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ACHAEMENID BOWLS FROM SEYİTÖMER HÖYÜK

Gökhan COŞKUN*

ABSTRACT

This paper presents a general review of Achaemenid bowls, followed by an analysis of diagnostic pottery from Seyitömer Höyük.

The bowls named as Achaemenid Bowls were the most popular drinking bowls used in the Persian Empire. Beside the examples, which were generally made of valuable metals like gold, silver and bronze, there are also glass and ceramic imitations of these metal products.

Up to the present time, twenty-three sherds have been typologically categorized as Achaemenid bowls. Seventeen of these fragments will be presented and discussed in this study. All these fragments have been grouped based on their fabric color as Red Ware and Gray Ware and belong to shallow and deep types.

With the exception of three sherds, which come from the Hellenistic level, all examples have been found in the Achaemenid levels. The usage of these bowls started as early as the 5th century BC at Seyitömer Höyük and continued on into the Hellenistic period.

For the time being it is impossible to identify the centre of production for these examples, but their small quantity suggests that they may have been imported from other centres.

Keywords: Achaemenid, Bowl, Ceramic, Persian, Seyitömer, Anatolia.

ÖZET

Seyitömer Höyük'ten Akhaemenid Kaseler

Bu çalışmada Akhaemenid kaseler hakkında genel bir bilgi verilmekte ve daha sonra Seyitömer Höyük'ten ele geçen örneklerin değerlendirilmesi yapılmaktadır.

Akhaemenid Kase olarak anılan kaseler Pers İmparatorluğu içerisinde kullanılan en popüler içki kaseleriydi. Genellikle altın, gümüş ve bronz gibi değerli metallere üretilen bu kaselerin seramik imitasyonları da üretilmiştir.

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Seyitömer Höyük buluntuları arasında bugüne kadar toplam yirmi üç adet seramik Achaemenid kaseye ait parça tespit edilebilmiştir. Söz konusu bu buluntu grubu, bu çalışmada on yedi örnek ile temsil edilmektedir. Mevcut buluntular hamurlarına göre, kırmızı ve gri mallar olmak üzere, başlıca iki gruba ayrılmaktadır. Bunlar içerisinde Achaemenid kaselerin hem derin tipini hem de sığ tipini görebilmekteyiz.

Mevcut örneklerin üçü Hellenistik Dönem tabakasından, diğerleri ise Achaemenid Dönem tabakasından ele geçmiştir. Bu kaselerin Seyitömer Höyük'te M.Ö. 5. yüzyıl başlarından itibaren, Hellenistik Dönem içlerine kadar kullanıldığı görülmektedir.

Bu merkezden ele geçen Akhaemenid kaselerin üretim yeri hakkında bir çıkarım yapmak ise şimdilik mümkün değildir. Fakat çok fazla sayıda ele geçmemiş olmaları sebebi ile bunların başka bir (veya birkaç) merkezden ithal edilmiş olabileceği düşünülebilir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Akhaemenid, Kase, Seramik, Pers, Seyitömer, Anadolu.

Seyitömer Höyük in inland West Anatolia, 25 km. northwest of the Kütahya city centre, is located within the Seyitömer Lignite Enterprise reserve site (SLI), in the very same location as the old Seyitömer Town.

The dimensions of the höyük are given as 150 x 140 m and its original height is 23.5 m. In order to safeguard the 12 million tons of the coal reserve underlying the höyük, the rescue excavations were conducted for the first year by the Eskişehir Museum¹ and between 1990-1995 by the Afyon Museum². After an interval, the excavations started again in 2006 and have continued systematically under the directorship of Prof. Dr. A. Nejat Bilgen from Dumlupınar University, Department of Archaeology³.

At Seyitömer Höyük, under the Roman and Hellenistic Levels, 5th and 4th centuries BC deposits have been located and are referred to as Level III. It is known that Anatolia had been under Persian control for over two-hundred years, from 547/6, the capture of Sardis by the Achaemenid King Cyrus, which ended with the fall of the Lydian Kingdom, until the 334 BC Battle of Granicus, which took place between the Macedonian and Persian armies.

¹ Aydın 1991,191-204.

² Topbaş 1992, 11-34; Topbaş 1993, 1-30; Topbaş 1994, 297-310; Ilaslı 1996, 1-20.

³ Bilgen 2008, 321-332; Bilgen 2009, 71-88; Bilgen - Coşkun - Bilgen 2010, 341-354.

The whole region around Seyitömer Höyük is known to have been under Persian control in the 5th and 4th centuries BC (well into 334 BC). Supported by the historical evidence and the finds from the excavation, the 5th and 4th centuries BC deposits, which represent Level III, are referred to as the Achaemenid Settlement Period of the höyük.

The Achaemenid Empire played an active role in shaping Anatolian culture and history. This period, which plays an important role in Anatolian archaeology, is still not fully explored. If we look at the geographical location of Seyitömer Höyük we see that it has an equal distance from both the Satrapal Centres of Daskyleion and Sardis. We can safely suggest that the geographical location of the höyük is at the junction of roads coming from two Satrapal Centres in the west, leading on into the east. Such a location makes the Achaemenid Period of Seyitömer Höyük more significant.

Although the Achaemenid Period of Anatolia starts in the mid 6th century BC, no such level has been identified at Seyitömer Höyük. The finds from the höyük suggest that the earliest Achaemenid settlement started here in the early 5th century BC⁴.

The Achaemenid settlement of Seyitömer Höyük consists of two architectural levels, dated to the 5th and 4th centuries BC. The 4th century BC buildings have been built over the demolished buildings of the 5th century BC.

