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Keratea, Attica: Early Helladic silver-lead metallurgy and its pottery context

ABSTRACT: *At Zapani at Keratea region, Attica three Early Helladic sites were excavated in 2006 – 2008 during the construction works of the new Industrial Area of Keratea. All three sites yielded litharge items. The preliminary study of the pottery indicates that habitation started in EH I, but the main bulk of it dates to the EH II phase.*

The density that the litharge items presented at Site 1 is only comparable to their density at the EH I Lambrika cupellation workshop. Although no installations similar to those at Lambrika were found, the site should be connected to silver production. Site 2 was most probably an area for open-air communal activities comprising eating and drinking and Site 3 was a settlement area. The presence of litharge items on these latter sites is compared to this in other EH settlements in the Mesogeia plain. The distribution of the sites which yielded litharge items in east Attica implies that silver-lead metallurgy developed on a peripheral pattern around the mining area of Lavreotiki.

KEYWORDS: LITHARGE, CUPELLATION, LAVRION, LAMBRIKA WORKSHOP

Introduction

At the area Zapani in the region of Keratea (Fig. 1), rescue excavations were conducted in 2006 – 2008 due to the development of the new Industrial Area of Keratea (IAK). At the east part of the IAK three Early Helladic sites were excavated (Fig. 2).

Site 1 lies on the north-northeast slope of a hill 147 m high, just below the flat top. It was discovered during the construction of street B25 around the hill (Ανδρίκου, 2007, pp.206 – 208, figs.159 – 163). *Site 2* is located in the plain (124 m) at a distance of about 350 m southwest of Site 1 and was discovered during the construction of a water pipe along street B20 (Ανδρίκου, 2007, p.208). *Site 3* lies at the foot of the hill (135 m) south of Site 1 and approximately at equal distance (200 – 250 m) from Sites 1 and 2. The excavation was very extensive since it just preceded the construction of an industrial building. In an area of around 300 m^2 (Fig. 3), remains of a settlement were excavated. A sunken floor of at least one hut and auxiliary spaces around it and a pair of storage pits with stone-built mouths were discovered. In Site 3 fourteen specimens of litharges have been found in the area around the hut and twenty more were discovered further to the southwest in the area of the LH III settlement. The study of this site has not yet processed (Ανδρίκου, 2010, pp.181 – 182, figs.118 – 119). Emphasis has been placed on the study of Sites 1 and 2. Special attention was paid on the silver and lead metallurgy, since at Site 2 two hundred fifteen litharge specimens and Site 1 more than 700 pieces were found. The number of litharge specimens from Site 1 can only be compared to the nearly 1,400 pieces from the Lambrika workshop.

Site 1

Site 1 was found during the construction of street B25, just below the surface. It was a trench of 10 or 5 m wide, around and below the top of the hill. The length of the site, approximately on east-west axis was 95 m, but its width remains unknown. Under the dark brown earth of the surface layer most of the site was covered by more or less extended heaps of stones. Below these heaps the architectural relics, the stone packed areas and the pits were uncovered (Fig. 4). At the west part of Site 1 (sectors B – Z, c. 325 m^2) lie the best-preserved architectural relics. An elongated construction is thought to be part of a road leading to the top (sectors B – Γ). It consists of two parallel walls. The surface between them is coated with hard whitish-yellow material, reminiscent of the material on the surface of a main street at the EH II settlement at Koropi (Ανδρίκου, 2007, p.202; 2013, p.92). Later, the circular pits 1 and 2 were carefully dug on this surface. Further to the west (sector Δ) a tower-like circular construction, 2 m in diameter, preserved at the lower part, is hard to interpret, since it yielded no other finds than pottery. Between these two constructions the natural schist rock was extending levelled and interrupted only by the circular pit 3, a shoe-

shaped area covered with stones, probably a working table, and further to the south by an irregular surface (12 × 6 m) covered with stones. In this west part of the site, seven litharge specimens were found.

In the middle part of Site 1 (sectors H – IB, c. 125 m²), the excavated area is bordered to the south by the rocky hillside which rises abruptly. In front of this, the northeast-southwest Walls 3 and 4 (sectors Θ – I) of medium and big size stones are running almost parallel, founded on the rock. They were heavily disturbed, most probably by ploughing. The longest and curved Wall 3 forms a kind of enclosure in front of the rocky hillside. At this area, Wall 4 extends straight and partly undisturbed. The space between the two walls was packed with small stones. North of Wall 3 slabs of schist and limestone define a floor level which continues further to the west, with a layer of tightly packed small stones. To the southeast, a ditch curved on top of the rocky hillside was unearthed (sectors IA – Γ), running northeast-southwest on a parallel line to Walls 3 and 4. In the middle part and especially close to the Walls 3 and 4 and the packed stone-floor, the number of litharge items (376) was very high, while they are becoming sparse (60) further to the east.

At the east part of the site (sectors IΔ – Θ, c. 200 m²), a second ditch (14 m long, 0.60 – 0.80 m wide and 0.40 m deep, sectors IΔ – IΣT) similar to the one previously mentioned came to light but with northwest-southeast alignment. Both ditches contained fallen big stones. Walls 3 and 4 and the ditches, if they are understood as foundation trenches, imply that an effort was made to restrict and possibly organize the space in front of the rocky outcrop. Filling gaps and cavities with packed stones constitutes a further effort to level the natural bedrock and create space for various activities, as it was clearly observed at the lower side in front of the ditch. Toward the east end of the site only stone heaps were excavated notably smaller and fewer in number in comparison to the rest of the site. Again, litharge specimens (120) appeared more densely on the stone packed level and the stone heaps.

The litharge specimens started below the surface layer in a moderate number. The peak of their density was in the 1 m thick layer with the architectural relics and the stone heaps (at 141 – 140 m). Below this and over the rock surface they were found sporadically. Apart from the litharge specimens, no slags, silver or lead objects were present. Most pottery is coarse ware, but fine ware is also present. Despite the bulk of sherds few joints were found. Among the other finds obsidian (blades, flakes, two cores) is present in a moderate quantity and even lesser flint (blades and a lump). Other stone tools are scarce including two fragmentary mortars, as also clay spindle whorls (8 examples). The east part yielded a tiny piece

Fig. 1: The Industrial Area of Keratea, Attica. Sites 1 – 3 (source: the author).

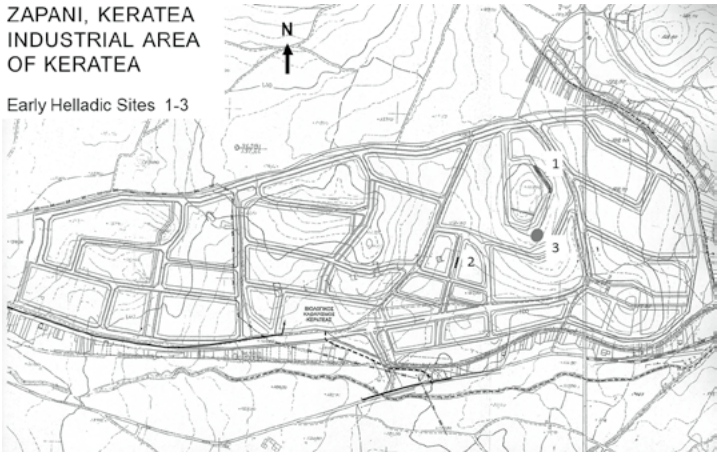

Fig. 2: Ground plan of the Industrial Area of Keratea, Attica. Sites 1 – 3 (source: Archive of the Ephorate of Antiquities of East Attica, Copyright © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports).

and a possible wire of bronze and a marble head of a human figurine of the FN type (ΜΛ 1515, Ανδρίκου, 2020, pp.163–164, fig. 3α-θ.). Considerable was the number of limpet shells (patellidae), and smaller the number of land snails. No animal bones were found. The great quantity of litharge recovered contrasts, with the exception of the pottery, to the restricted variety and quantity of the other finds, which are consistent with settlement contexts. The pottery is of the usual character found in settlements without any special type for other than everyday use. Some obsidian tool production should also be assumed on the spot, but in a limited scale. Consequently, the abundant presence of the litharge items is a substantial element for the identification of the site.

