

# BYLAZORA

THE 2011  
EXCAVATION

*Republic of Macedonia*

A publication of

THE TEXAS FOUNDATION FOR  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH

November 2011 -- Canyon Lake, Texas

**The 2011 TFAHR International Field School,  
The Archaeological Excavations at Bylazora and this publication**  
were made possible by generous financial assistance from the following:

## **MAJOR FUNDING**

Blake, Kymberly, and George Rapier Charitable Trust

Joseph and Lisa Turano

David and Lucia Warden

## **DONATIONS**

Amy Donaldson

Anita Doyle

The ExxonMobil Foundation

Mary Gay

Mr. and Mrs. David Lasater

Eulah Matthews

Diane Mattly

William Neidinger

## **CONTRIBUTIONS**

Ford Bankston

Phil Bieber

Theodora Boehm

Chevron Humankind Matching Gift Program

Mr. and Mrs. E. Everett Deschner

Michael and Margaret Donohue

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Deborah Haberman

Russell and Maarit Harp

John and Maria Matthews

Douglas Michels

Robert and Dorothy Neidinger

Joseph Noffsinger

Roy and Deirdre Spann

Sławomir Szyszka

Jennifer Wells

TFAHR would also like to acknowledge the support of the Sveti Nikole community, including:

The People's Museum of Sveti Nikole • The Municipality of Sveti Nikole

Finally, TFAHR received invaluable assistance from  
Nathaniel Hussey, United States Peace Corps Volunteer based in Sveti Nikole,  
who worked as liaison between TFAHR, the People's Museum of Sveti Nikole, and  
the Sveti Nikole community.

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THE 2011 EXCAVATION

# BYLAZORA

REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

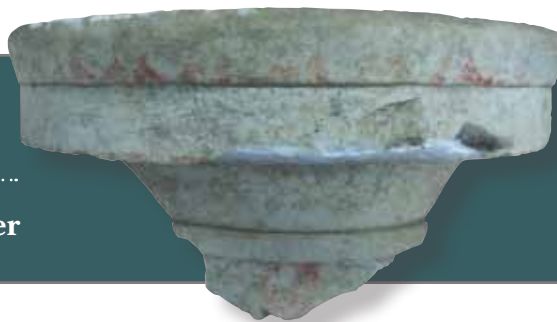


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Publication design and layout by Teresa Southwell.

# Introduction

By Eulah Matthews and William Neidinger



In January of 2008 Mr. Boban Husenovski, an archaeologist with the Museum of Gevgelija, relayed an offer from Mr. Aleksandar Danev, Director of the People's Museum of Sveti Nikole, to Mrs. Eulah Matthews and Dr. William Neidinger of the Texas Foundation for Archaeological and Historical Research (TFAHR) to bring the TFAHR International Field School to Sveti Nikole, Republic of Macedonia. The project was to be a long-term, co-operative excavation of the site many now believe to be the legendary Paionian city of Bylazora. The Paionians were the people who inhabited the core of ancient Macedonia (the Axios / Vardar River watershed) before the arrival of the Macedonians themselves (Fig. 1). As the Macedonians began to conquer the Paionians, they neither expelled nor exterminated the Paionians. Rather, the Paionians remained a significant ethnic component within the ancient Macedonian kingdom.



Figure 1. Paionia.

In October of 2010 Mr. Ilija Stoilev, the new Director of the People's Museum of Sveti Nikole, invited the TFAHR International Field School to return to Sveti Nikole for its fourth season of excavation at Bylazora. On behalf of TFAHR, we accepted the invitation. From 2008 to 2011 the TFAHR International Field School has provided 117 places for archaeologists, professors, teachers, students, and volunteers from 19 different countries at the Bylazora excavations. Dig members participate in all aspects of archaeological work: actual excavation, pottery washing, finds analysis, restoration, documentation, and publication. Participants pay their own way to Bylazora and TFAHR pays for their room and board,

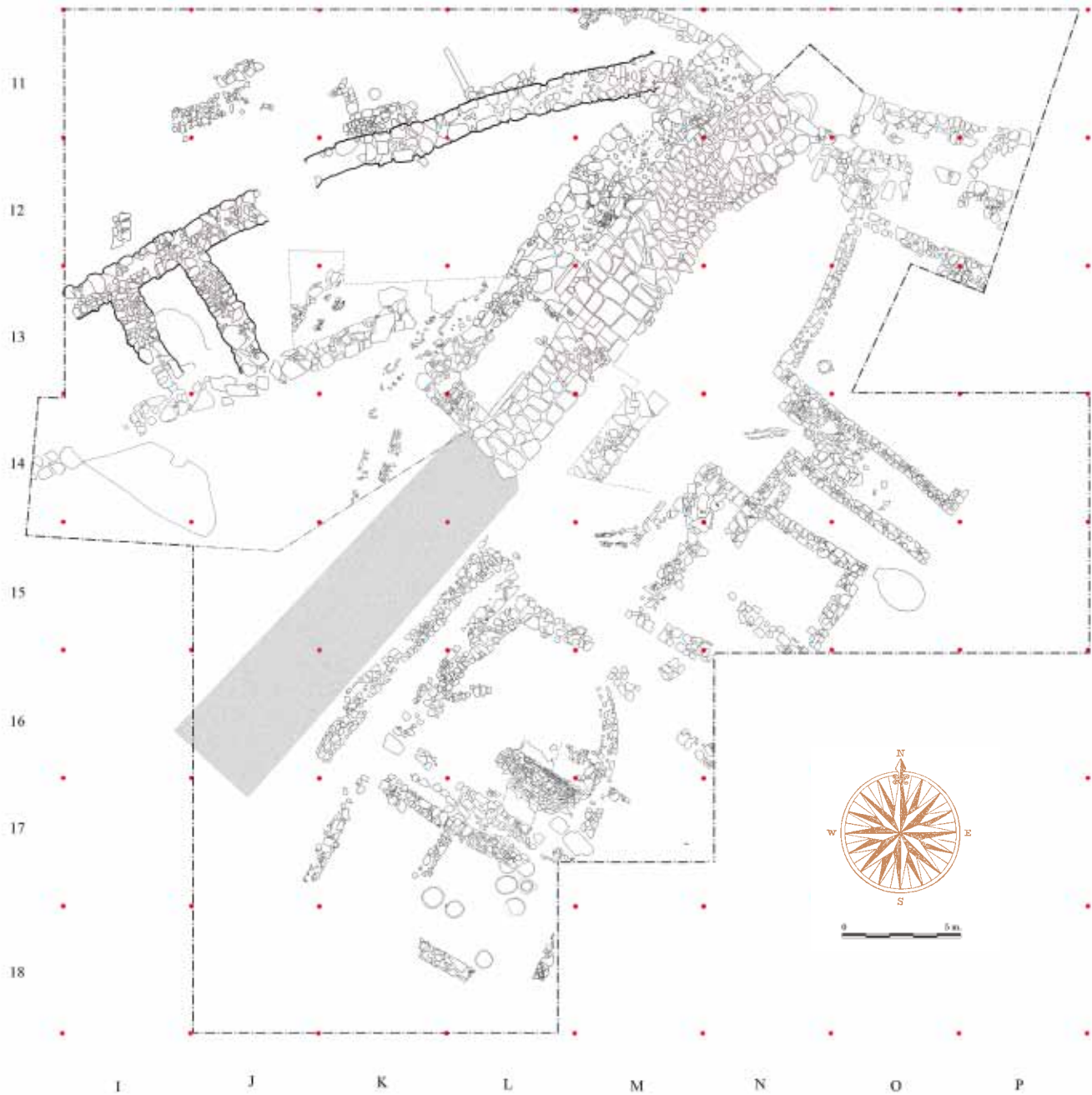
equipment, supplies, transportation to the site, and transportation on regular field trips to other historical sites in Macedonia. Weekly lectures are another feature of the TFAHR International Field School. TFAHR has also incorporated into our team on the dig local high school students, volunteers from the United States Peace Corps, and visitors from the USA and the Republic of Macedonia. In addition, TFAHR hires workmen from Sveti Nikole and the nearby village of Knezje.

Mr. Stoilev asked where TFAHR would like to concentrate its efforts in the 2011 season. We chose to continue our work on the acropolis, as well as to open an exploratory sounding on the middle terrace below the acropolis. In previous years on the acropolis we had discovered a propylon (monumental gateway), a defensive casemate wall, a number of terraced buildings, the remains of a structure of the Doric order, and the western acropolis wall and gate. Work continued around previous years' trenches, both expanding and deepening them. The results, as the following articles will show, were both exciting and unexpected.

The site we are digging is tentatively identified as Bylazora (called the largest of the Paionian cities by the ancient Greek historian, Polybius). It was only so identified in 1976 by Ivan Mikulcic, who, contrary to the prevailing opinion at the time, suggested looking for the fabled city not at nearby Veles but at Sveti Nikole. Other identifications for the site have been proffered over the years, but none of them very convincing. Following Mikulcic's suggestion, a few small soundings were made at the site in the 1980s and 1990s. Extensive excavations commenced with TFAHR's invitation to dig in 2008.

The results of the first four seasons are shedding light on an interesting aspect of ancient Greek, Macedonian, and Paionian history, that is, the extent of the Hellenization of those peoples who came in contact with the ancient Greeks. Our excavations are producing evidence of a rapid and early Hellenization at Bylazora: importation of Greek ceramics, use of the Greek alphabet, imitation of Greek ceramic shapes, and construction utilizing the classical Greek architectural orders. Our task is to try to ascertain what were the direct borrowings of the Paionians from the Greeks and what came to the Paionians via the Macedonians, who themselves were undergoing a process of Hellenization (or, more properly speaking, Atticization) since the reign of their king Archelaos I (*reg.* 412-399 BC). This would, of course, demand knowledge of just how thoroughly Macedonia occupied and controlled the Paionians of Bylazora, a knowledge which, unfortunately, we do not possess. But slowly we are piecing together the picture of life at ancient Bylazora: the history of the city, the trade patterns of the Paionians, external cultural and political influences, and how the Bylazorans lived, built, worshipped, and defended themselves.

### Sector 3: The Acropolis of Bylazora



# Did the Derrones Settle Bylazora?

By **Slawomir Szyska**



When we speak of the Paionians (Παῖονες, Paeones) we are actually referring to a collection of tribes that trace their ancestry back to Paion (Παίων, Paeon), the son of Endymion (Pausanias 5.1.5). Of the Paionian tribes Herodotus mentions the Siriopaeones, the Doberes, and the Paeoplae; Thucydides mentions the Agrianes, Almopians, and the Laeaeans; both mention the Odomati. And then there are the Derrones, a tribe not mentioned in any extant ancient sources, but known exclusively from the coins they minted in antiquity. Finally, when Thucydides (II:96 *seq.*) discusses Sitalkes' invasion of Macedonia in 429 BC, he alludes to "the independent (αὐτονομῶν) Paionians" living beyond the upper flow of the Strymon (Struma) River. The question now becomes: can we correlate the "independent Paionians" with the coins of the Derrones and the evidence from the Bylazora excavations?

During the Peloponnesian War, Sitalkes, the Odrysian king of Thrace, was coaxed by Athens to invade Macedonia. For this venture Sitalkes summoned the Paionian tribes of the Agrianes and Laeaeans, tribes already subject to him, beyond whom lived "the independent Paionians," who did not join in the invasion. Thucydides locates the Agrianes and Laeaeans on the upper flow of the Strymon and "the independent Paionians" beyond that (Fig. 2). Beyond the upper flow of the Strymon lies the area in the Republic of Macedonia called the Ovce Pole (the Sheep Plain), in the center of which is the site many archaeologists think is ancient Bylazora. Sitalkes took his army to Doberos, "losing none of his army

on the march, except perhaps by sickness," and then down the Axios (Vardar) River to Idomene, Gortynia, Atalanta, and Europus (Thucydides II:98-100). Sitalkes marched away from the territory of the independent Paionians, since after all, Macedonia, not Paionia, was the focus of the expedition.

The coins of the Derrones are interesting for a number of reasons: the witness they bear to the Hellenization of the Derrones, their date, and their provenience. Some of the silver coins (generally 34-41 grams) bear names like Euergetes, Egko(nos), or Doki(mos) written in Greek characters, names perhaps of tribal leaders. The coins are commonly dated from 520-480 BC, making them the oldest coins minted by any of the Paionians. If the silver was mined at Pangaia, near the mouth of the Strymon, as is generally believed, then this explains why the minting stops in 480 BC. This is when southern Paionia was conquered by the Persians and their Macedonian allies (Herodotus V:12-17). Did the Derrones then retreat further up north and beyond the Strymon River?

N. G. L. Hammond believed that "the Derrones' territory lay in the area of Stip and the Zletovo-Kratovo mines."<sup>1</sup> A similar conclusion was reached by P. Popovic.<sup>2</sup> And E. Petrova<sup>3</sup> argued that in this same area the Derrones might have been on the path of intertribal unification, a prelude to the establishment of some kind of state. Petrova also suggested that Thucydides' reference to independent Paionians might have been an allusion to the Derrones.

So, our working hypothesis is this: the Derrones, an early Hellenized Paionian tribe, were pushed north up and beyond the Strymon River by the Persian invasion of Xerxes in 480 BC. The Derrones consolidated their power in this region. When Thucydides referred to the independent Paionians of Sitalkes' 429 BC venture, he might have been referring to the Derrones. The next question to be answered: is there any Paionian site in the area that shows early signs of Hellenization and is fortified well enough to assure its independent status? Bylazora?

During the 2008-2011 excavations we have uncovered large sections of a defensive wall on the acropolis of Bylazora in Sectors 3 and 6.<sup>4</sup> The wall in Sector 6 is most formidable, but as yet we have no secure dating for it. The area of the casemate wall in Sector 3 provides us with better information.

As explained in the following articles in more detail, the northern part of the acropolis was defended by a wall in whose currently exposed circuit we found the remains of two towers. A road entered the summit of the acropolis between these towers. But the towers were dismantled and a ceremonial propylon was built over the road and the bases of the towers (Fig. 21, 24). The propy-



**Figure 2.** Paionian tribes.

lon was destroyed in the mid-4th century BC, perhaps by Philip II when he conquered Paionia in 358 BC, and squatters moved into the ruins of the propylon. The ceramic evidence dates the end of this “First Squatter Period” to *ca.* 300-275 BC,<sup>5</sup> which neatly correlates with the invasion of the Danubian Gauls in 279 BC. But it is the date of the construction of the propylon that most concerns us.

The propylon utilized cut blocks from earlier buildings in its construction. One of the most important is a small triglyph fragment found in N11.16, the foundation of the western tower of the

propylon. It is similar to a triglyph and metope block re-used in another building nearby (**Fig. 29, 30**). If the propylon was destroyed in 358 BC, then it must have been built earlier in the 4th century or in the late 5th century BC, meaning that the original dismantled towers predate that and the triglyph fragment came from a building earlier than the 4th century or late 5th century BC. The use of the Greek Doric architectural order so far north in Paionia points to an early Hellenized tribe, perhaps the Derrones.

## FOOTNOTES:

- <sup>1</sup> N. G. L. Hammond, *History of Macedonia*, pages 75-79. Oxford 1979.
- <sup>2</sup> Petar Popovic, “Central Balkans between the Greek and Celtic world: case study Kale-Krševica,” page 530, *Homage to Milutin Garašanin*, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Belgrade 2006.
- <sup>3</sup> Eleonora Petrova, *Paeonia in the 2 and the 1 millennia BC*, page 166-167, Skopje 1999.
- <sup>4</sup> For the full initial report on the walls, see Eulah Matthews and William Neidinger, *The 2010 Excavation at Bylazora, Republic of Macedonia*, pages 8-19. The Texas Foundation for Archaeological and Historical Research, Canyon Lake, Texas. October 2010.
- <sup>5</sup> Stokke, Jo-Simon, “The Chronology of Bylazora: The Ceramic Evidence,” *The 2009 Excavation at Bylazora, Republic of Macedonia*. The Texas Foundation for Archaeological and Historical Research. Canyon Lake, Texas. October 2009.

