

PORPHYRIOS DIKAIOS
THE CONTEXT OF THE ENKOMI TABLETS

a) Introduction

The object of these notes is to present in a preliminary manner the stratigraphical and other context of the three terracotta tablets discovered in the course of my excavations at the Late Cypriote (Bronze) Age site of Enkomi¹. As I already announced in the preliminary reports the tablets discovered are three, a fourth one having been discovered by Professor Schaeffer in 1953². Of the three tablets which occurred in my own excavations one³ belongs to the Late Cypriote I levels while the other two⁴ were found in a Late Cypriote III context⁵. The early tablet and one of the later ones were found in my North Area while the second of the two later tablets was discovered in the Central or "Temple" Area.

Before I give the details of the context of each of the three tablets I think it advisable to give first a summary of the results in the two areas excavated by me.

The earliest architectural layout in the North Area Fig. 1 was a large, rectangular, fortress-like building originally erected at the beginning of the Late Cypriote (Bronze) Age or even at the very

¹ I have already announced the discovery of the tablets in *Antiquity* XXVII pp. 103ff., 233—7 and XXX pp. 40ff. Preliminary accounts of my work at Enkomi have been published in *Bericht über den V. Internationalen Kongreß für Vor- und Frühgeschichte*, Hamburg 1958, 72; in *Archäol. Anzeiger*, 1962 p. 2ff. and elsewhere. Apart from these preliminary reports I have lectured on my Enkomi excavations to the *Deutsches Archäologisches Institut*, to the Heidelberg, Marburg and Vienna Universities (Autumn 1962). Earlier (Spring 1961), I lectured to the *Archäologiki Etaireia* at Athens. It is well known that my work at Enkomi formed part of a joint expedition, the other component being the French Mission under Professor Cl. F. A. Schaeffer; see his *Enkomi-Alasia I*, Paris 1952.

² *Antiquity* vol. XXVIII pp. 38ff.

³ *Antiquity* XXX pp. 40ff.

⁴ *Antiquity* XXVII, 103ff. and 233—7

⁵ I am inclined to continue at present to use the traditional terminology about the Late Cypriote III (E. Sjöqvist, *Problems* 125ff.) although Prof. Schaeffer calls it Chypriote Fer I (*Stratigraphie Comparée* p. 394).

end of the Middle Cypriote III, namely at about 1600 B. C. or somewhat earlier⁶.

It is possible that the erection of the "Fortress" was connected with the final phase of the struggle against the Hyksos who may have gained a foothold in Eastern Cyprus⁷. Soon after its erection, it was destroyed and then re-built with certain re-arrangements. Extensive copper smelting was discovered on the floors of various rooms which followed the re-arrangement. Towards the end of the Late Cypriote I the building was disused and was even the scene of stone robbing by people who undertook towards the beginning of the fourteenth century the building of a new architectural layout on the site of the destroyed "Fortress". The new architectural compound covered not only the site of the previous building but extended beyond it, to all directions. Copper smelting continued although, at the beginning, on a somewhat reduced scale. This new compound, or at least parts of it, were destroyed in the early fourteenth century following which it was repaired. During the period which followed the repair, copper smelting was intensified reaching its climax in the early part of the thirteenth century. The compound was then destroyed and remodelled towards the end of the Mycenaean IIIB period i. e. 1230 B. C. or somewhat later. Immediately after the remodelling, the City Wall was erected, its line running along the north wall of the compound. Furthermore, new buildings were added along the west of the compound some of them with features of Megaron Architecture abutting against the inner face of the City Wall. In the course of these operations the copper smelting workshops and an impressive dump of slag were covered up with the floors of the new buildings as well as of the remodelled ones. Thus a flourishing industry in this part of the town was obliterated. The destruction of the town at the end of the Mycenaean IIIB period and the remodelling or the building of new buildings when Myc. IIIC:1 pottery was in use may be attributed to the first immigration of Achaean-Greek populations i. e. Gjerstad's

⁶ The beginning of the Late Cypriote I is placed at 1600 by the following scholars: E. Gjerstad, *Studies on Preh. Cyprus* p. 335, Cl. Schaeffer, *Stratigraphie Comparée* p. 382 and P. Åström, *The Middle Cypriote Bronze Age*, p. 273.

⁷ The theory of the possible presence of the Hyksos has been advanced by Schaeffer (*Missions en Chypre* p. 63ff.), Sjöqvist (*Problems 198ff.*) and others. P. Åström op. cit p. 278 says that there is no evidence that the Hyksos had any authority in Cyprus. However, I hope to discuss this problem in the final publication of my Enkomi excavations.

earlier group of traditions⁸ (Attarisija etc.) possibly to be combined with the Merneptah raids. The overwhelming proportions of Mycenaean III C:1 pottery tends to show that the main element in these raids was Achaeae. This may also be brought into connection with the traditional arrival of the Achaeae who colonized the Island at the end of the Trojan war. According to Blegen's dating this war put an end to Troy VIIa while Myc. III B pottery was still being used⁹.

