CHAPTER 3
Minoan Pottery from the Southern Area
Jeremy B. Rutter and Aleydis Van de Moortel

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1. Introduction: Presentation Format and Drawing Conventions
Jeremy B. Rutter and Aleydis Van de Moortel

The pottery published in this volume is presented in the form of context groups (cf. Betancourt 1990: 17–18, “Contexts”; Watrous 1992: xvii, 1, “Deposits”), each consisting of anywhere from one to sixty-five vessels or vessel fragments recovered from what has been determined to be a significant locus of excavation. For each of the more than 150 groups and subgroups presented here, at least a summary listing of the group’s size, stratigraphic position, constituent excavation units, and chronological range is provided immediately before the catalogue descriptions of the vessels and fragments selected for publication from that group. For groups excavated since 1991 that were processed and recorded in the field by the authors or by staff working under their direct supervision, more detailed statistics describing their composition by sherd count and weight according to major fabric and shape or decorative categories are also provided.

Almost every piece included in the catalogues is illustrated by a line drawing; a relatively small number are illustrated either instead or in addition by photographs, chiefly when more detailed images of features such as potters’ marks, technological peculiarities, or unusual wear or breakage patterns are desirable.
Individual catalogue entries have been kept relatively sparse. Information on state of preservation, dimensions, colors, fabric compositions, and surface treatments has been relegated to a series of large tables posted on T-Space, a Web server connected with the Department of the History of Art at the University of Toronto (https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/handle/1807/3004) where such data can be presented in a compact and abbreviated format, yet also in an accessible and searchable form for purposes of comparison. Fabrics are grouped into four broad categories (“fine,” “medium fine,” “medium coarse,” and “coarse”) according to the frequency of non-plastic inclusions contained and the maximum size of these inclusions (e.g., Van de Moortel 1997: 30–31). Overall frequencies of inclusions have been estimated using charts developed by M. S. Shvetsov (Terry and Chilingar 1955: figs. 1–4; Van de Moortel 2001: 44 n. 69). Frequencies of visually distinct types of inclusion, loosely described in terms of combinations of color, shape, and size, are more crudely assessed on a four-point scale: “occasional” (i.e., no more than one visible), “some,” “many,” and “massive numbers of.” Sizes of inclusions are categorized as “very fine,” “fine,” “medium,” “coarse,” “very coarse,” “granule,” and “pebble” according to the Wentworth scale (Shepard 1956: 118). Shapes of inclusions are very roughly classified on a four-point scale as “rounded,” “sub-rounded,” “sub-angular,” or “angular.” Surface finishes are described with the same terms employed by Rutter for the Early Helladic III pottery of Lerna (Rutter 1995: 55–58) with one minor modification: vessels thrown on the wheel and exhibiting very finely wheel-ridged surfaces that are dull within the troughs of the ridges and lustrous on the crests are here described as “wheel-polished” rather than “wet-smoothed.” The color terminology is that of the Munsell Soil Color Charts. Coatings, bands, or patterns of fine, dark-firing (i.e., red, brown, or black) clay are described as “paints.” Coatings of fine, pale-firing clay, on the other hand, are described as “slips,” except when applied in the form of bands or patterns over dark “paints,” in which case they become “added white” or “light paint.”

The classification of vessel shapes and decorative patterns is based on the typologies considered most appropriate for the ceramic periods in question. Van de Moortel has organized the Protopalatial catalogue primarily by shape, with subcategories based on size, fabric texture, and decoration. Rutter, on the other hand, has organized the Neopalatial and later Bronze Age material initially according to the texture of the clay body (first fine, then medium coarse, and coarse), subsequently by mode of decoration (first painted, then plain), and finally by shape (closed forms before open forms), with imports to Crete listed at the end of each group. Rutter’s classification of decorative patterns is based, whenever possible, on the typology and nomenclature devised by Furumark (1941) for the Mycenaean pottery of the Greek mainland, for the simple reason that his approach to decorative analysis is far more systematic and broadly applicable than any other in common use for Aegean Late Bronze Age (LB) ceramics (Rutter 1998). The abbreviation “FM” followed by a number thus refers to a particular “Furumark Motif.” Only patterned ornament merits a verbal description in the catalogue; for horizontal bands or solid coats of colored slip, the reader is referred to the
relevant illustration(s). Painted decoration is assumed to be executed in a dark-on-light mode, unless otherwise specified. Furumark’s system of shape classification, however, does not lend itself as readily to the description and analysis of Minoan forms. Notwithstanding the remarkable variability in the terminology used for the basic shapes of the Neopalatial and later Late Minoan ceramic repertoires (Hallager 1997: 15–18), there appears to be sufficient consensus on what those standard forms are (Betancourt 1985a: figs. 77–80, 93–94, 112, 118–119; Hallager and Hallager 1997: 407–17) that the ambiguities so often encountered in discussions of LM painted patterns can be satisfactorily avoided.

The line drawings of vessels drawn at life size in the field are ordinarily reproduced here at a scale of 1:3. Big vessels (heights of more than 30 cm or maximum diameters of more than 35 cm) that are largely or fully preserved are presented at a scale of 1:6. When vessels illustrated at two different scales appear on a single plate, multiple scales are included to make clear which vessels are drawn at which scales, and the different scales are also noted in the caption. Cross sections of vessel walls, and of accessories such as handles and spouts, are rendered in solid black where preserved and in dashed outline where restored. The dark-firing clay slips used to produce painted patterns and bands as well as overall coatings are likewise rendered in solid black, with a narrow reserved strip being left between slip and cross section to permit them to be clearly distinguished. Light-firing clay slips applied over dark-firing slips to create bands or patterns in a light-on-dark mode are indicated by fine stippling of a uniform density (e.g., 1/2, 2a/8). When either light-on-dark or dark-on-light decoration of an uncertain nature has failed to survive, the fact and extent of restoration are indicated by patterns, and more rarely banding, rendered in hollow outline (e.g., 1/3, 2a/8, 6/1). Three-dimensional relief on unpainted vessels is rendered by stippling of variable density (e.g., 2b/11, 2b/13, 2b/15). Dense diagonal crosshatching indicates a localized patch of burning on the surface, often indicative of a vessel’s use as a lamp (e.g., 2a/2, 2b/13, 3b/2, 18/2). Dense diagonal hatching denotes either missing chips from a vessel’s surface (e.g., 2a/7) or an exposed break or fracture (e.g., 1/1, 2b/14, 3b/2). Attachment scars on vessel surfaces left by the breaking away of accessories in the form of handles, spouts, or decoratively applied bands are marked by broken horizontal hatching (e.g., 2b/14, 3b/6, 16/6). The detection of visible coil joints within the thickness of a vessel’s cross section is marked by reserved dashed lines, which are useful indicators of either the handmade manufacture of entire vases such as pithoi (e.g., 2b/14–15, 3b/6) or the combination of coil addition and wheel finishing on large cooking pots (e.g., 56f/3, 60/26). Wheel-riding, although often prominent (especially on the interiors of closed vessels), is ordinarily indicated only in cross section; but in the case of unpainted and banded conical cups, it is marked by horizontal dot rows if relatively light (e.g., 1/3–4, 1/8, 2b/5), by thin lines if more pronounced (e.g., 2a/3–4), or by a combination of the two (e.g., 1/9, 1/11). Supplementary views in the form of overheads of rim outlines (e.g., 2a/2, 2a/6) or head-on renderings of the backs of handles (e.g., 21/4, 26/3, 29/5) are provided when they furnish information on shape or decoration that is not visible from a vessel’s princi-
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While numerous internal cross-references to relevant comparanda have been provided in the catalogue for individual pieces, these may not be exhaustive in every case.

2. Middle Minoan IA and Protopalatial Pottery

Aleydis Van de Moortel

Introduction: Protopalatial Ceramic Chronology at Kommos and Phaistos

Protopalatial Chronology at Kommos

A Middle Minoan IB–IIB ceramic sequence at Kommos was established by P. Betancourt in his preliminary studies and final publication of the pottery from the Central Hillside (CH) and parts of the Southern Area at Kommos, excavated between 1976 and 1982 (Betancourt 1980; 1984b; 1985b; 1985c; 1986; 1990). As many as 24 contexts from these areas were identified by Betancourt as belonging to the MM IB–IIB period; 2 more were tentatively assigned to MM IA. Nearly all these contexts were located below the extensive MM III to early LM IA occupation at the site. For the evaluation of these 26 MM IA–IIB contexts it is important to keep in mind that none were floor deposits. They were deliberate fills, dumps, or casual accumulations often including admixtures of pottery fragments of other ceramic phases. Finds consisted of more than 10,000 MM IA–IIB fragments but only a few dozen mendable vessels. Betancourt published roughly 900 vases and fragments, nearly all of MM IB–IIB date, the best represented phase being MM IIB (Table 3.1).

Betancourt and Myer subdivided Kommian fabrics into three groups—fine buff, tempered buff, and coarse red (Myer and Betancourt 1990). Their classification is still in use. Even though the Protopalatial pottery was associated with architectural remains, too little was exposed to allow for the identification of Protopalatial architectural phases (Wright 1996: 140–41). Betancourt’s pottery chronology was based primarily on two long stratigraphic sequences: one a succession of MM IIA, mixed MM IIA–B, and MM IIB levels located below MM III spaces CH 35 and CH 36 (Betancourt 1990: 53); the other a series of MM IA, MM IB, MM IIA, and MM IIB contexts found in a small but deep sounding east of the Classical Round Building D in the Southern Area, north of Building AA.

On close scrutiny, however, it now seems that the MM IIA context below spaces CH 35–36 is not pure but includes some MM IIB pottery. More seriously, the sequence from east of Round Building D is no longer valid. Discoveries of numerous cross joins in this deep sounding, between levels initially dated to different phases, have led the present author to conclude that nearly all this material belongs in fact to the same context and should be redated to an early stage of MM IIB. As a result of these revisions, it appears that the MM IIA pottery phase at Kommos has not yet been stratigraphically isolated in these excavations, and it is more poorly known and less sharply delineated than Betancourt thought. The relative posi-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ceramic Phase</th>
<th>Number of Contexts</th>
<th>Number of Vases/Sherds</th>
<th>Percentage of Vases/Sherds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MM IA</td>
<td>2?</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM IB</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM IB–IIA</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM IIA</td>
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<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM IIA–B</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM IIB</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>911</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


tions of the MM IB and MM IIB phases, however, remain well established through stratigraphic superposition in three locations.6

In spite of these difficulties, Betancourt’s characterizations of the three Protopalatial pottery phases at Kommos are still largely valid. The MM IA phase remains poorly known because of the dearth of stratified remains. Betancourt deserves credit for publishing the full spectrum of Protopalatial pottery shapes and for drawing chronological information not only from fine decorated pottery but from often-neglected utilitarian vase shapes such as cooking pottery (Betancourt 1980) and unpainted cups (Betancourt 1986) as well. His highly refined chronology of Protopalatial conical cup types is especially important for dating contexts at Kommos. These simple cups are sensitive chronological markers, having undergone frequent stylistic changes and representing by far the most common ceramic shape in Protopalatial contexts. Moreover, conical cups are easily identifiable, even as small fragments. Betancourt’s conical cup chronology corresponds largely, but not entirely, to that developed by Fiandra (1973) at Phaistos, the principal site and to all appearances the political capital of the Protopalatial western Mesara. In most other respects, Betancourt’s sequence shows closer stylistic correspondences with the rival Phaistian pottery sequence established by Levi (1976) and Levi and Carinci (1988).

Before embarking on the present study of Protopalatial pottery from the area of the large Civic Building AA at Kommos, it is necessary that we come to terms with the problems of Protopalatial Phaistian chronology. Phaistos and Kommos are only about 8 km apart, and their Protopalatial pottery assemblages are so similar that they can be considered to belong to the same production tradition.7 Thus it is proper that their pottery sequences are studied together. The much more abundant and better stratified remains from Phaistos have proven to be indispensable for filling gaps in the pottery sequence at Kommos, and in particular for fleshing out the MM IIA ceramic phase and identifying an early stage of MM IIB. In return,
stratified pottery evidence from Building AA at Kommos has been useful for clarifying some chronological issues at Phaistos, as will be demonstrated in this study.

**PROBLEMS OF PHAISTIAN PROTOPALATIAL CHRONOLOGY**

Since Doro Levi’s 1950s and 1960s excavations in the west wing of the First Palace at Phaistos, Protopalatial ceramic chronology at that site has been at the center of an unresolved debate (cf. La Rosa 1995). Levi rejected Arthur Evans’s Knossian chronology and proposed his own tripartite scheme with Protopalatial phases I, II, and III. Levi’s phase I was further subdivided into phases IA and IB. All these phases were both ceramic and architectural phases. In Levi’s view, phases IB, II, and III ended in destructions, each covered by a layer of *calcestruzzo* (“concrete”) on top of which the structures of the next architectural phase were built (Levi 1960: 121; 1976: 7–9, 16–21; 1981; La Rosa 1995: 881–84). Even though Levi’s ideas met with much criticism (Platon 1961; 1968; Zois 1965), his chronology was accepted by Betancourt (1985a: 66), Watrous (1994: 739) and, to some extent, Walberg (1987: 98–99).

A different Phaistian chronology has been proposed and used since the early 1960s by excavation architect Enrica Fiandra, who identifies four architectural periods in the palace, based primarily on changes in building styles and the composition of mortar and plaster (Fiandra 1961–62; 1973; 1980; 1990; La Rosa 1995: 884–87). The pottery styles associated with Fiandra’s four architectural periods form a sequence that closely corresponds to Evans’s ceramic chronology at Knossos. Fiandra’s Periods 1 and 4 approximately agree with Levi’s phases IA and III, respectively, and her Periods 2 and 3 are roughly contemporary with Levi’s phases IB and II (Fiandra 1961–62: 125); but in fact the deposits assigned to Fiandra’s Periods 2 and 3 differ substantially from those of Levi’s phases IB and II, and so do their ceramic characteristics. Fiandra rejects Levi’s identification of phases IB and II as architectural phases, interpreting them instead as two storeys of her Period 3 palace. The final destruction of the Old Palace, in her view, took place not at the end of her Period 4 but at the end of Period 3, contemporary with the final Protopalatial destruction at Knossos. Fiandra, unlike Levi, recognizes only one layer of *calcestruzzo*, laid over the final Protopalatial destruction level of Period 3. Being in agreement with Evans’s phasing, Fiandra’s chronology has gained acceptance primarily among British archaeologists.8

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Levi and Carinci</th>
<th>Fiandra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Room LXIII, bench</td>
<td>MM IIA lower two levels</td>
<td>End MM IB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drain below rooms LIX, LX, LXIV</td>
<td>MM I–IIB</td>
<td>MM IB–IIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grotta M</td>
<td>MM IIB and later</td>
<td>MM IIA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Table 3.3. Approximate synchronization of ceramic phases at Phaistos (Levi and Carinci, Fiandra), Kommos (Betancourt, Van de Moortel), and Knossos (Evans).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Levi and Carinci</th>
<th>Fiandra</th>
<th>Betancourt, Van de Moortel</th>
<th>Evans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase IA</td>
<td>Period 1</td>
<td>MM IB</td>
<td>MM IB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase IB Early</td>
<td>Period 2</td>
<td>MM IIA</td>
<td>MM IIA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase IB Final/II</td>
<td>Period 3</td>
<td>MM IIB</td>
<td>MM IIB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FINAL PROTOPALATIAL DESTRUCTION**

|                | Phase III        | Period 4 | MM III | MM III |

Whereas Fiandra has maintained her position over the years, Levi and his coworker Filippo Carinci have made several important revisions, bringing Levi’s pottery chronology much closer to that of Fiandra and Evans. In their monumental 1988 study of some 3,000 MM vases from Levi’s excavations, they agreed that the pottery of the phase IB and II floor deposits, even though belonging to two different architectural phases, is ceramically similar and must date to the same stylistic phase (Levi and Carinci 1988: 299, 303). A second important step was their subdivision of Levi’s phase IB into two stages. Phase IB Early, also referred to as transitional phase IA/IB Early, is represented by the pottery found below the latest floors of the palace. It is stratigraphically separated and stylistically distinct from the vases of the phase IB Final destruction horizon (Levi and Carinci 1988: 300–301). Phase IB Early is roughly equivalent to Evans’s MM IIA phase, and its contexts correspond closely, but still not entirely, to those of Fiandra’s Period 2. Some of the differences are noted in Table 3.2.

With those revisions, Levi and Carinci’s pottery phases now roughly parallel Fiandra’s and Evans’s chronological subdivisions. More recently, Carinci has concluded that not phase III but phase IB Final/II was the last Protopalatial ceramic phase at Phaistos and that phase III was the first Neopalatial phase (Carinci 1989: 73, 78). Finally, Carinci and his coworkers have abandoned Levi’s terminology in favor of Evans’s terms MM IB, MM IIA, and MM IIB (Speziale 1993: 540–44; Carinci 1997; 1999).

In the wake of these revisions, a set of approximate synchronisms of ceramic phases in the western Mesara and Knossos may be proposed, as shown in Table 3.3.

Even though there is now substantial common ground between Fiandra and Carinci in their dating of contexts, they still differ significantly about the chronology of specific ceramic styles. This is a result not only of their different dating of some contexts but also of disagreements on the dates of vases found within the same contexts. For instance, even though both
parties agree that Bastione II on the West Court was constructed in the MM IIA phase, Fiandra assigns most complete vases from that construction fill to the end of MM IB, whereas many are dated to MM IIA by Levi and Carinci. Vases from a mixed context below Room 11 dated to MM IIA and MM IIB by Fiandra are considered by Levi and Carinci to be mostly MM IIB in date.\textsuperscript{12}

The differences of opinion between Fiandra and Levi and Carinci mostly pertain to the characteristics of the MM IIA and MM IIB phases. Broadly speaking, Fiandra, like Evans, sees MM IIA as the most flourishing phase of Protopalatial pottery and architecture, having produced pottery of the highest quality and variability. The MM IIB phase, in her view, is one of decline (Fiandra 1973: 90; 1980: 169). In Levi and Carinci’s view, however, the MM IIB pottery phase is the high point of the Protopalatial period and produced high-quality Kamares vases with the most intricate and dynamic polychrome painted patterns (Levi and Carinci 1988: 299), even though the authors admit to some deterioration in the surface finish of many MM IIB vases. Levi and Carinci’s position is supported by Betancourt and to a large extent by Walberg, although Walberg’s highest-quality phase—Classical Kamares—begins in the MM IIA phase and continues into MM IIIA (Betancourt 1985a: 96; 1990: 32–34; Walberg 1987: 122–25).

It is difficult to make an informed choice between Levi’s and Fiandra’s chronologies on the basis of the available evidence, because Fiandra’s publications are short and do not provide much stratigraphic detail. Moreover, Fiandra has provided explicit dates for only ca. 150 Protopalatial vases and fragments, in contrast with the ca. 2,500 Protopalatial vases dated and discussed by Levi and Carinci. In spite of the paucity of the evidence published by Fiandra, it is possible to establish that she disagrees with Levi and Carinci on the history of two important vessel types and a number of specific decorative patterns, which also occur in stratified contexts in Building AA at Kommos. The wheel-thrown low teacup, according to Fiandra, appears at Phaistos in the MM IB phase and continues into MM IIB (Fiandra 1973: pls. 27g–d, 30b.1–2; 1990: figs. 7, 20, 21, 22, 23), whereas in Levi and Carinci’s view it does not occur until late in MM IIB (Levi and Carinci 1988: 189–93, 300).\textsuperscript{13} Bridge-spouted jars with grooved horizontal strap handles are dated by Fiandra to her MM IIA and MM IIB phases (Fiandra 1961–62: pl. KH’.2–3; 1973: pl. 28a–b; cf. Levi and Carinci 1988: pls. 55c, 56o) but by Levi and Carinci no earlier than MM IIB (Levi and Carinci 1988: 123–24). In terms of specific decorative designs, the most striking difference of opinion relates to the wavy-line pattern (cf. FM 53), which is dated by Fiandra to MM IIA and MM IIB (Fiandra 1973: pls. 27g–d, 30b.1–2; 1980: pl. 40.1) but by Levi and Carinci no earlier than MM IIB (Levi and Carinci 1988: 193).

Levi and Carinci’s dates of these morphological and decorative features are quite well supported by Walberg, who assigns low teacups, bridge-spouted jars with horizontal strap handles, and the wavy-line pattern to her Classical Kamares phase (Walberg 1976: 93, 125, 179, figs. 7.8, 34). Betancourt dates low teacups and fine bridge-spouted jars with grooved strap handles at Kommos to both the MM IIA and MM IIB phases; however, close study shows that all his purported MM IIA examples come from contexts that include at least
some, or even a majority of, MM IIB pottery, and thus there is no reason for not dating them to MM IIB. Betancourt did not find vases with wavy-line patterns in good Protopalatial contexts. MacGillivray in his comprehensive study of Protopalatial pottery from Knossos dates wheel-thrown teacups (his Types 3–6) to MM IB–IIB and bridge-spouted jars with horizontal grooved strap handles (his Types 4 and 5) to MM IIA–IIB, in agreement with Fiandra. In contrast with Fiandra, however, he dates the wavy-line pattern at Knossos to MM IIB–IIIA (MacGillivray 1998: 62–64, 75–76, 79–80).

It is argued in the present study that the stratified data from Building AA at Kommos support Levi and Carinci’s chronology over Fiandra’s. In particular, the new Kommian data make it very clear that low teacups, bridge-spouted jars with grooved strap handles flattened at their attachments, the painted wavy-line pattern, and intricate, dynamic polychrome patterns in general do not appear before the MM IIB phase, as Levi and Carinci have argued. Since Levi and Carinci have published much more pottery and more stratigraphic detail than Fiandra, their sequence will be the one mostly used in the present study. Fiandra’s dates will be mentioned when they diverge from Levi and Carinci’s.

A NEW SUBPHASE AT PHAISTOS AND KOMMOS: MM IIB EARLY
The Phaistian and Kommian sequences combined represent by far the best-known regional Protopalatial pottery chronology published anywhere in Crete, owing not only to the abundance of finds but also to the minute detail in which Levi and Carinci have documented the chronological development of each single vase shape and decorative pattern, paying as much attention to higher-quality as to utilitarian vessels.

Phaistian Protopalatial chronology, as interpreted by Levi and Carinci, relies on a well-stratified sequence in Room IL of the First Palace, complemented by a short MM IB–IIA sequence in Room β at Aghia Photini—the settlement area on the north slope of the palace hill—as well as two MM IIA–IIB sequences found in Room LXIII of the palace and Room CVII on the Acropoli Mediana, an area of the settlement located a few hundred meters west of the palace (Table 3.4; Levi 1976: 604–29). Furthermore, stratified MM IB and MM IIB Late floor deposits were found in Room LXV of the palace, and in Rooms IC, C, CIII of a house located west of the West Court. A sounding below Room 11 of the New Palace uncovered a poorly understood context with MM IIB and earlier debris, stratified over the remains of a large plaster-lined wooden box or “larnax” containing MM IB pottery (Levi 1976: 361–68).

Represented by 192 vases from these and other contexts, the MM IB phase at Phaistos is fairly well established. Its characteristics are largely agreed on by Fiandra and by Levi and Carinci (Table 3.5).