The pottery indicates that Site 1 was used in EH I and EH II, but the two phases are stratigraphically not separable. It is difficult to explain its character. The west part seems to be a residential area. The extended flattened area most probably accommodated special activities that have not left any signs but certainly were not connected to litharge items. In the middle and east parts, where the great concentrations of litharge items are attested, a craft activity is implied. On the grounds of the great bulk of the litharge items and the absence of slags, it has already been suggested (Georgakopoulou, et al., 2020, pp.187, 190) that production of silver and lead was exercised by applying the cupellation method, like in the Lambrika workshop (Kakavogianni, et al., 2008, pp.47–48). Although no pits or cavities similar to the Lambrika workshop were found, the whole arrangement of the area with Walls 3 and 4, the stone packed areas and the ditches should somehow be connected to the litharge items. Future discoveries or detailed examination of previously excavated sites, if studied comparatively, may shed more light.

Site 2

Site 2, located in the plain, was detected over a length of 33 m in a 1.50 m wide trench running from north to south, dug for a modern pipe (Fig. 5). The archaeological layers rested in a cavity of the schist stratum. The schist sloped from both the north and south end of the excavated area towards the middle to a depth of 2.90–3.10 m from the soil surface. The width of the cavity towards the east and west is unknown. Excavation has been difficult because of ascending aquifer water at that time of the year (December) and a pump was indispensable when digging the lower levels. The earth was sandy, grey in colour at the upper level and yellowish with small gravels at the lower layer (0.40–0.90 m thick) above the rock surface. The sandy texture of the earth deprived from stones, suggests that the area was flooded in antiquity as at present. The architectural relics were humble. An ellipsoid with a well-built stone border and a lot of fragmentary pottery inside was the best-preserved construction. This was one of the pottery clusters found isolated in the excavated area and at different depths. Similarly, obsidian (blades, flakes and cores) and snails and limpet shells (patellidae) were found in clusters. Animal bones were scarce. Few spindle whorls must be added to the finds. On the contrary, a great number (215) of litharge specimens was scattered mainly in Zones II-IV and more densely in the lower yellow layer. Although the range of the finds is similar to the one at Site 1, Site 2 seems to have been an open-air space used for a specific function in EH II period. This is evoked by the fact that most of the pottery was concentrated on flat paved surfaces in different layers. It comprises tableware vases in good preservation, most probably due to

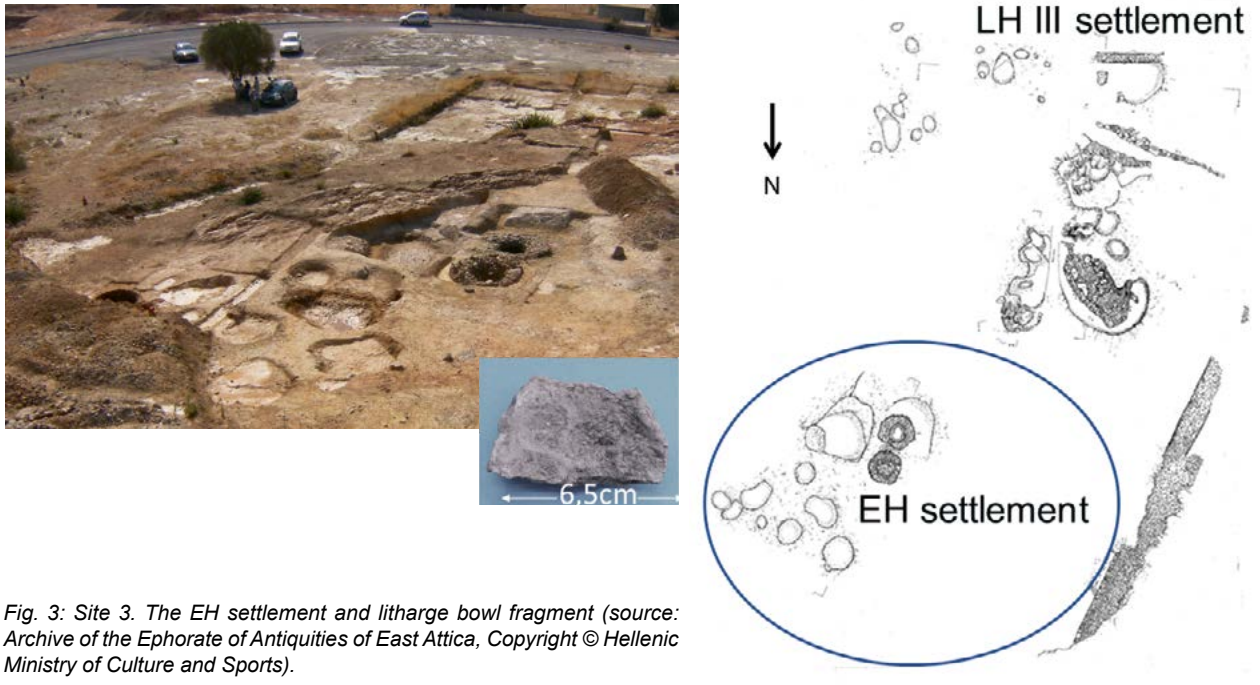

Fig. 3: Site 3. The EH settlement and litharge bowl fragment (source: Archive of the Ephorate of Antiquities of East Attica, Copyright © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports).

