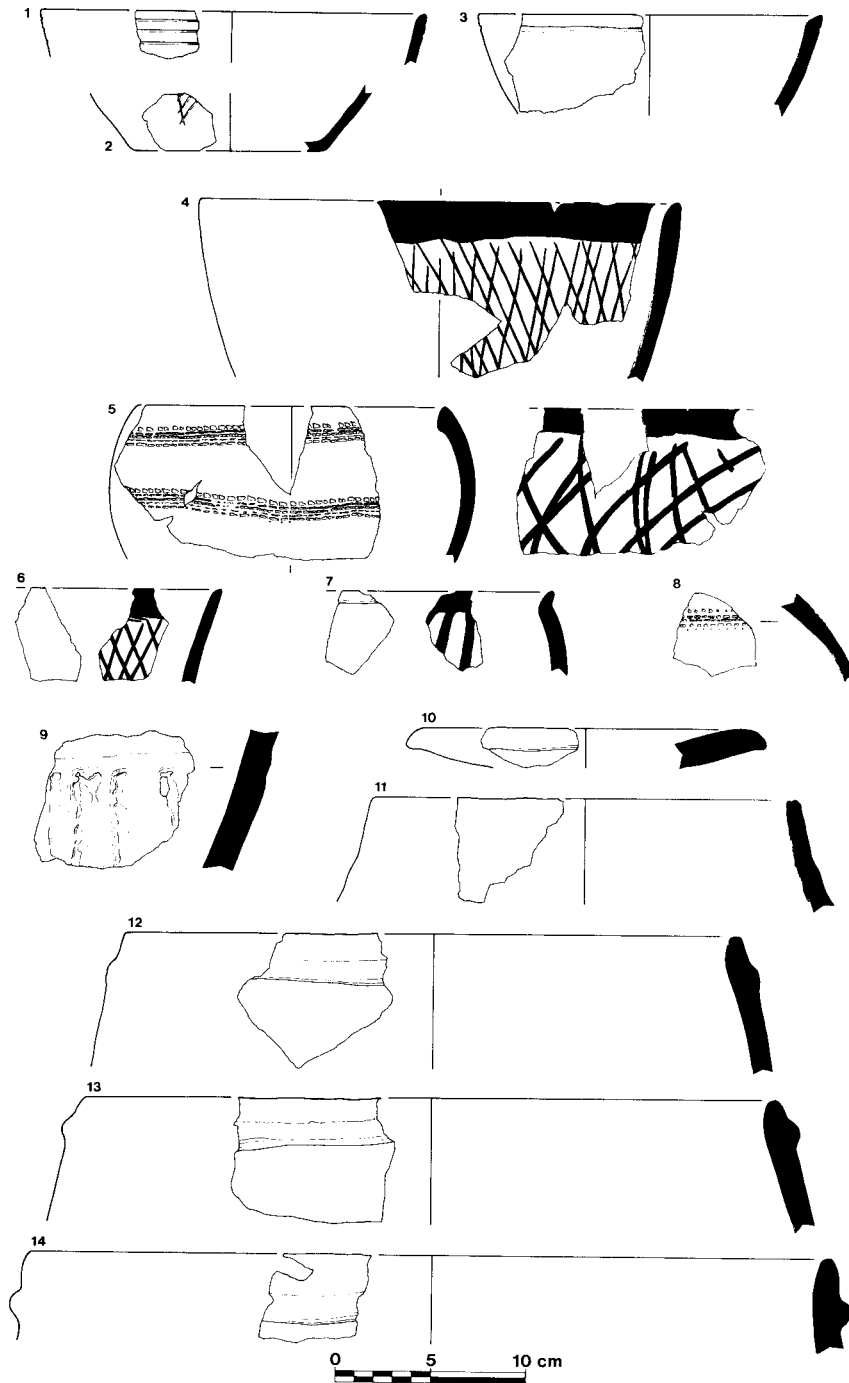


Fig. 2.