**EDITORS’ NOTE:** A ceremonial pool was discovered at the base of Bylazora in 1994 (see the article by Pablo Aparicio Resco, “The Sacred Pool of Bylazora,” *The 2010 Excavation at Bylazora, Republic of Macedonia*, pages 34-37, The Texas Foundation for Archaeological and Historical Research, Canyon Lake, Texas. October 2010). It appears to have been constructed largely from stones from dismantled buildings. On two of the stones there are inscriptions in Greek characters, KEP, perhaps mason marks. Z. Georgiev, the original excavator of the pool, dates the inscriptions on stylistic grounds to the 5th c. BC. Whether that dates the building of the pool to that time or not is problematic, but it does mean that the stones were probably quarried in the 5th c. BC by men who utilized a Greek alphabet.

## THE SACRED POOL OF BYLAZORA

By Pablo Aparicio Resco

In 1994 bulldozers digging for road base material at the village of Knežje, near the town of Sveti Nikole, uncovered a large stone structure at the foot of the hill of Bylazora. The structure was excavated and published by Zoran Georgiev that same year (Georgiev 1994). Georgiev argued that the structure was a fortified well (that is, a well with a tower above it) that was part of the defensive walls of Bylazora. After examining parallels in the Mediterranean world, we will suggest another possibility: that the structure is a monumental sacred pool. The longitudinal axis of the structure, running from the steps to the opposite wall (**Fig. 39**), is oriented to the sunset of the summer solstice. The position where the sun sets on this day (21 June) in this place (Sveti Nikole), is 303° 25' off north on a completely flat horizon (Meteorological information from <http://www.gsis.com>, with data obtained from the NASA Langley Research Center Atmospheric Science Data Center; New et al. 2002. Compared with the astronomical computer program “Cartes du Ciel”). The pool is oriented to 302°, which corresponds closely enough to the sunset point, the discrepancy perhaps due to the fact that the horizon is not completely flat but obscured by small hills. It was no accident that the pool was oriented to the summer solstice sunset.

a dismantled building or buildings on the acropolis; this might account for the different types and sizes of the stones and the various stages of dressing. Still, the ultimate location of the original quarry or quarries remains unknown. If the stones did not come from a nearby quarry and had to be transported on carts from a distant location, this speaks of a very complex organization involving high costs and many workers. Rough cutting would have been done in the quarry. Final cutting would surely have been done at the construction site itself because, although all the stones are ashlars, they are of different sizes in each course, that is, a pseudo-isodomic construction (**Fig. 40**).

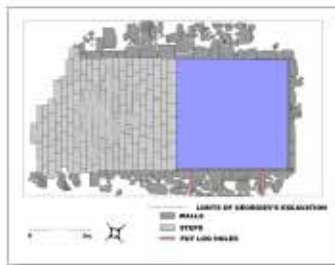


Figure 39. Bird's eye view of sacred pool.

The location of the quarry that supplied the stones for the sacred pool is not known. In the immediate vicinity of Bylazora there are no limestone quarries. There is the possibility that the stones of the pool came from



Figure 40. The sacred pool's northwest wall (above, left), northeast wall (below, right).

# The 2011 Excavation Season at Bylazora

By Eulah Matthews and William Neidinger

Since TFAHR's arrival at Bylazora in 2008 nearly all our efforts have been devoted to excavating the acropolis (Fig. 3). Our first trenches were placed in Sectors 1, 2, and 3. The trenches in the first two sectors were placed on the highest points of the acropolis, on the southern ridge; unfortunately, they were dry holes. The southern ridge of the acropolis underwent significant alteration by the Yugoslavian army, which, amongst other endeavors, built a line of machine gun emplacements here, the remains of which can still be seen.

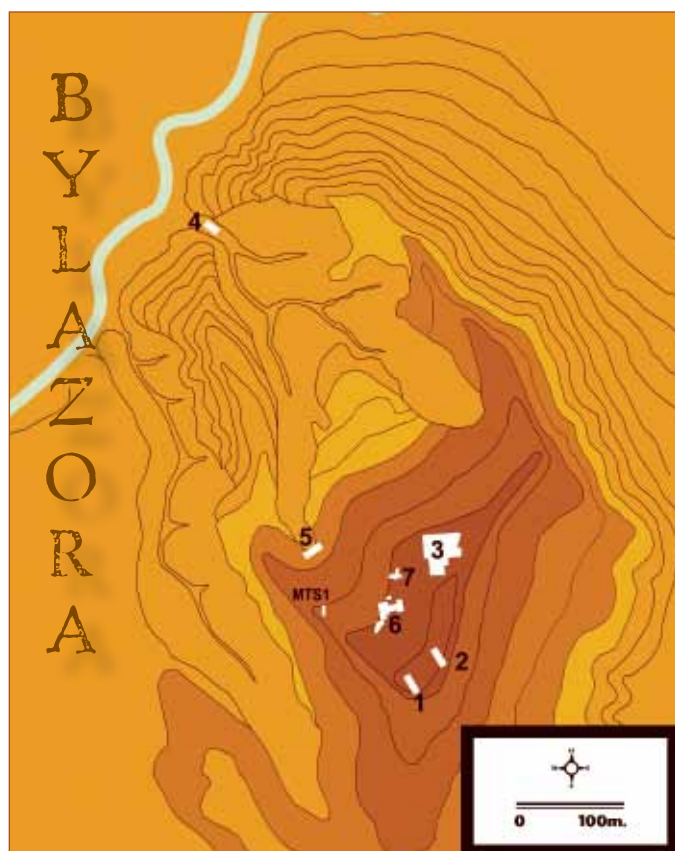


Figure 3. Bylazora.

## Sector 3. The Casemate Wall.

Sector 3, on the northern ridge of the acropolis, was sited where Ivan Mikulcic had dug a sounding in the early 1970s. Although this trench was back-filled in the 1990s, its location was well documented and easy to locate. In short order we located the

acropolis defensive wall, which Mikulcic had already discovered, and expanded our excavations in all directions. Only about ten meters to the east of Mikulcic's sounding, we discovered in 2008 what we soon came to realize was a propylon (see following article).

One of the features of this acropolis wall (M11.2) that always struck us as peculiar was its thinness, about 1.10 meters. While perhaps this might be considered thick in absolute terms for a wall, for a major defensive wall of a city it is certainly not all that substantial. How could it have withstood a siege? How could it have supported a rampart for soldiers defending the city? The mystery was solved in the 2010 season. Wall M11.2 was only the outer wall of a casemate wall that fortified this section of the acropolis of Bylazora. The inner wall of the casemate wall (J13.12) and the outer wall (M11.2) were joined together by walls J13.8 and J13.7. The roof covering the magazines would have served as the fighting platform for the soldiers defending the city.

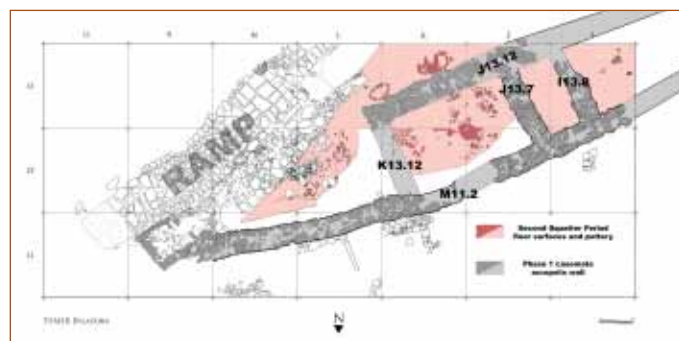
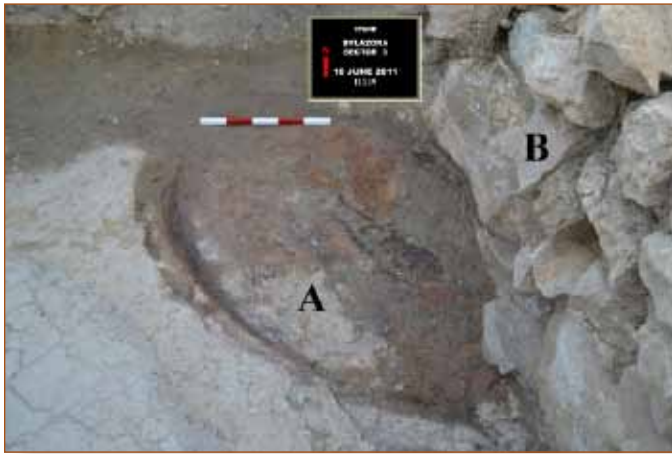


Figure 4. The casemate wall.



Figure 5. Burned terracotta surfaces beneath casemate walls.

In the 2011 season we uncovered more of this inner wall (J13.12) as we dug new trenches which expanded Sector 3 to the west. We also dug deeper to the south of J13.12 and between walls I13.8 and J13.7. From previous years' excavations, we knew that the casemate wall was built directly atop structures from an earlier period. These structures were large terracotta surfaces that bore traces of fire, perhaps bases atop which portable hearths or kilns were placed (**Fig. 5 and 6**). This season we uncovered near these terracotta surfaces a small double kiln (I13.52), with its floor, walls, and central column of the fuel chamber partially preserved (**Fig. 7**).



**Figure 6.** Terracotta-lined pit (A) showing evidence of burning, under casemate wall (B).



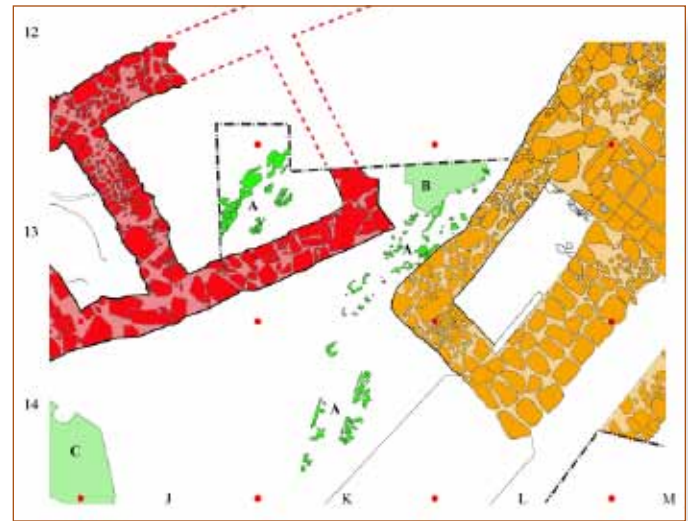
**Figure 7.** Building with double kiln.

- A. Northern chamber of double kiln I13.52
- B. Southern chamber of double kiln I13.52.
- C. Central column of fuel chamber.
- D. Beaten earth floor.
- E. Clay wall I13.54.
- F. Post hole.
- G. Casemate wall I13.8.
- H. Casemate wall J13.12.
- I. Robber trench in casemate wall J13.12.

This small double kiln (**7A, 7B**) was found in the context of a larger structure. The kiln was partially sunk into a beaten earth floor (**7D**) and this floor abutted the remains of a well-built clay wall (I13.54, **7E**), extant to *ca.* 0.15 meter high. At the corner where the walls met, a post hole (**7F**) was found. Unfortunately, the full extent of this building and the relationship between the double kiln and the terracotta surfaces will never be known, because magazine wall I13.8 (**7G**) and the inner casemate wall (J13.12, **7H**) both cut right through the scant remains of this building. Further amplifying the damage to the structure were the quarrymen who quarried away the inner casemate wall (J13.12, **7I**) after the abandonment of Bylazora in the 2nd c. BC. Unfortunately, the only bit of ceramic evidence from either chamber of the kiln was a single Paionian grey ware pyramidal loomweight, which, if contemporary with the kiln and not a later intrusion from the magazine, allows us to say only that the kiln dates to the very late 5th c. BC or later.

### Sector 3. The Iron Age strata.

The decision was made by the People's Museum and TFAHR to leave the casemate wall intact but to dig deeper on either side of it where no structures would impede excavation. Before we reached the lowest foundation courses of the casemate wall, the remains of Iron Age structures began to appear. It seems that the casemate wall was dug down into these Iron Age strata, wrecking rather thoroughly whatever remained of these structures (**Fig. 8**).



**Figure 8.** Walls in red - casemate walls.  
Walls in orange - the propylon.  
Walls in green - structures of the Iron Age.  
A. Long walls of upright stones, packed with clay and wattle and daub.  
B. Hard packed pebble surface.  
C. Fallen clay wall.

We were able to trace the lines of two long walls built in the usual fashion of thin upright stones with clay or wattle and daub packed between them (**Fig. 9**). Alongside one wall were stone bases (perhaps for columns?); a packed pebble surface may have been a

porch of this building. But the casemate wall was dug through the long walls and pebble surface making an interpretation of their relationship rather difficult. This structure, whatever it may have been, met a fiery end. Great quantities of burnt wattle and daub, ash, slag, and charred timbers were found scattered across the area. A small hearth with burnt bones still *in situ* was found nearby, but its relationship to the building was obfuscated by the intrusion of the foundation of the propylon walls in this area. The pottery from this area was clearly of the Iron Age (Fig. 10).



**Figure 9.** Iron Age structures in Sector 3.  
A. Casemate wall J13.17.  
B. Floor level of magazine in casemate wall.  
C. Long wall of Iron Age structure.  
D. Stone bases for columns (?).



**Figure 10.** Pottery from the Iron Age strata.

To the west of this burnt area we unearthed a large wall of clay (Fig. 11), which had fallen over on its side. Part of this collapsed wall was cut away by the casemate wall but otherwise it provided a perfect seal over whatever lay beneath. As it turned out, lying beneath the clay wall and atop the floor were the remains of various ceramic vessels, including an amphora (Fig. 12).

We were not able to excavate an extensive enough area of Sector 3's Iron Age strata to determine the nature and layout of the acropolis of Iron Age Bylazora. But there remains a large enough area of classical Bylazora covered only by a packed pebble surface that might provide sufficient room for further soundings down into the Iron Age strata.



**Figure 11.** Cleaning a large clay wall fallen on its side.



**Figure 12.** An amphora was found on the floor beneath the collapsed clay wall.

### Sector 3. A Second Squatter Period Building (late 3rd – early 2nd c. BC).

Throughout Sector 3 we had noticed that people had moved into and established residences in many of the formerly public structures of the acropolis: the casemate wall, the propylon, the terrace buildings. The ceramic evidence dates this stratum to the late 3rd – early 2nd century BC, that is, the last days of Bylazora. In the southern trenches of Sector 3 we have uncovered a very large structure of this period (Fig. 13).

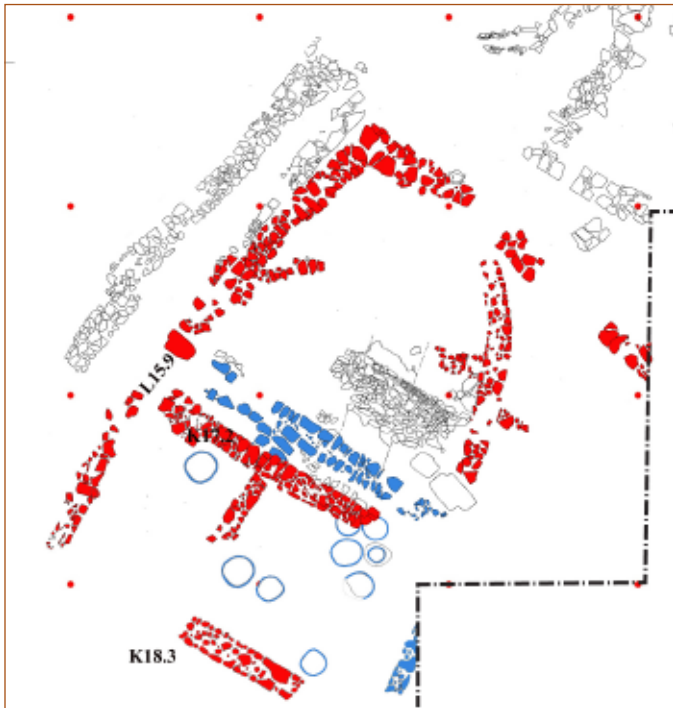


Figure 13. Walls in red: Second Squatter Period building. Walls in blue: earlier building.



Figure 14. New trenches of the Second Squatter Period building, excavated in 2011.  
A. Walls of Second Squatter Period building.  
B. Walls of earlier building.

This building was very poorly built and is poorly preserved. Most of the walls remain no more than one or two courses high. Although the wall closest to the street (L15.9) is thick, the internal walls of the building are thin and not straight. A few very large (1.15 m<sup>3</sup>) blocks, clearly from another building, were found scattered about this structure. And some of the walls were built directly atop pithoi of an earlier structure.

