

TAVANTA

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
DUTCH ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
VOLUME XLIV (2012)

Editor:

Angelos Papadopoulos

2013

HANDLING HANDLES: LOCAL CUPS FROM TOUMBA TOUT SKOUROU, CYPRUS, WITH A CRETAN TWIST*

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This is a study of a small group of pottery cups produced within a sphere of international connections. The hypothesis proposed here is that the local potters of Toumba tout Skourou were inspired by imported Minoan pottery and thus created their own hybrid cup-type. This hypothesis is in turn used to explain why nine cups found at Toumba tout Skourou appear to show a certain degree of Minoan influence, including the high vertical strap handles characteristic of the LM IA cups rather than the usual horizontally set wishbone or loop handles which are characteristic of LC pottery drinking vessels. The study is set within a chronological frame of Cyprus and Crete and the scope is to shed light on the outcome of the interaction between LB I Toumba tout Skourou and Crete.

Introduction

Toumba tout Skourou was, according to the excavators, founded as a town during the MC III and abandoned towards the end of the 8th century BC (Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, 12). During the LC period Toumba tout Skourou was one of the Cypriot towns in control of the copper smelting and trade¹.

However, what the archaeological team from Harvard University and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts revealed at Toumba tout Skourou was that large areas of the mound had been levelled by bulldozers to make way for a citrus grove, and they also found evidence of illegal digging. The remaining archaeological strata re-

* Acknowledgements: First of all I would like to thank the editors for the invitation to contribute to this volume. I would also like to express profound gratitude to former director Pavlos Flourentzos, The Cyprus Museum and its staff, as well as Florence Wolsky for the permission and possibility to study and republish the present material. Furthermore, I would like to thank Robert Merrillees for his professional opinion on the material, Anna Drummond, Steffen Ledet Christiansen, and Sidsel Maria Westh-Hansen for assistance with the drawings, Rubina Raja for reading and commenting upon earlier drafts of the paper and the reviewer for a thorough review.

¹ Keswani 1993; cf. Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, 401-403 and Muhly 1982, 261 for evidence on copper smelting at Toumba tout Skourou.

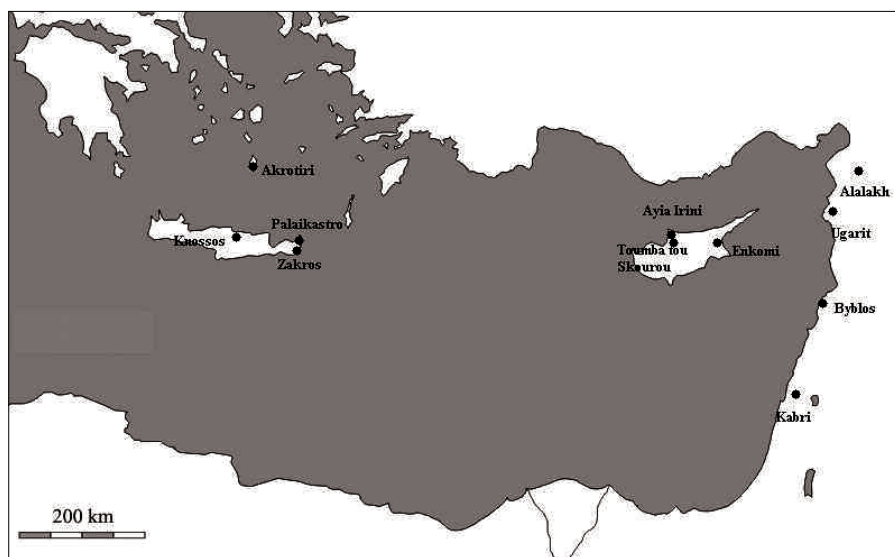


Fig. 1. Map showing Crete and Cyprus, and relevant sites. Copyright map: American School of Oriental Research and author (findspots).

vealed a potters' quarter² of the once much larger town as well as six large undisturbed tombs from the MC III to LC IIB periods (Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, 7-17, 369). A fair amount of material from the Geometric period was also recovered, but only one wall from this period remained (*o.c.*, 153-154).

The site was excavated between 1971 and 1973, but after the Turkish army captured Morphou in 1974, the excavation storeroom was cleared and the material from the storeroom was left outdoors for some time (*o.c.*, 4). Many items were lost during this period, and since one of the cups relevant to this study (TS 06 and see also P1149) was still in the storeroom at this time, its present location remains uncertain (*o.c.*, 30 n. 8). The final results from the Toumba tou Skourou excavation were published in 1990 by Emily Vermeule and Florence Wolsky.

Some studies have noted that the ancient town of Toumba tou Skourou on Cyprus has yielded an unexpectedly high proportion of *Minoica* from the LM IA period³. LM I imports have also been found in nearby Hagia Irini, and it appears that the Morphou Bay region played a role in overseas contacts between Crete and Cyprus during the New Palace Period. Hankey and Leonard (1998, 32) have even sug-

² It was the amount of pottery slag and clay balls found at Toumba tou Skourou which led the excavators to the conclusion that the excavated part of the mound was the remains of a potters' quarter (Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, 18).

³ Vermeule 1974, 9; Sørensen 2008, 157, nos. 5-15, 25, 34-36, 42-43, 60-61; 2009, 263; Eriksson 2007, 174.

gested that Toumba tou Skourou and Hagia Irini were founded by Cretan colonists. This hypothesis can, however, not be verified. Nonetheless, there is more evidence of Cretan import to the Morphou Bay region during the LC IA than in any other region or site on the island⁴, and the proposed ceramic imitations discussed below indicate local interest in Minoan drinking cups.

No verifiable MM III objects have been found on Cyprus, whereas LM I artefacts are the most common *Minoica* from the MM-LM I period. Most New Palace Period *Minoica* has been found at Hagia Irini⁵ (Figs. 9a-b) and Toumba tou Skourou⁶ in the Morphou Bay region as well as at Enkomi⁷ in South East Cyprus⁸. The LM I material from Cyprus reveals a liking for Minoan drinking cups⁹.

⁴ Sørensen 2008. Some references are unfortunately missing from my 2008 catalogue. This has kindly been pointed out to me by Robert Merrillees. This means that catalogue number 3 should have been omitted. The additional references relevant to the present study have been added in the footnotes.

⁵ Hagia Irini, Tomb 3, three LH I/LM I cups: Pecorella/Rocchetti 1985, 193, Pl. XIV: 2; Pecorella 1971, 57-58, 62, fig. 26-27; 1973, 20, pl. V, 1-2; 1977, 21-22, 26, 247-248, fig. 29 116: 15, 30 a, b, 31; Catling 1986, 93; Portugali/Knapp 1985, 72 no. 23-24; Nicolaou 1972, 317, pl. 67.42; Karageorghis 1991, 70; Kanta 1998, 38; Lambrou-Phillipsson 1990, 87. Hagia Irini, Paleokastro, Tomb, two cups (LM/LH I, LM IA): Quilici 1985, 5, pl. XII 2-3; 1990, 86-87, 115, 126, 133, fig. 220-221, 316a, 325, 328, 348a, no. 228, 427; Karageorghis 1972, p. 1051; Cadogan 1979, 63 n. 1; Portugali/Knapp 1985, 71, no. 5. Hagia Irini, Paleokastro, Tomb 20, 1 LM I/LH I cup: Pecorella 1973, 20, pl. V, 3; 1976, 125-127, fig. 46; 1977, 112-113, fig. 243, 248, 269, 310: 38+39; Portugali/Knapp 1985, 72, no. 25; Catling 1986, 93.

