

EARLY BRONZE AGE POTTERY IN THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

VALERIE M. FARGO
Chicago, Illinois

Among the collections of the Andrews University Archaeological Museum¹ is a group of 20 pottery vessels dating to the third millennium B.C. in Palestine. These vessels represent the typical small forms of the Early Bronze Age and also include some unusual combinations of features. I will present the vessels in chronological order through the major subdivisions of the Early Bronze Age. Inasmuch as they are published here for the first time, I will describe them in detail and present comparative examples.

1. *Early Bronze I*

The majority of the Andrews University collection of Early Bronze vessels consists of forms typical of the earliest portion of the Early Bronze period. These forms include bowls, cups, jars, and a juglet, the majority with exterior slip, as well as several examples of painted decoration.

Bowls

1. Spouted vessel (AUAM 66.034) Fig. 1d
Prov.: Unknown, purchased in Jerusalem
Color: 10YR-8/3 very pale brown
Slip 10YR-4/4 and 10YR-5/4 weak red

This hemispherical bowl with a slightly incurved rim has a concave base, a horizontal pierced lug handle, and a wide spout. The gritty buff ware contains occasional large grits and is covered with an unburnished dark red slip on the exterior.

Hemispherical bowls with wide spouts, generally with lug handles, are characteristic of Early Bronze I. The wide, flaring spout developed out of a Chalcolithic form of the Ghassul-Beersheba culture, as known at Tell Abu

¹ I would like to express my appreciation to Siegfried H. Horn and Lawrence T. Geraty, former and present Curators of the Andrews University Archaeological Museum, for permission to study and publish these materials, and to Eugenia L. Nitowski, Assistant Curator, for providing assistance and facilities at Andrews University and for all the photographic work.

Matar,² in contrast to the elongated, drooping spout of Mesopotamian origin which first appears in EB I. Parallels for the Andrews example occur at Tell el-Far'ah T.17, Jericho T.A114, 'Ai T.G, Bab edh-Dhra', and Azor.³

2. Handled Bowl (AUAM 72.013) Fig. 1e
 Prov.: Bab edh-Dhra', purchased in Jerusalem
 Color: 5YR-6/6 reddish yellow
 Slip 2.5YR-4/6 red

This sinuous-sided bowl is made of finely levigated red clay. Although generally well-made, this vessel is definitely asymmetrical, as seen clearly in profile view. The red horizontally burnished slip covers both the interior and the exterior of the vessel. The base is convex, producing a small omphalos-like projection on the interior. The omphalos is typical of EB I bowls, while after EB I the convex base is found only on Khirbet Kerak ware. Although the sinuous-sided bowl is also characteristic of Khirbet Kerak ware,⁴ this shape also has precedents in EB I.⁵

3. Incurved Rim Bowl (AUAM 72.006) Fig. 1b
 Prov.: Mt. Nebo, purchased in Jerusalem
 Color: 2.5YR-6/6 light red

This hemispherical bowl has an incurved, thick, blunt lip, a disc base, and a vertical pierced lug handle. The well levigated red ware contains small grits, and the vessel has no slip. This simple bowl is common in EB I and occurs with or without a handle. This example is sturdily built and would certainly have functioned well as a utilitarian vessel for daily use. Comparable bowls have been found at, for example, 'Ai and Jericho.⁶

Cups

4. High-handled Cup (AUAM 72.005) Fig. 1a
 Prov.: Mt. Nebo, found inside 72.006, purchased in Jerusalem
 Color: 7.5YR-7/4 pink

² J. Perrot, "The Excavations at Tell Abu-Matar, near Beersheba," *IEJ* 5 (1955): 17-40, 73-84, 167-189.

³ R. de Vaux, "Les Fouilles de Tell el-Far'ah," *Revue Biblique* 62 (1955): 547, Fig. 3:1; K. M. Kenyon, *Excavations at Jericho I. The Tombs excavated in 1952-54* (London, 1960), Fig. 17:24; Joseph A. Callaway, *Pottery from the Tombs at 'Ai (Et-Tell)* (London, 1964), Pl. IX:859, 852, 825; Sylvester Saller, "Bab edh-Dhra'," *Liber Annuus* 15 (1964-1965), Fig. 21:1, 12; Amnon Ben-Tor, *Two Burial Caves of the Proto-Urban Period at Azor* (Jerusalem, 1975), Fig. 5:30.

