

SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE POTTERY OF THE MB IIA PERIOD AND THE POTTERY OF THE ASSYRIAN COLONIES, AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS

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A prolonged stay at the excavations at Kültepe in 1965 gave me the initial impulse for the idea put forward in the present paper. At the outset I wish to express my indebtedness to Professors Drs. Tahsin and Nimet Özgüç for the invitations to their digs at Kültepe and Achemhüyük, and for the learning and discussions they both have generously edified me with.

The similarities between the two ceramic cultures are manifested both in some basic general characteristics as well as in various types and forms. However, perhaps the most significant point of similarity lies in the fact that these two ceramic cultures constitute each in its own area quite a break with its preceding culture. In both areas, as we shall presently see, the two cultures are quite a complete novelty.

The MB IIA pottery: It is a common knowledge that with the MB IIA Period begins a new era in the history of Canaan, with only a negligible quantity of features of all aspects of material culture inherited from the previous period, the MB I. This is best reflected in the pottery: we are confronted on a sudden with a completely new order of ideas, principles, approaches and techniques in the making of pottery of everyday use: the knowledge of the potter's wheel appears now to be in absolute sway of all pottery manufacturing including vessels of large sizes; forms attain now great refinement in general and in details; bases of all types of vessels are not flat anymore (as they used to be throughout all previous periods), but are either of the ring or disc type, or rounded ones; slipping and burnishing achieve peaks of accomplishment. We have to realize in this very connection that some of these ceramic ideas may have some remote connections to Early Bronze traditions, which thus had to live under-currently through the intervening MB I period. Even if so - these "reminiscences" are not many.

The Karum-Kanish IV-I pottery: I have to state it clearly that in the following analysis I have adapted two fundamental conceptions of Professors Özgüç and use them as basis for any further investigation: first, that Levels IV and III of the Karum are already the Colony, in spite of the lack of tablets. Secondly, that the pottery which characterizes Levels II and I b makes its beginnings in Level IV, notwithstanding the fact that there are clearly discernible differences from Level IV to Level III, to Level II and to Level I b. These two conceptions are naturally and logically interrelated or interdependent. If the pottery and other aspects of material culture of Karum-Kanish IV and III would have shown basic and great differences from those of Karum-Kanish II and I b, it would have been difficult to maintain that the Colony started with Level IV!

The Karum-Kanish pottery, though developing through 4 levels, seems to be from its beginning an entity of a character of its own, basically different from the character of the pottery of the previous Bronze Age Anatolian cultures. The new Karum-Kanish pottery seems to be the outcome of straightforward "hafting" (if we may say so) or amalgamation of foreign elements upon, or with, local traditions. The main characteristics of this new pottery culture are: general use of the potter's wheel, refinement of forms, ring-bases and highly burnished slips. Also in this case we have to point out some features which no doubt belong, as mentioned above, to the substratum of local traditions. It seems that two characteristics, and certainly more are to be detected, are of this old local order: the elongated beak-like neck and the peculiar triangular protuberance which often decorate a vase while resting on its shoulder opposite the handle. These two elements in their many variations go back it seems to Early Bronze Anatolian order of ideas.

We come now to our main task: to point out the similarities between the two new ceramic cultures, the Karum-Kanish IV (developing into III-I) and the MB IIA (developing into MB IIB and onwards). The very definitions we have offered above of the two components of our thesis are in themselves almost enough to understand and to establish the similarity surmised above. It is, however, worth while describing some details of the two potteries. While on the dig at the Karum of Kanish I was time and again amazed at the similarity of various sherds in their "feel" and workmanship with such

