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o topraklarda yaşanmış tarihi olayları bilmek,
doğmuş uygarlıkları tanıma ve sahip olmaktan geçer.”

“The path to own a homeland is to know
the historical events which have taken place on that land,
to know and own the civilisations born on that land.”

Araştırma Makalesi
Research Artıcle
AnAr, *21*, 56-75.

Bottle Shaped Vessels in Anatolia and the Syrian Bottle[1]

Esra Alp[2]

Abstract

3rd millennium BC is a very important period in which relations between Anatolia and Syria-Mesopotamia intensified and impacted the development of civilizations directly. With these relations, trade activities increased and new pottery vessel types resulting from intercultural interaction appeared. One of these vessel types consists of 'Bottle' shaped vessels used for keeping and transporting liquid materials. In this period Syrian Bottles, which are distinguished from these vessel types by their form and labeling, have been a noteworthy group and in this context the issue of their import from N. Syria to Anatolia and why they were labeled as such has often been discussed. However, what is essentially thought-provoking about the Anatolian bottle shape repertoire is that relevant publications discuss these vessels using general definitions such as 'Bottle', 'Syrian bottle' or 'Alabastron' without establishing a typology within the group; that is, whether Anatolia had a bottle form of its own. A secondary question about these vessel forms that are generally considered to be imported is whether Anatolia was familiar with bottle shaped vessels before Syrian bottles, or whether it also had original forms within its own vessel repertoire that were used together with the aforementioned imported forms.

Keywords: *Anatolia, Syria, Bottle, Syrian Bottle, Local Production.*

Anadolu'da Şişe Biçimli Kap Formları ve Suriye Şişesi

Öz

MÖ. 3. binyıl, Anadolu ile Suriye ve Mezopotamya arasında ilişkilerin yoğunlaştığı, uygarlıkların gelişiminin doğrudan etkilendiği çok önemli bir süreçtir. Söz konusu ilişkilerle ticari faaliyetler artmış ve çanak çömlekte, kültürler arası etkileşimden kaynaklanan yeni kap tipleri ortaya çıkmıştır. Bu kap tiplerinden biri, sıvı maddeleri barındırma ve taşıma amaçlı kullanılan, 'Şişe' biçimli kaplardır. Söz konusu dönemde, Anadolu'nun doğusundan batısına kadar geniş bir coğrafyada birçok yerleşimde görülen bu kap tiplerinin arasında formu ve isimlendirmesiyle ayrılmış olan Suriye Şişeleri de dikkat çekici bir grup olmuş ve bu bağlamda Anadolu'ya K. Suriye'den ithal edildikleri ile neden bu isimle adlandırıldıkları konusu sıklıkla tartışılmıştır. Ancak, Anadolu şişe biçimli kap formları repertuarında asıl düşündürücü olan, bu eserlerin ilgili yayınlarda 'Şişe', 'Suriye Şişesi' veya 'Alabastron' gibi genel tanımlarla ele alınmış olup kendi içinde herhangi bir tipoloji oluşturulmadan bir başka deyişle Anadolu'nun kendine ait şişe biçimli kap formunun var olup olmadığıdır. Genel ifadelerle ithal oldukları düşünülen bu kap formları ile ilgili ikincil soru Anadolu'nun şişe biçimli kap tiplerini Suriye Şişeleri'nden önce mi tanıdığı ya da kendi kap repertuarı içinde özgün formlara da sahip olup bahsettiğimiz ithal formlarla birlikte mi kullanıldığıdır.

Anahtar Kelimeler*: Anadolu, Suriye, Şişe, Suriye Şişesi, Yerel Üretim.*

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Introductıon

3rd millennium BC is a very important period in which concepts such as writing, urbanization and state impacted the development of civilizations directly. In this period, relations between Syria-Mesopotamia and Anatolia seem to have intensified during approximately a thousand years. With the intensification of the relations between Syria-Mesopotamia and Anatolia, trading activities increased and new pottery vessel types appeared as a result of intercultural interaction. One of these vessel types consists of vessels with 'bottle' shapes, which were used for keeping and transporting liquids. In this period, 'Syrian bottles,' distinguished by their form and name, have been a distinct group among these vessel types that have been found at many sites across a wide geography from the west to the east in Anatolia, and the topic of their being imported to Anatolia from North Syria and of why they were labeled with this name have often been discussed in this context.

However, what is essentially thought-provoking about the Anatolian bottle shape repertoire is that relevant publications discuss these vessels using general definitions such as 'bottle', 'Syrian bottle' or 'alabastron' without establishing a typology within the group; that is, whether Anatolia had a bottle form of its own.

A secondary question about these vessel forms that are generally considered to be imported is whether Anatolia was familiar with bottle shaped vessels before Syrian bottles, or whether it also had original forms within its own vessel repertoire that were used together with the aforementioned imported forms.

