

THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE POTTERY SEQUENCE IN THE NORTHERN AEGEAN ISLANDS: THE EVIDENCE OF POLIOCHNI, LEMNOS

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1. INTRODUCTION

The end of the Early Bronze Age (EBA) and the transition to the Middle Bronze Age (MBA) in the North Aegean is a problematic topic and remains an intriguing, difficult issue. Nothing appears more confusing than MBA ceramic terminology, and not only in the north Aegean district.¹

The major problems in MBA ceramic terminology are the result of several shortcomings. First, the classification is based on superficial criteria: its terms are too general and, in many cases, they cannot apply to groupings of sites. Secondly the persistent use, or abuse, of diverging regional chronologies to provide an effective framework of synchronization. Third is the scarcity of long-term stratigraphical sequences and, even when these are available, the archaeological record is incomplete and dependent on limited publications of artifacts. Fourth and finally is the strong influence of the Trojan classificatory system: confusion over the dating of Troy IV and Troy V has arisen partly because of the tendency to use Blegen's classification.² However, recent progress in the study of the Trojan pottery offers a new, valid means of investigating the system of correlations between the islands of the North Aegean and western Anatolia.³

The main goal of setting up regional projects is to find methods and ways to define the individual relative chronologies, i.e., to identify the macroscopic and subtle changes of regional material cultures. The aim of this paper is to focus on the evidence recorded on the island of Lemnos, with specific reference to the site at Poliochni, which provides a long-term stratigraphical sequence where the pottery seriation can be strongly fixed to the architectural levels. Recent developments in our studies, together with a

general reassessment of the pottery classification from the MBA levels, or "Periodo Bruno" (Brown Period) in the Italian terminology, provide a solid foundation for re-examining the chronology of the MBA in the north Aegean district.

2. MBA POLIOCHNI RESEARCH PROGRAM

The prehistoric settlement at Poliochni is located on a hill close to the eastern coast of the island of Lemnos. The site covers 8 hectares, with an almost uninterrupted sequence of occupation beginning in the Late Chalcolithic Period when a well-planned and fortified settlement was built (Fig. 1).⁴

Excavations at the site were carried out by the Italian Archaeological School in 1930–1936, but Poliochni's importance to the studies of the EBA/MBA periods became clear only in 1952–1956, when extensive news works, under the direction of Luigi Bernabò Brea, provided a detailed chronological sequence.⁵

Since 1992, new excavation activity has been carried out by the Italian Archaeological School at Athens, focusing on the hill north of the area investigated in 1930–1936, the so-called acropolis, where the first Italian archaeologists had identified a large building (Fig. 1.4).⁶ Although no remains of this supposed "palace" have subsequently been found, the exploration of the northern hill at Poliochni has given us a remarkable recompense. The systematic investigation has allowed the identification of architectural levels of the MBA that appear to be similar to the sequences identified by the Italian archaeologists in other parts of the settlement in 1930.⁷

The identification of a detailed stratigraphical sequence prompted a general reassessment of the MBA at Poliochni. When Bernabò Brea published the

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¹ For a general view see MANNING 1995, 86–8.

² For Blegen's classification system see PAVÚK 2002a.

³ Summaries of the new results from Troy VI and VIIa are presented in KORFMANN 2001.

⁴ CULTRARO 2004, 19–34.

⁵ BERNABÒ BREA 1964, 1976.

⁶ For a synthesis of the recent excavations see TINÉ 1997, 13–22.

⁷ BERNABÒ BREA 1976, 335–9.

