

1. INTRODUCTION

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1.1 Earlier work

Tell Mozan is a major site in the piedmont area of Northern Syria, just below the mountain passes which lead to the Tur-Abdin range and the Turkish plateau. In spite of its size and its accessibility (practically on the main road between Amuda and Qamishli), it has escaped the attention it deserves.

Not that it was always totally ignored. In fact, what little mention is made of it in the scholarly literature is quite significant. Thus L. Dilleman wrote: "Tell Mozan, à 8 km au sud-est d'Amouda, imposant par sa longueur et son elevation relative, est sur un modeste talweg. Son deuxième nom, Mal Tepe, en turc, la colline au trésor, lui vient probablement d'une trouvaille clandestine" (Dilleman 1962, p. 36).

Similarly appreciative, but puzzling on other grounds, are the references to Mozan in Mallowan's work. In his *Memoirs*, he spoke of the "wonderful mound named Mozan" (Mallowan 1977, p. 105). That this was not an accidental hyperbole is shown by these other remarks in the same work: "We were greatly attracted by Mozan, a site endowed with magnificent masonry walls" (p. 108); and again: "I wondered if the massive and obviously rich mound of Mozan ... is not an echo" of Hurrian civilization (p. 124). In his scholarly work, Mallowan refers occasionally to Mozan, and then takes it for granted that it is a third millennium site. In his report on Chagar Bazar he published a small black burnished "vase" (Mallowan 1937, p. 140, Fig. 17) which he records as coming from Mozan and as having been purchased (he does not say where; presumably it came from the villagers at Mozan). In the *Cambridge Ancient History* he wrote that "the varieties of pottery [from Tell Khuera] corresponded very closely in type with the ceramics familiar in the Khabur valley — at Brak, Chagar Bazar, Mozan and Germayir" (Mallowan 1971, p. 313).

Nowhere does Mallowan, as far as we can tell, give a published account of any soundings at Tell Mozan, although they are referred to in the autobiographical account which

his wife, Agatha Christie, wrote of the years spent with Mallowan in the Khabur region:

Three Tells compete for the honor of our attention — Tell Hamdun,... Tell Chagar Bazar, and a third, Tell Mozan. This is much the largest of the three, and a lot depends on whether there will be much Roman deposit to dig through. Soundings must be made at all three mounds. We make a start with Tell Mozan. ...Three trial trenches are selected at different levels of the Tell. There is a murmur of “Inshallah!” and the picks go in.

Abruptly, the next paragraph continues:

Tell Mozan has been reluctantly erased from our list of possibles. There are several levels of Roman occupation, and though the periods we want to dig are there underneath, it would take several seasons — that is to say, more time and money than we can afford. Today we drive to our old friend Chagar Bazar... (Christie 1977, p. 72f.).

What is puzzling in Agatha Christie's statements is the double reference to soundings on the one hand and to evidence of Roman occupation on the other, neither of which is mentioned by Mallowan himself. As for the first point, there are only a few traces of earlier excavations visible today: those along the edge of the tell are likely to be the result of surface activities by local farmers in search of good mudbrick material, while those on top of the tell appear to be very limited and generally superficial. Thus it would seem that if Christie's information is correct, Mallowan's “soundings” may either have been not very deep or they may have been located in areas (such as gullies at the edge of the tell) where normal erosion would have obliterated their traces. As a curiosity it may be reported here that upon asking the local villagers for information about earlier visitors to the tell, the eldest in the group remembered some foreigners who had conducted some work at the tell — among them, he related without prompting, a lady who would “sit on a walking stick”!

As for the second discrepancy between Agatha Christie's and Max Mallowan's accounts about Mozan, i.e. the alleged presence of Roman materials at the site (large enough, she says, to have discouraged Mallowan from excavating there), one wonders if Mallowan may in fact have mistakenly considered to be Roman what we now call “Metallic ware.” Such ware is in fact present in fair amounts on the surface of the tell, and in the thirties it was not yet fully recognized for what it was proven to be later. It has been suggested that a similar situation may have obtained during Seton Lloyd's 1938 visit to Tell Taya, which he attributed to the Moslem period, “with the rider 'probably Roman'.” As Julian Reade goes on to say, “it was an understandable reaction: even in 1967 another visiting scholar was to suggest that the site was mainly Sasanian” (Reade 1982, p. 72).

Whether the explicit reference in Agatha Christie's autobiography to the alleged Roman levels at Mozan deterred archaeologists from seriously considering this site for further excavations, or whether the proximity of Amuda, reputed to be the major ancient site of Urkish, made it appear unlikely that a second major site could have been located so near it — the fact remains that Mozan has been left largely to itself. Apart from the very limited evidence of localized excavations at the base of the tell possibly by farmers (plus of course the effects of plowing in the lower city, for which see Chapter 4), and apart from the presence of three small cemeteries on the top of the mound, Tell Mozan appears wholly undisturbed. There is no obvious evidence of clandestine excavations for antiquities, and the village at the base of the tell, while it sits on part of the lower mound, has not encroached on the higher mound.

In recent times and prior to our own work there, several more projects have come to focus their attention on this particular area of the upper Khabur, and Tell Mozan has again been considered by other archaeologists as the site for a potential excavation — among the more recent the Tell Barri/Kahat project under the direction of Paolo Emilio Pecorella (Pecorella and Salvini 1982, especially p. 8, where Mozan is referred to as Muazzar, following Van Liere, for which see presently). The only extensive and published survey work has been that of Davidson and McKerrel (1976). It is not, however, our purpose to review here the history of excavations and of surface explorations in the area of Mozan, except for a brief remark concerning the survey by Van Liere and Lauffray. In their often quoted article of 1954-55 in which they reviewed the typology of the various settlements of the Khabur region, utilizing especially aerial maps newly made available for agricultural projects, they do not take any special notice of Tell Mozan. The site is in fact shown on their map, but it bears the name "Muazzar," which is also the name of a large site to the South, on the slopes of the Jebel Abd el-Aziz. The references in their text to Tell "Muazzar" all seem to refer to the latter tell, so that to all intents and purposes Mozan was in effect overlooked in their study (and the symbol used for it on the map identifies it as a site of relatively lesser significance than others). No one in the area today (whether in Mozan itself, or Amuda or Qamishli), knows of the site as Muazzar.

1.2 The Mozan Archaeological Project

We were first attracted to Mozan on the occasion of a visit to Amuda, a modern town with the remains of an ancient tell which is generally assumed to correspond to ancient Urkish. The imposing profile of Mozan was clearly noticeable from Amuda, but at first we passed the site by without stopping there. On the occasion of a subsequent visit to the area, we asked first Ismail Hijara and Mark Chavalas to take a look at Mozan, and then the following day the entire party went back for a closer look. A preliminary walk over the tell left us stunned: there was no trace whatsoever of Roman material, and instead we could only see third millennium and Khabur ware wherever we walked. The local villagers came out to greet us, and showed us two small vessels, and one small stone axe head of the type that has been explained as a scribal eraser: very freely and generously they made us a gift of these objects, which we delivered to the Der ez-Zor Museum. Travelling by car around the edge of the mound, we estimated its perimeter to be about a mile, and the height was clearly imposing.

This was on June 3, 1983. Besides the writers, Mario Liverani and Ismail Hijara were also in our party, and we all shared an overwhelming impression of a site which, for all its massiveness, was very homogeneous in its deposit. And certainly not Roman. We all returned to the site on three different occasions, accompanied by different staff members, and each time our first impression was strengthened.

We had reached an easy consensus: that we should prepare an application to the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums for a sounding permit at Tell Mozan. We had been planning for a while to develop a research project that would build on our experience at the southern end of the Khabur region, at Terqa and Qraya, and would fit in with our general historical and archaeological interests in the upper Khabur. We had also become more specifically interested in the question of the Hurrians and the intriguing issue of the localization of Urkish. Mozan was clearly the site that most seemed to fit our requirements. Thus we proposed to begin with a two year project that would entail soundings at Mozan itself and also a survey in the region, along the lines of the arguments outlined briefly below in Chapter 2.

Our request was most graciously granted by the Director General of Antiquities and Museums, Dr. Afif Behnassi, in the winter of 1984. A first brief season was immediately planned for the subsequent Fall. This took place from the 21st of October to the 20th of November, 1984. It was under the joint directorship of Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati and Giorgio Buccellati, with the participation of Dr. Guy Bunnens, Dr. Arlette Roobaert, Mr. William R. Shelby and Ms. Daniela Buia Quinn. In addition, Mr. Mark W. Chavalas joined us for a brief working period. Mr. Hamido Hammade served as the representative of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums, and also participated in the excavations. Mr. Stephen M. Hughey, with the assistance of Ms. Barbara W. Pritzkat, did the topographical survey of the upper mound, and prepared the site plan which is reproduced below as Fig. 5 and is introduced in Section 3.5.

A second season took place in the spring of 1985, from the 22nd of April until the 20th of June. It was again under the joint directorship of Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati and Giorgio Buccellati, with the participation of Dr. Guy Bunnens, Dr. Arlette Roobaert, Dr. Ismail Hijara, Ms. Louise A. Hitchcock and Ms. Andrea M. Parker. In addition, Dr. Lucio Milano, Dr. Judith Thompson-Miragliuolo, Mr. Timothy Seymour and Ms. Veronika Selb joined us for a brief working period. Mr. Hamido Hammade again served as the representative of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums, and also participated in the excavations.

At various times during the two seasons, Dr. Guy Bunnens and Dr. Arlette Roobaert undertook the survey project in the immediate vicinity of Mozan, and in particular studied the visible remains of the tell located in Amuda. This, it turns out, is not called Tell Amuda (which is instead the old name of another tell on the other side of the Turkish border just north of the town of Amuda, renamed Kemaliya in recent years), but rather Tell Shermola. They report separately on their work in Chapter 7 below.

During the first season of soundings it had already become apparent that there were traces of occupation over a large area all around the high mound, and we had also noticed that there was a general rise that extended for several hundred meters all around the main tell. Accordingly, we had planned on exploring the base of the tell in the following Spring, but this proved to be very difficult at that time on account of the extensive cultivation during that season. We were fortunate in securing at that point the collaboration of Dr. Judith

Thompson-Miragliuolo, who was residing for family reasons in the area, and who accepted the charge to develop a systematic survey of the lower city in the Fall of 1985. The results of her work appear in Chapter 4 below.

Given the extremely positive results of the work which we had conducted under the terms of the sounding permit, a new request was submitted for a regular permit of excavations at Tell Mozan. This was granted in the winter of 1986.

1.3 Results and perspectives

The substantive results of the first two seasons, about which we report in this book, may be summarized briefly as follows.

(1) The *High Mound*, some 18 hectares in size and 20 meters in height, is a single major mound, without a separate prominent hill of the type generally called a citadel. The *Outer City* seems to represent a continuous occupational zone extending to as much as 400 meters from the edge of the high mound: it is possible that the circular rise at the perimeter of this outer zone may represent an exterior city wall, but in any case the nature of the surface evidence is such that it seems reasonable to assume a vast contiguous settlement around the High Mound, with a North-South axis of about one mile and an East-West axis of a kilometer.

(2) *Second millennium* material has been found especially on the surface, and to a more limited extent in excavations (in P1 and minimally in B1). It is possible that the original extent of second millennium occupation was greater, and if so its disappearance may be explained as the result of erosion over the centuries: it seems in fact likely that the site was abandoned by the middle of the second millennium, so that structures from this period would have been the ones more readily exposed to weathering.

(3) Late *third millennium* material was found immediately below the surface at the very top of the High Mound in B1, and mid third millennium material was found at the base of the mound in K1 as well as in B1; materials of the same periods are represented everywhere else on the surface of both the High Mound and the Outer City. The later third millennium material rests on floors, and thus one period of the building's history seems fairly secure. The mid third millennium material at the base of the city wall in K1 is somewhat more problematical. Since the burnt deposit on top of the glacis is in the nature of a dump, it could have been taken from anywhere on the site and placed where we have it now at any point in time; in practice, however, it is possible to assume that the dumping took place not long after the period from which the dump itself originated, since the excavated deposit is considerable in size and there is no admixture of later material. If so, the glacis and the wall behind it would have been in use in the Early Dynastic III period.

(4) The vastness of the site and the general homogeneity of the deposit, plus the monumental scale of the architecture, the quality of the artifactual material, and the nature of the preservation, make of Mozan a choice site for the study of early Syro-Mesopotamian *urbanism*. Whether or not the site corresponds to ancient Urkish, the fact that it matches as well or better than any other site the cultural profile of this ancient city makes of Mozan a very significant new source of information. The circumstantial evidence which favors a possible identification with Urkish serves more than anything else to highlight the broad

historical perspective within which the excavations assume their special value. Thus the arguments developed in favor of the identification help first of all to focus on the issues and goals of archaeological research in the area, among others the validity of expecting the existence of an autonomous scribal Hurrian tradition in the late third millennium, the centrality of the upper Khabur region for an understanding of the rise and growth of early civilization, and the significance played by the piedmont regions in the development of long distance trade with the highlands.

(5) The *rural base* of Mozan and its region is just as interesting an object of research. A unique dynamism resulted from the direct interaction of three quite diverse types of rural populations — the farmers of the dry-farming zone immediately around Mozan, the agropastoralists (Amorites) who had learned to tap the ground-water of the Syrian steppe (the *nawu*), and the montagnards of the small settlements in the Tigris valley north of the Tur-Abdin (possibly as far as the Euphrates/Murat-Su valley in the Keban). The piedmont belt that was the stage for the coming together of these populations seems to have been identified in ancient times as a specific cultural landscape and geo-political entity, and to have been known by such terms as "Subartu" or "Urkish and Nawar."

(6) A very significant long distance *trade* was carried out in the area of Mozan during the third millennium in both directions: east-west and north-south. Just north-west of Mozan the Mardin pass leads directly to a road which goes to Diyarbakir and beyond, passing the famous Ergani mines. This route has been postulated as the path of the Persian Royal Road in the first millennium and in Roman times it was recorded on Peutinger's map as the main route through these mountains. Evidence from Byzantine times confirms its continued importance. In this part of the plain then there has been a continuous history of a major city on the plain connected with the exit from the mountains at Mardin whether it be Dara or Amuda in the later period, or very possibly Mozan in the earlier period. This major city was not located at Mardin itself, although that city was important at times, because of its extremes of temperature and paucity of water immediately available. During the third millennium there was a great demand for copper and tin not only in the Khabur area itself but in the wider Syro-Mesopotamian region. Mozan and its neighbor Hamdun are ideally situated on the southern end of the pass which leads directly out of the mountains near the Ergani mines.

(7) Whether or not these mines were in use at this time, we do have evidence of contact between Mozan and the Early Transcaucasian area of the Anatolian mountains which had access to metal sources and trade routes throughout the third millennium. Previously, *Early Transcaucasian pottery* had been found in the Khuera excavations, and now is also found at Mozan. We do not however find this pottery further south. Another type of ware whose geographical distribution suggests significant implications with regard to long term contacts is the *Metallic ware*, for which the center of production was in northern Syria. This pottery was exported as far south as Terqa and Mari; imitations of it are found both at Terqa and Mari. Northward, Metallic ware is found in the excavations in the Elazig area. The distribution of these two wares indicates a wider pattern of interconnections wherein a proposed major trade route in metals could fit. In this tentative reconstruction of trade patterns in this area the metals were brought southward from the Ergani area or beyond along the Mardin route and exchanged at Mozan from where they were shipped farther south. Goods from the Mozan area were shipped northward also via the Mardin route to the Anatolian

highlands as evidenced by the Metallic ware in the Elazig area and beyond. The large amount of metal objects for the relatively small amount of excavations we have done on Mozan could be another indication of its unique importance with regard to metal trade.

1.4 Acknowledgments

We are most grateful to Dr. Afif Behnassi, Director General of Antiquities and Museums of the Syrian Arab Republic, for his steadfast support of our endeavors in Eastern Syria. His stewardship is leaving a deep trace in the development of modern Syrian and Near Eastern archaeology: the open and constructive policies which so clearly mark his administration offer us both a benefit and a challenge — the benefit of an ideal working atmosphere in which to test and develop significant new research projects, and the challenge to integrate our individual finds and hypotheses into the massive explosion of information that is coming out of Syria. We are also most grateful to Dr. Adnan Bounni, who, as Director of Excavations, not only supervises directly the technical aspects of our archaeological work but also, as a colleague, shares so willingly of his own unrivalled experience in field work.

Various other members of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums have assisted us in a number of ways during the first two years of our work at Tell Mozan. Mr. Kassem Touer, Director of Research, was the first visitor to Mozan from Damascus, and helped us all along with his advice. As the Representative of the Directorate General during both seasons, Mr. Hamido Hammade was very effective in helping us establish a firm basis, looking after a number of practical matters with unswerving eagerness. Mr. Jean Lazar, head of the regional office of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums for Hasseke, welcomed us as one more of a number of foreign projects streaming to the Khabur region. And Mr. As'ad Mahmud, Director of the Der ez-Zor Museum and Director of the nearby Syrian Expedition to Tell Ajaja, lent us the support of his friendship and good knowledge of the area as we were branching out to the *matum elitum* from the *zor* of Terqa!

Of authorities in Qamishli we wish to thank the Mudir Mantaqa, Maj. Turki ash-Sheikh, and the Ra'is al Qasim, Capt. Hussein Turki al Omar, who expressed a genuine interest in our work and assisted us in all official matters. The Mudir Nahia of Amuda, Capt. Muhammad Amin Al-Murai, in whose territory Mozan lies, gave us very generously of his help in a number of practical matters: the fact that he was originally from Ashara, the town at the other end of the Khabur which hosts our excavations of Terqa, seemed to favor even more readily a collaboration which we have come to appreciate greatly. Dr. Muhammad Droobie took on the task of the medical care of the Expedition with a skill, promptness and kindness for which we all are most grateful. The local people of the village of Mozan and surrounding villages welcomed us from the start, when they offered us very freely some of the artifacts they had found on the surface, and continued to do so as they became our neighbors, workmen and friends.

The work of our staff is only in part represented in this publication. While the names of all the participants have already been given above, and while some of them have contributed in a more direct way to the writing of this report (and are accordingly given credit as authors of individual sections), the work of others is not as directly represented below and should be given special mention here. William R. Shelby served as Assistant Director and ceramicist

during the first season, and lent us his continued and very real assistance at home during the analysis of the data and preparation of the report; as Administrative Analyst of IIMAS, the International Institute of Mesopotamian Area Studies, he further assisted very concretely in all the organizational aspects of the Expedition as we were preparing for it here at home. Dr. Ismail Hijara, besides contributing to the formulation of the original plans for our new project, gave us the support of his invaluable expertise in field work, and of his unmatched knowledge of the ceramics of the early periods. Daniela Buia Quinn was an indefatigable and very exacting excavator, and was responsible for the bulk of the data entry during the first season. Andrea M. Parker provided the same service during the second season, with the addition of her considerable programming experience. Hamido Hammade put whatever spare time he could muster in the service of archaeological field work, and thus assisted us in our research as well as in the overall organization of our work. The photographers were Dr. Guy Bunnens and Louise A. Hitchcock for the first and second season respectively. The drafting was entrusted to Daniela Buia Quinn during the first season and to Judith Thompson-Miragliuolo, Andrea M. Parker and Timothy Seymour during the second season. Stephen M. Hughey did masterly work in providing us with the initial topographic survey (on which he reports briefly in Section 3.5); Timothy Seymour also provided surveying assistance during the second season.

Here at home we have benefited from the help of Linda Mount-Williams and Ronald Williams, who have contributed of their expertise in both photography and the development of technical equipment. And to Timothy Seymour goes our gratitude for preparing in camera-ready copy all the drawings contained in this volume, providing an even level of high quality in spite of severe health problems during the time in question.

Financial support for the Mozan Archaeological Project has come first and foremost from the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation, which has also provided a special grant for the publication of this volume. As we mentioned in the preface, we were especially pleased to have had a visit in Damascus from the President of the Foundation, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, during our second season at Mozan. While limitations of time and health prevented him from coming all the way to the field, his visit gave us a warm demonstration of his personal interest in our work in Syria, made possible by the major support of the Foundation. To Dr. Herman L. Hoeh, also of the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation and a Trustee of IIMAS—The International Institute for Mesopotamian Area Studies, goes our sincere gratitude for the continued concern and constructive support he has unfailingly shown us.