The MM IIA contexts are further enriched by finds from elsewhere at Phaistos, in particular the latest pottery from the construction fill of Bastione II. With a corpus of 415 vases, the MM IIA phase, as interpreted by Levi and Carinci, is quite well known at Phaistos; however, as at Kommos, it suffers from a lack of stratigraphic isolation, being always mixed with MM IB or MM IIB debris. The ambiguities surrounding its delineation have led to the
Table 3.4. Protopalatial stratified sequences in the palace and settlement at Phaistos.
Thick black horizontal lines represent floors (after Levi and Carinci 1988: 299–302; for the dating of the fill below the floor of Room IL to MM IIA rather than MM IB, see the text).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ceramic Phase</th>
<th>Number of Contexts</th>
<th>Number of Vases/Sherds</th>
<th>Percentage of Vases/Sherds</th>
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<tr>
<td>MM IA</td>
<td>4</td>
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greatest discrepancies between Fiandra’s and Levi and Carinci’s chronologies. There is much more agreement regarding the ceramic characteristics of the late MM IIB destruction contexts at Phaistos, which are very abundant, having yielded almost 1,500 vases and large fragments.

An examination of two contexts at Phaistos offers the possibility of refining Protopalatial chronology even more, by subdividing the MM IIB phase into an early and a late stage. Carinci was the first scholar to detect that a few contexts at Phaistos contained pottery that was MM IIB in character but seemed to be somewhat earlier in date than the pottery from the final Protopalatial destruction horizons. The most important MM IIB Early context at Phaistos is a large pottery fill of 125 vases found inside the bench built against the north wall of Room IL in the palace. This bench fill is stratigraphically earlier than the MM IIB destruction debris that was found on top of the bench and the floor of Room IL, and it is stratigraphically later than the floor of Room IL, on which the bench is standing (Table 3.4). The pottery fill below the floor includes MM IB vases but also some that are datable to MM IIA, providing a \textit{terminus ad} or \textit{post quem} for the laying of the floor.

The large majority of the pottery vessels found within the bench of Room IL are MM IB and MM IIA in date; however, six vases look more advanced. Four of those are indistinguishable from the latest MM IIB pottery of the destruction deposits at Phaistos, and date the closing of the bench fill to the MM IIB phase. They include two conical cups with bases that have sloping interior surfaces (Levi and Carinci 1988: pl. 100i, k). Such sloping transition of the interior base to the wall is standard among Type C/D conical cups of the MM IIB destruction contexts and clearly differs from the “hollowed-out” base interiors of wheel-thrown MM IIA Type C/D conical cups found below Room CVII (Levi and Carinci 1988: pl. 100b–c, g, l, m). Also appearing for the first time in the bench fill of Room IL are two carinated cups with low carinations typical of MM IIB destruction contexts (F.53, F.89; Levi and Carinci 1988: 197, pl. 90h; Levi 1976: pl. 130w). Carinated cups with such low carinations are not found in MM IB or MM IIA contexts at Phaistos.

Two other vases from the bench fill in Room IL resemble MM IIB Late shapes, but appear to be somewhat earlier in character, and for this reason are here assigned to an MM IIB Early subphase. One is a new conical cup type with a shallow convex bowl and a ledge rim, corresponding to the Kummian Type A (F.457; Levi and Carinci 1988: 244, pl. 102v; cf. Van de Moortel 1997: 35). Type A conical cups never occur in MM IB or MM IIA contexts but are found in MM IIB Late destruction contexts at Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: pl. 102w, y-a’). MM IIB Late examples have strongly projecting ledge rims, however, whereas cup F.457 from the bench fill in Room IL has a weakly developed rim and looks less advanced.

A second vase from the bench fill of Room IL that can be assigned stylistically to an MM IIB Early subphase is fine bridge-spouted jar F.189 (Levi and Carinci 1988: 124, pl. 54l; Levi 1976: pl. XXXIVc). This jar has grooved horizontal strap handles, a feature that never occurs in MM IB or MM IIA contexts at Phaistos but is standard in the MM IIB Late destruction
deposits. However, whereas MM IIB Late bridge-spouted jar handles are flattened at their attachments, the handles of bridge-spouted jar F.189 are not but have carefully finished grooves that continue all the way down. It is argued here that such well-finished bridge-spouted jar handles preserving their grooves are typical of the beginning of the MM IIB phase.

A bridge-spouted jar and carinated cup with similar characteristics have been found in a pottery fill below the floor of Room τ′ at Chalara (South), the area of the Phaistian settlement that is located on the south slope of the palace hill (F.4350; Levi and Carinci 1988: 124, fig. 35; Levi 1976: pl. 112a; and F.4361; Levi and Carinci 1988: 197; Levi 1976: pl. 132h). Since these new morphological characteristics in the bench fill of Room IL and in the fill below Room τ′ at Chalara are stylistically much closer to MM IIB destruction than to MM IIA features, we feel justified in assigning them to an MM IIB Early rather than an MM IIA Late stage.

The morphological differences between MM IIB Early and Late Type A conical cups and fine bridge-spouted jars are admittedly very small, and published MM IIB Early pottery from Phaistos is extremely rare. It would be very difficult to argue for the existence of an MM IIB Early subphase based on this meager evidence from Phaistos alone. One could, for instance, suggest that the latest vases from the bench fill in Room IL and the fill below Room τ′ at Chalara are simply variants of MM IIB Late vase types. The validity of the MM IIB Early subphase is amply supported, however, by the new evidence from the Southern Area at Kommos. A number of large pottery fills from this area—the fill found east of the Classical Round Building (Trench 20B; see above) and the foundation fills of Building AA (published here)—in all, numbering in the tens of thousands of fragments, were undoubtedly closed in the MM IIB Early subphase. They have yielded abundant examples of MM IIB conical cups of Type C/D and MM IIB Early fine bridge-spouted jars with strap handles preserving their grooves down to the handle attachments. In contrast, in spite of their large size, they do not include a single example of MM IIB Late conical cups of Types A or J with well-developed rims or bridge-spouted jars with flattened handle attachments. Neither do they include any of the other diagnostic MM IIB Late morphological features found in final Protopalatial contexts at Phaistos and Kommos, such as low teacups, standardized flaring straight-sided cups, wheel-thrown concave-flaring bowls, deep globular bowls, or pitharakia. Equally lacking are popular MM IIB Late decorative patterns such as horizontal rows of running spirals (FM 46), scale designs (FM 70), wavy-line patterns, and multiple horizontal wavy lines (cf. FM 53; see below). Like the bench fill of Room IL at Phaistos, the construction fills of Building AA were clearly separated stratigraphically from overlying MM IIB Late floor pottery. Thus the MM IIB Early pottery groups at Kommos and Phaistos are not only stylistically but also stratigraphically well distinguished from MM IIB Late assemblages. The pottery fill east of the Round Building seems to be largely MM IIB Early in date, including little earlier pottery, and can be considered to be a type deposit of the new subphase. This pottery fill needs to be republished in the future and is expected to provide more diagnostic features distinguishing MM IIB Early from MM IIA and MM IIB Late assemblages.
The Pottery from the Southern Area at Kommos

The present chapter deals with the MM IA and Protopalatial pottery from Building AA and the area just to the south of it, which was mostly excavated between 1991 and 1997. Yielding over 30,000 fragments, these contexts are much more abundant than those published by Betancourt; however, their stratigraphy is simpler (Table 3.6).

The overwhelming majority of ceramic fragments—more than 28,000—are MM IA–IIB Early in date. Of these, more than 27,000 come from soundings made into large foundation fills of Building AA (Groups A–Ji) and are mixed MM IA, MM IB, MM IIA, and MM IIB Early. The other MM IA–IIB Early pottery (822 fragments) was found in a few small contexts to the east and south of Building AA (Groups X, Y, Z). Stratified above the AA construction fills were several MM IIB Late contexts, yielding more than 2,000 pottery fragments. They include four pottery groups (K–M, O) with 39 mendable MM IIB Late vases that appear to represent use material of Building AA as well as three single mendable vases (C/1, C 3352; C 9785). In addition, a small MM IIB Late fill or dump of unmendable fragments (Group N) was found stratified on top of a construction fill in Location 10.

In spite of its coarse stratigraphy, this pottery merits publication for various reasons. It provides us with the construction and destruction dates of Building AA and informs us about activities at the site both before and during the lifetime of Building AA. Ceramic fragments are by far the most numerous finds from pre-AA levels in the Southern Area, and they constitute our main source of information on the early Protopalatial history of Kommos. We are now also in a better position to compare Kommian and Phaistian pottery distribution and consumption patterns. From a purely ceramic viewpoint, the assemblages from the Southern Area considerably expand our knowledge of the classes of MM IB–IIB vases that were consumed at Kommos, especially during the MM IB through MM IIA phases, when pottery shows an enormous morphological variability (Table 3.7). At the same time, the new pottery evidence allows us to establish MM IIB Early as a new chronological subphase at Kommos and Phaistos. Last but not least, as has been shown above, the pottery contexts from...
Table 3.7. Chronological distribution of contexts and of local MM IA–IIB pottery from Kommos published by Betancourt (1990) and in the present volume. Two of Betancourt’s MM IIA contexts have been redated (see the text).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ceramic Phase</th>
<th>Number of Contexts Published by Betancourt</th>
<th>Number of Contexts Published in This Volume</th>
<th>Vases/Sherd Published by Betancourt</th>
<th>Vases/Sherd Published in This Volume</th>
<th>Total of Published Vases/Sherd</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MM IA</td>
<td>2?</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM IA–B</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM IB</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM IB–IIA</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM IIA</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>16.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM IIB Early</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM IB–IIB Early</td>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM IIA–IIB Early</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM IIB Late</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM IIA–B</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>167</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM IB–IIB</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>911</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>1,123</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Building AA also contribute to resolving the long-standing controversy between Fiandra and Levi and Carinci, providing new evidence in support of Levi and Carinci’s ceramic chronology at Phaistos.

In view of the scarcity of well-stratified Protopalatial sequences from Kommos, especially with respect to the MM IB and MM IIA phases, it was decided to publish here also some stratified pottery groups found outside Building AA (Groups X–Z), which help differentiate the MM IB phase from later Protopalatial phases. These include an MM IA–IB fill of large pottery fragments (Group X) stratified below a construction fill of Building AA (Group Jg), and a short stratigraphic sequence found in a partially excavated building south of Building AA, consisting of a small MM IB/IIA construction fill (Group Y), stratified below an earthen floor and a small MM IIA/IIB Early floor deposit or homogeneous dump (Group Z) with parts of three mendable vases.

Since sizable amounts of Protopalatial pottery from Kommos have already been published by Betancourt, it is not necessary to describe and illustrate here in full all representative pieces. From the AA construction fills, only those pottery fragments have been selected that provide crucial information on the building date or that are representative of shapes or vessel
types not previously published from Kommos. All other pieces from the building fills have been omitted from the catalogue, but they are included in the discussions. In contrast, all mendable vases of the use pottery from Building AA (Groups K–M, and O) as well as an imported fragment from Group N are included in the catalogue.

The present study describes chronological developments in each single class of pottery, as did Betancourt, Levi, and Carinci. Rather than focusing narrowly on “type fossils,” or isolated vase types with a particular shape and decoration diagnostic for a specific ceramic phase (MacGillivray 1998: 65), this study documents developments in the entire pottery assemblage, capturing the rhythms of change of each individual morphological type, decorative pattern, and technological style. Only in this way is it possible to reach a broad as well as an in-depth understanding of pottery developments.

Late Prepalatial and Most of the Protopalatial Period: Middle Minoan IA–Middle Minoan IIB Early

Nearly all the MM IA–IIB Early pottery from the Southern Area comes from soundings in large mixed construction fills (secondary contexts) found in association with Building AA (Groups A–Ji: Pls. 3.2–3.12, 3.17–3.20; Table 3.6; see Chap. 1.1, Locations 1–10). This pottery is in general unmendable and lightly to heavily worn; most fragments show use wear (see T-Space pottery tables). Another three pottery groups from two short stratigraphic sequences were uncovered to the east and south of Building AA. An almost pure MM IB pottery fill with an admixture of MM IA fragments (Group X) was found on bedrock in a ca. 1.50 × 1.30 m sounding east of Building AA (Pls. 3.1–3.2). It covered a thin wall built on bedrock and was stratified below a construction fill of Building AA (Group Jg), which in turn was covered by an earthen surface at +3.17/3.12 m, a construction fill of Building T consisting almost entirely of AA material (Group Jh), and the paved north-south road 34. Being only lightly worn but largely unmendable, Group X represents a dumped fill (secondary context) rather than a primary dump. Found adjacent to a foundation wall of Building AA, it may be an earlier fill cut by the AA foundation, or it may be part of the AA construction fills themselves.

To the south of Building AA, a sounding of ca. 1.5 × 1 m revealed part of a structure with a short stratigraphic sequence. An earthen floor with an MM IB/IIB dumped fill (Group Y) on top was covered by a plaster floor, which in turn was superimposed by a small MM IIA/IIB Early assemblage (Group Z) with three mendable vases and crucible fragment C 11659 (Pl. 3.2). Because of its high mendability and homogeneous date, Group Z is likely to represent a primary context, either a floor deposit (purposeful discard) or a dump (casual discard). Its pottery is moderately worn.

In the pottery catalogue, Groups X, Y, and Z are presented before Groups A–Ji because they are more narrowly datable. Since they represent different episodes of deposition, they are illustrated as separate groups (Pls. 3.1–3.2). In contrast, the vases of Groups A–Ji and
ungrouped vase C 11131, listed at the end of this catalogue section, are mixed in the illustrations as if they form a single ceramic group (Pls. 3.3–3.13). The reason for this arrangement is that all this pottery comes from AA construction fills that are comparable in their composition and were deposited at roughly the same time. The vases in the latter groups were selected, not as representative of their individual groups, but of the AA construction fills as a whole. The illustrated vases are organized by shape, from small to large. Inscribed vases (Pls. 3.17A–B) and nonlocal vases (Pls. 3.18–3.20) are illustrated separately.

Group X

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>MM IB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total sherds:</td>
<td>482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (grams):</td>
<td>10,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trench/pail(s):</td>
<td>62E/109, 110, 111, 112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross joins:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architectural/physical context:</td>
<td>Homogeneous fill east of Building AA, below paved road 34, from ca. +3.07 to +2.48 m ca. 59 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thickness of constituent strata:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group and/or date of stratum below:</td>
<td>Kouskouras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group and/or date of stratum above:</td>
<td>Group Jg (MM II)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

X/1 (C 11690). Conical cup, Kommos Type C. Pl. 3.1.
Hand-modeled, leaving parallel downward-oriented finger impressions on exterior lower body.
MM IA. Levi and Carinci 1988: 234–235, fig. 54c; Levi 1976: pl. 16l, q, s, t; Benzi 2001: fig. 5c; Fiandra 1973: 86, pl. 34b; Fiandra 1995: fig. 3a (Patrikies); Banti 1930–31: 179 no. 64, fig. 37b; Cultraro 2000: pl. 3 (Aghia Triada, Tholos Tomb A, annex room L).

X/2 (C 11717). Conical cup, Kommos Type D. Pl. 3.1.
Hand-modeled, leaving parallel upward-oriented finger impressions on exterior lower body. Interior and exterior upper body wheel-finished.
MM IB. Betancourt 1990: 145 no. 969, fig. 44 (Kommos); Levi and Carinci 1988: 235, pl. 99h; Levi 1976: pl. 35e, h', i' (Phaistos).

X/3 (C 11718). Conical cup, Kommos Type D. Pl. 3.1.
Hand-modeled, leaving parallel downward-oriented finger impressions on exterior lower body.

X/4 (C 11693). Carinated or rounded cup. Pl. 3.1.
Too little preserved to determine manufacturing technique.
MM IB. Quality of manufacture and handle shape similar to that of Ja/6, but handle placed higher. Comparanda are MM IIA–B and not very close: Betancourt 1986: fig. 3.7 (Kommos); Levi and Carinci 1988: 214–15; Levi 1976: fig. 902, pls. 130n, q, w, 135 (Phaistos).

X/5 (C 8622). Cylindrical (spouted) basin. Pl. 3.1.
Coil-built. No trace of spout. Lateral lugs on either side of body, one preserved.

X/6 (C 11694). Open-spouted or bridge-spouted jar. Pl. 3.1.
Interior surface entirely worn away. Body too little preserved to determine manufacturing technique or decoration.
MM IA/B. Levi and Carinci 1988: 116–19, fig. 31, pl. 53a (Phaistos). Cf. Y/1 but handles more slanted: possibly MM IB.

X/7 (C 11721). Narrow-necked jug. Pl. 3.1.
Coil-built. Globular body, overfired.

X/8 (C 9200). Jug. Pl. 3.1.
Globular body. Barnacle barbotine modeled from thick surface layer of fine clay, decorated with white-painted dots. Barbotine areas bordered by smooth diagonal strips painted with red bands. Dark drips on interior.

X/9 (C 11720). Narrow-necked jug. Pl. 3.1.
Globular body. Regular rows of barnacle barbotine modeled from thick surface layer of fine clay.

X/10 (C 11689). Narrow-necked jug. Pl. 3.1.
Body is coarser than neck but insufficiently preserved to determine texture. Neck vertically shaved. Prickle barbotine at interior rim.

X/11 (C 11691). Narrow-necked jug. Pl. 3.1.
Fine clay coil at upper part of neck interior. Exterior of neck covered by thick fine clay layer. Prickle barbotine at base of neck and lug modeled from fine clay.

X/12 (C 11696). Closed vessel, small. Pl. 3.1.
Coil-built. Globular body, ledge rim. Possible traces of white patterned decoration on the red ground.
MM IB–IIB. The closest comparanda for the collar neck with flattened rim and sloping shoulders are provided by MM IB–IIB tall teapots (lt. brichichi) from Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: 103–6, pls. 44–45). Protopalatial small collar-necked jars from Phaistos have comparable shoulders and collar neck but simple rims (Levi and Carinci 1988: 48–49, pl. 24).

X/13 (C 11707). Collar-necked jar? Pl. 3.1.
Too little preserved to determine manufacturing technique. Neck may be monochrome dark coated instead of dark-banded.

X/14 (C 11724). Cylindrical jar. Pl. 3.1.
Coil-built.

X/15 (C 8625). Wide-necked jar. Pl. 3.1.
Coil-built. Overhanging ledge below rim. String hole just above ledge, pushed in from exterior; interior of hole solidly dark coated.

X/16 (C 11692). Jar or amphora. Pl. 3.2.

X/17 (C 8624). Pithos. Pls. 3.2, 3.21.
Coil-built. Rim formed by folding upper coil over inserted coil. Dark trickle paint is fugitive, whereas black paint of rim band is well preserved; probably overpainted.

X/18 (C 11722). Cooking jar or cooking pot, Type A, small. Pl. 3.2.
Coil-built. Globular body, ledge rim. Possible traces of white patterned decoration on the red ground.


X/19 (C 11697). Cooking pot, Type A, medium. Pl. 3.2.


MM IB incompletely oxidized. Betancourt 1980: 3-5; 1990: 66, 93 nos. 50, 423, figs. 12, 23 (Kommos); Levi and Carinci 1988: pl. 15a–e (Phaistos).

X/20 (C 11698). Cooking dish. Pl. 3.2.


X/21 (C 11699). Cooking dish. Pl. 3.2.


X/22 (C 11700). Pedestaled lamp, large. Pl. 3.2.


X/23 (11725). Convex-sided bowl. Pl. 3.18.


X/24 (11695). Bridge-spouted jar. Pl. 3.18.


**Group Y**

**Date:**

MM IB–IIA

**Total sherds:**

151

**Weight (grams):**

1,830

**Trench/pail(s):**

90B/31, 32, 33, and joins in 29, 30

**Cross joins:**

None

**Architectural/physical context:**

J. W. Shaw, Chap. 1.1; fills on top of clayey floor south of Building AA, at +0.96/0.95 m,
Middle Minoan IA and Protopalatial Pottery

Thickness of constituent strata:
- Covered by MM IIA plaster floor at ca. +1.45 m; partially excavated
- Ca. 49–50 cm

Group and/or date of stratum below:
- Sterile sand until water table at +0.50 m

Group and/or date of stratum above:
- Group Z (MM IIA/early MM IIB)

Table 3.8. Pottery Group Y.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
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<th>Medium-Coarse Fabrics</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
<td>Conical Cups</td>
<td>Painted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sherds</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>25.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of sherds (grams)</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>25.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Y/2 (C 11663). Conical basin. Pl. 3.18.

Group Z

Date:           MM IIA/early MM IIB
Total sherds: 189
Weight (grams): 2,300
Trench/pail(s): 90B/22, 29, 30, and joins in 21
Cross joins: None
Architectural/physical context: Floor deposit or homogeneous dump on plaster floor south of Building AA, at ca. +1.45 m, and fill above to +1.55 m; partially excavated Ca. 10 cm

Thickness of constituent strata:
- Group Y (MM IIA)

Group and/or date of stratum above:
- MM III–LM IA earth-and-pebble floor (90B/3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 21)
Table 3.9. Pottery Group Z.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
<th></th>
<th>Medium-Coarse Fabrics</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
<td>Conical Cups</td>
<td>Painted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sherds</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of sherds (grams)</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>1,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>46.1</td>
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</table>

**Z/1** (C 11672). Conical bowl, fruit stand, or louter, large. Pl. 3.2.


**Z/2** (C 11671). Jug, large. Pl. 3.2.
Coil-built. Coils drawn up. Vertical finger impressions on interior.

**Z/3** (C 11670). Oval-mouthed amphora. Pl. 3.2.
Coil-built; interior surface of shoulder has vertical finger impressions where counterpressure was applied during handle attachment. Short neck and broad flat handles are Protopalatial.


**Group A**

**Date:**
Mostly MM IB, some MM IIA, MM IIB?

**Total sherds:**
742

**Weight (grams):**
8,180

**Trench/pail(s):**
86E/66, 67, 68, 69

**Cross joins:**
None

**Architectural/physical context:**
J. W. Shaw, Chap. 1.1; construction fill of AA, below Central Court (just north of Archaic Building Q) from +2.52/2.34 to +2.30/2.16 m ca. 18–22 cm

Kouskouras in some places

**Thickness of constituent strata:**
Neopalatial pebble court of T, with Archaic contamination (86E/64, 65)

**Group and/or date of stratum below:**

**Group and/or date of stratum above:**

**A/1** (C 9840). Conical cup, Kommos Type C Pl. 3.2.
Irregular height. Hand-modeled, leaving shallow parallel downward-slanted finger impressions on exterior lower body. Deeper and more regular upward-oriented finger impressions around base were applied later.
Table 3.10. Pottery Group A.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
<th></th>
<th>Medium-Coarse Fabrics</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
<td>Conical Cups</td>
<td>Painted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sherds</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>34.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of sherds (grams)</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>905</td>
<td>2,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>36.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MM IA. Roughly same comparanda as for X/1. Betancourt 1990: 73 no. 135, pl. 15, pl. 6 (Kommos MM IB context 8; cup drawn too steep). Levi and Carinci 1988: 234–35, figs. 54b, d; Levi 1976: pl. 16l, q, s, t; Benzi 2001: fig. 5c; Fiaandra 1973: 86, pl. 34a; Fiaandra 1995: fig. 3a (Patrikies). Banti 1930–31: 179 no. 64, fig. 37b; Culturaro 2000: pl. 3 (Aghia Triada, Tholos Tomb A annex room L).

A/2 (C 9851). Conical cup, Kommos Type C. Pl. 3.2.

Hand-modeled, leaving two rows of upward-slaned finger impressions on exterior lower body. Regular, wheel-finished rim. Burnt patch on interior possibly from use as a lamp.