The connection of the two events namely on the one hand, the destruction of VIIa Troy and of Enkomi and on the other the Greek colonization of Cyprus at the end of the Trojan War is strengthened by a discovery of mine (1954) at a site (Palaeokastro) on the west coast of Paphos some five miles north of Nea Paphos. Here a town with a fortification wall of exactly the same style as that at Enkomi was discovered associated with Myc. III C:1 pottery. There was nothing before the construction of this town or after its abandonment following a destruction both of which events occurred while Myc. III C:1 pottery was used. We know that Paphos was colonized by the Arcadian Agapenor who also came back from the Trojan war¹⁰ and it would not be unreasonable to connect the Palaeokastro site with the arrival and the establishment of a group of Achaeae on the west coast of Cyprus while other groups e. g. the Teucer group was establishing itself at Enkomi which is less than a mile west of the classical town of Salamis¹¹.

On the new floors of the compound in the North Area at Enkomi which were of thick lime concrete, there occurred a terrific destruction at a time when Myc. III C:1b pottery was abundantly used. Following this destruction, the buildings were repaired but, soon afterwards, a second destruction accompanied by a conflagration, took place. The pottery collected in the second destruction layer was still of Myc. III C:1b type. The fate of the buildings after this second destruction is obscure. Some of them were levelled and abandoned, others continued to be used during the twelfth century (Late Cypriote III) when copper smelting was carried out on a small scale.

This destruction could be connected with the raids of the "Peoples of the Sea" at the time of the Rameses III, i. e. 1190 B. C.,

⁸ E. Gjerstad, *The Colonization of Cyprus in Greek Legend*; *Opuscula Archaeologica* III, 107ff. and especially p. 123

⁹ C. Blegen and others: *Troy IV* p. 12

¹⁰ E. Gjerstad *op. cit.* p. 110ff.

¹¹ About my discovery at Palaeokastro see *Fasti Archaeologici* IX, 2181

who may have gained a temporary foothold at Enkomi and perhaps elsewhere in Cyprus¹². This temporary establishment of the "Peoples of the Sea" may be brought into connection with the new Alašija texts discovered at Bogazköy (see Gerd Steiner, *Neue Alašija-Texte* in *Kadmos* I 2 pp. 130ff. and Heinrich Otten, *Neue Quellen zum Ausklang des Hethitischen Reiches* in *MDOG* 94, 1963, pp. 1ff.). Of particular interest is the text (KBO XII 38) concerning the sea-battle between Hittite ships and ships from Alašija in the middle of the seas at the time of Šuppiluliuma II. As H. Otten remarks (op. cit. p. 21) the "enemies from Alašija came in groups" but, in contrast to other parts of the same text, no mention is made of the King of Alašija. H. Otten, therefore, suggests that these "enemies from Alašija" may represent the "Sea Peoples" who in the meantime had raided Alašija. This corresponds exactly with the situation which resulted at Enkomi following the destruction of the new (IIIC:1) town and the temporary establishment of people together with the appearance of pottery like the Decorated Late Cypriote III ware with eastern influences¹³.

The "temple" area Fig. 2. As in the North Area, the earliest buildings belong to the Late Cypriote I. These buildings were of different character than their counterparts in the North Area. They were simple habitations on a plan comprising three aisles surrounding an open space. While most of the rubble foundations of the buildings were set in hollow parts of the bedrock, the level of the latter in the open space was higher. In this open space chamber tombs were accommodated. The buildings were re-built in the early fourteenth century (Late Cypriote II) when new ones were added but on the same architectural plan, with open spaces in which chamber tombs were cut in the bedrock. In the early part of the fourteenth century a destruction took place but most of the buildings were reconstructed while others were abandoned. This confirms the observations made in the North area where a similar destruction occurred. A new destruction occurred towards the end of the Myc. IIIB period namely 1230 B. C. or somewhat later and, on the remains of the destroyed buildings, a large building was

¹² See the stone seal with "Philistine" warrior in my account of the Bronze Statue of a Horned God found in the Ashlar building described below in *Archäologischer Anzeiger* 1962 p. 18 fig. 11.

