

Baci (Bronze Age Carian Iasos) project: report on the 2003 study season

The 2003 study season took place from 10 August to 11 September, and the participants were Dr. Nicoletta Momigliano (University of Bristol), Dr. Paolo Belli (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Roma), Ms. Anna Lena (University of Sheffield), and Ms. Hege Usborne (University of Bristol).

During this season Dr. Belli carried out a final check of the old excavation photographs against the surviving structures, as part of his ongoing research on Bronze Age architecture at Iasos.

Dr. Momigliano, assisted by Ms. Lena and Ms. Usborne, studied the finds from the Late Bronze Age levels from Building A and from the area between this and Building F, located beneath the Roman Agora and Geometric cemetery. They processed over 4200 fragments of pottery besides other finds such as clay loom-weights of Minoan type, stone and clay spindle-whorls (Fig. 1) as well as obsidian and flint blades (Fig. 2). The study of the pottery fragments, in particular, provided further evidence for contacts between Iasos and other Aegean regions, as demonstrated by the presence of several imports from Crete and other Aegean islands.



Fig. 1 – Iasos. Area between Building A and F: spindle whorl (Inv. No. 2794).



Fig. 2 – Iasos. Obsidian and flint objects from the Bronze Age levels beneath the Roman Agora.

Another interesting aspect emerging from this year's research is the discovery of more Chalcolithic material, including fragments of 'cheese-pots' (Fig. 3). No Chalcolithic building or structure has been identified at Iasos as yet, but the presence of numerous ceramic fragments found (albeit in later contexts) at various points under the area of the Roman Agora as well as in the area of the so-called 'Basilica Est' (approximately 300 m. to the NE) suggests the existence of a substantial settlement already in this early period.

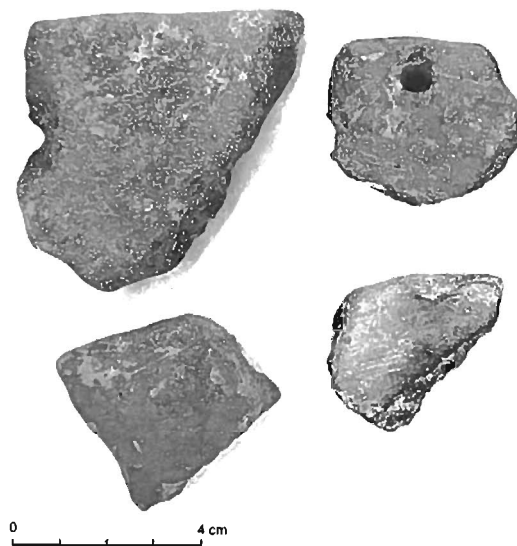


Fig. 3 – Iasos. Area between Building A and F:
Chalcolithic sherds.

This was our last study season, in which we completed our re-examination of the excavations directed by Levi and Laviosa – a real exercise in the ‘archaeology of archaeology’. We should like to thank our sponsors for their financial assistance over the years (The Institute for Aegean Prehistory; the British Institute for Archaeology at Ankara; the University of Bristol; the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche) as well as our Turkish colleagues who greatly facilitated our work. This year, in particular, our thanks go to Mrs Tenzile Uysal of Milas Museum and, last but not least, to our representative of the Turkish government, Hüsseyin Köktürk, both for his kindness and sense of humour.

Our next task will be the preparation of the publication of this rich and fascinating material, which will make a significant contribution to our understanding of Carian prehistory and of the interrelations between this region and the Cycladic, Minoan, and Mycenaean civilizations of the Aegean Bronze Age.

Nicoletta Momigliano (on behalf of BACI project team: Prof. Mario Benzi, Dr. Paolo Belli, Prof. G. Graziadio, Dr. Isabella Morabito, Dr. A. Lena).

Campagna di scavo 2003 a Thronos/Kephala (Creta, Grecia)

Dal 6 giugno al 30 luglio 2003, è stata effettuata una nuova campagna di scavo nel sito di Thronos/Kephala a Creta, in collaborazione tra il CNR/ICEVO e la *KE' Ephoria ton proistorikon kai klasikon archaioteton* (Chania), sotto la direzione di Anna Lucia D'Agata e Nota Karamaliki.

La campagna è stata articolata in quattro settimane di scavo sulla sommità della Kephala e due settimane di lavoro di magazzino svolto nei locali della Scuola Elementare – gentilmente messi a disposizione dal Politistikos Syllogos di Thronos –, durante le quali si è provveduto all'analisi, alla documentazione e al restauro dei materiali rilevanti. Nello stesso periodo, a cura della R.M.C. di Pisa, è stata effettuata un'indagine tramite geo-radar dell'estremità settentrionale e orientale della sommità della collina, e dell'area a sud e ad est dell'Edificio A2 sul pianoro sud. Come di consueto, a fine campagna tutti i materiali rinvenuti sono stati trasportati al Museo Archeologico di Rethymnon.