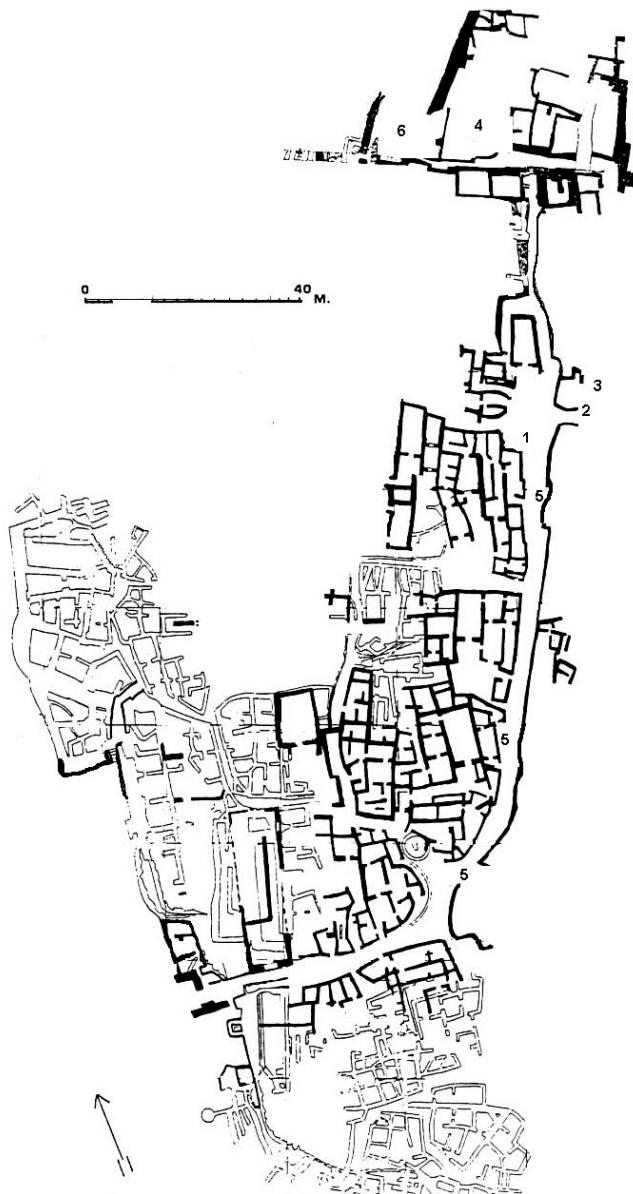


Fig. 1 Plan of Poliochni showing the location of the MBA deposits

two volumes dedicated to the oldest Italian excavations at Poliochni, his goal was to complete his work in a third book, focusing on the MBA period. In 1956, BREA ceased his activity on Lemnos and the third volume, then underway, was reduced to the final chapter of *Poliochni II*, published in 1976.⁸

The main limitation of the old research is that the pottery assemblage recorded in Bernabò Brea's book came from the archaeological deposits, where the stratigraphy was not always discernible. The recent exploration provides a very detailed stratigraphical

sequence and establishes an important chronological classification for defining MBA at Poliochni.

The aim of my research project is the publication of the MBA to Late Bronze Age (LBA) I–II stratigraphy and pottery. The mass of pottery coming from stratified contexts made it necessary from the very beginning of my work to divide the material according to chronological criteria. My research on the MBA at Poliochni therefore concentrates on the following aspects:

Internal Chronology

- a) Definition of the main archaeological indicators, with a main focus on the stratified levels in order to establish an internal sequence.
- b) Correlation of that sequence with the already existing chronological articulation.
- c) Definition of the transitional period versus the gap between EBA III (or the “Yellow Period”) and MBA (the “Brown Period”).

Local Pottery Production

- a) Characterization of the locally made pottery.
- b) Definition of specific shapes, their dating and related problems.
- c) Establishing of technical features.
- d) Definition of the origin of individual shapes, including whether some shapes were derived from the earliest Yellow Period repertoire.

Imports

Range, origin, and chronological distribution of the nonlocal pottery.

External Chronology and Interconnections

- a) Establishing the interconnections with other MBA sites of the north Aegean – especially Chios, Lesbos and Samos – according to recent developments in Aegean archaeology.
- b) Defining the correlation between Poliochni of the Brown Period and Troy V–VI according to the renewed excavations under M. Korfmann.⁹

3. THE INTERNAL CHRONOLOGY: THE MBA STRATIGRAPHIC SERIATION

The main deposits concerning the stratigraphy of the Brown Period include four wide archaeological complexes. The first is the built well located in square

⁸ BERNABÒ BREA 1976, , 335–9.

⁹ See supra n. 3.

106, in the northern area of the settlement (Fig. 1.1).¹⁰ The filling sequence of the well is very instructive for reconstructing the development of the MBA period at the site. Three different stratified levels can be distinguished: the first from the top contains pottery of the LBA including some sherds of LH I–II,¹¹ while the middle level represents the temporary abandonment of the structure due to the presence of sand and mud. The lowest level includes mud deposits with charcoal and wooden remains, and can be dated to the MBA period.

The second deposit is the complex of rooms explored in the area to the east of square 106 (Fig. 1.2). In 1953, Bernabò Brea investigated a group of three small rooms (rooms 327–328): each room has different floor levels and the pottery found in each pavement shows typological peculiarities.¹² The results of this excavation have never been published. However, in 1994 I had the opportunity to carry out a stratigraphical test in order to clarify the chronology of these structures (Fig. 1.3). At the same time I was able to reassess the pottery assemblage found in this area and concluded that two different architectural levels can be related to two different phases of the Brown Period.¹³ As I will clarify below, the stratigraphical sequence identified in the area east of square 106 represents a solid basis for reconstructing the inner articulation of the Brown Period at Poliochni.

The third main deposit was found in street 105, an important road that connected square 106 with square 103, where a large private building (megaron 605) was located in the Yellow Period (Fig. 1.5).¹⁴ The recent investigations have supported the conclusion that street 105 was in use from the earliest phases of the EBA until the LBA. On the northern side of street 105 the Italian excavations in 1930 identified some architectural remains that have now disappeared. I have recently identified the pottery of these excavations in the storerooms of the Archaeological Museum at Myrina.¹⁵ Unfortunately the references on provenance are missing and the available material is without stratigraphical context.