¹³ A. Furumark: *The Mycenaean IIIC Pottery and its relation to Cypriote fabrics*; *Opuscula Archaeologica* III p. 232ff.; Cl. Schaeffer, *Missions en Chypre* pl. XXV 1

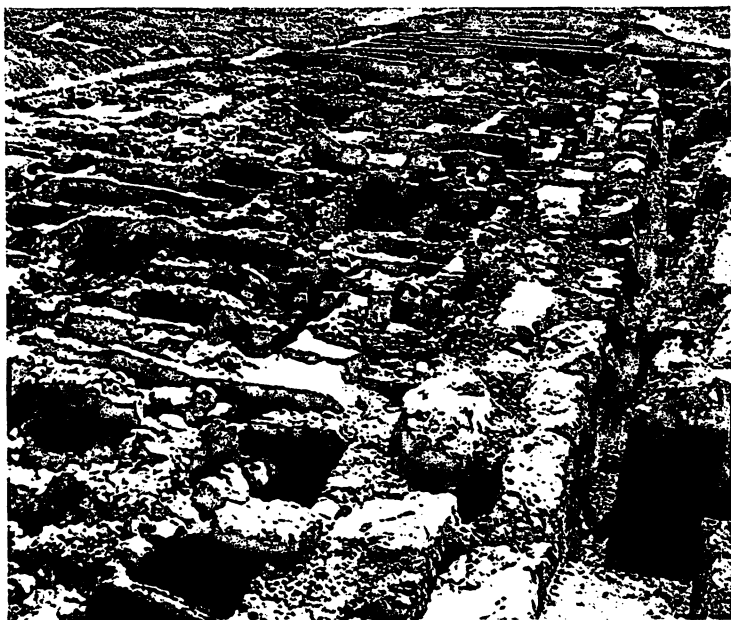


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

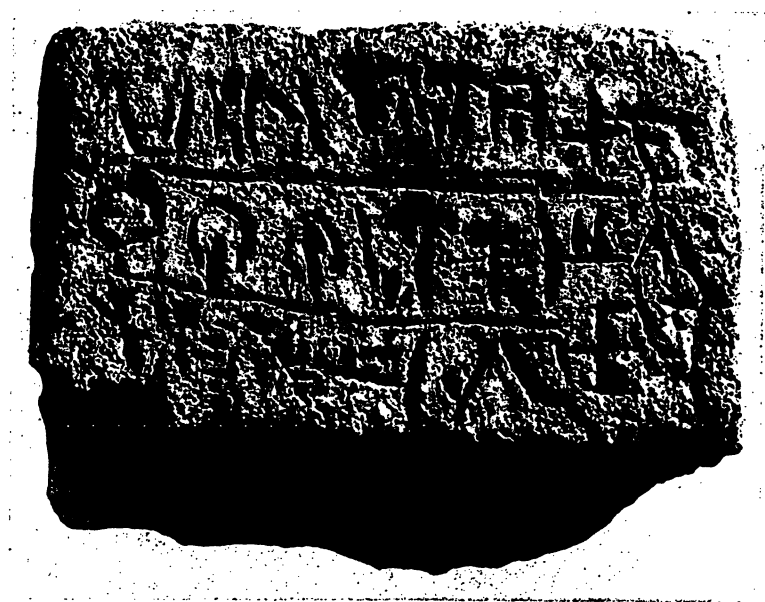


Fig. 3

erected with ashlar blocks for the lower parts of the walls. On the North, South and East this building was surrounded by streets which formed part of the new street grid laid down for the new town which was erected following the destruction at the end of the Mycenaean IIIB period at a time when Myc. IIIC:1 pottery was in current use. This coincides with the appearance of Mycenaean IIIC:1 pottery and with the remodelling of the buildings in the North area where the copper smelting workshops had been obliterated following the erection of the City Wall. Before the erection of the ashlar building the destroyed remains of the town were levelled and the new lime concrete floors made for the ashlar building covered both the previous architectural remains, and the existing tombs which were thus obliterated. Those of the tombs which happened to be in the areas covered by the streets were sealed with earth filling and were also disused.

The ashlar building was soon destroyed early in the twelfth century at a time when Myc. IIIC:1b pottery was used, but it was reconstructed and re-used. It was on the floor of a room of the reconstructed building that the first evidence of a ritual was discovered.

The ritual was of the same form as that associated with a bronze statue of a Horned God found in the same room of the building but at an upper level (see my article in *Archäologischer Anzeiger* 1962 pp. 2ff.). It is evident that the destruction in the ashlar building is the same as that noticed in the corresponding levels of the North Area and attributed to the raids of the "Peoples of the Sea".

The building and the ritual continued during the 12th century. Meanwhile pottery of the Myc. IIIC:2 style appeared on the site, giving evidence of a new wave of Achaeans probably chased by the Dorians¹⁴. But towards 1075 B. C. a new catastrophe, this time an earthquake occurred. Even after this severe disaster, the building was reconstructed and the ritual in honour of the Horned God, represented by the Bronze statue, continued as previously. Shortly afterwards towards 1050 B. C. the building and presumably the whole of the town were abandoned¹⁵.