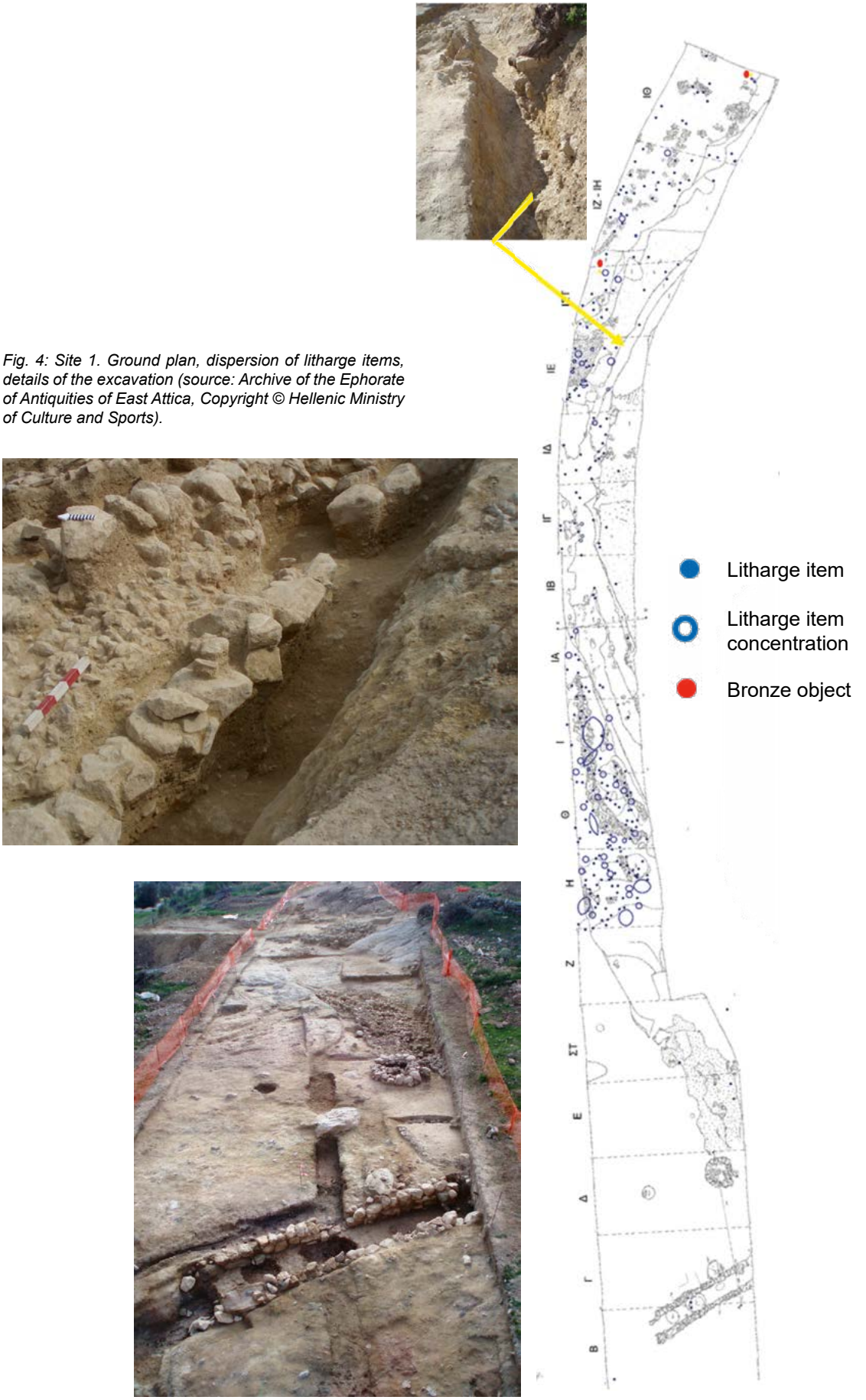

Fig. 4: Site 1. Ground plan, dispersion of litharge items, details of the excavation (source: Archive of the Ephorate of Antiquities of East Attica, Copyright © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports).

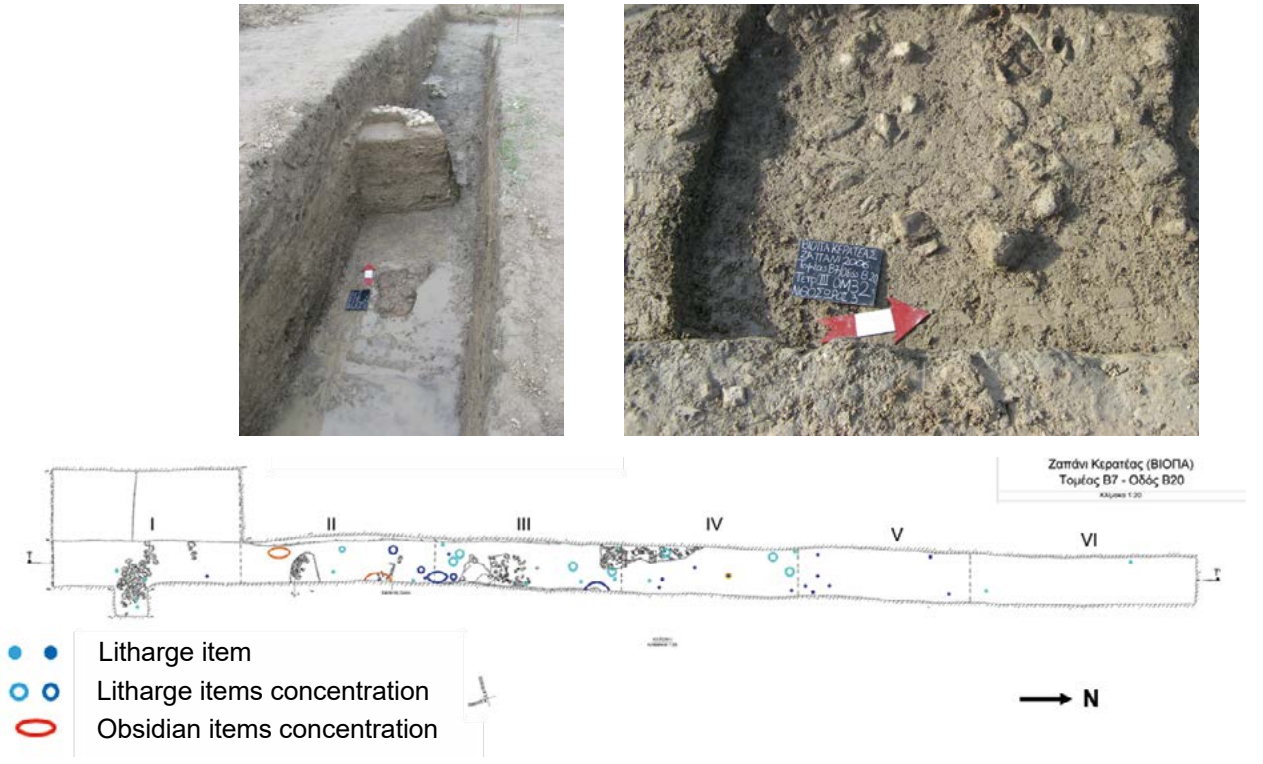

Fig. 5: Site 2. Ground plan, dispersion of litharge items, details of the excavation (source: Archive of the Ephorate of Antiquities of East Attica, Copyright © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports).

the short period of use, and cooking pots that present a long-term use. Many small cups, an uncommon shape in domestic contexts but in abundance at the cemetery of Ayios Kosmas, indicate the special character of Site 2. Sauceboats are also frequent, while closed shapes and storage vessels are rare. Site 2 is suggested to have been used for open air communal activities comprising eating and drinking, repeated most probably periodically in the dry months of the year. In this context, the presence of the litharge specimens can hardly be explained as waste products of cupellation. Presumably, it is material thrown away from a nearby workshop, probably the one in the area of Site 1. Site 2 was occupied in EH I, but the main bulk of the otherwise small quantity of pottery is EH II.

Fig. 6: Site 2. Litharge bowl (ΜΛ 1351). Site 1: Litharge fragments (bowl-shaped, plate-shaped, lumps). (Source: Archive of the Ephorate of Antiquities of East Attica, Copyright © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports).

Site	Area m^2	No. of litharge specimens	Litharge specimens per m^2
Lambrika workshop	70	1400	20
Zapani, Site 1 - middle part (sectors H–IA)	75	376	5
Zapani, Site 1 - east part (sector IE)	12	150	12.5
Zapani, Site 2 - Zones II–IV	25	198	8

Tab. 1: Finds of litharge specimens at Zapani Sites 1and 2 and Lambrika workshop.

The litharge from Zapani as evidence for early metallurgy in the Lavreotiki

The litharge specimens from Zapani (Fig. 6) are classified (Kakavogianni, et al., 2008, pp.51–54) mainly as bowl-shaped (roughly 60%) and lumps (35%) while plate-shaped are rare (4%), although the percentages may be slightly differentiated when registration of the items will be completed. They are all fragmentary. Their preserved size ranges mainly from 0.05 to 0.07 m, while many of them are smaller (0.02–0.03 m). The only almost intact litharge bowl from the deepest layer of Site 2, bears 10 shallow depressions in the interior arranged in three lines (3–4–3), a feature restricted so far to Attica specimens (Kakavogianni, et al., 2008, p.55; Georgakopoulou, et al., 2020, pp.189–190). The majority of litharge bowls at Zapani bear these depressions, while the examples with plain interior are occasionally found. As it is the case at Lambrika, the Zapani specimens occurred when the litharge was absorbed during the cupellation by a porous container (Κακαβογιάννη, et al., 2006, pp.80–81; Georgakopoulou, 2007, p.394).