The fourth and final deposit to be discussed here, located in the northwestern area of the settlement, was identified in the H/West sounding (1993–1995)

(Fig. 1.4).¹⁶ Structure 25 is the most important building identified in this area (Fig. 1.6). This building can be interpreted as the foundation of an impressive *emplecton* defensive wall. The upper part of the stone foundation consisted of mud bricks, remains of which were identified in the area close to the structure. It is dated to the Brown Period on the basis of the material found in the wall. The stone foundation of structure 25 is of particular importance and establishes the fact that the settlement at Poliochni during the Brown Period was protected by an impressive fortification comparable with similar structures explored at Troy V–VI¹⁷ and at Palamari on the island of Skyros.¹⁸

The reassessment of the stratigraphical sequence challenges the traditional opinion that Poliochni was definitely abandoned after the earthquake that destroyed the settlement of the Yellow Period.¹⁹ In fact, according to Bernabò Brea's reconstruction, the Brown Period should be correlated to a late stage of the MBA. The current developments in research in the field lead us to conclude that there was no gap between the Yellow and the Brown periods. Confirmation of this reconstruction is provided by the analysis of the pottery assemblage.

4. POTTERY CLASSIFICATION AND TYPE SERIATION

Having clarified the “horizontal stratigraphy” of the deposits, let us now turn to the classification of the pottery assemblage and its typological development. Most of the examples of the Brown Period pottery assemblage at Poliochni consist of larger and smaller fragments, and a study of comparable pottery from the contemporary Troy V–VI was required in order to determine the definite forms and the total number of existing variations.

At first glance, the system of classification developed for the pottery from Poliochni's Brown Period relies on two essentially independent series of classificatory groupings. The only significant difference between the two pottery assemblages is that the classes are unambiguously defined according to the main distinctions in decorative treatment (painted and unpainted), fabric (coarse, medium coarse and fine), surface treatment (burnished and unburnished) and color (red or red-brown, orange). The

¹⁰ CULTRARO 2001, 215–8 fig. 3.

¹¹ CULTRARO 2005, 239–42, pls. LXI–LXIII.

¹² BERNABÒ BREA 1976, 82–3.

¹³ CULTRARO 2001, 218–20 fig. 2.

¹⁴ BERNABÒ BREA 1976, 58–9.

¹⁵ Data available in CULTRARO 2001, 220–2.

¹⁶ CULTRARO 1997b, 686–7.

¹⁷ KORFMANN 2001, 395 fig. 440.

¹⁸ THEOCHARI and PARLAMA 1997, 344–56, i.sp. 345–347, fig. 2.

¹⁹ BERNABÒ BREA 1964, 39.

