

**A STUDY COLLECTION FOR THE MIDDLE
AND LATE BRONZE AGE POTTERY
FROM GÖZLÜ KULE-TARSUS**

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ABSTRACT

From September through December 2000, with a research permit from the Turkish Department of Culture and Museums and a grant from the American Research Institute in Turkey and the National Endowment for the Humanities, a study collection of the Middle and Late Bronze Age pottery from Gozlu Kule-Tarsus was set up in the Ethnographic Museum in Adana. The pottery was arranged by architectural level on the one hand and by type/shape on the other. This pottery was excavated between 1935 and 1938. By 1948, the pottery (almost all unpublished) from the Goldman (1956) excavations had been sorted by shape and/or surface decoration and stored in the current Ethnographic Museum in Adana. It has now been sorted into two series of boxes for ease of access by scholars interested in the period. These boxes have recently been moved to the excavation house in Tarsus.

Key Words: Tarsus, Gözlükule, Pottery, Middle Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age.

**TARSUS GÖZLÜ KULE ORTA VE GEÇ TUNÇ ÇAĞI SERAMİK
KOLLEKSİYONUNDA BİR ÇALIŞMA**

ÖZET

Bu çalışmanın konusunu Tarsus-Gözlükule Orta ve Geç Tunç Çağı Seramikleri oluşturmaktadır. Çalışmaya ilk önce Kültür Bakanlığı'ndan gerekli izinler alınarak başlandı. Araştırma National Endowment for the Humanities ve ARIT desteği ile gerçekleştirildi.

Eylül 2000' de başlayan ve Aralık ayı başında sonuçlanan çalışmada, 1985-86 yılında incelenen seramikler tekrar düzenlenip, her bir seramik parçasının çok yönlü sistemde etiketlenmesi amaçlandı.

Adana Etnoğrafya Müzesi'nin deposunda yer alan seramikler genel biçim ve özelliklerine göre sınıflandırılarak, kutulara yapıştırılan etiketler üzerine tipleri yazıldı. Ayrıca açıklayıcı listeler hazırlandı ve kutuların içerisine yerleştirildi. Listeler "tarihli" ve "tarihsiz" olmak üzere iki grup halinde oluşturuldu. Tarihli listedeki seramikler 1987 yılında tarafımdan hazırlanan rapor sonuçlarından, bir tabaka buluntuları ele alınarak; tarihsiz liste ise sadece buluntu yerleri belirtilerek hazırlandı. Arka depoda yer alan başka bir kutu seti ise, tarihli seramik kutusundan seçilen seramiklerden oluşturuldu. Etiketlere buluntu tabakaları yazılarak, tabaka bilgileri için ayrı bir dosya hazırlandı (bu kırmızı dosya ön depodadır). Arka depodaki son sınıflama için fotoğraf ya da çizim önceden hazırlandı. Bu çok yönlü etiketleme sistemi çalışması ile kazıdan bulunan katalog numaralı seramik parçalarını bulmak daha da kolaylaşmış oldu. Şimdi

bu seramik kasaları Tarsus Gözlükule kazısı depolarında koruma altına alınmıştır (Özyar, 2005).

Anahtar Kelimeler: Tarsus, Gözlükule, Seramik, Orta Tunç Çağı, Geç Tunç Çağı.

From September through December 2000, with a research permit from the Turkish Department of Culture and Museums and a grant from the American Research Institute in Turkey and the National Endowment for the Humanities, I worked in the Ethnographic Museum in Adana with the Middle and Late Bronze Age pottery from the Gözlü Kule-Tarsus excavation (Goldman, 1956). This pottery was excavated between 1935 and 1938. By 1948, the pottery (almost all unpublished) from the Goldman excavations had been sorted by shape and / or surface decoration and stored in the current Ethnographic Museum in Adana. There it sat in half fuel cans or wooden flats until 1985-86 when I was given permission to study it and was able to do so using a Fulbright Grant. At that time, however, I was only shown one of two storerooms at the Ethnographic Museum (that one containing the wooden flats). Therefore, unknowingly, my dissertation (Slane, 1987) only included about 1/3 of the material in storage in Adana. In the fall of 2000, with the help of a grant from the American Research Institute in Turkey and the National Endowment for the Humanities and with the kind permission of the Department of Cultural Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, I was able to clean, examine and re-package all the extant Middle and Late Bronze Age pottery from Gözlü Kule-Tarsus.

The sorting by shape and surface treatment that was undertaken in the 1940's was excellently done. My job was merely to make this material more accessible to modern scholars. Therefore, except where I disagreed with the place that a piece was stored (extremely rare occurrence and probably occasioned by transfer of pieces from one open box to another over the intervening years), all I have done is to provide newer, cleaner closed containers for the material as well as inventories of the contents of each box. The new containers are in two sets: a large number of diagnostic sherds stored by shape or surface decoration (Shape boxes), and a smaller number stored by architectural level (Level boxes) (studied by me in 1985-86).

