Some Remarks on a Group of Early Bronze Age Pottery Kept in the Istanbul Archaeological Museums

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ABSTRACT
This study evaluates a group of Early Bronze Age pottery kept in the Istanbul Archaeological Museums. Within the scope of this study, the material, which can be dated to the Early Bronze Age I-II, has been divided into two different ware groups according to their periods, taking into account the consistency of the paste, surface-slip colours, firing and production techniques. The material examined was divided into main form groups such as beak spouted jugs, jars, a miniature vessel and a duck vase (askos). The beak spouted jugs and pots were subsequently divided into subtypes, according to mouth, neck and body differences. Amongst the Ware 1 and Ware 2 pottery examined, beak spouted jugs with well burnished glossy surfaces, and decorated oblique/vertical reliefs dating to the EBA I, besides a very successfully fired beak spouted jug with well burnished glossy surface and grooved horizontal band and zigzag motifs dated to EBA II are most likely imitations of metal vessels. Apart from the mentioned jugs, a miniature vessel in the form of a pot with a swastika, a 'Medallion', a circle between waves/snakes and possibly a plant motif is also remarkable. The investigated duck vase (askos), which can be dated to the EBA III, has some similarities to examples within Phylakopi I Culture pottery. While presuming these 20 pieces of pottery originated from the Lakes District and Western Anatolia, the exact excavation sites of most of them are unknown. For this reason, comparisons shall be made between the pottery of Early Bronze Age settlements from the mentioned regions and the material examined, whereas an attempt shall be made to ascertain the probable origins of the vessels.

Keywords: Lakes District, Western Anatolia, Early Bronze Age, Pottery, Ware Groups
Introduction

20 vessels that were acquired by and donated to the Istanbul Archaeological Museums will be examined in this study.

Dated to the Early Bronze Age I-II, this material has been divided into two different ware groups according to their periods, taking into account the consistency of the paste, surface-slip colours, firing and production techniques.

The find location of most of this material is uncertain. For this reason, comparisons were made between the pottery of the Early Bronze Age settlements found in Anatolia and the samples we examined, whereby it was determined these vessels were similar to the materials of the Lakes District and Western Anatolia (Fig. 1). In comparing the pottery with similar examples from other settlements the vessel forms were taken as the main criteria.

The material consists of beak spouted jugs (Fig. 2; 3; 5/1-7; 6/1-8; 7/1; 8/1-13; 9/1-3), jars (Fig. 3; 7/2, 3; 9/4, 5), a miniature vessel (Fig. 7/4; 9/6) and a duck vase (askos) (Fig. 7/5; 9/7). The beak spouted jugs (Fig. 2; 3) and jars (Fig. 4) are subsequently divided into subtypes, according to mouth, neck and body differences. Differences such as the splayed, pointed or cut of the jugs, the narrow/wide necks and the squat/spherical bodies of the pots made this distinction necessary.

The jugs called “beak spouted” became a common tradition in the Lakes District and Western Anatolia at the beginning of the Early Bronze Age. The jars with a plain rimmed, an everted mouthed and a pair of strip handles were usually found in the vicinity of Burdur –Antalya in the Early Bronze Age II. Duck vases were identified in the Lakes District and Western Anatolia at the end of the Early Bronze Age.

Ware Groups

Within the scope of this study, the material, which can be dated to the Early Bronze Age I-II, has been divided into two different ware groups.

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3 The Early Bronze Age I – II pottery ware groups are described separately, but different ware groups number (Ware 1, 2) are not preferred for each period. The miniature vessel (Fig. 7/4; 9/6) and duck vase (askos) (Fig. 7/5; 9/7) are not included in these ware groups.
**Early Bronze Age I**

**Ware 1:** This is a carefully made ware group with a high-quality appearance. The paste of this group is beige and buff and shades/tones of these colours, and it is very well refined, with fine mineral tempers and has extremely good texture. The firing is successful for the pottery, although yellow, brown, grey and black mottling of the surface is visible on the vessels. All the pieces are orange, buff, and tones of red slipped and very well burnished. The Ware 1 beak spouted jugs (Fig. 5/1-4; 8/1-4) are especially striking and the quality of the paste, the fine rims of the jugs, the standard of the firing and the well burnished glossy surfaces would suggest these could be an imitation of metal jugs. The pottery is decorated with shallow oblique/vertical reliefs. Similar examples to the Ware 1 group determined at Beycesultan (Lloyd & Mellaart, 1962, pp. 126, 127, Fig. 18/1, 2).

**Ware 2:** There is one beak spouted jug in this ware group (Fig. 5/5; 8/5). The paste and production technique in this group are similar to the Ware 1 group. The well refined paste is beige in colour, and has extremely good texture. The firing is very successful. The surface is brown slipped and very well burnished. The body section of the jug is decorated with shallow vertical reliefs.

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**Early Bronze Age II**

**Ware 1:** The fine (Fig. 6/3-6; 7/1; 8/10-13; 9/3) or medium-sized (Fig. 6/7, 8; 9/1, 2) vegetal and fine mineral tempered paste of this ware is orange in colour and is very compact. The firing is generally successful. The colour of the slip is red (Fig. 6/3-8; 7/1; 8/10-13; 9/1-3) and lightly (Fig. 6/3, 5-7; 8/10, 12, 13; 9/1) or well (Fig. 6/4, 8; 7/1; 8/11; 9/2, 3) burnished. Colour fluctuations of the black (Fig. 6/5, 6; 8/12, 13) can be seen on the surfaces due to variations in the firing process. Ware 1 is only represented by beak spouted jugs (Fig. 6/3-8; 7/1; 8/10-13; 9/1-3). They are decorated with a knob and grooved designs.