⁴ G. Loud, *Megiddo II OIP* 62 (Chicago, 1948), Pl. 5:14; J. B. Hennessy, *The Foreign Relations of Palestine During the Early Bronze Age* (London, 1967), Pl. LXIV:5.

⁵ Hennessy, *Foreign Relations*, Pl. V:54 (Jericho Phase K).

⁶ Callaway, *Pottery from the Tombs at 'Ai*, T. G, Pl. VIII:807, 1330; J. A. Callaway, *The Early Bronze Age Sanctuary at 'Ai* (London, 1972), Phase II, Fig. 16:1-3; Phase III, Fig. 26:2; K. M. Kenyon, *Jericho II* (London, 1965), T.K2, Fig. 4:11.

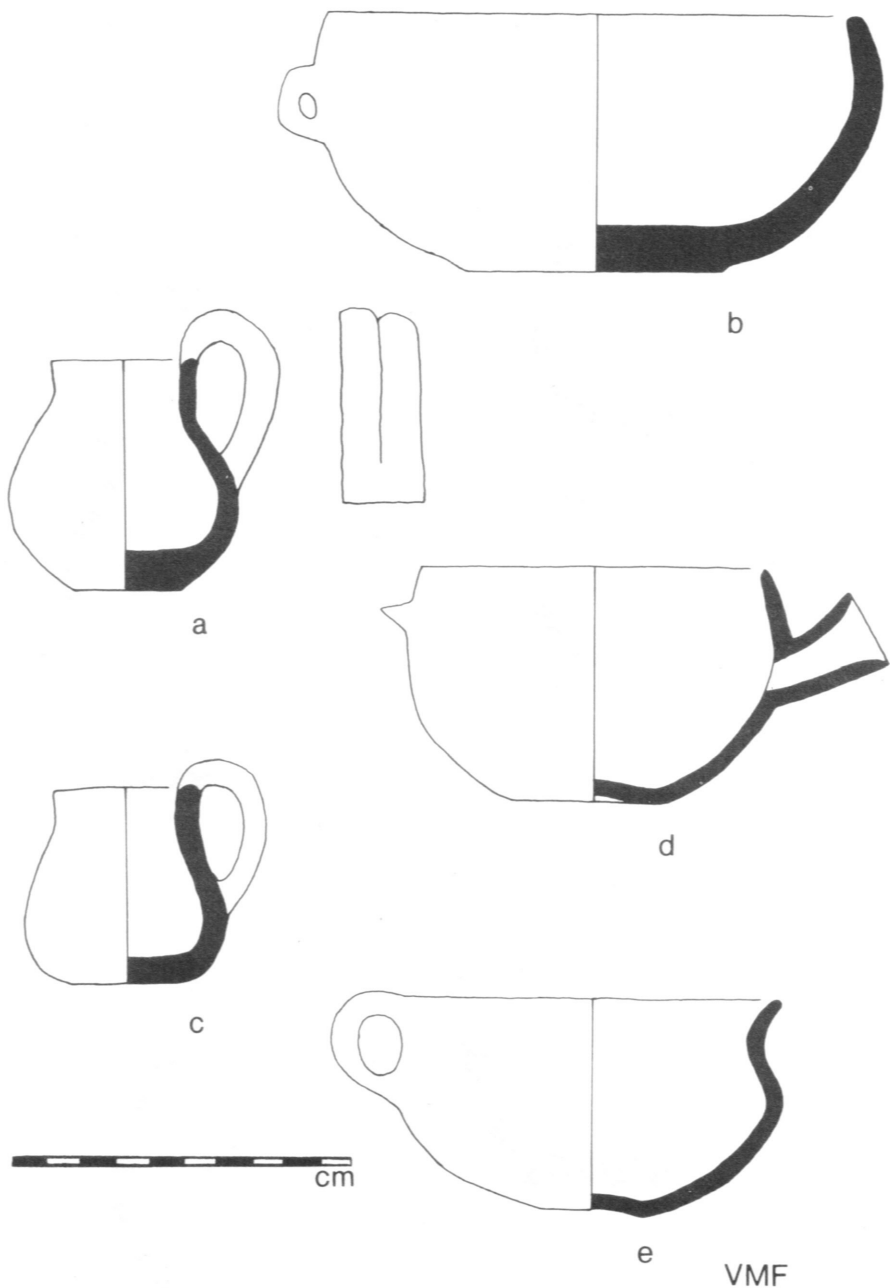


Figure 1. Early Bronze I vessels.