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FIGURES

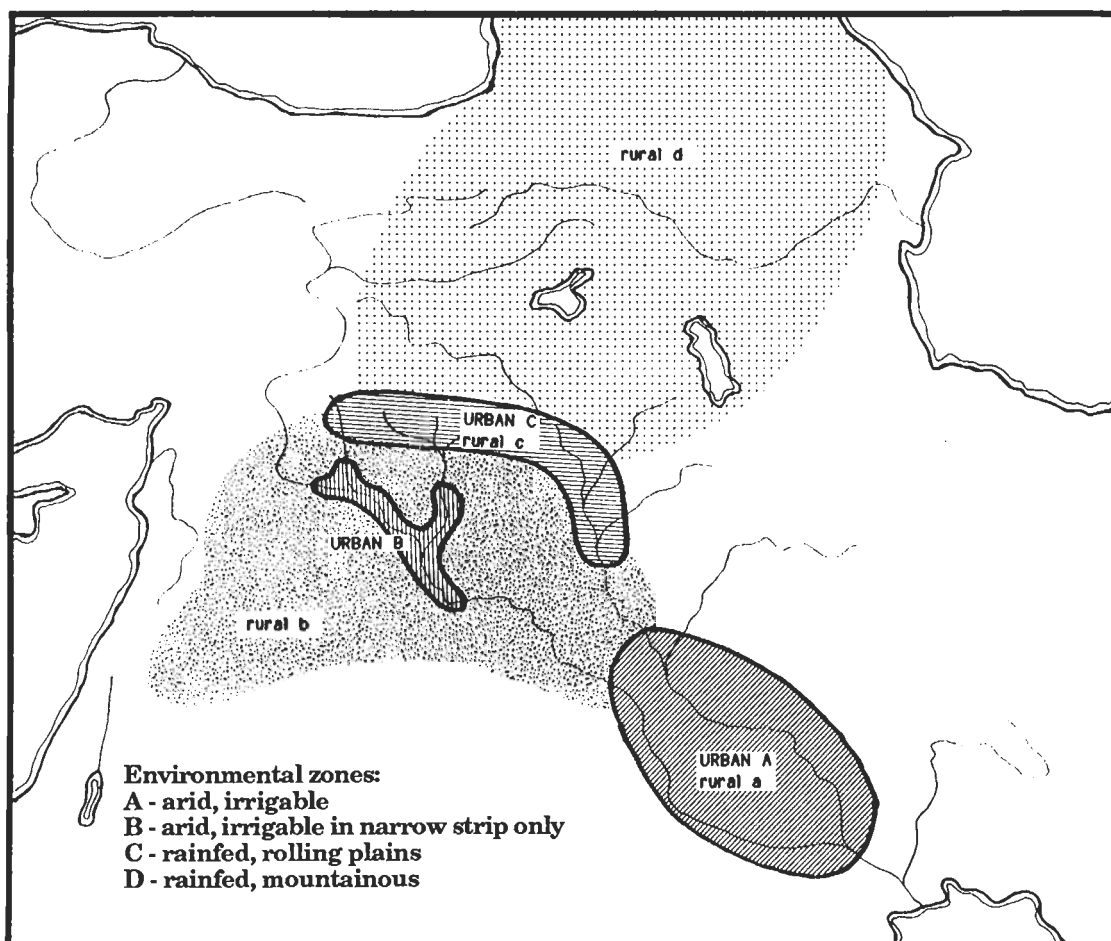


Figure 1. Rural and urban zones in Syro-Mesopotamia during the third millennium

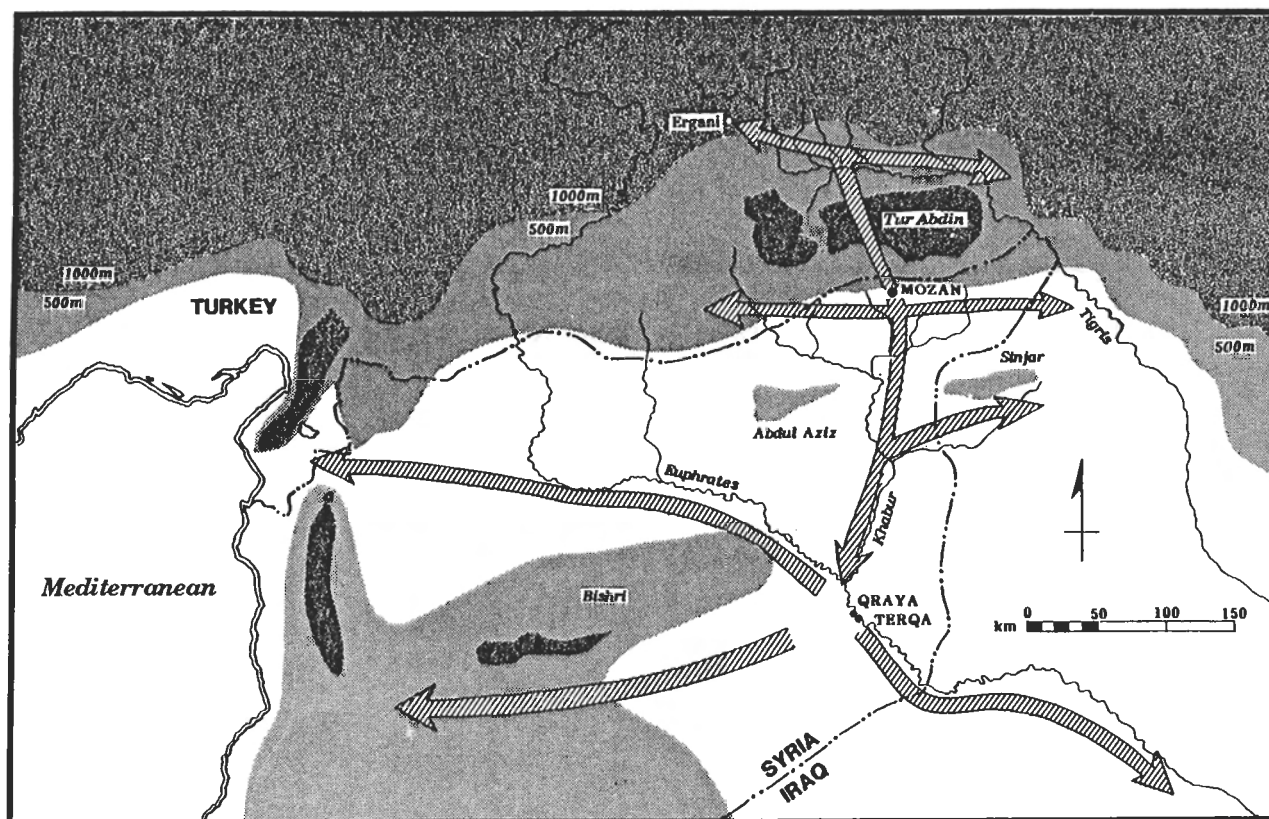


Figure 2. Major trade routes

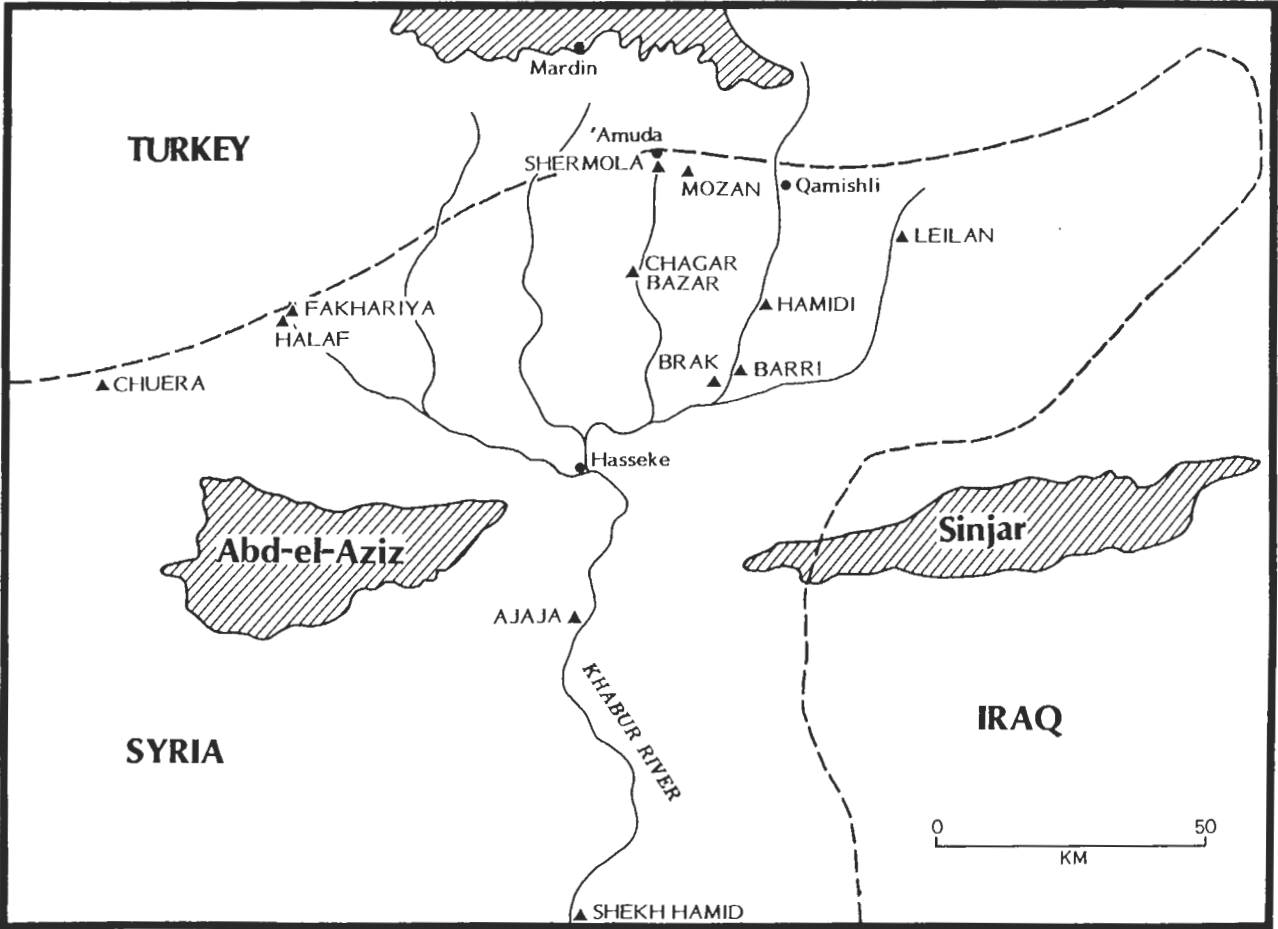


Figure 3. Major sites in the upper Khabur region

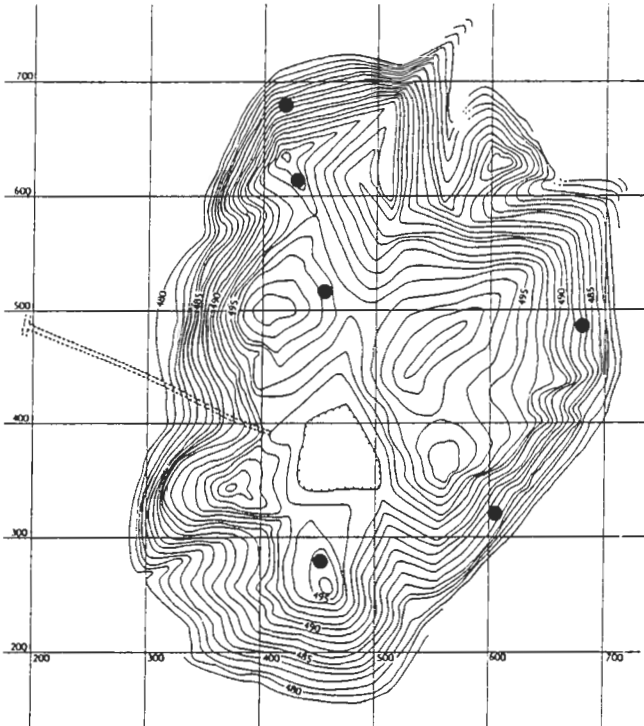
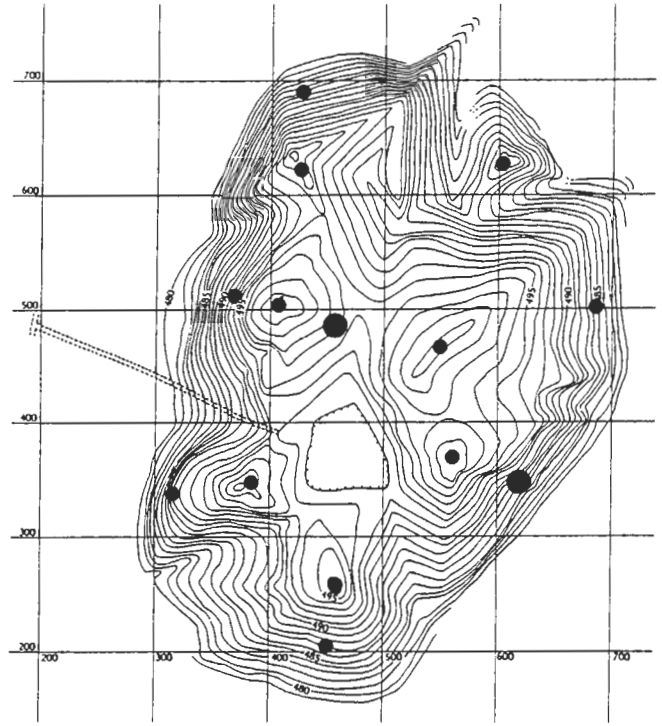
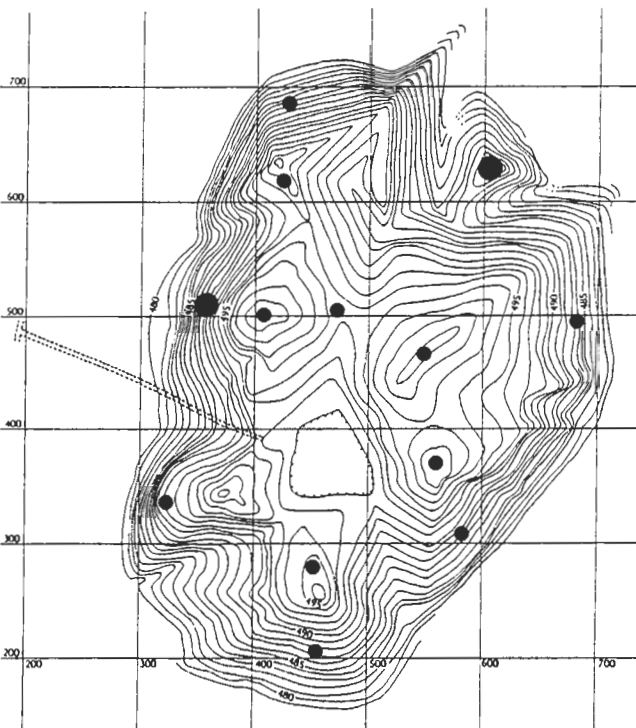
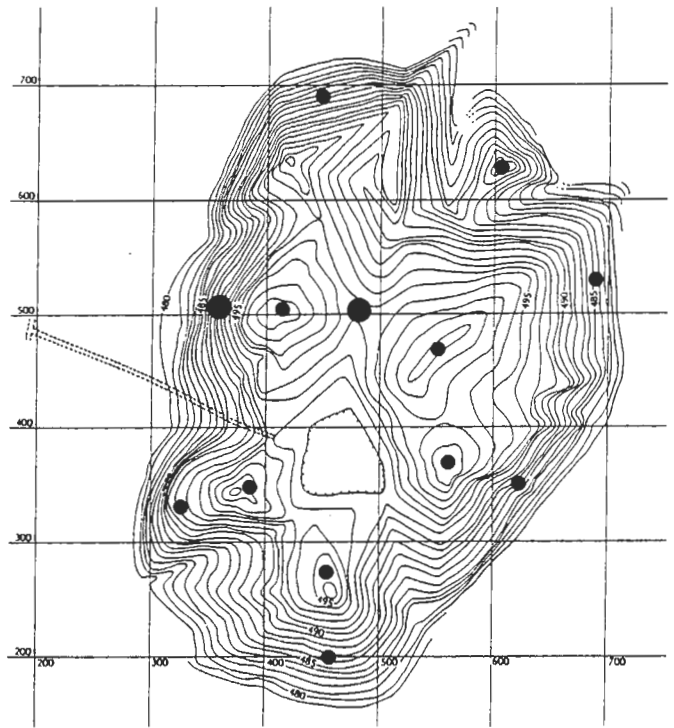
EARLY THIRD MILLENNIUM (NINEVITE V)**MID THIRD MILLENNIUM****LATE THIRD MILLENNIUM (UR III)****MID EARLY SECOND MILLENNIUM (HABUR)**

Figure 4. The High Mound: Distribution of ceramic wares by period

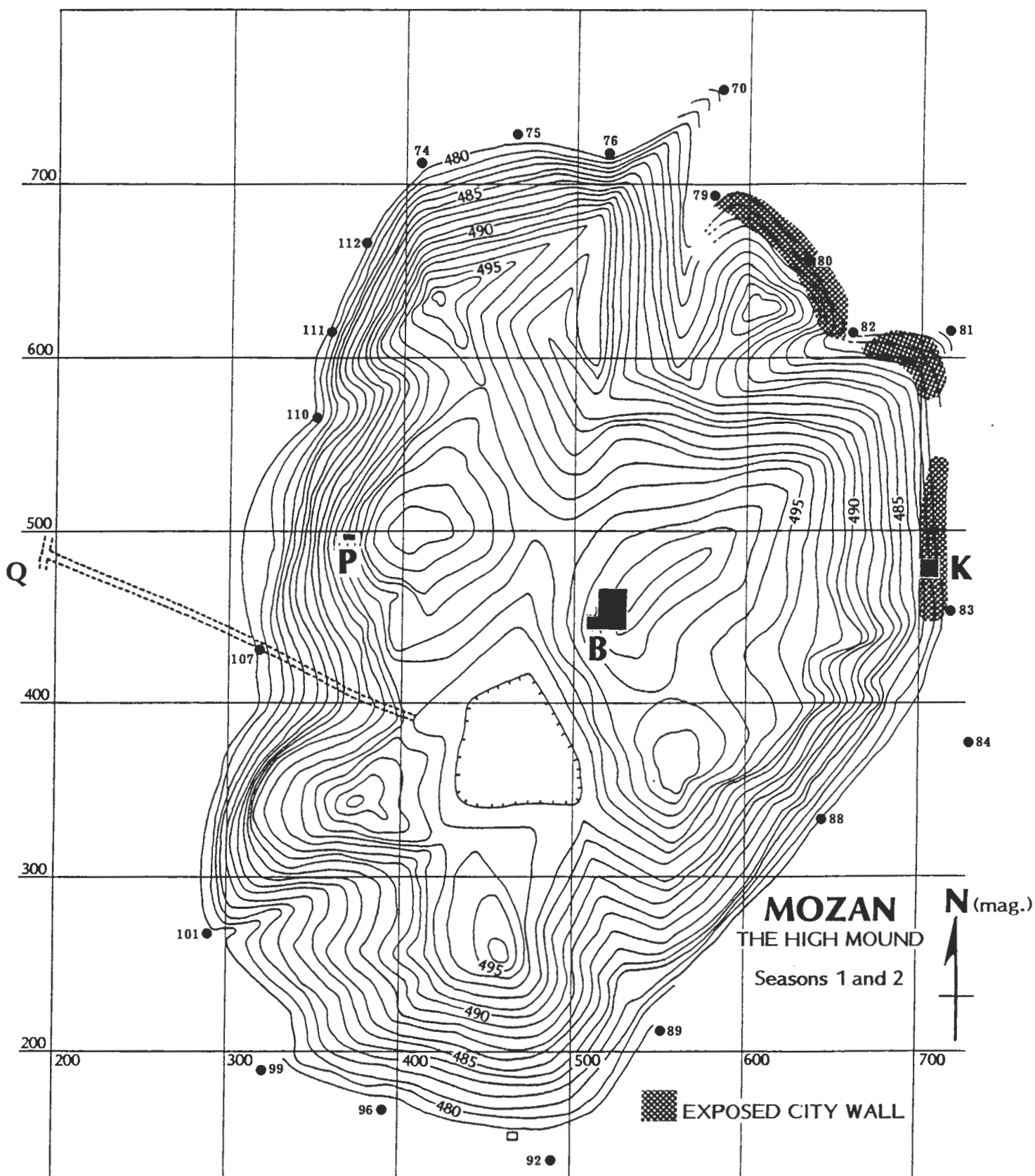


Figure 5. Tell Mozan: Topographic map of the High Mound

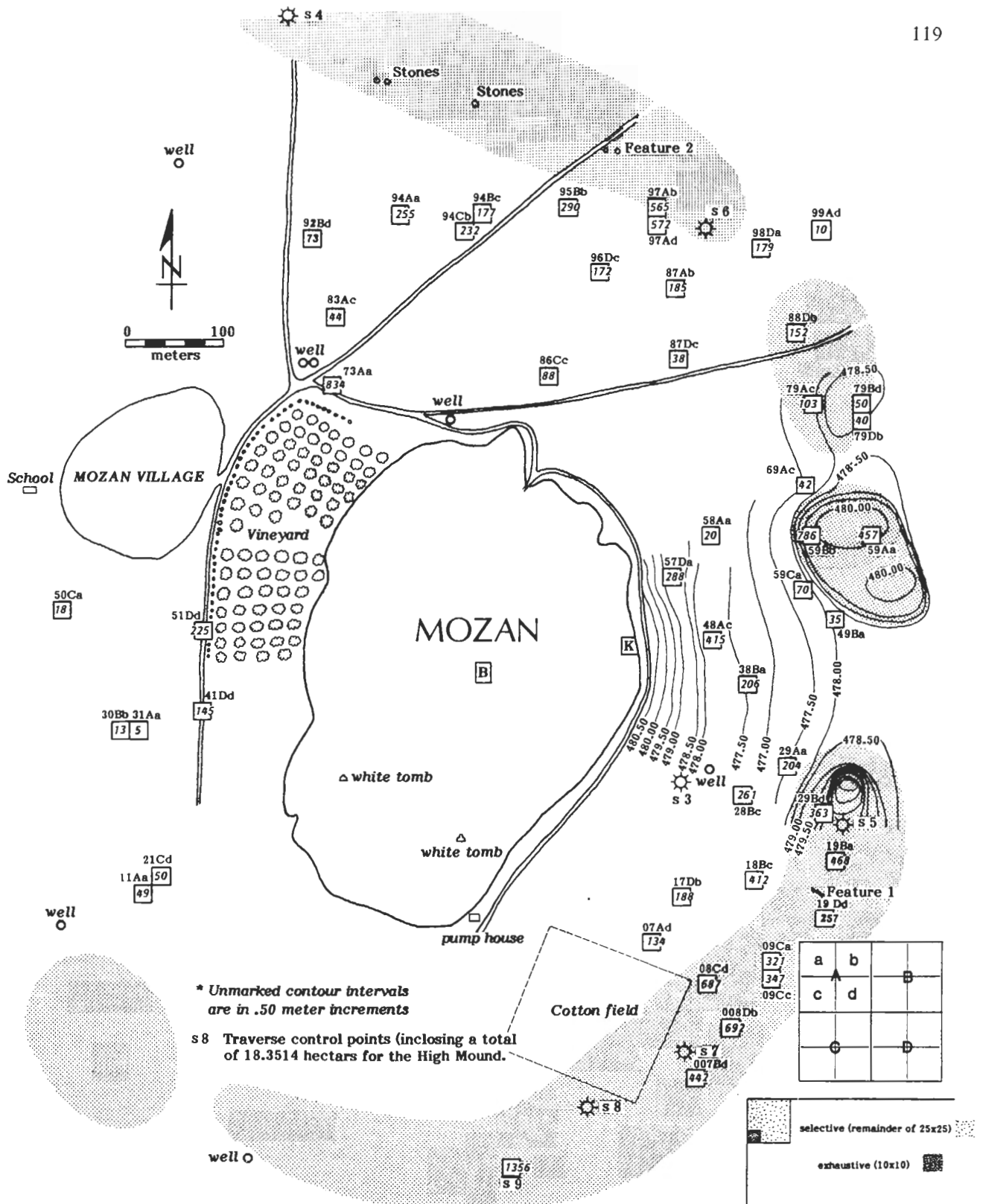


Figure 6. Tell Mozan: Partial topographic map of the Outer City

Note: Small squares represent surface collection areas; the number inside the square corresponds to the total number of items collected; the number outside the square corresponds to the grid designation, as indicated in the inset; the notation of the type s2 corresponds to special areas within the Outer City.