MM IB wheel-finished rim; shape close to MM IA. Levi and Carinci 1988: 235, pl. 99k (Phaistos).

A/3 (C 9860). Convex-sided bowl, small. Pl. 3.4.


Prepalatial?

A/4 (C 9843). Cylindrical bowl, pyxis or bucket jar, small. Pl. 3.5.

Coil-built; vertical finger impressions on interior. Medium coarse with fine coils on interior and exterior. Shape uncertain. Four horizontal grooves impressed in fine coil in handle zone. Various shades of red on exterior: curved (“orange”) red band around handle attachment; traces of (“purple”) dark red to the left; alternating pale yellow and (“orange”) red bands above base.

MM IB–IIA. Levi and Carinci 1988: 137–38, 158, 164, pls. 59e, g, 60d, 69g; Levi 1976: fig. 731, pls. XLIIb, 39d, g, k, 59f (Phaistos).

A/5 (C 9850). Flaring bowl, deep, medium. Pl. 3.5.

Coil-built, rim wheel-finished. Parallel slanted finger impressions at base, upright; base modeled when upside down. Fine very pale brown slip covers interior and reaches over exterior rim and upper body over 2.5 cm. Double or triple pendent (“orange”) red loops at rim.


A/6 (C 9845). Narrow-necked jug. Pl. 3.9.

Reconstruction of base probably wrong; only published example with complete profile (from Aghia Triada, MM IA) is more squat. Plastic ridges made of medium-coarse fabric. Handle attached to neck at an angle.


A/7 (C 11212). Narrow-necked jug. Pl. 3.9.

Coil-built.

MM IA. Comparanda as for X/7. Cf. Jg/5.

A/8 (C 11408). Jar, large. Pl. 3.10.

Coil-built. Medium-coarse coil or layer at inte-
Minoan Pottery from the Southern Area

from Phaistos, but none have lugs; they are either unpainted or decorated with simple dark-painted patterns (Levi and Carinci 1988: 37–38, 88–89, pls. 17c–k, 39a–k). Cf. Phaistian basket-handled jars (Levi and Carinci 1988: pls. 67g–h, 68a–b).

A/10 (C 11509). Jug or jar, large. Pl. 3.19.

Group Ba

Date:

Mostly MM IB, some MM IA, MM IIA, and MM IIB

Total sherds:
380

Weight (grams):
6,669

Trench/pail(s):
37A/66, 68, 69, and joins in 61

Cross joins:
Group Bd (Ba/6)

Architectural/physical context:
J. W. Shaw, Chap. 1.1; construction fill of AA, below pebble floor at northwest corner of Central Court (below N Space 6), east of Group Bb, from +2.76/2.70 to +2.55/1.99 m

Thickness of constituent strata:
21–71 cm

Group and/or date of stratum below:
Unexcavated because of groundwater

Group and/or date of stratum above:
Neopalatial pebble court of T (37A/61)

Ba/1 (C 7216). Conical cup, Kommos Type C. Pl. 3.3.
Wheel-thrown, somewhat thicker-walled than Ba/1, and base interior not hollow.
MM IIB. Betancourt 1990: 152 nos. 1126, 1133, figs. 47–48; Van de Moortel 1997: 34–38, fig. 5 (Kommos). Fiandra 1973: 89, pl. 34o–p; Fiandra 1995: fig. 3o–p (Phaistos, Period 3); Levi and Carinci 1988: 238–39, pl. 100d, t, w, x, y (Phaistos, MM IIB Early fill below room CVII; final MM IIB destruction).

Ba/2 (C 7215). Conical cup, Kommos Type C/D. Pl. 3.3.

Ba/3 (C 7217). Conical cup, Kommos Type P. Pl. 3.3.
Middle Minoan IA and Protopalatial Pottery

Table 3.11. Pottery Group Ba.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
<th>Medium-Coarse Fabrics</th>
<th>Cooking and Lamp Fabrics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
<td>Conical Cups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sherds</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of sherds (grams)</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wheel-thrown, somewhat thicker-walled than **Ba/1**.


**Ba/4** (C 3462). Tumbler. Pl. 3.4.

Finger impressions on exterior surface of middle and lower body. Distinguished from conical cups by its well-formed, slightly outturned rim. Black paint brushed on; horizontal, diagonal, and vertical brush strokes visible.


**Ba/5** (C 7224). Flaring bowl, large. Pl. 3.6.

Coil-built.


**Ba/6** (C 7232). Vat or pedestaled krater. Pl. 3.7.

Probably most of profile preserved, including three body fragments from Group Bd (37A/63). Coil-built. Joining of outer rim coil facilitated by series of wide, parallel-slanted, U-sectioned scorings in interior coil; cf. **Z/1**. Thick interior en-

Coarse noncalcareous yellowish red to redish yellow fabric, completely oxidized. Too little preserved to identify manufacturing technique. Hard fired.


**Ba/10** (C 7236). Cooking dish. Pl. 3.11.

Minoan Pottery from the Southern Area


Ba/11 (C 11058). Closed vessel, medium. Pl. 3.18.


Group Bb

Date: Mostly MM IB, some MM II
Total sherds: 50
Weight (grams): 781
Trench/pail(s): 37A/65, 67
Cross joins: None
Architectural/physical context: J. W. Shaw, Chap. 1.1; construction fill of AA, below pebble floor at northwest corner of Central Court (below N Space 6), west of Group Ba, from +2.67 to +2.55/2.09 m

Thickness of constituent strata: 12–58 cm
Group and/or date of stratum below: Unexcavated because of groundwater
Group and/or date of stratum above: Neopalatial to Final Palatial pebble court of T, N (37A/62, 64)

Table 3.12. Pottery Group Bb.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
<th>Medium-Coarse Fabrics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sherds</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of sherds (grams)</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bb/1 (C 3379). Teapot, medium or large. Pl. 3.7.
Fine spout attached to medium-coarse body; fine clay continuing over exterior surface of preserved part of body. Spout vertically shaved. Clean break in rather unusual location: spout reused?

Group Bc

Date: Mostly MM IB, some MM II
Total sherds: 223
Weight (grams): 3,700
Trench/pail(s): 100B/11, 12, 13, 14
Cross joins: None
Architectural/physical context: J. W. Shaw, Chap. 1.1; construction fill of AA, below pebble floor in northwest corner of Central Court (below T Space 10), from ca. +2.67 to +2.25/1.84 m ca. 42–83 cm
Thickness of constituent strata: Unexcavated; groundwater
Group and/or date of stratum below: MM III pebble floor (100B/10)

Table 3.13. Pottery Group Bc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
<th>Medium-Coarse Fabrics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sherds</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of sherds (grams)</td>
<td>648 (= all fine fabrics)</td>
<td>2,382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>17.5 (= all fine fabrics)</td>
<td>64.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Group Bd

Date: MM IB, MM IIB
Total sherds: 77
Weight (grams): 1,270
Trench/pail(s): 37A/63
Cross joins: Group Ba (Ba/6)
Architectural/physical context: J. W. Shaw, Chap. 1.1; construction fill of AA, below floor of T Space 11, from +2.80 to +2.22 m 58 cm
Thickness of constituent strata: Kouskouras
Group and/or date of stratum below: Neopalatial floor of T (37A/30)
In addition to three body fragments of Ba/6, fragments of three vases with unusual fabrics, possibly nonlocal, were inventoried from this group. None are published here.

Group C

Date: MM IB–II
Total sherds: 160
Weight (grams): 1,235
Trench/pail(s): 100D/46, 48, 49a, 49b, 49c, 49d
Cross joins: None
Architectural/physical context: J. W. Shaw, Chap. 1.1; construction fill of AA and deposit of conical cup C/1 between two upright stone slabs, probably associated with the use of AA, in northwest area of Central Court (below N Space 8), from +2.66/2.57 to +2.15/2.11 m

Thickness of constituent strata: 46–51 cm
Group and/or date of stratum below: Unexcavated
Group and/or date of stratum above: Neopalatial pebble court of T (100D/43, 45)

Table 3.14. Pottery Group C.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
<th>Medium-Coarse Fabrics</th>
<th>Coarse Fabrics</th>
<th>Cooking Fabrics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
<td>Conical Cups</td>
<td>Painted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sherds</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of sherds (grams)</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>24.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C/1 (C 10726). Conical cup, Kommos Type J. Pls. 3.3, 3.21.

Spiraling string mark on base indicates it was cut from a wheel in motion. Rim worn at one location over a distance of 5 cm from use as a drinking vessel. Surface finish much sloppier than on MM II conical cups from other construction fills. Projecting rim is indicative of date late in MM IIB.

Group Da

**Date:** MM IB, MM IIA, MM IIB
**Total sherds:** 190
**Weight (grams):** 1,565
**Trench/pail(s):** 93B/31, 32
**Cross joins:** None
**Architectural/physical context:** Fill in rectangular walled space below T Room 35, from +2.74 to +2.37 m
**Thickness of constituent strata:** 37 cm
**Group and/or date of stratum below:** Unexcavated
**Group and/or date of stratum above:** MM III pebble floor of T (86F/111)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
<th>Medium-Coarse Fabrics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sherds</td>
<td>35 30 20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>18.4 15.8 10.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of sherds (grams)</td>
<td>120 75 80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>7.7 4.8 5.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Da/1** (C 10024). Conical spouted bowl. Pl. 3.4.
Rim opening elliptical or irregular. MM IB. No close comparanda.

**Da/2** (C 11731). Jug or jar, large. Pl. 3.19.
Medium-coarse reddish yellow fabric with angular schist inclusions, almost completely oxidized. Coil-built. Interior and exterior well smoothed. Exterior very pale brown slipped and painted with red to dark reddish brown curvilinear and horizontal bands.

**Da/3** (C 10029). Convex-sided bowl, large. Pl. 3.20.
Medium-fine yellowish red fabric with light yellowish brown core, incompletely oxidized. Coil-built. Interior and exterior well smoothed, monochrome red coated, and burnished, leaving diagonal and horizontal burnishing marks.
MM IB–IIB Early context. Provenance uncertain: Pediada? Cf. **Fa/1**. South Cypriot Red-Polished round-bottomed bowl? Macroscopically resembling MC fabrics found at Pyrgos Mavroraki (Belgiorno 1999), Psematismenos Trelokkas, and other sites between Lemessos and Larnaca. Cypriot identification first suggested by V. Karageorghis (pers. comm. 2000); needs confirmation by scientific analysis.

Group Db

**Date:** MM IB, MM IIA?, MM IIB
**Total sherds:** 227
**Weight (grams):** 1,405
**Trench/pail(s):** 93A/17, 18, 21, 22, 23  
**Cross joins:** None  
**Architectural/physical context:** J. W. Shaw, Chap. 1.1; floor makeup of Central Court of AA, west of T Room 36, from ca. +2.87 to +2.80 m, and fill below to +2.25/2.12 m ca. 63–75 cm  
**Thickness of constituent strata:**  
**Group and/or date of stratum below:** Unexcavated  
**Group and/or date of stratum above:** MM IIB pebble court of AA (93A/16b)

Table 3.16. Pottery Group Db.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
<th>Medium-Coarse Fabrics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sherds</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of sherds</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Db/1 (C 11647). Pithos. Pl. 3.19.  
Coarse reddish yellow fabric with angular schist inclusions, completely oxidized. Manufacturing technique cannot be determined. Interior and exterior well smoothed. Exterior pink slipped and painted with red horizontal bands; polished after decoration.  

**Group Dc**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MM IB, MM IIA?, MM IIB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total sherds:</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (grams):</td>
<td>2,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trench/pail(s):</td>
<td>93A/24, 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross joins:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architectural/physical context:</td>
<td>Construction fill of AA with burnt patches, below gap in slab floor of T Room 36, from +2.83/2.82 to +2.69 m, and sandy fill below, from +2.69 to +2.60 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thickness of constituent strata:</td>
<td>22–23 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group and/or date of stratum below:</td>
<td>Unexcavated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group and/or date of stratum above:</td>
<td>Neopalatial slab floor of T and undisturbed LM IA Early floor deposit on top (Group 9b)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3.17. Pottery Group Dc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
<th>Medium-Coarse Fabrics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sherds</td>
<td>22 11 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>10.7 5.4 10.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of sherds (grams)</td>
<td>100 30 190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>4.3 1.3 8.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dc/1 (C 10121). Narrow-necked jug. Pl. 3.9.
Coil-built. Barbotine prickles of fine clay applied on coarse body. Waster, not too deformed. Many prickles melted or broke off under excessive heat.


Dc/2 (C 11562). Cooking dish. Pl. 3.11.
Coarse noncalcareous red to reddish brown fabric with brown core, almost completely oxidized. Handmade. Interior and rim exterior well smoothed; exterior bottom rough. Interior and rim exterior buff slipped and red coated. Hard fired.


Dc/3 (C 11561). Stopper. Pl. 3.12.
Base fragment of cooking pot or cooking tray, buff slipped on interior, cut for reuse as a stopper (d ca. 2.5 cm). No differential use wear.


Group E

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>MM IB, MM IIA, MM IIB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total sherds:</td>
<td>454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (grams):</td>
<td>3,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trench/pail(s):</td>
<td>97A/9, 10, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross joins:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architectural/physical context:</td>
<td>J. W. Shaw, Chap. 1.1; construction fill of AA, in southwest part of South Stoa, from ca. +2.45 to +1.10 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thickness of constituent strata:</td>
<td>ca. 135 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group and/or date of stratum below:</td>
<td>Unexcavated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group and/or date of stratum above:</td>
<td>Group Fa (Protopalatial)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

E/1 (C 10848). Jug or jar, large. Pl. 3.10.
Coil-built. Medium-coarse body covered on the exterior by 1 mm-thick very pale brown engobe and pale yellow slip. Unusual inclusions, unevenly distributed, leaving finer areas. Not very well smoothed.

Table 3.18. Pottery Group E.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
<th>Medium-Coarse Fabrics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sherds</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>19.4</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of sherds (grams)</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**E/2** (C 11481). Scraper. Pl. 3.13.
Fine reddish yellow fabric, redder than usual: western Mesara fabric? Manufacturing technique cannot be determined. Fine closed vessel covered on the exterior by reddish yellow engobe (0% inclusions) from which barbotine barnacles were formed. Body fragment cut to be reused as a scraper or related tool. Differential wear: right edge chipped and heavily worn. Similar ceramic tools are used for shaving pottery vessels during manufacture (Rye 1981: 87).

**E/3** (C 11482). Cup or bowl, small. Pl. 3.18.

**Group Fa**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Protopalatial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total sherds:</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (grams):</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trench/pail(s):</td>
<td>97A/6, 7, 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross joins:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architectural/physical context:</td>
<td>J. W. Shaw, Chap. 1.1; makeup of pebble floor of AA, in southwest part of South Stoa, and fill below, from +2.78/2.72 to ca. +2.45 m ca. 27–33 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thickness of constituent strata:</td>
<td>Group E (MM IIB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group and/or date of stratum below:</td>
<td>MM III foundation trench (97A/1, 2, 3, 4) and LM 1A Early stoa debris above (95C/171, 177, 183)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3.19. Pottery Group Fa.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
<th>Medium-Coarse Fabrics</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
<td>Conical Cups</td>
<td>Painted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sherds</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of sherds (grams)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Group Fb

Date: MM IB, MM II
Total sherds: 61
Weight (grams): 455
Trench/pail(s): 95C/82
Cross joins: None
Architectural/physical context: Construction fill of AA, below pebble floor in northwest part of South Stoa, from +3.09 to +2.56/2.21 m
Thickness of constituent strata: 55–88 cm
Group and/or date of stratum below: Unexcavated
Group and/or date of stratum above: Pebble floor and LM–Iron Age level on top (95C/75)

Fb/1 (C 10043). Open-spouted or bridge-spouted jar. Pl. 3.8. Wasters, not too deformed.

Group G

Date: MM IB, MM IIA, some MM IIB
Total sherds: 190
Weight (grams): 2,910
Table 3.20. Pottery Group Fb.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
<th></th>
<th>Medium-Coarse Fabrics</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
<td>Conical Cups</td>
<td>Painted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sherds</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>55.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weight of sherds (grams)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>345</td>
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<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>75.8</td>
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</table>

Trench/pail(s): 93C/38, 40
Cross joins: None
Architectural/physical context: J. W. Shaw, Chap. 1.1; fill below floor in northeast part of South Stoa, from ca. +2.83/2.75 to +2.52/2.49 m
Thickness of constituent strata: ca. 26–31 cm
Group and/or date of stratum below: Unexcavated
Group and/or date of stratum above: MM IB–II floor of AA with pebbles and crushed murex; possibly MM III and LM IA Early intrusions (93C/37)

Table 3.21. Pottery Group G.

<table>
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<td>Number of sherds</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>54</td>
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<td>As % of total</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>3.7</td>
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<td>Weight of sherds (grams)</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>960</td>
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<td>As % of total</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>33.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

G/1 (C 10032). Oval-mouthed amphora. Pl. 3.10.
Too little preserved to determine manufacturing technique. Waster, surfaces vitrified from overheating.


G/2 (C 11504). Closed vessel. Pl. 3.19.

Group H

Date: Mostly MM IB, little MM IIA and MM IIB
Total sherds: 141
Weight (grams): 2,375
Trench/pail(s): 93C/120, 123
Cross joins: None
Architectural/physical context: J. W. Shaw, Chap. 1.1; construction fill of AA, east of stone-lined pit in southeast part of South Stoa, from +2.33 to +1.63 m
Thickness of constituent strata: 70 cm
Group and/or date of stratum below: Unexcavated
Group and/or date of stratum above: Group I (MM II)

Table 3.22. Pottery Group H.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
<th>Medium-Coarse Fabrics</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Painted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sherds</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of sherds (grams)</td>
<td>140</td>
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<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
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</table>

H/1 (C 11372). Convex-sided bowl, large. Pl. 3.20.
Fine reddish yellow fabric with gray core; incompletely oxidized. Coil-built. Horizontally trimmed, leaving slight facets. Interior and exterior well smoothed, monochrome red to dusky red coated, and polished.

Group I

Date: Some MM IB, mostly MM II
Total sherds: 177
Weight (grams): 2,680
Trench/pail(s): 93C/119 and most of 34
Cross joins: None
Architectural/physical context: J. W. Shaw, Chap. 1.1; construction fill of AA, surrounding stone-lined pit in southeast part of South Stoa, from +2.87/2.80/2.72 to +2.33 m
Thickness of constituent strata: 47–54 cm

Table 3.23. Pottery Group I.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
<th></th>
<th>Medium-Coarse Fabrics</th>
<th>Coarse Fabrics</th>
<th>Cooking Fabrics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
<td>Conical Cups</td>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sherds</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>20.4</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>20.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of sherds</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>25.2</td>
<td>18.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I/1 (C 11640). Pithos. Pl. 3.11.

Coil-built. Rim area built up of various coarse clay coils. Regularly spaced, V-shaped diagonal grooves in innermost coil to facilitate join with outermost coil. No paint preserved on interior or on rim exterior.


Ja/1 (C 11344). Conical cup, Kommos Type D. Pl. 3.3.

Hand-modeled, leaving parallel downward-slanated finger impressions on exterior lower and midbody. MM IB. Betancourt 1990: 74 no. 147, fig. 16 (Kommos). Fiandra 1973: 86–88, pls. 21 (shape), 34e; Fiandra 1995: fig. 3e (Phaistos, Period 1); Levi and Carinci 1988: 235, pl. 99h (Phaistos).

Ja/2 (C 10912). Conical cup, Kommos Type C. Pl. 3.3.

Table 3.24. Pottery Group Ja.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
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<th>Coarse Cooking and Lamp Fabrics</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
<td>Conical Cups</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of sherds</td>
<td>1,174</td>
<td>799</td>
<td>1,750</td>
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<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of sherds (grams)</td>
<td>8,836</td>
<td>5,143</td>
<td>16,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

pl. 991, p; Levi 1976: fig. 853a, pls. 35w, 46a, c–e (Phaistos).

Ja3 (C 10952). Conical cup, Kommos Type L. Pl. 3.3.
Hand-modeled, leaving parallel upward-slanted finger impressions on exterior lower body. Upper body possibly wheel-finished. Interior may have been monochrome red rather than dark-dipped. Fire-darkened patch at rim: used as a lamp.
MM IB. Similar in shape to Jg1 but dark-dipped. Betancourt 1990: 74 no. 148, fig. 16, pl. 7; 145 no. 970, fig. 44 (Kommos). Levi and Carinci 1988: 236, pl. 99n; Levi 1976: fig. 356a (Phaistos).

Ja4 (C 9770). Conical cup, Kommos Type E. Pl. 3.3.
Hand-modeled, leaving parallel downward-slanted and vertical finger impressions on exterior lower body. Upper body probably wheel-smoothed.

Ja5 (C 9758). Conical cup, Kommos Type D. Pl. 3.3.
With a height/rim diameter proportion of 0.60, this cup is on the border between Types C and D. Expertly thrown on the wheel, with even, thin walls and a regular shape. Hollow interior base. Wet-smoothed but neatly finished. Parallel string marks on base indicate that the wheel was at a complete stop when the cup was cut off.
MM IIA. Betancourt 1990: 80 no. 221, fig. 18 (MM IIB Early Kommos), 152 no. 1129, fig. 47 (MM IIB Kommos). Fiandra 1973: 89, pl. 34m, Fiandra 1995: fig. 3m (Phaistos, Period 2); Levi and Carinci 1988: 238, pl. 100d, g, l, m (Phaistos, MM IIB Early fill below Room CVII).

Ja6 (C 11050). Carinated or rounded cup. Pl. 3.3.
Subtype with low carination, broad looping strap handle set well below the rim, partially coated with dark “paint.” Impossible to determine whether coil-built or wheel-thrown. Rim and body flattened as a result of handle attachment; impossible to determine diameters. Handle centrally depressed and slightly twisted, its left side rising higher than its right side. Paint brushed on: dilute brown brush strokes visible on the interior.

Ja7 (C 10965). Carinated cup. Pl. 3.3.
Coil-built, but wheel-finished above carination. Many finger impressions on lower body from hand joining of coils. Variant with flaring, slightly concave upper body, thick-walled.

Ja8 (C 9450). Tumbler. Pl. 3.4.
Coil-built, with diagonal upright finger im-
pression on lower and midbody. Possibly wheel-finished upper body.

MM IB. Fiandra 1973: 87, pls. 21, 22a, 34d–e (Phaistos, early in Period 1); Levi and Carinci 1988: 236, fig. 55, pl. 99a–b, d–e. Levi 1976: pl. 36a, d (Phaistos).

Ja/9 (C 11034). Rounded cup. Pl. 3.4.
Coil-built. Unusual metallic shape with crinkled rim and at least one vertical handle. Horizontal rows of fine barbotine prickle. Painted decoration largely illegible.


Ja/10 (C 9771). Conical bowl, small. Pl. 3.4.

Ja/11 (C 11052). Convex-sided bowl, medium. Pl. 3.4.
Coil-built. Crinkled rim.


Ja/12 (C 10941). Conical bowl, small. Pl. 3.5.
Coil-built. Barnacle barbotine. Two shades of red: “wine” red band on interior (7.5R 5/6), other red bands and dots are more yellowish and may originally have been orange (2.5YR 4/8), cf. Jf/4. For well-preserved orange color, see C 3352 and K/2.


Ja/13 (C 10870). Cylindrical bowl, medium. Pl. 3.5.
Coil-built. Possibly slipped. Band around handle attachment.