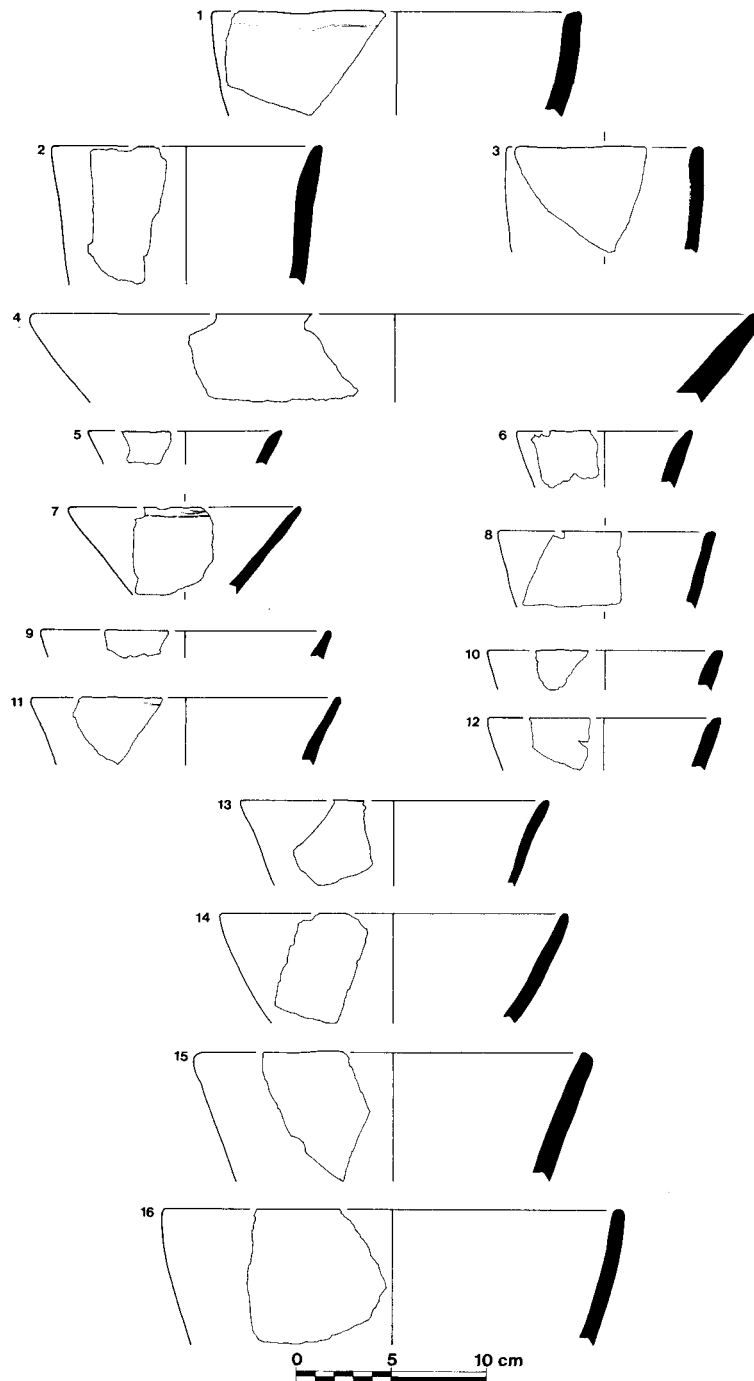


Fig. 3.