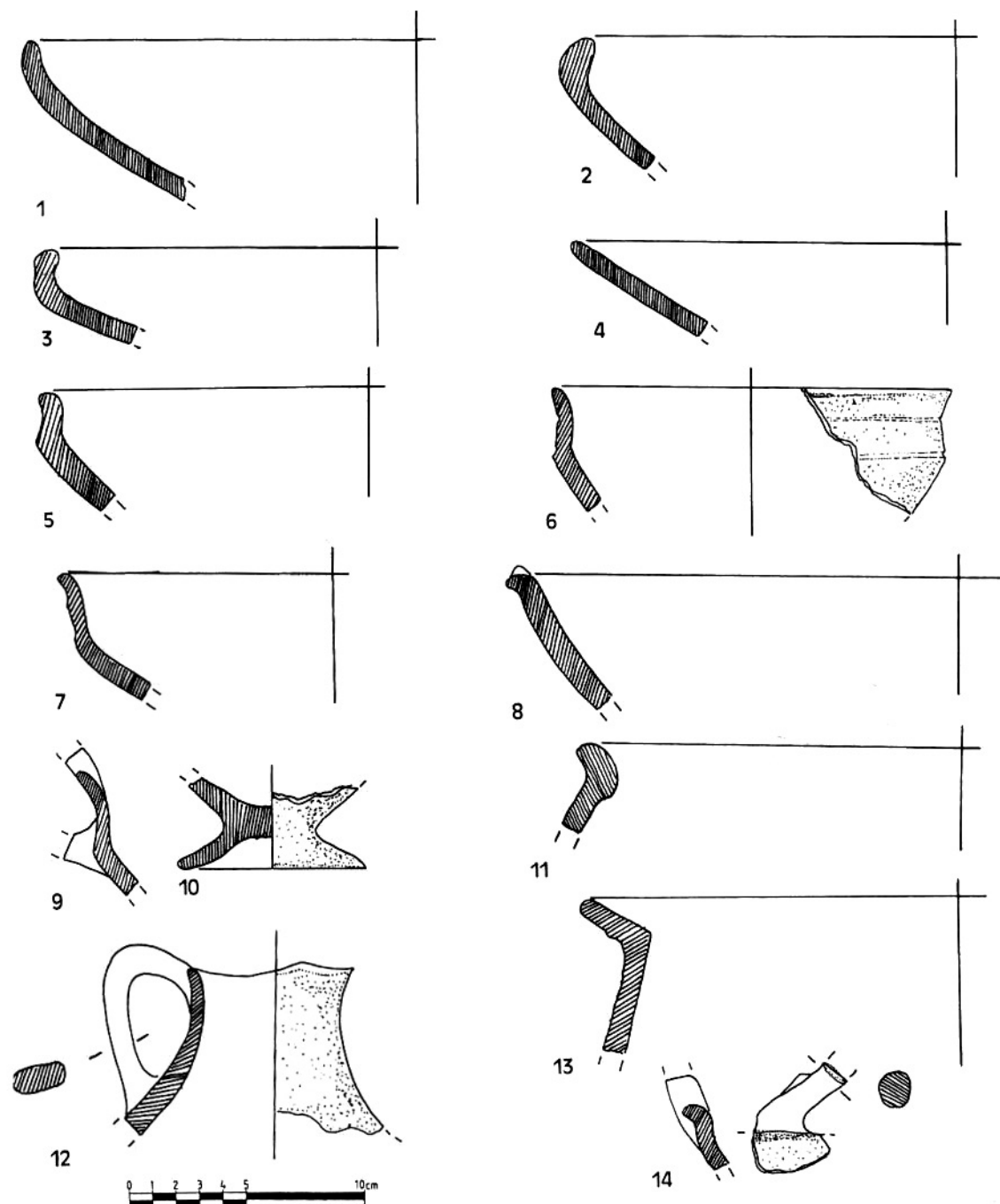


Fig. 2 Poliochni: pottery assemblage of the Brown Period Phase 1 (after CULTRARO 2001)

choice of this specific classificatory system was made out of a concern for simplicity and ready intelligibility. The main question, however, is to correlate this specific classificatory system to a solid stratigraphic sequence and, where possible, to architectural elements.

The stratigraphic sequence for reconstructing the internal seriation of the MBA pottery assemblage is based on the evidence of the habitation levels explored to the east of square 106 (Fig. 1.2, 3). As I

have mentioned above, the stratigraphy is clearly discernible: after the destruction of the house dated to the late Yellow Period, a new structure was built, with a different orientation and planning articulation. In the earliest occupation level, which we call "phase 1", a large body of pottery was found. The pottery assemblage includes three main categories according to the fabric: red-slipped or washed ware, grey ware and coarse ware. It is worth noting that a large number of examples of red-slipped ware, which

represents the highest percentage (65%), is handmade, while the grey ware (20%) is wheel-made.²⁰

Among the red-slipped or washed ware, the most popular shape is the open bowl with straight or slightly curving side (Fig. 2.1–4). About a dozen rims, handmade, that are attributed to this category can be identified as a shape originated from the pottery assemblage of EBA III, the Yellow Period at Poliochni.²¹ Of interest are some wheel-made shallow bowls, with marks of manufacture on a fast wheel both inside and out.

Another common shape is the one- or two-handled carinated bowl (Fig. 2.5–7). This category appears to come from handmade as well as from wheel-made shapes, and there seems to be nothing from the Yellow Period pottery assemblage that closely corresponds to this type of rim.²² Carinated bowls are made in grey ware fabric as well as in red-slipped ware. A pedestal foot of grey ware fabric can be attributed to an open bowl with curving side, and it can be compared with the carinated one-handled cup of A 96 type in the Trojan classification (Fig. 2.10).²³

A distinctive shape is the shallow bowl with more or less well-marked bead rim (Fig. 2.3). Such bowls, most of them wheel-made, occur in large quantity during the Brown Period I and are not common in the previous Yellow Period.²⁴ A fragment of rim and handle can be related to a kantharos of grey ware fabric that shows closest parallels among the western Anatolian pottery from Troy V–VI (Fig. 2.9).²⁵

Coarse ware includes large storage vessels with wide neck and everted rim (Fig. 2.11, 13).²⁶ No other shape of vase in cooking ware from the levels of phase I could be wholly reconstructed. The most common shape is the tripod cooking pot that belongs

to the local tradition, well documented beginning from the EBA I.²⁷

The reconstruction of the floor of the house located to the east of square 106 corresponds to phase 2 of the Brown Period at Poliochni.

The pottery assemblage found in the phase 2 levels shows some remarkable differences from the typology of the earliest deposits. Regarding the fabrics, of particular interest is the considerable decrease in the number of examples of red-slipped ware. In contrast, we recognize a clear increase in the grey ware, especially the production of fine table ware that in some cases replaces the traditional shapes of the red-slipped ware, i.e., open bowls and carinated cups.

Within the category of plain bowls with curving side, the main shape is the large bowl with inward-leaning rim and high shoulders (Fig. 3.1–3).²⁸ There is no evidence of the large variety of shapes found in phase 1. The implication is that in phase 2 the plain bowl with curving profile becomes a standardized shape, probably due to the extensive use of the fast wheel. Another significant typological feature is the ring foot, which could probably be related to large open bowls (Fig. 3.12).²⁹ I would like to stress that the ring-type feet appear for the first time in phase 2 and become a diagnostic feature for reconstructing the relative chronology.

The most popular shape in grey ware is the two-handled carinated bowl (Fig. 3.4–6).³⁰ This category encompasses several variants, of which the most well-attested is that with everted rim. It is uncertain whether the fragments of this category can be interpreted as one-handled carinated cups or belong to the kantharos of Anatolian tradition.³¹

²⁰ CULTRARO 2001, 224.

²¹ BERNABÒ BREA 1976, 260–1, pls. CCIV–CCVa–e (Yellow Period). It is worth mentioning that the first evidence of an open bowl with curving side can be attributed to the Red Period, correlating to Troy II early; it confirms the long-time presence of such a shape among the pottery assemblage at Poliochni: BERNABÒ BREA 1964, 634–5, pl. CXXXVII.