in any MB II excavations in Israel. The unslipped sherds show similar plain face of a light shade. Rims and bases of small vessels are simply interchangeable. Red-slipped sherds are very similar as well. When we come to forms - we realize this fact even to a larger extent. In Fig. 1 we have assembled a representative selection of forms of the MB IIB periods. This selection is taken out of the Megiddo and Ugarit publications. An identical picture could be derived from any other site or sites of Canaan. We notice in this selected group the ovoid jar, without and with handles; the great preference to trefoil-rims in jugs of various forms; the great occurrence of handles on the shoulders in jugs and other types. We find here the mug in its variety. Bowls of the carinated elegant shape in fine wares, and the open bowl with elaborate wing-like decorations beneath the rim. In Fig. 2 we have reproduced some of the types from the Karum as assembled by Dr. Kutlu Emre in her studies. The parallelism is very interesting, and certainly quite striking. I am sure that more study may bring up more points of similarity into this series of evidences. On purpose I have put the jug with elongated beak on a separate Figure, Fig. 3. This very typical Hittite type does appear in MB IIA and MB IIB contexts of Canaan. The MB IIB period, as is well known, is parallel rather with the Old Hittite period. However, since it does not appear in many instances there still may exist the possibility as to interpret this very type as imported into Canaan from the Hittite sphere. We may have in this type and its specimens in Megiddo and other sites an indication of trade between the Hittite centers and Canaan.

These two ceramic cultures, the Karum-Kanish IV-I and the MB IIA-B, have to have a common origin, which would count for all these phenomena. Such an origin has logically to be sought in the area of Upper Mesopotamia, which as we know, produced the human element for the trading-centers in Anatolia. It so happens that the same area seems to have produced the ethnic element (incursions or invasions?) which brought about the transformation of Canaan during the same period, the 20th-19th centuries B. C. In Fig. 4 we have assembled only a few specimens of pottery from Mari and from a cemetery in its vicinity, Baghouz. We have avoided in this brief study from going into other aspects of material culture of these three areas, which are bound to produce parallel evidence to that of the pottery dealt with here. We may only mention the existence of the duck-bill axehead

type in Karum I b, in Mari and Baghouz and in typical Canaanite MB IIA contexts. This should serve only as an example. However, the main effort of comparative study should continue with the pottery, which is greater in quantity and variety than any other kind of material culture.

¹ Tahsin Özgüç, *Kültepe-Kanis, New Researches at the Center of the Assyrian Trade Colonies*, Ankara, 1959. Passim, esp. pp. XIX-XXIII. Tahsin ve Nimet Özgüç, *Kültepe Kazısı Raporu 1949*, Ankara, 1953. Passim.

² Kutlu Emre, The Pottery of the Assyrian Colony Period According to the Building Levels of the Kanis Karum, *Anatolia*, VII, 1963.

³ André Parrot, *Mission archéologique de Mari. II. Le Palais. Documents et Monuments*. Paris, 1959. Céramique pp. 114 ff. I am grateful to Dr. P.R.S. Moorey of the Ashmolean Museum, for valuable discussions about Mari.

⁴ Du Mesnil du Buisson, *Baghouz, L'Ancienne Corsote. Le tell archaïque et et la nécropole de l'âge du Bronze*, Leiden, 1948.

Figure 1 : A representative group of vessels of the MB IIA and MB IIB Periods from Megiddo and Ugarit

