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## Cypriot Pottery

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usual red concentric circles seen embellishing better preserved examples of this type known from excavations elsewhere. Had decorative painting been present, it would have disappeared, along with much of the original surface slip, as a result of the underwater environment. Pilgrim flasks of this type are common in fourteenth-century B.C. assemblages, with good parallels found at Tel Dan,<sup>3</sup> Hazor,<sup>4</sup> Tell Abu Hawam,<sup>5</sup> Beth-Shan,<sup>6</sup> Gibeon,<sup>7</sup> Akko,<sup>8</sup> and Lachish,<sup>9</sup> among others. Ongoing petrographic analysis of the flasks indicates that they are all of the same fabric and probably originated in the same workshop located somewhere along the southern Levantine coast.

The 60 pilgrim flasks on the Uluburun ship vary greatly in size. Only 46 were recovered intact or could be later restored into complete vessels for taking capacity measurements. They range in capacity from 0.16 to 8.84 liters.<sup>10</sup> As with the Canaanite jars, the pilgrim flasks almost certainly served simply as containers and were in demand for their contents, and not for the vessels themselves.

Sieving the sediments decanted from the flasks during excavation yielded many varieties of seeds, but most frequently encountered were those of figs. Because fig seeds were recovered in great quantities throughout the shipwreck site, indicating that they were carried aboard the ship either for consumption or as cargo, they may have been intrusive elements deposited in the flasks after the ship sank. The narrow necks of the flasks indicate that they probably carried a liquid such as oil. A pilgrim flask, along with Canaanite jars and several other items of the type represented on the Uluburun ship, can be seen being unloaded from a ship in the scene of a Syrian merchant venture to Egypt in the fourteenth-century B.C. Tomb of Kenamun at Thebes (see fig. 98).<sup>11</sup>

Sixteen Canaanite oil lamps were found on the vessel. They are made of medium coarse red-orange gritty fabric with a reddish brown surface.<sup>12</sup> One corner of the saucer-shaped lamp bowl is pinched to form a nozzle for the placement of the wick. On one side of the nozzle is a semicircular impression in the clay resulting from pinching between a thumb and index finger, and around the interior circumference is a slightly raised ridge. The nozzle exhibits soot stains from burning, suggesting use aboard the ship. Similar charring is seen on

several other lamps, all of the same type, although two types of lamps were found on board. The lamps that exhibit charring are larger, and more coarsely made than the more numerous second type,<sup>13</sup> which is of Cypriot manufacture (cat. no. 193d); some were found still nested one inside another along with Cypriot export pottery within one of the large storage jars or pithoi. These Cypriot lamps are in pristine condition, thus representing cargo. Unlike the Cypriot examples, the Canaanite lamps may provisionally be taken as an indicator of the ship's point of origin.<sup>14</sup>

Similar lamps have been found at Tel Michal,<sup>15</sup> Tell Abu Hawam,<sup>16</sup> Megiddo,<sup>17</sup> Tel Dan,<sup>18</sup> Hazor,<sup>19</sup> and Lachish,<sup>20</sup> among many others. Ongoing petrographic analysis reveals that all of the heavier lamps were made of the same type of clay as that used in producing most of the ship's cargo of coarse wares such as the pilgrim flasks (cat. no. 191), most of the Canaanite jars (cat. no. 190), and several types of bowls, suggesting that all were taken on board in the same general region. Unlike the cargo, which cannot be used to indicate a ship's home port, a ship's galley wares, among which oil lamps are to be included, are excellent indicators of a ship's port of origin. The evidence of these oil lamps, along with several bowls for shipboard use thus represents one of the strongest indications that the ship's home port was in the vicinity of Tell Abu Hawam or slightly farther north along with Levantine coast. CP

1. Pulak 1988, p. 12, fig. 7, p. 13; Bass 1986, pp. 284–85, 286, ill. 21.
2. For a similar fabrication method of pilgrim flasks from Beth-Shan, see James and McGovern 1993, pp. 100–101.
3. Biran and Ben-Dov 2002, pp. 77–78, 88–91.
4. Yadin et al. 1960, pl. CXXX:8–13.
5. Hamilton 1935, p. 42, no. 255.
6. Oren 1973, figs. 41:4, 44b:27, 30, 31.
7. Pritchard 1963, fig. 8:25.
8. Ben-Arieh and Edelstein 1977, p. 23, fig. 11.1–4, pls. III:4, IX:3–4, XI:3.
9. Tufnell 1958, p. 217, pl. 84, no. 955.
10. Nearly half the flasks have capacities of under 2 liters, and seven are more than 6 liters, approximately the average capacity of the small Canaanite jars on the ship (see cat. no. 190).
11. Davies and Faulkner 1947, pl. 8; Davies 1963, p. 14, pl. 15.
12. Pulak 1988, p. 12, fig. 6, p. 13; Bass 1986, pp. 285, 287, ill. 22.
13. Bass 1986, pp. 285–87, ill. 22; Pulak 1988, pp. 12–13, fig. 6. A total of 27 Cypriot lamps were among the assemblage of Cypriot pottery on the Uluburun ship.
14. Pulak 1997, p. 252.

15. Negbi 1989, fig. 5.7: 9.
16. Hamilton 1935, p. 23, no. 93, p. 49, no. 300.
17. Loud 1948, pls. 9–12.
18. Biran and Ben-Dov 2002, pp. 78, 92–93.
19. Yadin et al. 1960, pp. 149–50.
20. Tufnell 1958, pl. 73, especially classes F and G.

## 193a–e

### CYPRIO T POTTERY

#### Ceramic

##### a. Bucchero jug

Height 16.2 cm (6 $\frac{3}{8}$  in.); diameter 11.4 cm (4 $\frac{1}{2}$  in.)