Ja/14 (C 10900). Flaring bowl, medium, spouted. Pl. 3.5.
Coil-built. Upright vertical finger impressions on exterior well below spout. Spout pulled from rim. Exterior surface worn away. Possibly used as a lamp.

Minoan Pottery from the Southern Area


Ja/15 (C 10899). Flaring bowl, deep, medium. Pl. 3.5.
Coil-built. Interior triple festoons at rim, bordered below by horizontal band. Exterior unpainted except for small red drip.


Ja/16 (C 10875). Flaring bowl, deep, medium. Pl. 3.6.
Coil-built and wheel-finished. Dark-painted festoons may have had white borders.


Ja/17 (C 9452). Flaring bowl, deep, medium. Pl. 3.5.
Coil-built; wheel-finished interior and rim exterior. Used as a lamp.


Ja/18 (C 10873). Convex-sided bowl, large. Pl. 3.6.
Coil-built. Flattened rim, well finished. Separately formed spout, largely missing, joined to rim. Seam visible in one area. Interior burnished.


Ja/19 (C 10878). Convex-sided bowl, large. Pl. 3.6.
Too little preserved to allow determination of formation technique. Interior burnished before decoration.


Ja/20 (C 10898). Flaring bowl, large. Pl. 3.6.
Coil-built. Traces of curvilinear motif on interior at midbody.

**Middle Minoan IA and Protopalatial Pottery**

**Ja/21** (C 10867). Conical basin, large. Pl. 3.6.
Coil-built. Spout separately formed and attached. Interior coated with thick layer of fine clay, on top of which a raised and impressed band of fine clay was applied. Exterior covered with thin slip “folded” 1.5–1.75 cm over base edge. Red paint brushed on top of slip, leaving visible brush strokes. Most of bottom is coarse, unsmoothed, and unpainted.


**Ja/22** (C 10964). *Grattugia*. Pls. 3.6, 3.21.
Only top part of central raised platform preserved, originally attached as an appliqué. Possibly solidly coated. *Grattugia* Ja/22 identified by F. Carinci (pers. comm.).

MM IB–II. Levi and Carinci 1988: 222, pl. 95–g; Levi 1976: pl. 140a, c; Borda 1946: pl. XXI (Phaistos); Carinci 1999: 129 n. 78 (Aghia Triada); Kanta 1999: 389 (Monastiraki).

**Ja/23** (C 10890). Vat or pedestaled krater. Pl. 3.7.
Coil-built. Probably two horizontal handles.


**Ja/24** (C 10868). Bucket jar, small. Pl. 3.7.
Coil-built. Body may be taller. Rim and body vertically indented below handle. Rim tapering to rather sharp edge. Impressed vertical groove on lower body. Barbotine ridges. Highest quality in terms of manufacture, surface finish, and elaborateness of decoration. Decoration and triangular handle shape MM IB, strap handle MM IIA.


**Ja/25** (C 10937). Fruit stand. Pl. 3.7.
Coil-built. Probably cylindrical body shape. Base of bowl possibly painted with red concentric circles.


**Ja/26** (C 11019). Teapot, medium. Pl. 3.7.
Coil-built. Fine spout and neck attached to medium-coarse body; Spout vertically shaved; shape uncertain. Painted decoration worn. Traces of white paint on top of spout.

**Ja/27** (C 10896). Open-spouted jar, small. Pl. 3.7.
Coil-built. Troughed spout, fashioned separately and attached to upper body. Simple polychrome linear pattern.


**Ja/28** (C 10897). Open-spouted jar, small. Pl. 3.7.


**Ja/29** (C 10953). Open-spouted jar, small. Pl. 3.8.
Coil-built. Fine rim coil and spout, medium-coarse body. Slightly carinated shoulder. Barbotine prickers made of thick fine exterior slip.


**Ja/30** (C 10895). Open-spouted jar, medium. Pl. 3.8.


**Ja/31** (C 11040). Bridge-spouted jar, small. Pl. 3.8.
Possibly wheel-made in various parts. Handles not preserved. Possible traces of white painted decoration. Small size, ovoid body with rounded carination at shoulder, upturned rim,
steeply rising bridged spout set well below rim: MM II A.


Ja/32 (C 11035). Wide-necked jug. Pl. 3.9.

Manufacturing technique cannot be determined. Probably single vertical looping strap handle.

MM IB–IIA. No similar jugs from Phaistos, but carinated cup with similar crinkled rim and handle (Levi and Carinci 1988: 195, pl. 81 a; Levi 1976: pl. 30 e) and bridge-spouted jar (Levi and Carinci 1988: 140, fig. 39). Cf. bowl from Kommos (Betancourt 1990: 68 no. 82, fig. 14).

Ja/33 (C 11585). Closed vase, small. Pl. 3.10.

Manufacturing technique cannot be determined with certainty. Row of barbotine prickles on top of rim, possibly decorated with red dots, and prickles below handle zone. Thick diagonal red band near handle. Possibly two red horizontal bands on the rim interior. Burnt gray; decoration very worn.


Ja/34 (C 10876). Teapot-jar, small. Pl. 3.10.

Coil-built. Hybrid vase with teapot-shaped body and bridged spout at rim. Published ollotte-teiere from Phaistos with similar rims are handleless or have vertical or horizontal handles and occasionally lugs. Impossible to determine whether troughed spout of Ja/34 was originally bridged. Very dusky red (“purple”) band at rim and around spout.


Ja/35 (C 11041). Closed vase, small. Pl. 3.10.


MM IB most likely, because vase is small with coarse body. The closest comparanda from Phaistos are MM IB–IIB tall teapots (lt. bricchi) with polychrome painted decoration (Levi and Carinci 1988: 103–4, pls. 44 e, 46 c–d; Levi 1976: pls. 41 d, 99 a, i, XVI, XLI Vc). An MM IIB polychrome juglet has a comparable base but a more globular body (Levi and Carinci 1988: 82, pl. 38 a; Levi 1976: pls. 95 d, XLI Va). No comparanda from Kommos.

Ja/36 (C 11022). Tube. Pl. 3.11.

Coil-built; lowest coil join visible on interior surface. Fenestrated at base. Wine red band on dark brown ground. Diameter suggests it is a tube fragment (forerunner of “snake tube”) rather than part of pedestaled vase.


Ja/37 (C 11015). Cooking jar, small. Pl. 3.11.

Coarse noncalcareous reddish yellow fabric, completely oxidized. Coil-built. Rim uneven, probably sloping toward a pulled spout. No legs. Fabric and extensive burning indicate function as a cooking jar, even though the probable presence of a spout and the relatively low location of the handles are characteristic of spouted jars (stamnoi), cooking jars from Phaistos and Kommos as a rule do not have spouts and have horizontal coil handles placed high on the shoulder.


Ja/38 (C 11023). Cooking pot, Type B. Pl. 3.11.

Medium-coarse noncalcareous brown fabric with darker brown core, almost completely oxidized. Coil-built. Basket handle encompassing
Middle Minoan IA and Protopalatial Pottery

rim is typical for the western Mesara. Hard fired. Interior possibly burnished.


Ja/39 (C 10888). Cooking pot. Pl. 3.11.

Unusually short leg, almost circular in section. Interior of leg hollow, apparently to receive projecting part of base, in a unique mode of attachment, not documented before at Kommos. Coarse non-calcareous red fabric, completely oxidized, seems to be local. Reddish yellow self-slip. Some fire-darkening.

Possibly Neolithic or Early Minoan (Betancourt, pers. comm. 1999; P. Tomkins, pers. comm. 2000).


Coarse noncalcareous red to brown cooking pot fabric with reddish brown core, completely oxidized. Slab-built. Smoothed on tournette or fast wheel. Base smooth. Burnt at rim.


Ja/41 (C 10938). Angular tray or box. Pl. 3.12.


Ja/42 (C 11048). Cooking tray, large. Pl. 3.12.

Coarse noncalcareous reddish yellow fabric with pale brown to dark gray core, incompletely oxidized. Coil-built, possibly in various layers. Red slipped. Interior burnished and fire darkened.


Ja/43 (C 10864). Firebox. Pl. 3.12.

Very carefully shaped and finished, with regular body shape and even wall thickness. Careful surface smoothing has obliterated evidence of shaping technique. Interior and exterior red coated. Interior of capsule burnt.


Coil-built. Body fragment of a large coarse buff pithos, cut to be reused as a stopper (d 7 × 7.5 cm). Fractures quite sharp. Size and oval shape would make it suitable as stopper of a large oval-mouthed amphora, cf. Z/3.


Ja/45 (I 126). Basin, small. Pl. 3.17A.

Handmade. Base built up of two clay layers. Incompletely oxidized. Interior surface mostly abraded and red paint worn away as a result of use. Impressed and raised potmark in center of exterior bottom, applied before firing: dentated circle.


Ja/46 (I 134). Jar, small. Pls. 3.17A–B.

Handmade. Transition from base to side built up of three clay layers with different textures. The outer clay layers are coarse, enclosing a medium-coarse core coil. This central coil gradually tapers toward the center of the base, disappearing at 38 mm from the base edge. Impressed and raised potmark in center of exterior bottom, applied before firing: two concentric impressed and raised circles and plastic linear design in center.


Ja/47 (I 128). Jar or amphora, large. Pls. 3.17A–B.

Handmade. Base built up of three clay layers with different textures. The outer clay layers are thin (ca. 1 mm) and coarse, enclosing a thick medium-coarse core layer. Boundaries are not sharp, indicating that layers were joined when wet (M. Goodwin, pers. comm.). Potmark in center of exterior bottom, applied before firing: raised cross and single preserved line, set into a slightly sunk, probably square, area.

MM IB–IIA fabric and surface finish. Manufac-

Ja/48 (I 132). Cooking pot, Type B, large. Pls. 3.17A–B.

MM IB–IIB fabric and surface finish. Crosses incised after firing have been reported from Phaistos, but both are large and rough and were not applied on the rim but on the upper body: Levi and Carinci 1988: 297; Levi 1976: pl. 227m (undated), q (MM IIB Late Phaistos).

Ja/49 (I 135). Cooking pot, Type B, large. Pls. 3.17A–B.
Coarse noncalcareous pink fabric, completely oxidized. Handmade. Interior covered with very pale brown slip. Potmarks at rim: at least four parallel grooves, perpendicular to rim; upper body: vertical stroke, possibly part of more complex mark. All incised before firing, when clay was leather-hard; no displaced clay.


Ja/50 (I 131). Cooking pot, Type B, medium. Pls. 3.17A–B.
Medium-coarse noncalcareous reddish yellow to pink fabric, completely oxidized. Lot of very fine silver mica: not local? Probably handmade. Potmarks at rim: three parallel grooves, perpendicular to rim; upper body: vertical stroke and converging slanted line incised after firing; surface inside cuts redder (5YR 6/6) than exterior surface.


Ja/51 (I 130). Cooking pot, Type B, medium. Pls. 3.17A–B.
Coarse noncalcareous reddish yellow fabric,

Minoan Pottery from the Southern Area incompletely oxidized. Coil-built and drawn, leaving vertical finger impressions. Possible traces of reddish yellow paint. Potmark: four parallel grooves, perpendicular to rim, impressed on top of rim before firing, when clay was still sufficiently plastic to be displaced. Hard fired.


Ja/52 (I 129). Cooking pot, Type B, medium. Pls. 3.17A–B.
Coarse noncalcareous brown to reddish yellow fabric, completely oxidized. Handmade. Surfaces smoothed on wheel or tournette, leaving parallel wiping marks. Yellow slip on top of rim, presumably covering interior. Potmark: four parallel grooves, perpendicular to rim, impressed on exterior rim edge before firing.


Ja/53 (I 127). Cooking jar or cooking pot, Type B, medium. Pls. 3.17A–B.
Coarse noncalcareous brown to light brown fabric, almost completely oxidized. Coil-built. Asymmetrical: spouted cooking jar rather than cooking pot. Potmark: six parallel grooves incised diagonally into rim top before firing, when clay was leather-hard; no displaced clay.


Ja/54 (I 133). Cooking pot, Type B, large. Pls. 3.17A–B.
Coarse noncalcareous yellowish red fabric, incompletely oxidized. Coil-built. Patches of reddish brown paint preserved on exterior, possibly the remains of an exterior and interior coating. Potmark: three parallel slots incised diagonally into rim top after firing; surface inside cuts redder (5YR 6/6) than exterior surface.


Possibly wheel-thrown but difficult to determine because attachment of disk base resulted in an uneven lower body shape and wall thickness. Interior smoothed, exterior well smoothed. Interior and exterior very pale brown slipped, pain-
ted with sloppy black to reddish yellow horizontal band and spots; polished after decoration. Nonlocal features: fine pink fabric with bright red core, disk base; band just above base; and polish extending over exterior bottom surface.


Medium-fine light brown fabric with gray core, lightening to pink below exterior surface; incompletely oxidized. Fine clay matrix with angular crushed rock temper, lending an “oatmeal” appearance to fabric. Coil-built. Interior and exterior surfaces summarily wet-smoothed, leaving vertical and diagonal wiping marks and, on the interior, little clay lumps. Handle well integrated into exterior surface. Exterior very pale brown slip and sloppy black bands.


“oatmeal” appearance to fabric. Handmade. Interior ledge presumably held a lid. Interior and exterior smoothed; handle attachment well integrated. Exterior possibly white slipped.


Ja/64 (C 11379). Pan or tray. Pl. 3.20.


Ja/65 (C 11380). Pan or tray. Pl. 3.20.


Group Jb

Date: MM IB, MM IIA, some MM IIB
Total sherds: 946
Weight (grams): 8,945
Trench/pail(s): 77A/110, 111, 112, 113, 115
Cross joins: Group Ja (Jb/1)
Architectural/physical context: J. W. Shaw, Chap. 1.1; construction fill AA in western compartment below east end of T Room 27, west of Group Jc, from +3.25/3.19 to +2.11 m

Thickness of constituent strata: 108–114 cm
Group and/or date of stratum below: Unexcavated because of groundwater
Group and/or date of stratum above: Neopalatial clay floor of T (77A/67)

Table 3.25. Pottery Group Jb.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
<th>Medium-Coarse Fabrics</th>
<th>Cooking and Lamp Fabrics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
<td>Painted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sherds</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>14.2</td>
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<td>Weight of sherds (grams)</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Group Jc

Date: MM IB, MM IIA, MM IIB, with few Neopalatial and LM IIIA1 intrusions in upper part (Pails 60, 61)

Total sherds: 728
Weight (grams): 5740
Trench/pail(s): 97E/60, 61, 63, 65; Pail 60 joins with Pails 55, 58, 70
Cross joins: None
Architectural/physical context: J. W. Shaw, Chap. 1.1; construction fill of AA in compartments below east end of T Room 27, east of Group Jb, from +3.33/3.28 to +2.92/2.86 m
Thickness of constituent strata: 41–42 cm
Group and/or date of stratum below: Unexcavated
Group and/or date of stratum above: Mostly MM IIB–III construction fill of P, with some later material (to LM IIIA2) (97E/58, 59)

Table 3.26. Pottery Group Jc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
<th>Medium-Coarse Fabrics</th>
<th>Cooking and Lamp Fabrics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
<td>Painted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sherds</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of sherds (grams)</td>
<td>740</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jc/1 (C 11651). Convex-sided closed vessel, small. Pl. 3.10.
Coil-built. Convex collar neck with handle attachment. Strip of ca. 4 mm abraded on interior, below neck, presumably as a result of use.
No comparanda from Phaistos, Aghia Triada, Kommos, or Knossos.

Jc/2 (C 11621). Cooking dish. Pl. 3.11.
Group Jd

Date: Mostly MM IB, little MM IIA, MM IIB
Total sherds: 742
Weight (grams): 8,180
Trench/pail(s): 86D/37, 38, 39, 40
Cross joins: None
Architectural/physical context: J. W. Shaw, Chap. 1.1; construction fill AA, below T Room 28, just west of large compartment wall and Group Je, from +3.10 to ca. +1.50 m ca. 160 cm
Thickness of constituent strata: ca. 160 cm
Group and/or date of stratum below: Unexcavated because of groundwater
Group and/or date of stratum above: Neopalatial plaster floors of T (86D/33, 36)

Table 3.27. Pottery Group Jd.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
<th>Medium-Coarse Fabrics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sherds</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of sherds (grams)</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Middle Minoan IA and Protopalatial Pottery

**Jd/7** (C 11129). Stopper or scraper. Pl. 3.13.
Handmade. Shoulder fragment with handle stub of medium-coarse buff oval-mouthed amphora. Waster, overfired to a gray color, showing firing cracks but not deformed. Cut to be re-used as a stopper or scraper (d ca. 5 x 6.5 cm). Differential wear: breaks below and left of handle more worn than break above handle; cf. E/2.


**Group Je**

**Date:**
Upper part (Pails 46, 48, 50–57) MM II; lower part mostly MM IB, little MM II

**Total sherds:**
4,414

**Weight (grams):**
51,795

**Trench/pail(s):**
86D/46, 48, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 61, 61A, 62

**Cross joins:**
None

**Architectural/physical context:**
J. W. Shaw, Chap. 1.1; construction fill AA in compartments below east end of T Room 28, east of Group Jd, from +3.13 to +1.58 m

**Thickness of constituent strata:**
55 cm

**Group and/or date of stratum below:**
Unexcavated because of groundwater

**Group and/or date of stratum above:**
Group N (MM IIB)

---

**Table 3.28. Pottery Group Je.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
<th>Medium-Coarse Fabrics</th>
<th>Cooking Fabrics and Lamp Fabrics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
<td>Conical Cups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sherds</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of sherds (grams)</td>
<td>2,655</td>
<td>1,635</td>
<td>2,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Je/1** (C 9832). Conical cup, Kommos Type D. Pl. 3.3.
Thrown from the hump. Parallel string marks on base, indicating that cup was cut off a wheel at a complete standstill. Finger marks around base show that cup was held upside down by all five fingers when still wet, presumably when placed upside down to dry. Cursory surface finish, resembling that of MM III conical cups.


**Je/2** (C 9869). Conical cup, Kommos Type C. Pl. 3.3.
Wheel-thrown. Interior base not hollow.

MM IIB. Betancourt 1990: 152 no. 1130, fig. 47; Van de Moortel 1997: 35, fig. 5 (Kommos). Fiandra 1973: 89, pl. 34o–p; Fiandra 1995: fig. 0–p (Phaistos, Period 3); Levi and Carinci 1988: pl.
Je3 (C 11158). Carinated cup. Pl. 3.3.

Wheel-thrown. Sharp carination with small projecting rib; lower body straight-walled. Slender variant. Possible traces of polish on interior and exterior.


Je4 (C 11224). Carinated cup, large. Pl. 3.3.


Je5 (C 11155). Straight-sided cup, large. Pl. 3.3.

Coil-built and wheel-finished. Faint stretch marks on lower interior wall run clockwise from bottom to top, indicating a counterclockwise turning of the potter’s wheel. Ridge barbotine. Possible traces of white paint.


Je6 (C 11159). Tumbler, large. Pl. 3.3.

Wheel-thrown. Ridge barbotine. Illegible traces of white paint.


Je7 (C 11156). Straight-sided cup, large. Pl. 3.3.

Wall fragment, possibly near turn of base. Manufacturing technique cannot be determined. Cylindrical shape with stepped exterior, cf. MM III straight-sided cups Knossos, Archanes.


Je8 (C 11160). Carinated bowl, medium. Pl. 3.4.

Minoan Pottery from the Southern Area

Coil-built, possibly shaped on the wheel. Possibly thin white diagonal bands on rim exterior. Barbotine ridges. Rim edge badly chipped and abraded.

MM IB. No close comparanda.

Je9 (C 11220). Convex-sided bowl, medium. Pl. 3.4.

Coil-built. Medium-coarse body with fine rim and ledge. Ledge runs at an angle to rim.


Je10 (C 9873). Convex-sided bowl, medium. Pl. 3.4.

Coil-built; wheel-finished rim and upper body. Warped rim. Finger impressions only on exterior.


Je11 (C 11230). Conical bowl, medium. Pl. 3.5.

Wheel-thrown. Prickle barbotine on exterior and rim. Possibly attachment scar for prickle on interior.

MM IB. Levi and Carinci 1988: 22, pl. 12g (Phaistos).

Je12 (C 11264). Flaring bowl, medium. Pl. 3.6.

Coil-built. Coarse body with fine rim. Possibly used as a lamp.

MM IB. Levi and Carinci 1988: 224, pl. 95m (Phaistos).

Je13 (C 11223). Conical basin, large. Pls. 3.6, 3.21.

Coil-built. Medium-coarse body with fine coil on interior below rim and thick fine slip on interior.


Je14 (C 11221). Conical basin, large. Pl. 3.6.


Je15 (C 11192). Open-spouted or bridge-spouted jar. Pl. 3.8.

Thick horizontal strap handle (h = 2.6 cm)
Middle Minoan IA and Protopalatial Pottery

with central depression but no groove. Lower attachment fire-darkened.


Je16 (C 11204). Bridge-spouted jar. Pl. 3.8.

Probably wheel-thrown. Fine grooved strap handle, maintaining groove throughout. 


Je17 (C 11361). Bridge-spouted jar. Pl. 3.9.

Short horizontal spout stuck onto body without being integrated: MM IIB rather than MM IIA; however, separately made rim coil (now missing) is MM IIA.

MM IIA/IIB Early. Levi and Carinci 1988: 122–23, pl. 54d–e, g–i.

Je18 (C 11199). Bridge-spouted jar, medium or large. Pl. 3.9.

Medium-coarse grooved strap handle exceptional on medium and large bridge-spouted jars. Handle maintaining groove throughout, including at attachment.


Je19 (C 11150). Narrow-necked jug, large. Pl. 3.9.

Neck and lugs made of fine clay; shoulder medium coarse.


Very fine fabric without visible inclusions. Coil-built. Thin-walled. Molded horizontal stepped ribs. Steps on western Mesara vessels tend to be oriented downward, whereas at Knossos they are oriented upward.


Je21 (C 11163). Closed vessel: bridge-spouted jar? Pl. 3.9.


MM IIA–B. Similar comparanda as for Je22.

Je22 (C 11157). Closed vessel: jug? Pl. 3.9.

Manufacturing technique cannot be determined. Medium-coarse body covered with fine engobe from which wavy barbotine ridges have been molded. Possible traces of white-painted decoration.


Je23 (C 11213). Closed vessel: jug, jar, or amphora. Pl. 3.10.

Fabric has a remarkably high proportion of gray and white translucent as well as gray-brown schist inclusions. Coil-built.


Je24 (C 11151). Closed vessel: jug or jar. Pls. 3.10, 3.21.


Je25 (C 9868). Straight-sided lid. Pl. 3.11.

Coil-built. Wall thickness indicates that pierced lug was located in center of lid. Gray cast from exposure to fire.


Je26 (C 11205). Cooking pot. Pl. 3.11.


Je/27 (C 9866). Pedestaled lamp, large. Pls. 3.12, 3.21.

Coarse noncalcareous body, completely oxidized, covered with thick fine buff engobe. Coil-built. Exterior bottom worn: probably had pedestaled base. Interior rim decorated with impressed grooves and wavy band. Horizontal handle attachment with remains of fine slip used to attach handle. Solidly red coated and burnished. Surfaces heavily worn, possibly by water.


Manufacturing technique cannot be determined. Fragment of medium-coarse buff closed vessel, cut to be reused as a stopper (d 5.0 × 5.5 cm). Fractures rounded from use.


