



Drawing the Threads Together

Studies on Archaeology in Honour of Karin Bartl

Edited by

Alexander Ahrens, Dörte Rokitta-Krumnow,
Franziska Bloch and Claudia Bührig

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Claudia Bührig

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Karin Bartl, Rouj Basin, Syria 2006
(photo: D. Rokitta-Krumnow)

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Life and Afterlife of Neolithic “Greenstone” Vessels from Göbekli Tepe

Laura Dietrich – Oliver Dietrich – Jens Notroff

Introduction

Decorated stone vessels have been found at Early Neolithic sites throughout Northern / Upper Mesopotamia.¹ The small, thin-walled and often decorated bowls have sometimes been summarized under the term ‘vessels of the Hallan Çemi type,’² after the site where the first such discoveries were made.³ In a paper discussing craft specialization during the Early Neolithic, Köksal-Schmidt and Schmidt⁴ have highlighted one of the roles of these vessels: as a medium to display a complex symbolic system. They have further pointed out a large number of such finds from Göbekli Tepe and discussed a selection of bowls made of a green-blackish rock variety, decorated with incisions. Although such vessels were already mentioned in the first preliminary report on Göbekli Tepe,⁵ and although their number has continually risen through further excavations, they have not been the topic of a dedicated study so far. Here, we report on 83 vessels, or rather fragments of vessels, made from ‘greenstone’ varieties, discovered at Göbekli Tepe (Table 1).

Göbekli Tepe

Göbekli Tepe is situated on a high point of the Germuş mountain range in south-eastern Turkey, at ca. 770 m asl., offering a wide view over the Harran plain. The prehistoric mound itself consists of reddish soil and reaches a height of about 15 m, with a diameter of around 300 m, and is characterized by several hills divided by depressions. It is surrounded by a limestone plateau, which today shows no significant sediment accumulation and only very scarce vegetation. Neolithic traces at the site were first recognized during a combined survey by the Universities of Chicago and Istanbul in the 1960s,⁶ but the architecture hidden by the mound remained unrecognized until its discovery in 1994 by Klaus Schmidt.

¹ Aurenche – Kozłowski 1999, 221 Pl. 3-1; Rosenberg 1999; 2011; Köksal-Schmidt – Schmidt 2007; Sığın 2008; Benz et al. 2017.

² Köksal-Schmidt – Schmidt 2007, 99.

³ Aurenche – Kozłowski 1999, 221, Pl. 3-1; Rosenberg 1999; 2011, figs. 9–10; Rosenberg – Davis 1992.

⁴ Köksal-Schmidt – Schmidt 2007.

⁵ Beile-Bohn et al. 1998, 61, figs. 26/2–4

⁶ Benedict 1980.

Since then, annual excavation work has revealed unique monumental architecture particularly rich in decoration.⁷

The site is best known for its monumental round buildings, often constructed with richly decorated T-shaped limestone pillars which are interconnected by walls with bench-like structures along the inner faces.⁸ The pillars within these circular walls stand up to 4 m high and are always arranged around two even larger central pillars of the same shape. Depictions of arms and hands on some indicate the anthropomorphic character of these T-pillars. This is further emphasized by depictions of clothing: while several pillars have two parallel bands on their front sides, which could indicate a garment,⁹ the two central pillars of Building D also show reliefs of belts and (probably fox skin) loincloths. Five monumental buildings have been excavated in the lower lying areas of the tell so far (Buildings A–D in the southeastern depression, Building H in the northwestern depression), several more have been detected by georadar.¹⁰ In Buildings C and D, the floor level is formed by the artificially smoothed bedrock; the two central pillars even stand on pedestals carved out of it. Building B has an artificial floor made from burnt lime and limestone chips, often described as a ‘terrazzo’ floor; in Buildings A and H the floor levels have not yet been reached. The question of whether the monumental buildings were roofed is still difficult to answer,¹¹ but much seems to speak in favour of at least partly subterranean structures entered through the roofs.¹² During excavation, these buildings had been summarized as an older layer (III) of site occupation and dated to the PPNA.¹³ There is good evidence for an at least partially intentional backfilling of the monumental buildings at the end of their use-life.¹⁴

A younger layer is superimposed on this monumental architecture in some parts of the mound, but is mainly concentrated in the higher-lying areas of the tell.¹⁵ This Layer II was attributed to the early and middle PPNB in the course of excavations. Smaller rectangular or sub-rectangular buildings with terrazzo floors, measuring about 3 x 4 m are characteristic of this layer. Some may be understood as reduced versions of the older monumental buildings, as they share a common element – the T-shaped pillars. However, the number and height of the pillars are considerably reduced: now only two small central pillars are often present, the largest among them not exceeding a height of 2 m. There are also rooms without any pillars. Layer I consists of the surface soil resulting from erosion processes as well as a plough horizon from recent agricultural activity.

Meanwhile, it has become evident that the clearly multi-phased monumental buildings were much longer lasting, showing a deeper and more complex chronol-

⁷ Peters – Schmidt 2004; Schmidt 2001; 2011; 2012.

⁸ Schmidt 2012.

⁹ Schmidt 2012, 70, 113.

¹⁰ Dietrich et al. 2012, fig. 3.

¹¹ Schmidt 2012, 120–121, 138, 144.

¹² Kurapkat 2015, 225–228, fig. 228.

¹³ Dietrich et al. 2013.

¹⁴ Schmidt 2012; Pöllath et al. 2018.

¹⁵ Schmidt 2012, 216–221; Kurapkat 2015, 18–22.

ogy – and probably reached into the younger PPNB and thus Layer II-periods too.¹⁶ This corresponds well with the fact that, at least in the south-eastern depression where excavations have concentrated so far, the older buildings were deliberately spared from younger construction activities. The area occupied by the monumental buildings was encircled by a terrace wall marking their position. The younger (rectangular) buildings show long and complicated biographies themselves, including the extensive use of spolia.¹⁷

In addition to the animals and symbols depicted in flat relief on many of the pillars, Göbekli Tepe’s buildings have furthermore yielded a series of anthropomorphic and zoomorphic sculptures, which repeat the same types canonically (e.g. wild boar with large fangs, snarling predators¹⁸), and several groups of richly decorated small finds, among these a variety of so-called shaft straighteners, stone plaquettes, and stone vessels.

Stone vessels – Traces of Manufacture and Preservation

No complete stone vessel has been found at Göbekli Tepe yet; the largest surviving fragments measure about 10 cm in length. They are made of dark gray to dark green stone varieties, identified tentatively as Nephrite, Serpentinite or Basaltoid during excavations. Stone of a brown color is rare. The material is relatively soft, not more than 5 on the Mohs scale. Some fragments (especially Nr. 9; Nr. 18; Nr. 19) show numerous scratches on the inside, hinting at their manufacturing from blocks that were hollowed out. Flint and basalt borers have been identified as important tools for Neolithic stone bowl production.¹⁹ In a subsequent step, stone vessels were ground and polished – in most cases on the inner and outer surfaces. Then, decorations were applied to some (Table 1). Incisions are the exclusive style of decoration observed; the most likely tools used are sharp flint blades. V-shaped profiles between incisions (see e.g. Nr. 9) are evidence for several repetitive cutting motions, steadily deepening and smoothing the grooves.

