

5. SOUNDINGS ON THE HIGH MOUND

5.1 Introduction — G. Buccellati and M. Kelly-Buccellati

As a result of the surface survey and the study of the topography we decided to excavate on one of the rises which surround the central depression. Area B1 was chosen because it was an area where late third millennium sherds were found. We had also noted that there was a large patch of red which had even colored the sod layer on top. A consideration which emerges from the earlier discussion of the Urkish lions (Section 2.3) has to do with the question: if the lions were to have come from Mozan, where could they have been found? Since they are foundation deposits of the late third millennium, they may seem a priori unlikely to have originated from any point at the top of the mound. As it turns out, this is not necessarily the case, since third millennium foundations are in fact very close to the surface, at least in Area B, and any one of the recent burials (a small cemetery is located at a short distance to the northeast of B1) could easily have been dug to a depth corresponding to that of potential foundation deposits.

In addition to Area B1 we decided to clean the portion of the city wall on the east (K1) which had already been partially exposed by some farmers who had been removing soil for their fields.

A small operation was also started in Area P on the slope of the highest portion of the mound. The object of this sounding was to determine how deep the Old Babylonian deposit was there since this was the portion of the site with the greatest concentration of Khabur surface ceramics. See Section 6.1 for a brief discussion of this excavation unit.

Finally, we made a small sounding in the Outer City (Os2) in order to check for possible occupation there; the sherd material from this shallow exposure can be dated to the late third millennium through comparison with those excavated in Area B1.

We provide here two brief reports on the excavations in Areas B1 and K. Both are limited in scope for different reasons. In Area B1, in spite of a considerable horizontal exposure, we were able to uncover only a small corner of what is apparently a much larger building. For the purposes of our initial soundings these results were more than adequate, but we prefer to leave a fuller account of the stratigraphic unit for the end of the next season.

As for Area K, a somewhat more substantial picture has emerged, albeit still preliminary, but it has proven impossible for the excavators, G. L. Bunnens and A. Roobaert, to provide a fuller report, on account of their participation in the Fall season at Qraya and subsequent move to the University of Melbourne. Accordingly, we have chosen to publish a brief interim report which they had submitted after the close of the first season, and to supplement it only with a sketch section of K1 (Fig. 12), plus a few additional comments which follow.

The main goals for the second season in Area K were: (1) to look for a definition of the inner face of the city wall; (2) to follow the slope of the glacis ideally to a point where it might begin to level off; (3) to look for a possible gateway in the vicinity of the excavations of the first season; and (4) to explore further the indications visible on the surface for possible structural details connected with the defensive system.

The main result in answer to points (1) and (2) is summarized in the sketch section in Fig. 12: sounding A of the first season (see Fig. 13) was extended as a narrow 1 m. trench in a direction perpendicular to the face of the wall (almost in a straight east-west direction), toward both the outside and the inside (Illustr. 14, 19). Excavations in the outer area revealed a continuation of the uniform burnt debris which contained a large number of door sealings (described in detail below in Section 6.2); the slope of the glacis continued to the end of the trench, and it is not clear whether it might continue even further, or whether it would begin to level off after that point. The great depth of the slope below the edge of the tell has considerable implications for an understanding of the nature of a potential settlement in the Outer City: if this is indeed a glacis, rising from the ancient plain level to the base of the city wall, and not, for instance, the edge of a moat, then the surrounding Outer City would have been at an elevation somewhat lower than the present plain level; and if so, more of the ancient settlement which may be postulated for the Outer City is preserved than meets the eye. Also, the ring which encircles the Outer City (see Section 4.4) would in this case have a deeper foundation than the present contour lines reveal.

As for the inner face of the city wall, it was not identified on the inner side of the trench (K3). However, some brickwork of a type that is similar to that apparent on the eroded side of the tell was uncovered at the base of the trench in a couple of points, which indicates that the inner face lies further to the west of these points. In other words, we have a minimum width of some 8 meters, and a minimum height of 5 meters.

The search for a city gate proved somewhat inconclusive, although some possible traces were identified to the west of the main trench in K1:

The search for surface indications of structural brickwork associated with the defensive system revealed some sizable traces immediately west of K1, which however could not be fully understood. It is from this area that the two botanical samples came that are briefly described below by K. F. Galvin (Section 7.1). K1.2 comes from Feature 5 and K1.14 from Feature 8 (both features are shown in Fig. 14).

The burnt deposit however appears to give us a terminus ante quem for the use of the glacis. As seen in the section Fig. 12 the thickness of the burnt deposit was essentially masking the extreme slope of the glacis and therefore removing its utility for defense. The nature of the materials found in the burnt deposit is also very interesting (see Section 6). As stated above there were few ceramic types in it: Rough ware storage vessels, Simple ware spouted pots and small bowls, some Wet Smooth ware jars, three metal pins, a small ceramic

horse head, and a collection of over forty door sealings. All the objects were burnt in a secondary fire. From the nature of the deposit it appears that a store room burnt down somewhere on the high mound, probably near Area K1, and the contents were thrown over the wall or taken out a gate nearby. The facts that most of the contents were storage jars and that door sealings were probably used to seal the door contribute to our assessment that we are digging the contents of a burnt store room. From the typology of the objects in this deposit it appears that the contents can essentially be dated to Early Dynastic III although there are indications that it may have been used in late Early Dynastic II. It is now known that there were two destruction levels at Brak dating to about this period (J. Oates 1985). Our excavation of this burnt deposit at Mozan however is too restricted to make any connections with the Brak destructions; at this point the Mozan burnt deposit appears to be too homogeneous in nature to be associated with a more general destruction at the site.

5.2 The stone building in Area B — Giorgio Buccellati

I will give here only a very brief account of the major stratigraphic data, without attempting any functional and comparative study, in spite of the obvious similarities with other examples of North Syrian architecture, especially from Tell Chuera. The interpretation which follows has benefitted especially from the assistance of Dr. Ismail Hijara and Ms. Andrea M. Parker, who contributed to the final rendering of the floor plan, and drew the sections in Fig. 10. See also the contribution by A. Parker given below as Appendix 9.2.2.

5.2.1 Horizontal articulation

Five preliminary subdivisions may be noted within Excavation Unit B1: they are represented schematically in Fig. 9.

(1) The first is the stone substructure (Illustr. 9; *PDS-1* 8) with the associated mudbrick walls and stone platform or ramp. All along the western edge of the structure the stones were found immediately below the surface (Illustr. 9; *PDS-1* 8), so that it could not be ascertained whether each of the rows (marked b, d, and f in Fig. 9) supported a mudbrick wall, or only the interior one (b in Fig. 9). Only in the eastern part of the unit was the deposit above the stones thick enough to allow a clear articulation of the bricks which were resting in antiquity above the stone foundation. A clear view is presented in Illustr. 11, which shows the eastern end of wall c. The ramp at the southern edge (a in Fig. 9) slopes up toward the building (the slope is visible in Illustr. 8), and seems to match up with the beginning of the white plaster floor B1f88. On its left side the ramp is slightly higher than the stone wall on the left (see the reconstruction in Fig. 10), most probably on account of the subfloor below the white plaster floor.

(2) The second major structural component of the building is a white plastered floor (B1f88), which rode up to the walls b and c, and links up smoothly with the outside ramp. Besides Illustr. 11, already discussed, the white floor is also shown in Illustr. 10: here it stops at the presumed juncture with the mudbrick wall, which is not preserved, as I have already noted, on top of the western stone foundations. The floor has a good consistency throughout, and it shows traces of localized burning, perhaps deriving from activities connected

with the hearth B1f89. Several pits cut through the floor, but without any deep intrusion below the floor surface.

(3) A good outside floor (B1f19) was recovered adjacent to the stone ramp in the southwestern corner of the unit; this floor continues presumably into excavation unit B2 (not shown in Fig. 9), but our work in B2 has been too limited to allow any conclusions in this respect. A rather thick and medium hard accumulation rested on this floor, as part of which were two jars that had been smashed in antiquity (see Illustr. 12 and 13). A semi-circular stone structure (B1f12) was set in the northeastern corner of this floor, placed against the stone foundations (see Illustr. 6-8; PDS-1 7).

(4) An area to the west of the main structure (Locus B1kw) is contained by two projections of the stone structure, which may have served as either foundations or lower courses of regular walls, or else as buttresses flanking the main structure to the east. The deposit in this area, of which only little has been excavated, seemed to consist primarily of a fill, without any discernible floor.

(5) The northern sector of the excavation unit (Locus kn) has been barely touched by our excavations, but has yielded immediately below the surface a sizable amount of movable items and significant indications of structural remains, including a fair amount of burnt clay pieces with the impression of small pieces of wood or wood sticks, which we interpreted as roofing pieces.

5.2.2 Main stratigraphic sequence

Our preliminary stratigraphic analysis distinguishes the following seven strata (marked by the prefix A to keep the current sequence distinct from subsequent strata sequences that might be applied to this area):

- A1 topsoil
- A2 pits
- A3 collapse
- A4 damage and rebuilding with gray bricks
- A5 rebuilding with gray and red bricks
- A6 white floor (and outside floor B1f19?)
- A7 first building (and earlier floors?)

This sequence applies only to the southeastern portion of the excavation unit, and not to Loci kw and kn, which do not exhibit at present any direct connection with the southeastern portion.

The topsoil in Stratum 1 consists of a very hard, root-filled sod, which covers the entire area with a very thin veneer of 10 or 15 cm. at the most. It covers directly the ancient layers, without any obvious trace of recent disturbances.

For a tentative sketch of the depositional history, we may turn first to the earliest stratum. We assume that the first construction of the stone structure (whether executed at a single time or over several intervening phases) was synchronic with earlier floors. Possibly such floors may still exist below the white floor and the outside floor, but even if this were not the case it seems probable to assume that there were earlier floors that may have been

obliterated: the reuse of stone foundations at the same general elevation would have favored the levelling of floors down to the top of the stone substructures.

The white floors and the outside floor are at any rate the first attested use of this part of the building. Since the lowest part of the ramp has not been excavated we cannot explicitly link the two floors, and they may in fact correspond to two different strata. Further excavation may or may not give an answer to this question, depending on how far the ramp extends (if it extends far, the slope of the mound may rob us in any case of a connection between the base of the ramp and the outside floor).

We assume next two rebuildings because on the one hand there are red bricks (B1f102) which rest on top of the white floor, and on the other there is the debris (Stratum 3), an admixture of gray bricks together with red bricks like those found still resting on their foundations. This is admittedly very tentative, and is advanced here largely as a working hypothesis. One reason for favoring a longer stratigraphic sequence is typological. From the collapse attributed here to Stratum 3 comes a whole Khabur ware vessel (M 1 82): since it was recovered only a few centimeters below the surface, it was difficult to ascertain clearly its immediate stratigraphic context — such as might have determined, for instance, whether it was a secondary intrusion from higher strata (not preserved), or whether it was embedded in a primary way in the collapse itself.

The collapse in Stratum 3 seems to have been rather localized. As is apparent from Section A-A' (Fig. 10), such a collapse is apparent only in the right (southern) portion, whereas in the left (northern) portion there is a regular floor deposition.

The latest evidence of occupation comes from a few pits, which barely go below the surface of the white floor (one is shown on the floor plan in Fig. 9, the other in Illustr. 11). Since we do not have the stratum from which the pits were sunk, and since nothing diagnostic was found in them, we cannot say to what period they belong.

5.2.3 Artifact distribution

Apart from the whole Khabur ware vessel mentioned above (M 1 82) there are no notable movable items associated with the collapse stratum.

Three items found in connection with the white floor deserve special mention. One is a pottery stand (M 1 35), which was found lying in the middle of the hearth (B1f89). The other is a small wooden piece, square in section, which may, quite hypothetically, have been used as a stylus. Finally, an eye socket of the type which is typical for mid size statues (M 1 210) was recovered among the stones of wall d.

The ceramics on the outside floor is distinctive of the later third millennium (see below, Section 6.1). Of the other artifacts, the most notable were two small metal implements, which appear to be a small spoon and spatula such as might be used for cosmetics.

5.3 Le mur d'enceinte (Area K) — Guy L. Bunnens and Arlette Roobaert

Des excavations pratiquées dans les flancs du tell par des villageois à la recherche de terre laissent apparaître de-ci de-là des vestiges du mur d'enceinte de la ville ancienne, notamment dans les secteurs H, K et L. L'importance des vestiges visibles en K (Illustr. 15; PDS-1 5-6) a fait choisir ce secteur pour une première investigation. Les travaux, qui

se sont poursuivis du 5 au 15 novembre 1984, ont porté sur un tronçon du mur, long d'une dizaine de mètres, profondément entamé par les travaux de terrassement. Ils ont consisté en un nettoyage d'une grande partie des restes visibles et en deux sondages pratiqués l'un au pied du mur (sondage A), l'autre à son sommet (sondage B).

5.3.1 Les restes visibles

Le grattage des parois de l'excavation a permis de reconnaître la hauteur sur laquelle le mur est conservé ainsi que quelques caractéristiques de sa construction. Les résultats acquis se résument de la manière suivante:

(1) Les dimensions des briques sont 32/33 x 8,5/9 centimètres. Aucune n'a pu être dégagée complètement de manière à en connaître les trois dimensions.

(2) Des briques ont été identifiées jusqu'à environ 90 centimètres sous la surface du tell, soit jusqu'à la hauteur de 8560 environ par rapport au point zéro. La Fig. 13 montre en hachuré les parties non décapées ainsi que celles où aucune brique n'est clairement apparente.

(3) Deux joints horizontaux particulièrement épais et séparés l'un de l'autre par neuf lits de briques semblent attester de remaniements du mur ou de différentes phases de sa construction (Fig. 13, n° 1 et 2).

(4) Le joint supérieur (n° 1) vient buter vers le sud contre un lit de pierraille blanche qui semble le prolonger tout en s'aminçissant vers le sud. Au-delà de la pierraille, les joints ont une épaisseur normale mais une nette différence dans la coloration des briques, rougeâtres à la partie supérieure et grisâtres à la partie inférieure, ainsi qu'une espèce d'usure qui a réduit le premier lit de la partie inférieure, montrent que la césure matérialisée par le joint n° 1 se poursuivait jusqu'ici. En outre, une seconde rupture, verticale cette fois, s'observe aussi bien dans la couleur des briques que dans leur appareillage au-dessus de l'extrémité nord de la couche de pierraille blanche, comme si cette pierraille avait constitué le fond d'une cavité aménagée dans le mur.

(5) La face extérieure du mur est apparue aux extrémités nord et sud du tronçon étudié (Fig. 13, n° 4 et 5; Fig. 14, n° 1 et 2), conservée sur une hauteur de quelques lits. Les briques qui la composent présentent une surface dure et lisse de couleur blanchâtre. Les deux segments sont dans le même alignement (restitué sur la Fig. 14 par une ligne de points et de traits dans la partie entamée par l'excavation). L'orientation du mur à cet endroit était approximativement sud-sud-ouest / nord-nord-est. Les deux segments descendant également jusqu'au même niveau, environ 8200 par rapport au niveau zéro. (une ligne de points et de traits marque cette limite sur la Fig. 13).

(6) A la partie supérieure du segment sud, chaque lit de briques est posé légèrement en retrait par rapport au lit inférieur, comme pour marquer une inclinaison de la face, et, d'autre part, le mur lui-même semble amorcer un arrondi (Fig. 14, n° 4).

(7) En avant du mur, vers le sud, existait un massif maçonné en briques crues (Fig. 13, n° 6; Fig. 14, n° 3; cf. Fig. 15, n° 1 et 3). Ce massif s'appuie contre le mur vers le nord, mais s'en détache vers le sud, laissant un interstice de 18 centimètres.

(8) Contre le mur, vers le nord, une couche de terre homogène, très dure et compacte (Fig. 14, n° 7), contenait de nombreux grains de céréale dont des échantillons ont été prélevés pour analyse. Cette couche de terre, qui semble postérieure à la destruction du mur, se poursuit vers le nord et l'est dans un morceau de terrain partiellement épargné par les excavations des villageois (Fig. 14, n° 8).

(9) Sous cette couche et en avant du mur, quelques briques appareillées semblent avoir appartenu à un massif qui pourrait avoir la même fonction que le massif qui se trouve au sud ou bien même qui pourrait prolonger ce massif en une espèce de renforcement ou de dédoublement du mur d'enceinte (Fig. 13, n° 9; la Fig. 14 montre un état du dégagement postérieur à l'enlèvement de ces briques).

(10) Cette structure assez mal définie reposait sur un niveau contenant des fragments de briques brûlées, des cendres et des tessons (Fig. 13, n° 10). Une telle superposition de briques appareillées et d'un niveau de destruction semble correspondre à une superposition analogue constatée dans de sondage A, bien qu'à un niveau inférieur.

5.3.2 Les sondages

(A) Le sondage A

Un sondage de 2 x 3 mètres (Illustr. 16-18) a été pratiqué au pied du mur afin de recueillir du matériel céramique en place, susceptible de dater l'enceinte. L'emplacement a été choisi de manière à entailler légèrement le massif maçonné en avant du mur — ceci avec l'intention de mieux reconnaître la relation qui les unit - et avec l'espoir de retrouver en profondeur la face du mur emportée, dans la partie visible, par les travaux de terrassement.

Sur les deux tiers de sa superficie, vers le nord, le sondage a montré un terrain perturbé, où des débris modernes voisinaient avec des vestiges anciens, notamment un tesson décoré d'une empreinte de sceau. Il s'agit probablement des terres remuées par les engins mécaniques venus emporter la terre du tell. Le matériel ancien qui y a été recueilli pourrait donc appartenir aux mêmes niveaux que ceux qui ont été retrouvés non perturbés dans la partie sud du sondage. Ceux-ci apparaissent clairement dans la paroi sud (Fig. 15):

(1) Les briques du massif de maçonnerie évoqué plus haut s'appuient directement contre le mur (Fig. 15, n° 1), en un point où les briques de ce dernier étaient à nu, non recouvertes d'un enduit (Fig. 15, A; Fig. 14, n° 4). Vers l'est, ce massif a été emporté par l'excavation moderne (Fig. 15, n° 2). Tout ce dispositif repose sur une épaisse couche de mortier en terre (Fig. 15, n° 3), vraisemblablement destiné à égaliser les terres sous-jacentes.

(2) Celles-ci renferment de nombreux tessons ainsi que des fragments de briques cuites accidentellement et des cendres (Fig. 15, n° 4). Tout ce niveau semble résulter de l'accumulation des ruines provoquées par un incendie. L'accumulation pourrait s'être faite en deux fois à en juger par une ligne qui est bien visible dans la paroi et à laquelle sont associés de nombreux tessons, mais qui était beaucoup moins discernable pendant la fouille et qui n'apparaît pas du tout dans la paroi nord. Le mur, sur la section correspondant à ce niveau, était recouvert d'un enduit épais (Fig. 15, B). De ce niveau de destruction proviennent des fragments de jarres, des fragments de petits vases, notamment des vases à bec, et une étiquette en terre crue portant l'empreinte d'un sceau cylindre.

(3) La couche de destruction repose sur un plan incliné, véritable glacis, soigneusement aménagé et reconnu dans la totalité du sondage. Faute de temps, le démontage de ce glacis n'a pu être effectué que dans la partie nord du chantier. On constate ceci (Fig. 16):

(a) Sous la poche constituée par les terres perturbées (Fig. 16, n° 1) et sous le

niveau de destruction (Fig. 16, n° 2) déjà repéré au sud, on rencontre un épais enduit de terre grisâtre destiné à lisser la pente du glacis (Fig. 16, n° 3).

(b) Immédiatement en dessous, un double lit de briques, mesurant 35 x 31/32 x 7,5/8 centimètres, consolidait ce glacis (Fig. 16, n° 4) et couvrait une couche de terres qui semblent rapportés (Fig. 16, n° 5). Celles-ci n'ont livré que peu de tessons et servaient sans doute à égaliser la pente.

(c) Sous ces terres, une couche épaisse de quelque 10 ou 20 centimètres a livré non seulement des tessons, mais de la pierraillerie, des cendres, de petits os et surtout une petite tête de cheval en terre cuite, assez semblable, apparemment, à une figurine retrouvée dans la salle 11 du palais dit de Narâm-Sîn à Tell Brak (Mallowan 1947, p. 215, n° 10, et Pl. LIV, Fig. 10).

(d) Les couches inférieures ont été à peine effleurées (Fig. 16, n° 7), de sorte qu'il n'est pas possible d'en dire grand chose. On peut seulement constater que la base du mur n'est pas encore atteinte. Cela porte à près de 5 mètres la hauteur totale du mur d'enceinte reconnue jusqu'à présent.

(B) Le sondage B

Un sondage de 2 mètres de large a été ouvert au sommet du mur, perpendiculairement à sa face extérieure (Fig. 13, B; Fig. 14, B). Il avait pour but de retrouver la face intérieure. Cet objectif n'a cependant pu être atteint. Un mur en briques crues extrêmement délitées, d'orientation sud-ouest / nord-est est apparu comme partiellement enfoncé dans une terre granuleuse de même couleur que les briques du mur d'enceinte. Il s'agit probablement de la partie supérieure de celui-ci, décomposée au point qu'aucune face de brique n'est plus reconnaissable. Les fondations du mur supérieur, en briques délitées, y ont sans doute été creusées. L'extension du sondage vers l'ouest, destinée à reconnaître la largeur de ce mur de briques délitées, a mis au jour un muret de pierres, également d'orientation sud-ouest / nord-est, mais situé quelques dizaines de centimètres plus haut. Le manque de temps n'a pas permis de préciser davantage la stratigraphie de ce secteur. La face interne du mur d'enceinte n'a donc pas encore été retrouvée. Toutefois, en admettant que la terre granuleuse repérée dans le sondage B constitue bien le haut du mur, on peut estimer que l'épaisseur de celui-ci excédait 4 mètres. [This measurement is to be revised upward after the work done during the second season; see above, Section 5.1. — G. B. and M. K.-B.]. Notons en outre que cette estimation ne tient pas compte des massifs de maçonnerie qui renforcent le mur vers l'extérieur. Les hachures de la Fig. 14 montrent l'ampleur du mur d'enceinte, telle que ces premières investigations permettent de la reconnaître.

Les résultats atteints par cette première recherche sur un tronçon d'une dizaine de mètres du mur d'enceinte de tell Mozan peuvent se résumer ainsi:

(1) Le mur, dans son état actuel, mesure près de 5 mètres de haut et plus de 4 mètres d'épaisseur. Ces estimations ne constituent qu'un minimum, car ni la base ni la face intérieure du mur n'ont été atteintes.

(2) Ce mur, dans un état ancien, était protégé à sa base par un glacis.

(3) Après un violent incendie dont les débris ont recouvert le glacis, une espèce d'avant-mur, ou des contreforts, ou des tours sont venus le renforcer.

(4) A en juger par les trouvailles, le mur d'enceinte davaient être en usage vers le milieu du IIIe millénaire avant notre ère.

