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# A Middle Helladic apsidal house at Frantzi in the Spercheios valley

Stratigraphic evidence of the MH III – LH I period

EFI KARANTZALI

Ein Mittelhelladisches Apsidenhaus in Frantzi im Spercheiostal. Stratigraphische Zeugnisse der Stufen MH III – SH I

**ZUSAMMENFASSUNG** Rettungsgrabungen im Dorf Frantzi im südöstlichen Spercheiostals, südlich von Lamia, haben Reste einer wichtigen Siedlung der Stufen MH bis SH III B/III C Früh erbracht. Der südliche Teil eines Apsidenhauses war unter dem Fundament der zentralen SH III-zeitlichen mykenischen Anlage erhalten. Die stratigraphischen Befunde und stratifizierten Funde erlauben Rückschlüsse auf die materielle Kultur der Stufen MH III – SH I in Frantzi und mittelbar auch im weiteren Bereich des Spercheiostals. Obwohl graue, auf der Scheibe gedrehte Feinkeramik in erheblicher Menge gefunden wurde, bildet helle unbemalte Gebrauchskeramik, zumeist mit einem schwachen rot- oder orange-gelblichen Überzug, die für das Ende des Mittel- und den Beginn des Späthelladikums in Zentralgriechenland charakteristischste Fundgruppe. Allgemein ist das örtliche Keramikrepertoire von großem Konservatismus geprägt, obwohl einzelne Formen hellgrundiger Keramik sowie bestimmte importierte Waren auf die Wende zur Spätbronzezeit hinweisen.

**Schlagwörter** Spercheiostal; Apsidenhaushaus; stratifizierte Funde MH III – SH I; Herstellung und Entwicklung lokaler Keramik.

**ABSTRACT** Rescue excavations in the village of Frantzi in the south-eastern part of the Spercheios valley, south of Lamia, unearthed the remains of an important MH to LH III B–III C Early settlement. The southern part of an apsidal house was preserved under the foundation of the central LH III Mycenaean complex. The stratigraphic context permits us to draw some conclusions about MH III – LH I material culture at Frantzi and, by extension, the wider area of the Spercheios valley. Although a significant amount of fine grey wheel-made pottery was found, light unpainted domestic pottery, mainly reddish-yellowish or orange-yellowish washed ware, is probably the most representative for the end of MH / beginning of LH in Central Greece. Generally, the local ceramic assemblage is characterised by its conservatism, although the presence of individual forms of light-coloured pottery and specific imported wares indicates a shift towards the Late Bronze Age.

**Keywords** Spercheios valley; apsidal house; MH III – LH I stratified material; local ceramic production and evolution.

Μεσοελλαδική αψιδωτή οικία στο Φραντζή στην κοιλάδα του Σπερχειού. Στρωματογραφικά δεδομένα της ME III – ΥΕ I περιόδου

**ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΗ** Στη σωστική ανασκαφική έρευνα που διενεργήθηκε στην κοινότητα Φραντζή, νότια της Λαμίας, ήλθαν στο φως οικιστικά αρχιτεκτονικά κατάλοιπα που χρονολογούνται από τη Μεσοελλαδική (ΜΕ) έως και την Υστεροελλαδική (ΥΕ) III B2 – πρώιμη ΥΕ III Γ περίοδο. Το νότιο τμήμα οικίας της ME III – ΥΕ I περιόδου διασώθηκε αποσπασματικά, επειδή αποτέλεσε βάση θεμελίωσης του κεντρικού τμήματος του ΥΕ III συγκροτήματος. Από το μικρό στρωματογραφημένο σύνολο της αψιδωτής οικίας μπορούν με βάση την κεραμική να διατυπωθούν συμπεράσματα σχετικά με τα χαρακτηριστικά της ME III – ΥΕ I περιόδου στον οικισμό αυτό και κατ'έκταση στην ευρύτερη περιοχή της κοιλάδας του Σπερχειού. Αν και η τεφρή λεπτότεχνη κεραμική αντιπροσωπεύεται από ψηλά ποσοστά, εντούτοις η ανοιχτόχρωμη άβαφη οικιακή (ερυθροκίτρινη ή πορτοκαλοκίτρινη) είναι η πιο αντιπροσωπευτική κατηγορία στο τέλος της ME – αρχές της ΥΕ περιόδου στον κεντροελλαδικό χώρο. Σε γενικές γραμμές, η τοπική κεραμική παραγωγή χαρακτηρίζεται από συντηρητισμό, ενώ ταυτόχρονα, τόσο η παρουσία της ανοιχτόχρωμης κεραμικής, όσο και ορισμένων ξεχωριστών σχημάτων, καθώς επίσης και των επίσηκων σκευών, δείχνουν μια στροφή προς την Υστερη Εποχή του Χαλκού.

**Λέξεις-κλειδιά** Κοιλάδα Σπερχειού. Αψιδωτή οικία. ME III – ΥΕ I στρωματογραφημένο σύνολο. Τοπική κεραμική παραγωγή και εξέλιξη.

During rescue excavations that lasted from 2005 to 2008, an important prehistoric settlement was unearthed in the village of Frantzi, in the south-eastern part of the Spercheios valley, south of Lamia (*fig. 1*). Habitation on Kotronakia hill (*fig. 2*) dates back to the Middle Bronze Age. The last Mycenaean phase (LH III B–III C Early) at Frantzi is well documented at the Doka plot, while the early Mycenaean period (LH II B–III A2 Early) is represented by some architectural remains preserved beneath the last Mycenaean phase, as well as by some stratified pottery groups<sup>1</sup>. On the other hand, occupation of the site during the beginning of the LH period (LH I, LH II A) is attested only by ceramic typological correlations of the characteristic pottery found in the same stratified horizon beneath the LH II–III A and LH III B Early / III C Mycenaean phases.

The aim of this article is to discuss local ceramic material at Frantzi in the transitional period from MH to the LH period, based on evidence from a restricted stratified context. Given the scarce settlement evidence between the MH III and LH II–III A periods in Central Greece, the local ceramic development at Frantzi may be considered indicative of the development of material culture from the MH to the early Mycenaean period in the area of the Spercheios valley. The following analysis of this context will demonstrate the pattern of local production and consumption of pottery at Frantzi. Our investigation focused on the differentiation of local pottery varieties, which were defined macroscopically according to characteristics of fabric and style. In order to present this pattern, a ›chronological scheme‹ was formulated, based on the local pottery sequence at Frantzi and employing both stratigraphic and typological criteria. It is difficult to assign any close correspondence with sequences proposed by other scholars<sup>2</sup> to the material of the local transitional phase at Frantzi. As has recently been suggested for the transition from the Middle to the Late Bronze Age<sup>3</sup>, the material evidence from Aegean sites suggests that each pottery production and distribution area followed its own path, resulting in considerable regional differences, or strong ceramic regionalism. The material culture of the period under discussion at Frantzi is characterised by a marked homogeneity of the MH pottery tradition (plain burnished ware in many colours, a limited range of shapes, and few motifs). At the same time, there were significant innovations, mainly regarding the variety of different wares and a preference for light-coloured surfaces, rather than any typological development of shapes. Although imported vases are negligible in number, they nevertheless indicate new tendencies. Pottery development, on which chronological periods are based, is subject to a continuous process of change at the local workshop of Frantzi.

## THE EXCAVATION AND ARCHITECTURE

Excavation at the Doka plot revealed the southern part of a late MH house, its fragmented condition due to Mycenaean building activity. The central part of the LH III complex was erected over the west part of the house (*fig. 3*; *fig. 4*). This led to the partial destruction of the house's west partition wall during further LH III activity in the area. Moreover, the

Special thanks are due to the Institute for Aegean Prehistory (INSTAP) and the Psycha Foundation in Athens for their generous grants, which assisted the study of all the material from Frantzi considerably.

### Abbreviations:

diam. . . . . diameter  
in-out . . . . . both inside and outside  
LH . . . . . Late Helladic  
LM . . . . . Late Minoan

MH . . . . . Middle Helladic  
MM . . . . . Middle Minoan

<sup>1</sup> Καράντζαλη 2009, 1213 f.; Καράντζαλη 2012, 999–1014; Karantzali 2013, 139–153; Καράντζαλη, forthcoming.

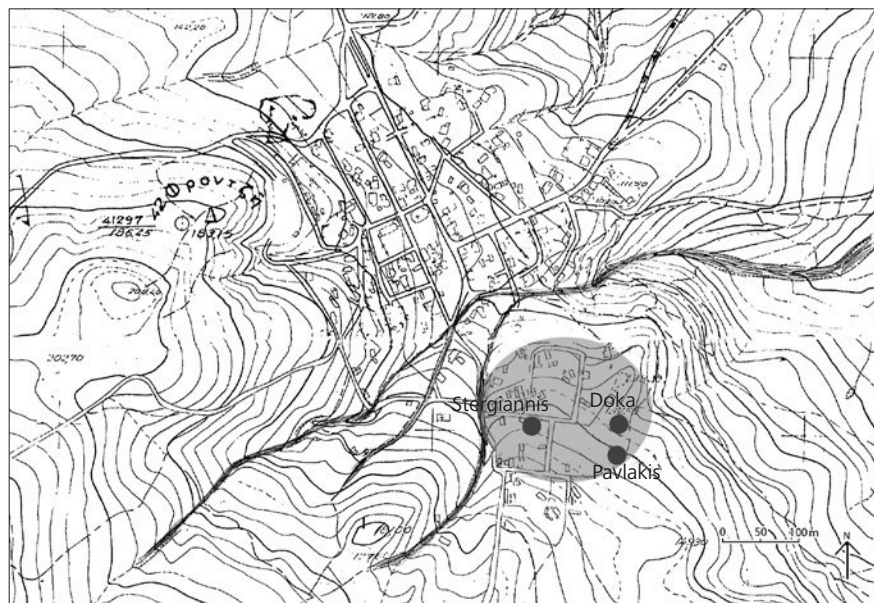
<sup>2</sup> Dietz 1991, 25–26. 70. 92; Dietz 1980, 123–140; Zerner 2008, 182. 185 f.

<sup>3</sup> Mathioudaki 2014, 15 f.

Fig. 1 Map of the eastern part of Spercheios valley, where Frantzi is located south of Lamia



Fig. 2 Plan of the village of Frantzi, Kotronakia hill indicated by grey shading, excavated plots by grey dots



foundation of a wall of the LH II–III A1 architectural phase, which was laid exactly on the northern part of the western partition wall, disturbed the north-western part of the house (fig. 3; fig. 4). Despite the density of the overlying architectural remains, it is quite clear that the building's south wall followed a curve to the north-west, forming an apse<sup>4</sup>. We can thus assume that the west partition wall (preserved length 1.70 m, width 0.56 m) of the house constituted the partition between the apse and the main room<sup>5</sup>.

The apsidal house, oriented west-east, also comprised a central room (5.17 m long) and an east room (1.90 m long), which was partially investigated. These rooms were accessed via an opening (1.20 m wide) in the central partition wall, which consisted of rough stones (length 3 m, width 0.52 m; foundation depth -2.46 m). The south wall of the house was cleared and measured (7.55 m long, 0.50 m wide, 0.60 m high in central part, 0.44 m high in west part, depth of upper surface 2.03 m / 2.13 m to 2.22 m / 2.28 m, foundation line at -2.63 to -2.70 m / -2.46 to -2.66 m). The state of the house's south wall indicates destruction by

<sup>4</sup> Depth measurements were made from the fixed point of the excavation. The last visible stone of the uppermost layer of the south wall at its western end, whose orientation diverges from that of the wall and indicates the beginning curvature of an apse, was measured

at a depth of -2.37 m, just below the architectural remains of the LH III complex.

<sup>5</sup> The soil in the area of the apse was located at -3.12 m to the north and -2.75 m to the south.



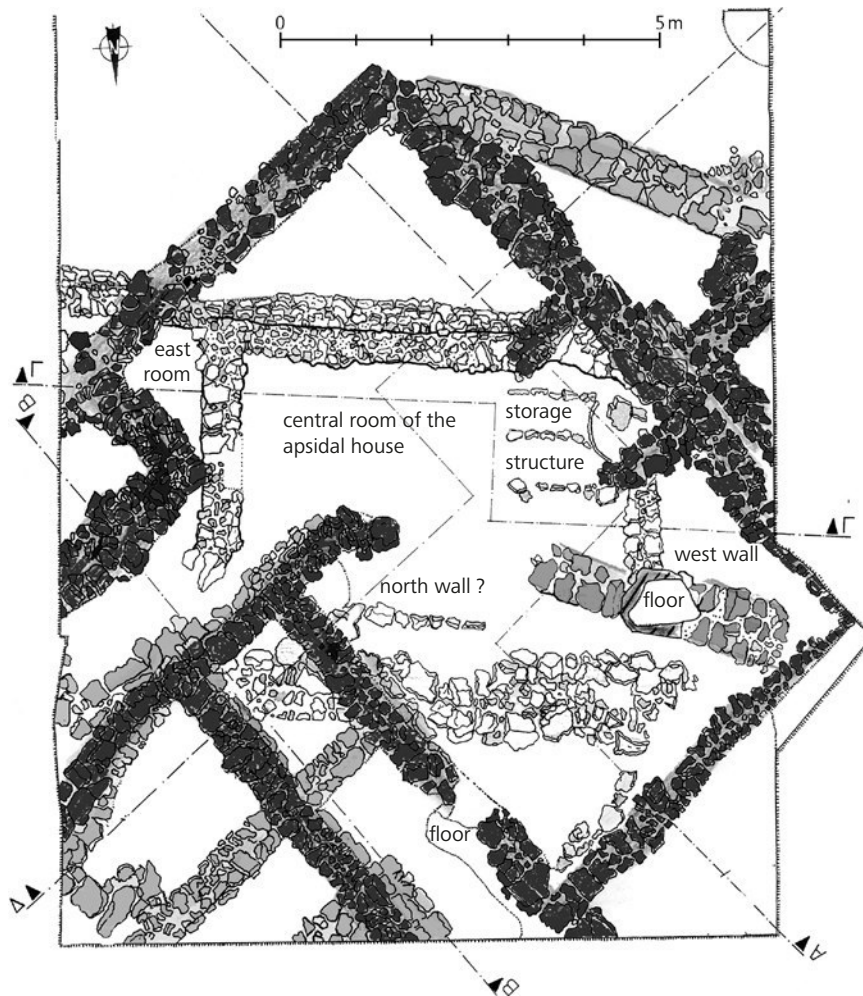


Fig. 3 Architectural remains at Doka plot. LH III A-B complex indicated in dark grey, LH II B-III A1 architectural remains in light grey, MH III - LH I apsidal house in white (scale 1 : 100)

strong seismic activity. It had a marked northward inclination, while the eastern section, east of the central partition wall, was fractured vertically, slipping to the south within the foundation trench while tilting north (*fig. 5*)<sup>6</sup>. The south wall's foundation course was built of rough large and medium-sized stones, and the four upper courses were made of medium and small-sized stones. We estimate that the stone foundation of the house's exterior walls is about 0.60 m high, based on the evidence provided by the south wall, the upper part of which retained traces of a mud brick superstructure. The superstructure was found scattered within the house (*fig. 6*), along with evidence of strong burning and numerous charcoal fragments from the wooden wall frames<sup>7</sup>. The building's roof, which was probably pitched, was found collapsed towards the north. The charred traces of one of the vertical beams (ca. 1.50 m long), with two small connecting beams (ca. 1 m long), fastened together in triangular form, were discovered fallen (depth -2.90 m) in the south part of the house (*fig. 7*). This type of roof construction meant that the roof's weight was distributed to the house walls<sup>8</sup>. These roofs were usually made of wooden frame brackets, beams, reed lattice, and pisé for waterproofing.

<sup>6</sup> The depth of the foundation line near the southern face of the wall was -2.70 m towards the west, and -2.63 m in the centre. The depth of the foundation line near the northern face of the wall was -2.46 m towards the east and -2.66 m to the west.

<sup>7</sup> The mud brick layer (destruction deposit, ca. 0.25 m to 0.40 m thick from south to north) was found with

a south-north inclination (beginning of the layer: -2.59 m / -2.67 m to -2.74 m / -2.86 m; end of the layer: -2.82 m / -2.83 m to -2.88 / -2.90 m). In the area of the apse, the mud brick destruction layer was found from -2.40 / -2.50 m to -2.67 m, and with an inclination of ca. 0.14 m east-west. Cf. Κόνσολα 1981, 112 f.

<sup>8</sup> Walsh - McDonald 1992, 457; Blegen 1921, 77.



Fig. 4 General view of the excavation at Doka plot with remains of the apsidal house in the centre

The north part of the house was not founded on solid ground like the south section, but on an earlier MH terrace. This resulted in its complete collapse and the subsequent levelling of the debris to create a new terrace for the foundation of the Early Mycenaean phase. At the same time, some of the building material was probably reused for construction in the Mycenaean phase. The discovery of a single row of stones in the northern part of the area probably indicates the location of the building's northern wall (*fig. 7*). This is corroborated by the discovery of charred traces of the vertical beam's northern end near the wall<sup>9</sup>. The proposed schematic reconstruction (*fig. 8*) is based on excavated evidence and plans of approximately contemporary apsidal buildings of similar dimensions excavated at Palaiochoria Lygarias in the north-eastern part of the Spercheios valley<sup>10</sup>. Construction techniques for apsidal buildings in EH II continued during EH III and were common in the MH period. The apsidal house type, together with the rectangular type, continued sporadically until LH III<sup>11</sup>.

A square storage structure (1.17 m × 1.17 m) with two oblong parts (each having a width of 0.55–0.56 m) came to light inside the main room next to the apse's partition wall (*figs. 6–8*). Only the stone base of this structure remains. Its upper part was made of mud brick, and fragments were found scattered inside and outside, together with marked traces of burning and charcoal residue<sup>12</sup>. There was no clear indication of the roofing method or materials. Examples of similar structures, sometimes simple and sometimes multiple, used for storing and drying cereals, have been found in Middle Bronze Age levels at Argissa in Thessaly<sup>13</sup>.

<sup>9</sup> The scant remains of the northern wall of the house were found at a depth of -2.89 m and its foundation line at the depth of -3.05 m, while the charred remains of the vertical beam were found at a depth of -2.90 m below the walls of the LH III complex.