On the other hand, the materials that these vessel forms contained, in other words their purposes of use and forms of transportation are also noteworthy issues.

Bottle Shaped Vessels And The Syrıan Bottle:

'Bottle' shaped vessels are vessel types that usually have narrow, short or long necks, and rims, bodies and bases that can vary according to form, which were used to transport liquids. The variation observed in the forms of these vessel types can be said to have developed as a result of changes in their purpose of use and influences from neighboring regions. These vessels types have been found in large numbers at EBA and MBA sites in Anatolia.

Syrian Bottles on the other hand comprise a vessel type that is labeled according to their production centers and the region in which they have been found densely; the main production center is considered to be North Syria and the Middle Euphrates basin (Van Loon, 1979, p. 111; Orthmann and Rova, 1991, p. 140). In terms of form, they have narrow necks, narrow and long bodies, and pointed or rounded bases, and this form is called *'Alabastron'* (Fig.1) (Kühne, 1976, Abb. 65, Taf. 7:7; Schachner and Schachner, 1995, 93ff, Form IIc; Abay, 1997, p. 234, 386 ff, 391 ff, *Flaschentyp III*). Along with *Alabastron*, which is the characteristic form of these vessel types, there are also bottles with narrow necks, wide bellies, and pointed or rounded bases, some of which have also been called 'Syrian Bottles' (Fig. 2) (Schachner and Schachner, 1995, p. 84, Abb: 1; Kühne, 1976, p. 69, taf. 42.7; Mazzoni, 1985, p. 2, Fig. 3/8; Lesthakov, 2002, p. 187, Fig: 11,1; Özgüç, 1986, p. 37, Fig. 3-13). These vessels are usually made of fine quality paste of Northern Mesopotamia, and they are well-fired and grey in color (Ökse, 2004, p. 599).

Syrian Bottles, which do not have a uniform production quality, were produced by different manufacturing forms in their core region Northern Syria and in their distribution regions such as the Middle Euphrates basin and Anatolia. These vessel types have been discussed under different labels according to the variation in their production forms. These discussions have sometimes been explained through some formal similarities or technical properties of the vessels. The fabric of this pottery group, the structure of its paste, the color of the paste and the surface, surface treatment and formal properties have been considered in this labeling. On the other hand, the geographical region in which these vessels were found has also played a role in their labeling[3]. The most frequently used label for the vessel types under

[3] Prag, 1970, p. 78, 81***'Stone Ware';*** discussed under this label due to the similarity of the hardness of the vessels to stones; Woolley and Barnett, 1952, p. 228; ***'Basalt Ware'***: 'Basalt' rocks are dark gray in color and hard in fabric, so the dark gray color and the hard fabric of this ware group has been discussed under this label. Schwartz, 1988, p. 31, 41: ***'Fine Clinky Ware'***: This labelling also takes the similarity of these vessels with metal vessels into consideration. Woolley, 1914, p. 91; Orthmann and Rova, 1991, p. 72 : ***'Black Ware- Schwarze Ware'***: These vessel types are labelled due to their gray, dark gray, or almost black color. Woolley, 1914, p. 91; Mallowan, 1937, p. 29: ***'Black-Grey Burnished Ware'***: The surfaces of the vessels are usually burnished and dark gray, and this labeling also takes surface treatment and color into consideration. Wooley, 1914, p. 91; Thureau-Dangin and Dunand, 1936, p. 105; Woolley and Barnett, 1952, p. 228; Braidwood and Braidwood, 1960, p. 450; Mellink, 1965, p. 111; Prag, 1970, p. 78, 81; Spanos, 1972, p. 20; Fielden, 1977, p. 249; Abay, 1997, p. 34; Ökse, 2004, p. 600; Strommenger, 1970 a, p. 46; Kühne, 1976, p. 35; Parzinger, 1993, p. 279; Spanos, 1972, p. 84: ***'Grey Spiral Ring Burnished Ware- Graue Ware Mit Spiral Glättung/Graue Ware Mit Streifiger Glättung- Graue Ware Mit Ringpolitur- Graue Ware Mit Poliertem Ringmuster':*** Some vessels have traces of horizontal burnishing; the vessels have been labeled due to this decoration style. Kühne, 1976, p. 56: ***'Euphrat Ware- Euphrat-Gruppe der Metalischen Ware- Jezirah Grey Ware':*** As metioned above, some vessels have traces of horizontal burnishing, and this group was labeled due to this decoration style, which is particularly common to the west of the Khabur region and in the Middle Euphrates region.

discussion here is no doubt ***'Metallic Ware/Metallische Ware'***[4]. Due to the hardness of these vessels that result from firing, the sound made by knocking on them or knocking their sherds together resembles the sound made by knocking metal pieces together, which is why they are labeled *'Metallic Ware-Metallische Ware' (*Braidwood and Braidwood, 1960, p. 370; Kühne, 1976, p. 33-34). The similarities of these vessels to vessels made of metals can also be indicated as another reason for their labeling (Falb, Porter and Pruβ, 2014, p. 171; Ökse, 2004, p. 600).

