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Late Prepalatial (EM III–MM IA): South Front House Foundation Trench, Upper East Well and House C / Royal Road South Fill Groups

Nicoletta Momigliano

INTRODUCTION

The ceramic assemblages that stylistically and stratigraphically follow the South Front Group (EM IIB) discussed in the previous chapter have been assigned to the South Front House (SFH) Foundation Trench Group, which is taken to represent an early phase of EM III at Knossos. This group, in turn, is followed by the Upper East Well and by the House C / Royal Road South (RRS) Fill Groups, which have been assigned to EM III Late and MM IA respectively. All these groups and ceramic phases belong to the late Prepalatial, a period which could be described as Janus-like, for EM III appears to represent a time of retrenchment and isolation, continuing certain EM IIB trends (see Chapter 2), while MM IA is a time of recovery, growth and increasing contacts with the outside world, leading up to Protopalatial developments (see Chapter 4).

In ceramic terms, studies and definitions of the EM III and MM IA phases at Knossos and elsewhere on the island have been closely intertwined in the relevant archaeological literature, and this is the main reason why they are discussed together in this chapter. The EM III ceramic phase, in particular, has occupied a controversial position in the history of Minoan archaeology: its very existence has been denied and vindicated more than once, and only recently has some kind of consensus been reached (Warren 1965; Zois 1968; Andreou 1978, 12–25; Momigliano 1991, 152; Momigliano 2000a, 2000b; Watrous 2001, 179–82; see also below). Most scholars now believe that EM III is a proper ceramic phase characterised by strong regionalism. Many scholars would also acknowledge that this phase is currently represented in the archaeological record of few sites, for this was a period of changes, disruption and isolation in Crete and in other Aegean regions. Various Cretan settlements were destroyed and abandoned at the end of EM IIB, and not reinhabited until MM IA or even later, while a few others, such as Knossos (and probably Phaistos), were continuously occupied.

The ‘EM III controversy’ (Watrous 2001, 214), that is, the problem of identifying a distinctive EM III

ceramic phase throughout Crete, originated from the fact that Arthur Evans defined this in *The Palace of Minos* almost exclusively in terms of poorly stratified east Cretan material (Evans 1921, 109, fig. 76, 113, fig. 80a–b). Evans mentioned in passing the existence of similar EM III pottery at Knossos in the Early Houses to the south of the palace and in the Vat Room deposit, but this was not illustrated, and it was not entirely clear to what material he was referring (Evans 1921, 108). Because pottery of EM III east Cretan type, as illustrated in *The Palace of Minos*, was not found outside that region, some scholars doubted the existence of a distinctive EM III ceramic phase elsewhere on the island, believing that EM II ceramic styles continued into the EM III period, until the emergence of a characteristic MM IA ceramic repertoire with geometric polychrome decoration (see also below).

In the early 1960s, Hood made a crucial contribution towards the solution of this problem at Knossos. During his excavations on the north side of the Royal Road and along the South Front of the palace, he discovered deposits stratified directly above EM IIB levels with Vasilike Ware (see Chapter 2, South Front Group), which appeared to be similar but stylistically earlier than MM IA as traditionally understood (Hood 1962a, 93–4). Hood remarked that the pottery found in these deposits did not resemble EM III as defined by Evans, but was very close to some material assigned by Evans to MM IA, the main difference being the absence of ‘Geometric Polychrome’ decoration, usually considered a salient feature of that phase. Moreover, Hood found an east Cretan EM III pottery import in his ‘Pre-polychrome MM IA’ levels and thus suggested that his ‘Pre-polychrome MM IA’ phase may in fact represent EM III at Knossos (Hood 1966, 110; Andreou 1978, 25, 68; Momigliano 1991, 152).

At the time of writing, the EM III pottery from Hood’s excavations remains unpublished (Hood and Cadogan, in preparation). Thanks to Hood’s generosity, however, various scholars have been able to study this material, and their publications of similar deposits have provided more evidence supporting and clarifying Hood’s suggestion (Andreou 1978; Momigliano 1989,

1991, 2000a; Momigliano and Wilson 1996). In fact, the published material includes one deposit excavated in 1993 that comes from the same archaeological context as one of those discovered by Hood in 1960 (see below, SFH Foundation Trench Group, deposit no. 1). All this work has shown that some deposits assigned by Evans to MM IA in *The Palace of Minos* could be reassigned to EM III, for they lacked the polychrome decoration deemed to be a salient feature of MM IA. In an earlier publication (Momigliano 1991), the author employed the label 'EM III / MM IA' simply to express the difficulties in relating such deposits to both Evans's and Hood's classifications, not to introduce a new transitional phase in the Knossian sequence. After the results and publication of excavations conducted at Knossos in 1993, the term 'EM III / MM IA' was abandoned in favour of EM III (Momigliano and Wilson 1996, esp. 1, n. 3; Momigliano 2000a). More recently, some scholars have suggested that the term 'Early MM IA' should be used for some of the deposits assigned to the Upper East Well Group, such as the Upper East Well and House A (MacGillivray 1998, 93). There are, however, historiographic and chronological reasons suggesting that the term 'EM III Late' may be preferable.

The historiographic reasons are that the term 'MM IA' appears more appropriate to describe a ceramic phase that marks the first *regular* appearance of polychrome ware, that is, pottery decorated with both white and red 'geometric' patterns over a dark coated surface. Evans and Mackenzie coined the term 'MM IA' in the first volume of *The Palace of Minos* (Evans 1921, 172). In the original excavation records and in earlier publications the pottery later assigned to this

phase was referred to as EM, MM I, Kamares and Geometric. This last term describes what Evans and Mackenzie thought to be the main characteristic of this ceramic phase: the 'geometric' character of its decoration, especially of the polychrome motifs. Since Evans's *The Palace of Minos*, most scholars have considered the presence of polychrome geometric pottery the defining characteristic of MM IA (Pendlebury 1939, 105, fig. 16; Betancourt 1985, 71–7; Warren and Hankey 1989, 19; Cadogan *et al.* 1993; Manning 1995, 63).

The chronological reasons are that it would seem desirable roughly to synchronise the beginning of the MBA (MM I, MH I and MC I) in the Aegean to facilitate inter-regional comparisons, and there is evidence suggesting that the ceramic phase(s) represented by the SFH Foundation Trench Group and by the Upper East Well Group developed well before the beginning of the MBA in the rest of the Aegean, while Knossian 'polychrome' MM IA, common in the House C / RRS Fill group, is at least partly contemporary with MH I, as discussed in more detail below, in the sections on relative chronology.

Evans assigned several Knossian deposits to MM IA in *The Palace of Minos* but, as mentioned above, subsequent studies have shown that they did not form a homogeneous group: many lacking polychrome decoration and other features typical of the House C / RRS Fill Group, such as the Upper East Well, have now been reassigned to EM III, others were reassigned to the Protopalatial period, and only very few of Evans's original MM IA group may still be used to illustrate this phase. More deposits possibly dating to

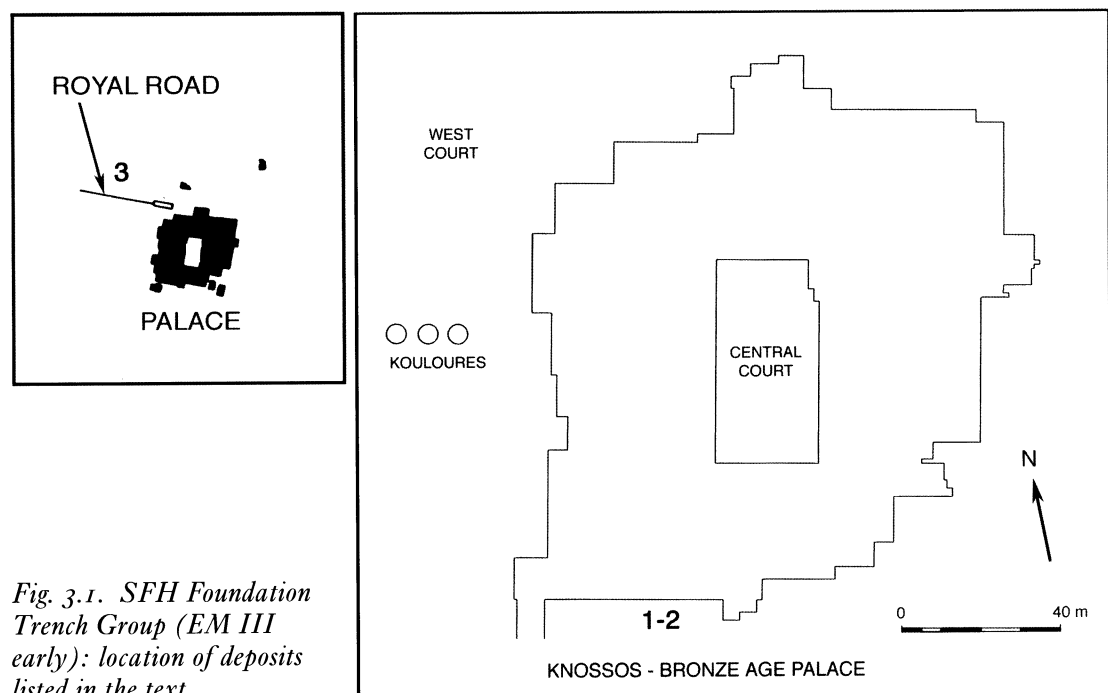


Fig. 3.1. SFH Foundation Trench Group (EM III early): location of deposits listed in the text.

'polychrome' MM IA were recovered during A. J. Evans's excavations, but remain largely unstudied and unpublished (Momigliano 1989, Appendix 1). Also unpublished are the important MM IA deposits excavated by Hood in the late 1950s and early 1960s and in 1987 (Cadogan *et al.* 1993, 25). Their full publication will help us to understand more fully the characteristics of this ceramic phase at Knossos. Meanwhile Hood, with his usual generosity, has allowed the writer to illustrate here a small selection of material from his excavations (FIGS. 3.12: 1–4, 7–9; 3.14: 2–7; 3.15–3.17).

Phasing of EM III and MM IA at Knossos

In the early 2000s, the author re-examined the material and stratigraphic evidence from Arthur Evans's, Sinclair Hood's and more recent excavations at Knossos (Momigliano and Wilson 1996). This indicated that three Knossian deposits stylistically close to the Upper East Well Group (EM III Late) are the product of earlier deposition processes: they were stratified directly above EM IIB levels, and beneath some of the Upper East Well Group assemblages discussed below. Their stratigraphy and some of their stylistic traits, combined with the evidence from similar deposits excavated at other sites in north-central Crete, such as Archanes (Sakellarakis and Sapouna-Sakellarakis 1997, 386–93; Lachanas 2000, 166, figs. 2–5), Giophyrakia (Marinatos 1933–5), and Poros (Dimopoulou, Day and Wilson, pers. comm.), suggest that it should be possible to subdivide Knossian EM III into early and late, even if we are still far, at present, from a detailed ceramic definition of these sub-phases.

As for MM IA, Cadogan *et al.* (1993) observed that, from the material available for study in the KSM, one could not detect sufficient stylistic developments for subdividing MM IA into earlier and later phases, although this had been previously suggested by Hood (1962a, 94–5) on the basis of the absence or presence of spiral decoration. It is possible, however, that future studies and publications of Hood's material and other MM IA deposits will change this.

SFH FOUNDATION TRENCH AND UPPER EAST WELL GROUPS (EM III EARLY AND LATE)

SFH FOUNDATION TRENCH GROUP (EM III EARLY)

Archaeological contexts (FIG. 3.1)

South Front

1) South Front House: fill of foundation trench of Wall 1. This was partly excavated by Hood and Cadogan in 1960 (Hood and Cadogan, in preparation), and partly by Momigliano and Wilson in 1993 (Momigliano and

Wilson 1996, 11, fig. 6: 43–6); it is stratified beneath a deposit of the Upper East Well Group (no. 8 below), and cuts through EM IIB levels.

2) Fill deposits and make-up of floors beneath the EM III SFH, excavated in 1993 (Momigliano and Wilson 1996, 11, fig. 6: 47–52, trenches IV and V). These are stratified beneath the later EM III deposits excavated in 1908, and above Neolithic levels.

Outside area of later palace (Royal Road)

3) RRN: floor iii. Deposit stratified above an EM IIB level (floor iv) and beneath another (floor ii) with material typical of the Upper East Well Group (EM III Late) (Hood and Cadogan, in preparation).

UPPER EAST WELL GROUP (EM III LATE)

Archaeological contexts (FIG. 3.2)

The list below includes the major deposits belonging to this group discovered to date, but is not exhaustive: other deposits from Arthur Evans's excavations, from N. Platon's investigations in the 1950s (Batten 1995 — though labelled MM IA), and probably from A. Karetsou's restoration work of the 1990s are known to exist, but have not been studied and/or published in sufficient detail to be included here.

Some deposits listed below are from well-stratified contexts of recent, or relatively recent, excavations. Their ceramic material is small in quantity and rather fragmentary, but sufficient to establish firm links with the richer deposits from Evans's excavations. One of these (no. 3: House B, lower floor) is rather problematic in terms of context and regrouping of material: it has been included for the sake of completeness, but its ceramic assemblage has not been utilised to define the EM III ceramic phase at Knossos.

The relative position of the Upper East Well Group within the Knossian pottery sequence is clear, both stylistically and stratigraphically. Stylistically, this group shares a number of features (described in more detail below) that link it with previous EM IIB and EM III Early deposits but also point towards later developments (e.g. continued use of buff fabric for Dark-on-Light and Light-on-Dark wares, and changes in the shape of egg-cups, jugs and spouted jars). Stratigraphically, some deposits (nos. 4, 5 and possibly 3) were found directly beneath 'polychrome' MM IA levels, while others (nos. 7–8, 10) were found stratified directly above Knossian EM IIB and EM III (Early) deposits.

Many ceramic assemblages assigned to the Upper East Well Group are either 'floor deposits' or very substantial homogeneous fills. As first proposed by Mackenzie (1906, 253), this suggests that they are the product of the same 'universal catastrophe', which could be taken as marking the end of the EM III ceramic phase

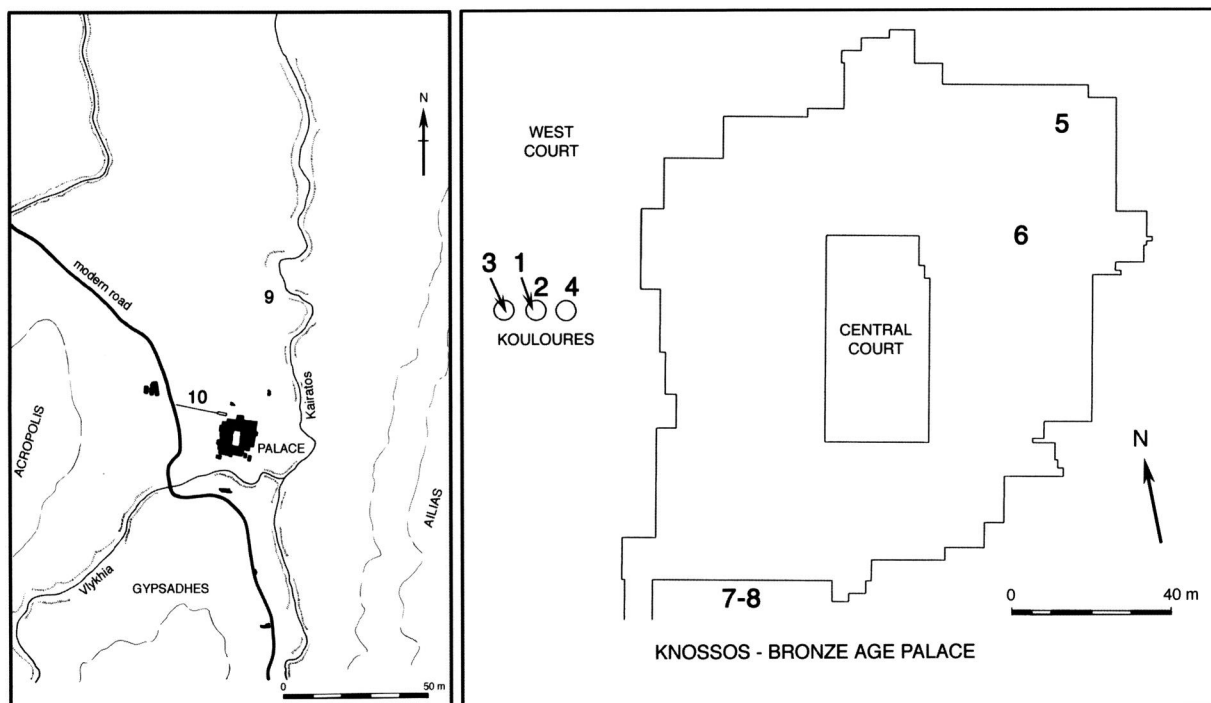


Fig. 3.2. Upper East Well Group (EM III late): location of deposits listed in the text.

at Knossos. The nature of this ‘event’ is uncertain, but one may note that these deposits do not seem to be associated with burnt levels. One could debate whether this is due to lack of detail in the original excavation records or to the nature of the event itself. Perhaps some evidence in favour of the latter is offered by the fact that several deposits were excavated at different times — mostly by Mackenzie but also by John and Hilda Pendlebury — and it would be rather perverse to suggest that all excavators had persistently omitted to record traces of fire destruction, had they found them. Also, over the years thousands of sherds and dozens of complete or restorable vessels from these deposits have come under the scrutiny of several scholars. No one seems to have noticed extensive burning marks consistent with fire destruction.

