



Sultantepe. Part II. Post-Assyrian Pottery and Small Objects Found by the Anglo Turkish Joint Expedition in 1952

Seton Lloyd

Anatolian Studies, Vol. 4. (1954), pp. 101-110.

Stable URL:

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0066-1546%281954%294%3C101%3ASPIPPA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-B>

Anatolian Studies is currently published by British Institute at Ankara.

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of JSTOR's Terms and Conditions of Use, available at <http://www.jstor.org/about/terms.html>. JSTOR's Terms and Conditions of Use provides, in part, that unless you have obtained prior permission, you may not download an entire issue of a journal or multiple copies of articles, and you may use content in the JSTOR archive only for your personal, non-commercial use.

Please contact the publisher regarding any further use of this work. Publisher contact information may be obtained at <http://www.jstor.org/journals/biaa.html>.

Each copy of any part of a JSTOR transmission must contain the same copyright notice that appears on the screen or printed page of such transmission.

JSTOR is an independent not-for-profit organization dedicated to and preserving a digital archive of scholarly journals. For more information regarding JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

SULTANTEPE

By SETON LLOYD

PART II

Post-Assyrian Pottery and Small Objects found by the Anglo Turkish Joint Expedition in 1952

HELLENISTIC AND ROMAN "PERGAMENE" POTTERY

In a preliminary report (*Anatolian Studies*, Vol. II, p. 14) we have already referred to the "Pergamene" pottery, which constituted by far the most distinctive ware both in the Hellenistic and the Roman levels at Sultantepe. This pottery was also found in large quantities at sites in North Syria and Cilicia such as Gözlü Kule at Tarsus, Dura Europos and Antioch-on-the-Orontes,¹ and is discussed and analysed with particular thoroughness in the publication of the latter (*Antioch*, Vol. IV, Part I, pp. 18 ff.). We are now able to illustrate from Sultantepe examples of these wares, for which parallels can easily be found at the sites mentioned above. Such parallels are in fact indicated in the Catalogue of shapes in our Fig. 1. Features of the Hellenistic Pergamene which are more easily recognisable in photographs (Plate VII, 2) are, for instance, the rouletted or grooved circles on the floor of open dishes and the combination of the rouletted circle with imprinted leaves (cf. *Antioch*, Fig. 2). Fragments of Hellenistic "moulded bowls" in Pl. VII, 1 should also be compared to those from Tarsus (*Tarsus*, Figs. 9 ff.).

MISCELLANEOUS HELLENISTIC POTTERY.

One type of Hellenistic vessel, which proved easily recognisable and consequently useful for dating purposes, was a rather coarse bowl in pinkish or buff clay with a wet-smoothed finish and a band of red paint somewhat carelessly applied around the rim (Fig. 1, Nos. 25-37). An example of such a vessel, more elaborately but just as carelessly painted is No. 54.

Another type, occurring with less frequency, was a bowl (Fig. 1, Nos. 38-43) composed of grey to almost black clay with light grits, unslipped but occasionally slightly burnished. These appeared to be made on a particularly fast wheel. Other plain shapes of which random examples are given (Fig. 1, Nos. 44-48) were usually buff or pinkish and finished with an unburnished slip of the same clay.

An interesting local ware, perhaps inspired by the imported "Pergamene" ornament, were the bowls decorated with incised channels (Fig. 2, Nos. 52, 53, and 56). These were of fine pink clay, covered with matt red wash, or, as in the case of No. 56, with a rather poor quality black glaze. Other examples of black glaze, which appeared to be in its final decadence, were a bowl (No. 51) which must surely have been made locally, the cylindrical neck of a flask with one handle (No. 55) and a curious double "tag" handle (No. 57). Characteristic Hellenistic "unguentaria" were not uncommon (e.g. Nos. 49 and 50. cf. *Tarsus*, Pl. 135, Nos. 235 ff.).

Many fragments were found in the Hellenistic levels of a very coarse painted ware, having bold ornament freely drawn in brown paint. This appeared to correspond to what, in the Tarsus publication is referred to as "Regional Pottery of the Hellenistic period from Judaidah" (*Antioch*, Fig. 1). No complete shape was

¹ *Excavations at Gözlü Kule, Tarsus*. Princeton 1950. Vol. I. Plates.—*The Excavations at Dura Europos*. Final Report IV. Part I. Fasc. 2. 1949.—*Antioch-on-the-Orontes*. Vol. IV. Part I. Princeton 1948.

recovered by us, but it was possible to reconstruct a tall amphora with a cylindrical neck and two handles from rim to shoulder.

