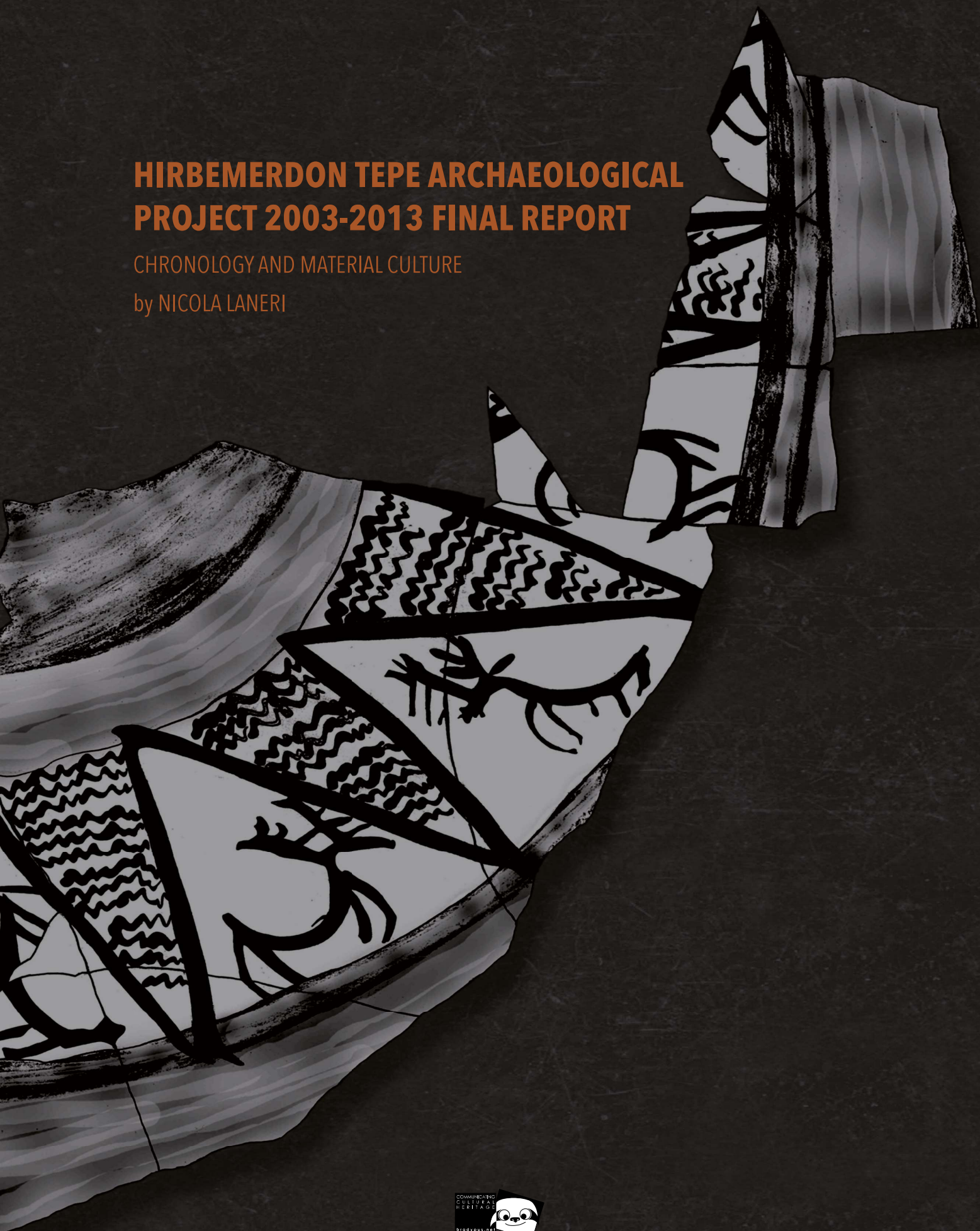


HIRBEMERDON TEPE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT 2003-2013 FINAL REPORT

CHRONOLOGY AND MATERIAL CULTURE

by NICOLA LANERI



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Hirbemerdon Tepe Archaeological Project 2003-2013 Final Report: Chronology and Material Culture

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One of the architectural complex's pivotal elements is represented by the large outdoor space 35 (i.e., the *piazza*) located directly to the west of ceremonial Building G. The *piazza* consists of an L-shaped area extending 250 m² and joins the entry staircase (2), the main street (Street 47), and the cobbled pathway (Street 37) that leads to the upper portion of the complex. Its natural compacted clay surface slopes southward in contrast to the rest of the architectural complex. On its eastern side it is bordered by the outer wall of Building G, with a stepped foundation that probably served as a conduit from the *piazza* to access three rooms (54-55-55a) located at the eastern edge. While the function of these rooms is unclear, it is clear that Room 55 was purposely filled with small-sized stones, pebbles, sherds, and animal bones at the end of the complex's occupation, while Room 54 contained some complete Grey Ware and Red Brown Wash Ware bottles. Room 55 has a long drain cut into the natural clayish soil, running from the northeastern corner and crossing the room longitudinally in order to pass underneath wall AC0144 and reach Room 55a where a small pit (AC0167) had been carved into the soil (AC0170).¹⁴ The entire room was carved into the virgin soil in order to obtain a small triangular room with a wide entrance on the *piazza* (35).

The southern side of the *piazza* is confined by a thick wall built on top of the natural limestone bedrock that protrudes towards the *piazza* and on top of which Street 58 was found, in poor preservation due to the natural steep slope. The façade of this wall contains recessed niches that are evenly spaced at a height of approximately 1.5 m from the floor and may have been visible from the entrance staircase (2). At the top of Street 58, a hole for collecting rainwater was found. Connected to a covered drain running along the retaining wall, this drain may have been connected with that found in Room 55 as traces of a drain are recognizable along wall AC0126. The presence of horizontal and vertical drains found in nearly every building, as well as circular-shaped basins found at the end of Streets 47 (feature 5) and 67 (feature 69) and at the eastern entrance to the complex (F0011), suggests that the collection of rainwater was important within the architectural complex, especially nearby entrances to the complex. Besides utilitarian functions, water may have also served a ritual purpose, bearing symbolic connotations related to the location of the site to the nearby Tigris and Batman Su rivers and a *wadi* running east-west along the northern edge of the Outer Town (Laneri 2011). In addition, a stone basin (36), possibly used as a container for water, was embedded in the natural clay soil along the western edge of the *piazza* (35) associated with the cobbled pathway.

However, the most important locale of the architectural complex is the central part of the *piazza* that is marked in its southern part (i.e., starting from basin 36) by a slope progressing from north to south (as opposed to the natural slope of the mound) that, at a certain point, turns into a large pseudo-circular pit (i.e., a sort of *favissa*) in which a thick deposit of material culture and animal bones (i.e., A0408/AC0164) is sealed by an ashy deposit (A0407/AC0160). It is here that the highest density of complete or almost complete ritual paraphernalia was found.

Pottery¹⁵

(MA)

The MBA pottery assemblage of Hirbemerdon Tepe belongs to the following categories:

- Red Brown Wash Ware (RBWW)
- Band Painted Ware (BPW)
- Cooking Ware (CW)
- Common Ware (CMW)
- Grey Ware (GW)

¹⁴ It is interesting to notice that in the act of reflooring the room with clay, a pit of the earlier phase IIIA was sealed (see above).

¹⁵ This part of the article focuses on the typology of the MBA pottery repertoire of Hirbemerdon Tepe. It concerns only the description of the different types of vessels found at the site with only a few notes about the links and comparisons with other sites. A coherent typology for the MBA pottery discovered within the architectural complex has already been established in other reports (Laneri *et al.* 2006b, 2008c, 2009; D'Agostino 2012a). The typology used to classify the sherds is that created by Dr. Anacleto D'Agostino from 2005. M. Aquilano wrote the article.

Pottery classes include bowls, cups, jars, storage jars, body sherds, lids and bases. Inside each category we can distinguish several variants and sub-types.

