

A Collection of Early Bronze Age Pottery from Akhisar Museum

Akhisar Müzesi'nden Bir Grup İlk Tunç Çağı Seramiği


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Abstract: This study evaluates twenty artifacts at the Manisa Akhisar Museum. Most of the artifacts are displayed in the exhibition hall at the museum, while the others are preserved in the museum's warehouse. Twelve artifacts were obtained through confiscation, while eight were acquired via purchase in various years. Eight artifacts were discovered in Alaşehir, Akhisar, and Kula, whereas the origins of the rest are not specified in the museum records. The artifacts were categorized based on their functions and stylistic characteristics. Consequently, the forms of the vessels were taken as a basis for comparison with their counterparts from other sites. Among the examined vessels, those specifically produced were likely intended to be placed in graves or used in religious rituals. Considering the production techniques and the specifics of the regional culture, most of the vessels clearly show the characteristics of Yortan-type pottery dispersed over Balıkesir and Akhisar/Manisa plains during the Early Bronze Age. Furthermore, there exist vessel forms showing the cultural traditions of the surrounding region. The artifacts from the Akhisar Museum, produced by specialist potters with aesthetic insight, will undoubtedly contribute to Anatolian archaeology.

Keywords: Troy/Yortan Culture Area • Early Bronze Age • Akhisar Museum • Pottery

Öz: Bu çalışmada Manisa Akhisar Müzesi'ndeki yirmi adet pişmiş toprak eser değerlendirilmiştir. Eserlerin büyük bir kısmı Akhisar Müzesinin teşhir salonunda sergilenmekte kalanı ise müzenin deposunda muhafaza edilmektedir. Eserlerin on ikisi müsadere, sekizi satın alma yoluyla farklı yıllarda müzeye kazandırılmıştır. Sekiz eser Alaşehir, Akhisar ve Kula'da bulunmuş, diğer eserlerin ise nereden geldikleri müze kayıtlarında belirtilmemiştir. Çalışmada eserler işlevleri ve biçimsel özelliklerine göre sınıflandırılmıştır. Bu sebeple diğer yerleşmelerdeki benzerleri ile karşılaştırılırken kapların formları esas alınmıştır. Çalışmaya konu olan kaplar arasında özel üretilmiş olanlar büyük olasılıkla mezarlara konmak üzere veya dinsel törenlerde kullanmak amacıyla yapılmıştır. Gerek yapım teknikleri gerekse bölge kültürüne ait detaylar dikkate alındığında kapların büyük bir kısmının İlk Tunç Çağı'nda Balıkesir ve Akhisar/Manisa ovalarında yayılan Yortan tipi çanak çömlek özellikleri gösterdiğini söylenebilir. Bunun yanı sıra aralarında çevre kültür geleneğini yansıtan kap formları da bulunmaktadır. Uzman çömlekçiler tarafından estetik bir anlayış ile özenle yapıldığı anlaşılan Akhisar Müzesi eserlerinin Anadolu arkeolojisine katkı sağlayacağı muhakkaktır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Troya/Yortan Kültür Bölgesi • İlk Tunç Çağı • Akhisar Müzesi • Çanak-Çömlek

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Introduction

The first settlements in Western Anatolia emerged in the fertile lands irrigated by the Gediz and Bakırçay rivers, as well as in proximity to their tributaries. The natural route from the Gediz Valley southward to the Büyük Menderes (Great Meander) Valley, along with the road from İzmir to Akhisar-Balıkesir and northward to Thrace, has maintained its significance since the Neolithic Age¹. These routes facilitated interaction between the east-west and north-south regions, significantly contributing to cultural exchange and communication. The first research that influenced the archeology of the area was the excavation conducted by P. Gaudin at the Yortan Cemetery in the Kırkağaç district². Following years of excavations at Babaköy³ and Ovabayındır'da⁴ in Balıkesir; Eski Balıkhane south of Marmara Lake; Ahlatlı Tepecik⁵ in the west; Erdelli Höyük⁶, Dağdeviren Mound, and the Chamber of Commerce construction site in Akhisar revealed new findings reflecting the Yortan pottery and burial traditions⁷. Such studies have been crucial in demonstrating the distribution of Yortan culture in its surrounding area⁸. At the same time, the discovery of the Akhisar Kulaksızlar Marble Idol Workshop⁹ and the high-quality artifacts produced by the specialists proved that the workshop significantly influenced Western Anatolia during the Chalcolithic Age¹⁰. Prehistoric studies extended beyond these; E. Akdeniz carried out extensive research to understand the settlement patterns of Manisa, discovering numerous mounds and various settlements, subsequently initiating excavations at Hastane Höyük¹¹. On the other hand, C. Roosevelt's surveys in Ahmetli, Gölarmara, and Salihli¹², along with the ongoing excavations in Kaymakçı¹³ and the century-old excavations in Sardis, have revealed the cultural continuity in the region, particularly in its early periods¹⁴. R. Meriç's survey of the İzmir-Aydın-Manisa provinces¹⁵ and the excavation of the Gavurtepe Mound in Alaşehir have significantly advanced the archaeology of the region¹⁶.

The complex cultural dynamics of the Early Bronze Age in Anatolia have been investigated by numerous scholars. K. Bittel was the first to analyze the categorization

¹ Akdeniz 2011a, 7-10, 13; Meriç 2018, 190.

² Charloux 2001, 24-26.

³ Bittel *et al.* 1939-1941, 1.

⁴ Akurgal 1958, 156.

⁵ Mitten & Yüğrüm 1969, 125-131; 1971, 191-195; 1974, 22-29.

⁶ Dinç 1991, 25.

⁷ The excavations at Dağdeviren Mound and the construction site of the Chamber of Commerce were carried out by museum experts under the direction of the Directorate of Manisa Museum. See also Akilli 2022.

⁸ Akdeniz 2009, 51.

⁹ Dinç 1997, 11.

¹⁰ Takaoğlu 2002; Takaoğlu 2005.

¹¹ Akdeniz 2010; 2011b; 2020, 214-220.

¹² Roosevelt 2007, 135-155.

¹³ Roosevelt *et al.* 2016, 243.

¹⁴ Hanfmann 1983, 17-25.

¹⁵ Meriç 1985, 199.

¹⁶ Meriç 1988, 157-170.

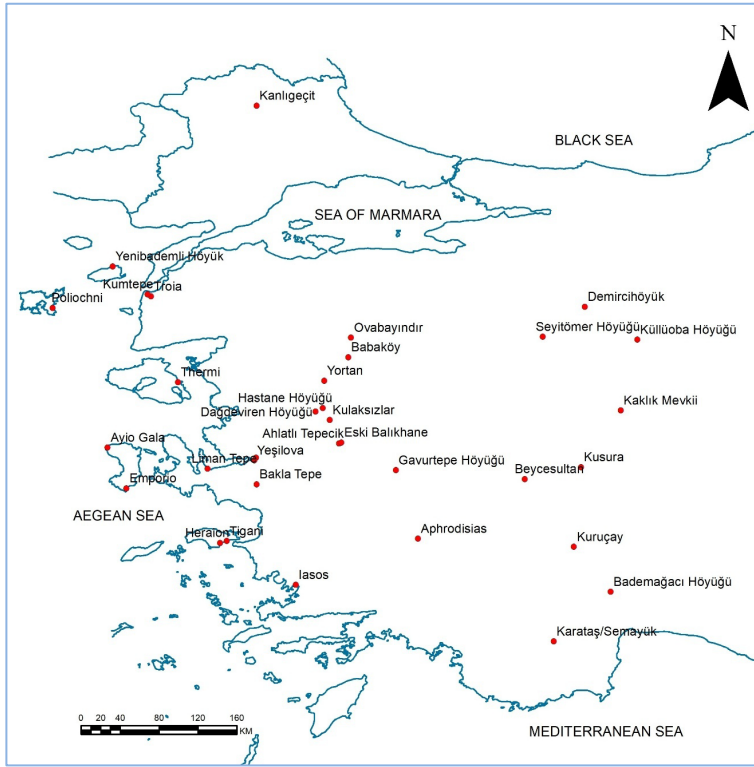


Fig. 1a Western Anatolia and Aegean Islands settlements in the Early Bronze Age

typologically according to surface finds, dating the Yortan pottery to the Troy II period²⁰. In subsequent years, T. Kamil assessed the Yortan-based artifacts discovered in Anatolian centers and in museum collections both in Türkiye and internationally, categorizing the vessels into groups A, B, and C according to their stylistic characteristics. Most of the artifacts in question belong to Group A. These artifacts are dated to the late phase of EBA I and EBA II. The researcher allocated the forms in Group B to the later phases of EBA II and EBA III, while those in Group C were dated to EBA IIIa²¹. The recent study by D. Sarı on the cultural regions and pottery groups of Western Anatolia argues that the culture identified as Troy I-Yortan in Northwestern Anatolia is a continuation of the Kumtepe Ib culture. The Yortan culture maintained its influence across a broad geographical area, spanning from Balıkesir and the Akhisar-Manisa plains to Troy and its surroundings, as well as the Aegean coastal region and Upper Menderes during EBA I-II²², and continued its interactions with the Troy and Beycesultan settlements in EBA III (Fig.1a)²³.

of Western Anatolia into pottery groups and cultural regions¹⁷. D. H. French conducted a detailed study on pottery groups for the first time, following a comprehensive survey of Balıkesir and Akhisar/Manisa¹⁸. The Yortan culture, widespread in Northwestern Anatolia, is primarily based on pottery finds from the Yortan Cemetery in the Kırkağaç district. This cemetery demonstrates a ceramic culture that originated near the Aegean coast and spread into the interior of Western Anatolia¹⁹.

French categorized the pottery from Balıkesir and Akhisar/Manisa region both chronologically and

¹⁷ Bittel 1942, 186.

¹⁸ French 1969, 41.

¹⁹ Akdeniz 2009, 51.

²⁰ French 1969, 65, fig. 3.