Achaemenid Bowls

The so-called Achaemenid bowls in the archaeological literature can be defined as ‘flaring rim’ bowls that have a half spherical or nearly half spherical body with neither stem nor handle. Rims are usually concave, but can be straight. The rim body transition is usually sharp-angled, however, there are also examples with a smoother transition. The shoulders are usually accentuated. These bowls have been manufactured with a round, flat or omphalos base. They can be grouped as shallow or deep bowls⁵.

⁴ Bilgen - Coşkun - Bilgen 2010, 342, fn. 5.

⁵ Pfrommer has grouped these bowls as shallow and deep according to the ratio of the bowls diameter to its height. He considers the bowls below 2.5:1 as deep, and over 3:1 as shallow see Pfrommer 1987, 44. As Pfrommer makes this differentiation he refers to ‘deep’ and ‘shallow’ bowls as ‘Becher’ and ‘Phiale’. As referred by Miller, using the terms ‘deep’ and ‘shallow’ becomes more acceptable see Miller 1993, 113, fn. 22.

If we look at the Achaemenid period finds, we see that the use of both shallow and deep bowls continues. Deep forms become more popular than the shallow forms, compared with earlier periods. Whereas the deep forms have been mostly referred to as the *Achaemenid Bowls* or as *bowls*, the terminology used for the shallow forms have been problematic. In the Greek world these vessels have been referred as *phiale*. Scholars have also applied this terminology to the shallow forms⁶. On the other hand, the definition of Achaemenid bowls found at the excavations in various regions presents problems⁷. Some scholars have avoided using the term *phiale* for these vessels. And some scholars have attempted to search for a Persian name for these vessels⁸. Maybe it would be more correct to use the term *Achaemenid Bowls* for the *phiale* shaped vessels that are dated to the Achaemenid period.

Bowls representing the Achaemenid type of profiles continued to be used by many cultures distributed in a wide geographical area and over a long period of time. These bowls, besides being manufactured of precious metals like gold, silver or bronze, also exist in glass and clay. According to many scholars in this field, the glass and clay examples are imitations of metal prototypes⁹.

Metal Bowls

The fact that metal prototypes, similar to Achaemenid bowls, had been used before the Achaemenid period has made scholars look into the origins of their shape. They exhibit a wide variety of profiles and decoration and are distributed over a large geographical area, making it difficult for scholars to arrive at a definite conclusion about them. Consequently many theories have been suggested for the origins of the metal prototypes.

⁶ Lushey 1939; Oliver 1970, 9-15; Moorey 1988, 234, Pl. II; Gunter - Jett 1992, 64-72; Yağcı 1996, 312, 314-315; Gunter - Root 1998, 3-29.

⁷ Regarding suggestions for the name and function of these vessels see Gunter - Root 1998, 23-29.

⁸ The term '*bātugara*' has been suggested for the Achaemenid Bowls. It is a combination from the words '*bātu*' meaning wine and '*gara*' meaning to drink, see Curtis - Cowell - Walker 1995, 150; Gunter - Root 1998, 23, fn. 124.

⁹ Fossing 1937, 128; Saldern 1959, 23; Hrouda 1962; Young 1962, 154-155, Pl. 41, Fig. 1b; Hamilton 1966, 3-4, Fig. 3a-b; Shefton 1971, 109, Pl. XX, Fig. 1-2; Stronach 1978, Fig. 106, 4, 8, 11; Henrickson 1993, 140, 144, Fig. 19, No. 2; Miller 1993, 109-146; Dusingberre 1999, 76; Dyson 1999, 102.

A commonly accepted theory about the origin of the metal bowls has been linked with the Assyrians in Mesopotamia. Other suggestions include the Urartian, Syria, Greece, Eastern Mediterranean and Near East as their origin¹⁰. The earliest examples of these type of bowls go back as early as the 2nd millennium BC in the Eastern Mediterranean¹¹. This shape becomes common in the first millennium BC in Assyria¹².

It can be said that these types of bowls, which have been used from much earlier times, were at the height of their popularity during the Achaemenid period. These metal bowls are in abundance not only in the main centres of the Achaemenid Empire, but also in its various provinces and neighboring regions¹³. In the Lydian region, along with the numerous vessels, a number of punches used in their manufacture have also been found¹⁴.

The Achaemenid metal bowls also show different surface decorations; horizontally and vertically fluted, lobed, depicting floral motifs (palmettes, lotus etc.) or figural. We can see a combination of all these decorations on a vessel, but some vessels are plain and display nothing on their surfaces¹⁵.

¹⁰ For the suggestions made for the origins of the metal bowls see Lushey 1939, 31-37; Dohan 1941, 125-127; Gjerstad 1948, 405-460; Hamilton 1966, 3; Hestrin - Stern 1973, 153-154; Moorey 1980, 32, 36-37; Stern 1982, 145; Howes-Smith 1986, 1-88; Abka'i-Khavari 1988, 92-93; Gunter - Jett 1992, 64; Miller 1993, 113; Gunter - Root 1998, 25.

¹¹ Howes - Smith 1986, 3; Miller 1993, 113.

¹² Lushey 1939, Abb. 1-2, 4, 13-17, 28-29; Hamilton 1966, 3, Fig. 1b, 2b; Mallowan 1966, 116, Pl. 59; Hestrin - Stern 1973, 152, Fig. 1; Moorey 1980, 32, 37; Howes - Smith 1986, 48-51; Dusinger 1999, 76.

