

THE MYCENAEAN GRAVE FOUND AT THE HILL OF AYASULUK (*)

THIS STUDY IS DEDICATED TO THE LATE Mr. QUARTMAN WHO GAVE US, THROUGH THE FUNDS HE PROVIDED SINCE 1960 HE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCAVATE AND RESTORE THE BASILICA OF ST JOHN AT SELÇUK. WE SHALL ALWAYS REMEMBER HIM.

Hakkı Gültekin - Musa Baran

During the excavations and restorations conducted in 1963 at the Basilica of St John we were faced with an unexpected discovery. From the pottery excavated, we believed we had found a grave belonging to the Mycenaean period. The allocation of funds provided by Mr Quartman, a U. S. citizen, resulted in forming a committee composed of Hakkı GÜLTEKİN, Musa BARAN and Arch. Cevat SEZER, to which committee the authorities gave the assignment of conducting the necessary excavations and restorations at the Basilica of St John. Except for the winter months, the committee tried to restore the basilica as much as possible, to the extent that the weather permitted, and to bring to light the annexes of the complex by excavating in the immediate vicinity. The aim was to establish this splendid and beautiful complex in its entirety. Although we had never thought of conducting any search for a Mycenaean grave, we were much surprised to find such a grave. All major searches conducted in the Aegean area, even those conducted at Ephesus, had not yielded such results, except the recent excavations at Milas, Iassos, Dirmil and Miletus. In other places, only a few pieces were found here and there.

The former excavators of Ephesus had conducted some excavations at Ephesus, across from the Gymnasium of

Vedius in order to establish the initial settlement. They found some pieces of pottery belonging to the archaic period.

After the harbor of Ephesus was silted and hence could not be used any more, some of the Ephesians had moved to the Hill of Ayasuluk, 2 km east, and lived there during the Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman periods.

The finding of the Mycenaean grave at the Hill of Ayasuluk is a clear sign of the existence of Mycenaean settlement at the hill.

LOCATION OF THE GRAVE

— See Plan —

The flat area to the right and in front of the Gate of the Defense Wall of Byzantine town, presently called the Gate of Persecution, is the location of the grave. The grave was found approximately 37 meters south of the wall. The pieces were excavated from soft sandy soil, 25 cm deep, surrounded by stone debris. It is impossible to establish the plan of the grave from such few stones.

The following works were excavated:

1. CRATER :	Height	: 32.5 cm
	Diameter of mouth	: 34.5 cm
	Diameter of body	: 39.5 cm
	Diameter of base	: 12.0 cm

The crater is made of baked clay and has a wide mouth and body, conical to

(*) Translated by Tözün ERENKUŞ

ward the base. The base is circular. The two symmetrical handles have an oval cross section and are running straight downward from mouth to body. The color is cream and the surface is lustered. The mouth is finished with a spreading border. The lower section of the mouth has wide, red, parallel bands. Four similar parallel wide bands decorate the lower part of the body. The base is colored to a certain level and carries one band. The section between the mouth edge line and body lines is decorated with argonauts. The area between the handles is completed with four argonauts, two on each section. The lower portion of the crater is not decorated. From the standpoint of decorations and the argonauts, this piriform crater is similar to the Mycenaean craters found at Ialyssos in Rhodes. These vases were classified as III A 2 vases.¹ Therefore, our crater, too, may be entered as a III A 2 vase². The vase contained human bones. Animal bones were seen in the space around the crater.

2. CRATER :	Height	: 33.0 cm
	Diameter of mouth	: 15.0 cm
	Diameter of body	: 29.0 cm
	Diameter of base	: 12.5 cm

The crater is made of baked clay. The lips of the mouth spread outwards. It has a neck. The body is round, the base is straight. The crater has two handles on the shoulders. The color is cream and the surface is lustered. The designs are red and black. The top surface of the spreading mouth border is decorated with zigzag lines, with a narrow band at the outer border. The neck and base are painted in black. There are two bands over the shoulder and under the body, but close to the base there is a wide band between two narrow bands. Further down

(1) Frank H. Stubbings: *Mycenaean Pottery from the Levant*, 1951. Plate II₂, II₃.

