

Excavations at Shahr-i Sokhta (Graveyard 2006-2007)

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Abstract

This article presents the preliminary report on the 10th campaign of excavations in the graveyard of Shahr-i Sokhta. The excavations of this campaign were carried out in various parts of the site, including the cemetery, the ‘Craftsman Area’, the ‘Monumental Area’ and the ‘Eastern Residential Area’.

The excavations of the graveyard consisted of 12 trenches. Six of these measured 25 square metres each, making a total of 150 square metres, and were empty of any cultural material or skeletons. The remaining six trenches yielded 54 graves, 19 of which were found in Trench NAW. The grave structures found are of three main types: 33 bipartite burials; 18 simple pits; 2 catacombs and one unidentified structure. A total of 56 human skeletons were recovered.

1. The excavation

This is a preliminary report on the tenth campaign of excavations in the graveyard of Shahr-i Sokhta conducted in 2006-2007. Preliminary reports of the excavations of previous campaign are published in (Sajjadi 2003; 2004; 2005; 2006; 2007; 2008; 2009; 2014; 2020).

During the 2006-2007 excavations, six of the 12 trenches (CMW, HLC, LEI, MIE, NHG and NKP), each with an area of 25 square metres, making a total of 150 square metres, were found to be completely empty. The remaining six trenches contain 54 graves, with trench NAW having the highest number (19).

The three main types of burial were bipartite tombs (33 cases); simple pits (18); and catacombs (2). One grave was of an unidentified type. 56 human skeletons were found.

No.	Trench	Trench No.	Number of graves	Grave structures				Area in square metres	Number of skeletons	Number of objects	Number of surface finds	comment
				Simple pit	Bipartite	Catacomb	Other types					
1	MJN	6700	11	2	9	-	-	100	11	134	13	-
2	NGL	6800	9	2	6	1	-	50	9	35	3	-
3	NFR	6900	6	1	4	1	-	25	7	12	1	-
4	NFM	7000	1	-	1	-	-	50	1	-	3	-
5	CMW	7100	0	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	-
6	HLC	7200	0	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	-
7	LEI	7300	0	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	-
8	MIE	7400	0	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	-
9	NHG	7500	0	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	-
10	NKP	7600	0	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	-
11	NAM	7700	8	4	4	-	-	50	8	27	6	-
12	NAW	7800	19	9	9	-	1	100	20	62	22	-
Total	12	-	54	18	33	2	1	525	56	270	48	-

Tab. 1: statistical information on excavated graves.

Trench MJN

This trench, measuring 10 × 10 metres, is located about 60 metres east of the

central part of the cemetery. In the first stage, a space 5×5 metres in the northeast corner was prepared and excavated. Subsequently, considering the density of the graves, the entire area was excavated. In this trench, eleven graves were brought to light, of which two are simple pits and nine are bipartite pits (Fig. 3). From the 11 graves, 10 human skeletons were recovered, along with 134 grave goods. Grave No. (from now G.N.) 6703 had the most artefacts and G.N.6701 the least (only one item). G.N.6704 had three human skeletons and G.N.6701 and G.N.6702 were without skeletons, meaning that the graves were ready for burial but no burial had taken place in them. In addition to the grave goods, a number of pottery vessels scattered on the surface of the trench were collected (Fig. 4). One of the most important objects found in G.N.6705 was a hemispherical artificial eye made of a type of bitumen, on which blood vessels inside the eye had been reconstructed with golden metal wires. The human skeletons found in the graves consisted of eight females, two unidentifiable individuals, one child and one infant.

G.N.	Age	Age range	Gender
6700	22 months	20-24 months	Child
6701	?	?	?
6702	?	?	?
6703	22.5	20	Female
6704/1	55	50-60	Female
6704/2	7.5 months	7-8 months	Infant
6705	30	28-32	Female
6706	22.5	20-25	Female
6707	30	25-35	Female
6708	21	20-22	Female
6709	45	40-50	Female
6710	20	18-22	Female

Tab. 2: gender and age of skeletons (Forouzanfar 2010: 64).



Fig. 1: Shahr-i Sokhta, aerial photo.

G.N.6700

Of the bipartite type, attached to the western wall of the trench (Fig. 3). The partition wall is in the southern part of the grave, built in such a way that it collapsed towards the adjacent walls over time. The grave is oval in shape and measures 120×87 cm (Fig. 6: 6). The grave contains a human skeleton lying on its left side, oriented southwest-northeast and facing south. Only the skull and parts of the scapula remain. The skeleton is 120 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave 137 cm. The grave goods consist of seven items.

G.N.6701

Of the bipartite type, attached to the western wall of the trench. The grave is oval in shape and measures 100×110 cm. The floor of the grave is 141 cm below the surface of the trench. The grave has no skeleton but there is a Buff Ware bowl at a depth of 60 cm.



Fig. 2: Shahr-i Sokhta, topographic map and approximate location of the graveyard.

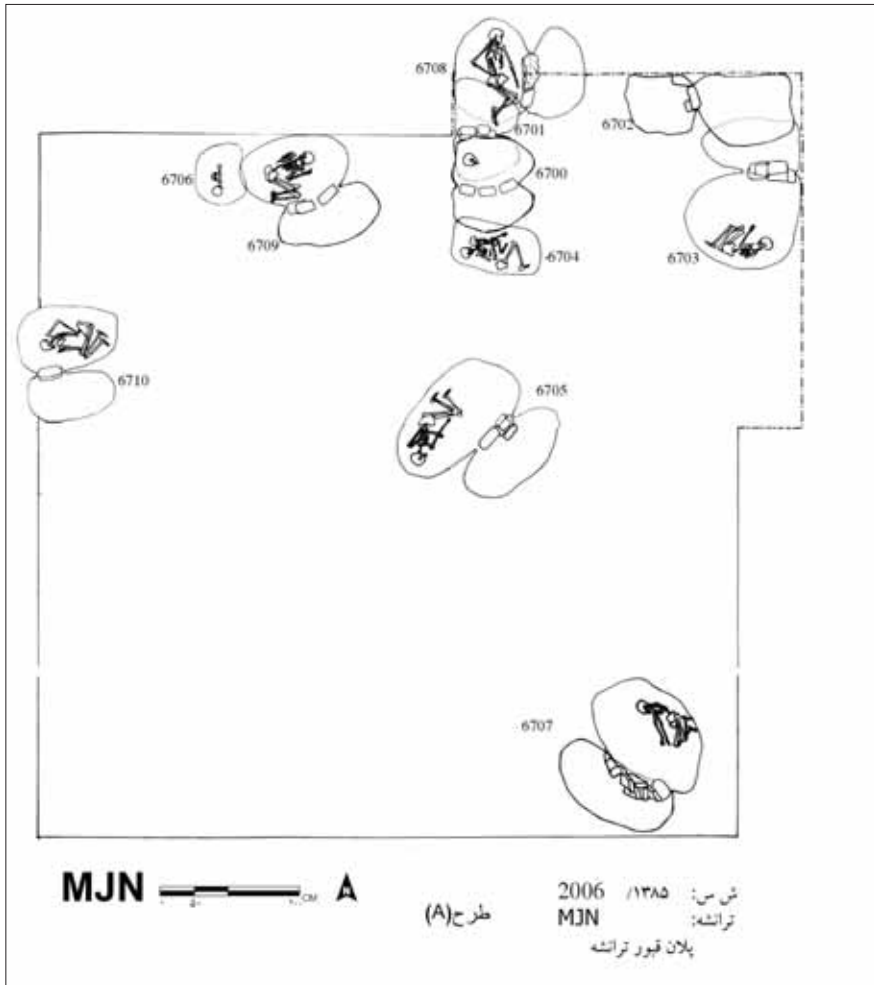


Fig. 3: Trench MJN. Distribution of graves.

G.N.6702

Of the bipartite type, attached to the northern side of the trench, with the partition wall on the western side of the grave. The grave is oval in shape and measures 110×145 cm. The grave is 167 cm below the surface of the trench. It contained neither skeleton nor grave goods.

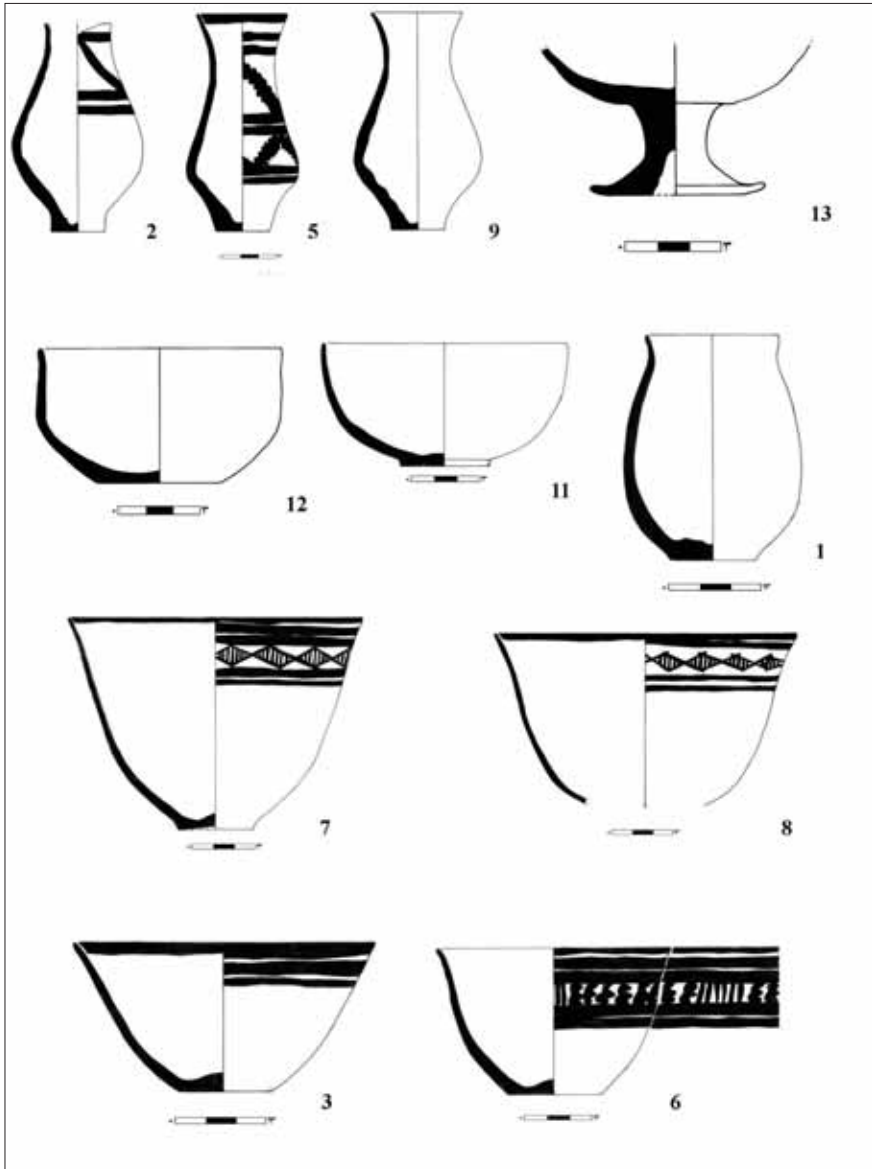


Fig. 4: Trench MJN. Surface objects.



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Fig. 5: Trench MJN. 1. G.N.6703; 2. G.N.6704; 3-4. G.N.6705; 5. G.N.6707; 6. G.N.6709.

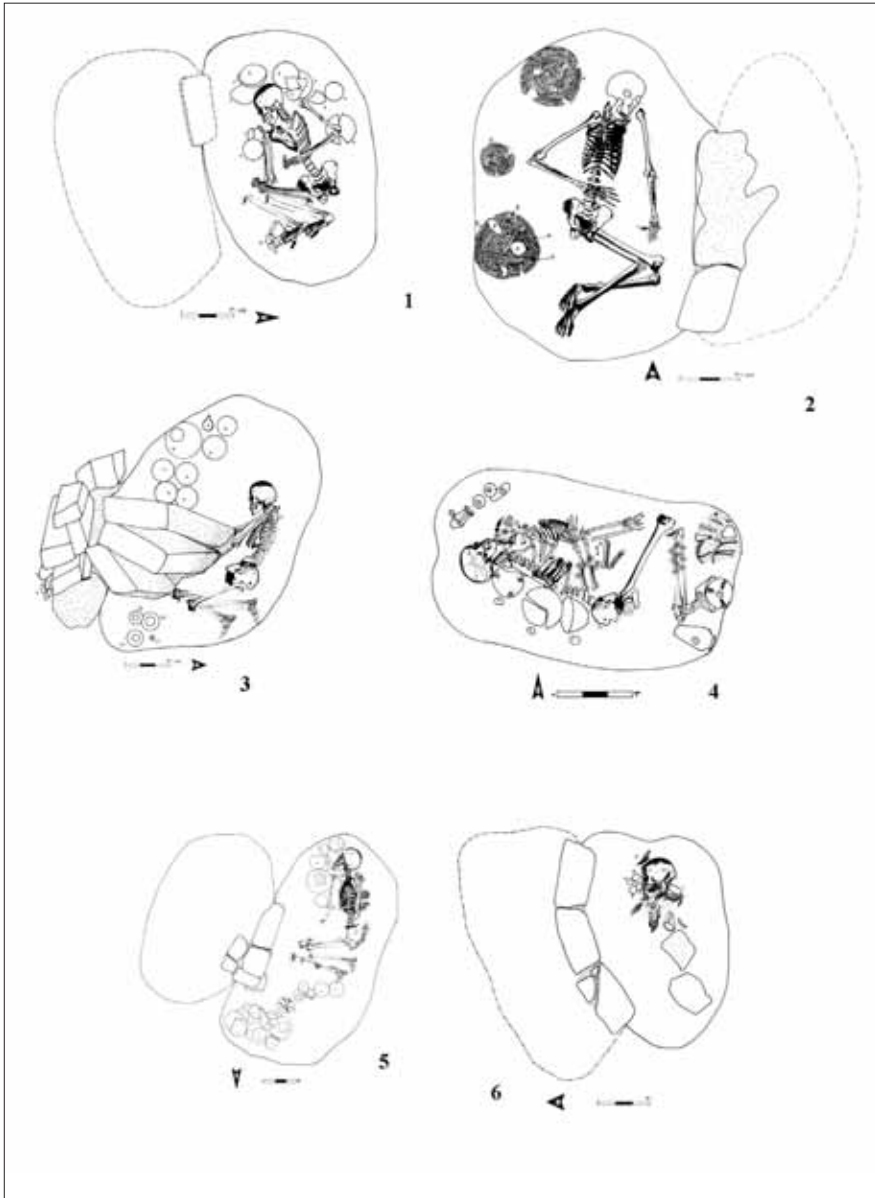


Fig. 6: Trench MJN. 1. G.N.6710; 2. G.N.6708; 3. G.N.6707; 4. G.N.6704; 5. G.N.6705; 6. G.N.6700.

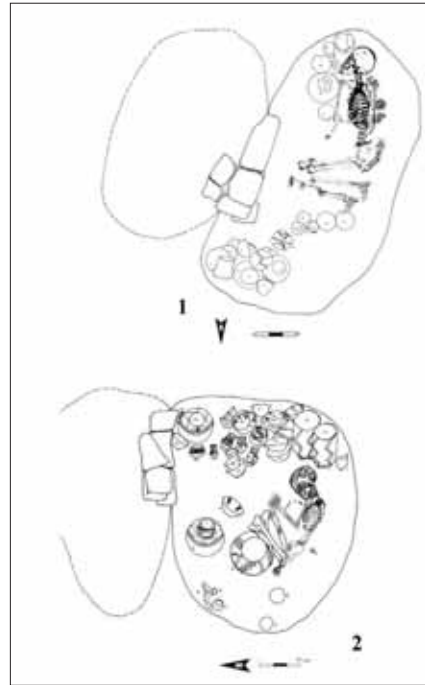


Fig. 7: Trench MJN: 1. G.N.6705; 2. G.N.6703.



Fig. 8: G.N.6700. Objects.



Fig. 9: G.N.6701. Buff Ware bowl.

G.N.6703

Of the bipartite type, attached to the eastern side of the trench, with the partition wall on the northern side of the grave. It is oval in shape and measures 165 × 138 cm (Fig. 7: 2). It contains one human skeleton lying on its right side oriented east-west and facing north. The skeleton is 224 cm below the surface of the trench. The grave goods consist of 41 items (Figs. 10-12).

G.N.6704

Of the simple pit type, located near the western side of the trench (Fig. 3). It is oval in shape and measures 121 × 77 cm (Fig. 6: 4). The grave has three human skeletons: skeleton A is lying on its left side, oriented west-east and facing north. The right hand of skeleton A is lying on the pelvis of skeleton B. Skeleton B is buried in a curved position, lying on its right side, oriented west-east and facing south. Its right hand is under the head of skeleton A. The remains of skeleton C are buried in the northeast corner of the grave at the foot of skeleton B. Traces of fabric can be seen on skeleton A. Skeleton A is 189 cm below the surface of the trench, skeleton B is 193 cm, and skeleton C and the floor of the grave are 203 cm. The grave has 11 objects: 3 medium-sized bowls behind skeleton A, 1 jar and 2 bowls at the foot of skeleton A, 3 pear-shaped beakers and 1 stone item behind the skull of skeleton B and a mass of clay under skeleton B. The grave is relatively well preserved (Fig. 13).