PARTHIAN GLAZED WARE

Fragments only of vessels covered with thick blue/green glaze were found in large numbers in all the Hellenistic and Roman levels. Both the technique of this ware and the shapes represented are familiar to anyone who has observed the surface of Parthian mounds in Mesopotamia, and it is from Iraq or Iran that it almost certainly derives.¹

The clay is invariably almost white in colour and often of an almost crumbling softness. The glaze varies from clear cobalt blue to a brilliant grass- or apple-green, and the only forms of decoration are excrescences or impressed lines on the clay beneath. A common shape is a jar with cylindrical neck, ring-base and tall handles from shoulder to neck. Such handles may be twisted or have "knuckle" modelling at the upper angle.² There were also narrow-necked flasks, sometimes lentoid in shape, and a variety of simple bowls with inverted or everted and flattened rims.

CATALOGUE OF POTTERY DIAGRAM

Figure 1

No. 1	K.II	Compare <i>Antioch</i> , Pl. V, No. 457 f.	} <i>Roman</i> <i>Pergamene</i>
" 2	D.V	" " Pl. V, No. 460	
" 3	B.IV		
" 4	D.IV	" " Pl. V, No. 457	
" 5	B.IV		
" 6	B.II		
" 7	B.IV		
" 8	B.II		
" 9	E		
" 10	E.II	" " Pl. IV, No. 412 Potter's mark in centre.	
" 11	E.I	" " Pl. IV, No. 412	
" 12	B.IV	" " Pl. IV, No. 405	
" 13	B.IV	" " Pl. IV, No. 408	
" 14	K.II	" " Pl. IV, No. 405	
No. 15	E	Compare <i>Tarsus</i> , Fig. 188, No. 175	} <i>Hellenistic</i> <i>Pergamene</i>
" 16	C.V	" " Fig. 188, No. 291	
" 17	B.VI	" " Fig. 188, No. E	
" 18	D.IV	" <i>Antioch</i> , Pl. III, No. 123 k.	
" 19	D.VI		
" 20	D.V	" " Pl. IV, No. 126 k.	
" 21	E.IV		
" 22	B.II		
" 23	E		
" 24	E		

¹ A ware whose description (*Antioch*, p. 80) corresponds, even in the use of tripods for stacking in the kiln and other minor details, was found at Antioch. Though compared by Waagé to glaze from Seleucia-on-the-Tigris, its origin is for some reason sought in Egypt rather than in Iraq.

² Various forms of modelled or impressed decoration on a jar of this type may be seen in Lane, *Early Islamic Pottery*. London, 1947. Pl. I.

