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Γενική εποπτεία ΕΛΕΝΗ ΚΩΤΣΟΥ
Υπεύθυνη έκδοσης ΜΑΡΙΑ ΚΑΖΑΚΟΥ
Καλλιτεχνική επιμέλεια ΡΟΥΛΑ ΓΙΑΝΝΟΥΛΑΚΗ

Εκτύπωση ΑΝΤΩΝΗΣ Ε. ΜΠΟΥΛΟΥΚΟΣ & ΣΙΑ Ο.Ε.

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**Ζ' ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΝΙΚΗ ΣΥΝΑΝΤΗΣΗ
ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΣΤΙΚΗ ΚΕΡΑΜΙΚΗ**

ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΝΙΚΗ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ

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**ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΜΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥΡΙΣΜΟΥ
ΣΤ' ΕΦΟΡΕΙΑ ΠΡΟΪΣΤΟΡΙΚΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΚΛΑΣΙΚΩΝ ΑΡΧΑΙΟΤΗΤΩΝ**

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ΑΙΓΙΟ 4-9 ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ 2005

ΠΡΑΚΤΙΚΑ

Κείμενα

ΕΚΔΟΣΗ ΤΟΥ ΤΑΜΕΙΟΥ ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΚΩΝ ΠΟΡΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΑΠΑΛΛΟΤΡΙΩΣΕΩΝ

ΑΘΗΝΑ 2011

Πρόλογος

Η πρόσκλησή μας τον Οκτώβριο του 2003 γι' αυτή τη Συνάντηση, την έβδομη κατά σειρά, έθετε και πάλι ως θέμα «Κεραμική των ελληνιστικών χρόνων και τα χρονολογικά προβλήματά της». Με την πάγια προϋπόθεση ότι θα αναφερόμαστε σε κλειστά χρονολογημένα σύνολα – κάτι που δεν έλαβαν όλοι υπόψη τους – προτείναμε να συζητήσουμε μέσα σε αυτό το πλαίσιο, που εξασφαλίζει στέρεες κατά το δυνατόν βάσεις, τα επιμέρους θέματα: εργαστήρια και κατηγορίες κεραμικής, σχέσεις της κεραμικής με άλλες τέχνες, ζητήματα εικονογραφίας και διακόσμησης, τη σημασία του αναγλύφου, θέματα αναφερόμενα στα σχήματα, στις χρήσεις, στο εμπόριο, χωρίς να αποκλείουμε την αρχαιομετρία και την τεχνολογία.

Η επιλογή του Αιγίου ως έδρας της Συνάντησης δεν έγινε μόνο γιατί γνωρίζαμε ότι θα εξασφαλιζαμε από τον «άρχοντα» της τοπικής Εφορείας Αρχαιοτήτων, τον Έφορο κ. Μιχάλη Πετρόπουλο, και την άξια συνεργάτιδά του, την κ. Ερωφίλη Κόλια, την άριστη διοργάνωση της Συνάντησης και τη θερμή φιλοξενία, αλλά επειδή αποβλέπαμε στην κινητοποίηση εκείνων που ασχολούνται με την Πελοπόννησο, ώστε να μας παρουσιάσουν συγκεντρωμένα, κατά το δυνατόν, τα ευρήματα και τα συμπεράσματά τους.

Η αθρόα συμμετοχή πολλών και εκλεκτών συναδέλφων στην κατάμεστη από ακροατές και συζητητές αίθουσα του Αρχαιολογικού Μουσείου με τον ευχάριστο κήπο, προς χρήση κατά τη διάρκεια των διαλειμμάτων, ασφαλώς συνέτειναν στην επιτυχία της Συνάντησης προς έπαινο και των οικοδεσποτών.

*Για την Επιστημονική Επιτροπή
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Deposition and Chronology in Hellenistic Deposits at Geraki, Laconia*

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In this paper, we will discuss some of the Hellenistic pottery deposits from the settlement on the acropolis of Geraki, a site long recognized by scholars as perioikic *Geronthrai*¹. In addition to presenting Hellenistic pottery forms common at this site, this paper also addresses how the formation of the associated deposits may affect our assessment of pottery dates and room function.

Geraki is situated in the foothills of the Central Parnon and dominates a large fertile plain east of the Eurotas. The site is strategically located on routes leading through Parnon to the east coast of the Peloponnese and to the Malea peninsula in the southeast. According to Pausanias (3.2.6), Geronthrai was conquered and resettled by king Teleklos, whose reign is conventionally dated from *ca.* 760 to 740 BC. At a distance of only 26 km from Sparta, Geronthrai would have been part of the latter's core territory. Close links between Sparta and Geronthrai appear to be reflected in the pottery².

Systematic excavations by the Netherlands Institute on the acropolis of Geraki began in 1999, after four years of survey and associated study. The excavations, which focus on the northwestern part of the summit, have revealed several multi-room buildings belonging to a fortified Late Classical-Hellenistic settlement (Fig. 1). A notable feature of these complexes is their apparently careless construction. There is no regular partitioning in plots and the rooms are not organized around centrally located courts with porches³. The walls are rarely bonded, rarely set at straight angles and are simply constructed of field-stones. These features may well indicate haste in building and the use of the acropolis as a place of refuge at a time of political turmoil. The Spartan hegemony had begun to wane after the defeat by the Thebans

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¹ For a review of earlier scholarship, see Crouwel *et al.* 1995, 43-46.

² For pottery from Sparta, see Bailey 1993; Hayes 1995; Pickersgill - Roberts 2003; Ραυτοπούλου 2000. For pottery from the Laconia plain, see Catling 1996 and Visscher 1996. Visual examination of pottery from excavations conducted by the 5th Ephorate and the British School at Athens confirms these links. E. Langridge-Noti thanks C. Pickersgill, S. Raftopoulou, E. Zavvou and the managing committee of the BSA for permission to study the material.

³ For examples and discussion of the typical Greek house in the Classical and Hellenistic periods see e.g. Hoepfner - Schwandner 1994; Nevett 1999; Cahill 2002.



Fig. 1. Plan of the Hellenistic settlement.

at Leuktra in 371 BC and the later 4th and 3rd centuries BC saw a growing number of invasions and raids of Laconia⁴.

Many of the Late Classical-Hellenistic buildings on the summit of the acropolis have more than one stratified period of habitation, as indicated by discrete floor levels and by architectural alterations, such as the blocking of doorways and the repairing of walls⁵. Pottery and coins suggest that the use of these buildings continued – in some fashion – into at least the 1st century BC. While several rooms have yielded sizeable pot deposits, the assessment of the date and character of their final use is less straightforward than may seem at first sight. Soil deposition and stratigraphy indicate that buildings did not go out of use abruptly, but were abandoned and left to collapse slowly. This means that the archaeologist must remain open to the possibility that some artifacts have been removed from deposits associated with a last major phase of occupation *and* that some objects may have been added to them at a later stage, for instance when previous occupants (or others) returned to remove material or briefly to reuse the area. In addition, natural causes such as erosion have clearly played a role in the formation of the final use deposits at the site⁶.