In an attempt to ascertain the nature of this building, in the 2011 season we opened a new series of trenches abutting this building to the south, further up the acropolis. Beneath the usual roof tile fall we discovered another internal wall (K18.3), unusual in the fact that it was very solidly built but not attached to any other wall of the structure (Fig. 13, 14A). Surrounding this wall was a thick layer of broken amphoras, pithoi, smaller vessels, loom weights, and a re-cut stone bearing an inscription (see article on page 18). We noticed that all the pithoi in this room had been pulled up out of the ground before they were smashed, as if someone were looking for something. It is silent testimony, perhaps, to Bylazora's violent end.

Once we cleared the beaten earth floor of this building of all the roof tile and ceramic debris, we then had an extensive area to dig deeper. We chose a section between wall K18.3 and wall K17.2 where we had noticed that the wall had been constructed directly atop pithoi which obviously belonged to an earlier building. Not only did we discover the remains of the floor of this earlier building, but we also found an additional 9 pithoi of this same structure. We excavated the pithoi, recovering a skyphos from one and a cut-away spout pitcher from another. The scant remains of the eastern and northern walls of this building were also found. The end of the season precluded any further excavation. To determine the function of the Second Squatter Period structure and the building it was built over will require another season of excavation.

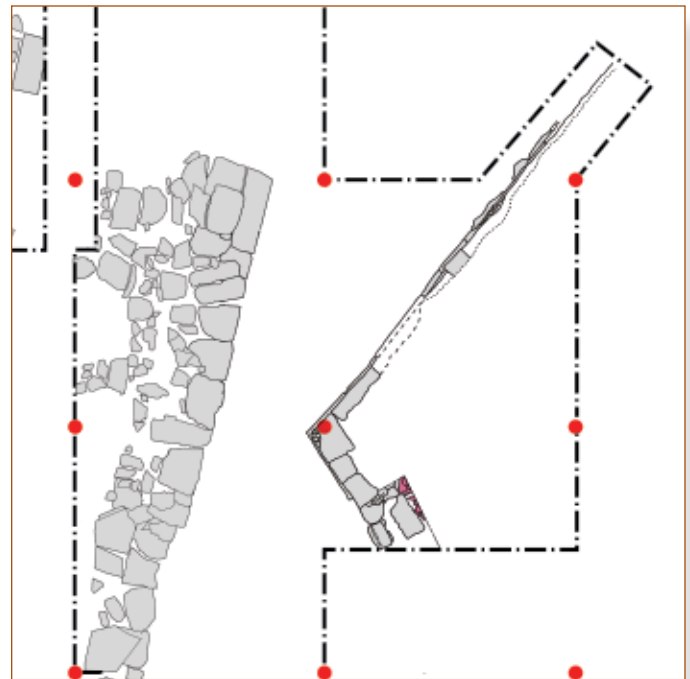


Figure 15. Ground plan of the "stoa" in Sector 6.

## Sector 6. A Stoa?

During the 2010 season we discovered in Sector 6 (**Fig. 3**) a pile of 17 limestone blocks from a Doric order building, a stretch of what is obviously the acropolis defensive wall, and the remains of the western gate. We had hoped that the “Doric stones” might be from a temple, but research indicated that they probably came from a stoa or colonnade of some sort.<sup>1</sup> Most of the stones were cut up and tossed into a heap (**Fig. 32**). Around this pile of stones was a mass of ash, quicklime, and crazed and cracked stones. Bits of a clay kiln and slag were also found scattered about. Analysis indicated that there were abundant trace elements of limestone – all pointing to a lime burning process.<sup>2</sup> In 2010 we searched in vain for the remains of the building from which these stones came.

In the last few days of the 2011 season we opened a small probe less than 10 meters away from the pile of “Doric stones.” The outer corner (forming a 105° angle) of a building of well cut stones was found less than 0.15 meter beneath the surface. As we cleared more of the topsoil away, more portions of the wall were found just centimeters below the grass. On the last day we dug a shallow exploratory trench (really just scraping the grass and topsoil away) to uncover the full extent of this wall (**Fig. 15**). But time ran out on us.



**Figure 16.** Northwest corner of the stoa.

By the end of the last hour of the last day we had exposed what we believe are the back wall and side wall of a stoa. We never managed to uncover the full extent of either wall; what we unearthed were walls measuring 13.5 meters and 4.5 meters, joined at a 105° angle (**Fig. 16**). At the ancient ground level the stones are large (some 1.0 x .60 meters) followed by a course of smaller stones. Both courses of stones are extremely friable, indicating that they had been exposed to an intense heat. The upper course of stones is in particularly bad condition due to its proximity to the surface.

Beneath the ancient ground level we exposed the stylobate and stereobate courses of the stoa (**Fig. 17**). Being beneath ground level, neither course had been exposed to the fire, and, therefore, the stones are in excellent condition. We believe that the excavation of the stoa in the 2012 season will yield particularly interesting results, not just regarding the structure itself but also because of its general location on the acropolis. It seems to lie alongside the western gate and adjacent to a casemate wall. This may break new ground in our understanding Paionian-Macedonian city planning.



**Figure 17.** The back wall of the stoa.

- A. Extant upper courses of stoa.
- B. Stylobate course.
- C. Stereobate course.

## Sector 7. The Pithoi.

One of the objectives of the 2011 season was to connect the sections of acropolis wall found previously in Sectors 3 and 6. We thought it would be a simple matter of projecting the curvature of the walls along the clearly defined ridge of the acropolis. So, we extrapolated a line connecting the two sectors and about halfway along this line we established Sector 7 (**Fig. 3**). We were eager to see how the thin acropolis wall of Sector 3 intersected with the thick acropolis wall of Sector 6. But in Sector 7 we found no acropolis walls! Instead of a wall of any sort, we found a field of 13 pithoi just a few centimeters below the surface. Of the 13 pithoi, 12 were set into a clay bed that had been dug into the virgin soil (**Figs. 18 and 19**).

By their very nature pithoi are vessels that are set down into the ground. These pithoi must have been in the cellar or ground floor of some sort of building. Numerous roof tiles suggest that there was some structure covering the pithoi, but, other than the tiles, not a trace of this building remains. No walls, no robber trenches give any indication of what had been built here. A single large cut limestone block was found amongst the pithoi, but being that it was essentially in topsoil, its original provenience is uncertain.

Within the pithoi we retrieved a great many artifacts: pithos fragments, roof tiles, pithos rims with inscriptions, smaller vessels, and a number of pithos bases. Since all of the 13 pithoi we discovered still had their bases intact and in the ground, this must mean that additional pithoi were situated nearby but had been ripped out of the ground in the destruction of the building.

The nature of this phantom building remains enigmatic. It would have been situated right where we expected the acropolis wall to be. Might it have been part of the defensive wall itself? Deep trenches were dug to either side of Sector 7 and this pithoi field, but immediately beneath the grass and thin layer of topsoil, virgin earth was reached. Our normal experience at Bylazora has been that the ancient looters and quarrymen of the city left behind traces of their activities in the form of robber trenches. But in Sector 7 everything has been removed right down to the subsoil and the pithoi imbedded in it. Might the Yugoslavian army have significantly altered the topography of the acropolis when they utilized it for their war games?

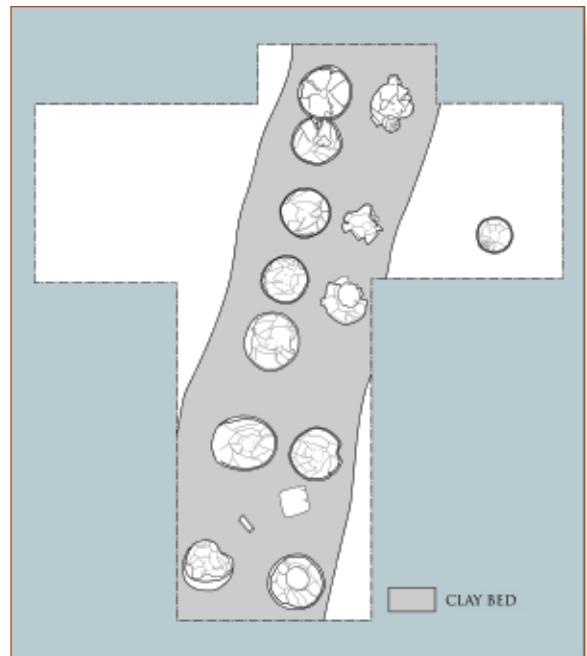


Figure 18. The pithoi in Sector 7.

## Second Terrace Sounding.

Another of the objectives of the 2011 season was to discover what buildings might be found on the Second Terrace (middle terrace) of the hill. To this end we opened up a 5 x 15 meters long trench on the northwest part of the middle terrace below the acropolis (Fig. 3). Just beneath the topsoil we uncovered many small walls (Fig. 20). The nature of the walls leads us to believe that we are in the residential area of ancient Bylazora. The ceramic finds from this middle terrace excavation date the occupation of these buildings to the last days of Bylazora. Only further excavation will reveal the layout of this residential quarter and the existence of any earlier buildings.

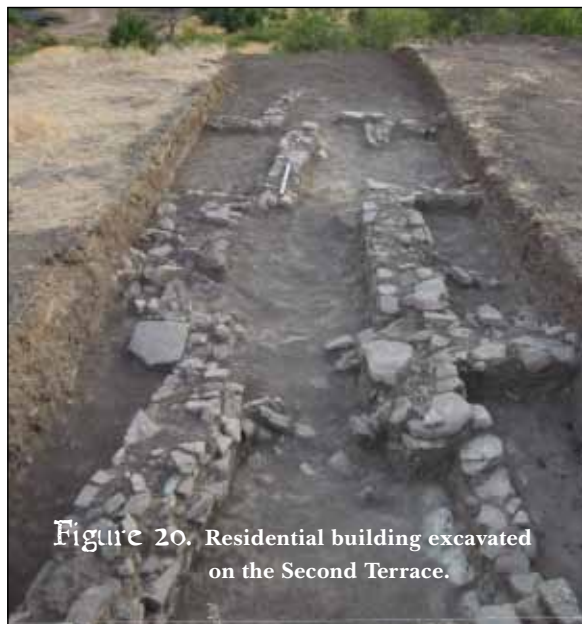


Figure 20. Residential building excavated on the Second Terrace.



Figure 19. The pithoi in Sector 7.

## ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Egerer, K.T., "The Architectural Blocks of Sector 6," *The 2010 Excavation. Bylazora Republic of Macedonia*, pages 20-25. The Texas Foundation for Archaeological and Historical Research. Canyon Lake, Texas. October 2010.
- <sup>2</sup> McAree, D.F., "Evidence for Lime-Burning at Bylazora," *The 2010 Excavation. Bylazora Republic of Macedonia*, pages 38-40. The Texas Foundation for Archaeological and Historical Research. Canyon Lake, Texas. October 2010.

# The Propylon

By Amy Donaldson, Eulah Matthews,  
William Neidinger, and Slawomir Szyszka<sup>1</sup>

In 2008, TFAHR's first season at Bylazora, an inclined, paved road was unearthed on the northern side of the acropolis; it was, as we came to realize, part of a propylon, a monumental gateway (**Fig. 21**). In subsequent years we expanded our excavations around the propylon and adjacent city walls and deeper alongside the ramp. Now, at the end of the 2011 season, we have a good idea about both the history and composition of the propylon.



**Figure 21.** The propylon at Bylazora.

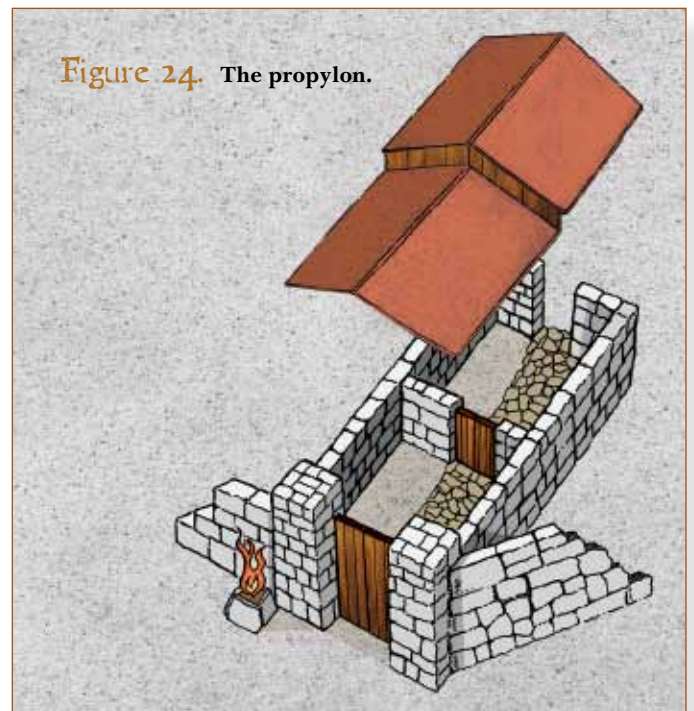


**Figure 22.** The propylon, with the casemate wall extending to the west.

Before the construction of the propylon (which we tentatively date to the late 5th century BC), this particular stretch of the northern part of the acropolis was defended by a 1.1 meter thick defensive wall (M11.2), the western part of which, as presently uncovered, is part of a casemate wall (**Fig. 22**). Along this stretch of wall we believe there were two large towers. Between the towers a *ca.* 4.0 meters wide road (probably just dirt) with flat sidewalk flagstones on either side led up to the acropolis (**Fig. 23**). In front of the easternmost tower we discovered the remains of a small altar, surrounded by a great quantity of ash (**26C**). Such altars at the entrances to cities are a commonplace all over the ancient Mediterranean.



**Figure 23.** Remains of the earlier road can be seen under the later ramp of the propylon.  
A. Sidewalk paving stones of earlier road.  
B. Propylon ramp M12.7.  
C. Propylon threshold M13.8.



**Figure 24.** The propylon.

In the late fifth century the Bylazorans built their propylon (**Fig. 24**). This entailed demolishing the two large towers and building two smaller, perhaps ceremonial, towers (the western tower is N11.16, the eastern tower was completely quarried away later in the 2nd century BC); the remains of the foundations of the earlier western tower were exposed beneath the western ceremonial tower and then recovered in the 2010 season. The remains of the foundation of the earlier eastern tower were so badly destroyed by later ancient quarry men, that it is difficult to discern whether there truly was a tower here, or just an exceptionally thick section of city wall (**Fig. 26A**). The two small ceremonial towers now flanked an inclined ramp (M12.7) built directly atop the earlier road. To inaugurate the construction of the propylon and to ensure the blessings of the gods for this project, the Bylazorans laid down a large terracotta surface atop the old road surface, where they sacrificed and burned some small animals. We found the remains of this terracotta altar (PPS.8) and the charred bones directly beneath the stones of the ramp (**Fig. 25**). Beneath the altar were two parallel lines of field stones, and a small deposit of charred grain.<sup>2</sup>



**Figure 25.** Terracotta altar directly beneath the stones of the propylon ramp.

The inclined ramp led up to a gated threshold (M13.8), which, in turn, led to a small rectangular room, whose paving stones were laid flat. Beyond this room was a large open area on the acropolis. Thick walls flanked this propylon complex; evidence of previous years' excavations suggests that the propylon was roofed over. At the northern end of the propylon, another small altar was built in front of the eastern tower, on a slightly higher level (**26E**). We found a great mass of ash and burnt bones around this altar.

What occasioned the building of the propylon remains a mystery. There is some speculation that the original wall and towers may have been destroyed during Sitalkes' invasion of Macedonia in 429 BC, but there is no possibility of verifying this hypothesis, and the only literary evidence (Thucydides II:96 *seq.*) does not mention Sitalkes venturing in the direction of Bylazora. But we must note that the foundation of the threshold (M13.8) of the inner propylon gate consists of large well dressed stones that appear



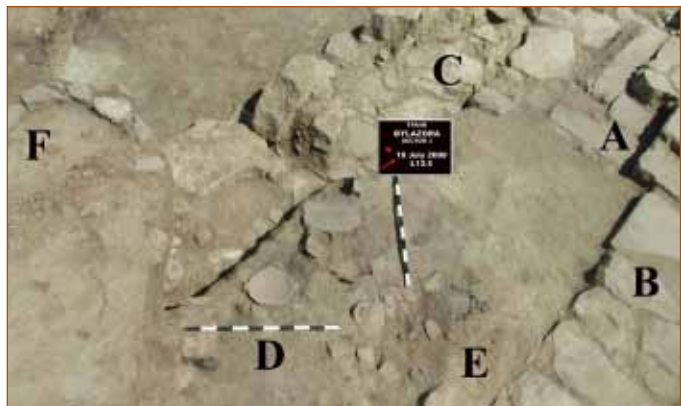
**Figure 26.** 2011 excavations at the north end of the propylon.