This pottery assemblage was found in other excavated sites of the upper Tigris valley. The main sites for the Middle Bronze Age ceramics are Üçtepe, Giricano, Ziyaret Tepe, Kenan Tepe, Salat Tepe and Kavuşan Höyük, where archaeological contexts have been exposed and published in preliminary or more conspicuous reports.¹⁶

Red Brown Wash Ware (RBWW)

The RBWW (Pls XXVII-LXIII, pl. LXIV: 461-467) is characterized by a highly burnished, monochrome or bichrome coat of wash or paint that partially or totally covers the vessel and is applied to the surface, in some cases over a layer of self-slip. Preliminary chemical analyses on a few samples have confirmed that the surface decoration can be interpreted as a clay coating with a high density of iron minerals, applied with brushes and other tools before firing (D'Agostino 2012a: 194). Because of its chemical composition, the paint/slip coating assumes different coloring in relation to firing conditions. On the basis of different treatments during manufacturing and firing, the vessels appear to have a surface of: matt red-brown with uniform coverage; shiny red-brown with uniform coverage; matt red-brown, with brush traces and uneven covering (D'Agostino 2012a: 194). Almost all the fragments of the RBWW are smoothed, in a few cases producing a shiny appearance, probably the result of a careful smoothing or polishing of the vessel before firing in an oxidizing atmosphere at fairly high temperatures (D'Agostino 2012a: 194). In terms of clays and tempers, it is possible to differentiate between 'fine' and 'medium to coarse' wares. The first category is usually associated with bowls and cups, while the latter is largely related to jars and storage jars (Laneri *et al.* 2006b: 156), but also some types of bowls. The fine wares are characterized by carinated beakers, carinated bowls and globular bowls.¹⁷ RBWW coarse ware is instead characterized by hole-mouth and short necked jars with thickened or grooved rims. The temper used for the RBWW is usually grit and mica with the addition of a low percentage of straw in the case of large storage jars.

Pottery classes include:

- Rounded bowls; often carinated
- Deep bowls or pots
- Medium-sized carinated bowls
- Cups and beakers; often carinated
- Small carinated jars with a wide mouth (Barrels)
- Hole-mouth jars, jars without necks or with a very low neck
- Medium-sized jars
- Storage jars
- Lids
- Bases

Bowls

Bowls are one of the main classes of the RBWW repertoire. They can be divided into four types that include:

- shallow bowls
- shallow and carinated bowls
- medium-sized carinated bowls
- deep bowls

Each main category includes several variants and sub-types.

16 Information on the Ilisu Dam archaeological research can be found in Tuna and Öztürk 1999; Tuna *et al.* 2001 and 2004; Tuna and Velibeyoğlu 2002. See also the results of the surveys, Ay 2001; Kozbe 2007a; Ökse 2008 (D'Agostino 2012a, 198 and note 12).

17 cf. Lidar H. Phase 3/2, Kaschau 1999, tab. 345, 4; Kenan Tepe, Parker and Swartz Dodd 2005: 107.K; Arslantepe VA, Di Nocera 1998: tafel 1.6, 14, 22 (Laneri *et al.* 2006b: 156).

Shallow bowls

This type of pottery is always slipped and is sometimes smoothed or burnished. Only few examples show traces of incised decoration. The diameter of the bowls varies between 25 and 35 cm, but we can also find smaller examples.

The simplest version of this bowl has a curved profile and simple rim (Pl. XXVII: 1).

One artefact (Pl. XXXIV: 83) is a very shallow bowl that almost resembles a dish: its rim is tapered and it has three incised grooves on the body.

In other examples, shallow bowls present a curved profile with a rim thickened on the outside that is flattened on its upper part (Pl. XXVII: 2). Artefacts 1628 and 1813 (Pl. XXVII: 3-4) present a light groove below the rim, however, in case of 1628 the rim is thickened, while in 1813 it is out thickened and inverted.

Shallow bowls may be flared with a curved profile and simple rim that curves inwards (Pl. XXVII: 8).

Some vessels present a curved profile or a slight carination and an out thickened rim: in the case of 1519 and 1812 (Pl. XXVII: 5-6) it is rounded, in 1807 (Pl. XXVII: 10) it is oblong, and in 1784 (Pl. XXVII: 12) it is inverted and flattened on its outer side. 1620 (Pl. XXVIII: 13) shows a groove below the ovoid rim that is in and out thickened. 6512 (Pl. XXVII: 7) presents the complete profile of a shallow bowl with a rounded and out thickened rim, with a light groove immediately below it, and a raised ring-base.

Other shallow bowls were found to be rounded with an out thickened rim: the rim is squared in 1797 (Pl. XXVIII: 14), triangular in cross-section in 2265 and 1678 (Pl. XXVIII: 15-16) and rounded and oblique in 1154 (Pl. XXVIII: 17).

The bowls can also show a smaller diameter than is usual (Pl. XXVIII: 18-21; pl. XXIX: 22). All of them have a rounded, out thickened rims, and in case of 2863 (Pl. XXIX: 22) it is flattened on the upper part.

The rim of rounded, shallow bowls can also be straight (Pl. XXIX: 25) or lightly inverted (Pl. XXIX: 24). In the case of 1975 (Pl. XXIX: 26) it has a triangular cross-section, whereas 1976 (Pl. XXIX: 23) has an out thickened rim, which is pointed on its outer side.

We find inverted, out thickened rims on the following vessels: in 1791 (Pl. XXIX: 27) the rim is round, in 1796 (Pl. XXIX: 30) it is round and in and out thickened, and in 1651 and 2388 (Pl. XXIX: 31; pl. XXX: 32) the rim is flattened on its outer side. 1619, 2362, and 2582 (Pl. XXX: 35-37) show an in and out thickened rim that is flattened on its upper and outer sides. Fragment 2581 (Pl. XXX: 33) is decorated with a series of incised lines, and has an elongated ribbon rim, like 1785 (Pl. XXX: 34).

Other shallow bowls present a poorly developed edge and an inverted out thickened rim (Pl. XXX: 38-41). In other examples, they present a short edge and an inverted thickened rim: 530 (Pl. XXX: 42) presents an in and out thickened rim and 1793 (Pl. XXX: 43) has a ribbon rim with two incised lines below it. 1967 and 2389 (Pl. XXXI: 44-45) have a short edge and a lightly inverted out thickened rim.

Rims can be inverted, in and out thickened and pointed (Pl. XXXI: 46-49).

2182 and 1545 (Pl. XXXI: 50-51) both present a lightly pointed out thickened ribbon rim.

6058 (Pl. XXVII: 11) is a complete shallow bowl with an out thickened ribbon rim, curved walls and a raised ring-base.

We can finally include in the class of shallow bowls examples of rounded bowls with high and convex walls: 2002 (Pl. XXXI: 52) has an out thickened rim, rounded in its upper part and flattened on its outer part; 3160 (Pl. XXXI: 53) has a slightly flattened in and out thickened rim; 1187 (Pl. XXXI: 54) shows an out thickened rim that is flattened on its outer side; 3162 (Pl. XXXII: 55) presents a squared rim; 1805 (Pl. XXXII: 56) has a slightly inverted, out thickened rim; while 641 (Pl. XXXII: 58) has a slightly inverted, simple rim. Bowls can also be deeper with an out thickened rim, flat in its upper part, as in fragment 3340 (Pl. XXXII: 59) that shows also a series of incised lines on the walls. 2664 (Pl. XXXII: 60) is deeper, too, and shows a sinuous profile and a tapered, simple rim.

Shallow carinated bowls

Even in this case, pottery is often slipped and sometimes smoothed or burnished. Only a few examples show traces of incised decoration. The diameter of the bowls varies between 26 and 35 cm, but we can also find smaller examples with diameters ranging from 15 to 25 cm.

This category includes carinated bowls with short and thickened rims: 1629, 877 and 905 (Pl. XXXII: 61-63) show out thickened rims with a triangular cross-section that is flat on the outer side; 269 (Pl. XXXII: 65) presents a lightly pointed thickened rim; 453 (Pl. XXXII: 64) has a pointed rim with a groove that divides it into two parts; and 1974 (Pl. XXXII: 66) has a rounded in and out thickened rim, with an inner groove.

Other bowls have a high carination and short rim: 356 and 3161 (Pl. XXXII: 67; pl. XXXIII: 69) have a “beak-shaped” rim, which is flat on the upper part; 86 (Pl. XXXIII: 68) has an out thickened rim, which is also flat on the upper part; 2003 (Pl. XXXIII: 70) shows a very marked carination and a square, out thickened rim; 6589 (Pl. XXVII: 9) is a complete carinated bowl with an out thickened rim that is slightly pointed on the outer side, and a concave raised ring-base.

Another variant is represented by 1627 (Pl. XXXIII: 71), which is round internally and carinated externally.