⁶ Toumba tou Skourou Tomb I, LM IA: 2 jugs, 1 flowerpot, 8 cups: Vermeule/Wolsky, 1990, 219-220, 239, 381-382, 387, pl. 167-174; 1977, 82, 89; 1978, 299-301, 303-306, 307 n. 41, fig. 4-7, 13-15, 17-19, 21, 28; Vermeule 1974, fig. 20-23; Karageorghis 1972, 1054, fig. 67; 1991, 70, fig. 3; Portugali/Knapp 1985, 71-72, no. 8-19; Lambrou-Phillipsson 1990, 87; Warren/Hankey 1989; Eriksson 2007, 174, 175, 205, fig. 44. Toumba tou Skourou, Tomb III, 1 LM IA jar: Vermeule/Wolsky 1978, 308 no. 15, fig. 28 bottom right; 1990, 264, 267, 425; Portugali/Knapp 1985, 72 no. 21. Toumba tou Skourou, 3 cups, 1 LM I/III jar, 1 LM I/III bowl(?): Vermeule/Wolsky 1978, 303, 306-307, n. 41, 310, 317, fig. 22, 29, 45; 1990, 96-98, 114, 150; Portugali/Knapp 1985, 72-73, no. 20, 41.

⁷ Enkomi: 3 LH I/LM I cups, 1 LH IA/LM IB *alabastron*, 2 LM I jars, 1 LM IB seal, 2-3 LM/LH metal cups: Dikaios 1969a: Frontispiece, 230; 1969b: pl. 58/26-27a, 86/1-2; 1971: 445, 544, 551; Crewe 2004, Table of Aegean pottery from Area III, Table of foreign pottery from Area I; 2007a, 126, 342, fig. A1.30.5 no. 2811/11, pl. A1.8.4; Vermeule/Wolsky 1978, 307; Lambrou-Phillipsson 1990, 87; Portugali/Knapp 1985, 71-72, no. 6-7, 26, 28; Cadogan 1979, 63 n.1; Åström 1972, 759; Courtois 1979, 163 fig. 1; Onassoglou 1985, 223, no. 13, pl. XIV and 271, no. 33, pl. LI; Keswani 1989, 590; Pini 1992, 207, no. 2, 208, pl. XLI: 1a-b; Graziadio 2005, 326; Kenna 1971, 25, no. 50; Tatton-Brown 2003, 52-54; Joyner *et alii* 2006, 132, 140; Murray *et alii* 1900, 17, 36-43, 46-47, fig. 33, pl. iv-vii; Marshall 1911, 42, 63, nos. 641, 641a, pl. LXXIII.821; Merrillees 1982, 237, no. 4, pl. XXI,5; Graziadio 2005, 326-227; Portugali/Knapp 1985, 73 no. 44.

⁸ Cf. Sørensen 2008 for a catalogue of *Minoica* in Cyprus: cf. among others: no. 26: Maroni-Vournes: LM IA jug fragment.

⁹ Cf. Notes 11-13; more cup fragments: from Limassol: LM IB cup: Karageorghis 1978, 888, 890, fig. 29; 1979, 306; Vermeule/Wolsky, 1990, 383; Portugali/Knapp 1985, 72 no. 27;

Very few Cypriot artefacts have been unearthed on Crete. However, Cypriot copper accounts for 16% of the Minoan copper source in this period¹⁰, but apart from copper ingots the only other reported object group is pottery, including MC III wares from Kommos¹¹ and Malia¹², LC I from Knossos¹³ and Pseira¹⁴, and LC I-II from Kommos¹⁵, as well as undated Late Bronze Age vases and fragments from Gournia¹⁶ and Zakros¹⁷. The site which has yielded most Cypriot material apart from copper is Kommos.

Cyprus and Crete during the LB I

The following is only intended to give a very brief overview of the early phases of the Late Bronze Age on the two islands to indicate the regional context of the town of Toumba tou Skourou as well as its western neighbour in the period. Specialised studies of the developments in Cyprus may be found elsewhere¹⁸. It seems that the prior advances of the agrarian society formed the foundation of Cyprus' early heyday during the MC III-LC IB. During the MC III-LC I, towns with larger buildings arose, e.g. Enkomi and Toumba tou Skourou, an emerging élite appeared, and copper mining seems to have been systematised. These and other breakthroughs ultimately led to the introduction of a writing system, the Cypro-Minoan script¹⁹. During the early part of the Late Bronze Age on Cyprus, a number of regional polities were based in the largest and most important coastal towns, Toumba tou Skourou and Enkomi, which were both copper producers and exporters²⁰, and the ceramic produce of the island entered into the international network of contacts and trade from the MC III period and perhaps even before²¹.

Lambrou-Phillipson 1990, 87; from Palaepaphos, Teratsoudhia: 1 LM I (?) cup: Karageorghis 1990, 37, 66, pl. IV (i); from Palaipaphos, Evreti: 1 LM IA cup: Maier 1983, 231, pl. 23d; 1997, 93; Maier/Karageorghis 1984, 71; Cadogan 1979, 63 n.1; Kanta 1998, 38; Portugali/Knapp 1985, 72 no. 22; Lambrou-Phillipson 1990, 87; Maier, personal communication, Feb. 2008; P. Kolokassides Collection: 1 LH IIA/LM IB cup: Graziadio 2005, 329; Karageorghis 1965, 19-20, fig. 2, pl. 29; Vermeule/Wolsky, 1990, 383; Pecorella 1973, 21; Portugali/Knapp 1985, 72 no.29; Cadogan 1979, 63 n.1; from Palaepaphos, Teratsoudhia: 1 LM I(?) cup: Karageorghis 1990, 50-51, 71, pl. IV (viii).

¹⁰ Stos-Gale 2001, fig. 10.2. Stos-Gale furthermore shows that Cypriot copper was imported to Crete throughout the Bronze Age.

¹¹ Rutter 2006, 653-658, 683, Tables 3.104, 3.105, 3.115.

¹² Lambrou-Phillipson 1990, no. 151; Cline 2009, no. 444 (Palace).

¹³ Lambrou-Phillipson 1990, no. 127.

¹⁴ Cline 2009, nos. 765-768.