Hanno preso parte alla campagna: C. Casesi e S. Mauro (archeologi); L. Gremese (responsabile per il rilievo e l'archiviazione informatica); G. Merlatti (responsabile per il disegno dei materiali); D. Mylona (responsabile per la flottazione); K. Zervaki (responsabile per il restauro dei materiali); Ch. Stephanakis (fotografo); A. Adorni (geologo)¹.

La campagna è stata finalizzata al completamento dello scavo dell'Edificio 3 sul pianoro nord e alla prosecuzione dello scavo dell'Edificio A2 sul pianoro sud².

Nell'Edificio 3 (fig. 1-2) lo scavo ha riguardato il Vano Occidentale, l'estremità orientale dell'edificio e l'area immediatamente ad est di esso. Nel Vano Occidentale si è proseguito asportando i livelli di riempimento sottostanti il più antico livello pavimentale, al quale deve essere ascritto l'eccezionale cratere figurato THK02/1³, e la cui distruzione è stata assegnata ad un momento assai precoce del PG antico⁴. Lungo il margine ovest del vano gli strati di riempimento mostrano di aver inglobato una serie di focolari e piani d'uso ad essi connessi, che si perdono sotto il muro ovest del vano stesso. Si tratta dunque di resti di frequentazione relativi ad una occupazione dell'area precedente alla costruzione dell'edificio. I materiali rinvenuti in tali strati sono per lo più relativi a ceramiche da cucina, e comprendono anche frammenti di pitture riferibili al TM IIIC.

Nell'area orientale del vano è stato eseguito un saggio stratigrafico immediatamente ad ovest del muro perimetrale orientale 529, allo scopo di chiarire quale fosse stata la frequentazione dell'area prima della costruzione dell'edificio. Sotto il più antico strato di riempimento, ancora relativo alla costruzione del Vano Occidentale, sono stati messi in luce un livello di fre-



Fig. 1 – Edificio 3, veduta generale da sud.

¹ Alla campagna hanno anche partecipato gli studenti: V. Garaffa, L. Guarino, M. Marchese (Università di Palermo); S. Michou (Università di Rethymnon); A. Stagl (Università di Vienna).

² Cfr. il resoconto di scavo del 2002, A. L. D'Agata, N. Karamaliki, Campagna di scavo 2002 a Thronos/Kephala (Creta, Grecia), *SMEA* 44/2 (2002), 347-355.

³ Trovato nel 2002: D'Agata, Karamaliki, Campagna di scavo, *supra* nota 2, 352, fig. 10.

