

TEIRESIAS

ISSN 0381-9361

Volume 18, 1988

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Compiled by A. Schachter

CONFERENCES

88.0.01 Dr. H. Beister and J. Buckler are happy to report that the papers from the Fifth International Boiotian Conference in Honour of Prof. S. Lauffer, held at the University of Munich on 13-17 June 1986, will be published by Editio Maris of Munich. The papers will constitute a single volume that will appear in the series MÜNCHENER ARBEITEN ZUR ALTEN GESCHICHTE, which is under the general direction of Prof. Dr. Hatto H. Schmitt. The volume, which includes plans, illustrations, and photographs, is scheduled for appearance in spring 1989.

88.0.02 Dr. John Bintliff announces that the "Sixth International Conference of Boeotian Archaeology and History" will take place at the University of Bradford from Monday 26th to Friday 30th June, 1989. The conference will be arranged chronologically, and it is intended that each major period of Boeotian archaeology and history will form a separate session, to be introduced by a keynote paper. It is hoped that the chronological horizons of this conference will be broader than previous meetings, with contributions encouraged on Medieval, Post-Medieval and Contemporary Boeotia, as well as broader coverage of the prehistoric phases. For further information, please write to Dr. John Bintliff, School of Archaeological Sciences, Bradford University, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD7 1DP, England.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The General Editor thanks Mr. Donald Sedgwick once again
for his invaluable assistance.

*

TEIRESIAS is a review and continuing bibliography of Boiotian stu-
dies. The bibliography is published annually; appendices (Boeotica
and Epigraphica) and supplements are published as occasion warrants.

Communications may be sent to A. Schachter, General Editor, at the
Department of Classics, McGill University, 855 Sherbrooke Street
West, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 2T7.

Dépôt légal 4e trimestre 1988

Bibliothèque nationale du Québec

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TEIRESIAS

ISSN 0381-9361

Volume 18, 1988

APPENDIX: BOEOTICA

Compiled by A. Schachter

AB/1

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B.88.01 Dr. K. DEMAKOPOULOU (National Archaeological Museum, Athens)
has sent the following report:

GLYPHA (OR VLICHA), CHALKIS: A MAJOR MYCENAEAN SETTLEMENT ON THE
BOEOTIAN SHORE NEAR AULIS

Glypha is one of several prehistoric sites on the Boeotian shore of
the Euboean Gulf. It lies opposite Chalkis about two km. southwest of
the bridge across the Euripos, and to the north of a marshy inlet
crossed by the railway from Athens to Chalkis on a modern embankment
(*Figures 1-2*). It is an isolated, low, rocky hill near the coast, ris-
ing 37 metres above sea-level, in the form of an elongated cone with a
flat top. The area is known as Glypha or Vlichia, apparently because of
the brackish water of the shallow inlet, which looks like a lake¹. To
the west of the hill is a small fertile plain cultivated mostly with
olive trees and to the south, a short distance away, is the bay of
Mikro Vathy (*Fig. 1*). To the east, the sea is very near the steep
rocky slope.

Glypha was known long ago from surface exploration. In 1959 Theochar-
is was the first to stress the importance of the hill as a prehistor-
ic settlement². The site was investigated during the extensive survey
of Euboea carried out by the British School under R. H. Sackett and M.
Popham³. Visible remains of a defensive wall and house foundations
were reported⁴. The pottery found, now in the Collection of the Brit-
ish School at Athens, was classified by D. French⁵ and dated to the
Early Helladic I and II period (red-burnished and Urfirnis), Middle
Helladic period (Grey Minyan and Yellow Minyan, Matt-painted and poly-
chrome wares), and Late Helladic IIIB and C periods⁶. E. Vermeule has
published a Mycenaean sherd with a painted pot-mark from Glypha⁷.

In 1974 a Greek company dug deep trenches on the southwest slope of
the hill in search of metal, without the permission of the Archaeolo-
gical Service. Work was stopped and A. Sampson examined the stratigra-
phy of the trenches and distinguished rich Middle Helladic and Late
Helladic deposits with remains of destroyed walls. The pottery was

mainly Middle Helladic and Late Helladic of good quality, but some Neolithic, Early Helladic, and Geometric sherds as well as some stone tools were reported⁸.

From the surface finds and the results of the small rescue sounding, all the above-mentioned scholars concluded that Glypha was a very important site throughout the Bronze Age, especially during the Middle and Late Helladic periods, since the pottery represents an unbroken historical sequence from the Early Helladic to the Late Helladic IIIC period. According to these early reports the Late Helladic settlement must have been a flourishing seaside community of considerable size with dense habitation.

However, no systematic excavations were executed in Glypha until 1977. In the summer of that year the Ephoreia of Boeotia, where I was serving, undertook a trial excavation on the south slope of the hill which was again being threatened, this time by building activities⁹.

Before the excavation a small surface exploration of the hill was undertaken. The top was much eroded and so were some parts of the slopes. Masses of prehistoric sherds, some Early Helladic red-burnished but mostly Middle Helladic and Late Helladic were scattered over the slopes everywhere down to the coast. There were also quite a few late Roman and glazed Byzantine sherds.

MIDDLE HELLADIC (*Fig. 4*)

1. Goblet, yellow Minyan; D. rim 0.045 m. Light brown to pinkish clay, yellowish to pink slip. Small rounded horizontal lip.
2. Bowl, matt-painted polychrome; D. 0.04 m. Buff clay, pink slip, black and red paint. Large red band between two fine black lines.

Both sherds are late Middle Helladic or transitional MH III-LH I.

LATE HELLADIC IIA-B (*Fig. 4*)

3. Cup, shallow, FS 219. D. rim 0.035 m. Pink clay, yellowish slip, red paint. Dot. Unpainted interior; paint on the lip.
4. Bridge-spouted jug, FS 103. D. 0.11 m. Light buff clay, yellowish slip, black to brown paint. Ogival canopy, FM 13¹⁰.

The illegally dug trenches on the southwest slope of the hill had exposed sections of clearly visible house walls in a Mycenaean stratum. Many sherds of LH IIA to IIIB periods were collected. Shapes recognised were alabastra, kylikes, jugs, cups, craters, and stirrup jars. The pottery was both painted and unpainted. Some sherds from kylikes and craters were decorated with horizontal or vertical murex shells and can be dated to LH IIIA2-IIIB1.

LATE HELLADIC IIA-B (*Figures 5-6*)

1. Alabastron, two pieces, FS 83. Max. D. 0.105 m. D. rim 0.04 m. Buff clay, pink slip, black to brown paint. Hatched loop, FM 63 with fill of dots and ? ivy.

2. Alabastron, FS 82. D. 0.15 m, H. 0.07 m. Light buff clay, pink to light buff slip, black paint. Rock pattern with dots, FM 32. Wheel under base.

A Middle Helladic stratum was also clear with numerous sherds of Minyan and matt-painted polychrome ware.

On the north slope around the crown of the hill toward the sea there were remains of what looked like a fortification wall. Many Mycenaean sherds were collected from this area of the hill, coming from kylikes, deep bowls, and craters of LH IIIA2-IIIB date. Parts of retaining walls supporting terraces were also visible on the slopes of the hill.

The trial excavation which followed immediately after the survey was concentrated on the south east slope, very near the marshy coast of the inlet, where the building of petrol reservoirs was planned. Fortunately this plan was cancelled after the results of the excavation. Seven trenches were opened (*Fig. 2*). In the five situated to the west of the area, no architectural remains were found but only Middle Helladic and Late Helladic deposits with a large amount of mostly worn sherds and many sea-shells.

In Trench E, part of a Mycenaean fortification wall was brought to light (*Fig. 3*). It was uncovered to a length of five metres, and had a north to south direction towards the inlet to protect the settlement on the south east slope of the hill (*Fig. 2*). The wall was built in the cyclopean technique of Mycenaean defensive walls. Large unworked blocks were used for the two façades, which were rather rough, and small stones for the interior of the wall. It was set not directly on the bedrock, but on a bed of small pebbles which was laid to fill the hollows or interstices, as was often the Mycenaean practice for cyclopean fortification walls¹¹.

The wall was quite big and strong. The width of the uncovered part varies between 2.20 and 2.65 metres. It is preserved to a height of 1.50 m. The west outer face was better preserved than the eastern inner face. It is clear that the wall was built for protection rather than simply to support a terrace, as its thickness and the two façades indicate. From the pottery found in the trench the wall can be dated to the LH IIIA-B period. A more exact date is unfortunately impossible, because the sherds found inside the wall were undatable.

A few metres eastward, part of a large Mycenaean house was uncovered. Five rooms were cleaned (*Fig. 3, Trench Δ*). To the north there was a sloping passage (IV), possibly used as the court of the house. The uncovered part of this building measures ten by five metres (ca. fifty square metres), but it seems that it was much larger. The rooms are rectangular and rather spacious with well built walls and floors of beaten earth. Only the floor of room I was made of stone slabs. Large pieces of a broken pithos with plastic decoration were found on it. On the floor of room II the following objects were found in situ:

(Fig. 7)

1. Alabastron, straight-sided, FS 93; almost complete, neck and rim missing. D. neck 0.06 m, D. base 0.013 m, H. 0.08 m. Tall cylindrical lower body with a sloping shoulder. The base is slightly raised underneath. Light buff to pinkish clay, pale yellow slip, dark brown to black paint. Both shoulder and body are decorated with different motives. Shoulder: ivy, FM 12, with rock pattern, FM 32. Body: net with crosses, FM 57. The base displays groups of concentric circles on the underside. It is a fine Mycenaean vase, possibly imported from the Argolid or Attica¹². It can be dated to LH IIIA1, as the concentric circles on the base indicate¹³.