¹⁵ Rutter 2006, 653-658, 683, Tables 3.104, 3.105, 3.115; Cline 2009, no. 717 (Corridor building J); no. 404 (Stoa Building J); no. 608 (Test within Building P).

¹⁶ Lambrou-Phillipson 1990, no. 193; Cline 1994/2009, no. 718 (Area B7, dwelling in eastern valley).

¹⁷ Lambrou-Phillipson 1990, no. 201; Cline 1994/2009, no. 615 (Pit).

¹⁸ E.g. Knapp 2007; Crewe 2004; 2007a; 2007b.

¹⁹ Knapp 2008, 133; for a recent study on Cypro-Minoan see Ferrara 2012.

²⁰ Keswani 1993, 76; during the later phases of the Late Bronze Age it is disputed whether Cyprus consisted of one state under the Alashiyan king of Enkomi (Knapp 2008, 360, 363; Crewe 2007b, 214) or consisted of smaller regional entities (Keswani 1993, 75).

²¹ Cf. for instance the work of McGuire 2009 on the pottery export.

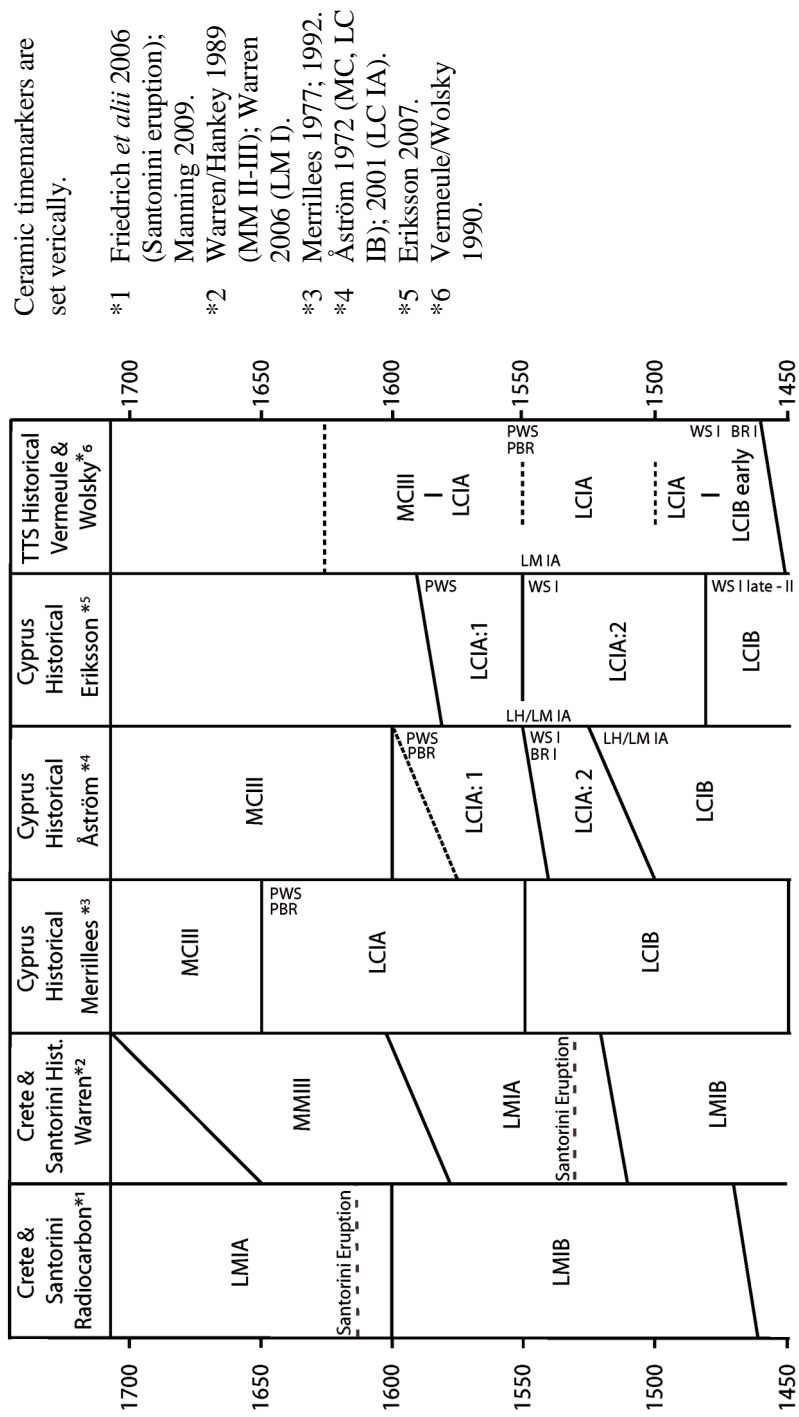


Fig. 2. Time table (source: author).

On Crete the centralisation and urbanisation process initiated in the preceding periods continued during the MM III-LM I periods after the destruction of the old palaces. New or remodelled palaces were built on the ruins of the earlier palaces (New Palace Period)²². Smaller 'palaces' or palace-like buildings were erected e.g. at Gournia (Boyd-Hawes 1908) and Myrtos-Pyrgos (Warren 1972), but Knossos and Phaistos remained the most important and impressive centres. Art, architecture, and administration flourished. Although the period was generally prosperous, sites were partly destroyed at different points in time throughout the period (Rehak/Younger 2001, 392-393). The period was highly centralized, as the control and redistribution of goods was handled from the palaces (Rehak/Younger 2001, 420; cf. Sørensen 2009b).

Cypriot relative chronology

In order to be able to examine the contexts of the nine hybrid cups at Toumba tou Skourou, and their relations to the LM IA imports, it is important to understand Cypriot relative chronology and the stratigraphy of Toumba tou Skourou. To create an overview, a time-table has been developed (Fig. 2) with the inclusion of the ware types defining relative seriation of the periods using four different schemes including the seriation of Toumba tou Skourou by Vermeule and Wolsky. To the excavators of Toumba tou Skourou, the definition of LC IA was the advent of Proto White Slip and Proto Base Ring ware. This is fully in accordance with Merrillees, Åström, and Eriksson, though the absolute dates of the periods are not synchronized (cf. the references in Fig. 2).

However, Vermeule and Wolsky found it impossible to make from the contexts at Toumba tou Skourou any clear sub-divisions from the end of MC III down to the end of LC IA (Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, 393). When Vermeule and Wolsky defined the LC IB period, they used White Slip I and Base Ring I as time markers. They did, however, note that White Slip I was found at Toumba tou Skourou in contexts antedating the LC IB (Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, 393). Within the relative pottery sequence defined by Merrillees²³, Åström (1972; 2001), Eriksson (2007), and Crewe (2007b, Table 2), White Slip I and Base Ring I were produced from the latter part of the LC IA²⁴, i.e. the LC IA:2 (cf. Fig. 2). For this reason Vermeule and Wolsky's period definitions are not used actively in the discussion, but kept in brackets throughout the text.