⁴ *Ibid.*

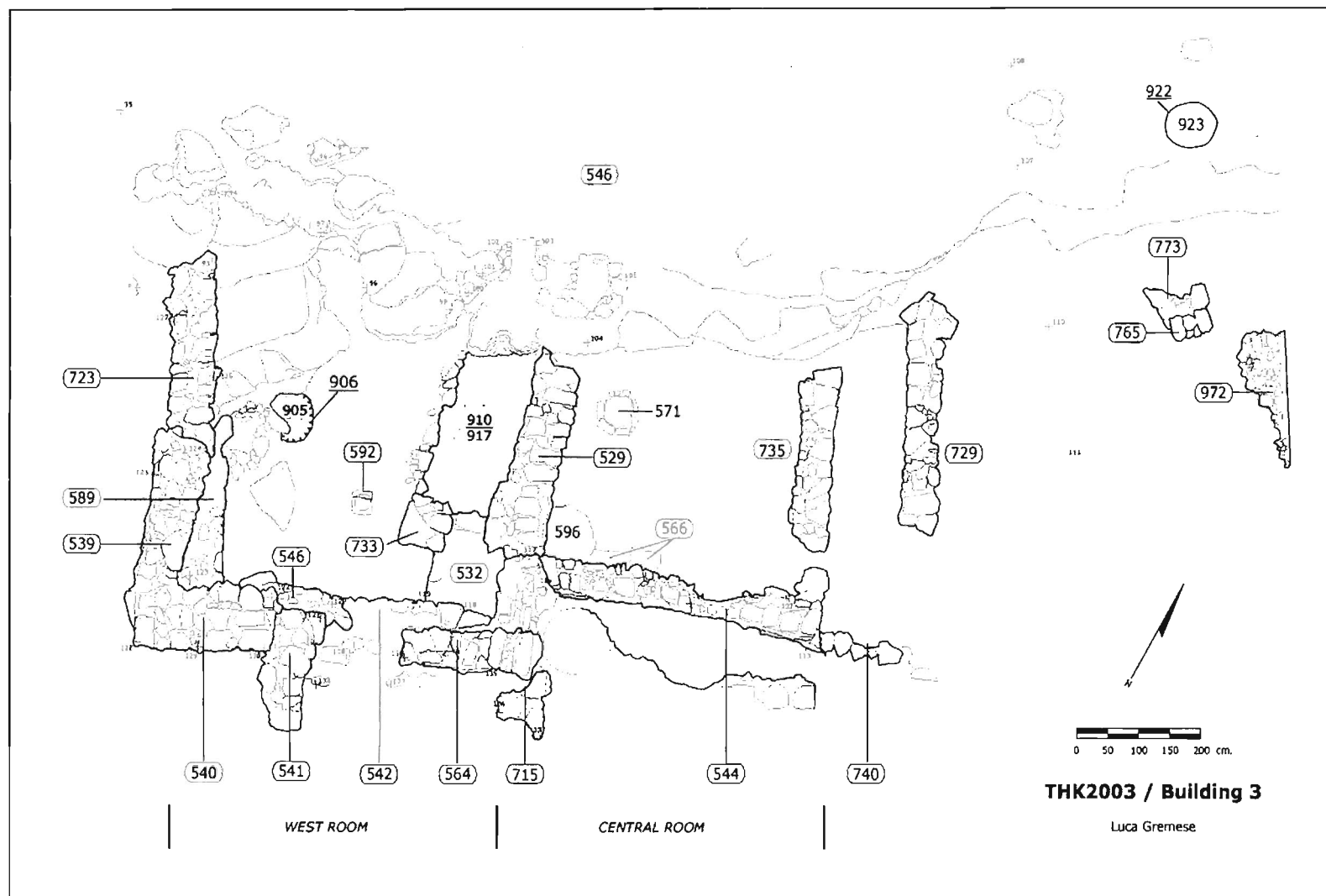


Fig. 2 – Planimetria dell'Edificio 3.



Fig. 3 – THK03, materiali da US 910.



Fig. 4 – THK03, materiali da US 917.



Fig. 5 – Edificio A2, veduta generale da est.



Fig. 6 – Edificio A2, da sud est: sullo sfondo, a sinistra, l'area della porta 829.

quentazione (US 910) e un sottostante livello di riempimento (US 917) il quale poggiava direttamente sul terreno sterile. I materiali recuperati in entrambi i livelli (fig. 3-4) si datano al TM IIIC antico.

Sul banco roccioso immediatamente a nord-est dell'Edificio 3 è stata messa in luce la cisterna 922 (fig. 2): profonda cm 180 e larga cm 90, essa sembra interpretabile come una struttura di servizio dell'edificio. I materiali raccolti sul fondo della cisterna consentono una datazione molto precisa dell'abbandono della stessa ad un momento iniziale del PG antico: tale abbandono risulta dunque coevo alla più antica distruzione dell'Edificio 3.

I risultati dello scavo entro l'Edificio 3 sono piuttosto importanti per la ricostruzione della formazione dell'insediamento sulla collina della Kephala. Essi infatti confermano, come già ipotizzato da chi scrive sulla base della sequenza ceramica ricostruita per le fosse rituali⁵, che sul pianoro nord l'inizio dell'insediamento è contemporaneo alla chiusura delle più antiche fosse rituali e risale alla fase iniziale del TM IIIC.

Sul pianoro meridionale lo scavo ha riguardato l'Edificio A2 (fig. 5-6). Alla sua estremità occidentale sono stati asportati i resti del crollo tra i muri 804 e 624. Ciò ha consentito di mettere in luce su tutta l'area il livello di calpestio in terra battuta, antistante la gradinata 835. Nel tratto settentrionale di 804 si è messo in luce il vano di una porta, chiamata 829, la cui soglia è costituita da una grande lastra di calcare. Questa porta, probabilmente contemporanea alla costruzione di 804, è stata successivamente chiusa con corsi di blocchi e mattoni (US 828). La porta risulta simmetrica ad una apertura simile sul lato est dell'edificio. Tali nuovi dati consentiranno di riaffrontare il problema della successione delle fasi architettoniche all'interno dell'Edificio A2, del quale sono finora noti due livelli di distruzione, entrambi di età romana imperiale (I-III d.C.)⁶.

ANNA LUCIA D'AGATA, NOTA KARAMALIKI

Armenian-Italian Archaeological Expedition Field Season 2003

1 – THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The Armenian-Italian Archaeological Expedition of the Istituto di Studi sulla Civiltà dell'Egeo e del Vicino Oriente and of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia continued the archaeological survey in the former *shrjan* (province) of Gavar (now part of the Gegharkunik *marz*) already begun in 2001. Fieldwork went on from 3rd July to 13th July 2003.

A new fort was found (Azat Kaghak 2), not mentioned in the literature and unknown to the local informers. The typology of the walls and the way in which the morphology of the ground

⁵ A. L. D'Agata, Defining a Pattern of Continuity During the Dark Age in Central-Western Crete: Ceramic Evidence from the Settlement of Thronos/Kephala (Ancient Sybrita), *SMEA* 41/2 (1999), 181-218; Ead., LM IIIC-SM Pottery Sequence at Thronos/Kephala and its Connections with the Greek Mainland, in S. Deger-Jalkotzy, M. Zavadil eds., *LH IIIC Chronology and Synchronisms. Proceedings of the international workshop held at the Austrian Academy of Sciences at Vienna, May 7th-8th 2001*, Wien 2003, 23-35.