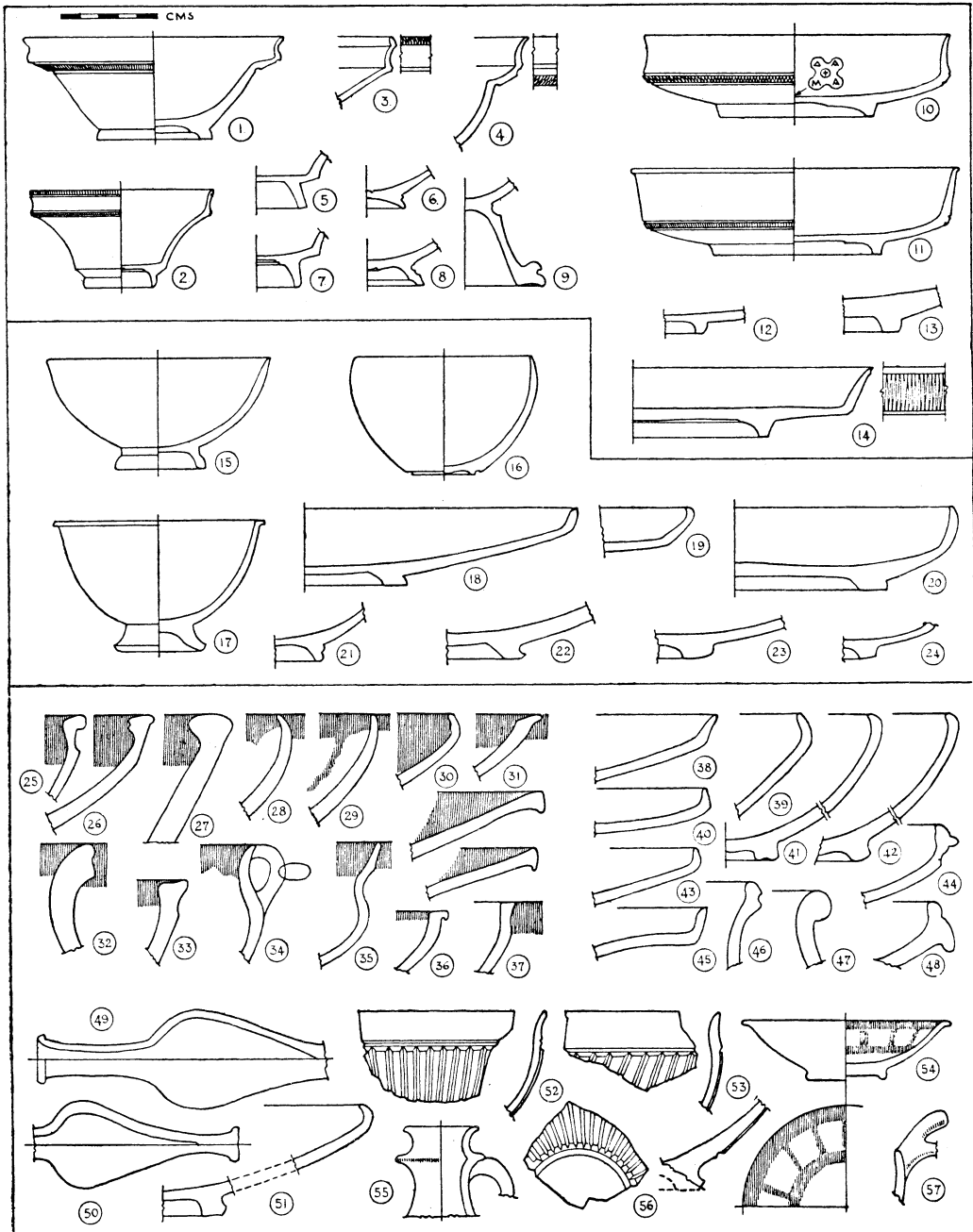


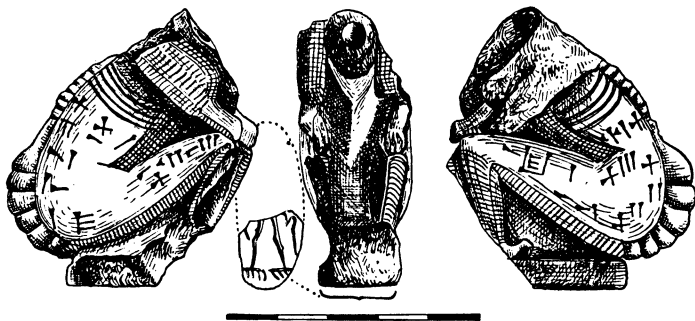
FIG. 1. Pergamene and Hellenistic Pottery.

Miscellaneous Hellenistic.

Nos. 25-28, 31, 33, and 35	F.III	} Rather coarse pink clay. Red paint, carelessly applied mostly around rim, often running down in trickles.
„ 29, 30, and 32	H.I	
„ 34	F.IV	
„ 36 and 37	B.IV	
„ 38, 38, and 41-43	H.I	} Grey to black clay. Some grits. Unslipped.
„ 40	F.III	
„ 44	H.I	} Plain bowls in buff or pinkish clay. Mostly with slip of same clay.
„ 45-48	F.IV	
„ 49	E	} Fine orange-buff clay. Small grits—wet-smoothed.
„ 50	F.V	
„ 51	G.III	} Fine red clay, poor quality. Black glaze.
„ 52	F.IV	
„ 53	F.III	} Pink clay. Matt red wash. Incised ornament.
„ 54	F.V	
„ 55	K.III	} Red clay—Black wash.
„ 56	F.III	
„ 57	G.III	} Double “tag” handle with black glaze.

SMALLER ASSYRIAN OBJECTS FROM SULTANTEPE

The object illustrated in Fig. 2 appears to have been a stamp-seal, since the lower part of an incised figure is seen on the broken under-surface. In the absence of the head, which can be seen to have been attached by a dowel, the animal represented (monkey or reptile?) is difficult to identify and finds no parallel in van Buren's repertoire of Mesopotamian fauna. The material is a very hard dark red



N. Tercauf

FIG. 2. Stamp seal.

stone, but the surface is sufficiently worn for the cuneiform inscription to have become illegible.

Among the stone objects (Fig. 3) the most notable item is the fragment of a stone palette (No. 1) comparable to an ivory object from the same provenance previously published (*Anatolian Studies*, Vol. III, Fig. 8). Two excrescences from the rim on the upper side appear to be ornamental, matching perhaps the lotus-bud ornament

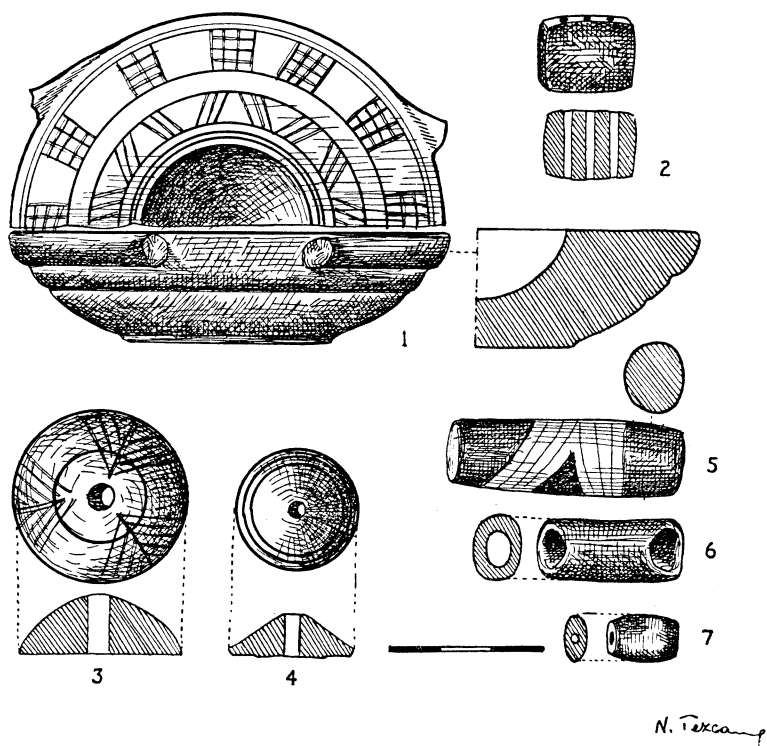


FIG. 3. Stone objects.