¹³ Walters 1900, 66, Fig. 79; Buisson 1932, Pl. XXXVII, No. 21-22; Grant 1932, Pl. 47.45; Herzfeld 1935, 1-8, Taf. 1-4; Herzfeld 1937, 5-51; Fossing 1937, 122-128; Gjerstad 1937, Pl. 90, 92; Rabinowitz 1956, 1-9; Schmidt 1957, Pl. 68.1; Rabinowitz 1959, 154-155, Pl. I-III; Bivar 1961, 189-199; Woolley - Mallowan 1962, 68, 104, 113, 131, Pl. 23 (No. unnumbered), Pl. 24, No. U 6666; Young 1962, 154-155, Pl. 41. Fig. 1a; Dalton 1964, Fig. 72, Pl. 8, 23, No. 180-186; Woolley 1965, Pl. 35; Hamilton 1966, 4-7, Fig. 4-6; Barag 1968, 19, fn. 13; Amiran 1972, 135, XIII, A; Moorey 1980, 28-38, Fig. 6; Muscarella 1980, Pl. XXIX, Fig. 18; Stern 1982, 144-145; Waldbaum 1983, Pl. 56, No. 964; Pl. 57, No. 974; Pfrommer 1987, 46-73, Taf. 6-25, 42-45, 62; Abka'i-Khavari 1988, 91-137; Fol 1988; Moorey 1988, Pl. II-III, IV.a; Muscarella 1988, 218-219, No. 326-327; Gunter - Jett 1992, 64-72; Miller 1993, 113-114; Curtis - Cowell - Walker 1995, 149-153; Özgen - Öztürk 1996, 170-172, 87-101, No. 33-50, 122-124; Miller 1997, 43, Fig. 3; Gunter - Root 1998, 3-29; Zournatzi 2000, 685-688, 696-697; Summerer 2003, 21-23; Simpson 2005, 104-118.

¹⁴ Özgen - Öztürk 1996, 222-226, No. 199-212.

¹⁵ For a detailed study of Achaemenid Bowls that depicts the combination of various decorative elements see Abka'i-Khavari 1988, 115-137. Also see Moorey 1980, Fig. 6; Özgen - Öztürk 1996, 170-172, 87-101, No. 33-50, 122-124.

Glass Bowls

Glass examples of the Achaemenid bowls have been found in both the empire's main centres and provinces, the same location as their metal examples. These follow closely the shape and profiles of the metal vessels¹⁶. As quoted by various scholars¹⁷ as a historical source in the Athenian playwright Aristophanes' well known work *Acharnai* (425 BC)¹⁸, we learn that glass and gold bowls were being used for drinking wine in the Achaemenid palaces. The use of glass and metal vessels in the Achaemenid palaces suggests that they were more valued than the ceramic vessels.

Ceramic Bowls

The ceramic imitation of the precious gold, silver and bronze metal bowls becomes very common in antiquity¹⁹. This tradition starts with the Achaemenid period. During this period we see that besides the metal type of Achaemenid bowls there are also glass and ceramic examples. These have possibly been produced for a public who could afford the ceramic and glass imitations, rather than their very expensive and precious metal versions.

The common use of ceramic examples that show similar profiles to the Achaemenid bowls dates back to the earlier periods. Also, as stated by Dusingberre, the earliest known shapes of these examples come from Eastern Anatolia, Iran and Mesopotamia²⁰. The very earliest clay examples

¹⁶ For the study of the glass bowls belonging to the Achaemenid Period see Hogarth 1908, 28, 313; Fossing 1937, 121-129; Schmidt 1939, 84-85, Pl. 23; Schmidt 1957, 91-92, Pl. 67. 3; Barag 1968, 17-20; Oliver 1970, 9-16; Vickers - Bazama 1971, 78-79, Pl. 31; Vickers 1972, 15-16; Roos 1974, 40, Pl. 14, No. B1: 40, B1: 41; Saldern 1975, 37-46; Goldstein 1979, 118-120, No. 248, 249, 251; Goldstein 1980, 47-52, Pl. 31, Fig. 6-7, Pl. 32, Fig. 8-9; Barag 1985, 57-59, 68-69, No. 46-47, Fig. 4, Pl. 5-6; Grose 1989, 80-81, 87, Fig. 48, No. 34; Stern - Schlick - Nolte 1994, 166-169, No. 24; Yağcı 1996, 312-326; Simpson 2005, 119.

¹⁷ Fossing 1937, 128-129; Oliver 1970, 9; Yağcı 1996, 312.

¹⁸ Aristophanes, *Acharnai*, 74.

¹⁹ For a detailed study on this subject see Vickers - Impey - Allan 1986. Also Oates 1959, 132 Pl. XXXVII, No. 59; Hofmann 1961, 21-26, Pl. 8-12; Hrouda 1962, 99, Taf. 60, No. 138; Young 1962, 154-155, Pl. 41, Fig. 1b; Hamilton 1966, 4-6; Shefton 1971, 109-111, Pl. XX-XXII; Hestrin - Stern 1973, 152-153, Fig. 2; Henrickson 1993, 140, 144, Fig. 19, No. 1-2; Miller 1993, 109-146, Taf. 18-42; Miller 1997, 135-152; Dusingberre 1999.