Various opinions about the purposes of use of these vessel forms have been put forward, and they are generally considered to have been produced to transport perfumes, valuable oils, or substances such as potions for rituals (Van Loon, 1979, p. 111, Erkanal, 1993, p. 143; Zimmerman, 2005, p. 168). Owing to the volatile nature of their contents and the lack of archeometric analysis it has not been possible so far to ascertain whether these vessels were scent or unguent vases (Sconzo, 2014, p. 215). On the other hand, according to A. Tuba Ökse, 'Syrian bottles' were also used to store or keep pharmaceutical products such as ointments (Ökse, 2004, p. 604). However, vessel forms such as 'Syrian bottles' or 'bottles' are for transporting liquids, while the pharmaceutical product called 'ointment' has a denser texture, and it is a material that is not too likely to be stored in a bottle; therefore (considering also the conditions of the period during which they were common) vessel forms labeled 'Syrian bottles' can be said to have kept some type of medicinal liquid mixture made of plants. Nevertheless, although we do not exactly know the material they contained, considering that they were used commercially, these vessel forms can be said to have been used in trade as this material was valuable. In this context, it would be appropriate to say that Syrian bottles coming from Mesopotamia are an indication of interregional communication.

In this perspective, the reason for distinguishing the Syrian bottle from other bottle shaped vessels can be said to be their careful production technique and their perhaps different purpose of use, along with its naming after the region in which they are found.

'Bottle' Shaped Vessels In Anatolıa:

A large number of vessels with 'bottle' shape have been found at EBA and MBA sites in Anatolia, and they have been labeled 'bottles', 'Syrian Bottles' or *'Alabastron'* in relevant publications. This difference in labeling in Anatolia

[4] Falb, Porter and Pruβ, 2014, p. 174-175; Metallic Ware is characterised by a very hard and dense fabric fired at high kiln temperatures of around 1100 C and therefore is closely related to modern Stone Ware. To produce such a special fabric very pure clay virtually free of coarse inclusions was used.

has been explained based on shape and production technique as mentioned above.

It would be appropriate to say that the base part defined the form of use. With this idea, considering them within a general typology, it is possible to study the 'bottle' shaped vessels in Anatolia in two groups, which are distinguished from each other mainly by whether they can stand on a flat surface or not; that is, by whether their bases are defined or not.

Group I: 'Bottle' Shaped Vessels without Defined Bases: Bottles with pointed, pointed in an oval shape or round bases are in this group. Common quality of bottles with these base forms is that they cannot stand upright on a flat surface. They generally have narrow and short necks, and their body forms vary from cylindrical to oval or globular. They have everted lips, and their rims come in two types: grooved and plain[5].

In addition, bottles that are labeled *'Alabastron'* in relevant publications, and which have narrow necks, small or medium sizes, and bases that are pointed in some forms and rounded-pointed in others can also be classified under this group.

'Bottle' shaped vessels of this type in Anatolia; include examples from the cremation area and chamber tombs of Gedikli Karahöyük (Duru, 2010, p. 63-65, Pl. 66.6, Fig. 140.1, Pl. 66.7, Fig. 140.3, Pl. 66.10 Pl. 66.8, Fig.141.2), two bottles from Tilmen Höyük levels IIId (Duru, 2003, p. 13, Pl.10/2; Sayit, 2006, 117, Pl.45.1) and MBA II (Kıcı, 1999, p. 26, 57/ 1, 5s), examples from EBA levels at Tarsus (Goldman, 1956, p. 134-154, fig. 268, 614-616), Müslümantepe[6] (Ay, Kibaroğlu and Berthold, 2014, p. 128, fig.2/d, e), Kültepe levels 11b 12 and 14 (Özgüç, 1986, p. 33-35, Fig. 3-8/3-3, 3-13) a bottle from Hacılar Büyük Höyük (Umurtak and Duru, 2015, p. 34, Fig. 5), Arslantepe level VI D (Conti and Persiani, 1993, p. 363, 387, Fig. 12.12), bottles from EBA III levels 8-6 at Norşuntepe (Hauptmann, 2000, p. 424, Abb. 7:11), from phase IV at Kurban Höyük (Algaze et al., 1990, Pl. 78: C), bottle from chamber tomb-W at Lidar Höyük (Mellink, 1982, Pl. 73.7; Hauptmann, 1981, p. 97, abb. 12), from burial no. 35.18.229 at Titriş Höyük (Algaze et al., 1995, p. 25, Fig. 25), from Period I-II levels and burial J9 at Gre Virike (Ökse, 2004, p. 601, Fig. 3-4; Engin, 2007, p. 273-276, Fig. 18.6, 17, 18.7.: 9), from burials at Oylum Höyük (Ensert, 1995, p. 84-85, Pl. 22.11, Pl. 14.5, 25a.5, 29.1, 32.19, 32.22, Pl. 16.4, Pl. 3.12; Özgen, Helwing and Tekin, 1997, p. 60, Abb. 15/3, 15/5), a bottle from Tilbeşar burials (Kepinski-Lecomte, Ergeç 2000, p.