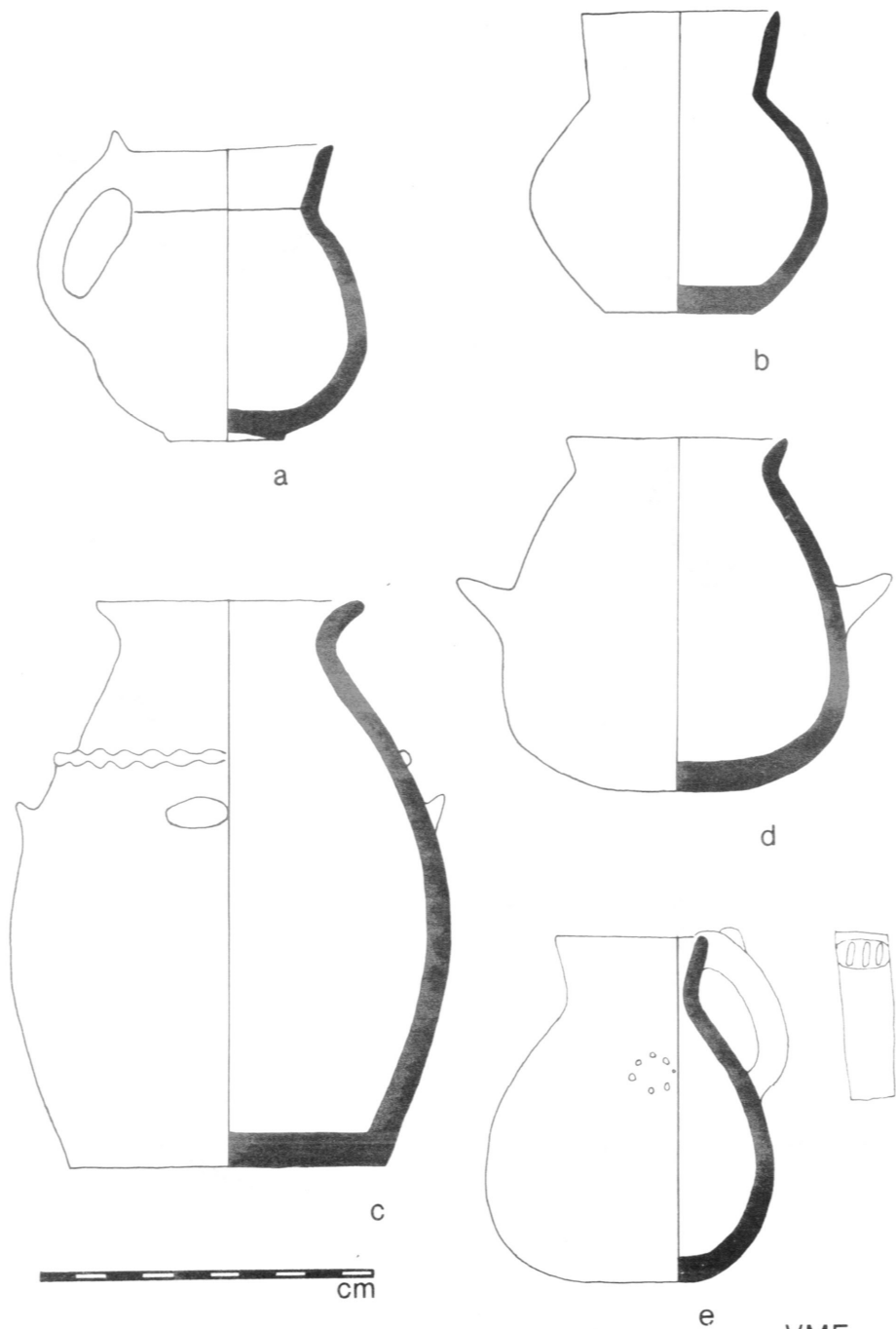
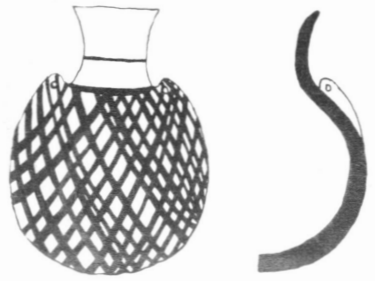


Figure 2. Early Bronze I vessels.