West Court

1) House A beneath the Central Kouloura in the West Court: floor deposit (KSM B.II.1: box 378; B.II. 2: boxes 391–392; Pendlebury and Pendlebury 1930; Momigliano 1991, 206–20, with further references).

2) Well North of House A (KSM B.II.4: box 388; Pendlebury and Pendlebury 1930; Momigliano 1991, 240–2). Homogenous fill.

3) House B beneath the Western Kouloura in the West Court: lower floor (KSM B.II.6, 7: boxes 391–394, 396; HM nos. 8844, 8851, 8873, 8915; Pendlebury and Pendlebury 1930; Momigliano 1991, 206–36;

MacGillivray 1998, *passim*). The excavators reported the discovery of two superimposed floor deposits in some of the rooms, and observed that the same pottery types appeared on both floors, with the exception of polychrome sherds, which were absent in the former and abundant in the latter. This has led some scholars to suggest that the upper floor of House B represents a MM IA deposit stratified above EM III (Andreou 1978, 15; MacGillivray 1998, 93; Momigliano 2000b): a plausible hypothesis, which, unfortunately, cannot be rigorously verified because the complete and/or restorable vases from the two assemblages have not been stored separately. Moreover, the upper floor level of House B does contain much material assignable to MM IA, but this is heavily contaminated with Protopalatial material from the levels associated with the construction and fill of the *kouloures*. The excavators mentioned that four unique vessels came from the lower floor deposit, none of which, however, is particularly useful for defining Knossian EM III. These four vessels are: a red burnished askos and a dark-faced and incised mug, which are Cycladic-type vessels; a jug with polychrome and incised decoration, which could be a Mesara import; and a sort of tumbler, which is either an import or an imitation of East Cretan White-on-Dark Ware (Momigliano 1991, House B, nos. 26, 38, 60, 61).

4) 1905 Test Pit 14: from floor level at 1.20 m to floor level at 1.60 m (KSM B.I.17: boxes 302–306; Momigliano 1991, 185–6, 193, fig. 8: 24–6). This is stratified beneath the MM IA floor deposit of House C (see below) and above a level with EM IIA (late) pottery (see Chapter 2).

East Wing

5) 'Pit repository' beneath the Room of the Jars (Royal Pottery Stores) (KSM L.III.8: boxes 1019, 1027–1046 and restored vases in the KSM, BM and AM; Mackenzie 1906, 253, no. 6; Momigliano 2000a). This was stratified beneath levels with 'Geometric Polychrome' pottery assignable to MM IA, which were, in turn, stratified below a Protopalatial floor, probably of MM IB date (see Chapter 4, p. 108, no. 6; MacGillivray 1998, 38; Momigliano 2000a, with further references).

6) The Upper East Well (KSM L.I.4: boxes 958–966 and restored vases in KSM, HM and AM; Mackenzie 1903, 167, fig. 1; Andreou 1978, 13–14, 16–25; Momigliano 1991, 155–63, with further references; Watrous 2001, 178, 222).

South Front

7) SFH: deposit(s) from Evans's 1908 excavations (KSM H.I.2: boxes 788–803; Momigliano 1991, 198–204: Prepalatial or Early Houses to the south of the palace; Momigliano and Wilson 1996, with earlier references). This material was stratified partly upon EM IIB and partly upon earlier EM III levels (see above).

8) SFH: 1960 Trench A: deposit between two (plaster) floors (Hood and Cadogan in preparation; Momigliano and Wilson 1996, 8–9, figs. 4–5). The lower floor rested partly upon a foundation trench with an earlier EM III fill (see above) and partly upon EM IIB levels, while the material found in the level(s) above the upper floor was too small in quantity to be securely dated (Cadogan, pers. comm.).

Outside area of later palace

9) North Quarter of the City (KSM V. 1903 boxes 1756–1757 plus vases in HM and AM; Mackenzie 1906, 253, no. 4, pl. X; Momigliano 1991, 176–84). The complete or restored vessels probably belong to a 'floor deposit', as suggested by the excavator, while the fragments are of mixed dates and likely to come from different contexts.

10) RRN: floor ii (stratified above SFH Foundation Trench deposit no. 3: see above).

Characteristics of the SFH Foundation Trench and Upper East Well Groups (EM III)

Unfortunately, the three small deposits assigned to the SFH Foundation Trench Group have not provided a sample large enough for attempting in this chapter a detailed and separate discussion of the characteristics of early and late EM III at Knossos. For the present, the author would simply like to suggest that an earlier phase of EM III at Knossos (and in the Knossos region in general) is characterised by the predominance of

Light-on-Dark Ware, and by the presence of some egg-cups, tumblers and jugs with slightly rounder or more globular shapes than those found in the Upper East Well Group, which are generally more conical or globular-conical. Similar material has been published from Archanes (Sakellarakis and Sapouna-Sakellarakis 1997, 386–93; Lachanas 2000, 166, figs. 2–5) and Giophyrakia (Marinatos 1933–5), and is also present at Poros (Dimopoulou, Day and Wilson, pers. comm.).

This discussion is mostly based upon well-stratified and/or homogenous deposits, such as the Upper East Well, the lowest levels in the Room of the Jars, and the EM III SFH deposits (including those belonging to the SFH Foundation Trench Group).

Fabrics

Virtually all small to medium-sized drinking and pouring vessels in the most common wares are produced in two fabrics: fine to semi-fine orange buff and greenish. The former is by far the most common, used from EM I onwards (Chapter 2, p. 51: 'fine to semi-coarse orange buff'; see also Momigliano 1991, 245: fabric I; MacGillivray 1998, 55; Chapter 4, p. 108). The latter resembles one fabric characteristic of Neopalatial and Final Palatial Knossos (see Chapters 5 and 6 of this volume, pp. 186, 202–3; Popham 1984, 163; Momigliano 1991, 260: fabric II). According to Jones (1986, 759), 'the product of high temperature firing of calcareous clays is frequently a pale yellow or green colour', but the greenish and porous fabrics which seem to appear for the first time in EM III are more likely to be due to the exploitation of different clay sources, not to overfiring of the Neogene clays employed for the typical Knossian orange buff fabrics (P. Day, pers. comm.; see *contra*, Hatzaki, this volume).

There is more variety in terms of coarse fabrics. These, however, are more difficult to summarise for the following reasons. First, Evans and Mackenzie heavily selected several deposits in this group (e.g. the Upper East Well): we may assume that this process ensured the survival of an adequate sample of fine decorated pottery, but not of vessels produced in coarse and undecorated fabrics. Second, even a brief macroscopic examination indicates that there is little standardisation. Third, and most important, the detailed and systematic petrographic analyses, which have been carried out for pottery groups of earlier periods (Neolithic and early Prepalatial) are not at a sufficiently advanced stage for deposits of later phases (see also Chapters 4–6).

The fabric employed for cooking pots is rather coarse and reddish brown in colour, as in the previous ceramic phases (see Chapter 2).

All Knossian EM III pottery continues to be handmade, with the possible exception of a few egg-cups (footed goblets) and tumblers (footless goblets). These vessels show characteristic bumps and ridges on their walls, suggesting that they represent the first,

and not very skilful, attempts to use the potter's wheel in Crete (Momigliano 1991, 147, footed goblet type 4, 249, footless goblet type 2; see also Knappett 1999*b*, 2004; Momigliano 2000*a*, 75). Egg-cups and tumblers usually constitute over 40% of the fine decorated pottery in these deposits, and it is perhaps no coincidence that they show the first efforts to use centrifugal force (rotative kinetic energy), in pottery production.

Wares and forms

Compared with the previous ceramic phase, one can observe: 1) the virtual disappearance of Vasilike Ware; 2) the decrease in pottery decorated with a simple monochrome red or black surface; 3) the continuation of Dark-on-Light and Light-on-Dark wares, with an increase in curvilinear and torsional motifs (cf. Chapter 2: Dark-on-Light Ware and Red / Black Slipped Ware, including Light-on-Dark); and 4) the rare appearance of relief, barbotine and incised decoration, usually in combination with dark-on-light or light-on-dark surface treatment (Momigliano 1991, pl. 18: 8, 9, pl. 29: 16; see also Sakellarakis and Sapouna-Sakellaraki 1997, 386–91; Lachanas 2000). Other types of relief decoration take the form of ridges or bands with an oblique incision around the neck of jugs (FIG. 3.7: 8; Momigliano 1991, pl. 21: 35). Polychrome decoration also makes its first but extremely sporadic appearance, attested in two deposits by a handful of vessels and fragments, which could be imports from the Mesara (see also below). Dark-on-Light and Light-on-Dark are by far the most common wares, equally popular by the end of EM III, but with an earlier predominance of Light-on-Dark.

Dark-on-Light Ware (FIGS. 3.3–5)

This continues from the early Prepalatial period. Its most common form is the egg-cup or footed goblet (FIGS. 3.3: 1–3, 3.5: 1–2), whose origins can be traced back to EM IIA (Late) if not earlier (Hood 1971*a*, 38, fig. 14; Momigliano 1990). Compared with EM IIB types, most EM III egg-cups (FIGS. 3.3: 2–3; FIGS. 3.5: 1) have a more conical body and a smaller foot, sometimes with upturned edges. The height range is usually 6.0–9.5 cm and the rim diameter 6–10 cm. The most usual decoration consists of a thin line on the rim top and a band below the rim exterior. The tumbler or footless goblet (FIGS. 3.3: 4–6, 3.5: 2–3), which is also very common, seems to be a new form at Knossos (although a similar form was common in eastern Crete already in EM IIB: Betancourt 1984, 39: shape 2A; Warren 1972*a*, fig. 53: P223, P224). In shape it is very much like the egg-cup, but without the foot, and the most common decoration also consists of a thin line on the rim top and a band below the rim exterior. The one-handled cup (FIGS. 3.3: 7–10, 3.5: 4) is another new form, but less common than the tumbler: it usually has a rounded profile, a handle with slightly grooved or saddle-like

section towards the upper attachment and an oval section at the lower, and a flat or moulded base. The shallow bowl with flaring rim (H. c. 5 cm and D. rim 17–30 cm; FIG. 3.3: 11–13) is closely comparable with EM IIB examples, but less common at EM III Knossos, with most examples coming only from the Upper East Well deposit. Spouted jars (FIGS. 3.4: 1, 3.5: 5) are provided with two horizontal handles instead of a single vertical handle opposite to the spout, as in the 'teapot' (see Chapter 2, p. 65). This latter form in EM III seems to be produced essentially in Plain Ware (FIG. 3.8: 4). Spouted jars tend to have a more globular-conical shape than their EM II predecessors. Jugs with a cut-away spout (FIGS. 3.4: 2–6, 3.5: 6–8) show a variety of shapes ranging from globular to globular-conical, the latter being more common, and representing a development from the rounder EM IIB predecessors. Some spouted jars and jugs show an interesting combination of dark-on-light and light-on-dark decoration (FIGS. 3.5: 7; Momigliano 1991, fig. 9: 35, pl. 21: bottom, pl. 33: 7–8, pl. 36: 35), which continues also in the following group (FIG. 3.13: 6–7), consisting of torsional bands in reddish to brown paint with white line(s) marking the centre. There is, so far, a single example of a trefoil-mouthed jug (FIGS. 3.4: 7, 3.5: 9). Two-handled jars of globular-conical shape are also attested, but only by rare examples in coarser fabrics (FIGS. 3.4: 8; see also Momigliano 1991, pl. 53: 82, from House B, which could be either EM III or MM IA in date).

(Red / Black Slipped) Light-on-Dark Ware (FIGS. 3.6–7)

This ware also continues from the early Prepalatial (see Chapter 2 of this volume) and, in general, includes all the forms that appear in Dark-on-Light Ware: egg-cups, tumblers, rounded cups, shallow bowls, jugs, spouted jars, etc.

Plain and Monochrome wares (FIG. 3.8)

Only a small proportion of vessels was left plain or had a monochrome decoration. The range of forms produced in these wares corresponds closely to the dark-on-light or light-on-dark varieties, with the notable absence of the egg-cup or footed goblet.

Relief (including barbotine) and Incised Ware

Relief (including barbotine) and incised decorations are also uncommon, and are usually employed in combination with dark-on-light or light-on-dark decoration (e.g. FIG. 3.3: 1). Examples occur in various deposits (e.g. context nos. 1, 5, 6, 9, 11 above). Fairly typical are incised relief bands around the necks of jugs and warts or 'nipples' on their bodies (FIGS. 3.4: 6, 3.7: 8; Momigliano 1991, fig. 21: 11; pl. 21: 35; pl. 27: 25, 12; pl. 29: 12); more rare are bands or panels consisting of incised dots or incised lines (Momigliano and Wilson 1996, fig. 27: 161) or vertical ridges (FIG. 3.9: 4). Barbotine decoration appears on very few exceptional

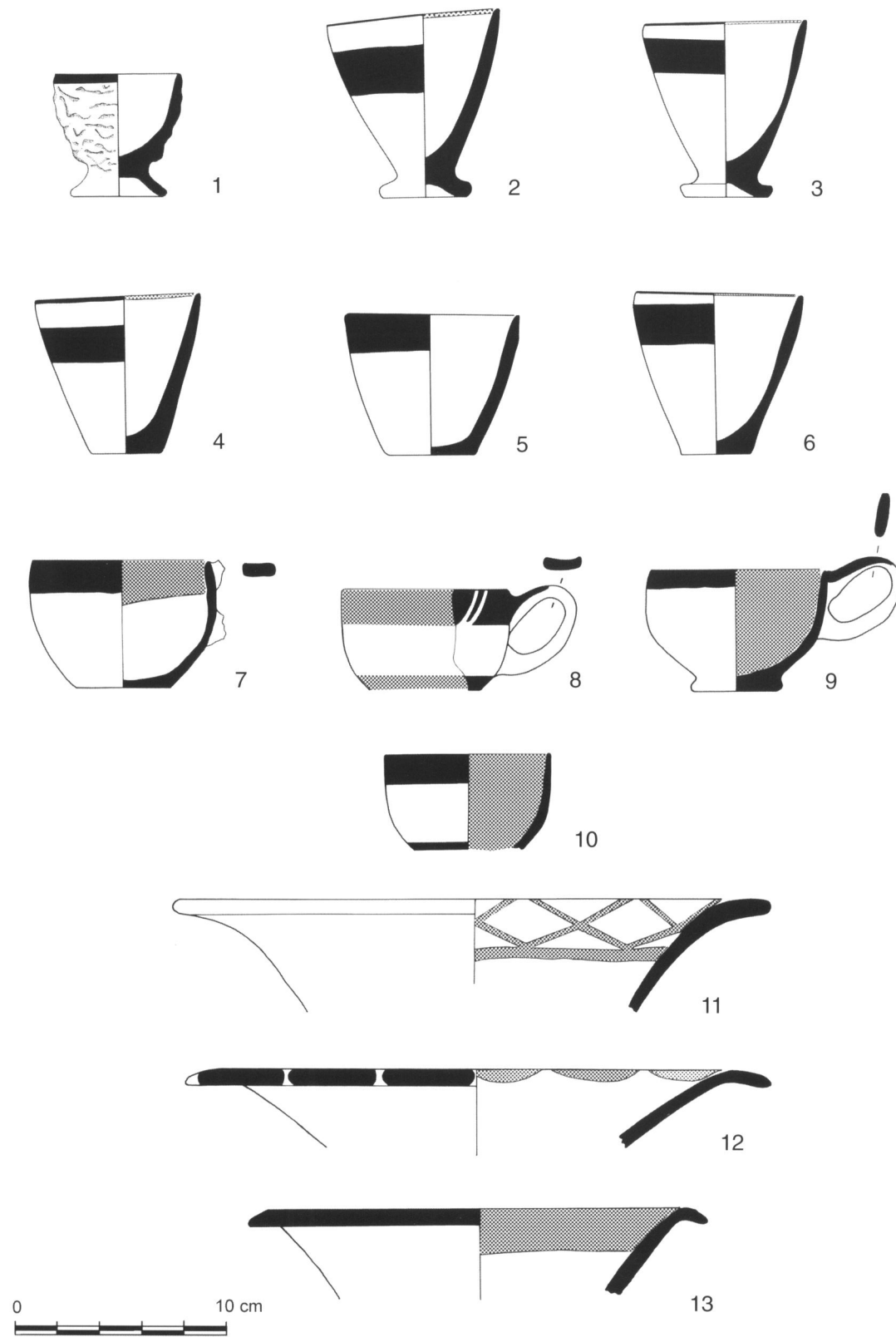


Fig. 3.3. SFH Foundation Trench and Upper East Well Groups (EM III early and late): Dark-on-Light Ware goblets, tumblers, cups and bowls (after Momigliano 1991 figs. 1–3, 2000a, fig. 8; Momigliano and Wilson 1996, fig. 29).