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FIGURES

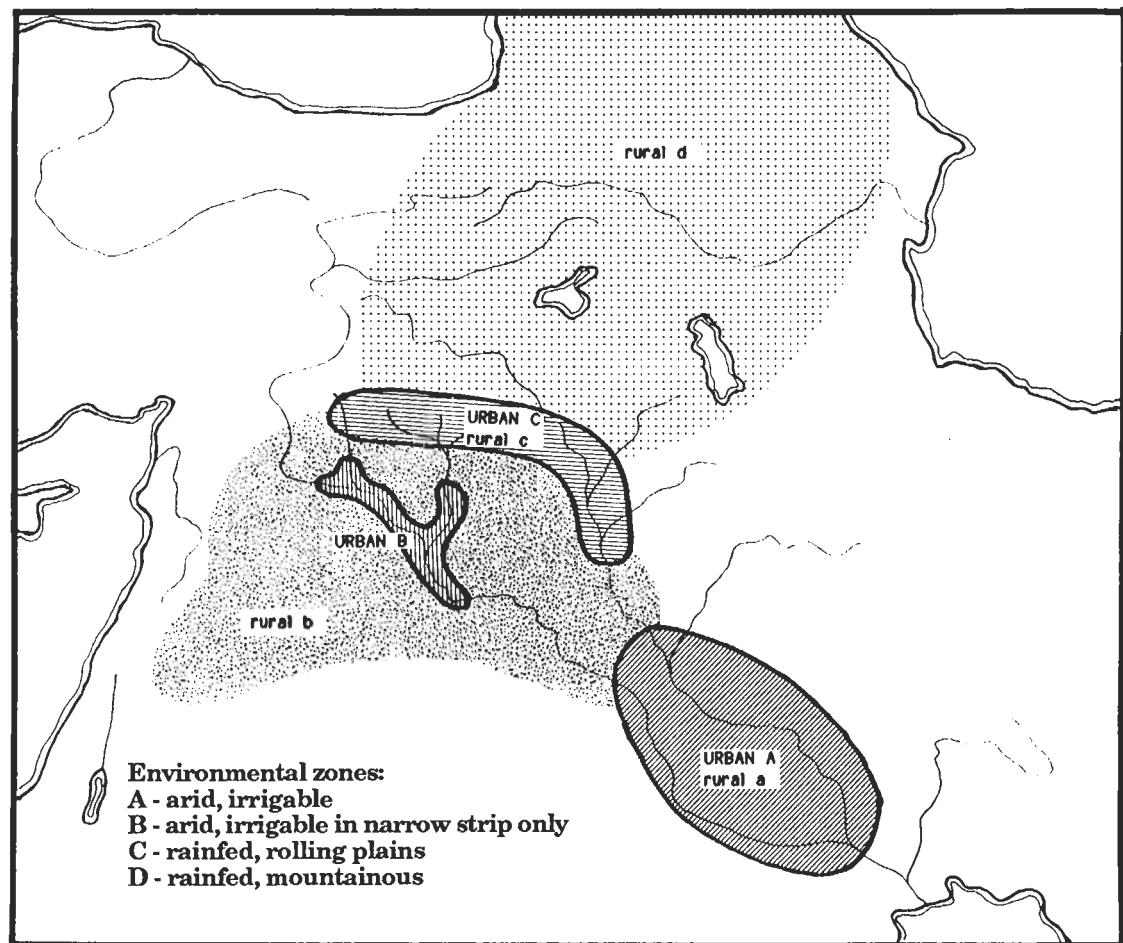


Figure 1. Rural and urban zones in Syro-Mesopotamia during the third millennium

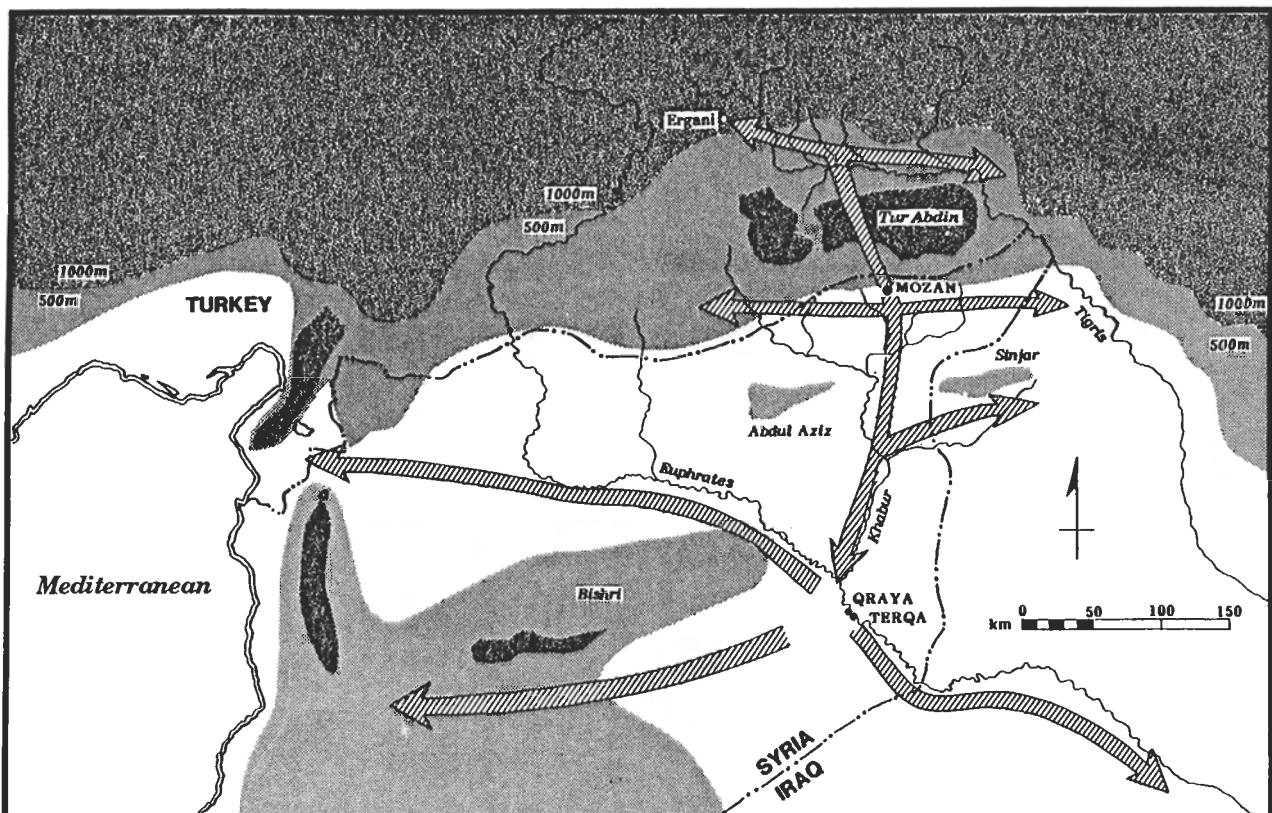


Figure 2. Major trade routes

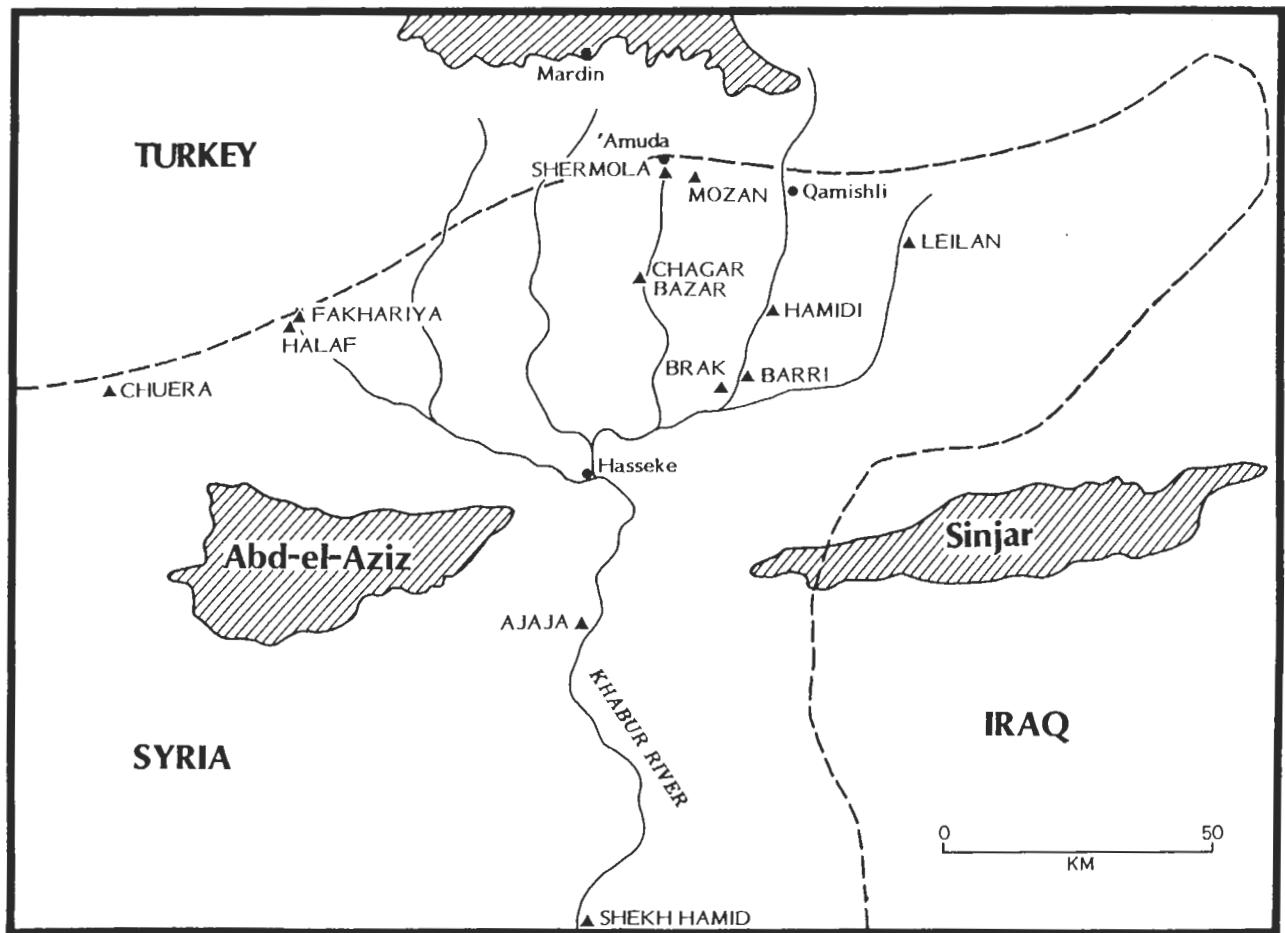


Figure 3. Major sites in the upper Khabur region

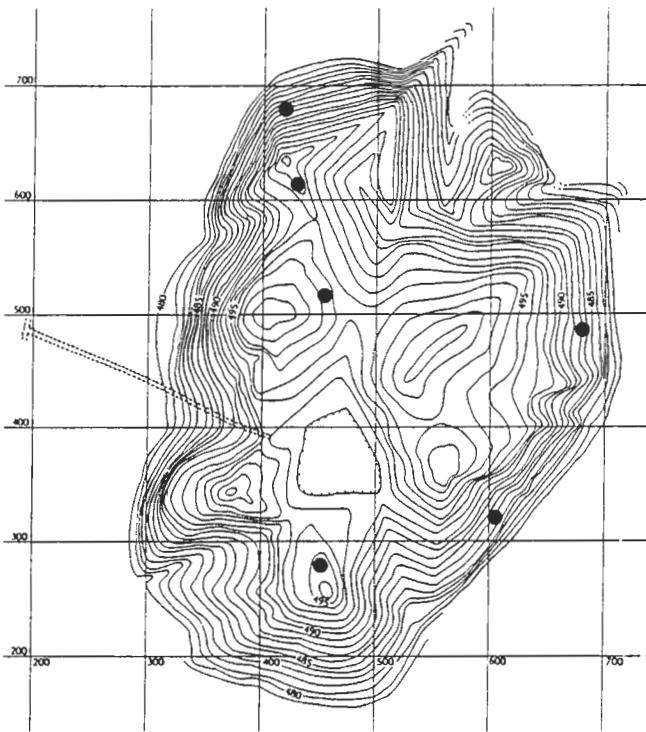
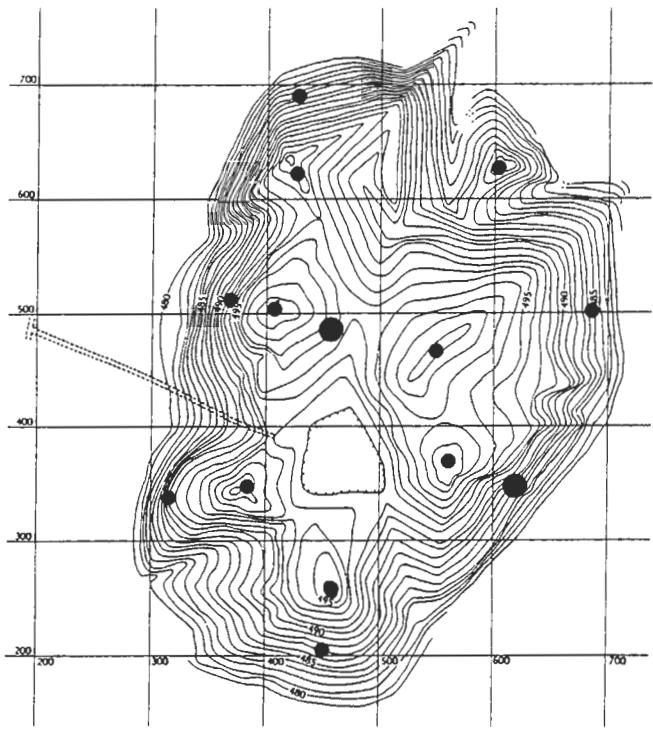
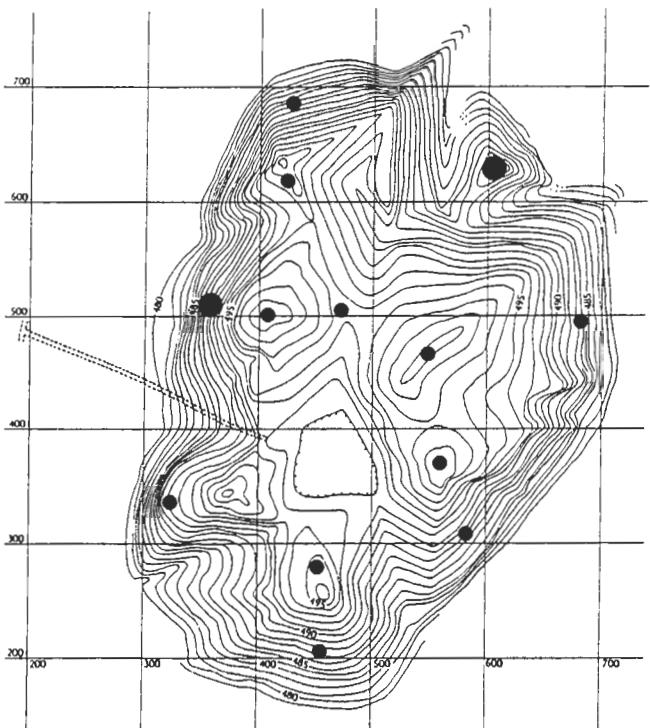
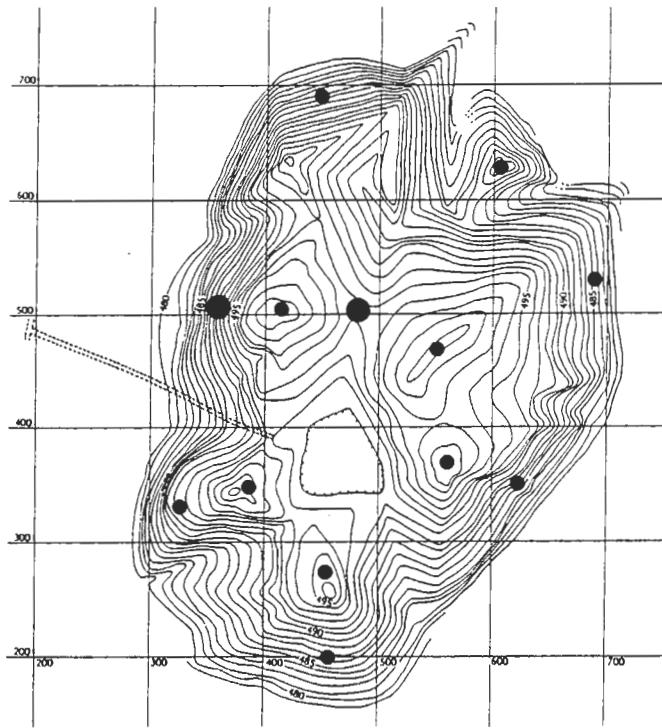
EARLY THIRD MILLENNIUM (NINEVITE V)**MID THIRD MILLENNIUM****LATE THIRD MILLENNIUM (UR III)****MID EARLY SECOND MILLENNIUM (HABUR)**

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

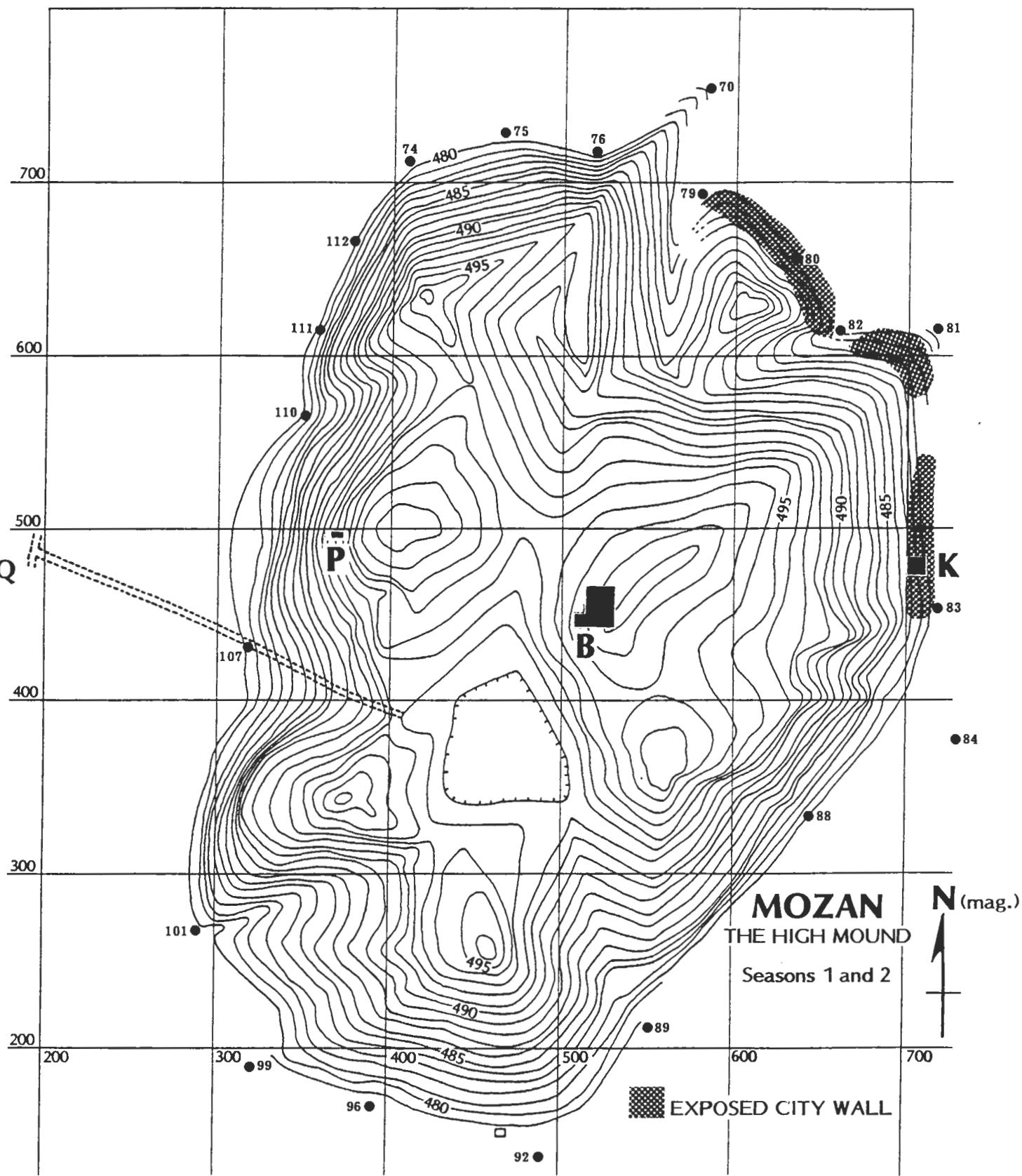


Figure 5. Tell Mozan: Topographic map of the High Mound

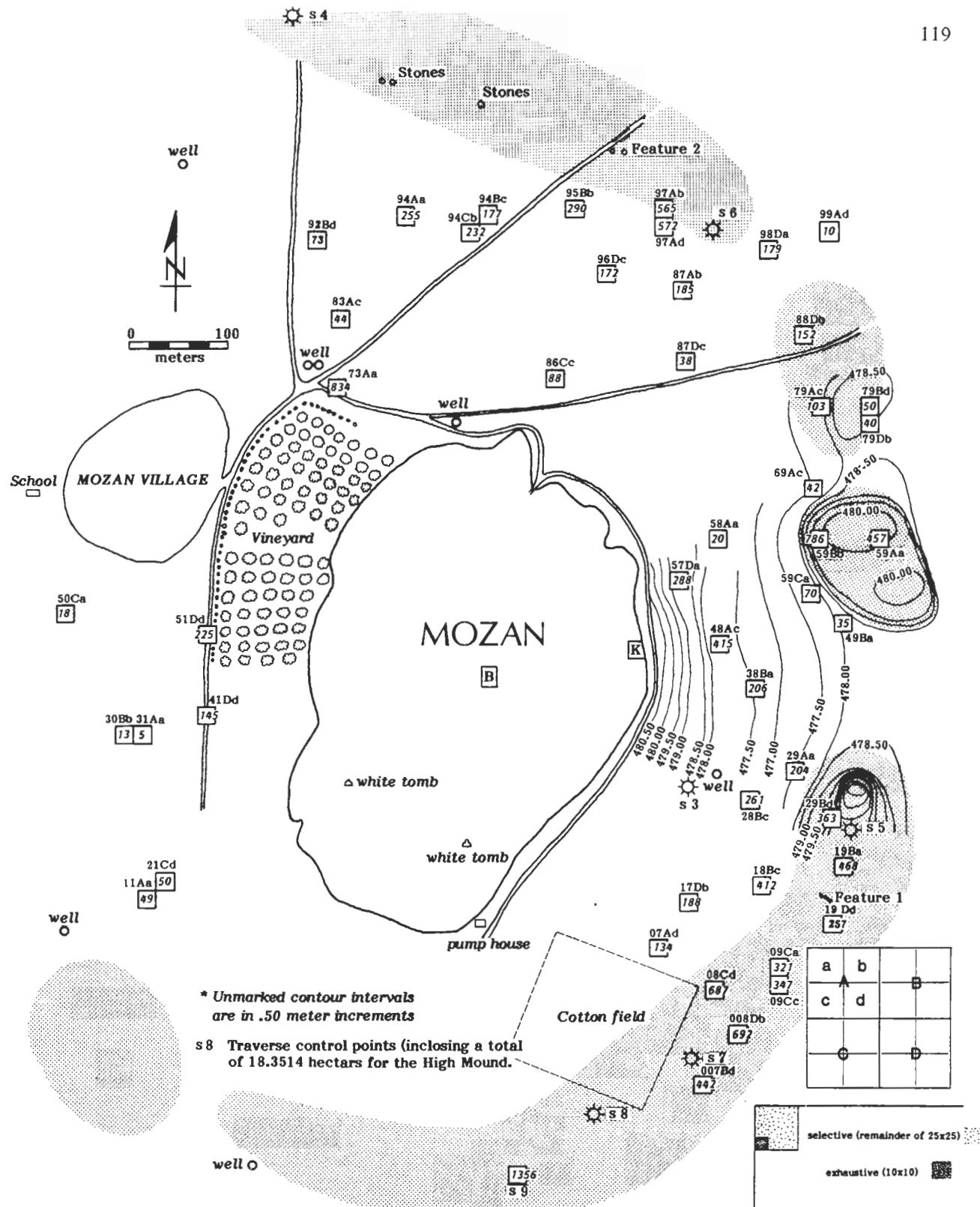


Figure 6. Tell Mozan: Partial topographic map of the Outer City

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.