G.N.6705

Of the bipartite type, located in the middle of the trench (Fig. 3), with the brick partition wall in the eastern part. The grave is oval in shape and measures 218 × 105 cm (Fig. 7: 1). It has a human skeleton lying on its right side, oriented south-north and facing east. The skeleton is 152 cm below the surface of the trench and the bottom of the grave 166 cm. The grave goods consist of 30 items: 1 bowl and 1 open-mouth beaker above the skull, 2 bowls and 1 pitcher in front of the face,

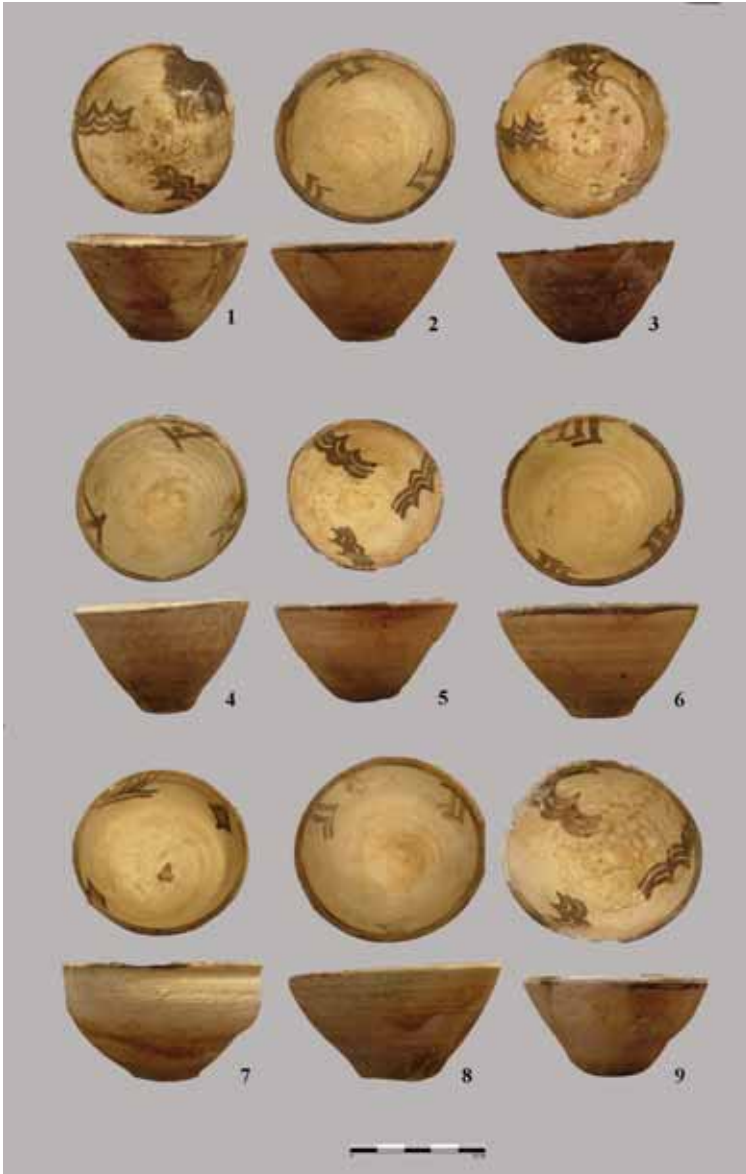


Fig. 10: G.N.6703. Painted Buff Ware bowls: 1. G.N.6703/5; 2. G.N.6703/17; 3. G.N.6703/19; 4. G.N.6703/21; 5. G.N.6703/25; 6. G.N.6703/26; 7. G.N.6703/33; 8. G.N.6703/22; 9. G.N.6723/35.



Fig. 11: G.N.6703. Painted Buff Ware jars and beakers: 1. G.N.6703/2; 2. G.N.6703/37; 3. 6703/3; 4. G.N.6703/11; 5. G.N.6703/22; 6. G.N.6703/36; 7. G.N.6703/1; 8. G.N.6703/10; 9. G.N.6703/30; 10. G.N.6703/31; 11. G.N.6703/24; 12. G.N.6703/39; 13. G.N.6703/29; 14. G.N.6703/30.



Fig. 12: G.N.6703. Metal, marble and clay objects: 1. G.N.6703/7; 2. G.N.6703/6; 3. G.N.6703/4; 4. G.N.6703/41; 5. G.N.6703/40; 6. G.N.6703/9.



Fig. 13: G.N.6704. Grave goods.

1 large jar and 3 bowls in front of the right hand, a hemispherical object in the left eye, 2 bowls, 2 small jars, 1 open mouth beaker, 1 large bead, 1 leather bag, 2 medium-sized jars, 6 bowls and 2 open mouth jars at a distance of 50 cm from the knees, a number of small beads around the neck and 1 bronze mirror inside the bowl. Two small jars, 1 leather bag and 1 large bead were placed in a wicker basket at a distance of 50 cm from the knees, but the wicker basket itself was completely destroyed (Figs. 14-15).

The artificial eye of G.N.6705 is perhaps the most valuable discovery in the Shahr-i Sokhta graveyard to date. Preliminary observations on the left eye socket of a large woman indicate she had an artificial eye. In addition, abscesses can be seen under the arch of the eyebrow and inside the left eye socket. Since the lower part of this artificial eye has been in contact with the eyelid for a prolonged, organic debris has probably remained on it. The eye is made of bitumen mixed with some kind of animal fat. On this artificial eye, the smallest capillaries inside the eyeball are reproduced by very fine golden wires. The pupil is drawn in the middle and a number of parallel lines and rhombuses are visible around it. Two holes on either side of this artificial eye were used to attach it to the eye socket. Anthropological studies have shown that the woman was most likely between 28 and 30 years old. This tomb and the artificial eye date back to about 2800 BC (Fig. 16).

G.N.6706

Of the simple pit type, located near the northern side of the trench (Fig. 3). The grave is oval in shape and measures 85 × 75 cm. It contains a human skeleton lying on its right side, oriented south-north and facing east. The skeleton is 45 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 60 cm. The grave goods consist of 3 medium-sized bowls placed around the skull. In terms of preservation, the grave is not in good condition. Due to its location in the surface layers of the graveyard, it is badly eroded and only parts of the skull have survived.



Fig. 14: G.N.6705.



Fig. 15: G.N.6705. Grave goods.



Fig. 16: artificial eye and protective leather bag.

G.N.6707

Of the bipartite type (Fig. 5: 5), attached to the southern side of the trench (Fig. 3), with the brick partition in the south-eastern part of the grave. It is oval in shape and measures 163 × 116 cm. The skeleton is 147 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 159 cm. This burial has a human skeleton lying on its right side, oriented northwest-southeast and facing south. The legs are fully folded and the heel is close to the pelvis (Fig. 6: 3). The grave goods consist of: 4 medium-sized bowls, 2 jugs, 1 medium-sized jar and 1 olla-like pot at the top of the skull, 3 small jars and 1 large bead in front of the knee, 1 conical beaker and 1 bowl behind the bricks, 1 medium-sized bead around the wrist and a small bead around the neck (Fig. 17).

G.N.6708

Of the bipartite type, located next to the northern wall of the trench (Fig. 3), with the partition wall on its eastern side. It is oval in shape and measures 110 × 110 cm (Fig. 6: 2). It contains a human skeleton lying on its left side, oriented northeast-southwest and facing south. The legs are slightly drawn up and the right hand is placed on the end of the spine. The left hand is open and next to the body. The skeleton is 178 cm below the surface of the trench and the bottom of the grave is 203 cm. The grave goods consist of: 1 seal in the left hand, 1 bronze



Fig. 17: G.N.6707. Grave goods.

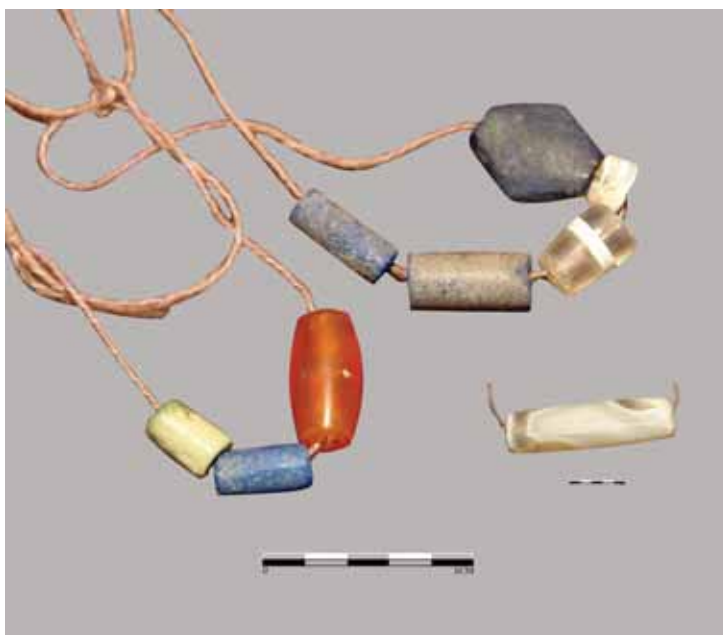


Fig. 18: G.N.6707. Semi-precious beads.

pin, 1 large bead, 1 stone tool and 1 bone tool all inside a wicker basket behind the pelvis, another wicker basket behind the ribs and a third wicker basket behind the skull. The skeleton is in relatively good condition and in some parts, traces of the shroud have been observed (Fig. 19).

G.N.6709

Of the bipartite type (Fig. 5: 6), attached to the northern side of the trench (Fig. 3), with the partition wall in the southern part. The grave is oval in shape and measures 150×87 cm. It has a human skeleton lying on its left side, oriented east-west. The hands are drawn together on the chest in front of the face and the legs are fully folded with the heel close to the hip. The skeleton is 192 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor is 204 cm. The grave goods consist of: 1 bead, 1 bronze pin and 1 wooden comb placed inside a wicker basket in front of the forehead touching the skull (Fig. 20).

G.N.6710

Of the bipartite type, attached to the western wall of the trench (Fig. 3), with the partition wall in the south-eastern part of the grave. This grave is oval in shape and measures 140×90 cm (Fig. 6: 1). It has a human skeleton lying on its left side, oriented southwest-northeast and facing southeast. The legs are drawn up and the heel of the foot is touching the pelvic bone. The right hand is folded and the forearm is placed on the end of the ribs. The left hand is open next to the body. The skeleton is 185 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor is 192 cm. The grave goods consist of 13 items: 6 medium-sized bowls and 1 open-mouth beaker behind the skull, 1 stone tool and 1 small bowl at the back of the right arm, 1 medium-sized bowl under the right elbow, 1 open-mouth beaker and a small jar placed near the face. The skeleton is in relatively good condition (Fig. 21).

Trench NAM

This trench is located in the north-eastern part of the cemetery and outside the central area. Of the total area of 10×10 m, the 5×10 m eastern half was selected and excavated to a depth of 180 cm (Fig. 22). The layers of the trench are as



Fig. 19: G.N.6708. Grave goods.



Fig. 20: G.N.6709. Grave goods.



Fig. 21: G.N.6710. Grave goods.

follows: layer 1 with a thickness of 5-15 cm; layer 2 with a thickness of 20-30 cm composed of compacted but soft soil; layer 3 with a thickness of 15-70 cm, composed of soft white soil, and layer 4 with a thickness of 60-110 cm composed of a compacted layer of sand. A total of eight new graves were found in this trench, of which four are structurally of type 1 (or simple pits) and 4 of type 2 (or bipartite graves) (Fig. 23). The graves contained a total of nine human skeletons and 27 objects. Most of the grave goods come from G.N.7707, while G.N.7704 and G.N.7700 had the fewest. In addition to objects found inside the graves, a number of objects were also found on the surface. The graves were relatively better preserved than the NAW trench due to the presence of the compacted sand layer. The human remains found in this trench include 4 females, 3 males, one foetus and one undetermined individual.

G.N.	Age	Age range	Gender
7700	-	-	Foetus
7701	37.5	35-40	Female
7702/1	16.5	16-17	Female
7702/2	35	30-40	Female
7703	55	50-60	Male
7704	22.5	30-35	Female
7705	35	30-40	Male
7706	?	?	?
7707	42.5	40-45	male

Tab. 3: gender and age of skeletons (Forouzanfar 2010: 65).

G.N.7700

Of the simple pit type, located near the eastern side of the trench (Fig. 22). The grave is oval in shape and measures 76 × 40 cm (Fig. 23: 8). It contains the remains of a foetus. The grave is 118 cm below the surface of the trench. In terms of grave goods, the only item found is a large bowl in the southern part of the grave at a distance of 10 cm from the skeleton.

G.N.7701

Of the simple pit type, located next to the western wall of the trench (Fig. 22). It is oval in shape and measures 117 × 107 cm (Fig. 23: 7). It has a human skeleton lying on its right side, oriented west-east and facing southwest. The legs are fully drawn up and the heel of the foot is touching the pelvic bone. The skeleton is 94 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 107 cm. The grave goods consist of 1 jar 20 cm in front of the face, three bowls at a distance of 20 cm from the chest and 3 beads around the neck (Fig. 24).

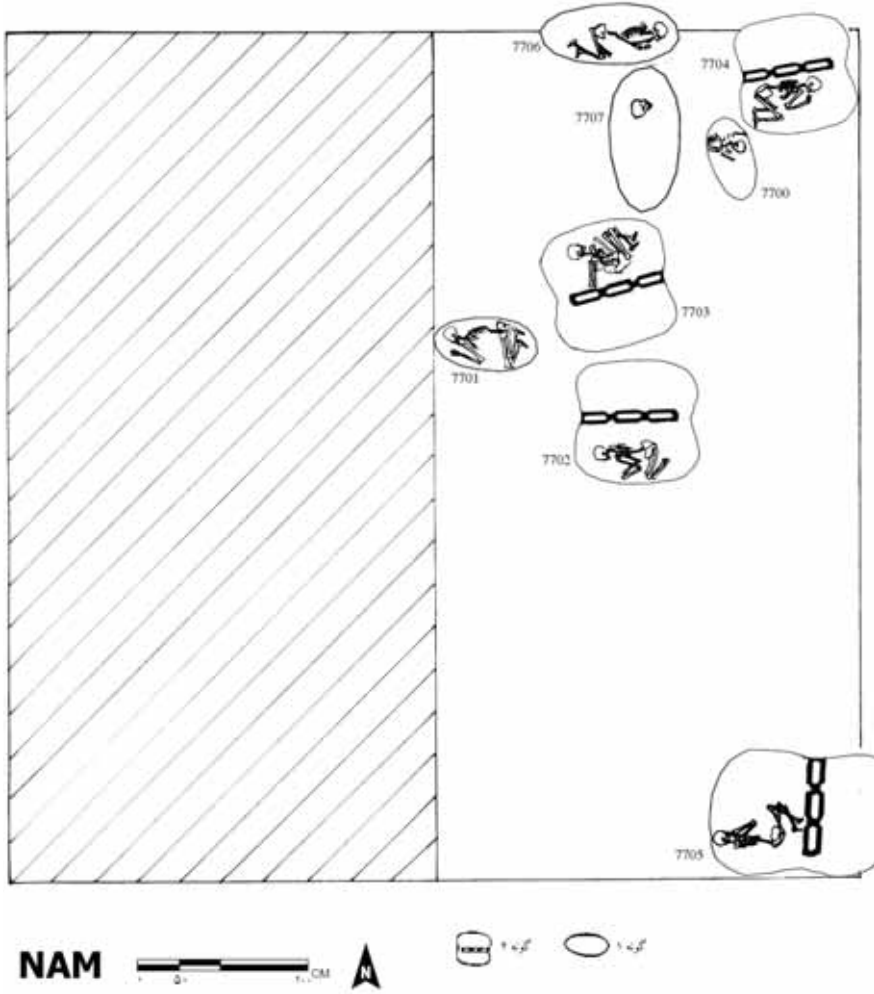


Fig. 22: Trench NAM.

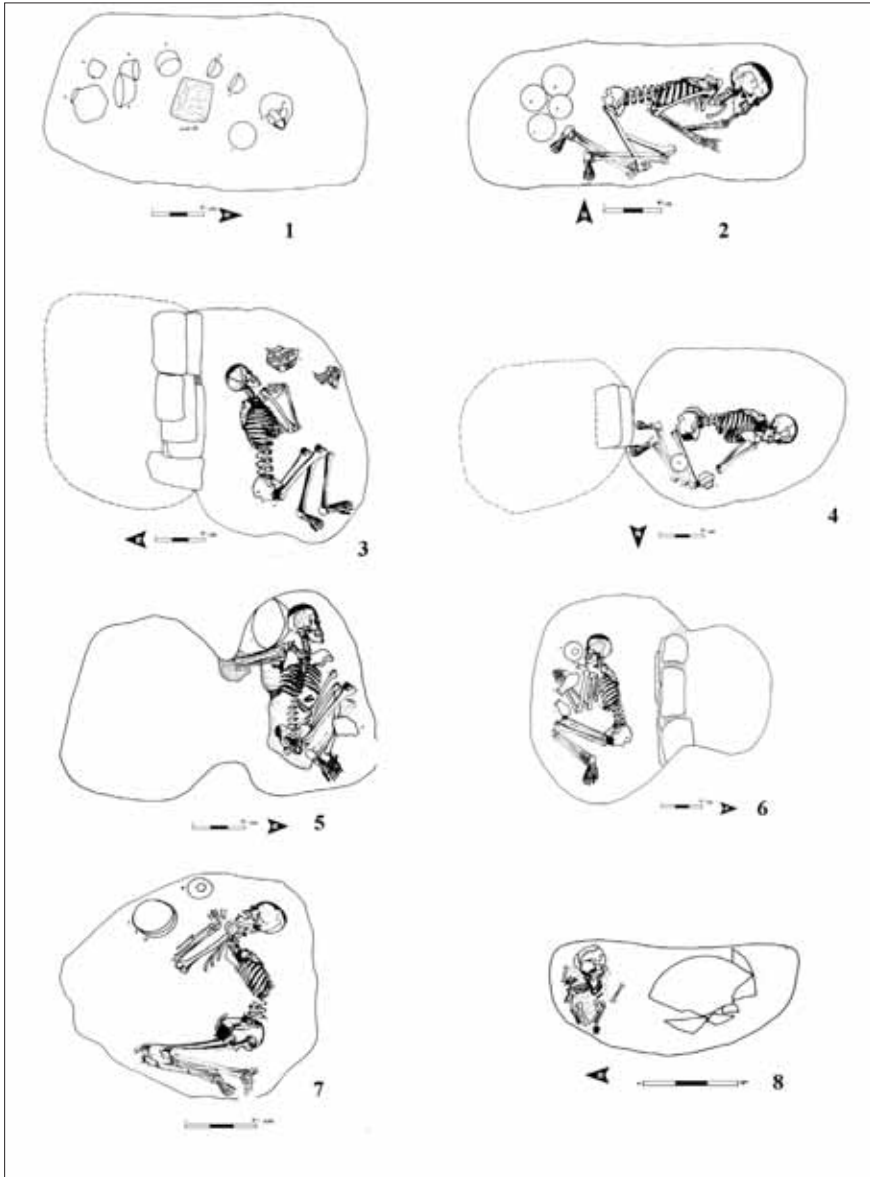


Fig. 23: NAM graves: 1. G.N.7707; 2. G.N.7706; 3. G.N.7704; 4. G.N.7705; 5. G.N.7703; 6. G.N.7702; 7. G.N.7701; 8. G.N.7700.



Fig. 24: G.N.7701. Grave goods.