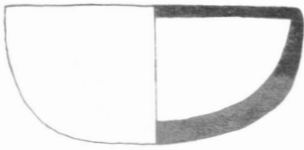
VMF



a



b



c



d



VMF

Figure 3. Early Bronze I painted vessels.

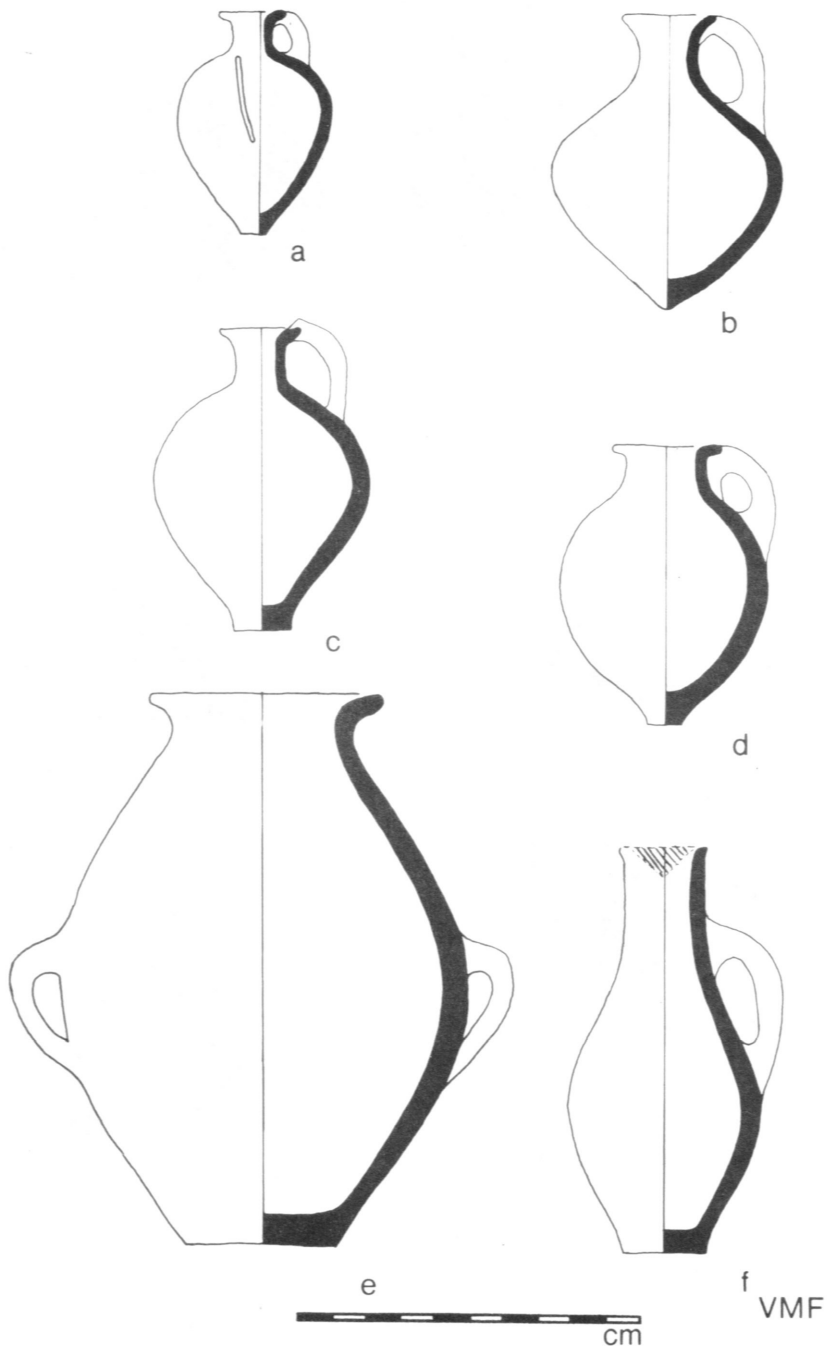


Figure 4. Early Bronze II and III vessels.