**Ware 2:** This ware group consists of two pottery types, which are fine carefully made beak spouted jugs and more roughly made jars. The fine mineral particles (Fig. 5/6, 7; 8/6, 7) and vegetal (Fig. 6/2; 7/2, 3; 8/9; 9/4, 5) tempered, well refined paste of this ware is grey in colour and always has a good consistency. The quality of the firing is variable, and blackish colour fluctuation (Fig. 5/7; 6/1; 7/2, 3; 8/7, 8; 9/4, 5) is visible on the surface of some of the pieces. The vessels are grey (Fig. 5/6, 7; 6/1; 7/2, 3; 8/6-8; 9/4, 5), brown-black (Fig. 6/2; 8/9) slipped and very well burnished. The pottery forms identified include varieties of beak spouted jugs (Fig. 5/6, 7; 6/1, 2; 8/6-9) and jars (Fig. 7/2, 3; 9/4, 5). The examples are decorated with incised, encrusted and grooved designs.

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4 A single example is black on the interior surface (Fig. 6/6; 8/13).
Forms

The pottery repertoire below will be introduced in chronological order and forms.

Early Bronze Age I

This group of beak spouted jugs is divided into three main sub-groups (Fig. 2).

Type a – Wide, Narrow Necked

This form made from Ware 1 is represented by three splayed spout, spherical bodied jugs (Fig. 5/1-3; 8/1-3) with a strip handle and a flat (Fig. 5/2) or a round (Fig. 5/1, 3) base, decorated with a horizontal grooved band (Fig. 5/1-3) and shallow oblique (Fig. 5/2, 3) or vertical reliefs (Fig. 5/1).

Parallel Examples: Hacılar Büyük Höyük (Umurtak, 2021, p. 42, Fig. 9), Beycesultan (Lloyd & Mellaart, 1962, pp. 126, 127, Fig. 18/1, 2, Level XVIIa), Kusura (Efe, İlaslı & Topbaş, 1995, p. 390, Fig. 26/105), Akören/İhsaniye (Efe, İlaslı & Topbaş, 1995, p. 390, Fig. 26/105), Uşak Archaeological Museum5 (Hüryılmaz, 1998, Şek. 1), Sadberk Hanım Museum (Anlağan, 1990, p. 53, Res. 19).

Type b – Narrow, Straight Necked

An example with a spherical body, a strip handle and a round base, and is made from Ware 1 fabric (Fig. 5/4; 8/4). The beak spouted jug is decorated with a horizontal grooved band, shallow oblique relief designs on the body section and a vertical relief design on the handle.

A similar one to this example was not found..

Type c – Wide, Straight Necked

The beak spouted jug that resembles jars with a splayed spout, a strip handle and a round base and is made from Ware 2 fabric (Fig. 5/5; 8/5). The body section of the jug is decorated with a horizontal grooved band and shallow oblique relief designs.

Parallel Examples: Bademağacı Höyük (Umurtak & Çongur, 2021, p. 23, Fig. 13/2, EBA II/2), Beycesultan (Lloyd & Mellaart, 1962, pp. 126, 127, Fig. 18/18, Level XVIIa), Höyüktepe (Ünan, 2015, p. 281, Kat. No. 83, EBA II).

Early Bronze Age II

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5 It is stated that the aforementioned beak spouted jug was found in Karbasan Village, Karahanlı District of Uşak Province (Hüryılmaz, 1998, p. 713).
The Early Bronze Age II pottery repertoire consists of beak spouted jugs, jars and a miniature vessel.

**Beak Spouted Jugs**

This form will be studied under three main sub-groups (Fig. 3).

**Type a – Long, Narrow Necked, Squat Bodied**

This group of jugs is divided into two sub-types (Fig. 3).

**Type a₁ – Beak Spouted, with a Splayed Spout**

An example of a long, narrow necked, a squat bodied jug with a strip handle and a flat base and is made from Ware 1 fabric (Fig. 5/6; 8/6). The body section of the jug is decorated with adjacent short, three vertical grooves, while the handle is decorated with a vertical relief. Under the mouth rim of the example, there are two protrusions that resemble ears or eyes and are not fully pierced but may have had rings attached to them.

A similar one to this example was not found.

**Type a₁₁ – Beak Spouted with a Long, Pointed Spout**

The second sub-type the beak spouted jug with a long, narrow neck, a squat body, a strip handle and a round base and is seen among the pottery of Ware 2 (Fig. 5/7; 8/7). The example is decorated with rows of horizontal groove decorations on the neck and triple zigzags, two short “V” shapes on the body section and a ‘window’ hole on the lower section of the handle and not fully perforated two protrusions (one on each side) under the mouth rim.

**Parallel Examples:** Bademağacı Höyük (Umurtak & Çongur, 2021, p. 23, Fig. 10/1, EBA II/2), Yortan (? (Kâmil, 1982, Fig. 81/279, Class C).

**Type b – Long, Narrow Necked, Spherical Bodied**

The jugs that make up this group will be studied under two sub-types (Fig. 3).

**Type b₁ – Beak Spouted with a Long, Pointed Spout**

An example with a long, narrow neck, a spherical body, a strip handle and a flat base and is made from Ware 2 fabric (Fig. 6/1; 8/8). The jug is decorated with rows of horizontal groove decorations on the neck and triple long “V” shapes on the body section and two protrusions (one on each side) under the mouth rim.