G.N.7702

Of the bipartite type, located in the centre of the trench (Fig. 22), with the partition wall in the northern part (Fig. 23: 6). It is oval in shape and measures 135 × 86 cm. The grave contains a skeleton lying on its right side, oriented west-east and facing south. The legs are drawn up, the heel of the foot is close to the pelvic bone and the hands are gathered in front of the face. The grave goods consist of 1 medium-sized jar in front of the forehead and two pear-shaped beakers by the right hand. The skeleton is in relatively good condition (Fig. 5: 1-3).

G.N.7703

Of the bipartite type, located near the western wall of the trench (Fig. 22), with the partition wall on the south side of the tomb (Fig. 23: 5). The grave is oval in shape and measures 115 × 74 cm. The grave has a human skeleton lying on its left side, oriented west-east and facing north. The legs are fully drawn up and the femur is touching the chest. The left hand is folded and tilted to the south and the

right hand is on the chest. The skeleton is 155 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor is 167 cm. The grave goods consist of a medium-sized bowl placed behind the skull and a stone tool in front of the left leg (Fig. 25: 4-5).

G.N.7704

This grave is rectangular in shape and measures 150 × 100 cm. It has a human skeleton lying on its left side, oriented northeast-southwest. The arms and legs are folded and the right hand is placed in front of the face. The skeleton is 100 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 150 cm. The grave goods consist of fragments of two jars placed in front of the face (Fig. 25: 6-7).

G.N.7705

Of the simple pit type (Fig. 27), attached to the northern wall of the trench (Fig. 22). It is rectangular in shape and measures 165 × 85 cm (Fig. 23: 2). It has a human skeleton lying on its left side, oriented east-west and facing south. Its arms and legs are folded. The skeleton is 120 cm below the surface of the trench and the bottom of the grave is 140 cm. The grave goods consist of 3 medium-sized jars and 1 medium-sized bowl (Fig. 28).

G.N.7707

Of the simple pit type, located near the northern wall of the trench (Fig. 22). The grave is rectangular in shape and measures 184 × 100 cm (Fig. 23: 1). The grave contains a human skull. The grave is 158 cm below the surface of the trench. The grave goods consist of 2 open-mouth beakers, 3 small jars, a medium-sized jar, 1 medium-sized bowl and 1 jug, located behind the skull (Fig. 29).

Trench NAW (Fig. 30: 4-6)

The trench is near the central part of the cemetery, consisting of an area of 100 square metres excavated to a depth of 135 cm. From the beginning of the excavations in this trench, broken Buff Ware and reddish pottery were found scattered on the surface. In one case, traces of a large amount of broken pottery



Fig. 25: G.N. 7703 Grave goods; 4-5, G.N. 7704: Grave goods: 6-7.



Fig. 26: G.N.7705. Grave goods: 1. G.N.7705/1; 2. G.N.7705/2; 3. G.N.7705/3.



Fig. 27: G.N.7706.



Fig. 28: G.N.7706. Grave goods: 1. G.N.7706/1; 2. G.N.7706/2; 3. G.N.7706/3; 4. G.N.7706/4.



Fig. 29: G.N.7707; Grave goods: 1. G.N.7707/1; 2. G.N.7707/2; 3. G.N.7707/3; 4. G.N.7707/4; 5. G.N.7707/5; 6. G.N.7707/7; 7. G.N.7707/6; 8. G.N. 7707/8.

were found, possibly a dump. The layers of the trench are as follows: layer 1 on the surface has a thickness of 5-10 cm; layer 2, 25-40 cm thick, consists of soft soil mixed with salt; layer 3, 15-90 cm thick, is composed of compacted soft soil; layer 4, 20-80 cm thick, is composed of sand and soil; layer 5, 10-30 cm thick, is composed of soft sand. A total of 19 graves were found in this trench, of which 9 graves are of type 1 (simple pits), 9 graves are of type 2 (bipartite graves) and one is of a new type called a pottery grave. Twenty human skeletons were found in this trench. In terms of grave goods, 62 items were recovered. G.N.7817 had the most objects and G.N.7804 and G.N.7818 had the fewest. G.N.7800, G.N.7802, G.N.7807, G.N.7808, G.N.7811 and G.N.7813 had no objects. Of the skeletons, six were females, five were males, three were children, one was a foetus and five were of indeterminate sex and age (Figs. 31-33).

G.N.	Age	Age range	Gender
7800	4.5	4-5	Child
7801	50	45-50	Female
7802	?	?	????
7803	?	?	Female
7804	?	?	?
1/7805	?	?	Female
2/7805	?	?	Female
7806	?	?	?
7807	37.5	35-40	Male
7808	?	?	?
7809	?	?	?
7810	42.5	40-45	Male
7811	?	?	?
7812	40	35-45	Male
7813	9.5	9-10	Child
7814	55	50-60	Female
7815	3.5	3-4	Child
7816	32.5	30-35	Male
7817	35	30-40	Male
7818	30	25-35	Female

Tab. 4: gender and age of skeletons (Forouzanfar 2010: 65).

G.N.7801

Of the simple pit type, attached to the northern wall of the trench (Fig. 31). The grave is oval in shape and measures 157 × 120 cm (Fig. 32: 4). It has a human skeleton lying on its left side, oriented west-east with the face turned upwards. The skeleton is 64 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 84 cm. The grave goods consist of 1 large bowl behind the skull and 1 stone disc on the right leg (Fig. 34).

G.N.7802

This irregular grave is located in the middle of the trench (Fig. 31: 5; 32) and it contains a foetus. The skeleton is 55 cm below the surface of the trench. This tomb is without grave goods.

G.N.7803

Of the simple pit type, attached to the south side of the trench (Fig. 31). It is oval in shape and measures 165 × 90 cm (Fig. 32: 2). It contains a human skeleton lying on its left side, oriented southeast-northwest. The face is looking down, with the hands folded towards the face. The skeleton is 88 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 110 cm. The grave goods consist of 3 beakers above the skull and 2 small jars behind the skull (Fig. 35).

G.N.7805

Of the bipartite type, located in the centre of the trench (Fig. 31), with the partition wall in the southern part (Fig. 32: 6). The grave has two human skeletons. Skeleton A is lying on its left side, oriented southeast-northwest and facing southwest. The arms and legs are folded and the hands are placed in front of the chest. Skeleton B is oriented southeast-northwest, facing southwest. It has folded legs and the hands are placed crosswise next to the chest. The skeleton is 114 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 130 cm. The grave goods consist of 1 medium-sized bowl behind the skull of skeleton A, 1 marble bowl behind the skull of skeleton B and 1 marble bowl under the chin of skeleton A (Fig. 37).



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Fig. 30: Trench NGL: 1. G.N.6805; 2. G.N.6808; Trench NFR: 3. G.N.6905; Trench NAW: 4. G.N.7805; 5. G.N.7816; G.N.7827.

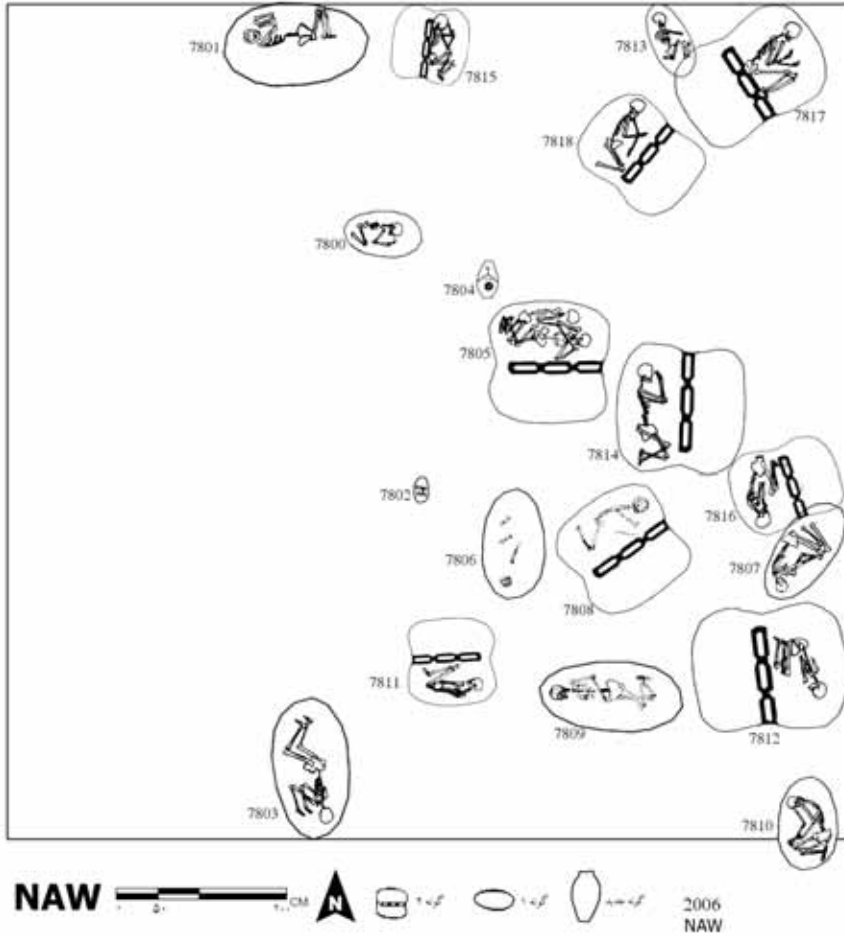


Fig. 31: Trench NAW.

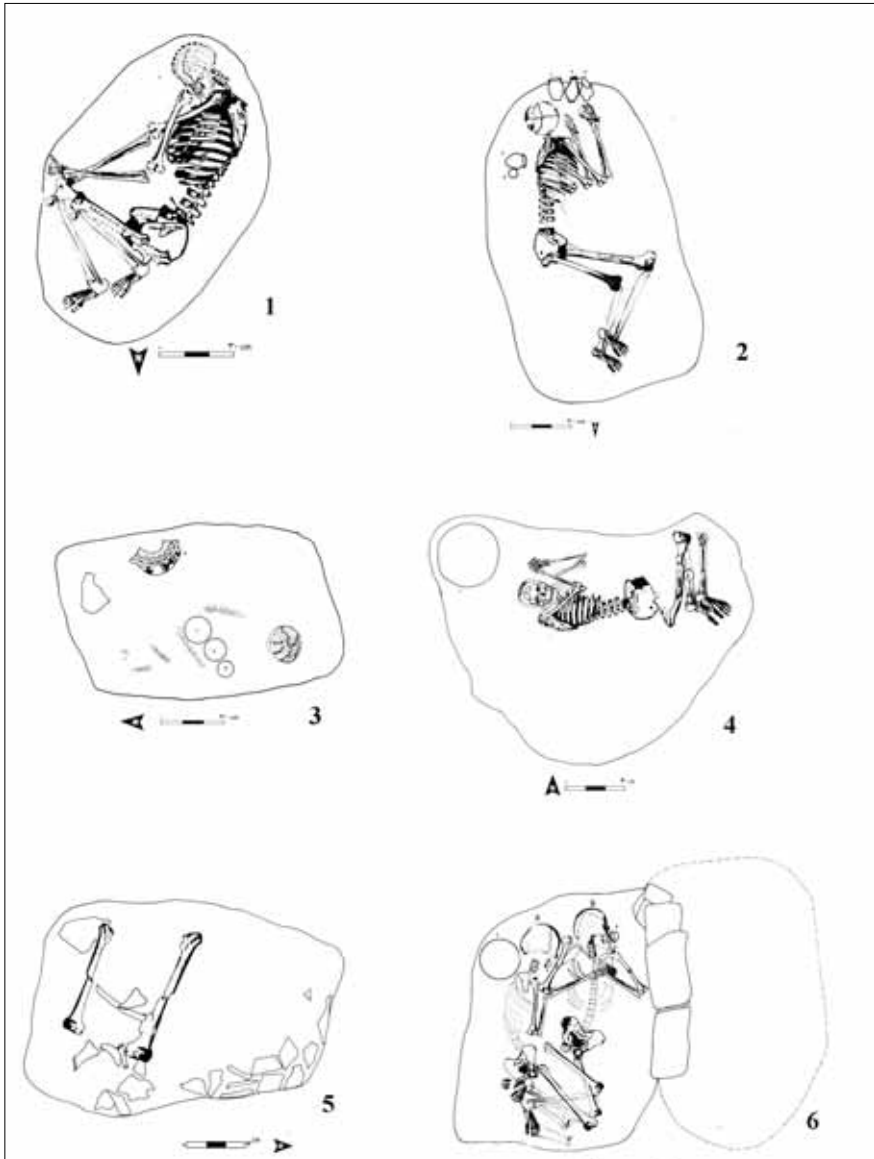


Fig. 32: 1. G.N.7807; 2. G.N.7803; 3. G.N.7806; 4. G.N.7801; 5. G.N.7802; 6. G.N.7805.

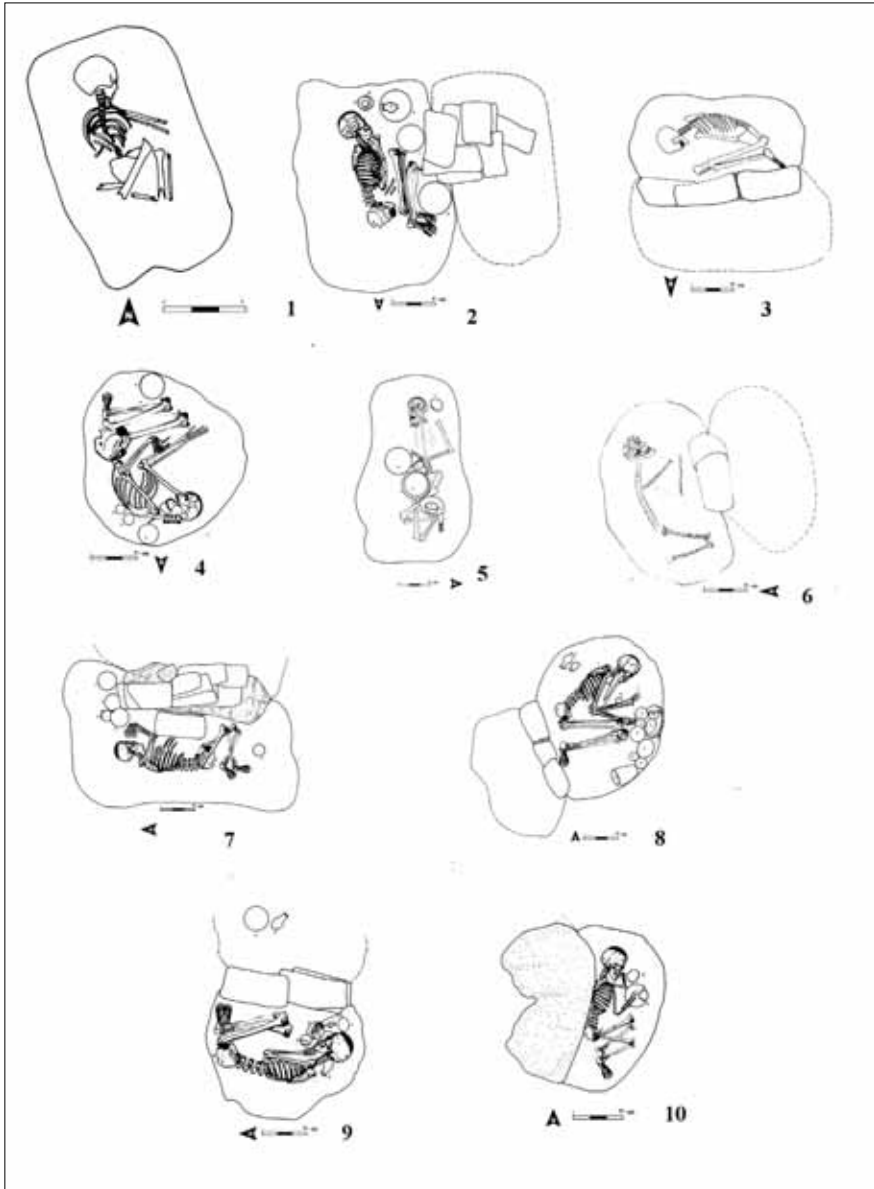


Fig. 33: 1. G.N.7813; 2. G.N.7812; 3. G.N.7811; 4. G.N.7810; 5. G.N.7809; 6. G.N.7808; 7. G.N.7814; 8. G.N.7817; 9. G.N.7816; 10. G.N.7815.



Fig. 34: G.N.7801. Grave goods: 1. G.N.7801/1; 2. G.N.7801/2.



Fig. 35: G.N.7803. Grave goods: 1. G.N.7803/4; 2. G.N.7803/3; 4. G.N.7803/1; 5. G.N.7803/5.

G.N.7806

Of the simple pit type, located in the centre of the trench (Fig. 31). The grave is oval in shape and measures 130 × 80 cm (Fig. 32: 3). The grave has a human skeleton oriented south-north, with indistinct features. The skeleton is 123 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 150 cm. The grave goods consist of 1 jar, 1 beaker and 1 small jar placed on the chest of the skeleton and some fragments of a large jar at a distance of 30 cm.

G.N.7807

Of the simple pit type, attached to the eastern wall of the trench (Fig. 31). This grave is irregular in shape and measures 120 × 85 cm (Fig. 32: 1). It has a human skeleton lying on its right side, oriented southwest-northeast and facing northeast. Its legs are folded. The skeleton is 82 cm below the surface of the trench and the bottom of the grave is 93 cm. There are no grave goods.

G.N.7808

Of the bipartite type, located close to the centre of the trench (Fig. 31), with a brick partition wall in the northern part. The grave is oval in shape and measures 130 × 57 cm (Fig. 33: 6). The grave has a human skeleton lying on its left side, oriented northeast-southwest and facing southeast. The skeleton is 109 cm below the trench surface and the floor of the grave is 130 cm. There are no grave goods.

G.N.7809

Of the simple pit type, located near the southern wall of the trench (Fig. 31). It is rectangular in shape and measures 170 × 90 cm (Fig. 33: 5). It has a human skeleton lying on its right side, oriented west-east and facing south. The skeleton is 124 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 135 cm. The grave goods consist of nine items: 1 small jar behind the skull, 3 large bowls, 1 marble cup and a stone object in front of the chest, 1 large bowl and a small bowl inside it on the legs and a number of beads around the neck.