¹ Jar. *Megiddo Tombs*, Pl. 29 : 12

² Jug. Red burnished slip, *Meg. II*, Pl. 20 : 5

³ Jug. Red burnished slip. *Meg. II*, Pl. 25 : 8

⁴ Jug. Red burnished slip. *Meg. II*, Pl. 20 : 4

⁵ Jug. White slip. *Meg. II*, Pl. 23 : 2

⁶ Jug. *Meg. II*, Pl. 23 : 6

⁷ Mug. red decoration. *Meg. II*, Pl. 11 : 14

⁸ Mug. Brown burnished slip. *Meg. Tombs*, Pl. 29 : 7

⁹ Mug. Red burnished slip. *Meg. II*, Pl. 11 : 6

¹⁰ Krater. Black decoration. *Ugaritica II*, Fig. 99 : 28

¹¹ Bowl. *Meg. II*, Pl. 36 : 12

¹² Bowl. Red burnished slip. *Meg. Tombs*, Pl. 28 : 34

¹³ Bowl. Red burnished slip. *Meg. II*, Pl. 15 : 15

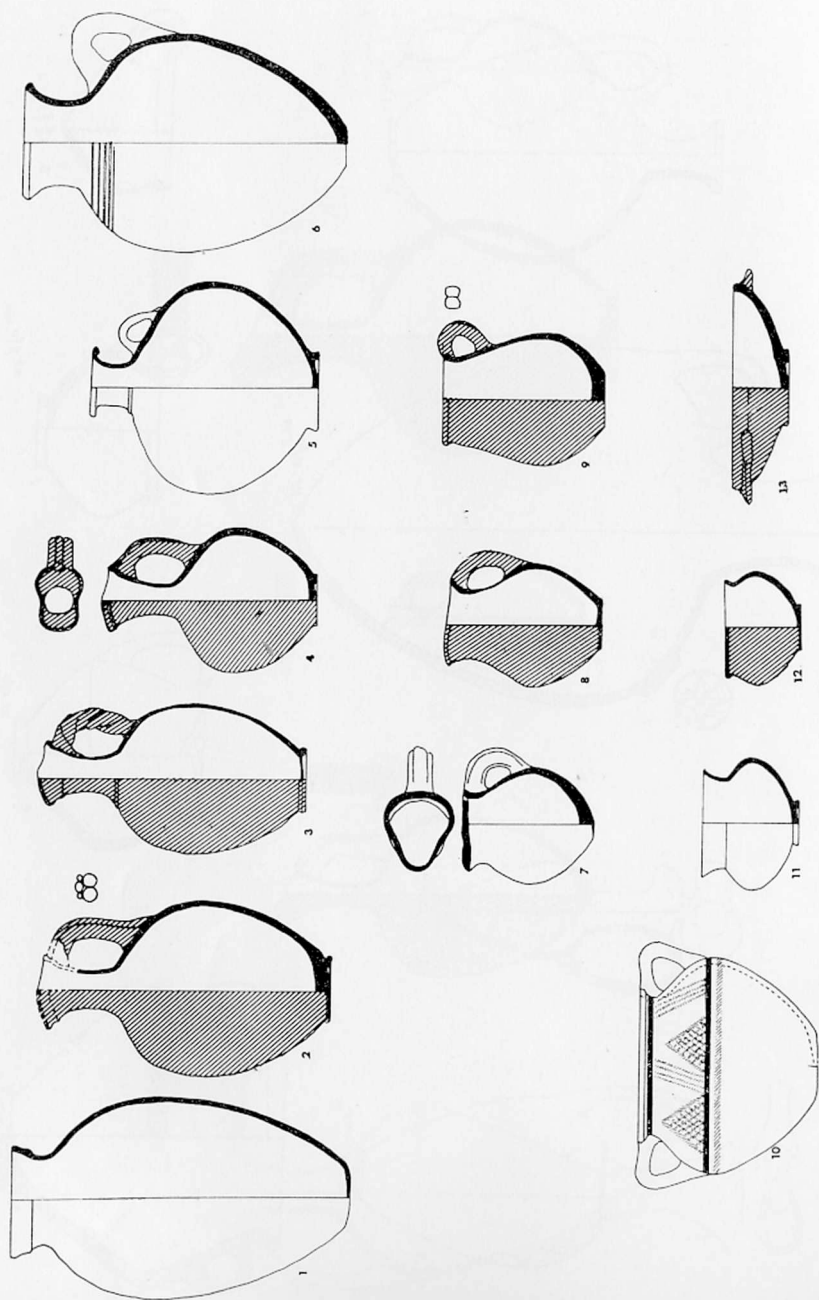


Fig. 1

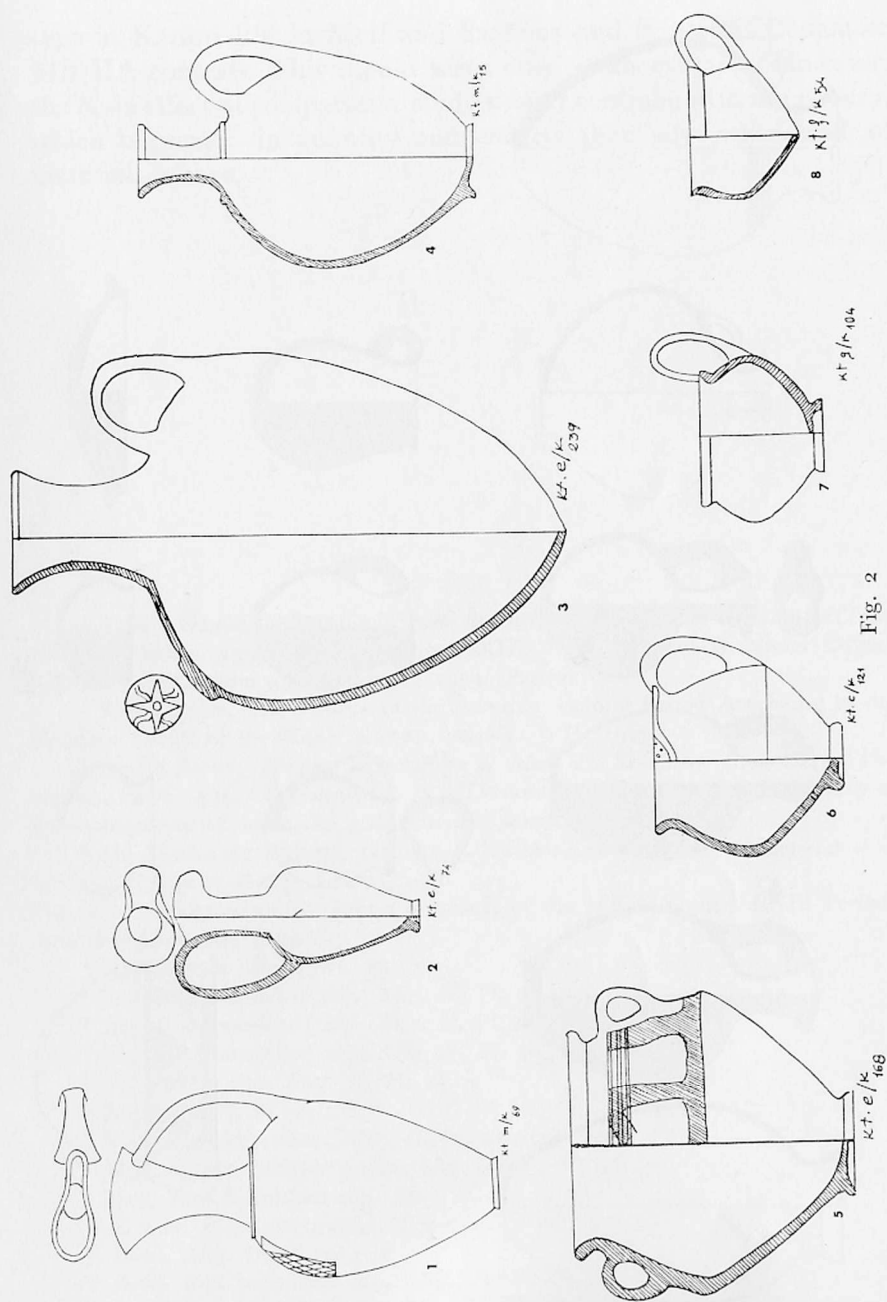


Fig. 2

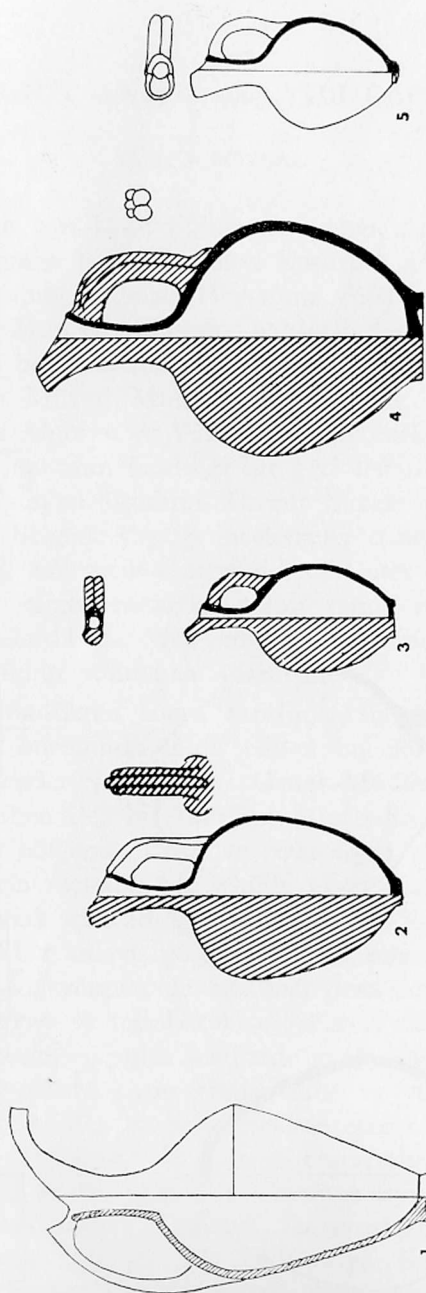


Fig. 3

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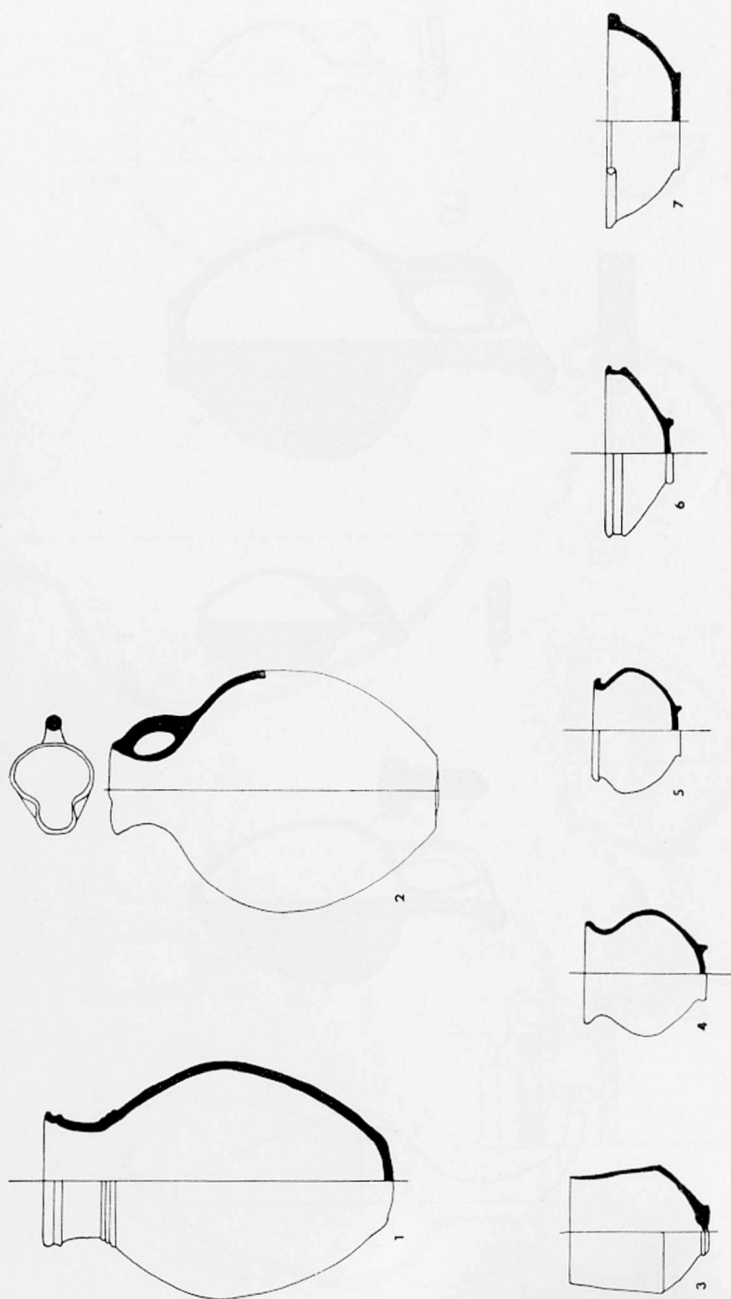


