

A GROUP OF HITTITE BRONZE OBJECTS FROM THE SEBEN DISTRICT OF BOLU

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In 1998 an important group of nine metal objects, comprising vessels and weapons, was brought in to the Bolu Archaeological Museum by an individual, who said that they had been found in a field close to the village of Korucuk in the Seben district.¹ Acting on this information, staff from the museum went to the village and, after inspecting the spot where the objects were said to have been found, decided to conduct a small-scale excavation there. The results were disappointing, for they provided no clear evidence to support the view that there had been an ancient site on the find-spot itself or in its immediate vicinity.

The village of Korucuk is located approximately 6 km north-east of the town of Seben (Map I, Plan I), which is itself situated in the mountainous region between Bolu, Beypazarı and Nallıhan, 52 km south of the city of Bolu. The Aladağ Çayı, a tributary of the Sakarya (Sangarios) river, runs through Seben and is fed by the Bozyer Deresi that flows down the valley in which the village of Korucuk is situated. The region, therefore, had the right conditions in ancient times to support settlements. The area to the south of Korucuk, especially close to the Aladağ Çayı, is known to contain some such sites², while further north pottery collected from mounds in the vicinity of Bolu is reported to include examples of “Hittite ware”³.

The finds from Korucuk comprise five bronze bowls, two lugged axe heads, one shaft-hole axe head and one shaft-hole double axe head. This is the first recorded find of second-millennium BC metal bowls from the Bolu region, although the existence of Late Bronze Age weapons in the area was previously known. In 1934 K. Bittel published a lugged axe head said to have come from Bolu⁴, while A. Müller-Karpe has more recently recorded a bronze sword and a spearhead as also coming from Bolu⁵.

A – Metal Bowls

The five bronze bowls all have plain rims and are hemispherical in shape (Figs. 1-5, Pl.I,1). They have a uniform thickness for their sides and rounded bases. They were all made

¹ I wish to thank the General Directorate for Monuments and Museums and Mr. M. Adnan Sarioğlu, the Director of the Bolu Archaeology Museum, for granting me permission to study these objects. I am also deeply grateful to Nuray Çırak for all her help and to Dr. Chris Lightfoot for preparing an English translation of the text.

² Özgüç, T., 1945, pp. 289ff.; Burney, C.A., 1956, p. 181, nos. 2-5 (Early Bronze Age sites); Tezcan, B., 1956, pp. 343ff.

³ Arık, R.O., 1944, p. 345.

⁴ Bittel, K., 1934, p. 353, fig. 4.

⁵ Müller-Karpe, A., 1994, pp. 441ff., figs. 5/1-2.

by beating or hammering out the shape from a flat piece of metal.

1. Bowl (Fig. 1)
Bolu Archaeological Museum, inv. no. 3808, bronze.
Diameter (rim) 16 cm, height 5.9 cm.
Plain rim; broad curving sides; rounded base. Intact.
2. Bowl (Fig. 2)
Bolu Archaeological Museum, inv. no. 3804, bronze.
Diameter (rim) 14.8 cm, height 4.8 cm.
Plain rim; broad curving sides; rounded base. Intact.
3. Bowl (Fig. 3)
Bolu Archaeological Museum, inv. no. 3806, bronze.
Diameter (rim) 15.1 cm, height 5.5 cm.
Plain rim; broad curving sides; rounded base. Intact.
4. Bowl (Fig. 4)
Bolu Archaeological Museum, inv. no. 3805, bronze.
Diameter (rim) 14.5 cm, height 5.3 cm.
Plain rim; broad curving sides; rounded base. Intact.
5. Bowl (Fig. 5)
Bolu Archaeological Museum, inv. no. 3807, bronze.
Diameter (rim) 12.8 cm, height 5.4 cm.
Plain rim; hemispherical body; rounded base. Intact.

Plain bowls are one of the most common shapes found in the range of Hittite vessels. Prototypes for such plain metal bowls are known from the Assyrian Trading Colony Period earlier in the second millennium BC. Bronze examples of this type exist amongst the grave goods from the Karum Ib level at Kültepe⁶.

Similar metal bowls, dated to the Hittite Period by means of stratigraphy, have been found in excavations at Maşat Höyük and Fraktin. The example from the citadel at Maşat Höyük is a bronze bowl with a plain profile, similar to that of the bowls in Bolu. It was recovered from the floor of a house belonging to Hittite occupation level I (13th century BC)⁷. According to T. Özgüç, the bronze bowl found in a destruction layer that marks the end of the Hittite occupation on the mound at Fraktin⁸ is of the same type as that from Maşat⁹. Other close parallels to the Bolu group are provided by some of the bowls in the assemblage of metal vessels from Kastamonu-Kınık, which has been published in recent years¹⁰. The Kastamonu-Kınık group includes a cup decorated in relief and bearing a Hittite

⁶ Özgüç, N./T., 1953, p. 67, pls. XLIX/456-457, LVII/573-574.

⁷ Özgüç, T., 1982, p. 40, fig. 83.

⁸ Özgüç, N., 1955, p. 296.

⁹ Özgüç, T., 1982, p. 40.

¹⁰ Emre, K./Çınaroğlu, A., 1993, p. 682, figs. 15-17, pl. 132/1-4.

hieroglyphic inscription. This has helped to date the entire group to the last quarter of the 13th century BC¹¹.

Amongst the objects from Şarkışla, now in a private collection in Berlin, together with harness pieces and weapons, are seven bronze bowls, one of which is also inscribed¹². Despite the fact that no photographs or drawings of these hemispherical bowls have been published, it is clear from their descriptions that they belong to the same type as the Bolu examples. K. Bittel studied the Hittite hieroglyphic inscription that is found on the rim of one of the bowls and dated it to the 14th-13th century BC, but he remained uncertain as to whether it referred to the vessel's owner or the person who dedicated it¹³. The Şarkışla group serves as an important parallel to the Bolu finds since not only are the bowls of the same type but also in both cases they were accompanied by weapons.