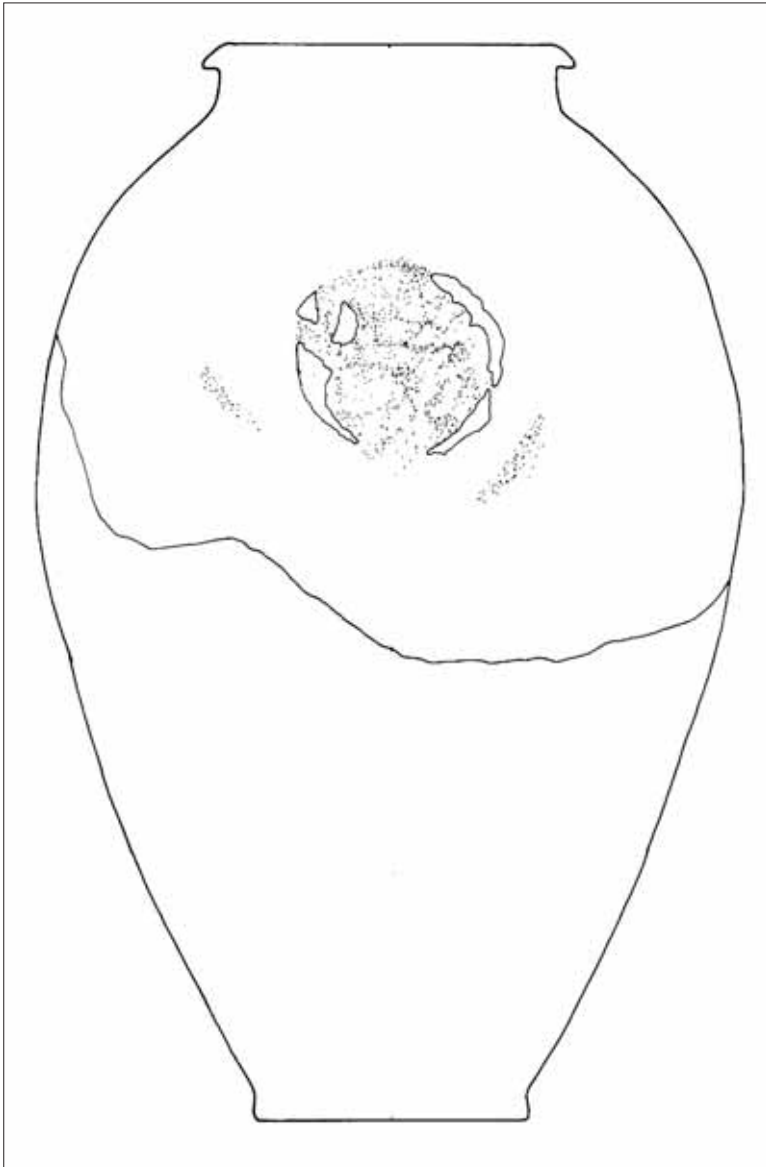


Fig. 36: G.N. 7804.



Fig. 37: G.N.7805. Grave goods: 1. G.N.7805/1; 2. G.N.7805/2; 3. G.N.7805/3.

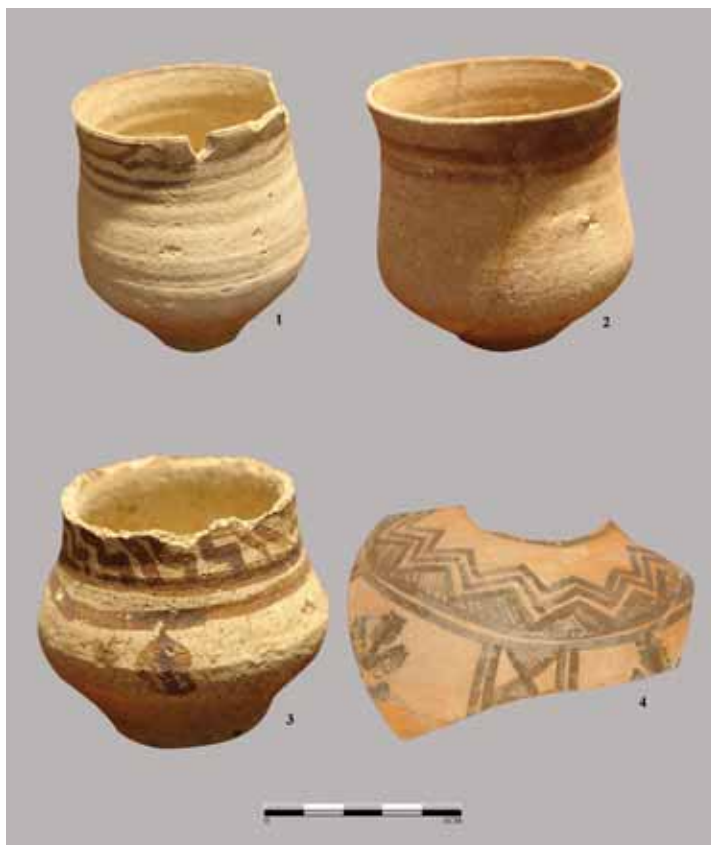


Fig. 38: G.N.7806. Grave goods: 1. G.N.7806/1; 2. G.N.7806/2; 3. G.N.7806/3; 4. G.N.7806/4.



Fig. 39: G.N.7809. Grave goods: 1. G.N.7809/1; 2. G.N.7809/2; 3. G.N.7809/3; 4. G.N.7809/4; 5. G.N.7809/5; 6. G.N.7809/6; 7. G.N.7809/7; 8. G.N.7809/8; 9. G.N.7809/9.

G.N.7810

Of the simple pit type, located next to the southern wall of the trench (Fig. 31). It is oval in shape and measures 100 × 90 cm (Fig. 33: 4). The grave has a human skeleton lying on its right side, oriented northwest-southeast. The legs are folded. The skeleton is 108 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 125 cm. The grave goods consist of 1 medium-sized bowl at the bottom of the foot, 2 pear-shaped beakers and 1 small bowl behind the chest and scapula.



Fig. 40: G.N.7810. Grave goods: 1. G.N.7810/3; 2. G.N.7810/2; 3. G.N.7810/1; 4. G.N.7810/4.

G.N.7811

Of the bipartite type, located near the southern wall of the trench (Fig. 31), with the partition wall in the northern part. This grave is oval in shape and measures 105×58 cm (Fig. 33: 3). The grave has a human skeleton lying on its right side, oriented east-west and facing northwest. The skeleton is 110 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 120 cm. There are no grave goods.

G.N.7812

Of the bipartite type, attached to the eastern wall of the trench (Fig. 31), with a brick partition wall in the eastern part (Fig. 33: 2). This grave is irregular in shape and measures 130×118 cm. The grave has a human skeleton lying on its left side, oriented southeast-northwest and facing southwest. The body and legs are fully folded and the hands are placed between the chest and legs. The skeleton is 102 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 118 cm. The grave goods consist of 1 medium-sized bowl, 1 small jar and 1 pear-shaped beaker in front of the face, 1 medium-sized bowl in front of the knee and 1 shallow bowl in front of the toes (Fig. 41).

G.N.7813

Of the simple pit type, attached to the north wall of the trench (Fig. 31). It is rectangular in shape and measures 85×53 cm (Fig. 33: 1). The grave has a



Fig. 41: G.N.7812. Grave goods: 1. G.N.7812/1; 2. G.N.7812/3; 3. G.N.7812/6; 4. G.N.7812/4; 5. G.N.7812/5; 6. G.N.7812/2.

human skeleton (infant) lying on its left side, oriented northwest-southeast with the face looking down. The skeleton is 53 cm below the surface of the trench and the bottom of the grave is 85 cm. There are no grave goods.

G.N.7814

Of the bipartite type, located next to the eastern wall of the trench (Fig. 31), with the partition wall in the eastern part. This grave is irregular in shape and measures 170×77 cm (Fig. 33: 7). The grave has a human skeleton lying on its left side, oriented north-south. The legs are folded and the hands are positioned in front of the face. The skeleton is 115 cm below the surface of the trench and the bottom of the grave is 127 cm. The grave goods consist of 1 small jar in front of the legs, 1 small polychrome jar, 1 small jar and 2 medium-sized bowls in front of the forehead, next to the bricks (Fig. 42).

G.N.7815

Of the bipartite type, attached to the northern wall of the trench (Fig. 31), with



Fig. 42: G.N.7814. Grave goods: 1. G.N.7814/1; 2. G.N.7814/5; 3. G.N.7814/3; 4. G.N.7814/4.

the partition wall in the north-western part (Fig. 33: 10). It is oval in shape and measures 95×45 cm. The grave has a human skeleton lying on its left side, oriented northeast-southwest and facing southeast. The legs are slightly folded and the right hand of the skeleton is on a bowl. The skeleton is 73 cm below the surface of the trench and the bottom of the grave is 88 cm. The grave goods consist of 1 pear-shaped beaker placed in front of the chest and 1 bowl placed under the right hand (Fig. 43).



Fig. 43: G.N.7815. Grave goods: 1. G.N.7815/2; 2. G.N.7815/1.

G.N.7816

Of the bipartite type, attached to the eastern wall of the trench (Fig. 31), with a brick partition wall in the eastern part. The shape of the grave is irregular and it measures 100 × 80 cm (Fig. 33: 9). The grave has a human skeleton lying on its right side, oriented south-north and facing northeast. The legs are folded. The skeleton is 134 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 150 cm. The grave goods consist of 1 pear-shaped beaker behind the skull, 1 small jar, 3 pear-shaped beakers, 1 medium-sized bowl and 1 jar in front of the face and 1 pear-shaped beaker and 1 medium-sized bowl in the second pit (Fig. 44).

G.N.7817

Of the bipartite type, attached to the northern wall of the trench (Fig. 31), with a brick partition wall in the southwestern part (Fig. 33: 8). This grave is rectangular in shape and measures 132 × 94 cm. It has a human skeleton lying on its left side, oriented east-west and facing south. The legs are folded and the hands are



Fig. 44: G.N.7816. Grave goods.

placed in front of the face. The skeleton is 122 cm below the surface of the trench and the bottom of the grave is 142 cm. The grave goods consist of 13 items: 2 pear-shaped beakers behind the ribs, 3 medium-sized bowls, 5 jars, 1 pear-shaped beaker and 1 plate in front of the knees and 1 marble mortar placed under the forearm of the right hand (Fig. 45).

G.N.7818

Of the bipartite type, located in the northeast corner of the trench (Fig. 31), with a brick partition wall in the southern part. This grave is oval in shape and measures 120 × 60 cm. It has a human skeleton lying on its left side, oriented northeast-southwest and facing south-east. The legs are folded. The top of the grave is 110 cm below the trench surface and the bottom of the grave is 130 cm. One marble cup is placed in front of the face (Fig. 46).

Trench NFM

This trench measures 10 × 10 metres and is located outside the central part of the cemetery. The eastern half of the trench, measuring 5 × 10 metres, was selected for excavation. Seven layers were identified: layer 1 with a thickness of 15-10



Fig. 45: G.N.7817. Grave goods.



Fig. 46: G.N.7818. Marble cup.

cm, composed of surface soil; layer 2, 60-25 cm thick, composed of white soil and fine sand; layer 3, 70-50 cm thick, composed of a solidified crust of sand and salt; layer 4, 60-35 cm thick, composed of soil mixed with fine sand; layer 6, 5-8 cm thick, composed of soft white soil with grains of sand; layer 7, 40-55 cm thick, composed of gravel. One new grave was found in this trench.

G.N.7000

Of the bipartite type, attached to the eastern side of the trench, with a partition wall on the southwest side. The grave is oval in shape and measures 170 × 105 cm (Fig. 47). The tomb has a female human skeleton of about 50 years old, oriented west-east and facing south. The legs are folded. The skeleton is 125 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 138 cm. There are no grave goods.

Trench NFR

This trench measures 10 × 10 metres and is located outside the central part of the cemetery on its eastern side. Of the total area of the trench, an area of 5 × 5 metres in the northwest corner was selected for excavation. The aim of this selection was to determine the density and distribution of graves outside the central part of the cemetery. The trench was explored to a depth of 83 cm. The layers in this trench are as follows: layer 1 with a thickness of 5-10 cm, corresponding to the surface level; layer 2, 10-35 cm thick, composed of sand mixed with white soil; layer 3, 10-30 cm thick, composed of soft white soil; layer 4, 30-38 cm thick, consisting of a non-compact and relatively smooth crust of salt and sand; layer 5, 20-75 cm thick, consisting of a solidified crust of sand and salt; layer 6, 25-45 cm thick, composed of compressed gravel. Six new graves were found in this trench: one simple pit, four bipartite pits and one catacomb (Fig. 48). Seven human skeletons were found, along with 12 items of grave goods, G.N.6905 containing the most and G.N.6902 containing only one item. G.N.6900, G.N.6901, G.N.6903 and G.N.6904 had no grave goods. G.N.6905 had two human skeletons and one lapis lazuli stamp seal. In addition to the grave goods obtained from inside the graves, a number of objects were collected from the surface.



Fig. 47: G.N.7000.

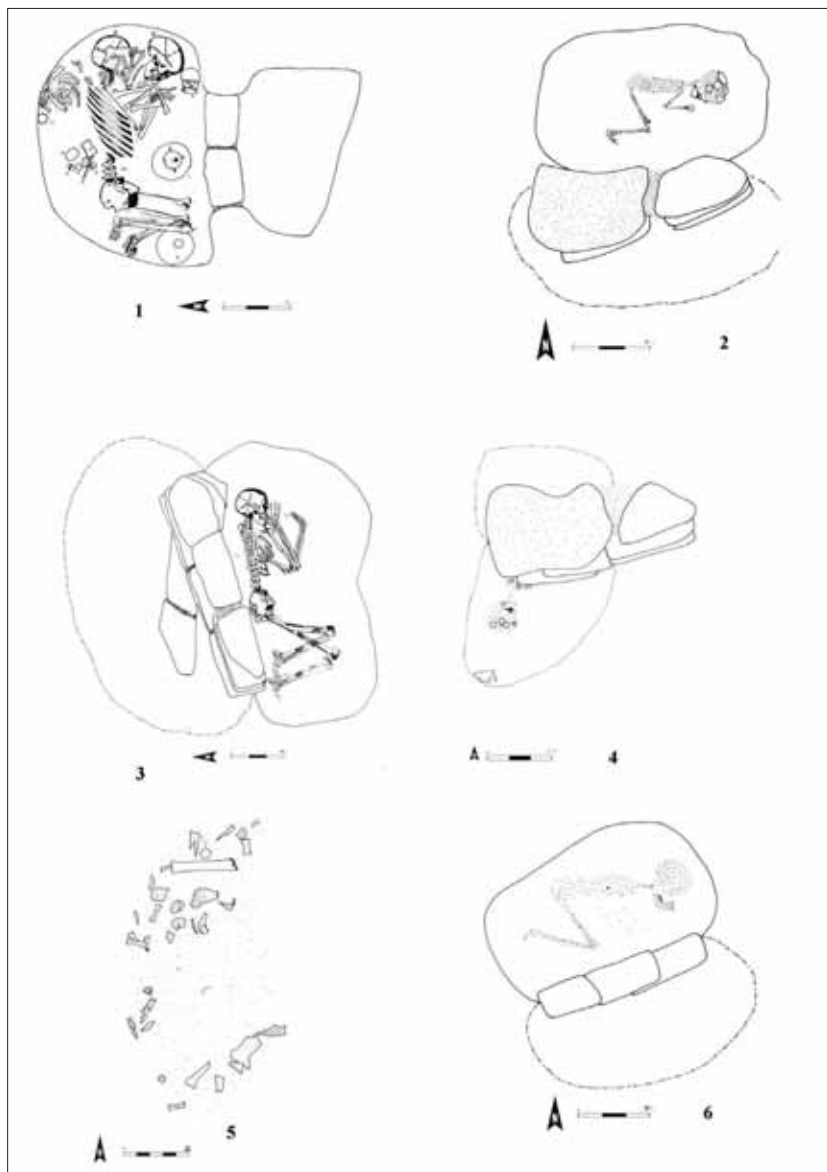


Fig. 48: Trench FRM: 1. G.N. 6905; 2. G.N. 6903; 3. G.N. 6904; 4. G.N. 6902; 5. G.N. 6900; 6. G.N. 6901.

G.N.	Age	Age range	Gender
6900	?	?	Infant
6901	?	?	?
6902	?	?	?
6903	?	?	?
6904	35	30-40	Female
6905/1	32.5	30-35	Female
6905/2	4	3.5-4.5	Child

Tab. 5: gender and age of skeletons (Forouzanfar 2010: 64).

G.N.6900

Of the simple pit type, attached to the western side of the trench (Fig. 48: 5). This grave has one human skeleton (infant). The skeleton is 58 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 67 cm. There are no grave goods.

G.N.6901

Of the bipartite type, located close to the western wall of the trench. The grave is oval in shape and measures 94 × 55 cm (Fig. 48: 6). It has a human skeleton lying on its left side, oriented northwest-southeast. The grave is 105 cm below the surface of the trench. There are no grave goods.

G.N.6902

Of the bipartite type, located on the northern side of the trench, with a brick partition wall in the northern part (Fig. 48: 4). The shape of this grave is irregular and it measures 55 × 30 cm. The grave has one human skeleton. The skeleton is 96 cm below the surface of the trench and the bottom of the grave is 100 cm. The grave goods consist of one bowl.

G.N.6903

Of the bipartite type, attached to the northern side of the trench, rectangular in

shape with a brick partition wall on the southern side (Fig. 48: 2). It has a human skeleton lying on its left side, oriented east-west and facing south. The skeleton is 99 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 105 cm. There are no grave goods.

G.N.6904

Of the bipartite type, attached to the southern side of the trench, with a brick partition wall in the northern part (Fig. 48: 3). It has a human skeleton lying on its left side, oriented northeast-southwest and facing south. The skeleton is 125 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 139 cm. There are no grave goods.

G.N.6905

Of the catacomb type (type 4), attached to the northern side of the trench. This grave is oval in shape and measures 100 × 77 cm (Fig. 48: 1). The grave has two human skeletons: skeleton A is lying on its left side, oriented east-west and facing south. Skeleton B (infant) is also lying on its left side but is oriented south-north, facing west. The grave goods consist of 11 items: 1 beaker attached to the skull of skeleton B, 1 large jar in front of the right elbow of skeleton A, 1 marble bowl, 1 mortar, 1 metal pin, 1 bead, 1 stone item and 2 shells behind the ribs of skeleton A and 1 stamp seal inside a large jar and 1 small marble cup behind skeleton A (Fig. 49).