Je/29 (C 11208). Stopper. Pl. 3.12.

Manufacturing technique cannot be determined. Overfired shoulder fragment with handle stub of medium-coarse buff oval-mouthed amphora, cut to be reused as a stopper (d ca. 5.5 × 5.5 cm). Fractures rounded from use.


Je/30 (I 142). Jar. Pls. 3.17A–B. Manufacturing technique cannot be determined. Impressed and raised potmark in center of exterior bottom, applied before firing: square with concave sides framing an illegible design.


Coil-built base. Overfired. Impressed and raised potmark in center of exterior bottom, applied before firing: encircled square with concave sides and interior diagonal cross.


Je/32 (C 11166). Bridge-spouted jar. Pl. 3.18.

Unusual fine, very pale brown fabric with reddish yellow core. Possibly wheel-thrown. Interior and exterior well smoothed. Exterior and rim interior coated black; exterior painted with weak red ("purple") horizontal band below rim. Possible traces of fugitive white. Folded-back rim on fine bridge-spouted jar is not a western Mesara feature.


Je/34 (C 11567). Askoid jug. Pl. 3.18.

Medium-coarse reddish yellow fabric with angular schist inclusions, completely oxidized. Coil-built, with finger impressions at coil joins. Horizontal drag mark from finishing on tournette or wheel. Exterior smoothed, covered with fine pink slip and painted with dark reddish brown to red lunettes and horizontal band.

Middle Minoan IA and Protopalatial Pottery

**Je/35** (C 11455). Closed vessel, medium. Pl. 3.18.

**Je/36** (C 11568). Closed vessel, large. Pl. 3.19.

**Je/37** (C 11569). Closed vessel. Pl. 3.19.
Medium-coarse reddish yellow fabric with angular schist inclusions, completely oxidized. Manufacturing technique cannot be determined. Interior and exterior surfaces smoothed but somewhat irregular. Black band around handle.

**Je/38** (C 11506). Jug or jar. Pl. 3.19.

**Je/39** (C 11500). Jug, jar, or amphora. Pl. 3.19.


**Je/40** (C 11915). Vat or pithos. Pl. 3.19.

**Je/41** (C 11449). Vat. Pl. 3.19.
Coarse pink fabric with very pale brown core, almost completely oxidized. Fine clay matrix with angular crushed rock temper, lending an “oatmeal” appearance to fabric. Handmade. Interior and exterior surfaces smoothed, leaving some wiping marks. Traces of red paint on exterior and interior, possibly rim band.

**Je/42** (C 11444). Pan or tray. Pl. 3.20.

**Je/43** (C 11518). Tripod tray. Pl. 3.20.
Coarse yellowish red fabric with thin brown core, incompletely oxidized. Mostly angular schist and micaceous inclusions. Manufacturing technique cannot be determined. Interior and exterior, including bottom, well smoothed. Smooth bottom is characteristic of a Cycladic tripod tray (Davis 1986: 87).

**Group Jf**

**Date:**

MM IB, MM IIA, early MM IIB, with ca. 25 localized fragments of MM III, LM IA, and LM IIIA2/B
Total sherds: 4,926
Weight (grams): 65,380
Trench/pail(s): 76A–B/9, 10A, 10B; 77C/116, 117, with joins in 114; 88A/38, 43; 88B/46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53
Cross joins: None
Architectural/physical context: J. W. Shaw, Chap. 1.1; construction fill east of AA, from ca. +3.65/3.36 to +2.72/1.73 m; with later intrusions
Thickness of constituent strata: ca. 93–163 cm
Group and/or date of stratum below: Kouskouras and groundwater; some areas partially excavated
Group and/or date of stratum above: MM III pebble surface (88A/42) and fill (77C/114; 83B/51), and LM IA fill (88A/36, 37)

Table 3.29. Pottery Group Jf.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
<th>Medium-Coarse Fabrics</th>
<th>Coarse Fabrics</th>
<th>Cooking and Lamp Fabrics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
<td>Conical Cups*</td>
<td>Painted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sherds</td>
<td>899</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>1,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of sherds (grams)</td>
<td>4,530</td>
<td>2,015</td>
<td>2,065</td>
<td>19,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>29.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Conical cups were not counted as a separate category in 76A–B/9, 10A, 10B, 77C/116, 117.

**Jf/1** (C 11543). Conical cup, Kommos Type C. Pl. 3.2.

Interior and exterior upper body smoothed, possibly by hand. Irregular shape.


**Jf/2** (C 11546). Conical cup, Kommos Type D. Pl. 3.3.

Hand-modeled, leaving parallel upward-slanted finger impressions on exterior lower and mid-body. Interior and exterior upper body wheel-finished. Pronounced hollow at interior base.

MM IB–IIA. Fiandra 1973: 88, pls. 23, 27a–b (shape), 34f–l; Fiandra 1995: fig. 3f–l (Phaistos, Periods 1 and 2); Levi and Carinci 1988: 236–37, fig. 875b, pl. 99m, o, r (Phaistos).

**Jf/3** (C 11547). Carinated cup. Pl. 3.3.


**Jf/4** (C 11535). Convex-sided bowl. Pl. 3.4.

Coil-built and wheel-finished. Concentric string marks on base indicate that bowl was cut from wheel in motion. Midbody after smoothing
slightly pressed in by two fingers, which left clear prints. Two shades of red: wine red band on exterior midbody, and orange-red on exterior upper body and interior midbody. Possible traces of white decoration. Handle possibly white-barred. Barbotine prickles.


Jf/1 (C 11522). Convex-sided bowl. Pl. 3.4.

Wheel-thrown. Rim made of separate coil. Interior rim edge worn away.

MM IB/IIA. No close comparanda. Cf. Levi and Carinci 1988: pls. 75f, g, h (Phaistos).

Jf/2 (C 11536). Conical bowl, medium. Pl. 3.5.

Coil-built, wheel-finished. Slightly fire-darkened on one side.


Jf/3 (C 8969). Open-spouted jar. Pl. 3.8.


Jf/4 (C 11531). Bridge-spouted jar. Pl. 3.8.

Coil-built. Small size, ovoid body with rounded carination at shoulder, bridged spout, and arched coil handles: MM IIA. Rather sloppy surface finish.


Jf/5 (C 10921). Gobular jar, small. Pl. 3.10.

Coil-built. Fine button appliqué on medium-fine body.

MM IB–IIA. No comparanda from Phaistos, Aghia Triada, Kommos, or Knossos.

Jf/6 (C 11530). Cooking pot. Pl. 3.11.


**Jf/17** (C 11540). Vat. Pl. 3.18.
Medium-fine reddish yellow fabric with angular schist inclusions, almost completely oxidized. Coil-built. Interior and exterior well smoothed, white slipped, and painted with dark reddish brown to yellowish red diagonal band. Interior and exterior polished to an even sheen without blemishes.


**Jf/18** (C 11557). Narrow-necked jug, large. Pl. 3.18.
Medium-coarse reddish yellow fabric with angular schist inclusions, completely oxidized. Coil-built. Interior and exterior well smoothed, painted very dark grayish brown to black.

MM IB–IIB Early context. East Cretan fabric (Zakros?), with mostly purple angular inclusions.

**Jf/19** (C 11550). Narrow-necked jug, large, or amphora. Pl. 3.18.


**Jf/20** (C 11528). Stopper. Pl. 3.18.
Medium-coarse reddish yellow body with coarse handle, incompletely oxidized. Angular schist inclusions. Manufacturing technique cannot be determined. Interior and exterior well smoothed; exterior very pale brown slip and red curvilinear bands. Handle attachment cut into a rough oval shape, apparently for reuse as an oval-mouthed amphora stopper (d 5.5 × 4 cm). Cf. Z/3. Fractures rounded from use.

MM IB–IIB Early context. East Cretan fabric. Coarse handle on medium-coarse body also common in Protopalatial jugs and jars from the western Mesara. Stoppers: cf. Dc/3, Bc/2, Je/28, Je/29, Jh/2, Jd/7, Ja/44.

**Jf/21** (C 11537). Tray. Pl. 3.19.

**Jf/22** (C 11560). Pan or tray. Pl. 3.20.
Coarse reddish yellow fabric with brown core, incompletely oxidized. Mostly angular schist and micaceous inclusions. Handmade. Interior and rim exterior well smoothed; exterior bottom rough.


**Jf/23** (C 11553). Pan or tray. Pl. 3.20.


---

**Group Jg**

**Date:**
Mostly MM IB, little MM II

**Total sherds:**
138

**Weight (grams):**
1,700

**Trench/pail(s):**
62E/108

**Cross joins:**
None

**Architectural/physical context:**
J. W. Shaw, Chap. 1.1; construction fill of AA, east of AA, below earthen surface situated below paved road 34, from +3.17/3.12 to +3.07 m 5–10 cm

**Thickness of constituent strata:**
X (MM IB)

**Group and/or date of stratum below:**

**Group and/or date of stratum above:**
MM II earthen surface and Group Jh (Protopalatial–MM III)
Middle Minoan IA and Protopalatial Pottery

**Jg/1 (C 11684).** Conical cup, Kommos Type D. Pl. 3.2.

Hand-modeled, leaving downward-slanted finger impressions on exterior lower and mid-body. Interior and upper body possibly wheel-finished.


**Jg/2 (C 11685).** Conical cup, Kommos Type L. Pl. 3.3.

Hand-modeled, leaving downward-slanted finger impressions on exterior lower body, and vertical downward-oriented finger impressions at base. Interior and upper body probably wheel-finished.


**Jg/3 (C 11715).** Tumbler. Pl. 3.3.

Coil-built.


**Jg/4 (C 8620).** Narrow-necked jug. Pl. 3.9.

Coil-built. Fine neck, medium-coarse body covered with thick fine slip from which barnacle barbotine has been formed.


**Jg/5 (C 8619).** Wide-necked juglet. Pl. 3.9.

Coil-built. Spout pulled out from rim. Two horizontal coil handles at midbody, on either side of the spout.


**Jg/6 (C 11686).** Hole-mouthed jar. Pl. 3.10.

Coil-built; coils diagonally scored to facilitate joining. Rim very irregular. Horizontal coil handle set obliquely.

MM IIA–IIB Early. Betancourt 1990: 157 no. 1251, fig. 51 (Kommos; smaller jar). Levi and Carinci 1988: 37, pl. 17f–g; Levi 1976: pls. 66a, d, 67b (Phaistos; both jars similar in size to Jg/6 and with similarly irregular rims).

**Group Jh**

**Date:**
 Mostly MM IB–late MM IIB, 1 fragment MM III

**Total sherds:**
 134

**Weight (grams):**
 875

**Trench/pail(s):**
 62E/106, 107, with join in 108

**Cross joins:**
 None

**Architectural/physical context:**
 J. W. Shaw, Chap. 1.1; construction fill of T below paved road 34, its top part resting against
Minoan Pottery from the Southern Area

krepis of T’s east facade, from +3.33 to +3.17/3.12 m
16–21 cm
Earthen surface and Group Jg (MM II)
Paved road 34 (MM III)

Thickness of constituent strata:
Group and/or date of stratum below:
Group and/or date of stratum above:

Jh/1 (C 11682). Open-spouted jar. Pl. 3.8.
Spout may not belong to body. Coil-built. Handles not preserved. Plastic button appliqué on spout.

Jh/2 (C 11680). Stopper. Pl. 3.12.
Coil-built. Base fragment of coarse buff basin or pithos cut to be reused as a stopper (d 5.2 × 5.4 cm). Fractures rounded from use.

Group Ji

Date: MM IA, MM IB, MM IIA, MM IIB, with ca. 35 fragments MM III/LM IA
Total sherds: ca. 210
Weight (grams): 2,940
Trench/pail(s): 58A/48, 49, 51, 52
Cross joins: None
Architectural/physical context: J. W. Shaw, Chap. 1.1; construction fill of AA with some construction fill of T, below T Rooms 24a and 24b, from +3.34 to +3.18 m
16 cm
Kouskouras

Thickness of constituent strata:
Group and/or date of stratum below:
Group and/or date of stratum above:

Ji/1 (C 7493). Tumbler. Pl. 3.4.
Coil-built and drawn, leaving vertical finger impressions. Rim and interior wheel-finished. Distinguished from conical cups by its well-formed, slightly out turned rim. Black paint brushed on; horizontal, diagonal, and vertical brush strokes.
MM IA–B. Comparanda same as for Ba/4.

Ungrouped Vase

C 11131. Jar, medium. Pl. 3.9.
From a construction fill of AA below T Room 28, east of Group Jd and west of the very wide foundation wall (86D/60), from +3.10 to +2.77 m.
Coarse body with coarse exterior slip on lower body, grading to fine slip toward midbody. Coil-built.

MM IB/IIB. Cf. more complete jar C 11959 from homogeneous dump east of Round Building at Kommos, redated by me to MM IIB Early (20B/60, unpublished).
THE CIVIC CENTER IN MIDDLE MINOAN IA: A CERAMIC PERSPECTIVE

Few identifiable MM IA pottery fragments have been recovered from the deep soundings in the Southern Area (Table 3.7). They consist of eight conical cups of Types C and D (X/1, X/3, A/1, Jf/1 [Pls. 3.1–3.2], and unpublished C 9841, C 9842, C 9849, C 9852 from Group A), a tumbler (Ji/1; Pl. 3.4), an open-spouted jar (Y/1; Pl. 3.2), three globular jugs (X/7, A/6, A/7; Pls. 3.1, 3.9), and a globular juglet (Jg/5; Pl. 3.9). All come from mixed fills, and nearly all are single sherds. These 14 highly fragmentary MM IA vases can be added to the 5 pieces published by Betancourt from the sounding east of the Classical Round Building (Betancourt 1990: 53, 64). Five more fragmentary vases from fills in the Southern Area published in the present volume are either MM IA or MM IB in date (conical cup A/2, tumbler Ba/4, open-spouted jars X/6 and Ja/30, and cylindrical jar X/14; Pls. 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.8). Two teapot fragments are no more closely datable than MM IA–IIB (Bb/1, Ja/26; Pl. 3.7). Thus, the MM IA ceramic corpus at Kommos has now been enlarged from 5 to 19–26 fragmentary vases, all coming from the Southern Area. No architectural remains can be securely assigned to this phase.

The scarcity of MM IA finds at Kommos contrasts with the tens of thousands of Protopalatial ceramic fragments encountered in the deep soundings below Building AA and east of the Classical Round Building (Trench 20B, see above). Especially significant is the near-absence of teapots—the quintessential pouring vessel of the MM IA phase in the western Mesara (Levi and Carinci 1988: 95–101). From MM IB onward, teapots were increasingly replaced by open-spouted and bridge-spouted jars. Thus the new finds from the Southern Area confirm Betancourt’s conclusion that MM IA occupation at Kommos was indeed very limited (Betancourt 1990: 27). Consisting mostly of small drinking and pouring vessels, and a conical cup used as a lamp (C 9841), these scanty MM IA pottery remains are indicative of normal domestic activity.

MIDDLE MINOAN IA POTTERY AT KOMMOS: NEW EVIDENCE FROM THE CIVIC CENTER

Whereas Betancourt’s MM IA corpus consisted of a few small fragments, the new finds from the Southern Area include for the first time complete MM IA conical cup profiles as well as identifiable fragments of open-spouted jars, globular jugs, and a juglet. Some diagnostic characteristics can be discerned.

With regard to fabrics, it appears to be typical for the MM IA phase that medium-coarse and coarse fabrics were widely employed for small shapes. This practice can be seen to continue in the MM IB phase, whereas by the MM IIA phase, only fine fabrics were used for small vases. Two of the MM IA conical cups (X/3, A/1) and both tumblers (Ba/4, Ji/1) have fine fabrics, but all other conical cups as well as all globular jugs, including juglet Jg/5, in spite of their small size, have medium-coarse fabrics with up to 15 percent nonplastic inclusions. Small open-spouted jar Y/1 has a fine body but coarse handles. MM IA–B open-
spouted jars X/6 and Ja/30 have coarse bodies, and MM IA–IIIB teapots Ja/26 and Bb/1 have medium-coarse bodies, making it seem likely that they date to MM IA–IB rather than later. Teapots Bb/1 and Ja/26 show in addition a striking use of two fabric textures, having fine spouts attached to medium-coarse bodies (Pl. 3.7). The combination of fine and coarser fabrics on the same vase has a long history in the Mesara, going back to the Early Minoan period.\(^{29}\) The present study shows that it occurs very frequently in the MM IB and MM IIA phases (see below), but it has never before been systematically studied for the MM IA phase or Protopalatial period.

All MM IA vases are handmade. Conical cups typically are large and squat. Many have parallel downward-slanting finger impressions on the exterior surface of their lower body, presumably as a result of drawing, that is, squeezing the clay body while pulling it upward (Rye 1981: 72). Tumblers with slightly outturned rims (Ji/1) are datable to MM IA, whereas those with straight rims (Ba/4) are either MM IA or MM IB. MM IA open-spouted jars are characterized by an elongated body and horizontal coil handles set almost horizontally on the shoulder, close to the rim (Levi and Carinci 1988: 116–17, fig. 31). MM IA jugs generally have squat globular bodies but show morphological variation, as do their counterparts at Phaistos, Patrikies, and Aghia Triada (Levi and Carinci 1988: 54–55; Carinci 1999: 124, fig. 4a).\(^{29}\)

Surfaces of decorated vases are well smoothed. Conical cups and tumbler Ji/1 have been rather neatly wiped, even though their finish retains a certain roughness common to utilitarian vases. Only globular jug A/7 has been covered on the exterior with a buff slip; it was fired to a greenish tinge. Little painted decoration has been preserved on MM IA pottery fragments. Typical for MM IA are the dark-painted double festoons of globular jug X/7, as well as the linked circles of jug A/7 and lunettes of juglet Jg/5. The diagonal curvilinear dark-painted bands as well as the plastic and incised bands on the upper body of jug A/6 likely date to MM IA rather than MM IB. The thin white-painted linear patterns of open-spouted jar Ja/30 and cylindrical jar X/14 are datable to MM IA–IB; jar Ja/30 is the only vase with preserved polychromy. Tumblers Ba/4 and Ji/1 have the dark-coated body and thin white horizontal bands below the exterior rim that are typical of this MM IA–B vessel type. Firing temperatures of MM IA pottery have not been analyzed, but they appear to have been quite high to judge by the hardness of the vases and the greenish hue of some (X/3, X/7, Y/1, Jf/1).

Kommian MM IA pottery is identical in fabric, manufacturing techniques, shape, surface finish, decoration, and firing atmosphere to contemporary vases found at other western Mesara sites, such as Phaistos, Patrikies, Aghia Triada, and various tholos tombs. Similarities are so close in all steps of the production sequence that this pottery is likely to have been produced by the same potter or workshop. A few specific morphological or decorative links can be made with MM IA pottery from Knossos, such as the common occurrence of teapots and spouted jars. The general character of the painted decoration, consisting of simple linear white-painted and polychrome patterns on a dark ground, is the same as well (Momigliano 1991: esp. 256–58, figs. 35.2, 36).
THE CIVIC CENTER IN MIDDLE MINOAN IB–MIDDLE MINOAN IIB EARLY: A CERAMIC PERSPECTIVE

More than 27,000 pottery fragments, mostly single sherds, have been excavated from the various soundings in the foundations of Building AA (Group A–Ji). In addition, 822 fragments and a few mendable vases were found in the partially excavated small stratified contexts X, Y, and Z located east and south of Building AA (Table 3.6).

Because of the very large size of the AA construction fills, no attempt was made to estimate the total number of vases deposited in each phase. Since nearly all this pottery consisted of single fragments, the numbers given in Table 3.6 may be taken as rough approximations (see also T-Space pottery tables).

CONSTRUCTION DATE OF BUILDING AA

The construction of Building AA is dated by the latest ceramic fragments encountered in its foundation fills. This dating is primarily based on morphological criteria, as painted decoration is in general poorly preserved. The bulk of the pottery in these fills is datable to the MM IB and MM IIA phases, corresponding to Levi and Carinci’s phase IA and the beginning of phase IB at Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: 299–302), and the MM IB and MM IIA phases established at Knossos, respectively (MacGillivray 1998). Some fragments from the AA construction fills are clearly later in character but still predate the pottery from the final MM IIB destruction horizons at Kommos and Phaistos. These latest sherds from the AA foundation fills are best dated to the early stage of MM IIB recently identified by Carinci at Phaistos (see above), thus placing the construction of Building AA late in the Protopalatial period, and presumably within one or two generations before its destruction.

Even though the chronological makeup of the various pottery groups from the AA foundation fills varies, they show a roughly comparable degree of fragmentation and preservation (see T-Space pottery tables), and they were found embedded in a limited variety of soil matrices. Thus it is safe to conclude that all these pottery fills were laid down early in the MM IIB phase. Their uneven composition must be a result of differences in the origin of the sherd material used as fill. MM IIB Early fragments are relatively few, but they were found dispersed throughout the construction fills, and there is no doubt that they were deposited together with the earlier pottery.30

The latest pottery from the AA construction fills compares very well with the latest pottery from the bench fill of Room IL of the Phaistian palace, and the fill below the floor of Room τ’ at Chalara South. It includes conical cups of Type C/D with sloping interior basal surfaces that are identical with the standard Type C/D conical cups from MM IIB Late destruction contexts at Phaistos and Kommos (Pl. 3.3: Ba/2, Je/2; cf. Levi and Carinci 1988: pl. 100i, k). About half of the MM II Type C/D conical cups of the AA construction fills are of this variety, whereas the others are of the MM IIA variety with “hollowed-out” base interiors (Ja/5), similar to the most advanced cups found in the MM IB–IIA fill below Room CVII at
Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: pl. 100b–c, g, l, m). Two unpublished carinated cups (C 11256, C 11229) have low carinations similar to those of cups from MM IIB Early and Late contexts at Phaistos and of an MM IIB Early carinated cup from the fill east of the Round Building, and of an MM IIB cup from the Central Hillside at Kommos (Betancourt 1990: 80, 161 nos. 228 and 1320, figs. 19 and 53, respectively). Among the pouring vessels from the AA foundation fills are many open- and bridge-spouted jars, most of which have coil handles and are datable to MM IB and MM IIA (see below). In addition, six fine bridge-spouted jar fragments have thick strap handles without grooves datable to MM IIA; however, as many as 25 bridge-spouted jar fragments have the carefully finished strap handles with grooves preserved down to the attachments that are typical of MM IIB Early at Phaistos (Pls. 3.8, 3.9: Jd/4, Je/16, Je/18). None have the flattened handle attachments diagnostic of MM IIB Late bridge-spouted jars from Phaistos or Kommos. In addition, Type P conical cup Ba/3 from the AA construction fills with its rather thick wall and monochrome dark coating has close comparanda in the MM IIB Late destruction contexts of Phaistos (Levi 1976: 145'–o').