[5] Group I: The rims of Anatolian bottles with undefined bases are usually grooved or plain; the bottle from chamber burial 2 at Gedikli Karahöyük is the single example with a spouted rim: Duru, 2010, p. 63-65, Pl. 66.11
[6]Two bottle shaped vessels were found at Müslümantepe, one of which has been labelled Nineveh 5.

220, Fig. 9), the bottle labeled 'B5' (Blegen, 1951, p. 29, Fig. 70, IIIa 34.750; Podzuweit, 1979, p. 182, taf: 11, IIIa) from Troia level 3, and a red slipped bottle labeled 'B5' from Votive Pit AD 19 at Küllüoba (Efe, 1999, drawing 4-5, Fig. 9).
In addition; Sos Höyük bottle with its rim and body extant (Sagona et al., 1996, p. 37, Fig. 9) bottle with a missing rim but with a body that is identical to those of *alabastra* and a pointed base from Kinet Höyük (Zimmermann, 2005, Fig. 1/1) and bottles from phase 2 at Kestel-Göltepe (Yener, 1995, p. 179, Drawing 3A) also belong in this group.

Group II: 'Bottle' Shaped Vessels with Defined Bases: Bottles with flat and ring bases belong in this group. Common property of these bottles is that, unlike bottles of group I, they have flat or ring bases and they can stand upright on a flat surface. They generally have narrow and short or long necks, and cylindrical, oval or often wide bellied, globular bodies. Like Group I bottles, these bottles also have everted lips and rims of two types: grooved and plain[7].

'Bottle' shaped vessels of this type in Anatolia; Examples of this type in Anatolia include bottles from level XII at Beycesultan (Lloyd, Mellaart, 1962, p. 205, Fig. 48:16), bottle from chamber burial-W at Lidar Höyük (Hauptmann, 1981, p. 97., abb. 12), bottle from level 15 at Kültepe (Özgüç, 1986, p. 36, Fig. 3.10), bottles from level 1A at Karum, which are dated to MBA I (Emre, 1999, p. 40, fig. 5, pl.1/4, fig.1.1 pl.1, fig.1.3), from level 14T at Alişar (Von der Osten, 1937, Fig. 168 d 2768), bottles found at the cremation and above-cremation areas and chamber burial at Gedikli Karahöyük (Duru, 2010, p. 63-65, Pl. 65.6, Pl. 65.9, Fig. 136.5, Pl. 65.2, Fig. 137.4, Pl. 65.3, 65.13, 65.14, Fig. 136.6, 138.5, Pl. 65.17, Pl. 65.7, Fig. 139.4), bottles from MBA II level at Tilmen Höyük (Kıcı, 1999, 12, Pl.:16/2, 31, Pl. 73.10-13, Pl. 57/2), bottles from level 5, Burial nos. 1, 4, 5, 6 and 17 (Ensert, 1995, p. 84-85, Pl. 34.30, Pl. 3.14, 16.3, 34.32, Pl. 34.33, Pl. 16.5, Pl. 34.31, Pl. 3.17, Pl. 14.4, 35.38, 44b.4, 25a.4) and chamber burial no. 3 at Oylum Höyük (Özgen, Helwing and Tekin 1997, p. 60, Abb. 13/3), two bottles from Period II level at Gre Virike (Engin, 2007, p. 273-276, Fig. 18.6.: 15-16), two bottles from burial no. 35.18.229 at Titriş Höyük (Algaze et al., 1995, p. 25, Fig. 25.26), bottle from burial RW at Carchemish (Woolley, 1914, p. 134, Pl. 27.1), bottle from level VII at Tell Atchana (Woolley, 1955, p. 330, plate XCIX-d; Yener, 2010, p. 55), from level IIIa

[7] Group I: The rims of Anatolian bottles with undefined bases are usually grooved or plain; the bottle from cremation burial at Gedikli Karahöyük is the single example with a trefoil rim; Duru, 2010, p. 63-65, Pl.65.19.

at Troy (Blegen, Caskey et al., 1951, Fig. 70, IIIa 34.750), bottle from Western Slope at Hacılar Büyük Höyük[8], and bottle from burial UA at Hayaz Höyük[9].

