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URUK POTTERY FROM THE DOKAN AND SHAHRAZUR DISTRICTS

And
The Distribution of Ninevite V Pottery
As Revealed By Field Survey Work In Iraq

By
AL-
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1. Occurrences in the Dokan Area

The fertile plain in the locality of Raniya in Sulaimaniya is called Dashi-Bitwain. It has an area of some 230 square kilometres and is almost triangular in shape, its apex pointing south towards the site of the Dokan Dam on the Lesser Zab. The plain is dotted with more than forty tells of varying sizes¹

(1) Sayid Mohammad Ali Mustafa and the writer were in charge of an archaeological survey on behalf of the Directorate General of Antiquities during september 1955. The result was the mapping of some forty mounds together with a thorough examination of their surface materials. Among these materials pottery of the following phases was recognized: Hassuna, Samarra, Halaf, Ubaid, Uruk, Ninevite V, Akkadian, Hurrian, Assyrian and Islamic. These sherds were always mingled with a certain type of ware which was almost always red or reddish-brown in colour, thick and crudely made. This we have thought it best to call "Local Ware".

which are situated on either side of the river Zab and its lesser tributaries. Now, following the completion of the Dam, the plain together with the majority of these tells is beneath the waters of the huge artificial lake, but before this lake came into being the Iraqi Directorate General of Antiquities succeeded not only in conducting an extensive survey of the area, but also in carrying out a large number of excavations throughout the area, thus salvaging much valuable architectural and material evidence.

At the end of four extended seasons of work which began in the summer of 1956 and continued annually until 1959 five large sites had been thoroughly excavated and several others tested by short soundings. Among these sites which were explored Qarashina, Basmusian, Shemshara, Kamarian and ed-Dem Yielded pottery typical of the Uruk period, most particularly the Red, Grey and Plain Wares. However, it was a noticeable fact that everywhere in the Dokan (especially at Qarashina) the

"sealing-wax" red slipped variety predominated. The writer had in particular observed and examined considerable quantities of sherds of this Red Ware in the sherd-yards of Qarashina and Hamarian during the Summer of 1956².

Qarashina

Qarashina is a large mound situated on the west bank of the Zab some 15 km. to the south of Raniya. The site is now entirely submerged. Qarashina III-VI (in order of descent) produced both Red and plain Uruk wares, the former being by far the most popular at the site-even as early as level VI. Qarashina V showed a few complete globular cooking pots (cf. Pl. II, IM. 60424 and IM. 60425) in addition to masses of fragments.

The Red Slipped Uruk ware continued through-out the overlying strata (IV-III) though only as sherds, many of which belonged to jars with bulging bellies and rather high necks (see pl. II, IM. 60410). The fabric of these is reddish-brown and unslipped externally (Qarashina VI). of the plain Uruk Ware there are double-mouthed globular jars (see Type 25, Pl. I & Pl. II, IM. 60409) in Qarashina VI. Spouted jars of various shapes occurred in all the Uruk Levels (VI-III). Such vessels are usually plain and of a buff colouration. Squat jars with a shoulder spouts (see Type 15 b, Pl. I) but with more curved profiles and flaring necks (see pl. II, IM. 60412 in Level III; IM. 60402 in Level V and Q. sh. 72 in Level V) were also found. Little jars with long tubular shoulder spouts pointing diagonally upward (see Type 15 a, pl. I) and short flaring necks

(2) The fragments belong chiefly to large, globular jars of Type 12, see pl. I, cf. also pl. II, IM. 60425 and IM. 60424. The writer was at the time in charge of the excavations at Basmusion (First-season).

occurred at Qarashina VI (see pl. II, IM. 60405). A little bowl with double spouts situated near the base was found in Level VI (see pl. II, IM. 60404). A tall slender jar (see Type 14, pl. I) with a high shoulder and lightly curved profile occurred at Level III (see pl. II, IM. 60399). The usual crude votive bowls with bevelled rim (see Type 8, pl. I) were in evidence as early as Qarashina V, continuing to Level III (pl. II, IM. 60400 from Level III and Q. sh. 75 from Level V) where it was observable in considerable numbers - mostly from sherds. Similarly common was an open bowl (see type 7b, pl. I) with a folded rim (see pl. II, IM. 60422 from Level V).

Basmusian

Basmusian is the largest and the highest mound in the Dasht-i-Batwain (23 m.) and is situated near the west bank of the Lesser Zab, some 12 km. to the south of Raniya. Levels VII-III (in order of descent) belong to the Uruk Period proper. A quantity of whole vessels of Red, Grey and plain wares, together with a large collection of sherds of these wares was recovered from these levels. A shallow carinated bowl (see pls. III-IV, IM. 61001) occurred uniquely in a dark grey (almost black) slipped ware. It was highly burnished and came from Level VII. A fine example of the Red slipped ware at Basmusian is a rather bulging jar with a wide mouth and flaring rim. It has two knobs like handles on either side of the belly. It also is burnished and comes from Level VII (see pls. III-IV, IM. 60990). From Levels VI-VIII at Basmusian came little spouted jars (see Type 15 a, pl. I PL. III, IM. 61038 from Level VIII and IM. 66139 from Level VII), while from Level VII came several fragments of votive bowls with bevelled rims.