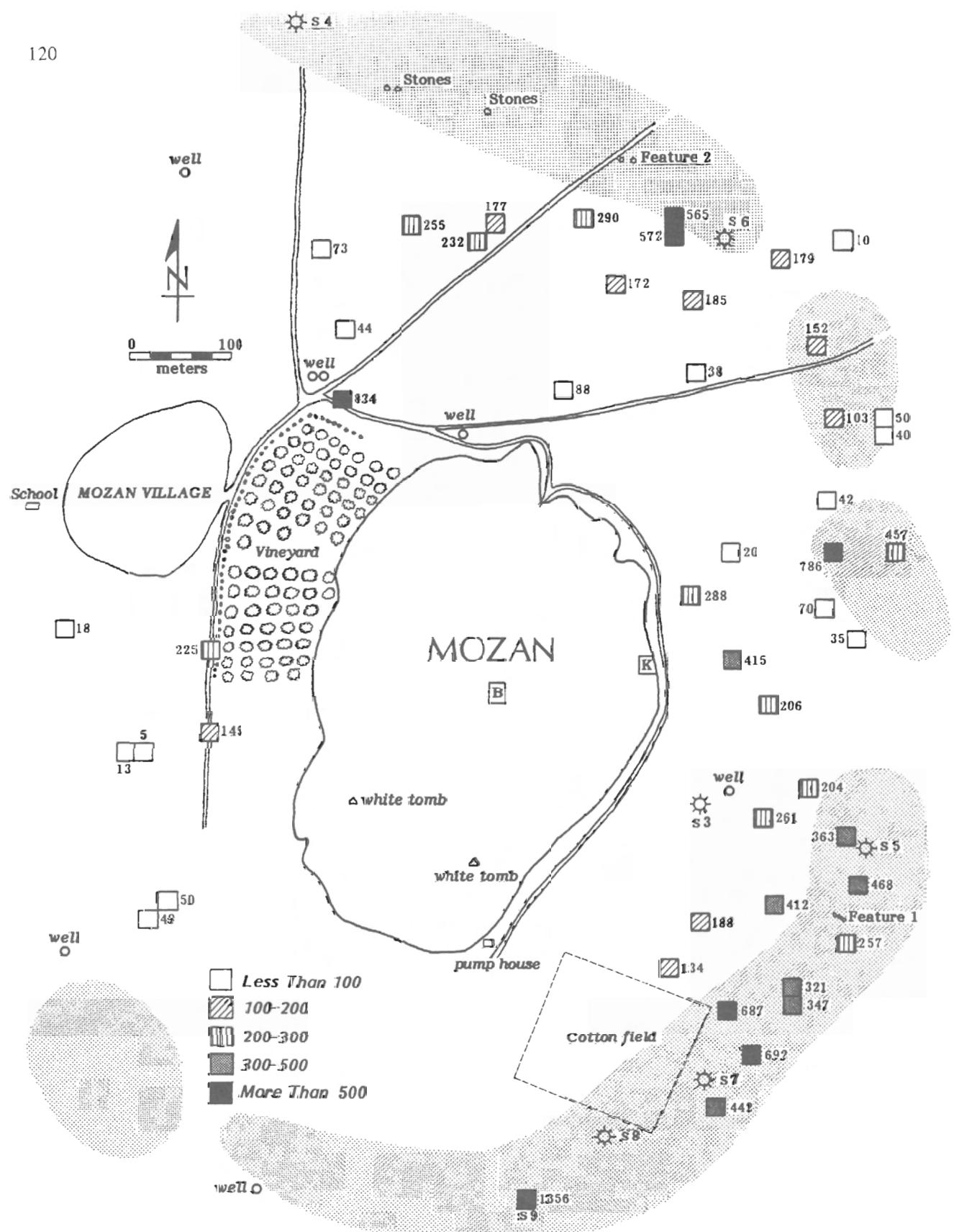


Figure 7. The Outer City: Distribution of ceramic wares by total number

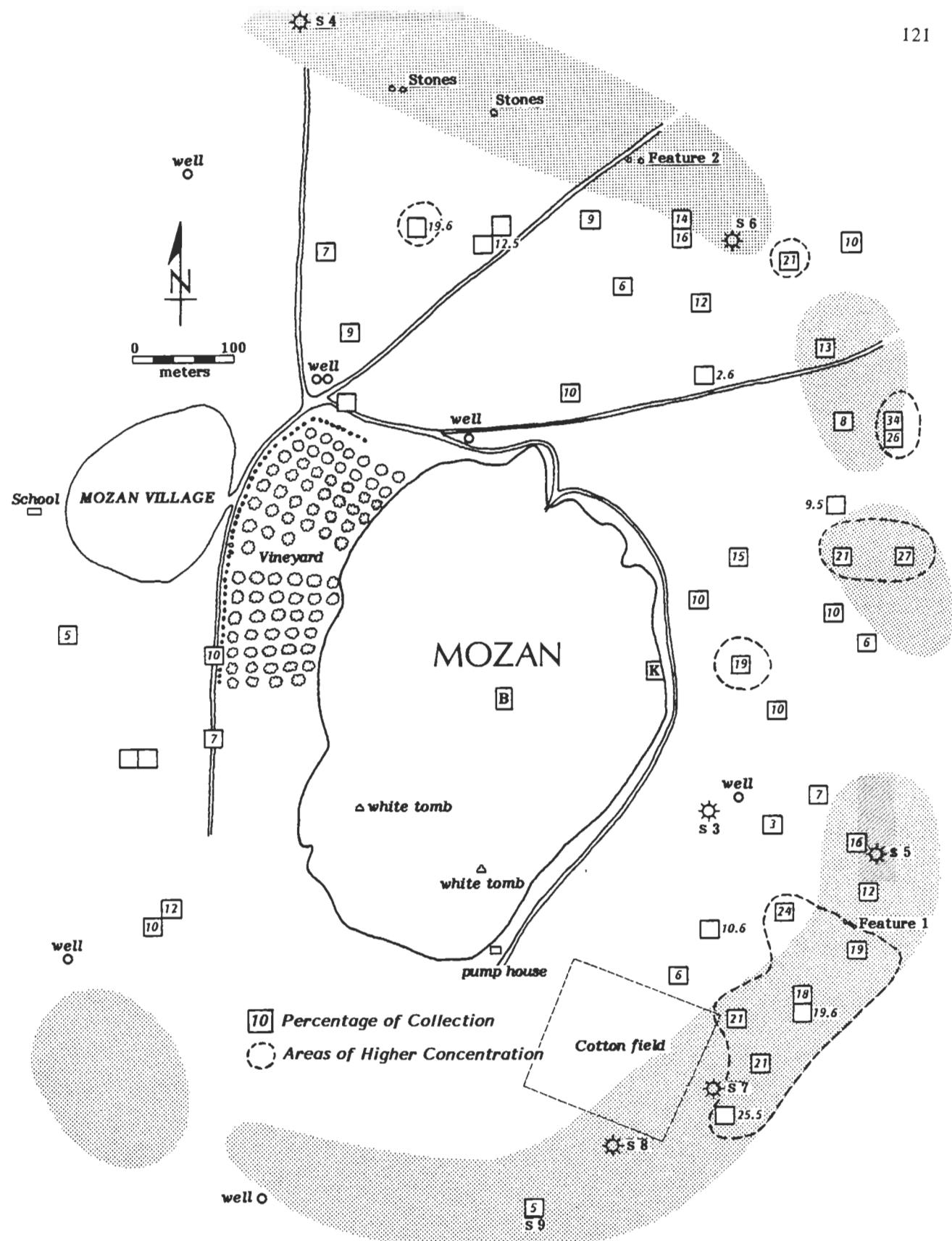


Figure 8. The Outer City: Distribution of Simple ware

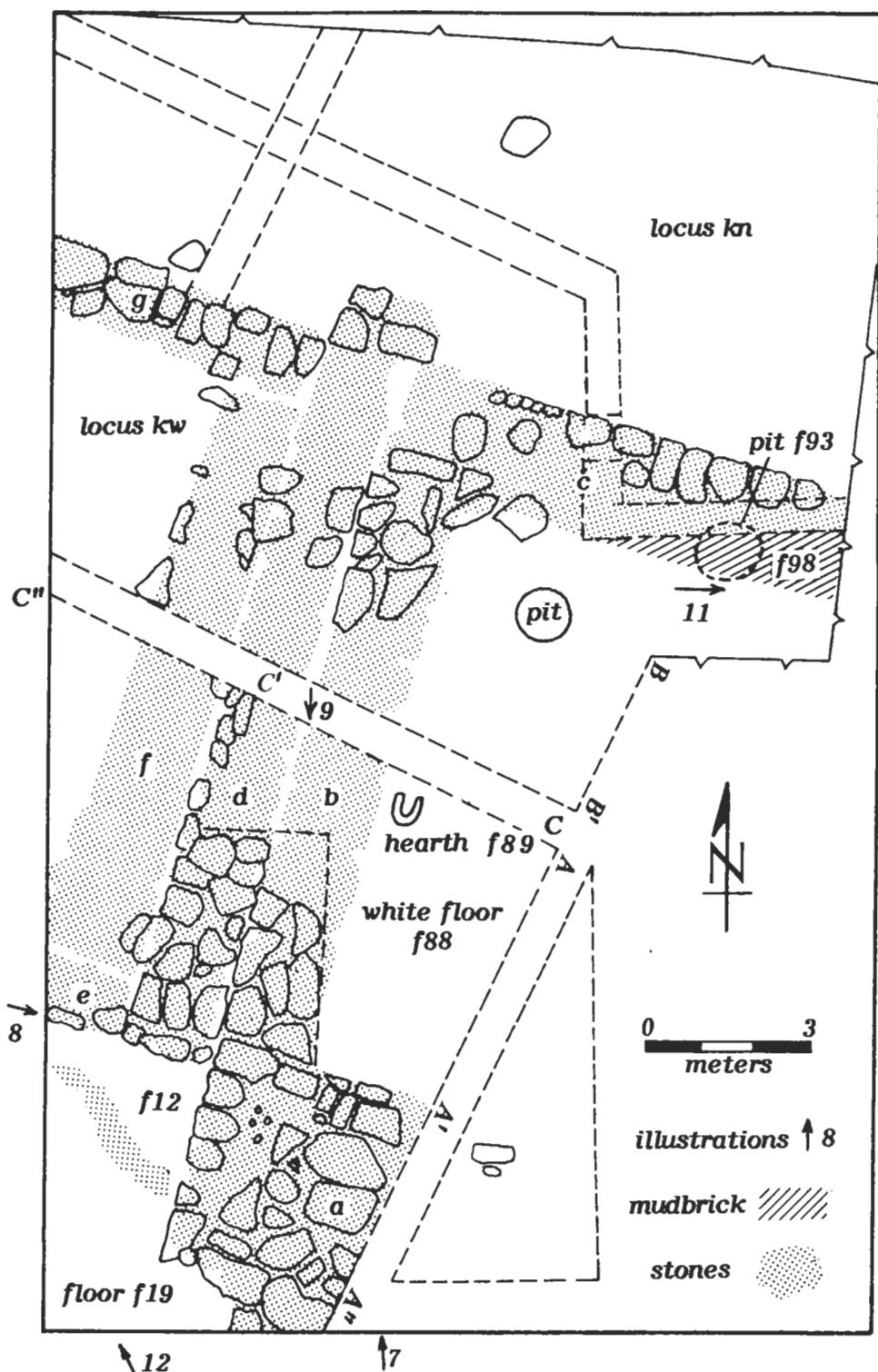


Figure 9. The stone building in Area B: sketch floor plan

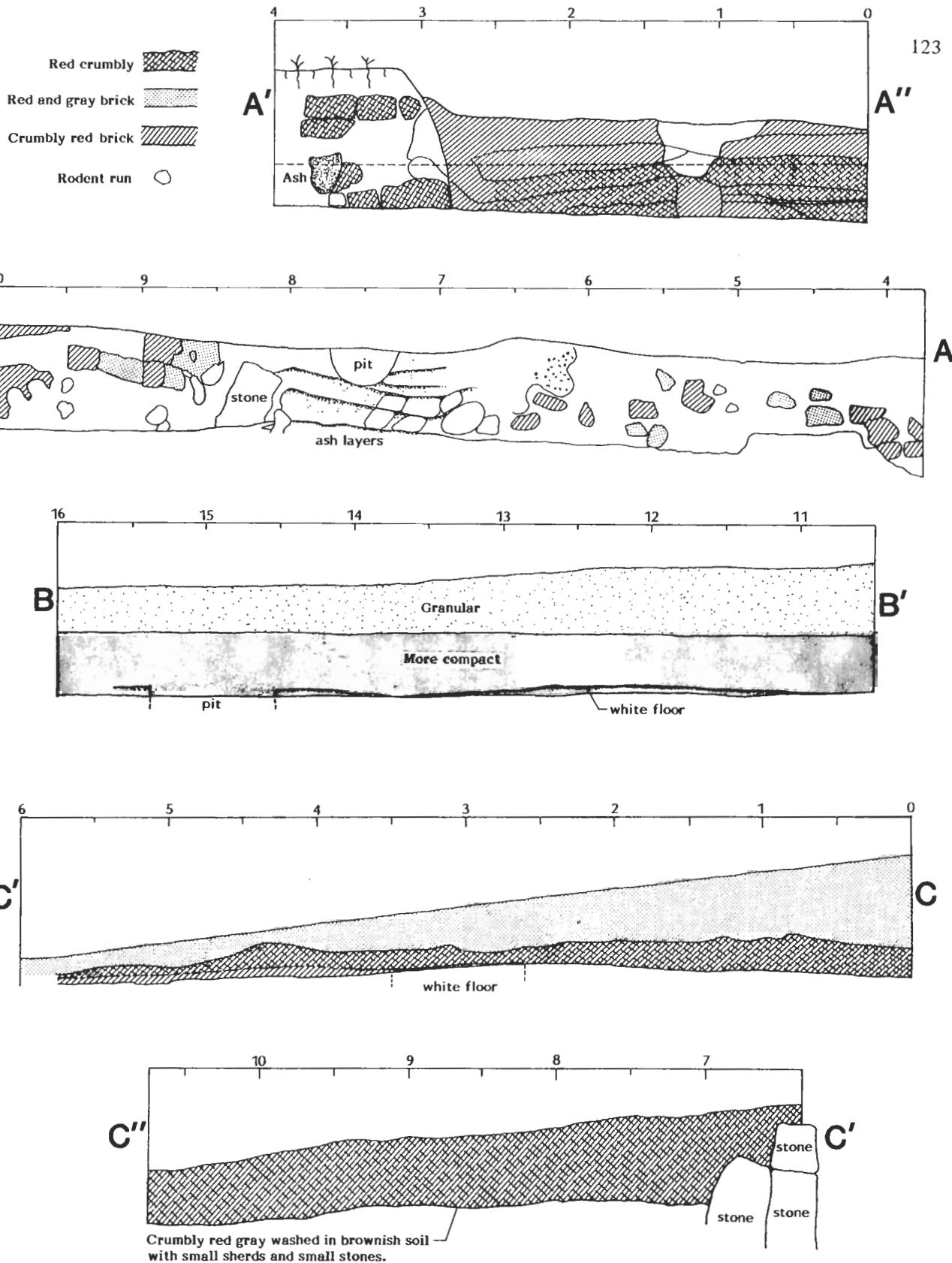


Figure 10. The stone building in Area B: sections

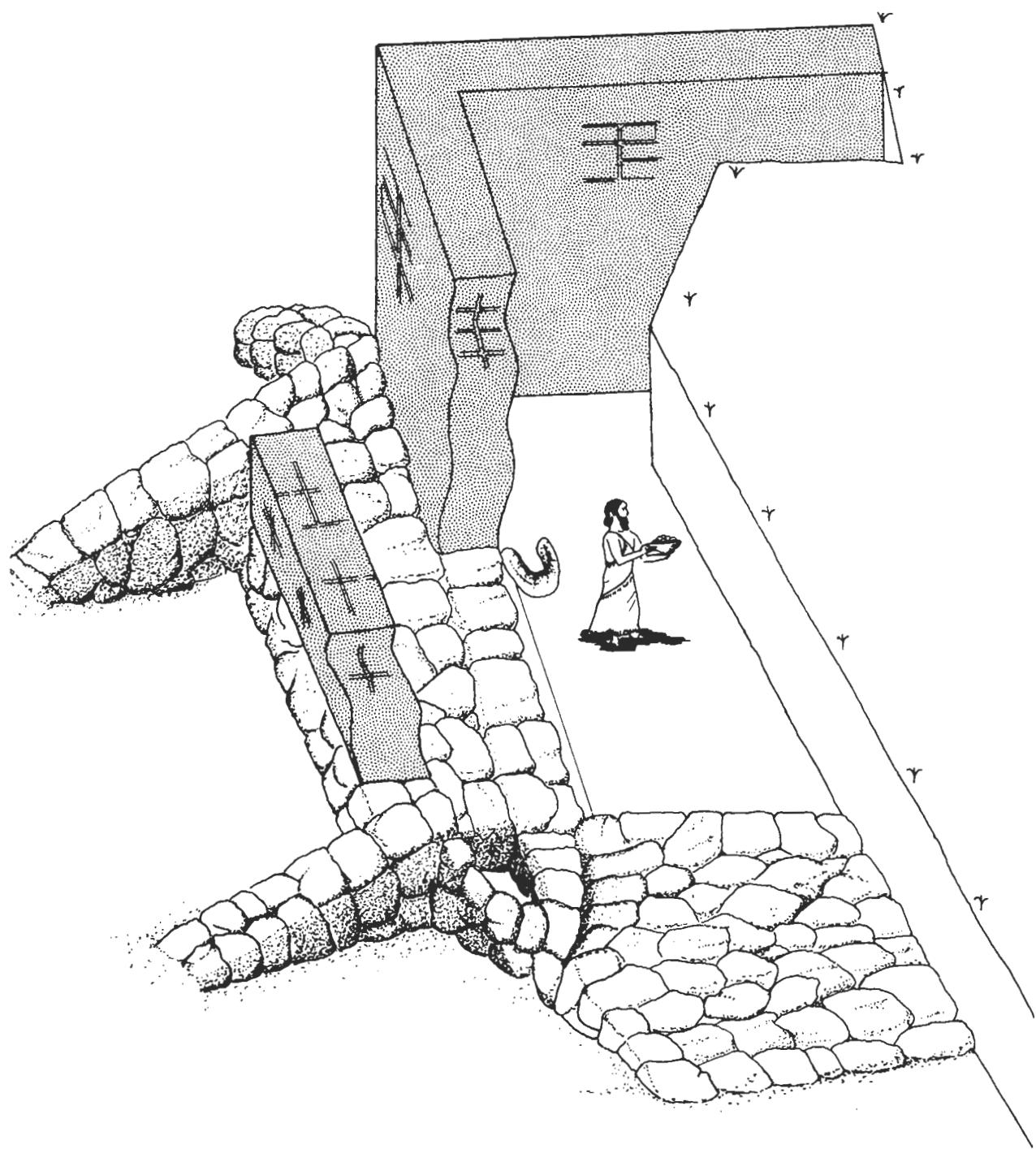


Figure 11. The stone building in Area B: reconstruction

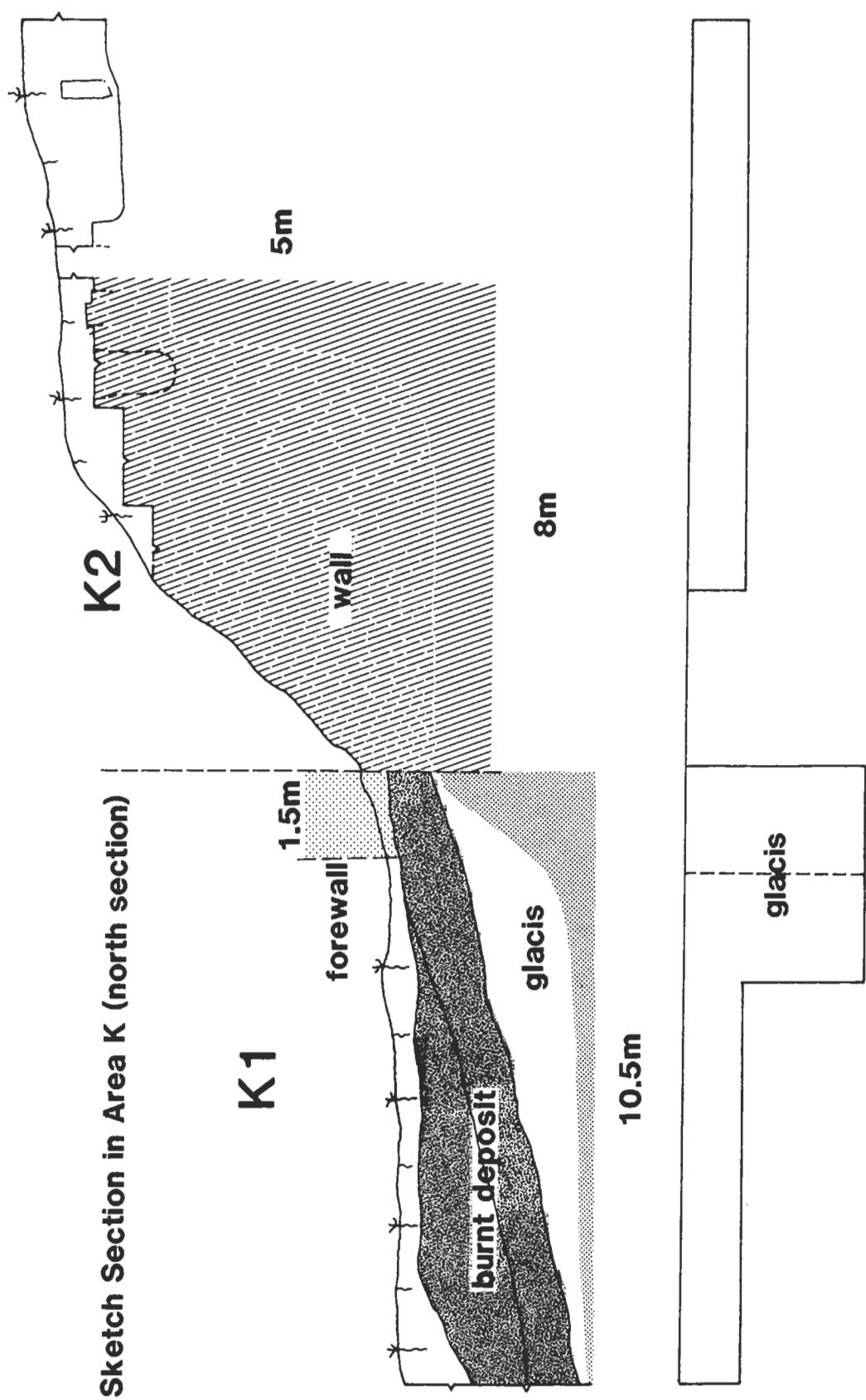


Figure 12. The city wall in Area K: sketch section

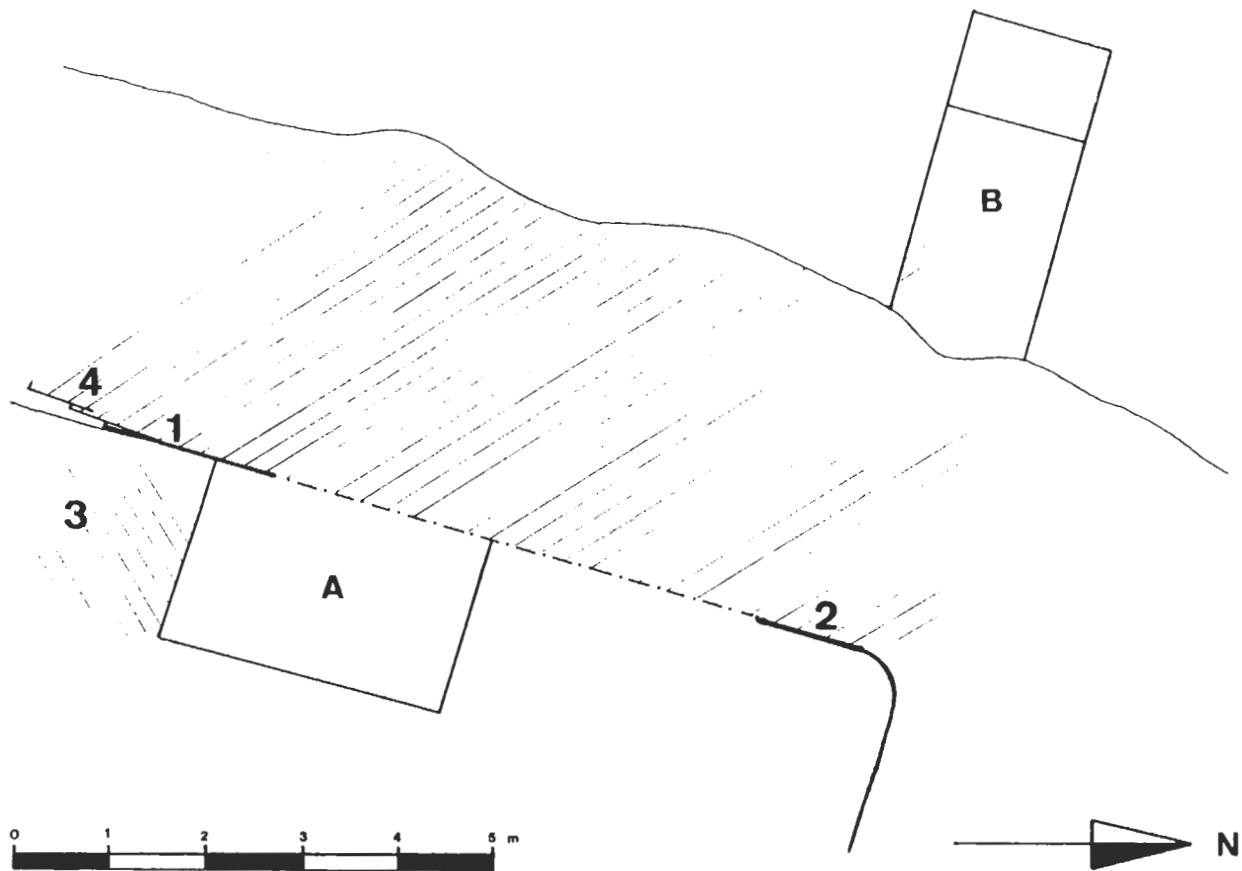


Figure 13. The city wall in Area K: floor plan (1984 season)

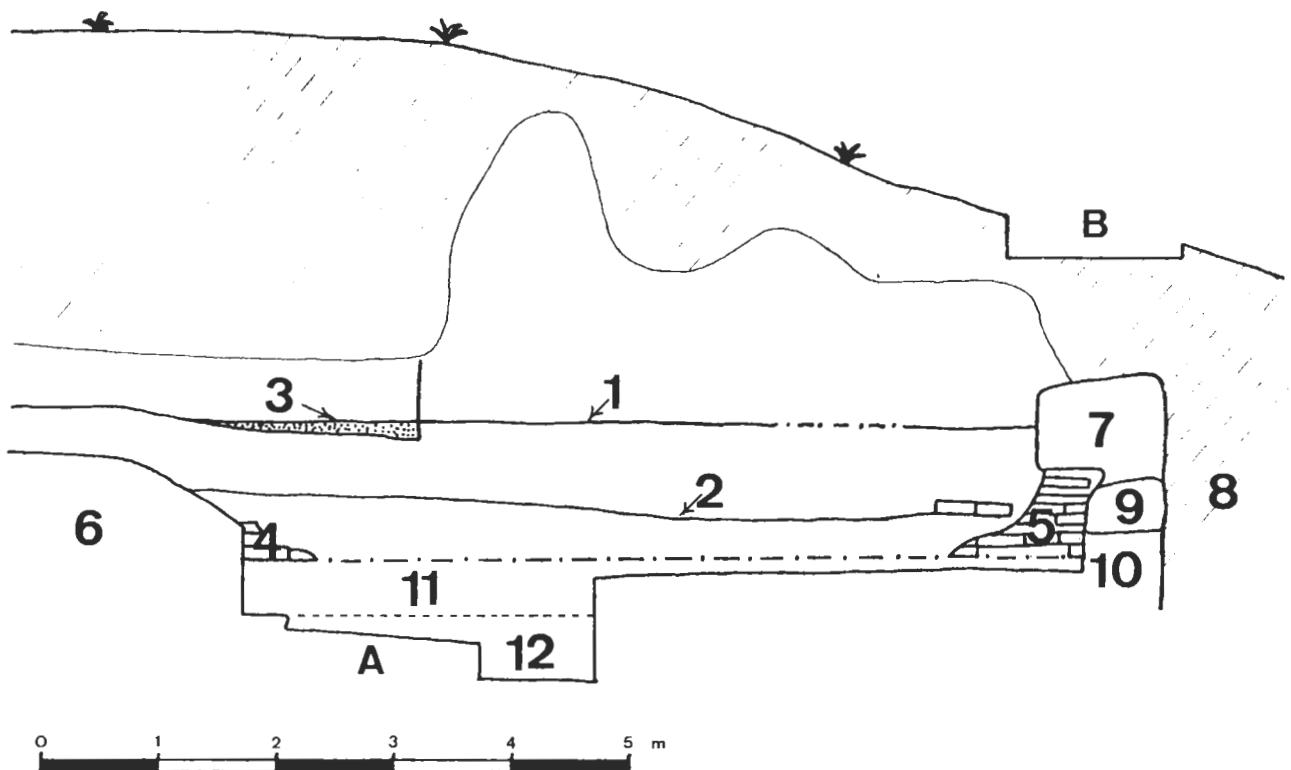


Figure 14. The city wall in Area K: frontal view (1984 season)