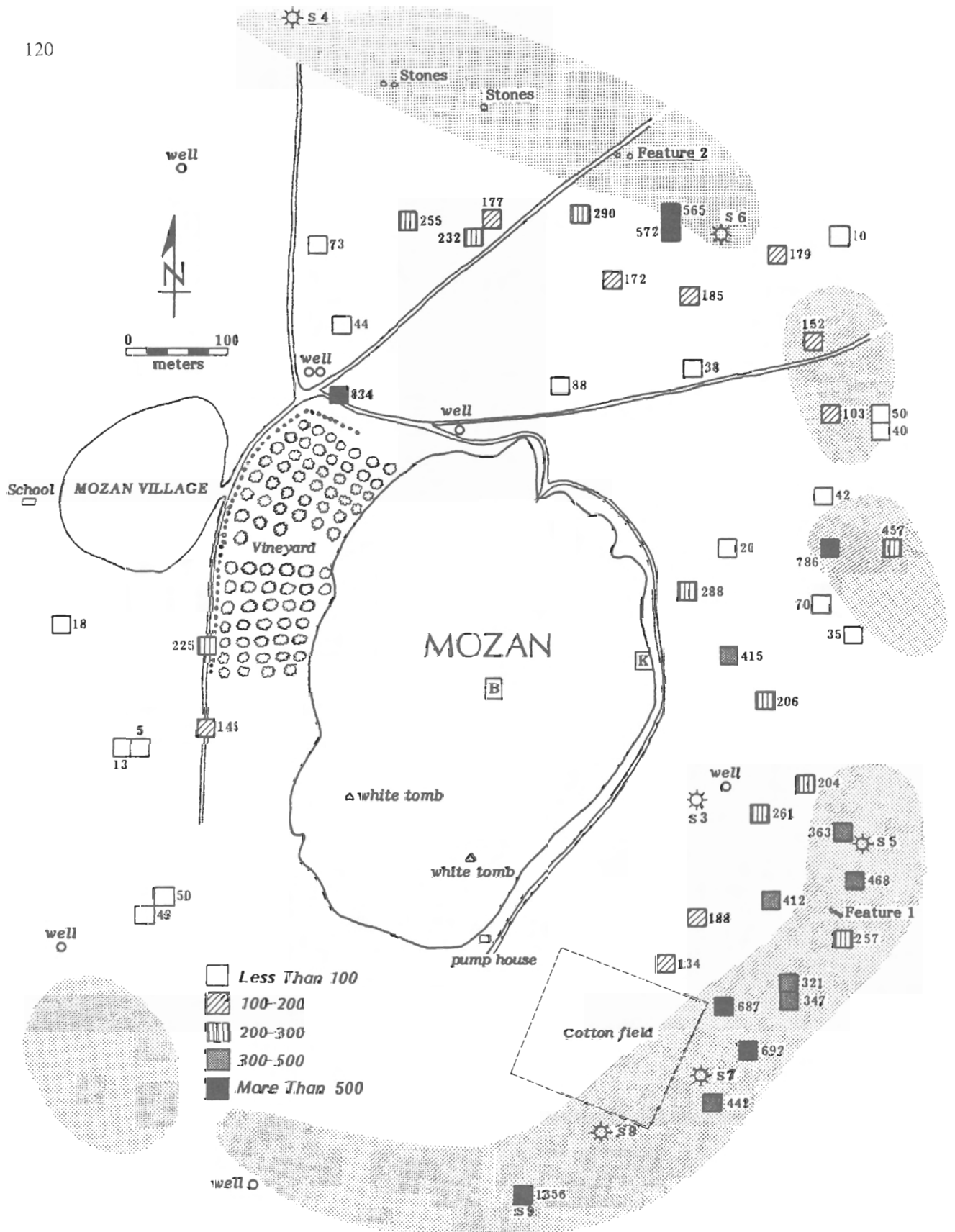


Figure 7. The Outer City: Distribution of ceramic wares by total number

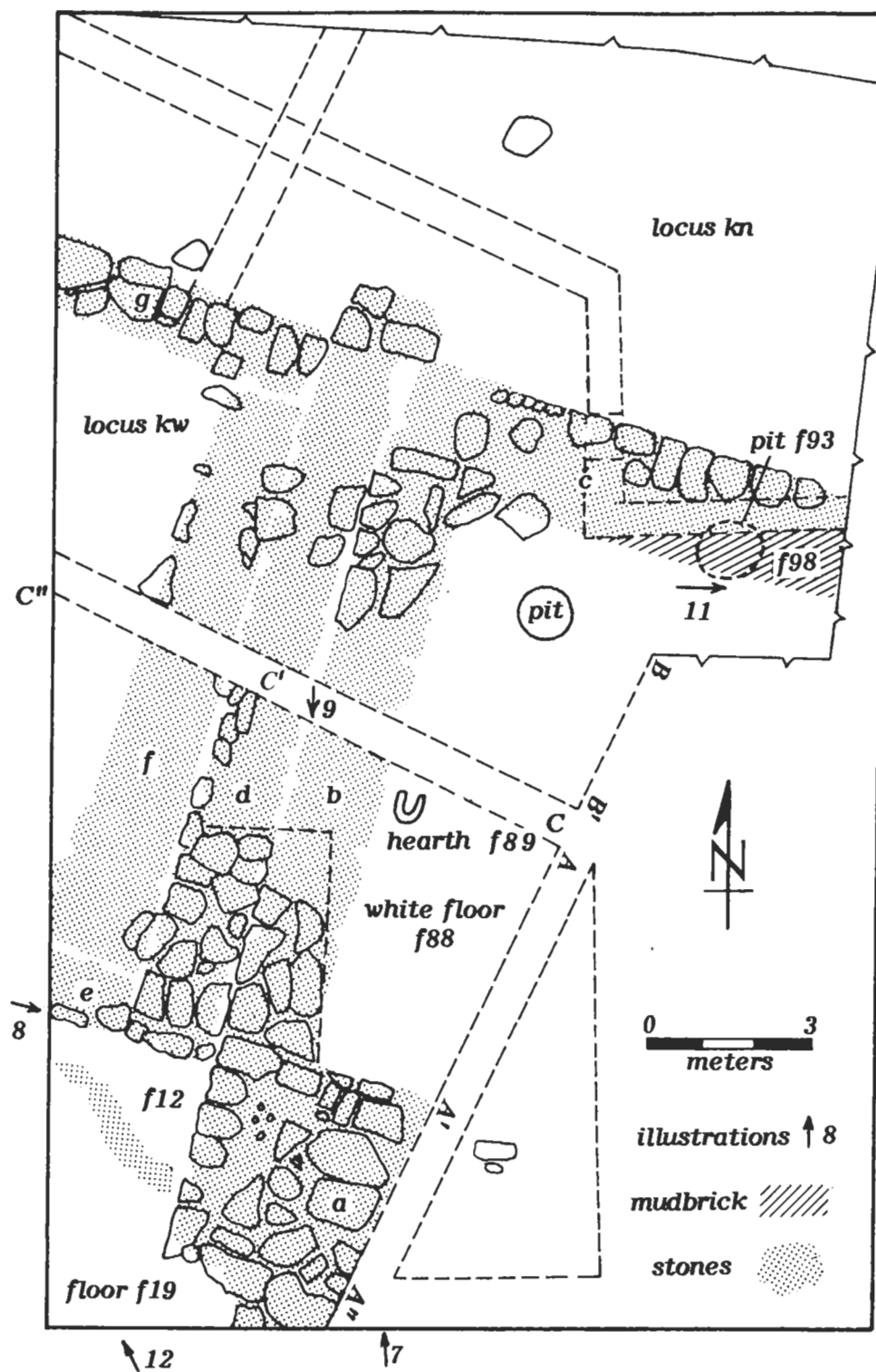


Figure 9. The stone building in Area B: sketch floor plan

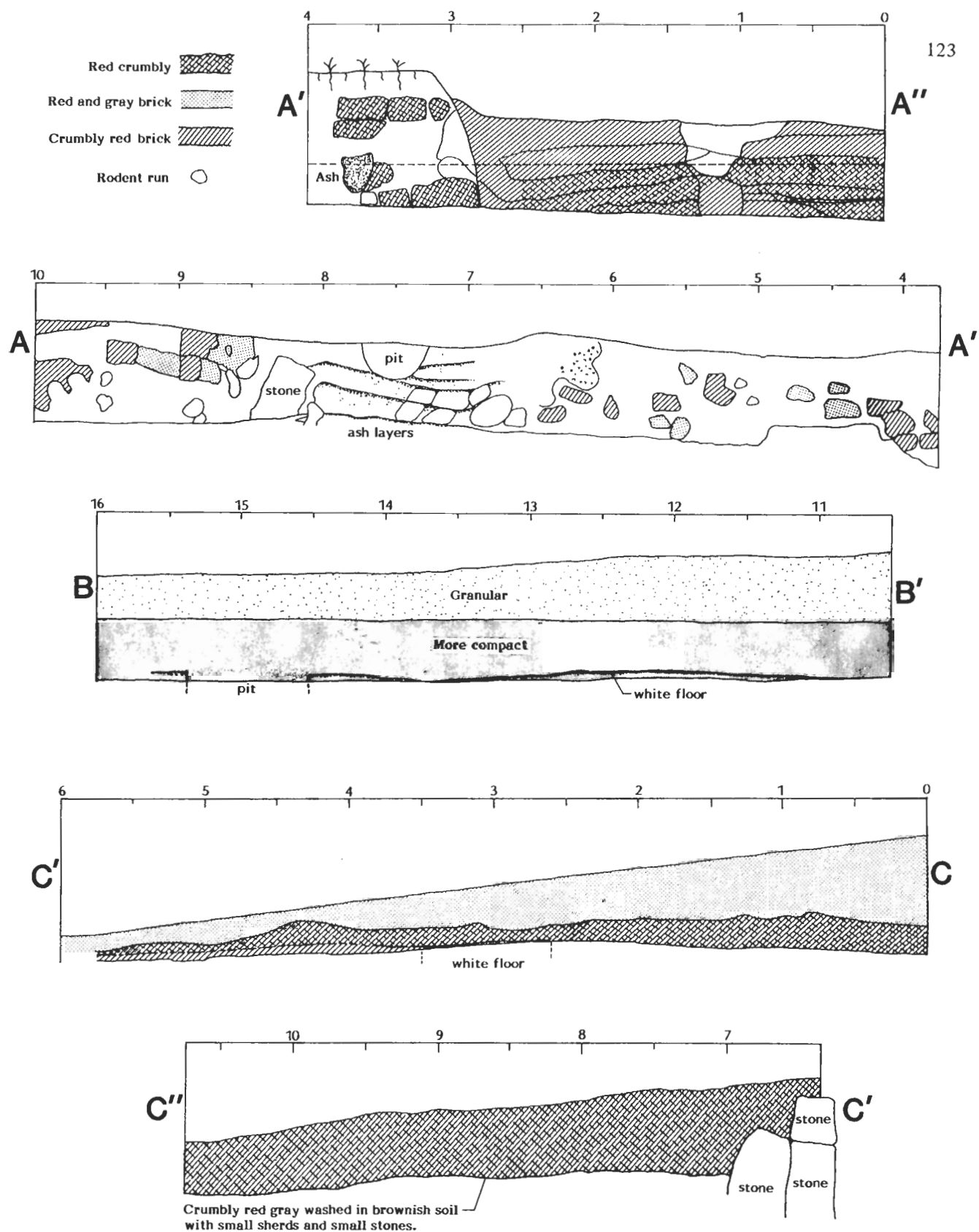


Figure 10. The stone building in Area B: sections

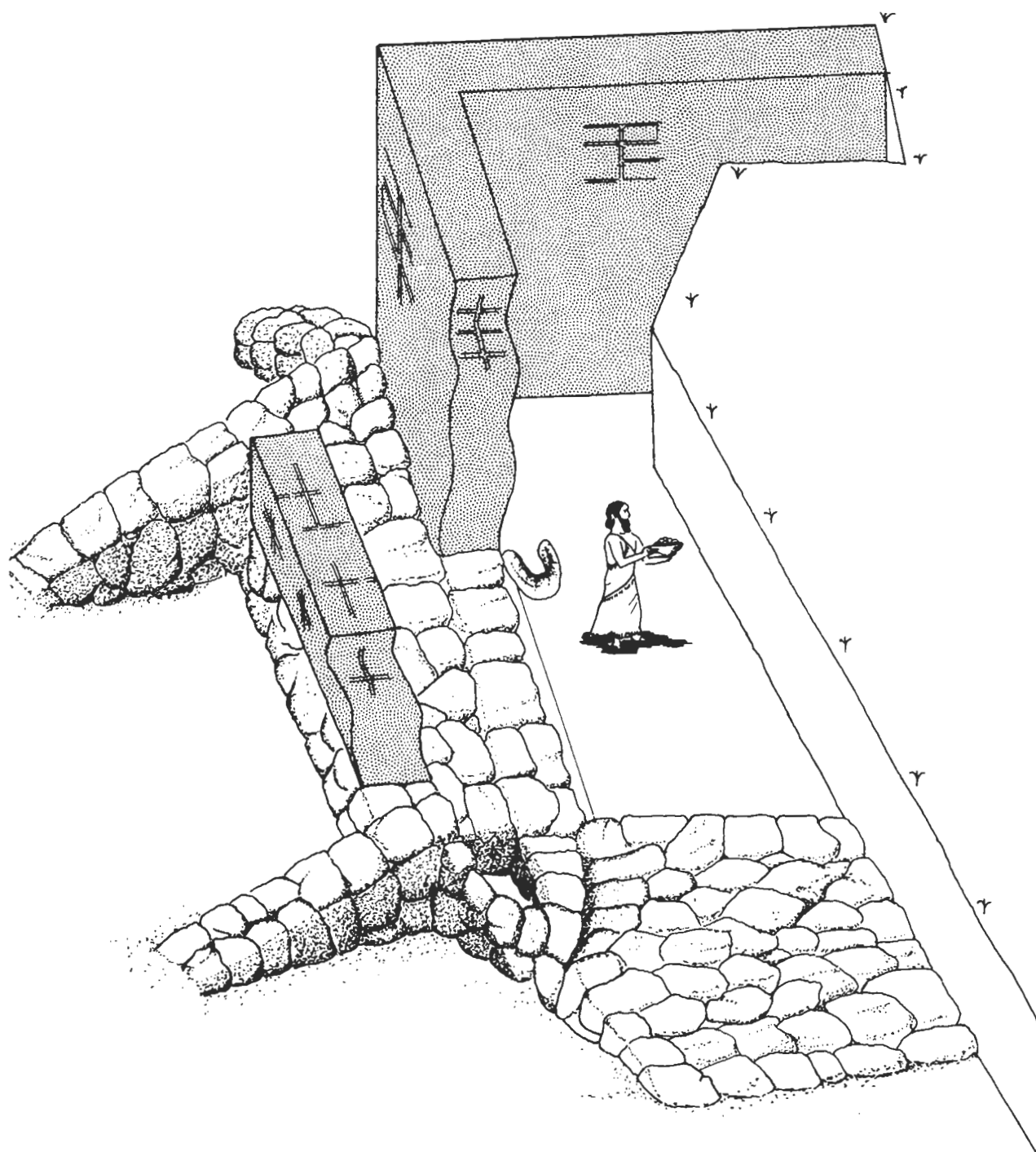


Figure 11. The stone building in Area B: reconstruction

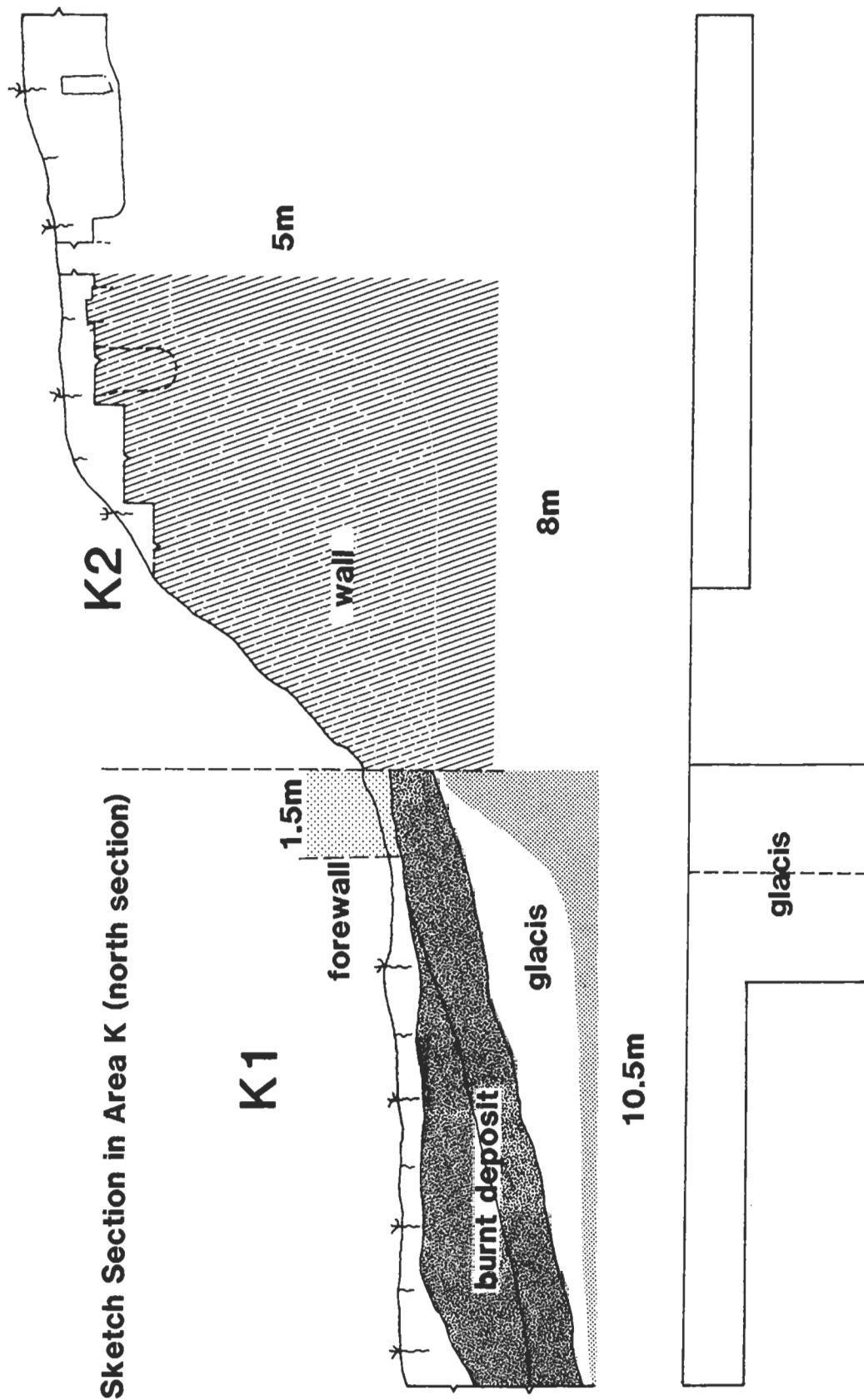


Figure 12. The city wall in Area K: sketch section

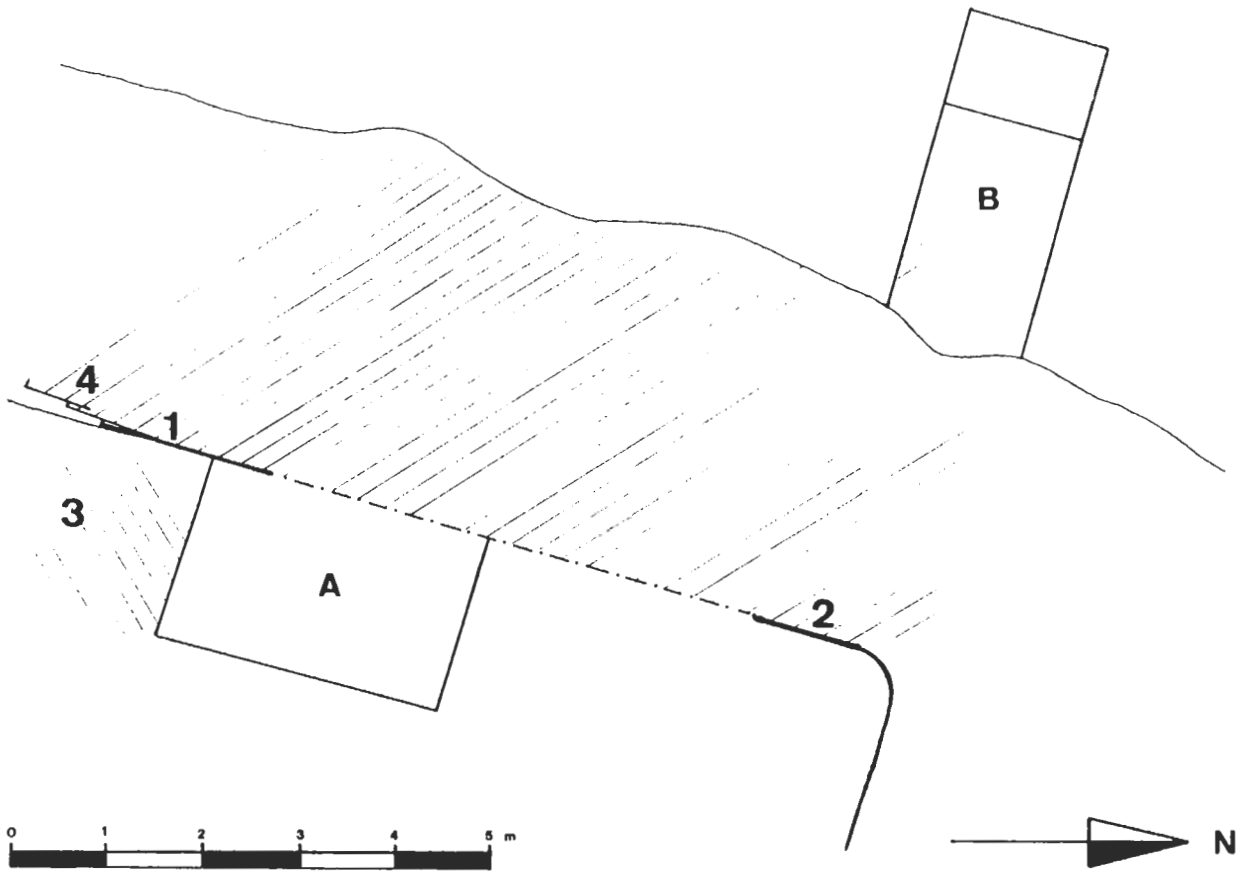


Figure 13. The city wall in Area K: floor plan (1984 season)

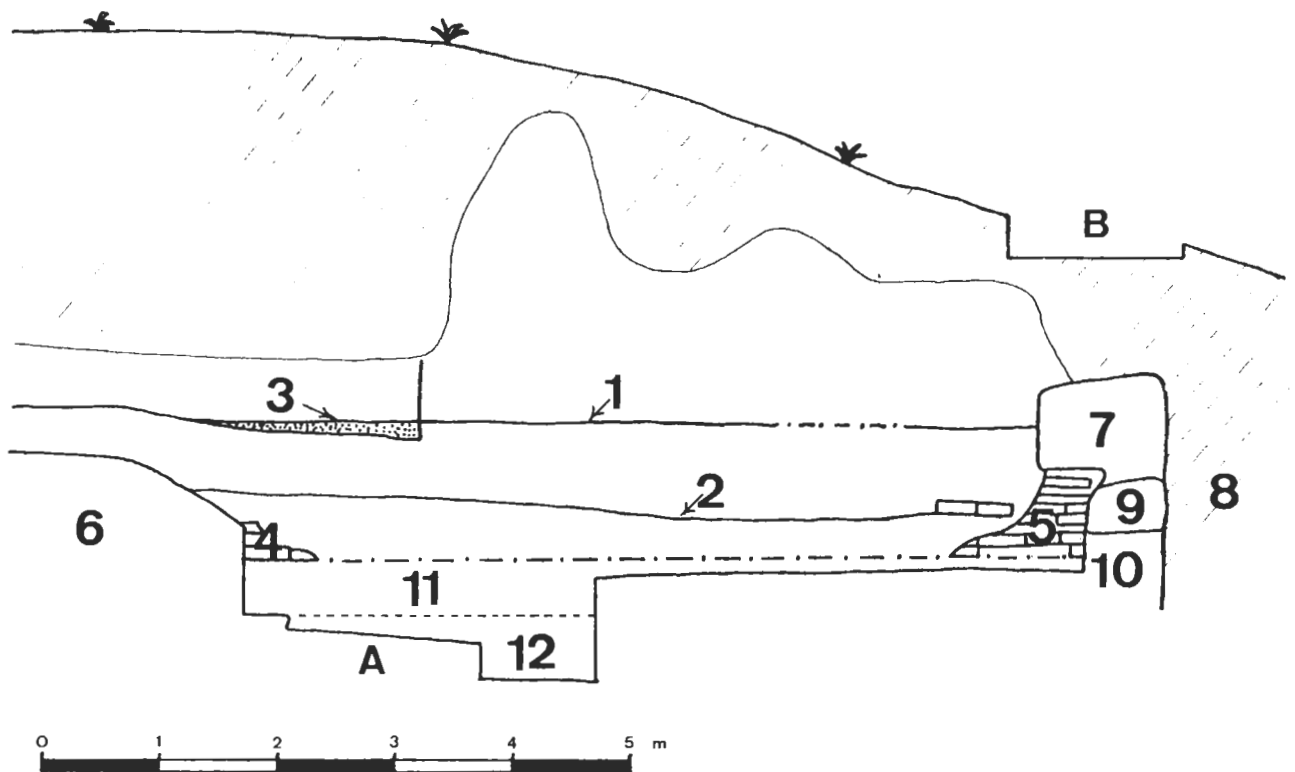


Figure 14. The city wall in Area K: frontal view (1984 season)

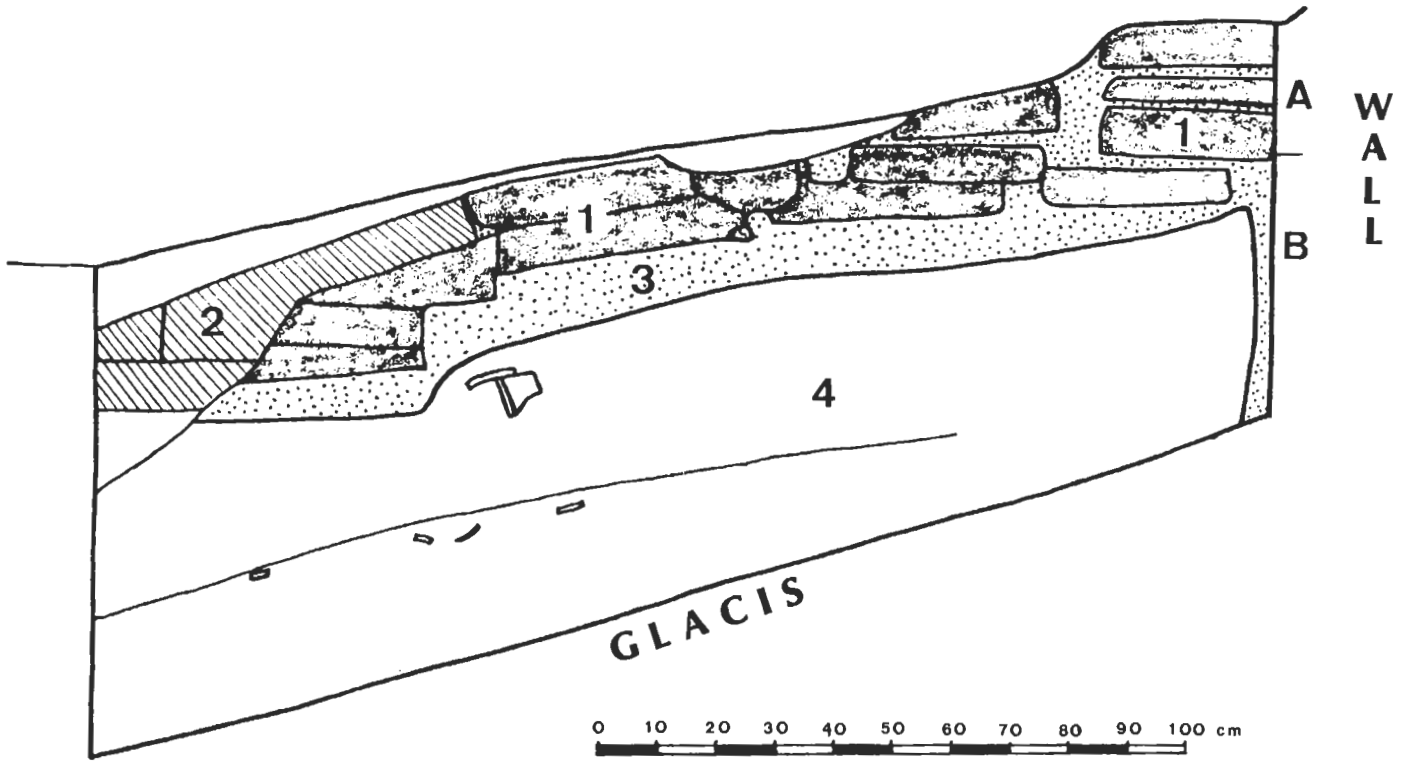


Figure 15. The city wall in Area K: North section of Locus A

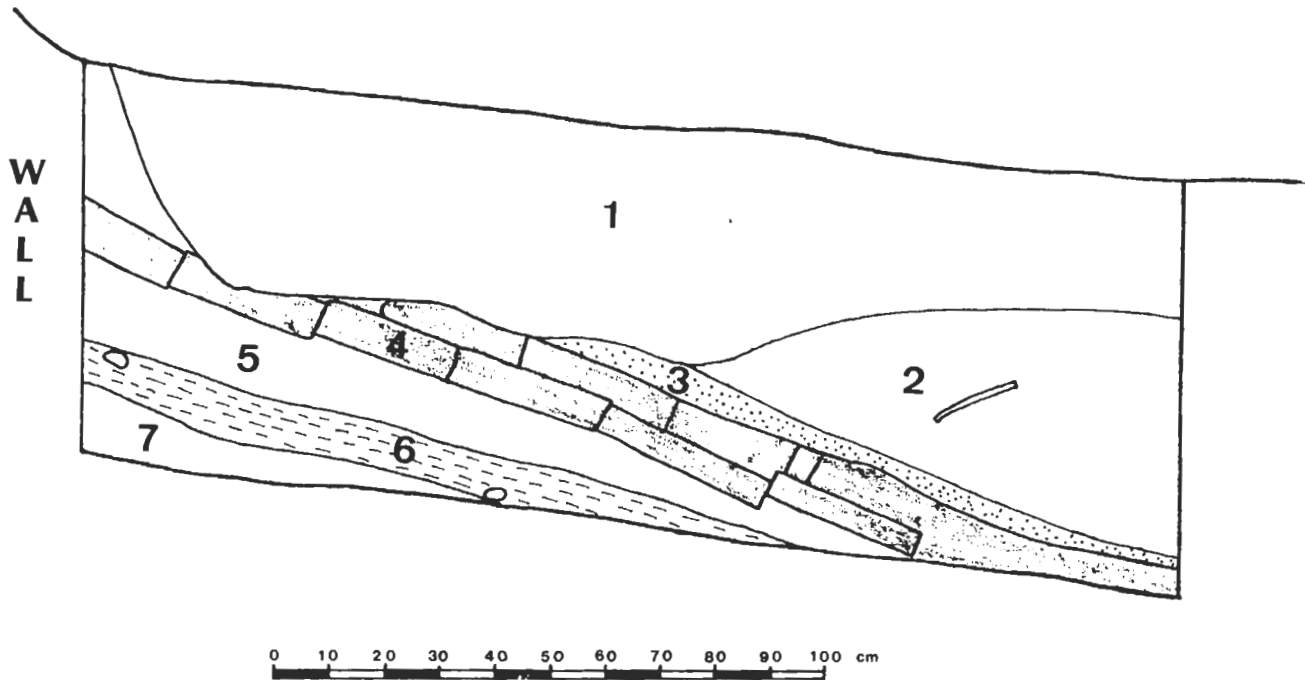


Figure 16. The city wall in Area K: South section of Locus A

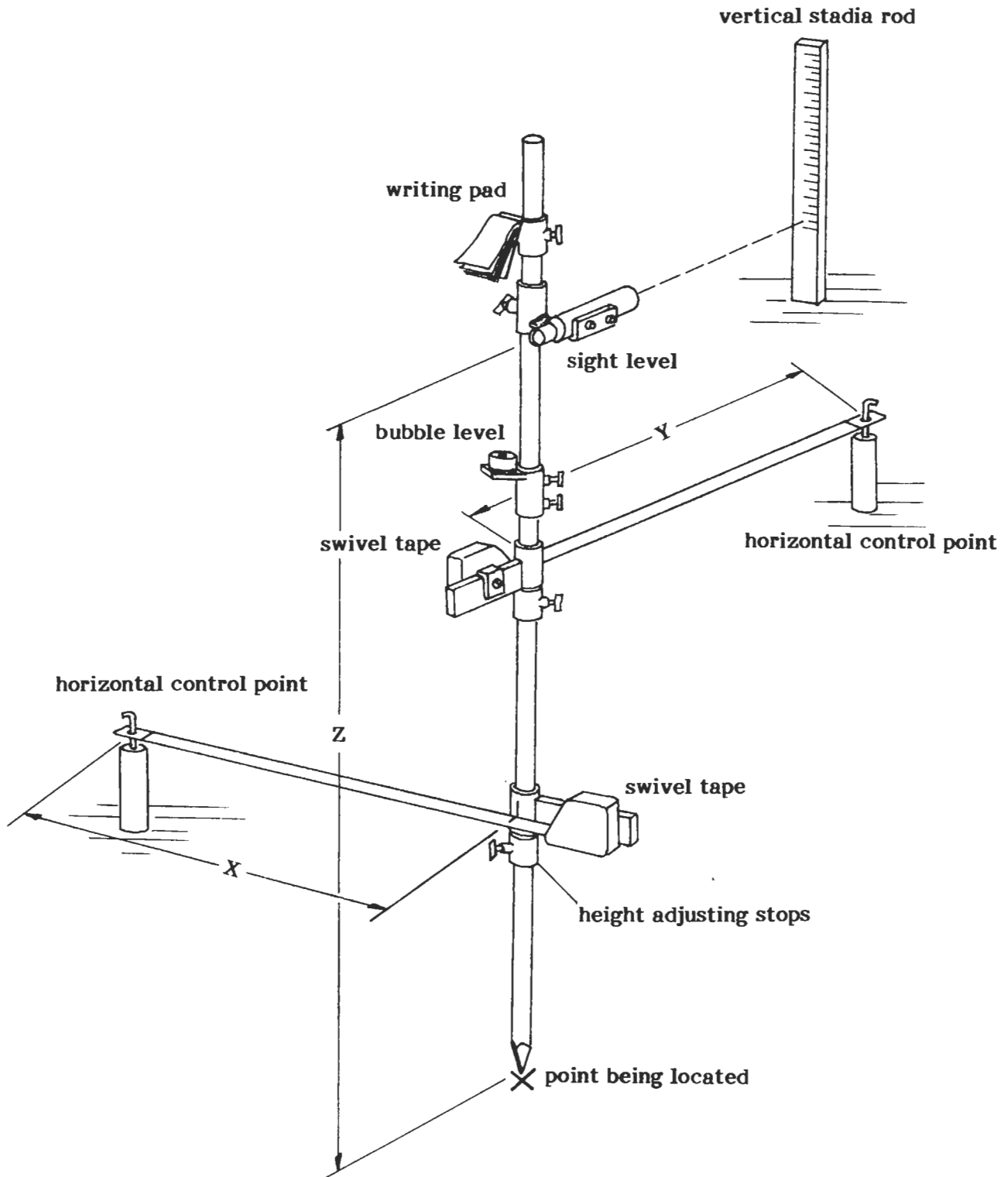


Figure 17. Sketch of triangulation rod

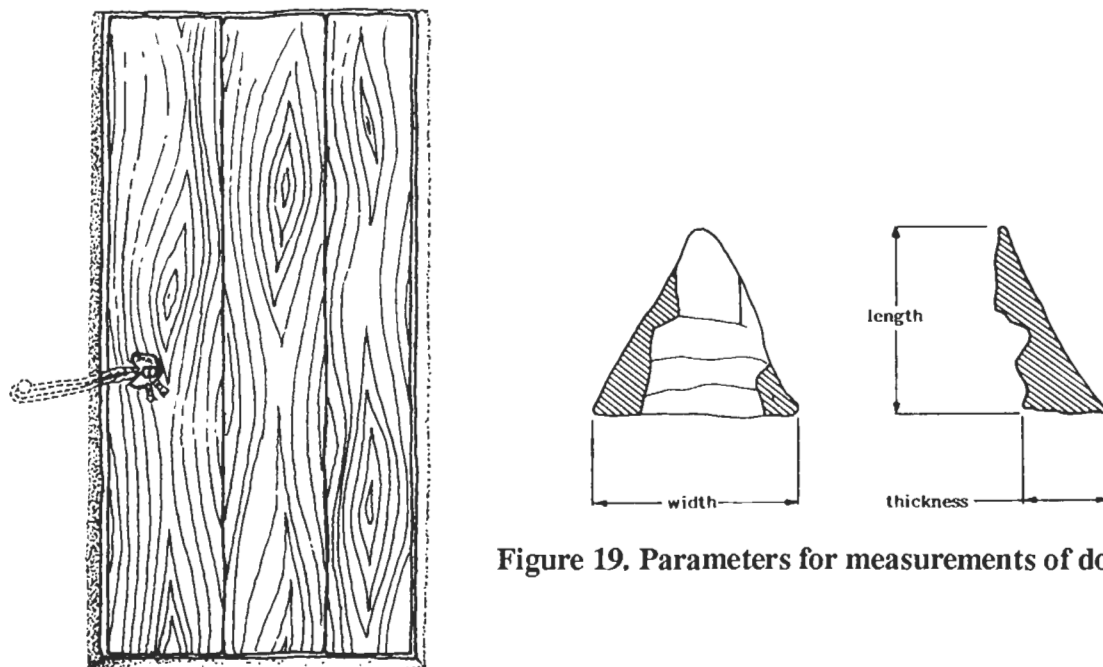


Figure 19. Parameters for measurements of door sealings

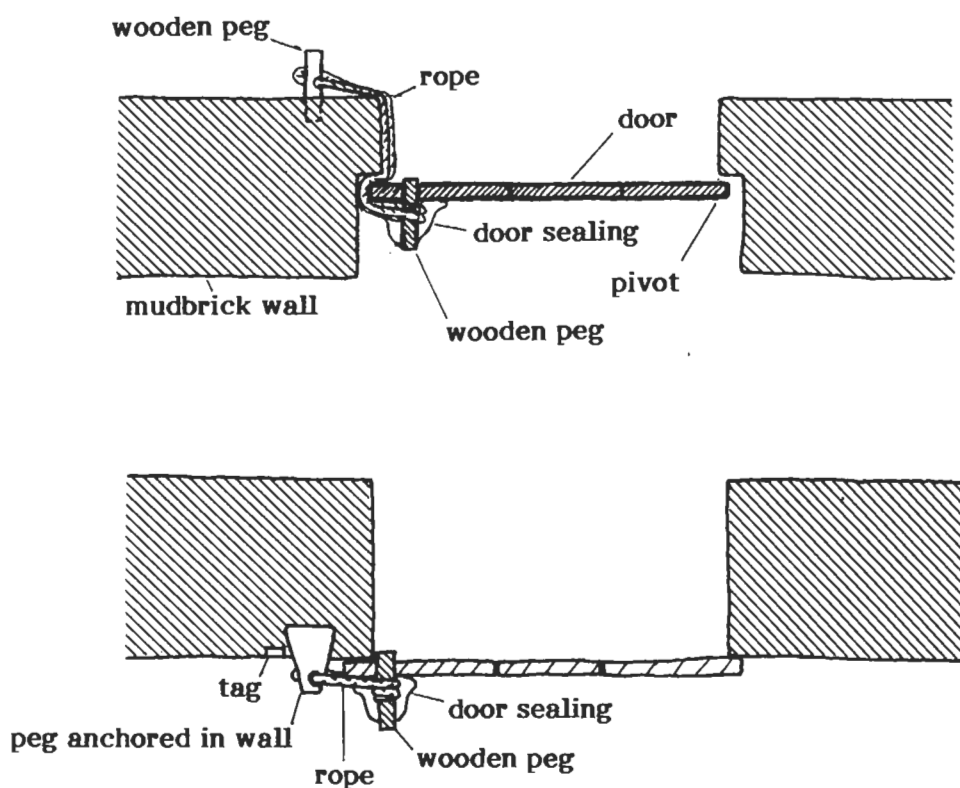


Figure 18. Suggested reconstructions of the use of door sealings

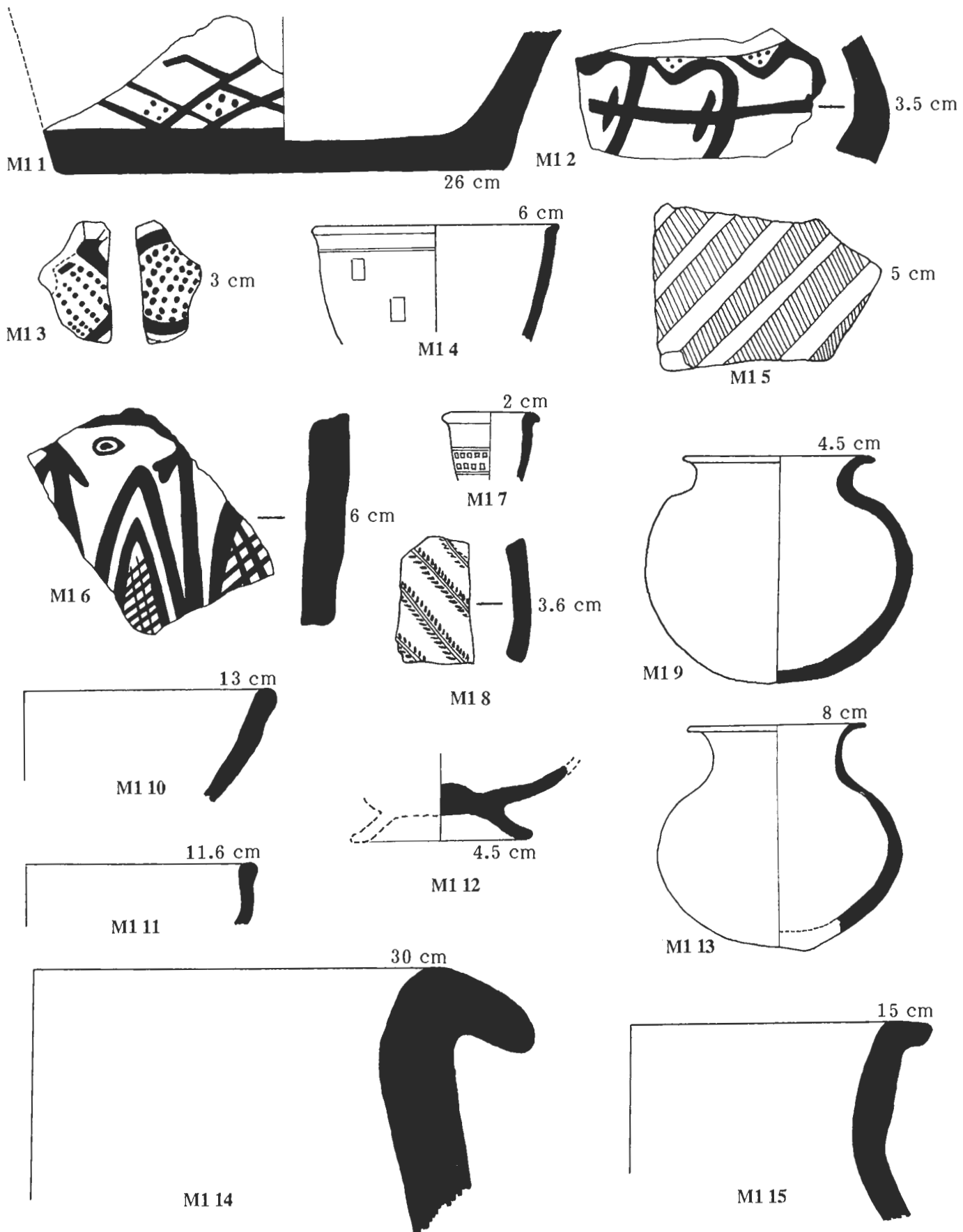
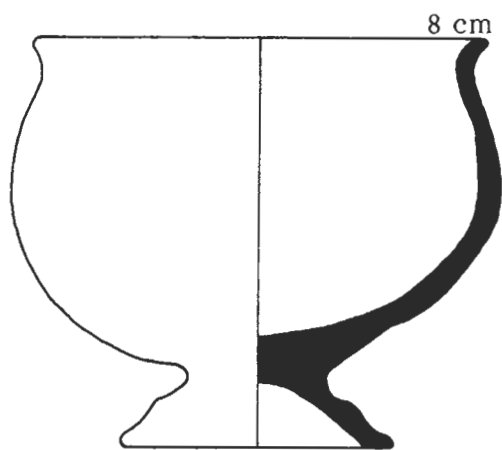
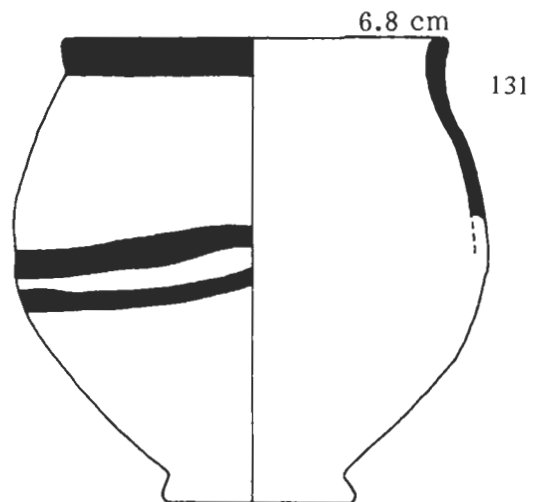


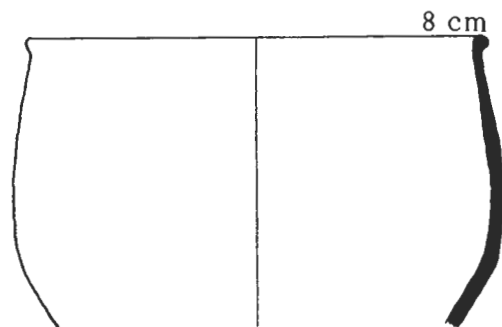
Figure 20. Ceramic types from the surface of the High Mound
Halaf (M1 1-3), Incised Ninevite V (M1 4-5, 7-8), Painted Ninevite V (M1 6), Metallic ware (M1 9-15)



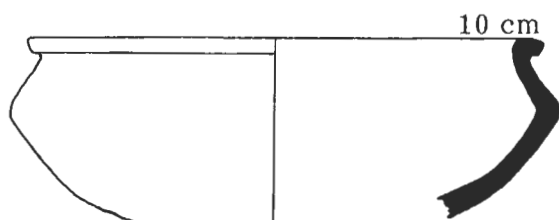
M1 16



M1 17



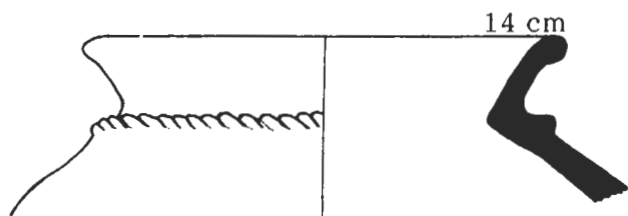
M1 18



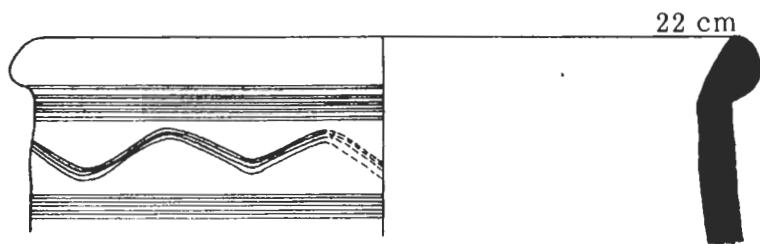
M1 19



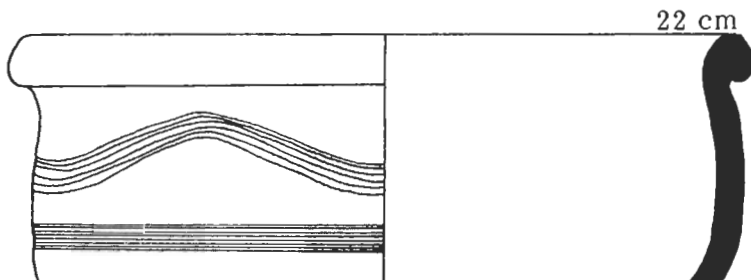
M1 20



M1 21



M1 22



M1 23

Figure 21. Ceramic types from the surface of the High Mound
Simple ware (M1 16, 18-19), Painted Simple ware (M1 17), late third mill. or "Ur III" (M1 21-23)