In this category we can also find carinated bowls with short inverted rims: 3067 and 3157 (Pl. XXXIII: 73-74) both have a pointed out thickened rim; 1809 and 3152 (Pl. XXXIII: 72, 75) have an ovoid, out thickened rim, and flat outer walls.

Compared to these last mentioned examples, other fragments shows a more markedly thickened rim: 489 (Pl. XXXIII: 76) has a pointed flat rim; the rim of 927 (Pl. XXXIII: 78) is rounded in the upper part and out pointed; 2686 and 2000 (Pl. XXXIII: 77, 79) both present a “beak-shaped” rim.

In other cases the rim is out thickened but greater (Pl. XXXIII: 80).

Finally this category includes carinated bowl with inverted short rims but thinner walls: artefacts 1965 and 3213 (Pl. XXXIII: 81-82) both show an out thickened rim, flat on the outer side, with a triangular cross-section and thin walls.

Deep bowls

The diameter of deep bowls range from 20 to 40 cm but we can also find some smaller examples. Fragments can be divided into five subgroups.

Deep bowls with lightly inverted thickened rims (Pl. XXIX: 29; pl. XL: 190-197; pl. XLI: 198-199, 206-214; pl. LV: 366): some of these examples show an incised decoration consisting of a series of rows on the body of the vessel (Pl. XL: 191, 193, 195). The rims of these bowls present different shapes, for example: 1680 (Pl. XL: 190) shows a round, out thickened rim; in 1533 and 3108 (Pl. XL: 192, 194) the rim is out thickened and flattened in its upper part; in 271 (Pl. XLI: 212) the rim is flat; in the case of 1149 (Pl. XLI: 198) it has a triangular section; 2623 and 2781 (Pl. XL: 191, 193) have a slightly inverted, rounded rim that is also pointed on its outer side; in fragment 1802 (Pl. XLI: 214) the rim is rounded and in and out thickened; and 2199 (Pl. XLI: 213) shows an inverted rim, flattened on its upper part, with a rectangular cross-section.

Bowls with smaller dimension: other examples have smaller dimensions between 12 and 22 cm and either a simple (Pl. XLI: 200-201) or thickened (Pl. XLI: 202-203) rim. 1525 (no. 203), which presents a thickened rim, also has a groove and a ribbing below the rim.

Bowls with greater dimensions and curved walls: 2396 and 5613 (Pl. XLII: 215; pl. XXIX: 29) both have bigger dimensions (30 cm and more) and curved walls. They have a pointed, out thickened, ribbon rim. 5613 also presents an incised decoration.

Bowls with a greater dimension and a square rim: 2403, 32, 3146, 901 (Pl. XLII: 217-220) all have greater dimensions and a squared rim. The profile of 3146 is almost complete and shows an incised decoration made of a horizontal wavy line surrounded by a series of horizontal straight lines.

The last subgroup includes bowls and jars with a very open mouth¹⁸, however, the rims are variously shaped. For example: 1566 (Pl. XLIV: 226) has a grooved rim and a little part of a wavy incised decoration; 1494 (Pl. XLIV: 228) shows an inverted out thickened rim, it is decorated with a series of vertical grooves alternating with wavy lines; 1174 (Pl. XLIV: 230) has a grooved rim, and a little rib on the shoulder; while 1899 (Pl. XLIV: 231) has a rounded and pointed out thickened rim; 1015 (Pl. XLIV: 229) has a highly out thickened squared rim, with a painted decoration on the upper part of the rim; 1750 (Pl. XLIV: 232) has a pointed rim and traces of a wavy incised line; 2528 (Pl. LXVII: 510) has an out thickened rim, is flat in its upper part, and has ribbing above the neck; and 1790 (Pl. XLV: 233) has a ribbon rim.

Medium-sized carinated bowls

This type of pottery is always slipped and is sometimes smoothed. Some examples have an incised decoration. The diameter of the bowls varies between 20 and 30 cm, but we also find some smaller and larger examples.

Bowl 659 (Pl. XXXVIII: 166) shows grooved walls above the carination, and a slightly inverted rim. Its profile is complete and it has a ring base.

Bowls 1761, 3263, 2054, 1759 and 2030 (Pl. XXXVIII: 167-171) all show a strong carination with a simple or thickened curved rim. All of them have an incised decoration of horizontal lines on the shoulder. Additionally, the rim of 1759 (Pl. XXXVIII: 170) shows a groove dividing it into two sections.

2188 and 2192 (Pl. XXXVIII: 172-173) are carinated and have a grooved and ribbed wall.

2539 and 2239 (Pl. XXXVIII: 174; pl. XXXIX: 175) have a straight rim and a groove immediately above the carination. In 2529 and 2186 (Pl. XLI: 204-205) the carination cannot be determined since only the rim is preserved. They show an incised wavy line as decoration. The rim is out thickened in case of 2186 and simple and squared in 2529.

3144 (Pl. XL: 186) has an inverted, straight, out thickened rim.

In 2583 and 1757 (Pl. XXXIX: 178, 180) the carination is lighter and the rim is straight and inverted. 1757 shows grooves above the carination.

The walls above the carination are curved in bowls 1746, 2189 and 800 (Pl. XXXIX: 176, 185; pl. XL: 188). Their rims are out thickened. 1746 has a rib above the carination while 2189 and 800 both show a series of grooves.

In 3168 (Pl. XXXIX: 181) the walls are straight and vertical. The rim is out thickened and the decoration consists of a series of grooves.

1751 and 1758 (Pl. XXXIX: 177, 179) have a curved edge and a squared rim. They show a series of grooves on their bodies, above the carination.

Bowls 660, 2190 and 2066 (Pl. XL: 187; pl. XXXIX: 183-184) have an out thickened rim, flat in its upper part: it is round in fragment 2066 and squared in fragments 660 and 2190.

3170 (Pl. XXXIX: 182) shows an everted and rounded rim. In 264 (Pl. XL: 189) only the edge is preserved, but not the carination; It presents a rim that is out thickened.

18 The dimension of the mouth is almost the same as the point of maximum expansion of the pot.

Beakers/Cups

In the RBWW repertoire of Hirbemerdon Tepe we can find two types of cups, with or without carination.

Cups without carination

Almost all of the fragments are slipped, however some also are smoothed. The fabric is fine or medium fine. The decoration is rare and incised.

In the simplest version they are rounded with a simple, lightly tapered rim (Pl. XXXIV: 84, 88-89). 1180 (Pl. XXXIV: 88) is a rounded cup with a groove on the body.

2834 (Pl. XXXIV: 85) has a pointed and slightly in thickened rim.

The rim is tapered and pointed in the case of fragment 2180 (Pl. XXXIV: 86).

2508 (Pl. XXXIV: 87) shows instead a straight edge and is bigger than the other examples, with a rim that is tapered.

2955, 3368 and 3290 (Pl. XXXIV: 90-92) are rounded cups but they have thinner walls. 2955 has a simple, lightly everted rim. 3368 and 3290 have a simple, pointed and tapered rim.

A tapered rim is also present in fragments 3370, 2671, 2168, 2033 and 2040 (Pl. XXXIV: 93-97): in 3370 the rim is also out thickened, everted, flattened in the upper part and has a groove below the rim; in 2671 the groove is less marked; 2033 shows an out thickened and flattened rim.

3214, 2042, 868, 131, 2380, 3078, 2041, 2169, 1021 and 1553 (Pl. XXXIV: 98-102; pl. XXXV: 103-107) are hemispherical or slightly flared cups with thin walls. The rim is everted and sometimes out thickened (3214, 2041, 2169, 1553). They may have an incised decoration on the walls, as in case of fragments 3214, 2042 and 3078.

3362, 1552, 1556, 3363, 2551, 2544, 568, 1640, 474, 2170 and 2692 (Pl. XXXV: 108-114, 117-120) are also rounded cups with thin walls but they are deeper. They may have a groove below the rim (3362, 1552, 1556, and 2554). The rim is everted and often out thickened. In the case of 474, it has a lug.

207 and 2479 (Pl. XXXV: 115-116) are rounded cups with thin walls but shallower than the previous examples. The rim is thickened and club-shaped.

1151, 1538, 3154, 1548, 3149 and 2550 (Pl. XXXV: 108; pl. XXXVI: 122-126) are rounded cups with thin walls and a slightly convex rim. 1151 has a series of incised lines on the walls.