**Parallel Examples:** Karataş – Semayük (Eslick, 2009, Plt. 40/KT 311, KT 329, Period 6 Turhan Kâmil stated that its provenance as Yortan is not certain (Kâmil, 1982, p. 109, Fig. 81/279).
Type bıı – Beak Spouted with a Cut, Pointed Spout

The second sub-type is the beak spouted jug with a long, narrow neck, a spherical body and a flat base was found among the Ware 2 fabric (Fig. 6/2; 8/9). White filling of the incised decoration consists of two horizontal bands and single and double zigzags lines filled in with small dots on the body of the jug. The vessel has two protrusions (one on each side) under the mouth rim.

Parallel Examples: Beycesultan (Lloyd & Mellaart, 1962, p. 176, 177, Fig. 39/5, Level XIV; p. 178, 179, Fig. 40/1, Level XIV), Yortan (Kâmil, 1982, Fig. 67/221/a, b, Class C; Orthmann, 1966, p. 11, Abb. 5/26), Babaköy (Bittel, 1939-1941, p. 9, Abb. 7/1, 2).

Type c – Wide Necked

Beak spouted jugs with wide necks are a large group among the beak spouted examples and have been divided into six sub-types according to their beak and neck characteristics (Fig. 3).

Type cı – Beak Spouted with a Splayed Spout and a Spherical Body

The small jug with a strip handle and a round base is of Ware 1 fabric (Fig. 6/3; 8/10). It is decorated with two knobs on the body section and thin, adjacent two vertical groove designs on the handle.

Parallel Examples: Bademağacı Höyük (Çongur, 2019, Lev. 47/4, EBA II/2), Hacılar Büyük Höyük (Umurtak & Duru, 2013, p. 18, Res. 39, EBA I), Beycesultan (Lloyd & Mellaart, 1962, pp. 174, 175, Fig. 38/11, Level XVI), Kusura (Lamb, 1937, Plt. VII/3, Period B), Kaklık Mevkii (Efe, İlaslı & Topbaş, 1995, p. 394, Fig. 21/52).

Type cıı – Beak Spouted with a Splayed Spout and a Wide, virtually Straight Neck

The example of Ware 1 group has a spherical body and a round base (Fig. 6/4; 8/11).

Parallel Examples: Karataş – Semayük (Eslick, 2009, Plt. 17/KA 851, Period I), Bademağacı Höyük (Umurtak & Çongur, 2021, p. 23, Fig. 10/20, EBA II/3; 10/25, EBA II/2), Kuruçay Höyük (Duru, 1996, Lev. 121/5, EBA II/2), Höyüktepe (Ünan, 2015, p. 276, Kat. No. 059, EBA II), Çiledir Höyük (Türkütüüzün, Ünan & Ünal, 2014, p. 57, Res. 14, EBA II), Troy (Blegen et al. 1950, Fig. 228/35.759, Troy I), Thermi (Lamb, 1936, Fig. 28/7, Class B).
Type cııı – Beak Spouted with a Splayed Spout and a Wide, Straight Neck

The jug has a spherical body, a strip handle and a flat base, and is made from Ware 1 fabric (Fig. 6/5; 8/12). The decoration consists of three horizontal grooved bands and undulating lines on the body of the jug, and three vertical grooves on the handle.

Parallel Examples: Karataş – Semayük (Eslick, 2009, Plt. 55/KA 77, Main Cemetery Trench), Bademağacı Höyük (Umurtak & Çongur, 2021, p. 23, Fig. 11/19, EBA II/2), Küllüoba (Sarı, 2004, Lev. 6/2, Phase IIIİ).

Type cııııı – Beak Spouted with an Upright Spout

This group consists of examples with wide necks, spherical bodies, strip handles (Fig. 6/6; 8/13), and flat (Fig. 6/6; 8/13) or round (Fig. 6/7; 9/1) bases. These vessels are seen among the pottery of Ware 1 fabric. The jugs are decorated with horizontal grooved bands and long, oblique, vertical grooves (Fig. 6/7; 9/1) and a knob (Fig. 6/6; 8/13) on the body sections, and short parallel grooves and a horizontal “V” design on the handle (Fig. 6/6; 8/13).

Parallel Examples: Karataş – Semayük (Eslick, 2009, Plt. 61/KA 215, 134, Mixed Deposits), Bademağacı Höyük (Umurtak & Çongur, 2021, p. 23, Fig. 12/1; p. 24, Fig. 14/13, EBA II/2), Hacılar Büyük Höyük (Umurtak & Duru, 2016, p. 35, Res. 30, EBA II), Höyüktepe (Ünan, 2020, p. 121, Kat. No. 055, EBA II).

Type cvııı – Beak Spouted with a Splayed Spout and a Wide, Pointed Spout

The jug has a long, wide neck, a spherical body and a flat base (Fig. 6/8; 9/2). This example was found among the Ware 1 fabric. The neck section of the jug is decorated with a horizontal grooved band, while the body is decorated with three zigzags and a protrusion.

Parallel Examples: Bademağacı Höyük (Çongur, 2019, Lev. 56/3, EBA II/2), Kaklık Mevkii (Topbaş, Efe & İlaslı, 1998, p. 67, Fig. 51/112).

Type cvıııı – Beak Spouted with obliquely Cut Spout

A jug with a long, wide neck, a spherical body and a flat base and is of Ware 1 fabric (Fig. 7/1; 9/3). It features three knobs on the body section.