(Fig. 8)

2. A complete heavy mortar of whitish to light grey hard stone. D. rim 0.021 m, max. D. 0.030 m, H. 0.0105 m. It is beautifully worked and has a fine even inner and outer surface. The shape is that of a bowl with very thick walls, not quite similar, although very close to the stone tripod mortars known from Mainland Greece but mainly from Crete and thought to be Syro-Palestinian imports¹⁴. It is a fine stone vessel probably used with pestle or stone pounder for the grinding of dyes or herbs; however, no traces of any substance were found in it. It seems to be an import from the Levant, although we cannot exclude the possibility that it was locally made.

(Fig. 9)

3. Lipless conical cup, unpainted, FS 204. Almost complete. D. rim 0.075 m, D. base 0.032 m, H. 0.045 m. Light brown to pink clay, buff slip. Trace of small horizontal handle. This shape, like other small open shapes, is typical in domestic assemblages, especially in the early LH periods¹⁵.

(Fig. 10)

4. Small one-edged bronze knife. Length 0.17 m, max. width 0.027 m. The point is broken. Two rivets survive. Slightly curved profile to back. The haft has flanges to it. Typologically it belongs to Miss Sandars' knife Class Ib, examples of which occur throughout the Late Minoan and Late Helladic periods¹⁶.
5. Two spindle-whorls, one biconical of dark grey steatite and one disc-shaped of clay.
6. Whetstone. Length 0.095 m, width 0.05 m, th. 0.02 m. Soft grey stone.

In the other rooms of the house (rooms I, III, V, and VI) many sherds were found, mainly from unpainted domestic vases, such as kylikes, cups, jugs, and conical bowls. There were also a bronze ring, some stone tools, and clay spindle-whorls.

(Fig. 17: 1)

1. Dipper, handle missing. D. rim 0.065 m, D. base 0.035 m, H. 0.05 m.

Hand made, burnished. Coarse brown to reddish clay, buff to reddish surface. Room V.

(Fig. 10: 2)

2. Bronze ring, complete; D. 0.018 m. Room III.

From the pottery found the house can be dated to the LH IIIA1 period. It was built over a Middle Helladic stratum. Indeed the four cist-graves found beside or beneath walls and floors (Fig. 3, Trench Δ) indicate that this area was used as an intramural cemetery during the latest phase of Middle Helladic and the early Mycenaean period (LH I-II)¹⁷.

The cist tomb which was found under the floor of room II was the best preserved. It was built with small upright slabs and roofed with two slabs. Its dimensions are 0.60 x 0.20 m. It contained the contracted skeleton of a child and the following objects:

(Fig. 11: 1-2)

1. One-handed cup, unpainted. D. rim 0.08 m, D. base 0.045 m, H. 0.06 m. Pink clay, whitish to pink slip. Rounded shape, vertical strap handle from lip to belly, small everted rim and low ring base.
2. Goblet, FS 254. Part of body and one handle missing. D. rim 0.08 m, D. base 0.03 m, H. 0.053 m. Buff clay, pink slip, red lustrous paint. Lily, FM 9. Body slightly carinated, small everted lip, bulging stem, vertical strap handle. Unpainted interior. It can be dated to LH IIB¹⁸.
3. Five spherical beads of glass-paste. D. 0.002 m. Whitish-greyish colour.

The other three cists found in the court (IV) of the Mycenaean house were much destroyed and empty (Fig. 3, Trench Δ). The pottery found in that area, possibly once belonging to the tombs or to an earlier house, is mainly domestic of the LH I period, but in the Middle Helladic tradition¹⁹:

(Fig. 12)

1. Goblet, minyan; handles and part of body missing; completed with plaster. D. rim 0.115 m, D. base 0.05 m, H. 0.10 m. Dark grey clay, fine soapy grey surface. Deep globular bowl, short stem with hollowed foot. Small everted rim.

(Fig. 13: 2)

2. Goblet, yellow minyan; one handle and part of body missing. Completed with plaster. D. rim 0.16 m, D. base 0.06 m, H. 0.105 m. Pale red to brown clay, pinkish to yellowish slip. Deep conical bowl with low ring base, small everted rim and wide strap handles from rim to belly.

(Fig. 13: 3)

3. Goblet, yellow minyan; handles and large part of body missing. D. rim 0.12 m, D. base 0.05 m, H. 0.09 m. Pale brown clay, pinkish to yellowish slip. Deep conical bowl, low base, small everted rim, and two strap handles from rim to belly.

(Fig. 14: 4)

4. Large amphora with two vertical neck handles, yellow minyan. D. rim 0.14 m, D. shoulder 0.26 m, H. 0.13 m. Brown to red clay, yellowish to pinkish slip. Neck with rim, handles and part of shoulder preserved. Heavy square lip.

(Fig. 15: 5)

5. Crater, matt-painted polychrome. H. 0.15 m, D. rim 0.17 m. Brown to reddish clay, whitish to yellowish thick slip. Part of bowl with handle and lip preserved. Deep rounded bowl, horizontal roll handle and heavy "hawk's beak" rim²⁰. Painted bichrome band, red and black, under rim. Burnished interior with pinkish surface.

(Fig. 16: 6)

6. Dipper. Complete. D. rim 0.07 m, D. base 0.03 m, H. (with handle) 0.010 m. Hand-made, pale buff coarse clay, pale brown rough surface. Open shallow bowl with thick walls, high swung roll handle and small flat base.

(Fig. 17: 7)

7. Conical bowl, unpainted. D. rim 0.10 m, D. base 0.03 m, H. 0.07 m. Dark brown to red coarse clay, light brown to reddish rough surface.

In this part of the house many sherds were also found from minyan vases, unpainted large hydriae, amphorae, and goblets.

No signs of a destruction were found; it appears that the house was abandoned for some unknown reason during the LH IIIA1 period. The fortification wall cannot be dated accurately, but probably it was not contemporary with the house; perhaps it was built a little later.

The results of the trial excavation and the surface finds show that Glypha was occupied from the Early Helladic period and that the settlement flourished during the Middle Helladic and especially the Late Helladic period from LH I to LH IIIB. There was an important Mycenaean fortified settlement at Glypha of considerable size with dense habitation and large buildings. As the thick spread of Late Helladic sherds indicates, almost the entire hill must have been occupied and at least in the LH IIIA1 period habitation spread to the level ground below the hill, as is shown by the house found there (Fig. 2). The size of the settlement can thus be estimated as ca. 300 by 150 metres, about 45,000 square metres.

We would of course like to know more about the Mycenaean settlement, its town-plan, its exact size, and its buildings and streets. But here

we must admit that we know little about Mycenaean settlements in general. Excavations so far have brought to light mainly groups of buildings, so we still have very little idea of what large areas of a Mycenaean settlement would look like. The Mycenaean citadels with the royal palaces, which were the major centres of power, are of course much better known. However, we may compare Glypha with the large and important sites on the Mainland at Korakou, Zygouries, Asine, Malthi, Nichoria, Ayios Stephanos, and Eutresis, which were major settlements as the excavations have demonstrated²¹. Most of these sites were also fortified.

Glypha was perhaps an equally large local centre, a permanent settlement, whose population would probably always have been several hundreds. No doubt it owed its importance to its advantageous position. It was a coastal settlement and so was connected with the Aegean. It is also possible that it had some control over the Euripos straits. The fertile land nearby as well as the small inlet ensured prosperity. The large amount of sea-shells found in the excavation is a strong indication that fishing was one of the main occupations of the inhabitants. The strategic position of the site is also shown by the fact that Glypha was inhabited in almost all periods of prehistory and also in later times, as the Geometric, Roman, and Byzantine sherds found on the hill indicate.

The eastern Boeotian shore of the Euripos was densely inhabited in the Early and Middle Bronze Age, and also in the Late Helladic period. Sites best known, both from survey and excavations, are, from north to south, Anthedon, Lithosoros or the Tomb of Salganeus at Drossia, Glypha, Vathy, and Dramesi²². Glypha was one of the most extensive of these prehistoric sites, resembling physically the neighbouring mounds at Drossia and Dramesi. On the other hand the quality of the Mycenaean pottery and other finds from Glypha and also its position in the centre of this area and near the straits, strongly suggest that it was the most prominent Mycenaean settlement of this area, possibly the local capital.

Since the Mycenaean settlement at Glypha seems to be so important, one would like to know how independent it was from the strong Acropolis of Thebes, the seat of the powerful Mycenaean kings of Boeotia. This is of course a difficult point. The fortification wall shows perhaps that the settlement had a kind of independence. But it is rather much to accept that it was not controlled in some way by the great Mycenaean palatial centre of Thebes. One is inclined to think that all the above sites on the eastern Boeotian coast, including Glypha, must have been under the influence of Thebes. It is reasonable to assume that they may have served as Thebes' ports for communication and trade with the Cyclades and the Aegean.