A. Furumark: *Mycenaean Pottery*, f. 306.

(2) *Brit. Mus. A.* 289, *CVA BM.* 5 Pl. 5.13
Brit. Mus. A. 874, *CVA BM.* 5 Pl. 3.10

there are two more narrow bands. The area between the neck lines and those below the body is decorated with curve-stemmed spirals. Several pieces of the crater are missing. The form is similar to that of No 1, that is a III A2 pottery.

3. RHYTON :	Height	: 32.0 cm
	Diameter of mouth	: 10.0 cm

The rhyton is made of baked clay. The lips are spread outwards. The form is conical. On the mouth there is a vertical handle in the form of a ring. The base is painted. The color is cream and the surface is lustered. It is decorated with designs in shades varying from red to black. The upper portion of the container is decorated with five stripes. The stripes are finished with patterns in zigzags, chevrons and colored triangles. The lower portion of the container has bands, whereas the base is colored. It must have been a ritual container used for religious purposes³. A rhyton of the same form Ras Shamra, decorated with cuttle - fish, was classified as III A⁴. Another rhyton, excavated from Iassos and decorated with chevrons, was identified as belonging to the late Helladic III⁵, late Mycenaean phase.

4. FLASK :	Height	: 19.0 cm
	Diameter of mouth	: 5.0 cm
	Diameter of body	: 12.8 cm
	Diameter of base	: 2.5 cm

This flask is made of baked clay. It has no handles, but a long and thin neck. The body is round. The mouth has spreading lips. The color is cream and the surface is lustered. It is decorated with narrow and wide bands. The area below the neck is decorated with stemmed spi-

(3) *B. M. A.*, 871, 881, 971.

(4) Frank H. Stubbings: *Mycenaean Pottery from the Levant*, Plate XV, 1.

(5) E. J. Forsdyke: *Catalogue of the Greek and Etruscan Vases in the British Museum*. Vol. ... Part 1. *Prehistoric Aegean Pottery* Plate XII A 839, ff. 139, 148.

als. In general the spirals vary between III A and III A 2⁶.

5. FLAT FLASK WITH HANDLES :

Height	: 15.8 cm
Diameter of mouth	: 4.0 cm
Diameter of body	: 10.5 cm
Diameter of base	: 4.3 cm

The flask is made of baked clay. It has a spreading lip and a long and thin neck. The body is wide, in the form of a canteen. It has a round base. The cross section of the symmetrical handle is oval. The color is cream and the surface is lustered. Both of the flat sides of the flask are decorated with black and red concentric circles, commencing from the edges and ending at the center. The narrow sides are decorated with two rows of chevrons in reverse order. The mouth is colored. The neck is decorated with zigzag lines. A similar vase was excavated from Miskebi, now at the Museum of Bodrum (Fig 5 a). From the standpoint of form and decorations, it is a III A pottery⁷. The Museum of Apollakia at Rhodes⁸ houses several of these containers, all classified as III A Mycenaean vases.

(6) A. Furumark: Mycenaean Pottery, f. 362.

(7) Frank H. Stubbings: Mycenaean Pottery from the Levant, Plate XIV, f. 63.

(8) CVA Pl 48 Inv No. 5572, 5571. 6434.

6. PITCHER :	Height	: 24.0 cm
	Diameter of mouth	: 10.5 cm
	Diameter of body	: 24.5 cm
	Diameter of base	: 7.2 cm

The pitcher is made of baked clay and is circular in cross section. It has one handle over the shoulder and a short and thick neck. The base is flat. It is not painted and has no luster. Similar monochromatic containers have been classified as III A 2 Mycenaean pottery.

