

The Excavations at Korucutepe, Turkey, 1968-70: Preliminary Report. Part III: Statistical Description of Significant Groups of Pottery

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Hittite-Hurrian relations. The conflagration is certainly an indication of the rivalry during this volatile period.

Further research and excavation in areas unaffected by the Keban reservoir may serve not only to illuminate this relatively unknown and sparsely documented province of Isuwa on the borders of the lands of Hatti, but also to shed more light on the establishment of Hittite power in Asia Minor.

PART III: STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION OF SIGNIFICANT GROUPS OF POTTERY

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The excavations at Korucutepe have provided a rich and complex stratigraphic sequence for a long period of time, from late prehistory down to the Iron Age. The ceramic material was processed with a view toward allowing a comprehensive quantitative analysis: all sherds were classified according to detailed categories for ware and shape types. The large number of sherds found (upward of 150,000 for the three seasons) and the wide diversity of types call for a thorough computation and analysis.¹ The most immediate result lies in the possibility of an exact quantification of data concerning frequency (and inferred popularity) of types, data which have normally been observed at best in impressionistic terms in even major archaeological publications. Despite the difficulties inherent in such a work, especially the collection and categorization of data done in the field, for which no traditional standards are available, some concrete results do nevertheless emerge with particular clarity even from a preliminary analysis. As a sample of these procedures, the present section, along with figures 17 and 18, provides a statistical description of all major groups of pottery found at Korucutepe during the second season of excavations.

In figure 17 only body sherds are described, giving a picture of the ceramic evidence from the various periods found at the site and their occurrence in the different stratigraphic units. The Early Bronze material from N 11 and N 12 is repeated in figure 21 along with the other Early Bronze material. If it is also given here it is because this is the best stratified Early Bronze material from the 1969 season, and it allows for interesting comparisons with other stratigraphic units where Early Bronze sherds occur mixed with later material. Y 21 and O 9 are mainly MB I levels. They differ from the earlier EB II levels in the use of black-on-white painted and cream slipped wares. The large percentage of red burnished differs from the Early Bronze IIIA levels (see part V, fig. 22). In these squares, other wares, which are mainly found in Old Hittite levels, also occurred. The number of squares in which the city wall was traced could have given the opportunity to test the horizontal variability of the Old Hittite ceramics on the site. No meaningful patterns could be seen, however, probably because of the nature of the deposit naturally building up near any city wall. Although the city wall is dated to Old Hittite, some Early

¹ M. Kelly-Buccellati and E. S. Elster, "Statistics in Archaeology and its Application to Ancient Near Eastern Data," in G. Buccellati, ed. *Approaches to*

the Study of the Ancient Near East, (Rome, 1973) (= *Orientalia* n.s. vol. 42, fasc. 1-2).

Bronze pottery was disturbed and brought up in the digging of the foundations for it. The cream slip ware indicates that the excavation for the wall foundation disturbed mostly MB I levels. A wash deposit behind the city wall yielded both Old Hittite and a few Hittite Empire sherds mixed in from the surface. A large percentage (32%) of the sherds found in the wash were either tumbled or otherwise so small or damaged that their ware could not be determined.² In the city wall and wash levels the percentages of gray wheel-marked (OHW I) is greater than in the houses, whereas the orange slipped and self-slipped (OHW III), various cooking wares (OHW IV), and orange burnished (OHW V) are more numerous in the houses. The fact that cooking wares (OHW IV) are over 60% in the pits of O 20 may indicate its increase in use toward the end of the Hittite period; from the nature of the two deposits (houses and rubbish pits), however, it could be expected that a large amount of pottery which was used for cooking would be found. In the O 20 pits a large percentage of plates, probably a principal form in household use, was discovered. The number of wares produced in the Hittite Empire period was limited at Korucutepe, a situation also found for the Iron Age. In the Iron Age it is interesting to note the evenness in popularity of all the wares produced, with the exception of the black burnished ware and the coarse ware.

Figure 18 shows the percentages of the shapes used in the various periods. Within the Hittite shapes there is an increase in the use of small low bowls (HS III) and plates (HS IV), and a decrease in use through time of jars with outcurving rims (HS VI).

KEY TO FIGURES 17 AND 18

Percentages are calculated on the totals in the box in the upper right-hand corner of each stratigraphic unit in the various periods (for example, the percentages of Old Hittite wares in Y 21, O 9 are calculated on the total of 331). Numbers to the left of each column reflect absolute numbers of sherds; in such cases percentages are not given, either because they would be less than 2% or because the total on which the percentage would have been made is less than 100.