If Glypha was such an important fortified settlement, then it could possibly be identified with Mycenaean Aulis. This suggestion is supported by the fact that it lies near the Mycenaean chamber tombs exca-

vated by Threpsiadis on the North side of Mikro Vathy bay²³. Threpsiadis thought that the tombs were associated with Aulis, which he located on the peninsula between the bays of Megalo and Mikro Vathy (Fig. 1). But the Mycenaean finds from this area are not sufficient to support this theory. Indeed, the finds from the tombs at Mikro Vathy, including pottery of the LH IIIA to IIIB periods and bronze long swords²⁴ of Miss Sandars' D 1 (Cruciform) type of the late 15th century B.C.²⁵, correspond to the discoveries at Glypha.

But this identification is difficult to prove at present. Only further excavation at the site, combined with an environmental study of the surrounding region and an investigation of the settlement distribution of the eastern Boeotian shore, will help us determine the real character of Glypha and give new and more substantial evidence upon which to base a re-evaluation of the above suggestion.

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- FM: Furumark motive number
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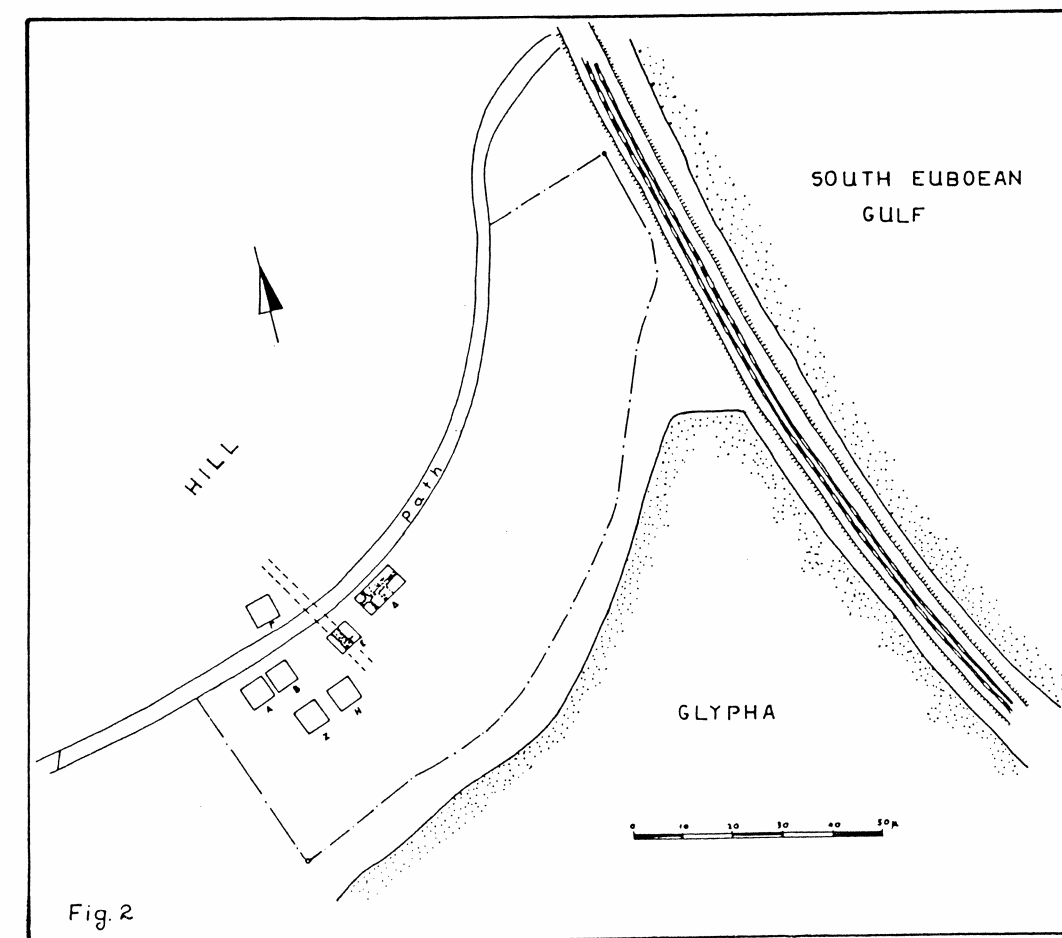
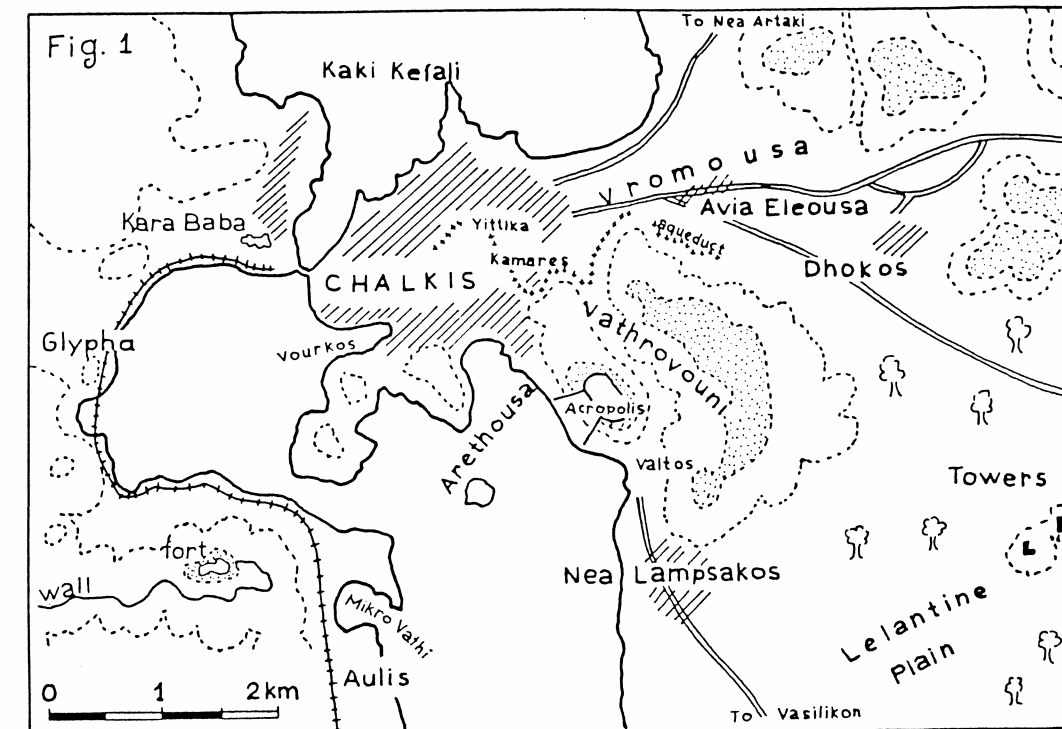
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A shorter version of this paper was read to the Conference "Future Directions in Greek Archaeology" held in Cambridge, August 28-30, 1986. I should like to thank Prof. Albert Schachter for his invitation to publish it in Teiresias. My thanks are also due to Mrs. Lena Papazoglou for her help in the excavation of the site, to Dr. A. Andreiomenou and Mr. V. Aravantinos for their help during the study of the material in the Thebes Museum, to Mrs. A. Karapaschalidou for much help and information and to Mrs. K. Papathanasopoulou for the drawings of the finds. I also thank Dr. D. Konsola for discussion and criticism.

NOTES

1. The site is also known as Tseloneri, see Hope Simpson/Dickinson 1979, F 67.
2. Theocharis 1959, 282, 309, 311, 313.
3. Sackett *et al.* 1966, 66-67, nos. 94, 96, fig. 10 and pl. 8.
4. Bakhuizen 1970, 17. no. 61.
5. French 1972, figs. 9, 10, 14, 16c.
6. See also Hope Simpson 1965, no. 435. In a more recent work the pottery is dated to the LH I/II-IIIC periods, see Hope Simpson/Dickinson 1979, F 67. However, Mountjoy has assigned the pottery to LH IIIA1-IIIC and published two LH IIIA2 sherds, Mountjoy 1983, 103-105, 110, fig. 41: 6, 8.
7. Vermeule 1966, 142-144, fig. 1.
8. Sampson 1974, 14.

9. Demakopoulou 1977, 98-101. A small trial excavation at Glypha was conducted by the Epimeletria of Chalkis Mrs. A. Karapaschalidou in 1987 (oral communication).
10. Compare the bridge-spouted jug with similar decoration from chamber tomb 2 at Hagia Anna, Thebes, Demakopoulou/Konsola 1981, 48, pl. 14 top.
11. Iakovidis 1983, 5, 29.
12. Other examples with similar net pattern with crosses are known from Mycenae, Ch. T. 529, Wace 1932, pl. 51: 3, and also from Athens, Acropolis, North Slope, Broneer 1933, fig. 36: 7.
13. Mountjoy 1986, 51, 57-58, fig. 65.
14. Buchholz 1963, 1ff., with bibliography; also Warren 1969, 115-117.
15. Compare the examples from the Mycenaean wells of the South Slope of the Acropolis at Athens, Mountjoy 1981, 25, fig. 10: 91-98, pl. 9 b-c.
16. *PPS* 21 (1955), 175-177. See also *BSA* 53-54 (1958-1959), 233-234.
17. For this kind of grave see Dickinson 1983, 57.
18. Mountjoy 1986, 46, fig. 53: 3 (example from Korakou).
19. See Davis 1979, 253-259; also Mountjoy 1981, 74-79.
20. For the shape see Buck 1964, shape A 3, 242, pl. 39.
21. See Hope Simpson/Dickinson 1979, A50, A67, A20, D222, D100, C17, G33 with bibliography.
22. See Hope Simpson/Dickinson 1979, G43, G44, F67, F65, F64 with bibliography. See also Sackett *et al.* 1966, 66, with a good map in pl. 8, where all these sites are shown.
23. The tombs are now completely destroyed by the Cement Factory of Chalkis. For the excavation of the site see Threpsiadis 1960, 48. Also Hope Simpson/Dickinson 1979, F66.
24. Threpsiadis 1960, 48, pl. 28 a-b, 29.
25. *AJA* 67 (1963), 123.



