

# ラーファイダーン

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- シリア，ハッサケ市近郊タバン遺跡の発掘調査：1999年度調査概報（英文）  
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- メソポタミアの塩——セレウコス朝からササン朝時代まで——（英文）  
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## AL-RĀFIDĀN

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## EXCAVATION AT TELL TABAN, HASSAKE, SYRIA (3): REPORT OF THE 1999 SEASON OF WORK

Katsuhiko OHNUMA\* and Hirotohi NUMOTO\*\*

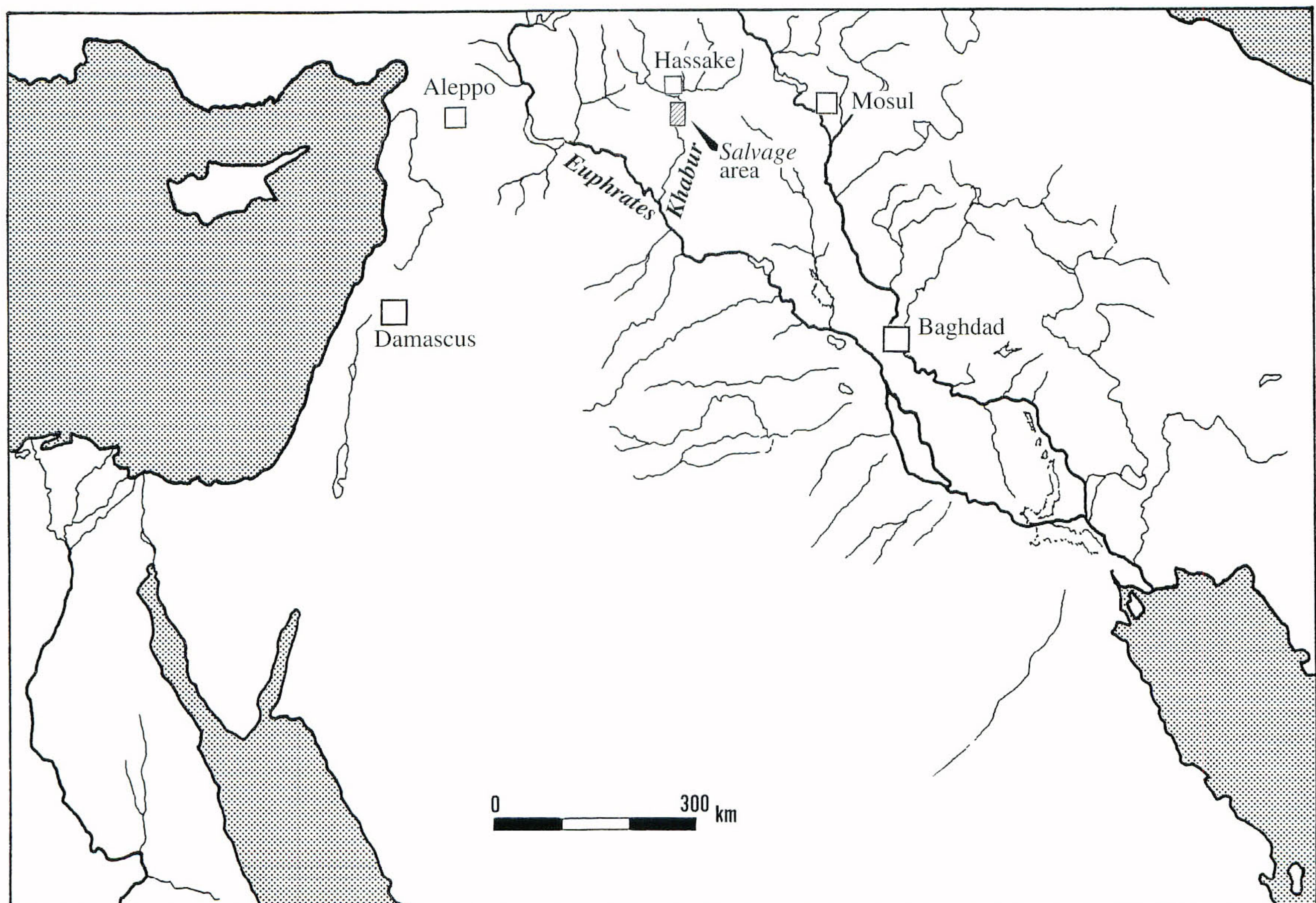
### I. Introduction

The archaeological site of Tell Taban (36°20'N and 40°47'E) is located in the *Salvage* area along the Middle Khabur in the suburbs of the city of Hassake, some 500 km north-east of Damascus, the capital city of the Syrian Arab Republic (Figs. 1 and 2).

In October to December of 1997, the archaeological mission from the Institute for Cultural Studies of Ancient Iraq of Kokushikan University conducted the first season of three years' excavation campaigns at this site. These three years' campaigns were aimed to widen and deepen our knowledge of Mesopotamian history accumulated through field works in Iraq, particularly through excavations in Eski-Mosul near the Iraqi-Syrian border, 50 km north of the city of Mosul.

The first campaign resulted in more than a mere success, yielding parts of Middle Assyrian and Mitannian buildings and, noteworthily, baked-clay cuneiform pieces including two fragments of cylinder inscriptions and two fragments of baked bricks with cuneiform letters [Ohnuma et al. 1999].

Translation and interpretation of these inscription pieces by Professor Dr. Stefan Mario Maul of the

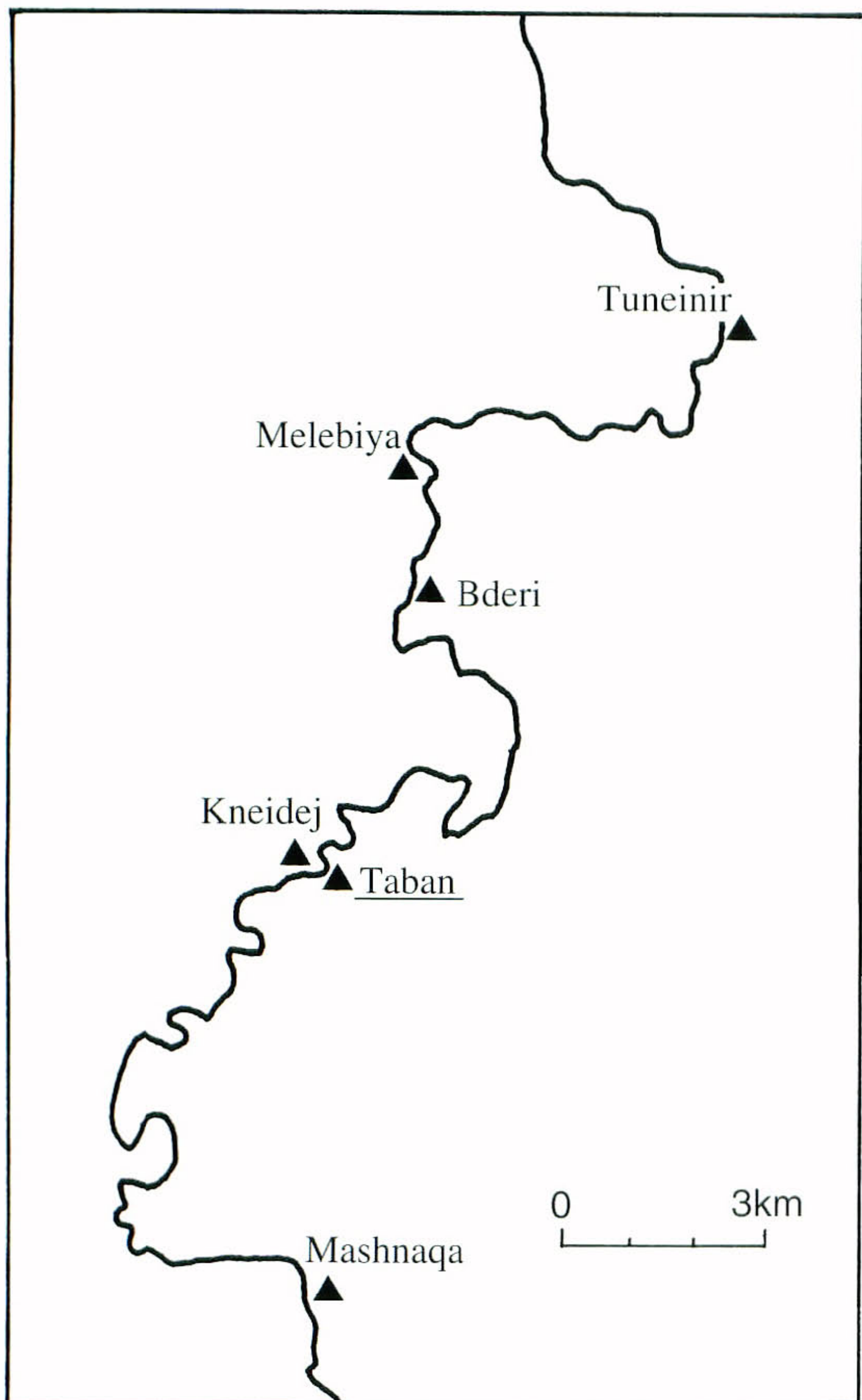


**Fig. 1** Map showing the location of the Hassake *Salvage* area

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**Fig. 2** Map showing the locations of Tell Taban and other sites in the Hassake Salvage area

unearthed in the first campaign in 1997 [Ohnuma et al. 2000].

Most of the inscription pieces from the second campaign were unearthed from the floor levels of the Middle Assyrian buildings in undisturbed archaeological contexts, and as such provided us with information that could be more reliably used in research than the pieces from the first campaign in 1997.

After analyzing these inscription pieces, Professor Maul clarified that the three cylinder inscription pieces from Levels 6 and 8a, like the pieces from the first campaign, had been left by Aššur-Kettī-Lēšer at the time of the eponym Mudammeq-Bel during the reign of Tiglatpileсар I. He also made it clear that these inscription pieces describe that Aššur-Kettī-Lēšer had restored the walls and the city gate of Ṭābētu.

From September 25 to November 7 of 1999, the third or the last season of the three years' campaigns was carried out (Pls. 1 and 24), and the results of this campaign are reported in the present paper.

The staff members of the third campaign were Katsuhiko Ohnuma and Hirotohi Numoto, with Mr. Oorham Nano representing the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums of the Syrian Arab Republic. Professor Dr. Stefan Mario Maul joined the mission to analyze all the cuneiform data from Tell Taban. In spite of a rather short stay in Hassake, he produced excellent analysis results, and we greatly appreciate his joint work and thank him for his heart-warming cooperation.

Before and during the field works at Tell Taban, we received kind help and invaluable suggestion from Professor Dr. Sultan Muhesen, the former Director General of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums of the Syrian Arab Republic, and we express to him our sincerest gratitude. Mr. Abdul Masih Bagdoo, Head of the Department of Antiquities in Hassake, kindly gave us daily help, and

Seminar für Sprachen und Kulturen des Vorderen Orients, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg clarified that they describe the name of the ancient city Ṭābētu and the name of a Middle Assyrian local king Aššur-Kettī-Lēšer, who had called himself “the King of the Land of Mari” during the reign of the Middle Assyrian King Tiglatpileсар I (reign: 1114 ~ 1076 B.C). Professor Maul also made it clear that these pieces describe that the king Aššur-Kettī-Lēšer had built a palace-like building at Ṭābētu [Maul 1999].

Thus, the first campaign finally proved that Tell Taban itself was the ancient city Ṭābētu, and validated the location of Ṭābētu thus far estimated by German scholars through their years of research in the Khabur region including excavations at the site Tell Bderi, 6 km north of Tell Taban [Forrer 1921:144; Röllig and Kühne 1977/1978:127; Pfälzner 1986/1987; Maul 1992].

The second campaign undertaken in September to November of 1998 again yielded fragments of baked clay cuneiform cylinder inscriptions and of baked bricks with cuneiform letters, as well as potsherds with cuneiform letters, similar specimens to which had not been



Mr. Edward Youkhanna, our car driver, was always with us toward the completion of the field works. And, we thank both of them for their warm cooperation. All of the works at Tell Taban in this last campaign were realized with the budget of Kokushikan University and the grant-in-aid for 1999 from the Science Research Promotion Fund of the Japan Private School Promotion Foundation, and we express our thanks to both of the organizations for their kind help.

In the final form of the present paper, Ohnuma is responsible for Sections I and IV, Numoto is responsible for Section III, and Ohnuma and Numoto are responsible for Section II.

## II. Excavation

In this season, we excavated in Trench III, 23 m × 8 m, set up into the east direction from Trench II in which we had excavated in the second campaign in 1998 (Figs. 3 and 4). Trench III was established along a series of walls that had been exposed by the increase of the Hassake Dam water in the early spring of 1998 (Pl. 2). Setting-up of this trench was determined in order to clarify natures of buildings associated with the exposed series walls.

In Trench III, floor levels of the Middle Assyrian periods and the associated walls of different sizes were uncovered. It was confirmed that all these walls had been built using the older ones as foundation and that they had been repaired several times. A brief description of these levels, structural remains and findings from them is given below in the order from the upper levels downwards (Figs. 4 and 5).

**Level 5:** In this level, one burial urn of the New Assyrian period was unearthed (Pl. 3-a). This urn measures 60 cm long and 30 cm wide, and we confirmed that it had been buried down from the upper levels. Human bones of a single infant and potsherds of the Middle Assyrian period were unearthed from this level, as were two fragments of baked bricks with cuneiform letters (Pl. 3-b).

**Level 6:** A mud-brick wall (Pl. 4-a), 70 cm thick, with the remaining length of 2 m and running in the north-south direction was uncovered in this level. Potsherds of the Middle Assyrian period and one fragment of baked brick with cuneiform letters were unearthed from this level. A grave measuring 170 cm long and 60 cm wide was uncovered, of which the upper part was covered with mud-bricks (Pl. 4-a). Extended human skeleton of an adult was unearthed from this grave (Pl. 4-b), together with ornaments such as bronze ring, carnelian necklace and faience beads (Pl. 49-a).

**Level 7:** Potsherds of the Middle Assyrian period were unearthed, but no structural remains were uncovered from this level.

**Level 8a:** This level is 15 to 20 cm thick and was mixed by black ash. No structural remains were uncovered, but Middle Assyrian potsherds and two fragments of baked bricks with cuneiform letters were unearthed from this level.

**Level 8b:** A wall running in the south-north direction, 150 cm thick and 130 cm in the remaining height, was uncovered in this level (Pls. 14 and 15-a). Potsherds of the Middle Assyrian period and one pit-grave of the Middle Assyrian period (Pl. 5-a) was unearthed from this level. We confirmed that this pit-grave had been made by digging from the upper levels. From this grave, upper part of a child's body was unearthed with funeral goods such as a finely made earring, of which the bronze core was wrapped with gold (Pls 5-b and 49-b). On a hardened floor reminiscent of a corridor (Pls. 9 and 10), layers of collapses from a Huge Wall (HW1-2/1-3), 150 to 200 cm in thickness, were uncovered (Pl. 9-b). The upper part of these layers yielded two fragments of baked-clay cylinder inscriptions and one fragment of pottery with cuneiform letters (Pls. 6 to 8). From the lower part of these layers, one fragment of clay nail and five fragments of baked bricks with cuneiform letters were unearthed.

**Level 9a:** Uncovered in Level 9a was a wall, probably of the same size as the one in the overlying Level 8b. This level is a floor directly lying on the brick pavement below (Pls. 11 and 12-a), and potsherds of the Middle Assyrian period were unearthed from it. The brick pavement was still in use at the time of this level, but for a different use, most probably functioning as a cooking room. In fact, many animal bones, a stone mortar and a pottery-made drainage were unearthed associated with this





Fig. 3 Contour map of Tell Taban

level (Pls. 15-b, 16 and 17-a). Many pebbles and fragments of baked bricks and pottery, which formed the deposit between the underlying brick pavement and the overlying lowest part of Level 8b, seem to have been used for levelling. From this deposit, fifteen fragments of baked bricks with cuneiform letters (Pl. 13-a), one clay nail, two potsherds like clay nail (Pl. 13-b), and one baked earthen plate with decoration were unearthed.

**Level 9b:** In this level, a wall with the thickness of 160 cm was uncovered. We confirmed that this wall continued from the wall uncovered in Trench II in the second campaign in 1998. We uncovered the



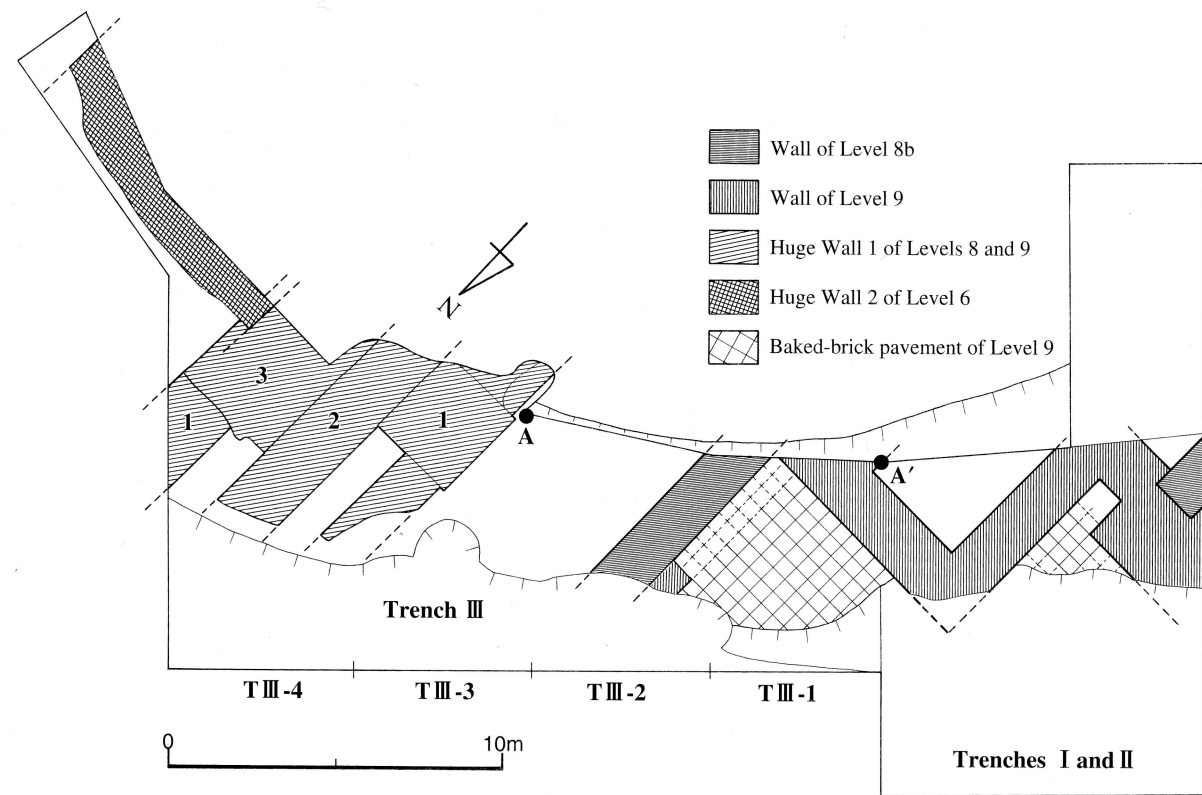


Fig. 4 Plan of Trenches I (1997), II (1998) and III (1999) at Tell Taban

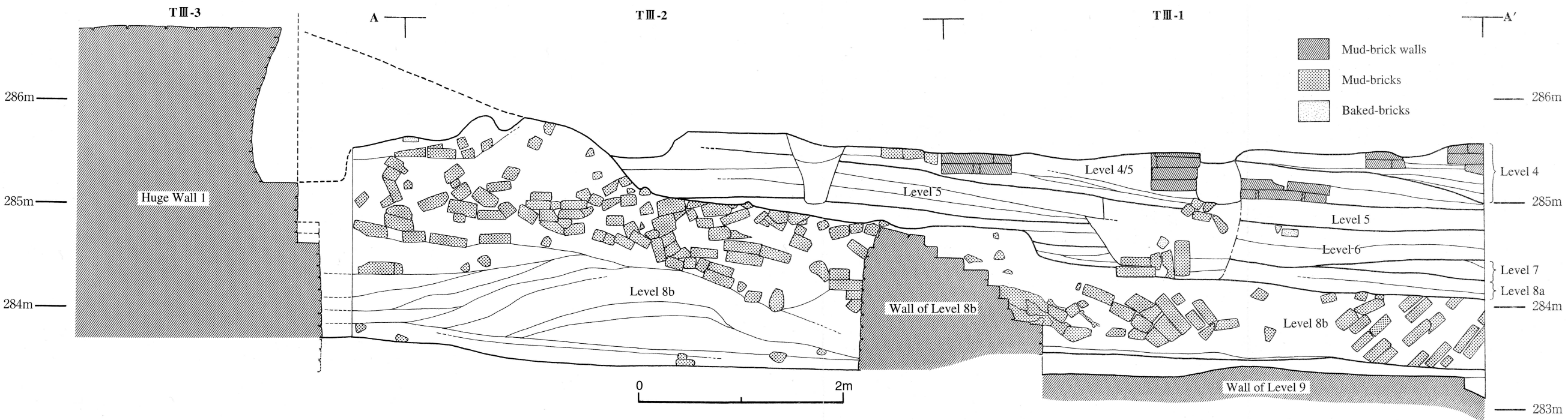


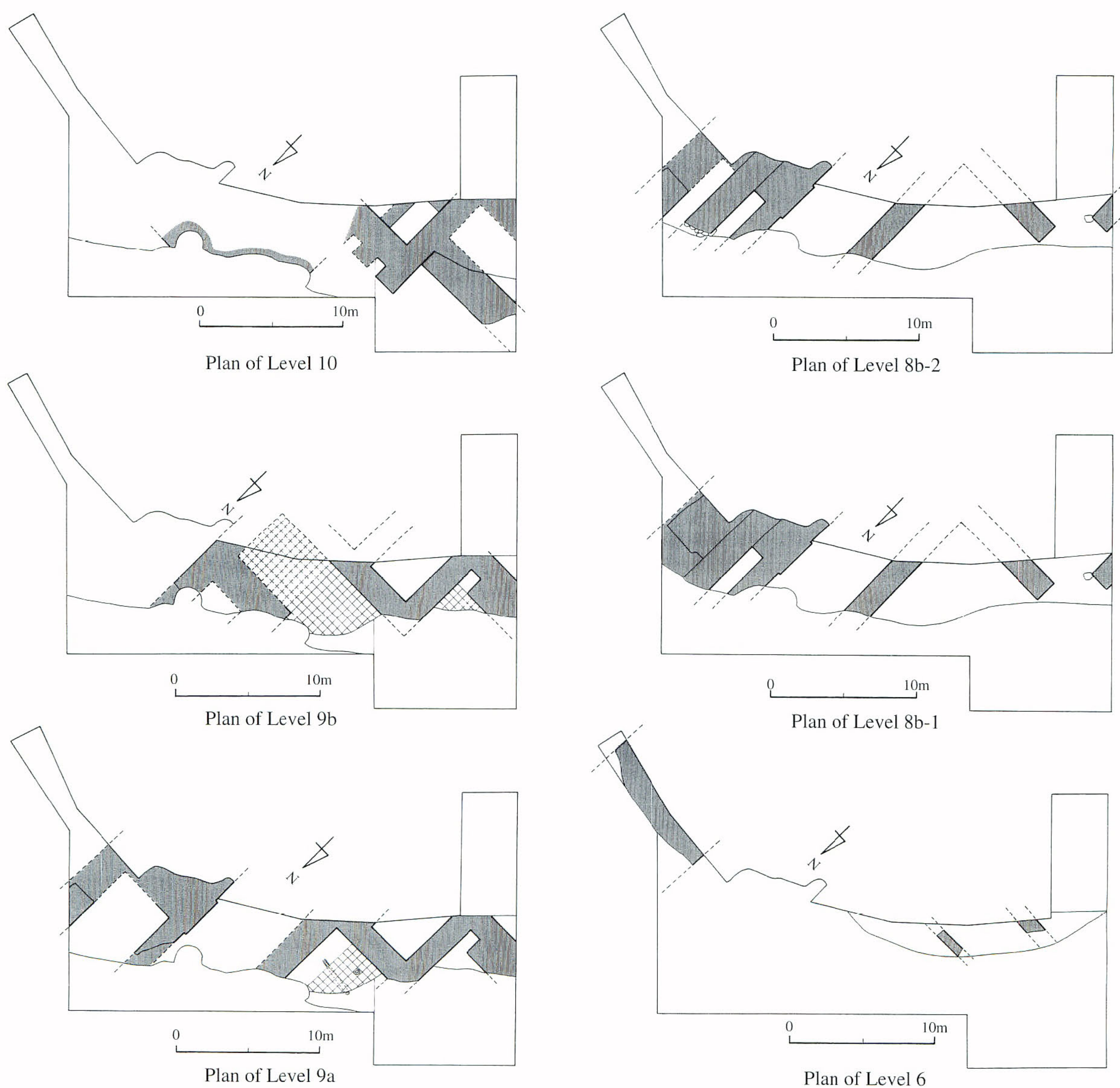
Fig. 5 A-A' section of Trench III



brick pavement in the area of  $4\text{ m} \times 4\text{ m}$ . A part of this brick pavement had been already confirmed in Trench II in the 1998 campaign. The bricks used for this pavement are  $47\text{ cm} \times 47\text{ cm}$  and  $5.5\text{ cm}$  thick (Pl. 12-b). We could not confirm any cuneiform letters on these bricks, however. It was made clear that the brick pavement had been associated with the Level 9b walls, which led us to suppose that there had existed a courtyard-like space at the time of this level in the areas we excavated. Potsherds of the Middle Assyrian period were found on the brick pavement, and two fragments of baked bricks with cuneiform letters were found inside a floor underlying the HW1-1 (Pl. 22).

**Huge walls:** After examining the Huge Walls (Pl. 17-b), we confirmed that the Huge Wall 1 (HW1) (Pls. 18 to 20), which had been first constructed at the time of Level 9a, had been rebuilt twice at the time of Level 8b. We also confirmed that the Huge Wall 2 (HW2) (Pl. 23) was later constructed along the HW1. The brief history of construction and reconstruction of the Huge Walls is given below (Fig. 6).

(1) Level 9b: Any Huge Wall was not constructed at the time of this level. Afore-mentioned floor made of pebbles, flat stones and fragments of baked bricks of this level underlies the HW1-1 (Phase 1 of Huge Wall 1) (Pl. 21), so this floor was not associated with it. It appears most probable that this floor



**Fig. 6** History of construction / reconstruction of Huge Walls at Tell Taban



was outside the 9b building.

(2) Level 9a: The HW1-1 running in the south-north direction and having a room inside was constructed at the time of Level 9a. It seems that this wall was more than 8 m thick.

(3) Level 8b-2: The HW1-1 was still in use at the time of this level, but the HW1-2 (Phase 2 of Huge Wall 1) was constructed by adding a wall, 2 m thick, at the center of the Level 9a room mentioned above. The HW1-2 is 1.2 m in the remaining height from the floor, and the height of piles of bricks added on the HW1-1 is 3 m as seen in a truncated section at the site. The bricks for the added wall are creamy, orange and whitish in colour, and differ in this respect from the bricks for HW1-1.

(4) Level 8b-1: After the rooms of Level 8b-2 had been buried, the HW1-3 (Phase 3 of Huge Wall 1) was constructed by adding a wall, 3.5 m thick, on the eastern part of the HW1-1. The HW1-3 is 2.5 m in the remaining height at the truncated section. The bricks for the added wall are dark grey in colour, and in this respect differ from the bricks for the earlier phases of the Huge Wall 1.

(5) Level 6: When the HW1-3 was abandoned, completely buried and became like a hillock, another huge wall was constructed along its eastern slope. This new huge wall HW2 (Huge Wall 2) with the thickness of 8 m seems to have run in the south-north direction like the Huge Wall 1. The bricks used for the HW2 are dark greenish-grey in colour, and are the same as the bricks for the Level 6 walls uncovered in Trench II.

### III. Findings

#### Pottery

A large number of potsherds of the Middle Assyrian periods were unearthed from levels 9 to 5, but complete pottery specimens are extremely rare with the exception of one bowl from Level 9b (Fig. 7–10, Pl. 48-c). Details of representative specimens are presented in the <Catalogue of pottery specimens> below.

<Catalogue of pottery specimens> (Figs. 7 to 9)

— In Fig. 7 —

1. Bowl (from Level 5 in Grid TIII-2): reddish buff outer and inner surfaces and core (5YR6/6); fine sand and a medium amount of vegetable (1–5 mm long) inclusions; wet-smoothed on the bottom after pallet-cut; supposed rim diam. 10.1 cm; base diam. 4.6 cm; height 3.7 cm; bottom complete; 1/3 of the body and 1/8 of the rim extant.
2. Round-base bowl (from Levels 6 or 8a in Grid TIII-1): creamy white (10YR9/2) and pinkish cream (5YR8/4) outer surface; pinkish cream (5YR8/4) inner surface and core; fine sand, sparse vegetable (1–7 mm long) and coarse chalky particles inclusions; scraped on the lower part of the outer surface using the wheel-turn; supposed rim diam. 14.6 cm; height 5.1 cm; bottom complete; 1/3 of the rim extant.
3. Bowl (from Level 5 in Grid TIII-2): greenish outer and inner surfaces and core (10Y8/2); fine sand, sparse chalky particles and a large amount of vegetable (1–7 mm long) inclusions; base made by scraping; carbide sticking on the inner surface and rim of outer surface; two grooved lines incised on the outer surface of the rim; fragile; supposed rim diam. 18.0 cm; base diam. 5.5 cm; height 6.1 cm; bottom complete; 2/3 of the body and 1/12 of the rim extant.
4. Small bowl (from Level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-3): greenish cream (10Y9/2) outer and inner surfaces and core; sparse fine sand inclusions; fine fabric; hard; three grooved lines incised on the outer surface of the rim; supposed rim diam. 6.5 cm; base diam. 3.1 cm; height 2.3 cm; 1/3 of the rim and 4/5 of the base extant.
5. Small bowl (from Level 8b in Grid TIII-2): greenish cream (7.5Y9–8/2) outer and inner surfaces and core; fine sand and a large amount of vegetable (1–8 mm long) inclusions; supposed rim diam. 8 cm; supposed base diam. 2.9 cm; height 3.0 cm; 1/6 of the rim extant; 1/4 of the base and the body extant.
6. Bowl (from Level 9b in Grid TIII-3): reddish buff (5YR7–6/6) and cream (2.5Y9/2) outer surface; reddish buff (5YR7–6/6) inner surface and core; fine sand, chalky particles and a medium amount of vegetable (1–8 mm long) inclusions; wet-smoothed on the bottom after pallet-cut; supposed rim diam. 10.0 cm; base diam. 3.8 cm; height 3.7 cm; 1/6 of the rim and 4/5 of the body extant; bottom complete.
7. Bowl (from between Levels 9a and 8b in Grid TIII-1): greenish white (7.5Y8/2) outer and inner surfaces and core; sparse fine sand and a large amount of vegetable (1–7 mm long) inclusions; pallet-cut on the bottom; supposed rim diam. 9.0



- cm; supposed base diam. 2.1 cm; height 2.4 cm; 1/3 of the rim and the base extant.
8. Bowl (from Level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-3): dark cream (10YR9-8/2) outer and inner surfaces; pinkish buff (5YR8-7/4) core; sparse fine sand and a medium amount of vegetable (1-8 mm long) inclusions; wet-smoothed on the bottom after pallet-cut; supposed rim diam. 10.0 cm; base diam. 4.1 cm; height 3.0 cm; 1/4 of the rim extant; 1/2 of the body and the base extant.
  9. Bowl (from Levels 8b to 9a in Grid TIII-1): cream (5Y9/2) outer and inner surfaces; light buff (5YR6/5) core; sparse fine sand and a medium amount of vegetable (1-5 mm long) inclusions; wet-smoothed on the bottom after pallet-cut; rim diam. 10.1 cm; base diam. 4.0 cm; height 3.0 cm; 1/2 of the rim extant; 2/3 of the body and the base extant.
  10. Bowl (from Level 9b in Grid TIII-2): creamy white (7.5Y9/2) outer and inner surfaces; sparse fine sand and a medium amount of vegetable (1-5 mm) inclusions; wet-smoothed on the bottom after pallet-cut; rim diam. 14.0 cm; base diam. 4.1 cm; height 3.7 cm; complete (Pl. 48-c).
  11. Bowl (from Level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-4): greenish (7.5Y7/3) outer and inner surfaces and core; sparse fine sand and a medium amount of vegetable (1-7 mm long) inclusions; wet-smoothed on the bottom after pallet-cut; base made by scraping; supposed rim diam. 13.0 cm; base diam. 4.7 cm; height 3.4 cm; 1/4 of the rim and 2/3 of the body extant; bottom complete.
  12. Bowl (from between Levels 9a and 8b in Grid TIII-1): reddish buff (5YR7-6/6) outer surface and core; creamy white (10YR9/2) inner surface; sparse fine sand and a medium amount of vegetable (1-5 mm long) inclusions; pallet-cut on the bottom; supposed rim diam. 14.2 cm; supposed base diam. 4.2 cm; height 3.7 cm; 1/4 of the rim extant; 1/3 of the body and the base extant.
  13. Bowl (from Level 8b (lower) in Grid TIII-2): greenish (10Y9-8/2) outer and inner surfaces and core; sparse fine sand and vegetable (1-3 mm long) inclusions; pallet-cut on the bottom; supposed rim diam. 14.1 cm; base diam. 4.1 cm; height 3.8 cm; 1/3 of the rim and the body extant; 1/2 of the base extant.
  14. Bowl (from Level 8b (floor) in Grid TIII-2): light buff (7.5YR7/5) outer surface; light reddish buff (5YR7-6/6) inner surface and core; sparse fine sand and vegetable (1-4 mm long) inclusions; pallet-cut on the bottom; supposed rim diam. 14.9 cm; base diam. 4.5 cm; height 4.2 cm; 1/20 of the rim and 1/3 of the body extant; 1/2 of the base extant.
  15. Bowl (from Level 8b (lower) in Grid TIII-2): greenish white (7.5Y9-8/2) outer surface; reddish buff (5YR7-6/6) inner surface and core; sparse fine sand, coarse sand and vegetable (1-5 mm long) inclusions; wet-smoothed on the bottom after pallet-cut; supposed rim diam. 18.0 cm; supposed base diam. 6.4 cm; 1/4 of the rim, the body, and the base extant.
  16. Bowl (from between Levels 9a and 8b in Grid TIII-1): light buff (2.5YR7/5) and greenish cream (5Y9-8/2) outer and inner surfaces; light buff (2.5YR7/6) core; sparse fine sand and vegetable (1-5 mm long) inclusions; wet-smoothed on the bottom after pallet-cut; supposed rim diam. 21.8 cm; base diam. 7.1 cm; height 5.6 cm; 1/4 of the rim and the body extant; bottom complete.
  17. Bowl (from Level 9a in Grid TIII-3): greenish white (7.5Y9-8/2) outer and inner surfaces; buff (2.5YR7/5) core; sparse fine sand and a large amount of vegetable (1-5 mm long) inclusions; wet-smoothed on the bottom after pallet-cut; carbide sticking on the outer and inner surfaces; rim diam. 21.5 cm; base diam. 6.9 cm; height 7.1 cm; 1/2 of the rim extant; bottom complete (Pl. 48-d).
  18. Bowl (from Level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-2): creamy buff (10YR8/3) outer and inner surfaces; reddish buff (5YR7-6/6) core; sparse fine sand, coarse sand and a medium amount of vegetable (1-5 mm long) inclusions; pallet-cut on the bottom; supposed rim diam. 22.3 cm; supposed base diam. 8.7 cm; 1/16 of the rim and 1/6 of the base extant.
  19. Bowl (from Level 9b in Grid TIII-3): greenish white (10Y9/2) outer and inner surfaces; reddish buff (5YR7/5) core; sparse fine sand and a medium amount of vegetable (1-10 mm long) inclusions; pallet-cut on the bottom; supposed rim diam. 27.7 cm; supposed base diam. 8.3 cm; 1/5 of the rim and 1/10 of the base extant.

—In Fig. 8 —

20. Nipple-base sherd (from Levels 4/5 in Grid TIII-1): greenish (7.5Y7/3) outer and inner surfaces and core; sparse fine sand and vegetable (1-3 mm long) inclusions; nipple part made by scraping; extant height 3.7 cm; bottom complete.
21. Nipple-base sherd (from Level 6 in Grid TIII-1): greenish white (5Y9/2) outer surface; buff (10YR8-7/4) inner surface and core; sparse fine sand and coarse chalky particles inclusions; nipple part made by scraping; extant height 4.3 cm; bottom complete.
22. Rim to body of beaker (from Level 9b in Grid TIII-1): greenish white (10Y9/2) and pinkish cream (7.5YR7/4) outer surfaces; reddish buff (5YR6/5) inner surface and core; sparse fine sand and chalky particles inclusions; fine fabric; rim diam. 7.5 cm; supposed max. diam. 8.5 cm; 2/3 of the rim and 1/4 of the body extant.
23. Nipple-base beaker (from Level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-1): cream (2.5Y9/2) and reddish buff (2.5YR6-5/6) outer surface; reddish buff (2.5YR6-5/6) inner surface and core; sparse fine sand and chalky particles inclusions; wet-smoothed on the lower part of body of the outer surface after scraping; max. diam. 8.2 cm; extant height 11.0 cm; 1/3 of the neck and 2/3 of the body extant; bottom complete (Pl. 48-a).



24. Button-base beaker (from Level 9b in Grid TIII-3): cream (2.5Y9–8/2) outer and inner surfaces; creamy buff (5YR7/4) core; sparse fine sand and chalky particles inclusions; wet-smoothed on the lower part of body of the outer surface after scraping; max. diam. 7.7 cm; extant height 8.5 cm; body and bottom complete (Pl. 48-b).
25. Nipple-base sherd (from Level 8b (lower) in Grid TIII-2): greenish white (5Y9/2) outer and inner surfaces; pinkish buff (7.5YR7/4) core; sparse fine sand inclusions; nipple part made by sticking; extant height 3.1 cm; bottom complete.
26. Nipple-base sherd (from between Levels 9a and 8b in Grid TIII-1): greenish white (7.5Y9/2) and pinkish cream (7.5YR9/2) outer surface; pinkish buff (5YR7/4) inner surface and core; sparse fine sand inclusions; nipple-part made by sticking; extant height 6.5 cm; bottom complete.
27. Nipple-base sherd (from Level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-1): greenish white (7.5Y8/2) outer surface; greenish cream (7.5Y9/2) inner surface; pinkish buff (7.5YR7/4) core; sparse fine sand inclusions; nipple part made by sticking; extant height 3.1 cm; bottom complete.
28. Nipple-base sherd (from Level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-1): cream (2.5Y9–8/2) outer surface; buff (7.5YR7–6/6) inner surface; pinkish buff (5YR6/4) core; sparse fine sand inclusions; nipple part made by sticking; three grooved lines incised on the outer surface; extant height 3.8 cm; 3/4 extant.
29. Nipple-base sherd (from Levels 9a/9b in Grid TIII-1): greenish white (7.5Y9–8/2) outer and inner surfaces; light buff (7.5YR8–7/4) core; sparse fine sand inclusions; nipple part made by sticking; extant height 3.7 cm; bottom complete.
30. Nipple-base sherd (from Level 9a in Grid TIII-4): greenish white (10Y9–8/2) outer and inner surfaces; pinkish buff (5YR6/5) core; a medium amount of fine sand inclusions; nipple part made by sticking; defaced outer and inner surfaces; extant height 4.6 cm; bottom complete.
31. Nipple-base sherd (from Level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-2): creamy white (2.5Y9/2) and light buff (5YR7–6/6) outer surface; light buff (5YR7/5) inner surface; buff (7.5YR6/6) core; sparse fine sand inclusions; fine fabric; nipple part made by sticking; extant height 5.4 cm; bottom complete.
32. Button-base sherd (from Level 8b (floor) in Grid TIII-2): greenish cream (2.5Y8–7/2) outer surface; creamy buff (10YR7/4) inner surface and core; sparse fine sand inclusions; button part made by scraping; wet-smoothed on lower part of outer surface after scraping; extant height 4.1 cm; bottom complete.
33. Button-base sherd (from Level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-2): greenish (10Y8/3) outer and inner surfaces and core; sparse fine sand and a medium amount of vegetable (1–5 mm long) inclusions; button part made by scraping; wet-smoothed on lower part of outer surface after scraping; extant height 7.8 cm; 1/2 of the body extant; bottom complete.
34. Button-base sherd (from Level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-3): creamy buff (10YR8/3) and greenish white (5Y9/2) outer surface; greenish white (5Y9/2) inner surface; pinkish buff (5YR7/4) core; sparse fine sand and coarse chalky particles inclusions; button part made by scraping; wet-smoothed on lower part of outer surface after scraping; extant height 4.1 cm; 1/3 of the body extant; bottom complete.
35. Button-base sherd (from Level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-2): greenish (10Y8/4) outer and inner surfaces and core; sparse fine sand and a medium amount of vegetable (1–5 mm long) inclusions; button part made by scraping; extant height 6.2 cm; 1/3 of the body extant; bottom complete.
36. Footed base sherd (from between Levels 9a and 8b in Grid TIII-1): greenish white (7.5Y9–8/2) outer and inner surfaces; light buff (10YR8/4) core; a medium amount of fine sand and sparse coarse chalky particles; foot part made by sticking; extant height 5.1 cm; bottom complete.
37. Button-base sherd (from Level 8b (lower) in Grid TIII-2): greenish white (7.5Y9–8/2) outer surface; dark pinkish buff (10YR8–7/2) inner surface and core; a medium amount of very fine sand inclusions; button part made by scraping; wet-smoothed on lower part of outer surface after scraping; extant height 3.2 cm; 1/2 extant.

—In Fig. 9—

38. Rim to shoulder of jar (from Level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-3): greenish white (7.5Y9–8/2) outer and inner surfaces and core; fine sand and a large amount of vegetable (1–5 mm long) inclusions; supposed rim diam. 13.0 cm; 1/4 extant.
39. Rim to shoulder of jar (from Level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-3): greenish white (10Y8/3) outer and inner surfaces and core; fine sand and a medium amount of vegetable (1–7 mm long) inclusions; supposed rim diam. 12.5 cm; 1/3 extant.
40. Rim to shoulder of jar (from Level 8b (lower) in Grid TIII-1): creamy buff (10YR7/5) and creamy white (5Y9/2) outer surface; dark buff (7.5YR6/5) inner surface; light buff (5YR6/6) and blackish grey (N5/) core; fine sand and a medium amount of vegetable (1–7 mm long) inclusions; supposed rim diam. 14.3 cm; 1/4 extant.
41. Rim to shoulder of jar (from Level 8b (floor) in Grid TIII-2): cream (10YR9–8/2) outer surface; pinkish buff (5YR7/4) inner surface and core; fine sand, coarse quartz sand and a medium amount of vegetable (1–7 mm long) inclusions; supposed rim diam. 18.0 cm; 1/5 extant.
42. Rim to shoulder of jar (from Level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-1): reddish brown (2.5YR6/6) outer surface; cream (2.5Y9/2) inner surface; reddish buff (5YR7/5) core; fine sand and medium amount of vegetable (1–7 mm long) inclusions; defaced inner surface; three ridges remaining on the shoulder; supposed rim diam. 26–32 cm; 1/10–1/12 extant.



43. Rim to shoulder of jar (from between Levels 9a and 8b in Grid TIII-1): greenish white (10Y9/2) outer and inner surfaces; pinkish buff (7.5YR7/4) core; fine sand and a large amount of vegetable (1–7 mm long) inclusions; defaced inner surface; one ridge remaining on the shoulder; supposed rim diam. 30–32 cm; 1/8 extant.
44. Base of jar or bottle (from Level 8a in Grid TIII-1): reddish buff (5YR7–6/6) outer surface; light buff (7.5YR7/6) inner surface and core; fine sand and a medium amount of vegetable (1–5 mm long) inclusions; pallet-cut on the bottom; base diam. 3.7 cm; extant height 4.5 cm; 1/2 extant.
45. Base of jar or bottle (from Level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-4): greenish white (7.5Y9–8/2) outer surface; cream (10YR9/2) inner surface; pinkish buff (5YR7/4) and blackish grey (N4/) core; fine sand and a medium amount of vegetable (1–5 mm long); wet-smoothed on the bottom after pallet-cut; base diam. 5.3 cm; extant height 6.7 cm; 2/3 extant.
46. Base of jar or bottle (from Level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-1): dark greenish cream (2.5Y9–8/2) outer and inner surfaces; dark pinkish buff (5YR7–6/4) core; fine sand and medium amount of vegetable (1–10 mm long) inclusions; wet-smoothed on the bottom; carbide sticking inner surface; base diam. 6.6 cm; extant height 9.3 cm; 3/4 extant.
47. Base of jar or bottle (from Level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-1): greenish creamy white (5Y9–8/2) outer surface; creamy buff (2.5Y8/3) inner surface; reddish buff (5YR7/4) core; fine sand and a medium amount of vegetable (1–7 mm long) inclusions; wet-smoothed on the bottom; base diam. 4.6 cm; extant height 7.4 cm; 1/2 extant.
48. Base of jar or bottle (from between Levels 9a and 8b in Grid TIII-1): greenish white (10Y8/2) outer and inner surfaces and core; fine sand and a medium amount of vegetable (1–7 mm long) inclusions; defaced outer surface; base diam. 4.5 cm; extant height 6.3 cm; all of the base extant.
49. Base of jar or bottle (from Level 8b (floor) in Grid TIII-2): greenish white (7.5Y8/2) outer and inner surfaces and core; fine sand and a medium amount of vegetable (1–10 mm long) inclusions; scraped on the outer surface of the body; wet-smoothed on the bottom after pallet-cut; base diam. 7.4 cm; extant height 8.3 cm; 1/2 extant.