Abbreviations used for Stratigraphic Units:

N 11, 12	N 11, area 3, levels 8-5; N 11, area 4, levels 8-4; N 12, levels 4-3 (This stratigraphic unit is the same as K in fig. 21)
Y 21, O 9	Y 21, levels 9-3; O 9, levels 7-2
U 12, 13 (City Wall)	U 12, areas 1-3, levels 10-8; U 13, levels 7-6; S 24, area 6, levels 4c-4a; X 22, level 2; X 16, area C, level 4, area 1, level 3; O 24, areas 3-4, levels 4 and 2b; O 24, 1968 material ³
U 12, 13 (Wash)	U 12, areas 5-15, level 5, areas 1-3, level 7; U 13, level 5
U 12, 13 (Houses)	U 12, areas 5-15, levels 4b-2; U 13, levels 4-2
O 20	O 20, pit A, pit G, and area 1, level 2
H 17, 18 (Lower)	H 17, area 1, levels 8-6, area 2, levels 6-5; H 18, areas 6 and 8, levels 7-6c, areas 1, 4, 9, levels 7-5b
H 17, 18 (Upper)	H 17, area 1, levels 5b-5; H 18, areas 6-8, levels 6b-5

Total number of sherds analyzed in figures 17 and 18: 25,774

² These sherds were not used in making the percentages in fig. 17.

³ Note that U 12, 13 (City Wall) also includes material from the 1968 season.

WARE ABBREVIATIONS USED IN FIGURE 17

Iron Age Ware ⁴	I	Black burnished
	II	Red burnished and cooking ware
	III	Brown burnished
	IV	Slipped (cream and orange) and painted portions of same ware
	V	Chaff-faced, some incised
	VI	Red to brown coarse
Hittite Empire Ware	I	Orange wheel-marked
	II	Orange-slipped and buff-slipped
	III	White-slipped orange
	IV	Cream self-slipped
	V	Red-on-buff painted
	VI	Chaff-faced
Old Hittite Ware ⁵	I	Gray wheel-marked and variants
	II	Black smoothed and variants
	III	Orange slipped and self-slipped
	IV	Brown gritty burnished, buff cooking and coarse
	V	Orange burnished and scraped
	VI	Black fine burnished
	VII	Cream burnished
	VIII	Orange thin-walled
	IX	Red smoothed
	X	White-streaked cream
	XI	Orange smoothed
Early Bronze Ware ⁶	I	Unburnished parts of burnished vessels
	II	Brown and mottled burnished
	III	Relief decorated, high close burnish
	IV	Painted, either red-on-cream painted or black-on-white painted
	V	Higher fired, thin, little grit, sherds smaller than any of the other Early Bronze wares
	VI	Cream-slipped, chaff or grit temper, some burnished
	VII	Red burnished
	VIII	Black burnished
	IX	Brown burnished outside, red burnished inside, variant of EBW X
	X	Black burnished outside, red to light brown burnished inside
	XI	Black burnished, predominantly grit temper
	XII	Cream burnished, high close burnish
	XIII	Orange clay, large grits, coarse ware

Total number of sherds analyzed in figure 17: 22,748.

⁴ All of these wares with the exception of IW V have grit temper and are fired to a moderate temperature. The surfaces of these wares are uneven and the whole vessels give the appearance of having been handmade, but were probably made on a slow wheel.

⁵ The Old Hittite and Hittite Empire (or Middle

and Late Bronze Age) wares will be described at length in part VI of this report.

⁶ Wares II, VII, VIII, and X are chaff tempered with little grit and low fired. Ware V includes Brak "Akkadian ware" and Amuq "simple ware."