Another parallel for the bowls from Bolu is provided by a silver bowl on display in the Anatolian Civilizations Museum in Ankara¹⁴. The vessel does not have a recorded provenance. It is a plain, hemispherical bowl with a hieroglyphic inscription in Luwian¹⁵. The inscription, according to J.D. Hawkins, gives the name of king Tudhalia I/II or IV, and so for the present it is impossible to be more precise in dating the piece¹⁶. Another silver bowl, said to come from Izmir and now in the Museum of the Oriental Institute in Chicago, offers a further parallel¹⁷. It has also a hemispherical body but the rim is thickened on the inside, making it somewhat different to the metals bowls from Bolu. Associated with the Chicago bowl is a gold disk, and both pieces have been thought to date to the 13th century BC¹⁸. H. Kantor compared the bowl on typological grounds to a bronze example found in level IV at Alalakh¹⁹. Excavations in western Anatolia may well produce further examples of plain metal bowls of this type dating to the second half of the 2nd millennium BC²⁰.

B – Metal Weapons

The group of objects from Korucuk includes, in addition to the bronze bowls, four different types of weapons.

¹¹ Op. cit., p. 701.

¹² Bittel, K., 1975, p. 301; Bittel, K., 1976, pp. 19ff.

¹³ Bittel, K., 1976, p. 20, figs. 6a-b (details of the inscribed bowl).

¹⁴ Toker, A., 1992, p. 166, no.144.

¹⁵ Hawkins, J.D., 1997, p.7.

¹⁶ Op.cit., pp. 13ff.

¹⁷ Kantor, H.J., 1957, p.158, fig.8B, pl.XXVI/C.

¹⁸ Op.cit., p. 152. H. Kantor based her dating on the similarity of the figures on the gold disk with those on a small ivory plaque belonging to the 13th century BC found at Megiddo and on a seal impression of Muṣili II's son, Muwatalli.

¹⁹ Op.cit., p. 159, note 80; Woolley, L., 1955, pl. LXXIV/ AT/38/72 (from room 6 of the Level IV Palace).

²⁰ H. Erkanal and A. Erkanal have indicated that bronze bowls of this type have been found in tombs at Panaztepe (pers. comm.). I am grateful to them for providing this information.

1. *Lugged axes*

There are two lugged axes (Figs. 6-7, Pl.I,2a-b), both in a good state of preservation. They were cast into open moulds and then hammered into their final shapes. They represent two different forms. On the first type (Fig. 6) the shaft that once fitted into the axe's handle has rounded ends and the lugs are blunt projections, while the blade has a slightly splayed cutting edge sides that are slightly concave²¹.

6. Lugged axe (Fig. 6, Pl.I/2b)
Bolu Archaeological Museum, inv. no. 3801, bronze.
Length 23.9 cm., width 8.6 cm.
Slightly rounded shaft; blunt lugs; rectangular section to blade with concave sides; broad head to blade with slightly splayed cutting edge. Intact.

This type of lugged axe is known to have been produced as early as the Assyrian Trading Colony Period, since a sandstone mould has been found in the Karum level II at Kültepe²². H. Erkanal argued that metal objects of this type date to the last phase of the Assyrian Trading Colony Period or to the Hittite Imperial Age²³. Close parallels to the lugged axe from Bolu can be found at Alaca Höyük (in level II)²⁴, at Boğazköy²⁵ and at other sites in the central Black Sea region²⁶ belonging to the Late Bronze Age.

The second lugged axe (Fig. 7, Pl.I/2a) in the Korucuk group belongs to a different type on which the lugs are hooked and point backwards.

7. Lugged axe (Fig. 7, Pl.I/2a)
Bolu Archaeological Museum, inv. no. 3800, bronze.
Length 18.7, width 9.1 cm.
Broad, rounded shaft; pointed lugs, projecting backwards; rectangular section to blade with sharply concave sides, curved head with slightly splayed cutting edge. Intact.

Examples of this type of lugged axe²⁷ with clear stratigraphic contexts have been found at Bogazköy (in phase 1 of the Lower City)²⁸ and at Alaca Höyük (in level II)²⁹. H. Erkanal dated other Anatolian examples that do not have a precise provenance to the Hittite Imperial Age³⁰, while H.G. Buchholz suggested a date in the 14th-13th century BC for two

²¹ Erkanal, H., 1977, p. 3 ("Ärmchenbeile" Type I); Przeworski, S., 1935, pp. 412 ff. (Type A); Deshayes, J., 1960, I, p. 118 (Type C.1.b).

²² Özgüç, T., 1986, p. 38, pl. 79/10a-b.

²³ Erkanal, H., 1977, pp. 8ff.

²⁴ Koşay, H.Z./Akoc, M., 1966, p. 27, pl. 47/Al.I.60.

²⁵ Boehmer, R.M., 1972, p. 38, no. 28, abb.20b. Boehmer has stated that this axe, found during excavations in 1907 and now without a clear context, could be contemporary with Büyükkale Level IVd.

²⁶ Dengate, J.A., 1978, p. 254, figs. 6,7, pl. 67/13 (Bengü Köyü); Müller-Karpe, A., 1988, p. 210, illus. 6. (Alaçam/Pelit Büyük Köyü); Bilgi, Ö., 1994, p. 255, pl. 57/35-36.

²⁷ Erkanal, H., 1977, p.5ff. (Type III).

²⁸ Boehmer, R.M., 1972, p.38, no. 24, pl. II/24.

²⁹ Koşay, H. Z./Akoc, M., 1966, p. 77, pl. 47/Al.I.18.

³⁰ Erkanal, H., 1977, pp. 6, 9, pls. 2.23, 24, 25.

Anatolian lugged axes that are now in a private collection in Munich³¹. A similar axe from central Anatolia in the Sadberk Hanım Museum has been dated to the Late Bronze Age³².

2 – *Shaft-hole double axe*

The third type of axe represented in the finds from Korucuk is a double-headed bronze axe with a shaft hole for the handle (Fig. 8, Pl.I/2d). It was made in a two-part mould, and the heads were then hammered out into sharpened edges. The body of the axe is thin and narrow, while the two blades are slightly broadened.

8. Double-headed axe (Fig. 8, Pl.I/2d)

Bolu Archaeological Museum, inv. no. 3802, bronze.

Length 19.2, width of blade 5.2, width of shaft 3.3 cm.

Elongated shaft, thin and narrow in section, with central, oval hole; slightly concave sides; blades at either end slightly convex and ending in a sharpened edge. Intact.