Trench NGL

This trench measures 10 × 10 metres and is located outside the central part of the cemetery on its northeast side. The eastern half of the trench, measuring 5 × 10 metres, was selected for exploration. The layers are as follows: layer 1 with a thickness of 5-10 cm, composed of surface soil; layer 2, 35-15 cm thick, consisting of a solidified crust of sand and salt; layer 3, 45-25 cm thick, composed of soft white soil; layer 4, 75-110 cm thick, composed of soft soil; layer 5, 25-10 cm thick, composed of medium-grain sand; layer 6, 20-40 cm thick, composed of compacted fine sand; layer 7, 60-50 cm thick, composed of dune sand. Nine new



Fig. 49: G.N.6905. Grave goods.

graves were discovered in this trench: two simple pits (type 1), six bipartite pits (type 2) and one catacomb. From a total of nine graves excavated in this trench, nine human skeletons were obtained (Fig. 50). In terms of grave goods, 35 items were recovered.

G.N.	Age	Age range	Gender
6800/1	10.5	10-11	Child
6800/2	3.5	3-4	Child
6801	8.5	8-9	Child
6802	4.5	4-5	Child
6803	27.5	25-30	Male
6804	14 months	14 months	Child
6805	27.5	25-30	Female
6806			Female
6807	6-7 months	6-7 months	Infant
6808	27.5	25-30	Male

Tab. 6: gender and age of skeletons (Forouzanfar 2010: 64).

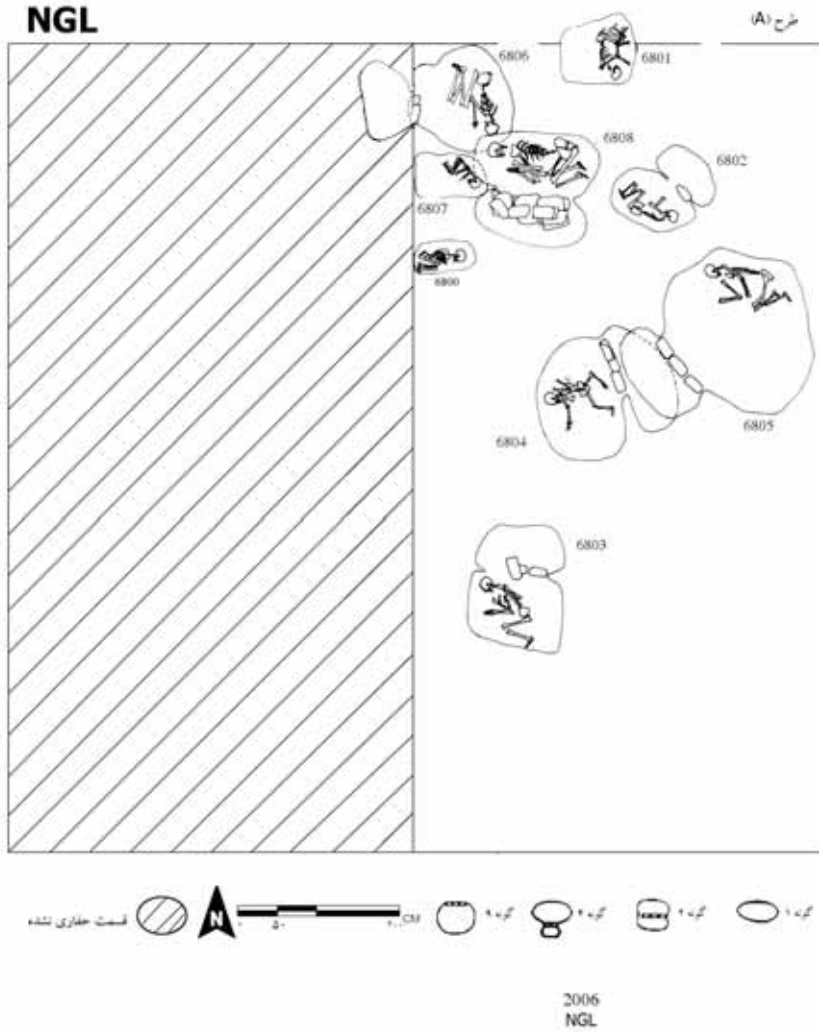


Fig. 50: Trench NGL.

G.N.6800

Of the simple pit type, attached to the western side of the trench (Fig. 50). It is oval in shape and measures 105 × 57 cm (Fig. 51: 1). The grave contains the skeleton of a child buried on its left side, oriented east-west and facing south. The skeleton is 108 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 119 cm. The grave goods consist of a marble cup on top of the skull and a number of beads around the neck.

G.N.6801

Of the simple pit type, located on the southern side of the trench (Fig. 50). It is rectangular in shape and measures 94 × 65 cm (Fig. 51: 9). It has a child skeleton lying on its right side, oriented southeast-northwest and facing northeast. The top of the grave is 134 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 146 cm. The grave goods consist of 2 bowls, 2 pear-shaped beakers, one beaker on the wall and a number of beads around the neck (Fig. 52)

G.N.6802

Of the bipartite type, located near the northern side of the trench (Fig. 50). The grave is oval in shape and measures 100 × 70 cm. It has a human skeleton lying on its right side, oriented south-north and facing east (Fig. 51: 8). The skeleton is 122 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 147 cm. The grave goods consist of 2 bowls, 2 pear-shaped beakers and 1 beaker on the wall and a few beads around the neck (Fig. 52).

G.N.6803

Of the bipartite type, located near the western side of the trench (Fig. 50), with a brick partition wall in the north-eastern part. It is oval in shape and measures 120 × 105 cm (Fig. 51: 7). The skeleton is lying on its right side, oriented west-east and facing south. The skeleton is 116 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 126 cm. The grave goods consist of 1 open-mouth jar above the skull, a grinding stone and a deep plate behind the skull and a medium-sized bowl behind the pelvic bone (Fig. 53).

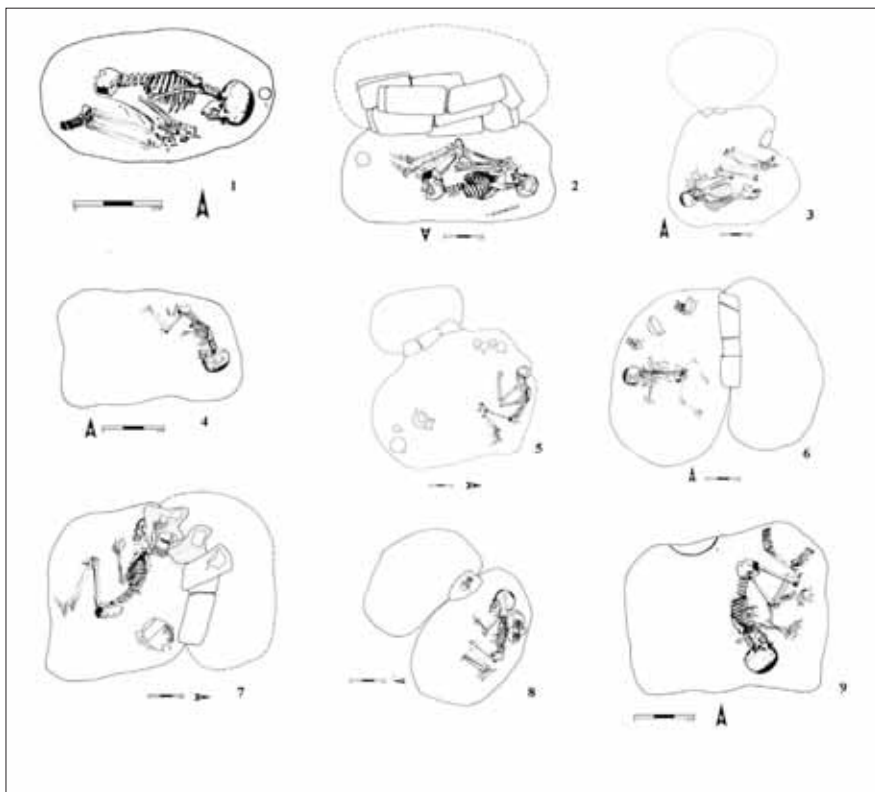


Fig. 51: 1. G.N.6800; 2. G.N.6808; 3. G.N.6806; 4. G.N.6807; 5. G.N.6805; 6. G.N.6804; 7. G.N.6803; 8. G.N.6802; 9. G.N.6801.

G.N.6804

Of the bipartite type, located almost in the middle of the trench (Fig. 50), with a brick partition wall in the eastern part. The grave is oval in shape and measures 160×100 cm. It contains the remains of a child, supine with open legs, oriented northwest-southeast and facing south (Fig. 51: 6). The skeleton is 176 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 183 cm. The grave goods consist of six items including a pear-shaped beaker behind the skull, 2 bowls and a pear-shaped beaker at a distance of 30 cm behind the skull, and a number of beads in different sizes around the neck (Fig. 54).



Fig. 52: G.N.6802. Grave goods: 1. G.N.6802/3; 2. G.N.6802/2; 3. G.N.6802/1; 4. G.N.6802/4.



Fig. 53: G.N.6803: Grave goods: 1. G.N.6803/1; 2. G.N.6803/2; 3. G.N.6803/3; 4. G.N.6803/4.

G.N.6805

Of the catacomb type, attached to the eastern side of the trench (Fig. 50, Fig. 51: 5). It is oval in shape and measures 217×180 cm (Fig. 30: 1). It contains one skeleton lying on its right side, oriented northwest-southeast and facing south. The skeleton is 157 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 173 cm. The grave goods consist of nine items: 2 small bowls above the right hand, 3 beads around the neck and 1 jar, 2 jugs and 1 large bowl at a distance of 50 cm in front of the knee (Fig. 55).



Fig. 54: G.N.6804. Grave goods: 1. G.N.6804/3; 2. G.N.6804/2; 3. G.N.6804/4; 4. G.N.6804/1; 5. G.N.6804/6; 6. G.N.6804/6a.

G.N.6806

Of the bipartite type, located in the northwest corner of the trench (Fig. 50), with a brick partition wall in the western part (Fig. 51: 3). The grave is oval in shape and measures 135 × 110 cm. The grave has a human skeleton lying on its left side, oriented south-north and facing west. The skeleton is 123 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 137 cm. The grave goods consist of four items: 1 small bowl, 1 small jar and 1 pear-shaped beaker in front of the face and 1 medium-sized jar in front of the left foot (Fig. 56).

G.N.6807

Of the simple pit type, attached to the western side of the trench (Fig. 50). It is oval in shape and measures 83 × 54 cm (Fig. 51: 4). It contains the remains of an infant. The skeleton is 100 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 110 cm. There are no grave goods.

G.N.6808

Of the bipartite type, attached to the western side of the trench (Fig. 50), with a brick partition wall in the southern part. The grave is oval in shape and measures 160 × 70 cm (Fig. 30: 2). The grave has a human skeleton lying on its right side, oriented west-east and facing south. The arms and legs are fully drawn up towards the chest (Fig. 51: 2). The skeleton is 159 cm below the surface of the trench and the floor of the grave is 173 cm. The grave goods consist of three items including 1 beaker and 1 bone tool behind the skeleton (Fig. 57).

2. Grave goods***Pottery***

A considerable quantity of pottery deposited as grave goods was recovered during this excavation campaign. The pottery included painted and unpainted Buff Ware, Grey Ware and Polychrome Ware.



Fig. 55: G.N.6805. Grave goods.



Fig. 56: G.N.6806. Grave goods.



Fig. 57: G.N.6808. Grave goods: 1. G.N.6808/1; 2. G.N.6808/2.

The plain Buff Ware includes beakers, bowls, trays, cylindrical jars, globular jars and teapots. The patterned Buff Ware includes beakers, bowls, small pots, large jars, cylindrical jars and globular jars. The Grey Ware is limited to three bowls. The unpainted Red Ware includes simple bowls, small pots and jars.

A. Unpainted Buff Ware beakers: beakers with flared rims, flat bases and bodies with S-shaped profiles, narrowing at the neck (Fig. 58: 1-3; 5-7). The second group includes beakers with almost the same shape, everted rims and almost cylindrical bodies (Fig. 58: 8). The third group have curved bodies and narrow necks flaring outwards at the top (Fig. 58: 4). Another group includes pear-shaped beakers with open mouths and wide bodies (Fig. 58: 9). Chronologically, they are attributed to periods II to IV.

B. Unpainted Buff Ware bowls: deep unpainted Buff Ware bowls with conical bodies and everted rims (Fig. 59: 1, 2), hemispherical bodies (Fig. 59: 3, 9) and conical bodies (Fig. 59: 4-6; 8). Another group of unpainted Buff Ware bowls are of medium depth and have hemispherical bodies (Fig. 60: 1) or conical bodies (Fig. 60: 2-3), are of a reddish buff colour (Fig. 60: 4), or have conical or short cylindrical bodies (Fig. 60: 5-6) or short conical bodies (Fig. 60: 7-8). There is also a tray in the style of Shahr-i Sokhta IV with a very short cylindrical body (Fig. 60: 9).

C. Unpainted Buff Ware jars: tall cylindrical jars with short necks and flared rims (Fig. 61: 1-4); jars with bodies that are narrow in the lower part and wide in the middle, gradually becoming narrow again towards a very short neck with

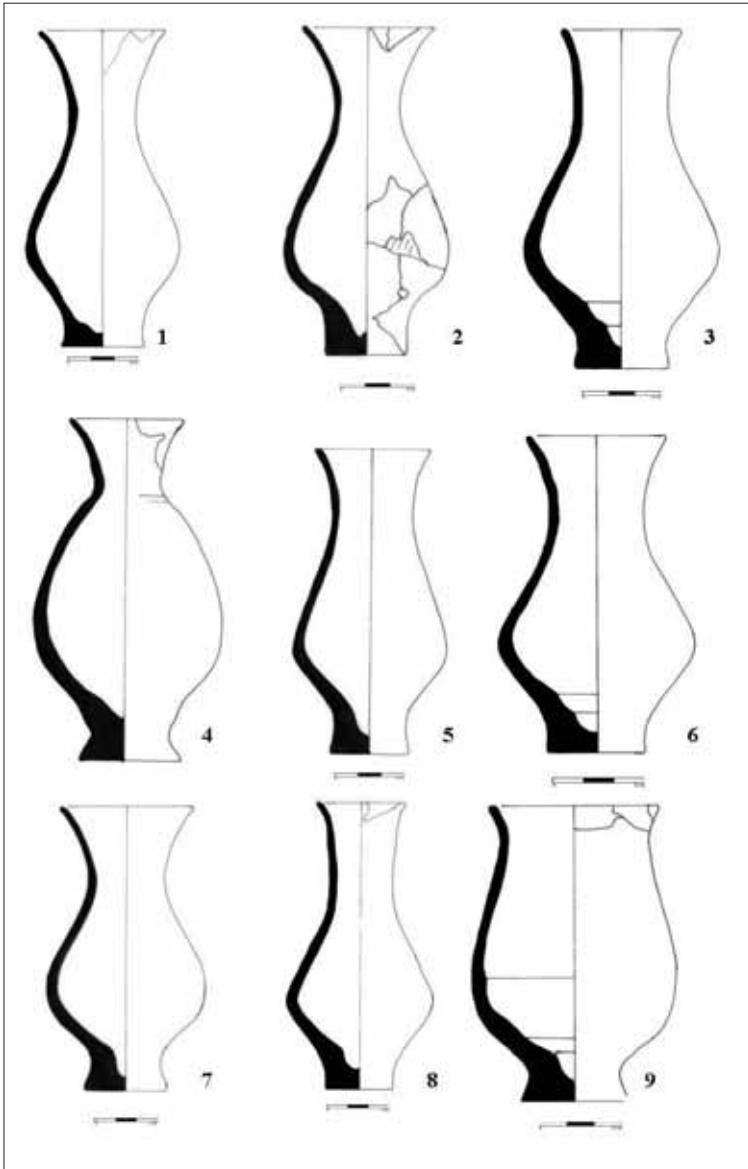


Fig. 58: unpainted Buff Ware beakers: 1. G.N.7803/2; 2. G.N.7817/4; 3. G.N.7816/3; 4. G.N.7817/1; 5. G.N.7810/3; 6. G.N.7816/2; 7. G.N.7817/2; 8. G.N.7816/8; 9. G.N.7815/2.

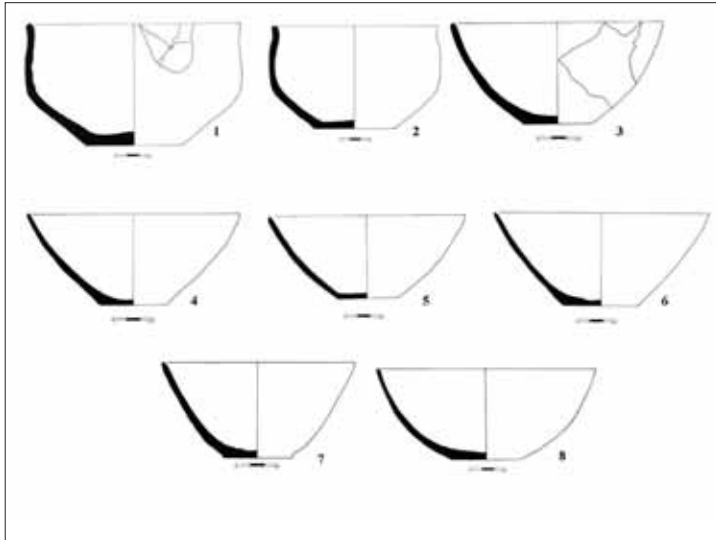


Fig. 59: unpainted Buff Ware bowls: 1. G.N.2810/4; 2. G.N.7812/1; 3. G.N.6710/6; 4. G.N.6705/3; 5. G.N.6707/7; 6. G.N.6710/11; 7. G.N.6710/13; 8. G.N.7701/2.

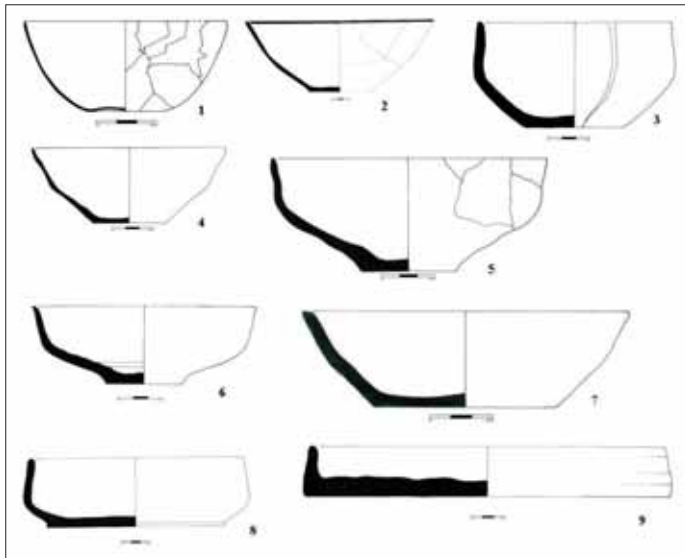


Fig. 60: unpainted Buff Ware bowls: 1. G.N.6703/7; 2. G.N.7700/1; 3. G.N.7816/7; 4. G.N.6707/10; 5. G.N.7706/4; 6. G.N.7814/1; 7. G.N.7817/22; 8. G.N.7812/6; 9. 7817/12.

an inverted rim (Fig. 61: 6, 8), ending with the rim jutting outwards (Fig. 61: 5-7; 9-12); tall jars whose shape recalls a bunch of grapes (Fig. 62: 1), biconical jars with short necks (Fig. 62: 2) or no neck (Fig. 62: 3). The other group of jars are small, conical, with necks that have an S-shaped profile (Fig. 62: 4) or are cylindrical (Fig. 62: 5).