²² CULTRARO 2001, 224 fig. 4.5–7. For parallels from the pottery assemblage of square 106: BERNABÒ BREA 1976, 318–9, pls. CCLXVI:6, 7, 9, 11; CCLXVIIa–f.

²³ Examples in PAVÚK 2002a, 53 fig. 12.

²⁴ CULTRARO 2001, 224.

²⁵ CULTRARO 2001, 224 fig. 4.9. For the comparison with the Troy V pottery assemblage: BLEGEN *et al.* 1951, 126 fig. 160 (37.882, 37.1126).

²⁶ CULTRARO 2001, 225 fig. 4.11, 13. Of interest is the evi-

dence of a large closed storage vase found among the pottery assemblage from square 106, which can be compared to the amphora B 25 from Troy VI early–middle: BLEGEN *et al.* 1953, 187 fig. 432.1.

²⁷ Examples in BERNABÒ BREA 1976, 274–5, pl. CCXIX. For the typological classification: CULTRARO 1997a, 244–6. The rounded tripod pot, in some cases with vertical handle, shows closest parallels with shape D38 from Troy VI: BLEGEN *et al.* 1953, 72 fig. 329 (37.1171).

²⁸ BERNABÒ BREA 1976, 329, pl. CCLXXVIIm–o; CULTRARO 2001, 225 fig. 5.1–3.

²⁹ CULTRARO 2001, 226 fig. 5.12.

³⁰ CULTRARO 2001, 226 fig. 5.4–6, especially examples from room 328.

³¹ PAVÚK 2002a, 51–2 fig. 11 (kantharos A94 and carinated one-handled cup A95).

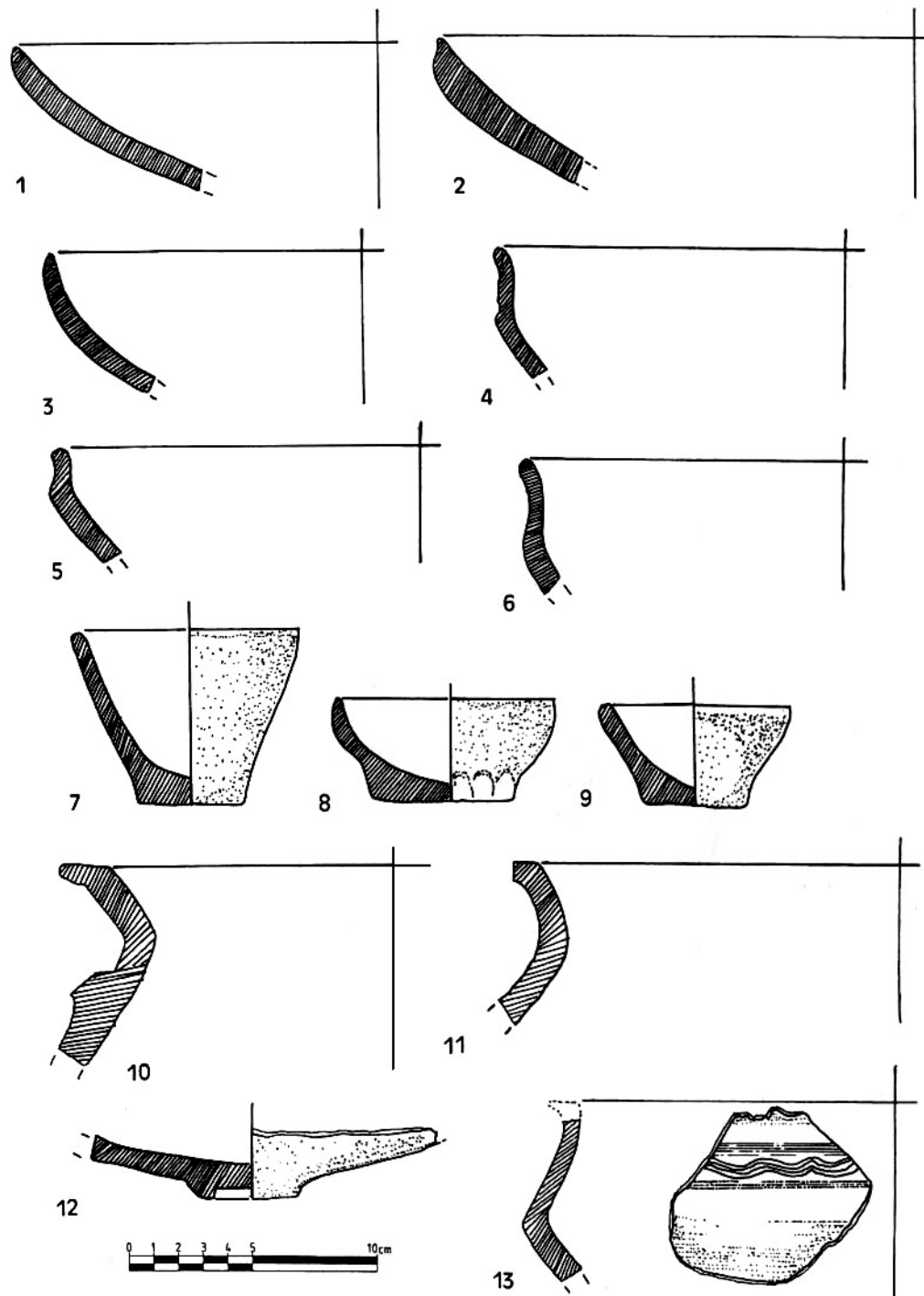


Fig. 3 Poliochni: pottery assemblage of the Brown Period Phase 2 (after CULTRARO 2001)