²⁰ Dusingberre, refers to ceramic finds from Tülintepe (Chalcolithic Age), Korucutepe (14th century BC) and Tell Halaf (8th - 7th centuries BC) see Dusingberre 1999, 76, fn. 13. Additional to these examples one more sherd comes from the survey of the Neolithic-Chalcolithic mound of Yassiören (Sapmazköy) in Aksaray, see Omura 1990, 71, 76, photo, 2, No. 9.

come from Tülintepe, which has been found in one context, and is referred to as Halaf type dated to the Chalcolithic Age. These are painted examples without any surface relief decoration (fluting or lobes etc.)²¹. They show similarities with the Achaemenid deep bowls. From Korucutepe too we come across similar profiles. An example of a buff fabric sherd has come from a safe context dated to the 14th century BC²². The Korucutepe example shows parallels to the deeper shape of Achaemenid bowls. Ceramic examples of this shape have also been located at Tell Halaf. The Tell Halaf examples, dated to the 8th - 7th centuries BC, show similar profiles to both the deep and shallow shapes of the Achaemenid Bowls. Besides the plain surface examples there are also examples that show horizontal fluted surface decoration on the shoulder²³. At Tell Rekhesh similar ceramic bowls of the same period have been located. A shallow bowl that comes from Tell Rekhesh has a surface decoration of lobes that consist of vertical flutes²⁴. From Nimrud, too, we have examples dated to the 7th century BC., belonging to both shallow and deep type of bowls. Most of these examples are plain, but some display surface treatment of horizontal fluting on the shoulder²⁵. This shape is commonly used during the 8th and 7th centuries BC²⁶.

Ceramic examples from the centre of the Empire belonging to this period come from Persepolis and Pasargadae. Persepolis examples have a plain surface without relief decoration, their fabric color being red or reddish brown²⁷. The Pasargadae examples are decorated with small lobes on the shoulder part of the vessel²⁸. In addition to the finds from the centre of

²¹ Esin - Arsebük 1982, 132-133, Pl. 91. No. Tl. 74.43, Tl. 72.292, Tl. 71.459, Tl. 74.81, Tl. 74.157, Tl. 72.432, Tl. 72.394, Tl. 72.202, Tl. 72.462, Tl. 71.455.

²² Loon 1971, 54, Pl. 45, Fig. 4.

²³ Hrouda 1962, 98-100, Taf. 60, No. 138 (for the horizontal fluted example), Pl. 61, No. 168-170. Also see Hamilton 1966, 4, Fig. 3.b.

²⁴ Hestrin - Stern 1973, 152-153, Fig. 2.

²⁵ Hamilton 1966, 4, Fig. 3. a, c; Fig. 5. a. Also an example dated to the 7th century BC comes from the Citadel of Shalmaneser. This example representing the deep bowl type, has horizontal flutings on its shoulder. See Oates 1959, 132, Pl. XXXVII, No. 59.

²⁶ For other examples from the same period see Kroll 1976, 116, 118, Typ13b, Typ19; Amiran 1970, 291, Photo. 298, Pl. 99, No. 1-3.

²⁷ Schmidt 1957, Pl. 72.1, 89.8

²⁸ At Pasargadae, for the mentioned ceramic finds found at Tall-i Takht, see Stronach 1978, 242-243, Fig. 106. No. 1-4, 7, 11-14, 18. Bowl No. 14 has a loop decoration.

the empire, ceramic examples also come from other parts of the Empire²⁹. Some of these have been identified as locally manufactured.

One of the centres that we come across with local Achaemenid ceramic bowls is the site Hasanlu. A detailed study of the bowls that have been found here have been published in Dyson's article, 1999³⁰. These can be grouped into two, specifically deep and shallow types. The shallow bowls have a diameter between 13-20 cm, and wall thickness of 0.4-0.6 cm. The deep bowls have a diameter varying between 12-15 cm. with a wall thickness of 0.5-0.9 cm. The fabric of the Hasanlu examples are fine grit or sand tempered, with the core color pinkish-buff. They are painted wares without relief decoration. Their exteriors are cream slipped ranging from a yellowish-cream to orangish-pink according to the firing. R. H. Dyson refers to these ceramics as local products³¹.

Another example that has been identified to be of local manufacture has been found in Ur, in a Persian tomb. This bowl has a fabric of pale gray and can be referenced as a deep bowl. The Ur example, having no relief decoration, has a plain, slightly polished surface³².

In Anatolia, the manufacture of Achaemenid bowls has been identified in two centres. These are Sardis and Gordion. There are two examples that come from Gordion. Both of them represent the Achaemenid deep bowl type. The Gordion examples, following the earlier tradition of local pottery production, have a gray fabric and their surfaces have been burnished and well polished. One of the bowls has shoulder decoration of horizontal

²⁹ Besides the local products defined above, for the study of the ceramic examples that come from the different centres of the empire see Firatlı 1964, 211, Pl. 42, Fig. 3; Polacco 1970, 197, Fig. 9; Stern 1982, 94-95, Fig. 116 (right one); Kawami 1992, 221, 223, No. 140, 150-151; Sevin - Özfırat 1999, 853, Photo. 12, No. 1-4; Coşkun 2006. Also Pfrommer in his detailed study of Achaemenid Bowls, has made a catalogue of the ceramic examples besides his discussion of metal and glass examples, see Pfrommer 1987, 213-245. In her detailed study of the Achaemenid Bowls found in Sardis, Dusinger gives us a list of the other centres where similar bowls have been seen, see Dusinger 1999, 101-102. For the other examples Dusinger assigns to the Achaemenid Period see Crowfoot - Kenyon 1957, 122-123, 126-127, Fig. 10, No. 8-10, Fig. 11, No. 12, 15, 17, 22-23; Gitin 1979, Pl. 27, No. 19-21 (7th and 6th centuries BC).

³⁰ Dyson 1999, 102-110, for the examples of deep bowls see Fig. 1. a-c, 5. d, 7. a-e, for the shallow bowls see Fig. 1. d-g, 5. e, 7. f.

³¹ Dyson 1999, 105. Hasanlu examples have been dated between 400-275 BC.