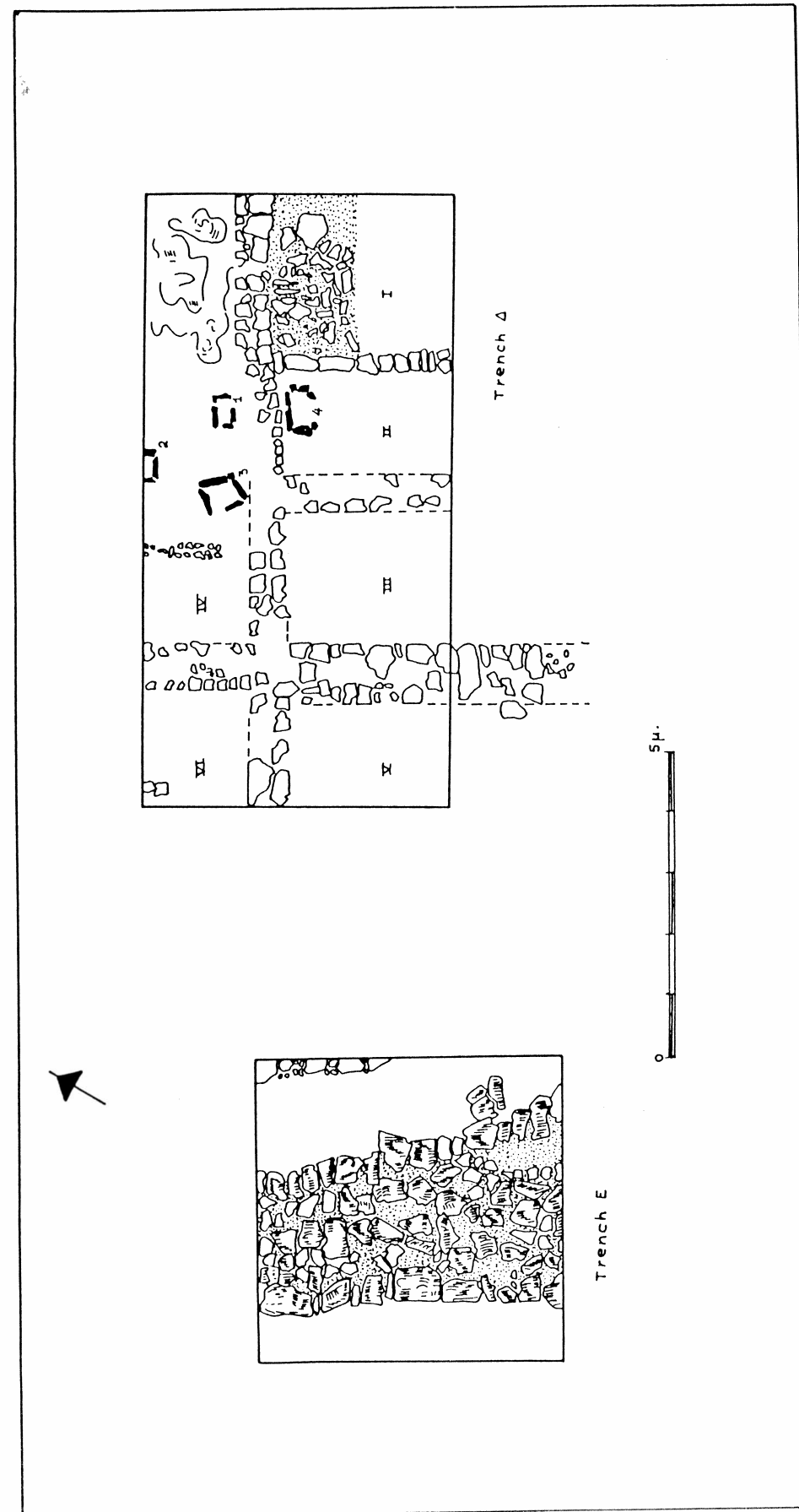


Fig. 3

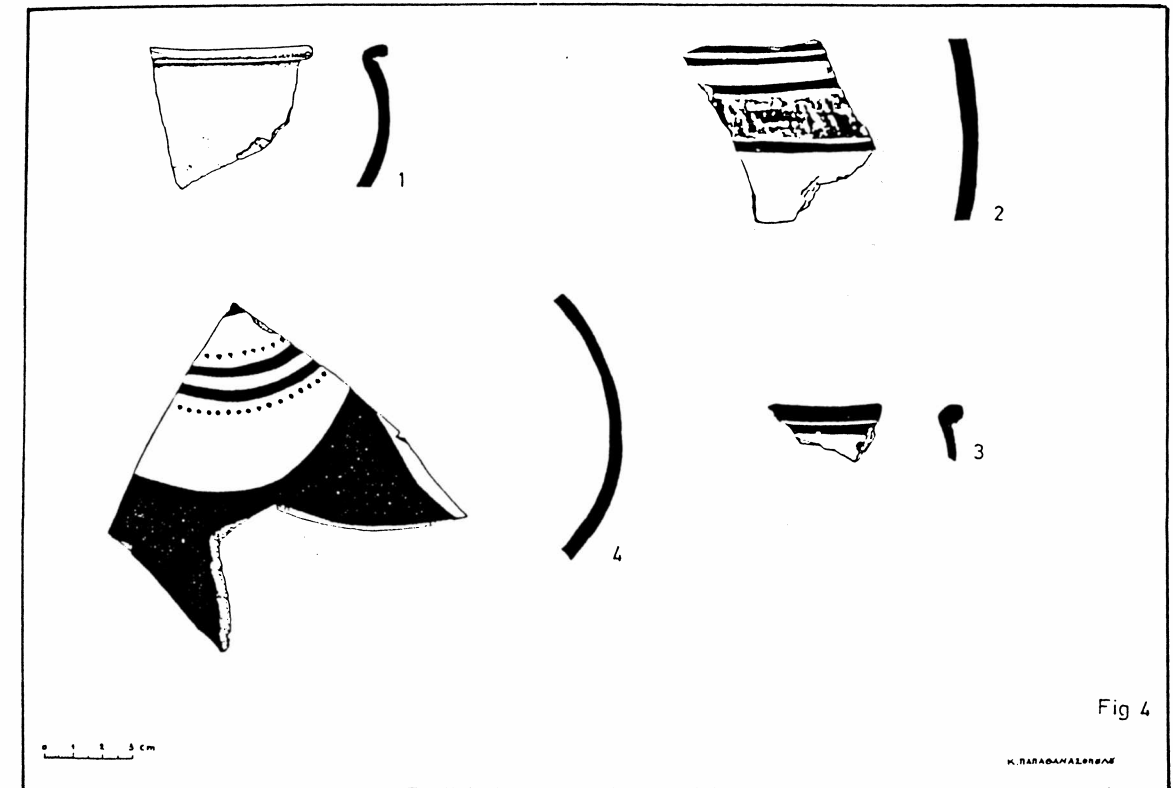


Fig 4

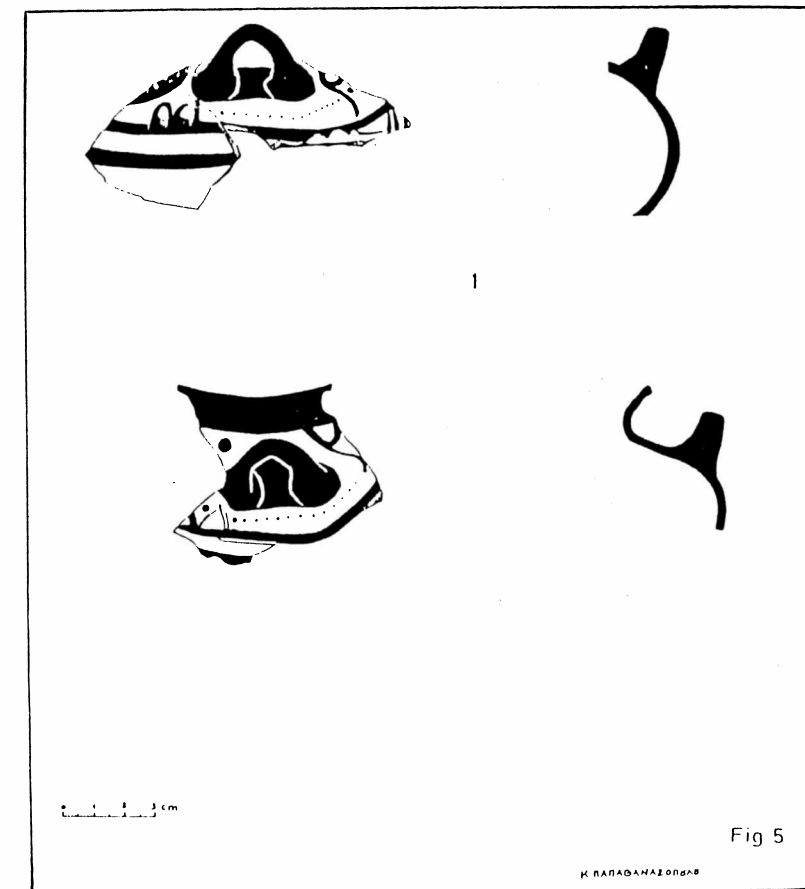
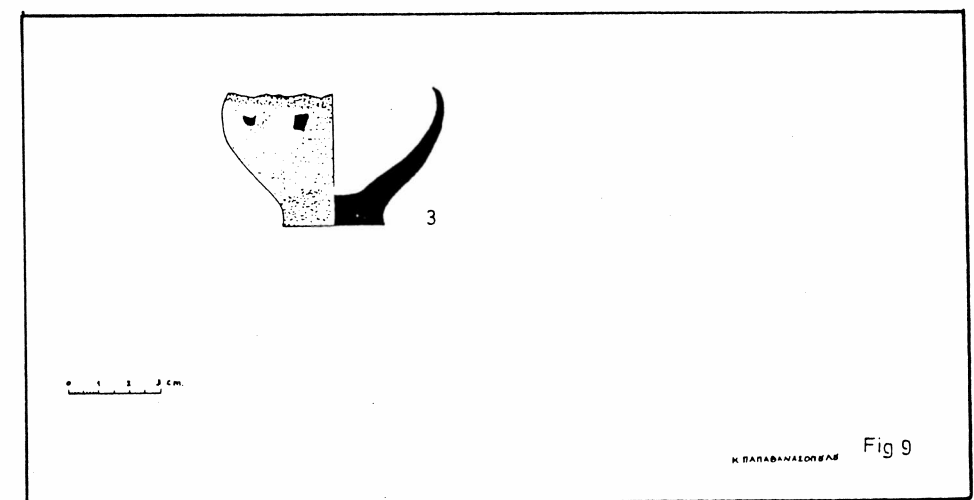
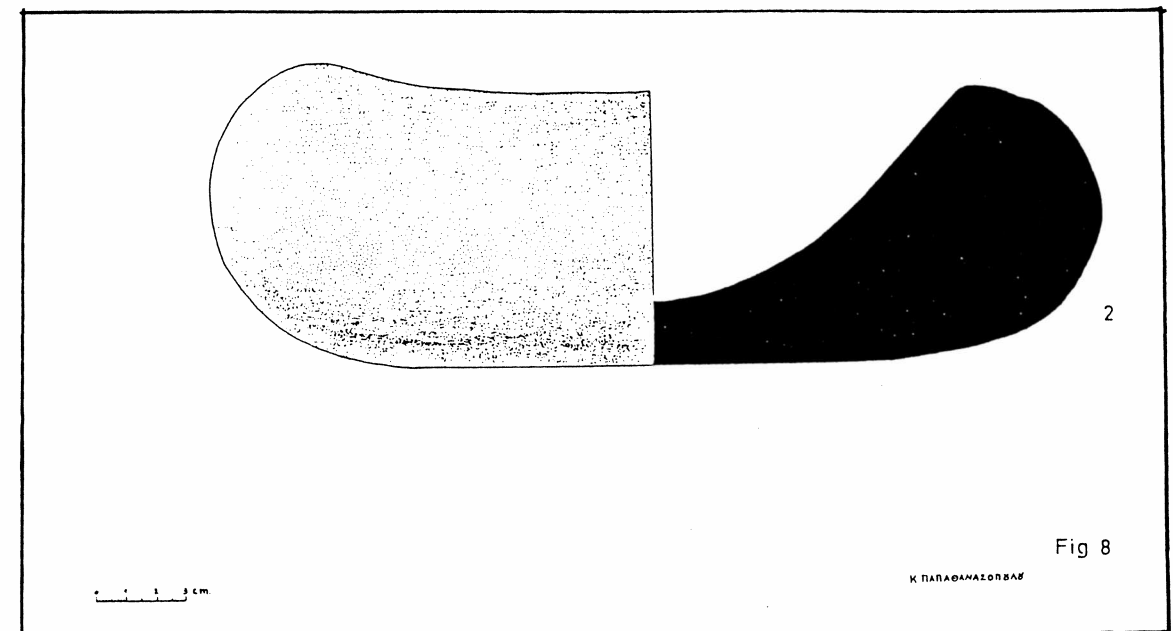