⁶ Cfr. A. L. D'Agata, N. Karamaliki, Campagna di scavo 2000 a Thronos/Kephala (Creta, Grecia), *SMEA* 42/2, 2000, 336-340.

was exploited (fig. 1) suggest a dating to the Early Iron Age, but the pottery found on the site is almost exclusively Mediaeval. In the area are located a village and a cemetery going back to the Middle Ages, on the site itself there are *khachkars* and this explains the massive presence of Mediaeval pottery. Furthermore, on the slope of the hill where the fort stood, an interesting rectangular structure was found, which cannot be dated with certainty but which undoubtedly goes back to between the Urartian and the Roman periods.

During the field season the last fortifications of the area studied in 2001-2002 and not yet surveyed were mapped, amongst them the Urartian fort of Arghuiti Dasht (figs. 2-3)

This is a peculiar site because, unlike almost all the Urartian fortifications, it was built far from the coast, deep in the interior of the «land of Uelikukhi», on the top of a low, tactically disadvantageous hillock, which could easily have been attacked by arrow and sling from the surrounding hills. Furthermore the fort of Arghuiti Dasht did not control, like the other Urartian forts far from the coast, a road to some mountain pass or an area rich in mineral resources. The presence of fragments of large jars, typical of the storerooms of the fortifications integrated in the Urartian palace economy, indicates that the fort of Arghuiti Dasht probably had the task of gathering tributes from the surrounding area, now very rich in herds of cattle and sheep. The location in an area not easily defendable suggests that the fort was built after the final pacification of Uelikukhi, probably after the campaign of Rusa I (immediately after 730 B.C.).

The forts of Azat Kaghak 1 and Gumlukh 1 and a large rectangular structure associated with the fortress of Ilikavank were mapped. All these monuments go back to the Early Iron Age.

In 2003 all the reports given by local informants of any ancient remains were also finally checked. Three pre-Christian *kurgan* necropolises not listed in the literature were found, and, for each of them, photographic documentation was gathered, geographical co-ordinates determined and, where present, surface pottery was collected.



Fig. 1 – Azat Kaghak 2: The eastern side of the hill, with wall remains in the foreground.



Fig. 2 – Arghuiti Dasht: The evidence of two building phases of the walls. The most recent one leans against a corner of the earlier wall and is not bonded to it.



Fig. 3 – Arghuiti Dasht: The eastward continuation of the earlier wall.

Whilst checking one of the pieces of information, a rectangular structure was found, 30x40 m, oriented north-south, with double-faced walls filled with smaller stones about 2.5 m thick. No pottery was found on the surface, but the architectural characteristics suggest a Hellenistic-Roman dating.

The archaeological exploration of the former Gavar province is basically complete. Therefore, in 2004 the Italian-Armenian Archaeological Expedition will begin an exploration of the former Sevan province.

R. BISCIONE, N. PARMEGIANI

2 – THE GEO-ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROGRAM

The geoarchaeological program, focused on the variations of level of Lake Sevan, finds the study of the perilacustrine necropolises a very useful tool. The Institute is studying in particular the necropolis of Kanagegh, on the southeastern shore of Lake Sevan, approximately 6 km north of the village of Yeranos. This year the burial complexes number 6 and 7 were studied. The excavation was directed by A. Piliposyan, with the collaboration of R. Mkrtchyan (anthropologist) and G. Tumanyan (archaeologist), from the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the Academy of Sciences of Armenia.

Kurgan N. 6 is located in the southeastern part of the necropolis. The stone and earth tumulus, 1.05 m high, was surrounded by 39 large and small unworked basalt blocks disposed in an irregular circle. (fig. 4, 1-2). The north – south diameter is 10.0 m and the east – west one 9.30 m. The stones in the western part of the circle were covered with earth. In its eastern part there was a rectangular appendix of vertical stones oriented towards the east, with four medium size stones that completely covered the burial chamber located on the east-west axis. Inside this circle there was a second one with a diameter of 6.50 m, with smaller stones distributed in an irregular fashion. Stones and earth were heaped over the whole surface of the *kurgan*. The burial chamber, covered with very large stones, was located on the east-west axis of the tumulus.

The burial chamber is 2.0 m long, 1.05 m wide and 0.90 m deep. In it were found the arm bones and the scapula of an adult male at the depth of 0.25 m and some fragments of leg and hip bones at the depth of 0.70 m. These bones were irregularly disposed. In the burial chamber fragments of black burnished pottery were found of the XV-XIV centuries B.C. (fig. 5, 3-5), mainly concentrated near the eastern wall. On the bottom of the burial chamber the remaining bones of the above-mentioned adult male were found and among them there was a hemispherical button, with a swastika inlaid with white faience on a rectangular knob (fig. 5, 2). In the western part of the burial chamber, below the partially preserved femur under the western wall, a complete skeleton of a dog (or a fox) was discovered. The burial was clearly pillaged in the past. The robbers did not remove the large stones covering the burial chamber, but entered it through an opening made between the eastern wall and the middle point of the stone located on its top.