3151, 2839, 2057, 3291, 3150 and 2044 (Pl. XXXVI: 127-130, 133-134) are rounded cups with thin walls, with a straight and slightly inverted, out thickened rim. Sometimes they have an incised decoration made of horizontal straight lines on the walls (2057, 2044 and 3150).

943 and 1020 (Pl. XXXVI: 137-138) are deep cups/beakers with straight, thin walls.

538, 2173 and 6333 (Pl. XXXVI: 135-136; pl. XXXII: 57) are deep cups/beakers with a marked carination in the upper part. 6333 is complete and it has a pointed rim and a raised ring-base.

Carinated cups

Carinated cups are slipped and sometimes smoothed. Some examples show traces of incised decoration.

The diameter of the cups is in general 10 - 15 cm, but there are also some examples with larger or smaller dimensions.

2384, 2624, 3080, 1530, 2385, 2062 and 2673 (Pl. XXXVI: 139-141; pl. XXXVII: 142-145) are carinated cups with everted, out thickened rims. With the exception of 2062 and 2673, the carinated cups present incised decorations made of a series of horizontal rows immediately above the carination (1530) or below the rim (3080). 2624 shows instead a series of grooves on the walls above the carination.

3337 and 2053 (Pl. XXXVII: 146-147) are carinated cups with a sinuous profile. The rim is simple. Fragment 6564 (Pl. XXXVI: 132) can be included in this subgroup even though the carination is not preserved; Its rim is simple and flat on its upper part and it shows an incised decoration made of a wavy line above a series of horizontal lines.

2031 and 2381 (Pl. XXXVII: 148-149) are small carinated cups. The inner profile is curved and the rim is everted and out thickened.

528, 352, 1186, 2255, 377, 2046, 1182, 2178 and 1520 (Pl. XXXVII: 150-157; pl. XXXVIII: 162) are carinated cups with a curved and slightly everted rim. A groove marks the beginning of the carination. In some cases also the ring-base is preserved (528, 1186).

1184, 1547, 1181, 1542 and 2778 (Pl. XXXVII: 158-159; pl. XXXVIII: 160-161, 163) are carinated cups with everted and out thickened rims. The carination is also marked by a groove on the outer surface in these cases.

316 and 206 (Pl. XXXVIII: 164-165) are carinated cups with a flared, out thickened rim and a truncated cone profile. The fragments are small and they show no traces of any incised decoration.

Barrels

From a morphological point of view, barrels are similar to carinated cups, but with larger dimensions. The diameter of the rim is usually 30 - 50 cm.

529 (Pl. XLIII: 221) is a complete profile of a carinated barrel with grooves above and below the carination. The rim is out thickened. It shows a rib above the carination and a stamped band below it. 230 (Pl. XLIII: 222) shows an incised decoration made of a series of horizontal lines, as in the case of fragment 6111 (Pl. XLIII: 223). 1892 (Pl. XLIII: 224) can be included in this category even though it is a small fragment and its carination is absent. Its rim is flat on the upper part and it is divided into two parts by a groove in the middle.

The other category of this class is represented by carinated barrels with two series of grooved lines spaced apart by a wavy incised decoration. The rim has a groove in the middle. Fragment 949 (Pl. XLIII: 225) is an example of this type.

6627 (Pl. XXXVI: 131) is a fragment of a barrel with a decoration formed by a wavy line and a series of horizontal grooves. The rim is flat in its upper side and round in its outer. There is a groove immediately below it.

Jars

This category is one of the main of the RBWW repertoire. It includes:

- Medium sized jars without a neck
- Medium sized jars with a very low neck
- Medium sized jars with a low neck
- Medium sized jars with a neck
- Small jars
- Medium/large sized jars with a narrow neck
- Spouted jars

Medium- sized jars without a neck

This subgroup is represented by 11 types of diagnostic rim profile fragments. The pottery is always slipped and it is sometimes smoothed.

The diameter of the jars varies between 24 and 42 cm, but we can also find an example with a smaller diameter (Pl. XLV: 245). All the fragments present out thickened inverted rims with various conformity.

In fragment 2715 (Pl. XLV: 235), the rim is squared with a light groove in the middle. 2279 (Pl. XLV: 236)

has a rounded rim and a rounded rim also occurs in 2069 (Pl. XLV: 239) that is also internally thickened. In 1664 and 3042 (Pl. XLV: 237-238) the rims are rounded and slightly pointed. In 1564 (Pl. XLV: 240), the rim is flattened in its upper part, whereas, 2200 (Pl. XLV: 241) has a pointed rim.

Fragments 2740, 2717, 2716 and 3058 (Pl. XLV: 242-245) are thicker and fragments 2740 and 2717 have a squared out thickened rim. In 2717 a slight groove divides the rim into two parts. In 2716 and 3058, the rims are out thickened with big grooves on the surface.

Medium sized jars with a very low neck

The smallest diameter presented in this category is 14 cm, and the largest is 34 cm. The rims of the fragments are variously shaped: 2012 (Pl. XLV: 246) is the simplest and is out thickened; the other rims are also out thickened but in case of fragments 1833, 2193 and 2194 (Pl. XLVI: 250, 252, 254) they are squared. The rims can also be out pointed (Pl. XLV: 248-249) or with a groove along it (Pl. XLV: 247; pl. XLVI: 256). Fragment 2006 (Pl. XLVI: 251) has an inverted rim and an inner carination. Fragment 3111 (Pl. XLVI: 255) has a rounded rim.

Medium sized jars with a low neck

In general, the diameter of the rim is about 25 - 30 cm but we can also find smaller dimensions and only one example of a 40 cm diameter. Only a few examples show incised decorations. Some fragments are also smoothed.

1645 and 3062 (Pl. XLVI: 257-258) have out thickened rims with a groove in the middle. Fragment 3376 (Pl. XLVI: 253) has an out thickened inverted rim, but with no groove.

2590, 3356 and 2518 (Pl. XLVI: 259-261) have an everted in and out thickened rim.

3054, 1831, 2295, 1998, 2361 and 2024 (Pl. XLVI: 262-267) are jars with everted in and out thickened rims and an inner rib to support a lid. Their diameters are bigger than 24 cm. The conformation of the rims is various, but we can find round rims (2361), pointed rims, as in the case of 2295 and 1831, or rims in the shape of a ribbon (3054). 2024 and 630 (Pl. XLVI: 267; pl. XLVII: 268) are small fragments with an everted, thickened and grooved rim. As for decoration, 3054 shows a rib below the neck, while 2295 presents a series of incised horizontal lines. 1998 is the most interesting fragment as it has a rib with a "half-circles" decoration below the neck, and a series of incised horizontal lines on the walls.

Medium sized jars with a neck

The diameter of the rims in this category range between 14 and 32 cm. The surface of the fragments are slipped and, in one case, is also smoothed (Pl. XLVII: 273).

1822, 2793 and 6586 (Pl. XLVII: 269-270; pl. XLVIII: 291) are medium sized jars with slightly narrow necks and greater rim diameters (ca. 20 - 25 cm). The rims are slightly pointed and out thickened (1822). 6586 is interesting as it was almost completely preserved from the rim to the base. It was found in a large garbage deposit in Area AC of the architectural complex. The neck is slightly narrow and the rim is slightly out thickened. The color appears to be a pale yellow, which is probably due to a high burning.

1827, 1897, 2542, 2288, 3174, 1825, 2573 and 1900 (Pl. XLVII: 271-278) are medium sized jars with a more marked neck and a smaller rim diameter (ca. 15 - 20 cm). Each rim is out thickened and variously shaped: round and pointed (1827, 1897 and 2542), pointed and "ribbon-shaped" (2288, 3174 and 1825), or squared (1900).

In other fragments necks are slightly narrowed and the rims are externally grooved (Pl. XLVII: 279-281).

Small jars

This category includes small jars with a rim diameter between 4 and 15 cm. The surface is slipped.

2259, 3109, 2365, 2614 and 486 (Pl. XLVII: 282-285, 288) are small jars with a diameter of approximately 10 cm, with a neck more or less marked and a thickened rim. 2365 and 486 also have a groove on the neck.

1577 (Pl. XLVII: 289) has a low neck, with a large mouth and an out thickened rim.

2732 (Pl. XLVII: 286) has a low neck and an inner carination between the neck and the shoulder.

2730 (Pl. XLVII: 287) is a fragment of a jar with a low neck and a slightly grooved and out thickened rim, with an incised decoration of horizontal lines on the shoulder.