To illustrate these points we would like to draw attention to three pot deposits, all from the last period of intensive use of the Hellenistic complexes on the acropolis, but presenting different circumstances of deposition and different problems of interpretation.

Least problematic of these three deposits is the one found in the large Hellenistic room south of Street 2. This room was protected from erosion because of its distance from the deteriorating acropolis wall and there are, so far, no clear signs of later disturbance in the form of clearing operations or re-occupation. The pottery as preserved, therefore, should give a reliable indication of the date and character of the last use of this room.

⁴ Kennell 1999, 189-190. Cartledge 2002, 154-155, 241-242, 249, 251-255, 273.

⁵ See Prent in: Crouwel *et al.* 2002, 43; with further references.

⁶ For general discussion of these problems, see LaMotta - Schiffer 1999, 19-23; Ault - Nevett 1999, 43-45.

A concentration of largely complete vessels was found along the eastern wall of this room, suggesting that the vessels had been stored in wooden cupboards and on shelves. The majority of the vases appear to belong to one or more table service(s)⁷. The actual wine service vessels from the deposit are small and consist of a krater and two amphorae (Cat. nos 1.1-1.3, Pls 57a, c, 58a). Shapes that can be associated specifically with pouring are lacking. The similarity in size, form and decoration among the krater and amphorae suggests the possibility of co-ordinated use. All three of these wine service vessels find their closest parallels in examples elsewhere in the Greek world, decorated in the West Slope technique and dating to the late 3rd-2nd century BC⁸. The most common drinking vessel in the deposit is the one-handed mug, whose form is a variation on a popular drinking vessel that exists in Laconia from the Archaic period on (Cat. nos 1.4-1.7, Pl. 58b-e)⁹. The mug is distinguished most clearly by the single strap handle that is attached at the lip and the top of the body. Examples are ubiquitous in the stratified contexts at Geraki and suggest that the popularity of this vessel form continues through the Hellenistic period¹⁰. An additional vessel presented here that may be considered a food service vessel is a plate with upturned rim, although the broad range of names given to parallels for the form attest to current uncertainty as to its ancient use (Cat. no. 1.8, Pl. 57d)¹¹. This form has been traced back to the 2nd century BC, at least, although the fabric of the Geraki example with its red-brown interior sandwiched between black is unusual¹². Aside from the service vessels found in the room there were also a small number of vessels for other uses¹³. These include a grayware unguentarium whose parallels suggest a date at the end of the 3rd century into the first half of the 2nd century BC (Cat. no. 1.9, Pl. 57b)¹⁴.

⁷ For discussions of how one might define “table service or set” within the ancient Greek world see Lynch 1999, 90-91 and Boardman 2001, 156.

⁸ For a parallel to the Geraki horn-handled amphora (Cat. no. 1.2), see Kenrick 1996, B104 from Benghazi. The Benghazi amphora possibly dates in the 2nd century BC and may be local, see Kenrick 1996, 506-507. The Geraki amphora is almost identical to this pot but lacks the West Slope decoration on the neck. The Geraki squat amphora with twisted handle (Cat. no. 1.3) is closer to the Attic type Hellenistic amphora, see *Agora* XXIX, 120-123. See *Agora* XXIX, no. 426 for an example from the Agora that also lacks the West Slope decoration.

⁹ See Catling 1996, shape 16. Catling notes that the shape begins in the 7th century BC and is popular not just in Laconia, but is also carried on campaigns.

¹⁰ Catling 1996, 48. Stibbe 1994. Williams 1979, 140ff. For Hellenistic examples in Laconia, see Ραυτοπούλου 2000, no. 12.567, pl. 217. There are Hellenistic one-handed mugs from a number of areas, but the continuity of the form in Laconia from the Archaic into the Hellenistic period and, perhaps, even later, makes them particularly noteworthy. Only a few examples of another popular Hellenistic drinking vessel, the mouldmade bowl, were found in this room, most in the small paved area in the northeast corner of the room.

¹¹ Pickersgill - Roberts (2003, nos 14-15) refer to the form as a dish. Bailey (1993) places examples of this form in different categories. In no. 9 and no. 169, he refers to the form as a bowl and in no. 133 as a lid; inv. no. 169 displays traces of burning that suggest that the form had been used over the fire. Raftopoulou (Ραυτοπούλου 2000, nos 12.763 and 12.762, pl. 218a) refers to them as plates with upturned rims. The incised lines on the interior of the floor of the vase suggest that it was meant to be used in a plate-like fashion, but full profiles and close, full examinations of contexts may help to pinpoint use and parallels. We should not rule out the possibility of multiple uses for a single form, see further Allison 1999.

¹² For parallels to the shape within Laconia, see Pickersgill - Roberts 2003, nos 14-15 for some of the latest contexts; Ραυτοπούλου 2000, nos 12.763 and 12.762, pl. 218a; Bailey 1993, nos 9, 133, 169; and Hayes 1985, 14 (form 2). Other parallels for the shape as it appears at Geraki include: Σκόρδου 2000, pl. 11, figs. 21.9g, 22.7e and 23.8e; Τσατσάκη 1994, no. K185; Morel 1981, type 2234, 150-151, pl. 37 or type 2252, 153, pl. 39. *Agora* XXIX, 155 has noted that the form is unusual and restricted in Athens, but the evidence at Geraki suggests that it is much longer lived and more popular in Laconia.

¹³ Other largely complete vessels found in this room include a few more plates, a number of bowls, a squat and a tall pyxis, at least one plainware amphora, a few plainware basins or lekanai and very few cooking vessels. The excavation of this room, however, was only completed at the end of the 2005 season so a complete inventory remains to be done. The storage of the pyxides along with the table service vessels does not appear unusual; see Cahill 2002 (especially chapter 3) for the distribution of finds in Olynthian houses.

¹⁴ See Anderson-Stojanović 1987, 109 for the difficulty of dating the unguentarium solely by form. For parallels to the Geraki example, see Bruneau 1970, tomb 57, nos 3-5 (dating to the 3rd century BC), tomb 59, nos 5-6 (dating to the 2nd century BC).

CATALOGUE¹⁵**1.1.** Inv. no. 5153/SF1, “krater” (Pl. 58a)

Ring base with an outside groove to a bulging body with low greatest diameter to carination at neck and then groove/carination at flaring lip. Groove on the exterior of body at greatest diameter. Grooved, horned, strap handles that attach at rim and greatest diameter.

Drim 0,16, H. 0,173, Dbody 0,178 m.

Fabric: 10YR 6/3 to 5 YR 6/6 (pale brown to reddish yellow on edges). Many tiny to small voids, very few white and orange grits. The clay has fired a brownish-gray on the interior and orange on the exterior. Poorly adhering black slip on the interior and exterior has gone red in a number of places. There are no traces of incision or of white paint.

1.2. Inv. no. 5153/SF14, table amphora (Pl. 57a)

Upper half of a carefully potted table amphora. Flaring rim has a downturned and deeply undercut exterior and flat, grooved upper surface. Neck is straight with two grooves running around the center section, a ridge at neck to shoulder join and a further ridge at mid-shoulder. Shoulder to body join is carinated. Handles are ridged straps that attach at rim with horns and at shoulder to body join. Vase has been potted in at least two pieces as thickening at neck to shoulder join indicates.