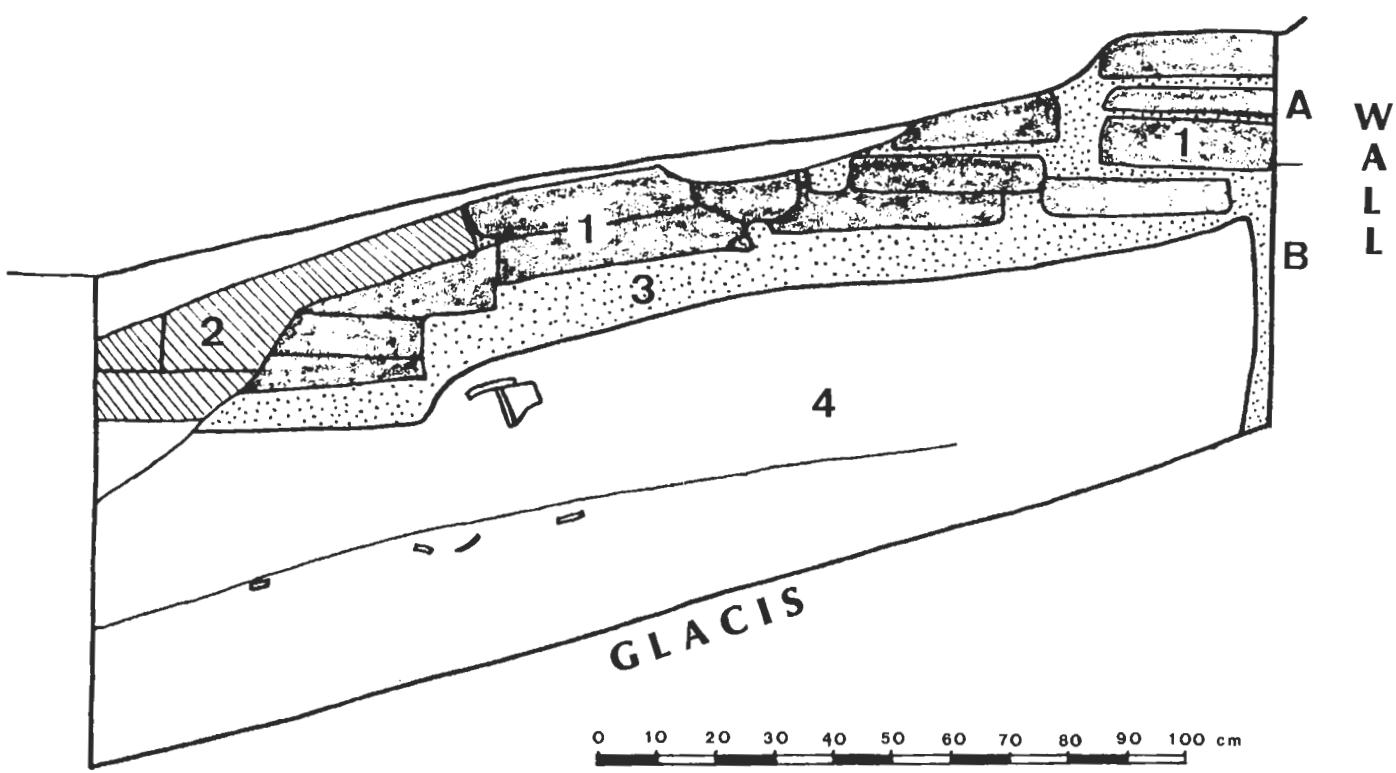


Figure 15. The city wall in Area K: North section of Locus A

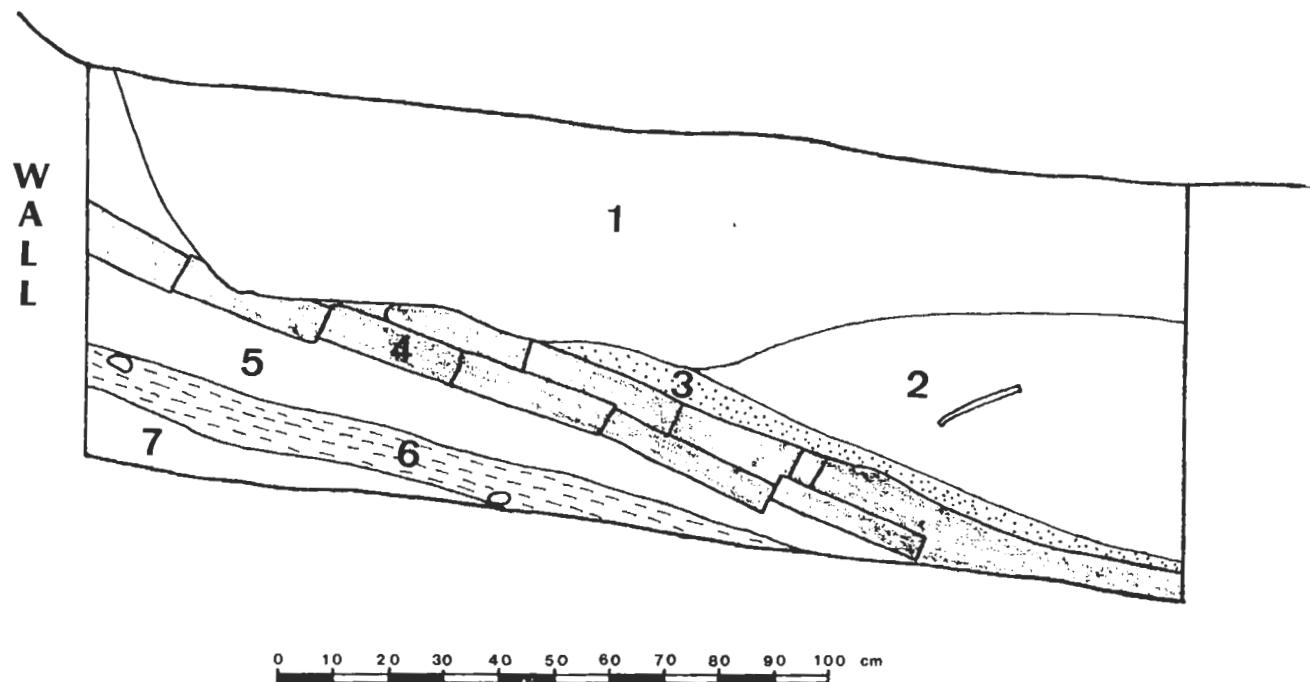


Figure 16. The city wall in Area K: South section of Locus A

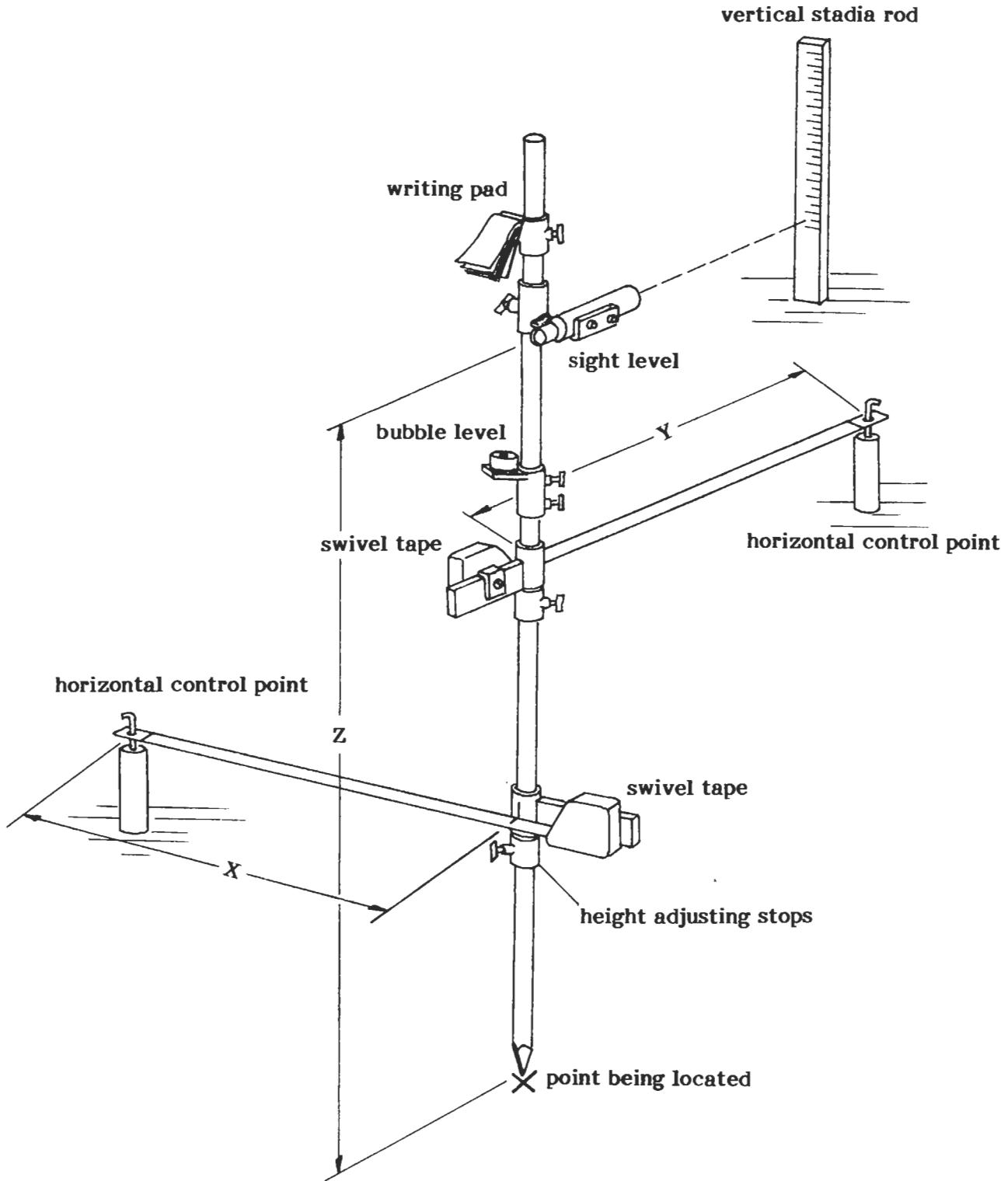


Figure 17. Sketch of triangulation rod

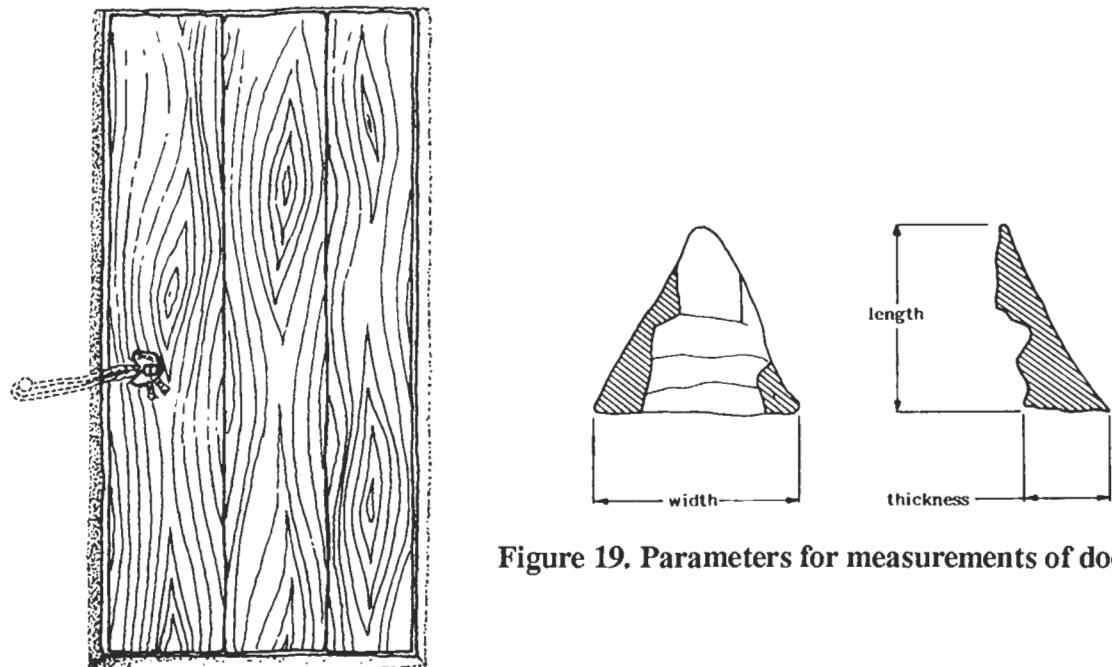


Figure 19. Parameters for measurements of door sealings

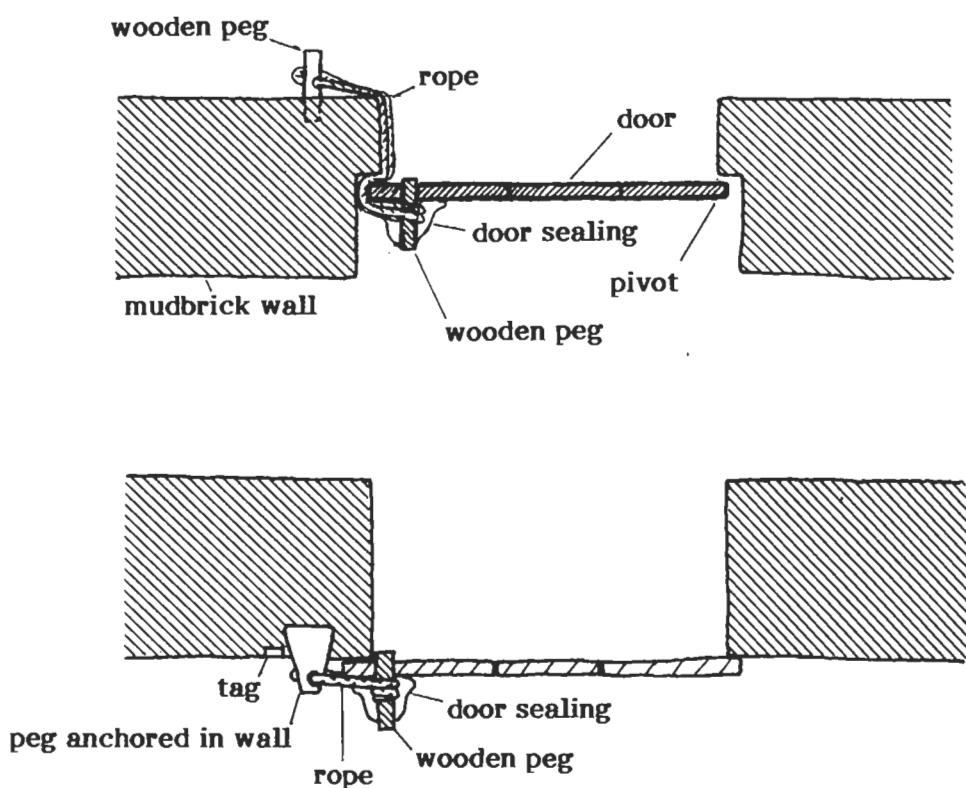


Figure 18. Suggested reconstructions of the use of door sealings

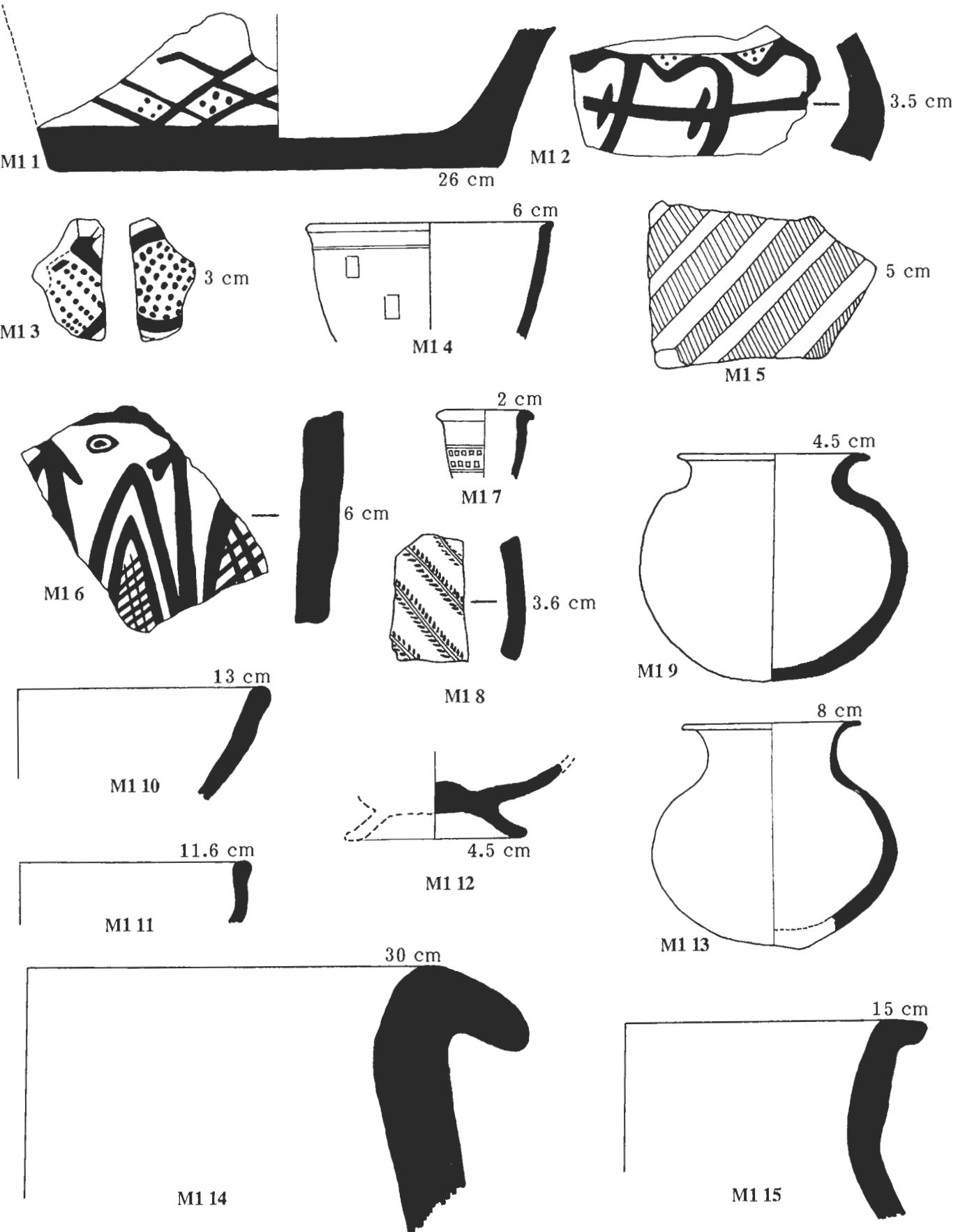


Figure 20. Ceramic types from the surface of the High Mound
Halaf (M1 1-3), Incised Ninevite V (M1 4-5, 7-8), Painted Ninevite V (M1 6), Metallic ware (M1 9-15)

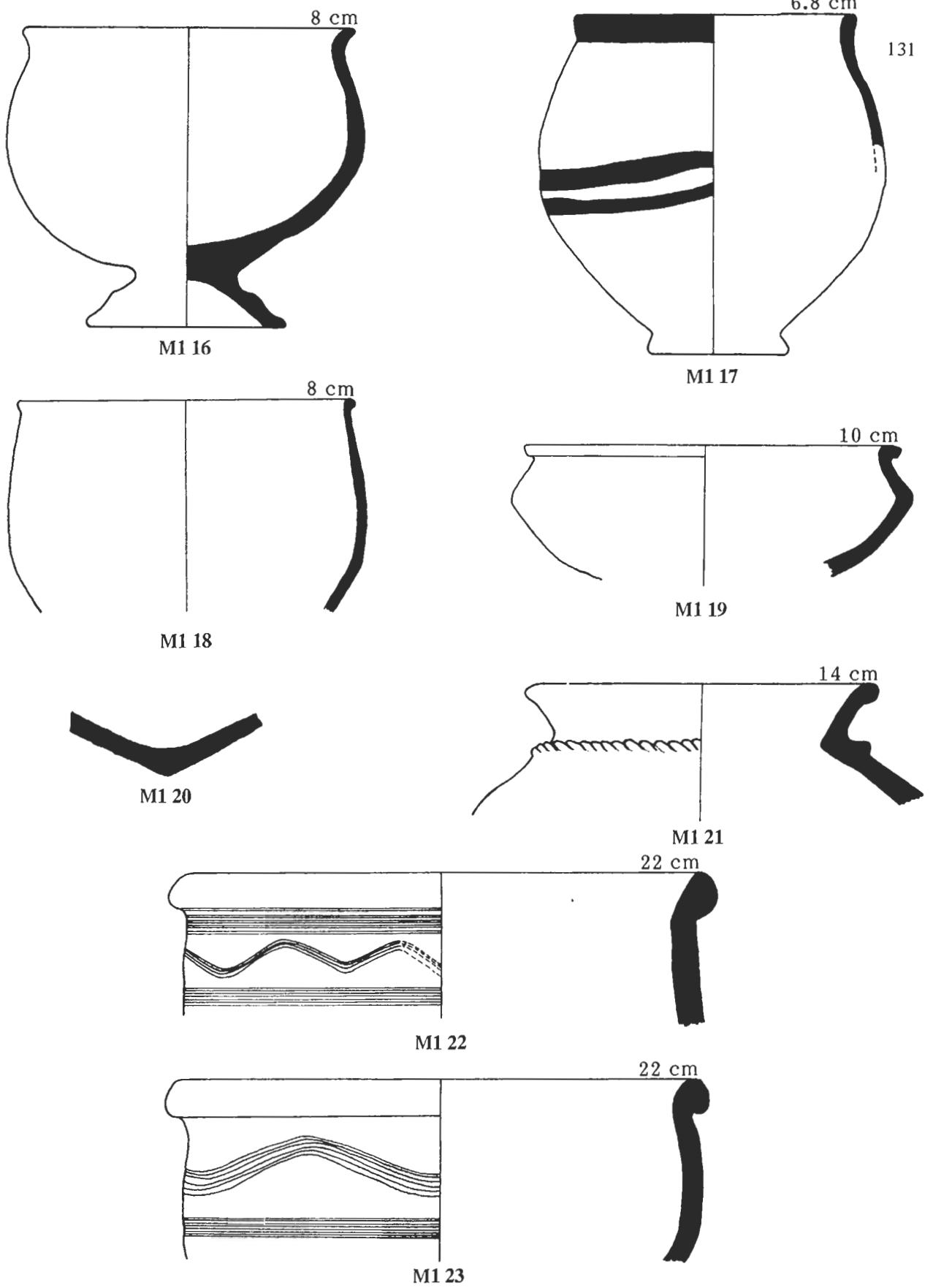


Figure 21. Ceramic types from the surface of the High Mound
Simple ware (M1 16, 18-19), Painted Simple ware (M1 17), late third mill. or "Ur III" (M1 21-23)

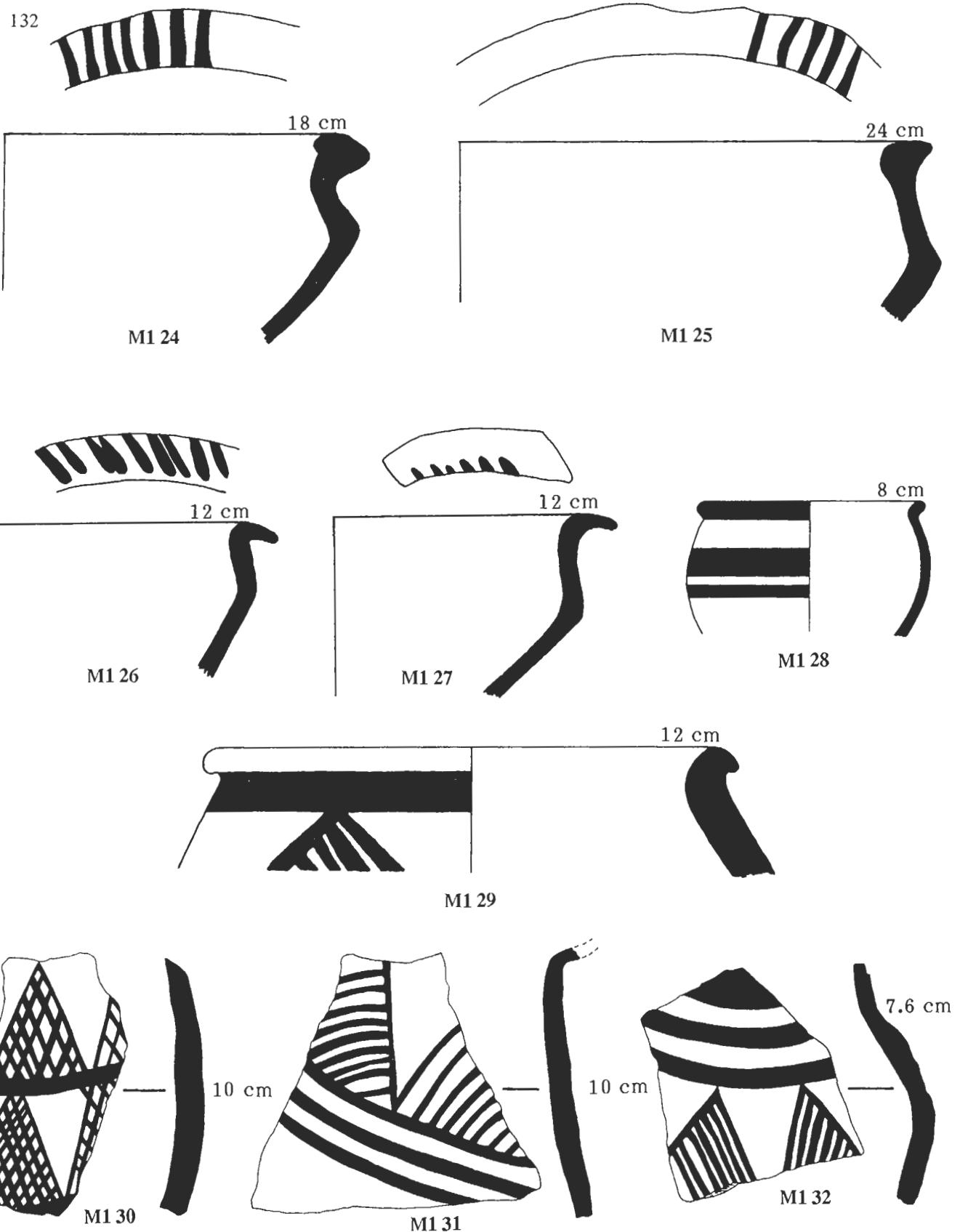


Figure 22. Ceramic types from the surface of the High Mound: Khabur ware

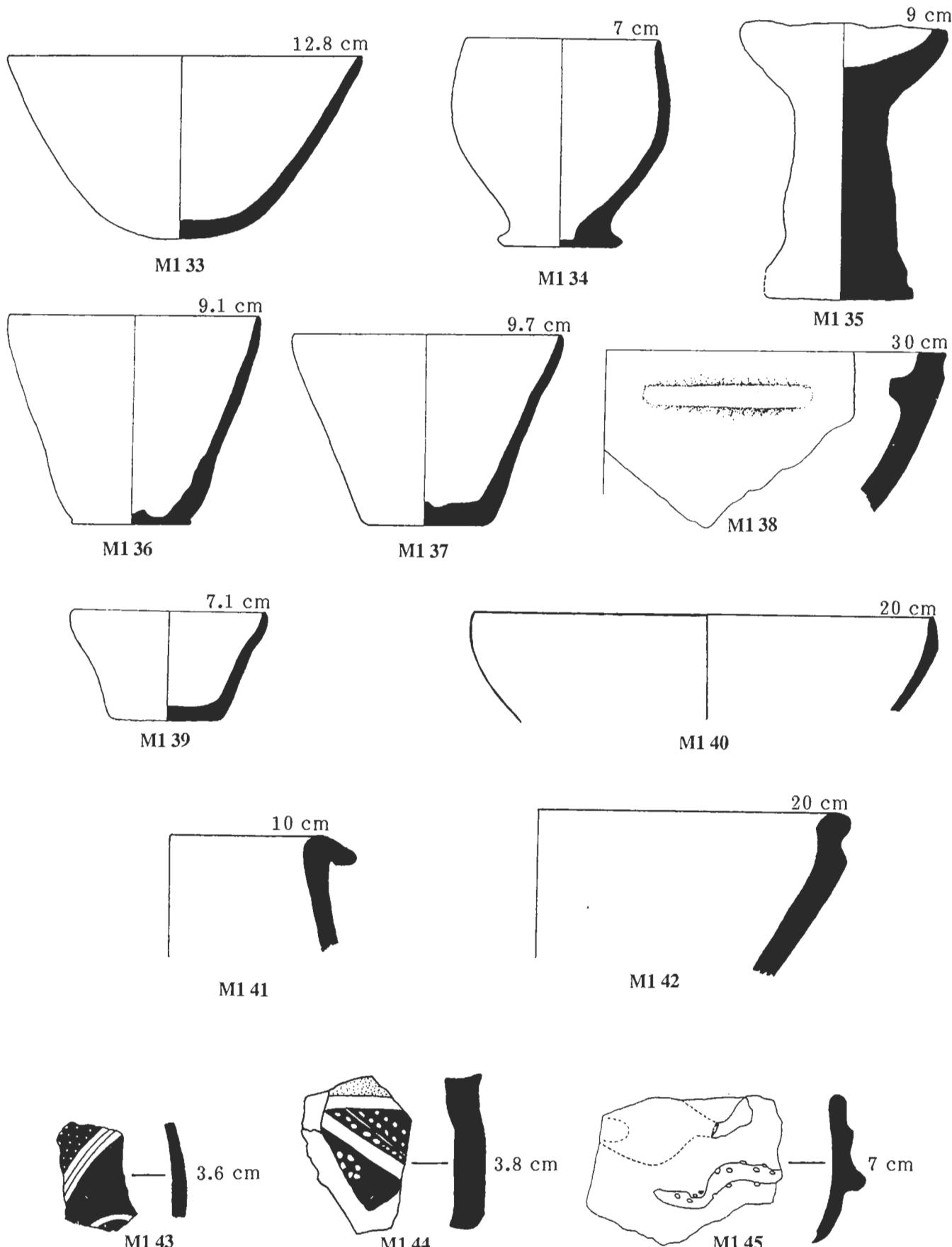


Figure 23. Ceramic types from the soundings and surface of the High Mound
Miscellaneous types (M1 33-39 are from the soundings, M1 40-45 from the surface)

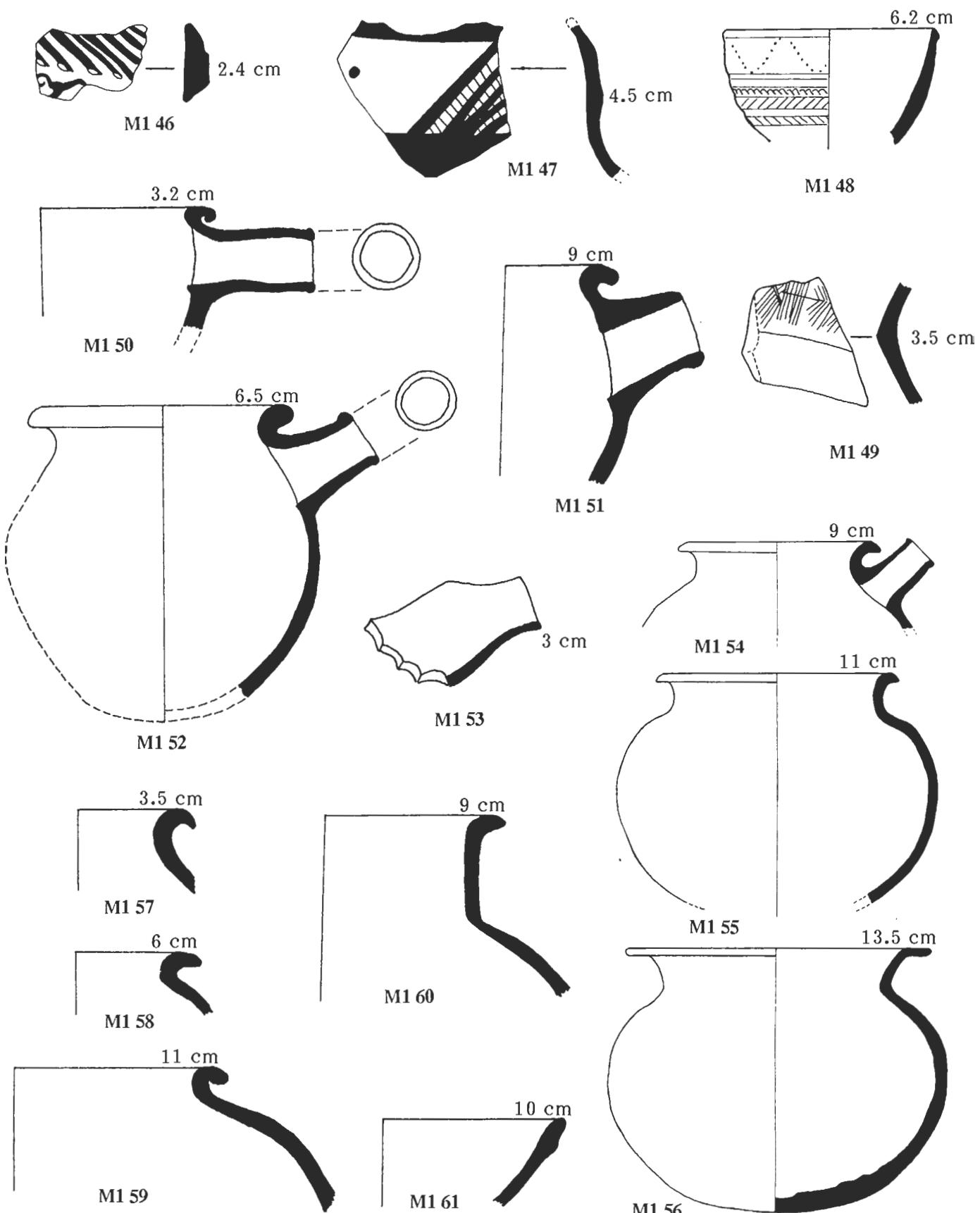


Figure 24. Ceramic types from the soundings
Halaf (M1 46-47), Incised Ninevite V (M1 48-49), Simple ware (M1 50-59), Metallic ware (M1 60-61)

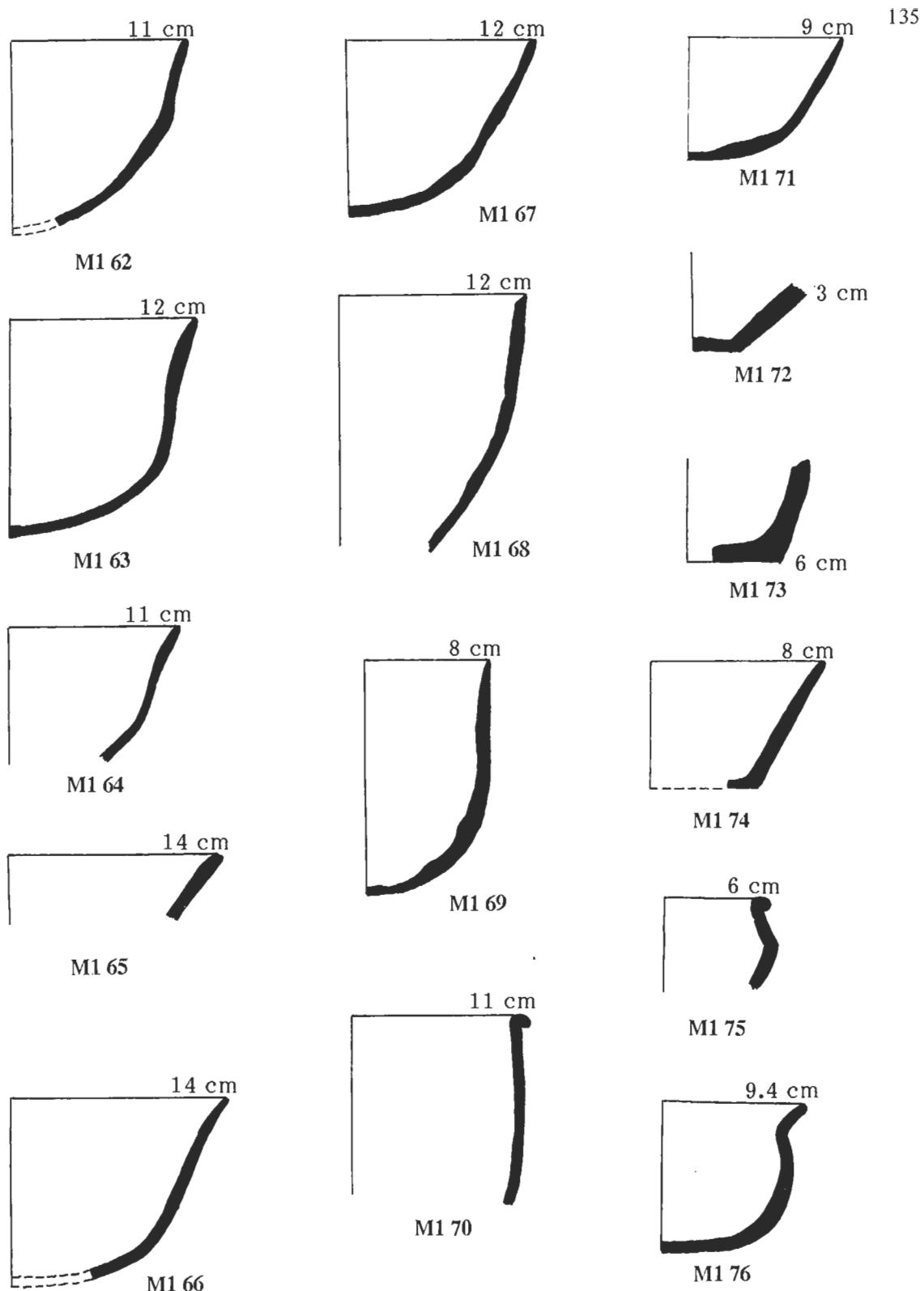


Figure 25. Ceramic types from the soundings
Simple ware (M1 65, 72-73, 75-76 are from Area B1, the rest from area K1)

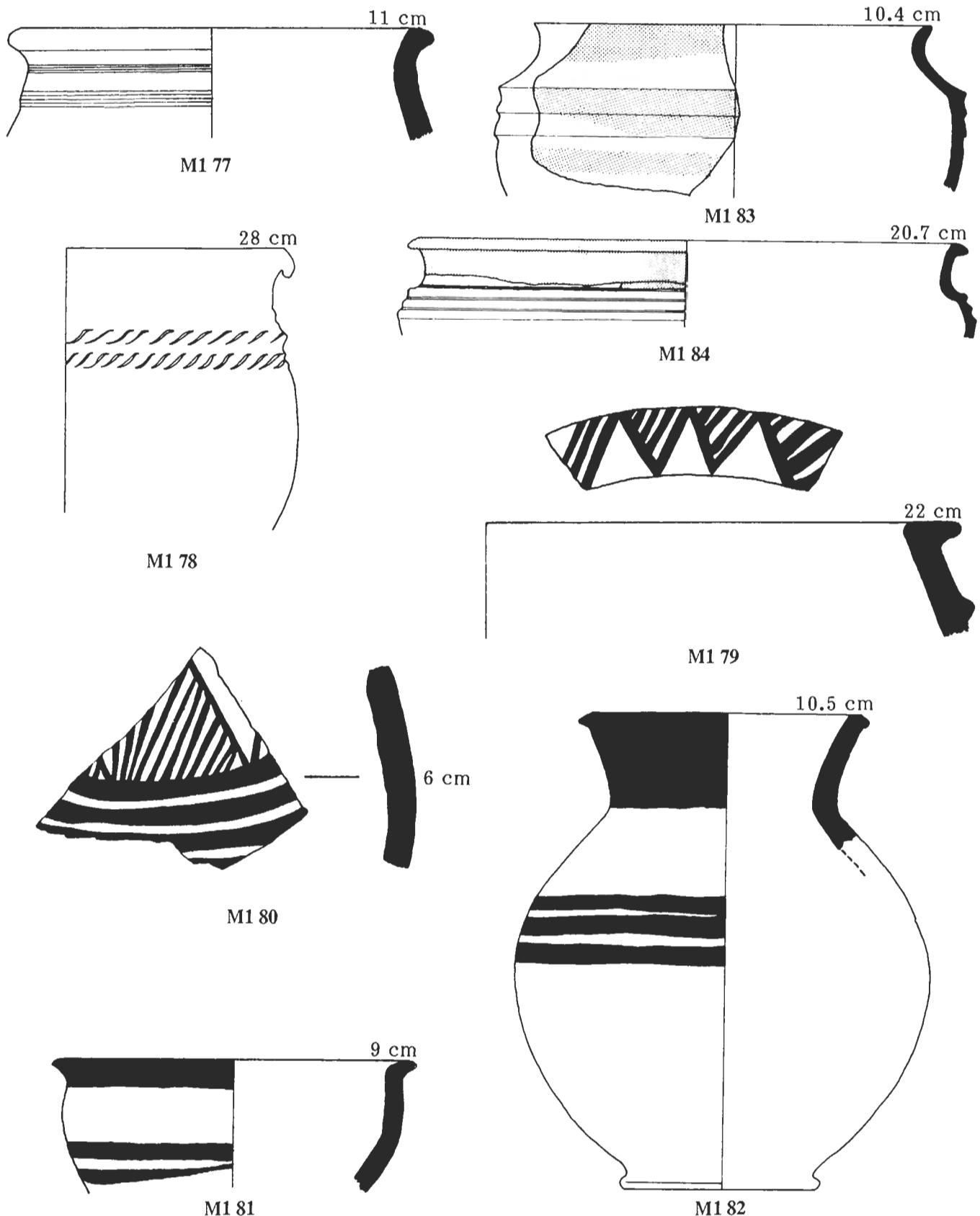


Figure 26. Ceramic types from the soundings
Late third mill. or "Ur III" (M1 77-78), Transitional (M1 83-84), Khabur ware (M1 79-82)