³² Woolley - Mallowan 1962, 92, Pl. 38. No. 7.

flutings, the rest have been left plain³³. In the other example there is no relief decoration. The body of this bowl has vertical straight and wavy lines produced by the burnishing technique. These lines remind us of the ray motifs³⁴. In the Satrapal centre of Sardis, a large amount of ceramic has been located. The bowls, identified as locally produced, have been manufactured in this centre from the early 5th century BC to the late 3rd century BC. The fabric is usually red in color. A few examples have brown or gray fabric. These bowls have been slipped with a micaceous slip. Due to firing, the surface color has a reddish-black, mottled effect³⁵.

Besides these in Attic, pottery imitations of the metal Achaemenid bowls have been produced³⁶. These bowls have been referred as *Achaemenid Phialai* in the Attic pottery literature³⁷.

The Seyitömer Höyük Samples

Among the finds of the Seyitömer Höyük, twenty-three sherds have been identified as belonging to Achaemenid bowls. Apart from three sherds discovered in a Hellenistic deposit³⁸, all of the other examples come from the Achaemenid Period Level III. These represent both the shallow and deep types of the Achaemenid bowls³⁹.

Shallow type

Among the Seyitömer Höyük Achaemenid bowls, three examples represent the shallow type of bowls. Two of these have a red fabric (Cat. Nos. 5, 17), and the third one has a gray fabric (Cat. No. 16). Each of these three examples is different with respect to fabric, glaze and profile. Cat. No 17, which comes from the Hellenistic deposit, with its high rim, is the most distinctive. Cat. No. 5 shows similarities with Cat. No. 1, grouped under

³³ Young 1962, 155, Pl. 41, Fig. 1b. The fabric description of this sample has not been given in the article, but as it can be referred from the photo, it must be of gray fabric produced in the traditional style.

³⁴ Henrickson 1993, 140, 144, Fig. 19, No. 2.

³⁵ The Sardis finds have been studied in detail by Dusinberre, see Dusinberre 1999.

³⁶ Shefton 1971, 109, Pl. XX, Fig. 2; Miller 1993, 109-146; Miller 1997, 135-150.

³⁷ Sparkes - Talcott 1970, 105, Fig. 6, Pl. 23, No. 520-521; Shefton 1971, Pl. XX, Fig. 2; Miller 1993, 118-120, Taf. 19-22, No. 19.2-22.4; Miller 1997, 136-141, Fig. 35-37.

³⁸ Cat. No. 17 comes from a Hellenistic deposit.

³⁹ Pfrommer's cannon has been used in differentiating between shallow and deep bowls. See fn. 5.

“deep type” of bowls, with respect to its rim. However, Cat. No. 1, a deep bowl, has a straighter rim. The profile of Cat. No. 16 does not show any parallel features with the deep bowls.

Deep type

Twenty fragments, belonging to deep type of Achaemenid bowls have been identified from the excavations. All of the examples are of red fabric, except for three of them (Cat. Nos. 13-15), which are of gray fabric. Gray and red fabric deep bowls show different profiles from each others.

Fabric

The Achaemenid bowls that have been found at the Seyitömer Höyük can be classified according to fabric into two ware groups, the Red Ware and the Gray Ware.

Most of the examples belong to the red fabric group (Cat. Nos. 1-12, 17). Six of these have a reddish-yellow (Cat. Nos. 1-2, 9-10, 12, 17) and two of them have a light red (Cat. Nos. 5, 6) fabric color. Besides these, some sherds show similar fabric except that the surface, due to firing, has brownish tones. Two of these examples have a light brown fabric color (Cat. Nos. 4, 7) and three of them have a light yellowish brown (Cat. Nos. 3, 8, 11) fabric color. To group these under the red fabric ware would be relevant.

The red fabric wares could be further grouped into four according to their temper. The first group's fabric being very micacious is represented with the examples (Cat. Nos. 1, 4, 7, 10). The second group has little lime inclusion and is heavily micacious (Cat. Nos. 5-6, 9), the third group has little lime inclusion and is micacious (Cat. Nos. 2-3, 8, 11, 17) and the fourth group has a small amount of lime temper (Cat. No. 12).

Amongst the Achaemenid bowls, gray ware is less common, and only four fragments have been identified as belonging to this group (Cat. Nos. 13-16). All these examples contain small amounts of lime, grit and mica. One example that has no lime inclusion has a gritty and micacious fabric (Cat. No. 14).

Surface Treatment and Decoration

The red ware bowls are glazed and have a smooth surface. The surface due to firing ranges from reddish to brownish tones. For the main corpus of samples we can say that the glaze had been applied with a brush, which has been distributed unevenly on the surface. After firing, the areas with thicker glaze have turned a darker color than the areas with a thinner layer, indicating the brush strokes. The existing fragments show that glaze has been applied both inside and outside. Only in one example has the exterior lower part of the bowl been reserved (Cat. No. 12). Two of the examples have been deliberately applied with two different colors of glaze (Cat. Nos. 1, 10).

The red ware fabric bowls have mainly plain surfaces. But some have been decorated with horizontal fluting. Cat. Nos. 1 and 4 have fluting all over the outer surface and Cat. Nos. 7 and 10 have only fluting on the shoulders.

With the gray fabric wares we can identify two techniques of surface decoration. With the first group no glaze has been applied, but the inside and outside of the bowl has been burnished (Cat. Nos. 13-14, 16). Cat. Nos. 13 and 14 have been highly burnished and show a better workmanship compared to the other Gray Ware examples. In the second group, the unburnished bowls have been completely treated with a dark gray glaze (Cat. No. 5). This technique is only represented by one sherd amongst the gray fabric wares; however, from the Achaemenid deposit other sherds that represent the same surface finish and workmanship have been identified on various other shapes. These shapes are usually identified as imitations of Attic black-glaze vessels.