Fig. 4

TURGUT KAZISI 1969 YILI RAPORU

YUSUF BOYSAL

1963 yılından beri Millî Eğitim Bakanlığı, Ankara Üniversitesi ve Ege Üniversitesine bağlı Arkeoloji Enstitüsü adına Bodrum Bölgesinde kazılar yapmakta olan Heyetimiz 1968 yılı çalışma mevsiminde, Bodrum Müzesine Turgut nahiyesinden gelmiş olan bazı kapları enteresan bularak bunlarla yakından ilgilenmiştir. Ekim ayı başında, Bodrum Müzesi Müdürü sayın Halûk Elbe, Müze asistanlarından Oğuz Alpözen ve Yüksel Eğdemir, arkeolog Çetin Şahin ve bu satırların yazarının katıldığı bir gezi tertip edilerek eserlerin gelmiş olduğu Yatağan ilçesinin Turgut bucağı ziyaret edilmiştir. Heyet, adı geçen bölgede yaptığı incelemeler esnasında nahiye merkezinde Bozukbağ adı verilen mevkide, eski eser bulmak için köylüler tarafından açılmış mezarlar tespit etmiş ve ayrıca Emîrler mevkiindeki tarlalarda da yine köylüler tarafından aynı amaçla araştırmalar yapıldığı sonucuna varmıştır.

Ankara'ya döndükten sonra tarafımızdan ayrıntılı bir rapor yazılarak Turgut bucağında tespit edilen bu durum Millî Eğitim Bakanlığı Eski Eserler ve Müzeler Genel Müdürlüğüne aksettirilmiştir. Bunu takiben de, bir taraftan tahribatın önüne geçilmesi, diğer taraftan da bölgenin Tarih ve Arkeolojisi yönünden çok kıymetli olan eserlerin metodik bir şekilde açığa çıkarılması amacıyla burada kazı yapmak için adı geçen Genel Müdürlüğe müracaatta bulunduk. Büyük bir anlayış göstererek kazı müsaadesini şahsımıza veren, ayrıca maddî yönden de kazımızı destekleyen genel müdür sayın Hikmet Gürçay ve teşkilattâki diğer görevlilere teşekkürü bir borç biliriz. Bu vesileyle, çeşitli şekillerde yardımları dokunmuş olan Bodrum Müzesi müdürü sayın Halûk Elbe ve yukarıda adı geçen Müzenin asistanlarına da burada teşekkür etmek isteriz.

Millî Eğitim Bakanlığı ve Ankara Üniversitesi Dil ve Tarih-Coğrafya Fakültesi adına 1969 yılı Temmuz ayı sonunda Turgut bucağı merkezinde kazılara başladık. Bu satırların yazarının başkanlığındaki kazılara Dil ve Tarih-Coğrafya Fakültesi Arkeoloji Bölümü öğrencilerinden Cengiz İçten, Ayşe Altınkaya, Sevindik