The fronts of the boxes in the first set are labeled with a general shape or treatment designation. The following is a list of all the categories of shapes which the material dictated that it be sorted into:

ATCHANA WARE
BASES OF JARS/JUGS
BASIN WITH TRUMPET SPOUT
BASINS
BASINS (ONE WITH TRUMPET SPOUT)
BATHTUB FRAGMENTS AND OTHER LARGE PIECES
BOWLS
BOWLS WITH LUG HANDLES OR FLANGES
BOWLS WITH MATT RED SLIPPED BANDS ON RIM
BOWLS WITH VERTICAL HANDLES
BOWLS/BASINS WITH LUG HANDLES OR FLANGES

BURNISHED -- SPECIAL SHAPES
BURNISHED BOWLS
BURNISHED CARINATED BOWLS
BURNISHED CUPS
BURNISHED HANDLES
BURNISHED JARS
BURNISHED PITCHERS
BURNISHED PLATES/SHALLOW BOWLS
CARINATED BOWLS
CHALICES/PEDESTAL BASES
COOKING POTS (FOUR BOXES)
CUP
CUT-OUT AND IMPRESSED WARE
CYPRIOTE MILK BOWLS (WHITE SLIP)
GROOVED JARS AND BOWLS
HITTITE BURNISHED WARE
HITTITE RED GLAZE -- LB
HITTITE RED GLAZE WARE
HITTITE SYMBOLS INCISED
HOLE-MOUTH JARS
INCISED WARE
JAR (FIVE BOXES)
JAR – LBII
JAR - MB
JAR HANDLES
JAR RIMS
JAR WITH INCISED DECORATION
JAR WITH PAINTED RIM BANDS -- LBI
JAR/JUG BASES
JARS (LB)
JARS (MB&LB)
JARS (MB)
JARS (UNDATED)
LARGE PITCHERS
LARGE PLATTERS
LB PAINTED WARE (TWO BOXES)
LB PAINTED WARE -- DATED
**LB-IA TRANSITIONAL PAINTED WARE (RED GRITTY FABRIC WITH
ORANGE PAINT)**
LBII PLATES
LIDS
MB HANDMADE BOWLS
MB PAINTED IN LB CONTEXT OR UNSTRATIFIED
MB PAINTED PITCHER
MB PAINTED WARE
MB PAINTED WARE -- DATED

MB RED GRITTY WARE
MB RED POLISHED WARE
MBA/LBA PAINTED WARE -- UNDATED
MB-LBI PLATES
MINIATURE BEAKERS
MINIATURE JARS
MINIATURE BOWLS
MINIATURE PLATES
MISCELLANEOUS BURNISHED SHERDS
NON-LOCAL PAINTED WARE
ONE-HANDLED CARINATED BOWLS
PAINTED BEAK SPOUTS
PAINTED BOWLS
PAINTED BOWLS (DATED)
PAINTED BOWLS (UNDATED)
PAINTED JARS – LBII
PAINTED JARS -- MB-LBI
PAINTED JARS – UNDATED (THREE BOXES)
PAINTED JARS (DATED) (TWO BOXES)
PAINTED PITCHERS
PAINTED WARE - LB
PITCHER
PITCHERS
PITCHERS/JUGS
PLATES (THREE BOXES)
PLATES (UNDATED)
POLYCHROME PAINTED WAVY LINE WARE
RED POLISH - SPECIAL SHAPES
RED POLISHED BOWLS
RED POLISHED WARE
SIEVES AND STRAINERS
SMALL JARS/CUPS
SMALL JARS/JUGS
SMALL JARS/JUGS/CUPS
STORAGE JARS -- PEG TOES
SMALL PAINTED JARS/JUGS
SPECIAL SHAPES
STORAGE JAR (THREE BOXES)
STORAGE JAR (37.930, GOLDMAN 1956: #892)
STORAGE JAR BASES
STORAGE JAR HANDLE
STORAGE JARS
TEAPOTS
THIN-WALLED BOWLS
THIN-WALLED CUPS
TRANSITIONAL PAINTED WARE

**TRANSITIONAL PAINTED WARE - LB
TRUMPET SPOUTS, OTHER SPOUTS, CARINATED FLASKS
TWISTED HANDLES (TWO BOXES)
WAVY-LINE PAINTED SHERDS**

Inside the boxes, I have provided inventories of the contents of each box by find spot. Where possible, I have started each list with those pieces for which datable contexts are preserved. Thus, a single list will usually have two parts: the first dated and the second not. The dated pieces were not transferred into the boxes sorted by level because it was thought that their presence with the undated pieces might prove useful.

It was not thought necessary to delve too deeply into separating the dated from the un-dated pieces in the Shape boxes because the second set of boxes contains that material which I used when unraveling the Gözlü Kule levels in my dissertation (Slane, 1987). Thus, if one is interested mainly in a view of the development of the ceramic repertoire at Tarsus through firmly dated pieces, one should be concerned with those boxes labeled by Level (i.e., A.I, A.II, B.IX1). These levels correspond to the levels that I established in 1987 (Slane, 1987: 472-473 for a chart summarizing my findings and suggesting a possible relative chronology linked to other major sites in Anatolia) (A copy of my dissertation is available in the Adana Bölge Müzesi library).