Early mining of silver-bearing ores at Lavreotiki has already been suggested by small galleries on the slopes of Ovriokastro (Κακαβογιάννης and Κακαβογιάννη, 2001, pp.56–57) and other sites in Lavreotiki (Lohmann, 1993, pp.476 [TH32]; 486 [TH49]; 505 [AN26]; 520 [LE22]), which are related to the uppermost 1st contact and to FN / EH I pottery fragments scattered on the soil surface around. Mine gallery 3 at Thorikos was active at least in EH II (Spitaels, 1984, Νάζου, 2013). A fragment of a litharge bowl was found at the entrance of an EH I cist grave at Tsepi, Marathon (Pantelidou, 2005, pp.68. 323. 345–349, pl.8.7,3). Some examples are known from Makronessos (Spitaels, 1982, pp.155–158; Lambert, 1972, p.879) and the major EH II settlement at Koropi (Georgakopoulou, et al., p.187) where evidence (slags, moulds) of copper metallurgy was found too. (Kakavogianni, et al., 2008, p.50; Ανδρίκου, 2013, pp.179–180, fig.17). One litharge fragment is known from Melissourgos, Kalyvia. An isolated litharge bowl has also been found in a MH house at Velatouri, Thorikos (Servais, 1967, p.22, fig. 16) and two others in later (4th century BC) contexts (Lambert, 1981, pp.422–424, figs. 285, 287(2); Οικονομάκου, 1997, p.88). Three stray finds are known from Lavreotiki (Conophagos, et al., 1976, pp.12–16, figs. 8–10; Conophagos, 1980, p.367, fig. 16–4; Κακαβογιάννης, 2005, pp.277–280, pl. 24β). Recently, litharge fragments have been reported from the Saronic gulf shore, in the *Asteria* property at Glyphada, from the ongoing excavation of an EH I workshop used for burials in EH II (Καζά-Παπαγεωγίου, 2016, pp.1–2, 10, fig. 3b; 2017, pp.1–2).

A substantial impetus for the archaeology of silver and lead metallurgy was the discovery of the cupellation workshop at Lambrika, which extended over 70 m^2 and yielded nearly 1,400 litharge specimens. Besides of these finds, three more pieces came from a neighbouring EH I house and 117 more, including the only intact bowl, were discarded in a wide nearby ditch (Kakavogianni, et al., 2008, pp.47–49; Kakavogianni, Douni, Georgakopoulou, this vol.).

In Table 1 the density of the litharge items at the Zapani sites and the Lambrika workshop is compared.

At Zapani, in the sectors of Site 1, which are not mentioned in Table 1, the density is 1 litharge specimen/m^2. The only almost completely preserved litharge bowl from Site 2, Zone IV, measures 0.14 m in diameter and has a weight of 1,325 g. It is therefore bigger and heavier than the ones from Lambrika (Kakavogianni, et al., 2008, p.52), but still of the same type. Although Zapani lags behind Lambrika in terms of absolute number and density per square metre concerning the litharge specimens, it must be stressed that it is the only place so far that can be compared to Lambrika. At other sites, the number of litharge specimens is lower, and they form smaller groups within the settlement. For comparison, ten small amorphous pieces were excavated at the Mokriza hill (Παρράς, 2010, p.143). At EH I Merenda 80 pieces of litharges were found, and at FN/EH I settlement at Gialou, north of Spata, only several fragments were found in a pit (Kakavogianni, Douni and Georgakopoulou, this vol.). Based on these finds, we suggest that the litharge specimens at Zapani are evidence of production of silver from argentiferous lead by cupellation. This activity should be restricted to the area of Zapani, Site 1, since the context at Site 2 leads to a different interpretation and the few pieces at Site 3 should be compared with those at Merenda and Lambrika settlement.

This is additionally supported by the vicinity of Zapani to the hill of Ovriokastro, where early exploitation of the 1st contact has already been suggested. The site is located on a high spot open to north winds. Similar topographical features of metallurgical workshops have been

Fig. 7: Site 1. "Cheese-pot", rim fragments (source: Archive of the Ephorate of Antiquities of East Attica, Copyright © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports).

observed close to coastlines of Cycladic islands, and at Crete (Broodbank, 2000, p.294; Betancourt, 2006, p.180). Here, primarily smelting of copper ores was practised. At Akrotiraki (Siphnos), "domestic site related to silver/lead production (Papadopoulou, 2011, p.150)", secondary processing of metal cannot be excluded. Zapani, of course, is not coastal, neither is Lambrika, where the EH I workshop was installed on a smooth slope higher than the nearby EH I house, facing south. The argentiferous lead used at Lambrika and Zapani should have been extracted from the ores at the mining area, and then transported to these sites where cupellation was practiced. Evidence for secondary melting for making artefacts using, e.g. moulds, is only known from the major settlement of Koropi in a distance of 5 km from Lambrika, a situation observed also in Cyclades (Broodbank, 2000, p.294).

Lambrika and Zapani indicate that cupellation workshops operated on the periphery of the main ore extraction area of Lavreotiki peninsula. However, the recent evidence from Glyphada implies a further expansion of the activity on the coast to the west, where the ore was probably transported by sea, a common practice in the Aegean (Broodbank, 2000, pp.293, 296, 298; Betancourt, 2006, p.180). The minor presence of litharge fragments at the other sites mentioned above may suggest that a process aiming to lead production took place or that litharge specimens were used for other purposes not connected to metallurgy. However, neither of these alternatives is supported by EBA evidence (Georgakopoulou, 2007, pp.394–395; Sotiropoulou, et al., 2010).

The Aegean island sites where litharge fragments were found are few. At Ayia Irini, Kea, four lumps were found (Wilson, 1999, p.146, pl. 94), at Daskalio-Kavos and Daskalio, one example at each site (Georgakopoulou, 2018, p.530), and few pieces from FN/EH Limenaria, Thasos (Papadopoulos, 2008, pp.62. 64–65, fig. 5a-b). Only Akrotiraki, Siphnos yielded 46 fragmentary bowl-shaped litharges and some lead slags of EC date, while the date of the examples from Ayios Sostis and Kapsalos is not clear (Papadopoulou, 2011, pp.149–150). The comparison between the Attic and the Aegean evidence suggests, that the silver-lead metallurgy in Attica strongly developed on a peripheral pattern around the mining area of Lavreotiki, probably due to topographical parameters.

The Pottery

The pottery groups from the EH Sites 1 and 2 at Zapani, Keratea, present several similarities to each other. This indicates that both sites were in use in the same time period. The differences exhibited in types and forms of the vases are attributed to the different nature of each site. This is a preliminary report based on the ongoing study of the ceramic material.

Early Helladic I

Quite a few EH I sherds came to light at Site 1, mixed in some cases with EH II pottery. The fragmentary state of preservation of the material, which was abundant, has not allowed mending of vases or even bigger parts of them. The most common shapes were large open ones, such as basins and bowls. Most of the pots bear a slightly incurved rim and curved walls. At Site 2, the material dating to EH I, is limited and comes from the lower layers of the cavity.

Tubular horizontal handles below the rim of open vessels were found at Site 1, which is a common trait of the period in Attica at the sites of Lambrika (Kakavogianni, et al., 2008, p.50, fig. 6a; Κακαβογιάννη, et al., 2009, p.238, fig. 2, p.243, fig. 10a) and Artemis (Ευστρατίου, et al., 2009, p.226, fig. 7b) and elsewhere as at Eutresis (Caskey, 1960, p.135, pl. 45 II.30), Ayia Irini (Wilson, 1999, pp.16–17,19, pl. 40) and Lerna (Wiencke, 2000, p.329, fig.II.1). Some of the larger and coarser handles could be attributed to vases, similar to the ones from an EH I house at Artemis, mentioned above.