3221, 2196, 6588 and 1824 (Pl. XLVII: 290; pl. XLVIII: 292-294) have larger rim diameters (10 - 15 cm). The rims are straight, slightly everted and out thickened. 6588 is almost complete and was found in fragments in a large garbage deposit in Area AC of the architectural complex.

2195 (Pl. XLVIII: 295) has an out thickened rim, while 1828 (Pl. XLVIII: 296) has an everted, square rim.

895 (Pl. XLVIII: 297) has a straight, slightly inverted and pointed rim.

Medium/Large sized jars with narrow neck

This category includes only fragments 1170 and 3220¹⁹ (Pl. XLVIII: 303; pl. XLIX: 315): 1170 is interesting because it has two strokes of paint visible inside. 3220, in addition to painted decoration also has two grooves on the shoulder.

Spouted jars

Only two examples of spouted jars were found at Hirbemerdon Tepe. Fragment 6204 (Pl. LXIV: 466) is a jar with a trilobated rim; 6062 (Pl. LXIV: 467) is a fragment from a pitcher with a triangular spout and one handle on the body.

Storage Jars

Storage jars can be divided into eight types that include:

- Storage jars with a large mouth and a vertical wall
- Storage jars with a large mouth and a curved wall
- Storage jars with a large mouth and a convex wall
- Storage jars without a neck
- Storage jars with a very low neck
- Storage jars with a low neck
- Storage jars with a low neck and a narrower mouth
- Storage jars with a neck

This repertoire of storage jars has strong similarities with contemporaneous contexts at other sites along the upper Tigris valley.²⁰ Storage jars are often decorated with an incised decoration and the discovery of a series of fragments of body sherds shows different patterns of decoration. The simplest is characterized by a series of horizontal grooves (Pl. LXII: 448-449), whereas other fragments show both grooves and wavy lines (Pl. LXII: 450-451). Fragment 307 (Pl. LXII: 452) is decorated with an incised motif consisting of bands of grooves alternating with bands of stamped circles and semi-circles. In addition to this decorative pattern, 1898 (Pl. LXIII: 453) shows a wavy incised line. 6519 (Pl. LXIII: 454) has a similar decoration, consisting of a band of diagonal incisions, and two bands of grooves framing two series of impressed circles and wavy incised lines. 3378 (Pl. LXIII: 458) shows a rib with diagonal incisions. This element occurs also in 2580 (Pl. LXIII: 455), however, it also shows two series of circular impressions below the rib. Fragment

¹⁹ This category is represented mainly by BPW examples, see below and note 59.

²⁰ i.e., Gre Dimse, Karg 1999: 268, fig. 10.14; Kenan Tepe, Parker *et al.* 2003: 158, j, k; Ziyaret Tepe, Matney 1998: 23, 13, 15 (Laneri *et al.* 2006b, 156).

335 (Pl. LXIII: 457) is decorated with grooves and a band of stamped vertical small lines.

As for painted decoration, 2859 (Pl. LXV: 485) has some white drops on the RBWW paint.

Storage jars with a large mouth and a vertical wall

This category comprises only six fragments. 1647, 1891 and 2655 (Pl. XLIX: 318-320) have square, out thickened rims. 2655 shows also an incised decoration made of horizontal lines on the walls. 1896 (Pl. XLIX: 321) has a round, out thickened rim. In 253 (Pl. XLIX: 324), the rim is flat and the fragment shows an incised decoration. Fragment 6201 (Pl. XLIV: 227) is light red in color and has a decoration made of a series of horizontal incised lines, a wavy incised line and a rib with oblique incisions.

Storage jars with a large mouth and a curved wall

Two types of fragments form this category: 3341 (Pl. XLIX: 322), which has a pointed rim with a triangular cross-section and its walls are decorated with a series of incised lines; and 83 (Pl. XLIX: 323), which has a grooved wall just below the rim.

Storage jars with a large mouth and a convex wall

This category includes fragments with a diameter between 34 and 56 cm. The color of the washed decoration is often red, and these storage jars often have an incised decoration. The surface is slipped, and in two cases, they are also smoothed.

1889, 1476, 1504, 1885, 3093, 1884, 1470, 1883 and 6569 (Pl. L: 325-332; pl. XLII: 216) have straight or curved walls with grooved, out thickened rims, with the grooves being more marked in 1889, 1476, 1504, 6569 and 1885. Fragments 1470, 1504 and 3093 have an incised decoration made of horizontal lines on the walls, while 6569 shows traces of a wavy incised line.

1193 (Pl. LI: 335) shows a groove immediately below the rim; the body is decorated with a wavy incised line and a series of horizontal incised lines.

Storage jars without a neck

The diameter of this type of storage jar ranges in general from 40 to 60 cm, but we can also find some smaller examples (diameter ca. 30 - 35 cm). Decoration is very often incised and comprises the typical motifs of the RBWW repertoire. The fabric is medium to coarse and the surface is slipped and sometimes smoothed.

1107, 2061 and 2227 (Pl. LII: 348-349; pl. LIII: 350) have an out thickened rim. The incised decoration in 1107 and 2061 consists of a wavy line and a series of horizontal lines on the body. 2227 instead has an incised decoration made of a zig-zag line and below it a series of lozenges with a circle in their center.

1474 (Pl. LIII: 351) is a storage jar with a flat out thickened rim and a groove below the rim.

1487, 1505, 1867 and 182 (Pl. L: 333-334; pl. LI: 336-337) have a lightly grooved, out thickened rim. 1867 shows an additional groove on the shoulder, and a series of incised half-circles are visible along the shoulder of fragment 182.

In 2223 and 1469 (Pl. LI: 338; pl. LIII: 352) the shoulder is curved and the out thickened rim has a beak-shape, while in fragments 238 and 1156 (Pl. LI: 339; pl. LIII: 355), it is squared and elongated. Fragment 238 is decorated by a groove on the shoulder and a series of horizontal lines on the body, whereas fragment 1156 shows a wavy line surrounded by two series of horizontal lines.

885 and 1023 (Pl. LIV: 358-359) also have an out thickened rim, but it is elongated and grooved. Fragment 885 shows some traces of incised horizontal decoration below the rim.

1871, 1880, 2226, 1868 and 2576 (Pl. LIV: 360-361; pl. LI: 340; pl. LII: 341-342) show grooves on the outer wall, immediately below the rim, which is out thickened and grooved. 1868 and 2576 have a further decoration of incised half-circles between the grooves, and 2226 shows two series of horizontal incised lines on the surface.

In fragments 2228, 1874 and 1478 (Pl. LII: 343-345), the groove is lower. A wavy line decorates the shoulder of fragment 2228.

Another subgroup is represented by fragments of storage jars that have a flat, out thickened rim (Pl. LII: 346; pl. LIII: 353; pl. LV: 364, 366-367). Two grooves are visible on the body of 1155 (Pl. LII: 346), one below the rim and one on the shoulder. This fragment is also preserved with drips of paint on the internal surface. A single groove occurs in fragments 1500 and 1873 (Pl. LIII: 353; pl. LV: 364).

2963 (Pl. LIV: 363) presents a complete profile of a storage jar without a neck. It has a rim that is out thickened, and a wide mouth. The base is simple and is decorated with a series of incised motifs: a wavy line above a series of horizontal grooves, a row of six dots and another series of grooves.

1869 (Pl. LII: 347) forms another subgroup of this category because it has an in and out thickened rim.

The rim of fragments 186 and 96 (Pl. LV: 368-369) are oblong, while the rim in fragment 1483 (Pl. LIII: 354) is flat in its upper part.

Storage jars with a very low neck

The diameter of the storage jars range from 35 to 60 cm. The surface is slipped and we often find some grooves below the rim. The differences between the fragments depend on the morphology of the rim.

An ovoid rim occurs in fragment 906 (Pl. LV: 370), which also shows a series of grooved lines for decoration, immediately below the rim.

Other fragments show a pointed rim (Pl. LVI: 371-375) and some of them also have the same incised decoration below the rim (181 and 2811) as with fragment 906.

1491, 1888 and 1840 (Pl. LVI: 376-377; pl. LIV: 357) have a rounded rim.

1467, 2229, 3147 and 6477 (Pl. LIV: 356; pl. LVI: 378, 380; pl. LV: 365) also have a rounded rim but flattened. Fragment 3147 also shows an applied rib as decoration. Fragment 6477 has a rounded body and a typical decoration made of a series of horizontal grooves and a wavy incised line.