¹⁴ This is Gjerstad's second stage of colonization; *Opuscula Archaeologica* III p. 123.

¹⁵ I have found in certain parts of the area evidence that life on a restricted scale went on into the Early Iron Age.

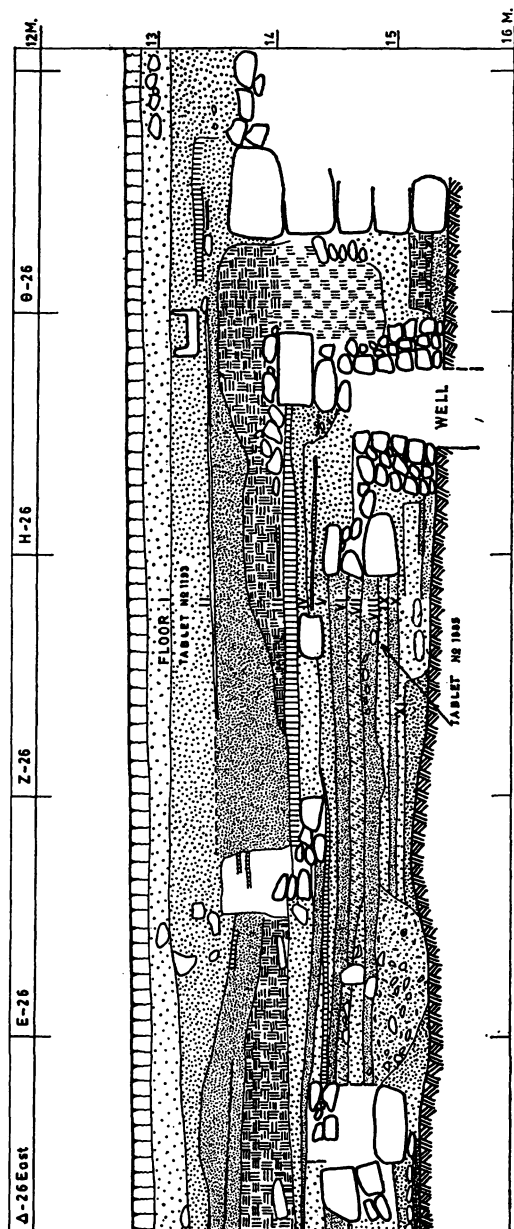


Fig. 4

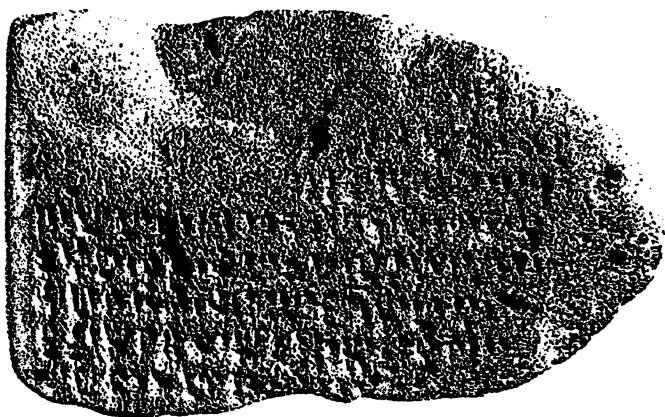


Fig. 5



Fig. 6



b) The Context of the Tablets

Tablet No. 1885 Fig. 3 (Antiquity XXX pp. 40ff. Pl. IX)

As already mentioned this tablet was found in the North Area and in particular in room 103 of the Late Cypriote I building called the "Fortress". The stratigraphical evidence in this room and in the overlying layers appears on the Section fig. 4 on which the floors are numbered consecutively from top to bedrock. The earliest layout i. e. the "Fortress" to which room 103 belongs, can be distinguished from floor VI downwards, floor XI being the earliest.

Under floor XI another floor (XII) was found on a thin intermediary layer which overlay the bedrock. However this floor was not continuous in room 103, nor did it extend to the walls of the room and it therefore must be considered as earlier than the erection of the "Fortress". But it is possible that floor XII may belong to a somewhat earlier stage of the "Fortress" which would then have been erected towards the end of the Middle Cypriote. Indeed the pottery found in the layer under floor XI to the bedrock belonged to the end of the Middle Cypriote period.

Floors VI to IV belong to room 3c which belongs to the architectural layout (Late Cypriote II) which was built on the ruins of the "Fortress" while floor III to I belong to the period of the rearranged Late Cypriote II compound in other words to the Late Cypriote III.

The tablet No. 1885 was actually found in the filling between floors VIII and IX. At the time of floor X room 103 had been re-arranged following a scheme of general re-arrangements which took place in the "Fortress" after a partial destruction. In the course of that re-arrangement a workshop for copper smelting was installed in the room, its operation continuing to floor VII. The tablet, therefore, belongs to the period of the re-arranged "Fortress" and the installation of the copper workshop.

