

OBJECTS FROM HOROZTEPE

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I

On September 28th, 1954, the Direction of Education at Tokat forwarded to the General Directorate of Antiquities and Museums a number of metal objects found at Horoztepe near Erbaa. The letter of the Director of Education and the objects themselves clearly showed the importance of Horoztepe. Nevertheless this site was not further investigated and the objects were neither cleaned nor published. In October 1956 the authors investigated and made a sketch plan of the ancient site; they also collected pottery from the surface which was deposited in the museum at Kayseri. They wish to thank the General Director of Antiquities and Museums, Mr. Kamil Su, especially for giving permission to publish the objects here. Such previous finds as the silver bull statuette published in *The Illustrated London News* No. 5031, September 21, 1935, said to be from excavations in N. Anatolia ¹; the treasure of Mahmatlar ² and the finds from Kayapınar Höyük ³ had already made it clear that in the district of Tokat-Amasya there is an abundance of parallels for the objects which came out of the Royal Tombs at Alacahöyük.

II

Horoztepe is a name given to a high place southeast of new Erbaa ⁴ and opposite Deremahalleşi (Sketch. 1). Here a natural hill exists which dominates the deep wadi of Inbat Deresi, a tributary of the Yeşil Irmak, and forms the continuation of the ridges which are separated from Erbaa by this valley (Fig. 1). This hill is not an artificial mound (hüyük). It is like a promontory of the high ground

¹ *AfO XI, 1936-37, p. 97 ff.* (D. Opitz).

² H. Koşay-M. Akok, *A treasure from Mahmatlar near Amasya, in Belleten 55. pp. 481 ff.*

³ R. Temizer, *Finds from Kayapınar Hüyük, Belleten 71, pp. 317 ff.*

⁴ After the recent earthquake the location of Erbaa has been changed.

overlooking the valley of the Yeşil Irmak. Nowadays Horoztepe and environs are all one tobacco field. In this area one finds an abundance of prehistoric potsherds, obsidian and flint tools, mortar and handmill stones. These clearly prove that there once was a flat settlement here. The cemetery in our sketchplan is new, viz. it began after the foundation of new Erbaa (Fig. 2). The objects studied by us had been found here in the earth at one m. depth from the surface when a tomb was dug for the late Receb, a cobbler. Although the objects undoubtedly were tomb gifts, it proved impossible to obtain reliable information as to whether human bones were found with them or not. Neither is it clear whether a wall and fragments of a coarse pot were seen in the hole or not. Such details can indeed hardly be observed in a small space during an excavation for a different purpose. Later on when we shall make our planned sounding here all these doubtful points will be clarified.

Nowadays we know the burial customs of the coastal region of N. Anatolia better than formerly. A small section of the cemetery at Tekeköy has been investigated, although the settlement near it has not yet been excavated ⁵. At Horoztepe, which is near Tekeköy and in the same geographical district, the area where the metal objects were found may well be exactly the cemetery of the flat settlement site nearby. We should, however, not forget that at Kale-doruğu and Kayapınar the dead were buried within the sites under house-floors ⁶. We could therefore expect the same custom at Horoztepe. For a final judgment in this matter we shall have to excavate.

III

Of the available objects all except two are made of copper or bronze. They have not yet been analyzed. The collection consists of thirteen pieces: one sun-standard ⁷, two figurines of bulls, one of

⁵ T. Özgüç, *Die Bestattungsbräuche im vorgeschichtlichen Anatolien*, Ankara 1948, p. 17 ff.

⁶ *Bestattungsbräuche* pp. 19 ff.

⁷ This object closely resembles the sun standards found at Alaca and will therefore be referred to here as a "Sun Standard". However, as Miss Machteld Mellink drew my attention, it will be better to refer to this object as a "sistrum, rather than a standard.

a deer, four daggers or spear-heads, one shaft-hole axe, two spear-heads, one chisel and one castanet. The sun-standard is in the form of a rectangular frame, divided in two in the middle (Figs. 3-6 and 26). The pieces forming the sides of the frame are joined at right angles and are rectangular in section. The left, middle and central uprights of the frame are each pierced with two holes which serve to fasten two parallel horizontal rods, thus dividing the frame into six apertures. Four, the upper and lower openings are narrow, the two central ones are wider. These rods are round in section and have rather long points curled up and down at the ends so they cannot slip out of the frame. Four rectangular plaques are fastened on these rods, two to the right and two to the left of the frame-divider. These flat strips move easily along the rods and jingle when shaken. The frame has a solid round handle ending in a pierced knob in the shape of a mace-head. Animal figurines are set on the flat edges of the two sides and top of the frame. On top, a stag with six-tiered antlers and ears walks behind three young or female deer. On each side there are two ibexes standing on the frame followed by a lion. One lion bites the tail of the ibex in front of him. The ibexes have ears and their horns are curved backwards, shorter than the deer's antlers; their necks and snouts are also different from the deer's. The stylistic features of the deer and ibexes, such as the absence of the rendering of hoofs, the stick-like short and heavy legs, the heavy necks, the featureless snouts, the type of antlers are identical with the style of the deer of Alacahöyük. On the lion, erect ears and eye-sockets are visible.

The following local peculiarities distinguish the Horoztepe objects from the standards of Alaca Hüyük:

a. Although we have a variety of types among the Alacahöyük standards ⁸, there are none like the one from Horoztepe with a single handle and a rectangular frame.

⁸ The standards at Alaca are in the shape of a circle, half circle and lozenge; they all have a double-pronged handle. R.O. Arık, *Alacahöyük Hafriyatı* 1935, pl. 191, 193, 195, 197, 199; H. Koşay, *Alacahöyük Hafriyatı* 1936, pl. 83, 51-52; 84, 50 and 90-91; H. Koşay, *Alacahöyük Kazısı* 1937-93, pl. 151-154, 173-174, 193-194.

b. Small movable and tinkling satellites may be added to the Alaca discs⁹, but their shapes are different from the four plaques inserted in the Horoztepe piece.

c. Some Alaca discs have small buds on the edge, or one or two satellites¹⁰, but none of them have a procession of stag, ibex and lions.

d. Alaca produced statuettes of bull and stag only, at Horoztepe we now also have the lion and ibex.

In spite of these differences; once one takes the wealth of shapes of the Alaca discs into account one can easily understand the sense of the changes in the Horoztepe type. The differences between the standards of the two sites are local variations based on essentially the same idea. It has to be added that the specimen from Horoztepe was not fixed permanently in a base but was meant to be held and moved by hand.