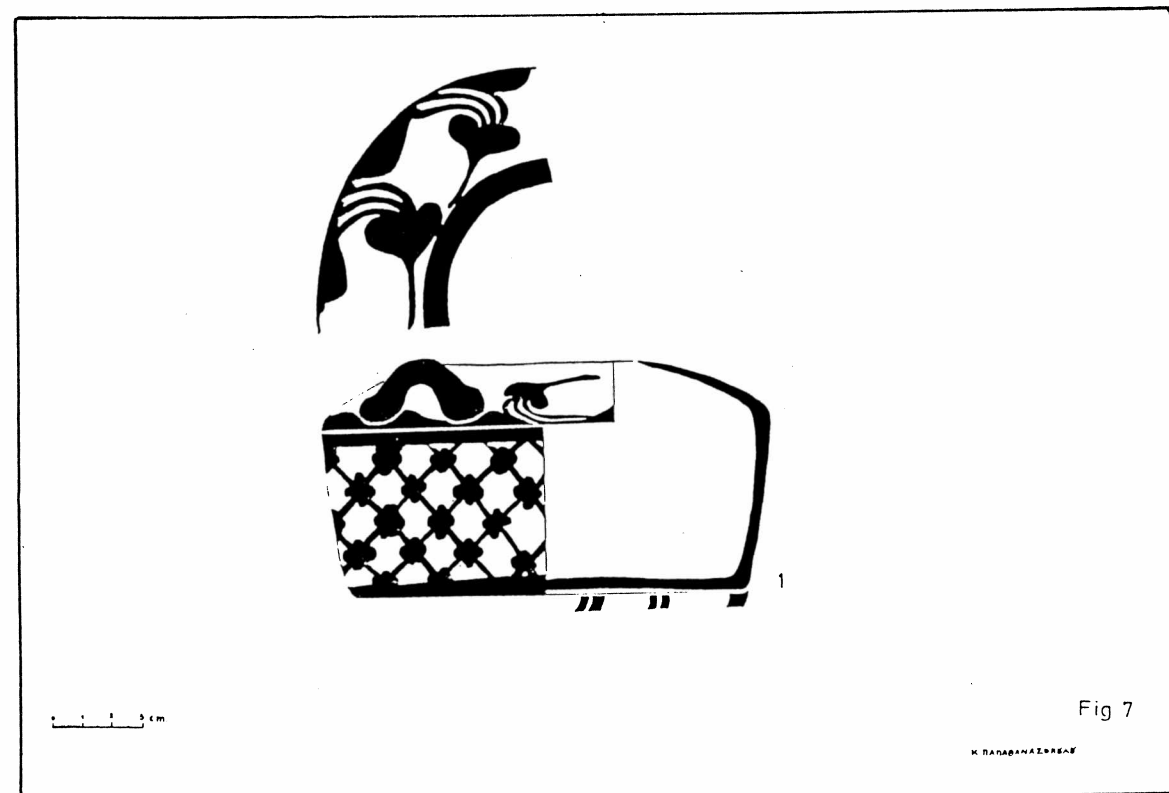
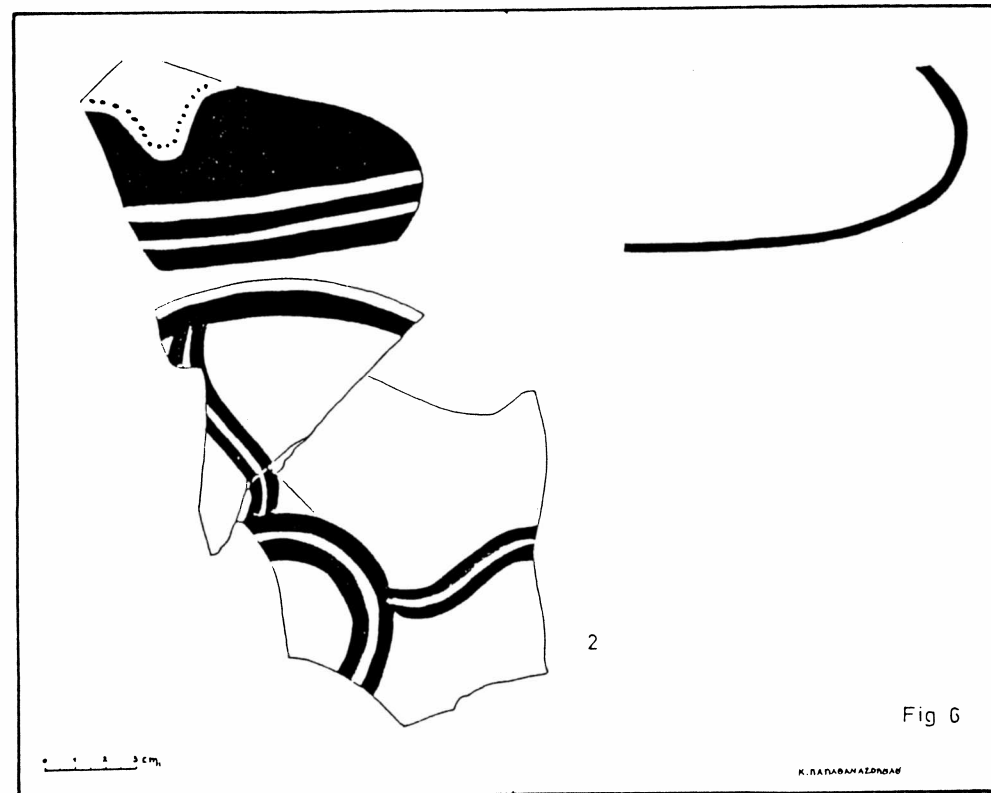
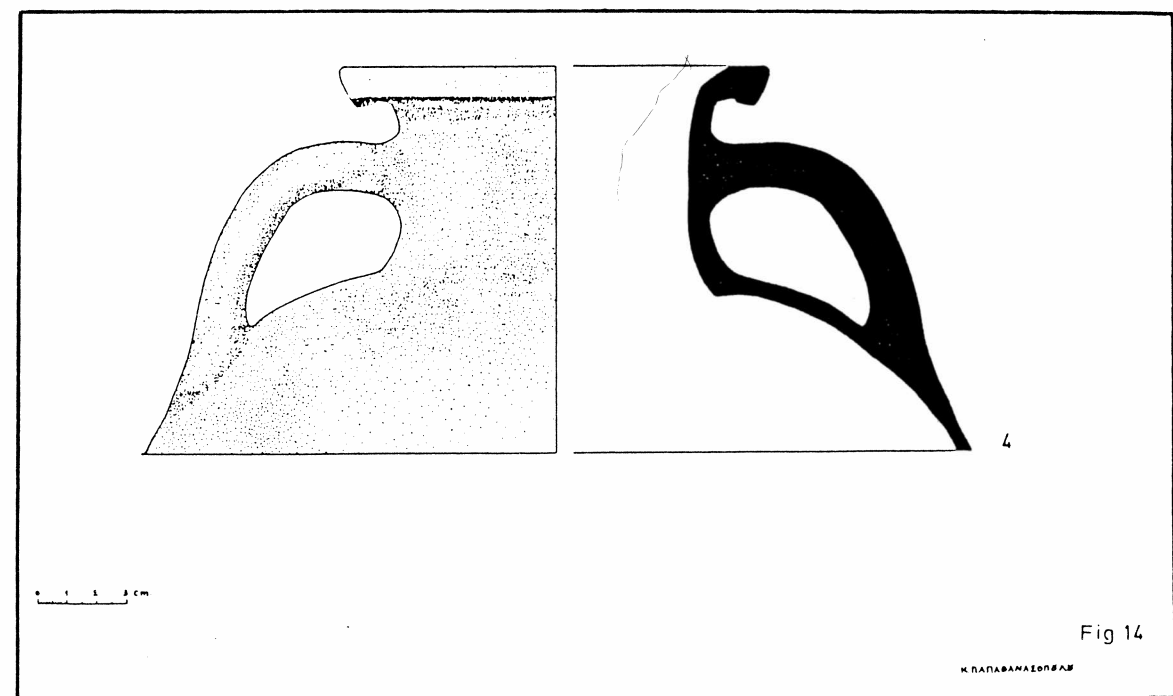
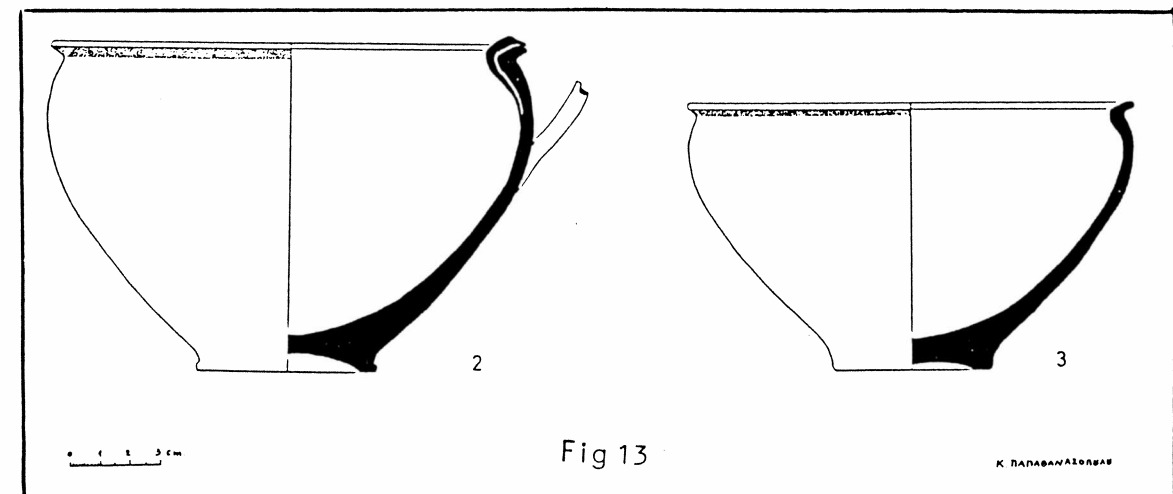
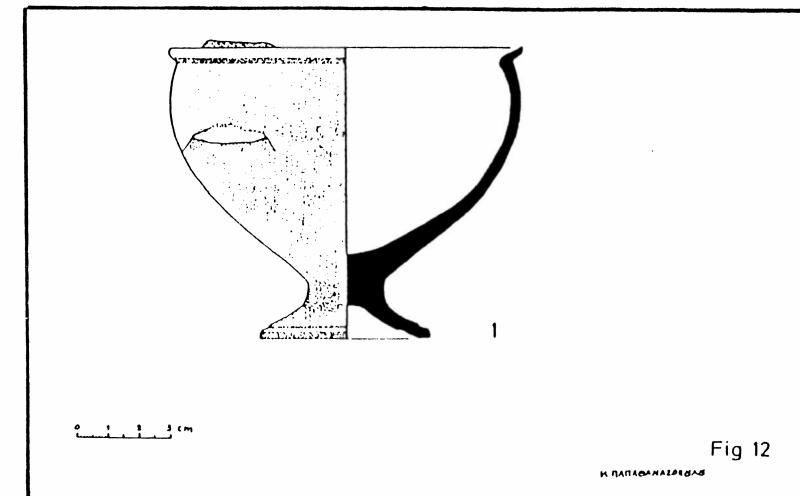