Anatolian bottle shaped vessel forms are between 6 and 20 cm tall, and their rims are usually grooved. Grooves resulting from the potter's wheel on the vessels and spiral burnishing that is extremely close together and deep are other distinctive features. It can be said that these vessel types were carefully produced, with fine sand, plant and mica inclusions, fine paste, and slip and burnishing. Some bottles feature grooved decoration on the body, and some bottles, although small in number, feature painted decoration. Considering the production technique and size of the vessel type, it is possible to conclude that they have purposes of use that are different from other vessel types. They were certainly used for transporting liquids; what is meant by difference in purposes of use is related to the material kept in them, which may have been valuable; for example materials such as perfumes, precious oils, and liquid medicinal products with plant ingredients etc, considering the small sizes of the vessels. All these features are similar to the features of the vessel types that are labeled Syrian bottles in comparison. However, the noteworthy point here is that some types have been identified in Anatolia that are not similar to the examples found at neighboring sites in Syria, Iraq, and Bulgaria (Table 1). These are similar to other bottle types in terms of size and probably purpose of use, but show some differences in forms. The fact that similar examples have not yet been found in neighboring sites suggests that they belong to Anatolia.

As for the significance attributed to these vessels, an *Alabastron*-shaped bottle found at Gre Virike is thought to have been closed by means of a stopper as it shows wear traces around the rim, and these vessels are thought to be 'transport vessels' to carry materials such as ointments or perfumes (Ökse, 2004, p. 604). However, no other examples indicating that they have been used with their rims closed have been found among Anatolian bottle shaped vessel forms. Therefore, it is not plausible that all of these bottles were vessels for long distance transport. It can be said that the rims of these vessels were left open or were closed at the rim by means of organic materials such as leather, textiles or wood, which are not likely to remain to the present.

[8] Umurtak and Duru, 2012, p. 47, Fig. 10; this bottle has two handles across from each other on the shoulder; there are no other examples of this type in Anatolia.
[9] Roodenberg, 1979-1980, p. 8-9, Fig. 9; there is a spout on the body of this bottle type, between the belly and the shoulder. There are no other examples of this type in Anatolia.

Along with their purposes of use, how these vessel forms were transported can also be discussed; transportation form is no doubt the most important factor in identifying purposes of use. Vessel forms usually have pointed or rounded oval bases that do not allow the vessels to stand upright on a flat surface, which suggests that these vessel forms must certainly have been carried in a different way than other vessel types, and therefore must have had a different purpose of use. According to A. Tuba Ökse, an 'Alabastron-shaped' bottle (Ökse, 2001, Nr. J9/028) has diagonal traces of wear on it from the neck to the base, which cut each other on the shoulder and the belly and form four lozenge patterns in two rows, which in turn shows that these vessels were used by hanging within a netted string bag (Ökse, 2004, p. 604). The wear traces on the neck and the rim on this bottle show that these bottles could be carried tied around the neck or that a piece of leather stretched over the rim was tied around the neck and prevented the liquid within from leaking out; in other words it served as a cap. Another similar example consists of lines that form a lozenge pattern on five small jars found at Tell Banat (Porter, 1995, p. 20, fig. 16: P19, P50, P 211), which can support the idea that these vessel forms were carried within a netted string bag. In a study on an *'alabastron'* shaped 'Syrian Bottle' found at Kinethöyük (Zimmermann, 2005, p. 161-169), Thomas Zimmerman also wrote that it was carried in a type of netted string bag (Zimmermann, 2005, p. 164, fig. 2.-1.2), based on the decoration in a lozenge pattern on two bottles found in EBA levels at Kültepe (Özgüç, 1986, p. 31, 34-38; Emre, 1999, p. 39, 42-45). Another example is the netted pattern made with red paint on a bottle found at Ištar Temple at the city of Mari (Parrot, 1956, p. 227-228, Fig. 109:787). The painted decoration on this bottle can similarly be another example to indicate that it was carried in a kind of netted string bag. This form of carrying in a netted string bag brings to mind both that the bottle was on a person or that it was hung somewhere in the house to be taken down to use whenever it was needed. However, the sizes of these vessel types vary from 6 to 20 cm, and as with such small sizes they contained perfumes or precious oils for special use rather than daily use, it was not too necessary to carry them on one's person. In addition, carrying them in netted string bags would also require their rims to be closed, but there are no indications that their rims were closed either in Anatolia or its southern neighbors except for the examples mentioned above. In this respect, taking also the materials they contained into consideration, it seems more likely that these vessel types were hung somewhere and taken from there to be used whenever they were needed.