H. Erkanal classified this type of Anatolian axe as the “Emirdag type of double-headed axe”³³. The Bolu example, with its elongated but thin and narrow shaft, is different to the double-headed axes dated to the second millennium BC that come from western Anatolia and the Aegean region³⁴. Both K. Bittel and T. Özgüç³⁵ regarded this type of Anatolian axe as “the archetypal battle axe”. Its prototypes can be seen in the Early Bronze Age. M. Mellink found a miniature silver double-headed axe of the Anatolian type dating to the Early Bronze Age at Semahöyük/Karataş³⁶. Another example with a cutting edge or blade on two sides is the Semahöyük axe, but it is different from the other types of the Anatolian axe belonging to the Early Bronze Age³⁷.

The double-headed axe is also represented in the Assyrian Trading Colony Period, for an example was found in the Karum level II at Kültepe³⁸. The impression of an axe taken from a steatite mould from the same level bears a strong resemblance to the Bolu example³⁹. The Kültepe mould further demonstrates that at that time this type of axe was being produced in central Anatolia. N. Özgüç also demonstrated that in the Assyrian Trading Colony Period the double-headed axe is occasionally depicted on locally produced seals as the weapon used by the War God⁴⁰.

³¹ Buchholz, H.G./Drescher, H., 1987, pp. 42, 54, figs.3a, 3c.

³² Anlagan, Ç./Bilgi, Ö., 1989, p. 61, no. 29.

³³ Erkanal, H., 1977, p. 21.

³⁴ For examples from western Anatolia, see Przeworski, S., 1967, pls. VI/1 (Hisarlık), IX/10 (Tlos); Anlagan, Ç./Bilgi, Ö., 1989, pp. 72ff. nos. 37-38.; for Aegean and Cretan examples, see Deshayes, J., 1960, I, pp. 253ff.; II, pp. 105ff., pls. XXXIV-XXXV.

³⁵ Özgüç, T., 1986, p. 45; Bittel, K., 1967, p. 418.

³⁶ Mellink, M.J., 1967, p. 265. pl. 84, figs. 50a-b.

³⁷ Stronach, D.B., 1957, p.118 (shaft-hole axes, Type I), figs. 10/1-5.

³⁸ Özgüç, T., 1955, p.61, illus. 41a-b, 43.

³⁹ Özgüç, T., 1986, p.45, pl. 91/2.

⁴⁰ Özgüç, N., 1965, p. 9, pl. IX/27.

The Emirdag axe in a private collection⁴¹ and the Late Bronze Age axes from the Gözlükule site at Tarsus⁴² belong to the same type as the Bolu example, although they display differences in the shapes of their sides. H. Goldman stated that one double-headed axe from Tarsus had been left as a “foundation deposit” for a building belonging to the first phase of the Late Bronze Age occupation⁴³. This axe thus provides a second example for which the date and context is known, the first being the find from Kültepe. Another parallel for the Bolu axe is an example in the Sadberk Hanım Museum⁴⁴. It is thought to have come from central Anatolia and is dated to the Late Bronze Age. It is, however, different from the one in Bolu in that there is a collar around top and bottom of the shaft hole.

3. *Shaft-hole axe*

The most interesting of the objects from Bolu is a shaft-hole axe with lugs worked in the shape of bird heads (Fig. 9, Pl.I/2c). The projecting half-crescent blade or “comb” at the rear is also a sign that a sophisticated casting technique was used in its manufacture, most probably the lost-wax technique⁴⁵. The two lugs, which served to secure the handle to the bronze axe head, have been fashioned to resemble the heads of a bird of prey, probably an eagle, with a fierce look and sharp, curved beak. Other shaft-hole axes of the Hittite Period also have figured decoration, as can be seen in the case of the Şarkışla axe⁴⁶, but the Bolu axe belongs to a different typological group.

9. Shaft-hole axe (Fig. 9, Pl.I/2c, II/1-2)

Bolu Archaeological Museum, inv. no. 3803, bronze.

Length 19.2, width 7.9 cm.

Round shaft hole, but with a tapering shape towards each face of the axe; crescent-shaped projecting blade at rear; lugs to either side of the shaft hole, shaped to resemble a bird's head (eagle) with frowning brows and bulging eyes, and with a curved beak; acutely concave sides to axe head from blade to lugs, with broad, sharp edge; rectangular section to head, with edges slightly rounded; blade worked into a sharp edge, slightly splayed. Intact.

The distinguishing characteristic of this type of Anatolian axe is the “comb” that projects from the back of the axe head. This element can be either flat or convex. Axes of this type with two lugs to either side of the shaft hole were classified first by S. Przeworski⁴⁷ and later by R. Maxwell-Hyslop⁴⁸ and J. Deshayes⁴⁹. Finally, the group was given the name of

⁴¹ Bittel, K., 1967, p. 418, fig. 2.

⁴² Goldman, H., 1956, p. 282, pl. 425/27.

⁴³ Op.cit., p. 45.

⁴⁴ Anlağan, Ç./Bilgi, Ö., 1989, p. 74, no. 39.

⁴⁵ The precise details of its manufacture can only be ascertained if X-rays are taken of the objects.

⁴⁶ Bittel, K., 1976, p. 19ff, pls. VII-XII.

⁴⁷ Przeworski, S., 1967, pp. 121ff.

⁴⁸ Maxwell-Hyslop, R., 1949, p.113 (Type 22).

⁴⁹ Deshayes, J., 1960, I, p.190 (Type F2a,b,c).

the “Nackenkamäxte vom typ Firaktin” or “Fraktin type” by H. Erkanal⁵⁰, who was able to list a total of seven examples from Anatolia⁵¹. Of these only two – the ones from Fraktin and Boğazköy – were found in the course of archaeological excavations. The Firaktin axe (fig. 10/2) was found in situ on the floor of a house belonging to the last phase of the Hittite Imperial Period⁵², while the Bogazköy example (fig. 10/5), from the excavations carried out by Th. Makridi Bey, has been dated by K. Bittel to the 14th-13th century BC⁵³. H. Erkanal has likewise dated the group as a whole to the same centuries⁵⁴. As a result of more recent publications it is possible to add two further examples to the group. The axes come from the central Black Sea region, and both are casual finds – one (fig. 10/1) from the village of Mengü near Bafra⁵⁵, the other (fig. 10/4) from Havza⁵⁶. They are also dated to the Late Bronze Age (14th-13th century BC).