### **Cuneiform cylinder inscription of baked clay (Pls. 25 to 30)**

Four fragments of cuneiform cylinder inscriptions of baked clay were found in this season as below.

- TIII-S-3 (Pl. 25): from the surface north-west of Trench I; length 8.0 cm; width 3.0 cm; thickness 2.6 cm.
- TIII-S-1 (Pl. 26): from the surface soil in Grid TIII-2; length 3.0 cm; width 1.3 cm; thickness 1.1 cm.
- TIII-2-1 (Pls. 27 and 28): from Level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-2; length 9.1 cm; width 5.7 cm; thickness 2.5 cm.
- TIII-8-1 (Pls. 29 and 30): from Level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-3; length 5.5 cm; width 5.4 cm; thickness 2.5 cm.

### **Fragment of a clay tablet (Pl. 31)**

- TIII-S-2 (Pl. 31): from surface soil in Grid TIII-2; length 3.0 cm; width 2.6 cm; thickness 1.4 cm.

### **Baked bricks with cuneiform letters (Pls. 32 to 38)**

A total of thirty one fragments of baked bricks with cuneiform letters were found in this season.

- TIII-S-4 (Pl. 32-a): from surface in Grid TIII-4; length 10.6 cm; width 8.7 cm; thickness 6.0 cm.
- TIII-D-1 (Pl. 32-b): from surface soil in Grid TIII-3; length 10.0 cm; width 10.0 cm; thickness 6.0 cm.
- TIII-22-1 (Pl. 32-c): from Level 5 in Grid TIII-1; length 10.6 cm; width 10.4 cm; thickness 6.2 cm.
- TIII-22-2 (Pl. 32-d): from Level 5 in Grid TIII-1; length 11.5 cm; width 11.0 cm; thickness 6.3 cm.
- TIII-27-1 (Pl. 33-a): from Level 6 in Grid TIII-1; length 10.0 cm; width 8.7 cm; thickness 6.3 cm.
- TIII-49-1 (Pl. 33-b): from Level 8a in Grid TIII-1; length 11.5 cm; width 9.0 cm; thickness 6.2 cm.
- TIII-38-10 (Pl. 33-c): from Level 8a in Grid TIII-1; length 7.0 cm; width 6.5 cm; thickness 6.0 cm.
- TIII-50-1 (Pl. 33-d): from Level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-2; length 5.3 cm; width 3.0 cm; thickness 4.8 cm.
- TIII-35-1 (Pl. 33-e): from Level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-2; length 11.5 cm; width 9.3 cm; thickness 5.9 cm.
- TIII-40-1 (Pl. 34-a): from Level 8b (upper) in Grids TIII-2/3; length 9.0 cm; width 8.0 cm; thickness 5.7 cm.
- TIII-14-1 (Pl. 34-b): from Level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-3; length 11.5 cm; width 9.6 cm; thickness 6.5 cm.
- TIII-19-1 (Pl. 34-c): from Level 8b (lower) in Grid TIII-3; length 11.2 cm; width 9.8 cm; thickness 5.5 cm.
- TIII-69-2 (Pl. 34-d): from Level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-4; length 13.0 cm; width 6.0 cm; thickness 6.3 cm.
- TIII-69-1 (Pl. 35-a): from Level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-4; length 11.3 cm; width 10.5 cm; thickness 6.0 cm.
- TIII-63-1 (Pl. 35-b): from Level 9a in Grid TIII-4; length 11.0 cm; width 6.5 cm; thickness 6.2 cm.
- TIII-63-2 (Pl. 35-c): from Level 9a in Grid TIII-4; length 15.5 cm; width 14 cm; thickness 7.5 cm.
- TIII-68-1 (Pl. 35-d): from Level 9b in Grid TIII-4; length 13.5 cm; width 10.5 cm; thickness 6.5 cm.
- TIII-68-2 (Pl. 36-a): from Level 9b in Grid TIII-4; length 25.3 cm; width 21.0 cm; thickness 6.3 cm.
- TIII-70-1 (Pl. 36-b): from between Levels 9a and 8b in Grid TIII-1; length 20.0 cm; width 19.0 cm; thickness 6.4 cm.
- TIII-73-1 (Pl. 36-c): from between Levels 9a and 8b in Grid TIII-1; length 26.0 cm; width 23.0 cm; thickness 6.3 cm.
- TIII-73-8 (Pl. 36-d): from between Levels 9a and 8b in Grid TIII-1; length 12.0 cm; width 11.0 cm; thickness 5.8 cm.



- TIII-73-3 (Pl. 37-a): from between Levels 9a and 8b in Grid TIII-1; length 9.5 cm; width 7.0 cm; thickness 5.6 cm.
- TIII-73-4 (Pl. 37-b): from between Levels 9a and 8b in Grid TIII-1; length 9.3 cm; width 7.5 cm; thickness 6.3 cm.
- TIII-73-5 (Pl. 37-c): from between Levels 9a and 8b in Grid TIII-1; length 8.8 cm; width 8.0 cm; thickness 5.6 cm.
- TIII-73-2 (Pl. 37-d): from between Levels 9a and 8b in Grid TIII-1; length 11.0 cm; width 8.2 cm; thickness 5.8 cm.
- TIII-70-2 (Pl. 38-a): from between Levels 9a and 8b in Grid TIII-1; length 10.0 cm; width 7.6 cm; thickness 6.4 cm.
- TIII-73-7 (Pl. 38-b): from between Levels 9a and 8b in Grid TIII-1; length 9.5 cm; width 9.4 cm; thickness 6.3 cm.
- TIII-73-6 (Pl. 38-c) (stamp): from between Levels 9a and 8b in Grid TIII-1; length 7.7 cm; width 6.8 cm; thickness 4.2 cm.
- TIII-70-3 (Pl. 38-d): from between Levels 9a and 8b in Grid TIII-1; length 10.0 cm; width 9.5 cm; thickness 7.0 cm.
- TIII-80-1 (Pl. 38-e): from Level 9a (floor) in Grid TIII-1; length 15.0 cm; width 12.0 cm; thickness 6.8 cm.

#### **Fragment of a bowl with cuneiform inscription (Pl. 39)**

- TIII-7-1 (Pl. 39): from level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-2; length 17.5 cm; width 4.5 cm; thickness 0.7 cm.

#### **Fragments of clay-nail heads with cuneiform letters (Pls. 40 and 41)**

- TIII-25-1 (Pl. 40): from level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-2; length 6.6 cm; width 6.5 cm; thickness 0.9 cm.
- TIII-73-10 (Pl. 41): from between Levels 9a and 8b in Grid TIII-1; length 6.7 cm; width 6.4 cm; thickness 0.8 cm.

#### **Pottery reminiscent of clay nail with cuneiform letters (Pls. 42 to 47)**

- TIII-34-1 (Pl. 42): from level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-3; length 8.2 cm; width 6.7 cm; thickness 1.6 cm.
- TIII-47-1 (Pl. 43): from level 8b (upper) in Grid TIII-2; length 11.4 cm; width 9.0 cm; thickness 1.7 cm.
- TIII-66-1 (Pl. 44): from level 8b (floor) in Grid TIII-2; length 8.3 cm; width 7.2 cm; thickness 1.7 cm.
- TIII-70-5 (Pl. 45): from between Levels 9a and 8b in Grid TIII-1; length 6.5 cm; width 6.0 cm; thickness 1.4 cm.
- TIII-73-9 (Pls. 46 and 47): from between Levels 9a and 8b in Grid TIII-1; diameter 19.5 cm; width 11.0 cm; thickness 1.6–2.5 cm.

### **IV. Concluding remarks**

In our previous excavations in 1997 and 1998, fragments of baked-clay cylinder inscriptions and fragments of baked bricks and potsherds with cuneiform letters were also unearthed. These cuneiform pieces were analyzed by Professor Maul, who clarified that they describe the name of the Middle Assyrian local kingdom, Ṭābētu, which had existed in the Middle Khabur region, as well as the name of its king, Aššur-Kettī-Lēšer. Professor Maul also made it clear that Tell Taban had been Ṭābētu, the capital city of the kingdom Ṭābētu, with a palace restored by Aššur-Kettī-Lēšer, who like his ancestors had called himself “the King of the Land of Mari” (Maul 1999).

In this last field season, Professor Maul joined our mission to analyze all the cuneiform data unearthed ever since the start of our excavations in 1997. After successfully translating and interpreting the data, he clarified that Tell Taban (Ṭābētu) was owned by eight kings at least, most of them having been the kings before Aššur-Kettī-Lēšer, most probably from the same family. He also made it clear that there had stood a temple and a palace at Tell Taban.

Thus, the cuneiform data from Tell Taban are now providing us with important information for the history of the Middle Assyrian local kingdom Ṭābētu, presenting archaeological proofs to the implication by ancient documents that the kingdom Ṭābētu had a long history before the time of Aššur-Kettī-Lēšer.

It is hoped for the future that further analysis of the inscription data from Tell Taban will contribute to the clarification of the Middle Assyrian history in the Middle Khabur region, particularly of unknown aspects of the kingdom Ṭābētu.

It is also hoped that future research on these inscription data will lead us to grasp real pictures of relations that existed between the Khabur region and North Iraq in the 2nd to the 1st millennia B.C.



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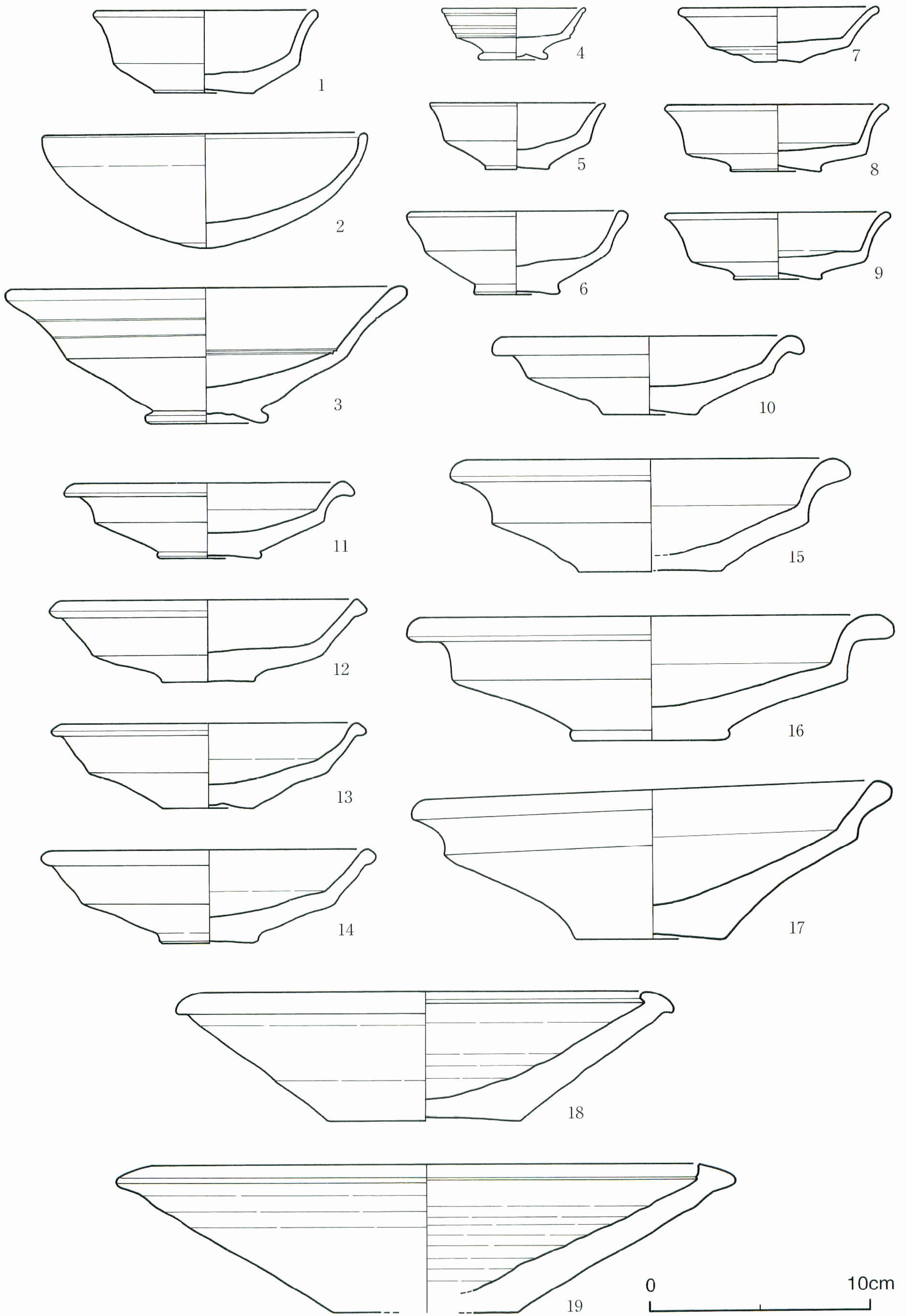


Fig. 7 Pottery from Levels 5 to 9b



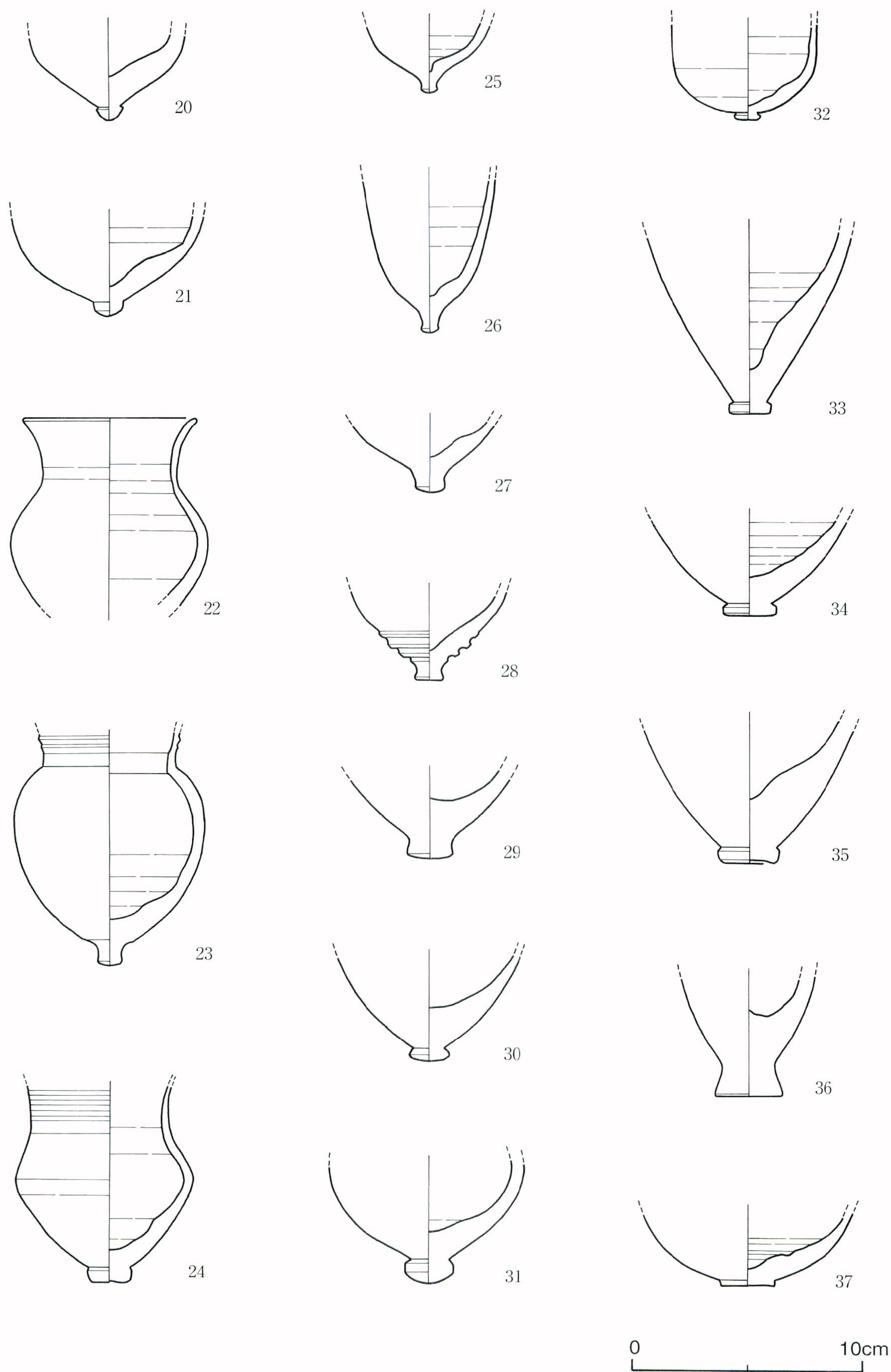


Fig. 8 Pottery from Levels 4/5 to 9b



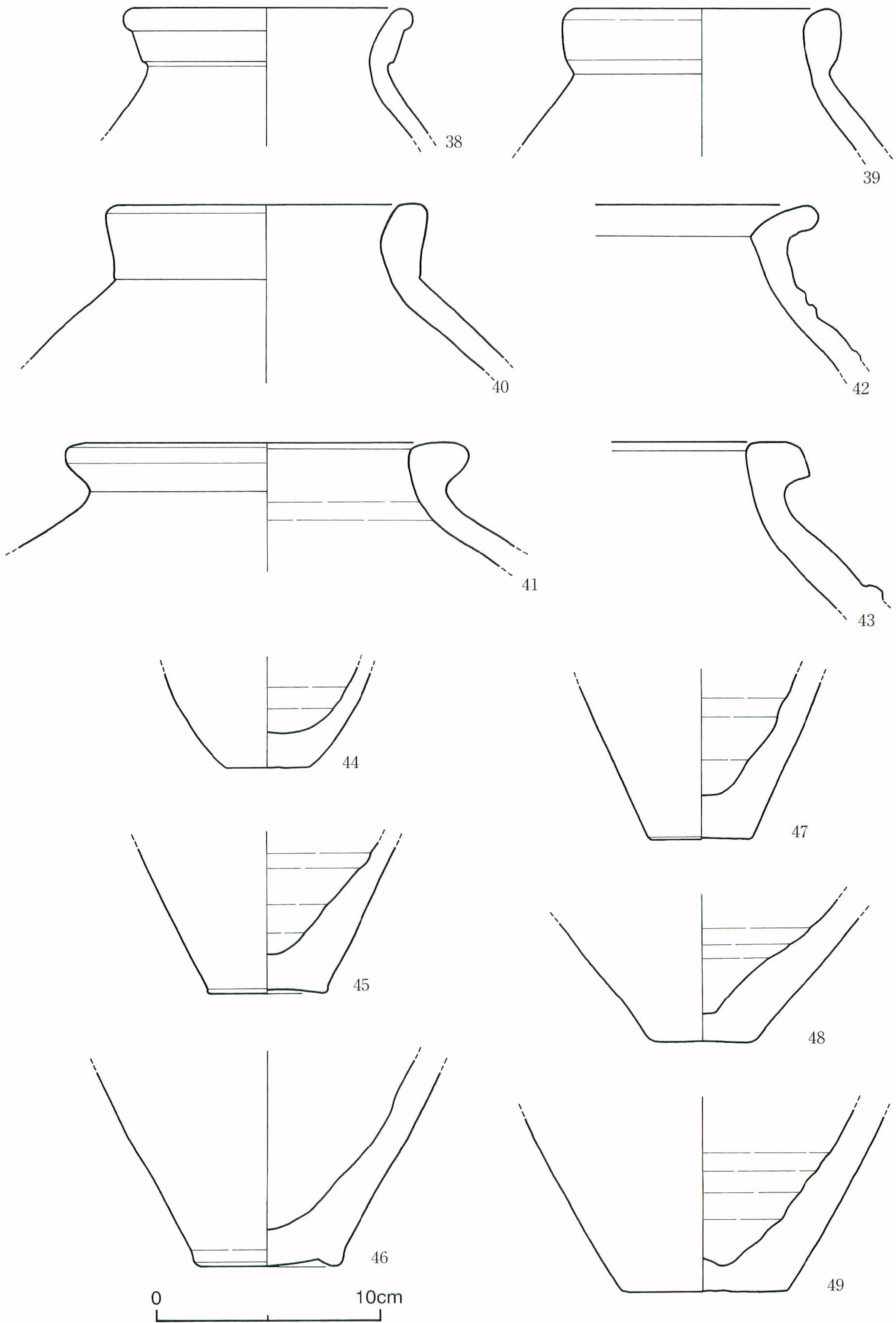


Fig. 9 Pottery from Levels 8a to 9a





a. Tell Taban seen from the north-west before the 1999 excavation



b. Trench III before the 1999 excavation



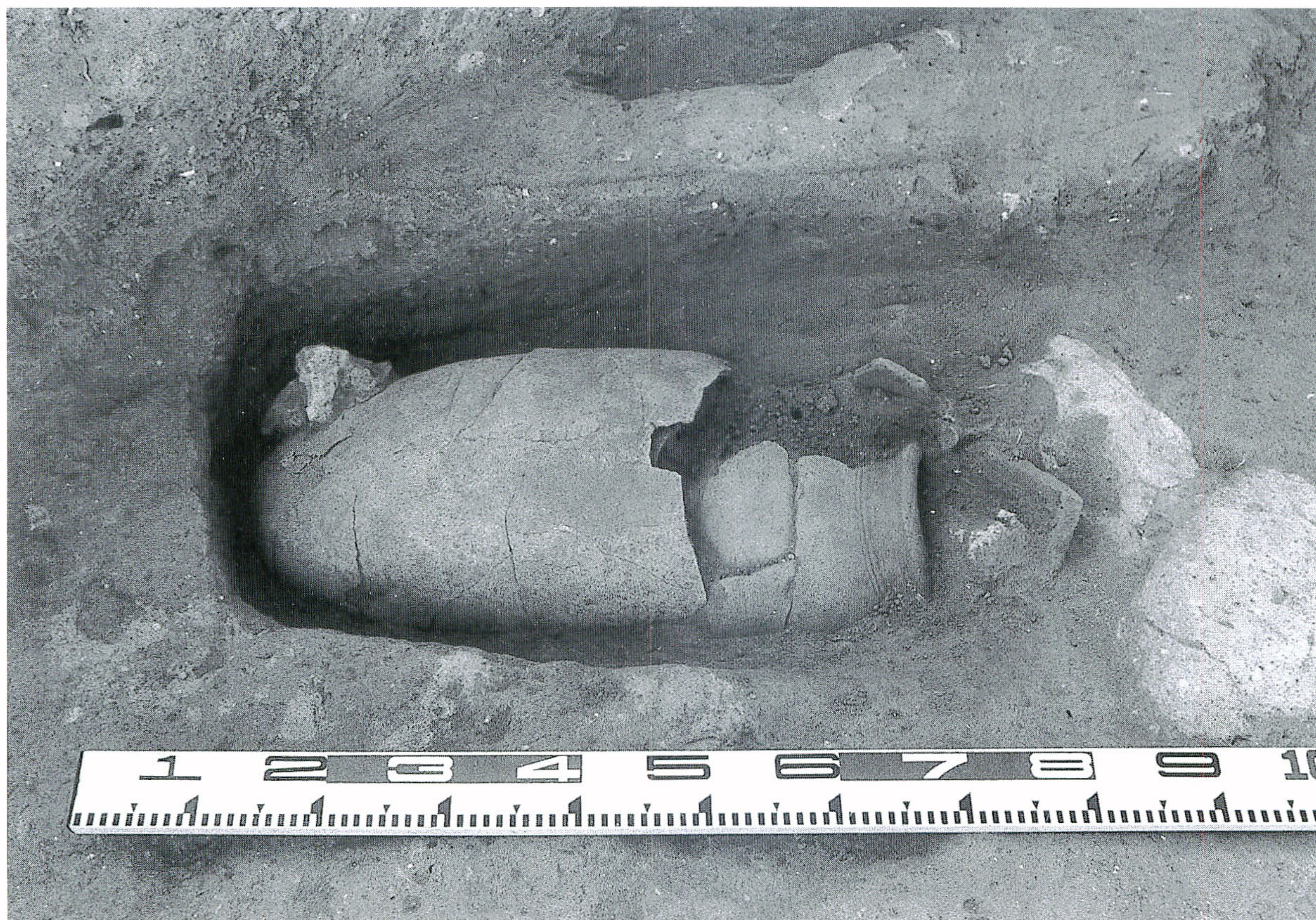


a. Trench III before excavation and walls exposed in 1998



b. Trench III and exposed walls seen from the north-east



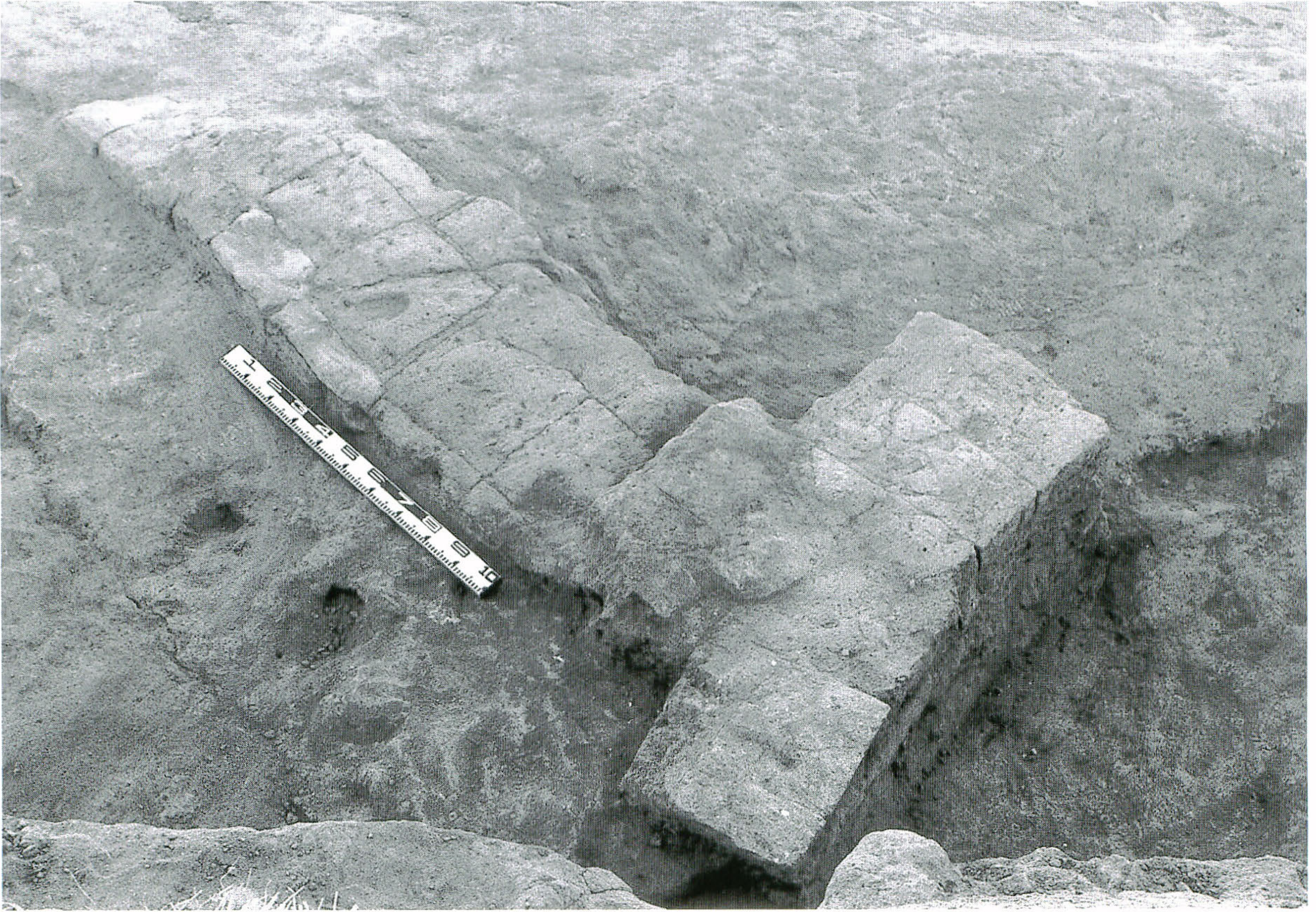


a. Burial urn of the New Assyrian period (Level 5)

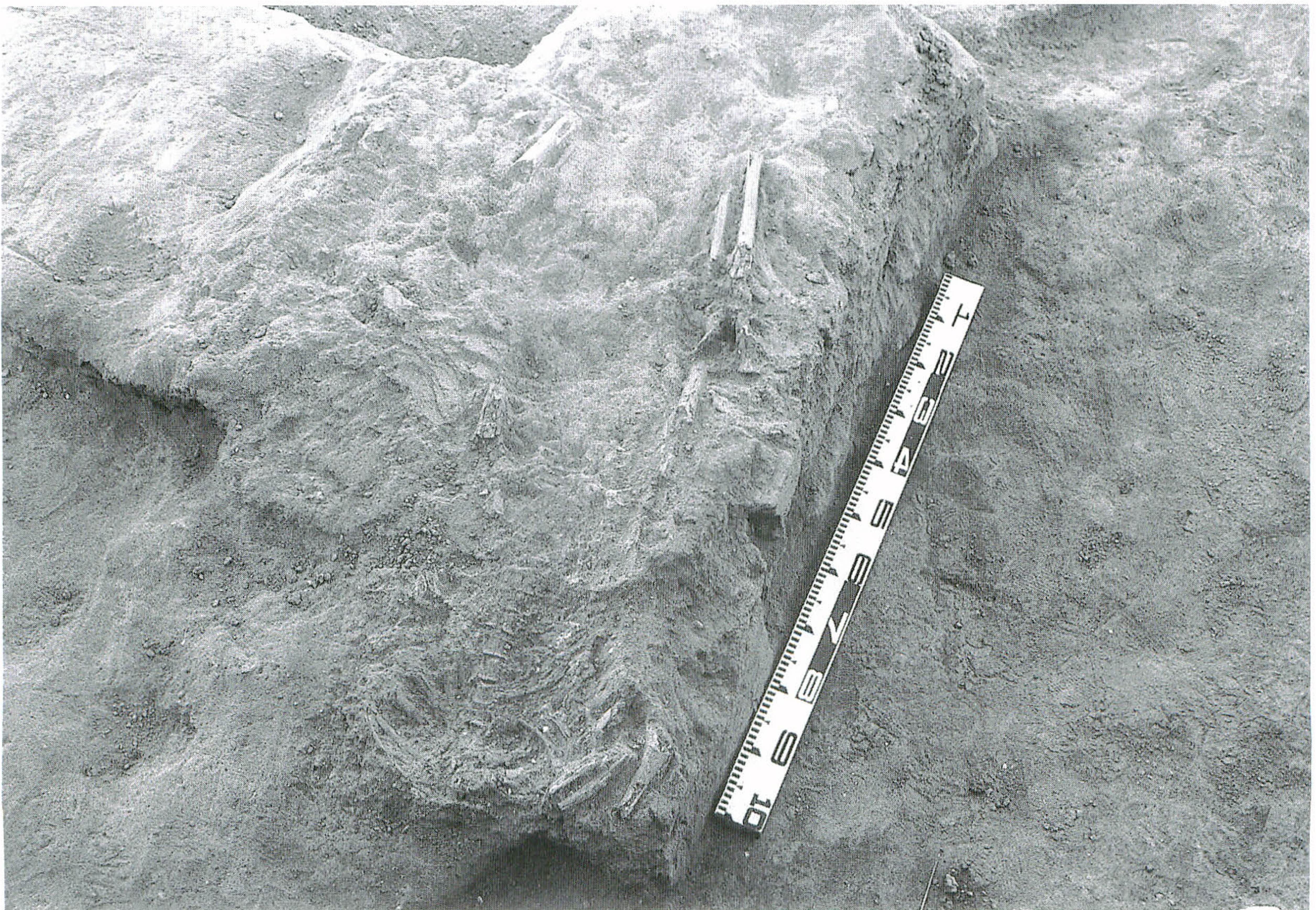


b. Fragmental baked brick with cuneiform letters (TIII-22-2) from Level 5





a. Mud-brick wall of Level 6 and grave covered with mud bricks



b. Grave of Level 6 with mud bricks removed





a. Pit-grave uncovered in Level 8b

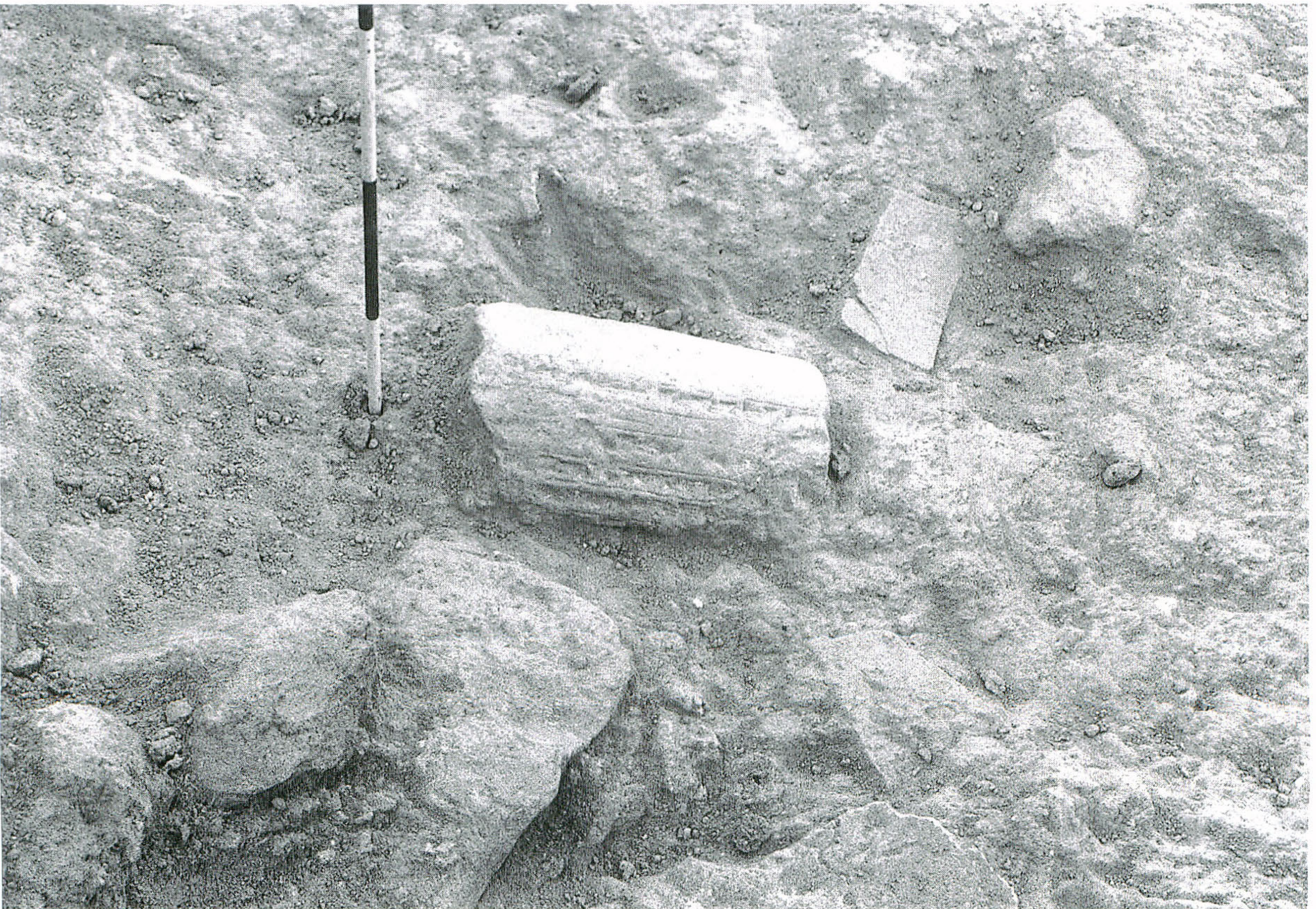


b. *In situ* view of earring from grave of Level 8b





a. Fragmentary cylinder inscription (TIII-2-1) from Level 8b



b. Closer view of TIII-2-1



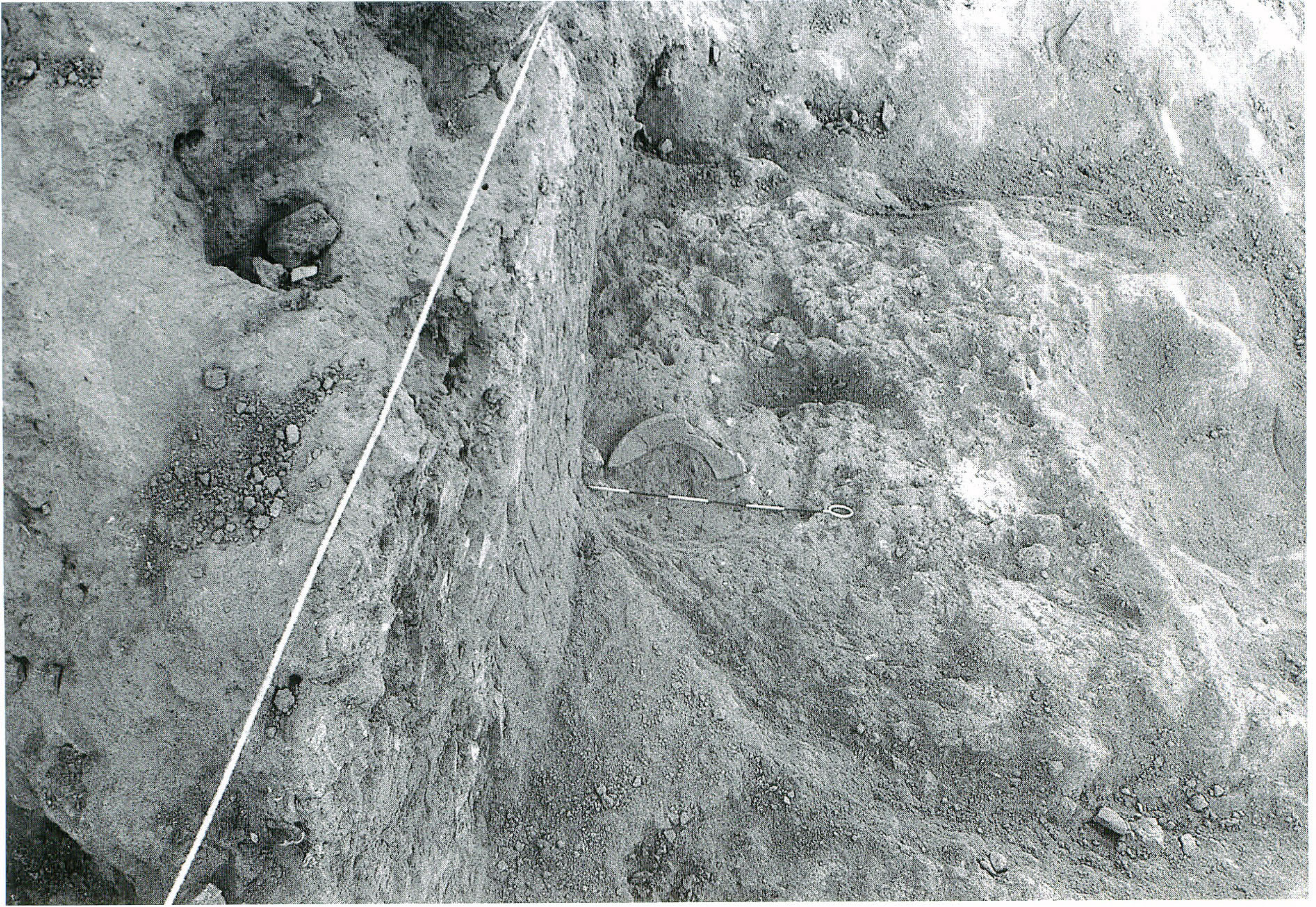


a. Fragmentary cylinder inscription (TIII-8-1) from Level 8b



b. Closer view of TIII-8-1





a. Fragment of a bowl with cuneiform inscription (TIII-7-1) from Level 8b



b. Closer view of TIII-7-1





a. Corridor-like floor of Level 8b seen from the south



b. Corridor-like floor of Level 8b seen from the north





a. Corridor-like floor of Level 8b seen from the west



b. Corridor-like floor of Level 8b seen from the east





a. Brick pavement of Level 9b seen from the south



b. Brick pavement of Level 9b seen from the east



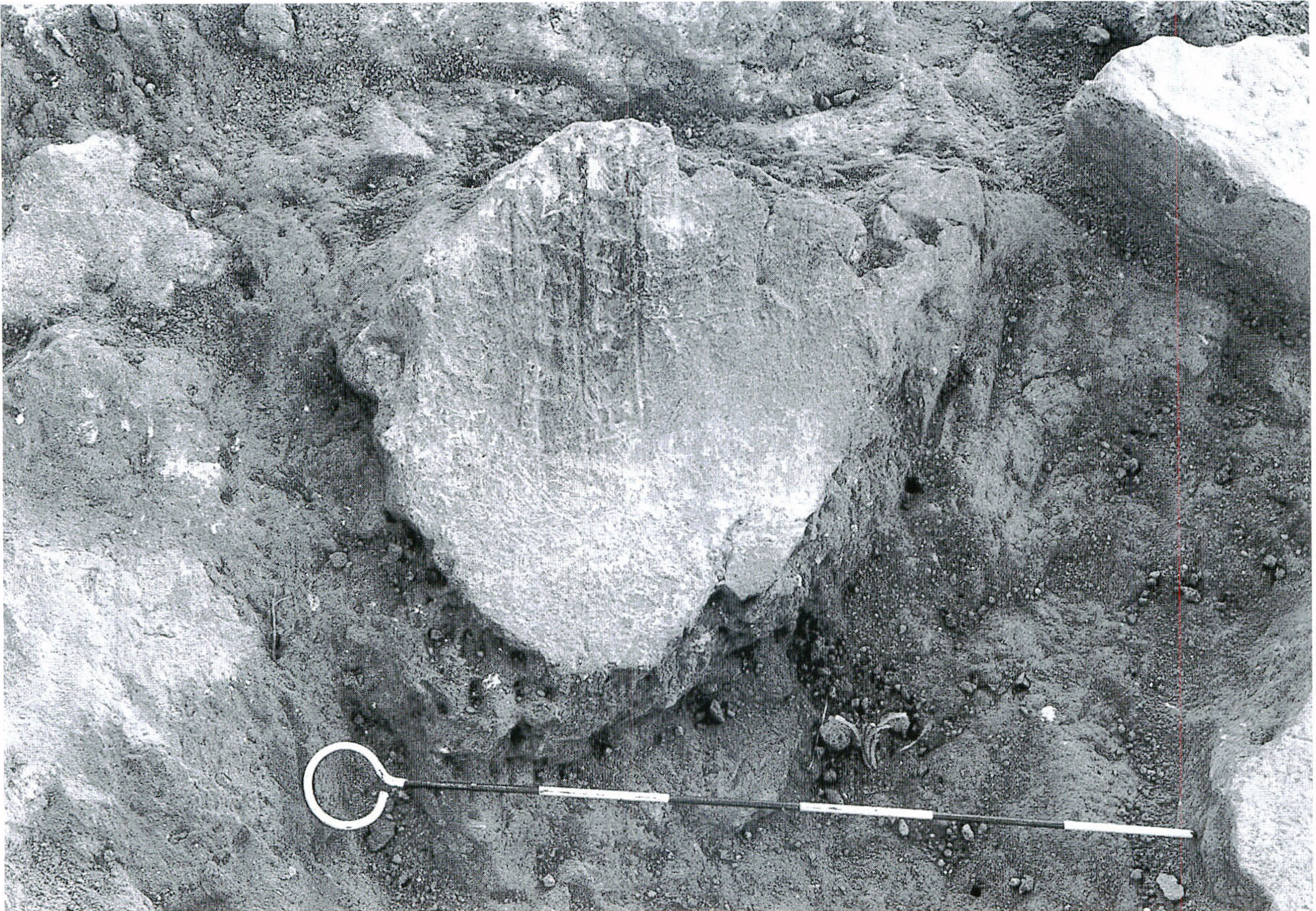


a. Closer view of brick pavement of Level 9b seen from the east



b. Bricks used for brick pavement of Level 9b





a. Fragment of baked brick with cuneiform letters (TIII-73-1) from 9a deposit



b. Clay-nail-like potsherd with cuneiform letters (TIII-73-9) from 9a deposit





a. Wall of Level 8b seen from the east



b. Wall of Level 8b seen from the south





a. Wall of Level 8b seen from the west

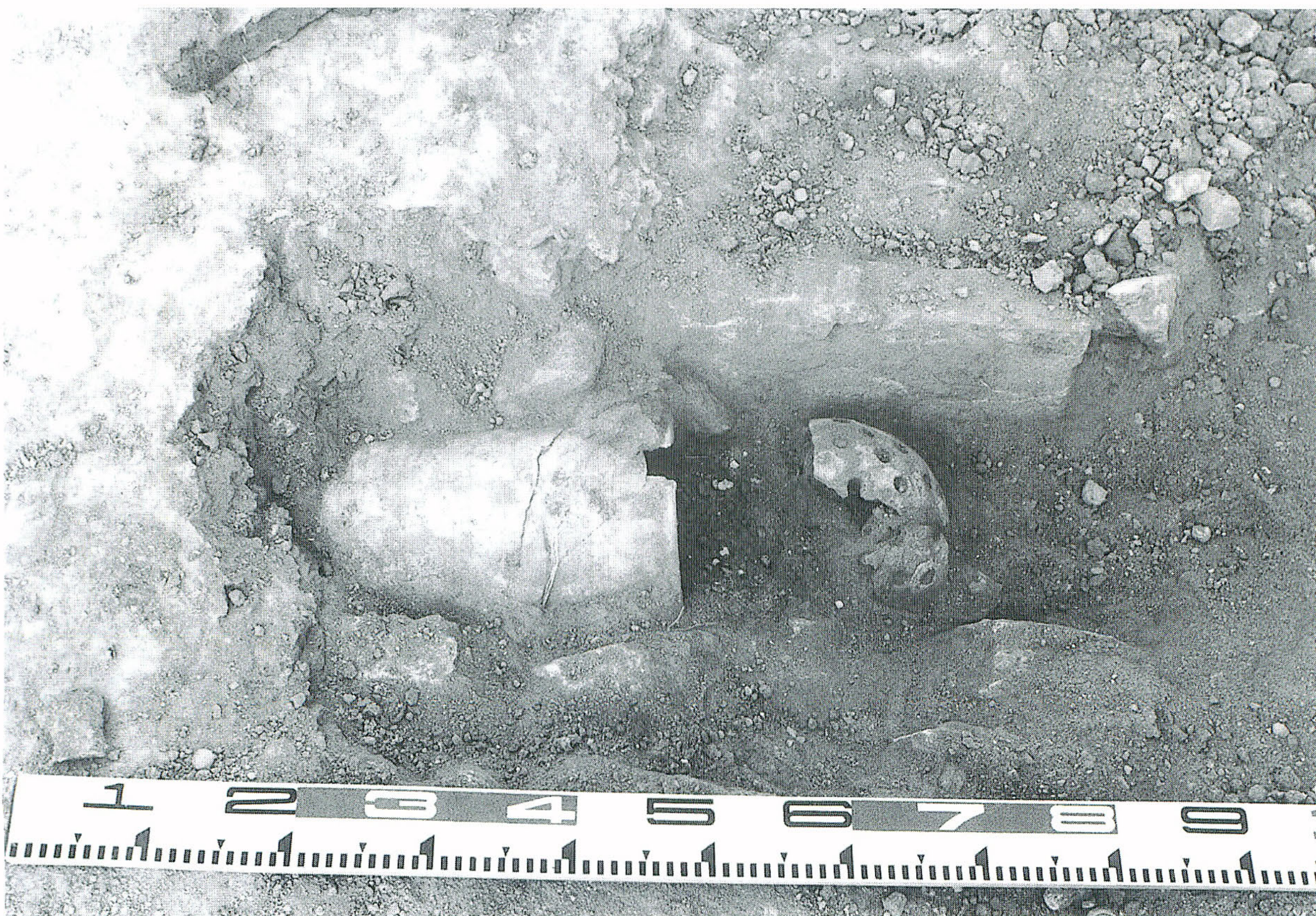


b. Brick pavement before pottery-made drainage was uncovered (Level 9a)