The ceramic evidence in room 103 in which the tablet occurred and which as already stated, belongs to the Late Cypriote I "Fortress" appears on Table p. 46. Pottery is first represented by fairly strong proportions of Middle Cypriote wares the quantities of which, however, tend to diminish as we proceed to the upper or later floors. We then have the Monochrome ware and the Base Ring I ware which occurs in rather small quantities and in addition the White Slip I (Fig. 8) which, next to the Middle Cypriote wares, dominates the picture. In the part of the deposit before the re-arrangement of the "Fortress" the proportions of White Slip I ware, compared with those of the Middle Cypriote wares, are rather small but

Architectural Layout: Room	Floor	Level	Tablets	Middle Cypriot Wares	Monochrome	White shaved	Basering I	Basering II	White slip I	White slip II	Wheel- made Cypriot	Syro- Pales- tinian imports	Myc. IIIA	Myc. IIIB	Myc. IIC:1	Bucchero Wheel- made
33 or 32	I	13.05	Tablet 1193	2	1						1.5				95	1 frag.
	I-II															
	II	13.60		1.6												
	II-III			12.5	32.5			4		2.5						
	III	14.20		16	16		2.5	15	2.5	22.5			1.6	3	12	
	III-IV									36		5				
	IV	14.52		7	4.6	2.5	4.6		6.8	4.6	3.2	32				
	IV-V			23	6.6	6.6	3		8	1.7		22.5	4.6			
	V	14.64		49	5		2.6		5		9.6	19.6	1.7			
	V-VI			18	28	1	3.5		12		10.5	12.6				
	VI	14.70									26	16				
	VI-VII			19	19		4		20							
	VII	14.86														
	VII-															
	VIII			19	12		5		27							
	VIII	14.95		5	10				21							
	VIII-IX		Tablet 1885	20	11		2		11							
	IX	15.10		17	13.5				22							
	IX-X				26	14										
	X	15.15		22					3							
	X-XI			56	9				6							
	XI	15.20														
	XI-XII			60	18		1		4							
	XII	15.35														
	of	—		100												
	"Fortress"															
	Bedrock	15.40														

Table showing stratigraphical and ceramic evidence in Area III

NB. Figures represent percentages which although not agreeing with those given in Sjöqvist: Problems (which rely mostly on tomb finds), agree in general tendencies.

following the re-arrangement at the time of floor X the percentage rises steeply and continues to be high to floor VI which is the last floor of the "Fortress".

Floors V and IV belong to the new, Late Cypriote II, compound when part of room 103 was occupied by room 3c of the new architectural layout. Here we see that the ceramic picture does not change substantially and that White Slip I ware is still represented although in reduced quantities. It is only in the layer between floors V and IV that White Slip II ware occurs for the first time in small quantities (1.7%) when Myc. IIIA pottery also occurs. White Slip II pottery increases at the time of floor IV following which it rises considerably, the percentage being 36% between floors IV and III and 22.5 at the level of floor III. Indeed from floor III, where Myc. IIIB pottery occurs, the architectural layout changes again, part of the site of room 3c being now occupied by room 33 or 32 when Mycenaean IIIC:1 pottery appears in great quantities (92% between floors III and II).

Returning to the level at which tablet No. 1885 was found, we notice that it occurred half way between the earliest floor of the Late Cypriote I "Fortress" and its latest floor VI. If the original erection of the "Fortress" is placed at the very beginning of the Late Cypriote I or even somewhat earlier, since the ceramic evidence under its original floor is almost purely Middle Cypriote, then that erection should be dated to about 1600 B. C. or late in the 17th cent. Since the final stages of the "Fortress" (floor VI) coincide with the end of the Late Cypriote I which in absolute figures is 1400 B. C. (Sjöqvist) or 1450 B. C. (Schaeffer) the level of the tablet between floors IX and VIII which is precisely the middle period of the "Fortress", should be dated approximately to 1500 B. C. This is strengthened by the fact that Mycenaean pottery IIIA (early fourteenth cent. B. C.) occurs only between floors V and IV of the second architectural layout i. e. four floors later, which floors represent the second part of the Late Cypriote I and the initial stage of the Late Cypriote II.

The above results concerning the relative and absolute chronology of the tablet Inv. 1885 coupled with the "many specific similarities of the script appearing on it with Cretan linear scripts and in particular with Linear A" (M. Ventris, *Antiquity* XXX p. 41)¹⁶ show that the script may have reached Cyprus direct from Crete.

¹⁶ Ventris (*ibid.*) says that "Chadwick is perhaps more confident than I am in deducing a direct connection".