Shemshara

Shemshara is a cone-shaped mound on the west bank of the Lower Zab, a little south of Darbandi-i-Ramkan, Raniya was visible some four kilometres to the north-west. Not much information could be obtained from the published account of the Danish Expedition³, nor from the Field Note-books of the Iraqi Expedition⁴ relating to the subject of this article. Al-Tikriti did mention, however, that a few Jamdat Nasr sherds were found at the adjacent mound of Brusti mingled with E.D.I pottery. No note was made as to whether these sherds were painted or plain. In the Store-rooms of the Iraq Museum the writer was able to discern a number of orange-slipped sherds among the Shemshara material. A description and sections of these sherds is given below and on plate V. The writer is inclined to the opinion that these sherds are the ones described as "Jamdat Nasr".

Numbers	Description & Location
1	Red Orange slip burnished Levels III-IV.
2	Red brown slip burnished Levels II-III.
3	Red-Orange slip burnished Level IX.
4	Buff-reddish clay no slip Level VIII-IX probably belong to handled cups.
5	Red-Orange slip burnished Level IV.

(3) The Danish Expedition to Shemshara carried out a single season's work during the summer of 1957, cf. *SUMER* Vol. XIII and *The Shemshara Tablets* (1959).

(4) The Iraqi Directorate General of Antiquities continued the work of the Danish Expedition in 1958 and 1959. Sayid A.Q. Al-Tikriti was in charge.

- 6 Dark grey slip burnished Level III.
- 7 Red-slipped burnished-Level IV.
- 8 Red-Orange slip not burnished Level IV.
- 9 Red-Orange slip burnished Level IV.
- 10 Red-Orange slip Levels III-IV.
- 11 Red-slipped burnished Levels III-IV.
- 12 Brown clay, with a band of alternating triangular incised patterns Level III.
- 13 Red-Orange slip Level IV.
- 14 Red-Orange slip Level IV.
- 15 Red-Orange slip Levels III-IV.
- 16 Red-Orange slip Level III-IV.
- 17 Red-Orange burnished Level IX.
- 18 Red-slipped, burnished Level IX.
- 19 Dark red slip burnished Level IV-V.
- 20 Dark red slip burnished Level IV-V.
- 21 Dark red slip burnished Level IV-V.

Kamarian

Kamarian is a comparatively small mound situated immediately on the eastern bank of the river Zab. An abundance of plain Uruk potsherds together with several complete vessels was found in the lower levels at this site. The upper strata, however, yielded in addition to pottery of the Akkadian and Isin-Larsa Periods an admixture of red, grey and plain Uruk sherds, plus even earlier wares (Hassuna, Samarra and Ubaid). This phenomenon was attributable to the disturbance of these upper levels by deep circular grain pits which had been sunk from the surface of the mound. As a result, the majority of the sherds from Kamarian II (in order of descent) were either of the Akkadian or Isin-Larsa per-

iods or of the Uruk Grey and Red wares. The Uruk red ware of Kamarian II is generally burnished. Some sherds of crude plain Uruk ware were also in evidence. Level III at Kamarian again exhibits a mixture of red, Grey and Black Uruk wares, together with Hassuna, Samarra and Ubaid—all in the form of sherds. Although a mixture of potsherds from the above-mentioned periods was also disclosed in Kamarian IV, a large group of early Uruk fragments were found in situ. A few examples of incised Ninevite V were also encountered in Level IV. Level V was less disturbed and showed a number of Uruk vessels of different wares, eg.—an open bowl (see pl. III, IM. 60086) in plain buff ware, which was found on an actual floor. From Kamarian VI came another spherical bowl (see pl. III, IM. 60091, and pl. I, Type 1 b.) with an everted rim. Level VII, however, yielded more bowls of the same kind, together with spouted and ordinary jars, all in a plain buff ware. Indeed, postsherds of the plain and Red Uruk wares were even more common than before. Among the complete vessels found in Level VII were a rather deep open bowl (pl. III, IM. 60090) with a rounded base and a small flaring rim (see Type 3 a, pl. I); a spherical bowl with an inverted rim (see pl. III, IM. 60088) & also Type 1 b, pl. I); a small squat jars (see pl. III, IM. 60110 and IM. 66103) with somewhat rounded bodies and short flaring rims (see Type 13, pl. I) a globular spouted Jar with a short flaring neck (see pl. III, IM. 60124); a small squat jar with a long tubular spout (see pl. III, IM. 60125, also see Type 15 a pl. I). From Kamarian IX came a small squat spouted jar with a sharply carinated, Kettle'-like body (see pl. III, IM. 60155, also cf. Type 15 b, I). The votive bowls with bevelled rim (cf. Type 8, pl. I) occurred deep at Levels IX-X (cf. plate III, IM. 60118 and IM. 60119).