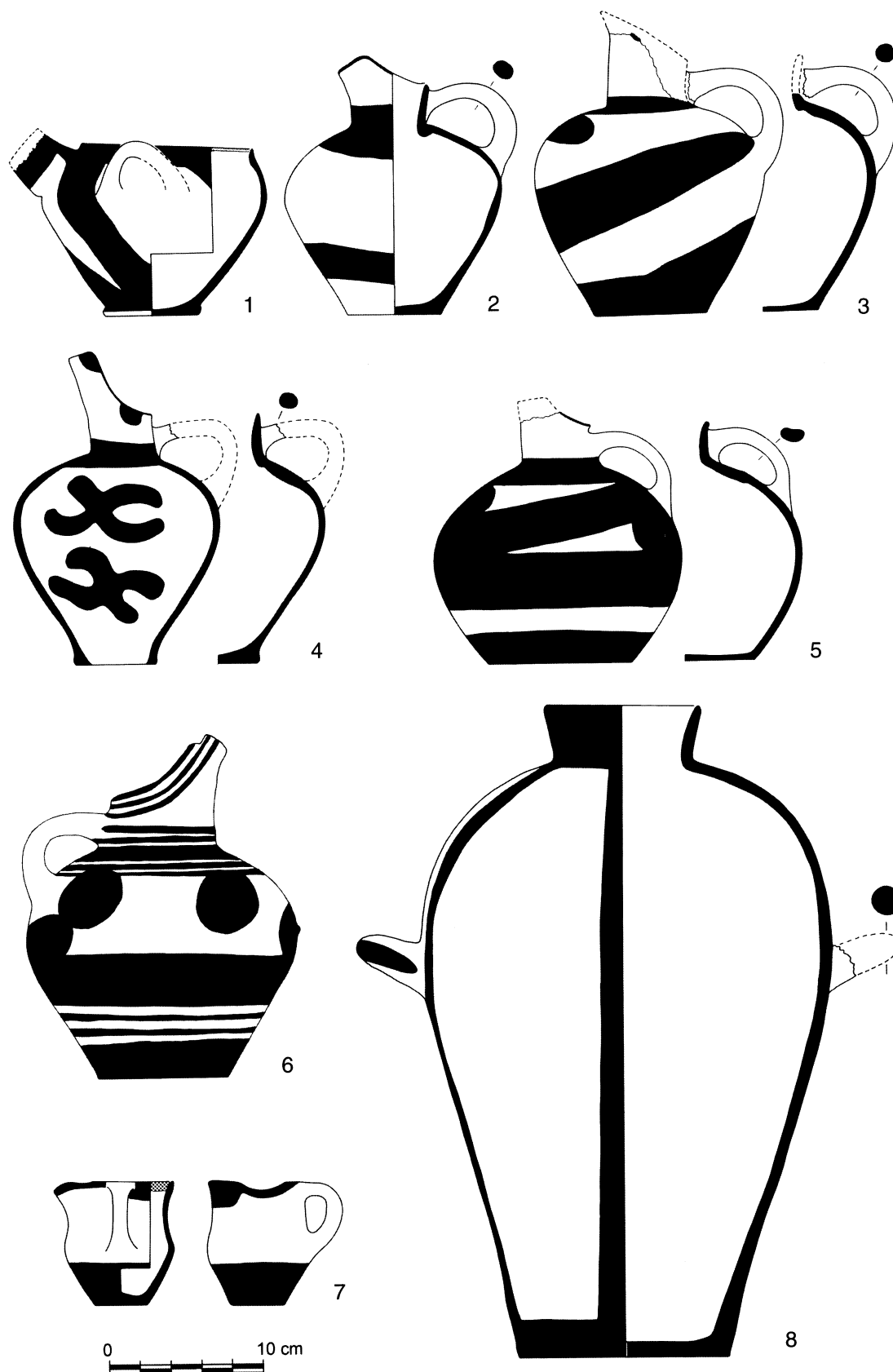


Fig. 3.4. Upper East Well Group (EM III late): Dark-on-Light Ware jugs and jars (after Momigliano 2000a, figs. 8–9; 1991, fig. 21).

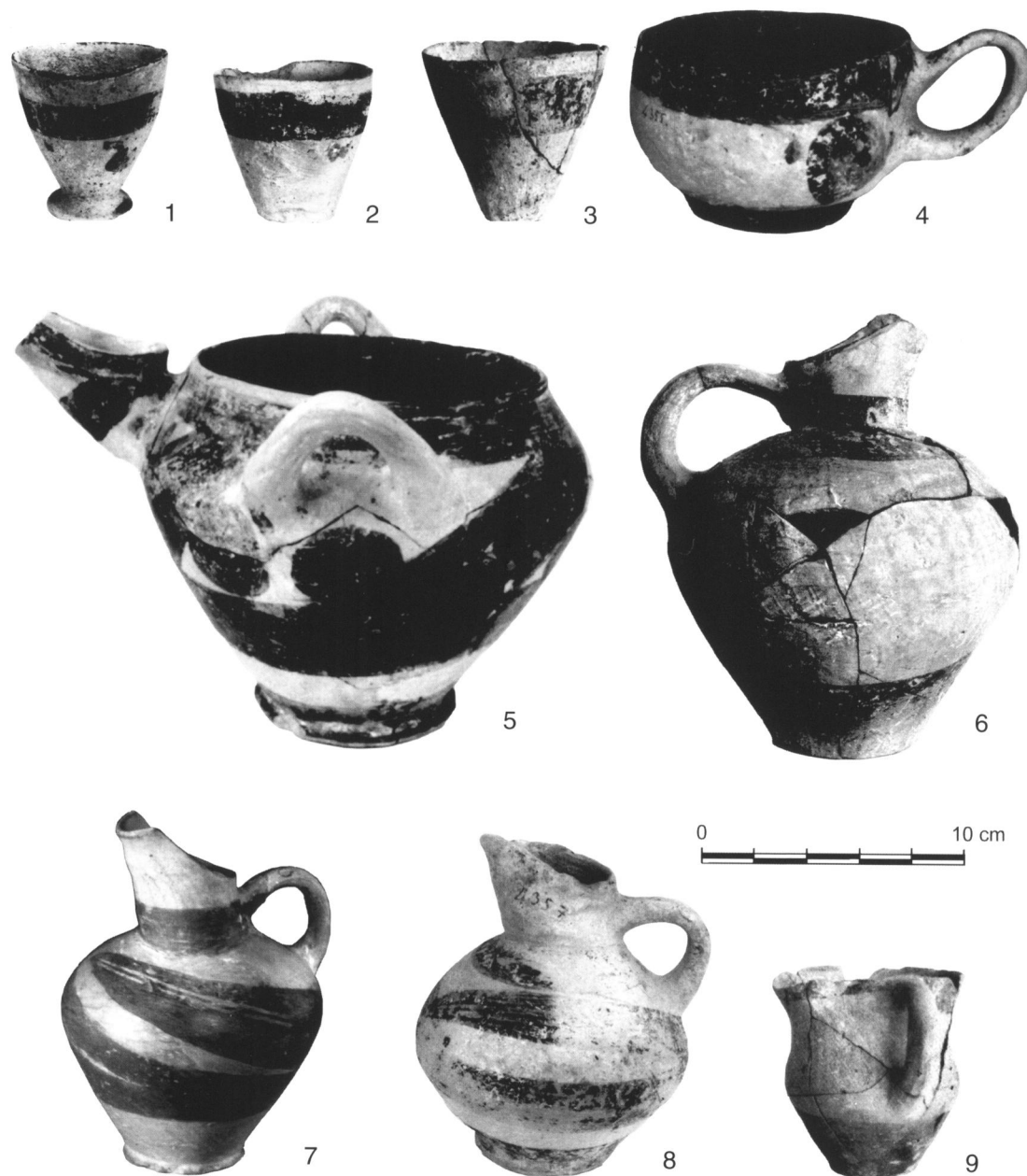


Fig. 3.5. Upper East Well Group (EM III late): Dark-on-Light Ware (after Momigliano 1991, pls. 19, 28, 43, 2000a, pl. 18).

vessels (FIGS. 3.3: 1; FIGS. 3.9: 1–3), in the form of scale and thin veined types, or ‘irregular polygonal ridges’ and ‘irregularly spaced ridges’, in Foster’s terminology (1982).

Polychrome Ware

Polychrome decoration is almost absent. Out of several thousands of sherds and hundreds of complete or restorable vessels, only two almost complete jugs in a fine buff fabric and a few large sherds made in an orange buff coarse fabric may be assigned to the Upper East Well Group (Momigliano 1991, pl. 47: 38, 47: 42, from

House B; Momigliano 1991, fig. 14: 19, pl. 40: 19, from SFH; see CD; see also Batten 1995, 78–9, not illustrated). It should be pointed out that the fabric and/or the surface treatment of all these vessels is unusual, which may suggest a non-local origin. In particular, the red pigment employed in their decoration is of a darker hue than the orange pigment used in typical Knossian polychrome wares, and is closer to the colour observed on some vessels from Phaistos. A macroscopic analysis of the fabric of one of these sherds also suggests an origin in southern Crete (Day and Wilson, pers. comm.). This evidence could imply that Polychrome Ware made its first appearance in the Mesara, but became relatively

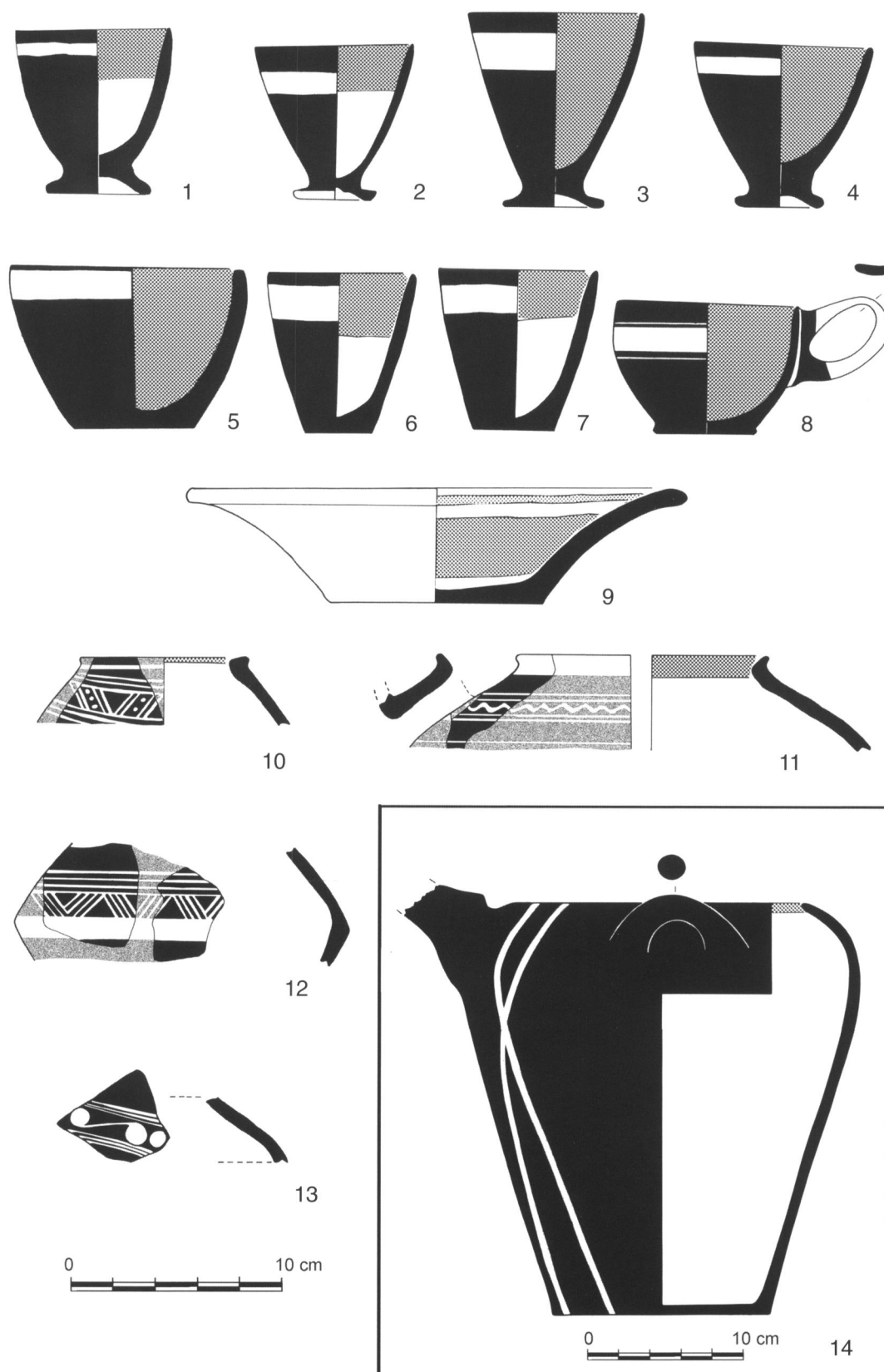


Fig. 3.6. SFH Foundation Trench and Upper East Well Groups (EM III early and late): Light-on-Dark Ware (after Momigliano 1991, figs. 1–2, 2000a, figs. 10, 14; Momigliano and Wilson 1996, fig. 27).