PIECES OF CRATER :

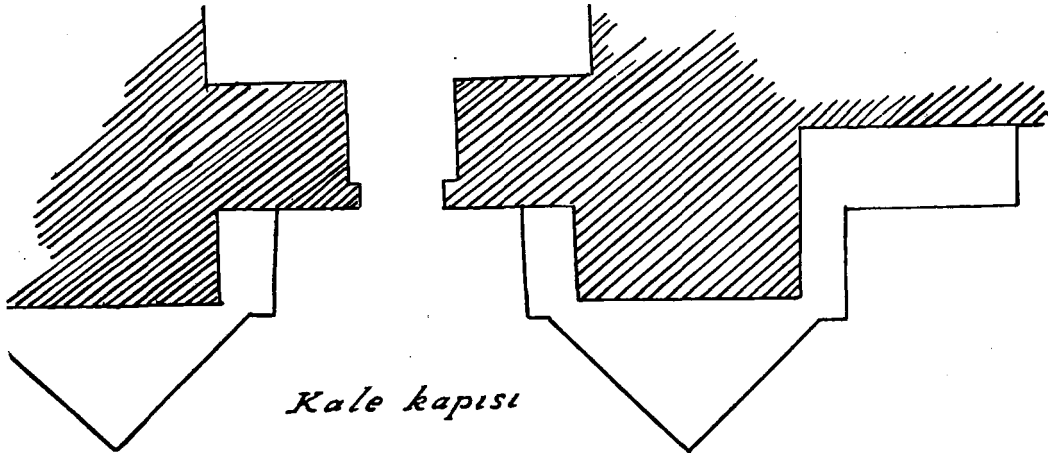
Pieces made of baked clay that belong to a crater with two handles and a wide neck. They are cream colored and have a surface luster. They are decorated with parallel red bands.

CONCLUSION :

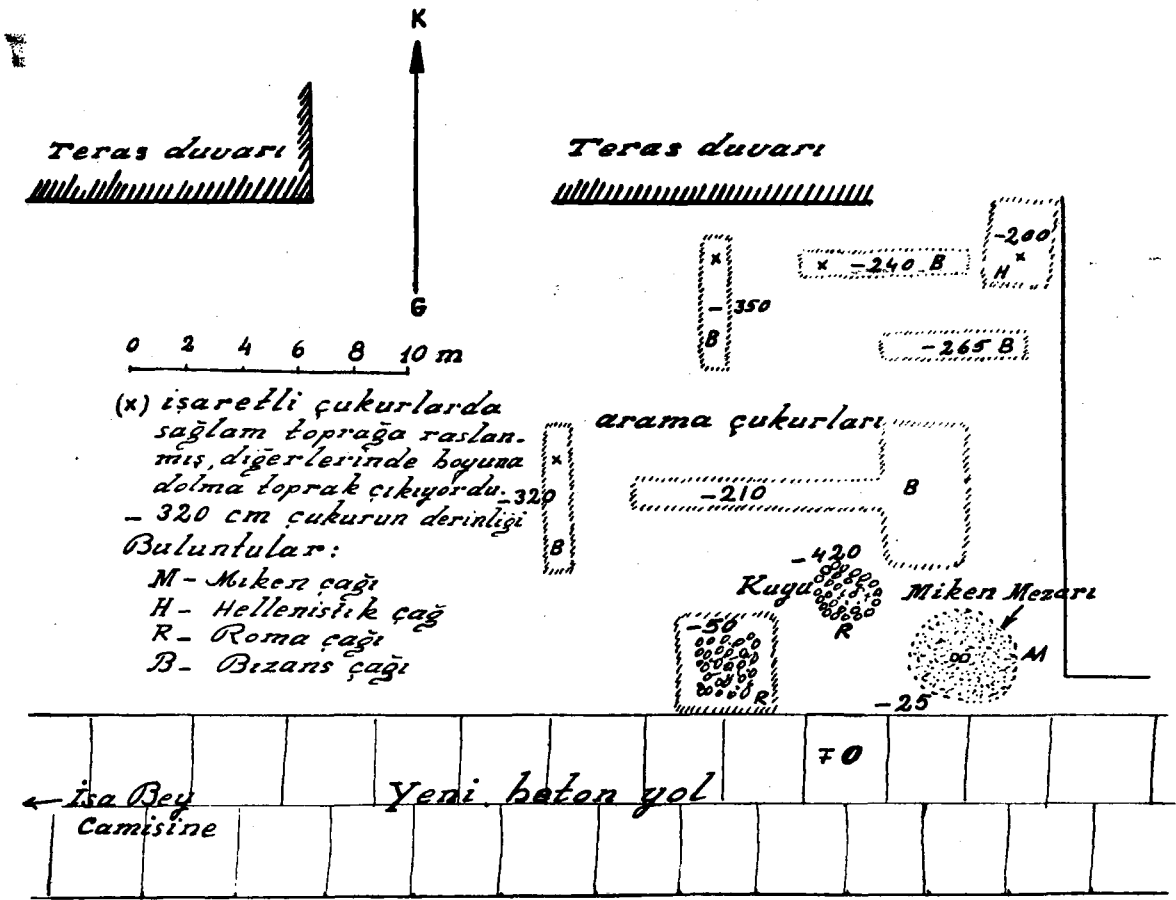
The excavated items show a uniformity from the standpoint of technic, design, and pattern. In general, this pottery, similar to pieces found in western Anatolia and Rhodes, belongs to III A 2. Since III A 2 falls within the period of 1400 - 1300 B. C.,¹⁰ it can be said that the grave excavated at the Hill of Ayasuluk belongs to the same period, i. e. III A 2.