Despite the presence of MM IIB conical cups and carinated cups as well as MM IIB Early bridge-spouted jars in the AA construction fills, a considerable number of ceramic features typical of MM IIB Late destruction contexts of Kommos and Phaistos are missing, indicating that the construction of Building AA took place early rather than late in the MM IIB phase. Even though arguments e silentio are notoriously untrustworthy in archaeology, they are acceptable here because of the very large size of the AA construction fills with their more than 27,000 pottery fragments. Missing from the foundation fills are diagnostic MM IIB vase types and varieties such as low rounded conical cups with ledge rims of Komnian Types A or J, wheel-thrown low teacups, standardized flaring straight-sided cups, deep globular bowls, and pitharakia (Levi and Carinci 1988: 166–68, 174–75, 189–90, 205–6, 243–44, 299; Van de Moortel 1997: 219–20). In terms of manufacturing technology, it is remarkable that none of the concave-flaring bowls (It. piatelli) from the AA construction fills, in spite of their frequent occurrence, were thrown on a potter's wheel; all were coil-built and their interior surfaces and rims finished on the wheel. Fully wheel-thrown concave-flaring bowls occur only in the MM IIB Late use pottery from Building AA (L/11, L/12; see below). Likewise, painted designs diagnostic of MM IIB Late destruction contexts, such as wavy-line patterns, scale patterns, horizontal rows of running spirals, and multiple horizontal wavy lines on lower bodies, are entirely absent from the AA construction fills (cf. Van de Moortel 1997: 865–66, 882–86). Intricate polychrome designs are lacking as well, whereas they occurred in substantial amounts in mixed MM IIA–B and MM IIB fills on the Central Hillside at Kommos (Betancourt 1990: 30–36; see above for their redating). Since the morphological and decorative features listed here are also absent among the pottery from the bench fill of Room IL at Phaistos and the fill below Room τ' at Chalara, they must be more advanced MM IIB innovations, and they can be used to distinguish MM IIB Late from MM IIB Early contexts at Kommos and Phaistos. With the notable exception of flamboyantly painted Kamares vases,
many of these MM IIB Late diagnostic features continued, with some modifications, into the MM III phase, indicating that there was a degree of continuity despite the many major ceramic changes that took place at the transition from the final Protopalatial to the early Neopalatial period (Van de Moortel 1997: 225–35, 350–86).

If we compare the ceramic data of the AA construction fills with the different Phaistian pottery chronologies proposed by Fiandra and by Levi and Carinci, it is clear that they support Levi and Carinci’s interpretations over Fiandra’s (see above). For instance, Fiandra believes that the wheel-thrown low teacup appears in the MM IB phase and continues into MM IIB, and that the painted wavy-line pattern on a dark ground as well as bridge-spouted jars with grooved horizontal strap handles are MM IIA and MM IIB in date. She has also concluded that top-quality Kamares vases with the most complex and dynamic polychrome painted patterns are MM IIA in date, whereas Kamares vases in MM IIB underwent somewhat of a decline. However, the absence of low teacups and wavy-line patterns as well as highly complex polychrome Kamares patterns in the massive MM IA–IIB Early construction fills of Building AA shows that those features cannot have appeared before an advanced stage of the MM IIB phase. Fine bridge-spouted jars with grooved strap handles do occur in some numbers in the AA construction fills, but since they are absent from MM IB and MM IIA contexts at Phaistos and Kommos, it is reasonable to believe that they must postdate the MM IIA phase as well.34

PROTOPALATIAL SETTLEMENT PREDATING BUILDING AA

The MM IB–IIB Early pottery fragments found at Kommos number in the tens of thousands, representing an enormous increase over the roughly twenty pieces dating to the MM IA phase (Tables 3.6, 3.7). This phenomenon cannot solely be explained by the longer duration of the MM IB–IIB Early phases, since together they are estimated to have lasted only one and a half to two times as long as the MM IA phase, whereas the increase in pottery remains was a thousandfold. Moreover, even though only a relatively small proportion of the MM IB–IIB Early fragments can be assigned to specific chronological phases, the amounts datable within each phase are still vastly larger than those of the MM IA phase. There is little chance that this dramatic increase is due to the vicissitudes of archaeological discovery, since differences in the soil matrices indicate that the construction fills of Building AA were taken from several different locations (see above). Thus we may safely conclude that the increase in the amount of pottery recovered reflects a major rise in pottery depositions. This in turn indicates that this dramatic increase is due to the vicissitudes of archaeological discovery, since differences in the soil matrices indicate that the construction fills of Building AA were taken from several different locations (see above). Thus we may safely conclude that the increase in the amount of pottery recovered reflects a major rise in pottery depositions. This in turn indicates that the settlement at Kommos experienced a rather sudden, significant expansion in the MM IB phase—a much more dramatic increase than was previously thought (cf. J. W. Shaw 1996a: 2; Wright 1996: 141). The amounts of pottery datable within the MM IB, MM IIA, and MM IIB Early phases furthermore suggest that the settlement continued undiminished throughout the Protopalatial period.

Earlier research at Kommos showed that some of the new MM IB–IIB occupation was
located on the Central Hillside. Too few building remains have been exposed to understand its character or reconstruct its architectural phases (Wright 1996: 141, pl. 3.2). An MM IB fill (Context 6) overlying a slab floor, presumably MM IB in date, was found below a mostly MM II context beneath MM III spaces CH 26–27 (Betancourt 1990: 52, 68–71). Another MM IB fill (Context 8) was uncovered below an MM IIB–III context below MM III space CH 38, and a mixed MM IIA–B fill (Context 9) was excavated on top of an MM IB level and below an MM IIB fill (Context 13) located beneath a plaster floor under MM III spaces CH 35–36; both Contexts 8 and 9 lacked associated architectural remains (Betancourt 1990: 53–54, 73–78; see above for my redating of Betancourt’s Context 9). MM IIB fills on the Central Hillside were much more abundant and widespread than earlier remains. They were encountered almost everywhere excavators went below the MM III occupation (CH 16, CH 16–17, CH 18, CH 26–27, CH 32 [Context 14], CH 35, CH 35–36 [Context 13], CH 38; Betancourt 1990: 51–54). Since Betancourt did not yet distinguish MM IIB Early from Late pottery, it is impossible to know, without restudy, the extent or nature of MM IIB Early occupation on the Central Hillside.

In the Southern Area, flimsy walls of various structures possibly predating Building AA were uncovered together with the MM IB–IIB Early construction fills of AA (Chap. 1.1). North of this civic building, the MM IIB Early fill of the deep sounding east of the Classical Round Building had been deposited next to wall remains of two superimposed structures (Trench 20B, see above). All those early structures of the Southern Area obviously predate the MM IIB Early deposition of the various pottery fills. They cannot be dated more precisely, since they are lacking associated floors, floor deposits, and construction fills (Betancourt 1990: 24, 72). Farther east of the Classical Round Building and still north of Building AA, closely datable MM IB pottery fills without architectural remains were found below House X (Context 5: Betancourt 1990: 65–68) as well as below paved road 34 east of Building AA (Group X). It is not known whether the large amounts of MM IB, MM IIA, and MM IIB Early pottery deposited as fills in the Southern Area were originally used in that part of the site or how much of it was taken from other areas.

The partially uncovered structure to the south of Building AA predates the deposition of MM IB/IIB Group Y on its lower, earthen floor. Group Y was covered by a later plaster floor. The incompletely excavated floor deposit or primary dump (Group Z) found on top of the plaster floor dates the abandonment of this structure to MM IIA or MM IIB Early. It conceivably went out of use in conjunction with the construction of Building AA, but too little has been excavated for us to understand the circumstances of its demise. The abandonment of this structure may not have been an isolated phenomenon. Also the large MM IIB Early pottery fill found in the area east of the Classical Round Building to the north of Building AA may have been deposited in preparation for AA’s construction.

Betancourt did not find convincing evidence for a violent destruction of the Kommos settlement in any phase of the Protopalatial period (Betancourt 1990: 28–33). Likewise, the large
pottery deposits from the AA foundation fills and the structure to the south both lack solid evidence for destructions in the MM IB and MM IIA phases and the MM IIB Early subphase; however, the large fill east of the Round Building largely consists of mendable MM IIB Early vases, which suggests the possibility of a localized destruction, perhaps in conjunction with the building of AA. Building AA also seems to have met a violent end in the MM IIB Late subphase (see below). The lack of MM IB, MM IIA, and MM IIB Early destruction horizons at Kommos is mirrored at Phaistos and Aghia Triada (Levi and Carinci 1988: 299; Carinci 1989).36

Even though the architectural history of Kommos in the MM IB–IIB Early period remains largely unknown, the characteristics of its pottery shed some light on activities at the site prior to the construction of Building AA. It was beyond the scope of this study to quantify the number of vases of each type represented among the more than 27,000 pottery fragments of the AA construction fills. Such quantifications have been made only for Group Ja (Location 10), which is by far the largest pottery group, making up 43 percent of all the pottery of the construction fills (Table 3.30). The other pottery groups from the foundations of Building AA are comparable in character to Group Ja, with the exception of Group A (Location 1), which is largely MM IB in date, is overall more mendable, and has considerably fewer large vase types.

In addition to the vase types of Group Ja, the MM IB–IIB Early pottery groups from the Southern Area published here include open-spouted jars, a fine bucket vase, and a possible louter or pedestaled basin. The new finds from the Southern Area at Kommos published here have considerably expanded our knowledge of the range of vase types used at Kommos in the MM IB–IIB Early phases. We now know that in addition to the shapes published by Betancourt (1990), Type P conical cups, a grattugia or “grating” bowl, a possible louter or fruit stand, fine bucket vases, and new varieties of rounded cups, straight-sided cups, tumblers, bowls, jars, and cooking pots were consumed at Kommos.

With this fuller knowledge of pottery use at Kommos, we are now in a better position to make comparisons with the range of vase types found in the Phaistian palace and settlement (Table 3.31).

Nearly all Kommian vases from the AA construction fills have close comparanda among the Phaistian pottery of the MM IB–IIB Early phases. The variety of vase types consumed is roughly similar to that used in the Phaistian palace and settlement as well as elsewhere at Kommos. The few MM IB–IIB Early shapes missing at Kommos are also extremely rare at contemporary Phaistos. These are elaborately decorated teapots, askoid jugs, rhyta, “candle holders,” suspension vases (It. vasi a gabietta), unguent vases, multiple-joined vases, and askoi. These rare vessels occur in the Phaistian palace as well as in the settlement. Their absence at Kommos may be due merely to the vicissitudes of recovery.

The MM IB–IIB Early assemblages from the Phaistian palace and nonpalatial contexts are admittedly small, however, and do not allow for an in-depth comparison of sizes or frequen-
Table 3.30. Estimated frequencies of vessel types represented in Group Ja (Location 10), broken down by chronological phase.

Estimates are based on counts of quantifiable diagnostic features, such as handles, legs, spouts, rims, and bases. For a detailed description of the methods of quantification used, see Van de Moortel 2001: 29 n. 15. Nearly all remains are single fragments. The discrepancy between the total estimated number of vases and the number of fragments is due to the fact that most fragments could not be closely identified.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ceramic Phase</th>
<th>Vase Shape</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MM IB (some MM IA–B)</td>
<td>Conical cups</td>
<td>531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tumbler</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conical bowls</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM IB–IIA</td>
<td>Conical cups</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Open-spouted jars, small</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Open- or bridge-spouted jars, small</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM IIA</td>
<td>Conical cups</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM IIA–IIB</td>
<td>Rounded cups</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Straight-sided cups</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bridge-spouted jars, small</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM IB–IIB</td>
<td>Carinated cups</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bowls, fine</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bowl, medium-coarse cylindrical, handmade</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bowls, medium-coarse flaring, handmade</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bowls, medium-coarse convex, handmade</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bowls, very large, shape uncertain</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Basins, large to very large</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grattuge</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vat or pedestaled krater</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fruit stand</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Teapots</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bricchi</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Teapot-jar, small</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bridge-spouted jars, medium coarse</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jugs or ewers, narrow-necked</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jugs, wide-mouthed</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jugs, trefoil-mouthed (Pediada)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jugs, very large</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jars, small</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jars, large</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jar, collar-necked</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jars, very large</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oval-mouthed amphoras</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pithoi</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cooking pots, Type A, small to medium</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cooking pots, Type A, very large</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cooking pots, Type B, small to medium</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cooking pots, Type B, large</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cooking pots, type unknown, large</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3.30 continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ceramic Phase</th>
<th>Vase Shape</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cooking jar, small</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cooking trays</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cooking dishes</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Circular tray or dish</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lamps, small handheld</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lamps, large stationary</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Firebox</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tube</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Angular tray or box</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stopper</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total number of vases of known types 2,028
Number of fragments 11,805

cies. When one includes the abundant MM IIB Late destruction deposits from Phaistos, and distinguishes between palatial and ordinary domestic contexts, some interesting differences in consumption patterns emerge, which suggest that at least part of the pottery from the AA foundation fills came from a building with an official function, possibly a predecessor of Building AA. No convincing wall remains of such AA predecessor have been identified, but its former presence is further suggested by the east-west paved walkway or “causeway” uncovered below the central court of Building AA, which may have led visitors from the sea to this vanished civic structure (see Chap. 1.1).37

Part of the AA construction pottery consists of typical household pottery fulfilling a large variety of domestic functions, found also at Phaistos in the palace as well as in nonpalatial domestic contexts: drinking (cups, tumblers), serving (bowls, fine bucket vases, fruit stands), pouring (teapots, open-spouted jars, bridge-spouted jars, jugs), storage (jars, pithoi), transport (amphoras), cooking (cooking pots, trays, dishes, jars), and lighting (lamps), as well as specialized activities (basins, louteres, tubes, angular trays or boxes).38 Drinking, serving, and pouring vessels include utilitarian as well as higher-quality varieties with complex painted designs. The 5:1 proportion of cups to pouring vessels seen in Group Ja is consistent with domestic use in Protopalatial Phaistos, MM IIB Knossos, and MM III Kommos, suggesting that, generally, each pouring vessel would have contained liquid for a small group of drinking vessels (Table 3.30). The evidence from the Phaistian palace in this respect is unclear.39

However, the AA construction fills differ from domestic contexts at Kommos and Phaistos by their unusually high numbers of large storage jars, amphoras, pithoi, very large bowls, basins, jugs, and cooking pots. At Phaistos these very large vases occur in small quantities in domestic contexts but are much more frequent in the palace.40 Large storage jars, amphoras, and pithoi take up 17 percent of Group Ja (Table 3.30), comparable to ca. 19 percent of
Table 3.31. Vase types found in the palace, the Acropoli Mediana (an official context), and the settlement at Protopalatial Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: 311–79) and in MM IB–IIB Early contexts at Kommos.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vase Type</th>
<th>Phaistos Palace/Official Context</th>
<th>Phaistos Settlement</th>
<th>Kommos MM IB–IIB Early</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cups, conical</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rounded</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carinated</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>straight-sided</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumblers</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowls, medium to large</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>very large</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basins, medium to large</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>very large</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grattuge</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vats</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kraters</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit stands</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Λouteres</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bucket vases, high-quality</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teapots, very elaborate</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open-spouted jars</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge-spouted jars, small to medium</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>large</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jugs, small to medium</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>large</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>askoid</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lentoid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(MM IIB Late)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>milk jugs</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhyta</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strainers</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(MM IIB Late)</td>
<td>(MM IIB Late)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyxides</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elongated jars</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stamnoid jars</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouted bucket jars</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pithoid jars</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphoras</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
the pottery of the Phaistian palace (Van de Moortel 1997: 764–96, 881–82). Very large bowls, basins, jugs, and cooking pots constitute about 11 percent of the pottery of Group Ja. Likewise, in the Phaistian palace outsized bowls, basins, and jugs occur much more frequently than in Protopalatial houses at Phaistos and Kommos. Of course, one has to exercise caution when comparing the percentages of vase shapes in the AA construction fills and floor depos-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vase Type</th>
<th>Phaistos Palace/ Official Context</th>
<th>Phaistos Settlement</th>
<th>Kommos MM IB–IIB Early</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pithoi, very large</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(MM IIB Late)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>medium to large</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking pots, small to medium</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>large</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking jars</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking trays</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking dishes</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamps, small handheld</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamps, large stationary</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fireboxes</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incense burners</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(MM IIB Late)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Candle holders”</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay furnace</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedestals</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(MM IIB Late)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspension vases</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Horned” vases</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(MM IIB Late)</td>
<td>(MM IIB Late)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Unguent” vases</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple-joined vases</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partitioned vases</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Askoi</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bird vases</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(MM IIB Late)</td>
<td>(MM IIB Late)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vases with interior plastic appliqués</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tubes</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(MM IIB Late)</td>
<td>(MM IIB Late)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
its since the latter as a rule have been sealed during use, whereas the foundation fills, consisting almost exclusively of single pottery fragments, seem to have been taken from dumps of broken and discarded pottery. The frequency of vase shapes in such dumps is to a large degree determined by the breakage rates of individual vessel shapes. If we take this factor into consideration, however, the high percentage of large and very large vessels in the AA foundation fills is even more remarkable because those vessels tend to break less and be discarded at a slower rate than smaller vases.

A few vase types from the AA construction fills may even occur exclusively in official contexts in the Protopalatial period. These are vats, kraters, very large basins, “grating” bowls or platform bowls (lt. grattuge), and fireboxes. At Phaistos, vats, kraters, and very large basins (rim = 45–55 cm) are reported only from the palace and the fill below Room CVII of the Acropoli Mediana, which in the MM IIB Late subphase fulfilled an official function (Levi and Carinci 1988: pls. 12–13). Similarly, grattuge such as Ja/22 (Pl. 3.6) may have been reserved for official use. Eleven other examples of grattuge are known to date (Levi and Carinci 1988: 222–23). Of these, eight come from the Phaistian palace and one from the final MM IIB destruction level of the monumental building at Monastiraki (Kanta 1999: 389). A tenth example comes from the area of the Complesso della Mazzi a Breccia at Aghia Triada and is perhaps related to an MM II ceremonial or cultural context (Carinci 1999: 121, 129 n. 78). The eleventh grattugia is reported by Pernier to have been found at Kalathiana but has not been seen since. Nearly all come from ceremonial contexts, and with the exception of the Aghia Triada grattugia and the possible Kalathiana example, all are associated with official contexts. Thus the presence of a grattugia in the AA construction fills may be indicative of a previous official building at Kommos. Finally, fireboxes such as Ja/43 (Pl. 3.12) also may have been largely restricted to official contexts at Phaistos. Of the ten Protopalatial Phaistian examples listed and illustrated by Levi and Carinci, five come from the palace—including one from the bench fill in Room IL—two come from Room CV of the Acropoli Mediana, an area with official function, and three have unknown origins (Levi and Carinci 1988: 262, pl. 113d–h; Levi 1976: pls. 37d, f, 159, 180b, 182d–f). Two examples come from a house west of the West Court (Spezi ale 2001: pl. IV.2; La Rosa 1998–2000: 81, fig. 144A, B). Likewise, one of two Neopalatial fireboxes from Phaistos that have good contexts comes from the palace, and all nine Neopalatial examples from Aghia Triada were found in the “villa” (Halbherr, Stefani, and Banti 1977: 129–79; Van de Moortel 1997: 29–94). Taking into consideration the combined presence in the AA construction fills of fragments of vats or kraters, very large basins, grattugia fragment Ja/22, and firebox fragment Ja/43, as well as the unusually large percentage of large storage and transport jars, very large bowls, jugs, and cooking pots, I believe we can justifiably raise the possibility that an official building existed at Kommos before Building AA.42

In contrast with the AA construction fills, the pottery from the structure found to the south of Building AA (Groups Y and Z) consists almost entirely of ordinary household vases of normal size (drinking, serving, pouring, cooking vessels, possibly jars). The presence of a
Middle Minoan IA and Protopalatial Pottery

A crucible fragment (C 11659) in Group Z with copper slag adhering is indicative of metalworking at the site before the construction of Building AA.

MIDDLE MINOAN IB–MIDDLE MINOAN IIB EARLY POTTERY AT KOMMOS: NEW EVIDENCE FROM THE CIVIC CENTER

The construction fills of Building AA (Groups A–Ji) and the few additional pottery groups X, Y, and Z found east and south of that building add more than 28,000 MM IB–IIB Early Protopalatial pottery fragments to the ten thousand or so studied by Betancourt. They contribute considerably to our understanding of ceramic developments in those phases at Kommos, allowing us to characterize them in much more detail than was possible before.

GENERAL CERAMIC DEVELOPMENTS

The new pottery finds from Kommos demonstrate that a number of important ceramic changes took place in the western Mesara in the course of the Protopalatial period. Before discussing individual shape histories, we point out some general trends in terms of fabric recipes, vessel formation techniques, morphological and decorative variability, and firing practices.

The use of medium-coarse (A/6, A/9, Ja/29, Je/22, Jg/4, Jh/1) and coarse (A/4, Dc/1, Ja/35, C 11131) fabrics for small open (max d = 15 cm) and closed shapes (max h = 20 cm), common in MM IA, continued into the MM IB phase, but was much diminished. For instance, in contrast with their MM IA predecessors, MM IB conical cups have mostly fine fabrics. From MM IIA onward, the use of medium-coarse and coarse fabrics seems to have been largely limited to medium and large vases, as it was in the MM IIB phase and Neopalatial period.

More striking in the MM IB and MM IIA phases is the frequent combination of fabrics of different textures on the same vases. This characteristic is not discussed by Levi and Carinci (1988) but was presumably equally widespread at Phaistos. It is certainly common in the MM IB phase at Kommos and is especially found on medium-coarse and coarse vases with barbotine decoration (see below). Surfaces of those vases tend to be covered by a thick fine slip or engobe out of which the plastic decoration was fashioned. Other uses in the MM IB and MM IIA phases are thick fine engobes on the interiors of large medium-coarse or coarse bowls (Bc/1, Ja/18, Ja/19, Je/13), vats (Ba/6), and a possible fruit stand or louter (Z/1), fine rim coils on coarser bowls or closed vases (Jd/2, Jd/3, Je/9, Je/12, Je/13, X/11), fine necks and spouts of some coarser jugs (Je/19, Jg/4), spouts of medium-coarse teapots (Bb/1, Ja/26), fine and coarser body coils on large burnished pedestaled lamps (Jf/12), and even the application of a fine base on a small coarse closed vase (Ja/35)—possibly a tall teapot—and on a medium-coarse jar or jug (Je/24; see below). It stands to reason that fine clay was used for rim coils, spouts, and plastic decoration to give those features a sharper definition, since there were no nonplastic inclusions in this clay to obscure the edges. Fine clay engobes on the interiors of large bowls and vats as well as clay coils in the bodies of large pedestaled lamps.
and fine clay bases on medium-coarse or coarse vases seem to have served to reduce the porosity of those vessels, since those surfaces were also burnished. In some instances, however, it is not obvious why the potter combined different clay textures (e.g., bowl Je/13, jar C 11131). The coarse stratigraphy of the Kommian data does not allow us to determine whether the combined use of different fabric textures was as common in the MM IIA as in the MM IB phase. To judge from the large MM IIB Early pottery fill east of the Classical Round Building in the Southern Area, the practice had largely ceased by the beginning of the MM IIB phase, and it certainly was rare in the MM IIB Late subphase (see below).

Another striking aspect of manufacturing technology in the Protopalatial period is the gradual adoption of the kinetic force of the wheel to throw the vase body. This trend was already observed by Betancourt (1990: 29–30). Our new data confirm Betancourt’s finding that in the MM IB phase the potter’s wheel was hardly ever used in the western Mesara for the throwing of vases, but it was employed to finish surfaces and rims, for example, of conical cups and concave-flaring bowls. Very few local MM IB vases can be shown to have been wheel-thrown, such as fine conical bowl Je/11 (Pl. 3.5), dated by its intricate barbotine decoration. A second wheel-thrown bowl, X/23 (Pl. 3.18), dated to MM IB by its context (Group X), is a Knossian import. In the MM IIA phase the wheel was used to throw all small and medium open shapes—conical cups of Types C/D, rounded cups, carinated cups, straight-sided cups, some small and medium low bowls (e.g., Jf/5; max rim d 19 cm; max h 5.5 cm)—as well as some small closed vases of indeterminate height (e.g., Je/21). Other small vases were still coil-built, for example, bridge-spouted jar Jf/8, or seem to have been wheel-thrown in parts, e.g., bridge-spouted jar Ja/31. Larger vase shapes were still handmade. We have too little information on MM IIB Early pottery to understand the use of the potter’s wheel in that subphase. Certainly, all MM IIB Early conical cups were wheel-thrown, but bridge-spouted jar remains are too fragmentary to allow the identification of their manufacturing technique (e.g., Je/16).