After removing the flat stones covering the rectangular extension of the burial circle, at the depth of approximately 1.0 m, five Late Bronze Age (XV-XIV centuries B.C.) pottery jars and sherds of three more were found (fig. 6, 1-8).

Kurgan N. 7 is located in the northeastern part of the necropolis. It is 1.5 m high, the north – south diameter is 8.0 m and the east – west one 7.80 m. Two parallel burial chambers located on the east-west axis were uncovered (fig. 7, 1-2).

The burial chamber 7/1 (fig. 8), located in the northern part of the circle, was covered with 4 basalt large stones. The burial chamber is 1.55 m long, 0.90 m wide and 0.65 m deep. At a

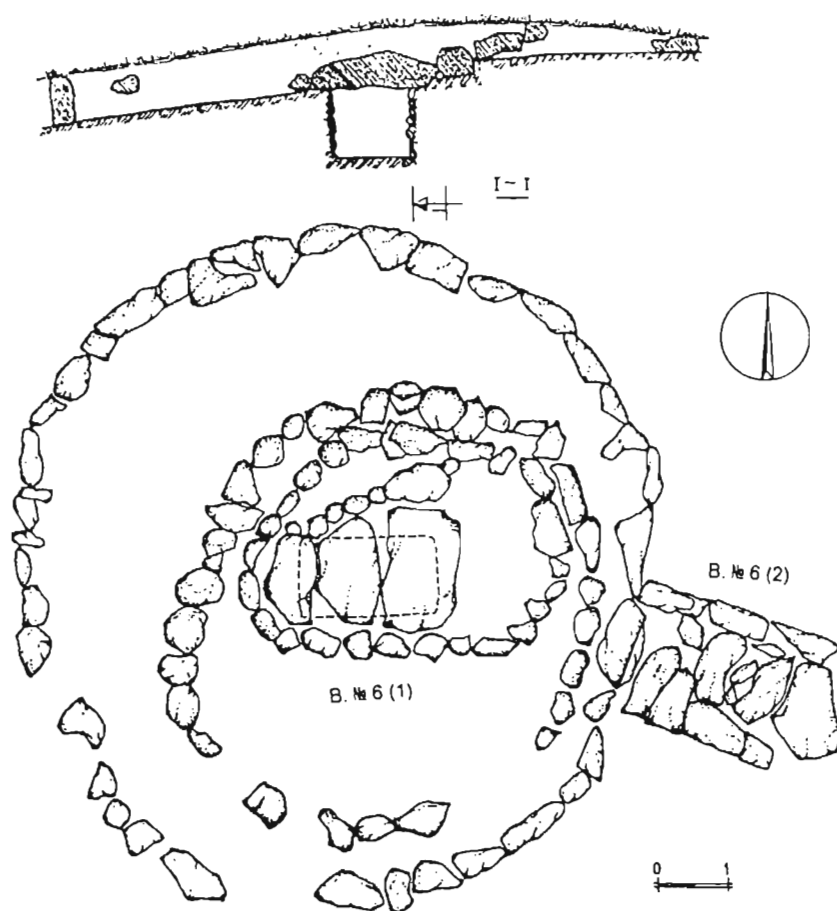


Fig. 4, 1-2 – Kanagegh, *kurgan* n. 6: view, section and plan.