The bull figurines are of bronze. One has silver-lead plating on head, horns, forelegs and the front part of the body, the other on hindlegs, tail and hindpart of the body (Figs. 7-10 and 27-28). The technique of the plating is that of dipping a core of bronze in a mixture of molten lead and silver. The triangular inlay in the forehead of the bull is of pure silver, inserted in a prepared cavity. The legs, hoofs and fetlocks of the animals are modelled in slender form; the genitals are rendered on the plated hind part of the body. The mouth is marked by one small groove. The other details are also carefully worked: the long nose with a single wire passing through each nostril, representing the halter, the protruding eyes, the triangular spot on the wide forehead, the throat, chest muscles and articulations in general. The backward curve of the one remaining horn and the short pointed ears create a lively expression.

It is immediately obvious that these two bulls do not differ in style and technique from the bulls of Alacahöyük or the bull found in North Anatolia¹¹. The Horoztepe bulls however are smaller and were not fastened on a base but stood on their own legs.

⁹ *Alacahöyük Kazısı* 1937-39, pl. 154, 164 left; *Alacahöyük Kazısı* 1936, pl. 9

¹⁰ *Alacahöyük Kazısı* 1935, pl. 193; *Alacahöyük Kazısı* 1937-39, pl. 153, 1; 154, D 5; 163 and 164; *Alacahöyük Kazısı* 1935, pl. 265.

¹¹ *Alacahöyük Kazısı* 1936 pl. 97; *Alacahöyük Kazısı* 1937-39, pl. 130, 150, 162, 192; *AfO* XI, 1936-37, fig. 9.

The statuette of a stag (Figs. 11 and 29) has a short tail, longish-massive body, thick legs and four-forked antlers. The oval eye-sockets are made by piercing from end to end. This is a detail unknown at Alaca Hüyük. The mouth is marked by a shallow line, the ears are omitted. Our specimen is plain and unimposing in comparison with the larger and better worked statuettes of stags from Alacahüyük. It was possibly left in the tomb as a substitute for a large statuette. This stag again did not have a special base.

The most striking parallel with the Alaca objects is produced by the castanet from Horoztepe (Figs. 12 and 36). It has a central depression and a round pierced handle. As is well-known, such castanets were found at Alaca in large numbers, both of copper and of silver¹². This is the first time that the Alaca castanets are taken from their isolation. The fact that the Horoztepe castanet is single suggests that all the funeral gifts were not collected; some must have been left in the soil or lost. Our castanet is also very similar to a disc from Soloi-Pompeiopolis¹³ in the detail of the round pierced handle. This similarity is of chronological importance for the two find groups.

Recent finds of shaft-hole axes at Mahmatlar¹⁴, Kayapınar¹⁵, Polatlı¹⁶ and Karaz¹⁷ (Figs. 20 and 38) have provided parallels for the axes of Yortan¹⁸ and Ahlatlıbel¹⁹. These Early Bronze axes show various secondary types and local characteristics. Now Horoztepe adds a very interesting example. It is thinner and longer

¹² *Alalahöyük Kazısı 1937-39*, pl. 176.

¹³ K. Bittel, *Der Depotfund von Soloi-Pompeiopolis*, *ZA* XII, p. 198, fig. s 15-16.

¹⁴ *Belleten* 55, p. 485; pl. 40, 4. This is a battle axe with two sharp faces.

¹⁵ *Belleten* 71, p. 327, fig. 18.

¹⁶ S. Lloyd and Nuri Gökçe, *Excavations at Polatlı, Anatolian Studies* I, 1951, p. 61.

¹⁷ We want to thank Dr. H.Z. Koşay for his permission to publish here for the first time the axe found at Karaz near Erzerum. Similar axes often turn up in S. Russia, *RLV* XIII, pl. 21 b and in the Caucasus, C. F. A. Schaeffer, *Stratigraphie Comparée* fig. 284, 2.

¹⁸ K. Bittel, *Ein Gräberfeld der Yortan-Kultur bei Babaköy AfO* XIII, p. 16, fig. 16.

¹⁹ *TTAED* II, 1934, p. 95 with pl. 6.

than the other Anatolian axes. Near the shaft-hole the blunt part is flattened out like a hammer while the point is extended in a sharp projection (Figs. 15 a-b, and 37). In this detail our axe is unparalleled in Anatolia or Western Asia. An axe found in the region of Kiev ²⁰ is similar, although not identical.

There are four spear-heads or daggers of the same type; one intact, two with broken tangs, one with the tip missing (Figs 14, 16-19 and 30-33). Obviously these again represent shapes so far unknown in Anatolia. These weapons look more like spear-heads than like daggers. They have sharp flat tangs, their blades are three-faceted, narrow at the sides with a wide midrib, like the dagger of Anitta ²¹. In the upper part of the blades each has two rectangular slits as found in the Cypriote type of dagger or spear-head. The blades are articulated in four parts from top to point: they first widen, then narrow, then widen again and come down into a point. A large copper spear-head or dagger from Tepe Hissar III recalls our specimens, although its point is long and thin and its tang is different ²². Our weapons seem most closely related to the so-called Cypriote daggers although ours have no curved tangs and are differently profiled in blades.

One spear-head differs from the others in shape (Figs. 13 and 34): its tang has a curved tip and consists of a thin and a thick part. Its blade is shaped like a willow leaf with a profiled midrib. As proved by Schaeffer ²³ and Gordon ²⁴ this type of spearhead occurs in Anatolia, North Syria, Iran and the Caucasus. Our specimen adds a new intact item to the list.

The fragmentary piece with a midrib should rather belong to a large spear-head than to a dagger (Fig. 19).

Fig. 35 shows a long rod-type chisel with a sharp point, round section and rectangular butt. Similar items have been found at Düdartepe and Kaledoruğu (Fig. 21).

²⁰ *RLV XIII*, pl. 21 a.

²¹ T. Özgüç, *The dagger of Anitta*, *Belleten* 77, pp. 33 ff.

²² E. F. Schmidt, *Excavations at Tepe Hissar, Damghan*, pl. 50, H 2024.

²³ *Stratigraphie Comparée* p. 276 ff.

²⁴ D. H. Gordon, *The Chronology of the third cultural period at Tepe Hissar, Iraq XIII*, 1951, p. 48.