Tell ed-Dem

Tell ed-Dem lies not far to the east of Kamarian in the eastern part of the Dashi-iBitwain. Uruk pottery, mainly in the form of sherds, occurred at Levels VI-IX⁵ (in order of descent). Potsherds of both Grey and Red Uruk wares found in Level VI, all being burnished and the recovery of two complete vessels is mentioned. Again ed-Dem VII showed only fragments of Red and Grey wares. At Level VIII, however, these two wares accompanied by the plain ware and showed an admixture of Ubaid sherds. Some fragments of plain Uruk ware at Level VIII bear an incised combed decoration⁶. At ed-Dem IX sherds of all three wares were present, but in a minority compared with those of Ubaid.

II. Occurrences in the Shahrzur Area

The Shahrzur plain is the second fertile area in Sulaimaniya Liwa, and this too was submerged when the Dam was constructed at Darband-i-Khan on the River Diyala, near Halabja. Here again several ancient mounds were threatened and the Iraqi Directorate General of Antiquities undertook the urgent task of investigating these. This work was carried on during the summers of 1960-61. Of the excavated tells the writer was able to identify Uruk wares at Tell Bakr-i-Awa and Dwanza Imam only.

Bakr-i-Awa

All that the writer could trace of Uruk pottery at Bakr-i-Awa was four bowls of buff plain ware (see pl. III, SZ 61/3: IM. 62448; IM. 62470 and IM. 62422) which came from the second, 1961 season. The votive bowls with

(5) A.Q. al-Tikriti: SUMER Vol. XVI (1960) (Arabic Section) p. 104, pl. 7 Nos. 21-22, 24 and pl. 5, Nos. 13 & 19.

(6) Ibid. pl. 7, Nos. 35, 38 and 40

bevelled rim (cf. Type 8, pl. I) occurred at both Level II and IV (Level IV, four complete specimens; Level II, one complete specimen). An open bowl with slightly concave sides and a rounded bottom occurred at Level V (see plate III, IM. 62470, cf. Type 3 a, pl. I). From Level II came a small deep bowl with concave sides and a low carination (see IM. 62422, pl. III, cf. Type 2 b, pl. I).

Dawanza Imam ...

Levels IV-V (in order of descent) belong to the Uruk period⁷. Fragments of the sealing-wax red-slipped ware occurred at both levels.

The votive bowl with bevelled rim is rather popular and some whole specimens were found. The shape also occurs at Levels IV-V (complete examples came from Level V only). Handled cups (cf. Type 16, pl. I) with rounded bottoms occurred at the two levels also, mainly in the form of sherds. Jars with globular bodies and tubular spouts at the shoulder (of Warka XIII, cf. *UVB* IV (1932), pl. 17 Dg.) occurred at Level V. A variety of spouted fragments, both rim spouts (cf. Type 17, pl. I) and shoulder spouts (cf. Type 18, pl. I) occurred in Levels IV-V. All have curved profiles.

Plate I

1. (a) Sumer vol V no. 1 pl. II 56.
(b) Tobler: gawra II. pl. CIII. 2.
2. (ab) AAAXX pl. LI. 13, II.
3. (a.b) Tobler Gawra II pl. CXLI. 336, 334

(7) Each of these two levels exhibits two distinct phases (IV A-B and V A-B). Information concerning the excavation of this site has been supplied by Sayid Najib Kisso, who was in charge.

4. Speiser: gawra I. pl. LXIII. 33.
5. (a.b.c.d.) Speiser: Gawra I. pl. LXIII. 35, 36, 31, 34.
6. (a.b) Speiser: Gawra I. pl. LXIII, 29, 32.
7. Tobler: Gawra II. (a) pl. CXLI. 328 (b) pl. CXLIV. 371 (c) pl. CXIV. 368.
8. AAAXIX. pl. LXI 26.
9. AAAXIX. pl. LXI 27.
10. Sumer IV. I. pl. II. 55, 54
11. AAAXX pl. LI. 12.
12. Tobler: Gawra II. pl. CXLVIII. 443
13. Tobler: Gawra II pl. CXLVII. 227.
14. AAAXX. pl. LI. 9.
15. (a) UVB. IV. pl. 17Dr. (b) UVB IV. pl. 19 Ch.
16. AAAXX. pl. LII. 6.
17. Sumer. IV. I. pl. 3 no. 8.
18. AAAXX pl. LII. 12.
19. AAAXX pl. LI. 7.
20. Speiser: Gawra I. pl. LXIII. 37.
21. Tobler: Gawra II. pl. CXLI. 342.
22. Tobler: Gawra II. pl. CXLI. (a) 340 (b) 341.
23. (a.b) Speiser: Gawra I. pl. LXII. 3, 16.
24. (a.b) IRAQ VII. I. pl. III. fig. 7. no. 6.
25. Tobler: Gawra II. pl. CXLIII. 356.
26. Speiser: Gawra I. pl. LXIII. 39.
27. Speiser: Gawra I. pl. LXIII 38.
28. Tobler: Gawra II. pl. CXLII. 346.
29. (a) Speiser: Gawra I. pl. LXXXV. 211. (b) Sumer IV. pl. 4 no. 43.
30. (a.b) Speiser: Gawra I. pl. LXII. 21, 25. (c) pl. LXV. 55.
31. AAAXX pl. LII. 10.