Flat bases possibly belong to deep bowls or basins. Parallels have been found at Kontra Gliate in the area of Koropi (Nazou, 2017, p.123, fig. 6), Artemis (Ευστρατίου, et

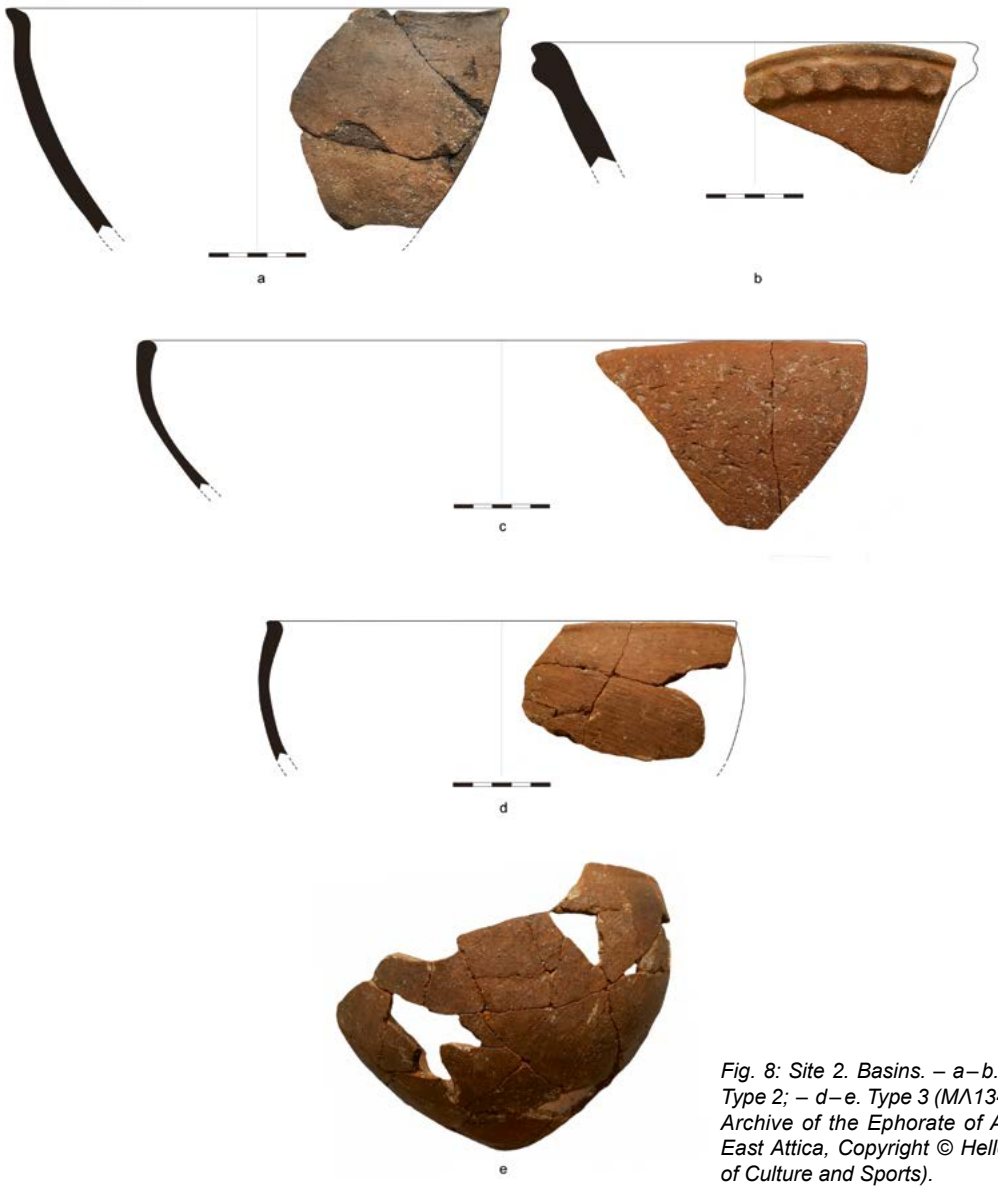

Fig. 8: Site 2. Basins. – a–b. Type1; – c. Type 2; – d–e. Type 3 (ΜΛ1343). (Source: Archive of the Ephorate of Antiquities of East Attica, Copyright © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports).

al., 2009, pp.227, 229, fig. 10), Tsoungiza hill (Pullen, 2011, p.98, fig. 3.10:31; p.99, fig. 3.11:32, p.101, fig. 3.13:40, p.123, fig. 3.29:123, p.133, fig. 3.35: 168. 169. 175). Apart from these, some flat bases belong possibly to cups.

A basin fragment with applied band decoration below the rim resembles an EH I sherd found at Lambrika (Κακαβογιάννη, et al., 2009, p.238, fig. 2). Goldman (1931, pp.92–93, fig. 116:1,4.) characterizes similar decoration at Eutresis as false or imitation handles. A few sherds of basins are covered with a thick red slip, which is one of the most characteristic features of this period. It has been noticed on EH I pottery at Lambrika (Kakavogianni, et al., 2008, pp.48, 50, fig. 6b), Artemis etc. Another fragment that possibly belongs to a red slipped jar bears incised decoration, as it has also been observed at the Koropi pottery (oral information by K. Ntouni). In the lower layer at Site 2, where the almost intact litharge bowl was found, a fragmentary basin scored inside and with applied decoration on the rim was found. Moreover, two incised examples, one rim and one body fragment with a combination of incised lines and a circle.

The open vessel known as “cheese-pot” is represented by many plain rim fragments with a horizontal row of holes just below it (Fig. 7). They were retrieved from various depths of the excavation at Site 1. Four more sherds were found in the lower layers at Site 2. A few bear traces of polishing on the inner surface. None showed traces of burning, which confirms that they were not used as cooking pots. The vessel was common in settlements, in large or small quantities, from Late Neolithic until EH I. Recently the shape was thoroughly discussed by Pantelidou (2016, pp.227–232), who refers to several examples from Attica. To