IV

The pottery collected on the surface is all handmade, the majority dark grey inside and out, black slipped and polished, or red inside, dark grey outside, black slipped; a minority is pale red slipped inside and out. The paste is tempered with fine particles of sand. The core of some pieces is grey, of some half grey, half red. The available fragments belong to jars with long necks, with relief ridges on the shoulders (Fig. 41); thin walled fruitstands (Fig. 43), handleless jars (Fig. 39); or thin vases with everted rims (Fig. 40). Both kinds of knob-handles occur: the small and the long-flattened kind (Figs. 44, 46). The plastic bands on vases are decorated on top with deep notches (Fig. 48). Bases are thick and flat (Fig. 42, 45, 47); among them we find bases of fruitstands (Fig. 45). Technique and shapes of these pots are identical with those found at Düdartepe in the last phase of the Copper Age²⁵. At Düdartepe we find associated with this type of Horoztepe ceramics large numbers of metal weapons, e. g. spear heads (of which we stressed the wide range and distribution)²⁶ (Fig. 25), arrowheads, flat axes resembling those of the tombs of Alacahüyük²⁷ and also new types of weapons peculiar to the Black Sea coastal regions. Among the finds from Horoztepe there are no weapons like the small daggers from Tekeköy or the larger daggers from Kaledoruğu (Figs. 22-23). According to the ceramic parallels Horoztepe is contemporary with the final phase of the Copper Age culture of Düdartepe. The metal tools confirm this.

V

In determining the date of the Horoztepe finds one has to consider three points:

a. The sun-standard, the bull and deer figurines and the castanet from Horoztepe are evidently contemporaneous with the Alacahüyük tombs. A large number of the tombs at Alacahüyük belong to the fifth level (A', B, D, H, R, T) viz. the last level before the

²⁵ T. Özgüç, *Results of the excavations at Samsun, 1941-42, (III. Türk Tarih Kongresi, Ankara 1948, p. 399 and Belleten 35, p. 369 ff.)*.

²⁶ *Belleten 35, p. 372 ff; Iraq XIII, 1951, p. 48 ff.*

²⁷ *Alacahöyük Kazısı 1937-39, pl. 135, 97-98, 167, E 8-9.*

fire; three (A, C, E) to the sixth level, the other three to level VII (F, K, L) ²⁸. H. Koşay is right in stating: "the tombs do not all belong to the same building level, although they are constructed on an inclined area" ²⁹. But among the six graves (F, K, L, A, C, E) which "overlie the walls of the eighth building level" it is dubious whether three indeed belong to level seven (F, K, L). These like the other three must rather belong to level six. In this case all the tombs at Alacahüyük belong to the last two building levels of the Copper Age (V and VI). The shapes of the tombs, burial customs and funeral gifts do not show any important changes which might prove a long duration of the cemetery. In our opinion the tombs of Alacahüyük belong to more than one generation, but hardly to more than two. One could suggest a time span of 100 years as the maximum; it may well have been shorter. According to the highest chronology, if Karum level I b belongs to c. 1840 B. C. ³⁰, we would suggest a date of 2150-2050 or 2200-2100 for the tombs of Alacahüyük and the finds from Horoztepe. Levels V and VI of Alacahüyük are contemporary with the oldest phase of the Alişar III culture at Kültepe-Kaniş and the last phase of what is called "Intermediate" at Alişar, which now is emerging as an important cultural phase at Kültepe.

b. North Syrian parallels³¹ for the metal tools from Horoztepe and Dündartepe, especially the spearheads and castanets, prevent raising the date proposed above, but rather recommend lowering it further. On the other hand, one has to keep in mind that in central and North Anatolia this date has to be earlier than Kaniş-Karum level IV.

c. The pottery from Dündartepe belongs to the same category as that of Horoztepe, which is consistent with the other results.

²⁸ *Alacahöyük Kazısı* 1937-39, p. 59.

²⁹ *Alacahöyük Kazısı* 1937-39, p. 12.

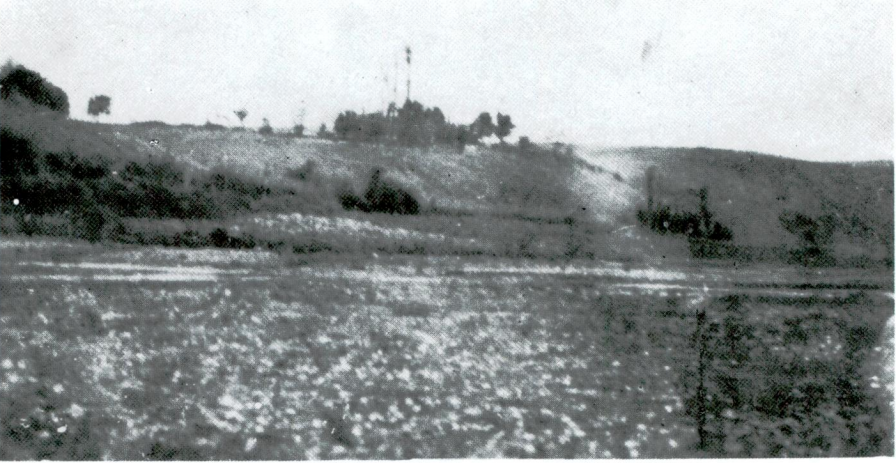
³⁰ K. Balkan, *Observations on the chronological problems of the Karum Kanis*, Ankara 1955.

³¹ D. H. Gordon, *Iraq XIII*, 1951, p. 48 ff; R. Maxwell-Hyslop, *Daggers and sword, in Western Asia, Iraq VIII*, 1946, p. 30; *Soloi-Pompeiopolis*, *ZA XII*, p. 204.