This is strengthened by the apparent connections between Cyprus and Crete during the Middle Minoan period¹⁷. It is moreover evident that the script reached Cyprus before the Mycenaean arrivals towards the end of the Late Cypriote I sometime between 1425 and 1400 a fact which confirms Sir A. Evans's and Daniel's theory about the early arrival of the script to Cyprus¹⁸.

Tablet No. 1193 Fig. 5 (Antiquity XXVII pp. 103ff. Pl. IV)

This was also found in the North Area in square H-Θ 30—32 East. As already explained, following the re-arrangement of the Late Cypriote II complex at the time when Myc. IIIC:1 pottery was in use a severe destruction in two episodes took place. This destruction occurred on floor III (see section Fig. 4) and is evidenced by layers of hard pink soil, evidently from the upper mudbrick walls and by a gray layer containing ashes which must be interpreted as the result of a conflagration. On top of these layers a thin floor was made (floor II) at level 13.50—13.60 m. which must represent the re-use of the buildings following the destruction although not in the same architectural layout. The layer on floor II is almost 40 cms. in thickness and is composed of pinkish soil with white limy spots and appears to be the result of a second destruction of the superstructure which had been haphazardly repaired following the first destruction on floor III. On top of this layer another earth floor (floor I) of poor quality was made. This floor represents the levelling of the debris and the re-use of the buildings which, following the second destruction, had been severely damaged. Naturally the layout in the re-used form was unrecognisable.

The tablet No. 1193 was then found in the layer between floor I (level 13.05 m.) and level 13.20 m., in other words in the levelled layer of debris which resulted from the second episode of the destruction i. e. that on floor II. The tablet was only a fragment and judging from the conditions of the discovery, was not in its original context. Judging also from its surface we can conclude that it had been exposed to weather conditions or to water action before it had reached the layer in which it was discovered.

The actual layer in which the tablet was found within square H-Θ 30—32 East, contained apart from the tablet one sherd of

¹⁷ Vide Catling and Karageorghis: *Minoica in Cyprus*, BSA 55 (1960) pp. 109ff. and my Communication to the First Cretological Congress (1961) (forthcoming); J. R. Stewart, *The tomb of the Seafarer at Karmi in Cyprus*; *Opuscula Atheniensia* IV, 197ff.

¹⁸ *Antiquity* XXX p. 40

Myc. IIIB pottery, one sherd of late Myc. IIIB dish and nine sherds of Myc. IIIC:1b pottery (Fig. 9) and in addition plain handmade and wheelmade pottery. The ceramic evidence in corresponding levels in the other neighbouring squares shows an overwhelming proportion of Myc. IIIC:1b pottery such as appears on the table p. 46 between floors II and I.

If, as suggested above, the destruction which occurred on the floors of the re-arranged compound at the time when Myc. IIIC:1b pottery was current, was the result of the raids of the "Peoples of the Sea" at the time of Rameses III (i. e. 1190 B. C.) then the context in which the tablet was found must be dated to the period immediately after the destruction namely between 1190 to about 1170 B. C. However in view of the fragmentary and the weathered condition of the tablet we may assume that it had remained somewhere before it reached the context in which it was found and that, therefore, the original tablet to which it belonged was somewhat earlier. How earlier it is impossible to say. The stratigraphical evidence gives floor III as an upper limit for the tablet, namely the floor of the re-arrangement at the time when Myc. IIIC:1b pottery was in use. This would mean the period immediately preceding the destruction, in other words somewhere between 1230 to 1200 B. C.

Stratigraphically, it would be impossible to associate the tablet with the period before floor III although such possibility could not be entirely excluded for the following reasons. The tablet is a fragment and a weathered one and was found in a layer of soil which according to all evidence resulted from the superstructure of the buildings. The very discovery of the tablet in such a layer permits us to suggest that it had been accidentally used together with other fragments of pottery as part of the building material and in particular in the mud which composed the upper parts of the walls. This would explain the weathered condition of the tablet. If this is so then the tablet may have been in use before the floor of the re-arrangement i. e. floor III perhaps at the end of the IIIB period when the buildings had been destroyed. This would mean a somewhat higher limit *post quem*, i. e. middle of the thirteenth cent. However, this is to a large extent speculative and if we adhere to the strict stratigraphical evidence the tablet cannot be dated earlier than the beginning of the twelfth or the end of the thirteenth century at the earliest.