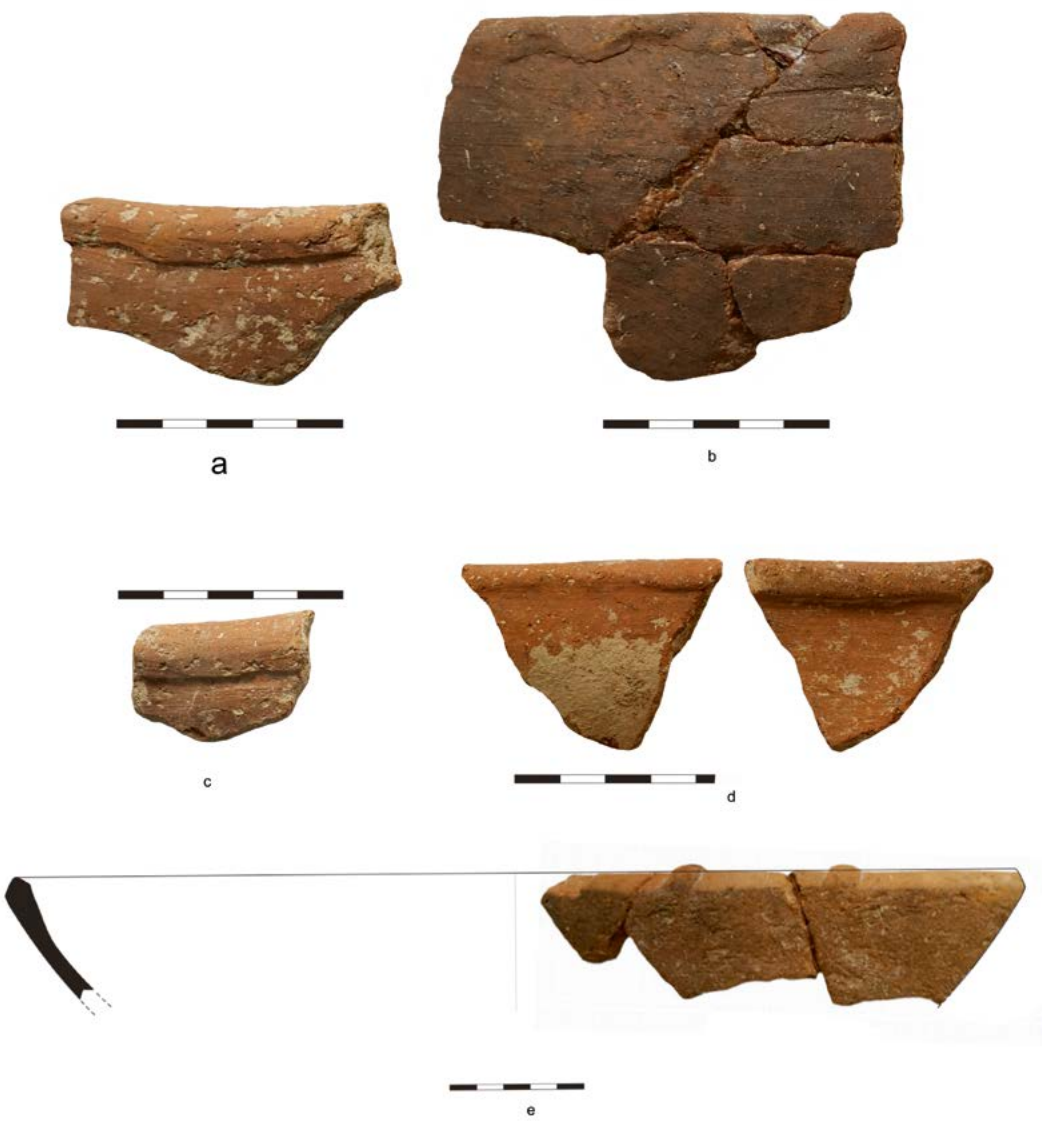

Fig. 9: Site 2. Basins. Various types of rims: – a. rounded, – b. rounded hastily made, – c. rounded with groove below, – d. T-shaped, – e. canted. (Source: Archive of the Ephorate of Antiquities of East Attica, Copyright © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports).

these an example from Artemis can be added (Ευστρατίου, et al., 2009, pp.226–227, fig. 7στ). The fragmentary state of the examples from Zapani prevents the attribution to either Type 1 or 2 of the Pantelidou classification. The use of the vessel has not been confirmed. Pantelidou suggests for her Type 2 that it forms a boat model.

Early Helladic II

In this phase four broad categories of pottery fabrics are discerned: fine, medium fine, medium coarse and coarse. Coarse and medium coarse pottery from Site 1 was found in large quantities while at Site 2 the majority of vases is of medium fine/medium coarse clay and very few coarse ones. The ceramic evidence from Sites 1 and 2 is mainly comparable to material from Attica, according to Ntouni's classification (2015), and from Lerna III, Peloponnese, according to Wiencke's (2000).

The coarse/medium coarse pottery from Site 1 represents mainly large open vessels. Body sherds of talc-ware vases are present in Site 1, but they are uncommon in Site 2. Talc-ware appears in Attica (Thorikos: Νάζου, 2013, pp.51–52), the Cyclades (Caskey, 1972, p.373; Wilson, 1999, pp.8, 130–131; Σωτηρακοπούλου, 1999, pp.76–78) and is recognizable by touch, as it feels as if coated with talc. Scored-ware sherds were found in large quantities all over the excavated area at Site 1 and 2. At both sites this surface treatment is noticed on the inner surface, while at Site 2 it also occurs on the outside (Fig. 8d). Scoring is a technique of smoothing the surface of the vases with some means (e.g. dry greens) and it is attested in various sites

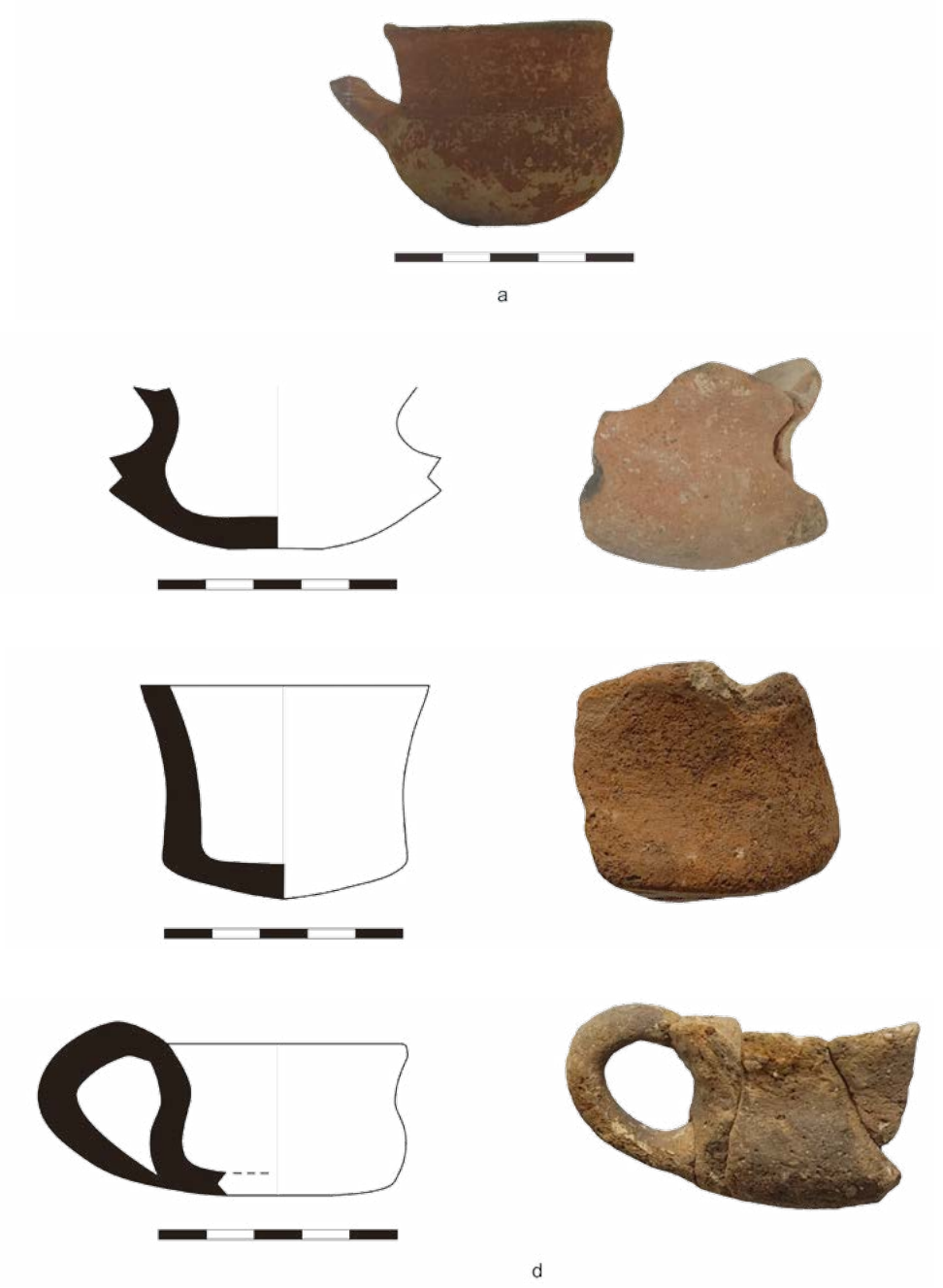

Fig. 10: Site 2. Small cups. a. Type 1 (ΜΛ 1336); – b–d. Type 2 (ΜΛ 1335a, 1338a, 1342a). (Source: Archive of the Ephorate of Antiquities of East Attica, Copyright © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports).

(Akrotiri, Thera: Σωτηρακοπούλου, 1999, pp.80–81; Ayia Irini: Caskey, 1964, pl. 47g; Caskey, 1972, pp.360, 366, fig. 79. B41c, B56-B7, pl. 76. A43-A46; Raphena: Θεοχάρης, 1951a, p.91, fig. 17δ; Thebes, Lefkandi, Macedonia: Σωτηρακοπούλου, 1999, pp.80–81).