D. The last group of vessels are teapots. The spouts of one group of teapots are pointing upwards (Fig. 62: 7) while in another group they are attached to the container obliquely (Fig. 62: 8-9). Some of these items belong to Phases 5-7 (II), while others belong to later periods and some even to IV period (Fig. 62: 3) and Phase 3 (Fig. 61: 5-7 and 9-12).

Painted Buff Ware vessels include: a. beakers, b. bowls, c. small pots, d. jars.

A. Beakers. Painted Buff Ware beakers are mainly pear-shaped, divided into two main groups. The first group are tall and pear-shaped, the bodies having an S-shaped profile, conical in the lower part and curved in the upper part, narrower at the neck. The patterns on these older Phase 5 beakers include straight and parallel wavy stripes (Fig. 63: 1-2), while later designs of the same phase include single hatched rhombuses filled in between parallel lines (Fig. 63: 9), two connected hatched rhombuses between parallel lines (Fig. 63: 8), hatched rhombuses and a ladder pattern (Fig. 63: 3) and two hatched rhombuses with serrated wavy motifs (Fig. 63: 4).

Another group of motifs seen in both Phase 5 and Phase 6 serrated wavy lines connected to each other in between parallel straight stripes and dentate stripes inside a diagonal oval with serrated stripes (Fig. 63: 5, 7). These designs are mostly related to Phase 5 and are found on the top two thirds of the beakers. The beakers of the next phase are smaller and sometimes their lower quarter is decorated. The main motifs on these beakers are narrow parallel stripes on the upper part, inside which are serrated stripes (Fig. 64: 1, 3). The same design, with oblique dentate stripes attached to one another, is repeated (Fig. 64: 2, 4).

The other group of pear-shaped beakers includes short beakers with open mouths. The patterns on these beakers consist of straight or oblique parallel stripes and semi-triangular lines (Fig. 5: 5-6, 8). Another older pattern associated

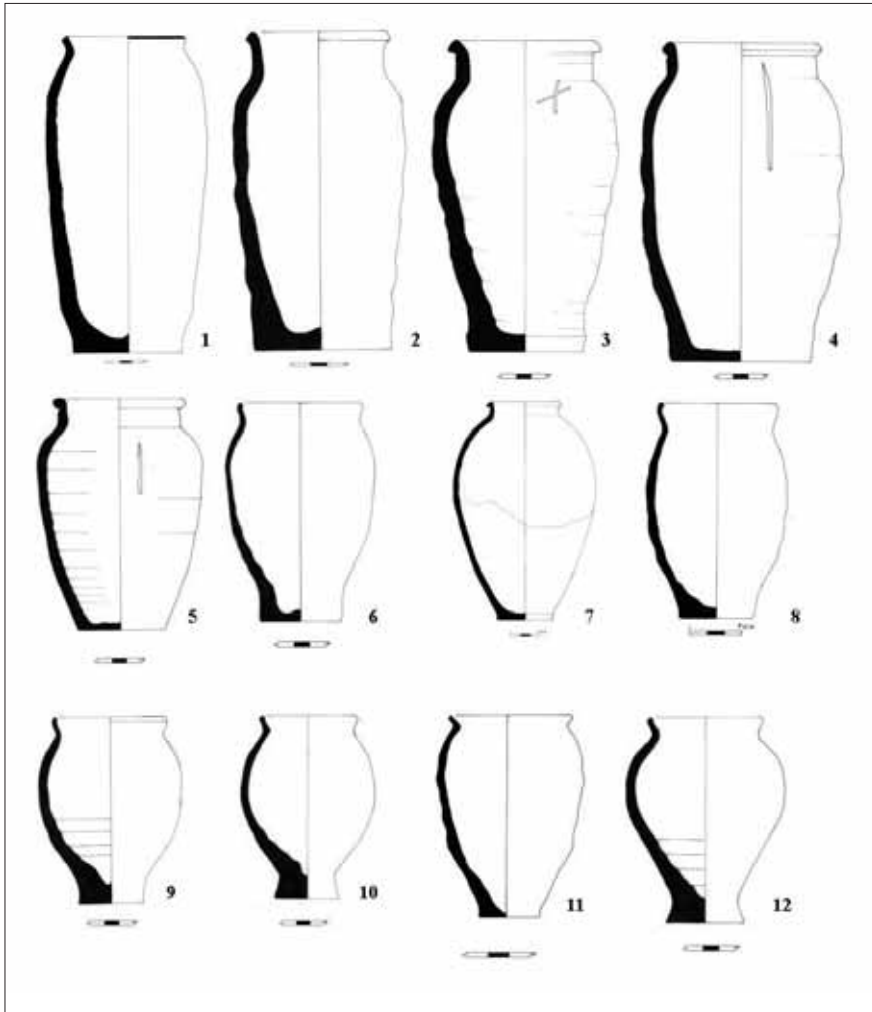


Fig. 61: various types of jars: 1. G.N.6704/1; 2. G.N.6806/1; 3. G.N.7818/7; 4. G.N.7706/1; 5. G.N.7817/9; 6. G.N.7814/3; 7. G.N.7804/1; 8. G.N.7803/1; 9. G.N.7814/4; 10. G.N.7817/10; 11. G.N.7803/4; 12. G.N.7817/5.

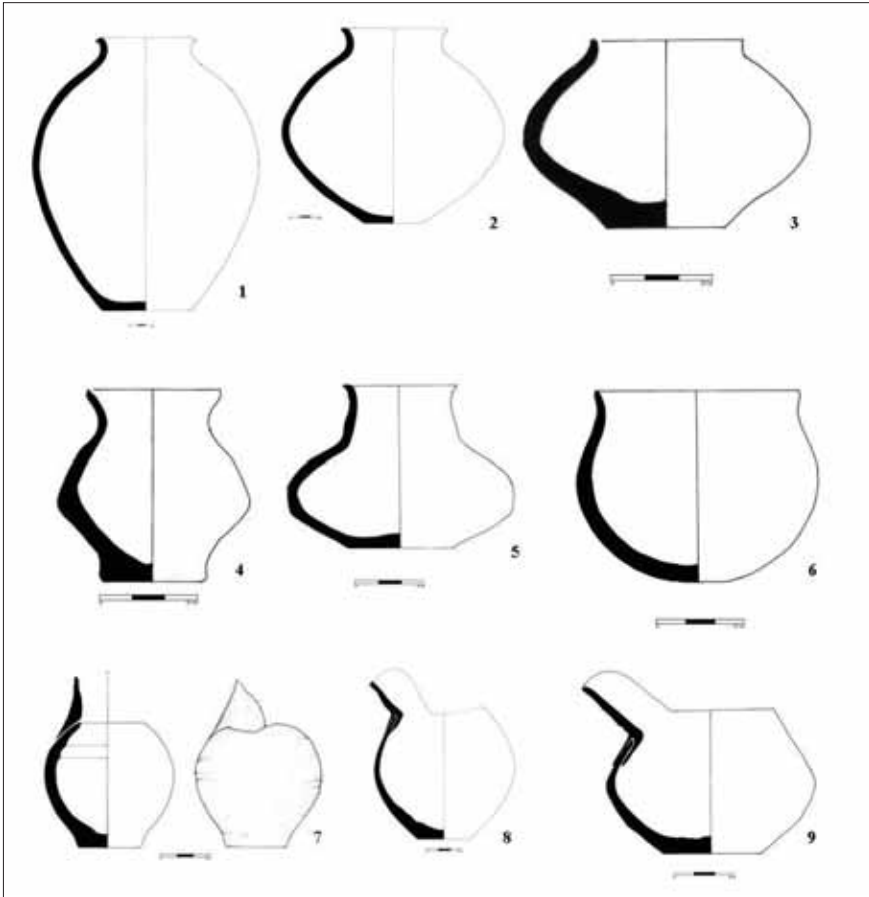


Fig. 62: various types of jars and teapots: 1. G.N.6705/22; 2. G.N.2707/8; 3. G.N.7812/4; 4. G.N.6705/14; 5. G.N.6700/1; 6. G.N.6703/10; 7. G.N.6705/25; 8-9. G.N.6707/6.

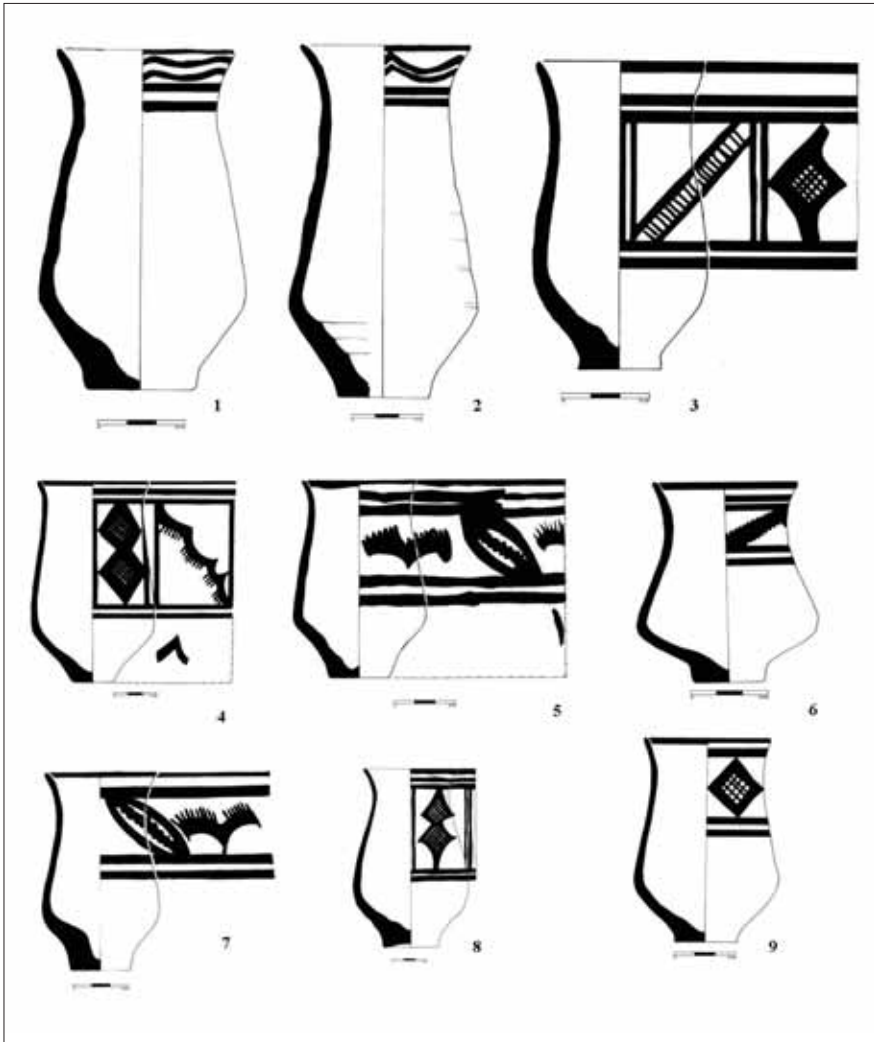


Fig. 63: pear-shaped beakers: 1. G.N.7702/1; 2. G.N.7702/2; 3. G.N.6704/5; 4. G.N.6703/23; 5. G.N.6703/24; 6. G.N.6802/1; 7. G.N.6804/1; 8. G.N.6804/1; 9. G.N.6802/2.

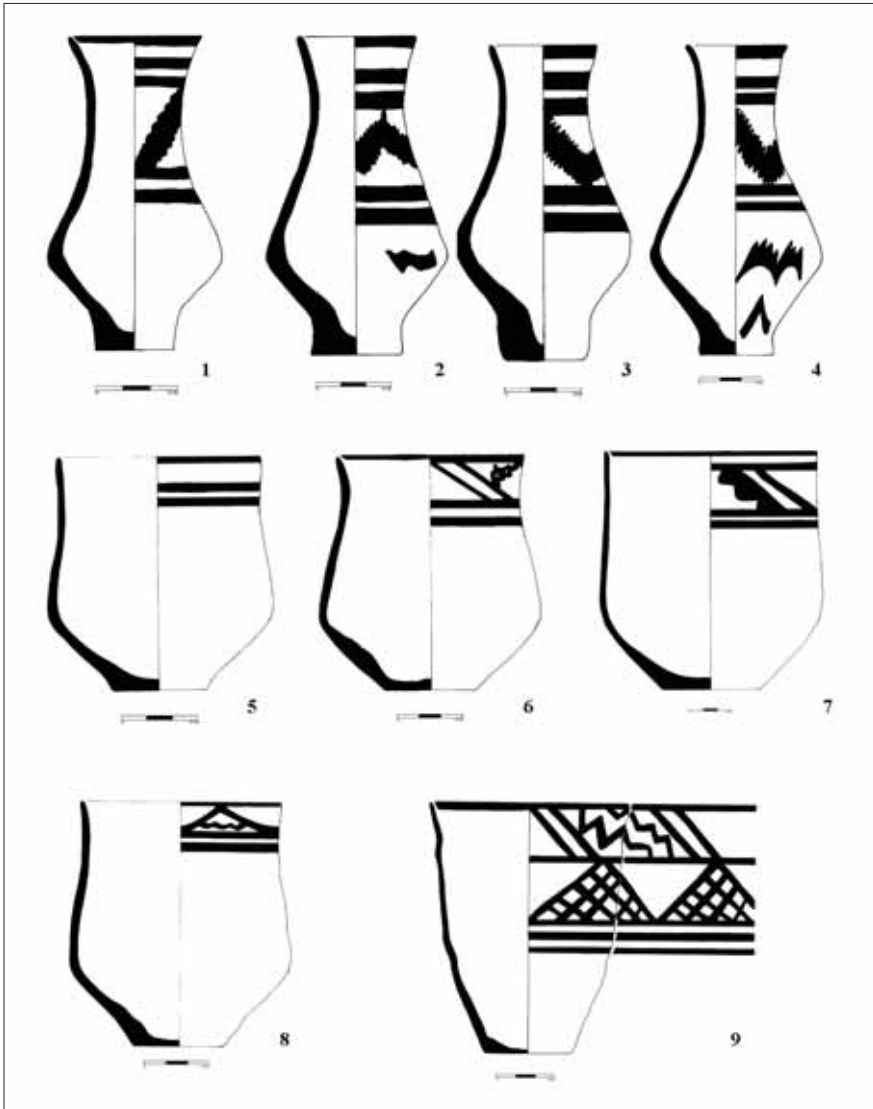


Fig. 64: pear-shaped beakers: 1. G.N.7810/2; 2. G.N.7812/2; 3. G.N.7816/1; 4. G.N.7816/5; 5. G.N.7806/2; 6. G.N.6905/2; 7. G.N.6707/4; 8. G.N.7801/6; 9. G.N.6707/1.

with Period I is straight parallel lines on which a simple oblique line is drawn parallel to a wide serrated band (Fig. 64: 7). The common drawing of a goat on pear-shaped beakers was not found during the present campaign. The last group of beakers, mainly dated to Phases 8 and 7, are tall and conical with horizontal and oblique stripes and hatched triangles (Fig. 64: 9).

B. Painted Buff Ware bowls. Most of the Buff Ware bowls found in this cycle of excavations are conical with geometric patterns consisting of a combination of oblique parallel, triangular and semi-circular lines with alternately wavy or simple stripes. As with the pear-shaped beakers, the rhombus motifs are filled with thin intersecting lines (Fig. 65: 1-8). These bowls belong to the first half of Phase 5 at Shahr-i Sokhta. Another group of bowls are deep with flat bases and everted rims. The main motif on these bowls is a vertical S-shape with two dentate stripes inside the loops (Fig. 65: 9). Another group of bowls have semi-

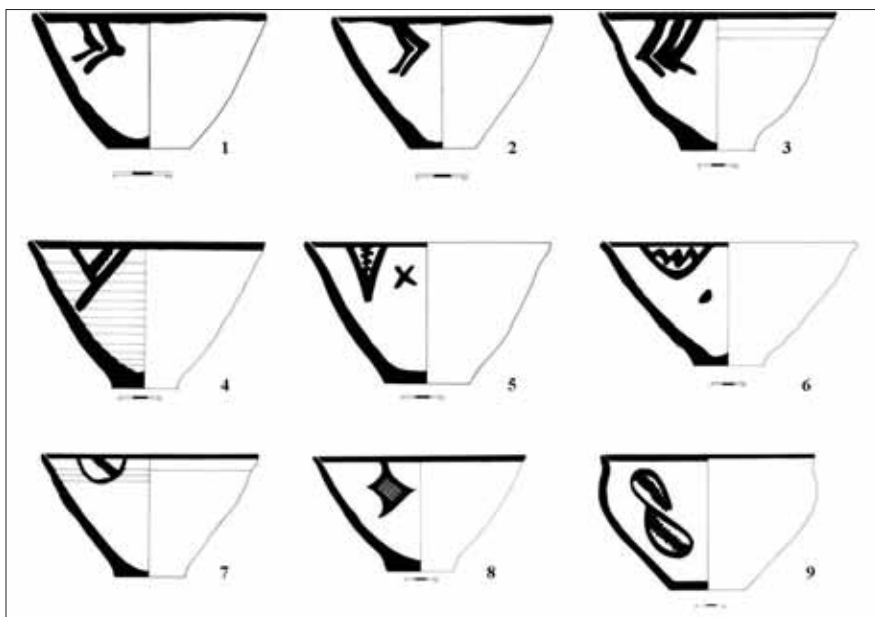


Fig. 65: painted Buff Ware bowls: 1. G.N.6703/38; 2. G.N.6703/16; 3. G.N.6704/2; 4. G.N.6704/10; 5. G.N.6804/3; 6. G.N.7805/1; 7. G.N.6704/9; 8. G.N.6802/5; 9. G.N.6701/1.

circular bodies with patterns that cover almost the entire inner surface. They have two groups of parallel wavy lines facing each other and two rhombuses filled with intersecting lines (Fig. 66: 1), or only one wide serrated band (Fig. 66: 2), facing each other inside the bowl. The bowls with short conical bodies are among the oldest vessels, the patterns inside them consisting of five 'staircase' motifs, each with an inner staircase filled in with black (Fig. 66: 3). This is the standard design of Shahr-i Sokhta I, similar to Geoksyur pottery in Turkmenistan and Quetta Ware in Damb Sadat II and III. Other older vessels include painted bowls with short patterns inside them: two parallel horizontal lines (Fig. 66: 8) and wavy stripes attached to the rim (Fig. 66: 9). Phase 3 painted bowls are conical in shape and are decorated internally with three vertical or diagonal stripes (Fig. 66: 5-6). A bowl with an almost cylindrical body, internally decorated with two parallel serrated horizontal stripes, is attributed to Shahr-i Sokhta II (Fig. 66: 7).