Tablet No. 1687 Fig. 6 (Antiquity XXVII pp. 233ff. Pls. IV—V and Figs. 1—3)

It was found in room 46 which is situated in the North-western part of the "Temple" Area. The stratigraphical evidence in this room appears on the section Fig. 7. Here we notice a succession of

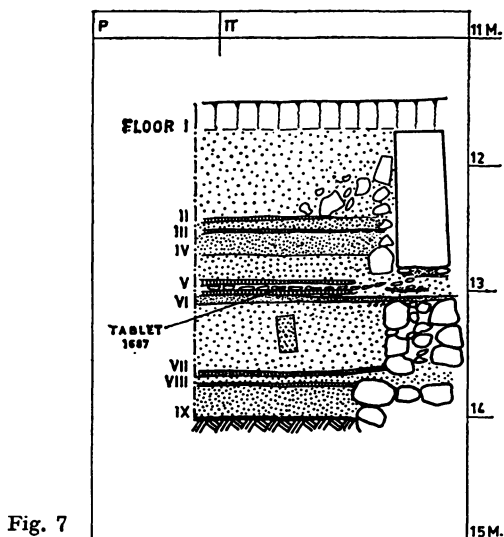


Fig. 7

nine floors, floor I being the topmost and floor IX resting on the bedrock. Floors IX to VII belong to the earlier layout in this part of the town which, judging from the pottery found in the deposit belongs to the Myc. IIIB period i. e. the early part of the thirteenth cent. B. C. On floor VII rests a thick layer of reddish soil mixed with white limish spots and red mudbricks, which evidently represents a collapse of the upper parts of the walls which were of mudbrick. This is clearly the destruction at the end of the Myc. IIIB or the beginning of the Myc. IIIC:1 period mentioned above in the introductory part and which put an end to the town towards 1230 B. C. or somewhat later.

Following the collapse the debris from the walls were levelled and a new floor (VI) was made. This floor contained Myc. IIIC:1b pottery which was even found somewhat deeper probably mixed up with debris at the time of levelling. On this floor VI which was of grayish soil containing ashes, a hearth was constructed. It consisted first of a thin layer of lime concrete on which a layer of sherds was placed to form the foundation for another layer of lime concrete

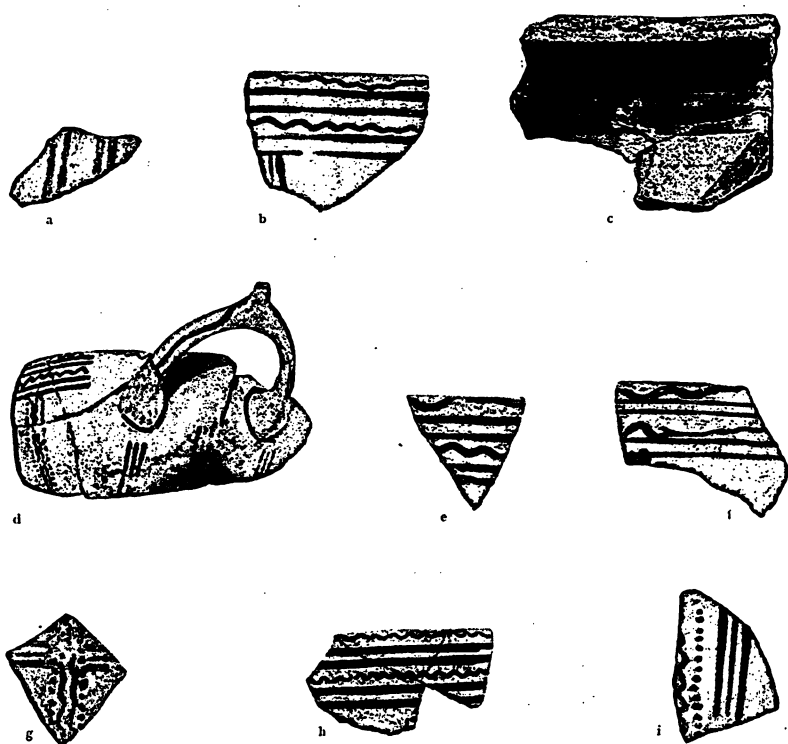
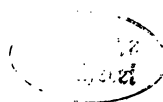