- A.** Foundations of a tower from the first phase of the acropolis fortifications (pre-propylon).
- B.** Acropolis defensive wall of the first phase.
- C.** Remains of an altar of the first phase.
- D.** Propylon.
- E.** Remains of an altar of the second phase (propylon).
- F.** Foundation of clay and small stones.
- G.** Last fortification wall of Bylazora, 3rd century BC.
- H.** Robber trench from quarrying away of last fortification wall.
- I.** Corner of terrace building.

to have been cut for an earlier building. This is in stark contrast to the stones of the western wall of the propylon (L12.10) that are irregularly shaped and only very roughly dressed. In addition, a re-used triglyph fragment (**Fig. 30**) was found in the foundation of the western ceremonial tower. This suggests that earlier (and finer) buildings were either destroyed or, less likely, dismantled and their stones used in the construction of the propylon.

The propylon was a short-lived structure. It may have been destroyed by Philip II when he conquered the Paionians in 358 BC; or it may have been destroyed by Lysimachus in 286 BC, when he forced Audoleon from the Paionian throne. Not only was the propylon ruined, but significant sections of the adjoining acropolis defensive wall were destroyed and quarried away. Soon squatters moved into the ruins of the propylon, utilizing what walls still remained standing. They added a few wattle and daub and clay walls (L13.11) of their own to these ruins. The ceramic evidence dates the end of this "First Squatter Period" to *ca.* 300-275 BC,<sup>3</sup> which neatly correlates with the invasion of the Danubian Gauls in 279 BC (**Fig. 27**).

The Paionians had regained their independence from Macedonia some time during this period. But in 217 BC, the Macedonian king Philip V conquered Bylazora (described by Polybius (V:97) as the largest city of the Paionians) and utilized the city as his northern defense against the warlike Dardanians, who were threatening Macedonia at the time. Philip V hastily repaired the northern acropolis walls around the ruined propylon.



**Figure 27** A. Inner threshold of propylon (M13.8).  
B. Paving stones of rectangular room of propylon.  
C. Western wall of propylon (L12.10).  
D. Pottery from First Squatter Period in rectangular room of propylon.  
E. Remains of clay wall (L13.11) of First Squatter Period.  
F. Hearth from Second Squatter Period.  
D and F are separated by approximately .60 meter of soil.

We found the remains of these last defensive walls. To the east of the propylon, a thick foundation of clay and small stones (26F) was laid down on top of mounds of rubble and a hastily re-built wall (26G) was built right atop this foundation, without sinking a foundation trench for the wall into the clay layer. To the west of the propylon, a mound of sand was laid where the original walls once stood, and then a new wall was constructed right atop this flimsy sand foundation. There is no evidence extant that allows us to determine whether Philip V repaired the propylon itself in any fashion.

Bylazora was destroyed and abandoned in the second century BC. It remains uncertain whether the city was laid waste during the Macedonian-Dardanian wars or as a result of the Roman con-

quest of the Balkans. After this legendary city lay abandoned for some time, quarrying operations began in earnest. Large buildings (like the propylon) and the acropolis walls (26H) were systematically dismantled, the largest stones being carried away. Smaller stones were piled up and burned down to make lime mortar. This would account for the lack of any stones being strewn about, as one would expect in a city that met a violent end.

What we discovered, rather, were robber trenches criss-crossing the site (Fig. 28). It seems that the quarrymen (Romans?) not only quarried away the stones of the walls of the buildings, but they worked down into the foundations of the walls as well, stopping only when it became too difficult to pry out and lift these lower stones.



**Figure 28.** The area of darker soil is the profile of a robber trench left after stones of the casemate wall were quarried away.

The propylon was quarried away right down into its foundations. There are no traces of the eastern ceremonial tower, only a scar in the ramp where it once stood. Likewise, little remains of the eastern wall of the propylon; along the ramp there are no stones at all, and in the rectangular room, just the foundations of the wall. One course remains of the western wall (L12.10) and two courses of the western ceremonial tower. The ramp (M12.7) and threshold are still largely intact, but that may be due to the fact that the quarrymen were using it as a road for their carts which were transporting the stones away. That would also account for the fact that all the vehicular wear on the threshold stones points to traffic leaving Bylazora.

Our research has not yielded any contemporary parallels to the Bylazora propylon in other parts of the Balkans. Perhaps we are looking at a native Paionian architectural form.

## ENDNOTES

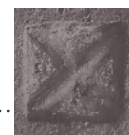
<sup>1</sup> Ideas about the propylon also came from conversations with Boban Husenovski (2008), Jo-Simon Stokke (2008 and 2009), and Frédéric Mège (2011).

<sup>2</sup> For a full analysis of the botanical samples sent by TFAHR to Archaeological and Archaeobotanical Workshop Arkadiusz Wiktor (ARCHBOT), see [http://www.tfahr.org/files/archbot\\_2011.pdf](http://www.tfahr.org/files/archbot_2011.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Stokke, Jo-Simon, "The Chronology of Bylazora: The Ceramic Evidence," *The 2009 Excavation. Bylazora Republic of Macedonia*. The Texas Foundation for Archaeological and Historical Research. Canyon Lake, Texas. October 2009.

# The Architectural Orders at Bylazora

By Eulah Matthews and William Neidinger



One particularly intriguing aspect of the Hellenization of the Paionians is the utilization at Bylazora of the classical Greek architectural orders. At present, the evidence suggests that the Bylazorans began building in the Hellenic tradition before their occupation by the Macedonians. The date of the arrival of the Macedonians is uncertain. We know that the city was occupied by Philip V in 217 BC, as mentioned by Polybius (V:97). Bylazora also may have been occupied by Lysimachus in 286 BC, when he forced Audoleon from the throne. Possibly the city was occupied as early as 358 BC when Philip II conquered the Paionians after the death of their king, Agis. Any Macedonian occupation of Bylazora prior to Philip II is doubtful. But there is evidence at Bylazora that the classical Greek architectural orders were in use before Philip II's invasion.



**Figure 29.** Doric triglyph and metope block re-used in a wall of the First Squatter Period.

## THE DORIC ORDER

Stones from Doric orders buildings have been found in Sectors 3, 6, and 7 on the acropolis. Various anta capitals have been found both in topsoil and re-used in late 3rd-2nd c. BC buildings; in neither case are they in contexts that would allow us to date their original use and carving. In addition, the stone bearing an inscription in Greek characters, also found in a 3rd-2nd c. BC building, seems to have been an anta capital re-carved to carry the inscription (See article on page 18).

In a First Squatter Period building, a triglyph and metope block was re-used in the construction of a rather flimsy wall (**Fig. 29**); again, the piece was removed from its original context. We can, however, say with reasonable certainty that it is older than the mid-fourth century BC, the beginning of the First Squatter Period.

Another fragment of a Doric triglyph was found in one of the towers of the propylon (**Fig. 30**). If the propylon was indeed destroyed by Philip II in 358 BC, as we are now postulating, then the propylon's construction can be dated to at least the early 4th c. BC. This means that the date of the triglyph fragment can easily be pushed back into the late 5th century BC. Although the triglyphs in the propylon tower and the First Squatter Period building are not exactly of the same dimensions, it is possible that they came from the same building.



**Figure 30.** Doric triglyph re-used in the western tower of the propylon.

In the 2011 season we uncovered a large Doric capital in the topsoil just above the acropolis defensive wall built by Philip V (**Fig. 31**). The capital may have been one of the re-used stones of the wall. Although it is of a different type of stone than the aforementioned triglyph fragments, in style and proportion it seems to be of the same age, late 5th century BC.



**Figure 31.** Doric capital discovered in 2011.



## THE CORINTHIAN ORDER<sup>3</sup>

In Sector 6 amidst the pile of stones of the Doric order that were about to be burned down for lime mortar, there is one large heat crazed and cracked block looking suspiciously like an unfinished Corinthian capital that had undergone an intense, fiery ordeal (**Fig. 34**). Its peculiar shape was commented upon by all of us during the 2010 excavations. Some suggested that it was a capital that never received its final dressing before it was sent to the lime burners. None of us pursued any further research on the stone simply because the likelihood of a Corinthian building at Bylazora seemed minimal. But in front of the People's Museum of Sveti Nikole there is a badly damaged, yet easily recognizable, Corinthian capital (**Fig. 35**). The sign beneath it states that it came from Knezje, the village at the foot of the hill of Bylazora. In 2010 and 2011 we talked with some of the workmen from Knezje about this stone.<sup>4</sup> They said that it indeed was taken by museum personnel from Knezje, but that it found its way to Knezje from the acropolis of Bylazora. Specifically, they said, it was found in our Sector 6 in a large trench dug by the Yugoslavian army in 1983 for their war games. After the army left, the men from Knezje made their way to the acropolis (which was part of their farmlands at the time), found the capital, and brought it down to the village, where it eventually came to the attention of the museum.<sup>5</sup>



**Figure 32.** Doric order architectural blocks from Sector 6.

The greatest concentration of Doric order stones was found in Sector 6 in 2010 (**Fig. 32**). We discovered column drums, a capital, triglyph and metope blocks, geison blocks, anta capitals, and architrave stones, chopped up and piled in a heap. Evidence suggests that they were about to be burned down for lime mortar<sup>1</sup>. Research pointed to the likelihood that they came from a stoa or colonnade of some sort.<sup>2</sup> Of particular importance in this identification was the fluted column stone that ended in faceting, a feature unique to stoas and colonnades. In the 2011 season we discovered near this pile of stones two walls which are very likely the back and side walls of a stoa (see page 10). Confirmation will come in the 2012 season's excavations.

## THE IONIC ORDER



Representing the Ionic order is a single painted volute discovered in Sector 6 in the 2010 season (**Fig. 33**). Its diminutive size seems to preclude its being a part of a weight bearing capital. Perhaps it comes from a decorative capital that served as a pedestal or stand. There is also the possibility that it is a volute detached from a Corinthian capital.



**Figure 33.** Painted Ionic volute from Sector 6.



**Figure 34.** This cracked stone may be an unfinished Corinthian capital; evidence of burning can be seen to the left of the capital.

The use of the Corinthian order at Bylazora at such an early date has widespread implications for the rate and depth of the penetration of Greek culture amongst the non-Greek peoples of the Balkans. After all, the premiere of the Corinthian capital was at the Temple of Apollo at Bassae (450-420 BC), and there it was just a single interior capital. In fact, the earliest uses of the Corinthian capital in temples and tholoi were as interior capitals.<sup>6</sup> The Choregic Monument of Lysicrates (Athens, 334 BC) was the first instance of the appearance of the Corinthian capital on the exterior



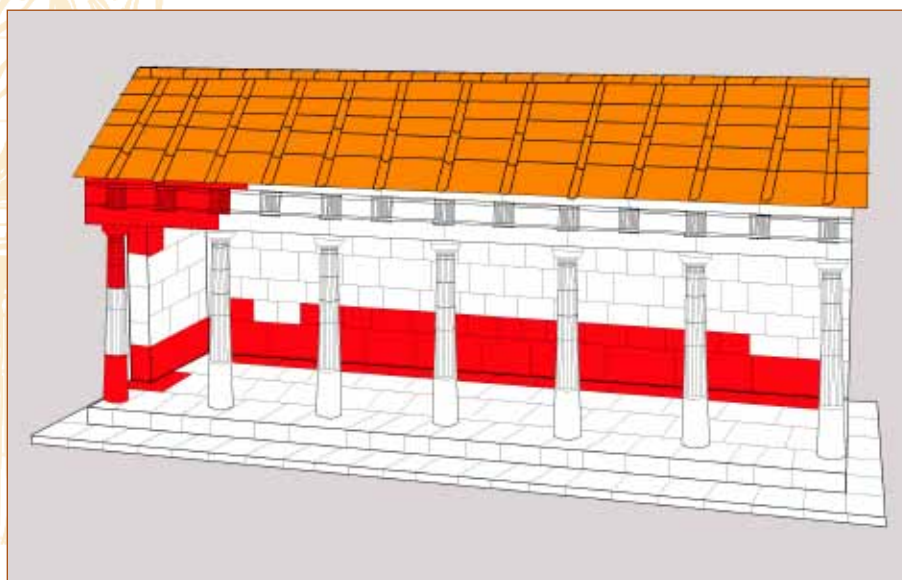
**Figure 35.** Corinthian capital at the People's Museum of Sveti Nikole.

of a building. If we set the date of the destruction of Bylazora to the first half of the 2nd c. BC, that gives us about a century and a half for this innovation to make its way from the Greek mainland

to Paionia. And since, as far as we know, there is no evidence of the Corinthian at Pella, this might indicate that it arrived in Paionia before it arrived in Macedonia.

In summary, what we might have at Bylazora is this: **1)** a Doric order building of perhaps the late 5th c. BC, whose stones were re-used in later structures; the foundation of this building (a temple?) remains to be discovered, if any of it is still extant; **2)** a Doric order stoa of the 4th-3rd c. BC, whose excavation awaits us in 2012 (**Fig. 36**); **3)** a structure employing Corinthian capitals; and **4)** possibly a building of the Ionic order.

There is always, of course, the possibility that the Ionic and Corinthian fragments were incorporated into an otherwise Doric order building. Or another possibility: that a Roman structure, employing Corinthian capitals, was constructed somewhere on the acropolis of Bylazora after the Paionians and Macedonians abandoned the city. If, as we suspect, it was the Romans who quarried away the large stones of Bylazora and burned down the cut stones for lime mortar, it is entirely feasible that they built some sort of building (a shrine?) for themselves during these quarrying operations.



**Figure 36.** Proposed reconstruction of the stoa at Bylazora. The red stones represent those that have so far been found in Sector 6.

## ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> McAree, D.F., "Evidence for Lime-Burning at Bylazora," *The 2010 Excavation. Bylazora Republic of Macedonia*. The Texas Foundation for Archaeological and Historical Research. Canyon Lake, Texas. October 2010.
- <sup>2</sup> Egerer, K.T., "The Architectural Blocks of Sector 6," *The 2010 Excavation. Bylazora Republic of Macedonia*. The Texas Foundation for Archaeological and Historical Research. Canyon Lake, Texas. October 2010.
- <sup>3</sup> We shall leave aside the debate as to whether the Corinthian is a true order or not.
- <sup>4</sup> These conversations were with Nedzat Ajdinov (translating), Grozde Davidov, Stanojko Kostadinovski, and Misko Tosev.
- <sup>5</sup> This capital was published by Victor Ilcik in *Arhitektonska kamena plastika u Republici Makedoniji od 1. do 6. vek n.e.*, Belgrade 1999, pages 26-29.
- <sup>6</sup> Dinsmoor, W.B., *The Architecture of Ancient Greece*, page 236. W.W. Norton and Company, New York, 1975.

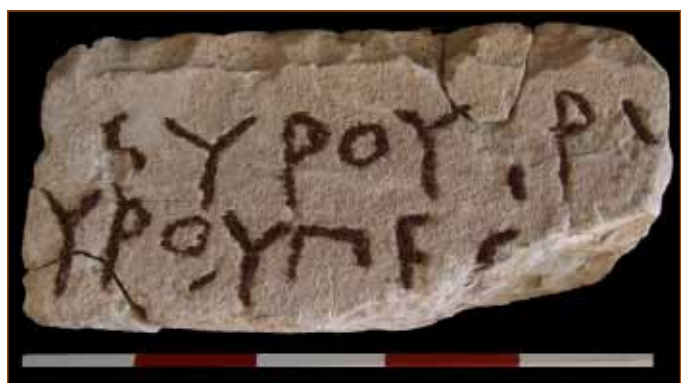
# AN INSCRIBED STONE from the Acropolis

By S. M. Oswald

During the 2011 excavation season an inscription on stone was uncovered on the acropolis of Bylazora (L18.3.5). The season finished before a squeeze or thorough study of the stone could be made, making this a preliminary report in the fullest sense. I hope to complete such a study in 2012, and, therefore, will only describe those letters that may be identified with confidence in the photos (at least 5 partial letters await examination).

Line 1. .YPOY.P

Line 2. YPOYΠE..