The chronology of the LM IA pottery imported to Cyprus has recently been discussed by Eriksson (Eriksson 2007) and Sørensen (Sørensen 2009a). I have argued that the only LM IA pieces from firmly dated contexts on Cyprus are the sherds from Maroni-*Vournes* and Toumba tou Skourou Tomb III, Niche, which both can be dated to the early LC IA period (Sørensen 2009a, 264). However,

²² Cf. Fig. 2 for the 'high' radiocarbon chronology of LM IA and B periods of the New Palace Period (MM III-LM I) and the 'low' historical chronology.

²³ Merrillees 1977, 42. He follows the relative chronology of Åström 1972, 51.

²⁴ Cf. several papers in Åström 2001b on the chronology of Base Ring ware.

these pieces can hardly be regarded as firm time markers, as they are fragments of broken vases and thus found in secondary contexts. They do, however, suggest that LM IA pottery had already arrived on Cyprus during the early LC IA and was contemporary with the production of Proto White Slip and Proto Base Ring ware. According to Eriksson, the LM IA pottery began to be imported to Cyprus during LC IA:1 and continued more intensively during LC IA:2²⁵.

The Late Bronze Age tomb at Hagia Irini, *Paleokastro*, published by Quilici (Quilici 1990), is on the other hand – as noted by Eriksson (Eriksson 2007, 173) – very important to our understanding of the relative chronology of LM IA pottery on Cyprus (Figs. 9a-b). The stratigraphy of the tomb is, however, not unambiguous²⁶, but the finds and their contexts remain very valuable to the research on Cretan-Cypriot relations.

Hard to handle: the ‘Teacups’²⁷ of Toumba tou Skourou

For the purposes of this study it has only been possible to restudy five (TS 01-05) of the nine cups (Fig. 3), since the remaining three are in Morphou/Güzelyurt (TS 07-09) and one might be lost (TS 06).

The nine cups presented in the catalogue below are described by the excavators as being of local manufacture. They are all handmade and described in the publication as Proto Base Ring, Black Slip/Proto Base Ring and Base Ring I and

²⁵ Eriksson 2007, 45; 174-175. In her review of Toumba tou Skourou Tomb I, Eriksson did note the difficulty “to sort out definitively the sequence of burials or associated finds in the tomb”. However, she dated Chamber 3 to the LC IA: 2/B period, even though sherds in some instances had floated between the tomb chambers. Cf. for instance Vermeule/Wolsky 219, T I.340 P 268; Sørensen 2008, 175 no. 6.

²⁶ Keswani 2004, 91; Eriksson 2007, 93; Quilici (1990, 135) notes that: “Il disordine dei resti umani, le ceramiche spesso frantumate in antico e coi pezzi dello stesso vaso diversamente giacenti in più punti della grotta o addirittura misti tra i diversi livelli, documentano nel corso del riuso la poca cura rivolta alle precedenti deposizioni”. The tomb was, according to the excavator, in use from LC IA:1-A:2 until LC IB:2 – that is a period of up to 200 years – 1650-1450 BC – following the chronology of Merrillees (Fig. 2). The tomb consisted of one chamber (width: ca. 3m, depth: 1.65-1.75 m, see Quilici 1990, 11) and was excavated in six strata sometimes separated by a thin layer of sand. However, the grave goods were not piled in nice undisturbed horizontal strata at the edges of the tomb. The continuous usage of the tomb (at least 37 burials (Quilici 1990, 135)) made it necessary for the users to remove old grave goods from the centre and pile it up against the walls. This act led to the disturbance and smashing of grave goods (cf. cited passage above). The following is another example of this: It has been noted above that the tomb held two LM I cups – one of which is most certainly of LMI A date (exc. no. 427) (Fig. 9). This cup was found in stratum 6. Just next to no. 427 – in the same stratum – a Mitannian Elaborate Style cylinder seal of hematite was found (exc. No. 422, Quilici 1990, 125). This seal type shows old Babylonian traits but it might be dated to the Mitannian Period (Porada 1947; Quilici 1990, 125) – that is post-dating the Old Babylonian Kingdom (contemporary to LCI B according to the low/short Mesopotamian chronology and the Cypriot chronology of Merrillees). According to the Mesopotamian middle chronology, the earliest part of the Mitannian Period might correspond to the LC IA). Relative dating and provenance of cylinder seals made only on the basis of iconography has been questioned by Joyner *et alii* (2006, 127).

²⁷ This is the description used by Vermeule/Wolsky (1990) for the cups of this study.

Monochrome ware shapes²⁸ (cf. the catalogue for further descriptions). The focus of the present study has been these nine particular cups and their probable Minoan affinities. A re-evaluation of the entire tomb assemblage has not been attempted but may deserve attention in another study.

Contexts

The contexts of the nine cups are Tomb I niche 6, 9, 11, Chamber 1, Tomb VI, and the settlement context Pot Row²⁹ in C 12.

Tomb I seems to have been in use for more than a century and presented pottery ranging from the MC III to LC IB periods³⁰ with the majority of material deposited during the LC IA period. From time to time there is evidence that the three tomb chambers were disturbed by the successive burials and intruding groundwater³¹ which, according to the excavators, made it impossible to discern which particular grave goods went with the Black Slip/Proto Base Ring cup TS 05 (Figs. 8a-c). But it was in the tomb chambers of Tomb I that most of the LM IA material was located³².

The niche burials in Tomb I offer closed contexts, as they do not seem to have been disturbed by later burials or groundwater. The niches contained burials of infants and Niche 9 held among other gifts a Proto Base Ring feeding cup³³ along with the Black Slip/Proto Base Ring cup TS 02 (Figs. 5a-c). Likewise, Proto Base Ring ware was found in Niche 11³⁴, along with two Black Slip/Proto Base Ring ware cups TS 03-04 (Figs. 6-7). Niche 6 offered, among other vases, a Base Ring I jug³⁵, along with the Proto Base Ring cup TS 01 (Figs. 4a-c). Base Ring I was produced during LC IA:2 (LC IB); however, production may have begun slightly earlier³⁶ and continued at least into the LC IB or IIA period³⁷. Niche 6 might therefore be the latest of the infant burials mentioned.

The burials in Tomb VI were contemporary with much of the Tomb I material, as Proto Base Ring, Base Ring I, White Painted, and White Slip I wares were present. As in the case of Tomb I, the burials in the tomb were disturbed by the rising and falling ground water, which made the material float, and single burials were therefore impossible to discern (Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, 309).

²⁸ The characteristics of these wares can be found in Vaughan 1991; Åström 1972, vol. IV Part IC, fig. XLV.

²⁹ The Pot Row was described by the excavators as “a dozen pots *in situ*, set in a line against the old west wall and partly underlying the west wall of the next phase of the mound” (Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, 28).

³⁰ Vermeule 1974, 8; Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, 161; diagram p. 396; Eriksson 2007, 174.

³¹ Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, 161.

³² Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, 218-20; Sørensen 2008 nos. 4-15.