²¹ Kamil 1982, 7-19, 49-54, 67, table 2.+.

²² Sarı 2012, 140, 155, 185.

²³ Lloyd & Mellaart 1962, 243.

This study evaluates a collection of ceramic artifacts from the Akhisar Museum, categorizing twenty artifacts into six groups. The findspots of twelve artifacts remain unknown. The inventory records reveal that three artifacts were unearthed in Akhisar, three in Alaşehir, and two in Kula. The artifacts were categorized and assessed based on their functions and stylistic characteristics. The vessel forms were used as the basis for comparing the artifacts with their counterparts from other settlements. Except for one artifact, all potteries were handmade and exhibit a well-applied slip and burnish. The paste composition is of high quality. It comprises sand, mica, small stones, lime, and quartz. The paste colors include red, yellowish red, reddish grey, light brown, grey, dark grey, very dark grey, and black. The artifacts are mainly crafted with grey colored paste²⁴. The slipping colors include light red, red, dark red, blackish red, reddish brown, brown, greyish brown, very dark grey, and black²⁵. In certain vessels, the slipping was applied to the rim or neck's interior, whereas other interior parts remained unslipped and unburnished. The vessels were fired moderately to well. Several exhibit discolorations because of firing. The artifacts are categorized into six groups, with the first group consisting of bowls. The remaining groups respectively include jars, jugs, bird-shaped vessels, rhytons, and triple composite vessels.

1. Bowls

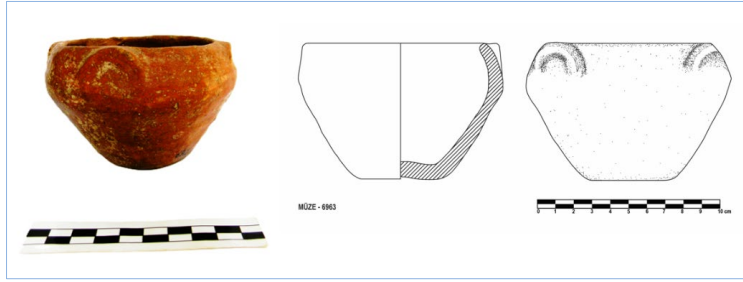


Fig. 1b Bowl

The only artifact belonging to this group is inventory no. 6963, a flat-based bowl with an inverted rim, a slightly carinated shoulder, and a body that narrows towards the base (Fig.1b, Cat.No.1). The yellowish red colored coarse paste contains sand,

mica, quartz, lime, and grits. The exterior and interior surfaces are well slipped and burnished in red color. Four ear-shaped, lug-like relief decorations are placed at equal intervals between the rim and shoulder. The most similar bowl is the red, slightly carinated bowl from the Yortan Group A. A comparable ear-shaped decoration is also present on the shoulder of a spouted jug from Yortan²⁶.

The examples of slightly carinated bowl forms from Gavurtepe exhibit comparable characteristics²⁷. The first development of this specific type of soft carinated vessel (A16) commenced during the mid to late period of Troy I and persisted into Troy II²⁸.

²⁴ The descriptions of paste and surface colors of the artifacts are based on Munsell Soil Color Charts. (2.5 YR 5/8), (5 YR 5/6), (5 YR 5/2), (7.5 YR 6/3), (7.5 YR 4/3), (GLEY 1 5/N), (7.5 YR 5/1), (7.5 YR 4/1), (10 YR 4/1), (GLEY 1 3/N), (GLEY 1 4/N), (5 YR 3/1), (GLEY 1 2.5/N).

²⁵ (10 R 6/8), (2.5 YR 6/8), (2.5 YR 4/8) (10R 4/6) (10 R 5/8), (2.5 YR 3/6), (10 R 3/4), (2.5 YR 5/4), (5 YR 4/4), (7.5 YR 5/2), (2.5 YR 5/2), (10 YR 4/2), (10 YR 3/1), (GLEY 1 2.5/N).

²⁶ Kamil 1982, 23, fig. 24: 8; pl. XI: 196.

²⁷ Meriç 1988, 158, drawing 5.

²⁸ Blegen *et al.* 1950, fig. 259, 263.

These bowl types are common in EBA I (levels XIX-XVII) at Beycesultan²⁹ and between levels I-IV at Thermi I-IV, closely similar to a bowl from level IV³⁰. The ear-shaped decoration on the rim is also present on Demircihöyük bowls³¹. The slightly carinated bowl form is characteristic of Yortan, Troy, and Thermi and is suggested to date to EBA I.

2. Jars



Fig. 2 Jar

The museum artifacts include four items from the jar group. Two of the jars are handled, while the other two are necked. The first handled jar is inventory no. 6980, characterized by a wide rim, a flaring cylindrical neck, a wide and subtly bulging body, and a rounded base. The vertical handles start from the neck and join at the shoulder (Fig.2, Cat.No.2). The gray

colored paste contains sand, small amounts of mica, and grits. The jar is slipped and burnished in grayish brown color. At the junction of the handle and the neck, a zigzag decoration running between two parallel incised lines. Below this decoration are sixteen lozenge decorations, each divided into nine squares. A belt featuring double-striped incised decoration divides this part from below. The body features a zigzag motif, each accented with five incised lines, encircling the vessel and divided into sixteen small squares. Each handle features four lozenge motifs divided into nine squares. A flat-based variation decorated with zigzag motifs on the neck and body is found at Karataş³². Alongside this artifact, another jar featuring medallion decoration has an identical form. This vessel type in the Elmalı Region was defined as “amphora” by M. J. Mellink and dated to EBA II³³. A similar shaped jar from EBA II in the Burdur Museum lacks decoration³⁴. The Yortan Group A vessel characterized by rim handles, pear-shaped bodies, and lack of decoration is defined as “tankard” by Kamil. It varies from this item in the rim, handle, and decorative elements³⁵. At Iasos, similar jars of this type with a more rounded form were also defined as “amphora” by P. E. Pecorella³⁶. Given the similar artifacts discovered in Southwestern Anatolia, it is suggested that the artifact be dated to EBA II.

The artifact with inventory no. 2313 is the second jar in this group, and it has a wide rim that opens outward, a cylindrical neck, a round body, and a flat base. On the shoulder

²⁹ Lloyd & Mellaart 1962, fig. p. 14: 10,11,19; fig. p. 15: 35, 37, 38.

³⁰ Lamb 1936, 132, pl. XXXVII: 567.

³¹ Efe 1988, 131, tafel 3: phasen H.

³² Eslick 2009, 77-78, plate 23: KA 138.

³³ Mellink & Angel 1966: 254, fig. 22

³⁴ Efe & Türkteki 2011, 298, 381, res. 237. The findspot of this artifact preserved in the Burdur Museum is unidentified.

³⁵ Kamil 1982, fig. 70, 226-228.

³⁶ Pecorella 1984, 52, tav. XXXVII: 139; tav. XLI: 163.



Fig. 3 Storage Jar

are two horizontal, thick handles facing upwards (Fig.3, Cat.No.3). The paste characteristics of the light red slipped and burnished vessel could not be determined. It lacks a comparable type of storage vessel in the Yortan pottery. It also differs in terms of pottery types with the Yortan burial vessel. This medium-sized jar was likely used for storage or transportation in settlements. The jar from known as C4 in Troy I was transformed to C12 in Troy II, and its use continued. The

artifact exhibits characteristics similar to the Troy C12 from, with the exception of a flat rim profile³⁷. The EBA IIIa storage jars from Beycesultan exhibit similarities in both form and dimensions³⁸. A similar smaller jar is found in the amphora-shaped jar category in Group C in Levels IV-V at Thermi³⁹. In terms of form and carrying capacity, it resembles the shorter-necked jars with handles discovered in the yellow phase of EBA III at Poliochni⁴⁰. The artifact is thought to date to EBA III.

The other form in the pottery group is the necked jars, represented by two artifacts. The one with inventory no. 4015 features a flaring rim, cylindrical neck, slightly carinated body, and a rounded flat base. Four vertical pierced lugs are located on the upper part of the body, along with holes on the rim. The pierced lugs and holes indicate that the vessel was hung with a rope and had a lid (Fig.4, Cat. No.4). The paste characteristics of the red brown slipped and burnished jar remain unidentified. The jars from Group A, dating to EBA II at Yortan⁴¹, Ovabayındır⁴², and Babaköy, exhibit a similar tradition in terms of their form and pierced lugs⁴³. This type of necked jars is represented in Troy II by vessel form C28⁴⁴. In EBA II at Beycesultan (layer XV)⁴⁵, in Group B forms in layer II at Thermi⁴⁶ and in the yellow phase dated to EBA III at Poliochni, vessels featuring this type of neck and pierced lugs show identical characteristics to jars, showing minimal differentiation among them⁴⁷. Based on the technical characteristics of the necked lug with a pierced lug and the similar artifacts, it should be dated to EBA II.

The second necked jar is not significantly different from the previous one. The artifact with inventory no. 1161 features an outwardly rounded rim, a narrow neck that

³⁷ Blegen *et al.* 1950, fig. 397.

³⁸ Lloyd & Mellaart 1962, fig. p. 54: 7.

³⁹ Lamb 1936, plate XIII: 30.

⁴⁰ Bernarbo-Brea 1976, TAV.CCXI: a-e.

⁴¹ Kamil 1982, fig. 28: 51, 53.

⁴² Schiek-Fischer 1965, fig. 40-41.

⁴³ Orthmann 1966, abb. 6: 37.

⁴⁴ Blegen *et al.* 1950, 131 b: C.28.

⁴⁵ Lloyd & Mellaart 1962, fig. p. 33: no. 9.

⁴⁶ Lamb 1936, 88, pl. XIII: no. 559.