Coarse/medium coarse open vases

To basins, broad bowls with a rim diameter over 20 cm are ascribed. It is a very common shape on both sites. Since no complete profile exists, it is quite insecure to determine the typology and to allot individual sherds to basins or bowls. At Site 1, basins are of coarse unpainted fabric, with a plain or T-shaped rim (Wiencke, 2000, p.539, fig. II.76, types 4, 7). At Site 2, they are always dark, unpainted, of medium coarse fabric (Fig. 8, 9). The main bulk of them had been used for cooking. The total absence of baking pans can only be explained by the population's preference for specific kind of food and cooking procedure. Bases corresponding to basins are mostly flat (Ntouni, 2015, p.203, tab. 14.A1-A2) or convex (Ntouni, 2015, p.203, tab. 14.A3). The sides curve gently

Fig. 11: Site 1. Frying pan fragment with stamped decoration (source: Archive of the Ephorate of Antiquities of East Attica, Copyright © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports).

inward (Wiencke, 2000, pp.538–542, fig. II.75, type 1–3) or are rather flaring (Wiencke, 2000, pp.542, 544, fig. II.75, types 4, 7). The rim is usually rounded (Ntouni, 2015, p.195, tab. 5.2) or less often thickened out (Ntouni, 2015, p.195, tab. 5.5) and canted (Ntouni, 2015, p.195, tab. 5.4). Rounded rims are hastily made and finished. A groove marks sometimes the transition to the body. Only few examples of T-shaped rim were noticed. (Ntouni, 2015, p.195, tab. 5.6; Wiencke, 2000, p.540, fig. II.76, "type m"). Handles are almost absent, while flat lugs/handles are not uncommon.

Bowls are another open shape that stands out at Site 1, with plain incurved rim. Many of the flat bases as well as of the pedestal ones (Ntouni, 2015, p.254, tab. 22. IV, fig. 12.K98) could be attributed to bowls, with parallels at Koropi, Lerna and elsewhere. The bowl is a common shape found in all the known EH sites (Ntouni, 2015, p.252). Bowls form a wide group in Site 2 as well. Those made of medium coarse fabric are usually cooking vessels and in that case their manufacture, surface treatment and shape are similar to basins. Consequently, it is impossible to distinguish them in fragmentary state.

Only one example of a plate has been recognized from Site 2. It is a very shallow vessel, 8 cm in diameter, with heavily curved walls. It falls into the Attica type III (Ntouni, 2015, pp.208–209, tab. 17, fig. 2.K16).

The specific function of Site 2 is confirmed by the concentration of fifteen small cups – an uncommon shape in a domestic context – lying on top of a stone-laid area (Fig. 10). They are made of medium fine or medium coarse fabric. They are 3.5 to 6 cm in height and diameter. Two types are recognised:

- Type 1: Only one specimen, with rounded bottom bearing a small depression for greater stability (Ayios Kosmas,Type C–13a: Mylonas, 1959, pp.69–70, pl. 57, Attica type I: Ntouni, 2015, p.280. tab. 25).
- Type 2: with an S-shaped profile and rounded bottom. The cups of this type are hastily made with thick walls and cruder than these of the previous type. (Ayios Kosmas, Type C–13c: Mylonas, 1959, pp.69–70, pl. 57, Attica type III: Ntouni, 2015, p.280, tab. 25, fig. 18.K158).

Tactile decoration on open vases was typical in prehistoric Greece from the Neolithic period on (Kefala on Kea, Saliagos, Antiparos and elsewhere, Γιαννακάκης, 2015, p.56). It appears on coarse utilitarian pottery at Ayios Kosmas (Mylonas, 1959, pp.24–25, fig. 118), Raphena (Θεοχάρης, 1951a, p.89. fig. 16), Koropi (Ανδρίκου, 2013, p.176, figs. 4–5), the Cyclades (Kea: Caskey, 1972, p.366, pl. 76), Lerna (Wiencke, 2000, p.619, fig. II.102), Tsoungiza hill (Pullen, 2011, p.169), etc. At Site 1, it was commonly found in the total area of the excavation, on pithoi or basins with plain or T-shaped rim. The motifs applied coincide with the types recognized for Northeast Peloponnese (summarized by Pullen, 2011, p.170, fig. 4.15): raised band with finger impressions (type c), formed by overlapping disks set at an angle to imitate rope (type e), formed by closely (type b1) or more widely (type b3) spaced applied disks, and with diagonal incisions (type d). At Site 2, apart from types c (Fig. 8b) and d, type b2, raised band with tangent disks, is also met.

Impressed decoration is attested on a frying pan fragment bearing four stamped concentric circles found at the south part of the excavated area on Site 1 (Fig. 11). This kind of decoration is well-represented at several sites, in the Cyclades (Akrotiri: Σωτηρακοπούλου, 2009, p.325, dr. 47ε, fig. 184 Δ201; Ayia Irini: Caskey, 1972, p.365, pl. 77 B21; Wilson,1999, pp.325–326, pls. 54–57); Boeotia (Caskey and Caskey, 1960, p.156, pls. 48 VIII. 52. 54); Attica (Ayios Kosmas: Mylonas, 1959, p.300, fig. 159; Palaia Kokkinia: Θεοχάρης, 1951b, pp.111–112, fig. 26; Koropi: Ανδρίκου, 2013, pp.178–179, figs. 10–11); Argolis (Tsoungiza hill: Pullen, 2011, p.221, fig. 4.26). Impressions are considered a mainland characteristic in contrast to incisions that are typical for the Cyclades (Coleman, 1985, p.201). From the same context, part of a hearth rim is decorated with alternating stamped triangles. This motif was quite common in the Aegean (Raphena: Θεοχάρης, 1951a, p.89, fig. 15; Lerna: Wiencke, 2000, p.557, fig. II.84). Incision is used for a fishbone-like motif on a polished fragment from a frying pan. These vessels speak for cycladic connections.

Matt-impression appears on the legs of stands from Site 1. Impressions of matt, leaves or even cloth on pots, mainly on their standing surface, were quite common during the EH period (Raphena: Θεοχάρης, 1951a, p.90; Marathon: Παντελίδου, 2016, pp.297–309, fig. 18; Eutresis: Caskey and Caskey, 1960, p.142; Lithares: Tzavella-Evjen, 1985, pl. 54; Argolis, Tsoungiza hill: Pullen, 2011, fig. 5.109, 126) and continued in the MH period too (Παντελίδου, 2016, p.306).

Coarse/medium coarse closed vases

The jar and the askos are identified in the pottery of Site 1. Many cylindrical/elliptical, and ribbon handles could have been parts of jars, which resemble examples from Lerna

(Wiencke, 2000, pp.559–569, fig. II.86). Such handles from jars, incised with diagonal lines can be dated in EH II (Σωτηρακοπούλου, 1999, pp.210–211, figs. 302–308), with parallels at Ayia Irini and elsewhere in the Cyclades (Caskey, 1972, p.358). A body sherd with part of handle may have belonged to an askos (Ntouni, 2015, p.332, tab. 30).

Although closed vases are infrequent and fragmentary at Site 2, they are assumed to be of medium size. No classification is possible. However, some similarities to examples of Lerna III can be noticed. An example of a low neck perhaps suggests a globular jar, like type 3 (Wiencke, 2000, pp.563–564, fig. II.85, cf. Koropi: Ανδρίκου, 2013, p.177, fig. 6b-c). As another example the neck is of medium height and breadth and flares slightly outward like type 6 (Wiencke 2000, pp.561, 564–565, fig. II.86).