³³ Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, T I.18 P 22.

³⁴ Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, T I.25 P 29.

³⁵ Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, T I.12 P 16.

³⁶ Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, 393; Eriksson 2007, 44, indicates that BR I might have been produced slightly earlier than WS I, perhaps at the same time as PWS, i.e. during the LC IA:1.

³⁷ Eriksson 2007, 45.

The excavators described the cups from the Pot Row in C 12 as possibly “fresh from the kiln” (Vermeulen/Wolsky 1990, 28) and thus produced on site, like the cups found in Tomb I and VI (l.c.). The context of the Pot Row was dated to the very end of the LC IA:1 (LC IA) period³⁸, as the two cups TS 06 and P 1149 were found along with two bowls of Proto White Slip ware³⁹.

The nine cups, might therefore fall within the time span of LC IA:1-2 (LC IA – LC IB early) i.e. 1650-1550 BC (Fig. 2) (Merrillees 1992). Five of the cups (TS 01-04, 06) can be dated to the LC IA:1 period whereas at least TS 09, a Base Ring I cup, dates to a period around the end of LC IA:1 to the LC IIA.

It is impossible to deduce with certainty the history of the LM IA cups before they were deposited in Tomb I. They cannot, however, have been deposited long before the production of the local cups catalogued here, which could point to a date in LC IA:1, perhaps the later part, for the deposition of the LM IA cups, and therefore also the production of the local cups found in Tombs I and VI and C 12. This is in accordance with the absolute chronology of Merrillees and the Aegean radiocarbon chronology (Fig. 2).

Vertical strap handles on Cyprus

The vertical strap handle was not unknown on Cyprus, as it was used for closed shapes like Proto Base Ring and Base Ring I jugs. Some Plain White Wheelmade ware cups were likewise given a strap handle, in many cases only a small loop⁴⁰, but examples do exist of higher strap handles on this type of cup⁴¹. According to Crewe, the origins for Cypriot Wheelmade pottery are most probably to be found in the Levant, but she notes that the handles “are Cypriot in inspiration” (Crewe 2007b, 218). A Plain White Wheelmade cup was also found in Toumba tou Skourou Tomb I, Chamber 1, but with a “thick vertical rolled handle” (Vermeulen/Wolsky 1990, 217, T.I 581 P 743). A few White Painted ware cups of Middle Cypriote date and unknown provenience were also given a vertical strap handle⁴². Furthermore, a Red Polished IV bowl fragment from the necropolis at Kafkalla yields a thick vertical strap handle⁴³. Taking these objects into consideration, it is quite exceptional to find Cypriot LC I cups of mixed wares and body shape with a high vertical strap handle.

³⁸ I.e. during the LC IA:1 according to Eriksson 2007 (cf. Fig. 3).

³⁹ Vermeulen/Wolsky 1990, 23, 29-30, P 1158 and P 11590

⁴⁰ Vermeulen/Wolsky 1990, 378: Plain White Wheelmade Ware LC IA-B - 13th century BC. Merrillees 1992.

⁴¹ Crewe 2007b, fig. 4.5, from Enkomi; Plain White Wheelmade ware I: LC I-IIB: 1650-1340/15 BC. However, the cup types with vertical handles were only produced during LC IA (Crewe 2007b, 228).

⁴² Myres 1914, 29; Åström 1972, Vol. IV IB, fig. XII for White Painted IV ware cups with strap handle.

⁴³ Webb/Frankel [2011], tomb 34 P2; Frankel/Webb 2008.

The illustrated cups presented below (TS 01-05) have handle attachments set over the rim (Figs. 4c-8c). The handles on the Kafkalla bowl and Plain White wares⁴⁴ have been attached in a similar manner.

In Crete, cup types like the semi-globular, straight-sided, and Vapheio cups were produced during the LM IA⁴⁵. These cup types are characterised by high vertical strap handles, similarly to the imported Minoan cups found on Cyprus⁴⁶. In Crete, the general practice was to attach the handle just below the rim on the exterior (cf. Figs. 9-10) and not over the rim.

The cup shapes of TS 01-09 also have parallels in Cypriot assemblages (cf. the catalogue texts) but not in Crete.

Discussion

As noted above, the cup shapes, handle attachments, fabrication method, and wares are all Cypriot. They do, however, present a feature alien to the open shapes of these ware groups – the high vertical strap handle which gives the impression of a hybrid cup type, i.e. a Cypriot cup with a Cretan handle.

In a recent monograph, Knapp (2008, 114-130, 264-268) has addressed aspects of hybridization during the Bronze Age of Cyprus. He describes the definition of the term as “social interactions that characterised contacts between Cypriotes and other peoples” (Knapp 2008, 114). Hybridization is a general term, and Knapp aims at replacing terms like ‘Minoanisation’ (Broodbank 2004) and ‘Anatolianisation’, which imply acculturation rather than the dynamics of ‘cultural entanglement’ (Knapp 2008, 64-65, 114-115).

The nine cups (TS 01-09) were partly found in contexts associated with the LM IA imported semi-globular cups yielding high vertical strap handles⁴⁷. These LM IA specimens from Tomb I, Chamber I were the only other cups found at Toumba tou Skourou with a high vertical strap handle. Furthermore, the high strap handle is uncommon in the repertoire of Western Asian drinking vessels, so the Toumba tou Skourou material should not find its parallels in the West Asian material. Objects of certain Anatolian manufacture have not been identified at Toumba tou Skourou, and according to Eriksson the contact with Anatolia was not intensified before the power of the Hittite Empire grew during the reign of Shuppilulima I⁴⁸. It has been proposed that cups were connected to social identity in Western Asia and Crete throughout the Bronze Age. In Western Asia, precious metal cups were used as royal symbols of power, and imported pottery cups were used by people

⁴⁴ Crewe 2007a, figs. A1.9 no. 1 (4519), A1.12 no. 1 (2376/5), A1.13 no. 10 (2134/3); Crewe 2007b, fig. 4.5.

⁴⁵ Hatzaki 2007; Warren 1999; Popham 1984, pl. 141-144.

⁴⁶ Cf. Sørensen 2008, nos. 7-10, 12-14, 16-20, 24, 27, 29, 31-32, 34-38, 40; cf. also notes 14-17 above for references.

⁴⁷ Sørensen 2008, nos. 9-10, 12, 34; Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, pl. 168-173.

⁴⁸ Eriksson 2007, 169, 218 (LC IIA:1-2).

in other social strata to parallel the customs of the court⁴⁹. It has, furthermore, been proposed that feasting practices were imported to Cyprus from the Levant during the Late Cypriot period (Crewe 2007b) and that the symbolic importance of the cup was adopted in LC Cyprus (Sørensen 2012, 713).