Stone Vessels – Find Contexts

Most vessel fragments are surface finds or come from the upper parts of room infills, often from wall debris (Table 1). Only one sherd (Nr. 45) was discovered inside a Layer II building immediately above the floor level. Additional sherds come from fill layers of the monumental round buildings, but there too from the upper parts of infills not related to actual activities in the course of the buildings’ use (Nr. 42, fill of Building B; Nr. 47, Nr. 44, and Nr. 51, Nr. 81, Nr. 75 und Nr. 76 from the fill of Building D; Nr. 46, from the fill of Building C; Nr. 33, infill above Building C). Only one sherd (Nr. 28) is known from layers within Building D that likely represent intentional backfilling events during the early PPNB.

¹⁶ Dietrich 2011; Piesker 2014; Kurapkat 2015; Pöllath et al. 2018.

¹⁷ Kurapkat 2015, 19, 29–47.

¹⁸ Schmidt 2008; 2010.

¹⁹ Schmidt 1997.

Forms

Because of intense fragmentation, shapes can be reconstructed only for a few vessels. Nr. 8 (see Table 1) is the fragment of a small straight-sided bowl, as well as Nr. 9 and possibly Nr. 79. Nr. 1, Nr. 2, Nr. 10, Nr. 14, Nr. 15, Nr. 28, Nr. 26, Nr. 33, Nr. 39, Nr. 41, Nr. 56 and Nr. 82 are parts of globular bowls, while Nr. 18 and Nr. 34 are fragments of a pear-shaped jar and Nr. 27 is from a dome-shaped bowl. Globular forms seem to predominate; however, poor preservation is a major setback for typological analysis.

The few identifiable forms fit well with the range of vessel shapes already known from other sites in the Upper Euphrates / Tigris region.²⁰ Straight-sided and globular bowls seem to be among the standard types also in Körtik Tepe.²¹ This site in the Turkish Tigris region is of paramount importance for the study of stone vessels, since they have been found there in large numbers and in a good state of preservation within burial contexts. What is present at Körtik Tepe, but missing entirely from Göbekli Tepe as of yet, is one single peculiar vessel shape: high beakers.²² Of course, such vessels could still be hiding within the large number of non-reconstructable fragments. Further analogues for the vessels from Göbekli Tepe can be found at Hasankeyf Höyük Mound,²³ Hallan Çemi,²⁴ Nemrik,²⁵ Çayönü,²⁶ Jerf el Ahmar,²⁷ Tell 'Abr 3,²⁸ Tell Qaramel²⁹ as well as other sites from the region.³⁰

Some of the vessels from these sites are linked to special contexts, such as the already mentioned Körtik Tepe graves,³¹ or to caches / depositions,³² but they also appear in well-preserved building contexts.³³ In most cases, however, the vessels have not been published completely and data regarding fragmentation or at least the ratio of fragmented to well-preserved vessels are missing. By the known numbers, it seems that small straight-sided or round bowls and pear-shaped jars are the most common forms in all sites mentioned. However, the large corpus of fragmented material might still hold further surprises, as highlighted by an intricately worked cattle-shaped vessel from Tell 'Abr 3.³⁴

²⁰ For a summary: Benz et al. 2017, 145–147, figs. 5.7 a–c.

²¹ Köksal-Schmidt – Schmidt 2007, 101, Cat. Nr. 153–155, 158, 102, Cat. Nr. 145–149; Özkaya – Coşkun 2011, figs. 13–23; Benz et al. 2017, 145–147, esp. fig. 5.7 a–c.

²² Özkaya – Coşkun 2011, 118, fig. 19.

²³ Miyake 2013, 44/1, 2: globular bowl and high beaker.

²⁴ Rosenberg – Davis 1992, 14, figs. 7–8: globular, straight-sided, dome-shaped and pear-shaped bowls and high beakers; Aurenche – Kozłowski 1999, 221, Pl. 3-1/1, 3, 5, 6: globular, straight-sided and dome-shaped bowls.

²⁵ Aurenche – Kozłowski 1999, 221, Pl. 3-1/4, 7 globular and dome-shaped bowls.

²⁶ Aurenche – Kozłowski 1999, 221, Pl. 3-1/2, 11: pear-shaped bowl; Özdoğan 2011, 267, fig. 68.

²⁷ Jamous – Stordeur 1999; Stordeur 2015, fig. 3.1: globular bowl.

²⁸ Yartah 2013, figs. 34/1–3; 87/2a, b; 96/2, 3; 157, 173: globular bowl; 179/3; 182/5.

²⁹ Benz 2017, fig. 4/1.

³⁰ Sığın 2008; Gündem – Dağlı 2018.

³¹ Lichter 2007; Özkaya – Coşkun 2011.

³² In Tell 'Abr 3: Yartah 2013, 112, fig. 96.

³³ Yartah 2013, 112.

³⁴ Yartah 2013, 103, fig. 87/1a, 152.

Decoration

Most vessel fragments from Göbekli Tepe are decorated (62 items, Table 1). The small fragments determined as undecorated could originally have belonged to vessels with smaller decorated areas.³⁵ There are, however, genuine undecorated vessels known from other sites such as Körtik Tepe.³⁶

At Göbekli Tepe, ornaments are largely preserved only in small parts. They are in most cases geometric; several are zoomorphic. The geometric decorations consist of single or combined triangles (Nr. 1, Nr. 2, Nr. 6, Nr. 7, Nr. 10, Nr. 14, Nr. 24, Nr. 25, Nr. 26, Nr. 30, Nr. 39, Nr. 41, Nr. 70, Nr. 75, Nr. 77, Nr. 82, Nr. 83), herring bone motifs (Nr. 5, Nr. 9, Nr. 19, Nr. 23) or zig-zag lines (Nr. 4, Nr. 11, Nr. 14, Nr. 18, Nr. 29, Nr. 32, Nr. 83). Bands made of simple, short parallel lines appear more rarely (Nr. 23), but single circles or wavy bands appear also (Nr. 26). Rims are sometimes decorated with short vertical lines (Nr. 20). Simple geometric designs, sometimes applied to large parts of the vessel surface, generally seem to dominate the repertoire of stone vessel decorations.³⁷ As Benz³⁸ observes, both supra-regionally standardized designs as well as local variations and adaptations seem to exist. Among the more complex decorations, the so-called sun-motif, a composition of circles with radiating bands,³⁹ can be observed at Göbekli Tepe (Nr. 16; possibly also Nr. 17). Two fragments show horned quadruped animals, likely gazelles (Nr. 3 and especially Nr. 14). Gazelles are the main hunted species at Göbekli Tepe⁴⁰ but they do not figure prominently in the iconography represented on the site’s T-pillars discovered so far.⁴¹ Three vessel fragments (Nr. 25, possible also Nr. 56 and Nr. 21) show snakes, which are a species frequently depicted at the site.⁴² It is possible that the wavy lines between the herring bone motif on fragment Nr. 9 also refer to snakes, heads and tails not preserved in this case. Another fragment probably represents a plant, maybe a thistle⁴³ (Nr. 71), but this image lacks any known analogy so far. To sum up, there seems to be a range of decorations and motifs on vessels at Göbekli Tepe but most prominent are geometric motifs covering wide areas of the vessel surface, including bases (Nr. 9).