a. Pottery-made drainage of Level 9a



b. Closer view of pottery-made drainage of Level 9a





a. Pottery-made drainage of Level 9a seen from the north-west



b. Huge Walls seen from the north-west





a. Huge Wall 1 seen from the south-west



b. Huge Wall 1 seen from the south





a. Huge Wall 1 seen from the west



b. Huge Wall 1 seen from the north-west





a. Huge Wall 1 seen from the north



b. Huge Wall 1 seen from the north-east





a. Floor of Level 9b underlying HW1-1



b. Floor of Level 9b underlying HW1-1 seen from the north





a. Fragments of baked bricks with cuneiform letters (TIII-68-1, TIII-68-2) from inside the floor under HW1-1



b. Closer view of TIII-68-2





a. Huge Wall 2 seen from the north-east



b. Huge Wall 2 seen from the north



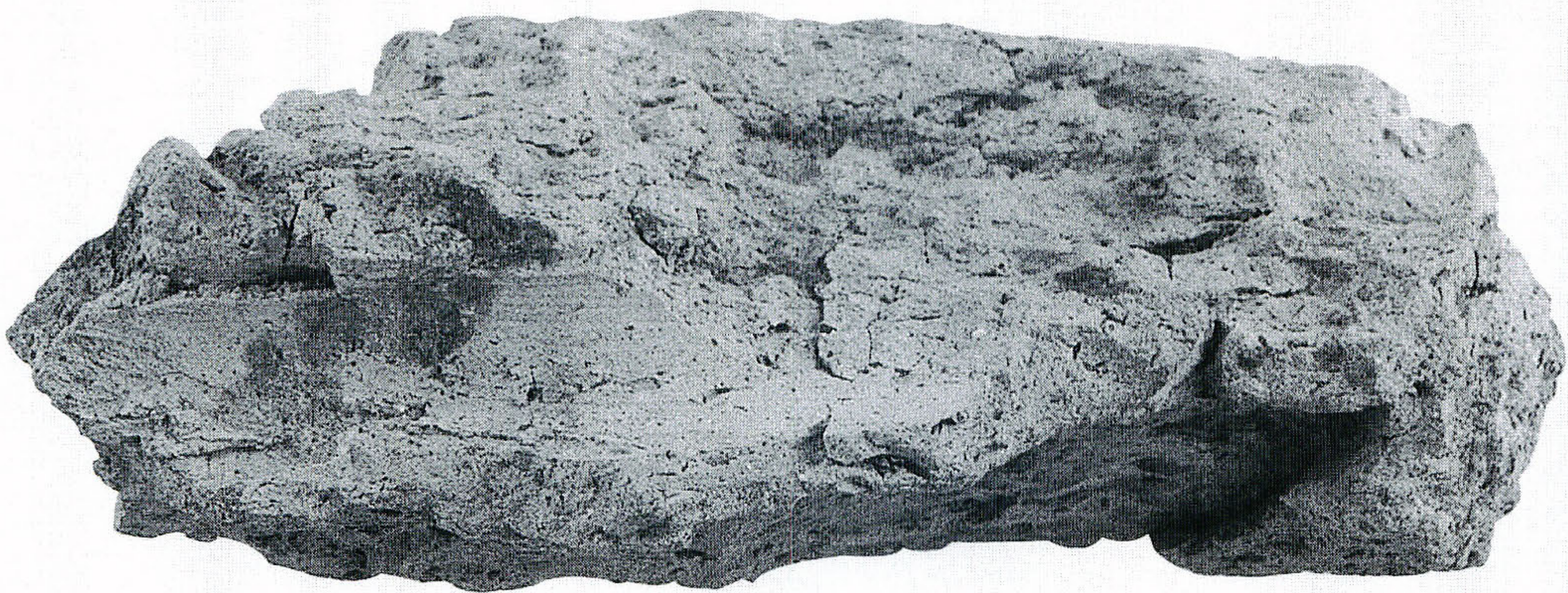
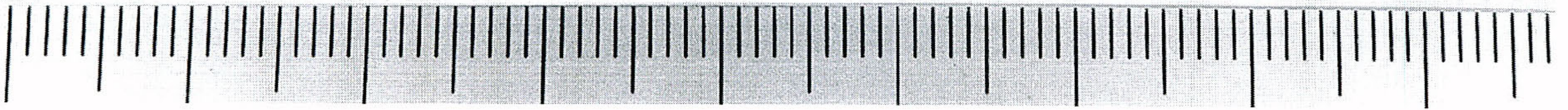


a. Trench III after the 1999 excavation



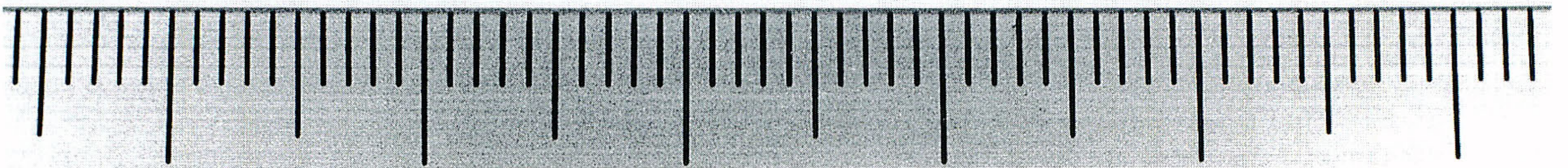
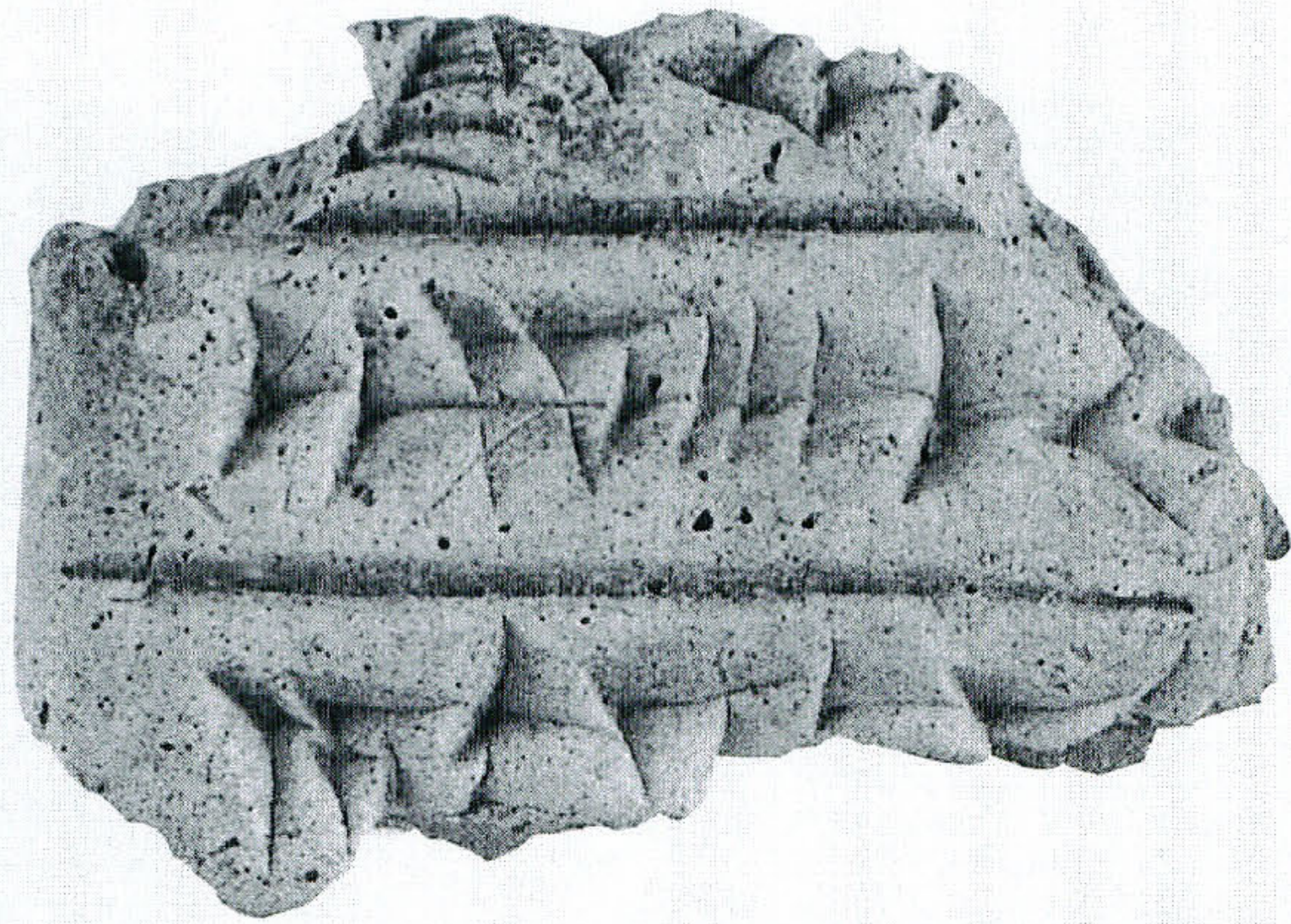
b. Tell Taban seen from the north-west after the 1999 excavation





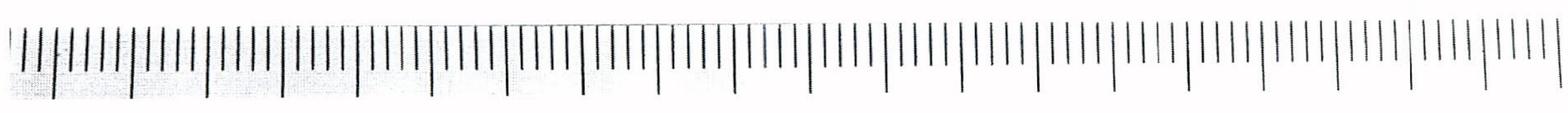
Fragmentary cylinder inscription from the surface





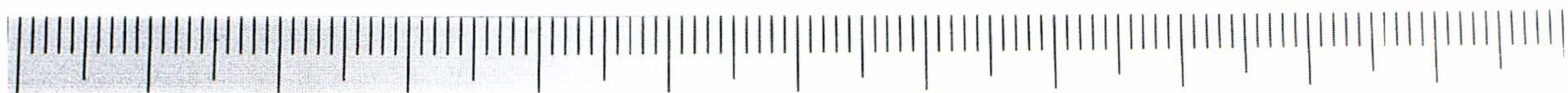
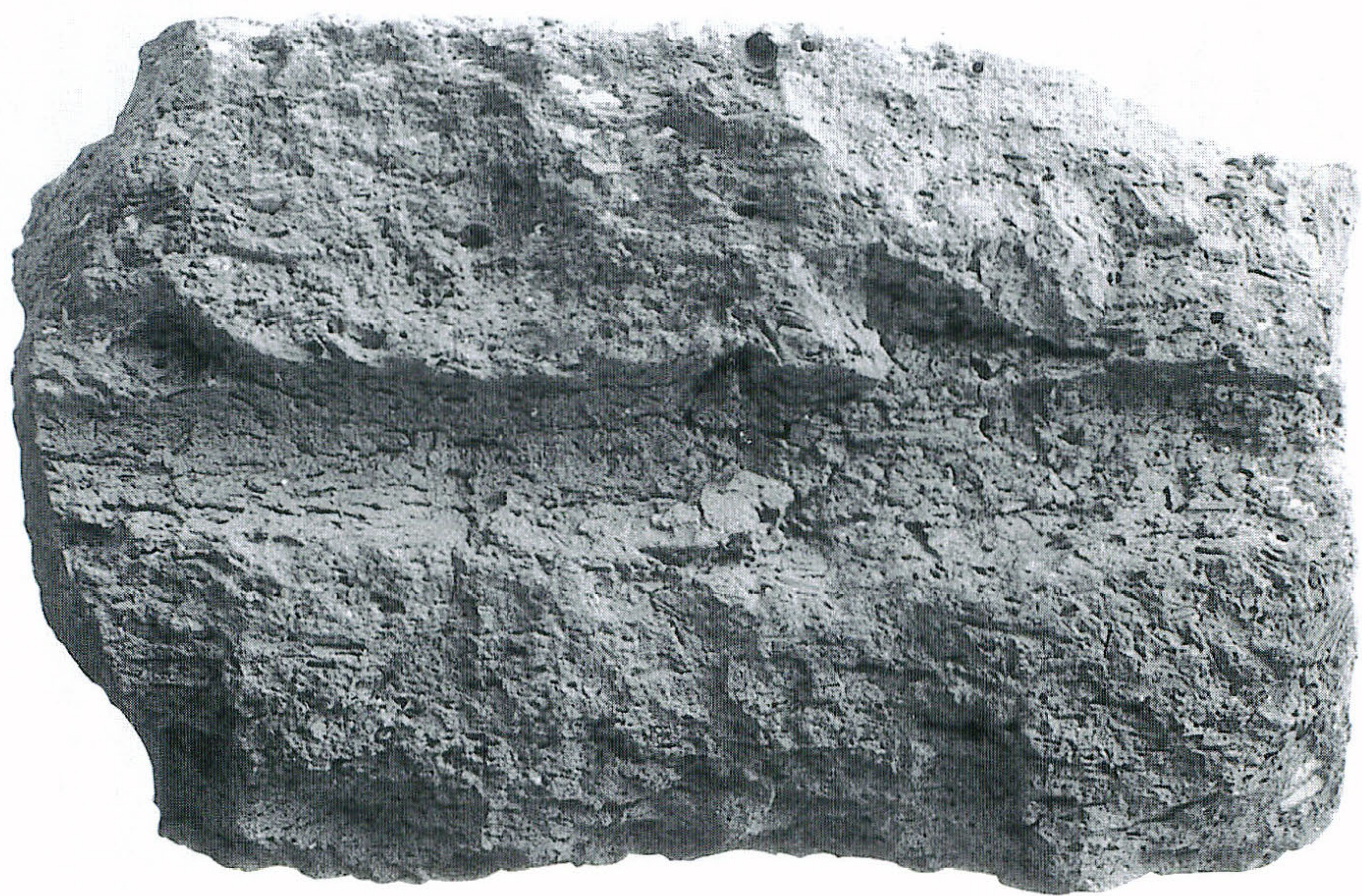
Fragmentary cylinder inscription from the surface soil





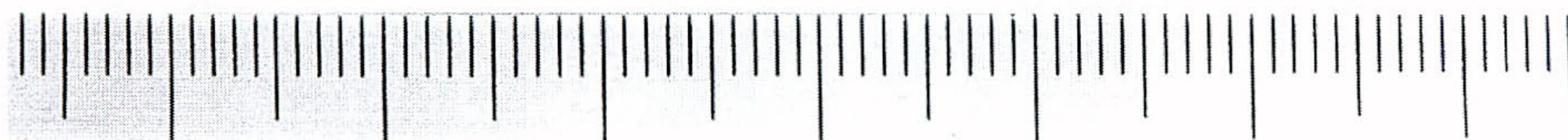
Fragmentary cylinder inscription (TIII-2-1) from Level 8b





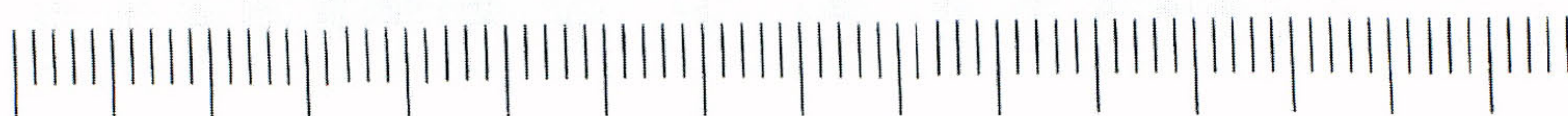
Fragmentary cylinder inscription (TIII-2-1) from Level 8b





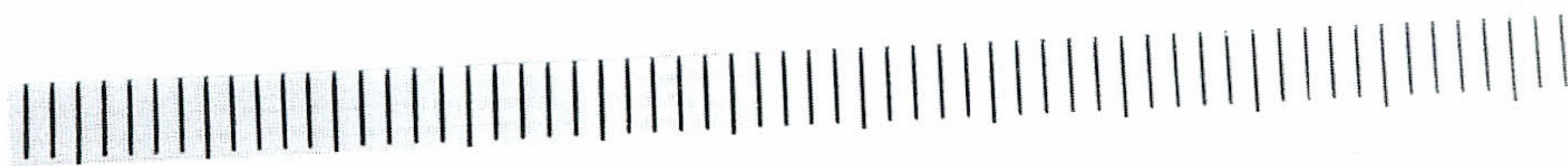
Fragmentary cylinder inscription (TIII-8-1) from Level 8b





Fragmentary cylinder inscription (TIII-8-1) from Level 8b



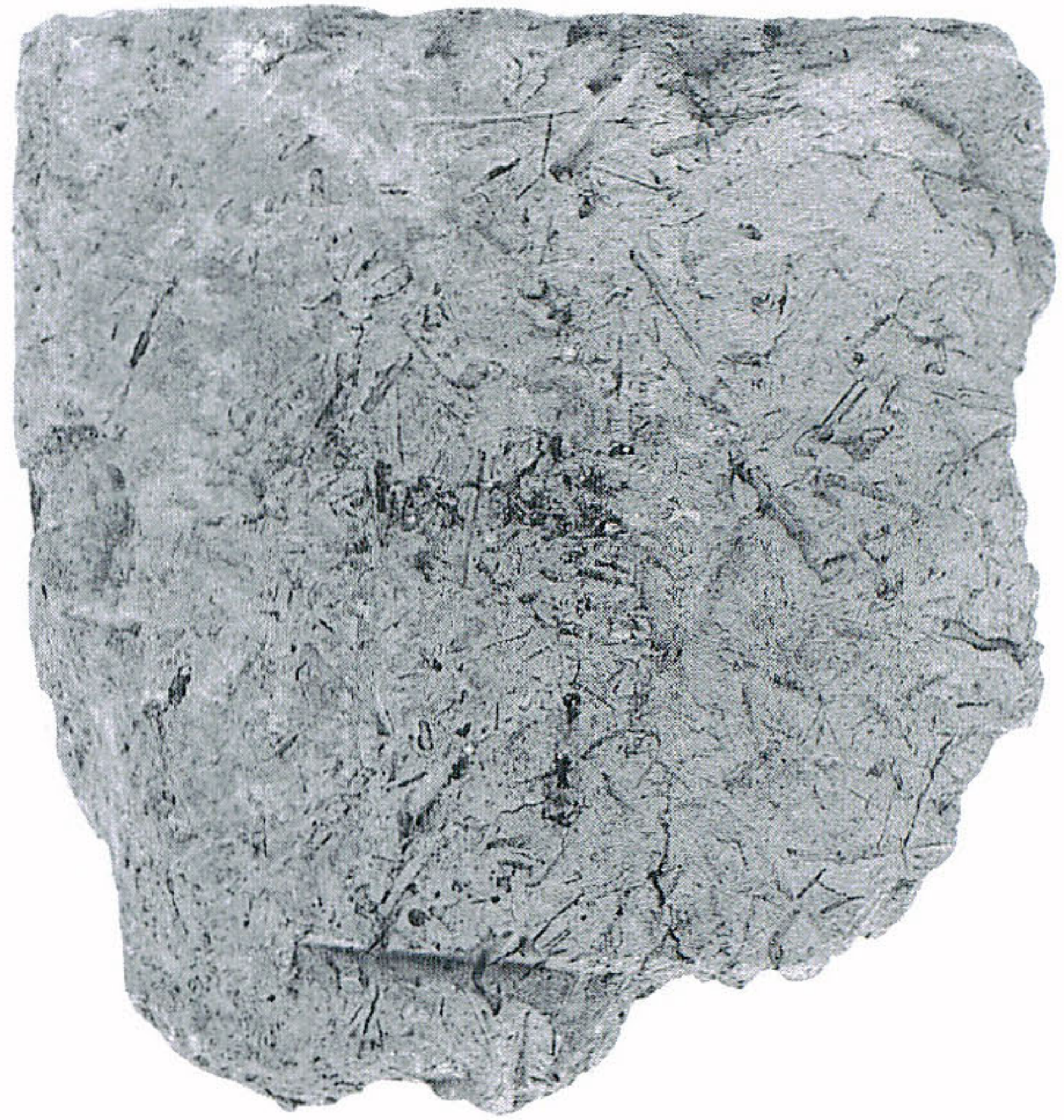


Fragmentary clay tablet from the surface soil





a



b



c



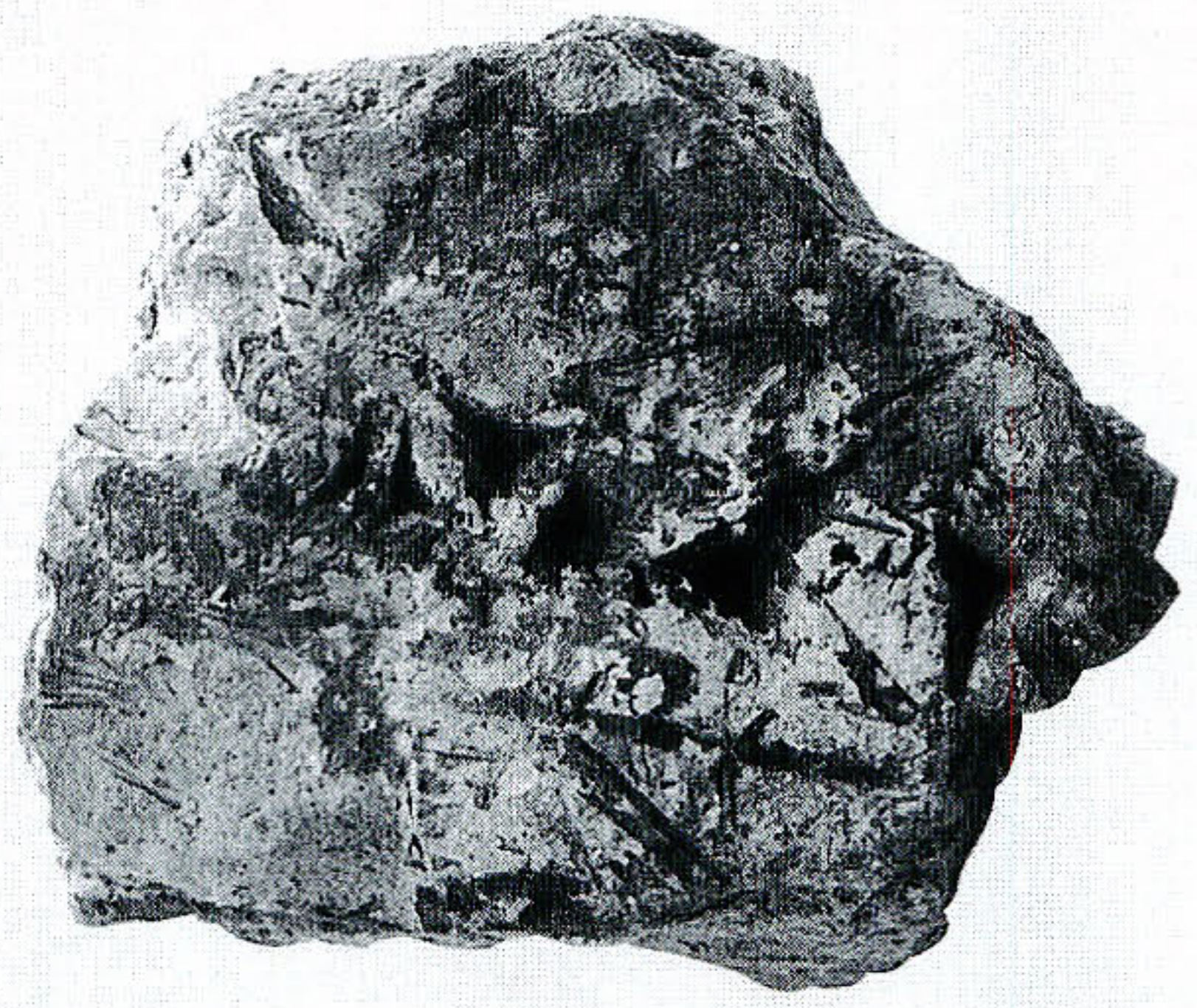
d

Fragmentary baked bricks with cuneiform letters from the surface (a), surface soil (b) and Level 5 (c, d)





a



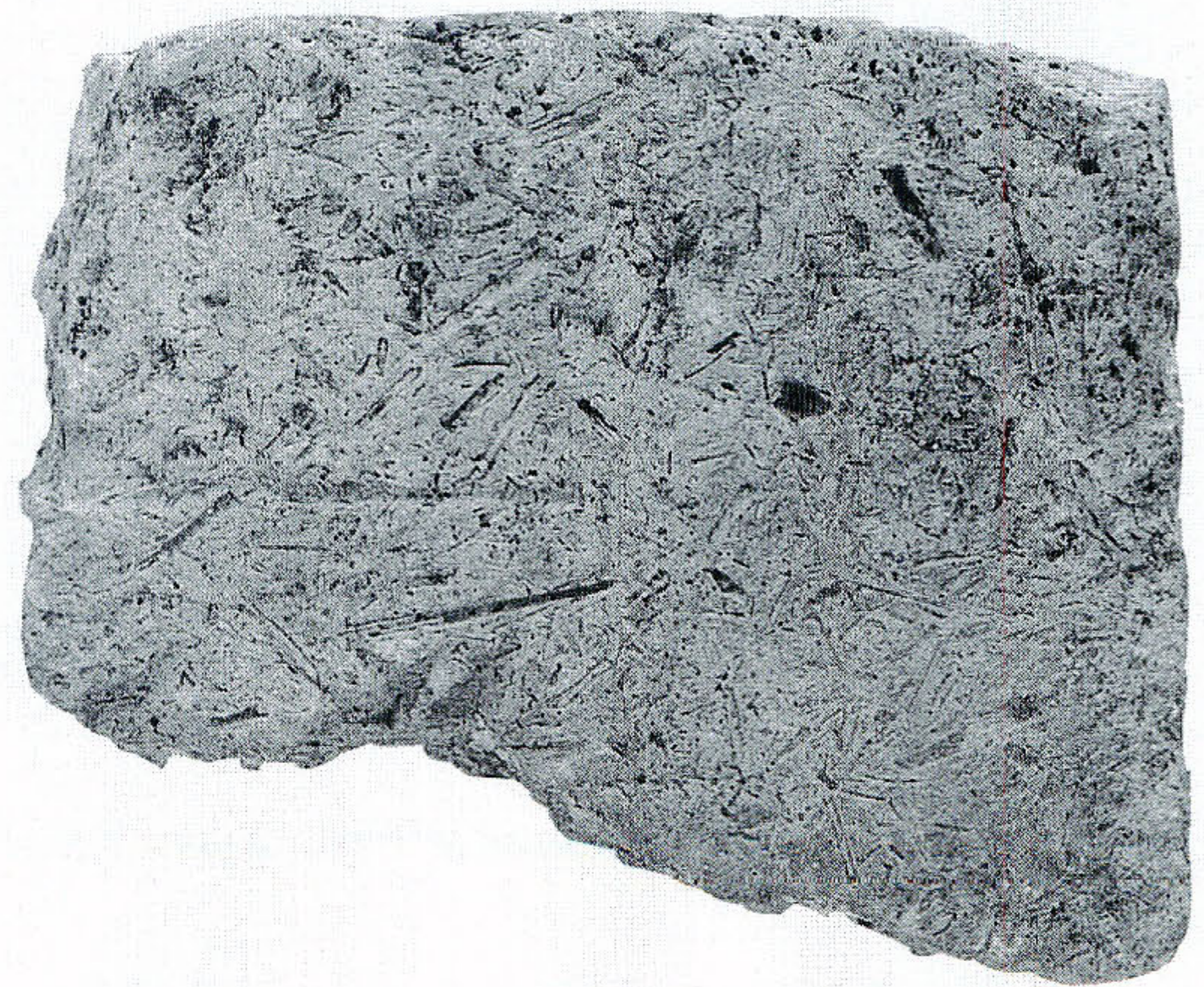
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d



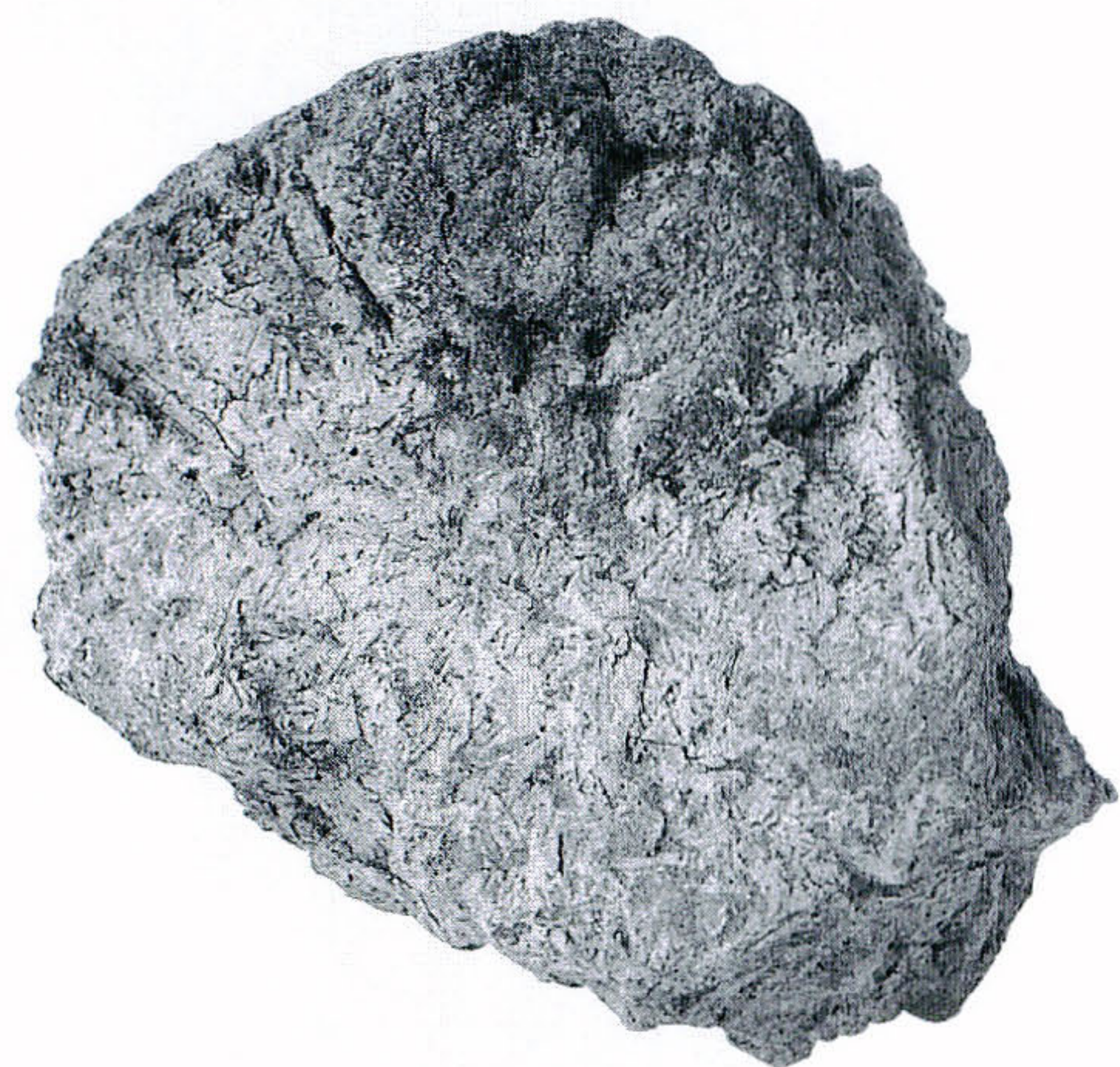
b



e

Fragmentary baked bricks with cuneiform letters from Levels 6 (a), 8a (b, c) and 8b (d, e)





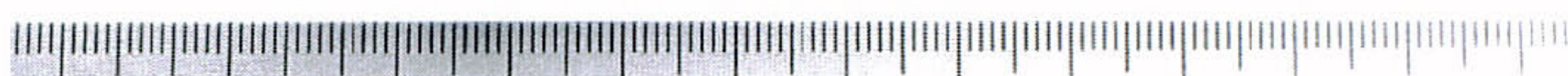
a



b



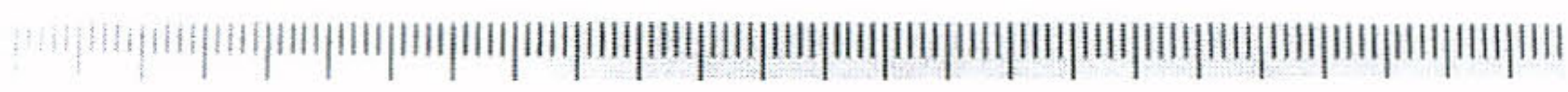
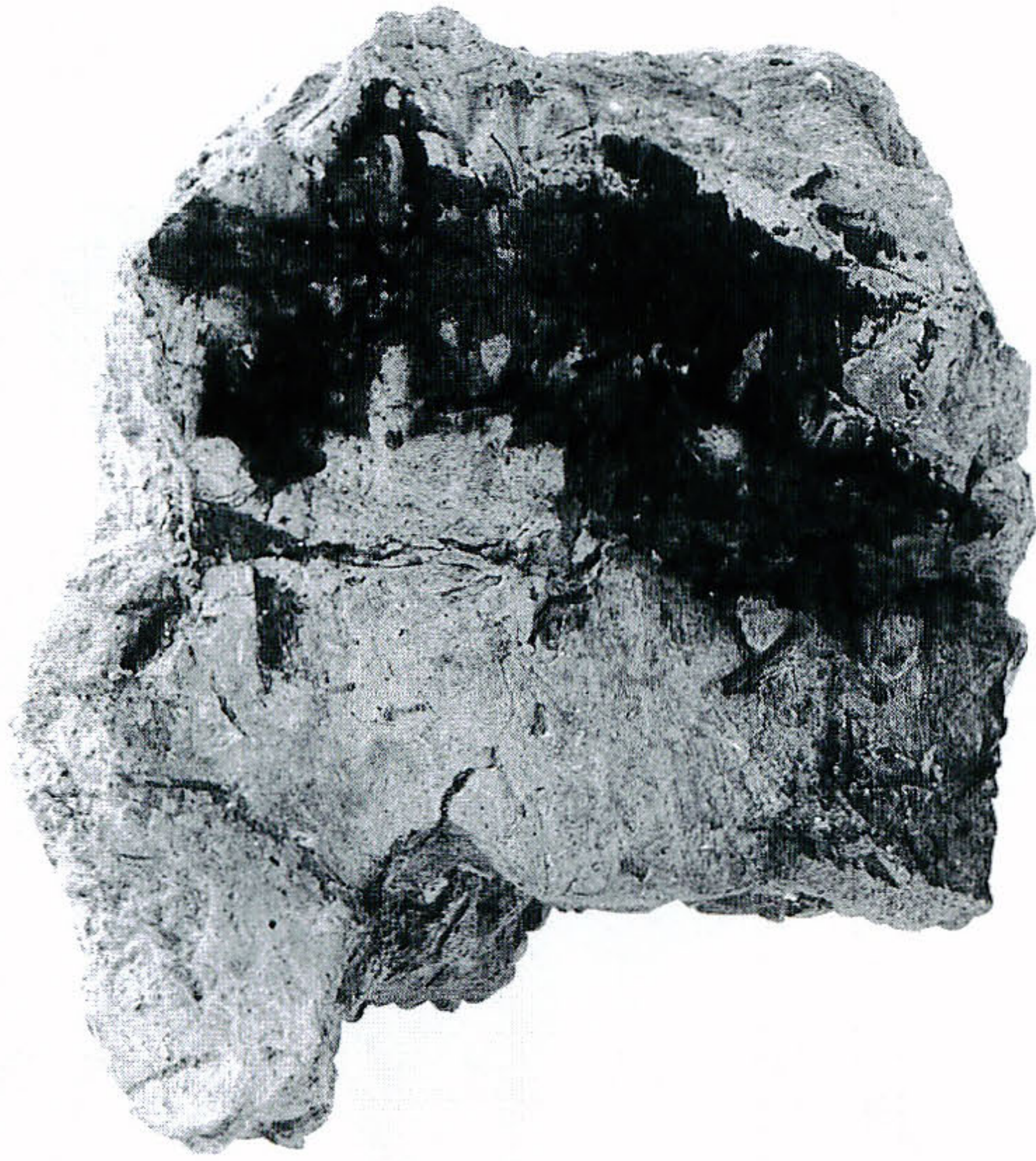
c