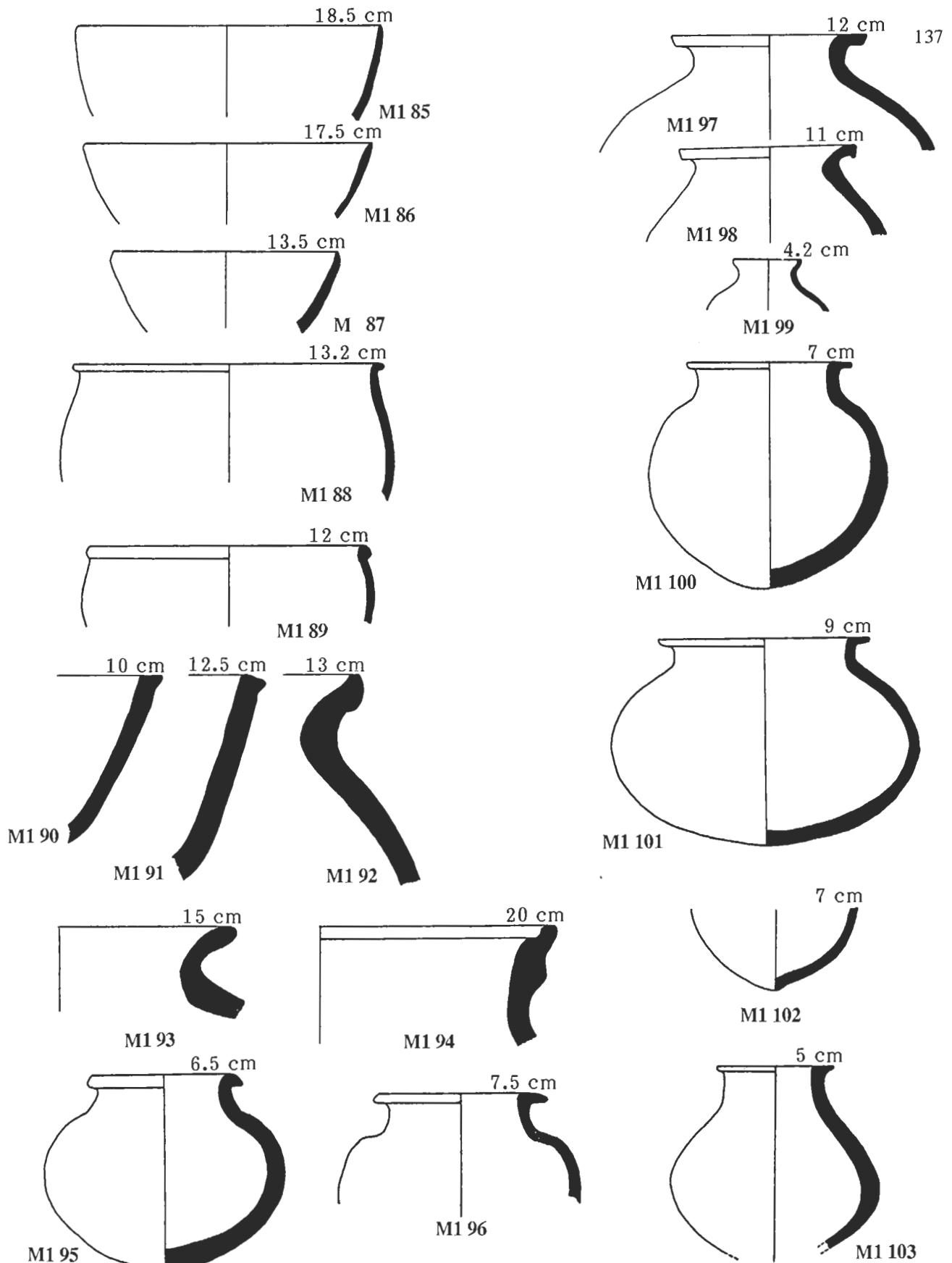


Figure 27. Ceramic types from the surface of the Outer City: Location Os4

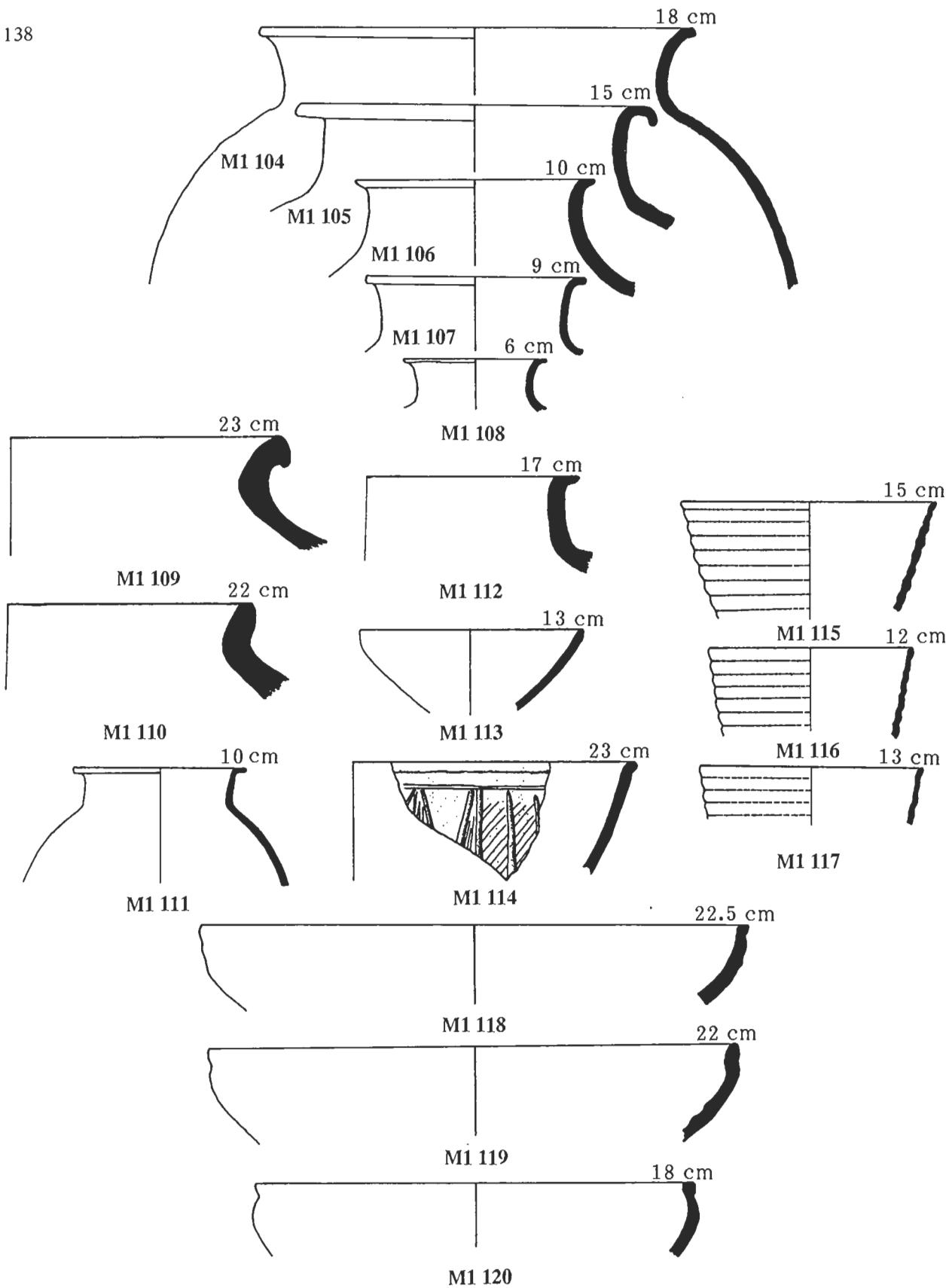


Figure 28. Ceramic types from the surface of the Outer City: Location Os6

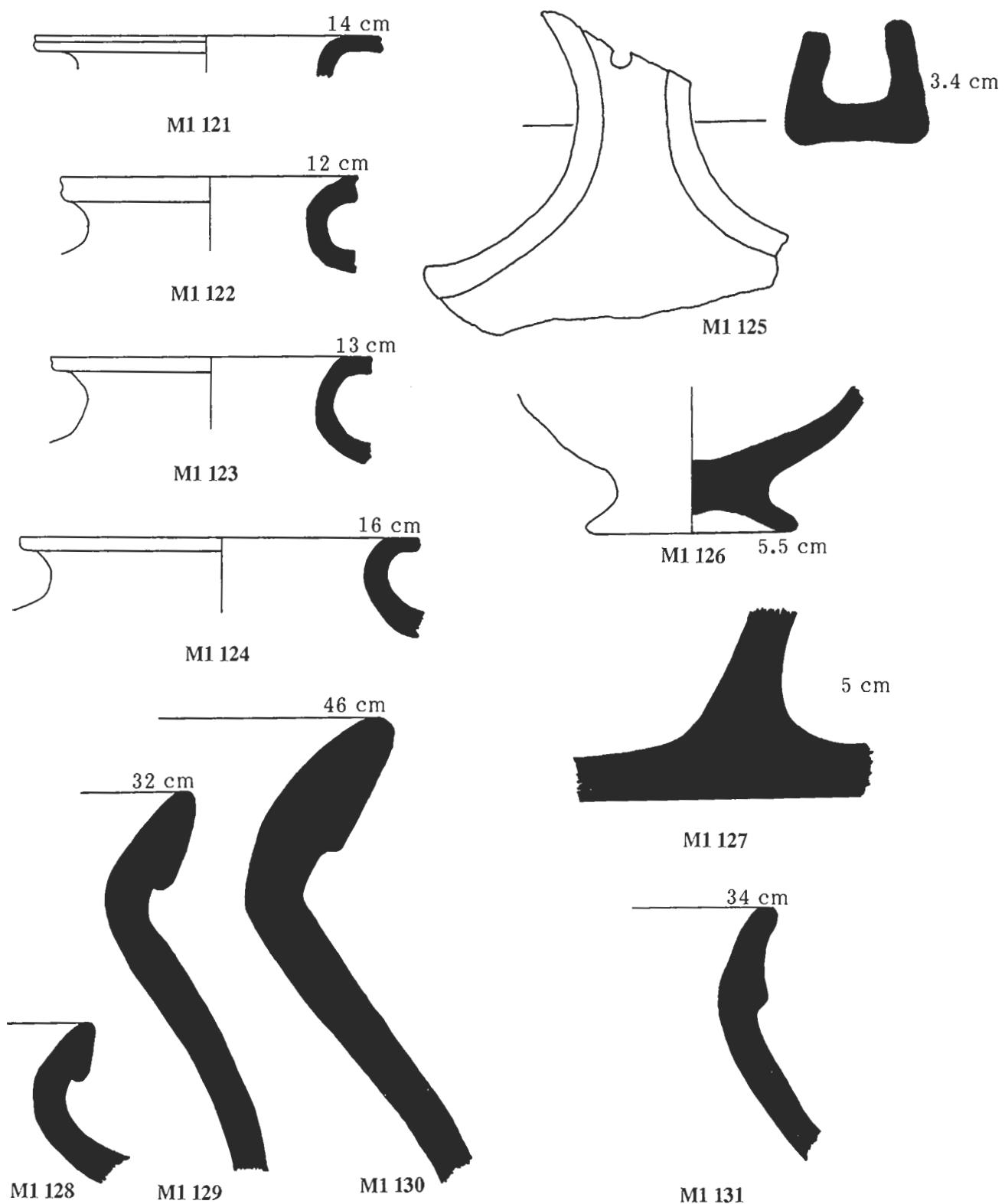


Figure 29. Ceramic types from the surface of the Outer City: Locations Os7 and Os9

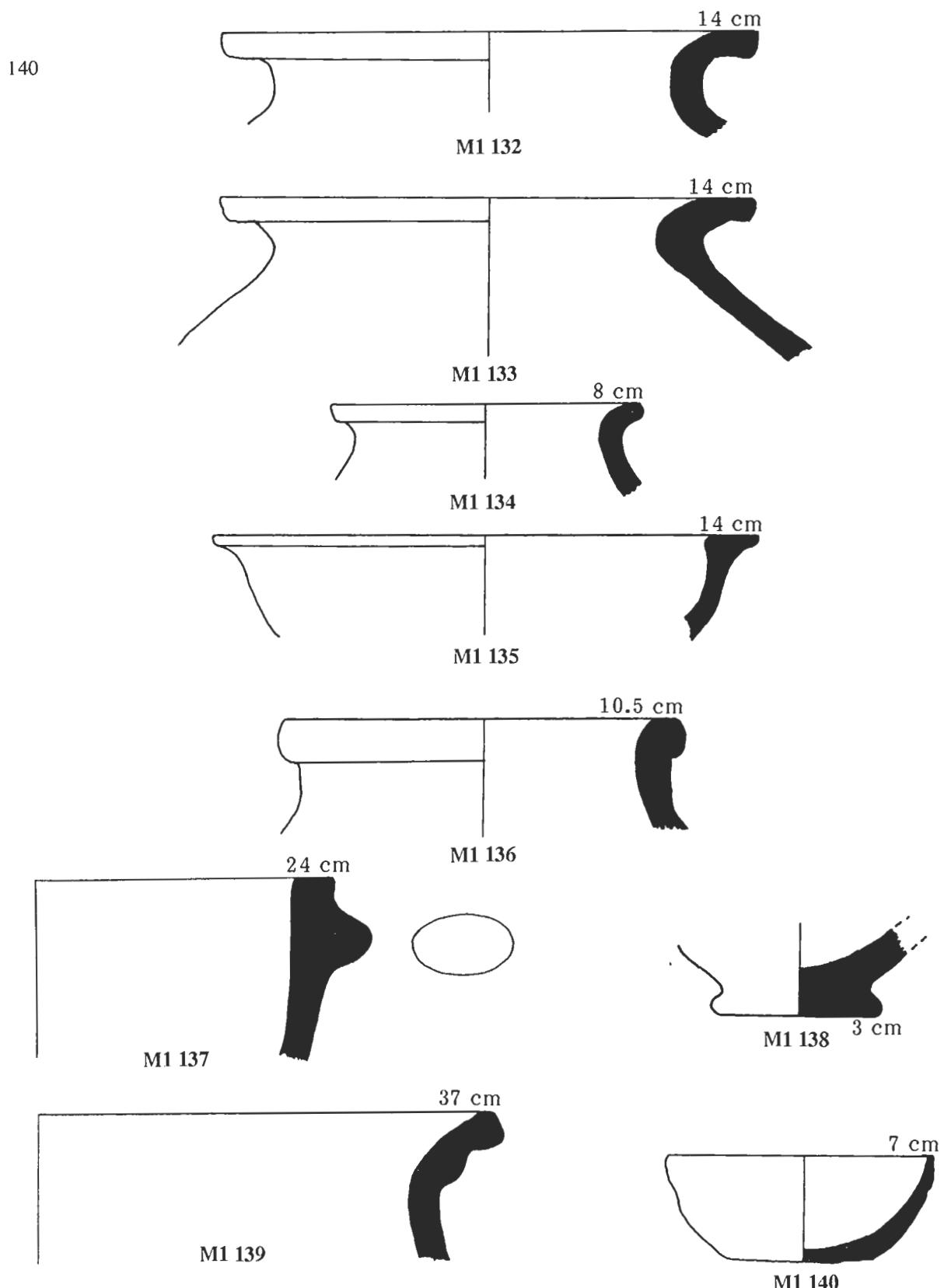


Figure 30. Ceramic types from the surface of the Outer City: Metallic and Simple ware types from various locations

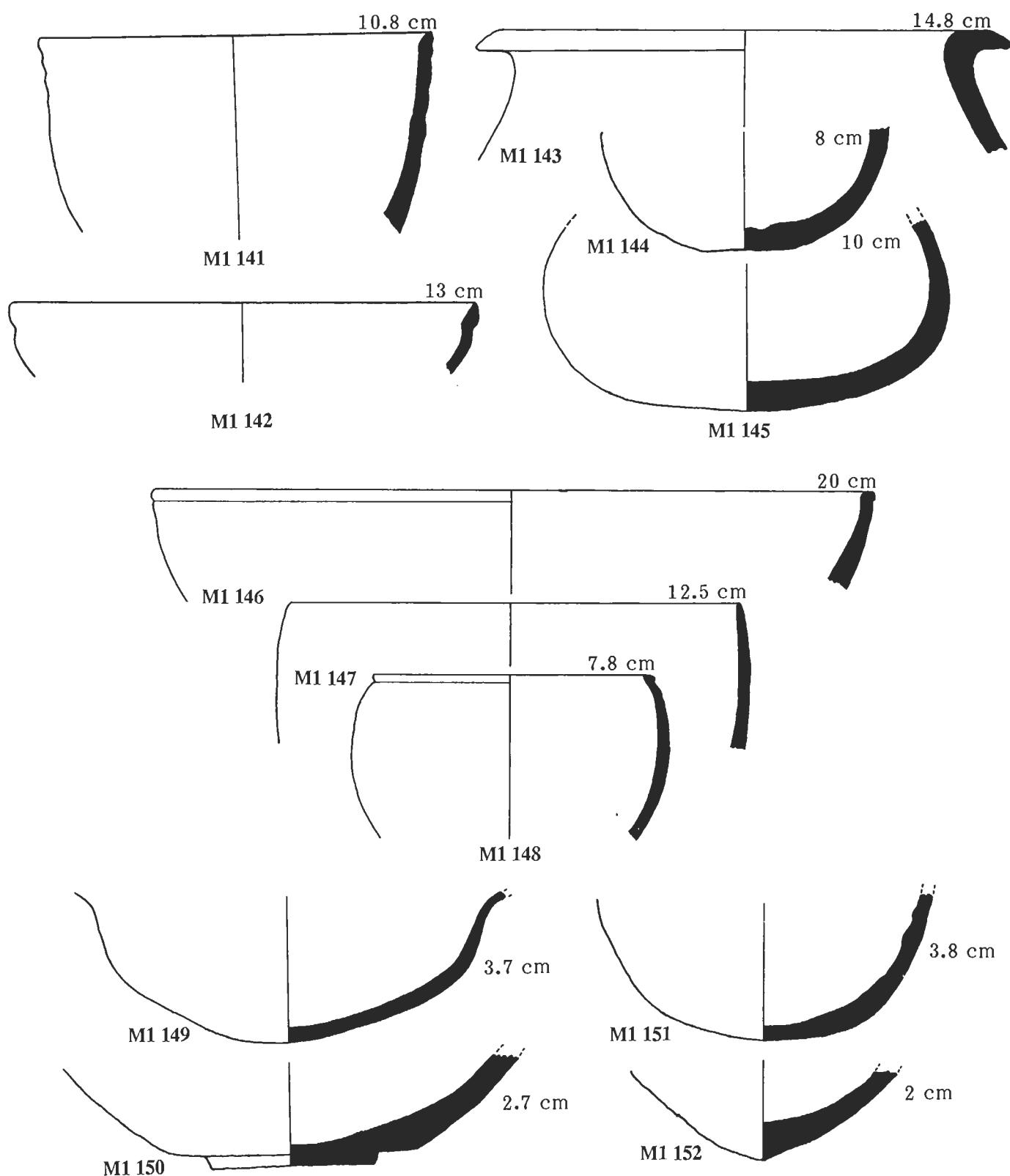


Figure 31. Ceramic types from the surface of the Outer City: Miscellaneous types

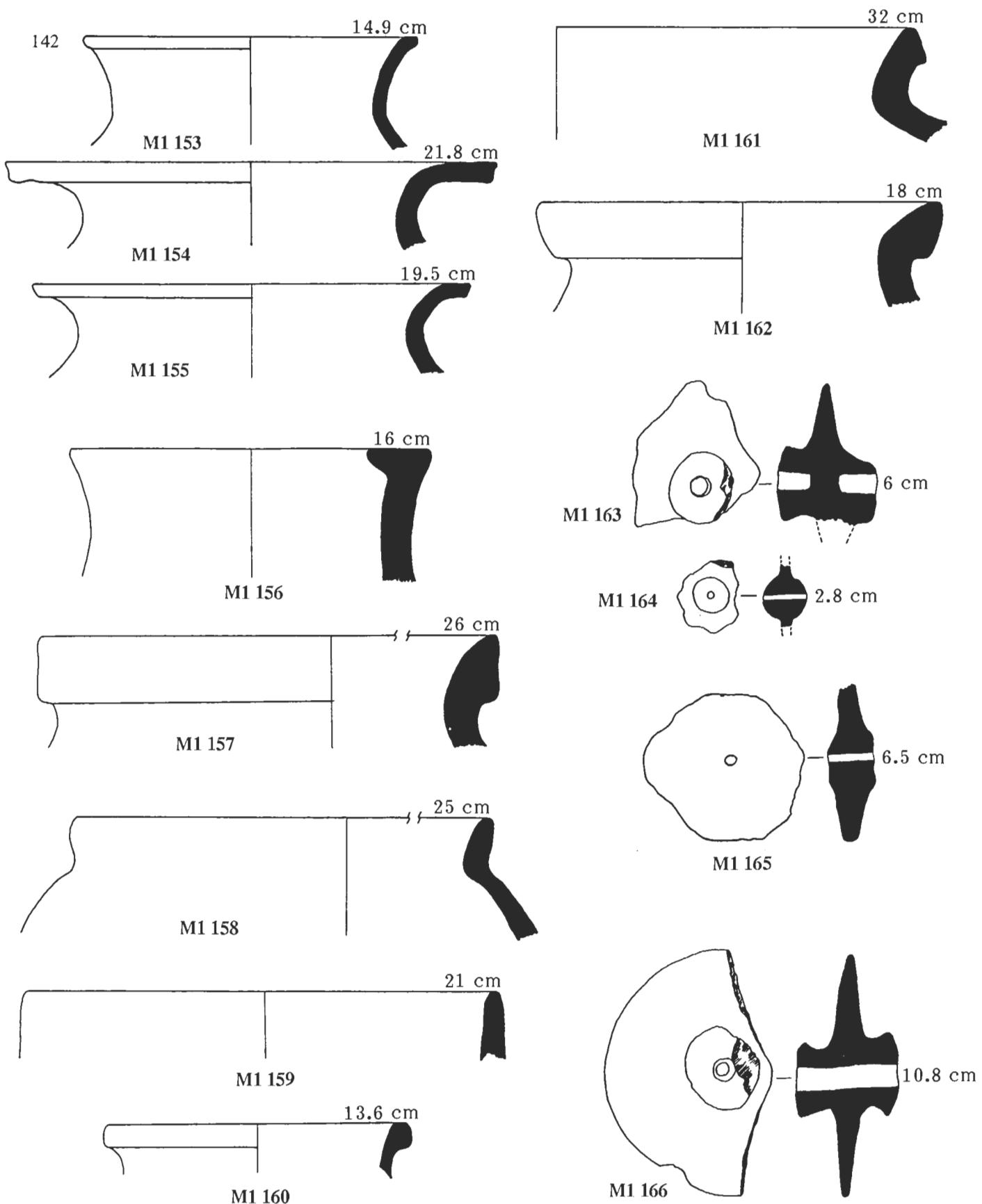


Figure 32. Ceramic types and wheels from the surface of the Outer City

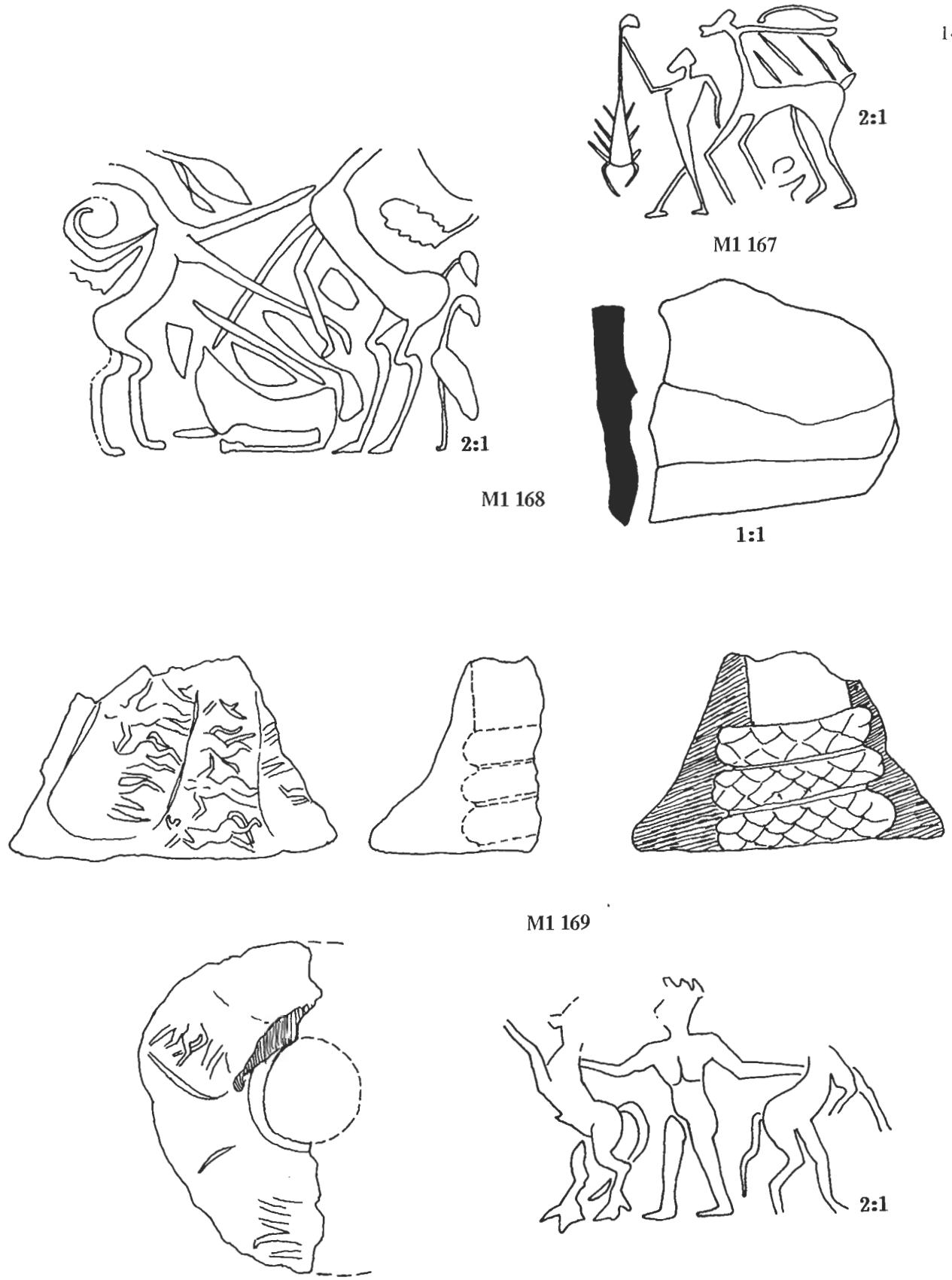


Figure 33. Seal impressions from the glacis in Area K

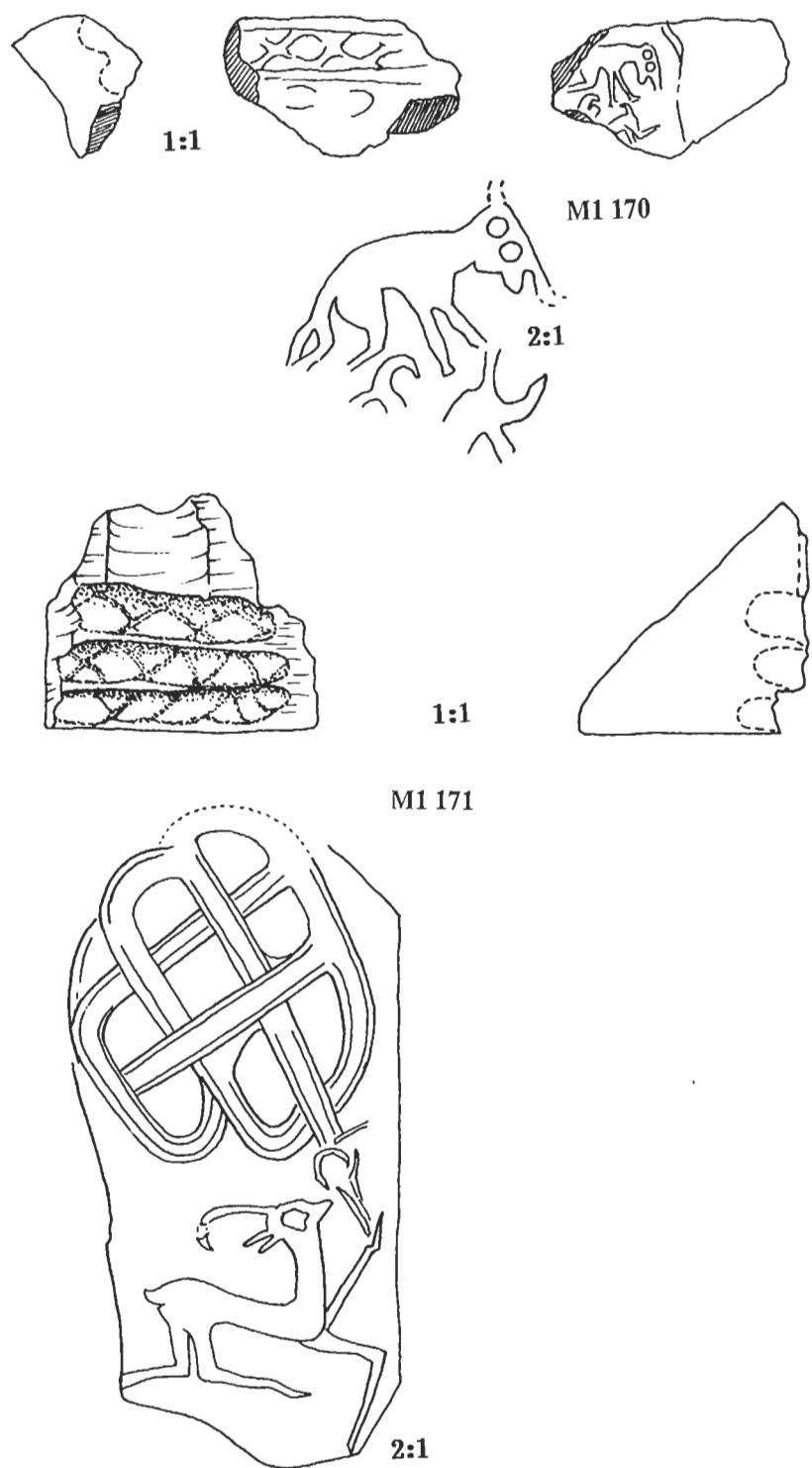
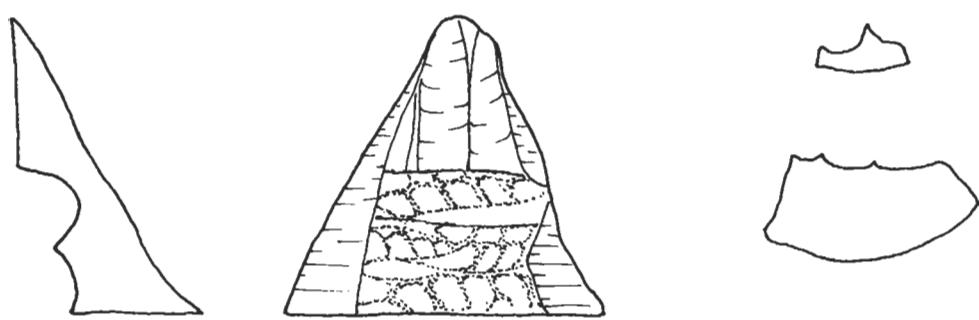
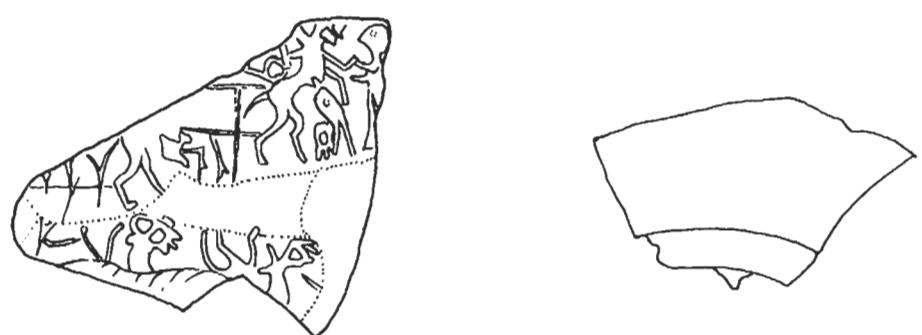