Parallel Example: Yortan (Kâmil, 1982, Fig. 36/120-122; 37/125, 132; 38/137; 39/140; 43/154a, b, Class A).
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Jars

In the material we examined, the jars are divided into two main sub-groups according to their body features (Fig. 4).

Type a – Squat Bodied

The jar with a plain rimmed, an everted mouthed, a pair of strip handles (one on each side) and a flat base belongs to the Ware 2 fabric (Fig. 7/2; 9/4). Decoration on the jug includes triple zigzag lines and two knob designs.

Parallel Example: Yortan (Kâmil 1982, Fig. 70/228, Class A).

Type b – Spherical Bodied

A jar with a plain rimmed, an everted mouthed, a pair of strip handles (one on each side) and a flat base is seen in the Ware 2 fabric (Fig. 7/3; 9/5). The example has horizontal grooved bands and undulating decorations.

Parallel Examples: Karataş – Semayük (Eslick, 2009, Plt. 37/KT 283, IV; 49/KT 446, Period V:3), Bademağacı Höyük (Çongur, 2019, Lev. 79/2, 3, EBA II/2), Kuruçay Höyük (Duru, 1996, Lev. 123/2; 128/5, EBA II/2; 137/1, EBA II/1), Çapalbağ (Oğuzhanoğlu – Pazarç, 2020, p. 205, Şek. 8/11, EBA IB), Kaklık Mevkii (Efe, İlslı & Topbaş, 1995, p. 387, Fig. 23/66), Demircihöyük (Seeher, 1987, Taf. 31/2, Phase D; 36/6; 41/3, Phase E; 47/7, Phases F$_1$ – F$_2$; 50/15, Phases F$_2$, 3), Küllüoba (Efe & Ay, 2000, Plt. 7/12, 4; p. 57, Plt. 12/7, Phase 3).

Miniature Vessel

The fine vegetal tempers and mineral particles, the well refined paste of this vessel is grey in colour and has a good consistency (Fig. 7/4; 9/6). Miniature vessel with a corrected surface that is rough in appearance and is not slipped or burnished. The firing is unsuccessful. This vessel has externally thickened rimmed, a long, wide neck, a spherical body, a pair of cylindrical handles (one on each side) and a flat base. An outstanding group of motifs has been identified on the surface of the vessel. The incised and white filled motifs include one with two well preserved swastika motifs, a ‘Medallion’, a circle between waves/snakes and possibly a plant motif on the body of the vessel. In addition, there are two lozenge patterns between three horizontal bands on the neck as well as a vertical wave/snake motif on one of the handles.

7 Similar jars are found in phase EBA II/2 at Bademağacı Höyük (Çongur, 2019, Lev. 78/7) and among the surface finds from Yakaemir in the Isparta Province (Üstün-Türkteki, 2012, Lev. 107/4), although these examples have more baggy bodies than the jar we examined.

8 This motif consists of multiple concentric circles made with the technique of incise.
**Parallel Examples:** Karataş – Semayük (Eslick, 2009, Plt. 66/KA 326, Mixed Deposits), İzmir Archaeological Museum (Özkan, 1999, p. 5, Res. 2).

**Early Bronze Age III**

Among the material examined, one vessel belongs to this period.

**Duck Vase (Askos)**

The well refined paste of this vessel is orange in colour and has a good consistency (Fig. 7/5; 9/7). The exterior surface of the example is slipped in the same colour as the paste and well burnished. The firing is very successful with the exception of some grey stains. This vase has a splayed spout, a narrow neck, a pointed body, a strip handle and a flat base. The white filled incised decoration consists of two oblique bands on the neck of the vase and four or six short “V” shapes between “+” shape on the upper body and three horizontal bands and four or five short inverted “V” shapes between double vertical bands on the middle body.

**Parallel Examples:** Karataş – Semayük (Mellink, 1967, Plt. 76, Fig. 12), Aphrodisias (Joukowsky, 1986, p. 587, Fig. 425/34), Beycesultan (Lloyd & Mellaart, 1962, p. 214, 215, Fig. 53/1, Level IX), Troy (Blegen, Caskey & Rawson, 1951, Fig. 238/D 29), Kalymnos (Benzi, 1997, p. 389, Fig. 5665, 5666, 5731), Asomatos (Marketou, 2009, p. 57, Fig. 3a), Heraion (Milojcic, 1961, Taf. 38/10), Thera (Renfrew, 2011, pp. 590, 614, Plt. 12/1), Aegina (Renfrew, 2011, pp. 590, 614, Plt. 12/3), National Archaeological Museum, Athens (Şahoğlu & Sotirakopoulou, 2011, pp. 242/20).

**Discussion and Conclusion**

There are some difficulties in evaluating the pottery, which has been acquired by the museums via donation and purchase. Regarding the form and decoration features of this material, an analogical evaluation was attempted with the contemporary pottery assemblages from Anatolian settlements.

In the material we examined, the splayed beak spouted jugs (Fig. 2; 5/1-5), which can be dated to the Early Bronze Age I, are divided into two ware groups. The vessels are especially striking and the quality of the paste, the fine rims of the jugs, the standard of the firing and the well burnished glossy surfaces, decorated with oblique/vertical reliefs would suggest these could be an imitation of metal jugs. Murat Türkteki compared the surface colours of the metal vessels and pottery belonging to the EBA. In this context, grey coloured,

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9 This vessel was first published in Beycesultan Vol. I, The Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age Levels (Lloyd & Mellaart, 1962, pp. 214, 215, Fig. 53/2).