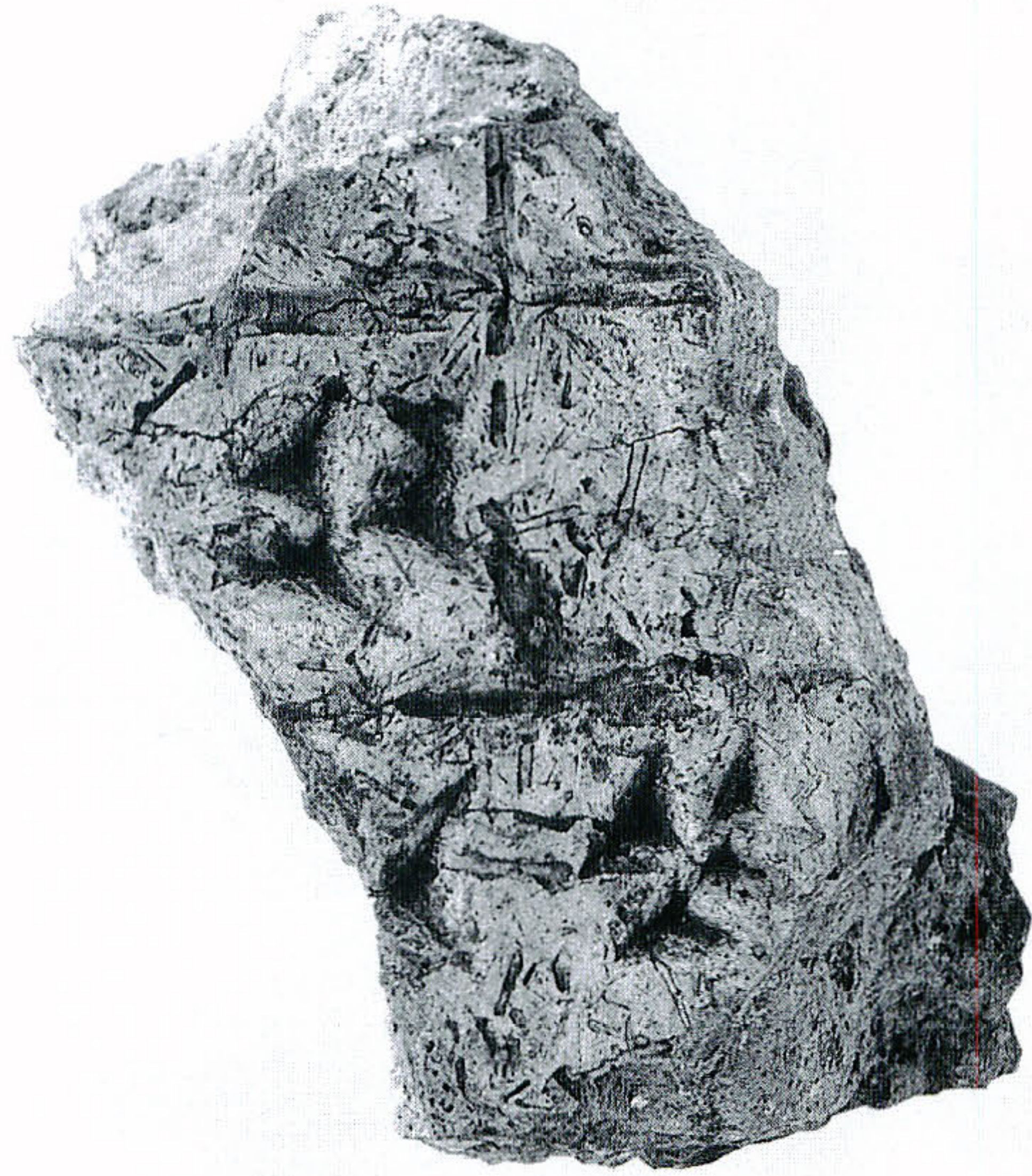
d

Fragmentary baked bricks with cuneiform letters from Level 8b

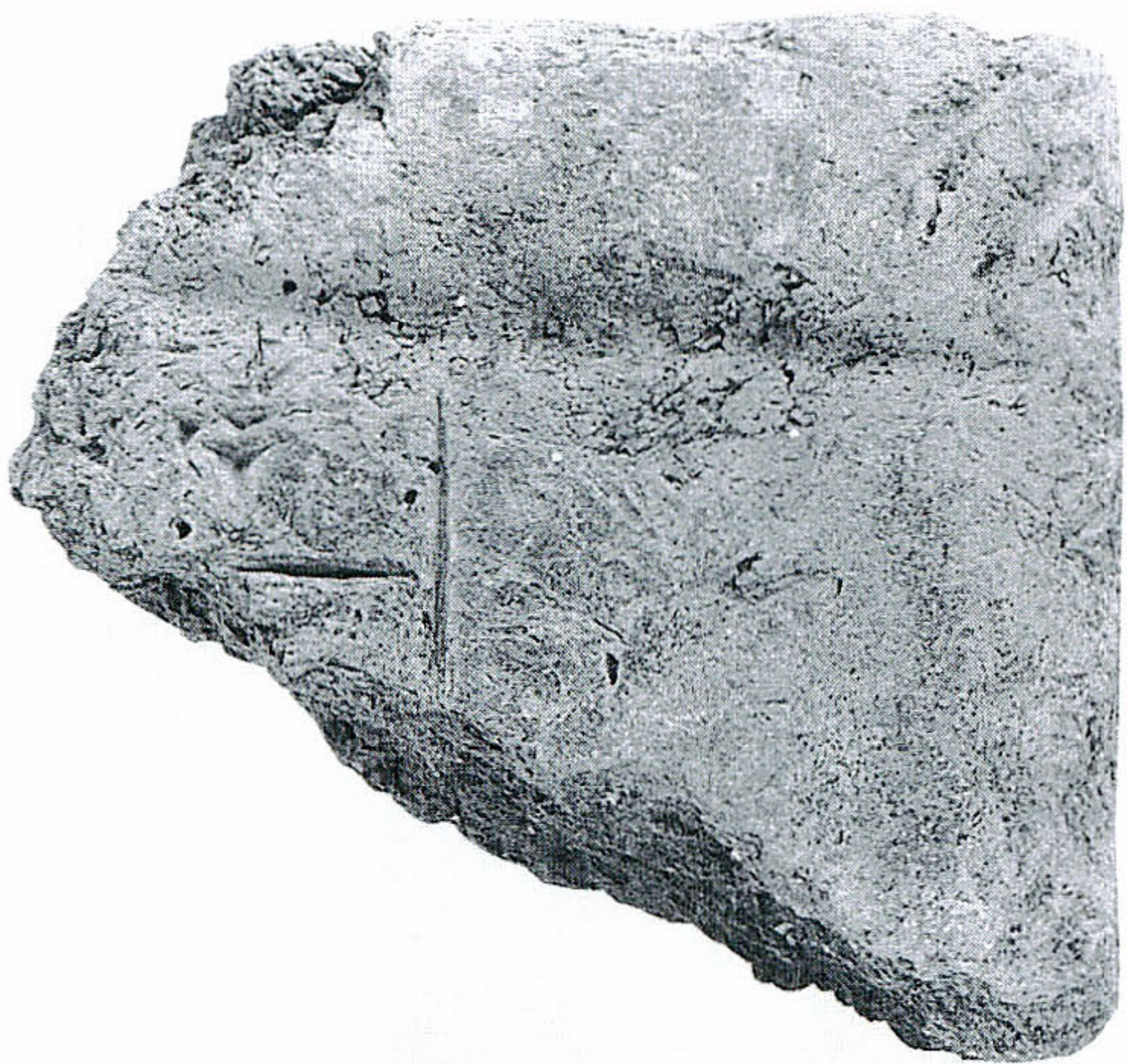




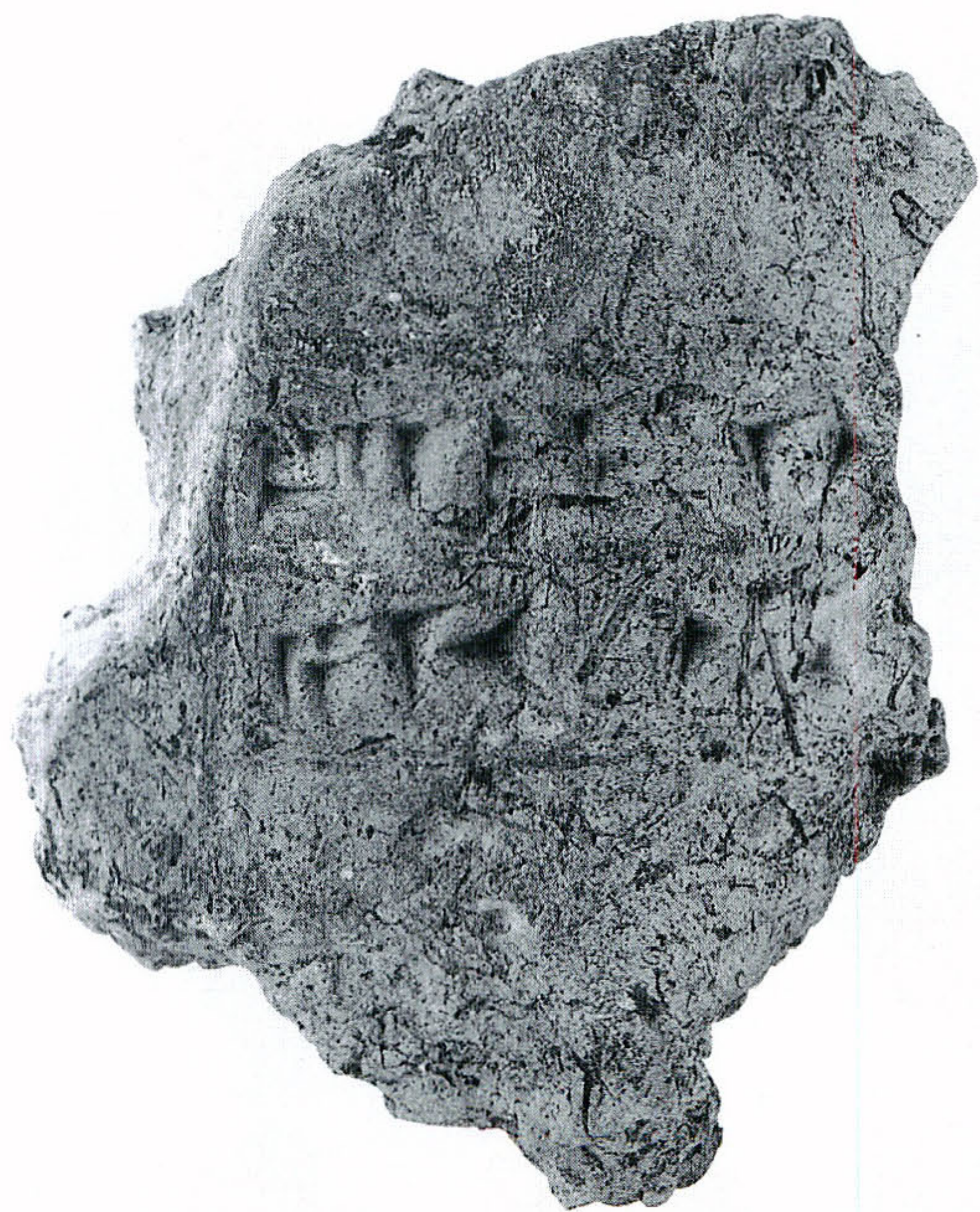
a



b



c



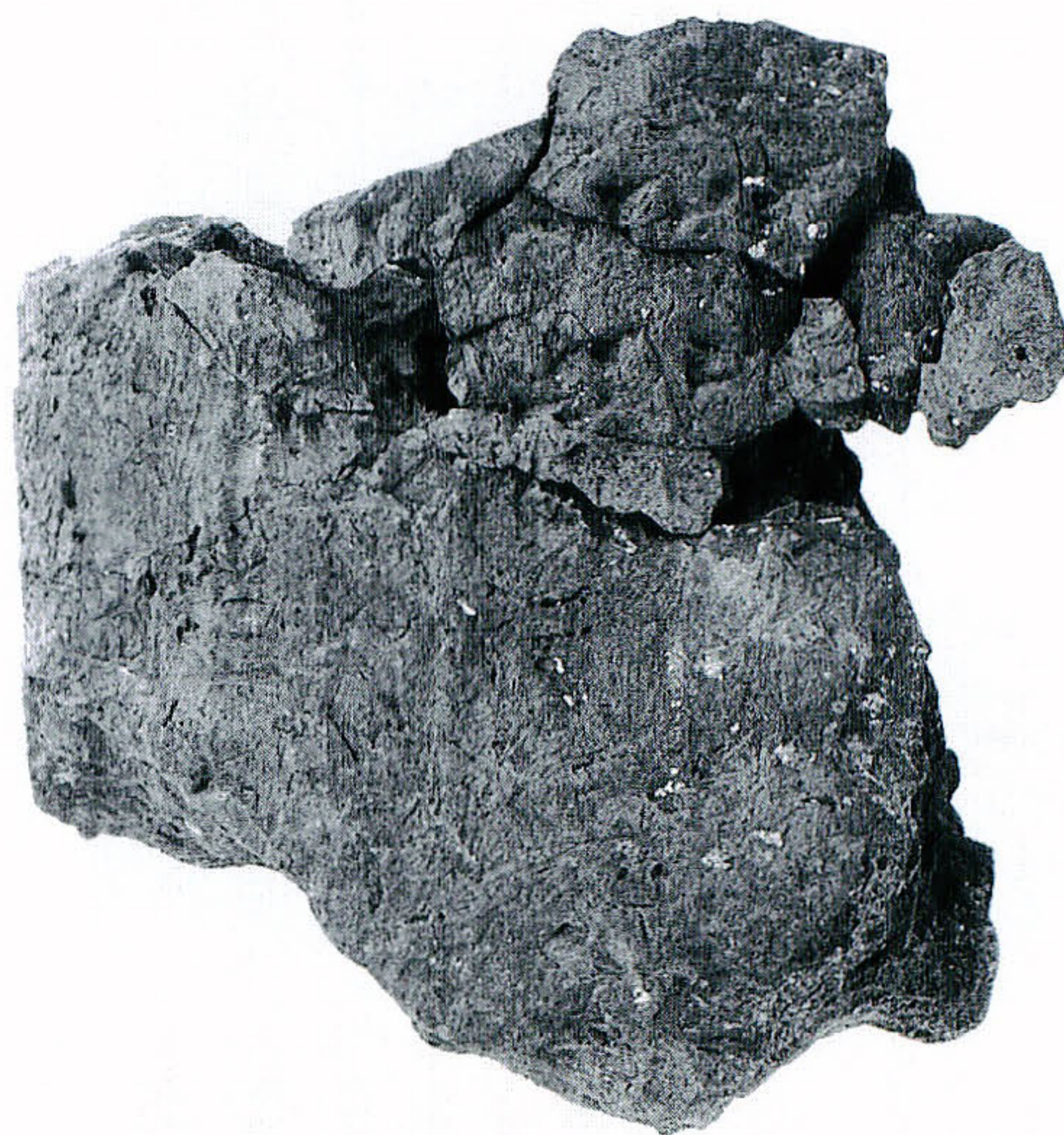
d

Fragmentary baked bricks with cuneiform letters from Levels 8b (a), 9a (b, c) and 9b (d)





a



b



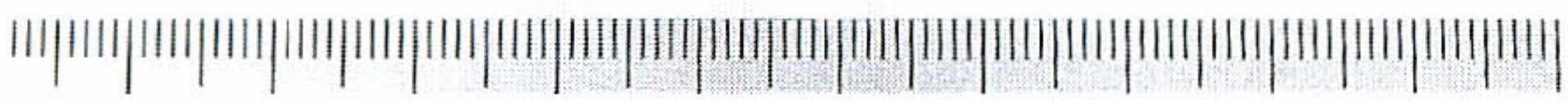
c



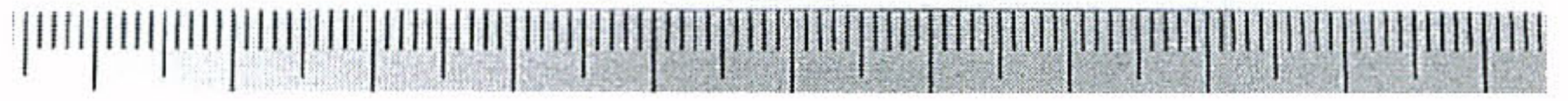
d

Fragmentary baked bricks with cuneiform letters from Levels 9b (a) and 9a/8b (b, c, d)





a



b



c



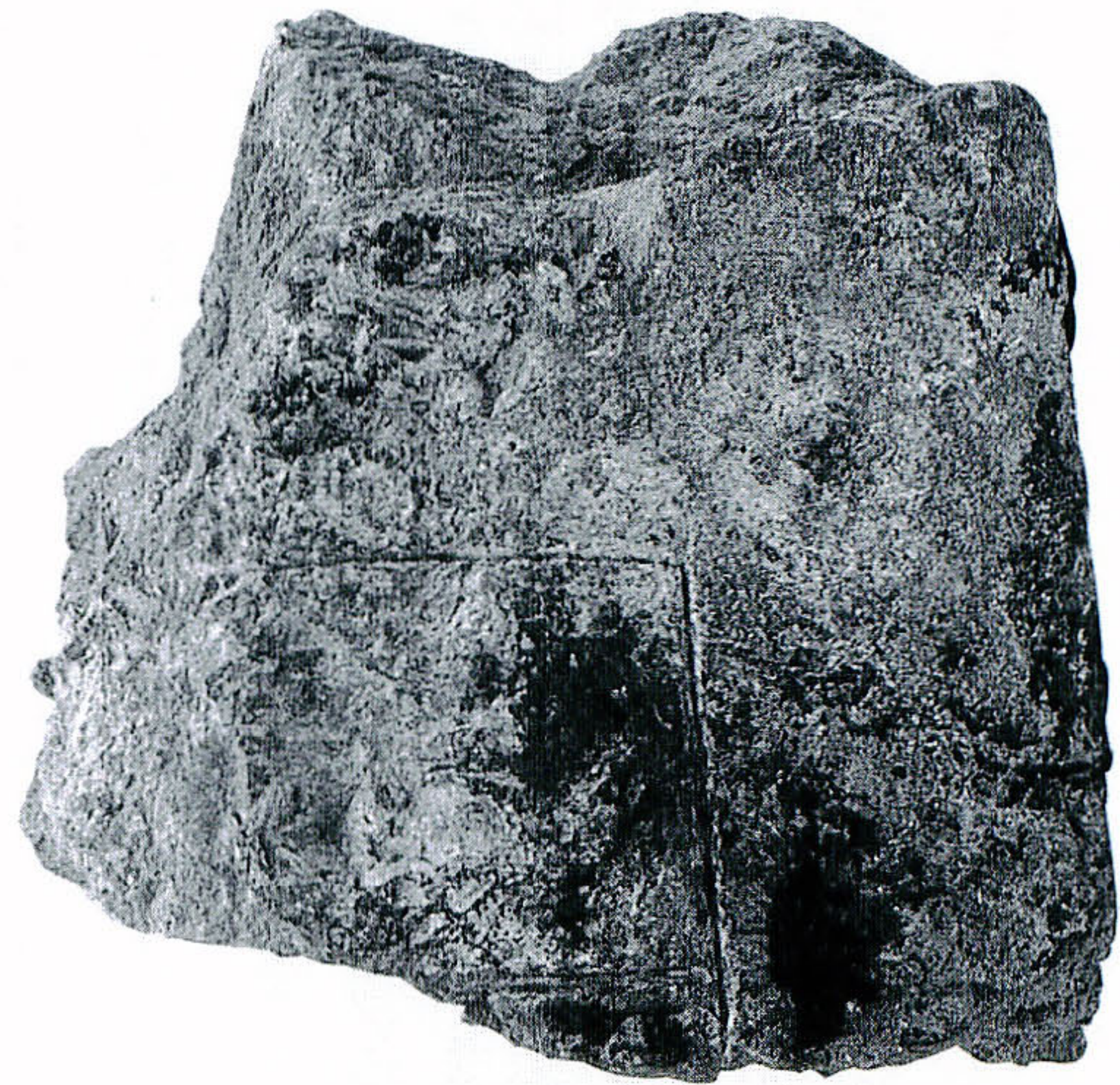
d

Fragmentary baked bricks with cuneiform letters from Level 9a/8b





a



d



b



e



c

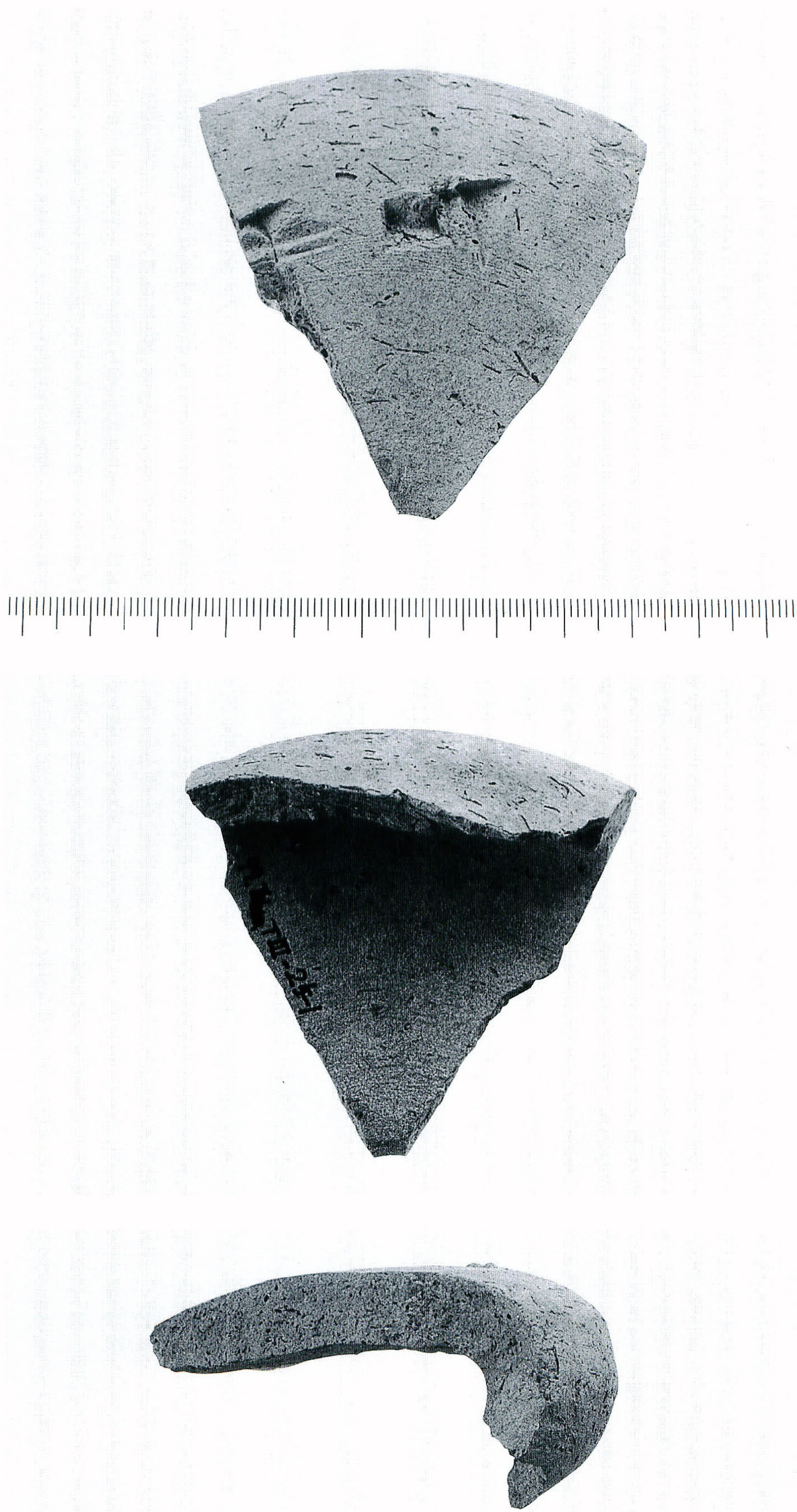
Fragmentary baked bricks with cuneiform letters from Levels 9a/8b (a, b, c, d) and 9a (e)





Fragmentary bowl with cuneiform inscription from Level 8b





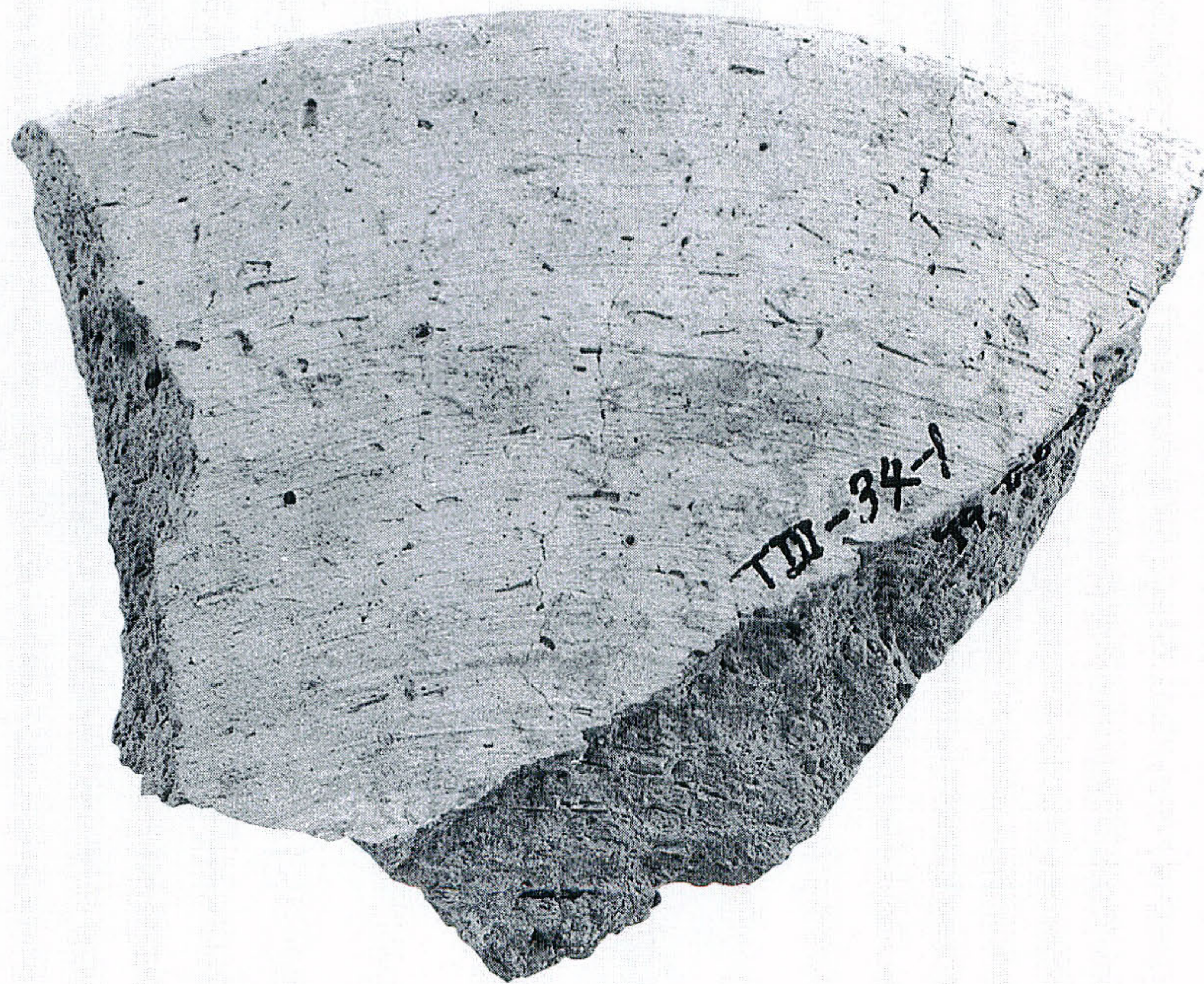
Fragmentary clay-nail head with cuneiform letters from Level 8b





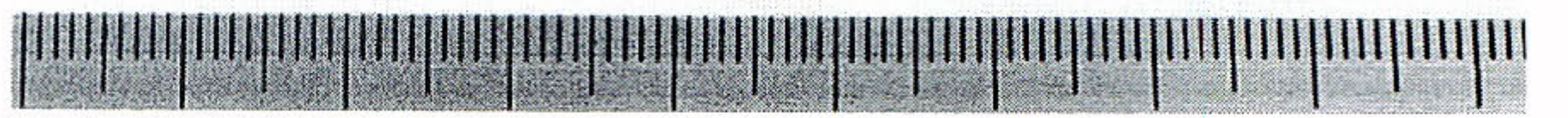
Fragmentary clay-nail head with cuneiform letters from Level 9a/8b





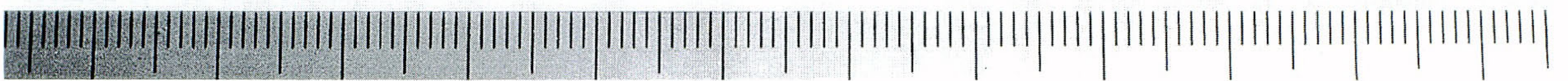
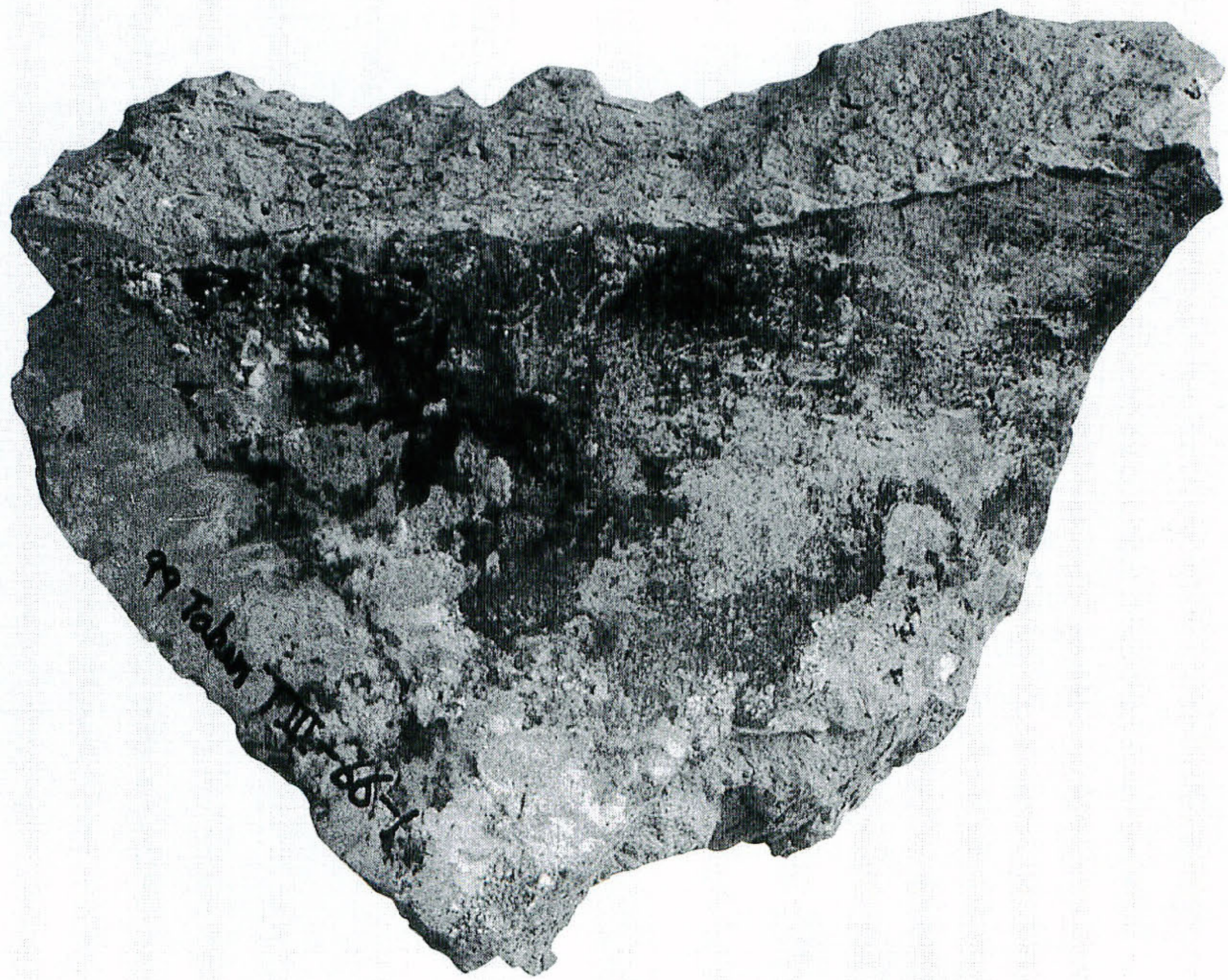
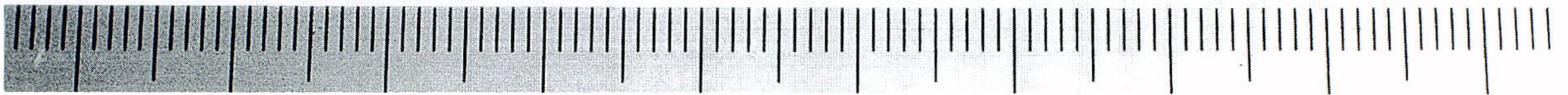
Clay-nail-like potsherd with cuneiform letters from Level 8b





Clay-nail-like potsherd with cuneiform letters from Level 8b





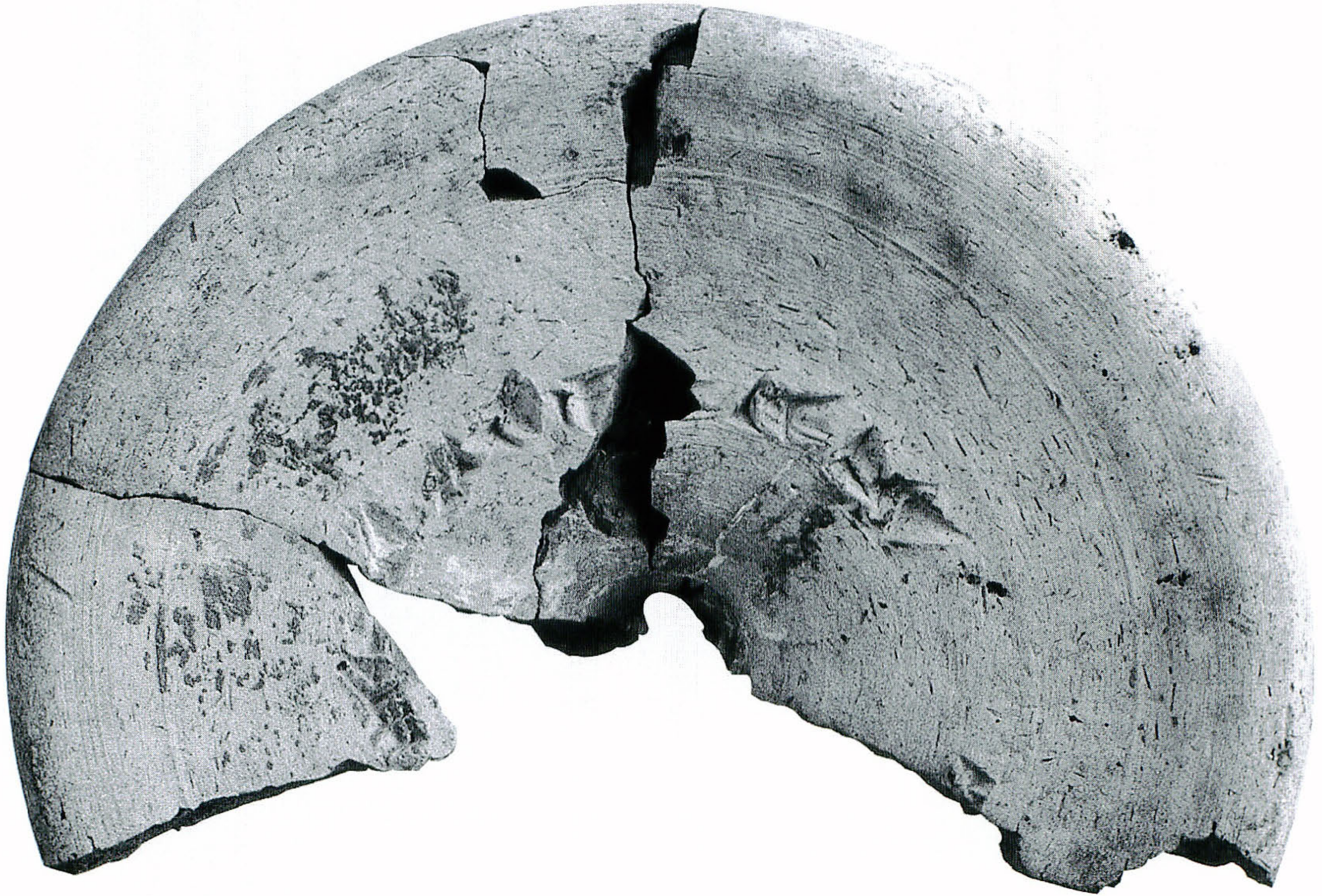
Clay-nail-like potsherd with cuneiform letters from Level 8b





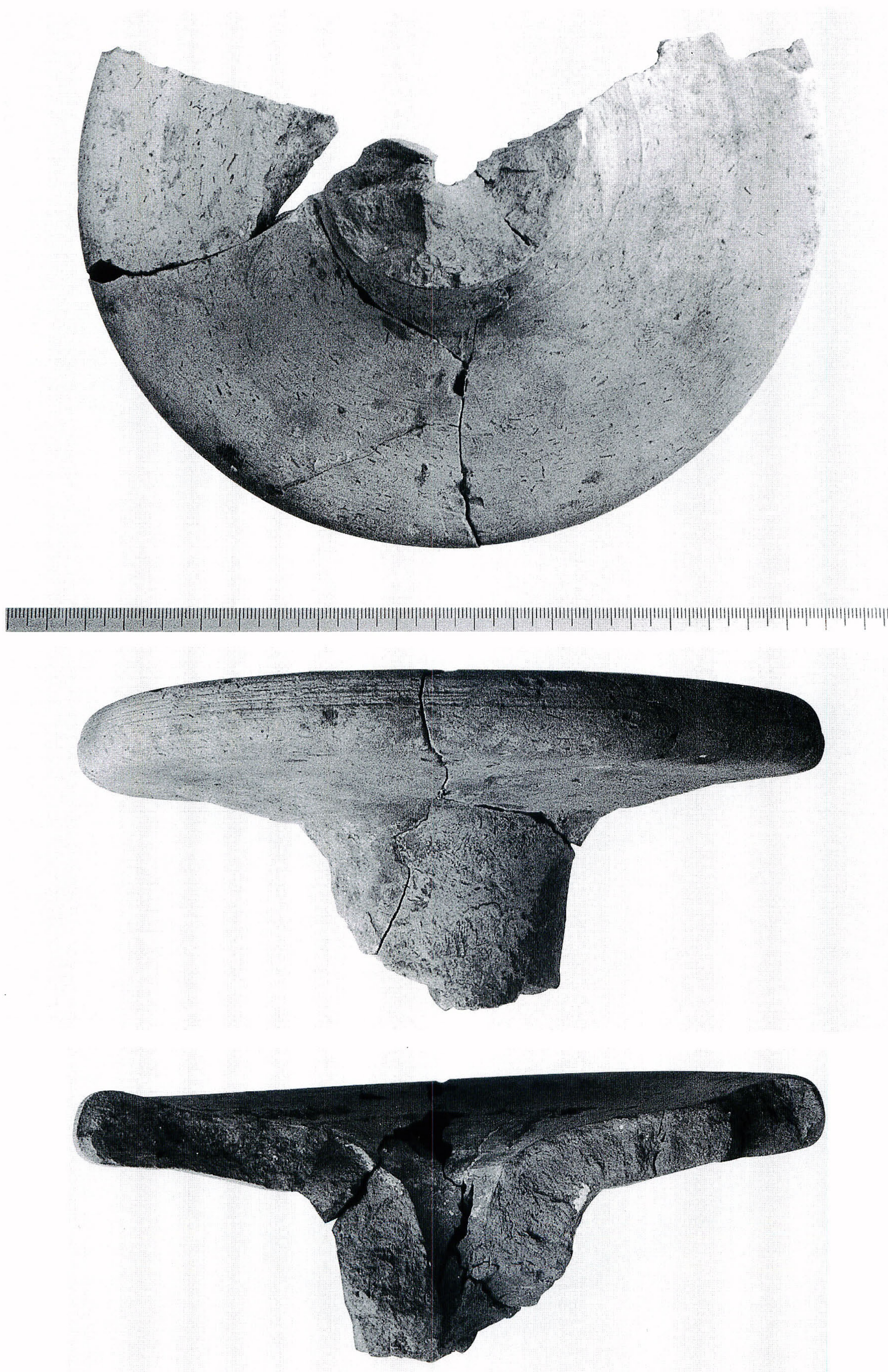
Clay-nail-like potsherd with cuneiform letters from Level 9a/8b





Clay-nail-like potsherd with cuneiform letters (TIII-73-9) from Level 9a/8b





Clay-nail-like potsherd with cuneiform letters (TIII-73-9) from Level 9a/8b





a. Nipple-base beaker from Level 8b



b. Button-base beaker from Level 9b



c. Bowl from Level 9b

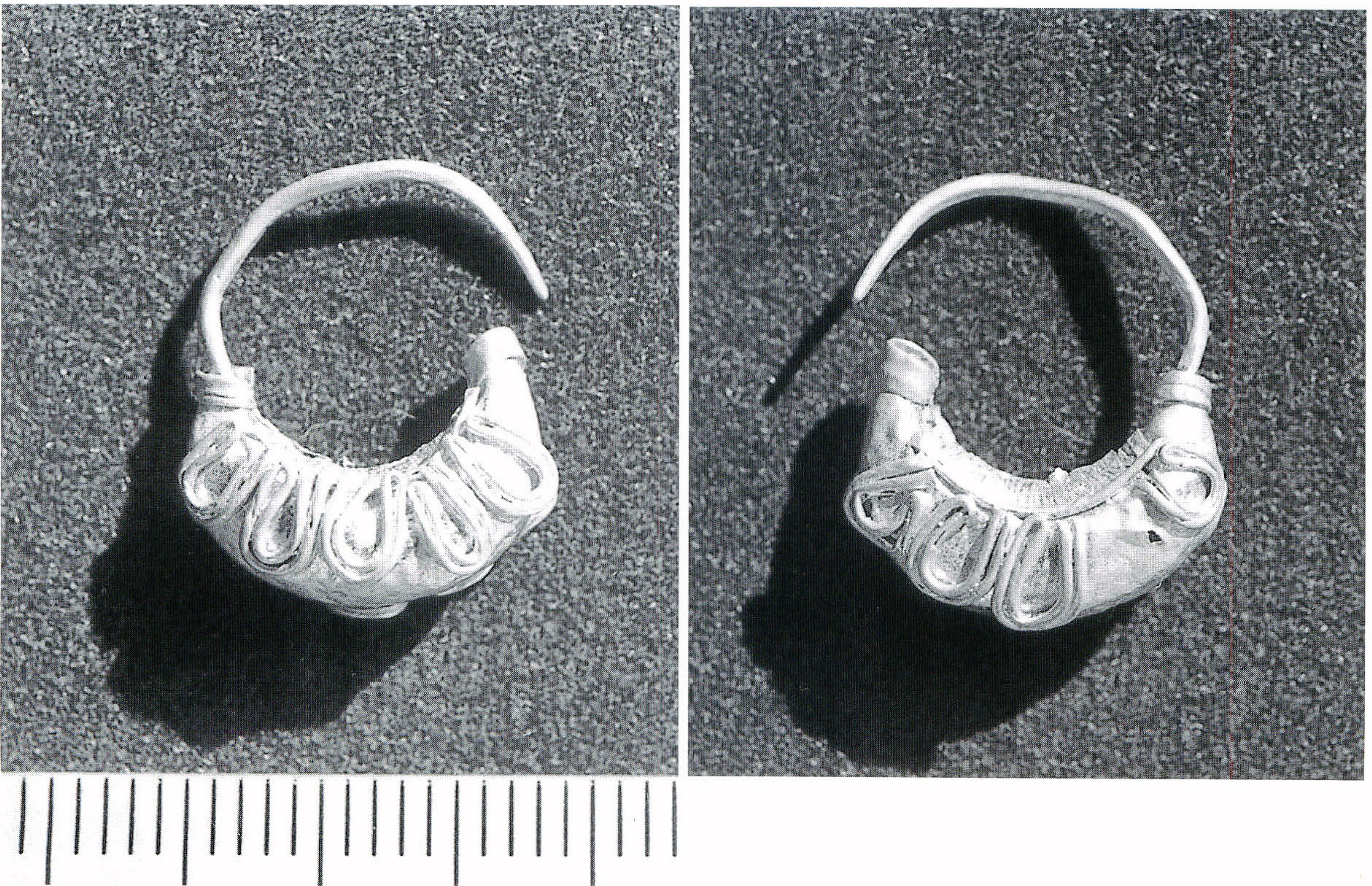


d. Bowl from Level 9a





a. Beads from grave of Level 6



b. Earring from grave of Level 8b







## SALT IN MESOPOTAMIA: SOME EVIDENCE FROM THE SELEUCID-SASANIAN PERIODS

St John SIMPSON\*

Salt is a pre-requisite of life and its extraction has played an important and well-documented economic role from medieval Europe to Africa and China [Nenquin 1961; Hopkinson 1997; Davison 1993; Tora 1993]. The extraction and use of salt have a particularly lengthy history in the Ancient Near East, possibly commencing as early as the neolithic or chalcolithic periods [Anati 1962: 29–30; 1963: 248–49; Buccellati 1990]. Third millennium and later cuneiform texts from Mesopotamia refer to salt-gathering and various uses of salt in food, medicine, incantation rituals, metallurgy, the curing of hides, preservation of fish and even possibly warfare [Butz 1984; Potts 1984; Durand 1987; 1990]. This review highlights some further evidence from the so-called “late periods” in Mesopotamia.<sup>1)</sup>

The annual salt tax constituted an important source of crown revenue in Ptolemaic Egypt and parts of the Seleucid empire [Rostovtzeff 1932: 82; 1941: vol. I, 309, 470, vol. III, 1396, n.122]. Mesopotamia was no exception. Sealed bullae from the Anu-Antum temple at the city of Warka, then known as Orchoi, demonstrate the application of this tax during the second century BC [Rostovtzeff 1932; McDowell 1935: 179–98]. Further evidence derives from the eastern Seleucid capital at Seleucia ad Tigrim. The 1927–1932 American excavations at this site produced two large private archives of sealed clay and bitumen bullae from level IV of the so-called “Great House” and a small number of surface and scattered finds, dating between the reigns of Seleucus I Nicator (305–281) and Demetrius II (146–38/130–25). Many of these bullae deal with exemptions from the salt tax [McDowell 1935; Savage 1977: 19–21]. Excavations in the so-called “Archive Square” building by a later Italian expedition to Seleucia revealed a third archive of bullae referring to salt, the latest of which dated to 154/53 BC [Invernizzi 1968/69; 1976: 168–69, fig. 5; Invernizzi *et al.* 1985: 92–94, 175–78; cf. also Valtz 1990]. Fingerprint analysis of these bullae suggested that a single official was responsible for the registration of both the payments of and exemptions from this salt tax [Invernizzi and Papotti 1991].

Potts [1984], Buccellati [1990] and Durand [1990] have stressed the potential importance of salines in the southern Jazira as sources of salt in ancient Mesopotamia. However, the extent to which central government maintained a monopoly over salt extraction and sales remains uncertain. McDowell [1935] has suggested that the Seleucid Babylonian salt tax was exacted only when salt was brought to the cities for sale. The persons responsible for the primary extraction of the salt thus are likely to have been elements of indigenous rural or bedouin populations, possibly bartering or selling salt for grain, butter, wool and manufactured goods: a similar situation existed in this region during the late nineteenth century [Potts 1984; Simpson 1994].

Salt played an important role in the Palmyrene economy. The “Tariff of Palmyra”, a large stone stela inscribed in Palmyrene and Greek and dated to AD 137, was a public record of old and new laws dealing with merchandise and taxation [Browning 1979: 15–17]. Two clauses were devoted to the trade and sale of salt:

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1) No attempt is made here to explore the Achaemenid evidence but it may be remarked that, according to Polyaeus (*Strategemata* IV. 3.32), the commissariat of Cyrus (550–530) or “Great King’s breakfast and dinner” included reference to “[kitchen] salt, 10 *artabai*”, where one *artabe* equalled 55.67 litres [Bivar 1985: 638–39].



### Clause XXVII Salt

It seemed a good thing that salt should be sold on the main square where gatherings take place. The Palmyrene who buys salt for his own use will pay 1 Italic *As* per *modius*. The existing tax on salt (Clause XVII) in Palmyra shall be estimated, as in the Province, on the *As*, and the salt shall be delivered to the merchants to be sold according to the custom.

Bernbeck's [1993] survey of sites along the Wadi Aḡiḡ, close to the Syrian-Iraqi border, strengthens the likelihood that sources in the southern Jazira were being exploited during this period. Further east, the large size, high quality and relative proximity of salines in the Tharthar depression suggest that salt extraction and taxation may have played an equally important role in the hitherto poorly-documented economy of Hatra [cf. Ibrahim 1986; also Cuinet 1892/94: 802–804].

The importance of this local resource may explain a distinctive feature of Parthian ceramic plainwares of central and northern Mesopotamia which often have pale or whitish exterior surfaces. This phenomenon has also been observed in the case of contemporary Parthian pottery from Seleucia [Matson 1971: 66–68]. This effect appears to have been caused by the migration of soluble salts to the exterior surfaces of the vessels during drying prior to kiln firing, and has also been observed on Nabataean and Early Islamic Cream Wares from Jordan [‘Amr 1992; Franken 1986: 241]. This surface effect probably stems either from the potters' deliberate attempt to improve the quality of the clay or to enhance the surface appearance of the vessels. The addition of salt water or even rock salt to potters' clay for these purposes is widely attested in recent times from Palestine, Jordan, Pakistan and Mexico [‘Amr 1987: 43, 95–96; Rice 1987: 67, 98, 119, 123; Arnold 1989: 26–28, 59–60].