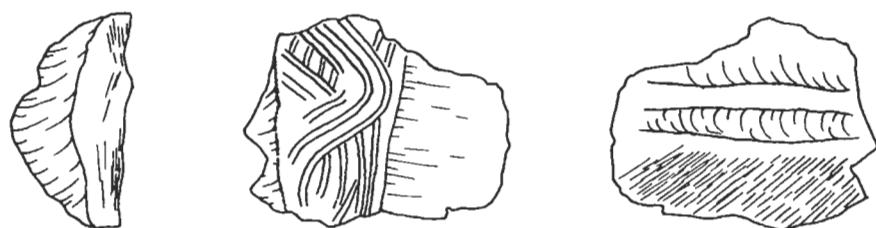
Figure 34. Seal impressions from the glacis in Area K



M1 172



1:1



M1 173

1:1

Figure 35. Seal impressions from the glacis in Area K

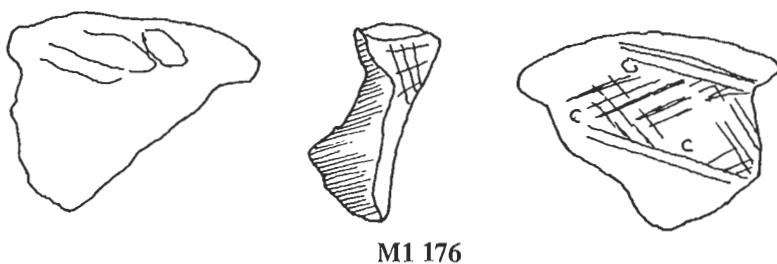
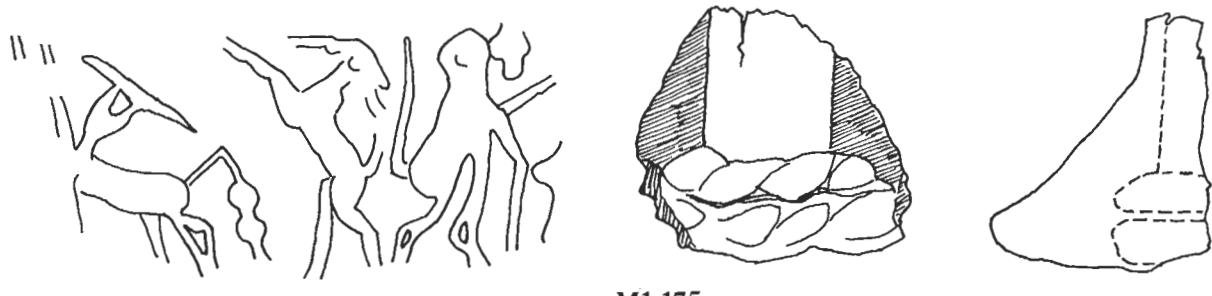
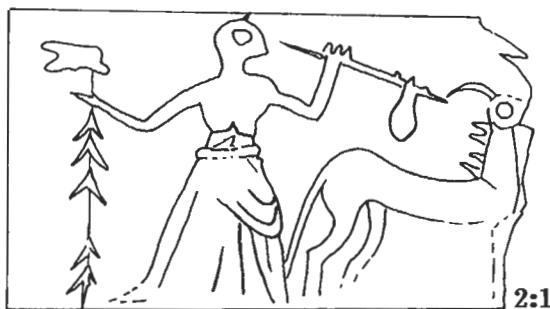
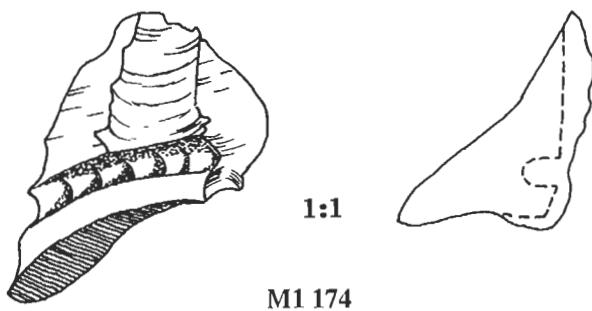


Figure 36. Seal impressions from the glacis in Area K

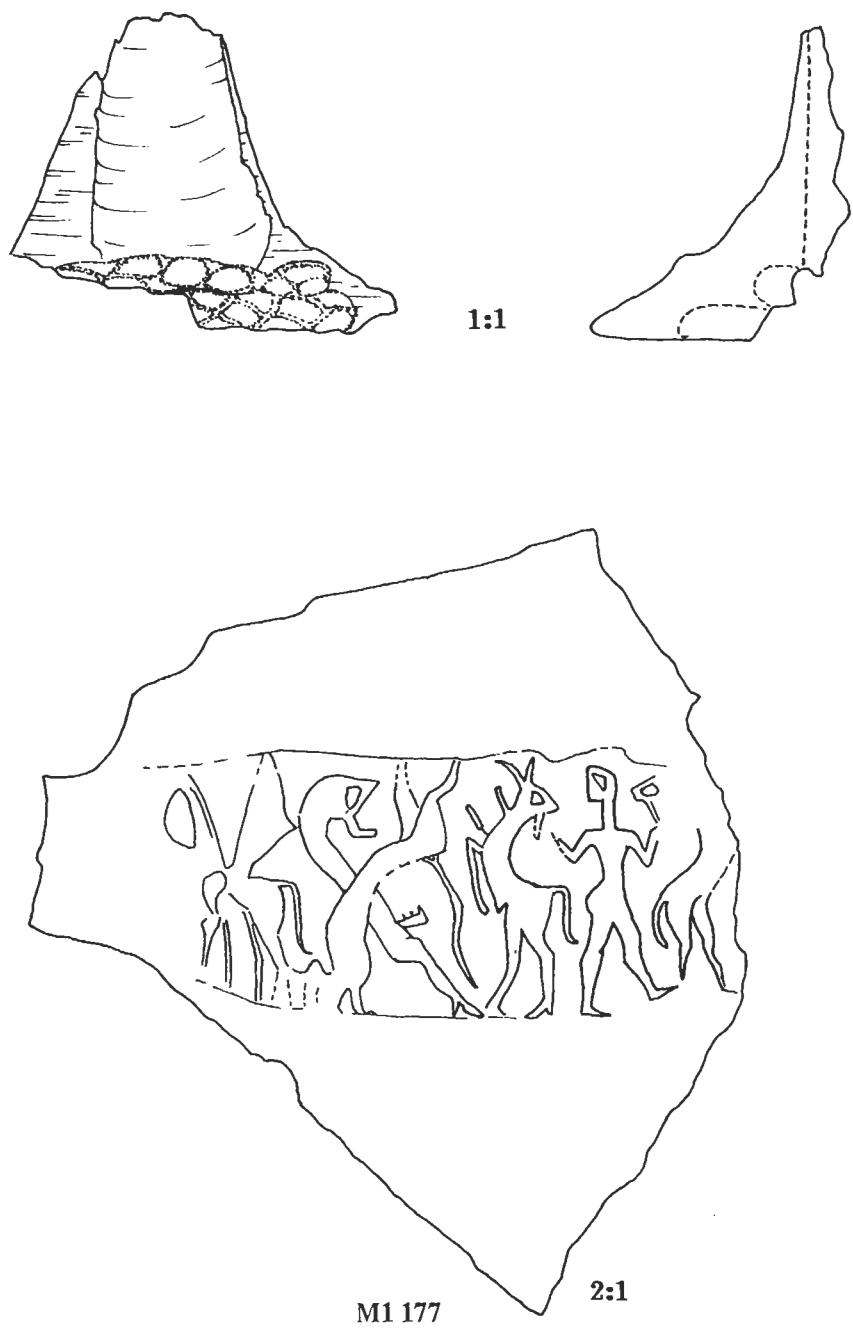


Figure 37. Seal impressions from the glacis in Area K

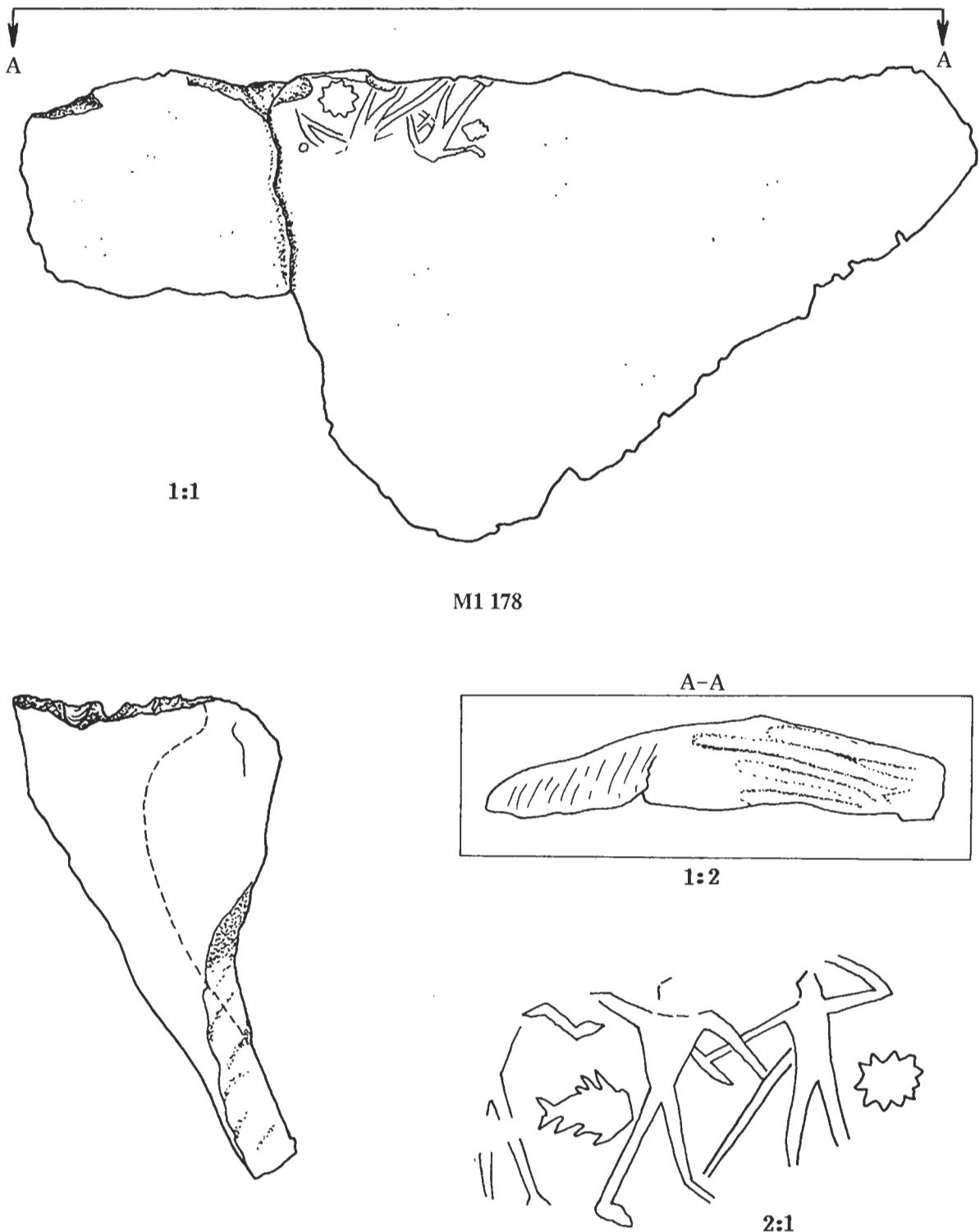
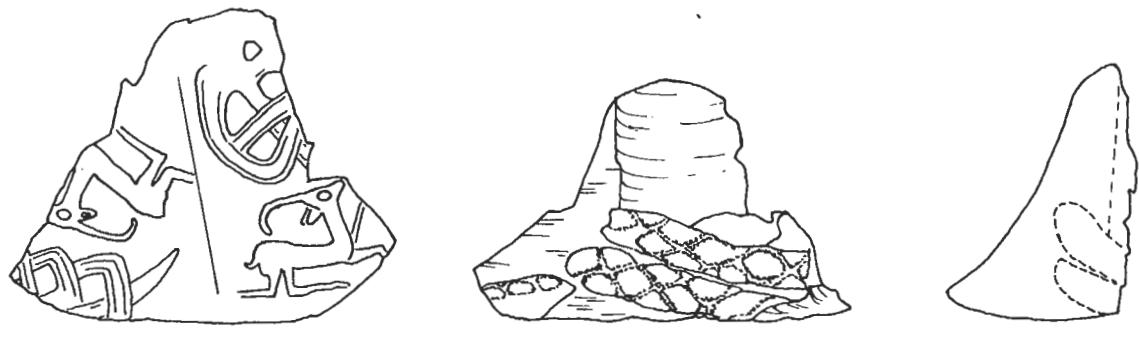
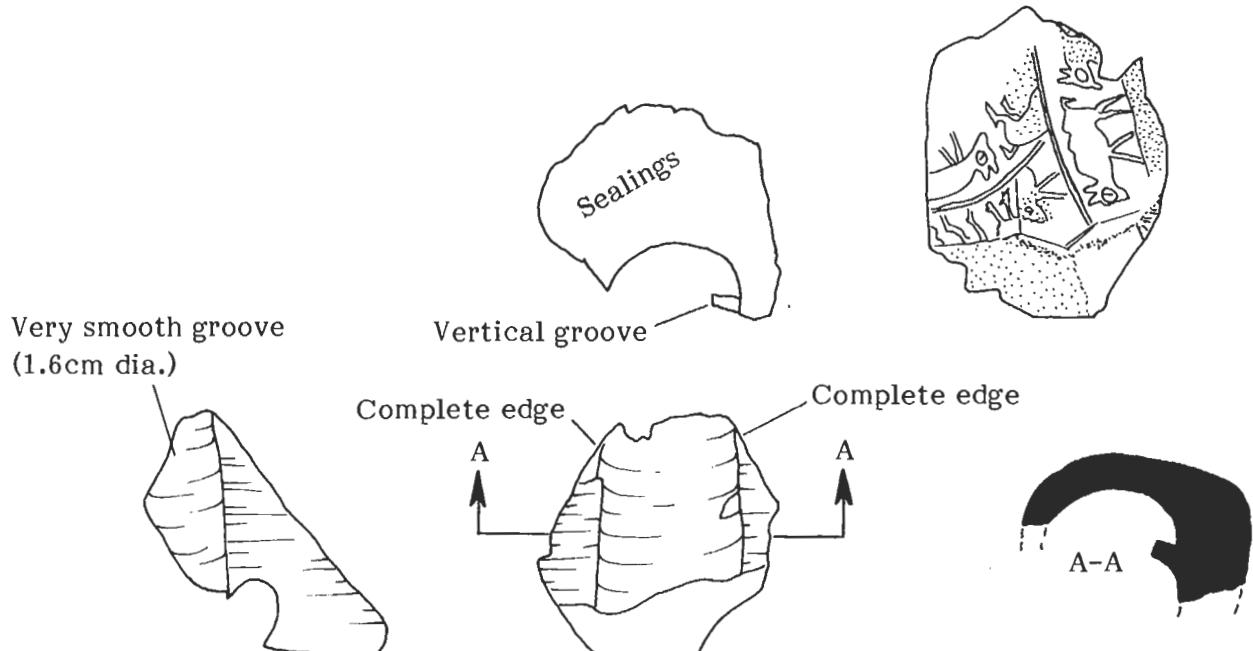


Figure 38. Seal impressions from the glacis in Area K



M1 179



M1 180

1:1

Figure 39. Seal impressions from the glacis in Area K

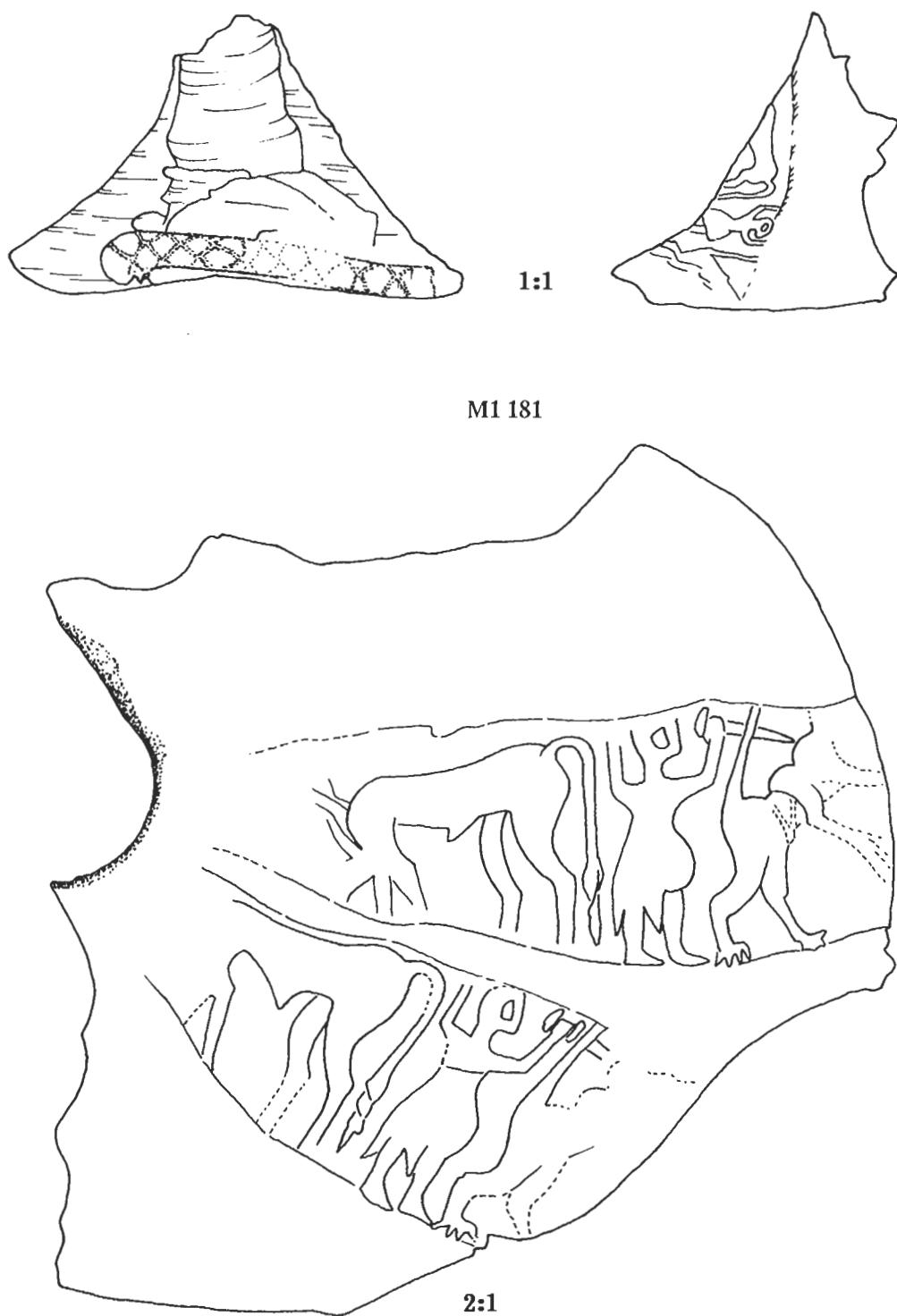


Figure 40. Seal impressions from the glacis in Area K

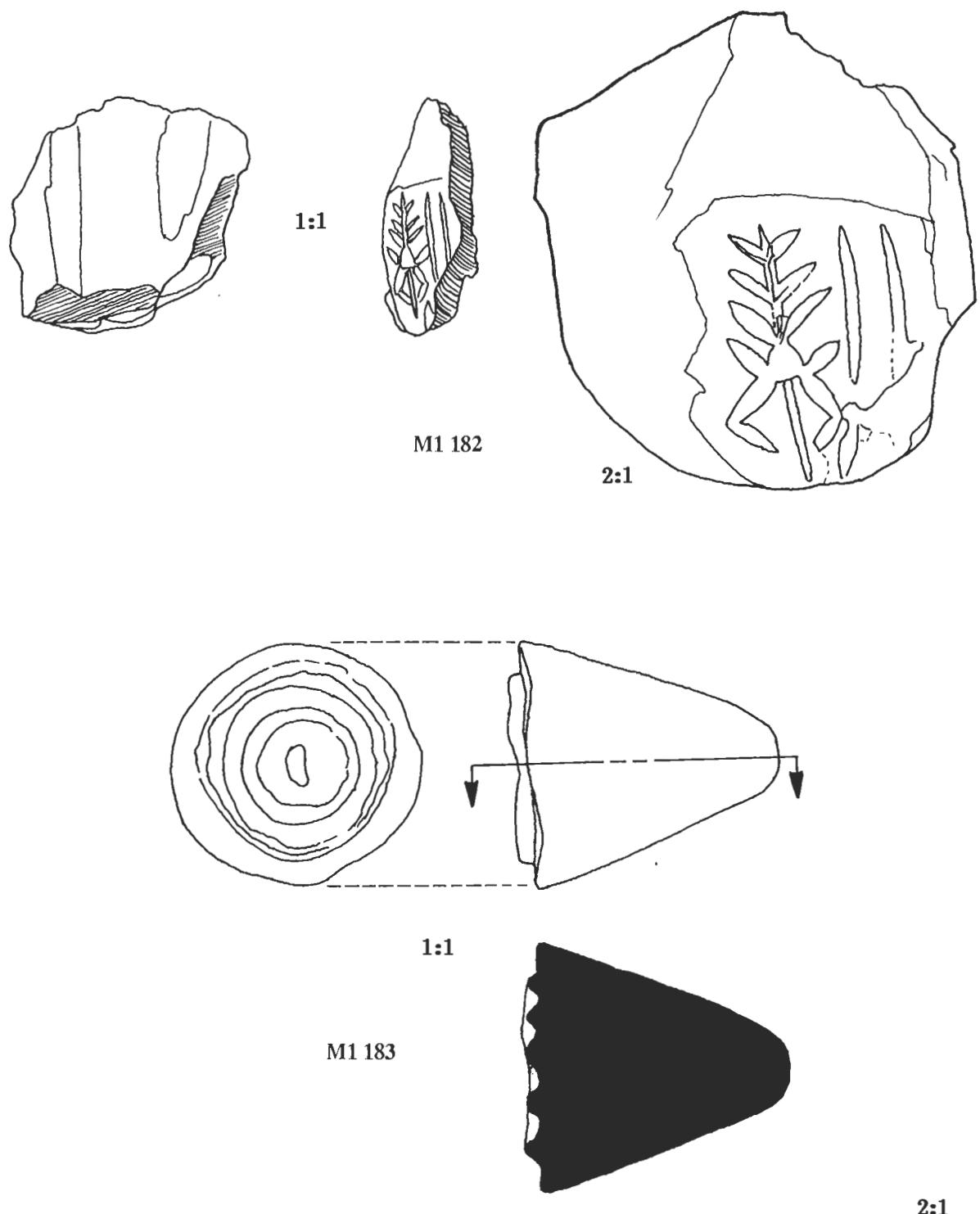


Figure 41. Seal impression and stamp seal from the surface

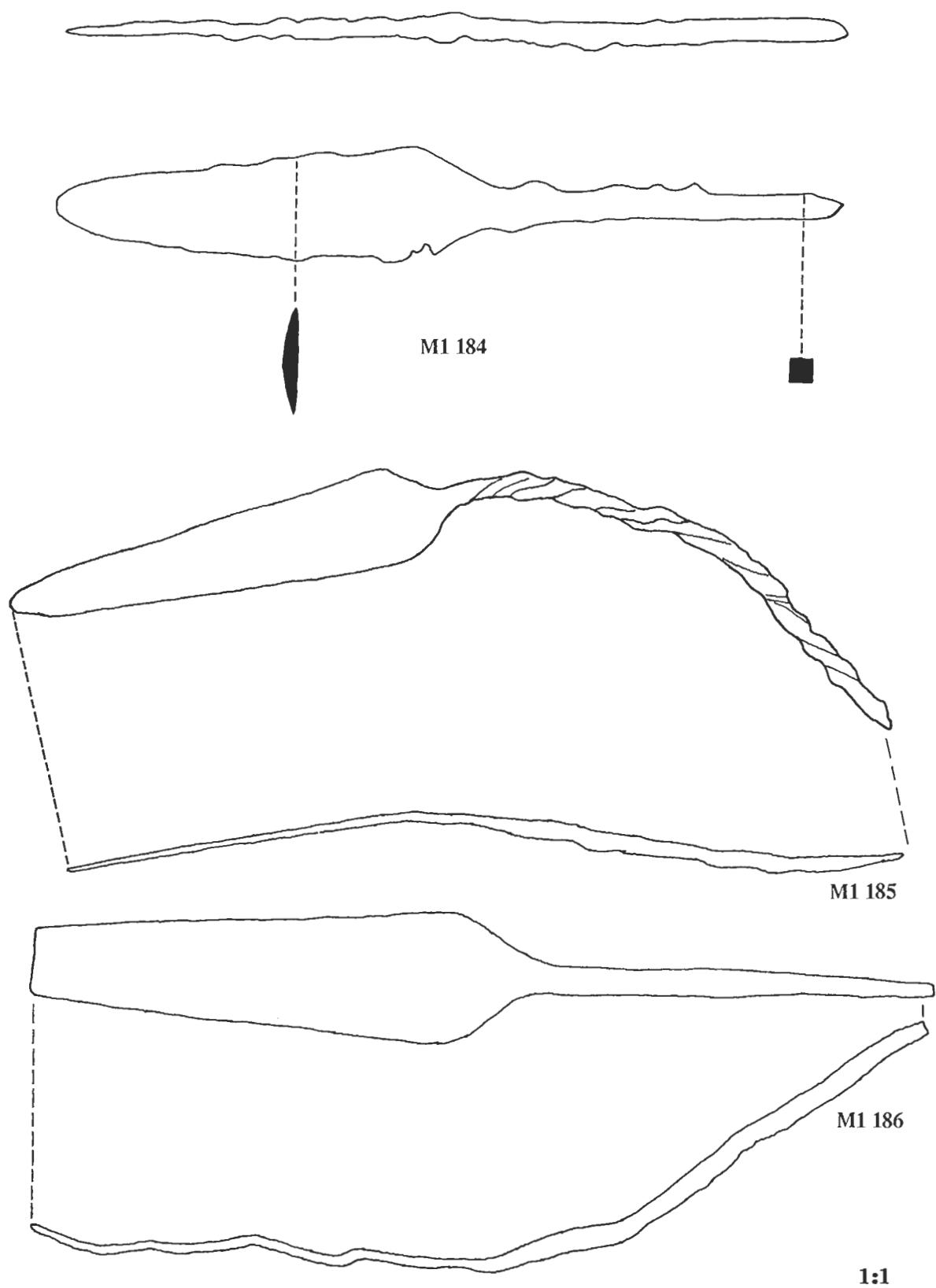
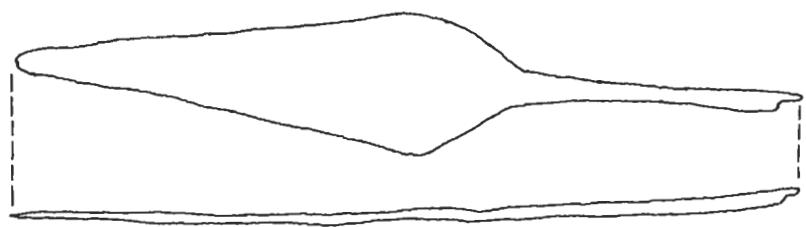
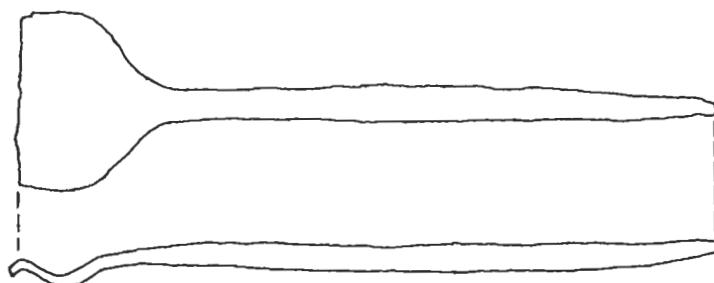