10 All of the references given in the previous section will not be repeated here.

11 Examples of these beak spouted jugs are seen at Beycesultan in the EBA I period (Lloyd & Mellaart, 1962, p.117).
well burnished examples uncovered at Beycesultan, Kusura and Küllüoba (Türkteki, 2021, pp. 155, 156, Fig. 3/a-h), as well as some red slipped beak spouted jugs of Western Anatolian origin (Türkteki, 2021, p. 156, Fig. 5/b, c) were evaluated. M. Türkteki emphasized that the grey coloured, well burnished, vertical groove decorated pottery could be associated with silver and lead, and the red slipped examples may be related to vessels made of copper and bronze (Türkteki, 2021, pp. 154-157). Halime Hüryılmaz reported that a beak spouted jug from Uşak Archaeology Museum shares common features with the metal vessels found at Alacahöyük, Mahmatlar and Horoztepe. According to H. Hüryılmaz, the beak spouted, well burnished and shallow relief decorated jugs are probably the precursors of the metal vessels dated to the EBA II-III (Hüryılmaz, 1998, pp. 713, 714, 718). Some of the high quality, well burnished, vertical shallow groove decorated jugs, which are quite similar in terms of material and production techniques, were found in a shrine/temple at Beycesultan level XVIIa. According to Seton Lloyd and James Mellaart, these vessels were used for ritual purposes (Lloyd & Mellaart, 1962, pp. 32, 34, Plt. 18/9, 10). It is not possible to infer the certain role of these jugs in religious ceremonies because of the questionable functions of the building. There are some questions that cannot be answered in terms of the intended use of these jugs. Why were these jugs, which have high quality and display more careful workmanship than vessels used for daily purposes, produced in EBA I? Were the elites using these high quality ceramics with metal vessels? Could the use of metal vessel imitations in the general populace be an indicator of prestige? (Türkteki, 2021, pp. 160, 161) Were these jugs used for special/sacred purposes for the people of the period? Were metal imitation jugs used only for the presentation or service of certain liquids?

The location(s) where the beak spouted jugs, imitations of metal vessels, which we evaluated in type a-c, are unknown (Fig. 5/1-5). However, these were settlements where similar beak spouted jugs were found within the borders of Denizli, Afyonkarahisar and Uşak provinces (Fig. 1). The samples we examined were probably recovered from the EBA I settlement(s) located in the aforementioned provinces.

Constituting the large group in the material we studied, beak spouted jugs are seen among the pottery of Ware 1 and Ware 2 fabric (Fig. 5/6, 7; 6/1-8; 7/1). The splayed/upright/upright, pointed/cut spout, a long, narrow/wide/virtually straight neck, a squat/spherical body, a strip handle, a flat/round based jugs feature horizontal incised bands, vertical/oblique/zigzags and dots/“V”/downward hanging grooves, protrusions and knobs (Fig. 3). Examples with a similar tradition were identified in the EBA II pottery of the settlements found in the Lakes District and Western Anatolia. Therefore, the beak spouted jugs we examined should be dated to the said period. A squat bodied, splayed spouted jug with a long, narrow neck (Fig. 5/6; 12 Bleda Düring and Erkan Fidan think that the megaron in Beycesultan XVII is probably a domestic structure (Düring, 2011, p. 269; Fidan, Sarı & Türkteki, 2015, p. 68; Fidan, 2020, p. 171; 2022, p. 315).
8/6, Type a₁) has not been encountered in the presented regions. The paste and production technique of this vessel and the two protrusions, which are not fully drilled just below the mouth rim, are frequently encountered in EBA II settlements in the vicinity of Burdur – Antalya. Parallels to this jug with a long, pointed spout, a long, narrow neck, a squat body, and a strip handle and a flat base (Fig. 5/7; 8/7, Type a₂) were identified at Bademağaçı Höyük and Yortan (Fig. 1). Type b₁ consists of a well fired beak spouted jug with elaborately burnished glossy surfaces and grooved horizontal and zigzag decoration (Fig. 6/1; 8/8). The closest parallels to these jugs with a long, pointed spout, a narrow neck, a spherical body, a strip handle are seen in many EBA settlements in the Lake District and Western Anatolia. There are horizontal shallow groove decorations on the necks of very thin-walled, well fired vessels found at Karataş – Semayük (Eslick, 2009, Plt. 40/KT 329) and Bademağaçı Höyük (Çongur, 2019, Lev. 63/1, 3, 5; Umurtak & Çongur, 2021, p. 23, Fig. 13/14). Güzlüşn Umurtak stated that this type of beak spout jugs, identified as Ware 4 in Bademağaçı Höyük, EBA II pottery (Umurtak & Çongur, 2021, p. 8), may be an imitation of metal vessels (Umurtak & Çongur, 2021, p. 2). There are a pair of protrusions (one on each side) under the mouth rim. The protrusions are probably not ordinary decorations. In this context, different opinions can be evaluated. A ring is attached to the fully pierced protrusions found on a jug with a long, pointed spout, a spherical body, a strip handle and a round base, which is kept in the Antalya Archaeological Museum (Çongur, 2019, p. 176). As with the jug we examined, it is very difficult to add an attachment to the not fully pierced protrusions. An anthropomorphic vessel was found in a pit, dated to the EBA II at Laodikeia – Kandlkırı, the vessel has two protrusions (one on each side) on the neck section. According to Umay Oğuzhanoğlu, these protrusions are meant to represent ears (Oğuzhanoğlu – Akay, 2015a, p. 78, Lev. 20/2; Oğuzhanoğlu, 2015b, pp. 425, 426, Res. 5). Two protrusions were identified just under the mouth rim of a beak spouted jug holding a bowl in its hands considered to be a libation vessel within the Temple VA, dated to EBA III at Seytömömer Höyük (Bilgen & Kapuci, 2018, pp. 155, 157; Kuru, 2016, p. 436, Kat. No. 456, Lev. 30/1-3). Considered in conjunction with the Seytömömer example, these protrusions located under the mouth rim of the jugs may have represented the eyes or ears of a stylized human being. Could the fact that such vessels are burial objects at Karataş – Semayük (Mellink & Lawrence, 1968, Plt. 84, Fig. 33) and Harmaören (Ünlüsoy, 1993, p. 307, Çiz. 2a; p. 309, Çiz. 4a; p. 310, Çiz. 5a; p. 311, Çiz. 6a, b) cemeteries indicate that some jugs might have a place in the cult of the EBA tradition? Were these protrusions made to make jugs resemble metallic vessels? In the material we studied,