There is further evidence for the exploitation and use of salt in Mesopotamia during the Sasanian period (c. AD 224–651). Stores of “fine white salt” and grain were seized by Julian's army in AD 363 at the fortified Sasanian town at Hit. This city, also known as Diacira, Dakira or Ihi dhe-Qiri, was situated on the Euphrates close to major central Mesopotamian salines [Oppenheimer 1983: 165–66, quoting Amm. Mar. XXIV. 2–3 and Zosimus III.15, 2–3; cf. also Banks 1912: 64–65]. The Babylonian Talmud, largely composed in central Mesopotamia between the third and fifth centuries AD, contains further references to uses of salt, with allusions to salted venison, bread and salt, the addition of salt to vegetable dishes, and the curative powers of salt in the case of fever, toothache, earache, snakebite and hangovers [Newman 1932: 33; Cohen 1937: 163–64, 206, 260, 262–63, 267, 270–71, 274–75; Neusner 1969: 368]. A cure for fever reported by Rab Abaye (c. AD 283–338) involved measuring out salt equivalent to the weight of a new *zuz* and tying it around the patient's neck [Cohen 1937: 267; also Neusner 1969: 349].<sup>2)</sup> Tasting salt on one's finger-tip was said to facilitate memory [Cohen 1937: 315]. However, although salt and water were considered indispensable to life, caution was exercised against excessive salt intake [Cohen 1937: 259–60, 262–63, 265].

A limited amount of information can be culled from other sources: a so-called “*dehkan's* dish” consisted of slices of salted mutton with pomegranate juice served with eggs [Christensen 1936: 472; cf. Roden 1986: 31].<sup>3)</sup> In c. AD 637/AH 16, an Arab army commanded by Sa'd captured the Sasanian capital at Ctesiphon. One of the anecdotes repeated by later Arab writers described how the soldiers “found camphor and, taking it for salt, put it in their cooking-pans” [al-Balādhuri = Hitti 1916: vol. I, 419] but after “we began to knead it [in our dough] ... we discovered that it made our bread taste bitter” [Tabari = Juynboll 1989: 24; cf. A'lam 1990].<sup>4)</sup>

2) Two denominations existed in Jewish silver, namely the smaller *zuz* which was equivalent to a Roman denarius or drachm and a quarter of the larger denomination, known as the *sela*, which was equivalent to a tetradrachm or shekel [Mildenburg 1984: 27].

3) The title of *dehkan* was given to a class of Persian landlord.

4) Camphor was imported to Tang China from “Po-se”, usually considered to be Persia. However, camphor trees are indigenous to south-east Asia and Laufer [1919: 478–79] concluded that in this case Po-se was Malaya, adding that the Arabic/Middle Persian word for camphor (*kafūr*) may be derived from the Sanskrit *karpūra* and that in medieval times Iran imported camphor via the Gulf port of Siraf [Laufer 1919: 585, 591; cf. also Schafer 1985: 166–68, A'lam 1990].



Finally, in Ferdowsi's *Shah-Nameh*, a tenth century collection of stories about pre-Islamic Iran, salt was recognised as a symbol of hospitality with strong preservative powers [Levy 1985: 272, 310, 342; also Arberry ed. 1963: v] and it continued to play a role in Mandaean ritual in the marshes of southern Iraq up to the present day [Drower 1937: 1956].

The extraction and salt thus clearly continued to play an important role in the Mesopotamian economy during these so-called "late" periods.

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## THE ORIGINS OF KHABUR WARE: A TENTATIVE NOTE

Hiromichi OGUCHI\*

In the appendix of her synthetic study of Khabur ware, Carol Hamlin, referring to the problem of the origins of Khabur ware, has enumerated ceramic groups which may have affected, or may have given a stimulus to, the appearance of Khabur ware [Hamlin 1971: pp.311–313]. It goes without saying that for a long time before Hamlin's brief discussion, there had been several arguments for explaining the origin of Khabur ware. Nevertheless, it is a fact that such a problem still remains enigmatic, which should be solved in future studies.

Pieces of evidence for the earliest appearance of Khabur ware now appear to be clear, in particular which come from three sites in north Iraq, *i.e.*, Tell al-Rimah, Tell Taya and Tell Jigan [Oguchi 1997: p.196; *idem* 1998: p.119 with n.3](see Fig.7). Such a phase as is represented by Rimah area AS phase 3 (now described as site A level 4), Taya level IV and Jigan area C trench G-4 levels 3a-b is presumably dated between *ca.* 1900 B.C. and *ca.* 1814 B.C., which the present writer has called Khabur Ware Period 1. We may be thus inclined to believe that this indicates the place in which Khabur ware originated. The problem lies, however, in that 20th century B.C. pottery<sup>1)</sup> succeeding late third millennium incised ceramic tradition<sup>2)</sup> was replaced by the painted pottery termed Khabur ware. In other words, what is the point of this problem is the reason for the recurrence in north Mesopotamia of painted decoration on pottery, *i.e.*, an apparent abrupt change in ceramic style in 19th century B.C. north Mesopotamia<sup>3)</sup>.

In this opportunity of writing, the present writer attempts to explore every possibility in terms of what influenced the appearance of the painted pottery designated as Khabur ware.

### Divergent views

Up to the present, there have been three divergent opinions on the origin of Khabur ware: an eastern origin, a western origin, and indigenoussness to north Mesopotamia. Now added to these is the possibility of a northern origin.

### Eastern origin

The eastern origin was substantially proposed by M.E.L. Mallowan [1937: pp.103–104 and p.145], although before such a proposal, E.A. Speiser pronounced a northeast origin on what was later called Khabur ware in terms of ethnic movements<sup>4)</sup> [1933: p.273]. Mallowan sought an area proposed for the source of its origin into western Iran, choosing Tepe Giyan as a specific site, where there was a continu-

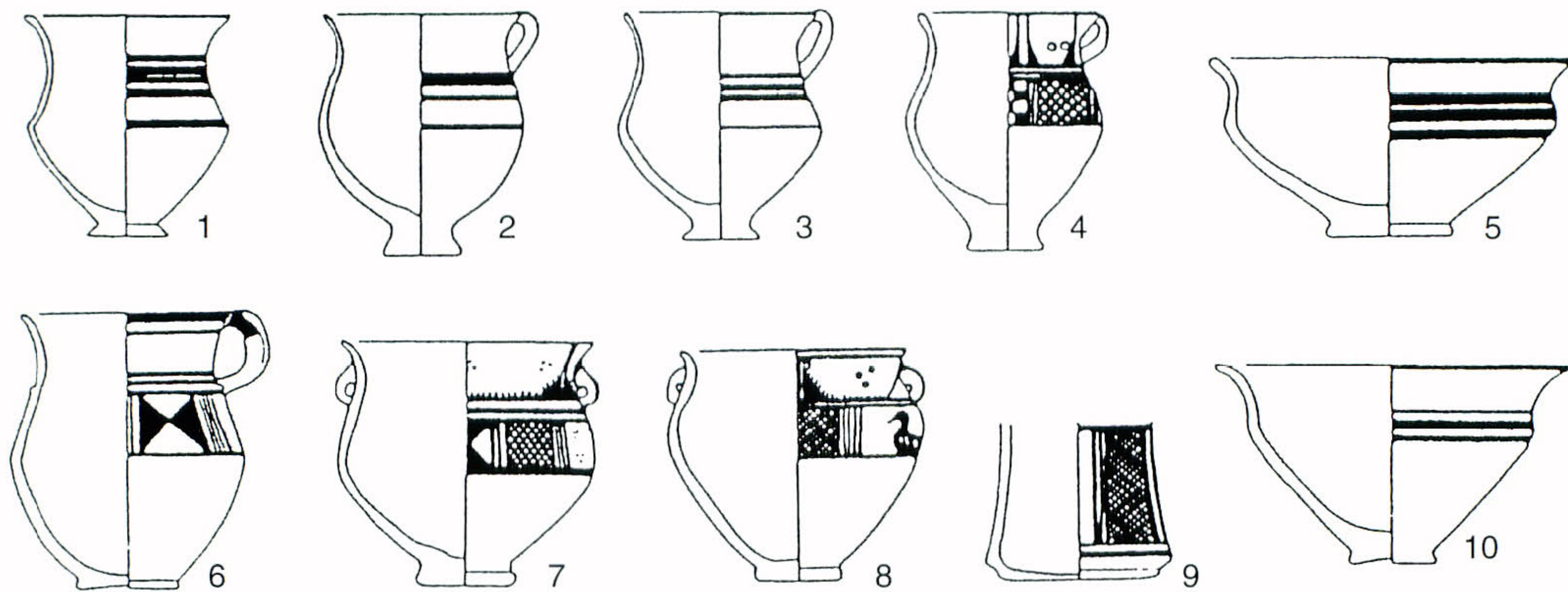
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- 1) The occurrence in the north of 20th century B.C. pottery including southern early Isin-Larsa types is said to have been now attested at Tell Brak [Oates & Oates 1994: p.171; Oates, Oates & McDonald 1997: p.62]. This is indeed important evidence for filling out a gap between late third millennium pottery and Khabur ware in north Mesopotamia. However, because Brak, lying at a crossing of routes linking the upper Khabur basin with the Sinjar-‘Afar plain, Aššur and the farther south, is a specific site certainly providing evidence of southern connections, there arises a question as to whether the same ceramic occurrence as at Brak can be confirmed at other sites in north Mesopotamia. If not, we must be confronted with the serious problem of how to identify the presence of occupation in 20th century B.C. north Mesopotamia [*cf.* Weiss *et al.* 1993: p.999ff. for “Ḫabur hiatus 1” phase 3]. At any rate, we wait for the second final report on the excavations at Brak, including the details of this 20th century B.C. pottery, to be published.
- 2) In brief, this is the pottery represented by the types known from levels IX–VI at Tell Taya or from the pre-Akkadin, Akkadin and post-Akkadian levels of Tell Brak.
- 3) Here, it is additionally noted that in the past, this was connected with the migration of Hurrians [see Mallowan 1947: pp.24–25]. But such a theory has now been regarded as invalid.
- 4) Speiser specified no site for the origin of Khabur ware; instead, he speculated that the inhabitants of Billa stratum 4, yielding Khabur ware, might be the forerunners of Anatolians, who came in from the northeast, *i.e.*, “Ḫatti”, who raided Babylon later on [1993: p.273 with n.30]. The ethnic term “Ḫatti”, mentioned by Spesier, obviously indicates the English term “Hittite” that is generally used to

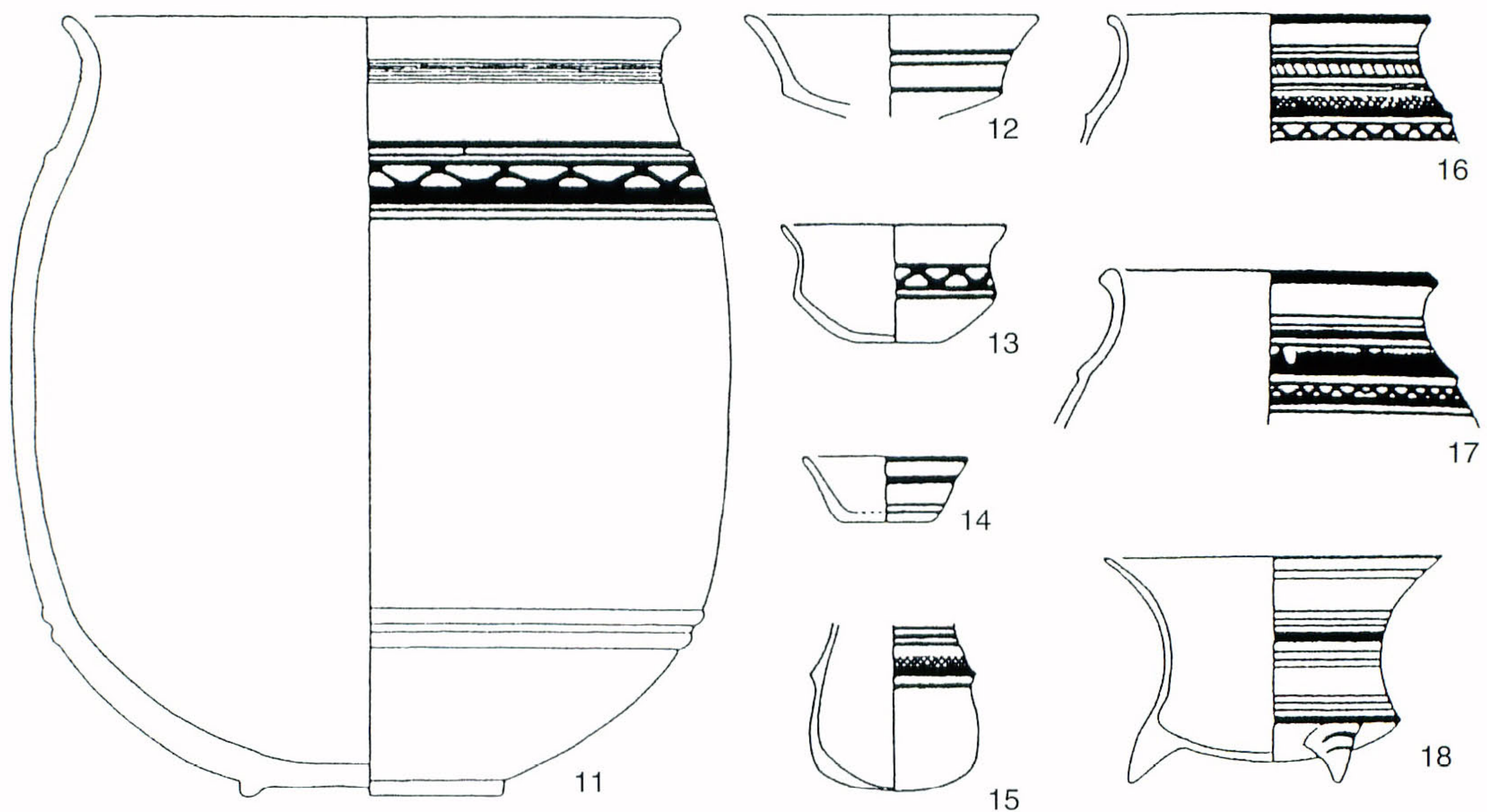


ous tradition of painted pottery. He, pointing out in Giyan II the occurrence of ceramics closely related to Khabur ware, concluded from the given date of the Giyan stratum II painted pottery (*ca.* 1800–1400 B.C.) that it was contemporary with Chagar Bazar Khabur ware. Thus he regarded Giyan III painted pottery (*ca.* 2500–1800 B.C.), originating in Giyan IV, as its ancestor (see Fig.1). This view was sub-

“Giyan II” style (Godin post-III :2)



“Giyan III” style (Godin III :2)



**Fig. 1** “Giyan” painted pottery from Godin Tepe (scale 1:5).

- |                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Henrickson 1986: Fig.17:10. | 10. Henrickson 1986: Fig.17:12. |
| 2. Henrickson 1986: Fig.17:11. | 11. Henrickson 1986: Fig.15:3.  |
| 3. Henrickson 1986: Fig.17:8.  | 12. Henrickson 1986: Fig.16:13. |
| 4. Henrickson 1986: Fig.17:5.  | 13. Henrickson 1986: Fig.16:12. |
| 5. Henrickson 1986: Fig.17:13. | 14. Henrickson 1986: Fig.16:10. |
| 6. Henrickson 1986: Fig.17:6.  | 15. Henrickson 1986: Fig.14:10. |
| 7. Henrickson 1986: Fig.17:4.  | 16. Henrickson 1986: Fig.14:16. |
| 8. Henrickson 1986: Fig.17:2.  | 17. Henrickson 1986: Fig.14:17. |
| 9. Henrickson 1986: Fig.17:7.  | 18. Henrickson 1986: Fig.16:1.  |

describe a people speaking a language relating to the Indo-European family; it should be, therefore, confounded with the term “*Hatti*” that is widely adopted to express a native Anatolian people speaking a non-Indo-European language [Gurney 1973: pp.230–231; Hallo & Simpson 1971: p.94].



sequently espoused by Marian Welker [1948: p.191] and Barthel Hrouda<sup>5)</sup> [1957: p.41], although the chronology of Giyan itself was very problematical<sup>6)</sup>. A decade later, T. Cuyler Young, Jr. carried out excavations at Godin Tepe, with the result that they provided the evidence that should make it possible to give a much clearer picture of the Giyan ceramic sequence. In his study on the chronology of the late third and second millennia B.C. in central western Iran, based on the results of the Godin excavations, Young suggested that the Giyan II ceramic material found in the upper levels of Godin III<sup>7)</sup> might show “a foreign element” in postulating that there would be the certain relationship between Giyan II and Khabur wares [1969: p.290]. In this connection, Robert H. Dyson, Jr. also pointed out that there were obvious affinities between the Giyan II pottery, found at Tepe Giyan and Godin Tepe, and the Dinkha painted ware that was generally recognized as the counterpart of Khabur ware found commonly in north Mesopotamia [1973: p.708 and *cf.* p.711].

However, there arose an argument against the eastern origin of Khabur ware: Carol Hamlin argued that the Giyan II and Godin III painted wares were different from the Dinkha Khabur ware both in shape and in decorative motifs [1971: p.142 and pp.144–145]. If her claim is correct, the possibility of the eastern origin must be excluded from consideration. Another counterargument was made by Diana L. Stein: she refutes it in that Khabur ware predates part of the Giyan II painted ceramic assemblage and in that the Giyan II assemblage, representing an intrusive element, differs from that of Giyan IV–III [1984: p.26]. Thus the claim of the derivation of Khabur ware from “Giyan” pottery was theoretically denied.

### *Western origin*

The western origin of Khabur ware was, on the other hand, suggested by Ann Perkins [1954: p.50] and Edith Porada [1965: p.172]. The pottery specified there as the ancestry of Khabur ware is Syro-Cilician painted pottery<sup>8)</sup>, first clearly defined by M.V. Seton-Williams<sup>9)</sup> [1953: p.57ff.] though previously discussed by Marian Welker [1948: p.205ff.]. This painted pottery is normally monochrome<sup>10)</sup>, and is mainly characterized by jugs and carinated bowls either with or without pedestals; its main distribution spreads out over Cilicia and north Syria<sup>11)</sup>. It was usually said to somehow resemble Khabur ware; this is one of the arguments for supporting the theory that Khabur ware must be derived from Syro-Cilician pottery (see Fig.2). The resemblance may be also shown by the fact that both the wares

5) Hrouda has recently retracted his opinion on the Giyan origin of Khabur ware [1989: p.212].

6) What matters at Tepe Giyan is the fact that the chronology is based on ceramic materials from graves [Hamlin 1971: p.21]. For the problem of the Giyan chronology, see Dyson 1973: p.692ff.

7) The chronology of Godin III has recently elucidated by Robert C. Henrickson through his study of the development of the Godin III ceramic tradition [1986]. He suggests that Giyan III can be equated with Godin III:2 (*ca.* 1900–1600 B.C.), and Giyan II with Godin post-III:2 graves (*ca.* 1600–1400 B.C.) [1986: p.19, p.24 and p.26, and *cf.* Fig.3 on p.28].

8) This painted pottery is variously termed:— as, “Syrian (painted) ware” [Hrouda 1957; Gates 1981; Stein 1984], “Cilician (painted) ware” [Hamlin 1971], and “Amuq-Cilician (painted) ware” [Tubb 1981; McClellan 1989; Heinz 1992]. *Cf.* Seton-Williams 1953: p.57. The term “Syro-Cilician painted pottery” is adopted, for example, by Gerstenblith [1983].

9) Seton-Williams herself suggests that both Cilician and Khabur wares have the same eastern origin, in accordance with Mallowan’s suggestion on the origin of Khabur ware [1953: p.64].

10) Tubb points out that although only one colour of paint is normally applied, there are occasional cases of bichrome decoration [1981: p.403; *cf.* 1983: p.52], while Gerstenblith indicates that such cases are only of colour variation resulting uneven firing [1983: p.69]. In addition, Seton-Williams writes that the paint applied to the smaller vessels is lustrous, while the paint applied to the larger vessels is occasionally matt [1953: p.58]. According to also Seton-Williams, although the vessels are usually hand-made, there are also wheel-made examples [1953: p.58]; Hrouda, however, writes that the sharply formed profile with a clear rim-edge of the pottery suggests that it was manufactured on a potter’s wheel, though the earliest examples seem hand-made [1957: p.27].

11) The main sites that produced Syro-Cilician pottery are as follows:— Tell Atchana-Alalah (levels XVII/XVI–VIII/VII) and Tell Judeidah (periods VIII–VII = Amuq phases K–L) in the Amuq plain, Tarsus (MB levels), Kazanlı (MB levels), Mersin (levels XI–IX) and several other sites in the Cilician plain, Kültepe-Kaniš (*Karum* levels IV and II) in central Anatolia, Tilmen Hüyük (levels IIIa and IIIb) in the İslahiye plain of Turkey, several sites along the Qoueiq river of north Syria, Tell Mardikh-Ebla (the “Tomb of the Princess”, dating in part to the MB IIA period) in inland northwest Syria, Hama (period H), Mishrife-Qatna (Tomb I) and Tell Nebi Mend-Qadesh (a MB IIA level) along the Orontes river of inland Syria, and Ras Shamra-Ugarit (a single example) in the Syrian coast [Tubb 1981: p.403 and pp.405–406; *idem* 1983: pp.50–52].



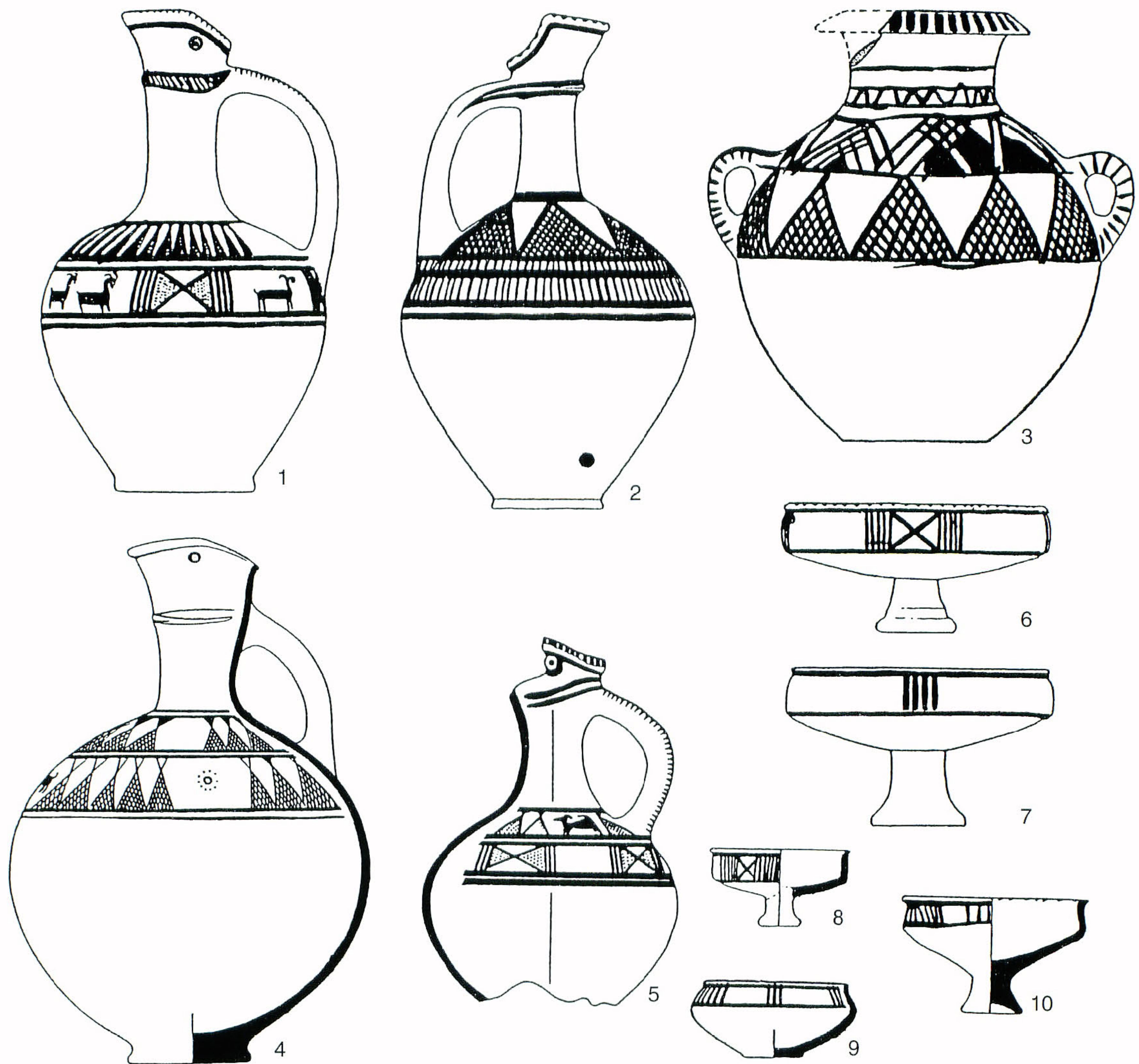


Fig. 2 Syro-Cilician painted pottery (scale 1:5).

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Seton-Williams 1953: Fig.3:7. Alalah.  | 6. Seton-Williams 1953: Fig.4:8. Tarsus.   |
| 2. Seton-Williams 1953: Fig.3:9. Ugarit.  | 7. Seton-Williams 1953: Fig.4:11. Tarsus.  |
| 3. Seton-Williams 1953: Fig.2:13. Tarsus. | 8. Seton-Williams 1953: Fig.4:5. Mersin.   |
| 4. Seton-Williams 1953: Fig.3:5. Mersin.  | 9. Seton-Williams 1953: Fig.2:1. Mersin.   |
| 5. Tubb 1983: Fig.1:1. Tell Judeidah.     | 10. Seton-Williams 1953: Fig.4:10. Mersin. |

were initially apt to be confused<sup>12)</sup>. Another argument for this theory is based on the fact that Syro-Cilician pottery predates Khabur ware<sup>13)</sup>. This could be demonstrated on the basis of the evidence that at Alalah, Syro-Cilician painted pottery occurred between levels XVII and VIII, but fell out of use in level VII<sup>14)</sup>, which was normally considered contemporary with the introduction of Khabur ware<sup>15)</sup> [D.L.

12) Hamlin illustrates the confusion by giving examples, one of which is on Group X reported by Seton Lloyd through a survey in the Sinjar area of Iraq; she points out that this pottery group, consisting of carinated bowls with painted decoration, which was regarded by Lloyd as comparable to pottery found at Judeidah level VII and at Mersin, should be merged with his Group XII under the heading of Khabur ware [1971: p.20; cf. Lloyd 1938: p.134]. It was Welker that first distinguished between Syro-Cilician pottery and Khabur ware, in claiming "a general resemblance" between the two wares [1948: p.205].

13) Welker, who supported the eastern origin of Khabur ware, thought that Khabur ware had influenced Syro-Cilician pottery [1948: p.205].

14) Woolley 1955: p.341, on which he writes that the so-called "early local painted pottery" (his types 23, 70 and 119), which is identified with Syro-Cilician painted pottery, occurs in level XVI and continues up to level VIII, but it falls out of use in level VII and then revives in a way in levels VI-V. However, the pottery type-list presented by Woolley in his report shows that one of his types of Syro-Cilician



Stein 1984: p.26; *cf.* Hamlin 1971: pp.181–182]. It was also supported by the fact that at Kültepe, Syro-Cilician painted pottery was found in *Karum* IV and II, while Khabur ware, discovered in *Karum* Ib, was not found in the underlying levels, IV–II [D.L. Stein 1984: p.26].

Against such a view as Khabur ware being derived from Syro-Cilician painted pottery, however, an argument was raised by D.L. Stein. She regarded the differences in shape and in design composition between the two painted wares as important rather than the few parallels between their individual elements of design [1984: p.26]<sup>16)</sup>. Grounding her argument on this matter and also emphasizing the discrepancy between their distributions, Stein refuted the view on the western origin.

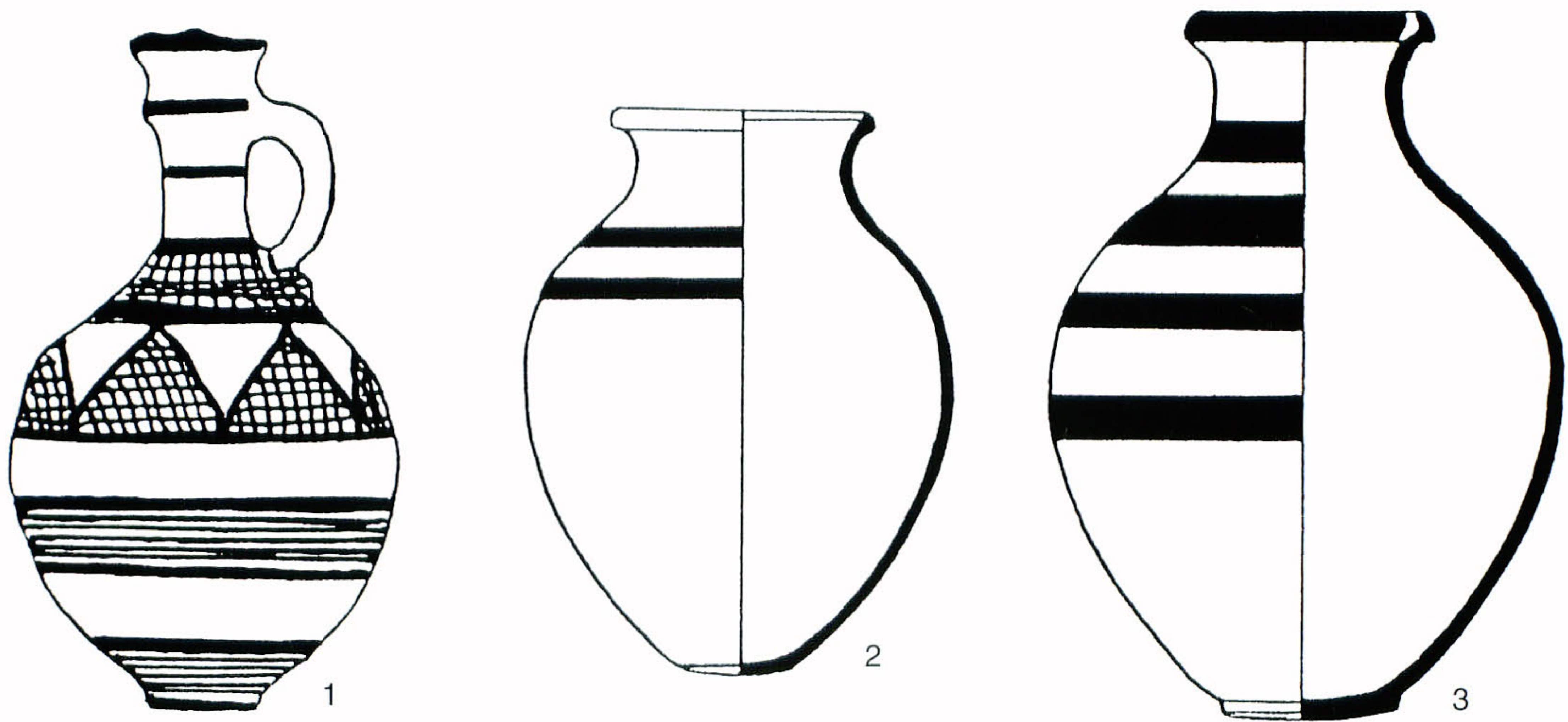
With regard to the western origin of Khabur ware, there is another candidate for its ancestry, which is so-called “MBIIA Palestinian painted ware”, distributed over Palestine and the Levantine coast (see Fig.3). It was first believed that this pottery could be traced back to the Khabur region, and thus that it was derived from Khabur ware. The proponent of this idea is Ruth Amiran, who, elucidating similarities and differences between these two wares, postulated that there was some relations between them [1969: pp.113–115]. Further, in a discussion from a chronological point of view, she thought that the floruit of the MBIIA ware in Palestine might accord with the date of Khabur ware, the early 18th century B.C.<sup>17)</sup>, determined through epigraphic evidence [1969: p.118]<sup>18)</sup>. However, such an idea was later rectified by Patty Gerstenblith [1983] who supported Amiran’s view regarding the relations between the two wares. Directing attention to band-painted store jars of MBIIA Palestinian ware<sup>19)</sup>, which, in her opinion, fall within the range of Khabur ware but should be treated as belonging to the group of Syro-Cilician pottery, Gerstenblith pointed out that such store jars had been introduced into north Mesopotamia, where they were to be termed Khabur ware [1983: pp.59–60 and pp.63–64]. Of interest are her arguments for such a hypothesis. She argues that “the store jars in the Levant were in use only during the beginning of the MB I period” which means Amiran’s MB IIA<sup>20)</sup>, while such band-painted jars did not appear in north Mesopotamia by the time of the last phase of MB I if we relied on epigraphic evidence<sup>21)</sup>,

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pottery (type 23) occurs in level XVII as well [1955: p.333]. This is variously cited. Hrouda [1957: pp.27–28] and Hamlin [1971: p.181] follow Woolley’s description, although Hrouda considers level XVII painted pottery as the earliest type of Syro-Cilician pottery at Alalah. On the other hand, Tubb mentions its occurrence in levels XVII–VIII [1981: p.403]; Stein follows Tubb’s mention [1984: p.26]. However, the most recent study by Heinz on the chronology and ceramics of Alalah XVII–VII, including the re-examination of a number of unpublished materials, seems to prove to some extent the presence of Syro-Cilician pottery in XVI–VII [1992: pp.54–59, esp. p.54].

- 15) However, it is noted here that Alalah level VII is now generally dated *ca.* 1720–1650/20 B.C. by its archive and a historical event mentioned in the Boğazköy texts [Collon 1975: p.143], and that the introduction of Khabur ware in north Mesopotamia now should be dated no later than the early 19th century B.C. [Oguchi 1997: p.198; *cf. idem* 2000: Fig.6 on pp.118–119]. Further, we must take it into consideration that Heinz’s study [1992] proves that Khabur ware occurs in Alalah level VIII [see Oguchi 1998: p.126]. Such a demonstration as was done in the past is, therefore, now invalid.
- 16) Tubb also states that “Habur ware bears no resemblance whatever” to Syro-Cilician ware [1983: p.55].
- 17) *Cf.* note 15 in this article, for the upper date of Khabur ware, or Oguchi 1997: p.198 and p.205. Moreover, it should be remembered here that in the past, the approximate date for the beginning of Khabur ware was set in the reign of Šamši-Adad I (*ca.* 1813–1781 B.C. on the middle chronology) on the ground of epigraphic evidence from Chagar Bazar, and thus that a date of *ca.* 1800 B.C. given by Mallowan for the introduction of Khabur ware in quantity continued to be used mistakenly as the upper date of Khabur ware in related studies, for which see and *cf.* Mallowan 1947: pp.82–83.
- 18) Amiran assigned the Middle Bronze IIA period to *ca.* 2000/1950–1730 B.C. Here, it should be noted that there are divergent opinions regarding the terminological system of the Middle Bronze Age [see Dever 1973: Fig.1 on p.38; Gerstenblith 1983: Table 1 on p.3].
- 19) Gerstenblith provisionally terms them “‘Habur’ ware store jars” of the Levant [1983: *e.g.* p.63].
- 20) Gerstenblith’s terminology of the Middle Bronze Age is used in accordance with a proposal by Oren [1973: p.37] and Dever [1973: n.56 on p.60] suggesting that there is no break between Albright’s EB IV and MB I, whereas a major break occurs between his MB I and MB IIA. Thus, Gerstenblith’s MB I, implying the certain beginning of MB, is used as an approximate equivalent of Albright’s MB IIA (*i.e.* Albright’s MB I = part of Gerstenblith’s EB IV) [Gerstenblith 1980: p.74; *idem* 1983: pp.2–3]; but their views on absolute chronology are different. Albright, the main proponent of the low chronology, dates his MB IIA to *ca.* 1800–1700 B.C.; and Gerstenblith, preferring the middle chronology, dates her MB I to *ca.* 2000/1950–1750 B.C.
- 21) On the basis of ceramic chronology, Gerstenblith subdivided her MB I into three phases such as MB IA–IC, and dated the early phase, MB IA, to *ca.* 2000/1950–1890 B.C., the middle phase, MB IB, to *ca.* 1890–1810/1800 B.C., and the last phase, MB IC, to *ca.* 1810/1800–1750 B.C. [1980: p.74; 1983: p.106]. In proceeding with her discussion, Gerstenblith was aware that if so, there arose a consider-





**Fig. 3** MBIIA Palestinian painted ware (scale 1:5).

1. Amiran 1969: Pl.35:7. Ras el-Ain.
2. Amiran 1969: Pl.35:11. Megiddo.
3. Amiran 1969: Pl.35:12. Megiddo.

and further that there might be a causal mechanism for their introduction into north Mesopotamia, which was the export of liquids such as wine and olive oil, transported by using such vessels, from the Levant into north Mesopotamia, as documented in the Mari texts [Gerstenblith 1983: pp.63–64].

As opposed to both the views of Amiran and Gerstenblith, however, there is an opinion given by Jonathan N. Tubb who considers that MBIIA Palestinian painted ware, also termed “Levantine painted pottery”, is stylistically different from Syro-Cilician ware [1983: p.53]. His opinion is that “the apparent similarity between MBIIA Palestinian painted ware and painted Habur ware must be purely fortuitous”, and that “the resemblance is only superficial and arises solely as a function of the extreme simplicity of many of the designs of each group”; thus he suggests that the Palestinian/Levantine painted pottery tradition is unrelated to that of the Khabur region [1983: p.55]. In this way, Amiran’s theory that MBIIA Palestinian ware is a descendant of Khabur ware has been denied. Had Tubb known Gerstenblith’s theory that Khabur ware was descended from Levantine painted store jars, he would have also denied it. After Tubb, Amihai Mazar also states that “the relation between the painted pottery of the Habur region and that of Syria and Palestine is not entirely clear” [1990: p.183 and also see n.17 on p.228].

### *Contenders along the middle Euphrates and in inland Syria*

In addition to the ceramic groups noted above regarding the western origin of Khabur ware, there is also another candidate, which is the third millennium band-painted pottery that Hartmut Kühne treated as a painted variant of “metallic ware (= stone ware)”<sup>22)</sup> (see Fig.4). Although whether this kind of band-

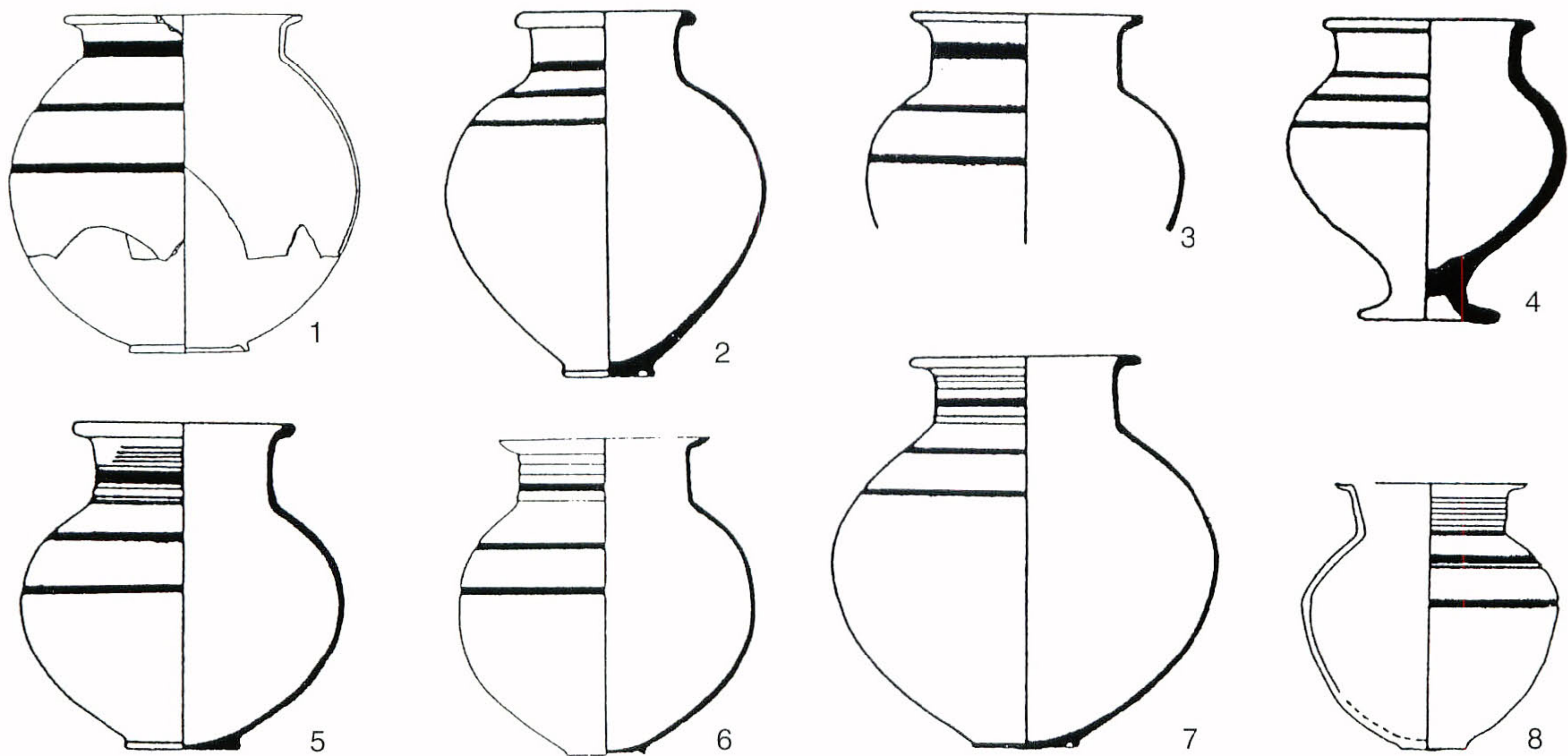
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able chronological gap between the occurrence of the painted store jars in the Levant (MB IA) and the appearance, dated in the past to *ca.* 1800 B.C., of Khabur ware jars in north Mesopotamia (MB IC). In this respect, however, Gerstenblith insisted that the date of Khabur ware could be estimated to be earlier than that supported by epigraphic evidence [1983: pp.63–64].

22) For this third millennium band-painted pottery, see Kühne 1976: pp.67–70 and Abb.D. In addition, in 1987 the present writer had an opportunity to see this sort of band-painted pottery, stored in the *Prähistorische Staatssammlung* of Munich. The museum material, said to be brought from sites along the middle Euphrates, was certainly the painted pottery itself concerned here with the matter in question. The present writer was convinced there that this sort of band-painted pottery could not be placed in the category of “metallic ware”; and he became aware of the fact that there were cases where horizontal regular turning marks were observed on the lower part of each vessel, rather than ring-burnishing marks. The latter fact reminded him that the presence of horizontal, regular and smooth turning marks on vessel exteriors was characteristic of late third millennium north Mesopotamian pottery, represented by the material from Tell Taya.

Here, I would like especially to thank Professor Dr. Barthel Hrouda for permission to see the material stored in the museum, and Dr. Peter Spanos for providing actual access to the material.





**Fig. 4** 3rd millennium band-painted pottery distributed along the middle Euphrates (scale 1:5).

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|--|--|
| 1. Mallowan 1946: Fig.11:9. Tell Jidle.    | 5. Dornemann 1977: Fig.13:17. Tell Hadidi.                 |
| 2. Dornemann 1977: Fig.13:30. Tell Hadidi. | 6. Kelly-Buccellati & Shelby 1977: Fig.24:TPR 4 60. Terqa. |
| 3. Dornemann 1977: Fig.13:3. Tell Hadidi.  | 7. Dornemann 1977: Fig.13:26. Tell Hadidi.                 |
| 4. Kühne 1976: Abb. D:4. Til Barsip.       | 8. Moon 1987: no.363 on p.76. Abu Salabikh.                |

painted pottery can be described as “metallic ware” is a matter for argument, it is a fact that it is superficially similar to a band-painted type of Khabur ware, as illustrated with the fact that in the past Mallowan misread such an example of band-painted pottery from Tell Jidle level 4 as Khabur ware<sup>23)</sup>. The band-painted pottery from Harran that Key Prag called “‘early’ or ‘eggshell’ Khabur ware”<sup>24)</sup> is included in this ceramic category. The Harran pottery, decorated with horizontal bands of matt orange or red paint, is spirally ring-burnished at spaces [Prag 1970: p.79]. The Jidle 4 band-painted specimen is also ring-burnished<sup>25)</sup> [Mallowan 1946: p.134]. The presence of such burnish marks on vessel exteriors is a distinctive feature of this band-painted ceramic group.

While the dating of this ceramic group seems somewhat problematical, Kühne dates it towards the end of the Early Dynastic period on the basis of material from Tell Chuera/Huwaira [Kühne 1976: p.70], and Prag, to the mid-third millennium B.C., not later than *ca.* 2400 B.C., on the ground of the fact that it was stratified at Harran in her phase ii, datable to Early Dynastic II–III, where “stone-ware” was also found [Prag 1970: p.71, esp. p.75 and pp.79–81].