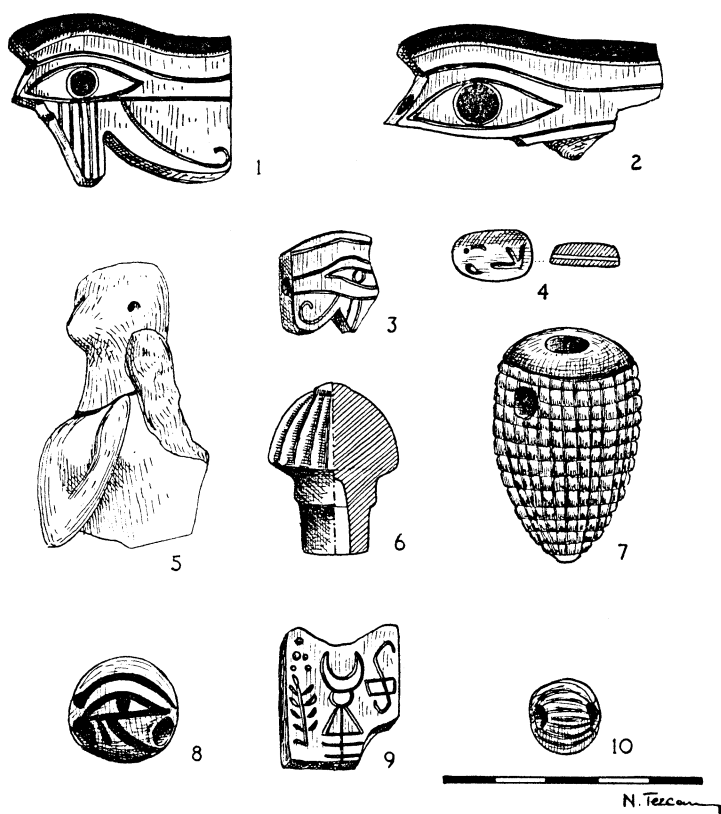


FIG. 4. Objects of paste.

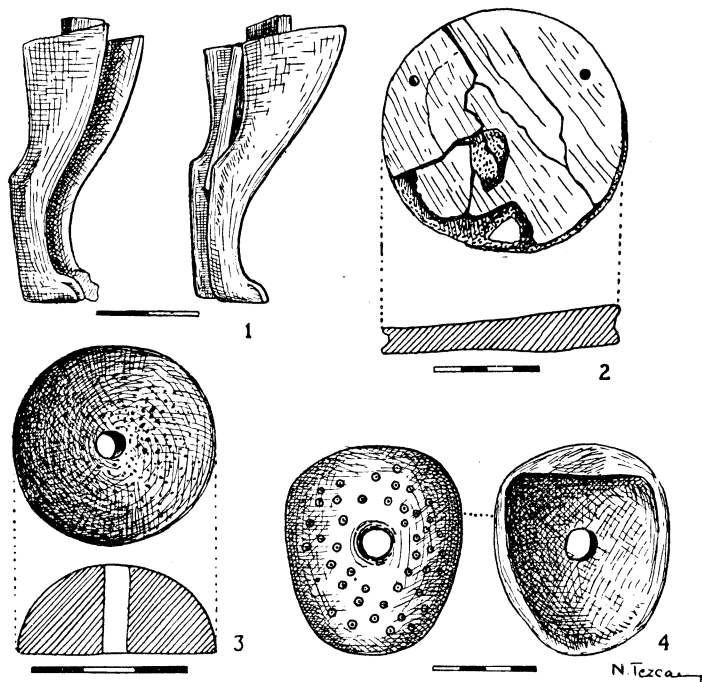


FIG. 5. Ivories.