The imagery on vessels and other items of material culture from Göbekli Tepe has been interpreted as part of a supra-regional symbolic system that served the transmission and communication of cultural knowledge and traditions.⁴⁴ Even if

³⁵ For example Özkaya – Coşkun, 2011, 117, fig. 15.

³⁶ Özkaya – Coşkun, 2011, 117, fig. 15.

³⁷ Özkaya – Coşkun 2011, 118, figs. 17, 18, 19; Köksal-Schmidt – Schmidt 2007, 101; Cat. Nr. 146–149, 153–155, 158, 102; Yartah 2013, 51/1–2; Benz 2017, fig. 4/1–2, 5/1–2.

³⁸ Benz 2017, 141–142, fig. 3.

³⁹ Benz et al. 2017, 145.

⁴⁰ Lang et al. 2013.

⁴¹ Peters – Schmidt 2004.

⁴² Peters – Schmidt 2004.

⁴³ The depiction is also to some degree reminiscent of jimsonweed seed pods. Jimsonweed is a psychoactive plant, but although prehistoric use in Eurasia has been claimed for it (Guerra-Doce 2015, 754, 770), there is ongoing debate whether the plant is native to Europe or to America.

⁴⁴ Benz 2017; Benz – Bauer 2013; Schmidt 2012; Morenz – Schmidt 2009.

much of the decoration on vessels is ‘geometric and non-figurative’,⁴⁵ standardization of decorations could hint at ‘coded corporate identities’,⁴⁶ especially since some compositions seem to regularly repeat at certain sites.⁴⁷ The exceptional naturalistic depiction of a hunter with a spear on one vessel from Tell ‘Abr 3 may hint at some relation of decorative elements to narration, possibly even mythological stories.⁴⁸ With the current state of research, however, the highly fragmented state of the Göbekli Tepe material prevents any interpretation from going much further.

Life: Vessels

Stone vessels were not exclusively symbolic objects, but actually functional and used to hold contents. They were made and decorated with care; most are polished. It was proposed that they were made according to supra-regional standards, not only regarding form, but also size and volume.⁴⁹ Hayden et al.⁵⁰ gives a range of 9–12 cm as maximum diameter and 8–9 cm for height; a sample of published finds,⁵¹ however, shows a wider range between 8–16 cm, with heights of up to 15 cm. Since the walls of the vessels from Göbekli Tepe have a thickness of max. 2 cm, they would have been rather light and easy to hold or carry. Find contexts at the site are not very informative (see above), thus possible functions can only be inferred from comparisons to other sites.

Neolithic stone vessels have been interpreted as prestige dinnerware used in feasting.⁵² Chemical analysis from two of the Körtik Tepe vessels seem to hint at wine.⁵³ This would fit the general interpretation of activities at Göbekli Tepe, which include feasting, more precisely ‘work feasts’ that may have included alcohol consumption as one mode of gathering the necessary workforces for the monumental round buildings’ construction.⁵⁴ There is tentative evidence for beer from a large limestone vessel (1,09 x 0,60 x 70 m) found in situ in one of the rectangular rooms of Layer II at Göbekli Tepe,⁵⁵ more of such large vessels are known from the other areas at the site and fragments also feature in the larger buildings’ infill. The question of whether delicate smaller stone vessels were used for scooping contents of such large vessels remains open, although there are corresponding holes in the rim of some vessels (Nr. 83⁵⁶) which could have held an attached string (which, of course, could also have served to hang vessels or to fix some kind of lid to them).

⁴⁵ Köksal-Schmidt – Schmidt 2007, 100.

⁴⁶ Benz 2017, 140.

⁴⁷ Benz 2017, 140–141, figs. 3–5.

⁴⁸ Yartah 2013, fig. 96/3.

⁴⁹ Hayden et al. 2013, 133–136, fig. 3.

⁵⁰ Hayden et al. 2013.

⁵¹ Katalog Karlsruhe Nr. 139–160, 300–305.

⁵² Hayden et al. 2013, 133–137.

⁵³ McGovern 2009, 81.

⁵⁴ Dietrich et al. 2012.

⁵⁵ Dietrich et al. 2012.

⁵⁶ Özkaya – Coşkun 2011, figs. 15, 18, 19; Yartah 2013, 112, figs. 87/2a, 96, 134/3, 157, 173, 182/6.

Furthermore, there is evidence for repairs: holes were punched into fragments to reconnect them.⁵⁷ Interestingly, one of the Göbekli Tepe fragments (Nr. 19) shows an attempt to make such a hole, which may constitute an attempt at repairing it before the owner decided to transform the fragment into a shaft straightener. Vessels repaired in that way still could have been used as containers, but probably not for liquids. In any case, these repairs underline the high value of the used raw materials. The afterlife of vessel fragments actually becomes the most interesting part of the Göbekli Tepe material.

Afterlife: Abraders, Beads and Pendants

Fragments of stone vessels were not simply discarded. They remained valuable and were kept and transformed. In at least 20 cases, traces of later use, re-use or repair indicate long object-biographies for vessel fragments (Table 1). The most frequent traces are saw marks or polishing at the edges of sherds. Cutting and sawing of sherds could have had the aim of straightening the edges ahead of repair, or to cut the sherd into roughouts for other objects. As not all breaking edges were worked, the second hypothesis seems more likely. One category of objects that could be made from sherds are beads. Göbekli Tepe has produced a wide range of stone beads, among them complex forms like spacer beads, but also simple disc- or cylinder-shapes.⁵⁸ Several of the vessel sherds (Nr. 13, Nr. 17, Nr. 19, Nr. 29, Nr. 42, Nr. 56, Nr. 58, Nr. 59, Nr. 76, Nr. 79) were reworked with a broad groove into what are often called ‘shaft-straighteners’.⁵⁹ Similar hand-held objects, however, have also been interpreted as abraders for the production of beads.⁶⁰ Microscopic analyses in the near future will help to decide whether this interpretation holds true for the Göbekli Tepe finds too. At least for material from other sites, such as the LPPNA/EPPNB site of Mushash 163 in Jordan, remains of a whitish abrasive could be identified within the grooves (pers. observation). In any case, the irregular polish noted in these grooves speaks strongly against an interpretation as shaft straighteners. As does the fact that the sherds are considerably small and never appear in pairs – as certainly would be expected in the case of shaft straighteners.⁶¹ Therefore, for the grooved sherds from Göbekli Tepe we propose a more probable function as abraders used in the production of beads.