Conclusion

Main production center of bottle shaped vessels or vessels that are called 'Syrian bottles' was Northern Syria, and they were distributed through trade across a wide area from Iraq, Islahiye region and Çukurova region in Anatolia, to Bulgaria to the west[10] (Fig. 3).

Examples found within this area belong to the late phase of the Early Dynastic III period and the Early Akkadian period in general. This time period, which corresponds to the last quarter of the 3rd millennium BC (Schachner and Schachner, 1995, p. 87; Abay, 1997, p. 197, 233, 342, fig.46), is labeled Early Jezireh III b-V for North Mesopotamia (Lebeau, 2000, table III-V; Pruß, 2000, p. 196), Early Bronze Age III in Anatolian chronology, and Early Bronze IV in Syrian chronology (Ökse, 2004, p. 602). Examples found outside the core region consist of either imported bottles or imitations made by local potters.

Anatolia remains outside of the main production center. However, bottle shaped vessels found in this geography fit with the same dating that is a large majority of them were found in EBA levels[11], and could be carried simultaneously to a region outside the main production center.

The significant trait of Anatolian examples is that they consist of both imported vessels and imitation vessels produced by local potters. A study of the forms of these vessels and their comparison with examples found in Northern Syria[12] show that they have almost the same qualities in both body shapes and technical properties. Hence, it would be appropriate to say that even if local imitations of imported vessel types were made, original form of body shapes and production techniques were followed loyally.

Having said that, it is a significant point that types that show development within the Anatolian typology itself and that are not similar to

[10] Lesthakov, 1996, p. 260, Fig. 10.1 cat. no. 25; Lesthakov, 2002, p. 187, Abb.11.1; This *Alabastron* type bottle, which was found at the site of Galabovo in Bulgaria, is considered to be an import and represents the westernmost extent of the distribution area of this vessel type.

[11] On the other hand, examples belonging to the Middle Bronze Age have been found, which have similarities with those belonging to the Early Bronze Age. Existence of similar vessels in the MBA shows that bottle shaped vessels continued to be used in Anatolia. MBA bottles are usually of Group II: Bottles with Defined Bases. These bottles from the MBA were found at Carchemish, Tilmen Höyük, Tell Atchana and Kültepe.

[12] Tell Shiyukh Tahtani (Sconzo, 2007, p. 261, fig. 17.11/49), Tell-es Sweyhat (Holland, 1976, p. 49, fig. 4:7), Tell Tawi (Kampschulte and Orthmann, 1984, Taf. 11:108), Zalaquiyate (Al-Maqdissi and Yabroudi, 1987, p. 291, Fig. 4.3), Amarna (Woolley, 1914, pl. XXIII/12), Ansari (Suleiman, 1984, Taf. VII-65), Habuba Kabira (Strommenger, 1970, p. 49, abb. 12d), Selenkahiye (Van Loon and Meijer, 2001, fig. 5A 23i), Hama (Fugmann, 1958, p. 37, fig. 98: 3A 647), Tell Bi'a (Spanos and Strommenger, 1993, p. 578, Pl. 105/2), Halawa (Orthmann, 1981, p. 58, Taf. 59/28).

examples found at neighboring sites in Syria have also been encountered[13]. These bottles, which are different from imported wares in terms of shape, but almost the same with them in terms of dating and purpose of use also considering their sizes, suggest that Anatolia did not only use imported or imitations of imported types, but could also produce and use original bottle types, although their numbers are small. In this context, the question of when Anatolia became familiar with bottle shaped vessel form comes to mind. In other words, did it become familiar with and use Syrian bottles before or after they arrived in its own region? Considering that general properties of vessels labeled 'Syrian Bottles' coincide with those of narrow, oval bodied *Alabastron*[14], the difference between bottles with globular bodies and of *Alabastron* type can answer this question. In this context, when we consider the stratigraphy of Kültepe, which is one of the centers where bottle shaped vessels were found in Anatolia, wide bellied globular forms are found in levels 15 and 14, which are dated to EBA II, while types that are narrow, oval, and labeled *'Alabastron'* are more dominant in levels 13 and 11, which are dated to EBA III. Similarly, while wide bellied, globular forms are dated to EBA II at Arslantepe, *'Alabastron'* type narrow, oval forms are dated to EBA III at sites such as Gedikli Karahöyük, Tilmen Höyük, Oylum Höyük, and Titriş Höyük, which can be considered as transition points between Northern Syria and Anatolia. Hence, it can be said that within bottle shaped vessel forms, wide bellied, globular forms were seen before narrow, oval forms in Anatolia. In addition, it would be appropriate to say that bottle shaped vessel forms were already in use before '*Alabastron'* forms arrived in Anatolia from its southern neighbors through trade.