For further assistance in using the pottery from the Middle and Late Bronze Ages from Tarsus, I have provided various lists and files which I hope will answer any questions that those unfamiliar with the various numbering systems, to which this pottery as been subjected over the years, will find useful. These lists have been left in their own container with the pottery. A copy of them has also been provided to the Bölge Müzesi library in Adana (blue binder), the ARIT library in Ankara (on disk) and to the Bryn Mawr College Tarsus Archive Project (on disk).

1. Copy of the original list of lot numbers preserved from the Goldman excavations in the 1930's. (Not all of these lists were preserved. Markedly absent are all lot numbers for Section B.)
2. List of all lot numbers for which firm relative dates have been established. (This list is derived from, but not confined to, my dissertation catalogue.)
3. List of all the catalogued pieces of pottery from the Middle and Late Bronze Ages which were accessible to me by 2000. This list includes information about the current location (if known) of these pieces as well as a cross reference to the number used for each piece in Goldman (1956). For most of these pieces, unfortunately, one is confined to that information provided in the 1956 publication since the pieces in question could not be located in 2000. (It is rumored that they may have been transferred to the museum in Mersin in the early 1990s, but I have, so far, been unable to confirm this. I was also unable to find them in 1985-86, years before the suggested transfer.)
4. File of plans of the Middle and Late Bronze Age levels so that find spots can be confirmed. (These tend to be quite small and difficult to read but since the original site plans were not preserved, it is the best that can be done.)

The Tarsus pottery of the MBA and LBA has been studied several times over the decades that have passed since its excavation. The original excavators, the group which worked on the material after World War II, various scholars, and I have all subjected the pottery to analysis. The kinds of numbers that appear on the individual pieces of pottery reflect the history of their study.

1. Lot numbers: These numbers start with "A" or "E" or "B," reflecting their excavation from Section A or B at Gözlü Kule from 1935-1938. The "A" numbers are the most plentiful and come from Levels A.I-X or MBA-LBII. The "E" numbers also come from Section A but are only from the "Hittite Temple" level and higher (A.IX-A.X). The "B" numbers come from Section B and are from the last levels of the mansions in that area, their destruction debris and the subsequent rebuilding (B.IX.1-B.X).
2. Find Spots: Some pieces are labeled with descriptive find spots. The most common of these are designations for intrusions. These can be given either with "Int." followed by a year/number or with just the year/number (Int. 37/6 or 37/6). Other pieces have long designations such as "On wall E. of Staircase Room." These designations, again, were probably put on the pottery during the excavation process.
3. Catalogue Numbers: Some pieces have catalogue numbers such as "36.546." For some of these numbers, the original catalogue cards are preserved at the Bryn Mawr College Tarsus Archive. However, only some numbers between 36.203 and 38.1735 are preserved on these cards. In some cases, a piece can be matched with a published piece and, therefore, its original find spot may be retrievable. In other cases, the catalogue number is accompanied by a lot number, so the original find spot is known. In most cases, however, no find spot at all is preserved. These numbers may have been added to the pieces by the team working at Tarsus in the 1940's.
4. "P" numbers: There is no record preserved at all which tells us what these numbers represent. They are mostly found on very well preserved pieces and are often accompanied by catalogue numbers. By themselves, they tell us nothing about the original find spot.
5. "Aç" numbers: I have no idea what these numbers represent. There are, fortunately, very few of them. It is even possible, I suppose, that they are not Tarsus numbers at all though the pottery itself is indistinguishable from the normal Tarsus fabric.
6. Numbers: In many cases, the only designation is a number such as "323" with no designation of section. In some cases, the number logically corresponds to a Section B number and so was identified with any locus information available. But in most cases, there is no way to tell where these pieces were found.
7. Other: Many pieces are merely labeled "Tarsus" or "L.B." or such. When these designations are given in English, I assume that they were so labeled during the excavation itself or during the study of the pottery in the 1940's. When these designations are given in Turkish (Orta Bronz), I have no idea who is responsible nor where the information comes from as they are never accompanied by any of the other series of numbers.

8. Box Numbers: The pottery in the rear storeroom of the Ethnographic Museum in Adana which I studied in 1985-6 was stored in wooden boxes. I labelled each box with a letter, A-Z. Within each box, I then further labelled each piece with a number, producing, therefore, such designations as Box B#12 in my 1987 catalogue (Slane, 1987). I have had these pieces labeled with box letter-number (i.e. K8) to correspond to this. These numbers appear on a white background to make them easier to spot amongst the often numerous designations already on some pieces. These pieces will only be found in the Shape boxes.
9. "87" Numbers: Each piece in the "Level" boxes has been labeled with a number corresponding to its place in my catalogue (Slane, 1987). These numbers appear in a white background.

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