Drim 0,128, PH. 0,08, Dbody 0,18 m.

Fabric: 7.5YR 5/4 (brown). Sandy with very few white and orange grits (some small). Exterior is slipped and interior is drip-slipped to the bottom of the neck. No traces of added white decoration.

1.3. Inv. no. 5469/SF1, squat amphora, West Slope ware shape with twisted handle (Pl. 57c)

Large part of body, neck and about one-half rim. Largest diameter is just above middle of the body. Neck potted separately, with a narrow offset where body and neck join. Concave neck flares out to rim with a ridge at the transition from neck to rim. There is also an offset at outer edge of rim where it rounds down. One vertical twisted handle survives and rises from shoulder. Trace of the attachment for the second handle.

Drim 0,14, GD at belly 0,19 m.

Fabric: Clay is brownish with no traces of intentional burning. Both black slip surface and joins are worn. Matt black slip on exterior of upper body and part of lower body as well as on interior of neck and drips onto interior body. There are no traces of any added white or incised decoration.

1.4. Inv. no. 5153/SF3, one-handed mug (Pl. 58b)

Traces of false ring base to bulging body, about three-quarters of straight neck and flaring lip. Traces of the handle on body and just below flaring lip.

H. 0,073, Dbase 0,08 m.

Fabric: 7.5YR 6/6 (reddish yellow). Gritty with tiny voids and white inclusions. Black slip over the interior of the neck and dripping onto the interior body and over the exterior down to the foot in all parts that survive.

1.5. Inv. no. 5153/SF5, one-handed mug (Pl. 58e)

About one-half of pot, but no part of lip. False ring base to oval body with offset to neck.

Dbase 0,05, PH. 0,065 m.

Fabric: 2.5Y 5/1 (gray). Very few white inclusions, slightly sandy. Drip-slipped on the exterior almost to the base and on the interior to the shoulder.

1.6. Inv. no. 5153/SF9, one-handed mug (Pl. 58d)

Almost complete, small part of neck, lip and handle missing, but handle attachments are visible at shoulder and lip. Mended from many pieces. Flaring lip offset from straight neck that swings onto a shoulder offset from rounded body to false ring base with raised area in center. *M* incised after firing on body just below transition from shoulder, apparently deliberate.

Drim 0,06, Dbase 0,0425, H. 0,08 m.

Fabric: GLEY 1 5/1 (greenish gray). Gritty with tiny white inclusions. Black slip drip-slipped on exterior to lower body, onto false ring base and on interior to shoulder.

1.7. Inv. no. 5153/SF13, one-handed mug (Pl. 58c)

About one quarter of vase from rim to lower body.

¹⁵ See also Langridge-Noti in: Crouwel *et al.* 2003, 19-27 and Langridge-Noti in: Crouwel *et al.* 2004.

Handle join preserved at lip and lower body. Flaring lip carination to straight short neck sloping to mild carination to body.

Est Drim 0,07, PH. 0,062 m.

Fabric: GLEY 2 4/1 (dark greenish gray). Gritty with tiny white inclusions. Black slip preserved on exterior and interior to just below the shoulder and then drips onto the lower body.

- 1.8.** Inv. no. 5552/SF1 (5141/SF2 and 5081/6), plate with upturned rim (Pl. 57d)

Full profile of an upturned rim plate. One-half ring foot with slightly beveled exterior to one-half flat, thin floor and one-half sharply upturned rim that thickens slightly at the top. There is a slightly raised broad band towards the center of the interior of the floor and two grooves inside that, but no traces of roulet-

ting. Upturned rim to almost flat floor. Potting is uneven and uncleaned on exterior body and on foot.

Drim 0,24, Dfoot 0,085-0,088, WTh. 0,006 outer wall, 0,002 m within ring base.

Fabric: 5YR 4/3 (reddish brown) interior with black either side. Matt black slip interior and exterior rim and dripped onto body that shows signs of slight spawling.

- 1.9.** Inv. no. 5585/SF5, grayware unguentarium (Pl. 57b)

Base and about one-half of body. Base is beveled, joins body with a deep groove.

Dbase 0,021, PH. 0,082 m.

Fabric: 10YR 1/1-3/1 dark gray-very dark gray. Lots of small grits. Potting is sloppy and so profile is uneven. No trace of either white or red lines on the body of the pot.

A different situation is presented by our second deposit. This comes from a Hellenistic room that is also located in the eastern portion of the excavation, but this time directly behind the fortification wall. In this area, erosion has caused both a certain amount of depletion of the deposit and the washing in of considerably later material, as witnessed by a fragmentary patera handle (Cat. no. 2.1, Pl. 59a). Although the earliest possible parallels for this vase belong in the 1st century AD, our example is likely to be later¹⁶. The occasional presence of secondary material this late in date is not surprising as Pausanias (3.22.6-8) describes a sanctuary of Apollo on the acropolis as functioning when he visited the area in the 2nd century AD.

While it may not be difficult to recognize such late (and worn) intrusions as the patera handle, a more complex problem exists in the evidence for the partial clearing out and re-use of this room after its last major period of occupation. When studying the more completely preserved vessels from this room, cross-joins were found with a small pottery and tile dump in an open area some 20 m to the West (see Cat. no. 2.2, Pl. 59d). Here the difficult task is to distinguish between the “left-overs” of the cleared-out deposit – which sometimes consist of sizable fragments left in corners and against the wall – and the scanty remains of later, non-intensive re-use.

Unfortunately, there is no clear separation of the pottery, whether chronological or spatially, into two groups. The date of the mouldmade bowls from the room falls within the late 3rd to the first half of the 2nd century BC, a range that accords with an abandonment horizon across the site (Cat. no. 2.3, Pl. 59b). A few vessels could be later. The grayware unguentarium is of a form that ranges from the 2nd through the 1st centuries BC, with closest parallels to 1st-century BC examples (Cat. no. 2.4, Pl. 59c)¹⁷. The flat-bottomed cook pan with high-swung handle is more unusual, but may be a form particular to

¹⁶ Yadin 1963, 58-63, pls 17 and 27 notes metal prototypes of the 1st century AD for this form from Pompeii and Herculaneum. However, the earliest clay examples from good contexts are Knidian relief ware (see Kenrick 1985, 333-336, no. 498) and date from the 2nd into the 3rd centuries AD. There is also a later Athenian series of the 4th century AD (see *Agora V*, M209-210). Both note parallels in Egypt, the Near East and the Levant and suggest that the clay form begins in the 1st century AD.

¹⁷ Bailey 1993, 225, 266, no. 29 (probably 1st century BC and compared to A.J.B. Wace - G. Dickens, *Excavations at Sparta*, 1907, 8. The Tombs, *BSA* 13 (1906-1907), 155-168, fig. 7e from tombs A and C) and Hausmann 1996, no. 59a.