32. AAAXX pl. LII. 9.
33. AAAXX pl. LXI. 1.
34. AAAXX. pl. LXI. 20.
35. AAAXX pl. LII. 3.
36. IRAQ. III. fig. 15 no. 7.
37. AAAXX pl. LIV. 7.
38. (a.b) AAAXX pl. LIII. 4,8.
39. AAAXIX pl. LIV 5.
40. AAAXIX pl. LV. 8.
41. Speiser: Gawra I. pl. LXV. 59.
42. Speiser: Gawra I. pl. XV. 58.

III The list which is given here represents the names of no less than eighty-seven sites at which, in addition to other occurrences, the sherds of Ninevite V pottery have been discovered. Each one of these sites has been carefully and critically selected from the records of some 7,000 ancient mounds, which up until 1964 had been surveyed and examined by the Directorate General of Antiquities. It will be observed that in each case the District (Qadha or Nahiya) in which the site is situated has been given, together with the serial number in brackets of the relevant file in the Directorate's archives.

The majority of Ninevite V sites are located in Mosul Liwa (42 sites for Sinjar occurrences cf. IRAQ V 1938 pp 124 ff) their distribution being equally dense on either side of the Tigris. However, they show further extension as far to the west as the Khabur Valley (Brak and Chagir Bazar), and to the east as far as Arbil Liwa, where both painted and incised wares are in evidence (29 sites). In Kirkuk and Sulaimaniya Liwas Ninevite V sites are comparatively few, and in Diyala Liwa there is only one, near the Persian border, in the Qadha of Khanaqin.

Most of the sites given in our list exhibit wares which are both earlier and

later than those of Ninevite V, but it is evident that in almost every case Ninevite V, pottery is found together with Uruk wares. This surface association is borne out by such excavated sites as Nineveh, Tepe Gawra, Nuzi, the mounds of Dokan and Sharzur, Grai Resh, Brak and Chagir Bazar, where Ninevite V pottery was found immediately after the wares of the Uruk period.

The writer does not himself believe that Ninevite V chalices have an Iranian origin (Hissar II-III; cf. McCown, *S. A. O. C.* No. 23, p. 48 n. 88), the presence in Mesopotamia of the Grey Uruk ware and the Chalices of the Uruk period at eg. Tepe Gawra (Levels XI-IX. cf. Tepe Gawra II 1950 pl. CXLVI. 399-401) at Grai Resh (Levels II-IV. cf. IRAQ VII 2. 1940 pl. III fig. 7 no. 6) and at Warka (Level III cf. UVB. IV pl. zoBw) seeming to him to suggest a probable ancestor for the Grey Incised ware and the chalices of Ninevite V. Nevertheless, chalices from Sialk III 6-7 (Sialk, I pls. XVII, XX & XXII 2 & 5) should not be disregarded entirely. For the origins of painted Ninvite V ware one does not need to look far, since the elaborate monochrome decoration of pottery is well rooted in the Samarran tradition.