<sup>10</sup> The apsidal houses at Lygaria are ca. 12 m × 5 m; cf. Καράντζαλη 2008, 601. The apsidal houses at Nichoria are ca. 10 m × 6 m, and at Lerna ca. 12 m × 15 m. The apsidal house at Korakou is ca. 11 m × 4 m; cf. Blegen 1921, 76 f. fig. 110.

<sup>11</sup> Κόνσολα 1981, 87, 89, 106–109, 112, 149–151; Caskey 1954, 149–151; Treuil et al. 1989, 270; Αραχωβίτη 2004, 257–259; Αγνωσιώτης – Αδρύμη-Σισμάνη 2009, 137–147.

<sup>12</sup> The structure was found at a depth of ca. -2.54 m. Virgin soil was found at a depth of -2.82 m to the east of the house, at -2.75 m (south part) to -3.12 m (north part) around the apse, and at -3.05 m to the north of the house.

<sup>13</sup> Hanschmann 1981, pls. A–G.





Fig. 5 The south face of the south wall of the apsidal house from the SW



Fig. 6 The mud-brick superstructure dispersed inside the apsidal house



Fig. 7 The central room of the apsidal house with storage feature and traces of fallen beams

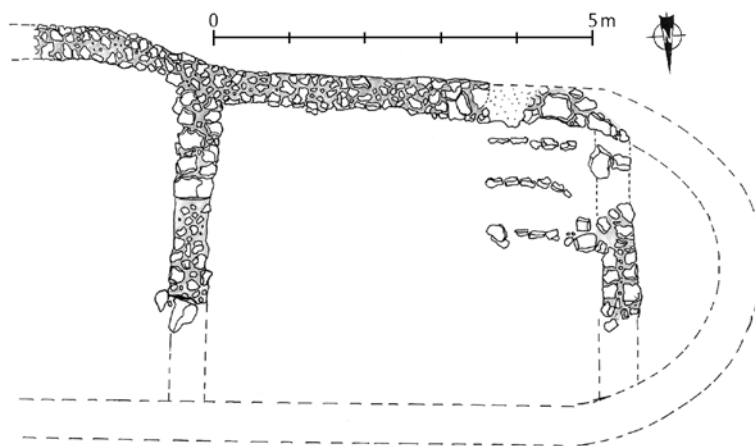


Fig. 8 Proposed schematic reconstruction of the apsidal house (scale 1 : 100)

and inside the apsidal houses at other Thessalian sites<sup>14</sup>. Grain was probably dried on the upper surface of the construction's covering (on stone slabs, clay tiles or some wooden structure). The apsidal house at Frantzi was a plain free-standing construction, utilized for basic economic activities<sup>15</sup>.

## THE STRATIGRAPHY AND POTTERY SEQUENCE

The pottery groups discussed below came from the limited excavated area of the house (dimensions: 7 m × 2 m, thickness of deposits ca. 60 cm). The entire well-preserved material is presented in the appended catalogue, excluding very worn, unidentifiable ceramics. Some shapes are identified only in one piece, while others are represented by a limited number of sherds. Descriptions of fabrics (based on macroscopic analysis), wares and shapes, dimensions and further references are given in the catalogue<sup>16</sup>.

The house was built on a terrace that contained earlier MH structures<sup>17</sup>, which had deteriorated after their destruction. The space was cleared, partly flattened to the south and levelled towards the north for the construction of the house<sup>18</sup>. Levelling was necessary for the foundation of the house's north wall. Especially in the terrace's northern section, due to the northward slope of the bedrock, the backfill was deep – mainly near the single row of stones (*fig. 7*) that was interpreted as the remains of the building's north wall – and thus contained more pottery than the southern section<sup>19</sup>.

<sup>14</sup> Αραχωβίτη 2004, 257–259; Αγνουσιώτης – Αδρύμη-Σισμάνη 2009, 139.

<sup>15</sup> Nordquist 1987, 87, 90.

<sup>16</sup> Thanks are due to Prof. J. Maran and to Dr S. Vitale for useful comments on some pottery groups from the house.

<sup>17</sup> Three EH sherds of a local 'Urfirnis' ware were identified among the pottery of the backfill under the demolished north wall of the house, exactly on the bedrock. One is a body sherd of a pithoid jar with plastic rope decoration, coated with a loose black paint, irregularly applied, another is a small part of a double handle, also coated with a black loose paint, and the third is a neck of a collared jar similarly coated.

<sup>18</sup> In pits, investigated within a walking distance from the Doka plot, a large quantity of domestic material was found, dumped there after the clearing activities in the MH houses of the nearby area.

<sup>19</sup> Pottery groups 71, 72, 73 were collected from the northern part of the house, near the remains of the northern wall, under its foundation line (–3.05 m to –3.36 m), where there was a large pit, which was filled up at the time of house's construction. Pottery groups 58, 36 were found in the foundation trench of the south wall and groups 288, 292 on the bedrock in the apse area.

### Pottery groups from the lower stratigraphic horizon (levelling of the space for the foundation of the apsidal house)

Almost all the pottery from this horizon is of local production and belongs mainly to local unpainted or plain wares, except for three decorated sherds of matt-painted style. The proportions of fine grey and dark coarse household wares are 30 % and 37 % respectively. Other wares, such as semi-coarse dark ware at 14 %, semi-coarse reddish-yellowish or brown-yellowish at 11 % and coarse matt-painted pottery at 8 %, appear in low percentages.

Local grey ware is generally characterised by a fine hard or soft fabric, varying in colour from light grey to dark grey, sometimes containing few grits. The surface of the pots, if not worn, is burnished. The sherds are small, and shapes not easily identifiable. A few rim sherds originate from wide-mouthed bowls of shoulder-handled type (cat. 14–16; *fig. 11*) while the majority stem from various-sized goblets / pedestalled bowls with downwards lip (teardrop type, cat. 1. 2. 3. 9. 11; *fig. 11*), even though no goblet foot was identified in this material. The table and serving pottery resembles some of the shapes at Pefkakia (phase 6 middle / late)<sup>20</sup>, Orchomenos<sup>21</sup> and Kiapha Thiti<sup>22</sup>.

Local dark ware, which is quite common in early MH contexts at Frantzi, is represented in this horizon of the house only by a limited number of sherds. The fabric is semi-coarse dark brown / reddish to black, and pots have a black, smoothed or slightly burnished surface<sup>23</sup>. This ware comprises hand-made and wheel-made shapes of domestic / serving pottery, such as wide-mouthed bowls of shoulder-handled and collared jars (cat. 18–20; *fig. 12*). A sherd from a cup, or more likely a kantharos (cat. 17; *fig. 12*), belongs to a shape identified in different wares at Pefkakia from phases 4 and 5 onwards, at Argissa phase 7, and at MH III Nichoria<sup>24</sup>.

Unpainted or plain reddish-yellowish or brown-yellowish local ware is represented by a few sherds from open jars of domestic / serving pottery (cat. 21. 22; *fig. 13*) and from closed jars of storage / transport pottery (cat. 23. 24; *fig. 13*). This light unpainted ware, typical of the pottery of the late MH period<sup>25</sup>, is abundantly represented in the stratigraphic horizons of the use and destruction / disuse of the apsidal house. Comparisons can be made with the pottery from the corresponding layer at Neo Monastiri in northern Fthiotis<sup>26</sup>.

Dark local coarse household pottery comprises rim and base sherds from cooking pots and storage jars (cat. 25–32; *fig. 14*). The fabric is dark reddish / brown to dark brown and the surface is smoothed or slightly burnished<sup>27</sup>. Generally, coarse hand-made domestic pottery evolved but slowly, and so some shapes, such as the wide-mouthed vases / collared jars bearing horn lugs, exist in the repertory of MH ceramics from the early to the later phases of the period.

The well-known matt-painted >Δ1β< pottery of southern Thessaly and the Spercheios valley is represented by three sherds (cat. 33–35; *fig. 15*) of coarse golden mica fabric, decorated in the local variant of the matt-painted style<sup>28</sup>. The sherds stem from closed vases,

<sup>20</sup> Maran 1992a, pls. 103, 10. 11. 13. 14; 112, 3; 120, 5; 94, 11; 83, 11; Pefkakia 5 is dated to MH I Late / MH II Early; Pefkakia 6 early is dated to MH II Middle; Pefkakia 6 middle and 6 late are dated to MH Late; Pefkakia 6 final and 7 are dated to MH II – final MH III.

<sup>21</sup> Sarri 2010a, 220. 223 (middle yellow phase) pls. 15. 16.

<sup>22</sup> Maran 1992b, pls. 6, 202. 203; 10, 365; 26, 816 (MH III).

<sup>23</sup> The fabric maybe correspond to the class XA2 of the Orchomenos classification: Σαqqή 2012, 145 pl. 1.

<sup>24</sup> Maran 1992a, pl. 41, 16; Beil. 8, 18; 11, 5; Hanschmann 1981, pl. 116, 23; Howell 1992, fig. 3-77 P2833.

<sup>25</sup> Sackett et al. 1966, 95 f.

<sup>26</sup> Φρούσου 2010, 593.

<sup>27</sup> Corresponding category XA3 at MH Orchomenos: Σαqqή 2012, 145 pl. 1 XA3.

<sup>28</sup> Wace – Thompson 1912, 180–185; Buck 1964, 231. 248 f. pl. 41, C2. C9; Maran 1992a, 148. 156. 286. 209 (phases 4–7).



large storage jars or amphorae, and from a wide-mouthed jar / bowl. A simple linear decoration consisting of groups of black horizontal and diagonal irregular bands was applied on a matt, loose reddish-orange slip. The simplified patterns of >Δ1β< design, executed rather carelessly, place these sherds within the later variant (MH III) of this category<sup>29</sup>.

### Pottery groups from the middle stratigraphic horizon of the occupation of the apsidal house (use deposit)

The occupation or use horizon of the apsidal house was determined by a few small ceramic groups coming mainly from the floor of the undisturbed southern part of the house and the eastern section of the apse area (layer thickness ca. 15 cm)<sup>30</sup>. The majority of the pottery is unpainted or plain and of local production. Besides, some vases of painted pottery (monochrome and in matt-painted style) are probably imported. Local dark coarse household ware predominates (34 %), while other wares are represented by lower percentages (grey ware 24 %, reddish-yellowish or orange-yellowish 18 %, pale brown-yellowish 9 %, fine matt-painted 9 %, others 6 %).

The local grey ware from this horizon is identical, both in fabric and surface treatment, to the corresponding ware from the lower stratigraphic horizon described previously. The sherds are small and worn, originating from carinated goblets / pedestalled bowls and kantharoi / cups (cat. 36–40; *fig. 16*) resembling the repertory of MH shapes of Pefkakia (mainly phase 6 middle / late)<sup>31</sup> and Amouri in the Spercheios valley<sup>32</sup>. Only one small piece of a grooved goblet's stem (cat. 39; *fig. 16*) stands out among this material, though it is not that unexpected, since ring-stemmed goblets of grey Minyan and plain burnished wares are also present in contexts of the late MH and MH III – LH I periods<sup>33</sup>. Further comparisons for this ware are difficult to find, owing to its paucity and fragmentary condition.

Table drinking pottery (cups, bowls) predominates in the reddish-yellowish or orange-yellowish plain local ware. This pottery is characterised by a smoothed or burnished surface, sometimes having a loose reddish or orange-yellowish slip. The most characteristic shape is the cup. The cup sherd (cat. 41; *fig. 17*) which was identified among the material of this ware bears a high, centrally grooved handle, flat out-turned rim, slightly carinated to S-profile<sup>34</sup>. Two small relief rivets decorate the join between rim and handle. Relief rivets decorate vases in the Argolid from the end of MH III onwards, the result of an increasing preference for imitations of metal shapes<sup>35</sup>. Sherds of similar cups with flat, out-turned rims and one small relief rivet at the handle join were found in an MH III context at Nichoria<sup>36</sup>.

<sup>29</sup> Φρούσσου 2007, 230 f.; Φρούσσου 2010, 594.

<sup>30</sup> Pottery groups 66. 70. 74 were found on the floor of the central room, group 76 coming from the area of the storage construction, groups 78. 284 from the south-west corner of the east room of the house, groups 102. 103. 104 from the apse area near the western partition wall. Pottery groups 265. 267 were collected from the stratigraphic section under the foundation line of the LH II B–III A1 architectural remains at the north-eastern part of the house, as well as group 131.

<sup>31</sup> Maran 1992a, pl. 120, 5. 11. 16.

<sup>32</sup> Παπακωνσταντίνου – Σακκάς 2010, 584 fig. 2.

<sup>33</sup> Graziadio 1988, 364 nos. 124. 125; Dietz 1991, 254; cf. Αδρύμη-Σισμάνη 2010, 304 fig. 5. Such goblets are rare in LH I levels at Korakou; cf. Davis 1979, 255.

<sup>34</sup> The cup with vertical high-swung handle is attested in the advanced and late phase of MH and continues into LH I. Cf. Buck 1964, 244 A14 pl. 39; Nordquist 1987, 53 fig. 60; Dietz 1980, 43. 50 f. figs. 55. 57, 40; Dietz 1991, 253. The shape is represented at Pefkakia from phase 6 middle on; Maran 1992a, Beil. 16. 17.

<sup>35</sup> Rutter 1989, 11 fig. 3, 2; Dietz 1991, 253; Αδρύμη-Σισμάνη 2010, 304.

<sup>36</sup> Howell 1992, fig. 3-73 P2782. P2783; 66 n. 40. Variations of this shape, and also of its two-handled version (kantharos cup) are found in matt-painted and grey pottery in Grave Circle B at Mycenae (Μυλωνάς 1973, 355 f. 364. 366 pls. 92 b; 232 H 93; 234 A 7 [matt-painted]; 43 b; 52 d; 133 z–h [grey ware]) and in the East Cemetery at Asine (Dietz 1980, 81 fig. 44, 34). The one-handled cup, with out-turned rim,

Two other rim sherds originate from cups: one from a cup with S-profile and flat, out-turned rim (cat. 42; *fig. 17*), which has some MH III and LH parallels<sup>37</sup>, and another from a cup (cat. 43; *fig. 17*) with a small everted rim<sup>38</sup>. A body sherd from a storage / transport jar / amphora has a horizontal handle with triangular section (cat. 46; *fig. 17*). The reddish-yellowish or orange-yellowish local plain pottery was identified in a context dated to the late MH phase at Amouri in the Spercheios valley<sup>39</sup> and in the layer dated to LH I at Neo Monastiri in northern Fthiotis<sup>40</sup>. This class and its local varieties are also common in Thessalian contexts from the final stages of the MH II to the MM III – LH I<sup>41</sup>.

Pale brown-yellowish plain local pottery is represented by a few pieces in the occupation / use horizon of the apsidal house. These include a body sherd of serving pottery and two sherds of serving / transport vases, of which a rim sherd originates from a closed jar (stamnos; cat. 49; *fig. 17*). Corresponding pottery was identified among the material of the layer dated to LH I at Neo Monastiri in northern Fthiotis and elsewhere<sup>42</sup>. The surface treatment of this pottery, light-coloured wash and burnishing, resembles the yellow Minyan pottery of southern Greece and may be considered a variation of this class in Central Greece. This class of pottery is difficult to distinguish from the plain ware of the early Mycenaean phase (LH II B–III A) of Frantzi settlement or even the decorated Mycenaean ware, if the sherd happens not to belong to a vessel part with decoration or to a developed early Mycenaean shape.

Local dark hand-made household ware comprises storage / transport vessels (cat. 50, 52; *fig. 18*) and cooking utensils (cat. 54; *fig. 18*). A wide-mouthed cooking pot with vertical, almost tubular, vertically pierced lugs (cat. 53; *fig. 18*) belongs to a shape which is present in the pottery repertoire from the early MH period onwards. A partially preserved biconcave neck from an amphora or large storage jar (cat. 50; *fig. 18*) belongs to a shape produced in different variations and techniques from the early phases of the MH until the end of the MH period.

Local and imported painted ware is represented by a negligible number of sherds. These display a washed or slipped burnished surface and decoration in red or black matt-painted style. A small sherd of a bowl with a black matt-painted horizontal band and probably a horizontal zigzag line (?) was identified among the pottery of this horizon (cat. 56; *fig. 19*). A body sherd from a large storage jar is decorated with a spiral (cat. 57; *fig. 19*), probably running, painted on a loose reddish-yellow matt slip. The style of the decoration is that of the local matt-painted pottery of the end of the Middle Bronze Age / beginning of LH of Central Greece<sup>43</sup>.

The most representative specimen of decorated matt-painted pottery is an imported, probably wheel-made vase, found in the soil of the room inside the apse. This is the upper part of a globular jar (probably with horizontal handles), possibly of ovoid type, with tall cylindrical out-turned neck and a thick out-turned rim (cat. 58 a; *fig. 19*)<sup>44</sup>. Black-painted

also has a variant with conical foot, produced usually in grey and yellow Minyan pottery (Γιαλούρης 1965, 26 no. 60 pl. 16 δ; Μυλωνάς 1975, 530 f. pl. 83 β [grey Minyan]). Similar to the cup cat. 41 (*fig. 17*) is the profile of a vase from Tsoungiza, which could be either a cup or a kantharos (cf. Rutter 1990, 438 *fig. 13*, 58 [pale burnished ware]). Sherds from cups with vertical high handles, of same section as the cup from Frantzi and of same ware, were identified at the MH III / LH I site of Raches / Moschoulouriou at Karditsa (Βαϊοπούλου 2012, 177 *fig. 2* third row left).

<sup>37</sup> Howell 1992, *fig. 3-71* P2754 (MH III); Dickinson 1992, *fig. 9-4* P3155 (LH I).

<sup>38</sup> Similar to the profile of LH I A Argive light ware cup (Dietz 1991, 21 *fig. 27*, 255) and to a LH cup profile

from Argissa Magoula (Hanschmann 1981, pl. 126, 10).

<sup>39</sup> Παπακωνσταντίνου – Σακκάς 2010, 587.

<sup>40</sup> Φρούσσου 2007, 235 f.; Φρούσσου 2010, 594 f.