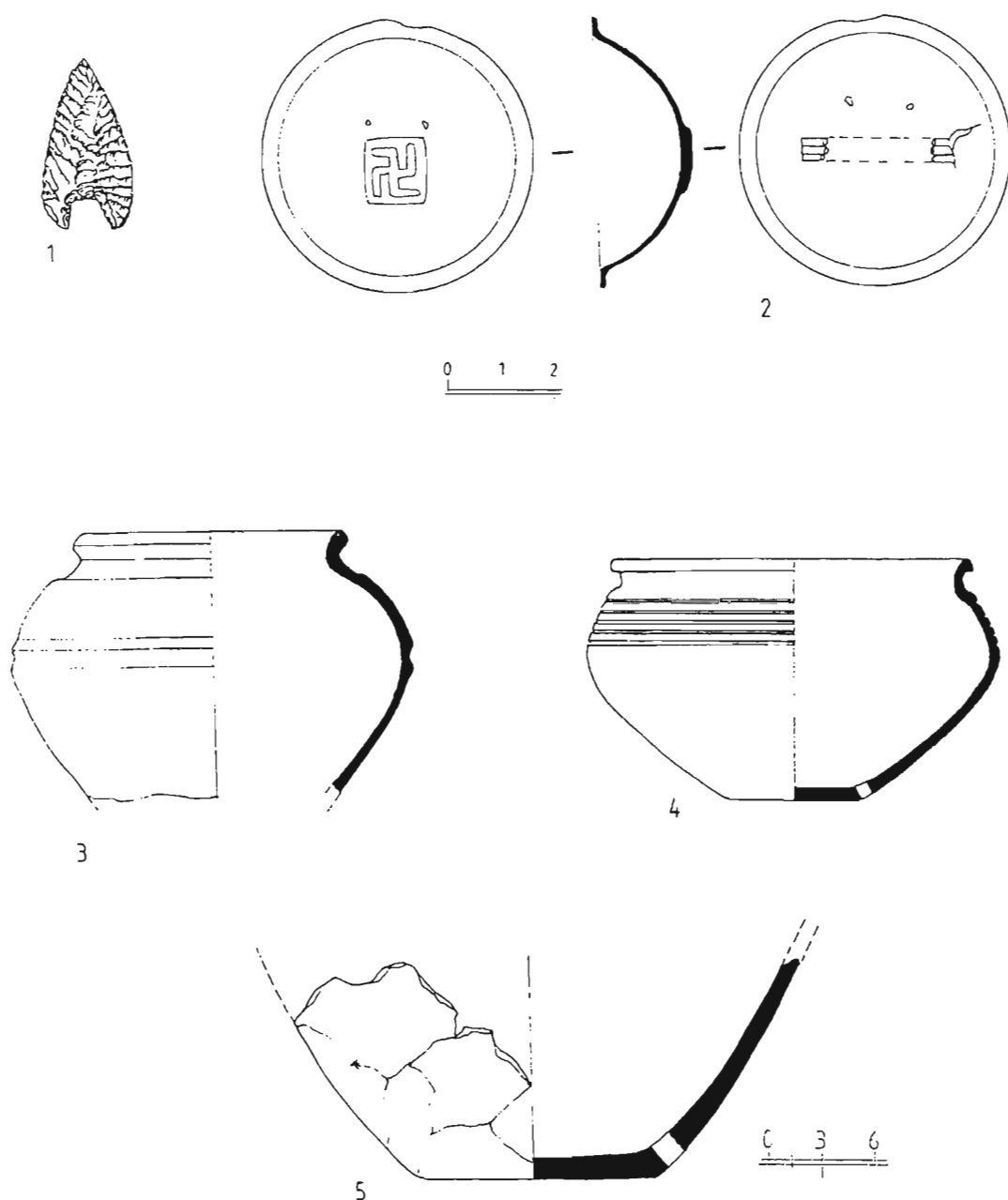


Fig. 5 – Kanagegh, *kurgan* n. 6: The grave-goods of the main burial. 1 obsidian arrow-head; 2 bronze object; 3-5 clay vases.

depth of 0.30 m a burial of the Hellenistic period was found. Light brown and orange pottery fragments and bones that belonged to three individuals were found. Two of them were 5-6 year old children and the other was an adult (male?). On the bottom of the chamber an earlier burial was uncovered, dated to XV-XIV centuries B.C. on the basis of four whole black burnished pottery vases (fig. 9, 1-4). The skull was near the southeastern wall, on the right parietal bone with the basal part facing upward. Some of the upper and lower epiphysis were scattered at random northeast of the skull, 0.50 m away. The preserved part of the mandibula