Fig. 8



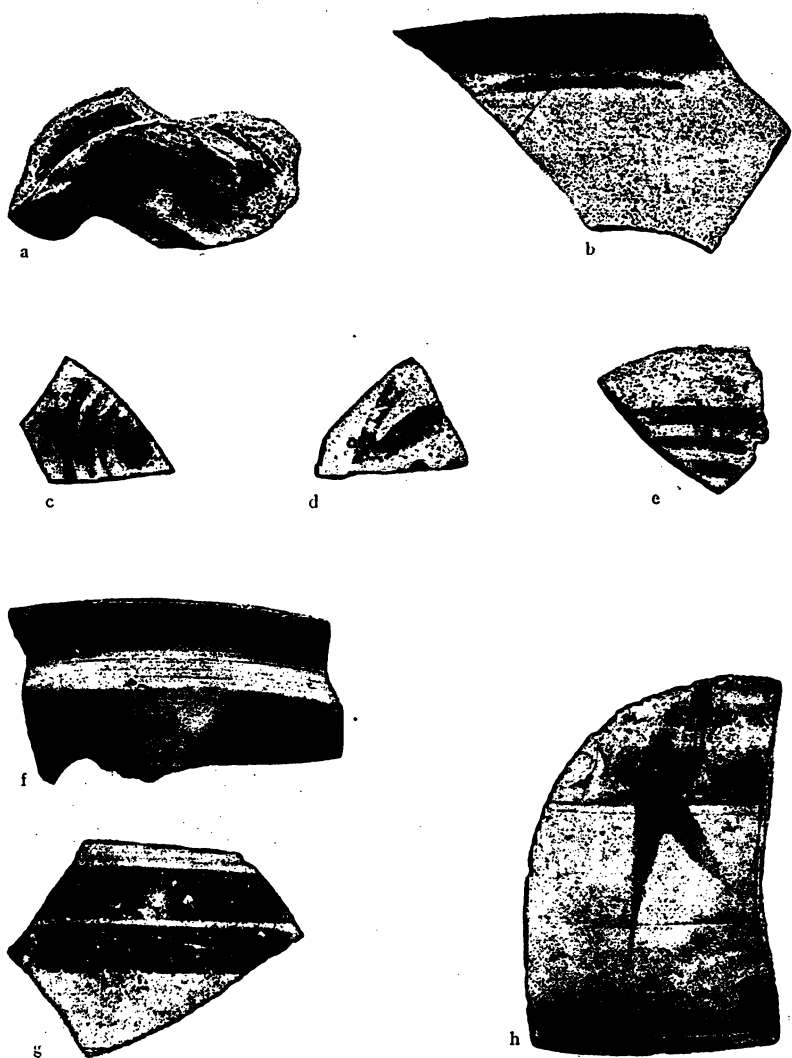


Fig. 9

which formed the floor of the hearth. The tablet was found among the sherds and was therefore sealed by the lower and upper layers of lime concrete the upper one being the floor of the hearth¹⁹.

On the floor of the hearth there occurred certain alterations in the structure. The room was divided into two by a screen wall composed of an ashlar block and of ordinary boulders. Evidently this alteration occurred following the destruction of the ashlar building (The "Temple") which took place at the beginning of the 12th cent. and was the result of the raids by the "Peoples of the Sea". Following the destruction the debris were cleared out of the room as indeed was done in the whole of the ashlar building and the room was subdivided in a rather haphazard way, an ashlar block and boulders being used for the construction of the new screen wall. The same happened in the rest of the ashlar building. We have ample evidence that the debris from the destruction had been piled in the streets where the level rose suddenly and where layers of debris containing ashes, broken pottery, mostly Myc. IIIC:1, bones etc. were dumped.

The new screen wall appearing on the section was partly built on the east part of the hearth the lime floor of which was intentionally destroyed down to the layer of sherds on which the ashlar block was placed. After the re-arrangement there followed floor V and then floors IV to I. On floor II we noticed another collapse due to a sudden catastrophe which I attributed to an earthquake. This catastrophe is evidenced by a thick layer of decomposed mudbricks and by boulders from the upper parts of the walls and by other evidence which I will describe in the definitive publication of my excavations at Enkomi now been prepared²⁰.

The date, therefore, of the tablet can be closely fixed between the making of floor VI which followed the destruction of the town at the close of the Myc. IIIB or the beginning of the Myc. IIIC:1 period in other words at 1230 B. C. or thereabouts, and the destruction of the ashlar building by the raids of the "Peoples of the Sea" i. e. 1190 B. C. However the tablet was only a fragment and was used as a discard together with other fragments of pottery including Myc. IIIC:1b sherds which must have been current at the time of the making of the hearth floor. This would imply that the tablet was also of current use and was only used as a discard because it

¹⁹ The use of sherds as a foundation course for hearths was noticed in other parts of the same area e. g. in Rooms 12 and 14 of the ashlar building or "Temple".

²⁰ The earthquake has been noticed in the whole of the ashlar building or "Temple".

was a fragment and therefore had lost its original meaning. But it might also be possible that the original tablet had been broken and its fragments dispersed at the time of the destruction of the town towards the end of the Myc. IIIB period when the place in which the tablet was lying, had been sacked. This would enable us to date the tablet somewhat earlier i. e. to about the middle of the thirteenth century. However this is only speculative and if we adhere to the strict stratigraphical evidence the tablet in its fragmentary state can be attributed to the time of the erection of the ashlar building i. e. end of the thirteenth cent. B. C. The destruction of the town before the erection of the ashlar building and the rearrangement of the ashlar building after its destruction by the Sea raiders form strict limits upper and lower respectively. This means a somewhat earlier date than that of the previous tablet which was found in the debris resulted from the destruction of the town by the Sea Raiders.