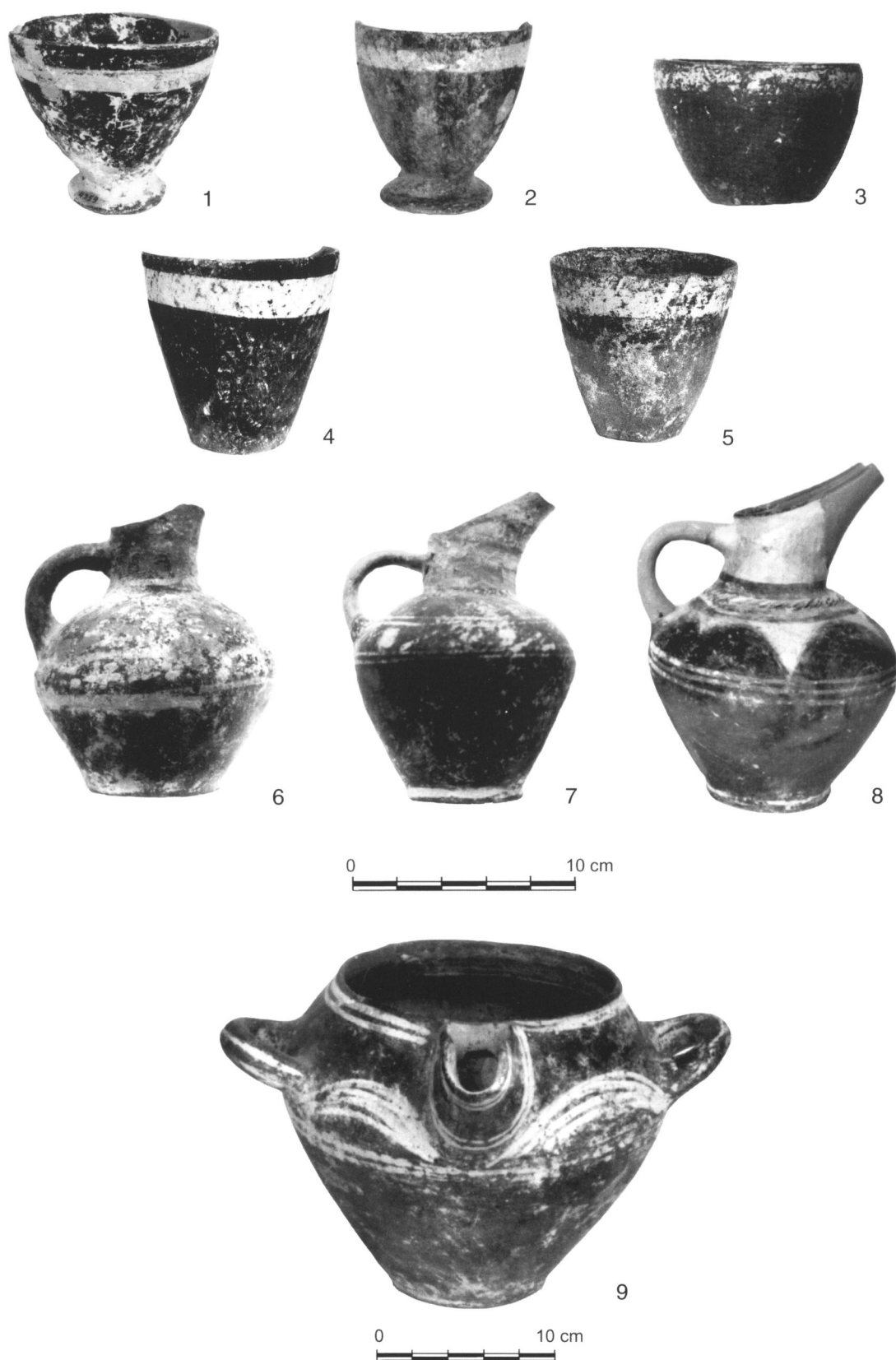


Fig. 3.7. SFH Foundation Trench and Upper East Well Groups (EM III early and late): Light-on-Dark Ware (after Momigliano 1991, pls. 19, 20, 28, 29; Momigliano and Wilson 1996, pl. 8).

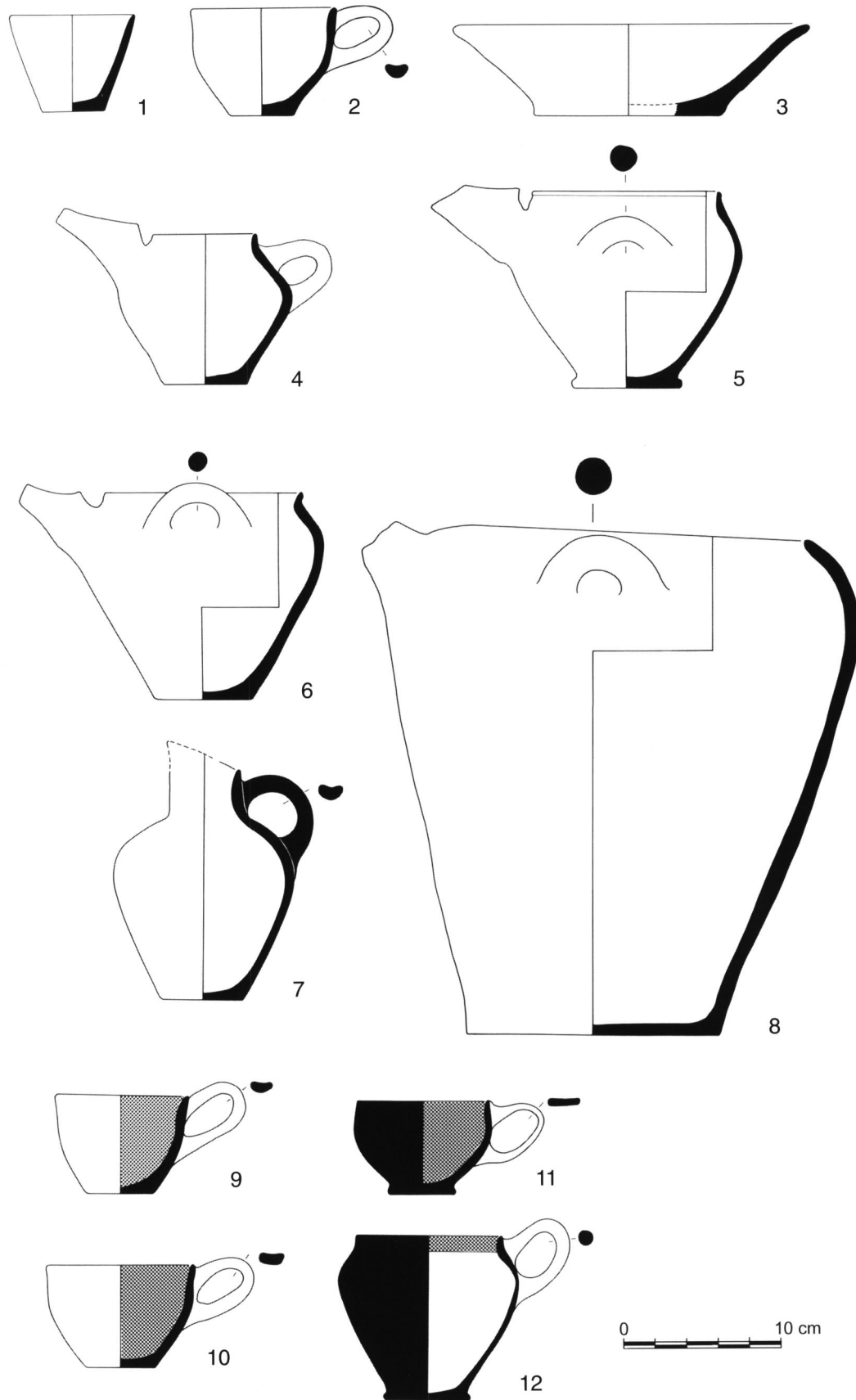


Fig. 3.8. Upper East Well Group (EM III late): Plain and Monochrome wares (after Momigliano 2000a, fig. 7; Momigliano 1991, fig. 35: type 2).

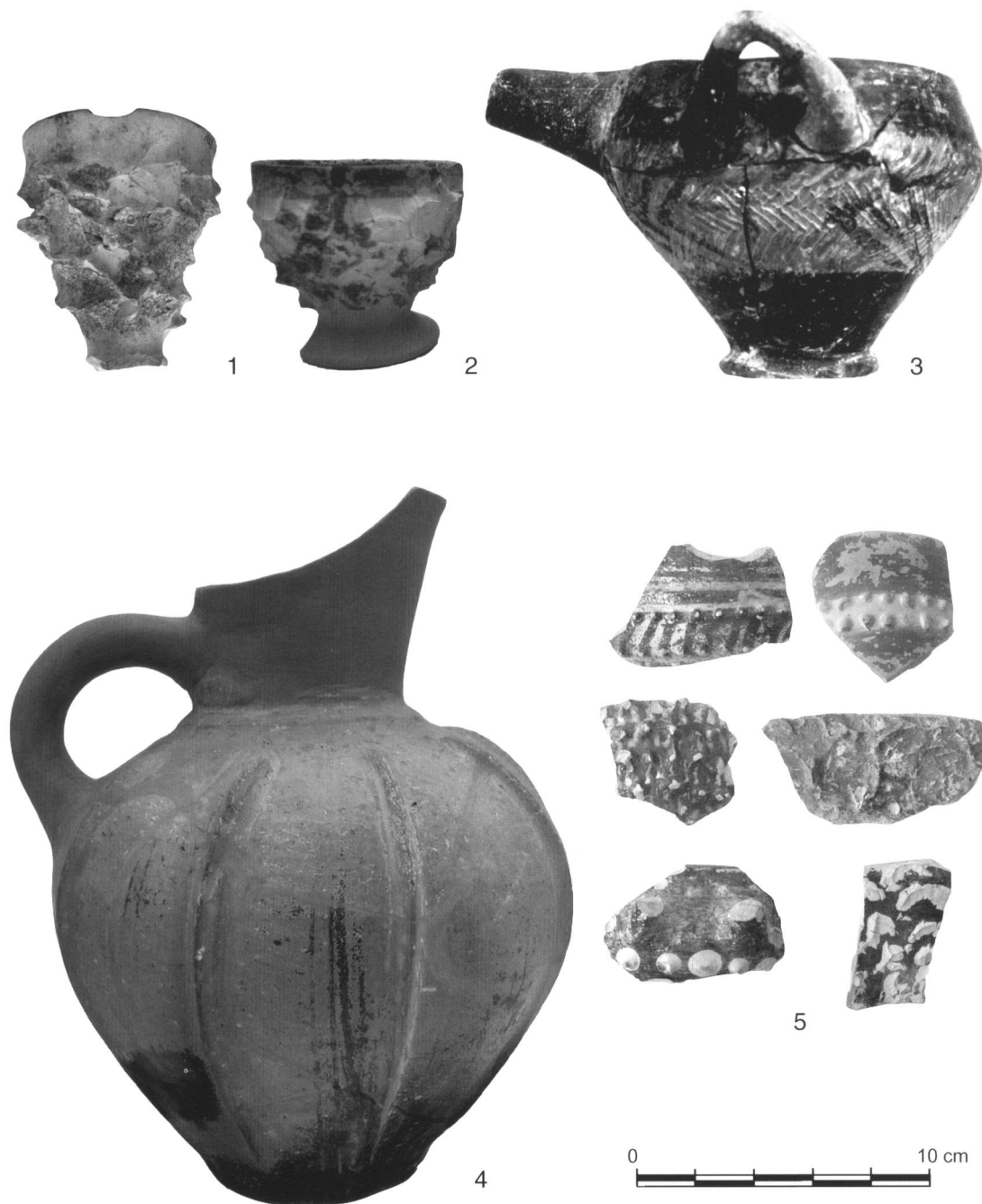


Fig. 3.9. Upper East Well and House C/RRS Fill Groups (EM III late and MM IA): relief decoration (including Barbotine Ware): (1–4) EM III, after Momigliano 1991, pls. 18, 29, 2000a, fig. 5; (5) MM IA, sherds from RRS Fill deposit.

common throughout Crete only from MM IA onwards — a working hypothesis to be tested by future research.

Coarse Fabrics

Apart from the exceptional polychrome items mentioned above, most vessels produced in coarse fabrics were left plain or were decorated in dark-on-light and light-on-dark as illustrated in FIGS. 3.4: 7 and 3.6: 14 (see also Momigliano 1991, pl. 43: 15). The scarcity of large coarse vessels illustrated here is largely a reflection

of Evans's and Mackenzie's sorting policies, but also of the nature of some of the Knossian deposits.

Cooking Pottery and Pithoi

Pithoi and cooking vessels are attested in the deposits belonging to this group, but usually only by small fragments. The Upper East Well, for example, has yielded sherds of pithoi decorated with relief bands and trickles of dark paint, fragments of tripod legs with oval section, and rims of large cooking dishes and

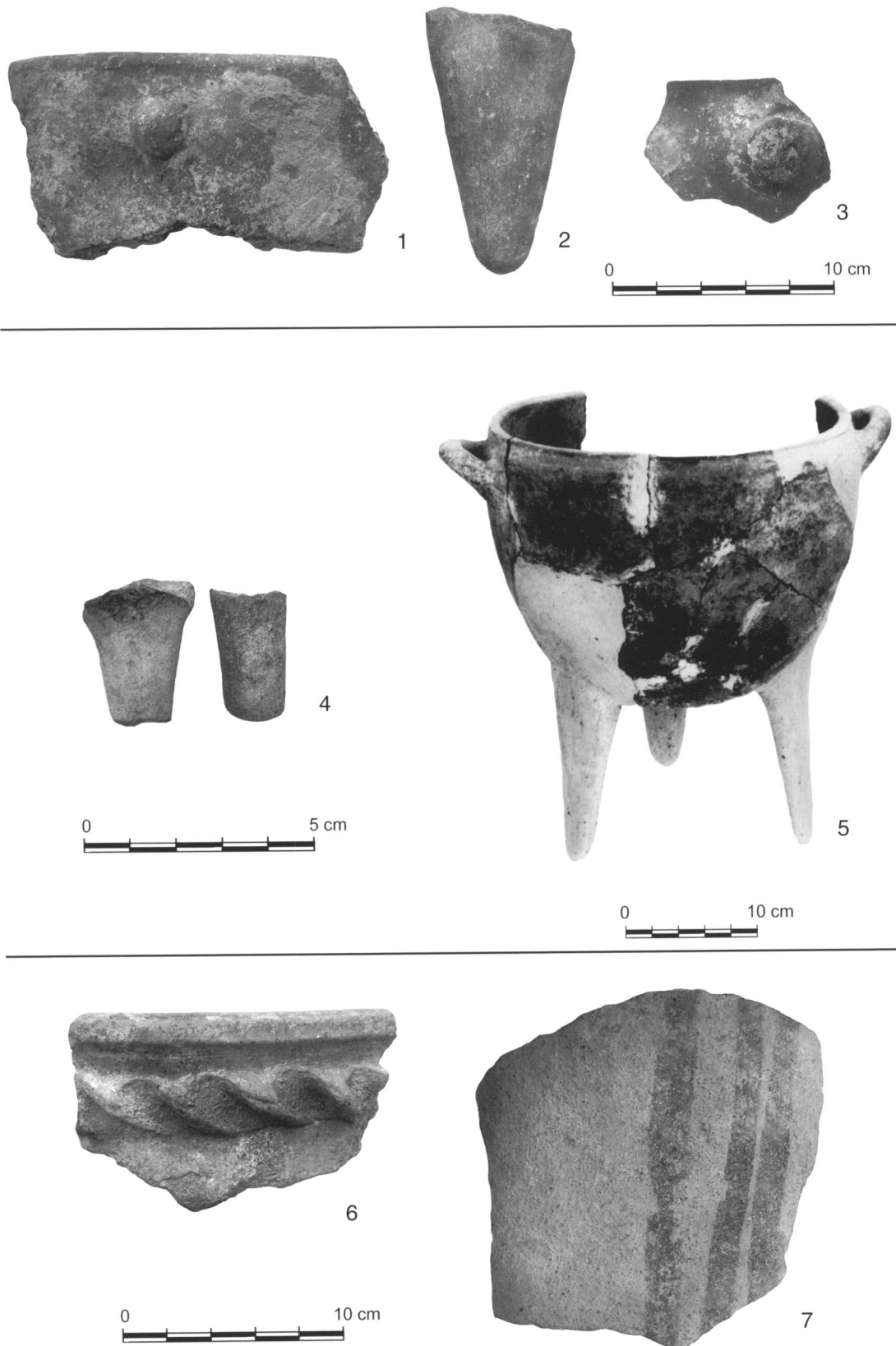


Fig. 3.10. Upper East Well and House C/RRS Fill Groups (EM III late and MM IA): pithoi and cooking pots (nos. 1–4 and 6–7 from Upper East Well deposit; no. 5, from House B, after Momigliano 1991, pl. 50).

TABLE 3.1: Selected Cretan sites with deposits contemporary with the SFH Foundation Trench and Upper East Well Groups (EM III).

West Crete

Khania (Tzedakis 1965, 569 pl. 712δ and 713α–β; Tzedakis 1969a, 428 and pl. 435δ)

North-Central Crete

Archanes (Sakellarakis and Sapouna-Sakellaraki 1997, 386–91; Lachanas 2000)

Giophyrakia (Marinatos 1933–35)

Poros (Dimopoulou *et al.*, in preparation)

South-Central Crete

Phaistos (La Rosa 2002, 643, 740–1; Todaro 2005, 41–2)

Mallia / Lasithi

Mallia (Demargne 1945, pl. iii: 8681 and pl. iv: 8677)

East Crete

Vasiliki (Andreou 1978, 60–1; Zois 1992)

Palaikastro (Sackett *et al.* 1965, 272–8, pl. 72a–b; also Andreou 1978, 58–60; Knappett 2007)

bowls (FIG. 3.10: 1–4, 6–7; see also Momigliano and Wilson 1996, 52: P191). House B has yielded a restorable tripod cooking pot and an almost complete pithos, which could be either EM III or MM IA (FIG. 3.10: 5; Pendlebury and Pendlebury 1930, 66, fig. 6; Momigliano 1991, 234, no. 84).