Besides Harran, Chuera and Jidle, the sites that are recognizable as yielding the band-painted pottery in question are Selenkahiye (phase II)<sup>26)</sup> and Tell Hadidi (EB tomb deposits)<sup>27)</sup> in the Tabqa Dam area, Tell Ahmar-Til Barsip (the “hypogeum”)<sup>28)</sup>, Hammam (graves)<sup>29)</sup> and Amarna (graves)<sup>30)</sup> on the Euphrates upstream of the Tabqa Dam area, and Tell Hariri-Mari (Ištar temple level d)<sup>31)</sup> and Tell ‘Ashara-

23) See Mallowan 1946: p.134 and Fig.11:9. For Kühne’s argument against Mallowan’s identification, see Kühne 1976: pp.69–70.

24) This ware differs from Khabur ware occurring in early second millennium north Mesopotamia, which should not be therefore confused with genuine Khabur ware, in particular in the case where the term early Khabur ware, translated from *ältere* Khabur ware, is used.

25) The term “ring-burnishing” was also used by C.L. Woolley [1914]. Woolley explains there that “the burnish line starts in the middle of the bottom of the pot and is taken up in a close spiral to the rim” [1914: p.91].

26) van Loon 1977: p.110.

27) See Dornemann 1977: Fig.13 on p.124.

28) See Thureau-Dangin & Dunand 1936: Fig.29 on p.101.

29) See Woolley 1914: Pl.XXII.

30) Prag 1970: p.81 with n.72.

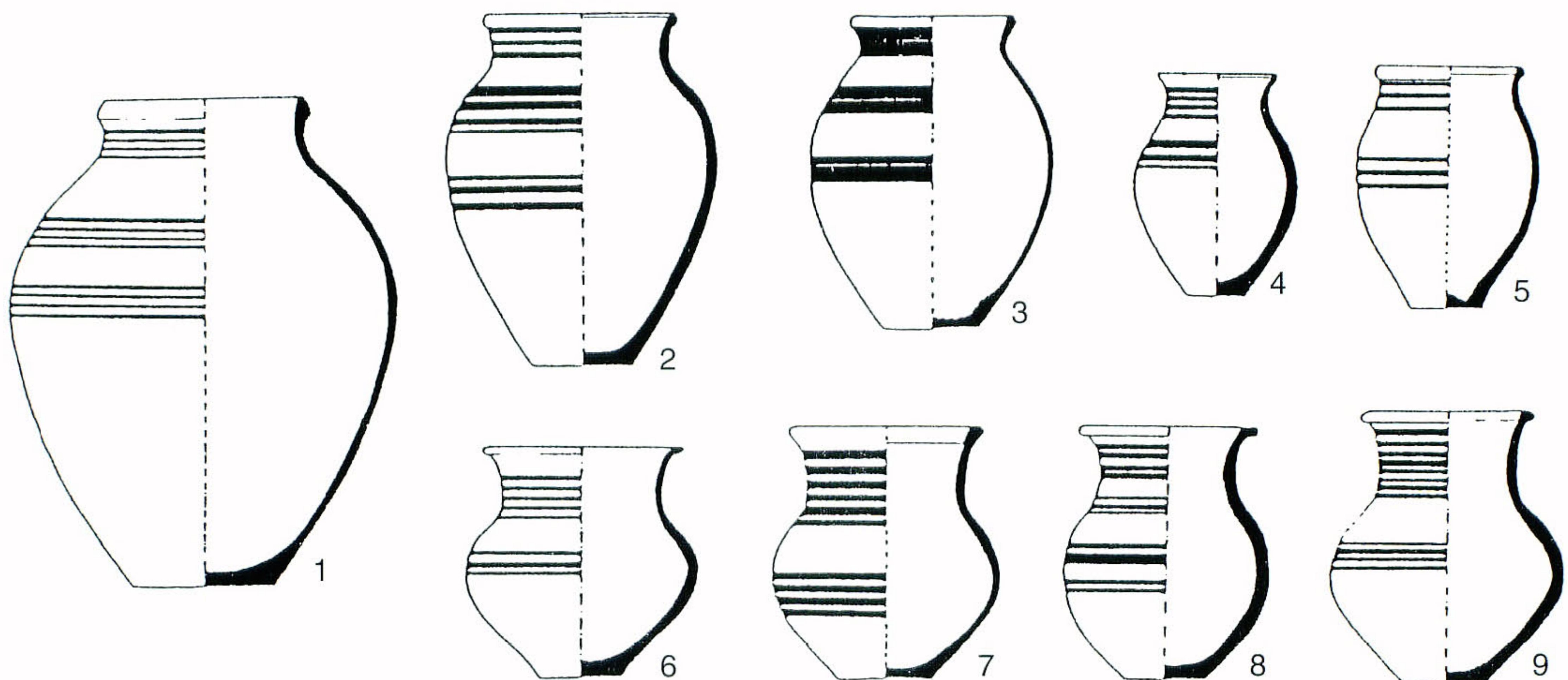
31) See Parrot 1956: p.220 and Fig.107: 1548,1549 on p.222.



Terqa (mid-third millennium level 5 in SG5)<sup>32)</sup> on the middle Euphrates [*cf.* Prag 1970: pp.79–81 and Kühne 1976: p.68]. The distribution of this band-painted pottery stretches in fact along the middle Euphrates valley<sup>33)</sup>, from which it diverges, showing sporadic occurrences at Jidle and Harran on the Balikh, at Chuera in the area between the Balikh and the Khabur river, at Tarsus (EB II contexts)<sup>34)</sup> in the Cilician plain, and at Abu Salabikh (ED IIIA graves)<sup>35)</sup> in south Mesopotamia.

If the date of this kind of band-painted pottery can be extended into the Akkadian period of the north and/or thereafter, it becomes weighty as a key candidate when the origins of Khabur ware are discussed.

On the other hand, in inland Syria there is a site yielding third millennium band-painted pottery which may be added here as a candidate for the western origin of Khabur ware (see Fig.5). The site is Tell Mardikh-Ebla, where band-painted pottery has been found in the horizon of EB IV, in particular in Mardikh IIB1 represented by “Royal Palace G” [Matthiae 1977: Fig.16 on p.97; Mazzoni 1985: Fig.3:2,4,5,11,12,16, and 1994: Figs.4–5 and Fig.6:2]. This Ebla pottery is characterized by plain-rimmed jars decorated with horizontal bands of red or black paint [Mazzoni 1985: pp.1–2], among which smaller versions are regarded as drinking vessels which Stefania Mazzoni terms “painted deep cups” [Mazzoni 1994: p.250]. If the occurrence at Ebla of this kind of band-painted pottery is confined in Mardikh IIB1, it should be dated no later than the destruction of Ebla by Sargon of Akkad. Rather in this respect and further in respect of banded decoration, the discussion of this Ebla painted pottery may be concerned with the band-painted pottery distributed along the middle Euphrates and just noted above.



**Fig. 5** EB IV band-painted pottery from Ebla (scale 1:5).

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|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Mazzoni 1994: Fig.6:2.  | 6. Mazzoni 1994: Fig.4:4. |
| 2. Mazzoni 1994: Fig.4:10. | 7. Mazzoni 1994: Fig.5:1. |
| 3. Mazzoni 1994: Fig.4:8.  | 8. Mazzoni 1994: Fig.5:4. |
| 4. Mazzoni 1994: Fig.4:2.  | 9. Mazzoni 1994: Fig.5:2. |
| 5. Mazzoni 1994: Fig.4:3.  |                           |

### *Indiginity to north Mesopotamia*

Another opinion regarding the origin of Khabur ware is the claim that Khabur ware is an indig-

32) See Kelly-Buccellati & Shelby 1977: Fig.24:TPR 4 60 and Fig.25:TPR 4 62.

33) See note 22 in the present article. The *Prähistorische Staatssammlung* of Munich stores a number of third millennium band-painted pottery vessels, all of which are said to be from sites along the middle Euphrates. This also gives a hint about its distribution.

34) Prag 1970: p.70 with n.68.

35) See Moon 1987: no.363 on p.76 and no.366 on p.77.



enous north Mesopotamian product, *i.e.*, the north Mesopotamian origin.

In explaining Khabur ware from Kültepe *Karum Ib* in his book, Charles Burney regards it as indigenous to north Mesopotamia, though adducing no particular reasons [1977: p.137]. Further, prior to Burney, there is a suggestion, made by Hamlin, that there is evidence for an indigenous painted pottery tradition in northern Mesopotamia [Hamlin 1971: p.313]. Hamlin, taking up so-called “‘early’ or ‘egg-shell’ Khabur ware”<sup>36)</sup> and Aššur Ištar temple D painted pottery from among painted pottery groups which predate Khabur ware and which “may have contributed to its typological make-up”, discussed them but concluded that there was no conclusive evidence for the relations between the two ceramic groups and Khabur ware [1971: pp.311–313]. Instead, however, she pointed out that in northern Mesopotamia, there were “unpainted pottery shapes which predate similar shapes associated with Khabur ware”, suggesting the presence of an indigenous tradition relating to Khabur ware [1971: p.313]. Next, it was D.L. Stein who elucidated the indigenesness of Khabur ware to north Mesopotamia [1984]. Paying attention to the presence of the pottery that might be considered transitional between earlier incised or relief ware and Khabur ware, Stein asserted that “Khabur ware was an indigenous north Mesopotamian development”, and that “this development ..... was neither as sudden, nor as radical as originally claimed” [1984: p.26]. The possible transitional pottery<sup>37)</sup>, pointed out by Stein, was that illustrated with examples of the decorative style combining painting with incised and relief designs, known from Chagar Bazar (level 1), Tell Billa (stratum 4), Tell Taya (level 4) and Tell al-Rimah (area AS phase 3) [1984: p.22].

### *Northern origin*

The painted pottery that occurs in the Malatya-Ealziğ region (now also described as the Keban and Karakaya Dam Project areas) in the third millennium B.C. is a topic for our further discussing the origins of Khabur ware<sup>38)</sup>.

This pottery is said to be of “a local style of painted pottery evolved in the Upper Euphrates region around Malatya and Ealziğ”, which “is found together with the burnished wares” that one may term “Early Trans-Caucasian” pottery originating in the Kura and Araxes valleys of Trans-Caucasia [Sagona 1984: p.68]. At any rate, the painted pottery is thus called “Malatya-Ealziğ painted pottery” or “painted Malatya-Ealziğ ware” [Sagona 1984: p.68; *idem* 1994: *e.g.* pp.45–46]. Of important in another aspect is the fact that the Malatya-Ealziğ region is marked as lying at the western extremity of the “Early Trans-Caucasian cultural zone” of which the term has been proposed by Charles Burney [Burney & Lang 1971: pp.44–45 with a map]. Burney’s term “Early Trans-Caucasian culture”, showing a widespread material culture which extends from Trans-Caucasia southwards to Lake Urmia and southwestwards to eastern Anatolia during the third millennium B.C.<sup>39)</sup>, is generally accepted by western archaeologists, as pointed out by Antonio G. Sagona<sup>40)</sup>. We are thus inclined to describe the painted pottery in question as “Early Trans-Caucasian painted pottery”, although its occurrence is confined to the Malatya-Ealziğ region, a sub-province of the “Early Trans-Caucasian culture”, where the sudden appearance of painted pottery is a matter in dispute<sup>41)</sup>.

36) See note 24 in this article.

37) For the view of the transitional pottery, see also J. Oates 1970: p.17.

38) This was one of the topics given by Mr. Charles Burney, supervisor for my Ph.D. studies, when I was at Manchester. Since then I have left this topic untouched; but on this occasion of writing, I have decided to take it into consideration as an interesting problem. I would like most sincerely to thank Mr. Burney, also distinguished as the proponent of the “Early Trans-Caucasian culture”, for having given me this particular topic.

39) Burney & Lang 1971: p.43; Burney 1977: p.128. Burney also suggests that this cultural sphere, exhibiting uniformity in the first period, shows diversity in the final period with the result that smaller cultural sub-provinces appear [1977: p.128]. One of the sub-provinces is the Malatya-Ealziğ area, in which a local style of painted pottery evolved [Burney 1977: p.130]. As for the “Early Trans-Caucasian culture”, moreover, a principal problem lies in the fact that it shows directions of expansion beyond the main cultural zone [see Burney & Lang 1971: the map on p.45], which is however a disputed point beyond the scope of the subject of the present article.

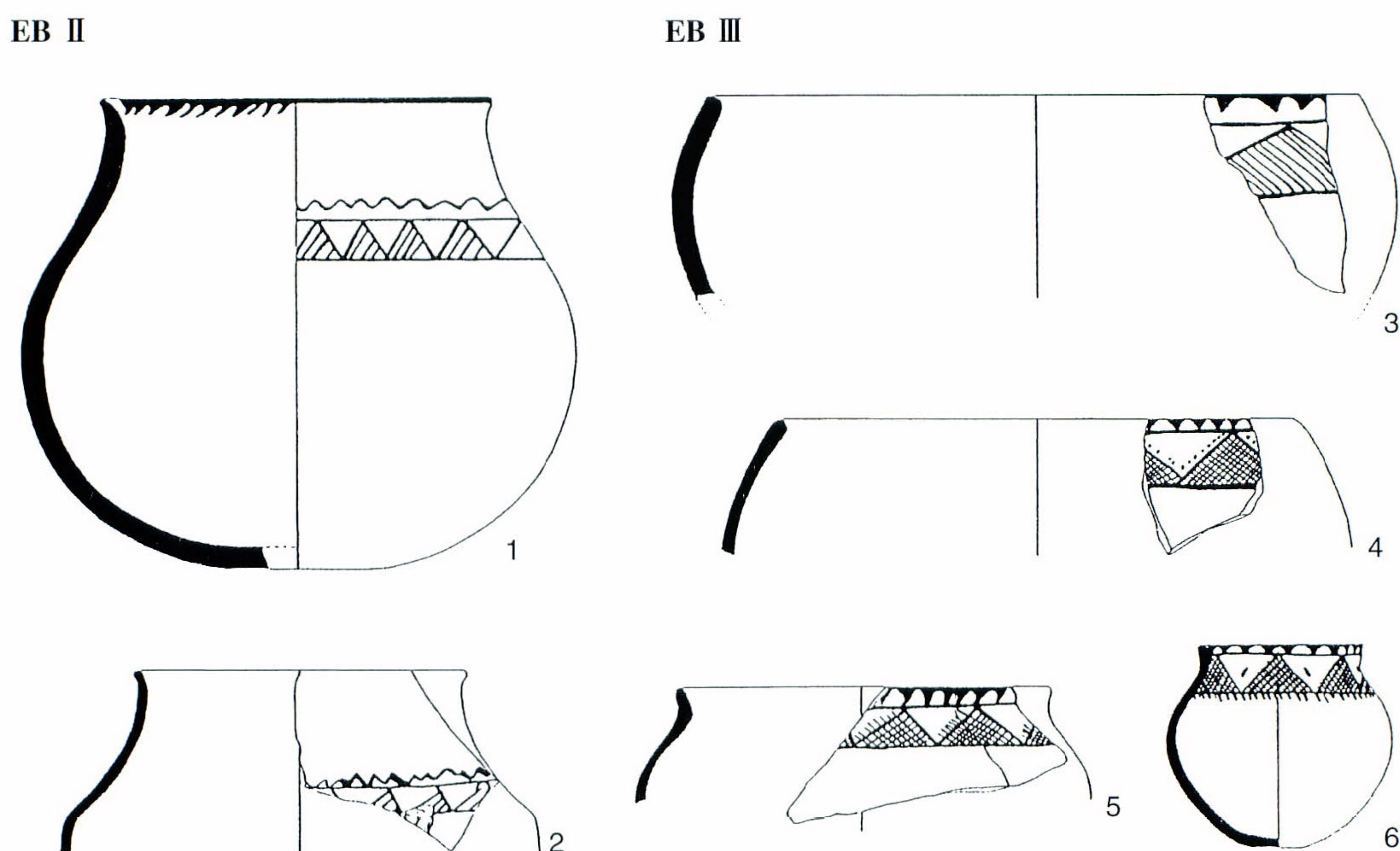
40) Sagona 1984: p.15.

41) Marro 1997: p.201ff.



Burney suggests that the date of this painted pottery falls within the EB III horizon (*ca.* 2200–2000 B.C.) of the Malatya-Ealziğ region [1958: pp.205–208 with a chronological table]. Further, taking a broad view of this matter in question, he regards its appearance as a change in the southwestern part of the “Early Trans-Caucasian cultural zone” in the “Early Trans-Caucasian III period”<sup>42)</sup> [Burney & Lang 1971: p.64; Burney 1977: p.130]. According to Burney, this kind of pottery, painted most commonly in brownish black though sometimes actually in black, consists largely of globular jars and inverted-rim bowls in shape, with such fundamental decorative design as groups of chevrons between broad bands [Burney 1958: p.205 and Figs.244–285 on p.203].

The recent study by Catherine Marro of this painted pottery, however, suggests that the first appearance of this kind of painted pottery falls in EB II<sup>43)</sup>, and that the painted pottery separating into some groups in EB II trends towards uniformity in EB III, which is the time when the “Malatya-Ealziğ style” of pottery was completed<sup>44)</sup> [Marro 1997: pp.201–202]<sup>45)</sup> (see Fig.6). According to Marro, this painted pottery in EB II varies in style from place to place, such as styles found in the Altınova (the rich plain lying southeast of Ealziğ), in the Aşvan valley (the Murat basin) and in the Malatya area, respectively [Marro 1997: p.202].



**Fig. 6** “Early Trans-Caucasian” / “Malatya-Ealziğ” painted pottery (scale 1:5).

**EB II**

1. Marro 1997: Pl.34:J53 v5 or Pl.55:D11 v2. Tepecik.
2. Marro 1997: Pl.25:J32 or Pl.55:D11 v1. Pular.

**EB III**

3. Marro 1997: Pl.7:P11 v3 or Pl.58:E14. Tepecik.
4. Marro 1997: Pl.8:P11 v5 or Pl.59:E18. Tepecik.
5. Marro 1997: Pl.17:P51 v1 or Pl.58:E11. Tepecik.
6. Marro 1997: Pl.11:P13 v1 or Pl.59:E15 (= Hauptmann 1976: Pl.53:7). Norşuntepe.

42) Burney also proposed the terms “Early Trans-Caucasian I–III” for denoting three stages of development of the culture; and the final phase is “Earl Trans-Caucasian III” [Burney & Lang 1971: p.46; Burney 1977: p.128].

43) For this, see also Sagona 1994: p.16.

44) That is the Malatya-Ealziğ painted pottery once illustrated by Burney [1958: p.203]

45) In addition, on the basis of comparative study and C14 dates, Marro assigns the EB painted pottery to *ca.* 2850–2550 B.C., and the EB III painted pottery to *ca.* 2550–2200 B.C. [1997: p.201].



For instance, a style of the EB II painted pottery is represented by examples from the Aşvan valley<sup>46)</sup>. According to Sagona's report, the pottery in the Aşvan valley is painted most often in matt reddish brown, and is characterized by such a basic geometric painted design as a row of running triangles filled with oblique lines, between horizontal bands, *i.e.*, a row of hatched triangles placed between horizontal bands [Sagona 1994: p.10]. There are also cases where a row of hatched triangles is replaced by a row of solid triangles or where a wavy line is added to horizontal bands [Sagona 1994: pp.10–11]. Needless to say, a row of hatched triangles is a decorative element of Khabur ware.

On the other hand, the best example, concerned with the present subject, of the EB III painted pottery is a painted pot from Norşuntepe in the Altınova plain [Sagona 1984: Fig.114:3 and Marro 1997: Pl.11:P13 v1 or Pl.59:E15, after Hauptmann 1976: Pl.53:7]. This painted example is decorated with a row of cross-hatched triangles, between which a dot is interposed. Such a combination of geometric motifs is in fact reminiscent of a decorative style characteristic of Khabur ware.

Perhaps more interesting here is the fact that the origin of this “Early Trans-Caucasian”/“Malatya-Ealzığ” painted pottery comes into question, as does the origin of Khabur ware. Marro suggests a possibility of the influence of the culture of the Karababa area, a dam project area further downstream of this upper Euphrates region, where a distinctive style of painted pottery, termed “Karababa painted ware” by L.C. Thissen, occurs, according to Guillermo Algaze, during the middle-late part of the Early Bronze Age<sup>47)</sup> [1997: p.202]. In this respect, Algaze states that there may be somewhat tenuous parallels between the “Karababa painted ware” of the Atatürk (Karababa) Dam Project area and the Early Bronze II–III painted wares of the Malatya-Karakaya and Keban-Altınova areas, and that such similarities as may be seen in specific individual elements may suggest some generic connection or interaction or communication [1990: p.345].

## Discussion

The foregoing indicates that in the third millennium B.C., some ceramic groups showing some similarities in painted decoration between them and Khabur ware occurred along the middle and upper Euphrates and its surrounding, and/or beyond the Euphrates valley. They are, as noted above, those which have been described as the mid- and possibly late (?) third millennium band-painted pottery distributed along the middle Euphrates, the EB IV band-painted pottery occurring at Ebla in Mardikh IIB1, and the “Early Trans-Caucasian painted pottery”, dated to EB II-III, of the Malatya-Ealzığ region<sup>48)</sup>.

On the other hand, in western Iran there was a painted ceramic tradition starting before 2000 B.C. and continuing thereafter. The pottery itself bearing such a tradition can be described as “Giyān painted pottery” in general but conventional terms, which occurs at sites like Tepe Giyan and Godin Tepe. In the past, this was the most likely candidate for the origin of Khabur ware. However, what matters is the chronology itself of the Giyan painted pottery sequence, which is in fact obscure. For this problem, the recent study by Robert C. Henrickson of the Godin III ceramic sequence in chronological perspective<sup>49)</sup> now carries weight with us. According to Henrickson, Godin III:2 (= Giyan III) is dated *ca.* 1900–1600 B.C., and Godin post-III:2 (= Giyan II), *ca.* 1600–1400 B.C. [Henrickson 1986: esp. p.19]. Further important are, as pointed out in the past, the facts that there are some similarities in decorative style between the post-III:2 (Giyān II) painted pottery of Godin Tepe and the Khabur ware of north Mesopotamia, and that the III:2 (= Giyan III) painted pottery of Godin Tepe rather differs in style from that of north Mesopotamia. If we believe Henrickson's chronology, these facts actually tempt us to

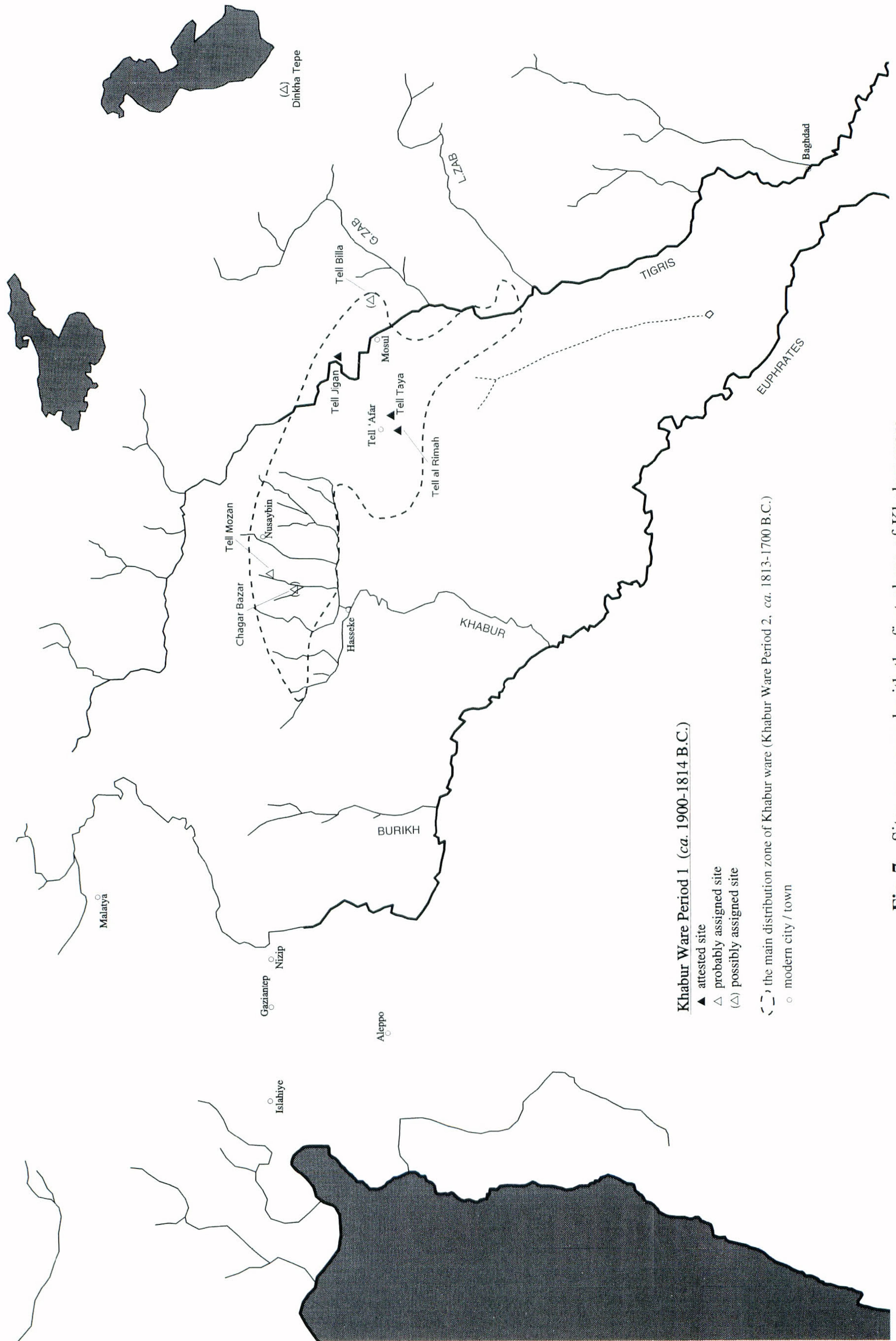
46) See Sagona 1994: Figs.116–128 on pp.159–171.

47) See Algaze 1990: pp.322–323 and see Pls.81–89.

48) The Malatya-Ealzığ region is near Ergani-Maden, a source of copper. This may enable us to discuss the relations between the Malatya-Ealzığ region and north Mesopotamia in connection with a “copper route” trending towards Mesopotamia. If the lower date of “Malatya-Ealzığ painted pottery” can be extended into the 20th century B.C., we can set up an interesting hypothesis in making a connection with Khabur ware.

49) See also note 7 in this article.





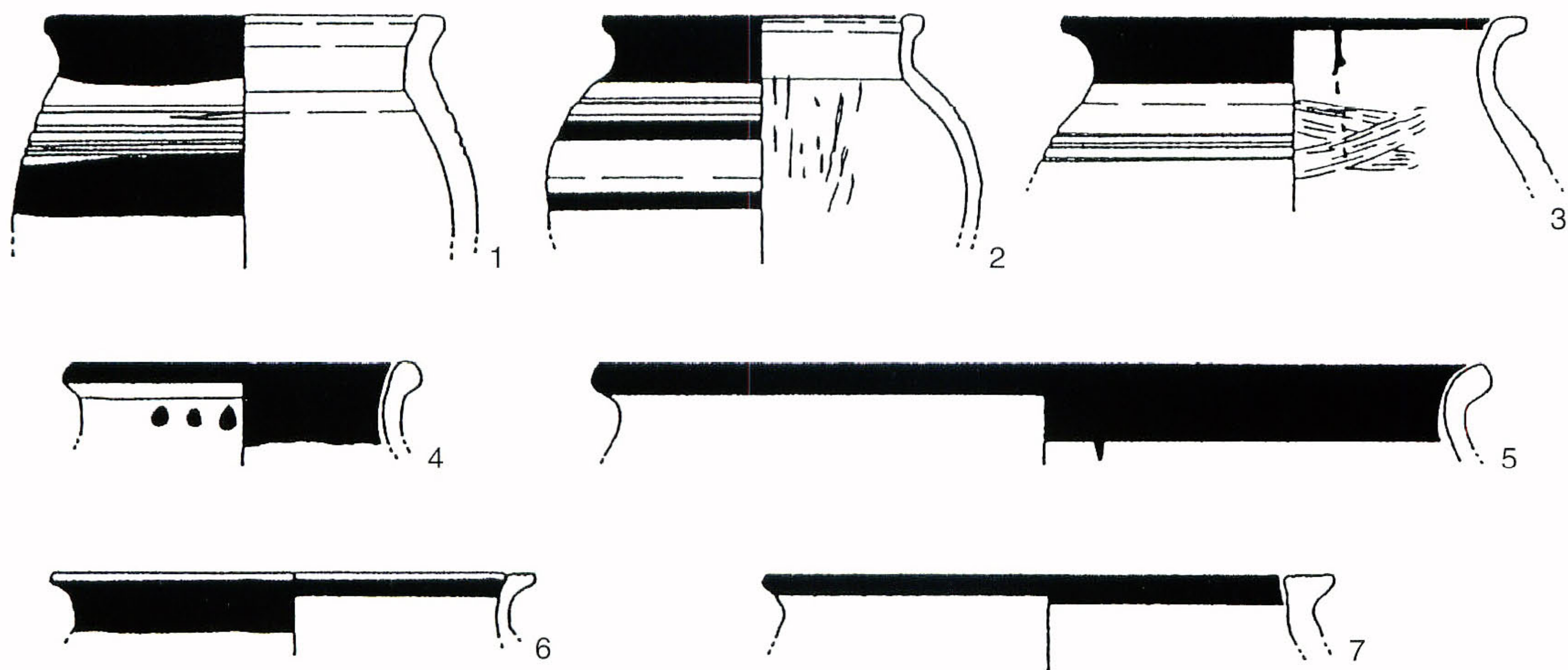
**Fig. 7** Sites concerned with the first phase of Khabor ware.



suggest that the influence of the Khabur ware fashion in north Mesopotamia may have been exerted to some extent on such sites as Tepe Giyan and Godin Tepe, where stylistic elements of Khabur ware thus merged into the so-called “Giyān II painted pottery” style. If so, however, the causal mechanism of such an influence is much elusive.

In contrast with Giyan pottery, Syro-Cilician painted pottery obviously predates Khabur ware, but overlaps in the 19th century B.C. with Khabur ware. This suggests a possibility that the influence of Syro-Cilician painted pottery may have been exerted on north Mesopotamia at a stage of the development of Khabur ware. As for “MBIIA Palestinian painted pottery”, it should be discussed in connection with Syro-Cilician painted pottery.

Much more attractive is the view that Khabur ware is an indigenous north Mesopotamian product deriving from north Mesopotamian ceramic tradition. However, the problems are that the floruit of such incised decorations as cross-hatched or hatched triangles occurring on north Mesopotamian pottery before the appearance of Khabur ware is in the Akkadian period of the north, and that except at Tell Brak, the substantial corpus of 20th century B.C. pottery has not yet been known at other sites in north



**Fig. 8** The earliest examples of Khabur ware (scale 1:5).

1. Tell Jigan (Area C G-4 Level 3a).  
Pinkish buff ware (7.5YR 7/4), vegetable- and grit-tempered. Painting and grooving.
2. Tell Jigan (Area C G-4 Level 3b).  
Reddish pink ware (7.5YR 7/4), vegetable-tempered. This is well slipped in pale greenish cream on the exterior. Painting and grooving.
3. Tell Jigan (Area C G-4 Level 3a).  
Buff (2.5Y 8/4, 5Y 8/3) / light greenish buff (7.5Y 8/2) ware, vegetable- and grit-tempered. Painting and grooving.
4. Tell Jigan (Area C G-4 Level 3a).  
Light greenish buff ware (7.5Y 8/2), vegetable- and grit-tempered. Painting.
5. Tell Jigan (Area C G-4 Level 3b).  
Pinkish buff ware (7.5YR 7/4), vegetable- and grit-tempered. Painting.
6. Tell Jigan (Area C G-4 Level 3a).  
Buff ware (2.5Y 8/4, 5Y 8/3) with a pinkish buff core (7.5YR 7/4), vegetable- and grit-tempered. Painting. Grooving on the rim.
7. Tell Jigan (Area C G-4 Level 3a).  
Pinkish buff ware (7.5YR 7/4) with a reddish pink core (5YR 7/4,8/3,8/4), vegetable- and grit-tempered. Painting. Grooving on the rim.



Mesopotamia. In this sense, the theory of setting transitional pottery between Khabur ware and late third millennium north Mesopotamian pottery/20th century B.C. north Mesopotamian pottery has not yet been persuasive. What is now considered is a possibility that potters, when producing Khabur ware, imitated in paint the decoration of earlier incised ware which they found on the surfaces of sites<sup>50</sup>.

In north Mesopotamia, incised pottery had a long history of use. Even after the end of incised Ninevite 5 pottery which replaced painted Ninevite 5 pottery, incised pottery continued in use throughout the late third millennium B.C. in undergoing a major, though gradual, shift from incising to combing, a special form of incisions. In fact, this continuity was maintained there despite stimuli given from the middle and upper Euphrates regions where painted pottery was in vogue, although there must have been contact or communication, even in some degree, between such Euphrates regions and north Mesopotamia. When the 19th century B.C. came, however, the application of irregular bands, or much broader bands, of paint was done on pottery (see Fig.8). Such distinctive painted pottery is the earliest Khabur ware which can be now well appreciated on archaeological evidence<sup>51</sup>. Further, it may be possible that we draw the assumption that in the course of the development of Khabur ware, major geometric motifs, such as cross-hatched or hatched triangles of paint, were adopted through the act of imitating earlier but incised decorations found on surface sherds *etc.* and/or through an influence exercised from the area in which Syro-Cilician painted pottery was prevalent. At any rate, however, it is a fact that we are still in a position to seek the basic reason why paint was applied at the first stage of development of the pottery marked thereafter as Khabur ware, *i.e.*, to explain an inducement to a change from the tradition of incised pottery into the adoption of painting.

### Acknowledgements

My thanks go to Dr. Ryoichi Kontani, who gave me information on a new reference to “Malatya-Ealziğ painted pottery”.

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50) For such a view, see J. Oates 1970: p.18 and *idem* 1987: p.196.

51) In this respect, more important is the fact that among the earliest examples of Khabur ware, there is an example decorated with comb-incised horizontal and wavy bands in addition to horizontal band(s) of paint. Such a combination of decoration is also characteristic of the earliest Khabur ware, which can be now attested at Tell Jigan in area C.



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## “About Ḥabur-Ware, hopefully for the last time”

Barthel HROUDA

In the last volume of the Japanese magazine “al-Rāfidān” an article by Hiromichi Oguchi, titled: “The ‘Late’ Khabur Ware, Problem Once Again”, was published on pages 105 ff. With diligence and scientific precision the author compiled the results of the hitherto existing researches, above all concerning the dating (compare preferably the table on page 118). A method, which would be especially suitable for an inner chronology, was neither mentioned nor used. I am talking about the deduction-statistical typological method, which was developed by O. Montelius and is above all popular with prehistory.<sup>1)</sup> I was astonished that this method was not used, especially because this method consists mainly of a strictly schematical procedure and can be used without specific previous experience. Obviously this method did not reach Japan and Mr. Oguchi yet. For this reason I would like to report on it again and use it for the inner chronology of the Ḥabur ware, respectively for a stepwise classification.

In the beginning I would like to point out the casualness of archeological terms and in this context mention the different naming of this pottery by ‘Chabur’ in German and ‘Khabur’ in English. Because of different practises of pronunciation leading to wrong reproduction of consonants in one’s own language, it would be better to define the name of the river by Ḥabur. According to the known rules of first discoveries both categories would have been named completely different, this is by the name of Assur, if the first excavators of Assur — without blaming them — had published the Nuzi and Ḥabur ware, which was already found during the First World War, in time and with adequate emphasis. Without false nationalism or trying to diminish the achievements of M. E. L. Mallowan and the excavators of Nuzi, the Ḥabur pottery would have received a completely different ranking concerning the origin and the actual centre. The association with Oldassyrans has to be doubted because of the then wrong use of dating by the German archeologists.<sup>2)</sup> The effects of the Nuzi pottery were less serious, for its numerous appearance in Nuzi was already then pointing at the relation to Mitannian Culture. Furthermore I would like to draw your attention to the point that my emphasis in drawing the distinction between older and younger Ḥabur ware was as follows: Cartographical classification, a method which is very common in European prehistory, should not prove mistakenly that the older category was also existing in the West, for example at the Baliḥ.<sup>3)</sup> Obviously this intention of mine was not realised by H. Oguchi either, who worked with dating, which he tried to support by level observations. This did not lead to many new results, how could it?

Before proceeding to typology I would like to point out that some examples of the younger Ḥabur ware, especially those with button- or nipple-base, were imitations of glass vessels. Only in glass manufacturing this form of button makes sense, because when removing these glass vessels in fluid state a glass drop is formed, after which the button-/nipple-base (Fig. 1) in clay was reproduced. As base for stand-

1) Compare Eggers “Einführung in die Vorgeschichte” (München, Zürich 1969) 88 ff. u. Padberg, *Jahresschrift f. mitteldeutsche Vorgeschichte* 37 (1953) 19 ff.

Also compare the article by R. Hachmann in *JRGK* 41 (1960) 1 ff. In Near Eastern archaeology this method was first used by B. Hrouda and K. Karstens: “Zur inneren Chronologie des Friedhofes ‘A’ in Inghara / Chursagkalama bei Kiš” in: *ZA* 58 (1967) 256ff. Also compare B. Hrouda: “Methoden der Archäologie” (München 1978) 11ff and K. Karstens 82ff.

2) Kh in English is equivalent to Ch in German. In French however a Ch would be pronounced as Sch in German. The same wrong usage or pronunciation of the English Kh in German is also the case in Ḥorsabad. The worst result we find in the pronunciation of Mokha / Yemen, which became Mocca in German. A corresponding example is the Italian Maggi — pronounced Madschi — in German Makki.

3) As in: *Ist. Forsch.*, 19, table 17.



ing of such a vessel it was not suitable at all. After use they were set up upside down or put in a specially fabricated support. Also specific ornaments (Fig. 2) and the vertical walls of particular beakers with a straight cut off rim above a tunnel neck as well as the thin sides (Fig. 3) point at the imitation of glass vessels. Imitation of glass vessels is first to be found in clay, not in metal.<sup>4)</sup> The Nuzi pottery form to the glass vessels the second quality or the younger Ḫabur ware the third quality.

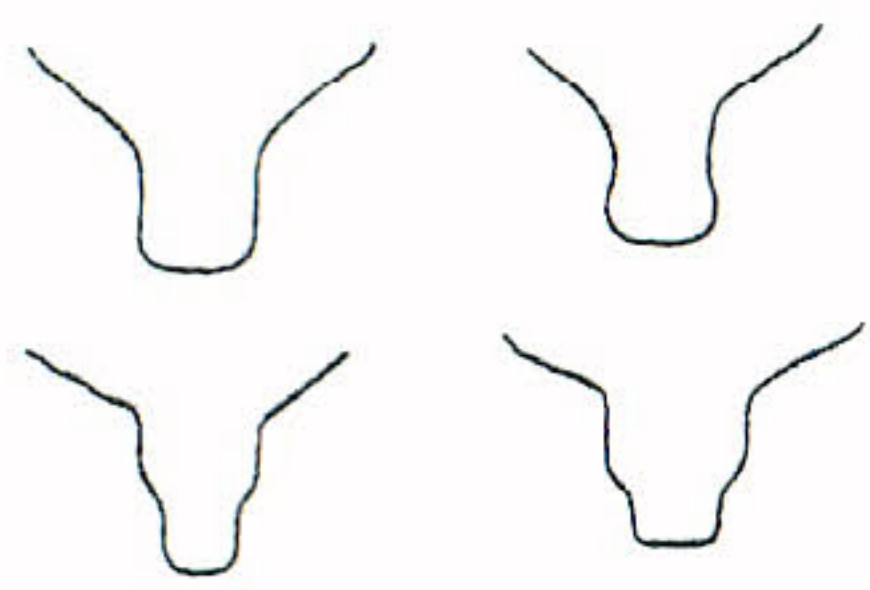


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

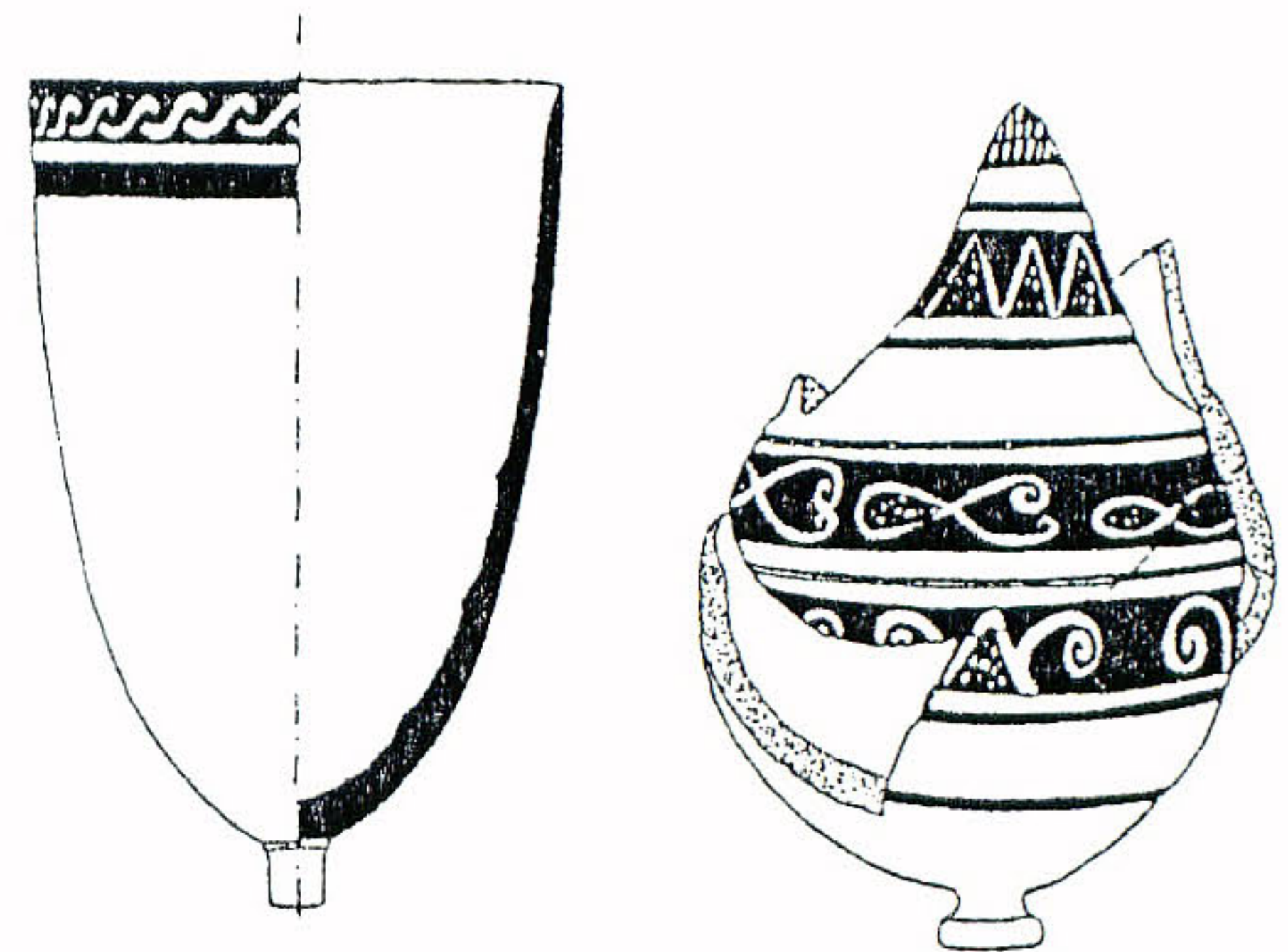


Fig. 3

But now to the typology used for many small finds, especially from graves (so-called closed finding complexes) helping to prove the sex by using particular tools or vessels and social differences but also a relative chronology with the help of stepwise classification. Besides different shapes and decoration the starting point is formed by types, which differences can be explained by different practises of manufacturing and temporal sequence, if sex and social ranking can be excluded. We proceed pragmatically and state that the differences are due to temporal sequence, which we want to prove by stepwise classification. And we will see that we will be successful.

To our type I we count the bulgy pot bottles with disc- base<sup>5)</sup> and combined painting of broad and thin bands (Fig. 4 ) from the older category of the Ḫabur ware. To this type I we add vessels of the younger ware, which is smaller, but consists of a similiar formed body, a disc- base and related painted bands (Fig. 5), our type II. Following are vessels, again of the same or similiar shape and combined paintings of stripes, but with a knob-base (Fig. 6). This is our type III. The next type IV has a button-base instead of a knob -base (Fig. 7). Thus we have the types of large and small pot bottles (see table). Mainly by the painted bands and the knob-base we related the bottle beakers with shoulder of our type V (Fig. 8). The next category of type VI is formed by goblet beakers, again provided with knob-base and identical combined painting of broad and thin bands (Fig. 9). The same combined painting and knob-base on a cylindrical beaker form our type VII (Fig. 10).