The adoption of the potter’s wheel for vessel formation did not merely represent a development in technique but reflects a major change in the organization of pottery production as well. It required a much greater investment in manufacturing tools and allowed the potter to produce vases faster and increase the volume of production. To understand how important production speed was to the potter, one needs to investigate whether the use of the wheel was accompanied by related developments such as standardization of manufacturing practices or a decrease in the variability of vase shapes.

It is possible that the increased use of fine fabrics for small vases in the MM IIA phase was connected with the employment of the wheel, since fine fabrics spinning on a fast wheel would have been easier on the potter’s fingers than the medium-coarse or coarse western Mesara fabrics with their chunky angular inclusions. Certainly, all MM IIA wheel-thrown vases published here, and even wheel-thrown MM IB bowl Je/21, in spite of its medium size, have fine fabrics. Whether the adoption of the wheel also affected the practice of combining different fabric textures cannot be gauged, since the coarseness of the Kommian data does
not allow us to detect a decline in this practice in the MM IIA phase. Certainly, by the MM IIB Early subphase it had become much reduced.

Because the adoption of the wheel signifies an increase in production speed, one could expect that it is accompanied by simplification and greater standardization of vessel shapes. However, at Kommos as well as at Phaistos these trends are not observed until late in the MM IIB phase (cf. Levi and Carinci 1988: 304). A striking characteristic of MM IB and MM IIA pottery at Kommos, which now is much better appreciated than before, is the enormous morphological variation of the highest-quality fine serving vessels as well as of some medium-coarse and coarse vase types such as high-quality bowls (see below). Considerations of space make it impossible to include all morphological variants in the present catalogue. As at Phaistos, the greatest variability is observed among serving vases. The most variable shapes at Kommos are highly decorated rounded cups, straight-sided cups, tumblers, and especially fine bowls and small bucket jars, which may have been preeminent display pieces. On the other hand, intricately decorated serving vessels such as carinated cups, vats, teapots, open-spouted jars, bridge-spouted jars, and globular jugs already had standardized shapes in the MM IB and MM IIA phases, and so did utilitarian conical cups, bowls, basins, grattuge, louteres, jugs, jars, amphoras, pithoi, cooking vessels, and lamps. It is only in the MM IIB Late subphase that we see the standardization of fine teacups, straight-sided cups, and some fine bowl types (see below; cf. Betancourt 1990: 159 no. 1281).

Whereas the morphological characteristics of the MM IB–IIB Early pottery from the Southern Area at Kommos are quite well understood, not much of its painted decoration is preserved, thus precluding a detailed discussion of designs or their development through time. Rather simple linear patterns prevail in our extant material. Painted decoration on high-quality vases usually is executed in white or polychromy on a dark ground, but in the MM IIA phase often on a buff clay ground, which may be polished (e.g., Je/3, Jf/3). Polychrome decoration uses white, purple, wine red, orange, and occasionally yellow colors (see T-Space pottery tables). Rarely do high-quality vases have white-coated surfaces (Je/4). Utilitarian vases, in contrast, often are decorated with simple dark-painted motifs on the clay ground, which is often slipped but never polished. Less commonly, they have white or reddish designs on a dark-coated ground. In the MM IIA and MM IIB phases, dark-painted designs on amphoras, pithoi, and other large vases may be bordered by a white band (e.g., Z/3, Je/23, I/1).

On high-quality vases of the MM IB phase, painted patterns are often accompanied by plastic barbotine decoration, usually executed in fine clay. There is quite a variety of barbotine patterns, including barnacles, prickles, ridges, and waves. This form of plastic decoration continues into the MM IIA phase but is much less frequent and less varied, being limited to barnacles on globular jugs and simple rows of prickles (cf. Betancourt 1985: 83; 1990: 29, 33; Levi and Carinci 1988: 68). The reduction of this labor-intensive plastic decoration in the MM IIA phase seems to have been compensated for at Phaistos and Kommos by the increase in intricacy of the polychrome-painted designs of top-quality vases as well as of finely executed
impressed patterns (cf. Levi and Carinci 1988: 300). Even the most intricate MM IIA polychrome designs (A/4, Ja/20, Ja/24, Jd/1, Jd/5, Je/7, Jf/3), however, retain a certain linearity and stiffness that, according to Betancourt (1990: 32) and Levi and Carinci (1988: 300–301), are typical of MM IIA polychromy and contrast with the much more flamboyant patterns of the MM IIB Late subphase.

In addition to changes in fabric use, vessel formation techniques, and variability in shape and decoration, Protopalatial pottery at Kommos also must have seen a major evolution in firing practice from the MM IB to the MM IIB Late subphase. This change affected vases of all classes—fine, medium-coarse, and coarse buff vases as well as cooking vessels, lamps, and braziers. Whereas MM IB vases as a rule were incompletely oxidized during firing, showing a gray or dark-colored fabric core in their section, almost all MM IIB Late vases from the use deposits of Building AA were entirely oxidized, displaying a uniform color throughout their section (see T-Space pottery tables; cf. MM IB Group X and MM IIB Late Groups K–M, O). The very few MM IIB Late exceptions were almost completely oxidized (L/18, L/21, L/24). Vases from the AA construction fills and Groups Y and Z to the south, which are only broadly datable to MM IB–IIB Early, vary in their degree of oxidation, some being completely oxidized. Since this shift in firing practice is fairly uniform and consistent at Kommos, it can serve as a rough chronological criterion. Given the close similarities of the Kommmian and Phaistian ceramic assemblages, it is expected that Phaistian Protopalatial vases underwent a similar change in firing practices, even though it is not reported by Levi and Carinci (1988). In contrast, Knossian vases were completely oxidized already in the MM IA phase, as can be determined by their typical pink core (Momigliano 1991: 245).

In addition to general trends, the MM IB, MM IIA, and MM IIB Early pottery at Kommos also experienced significant changes within individual vase shapes. Very detailed shape histories for Protopalatial Phaistos have been published by Levi and Carinci (1988). Since the pottery from Kommos follows the same developments, it is not necessary to repeat Levi and Carinci’s observations in great detail. Only the main trends within each vase type are discussed here.

**Overview of Vessel Shapes**

**Conical Cups (Pls. 3.1, 3.2, 3.3)**

Protopalatial conical cup developments at Kommos closely followed those at Phaistos observed by Levi and Carinci (1988: 234–39, 243–44) and Fiandra (1973). Most MM IB conical cups were tall (max h 5.6 cm). They resembled MM IA cups in shape, fabric, and surface finish but had more slender proportions and narrower bases (X/2, Ja/1, Jg/1) and can be assigned to Kommmian Type D (see above). Some were dark-dipped (Ja/3). Deep parallel finger impressions on the lower body occurred frequently, indicating that hand-modeling of the lower body was still common. In contrast with MM IA fabrics, MM IB conical cup fabrics were almost always fine. MM IB Type D cups were joined by two other types: the rare Type E conical cups with a
very large semi-ovoid body (Ja/4: h ca. 7 cm; max d ca. 11 cm) and the more common small Type C or D cups with a constricted base and ogival profile. These small ogival cups have fine fabrics and are handmade. Four examples, three unpainted (Ja/2, Je/1, Jf/2) and the other dark-dipped (Jg/2), have wheel-finished rims and could belong to either the MM IB or MM IIA phase (cf. Levi and Carinci 1988: 236–37). None of the Kommian dark-dipped ogival cups preserve the simple white-painted patterns that are commonly seen on Phaistian examples.

Only small ogival cups and Type E cups continued into the MM IIA phase. They were joined in this phase by slightly larger cups of Types C and D that were entirely wheel-thrown and have an ovoid rather than ogival profile. These were obviously mass-produced, and because of their small size and undercut lower body, they were most likely thrown off the hump. Wheelmade Type C and D cups of MM IIA date always have a pronounced hollow at their interior base (Ja/5), and some have very thin walls (Ba/1). The hollow base was created by a scooping motion of the potter’s finger when he or she lifted the clay at the transition of the base to the wall. Its ubiquity on MM IIA wheel-thrown conical cups at Kommos and Phaistos indicates that this particular motion constituted a motor habit on the part of the potter. Parallel string marks on the base show that the wheel was at a complete stop when the cup was cut off (Ja/5).

In the MM IIB phase, small ogival cups entirely disappeared, and the larger, wheel-thrown Type C and D cups became the most common conical cup types. They have more standardized, thicker walls than before and no longer display the hollow at the base (Ba/2, Je/2). Some are monochrome dark coated and can be assigned to Type P (Ba/3). None of these have the simple white decoration seen at Phaistos.

New in the MM IIB phase were very low conical cups with everted rims, which were either unpainted (Type A) or dark-dipped (Type J; cf. Van de Moortel 1997: 989, fig. 6; 2002: fig. 10.4). Phaistian as well as Kommian evidence suggests that cups with strongly everted rims did not appear before the Late stage of MM IIB, but a few examples with weakly developed rims occurred in MM IIB Early at Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: 244, pl. 102v). The foundation fills of Building AA, despite their large size, entirely lacked Type A and J cups. Given this distribution pattern, it seems that Type J conical cup C/1, with its well-developed everted rim, is advanced MM IIB in date and is likely to have been deposited during the lifetime of Building AA rather than during its construction (see below).

Other Cup Types (Pls. 3.1, 3.3, 3.4)

Apart from conical cups and MM IA–B tumblers (cf. Ba/4), only carinated cups were fairly standardized among the MM IB–IIB Early cups at Phaistos and Kommos and can be said to have been mass-produced. Kommian carinated cups closely correspond to Phaistian examples (Levi and Carinci 1988: 196–98). In the MM IB phase carinated cups were rare and can be subdivided into two morphological variants. By far the more common kind is handmade with a high carination and an almost straight upper body that may have been finished on the
wheel (Ja/7). Examples are dark-coated and may carry painted ornament. The other variant has a low rounded carination and a looping strap handle that runs from below the rim to the carination (X/4, Ja/6); it is dark-dipped. This second variant displays considerable morphological variation and is not well understood. In the MM IIA phase, carinated cups have their carination at midbody or slightly lower. Variants can be wide- (Je/4) or narrow-mouthed (Je/3). Typically the carination has a sharp projecting edge (Jf/3). The lower body is straight-sided and the upper body slightly concave, with at times a pronounced hollow above the carination. Carinated cups are now as a rule wheel-thrown. Because of their small size they were presumably thrown off the hump, possibly with the aid of a template.\(^4\) The handle is always attached at the carination itself. Likewise diagnostic for MM IIA is the dark- or polychrome-painted pattern on a lustrous clay ground and the preference for vertical banding. The white-coated surface of Je/4 is an MM IIA feature but also occurred in the MM IIB phase at Phaistos and Knossos (Van de Moortel 1997: 345; Levi 1976: pls. 115c, 130h; cf. Evans’s “Creamy-Bordered style”: MacGillivray 1998: 88; Levi 1976: pls. 61e, XVIIc). MM IIB carinated cups typically have a lower and less pronounced carination than their MM IIA predecessors (Levi and Carinci 1988: 198).\(^4\)

Straight-sided cups occurred in the MM IB–IIB Early phases at Kommos and Phaistos but, unlike carinated cups, were much less standardized in shape (Levi and Carinci 1988: 202–3, 300). MM IB examples from Kommos are handmade and have wide bases (Je/5). As at Phaistos, no slender straight-sided cups are datable to the MM IB phase. Kommian MM IIA and MM IIB Early cups are wheel-thrown and vary in shape from cylindrical to spool-shaped or flaring, and in diameter from narrow to wide. They often are squat and cylindrical (Je/7).\(^4\) The standardized flaring straight-sided cups typical of the MM IIB Late and MM III phases (e.g., Pls. 3.13, 3.16: L/7, L/8, L/9, M/1, M/2) do not appear in MM IB–IIB Early contexts at Kommos or Phaistos.

Likewise, the teacup, defined as a standardized rounded cup with semiglobular to semipiriform body, everted rim, and single vertical handle, did not exist in the MM IB, MM IIA, or MM IIB Early phases at Kommos or Phaistos. It made its first appearance in the MM IIB Late subphase (e.g., Pl. 3.17A: C 9785).\(^4\) A large variety of rounded cups were in use in the earlier Protopalatial phases, with unique pieces such as the MM IB waisted cup with crinkled rim (Ja/9; cf. Levi and Carinci 1988: 188–95). Cups with eggshell-thin walls have not been encountered in the AA construction fills, but fragments of a rounded cup and a carinated cup with such thin walls were found in an MM IIA/IIB Early context in the domestic structure to the south (Group Z).

Tumblers were never common in the early Protopalatial period at Kommos and Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: 179–80). In addition to the MM IA–B tumbler type, a tall dark-dipped type of utilitarian quality is typical of the MM IB phase (Ja/8). Fine high-quality tumblers show a wide variety of shapes and sizes (Je/6, Je/7, Jg/3) and are always dark-coated, often
carrying polychrome linear ornament on top. Being highly labor-intensive, unique pieces, high-quality rounded and straight-sided cups and tumblers may have served as display vessels and may have carried social prestige.

Bowls (Pls. 3.4, 3.5, 3.6)

The bowl shape is very common in MM IB–IIB Early contexts at Kommos, and Kommian bowls closely follow trends observed at Phaistos (cf. Betancourt 1990: 31; Levi and Carinci 1988: 171–78, 224–26). Bowls may have convex, conical, cylindrical, carinated, or concave-flaring bodies, and they range from small (rim d < 15 cm) to large (rim d > 25 cm). Several small and medium bowls from the Southern Area at Kommos are of very high quality, such as MM IB spouted conical bowl Da/1, conical bowls Ja/12 and Je/11, carinated bowl Je/8, ovoid bowl Jf/4, convex bowls Jb/1 and Je/9, MM IIA fine bowl Jd/1 with undulating carination and polychrome-painted decoration on a dark ground, and MM IB/IIA convex bowl Jf/5 and possible cylindrical bowl A/4. With their intricate shapes and decoration they obviously are products of very fine workmanship. None have eggshell-thin walls. Like the high-quality nonstandardized cups, they may have been appreciated as display vessels with prestige value.

All other bowls are of utilitarian manufacture. They include small and medium conical bowls Ja/10, Jd/2, Jd/3, and Jf/6, medium convex bowls Ja/11 and Je/10, cylindrical bowl Ja/13, spouted flaring bowl Ja/14, as well as large convex bowls Bc/1, Ja/18, Ja/19, large conical bowl Je/13, and large flaring bowls Ba/5 and Ja/20. Only the medium flaring bowls (It. piatelli) represent a standardized type; it can be subdivided into a deep (A/5, Ja/15, Ja/16, Ja/17) and shallow (Je/12) variant. The deep variant became shallower in MM IIA–IIB Early (Ja/17; cf. Levi and Carinci 1988: 224). Standardized flaring bowls were painted with simple festoons and may have functioned as simple individual serving plates.

In terms of manufacturing practices, few bowls were wheel-thrown during the MM IB, MM IIA, and MM IIB Early phases (Jf/5, Je/11). The largest wheel-thrown bowl has a diameter of 19 cm and height of at least 5.5 cm. All Kommian concave-flaring bowls of the standard type were coil-built with wheel-finished rims—a characteristic that must be diagnostic for the MM IB–IIB Early period. In contrast, MM IIB Late concave-flaring bowls were entirely wheel-thrown (see below).

Several bowls combine fabrics of different textures. A medium-coarse or coarse bowl may have a fine rim coil, which allowed the fashioning of a sharply defined rim (Je/9, Jd/2, Jd/3, Je/12). Large bowls commonly are covered on the interior with a thick fine engobe, painted with dark bands, and burnished, presumably to lower their porosity (Bc/1, Ja/18, Ja/19, Je/13). One large medium-coarse bowl has a fine coil inserted in a notch cut out on the interior just below the rim (Je/13). The purpose of this fine coil is unclear.
Basins (Pls. 3.1, 3.6)

Basins are defined here as thick-walled conical (Ja/21, Je/14) or cylindrical (X/5) open vessels with medium-coarse or coarse fabrics. Kommian basins closely parallel those of Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: 22–26). All examples from the Southern Area are coil-built. Their rim diameter is usually larger than that of bowls. They are utilitarian vessels with little or no painted decoration. A large low spouted basin is unique in that it has barbotine decoration on the interior (Ja/21). The interior of its coarse body is covered with a thick engobe in which barbotine barnacles were modeled.

Grattuge (Pl. 3.6)

A type of basin with a raised platform in the center or at the side decorated with barbotine prickles or barnacles is commonly referred to by the Italian term grattugia, “grater.” Grattuge occurred only in the Protopalatial period. They are found primarily in the Phaistian palace and may have had an official use. For the first time, the centerpiece of a grattugia has been identified at Kommos (Ja/22). Because of the morphological resemblance of grattuge to modern kitchen graters, scholars have suggested that these vessels were used for the kneading or grating of food (Levi and Carinci 1988: 222); however, the barbotine prickles of Ja/22 are modeled out of an engobe of very fine soft fabric applied on the coarse body, and they were coated with dark paint. They seem to be unsuitable for grating even soft foods such as cheese, and they lack tell-tale rubbing marks. A function as a dripping bowl seems more likely. Their distribution pattern suggests a ceremonial and perhaps official use (see above).

Vats/Kraters/Fruit Stands/Louteres (Pls. 3.2, 3.7)

Vats are large, deep, open vessels with thick, convex walls. They are always coil-built. Only four Protopalatial vats have been published from Phaistos. They date to the MM IIA or MM IIB phases and are highly decorated, presumably having functioned as serving and display vases (Levi and Carinci 1988: 21–22, pl. 12a–d; Levi 1976: figs. 76, 889, pls. 56b, XXVIIIa–b). Two large, highly fragmentary vases from the AA construction fills at Kommos resemble the Phaistian vats in shape and size. However, Ja/23 is an unpainted coarse vat of utilitarian quality. Ba/6 has a coarse fabric, but its interior is coated with a thick engobe and slipped. It can no longer be determined whether it had painted decoration.

It is remarkable that none of these Phaistian or Kommian vats has a preserved base. Perhaps one should envision them not as vats at all, but as pedestal kraters. The lower part of Ba/6 is covered on the exterior with a layer of coarse clay. The presence of this coarse clay is unusual, and it is proposed here that it may be the remnant of an attached pedestal base. It is conceivable that the four Phaistian examples were kraters as well, and that their pedestal bases were lost. This would raise the number of kraters known from Phaistos from one to five (Levi and Carinci 1988: 20, pl. 11h; Levi 1976: pl. XXVIIa).

A third large vessel (Z/1) from Kommos has a coarse fabric similar to that of vat/krater
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Ba/6, and its interior is equally covered with a thick engobe and burnished; however, it has a much shallower body than Ba/6. If Z/1 had a pedestaled base as well, it could have been a fruit stand rather than a krater (cf. Levi and Carinci 1988: pls. 10, 11a–e, possibly 12p; Levi 1976: pl. 60b, f). Ba/6 and Z/1 are so similar in fabric and manufacture that they may have been part of a krater-and–fruit stand set analogous to the highly decorated krater F.1031 and fruttiera F.1053 from Room LV at Phaistos (Levi 1976: pl. XXVIIa–b). Alternatively, since Z/1 is unpainted, it may be a small louter, or unpainted flaring bowl on a tall pedestal base, such as those found in MM IIA and MM IIB contexts at Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: 14, 22, pls. 9a–b, 12p; Levi 1976: pl. 55). Louteres come from the Phaistian palace as well as from domestic contexts such as Room η at Chalara (North) and Room β at Aghia Photini. They appear to have been simple vases of domestic use, but their exact function is uncertain. Levi and Carinci suggest that they were washing basins. The slipped and burnished surface of Z/1 would have made it well suited to use as a working basin, although such surface treatment is not mentioned with regard to the Phaistian louteres. Three small rim fragments from the Central Hillside at Kommos published by Betancourt (1990: nos. 308–10) are similar in shape to Z/1. An unpublished fragment (C 10673) from the AA construction fills bears close resemblance to Ba/6 and Z/1, but its shape can no longer be reconstructed.

Finally, a polychrome painted fragment of high quality from the construction fills of Building AA appears to belong to a small MM IB fruit stand (Ja/25).

Bucket Vase (Pl. 3.7)
A small fragmentary bucket vase (Ja/24) is datable to MM IB or MM IIA on the basis of its decoration. It has a fine fabric and is coil-built. Its irregularly shaped body is indented below the handle. The base of a possible second example (A/4; Pl. 3.5) is assigned the same date range because of its intricate combination of fine and medium-coarse fabrics. Both these vases are highly decorated and of the finest quality. They must have been fancy display pieces in addition to being serving vessels. Both compare quite well with high-quality spouted bucket vases from Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: 137–38).

Teapots and Related Shapes (Pls. 3.1, 3.7, 3.10)
Teapots are very common pouring vessels in the MM IA phase at Patrikies and Phaistos, and display great morphological variability. They become much rarer in the MM IB phase, but continue without major morphological changes to the end of the Protopalatial period (Levi and Carinci 1988: 94–106). For this reason they are difficult to date by shape alone. Two teapot fragments were recovered from the AA construction fills (Bb/1, Ja/26). Both have fine spouts attached to medium-coarse bodies. Their shape is not more closely datable than MM IA–IIB, but because of their medium-coarse bodies and small size, our two examples most likely date to the MM IA or MM IB phase (see above; cf. Levi and Carinci 1988: 96–101).

In addition, possible fragments of two tall teapots or bricchi (X/12, Ja/35) come from an
MM IA–B fill (Group X) and an MM IB–IIB Early construction fill of Building AA (Group Ja), respectively. Ja/35 (Pl. 3.10) probably dates to MM IB because of its coarse fabric and small size. Its splaying foot was made out of a very fine fabric, perhaps to make it less permeable to liquids or to ensure a sharp basal edge. Finally, a fragment of a so-called *olletta-teiera* (“jar-teapot”), a hybrid form of teapot and bridge-spouted jar, was recovered from the same AA construction fill (Ja/34; Pl. 3.10). It is datable by style to MM II (cf. Levi and Carinci 1988: 139–40).

**Open- and Bridge-Spouted Jars (Pls. 3.1, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9)**

In contrast with Phaistos, large bridge-spouted jars (h > 35 cm) are rare at Kommos, being represented by only one or two examples (Fb/1 and possibly Je/18). To judge by the Phaistian finds, these jars did not undergo significant changes in the Protopalatial period (cf. Levi and Carinci 1988: 110–16). As a rule they have medium-coarse or coarse bodies, bridged spouts, and horizontal coil handles set at a slanted angle when seen in frontal view.

In contrast, small (h < 20 cm) and medium (h = 20–35 cm) jars of this shape are very common in Protopalatial Kommos, as they are at Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: 116–31). Their troughed spouts may be open or bridged. Together with conical cups, small and medium open- and bridge-spouted jars are the most sensitive chronological markers of Protopalatial Phaistos and Kommos. They are subdivided into morphological types that underwent striking and consistent changes in each ceramic phase and subphase.