**Figure 37.** Inscription L18.3.5, from the acropolis of Bylazora.

The letters are of consistent length (*ca.* 7 cm.) except for the omicrons, which are miniature (2.5 cm.). The tails of upsilons are generally formed with a longer stroke than its two upper arms, though there is some inconsistency in its depiction. Pi has a broad bridge between its two vertical strokes and the right vertical is shorter than the left. Rho is formed with a head roughly the size of the omicrons and with a single tail. Epsilon, if the identification is correct, is formed with its middle and upper horizontal bars of equal, rather stubby, length.



**Figure 38.** Inscribed stone *in situ*.

The inscription was found in the same context as a tile fall in a building (Building B for the convenience of this discussion) built atop an earlier building (Building A) of unknown date or function. Building B would appear to post-date the civic use of the acropolis, and is probably residential and/or storage related. Both the earlier and the later buildings had a number of pithoi in them. Stray 6th-5th c. BC sherds synchronous with the context of Building B indicate ancient and/or modern interference with the layers, thus complicating all finds to some extent. However, the majority of the diagnostic material in Building B can be dated with some confidence to the 3rd-2nd c. BC, including late Hellenistic amphorae, a kantharos, a painted skyphos, and jug (Loci L18.2-5, L18.13, L18.15).<sup>1</sup>

Building B was located very close to the surface, which since the demise of the ancient city has probably been used for intensive pastoral farming for some 2000 years. It would appear that on balance Building B should be dated by its ceramics to 3rd/2nd c. BC. This detail is of importance in providing a *terminus ante quem* for the inscription (2nd c. BC), as well as its possible date (3rd-2nd c. BC). Cruel luck has denied us of letter forms which are in any way diagnostic (and it is to be noted that dating Hellenistic inscriptions by this method is hazardous at the best of times). It is just possible that the ravaged letter at the end of line 2 is a lunate sigma, but speculation is futile - it could just as well be an epsilon, omicron, and so on. Occasional graffiti and inscribed letters have been found on sherds at Bylazora during the last 4 years of excavations, but these await formal study.<sup>2</sup>

The purpose and original location of the stone is a mystery, although the directors furnished at least one clue in suggesting that it may be a re-used anta capital. The top right and left of the stone are undamaged; the bottom is broken away; the chop marks on the bottom make it look like it was intentionally chopped up. There is a slight projection of stone along the top of the inscription, which appears to have been intentionally chipped away; this projection (chipped away) can be traced along the left and right sides of the stone. It looks like an anta capital that has been reworked for an inscription. The face of the inscription measures 0.21 x 0.43 meter. The block measures 0.21 x 0.43 x 0.22 x 0.22 m. (if one excludes damaged and cut away parts).<sup>3</sup>

The fact that the inscription is a fragment precludes, at this time, an estimate of its total size, although it is hoped that Bylazora gives up the remainder of the stone in subsequent years. It is a matter of speculation whether the inscription continued to the right of and below the stone, or indeed on all 4 sides. The firmest clue will likely be the content of the inscription. Unfortunately, nothing can be read into the stone's re-use at this stage either, except to note that the inscription is unlikely to be graffiti. Some care is taken with spacing and letter forms and we are unable to make a judgement as to its quality in the absence of comparative evidence.

Finally, it is necessary to discuss the inscription's content. The letters are unquestionably Greek, although, as the Carian alphabet indicates, this need not require that their phonetic values be the same. The inscription is a fragment and it should not be taken as granted that the language is Greek. Hammond believed that many of the Paionian tribes spoke a dialect of Greek akin to Western Greek although others spoke a separate language, "Paionian."<sup>4</sup> This learned guess (in the absence of unambiguous linguistic evidence) is based upon ancient geographic testimonia (Herodotus 5.13, 7.20; Strabo 7 C 326) and the material record which shows a distinct cultural area in ancient Paionia.<sup>5</sup> However, especially in the 3rd and 2nd c. BC, there is clear numismatic, epigraphic, and

material evidence that there were close ties between Paionia and Macedonia and Greece, and that the Paionian kings were influenced by their Hellenistic counterparts in terms of propaganda and imagery.<sup>6</sup> It would thus be unsurprising to find an inscription in either language at Bylazora, though it would appear that Greek is the more likely option in this instance. The same set of four letters repeats itself twice, with the OY diphthong looking suspiciously genitival. Such repetition is a common epigraphic trope in formulae relating to names, and there are a number of attested examples from the region that could fit, e.g. Ζώπυρος (IG X.158). Critical to any such interpretation will be an examination of the fragmentary letters that awaits next year.

## ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Summary of e-mail correspondence with the TFAHR directors of the 2011 excavations at Bylazora, W. Neidinger and E. Matthews (16 September 2011).
- <sup>2</sup> For catalogs of the stamped and inscribed finds from Bylazora (2008-2010 seasons), see [http://www.tfahr.org/BP\\_stamps.html](http://www.tfahr.org/BP_stamps.html).
- <sup>3</sup> E-mail correspondence with W. Neidinger and E. Matthews (20 July 2011).
- <sup>4</sup> Hammond (1979), pp. 42-43.
- <sup>5</sup> Hammond (1979), pp. 42-43, 657.
- <sup>6</sup> Hammond (1972), page 90; Petrova (2001), pp. 13-27.

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- Petrova E., "The Coinage of the Paeonian Tribal Organisations and Paeonian Kings (VI to III Centuries B.C.), Coins and Mints in Macedonia," in C. Grozdanov (ed.), *Proceedings of the symposium held in honor of the 80th birthday and 50th Anniversary of the Scholarly and Educational Work of Ksente Bogoev, Member of the Macedonian Academy of Arts and Sciences*. Translated by Elizabeta Bakovska, Katerina Hristovska. Skopje, 2001: pages 13-27.

## A Brief History of Knezje

By Boris Gjorgiev

Knezje (41° 51' 0" North, 21° 54' 36" East) is located three kilometers west of Sveti Nikole on the left bank of Knezevska River, and neighboring the ancient site of Bylazora. The origins of the village are unknown, although a number of legends about its origin are told.

One legend speaks of the village as being owned by a duke (*knez*) who lived in the city that previously stood on the modern day location of *Gradishte*, east of which was located Bylazora. Another legend says that after the destruction of *Gradishte* by Roman soldiers in the 2nd c. BC, the survivors started their lives over in the new village. The village was called *Knezevo* because the duke (*knez*) ruled the area.

There is limited historical documentation about Knezje. The oldest record of the village is its mention in a note by the Byzantine writer Iohanes Scylitzes in his description of the military expedition of Basil II Bulgaroctonos in 1014, when he defeated Tsar Samuel in the Battle of Kleidion. After the battle, Byzantine forces invaded Pelagonia and captured the cities of Prilep and Stip; *en route* they passed through the Ovce Pole, looting and destroying the local settlements. Knezje is assumed also to have fallen victim.

In 1395 the village, along with others in Ovce Pole, fell under the control of the Ottoman Empire. It is unclear what system of governance the region was under during the first years of Ottoman rule. But one may suppose that the first years consisted of much looting and pillaging. In a census of the Ottoman Empire, the village was referenced as *Knezica*. It is uncertain if the village changed location over the course of its existence. But the archeological remains found in the vicinity of the village indicate that its layout was regularly modified.

We do not know which families were first to colonize Knezje, but the Ottoman census records of 1573 show that some of the largest families in the village were the Gjurovci, Drajobi, Projovi, Jovevi, Stojanovi, Stalevi, and Pejovi.

During the late twentieth century, there was a large urban migration away from the villages of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Macedonia. This migration left many villages nearly uninhabited; Knezje was not spared, and the majority of households still residing there consist only of the elder generation.



Figure 39.  
Knezje at the foot of Bylazora.

# A Brief History of Sveti Nikole

Compiled by the staff of the People's Museum of Sveti Nikole



Figure 40. Sveti Nikole, Bylazora in the background.



Figure 41. Modern apartment buildings and farmland around Sveti Nikole.

The town of Sveti Nikole (41°51'54" North, 21°56'34" East), in the Ovce Pole (Sheep Plain) region of the Republic of Macedonia, has been inhabited since late Neolithic times. And during the historical period numerous remains of forts, villas, and cemeteries of all eras have been uncovered in archaeological excavations. But the history of Sveti Nikole as Sveti Nikole does not begin until the Middle Ages.

The Slavic peoples who settled the Ovce Pole region in the early Middle Ages were, of course, eventually converted to Christianity. Many important churches and monasteries which still exist today in the Ovce Pole have survived for centuries in their initial locations. One such church was the *metochion* church of Saint Nicholas (Sveti Nikole), around which formed a small community called, naturally enough, Sveti Nikole. In 1282 Sveti Nikole was recorded as an important community during the reign of the Serbian King, Milutin. Sveti Nikole was again mentioned in the family archives of the Dejanoviki in 1378, where it was noted that a community and church property existed here.

With the arrival of the Turks around 1395, Sveti Nikole and the Ovce Pole came under the jurisdiction of the Ottoman Turkish Empire. The Turks referred to the region as *Kiliseli*, meaning "the churches," due to the many churches of the region. During his travels in the fourteenth century through Ovce Pole the historian Jrotije Racanin counted forty demolished Orthodox churches. Sveti Nikole was acknowledged by the Turkish writer Evliya Celebli, who, while traveling across Macedonia in 1669, noticed that the "village" was one with little economic prowess.

In 1845, due to its central location in the region, Sveti Nikole received permission to hold a weekly market day (Saturday), which was the first of its kind in the city. In 1864 Sveti Nikole was stopped in its development due to the immigration of the Circassians to the area. The Circassians terrorized the local Slavic population, demanding free labor from them. They would, however, eventually be absorbed into the general population.

In the First Balkan War, units of the Ottoman Army's 5th Corps were stationed in the territory of Sveti Nikole. It is assumed that Sveti Nikole became a center for planning of all military ac-

tions against the Serbs and Bulgarians. During this time Sveti Nikole and the surrounding area descended into total chaos.

During the Second Balkan War Sveti Nikole again became the center of conflict. Many of the local Macedonians, who were conscripted to fight for one side or the other, were killed and then officially recorded as "Serbian" or "Bulgarian."

With the division of Greater Macedonia into three parts, Sveti Nikole was placed in the Vardar Region, under Serbian control. The Serbs actively imposed a program of denationalization on the Macedonian people. Those unwilling to declare themselves Serbian were registered with the police, beaten or jailed, and stripped of their right to vote.

With the outbreak of WWI the Serbs mobilized all able-bodied members of the population and sent them to the front. After the war, Sveti Nikole was registered in the territory of the Bregalnitsa district and recorded, on January 31, 1921, as having a population of 1,030 ethnic Macedonians and 736 ethnic Turks.

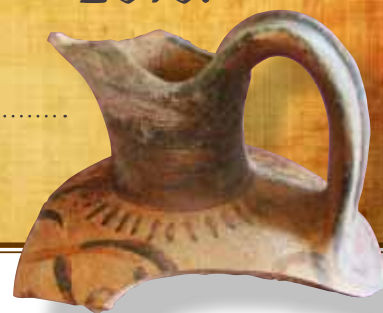
During 1942-1943 a humanitarian fund was formed for the collection and donation of food, clothing and munitions to be sent to Macedonian detachments. In 1942 preparations were made in the city for the citizens to join the Partisans, with one group of communists leaving to join the Partisan unit in Veles.

On September 9, 1944 the city was attacked by German forces. The 8th Preshevska Brigade engaged the attackers and drove them to the northern parts of the city and finally on towards Veles. On September 14, 1944 the 11th Macedonian Liberation Brigade is said to have been the force responsible for officially liberating Sveti Nikole. At that moment the citizens were free to speak their native Macedonian tongue and work on the creation of a new local democratic government.

Since 1945, 56 elementary school classrooms have opened in Sveti Nikole, along with a high school (opening its doors for the 1961-1962 school year), and two private universities, in all of which Macedonian is the language of speech and study. The Municipality of Sveti Nikole has made steps in modernizing its roads, sidewalks, water systems and sports facilities and is becoming a more developed town.

# The Pottery of Bylazora, 2008 – 2010: A Preliminary Typology

By Candace Richards



## INTRODUCTION

During the first three years of excavation at Bylazora a wealth of ceramic material has been recovered and processed. A thorough analysis of the ceramic assemblage from a site can yield vital information towards the understanding of: the activities that took place within the site; the time frame of a particular context, occupation layer, or overall habitation; the economic status of an individual or an entire population; the trading scope and cultural interactions of the inhabitants; as well as indications of gender, identities, and social organisation. An analysis begins with the establishment of a typology into which the diagnostic artifacts from the assemblage are grouped and divided. This is based on manufacturing techniques, form and function, decorative types, fabric types, their production centers, and draws upon analogies and associations to understand the typology within the wider corpus of archaeological material available from a region. A complete typology from a site can take years to develop and is outside the scope of this preliminary look at the ceramic assemblage from Bylazora. The aim of this article is to present a representative sample of the ceramic assemblage corresponding to two distinct periods of habitation at Bylazora with the intention of establishing the basic typological groupings essential for a future full typological analysis.

These periods of habitation at Bylazora, previously identified as the First Squatter Period and the Second Squatter Period, were excavated in Sector 3 during the 2008 to 2010 field seasons and published in the excavation reports of the corresponding years. The ceramic material presented below uses the associated basket numbers to identify the vessels and associate them with the deposit (locus) from which they have come. Of particular importance are the vessels that are associated with the floor surface of the First Squatter Period, L13.5 and L14.6, some of which have been previously published in order to date this habitation period (Stokke 2009 (b): 17-19). The other vessels presented within the typology are associated with contexts surrounding the housing structures of both squatter periods including habitation, destruction and fill layers excavated in Sector 3. In addition, a few key vessel shapes have been selected from the excavated fill deposits in Sector 6, surrounding the monumental defensive wall and dump of Doric order architectural elements, which have date ranges comparable with these squatter occupations.

## OVERVIEW OF CERAMIC MATERIAL TYPES

Before delving into the typology, it is necessary to introduce an overview of the ceramic material types that are apparent in the assemblage from Bylazora. In the 2009 field report of the Bylazora excavations Stokke (2009 (a): 12-16) offered a preliminary analysis of the plain and fine ware assemblage presenting three distinct categories of ceramics based upon their fabric:

1. **Paionian Grey Ware:** This is the most abundant form of ceramic found at Bylazora, and found in similar concentrations at comparable sites within the region. Grey ware can be further divided into two subcategories: vessels which continue Iron Age forms; and vessels which imitate Greek ceramic shapes, such as echinus bowls, hydria, etc.
2. **Imported Fine Ware:** The most easily identifiable group of ceramics forming part of this category are imports from Athens, their attributions based upon the finely levigated fabric, the color of the fabric, and the quality of slip applied. It is, however, likely that ceramics are being imported from many different centers. During the late Classical and Hellenistic periods, there were many imitators of Attic black slip, which are almost impossible to detect via a purely visual analysis.
3. **Paionian Fine Ware:** This category comprises the red matt painted wares on a buff fired ceramic, and represents only a small group of vessels within the assemblage. The group contains a combination of Greek influenced shapes as well as local traditional forms, all with various types of painted decoration - from a plain all over slip, to geometric patterns, to highly stylised meander and floral motifs.

These groupings still remain a good foundation to begin our analysis - with a few small additions.

1. The Paionian Grey Ware group, as identified by Stokke, is problematic due to our inability to determine production centers and distribution of this type of ceramic. While it seems the majority found at Bylazora is Paionian in origin, grey ware is the most common ceramic form across the Balkans, with both Thrace and Macedonia producing similar wares. It is highly probable that some of the grey ware in both the traditional

shapes (J12.1.1) and the Hellenised shapes (L14.6.2a) have been imported from neighboring regions. This group makes up *Fabric Group 1*, including both local and imported fabrics ranging in color from Dark Grey (Munsell range: 2.5Y 4/1 to 4/2), to Grey (Munsell range: 2.5 5/1 to 6/1 and 5Y 5/1 to 6/1), to Light Grey (Munsell range: 5Y 7/1 and 10YR 7/1). In addition to these grey wares, there is a small percentage of material of a Greyish Brown fabric (Munsell range: 10YR 6/2 to 5/2) that is allocated to this group. The majority have no visible cores, and include a wide range of inclusions - most obviously mica, quartz and some organic material. The vessels range from fine to coarse ware with drinking, dining, and serving or tableware vessels being the most common functional groups.