Relative chronology of the SFH Foundation Trench and Upper East Well Groups (EM III)

Synchronisms with other Cretan sites

TABLE 3.1 summarises the evidence for main Cretan deposits contemporary or partly contemporary with the SFH Foundation Trench and Upper East Well Groups.

Similar deposits from nearby Archanes and other sites in the Knossos region have already been mentioned above. In other regions of Crete, starting from the west, material contemporary and comparable with Knossian EM III does exist, but it is not fully published and appears to come from mixed contexts (Tzedakis 1965, 569, pl. 712 δ, 713 α–β; Tzedakis 1969a, 428, and pl. 435 δ? sherds with comb-pricks and wavy barbotine; EM III–MM IA egg-cups and rounded cups on display in the Khania Museum, nos. 2355, 2358, 2416, 2476, discussed in Momigliano 1989, 236–7).

Synchronisms with the Mesara are hampered by a number of factors. First, some of the published material that could be contemporary with Knossian EM III does not come from closed contexts, but from tombs used for many generations, and as late as the early Protopalatial period. Second, some of the possible Knossian imports to the Mesara (tumblers, egg-cups, rounded cups, ‘sheep-bells’, etc) found in tombs such as Drakones, Porti, Voros and Lebena belong to types which are equally at home in the (EM III) Upper East Well and in the (MM IA) House C / RRS Fill Groups

(Xanthoudides 1924; Marinatos 1931; Alexiou 1960, 1962; Branigan 1970; Alexiou and Warren 2004, esp. fig. 21: 91, pls. 45: A, 160: C). Third, recent survey work in this southern region suggests some disruption following EM IIB, with a number of sites being abandoned, sometimes after a violent destruction which marked the end of that phase (Watrous 2001, 179–80), a situation which recalls that of the other Aegean regions (see also below). This in itself drastically reduces the pool of stratigraphic contexts that may be synchronous with Knossian EM III. Even the settlements of Ayia Triada and Kommos have not yielded comparable deposits (at least to judge from what has been published so far), but merely some sherds, which might date to this phase (Betancourt 1990, 62–4). Only recently excavations at Phaistos have produced levels stratified between EM IIB and MM IA levels, which could be contemporary with Knossian EM III (La Rosa 2002, 643, 740–1; Todaro 2005, esp. 41–2; it is not clear whether some of her ‘Early MM IA’ pottery may in fact be contemporary with the Upper East Well Group). One jug from the Upper East Well deposit (Momigliano 1991, pl. 21: 41) is almost certainly a Mesara product, to judge from its fabric, shape and decoration, and so may be the rare polychrome vessels and fragments discussed above. This relative paucity of Mesara imports seems to continue the trend observed in Knossian EM IIB (see Chapter 2 of this volume).

This decline of Mesara imports is partly counter-balanced by the appearance, for the first time, of vessels from the Pediada region, consisting of a few tumblers and wide-mouthed trefoil-lipped jugs made in a distinctive reddish fabric (Momigliano 1991, 261–4: ‘fabric III’; MacGillivray 1998, 88–9: ‘fine red’; Momigliano 2000a, 76; Momigliano and Wilson 1996, 44). These Pediada imports at Knossos, in fact, represent the only evidence so far for

Prepalatial production and consumption of this type of pottery, for the published examples from the Pediada region at present come from early Protopalatial contexts (Rethemiotakis and Christakis 2004, for MM IB deposits from Galatas and Kastelli). These imports continue throughout the MM IA and MM IB phases at Knossos (MacGillivray 1998, 88–9; Chapter 4, p. 109).

For correlations with eastern Crete, the Upper East Well Group seems to be contemporary, at least in part, with what has been traditionally understood as east Cretan EM III (Andreou 1978, 25, 68–9; Momigliano 1989, 221–31), but it should also be borne in mind that some east Cretan deposits and individual pieces traditionally assigned to EM III (e.g. Andreou's 'North Trench Group') may be partly synchronous with Knossian 'Polychrome' MM IA (Andreou 1978, 69, and esp. 125, 172; Watrous 2001, 181–2; Betancourt 1984, with further references; on the problem of using labels such as 'EM III' or 'MM IA' merely as stylistic descriptors of lingering ceramic style, without taking into account chronological implications, see Introduction). East Cretan deposits possibly contemporary, or at least partly contemporary, with Knossian EM III come from the houses in the south-east area of Vasilike (Andreou 1978, 60–1; Zois 1992; Watrous 2001, 181, with further references) and from Kastri, near Palaiakastro (Sackett *et al.* 1965, 272–8, pl. 72a, b; see also Andreou 1978, 58–9; Momigliano 1989, 228; Knappett 2007). The latter deposit has yielded some possible Knossian imports or imitations. The 'Premier Charnier' or 'First Rock Shelter' at Mallia, although containing much EM II material, also yielded some vases, which would fit well in Knossian EM III (such as egg-cup no. 8681 and especially tumbler no. 8677; Demargne 1945, pls. iii and iv, respectively). Moreover, the 'Premier Charnier' does not seem to contain any pottery that must be as late as 'polychrome' MM IA (Andreou 1978, 122–5).

Synchronisms with other regions of the Aegean

To begin with Kythera, the site of Kastri has yielded some interesting (albeit small and fairly mixed) EM I–MM I deposits, showing connexions with West Crete, but none of these seem to match closely the Upper East Well or the earlier groups. It is clear, however, that both Kastri deposits β and γ , which are rather mixed, include material that could be dated to Knossian EM III (Coldstream and Huxley 1972, 83–91). In fact, deposit β , which also yielded material datable to EM II (see Chapter 2, p. 77), may fit within the chronological limits of the Upper East Well Group, since it does not seem to contain vessels that must be dated to polychrome MM IA. But deposit γ may well contain some material contemporary with Knossian MM IA (see below).

For the Greek mainland, one should note that there seems to be a decline in the number of EH III sites (Rutter 2001, 122–3) and no EM III / EH III 'cross-

finds' have been identified as yet (Rutter and Zerner 1984, 76–7; Rutter 1995).

Cross-links with the Cyclades are also problematic. First of all, the abandonment of several settlements in late EB II or soon after makes the chance of finding Knossian EM III very difficult if not virtually impossible (Broodbank 2000, 321–2). Second, Cycladic type material assignable to the Phylakopi I.2–3 phases has been found at EM III Knossos, but the chronology of these Cycladic phases is controversial, with some scholars assigning them to EB III and others to MB I (Barber and MacGillivray 1980; MacGillivray 1984; Rutter 1983, 1984). The problem is overcome if one accepts the suggestion that Phylakopi I.2 began before the end of the EBA in the Aegean, as indeed indicated by some cross-links with mainland Greece and Anatolia (Rutter 1984, 99–100; Warren and Hankey 1989, 25–9; Manning 1995, 66–73, esp. 66–8, 86–91; Sotirakopoulou 1996, 113–36; Broodbank 2000, 320–35, esp. 335; Momigliano 2000*b*), and that Phylakopi I.3 is partly contemporary with the beginning of the MBA. Recent discoveries of Knossian MM IA pottery at Akrotiri on Thera, in contexts linked with Phylakopi I.3, would suit this suggestion rather nicely (see below).

The Cycladic material found in a secure Knossian EM III context consists of a jar handle found in the SFH Foundation Trench deposit (Momigliano and Wilson 1996, 45, fig. 27: P158). From a slightly less secure context are two other Cycladic-type vases: the dark burnished and incised mug of Phylakopi I.2 type, and the strange 'duck-vase' from the lower floor of House B in the West Court (deposit no. 3 above; Momigliano 1991, 227, 232–3, pl. 50: 60, 61; Warren and Hankey 1989, 19; Momigliano 2000*b*).

This evidence is not abundant, but one can at least suggest that Knossian EM III could be partly contemporary with Phylakopi I.2, a phase which seems to have begun before the end of the EBA in the Aegean. Knossian EM III also appears to be earlier than MH I Lerna, which seems to coincide largely with Polychrome MM IA (see below).

HOUSE C / RRS FILL GROUP (MM IA)

Archaeological contexts (FIG. 3.11)

Only a few of the deposits assigned by Evans to MM IA in *The Palace of Minos* can still be used to illustrate this ceramic phase. Some are 'floor deposits' (nos. 1 and 2 below) while others appear to be homogenous fills (nos. 3, 5, 6). Some are problematic in terms of stratigraphy and regrouping of the original assemblage (nos. 2, 4, 5), others are relatively well stratified (no. 3). Their position within the overall Knossian sequence, however, is clear, both stratigraphically and stylistically: some are directly stratified above Upper East Well Group deposits (nos. 1, 2, 3), while others are stratified beneath Early Protopalatial deposits (no. 3 and possibly no. 1); stylistically they show continuity with Knossian

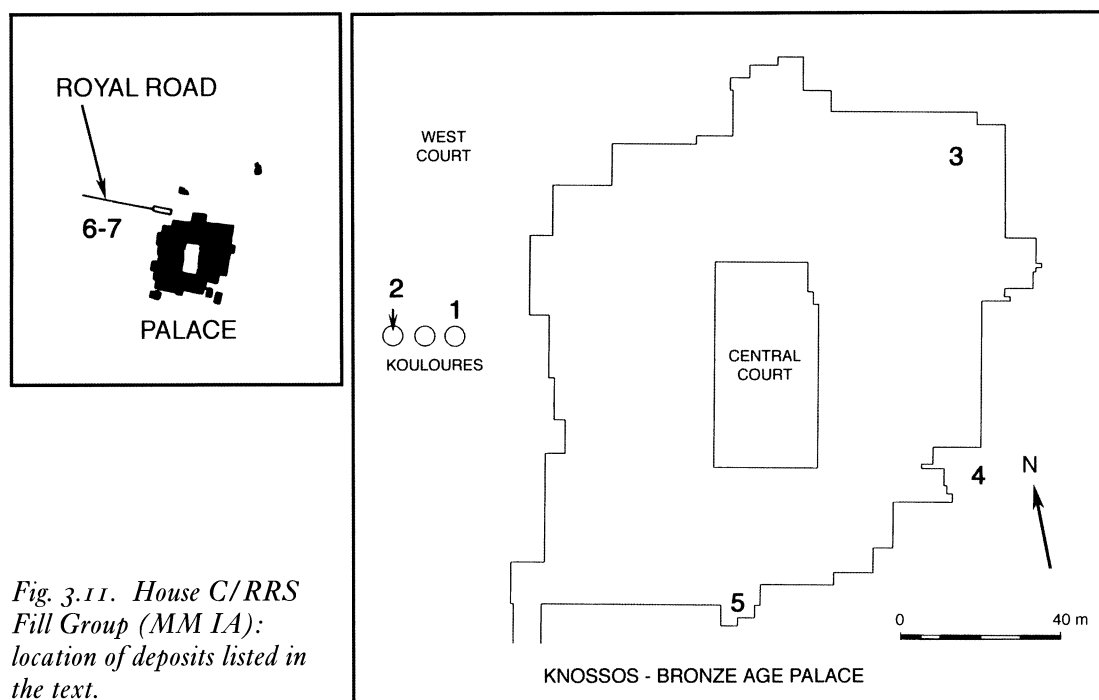


Fig. 3.11. House C/RRS Fill Group (MM IA): location of deposits listed in the text.

EM III (e.g. conical shaped egg-cups in Light-on-Dark and Dark-on-Light wares, one-handled cups decorated with solid discs). At the same time they also show features that prefigure MM IB developments (e.g. regular use of polychrome decoration, and new forms such as the straight-sided and carinated cups).

Other minor deposits belonging to this group were discovered during Arthur Evans's and more recent excavations (Momigliano 1989, Appendix 1), but they remain unpublished.

During the excavations of the late 1950s and early 1960s along the Royal Road and the 1987 excavations in the palace, Hood discovered three important deposits assignable to this group: RRS Fill; RRS Lowest Basement (stratified beneath an MM IB deposit); and test D.VII.20 in Early Magazine A (Cadogan *et al.* 1993, 25). These deposits, when fully published, will help to produce a clearer and better definition of this ceramic phase at Knossos than is possible at present. Meanwhile a small selection of fragments from Hood's RRS Fill assemblage (no. 6 below) is illustrated here with his kind permission.

Evans (1928, 320) suggested that the end of the MM IA period at Knossos was marked by a major seismic destruction, but one should bear in mind that he used as evidence many deposits that have now been reassigned to the Upper East Well Group, i.e. to EM III Late, or to the Early Chamber beneath the West Court group, that is, to MM IB. Nevertheless, the deposits in the House C / RRS Fill group are clearly the result of depositional processes caused by some kind of 'event', which may or may not have been an earthquake.

The nearby site of Archanes has also yielded good assemblages of MM IA pottery, but not all are from

closed contexts, for they come from tombs which continued to be used into the Protopalatial period (Sakellarakis and Sapouna-Sakellarakis 1997, 394–405; Lachanas 2000, 167, figs. 6–9; Watrous 2001, 186–90). Moreover, one should bear in mind that the MM IA date assigned by the excavators to some structures has now been modified by more recent studies (for Building 6 see Watrous 2001, 188–9; for Tholos E see Panagiotopoulos 2001, 2002; for Tholos Γ see Papadatos 2003, where the tomb's construction is redated to EM IIA).

West Court

1) House C beneath the West Court (some vases in HM plus KSM B.I.12: box 244, 1st metre; KSM B.I.17: boxes: 296–301, floor level at 1.20; Evans 1905*b*, fig. 19; Evans 1921, 173, fig. 122; Momigliano 1991, 185–94, 2000*c*; MacGillivray 1998, 23 and *passim*). This is a floor deposit belonging to a structure located a few metres to the north of Kouloura I and excavated as 1904 Test Pit 9 (1st metre) and 1905 Test Pit 14 (floor at 1.20 m). For the purpose of this study, it seems safer to consider only the vases discovered in 1905 and illustrated by Evans in a well-known photograph as belonging to the original floor deposit (Evans 1905*b*, fig. 19; Evans 1921, 173, fig. 122; see also Momigliano 1991, pl. 32, for a photograph taken during the excavations). Several floor levels were detected during the excavations of Test Pit 14, and the excavation records are not clear as to which one was linked with House C: the floor at *c.* 1.20 m below the West Court, however, seems the most likely. This would make House C stratified directly above EM III levels (see above, Upper East Well Group deposit no. 4), and

beneath Early Protopalatial (see Chapter 4, Early Chamber beneath the West Court deposit).

2) House B: upper floor (see above, Upper East Well Group deposit no. 3, with further references; KSM B.II.6: box 390; B.II.7: boxes 393–394; B.II.8: box 395; B.II.9: box 397; B.II.11: boxes 399–403; and some complete or restored vases in KSM and HM).

East Wing

3) Room of the Jars, Royal Pottery Stores: fill level (K.S.M. L.III.8: boxes 1020–1026; Momigliano 2000a). This deposit was sandwiched between the Early Protopalatial floor of the Room of the Jars (see Chapter 4, p. 108, no. 6) and above the EM III ‘Pit Repository’ (see Upper East Well Group deposit no. 5 above).

South-East Corner and South Front

4) The Monolithic Pillar Basement: lowest level (KSM O.II.3: boxes 1385–1403; B.II.7, 7a: boxes 1415–1416 and fragments and vases in HM, BM and AM; Evans 1900a, 7; Evans 1903, 17–19, fig. 7; Mackenzie 1906, 244, 246, 252 and pls. vii and ix; Evans 1921, 146 fig. 107, 183 fig. 132a; Andreou 1978, 30; Momigliano 1991, 163–167; MacGillivray 1998, *passim*, esp. 45–6). This is a problematic deposit, which would benefit from a more systematic study and publication of all its levels (from late Prepalatial / Protopalatial to Neopalatial). Mackenzie (1906) mentioned the presence of a MM I floor deposit (later assigned to MM IA in *The Palace of Minos*) stratified below MM II, but a close reading of the original excavation records and preliminary *B.S.A.* reports show that the existence of a late Prepalatial floor deposit was suggested after the excavation, because of the existence of much polychrome pottery with ‘geometric’ decoration, which was deemed to be earlier than MM II (Momigliano 1991, 163–5; see *contra* MacGillivray 1998, *passim*, esp. 45–6 and Chapter 4, p. 108). The material from all the levels is now stored together, thus hampering the verification of Mackenzie’s stratigraphical observations and reconstructions. According to MacGillivray, however, the presence of a floor deposit assignable to MM IB can be inferred by the presence of many complete vases assignable to that phase (see Chapter 4, p. 108).