This roughly rounded cup has a flattened base and a thick, blunt, vertical lip. The double loop handle, slightly twisted, is anchored at the shoulder and the rim. The coarse, unslipped ware contains many large grits, and the surface is cracked in many places. This ubiquitous EB I form can be paralleled at numerous sites, such as 'Ai, Jericho, and Azor.⁷

5. High-handled Cup (AUAM 72.008) Fig. 1c

Prov.: Mt. Nebo, found with 72.005 inside 72.006, purchased in Jerusalem

Color: 7.5YR-7/6 reddish yellow

This cup resembles Figure 1a in its general shape, its coarse, cracked unslipped ware, and its thick, blunt lip. In contrast to Figure 1a, this cup has a single handle, and its widest point is almost at the base. Parallels for this form are also frequent, at Jericho and 'Ai in particular.⁸

Jars

6. Handled Jar (AUAM 72.017) Fig. 2a

Prov.: Bab edh-Dhra', purchased in Jerusalem

Color: 7.5YR-7/4 pink

Slip 10R-5/6 red

Dark buff, gritty ware with some chaff temper is the material of this jar. On the exterior, a red-brown unburnished slip covers the vessel. This small jar has a biconical body, ring base, and slightly everted lip. The flat loop handle, shoulder to rim, has a vertical projection at the rim. Biconical forms are not uncommon in EB I jars, and this particular shape is paralleled at Bab-edh-Dhra' and at Jericho,⁹ supporting an EB I date for this vessel.

7. Globular Jar (AUAM 72.020) Fig. 2b

Prov.: Bab edh-Dhra', purchased in Jerusalem

Color: 7.5YR-6/4 light brown and 10YR-8/3 very pale brown

This jar is made of a typical, gritty, buff ware, with a dark brown-gray unburnished slip on the exterior. The jar has a flat base, an almost vertical neck, and a slightly everted, tapered lip. Saller associated one Bab edh-Dhra' example of this type with the Proto-Urban assemblage at that site.¹⁰ A similar

⁷ Callaway, *Pottery from the Tombs at 'Ai*, T.C, Pl. XVII: 37.556, Pl. XVI: 463; Callaway, *'Ai Sanctuary*, Phase II, Fig. 23.16, 17; Kenyon, *Jericho I*, T.A94, Fig. 12, 13; J. Garstang, "Jericho, City and Necropolis," *AAA* 23 (1936), Pl. XXXVI:21; Ben-Tor, *Azor*, Fig. 6:15, 11:10.

⁸ Kenyon, *Jericho I*, T.A94, Fig. 12:11; T.A13, levels III and IV, Fig. 21:5; Callaway, *Pottery from the Tombs at 'Ai*, T.G, Pl. VIII:763, 737; T.C, Pl. XIV:548; T.B, Pl. XVIII:38.

⁹ Saller, "Bab edh-Dhra'," Fig. 21:18, Fig. 23:7, 15; Kenyon, *Jericho II*, Fig. 89:7.

¹⁰ Saller, "Bab edh-Dhra'," Fig. 23:9. Cf. also Paul W. Lapp, "Bab edh-Dhra' Tomb A76 and Early Bronze I in Palestine," *BASOR* 189 (1968), Fig. 10:10, 11:18.

vessel, but with a more flared neck, may be found in the 'Amuq (Judeidah F), also in a Proto-Urban assemblage. The Bab edh-Dhra' finds throughout the Early Bronze Age, but especially in EB I, are characterized by forms rare or not attested in Palestine, so it is not surprising that there are few parallels for this vessel.

8. Ledge-handled Jar (AUAM 72.018) Fig. 2d
 Prov.: Bab edh-Dhra', purchased in Jerusalem
 Color: 7.5YR-7/6 reddish yellow
 Slip 2.5YR-5/8 red

The gritty, rather coarse, buff ware of this vessel has a cracked surface with traces of a red-brown burnished slip, largely abraded. The roughly-made vessel has a flattened base, a slightly flaring lip, and two plain horizontal ledge handles. A number of sites provide parallels for this form in EB I. Several examples at Bab edh-Dhra' have similar ledge handles, but in combination with other types of handles on the same vessels.¹¹ An excellent example is known from Jericho T.K2.¹² The 'Ai and Tell en-Naşbeh tombs also contain examples of this form.¹³ All of these examples occur in EB I contexts, providing good support for an EB I date for this form.