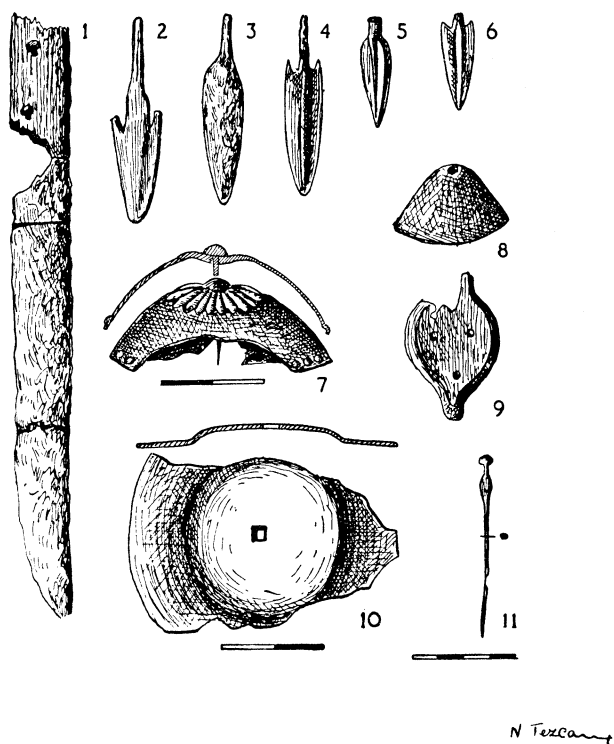


FIG. 6. Metal objects.

on the ivory example. Broken surfaces on the corresponding excrescences below show that the bowl was provided with a carved handle. The close resemblance of inscribed ornament on the bowl itself to the "swimming girl" ivory from Nimrud (cf. *Iraq*, Vol. II, Plate XXV, No. 4) suggests that this handle may have had the same character. If this were so, it is interesting to note that stone could be an alternative material to ivory for such figures.

All the objects in Fig. 4 are of paste or coloured faience, showing the contemporary association with Syria and Egypt, noted in connection with the major discoveries in Room M2 (*Anatolian Studies*, III, pp. 39 ff.). They are derived from the same group of rooms or from the corresponding (foundation of the acropolis) level in other soundings. The paste amulet (No. 9) is an example of the use, so frequently made at Sultantepe, of the "Sin of Harran" symbol, combined here as it is in a stamp-seal (Fig. 5, No. 10) with a plant motive and another less easy to identify.

In Fig. 5, the dowelled ivory fragment (No. 1) is evidently the lower half of a standing animal or half-human mythical figure. The "shield boss" of polished

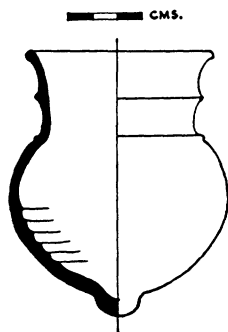


FIG. 7. Jar with button base.

bone (No. 4) shows signs of having been attached by a screw. Such bosses have been found in large numbers at Nimrud.

Among the metal objects (Fig. 6) bronze harness ornaments have parallels at most Assyrian sites. Three iron arrow-heads with trefoil section (Nos. 4-6) appear to be Scythian (cf. *Iraq*, Vol. XIV, Part 2, Fig. 12, p. 138, and Fig. 13, in which an exact replica of our No. 2 also appears). They were found among the débris created by the destruction of the Acropolis, presumably contemporary with the fall of Harran in 610 B.C. At the Urtian site they are dated variously between 625 and 575 B.C. (op. cit., p. 134). One example illustrated (No. 4) was found in a grave (Burial No. 3) immediately post-dating the destruction, in which the skeleton of an abnormally tall individual was accompanied by some bones of a horse. The toggle-pin (No. 11) is probably second millennium from the pre-Acropolis sounding Trench "L".

As a postscript to the discussion of Assyrian pottery in our first report mention should be made of a small vessel, which, though absent in the acropolis itself, occurs with great frequency in the levels immediately beneath, encountered in soundings "H" and "L". This is an almost spherical jar with a moulded vertical neck and "button" base (see Figure 7). These jars are usually rather finely made of cream-coloured clay with a slip of the same colour. A variant has ornamental indentations made by the potter's thumb in the spherical body. We are grateful to Prof. M. E. L.

Mallowan for the information that these vessels are common at Nimrud, where they occur in a seventh-century setting.

CYLINDER- AND STAMP-SEALS (FIG. 8)

The majority of cylinder-seals are well-established late Assyrian designs, among which such characteristic motifs appear as the "sacred tree" (No. 4), the four-winged genius grappling winged beasts (No. 16), human-animal contests (No. 7, a design in a characteristically free and open style), and a "banquet" scene.