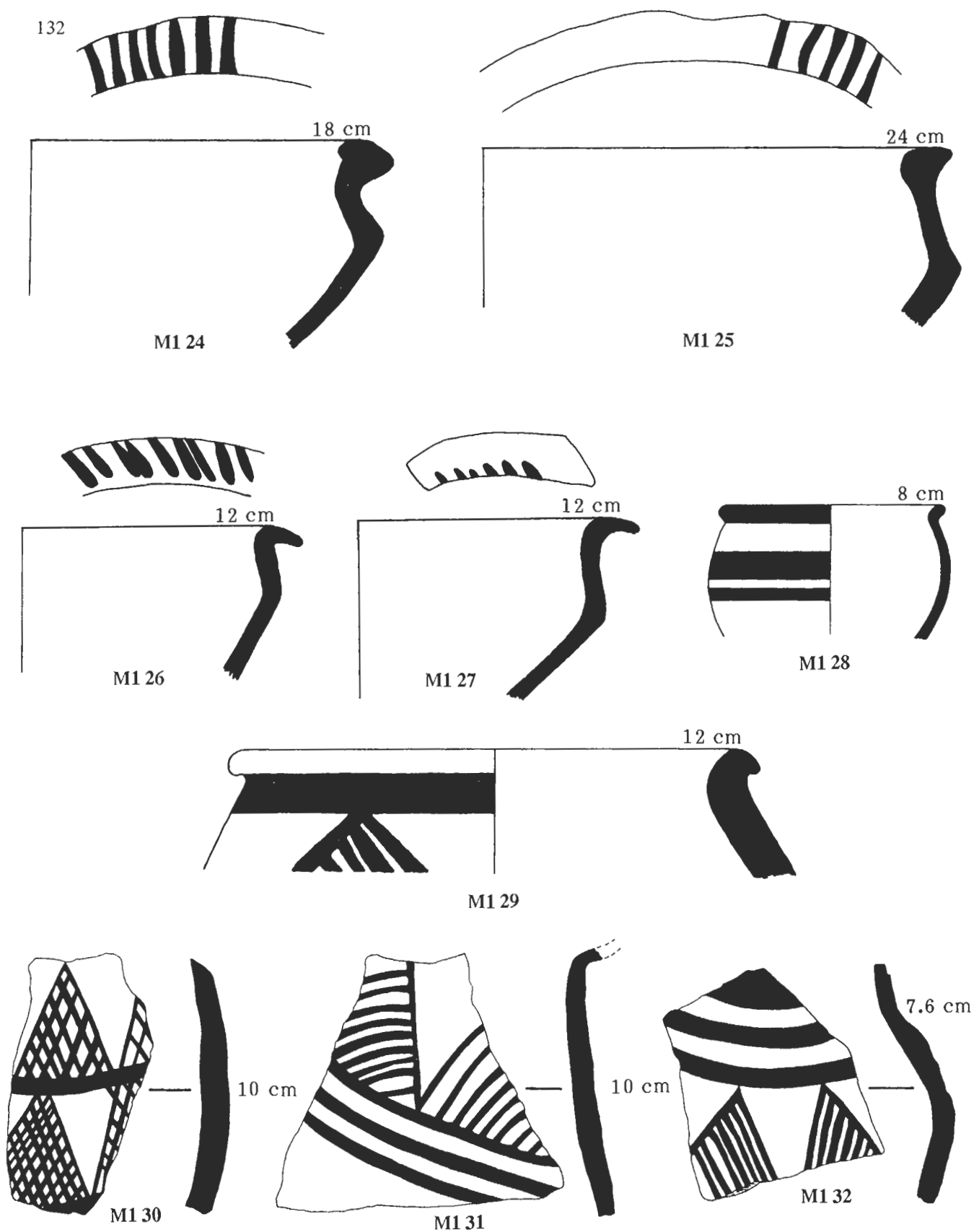


Figure 22. Ceramic types from the surface of the High Mound: Khabur ware

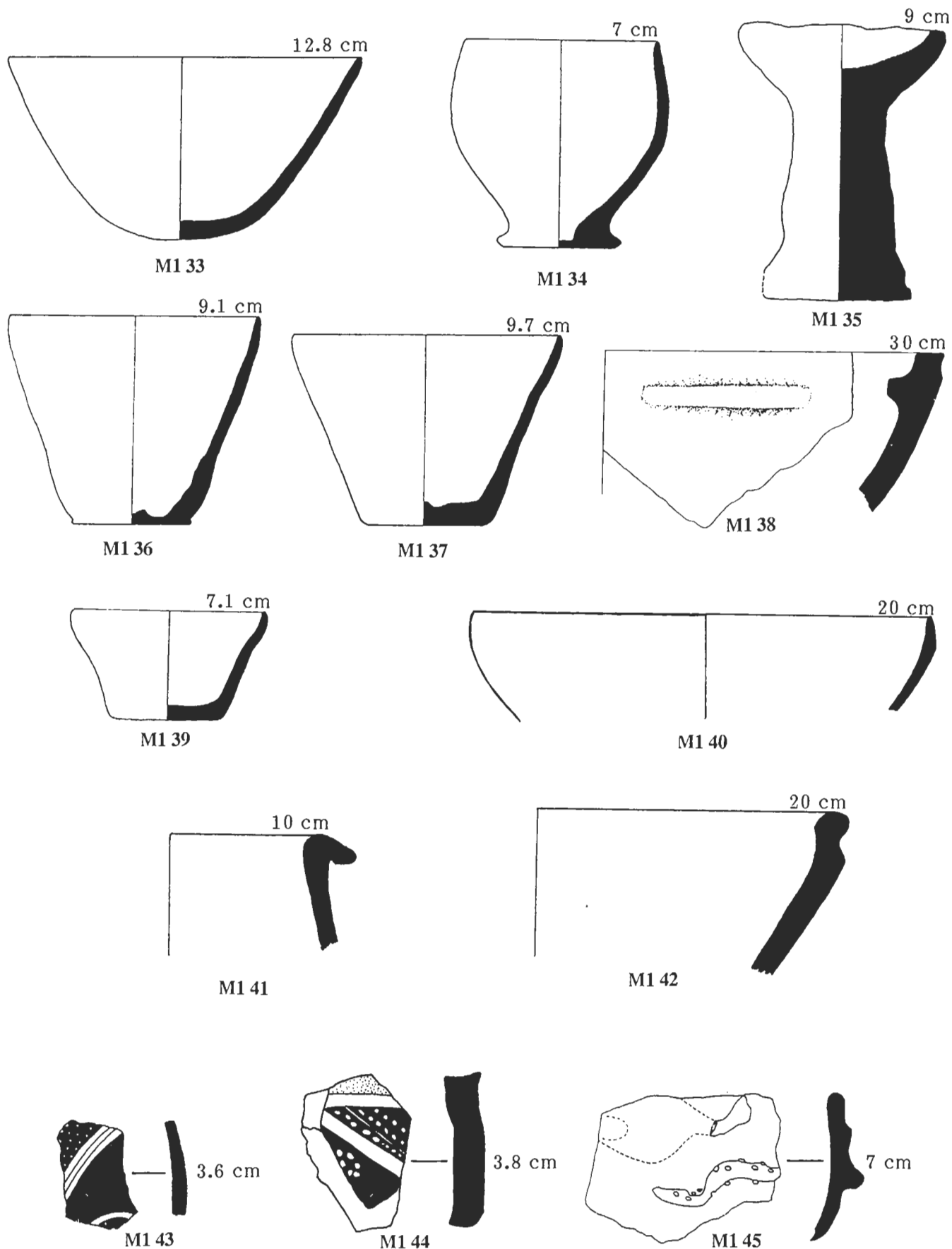


Figure 23. Ceramic types from the soundings and surface of the High Mound
 Miscellaneous types (M1 33-39 are from the soundings, M1 40-45 from the surface)

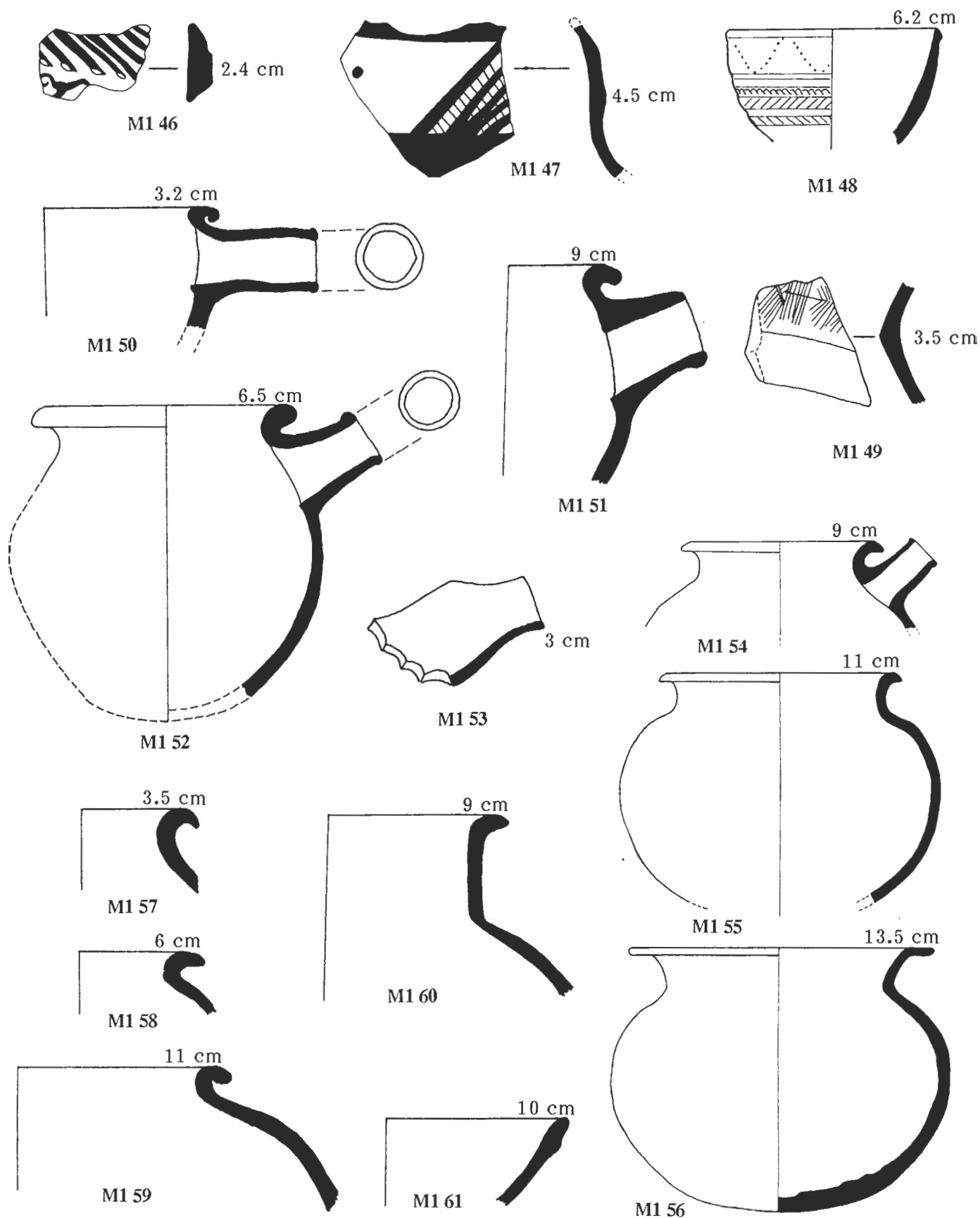


Figure 24. Ceramic types from the soundings
Halaf (M1 46-47), Incised Ninevite V (M1 48-49), Simple ware (M1 50-59), Metallic ware (M1 60-61)

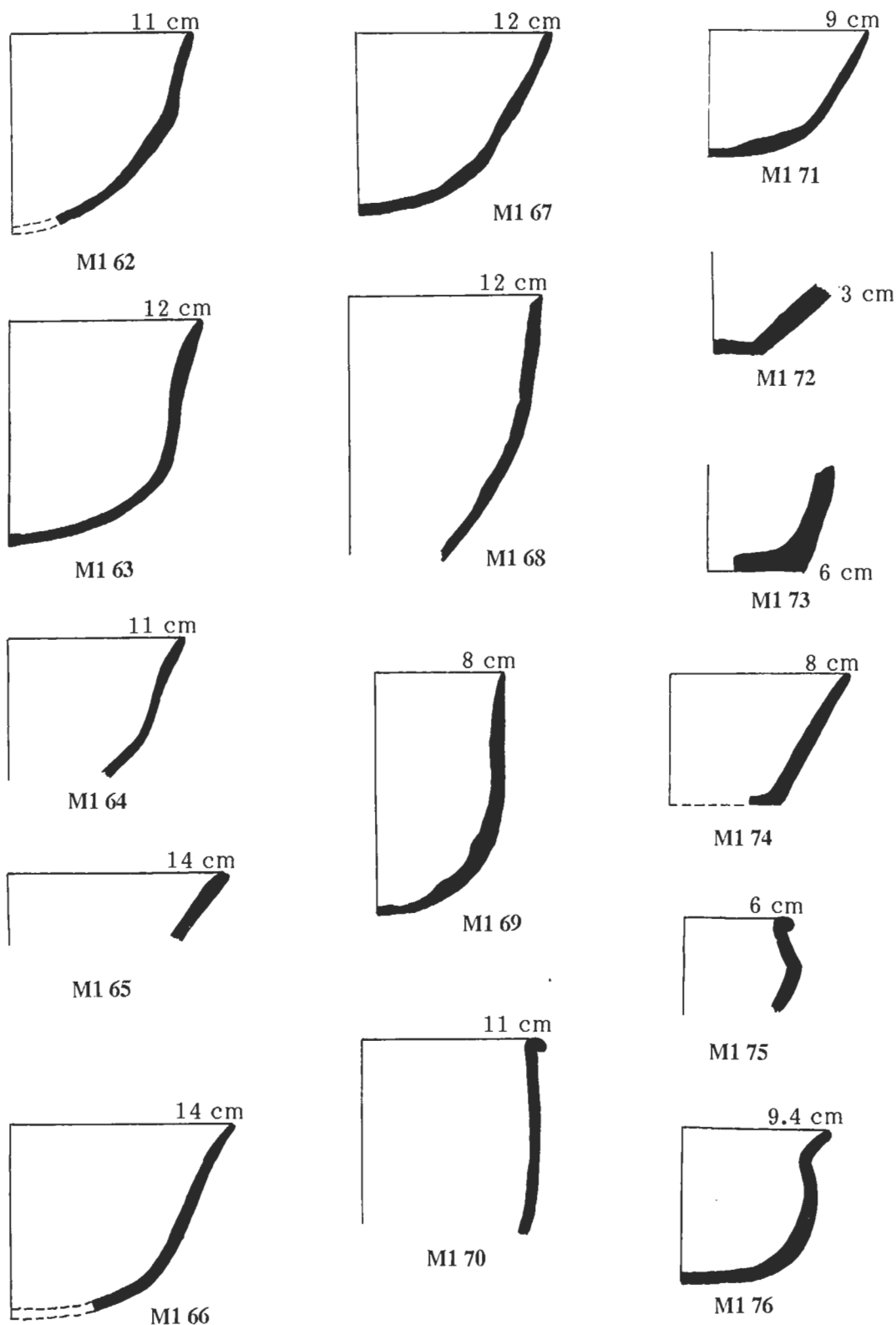


Figure 25. Ceramic types from the soundings
 Simple ware (M1 65, 72-73, 75-76 are from Area B1, the rest from area K1)

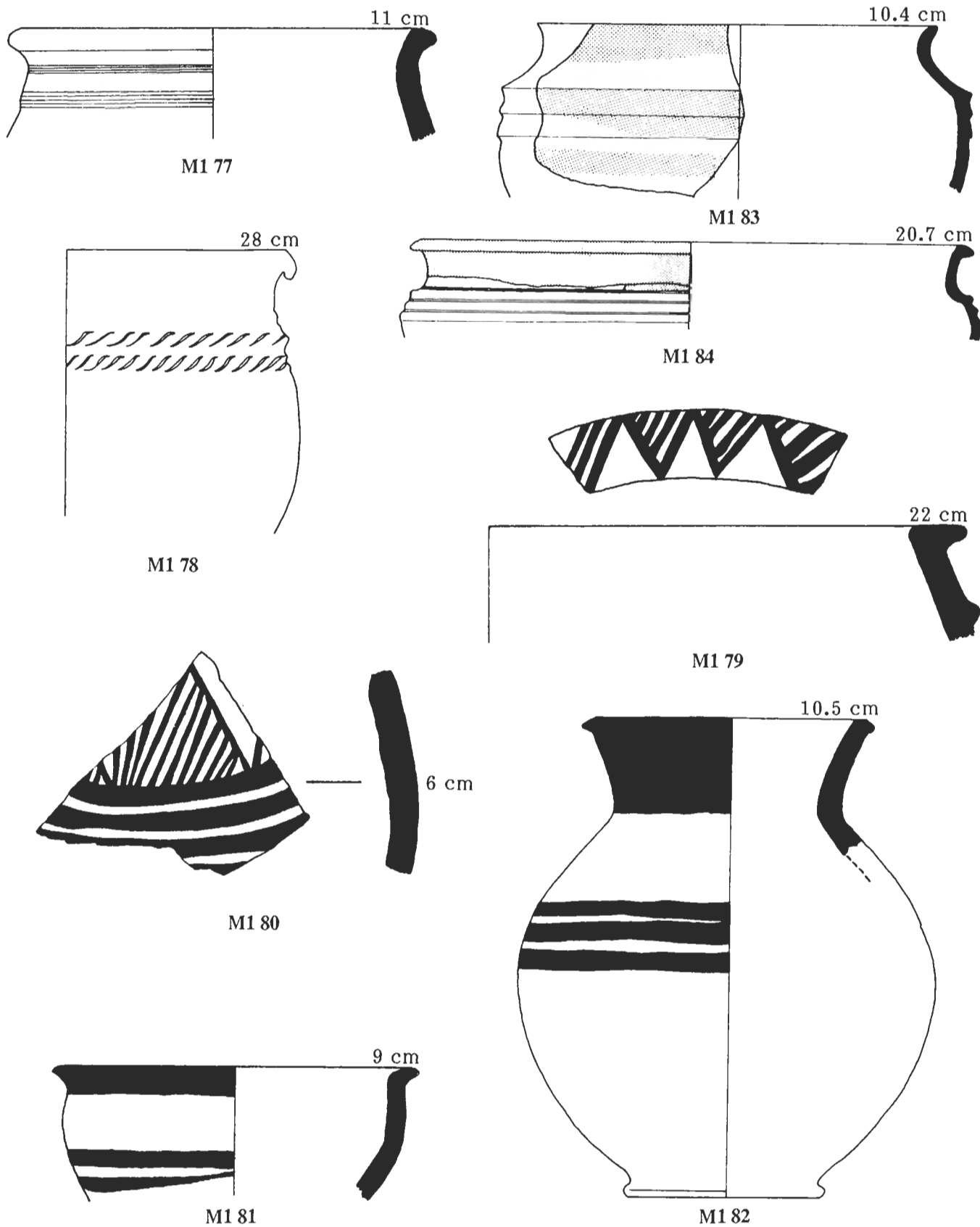


Figure 26. Ceramic types from the soundings
 Late third mill. or "Ur III" (M1 77-78), Transitional (M1 83-84), Khabur ware (M1 79-82)

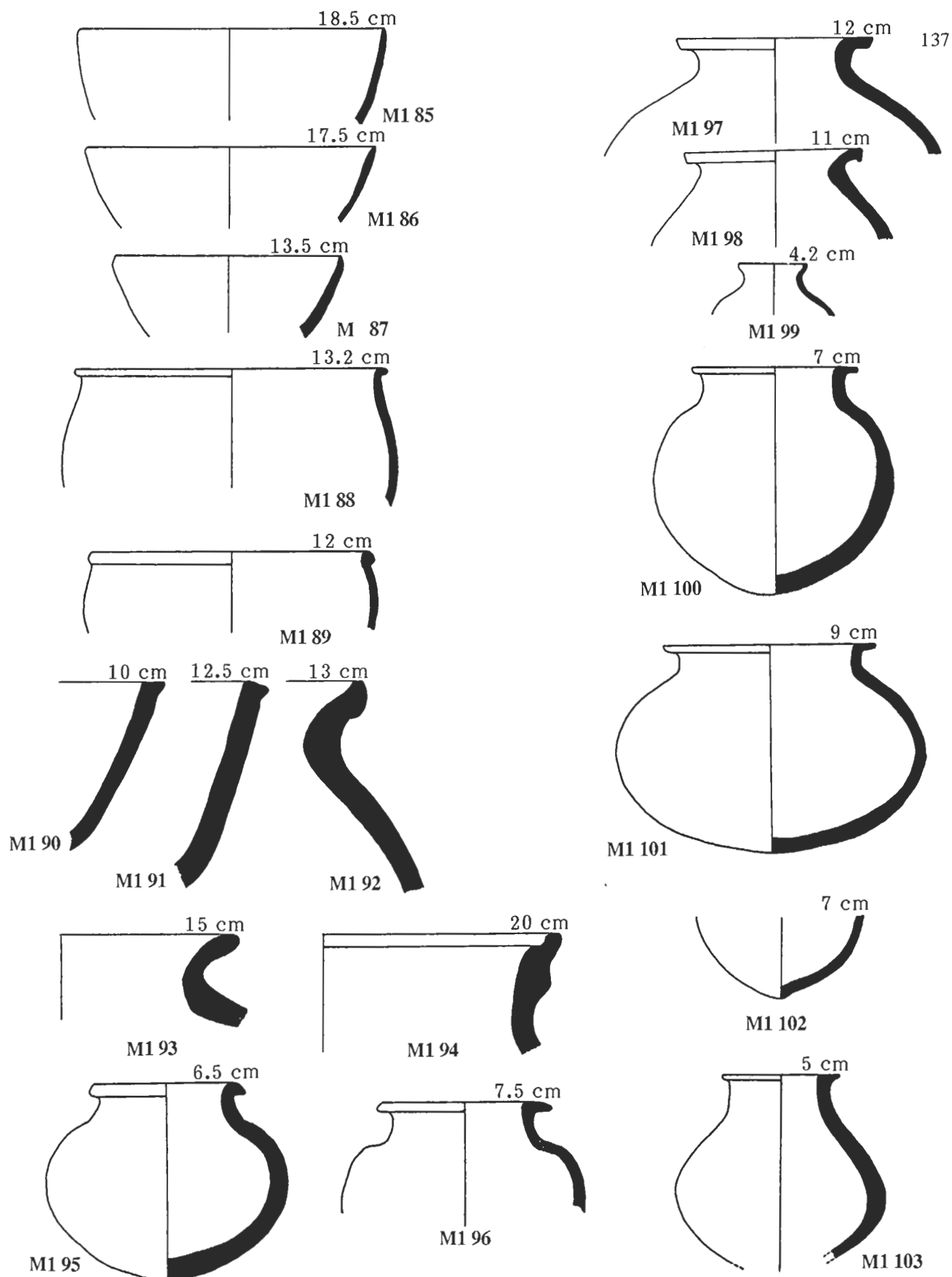


Figure 27. Ceramic types from the surface of the Outer City: Location Os4

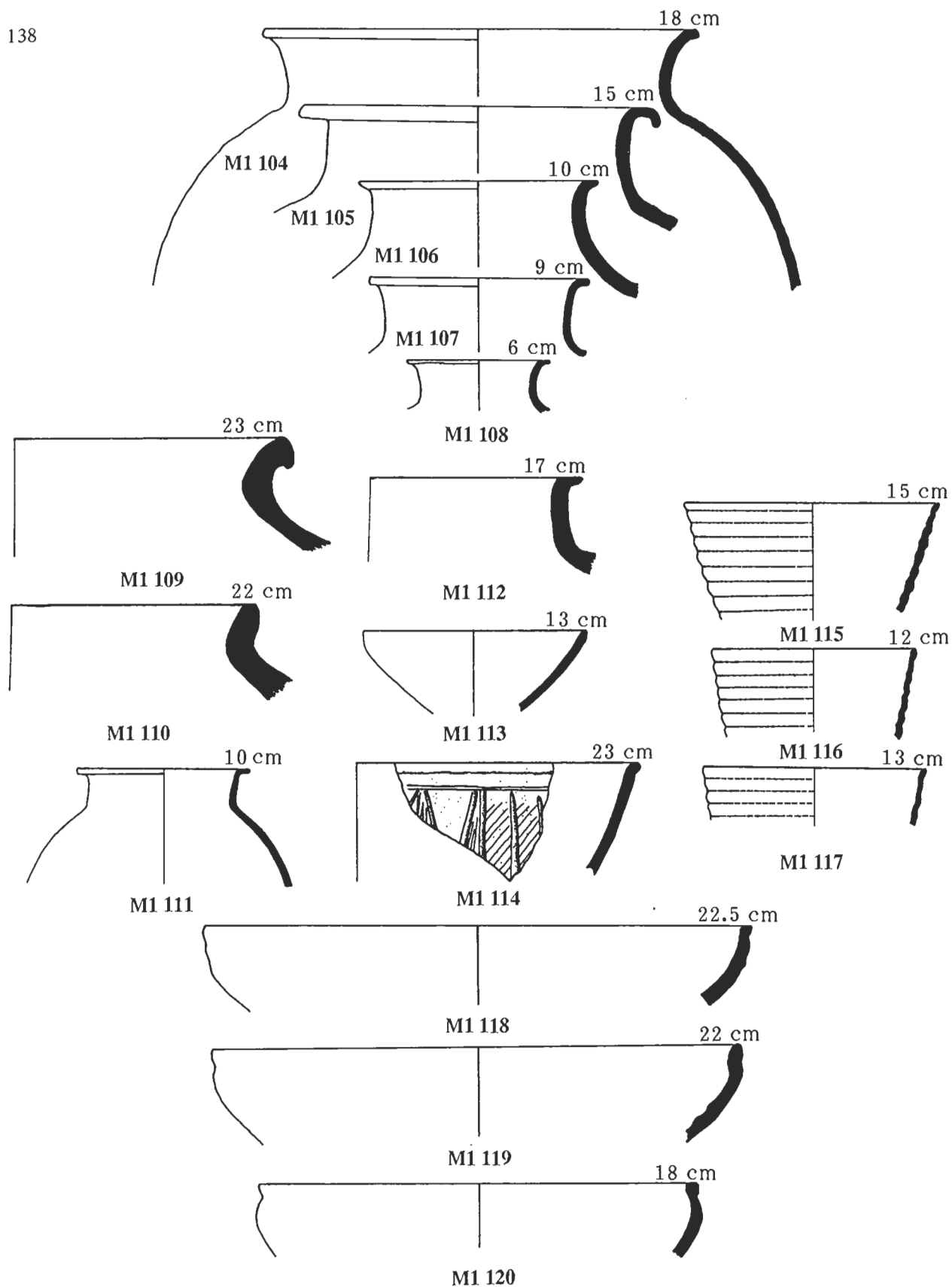


Figure 28. Ceramic types from the surface of the Outer City: Location Os6

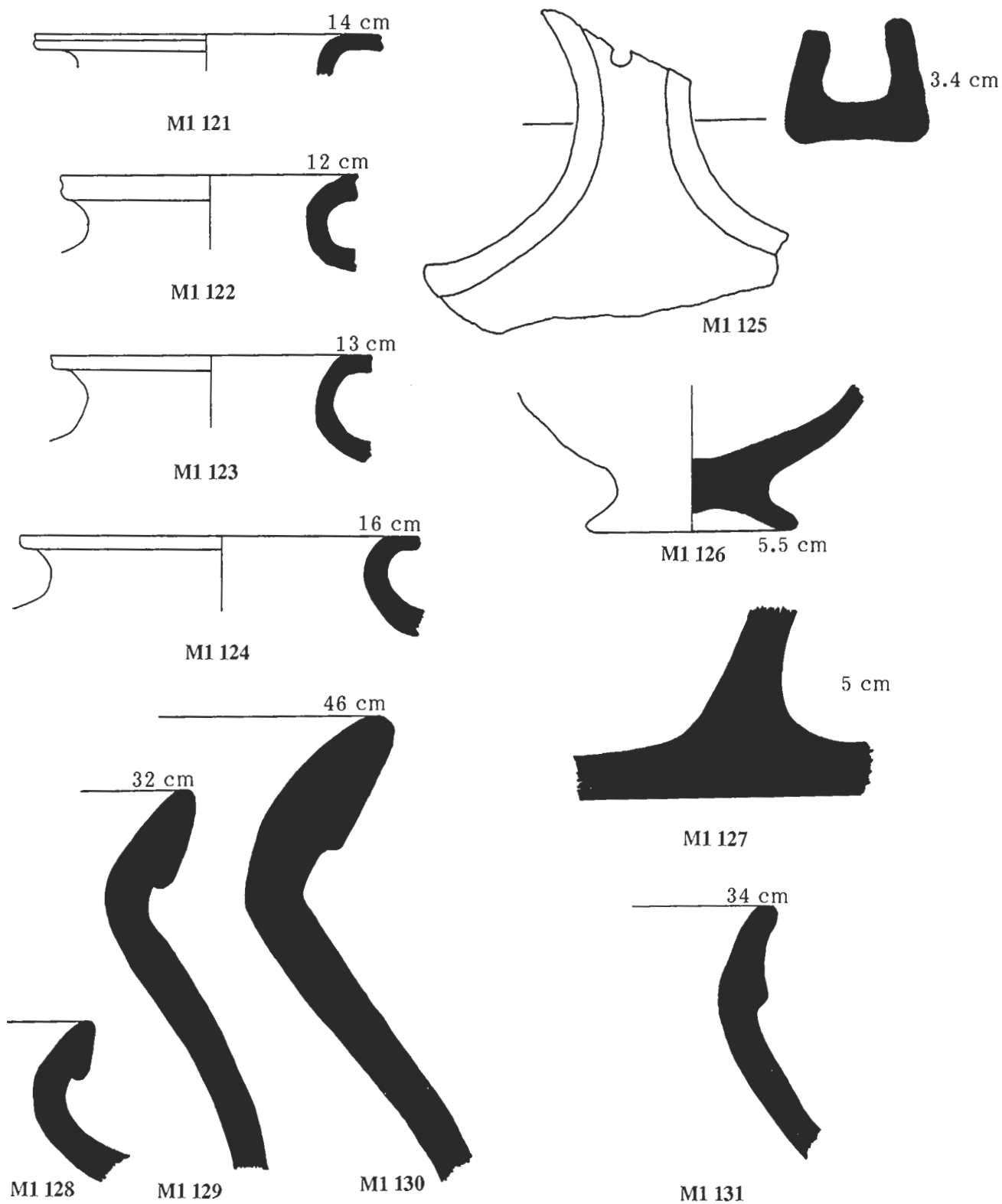


Figure 29. Ceramic types from the surface of the Outer City: Locations Os7 and Os9