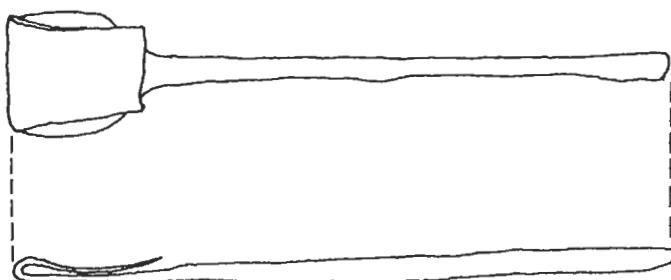
Figure 42. Metal spearheads



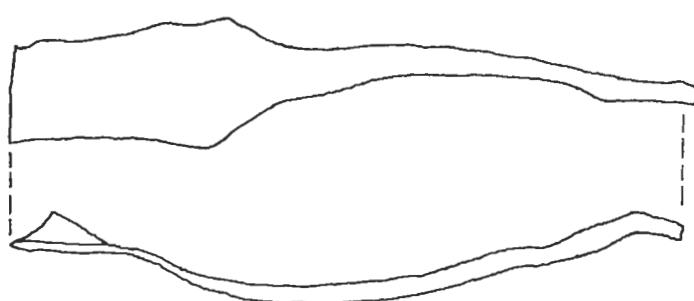
M1 187



M1 188



M1 189



M1 190

1:1

Figure 43. Metal spearheads

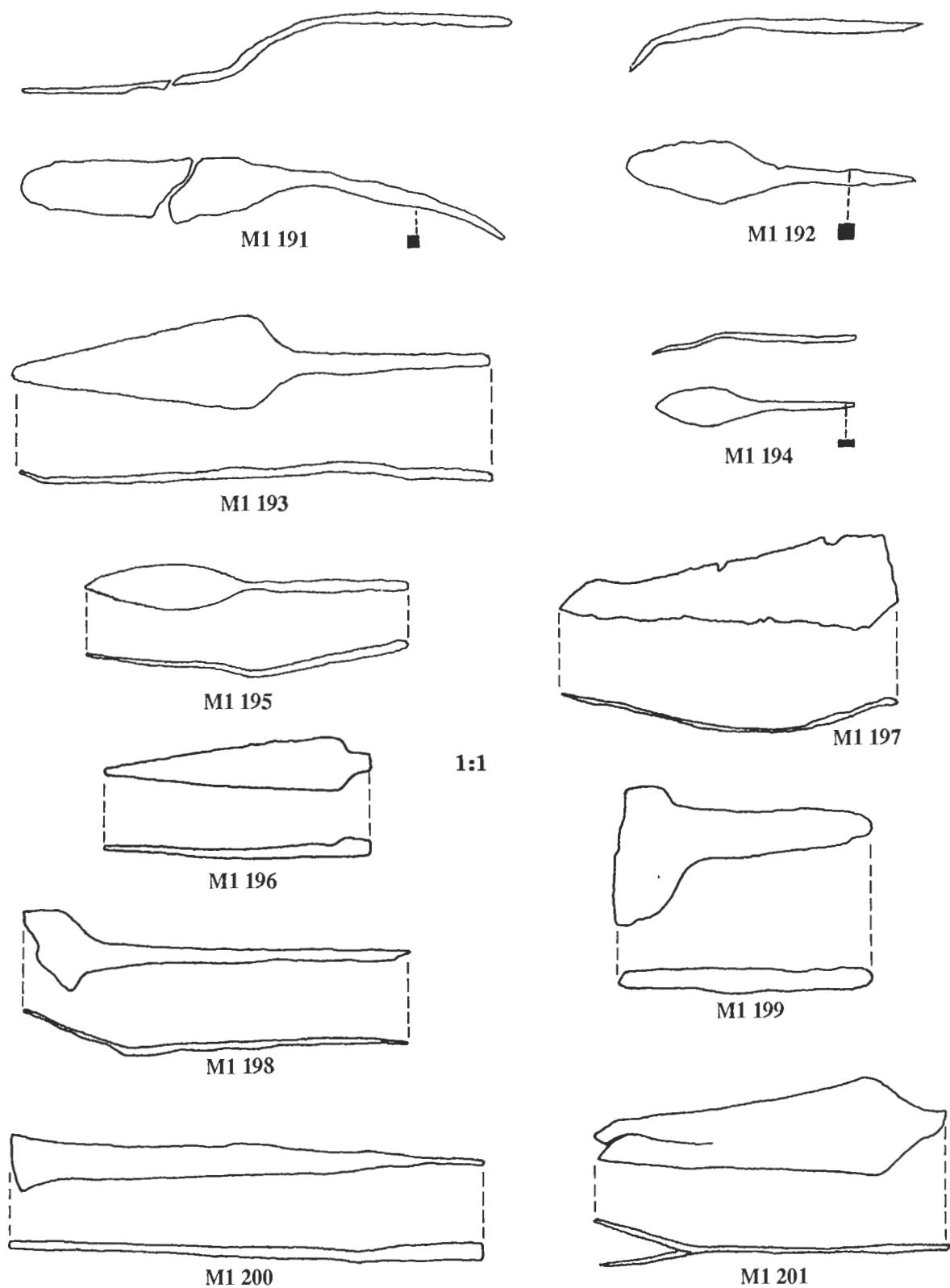
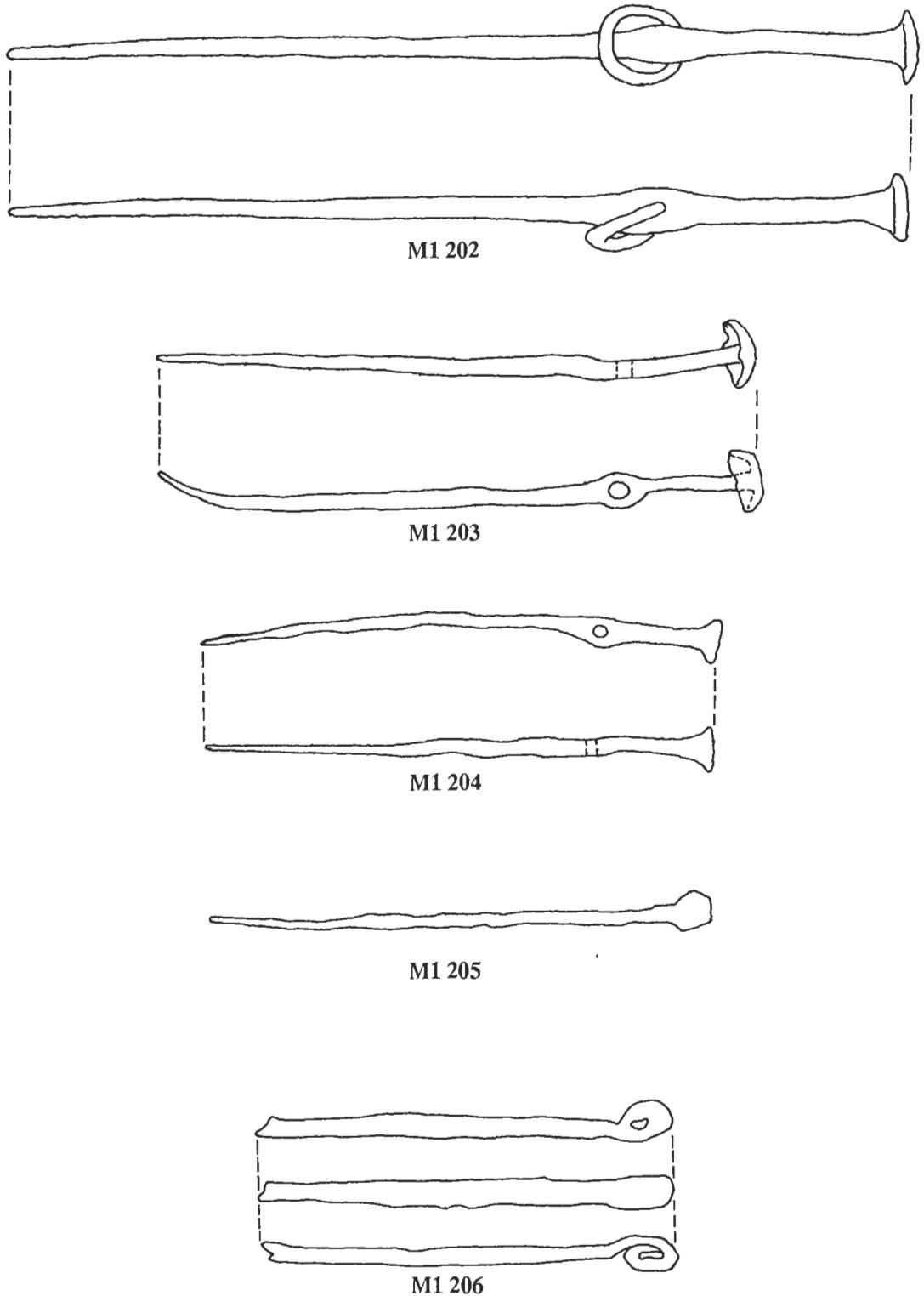


Figure 44. Metal points, spoons and scalpel



1:1

Figure 45. Metal pins

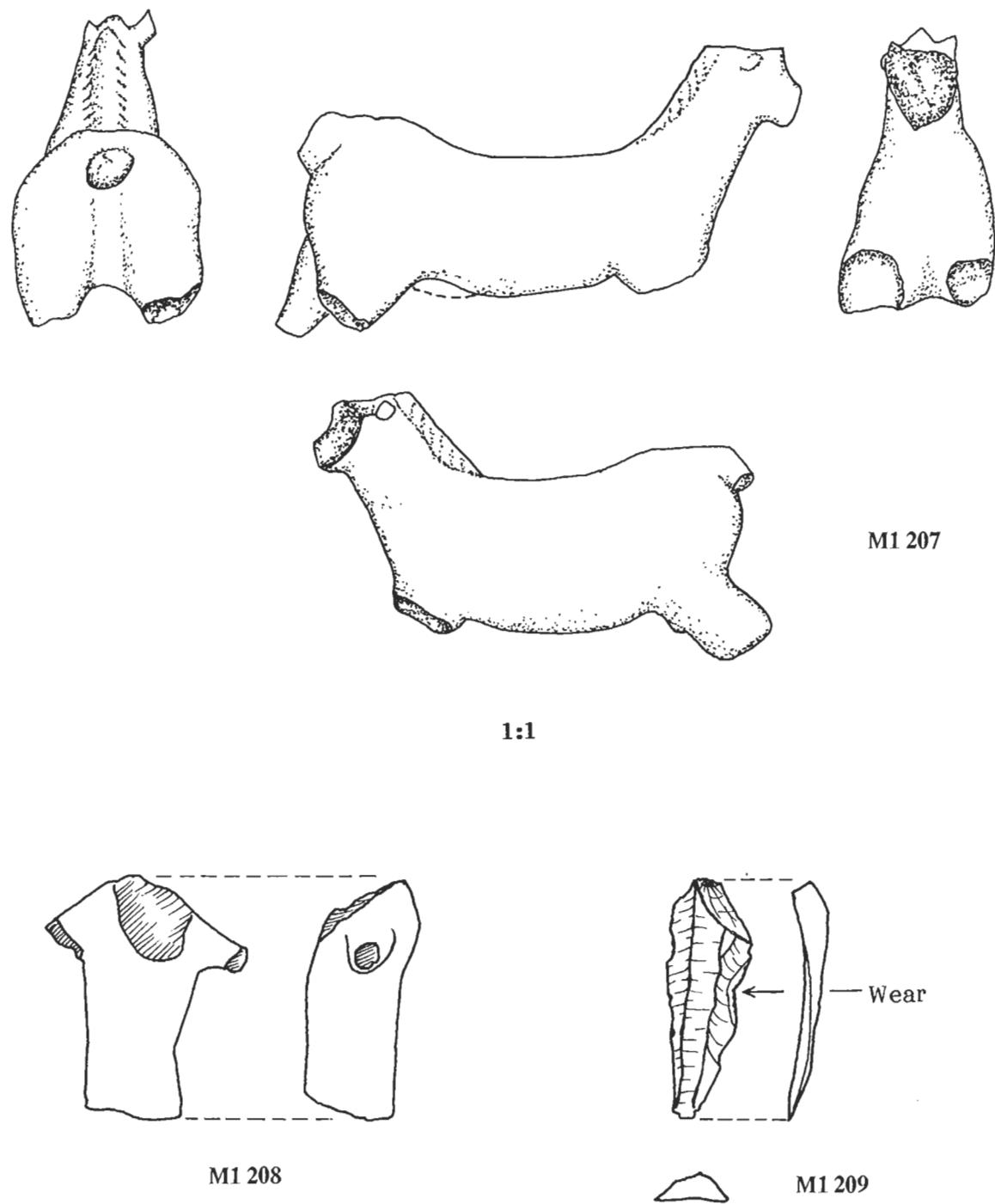


Figure 46. Lithic blade and figurines

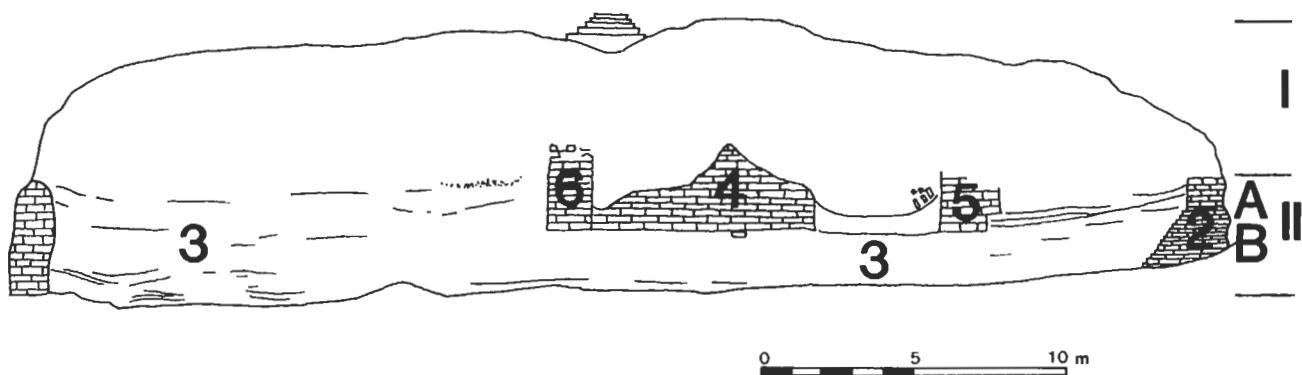


Figure 47. Tell Shermola: Sketch section of northern side of central mound

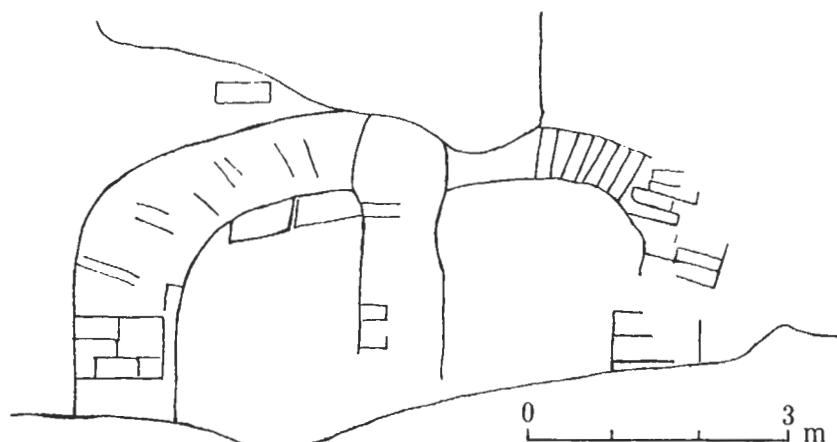


Figure 48. Tell Shermola: Sketch section of arched structure on southern side of mound

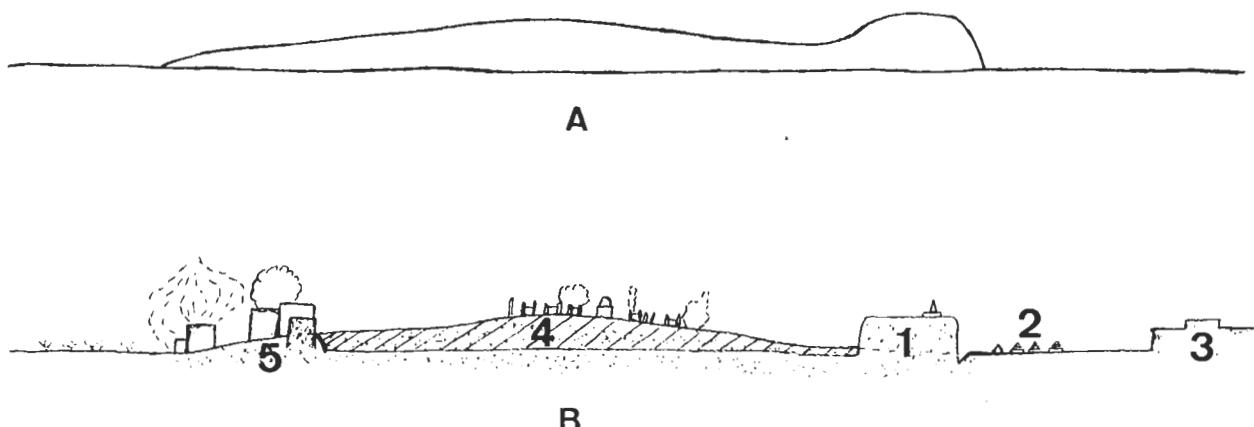


Figure 49. Tell Shermola: Sketch section of entire tell, looking west, with proposed reconstruction of ancient outline

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

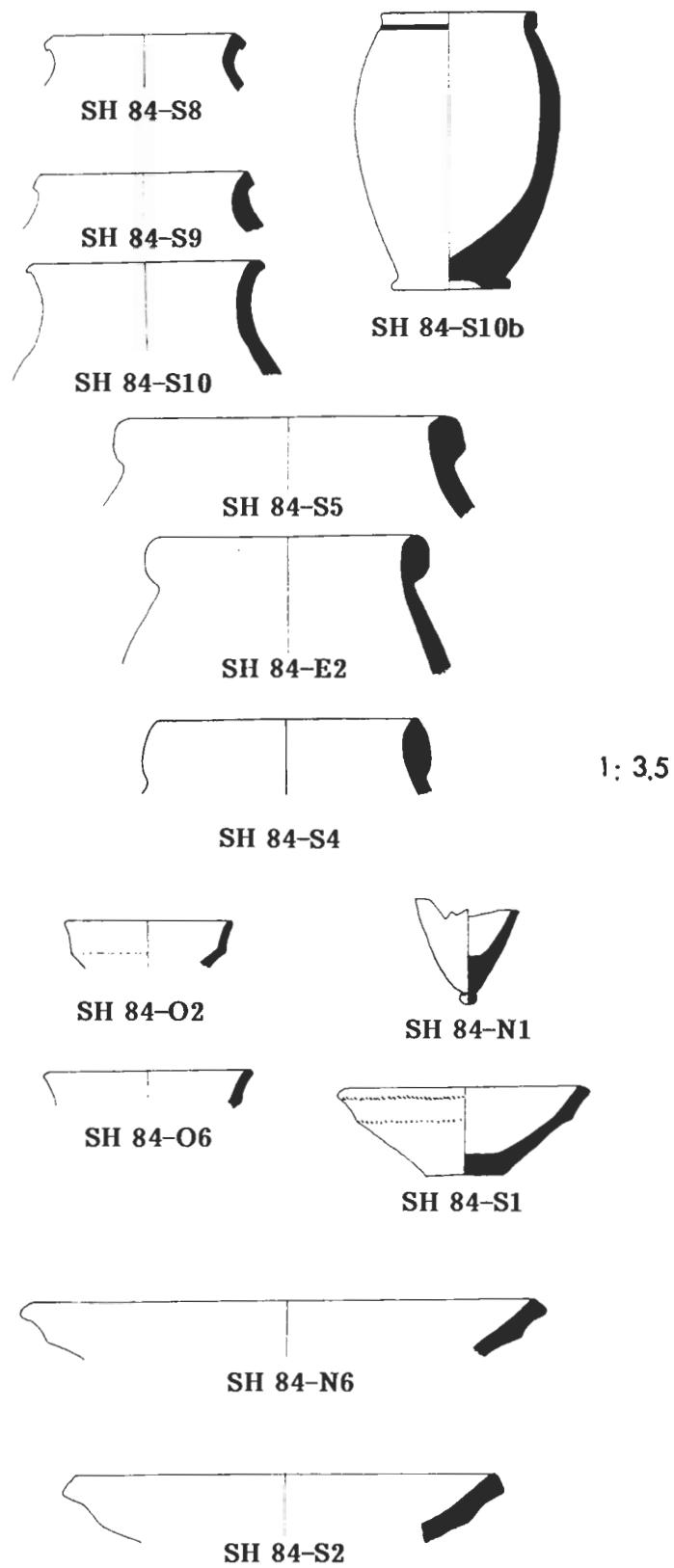


Figure 50. Tell Shermola: Ceramic types from the surface of the main mound

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.

PLATE III

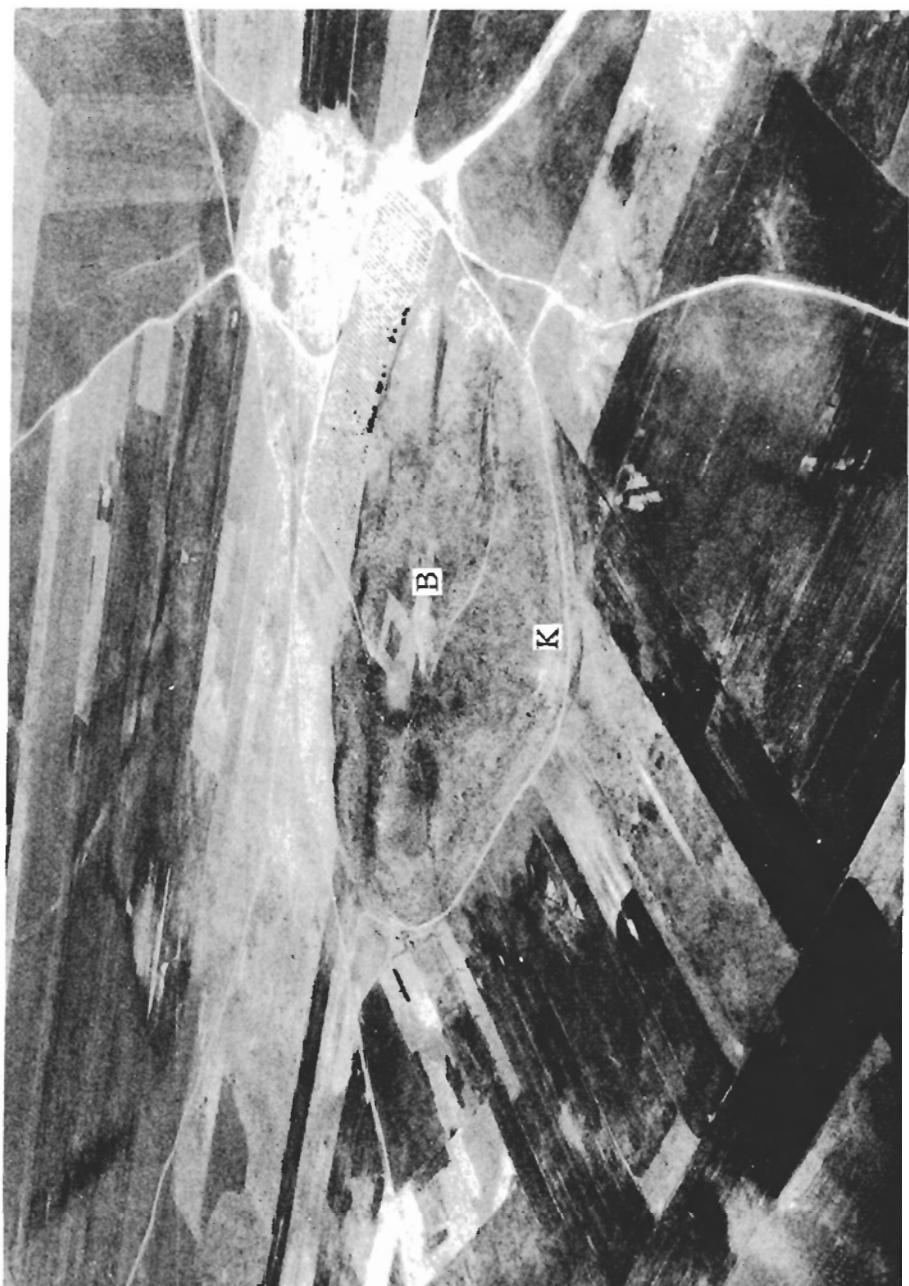


Illustration 3. Aerial view of Tell Mozan with Outer City (medium shot, looking west).

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

PLATE IV

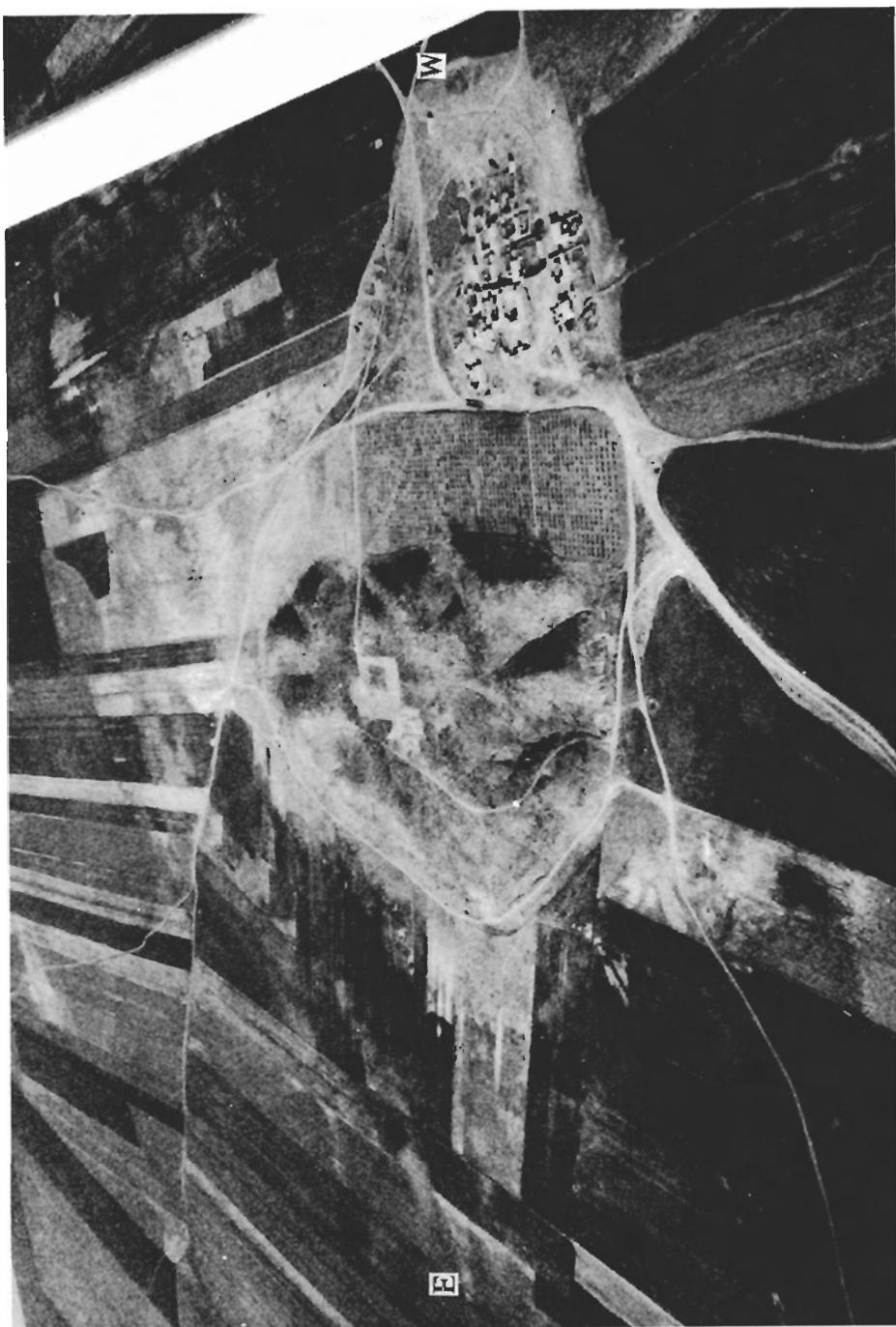


Illustration 4. Aerial view of Tell Mozan (narrow shot, looking south).

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.

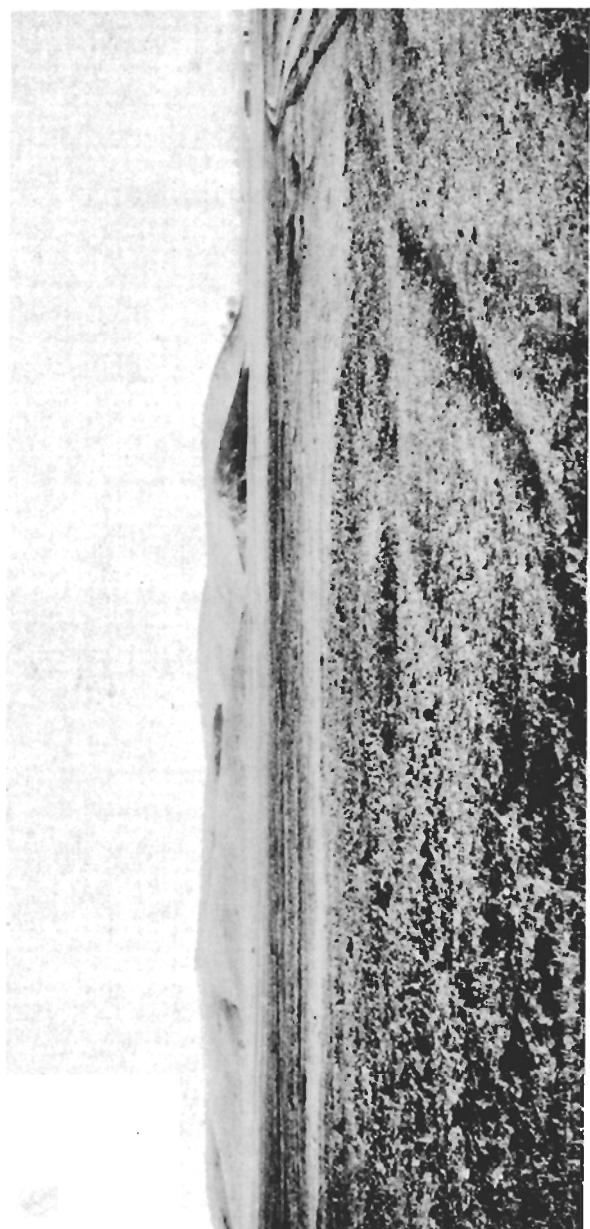


Illustration 5. Profile of Tell Mozan (looking south).

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 glacis (lower portion) and the inside of the city wall (K2): the slope of the tell reveals the brick-work 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 glacis 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 glacis 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 glacis riding up to its base. Talus of High Mound shows in background.

Illustration 19. City wall, Area K1: general view of glacis with burnt deposit and face of city wall (looking west). Trench cut perpendicular to the city wall shows the steep slope of the glacis; 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 glacis and the thickness of the burnt deposit.

PLATE XI



Illustration 16.

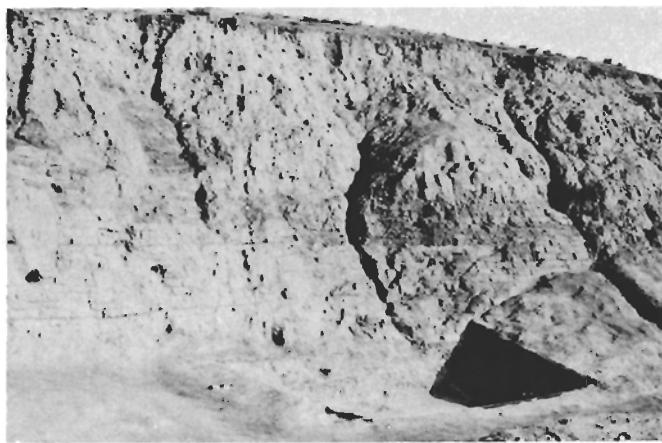


Illustration 17.