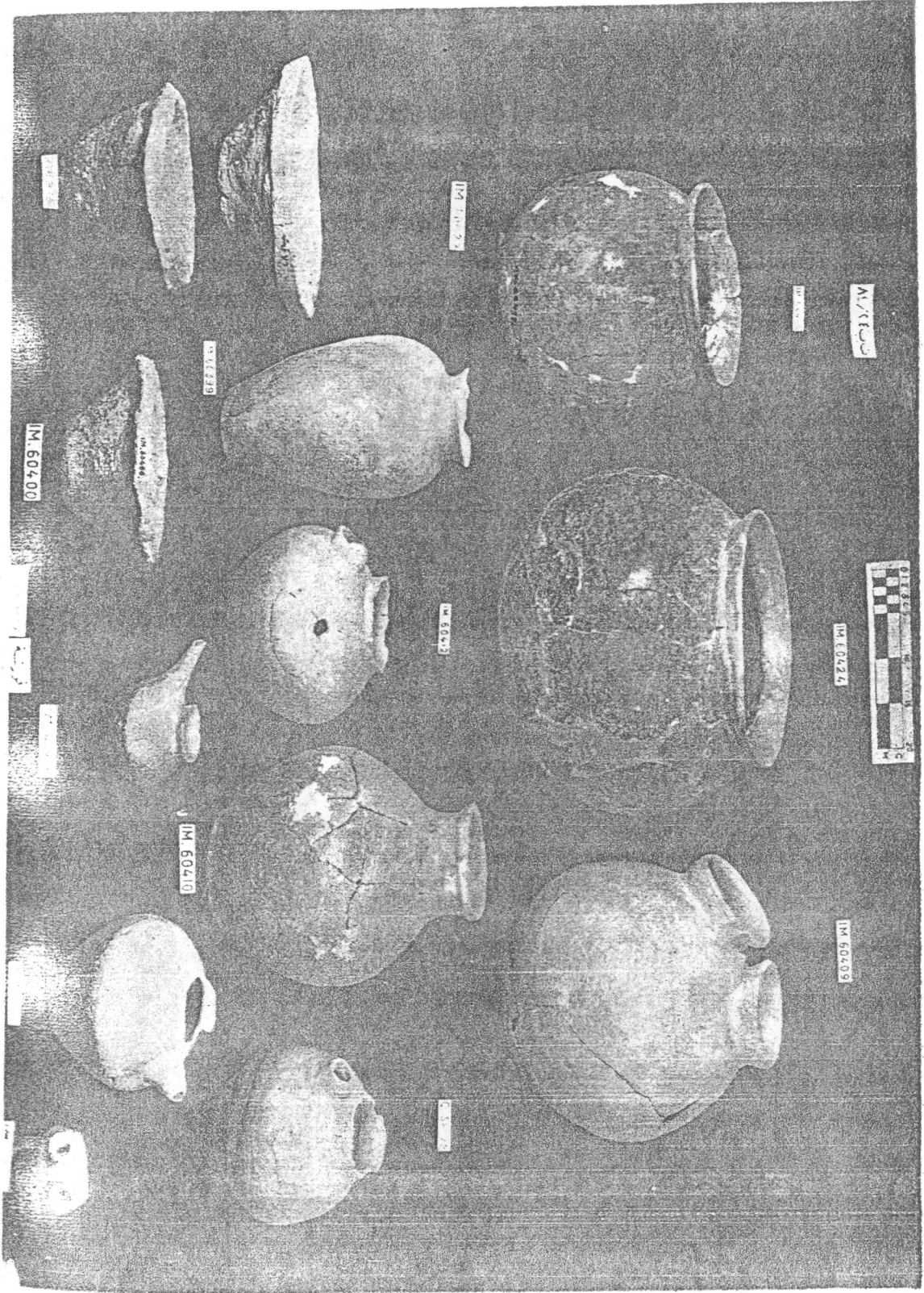
The comparatively large number of sites presented here should throw further light on the place of origin of Ninevite V pottery. At the present stage of our knowledge, however, it must suffice to say that Ninevite V wares would seem to be a north Mesopotamian development.

Mosul Liwa

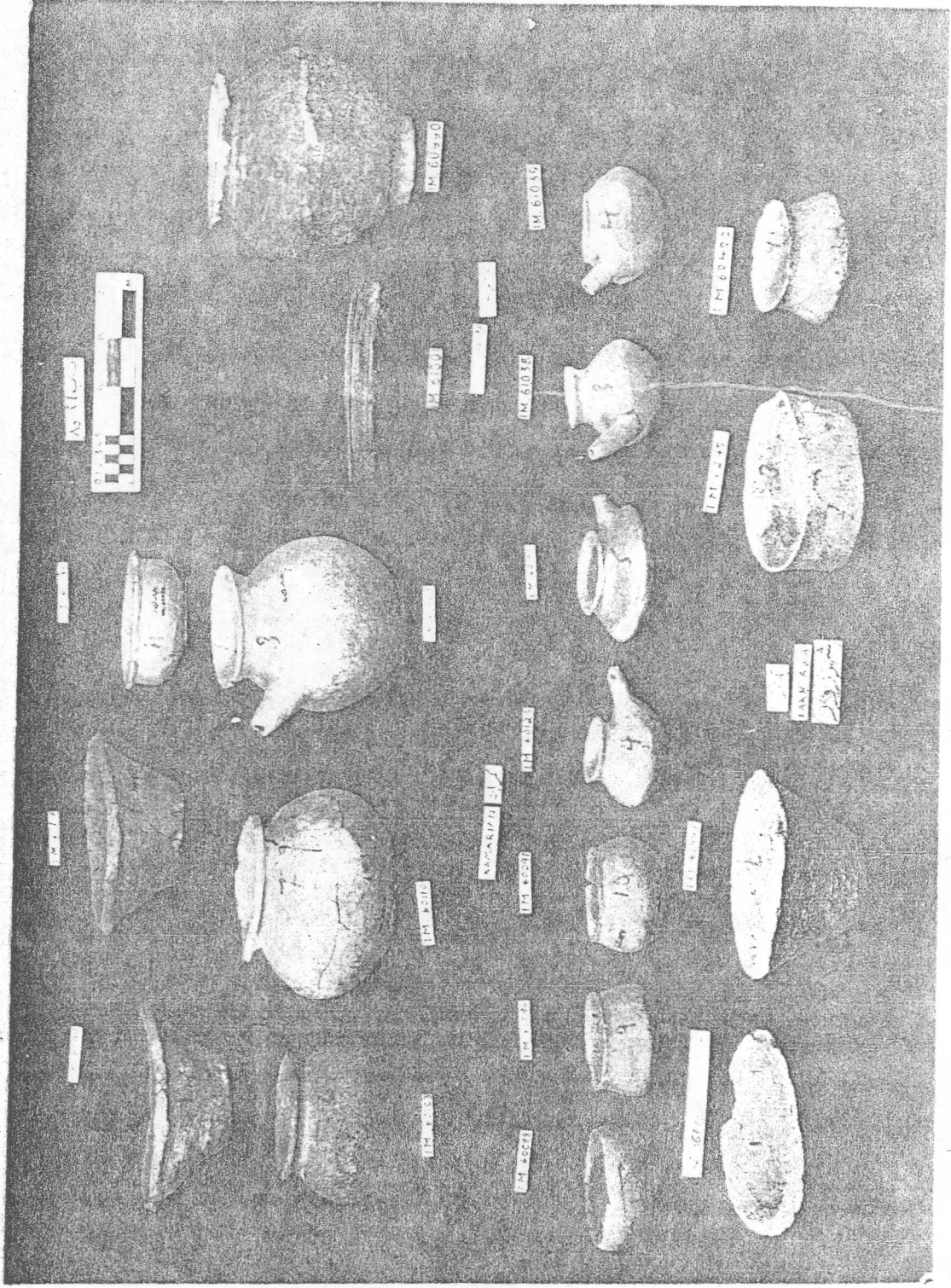
1. Khirbet el-imsêhli (587) Shirqat
2. Tell Ahmad Aghah Saghîr (845) Tell' Afar