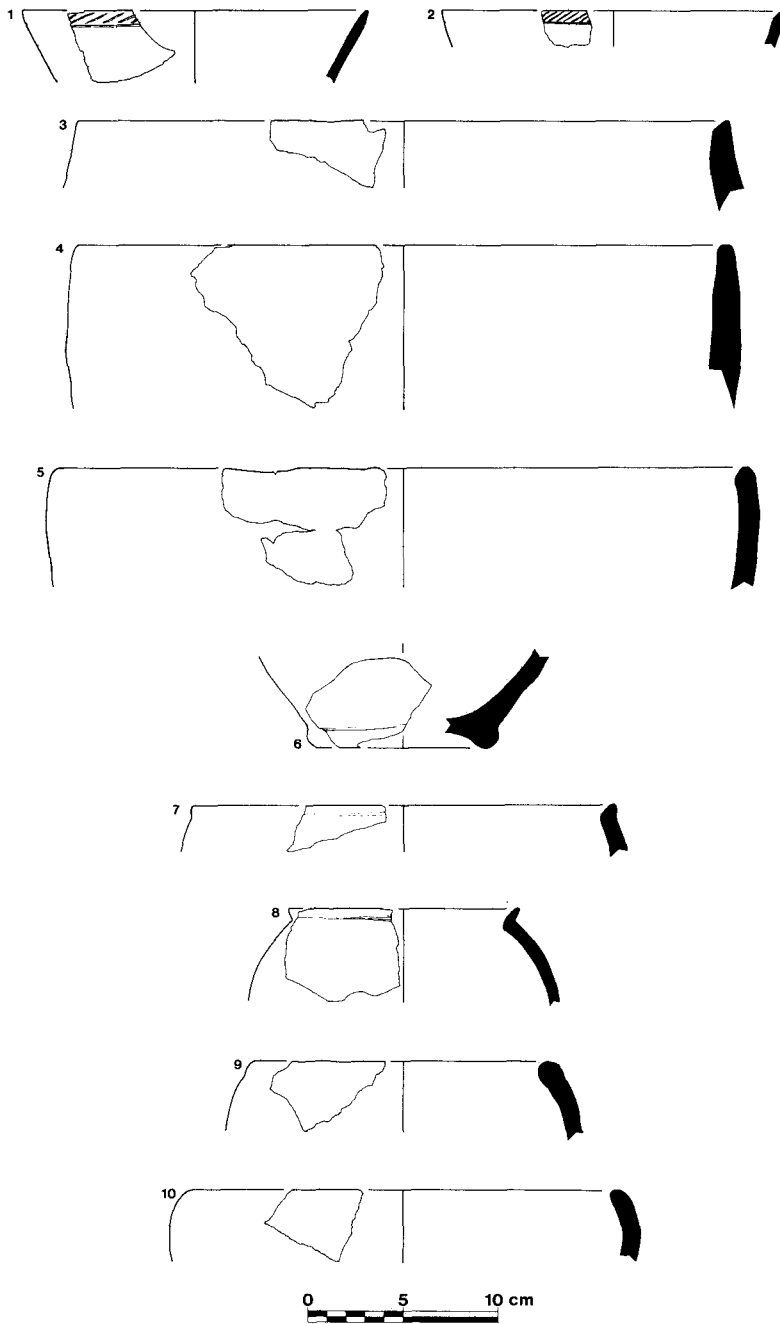


Fig. 4.