C. Small pots. The bodies of this group of vessels are generally cylindrical, carinated or straight. The motifs are all geometric and painted on the top third of the vessels, although sometimes they cover almost the entire body. Older designs on these vessels are usually associated with Shahr-i Sokhta I, consisting of frames of four horizontal and vertical stripes, inclined or serrated internally (Fig. 67: 1), or with the external body covered in geometric patterns: solid rhombuses inside concentric squares with parallel horizontal wavy lines filling the empty spaces.

These patterns are attributed to Shahr-i Sokhta Phases 8-10 (Fig. 67: 15). Some of the vessels in this group have bodies with blunt carination and have softer forms. The motifs on these vessels appear on the upper third of the body in the form of a triangle with a podium inside it (Fig. 67: 12). Other common patterns include parallel oblique lines enclosed between horizontal parallel stripes (Figs. 2: 67 and 3), parallel stripes (Fig. 67: 4, 6-8), inverted triangles enclosed between horizontal stripes (Fig. 67: 5), parallel wavy lines (Fig. 67: 9, 11), diagonal lines (Fig. 67: 10) and overlapping rhombuses (Fig. 67: 13-14).

D. Jars. These vessels are divided into two main categories: tall and short. The tall jars consist of two groups, spherical and cylindrical. The patterns on

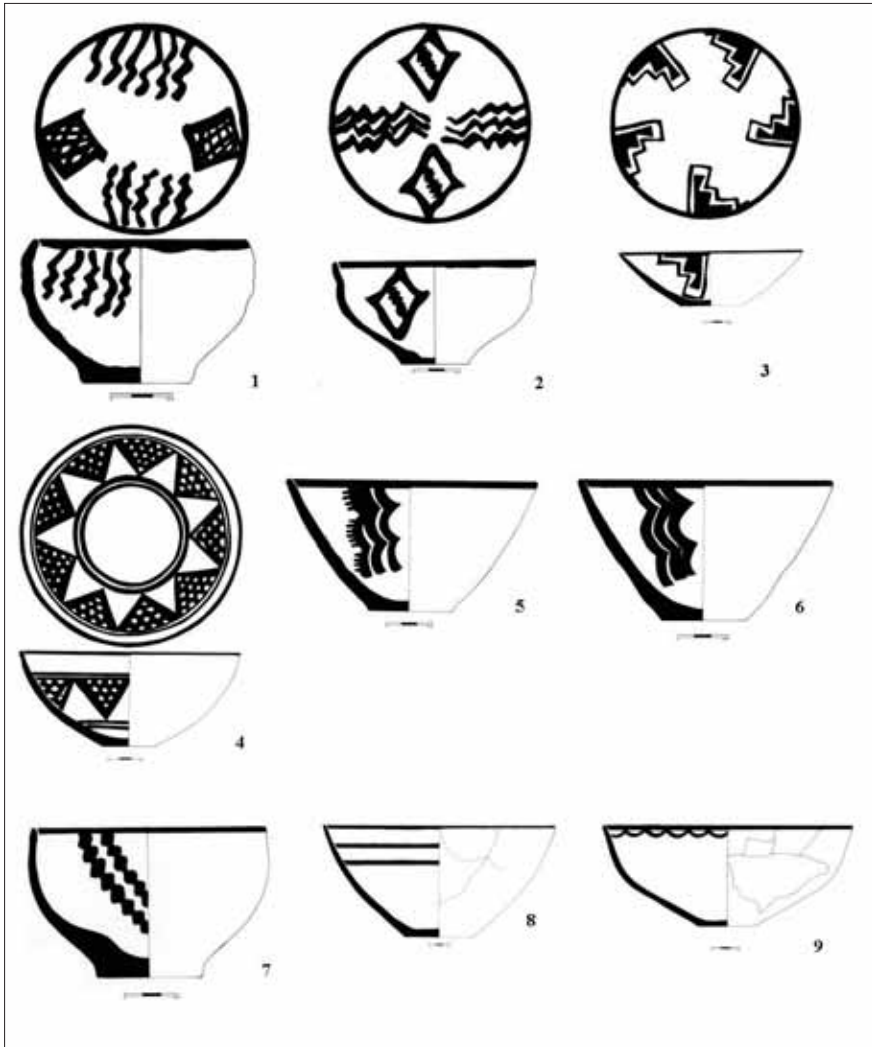


Fig. 66: painted Buff Ware bowls: 1. G.N.6703/28; 2. G.N.6802/4; 3. G.N.6803/4; 4. G.N.7707/6; 5. G.N.6703/6; 6. G.N.6703/35; 7. G.N.6806/4; 8. G.N.7801/1; 9. G.N.7809/2.

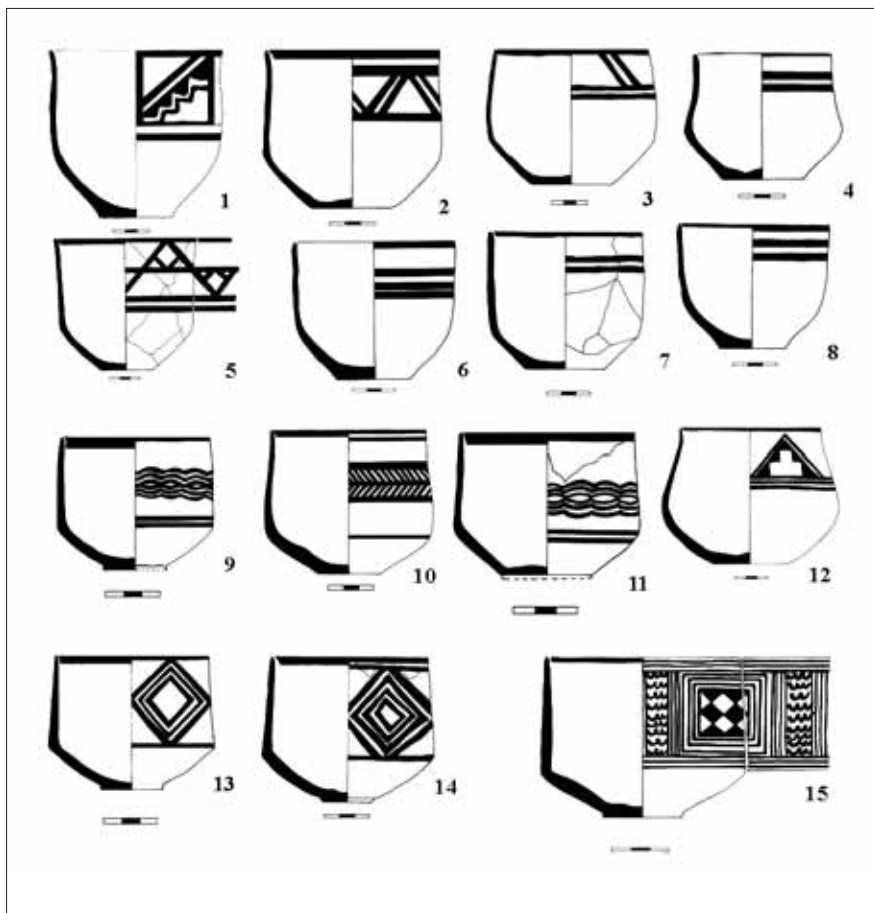


Fig. 67: small pots: 1. G.N.6705/4; 2. G.N.6707/2; 3. G.N.6707/5; 4. G.N.6705/17; 5. G.N.6710/2; 6. G.N.6705/26; 7. G.N.6710/7; 8. G.N.6808/1; 9. G.N.6707/7; 10. G.N.7707/5; 11. G.N.7707/2; 12. G.N.7707/1; 13. G.N.7707/3; 14. G.N.7707/4; 15. G.N.7705/2.

the shoulders of the spherical jars are a combination of parallel and curved lines and serrated diagonal lines (Fig. 68: 1-4). Cylindrical jar motifs are always a combination of parallel horizontal zigzags that start from the rim and extend to the lower parts and bases (Fig. 68: 5-6). Small jars are often biconical, globular or onion-shaped, all with everted rims and short cylindrical necks. The motifs on this group of vessels are either simple horizontal parallel stripes (Fig. 68: 7) or wavy zigzags enclosed in simple horizontal stripes (Fig. 68: 8-9). Other motifs include various types of triangle filled with inclined parallel lines (Fig. 68: 1, 3, 9) or triangles whose vertices are connected horizontally or vertically (Fig. 69: 7). Other designs include a combination of geometric lines: parallel stripes, triangles, wavy lines (Fig. 69: 4, 8) and parallel diagonal lines enclosed in simple horizontal parallel stripes (Fig. 69: 2, 10).

Red, Grey and Polychrome vessels are very small. Unpainted Red Ware bowls are hemispherical with flat bases and everted rims (Fig. 70: 5-6). Red Ware consists of two groups of jars and pots. Patterns painted on jars consist of parallel diagonal horizontal lines surrounded by simple horizontal stripes and triangular lines (Fig. 70: 1-3). The motifs on the pots consist of triangles and rhombuses filled with oblique parallel lines, enclosed in simple horizontal stripes from top to bottom (Fig. 70: 4).

The quantity of Emir Ware Grey vessels dated to Phase 8 is very also limited. In some case the motifs are both internal and external, covering almost the entire internal body and the upper part of the external surface, with either parallel diagonal lines or swastika patterns (Fig. 71: 1-2) or filled triangles (Fig. 71: 3).

The polychrome vessels are limited to biconical and hemispherical jars. The external surfaces are covered with a combination of geometric designs in yellow, dark red and black (Fig. 71: 4-6).

3. Other grave goods

During the campaign, in addition to pottery, a number of other items made of various materials were found. Among these is a very special object: an artificial eye from a female burial, G.N.6705 (Fig. 72) (Sajjadi - Costantini 2007; 2009)

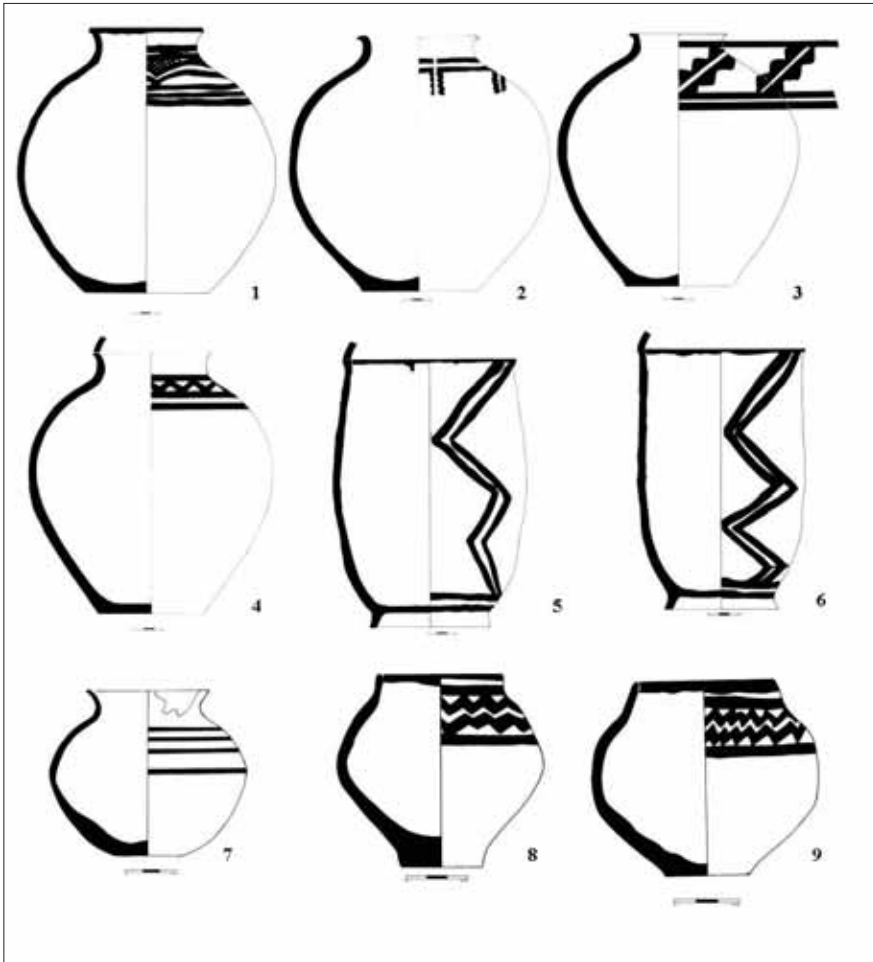


Fig. 68: Buff Ware jars: 1. G.N.6703/2; 2. G.N.6905/1; 3. G.N.6705/5; 4. G.N.6707/13; 5. G.N.6703/11; 6. G.N.6703/12; 7. G.N.7701/4; 8. G.N.6703/1; 9. G.N.6703/36.

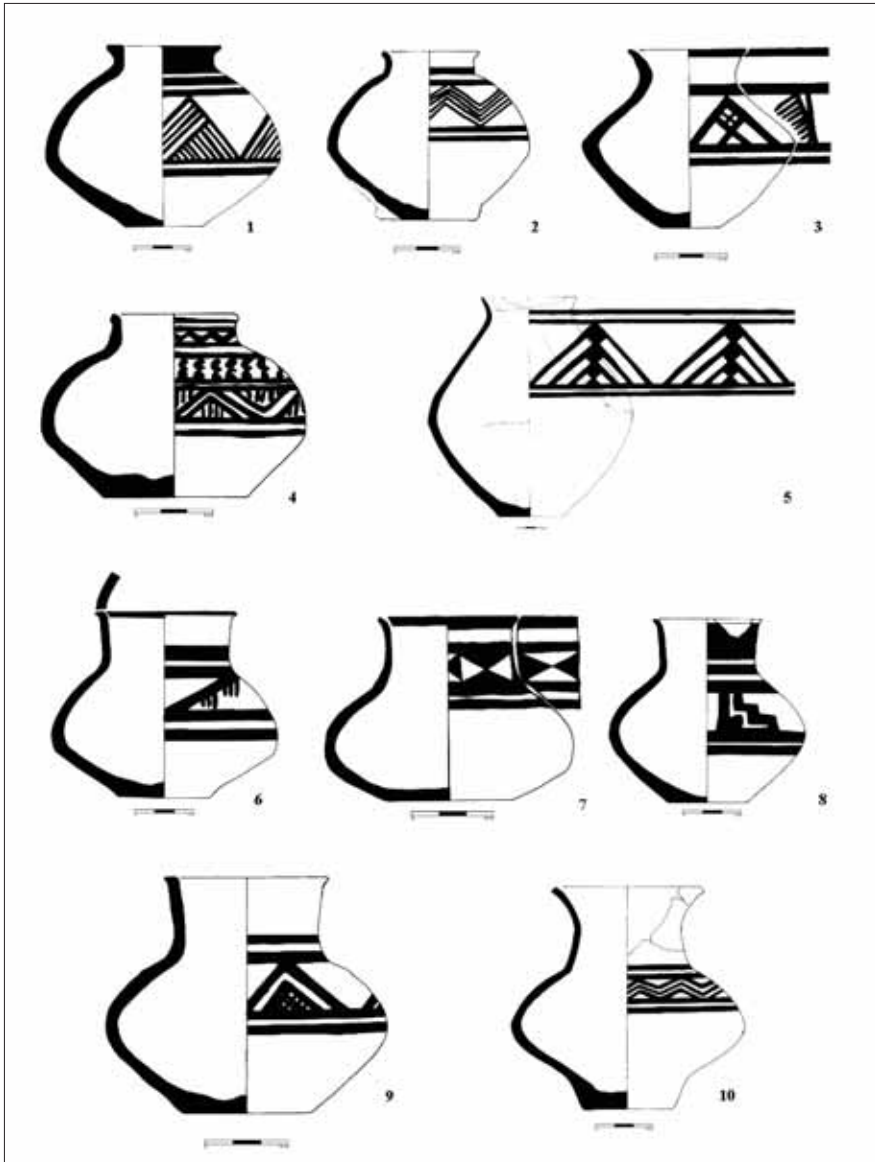


Fig. 69: Buff Ware jars: 1. G.N.7809/8; 2. G.N.7816/6; 3. G.N.6705/16; 4. G.N.6806/3; 5. G.N.6705/11; 6. G.N.6707/12; 7. G.N.6707/14; 8. G.N.6707/17; 9. G.N.6710/1; 10. G.N.7703/3.

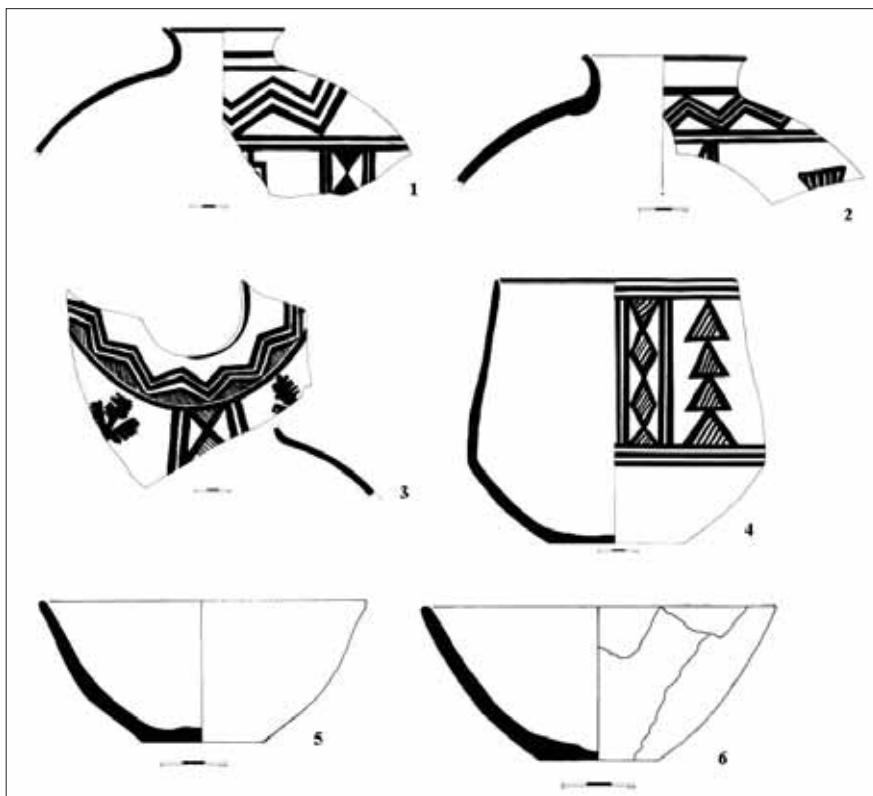


Fig. 70: Red Ware vessels: 1. G.N.7704/1; 2. G.N.7704/2; 3. G.N.7804/4; 4. G.N.6803/1; 5. G.N.6705/7; 6. G.N.6710/12.