<sup>41</sup> Maran 1992a, 107 f. (phase 6 and 7); Αδρύμη – Σισμάνη 2010, 304, 306; Βαϊοπούλου 2012, 177.

<sup>42</sup> Φρούσσου 2007, 240 f.; Δημακοπούλου – Κόνσολα 1975, 70–72.

<sup>43</sup> For the various versions of this motif during the transition to the LH period see Caskey 1955, 34 pl. 16 a; Μυλωνάς 1973, pl. 42; Rutter – Rutter 1976, 46 *ill. 15*, 676; Dietz 1991, *fig. 54* AF 9, 7; Davis 1979, 245 f. *fig. 7*, 91. NAA indicates a local ware (unpublished results).

<sup>44</sup> It was probably 24–25 cm tall. For hydria shape cf. Mountjoy 1981, *figs. 11*, 103; 22, 251, 252.

decoration was applied on a pale-yellowish lustrous slip. The decoration consists of inverse triple triangles around the neck, alternating with groups of vertical lines. A further sherd that probably stems from the other side of the same vessel (cat. 58 b; *fig. 19*) would suggest that the decoration continued, forming a vertical strip from the triangles down to the body of the vase, and probably to the point where it joined the handles. The same can be assumed for the system of vertical lines that may have framed the inverted triangle motif. The decorative pattern, a combination of triangles and vertical lines, has parallels within the Aeginetan mature style of the final MH II phase<sup>45</sup>. Large amounts of pottery were imported from Aegina and imitated on the mainland during this phase. Motifs of the Aeginetan repertory were imitated and reproduced in developed variations in many regions, including Central Greece, at the end of the MH period and the beginning of the LH<sup>46</sup>. This vase, whose decoration could be characterised as close to the Aeginetan decorated tradition, belongs to the specific range of a matt-painted class of Central Greece, which is influenced by Aeginetan pottery. The vase, which seems to be a later development of the MH forms, must have been imported to Frantzi, and was repaired in antiquity, as is indicated by the holes containing traces of cast lead<sup>47</sup>.

Finally, monochrome ware, probably imported, is attested by two sherds. Rim sherd cat. 59 (*fig. 19*) probably stems from a semi-globular cup, or a goblet, due to its diameter, a shape better represented in LH II associations<sup>48</sup>.

### Pottery groups from the upper stratigraphic horizon of the apsidal house (destruction / disuse deposit)

The upper stratigraphic horizon of the apsidal house was identified by material found in the destruction layer of reddish-orange-brown soil with traces of burnt wood and an approximate thickness of 40 cm in the western part and 20–30 cm in the central and eastern part of the house<sup>49</sup>. Some of the pottery from this horizon belongs to shapes and techniques of the LH I–II repertory, suggesting that this was not a closed destruction layer, but more likely a backfill created by the destruction layer itself and accumulation of later material while the house was disused, until just before the creation of the levelling foundation layer for the buildings of the Mycenaean phases.

<sup>45</sup> Siedentopf 1991, 46 f. pls. 41, 178; 43, 187. For the motif: cf. MH II example from Ayia Irini (Overbeck 1989, 10 f. pl. 78, 90; Caskey 1954, 15. 29 pl. 8 a. b); shoulder handle amphora of coarse light fabric from the Agora (Buck 1964, 298 type C8 motif 38); MH III – LH I example from Asine Group E (Nordquist 1987, 53 figs. 56, 57); example of late MH from Tsoungiza (Rutter 1990, 448 fig. 16, 38); part of a globular jar from Lerna (Zerner 1988, 1–10 fig. 14, 40); sherd from Neo Monastiri / northern Fthiotis (Φρούσου 2007, 244 fig. 22).

<sup>46</sup> Mountjoy 1981, 74–79. For the Aeginetan vessels as models for pottery production in distant areas see Maran 2007, 175. For the Aeginetan exchange network see Dickinson 2010, 17.

<sup>47</sup> It was probably imported from eastern Locris, where the presence of similar pottery has been identified at Mitrou (personal communication from Dr S. Vitale). The fabric of the vase includes tiny golden mica. Tiny golden mica is not unusual in LH III pottery at Frantzi. The chemical groups B and C, also containing pottery with tiny golden mica, have a certain similarity to the main group of ceramics from Kynos in Locris

(=group B) and to the group Locris-n (=group C), a small group of ceramics defined in a dataset from Kynos and neighbouring areas (Karantzali et al. 2009). It has been suggested that Thessalian workshops also created an equivalent for true Aeginetan vessels (Maran 2007, 174).

<sup>48</sup> The thin everted rim rather indicates a semi-globular cup (FS211–212; Mountjoy 1986, 15), but the diameter (ca. 17 cm) is big enough even for cups with pulled-out spout such as the MM III / LM I ones (Popham 1984, 155 fig. 141, 5) and for LM II cups with pulled-out spout (Popham 1984, 160. 162 pls. 147, 1, 2; 160, 1). Thus, it is probably a goblet of FS254 (Rutter – Rutter 1976, 54 ill. 17, 836). Cf. also later examples, either monochrome (LH II B–III A; Καράντζαλη 2009, 1216) or pattern-decorated, as e.g. LH II A–B examples with pendent rock-pattern (?) from Phocis and Thessaly (Mountjoy 1999, 748 f. fig. 288, 14. 15; 834 f. fig. 334, 40. 41).

<sup>49</sup> Almost all the pottery groups (34. 35. 40. 41. 61. 62) were collected from the central room and group 276 from the north-eastern part of the house.

The majority of the pottery from this horizon is unpainted or plain and of local production. Moreover, the painted and monochrome pottery also appears to be of local manufacture. Local plain reddish-yellowish or orange-yellowish ware predominates (36 %), while other wares are represented by lower percentages (grey ware 20 %, pale brown-yellowish 15 %, dark household 14 %, painted wares, decorated and monochrome, 15 %).

Table, drinking and serving pottery predominates among reddish-yellowish or orange-yellowish plain ware. There are bases of short-stemmed goblets and rims of goblets and cups (cat. 61–63. 65; *fig. 20*). A sherd from a shallow, two-handled cup or kantharos (cat. 64; *fig. 20*) belongs to a common MH shape, produced in various ceramic categories<sup>50</sup>. Sherds of wide-mouthed, short-necked open jars or kraters (cat. 66–69; *fig. 20*) are part of serving pottery<sup>51</sup>, while there are also some sherds from vases used for pouring (spouted jug) and transport purposes (cat. 71. 72; *fig. 20*).

Table, drinking and serving pottery was also produced in local light-coloured ware with a pale brown-yellowish washed and burnished surface. The shapes are usually goblets of various dimensions, large bowls, and wide-mouthed bowls<sup>52</sup> (cat. 73. 74. 77; *fig. 21*). Body sherds from closed vases for transport and pouring purposes were recorded as well. This class may be considered a precursor to the light-coloured plain LH III pottery, identified at Frantzi in high percentages in Mycenaean layers<sup>53</sup>. The rim of a FS263 plain goblet with a pale lustrous surface found in this layer (cat. 75; *fig. 21*) could be considered an intrusive example from the successive early Mycenaean horizon.

Local fine grey ware, either light-coloured or dark (cat. 78–80; *fig. 21*) is represented in this stratigraphic horizon mainly by small worn body sherds, which are possibly parts of the same vases. Among them, a stem of a small goblet, a flat everted rim of a large goblet, and a body sherd of a small collared jar (alabastron?) could be identified. Examples of small, closed vases in grey Minyan ware are mentioned in MH III and LH I contexts in the Argolid<sup>54</sup>. The production of some shapes of the LH II / III repertory in fine grey ware is also supported by examples in Mycenaean levels from Frantzi and Lygaria<sup>55</sup>.

Local dark household pottery comprises fragments of storage (pithoi, pithoid vases; cat. 81. 83; *fig. 22*) and cooking pots. A large hand-made storage jar (cat. 82; *fig. 22*) has cylindrical plastic knobs, a MH feature common in MH / LH coarse storage and cooking ware that is associated with functional purposes<sup>56</sup>.

Local painted pottery is represented in this stratigraphic horizon by a negligible number of sherds from drinking and serving pottery. A rim from a flat-rimmed and curvilinear profiled bowl or krater (cat. 85; *fig. 23*) is the only example of a local ›white-slipped‹ sub-category of the matt-painted ware represented in this horizon. The sherd bears a dark decoration, consisting of triangles filled with oblique wavy lines or oblique folds. This shape produced in white-slipped ware is not uncommon in MH and early LH sequences<sup>57</sup>. Ex-

<sup>50</sup> The shape is dated from the final phase of MH and continues into the beginning of LH (LH I Early), cf. Maran 1992a, Beil. 16, 16; Dietz 1991, 253. Cf. also examples in the graves of Circle B at Mycenae: orange/reddish category from Tomb Γ (Μυλωνάς 1973, 66 pl. 52 b; Dietz 1991, 153. 214 fig. 67 GA-I); light colour category from tomb I (Μυλωνάς 1973, 188 pl. 98 c); late matt-painted ware from Tombs Z and H (Μυλωνάς 1973, 233 pls. 90 a; 92 c; Dietz 1991, fig. 47 AA-I; Graziadio 1988, 364; Rutter 1990, 437 fig. 13, 149). A variation of this shape in fine grey Minyan was also identified in phase 7 at Pefkakia (Maran 1992a, Beil. 20, 15).

<sup>51</sup> Dietz 1980, 53 fig. 59, 47.

<sup>52</sup> Rutter 1990, 429 f. figs. 9. 10.

<sup>53</sup> Καράντζαλη 2009, 1216; Karantzali 2013, 149; Καράντζαλη, forthcoming.

<sup>54</sup> Dietz 1991, 253–256. Fine grey ware is found in LH I layers at Mitrou in east Locris (personal communication, A. Van de Moortel and S. Vitale).

<sup>55</sup> Καράντζαλη 2009, 1216; Karantzali 2013, 149.

<sup>56</sup> Goldman 1931, 176 fig. 244.

<sup>57</sup> Buck 1964, 284; Δημακοπούλου – Κόνσολα 1975, 68; Dietz 1980, 117 f. 121. Pottery with creamy white slip appears in late MH deposits at Lerna (Zerner 1986, 68).



amples of similar hemispherical bowls / kraters characterised the repertoire of polychrome matt-painted ware at Korakou and the Early Mycenaean pottery in western Greece<sup>58</sup>. The motif of wavy lines / folds executed in various compositions belongs to the repertoire of designs on late matt-painted and polychrome matt-painted pottery<sup>59</sup>. As evidenced by the local ceramic sequence at Frantzi, this pottery with a loose or thick whitish slip, which is a variant of the matt-painted style of the end of the MH period / beginning of the LH, was reproduced in developed techniques during the LH II–III A1 phase, becoming more common in the LH III A–B periods<sup>60</sup>. A single goblet foot (cat. 86; *fig. 23*) is a representative example of decorated LH I ware.

Local monochrome or dark-painted ware is represented by shapes of table, drinking and serving / transport pottery<sup>61</sup>. A conical base of an open vase (cat. 87; *fig. 23*) and the stem of a large goblet (cat. 88; *fig. 23*) show traces of dark red or brown paint. Although the sherds are too small and worn for further comparisons, they do bear similarities in surface treatment to the dark-coated open shapes (goblets, kraters) from the end of the MH period at Korakou<sup>62</sup>. The neck of a closed vase (stamnos / amphora; cat. 90; *fig. 23*) and a rim of wide-mouthed (perhaps spouted) vase or krater with vertical handles (cat. 89; *fig. 23*) are recorded among serving / transport pottery of this horizon, also bearing affinities with monochrome (red / black) pottery from the end of MH period<sup>63</sup>.

### A stratified pottery group, dated to MH III – LH I period, under the foundation of the LH II B–III A1 architectural phase

A small stratified pottery group, found under the foundation line of the LH II B–III A1 architectural phase at the Doka plot, consists of some sherds belonging to the local wares of light-coloured pale brown-yellowish (cat. 93; *fig. 24*) or orange-yellowish fabric (cat. 92; *fig. 24*) and of grey Minyan ware (a small goblet's sherd). Among them, a very small piece, probably of LH I–II lustrous pattern-decorated pottery (cat. 96; *fig. 24*) could be identified, as well as a sherd of Minoanizing ware. It is a kantharos sherd<sup>64</sup> with light-on-dark decoration, white painted motifs on a matt black paint (cat. 95; *fig. 24*). Despite the sherd's small size, the zonal arrangement of the decoration, common in MM III and LM I, is distinctive<sup>65</sup>. There are three horizontal bands on the external surface and part of a circle reminiscent of the repeated circles designs of a MM post-Kamare motif<sup>66</sup>. In addition, the row of white solid circles, or repeated filled circles, on the handle's exterior is also a MM motif<sup>67</sup>. The internal surface was left in the clay's natural colour (reserved), except for a broad, black

<sup>58</sup> Davis 1979, 243 *fig. 5*; Dietz – Stavropoulou Gatsi 2010, 124 f. *fig. 1, 21*.

<sup>59</sup> Maran 1992a, pl. 126, 6; Davis 1979, 243 *fig. 5, 52*.

<sup>60</sup> Καράντζαλη 2009, 1216; Karantzali 2013, 143.

<sup>61</sup> Monochrome ware was represented by 11 % of the total of sherds from the layer.

<sup>62</sup> Blegen 1921, 43 f.; Davis 1979, 241; cf. also Δημακοπούλου – Κόνσολα 1975, 72 f.

<sup>63</sup> Blegen 1921, 43 f.; Davis 1979, 241. The fabric of the wide-mouthed jar / krater cat. 89 (*fig. 23*) includes gold mica, but this is no serious evidence for considering it an imported piece.

<sup>64</sup> The profile of the sherd looks similar to that of the semi-globular tea-cup form found on Crete from MM II onwards (Walberg 1992, 54. 74 f. shapes 106. 107). However, the rim diameter of the vase (23.8 cm) and the raised height handle indicate a larger vase,

corresponding to the shape of the MH kantharos (Dietz 1991, 149–152 *fig. 47 AA6. AA7* [Argive light ware]; cf. also Δημακοπούλου – Κόνσολα 1975, pl. 31 στ). There are similarities with later examples (post-Kamare / phase 4) of the classic Kamare deep bowls with opposite vertical handles (Walberg 1992, shape 123). Cf also rim profile and raised handles of a distant parallel from MM III Kommos (Betancourt 1990, 98 *fig. 24, 471*).

<sup>65</sup> The zonal decoration is often found on post-Kamare / phase 4 vases, and becomes more common in LM I than in MM III (Walberg 1992, 100).

<sup>66</sup> Walberg 1992, 82. 95 motif 17, 3; Betancourt 1990, 185 *figs. 27, 599; 67, 1910*.

<sup>67</sup> Betancourt 1990, 186 *figs. 38, 790* (on the handle); 37, 763; 67, 1970. 1972.

band around the rim, decorated with a white-painted row of linked lozenges. This design is reminiscent of corresponding motifs on MH matt-painted ware<sup>68</sup>. The vase's fabric is different from others at Frantzi, and Neutron Activation Analysis points to a common Minoan source, or (statistically less probable) a Boeotian origin<sup>69</sup>. The shape indicates the MH III – LH I kantharos type, while the decorative elements appear to have been adopted both from the MM and MH repertory<sup>70</sup>.

## STONE AND CLAY FINDS

The number of small finds stratified on the floor of the house was limited. They include a conical clay spindle-whorl of a common type with simple incised decoration (Mus. Lamia, inv. 13115; *fig. 9 a*), chipped stone artefacts, querns and a cylindrical pestle made of dark green and greenish-grey local stone. The chipped stone artefacts were made of local dark red and dark chocolate flint. These artefacts were mostly made by an indirect percussion process, although production of flakes by direct percussion is also documented (Mus. Lamia, inv. 13367; *fig. 9 b*), and the majority were not retouched. Some flakes derive from the core-shaping process (Mus. Lamia, inv. 13368, a secondary product; *fig. 9 c*); a few are waste by-products (Mus. Lamia, inv. 13373 a; 13375; partly decorticated; *fig. 9 d. e*). There are also platform-rejuvenation flakes (Mus. Lamia, inv. 13371 a. b; *fig. 9 f. g*). One flake (Mus. Lamia, inv. 13372; *fig. 9 h*) from core shaping or platform creation shows signs of retouching on two sides (sub-parallel direct and inverse). Two percussion blades (a proximal and a mesial part) of triangular section and a secondary flake bear peripheral use retouch or use scars (Mus. Lamia, inv. 13366. 13374. 13368; *fig. 9 j. i. c*). The three querns, oval and ellipsoidal in shape, are similar in type, with the upper surface worn smooth or convex from use (Mus. Lamia inv. 13629. 13619. 13624; *fig. 10 a–c*). The single cylindrical pestle is broader at the bottom than towards the top; items of this type were usually used for the preparation of grain.

## THE ANIMAL BONES

Five fragmented animal bones and two teeth were collected from the house debris. Based on zoo-archaeological investigation<sup>71</sup>, the teeth and three of the bones were identified as sheep / goat<sup>72</sup>, while the rest were not identifiable with regard to body part or species. However, they would seem to be long bone fragments, probably from cattle. All bone surfaces bear traces of strong erosion, probably due to the acidity of the soil. No traces of burning were observed, neither were any butchery marks or other evidence of taphonomical processes. The very small amount of the assemblage, in relation to taphonomical information, suggests that the presence of these bones inside the house is probably accidental / random and not related to any activity such as butchery, cooking, consumption or / and discarding of animal bones.

<sup>68</sup> Buck 1964, 299 pl. 42, 15–18.

<sup>69</sup> The NAA was performed in Bonn by Prof. Hans Mommsen. The results from a small group of samples, taken from sherds with different fabrics from local wares, are not yet published. It is suggested that the light-on-dark vessels were the product of a highly specialized centre (Zerner 1986, 67).

<sup>70</sup> For this pottery category see: Davis 1979, 254; Dietz 1991, 32; Walberg 2007, 100.

<sup>71</sup> The zoo-archaeological study was conducted by Angelos Gkotsinas, MSc.

<sup>72</sup> Halstead – Collins 1995.