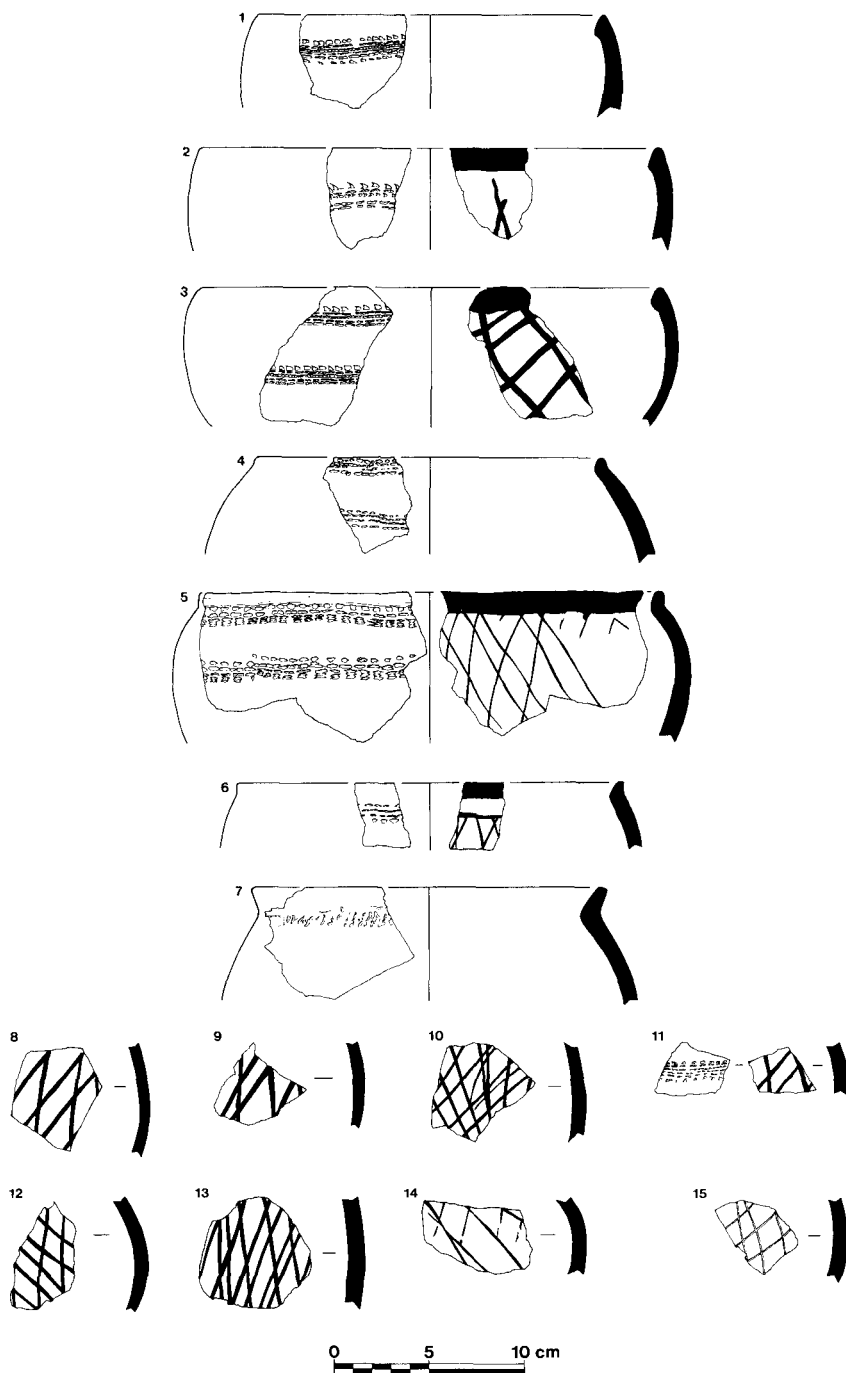


Fig. 5.