⁴⁷ Bernabo-Brea 1976, TAV CCI: c.

gradually widens towards the rim, a slightly carinated round body, and a flat base (Fig. 5, Cat.No.5). Four lug-like relief decorations adorn the body, with two remaining intact and two broken. The center of the two lugs features a nipple decoration, while the neck and body of the vessel are decorated with a thin incised band. The dark gray fine paste contains sand, mica, quartz, and a substantial amount of silvery mica. It is slipped and burnished in black color. The exterior of the vessel, along with the part from the inner rim to the neck's end, is slipped and burnished. Only a single sherd of this lug-decorated jar form, dating to EBA II, has been discovered in the Yortan Group A. This jar closely resembles another, except that its body is more rounded⁴⁸. Another similar example featuring lugs on the body, akin to the one in this study, is found in Babaköy⁴⁹. A black burnished jar exhibiting a similar typology from EBA II (layer XIV) at Beycesultan features four horn-shaped decorations resembling lugs.⁵⁰ The jar differs from the previous form in that the pierced lug has been replaced by a lug-like relief decoration. This change suggests a successor to the previous version⁵¹. It is thought to be from EBA II based on similarities with other artifacts from the same period.



Fig. 4 Necked Jar

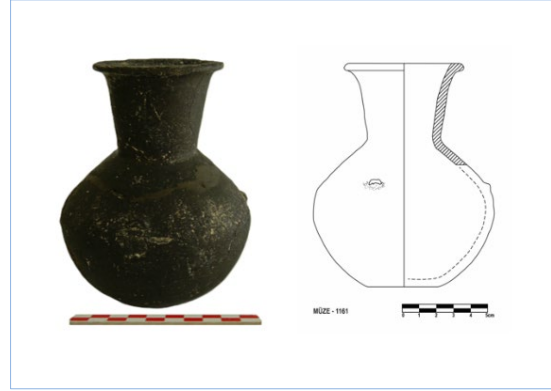


Fig. 5 Necked Jar

3. Jugs

The jug is among the most common vessel types utilized in Anatolia and adjacent cultural areas during the Early Bronze Age. The most characteristic forms of Yortan pottery are the beak spouted and cutaway spouted jugs. Yortan jugs typically have rounded bodies, forward leaning forms, oval handles, and small bases. Their paste and walls are thick, well slipped and burnished. Hand-made vessels show asymmetry and surface discoloration resulting from the firing process⁵². The ten artifacts in the jug group comprise a strainer jug, a small spouted jug, a pointed spouted jug, a spouted jug with relief decoration, a spouted jug with a forward-extending rim, two round-based jugs with cutaway spout, a spouted jug with a tripod, and finally, two jugs with flaring rims.

The first example is a strainer jug with inventory no. 7035. It possesses a slightly

⁴⁸ Kamil 1982, 31, fig. 28: 54.

⁴⁹ Orthmann 1966, abb. 6: 50.

⁵⁰ Lloyd & Mellaart 1962, fig. 42: 3.

⁵¹ Kamil 1982, 31.

⁵² Kamil 1982, 37-38.

upward-curving everted spout, thick neck, flattened and spherical body, and flat base. The handle consists of a single band divided into four sections by three flutes of varying

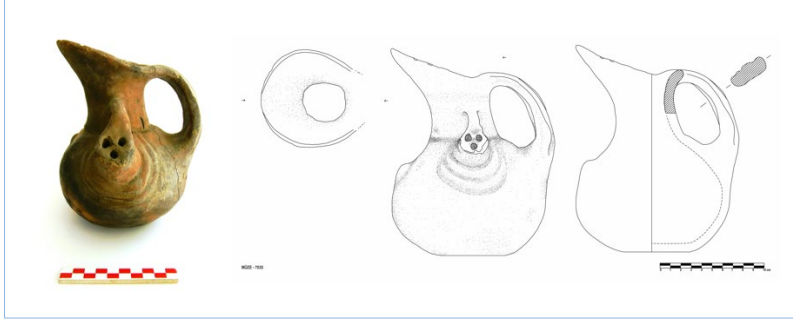


Fig. 6 Strainer Jar

thicknesses extending from the rim to the body. The pouring lip features three large, fluted decorations at its upper part, linked to the body by a small strap handle (Fig.6, Cat.No.6). The spout is decorated with three grooves of varying

thickness encircling it. A nipple decoration is centered on the projection point of the spout of the beak. The gray paste includes sand, quartz, chaff, grits, and a small amount of mica. It is slipped and burnished in a blackish red color. Slipping and burnishing were applied on the exterior surface and inside of the rim. Comparable examples of these jugs from Yortan Group A were produced without sieves⁵³. This type of jugs featuring three or more spout holes is found at Karataş during the early phase of EBA II (Period IV). The four-spouted part resembles the red jug, which is attached to the body by a small strap handle⁵⁴. Vessels featuring spouts are also found at Senirce⁵⁵ and Gündürle Mound⁵⁶ in Isparta, as well as Körkuyu Mound in Burdur⁵⁷. At Kaklık Mevkii, a similar variant of the jug was produced without a spout. This artifact is dated to the EBA II⁵⁸. The jugs having a spout on the body at Thermi Level II exhibit a comparable form⁵⁹. The function of a perforated spout on these vessels is to facilitate the draining of granular liquids. Based on the use of stainer jugs in Western Anatolia and their findspots, it is proposed that they be dated to the EBA II period.

The second jug type is a small spouted jug with a slightly raised rim, a short neck, a flattened spherical body, and a rounded base with inventory no. 4020. The artifact has a strap handle extending from the rim to the body (Fig.7, Cat.No.7). The fine red paste contains fine sand, quartz, and a substantial amount of mica. It is slipped and burnished in red color. Within the Yortan Group A, there exists a jug that closely similar with red slip⁶⁰. Examples are found from Troy I onwards⁶¹, this type of jus with a slightly raised rim appears at Beycesultan in EBA I and becomes widespread in EBA II. Mellaart posits that these types were imported from the Yortan cultural area⁶². These particular small-

⁵³ Kamil 1982, fig. 65.

⁵⁴ Mellink & Angel 1970, 248, fig. 20; Warner 1994, pl. 181: KA. 744.

⁵⁵ Ormerod 1911/1912, 83, pl. VI: 3, pl. VII: 3.

⁵⁶ Duru 2016, 138, res. 461: 5.

⁵⁷ Özşait 1981, 64, lev. 33: res. 10.

⁵⁸ Topbaş *et al.* 1998, fig. 51: 119.

⁵⁹ Lamb 1936, pl. X: 141.

⁶⁰ Kamil 1982, fig. 36-37: 121, 124, 132.

⁶¹ Blegen *et al.* 1950, 66-67, fig. 228: 35.540, 35.541.

⁶² Lloyd & Mellaart 1962, 125, p. 22: 12; p. 25: 1.

sized jugs are characteristic of Kusura Group B⁶³. At Thermi, similar larger types are present in layers I-IV, although no direct analogs were found⁶⁴. Given the technical characteristics of the jug and the presence of similar types in other centers, it is suggested to date it to EBA I.

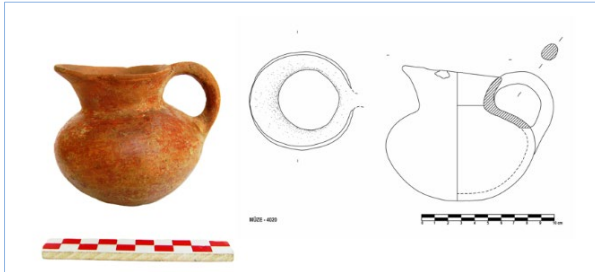


Fig. 7 Spouted Jug



Fig. 8 Spouted Jug

The third type is characterized by a pointed spout, a spherical body, and a round base with inventory no. 1158. It has a strap handle starting from the bottom of the rim and extending to the body (Fig. 8, Cat.No.8). The broken handle was later replaced by a handle fragment of a different texture. The body is decorated with three evenly spaced nipple decorations. The black paste contains fine sand, mica, quartz, lime, and grits. The exterior surface is slipped and burnished in reddish brown color, while the interior surface is unslipped and unburnished. Following its first appearance in the Yortan Group A, the type spread across Western Anatolia and the Aegean Islands in EBA II⁶⁵. This jug type persisted in Troy during periods of I-III with the B13 and B17 examples⁶⁶. Similar artifacts are found at Kumtepe in layer Ic 1⁶⁷, Eski Balıkhane⁶⁸, Beycesultan in EBA II⁶⁹, Karataş⁷⁰, Thermi between layers I-IV⁷¹, Kuruçay⁷², and Tarsus Gözlükule⁷³. The jug, commonly found in numerous centers across a wide region, belongs to EBA II.

The fourth type features a spout, a thin and elongated neck, and a rounded and decorated body with inventory no. 2380. The artifact has a strap handle decorated with three rows of grooved decorations starting just below the rim and ending at the shoulder (Fig.9, Cat.No.9). It cannot stand upright due to relief decorations covering the base, as the body. The gray paste contains sand and mica. The brown slipped jug has a burnished rim, neck, and handle. Clay balls are attached to the body, some of which have

⁶³ Lamb 1937, 19, pl. VII: 1-4.

⁶⁴ Lamb 1936, pl. X: 560; pl. XII: 570.

⁶⁵ Kamil 1982, fig. 38: 136, 138-139.

⁶⁶ Blegen *et al.* 1950, fig. 228: 36.843, 36.641.

⁶⁷ Sperling 1976, pl. 78: 721, 722, 816, 817, 818.

⁶⁸ Mitten & Yügrüm 1971, 193, fig. 4.

⁶⁹ Lloyd & Mellaart 1962, fig. p. 31: 9, fig. p. 40: 3-6.

⁷⁰ Mellink 1964, pl. 81, fig. 23; Mellink 1967, pl. 83, fig. 48; Mellink & Angel 1968, pl. 84, fig. 34.

⁷¹ Lamb 1936, pl. XXXV: no. 18, pl. VIII: no. 70, pl. XII: no. 233, 288, pl. XXXVI: no. 327-328, pl. XXXVII: no. 413, 419.

⁷² Duru 1996, lev. 141: 1-11.

⁷³ Garstang & Goldman 1947, 384, pl. XCII: 4; 99; Goldman 1956, fig. 237: 56.