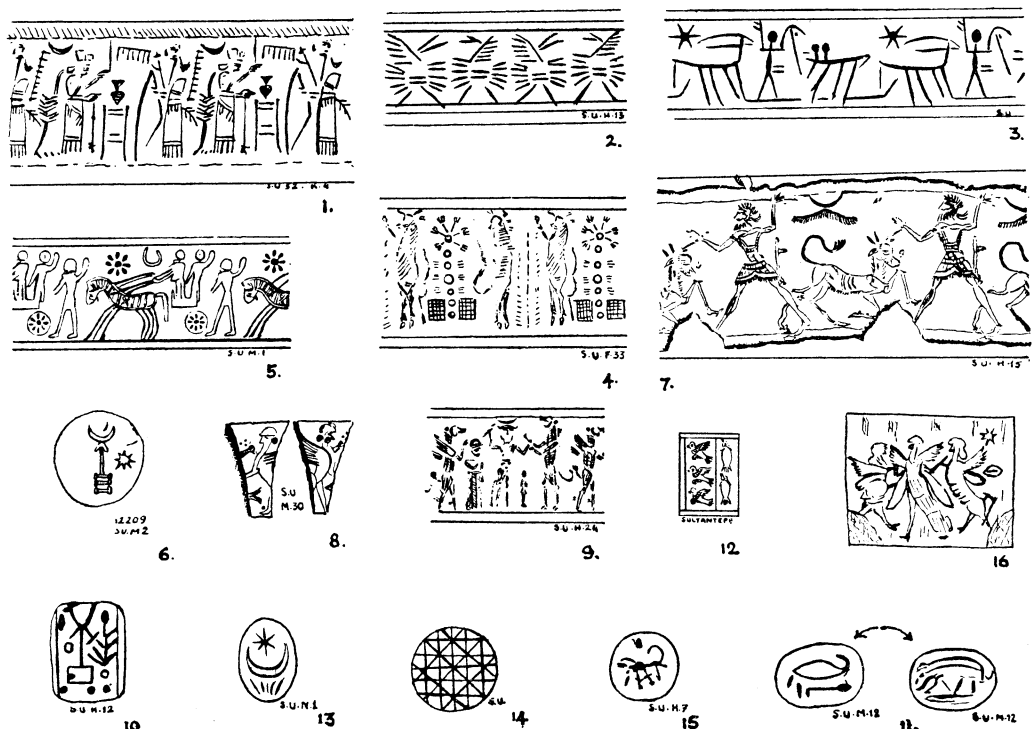


FIG. 8. Cylinder seals.

The latter has an almost exact parallel in a British Museum seal (No. 86695. cf. Frankfort, *Cylinder Seals*, Pl. XXXIVe). It is described as follows :—" . . . an officer on duty uncomfortably snatching a meal, standing at a table, bow in hand, while a servant fans the flies from the food " (op. cit., p. 197). Interesting are the two seals from the "Priestess' Room", Nos. 5 and 6. The cylinder has a simplified scene of a two-wheel chariot drawn by two horses. The stamp has the emblem of "Sin of Harran" with a *dingir* sign. A stone stamp (No. 10) with a pierced ring terminal in the Hittite manner, once more shows the Sin emblem accompanied by the plant motif already referred to above. Nos. 13 and 11 are scarabs ; No. 14 a prehistoric button-seal.