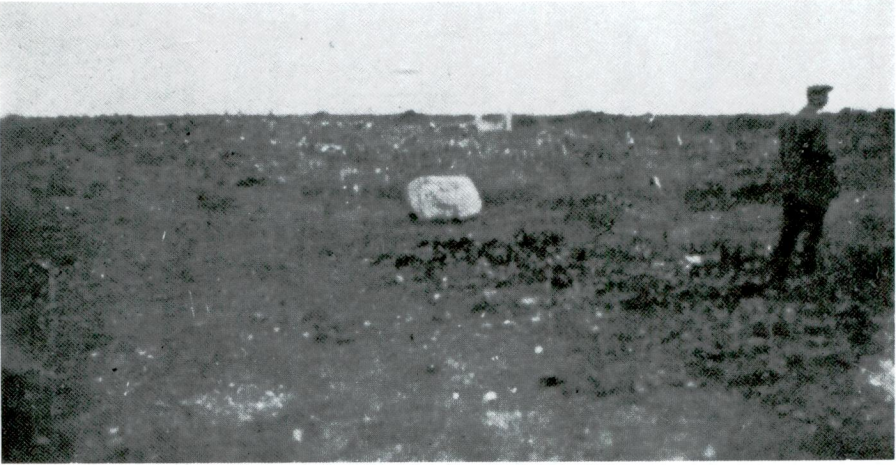
The general inclination nowadays tends to date the royal tombs of Alacahüyük to the last centuries of the third millennium B.C. ³². Raci Temizer stated very appropriately that "rich tombs like those of Alacahüyük which are found in the Northern area in the transition from steppes to forest, also possibly will be found in the region of Çorum - Amasya-Tokat" ³³. Our communication has confirmed this view. If excavations are undertaken at Tekeköy, Mahmatlar or Horoztepe they may well bring to light rich tombs of the Alaca Hüyük variety.

³² *Stratigraphie Comparée*, p. 291 ff, 301: chart. K. Bittel, *Zur Chronologie der anatolischen Frühkulturen*, *Reinecke Festschrift* 1950, p. 20; Maxwell-Hyslop, *Iraq* VIII, 1946, p. 30

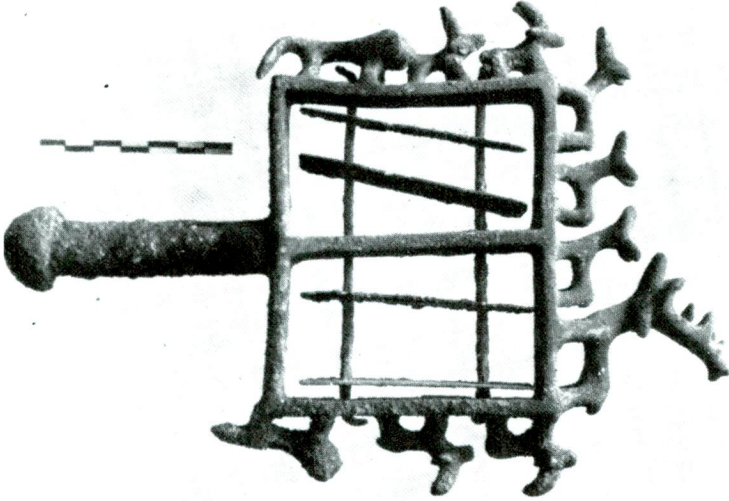
³³ *Bulleten* 71, p. 330.



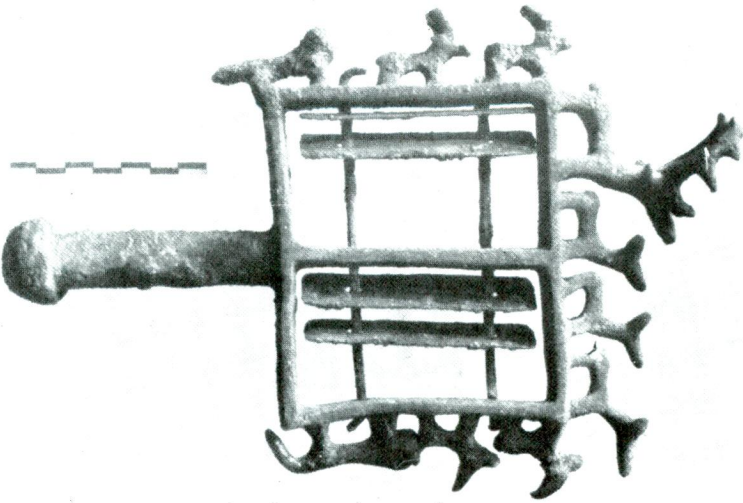
Res. 1 — Fig. 1



Res. 2 — Fig. 2



Res. 4 — Fig. 4



Res. 3 — Fig. 3



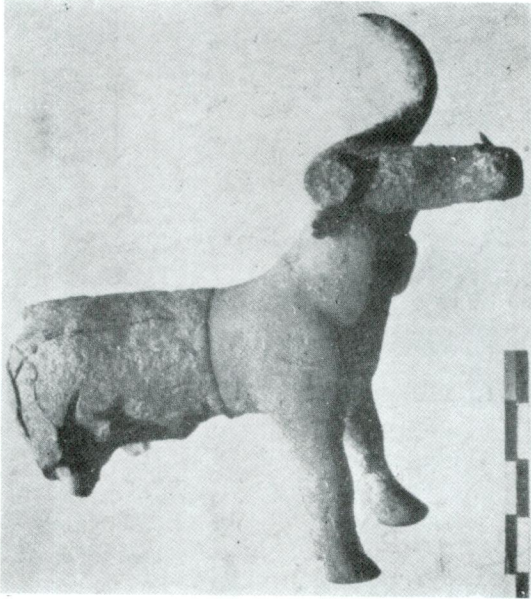
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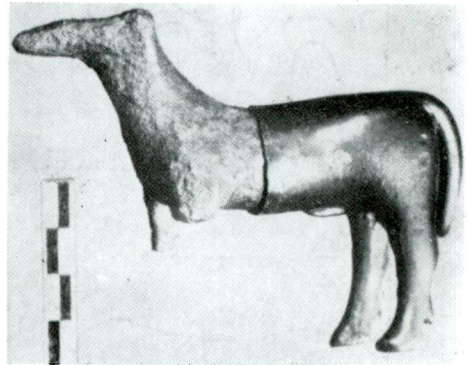
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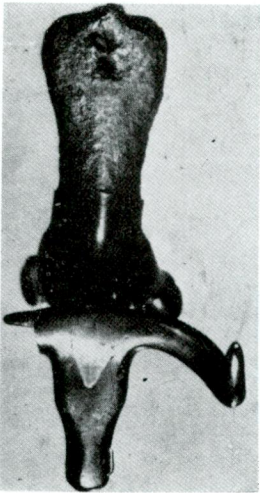
Res. 7 — Fig. 7