2. The distinction between Stokke's fine ware categories, of imported or Paionian, while essential, becomes exceptionally blurry when attempting to attribute shapes to either group at this stage of analysis. For the purposes of this initial presentation of the assemblage, it would be arbitrary to do so as both groups overlap in the range of fabric color, visible inclusions, and vessel types. If any of the shapes presented here can be designated as either local or imported based on visual analysis alone, they have been done so individually. This combined group makes up *Fabric Group 2*, including both local and imported wares ranging in color from Pink (Munsell range: 5YR 7/4 and 7.5YR 7/4), to Reddish Yellow (5YR 7/6 to 7/8 and 6/6 to 6/8, and 7.5YR 6/6 to 7/6) to Yellowish Red (5YR 5/6 to 5/8). This group is made up of very fine to coarse grade fabric, with a range of inclusions similar to those present in the grey ware, with drinking, dining, and serving or tableware vessels as the most common functional groups. In addition this group also contains a range of coarse to very coarse ware vessels in the same color ranges, which are storage and transportation vessels.

3. It is important to add a coarse ware group. This was acknowledged by Stokke but was not a part of his initial analysis. *Fabric Group 3* consists of coarse to very coarse wares, the majority ranging in color from Reddish Brown to Red (Munsell range: 7.5YR 5/1 to 2.5 YR 4/6) to Yellowish Red (Munsell range: 5YR 4/6 to 5YR 5/6). The majority of these vessels have a Dark Brown to Black core, and have abundant inclusions ranging from sand, crushed stones, crushed ceramics and a variety of vegetal material.

These fabric groupings allow for an overview of the ceramic types found at Bylazora, and are essential for understanding the types of vessels produced locally, and those that are being traded within the Paionian region. With future scientific analysis, such as petrographic studies, these groups will be able to answer further questions regarding the development of local ceramic traditions as well as indicate the wide range of trade networks which Bylazora is most certainly a part of.

## TYOLOGY GROUPS

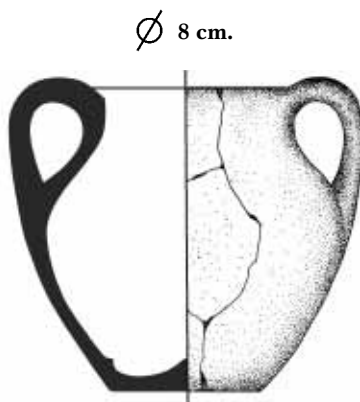
The development of typological groups based on function and form is a common feature in the analysis of ceramic assemblages. The following typology has been divided into 6 distinct categories: cooking wares; storage and transport vessels; drinking vessels; dining vessels; pouring vessels and other associated wares; and miniature vessels. Within each of these categories specific forms have been identified with at least one example provided for each. Where appropriate, variations on a distinct type have been included, as well as examples drawing upon a comparison between local and imported forms. This typological grouping is preliminary only, using only a sample of vessel types from targeted contexts. Further analysis of the corpus of ceramic material excavated from Bylazora should see these groups expand as well as change with new examples and variations.

## COOKING WARE

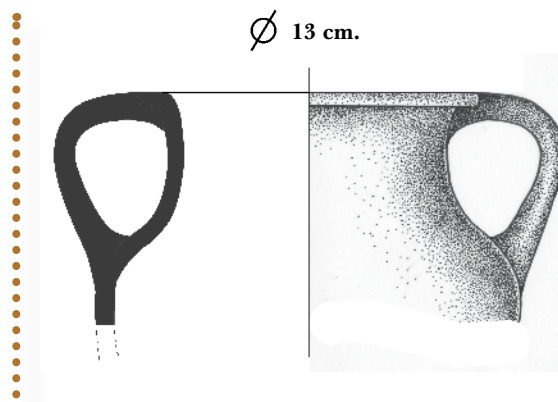
The cooking ware at Bylazora includes a range of vessel types that have a long life span from the Iron Age to the Hellenistic period. The following five forms represent some of the common elements of the coarse ware and cooking vessels that make up the assemblage.

### CHYTRA.

A particular type of two-handled, wheel-made cooking pot which characteristically has a flat base, globular body, and vertical thick ovoid shaped handles extended from the rim (N14.12.1). Many variants of this type of vessel occur regionally with different handle and rim profiles easily detectable (M14.4.5E).



N14.12.1



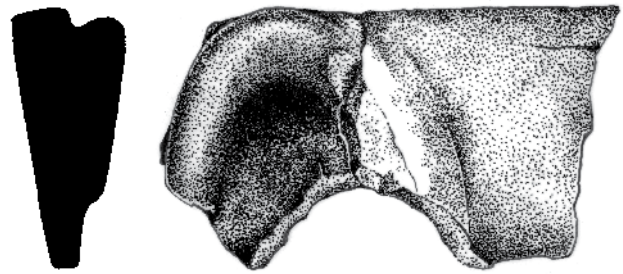
M14.4.5E

## PYRAUNOS.

Straight-walled, handmade cooking pot, very common within the region throughout the Iron Age and into the Hellenistic period, which has several variants. This shape is characterised by a slightly curved wall with a straight rim, no lip and either horse-shoe shaped handles, lug handles or a combination of both.

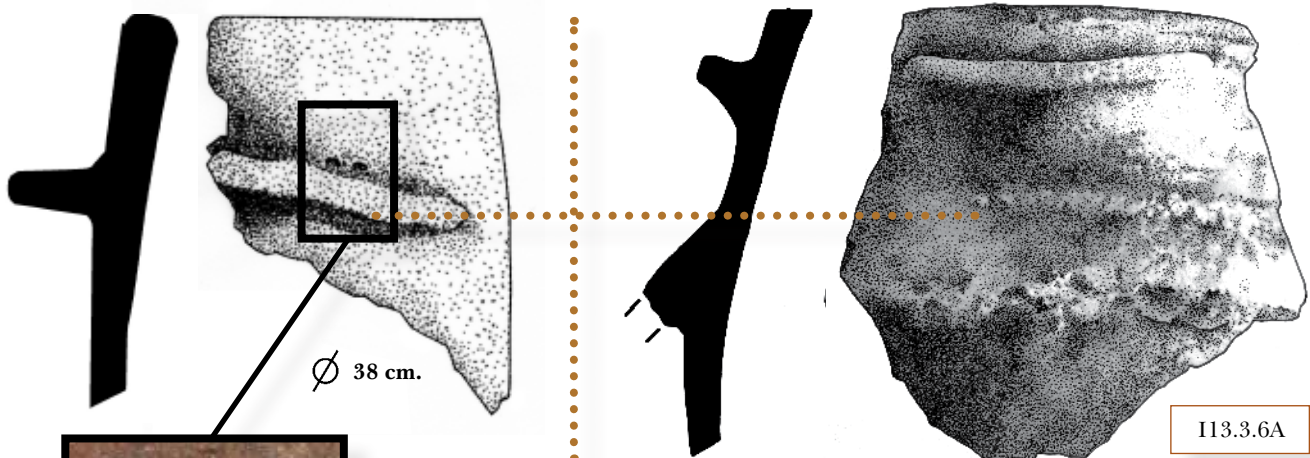
1. Horseshoe handle on straight-walled cooking pot where the apex of the handle meets the rim; however, this is not a uniform characteristic (**L11.3.1**).
2. Lug handle on straight-walled cooking pot with downturned "skirting," a common but not homogenous feature across the type, that would have continued the full circumference of the vessel (**I13.3.6A**).
3. Straight-walled cooking pot with stamped lug handle. The stamp is made by the impression of an "M head" double shank pin, also known as an Illyrian type pin (Jacobssthal 1956: 137). These pins were widely distributed across the Balkans from the 5th century to the late 4th century BC, and the production of this vessel should be dated to within this time frame. (Rasic 2008: 261-265) (**N15.10.1**).

Ø 13.2 cm.



L11.3.1

Ø 13.2 cm.



I13.3.6A

Ø 38 cm.



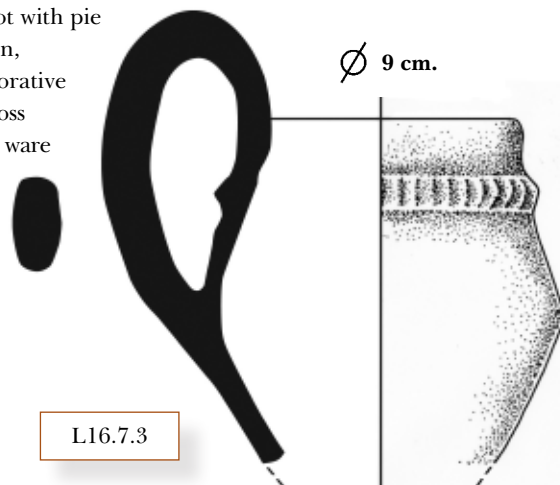
N15.10.1

## ONE-HANDLED POT.

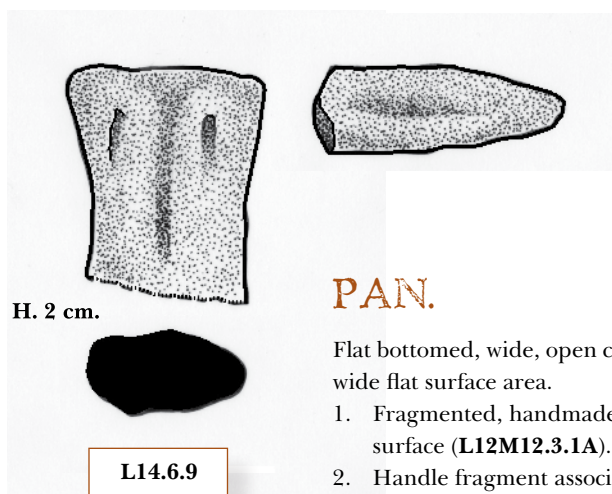
Coarse ware one-handed vessels associated with cooking.

1. Coarse ware pot with pie crust decoration, a common decorative style found across various cooking ware types (**L16.7.3**).

Ø 9 cm.



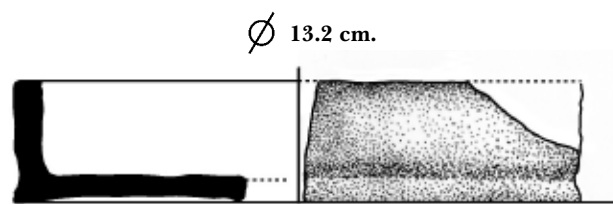
L16.7.3



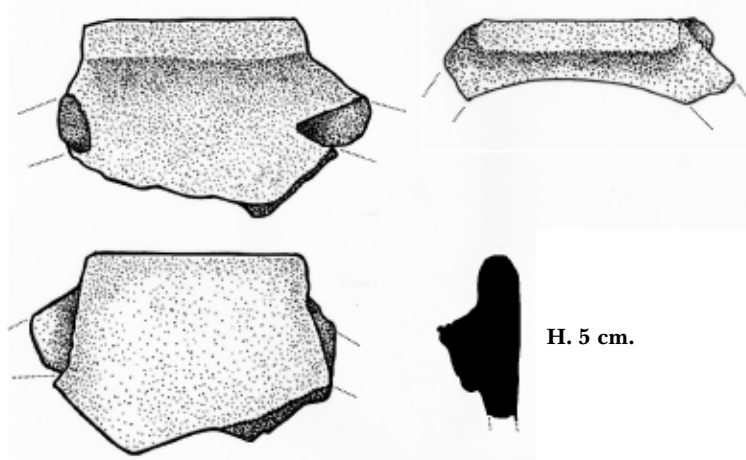
## PAN.

Flat bottomed, wide, open cooking ware, characterised by their shallow walls and wide flat surface area.

1. Fragmented, handmade coarse ware pan, with shallow walls and thick flat surface (**L12M12.3.1A**).
2. Handle fragment associated with this form of cooking ware (**L14.6.9**).



**L12M12.3.1A**



**O12.8.4**

## BRAZIER.

In general these items are portable cooking stands, consisting of a fire bowl and supports for cooking pots. These often vary in decoration and size, depending upon their production time frame and place.

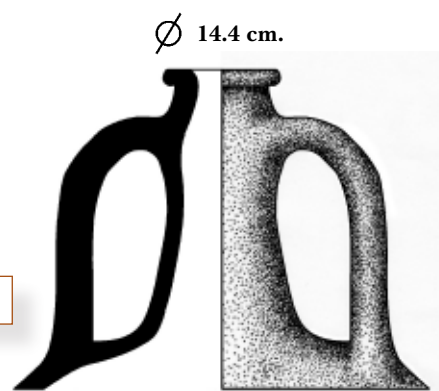
1. Grey, coarse ware sherd, with internal lug or support (**O12.8.4**). This fragment appears to have most commonality with a brazier attachment. Hellenistic braziers with rectangular attachments were produced in a wide range of forms across Italy, Greece, Asia Minor, Cyprus and North Africa (Sahin 2001: 91-92). It is possible that this is a fragment of a northern Macedonian version.

## STORAGE AND TRANSPORT

The use of large coarse ware vessels for storage and transportation of goods is as prevalent at Bylazora as it is at any other Balkan or Mediterranean site. Amphorae in particular are vital for understanding trade and ancient economies. The excavated amphorae from Bylazora include both local and imported types.

## AMPHORA LOCAL.

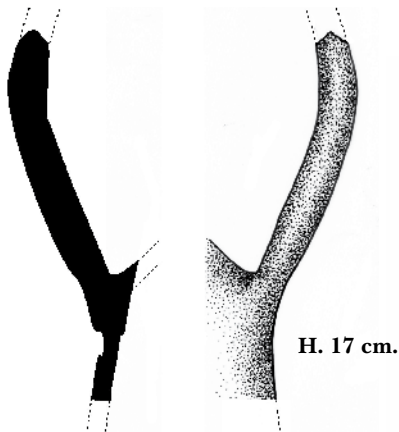
1. Handmade coarse ware amphora, of red fabric which is most likely a local manufacture. It has typical straight thick vertical handles attached to the shoulder of the vessel and the neck, where the profile of the vessel bulges slightly (**J13.4.17**).



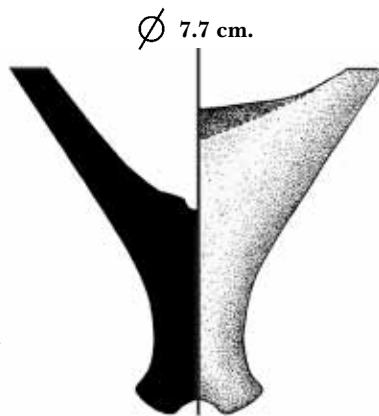
**J13.4.17**

## AMPHORA IMPORTED.

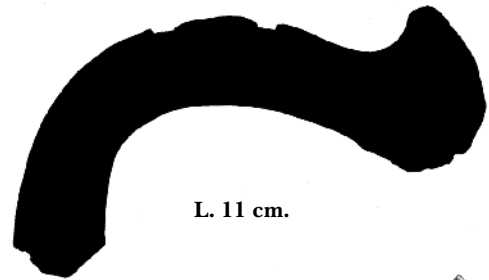
1. Strap handle from an amphora, with incised lines on handle and thumb print at base, a common feature of amphora handles found at Bylazora (J13.4.20A).
2. Imported amphora toe fragment, most likely Thassian due to its profile. Dated between the 4th to early 3rd centuries BC (J13.4.20C).
3. Thassian stamped amphora handle fragment. "ΣΚΥΜΝΟ ΘΑΣΙΩΝ". Dated 292-288 / 274-259 BC (Tzochev 2009: 66); (M11.3.4).



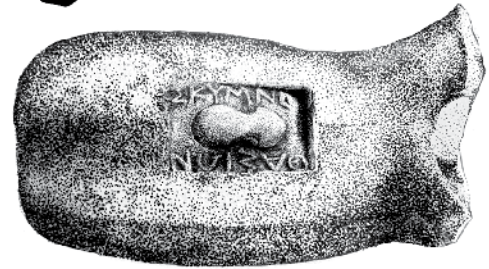
J13.4.20A



J13.4.20C

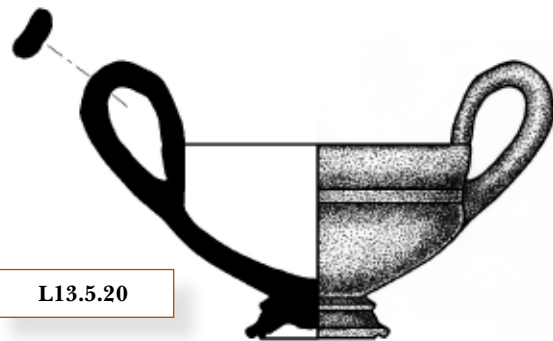


L. 11 cm.



M11.3.4

## DRINKING VESSELS AND ASSOCIATED WARES – CUPS



L13.5.20

Ø 5 cm.