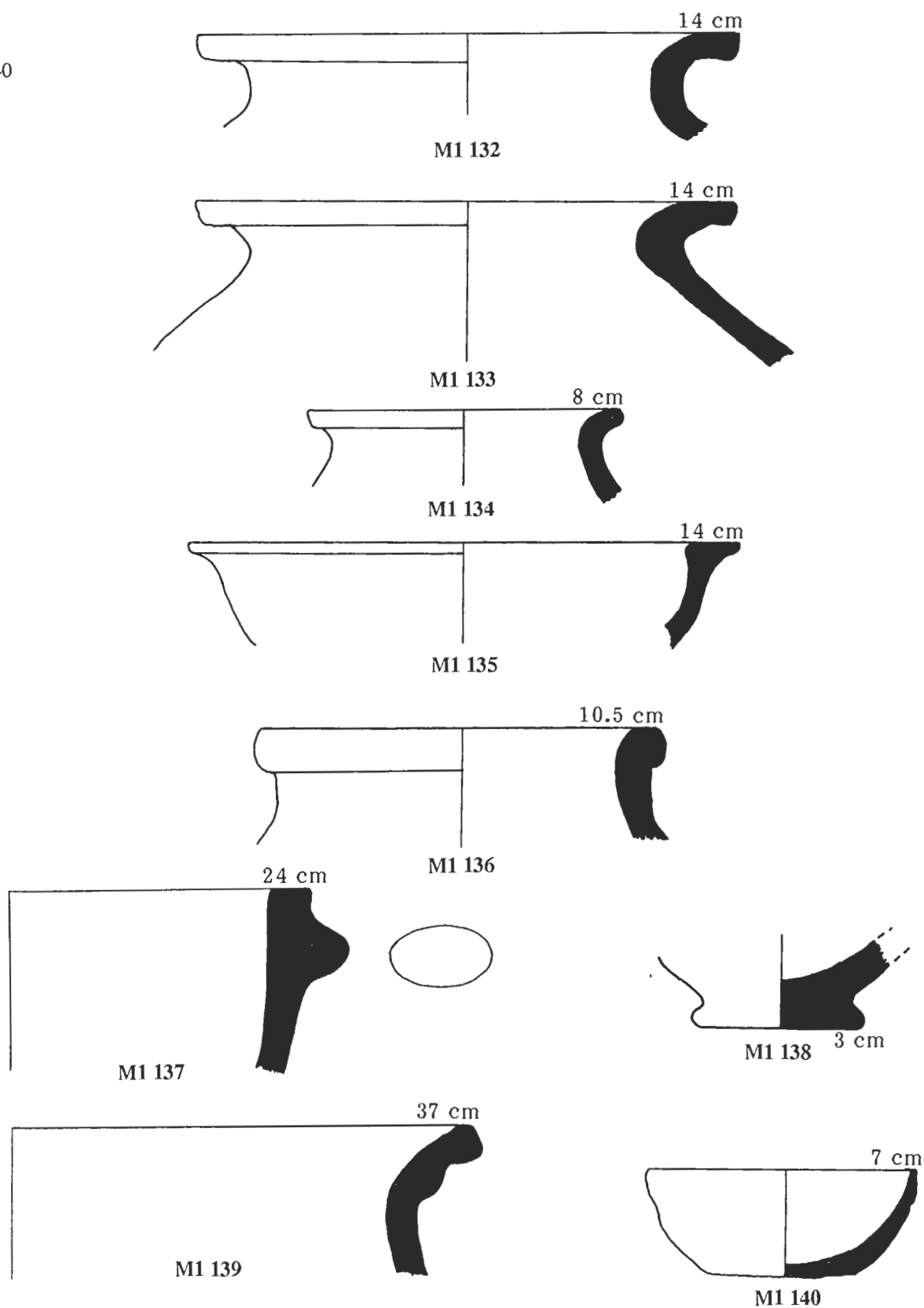


Figure 30. Ceramic types from the surface of the Outer City: Metallic and Simple ware types from various locations

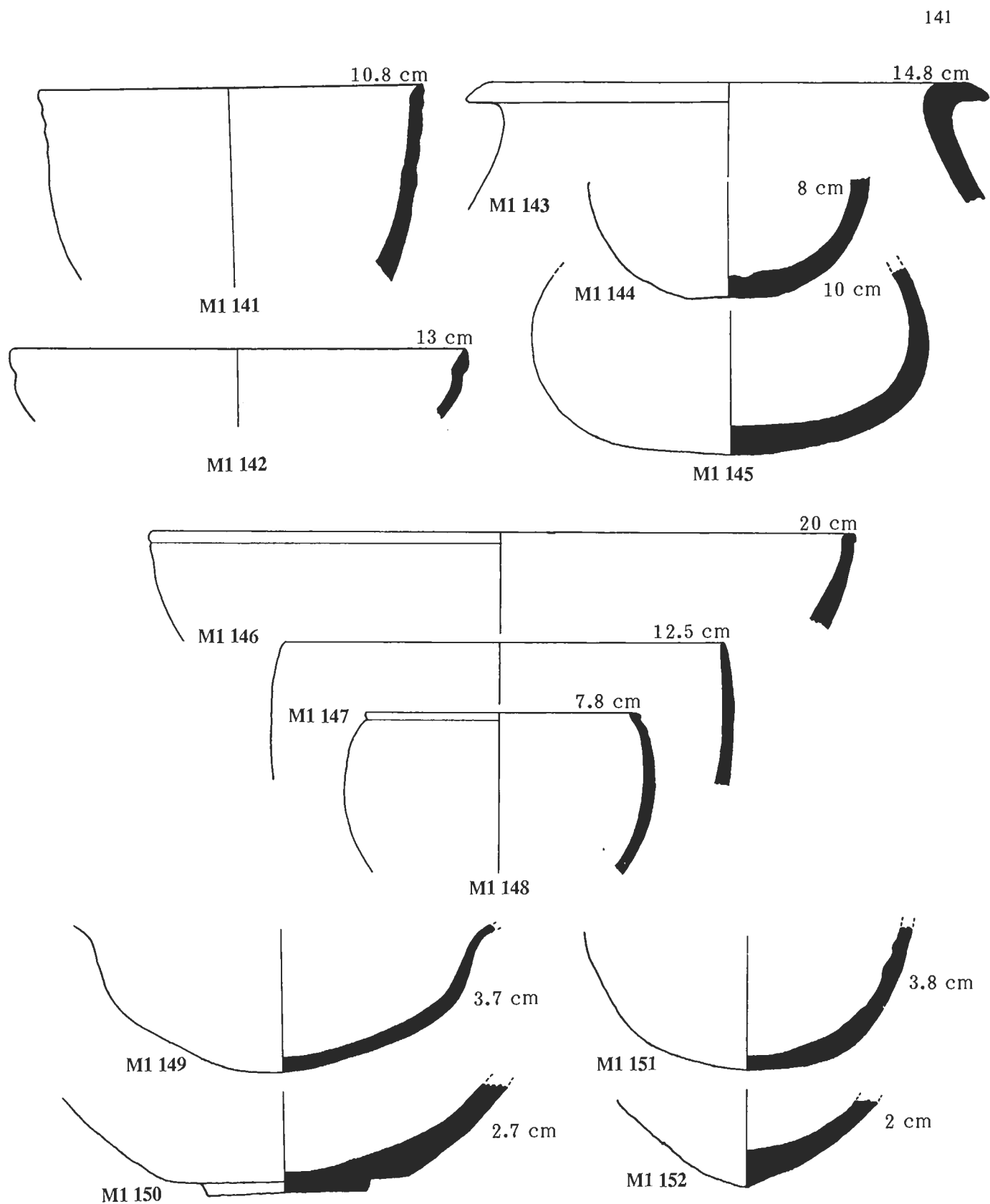


Figure 31. Ceramic types from the surface of the Outer City: Miscellaneous types

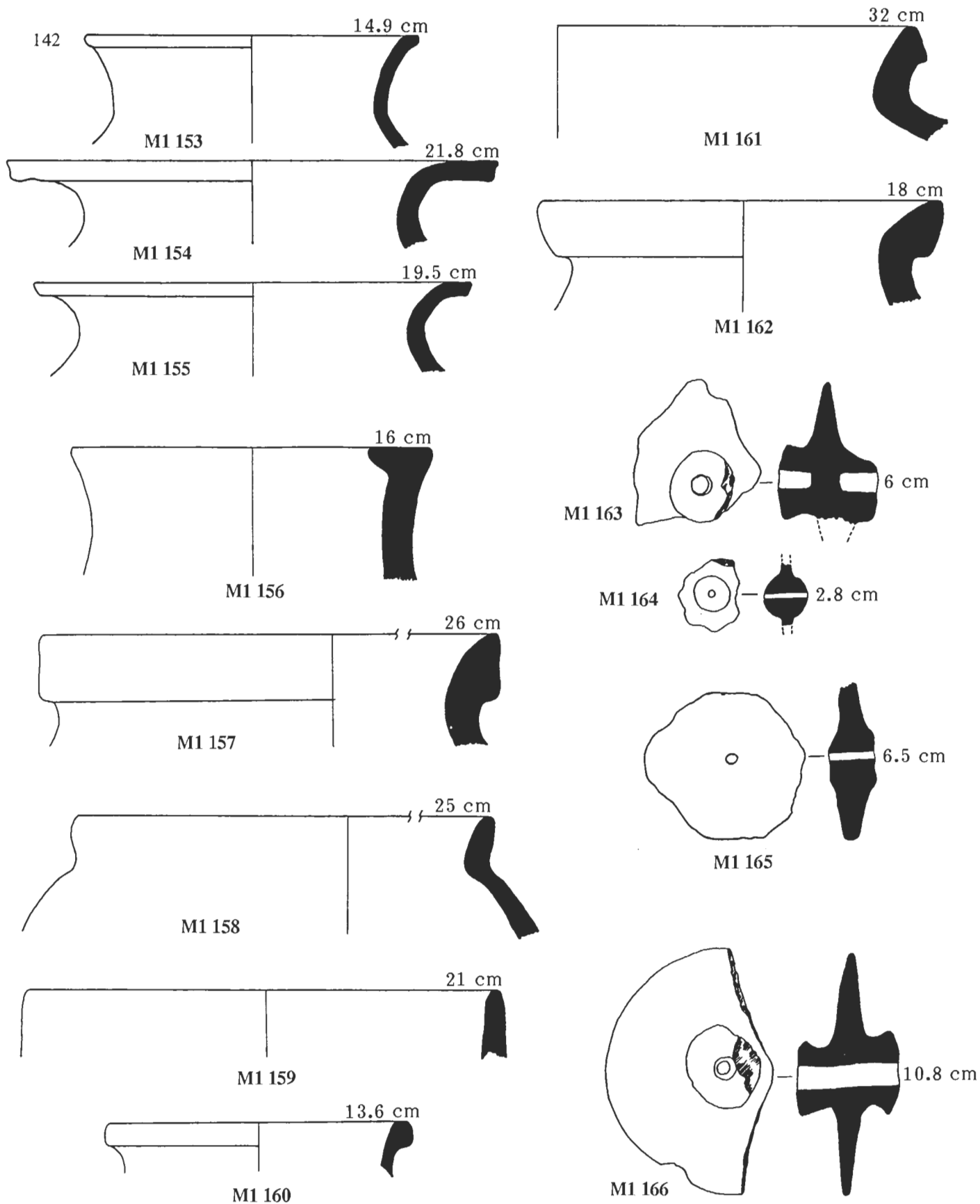


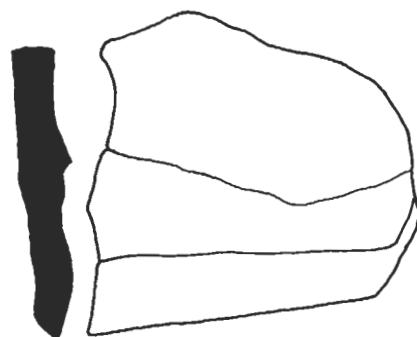
Figure 32. Ceramic types and wheels from the surface of the Outer City



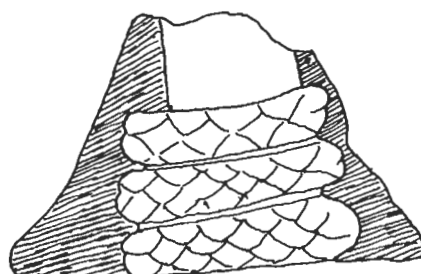
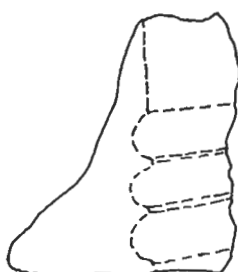
M1 168



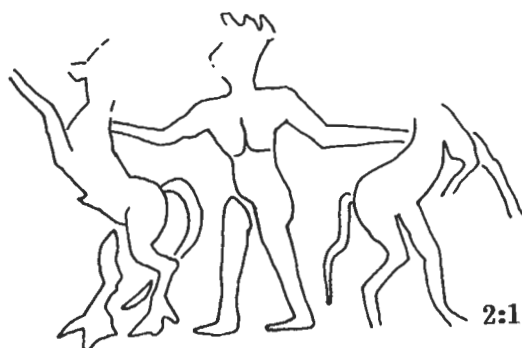
M1 167



1:1



M1 169



2:1

Figure 33. Seal impressions from the glacis in Area K

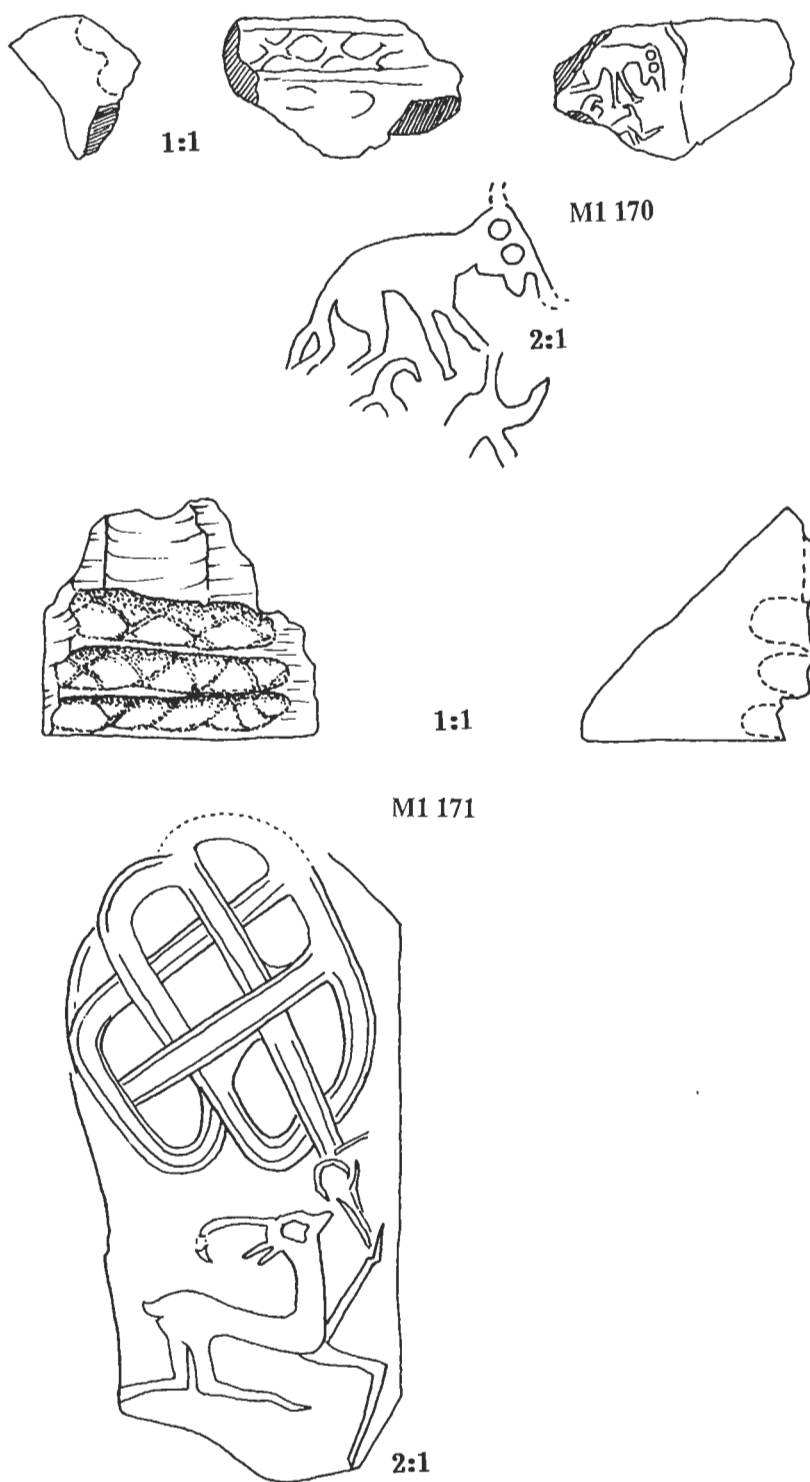
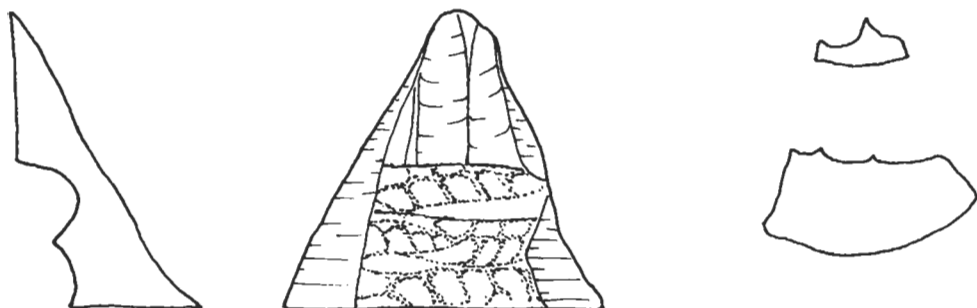
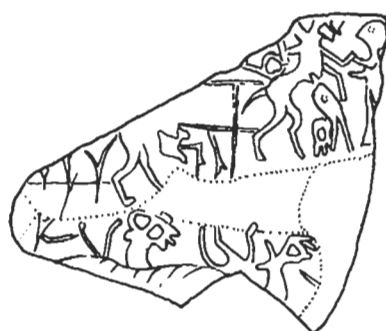


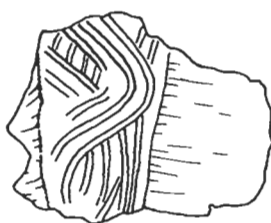
Figure 34. Seal impressions from the glaciis in Area K



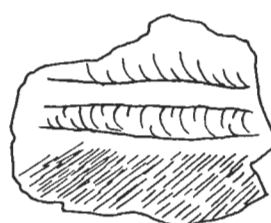
M1 172



1:1



M1 173



1:1

Figure 35. Seal impressions from the glacis in Area K

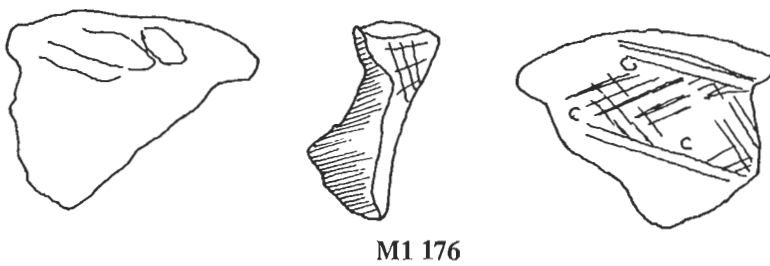
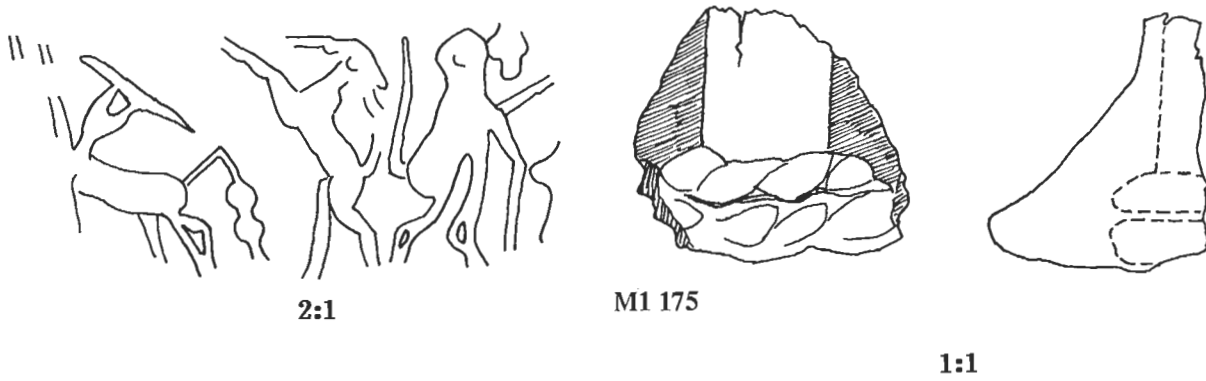
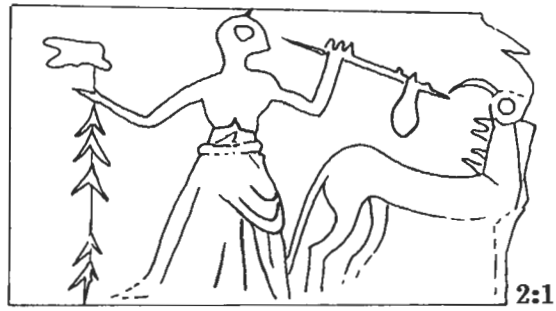
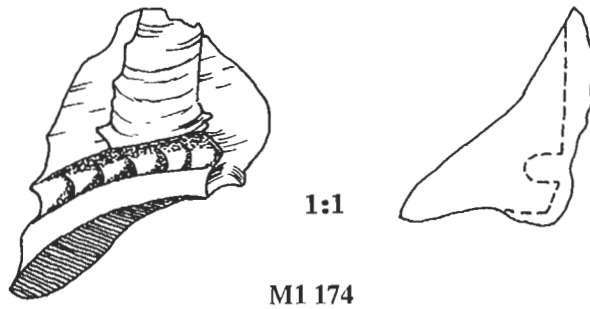


Figure 36. Seal impressions from the glaciis in Area K

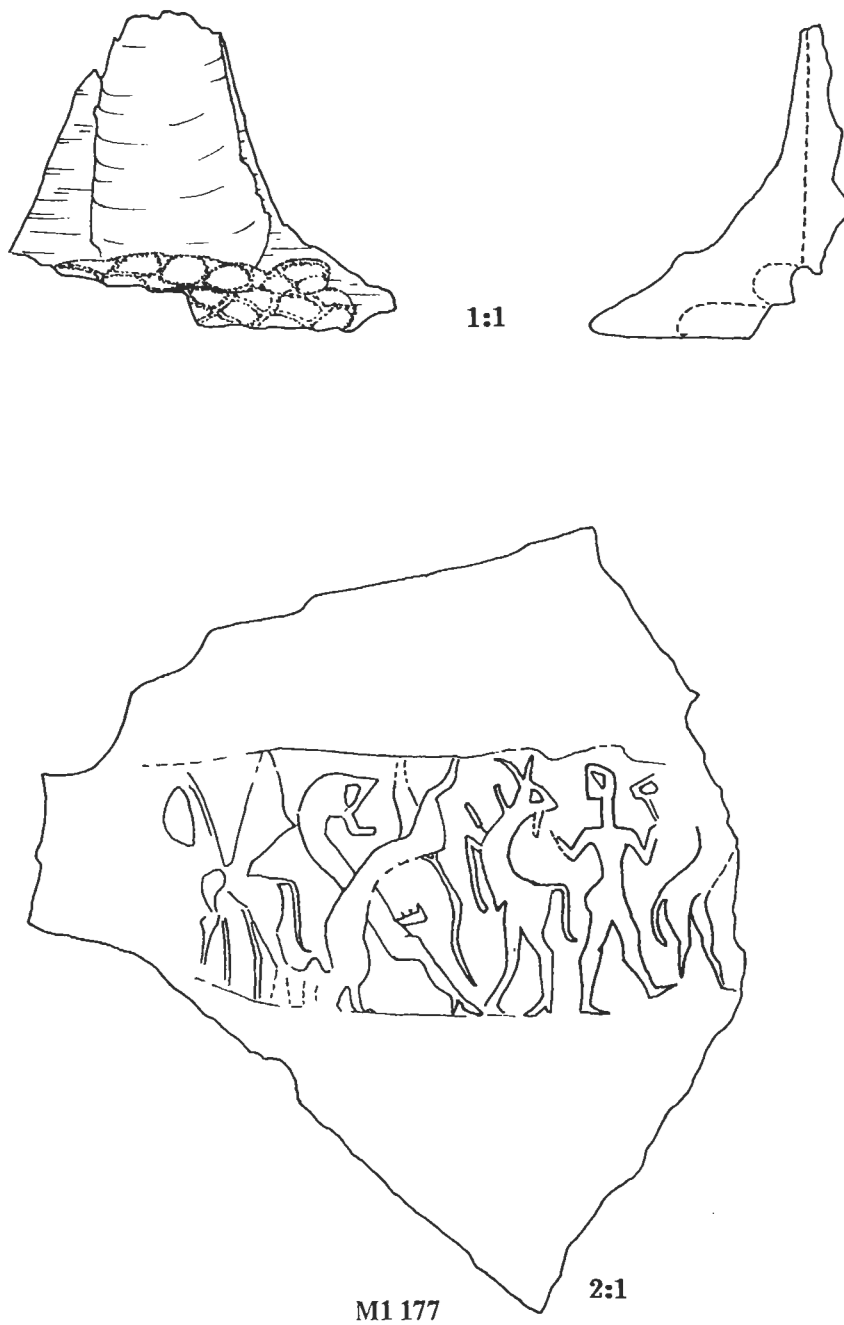


Figure 37. Seal impressions from the glaciis in Area K



M1 178

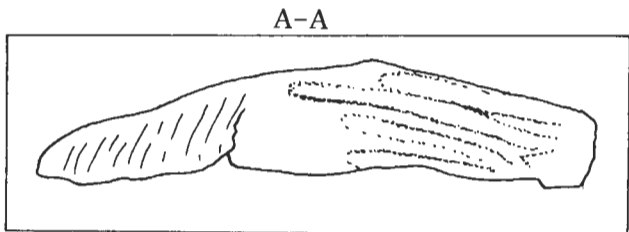
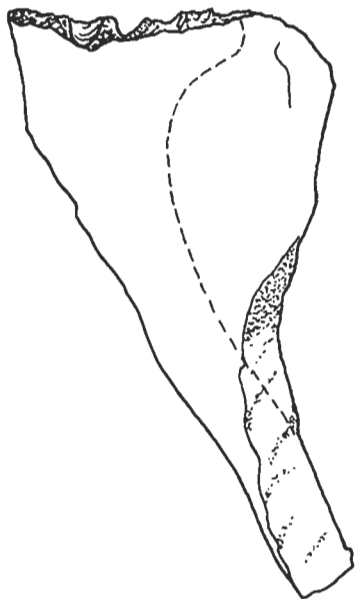
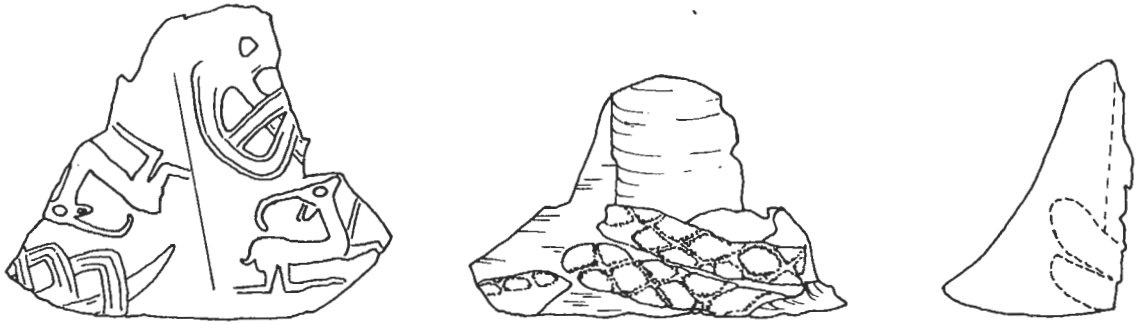
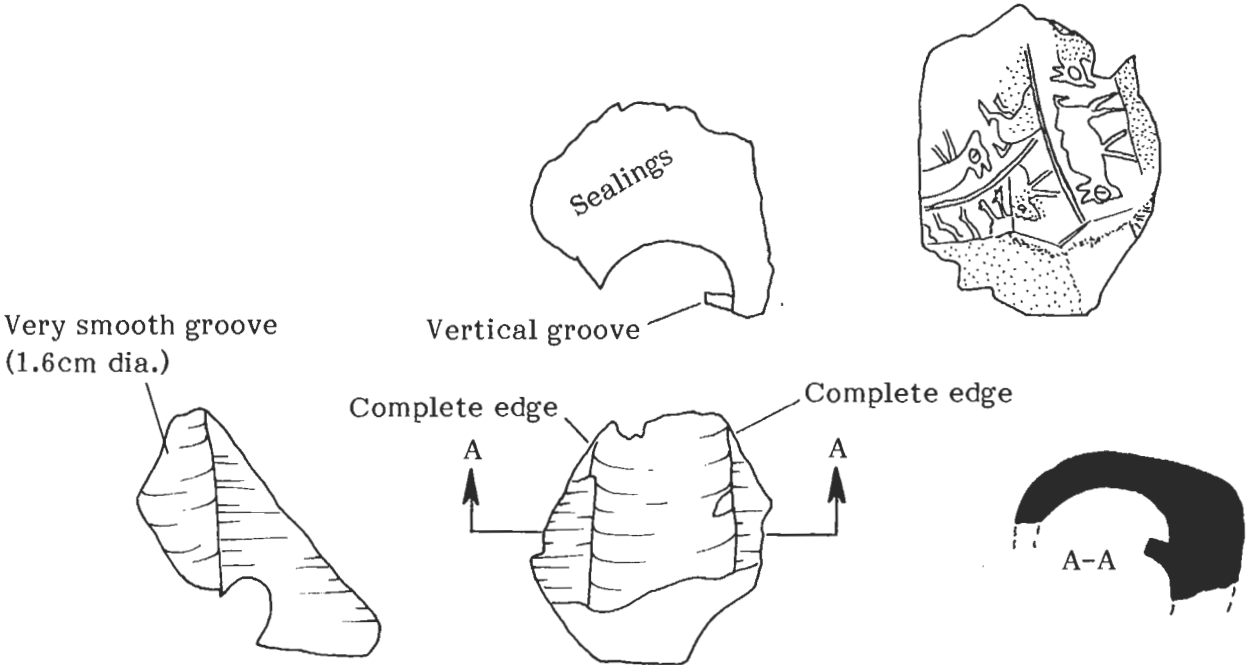