The gold and silver cups found at Enkomi in élite graves have been interpreted as diplomatic gifts used in an international network of gift-exchange⁵⁰. The import of LM IA pottery drinking sets to Cyprus may well be seen in this light, parallel to the situation in Western Asia⁵¹. People from other social strata might have acquired Minoan pottery cups through trade and used these in funerary rites and in the new feasting practices. The local creation of hybrid cups might have been an inexpensive way to accommodate the need for cups within a polity which might have been dependant on international trade and influenced by the travelling culture from e.g. Crete. The LM IA drinking sets, as well as TS 05-09, were found in tombs which lacked precious metals. TS 01-04 were found in infant burials in niches of Tomb I with only few other grave goods.

In the Minoan LM IB material, Graziadio has traced the source of a few wishbone-handled cups back to Cyprus and proposed that the transfer of the idea to make wishbone handles came indirectly via Rhodes (Graziadio 1999; 2005, 332, pl. LXXII). Furthermore, it has been argued by Karageorghis and Marketou that Cypriot pottery was imitated in Rhodes during the LB I period (Karageorghis/Marketou 2006). Taking the LM IB wishbone handled cups into consideration, it seems that inspiration travelled both eastwards and westwards during the LB I.

The wishbone handle is very characteristically Cypriot, whereas the high strap handle is, as shown, a very common feature in the repertoire of Minoan drinking cups.

Conclusion

According to the excavators of Toumba tou Skourou, Tell el-Yahudiyeh ware was imitated at the site⁵² along with Egyptian scarabs⁵³, and an adapted version of the Western Asian cylinder seal tradition and motifs (Porada 1990, 338-342; Collon 2005, 73). The people of Toumba tou Skourou were thus inspired by several cultural spheres, and the potters at Toumba tou Skourou apparently carried out a lot of experimental work, mixing shapes and fabrics like no other site on Cyprus during the LC I period⁵⁴ and imitating imports from the MC III onwards⁵⁵.

⁴⁹ Sørensen 2012 – cf. for references to West Asian, Cretan and Cypriot material and a discussion of how royal customs affected the customs within the lower strata of Bronze Age societies.

⁵⁰ Cf. Sørensen 2008, nos. 56-58 for references; 2012, 713; cf. also note 7 above for references.

⁵¹ Sørensen 2012 with references and discussion of the Levantine material.

⁵² Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, 218 T I.157 P113; T I.658 P 864; 297 T V.20 P965; 305 T V.96 P1016; 318 T VI 123 P 1154, 386-387; cf. Kaplan 1980 for a study on Tell el-Yahudiyeh ware.

⁵³ Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, 220 T I.253 BI I: cf. also Smith 2012, 47-48 for the external influences on Cypriote seals.

⁵⁴ Robert Merrill, personal communication, August 31, 2009.

⁵⁵ Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, 296-297, 304-305: The earliest tomb at Toumba tou Skourou, Tomb V, of MC III date presented the imported and imitated Tell el-Yahudiyeh ware.

In the registers of Cypriot imitations or adapted artistic traits, objects representing a Minoan source of inspiration have been lacking. However, Minoan presence or the presence of *Minoica* in the Morphou region seems to have made a local impact on the potters and pottery consumers at Toumba tou Skourou. The nine cups (TS 01-09) were most certainly produced on site by the local Cypriot potters from the potters' quarter of Toumba tou Skourou. These potters found the Cretan high vertical strap handles worth adapting to their own cup repertoire so they formed local hybrids of Proto Base Ring Ware, Monochrome Ware, and LM IA cup handles. The nine cups in the catalogue below might be the earliest examples in LC Cyprus of hybridism using a Cretan trait.

As in the material of the Minoan Old Palace Period recorded in Western Asia, the cup is the favoured Minoan import object (Sørensen 2009b; 2012). A tentative interpretation of this fact might be that the Cypriots imported the symbolic connotations of the cup (of precious metal within elite contexts and pottery in other social strata) as a symbol of power from Western Asia or perhaps Crete (Sørensen 2012; 2008, nos. 56-58).

Minoica on Cyprus have mainly been located in graves and some in settlement contexts (Sørensen 2008, Table 4) and most objects have been found at coastal sites (Sørensen 2008, Table 5). This indicates only little redistribution of the *Minoica* from the port towns. The focus of the EM III-MM IA period on the north coast localities was transferred to two or three ports during the LM I: within the Morphou Bay, at Enkomi, and perhaps Palaepaphos.

CATALOGUE

All measurements are given in cms.



Fig. 3. TS 01-05 (source: author).



Fig. 4a



Fig. 4b

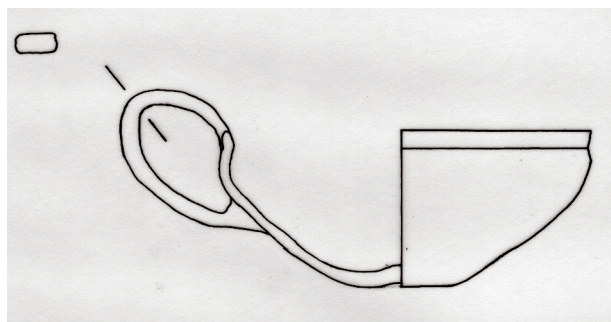


Fig. 4c

Figs. 4a-c. TS 01 (source: author).

TS 01

Exc. no.: TTS 71 T I.15 P 19.

Illustrations: Figs. 4a-c.

Ware: Proto Base Ring.

Measurements: H: 3.2; Ø: 7.8; T: 0.2;
T. base centre: 0.3; H. handle: 2.6; W:
handle: 2.35.

Description: Cup, intact, handmade;
strap handle set over the rim a bit off,
ext.: small lump of clay indicates the
handle attachment, smoothed with a
tool; base: omphalos base; rim: even;
slip: thin black flaking, misfired:
brownish, thin walls, metallic look.

Clay: Buff-reddish, finely levigated.

Context: Tomb I, Niche 6.4.

Context date : (LC IA-B) / LC IA:1-2.

Stylistic date: LC IA.

Cypriot parallels: P 934; T I.129 P 85.

Burial type: One infant.

Pottery from the context: BR I, RP,
PW.

Small finds from the context: - .

References: Vermeule/Wolsky 1990,
171.

Comments: -.

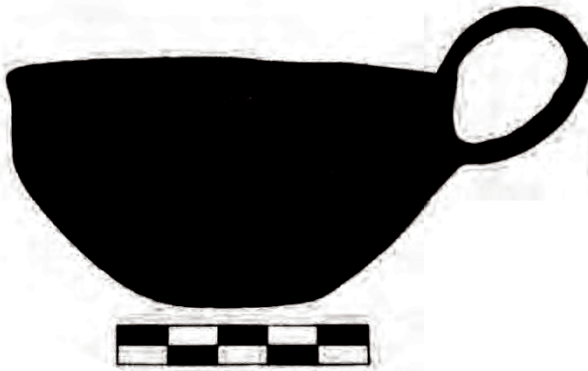


Fig. 5a



Fig. 5b

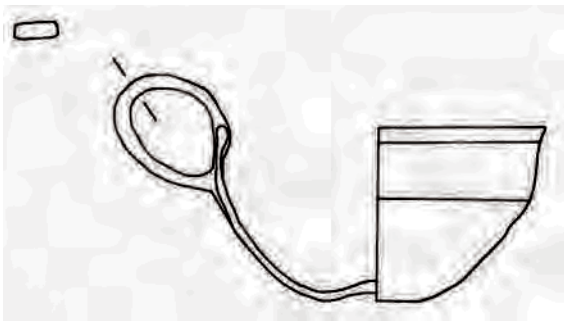


Fig. 5c

Figs. 5a-c. TS 02 (source: author).