M15.4.1

Ø 6 cm.

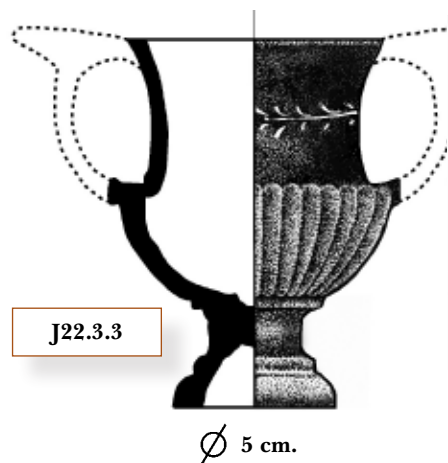
## KANTHAROS.

Two-handled cups, characterised by their vertical handles and body shape consisting of a concave lower section and convex upper section. They are produced in many different styles both locally and at several workshops in Northern Greece and the Mediterranean.

1. Grey ware undecorated kantharos, with a plain rim, high slung handles which extend beyond the rim and curve back down to the body of the vessel, and molded foot with scraped grooves, similar in style to those associated with imported fine wares (L13.5.20).
2. Grey ware undecorated kantharos, with plain rounded rim, thick vertical handles extending beyond the rim and curved to meet the lower portion of the body, and a concave disc base, common to a wide range of local grey ware cups, bowls and other table wares (M15.4.1).

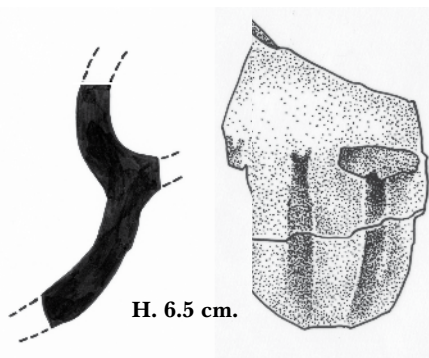
## KANTHAROS. continued

3. Grey ware very fine kantharos, with plain brown slip on exterior and interior. Spur handles extending from plain rim at a slight angle, base missing. Dated to first quarter of 3rd century, based on parallels with the shape (Rotroff 1997: 243); (**M15.3.2**).
4. Black glaze very fine kantharos in three fragments. Thin walls, typical of plain kantharos cup with plain rim and molded foot with short scraped groove between the base of the body and the top of the foot. Dated to the first quarter of 3rd century (**N14.4.5**).
5. West Slope kantharos, Attic production. Plain rim, with spur handles, not restored, molded foot and ribbed lower section of body. Dated to *ca.* 275 BC, based on parallels of shape and decoration (Rotroff 1997: 244); (**J22.3.3**).
6. Plain ware kantharos fragment, with an unevenly molded ribbed body, local fabric type. No glaze evident on sherd. Appears to be a direct imitation by local potters of the imported ribbed vessels from Athens (**L13.2.14**). This type of local imitation of Attic kantharoi is also evident in handle and base fragments excavated from comparable contexts.



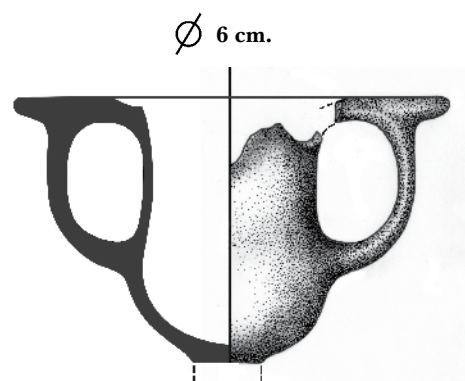
**J22.3.3**

Ø 5 cm.

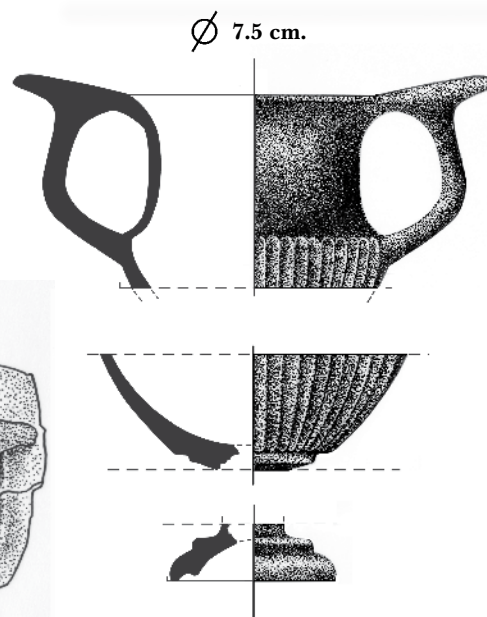


**H. 6.5 cm.**

**L13.2.14**



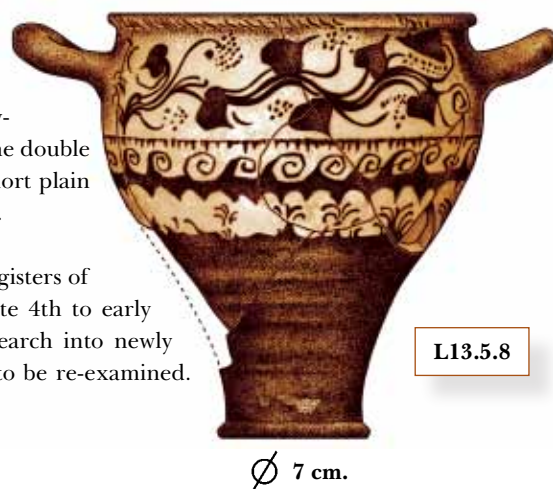
**M15.3.2**



**N14.4.5**

**SKYPHOS.** The only skyphos shape thus far excavated at Byzlazora is the form known as the Attic type. This shape is characterised by the double curved body, convex lower portion and concave upper portion, with a short plain base, plain rim, and thick horizontal handles, often squared at either side.

1. Matt painted fine ware, oversized skyphos, painted in three distinct registers of vegetal and wave designs (**L13.5.8**). Dated approximately to the late 4th to early 3rd centuries BC (Stokke 2009 (b): 17). However, with further research into newly discovered examples at other sites in the region this date will need to be re-examined.



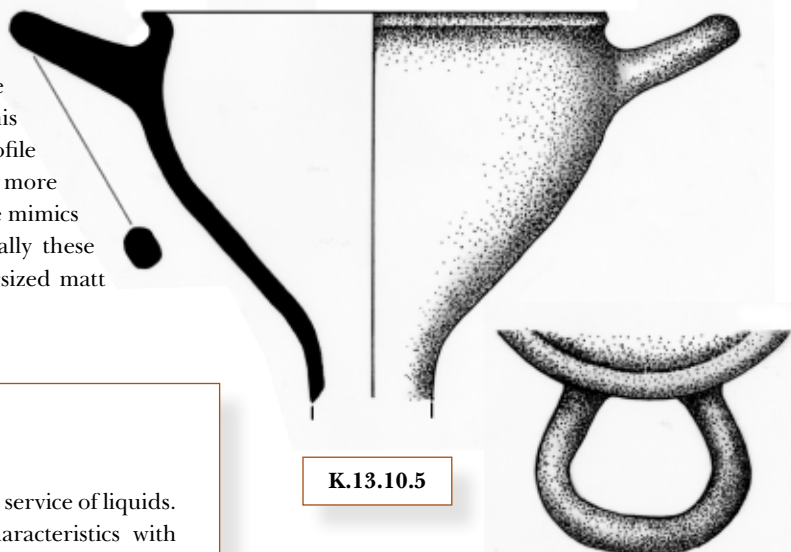
**L13.5.8**

Ø 7 cm.

## SKYPHOS. continued

2. Plain ware and grey ware variants occur in more reasonably sized drinking cup (K13.10.5). This example has a much more exaggerated profile than its matt painted counterpart, suggesting a more functional use. If the development of this shape mimics the Athenian changes in production, relationally these examples would be a later style than the oversized matt painted vessel (Sparks et al. 1970: 84-85).

Ø 14 cm.



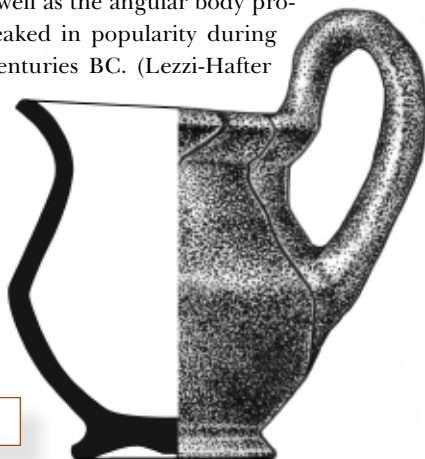
K.13.10.5

## MUG.

One-handed cups used for drinking and/or the service of liquids.

1. (J12.1.1) This example shares many characteristics with other one-handed mugs or cups found at Bylazora. It is a dark grey ware fabric with a ring foot, out-turned rim and angular profile at the center of body, at which the base of a high swung vertical handle is joined. This vessel type shares commonalities with the typical Thracian mug, including its height of 9 cm. as well as the angular body profile. This shape peaked in popularity during the 5th and 4th centuries BC. (Lezzi-Hafter 1997: 363-365)

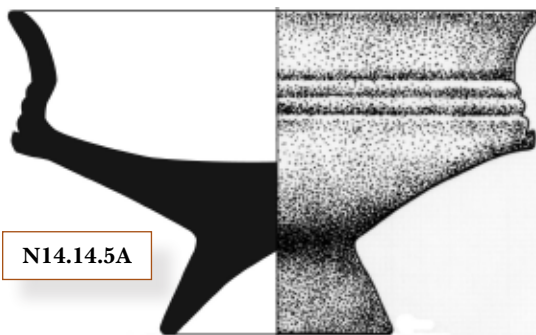
H. 9 cm.



J12.1.1

## OTHER.

Other types of cups and drinking vessels were used at Bylazora, including this very unusual red slip cup which has a high projecting foot and shallow vertical walls; it would have had two vertical handles attached at the bottom of the body and presumably connecting to the rim (N14.14.5A).



N14.14.5A

Ø 4 cm.

## RELATED VESSELS

## KRATER.

A very small selection of kraters has been discovered in the very final phase of habitation on the acropolis. These vessels are only represented by a few sherds from two different vessels. Each has red figure decoration with a black to brown metallic slip, slightly curved thick walls, and an interior single red band typical of kraters produced at various centers around the Mediterranean (K11.2.2 and J11.1.1).



J11.1.1



K11.2.2

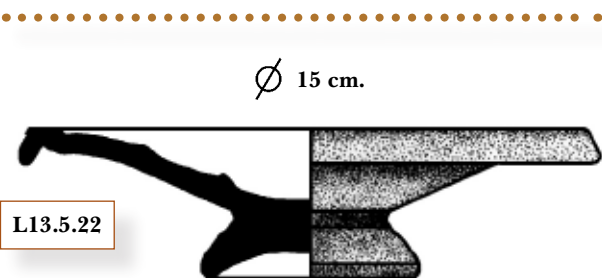
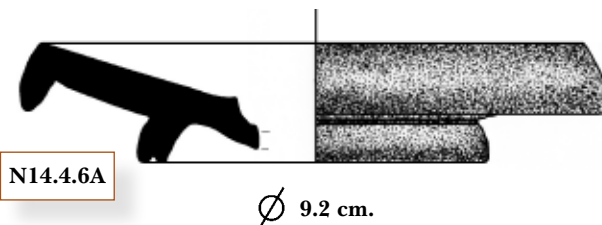
## DINING VESSELS AND RELATED TABLE WARE

### Plates

#### ICHTHYA.

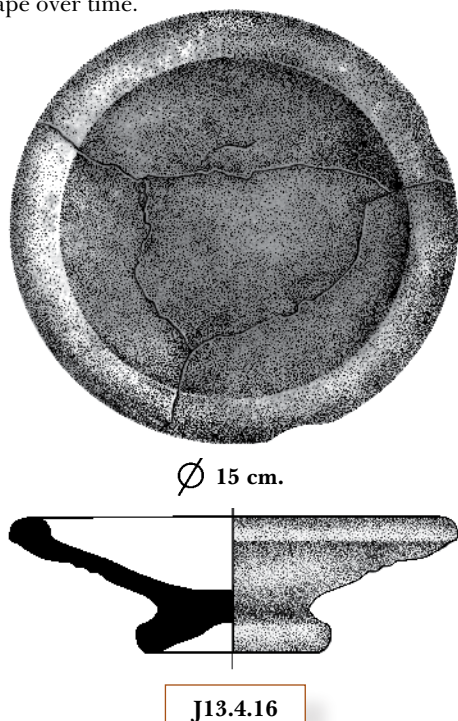
Within the assemblage from Bylazora are both imported and grey ware ichthya plates. These are also known as fish plates and are characterised by their overhanging down turned rims and central depression that is ideal for holding sauces.

1. The imported example (**N14.4.6A**) has a wide ring foot, shallow inclining wall and thick overhanging rim typical of the Attic style. It has a plain black slip decoration on interior and exterior, badly worn in some places.
2. The grey ware example (**L13.5.22**) has a concave foot, a low inclining wall, a very small overhanging rim with a thin groove on the interior to distinguish the rim from the wall. It also has a shallow indented sauce reservoir in the center of the plate. The vessel has been burnished on the interior to create a highly silver-metallic looking surface.



#### FLAT PLATE.

Several other types of plates are present in the assemblage, which include exceptionally thick plates with a wide base and very shallow flat surface (**J13.4.16**). These local vessels are often of medium to coarse grade fabrics which are present in most habitation levels, with only slight variation in shape over time.

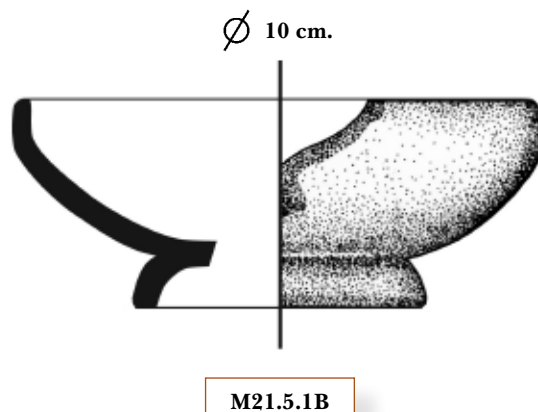


### Bowls

#### ECHINUS.

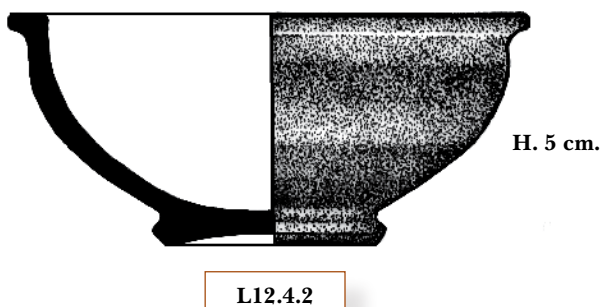
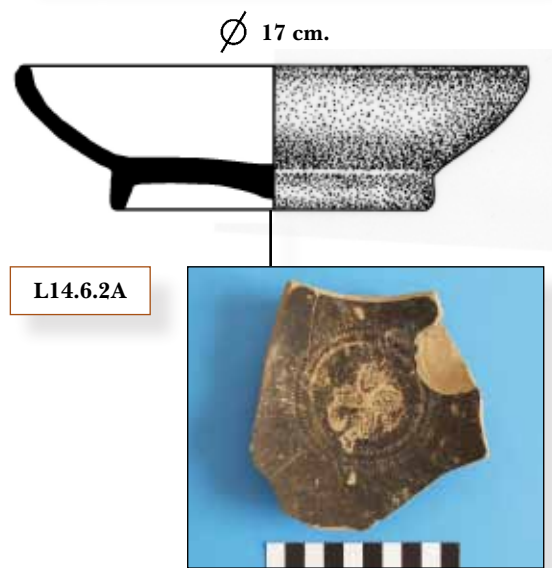
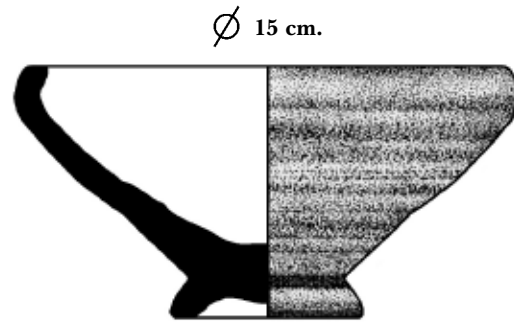
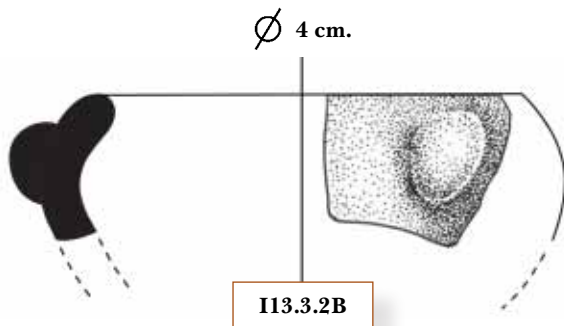
One of the most common vessel types present at Bylazora is the incurved rim bowl known as an echinus, which is present in many different variations of size, fabric and decoration.