Laconia and is found in a number of the Geraki deposits (Cat. no. 2.5, Pl. 59e)¹⁸. The flat-bottomed form with high-swung handle itself is rare in the Greek world, belonging instead to the Roman, although examples were found recently in Cyprus in contexts of the 2nd century BC¹⁹.

CATALOGUE²⁰

- 2.1.** Inv. no. 2618/SF2, feline head patera handle (Pl. 59a)
 Outer edge of a patera handle moulded in two uneven parts. Hole running from the upper edge of the head to the lower underside. Head bends at an angle to actual handle.
 PL. 0,035, Dhandle 0,015 m.
 Fabric: core 7.5YR 4/4 (brown) and exterior 5 YR 5/8 (yellowish red).
- 2.2.** Inv. no. 2583/SF3, krater, joins in 2739/1, 1787/SF4 and 4905/1 (Pl. 59d)
 Lip is rolled out and down with a deep undercut and a slightly grooved and beveled exterior. The exterior rim is convex and turns onto a straight neck and flaring body. The interior lip is flattened, while the upper rim is concave onto the straight neck.
 Drim 0,362 m.
 Fabric: 10 YR 7/4 (very pale brown). Many tiny to medium black stone and grog inclusions. Surviving black slip is very thin and the body of the vase shown through red in many places.
- 2.3.** Inv. no. 2615/SF1, mouldmade bowl (Pl. 59b)
 Rounded body to thickened and slightly inturned lip. Below lip, raised ridge, then bead and reel, flowers and small upright ferns.
 PH. 0,045, Drim 0,122 m.
 Fabric: 7.5YR 6/6 (reddish-yellow). Sandy fabric with tiny white inclusions. Gritty matt black slip covers interior and exterior.
- 2.4.** Inv. no. 2618/SF1, fusiform unguentarium (Pl. 59c)
 Whole profile, minor fragments missing.
 H. 0,175, Dmouth 0,027, Dbase 0,024 m.
 Fabric 7.5 YR 5/4 (brown).
- 2.5.** Inv. no. 2583/SF1, cookpot with high-swung handle (Pl. 59e)
 Full profile, large sections of the body missing. Flat base that rises very slightly at outer edges, straight wall with ridge around part of vessel. Flaring lip with rounded edge, interior setting ridge for lid. Very broad high swung handle from just below to lip.
 H. 0,075, Dbase 0,25, Drim 0,304 m.
 Fabric: 7.5YR 7/4 to 6/4 (pink to light brown). Many inclusions, small to large grog and small to large black and quartz stone. Burnt over whole base and onto body.

For our third example we would like to focus in more detail on one of the more problematic but most completely studied deposits: that from Room 2 in the western part of the excavated area. Again, there is no evidence that the desertion of this room was due to sudden or violent destruction, whether in the form of an earthquake, human attack or fire. Instead, the room appears to have been peacefully abandoned, after which it slowly deteriorated. The tiled roof collapsed, the mudbrick upper parts of the walls disintegrated and eventually part of the stone socle of the western wall, which was set on a bedrock ledge some

¹⁸ Catling 1996, shape 47 (loop-handled pan) has no complete examples of the form, but assumes that it should have two handles, the Geraki examples demonstrate otherwise. Catling relates this shape to Visscher 1996, shape 28, but the form of the handle on the Geraki examples is completely different. The large number of examples that appear at Geraki suggest its popularity here.

¹⁹ See *Paphos* III, 81-82 for the Cypriote series. Note that this series was generally thought to be Roman, until the Paphos example was found in a definite Hellenistic context, pulling the shape back into the 2nd century BC. The Cypriote examples have handles that are flattened together, unlike the half-heart-shaped examples from Geraki.

²⁰ See also Langridge-Noti in: Crouwel *et al.* 2002, 52-68 and Langridge-Noti in: Crouwel *et al.* 2003, 19-27.

0,50 m above the Hellenistic floor, fell down as well. As this room was situated directly behind the Hellenistic acropolis wall, the partial collapse of the latter resulted in severe erosion. Only a small amount of the original floor surface was preserved. The tile fall was dense against the eastern and southern walls, but thin over the bedrock ledge in the west where it probably subsided into the center of the room.

Most of the finds from this room were found in clusters in the decomposed mudbrick along the walls and as such form relatively undisturbed assemblages. One cluster was located in the southwest corner of the room, a second in the northwest and a third against the eastern wall. In addition, there was a cookpot that was apparently set into the earth floor in the northeast corner. Prevalent amongst the finds were a series of one-handed mugs, cooking vessels, some plain service vessels and a number of terracotta loomweights.

As in the large room south of Street 2, a number of service vessels were found within the room. The main serving vessel, a Plaketten-vase, preserves only the neck, handles, shoulder and turn to the body of the krater (Cat. no. 3.1, Pl. 60a:a). While the white painted ivy decoration characteristic of the type of vase is visible on its neck, the Geraki vase lacks any sign of ribbed body and moulded plakettes²¹. The krater form is apparently early in a series that begins in the 4th century BC and continues, according to the most recent evidence, into the 2nd century BC²². The probable 4th-century BC date makes it much earlier than most of the other vessels in the room. The drinking vessels are again one-handed mugs, as in our first deposit (Cat. nos 3.2-3.5, Pl. 60a:b-e). The variety of fabrics in these examples, some of which are coarse, and the existence of both slipped and non-slipped examples suggest a variety of uses. Indeed, if the large number of well-preserved cookpots from the room is considered, it seems probable that the one-handed mug is a shape associated not just with wine but also with other liquids, including soups and stews²³.

Two basic forms of cookpot are represented in this room, all with traces of burning indicating use: a round-bottomed casserole and a flat-bottomed pan with single high-swung handle. For the former variety, parallels can be found that range in date from the 4th to the 2nd centuries BC (Cat. nos 3.6-3.7, Pl. 60b:e-f)²⁴. However, the flat-bottomed form which is common on the site, presents ambiguity in dating (Cat. no. 3.8, Pl. 60b:d). As noted above, although parallels can be found on Cyprus of the 2nd century BC, elsewhere in the Mediterranean it appears more frequently in the Roman period²⁵.

Some of the remaining food and wine service vessels serve to highlight further the chronological difficulties of the room. The plates illustrated here are of a form that appears in a wide range of fabrics and from the end of the 3rd through the 1st centuries BC in both the eastern and the western parts of the Hellenistic world (Cat. nos 3.9-3.10, Pl. 60b:a-b). Handheld examination of the fabric of the Geraki examples cannot confirm their inclusion in any known category²⁶. Perhaps the closest parallels for their shape come

²¹ Fragments of the ribbed body and the moulded plakettes from other vessels of this type have been found elsewhere on the site, see inv. nos 585/1, 2741/2 and 2755/3.

²² The principle forms of Plaketten-vases are hydriai, pelikai, amphorai and column-kraters, see Züchner 1950-1951; Kenrick 1985, 82f; Dohrn 1985; Μαρκουλάκη 1997 and Ζεφουδάκη 1997. There is debate about where these vases were actually produced with scholars advocating Taranto, Crete or Alexandria where the vast majority of published examples has been found. However, recent publications from Crete and a mould found at Phaistos at the beginning of the 20th century, make the existence of at least one workshop on the island very probable.