(9) A. Furumark: The Mycenaean Pottery Analyses and Classification, Fig. 5, No. 112/129, f. 32.

(10) A. Furumark: The Chronology of Mycenaean Pottery, 1941. ff. 110-116.



Kale kapısı



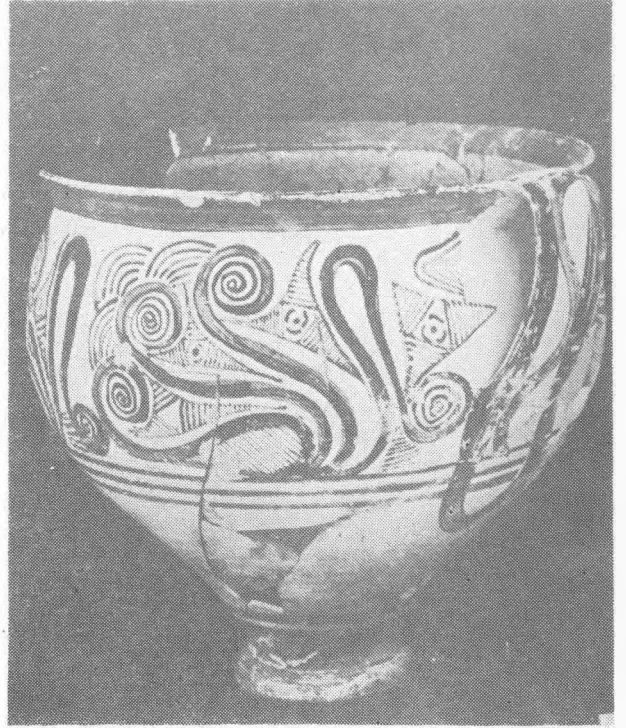
(x) işaretli çukurlarda sağlam toprağa raslanmış diğerlerinde boyuna dolma toprak çıkıyordu. -320 - 320 cm çukurun derinliği