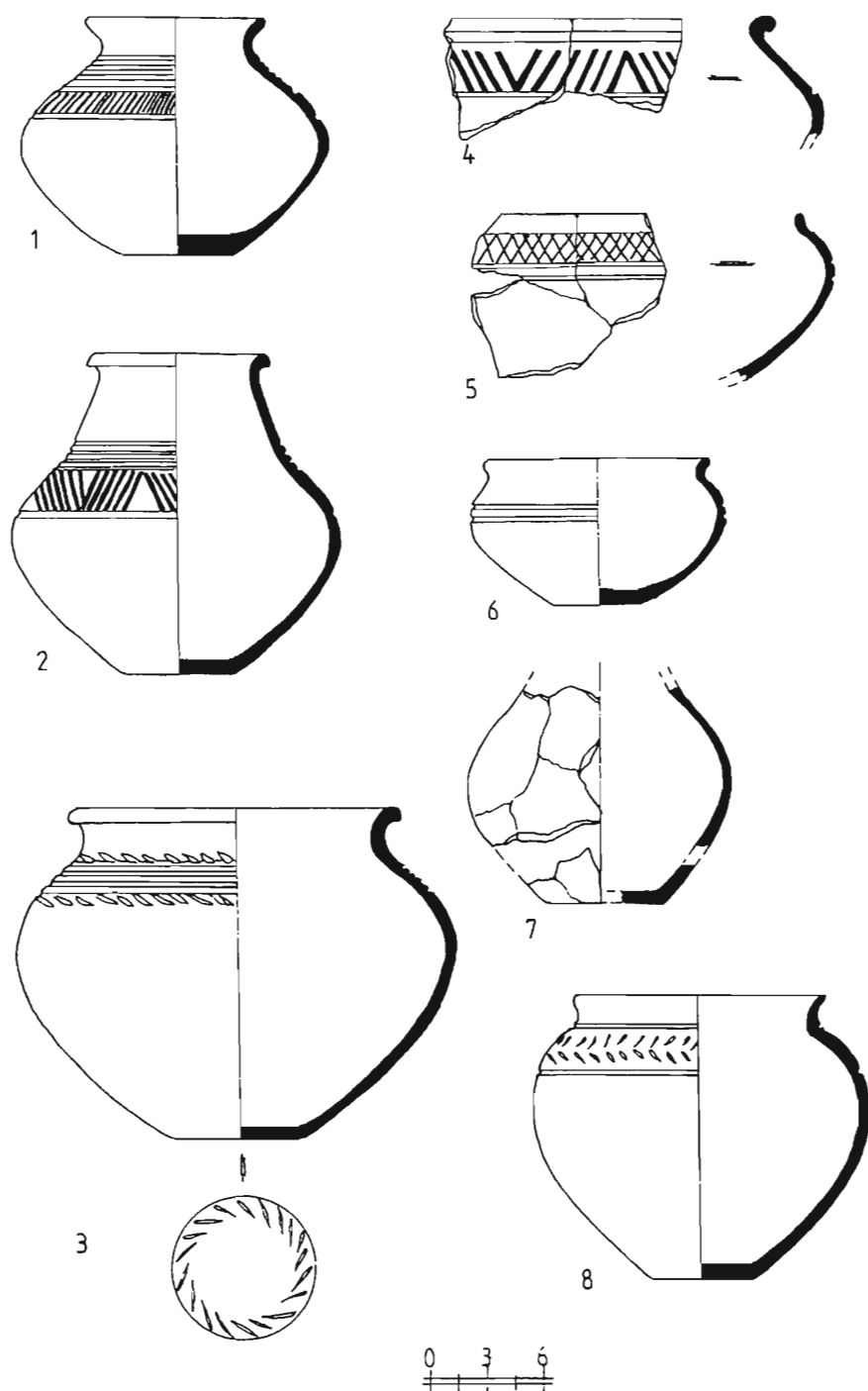


Fig. 6 – Kanagegh, *kurgan* n. 6: The grave-goods of the second burial. 1-8 clay vases.

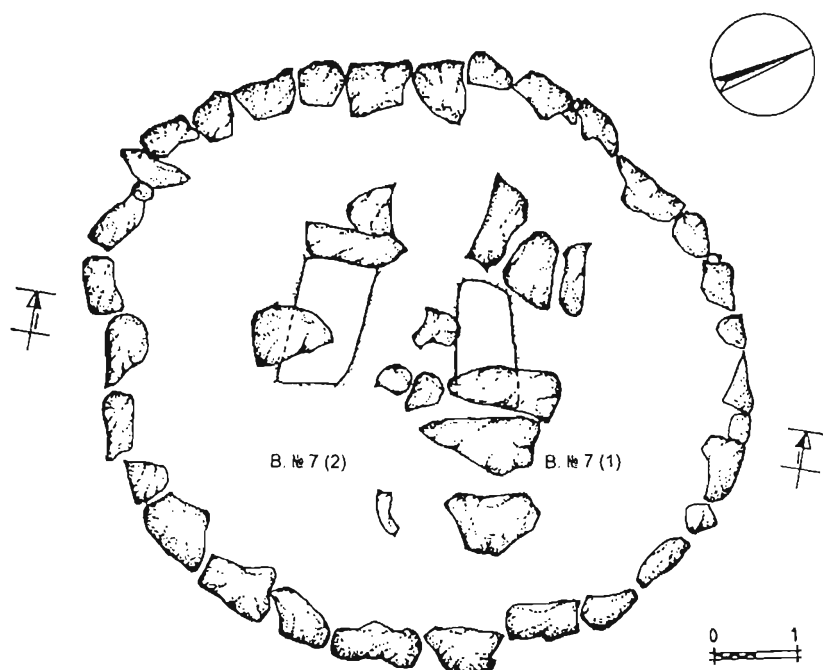
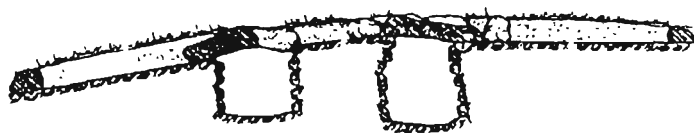


Fig. 7, 1-2 – Kanagegh, *kurgan* n. 7: view, section and plan.



Fig. 8 – Kanagegh, *kurgan* n. 7: Burial 7/1.