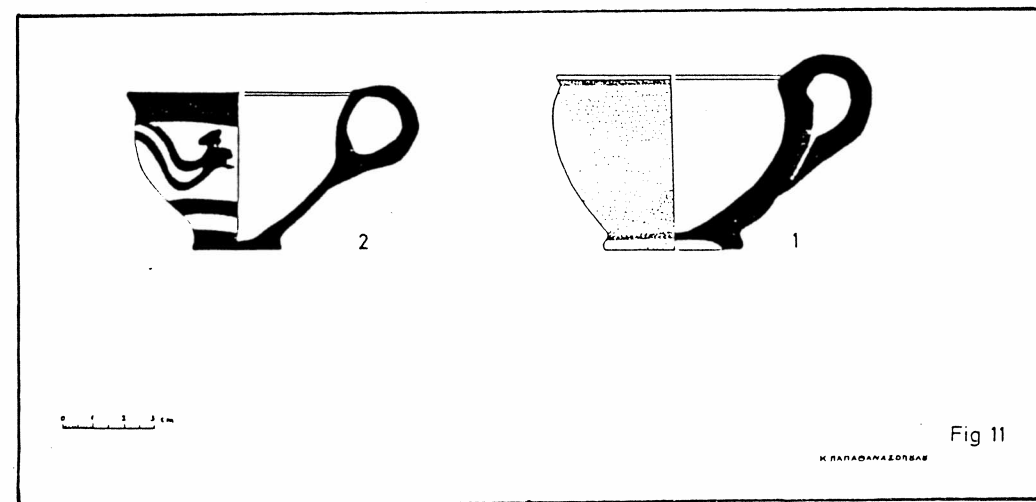
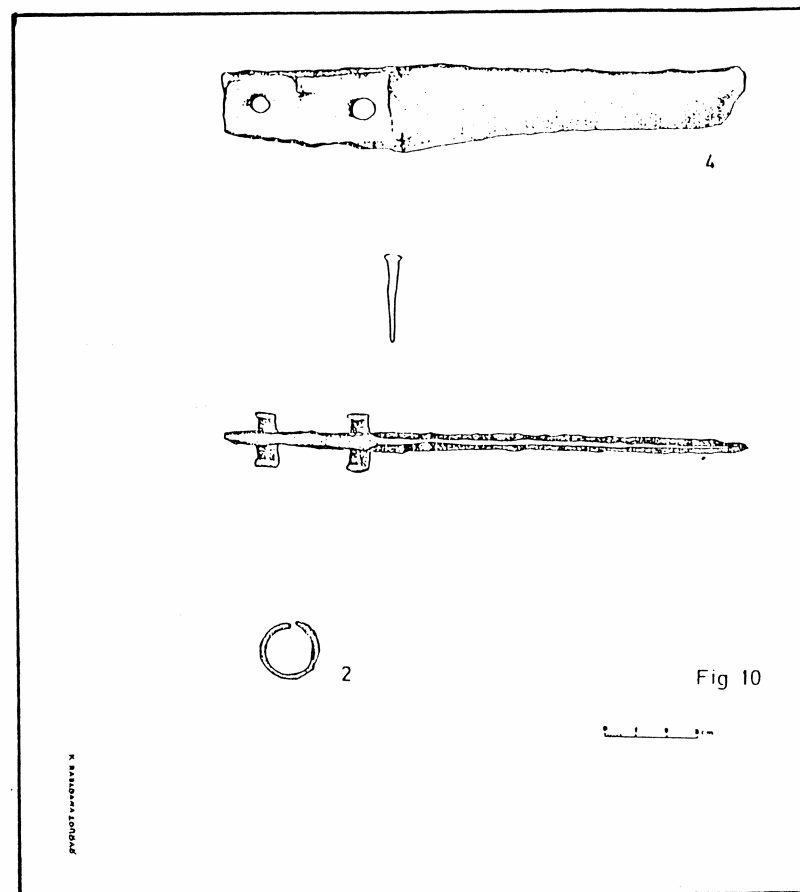
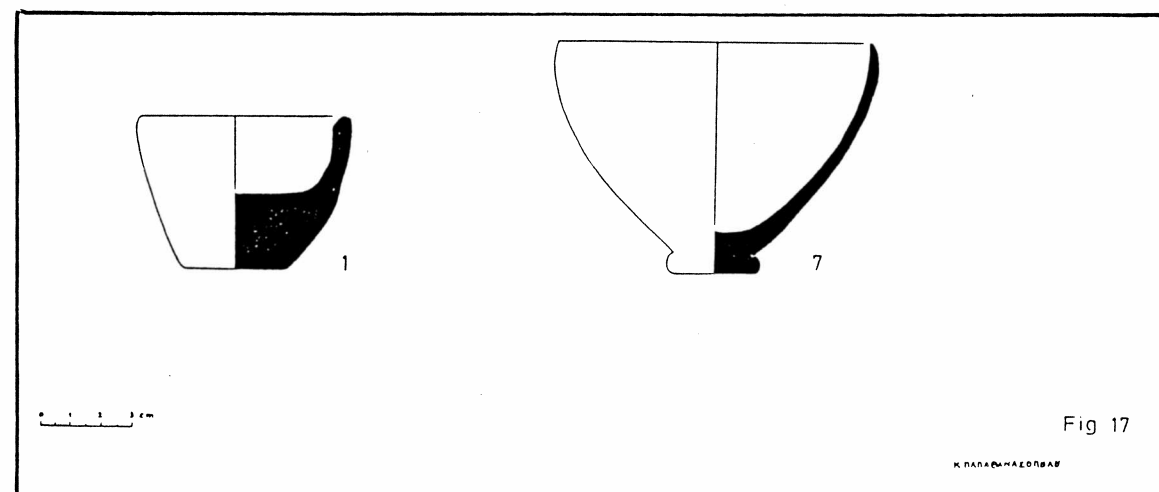
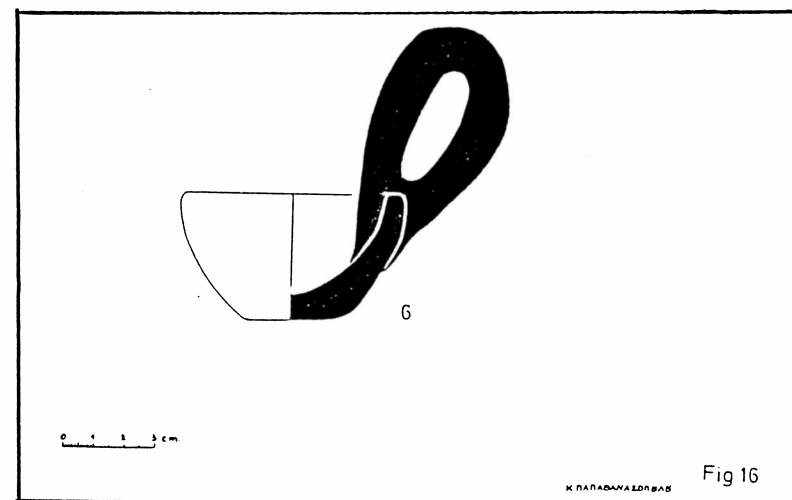
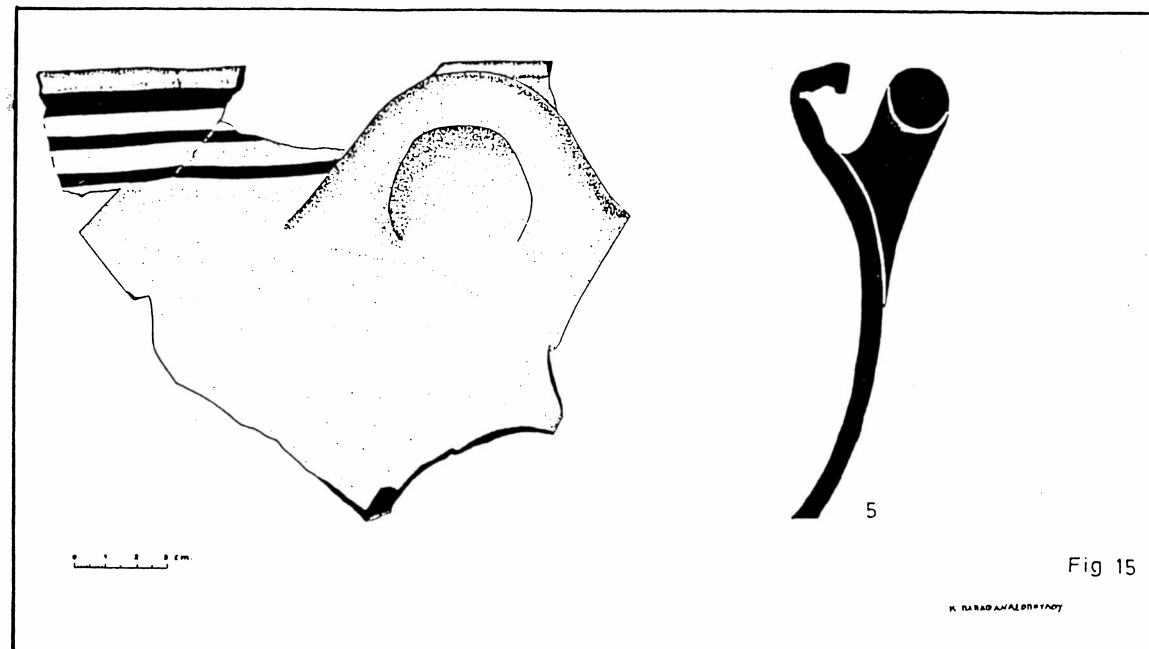