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13 see Hacımıslalar Höyük (Özgen, Baughan & Ünlü, 2021, p. 624, Fig. 21/r), Karataş - Semayük (Eslick, 2009, Plt. 40/KT 311, 329, Period V:1; 44/KT 399, Period V:2; 63/KT 565, Mixed Deposits), Bademağaçı Höyük (Umurtak & Çongur, 2021, pp. 23, 24, Fig. 10/8; 12/11, 12; 13/6/14, 15; 14/8), Yassı Höyük II (Burdur) (Mellaart, 1954, p. 230/344) and Harmanören (Ünlüsoy, 1993, p. 308, Çiz. 3a; p. 311, Çiz. 6b).

14 Aliye Öztan has stated that the two circles on a bifoil spouted jug, which found in Level III dated to Assyrian Colony Period at Acemhöyük, are said to be eyes in the style of Syro/Cilician (Öztan, 2008, pp. 25, 26, Fig. 1a-b).
the cut beak spouted jug, which was found in Kepsut District of Balıkesir Province (Fig. 6/2; 8/9, Type bII), is similar to examples identified at Yortan and Babaköy. A large number of cut beaked jugs were uncovered on the EBA cemeteries in the vicinity of Balıkesir (Bittel, 1939-1941, p. 9, Abb. 7; Kâmil, 1982, Fig. 35-64). On the other hand, the small dots seen on the jug we examined, within two horizontal incised bands, between one zigzag decoration on the top and two on the bottom, were not seen on the jugs found at Yortan. Beak spouted jugs with wide necks are a large group among the beak spouted examples (Fig. 3; 6-3-8; 7/1; 8/10-13; 9/1-3, Type cI, cII, cIII, cIV, cV, cVI). Parallel vessels of these red slipped jugs were found at Karataş – Semayük (Type cII, cIII, cIV), Bademağacı Höyük (Type cI, cII, cIII, cIV, cV) and Hacılar Büyük Höyük (Type cI, cIV). The obliquely cut spouted and knobs decorated jug in Type cV is nearly the same as the Yortan examples (Fig. 7/1; 9/3).

In the material we examined, a plain rimmed, an everted mouthed, a squat/spherical bodied, flat based jars are decorated with horizontal bands, zigzags, undulating decorations and knobs (Fig. 7/2, 3; 9/4, 5, Type a, b). These two jars are quite similar to each other in terms of paste and production techniques. The spherical bodied jar (Type b) originated in Hacılar Village of Burdur Province. Examples very similar in form to this jar were found at Karataş – Semayük, Bademağacı Höyük, Kuruçay Höyük and Hacılar Büyük Höyük. Some double handled jars, dated to the EBA IB, have been identified at the Çapalbağ cemetery. U. Oğuzhanoğlu and S. Pazarcı have stated that spherical bodied and round based jars are a form seen in Caria (Oğuzhanoğlu & Pazarcı, 2020, pp. 204, 205, Şek. 8/11), and have been found in cemeteries such as Iasos (Pecorella, 1984, p. 52, Fig. 4) and Kumyeri (Kara, 2013, Lev. 93/b). The settlements of squat bodied (Type a) examples are not known. Although a similar piece of pottery was uncovered at Yortan in terms of form, the paste and production technique of this jar features common with samples determined in the vicinity of Burdur – Antalya (Fig. 1). These examples, we examined are presumed to date to EBA II, as with the aforementioned settlements.

A miniature vessel in the material we examined is quite intriguing (Fig. 7/4; 9/6). The closest parallels of the vessel in terms of forms and dimensions are at Karataş – Semayük, a miniature vessel of Yortan origin from a private collection15, as well as a vessel kept in the
İzmir Archaeological Museum\textsuperscript{17}. Large sized jars similar to this miniature vessel with the same pottery form features but used for daily purposes have been encountered in the vicinity of Burdur – Antalya and some settlements in Western Anatolia (Karataş – Semayük (Eslick, 2009, Plt. 37/KT 290 Period IV; 46/KT 394 Period V:2), Bademağacı Höyük (Çongur, 2019, Lev. 84/1, EBA II/2), Beycesultan (Lloyd & Mellaart, 1962, pp. 148, 149, Fig. 25/24, Level XVI), Kusura (Lamb, 1937, Plt. VII/13; Lamb, 1938, Plt. LXXXIII/3, Period B).