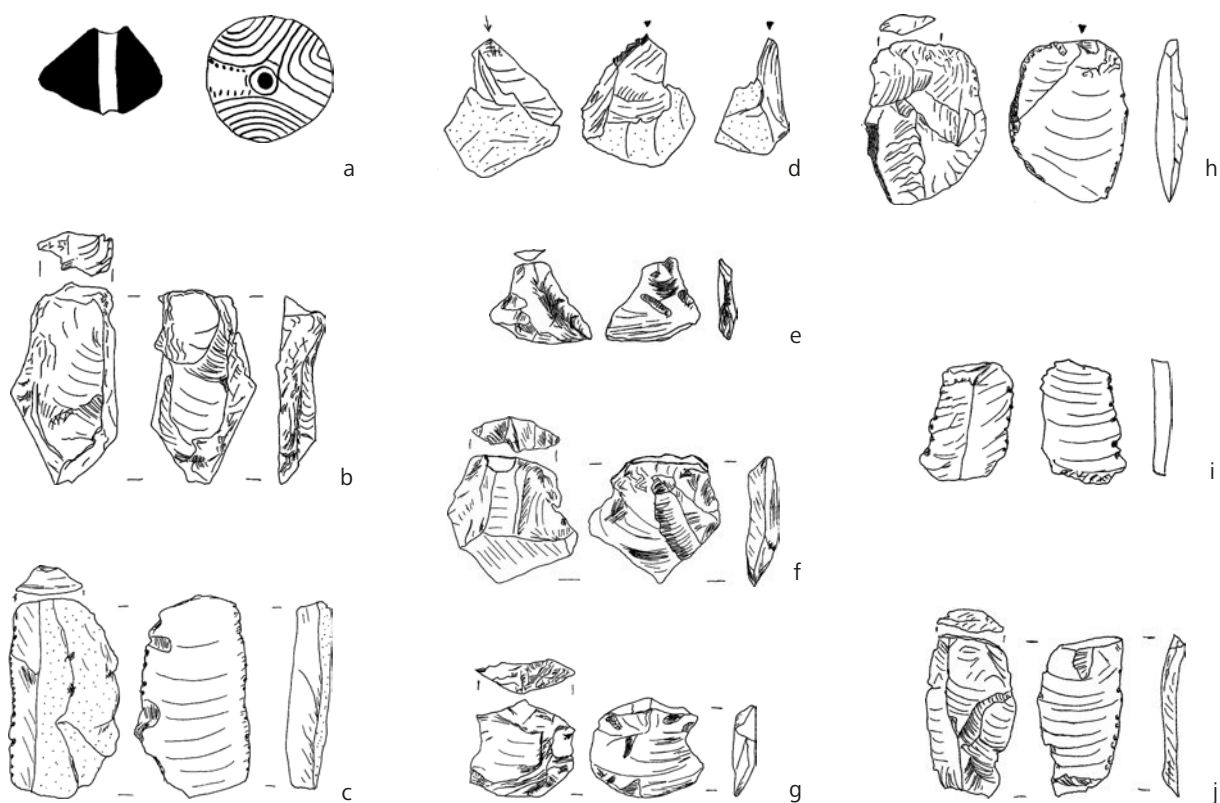


Fig. 9 Stone and clay finds from the apsidal house (scale 1 : 2): a. Clay spindle whorl. – b. Core-shaping flake. – c. Secondary flake. – d. e. Waste by-products. – f. g. Platform-rejuvenation flakes. – h. Core-shaping or platform-creation flake. – i. j. Percussion blades

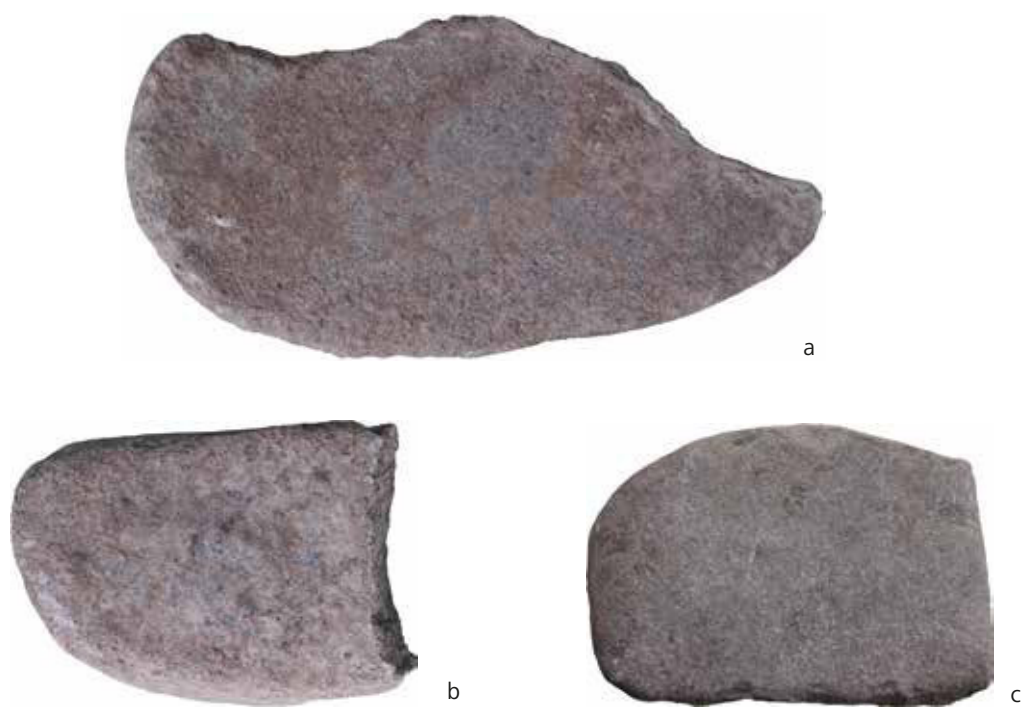


Fig. 10 Stone querns from the apsidal house (scale approx. 1 : 4)

## GENERAL DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The construction activity from LH II B–III A1 until the end of the palatial period (LH III B2–III C Early) at Frantzi (Doka plot) considerably damaged some of the underlying levels of the MH period. However, the small amount of stratified material found inside the apsidal house is sufficient for general conclusions regarding the pottery sequence and the material culture at Frantzi during the period of house's use during MH III – LH I.

The house was erected on a terrace, where remains of previous activity were identified. Local grey and dark household pottery dominates<sup>73</sup>, belonging mostly to traditional forms or variants of the early MH repertoire and indicating that shapes of domestic storage / transport and cooking pottery either tended to survive or were reproduced for a much longer period than table ware<sup>74</sup>. The conservatism of the material culture of the apsidal house at Frantzi is documented by the reproduction of shapes and techniques of the early MH ceramic sequence both in coarse / semi-coarse domestic ware and in fine grey pottery, due to the slow evolution of pottery production at Frantzi. Fine local grey wheel-made MH pottery was well-represented in the house context, as was fine table ware, comprising common shapes such as goblets, kantharoi, and serving class pots (wide-mouthed bowls / collared jars). Grey Minyan pottery was a central Greek standard of the MH period, extremely common in Central Greece and frequent in Peloponnese, despite the fact that it displays considerable diversity in the chemical and mineralogical composition of its fabric<sup>75</sup>. Local grey pottery at Frantzi was manufactured in the same tradition of fine quality pottery of Minyan ware<sup>76</sup> and is more common than the matt-painted and the monochrome pottery.

Apart from the conservatism of the material from the Frantzi house, the study of the pottery of the middle and upper stratigraphic horizon of the house's use and destruction / disuse demonstrates that the transition from MH to LH at Frantzi was characterised by a gradual shift from dark to light surfaces<sup>77</sup>. The use of lighter surface type pottery can be considered as a local innovation. The light, unpainted domestic pottery comprises mostly body sherds with a thinner section than those from the early MH phases. Reddish-yellowish or orange-yellowish washed and burnished plain ware is the most representative category in the upper horizon of the house's disuse, reported also in substantial proportion from the middle horizon of the house's use. Individual shapes of this category, which may be a representative ceramic class from the end of the MH / beginning of the LH period in Central Greece, have also been identified at Frantzi in the next, early Mycenaean phase (LH II B–III A1) of the settlement<sup>78</sup>. The local pale brown-yellowish, plain burnished or lustrous category is represented in the house's context by few stratified examples of table pottery (e.g. goblets, cups) and some of pouring and transport categories. This seems to represent a local equivalent of the yellow Minyan pottery of southern Greece<sup>79</sup> and is probably a precursor to the

<sup>73</sup> Maran 1992b, 218.

<sup>74</sup> The fabric of the coarse household ware probably corresponds to Orchomenos fabrics XA2 and XA3 (Σαqqή 2012, 145 pl. 1).

<sup>75</sup> Kilikoglou et al. 2003, 133.

<sup>76</sup> Sarri 2010b, 609 n. 26; Σαqqή 2012, 143 pl. 1 A6.

<sup>77</sup> Mathioudaki 2014, 13.

<sup>78</sup> The shapes are usually closed vessels such as wide-necked jug, stamnos / hydria, etc. (cf. Furumark 1941, 34 f. fig. 7 types 109. 128). For a comparable situation at Nichoria for MH III plain ware cf. Howell 1992, 66; for the reddish-yellow ware at Dimini cf. Αδούμη-

Σισμάνη 2010, 307; for the 'fine orange' ware of Central Greece cf. Dietz 1991, 311.

<sup>79</sup> D. and E. French mention a brown burnished 'Thessalian' ware found in Tiryns, that may be the same category as the pale brown-yellowish ware at Frantzi, thus indicating a local Central Greek / Thessalian variety of yellow Minyan (French – French 1971, 26. 28). For the equivalent of the yellow Minyan in Phocis cf. Touchais 1981, 190. 'True' imported yellow Minyan pottery was also found at Frantzi (Doka plot), but not from a well-stratified context.



settlement's pervasive class of LH II and LH III plain, light-coloured fine and semi-fine pottery<sup>80</sup>.

The light-coloured matt-painted ware from the end of the MH period has been recorded regionally in local variations and subcategories, a consequence of long-term imitation of Aeginetan MH ceramic exports. This resulted in the creation of specific local expressions of the matt-painted category, characterised by limited or simplified decoration and produced from the late MH II period to the transitional period and to the early stages of LH I. The imported matt-painted closed vase (cat. 58 a. b; *fig. 19*) from the horizon of the house's use was probably part of this process. It was manufactured in a workshop which produced matt-painted pottery imitating vases of Aeginetan tradition. The late matt-painted pottery was an specific pattern-decorated ware of the Late Bronze Age which was continued during the early Mycenaean phases<sup>81</sup>.

Aeginetan pottery, Aeginetan bichrome and mainland polychrome ware as well as pattern-decorated lustrous Mycenaean pottery of the latest LH I phase are altogether absent from the horizons of the house's use and disuse. Moreover, no ware of Minoan inspiration or fine Minoanizing pottery imitating the Cretan style was identified<sup>82</sup>. Only one sherd from a kantharos of Minoanizing light-on-dark ware (cat. 95; *fig. 24*) was revealed at Frantzi in the small pottery group found under the foundation line of the LH II B–III A1 architectural phase. The material culture belonging to the occupation of the apsidal house at Frantzi is entirely of local production, with the single exception of a vase (cat. 58 a. b; *fig. 19*) which originates from some other community or area.

All the evidence from Frantzi indicates that there was an early stage in the LH I period without any early Mycenaean pottery<sup>83</sup>, and that some of the MH pottery wares and their spin-offs belong chronologically to the initial phase of the LH I in Central Greece. The MH III – LH I phase incorporates a part of the LH period before the appearance of early Mycenaean pottery, named »pre-early Mycenaean pottery stage«<sup>84</sup>.

Considering the inconsistencies in terminologies and the chronological system<sup>85</sup>, we have to concur with the suggestion that MH III resembles LH I in aspects of social developments and changes in material culture<sup>86</sup>. The evidence from Frantzi reinforces the suggestion that there was a long and regular transition from the MH to the LH period. This becomes clear from the local pottery sequence, demonstrating that shapes and techniques developed gradually. Even in the transitional period towards the Late Bronze Age, earlier and later typological elements are identified together. Each LH innovation emerges from previous values, and there is direct communication with the old MH system. After the transitional MH III – LH I phase at Frantzi, which was identified in the material of the apsidal house,

<sup>80</sup> Καραντζαλη 2009, 1216 f.; Karantzali 2013, 143, 145.

<sup>81</sup> Mountjoy 1981, 75–77; Maran 1992b, 188–198 categories D4–D5.

<sup>82</sup> For such wares see Zerner 2008, *fig. 5.46* nos. 2054, 2055 (MH III Late / LH I–II A). No imported Minoan lustrous dark-on-light ware of the very early phase of LM I A or MM III – LM I A.

<sup>83</sup> The beginning of the Late Bronze Age on the mainland has been connected, and partly identified with the appearance of early Mycenaean lustrous decorated pottery, as this style was imported, and imitates the corresponding class developed in Crete from MM III B to LM I A (Hatzaki 2007, 163–165; Dickinson 1977, 24 f.; Warren – Hankey 1989, 68).

<sup>84</sup> Mathioudaki 2014, 15. For stratigraphic evidence of this stage cf. Maran 1992b, 203; Rutter 1989, 1–19.

<sup>85</sup> According to Warren and Hankey, MM III – LM I A correspond to LH I, based on typological criteria (Warren – Hankey 1989, 97). According to Dietz's chronological system (based on typological criteria) from Asine, the MM III B / LM I A period is associated with early LH I (pottery with ripple pattern; Dietz 1991, 251–257; Dietz 1998, 26–29). According to Zerner's division, suggested by significant changes in the ceramic repertoire of Aghios Stephanos, MH II Early corresponds to MM III A and MM III B of Dietz's classification (Zerner 2008, 182). MH III Late and MH III / LH I represent two distinctive sub-phases. LH I is divided into two phases, LH I Early and transitional LH I / II A, corresponding to Dietz's LH I B phase.

<sup>86</sup> Voutsaki 2010a, 100; Voutsaki 2010b, 86 f.

there was no evidence of a LH I mature phase in the local sequence. The LH I period covers a long time span and represents, just like LM I A, a period of strong ceramic regionalism<sup>87</sup>.

In conclusion, the local ceramic assemblage from the stratified context of the apsidal house at Frantzi presented here is characterised by a local conservatism of the material culture, visible in the persistence of old traditional wares and shapes. However, the occurrence of light-coloured surface pottery and individual shapes, such as the cup / kantharos bearing relief rivets on the handle (cat. 41; *fig. 17*), indicate a shift to the Late Bronze Age. Moreover, the presence in the horizon of the house's use of the imported vase of matt-painted ware (cat. 58 a. b; *fig. 19*), whose style mimics the Aegina ceramic production, demonstrates the demand for new articles of household pottery during the period of transition to the Late Bronze Age<sup>88</sup>. The same can be assumed for the Minoanizing vase (cat. 95; *fig. 24*), found in another context, outside the apsidal house. Imported pottery from MH III was probably concentrated in specific households, as a result of beginning social differentiation<sup>89</sup>.

Frantzi was a MH site which continued to be inhabited into the Late Bronze Age, displaying a high degree of continuity from the Middle Bronze Age to the end of the Mycenaean palatial period. The material of the apsidal house at Frantzi, despite its fragmentary state of preservation, has provided useful information for the analysis of the main features of the material culture at the end of MH III and the beginning of the LH I period in the area of the Spercheios valley.

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<sup>87</sup> Dietz 1991, 316; Warren – Hankey 1989, 141.

<sup>88</sup> Rutter 2007, 42–44.

<sup>89</sup> Voutsaki 2010b, 93.

Sources of illustrations: *Fig. 1*: after Mountjoy 1999, 809. – *Fig. 2. 4–7*: from the archive of the Ephorate of Fthiotis and Euritania. – *Fig. 3. 8*: from the archive of the Ephorate of Fthiotis and Euritania, modified by author. – *Fig. 9–24*: drawings and photographs by author.

## APPENDIX: CATALOGUE

1. Pottery from the lower stratigraphic horizon  
(levelling of the space for the foundation of the apsidal house)

## 1.1. Unpainted or plain wares

## 1.1.1. Local grey ware

The fabric is generally fine, light grey to dark grey, usually hard well baked, but also soft. One sherd (cat. 16) of semi-fine composition. The surface, usually worn, is grey burnished or with a loose watery slip.

## 1.1.1.1. Table pottery: goblets / pedestalled bowls

- 1 Goblet rim *fig. 11*  
OM 58/1 – diam. 22 cm – fabric light grey fine, surface same, worn – comparanda: Maran 1992a, pl. 117, 10; Maran 1992b, pls. 6, 202. 203; 28, 881.
- 2 Rim and upper body of wide-mouthed bowl *fig. 11*  
OM 71/1 – diam. 29 cm – fabric dark grey fine, surface same, burnished, worn – comparanda: Sarri 2010a, 220–222 pl. 16, 1; Maran 1992a, pl. 120, 5 (phase 7).
- 3 Goblet rim *fig. 11*  
OM 71/2 – diam. 21 cm – fabric dark grey, surface same, much worn – comparanda: Maran 1992b, pl. 6, 202. 203.
- 4 Small rim sherd of large goblet  
OM 71/8 – diam. 26–27 cm – fabric grey, surface same, much worn.
- 5 Small body sherd of large goblet  
OM 71/10 – fabric grey, soft, surface worn, probably slipped or slightly burnished.
- 6 Small body sherd of goblet and part of vertical strap handle  
OM 72/8 – fabric grey and surface same, worn.
- 7 Body and part of handle of large goblet *fig. 11*  
OM 73/1 – fabric light grey with few grits, surface same, burnished in-out – comparanda: Maran 1992a, pls. 55, 8 (phase 5); 112, 3 (phase 6); Beil. 9, 20.
- 8 Goblet (or bowl) rim *fig. 11*  
OM 73/2 – diam. 19 cm – fabric fine light grey, surface same, burnished.

- 9 Large goblet rim *fig. 11*  
OM 73/3 – diam. 36 cm – fabric fine dark grey, surface same, burnished in-out.

- 10 Goblet rim *fig. 11*  
OM 73/5 – diam. 30 cm – fabric fine light grey, surface worn, burnished.