1. Classical Attic style echinus with ring foot and high walls with red slip decoration. Production dated to mid-4th century (**M21.5.1B**).



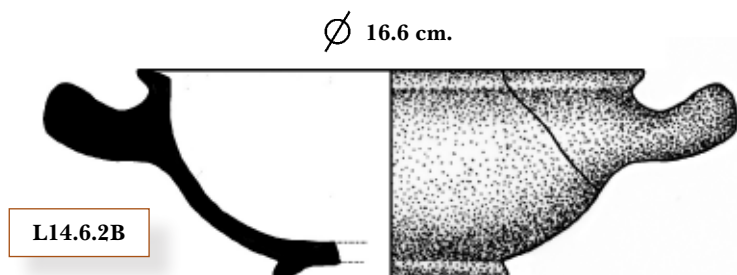
## ECHINUS. continued

2. Large echinus with ring foot and thick walls, grey ware, common throughout the late Classical and Hellenistic periods (**L13.5.11**).
3. Small echinus with Iron Age style decoration just below the rim, with highly burnished surface creating a metallic finish, a common feature of the Hellenised ceramic vessels at Bylazora (**I13.3.2B**).
4. Stamped shallow echinus bowl, with wide foot and central dimple on underside. Grey ware fabric, black glazed with decorated interior consisting of four palmette stamps surrounded by three bands of rouletted short diagonal lines. This is a very common decorative style and shape throughout the Hellenistic period around the Aegean from the 3rd to the mid-1st centuries BC (**L14.6.2A**).



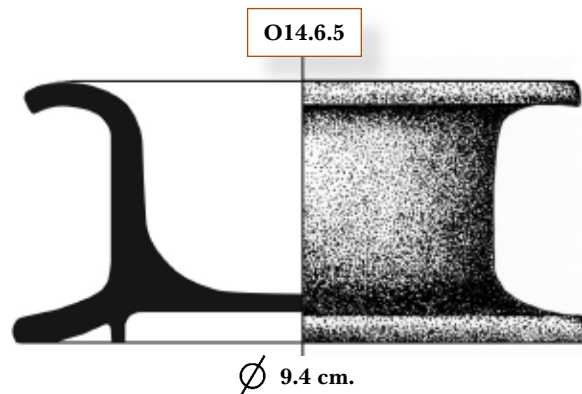
## FLAT RIM BOWL.

1. Simple undecorated grey ware bowl with flat rim and concave disc base. Local manufacture (**L12.4.2**).
2. Matt painted bowl, with ring foot, triangular horizontal handles and flat rim with out turned lip (**L14.6.2B**).



## SALT CELLAR

Several complete to mostly complete salt cellars have been excavated from various deposits at Bylazora. Thus far, all have been of the spool type. This type of salt cellar is characterized by a wide flaring base, straight to slightly concave walls, and a wide flaring rim and are typically associated with the transitional time frame between the Classical and Hellenistic periods, *ca.* 325-395 BC (Rotroff 1984: 343-354). The examples excavated at Bylazora are a variant on the known Athenian type due to the addition of a ring foot as well as the typical wide flaring foot lip, both of which act as a resting surface for the vessel (**O14.6.5**). Whilst they are all most likely imports to Bylazora, their production center or centers are unknown. Nonetheless they are

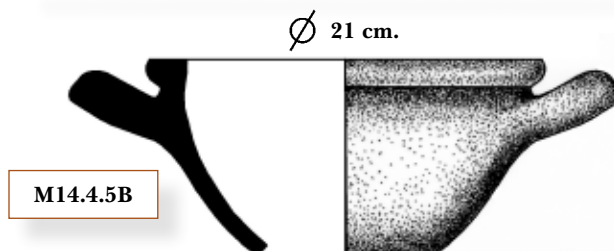
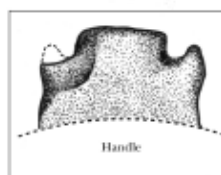
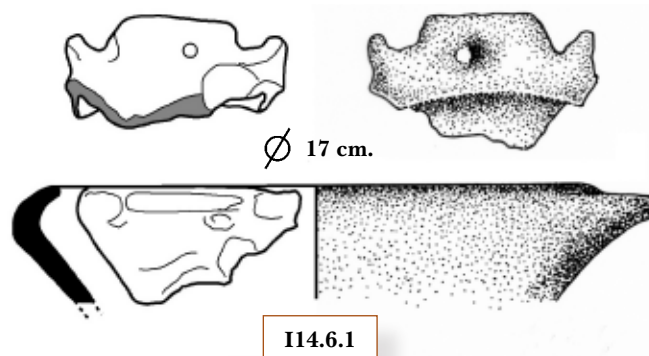


most likely produced within the same time frame as the Athenian examples and should be tentatively dated from the late 4th to early 3rd centuries BC.

## DISH

Serving dishes are characterised as separate from bowls, as they were most likely, due to their size, appropriate for the service of foodstuffs rather than individual use. Nonetheless it is possible that their functional roles were often in flux, and not as strictly delineated as it appears in most typological distinctions.

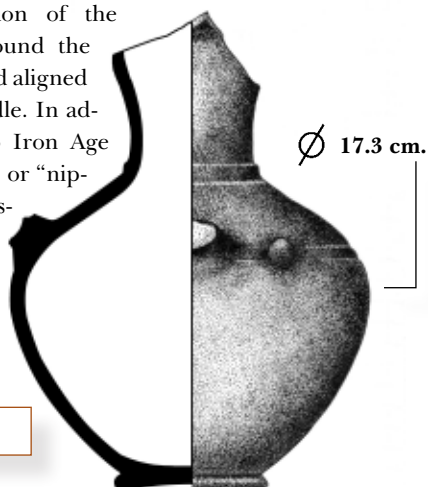
1. This first type is characterised by the indented horizontal handle that appears on a variety of open dishes. The handle is attached just below the rim and is rectangular in form with two notches or indentations on the outer side. These handles can be perforated (**I14.6.1**); however, this is not always the case (**I13.3.6B**). These examples vary in their rim types; however, both are of grey ware fabric and undecorated.
2. Wide open dish, grey ware fabric, with flat rim and rounded thick horizontal handles attached just below the rim. This example has a single grooved line on the center of the body of the vessel and is representative of a common type found at Bylazora (**M14.4.5B**).



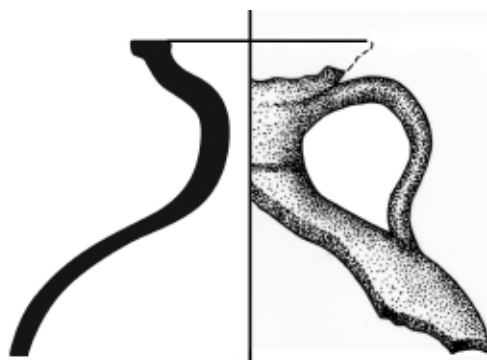
## POURING VESSELS AND ASSOCIATED WARES

### OINOCHOE.

Grey ware pouring jug, with concave disc base, globular body, and irregularly shaped neck suggesting a trefoil mouth (**K12.1.3**). Decorated with incised bands around lower portion of the neck, as well as around the center of the body and aligned with the base of handle. In addition there are two Iron Age style decorative nubs, or “nipples” applied equidistant from the handle base, similar to the decorative elements on echinus I13.3.2b.



**K12.1.3**



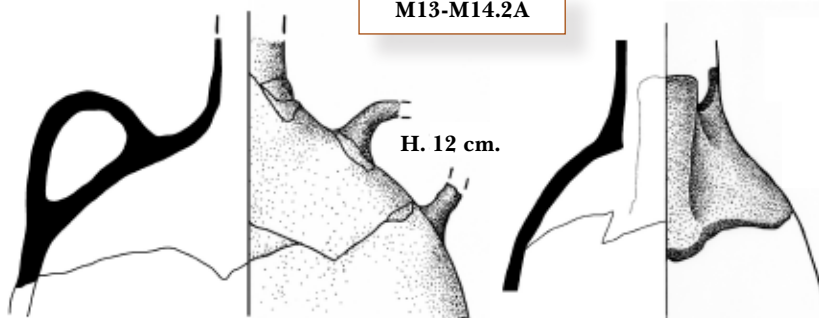
**J22.3.1**

### LEKYTHOS.

Red slipped globular lekythos, with bowl-like mouth, flat rim, and thin plain handle attached to the neck and shoulder of the vessel (**J22.3.1**). The shape is reminiscent of the globular black slipped examples, Black Deianeira class, excavated at the Athenian Agora; these have a manufacture period from the 6th to the end of the 4th centuries BC, and were designed for table oils (Sparks *et. al.* 1970: 151-152).

### PILGRIM'S FLASK.

Grey ware vessel fragment of a jug with small ring handles and flattened sides of a round body; rim and base missing (**M13-M14.2A**). This vessel type is often known as a Pilgrim's Flask or canteen, produced at various centers throughout Anatolia, the Levant, Greece, and other Mediterranean workshops, from the Bronze Age to the late antique period. This example is produced in what appears to be a local fabric and is thus far the only example excavated of this type of vessel.

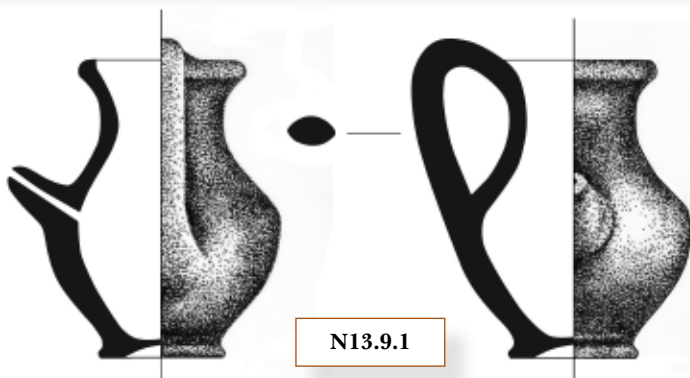


**M13-M14.2A**

H. 12 cm.

### GUTUS / FEEDER.

Grey ware gutus, with concave disc base, globular body, concave neck, and slightly incurved rim. Conical spout attached to body at widest section with wide strap handle attached to interior of lip, meeting vessel at widest section of body (**N13.9.1**). The earliest known production of this vessel type is mid-5th century BC, based on parallels with types discovered at Olynthos; however, their life span is unknown (Robinson 1950:264-266).

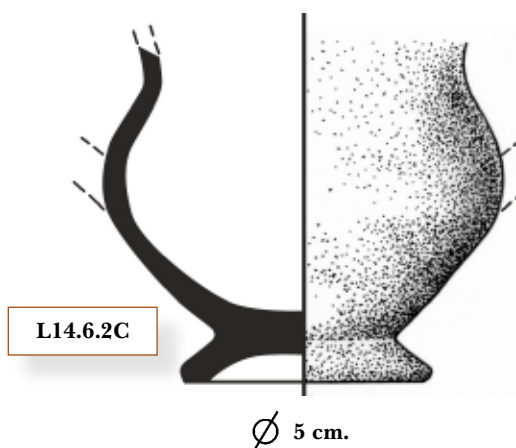


**N13.9.1**

## MINIATURES

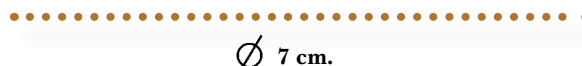
Miniature versions of full sized vessels are commonly found in funerary and sanctuary spaces, as well as other types of civic spaces and some domestic deposits. These vessels are often related to votive offerings, either on their own merit or directly related to the contents they would have held.

1. Miniature kantharos (**L14.6.1**). Imported vessel type with lustrous black glazed interior and exterior; broken at foot. This vessel profile is unusual in the angularity of the scraped neck as well as the thin handles which begin horizontally along the exterior of the lip and meet at a central point; they are joined to form a double barrel strap handle meeting the body of the vessel.
2. Miniature grey ware pot, with short ring foot and a globular body which is out-turned towards the neck, handle missing. Body is burnished on the exterior and has several shallow grooved lines creating a faceted external profile (**L14.6.2C**).
3. Miniature bowl with very worn red slip covering, decorated with series of deeply grooved wide bands around the body (**J13.4.9**).

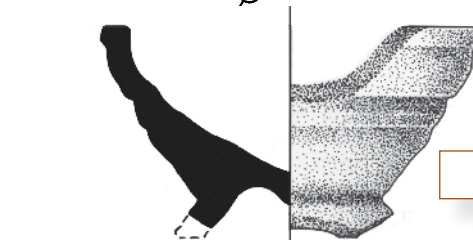


**L14.6.1**

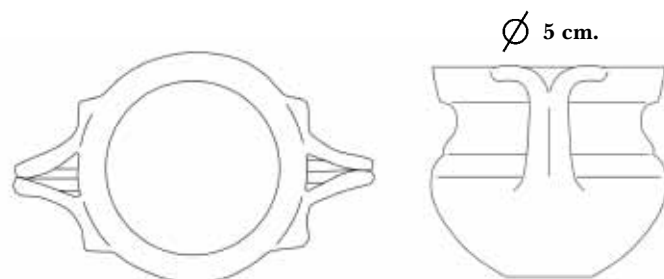
Ø 5 cm.



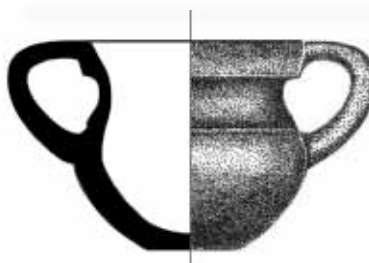
Ø 7 cm.



**J13.4.9**



Ø 5 cm.



**L14.6.1**

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thanks the following participants in our 2011 season:

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## UNITED STATES PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS:

*The following United States Peace Corps Volunteers worked alongside the  
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Kate Bennett, Michelle Carr, Jane Clark, Nicola Danks, Nathaniel Hussey, Dave Johnson,  
Lillian Mizrahi, Amanda Moskal, Aimee Pawlcyn, Dan Pickel, Kerry Plath, Laura Pontecore,  
Sam Russell, Marlys Shelby, Keri Stidam. This volunteer effort was coordinated by Nathaniel Hussey.

# THE 2011 TFAHR INTERNATIONAL FIELD SCHOOL



THE TEXAS FOUNDATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL RESEARCH  
2011 EXPEDITION TO BYLAZORA (Sveti Nikole)

## LOCUS NUMBER

AREA / SECTOR \_\_\_\_\_  
OPEN DATE \_\_\_\_\_ OPEN LEVEL \_\_\_\_\_  
CLOSE DATE \_\_\_\_\_ CLOSE LEVEL \_\_\_\_\_  
LOCI BELOW \_\_\_\_\_  
LOCI ABOVE \_\_\_\_\_

## LOCUS TYPE

TOPSOIL  
CRABE  
WALL  
FLOOR (BEATEN EARTH)  
FLOOR (PLASTER)  
FLOOR (OTHER)  
FOUNDATION LEVEL  
RUMBLE

ASH  
PIT  
FILL  
INSTALLATION  
OPEN / FIRM  
OTHER

DESCRIPTION: \*This locus is the remains of a wall, built of large, squared stones, with a plastered surface. The wall is 1.5m thick and 1.5m high. It is located in the center of the site, and is the main wall of the building. The wall is made of large, squared stones, and is plastered with a thick layer of plaster. The wall is 1.5m thick and 1.5m high. It is located in the center of the site, and is the main wall of the building.