In terms of dimensions, miniature vessels are unsuitable for the storage of some goods and liquids. G. Umurtak stated that the functions of the roughly shaped, poorly fired, miniature vessels at Höyücek dated to the Neolithic Age, must have been different from that of the better quality examples (Umurtak, 2005, pp. 27, 28). Franz Fischer assessed the miniature vessels from the Imperial Hittite Period at Boğazköy to be votive vessels. According to F. Fischer, these vessels were unsuitable for more than one use, like everyday use pottery. In stating some miniature vessels were found inside the temple at Boğazköy, he emphasized that they were used for ritual purposes (Fischer, 1963, p. 69). It was reported that the miniature vessels dated to the Late Bronze Age at Alalah (Aççana Höyük) were not suitable for everyday use. While it was determined the miniature vessels could be models of large sized pottery, it was also stated that such examples could have been used for toys or ritual purposes. Claudia Glatz mentioned that some miniature vessels from the Late Bronze Age in North-Central Anatolia had ritual functions (Glatz, 2009, p. 130, Fig. 2/1, 2).

The closest parallels to the lozenge shaped decorations between two incised bands on the neck section of this vessel are identified from Hacimusalar Höyük (Özgen, Baughan & Ünlü, 2021, p. 609, Fig. 7/d), Karataş – Semayük (Eslick, 2009, p. 42, Motif 54; p. 115, Plt. 36/KT 592; 66/KA 326), Bademağacı Höyük (Çongur 2019, Lev. 80/1; 107/1; 111/17), Kuruçay Höyük (Duru, 1996, Lev. 128/7, 10), Höyüktepe (Ünan 2015, pp. 263, 304, Kat No. 233) and a vessel kept in the İzmir Archaeological Museum. (Özkan, 1999, p. 5, Res. 2). Possibly made for decoration, the lozenge patterns are entirely surrounding the neck of the vessel. In addition, two swastikas found on the vessel body are unlike ordinary decorations. Similar swastika motifs were also determined on a miniature vessel of Yortan origin from a private collection (Höckmann, 1984, p. 126, Abb. 6/2) as well as Karataş – Semayük (Eslick, 2009, Plt. 38/KT 591, Period IV; Mellink, 1969, Plt. 73/Fig. 13; Wheeler, 1973, Fig. 2/C), Bademağacı Höyük (Çongur, 2019, Lev. 104/1), and on a vessel kept in the İzmir Archaeological Museum (Özkan, 1999, p. 5, Res. 2). The swastika motif identified in the settlements in the Lakes District and Western Anatolia in the EBA was generally formed with horizontal lines on the four arms of the ‘+’ sign. Apart from the four arms of the ‘+’ sign, 

\textsuperscript{17} The jar has externally thickened rimmed, a spherical body, pair of cylindrical handles (one on each side) and a flat base. It is decorated with two horizontal bands, lozenge patterns and swastika motifs (Özkan, 1999, p. 5, Res. 2)
horizontal and vertical lines were also present in certain parts of the swastika motifs of the example we examined. The swastika motif probably represents an animal. Lines ascending upwards on the front of the swastika may represent a stylized head, vertical lines behind them the horns, and the part formed with slightly curved lines downwards on the back may have represented the tail of an animal. There are stylized goat motifs with horns and tails on some pottery at Karataş – Semayük (Eslick, 2009, Plt. 15, Motifs 142, 143) and Hacılar Büyük Höyük (Umurtak & Duru, 2016, p. 35, Res. 31) in the vicinity of Burdur – Antalya. However, there is no similarity between the swastikas on the miniature vessel and the goats. Therefore, it is not known which animal this swastika represents. Among the swastika motifs is a ‘Medallion’\textsuperscript{18} motif. The ‘Medallion’ motif may have some symbolic meanings (Çongur, Forthcoming). Sedat Alp thinks that some signs on the pottery can provide information regarding the ownership, production, and in rare cases, the object or capacity indicators of the vessels (Alp, 1994, p. 264). Ursula Seidl determined that earlier examples of the circular reliefs with knobs in the centre seen on some vessels identified at Kültepe (Ib and II) and Alişar date to the Assyrian Trade Colonies Period as well as at Boğazköy date to Imperial Hittite Period, whereas she emphasized that an earlier example can be found at Karataş – Semayük (Mellink & Angel, 1966, Plt. 66, Fig. 22), it may be one of the local symbols seen in Anatolia before the 2\textsuperscript{nd} millennium BC. According to Seidl, this sign found on some vessels from the Assyrian Trade Colonies Period to the end of the Imperial Hittite Period is that \textit{Signe Royal}. Moreover, Seidl believes the symbolic meanings of the mentioned are not exactly known, but that the circular reliefs seen on the cult vessels are probably not simple decorations (Seidl, 1972, pp. 66, 67, 79). In addition, this vessel features a circle between the waves/snakes and possibly a plant motif. A similar plant motif was found at Karataş – Semayük (Eslick, 2009, Plt. 49/KT 384, Period V:3).

Hypothetical debates regarding the belief system and cultic activities of the EBA II people of Lakes District and Western Anatolia have been formed based on the interpretation of very limited archaeological findings. In this context, the so-called temples at the Beycesultan XVI-XIV layers (Lloyd & Mellaart, 1962, p. 36-53), burial customs of the period (Uhri, 2006), and the idols and figurines (Bilgi, 2012, pp. 202-259) unearthed from settlements dated to the EBA II in the Lakes District and Western Anatolia provide insight into the social structure of these communities. As with the miniature vessel we discussed, it is possible that every mark on the artefacts in question, such as pottery, seals, spindle whorls, or loom weights, was not made for ornamental purposes (Umurtak, 2009, p. 7). All the motifs on the body, except for the lozenges surrounding the neck of the vessel, were most likely not made