Figure 38. Seal impressions from the glacis in Area K



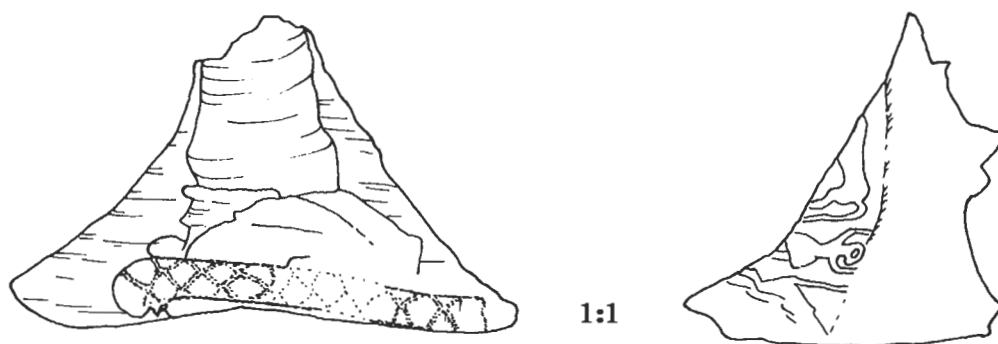
M1 179



M1 180

1:1

Figure 39. Seal impressions from the glacia in Area K



M1 181

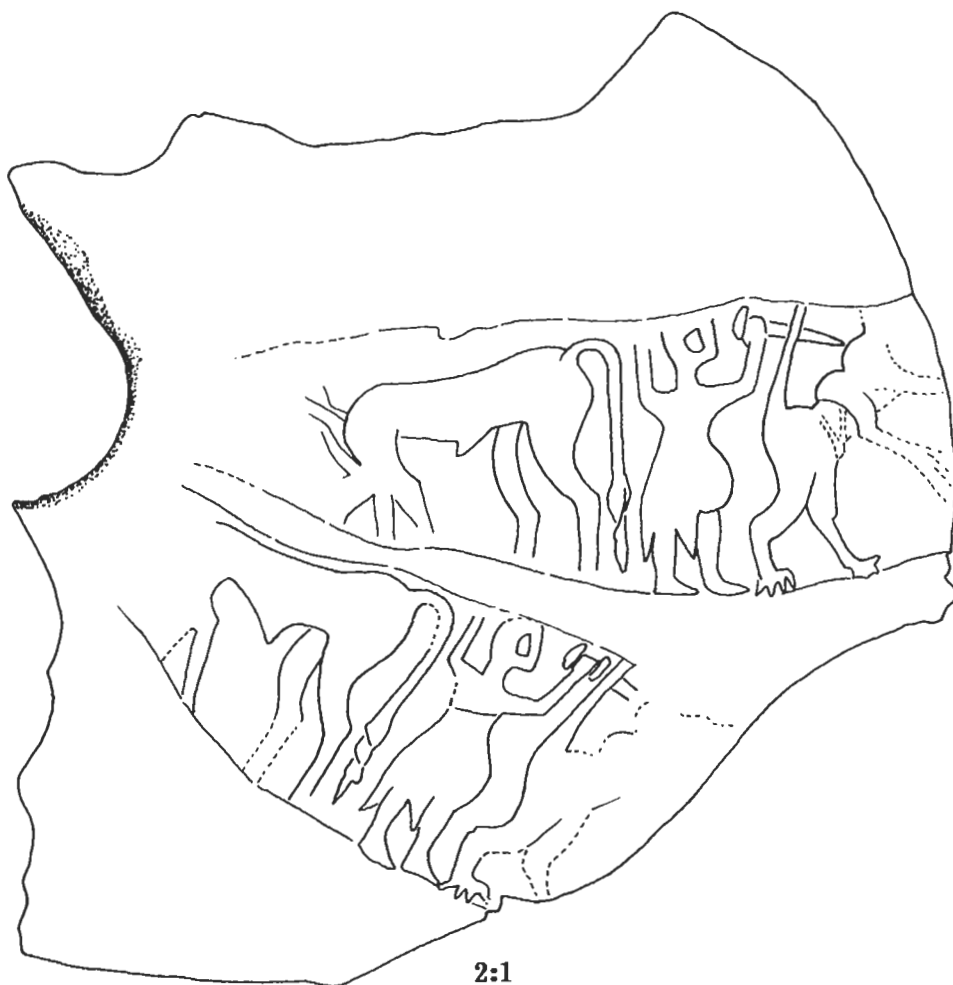


Figure 40. Seal impressions from the glaciis in Area K

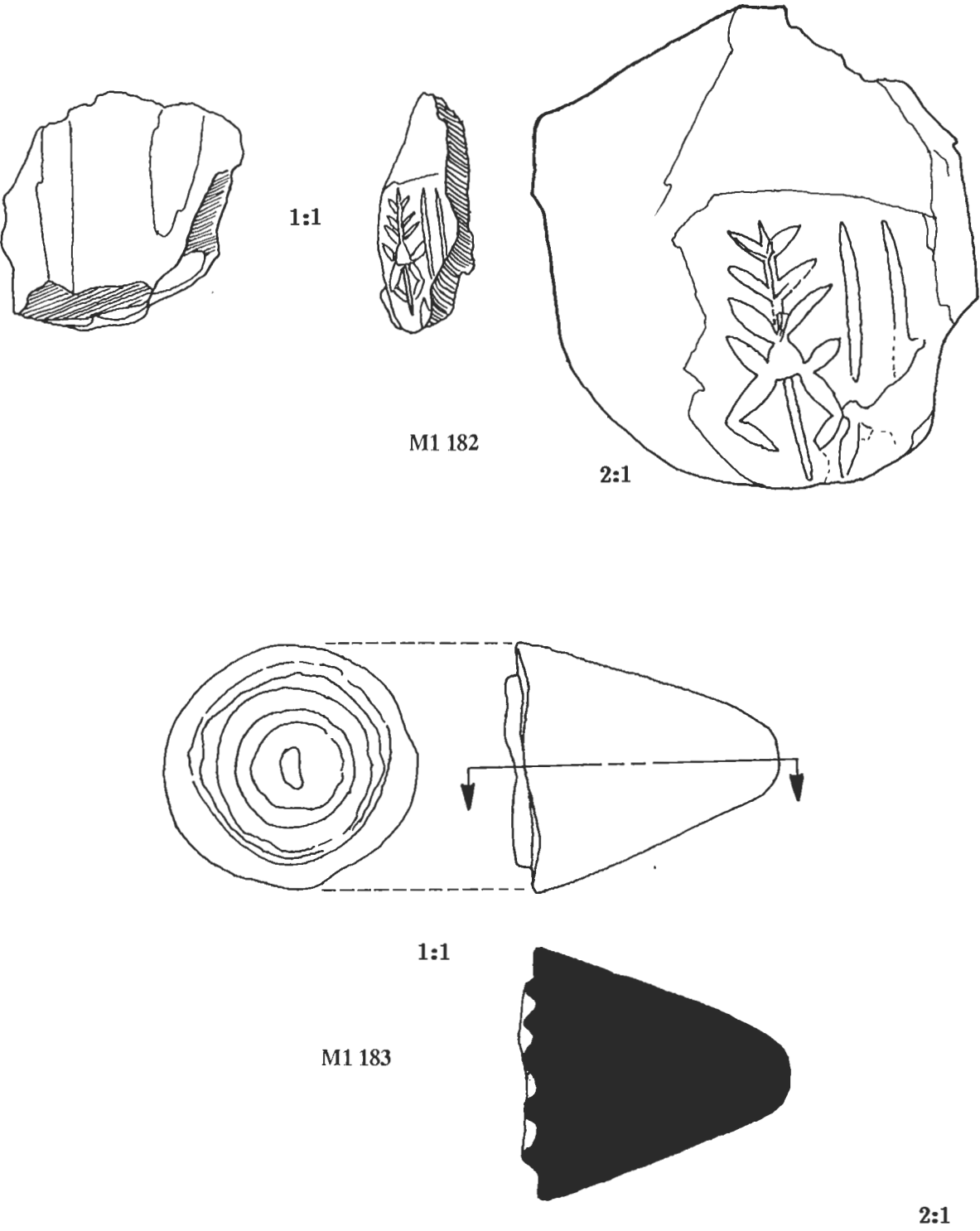


Figure 41. Seal impression and stamp seal from the surface

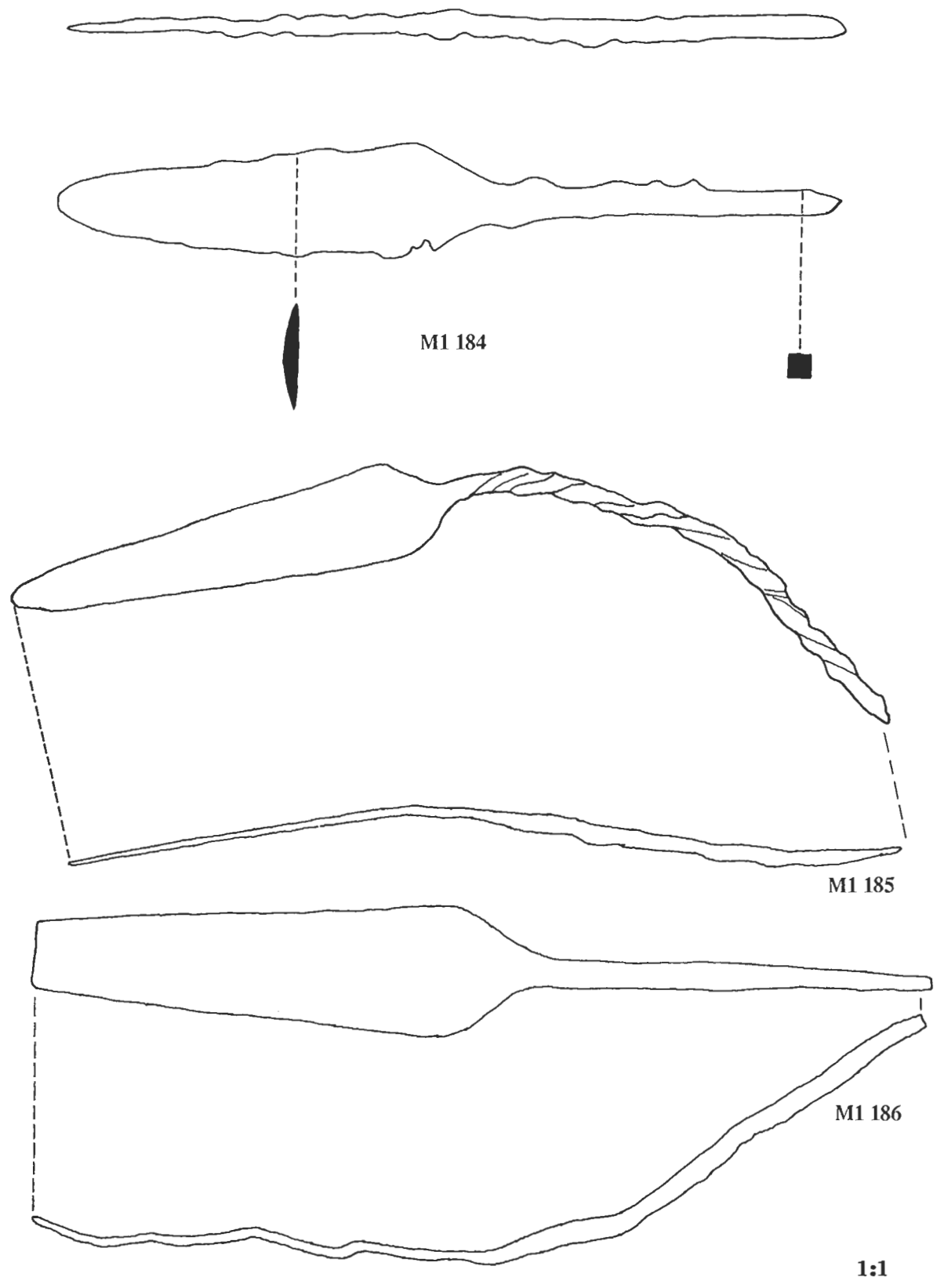
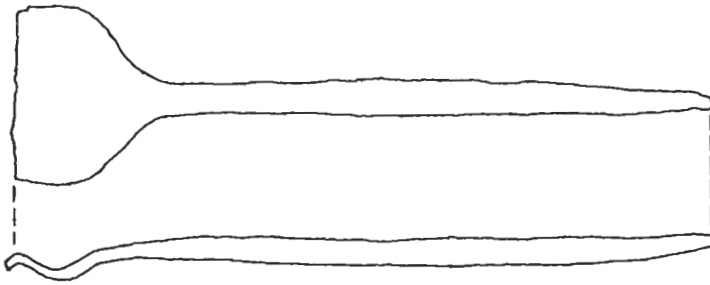


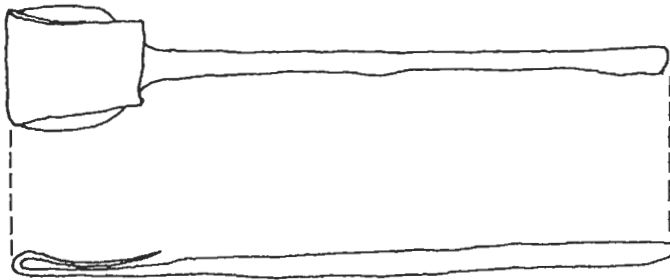
Figure 42. Metal spearheads



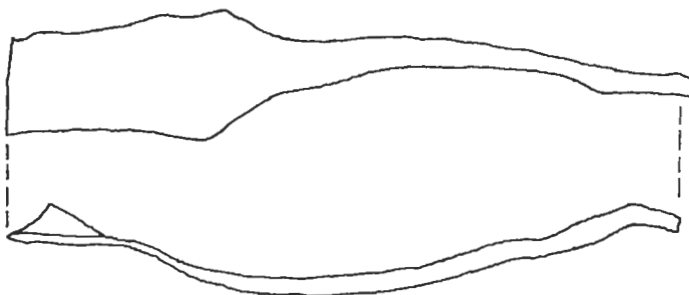
M1 187



M1 188



M1 189



M1 190

1:1

Figure 43. Metal spearheads

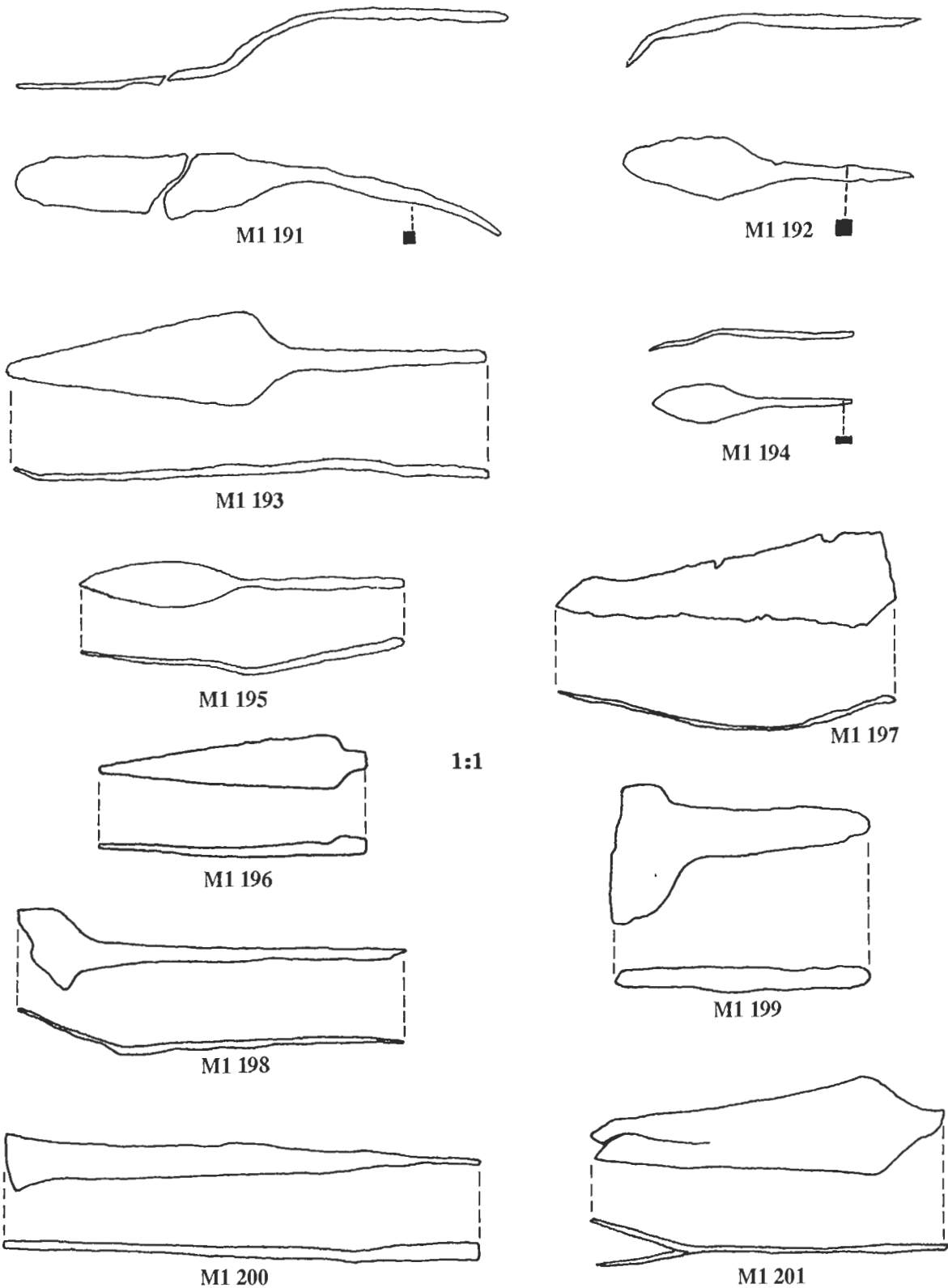
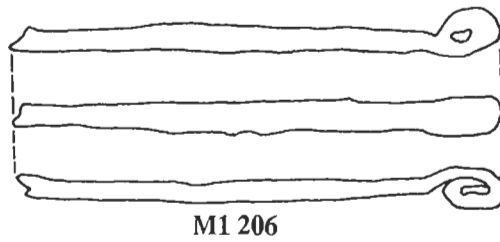
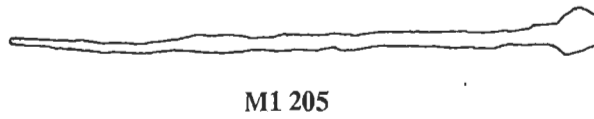
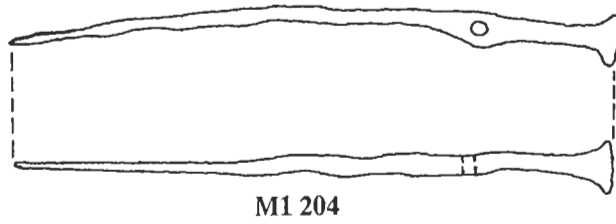
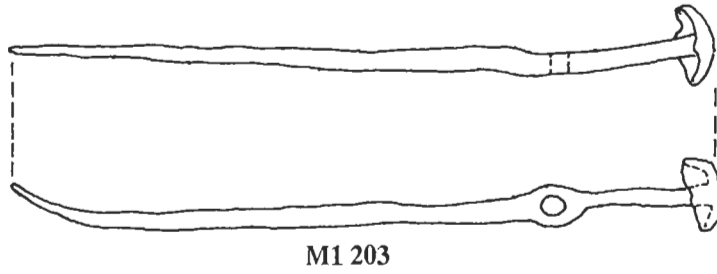
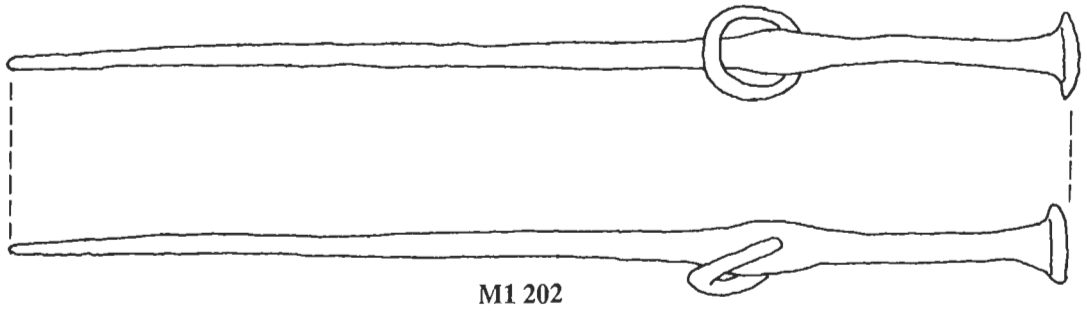


Figure 44. Metal points, spoons and scalpel



1:1

Figure 45. Metal pins

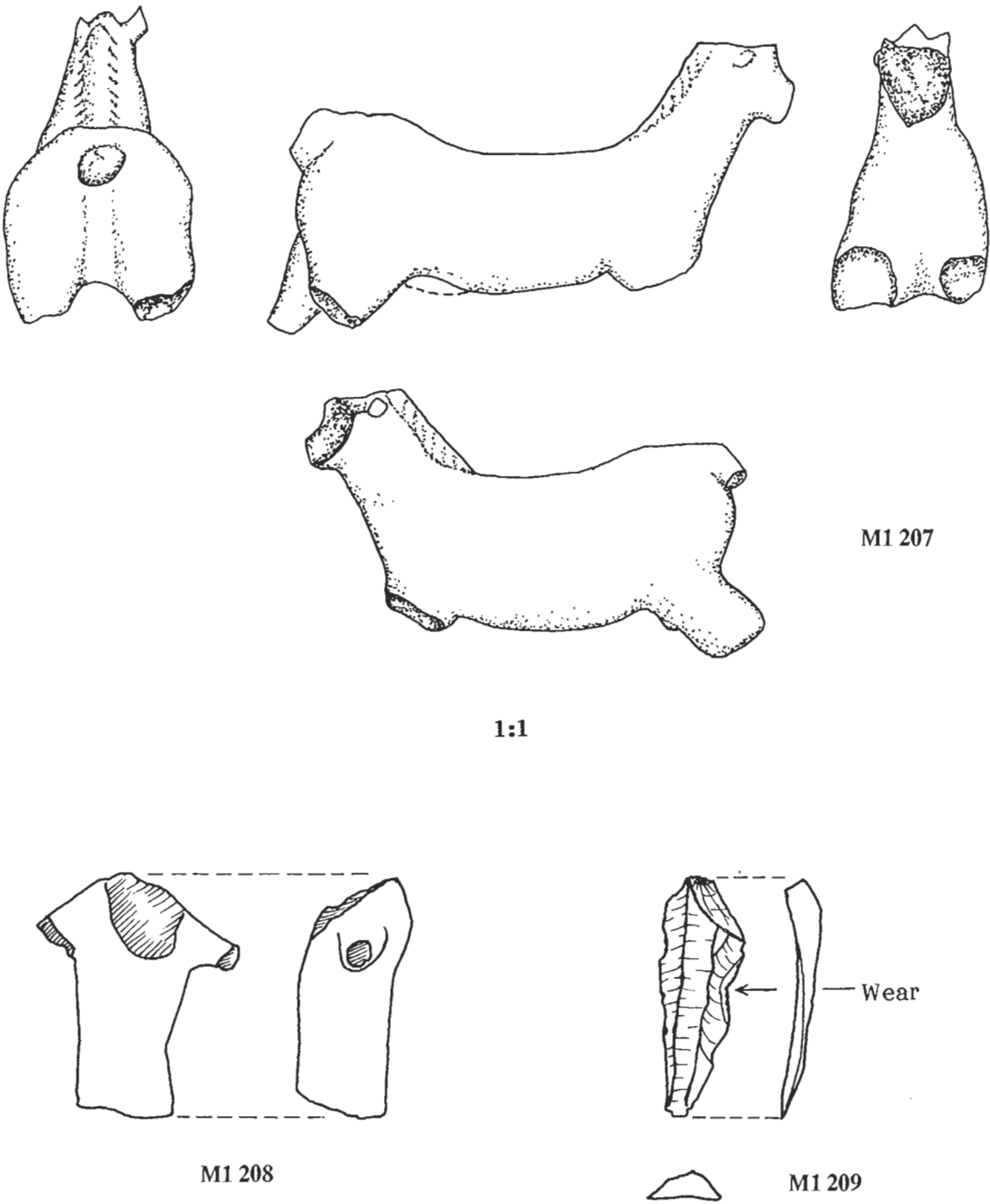


Figure 46. Lithic blade and figurines

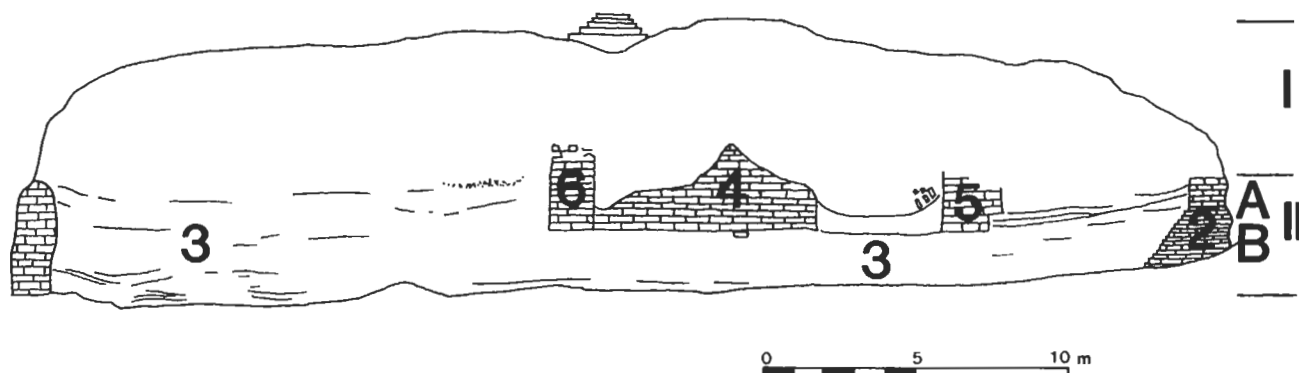


Figure 47. Tell Shermola: Sketch section of northern side of central mound

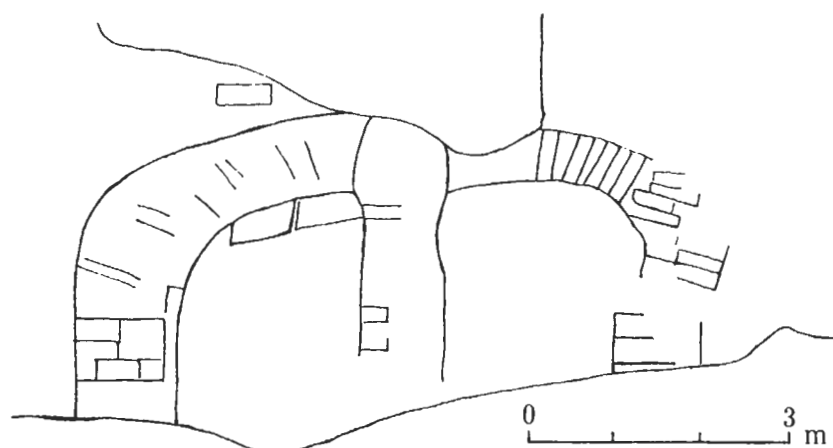


Figure 48. Tell Shermola: Sketch section of arched structure on southern side of mound

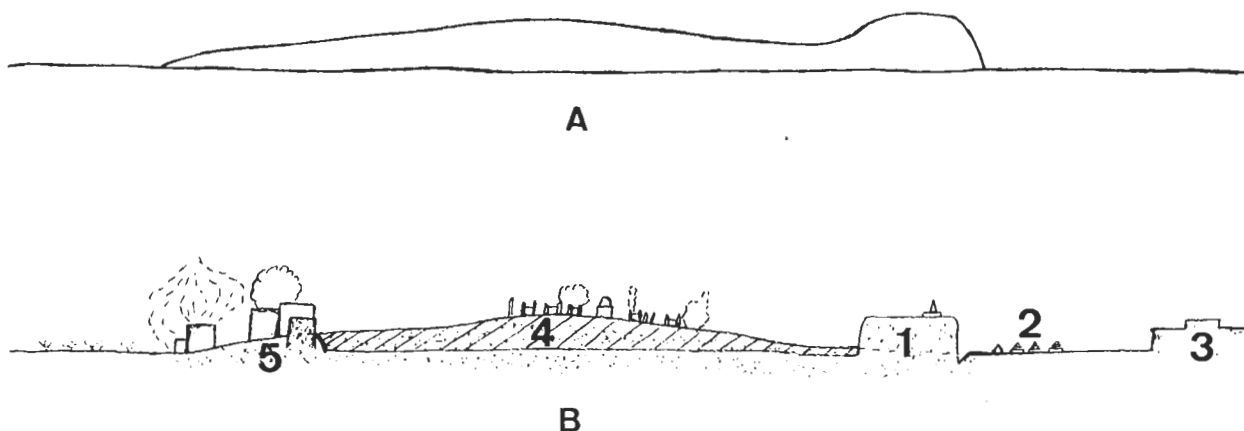


Figure 49. Tell Shermola: Sketch section of entire tell, looking west, with proposed reconstruction of ancient outline

- 1 Tell Shermola (main mound)
- 2 Cemetery
- 3 Southern edge of the town of Amuda
- 4 Cemetery hill
- 5 Southern mound

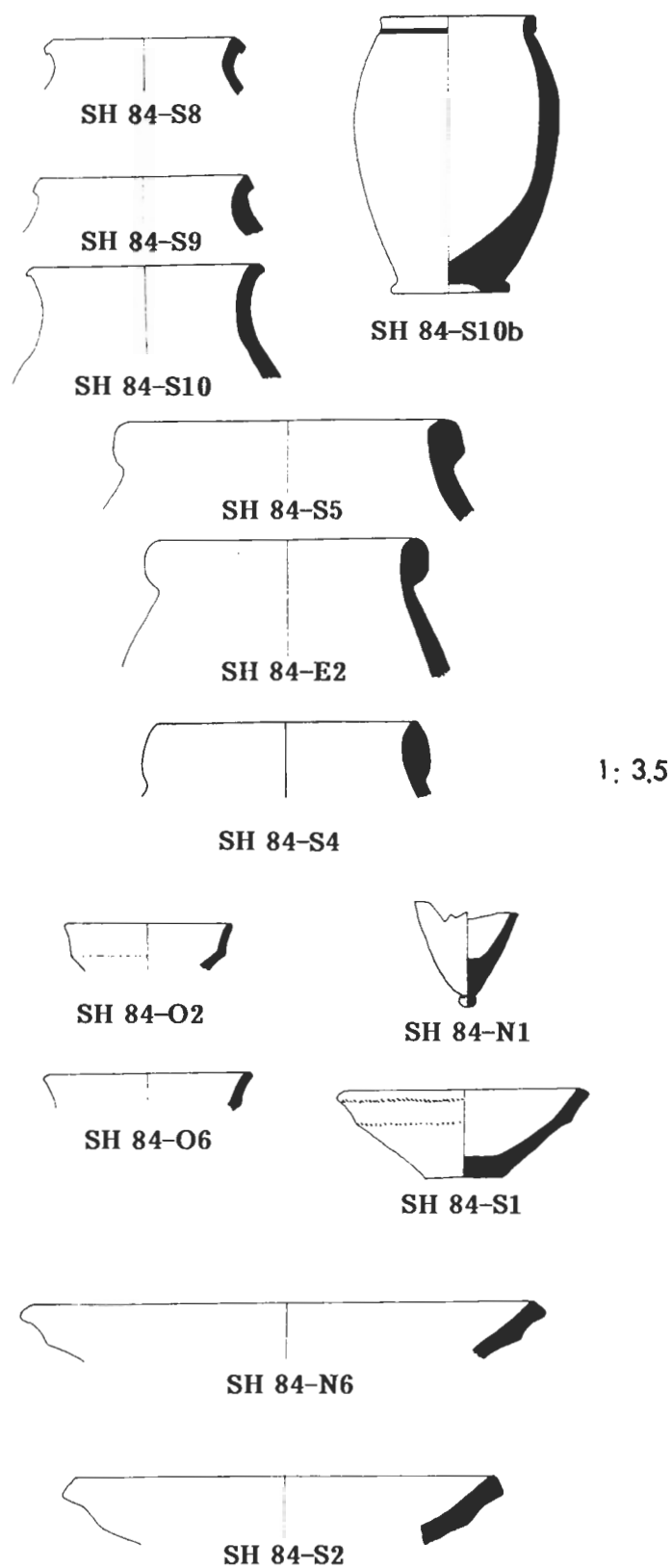


Figure 50. Tell Shermola: Ceramic types from the surface of the main mound

PLATES

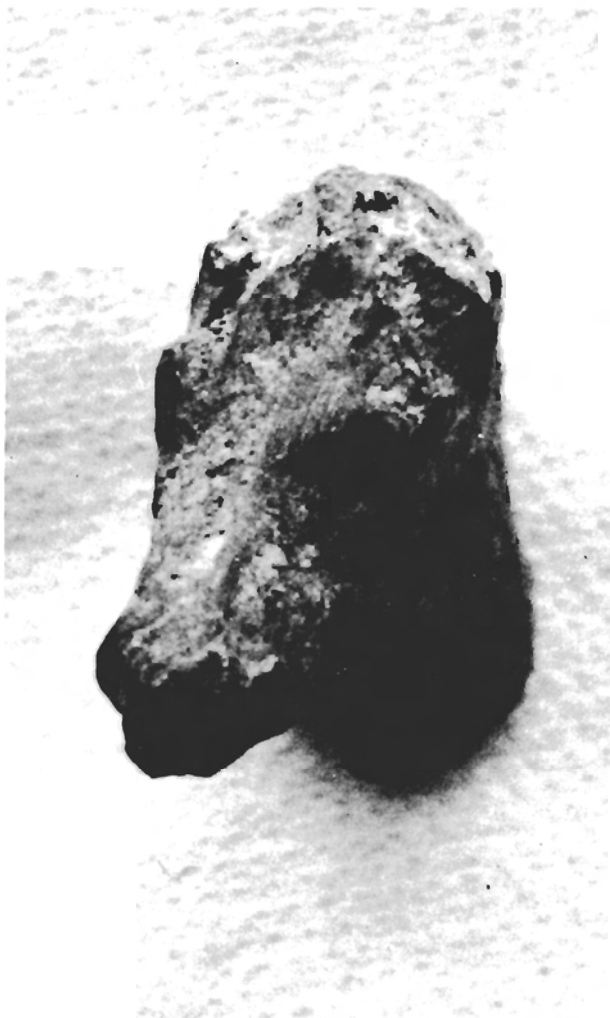


Illustration 1. Miniature head of a horse

M1 209 (K1.12). Burnt clay; from the destruction layer in K1 feature 16 (mid third millennium).