Although the Bolu axe belongs to the same group, it has features – notably the crescent-shaped “comb” and the bird’s head-shaped lugs – that distinguish it as a separate sub-type. The closest parallel that can be found is a shaft-hole axe (fig. 10/8) of Anatolian origin now in the Honolulu Academy of Arts⁵⁷. It, too, has a crescent projection at the back of the axe head, while the lugs are shaped as lion’s heads, but on the Honolulu axe there is also decoration on the sides of the shaft hole in the form of stylised lion’s paws. The Bolu example has no such decoration. Some doubt remains about the animal-shaped lugs on the Honolulu axe, for E. Porada questioned the identification of both as lion’s heads. She accepted that one lug is clearly a lion, but she suggested that the other, which has a more slender shape, may represent a different animal, such as a dog⁵⁸. Regardless of these differences, the axe has been dated to the same period as the other axes of the Firaktin type.

So far the Honolulu and Bolu axes are the only two example of the group that are decorated with such figures. The bird’s heads on the latter are not dissimilar to the representations of eagles found elsewhere in the art of the second millennium BC. For example, their curved beaks and stern looks recall the way eagles are portrayed on bird-shaped rhyta of the Assyrian Trading Colony Period⁵⁹. Similarly, eagles are one of the most popular motifs used on seals of both the Assyrian Trading Colony and the Hittite periods⁶⁰. On stamp seals and

⁵⁰ Erkanal, H., 1977, p. 12f.

⁵¹ *Op.cit.*, pp. 12ff., pl. 5/50-51 (Fraktin), pl. 5/52 (Alişar), pl. 5/53 (Kayseri), pl. 5/54 (Boğazköy), pl. 5/55 (Çerkeş), and pl. 5/56 (Anatolia).

⁵² Özgüç, N., 1955, p. 296, illus. 22a-b.

⁵³ Bittel, K., 1937, p. 21, pl. 13/2.

⁵⁴ Erkanal, H., 1977, p. 14.

⁵⁵ Dengate, J.A., 1978, p. 256, fig. 8, pl. 67/12.

⁵⁶ Bilgi, Ö., 1994, p. 255, pl. 58/42.

⁵⁷ Porada, E., 1989, p. 441, fig. 1, pl. 127/1.

⁵⁸ *Op.cit.*, p. 443. E. Porada noted that the idea that the second lug could represent a dog fits well with a relief found at Beth Shan, which depicts a scene of a fight between a lion and a dog. She also stated that scenes of lion hunts in Hittite art do not include dogs, but there is in fact one such scene amongst the Alaca Höyük reliefs; see Bittel, K., 1976a, p. 198, no. 226.

⁵⁹ Özgüç, T., 1983, fig. 4.; Özgüç, T., 1986, pl. 115/1, 2.

⁶⁰ Özgüç, N., 1968, p. 8, pls. III/1A, III/2; XXXIII/1b, 2b, 3b; Alp, S., 1972, p. 169ff. nos. 71-82; Beran, T., 1967, p. 50ff. (Group III), pl. 4/32-40; Boehmer, R.M./Güterbock, H.G., 1987, nos. 24-27, 44, 61.

their impressions such a motif is shown with the bird as either single- or double-headed. In some instances of the latter type one head is represented as that of an eagle, while the other is that of a lion. Double-headed heraldic eagles are also found on Hittite stone reliefs, such as the ones at Alaca Höyük and Yazılıkaya⁶¹. The heraldic motif of the double-headed eagle that appears on seals and reliefs has been turned on the Bolu axe into two separate heads. In fact, Hittite craftsmen showed a distinct preference for decorating weapons with representations of animals with two heads. A ceremonial axe from Şarkışla is decorated around its shaft hole with a pair of birds of prey – probably eagles – and on its lugs with winged lion protomes⁶². This design feature appears on other Hittite weapons; for example, the casing of a spear head from Şarkışla is decorated with facing boars⁶³. Likewise, counterposed lions are depicted on a relief (no. 82) in Chamber B at Yazılıkaya⁶⁴.

The eagle is frequently referred to in Hittite texts that describe the gods, rituals, sooth-saying or mythological subjects⁶⁵. However, despite all these references, the identity of the god to which the eagle was sacred remains unclear. It is well known that the eagle is sometimes represented in association with a goddess. So, for example, in Chamber A at Yazılıkaya two goddess (nos. 45 and 46) belonging to the family of the Storm God are depicted above a double-headed eagle⁶⁶. Elsewhere, however, the eagle is associated with a god, as on seals from Boğazköy⁶⁷ and Tarsus⁶⁸, and so it seems impossible to link the eagle specifically with a goddess. This point has been stressed by K. Bittel⁶⁹. Although the eagle is often depicted with other animals – for example, the rabbit – in the hands of a god, it cannot be regarded as a sacred animal. H.G. Güterbock described these animals when shown together as “animals of the hunt that come under the protection of the Tutelary Deity or God”⁷⁰. T. Özgüç, in describing eagle rhyta of the Assyrian Trading Colony Period, stated that “Hittite texts refer to some statues of Hittite gods as holding in their hands the figure of an eagle made of gold, silver, ivory, iron or lead, but, as indicated by H.G. Güterbock, they do not make it clear to which

⁶¹ For these examples, see Bittel, K., et alii, 1975, pls. 26-31 (Yazılıkaya); Bittel, K., 1976a, p. 214, fig. 215 (Alaca Höyük).

⁶² Bittel, K., 1976, figs. 9a-b.

⁶³ Bittel, K., 1987, res. 2a, b. K. Bittel drew attention to a spearhead found at Ugarit that is decorated on the shaft with two counterposed animals and related it to another spearhead amongst the Şarkışla group. See Schaeffer, C.F.-A., 1939, p. 113, fig. 104, pl. XXIII.

⁶⁴ Bittel, K. et al., 1975, pls. 47, 50, 51; Bittel, K., 1976a, p. 220, no. 254.

⁶⁵ Ertem, H., 1965, pp. 179ff.

⁶⁶ Bittel, K. et al., 1941, p. 126, pl. 18. Different views have been expressed on the identity of the figures associated with the double-headed eagle heraldic design since it is also represented on the East Sphinx at Alaca Höyük. On this subject, see Alexander, R.L., 1989, pp. 151ff.

⁶⁷ Neve, P., 1992, p. 59, fig. 159 (seal impression of king Tudhaliya IV).