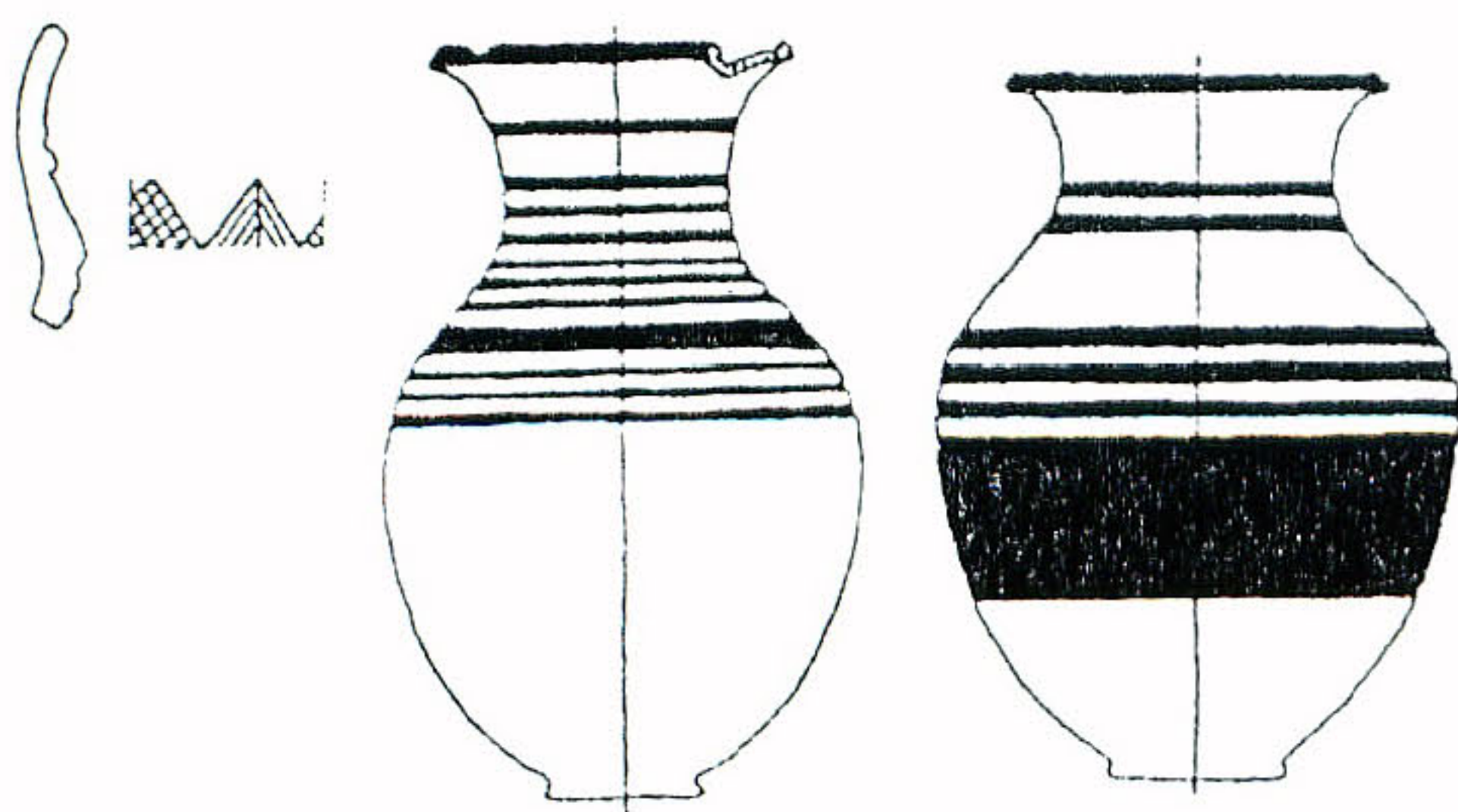


Fig. 4 (type I)

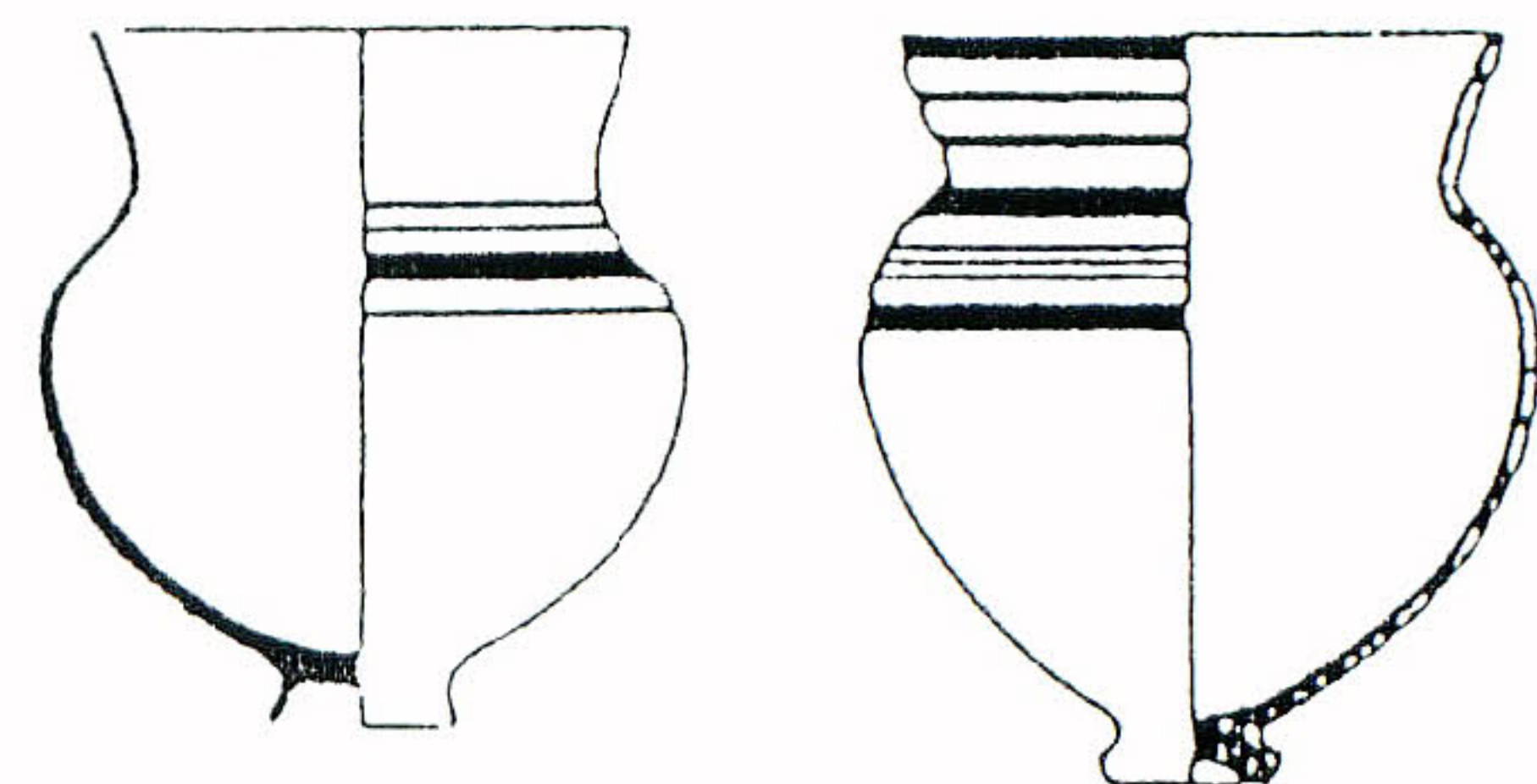


Fig. 5 (type II)

4) Compare "Anatolia and the Ancient Near East" "Studies in Honor of. Tahsin Özgüç" (Ankara 1989) 205 ff. and "vom Halys zum Euphrat" "Festschrift for Th. Beran" (Münster 1966) 139 ff.

5) Addressing forms also of details after K. Karstens in: MVAS 16 (1994).





Fig. 6 (type III)



Fig. 7 (type IV)

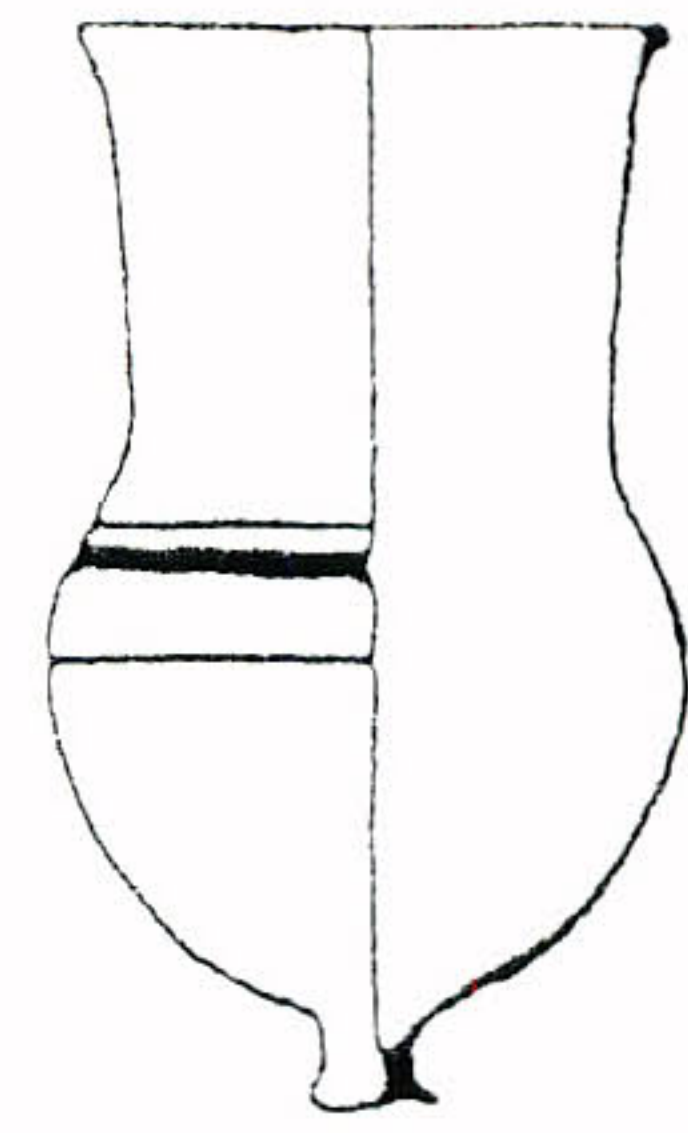
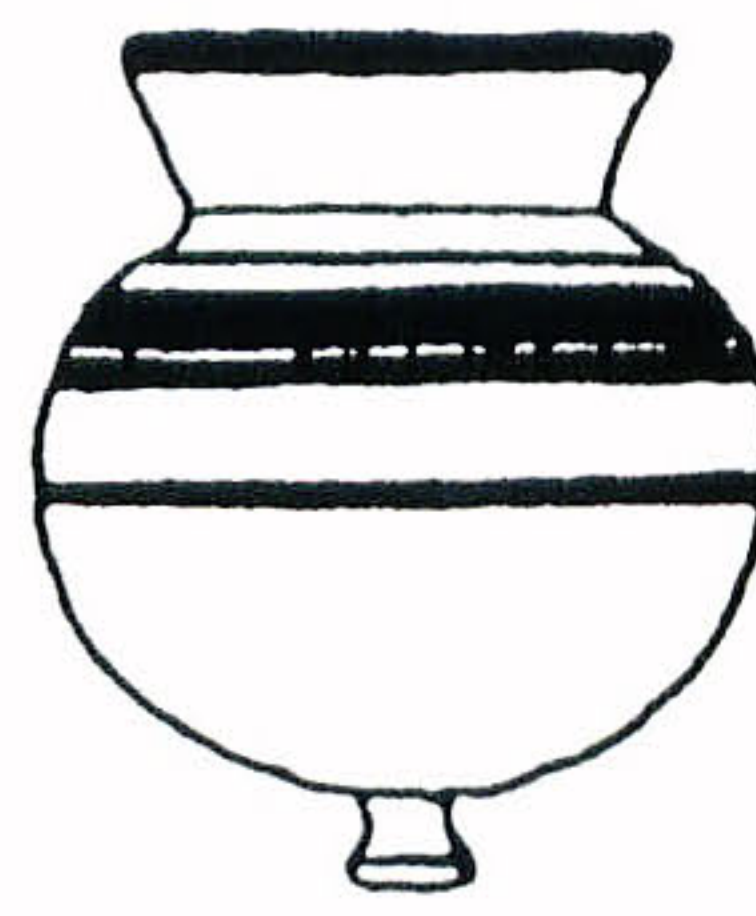


Fig. 8 (type V)

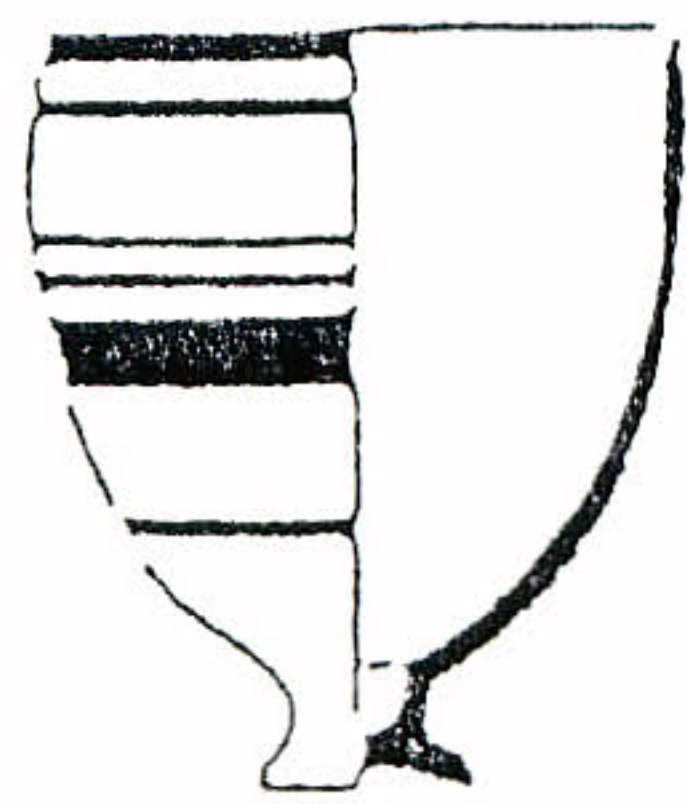


Fig. 9 (type VI)

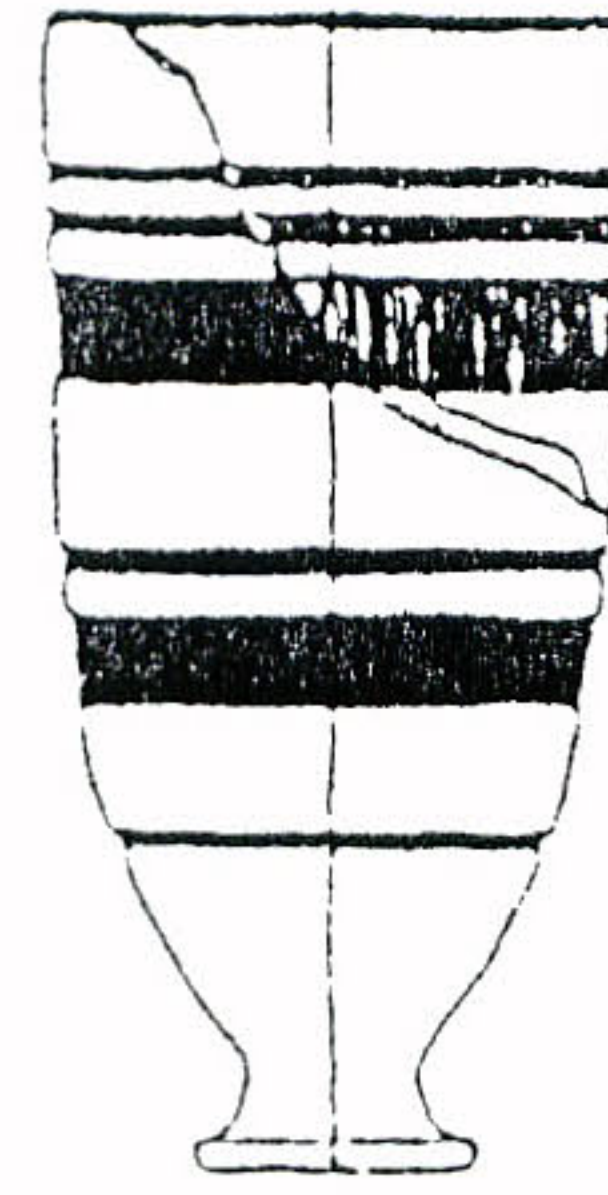


Fig. 10 (type VII)

Vessels of type VIII have a similar shape and the same painting, but a pointed nipple-base (Fig. 11). This base relates the last type IX to the previous one, with the difference of having a tunnel shape and painting of either broad bands or thin bands only (Fig. 12). The beakers with nipple-base of the types VIII and IX are the last ones in our stepwise classification (table) and probably also the youngest from the periods 5 and 6.

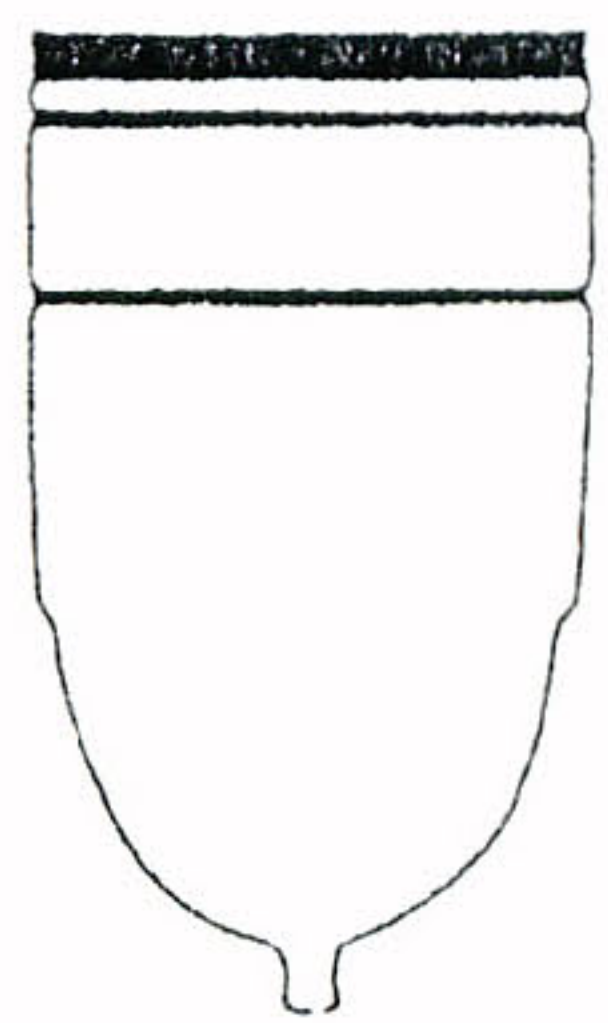


Fig. 11 (type VIII)

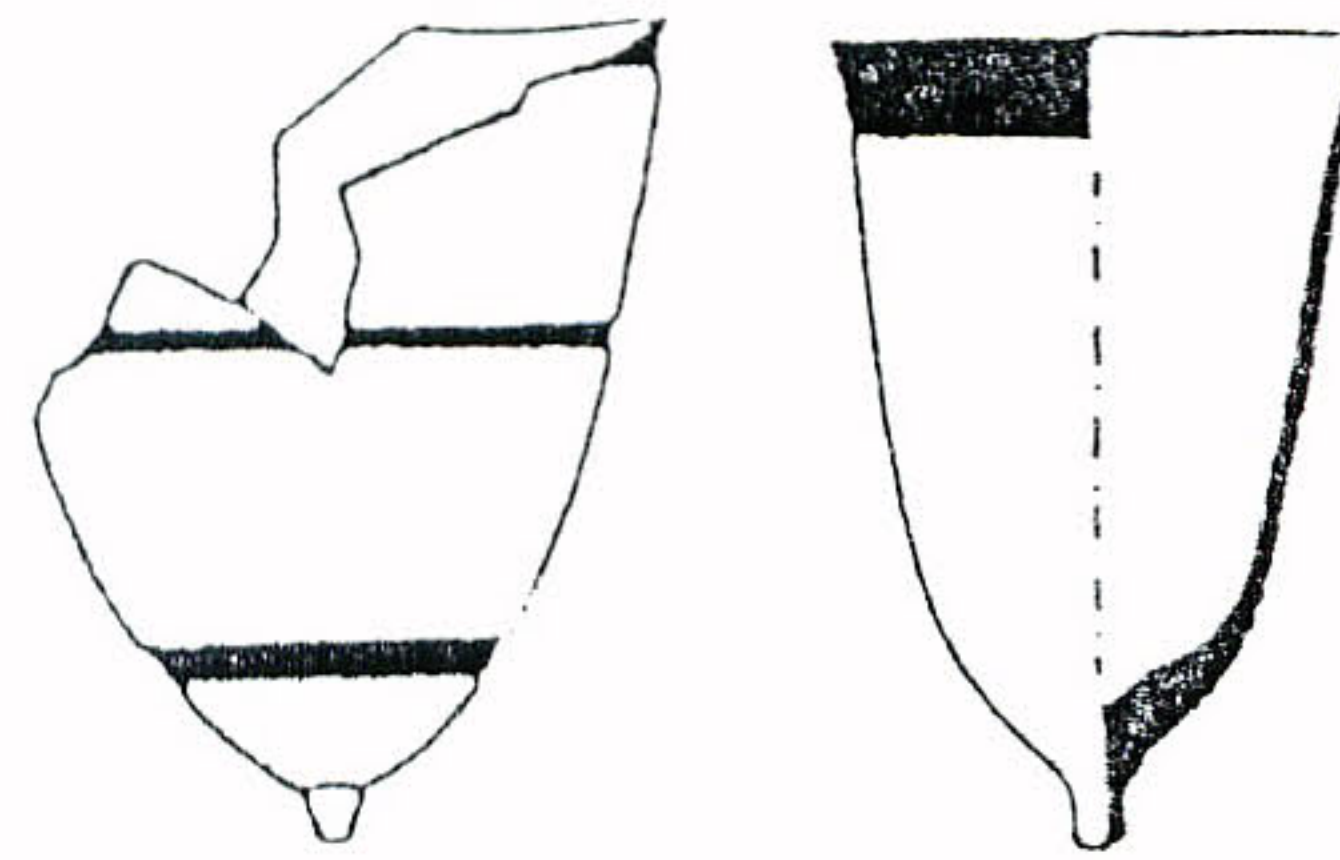


Fig. 12 (type IX)



Table

| Typ<br>↓ | Merkmal/features → |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | relat. chronology ↓ |
|----------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------|
|          | A                  | G | B | H | I | C | D | E | K | F | M | N | L |                     |
| I        | •                  | • |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | • | 1. Zeitstufe        |
| II       |                    | • | • |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | • | 2. Zeitstufe        |
| III      |                    |   | • | • |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | • | 3. Zeitstufe        |
| IV       |                    |   | • |   | • |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | • | 4. Zeitstufe        |
| V        |                    |   |   |   | • | • |   |   |   |   |   |   | • | 4. Zeitstufe        |
| VI       |                    |   |   |   | • |   | • |   |   |   |   |   | • | 5. Zeitstufe        |
| VII      |                    |   |   |   | • |   |   | • |   |   |   |   | • | 5. Zeitstufe        |
| VIII     |                    |   |   |   |   |   |   | • | • |   |   |   | • | 5. Zeitstufe        |
| IX       |                    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | • | • | • | • |   | 6. Zeitstufe        |

**Merkmal (Features)**

A = Topfflasche (Pot /Flask/Bottle = ältere ("older") Habur-Ware

B = Kugelflasche (Spherical Bottle with shoulder) = jüngere ("younger") Habur-Ware

C = Flaschenbecher (Bottle/Beaker with shoulder) = " "

D = Pokal-Becher (Goblet/ Beaker) = "Younger Habur-Ware

E = Zylinder-Becher (cylindrical Beaker) " "

F = Trichter-Becher (Tunnel/Beaker) " "

G = Scheibenfuß (Disk-Base)

H = Knopffuß ( Button-Base)

I = Knauffuß (Knob-Base)

K = Zitzenfuß (Nipple-Base)

L = Kombinierte / combined Streifenbemalung/ Painting (breite/broad und schmale/ thin thin Streifen/ Bands)

M = Einfache/ simple Streifenbemalung/ Painting (breite/ broad Streifen/ Bands)

N = Einfache/simple Streifenbemalung (schmale / thin Streifen / Bands)

**Typ**

Typ I = Topfflasche mit Scheibenfuß und kombinierter Streifenbemalung  
= Merkmale /features A + G + L

Typ II = Kugelflasche mit Scheibenfuß und kombinierter Streifenbemalung  
= Merkmale /features B + G + L

Typ III = Kugelflasche mit Knauffuß und kombinierter Streifenbemalung  
= Merkmale B + H + L

Typ IV = Kugelflasche mit Knopffuß und kombinierter Streifenbemalung  
= Merkmale/features B + I + L

Typ V = Flaschenbecher mit Knauffuß und kombinierter Streifenbemalung  
= Merkmale C + I + L

Typ VI = Pokal-Becher mit Knauffuß und kombinierter Streifenbemalung  
= Merkmale /features D + I + L

Typ VII = Zylinder-Becher mit Knauffuß und kombinierter Streifenbemalung  
= Merkmale /features E + I + L

Typ VIII = Zylinder-Becher mit Zitzenfuß und kombinierter Streifenbemalung  
= Merkmale /features E + K + L

Typ IX = Trichter-Becher mit Zitzenfuß und einfacher Streifenbemalung  
= Merkmale /features F + K + M oder N



## REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN THE HILLY AREA OF AKKAR REGION IN NORTH LEBANON

Ken MATSUMOTO\* and Hisahiko WADA\*\*

### Preface

Akkar plain is one of the largest plains in the Levantine coast. It extends over Lebanon and Syria and presents a triangular shape. A river called Nahr el Kebir flows from the east to the west on the border between the two countries. This plain has been important as a pass between Mediterranean coast and inland Syria since ancient times, because mountain ranges running behind the Mediterranean coast reduce their height at this point.

Ken Matsumoto had a chance to carry out an archaeological survey in Lebanon because he was dispatched to this country as an expert of Japan Foundation by recommendation of the Japanese Society for West Asian Archaeology. Dr. Camille Asmar, the Director General of Antiquities in Lebanon proposed a joint investigation in the east Akkar region, especially in the hilly area. Matsumoto agreed on that proposal because of the following prospect.

1) It seemed that more prehistoric sites distributed in the hilly area stretching between the plain and Lebanon mountains other than Neba'a Jallouk which had been reported by Copeland and Wescombe.  
2) Although tells are not found in that area, it was expected that there existed inconspicuous archaeological sites belonging to later periods because of its strategic position.

Finally, the survey area was determined as follows: it was defined by the Nahr el Kebir and Nahr el Ostouane in the north and the south, respectively; the west limit was the line connecting Jenin village and Haitla village, and the east limit was Chadra village.

After the agreement was reached, Dr. Asmar dispatched Mr. Anis Chaaya who was the director of the

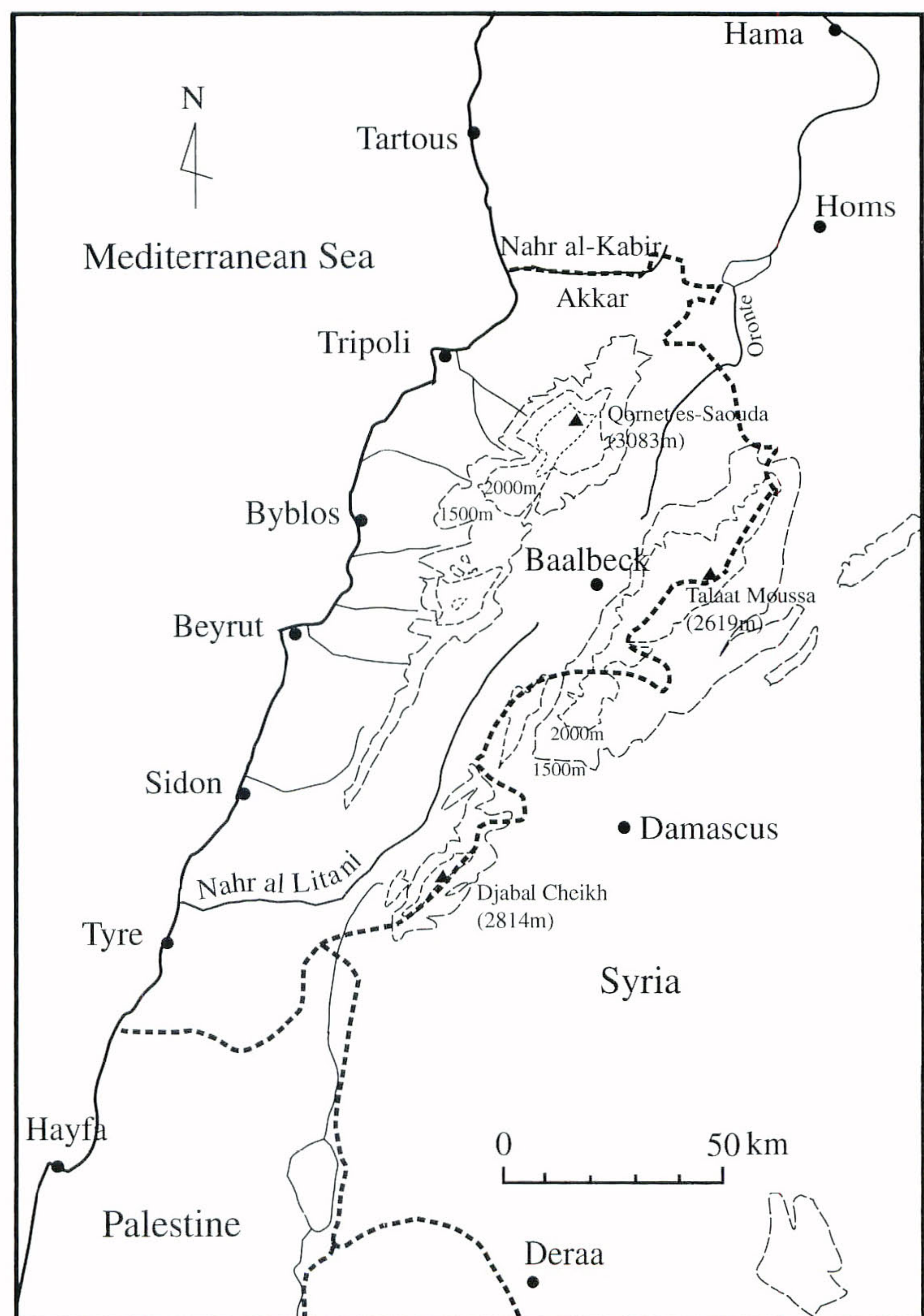


Fig. 1 The map of Lebanon

\* The Institute for Cultural Studies of Ancient Iraq, Kokushikan University, 1-1-1 Hirohakama, Machida, Tokyo, 195-8550 Japan

\*\* The Ancient Orient Museum, 3-1-4 Higashi Ikebukuro, Toshima-ku, Tokyo, 170-8630 Japan.



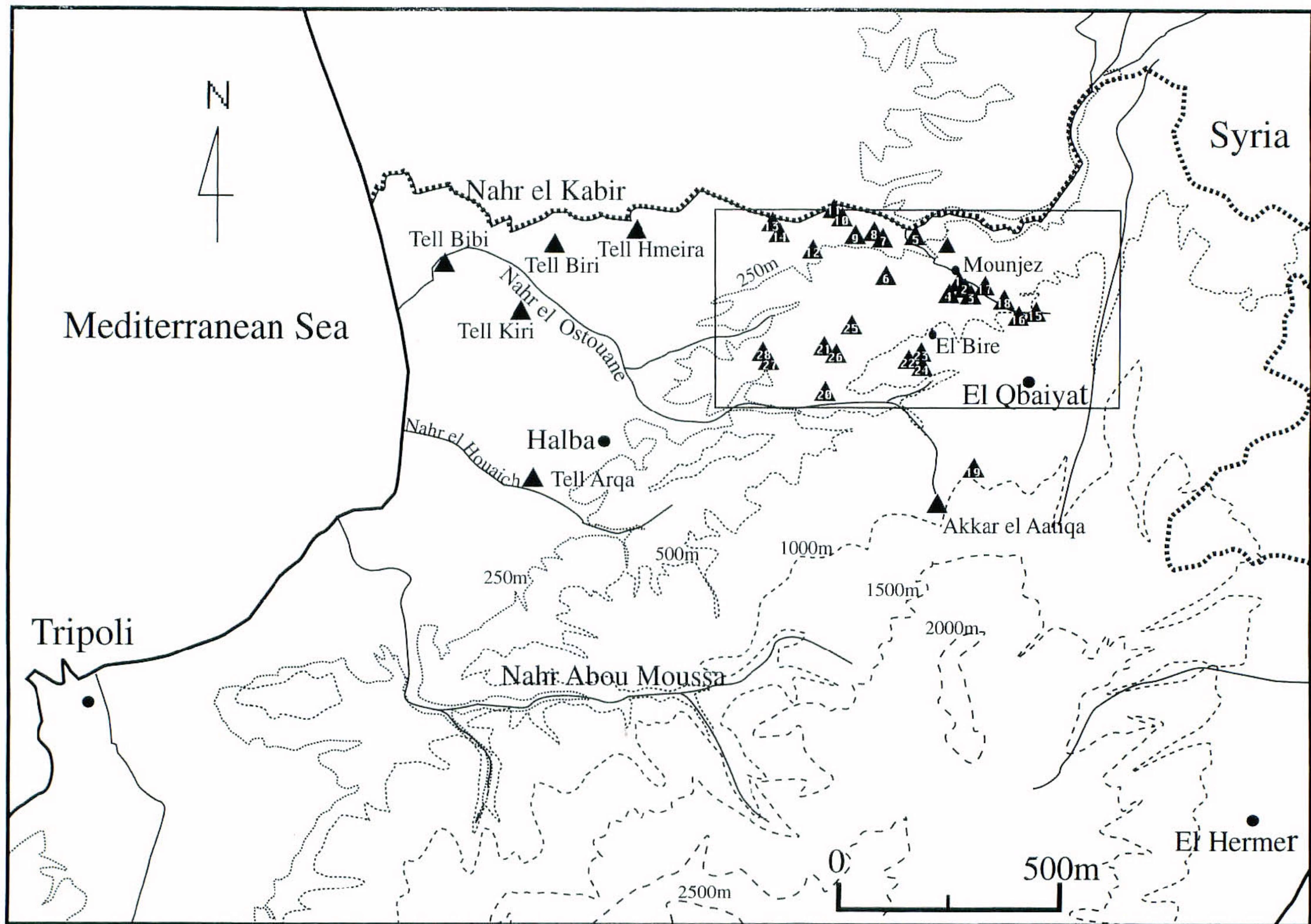


Fig. 2 The map of northern Lebanon

Tripoli branch of Antiquities. On the other hand, Hisahiko Wada was added to the Japanese mission. The survey was conducted from October 1st to November 30, 1988.

### 1: Method and Proceedings of the Survey

The survey was carried out by the following methods.

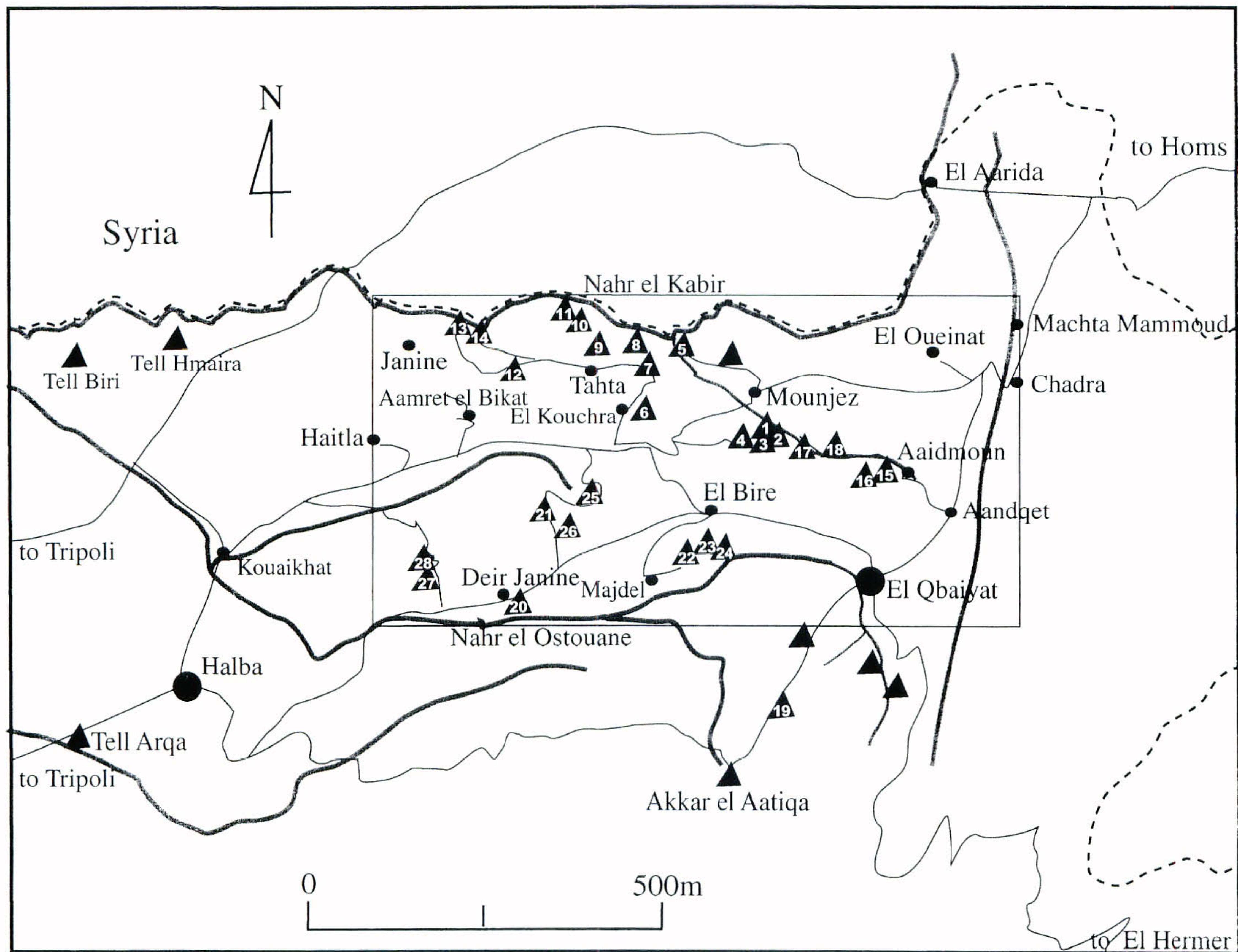
(1) We drove on the main road between Halba and Qbaiyat and its branch roads shown on the map (GEO projects Lebanon, scale 1:200000) in order to understand topographical conditions in the area where archaeological sites would be searched. It was realized that no tells were distributed in the hilly area. It seemed, however, that open-air sites might be discovered if we looked for them around modern villages and along wadis on foot.

(2) We visited the sites which had reported by Copeland and Wescombe (1966). In that report, only four sites were mentioned in the area concerned with our survey: Kouachra, (megalith field) Menjez or Mounjez (groups of megalithic tombs), Menjez II (megalithic tombs), Neba'a Jallouk (Neolithic, EB, Roman temple). It is a matter for regrets that the megalithic monuments were badly damaged and the field of Naba'a Jallouk was cultivated and disturbed. Consequently, we could not find any Neolithic material on this site.

(3) Until detailed maps were in hand, we made the survey on the basis of the information of villagers. That is, we went to villages and asked the villagers if they knew the spots where pottery sherds or flints were concentrated. Sometimes, we encountered useful informants. For example, an aged-man in Menjez had an experience of working with Tallon who had conducted an investigation in the megalith field in the beginning of 1960s. He took us to such dolmens and Notre Dame du Fort, a church built near a Crusader castle, where we met a man who collected some dozens of flint tools. Indeed, a Levallois flake was included in it. According to his statement, he found them near his village, namely Kouachra, while he hunted games.

(4) After detailed maps (scale 1:20000) were obtained, the original survey was started. The maps





**Fig. 3** The map of Akkar region

showed springs as well as small wadis. Therefore, we decided to concentrate our survey on gentle slopes facing south or east along small wadis because such places seemed to have been suitable for establishment of a settlement.

(5) It was a matter for regret that interesting sites found during the survey were very few. But one of them, namely Akk9818, seemed to be worth researching carefully. Consequently, our efforts were concentrated on this site during the last days of the survey. We drew the cross-section which appeared at a cut for a road and carried out an intensive survey in the enclosed orchard by permission of the land owner.

Finally, we recorded findings by drawing and describing in order to make a report about the survey. Their comparative study and decision of their relative date were mainly conducted by Matsumoto. All of the material was submitted to the Directorate General of Antiquities and kept there.

## 2: Archaeological sites

### Akk9801 (Neba'a Jallouk-1)

Location: 2 km SSW of Menjez, on a terrace opposite to Beit Jallouk (Akk9804) across a small river.

GPS data: long. 38° 1' 15" E, lat. 34° 36' 15" N, 420 m above sea level.

Type of site: a place where artifacts are scattered

Size: 100 m N-S, 50 m E-W

Period suggested by findings: EB, MB, Late Roman-Byzantine

Registered number of findings: Akk9801- (1-12)

Remarks: Collected sherds included those with incised parallel lines (EB?), a rim sherd of a short-necked jar of grayish color (EB?) and fragments of coarse pottery of dark brown color.



**Akk9802 (Neba'a Jallouk-2)**

Location: 2 km, SSW of Menjez,

GPS data: long. 36° 15' 30" E, lat. 34° 36' 1" N, 425 m above sea level.

Type of site: precinct of a church or Roman temple?

Size: 50 m? N-S, 100 m? E-W

Period suggested by findings: Late Roman, Byzantine, Early Islamic,

Registered number of findings: Akk9801- (1-7)

Remarks: This spot is characterized by an old church which retained only its apse. It was built of basalt and is used by modern villagers. Burials appeared on a section behind the church. There lay also a column stone near the church. There were scattered comparatively many sherds, which included Roman painted pottery of dark violet color, sherd with combed wavy lines, fragments of yellowish glazed bowls and coins (or medal?).

**Akk9803 (Neba'a Jallouk-3)**

Location: 2 km, SSW of Menjez, on a tongue-shaped terrace where a spring is situated.

GPS data: long. 36° 15' 10" E, lat. 34° 36' 00", 450 m above sea level.

Type of site: open-air site ?

Size: 100 m N-S, 40 m E-W.

Period suggested by findings: Neolithic? Late Roman, Byzantine, Islamic.

Registered number of findings: Akk9803- (1-12)

Remarks: This terrace may be of identical spot with Neba'a Jallouk where Neolithic objects were collected by Copeland and Wescombe. The field is cultivated and disturbed. No diagnostic artifacts of Neolithic period were found by us, although small flakes of flint were collected. In addition to them, scattered objects included sherds with parallel combed lines and glazed bowl.

Lorraine Copeland and Peter J. Wescombe, 1966, Inventory of Stone-Age Sites in Lebanon, *Mélanges de L'Université Sant-Joseph Tome XLII Part Two*, Beirut Imprlmerie Catholique, pp. 48, 49

**Akk9804 (Beit Jallouk: Roman Temple)**

Location: 2 km, SSW of Menjez

GPS data: long. 36° 14' 48" E, lat. 34° 35' 52" N,

Type of site: temple

Size: 100 m N-S, 50 m E-W

Period suggested by findings: Roman, Byzantine, Early Islamic?

Registered number of findings: Akk9804- (1-7)

Remarks: The Roman temple stands on a terrace which was reinforced with stone walls of about 5 m in height. A water channel coming from the spring runs on the wall. It has been revealed that the temple dates back to the first century AD and that it was converted into a church in Byzantine period. There remains at the site an inscription dedicated to Nemesis, the goddess of retributive justice or vengeance, by the priest Drusus. It was written in Greek and dated 262 AD.

Lorraine Copeland and Peter J. Wescombe, 1966, Inventory of Stone-Age Sites in Lebanon, *Mélanges de L'Université Sant-Joseph Tome XLII Part Two*, Beirut Imprlmerie Catholique, pp. 48, 49

**Akk9805 (Notre Dame du Fort: Crusader fortress)**

Location: c.1 km NW of Menjez, on the south bank of the Nahr el Kebir

GPS data: long. 36° 13' 25" E, lat. 34° 37' 25" N, 274 m above sea level

Type of site: fortress

Size: 200 m N-S, 40 m E-W

Period suggested by findings: Islamic



Registered number of findings: Akk9805-1

Remarks: The small fortress stands on the south bank of Nahr el Kebir in a comparatively good condition of preservation. Sherds were scattered on the surface, but nothing interesting was found.

### **Akk9806 (Kouachra)**

Location: 500 m east of el Kouachra

GPS data: long. 36° 13' 00" E, lat. 34° 36' 40" N, 410 m above sea level.

Type of site: settlement

Size: 100 m N-S, 100 m E-W.

Period suggested by findings: EB, MB, Iron, Late Roman, Byzantine, Early Islamic

Registered number of findings: Akk9806- (1-17)

Remarks: This site is remains of a settlement located in an area adjacent to the modern village of Kouachra. Walls of houses and streets made of basalt retain their shapes to some extent. It does not seem so old; probably it had been abandoned several generations before. There is a small pond nearby. Various kinds of pottery sherds, including glazed ones, were collected there. It is difficult to determine their period, but some seem to date back to EB, MB and Iron as well as Roman and Islamic.

### **Akk9807 (Dibbabiye-1)**

Location: between East Dibbabiye and West Dibbabiye, close to the main road and modern cemetery.