Fabrication of beads from parts of meaningful vessels could also have had important social connotations. At Körtik Tepe for instance, at some grave sites there was evidence for deliberate destruction of stone vessels by blows directed at the bottoms of these vessels; fragments were then dispersed over the body of the deceased.⁶² However, not all fragments were left in the grave. Benz et al.⁶³ have argued that the missing fragments could have been taken as ‘souvenirs.’ From

⁵⁷ Benz 2017, fig. 4/2a.

⁵⁸ Köksal-Schmidt – Schmidt 2007, 97.

⁵⁹ Köksal-Schmidt – Schmidt 2007, 103.

⁶⁰ Foreman 1978; Kenoyer et al. 1991, 53; Wright et al. 2008, 148; Roux – Matarasso 1999, 57–58.

⁶¹ Bolus 2012.

⁶² Lichter 2007; Benz et al. 2017, 145–148.

⁶³ Benz et al. 2017, 145.

Demirköy, there is a pendant made from a vessel fragment, which could have served as a medium to commemorate a specific event at which the vessel was broken.⁶⁴ The production of beads from vessel fragments at a highly symbolic site like Göbekli Tepe would fit well in such a model. Stone vessels were also used to store beads, as finds from Hasankeyf Höyük⁶⁵ and from Körük Tepe⁶⁶ show.

Discussion

We have demonstrated that all of the fine stone vessels at Göbekli Tepe are highly fragmented and that those fragments were possibly kept to be reworked into beads or other implements. There are only two exceptions to this rule: vessel fragments too large and retaining too much of the original vessel's curvature to be used as raw material (Nr. 8 and Nr. 9). But in general, it should be kept in mind that by analyzing the spatial distribution of vessel fragments at Göbekli Tepe, we are most likely not tracing the actual use of vessels at the site, but in fact the distribution of raw material meant for reuse. There is no clear evidence at the moment for such a reuse of fragmented vessels coming from Layer III contexts though, as the sherds from the monumental buildings' fills do not show related traces.

Stone vessels are an elusive find category at Göbekli Tepe. Only fragments remain, probably kept as raw material. This makes it impossible to estimate how many of these vessels may have been present at the site in total. Their reuse, however, underlines the importance of their raw material, and thus most likely also of the richly decorated vessels themselves, for the Neolithic people producing, using, and reusing them. Special raw materials and production effort make the polished stone vessels a costly and extraordinary find group among the PPN material culture. Their presence at Göbekli Tepe, where complete vessels are missing but fragments hint at a complex chaîne opératoire of recycling the (tangible and sentimentally valuable) raw material into personal items, widens our understanding of social activities taking place at the site.

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⁶⁴ Köksal-Schmidt – Schmidt 2007, 101.

⁶⁵ Miyake 2013, 44, fig. 2.

⁶⁶ Özkaya – Coşkun 2013, 24.

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No.	Find Number	Plate/ Fig.	Description	Context	Context Details
1	GT 01-009249	Plate 4.2; 6.7	Body sherd, possibly of a globular bowl, decorated with a geometric pattern.	surface find	-
2	GT 01-009664	Plate 4.1; 8.3,	Body sherd of a globular bowl, decorated with a geometric pattern, one straight edge shows traces of sawing.	surface find	-
3	GT 01-009669	Plate 4.5; 6.6	Body sherd, decorated with an animal motif and a geometric pattern, one edge smoothed, traces of a groove with u-profile (incompletely preserved).	surface find	-
4	GT 02-019378	Plate 6.3	Body sherd, with one straight edge, probably sawn.	surface find	-
5	GT 01-0XXX01		Body sherd, decorated with a geometric pattern.	surface find	-
6	GT 02-005188	Plate 1.4; 6.8	Body sherd, decorated with a geometric pattern, with one straight sawn edge and another one with sawing traces; a part of the backside was cut off.	surface find	-
7	GT 02-022461	Plate 9.6	Body sherd, decorated with a geometric pattern, two straight sawn edges.	surface find	-
8	GT 10-000054		One third of a straight-sided bowl, undecorated.	surface find	-
9	GT 10-000310	Plate 1.1	Base and body of a straight-sided bowl, decorated with a geometric pattern.	L09-85	In the upper (Neolithic) layers of the excavation area, no architectural context.
10	GT 11-000033/11-5	Plate 2.5; 9.1	Rim sherd of a globular bowl, decorated with a geometric pattern.	K10-35	Plough horizon.
11	GT 11-000272	Plate 2.4	Body sherd, decorated with a geometric pattern, with two smoothed edges.	surface find	-
12	GT 11-00274/278	Plate 3.4; 7.1	Body sherd, decorated with a geometric pattern, with one straight sawn edge.	surface find	-

Tab. 1 “Greenstone” vessels from Göbekli Tepe.

No.	Find Number	Plate/ Fig.	Description	Context	Context Details
13	GT 11-000448	Plate 2.1	Body sherd, decorated with a geometric pattern, with a groove of irregular profile deepened into the middle of the sherd. The groove shows irregular polish as well as scratches.	K10-44	Plough horizon.
14	GT 11-000046	Plate 2.3; 5.1	Rim sherd, probably of a globular vessel, decorated with a geometric pattern and a gazelle, with numerous scratches on the inside.	L09-69 Loc. 113.1	North of Building D, probably Layer III.
15	GT 11-000502	Plate 4.4	Rim sherd, probably of a globular bowl, undecorated.	L09-58 Loc. 159.1	From a deep sounding, chronological position to be evaluated.
16	GT 12-000506	Plate 3.3; 7.3	Rim sherd, decorated with the ‘sun motif’.	surface find	-
17	GT 12-000508	Plate 2.2; 7.5	Rim sherd, decorated with a geometric pattern, with a u-profiled groove deepened into the middle of the sherd. The groove shows perpendicular scratches at both ends, further scratches with different alignments are spread on the sherd. Sawing traces are visible at one edge, but the cut was not finished.	surface find	-
18	GT 12-000551	Plate 1.2	Rim sherd, of a pear-shaped vessel, decorated with a geometric pattern.	surface find	-
19	GT 12-000562	Plate 1.3	Body sherd, decorated with a geometric pattern, a groove with a v-shaped profile deepened into the middle of the sherd and one lateral unfinished hole (possibly an earlier repair attempt). The groove shows irregular polish and scratches.	surface find	-
20	GT 13-000416		Rim sherd, decorated with a geometric pattern.	surface find	-
21	GT 13-000661	Plate 9.3	Rim sherd (or plaque?), decorated with a geometric pattern and snake motifs.	surface find	-