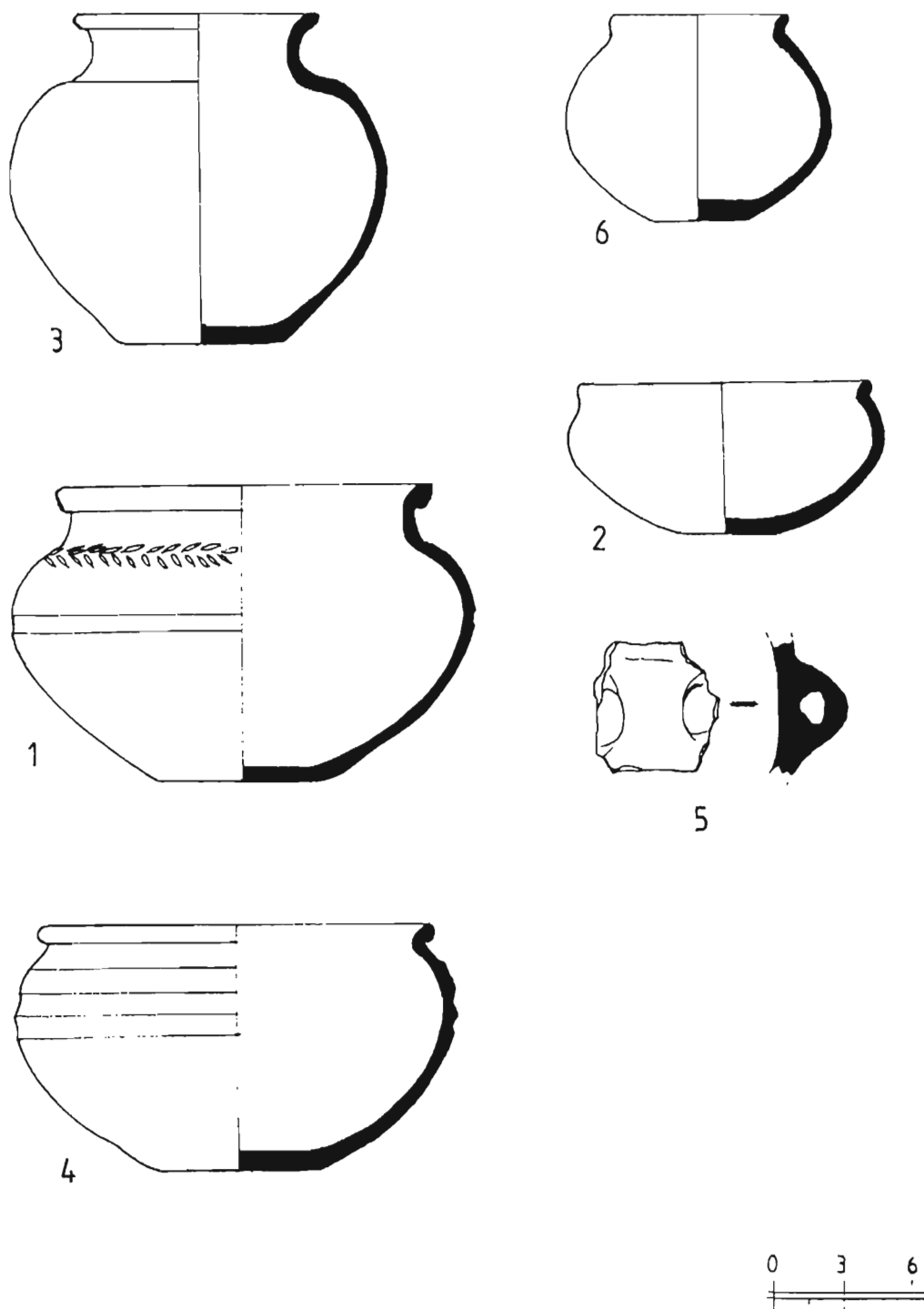


Fig. 9 – Kanagegh, *kurgan* n. 7: Grave-goods. Nos. 1-5, burial 7/1; no. 6, burial 7/2.

was placed on one of the ulnas. In the burial chamber were found skull, mandibula and the following bones: both humeri, fragments of both ulnas and radii, both femurs and tibias, and right fibula. All the vertebrae except the atlas were present and all the epiphysis of long bones were missing. This allows us to conclude that the lower burial of chamber 7/1 is a typical case of decapitation and dismemberment. The individual so treated was a 50-55 year old male.

The burial chamber 7/2, located in the southern part of the circle is a rectangular stone cist, 1.5 m long, 0.85 wide and 1 m deep, with three covering stones preserved. The inhumated body was placed in the southeastern part of the burial chamber, in flexed position on the left side, with the head towards the north-west and the face towards the north-east. The legs of the deceased were contracted in such a way that the femur and tibia were almost parallel to each other. The left arm was folded in an acute angle over the chest and the palm of the right hand was on the right knee. The buried person was a 35-40 year old female. The skeleton was not well preserved and the skull was greatly damaged. Behind the back of the buried person, near the southeastern wall on the bottom of the chamber, there was a small, burnished light brown jar covered with ashes (fig. 9, 6) and in front of the face there was an obsidian flake. According to the pottery the burial chamber 7/2 is of the same period as number 7/1, i.e. XV-XIV centuries B.C.

The excavations of *kurgans* 6 and 7 showed that structure, archaeological material and burial ritual match completely with those of the Late Bronze Age *kurgans* 1-5 excavated in the same necropolis in 1980, 1999 and 2001. They are an important source of information for the exposure, study and interpretation of the historical and cultural issues of the Late Bronze Age in the Sevan basin.

A. PILIPOSYAN, R. MKRTCHYAN, G. TUMANYAN, N. PARMEGIANI, R. BISCIONE