Fig. 9 Jug with clay balls decoration

detached and resemble relief decoration with either blunt or pointed ends. The neck has two rows of groove decoration. Although the jug's form is familiar to the Yortan group, the clay balls on it are new to this region. A jug from the EBA 4/Middle Bronze Age context, excavated at the Aphrodisias Acropolis, features partially sparsely spaced reliefs (50 pieces) resembling clay balls⁷⁴. In

Level V at Beycesultan, during the early Middle Bronze Age, large storage vessels show sparse relief decorations of this type, yet the vessels significantly vary in form and function⁷⁵. The vessels shaped like a bunch of grapes that were used for ritualistic purposes at Kültepe during the early second millennium BC⁷⁶, and subsequently at Alishar and Boğazköy, were produced with clay balls⁷⁷.

Vessels with relief decoration and clay balls are found beyond Anatolia in the Aegean Islands, Cyprus, and the Balkans. A jug from Samos Heraion featuring sparsely decorated clay balls is dated to EBA III⁷⁸. The body of an askos discovered at the Chalcolithic cemetery at Souskiou in Cyprus is decorated with closely spaced clay balls in relief⁷⁹. A small jar from the Vrbjanska Čuka settlement in Pelagonia, North Macedonia, dating to the Early Neolithic, features smaller relief decorations at regular intervals, indicating it was crafted in a manner akin to the jug in the study⁸⁰. An EBA bowl discovered at the Mala Tumba settlement in Macedonia, currently exhibited in the Monastery Archeological Museum, bears this specific type of relief decoration⁸¹. The presence of this type of relief decoration on various vessel types from the Neolithic, Chalcolithic, and Early Bronze Age across diverse cultural areas beyond Anatolia is noteworthy.

The jug differs from others with relief decoration by having its entire body decorated with densely placed clay balls, which alter the vessel's form. In vessels from other centers, the clay balls are neither as prevalent nor as dense as to change the vessel's form. Consequently, we can assert that the jug is a unique artifact with a specific purpose. It may also have been a product of taste or a symbol of prestige. It is regarded as valuable and unique for its reflection of the society's culture of taste and its representation of artisans' artistry. Based on the similar ones in Aphrodisias and Samos, it can be inferred that it was produced in the EBA III period.

The fifth jug, inventory no. 8548, has a forward-extending spout, a narrow and thin

⁷⁴ Joukovsky 1986, 398, 334: 4, 444.18.

⁷⁵ Lloyd & Mellaart 1965, fig. P. 9: 4, 7.

⁷⁶ Özgüç 1999, 54, lev. 105: 1.

⁷⁷ von der Osten 1937, 151, fig. 192; White & Miller 2018, 219.

⁷⁸ Menelaou 2018, 199, fig. 6.21: 5. The decoration on this artifact is characterized as "barbotine".

⁷⁹ Lentini 2005, fig. 1.

⁸⁰ Stojanovski *et al.* 2014, fig. 12: b; Naumov *et al.* 2018, 113-114, fig. 7: 2.

⁸¹ The bowl is currently exhibited in the Monastery Archaeological Museum.

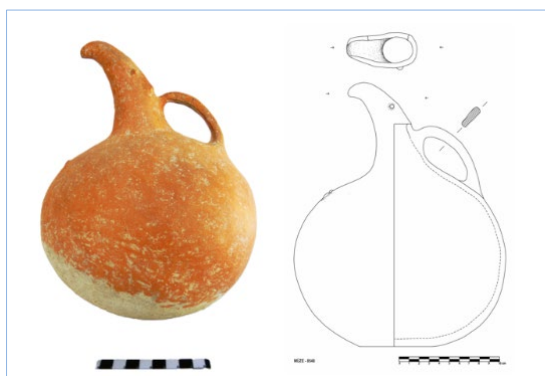


Fig. 10 Jug with Forward-Extending Spouted

neck, a spherical body, and a flat base. The strap handle extending from the neck to the shoulder is narrower than the body (Fig.10, Cat.No.10). The thin red paste contains fine sand, mica, and quartz. The exterior surface and the interior of the rim are slipped and burnished in light red. It is the only wheel-made vessel among the artifacts. Both sides of the spouted rim has a pellet-relief decoration, while the shoulder exhibits a symmetrical pellet relief centered on the projection points of the pouring part of the rim. This jug, characterized by a spout that is elongated and curved forward, is absent from the Yortan group. The closest sample is found at Beycesultan in EBA IIIb (layer VIa). The wheel-made red burnished examples exhibit similar rim and neck profile. The vessels possess wide, rounded bodies, as evidenced by the upper bodies of the examples that were not fully recovered. Mellaart suggests that these jugs were imported to Beycesultan from the Tavşanlı-İznik region⁸². The body of this jug, characterized by an elongated spouted rim, has a smaller and narrower body, commonly found among the jugs in the Early Bronze Age levels of Kültepe⁸³. Based on the production technique and form, it is suggested to date the jug to the late EBA III period.



Fig. 11 Cutaway Spout Jug

Another type consists of two jugs having cutaway spouted. The first is a round-based jug with a cutaway spout, short neck, wide and flattened spherical body and round base with inventory no. 1154. The spout is broken. A carinated strap handle starts just below the rim and extends to the shoulder (Fig.11, Cat.No.11). The dark gray paste contains sand, mica, and quartz. It is well slipped and burnished in black color. The exterior surface and the area from the inside of the rim to the end of the neck are slipped and burnished. Small, pierced lugs are located on both sides of the rim. Alongside the relief decoration encircling the neck, there is a rectangular, wide relief decoration on the shoulder, located just in front of the spout. The area between the shoulder and the lower body is decorated with incised and intertwined chevron motifs. The motifs are particularly applied to the area adjacent to the spout and along the vessel's sides. The vessel's shoulder is decorated with two opposing nipple decorations. The chevron decorations are places in the center of these two nipples, giving the jug a sense of mobility. Another decorative element is located just below the junction of the handle and the body.

⁸² Lloyd & Mellaart 1962, 233, 258, fig. 68: 2-5.

⁸³ Orthmann 1963, 165, taf. 82: 27/23.

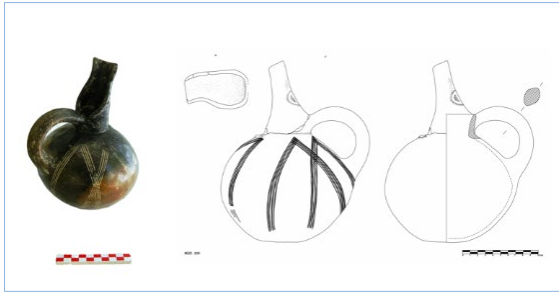


Fig. 12 Cutaway Spout Jug

Another jug with inventory no. 2261 has a pointed spout slightly extending forward, a short neck, a bulging spherical body, and a flat base. The thick strap handle extends from the rim and connects to the body. It is distinguished from the previous jug by its convex body and flat base (Fig.12, Cat.No.12). The dark gray paste contains sand, mica, and quartz. It is well slipped and burnished in black color.

The exterior and the interior surface up to the neck are slipped and burnished. The lower body exhibits a mottled pattern in light brown and reddish-brown colors. This discoloration must result from firing. There are six chevron decoration in total: two on each side of the handle and two, though not symmetrically, on the front of the cutaway spout. The chevron motifs starting from the neck and continuing to the end of the body are painted in white. At the front of the spout, situated between the two chevron decorations, lies a small, nipple decoration featuring two holes. Both sides of the spout have a relief decoration resembling an ear or semilunate.

The most similar examples of both artifacts are found in the Yortan Group A. The characteristic features of this vessel, which emerged during EBA I, become apparent in EBA II⁸⁴. Similar finds are found at Ovabayındır⁸⁵, Troy Ia and IIc⁸⁶, Liman Tepe⁸⁷ and Thermi in layers I-III⁸⁸. The first examples of this form at Beycesultan are observed in EBA I (Level XIX) and its usage continues throughout EBA II. Mellaart suggests that the cutaway spouted jugs were imported from Yortan to Beycesultan⁸⁹. A distinctive decoration style of the Yortan culture is the chevron decoration made with white paint. This motif, typically applied to the vessel's body, was particularly popular on jugs. Given the emergence of pointed beak-spouted jug form, its developmental phase, and the decorations, it should be dated to EBA II.



Fig. 13 Cutaway Spouted Jug

Another jug form is characterized by an elongated, cutaway spout, a long neck, a biconical body, an oval base, and a tripod with inventory no. 578. The rim-to-shoulder strap handle is knuckled (Fig.13, Cat.No.13). The brown, fine paste contains sand, silver-colored mica, and quartz. It is slipped and burnished in very dark gray color.

⁸⁴ Kamil 1982, fig. 49: 181, fig. 50: 183.

⁸⁵ Schiek & Fischer 1965: 44.

⁸⁶ Blegen *et al.* 1950, fig. 227: 35.649, fig. 412: 34.

⁸⁷ Şahoğlu 2002, lev. 99: tip 5.

⁸⁸ Lamb 1936, pl. XII: 14-15, 116, pl. VIII: 69, 163, pl. XXXV: 117, 203, 204, pl. XXXVI: 234, 252, 267.

⁸⁹ Lloyd & Mellaart 1962, 117, fig. p. 14: 35, fig. p. 22: 4, fig. p. 25: 11, fig. p. 31: 5, fig. p. 39: 1, 5, 11, 13, fig. p. 40: 1, fig. p. 45: 4.

The exterior of the vessel and the area up to the end of the neck on the interior surface are slipped. Two of the tripods have been restored. The body features a shallow chevron decoration in white paint. Each has four evenly spaced horn-like lugs, with two facing upwards and two facing downwards. The upward-facing horn lugs are larger, and both are broken at the ends. This type of tripod jugs is represented by a collection of artifacts in Yortan pottery. The rim and neck forms, similar of birds at Yortan, and their tripod stance, are distinctive characteristic. Kamil asserts that jugs associated with this group were used in cult rituals and dates these special vessels to EBA II⁹⁰. The comparison with closely related analogues is crucial for dating the jug to EBA II.