²³ See Slane 1990, 89 and Allison 1999 for the idea of different functions for different fabrics with reference to thin-walled wares.

²⁴ For parallels see Kunze - Jantzen 1944, 73, no. 43; Hausmann 1996, 34, nos 61, 62 and 64, pl.12; Δρούγου - Τουράτσουλου, *Τάφοι Βεγοίας*, 120-122.

²⁵ See above note 20.

²⁶ Examples include: Hayes 1985, ESA form 6; Slane 1997, ESA type 2; Morel 1981, Form 1625 (Campana A and B); *Agora XXIX*, nos 838-846 and *PergForsch 2*, F1-5, pls 41-42 (lagynos-ware found at Pergamon). The Pergamene examples have the interior of the Geraki examples, but the lip edge is slightly different.

from northern Greece and date to the end of the 3rd to the turn of the 2nd century BC²⁷. A final form illustrated here is a fragmentary thin-walled mug of Moevs Form 1 (Cat. no. 3.11, Pl. 60b:c). This vessel must post-date the late 3rd-century to first half of the 2nd-century BC abandonment horizon as imported thin-walled ware begins to appear in Greece in the 1st century BC to which the Geraki example may date. The fabric suggests that the vessel is a regional imitation of the form and not an Italian import²⁸.

The issue of deposition of the later pottery may be illuminated by the discovery of a coin at the interface of the tile collapse and the bedrock ledge in the western portion of the room. The coin depicts the Dioscuri and is even later than the mug, dating to 35-31 BC²⁹. While we initially considered the presence of this coin as an indication of a late 1st-century BC date for the pottery deposit as a whole, the evaluation of the different factors involved in the formation of the deposit has led us to conclude otherwise. The severe erosion in the area of Room 2, caused by the collapse of the acropolis wall to the north and exacerbated by the presence of the bedrock ledge to the west, accounts for the washing in of considerable amounts of soil and artifacts. Moreover, the coin is one of only five from Geraki that date to the second half of the 1st century BC – all Spartan issues and found in the same general area, but most often in the plough soil³⁰. This suggests some later context, perhaps a small hoard that was hidden in the ruins of the Hellenistic building and became dispersed in later times, and therefore having no direct relation with the pot deposit.

More generally, the gradual abandonment of the settlement on the acropolis would have given the last inhabitants of this room ample opportunity to take (portable) objects of practical or sentimental value with them. Such a process of “depletion” may extend over a prolonged period of time, with people – whether the former inhabitants themselves or others – repeatedly returning to collect things of their liking³¹. This seems likely for Geraki, where the inhabitants in the Early Roman period may have moved no further than a few hundred metres down the hill. The Plaketten-krater from Room 2, already an antique at the time of the 2nd-century BC abandonment of the acropolis, may have lost its lower part to a later scavenger rummaging through the site.

CATALOGUE³²

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| <p>3.1. Inv. no. 4460/SF7 and 4504/SF3, column-krater with West Slope decoration (Pl. 60a:a) From just below handle attachments to lip. Over-</p> | <p>hanging lip with sloping upper surface, outer surface is ridged at top and grooved at bottom, double rounded handles with broad handle plate and</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

²⁷ See Δρούγου - Τουράτσογλου, *Τάφοι Βεροίας*, B III.11 for the Veroia examples. Although the lip is aligned more horizontally than appears to be the case of the Geraki examples, the small diameter of the Geraki examples echoes that of the Veroia ones. See *Agora* XXIX, 154. There are examples of offset rim plates at Corinth with West Slope decoration that Edwards would place in the 3rd century BC. The contexts in which they were found, however, would allow for them to be dated into the 2nd century BC (see *Corinth* VII, III, nos 127-130). *Corinth* VII, III, 39, n. 25 also notes imported examples without the West Slope decoration that probably date after 150 BC.

²⁸ For the shape, more bulbous than many examples, see Moevs, Form 1 (dating from the second quarter of the 2nd century BC to the third quarter of the 1st century BC, no. 24 is perhaps the closest and is thought later in the series rather than earlier), *Agora* XXIX, no. 1784 (from a context of the first half of the 1st century BC), and Slane 1990, no. 192 (here the form is dated from the last quarter of the 2nd century BC through the third quarter of the 1st century BC). See Slane 1990, 89-93 for local imitations of the Italian forms.

²⁹ See Van der Vin in: Crouwel *et al.* 2001, 28, no. 4.

³⁰ See Van der Vin in: Crouwel *et al.* 1999, 39, no. 8; Van der Vin in: Crouwel *et al.* 2000, 73, nos 8-10.

³¹ See e.g. LaMotta - Schiffer 1999, 19-20, 22-23; Ault - Nevett 1999, 43-45.

³² See also Langridge - Noti in: Crouwel *et al.* 2002, 52-68 and Langridge-Noti in: Crouwel *et al.* 2003, 19-27.

- slight ridge where lip meets plate, incised line at top and bottom of neck, sharp turn down to body, traces of another incised band below handles.
Dmouth 0,281, PH. 0,119 m.
Fabric: 5YR 5/6 (yellowish red). Gritty fabric with tiny black and white pebble inclusions. Surface very worn so slip and decorations survives only spottily. Between incised bands on neck and body: curved incised line with shoots off of it, added white ivy leaf from three blobs and small dot rosettes. Line of white dots at bands.
- 3.2.** Inv. no. 4497/SF1, one-handled mug (Pl. 60a:b)
Full profile, some fragments missing. Disc base, indented underside, plump rounded body with high greatest diameter, sharp transition to straight neck, slight offset at join to outturned lip, single strap handle from outer edge of lip to body just above greatest diameter.
H. 0,075, Dfoot 0,058, Dmouth 0,063 m.
Fabric: 5YR 6/6. Matt black slip inside and out, unevenly applied.
- 3.3.** Inv. no. 4499/SF1, one-handled mug (Pl. 60a:c)
Complete, some small fragments missing. Disc base, indented underside, plump, rounded body, greatest diameter about mid-body, sharp transition marked by ridge to straight neck, slight offset at join to outturned lip, strap handle from outer lip to just above greatest diameter.
H. 0,074, Dfoot 0,04, Dmouth 0,065 m.
Fabric: 7.5YR 5/4. Thin slip interior and exterior, but no traces under foot. Dripping under the handle area suggests that dip-slipped. Possible ghost of lettering on neck: *IOA*.
- 3.4.** Inv. no. 4497/SF3, one-handled mug (Pl. 60a:d)
Full profile. Ring foot indented to a bulge at center and an uneven groove on exterior, rounded body with greatest diameter just above midway, offset at join to straight neck, offset ridge at join to outturned lip, lip has slight upturn at top, no trace of handle.
Dfoot 0,042, Dmouth 0,066, H. 0,08 m.
Fabric: 5YR 6/8-2.5YR 6/8. Red-brown slip over exterior with traces on interior.
- 3.5.** Inv. no. 4512/SF2, one-handled mug (Pl. 60a:e)
Full profile. Ridged ring base, rounded body, slight offset at join to straight neck, slight ridge at join to outturned lip, plump strap handle from outer lip to just above greatest diameter.
H. 0,07, Dfoot 0,048, Dmouth 0,068 m.
Fabric: 10YR 6/4-5/4. Matt brown slip over poorly cleaned clay.
- 3.6.** Inv. no. 4512/SF3, 4, 6: round-bottomed cookpot with flaring lip³³ (Pl. 60b:f)
Whole profile with about half the neck and lip missing and a small part of the body. Rounded bottom to globular body, smooth curve to straight neck and flaring mouth with concave inner surface as setting line for lid, thickened strap handle from greatest diameter to lip with rotelles at join to lip. Includes joins to 4510 and 4509.
Dmouth 0,122, H. 0,183 m.
Fabric: 5YR 6/4-6/6 (light reddish brown to reddish yellow). Pinky-buff fabric is very coarse, gritty and micaceous – less so on handle than on body. Inclusions from tiny micaceous and sandy to large grog and quartz. Burnt over entire lower body and up onto lip. Probable traces of white slip/engobe.
- 3.7.** Inv. no. 4460/SF4, round-bottomed cookpot with thickened triangular lip (Pl. 60b:e)
Whole profile with somewhat over half the vessel surviving. Rounded bottom to globular body smooth curve to relatively straight neck and thickened triangular rim. Strap handle runs from greatest diameter of body to outer edge of lip. Two grooves at transition from body to neck.
Dmouth 0,14, PH. *ca.* 0,14 m.
Fabric: 7.5YR-10YR 7/4 (pink to very pale brown). Pinky-buff fabric is very coarse and somewhat sandy with small to large grog and black and white stone. Burnt over entire lower body with some traces up onto lip.
- 3.8.** Inv. no. 4582/SF3, shallow cook pan with high-swung strap handle (Pl. 60b:d)
About a quarter of the rim and all of high-swung strap handle that attaches at rim. Flaring, outturned rim with flattened top and an interior setting ridge