Res. 8 — Fig. 8



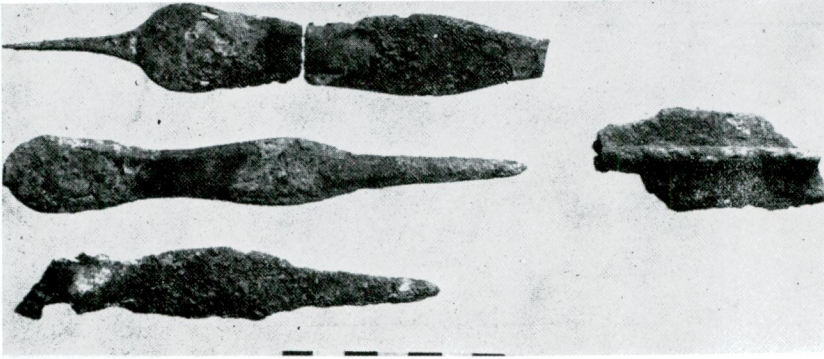
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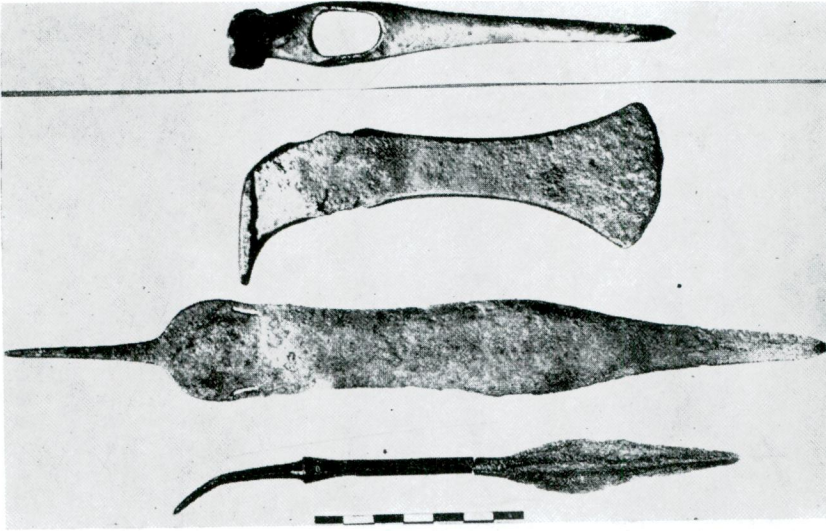
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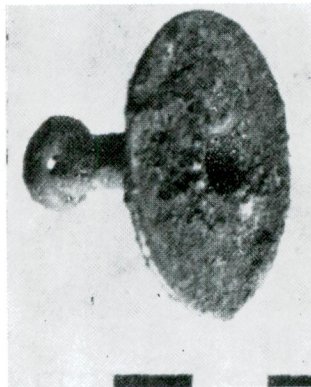
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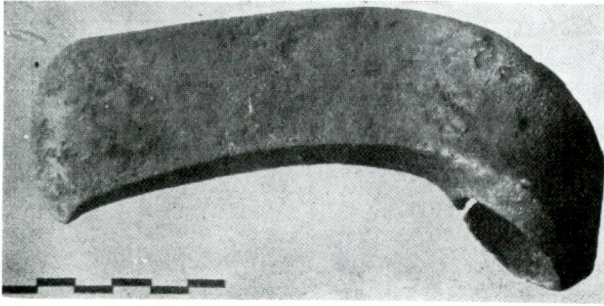
Res. 16 - 19 — Fig. 16 - 19