8.31.84 (KW 15)

##### b. White Slip II milk bowl

Height 8.2 cm (3 $\frac{1}{4}$  in.); diameter 15.1 cm (6 in.)  
27.6.98 (KW 5734)

##### c. Base-Ring bowl

Height 7.5 cm (3 in.); width 18 cm (7 $\frac{1}{8}$  in.)  
11.31.84 (KW 18)

##### d. Lamp

Height 4.3 cm (1 $\frac{3}{4}$  in.); length 13.3 cm (5 $\frac{1}{4}$  in.)  
15.31.84 (KW 23)

(Three lamps are shown on p. 322)

##### e. Wall bracket

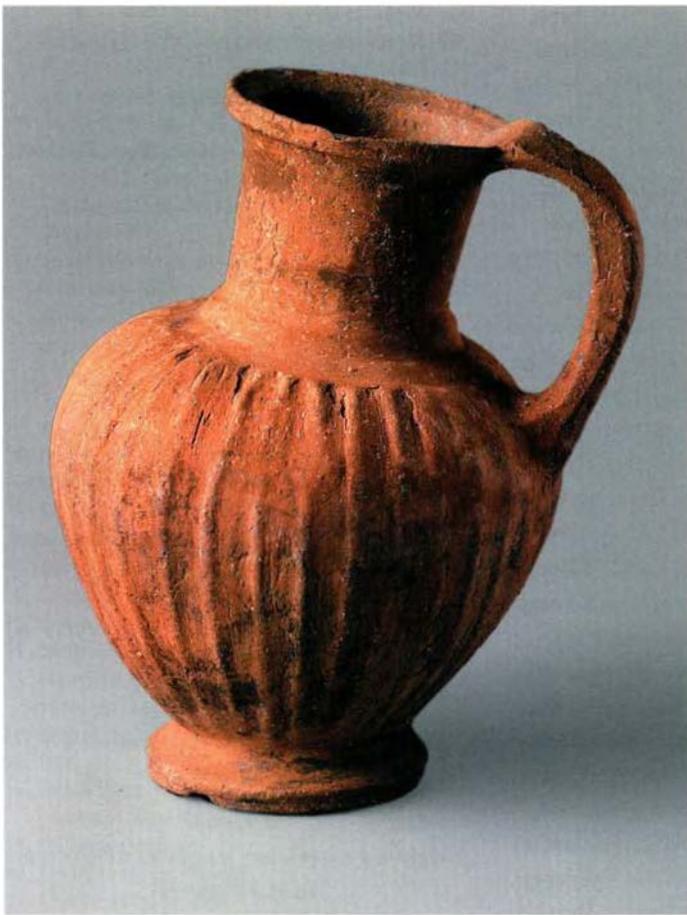
Length 39 cm (15 $\frac{3}{8}$  in.)  
14.4.88 (KW 1539)

#### Uluburun shipwreck

Late Bronze Age, ca. 1300 B.C.

Bodrum Museum of Underwater  
Archaeology, Turkey

At least 3 of the 10 pithoi (large ceramic transport containers) stowed on the ship that sank at Uluburun contained Cypriot pottery: Bucchero jugs, lug-handled bowls, milk bowls, Base Ring bowls and a single juglet, White Shaved juglets, lamps, and wall brackets—about 140 pieces in total, excluding the pithoi. The Uluburun shipment and the ceramic cargo jettisoned off Point Iria on the Greek mainland a century later are the only extant excavated direct archaeological evidence for the transport of pottery in the eastern Mediterranean during the Late Bronze Age.<sup>1</sup> These examples of ceramics-in-transport are highly significant for what they tell us about how pottery was produced and organized for shipment. This, in turn, is important because archaeologists often view imported ceramics as significant indicators of exchange and chronological synchronization.



193a

The Cypriot ceramic cargo at Uluburun was not the primary cargo of the ship, nor even of the containers in which it was packed. Bowls found on the seabed in tightly packed stacking arrangements would have only partially filled the pithoi. Each pithos carried a different assortment of pottery. The Bucchero jug (a), for example, was one of three found on the wreck, all packed into a single pithos. Similarly, another pithos held the only examples of a unique variety of White Slip bowls. None of the pithoi contained a homogeneous shipment, and there was diversity even among vases of a particular type shipped in one container. For instance, the Base Ring bowl (c) is one of two varieties of this shape found on the wreck. Both types were found nested together in a spill of pottery that fell from the third pithos (fig. 104), still in a coherent stack in spite of having been shaken out of their container as it lurched down the sloping surface.

The wall bracket (e) fell from the same pithos. Whatever the function of these enigmatic objects—most likely they served as lamps or lamp holders—it is somewhat surprising to find these clunky, coarse-ware



193b



193c



193d



193e

pieces packed alongside fine tablewares. Also surprising is the discovery of non-Cypriot ceramics packed together with Cypriot vases. Inside the krater was a White Slip bowl (b) stacked with another milk bowl in a carinated bowl that was probably made in the Levant. Herein lies the key to understanding the diversity of this mixed lot: it was a secondary cargo, relative not only to the shipment of ingots and luxury items carried on board this ship, but also in the sense that it was picked up not at any single primary production center, but rather at a trading

entrepôt, likely located on the Levantine coast. These Cypriot artifacts thus provide a view into the complexity of exchange within the eastern Mediterranean during the latter half of the second millennium B.C.

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1. Most of the ceramics found on the Cape Gelidonya ship, the one other excavated wreck from this area and era, were probably in use on board the ship rather than transported as cargo.

Figure 104. Author excavating Cypriot ceramics spilled on seabed. Uluburun shipwreck.