5) The Tholos or Early Hypogaeum beneath the South Porch (KSM H.I.3: box 803; Evans 1921, 104–8; Momigliano 1991, 195–8; Belli 1999). Deep fill, stratified beneath a later (possibly Protopalatial) level. With the exception of a few LM I intrusive pieces, the material is comparable with that from the RRS Fill.

Outside area of later palace

6) RRS Fill (Hood 1962a, 93–4; Cadogan *et al.* 1993, 25). This deposit remains unpublished, but some

fragments are illustrated here by kind permission of the excavator (FIGS. 3.9: 5, 3.12: 1–4, 7–9, 3.14: 2–7, 3.15, 3.16, 3.17).

7) RRS: Lowest Basement (Hood 1962a; 1966; Cadogan *et al.* 1993, 25–6). Unpublished floor deposit, possibly representing a later phase of MM IA.

Characteristics of House C / RRS Fill group (MM IA)

The material employed to illustrate this phase is taken from the Room of the Jars, House C and a few selected sherds from Hood’s MM IA fill deposit.

There is much continuity between Knossian EM III and MM IA in terms of fabrics, wares and forms. MM IA ceramic assemblages usually contain large quantities of egg-cups and tumblers decorated in dark-on-light and light-on-dark, often undistinguishable from those discovered in deposits from the Upper East Well Group. The major novelties include the adoption of polychrome decoration and the appearance of new forms such as the straight-sided and carinated cups. Pottery continues to be handmade, with the exception of a small number of egg-cups and tumblers, which may have been made on the wheel, as in the preceding phase.

Fabrics

Small to medium-sized vessels continue to be made in the usual fine orange buff fabric and, sometimes, in a greenish porous fabric that first appears in EM III (see above). A wide variety of coarse fabrics, including a coarser orange buff version, continue to be employed for larger vessels such as necked jars, large spouted jars and pithoi. Cooking pots continue to be made in the usual reddish brown coarse fabric.

Wares and forms

The popularity of Dark-on-Light and Light-on-Dark wares continues unabated. In addition, Polychrome and Barbotine wares, though still constituting a small proportion of the assemblages, make a regular appearance.

Dark-on-Light Ware (FIG. 3.12)

All the forms attested in the previous ceramic phase (egg-cups, tumblers, rounded cups, shallow bowls, jugs, spouted jars, necked jars, etc) continue with little or no change (see rounded cups with solid-circle decoration in the Upper East Well Group, FIG. 3.5: 4 and FIGS. 3.12: 6–8; and the jugs with combined light-on-dark and dark-on-light decoration in FIG. 3.5: 7–8 and FIG. 3.13: 6–7). Many egg-cups and tumblers, however, now exhibit a very rough panned surface and are slovenly made. Some egg-cups, in particular, present a poorly formed (less articulated) foot and a more rounded and

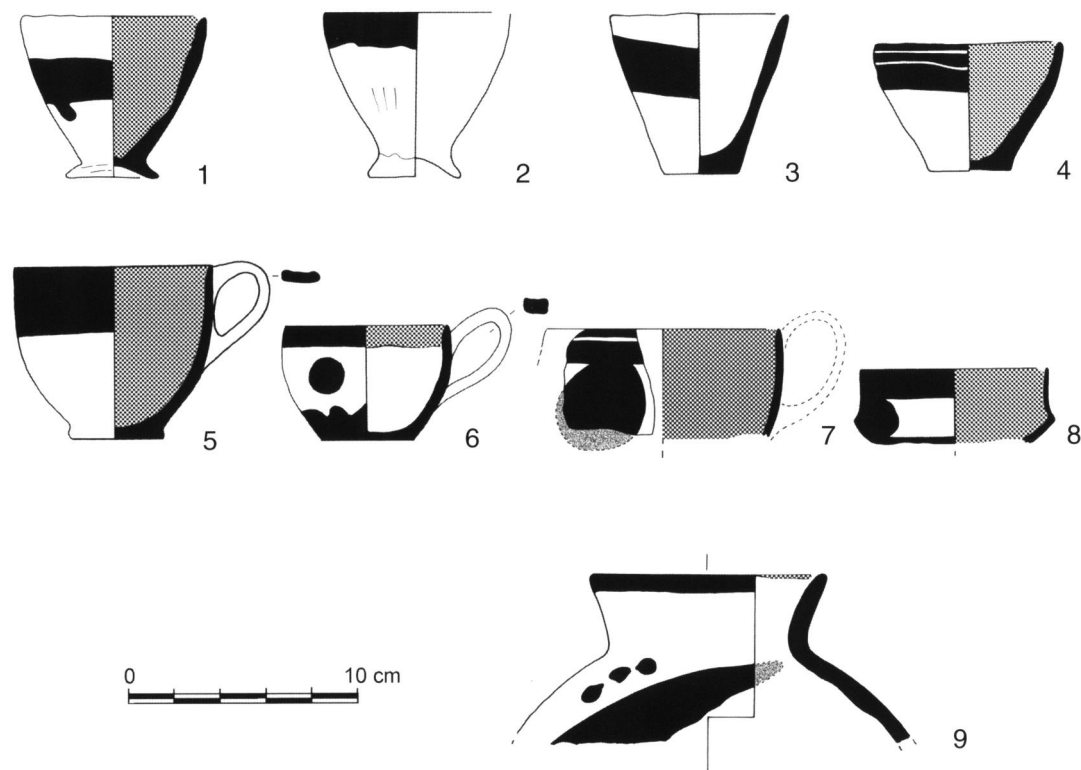


Fig. 3.12. House C/RRS Fill Group (MM IA): Dark-on-Light Ware (all from RRS Fill deposit, except for nos. 5–6, from House C, after Momigliano 1991, fig. 8).

asymmetrical body (FIG. 3.12: 2; Momigliano 2000a, fig. 16b, c). Two new forms appear: the carinated and the straight-sided cup (FIG. 3.12: 8 and, for shape, FIG. 3.14: 6–7), which continue into the Protopalatial phases. House C provides a so far unique example of a large pedestalled bowl (FIG. 3.13: 4).

(Red / Black Slipped) Light-on-Dark Ware (FIG. 3.14)

As in the case of Dark-on-Light, there is great continuity in terms of forms such as egg-cups, tumblers, rounded cups, combined with the appearance of straight-sided and carinated cups.

Monochrome and Plain Wares

These wares also continue from the previous group, although they are not very common, except for the appearance of very thinly coated and poorly made egg-cups, which also continue into MM IB (Momigliano and Wilson 1996, 17: 'Drab Ware'; MacGillivray 1998, 66: rounded goblet Type 1).

Polychrome Ware (FIGS. 3.9: 5, 3.13: 9–10, 3.15).

The surface treatment employing reddish orange and white paint over a red or black slipped background is

one of the main characteristics of this ceramic phase. As mentioned above, rare and sporadic appearances of polychrome vessels, which may be Mesara imports, occurred in some of the Upper East Well Group deposits, but it is only in MM IA that Polychrome Ware occurs regularly, albeit still in very small proportions. Forms in this ware appear to be the same as in Dark-on-Light and Light-on-Dark, with egg-cups, tumblers, straight-sided cups, rounded cups, spouted jars and jugs being the most common (FIG. 3.15; see also Pendlebury and Pendlebury 1930, pl. xiv, esp. nos. 1, 4, 11, 13, 17); larger vessels, including storage jars, were also decorated in this fashion (FIG. 3.15: 8–9).

Barbotine Ware (FIG. 3.9: 5)

This is still rare, although Hood's deposits have yielded several examples. Forms decorated in this manner include egg-cups, various types of cups, spouted jars, and jugs. Barbotine is usually employed in combination with polychrome or light-on-dark decoration. A common and apparently new type of barbotine consists of small and regularly spaced pointed protuberances forming rows and columns (Foster 1982, 26–43). Scale and thin-veined barbotine decorations, already attested

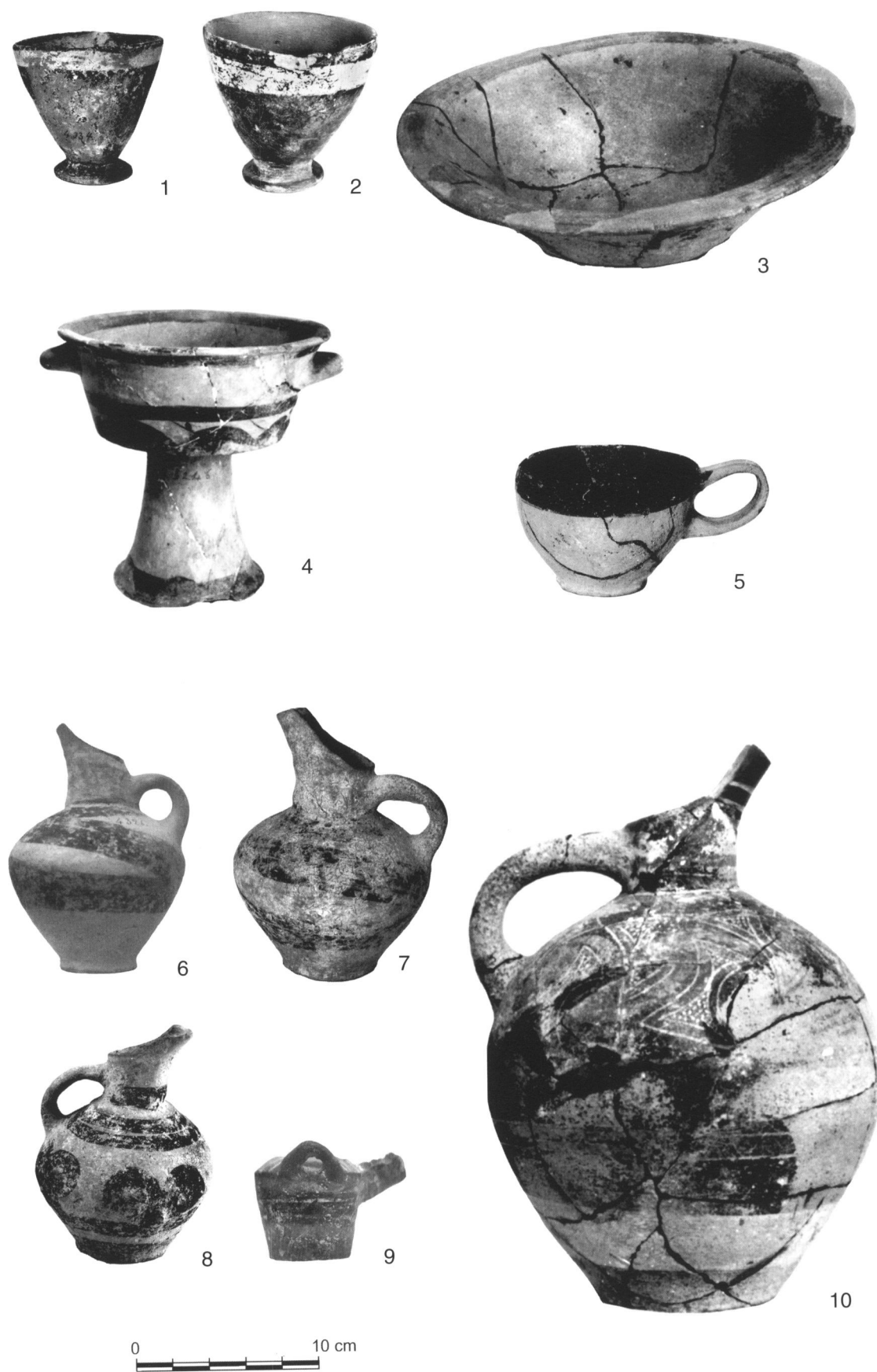


Fig. 3.13. House C/RRS Fill Group (MM IA): Dark-on-Light, Light-on-Dark and Polychrome wares from House C (after Momigliano 1991, pls. 32-3).

TABLE 3.2: Selected Cretan sites with deposits contemporary or partly overlapping with the House C/RRS Fill Group (MM IA).

West Crete

Chamalevri? (Andreadaki-Vlasaki 1996; Touchais *et al.* 1998, 966)
 Khania? (Pariente 1990, 835, fig. 219)

North-Central Crete (including Pediada)

Archanes (Sakellarakis and Sakellarakis 1997, 394–405; Lachanas 2000, 167 figs. 6–9)
 Galatas Pediados (Rethemiotakis 1994, 703)

South-Central Crete

Phaistos (Pernier 1935, 115–5, pls. xiii–xiv; Levi 1976, 288 ff., figs. 450–4; Fiandra 1962, pls. IΘ' and K'; La Rosa 2002; Todaro 2005: 42–5)
 Ayia Triada (Di Vita 1996–7, 481–4, figs. 13, 16, 18–19; Carinci 1999, 115, 119–24, fig. 4)
 Patrikies (Bonacasa 1968)

Mallia / Lasithi

Mallia? (Farnoux 1989 and 1990; Pelon 1989; Pariente 1994, 814)

East Crete

Mochlos (beneath floor of House D) (Seager 1909, fig. 13 upper row; Evans 1921, 109 fig. 76; Andreou 1978, 71–3, figs. 11–13)
 Vasiliki House B (Seager 1907, figs. 9–10, 12, pl. xxxi: 1–2; Andreou 1978, 73–5; figs. 11–13)
 Palaikastro (Chi 59) (Dawkins 1905, 271–5; Andreou 1978, 78; Knappett 2007)
 Pyrgos IIa–b (Cadogan 1978, 71; Andreou 1978, 75–7)

in the previous group by only a few exceptional vessels, become more common.

Cooking Pottery

Several fragments of cooking pots have been recovered from some of the deposits listed above, allowing the reconstructions of the complete or almost complete profiles illustrated in FIG. 3.16 (see also FIG. 3.10: 5, from House B, which could be either EM III or MM IA).

Pithoi

As mentioned above, House B has yielded an almost complete pithos decorated with trickles of brown paint and a relief rope band, which could belong to either the lower (EM III) or (more likely) the upper (MM IA) floor deposit (Pendlebury and Pendlebury 1930, 66, fig. 6; Momigliano 1991, 234, no. 84). A similar type of relief decoration, combined with an uneven dark coating, occurs on fragments from the RRS Fill deposit, here illustrated in FIG. 3.17. (For polychrome pithoi, see above and FIG. 3.15: 8.)

Relative chronology of House C / RRS Fill Group (MM IA)

Synchronisms with other Cretan sites

Possible synchronisms with other regions of Crete are summarised in TABLE 3.2. Starting in western Crete,

there is little so far that has been published in sufficient detail to provide secure correlations, although preliminary reports suggest that sites such as Khania and Chamalevri have yielded contemporary deposits (Pariente 1990, 835, fig. 219; Touchais *et al.* 1996, 1339; Touchais *et al.* 1998, 966; Andreadaki-Vlasaki 1996b; Godart and Tzedakis 1992, 29). MM IA material is also reported from the Platyvola Cave (Godart and Tzedakis 1992, 50) and Psathi (Mitilinaeou 1998), but the MM IA dating of the latter site is not very convincing.

Concerning synchronisms with the Mesara, the House C / RRS Fill group shows stylistic affinities with some of the materials discovered beneath the floors of the first palace at Phaistos and with the substantial deposit excavated at the nearby site of Patrikies (Pernier 1935, 115–55, and esp. pls. XIII–XIV; Levi 1958, 167ff., figs. 349–58; Levi 1976, 288ff., figs. 450–4, 747–56; Fiandra 1962, pls. IΘ₂ and K₂; Bonacasa 1968). Moreover, a teapot of Patrikies type found in Hood's RRS Fill deposit provides a clear cross-link (Bonacasa 1968, 15; Warren 1980, 491). The full publication of some MM IA deposits from the new excavations at Ayia Triada (Carinci 1999, 115 with n. 2, 119, 121, 124, fig. 4; Di Vita 1996–7, 481–4, figs. 13, 16, 18–19; Touchais *et al.* 1998, 964–5; Blackman 2000, 127) and Phaistos (Di Vita 1994–5, 344: test beneath room CIX; Di Vita 1992–3, 423: tests near the Piazzale Ovest; see also La Rosa 2002; Todaro 2005, esp. 42–3) are likely to provide further cross-links and stylistic parallels with the Knossian sequence.