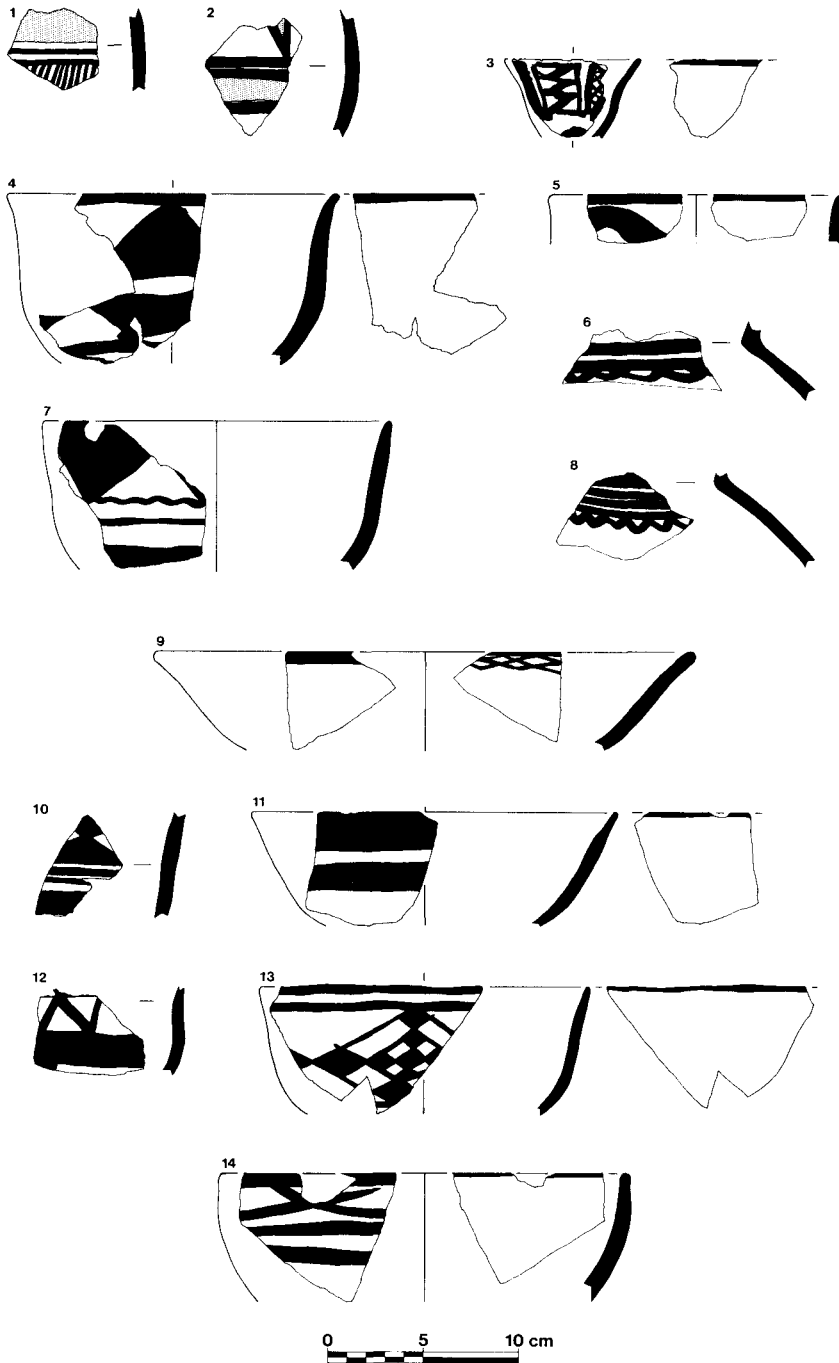


Fig. 6.

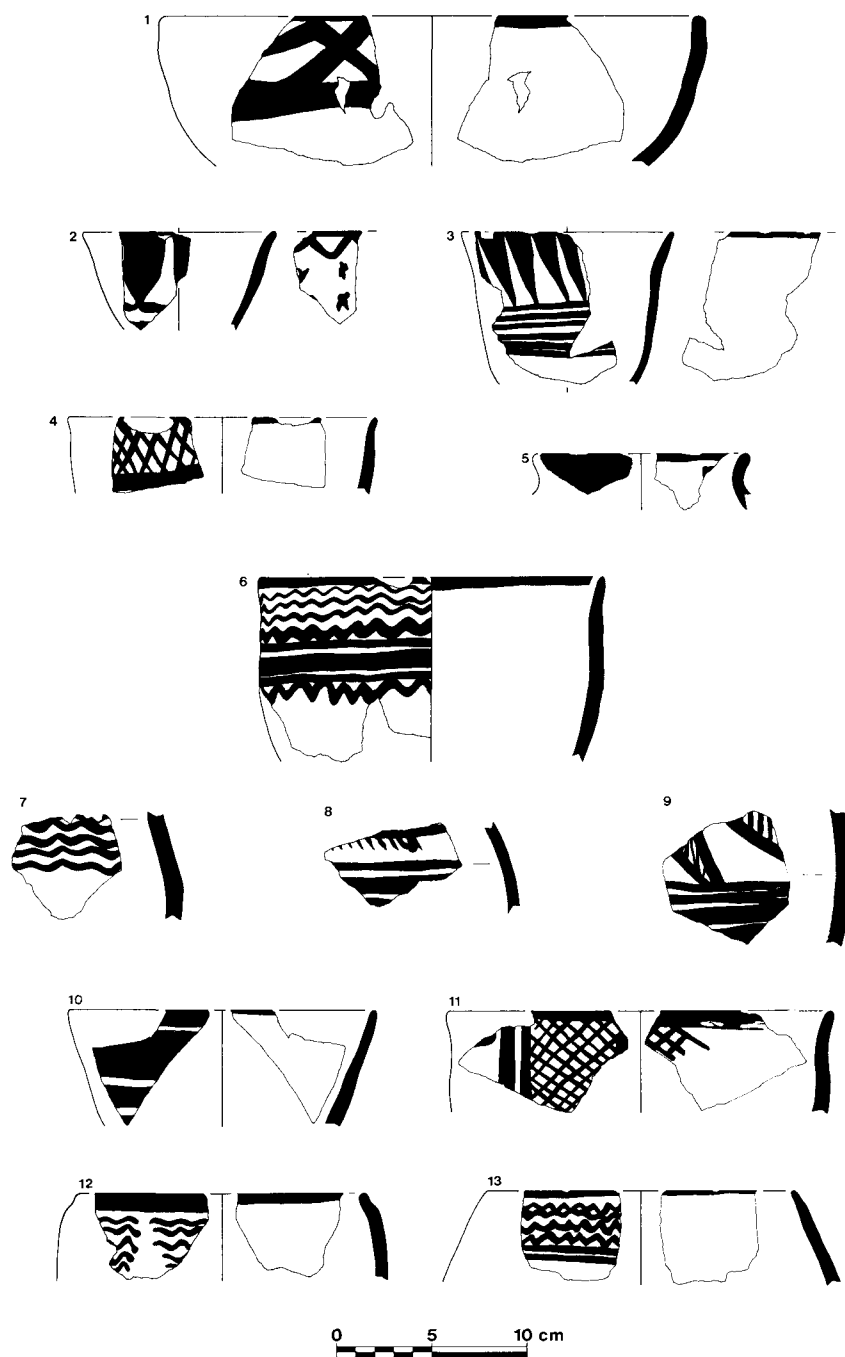


Fig. 7.