Fragment 1878 (Pl. LVI: 381) is a jar with a squared and grooved rim, while fragments 2746, 2749, 2747, 467, 361, 241 and 1982 (Pl. LVI: 382; pl. LVII: 383-388) have a grooved rim with a triangular cross-section. Fragments 467 and 361 also show some traces of the typical groove decoration below the rim.

In this category we also find storage jars that have in and out thickened rims (Pl. LVII: 389-390) with a light groove on the rim, as well as jars that have a neck which is slightly more developed and with a pointed, out thickened rim (Pl. LVII: 391-392).

Storage jars with a low neck

The diameter of this kind of storage jars ranges in general from 40 to 50 cm. The surface is slipped and sometimes embellished with an incised decoration.

In the simplest version, jars have a low neck and a rim that is out thickened. This type is comprised of fragments 6587, 3064, 3148, 1879 and 2224 (Pl. XLV: 234; pl. LVII: 393-395; pl. LVIII: 400). Fragment 2224 is the most well preserved and it shows an incised decoration made of a groove, a wavy line, two additional grooves and another wavy line.

Other fragments have an out thickened rim that is externally grooved (Pl. LVIII: 401-403).

In this category we also find fragments of jars with an inner carination at the base of the neck, however, the rim can be out thickened (Pl. LVIII: 404-406) or out thickened and flat (Pl. LVIII: 407-408; pl. LIX: 412-413). In this subgroup three fragments are better preserved than the others: 2225 (Pl. LVIII: 408), 240 (Pl. LIX: 412) and 239 (Pl. LIX: 413). Fragment 2225 has an incised decoration made by alternating grooves and wavy lines. Fragment 240 is a storage jar with a short straight neck and an everted rim. It has an incised decoration comprised of two parallel ribs below the rim, a wavy line framed between the upper ribs and three grooves. The bottom part of the body is marked by a rope pattern. Fragment 239 shows two incised

wavy lines, one that is narrow and below the rim, and one that is wide and framed by a groove and five ribs.

Storage jars with a low neck and a narrower mouth

This is a very small subgroup. It is composed of fragments with a diameter of approximately 30 cm, with short necks and narrow mouths. The color of the paint is reddish brown or a dark reddish gray. The differences, as usual, depend on the shape of the rim, which can be squared (Pl. LVII: 397), grooved (Pl. LVII: 398), triangular in cross-section (Pl. LVII: 396) or rounded (Pl. LVII: 399).

Storage jars with a neck

This category is also composed of only a few fragments. They have rims with a diameter between 40 and 50 cm, and a slipped surface. The rims may be out thickened (Pl. LIX: 409), with a triangular cross-section (Pl. LIX: 410), or with a thin rectangular cross-section (Pl. LIX: 411).

Lids

A very limited number of lids also belong to the RBWW repertoire.²¹ Fragment 1846 (Pl. LX: 414) has a smooth red body, while fragment 6253 (Pl. LX: 415) has a gray body and a cylindrical knob with a hole in the middle.

Bases

The RBWW repertoire also includes fragments from bases, which can be divided into subgroups.

In the simplest versions they are spherical (Pl. LX: 416), or flat (Pl. LX: 417).

Other fragments are ring bases, for example, 2209 (Pl. LX: 418), which has a pointed edge, and 45 (Pl. LX: 419), which has an inner groove. In fragments 3116 and 3187 (Pl. LX: 420-421), the ring is less marked, and fragments 3181, 2214 and 3118 (Pl. LX: 422-423, 425) have flat ring bases.

In fragments 3117 and 2813 (Pl. LX: 424; pl. LXI: 433), the rim of the ring-base is pointed, while in 2369 (Pl. LX: 428) it is squared. Fragments 94 and 263 (Pl. LX: 426-427) exhibit concave ring bases, whereas fragments 2366, 329 and 167 (Pl. LX: 429-430; pl. LXI: 431) have concaved, grooved ring bases. Flat ring-bases are demonstrated in fragments 490 and 2813 (Pl. LXI: 432-433).

The base of fragment 63 (Pl. LXI: 434) shows a ring that is highly marked and grooved.

Fragments 3138, 2216 and 3186 (Pl. LXI: 435, 438-439) are also ring bases. In these examples the foot is marked and rounded, however, in fragment 1165 (Pl. LXI: 437), the ring is instead more pointed.

Fragment 2212 (Pl. LXI: 440) is a flat ring-base that is also concaved, while 3097 (Pl. LXI: 441) is fully flat. Fragments 3189, 3183 and 3182 (Pl. LXI: 442-444) are another type of ring-base where the edge of the ring is cut and the base is slightly concaved.

Another example of a ring-base is represented by fragment 6309 (Pl. LXI: 436). It is peculiar because it consists of a base formed by two concentric rings.

Other types of ring bases are represented by fragments of conic bases, such as 3046 and 3047 (Pl. LXI: 445; pl. LXII: 446).

Fragment 2207 (Pl. LXII: 447) represents another type of base, which is pointed at the bottom.

In this category we can also include fragment 6197 (Pl. LXIV: 465), which has a perforated nipple.

²¹ Other lids belong to the Common Ware repertoire.

Unica

This category is represented by a limited number of objects that have no typology but because of their particular morphology they belong to RBWW repertoire.

1129 (Pl. LXIII: 459) is a small curved bowl with little conic elements applied to the body (grape-cluster applications). The external surface shows a slight but high carination and the rim is simple, rounded and curves slightly inwards. The inner surface shows a variation of colors from black to brown, probably caused by the firing processes. This object helps us to make comparisons with other early second millennium BCE sites in northern Syria and eastern Anatolia.²²

1219 (Pl. LXIII: 460) is a decorated juglet with a cylindrical body and a wide carination. The neck is short, and the rim is pointed with an externally incised rib (fishbone shaped). The decoration is characterized by a series of impressed decorations made through the use of a mould. The decoration is organized in four framed bands of double triangles (wolf-teeth shape) and a series of rosettes. The base is decorated with a circle of triangles along the edge framing a hole located in the center that might have served the purpose of filtering liquids. The main body is decorated with a thin layer of bitumen that has been placed on top of the washed blackish decoration. This paint is visible inside the vessel for approximately 3 cm below the rim. Traces of bitumen are visible on the surface and inside the incised decorative elements. Other fragments of this kind and with similar decoration have been found at the site during the last field campaign (Pl. LXIII: 456).

Fragment 2972 (Pl. LXIV: 462) is a spout from part of a RBWW spouted jar, most likely used for ritual purposes. The support for this spout is tubular and the spout's body is rounded with a pointed rim. A band of painted decoration is visible outside, as well as a series of painted lines and bands that are visible along the tubular area.

93 and 3115 (Pl. LXIV: 461, 463) are fragments of RBWW pot stands. Fragment 93 is flared, with an everted and pointed rim and a ring base. The surface is decorated by a series of incised grooves along almost the entire surface. Fragment 3115 is simpler; it shows an everted squared rim. Both examples are hand-made.

Finally, a fragment of a possible spoon was found during the excavations (Pl. LXIV: 464): it has a painted decoration along the bottom.

Band Painted Ware (BPW)

In addition to RBWW fragments, the MBA phase at Hirbemerdon Tepe is characterized by sherds of Band Painted Ware (Pls LXIV: 468-472; LXV; LXVI), which are helpful in connecting this archaeological phase to a specific Middle Bronze Age horizon.²³ However, while the pottery assemblage from Hirbemerdon Tepe shares some general decorative features with the ceramics known as "Khabur Ware" (from the Khabur area in northeastern Syria), archaeometric analysis has demonstrated that this specific pottery assemblage signifies a local production (Laneri *et al.* 2015).

The types of BPW vessels found are, in general, necked jars with globular or ovoid bodies, and with a series of painted bands along the shoulder. The neck is often covered with paint, as is the body of the pot. The decoration is very similar to that used for the RBWW coating, as well as the technique of application. Besides the more common horizontal bands (Pl. LXV: 479-482, 487) we have also found other geometric patterns on fragments from the body of vessels. For example: 2506 (Pl. LXV: 483) has vertical bands; 3099 (Pl. LXV: 484) shows both horizontal and vertical bands; wavy vertical bands occur on fragments 2858, 2132, 72, 471 and 6148 (Pl. LXV: 486, 488-490; pl. LXVI: 492); 2133 (Pl. LXVI: 491) has a painted zig-zag pattern; 2578, 2131 and 2236 (Pl. LXVI: 493-495) are decorated with a grid pattern; while the decoration

22 Tell Brak, Oates *et al.* 1997: fig. 82, fig. 221.604, piece N. 604; Alishar Höyük, Von der Osten 1937, fig. 174.d2800 and e326, fig. 192.d2342; Kültepe, Özgüç 1999, pl. 105.1.2 (D'Agostino 2012a: 194 and note 8; Özgüç 1999b).