One of the four Achaemenid gray ware bowls has a relief decoration of ridged grooves on its shoulder part (Cat. No. 13). Cat. Nos. 14 and 13, which only have the rim part preserved, display similar surface treatment and workmanship. Although the body part has not been preserved we can assume that it also had a ridged grooving on its shoulder. Cat. Nos. 15 and 16 have plain surfaces.

Dating

The Achaemenid bowl fragments from Seyitömer Höyük do not usually come from a safe context, making it difficult to assign a specific date. Additionally, the small number of the assemblage makes dating even more difficult. However, the deposits from which these sherds come can give us some idea of their date. As mentioned above, only three of the sherds come from the Hellenistic deposit of the höyük (Level II). Only one rim and body sherd is included in this study (Cat. No. 17), which is totally different from the others in both its fabric and low quality glaze. The rest of the sherds have been excavated in the Achaemenid Level III. The earliest Achaemenid settlement of the höyük has been dated to the 5th century BC. Therefore the sherds coming from this deposit can be dated to the early 5th century until ca. 330 BC. It is possible to narrow down these dates with the help of comparanda materials that come from other Achaemenid centres and with other finds from the same context.

Cat. Nos. 1-4 possibly belong to the 5th century BC. The profile of Cat. No. 1 resembles the early 5th century Sardis examples⁴⁰. Cat. No. 2 has been found in the context of an early 5th century BC building. The nearest comparanda for Cat. No. 3 comes from the early 5th centuries BC Sardis bowls⁴¹. Cat. No. 4 has been found together with an Attic Ram-Head Cup fragment, dating to 500-450 BC.

Cat. Nos. 5-16 possibly belong to the 4th century BC. Cat. Nos. 5 and 6, with their rim profiles resembling the 4th century BC Sardis examples⁴², come from a 4th century deposit. However, Cat. No 5, which is a shallow bowl, has a rim profile that is not as high as the Sardis examples. Cat. No. 7, was found in a deposit that includes an Attic black-glazed kantharos fragment dated to 375-325 BC. Cat. Nos. 8 and 9 were found in the fill deposit of the same level. Cat. No. 10 was excavated while removing the wall of a 4th century BC building. Cat. No. 11 has been found and possibly dated to the same period with a local manufacture one-handler, dated with its profile to the early second quarter of the 4th century BC. The profile of Cat. No. 12 resembles the Sardis examples dated to the 4th century BC⁴³.

⁴⁰ Dusinberre 1999, Fig. 4, No. 1, 3.

⁴¹ For a comparanda see Dusinberre 1999, Fig. 4, No. 14.

⁴² Dusinberre 1999, Fig. 7, No. 10-11.

⁴³ Dusinberre 1999, 85, Fig. 7, No. 13, 21, 23.

This bowl was found together with a black-glazed Attic out turned rim bowl dated to 380 BC and therefore gives us a more specific date for Cat. No. 12. Cat. No. 13 was found directly under the floor pavement of a 4th century BC building. Cat. No. 14, which has the same workmanship as Cat. No. 13, must be of similar date. Cat. No. 15, which was found in a garbage pit of the 4th century BC, resembles Gordion and Hasanlu examples dated to the same period⁴⁴. Cat. No. 16 has been dated as an Attic find from the same context, a black-glazed kantharos stem dated to 375-350 BC. Cat. No. 17 has been generally dated to the Hellenistic period. The evidence available at present cannot give us a more specific date for this piece.

The Achaemenid bowls from Seyitömer Höyük, confirm the continuity of their usage from the 5th century BC until the Hellenistic period. The present bowls show that they were more commonly used in the Achaemenid period than the Hellenistic. At present it would be impossible to suggest a production centre for these bowls. However, the fact that they have not been abundantly found may suggest that they could have been imported from other centres.

CATALOGUE

- 1- Rim and body fragment (fig. I). H. pres. 0.052m, D. of rim. ?
Fabric: Very micaceous. Reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6).
Surface treatment: Smooth, glazed. Ext.: Upper part of bowl light red (2.5 YR 6/8). Lower part grayish brown (10 YR 5/2). Int.: Lip light red (2.5 YR 6/8), body grayish brown (10 YR 5/2).
- 2- Rim and lip fragment (fig. I). H. pres. 0.025m, D. of rim. ?
Fabric: Small amount of lime temper, micaceous. Reddish yellow (7,5 YR 6/6).
Surface treatment: Smooth, glazed. Ext./Int.: Red (2,5 YR 5/8).
- 3- Rim and lip fragment (fig. I). H. pres. 0.024m, D. of rim. ?
Fabric: Small amount of lime temper, micaceous. Light yellowish brown (10 YR 6/4).
Surface treatment: Smooth, glazed. Ext./Int.: Strong brown to dark brown (7,5 YR 4/6-7,5 YR 3/4).
- 4- Lip and shoulder fragment (fig. I). H. pres. 0.020m, D. of rim. ?
Fabric: Very micaceous. Light brown (7.5 YR 6/4).

⁴⁴ Henrickson 1993, Fig. 19.2; Dyson 1999, Fig. 1c (400-275).

Surface treatment: Smooth, glazed. Ext.: Yellowish red (5 YR 5/6). Body gently fluted with tool. Int.: Yellowish red (5 YR 5/8).