Organic materials including reeds wood various plants, edible seeds, charcoal, shells (Sajjadi 2017), bone (Potenza 2019) and the like have survived well and hundreds of specimens have been found. There are also various metal objects such as mirrors and bronze pins. Other objects include cylindrical seals and stamp seals (Fig. 73: 12).

Another group of objects includes large stone and marble beads and various tools A number of clay objects were found, the most prominent of which are very small miniature vessels (Sajjadi 2017) (Fig. 74: 1-15).

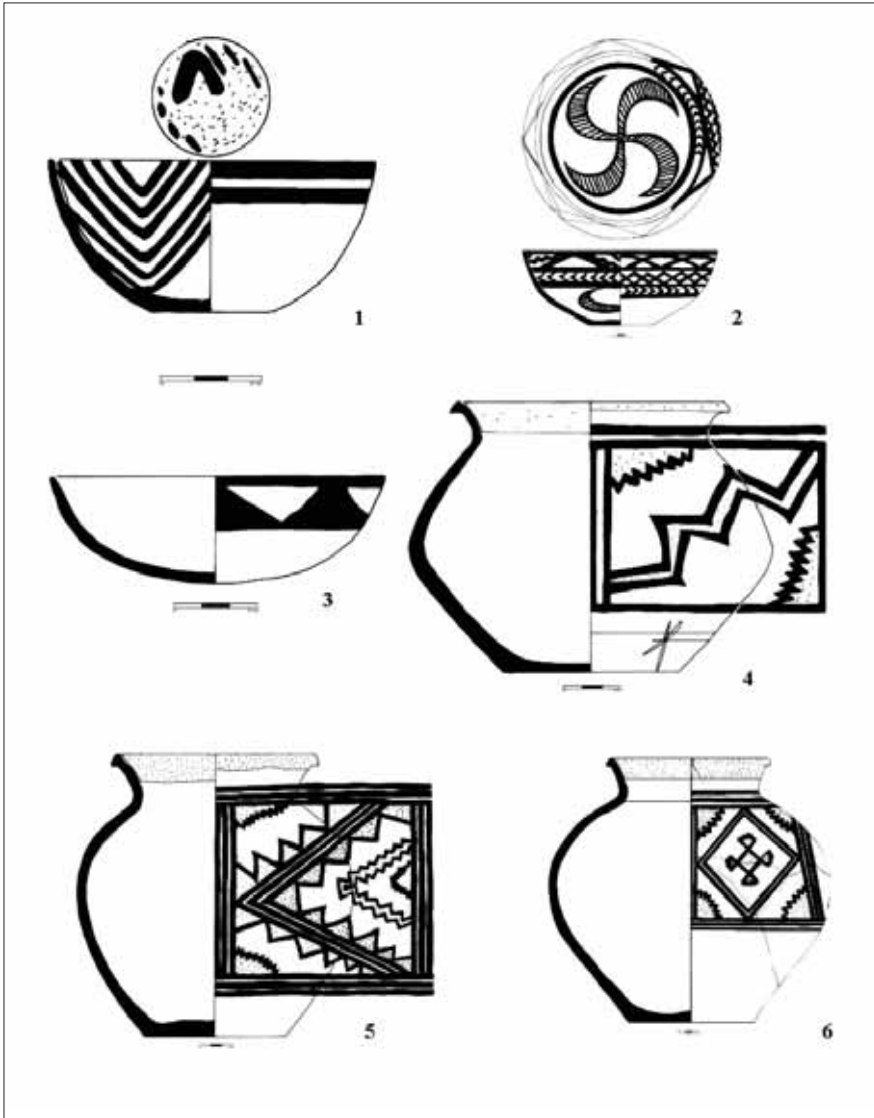


Fig. 71: Grey and Polychrome Ware: 1. G.N.6710/4; 2. G.N.7809/4; 3. G.N.7809/1; 4. G.N.7814/5; 5. 6703/3; 6. Trench NAW. Surface finds.

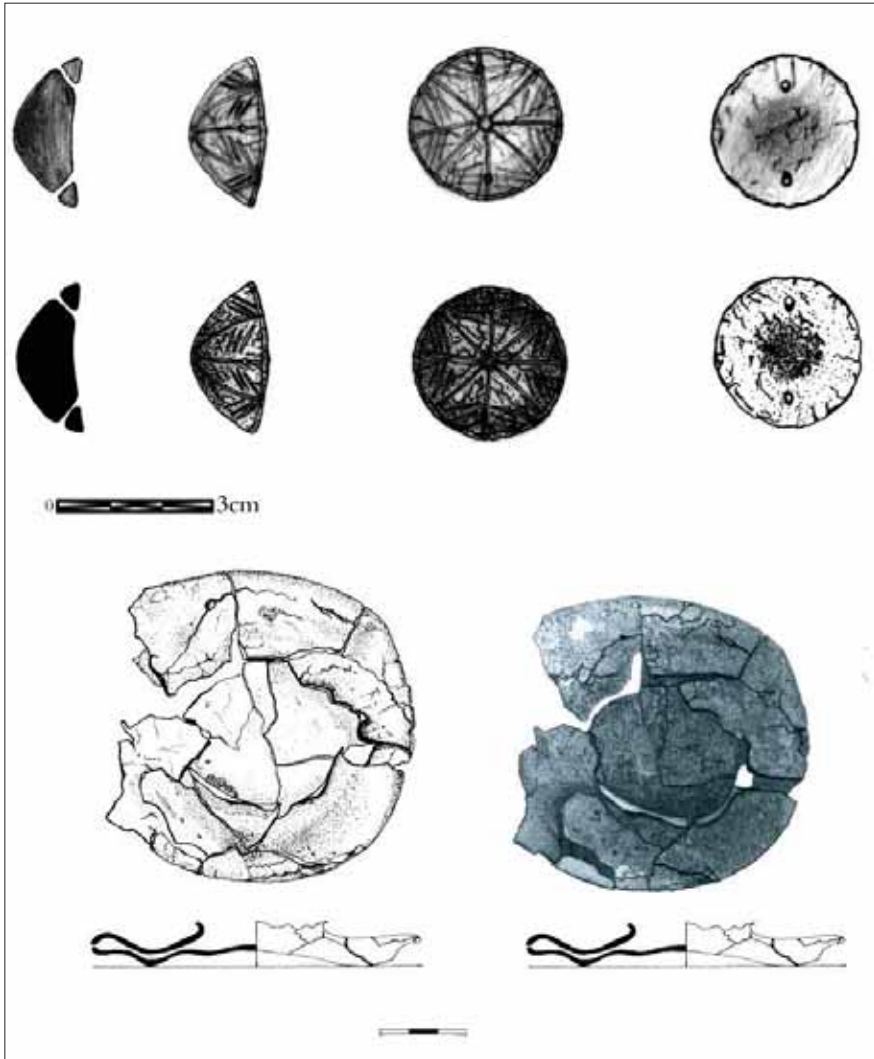


Fig. 72: G.N.6705. Above: artificial hemispherical eye; below: protective leather pouch.

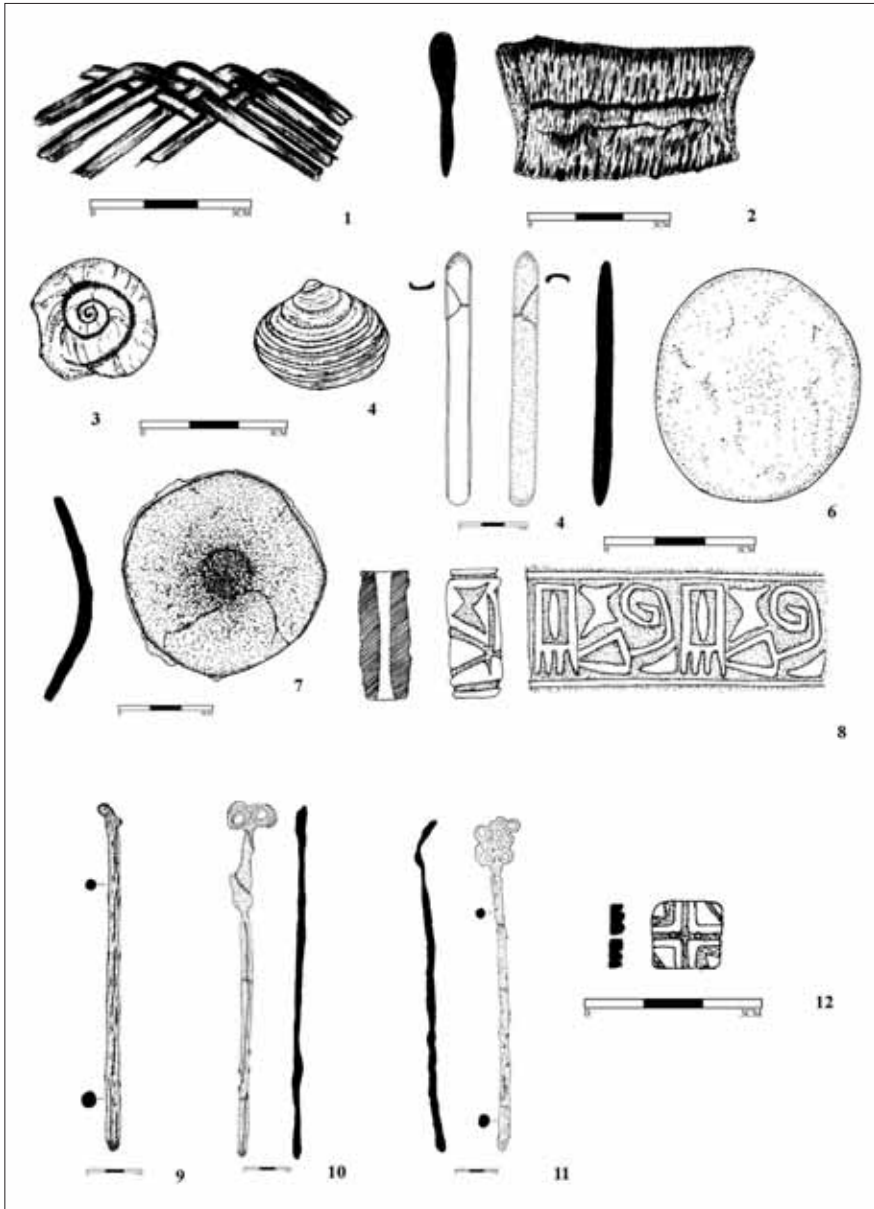


Fig. 73: 1. G.N.6700/7; 2. G.N.6709/3; 3. G.N.6905/8; 4. G.N.6905/7; 5. G.N.6708/3; 6. G.N.6905/4; 7. G.N.6705/30; 8. G.N.6708/1; 9. G.N.6709/1; 10. G.N.6808/2; 11. G.N.6905/6; 12. G.N.6905/10.

Other objects are made of marble. Most items in this group are bowls, tall and short cups and legged cups (Fig. 75: 1-9). The last group of objects recovered from the burials in the current season are beads made of various types of semiprecious stones, either individually or in combination with necklaces or wristbands (Fig. 76: 1-10). The materials include azure, turquoise, agate and calcite.

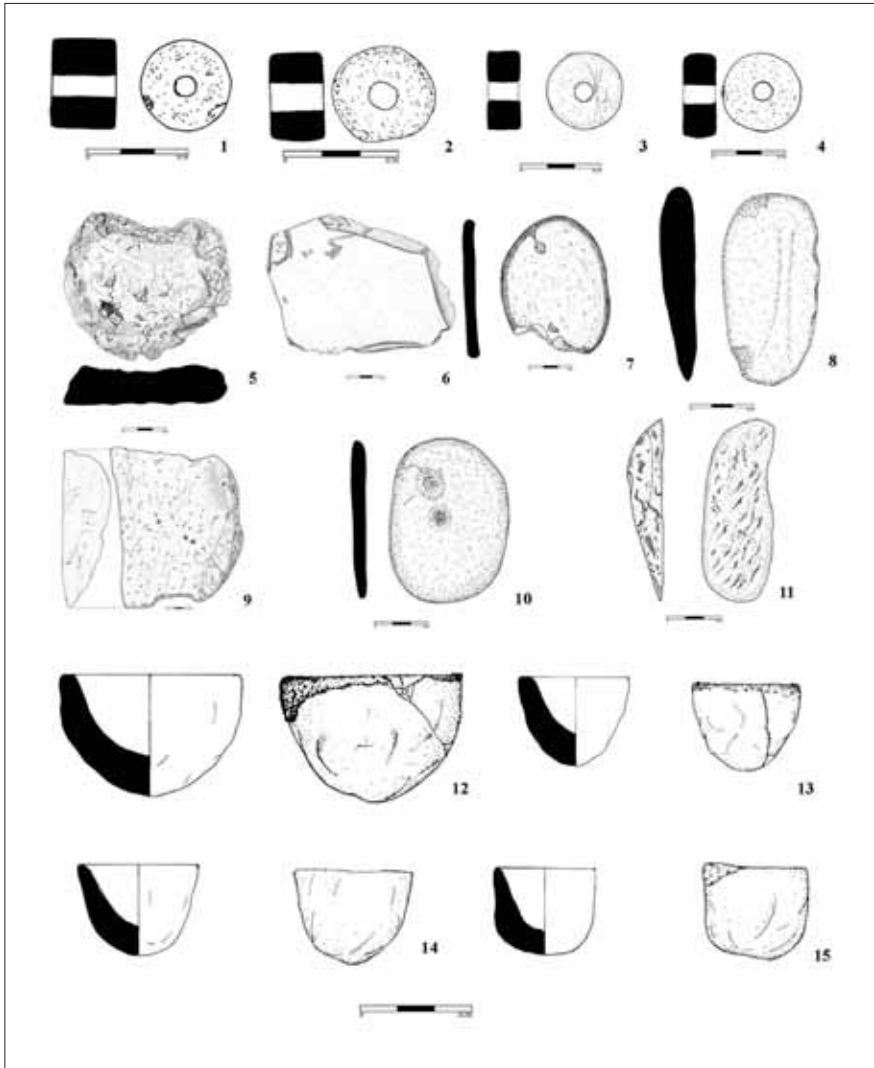


Fig. 74: 1. G.N.6705/15; 2. G.N.6808/5; 3. G.N.6905/5; 4. G.N.6704/11; 5. G.N.6704/0; 6. G.N.7703/2; 7. G.N.6710/5; 8. G.N.6708/4; 9. G.N.6803/5; 10. G.N.6809/7; 11. G.N.67041/4; 12. G.N.6700/2; 13. G.N.6700/3; 14. G.N.6700/4; 15. G.N.6700/5.

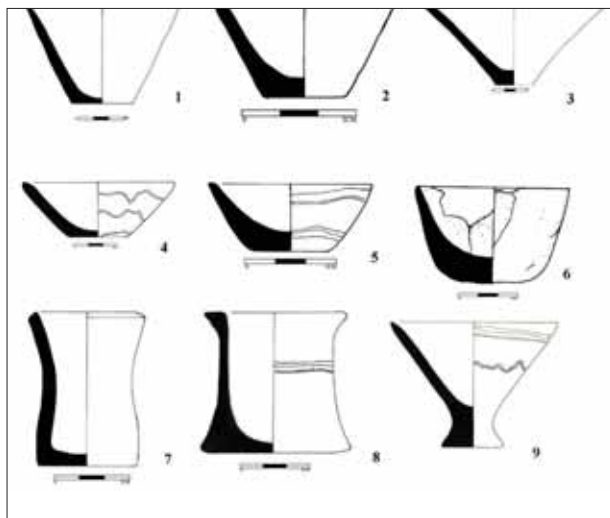


Fig. 75: 1. G.N.6703/4; 2. G.N.6700/1; 3. G.N.6905/9; 4. G.N.7818/1; 5. G.N.7805/2; 6. G.N.6703/15; 7. G.N.6905/3, 8. G.N.7817/13; 9. G.N.7809/6.

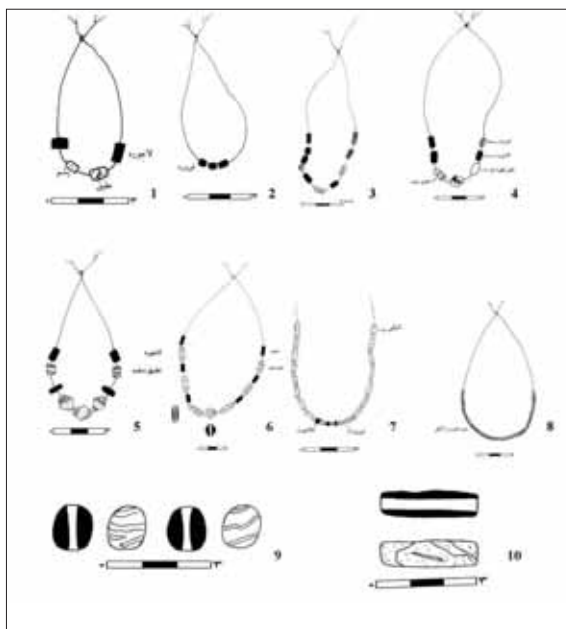


Fig. 76: 1. G.N.6700/6; 2. G.N.6802/6; 3. G.N.6705/28; 4. G.N.6709/16; 5. G.N.7705/3; 6. G.N.7809/9; 7. G.N.6804/6; 8. G.N.6800/2; 9. G.N.6804/5; 10. G.N.6707/15.

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