The most distinctive shape of the Brown Period phase 2 is the category of plain handleless cups (Fig. 3.7–9).³² Three main varieties can be distinguished: tall with straight sides; tall with curving sides; and

low with curving sides. Many examples show string marks on the base where the vessel was cut from the potter's wheel while the wheel was still rotating. On the basis of the fabric, it is possible to distinguish two

³² CULTRARO 2001, 226 figs. 5, 7–9, pl. I.6–11. A small quantity of plain handleless cups comes from well 106 (5.65–

8.25 m); BERNABÒ BREA 1976, 338, pls. CCLXXXIIg–i; CCLXXXIVo, p.

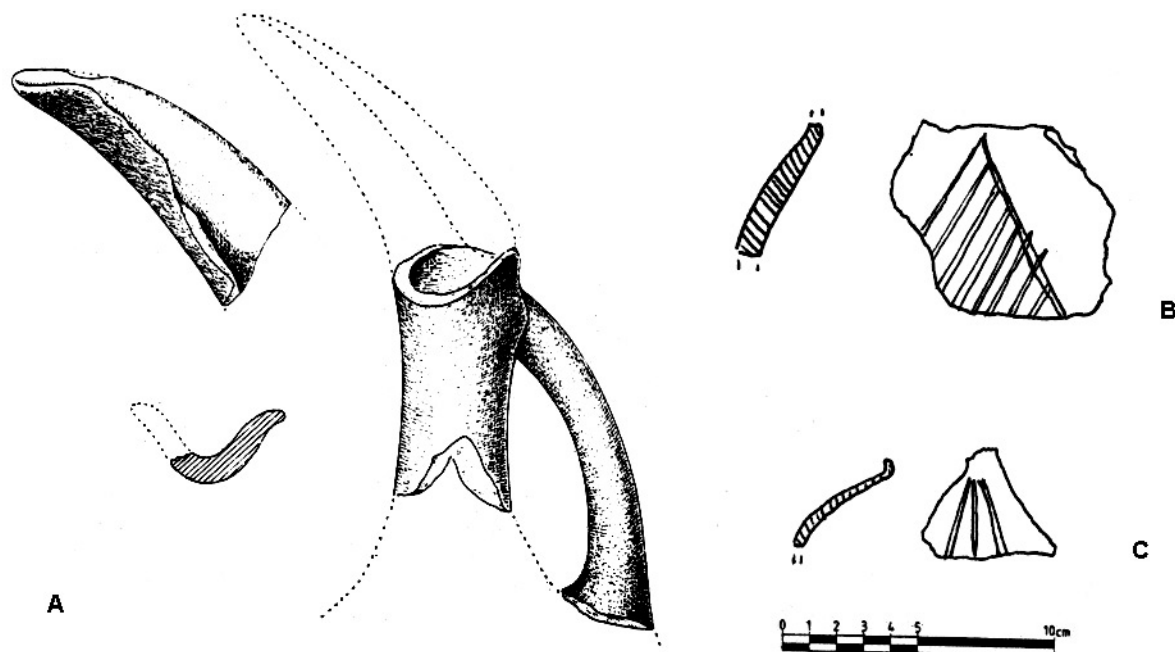


Fig. 4 Poliochni: a) Red Coated Beaked Jug (after BERNABÒ BREA 1976, pl. 275); b–c) Fragmentary small close vases with incised decoration and white colour filled (after BERNABÒ BREA 1976, pl. 280)

different groups: plain ware and tan ware, the latter very similar to fabric reported from Troy V and VI.³³ In the broader perspective of relative chronology, it is worth noting that the category of handleless cups was reported only from levels of phase 2 of the Brown Period.

A large number of pithoi and other storage vessels were found on the floor of the house of phase 2 of the Brown Period (Fig. 3.10, 11). Characteristic is the short and wide neck. In some examples, pithoi are decorated with a series of horizontal channeled ribs.³⁴ Of particular interest is a fragment belonging to a large carinated jar or krater with everted rim made in grey ware (Fig. 3.13); the incised waves decoration and shape suggest comparison with the shape of similar vessels reported from Troy VI early.³⁵

The Poliochni Pottery Sequence and the Trojan Parallels

In order to verify the validity of the internal sequence proposed for the MBA period at Poliochni, specific attention should be directed to the connec-

tion between Lemnian shape types and the typological series of Troy IV–V.

The pottery assemblage from phase 1 of the Brown Period shows remarkable parallels with the ware group of Troy III and IV early. The synchronisms are closely based on the evidence of a large number of shapes present at both sites. The rounded bowl with high rim rising almost vertically from a slight angle can be compared with shape A18–20 from Troy III late or Troy IV early.³⁶ It also can be attributed to the same ceramic category as the variety with angular or carinated profile, which is connected to the introduction of the new type during a transitional stage from the Yellow Period to the Brown Period.