- 11 Large goblet rim *fig. 11*  
OM 292/1 – diam. 26 cm – fabric grey, surface with a light loose watery slip – comparanda: Maran 1992b, pl. 6, 202. 203.

- 12 Body sherd of goblet *fig. 11*  
OM 292/3 – fabric grey with very few grits, surface same with loose watery slip.

## 1.1.1.2. Table pottery: kantharos

- 13 Body and part of handle of small kantharos  
OM 72/11 – fabric and surface grey, worn.

## 1.1.1.3. Serving pottery: two-handled wide-mouthed bowls

- 14 Rim and beginning of handle of wide-mouthed bowl *fig. 11*  
OM 71/9 – fabric grey, soft, surface same, very worn – comparanda: Sarri 2010a, 220–222 pl. 17, 7; Maran 1992a, pl. 94, 11 Beil. 12, 6 (phase 6 early).
- 15 Rim of wide-mouthed bowl with two vertical strap handles of oval section on shoulder *fig. 11*  
OM 72/1 – diam. 24 cm – fabric dark grey, surface same, burnished in-out – comparandum: Maran 1992a, pl. 103, 14 (phase 6 middle).
- 16 Rim of small wide-mouthed bowl *fig. 11*  
OM 73/4 – diam. 14 cm – semi-fine grey ware, fabric dark grey, gritty, surface dark grey, burnished – comparanda: Sarri 2010a, pl. 1, 12; Maran 1992a, pls. 83, 11; 93, 4 (phase 6 middle); distant parallel: Maran 1992b, pl. 26, 819 (MH III).

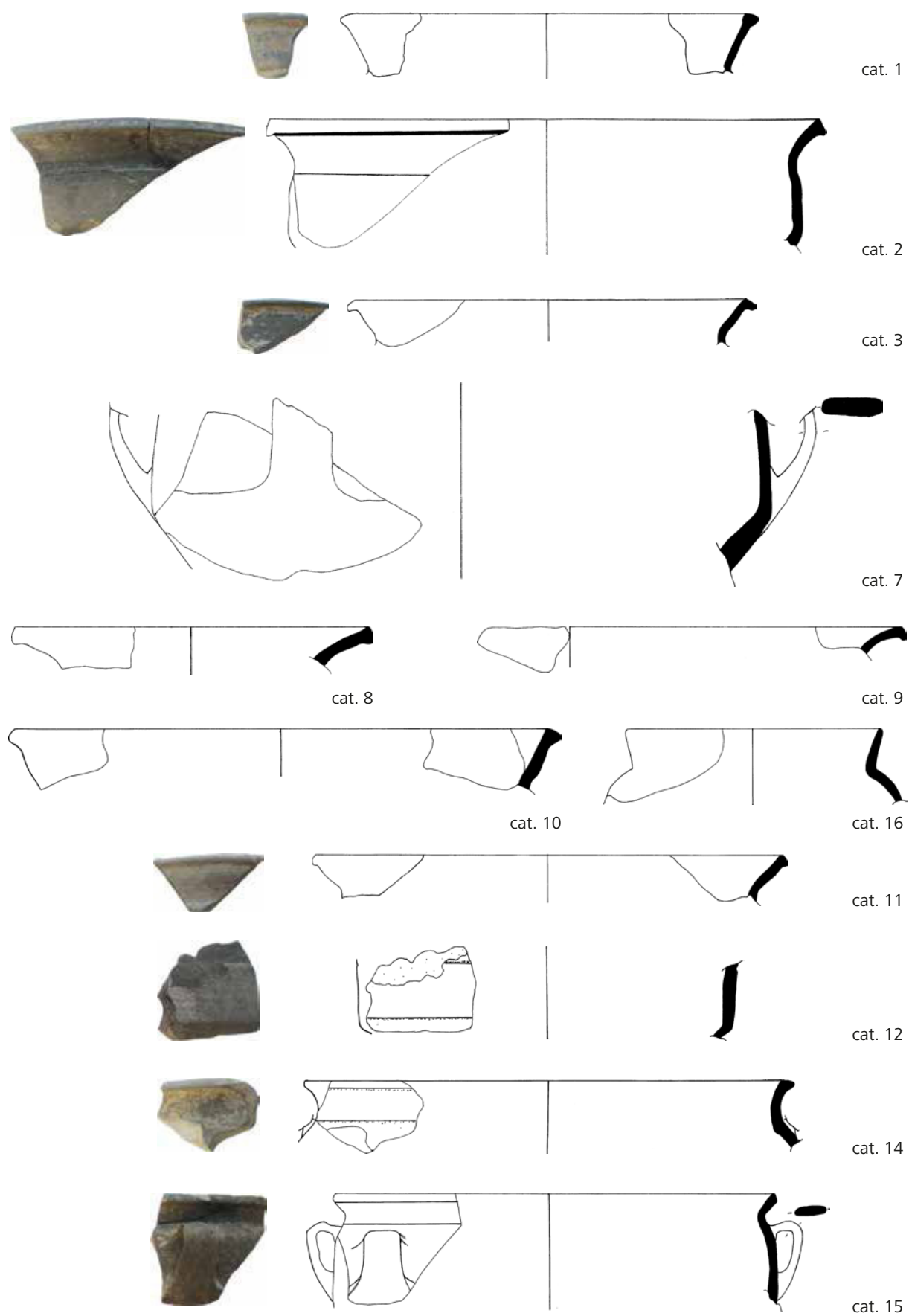


Fig. 11 Pottery from the lower stratigraphic horizon. Local grey ware: cat. 1-3, 7-12, 14-16 (scale 1 : 3)

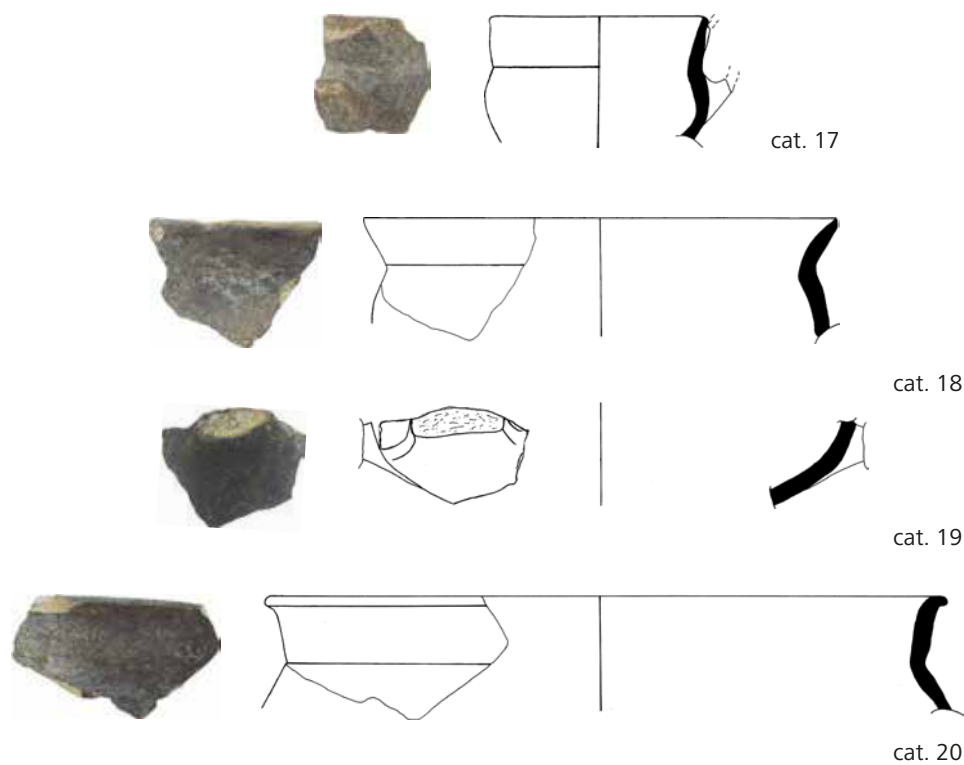


Fig. 12 Pottery from the lower stratigraphic horizon. Local dark ware: cat. 17–20 (scale 1 : 3)

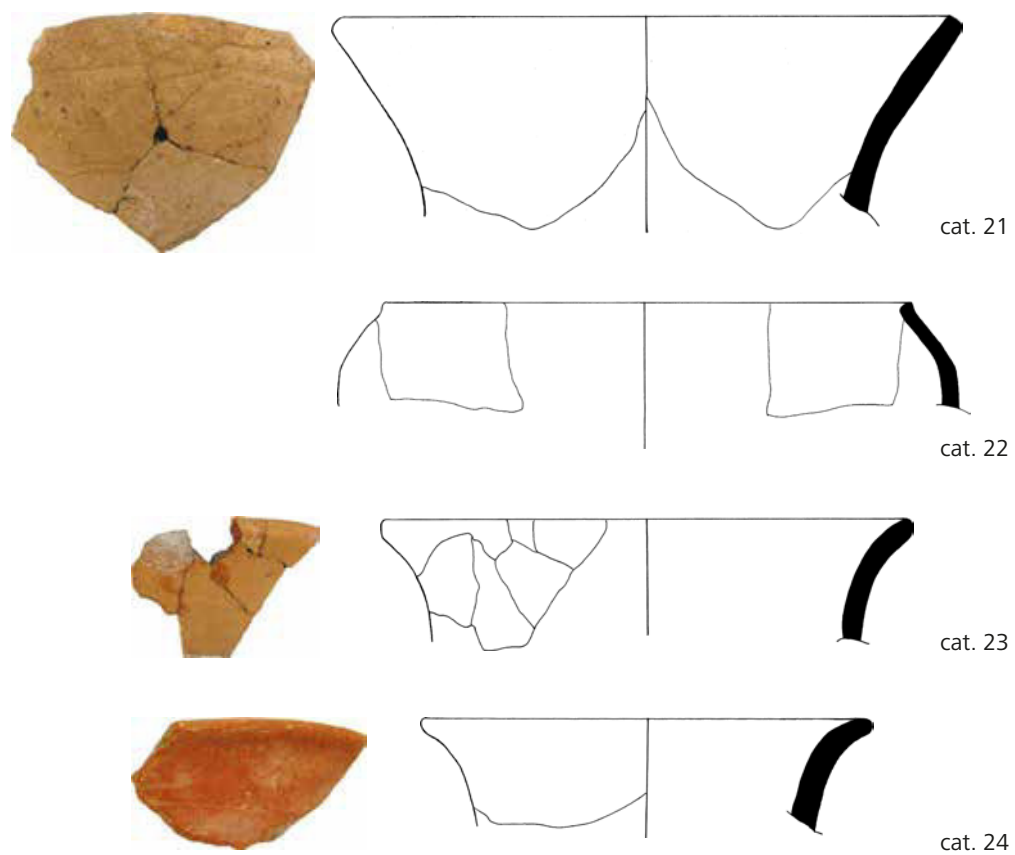
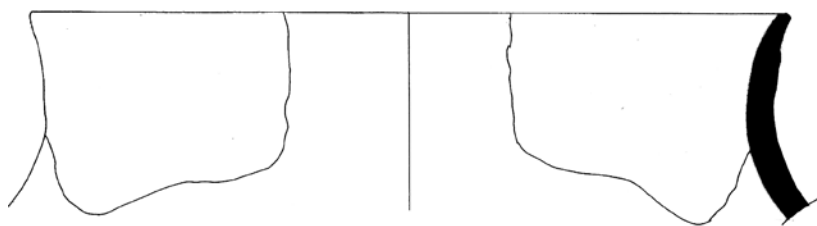


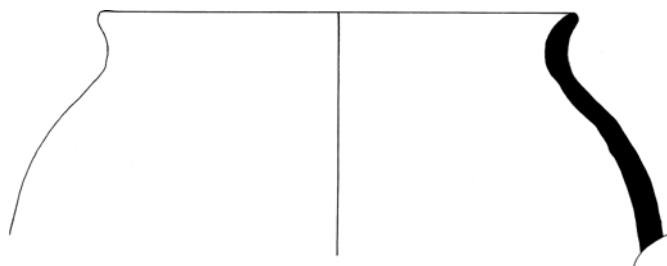
Fig. 13 Pottery from the lower stratigraphic horizon.  
Local reddish-yellowish or brown-yellowish ware: cat. 21–24 (scale 1 : 3)



cat. 25



cat. 26



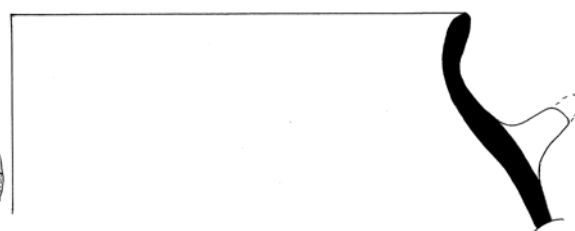
cat. 27



cat. 28



cat. 30



cat. 31



cat. 32

Fig. 14 Pottery from the lower stratigraphic horizon.  
Local dark coarse household ware: cat. 25–28. 30–32 (scale 1 : 3)



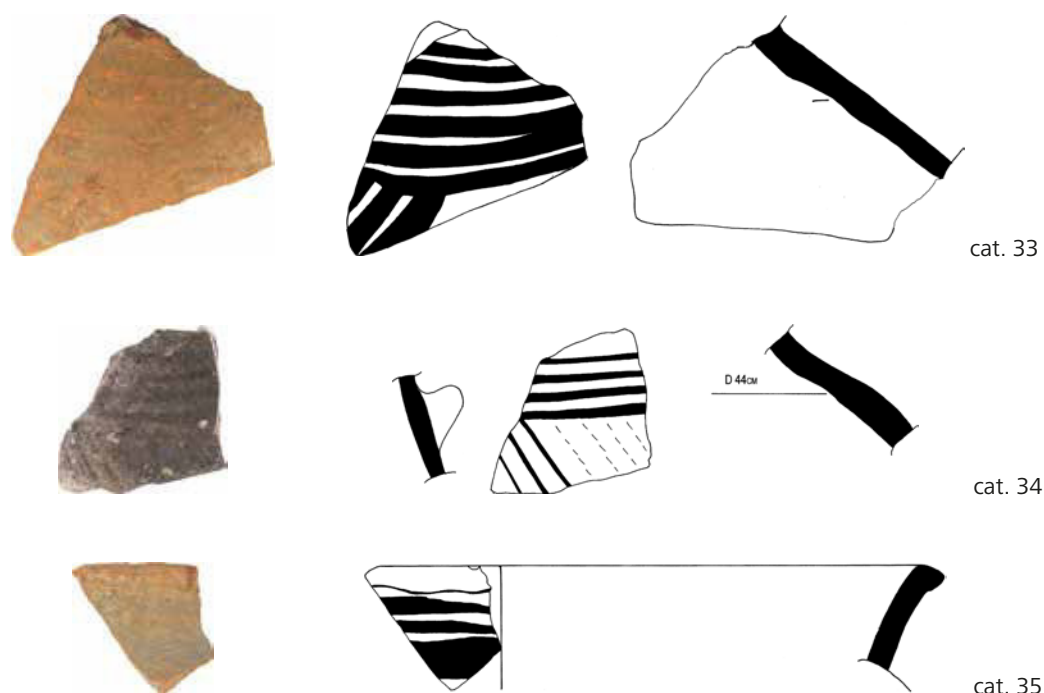


Fig. 15 Pottery from the lower stratigraphic horizon.  
Local coarse ware in matt-painted style: cat. 33–35 (scale 1 : 3)

### 1.1.2. Local dark ware

The fabric is semi-coarse dark brown to black, reddish/brown in core with inclusions and grits, occasionally with silver mica, usually well baked. The surface is black smoothed or slightly burnished, but usually worn.

#### 1.1.2.1. Hand-made table pottery: *kantharos* / cup

- 17 Rim of handled vase, cup or *kantharos* *fig. 12*  
OM 72/6 – diam. 8.5 cm – beginning of vertical strap handle, fabric dark brown reddish to black, gritty with inclusions, surface black, smoothed in-out – comparanda: Maran 1992a, Beil. 15, 15; 18, 18 (phase 6 middle/late); distant parallel: Hanschmann 1981, pl. 116, 23.

#### 1.1.2.2. Hand-made domestic / serving pottery: *wide-mouthed bowls* – *collared jars*

- 18 Rim of wide-mouthed bowl *fig. 12*  
OM 72/2 – diam. 19.3 cm – fabric dark brown-black, surface black, smoothed in-out – comparanda: Maran 1992a, Beil. 11, 10 (phase 5); pl. 83, 11 (phase 6 middle); Sarri 2010a, pl. 69, 4; distant parallels: Maran 1992b, pl. 29, 891–895; Hanschmann 1981, pl. 116, 17.

#### 19 Body sherd and beginning of bowl's handle

*fig. 12*  
OM 288/2 – diam. 17 cm – fabric dark brown-black, gritty with few silver mica, surface black, slightly burnished in-out.

#### 1.1.2.3. Wheel-made domestic / serving pottery: *collared jar* or *big wide-mouthed bowl*

- 20 Rim of collared jar *fig. 12*  
OM 72/3 – diam. 26.5 cm – fabric dark brown, gritty, few silver mica, surface black, slightly burnished in-out – comparandum: Maran 1992a, Beil. 18, 14 (phase 6 late).

### 1.1.3. Local reddish-yellowish or brown-yellowish ware

The fabric is semi-coarse, varying from brown-reddish to reddish and to reddish-yellowish, grey in core of the thicker sherds, gritty with inclusions, well baked. The fabric of cat. 22 contains a little golden mica. The surface, brown-yellowish to reddish-yellowish, was smoothed or burnished, but is usually worn.

### 1.1.3.1. Hand-made serving pottery: open jars

- 21 Rim of open jar or basin (?) *fig. 13*  
OM 71/4 – diam. 24 cm – out-turned profile and flat rim, irregular in the upper part, fabric brown/reddish, grey in core, gritty with inclusions, surface brown-yellowish, irregularly smoothed.
- 22 Upper part of deep jar with in-turned rim *fig. 13*  
OM 292/2 – diam. 21 cm – fabric brown-yellowish, gritty with inclusions and a little golden mica, surface same, well-burnished in-out – comparandum: Maran 1992a, pl. 116, 2 Beil. 19, 13.