TS 02

Exc. no.: TTS 71 T I.21 P 25 (published number and on paper slip); Cup numbered P 20.

Illustrations: Figs. 5a-c.

Ware: Black Slip/Proto Base Ring.

Measurements: H: 4.95; Ø: 9.6; T. base centre: 0.3; T: 0.2; H. handle: 3.1; W. handle: 3.4.

Description: Cup, intact; handmade; carinated body; high strap handle, attached int. over rim a bit off; omphalos base.; rim: un-even; int. fingerprints, a bit more carelessly produced than TS 01; slip: worn, slightly flaking, black, misfired reddish brown at places.

Clay: Buff-reddish.

Context: Tomb I, Niche 9.5.

Context date: (LC IA)/LC IA:1.

Stylistic date: LC IA.

Cypriot parallels: TS 05; TS 06; T I.25 P 29; T I.472 P 362; Dikaïos *Enkomi* III a, pl. 201: Tomb 10: 34 (443); I, 359, 386 Monochrome bowl.

Burial type: One infant.

Pottery from the context: BS, MBMW, PBR.

Small finds from the context: - .

References: Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, 172.

Comments: -.



Fig. 6a



Fig. 6b

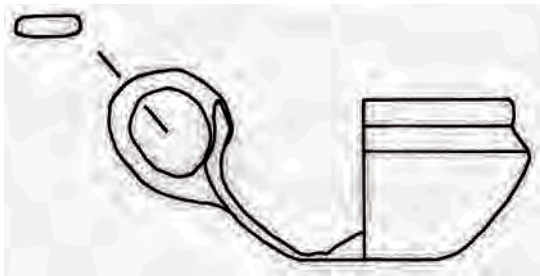


Fig. 6c

Figs. 6a-c. TS 03 (source: author).

TS 03

Exc. no.: TTS 71 T I.26 P 30.

Illustrations: Figs. 6a-c.

Ware: Black Slip/Proto Base Ring.

Measurements: H:3 - 3.15; Ø: 5.6; Ø base: 2.9; T base centre: 0.5; T: 0.2; H. handle: 2.4; W. handle: 2.35.

Description: Cup, intact; handmade; carinated body; strap handle, straight, set over the rim; rim: even; omphalos base; ext: not quite even-tilts; slip: thin black-reddish-brown, flaking, mis-fired.

Clay: Buff, finely levigated, few white, black, and mica.

Context: Tomb I, Niche 11.

Context date: (LC IA)/LC IA:1.

Stylistic date: LC IA.

Cypriot parallels: Dikaïos Enkomi III a, pl. 201, pl. 223: Tomb 10: 425; I, 359, 385 Monochrome bowl.

Burial type: Two infants.

Pottery from the context: BS, MBMW, PBR.

Small finds from the context: - .

References: Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, 173, fig. 357; Vermeule 1974, fig. 46H.

Comments: -.



Fig. 7a



Fig. 7b

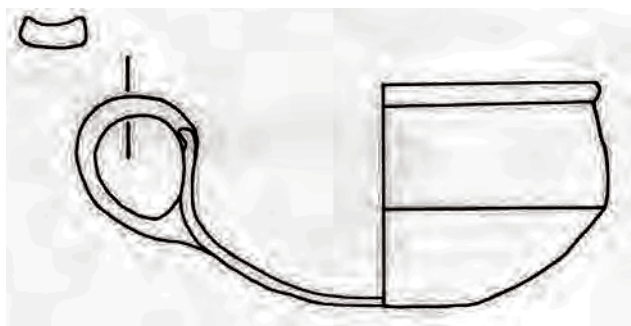


Fig. 7c

Figs. 7a-c. TS 04 (source: author).

TS 04

Exc. no.: T I.30 P 34.

Illustrations: Figs. 7a-c.

Ware: Black Slip/Proto Base Ring.

Measurements: H: 3.9-4.6; Ø: 8.4; T. base centre: 0.2; T: 0.2; H. handle: 2.95; W. handle: 2.55.

Description: Cup, intact; handmade; carinated body; strap handle, straight, attached over rim int.; flat base, tilting, resting on point off centre; slip: thin, brown, probably misfired; rim: even.

Clay: Buff-reddish. Finely levigated, few particles visible on ext.

Context: Tomb I, Niche 11.

Context date: (LC IA)/LC IA:1.

Stylistic date: LC IA.

Cypriot parallels: -.

Burial type: Two infants.

Pottery from the context: BS, MBMW, PBR.

Small finds from the context: -.

References: Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, 173; Vermeule 1974, fig. 46H.

Comments: Skull fragments stored in cup.

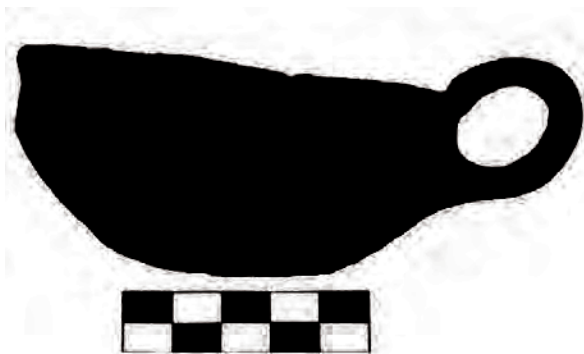


Fig. 8a



Fig. 8b

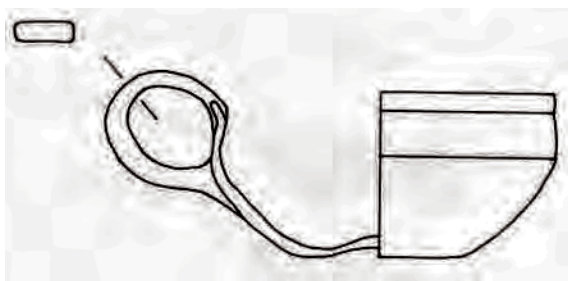


Fig. 8c

Figs. 8a-c. TS 05 (source: author).

TS 05

Exc. no.: T I.459 P 349.

Illustrations: Figs. 8a-c.

Ware: Black Slip/Proto Base Ring.

Measurements: H: 4.3; Ø: 8.9; T. base centre: 0.35; T: 0.2; H. handle: 2.9; W. handle: 3.1.