⁶⁸ Goldman, H., 1956, pl. 407.

⁶⁹ Bittel, K. et al., 1941, p. 126

⁷⁰ Güterbock, H.G., 1943, pp. 290ff. For representations of “DINGIR LAMA LIL”, the Tutelary God, see Özgüç, N., 1965, pp. 24ff., pls. XXI/64, XXII/65; Arık, R.O., 1937, fig. 36 (Yeniköy relief); Muscarella, O.W., 1974, no. 123 (on a stag rhyton).

deity the eagle is sacred”⁷¹. Consequently, as the position now stands, our knowledge is not sufficient to allow us to attribute the eagles depicted on the Bolu axe to a specific god.

In works of art of the second millennium BC, but especially on seals and seal impressions, various types of weapons are found in association with depictions of gods. Locally made seal impressions of the Assyrian Trading Colony Period show the shaft-hole axe as one of the weapons wielded by the war gods⁷². From written sources of the Hittite Period it is known that axes were used as the symbol of not only the War God but also other gods such as the Storm God or Ishtar⁷³. From texts describing festivals it is also known that axes bearing representations of gods were used in religious ceremonies attended by the king and queen⁷⁴. However, apart from one or two examples, it is extremely difficult to distinguish the particular type of axe that is depicted from the representations that exist in Hittite art. K. Bittel compared the ritual axe from Şarkışla, which he classified amongst the group described as “stachelaxt” or “axe with spikes behind the socket”, to the axes carried by the god on the King’s Gate at Boğazköy and by the God Sharrumma as shown on Ini-Teshup’s seal⁷⁵. The axe wielded by Sharrumma on a relief (no. 44) at Yazılıkaya also appears to have a shaft hole⁷⁶. The axe has a short blade, but it is crescent-shaped at the rear. K. Bittel, following the same line as earlier views, wrote stating that this axe is not double-headed but belongs to the Çerkeş type of axe, which has its origins in Paphlagonia⁷⁷. Another example of the type comes from Çankırı (fig. 10/6) and has been classified as belonging to the Fıraktin group of axes⁷⁸. If K. Bittel’s comparison is to be accepted, then the closest parallel to the Bolu axe amongst Hittite representations of axes is that of the axe held by Sharrumma on the Yazılıkaya relief.

Investigations were carried out in and around the village of Korucuk in the Seben district, where the group of metal bowls and weapons was found, but they provided no further information to explain the appearance of the finds there. Excavations at the find-spot itself, as indicated above, produced no other archaeological material such as pottery or architectural remains. As a result it is impossible, unlike in the case of the Hittite metal objects found at Şarkışla⁷⁹ and Kastamonu-Kınık⁸⁰, to attribute the Seben finds to a group of grave goods or votive offerings or a cache of personal belongings. However, the present survey of similar objects from excavations or chance finds now in museums allows one to conclude that the Hittite finds from the Seben district of Bolu belong to the 14th-13th century BC and are probably votive objects.

⁷¹ Özgüç, T., 1983, p. 177 and footnotes 13-14.

⁷² Özgüç, N., 1965, p. 9, pls. I/2; VII/21; X/28; XIV/40; XIX/56-57;

⁷³ Brandenstein, C.G. von, 1943, p. 77ff.; Jakob-Rost, L., 1961, pp. 175-178; Jakob-Rost, L., 1963, p. 208.

⁷⁴ Singer, I., 1983, p. 62. The best example of an actual axe of this kind is the one from Şarkışla; see Bittel, K., 1976, pls. VII-XII.

⁷⁵ Bittel, K., 1976, p. 27. See also, Darga, M., 1979, pp. 157ff. and footnote 45.

⁷⁶ Bittel, K. et al., 1975, p.153, fig. 115, pls. 25, 26, 29, 30.

⁷⁷ Op.cit., p. 154 and footnotes 40-41.

⁷⁸ Erkanal, H., 1977, p.13, no. 55, pl. 5/55.

⁷⁹ Bittel, K., 1976, pp. 19ff.

⁸⁰ Emre, K./Çınaroğlu, A., 1993, pp. 675ff.