- Buluntular:**
M - Miken çağı
H - Hellenistik çağ
R - Roma çağı
B - Bizans çağı

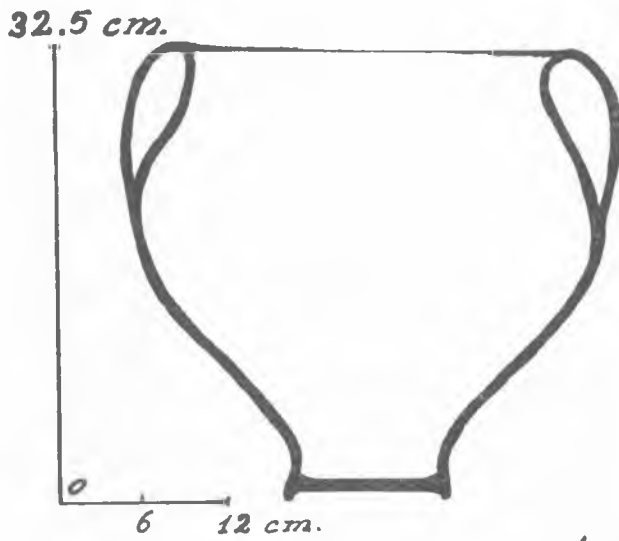
Orusajyan
1963-64



No. 1 : Krater Büyük Mezar Vazosu



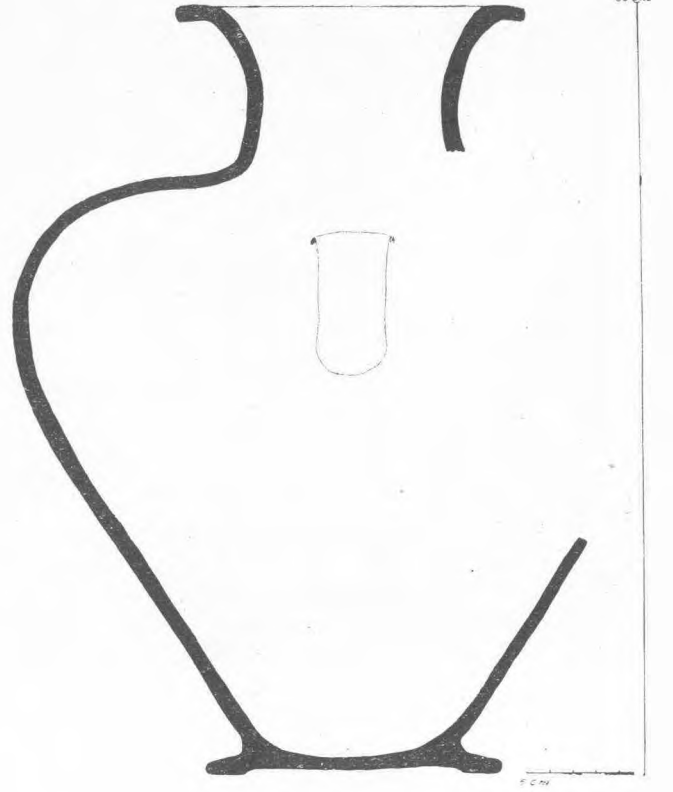