Description: Cup, mended; handmade; carinated body; strap handle, thick, attached over the rim; omphalos base; tilts; rim: even; fingerprints int.; slip: black, patches of misfiring in brown.

Clay: Buff, reddish core, finely levigated with few inclusions.

Context: Tomb I, Chamber 1.

Context date: MC III-LC IB.

Stylistic date: LC IA.

Cypriot parallels: TS 06; TS 02; Dikaios Enkomi III a, pl. 201: Tomb 10: 34 (443); I, 359, 386 Monochrome bowl.

Burial type: Several individuals.

Pottery from the context: BS/Proto BR, BS, PBR, BR I, MBMW, Coarse, RS Wheelmade, WP, BS/BR, WP Bichrome and Trichrome, WS I Bichrome, RP, RP/PBR, RP/BR, PWW, PWS, WS I, Imitation of Tell el-Yahudiyeh ware, 'Syro-Palest.' burnished, LM IA.

Small finds from the context: Bone: 'Hyksos' type scarab seal, rosette, tubes, 'Hyksos' type plaques; Metal: Rivet studs, daggers, lance, cleaver, razor, knife, spear butt-spikes, tweezers, needle, pins, rivets, spiral coils, rings, bracelets; Stone: Cylinder seals, weight, whetstone, beads; Glass paste: beads; Terracotta: beads.

References: Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, 217.

Comments: This and T I.581 P 473 are the only local pottery cups registered as cups from the context - (7 LM IA cups).

TS 06

Exc. no.: P 1148/Morphou?

Illustrations: -.

Ware: Black Slip/Proto Base Ring.

Measurements: H rim: 4.6; H handle: 5.8; Ø: 9.5.

Description: Cup, fragmented, strap handle, flat base; slip: black.

Clay: Buff, finely levigated.

Context: C 12 'Pot Row' on bench.

Context date: (LC IA end)/LC IA:1.

Stylistic date: LC IA.

Cypriot parallels: TS 02; TS 05; Dikaios Enkomi III a, pl. 201: Tomb 10: 34 (443); I, 359, 386 Monochrome.

Burial type: -.

Pottery from the context: BS, PWS, BS reserved slip, *pithos*.

Small finds from the context: Ball of potters' clay.

References: Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, 30.

Comments: One additional cup (P 1149) from 'Pot Row' was lacking the handle and it is thus impossible to know if it actually had a vertical strap handle. However in the publication it is described as a 'teacup' and compared to TS 01 (Fig. 2). As the cup is not present in Nicosia, it has not been possible to reassess the piece.

TS 07

Exc. no.: T VI.38 P 1082/Morphou.

Illustrations: -.

Ware: Black Slip.

Measurements: H: 5.7; Ø: 11.

Description: Cup, fragmented, strap handle, flat base; slip: black and orange.

Clay: Buff pink.

Context: Tomb VI.

Context date: (LC IA-B/LC IB early)/LC IA:1-2.

Stylistic date: -.

Cypriot parallels: TS 06.

Burial type: Five individuals.

Pottery from the context: BS, coarse, PBR, BS/PBR, BR I, WP, RP, MBMW, PWW, WS I, WS I Bichrome, BS imitating Tell el-Yahudiyeh ware.

Small finds from the context: Bronze: Axe, dagger, tweezers, pins, needles, hair rings, beads; Terracotta: beads.

References: Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, 317.

Comments: -.

TS 08

Exc. no.: T VI.118 P 1115/Morphou.

Illustrations: -.

Ware: Black Slip.

Measurements: H: 2.5; Ø: 6.

Description: Cup, intact, strap handle, flat base; slip: black and orange.

Clay: Buff pink.

Context: Tomb VI.

Context date: (LC IA-B/LC IB early) /LC IA:1-2.

Stylistic date: -.

Cypriot parallels: TS 06-07.

Burial type: Five individuals.

Pottery from the context: BS, coarse, PBR, BS/PBR, BR I, WP, RP, MBMW, PWW, WS I, WS I Bichrome, BS imitating Tell el-Yahudiyeh ware.

Small finds from the context: Bronze: Axe, dagger, tweezers, pins, needles, hair rings, beads; Terracotta: beads.

References: Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, 317.

Comments: -.

TS 09

Exc. no.: T VI.118 P 1138/Morphou.

Illustrations: -.

Ware: Base Ring I.

Measurements: H: 3.7; Ø: 6.8.

Description: Cup, fragmented, mended, strap handle, base missing; slip: brown and black.

Clay: Buff pink.

Context: Tomb VI.

Context date: (LC IA-B/LC IB early)
/LC IA:1-2.

Stylistic date: (LC IB)/LC IA:1-2.

Cypriot parallels: -.

Burial type: Five individuals.

Pottery from the context: BS, coarse,
PBR, BS/Proto BR, BR I, WP, RP,

MBMW, PWW, WS I, WS I Bichrome,
BS imitating Tell el-Yahudiyeh ware.

Small finds from the context: Bronze:
Axe, dagger, tweezers, pins, needles,
hair rings, beads; Terracotta: beads.

References: Vermeule/Wolsky 1990, 317.

Comments: -.

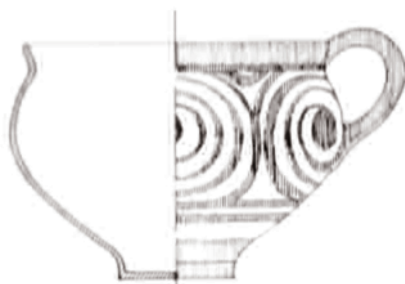


Fig. 9a



Fig. 9b

Figs. 9a-b. LM IA cup, Hagia Irini, Cyprus, after Quilici (1990, fig. 348a);
courtesy of Institute of Aegean and Near Eastern Studies (ICEVO),
(director Marie-Claude Trémouille).

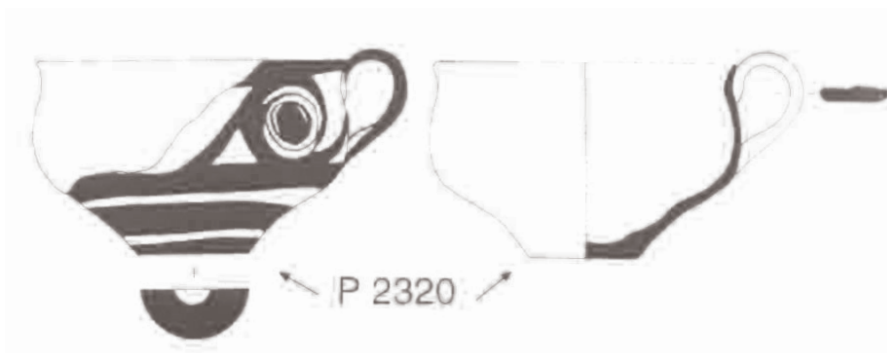


Fig. 10. LM IA cup, Knossos, Crete, after Warren (1999, Pl. CCVI, P 2320)
(courtesy of Peter Warren and the British School at Athens).

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