PLATE II



Illustration 2. Aerial view of Tell Mozan with Outer City (far shot, looking southwest).

A faint discoloration (and in some cases a change in the pattern of field layout) marks the low rise which encircles the Outer City. The distance between the southern and northern points (S and N in the photograph) is about one mile.

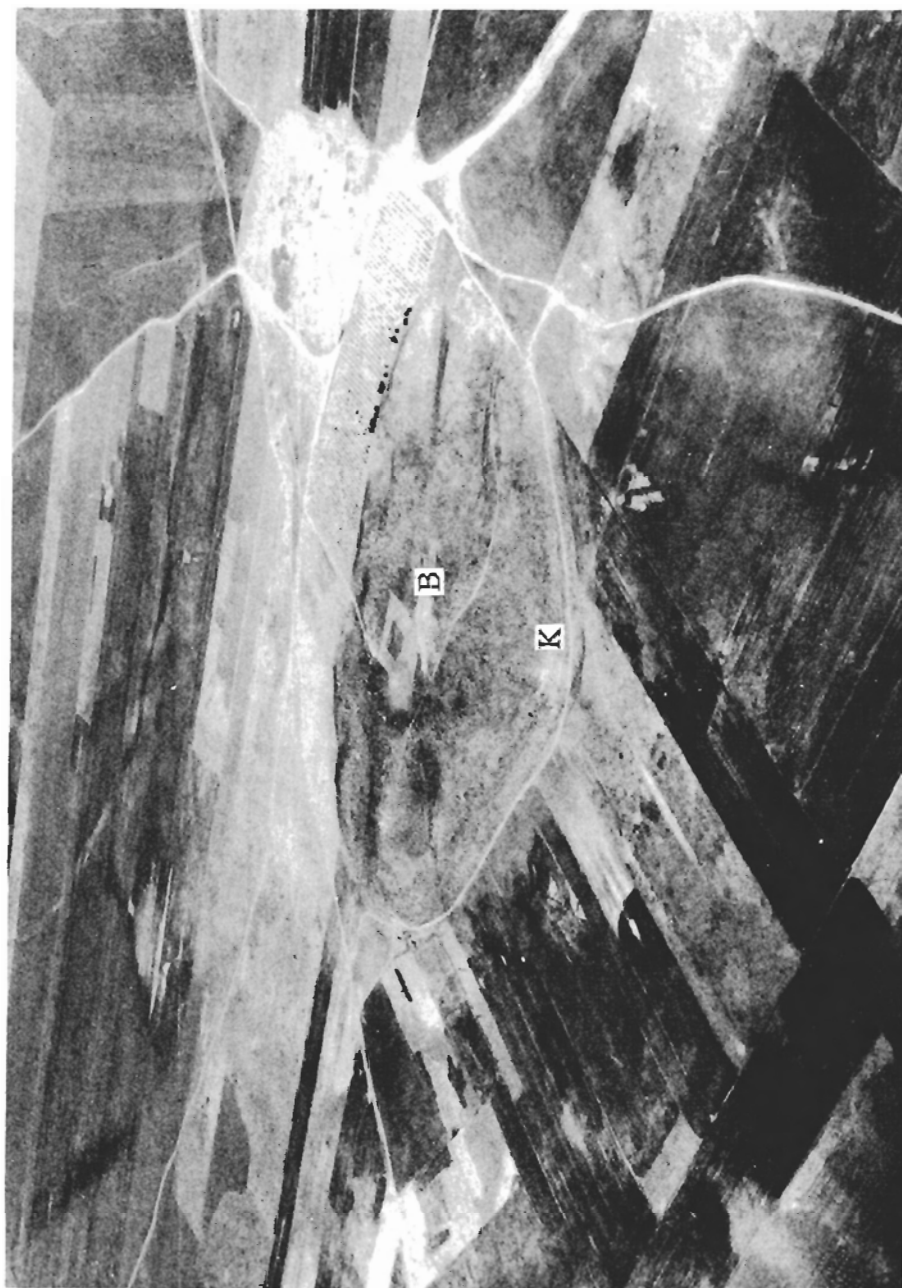


Illustration 3. Aerial view of Tell Mozan with Outer City (medium shot, looking west).

B and K are the two main soundings of the first two seasons.

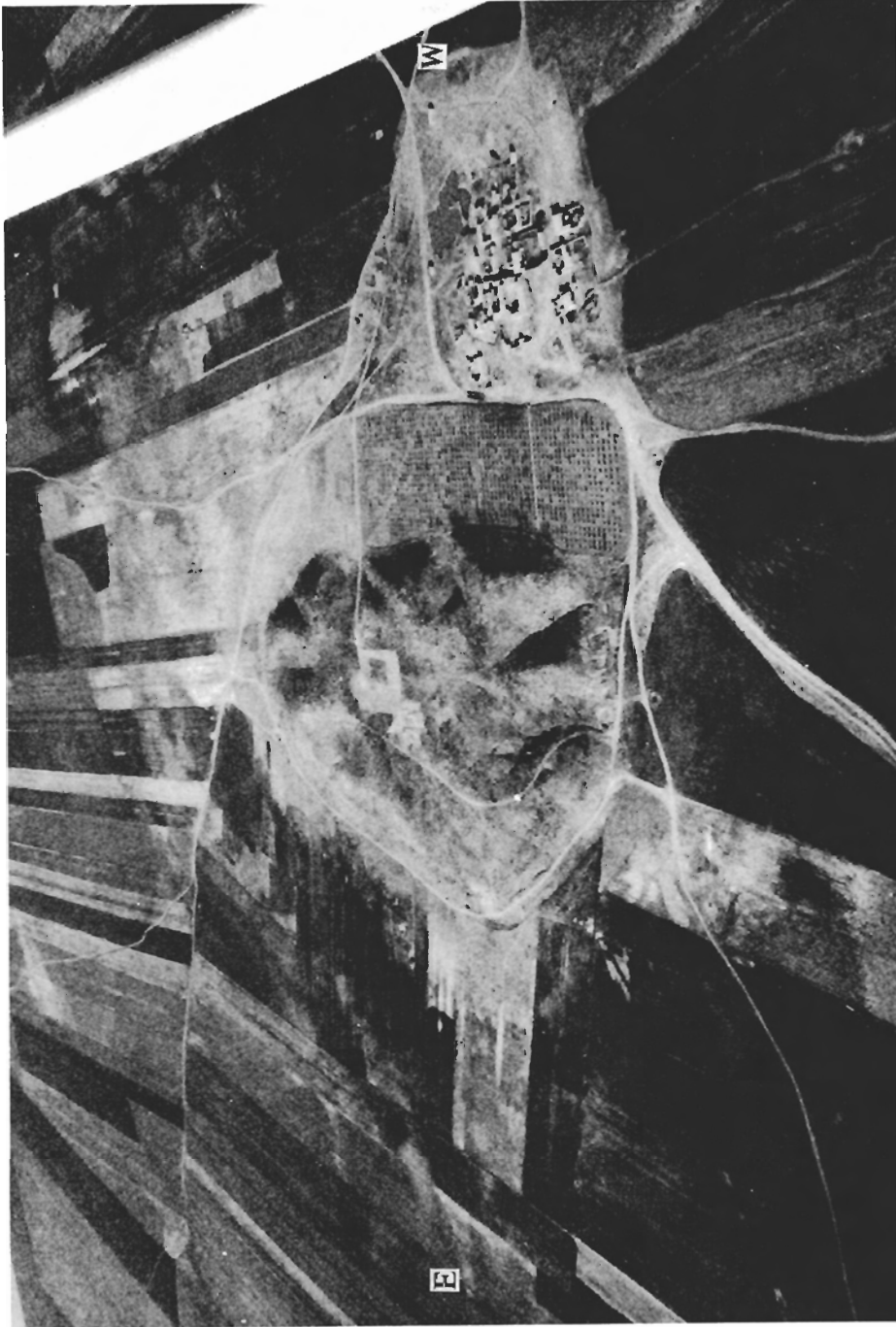


Illustration 4. Aerial view of Tell Mozan (narrow shot, looking south).

The village of Mozan is visible on the right; it is located within the area of the ancient Outer City. The vineyard between the village and the mound is on a gentle slope which may correspond to part of the ancient High Mound. The low rise encircling the Outer City is partly visible in the upper right. The distance between the eastern and western points (E and W in the photograph) is about one kilometer.

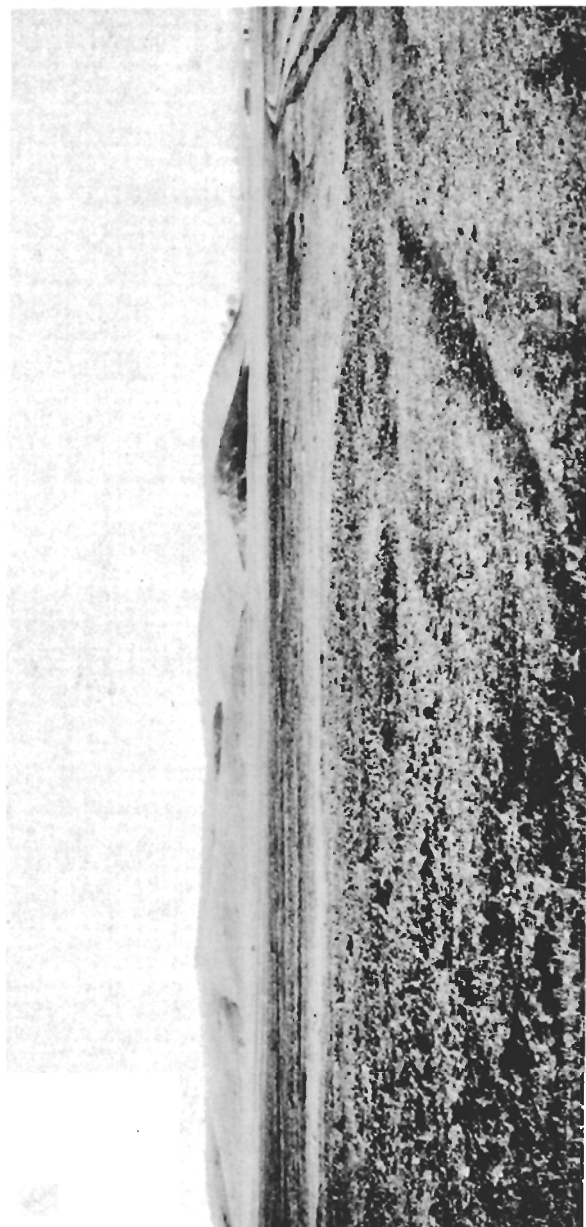


Illustration 5. Profile of Tell Mozan (looking south).

The village of Mozan is visible on the right. The trees on the slope delimit the higher border of the vineyard.

PLATE VI



Illustration 6. Stone building, Area B1 (direct overhead).

Stone ramp partly exposed, semi-circular feature, and southwest corner of outer stone wall. (The photograph was taken toward the beginning of the second season, and the exposure is correspondingly more limited than shown on the floor plan, Figure 8.)



Illustration 7. Stone building, Area B1 (oblique overhead, looking north).

The ramp and semi-circular structure are visible on the lower left, and beyond them the three parallel stone walls on the west. In the background is the continuation of this building with its stone foundations and the lower courses of mud brick walls.



Illustration 8. Stone building, Area B1: southwestern corner (oblique overhead, looking east).
Closer view of ramp, semi-circular structure, and southwestern portion of room.



Illustration 9. Stone building, Area B1: southwestern corner (looking south).
Visible in the center is the clear alignment of the stones marking the outer face of the western side of the building.

PLATE VIII



Illustration 10. Stone building, Area B1: northwestern corner with plastered floor (looking north).

White floor is preserved up to the edge of the wall. The mudbrick is preserved in the lower right (same corner as in Illustr. 11); elsewhere only the stone substructure is preserved.

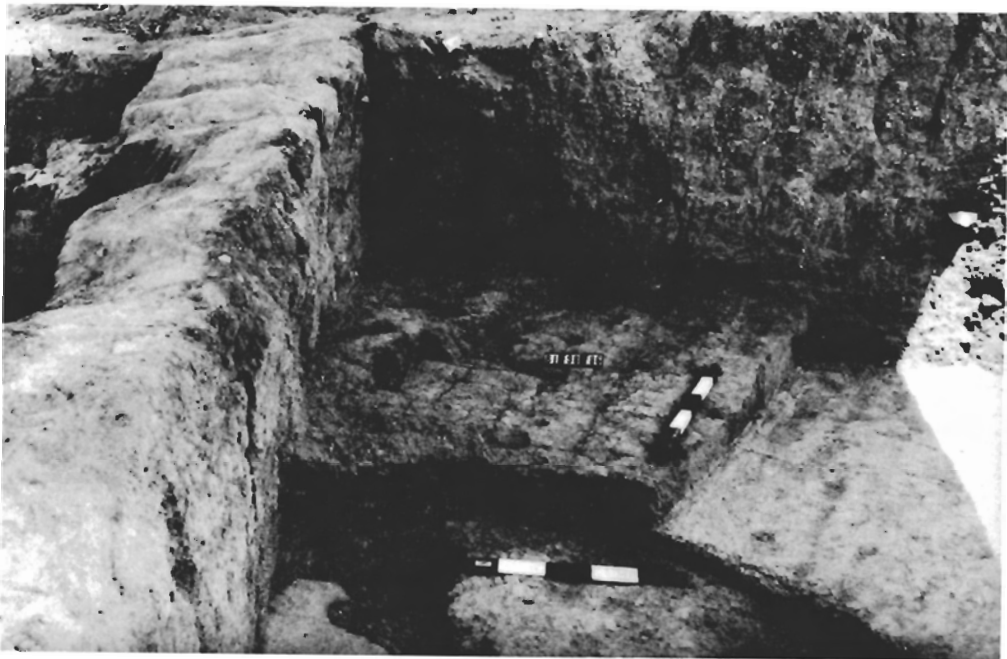


Illustration 11. Stone building, Area B1: detail of brick wall on stone foundation and white floor.

On the lower right corner the white plastered floor rides up to, and curls up against, the lower course of bricks of the wall. The thickness of the plaster shows in the section of the shallow round depression in the lower center of the photograph.



Illustration 12. Stone building, Area B1: broken storage vessel on outside floor in southwestern corner, of Pebble Tempered ware.



Illustration 13. Stone building, Area B1: reconstructed storage vessels on outside floor in southwestern corner.

Restored Pebble Tempered storage vessel on lower left and restored rope decorated jar on upper left; both were found on floor B1f19.

PLATE X



Illustration 14. City wall, Area K1: direct overhead.

The long narrow trench has exposed the base of the glaxis (lower portion) and the inside of the city wall (K2): the slope of the tell reveals the brickwork of the eroded core of the city wall. Larger sounding at the base of the city wall is Locus A (see Figure 13).



Illustration 15. City wall, Area K1: front view, before excavations.

The cut in the side of the tell results from local farmers using this area to gather soil for mud bricks.

Illustration 16. City wall, Area K1: detail of north section in Locus A (see Figure 13). The plastered exterior face of the city wall shows on the right, the bricks are lying horizontally on top of the burnt deposit (K1f16). The top of the glaxis shows clearly, still partly covered by a portion of the burnt deposit.

Illustration 17. City wall, Area K1: frontal view, after scraping of vertical face (looking west). Preserved height of city wall, from the surface of the glaxis to the top of the brickwork, is about 5 m. The top portion represents later deposit resting on top of the brickwork (part of which is removed in the continuation of the trench visible in Illustration 19).

Illustration 18. City wall, Area K1: general view of Locus A (looking north). Eroded core of wall, with articulated brickwork, shows on the right, with top surface of glaxis riding up to its base. Talus of High Mound shows in background.

Illustration 19. City wall, Area K1: general view of glaxis with burnt deposit and face of city wall (looking west). Trench cut perpendicular to the city wall shows the steep slope of the glaxis; in the background the base of the wall and above it the trench cut at the top of the mound to expose the inner face of the city wall. Clearly visible are both the even surface of the glaxis and the thickness of the burnt deposit.



Illustration 16.

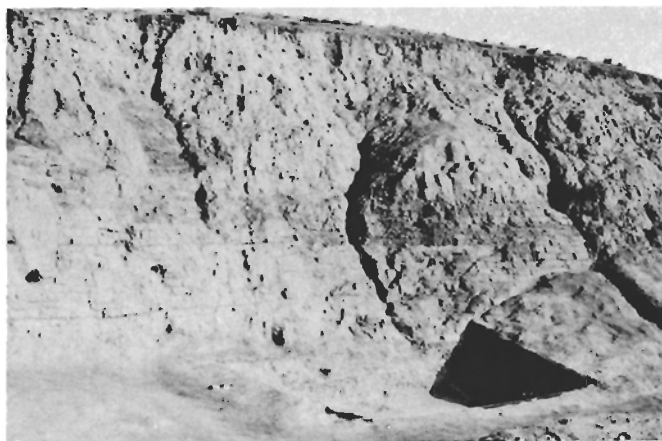


Illustration 17.



Illustration 18.



Illustration 19.

PLATE XII

Left:	Mid left:	Mid right:	Right:
M1 205	M1 200	M1 189	M1 203
M1 206	M1 196	M1 199	M1 204
B1.40	M1 193	M1 188	M1 202
M1 195	M1 201	M1 190	M1 187
M1 192	M1 197		M1 186
M1 194	M1 198		M1 185
M1 191			M1 184

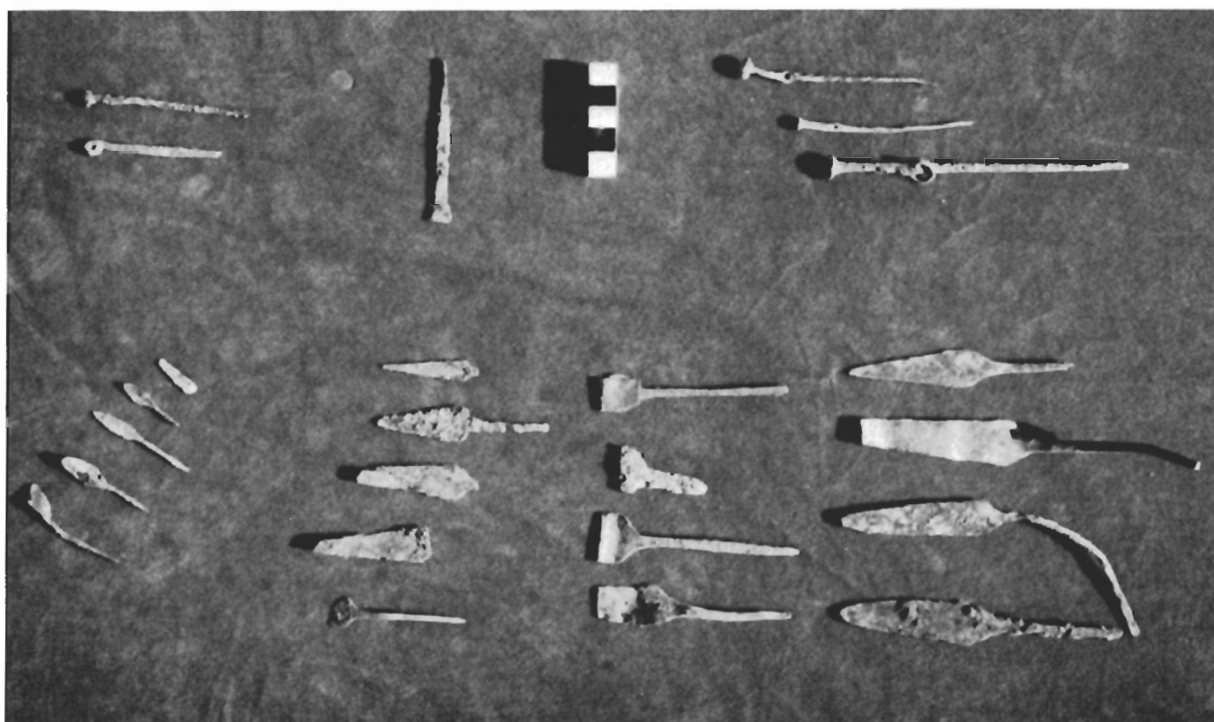


Illustration 21. Assemblage of metal objects (Areas B1 and K1).

The three pins at the upper right are from the burnt deposit in K1, the points at the lower right are mostly from the northwestern portion of B1, and the small spoons at the lower left are mostly from the central portion of B1.

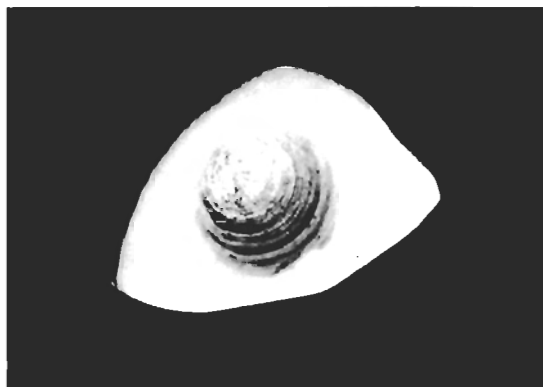


Illustration 20. Eye socket of statue (Area B1).

M1 210 (B1.19). The socket, with traces of bitumen in the hole for a colored pupil, was found among the stones in the southwestern corner of the building.



Illustration 22. Spouted mid third millennium vessel (Area K1).

M1 52 (K1.12-2). Simple ware with darker traces and burnt-on clay from secondary firing (from the burnt deposit K1f16).

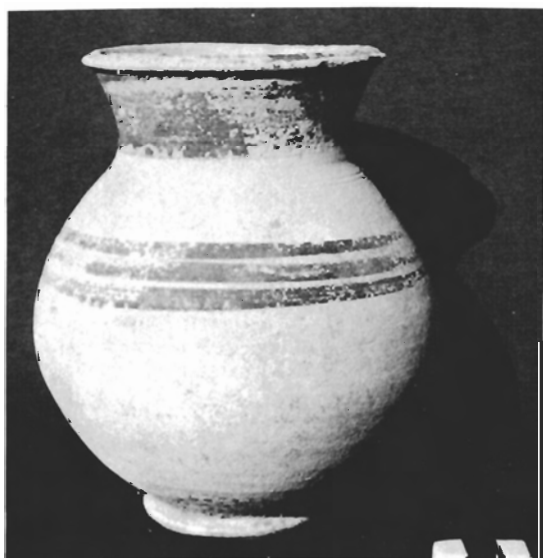


Illustration 23. Khabur ware jar (Area B1).

M1 82 (B1.73). From the destruction stratum above the white floor of the stone building.

PLATE XIV

Left column:

K1.24
M 1 175
M 1 168
K1.87
K1.75
K1.70
K1.76
K1.13
K1.63
K1.77

Right column:

M 1 171
M 1 179
M 1 169
M 1 181
K1.16

Center column:

K1.20
K1.25
K1.72
K1.18
K1.41
K1.78
K1.46
M 1 172

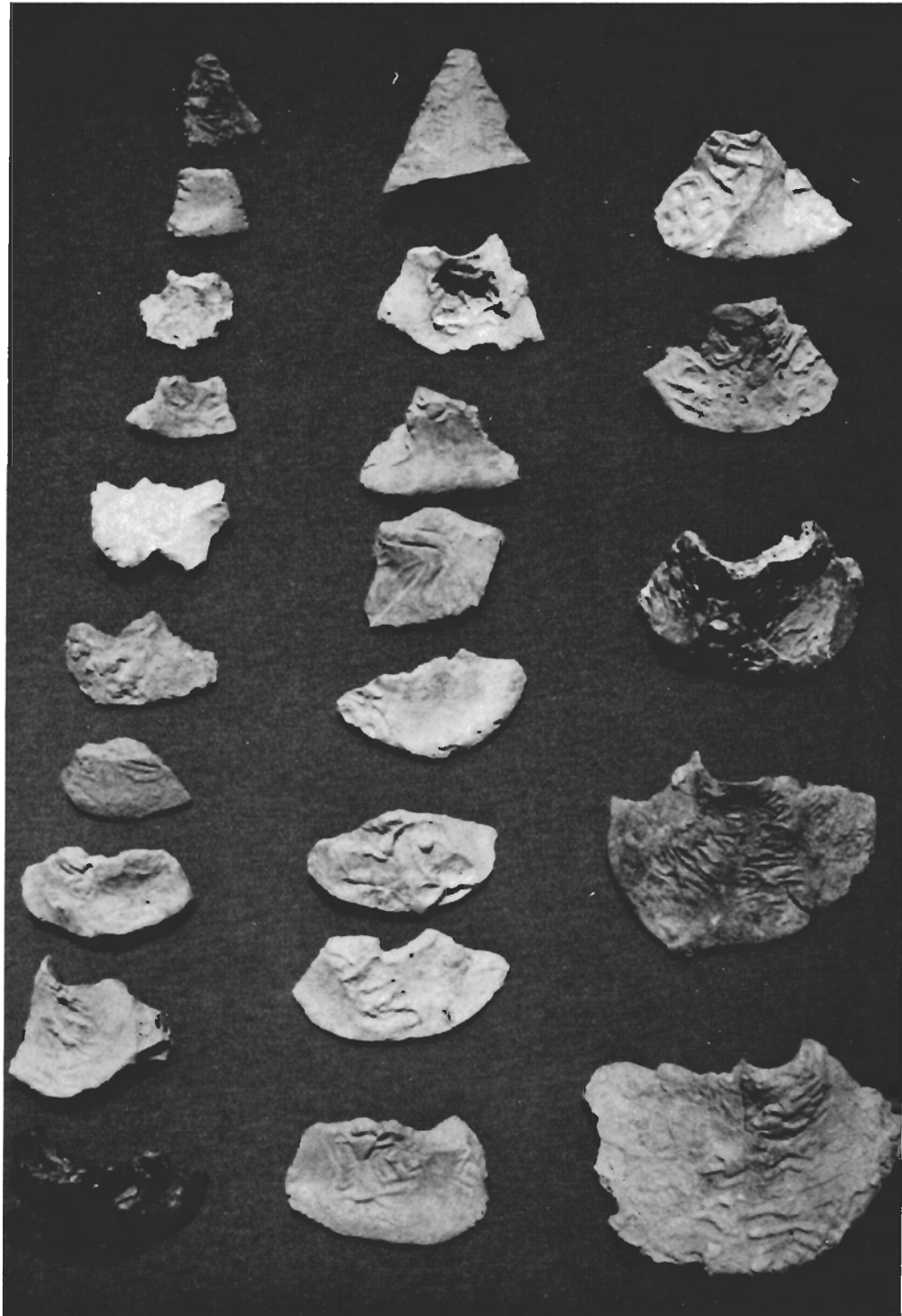


Illustration 24. Assemblage of door sealings (Area K1).

All sealings are from Area K1, feature 16, the burnt layer.



Illustration 25. Detail of bottom of door sealing (K1.25). Flat wood impression on the bottom and two strands of rope impression along the central cavity.

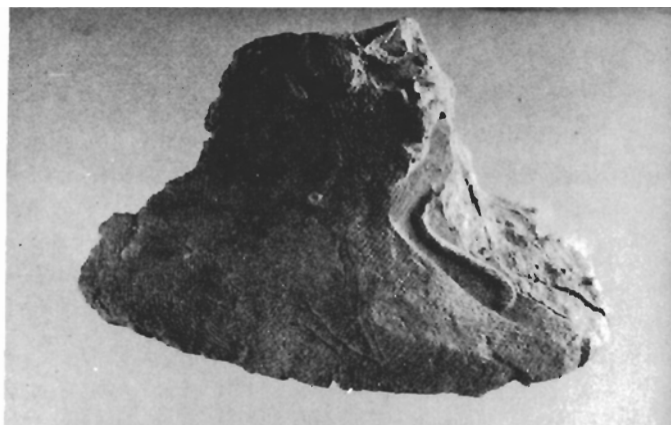


Illustration 26. Characteristic shape of door sealings (K1.78).