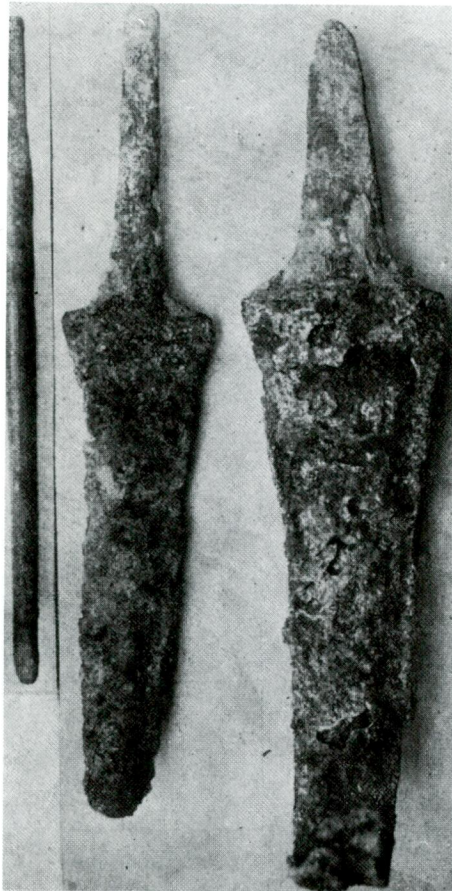
Res. 13 - 15^{a-b} — Fig. 13 - 15^{a-b}



Res. 12 — Fig. 12



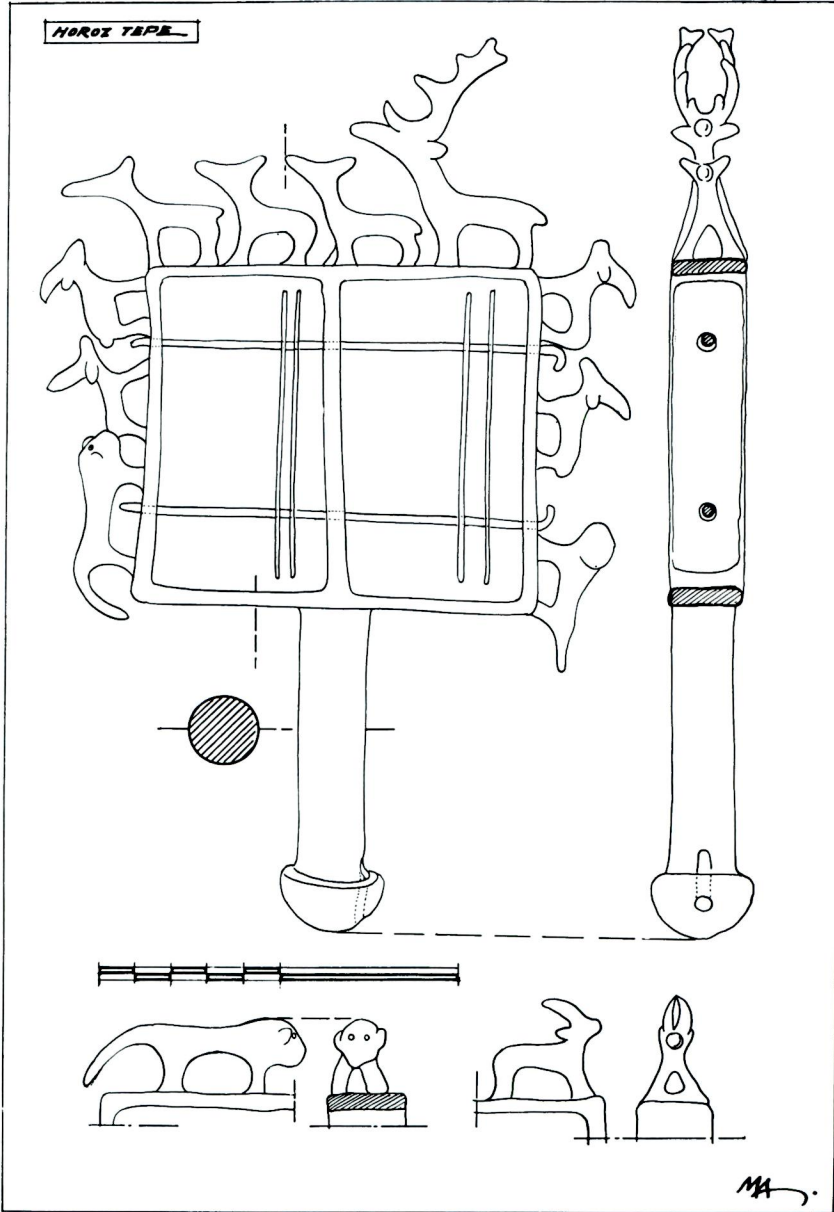
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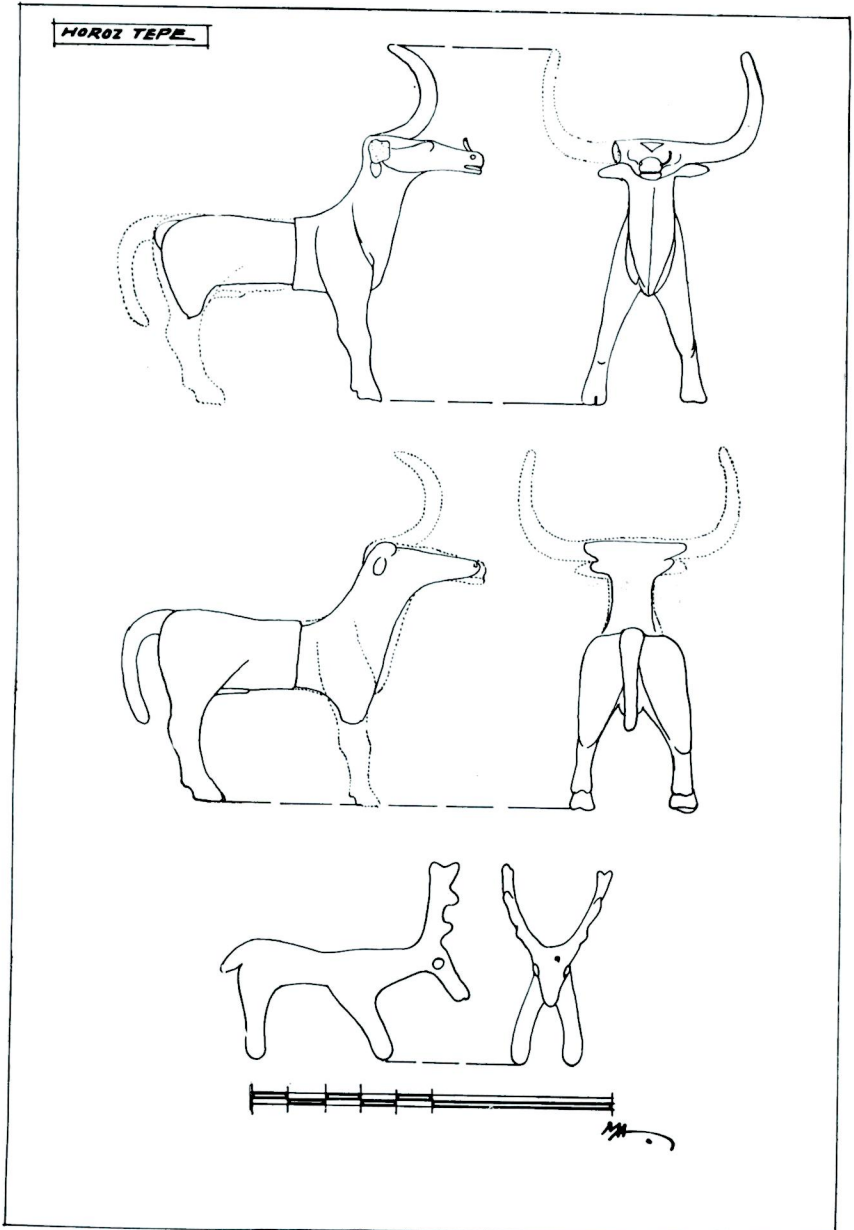
Res. 21 - 23 — Fig. 21 - 23