Fig 5







B.88.02 Prof. Dr.-Ing. J. KNAUSS (Versuchsanstalt für Wasserbau Oberrach - Oskar v. Miller-Institut, Technische Universität München) has sent the following report:

MUNICH KOPAIS EXPEDITION, PARALLEL STUDIES AT THISVI 1986-1988 (HYDRAULIC STRUCTURES RESEARCH)

At 9.32.2-3 Pausanias reports on his visit to Thisvi and its surroundings in the southwest corner of Boeotia. Aside from some geographical remarks and a reference to a sanctuary of Herakles -- the traditional hero of ancient land reclamation -- he makes special reference to a hydraulic installation which seems to have been the most impressive architectural feature at Thisvi in the second century A.D. In the translation of W. H. S. Jones (The Loeb Classical Library), Pausanias' description of this remarkable technical achievement reads: "Nothing would prevent the plain between the mountains becoming a lake owing to the volume of the water, had they not made a strong dyke right through it. So every (other) year they divert the water to the farther side of the dyke, and farm the other side".

The remains -- spectacular even today -- of the large dam or barrage in the middle of the plain (identified as "grosser Damm" in the accompanying figure on page 21) were first identified by W. M. Leake in 1806. In the so-called URBAEDECKER of 1878, H. G. Lolling provides us with a detailed description of a wall, originally eight feet wide and probably of the same height, composed of squared blocks of the same appearance as, and similar dimensions to those in the Hellenistic city wall. The wall runs parallel to the earth-filled dam (which is 2.5 m high and about 15 m wide), along its western side, and is thought to be the reason why Pausanias called the structure a *χωμα λοχυρόν*. According to my study of the relevant publications after Leake and Lolling, no later scholar has taken any special notice of this interesting hydraulic installation. The outcome of T. E. Gregory's investigation is not yet available in detail (see TEIRESIAS 1980 Arch. 31-41).

As far as I know, no historian or archaeologist has ever made an attempt to explain and localize the second hydraulic device mentioned by Pausanias, which enabled the inhabitants of Thisvi to divert the water to the farther side of the dyke (see "Bachumleitung" in the figure). In 1805 E. Dodwell identified a wall in front of the old town, alongside a deep ditch, but he did not relate this observation to the periegete's description. The fact that the term *παρὰ ἕτος* could mean either "every year" or "every other year" has given some misinterpretations of the rules of water management applied, as for instance by A. Philippson and E. Kirsten in their "Griechische Landschaften".