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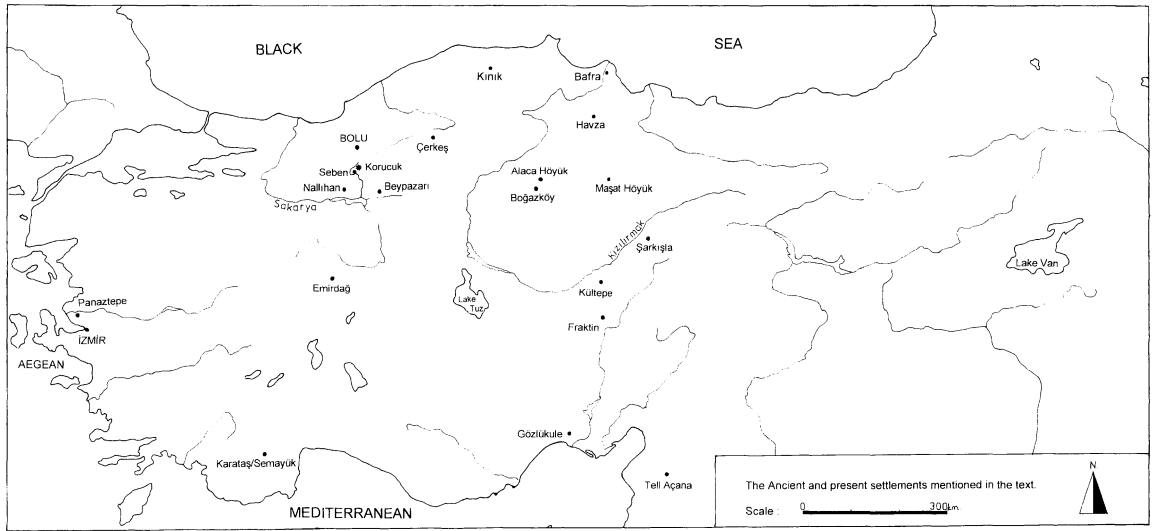
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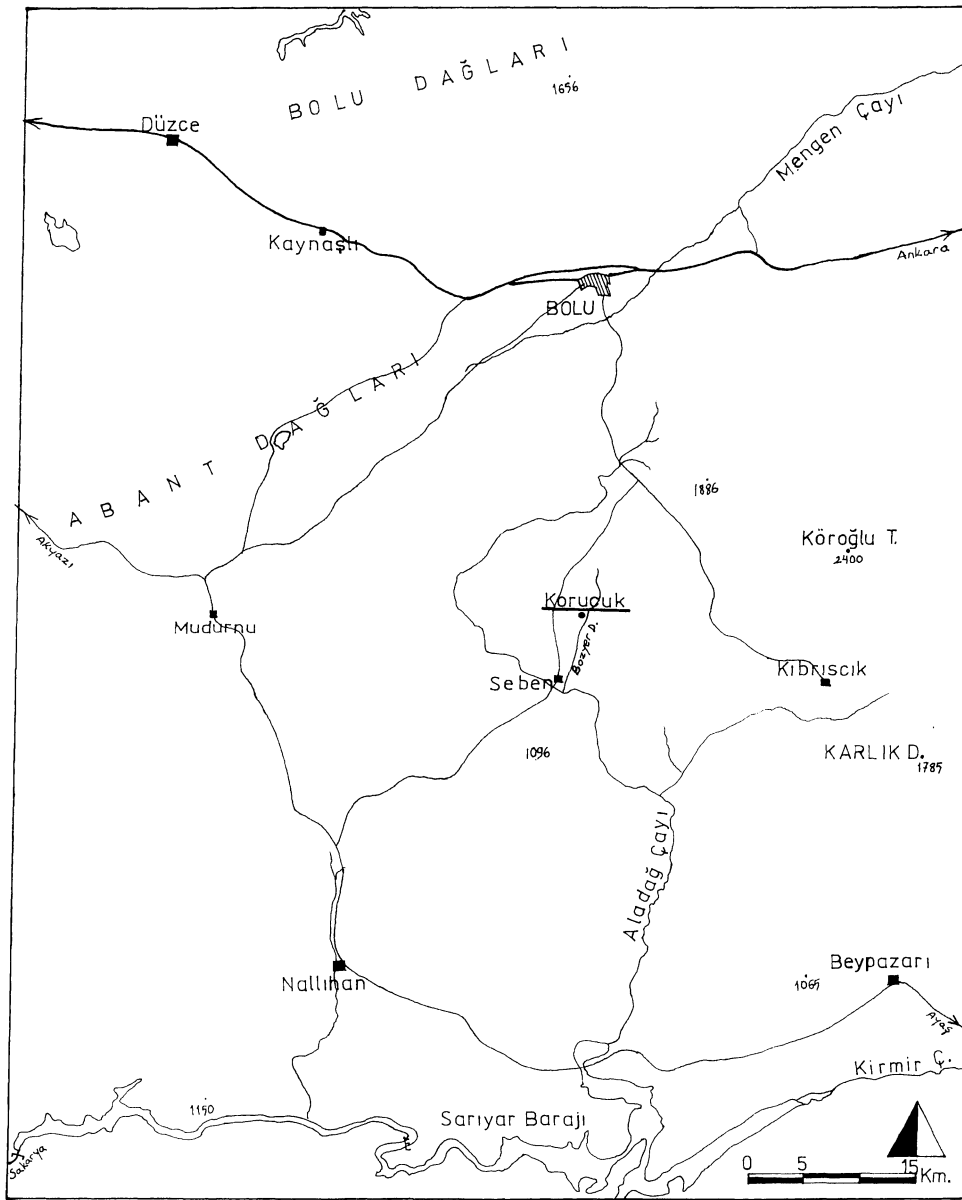
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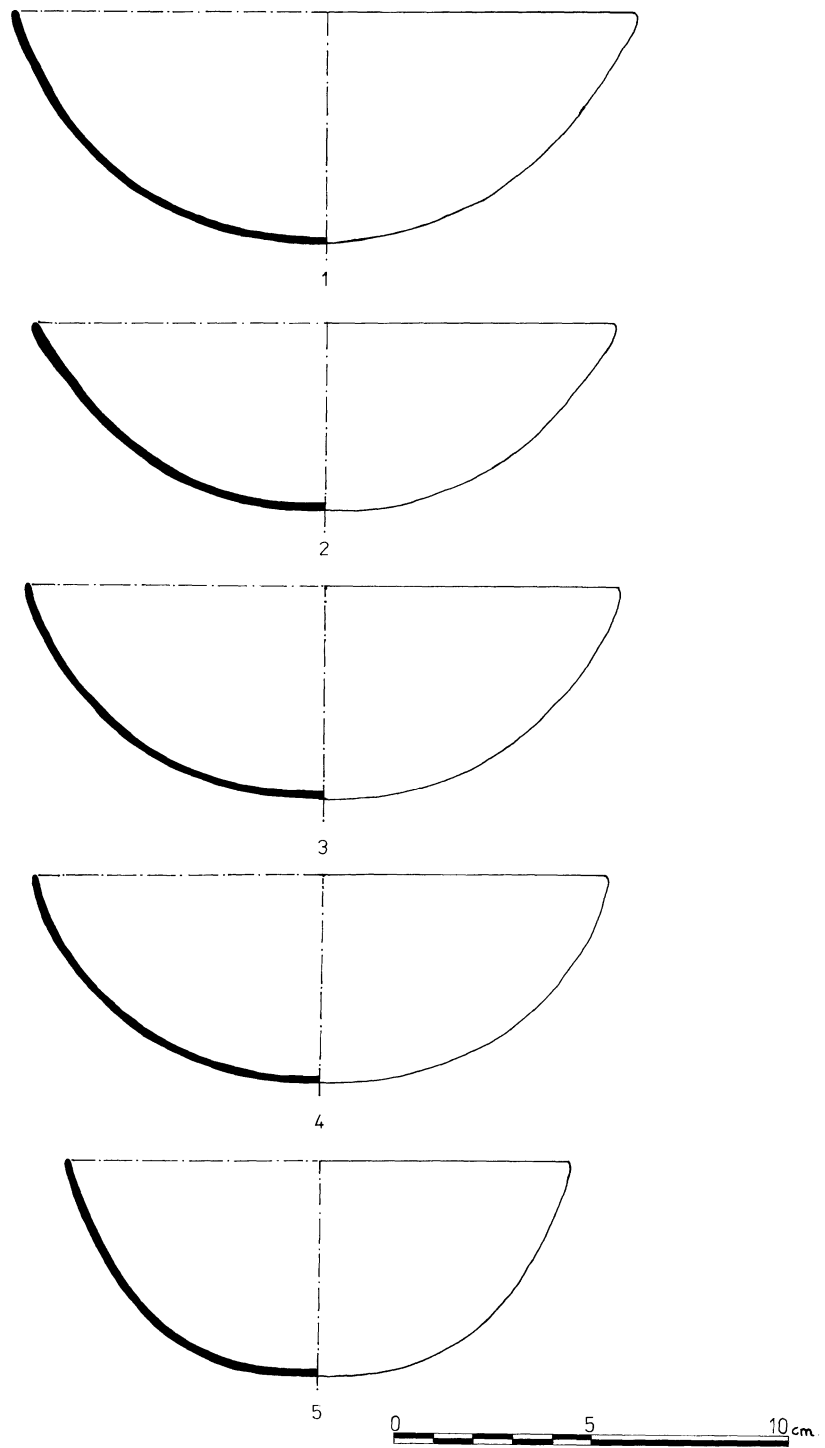
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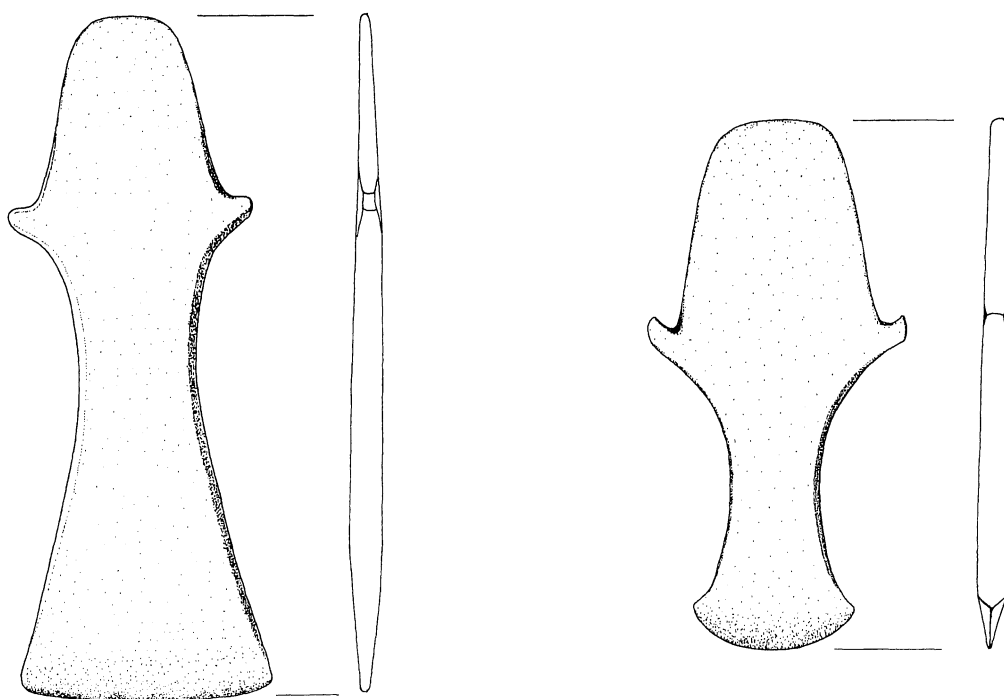