³³ It is interesting to note that those cookpots that can be restored are either flat-bottomed or round-bottomed. There are, however, high ring feet made out of comparable fabrics and Catling (1996, shape 51) does note the probability of cookpots with ring feet.

for the lid, straight body and very slight inturn to lower body.

EstDrim 0,20, PH. 0,037 m.

Fabric: 5YR 5/6-7.5YR 5/6 (yellowish red to strong brown). Coarse, gritty clay with tiny to small white (quartz?) and black inclusions.

- 3.9.** Inv. no. 4582/SF1, plate with offset rim (Pl. 60b:a)
About a third of the rim preserved. Broad offset rim with broad, shallow groove at outer edge, thin, shallow groove at turn to body: sharp on exterior, very slight offset, smoother on interior, raised ridge just below turn to body.
EstDrim 0,25 m.
Fabric: 10YR 5/4-5/6 (yellowish brown). Brownish clay with some small red, white and black inclusions. Interior and exterior covered with brownish-red slip, less well preserved on exterior almost a crackly effect on interior.

- 3.10.** Inv. no. 4582/SF2, plate with offset rim (Pl. 60b:b)
Broad offset rim with shallow groove at outer edge and shallower groove at inner edge, sharp break at turn to body, ridge just below turn to body, possible slight offset under rim just before turn to body.

EstDrim 0,21 m.

Fabric: 2.5Y 7/2 (light gray). Burnt pale brown with some tiny micaceous to small black inclusions and many small voids. Interior and exterior covered with thin, black, matt slip.

- 3.11.** Inv. no. 4578/1, thin-walled mug, 1st century BC or later (Pl. 60b:c)

Part of outturned rim with slight offset, narrow shoulder and sharp turn to straight body.

Dmouth 0,09 m.

Fabric: 10YR 5/1-5/2 (gray to grayish brown). Dense, gray clay almost clean. Black slip over interior and exterior.

In conclusion, these three deposits demonstrate the complex nature of deposition in settlements that have been peacefully abandoned. Our continued study of material from the Late Classical-Hellenistic settlement at the acropolis of Geraki will seek to clarify the circumstances of deposition and to assess the implications for the chronology and the function of the various assemblages.