\textsuperscript{18} A motif found on some pottery recovered from the EBA levels of Karataş – Semayük was called ‘Medallion’ for the first time by Machteld J. Mellink (Mellink 1967, p. 253; Mellink & Angel 1966, pp. 253-254; 1968, pp. 248, 254, 259). This motif consists of one or multiple decorations made with the technique of relief/groove and the knob/protrusion in the centre (Eslick 2009, 44, Motifs 122-130, DC4). In addition to this, some examples do not bear a centre knob in the circular decorations.
for decorative purposes. The detection of the wave/snake motif on only one handle further supports the idea. It should be discussed why these signs, which are not ordinary filling motifs, were included. Can these motifs provide information about the beliefs or religions of the people of the period? Did these motifs have symbolic meanings for the people of the EBA II? Could the motifs found on the vessel be a visualization of a mythological scene? Was the miniature vessel used in rituals?

Among the materials we examined was a duck vase (askos) (Fig. 7/5; 9/6) that was acquired from the vicinity of İzmir. This vessel has similar counterparts at Karataş-Semayük, Aphrodisias, Kalymnos, Asomatos, Heraion, Thera, and Aegina (Marketou, 2009, pp. 51, 52). M. Mellink stated that a black slipped askos found at Karataş–Semayük, next to a child’s tomb numbered 167, was locally produced. However, she emphasized that in terms of form, this vessel was similar to the samples found in the Aegean (Mellink, 1967, pp. 253, 254, Plt. 76, Fig. 12). It was determined that an example found in the Schliemann Collection at Troy, which could not be identified as imported or locally produced, is of the Cycladic type (Blegen, Caskey & Rawson, 1951, pp. 109, 110). Toula Marketou suggested that the Aegean type duck vases may have also been produced in Cyprus (Marketou, 2009, p. 52). Jeremy Rutter reported that duck vases from the ‘Phylakopi I Culture’ were generally found on mainland Greece. While they were few in number, such askoi were also found in the Cyclades. According to Rutter, the duck vases were significant in showing the relations between mainland Greece and the Cyclades in the early stages of the Middle Bronze Age (Rutter, 1983, p. 74). Colin Renfrew emphasized that the duck vases he evaluated in the ‘Phylakopi I Culture’ are quite similar to some samples found in Anatolia (Renfrew, 2011, pp. 192, 193, Fig. 12.4).

Marija Gimbutas reported that askoi were observed in southeastern Europe in the mid-7\textsuperscript{th} millennium BC and that this form was found in some settlements during the Neolithic and Bronze Ages (Gimbutas, 1989, p. 6). According to Gimbutas, Bird Goddesses and askoi of the Cotofeni Culture were incorporated into Old European beliefs during the last quarter of the 4\textsuperscript{th} millennium BC (Gimbutas, 1977, p. 264). Moreover, it was suggested that askoi were used as votive vessels in a sanctuary located at Level IIA of the Sărata–Monteoru settlement (Gimbutas, 1965, p. 228). M. Mellink stated that the black slipped askos found next to a child’s grave numbered 167 at Karataş–Semayük could be a toy or a burial object (Mellink, 1967, pp. 253, 254, Plt. 76, Fig. 12). The askoi dating to the EBA III levels brought to light at the Seyitömer Höyük are believed to have been used in rituals (Kuru, 2016, p. 182).

Duck vases have been discovered in EBA IIIB settlements throughout Western Anatolia, the Dodecanese Islands, the Cyclades, and Cyprus (Marketou, 2009, pp. 51, 52). The askos we examined show parallels with examples from the ‘Phylakopi I Culture,’ both in terms of form and decoration, suggesting it was likely imported from the Cyclades,
where the ‘Phylakopi I Culture’ thrived, within the framework of trade routes proposed by archaeologists (Renfrew, 2011, pp. 192, 193, Fig. 12.4). Vasıf Şahoğlu reported a very complex trade line between Anatolia and Mesopotamia during the third quarter of the 3rd millennium BC. This trade network covered regions stretching from Cyprus, Coastal Western Anatolia to the Cyclades, mainland Greece, Thrace, and the Balkans. V. Şahoğlu stated that this trade included raw minerals and goods, leading to inter-regional cultural, technological, and economic relations (Şahoğlu, 2005; 2019). M. Massa and V. Şahoğlu reported that this trade network collapsed in the 2200s BC due to a natural disaster that affected the entire Mediterranean (Massa & Şahoğlu 2015). According to Turan Efe, the Menderes Valley served as a trade route between Western Anatolia, the Cyclades, and eastern mainland Greece in the early phase of EBA III, with the trade being primarily maritime (Efe, 2020, pp. 127, 128, Fig. 4). T. Marketou stated that liquid products were often transported in duck vases (Marketou, 2009, p. 52). The liquid product within the askos we examined may have been transported from the Cyclades to İzmir in EBA III, but the vessel’s exact purpose and the context in which it was recovered are unclear. Therefore, it is challenging to determine the askos’ specific use.

The material we have discussed so far has only been evaluated by analogical examination, as its origin is unclear. The fact that vessels with very similar form and decoration were found in settlements in the Lakes District and Western Anatolia suggests that the origin of the pottery in question is likely from these regions.
### Catalogue

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<tr>
<th>Object type: Beak Spouted Jug (Fig. 5/1; 8/1)</th>
<th>Object type: Beak Spouted Jug (Fig. 6/7; 9/1)</th>
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19  H. Height; W. Width; D. Diameter.
### Some Remarks on a Group of Early Bronze Age Pottery Kept in the Istanbul Archaeological Museums

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