9. Globular Ledge-handled Jar (AUAM 72.019) Fig. 2c
 Prov.: Kfar Malik, purchased in Jerusalem
 Color: 5YR-6/6 reddish yellow

The somewhat coarse, red, gritty ware of this jar has a self-slip on the exterior. The globular form has a wide, everted, blunt rim and four plain vestigial ledge handles on the shoulder. Above the ledge handles there is one row of impressed rope decoration on the shoulder. This small jar is a miniature example of a type of large jar characteristic of the Early Bronze Age. EB I parallels occur in Jericho T.A94.¹⁴ A large jar with rope decoration and ledge handles is known from Affuleh and also belongs to EB I.¹⁵

Juglet

10. Loop-handled Juglet (AUAM 72.015) Fig. 2e
 Prov.: Bab edh-Dhra', purchased in Jerusalem
 Color: 7.5YR-7/4 pink and 7.5YR-6/4 light brown

The ware of this vessel is a very gritty, dark buff with some chaff temper. The globular juglet with a flattish base has a slightly everted blunt lip and

¹¹ Saller, "Bab edh-Dhra'," Fig. 18:10, 25:7; Lapp, *BASOR* 189, Fig. 11:13.

¹² Kenyon, *Jericho II*, Fig. 9:8. Other Jericho examples include *Jericho I* T.A127, Fig. 26:5; T.A114, Fig. 18:23; T.D12, Fig. 35:49.

¹³ Callaway, *Pottery from the Tombs at 'Ai*, T.G, Pl. IX:765, 911; Hennessy, *Foreign Relations*, Pl. XXXI:7; J. Marquet-Krause, *Les Fouilles de 'Ay (Et-Tell)* (Paris, 1949), Pl. LXVIII:145, LXXIII:927; J. C. Wampler, *Tell En-Naşbeh II: The Pottery* (Berkeley and New Haven, 1947), Pl. 9:135, 137-138 (cave tomb 6).

¹⁴ Kenyon, *Jericho I*, Fig. 14:14, 15.

¹⁵ E. L. Sukenik, "Archaeological Investigations at 'Affula," *JPOS* 21 (1948), Pl. V:1.

a loop handle to the rim. On the handle very near the rim is a raised area with three impressed parallel lines. The decoration on the shoulder of the juglet consists of a circle formed by seven impressed holes. The globular body is typical of EB I and is found especially on the high-handled cups. A Bab edh-Dhra' parallel in EB I is known from T.A.76.¹⁶ The circle formed of holes is paralleled at Tell el-Hesi and Jericho.¹⁷ In keeping with the unusual character of the Bab edh-Dhra' materials, this form has few parallels in Palestine, but it can be dated safely to EB I.

Painted Vessels

11. Double Juglet (AUAM 72.011) Fig. 3a
 Prov.: Tell 'Eitun, purchased in Jerusalem
 Color: 7.5YR-8/2 pinkish white
 Paint 10R-5/4 weak red

Two small juglets are joined at their widest points to form this double juglet. Made of buff, gritty ware with a few small bits of chaff temper, the vessel has a light buff slip. The dark red painted decoration consists of crossing lines on the body and horizontal painted bands on the everted tapered neck. Two vertical pierced lug handles occur on each juglet. Painted lug-handled juglets are common in EB I (cf. 'Ai tombs¹⁸), while double vessels, both bowls and juglets, are not common but are reasonably well known. A good example of the double juglet was found in Ophel T.3.¹⁹ An unpainted example is known from Jericho T.K.2.²⁰

12. Net-painted Juglet (AUAM 72.004) Fig. 3b
 Prov.: Bab edh-Dhra', purchased in Jerusalem
 Color: 5YR-6/6 reddish yellow
 Paint 2.5YR-4/4 reddish brown

This "ear-handled" juglet is made of well levigated dark buff ware, with relatively few grits. Crossing parallel diagonal lines characterize the painted decoration, which covers the entire vessel up to and including the two vertical pierced lugs. This juglet is a well-known EB I form (Kenyon's Proto-Urban B). These juglets occur often in the 'Ai tombs, and other examples are from Bab edh-Dhra' and Ophel T.3.²¹

¹⁶ Lapp, *BASOR* 189, Fig. 9:15.