No.	Find Number	Plate/ Fig.	Description	Context	Context Details
22	GT 15-000587	Plate 4.6	Rim sherd, decorated with an animal motif.	surface find	-
23	GT 97-003207	Plate 9.4	Rim sherd decorated with a geometric pattern, one straight sawn edge.	surface find	-
24	GT 98-000464	Plate 9.7	Body sherd, decorated with a geometric pattern.	surface find	-
25	GT 98-000465	Plate 3.2	Body sherd, decorated with a geometric pattern and a snake.	surface find	-
26	GT 99-000511/99-59	Plate 3.1; 5.3	Body sherd of a globular bowl, decorated with a geometric pattern, with one straight sawn edge.	surface find	-
27	GT 03-000680	Plate 5.2	Rim sherd of a dome-shaped vessel, with one straight sawn edge; edges are partially smoothed by grinding.	L09-79 Loc. 58	Fallen from the excavation area's profile.
28	GT 03-001265	Plate 6.5	Body sherd of an undecorated globular bowl.	L09-68 Loc. 17.3	Infill of Building D (intentional back-filling).
29	GT 04-000021	Plate 8.5	Rim sherd of a decorated bowl with three straight sawn edges. A groove with a v-shaped profile deepened into the middle of the sherd.	surface find	-
30	GT 04-000227	Plate 9.2	Rim sherd decorated with a geometric pattern, with one sawn edge.	surface find	-
31	GT 04-000289	Plate 9.5	Rim sherd, decorated with a geometric pattern.	surface find	-
32	GT 11-000417		Rim sherd, decorated with a geometric pattern.	L09-69 Loc. 89.1	Collapse and debris layer.
33	GT 02-000255		Base of a globular vessel, undecorated.	L09-77 Loc. 35.1	Infill above Building C.
34	GT 97-002872	Plate 9.8	Rim sherd of a pear-shaped bowl, decorated with a geometric pattern.	surface find	-
35	GT 01-004467		Probable vessel fragment, with groove.	surface find	-
36	GT 99-000015		Body sherd, decorated with a geometric pattern.	surface find	-
37	GT 99-000008		Rim sherd, decorated with a geometric pattern.	surface find	-
38	GT 02-002192		Rim sherd, decorated with a geometric pattern.	L09-79 Loc. 41.2	Open space north of Building D.

No.	Find Number	Plate/ Fig.	Description	Context	Context Details
39	GT 02-011238	Plate 8.7	Rim sherd of a globular bowl, decorated with a geometric pattern.	surface find	-
40	GT 01-002690/1-34	Plate 9.10	Fragment of a vessel, decorated with a geometric pattern.	surface find	-
41	GT 02-007508	Plate 8.1	Rim sherd of a globular bowl, decorated with a geometric pattern.	L09-85 Loc. 39.2	Within stone collapse high in the area's stratigraphy.
42	GT 00-000416		Body sherd with a groove.	L09-66 Loc. 70.2	Infill of Building B.
43	GT 01-004788		Body sherd.	L09-85 Loc. 25.3	High in the area's stratigraphy, Neolithic layer without architecture.
44	GT 01-010146		Fragment of a vessel, undecorated, burnt.	L09-78 Loc. 17.2	Infill of Building D.
45	GT 02-005980		Body sherd.	L09-80 Loc. 11.9	Room 17, infill immediately above terrazzo floor.
46	GT 05-000726		Body (?) sherd, decorated with a geometric pattern.	L09-77 Loc. 60.3	Infill of Building C.
47	GT 06-000010		Decorated fragment of a vessel.	L09-68 Loc. 23.1	Infill of Building D.
48	GT 06-000020		Decorated fragment of a vessel.	L09-07 Loc. 1.2	Plough horizon.
49	GT 07-000735		Decorated fragment of a vessel.	L09-98	Plough horizon.
50	GT 07-001221		Fragment of a vessel, with sawn edges.	L09-58 Loc. 3.7	Within stone collapse high in the area's stratigraphy.
51	GT 07-001471		Decorated fragment of a vessel.	L09-68 Loc. 13.3	Infill of Building D.
52	GT-07-001622		Decorated fragment of a vessel.	L09-59 Loc. 1.1	Plough horizon.
53	GT 07-002936		Decorated fragment of a vessel.	L09-60 Loc. 1.1	Plough horizon.
54	GT 96-000634		Undecorated fragment of a vessel.	J08-83 Loc. 1.1	Plough horizon.
55	GT 96-001038		Undecorated fragment of a vessel.	surface find	-
56	GT 02-22447	Plate 8.8	Rim sherd from a globular bowl, decorated with a geometric pattern and possibly with a snake; a groove with a v-shaped profile was deepened into the middle of the sherd.	surface find	-

No.	Find Number	Plate/ Fig.	Description	Context	Context Details
57	GT 96-001445		Decorated fragment of a vessel, burnt.	surface find	-
58	GT 96-001489		Decorated fragment of a vessel, with groove.	L09-65 Loc. 4.1	High within the area's stratigraphy.
59	GT 96-002097		Decorated fragment of a vessel, with groove, burnt.	surface find	-
60	GT 96-002804		Fragment of a vessel, burnt.	surface find	-
61	GT 97-003223		Fragment of a vessel.	surface find	-
62	GT 98-000148		Fragment of a vessel.	surface find	-
63	GT 98-000179		Fragment of a vessel.	surface find	-
64	GT 98-000611		Fragment of a vessel.	L09-56 Loc. 2.1	Within stone collapse, high in the area's stratigraphy.
65	GT 98-000680		Fragment of a vessel, decorated with a geometric pattern.	L09-76 Loc. 1.1	Plough horizon.
66	GT 98-001267		Rim sherd, with one sawn edge.	L10-51 Loc. 6.1	Room 6, upper part of infill.
67	GT 98-003401		Fragment of a vessel.	L09-80 Loc. 22.2	Within stone collapse, high in the area's stratigraphy.
68	GT 98-004619		Decorated fragment of a vessel.	L09-80 Loc. 2.4	Within stone collapse, high in the area's stratigraphy.
69	GT 99-000015		Decorated fragment of a vessel.	surface find	-
70	GT 01-002448	Plate 8.2	Rim sherd of a vessel, decorated with a geometric pattern.	surface find	-
71	GT 15-000274	Plate 4.3	Body sherd of a vessel, decorated with a thistle (?) and a geometric pattern (zig-zag line).	K10-13/23 Loc. 166.5	In a deep sounding, chronological position to be evaluated.
72	no number	Beile-Bohn et al. 1998, Fig. 26/2	Fragment of a vessel, decorated with a geometric pattern.	surface find	-
73	no number	Beile-Bohn et al. 1998, Fig. 26/3	Fragment of a vessel, decorated with a geometric pattern.	surface find	-
74	no number	Beile-Bohn et al. 1998, Fig. 26/4	Fragment of a vessel, decorated with a geometric pattern.	surface find	-