23 ca. 1815-1550 BCE, cf. Khabur Ware Period 2-3, Oguchi 1997b: 196-199, fig. 1 (Laneri *et al.* 2006b: 156).

of 1188 and 1033 (Pl. LXVI: 496-497) consists of painted triangles. Another decorative motif is characterized by two painted bands containing two lines of dots (Pl. LXVI: 499). Fragment 2109 (Pl. LXVI: 498) is decorated with a more complex figurative pattern resembling birds. In 4561 (Pl. LXVI: 500), we can find the representation of an animal; a series of deer framed within painted triangles.²⁴

Fragment 2537 (Pl. LXV: 478) is a convex ring-base with rounded edge.

Three examples of cups were also found: the first (Pl. LXIV: 468) is a fragment of a rounded cup with thin walls and a simple, everted rim with a grid pattern decoration; another is a fragment of a flared cup with a groove on the rim and a band painted decoration (Pl. LXIV: 469); the last fragment (Pl. LXVII: 501) is represented by a carinated cup with a flared rim and a decoration made of grid pattern painted triangles.

1191 (Pl. LXIV: 470) is a fragment from a medium-sized jar with a very low neck. Its rim is out thickened and flat on its upper part and it is peculiar because it shows a dripping decoration.

In most cases, BPW fragments belong to the category of the medium-sized jars with high and narrow neck.²⁵

However, they can also be medium/large sized jars with narrow necks and globular or ovoid bodies, with a simple or slightly thickened rim (mouth diameter: 12 - 15 cm) (Pl. LXIV: 471; pl. LXV: 473) or with grooved out thickened rim (Pl. LXV: 474-477). Among these fragments, 306 (Pl. LXIV: 471) and 3063 (Pl. LXV: 474) are the best preserved and show the painted decoration made by horizontal painted bands.

Fragment 849 (Pl. LXIV: 472) is almost complete but unfortunately the rim and the base are lost. It is a jar of medium dimensions, and most likely with a rounded base. It has a flattened globular body and the wash decoration is organised in three large bands. The neck is also covered by the wash paint up to the joint line at the shoulder (the inner side is painted for ca. 4 - 5 cm).

One of the most interesting fragments, even though the rim is not preserved, is 4561 (Pl. LXVI: 500): it is a large section of a jar of the BPW with a decoration characterized by a series of triangles filled with wavy lines and deer posing in different positions (profile) along the shoulder. This decorative pattern is framed by two large bands of blackish slip/wash recognizable along the neck and the lower part of the vessel body. This is not a typical motif of the Khabur Ware horizon; it can resemble symbolism related to either the Anatolian or Caucasian/north-western Iranian area (D'Agostino 2012a: 194).

Cooking Ware (CW)

Cooking Ware (CW) represents another category of pottery found at Hirbemerdon Tepe. This type of pottery is characterized by jars with distinctive globular shapes, short necks, rounded rims and triangular lugs attached to the rim area. The clay is very coarse with mica and chaff temper, the color is weak red or black and the surface is burnished (Laneri *et al.* 2006b: 163). Through the presence of the cooking jars with triangular lugs, it is possible to link Hirbemerdon Tepe production with late third and early second millennium BCE contexts in northern Syria and Eastern Anatolia.²⁶ Cooking ware includes:

- Jars without a neck

24 Laneri *et al.* 2006b : 157. For horizontal stripes, see Girnavaz MB, Erkanal 1991 : R. 1; Imikuşağı MB, Sevin 1987: R.22; Hakkari MB, Özfirat 2002: fig. 4/5; for wavy lines, see Giricano, Schicht 1, Schachner 2002b, 48, abb. 38; Arslantepe VA, Di Nocera 1998, tafel 33.4.

25 Both RBWW and BPW may have the same rim decorated with red-brown paint, so when only the rim of these jars is preserved we are not able to assign the fragments to one or another category, if bands or other decorative patterns are not clearly visible. Neither do we know if the same type of jars can be in both categories.

26 For comparisons see Norşuntepe, Hauptmann 1972: pl. 72.2; Kurban H. IV, Algaze 1990: pl. 93A-B, I-J; Salat Tepe, Ökse 1999: fig. 4; Ökse *et al.* 2001: fig. 7.1; Giricano, Schicht 01, Schachner 2002b: abb. 12.2; Lidar H., Phase 1-3, Kaschau 1999, abb. 42, KT 4; Tell Brak, Ninivite V period, Oates *et al.* 2001, fig., 466, 1676-77; Tell Mozan, Buccellati and Kelly-Buccellati 1988, fig. 21.MI 20; Tell Chuera, Kühne 1976, abb. 383-395; Tell Es-Sweyhat, Holland 2006, pl. 275.3,6-7 (Laneri *et al.* 2006b: 163-164).

- Jars with a very short neck
- Jars with a low neck
- Jars with a wide mouth

In addition to these categories, a few fragments of a different type were found, such as 1351 (Pl. LXXIV: 600), which has a flat base. Another interesting and unique example is represented by fragment 6244 (Pl. LXVII: 509): it is a shallow bowl with an inverted and out thickened rim with a triangular spout below it.

Jars without a neck

This kind of cooking jar has a diameter measuring between 15 and 25 cm. Some fragments have an out thickened rim directly on the shoulder (Pl. LXVII: 511-512; pl. LXVIII: 513-522; pl. LXXI: 558). Triangular lugs are recognizable in nos. 511, 512, 516, 517, 520, 521, 522, 558. Fragment no. 558 shows a little groove on the shoulder.

1429, 3197, 1374 (Pl. LXVIII: 523-524; pl. LXIX: 525) are fragments marked by the presence of an internal ridge between the shoulder and the rim.

Cooking jars with a very short neck

This category has been divided into three subgroups: the first consist of cooking jars with rounded rims (Pl. LXIX: 526-532; pl. LXX: 533); the second is made up of jars with variously shaped rims (Pl. LXX: 534-543), which can be pointed, as in fragment 1153 (Pl. LXX: 534), squared as in 1958 (Pl. LXX: 543), or more ovoid as 2524 (Pl. LXX: 541); and the third category is represented by those fragments that have a pointed and slightly everted rim (Pl. LXX: 544, 546-547). With each group, some fragments may show triangular lugs, as seen in fragments 1433, 1153, 1402 and 2660 (Pl. LXIX: 528; pl. LXX: 534, 538-539).

Cooking jars with a low neck

The first category of cooking jars included within this group is represented by jars with an out thickened rim and a curved profile, with the passage between the neck and the shoulder being slight. This type is represented by fragments 1357, 3235, 1906, 2570, 1329, 1923 and 2319 (Pl. LXX: 548-550; pl. LXXI: 551-554). A triangular lug is visible on the rim of 3235 (Pl. LXX: 549).

Other fragments (Pl. LXXI: 555-557, 559-560; pl. LXXII: 561-563) show an out thickened rim, but the passage between neck and shoulder is more marked and sinuous. In these cases, the rims are found to be variously shaped (rounded, pointed), with a few fragments presenting a light groove on the rim, as in case of 1419 and 3347 (Pl. LXXII: 561, 563). 1419 and 2324 (Pl. LXXI: 559) also have small triangular lugs.

Cooking jars with a low neck also includes fragments with a markedly short neck that is set straight onto the shoulder (Pl. LXIX: 529; pl. LXX: 545; pl. LXXII: 564-569), with the rim being round and out thickened.

1052, 1335, 1376, and 1514 (Pl. LXXII: 570-573) have instead a markedly low neck and everted rim.

Another subgroup is formed by jars that have a neck set straight onto the shoulder with a square rim that is flat on its upper part. Only two fragments (Pl. LXXII: 574-575) show these characteristics.

1440 (Pl. LXXIII: 576) has a markedly low neck, set straight onto the shoulder with a pointed, out thickened rim that is flat on its upper part.

We can also include in this category some smaller jars: they may have an out thickened rim and a wide mouth (Pl. LXXIII: 577-581), an elongated, out thickened rim (Pl. LXXIII: 582-583), or a squared or pointed out thickened rim with an inner carination between neck and shoulder (Pl. LXXIII: 584-588).