### 1.1.3.2. Wheel-made storage / transport pottery: closed jars

- 23 Rim of storage jar *fig. 13*  
OM 71/5 – diam. 23 cm – fabric reddish, grey in core, gritty with inclusions, surface reddish-yellowish, smoothed – comparanda, distant parallels: Maran 1992a, Beil. 19, 9. 11 (phase 6 late).
- 24 Rim of storage jar or amphora *fig. 13*  
OM 288/1 – diam. 18 cm – fabric reddish yellowish, grey in core, gritty with inclusions, surface same, smoothed – comparandum: Hanschmann 1981, pl. 114, 9.

### 1.1.4. Local dark coarse household ware

The fabric is coarse dark reddish or reddish / brown to dark brown, grey to black in core, gritty with many inclusions. The surface is of dark colour, smoothed or slightly burnished. The fabric of the small base fragment cat. 28 with few silver mica inclusions.

#### 1.1.4.1. Hand-made cooking pots

- 25 Rim of cooking pot with wide concave neck *fig. 14*  
OM 58/2 – diam. 30 cm – fabric dark reddish, grey-black in core, gritty with many inclusions, surface same, dark reddish-brown, smoothed.
- 26 Rim of cooking pot *fig. 14*  
OM 71/7 – diam. 28 cm – fabric dark reddish-brown, grey in core, gritty with inclusions and mica, surface dark brown-reddish, slightly burnished in-out.

- 27 Rim of cooking pot with out-turned collar neck *fig. 14*

OM 72/4 – diam. 19 cm – fabric dark brown, black in core, gritty with many inclusions, surface dark brown, smoothed in-out – comparanda: Sarri 2010a, pl. 69, 6; Maran 1992b, pl. 26, 805; Howell 1992, fig. 3-77 P2840. P2841; Zerner 2008, 248 fig. 5.25 no. 1508.

- 28 Base of cooking pot *fig. 14*  
OM 72/7 – diam. 3.5–4 cm – fabric reddish-brown, very gritty with many inclusions, surface brown, lightly smoothed – comparanda: Rutter 1990, 450 f. fig. 18, 104–108; Zerner 2008, fig. 5.50 nos. 2194. 2195; from LH I–LH I/II: Lis 2012, figs. 7. 8.

- 29 Body and beginning of handle of cooking pot with collar neck  
OM 72/9 – fabric dark reddish-brown, surface black, slightly burnished in-out.

#### 1.1.4.2. Hand-made wide-mouthed cooking pot

- 30 Rim of small wide-mouthed cooking pot with out-turned rim *fig. 14*  
OM 58/3 – diam. 16.5 cm – double horn lug, fabric dark reddish-brown, very gritty with many inclusions, outer surface dark reddish-brown, inside dark, burnished – comparandum: Maran 1992a, pl. 98, 12 (phase 6 middle).

#### 1.1.4.3. Hand-made pithoid storage jars

- 31 Rim sherd of storage jar with out-turned collar neck and double horn-like handle *fig. 14*  
OM 72/5 – diam. 36 cm – fabric dark reddish-brown to black with many inclusions, surface same, smoothed – comparanda: Sarri 2010a, pl. 69, 13; Maran 1992a, pls. 43, 8 (phase 4, MH I); 93, 15 a; 98, 12 (phase 6 middle).
- 32 Body sherd of pithoid storage jar with horizontal lugs *fig. 14*  
OM 58/4 – diam. 22 cm – fabric dark reddish-brown to black in core, gritty, surface same, smoothed – comparanda: Maran 1992a, pls. 64, 2; 101, 13. 14; 102, 3 (phase 6 middle).



## 1.2. Painted ware

### 1.2.1. Local coarse ware in matt-painted style

The fabric is reddish-brown to dark brown, sometimes grey in core, gritty with many inclusions and occasionally with golden mica. The surface has a loose slip, reddish-orange matt, slightly burnished or smoothed, and the decoration is black matt-painted.

#### 1.2.1.1. *Hand-made storage / transport pottery: closed large jars*

- 33 Shoulder-sherd of large storage jar *fig. 15*  
OM 71/3 – inner shoulder diam. 46–47 cm – fabric dark reddish-brown, gritty with many inclusions, of which few tiny ones golden mica, surface slipped reddish-orange, matt-black paint on exterior, six horizontal bands around the shoulder and beginning of three broad oblique

bands – comparandum: Buck 1964, 25. 249 pl. 41 type C9.

- 34 Body of large storage jar *fig. 15*  
OM 36 – fabric dark brown, grey in core, with very tiny golden mica inclusions, surface slipped reddish-orange, slightly burnished, four black bands on the neck and traces of oblique bands on the shoulder – comparandum: Buck 1964, 249 pl. 41 type C9.

#### 1.2.1.2. *Hand-made serving pottery: wide-mouthed jar / bowl*

- 35 Rim of wide-mouthed jar *fig. 15*  
OM 71/6 – diam. 33 cm – fabric reddish-brown, gritty with many inclusions and golden mica, surface slipped reddish-orange, matt-painted horizontal black lines – comparandum: Buck 1964, 248 pl. 41 type C2.

## 2. Pottery from the middle stratigraphic horizon of the occupation of the loose (layer of house's use)

### 2.1. Unpainted or plain pottery

#### 2.1.1. Local grey ware

The fabric is fine, light grey to dark grey, usually hard and well baked, but sometimes also soft. The surface of the sherds, usually worn, is burnished or occasionally has a loose slip of same colour.

##### 2.1.1.1. *Table pottery: goblets / pedestalled bowls*

- 36 Body sherd of large goblet *fig. 16*  
OM 66/2 – inside diam. 24 cm – fabric light grey, surface same, worn, slightly burnished in-out – comparanda: Zerner 1988, 1–10 fig. 3, 20; Maran 1992a, Beil. 18, 14 (phase 6 late); Rutter 1990, 429 f. figs. 9, 40; 10, 137.

- 37 Body sherd of goblet with vertical strap handle *fig. 16*  
OM 66/3 – diam. 23 cm – fabric dark grey, semi-fine, surface same, very worn – comparanda: Rutter 1990, 429 f. figs. 9, 40; 10, 137.

- 38 Goblet stem  
OM 103/1 – diam. 6.5 cm – fabric light grey, surface with a loose light grey slip.

- 39 Two small pieces of goblet's stem *fig. 16*  
OM 103/2 – fabric dark grey, surface same, worn – comparanda: Maran 1992b, pls. 10, 367; 16, 540; 25, 791; Rutter 1990, 429 f. fig. 9, 43.

Some other recognisable body sherds of this ware also originate from goblets (OM 74/2 a. b; OM 76/1. 2).

##### 2.1.1.2. *Table pottery: kantharos / cup*

- 40 Small body sherd of kantharos / cup *fig. 16*  
OM 102/3 a – fabric fine, light grey, surface same, burnished – comparanda: Sarri 2010a, pl. 8, 24; Maran 1992a, pls. 103, 16 a; 120, 16; 121, 5 (phase 6 middle / phase 7); Maran 1992b, pl. 16, 531 (MH III); Rutter 1990, 436 f. fig. 13.

Two other recognisable sherds of this ware originate from kantharoi / cups (OM 76/3. 4).

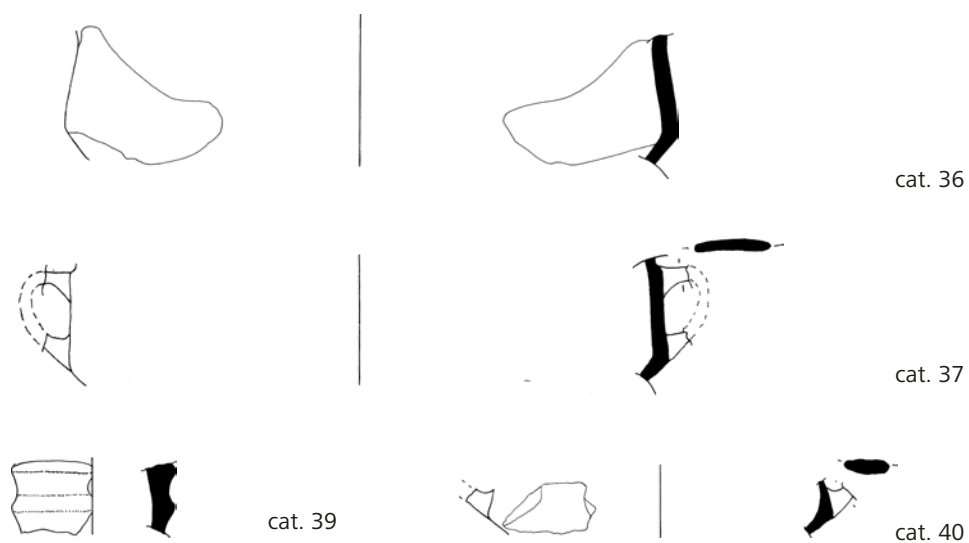


Fig. 16 Pottery from the middle stratigraphic horizon.  
Local grey ware: cat. 36, 37, 39, 40 (scale 1 : 3)

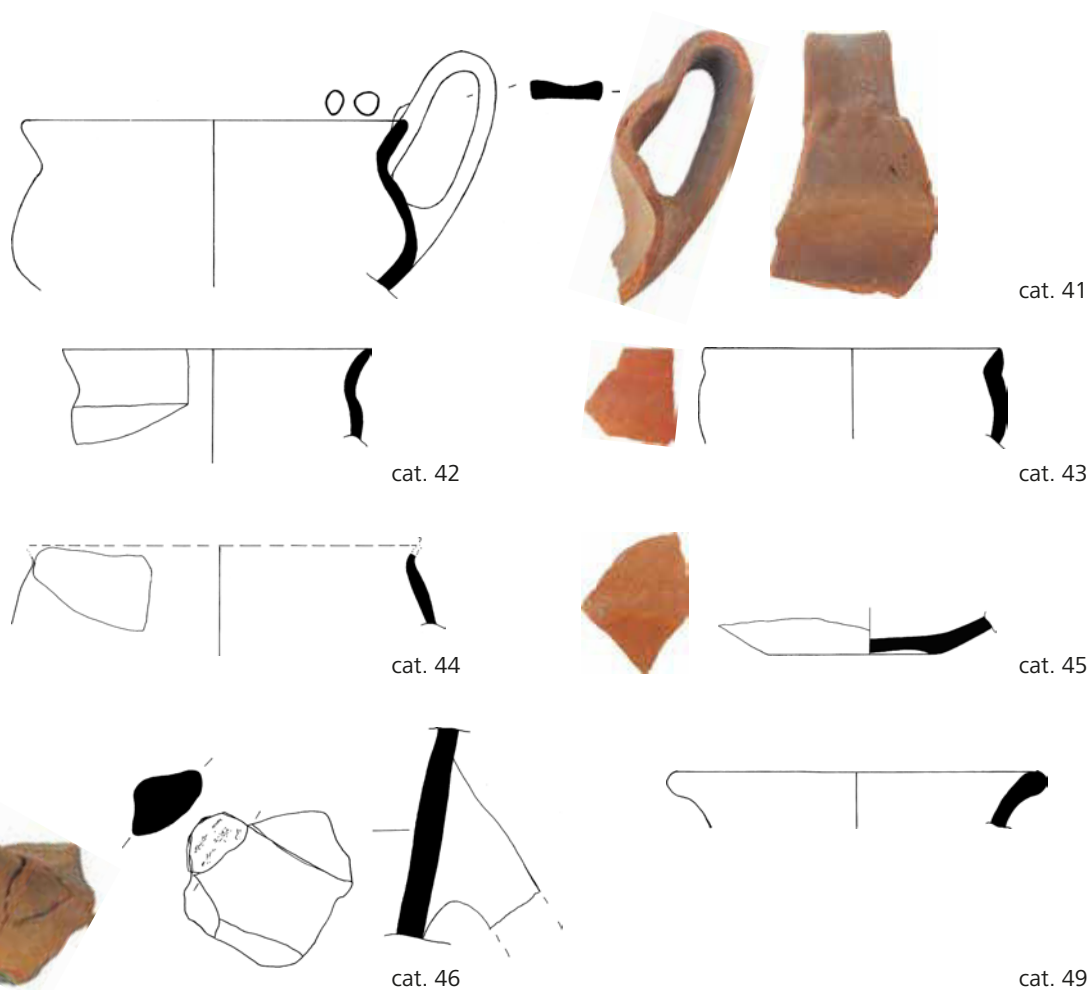


Fig. 17 Pottery from the middle stratigraphic horizon. Local plain reddish-yellowish or orange-yellowish ware: cat. 41–46; local plain light-coloured pale brown-yellowish ware: cat. 49 (scale 1 : 3)

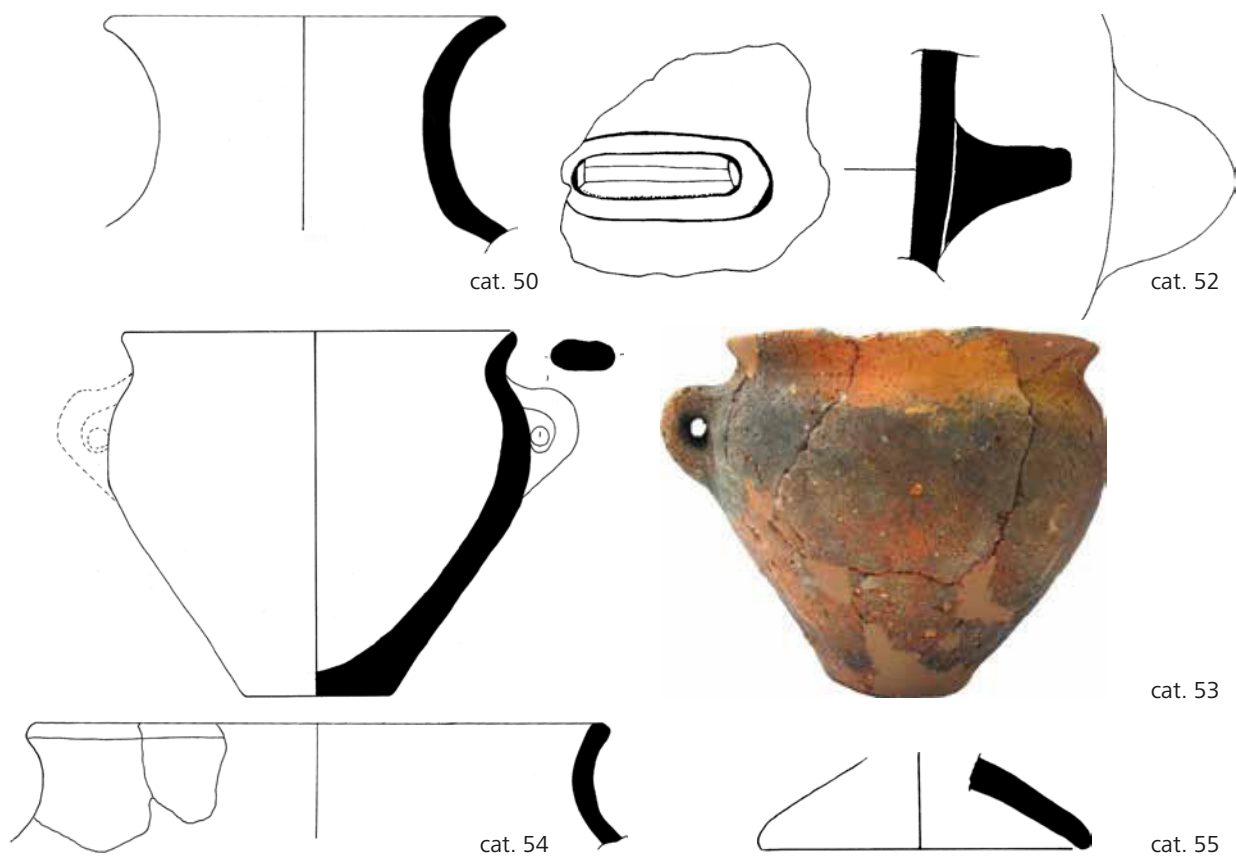


Fig. 18 Pottery from the middle stratigraphic horizon.  
Local dark hand-made household ware: cat. 50, 52-55 (scale 1 : 3)

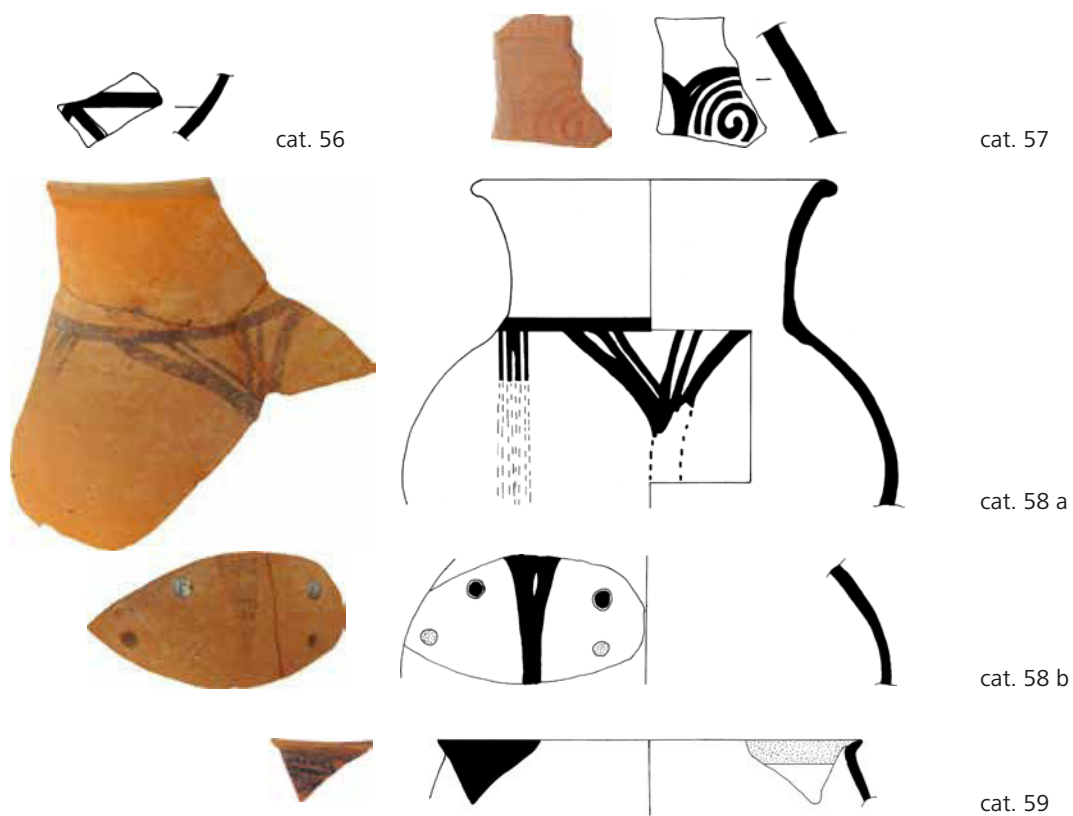


Fig. 19 Pottery from the middle stratigraphic horizon. Local matt-painted ware: cat. 56, 57; imported matt-painted ware: cat. 58 a, b; monochrome, probably imported ware: cat. 59 (scale 1 : 3)

### 2.1.2. Local reddish-yellowish or orange-yellowish ware

The fabric is reddish to reddish-yellowish and brown-yellowish, very hard, semi-fine to semi-coarse, depending on the thickness of the sherd. The surface is usually in fabric's colour, either smoothed or slightly burnished. Some sherds have a slipped reddish or orange-yellowish and burnished surface.