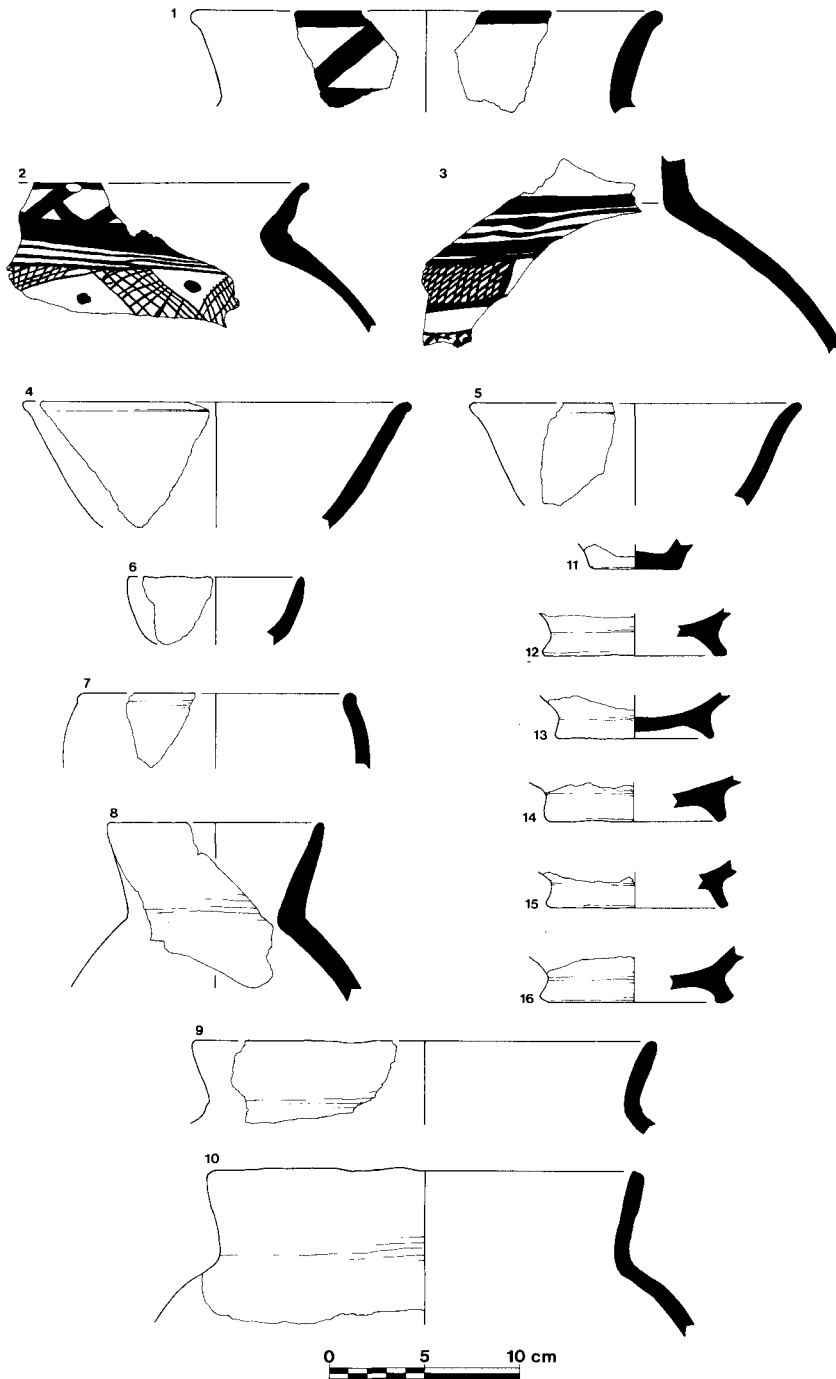


Fig. 8.