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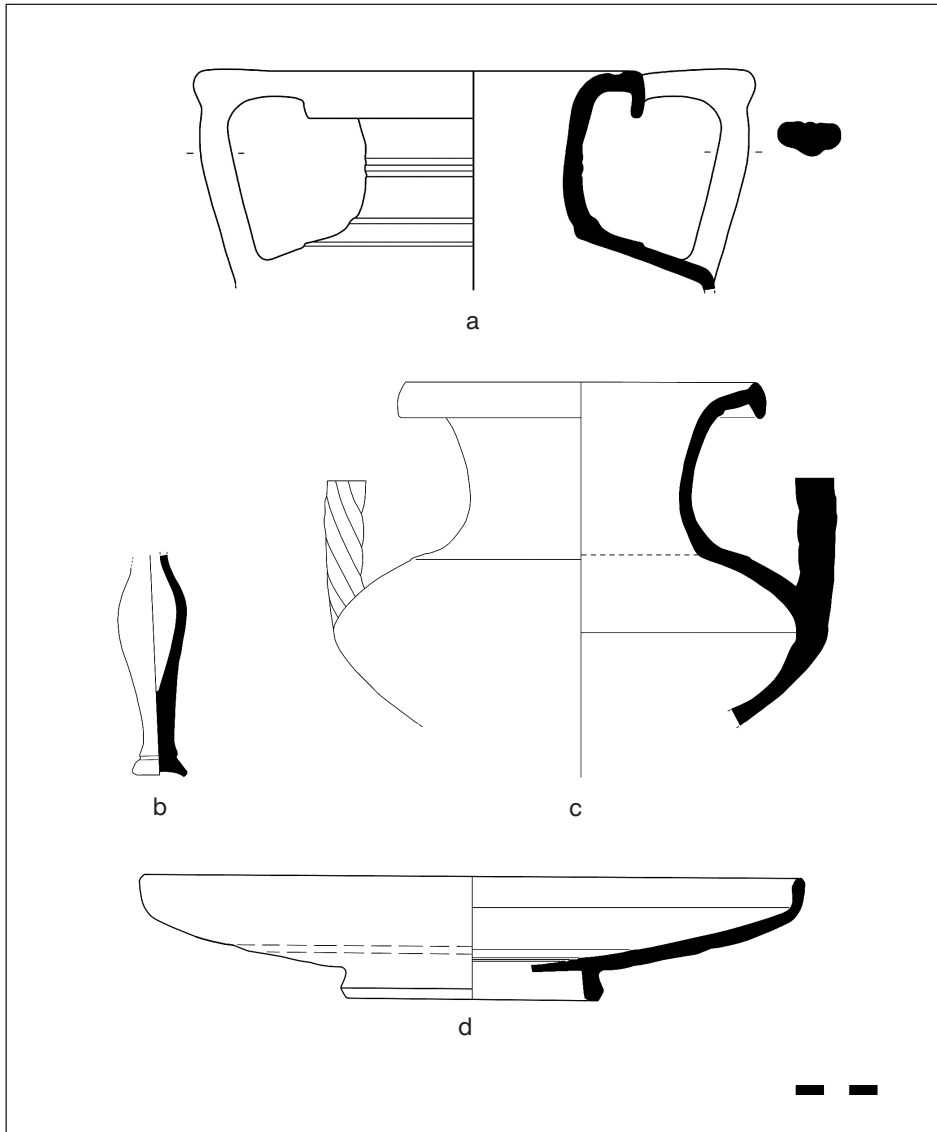
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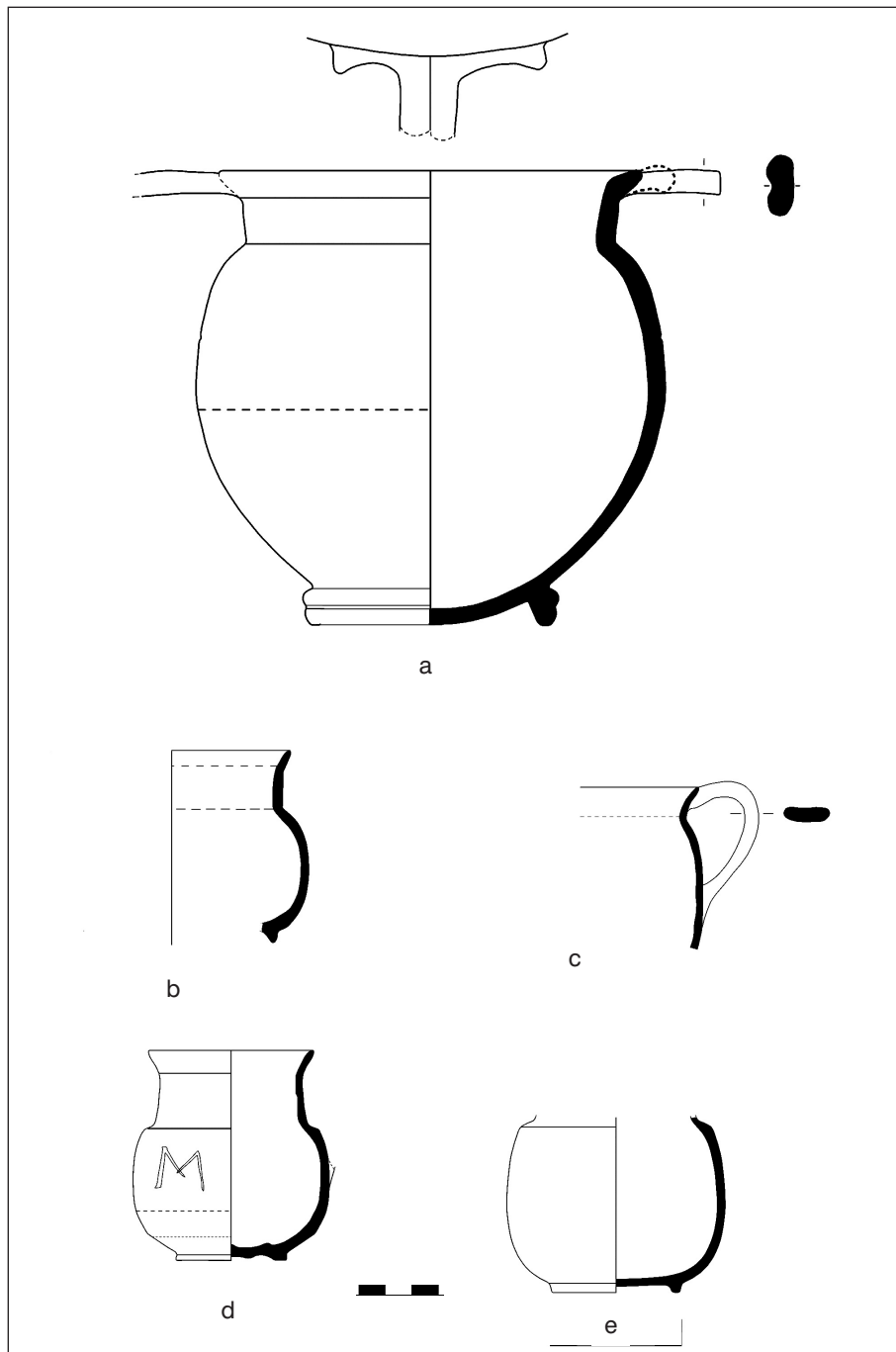
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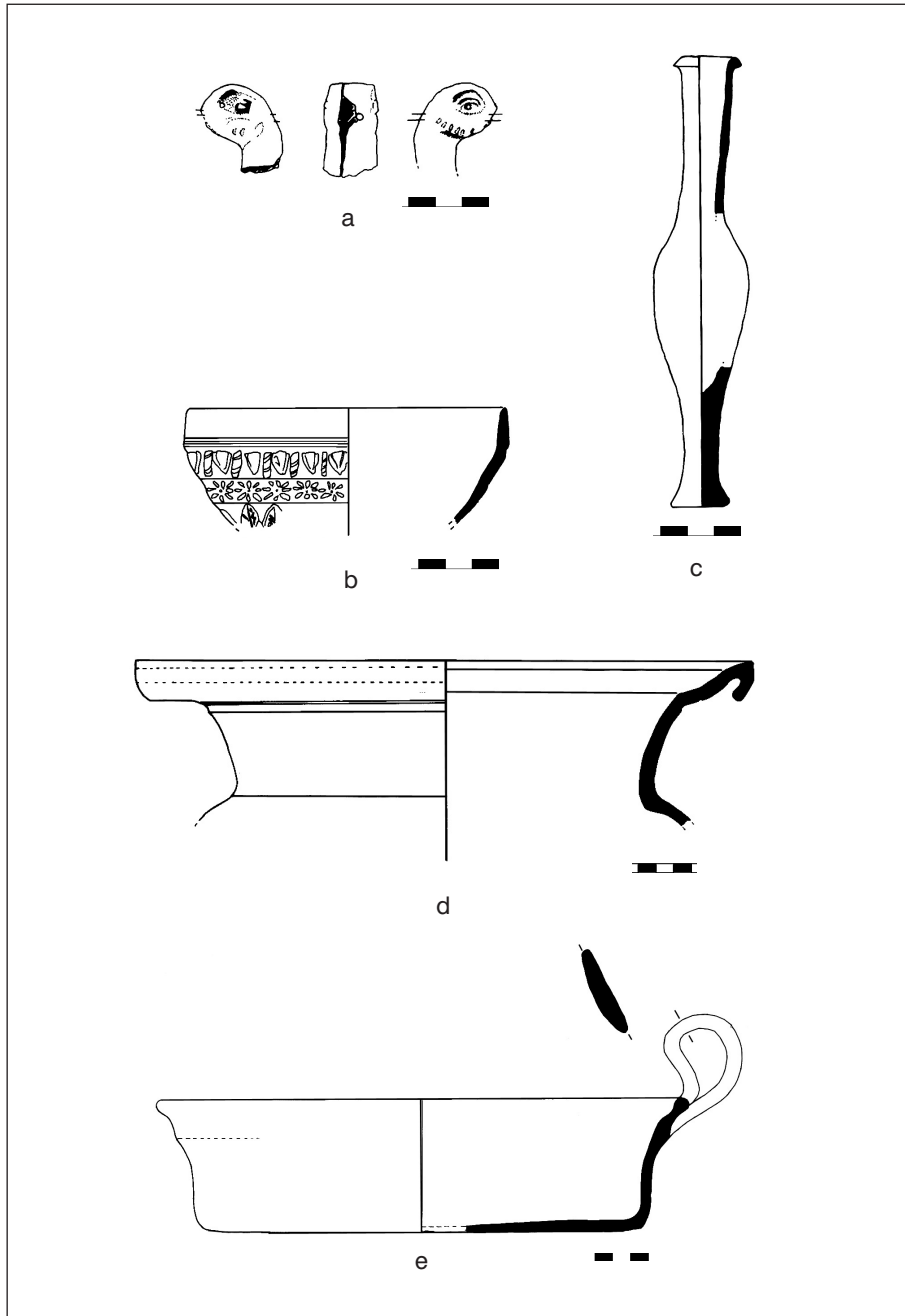