3. Tell Ahmad Aghah Kabir (846) Tell'Afar
4. Khirbet ej-Jarahia (804) Shaikhan
5. Khirbet Jekân (810) Tell'Afar
6. Tell Fattûmah (958) Tell'Afar
7. Fahsi Jabash (960) Tell'Afar
8. Tell eth-Thiab (962) Tell'Afar
9. Tell 'Awad (1099) Tell'Afar
10. Khirbet Kasbar (1070) Tell'Afar
11. Tell es-Samair (1060) Tell'Afar
12. Tell Bier'Aklah (1055) Tell'Afar
13. Tell Qariat el-Buthah (1053) Tell'Afar
14. Khirbet Abdul-Hadi (1037) Tell'Afar
15. Kharaieb el-Qunssiyah (1135) Tell'Afar
16. Khirbet Balluziah (1116) Tell'Afar
17. Khirbet Lazakah (1122) Tell'Afar
18. Tell Dhahir (1126) Tell'Afar
19. Tell el-Salamî (1135) Tell'Afar
20. Tell Abu Manhûm (1153) Tell'Afar
21. Telul el-Imjereniyat (1155) Tell'Afar
22. Kharaieb el-Tweem (1156) Tell'Afar
23. Khirbet Abu Shekah (1169) Tell'Afar
24. Kharaieb and Telul el-Muhalabiya (1173) Tell'Afar
25. Tell Tiniya (177) Tell'Afar
26. Tell Abu Jada'an (1226) Tell'Afar
27. Kharaieb el-Howaitt (1258) Tell'Afar
28. Telul az-Zawia (192) Shurra
29. Tell Wâi (217) Shurra
30. Khirbet el-Jerah (233) Shurra
31. Khirbet ed-Dibshiya (1531) on the Tharthar
32. Tell el-Bach esh-Sharqi (1614) Shirqat
33. Tell Khudairah (1615) Shirqat
34. Tell Yarimjah (130) Hamdaniya
35. Khirbet esh-Shamsiyat (453) Hamdaniya
36. Khirbet Ba'wiza (81) Tellkaif
37. Kirdi 'Omar Zalikhah (1296) 'Aqra
38. Kirdi Nuhail (916) Dohuk
39. Tel Rikaba (903) Dohuk
40. Kirdi Muqbel (1352) Zakho
41. Khirbet Faqih Hassan (1364) Zakho
42. Telul Dornoq (or Dornakh) (518) Zakho
- Arbil Liwa*
43. Kirdi Shaikh Ismai'el (40) Arbil
44. Mullah Jirik (332) Arbil
45. Khirbet Auduk-burst (430) Arbil
46. Khirbet Wasat Arab (352) Arbil
47. Kirdi Qadir Aghah (343) Arbil
48. Tell Terkhenah (287) Arbil
49. Qaberstan (278) Arbil in Tamar Kabir Village
50. Qaberstan (277) Arbil in Tandorah village
51. Kirdi Messinah (236) Arbil
52. Tell Shaikh Musri (235) Arbil
53. Kirdi Mamertah (361) Qushtepe
54. Qaberstan (297) Qushtepe
55. Kirdi Qarah Beck (299) Qushtepe
56. Kirdi Sayyid 'Othman (300) Qushtepe
57. Tell Shaikh Rasoul (301) Qushtepe
58. Kirdi Kharrabah (308) Qushtepe
59. Kirdi Sayyid Khudhir (316) Qushtepe
60. Kirdi Qallulah (328) Qushtepe
61. Tell Hellu (33) Qushtepe
62. Khirbet Sayyid Ibrahim (15) Makhmur
63. Tell um-Rekebtah (28) Makhmur
64. Tell and cemetery of al-Qadriya (30) Makhmur
65. Tell Zakah (32) Makhmur
66. Tell Sayyid Mohammad (35) Makhmur