Excavations and surface surveys carried out in Anatolia show that there existed a trade network already in the Early Bronze Age and trade goods coming from the south arrived at the slopes of the Taurus and beyond. The importance of observing foreign vessel types at a site for establishing the existence of trade between these regions and for understanding trade routes is recognized. Majority of bottle shaped vessel forms found at sites in Anatolia and its southern neighbors are foreign vessel types. For this reason, distribution map of bottle shaped vessel forms shows that they are found

[13] These types are from: Troy; (Blegen, 1951, p. 29, Fig. 70. IIIa 34.750), Küllüoba; (Efe, 1999, p. 169 Drawing 4-5, Fig. 9), Beycesultan; (Lloyd – Mellaart, 1962, p. 205, Fig. P.48:16), 3 bottles from Gedikli Karahöyük; (Duru, 2010, p. 63-65, Pl. 66.11, Pl. 66.12, Pl. 141.4-160.4, Pl. 65.20, Fig.138-2), Hacılar Büyük Höyük; (Umurtak and Duru, 2012, p. 47, Fig. 10) and Hayaz Höyük; (Roodenberg, 1979-1980, p. 8-9, Fig. 9).

[14] We encounter these types within the Group I: Forms without Defined bases in Anatolia; Gedikli Karahöyük (Duru, 2010, p. 63-65, Pl. 66.6, Fig. 140.1), Tarsus (Goldman, 1956, p. 134-154, fig. 268: 616), Müslümantepe (Ay, Kibaroğlu, Berthold, 2014, p. 128, fig.2/d), Kültepe (Özgüç, 1986, p. 35, Fig. 3-3, 3-8), Kurban Höyük (Algaze et al, 1990, Pl. 78: C), Gre Virike (Ökse, 2004, p. 601, Fig: 3-4), Oylum Höyük (Ensert, 1995, p. 84-85, Pl. 22.11), Tilmen Höyük (Duru, 2003, 13, Pl.10/2), Titriş Höyük (Algaze et al, 1995, p. 25, fig: 25), Kinet höyük (Zimmermann, 2005, Fig. 1/1).

particularly densely at sites in Eastern and South-eastern Anatolia. An example of a bottle shaped vessel of the same type with those found in Syria and Southeastern Anatolia was found to the west of Anatolia and in Bulgaria at the site of Galabovo, showing how wide the range of trade between those regions was. This vessel in Galabovo probably reached the region from Northern Syria over Anatolia, or was imported from Southeast Anatolia (Lesthakov, 2002, p. 187). Either way, this shows that Anatolia functioned as a kind of bridge within these trade activities. However, it should be emphasized that there are no scientific archaeological documents to identify the route of this trade, and more findings and documents are needed in this respect. As explained above, these vessel types, in which we think perfumes, precious oils, or plant based medicinal products were contained, had a place within the general trade activities due to their contents.

In conclusion; this type of vessels, which we think contained special, valuable materials, can also be considered to have been sent to regions far away from their production center with commercial purposes after they were filled with such materials. Bottle shaped vessels, main production center of which was Northern Syria, and which were distributed in a wide area ranging from other regions of Syria, Iraq and Anatolia to Bulgaria, began to be produced in the Early Bronze Age according to our current knowledge, and they remained in use until the Middle Bronze Age II in those regions.

Anatolia became familiar with and used these vessel types almost synchronously with the other regions, but it also had bottles with globular bodies and some other original shapes; as such it would be appropriate to say that it did not use this type of vessel forms merely as a result of interaction with neighboring regions, but was also a part of the production system itself.

Abbreviations / Kısaltmalar

AAA:	Liverpool Annals of Archaeology and Anthropolgy
AJA:	American Journal of Archaeology
AS:	Anatolian Studies
BAOM:	Bulletin of the Ancient Orient Museum
BASOR:	Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research
İst. Mitt. :	İstanbuler Mitteilungen
KST:	Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı
MDOG:	Mitteilungen der Deutschen Orientgesellschaft
RPRP:	Reports of Prehistoric Research Project
TAD:	Türk Arkeoloji Dergisi

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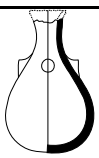
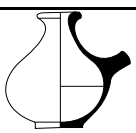
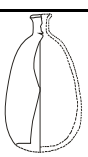
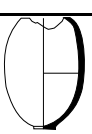
Catalog No	Site	Shape	Period			
			EBA			Source:
			I	II	III	
1	Beycesultan				*	Lloyd – Mellaart, 1962, p. 205, Fig. P.48:16.
2	Hacılar Büyük Höyük		*			Umurtak-Duru, 2012, p. 47, Fig. 10.
3	Hayaz Höyük				*	Roodenberg, 1979-1980, p. 8-9 Fig. 9.
4	Gedikli Karahöyük				*	Duru, 2010, p. 63-65, Pl. 66.11.
5	Gedikli Karahöyük				*	Duru, 2010, p. 63-65, Pl. 66.12, Pl. 141.4-160.4.
6	Gedikli Karahöyük				*	Duru, 2010, p. 63-65, Pl.65.20, fig.138.2.
7	Küllüoba				*	Efe, 1999, p. 169, Çiz. 4-5, Fig. 9.
8	Troia				*	Blegen, 1951, p. 29, Fig. 70. IIIa 34.750.