The pottery group from the phase 2 levels can be correlated to Troy V and, in some cases, to Troy VI early. The correlation is based on the similarities of specific shapes, i.e., the shallow bowl A21.³⁷ Although there is evidence of similar examples at Troy IV, the angular profile topped by broad flat or convex rim and the decorative system (pairs of grooves under the rim) are characteristic features of the pottery

³³ BLEGEN *et al.* 1953, 50, 280, fig. 313 (37.957, 37.1054; shape A76); MOUNTJOY 1997, 290 fig. 10.32.

³⁴ Examples in CULTRARO 2001, 226 fig. 5.10, 11.

³⁵ CULTRARO 2001, 226 fig. 5.13. Examples from Troy VI: BLEGEN *et al.* 1953, 77 fig. 327 (37.1039 and 37.1060).

³⁶ BLEGEN *et al.* 1951, 25 fig. 66 (Troy III), 124–5 fig. 177

(Troy IV). These shapes (A12, A6, A18–20) comprise various bowls, the majority of them produced in plain ware and in red-coated, which is very similar to the orange ware documented at Poliochni. For the type see PAVÚK 2002a, 39.

³⁷ BLEGEN *et al.* 1951, 241–2.

Troy	Poliochni Brown Period	Well Square 106	House East to Square 106	Street 105	H/W Trench (1995–1998)
Troy III late–Troy IV	Phase 1	?			?
Troy V–VI early	Phase 2				
Troy VI early–middle	Phase 3 (Violet Period)				

Fig. 5 Proposal of synchronism between the Brown Period at Poliochni and the Trojan stratigraphic sequence

assemblage at Troy V.³⁸ Another peculiarity of Troy V that occurs in bowls of this type is the plastic decoration in the form of knobs or spirals springing from the junction of handle and rim.³⁹

Finally, the carinated or angular cups can be compared to shape A19 from Troy V.⁴⁰ It is worth mentioning that at Poliochni in the Brown Period and at Troy V a large quantity of examples are wheel-made. Moreover, a predilection for grooved rims associated with this type seems to be a diagnostic element of the pottery production of Troy VI early.⁴¹

Such a picture of comparisons leads to the conclusion that the Brown Period at Poliochni can be distinguished into two different stages, according to the pottery seriation and to its correlation with the stratigraphic sequence reported from the northern area of the settlement. The first stage, or phase 1, can be synchronized with Troy IV, and phase 2 can be compared with Troy V and Troy VI early (Fig. 5).

According to the evidence of well 106, it is possible to identify a third stratum, corresponding to the last phase of the Brown Period. The current excavations confirm the presence of this horizon, which seems to be immediately later than the destruction of house 327–328 located in square 106. However, it is not yet possible to establish whether this stratum can be related to the Violet Period or represents the latest stage of the Brown Period and should thus be considered separately from the succeeding Violet Period.⁴² The question is not only a matter of terminology, but involves a more specific evaluation of the horizon of variability including the typological series and the stratigraphic evidence. The available data

does not yet permit an answer, but the development of these typological series have the potential of being a very sophisticated tool for relative dating. The more such typological groups can be identified, the more reliable the definition of relative chronology will be.

At present the basis of the relative chronology for dating the final stratum at Poliochni is the evidence of LH I–II imports from mainland Greece. In particular, a fragment of a squat jug (FS 87) and the flat base of a Vapheio cup (FS 224), both probably of Thessalian fabric, provide a more solid dating of the final stratum at Poliochni around the mid-16th century BC.⁴³

Local pottery and Imported Wares

Concerning the distinguishing of locally made and imported pottery at Poliochni, it should be stressed that at the present time, petrographic and chemical analyses are not available. The distinction between the two categories is currently based mainly on visual observation.

The local pottery includes two different categories: the fine table class, which encompasses the classes of red-slipped ware and grey ware, and the coarse pottery. Both show a generally soft clay, not hard-fired. Moreover, the presence of volcanic inclusions, another feature of Poliochni's pottery, represents a characteristic aspect of the local production beginning as early as the EBA.

Considering these production aspects, it is possible to identify some of the sherds as imported ware. The most important example from the levels of phase 1 is

³⁸ BLEGEN *et al.* 1951, 125 (Troy IV), 241–2 (Troy V).

³⁹ BLEGEN *et al.* 1951, 241 fig. 251.19–23.

⁴⁰ BLEGEN *et al.* 1951, 241 fig. 252.4, 5.

⁴¹ BLEGEN *et al.* 1953, 42. Grooved decoration is well known at Troy in the pottery assemblage of the Third City, but from

Troy V to early VI it is much better organized and more effectively used in the decorative system (*ibid.*, 35–6).

⁴² For the Violet Period at Poliochni see BERNABÒ BREA 1976, 335–9.

⁴³ CULTRARO 2005, 239, pls. LXIb.1, LXII.1.

a fragment of a beaked jug found in the area east of street 105 (Fig. 4a).⁴⁴ The red-washed fabric and the morphology are two specific features of the group of beaked jugs B20 reported from Troy IV.⁴⁵ A provenance from Troy or from a site of northwest Anatolia is very likely.