The third hydraulic installation, a small dam or barrage at the entrance of the Askris-Potami (ancient Permessos) into a narrow valley some kilometers east of the main basin of Thisvi ("kleiner Damm" in the figure) was not directly observed by Pausanias. But

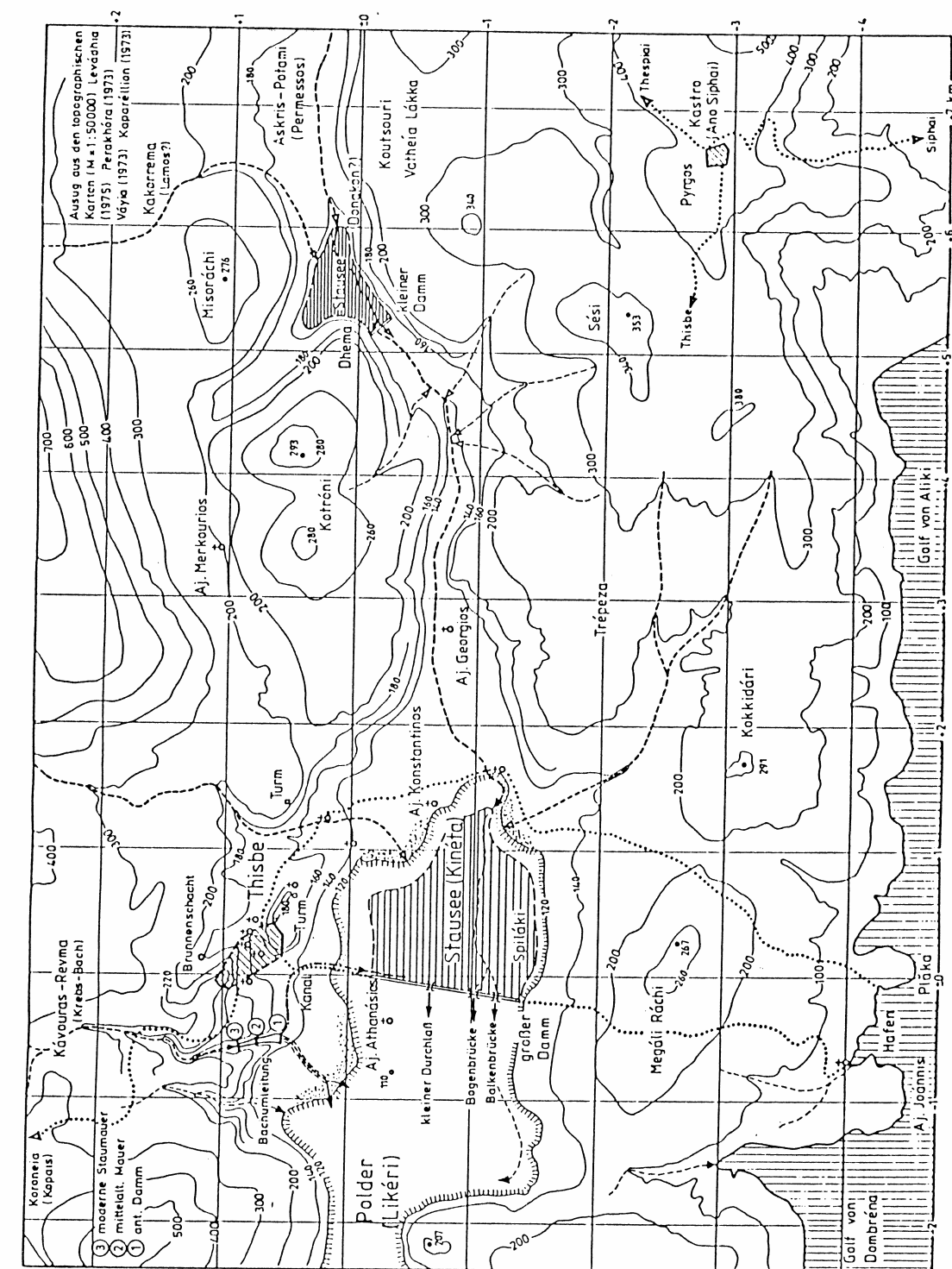
it is very likely that he passed through the marshy remains of the artificial lake created by the dam. On descending from the summit of Mount Helicon he noticed a small river named the Lamus, and, afterwards, a territory called Donacon, which means reed-bed (9.31.7). The river Lamus is, I suggest, the Kakorrema ("bad torrent") which enters the lake somewhat to the west of the Permessos (see the figure). The small dam was first discovered by W. M. Leake in 1806 and described in his narrative (N.G. II.510).

Parallel to the intensive investigations of the prehistoric land reclamation system in the Kopais (see the progress reports in TEIRESIAS 16 [1986] APPENDIX BOEOTICA 3-7 and in TEIRESIAS 17 [1987] AB 1-5), I made three excursions to the enclosed basin of Thisvi in September 1986, April 1987, and in May this year in search of the ancient hydraulic structures. As the result of my studies I have written an extensive article including a series of photographs, principal drawings and maps (e.g. the one shown here), to be published in *Antike Welt* in the near future.

To summarize the general outcome of my investigations, I have found that the hydraulic scheme and water management system installed at Thisvi shows significant evidence to allow the assumption of a Mycenaean or Minyan origin (when compared with similar installations in the Kopais and in the poljes of Arcadia). I suggest that prehistoric Thisvi -- characterized by Homer as abounding in pigeons (Il. 2.502) -- was not only a major commercial port of central Boeotia on the Corinthian Gulf, but was also a place for the transfer of technical skills within the Mycenaean world, from north to south and vice versa.

The best proof of the Mycenaean origin of the hydraulic structures was the discovery of a protecting side-wall in cyclopean masonry at the small earth-fill dam east of Thisvi. This barrage was originally constructed to the considerable height of about 4 m. which is, as far as I know, a record height for Mycenaean reservoir dams. The centre of the dam was at one time carried away by the river, thus showing a distinct example of a failure in Mycenaean hydraulic engineering. In medieval times, probably at the end of the Middle-Byzantine period, the gap within the dam was closed by a wall composed of small loose stones and mortar. One part of this 5 m. high wall was destroyed by overflowing water, and was afterwards repaired in the Frankish period of Greece. One part of this repair work was again washed away by the flood waters of the Permessos. It was possible to detect the different construction periods of the wall by a comparison of differences in the masonry style and the mortar used (see my detailed report).

As for the river diversion devices west of the ancient town, I found that in the Kavouras-Revma in antiquity a small dam, in medieval times a wall, and recently a modern barrage were installed to allow the distribution of the inflowing water to either the eastern or the western part of the plain (see the figure). Throughout all these periods the water diverted was artificially channelled to the



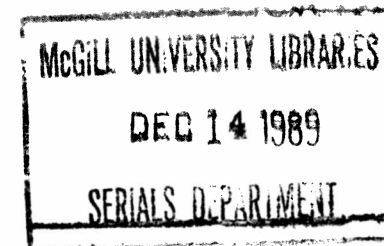
THE ANCIENT HYDRAULIC INSTALLATIONS IN THE THISVI BASIN (SITE PLAN)

eastern side of the valley. The remains of the ancient channel wall are still visible at several places beneath the later super-structures, all serving the same purpose.

In antiquity the diversion and the water storage scheme may have been operated in the following way: in the main rainfall season, October to December, the Kavouras (its ancient name is not known) was allowed to follow its natural bed down to the centre of the plain in order to provide a satisfactory saturation of the agricultural area. The whole valley was covered by a lake. During the frost period in January and February the inflow of water into the basin from the upper region of Mount Helicon stopped, and the lake vanished, by the infiltration of its water into the soil (at Thisvi we have the only *polje* of Greece with no visible *katawothra*). With the drying up of the plain agricultural activity could be resumed, but with increasing temperatures the melting of the snow-caps on top of the surrounding mountains created the danger of a second and undesired flooding of the basin. In order to avoid a further inundation of the western part of the plain during March and April, the water of the Kavouras was diverted to the side east of the large dam and was stored there in the artificial reservoir. The floodwater of the Permessos and its tributaries was retained in the reservoir created by means of the small dam. At the beginning of the hot season in May and June the water thus stored may have been used for irrigation purposes in the lower fields.

Throughout its long life, from its probable first construction in the Mycenaean period onwards, to the end of the classical era of Greece, the large dam may have been subject to considerable erosion of its unprotected western slope due to overtopping water, heavy rainfalls and percolation of the earth-fill. The Hellenistic dam wall, which is constructed in the same manner as the city wall, is, therefore, in my opinion a repair of the older structure, perhaps initiated by Alexander the Great in his reorganization of Boeotia after 335 B.C. In the Kopais we know of his order to restore the Minyan drainage system.

The very old practice of managing the water resources of the valley by means of the two artificial reservoirs was abandoned at that time, when the two bridge openings in the southern part of the large dam (see the figure) were installed. The openings cannot be closed and the incoming water is allowed to flow constantly through them in order to avoid an overtopping of the dam. This provision was necessary after considerable silting up of both reservoirs. I think that the first construction of the openings took place after the break of the wall in the small barrage and before 1806, when W. M. Leake saw them on his visit to Thisvi.



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Compiled by A. Schachter

EDITORIAL NOTES

This volume of TEIRESIAS -- librarians please note -- consists of the Bibliography only.

1989 saw yet another Boiotian conference, organized impeccably by John Bintliff, and held at Bradford and Liverpool in June. The papers of the two preceding Boiotian conferences -- held at Munich and Thebes in 1986 -- have now been published, and congratulations are in order for the editors of the respective volumes. Thanks are also due from the General Editor to Mr. Donald Sedgwick for his continued assistance.

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SECTION 1: HISTORICAL (see also 89.2.09, 29, 32, 44, 46, 56, 64, 79, 86, 111, 120, 123, 131, 132)

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