In the last jug group, there are two spouted jug types with flaring rims. The first one is the jug with a flared wide rim, a thick neck, a spherical body, and a round base, with inventory no. 4037. The strap handle starts just below the rim and ends at the body (Fig.14, Cat.No.14). Two nipple decorations adorn the upper body, one located directly in front of the rim and the other on the vessel's side. The very dark gray paste contains sand, mica, and quartz. The vessel is slipped and burnished in a glossy black color and has a smooth appearance. All exterior and interior surfaces are slipped and burnished up to the neck. The vessel cannot stand upright due to rounded base. The second artifact in this group is a jug having a flaring rim, a neck, a bulging spherical body, and a round base, with inventory no. 4035. The strap handle emerging from the rim connects to the body (Fig.15, Cat.No.15). The brown paste contains sand, mica, quartz, and lime. It is slipped and burnished in light red color. The slip and burnishing are applied to the interior of the rim. A relief decoration resembling a pellet is situated at the junction of the neck and shoulder. Similar larger jugs are present in the Yortan Group A, reflecting the common characteristics of both types. This type of jug is dated to EBA II⁹¹. Similar jugs are found at Troy Ib and Ic⁹², as well as between levels I-III at Thermi⁹³. It is proposed that these jugs be dated to EBA II.



Fig. 14 Spouted Jug

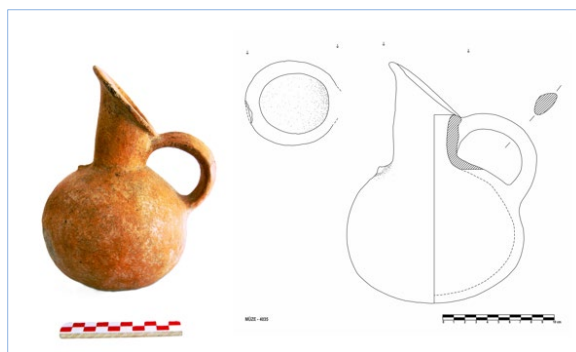


Fig. 15 Spouted jug

4. Bird-shaped Vessels (Askos)

Animal-shaped vessels represent a special category within ceremonial vessels⁹⁴. These special vessels, uncommon in Anatolia during the Early Bronze Age, were produced in

⁹⁰ Kamil 1982, 45-46, fig. 71-73.

⁹¹ Kamil 1982, 43-44, fig. 66-69.

⁹² Blegen *et al.* 1950, fig. 236: 14; fig. 240: 6,7.

⁹³ Lamb 1936, pl. XX: no. 12, 99, 115; pl. VIII: no.139; pl. X: no. 141, pl. XII: no. 251.

⁹⁴ Ökse 2012, 102.

both a naturalistic style and with superior quality. During this period, askos are also found among the grave gifts in Balıkesir and Manisa⁹⁵. The Akhisar Museum houses two different types of askos among its artefacts. The first is shaped in the form of a jug. This jug lacks a liquid filling hole, having only a spout. The second is an askos crafted in the form of a teapot with basket handles. This vessel features a liquid filling hole in the upper body and a spout.



Fig. 16 Goose-Shaped Vessel

The first is a goose-shaped vessel featuring a triple trefoil rim, a long neck, a flat base that stands on short, blunt tripods with inventory no. 8737 (Fig.16, Cat. No.16)⁹⁶.

The long, thin, twisted handle, starting just

below the rim and ending at the body, creates an inverted L shape upwards. A miniature basket handle with a twisted decoration is present on the front of the neck. Aside from the spout, there are no additional mouths or holes. Most of the neck and front body are adorned with fluted relief decorations. The goose's chest is depicted on the body with fluted decoration. Feathers on both sides of the vessel are detailed with M-shaped relief and notch decorations. In the innermost of these notches, wing details are formed in three rows extending from the side to the upper body with notch decoration. The tail is located at the upper rear part where the body ends. The base has a short and blunt tripod, two in front and one behind. The reddish gray paste contains sand, mica, and quartz. The vessel is slipped and burnished in mottled red and black colors. The mottling appears to have occurred randomly due to temperature fluctuations during firing; however, it is also possible that such color variations and stains might have developed on vessels subjected to repeated heat and fire many times during rituals⁹⁷.

While no similar goose-shaped vessel exists, it can be assessed within the bird-shaped vessel group of Yortan. Alongside its stylistic characteristics, its paste, surface treatments, decorations, and artisanship suggest it was produced by local potters. The rim form of the jug differs from the other spouted jugs. This type of triple trefoil jugs appeared at the end of EBA II in Yortan and continued to be used in EBA III⁹⁸. The triple trefoil rim first appears at Beycesultan during EBA III (layer X)⁹⁹ and at the end of EBA II at Troy, and similar examples continue to be found at settlements III-V¹⁰⁰.

Besides Yortan, we find this type of bird-shaped vessels in various centers in Anatolia. While not found intact at Troy I, some spouted jug sherds are reported to

⁹⁵ Kamil 1982, 45; Orthmann 1966, 21.

⁹⁶ The bird species in this study are classified as 'goose' by Prof. Dr. Vedat Ongun, member of Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, İstanbul University-Cerrahpaşa.

⁹⁷ Duru & Umurtak 2005, 66.

⁹⁸ Kamil 1982, 49, fig. 80: 272-273.

⁹⁹ Lloyd & Mellaart 1962, 210, fig. p. 51: 6-7.

¹⁰⁰ Blegen *et al.* 1950, fig. 387: 36.1150; Blegen *et al.* 1951, fig.72: 35.1158; fig.170: 15; fig. 248: 18.

belong to animal-shaped vessels¹⁰¹. The askos with flat base and tripod are present in EBA IIIa and IIIb at Beycesultan, while the bird-shaped vessels standing on their feet, remarkable in their magnificence, appears in the Middle Bronze Age¹⁰². An animal-shaped vessel at Aphrodisias has been dated to EBA IIIb¹⁰³. At Karataş, bird-shaped vessels intended as grave gifts have either tripods or flat bases¹⁰⁴. A duck-shaped vessel with a tripod was found in EBA levels at Hacilar in Bursa¹⁰⁵. At Kara Höyük in Konya, within the area containing a hearth, altar, and niche in Level VII, a bird-shaped vessel with two handles, standing on a foot/pedestal, associated with libation, provides insights into its functional significance concerning its findspot¹⁰⁶. The earliest bird-shaped vessels in the Aegean Islands are found at Emporio IV on Khios¹⁰⁷. The duck-shaped vessels discovered at Heraion in Samos¹⁰⁸, as well as on the islands of Rhodes and Kalymnos¹⁰⁹, and within the Phylakopi culture of Melos, have all been dated to EBA III¹¹⁰. The goose-shaped vessel, resembling waterfowl-shaped vessels from Anatolia and the Aegean Islands, is proposed to date to EBA II-III.

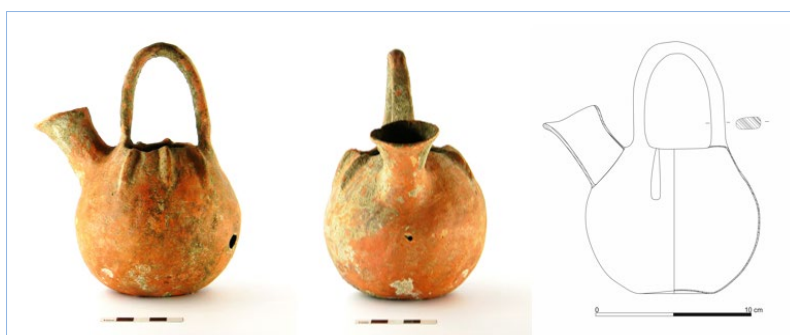


Fig. 17 Bird-Shaped (Teapot) Vessel

The last bird-shaped vessel is teapot with inventory no. 6994, characterized by a spherical body, a pouring lip extending from the body, and a flat base that slightly curves inwards. the high basket handle is thin and delicate relative to

the vessel's size and shape. The spouted pouring lip emerging from the upper body thickens towards the rim (Fig.17, Cat.No.17). The light brown fine paste contains sand, mica, and quartz. It is slipped and burnished in red color. The exterior of the vessel and the interior of the rim is slipped and burnished. There relief decorations were placed on the right side and three on the left side of the basket handle, extending from the rim to the shoulder. This relief decoration gives the rim a contracted appearance. a red slipped teapot with a pouring lip from Yortan Group B is dated to the late EBA II¹¹¹. It resembles a teapot-shaped vessel with a basket handle and pouring lip¹¹², as well as a black askos

¹⁰¹ Blegen *et al.* 1950, fig. 245:22-24.

¹⁰² Lloyd & Mellaart 1962, fig. p. 53: 2; fig. p. 67: 12, 15; Lloyd & Mellaart 1965, 93, fig. 11.

¹⁰³ Kadish 1969, 64, plate 25: fig.12.

¹⁰⁴ Mellink 1967, 253-254, plate 76: 10, 12.

¹⁰⁵ Eimermann 2008, 381, 385, fig. 17: 3 G7 087.

¹⁰⁶ Alp 1962, 8-9, lev. VII: res. 7.

¹⁰⁷ Hood 1981, 393, fig. 177: 1171-1173.

¹⁰⁸ Milošević 1961, tafel 18, tafel 38: 16.

¹⁰⁹ Marketou 2009, 57-58, fig. 3a-b, fig. 4a-b.

¹¹⁰ Sotirakopoulou 2008, 88, fig. 17: 15-16.

¹¹¹ Kamil 1982, 49, fig. 79: 268.

¹¹² Mellink 1964, plate 81: fig. 20.

from Karataş¹¹³. The askos from EBA IIIa at Beycesultan (Level IX) is similar to our vessel, particularly the pouring lip¹¹⁴. The bird-shaped teapot form reflects the tradition of EBA II.