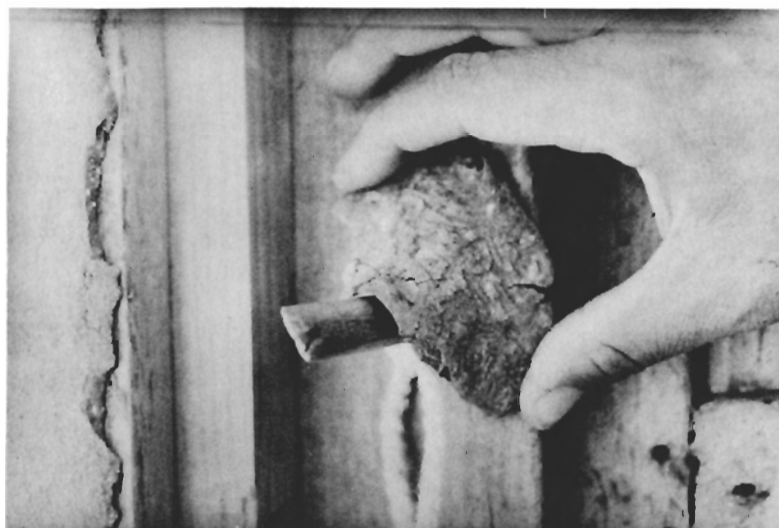


Illustration 27. Reconstruction of door sealing on modern door.

PLATE XVI

SEALINGS FROM THE BURNT DEPOSIT OUTSIDE THE CITY WALL (K1f16), MID THIRD MILLENNIUM



Illustration 28. Seal impression on shoulder of large jar

M1 167 (K1.6). The sealing is reversed with respect to the orientation of the jar (in this photograph the neck of the jar is at the bottom).



Illustration 29. Seal impression on rectangular tag

M1 168 (K1.8). The seal is rolled on the preserved length of the tag and fills the entire surface.



Illustration 30. Door sealing: crossed animals

M1 172 (K1.50). Traces of a human figure and a lion; cloth impressions also shown.

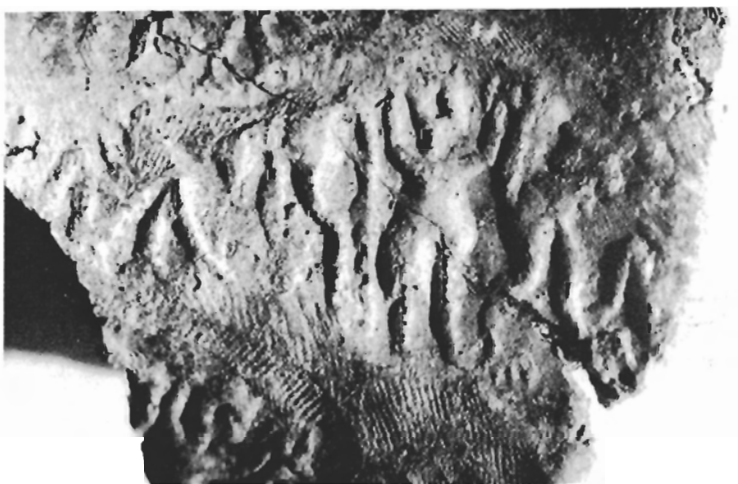
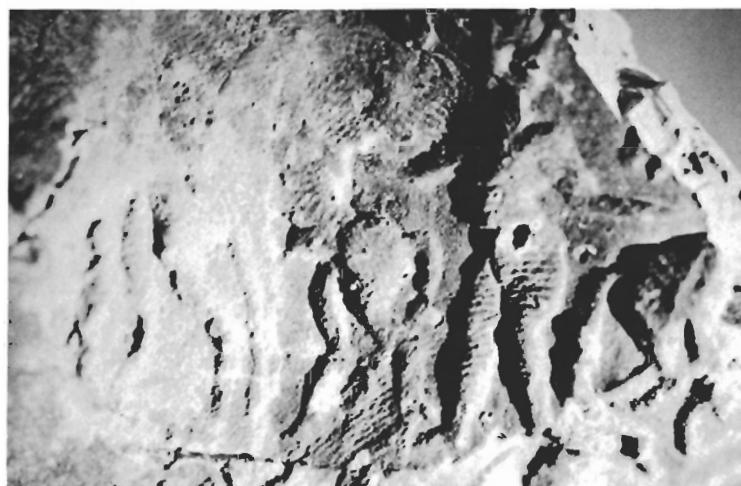


Illustration 31. Door sealing: hero with dagger

M1 181 (K1.92). Hero with dagger between two animals; traces of cloth show that the cloth impressions were on the clay before the seal was rolled.



Illustration 32. Seal impression: snake coil and horned quadruped
M1 171 (K1.45).



Illustrations 33-35. Seal impression:
hero between rampant animals

M1 169 (K1.29) Nude hero with tufted hair
between two bearded animals; three different
details of the impression.

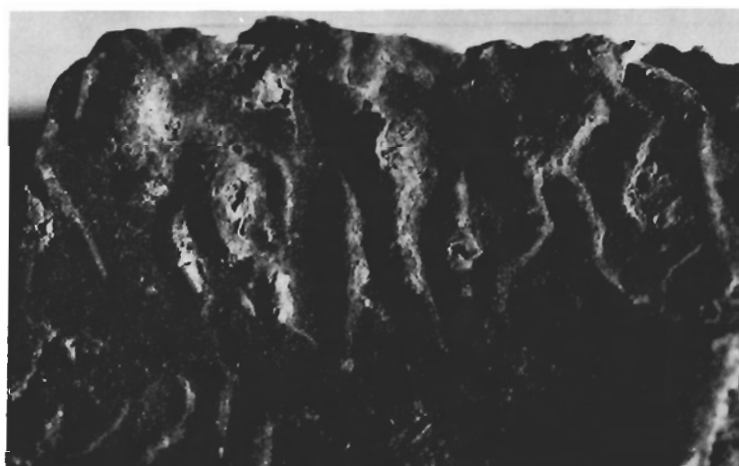
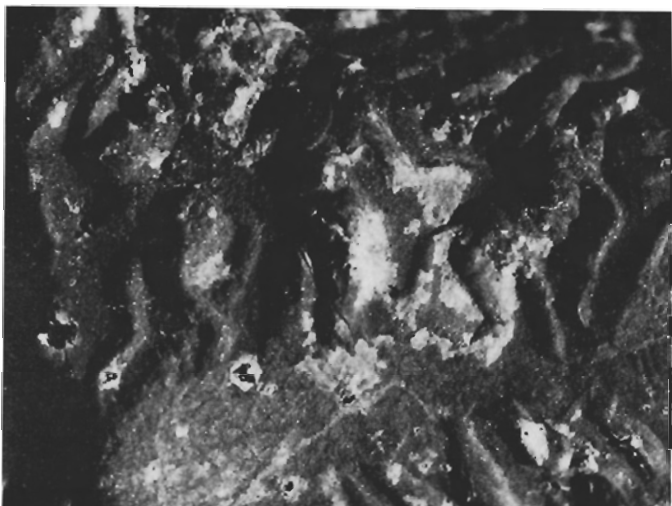


PLATE XVIII

Illustration 36. Seal impression: hero with rampant animal and crossed animals

M1 177 (K1.69). Hero and bearded horned animal; a pair of crossed lions.



Illustration 37. Seal impression: hero with skirt holding plant, with animal

M1 174 (K1.52). Skirted figure holding a stick and a bag(?) behind an animal.

Illustration 38. Seal impression: double animal file

M1 180 (K1.82). Two rows of animals with short tails, ears or short horns, and large eyes.





**Illustration 39. Seal impression:
geometric design**

M1 173 (K1.51). Door sealing from burnt deposit outside the city wall, mid third millennium; geometric pattern (guilloche?).

**Illustration 40. Seal impression:
rampant bearded animal**

M1 75 (K1.17). Door sealing from burnt deposit outside the city wall, mid third millennium; rampant animal (antelope?) with beard, horns, and short tail.



**Illustration 41. Seal impression:
impaled(?) scorpion**

M1 183 (K1.17). Door sealing from general surface of mound.

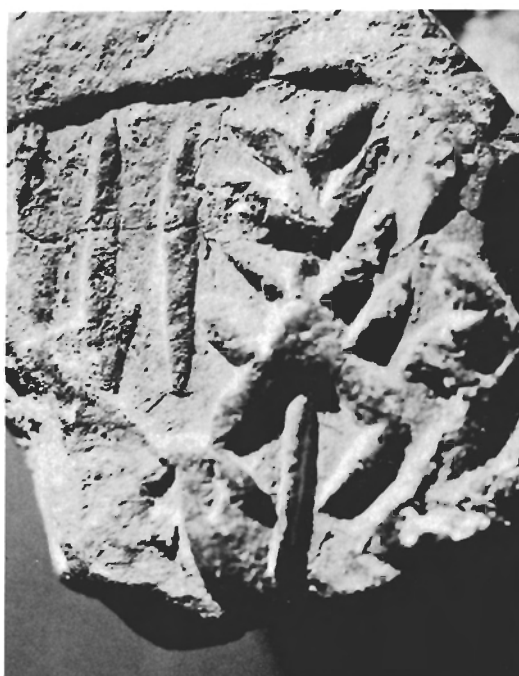


Illustration 42. Two stamp seals

M1 183 (Z1.20 on right and Z1.17 on left). From general surface; two stamp seals with circular geometric pattern.





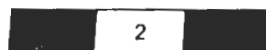
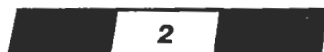
Illustration 43. Tell Shermola: the central mound (looking northwest).



Illustration 44. Tell Shermola: button base goblet (base).



Illustration 45. Tell Shermola: carinated shallow bowl.



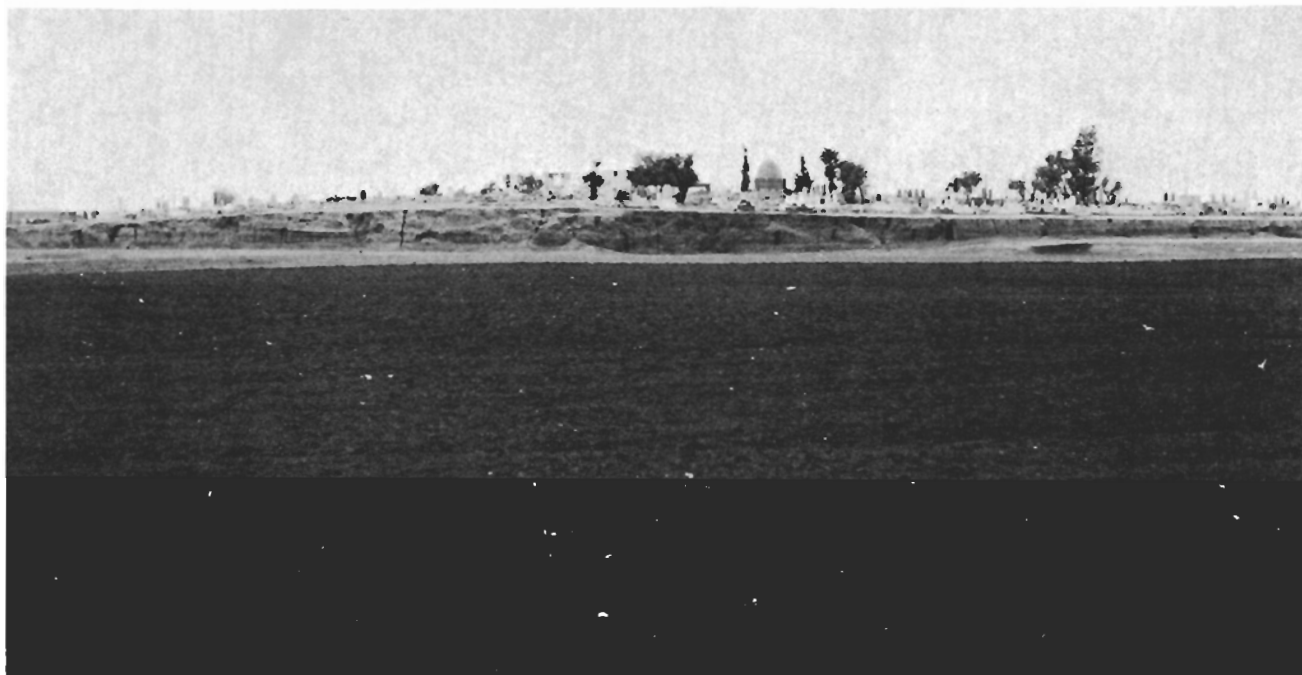


Illustration 46. Tell Shermola: the lower mound (looking west).



Illustration 47. Tell Shermola: the lower mound (looking north).

PLATE XXII

Illustration 48. The Urkish lion in the Metropolitan Museum of Art: front view.



Illustration 49. The Urkish lion in the Metropolitan Museum of Art: side view.



Illustration 50. The Urkish lion in the Metropolitan Museum of Art: three-quarter view.



Illustration 51. The Urkish lion in the Metropolitan Museum of Art: top view.

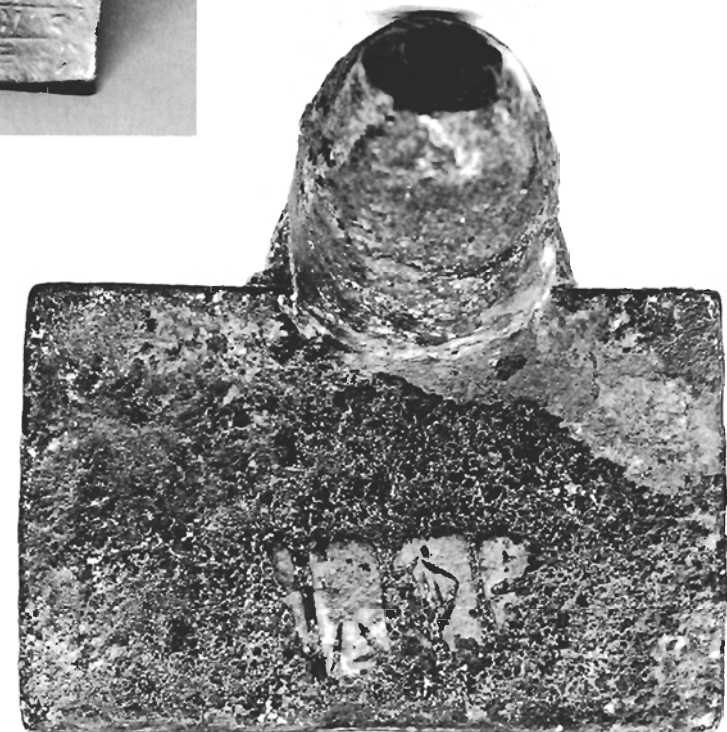
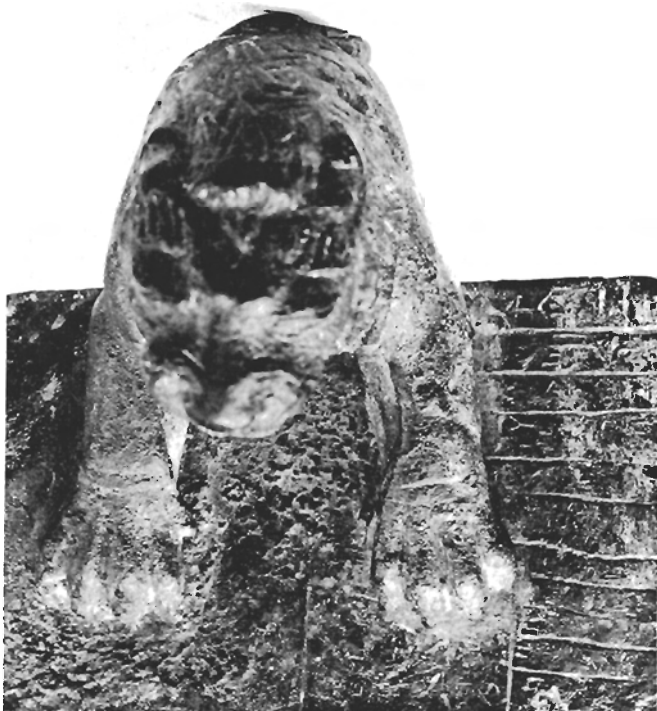


Illustration 53. The Urkish lion in the Louvre: bottom view.

Illustration 52. The Urkish lion in the Louvre: top view.

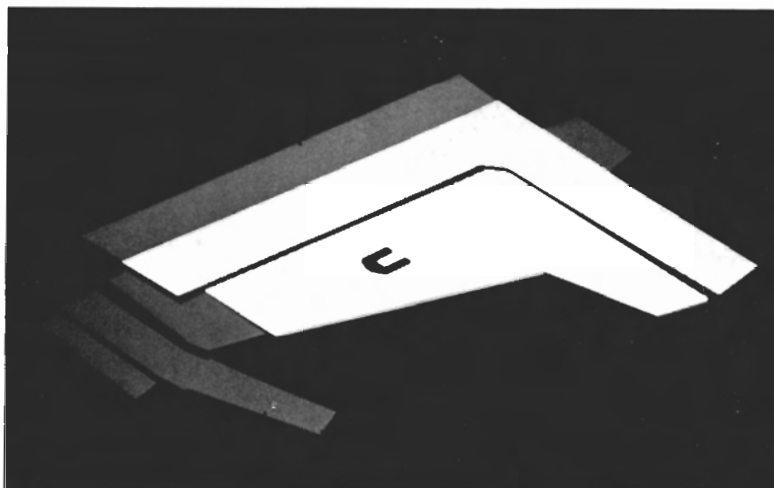


Illustration 54.

COMPUTER GENERATED RENDERINGS OF THE STONE BUILDING IN AREA B1

Illustration 54. Partially excavated foundations of stone building in Area B1 (viewed from the southeast).

The right-angle wall (light area) and its two additional parallel walls (dark gray) enclose the white floor (white area) with its horseshoe-shaped hearth. To the south of the white floor is the stone ramp (dark gray). To the north of the white floor is the brick-paved area (light gray).

Illustration 55. Axonometric perspective of Tell Chuera-style 'in antis' temple reconstruction at Mozan (viewed from the southeast).

The 'in antis' temple reconstructed on the Mozan foundations is entered via five steps from the east (this entrance is purely hypothetical, since this portion of Area B is currently unexcavated). The altar is on the west wall, flanked by two pairs of engaged pillars. The stone ramp serves to connect the cella with the exterior or perhaps a stone courtyard via the south. A doorway on the north wall connects the ante-cella with the brick-paved area north of the white floor.

Illustration 56. Low-angle perspective of Kish-style reconstruction at Mozan (viewed from the south).

The Mozan foundations are seen as part of a much larger 'palatial' structure which includes a second story. The stone ramp connects to the white floor through a portico. This in turn connects to the second story via a stairway whose lower steps can be seen rising just beyond the north wall of the portico.

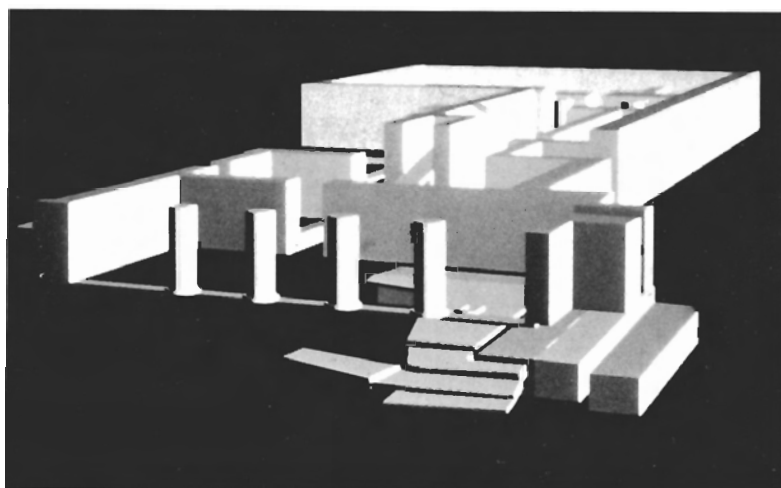
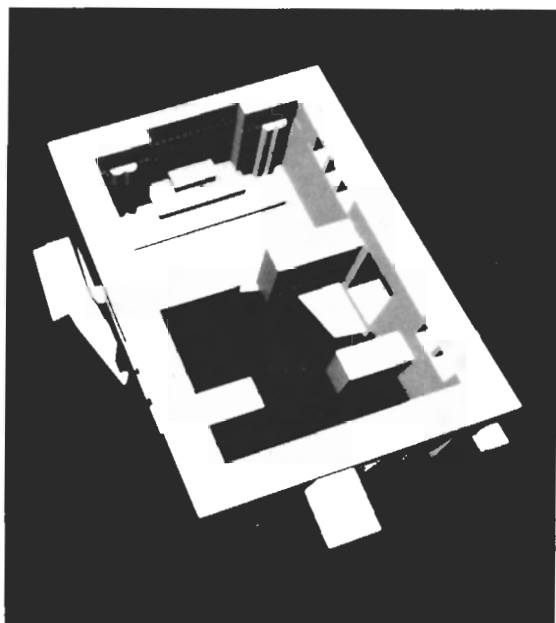


Illustration 56.

Illustration 55.



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Volume Twenty

Mozan 1

The Soundings of the First Two Seasons

**Giorgio Buccellati and
Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati**

MOZAN 1

THE SOUNDINGS OF THE FIRST TWO SEASONS



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ABSTRACT

Preliminary soundings were conducted at Tell Mozan in the north-central portion of the Khabur plains in 1984 and 1985. The site has proven to be a major urban settlement of the third millennium and early part of the second millennium, with the possibility that it may correspond to ancient Urkish, known to have been a major Hurrian center in the early periods.

This volume reports on the finds made as well as on various aspects and research goals of the project. After a presentation of the environmental, historical, archaeological and methodological considerations which provide the project its special scope, the following topics are covered: the two surface *surveys* of the High Mound and Outer City respectively; the *excavations* of the City Wall at the base, and of a stone building at the top of the High Mound; the *artifacts* found during the excavations, with special reference to an important group of seal impressions mostly on door sealings; paleobotanical and ¹⁴C *samples*; the beginning of a *regional survey* in the immediate vicinity of Tell Mozan; an art historical discussion (by O. W. Muscarella) of the *Urkish lion pgs* preserved in the Louvre and the Metropolitan Museum of Art; and the application of *computer aided design* techniques to a study of the stone building on top of the High Mound. More than 200 objects are given in line drawings, and more than 50 black-and-white photographs illustrate various aspects of the report.

Color documentation for the material presented in this volume is available from Undena Publications in the form of 20 slides published as set No. 1 within the series *Photographic Data Sets (PDS-1)*. Reference to the slides is given in the text.

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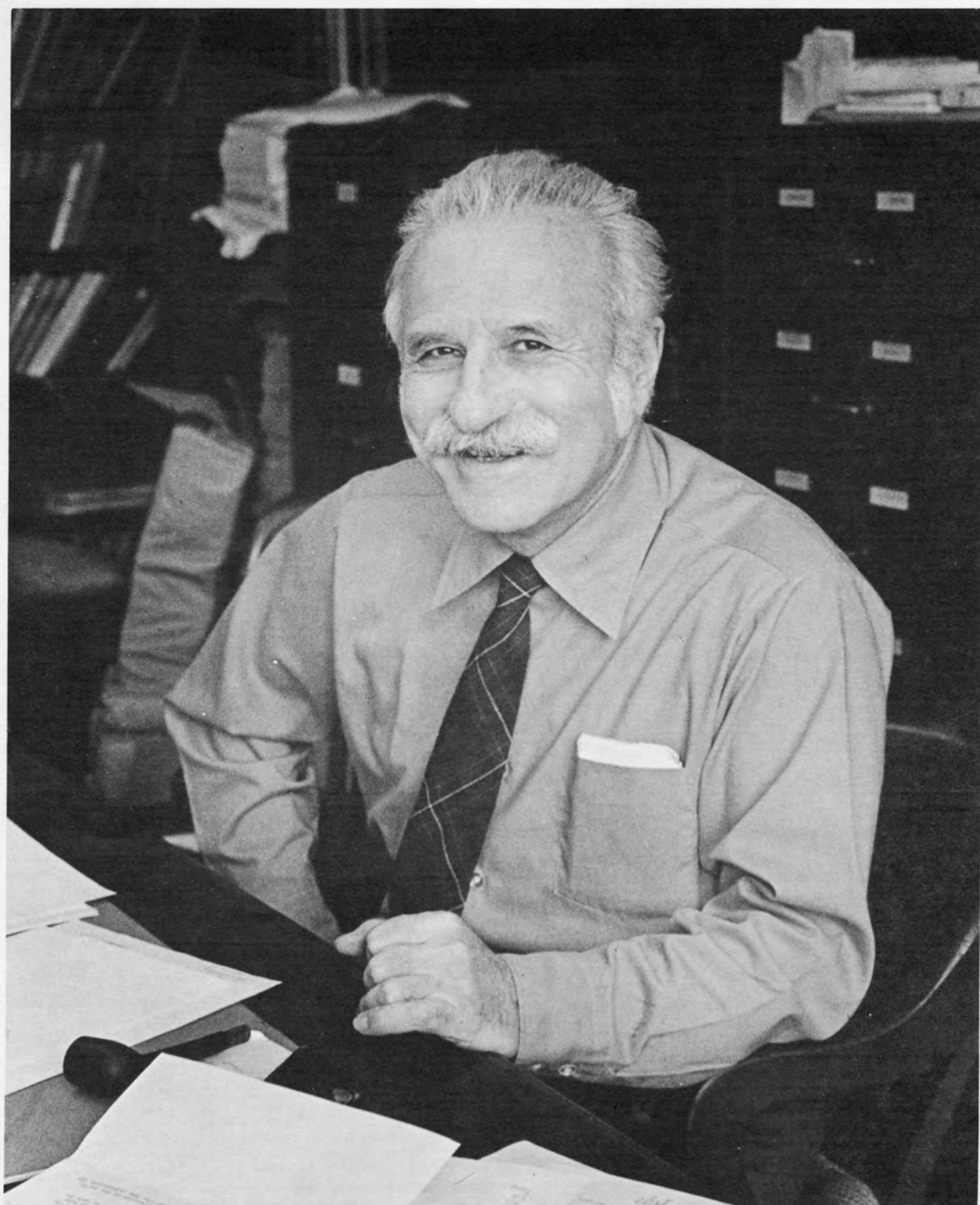
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**In Memory of I. J. Gelb
Who Showed Us the Way**

PREFACE

The wheatfields of the Khabur have seen many a harvest over the millennia, but none perhaps as significant as the archaeological harvest which a number of expeditions have begun to reap in recent years. We have to thank for this the enlightened policies of the Syrian authorities, which have consistently welcomed and encouraged an unprecedented expansion of scholarly activity in their country. As a result, whole new vistas have been emerging not only for the history of Syria, but more broadly for the history of the ancient Near East as a whole. The Khabur region is especially attractive because it is generally less well known, while at the same time it gives every evidence of having been a crucible of civilization on a par with Sumer in the South or Ebla in the West.

Our new excavations at Tell Mozan are in line with these general developments on the one hand, and with our own specific interests on the other. The work we have been conducting at Terqa and Qraya for the last ten years have given us a special appreciation of the larger regional dimension within which the history of those two sites has to be understood. The Khabur region provides the natural setting for such a broader scope of inquiry. Terqa and Qraya are at the heart of both the fertile mid-Euphrates trough (known today as the *zor*) and the high-ground steppe dotted with springs and wells (known in ancient times as the *nawu*). They are also at the mouth of the Khabur, which serves as a major artery linking the *zor* with the "upper country" (the *matum elitum*, as it was known in ancient times). The start of a new excavation project in this "upper country" will thus allow us to develop a true regional project, based on concurrent field work at different sites, conducted with parallel methodology and direct cross-information. We hope that such long term and broadly based research may yield proportionately greater insights in the archaeology and history of the area, and serve as a significant experiment in the methodology of regional studies.

In and of itself, Tell Mozan seems to hold in store archaeological promises of the greatest magnitude. Its size makes it one of the largest settlements in the region, in fact one of the largest in ancient Syria if the preliminary indications for a vast lower city are verified by future work. The homogeneity of the deposit, which belongs predominantly and throughout to the third millennium, is just as impressive. And the circumstantial evidence which seems to suggest a possible identification of the site with Urkish provides a tantalizing working hypothesis for an interpretation of the pertinent historical framework. Regardless of

what the answer might be to the questions of either identification or size, Mozan is certain to prove a major site for the understanding of the civilization in the piedmont area, which not only thrived on rain-fed agriculture, but also served as the link between the mountain regions with their rich reserves of metal ores to the north and the urban states in the southern alluvium. Only the discovery of third millennium epigraphic material, of the type known through the Urkish lions, may allow us to define such culture as Hurrian: and that the prospect of such discovery is realistic is suggested by the fact that the inscriptions on the Urkish lions presuppose an important and autonomous scribal tradition that must have been at home in the Khabur plains.

As we were articulating our overall research design for the excavations at Mozan, we had made plans to have Dr. I. Jay Gelb join us in the field in the Spring 1985. In spite of his lifelong work in this general region, he had never been able to travel there, and we were eager to offer him, our personal mentor and friend for so many years, this opportunity. The potential significance of Mozan for an understanding of Hurrian civilization was especially inviting from a scholarly point of view, and we had great hopes to be able to develop with him a long term plan for the full historical evaluation of our findings there. For family reasons he was not able to join us in 1985, and so we postponed his visit until 1986. Or so we thought. The sudden illness which struck him in the Fall of 1985, and his death on the 22nd of December 1985, were to sadly alter all our plans. We can only, at this date, dedicate this first volume of the Mozan Reports to his memory — a small token of the strong human bond which united us as friends, and, we hope, a meaningful indication of the reverberation that his fundamental work on the Hurrians has left for the field.

It is with special pleasure that we recall one of our preliminary visits to the site in 1983, when we were joined by Dr. Herman L. Hoeh of the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation and a trustee of IIMAS — The International Institute for Mesopotamian Area Studies. As we looked together from the commanding position of Tell Mozan at the mountains to the North and the rolling plains to the South, we shared a precious moment in which the potential historical significance of the site seemed to blend with the sheer beauty of the landscape and elicit in us the resolve for an expanded new commitment to the archaeology of the region. The association with the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation, whose sponsorship has made it possible for us to develop the ambitious project on which we report here, was celebrated in a special way with the visit to Damascus in the Spring of 1985 by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, President of the Foundation. This was to be his last trip overseas before his death, and while he could not come as far as Mozan, where we were excavating at the time, we were able to share with him two days in Damascus, where he was most graciously hosted by the Minister of Culture, Dr. Najah Attar, and the Director General of Antiquities and Museums, Dr. Afif Behnassi.

We consider ourselves privileged to be able to be a part of these significant new developments in Syrian archaeology, and fortunate to be the recipients of the traditional and unmatched Syrian hospitality, at both the official and personal level. Especially at a time like today, it is but a small witness to truth to say that we feel as welcome in the contemporary Syria we have come to know through living there as in the ancient periods of her history, to the reconstruction of which we are happy to contribute.

G. B. and M. K-B.
15 April 1986

Because of a series of vicissitudes beyond our control, publication of this volume has been unfortunately delayed for over a year. Publication in its present form is essentially the same as had been originally submitted in completed form by the Fall of 1986, without updates (except for references to *PDS-1*).

A special note of gratitude is owed Dr. Alexis Martin, who with the greatest skill and personal commitment has provided the indispensable ingredients for seeing this volume through to its final publication.

6 January 1988

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