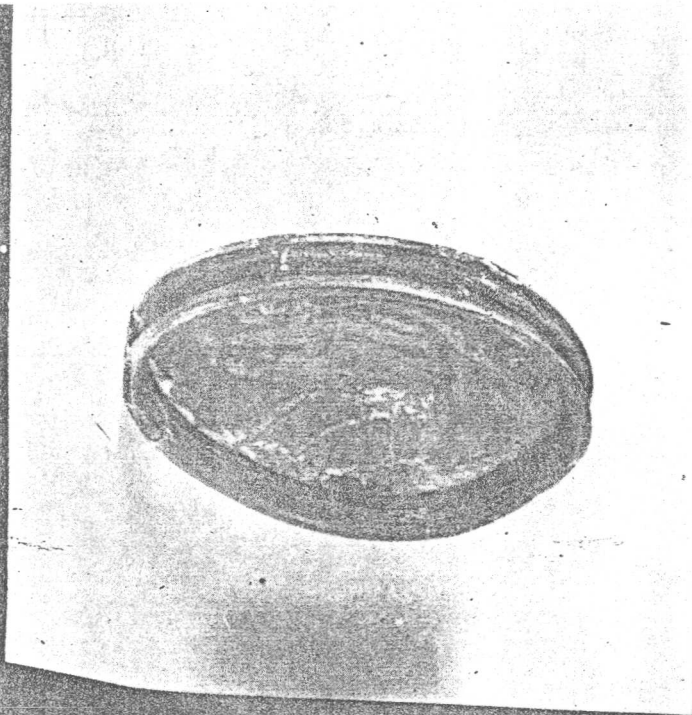
67. Kirdi Shemamek (36) Makhmur
 68. Tell Hashim and Roallah (132) Makhmur
 69. Southern Qalla'Jin (559) Koi-Senjaq
 70. Jia Balkah (578) Koi-Senjaq
 71. Satu Qallah (583) Koi-Senjaq
- Kirkuk Liwa*
72. Kalak Saifek (67) Kirkuk
 73. Ujagh Tepe (24) Kirkuk
 74. Tell Kuchuk Jarmo (small Jarmo) (1) Kiruku
 75. Tell Ghatish (100) Kirkuk
 76. Tell 'Arafat (98) Kirkuk
77. Rabiyaat Qalat Bastolaq (70) Kirkuk
 78. Tepe Imam 'Abas (313) Kopri
 79. Tepe Derwiesh (366) Kopri
 80. Tepe Tell Khadijjah (618) Daquq
 81. Tell Bana-Bur (270) Chamchamal
- Sulaimaniya Liwa*
82. Kirdi Buskin (473) Raniya
 83. Shemshara Raniya
 84. Basmusian Raniya
 85. Kamarian Raniya
 86. Ed-Dem Raniya
- Diyala Liwa*
87. Telul Al-Hadid (235) Khanaqin