- 5- Rim and body fragment (fig. I). H. pres. 0.043m, D. of rim. 0.138m.
Fabric: Small amount of lime temper, very micaceous. Light red (2.5 YR 6/8).
Surface treatment: Smooth, glazed. Ext./Int.: Red (10 R 5/8).
- 6- Rim and body fragment (fig. I, III). H. pres. 0.050m, D. of rim. 0.136m.
Fabric: Small amount of lime temper, very micaceous. Light red (2.5 YR 6/6).
Surface treatment: Smooth, glazed. Ext./Int.: Light red (2.5 YR 6/8).
- 7- Complete profile (fig. I, III). H. 0.047m, D. of rim. 0.132m, D. of bottom. 0.036m.
Fabric: Very micaceous. Light brown (7.5 YR 6/4).
Surface treatment: Smooth, glazed. Ext./Int.: Light red (2.5 YR 6/8). Ext.: Shoulder gently fluted with tool.
- 8- Rim and lip fragment (fig. I). H. pres. 0.026m, D. of rim. ?
Fabric: Small amount of lime temper, micaceous. Very pale brown (10 YR 7/4).
Surface treatment: Smooth, glazed. Ext./Int.: Yellowish red (5 YR 5/8-5 YR 5/6).
- 9- Rim and lip fragment (fig. I). H. pres. 0.021m, D. of rim. 0.132m.
Fabric: Small amount of lime temper, very micaceous. Reddish yellow (5 YR 6/8).
Surface treatment: Smooth, glazed. Ext./Int.: Light red (2.5 YR 5/8).
- 10- Lip and body fragment (fig. I). H. pres. 0.032m, D. of rim. ?
Fabric: Very micaceous. Reddish yellow (7,5 YR 6/6).
Surface treatment: Smooth, glazed. Ext.: Lip and shoulder red (2,5 YR 4/6), lower part of body dark gray (2,5 Y 4/1). Shoulder gently fluted with tool. Int.: Lip red (2,5 YR 4/6), lower part of body dark gray (2,5 Y 4/1).
- 11- Lip and body fragment (fig. I). H. pres. 0.021m, D. of rim. ?
Fabric: Small amount of lime temper, micaceous. Light yellowish brown (10 YR 6/4).
Surface treatment: Smooth, glazed. Ext.: Brown (7.5 YR 4/2). Int.: Very dark brown (7.5 YR 3/2).
- 12- Body and bottom fragment (fig. I). H. pres. 0.041m, D. of bottom. 0.036m.
Fabric: Small amount of lime temper. Reddish yellow (5 YR 7/6).
Surface treatment: Smooth, glazed. Ext.: Upper part of bowl yellowish red (5 YR 5/6). Reserved lower part. Int.: Reddish brown to yellowish red (5 YR 4/3-5 YR 7/6).

- 13-** Rim and body fragment (fig. II-III). H. pres. 0.055m, D. of rim. 0.136m.
Fabric: Small amount of lime temper, grit and micaceous. Dark reddish gray (5 YR 4/2).
Surface treatment: Smooth, glazed. Ext./Int.: Gray (2.5 Y 5/1). Ridged groove on shoulder.
- 14-** Rim and lip fragment (fig. II). H. pres. 0.042m, D. of rim. 0.136m.
Fabric: Small amount of micaceous, grit. Gray (2.5 Y 5/1).
Surface treatment: Smooth, polished. Ext./Int.: Dark gray (2.5 Y 4/1).
- 15-** Complete profile (fig. II). H. 0.051m, D. of rim. 0.112m.
Fabric: Small amount of lime, grit and micaceous. Gray (2.5 Y 5/1).
Surface treatment: Smooth, glazed. Ext./Int.: Dark gray (2.5 Y 4/1).
- 16-** Rim and body fragment (fig. II). H. pres. 0.042m, D. of rim. 0.136m.
Fabric: Small amount of lime, grit and micaceous. Dark gray (10 YR 4/1).
Surface treatment: Smooth, polished. Ext.: Dark gray (2.5 Y 4/1). Int.: Dark brown (7.5 YR 3/4).
- 17-** Rim and body fragment (fig. II). H. pres. 0.044m, D. of rim. 0.174m.
Fabric: Small amount of lime temper, micaceous. Reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6).
Surface treatment: Glazed. Ext./Int.: Dull reddish brown (2,5 YR 4/4).