No. 1 Krater



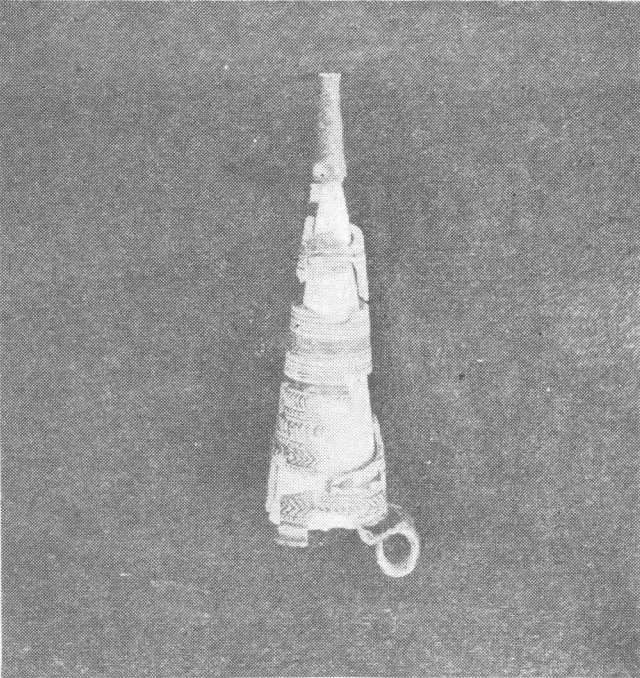
1. Mezar vazosu
KRATER



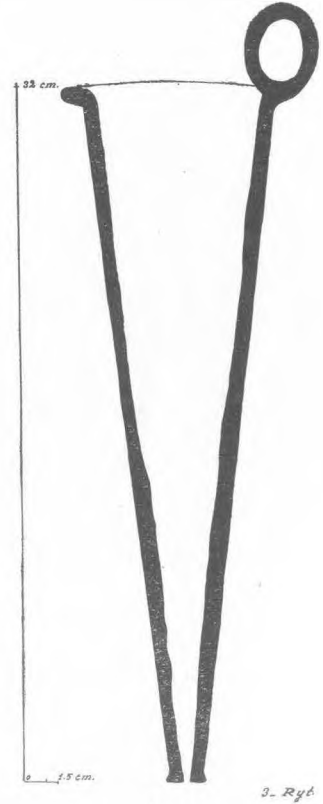
No. 2 : Krater, Çömlek



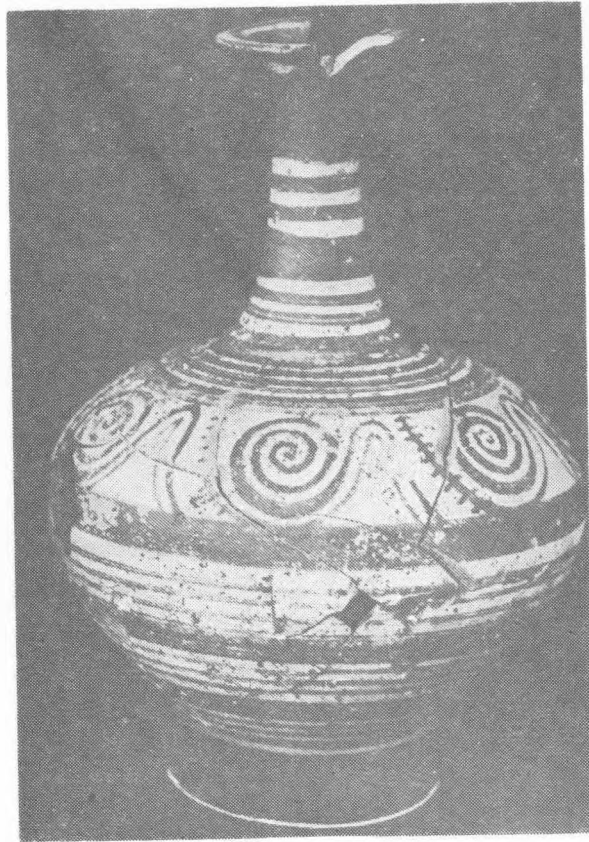