¹⁷ Frederick J. Bliss, *A Mound of Many Cities* (London, 1898), p. 33, B67; Kenyon, *Jericho I*, Fig. 10:7, 11:4.

¹⁸ Callaway, *Pottery from the Tombs at 'Ai*, T.G., Pl. X:41.986, Pl. XI; T.C., Pl. XIV:30.696.

¹⁹ Hugues Vincent, *Underground Jerusalem Discoveries on the Hill of Ophel (1909-11)* (London, 1911), Pl. IX.2.

²⁰ Kenyon, *Jericho II*, Fig. 4:25.

²¹ Callaway, *Pottery from the Tombs at 'Ai*, T.G., Pl. XI; T.C., Pl. XIV:35.40, Pl. XVI:428; Saller, "Bab edh-Dhra'," Fig. 12:3, 18:6, 11; Vincent, *Underground Jerusalem*, Pl. X, 1 (T.3).

13. Painted Bowl (AUAM 72.016) Fig. 3c
 Prov.: Bab edh-Dhra', purchased in Jerusalem
 Color: 2.5YR-6/6 light red
 Paint 10R-4/4 weak red

The buff ware of this bowl has many small grits and some chaff and is covered by an orange slip. Faint dark red painted decoration is visible on the interior, and there is a painted horizontal band along the interior of the rim. This hemispherical bowl, slightly incurved at the rim, has a rounded base. The hemispherical bowl is ubiquitous in EB I, and the interior painted decoration is well attested at 'Ai, Tell el-Far'ah, Azor, and especially Jericho.²²

14. Small Handled Jar (AUAM 72.007) Fig. 3d
 Prov.: Bab edh-Dhra', purchased in Jerusalem
 Color: 10YR-8/3 very pale brown
 Paint 10YR-4/1 dark gray

A light buff slip and dark brown painted line decoration cover the medium dark buff ware of this jar. The globular vessel has an everted, tapered neck, two vestigial plain ledge handles, a loop handle from the shoulder to the rim, and a slightly concave base. There are several examples of this form with ledge handles and painted decoration, but without the loop handle. These include tombs at 'Ai and Ophel.²³ This form and the painted decoration are characteristic of Kenyon's Proto-Urban B painted pottery tradition.

2. Early Bronze II and III Vessels

About one-third of the Andrews University collection consists of EB II or EB III forms. These include several juglets and a jar.

Juglets

15. Piriform Juglet (AUAM 70.038) Fig. 4b
 Prov.: purchased in Jerusalem
 Color: 2.5YR-4/4 reddish brown

This juglet, made of well levigated, gritty, buff ware, has a highly burnished red slip, largely abraded. Its pointed base is a characteristic which is known in EB III and carries on into the Middle Bronze Age. The handle is attached at the shoulder and blends into the everted blunt lip. The best parallels for this form are found in EB III, in Jericho tombs F2, F3, and F4.²⁴

²² Callaway, *Pottery from the Tombs at 'Ai*, T.B, Pl. XVIII:15, 18; T.G, Pl. IX:828, 1014; De Vaux, *Revue Biblique* 62 (1955): 581, Fig. 12:7; Ben-Tor, *Azor*, Fig. 5:6, 7; Kenyon, *Jericho I*, T.A94, Fig. 10:16; T.A108, Fig. 23:7; Kenyon, *Jericho II*, T.A124, Fig. 13:4; T.K2 (Phase I): Fig. 4:4.

²³ Callaway, *Pottery from the Tombs at 'Ai*, T.G, Pl. X:28.778; Ruth Amiran, *The Ancient Pottery of the Holy Land* (Jerusalem, 1969), Photo 41; Vincent, *Underground Jerusalem*, T.3, Pl. IX.5.

²⁴ Kenyon, *Jericho I*, T.F2, Fig. 60:27, 28; T.F3, Fig. 52:12, 13, 20, 31-33; Kathleen M. Kenyon, *Archaeology in the Holy Land* (London, 1970), T.F4, Fig. 19:23-28.