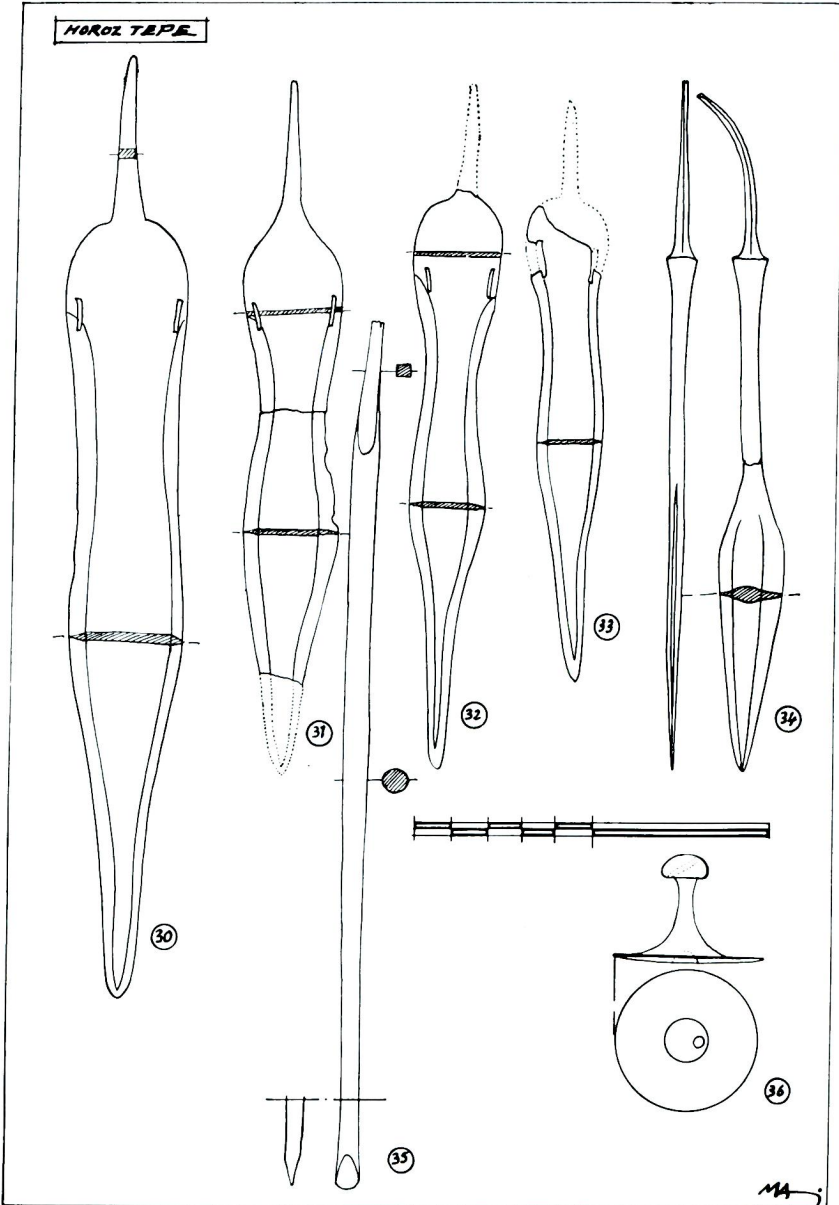
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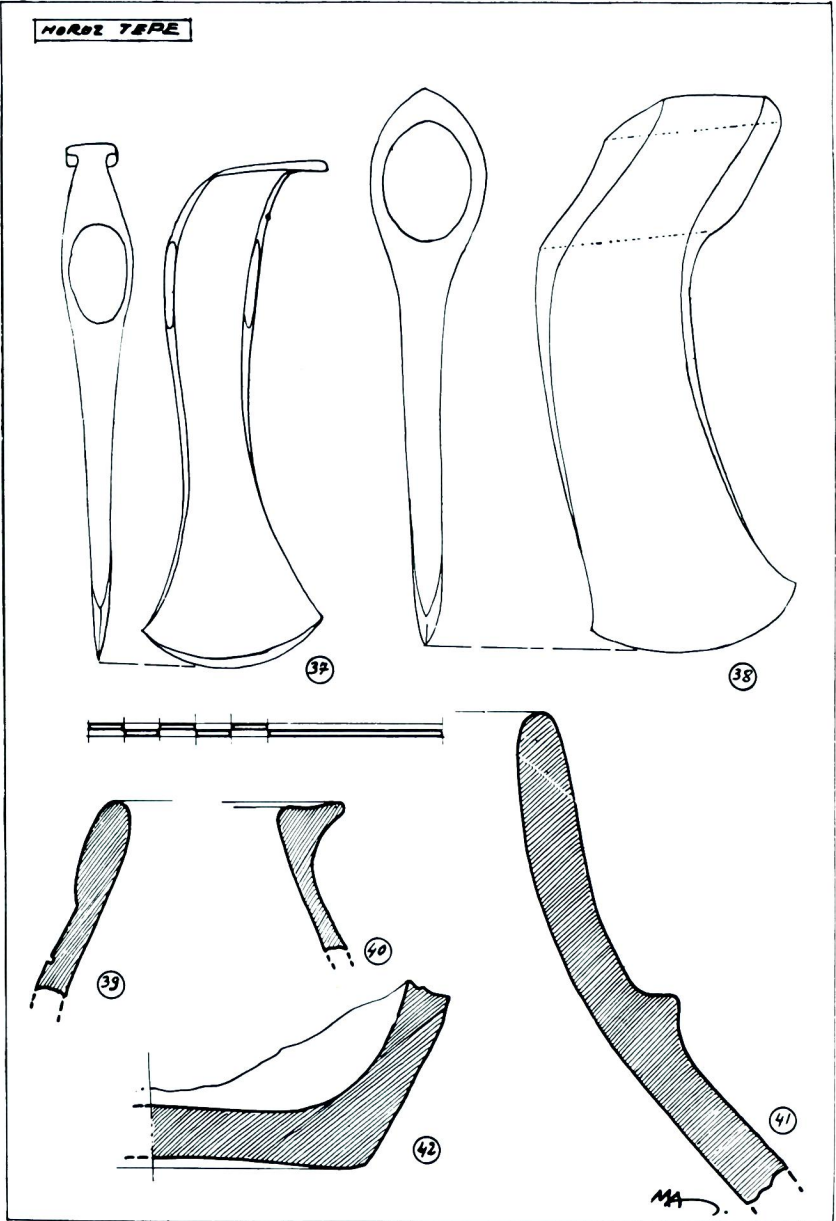
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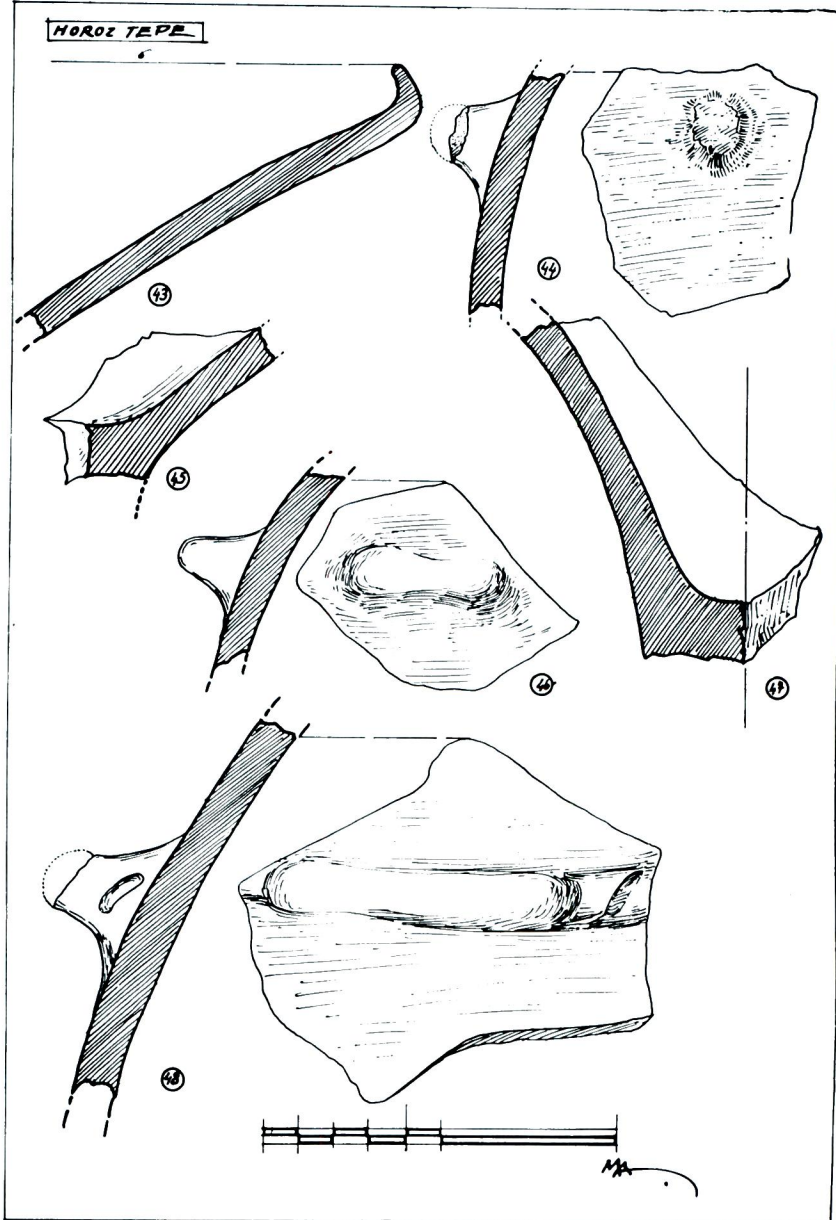
Rcs. 27-29 — Fig. 27-29