No. 2 : Krater



No. 3 : Ryton

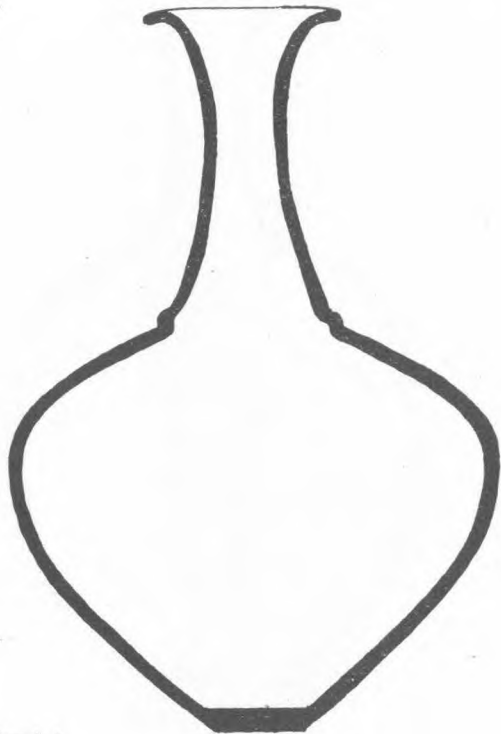


4 : Sürahi



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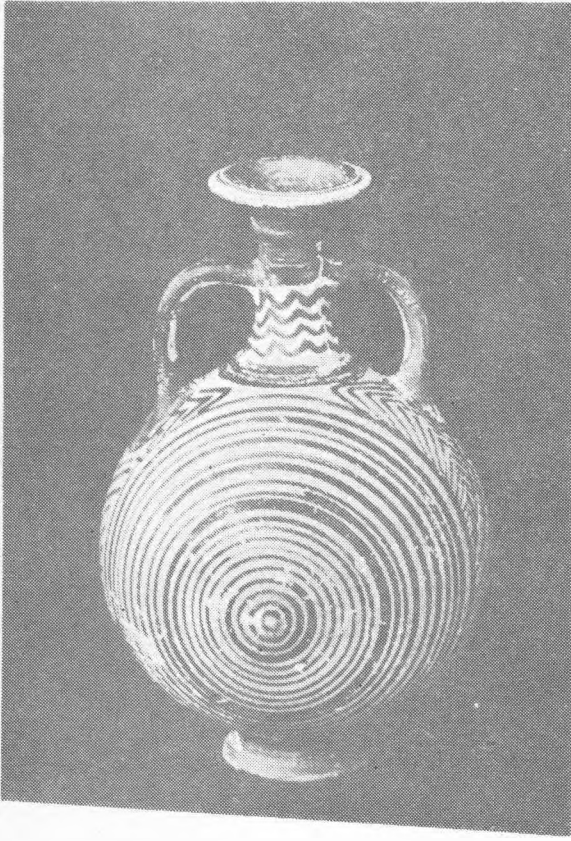
19 cm.