No.	Find Number	Plate/ Fig.	Description	Context	Context Details
75	GT 03-001801	Plate 6.2	Fragment of a vessel, decorated with a geometric pattern.	L9-68 Loc. 25.2	Infill of Building D, upper part.
76	GT 09-000153	Plate 7.2	Body sherd decorated with a geometric pattern and two grooves with v-shaped profiles, deepened into the middle and one side of the sherd.	L0-68 Loc. 333.1	Infill of Building D, middle part.
77	09	Plate 6.4	Fragment of a vessel, decorated with a geometric pattern.	surface find	-
78	GT 01-004087	Plate 6.1	Fragment of a vessel, decorated with a geometric pattern.	surface find	-
79	GT 01-004167	Plate 8.6	Rim sherd, possibly from a straight-sided bowl, with two straight sawn and one groove deepened into the middle of the sherd.	surface find	-
80	GT 05-001774	Pl. 7.4	Fragment of a vessel, decorated with a geometric pattern.	L9-88 Loc. 25.2	Found during cleaning at the terrace wall.
81	GT 03-002201	Plate 9.9	Rim sherd, decorated with a geometric pattern, with numerous scratches on the inside.	L9-68 Loc. 16.3	Infill of Building D, upper part.
82	GT 09-000101	Plate 8.4	Rim sherd of a globular bowl, decorated with a geometric pattern.	surface find	-
83	GT13.24	Uludağ 2017, 155	Rim sherd of a globular bowl with two holes, decorated with a geometric pattern.	L9-58 Loc. 205.1	In a deep sounding, chronological position to be evaluated.

The following photographs were taken by I. Wagner, N. Becker and K. Schmidt; the drawings were made by K. Schmidt and Ç. Köksal-Schmidt and redrawn by J. Notroff (all German Archaeological Institute, Orient Department Berlin).