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

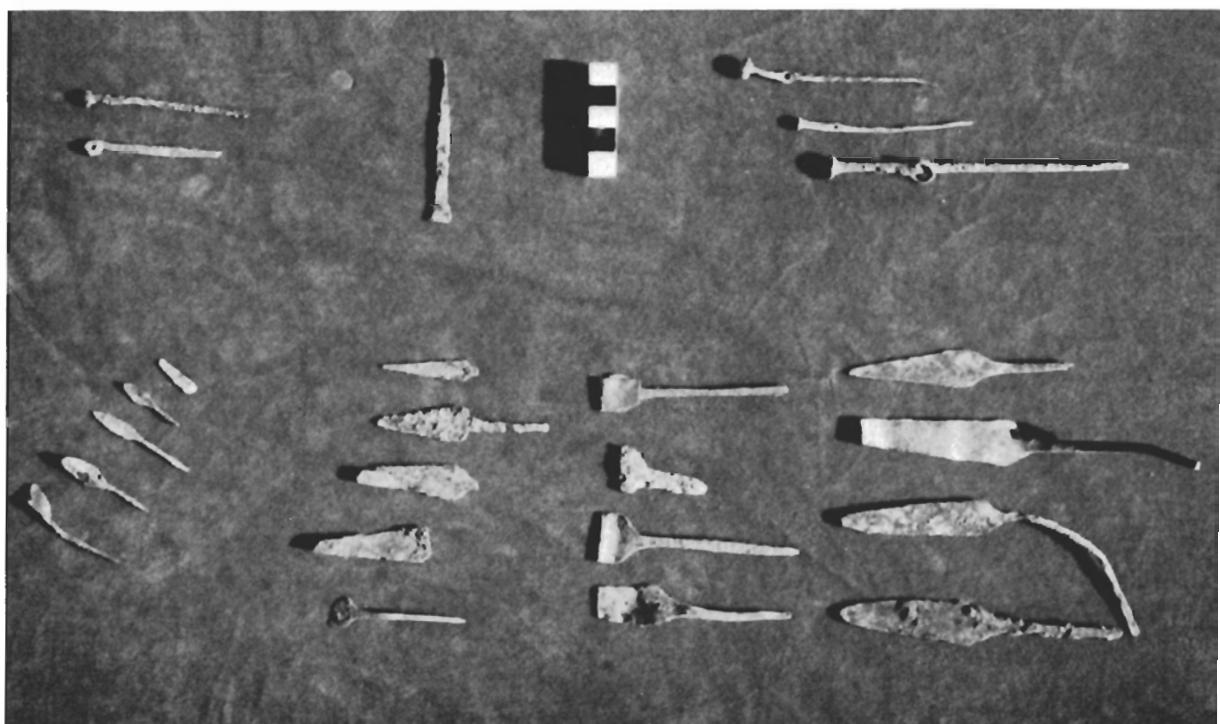


Illustration 21. Assemblage of metal objects (Areas B1 and K1).

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.

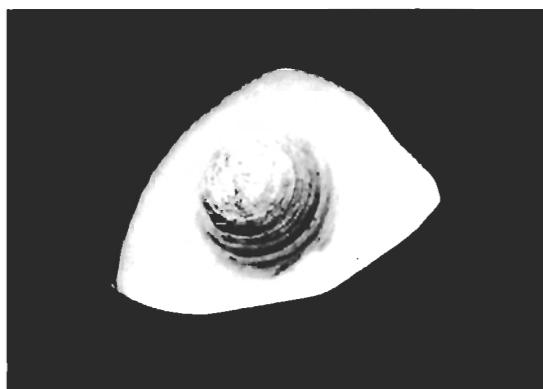


Illustration 20. Eye socket of statue (Area B1).

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).

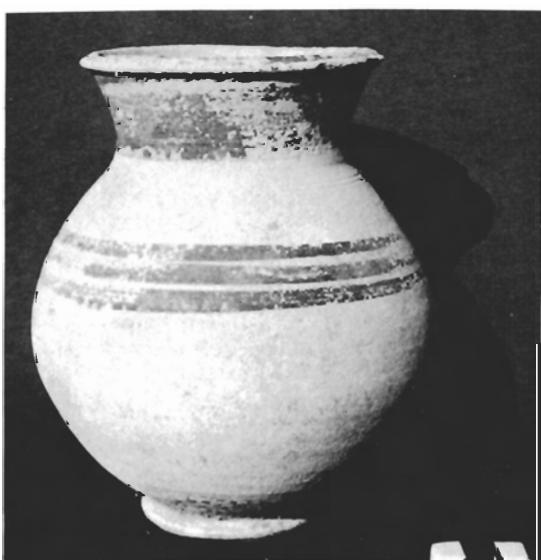


Illustration 23. Khabur ware jar (Area B1).

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

PLATE XIV

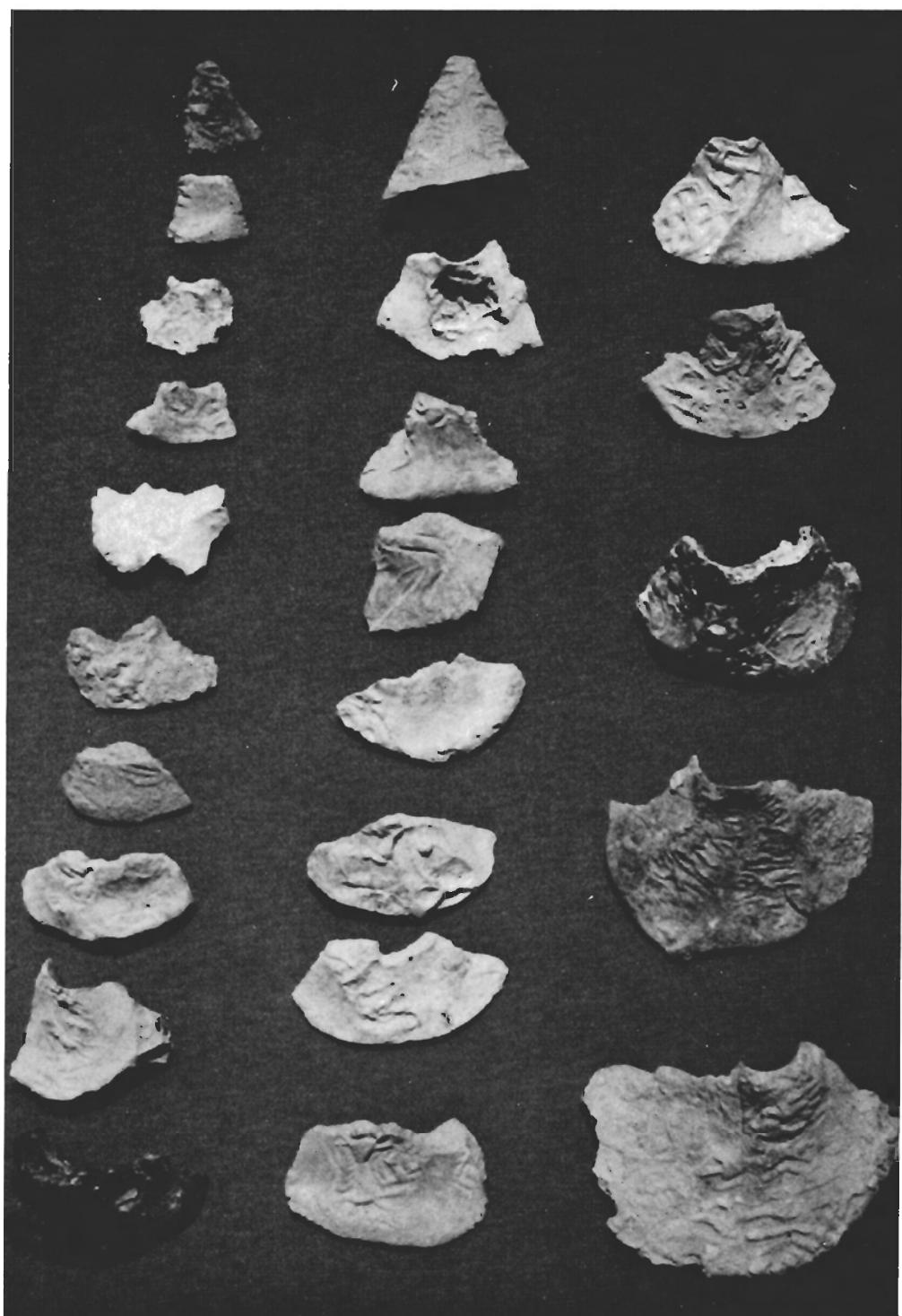


Illustration 24. Assemblage of door sealings (Area K1).

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

PLATE XV



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.

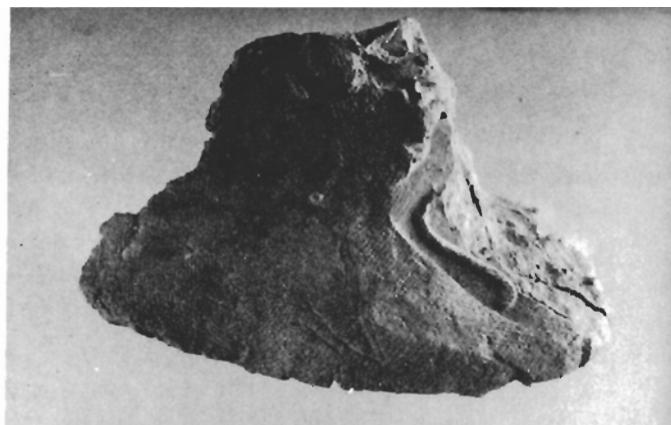


Illustration 26. Characteristic shape of door sealings (K1.78).

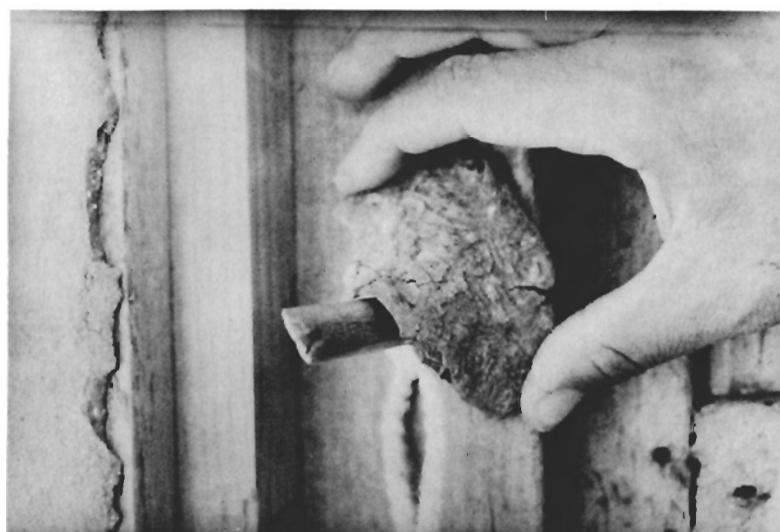
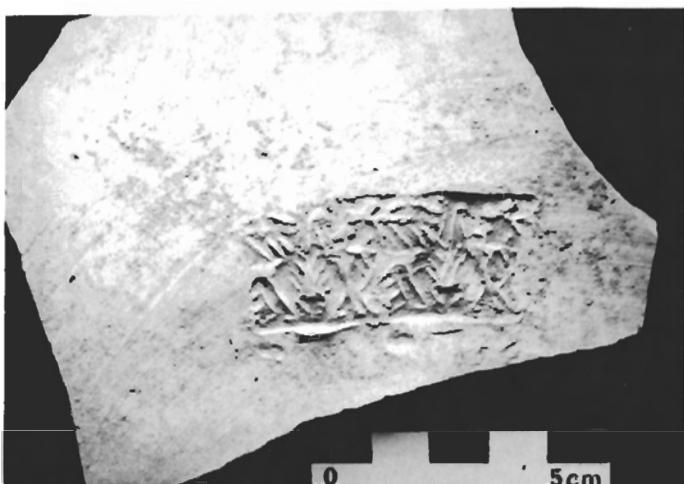


Illustration 27. Reconstruction of door sealing on modern door.

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.



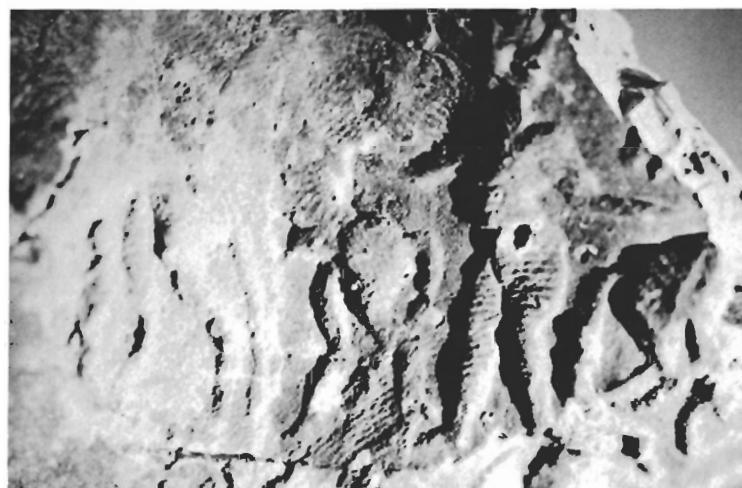
Illustration 31. Door sealing: hero with dagger

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.

PLATE XVII



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.



PLATE XIX



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.



PLATE XX

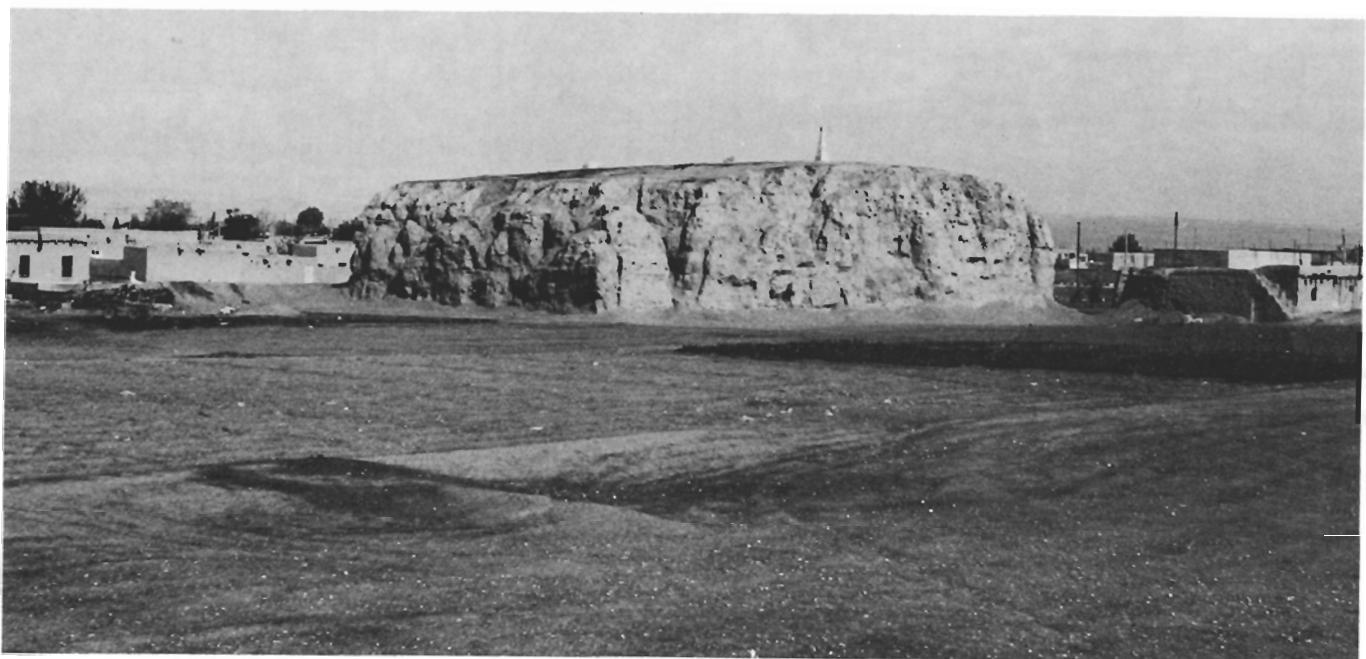


Illustration 43. Tell Shermola: the central mound (looking northwest).



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



Illustration 45. Tell Shermola: carinated shallow bowl.

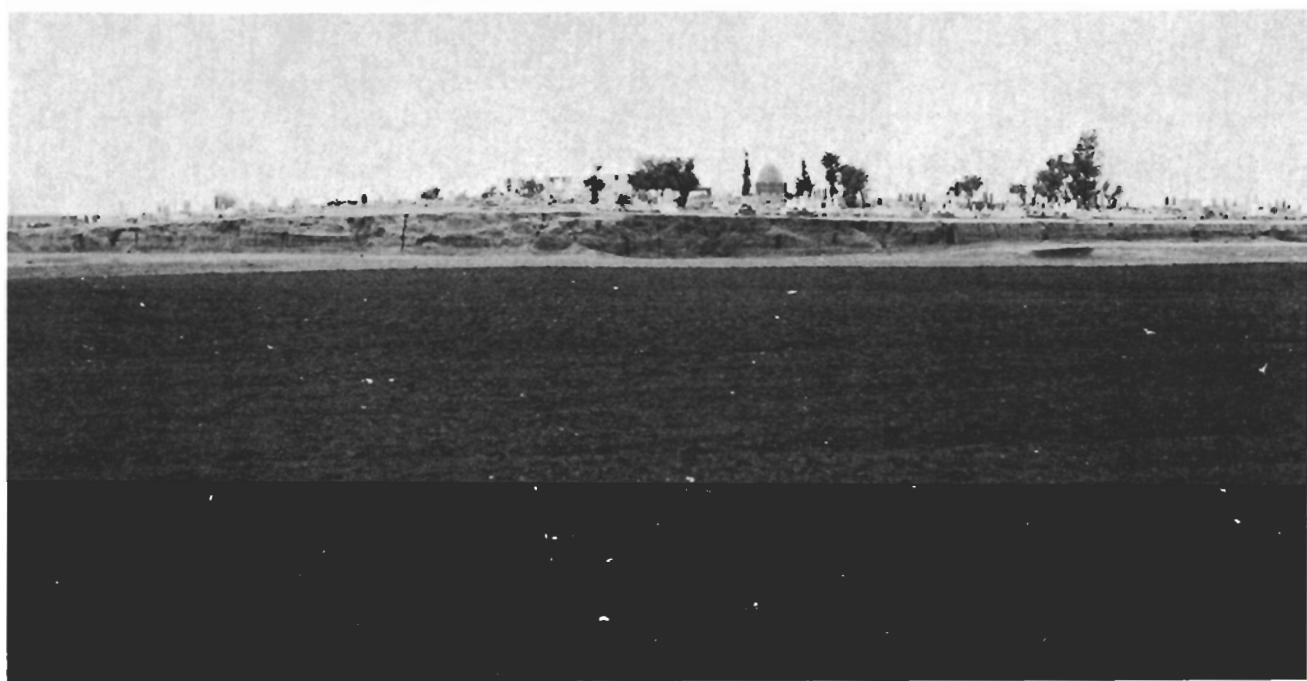


Illustration 46. Tell Shermola: the lower mound (looking west).



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

PLATE XXIII



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

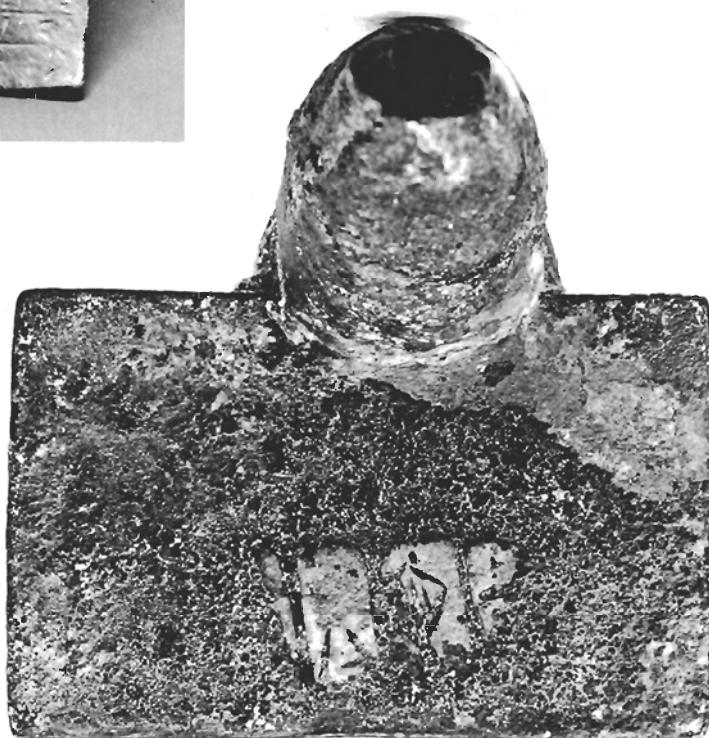


Illustration 53. The Urkish lion in the
Louvre: bottom view.

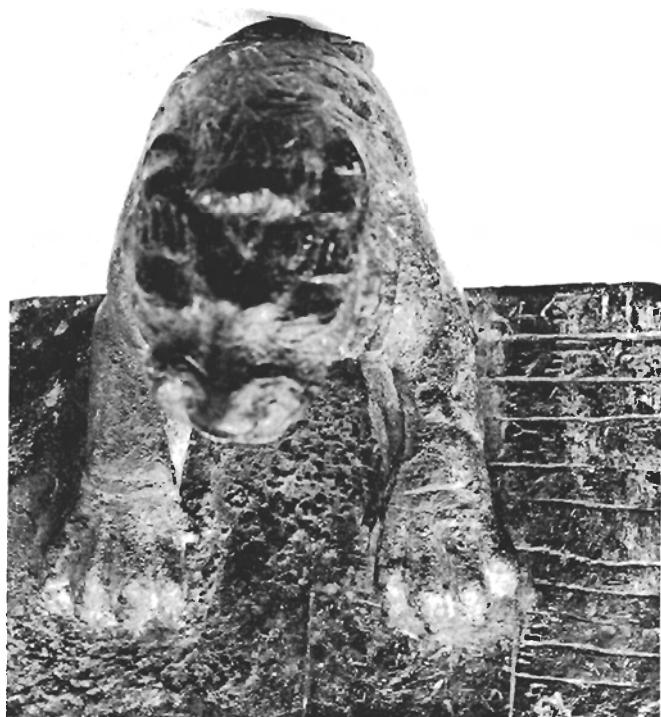


Illustration 52. The Urkish lion in the
Louvre: top view.

PLATE XXIV

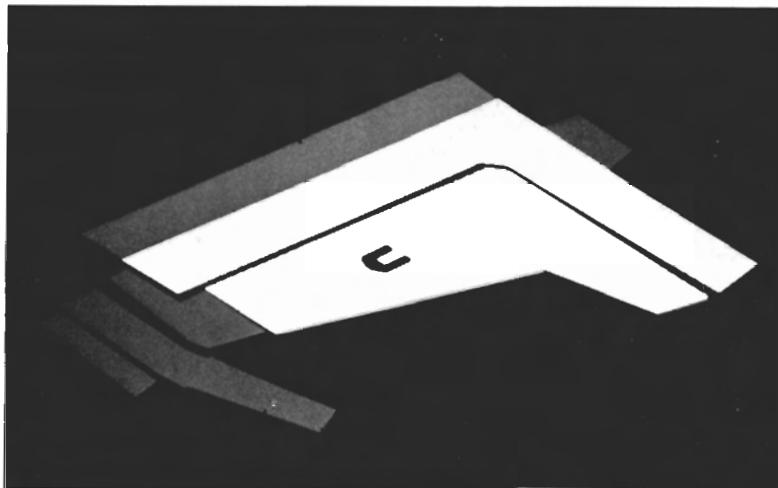


Illustration 54.

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.

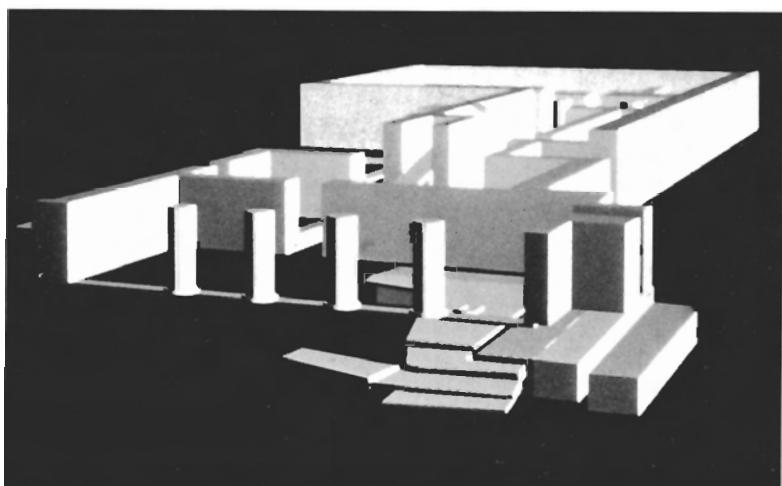
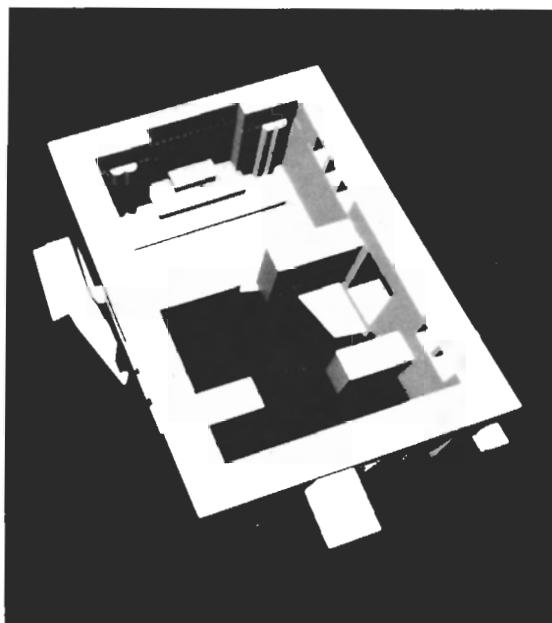


Illustration 56.

Illustration 55.



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Volume Twenty

Mozan 1

The Soundings of the First Two Seasons

Giorgio Buccellati and
Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati

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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 pegs 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.

The text portion of this volume is also available in electronic format as disk No. 1 in the series *Cybernetica Mesopotamica — Volumes (CMV 1A)*, also published by Undena Publications under the sponsorship of IIMAS — The International Institute for Mesopotamian Area Studies.

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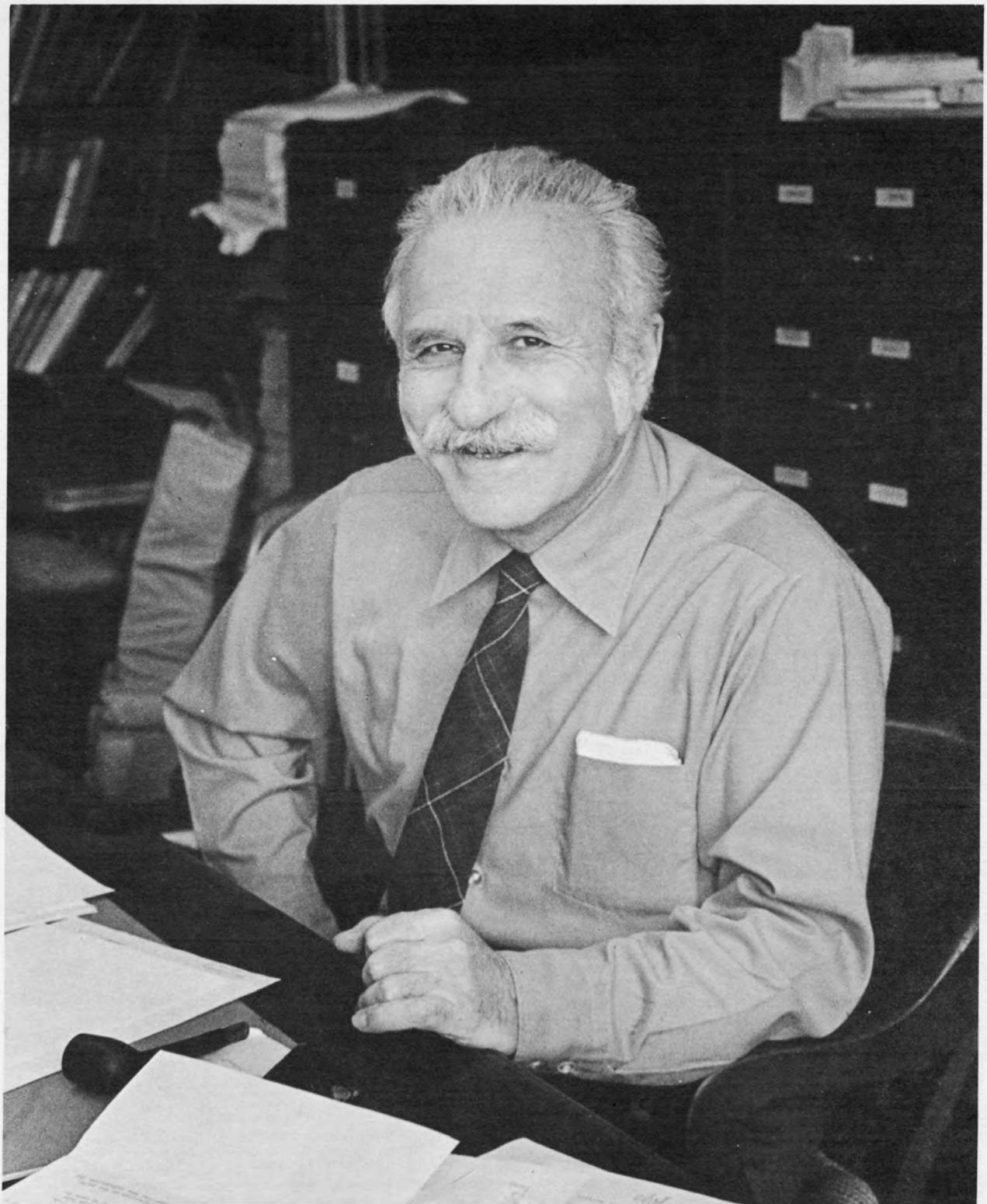
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**In Memory of I. J. Gelb
Who Showed Us the Way**

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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