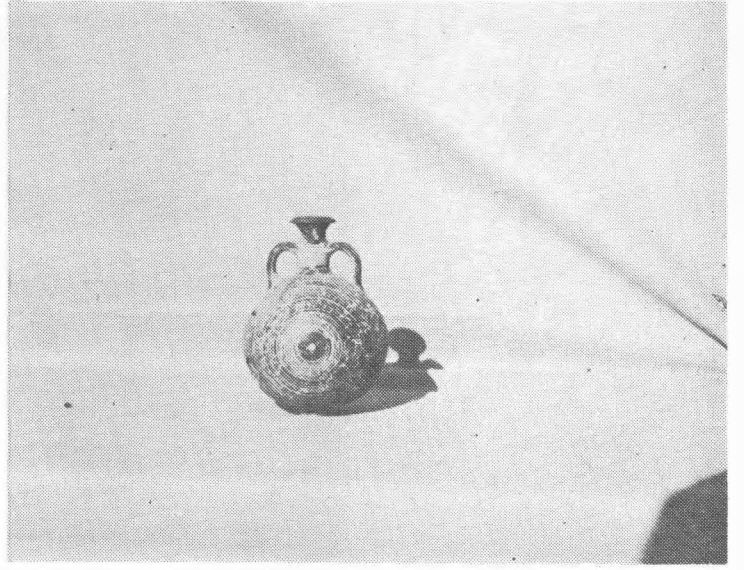
2.5 cm



4 - Sūrahi

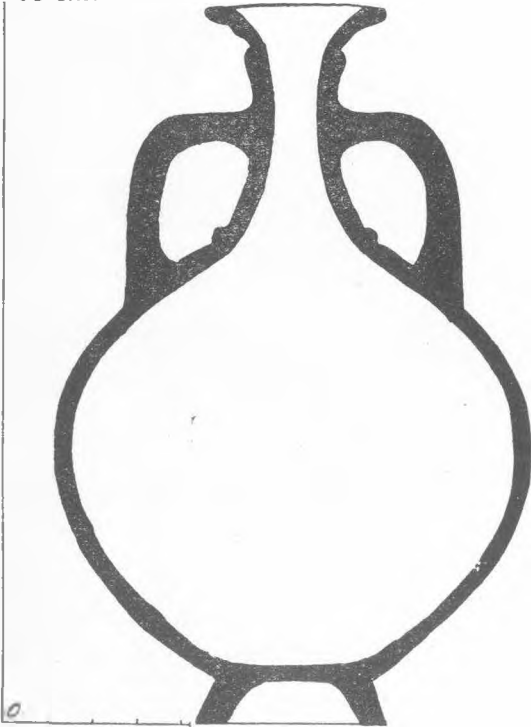


No. 5 : Kulplu matara şeklinde kap



No. 5 a : Bodrum - Misgebi

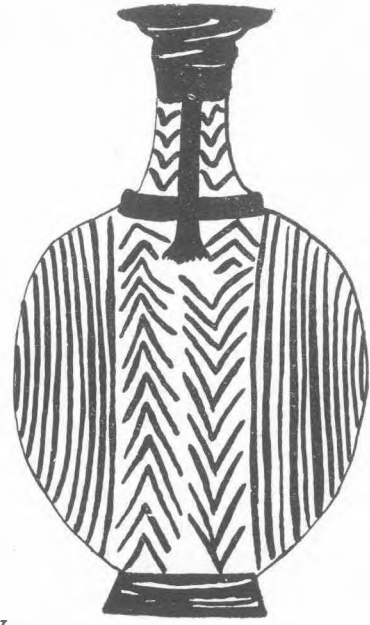
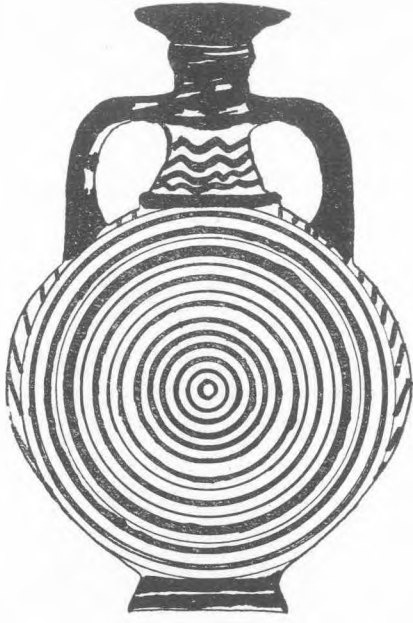
16 cm.



4,3 cm.



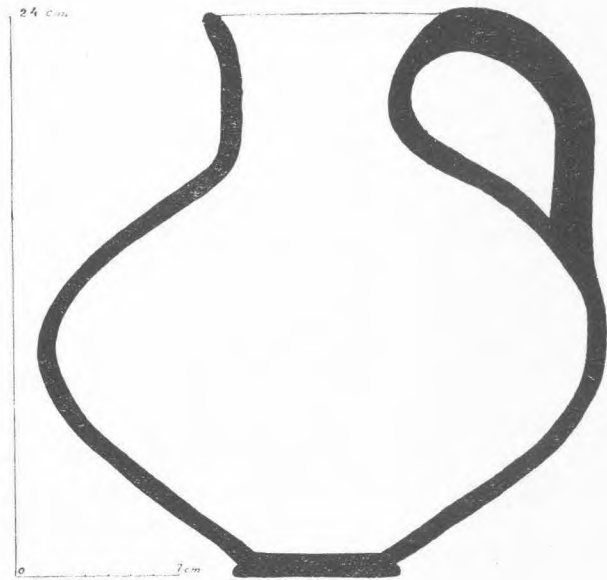
5- Malaramsı kap



5 - Mağaramsı kap



No. 6 : Gdk testi



6 : Testi