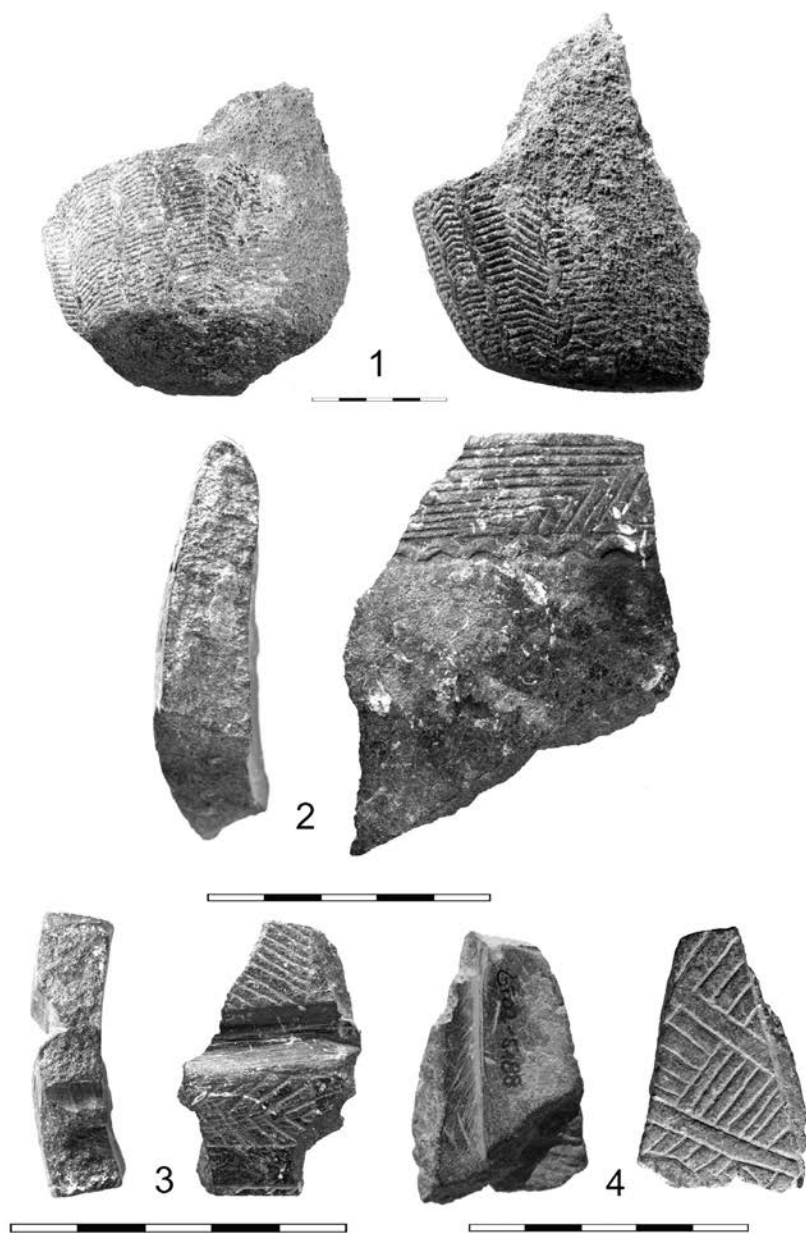
Plate 1

Plate 2

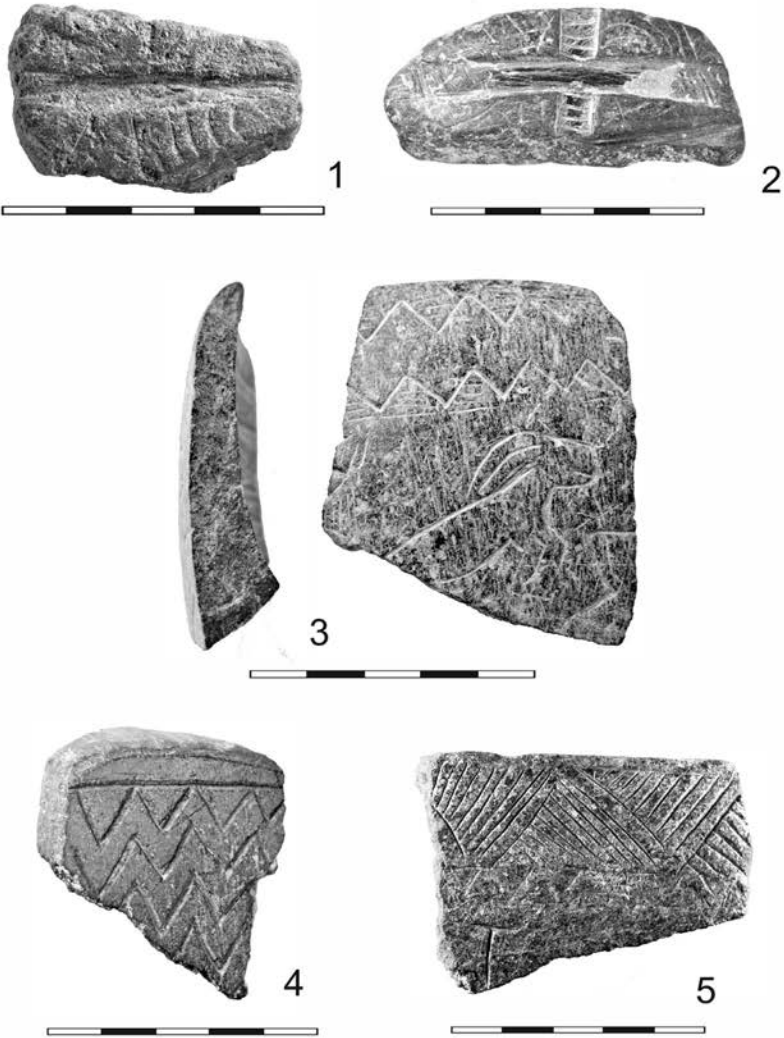


Plate 3

Plate 4

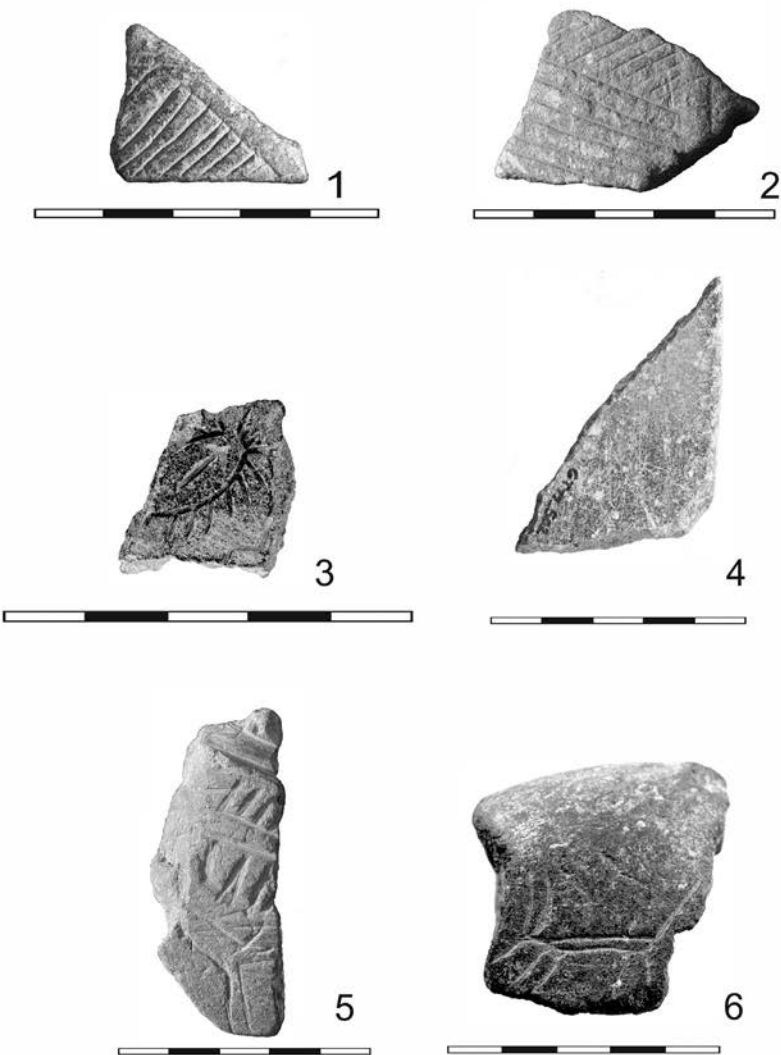


Plate 5