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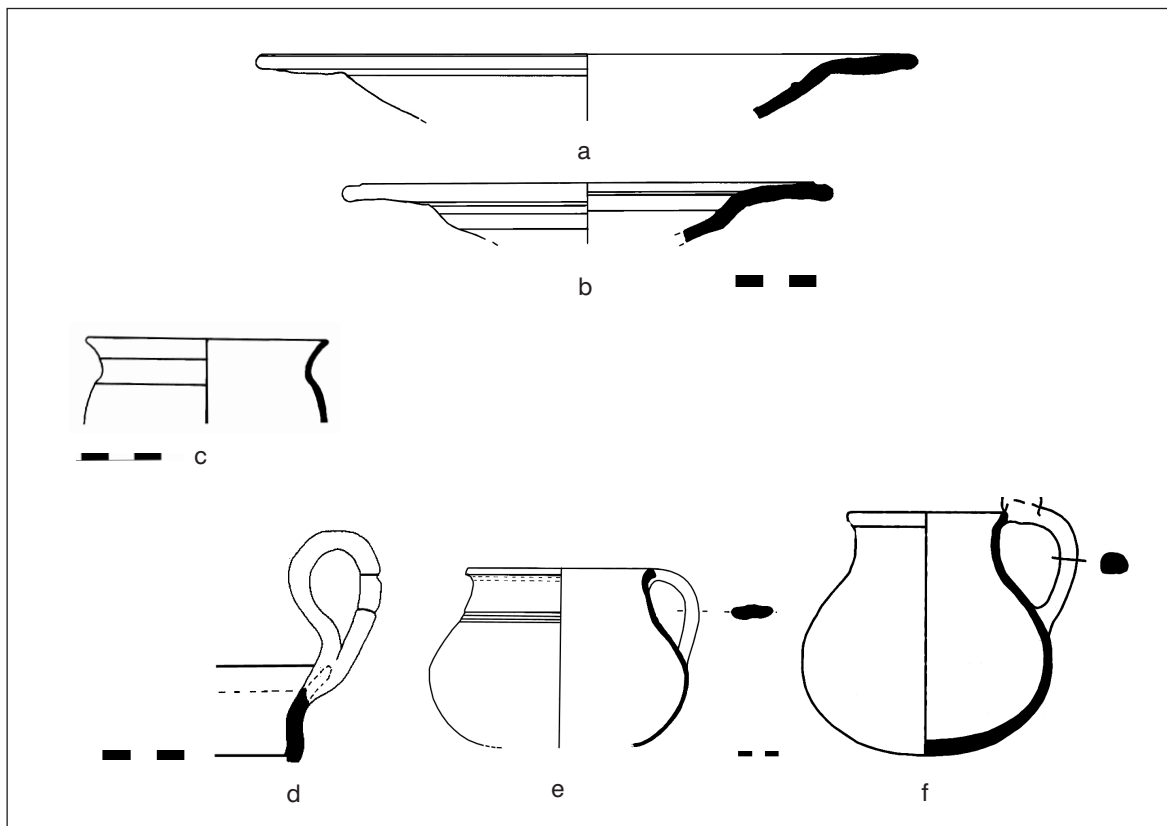
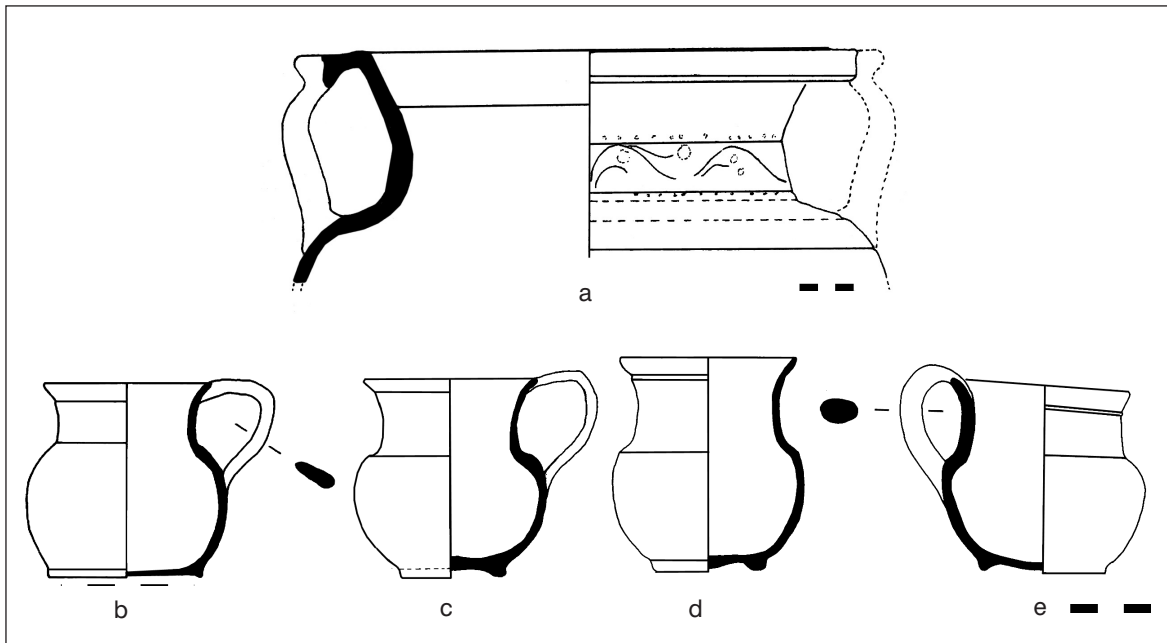
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Geraki, Laconia: a) Inv. no. 5153/SF1. b) Inv. no. 5153/SF3. c) Inv. no. 5153/SF13. d) Inv. no. 5153/SF9. e) Inv. no. 5153/SF5.



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