GPS data: long. 36° 12' 35" E, lat. 34° 37' 20" N, 240 m above sea level.

Type of site: a place where artifacts are scattered

Size: 50 m N-S, 30 m E-W.

Period suggested by findings: Late Roman

Registered number of findings: Akk9807- (1-5)

Remarks: There flows a wadi between two villages. It is not so wide and so deep near the main road. Artifacts were collected along both sides of the wadi and on the riverbed. It is possible, therefore, that these sherds originated from a site which may have been located up the stream. There remains a dolmen close to the spot.

### **Akk9808 (Dibbabiye-2)**

Location: between Dibbabiye Sharqiye and Dibbabiye Gharbiye, on the west bank of the lower reaches of Wadi Arid.

GPS data: Long. 36° 12' 30" E, Lat. 34° 37' 40" N, 200 m above sea level.

Type of site: a place where artifacts are scattered

Size: 5 m? N-S, 5 m? E-W.

Period suggested by findings: Late Roman.

Registered number of findings: Akk9808- (1-4)

Remarks: Collected potsherds are similar to those from Akk9807.

### **Akk9809 (Dibbabiye Gharbiye)**

Location: west of Dibbabiye Gharbiye, between this village and Wadi Qaraghaya.

GPS data: long. 36° 11' 50" E, lat. 34° 37' 45" N, 250 m above sea level.

Type of site: an area where circular stone structures are distributed.

Size: 500 m N-S, 500 m E-W.

Period suggested by findings: EB, MB?, Late Roman, Islamic.

Registered number of findings: Akk9809- (1-3)

Remarks: This site is characterized by stone structures and dolmens which lie on a flat field extending from Dibbabiye Gharbiye and Wadi Qaraghaya. A sarcophagus was also found there.



**Akk9810 (Wadi Qarghaya Tomb-1, Tomb-2)**

Location: on the right bank of Wadi Qarghaya close to the confluence with Nahr el Kebir.

GPS data: Long. 36° 11' 30" E, Lat. 34° 37' 50" N, 120 m above sea level.

Type of site: cemetery.

Size: 10 m? N-S, 10m? E-W.

Period suggested by findings: EBII-III

Registered number of findings: Akk9810- (1-5)

Remarks: At least two burials were recognized on a section of Wadi Qarghaya. They contained human bones and pottery vessels. These tombs may date back to EBII-III, in other words, contemporaneous with K in Hama, judging from the sherds recovered from them. They present the following features:

1. The paste was tempered with chaff and small round stones of about 1–2 mm in diameter.
2. The faces presented brown or dark orange and the section had black core.
3. The short-necked jar was characterized by its bent profile at the neck and ring base.

This site is one of the most promising sites for excavation.

**Akk9811 (Nahr el Kebir-1)**

Location: south shore of Nahr el Kebir, near confluence with Wadi Qarghaya.

GPS data: long. 36° 11' 25" E, lat. 34° 38' 10" N, 97 m above sea level.

Type of site: a place where artifacts are scattered.

Size: 150 m? N-S, 100 m? E-W.

Period suggested by findings: Roman, Byzantine, Islamic.

Registered number of findings: Akk9811- (1-22)

Remarks: Various artifacts were recovered from this area. They included a fragment of a bracelet made of blue glass, sherds with combed wavy line, fragments of ribbing pottery, glazed sherds, waste flints, etc. However, it is very likely that they were brought here from somewhere by water.

**Akk9812 (Wadi Joubb es Saad)**

Location: between Noura et Tahta and Nahr el Kebir along Wadi Joubb es Saad, near a bridge at the confluence of another wadi.

GPS data: long. 36° 10' 30" E, lat. 34° 37' 25" N, 148 m above sea level.

Type of site: a place where artifacts are scattered.

Size: undetermined.

Period suggested by findings: Neolithic?

Registered number of Findings: Akk9812-1

Remarks: A small number of flints were scattered. An example was a broken blade with proximal end. It is likely that they were brought by water. Although the flints suggested the existence of a site up the stream, this spot is, therefore, not an archaeological site.

**Akk9813 (Nahr el Kebir-2)**

Location: south shore of Nahr el Kebir, near the confluence with Wadi Joubb es Saad.

GPS data: long. 36° 9' 15" E, lat. 34° 37' 55" N, 57 m above sea level.

Type of site: a place where artifacts are scattered.

Size: 100 m? N-S, 200 m? E-W.

Period suggested by findings: undetermined.

Registered number of findings: Akk9813- (1-2)

Remarks: As the same case with Akk9811, the artifacts, mainly sherds of reddish color, found in this area must have originated from other sites located upstream.



**Akk9814 (El Aarme)**

Location: south bank of Nahr el Kebir, near the confluence with Wadi Joubb es Saad.

GPS data: long. 36° 9' 26" E, lat. 34° 37' 32" N, 75 m above sea level.

Type of site: a place where artifacts are scattered.

Size: 50 m? N-S, 100 m? E-W.

Period suggested by findings: Islamic, modern age.

Registered number of findings: Akk9814- (1-3)

Remarks: There are several deserted houses built of basalt stones on the terrace of Nahr el Kebir. Fragments of tile suggest that they belong to modern age, probably a few generations ago. In addition to them, glazed sherds and reddish sherds were also scattered. These houses and their belongings may provide us with useful information for ethnoarchaeological research.

**Akk9815 (Ain Aaidamoun)**

Location: south of village Aaidamoun, on the terrace facing a wadi, close to a spring.

GPS data: long. 36° 17' 10" E, lat. 34° 35' 45" N, 530 m above sea level.

Type of site: a place where artifacts are scattered.

Size: 10m? N-S, 40 m? E-W.

Period suggested by findings: Iron age?, Islamic

Registered number of findings: Akk9815- (1-11)

Remarks: The scattered objects were exclusively pottery sherds which included fragments of glazed pottery, buff-slipped pottery, reddish sherds and coarse pottery of brown color.

**Akk9816 (Wadi Aaidamoun)**

Location: West of Ain Aaidamoun, on a terrace used as cornfield facing the wadi.

GPS data: long. 36° 16' 45" E, lat. 34° 35' 40" N, 473 m above sea level.

Type of site: a place where artifacts are scattered.

Size: 30 m? N-S, 30 m? E-W.

Period suggested by findings: Late Roman.

Registered number of findings: Akk9816- (1-5)

Remarks: This terrace appeared to have been suitable for establishment of a village at a glance. No trace of architectural remains was found, although pottery sherds were barely scattered.

**Akk9817 (Nahr en Nahriye)**

Location: on a terrace of the left bank of Nahr en Nahriye,

GPS data: long. 36° 15' 25" E, lat. 34° 36' 20" N, 380 m above sea level.

Type of site: a place where artifacts are scattered.

Size: 200 m? N-S, 100 m? E-W.

Period suggested by findings: Late Roman.

Registered number of findings: Akk9817- (1-3)

Remarks: This field is used as olive orchard and disturbed to some extent. Sherds and flints are sparsely distributed on the surface.

**Akk9818 (Nahriye)**

Location: At the foot of Nahriye village which is located on the hilltop, on the east bank of Nahr en Nahriye.

GPS data: long. 36° 16' 05" E, lat. 34° 36' 15" N, 400 m above sea level.

Type of site: open site.

Size: 80 m? N-S, 30 m? E-W.



Period suggested by findings: Late Palaeolithic, Epi-palaeolithic, and Neolithic?, EB

Registered number of findings: Akk9818- (1-69)

Remarks: This site will be treated in detail in the next chapter because it presented interesting features.

#### **Akk9819 (Akkar el Atiqa near cemetery)**

Location: on a terrace along the road between Qbaiyat and the junction with the trail up the castle of Akkar el Atiqa, about 2 km to Qbaiyat from the junction.

GPS data: long. 36° 15' 00" E, lat. 34° 32' 40" N, 888 m above sea level.

Type of site: a place where artifacts are scattered.

Size: 200m? N-S, 200m? E-W.

Period suggested by findings: Islamic?

Registered number of findings: Akk9819- (1-2)

Remarks: The road runs on a thickly-wooded flank sloping steeply down to a tributary of Ostouane river. Akkar el Atiqa, a well-known castle of the Islamic period, is located on a spur behind the road. Although sherds of dark brown and orange color were collected on this spot, it is unlikely that archaeological sites worth excavating are distributed along this area.

#### **Akk9820 (Deir Jenine)**

Location: on a terrace beside the church of Deir Jenine, facing Ostouane river.

GPS data: long. 36° 10' 45" E, lat. 34° 33' 45" N, 330 m above sea level.

Type of site: a place where artifacts are scattered.

Size: 50m? N-S, 50m? E-W.

Period suggested by findings: Byzantine, Islamic.

Registered number of findings: Akk9820- (1-8)

Remarks: The findings included a rim sherd of hole-mouth jar, fragments of glazed bowls and a flint which can be described as a truncated backed blade.

#### **Akk9821 (Khirbet Shar)**

Location: on a terrace near a spring called Ain Hajal behind the mosque of this village.

GPS data: long. 36° 11' 15" E, lat. 34° 34' 50" N, 373 m above sea level.

Type of site: a place where artifacts are scattered.

Size: 40 m? N-S, 30 m? E-W.

Period suggested by findings: Islamic.

Registered number of findings: Akk9821- (1-4)

Remarks: The spring is enclosed with walls but it has dried up now. A number of artifacts were scattered on the terrace gently sloping down to the wadi around the spring. They consisted of flints, pottery sherds and fragments bowls covered with light blue glaze.

#### **Akk9822 (El Mejdal)**

Location: on a terrace facing Ostouane river between Mejdal village and Ain Tibou, in and around a soccer ground.

GPS data: long. 36° 13' 20" E, lat. 34° 34' 30" N, 560 m above sea level.

Type of site: a place where artifacts are scattered.

Size: 200 m? N-S, 200 m? E-W.

Period suggested by findings: Palaeolithic?, Islamic?.

Registered number of findings: Akk9822- (1-4)

Remarks: Two examples of flakes of flint were collected. They measure 6 cm and 4 cm in length, respectively. The patina induces us to assign them to Palaeolithic age. As to pottery, sherds without



outstanding features were scattered sparsely.

#### **Akk9823 (Ain Tibou)**

Location: east of Mejid el village, east of Ain el Basatine

GPS data: long. 36° 13' 40" E, lat. 34° 34' 35" N, 580 m above sea level.

Type of site: a place where artifacts are scattered.

Size: 10 m? N-S, 30 m? E-W.

Period suggested by findings: Islamic.

Registered number of findings: Akk9823- (1-8)

Finding: red hard pottery with blackish color, light yellow glazed pottery (medieval)

Finding spot: around spring

Distributed condition of the findings: sparse

Land circumstance: mountain, stream

Remarks: The residents of the present Mejid el village, Qallat Tibou, and the people of Paleolithic may have used this fountain.

#### **Akk9824 (Qalaat Tibou)**

Location: east of Mejid el village, top of mountain

GPS data: long. 36° 13' 40" E, lat. 34° 34' 25" N, 655 m above sea level.

Type of site: a place where artifacts are scattered.

Size: 100 m? N-S, 100 m? E-W.

Period suggested by findings: Islamic

Registered number of findings: Akk9824- (1-7)

Finding: flints, yellow and green glazed bowls, coarse pottery, comb design pottery

Distributed condition of the finding: sparse

Land circumstance: top of mountain

Remarks: This ruin may have been fort.

#### **Akk9825 (Douair-Aadaouiye)**

Location: between Baghdadiya and Deir Janine,

GPS data: long. 36° 11' 50" E, lat. 34° 35' 20" N, 430 m above sea level.

Type of Site: a place where artifacts are scattered.

Size: 30 m? N-S, 30 m? E-W.

Period suggested by findings: Late Roman

Registered number of findings: Akk9825- (1-3)

Finding: buff color handle, red color potsherd

Finding spot: around Ain ed Douair

Distributed condition of the finding: sparse

Land circumstance: beside road, village

Remarks: The underside of the village on the side of the fountain should be investigated. The Christian is living in the village. The embankment is built so that mud should not flow into the side of the fountain.

#### **Akk9826 (Ain Safsafe)**

Location: between Baghdadiya and Deir Janine

GPS data: long. 36° 11' 20" E, lat. 34° 34' 40" N, 387 m above sea level.

Type of site: a place where artifacts are scattered.

Size: 40 m? N-S, 30 m? E-W.



Period suggested by findings: Late Roman

Registered number of findings: Akk9826- (1-6)

Finding: buff slip, gray with ext. and int., and red color potsherds, small flints.

Finding spot: around spring

Distributed condition of the finding: sparse

Land circumstance: near Barnara village

Remarks: The material scatters in the field around the fountain, however, the amount is little.

### **Akk9827 (Es Sfine)**

Location: between Baghdadiya and Deir Janine

GPS data: long. 36° 9' 15" E, lat. 34° 34' 20" N, 250 m above sea level.

Type of site: a place where artifacts are scattered.

Size: 100 m? N-S, 50 m? E-W.

Period suggested by findings: Late Roman, medieval, Islamic

Registered number of findings: Akk9827- (1-11)

Finding: flints and brown color glazed pottery (medieval)

Finding spot: terrace, beside river

Distributed condition of the finding: sparse

Land circumstance: many Ains, near village

Remarks: The underside of the Sefine village should be investigated.

### **Akk9828 (Naba'a el Baghie)**

Location: north of Es Sfine between es Sfine and Charbila

GPS data: long. 36° 9' 25" E, lat. 34° 34' 40" N, 245 m above sea level.

Type of site: a place where artifacts are scattered.

Size: 10 m? N-S, 10 m? E-W.

Period suggested by findings: Medieval, Islamic

Registered number of findings: Akk9828-1

Finding: green glazed pottery (Medieval)

Finding spot: terrace beside river

Distributed condition of the finding: sparse

Land circumstance: near Nahr

Remarks: The villager may have used the springing water.

### **Akk9829 (Ein Tinta)**

Location: near Khirbet Shar

GPS data: long. 36° 11' 35" E, lat. 34° 35' 30" N,

Type of site: a place where artifacts are scattered.

Period suggested by findings: undetermined.

Registered number of findings: nothing

Land circumstance: beside road, near field

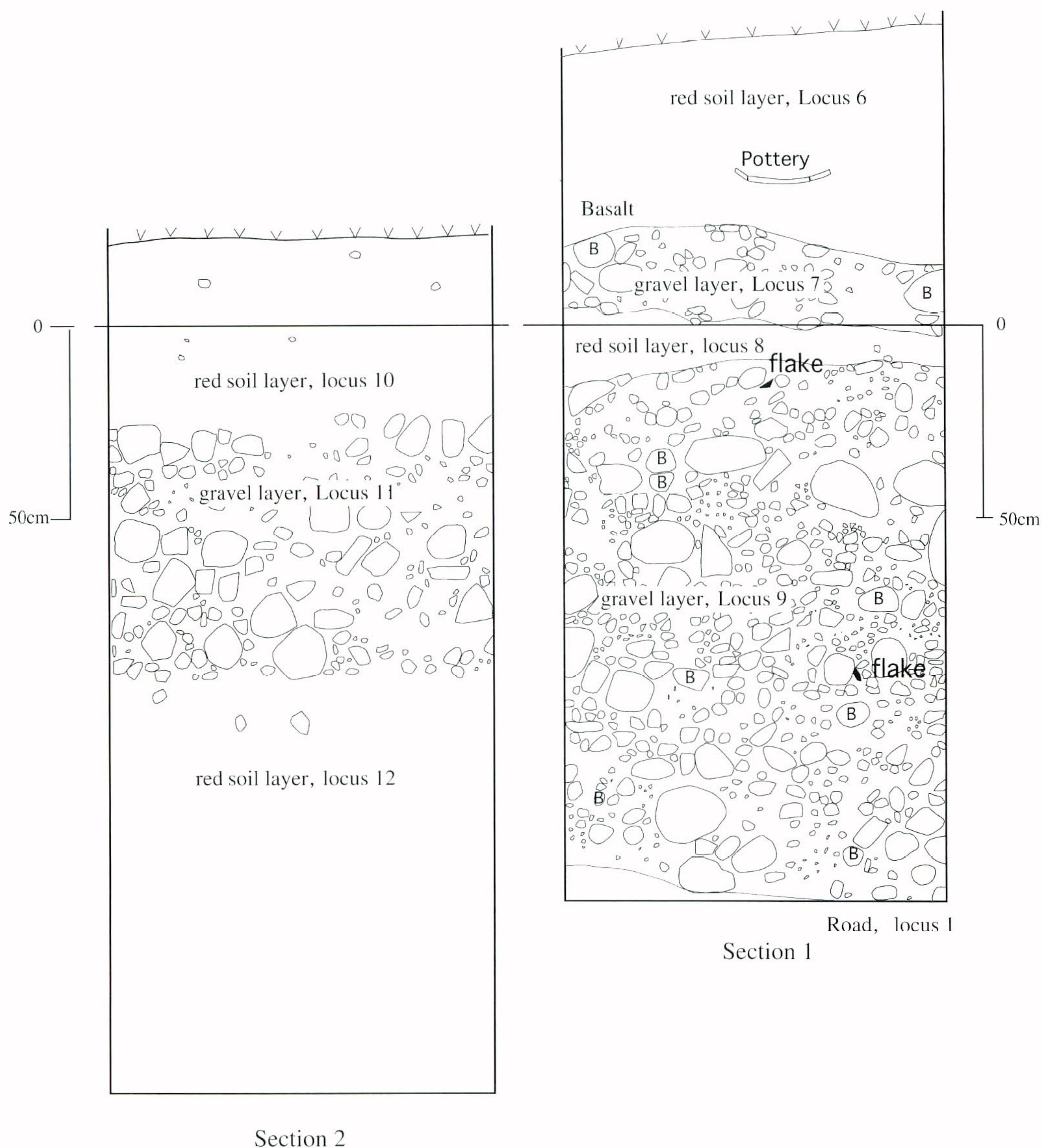
Remarks: The fountain has already dried up. There are graves of Shaiha on the side of the fountain. And there is a Mosque on the other side. This region is Muslim's village.

### **3: Akk9818 (Nahriye)**

As mentioned above, Nahriye is considered to be the most intriguing site among the places which we registered during the survey.

Existence of an archaeological site in this place was, at first, suggested by two chipped stone





**Fig. 4** The sections of Akk9818 (Nahriye)

tools which were collected on the surface of an unpaved road. And then, it was confirmed that they fell down from a section of a vineyard which was cut by the road because a number of chipped stones were found on the section. Finally, we concluded that this vineyard must have been underlain by remains of prehistoric period because of the following reasons:

(1) Large fragments of a jar were found on the uppermost layer of the section.

(2) Although we made a careful survey around the vineyard, especially in the area along the upstream of the rivers, artifacts were distributed only in the vineyard and its adjacent area. Therefore, it is unlikely that the artifacts were carried from somewhere by water.

(3) The center of their distribution seemed to be in the vineyard.

(4) The vineyard presents a peninsula-like shape and is higher than its surrounding area used as terraced fields.

The collected objects are described below according to their provenance (Locus). Twelve loci were distinguished in the site; among them, Locus 1–5 are the surface of the different spots of the site, while Locus 6–12 are the layers in the sections which were observed at two spots. The first (Section 1) is a part of a section cut by unpaved road mentioned above and Locus 6–9 belong to it. The second (Section



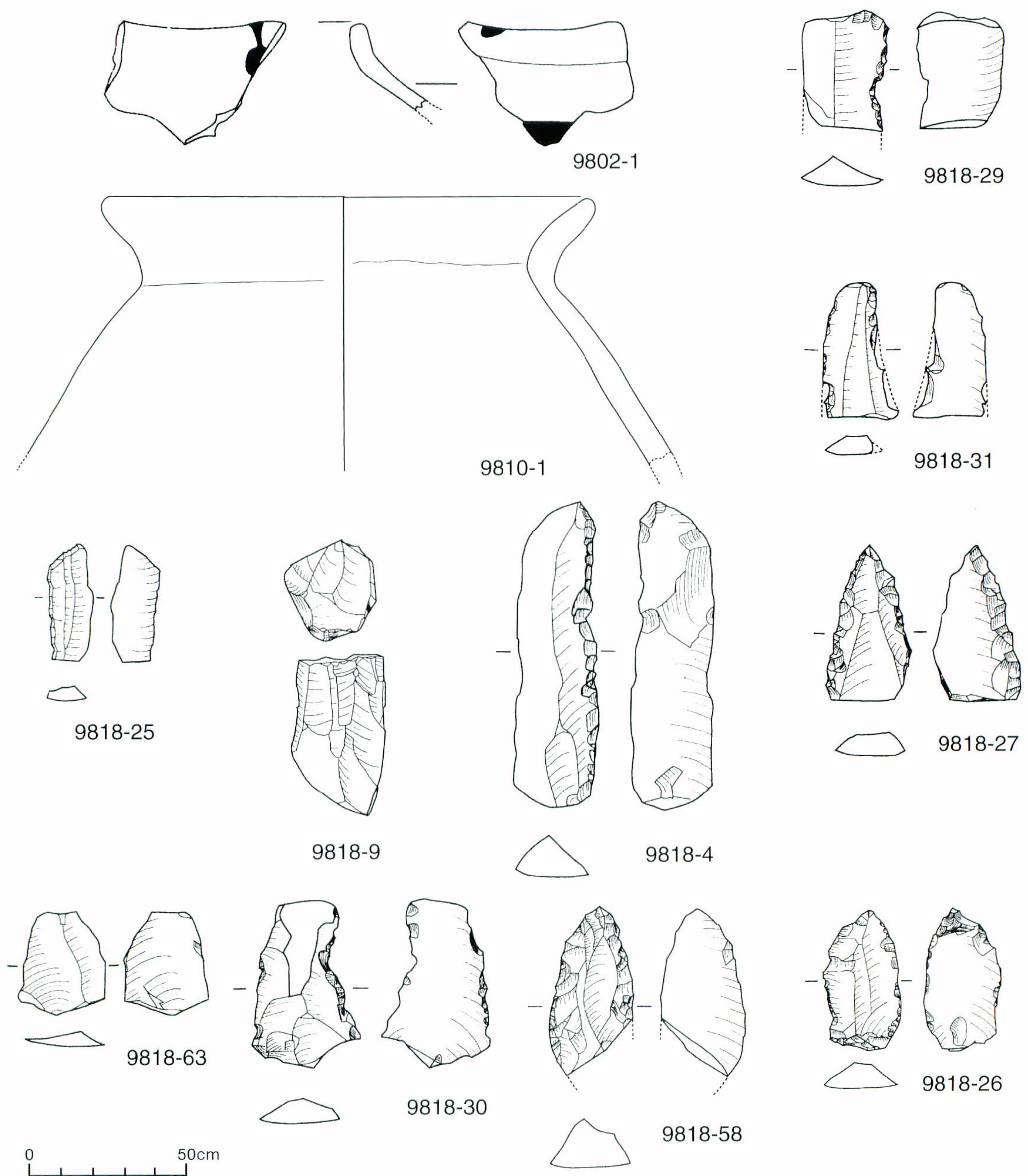
2) is a vertical face down from the unpaved road to a small stream running along the road and Locus 10–12 belong to it.

Locus 1: (the surface of the unpaved road which severs the vineyard)

Pottery: All the rim shards seem to come from short-necked jars. One of them, which is a flesh-colored, rather thinly-made vessel, is made of good-quality clay, but it is not complete in baking. Another has the feature in its thickly-making.

Stone tools: Scraper (2), Blade and Scraper (1), a little bigger than others, seem to be of Musterian, judging from the thickness of Patina. One of the others is a small type of Microcore (1) of Kebaran or Natufian.

These objects are considered to originate from layers of Section 1, in other words, Locus 6- Locus 9.



**Fig. 5** The collected objects from Akkar region



**Table 1** List of the collected materials (Fig. 5)

| Type of findings                        | Finding No. | Site No. | Name of the site   | Layer                                     | Material  | Size                               | Color   | Age                 | Remarks   |
|---|-------------|----------|--|---|---|------------------------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| rim of Jar                              | Akk9802-1   | Akk9802  | Neba'a Jallouk-2   | Surface                                   | fine clay   | 5.5 x 3.5 thick:0.5cm              | Reddish brown(all sides)2.5YR5/8, dark violet painted motif | Late Roman          | Painted pottery made with potter's wheel.   |
| rim of Jar                              | Akk9810-1   | Akk9810  | Wadi Qarghaya Tomb-1   | section of the Tomb-1                     | coarse including black basalt grains and plant fibers | 9.5 x 9.0, 0.8cm.rim diameter:16cm | ex.int.:reddish brown 2.5YR5/8, inside:blackish brownN1.5/0 | EBIII?              | similar fragments:4 pieces 13.5 x 9.7, 0.8cm(jointed three pieces) 4.0 x 3.5, 0.7cm 4.6 x 4.0, 0.9cm 6.0 x 4.0, 0.7cm   |
| Canaanian blade                         | Akk9818-29  | Akk9818  | Nahriye, Loc.2(vineyard)   | sauface                                   | cortical flint  | 2.6 x 3.5, 0.9cm                   | dark brown with brown patina                                | Early Bronze        | There are some lustrous points on the surface.  |
| sickle blade                            | Akk9818-31  | Akk9818  | Nahriye, Loc.2(vineyard)   | sickle blade                              | flint   | 2.2 x 3.7, 0.6cm                   | brown with lustrous range                                   | Early Bronze        | poor quality  |
| backed bladelet with oblique truncation | Akk9818-25  | Akk9818  | Nahriye, Loc.2(vineyard)   | surface of vineyard                       | flint, good quality                                   | 3.3 x 1.3, 0.4cm                   | brown and light brown                                       | Kebaran             | geometric microlith   |
| blade core                              | Akk9818-9   | Akk9818  | Nahriye, Loc.1   | surface on road and beside of the section | flint   | 3.0 x 2.5, long:4.8 cm             | ext. int. ins:dark brown with patina                        | Kebaran or Natufian | and other 4 cores 5.0 x 4.0 x 3.3cm.brown with creamy patina.flint, 3.0 x 3.3 x 1.7cm, light brown with creamy patina.flint 0.8 x 1.6 x x 3.8cm.brown.flint.core/burin? 1.4 x 2.5 x 3.3cm.brown and greenish brown. flint.core/flake? weathered |
| Side-blade                              | Akk9818-4   | Akk9818  | Nahriye, Loc.1   | surface on road and beside of the section | cortical flint  | 2.4 x 8.7, 1.2 cm                  | ext. int. ins:creamy thick patina                           | Upper Paleolithic?  |   |
| bifacial point                          | Akk9818-27  | Akk9818  | Nahriye, Loc.2(vineyard)   | surface                                   | flint, good quality                                   | 4.5 x 2.5, 0.7cm                   | light brown   | Mousterien ?        |   |
| flake                                   | Akk9818-63  | Akk9818  | Nahriye, Loc.9 (section 1 of the site cut by track road, 4 <sup>th</sup> layer) no.1 | section of the site cut by track road,    | flint   | 2.8 x 2.8, 0.4cm                   | light brown, violet, gray                                   | Mousterian          | pointed in the drawing of the section and one waste 1.7 x 4.3, 1.3cm, broom with creamy cortex (No.2) Mousterian Non-Levallois flake  |
| Cortical flake                          | Akk9818-30  | Akk9818  | Nahriye, Loc.2(vineyard)   | surface                                   | cortical flint  | 3.1x 4.7, 0.7cm                    | brown with creamy patina                                    | Mousterian          | or a typical levallois flake  |
| Limace                                  | Akk9818-58  | Akk9818  | Nahriye, Loc.6-9 (section 1 of the site cut by track road)                           | section of the site cut by track road     | flint   | 4.8 x 2.7cm, 1.7cm                 | light brown   | Mousterian          |   |
| Mousterian side-scraper                 | Akk9818-26  | Akk9818  | Nahriye, Loc.2(vineyard)   | surface                                   | flint, good quality                                   | 2.4 x 4.2, 0.9cm                   | dark brown  | Mousterian          | The drill was used turning to left(?).  |







Locus 2: (the surface of the vineyard)

Pottery: Most of these are trunk fragments, and the potter's clay used here is of clayish quality and of two kinds of reddish brown line containing the sand grains of white limestone quality and black basalt quality. The latter characteristic ones may date from the Early Bronze Age, and the two rim fragments coming from the outward-open short-neck jar and from the slightly stand-up neck jar belong to the latter.

Stone tools: Side-scraper (1), scraper (2), burin (1), Core (10), bifacial point(1). Besides, such mustertian type as flaked-off splinters, Kebaran geometric microlith (2), Core (2), and Canaanean type blade.

Locus 3: (the surface of a terraced olive orchard located in the south of the vineyard and facing Nahriye river)

Collected objects include a sherd of a fine ware and a Mustertian point and a polished stone.

Locus 4: (the surface of a terrace located in the east of the vineyard and faced Nahriye river)

Stone tools: Excavated here are blade (1 and others of Kebaran or Natufian).

Locus 5: (the surface of the bank opposite to Locus 3 across the Nahriye river)

Stone tools: The blade (1) from the Mustertian period has presumably been here.

Locus 6: (the uppermost layer of the four which were distinguished on Section 1; red soil layer)

Pottery: (in a batch) seems to be a jar of the early Bronze Age. These items are remarkably similar to the earthenware AKK9810, because they have the clay containing limestone and basalt sand grains, colored reddish brown line.

Locus 7: (the second layer of Section 1; gravel layer)

Locus 8: The third layer of Section 1; red soil layer)

Locus 9: The fourth layer of Section 1; gravel layer)

Earthenware: This is too fragmentary to identify the pottery which uses the reddish brown line in color, and it is low in baking temperature.

Stone implement: Picked up here are Mustertian point (1), (rimars) type scraper (1) and Kebaran or Matufian geometric blade core (1), etc.

Stone tool: The flakes AKK18-63, in particular, are uncovered from among the gravel layer, Layer 4. Also, it is entered in the section chart. The above and the other flakes are altogether presumed to belong to Mustertian.

Locus 10: (the uppermost layer of the three distinguished on the Section 2; red soil layer)

Locus 11: (the second layer of Section 2; gravel layer)

Stone tools: Excavated here are the one which seems to be from the Late Paleolithic period (1) and the other which seems to be the blade of the Kebaran or a later age (1). The problem remains unsolved. Deduced from the above relics so far collected, it is likely that the Nahriye ruins AKK9818 are composed of the Early Bronze period (red soil layer; Layer 1), the Kebaran (gravel layer, Layer 2) and the Mustertian (gravel layer, Layer 4) in stratigraphical order.

Locus 12: (the third layer of Section 2; red soil layer)

Stone tools: 5 flakes collected.

#### 4. Summary

We spent about a month in conducting the survey in the permitted area in East Akkar region. As a result, we recovered archaeological material from 28 spots. It is a matter for regret, however, most of them are regarded as not an archaeological site but a place where artifacts were scattered. Nevertheless, typical specimens of Mousterian points have suggested that the occupation of this region must have dated back to the Middle Palaeolithic age. One of the reasons why we failed to find a satisfactory number of sites may be explained by the fact that exploitation of land has made progress beyond the extent of our expectations; slopes have been terraced and used as cultivated fields and building activities



have leveled the ground. Even dolmens which were investigated by Talon about 40 years ago have suffered from disturbance.

What is especially remarkable in the current distribution investigation of the ruins of the Early Bronze period are unique in condition. As already mentioned above, it is observed that their residence grounds move gradually from highland down to the foot of a mountain, with the progress of years from the Paleolithic toward later ages. For instance, it has been made clear that Nabaa Jaruk-AKK9804 and Nahriye-AKK9818 lie in the hill area, which may be aptly termed 'the mid-slope of a hill', and they are placed somewhat in hollow, tongue-like geographical features, but not placed along the ridges or hills commanding a fine view. Also, it is certain that ruins are placed beside a fountain or a brook which runs from the fountain. It is thus probable that the people there were able to overlook the Akkar plain and the Mediterranean, if they went up to the highland or thereabouts out of ruins. In other words, it shows that the people would have a good mind to reside in the small, hollow basin-like geographical feature in the mid-slope of a hill, without going down toward the plain, even though they were fully conscious of the existence of the plain and the Mediterranean. But there are extremely few signs of the residence of the historical age such as the Bronze and the Iron ages. We see only the dolmens widely distributed at the foot of the hill, but we cannot confirm their relating residence ground within the range of our investigation. For the time to come, therefore, the investigation research must be pursued along its relation to the Akkar plain. There are only several ruins regarded as those of the Rome-Byzantine age and of the Crusade age. In the Islamic age, there are some relics distributed in various places, which are the ones mainly centering on Tripoli in the Ottoman age. In Bire, there is an area in which a regional supervisor takes up his villa, and others are merely the ones of village level in scale. With regard to the forthcoming problem to solve, it will be necessary for us to make comparative studies on the ruins distribution in the upper mountain zone and that in the plain as to the ruins in the prehistoric age, and to make this sort of researches in relation to the Akkar plain zone as to the historical ruins.

### Note

Monjez I: A few tombs were noted and published by Mouterde in 1940 (MUSJ, Vol. 23, p. 111), but the full extend of the cemetery was discovered by P ere Tallon (1958, 1964, 1965). He excavated 45 tombs in 1961 (1965), and some houses and other tombs in 1964.

### Acknowledgement

We wish to express our cordial gratitude to all the organizations and the people who supported our survey, above all, to His Excellency Matsushiro Horiguchi, Japanese ambassador to Lebanon and, Mr. Shoji Ryuno, a member of the Embassy staff. They gave influential supports in dispatching Matsumoto to Lebanon and offered every convenience possible while we worked in Lebanon.

We also deeply appreciate the assistance given to us by the staff of the Institute for Cultural Studies of Ancient Iraq, Kokushikan University and the members of the Association of the Japanese west Asian Archaeology (Cultural Asset Protection Special Committee). Professor Katsuhiko Ohnuma at the Institute and Ms. Sumiyo Tsujimura gave us helpful opinions regarding the stone tools and the pottery, respectively.





AKK9803



AKK9806



AKK9807

The General view the Akkar sites





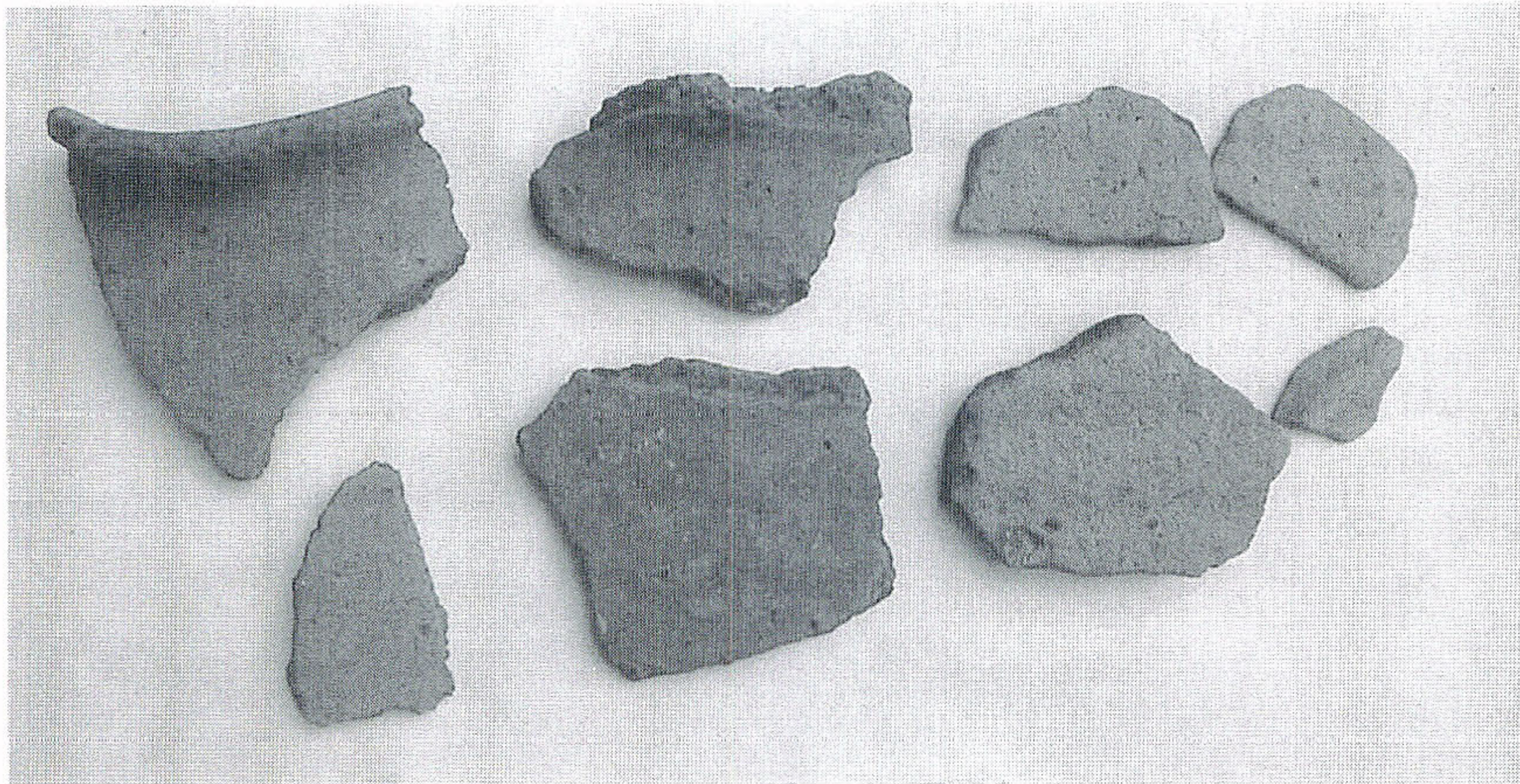
Nahriya (AKK9818)



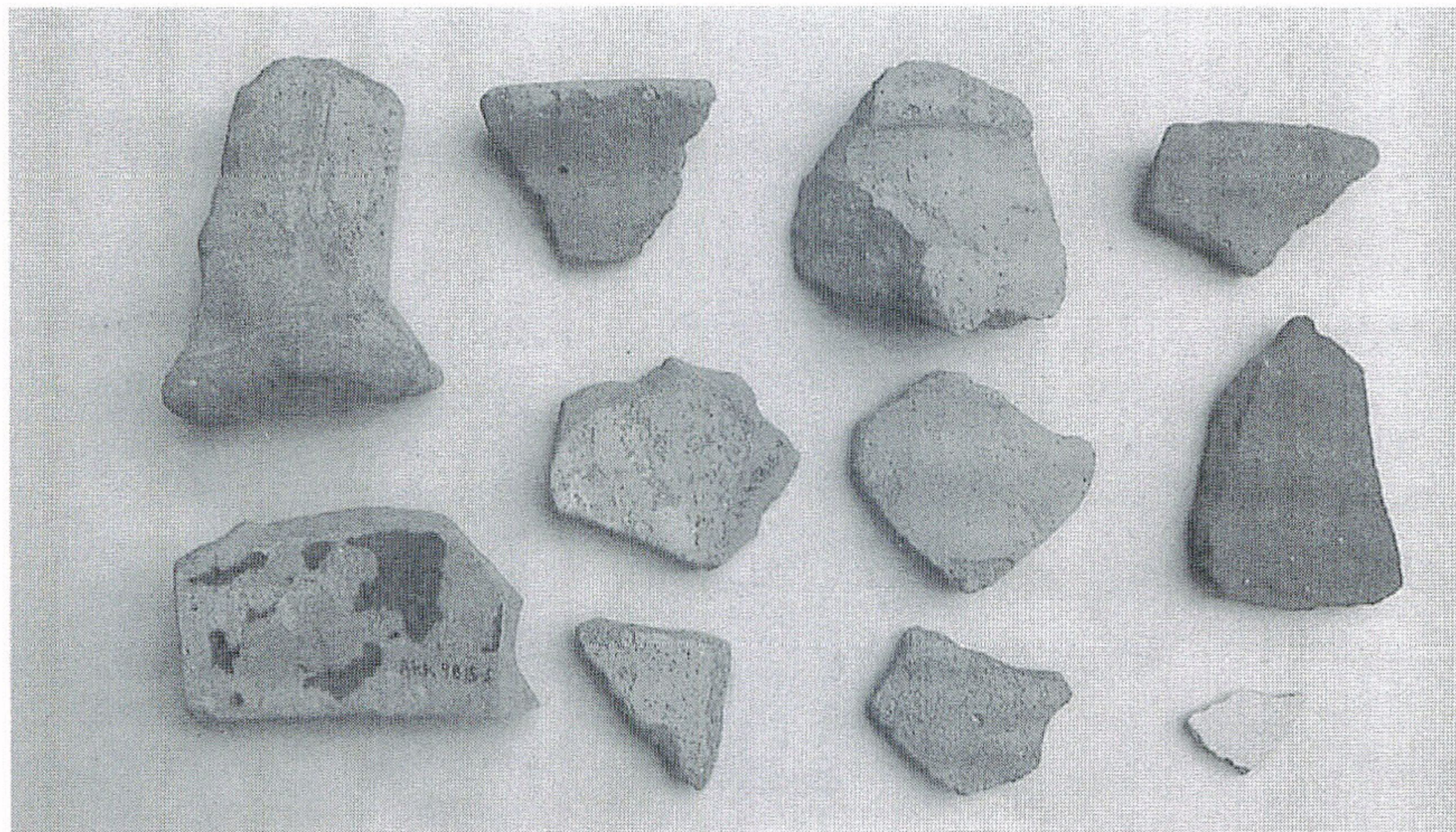
Nahriya (Akk9818), section 1

The General view of Akkar sites





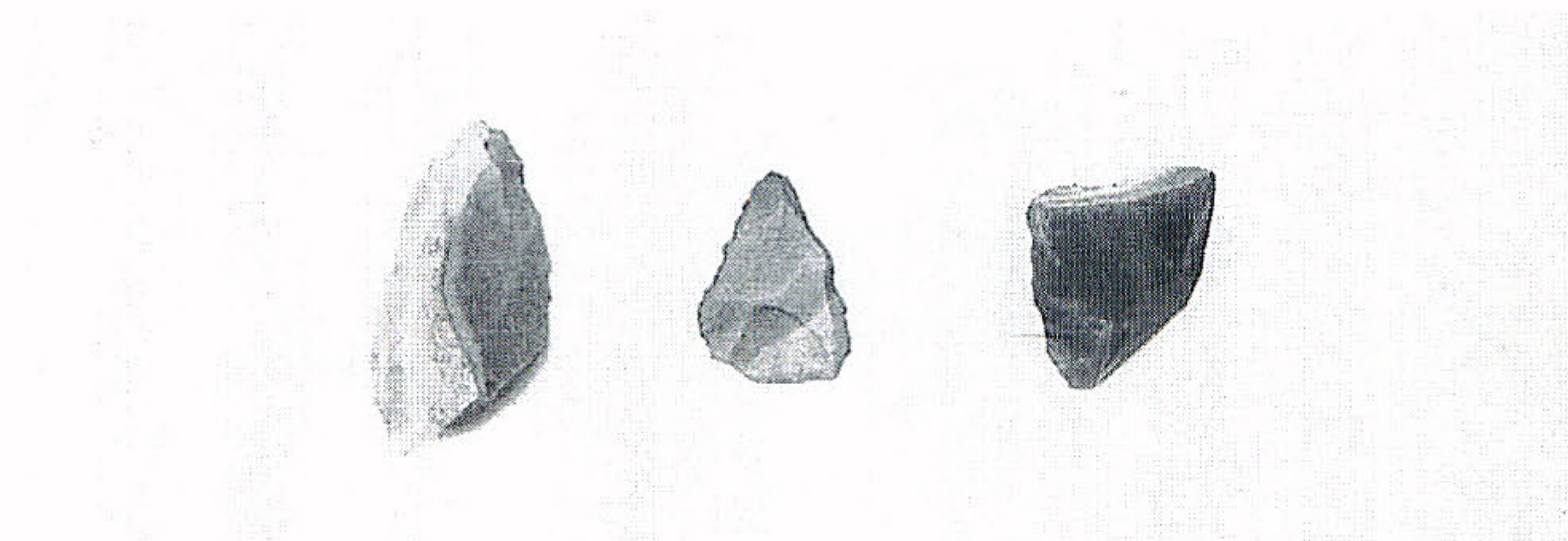
Akk9810



Akk9815



Akk9818



Akk9818

The collected objects from Akkar region



## 『ラーフィダーン』編集方針

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例) [松井 1960: 30-135]  
[大岡 1987: fig. 12; Naharagha 1981: 45ff]  
ただし同一著者による同年刊行物が複数ある場合は、年次にアルファベットを付して区別すること。
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1. The papers handled include unpublished theses, reports, book reviews, translations, brief notes, etc. All articles must be written in either Japanese or English in principle.
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1. The manuscript should be typed on one side only of A-4 size paper. To be accompanied with the computer disk is advisable.
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3. Please be sure to prepare necessary drawings and tables on separate papers one by one (less than 23.5×16.0 cm each in size of completion of printing), with explanations and consecutive numbers respectively, and compile them aside from the text. In addition, designate, on the margin of the text, where each one should be inserted.
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9. As a rule, the first proofreading shall be done by the original author.



編集後記

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イラクの情勢はまだまだ予断を許さないところですが、2000年11月1日から11月30日まで、イラク考古遺産庁や本学の理解のもとにキシユの発掘調査を再開致しました。このキシユの発掘報告はラーフィダーンに掲載していく予定です。 (松本)

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