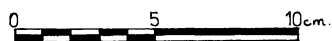
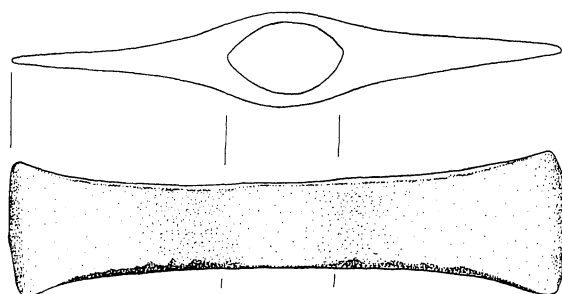
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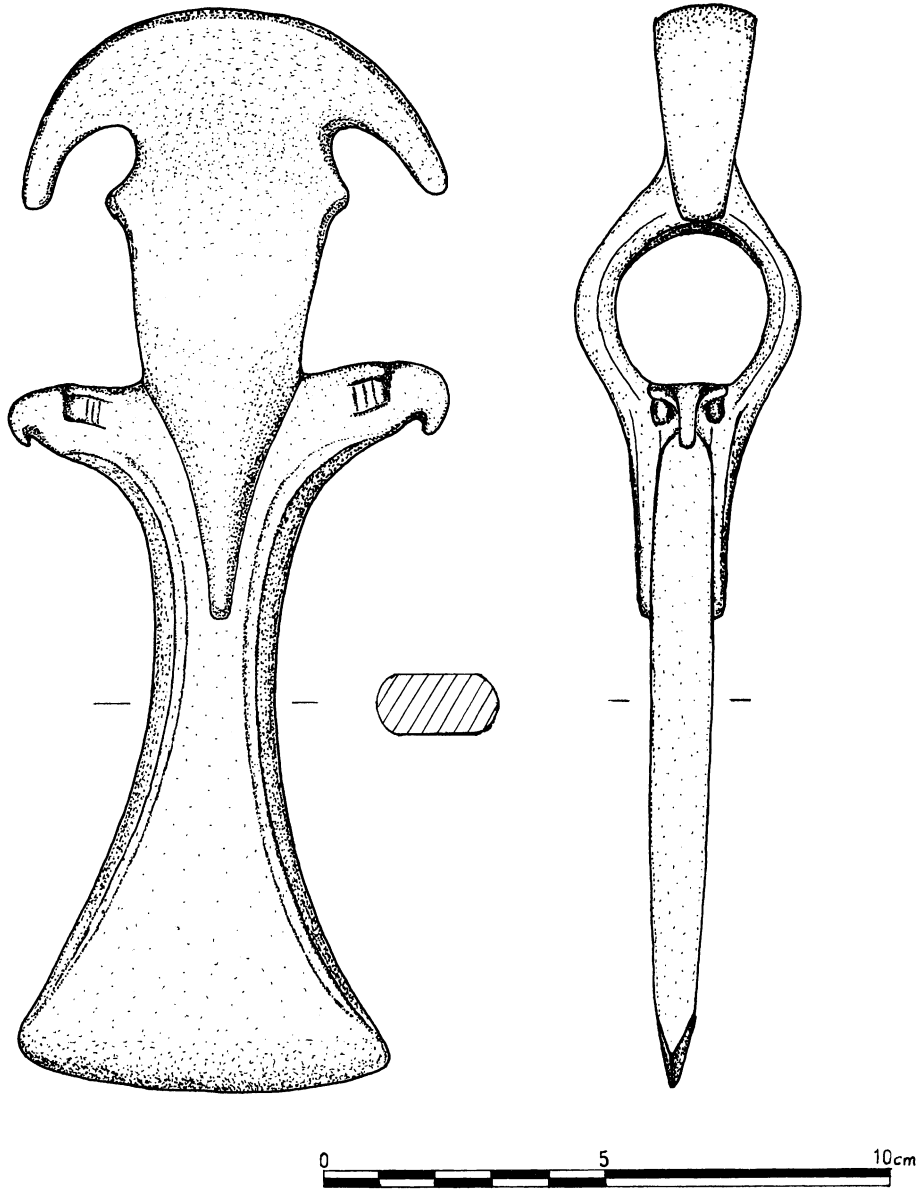
Figs. 1-5: The metal vessels in the Bolu Museum (by T. Yıldırım).