Table 1: 'Bottle Shaped Vessel' types that developed within Anatolia. (All the artefacts were drawn by the author using images from relevant publications.)

Figures / Figürler

Fig. 1: Duru, 2003, p. 13, Pl. 10/2.

Fig. 2: Emre, 1999, p. 40, Fig. 5.

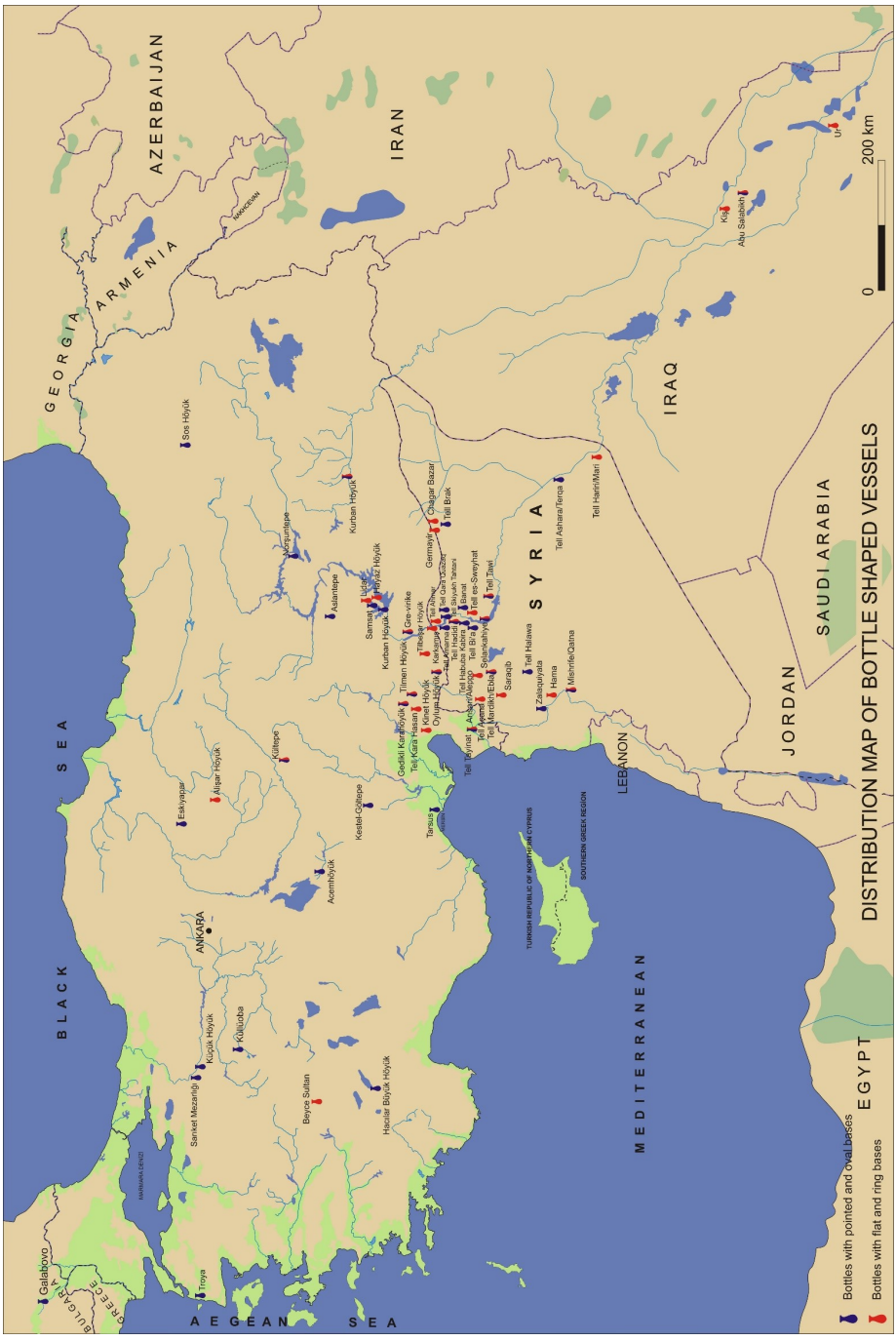


Fig. 3: Distribution of Bottle Shaped Vessels