5. Rhytons



Fig. 18 Duck-Shaped Rhyton

manner, floating in water. The apertures in the orbital cavities are likely filled with a gemstone. Two small asymmetrical cavities have been made above the beak to create a nose, while the mouth is detailed with a slightly parted opening. Just behind the head is a subtly raised, circular, fractured rim located at the shoulder. The base of the vessel is flat. It features two semilunate feet, each measuring 1 cm in height, positioned one at the front and the other at the back. The red paste contains sand, mica, and quartz. It is slipped and burnished in dark red color, while the interior is unslipped and unburnished. The duck has red-brown-dark gray discoloration on the head, face, shoulders, and both sides of the body, similar to the goose-shaped vessel. The relief details of the feathers on the wings on either side of the body are very realistic. Although the right wing is slightly larger than the left, this does not result in significant asymmetry.



Fig. 19 Goat-Shaped Rhyton

goat's eyes, lacking symmetry, were carved in a realistic style using a sharp tool on wet clay, with the probable addition of gemstones in the eye sockets. The nostrils are incised, and the mouth is similarly detailed with a slight opening. The horns extend horizontally towards the back of the head and connect to the rim of the vessel on the goat's back. The

We have two artifacts from the rhyton-shaped vessel group¹¹⁵. The first is the duck-shaped rhyton with inventory no. 9386 (Fig.18, Cat.No.18)¹¹⁶. The duck is depicted in a realistic

The other artifact in this group is a goat-shaped rhyton characterized by a narrow, partially rectangular body, a flat base, and a tripod, with inventory no. 9387 (Fig.19, Cat.No.19). The

¹¹³ Mellink 1967, fig. 12.

¹¹⁴ Lloyd & Mellart 1962, fig. p. 53: 2.

¹¹⁵ Ökse 1999, 68. Although the presence of two mouths is defined as a common feature in rhyton, it is also stated in some publications that the presence of two separate mouth is not required.

¹¹⁶ Prof. Dr. Vedat Ongun, a member of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at İstanbul University-Cerrahpaşa, likened the duck depicted in the work to a wild male duck known as "mallard" with a bright green head, light brown body and white feathers.

rim is depicted as a subtly raised round opening. The anatomical features of the goat's body are skillfully depicted, including the tail attached to the body and the hind thighs of the legs. It has three blunt, non-pointed feet, two on the back and one on the front. These feet measure 0.5 cm. The dark gray colored fine paste contains sand, mica, quartz, and grit. It is well slipped and burnished in black color and fired at an optimal temperature with slight core.

These small rhytons with a rim on the body for liquid filling are rarely encountered. The earliest examples were discovered in Anatolia during the Neolithic Age. One of the oldest goat-shaped vessels is found at Köşk Höyük¹¹⁷. Gazelle and pig-shaped vessels are unearthed at Hacilar VI¹¹⁸. A floating duck-shaped vessel was found in situ in the Early Neolithic shrine at Höyücek¹¹⁹. A pig-shaped rhyton, discovered as a grave gift, was unearthed in a pithos grave from the Early Bronze Age during excavations at the Chamber of Commerce site in the Akhisar district center. This is a significant new find for the Akhisar/Manisa cultural area¹²⁰. A similar pig-shaped vessel is found at Poliochni in the yellow phase¹²¹. During the Schliemann excavation at Troy, pig, ram, hedgehog, mole, and sheep-shaped vessels were discovered¹²², while a duck-shaped vessel was among the artifacts recovered from a grave dating to the EBA¹²³. The boar and ram/bull-shaped (?) vessels discovered in the Bakla Tepe cemetery have been dated to the late EBA II/early EBA IIIa¹²⁴. Considering the rhytons found in the aforementioned centers, the duck and goat-shaped rhytons can be dated to EBA II.

The excavations confirm that rhytons were produced for a special purpose and served a different function than the vessels used in everyday life. The production of rhyton, akin to that bird-shaped vessels, requires expertise and a high level of specialization. The origin of the two rhytons among the artifacts, whether produced by local potters or imported from another location, remains uncertain. Both duck and goat-shaped vessels have a rim at the upper part of the body for filling liquids yet lack a pouring lip. The lack of a pouring lip indicated that the vessels were unsuitable for libation. However, the animals symbolized may also be those hunted and consumed in that culture. The goat, symbolizing fertility and fruitfulness, alongside the duck, capable of flight, indicated that these animals were deliberately chosen¹²⁵. Kamil suggests that the small bird-shaped vessels might have served as toys for children¹²⁶.

¹¹⁷ Silistreli 1989, 368-369, lev. XI: 1.

¹¹⁸ Mellaart 1970, 107, LXI: 1-2.

¹¹⁹ Duru & Umurtak 2005, 63, 66, 71, lev. 61/3, 101/5, 69/1.

¹²⁰ The unpublished pig-shaped rhyton is located in the Manisa Museum. The cemetery unearthed on the premises of the Chamber of Commerce in the Akhisar district is approximately 500 m in a direct line from the Hastane Höyük. It is likely the cemetery of the mound. I would like to thank to Prof. Dr. Engin Akdeniz for the information provided.

¹²¹ Bernabo-Brea 1976, CCXX: c.

¹²² Schliemann 1880, 294, 375-377, no. 160, 333-340.

¹²³ Korfmann 1995, 244.

¹²⁴ Şahoğlu 2011, 141, fig. 4.

¹²⁵ Koehl 2018, 47-48, 53.

¹²⁶ Kamil 1982, 9.

6. Triple Composite Vessels

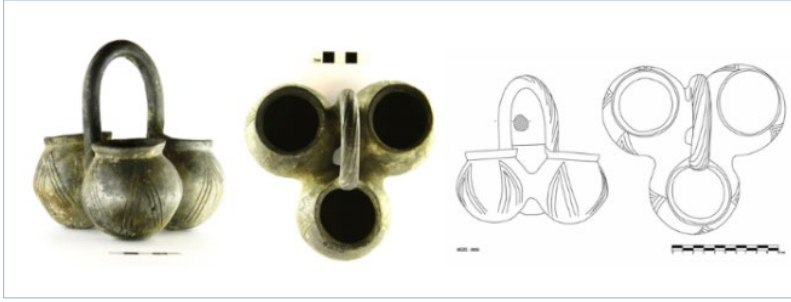


Fig. 20 Triple Composite Vessel

Another type of artifact is the composite vessel, produced by combining several vessels, serving a function beyond daily use¹²⁷. The artifact with inventory no. 6958 comprises three small jars having flaring rims,

spherical bodies, and round bases, connected by a high basket handle (Fig.20, Cat.No.20). The dark gray paste contains sand and mica. It is slipped and burnished in dark grayish brown color. The heavy mica in the slip is noteworthy. Each vessel has a body decorated with three incised chevron motifs. The basket handle is decorated with grooves. One of the two triple composite vessels from the EBA II in Yortan Group A is closely similar to the artifact in both form and chevron decoration¹²⁸. The dark colored composite vessel of smaller size, which was a grave gift during EBA II (late) – IIIA at Bakla Tepe¹²⁹, and the triple composite vessel unearthed at Karataş display similar characteristics with the artifact¹³⁰. At Beycesultan, double forms are present in EBA I (Level XIX), while quadruple composite vessel forms are found in Level XVIIb. Mellaart identified these composite vessels as Yortan pyxis¹³¹. Aside from Western Anatolia, similar triple composite vessels are found at Mersin Gözlükulu in EBA III¹³² and Yumuktepe in EBA II-III¹³³. Despite the differing form of the twin vessels with three or more feet at Poliochni, they likely served the same function¹³⁴. The triple composite vessel can be dated to the EBA II period.

Discussion and Conclusion

It remains uncertain whether the artifacts from the Akhisar Museum evaluated in the study were unearthed in a settlement or cemetery; however, they can be classified as original vessel forms. Analyzing the twenty artifacts suggests that most of the vessels are associated with cemeteries or settlements dating to the Early Bronze Age in the Akhisar/Manisa region, based on their production techniques, forms, and decorations. The diligent slipping and burnishing of the artifacts emphasize the significance attributed to the vessels. The most frequently observed materials in the paste are sand, mica, grits, lime, and quartz. The paste color is mostly in shades of gray, whereas the slip colors range from red to brown, gray, and black. Firing occurred at moderate to high temperatures, resulting in color variations in few artifacts. All artifacts, except the

¹²⁷ Ökse 2012, 103.

¹²⁸ Kamil 1982, fig. 74: 238.

¹²⁹ Şahoğlu 2011, 273, kat. 136.

¹³⁰ Eslick 2009, pl. 11: MU3.

¹³¹ Lloyd & Mellaart 1962, fig. p. 14: 32; fig. p. 20: 3, sheet 3: 22.

¹³² Goldman 1956, 154, fig. 278: 621.

¹³³ Garstang 1953, fig. 123: 16.

¹³⁴ Brea 1976, TAV. CCIII: a, c.

spouted jug with a forward-extending rim, are hand-made. The artifacts exhibit spouted jug and point spouted jug forms, with nipples, lugs, or pierced lugs on the shoulder. They feature white paint decoration on a dark surface, alongside chevron and linear motifs, as well as incised, pellet, relief and groove decoration details on the body and shoulder, all indicative of the Yortan pottery tradition. The decorations were applied with great care, showing excellent artisanship.

The dating is based on the functions and stylistic characteristics of the artifacts, with comparisons to similar examples from other sites proving crucial. All artifacts, apart from the bowl and small spouted jug, represented by a single example thought to belong to the EBA I period, can be dated to the EBA II and III periods. The artifacts from EBA II include the decorated jar, necked jars, the pointed spouted jug, the cutaway spouted jug, the spouted jug with elongated rim, spouted jugs with flaring rims, the stainer jug, the bird-shaped teapot, the duck-shaped rhyton, the goat-shaped rhyton, and the triple composite vessel. The goose-shaped vessel might belong to the late EBA II/early EBA III. The EBA III vessels include the storage jar, the spouted jug with forward-extended rim, and the jug with relief decoration. The presence of these vessel types in the EBA grave contexts in Western Anatolia and the Aegean Islands supports that bird-shaped vessels, rhytons, and triple composite vessels were special vessels produced for burial or religious rituals. The unique artistry was produced by master potters possessing a high level of taste and aesthetic insight. The identification of liquids with waterfowls was likely decisive in the production of bird-shaped vessels. They likely symbolized the animals deemed sacred, representing fertility and fruitfulness, by shaping them in baked clay as animal figurines. However, they may have depicted the animals they hunted and consumed in their natural environment.