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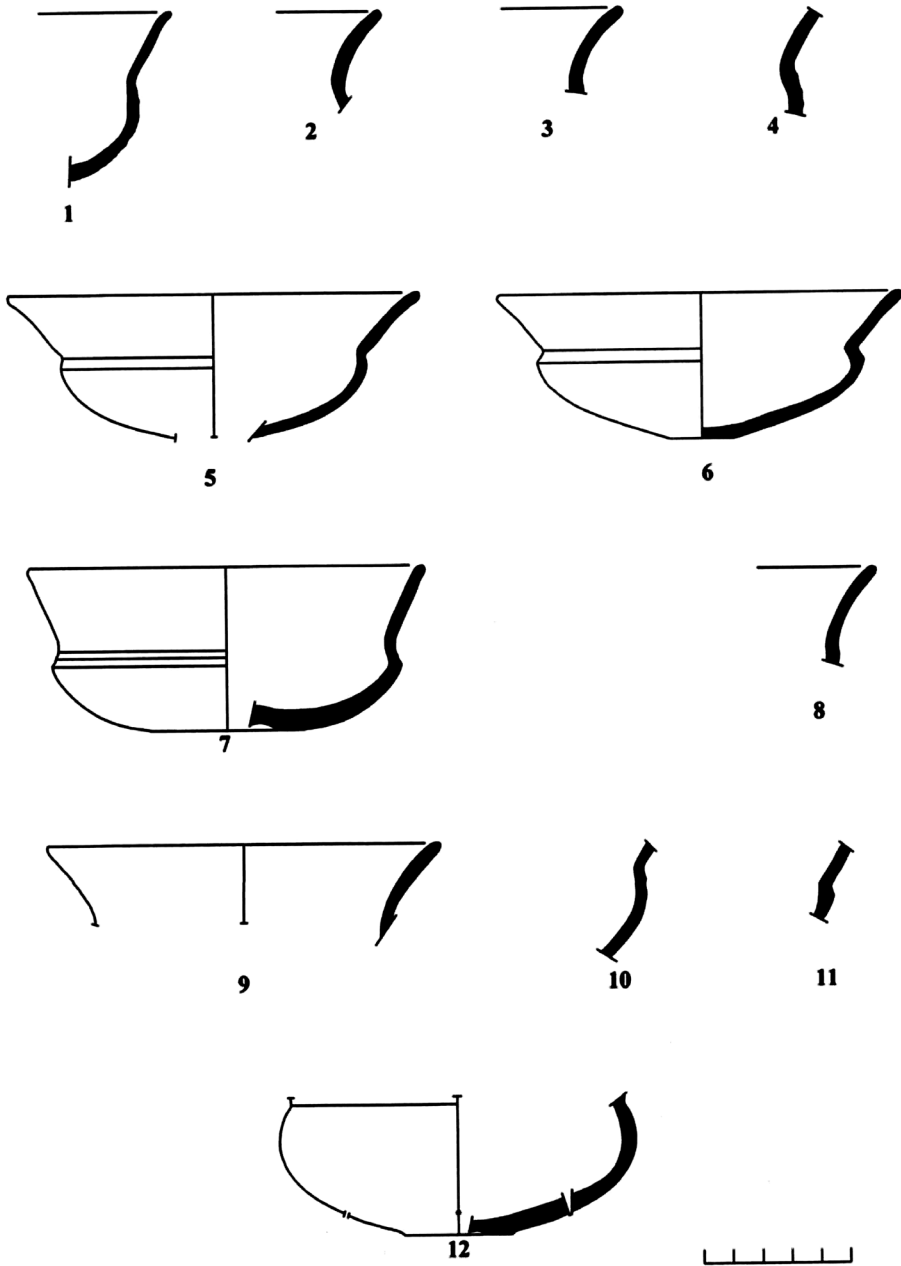
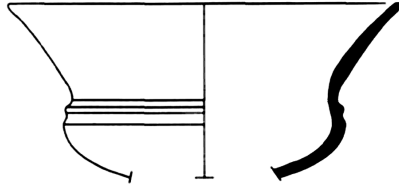
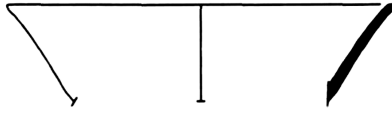


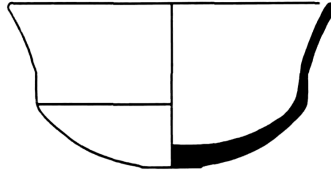
Fig. I



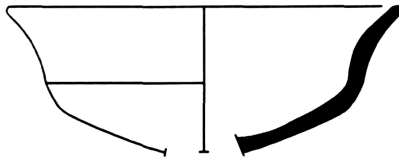
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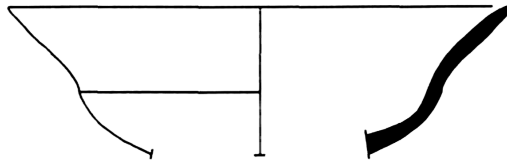
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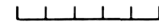
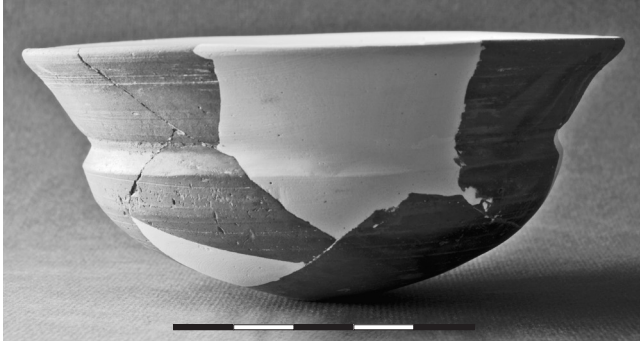
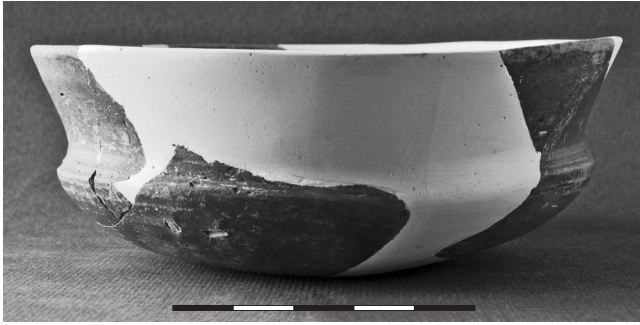


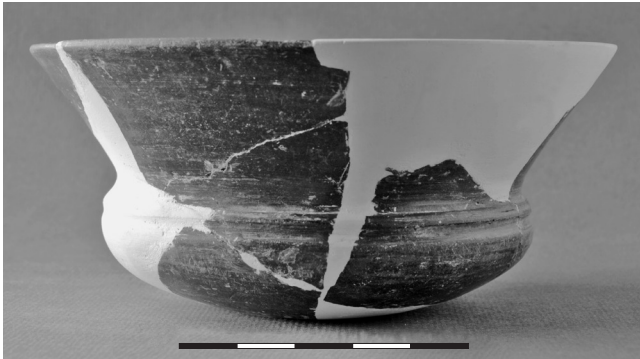
Fig. II



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Fig. III