Pl. III



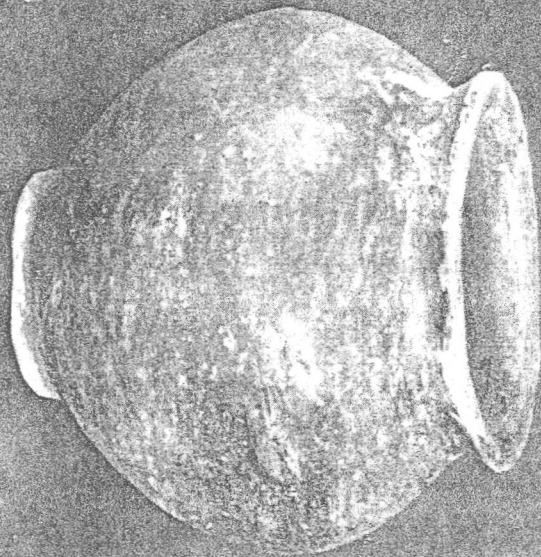
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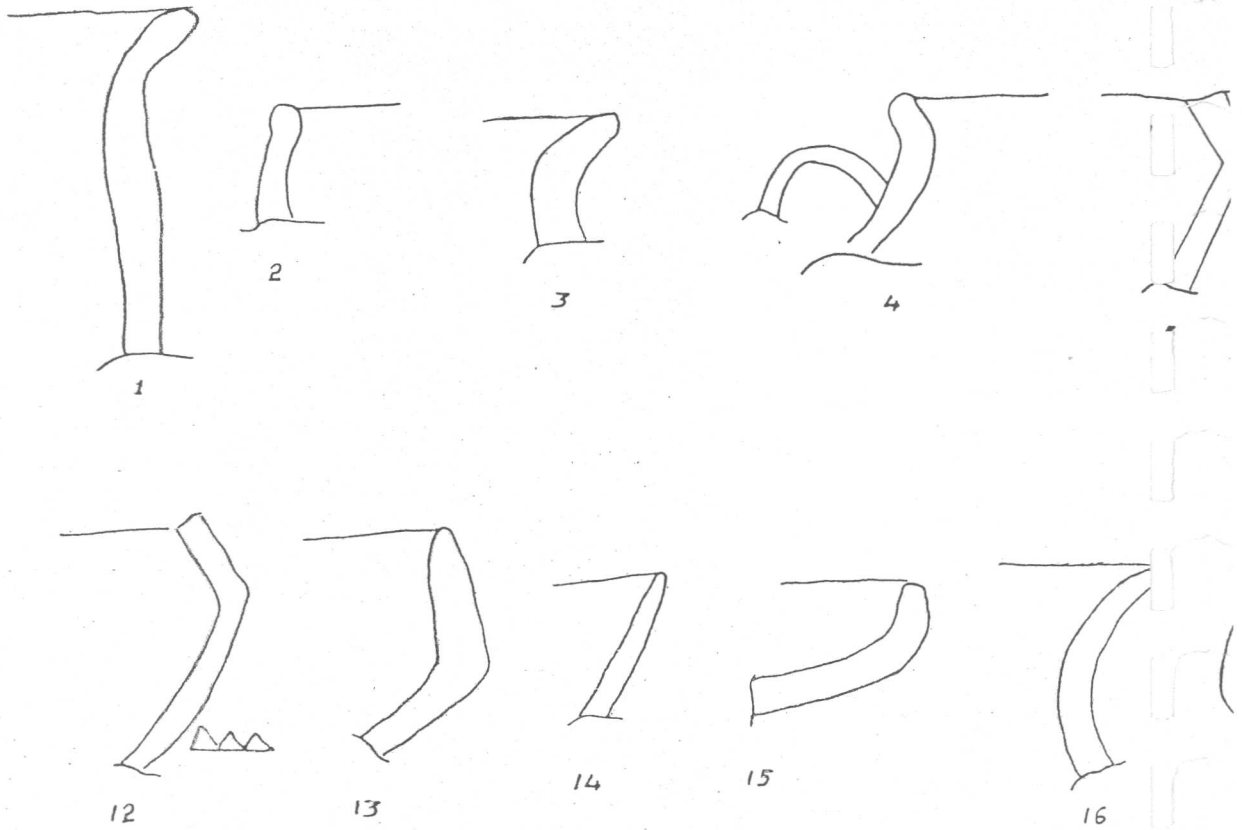
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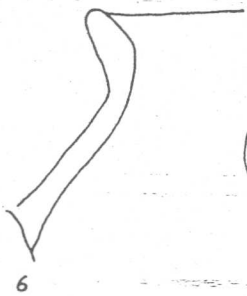
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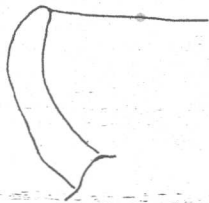
RIM-SHERDS OF SHEMISHA

o. 1 consists of cereal (*Prosopis stephaniana*), and one seed of the coarse weed grass, Goat's-face grass, Arabic Shok or Kharnub northern side. Cf. Contour map of the site to be published shortly.

"Sumer".



6



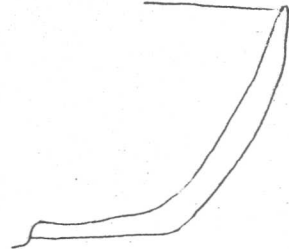
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8



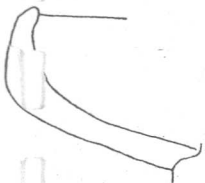
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10



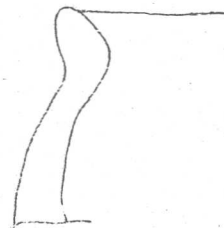
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17



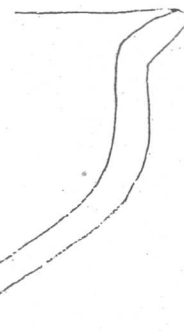
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19



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21

AM A (DOKAN) SCALE $\frac{1}{4}$