Included among the museum artifacts are vessels that are not found in the Akhisar/Manisa cultural area. These artifacts include a decorated jar, a stainer jug, a jug with relief decoration, and a spouted jug with forward-extending rim. The jar closely resembles the decorated jars dated to EBA II at Karataş, particularly in its form and lozenge and other linear patterns on it. Likewise, the stainer jug is very similar to the red jug featuring a spout attached to the body by a small strap handle from the early EBA II at Karataş, indicating a connection between both artifacts and the Elmalı Region. Another artifact is a jar with relief decoration. While it is challenging to provide a definite assessment, it appears to be a unique artifact. A single example may have been produced by local potters as a prestige good. The form of the spouted jug with forward-extending rim is similar to the rim shapes of early jugs from Kültepe; however, it differs in having a notably round and voluminous body. This form, like the ones at Beycesultan in EBA III, is foreign to the region, with its origins likely rooted in the İznik/Kütahya cultural area to the north. It is noteworthy that two of the four artifacts mentioned here are from the Elmalı Region, whereas a definite assessment cannot be provided for the remaining two. Except for these four artifacts, it can be concluded that all remaining artifacts belong to the Akhisar/Manisa cultural area and were produced by local potters.

The comparison of artifacts from the Akhisar Museum with data from excavations and research in the Yortan Cultural Area and other centers in Western Anatolia was crucial for dating. These data facilitated the assessment and identification phase significantly. Most artifacts show the characteristics of Yortan-type pottery prevalent in the plains of Balıkesir, Akhisar, and Manisa during the Early Bronze Age. In this context, numerous similarities exist with the pottery from Babaköy, Ovabayındır, Eski

Balıkhane, Ahlatlı Tepecik, and Gavurtepe Mound. Apart from their immediate surroundings, similar artifacts are found at Troy in Northwestern Anatolia; at Lesbos/Thermi, Lemnos/Poliochni, and Samos/Heraion in the Aegean Islands; at Bakla Tepe and Iasos along the Aegean coast; and at Karataş, Beycesultan, and Aphrodisias in the southern region. Another issue deserving emphasis is the excavation conducted in the vicinity of the Yortan Cemetery in recent years. The Dağdeviren Mound in Akhisar, along with the Manisa Museum salvage excavations at the Chamber of Commerce and the Hastane Höyük excavations, has yielded significant insights into the Yortan culture. These valuable studies proved that the advanced techniques of production, form, and decoration in the pottery tradition were not limited to the pottery from the Yortan Cemetery. The artifacts at the Akhisar Museum originate from the culture that emerged in this region during the Neolithic Age, developed in the Chalcolithic Age, and attained significant expansion and prominence in the Early Bronze Age. This study, which evaluates original and qualified artifacts reflecting the beliefs and tastes of the local people, is expected to enhance insights on Anatolian archaeology.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums, Directorate of Manisa Museum, experts Kürşat Kaynak and Özlem Evci from the Akhisar Museum for their assistance, archeologists Kerim Engin Ergen and Esin Biberoğlu for their drawings, and my esteemed Professor Dr. Engin Akdeniz for his support.

CATALOGUE

Cat. No.: 1 (Inv. No.: 6963)

Findspot: Not listed in the museum records.

Date and Method of Arrival to the Museum: Confiscated from Mustafa Kolaçin (17.11.1989).

Dimensions: Height: 7.4 cm, Rim Diameter: 9.3 cm, Width: 11.2 cm, medium wall.

Form: Flat-based bowl with inverted rim, slightly carinated, body narrowing towards the base.

Condition: There are small fractures on the rim. The slipping on some parts of the base has fallen off.

Paste: Yellowish red colored coarse paste (5 YR 5/6) containing sand, mica, quartz, lime and grit.

Surface: Red exterior and interior surfaces, well slipped and burnished (10 R 4/6).

Firing: Fired over medium heat, without core.

Period: EBA I.

Cat. No.: 3 (Inv. No.: 2313)

Findspot: Alaşehir.

Date and Method of Arrival to the Museum: Confiscated from Mustafa Kolaçin.

Dimensions: Height: 27.5 cm, Rim Diameter: 18.5 cm, Foot Diameter: 8 cm, medium wall.

Form: Cylindrical neck, round body, flat based jar with a flaring wide rim; two horizontal handles on the shoulder.

Condition: Intact.

Paste: Not identified.

Surface: Light red slipped and burnished (10 R 6/8).

Firing: Hardly fired.

Period: EBA III.

Cat. No.:5 (Inv. No.: 1161)

Findspot: Akhisar.

Date and Method of Arrival to the Museum: Purchased from Şemsettin Delen (30.06.1965).

Dimensions: Height: 13 cm, Rim Diameter: 6,5 cm, Width: 10.5 cm, Foot Diameter: 4 cm, medium.

Cat. No.: 2 (Inv. No.: 6980)

Findspot: Not listed in the museum records.

Date and Method of Arrival to the Museum: Confiscated from Mustafa Kolaçin (17.11.1989).

Dimensions: Height: 16.2 cm, Rim Diameter: 10.5 cm, Width: 15.2 cm, Handle Width: 2.4 cm, medium wall.

Form: Jar with a wide rim, flaring cylindrical neck, wide and slightly bulging body, and round base; two vertical handles starting from the neck and connecting at the shoulder.

Condition: Small fractures and holes on rim, handle, body, and base. The slipping has fallen off in places.

Paste: Gray colored paste (GLEY 1 5/N) containing sand, small amount of mica and grit.

Surface: Slipped and burnished in greyish brown color (2.5 Y 5/2).

Firing: Fired over medium heat, slightly cored.

Period: EBA II.

Cat. No.: 4 (Inv. No.: 4015)

Findspot: Not listed in the museum records.

Date and Method of Arrival to the Museum: Purchased from Hasan Çağlayan (22.07.1970).

Dimensions: Height: 10.5 cm, Rim Diameter: 5.2 cm, Body Diameter: 8 cm, Foot Diameter: 3.7 cm, medium wall.

Form: Jar with cylindrical neck, flaring rim, slightly carinated body, round and flat base.

Condition: Secondary fire marks on the surface.

Paste: Not identified.

Surface: Slipped and burnished in reddish brown color (2.5 YR 5/4).

Firing: Moderately fired.

Period: EBA II.

Cat. No.: 6 (Inv. No.: 7035)

Findspot: Not listed in the museum records.

Date and Method of Arrival to the Museum: Confiscated from Mustafa Kolaçin (17.11.1989).

Dimensions: Height: 19.9 cm, Rim Diameter: 10 cm, Width: 15.6 cm, Handle Width: 3.9 cm,

Form: Jar with an outward-rounded rim, a narrow neck that widens slightly towards the rim, a slightly carinated round body and a flat base.

Condition: Chips and fractures on the rim, neck, and body. The slipping has fallen off in places.

Paste: Very dark gray fine paste (GLEY 1, 3/N) containing sand, quartz and plenty of silvery mica.

Surface: Slipped and burnished in black color (GLEY 1, 2.5/N); slipped and burnished exterior surface and the interior of the rim up to the end of the neck.

Firing: Moderately fired, without core.

Period: EBA II.

Cat. No.: 7 (Inv. No.: 4020)

Findspot: Not listed in the museum records.

Date and Method of Arrival to the Museum: Purchased from Hasan Çağlayan (22.07.1970).

Dimensions: Height: 10.1 cm, Rim Diameter: 7.5 cm, Width: 12.5 cm, Handle Width: 1.3 cm, thin wall.

Form: Spouted jug with short neck, flattened spherical body and round base; strap handles from rim to body.

Condition: Small fractures on the rim and body, a small hole in the bottom. The slipping has fallen off in places.

Paste: Red thin paste (2.5 YR 5/8) containing thin sand, quartz and plenty of mica.

Surface: Slipped and burnished in red color (10 R 4/6). The exterior of the vessel and the interior of the rim are slipped and burnished.

Firing: Moderately fired, without core.

Period: EBA I

Cat. No.: 9 (Inv. No.: 2380)

Findspot: Alaçehir.

Date and Method of Arrival to the Museum: Confiscated from Mustafa Kolaçin.

Dimensions: Height: 15 cm, Width: 8.5 cm, thin wall.

Spout Width: 2.8 cm, medium wall.

Form: Spouted jug with a slightly raised and outward-extending rim, thick neck, flattened spherical body, flat bottom and strainer spout.

Condition: Small chips and holes on the rim, handle, body, and base.

Paste: Gray paste (GLEY 1 5/N) containing sand, quartz, chaff, grit and a small amount of mica.

Surface: Slipped and burnished in blackish red color (10 R 3/4); slipped and burnished exterior of the vessel and the interior of the rim.

Firing: Moderately fired, little cored.

Period: EBA II.

Cat. No.: 8 (Inv. No.: 1158)

Findspot: Akhisar.

Date and Method of Arrival to the Museum: Purchased from Şemsettin Delen (30.06.1965).

Dimensions: Height: 20.2 cm, Rim Diameter: 6.4 cm, Width: 15.2 cm, Handle Width: 1.7 cm, Nipple Diameter: 1 mm, medium wall.

Form: Spouted jug with spherical body and round base; strap handles from the bottom of the rim and extending up to the body.

Condition: Small fractures on the rim, a long crack on the body from the shoulder to the bottom. Different handle piece was added to the vessel later.