Cooking jars with a very wide mouth

Cooking jars with very wide mouths can have straight shoulders that are almost vertical, and an out thickened rim (Pl. LXXIII: 589-590). Other fragments instead have a sinuous shoulder and a very short neck (Pl.

LXXIV: 591-594). 1937 (Pl. LXXIV: 593) also has a triangular lug.

Another subgroup includes jars with a very wide mouth, a straight and slightly embossed rim with an inner depression (Pl. LXXIV: 595-596). Finally, there are also jars with a very wide mouth and a diameter greater than 40 cm. The rims with these jars may be rounded and out thickened (Pl. LXXIV: 597), pointed and out thickened (Pl. LXXIV: 598), or ovoid and out thickened (Pl. LXXIV: 599).

Grey Ware (GW)

A very limited presence of GW examples were found, often burnished. In addition to some fragments of ring bases (fragments 6189, 6497, 6608, see pl. LX: 423, 425, 427), we also find fragments of shallow bowls with simple rims (6063, see pl. XXVII: 1), with a curved profile and rounded, out thickened rim (6308, see pl. XXVII: 5), and with curved and oblique, out thickened rim (6166, see pl. XXVIII: 17). An example of a shallow bowl with a high carination, and a short, out thickened rim that is flat on its upper part is also preserved (6107, see pl. XXXII: 67).

A medium-sized carinated bowl with grooves and ribs on the wall (Pl. LXVII: 505) is also part of this category.

As for cups, we can find a carinated cup with a straight rim on the outer side and a curve on the inner side (Pl. LXVII: 504), a carinated cup with straight walls and a flaring everted rim with a groove that marks the beginning of the carination (6200, see pl. XXXVII: 150), a rounded cup with a narrow, squared rim that is flat in its upper part (Pl. LXVII: 502), a rounded cup with thin walls and a slightly convex rim (6241, see pl. XXXVI: 121), as well as a hemispherical cup with thin walls (Pl. LXVII: 503).

In this category we also find an example of a small jar (Pl. LXVII: 506). Only the lower part is missing. It has a simple rim and the profile is sinuous.

Alternatively, 1117 (Pl. LXVII: 507) is a medium-sized jar. Only a portion of the body remains; the rim and the lower part of the body are missing. On the upper part of the wall there is a decorated band consisting of a zig-zag line framed by three narrow grooves, positioned parallel to the base. The joint segment between the body and the neck is clearly visible and not at all diminished by the smoothing treatment of the vessel.

Finally, Grey Ware includes a small fragment of a miniaturistic cup (Pl. LXVII: 508) and a flaring rim beaker with low carination (Pl. LXXVIII: 635) that is unique in the ceramic repertoire and resembles, with regard to the general shape, a bronze cup with two handles found in one of the temples of the *karum* at Kültepe (Özgüç 1999b, 121 and D5). This beaker has two (three, hypothetically) little knobs and a groove immediately below the rim. Above the rim there is a ridge. The outer surface has been well smoothed and burnished.

Common Ware

Lids, basins and a few fragments of bases and pot-stands belong to this category.²⁷ As for bases, base 6641 (Pl. LXXVII: 625) is interesting because it has an intentional hole in the middle. Another interesting fragment of a base is represented by 6121 (Pl. LXXVII: 628): this could be the base of a pot used as a strainer because it shows small holes about its surface. Fragment 6128 (Pl. LXXVII: 626) is also interesting because it is from a base that has been re-worked and was probably used as a dish (fractures are smoothed and flattened). Finally, 1159 (Pl. LXXVII: 627) is the fragment of a perforated nipple base.

The peculiarity of the lids is related to the unusual types of decoration²⁸: 1861 (Pl. LXXIV: 604) is a frag-

²⁷ The only example of a common ware rim is represented by fragment 2515 (Pl. LXXIV: 602). It is the sherd of a cup with a simple and slightly flared rim that might represent a cup belonging to an earlier late-third millennium BC phase (i.e., Phase IIIA).

²⁸ For possible comparisons cf. Tepecik, Esin 1970: pl. 14; Norsuntepe, Hauptmann 1972: pl. 75.9; Çattepe survey, Velibeyoğlu *et al.* 2002: fig. 42.4; Lidar Höyük Phase 3, Kashau 1999: taf. 90,6; Tell Brak, Ninivite V period, Oates *et al.* 2001, fig 468: 1713-1715 (Laneri *et al.* 2006b: 163).

ment of a lid that has a smooth body without decoration; 227 and 1352 (Pl. LXXV: 611-612) are fragments of lids with a smooth body and a simple handle in the shape of a knob that can be rounded (1352) or concave (227); 1261 (Pl. LXXVII: 624) is a complete lid with smooth walls and a concave knob. Other fragments show radial grooves on the body, such as 1858 and 1857 (Pl. LXXIV: 603; pl. LXXV: 607). 1133 (Pl. LXXVI: 619) is a lid with a central, squared handle and four deep, radial grooves. Traces of secondary firing are visible on the lower surface of 1133. Another lid with radial grooves is 1136 (Pl. LXXVI: 621); in this case, one of the grooves cuts across the lid, while the other two start from the handle that is squared and perforated. Artefacts 3238 and 1893 (Pl. LXXV: 613-614) instead have four radial grooves and a mushroom shaped central handle.

Another type of decoration is represented by concentric incised lines, as in the case of lids 1847, 2605 and 2606 (Pl. LXXV: 608-610), while artefact 228 (Pl. LXXVI: 618) is a lid that demonstrates a zig-zag pattern and a “mushroom-shaped handle”. In other examples, the handles of the lids have a theriomorphic aspect: 75 (Pl. LXXVI: 617) has a smooth body with patterns of fingerprints and a bull-shaped handle; 1245 (Pl. LXXVII: 623) is a complete lid with four radial grooves and a bird shaped handle; 6418 (Pl. LXXVI: 622) is the lug of a lid that has been shaped in the same way; and fragment 1842 (Pl. LXXVI: 620) is the knob of a lid with a figurative shape but is unfortunately not better understandable.

Another category of objects that is included within this category is that of basins. At Hirbemerdon Tepe four examples of these objects were found. 2751 (Pl. LXXVIII: 633) is chaff-faced and hand-made, and it shows a rough base and a flat rim. Fingerprints are visible inside and outside. 509 (Pl. LXXVIII: 632) is a complete basin divided into three sectors inside. It is hand-made, light reddish brown in color, and its fabric is coarse. 1936 and 3335 (Pl. LXXVIII: 634; pl. LXXVII: 630) are two fragments from the same type of object: 1963 shows a hammerhead rim and internal buttresses, while 3335 has a simple rim.

Additionally, two pot-stands can be included in this pottery type: 1233 and 2600 (Pl. LXXVII: 629, 631). 1233 is interesting because it shows three sub-circular holes on the walls. The upper rim is simple, slightly everted and triangular in cross-section.

The ceremonial objects

(NL)

The identification of the architectural complex as a ceremonial center is mainly linked to the discovery of numerous objects that were found deposited in the large outdoor space 35 (i.e., the *piazza*). Ceremonial objects were primarily found in this locale, but some were found in other secondary contexts within the architectural complex.

Of particular interest from among the MBA ritual objects unearthed within the architectural are the clay votive plaques.

At Hirbemerdon Tepe a total of six complete, or almost complete, clay votive plaques were found (Pl. CLXIV: 187-188; pl. CLXV: 189-190; pl. CLXVI: 191; pl. CLXVII: 193), all from within the deposit discarded in the *piazza* (i.e., A0408 and AC0164). The only complete plaque not containing a human figure (Pl. CLXVI: 192) was found in a different location (i.e., in Room 66 of the upper section), suggesting that this plaque was unfinished and the room might have been used for decorating ritual objects (Laneri *et al.* 2015). In addition, a further 29 fragments were found discarded in other contexts.²⁹

The plaques were all made from two different types of low-fired clay (i.e., a medium type with mineral inclusions, and a medium-coarse with mineral and chaff inclusions) and are in the form of a rectangular slab with a decorated frontal side. A distinctive feature of these plaques is a clay spout attached to the bottom edge of the decorated side, which was probably constructed for use with liquids. A perforated element

²⁹ In fact, other plaque fragments were found either in primary or secondary contexts not necessarily associated with the ritual deposit in the *piazza* (Pls. CLXVIII-CLXX: 210-222).