Figs 6-7: Lugged axes (by T. Yildirim)



Figs 8: Shaft-hole double axe (by T. Yildirim)



Figs 9: Shaft-hole axe (by T. Yıldırım)

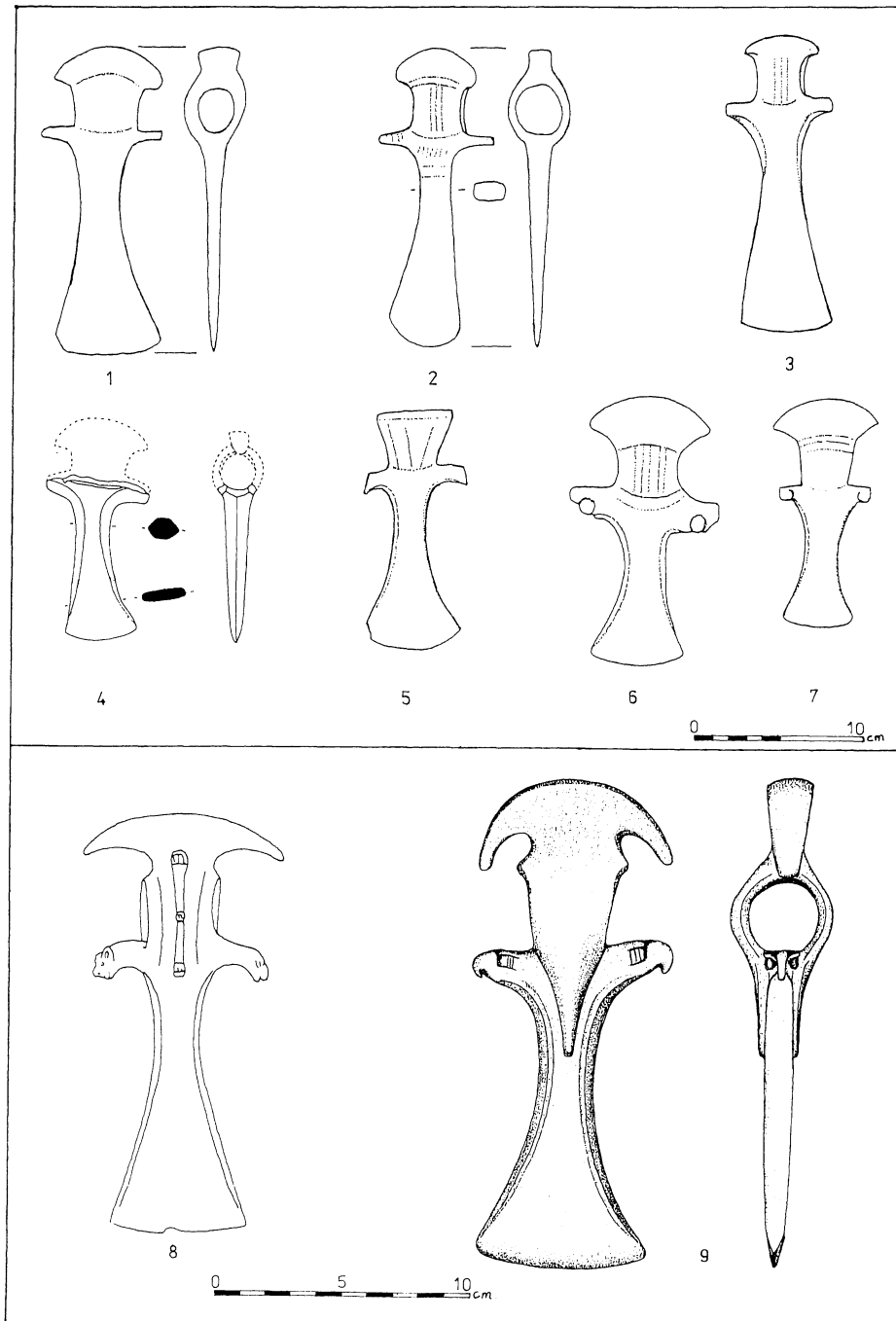


Fig. 10/1: Axe from Bafra/Mengü Köyü (after Dengate, J.A., 1978, p. 256, fig. 8).

Fig. 10/2: Axe from Fraktin (after Erkanal, H., 1977, pl. 5/51).

Fig. 10/3: Axe from Kayseri (after Erkanal, H., 1977, pl. 5/53).

Fig. 10/4: Axe from Havza (after Bilgi, Ö., 1994, pl. 58/42).

Fig. 10/5: Axe from Boğazköy (after Erkanal, H., 1977, pl. 5/54).

Fig. 10/6: Axe from Çerkes/Çankırı (after Erkanal, H., 1977, pl. 5/55).

Fig. 10/7: Axe from Anatolia (after Erkanal, H., 1977, pl. 5/56).

Fig. 10/8: Honolulu Axe (after Porada, E., 1989, p. 442, fig. 1).

Fig. 10/9: Bolu axe (drawing by T. Yıldırım).



Plate 1.



Plate 2 a - d.