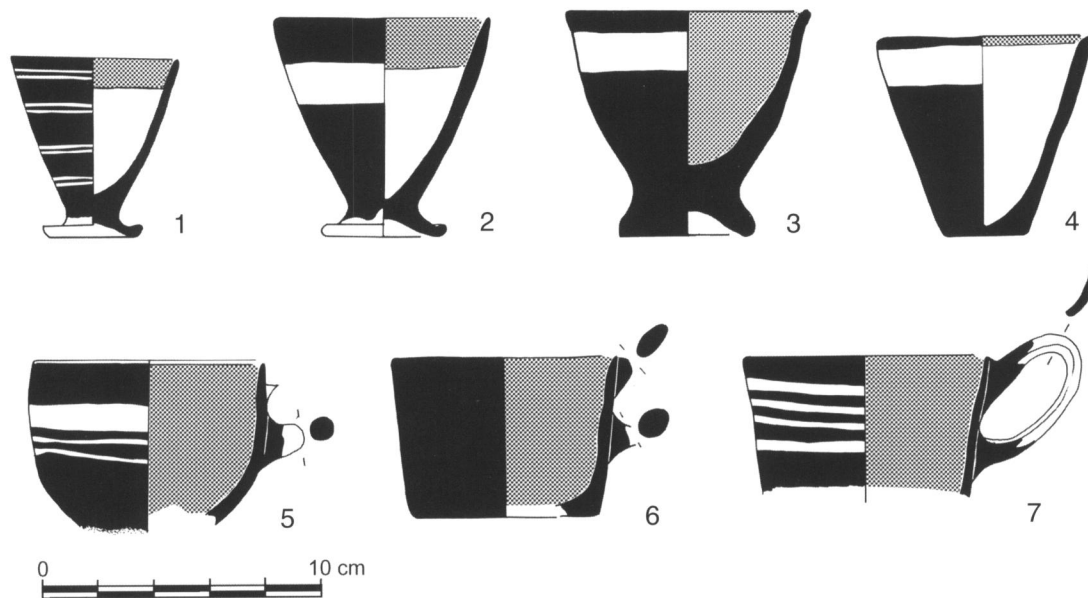


Fig. 3.14. House C/RRS Fill Group (MM IA): Light-on-Dark Ware (all from RRS Fill deposit, except for no. 1, from House C, after Momigliano 1991, fig. 8: 21).

Vessels in the Pediada reddish fabric continue to reach Knossos in MM IA (Momigliano 1991, 185–94: House C no. 13; examples from House B could be either EM III or MM IA: Momigliano 1991, 221–5, pls. 50: 56–7, 53: 76–8), and MM IA deposits have been reported from Galatas Pediados (Rethemiotakis 1994, 703).

Two almost identical tumblers found, respectively, in House B at Knossos and in the South Houses at Mallia show links between the two sites, even if the lack of precise information on the Knossian context and the late context at Mallia diminish the value of these finds for the establishment of precise chronological correlations (Momigliano 1991, pl. 45: 23; see Chapouthier *et al.* 1962, pl. XXXVIII: 9132). It is hoped that the publication of more recently excavated MM IA deposits from Mallia and other sites in this region will help to clarify synchronisms between the two regions (Farnoux 1989*a*, 1990*b*; Pelon 1989; Pariente 1994, 814).

For synchronisms between Knossos and eastern Crete, deposits likely to be at least in part contemporary with Knossian MM IA are the North Trench Group (Andreou 1978, 69, and esp. 125, 172; Watrous 2001, 181–2; Betancourt 1984, 9 ff., with further references), Pyrgos II a–b (Cadogan 1978, 71; Andreou 1978, 75–7) and some of the other deposits assigned by Andreou to his Mochlos House D–Vasiliki House B and Mallia South Houses Groups (1978, 70–81, 120–33). These correlations, however, are not very close and precise, for Andreou's North Trench Group may also partly overlap with the Knossian Upper East Well Group (see above), while his Mochlos House D–Vasiliki House B and South Houses Groups span a rather long

period, with some deposits being clearly as late as Knossian MM IB (Andreou 1978, 132–3; see also Chapter 4, p. 122). (For other possible east Cretan MM IA deposits see also Watrous 2001, 181–4; Knappett 2007).

Synchronisms with other regions of the Aegean

Knossian MM IA appears to coincide (at least in part) with MH I, as shown by finds from various mainland sites and also from Aigina (Rutter and Zerner 1984). Among the Minoan and minoanising wares from MH I Lerna (transitional IV / V and Va), there are several polychrome sherds and forms unattested in the Upper East Well Group, but closely comparable with the House C / RRS Fill Group (e.g. Zerner 1978, 60, D 596/10 (polychrome jar); 68, D 597/7 (carinated cup with barbotine decoration); 88, D 598/4 (polychrome cup); 91, D 589/17 (jar with polychrome barbotine decoration); 97, D 590/3 (barbotine cup); 101, BD 410/7 (polychrome bowl)). Cups from Knossos, which could come from an MM IA context (House B, Momigliano 1991, 228–9, pls. 46: 34, 52: 70) closely match a cup found in a MH I context in Athens (Knigge *et al.* 1978, 64–5, no. 1, figs. 36–7; Rutter and Zerner 1984, appendix II.B: 3). Moreover, an MH I import was discovered in the RRS Fill deposit (see Hood 1971*b* where it is dated to EH III; see also Andreou 1978, 30; Zerner 1978, 178, 197; Rutter and Zerner 1984, 81 for MH I date). Among the Minoan pottery from Aigina, there are a few sherds that could go back to MM IA (Kilian-Dirlmeier 1997, pl. 14: 113–14; Hiller 1993, 197; Gauss and Smetana 2007).

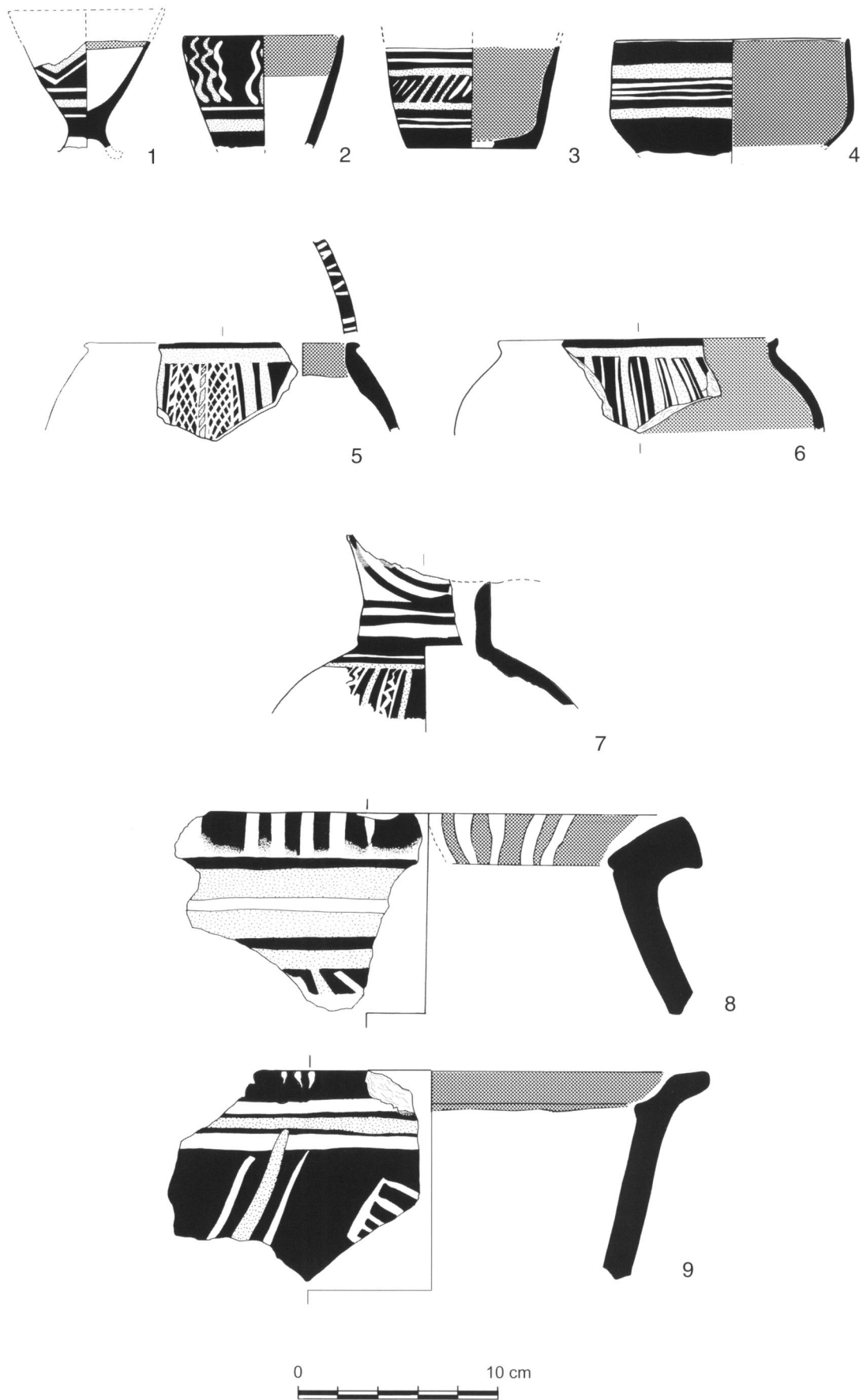


Fig. 3.15. House C/RRS Fill Group (MM IA): Polychrome Ware (all from RRS Fill deposit).

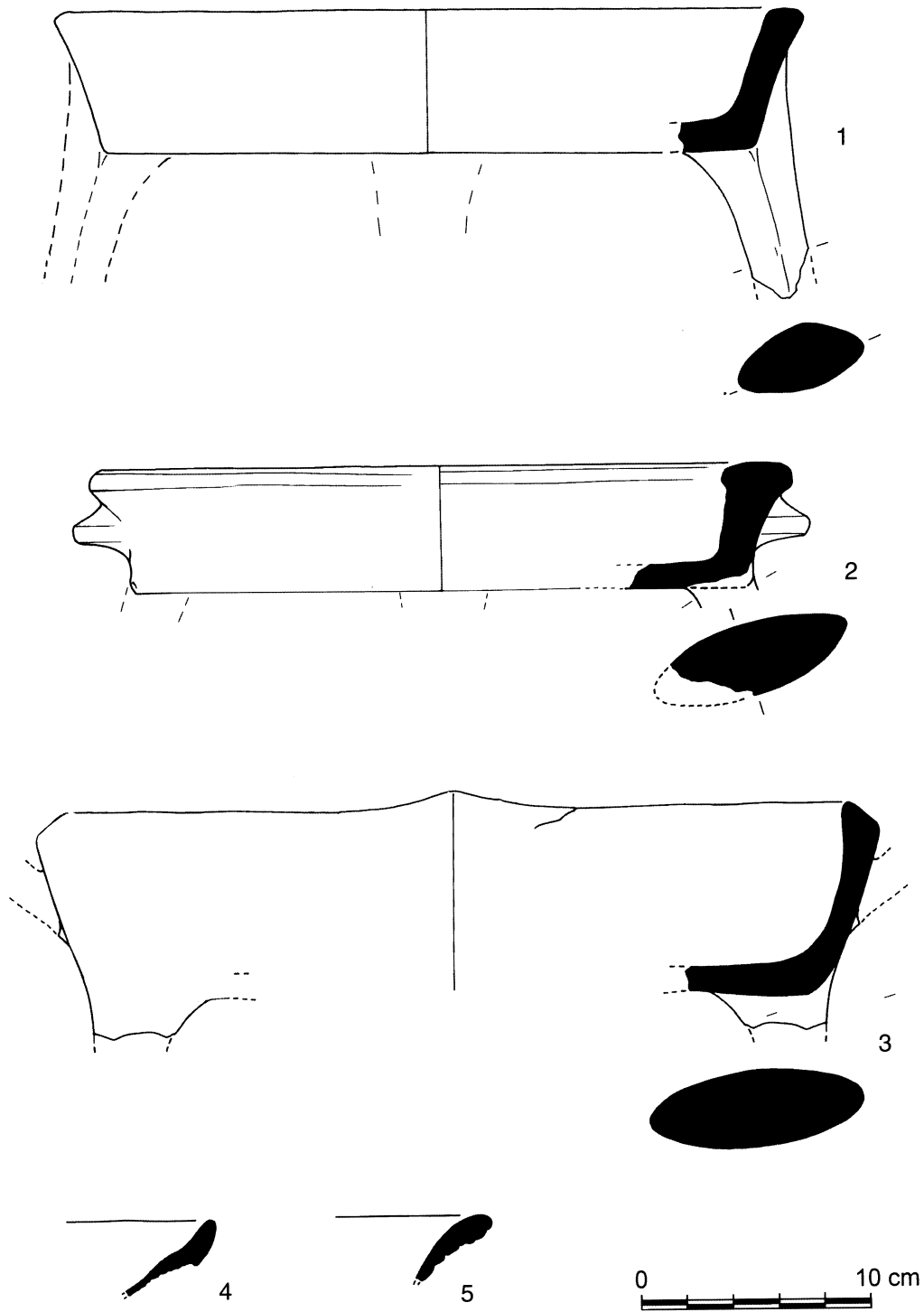


Fig. 3.16. House C/RRS Fill Group (MM IA): Cooking Ware (all from RRS Fill deposit).

On Kythera, Kastri deposit γ , which also included an imported MH matt painted vase (Coldstream and Huxley 1972, 94), contains sherds that may be contemporary with Knossian MM IA as well as later pottery.

Until very recently, the relative abundance of links with the Greek mainland contrasted with the almost

empty picture vis-à-vis the Cyclades. There have been several claims that imported Cretan sherds at Phylakopi on Melos date as early as MM IA, starting with Renfrew's seminal work on the Cyclades (1972, 198). Cadogan (1983, 509) also observed that 'East Cretan EM III and Central Cretan MM IA wares also occur at Phylakopi on Melos', and Rutter (1983, 73 with n. 25)

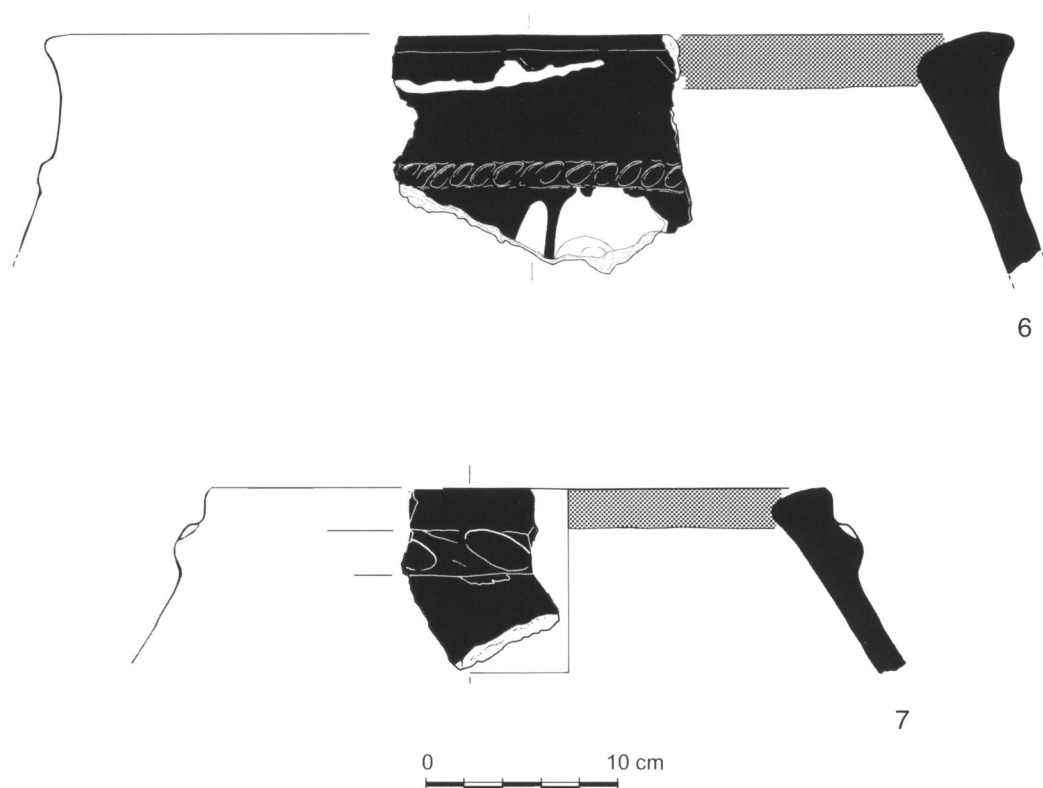


Fig. 3.17. House C/RRS Fill Group (MM IA): pithoi (all from RRS Fill deposit).