Two fragments of rim, both related to small closed vases, with incised decoration and traces of white fill color, were found in the building complex of square 106 (Fig. 4b, c).⁴⁶ Some of the technical features, such as the soft fabric, surface treatment and decorative system, show close parallels with a similar pottery class attested at Emporio, on the island of Chios, in a stratum dated to the late MBA.⁴⁷ A solid comparison with Emporio is also supported by the evidence of large numbers of handleless conical cups that suggest a close synchronism between the Brown Period 2 at Poliochni and the late MBA/early LBA at Chios.⁴⁸

CONCLUSIONS

Poliochni is one of the very few long-term sites in the north Aegean at which the stratigraphical material provides a solid framework for reconstructing the MBA period in this district. The identification of several habitation levels and groups of pottery with clear stratigraphical attribution and the close correlation between pottery assemblages and stratigraphy offers the opportunity to divide the Brown Period into three main phases. The pottery of each phase shows specific typological and quantitative features, and the development of these features over time can be clearly demonstrated.

The reassessment of the archaeological record of the Brown Period enables us to examine the architectural transformation of the settlement during the transition from the EBA to the MBA. The most significant evidence of the Brown Period is located in the middle and northern sections of the plateau (Figure 1). The lack of extensive exploration prevents us from defining the boundaries of the settlement that

seems to occupy a small part of the oldest settlement of the Yellow Period. The impressive fortification wall in the northwest section of the hill reflects changes in the city's perceived defensive needs. More generally, a measure of continuity with the previous settlement can be seen in the successive expansion of street 105 and in the spatial organization of houses lining the road grid. This evidence clearly suggests that the planning of the Brown Period village differed little from that of the oldest settlement of the Yellow Period.⁴⁹

The assemblage of the Poliochni Brown Period presents several features that seem to be a continuation from the EBA, but most of the shapes are entirely new and their origin should be located in western Anatolia. It is likely that these types, i.e., carinated bowls and one-handled kantharoi, originated in the Trojan district. However, the identification of this pottery assemblage with a specific group from a defined geographic location is not supported on present evidence.

Possibly the carriers of the new styles came into two separate waves, one from the Trojan coastal plain and the other from north Thessaly and central Macedonia. This latter district can be identified through the presence of some shapes, i.e., the large carinated bowls with vertical handle that can be compared with the pottery assemblage from layers 15–14 at Ayios Mamas on the Chalcidike peninsula.⁵⁰ It is worth noting that a group of matt-painted sherds found in well 106 can be compared with the MBA “Δ1β” dark-on-light class from Thessaly and east Boeotia.⁵¹ Moreover, a similar category of vases is attested in the village of Koukonisi, in the Gulf of Moudros, about 2 km west of Poliochni, where the pottery is claimed to have been imported from Thessaly.⁵² At both Lemnian sites, the clay fabric and the decorative system of the matt-painted pottery are very similar to those of the ceramic assemblage from Pefkakia Magoula and Lianokladi.⁵³ It is likely that these vases were produced in a workshop located in the Gulf of Pagasae.

⁴⁴ BERNABÒ BREA 1976, 324, pl. CCLXXVa.

⁴⁵ BLEGEN *et al.* 1951, 129 fig. 161 (F8–9.149).

⁴⁶ BERNABÒ BREA 1976, 324, 327, pl. CCLXXXe, g.

⁴⁷ HOOD 1982, 563 fig. 2581, pl. 102. The sherd from Poliochni is probably from the neck of a globular jar. It is of particular interest that the examples from Emporio belong to storage and transport vessels. On the basis of this comparison, the imported vase found at Poliochni could be interpreted as a storage jar. This evidence introduces the question about the circulation of specialized shapes in the north Aegean MBA and the identification of their contents.

⁴⁸ HOOD 1982, 599–600 fig. 269, pl. 123.2805, 2807.

⁴⁹ For the planning and architecture of the Brown Period settlement: BERNABÒ BREA 1964, 39; 1976, 335–6; CULTRARO 2001, 229–30.

⁵⁰ See the paper of B. HOREJS in the proceedings of this workshop.

⁵¹ CULTRARO 2005, 240, pl. LXIIIa.

⁵² BOULOTIS 1997, 264 figs. 12, 26.

⁵³ MARAN 1992, 174–80, with references.

In general, the Brown Period at Poliochni shows the broader expansion of the Trojan culture toward the neighboring islands of the north Aegean, where the Anatolian elements interlaced with different foreign components coming from mainland Greece.

Changes at Poliochni in the MBA involve not only the pottery assemblage, but also, and primarily, the production technique. In the transitional stage from the EBA to MBA, the fast wheel and controlled reduction firing represent the most significant trans-

formation of the pottery production. Together with these two aspects there emerged the introduction of wheel-made pottery and the contemporary production of fine Anatolian Grey Ware vases. Whether or not the grey ware of the Brown Period is the product of specialized craftsmen coming from western Anatolia,⁵⁴ this category shows close parallels with the contemporary material culture of Troy V and reveals the wide interregional connections between Lemnos and other areas of the north Aegean in the MBA.

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⁵⁴ For the question of the origin of Anatolian Grey Ware see PAVÚK 2002b, 99–110.