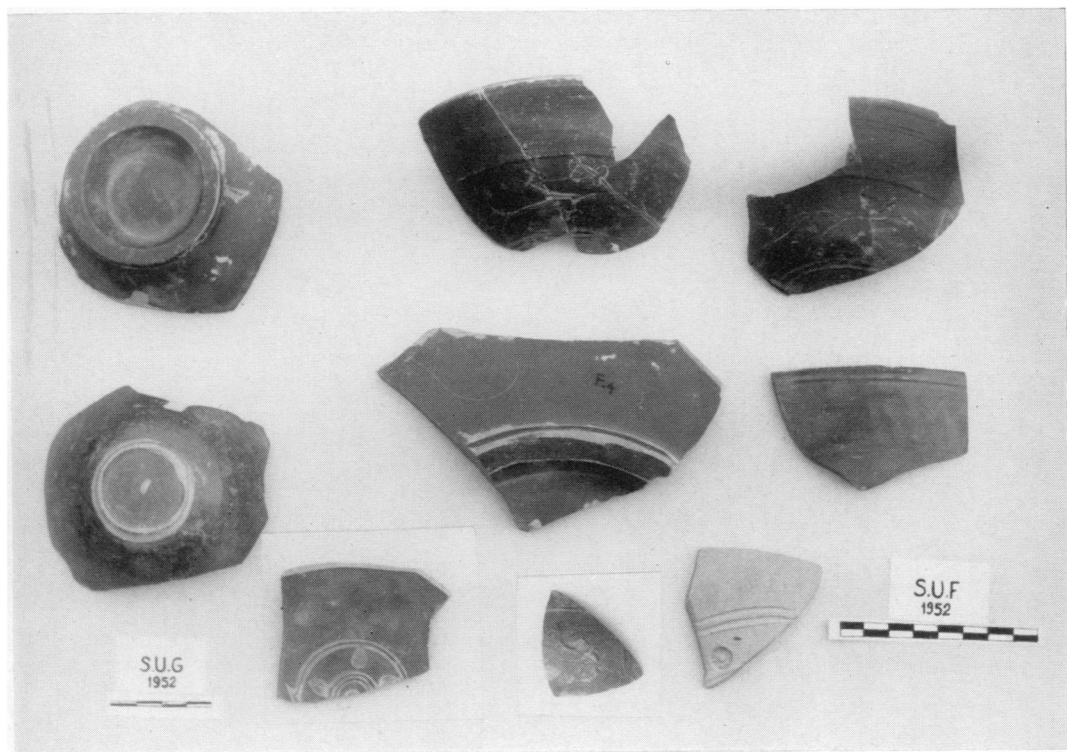
SULTANTEPE : SMALL OBJECTS

Figure No.	Provenance	Material	Description
2	Surface	Hard red stone.	Stamp seal in the form of crouching beast. Head missing. Dowel-hole shows that it was separate. Feet missing. Cuneiform inscription incised on both flanks.
3, 1	M2	Grey mottled stone.	Part of palette in grey mottled stone with rounded back. "Handle" section broken away. Possibly "swimming girl" as in Nimrūd ivories. 2.3 × 8.6 cms.
2	M4	Bright green stone.	Triple-row bead-spacer.
3	G.V	Black stone.	Loom-weight.
4	K.II	Brown stone.	" "
5	M3	Dark grey stone, streaked with white.	Unpierced bead.
6	F2	Grey stone.	Bead.
7	Level VI M1	Carnelian.	Bead.
4, 1	M2	Eye-symbol in white faience tinged with Blue Pupil and eyebrow black. Iris yellow. Obverse and reverse alike pierced for suspension. 4.3 × 3.3 × .08 cms.	Eye-symbol similar to 1.
2	F3	Faience.	Eye-symbol similar to 1.
3	Level VII N1	Bluish white faience.	Eye-symbol. Pierced.
4	M2	Blue frit.	Scarab. Incision much worn.
5	M4	Blue glazed paste.	Damaged figurine.
6	M4	Blue faience.	Broken terminal ornament.
7	M4	" "	Pierced pendant.
8	F4	Faience.	Bead with eye-symbol.
9	Level VII N2	White paste.	Amulet with Sin symbols. Pierced.
10	M2	Blue faience.	Bead.
5, 1	M2	Ivory.	Lower part of animal figure.
2	M2	Bone.	Pierced disk.
3	M2	"	Spindle-whorl.
4	H1	Polished bone.	Shield-boss. 7.7 × 6.6 × 2.5 cms.
6, 1	M2	Iron.	Knife-blade.
2	F1	Bronze.	Barbed arrow-head. Flat section.
3	Level VI G.IV	Iron.	Leaf-shaped arrow-head.
4	Burial No. 3	"	Tanged arrow-head. Trefoil-section.
5	H	Bronze.	As above.
6	Level VI F1	Iron.	" "
7	Level VI G	Bronze.	Ornamental boss.
8	K.III	"	Ornament.
9	Level VI F.IV	"	"
10	Level VI H	"	"
11	Level V L.IV	"	Toggle-pin.
	Step trench		

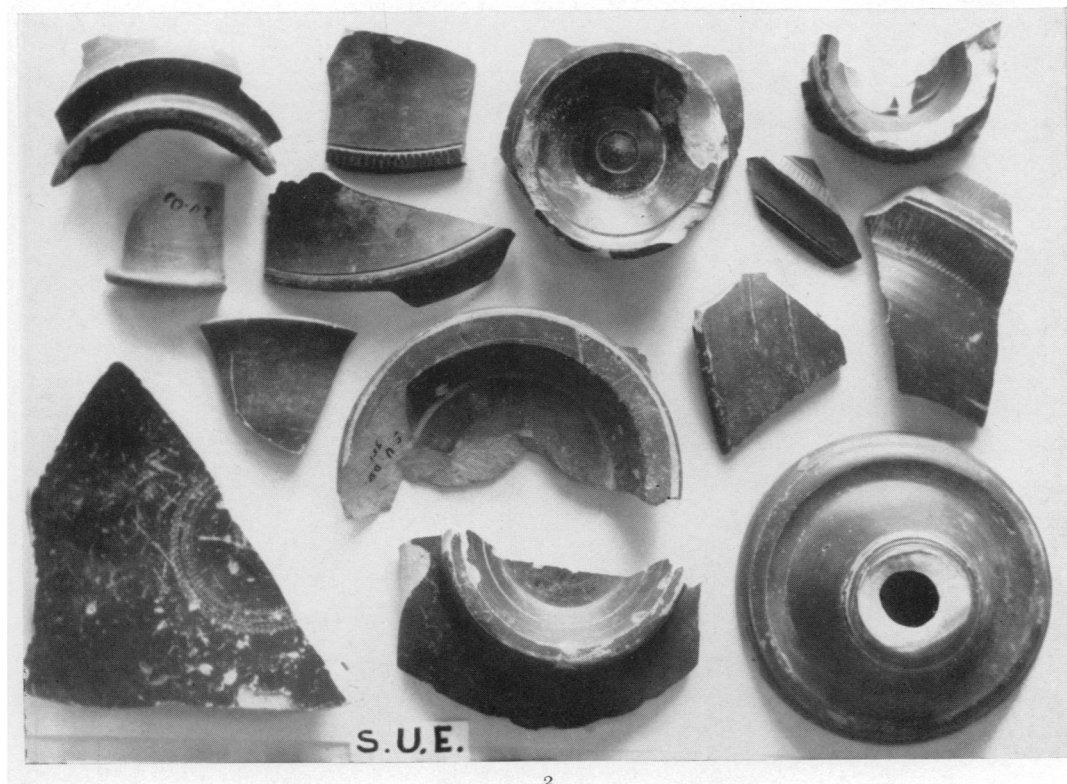
Figure No.	Provenance	Dimensions	Type	Material
8, 1	K. Level VI	3.3 × 1.2	Cylinder.	Black stone.
2	H. „ VIII	2.2 × 0.9	„	Limestone.
3	Surface	2.0 × 1.6	„	„
4	F1. Level VI	3.0 × 1.1	„	Haematite.
5	M2	2.6 × 1.2	„	Frit.
6	M2	2.2 × 1.5	Stamp.	Chalcedony.
7	H1	3.7 × 1.5	Cylinder.	Grey stone.
8	M4	2.3 × 1.2	„	Frit.
9	H	2.1 × 1.0	„	Haematite.
10	H. Level V	2.2 × 1.7 × 2.8	Hittite type stamp.	Limestone.
11	M2	2.0 × 1.4 × 0.9	Scarab.	Frit.
12	Surface.	1.8 × 0.8	Cylinder.	Haematite.
13	N1	1.8 × 1.3 × 0.7	Scarab.	Limestone.
14	Surface	1.8 × 0.9	Stamp.	Black stone.
15	H	1.6 × 0.7	„	Grey stone.