#### 2.1.2.1. Table pottery: cups

- 41** Rim and handle of cup with S-profile and high handle *fig. 17*  
OM 74/1 – diam. 15 cm – two relief rivets where handle joins rim, fabric reddish-orange, very hard, surface slipped, reddish-yellowish or orange, burnished in-out.

- 42** Cup rim, S-profile *fig. 17*  
OM 267/1 – diam. 12 cm – fabric reddish-yellowish or orange, gritty with inclusions, surface same, smoothed in-out – comparanda for profile: Maran 1992a, Beil. 21, 14 (phase 7); Dickinson 1992, fig. 9-4 P3155; cf. coarse ware cup or dipper: Rutter – Rutter 1976, 30 ill. 9, 168.

- 43** Cup rim *fig. 17*  
OM 66/4 – diam. rim 12 cm – fabric yellowish-orange with mica, surface same, smoothed.

#### 2.1.2.2. Table pottery: goblet or cup? and bowl or cup?

- 44** Rim of goblet or cup with out-turned flat rim *fig. 17*  
OM 265/2 – diam. 15 cm – fabric reddish-yellowish, surface same, much worn.

- 45** Concave base of open bowl or cup *fig. 17*  
OM 102/2 – diam. 7 cm – fabric reddish-orange with golden mica, surface same, smoothed – comparandum: Froussou 2007, 236.

#### 2.1.2.3. Closed storage / transport pottery

- 46** Body and handle of storage jar with horizontal handle of triangular section *fig. 17*  
OM 70/2 – fabric brown-yellowish, grey in core, surface reddish-yellowish, burnished – comparanda: Maran 1992a, pls. 101, 7–9 (for the handle's section); 108, 8 (as big jar).

### 2.1.3. Local light-coloured pale brown-yellowish ware

The fabric is fine and semi-fine light reddish-yellow to reddish-brown, sometimes brown-grey in core. The surface is washed pale brown-yellowish, well burnished.

#### 2.1.3.1. Serving pottery: open vase

- 47** Body sherd from open vase  
OM 131/4 – fabric light reddish-brown, surface pale yellowish-brown, burnished in-out.

#### 2.1.3.2. Serving / transport pottery: closed vases

- 48** Body sherd of closed vase  
OM 131/3 – fabric light brown, grey in core, surface pale yellowish-brown, burnished outside.
- 49** Rim of closed jar *fig. 17*  
OM 267/2 – diam. 15 cm – fabric reddish-yellow, brown-grey in core, surface buff-yellow, burnished.

### 2.1.4. Local dark hand-made household ware

The fabric is semi-coarse to coarse, dark reddish-brown or brown-greyish, dark grey to black in core, gritty with inclusions. The surface is the same, smoothed or slightly burnished to well burnished.

#### 2.1.4.1. Storage / transport pottery

- 50** Biconcave neck of large storage jar *fig. 18*  
OM 66/1 – diam. 15 cm – fabric dark reddish-brown, dark grey in core, surface dark reddish-brown, burnished – comparanda for the profile: Maran 1992b, pl. 32, 982 (MH III – LH I); Maran 1992a, pl. 104, 12 (phase 6 middle).
- 51** Body sherd and horizontal handle with round section  
OM 78 – fabric reddish-brown, grey in core, with limestone inclusions, surface same, smoothed.

#### 2.1.4.2. Storage pottery: small pithos

- 52** Body and hemispherical lug of pithoid vase *fig. 18*  
OM 70/1 – fabric reddish-brown, gritty with many inclusions, grey in core, surface dark reddish-brown, very worn – comparandum for the lugs: Maran 1992a, pl. 85, 6 (phase 6 middle).

2.1.4.3. *Cooking pots*

- 53 Wide-mouthed cooking pot with vertical tubular lugs *fig. 18*  
OM 66 / Mus. Lamia inv. 11843 – height 15 cm, diam. rim 16 cm, diam. base 6 cm – fabric reddish-brown / black, surface same, burnished, with irregular traces of burning – comparanda: Sarri 2010a, pl. 69, 4. 9; distant parallel: Maran 1992a, Beil. 13, 20 (phase 6 middle).

- 54 Rim of cooking pot *fig. 18*  
OM 131/1 – diam. 23 cm – fabric reddish-brown, with mica and inclusions, surface dark reddish-black, burnished – comparanda: Rutter 1990, 447 fig. 17, 103 (good example of the shape); Lis 2012, 35 fig. 5 LE792-020-018 (horizontal-handled cooking pot).

Two other recognisable sherds of this ware originate from cooking pots, a small one with rim diam. of 16.5 cm (OM 284/1) and a large one with rim diam. of 23 cm (OM 284/2).

2.1.4.4. *Various*

- 55 Conical cover with very thick walls *fig. 18*  
OM 70/163 / Mus. Lamia inv. 11848 – diam. 13 cm – cover pieced together from many fragments, fabric reddish-brown to black, black in core, surface same, burnished – comparanda: Goldman 1931, 179 f. fig. 249; Lis 2012, fig. 7. 8.

## 2.2. Painted ware

## 2.2.1. Local ware in matt-painted style

The fabric is fine, reddish to light brown, and the surface washed or slipped and burnished. Decoration with black or red matt paint. The fabric resembles the light-coloured pale-brown / yellowish plain ware.

2.2.1.1. *Table pottery: open vase*

- 56 Body sherd of small bowl (?) *fig. 19*  
OM 131/2 – fabric light brown, surface washed light brown, black matt-painted decoration, horizontal band and probably horizontal zigzag line.

2.2.1.2. *Storage pottery: storage jar*

- 57 Body sherd of large storage jar *fig. 19*  
OM 265/1 – fabric reddish, hard, grey in core, light loose reddish-yellow slip, burnished surface, spiral motif in red matt-painted style.

## 2.2.2. Imported ware in matt painted style: globular jar

- 58 a Rim of globular jar *fig. 19*  
OM 104/292 a – diam. 14 cm – fabric reddish-yellowish or orange, with few inclusions of golden mica, surface slipped pale yellowish, lustrous black decoration, inverse triple triangles from the neck, alternating with groups of vertical lines.

- 58 b Body sherd from jar *fig. 19*  
OM 104/292 b – diam. 17 cm – from the same vessel (opposite side) as 58 a (?), solid vertical band in black paint, four repair holes on the body, two of these with lead residue inside.

2.3. Monochrome ware,  
probably imported

The fabric is very hard and fine, reddish-yellowish, and the paint slightly lustrous.

## 2.3.1. Table pottery: goblets or cups

- 59 Rim of goblet or semi-globular cup with short thin out-turned lip *fig. 19*  
OM 102/1 – diam. 17 cm – fabric reddish-yellowish or orange, black paint on exterior, light reddish-yellow slipped surface inside, black band inside the rim, outside monochrome or with broad band – comparanda: Rutter – Rutter 1976, 52 f. 55 ill. 16, 814. 818.

- 60 Small body sherd of monochrome goblet or cup  
OM 102/4 – fabric reddish-yellowish or orange, red paint in-out.

### 3. Pottery from the upper stratigraphic horizon of the apsidal house (destruction / disuse deposit)

#### 3.1. Unpainted or plain ware

##### 3.1.1. Local reddish-yellowish or orange-yellowish ware

The fabric is soft, reddish-yellow or orange-yellow to orange-brown, fine and semi-fine, sometimes gray in core or with few golden mica. The surface is usually in clay's colour or lighter, burnished or slightly burnished.

##### 3.1.1.1. Table pottery: goblets / kylikes

- 61 Goblet rim (FS 263) *fig. 20*  
OM 34/3 – diam. 17 cm – fabric orange-yellow, with few inclusions of golden mica, surface same, burnished – LH I / II – comparanda: Dickinson 1992, 478 fig. 9-2 P3089; 9-4 P3153; Zerner 1988, fig. 3, 18; Zerner 2008, fig. 5.26 no. 1542 (in yellow Minyan ware).

- 62 Goblet base *fig. 20*  
OM 34/6 – diam. 4 cm – fabric reddish-yellow, surface same, plain and burnished in-out – comparandum: Maran 1992b, pl. 25, 782.

- 63 Goblet base (FS254?) *fig. 20*  
OM 35/8 – diam. 8 cm – fabric orange-brown, grey core, surface plain yellowish-orange – comparandum: Maran 1992b, pl. 19, 619.

##### 3.1.1.2. Table pottery: cup and cup / kantharos

- 64 Rim and handle of shallow two-handled cup or kantharos *fig. 20*  
OM 34/8 – diam. 10 cm – high handle of rectangular section, fabric orange-yellow, with few inclusions of golden mica and white ones, surface same, worn.

- 65 Cup rim with beginning of vertical handle *fig. 20*  
OM 40/1 – diam. 9.5 cm – fabric orange-brown, grey core, surface same, very worn – comparanda: Howell 1992, fig. 3-71 P2750; Dickinson 1992, fig. 9-4 P3171; Maran 1992b, pls. 9, 319, 320; 20, 653.

##### 3.1.1.3. Serving pottery: wide-mouthed, short-necked open jars or kraters

- 66 Rim of wide-mouthed, short-necked jar / krater *fig. 20*  
OM 35/9 – diam. 25 cm – fabric orange-yellow,

with inclusions, of which few of golden mica, surface same, worn.

- 67 Rim of wide-mouthed, short-necked jar / krater *fig. 20*  
OM 35/10 – diam. 24 cm – fabric reddish-yellow, surface same, plain, worn.

- 68 Rim of wide-mouthed, short-necked jar or large deep bowl *fig. 20*  
OM 35/11 – diam. 19 cm – fabric orange-yellow, with few grits, surface same, plain.

- 69 Rim of wide-mouthed, short-necked jar / krater *fig. 20*  
OM 35/12 – diam. 21–22 cm – fabric orange-yellow, grey core, plain ware, surface burnished in-out.

- 70 Basin rim *fig. 20*  
OM 40/2 – diam. 20 cm – fabric reddish-brown, grey core, surface reddish-brown, slightly burnished.

##### 3.1.1.4. Serving / transport pottery: collared jar and jug

- 71 Neck and body of jug (beak-spouted jug?) *fig. 20*  
OM 35/1 – fabric reddish-yellow, surface plain, burnished exterior – comparandum: Rutter – Rutter 1976, 39 ill. 11, 310.

- 72 Rim of collared jar *fig. 20*  
OM 35/3 – diam. 9 cm – fabric orange-yellow with golden mica, surface same, plain – comparandum: Maran 1992a, pl. 116, 13 (phase 7).

#### 3.1.2. Local light-coloured pale brown-yellowish plain ware

The fabric is pale yellowish-reddish or brown-yellowish, fine and semi-fine, well baked, rarely with golden mica. Surface washed light brown-yellowish, well burnished to burnished.

##### 3.1.2.1. Table pottery: goblets

- 73 Large goblet rim *fig. 21*  
OM 40/3 – diam. 27–28 cm – fabric pale brown-yellowish, surface same, burnished in-out – comparanda for the shape: Maran 1992b, pl. 18, 614; Davis 1979, 247 fig. 9.



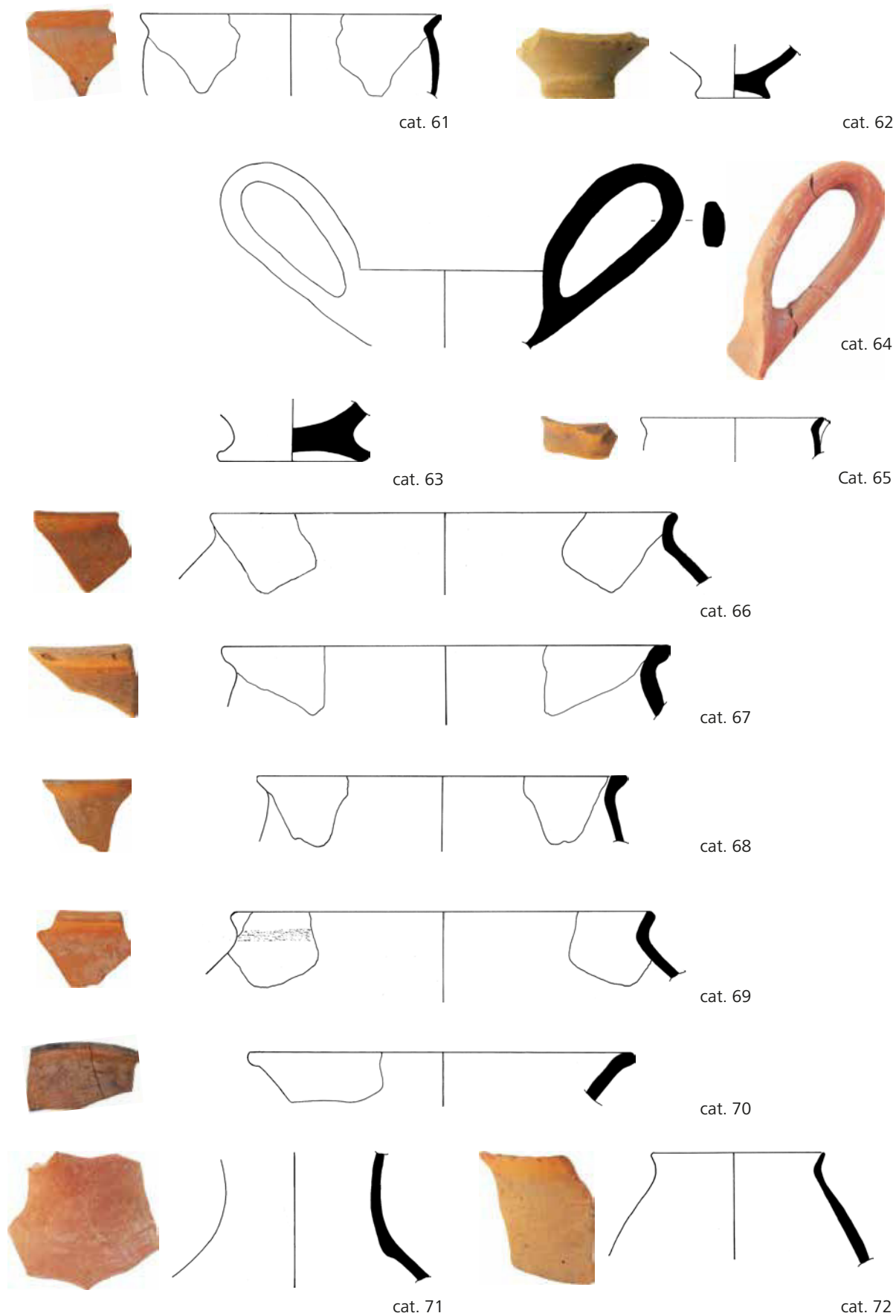


Fig. 20 Pottery from the upper stratigraphic horizon of the apsidal house.  
Local plain reddish-yellowish or orange-yellowish ware: cat. 61–72 (scale 1 : 3)

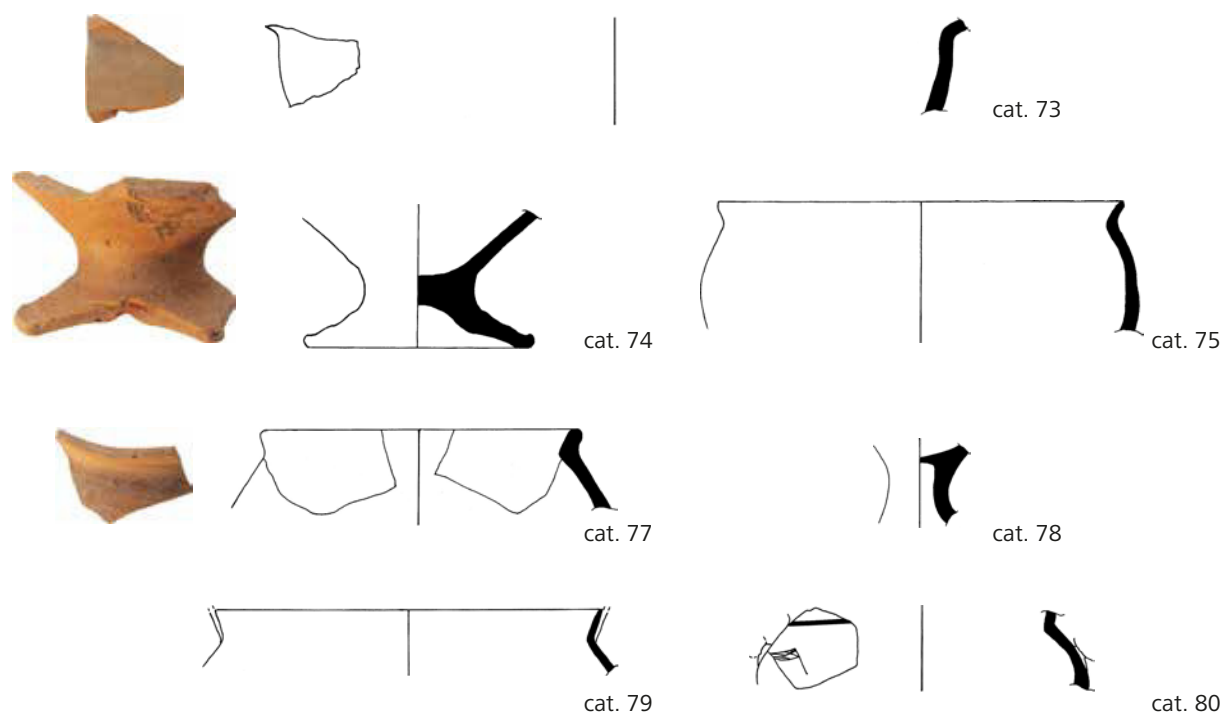


Fig. 21 Pottery from the upper stratigraphic horizon.  
Local light-coloured pale brown-yellowish plain ware: cat. 73–75. 77; local fine grey ware: cat. 78–80 (scale 1 : 3)