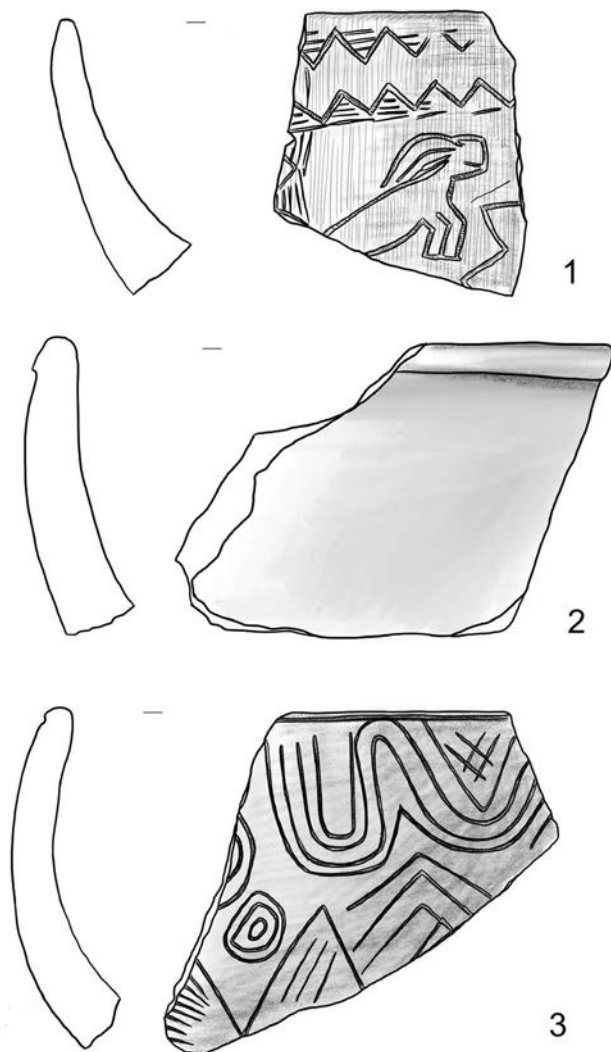


Plate 6

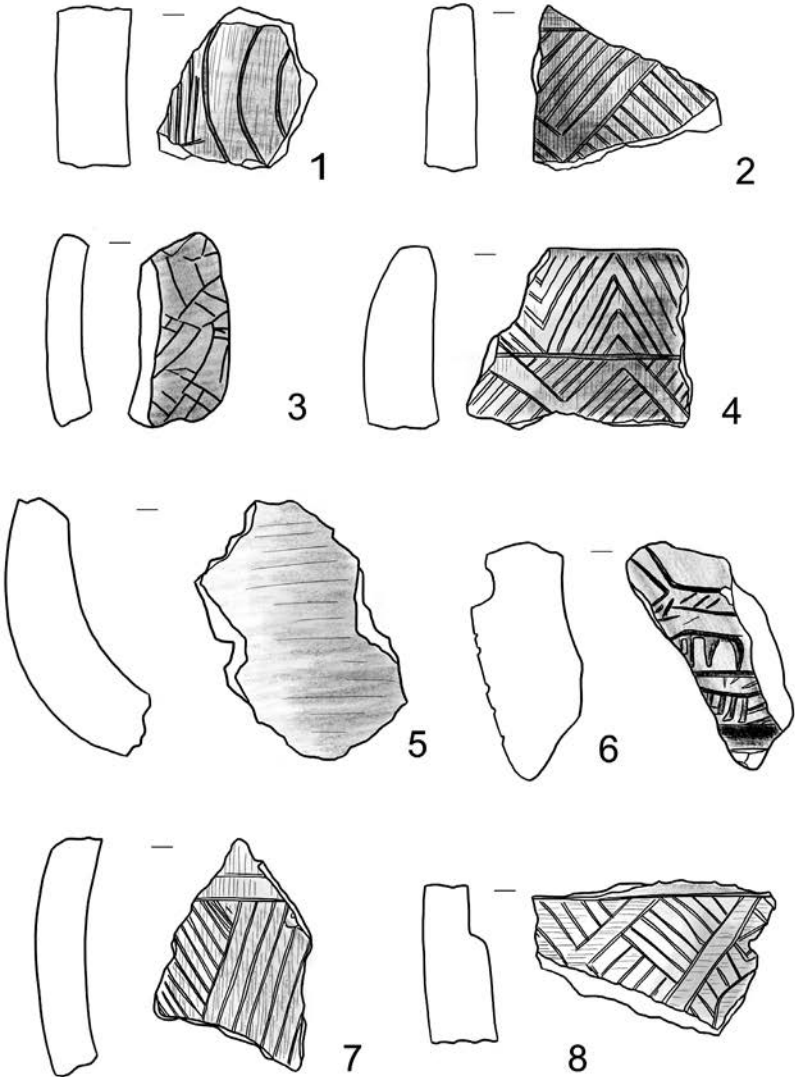


Plate 7

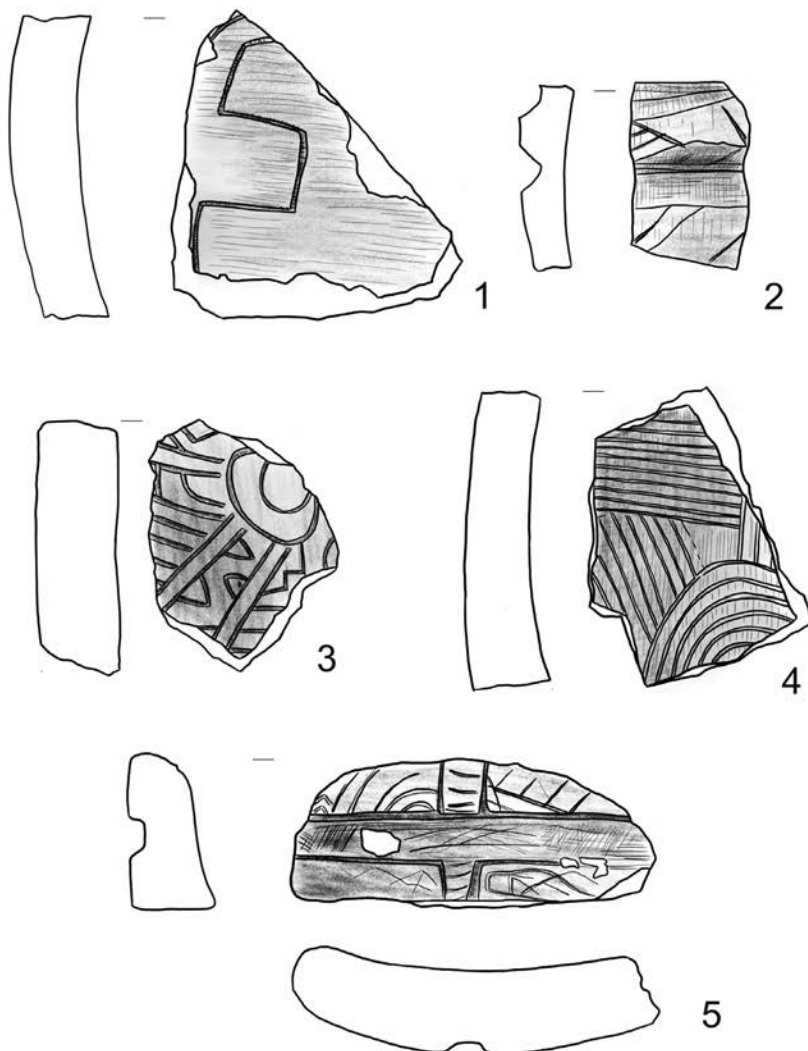


Plate 8

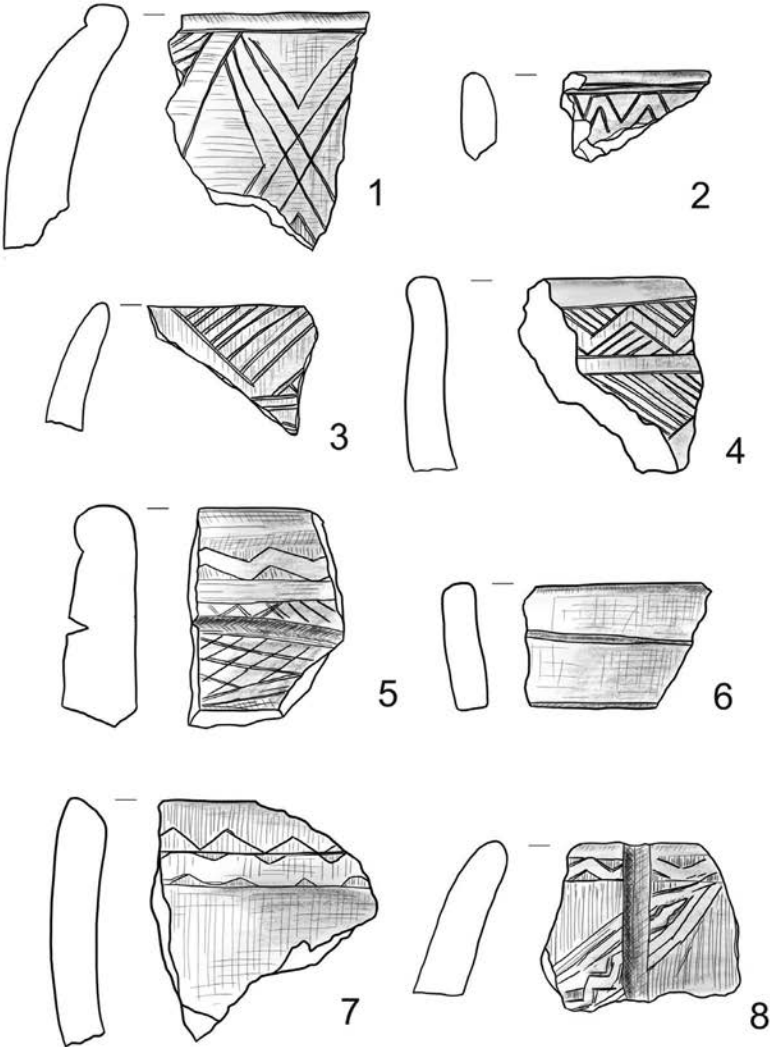


Plate 9