Paste: Black paste (GLEY 1 2.5/N) containing thin sand, mica, quartz, lime and grit.

Surface: Slipped and burnished exterior surface in reddish brown color (5 YR 4/4). The interior surface is unslipped and burnished.

Firing: Moderately fired, without core.

Period: EBA II.

Cat. No.: 10 (Inv. No.: 8548)

Findspot: Not listed in the museum records.

Date and Method of Arrival to the Museum: Purchased from Mehmet Fahri Uysal (20.11.1998).

Dimensions: Height: 21.5 cm, Rim Diameter: 4 cm, Width: 17 cm, Foot Diameter: 7.4 cm, Handle Width: 2.5 cm, medium wall.

Form: Spouted jug with thin and long neck and spherical body; strap handles with grooved decoration starting just below the rim and ending at the shoulder.

Condition: Some of the clay reliefs have fallen off.

Paste: Gray paste (7.5 YR 5/1) containing sand and mica.

Surface: The exterior surface is slipped and burnished in brown color (7.5 YR 5/2). The spout, neck and handle are burnished.

Firing: Moderately fired.

Period: EBA III.

Cat. No.: 11 (Inv. No.: 1154)

Findspot: Akhisar.

Date and Method of Arrival to the Museum: Purchased from Şemsettin Delen (30.06.1965).

Dimensions: Height: 18.6 cm, Rim Diameter: 3.7 cm, Width: 15.8 cm, Handle Width: 2.2 cm, medium wall.

Form: Cutaway spouted jug with short neck, wide and flattened spherical body and a round base; carinated strap handles from the rim to the shoulder.

Condition: The pouring lip is broken. There are small holes on the upper part of the body. The surface is slightly sunken in the area below the handle.

Paste: Dark gray paste (GLEY 1 4/N) containing sand, mica and quartz.

Surface: Very well slipped and burnished in black color (GLEY 1 2.5/N). The exterior surface and interior part of the rim are slipped and burnished.

Firing: Moderately fired, without core.

Period: EBA II.

Cat. No.: 13 (Inv. No.: 578)

Findspot: Kula, Gölde village.

Date and Method of Arrival to the Museum: Confiscated from the Directorate Kula Elementary School (05.11.1961)

Dimensions: Height: 33 cm, Width: 17 cm, thick wall.

Form: Cutaway spouted jug with outward-

Form: Spouted jug with forward-extending rim, narrow and thin neck, spherical body and flat base; strap handles from neck to shoulder.

Condition: A small fracture on one side of the rim.

Paste: Red thin paste (2.5 YR 5/8) containing thin sand, mica and quartz.

Surface: Slipped in light red color (2.5 YR 6/8). The exterior surface of the vessel and interior of the rim are slipped and burnished.

Firing: Hardly fired, slightly cored.

Period: EBA III.

Cat. No.: 12 (Inv. No.: 2261)

Findspot: Alaşehir.

Date and Method of Arrival to the Museum: Confiscated from Mustafa Kolaçin.

Dimensions: Height: 23.9 cm, Width: 19.6 cm, medium wall.

Form: Cutaway spouted jug with forward-extending rim, short neck, bulging spherical body and flat bottom; thick strap handles from the rim to the body.

Condition: Cracks on the rim and neck, small holes on the body.

Paste: Dark gray paste (GLEY 1 4/N) containing sand, mica and quartz.

Surface: Very well slipped and burnished in black color (GLEY 1 2.5N). The exterior surface and the interior part of the rim are slipped and burnished. Some parts of the body show discoloration in light brown and reddish-brown hues due to the firing.

Firing: Moderately fired, without core.

Period: EBA II.

Cat. No.: 14 (Inv. No.: 4037)

Findspot: Not listed in the museum records.

Date and Method of Arrival to the Museum: Purchased from Hasan Çağlayan (22.07.1970).

Dimensions: Height: 20 cm, Rim Diameter: 8.5 cm, Width: 15.5 cm, Handle Width: 2.2 cm, Nipple Diameter: 1.1 cm, medium wall.

Form: Wide spouted jug with outward-flaring rim, thick neck, round body and base; strap handles starting just below the rim and ending

extending rim, long neck, biconical body and oval base and a tripod, strap handles from rim to shoulder.

Condition: Small cracks on the rim. Two of the four opposite handles on the body are broken. One of the three legs has been restored and stuck to the body, while the end of the other one has been restored.

Paste: Thin brown paste (7.5 YR 4/3) containing sand, silvery mica and quartz.

Surface: Slipped and burnished in very dark gray color (10 YR 3/1). The exterior surface and the interior part of the rim up to the neck are slipped and burnished.

Firing: Hardly fired, slightly cored.

Period: EBA II.

Cat. No.: 15 (Inv. No.: 4035)

Findspot: Not listed in the museum records.

Date and Method of Arrival to the Museum: Purchased from Hasan Çağlayan (22.07.1970).

Dimensions: Height: 21.5 cm, Rim Diameter: 4 cm, Width: 17 cm, Handle Width: 2.5 cm, medium wall.

Form: Spouted jug with outward-flaring rim, moderately thick neck, bulging spherical body and round base; strap handles starting just below the rim and ending at the body.

Condition: Small cracks and holes on the rim, handle, body and base; falling off slipping on the inside of the rim, some places on the body and most of the base; broken relief decoration where the neck meets the shoulder.

Paste: Brown paste (7.5 YR 4/3) containing sand, mica, quartz and lime.

Surface: Slipped and burnished in light red color (2.5 YR 6/8); slipped and burnished exterior surface and interior part of the rim.

Firing: Moderately fired, with core.

Period: EBA II.

Cat. No.: 17 (Inv. No.: 6994)

Findspot: Not listed in the museum records.

Date and Method of Arrival to the Museum: Confiscated from Mustafa Kolaçin (17.11.1989).

Dimensions: Height: 15.5 cm, Width: 13.8 cm,

at the body.

Condition: Small cracks and holes on the rim and body.

Paste: Very dark gray paste (5 YR 3/1) containing sand, mica and quartz.

Surface: Slipped and burnished in glossy black color (GLEY 1 2.5/N). The exterior surface and the interior part of the rim up to the neck are slipped and burnished.

Firing: Hardly fired.

Period: EBA II.

Cat. No.: 16 (Inv. No.: 8737)

Findspot: Kula.

Date and Method of Arrival to the Museum: Confiscated from Ahmet Özgen (13.11.1999).

Dimensions: Height: 31.5 cm, Width: 30 cm, thick wall.

Form: Goose-shaped vessel with triple trefoil rim, long neck, flat base standing on a blunt and short tripod; thin twisted handles starting below the rim and ending at the body; small twisted basked handle on the front of the neck.

Condition: The broken handle has been restored and glued. The left pouring lip of the spout is broken.

Paste: Reddish gray paste (5 YR 5/2) containing sand, mica and quartz.

Surface: Slipped and burnished in red (2.5 YR 4/8) and black (GLEY 1 2.5 N) colors with discoloration. The black color is applied on the neck and half of the handle, and on the top of and bottom parts of the body.

Firing: Moderately fired.

Period: EBA II-III.

Cat. No.:18 (Inv. No.: 9386)

Findspot: Not listed in the museum records.

Date and Method of Arrival to the Museum: Confiscated from İbrahim Açıkşöz.

Dimensions: Length: 14 cm, Height: 12.2 cm, medium wall thickness.

Form: Duck-shaped rhyton featuring the form of a duck with a mouth, flat base, standing on two semilunate shaped feet.

Condition: Small chips, splits and cracks on

Rim: 5 cm, thin wall thickness.

Form: Bird-shaped teapot with spherical body, spout, flat and slightly bulging base and high basket handles.

Condition: Small holes, dents, peeling and a layer of patina on the body; the rim broken on the left side.

Paste: Thin light brown paste (7.5 YR 6/3) containing sand, mica and quartz.

Surface: Slipped and burnished in red color (10 R 5/8); slipped and burnished exterior vessel and interior rim surfaces.

Firing: Hardly fired, without core.

Period: EBA II.

Cat. No.: 19 (Inv. No.: 9387)

Findspot: Not listed in the museum records.

Date and Method of Arrival to the Museum: Confiscated from İbrahim Açıköz (22.07.2007).

Dimensions: Height: 11.8 cm, Length: 17.5 cm, medium wall thickness.

Form: Goat-shaped rhyton, standing on a flat based blunt tripod with a mouth in the body.

Condition: The goat's horn broken around the hole where it connects the body and on one side of the rim, which was left ajar; restored and glued fractures on the neck and horns; fallen of slipping in places on surface.

Paste: Dark gray paste (7.5 YR 4/1) containing sand, mica, quartz and grit.

Surface: Well slipped and burnished in black color (GLEY 1 2.5/N).

Firing: Hardly fired, slightly cored.

Period: EBA II.

rhyton; the slipping falling off in place.

Paste: Red paste (2.5 YR 5/8) containing sand, mica and quartz.

Surface: Slipped and burnished in dark red color (2.5 YR 3/6); no slipping and burnishing on the interior; dark red, light brown and dark gray discolorations on the duck's head, face, shoulders and both sides of the body.

Firing: Hardly fired.

Period: EBA II.

Cat. No.: 20 (Inv. No.: 6958)

Findspot: Not listed in the museum records.

Date and Method of Arrival to the Museum: Confiscated from Mustafa Kolaçin (17.11.1989).

Dimensions: Height: 15 cm, 1st Vessel's Height: 7.5 cm, 2nd Vessel's Height: 7.4 cm, 3rd Vessel's Height: 7.3 cm, thin wall thickness.

Form: Triple composite vessel with basket handle having three composite small jars with flaring rims, spherical bodies and round bases.

Condition: Small holes, cracks, secondary fire marks, patina layers on the surface with slipping peeling of.

Paste: Dark gray paste (10 YR 4/1) containing sand and mica

Surface: Slipped and burnished in dark grayish brown color (10 YR 4/2) with a great amount of mica in the slipping.

Firing: Moderately fired.

Period: EBA II.

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