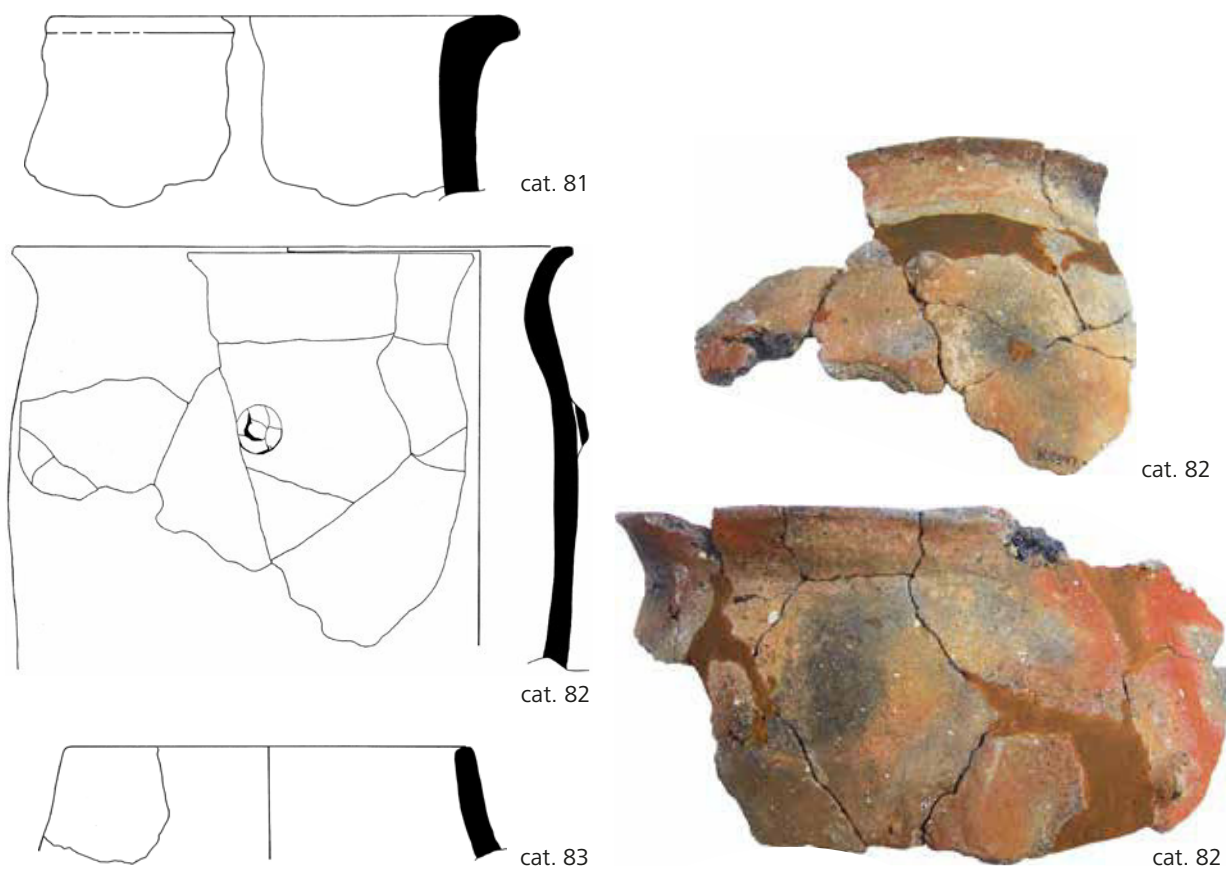


Fig. 22 Pottery from the upper stratigraphic horizon.  
Local dark household ware: cat. 81–83 (scale 1 : 4)



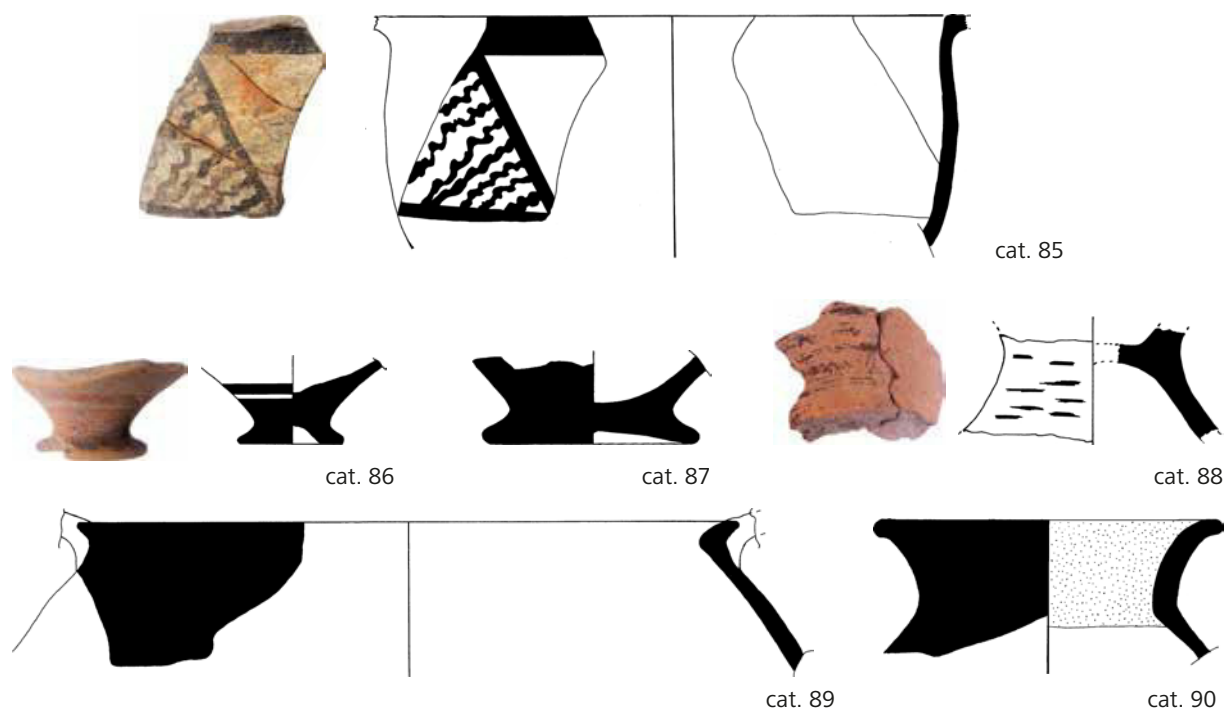


Fig. 23 Pottery from the upper stratigraphic horizon. Local matt-painted ware: cat. 85; local decorated ware: cat. 86; local monochrome ware: cat. 87–90 (scale 1 : 3)

- 74 Goblet base, lower body *fig. 21*  
OM 41/1 – fabric pale yellowish-reddish, gritty semi-fine, surface same, burnished in-out – comparanda: Zerner 1988, 1–10 fig. 3, 19; Dietz 1980, 124 fig. 121, 242. 246; Dickinson 1992, fig. 9-4 P3148; Davis 1979, 247 figs. 9, 194; 10, 198.

- 75 Goblet rim (FS 263) *fig. 21*  
OM 276/1 – diam. 16 cm – fabric pale brown-yellowish, gritty with few inclusions of golden mica, surface same, lustrous, worn – comparanda: Dickinson 1992, 478 fig. 9-2 P3089; 9-4 P3153; Zerner 1988, fig. 3, 18; Zerner 2008, fig. 5.26 no. 1542 (in yellow Minyan ware).

### 3.1.2.2. Serving pottery: open vases (large bowls / kraters)

- 76 Body sherd of open vase  
OM 35/NAA 62 – very well baked, fabric yellowish-reddish, surface washed light yellowish-brown, well burnished outside, burnished inside.
- 77 Rim of small open vase (probably spouted) *fig. 21*  
OM 61/2 – diam. 13 cm – fabric yellowish-brown, grey core, gritty with inclusions, surface light yellowish-brown, burnished in-out – comparanda: Davis 1979, 247, fig. 10, 209. 210 (spouted kraters from Korakou).

### 3.1.3. Local fine grey ware

The fabric is fine, grey, usually hard, well baked but sometimes also soft. The surface, usually worn, was burnished.

#### 3.1.3.1. Table pottery: goblets

- 78 Stem of small goblet *fig. 21*  
OM 35/14 – fabric grey, surface same, burnished – comparandum for shape: Sarri 2010a, pl. 28, 10.
- 79 Goblet rim with handle stub *fig. 21*  
OM 41/2 – diam. 15 cm – fabric grey, surface same, burnished – comparandum: Davis 1979, 247 f. fig. 8, 142.

Some other recognisable body and small rim sherds of this ware also originate from goblets (OM 61/6; OM 62/a–c). A very worn piece of a grooved stem of large goblet has been identified as well.

#### 3.1.3.2. Storage pottery: small collared jar (alabastron?)

- 80 Body sherd of small collared jar (alabastron?) *fig. 21*  
OM 61/5 – fabric dark brown-grey, surface grey, slightly burnished, worn.

### 3.1.4. Local dark household ware

The fabric is dark reddish-brown, black core, gritty with many inclusions. The surface is the same, smoothed. There are hand-made and wheel-made vases.

#### 3.1.4.1. Storage pottery: pithos and storage jar

- 81 Pithos rim fig. 22  
OM 62 – fabric reddish-brown, gritty with many inclusions, traces of dark reddish-brown paint on external surface, inside surface very worn.
- 82 Upper part of hand-made storage jar with vertical profile and unformed cylindrical plastic knobs fig. 22  
OM 61–62 / Mus. Lamia inv. 11847 – diam. 29–30 cm – fabric dark reddish-brown to black, very gritty with inclusions, surface same, smoothed outside, burnished inside – comparanda: Maran 1992a, pl. 112, 4; Lis 2012, fig. 8 LE792-020-016. LE792-017-017 (LH I/II cooking pots from Mitrou).

#### 3.1.4.2. Cooking pots

- 83 Rim of jar or cooking pot fig. 22  
OM 35/7 – diam. 21.7 cm – fabric dark reddish-brown, black core, surface same – comparanda: Sarri 2010a, pls. 69, 13; 73, 3; distant parallel from Mitrou: Lis 2012, 39 fig. 7 LF790-006-034.
- 84 Rim and three small body sherds of small cooking pot  
OM 61/7 – fabric dark brown / black, gritty.

## 3.2. Painted ware

### 3.2.1. Local ware in matt-painted style

- 85 Rim of flat-rimmed curvilinear bowl or krater fig. 23  
OM 34/7 – diam. 29 cm – fabric fine, dark grey-brown, surface with loose pale whitish slip and black-brown paint, triangle motif filled with oblique wavy lines or oblique folds, broad band outside near rim – comparanda: Sarri 2010a, pls. 39, 40.

### 3.2.2. Local decorated ware

- 86 Goblet base fig. 23  
OM 34/5 – diam. 4.3 cm – fabric fine, reddish-yellowish or orange, with few inclusions of golden mica, surface same, burnished in-out, broad and fine bands outside in reddish-brown paint.

### 3.2.3. Local monochrome ware

The fabric of the table drinking pottery is reddish-yellowish, semi-fine with inclusions. The unpainted inside surface of one vase is washed or slipped buff-yellowish lustrous, and the external surface bears traces of dark red or brown paint. The fabric of the serving / transport pottery is semi-coarse, orange-yellowish or brown-yellowish, with inclusions, in one example with golden mica. The unpainted inner surface is washed, slightly lustrous on open vase.

#### 3.2.3.1. Table pottery: goblets / kylikes

- 87 Conical base fig. 23  
OM 35/16 – diam. 8.5 cm – fabric reddish-yellowish, gritty with inclusions, dark red paint outside.
- 88 Goblet stem fig. 23  
OM 276/2 – fabric reddish-yellowish or orange, grey core, with inclusions, surface inside slipped buff-yellowish, lustrous, surface outside very worn, with traces of dark brown paint – comparanda for shape: Sarri 2010a, pl. 28; Dickinson 1977, 22 fig. 3; Dietz 1980, 38 fig. 44, 28; Graziadio 1988, 92.

#### 3.2.3.2. Serving and transport pottery: wide-mouthed jar or krater and stamnos / amphora

- 89 Rim of wide-mouthed jar / krater with two vertical handles fig. 23  
OM 35/15 – diam. 26 cm – fabric yellowish-orange, gritty with inclusions, some of golden mica, red paint on external surface and on rim, surface inside washed yellowish-orange, slightly lustrous, but very worn.
- 90 Rim and neck of closed vase (stamnos / amphora) fig. 23  
OM 61/4 – diam. 13 cm – short concave out-turned neck, fabric yellowish-brown, gritty with white inclusions, black paint on external surface, broad black band inside the neck.

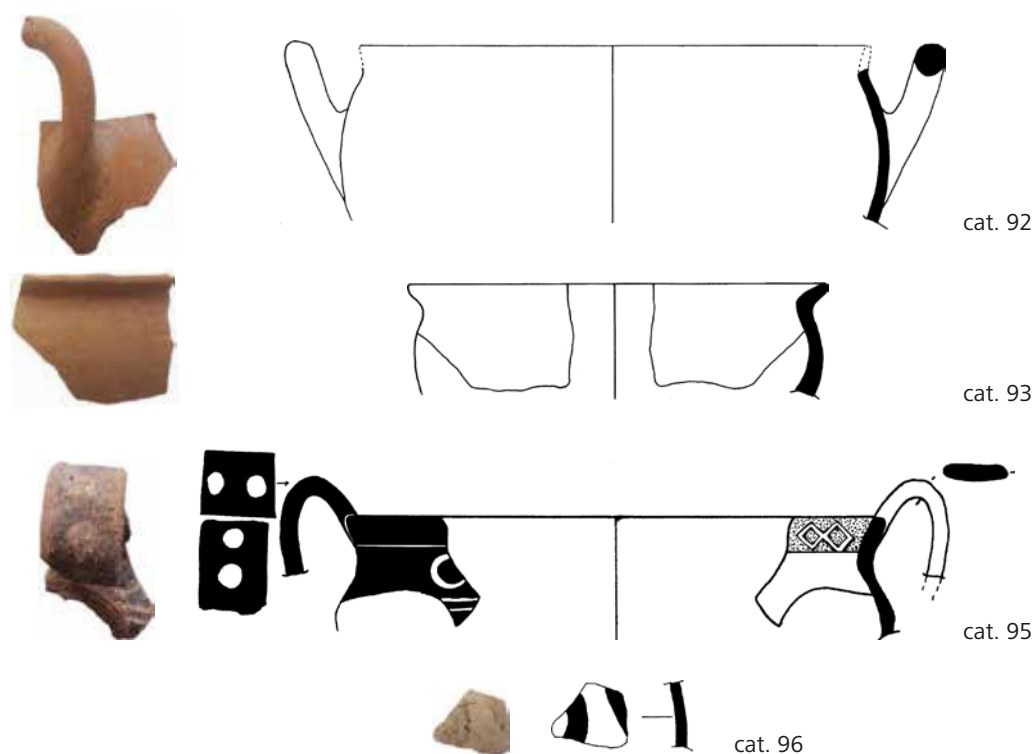


Fig. 24 Pottery from the horizon under the foundation line of the LH II–III A 1 architectural phase. Unpainted or plain: cat. 92; painted ware: cat. 95. 96 (scale 1 : 3)

#### 4. Pottery from the horizon under the foundation line of the LH II–III A1 architectural phase

##### 4.1. Unpainted or plain ware

###### 4.1.1. Local grey ware

- 91 Small rim of goblet  
OM 248/f – fabric fine, soft, grey, surface same, very well burnished in-out.

###### 4.1.2. Local reddish-yellowish or orange ware

- 92 Rim and part of horizontal handle of bowl *fig. 24*  
OM 248/d – diam. 22 cm – handle round in section, fabric reddish-yellow, grey core, surface reddish-yellow, very well burnished in-out.

###### 4.1.3. Local light-coloured pale yellowish-brown ware

- 93 Sherd of bowl with long out-turned rim *fig. 24*  
OM 248/c – diam. 16.5 cm – semi-coarse plain ware, fabric yellowish-brown, grey core, surface yellowish-brown, burnished in-out.

- 94 Small body sherd (near base) of cup or goblet  
OM 248/e – fabric yellowish-brown, surface pale yellowish-brown, burnished in-out.

##### 4.2. Painted ware

###### 4.2.1. Imported light-on-dark

- 95 Kantharos rim and handle *fig. 24*  
OM 248/a/NAA 15 – diam. 23.8 cm – semi-fine ware, handle oval-depressed, fabric reddish-brown, limestone inclusions, porous with silver mica and black sand inclusions, exterior painted monochrome black with white decoration of three horizontal bands and part of a circle on the body, one row of white solid circles on the external black surface of the handle, rim inside monochrome black with white row of linked lozenges.

###### 4.2.2. Imported (?) dark-on-light

- 96 Small body sherd *fig. 24*  
OM 248/b – fine-ware, fabric fine, soft, yellow-buff, surface lustrous, yellow-buff, two reddish painted curvilinear bands.

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