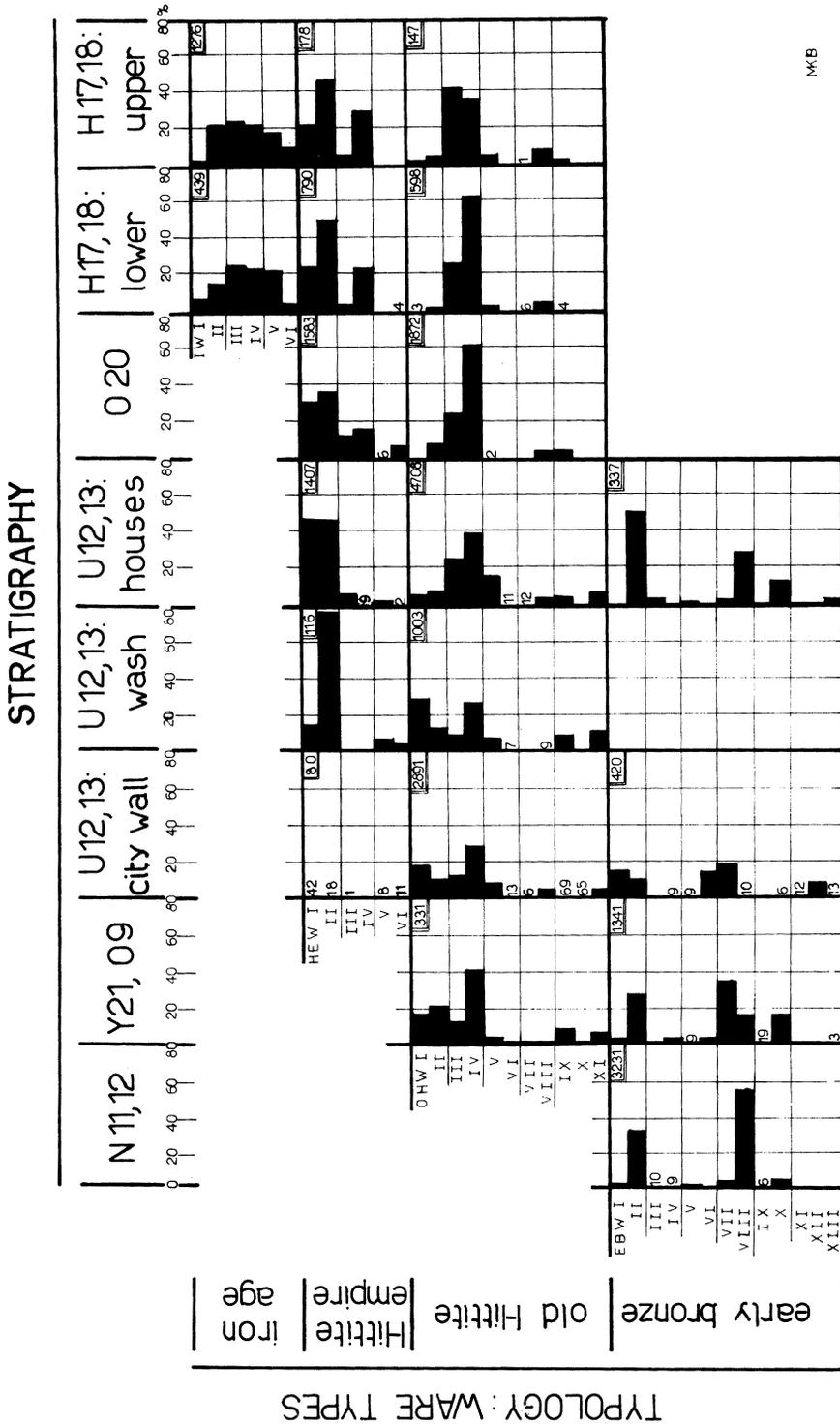


Fig. 17.—Korucutepe 1969 ceramic stratigraphy: wares

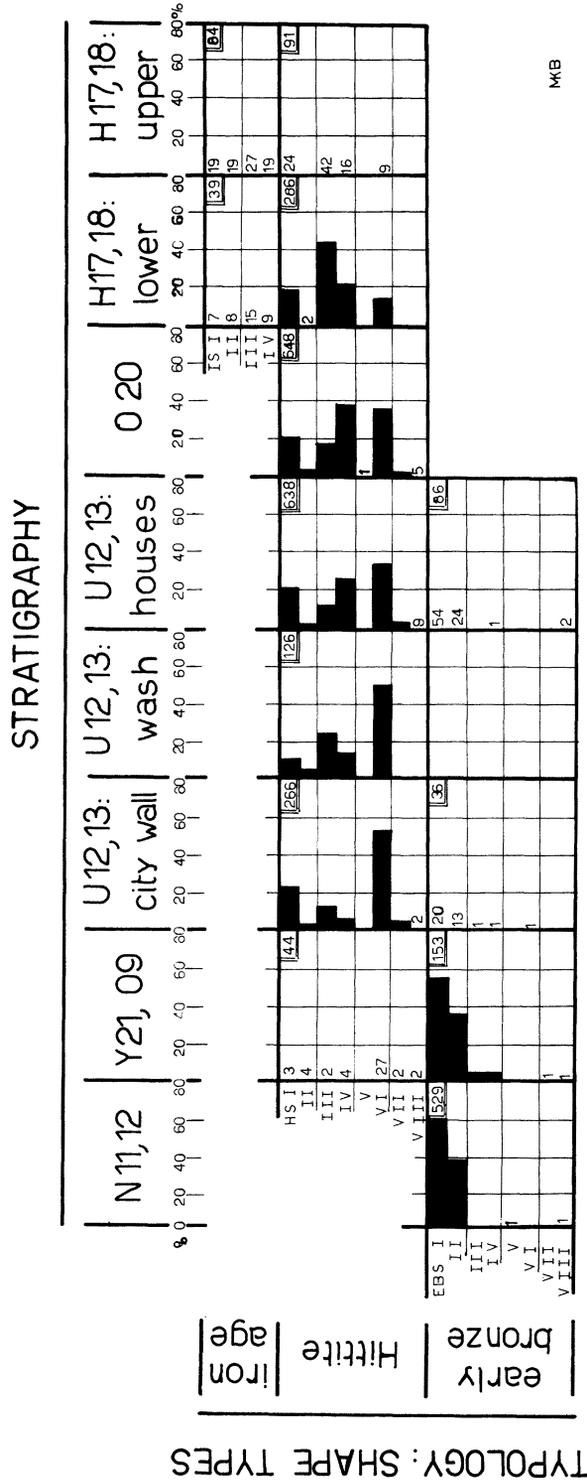


Fig. 18.—Korucutepe 1969 ceramic stratigraphy: shapes

MKB

SHAPE ABBREVIATIONS USED IN FIGURE 18

Iron Age Shape	I	Bowls, carinated
	II	Bowls, ribbed near rim (see pl. 19C)
	III	Bowls, plain
	IV	Jars
	V	Lids
Hittite Shape	I	Bowls, outcurving and straight rim (fig. 27: 100, 142, 82, 144, 80)
	II	Bowls, small, carinated
	III	Bowls, small, low (part VI, fig. 27: 44, 57, 167, 166, 168, 62, 194)
	IV	Plates (fig. 27: 187, 161, 190, 182, 181, 171, 172, 173, 199, 200, 158, 151)
	V	Bowls with ridge inside to hold lid
	VI	Pots, Jars, outcurving rims (fig. 27: 385, 215, 299, 289, 285, 287, 308, 267, 321, 319, 314, 320, 318)
	VII	Pots, Jars, incurving rims (fig. 27: 359)
	VIII	Jars, small-necked; Jugs; Bottles
	IX	Jugs, trefoil mouthed (pl. 27C)
	X	Lids
Early Bronze Shape	I	Jars (part V, fig. 24: E 1-17, 19-21)
	II	Bowls (fig. 24: E 18, 22-38)
	III	Lids; Stands (fig. 24: E 39-42)
	IV	Bases (fig. 24: E 43-45)
	V	Spouts (fig. 24: E 46)
	VI	Handles (fig. 24: E 47-50)
	VII	Jars, small, in high-fired ware (fig. 24: E 51-53)
	VIII	Goblets, small, in high-fired ware (fig. 24: E 54-59)

Total number of sherds in figure 18: 3,026

PART IV: THE CHALCOLITHIC POTTERY

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In 1969 and 1970 a total of 44 strata containing "Chalcolithic" material were excavated to a greater or lesser extent. A preliminary count and classification of the pottery was undertaken in the field. Two phases could be distinguished. They were termed "Early Chalcolithic" and "Late Chalcolithic" for the sake of easy reference.¹ Since modern farm construction had cut deeply into the northwestern part of the tell (see fig. 1) and removed more than 14 m. of overburden, we were lucky enough to reach Early Chalcolithic levels immediately in K 13. Unfortunately levels transitional between Early and Late Chalcolithic had been cut off vertically, so we could only collect sherds, obsidian, etc., from Strata XXII-XXIX by shaving the section (fig. 2). This material, however, is too scanty to permit a reconstruction of the transition period.

¹ See part I, note 2.