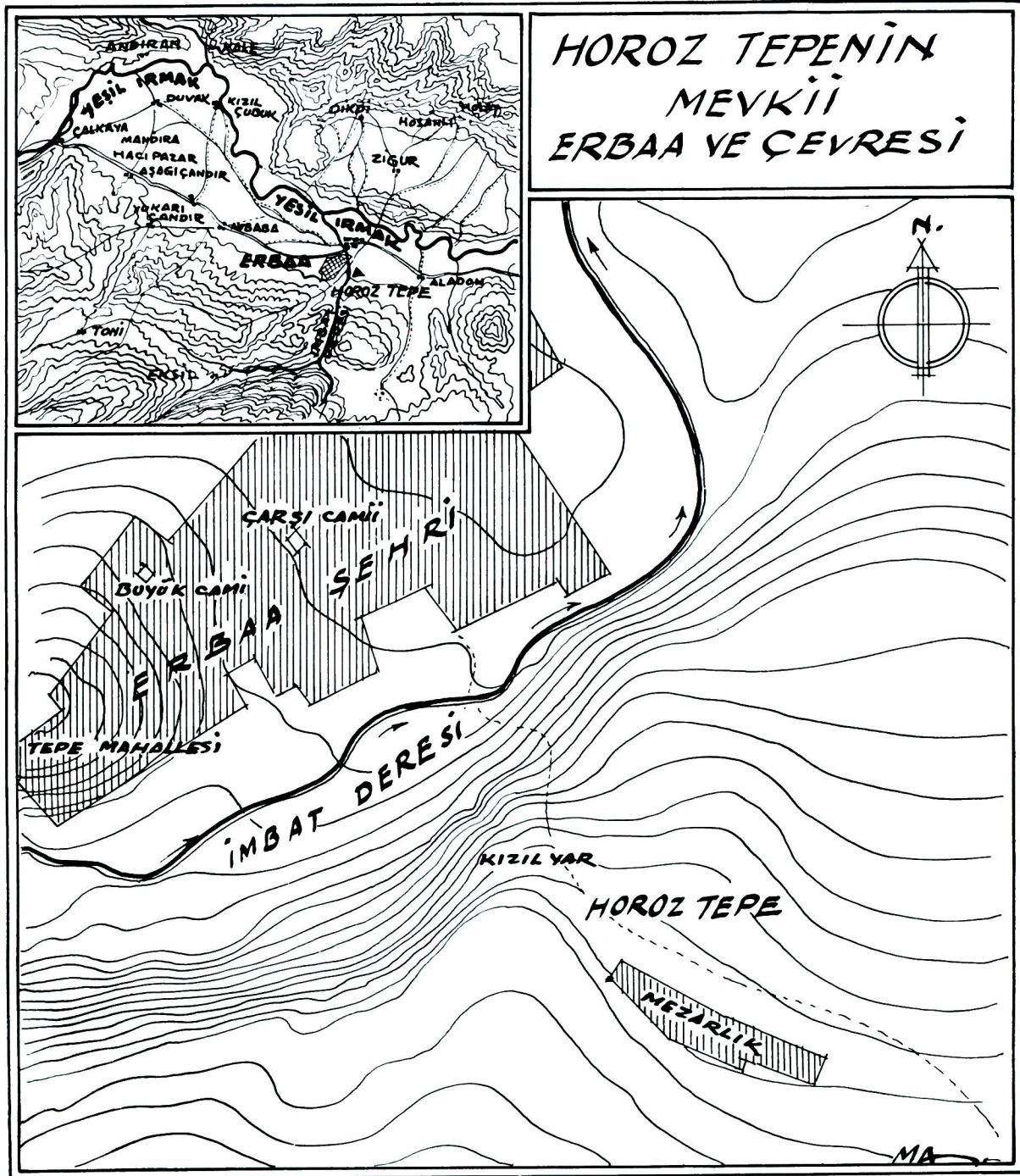
Res. 30 - 36 — Fig. 30 - 36



Res. 37 - 42 — Fig. 37 - 42



Res. 43 - 48 — Fig. 43 - 48



Kroki 1 — Map 1