16. Stump-based Juglet (AUAM 72.012) Fig. 4c
 Prov.: Bab edh-Dhra', purchased in Jerusalem
 Color: 10YR-5/2 grayish brown and N4/ dark gray

This vessel is made of a dark gray gritty ware containing many large white grits, common in EB II and III. On the vessel's surface traces of a burnished black slip remain. The globular vessel has a small stump base, a wide everted neck, and a thick handle. This type is more characteristic of EB III, as evidenced by its popularity in Jericho tombs F2 and F3.²⁵

17. Elongated Piriform Juglet (AUAM 72.010) Fig. 4a
 Prov.: Bab edh-Dhra', purchased in Jerusalem
 Color: 2.5YR-5/4 reddish brown

In this vessel, a finely levigated, reddish, gritty ware is covered with a red vertically burnished slip. In this case the piriform shape is slightly elongated, with a flat base and a narrow everted rim. A decoration of slightly curved vertical projections is located on opposite sides of the juglet. This juglet form is well attested for EB III, having been found, for example, at 'Ai and Jericho.²⁶

18. Stump-based Juglet (AUAM 72.009) Fig. 4d
 Prov.: Bab edh-Dhra', purchased in Jerusalem
 Color: 2.5YR-4/4 reddish brown

The dark red highly burnished slip is the most striking feature of this juglet. On the exterior of the vessel a vertical burnish covers the gritty reddish ware which contains a few chaff inclusions. This juglet is an excellent example of a classic Early Bronze form. The height of its popularity is EB III,²⁷ but the burnished globular juglet occurs already in EB II, as at Arad.²⁸ This is one of the Early Bronze forms which reappears, in a slightly modified version, during the Middle Bronze Age.

19. Narrow Juglet (AUAM 71.008) Fig. 4f
 Prov.: Yaguz, from a Jordanian army officer
 Color: 5YR-6/4 light reddish brown

The brownish, very gritty ware contains many large white and black inclusions, with no slip or burnish on the vessel. The narrow globular juglet has a flat base, almost vertical rim, and a loop handle from the shoulder to the neck. Examples of this form occur in EB I and II. An EB I example was

²⁵ Kenyon, *Jericho I*, T.F2, Fig. 61:15, 8; T.F3, Fig. 52:44, 45, 46.

²⁶ Callaway, *Pottery from the Tombs at 'Ai*, T.B, Pl. XIX, 45.89; Kenyon, *Jericho I*, T.F2, Fig. 61:15, 8; T.F3, Fig. 52:44-46; Kenyon, *Jericho II*, T.F2, Fig. 60:33, 34.

²⁷ Hennessy, *Foreign Relations*, Level F (EB IIIA), Pl. VII:73; Kenyon, *Jericho I*, T.F2, Fig. 61:3, 4, 6; 60:37, 38; T.D12, Fig. 34:32; Saller, "Bab edh-Dhra'," Fig. 28:4.

²⁸ Amiran, *Ancient Pottery*, Photo 57 (p. 62).

discovered at 'Ai, and later EB examples are known from Jericho and Beth Yerah.²⁰

Jar

20. Globular Jar (AUAM 70.036) Fig. 4c

Prov.: purchased in Jerusalem

Color: 7.5YR-7/4 pink

Slip 2.5YR-5/6 red

Typical Early Bronze gritty buff ware, well levigated, is the material of this jar. A highly lustrous vertical burnish on a red slip covers the exterior. Other features are a flaring neck with blunt, everted rim, flat string-cut base, and two vertical loop handles placed at the point of widest diameter. Examples of this jar type are known from both EB II and EB III. The globular jar shape is common in EB II, when it generally occurs with combed ware. It is also to be found among the shapes of the EB II Abydos ware, although many of the Abydos jars are taller and thinner. EB II examples with red slip have been found at 'Ai and Jericho,²⁰ but these are much larger vessels. As the heyday of the globular jar with loop handles was in EB II, our miniature example may well belong to this period.

²⁰ Callaway, *Pottery from the Tombs at 'Ai*, T.C, Pl. XVII:37.556, Pl. XIV: 674; T.G, Pl. VIII:739; Kenyon, *Jericho I*, T.D12, Fig. 34:17, 36:24; T.F3, Fig. 52:3; T.F2, Fig. 59:1; B. Mazar, R. Amiran, and N. Haas, "An Early Bronze Age II Tomb at Beth-Yerah (Kinneret)," *Eretz Israel* 11 (Jerusalem, 1973): 181, nos. 17, 19.

²⁰ Callaway, *'Ai Sanctuary*, Phase IV, Fig. 42:13; Kenyon, *Jericho I*, Fig. 47:1.