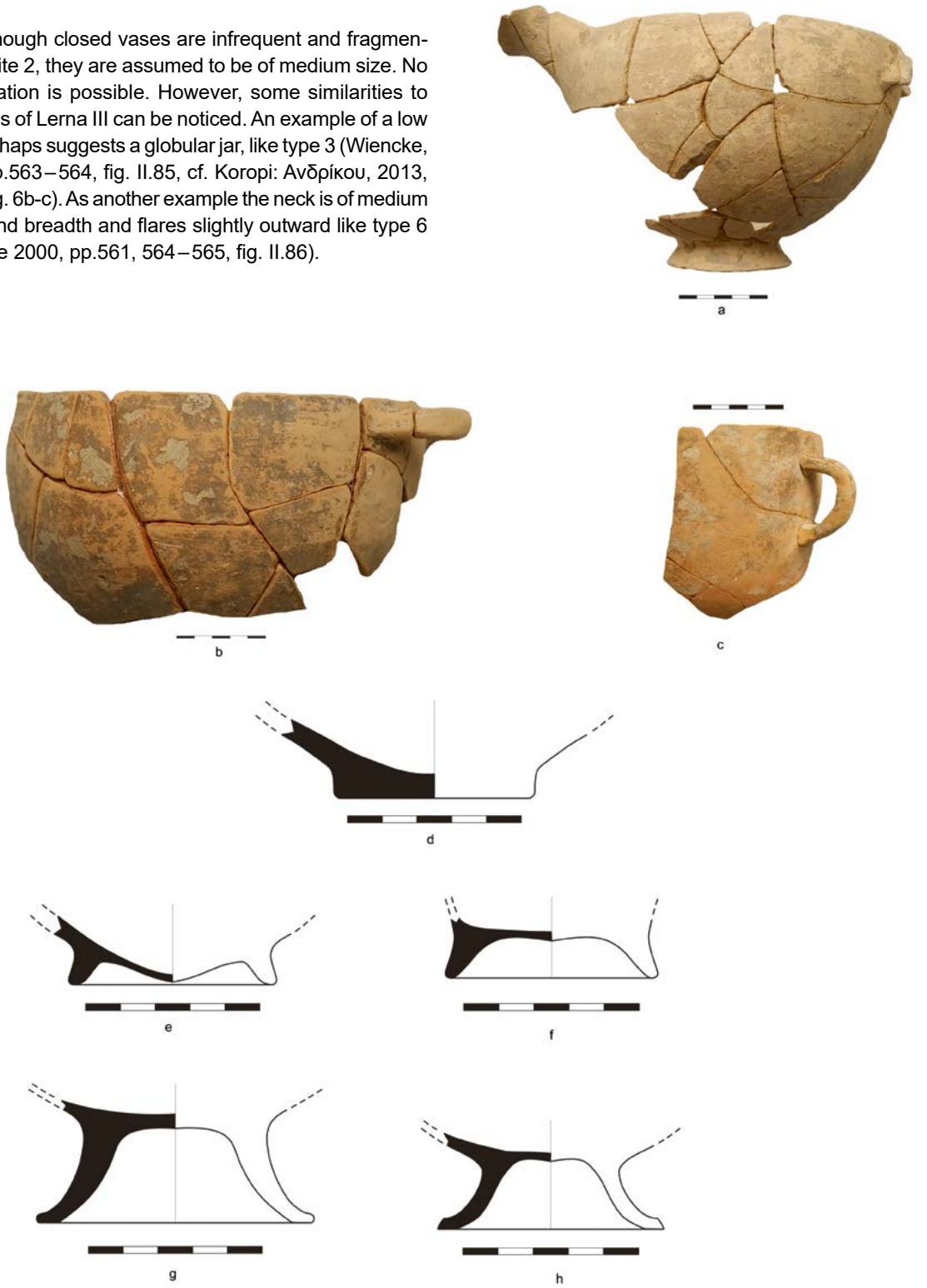

Fig. 12: Site 2. Sauceboats. – a. Type Ia (ΜΛ 1332); – b–c. Urfirnis: Type Ib (ΜΛ 1345), Type Va (ΜΛ 1344); – d –h. Various base types. (Source: Archive of the Ephorate of Antiquities of East Attica, Copyright © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports).

Fig. 13: Site 2. Pyxis fragments with patterned decoration (ΜΛ 1349). (Source: Archive of the Ephorate of Antiquities of East Attica, Copyright © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports).

Fine pottery

EH II fine pottery from Site 1 is estimated from 25% to 30% of the total quantity of pottery. Sauceboat is the dominant shape, as observed in other EH II fine pottery assemblages in Attica. Following the typology of the Koropi settlement, the majority belongs to type Ia, with conical bases rather widened towards the standing surface (Ntouni, 2015, p.308, tab. 29). It is the most common type in the area, with parallels at Merenda, Ayios Kosmas and Asketario. Yellow-blue mottled sauceboats (Ntouni, 2015, fig. 24.K.189–190; Ανδρίκου, 2013, pp.176–177, fig. 6e-g) or black and red Urfirnis have been found at Site 1 in almost equal percentages. The red or black Urfirnis examples comprise rims, horizontal handles and a few vertical ones of Attica type Va (Ntouni, 2015, p.309, tab. 29). At Site 2, even though sauceboats are in abundance, they are not preserved in their entirety (Fig. 12). The majority of the examples corresponds to Attica type Ia and a good number resides in Type Ib (Ntouni, 2015, p.308, tab. 29). The difference between Type Ia and Ib is the position of the horizontal handle and the ring base. Finally, Attica type Va comprises fewer and more fragmentary examples. In the absence of complete profiles we cannot be sure whether individual body sherds, bases or handles made of fine fabrics should be recognized as belonging to sauceboats, bowls, or cups. Two methods of surface treatment are noticed: either the surface is covered with a thin light slip – often yellowish – or with a dark brown or black one in the 'Urfirnis' technique.

Pyxis is recorded only with few sherds all made of medium fine yellowish clay and only from Site 2. The sole almost complete example is assigned to Attica type IIb (Ntouni, 2015, p.361, tab. 32, pp.364–365, fig. 44.K341). Dark-painted hatched triangles (Ntouni, 2015, pp.388–389, tab. 36. Motif 3d) decorate the upper part of the body (Fig. 13). Dark-on-light decoration is preserved on a probable sauceboat rim fragment from Site 1 (Fig. 14). The motif, a horizontal band with vertical lines, is known from Koropi (Ntouni, 2015, p.388, tab. 36. Motif 1d/1e, fig. 34.K264-K267).

Thin incised lines run along the fragmented handle of a ladle from Site 1. It belongs to the common Attica type 1 (Ntouni, 2015, pp.382–383, tab. 34). Incised deco-

Fig. 14: Site 1. Sauceboat rim fragment with patterned decoration (source: Archive of the Ephorate of Antiquities of East Attica, Copyright © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports).

Fig. 15: Site 1. Fragment with incised decoration of alternating oblique lines (source: Archive of the Ephorate of Antiquities of East Attica, Copyright © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports).

ration of alternating oblique lines reminding fishbone motif appear on an unidentified sherd from Site 1 (Fig. 15). This type of decoration has several parallels, from Koropi (Ntouni, 2015, p.412, Motif 2b, fig. 42.K317), Ayia Irini, Kea (Wilson, 1999, pl. 49:II – 180, pl. 70:II – 746, pl. 76:II – 122), Eutresis (Goldman, 1931, p.113, fig. 150:1), Lerna (Wiencke, 2000, p.465, fig. II.58: P953) as it is widespread during the EBA II.

Conclusions

The EH I pottery from Sites 1 and 2 at Zapani, Keratea is restricted in quantity and variety of shapes, mainly open vases and “cheese pots". Best parallels are recognized in the EH I pottery of Lambrika.

The pottery assigned to EH II presents variety in shapes, with most prominent the sauceboat at both sites, plain, ‘Urfirnis’ or yellow-blue mottled. Dark on light decoration is attested on a pyxis and a probable sauceboat fragment. Talc-ware and frying pans suggesting Cycladic contacts are only found at Site 1. Incised decoration is preferred on fine and semi-coarse vases and tactile decoration on coarse ones. The pottery assemblage from Zapani, Keratea falls within the mainland pottery tradition and presents clear similarities to the pottery of other EH II sites in Attica, like Koropi and Merenda, and to Lerna III.

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