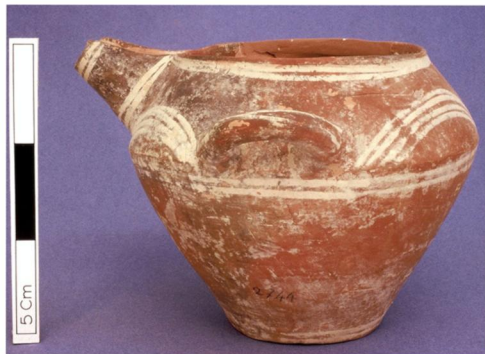
mentioned the existence of a single MM IA sherd from an unknown context from the old excavations at Phylakopi, now in the Ashmolean Museum. More recent re-examinations of the Phylakopi material, however, cast some doubts on this early date (Momigliano 1989, 238–9; Sherratt 2000, 242–5; Papagiannopoulou 1991, 83–6, 116–17). Nevertheless, local imitations of Cycladic-type Dark-faced Incised Ware have been found in relatively secure Knossian MM IA contexts, such as Hood’s fill deposit (no. 6 above: discussed in MacGillivray *et al.* 1988a, 91–3). Most importantly, recent excavations by Dumas at Akrotiri on Thera have yielded a few MM IA imports from Knossos in a Phylakopi I (Late) context, probably Phylakopi I.3 (study and petrographic analyses in progress: C. Dumas and I. Nikolakopoulou, pers. comm.; photographs seen by the author; see also Knappett and Nikolakopoulou 2005; Nikolakopoulou *et al.*, forthcoming).

Contacts with the east Mediterranean

It seems also likely that first contacts with Cyprus were established in this phase, as suggested by the discovery of a probably Knossian (late EM III?, MM IA?) bridge-spouted jar in Light on Dark Ware found in Lapithos Tomb 806A, in a context dated to either Early Cypriot III or Middle Cypriot I (Grace 1940; Merrillees 1979; Åström 1979; Catling and MacGillivray 1983, 3), and by the discovery of an Early Cypriot III / Middle Cypriot I Red Polished amphora in a mixed context in the Monolithic Pillar Basement at Knossos (deposit no. 4 above).

The Minoan vessel from Qubbet al-Hawa (Kemp and Merrillees 1980, 215–19), which has been dated by some scholars to MM IA (Warren and Hankey 1989, 130), is clearly an east Cretan product probably contemporary with Knossian MM IB (MacGillivray 1998, 103; see also this volume, p. 122).





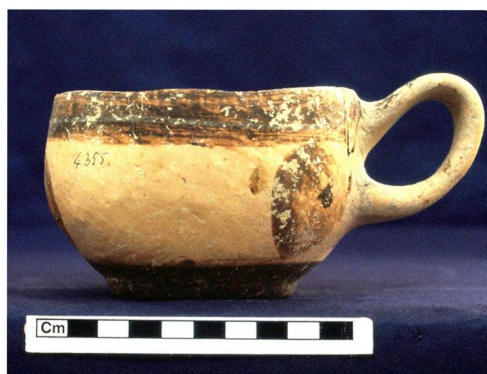


















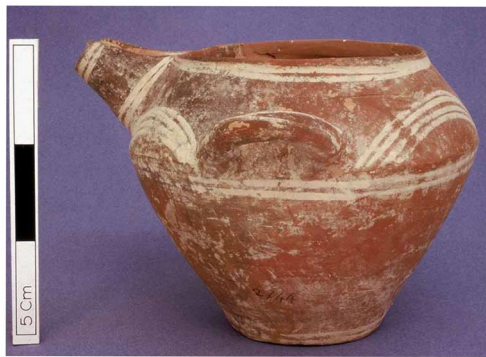






FIG. 122. M. M. I VASES FROM FLOOR OF HOUSE UNDER LATER WEST COURT, KNOSSOS.



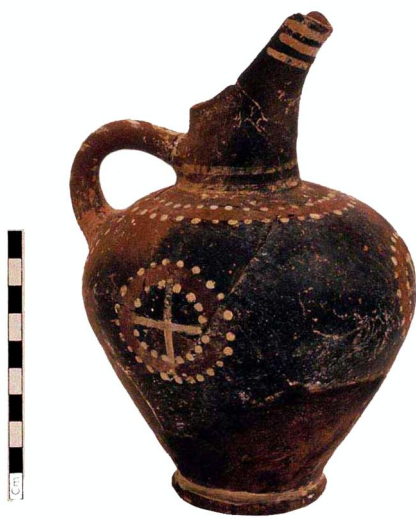














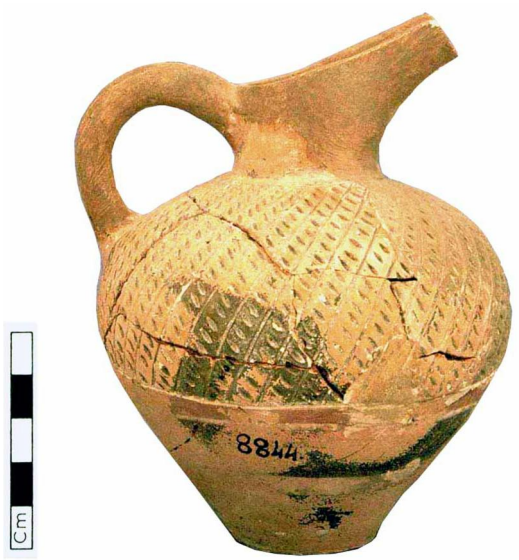
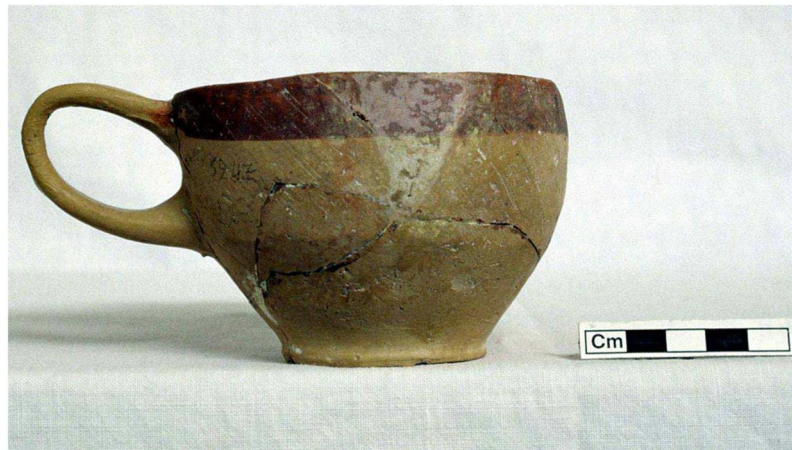




FIG. 122. M. M. I VASES FROM FLOOR OF HOUSE UNDER LATER WEST COURT, KNOSSOS.

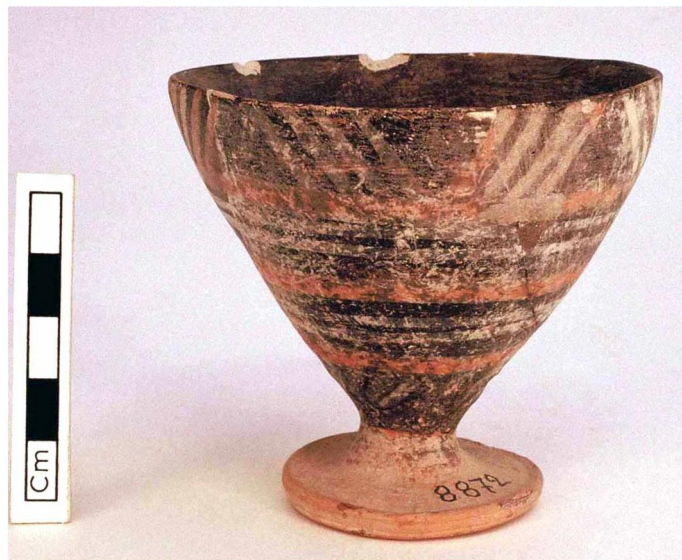




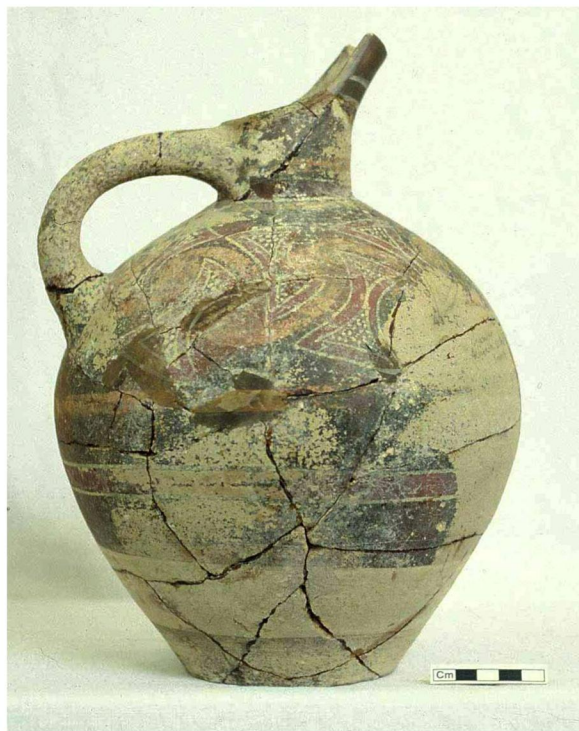














After Momigliano and Wilson 1996; top: footed goblets P96, P98, P97, P99; bottom left and right: two-handled bowls P78, P100; bottom middle: footed goblet base.

2.32. EM IIB. Red/Black Slipped Ware (including Light on Dark) spouted jars.

After Momigliano and Wilson 1996; left: P109; top right P111; bottom middle: P82; bottom right: P112.

2.33. EM IIB. Red/Black Slipped Ware (including Light on Dark) two-handled bowls.

After Momigliano and Wilson 1996; left: P78; right: P101.

2.34. EM IIB. Red/Black Slipped Ware (including Light on Dark) spouted jars.

After Momigliano and Wilson 1996; top: P110; middle: P106; bottom: P105.

2.35. EM IIB. Cooking Pot Ware.

After Momigliano and Wilson 1996; top: tripod cooking pots P144, P146; middle: tripod cooking pots P149, P148; bottom: baking plates P152, P151.

2.36. EM IIB. Black Slipped and Vasilike Ware

After Momigliano and Wilson 1996; top: deep bowl P103; bottom left and right: jug/jar P122, basin P167.

2.37. EM IIB. Vasilike Ware.

After Momigliano and Wilson 1996; top left: bowl P120; top right: one-handled cup P118; bottom left: bowl P121; bottom right jug/jar P122.

2.38. EM IIB. Vasilike Ware.

After Momigliano and Wilson 1996; top: one-handled cups P117-9; bottom: bowls P121, P120.

2.39. EM IIB. Light on Dark Red Coarse Ware.

After Momigliano and Wilson 1996; left: side-spouted jar P132; right: deep bowl/open jar P135.

CHAPTER 3 (N. Momigliano)

3.1. EM III early. Dark on Light, Light on Dark footed and footless goblets, cups, and nipped jug sherds. After Momigliano and Wilson 1996, fig. 29: 170-5, and pl. 8: 171, 172, 186, 185.

3.2. EM III late. Upper East Well deposit, selected vessels. After Mackenzie 1903, fig. 1 and Momigliano 1991 pl. 18.

3.3. EM III late. Room of the Jars 'Pit Repository' deposit, selected vessels. Cf. Momigliano 2000a.

3.4. EM III late. North Quarter of the city deposit, selected goblets and cup. Cf. Momigliano 1991.

- 3.5. EM III late. Dark on Light Ware shallow bowl rim fragments. After Momigliano 1991, fig. 2: 22-3, fig. 3: 25.
- 3.6. EM III late. Dark on Light Ware one-handled cup. After Momigliano 1991, pl. 28: 8.
- 3.7. EM III late. Dark on Light Ware jug and Monochrome Ware cup. After Momigliano 2000a, fig. 6: 35 and 8.
- 3.8. EM III late. Dark on Light and Light on Dark Ware spouted jug sherds. After Momigliano 1991, pl. 21 bottom.
- 3.9A and 3.9B. EM III late. Dark on Light Ware spouted jug. After Momigliano 1991, pl. 43: 12
- 3.10. EM III late. Dark on Light Ware two-handled necked jar. After Momigliano 2000a, pl. 20: 55 and fig. 13.
- 3.11. EM III late. Light on Dark Ware footed and footless goblets. After Momigliano 1991 fig. 21: 18, 11, 1, and 2, pl. 19: 1-2, pl. 20: 18.
- 3.12. EM III-MM IA. Light on Dark Ware footed goblets and Dark on Light Ware footless goblet/tumbler. After Momigliano 1991, pl. 44: 1, 2; pl. 45: 17; pl. 51: 66.
- 3.13. EM III late. Light on Dark Ware jug. After Momigliano 1991, plate 20: 28.
- 3.14. EM III late. Light on Dark Ware jugs. After Momigliano 1991, pl. 29: 11-12.
- 3.15. EM III late. Light on Dark Ware spouted jar. After Momigliano 1991, pl. 29: 15.
- 3.16. EM III late (or MM IA). Light on Dark Ware spouted jar. After Momigliano 1991, pl. 49: 51.
- 3.17. EM III late. Barbotine Ware footed goblets. After Momigliano 1991, pl. 18: 8-9.
- 3.18. EM III late. Barbotine Ware spouted jar. After Momigliano 1991, pl. 29: 16.
- 3.19. EM III late. Jug with relief decoration, Mesara import. After Momigliano 1991, pl. 21: 41.
- 3.20. EM III late. Polychrome jug, Mesara import(?). After Momigliano 1991, p. 47: 42.
- 3.21. EM III late. Polychrome vat, Mesara import (?). After Momigliano 1991, pl. 40: 19.
- 3.22. EM III late. Polychrome jug with incised decoration, Mesara import (?). After Momigliano 1991, pl. 47: 38.

- 3.23. MM IA. House C deposit, selected vessels. After Evans 1921, fig. 122.
- 3.24. MM IA. Dark on Light Ware, footed goblets sherds. After Momigliano 2000a, fig. 16: b and c.
- 3.25. MM IA. Dark on Light Ware one-handled cup. After Momigliano 1991, pl. 33: 4.
- 3.26. MM IA. Dark on Light Ware jug. After Momigliano 1991, pl. 34: 9.
- 3.27. MM IA. Light on Dark footed goblet. After Momigliano 1991, pl. 33: 2.
- 3.28. MM IA. Polychrome Ware cup, footed goblet and spouted jar sherds. Cf. Momigliano 2000a, fig. 15.
- 3.29. MM IA. Polychrome Ware footed goblet. After Momigliano 1991, pl. 54: 12.
- 3.30. MM IA. Polychrome Ware spouted jar. After Momigliano 1991, plate 34: 11.
- 3.31. MM IA. Polychrome Ware jug. After Momigliano 1991, pl. 34: 10.
- 3.32. MM IA. Barbotine Ware sherds from various forms. From the Royal Road South Fill deposit.

CHAPTER 4. (Photos by N. Momigliano)

- 4.1. MM IB. Early Chamber Beneath the West Court deposit, selected vessels.
- 4.2. MM IB. Early Chamber Beneath the West Court deposit, selected vessels.
- 4.3. MM IB-IIA. Pared Ware rounded goblet type 1. MacGillivray 1998, pl. 33: 15.
- 4.4. MM IB-IIA. Pared Ware rounded goblet (type 1), Light on Dark Ware (White Banded Style) rounded goblet (type 2), and tumbler in reddish fabric. Momigliano 2000a, pl. 23: 65, pl. 25: 75, pl. 26: 80.
- 4.5. MM IB-IIA. Light on Dark Ware (White Banded Style) rounded goblet (type 2). MacGillivray 1998, pl. 4: 110, pl. 33: 110.
- 4.6. MM IB-IIA. Monochrome Ware rounded cup (type 1a), Pared Ware straight-sided cup (type 1), Light on Dark (White Banded Style) straight-sided cup (type 2). Momigliano 2000a, pl. 23: 66, pl. 22: 60, pl. 24: 72 (= MacGillivray 1998, pl. 123: 790).
- 4.7. MM IB-IIA. Polychrome Ware (Early Printed Ware) goblet (type 3). Momigliano 1991, pl. 22: 4 (= MacGillivray 1998, pl. 29: 976).