Plate No.	Provenance	Description
VIII, 1	F1 (Tablet hoard)	“Offering-table” of black basaltic stone, ornamented with two bulls’ heads.
2	Karkamiş	Offering table for comparison with foregoing.
3	C2	Basaltic stone bowls with two vertical chases in the rim, that on the left from Karkamiş.
4	D1	Bronze snaffle-bit from horse’s bridle.
5	C2	Large “duck weight” of whitish limestone.
6 and 7	Karkamiş	Two views of another hitherto unpublished “offering-table” for comparison.

The unpublished objects from Karkamiş are illustrated here by kind permission of Sir Leonard Woolley.

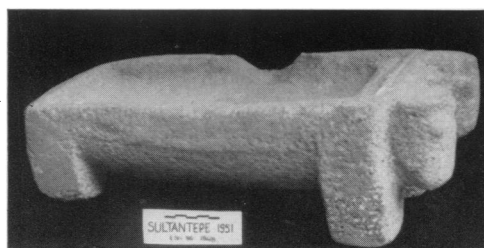


I

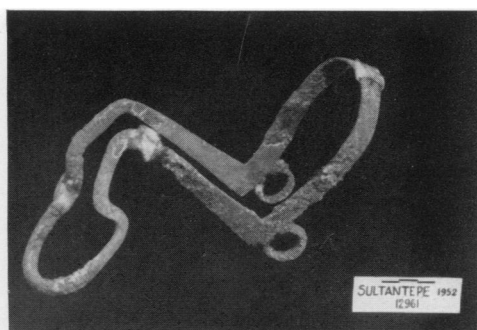


2

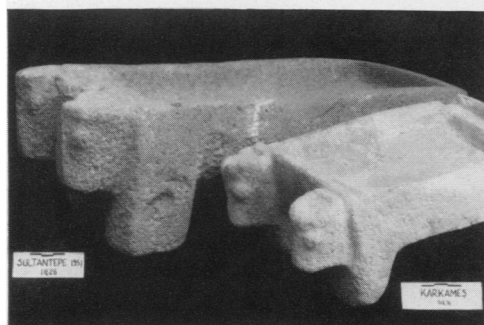
Post-Assyrian pottery.



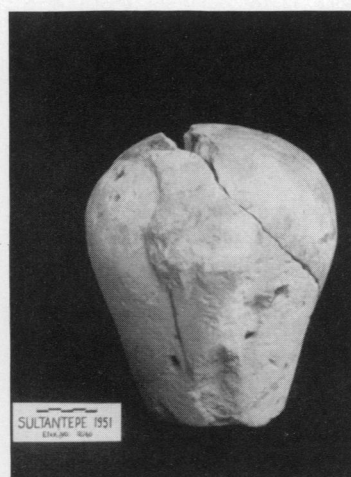
I



4



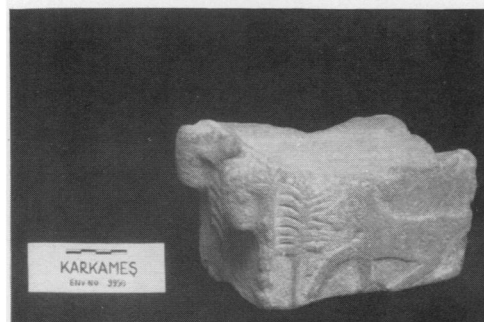
2



5



3



6



7

Small objects.