In the MM IB phase, small and medium vases always have open, that is, unbridged, troughed spouts and horizontal coil handles that, when seen in side view, form as a rule an acute angle (Ja/29, Ja/30, Jf/7, Jh/1). Seen from the front, handles in the MM IA phase were set in an almost horizontal plane. In the MM IB, MM IIA, and MM IIB phases, they were placed more and more upright, and in the MM III phase they became almost vertical. Bodies may be squat or elongated ovoid. A medium open-spouted jar from Kommos with coarse body and medium-fine spout has handles set at a 45° angle, and on the basis of this and its simple polychrome decoration can be dated to MM IA–B (Ja/30). Its pattern of intersecting groups of white diagonal bands is similar to that of Betancourt’s South Cretan White-on-Dark Ware, dated to Early Minoan III–MM I, but it has in addition a red band around rim, spout, and handles, which dates it to MM IA at the earliest (cf. Betancourt 1990: 74 nos. 139–41; 1984a: 8–9). Small MM IB vases often have medium-coarse bodies (Ja/29, Jh/1). One medium-coarse MM IB example from Kommos has a fine rim coil, and its upper body is decorated with barbotine prickles made of fine clay (Ja/29). Jars Ja/27 and Ja/28 are made of fine clay and may be either MM IB or MM IIA in date.

The MM IIA phase was very much one of transition for small and medium spouted jars from Kommos and Phaistos. Spouts could now be open or bridged, and there was a greater variety of handles (Ja/31, Jf/8). Coil handles forming an acute angle survived from MM IB and were joined by coil handles with a rounded curve (Jf/8). Occasionally, a jar had horizon-
tal strap handles, but, unlike MM IIB and Neopalatial strap handles, they were ungrooved (Je/15, unpublished C 11191). Bodies were squat globular or ovoid. Elongated ovoid bodies no longer existed except among utilitarian open-spouted jars (Levi and Carinci 1988: 122). Fine fabrics were now the rule, and the wheel may be used to form small vases (Ja/31).

By the MM IIB phase, all small and medium jars had fine fabrics, bridged spouts, and grooved horizontal strap handles. A small but persistent distinction has been observed by Filippo Carinci between the strap handles of bridge-spouted jars from MM IIB Early and MM IIB Late contexts at Phaistos. Whereas handles from MM IIB Late destruction levels at Phaistos are flattened at their attachment to the body, those from earlier MM IIB contexts preserve their groove throughout. No such distinction can be observed among the very fragmentary MM IIB bridge-spouted jar remains from Kommos published by Betancourt (1990). In the AA construction fills at Kommos about twenty grooved strap handles of bridge-spouted jars have been found, and all are of the MM IIB Early variety with the groove preserved throughout (Jd/4, Je/16, unpublished C 11167). Bridge-spouted jars with similar handles are exceedingly common in the large MM IIB Early fill excavated east of the Classical Round Building at Kommos, but are largely unpublished (Trench 20B; see above; Betancourt 1990: 84, pl. 14, no. 264). Not a single grooved strap handle with flattened attachment typical of MM IIB Late has been found in either the AA construction fills or the fill east of the Round Building, even though together these fills include tens of thousands of pottery fragments. Flattened attachments do occur, however, on MM IIB bridge-spouted jar fragments deposited with Group 1 on top of a floor of Building AA (see Chap. 3.3). Thus the stratified remains from Building AA at Kommos confirm the chronological distinction between MM IIB Early and Late fine bridge-spouted jar handles observed by Carinci at Phaistos. Flattened attachments continue to be characteristic of fine bridge-spouted jars with grooved strap handles in the MM III and LM IA phases at Kommos and Phaistos (Betancourt 1990: pls. 36, 37, 46, 49, 50, 52, 73, 87, 93, 101, 102, 104; Wright 1996: pls. 3.71, 3.75, 3.89, 3.90, 3.92; Levi and Carinci 1988: 131, pls. 56–58). Spouts of MM IIB Early bridge-spouted jars at Kommos tend to be long and narrow, and are as a rule set below the rim.50 In contrast, MM IIB Late vases generally have short spouts placed at the rim.

Jugs (Pls. 3.1, 3.2, 3.9, 3.10)

MM IB–IIB Early jugs are common pouring vessels at Phaistos and come in many shapes and sizes (Levi and Carinci 1988: 50–92). The AA construction fills and other contemporary contexts from the Southern Area at Kommos published here contained many jug remains as well, but because of their highly fragmentary condition they do not contribute much to our understanding of the morphological characteristics of this shape at Kommos beyond what was known from Betancourt’s (1990) publication of jugs from the residential area on the Central Hillside. They do provide, however, new information about fabric recipes employed for jugs.
There are many remains of large jugs (h > 35 cm) in the AA construction fills, but most are highly fragmentary and do not merit publication. Exceptions are large MM IB jug neck Je/19 from an AA construction fill, which is made of fine fabric and attached to a medium-coarse shoulder, and MM II jug Z/2 from the domestic structure to the south of Building AA, which was partially excavated and mendable. Dark-on-light patterned fragments E/1 and Je/23 as well as dark-painted vase fragment Je/24 may belong to large jugs as well. It is difficult to explain why the potter cut out the base of medium-coarse vessel Je/24 and inserted a plug of very fine clay. Perhaps the goal was to reduce the porosity of the base.

Most small (h < 20 cm) and medium jugs have globular bodies. The jugs of Group X always have medium-coarse or coarse fabrics in spite of their small size (X/8, X/9, X/10, X/11) and are datable to MM IB. Those from the AA construction fills vary from fine (Ja/32) to medium coarse (Jg/4) and coarse (Dc/1). Necks and beaked spouts may be fine (X/10, Jg/4) or medium coarse with a fine rim coil (X/11). Several examples are decorated on the upper body with barbotine prickles or barnacles fashioned from a thick fine slip (X/8, X/9, X/11, Dc/1, Jg/4). Jugs with barbotine decoration and white- or polychrome-painted patterns on a dark ground are unequivocally MM IB in date (X/8, X/11), whereas those with dark-painted dots on a clay ground are actually more common in MM IIA than in MM IB contexts at Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: 68). All the published Kommian dark-on-light patterned examples have medium-coarse or coarse fabrics, however, and therefore may belong to the MM IB phase rather than the MM IIA phase (X/9, Dc/1, Jg/4). Wide-necked jug Ja/32 with its crinkled rim and fine fabric is not more closely datable than MM IB–IIA.

Jars (Pls. 3.1, 3.2, 3.9, 3.10)
Like jugs, MM IB–IIB Early jars at Phaistos come in many shapes and sizes. Many types and subtypes can be distinguished: small to large elongated jars (Levi and Carinci 1988: 37–38); medium and large collar-necked “stamnoid” jars and pithoid jars (Levi and Carinci 1988: 11–13); and bucket jars (Levi and Carinci 1988: 15–16). Small jars include a few subtypes as well as a number of miscellaneous vases (Levi and Carinci 1988: 152–56, 162–65). A large variety of jars have been found in the construction fills of Building AA and in Group X to the east. Most are too fragmentary to be assigned to types, and many minor variants could not be published here for reasons of space. Those that are presented here have been selected because they significantly expand the known range of types and variants of this vase shape consumed at Kommos and they provide new information about the use of fabrics. Among the small jars (h < 20 cm) are several high-quality varieties hitherto unattested at Kommos (A/9, Ja/33, Jc/1, Jd/5, Je/20, Je/21, Je/22, Jf/9). Most bear similarities to vases from Phaistos, except for A/9, Jc/1, and Jf/9, which are unparalleled. Equally without parallel elsewhere is a small coarse jar with a coarse slip on the exterior surface of its lower body, which grades to a fine slip at midbody (C 11131; Pl. 3.9). A more complete jar with this curious surface covering has been found in the MM IIB Early fill east of the Round Building (C 11959), but
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it is unpublished. Because of their combination of different fabric textures, these small jars probably date to MM IB or MM IIA rather than to MM IIB Early.

Among the medium jars (h = 20–35 cm) is a hole-mouthed elongated jar of utilitarian quality with a spout pulled from the rim and traces of dark paint (Jd/6; Pl. 3.10). It belongs to a type published by Betancourt (1990: nos. 92, 461) and known from Phaistos, but shows a new characteristic in that it combines a medium-coarse fabric with a fine rim coil. A possible fragment of a medium or large collar-necked jar (X/13), datable by its context to MM IB, would be the earliest example of this type at Kommos or Phaistos if its identification can be confirmed. Other finds from this MM IB context are a fragmentary cylindrical jar decorated in the South Cretan White-on-Dark Style datable to MM IA–B (X/14), a wide-necked jar with a ledge below the rim (X/15), and the base of a large jar or amphora (X/16).

Among the large jars (h > 35 cm), several fragmentary examples decorated with barbotine barnacles have been published by Betancourt (1990: no. 183, fig. 17). A/8 has traces of polychrome-on-dark decoration and may be part of such a jar. Its base angle is reinforced with an added coil—a hitherto unattested feature. A very large elongated jar of utilitarian quality (Jg/6; Pl. 3.10) resembles in shape a smaller example published by Betancourt (1990: no. 1251, fig. 51), but its handles are placed lower on the body. It is the largest elongated jar found in Protopalatial levels at Kommos and equals in size the largest examples from Phaistos dated to MM IB and MM IIA (Levi and Carinci 1988: pl. 17d, f). The oblique angle of its handles is indicative of an MM II date (Levi and Carinci 1988: 37, pl. 17f–l). Finally, an unpublished neck fragment (C 10954) from Group Ja may belong to a collar-necked “stamnoid” jar of a type commonly found in MM IIB Late contexts at Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: pl. 22c, e; Van de Moortel forthcoming [b]) as well as at the Kamares Cave (Dawkins and Laistner 1912–13: pl. VIIIb–c). Such jars seem to have been rare in the MM IIA and MM IIB Early phases, with only two examples reported from Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: 45, pl. 22d–e).

Oval-Mouthed Amphoras (Pls. 3.2, 3.10)

Levi and Carinci have published many morphological variants of Protopalatial oval-mouthed amphoras from Phaistos. The majority are characterized by a large, wide ovoid body with the maximum diameter at about two-thirds of the body height, a very short tapering neck, and thick, wide strap handles (Levi and Carinci 1988: 40–42). The Protopalatial amphoras found at Kommos are comparable to those from Phaistos (Betancourt 1990: 76, 158 nos. 178, 1254–57, figs. 16, 51). The two amphoras published here include a waster (G/1) and a large neck and shoulder fragment (Z/3) datable to MM IIA or MM IIB Early, with a dark-painted, white-bordered curvilinear design not yet attested at Kommos. Amphoras with similar white-bordered designs occur in MM IIA and MM IIB contexts at Phaistos (Levi 1976: pl. 70a, d) and at Apodoulou (Tzigounaki 1995: fig. 5a). The presence of a waster need not signify that oval-mouthed amphoras were produced at Kommos. The number of wasters found in Protopalatial contexts is quite small, and none are so deformed by overfiring that
the vases would have been unusable (cf. Van de Moortel 1997: 100; contra Betancourt 1990: 92, pl. 20, no. 416). Rather, they may have been produced elsewhere and distributed and used at Kommos in their overfired state.

**Pithoi (Pls. 3.2, 3.11)**

The pithos shape is best known in the MM IIB Late subphase in the western Mesara, since numerous pithoi were trapped in the massive final Protopalatial destruction horizon at Phaistos. In contrast, pithoi of the earlier Protopalatial phases at Phaistos and Kommos are poorly understood. Only two MM IB and three MM IIA examples have been published from Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: pl. 4a–b; Levi 1976: pls. 17a, c, 41b, 44a, 49d), and a number of mostly small fragments from Kommos (Betancourt 1990: nos. 55, 56, 125–26, 236, 252, 951–53, 1110).

MM IB and MM IIA pithoi at Phaistos and Kommos do not always follow the typology proposed by the present author for MM IIB Late pithoi (Van de Moortel 1997: 192–93; cf. Levi and Carinci 1988: 6–9; pls. 1–4). Whereas MM IIB Late pithoi with closed bodies always carry dark linear ornament on a light clay ground, only some MM IB (X/17) and MM II (I/1) examples do, while others have polychrome patterns on a dark ground (Levi 1976: pls. 17c, 41b), and others are unpainted (Ba/8). A large troughed pithos spout from the AA construction fills probably was bridged, and is decorated with white bands on a dark ground (Ba/7). It is the oldest spouted pithos attested at Kommos and Phaistos. If it followed the MM IIB Late typology of Phaistian pithoi, it would have had an open conical body.

**Lids (Pl. 3.11)**

Many types of ceramic lids have been found in Protopalatial levels at Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: 229–33). They range in size from small to large and are usually of utilitarian quality. Their bodies may be disk-shaped, convex, straight-sided, bell-shaped, or concave. Handles are coiled, spool-shaped, or lugs (pierced or not) and may be placed centrally or laterally. Fragments of a single unpainted straight-sided lid with a central, pierced lug were found in the AA construction fills (Je/25). The lid is undecorated. It resembles MM IB–IIB straight-sided lids from Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: 229–33, pl. 97I–p) and the Kamares Cave (Dawkins and Laistner 1912–13: fig. 6), but its central, pierced lug is thus far unique.

**Tubes (Pl. 3.11)**

A small fragment of a coarse fenestrated shape with open base (Ja/36) is likely to belong to a tube because of its narrow diameter, which distinguishes it from pedestal bases. Its exterior is dark-coated and has a wine red vertical band next to the edge of the fenestration. If its identification is correct, this would be the earliest example of a tube to appear in the western Mesara. Several tubes were found among the MM IIB Late destruction remains of the palace (room 25) and houses at Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: 276, pl. 114d–e; Levi
1976: fig. 885, pl. 164a, b, i), and a number were uncovered from various MM III contexts on
the Central Hillside at Kommos (Betancourt 1990: 170 nos. 1555–59, fig. 57).

The function of Protopalatial tubes from Kommos and Phaistos is uncertain. Later snake
tubes were sometimes found with bowls attached to the top, and it seems plausible that it
was the intended function of tubes in those periods to be stands for bowls (Cadogan 1973).
Some of the Protopalatial and MM III tubes are sturdy enough to have carried a bowl as
well, but others seem to be too long and narrow to have provided stable support. Gesell, in
her authoritative study of LM IB through LM III tubes and snake tubes from Central and
East Crete, concluded that wherever it could be determined, tubes were found in association
with house or town shrines (Gesell 1976). An MM III tube was subsequently found in the
peak sanctuary at Kato Syme (Lembesi 1991: 322, pl. 206b). However, neither the MM III
tubes from Kommos nor the MM IIB Late tubes from Phaistos come from clear religious
contexts (Betancourt et al. 1983: 35). In the absence of alternative interpretations, the function
of these early Kommian and Phaistian tubes must remain unclear.

Cooking Vessels (Pls. 3.2, 3.11, 3.12, 3.17)
Protopalatial levels at Phaistos have yielded several variants of Betancourt’s Types A and B
cooking pots (Betancourt 1980), as well as cooking jars and cooking trays (Levi and Carinci
1988: 29–34). Only one Protopalatial cooking dish, misidentified by Levi and Carinci as a
clay pallet, has been published from Phaistos. It comes from an MM IIB Late destruction
deposit (Levi and Carinci 1988: 279, fig. 65). The purported rarity of cooking dishes in Proto-
palatial Phaistos seems implausible in view of their frequent occurrence at Kommos. Their
near-absence in Levi and Carinci’s publication is probably due to their fragmentary preserva-
tion, since Levi and Carinci focused on complete and restorable vases. The finds from the
Southern Area at Kommos show that at that site an almost equally large variety of vase
shapes were employed for the cooking and heating of foods in the MM IB–IIB Early phases.
Nearly all have burning marks or differential wear patterns, which indicate that they had
been used before being deposited. Among the cooking pots, both Types A and B were found.
Type A cooking pots have globular bodies and upturned or everted rims (X/19), whereas
Type B vessels have cylindrical or slightly rounded open bodies with straight rims (Ba/9,
Ja/50, Ja/51, Ja/52, Jf/13, Ja/53, Ja/54, Jf/14). Variants of Type B with looping basket handle
(Ja/38) or flaring sides (Ja/48, Ja/49) are present as well. Most cooking pots are small to me-
dium in size, but some are very large. Cooking pot legs vary in section from flat (Je/26) to
thick oval (Jf/10). A number of medium and large Type B cooking pots carry impressed or
incised marks and are discussed below (Pl. 3.17). There are also one or two examples of small
cooking jars with tall globular bodies and everted rims (Ja/37, probably X/18).

Cooking trays are rare (Ja/42, Jf/11), whereas cooking dishes are quite common (X/20,
X/21, Ba/10, De/2, Jc/2). The original shape of cooking tray Jf/11 cannot be determined for
certain, but its very wide diameter makes it seem likely that it was elliptical rather than
circular. The manufacture of cooking dishes is not well understood. Their very thin bottom seems to have been incapable of supporting the weight of the rim when the clay was wet. For this reason Betancourt has suggested that cooking dishes were molded inside a pit lined with a basket (Betancourt 1990: 66 no. 48); however, the absence of basketry impressions on cooking dishes makes this interpretation unlikely. Rather, given the particular roughness of the exterior base and the appearance of little folds near the edge of the dish, the pit may have been lined with a piece of skin or leather. It is now well established that cooking dishes were not circular but elliptical and that their rims were upturned over most of the body, dipping down to a broad spout at one of the narrow ends (Van de Moortel 1997: fig. 75; Mook 1999; Barnard et al. 2003: 82, fig. 51.1B.569; Betancourt 1980: 5; Warren 1972: 111).

Small disk Ja/40 is made of a coarse noncalcareous red fabric and may have functioned as a cooking plate or pot stand, since one of its fragments is burnt at the edge. This shape is attested here for the first time at Kommos and does not have close comparanda at Phaistos. A fragmentary angular box or tray is made from a noncalcareous red fabric as well and may therefore have been used in relation to cooking or heating, even though it does not have any trace of burning (Ja/41). It is generally comparable to some rare boxes with partitions from Phaistos, although their fabrics are not specified (Levi and Carinci 1988: 227–28, pl. 96x–b’).

These cooking vessels from MM IB–IIB Early levels at Kommos provide us with important new information about fabric use, surface finish, and firing practices—information that had not been systematically recorded before at Kommos or Phaistos. The most remarkable aspect of MM IB–IIB Early cooking vessels at Kommos, as exemplified by the fragments published here, is the variety of fabrics and fabric colors, which contrasts sharply with the existence of a single standardized noncalcareous coarse red fabric in the Neopalatial period. Fabrics vary from medium-coarse red (X/20, Ba/10) to coarse red (X/19, Ba/9, Dc/2, Ja/37, Ja/40), coarse brown (Ja/38), coarse buff (Jc/2, Jf/10), medium-coarse orange (Jf/11), and medium-fine orange (Je/26). The buff color must be a variant of the red, since both co-occur on the body of cooking jar X/18, undoubtedly as a result of differential firing conditions within the kiln. Other color differences, however, appear to be related to fabric composition. For instance, the neat color distinction between the medium-fine orange body and coarse red leg of cooking pot Je/26 must be a result of a difference in fabric recipes between body and leg. Also, the large degree of variation of nonplastic inclusions suggests that we are dealing with a variety of cooking pot fabrics.

Not only fabrics but also surface finishes of MM IB–IIB Early cooking vessels at Kommos show an unusual degree of variation. Most remarkable is the red slip that coats a number of vessels (e.g., Dc/2, Ja/42, body and leg of Je/26). Such slip has never been attested on MM IIB Late or later Minoan cooking pottery at Kommos. Macroscopically it resembles the red slip of large Protopalatial lamps Je/27, Jf/12, firebox Ja/43, and Cycladic frying pans or cooking dishes Ja/64, Je/43, and Jf/23 (Pl. 3.20; see below). A number of MM IB–IIB Early cooking vessels are buff-slipped on the interior (cooking dishes X/20, X/21, Dc/2, box or tray Ja/41,
cooking pot Jf/10), and a cooking pot (Ja/38) and cooking tray (Ja/42) have an interior bur-nish.\textsuperscript{55} Slip and burnish would have reduced the porosity of the interior surface, improving the heating effectiveness of the vessel and helping to prevent food from sticking to the sur-face (Schiffer 1990). The rough bottom of cooking dishes also is likely to have a thermody-namic explanation, since the roughness would have increased the surface area exposed to heat, thus facilitating heat absorption. The reasons for the much greater variation in fabric, shape, surface finish, and firing of Protopalatial cooking vessels and the switch to a highly standardized fabric in the Neopalatial period are little understood. It is possible that there were several production centers for cooking pottery in the Protopalatial western Mesara, each employing its own tradition, or that cooking vessels were acquired from different areas. A comprehensive program of petrographic and chemical fabric analyses in conjunction with a study of manufacturing practices is needed to address this question.

**Lamps/Braziers (Pls. 3.2, 3.12)**

Several types of lamps and braziers existed in Protopalatial Phaistos. A detailed typology was devised by Mercando (1974–75), and its chronology was updated by Speziale. According to Speziale (1993: 543–44), all small portable lamps in the MM IB–IIA phases at Phaistos have convex bodies.

Even though small portable lamps are easily recognizable even as fragments, only two MM IB–IIB Early examples were published by Betancourt from the Southern Area at Kommos. Both come from the large fill east of the Classical Round Building (Trench 20B; see above) and have been redated by the present author to MM IIB Early (Betancourt 1990: 82, 150 nos. 238, 1072, fig. 19, pls. 12, 58). Only one fragment has been identified in the construction fills of Building AA.\textsuperscript{56} All have convex bodies. One example published by Betancourt resembles Phaistian lamps, but the other (no. 238) has a short, everted rather than incurving rim and represents a variant of the convex handheld type. Thus it appears that at Kommos, unlike at Phaistos, small ceramic lamp types were rarely used. Instead, people at Kommos must have employed conical cup and bowl fragments as lamps, as is indicated by burning at the rim.

In contrast with small lamp types, large stationary lamps or braziers were fairly common in the construction fills of Building AA and its surroundings (X/22, Je/27, Jf/12), and several fragments were published by Betancourt (1990: 74, 93, 95, 150, 156). Most were made of noncalcareous coarse brown fabrics, but Jf/12 was built up with layers and coils of fine and coarse fabrics. Both it and Je/27 were covered on the interior with a buff engobe.\textsuperscript{57} The engobe of Je/27 continues over its rim exterior. The surfaces of all three vessels were coated with a red slip and burnished, and they have—or had at one time—pedestal bases.

Mercando (1974–75: 96–100) makes a distinction at Phaistos between large stationary lamps with wick cuttings and stationary braziers without wick cuttings. Her lamps have thick, tapering bodies, whereas her braziers have shallow cylindrical bowls with even base
and wall thicknesses. Unlike her lamps, her braziers are red-slipped and burnished only on the interior and over the rim. They have a lower and wider pedestal base than lamps, and only the lower part of the base is well finished. Je/27 with its even wall and base thickness and possible pedestal base, its lack of evidence of a wick cutting, its horizontal coil handles and impressed wavy-line decoration bordered by two impressed bands, as well as the lack of impressed decoration on its edge, very closely resembles Mercando’s braziers. Jf/12 with its wide pedestal also fits best into that category. There seems to be no compelling reason, however, why Mercando’s “braziers” could not have been employed as oil lamps with floating wicks (Van de Moortel 1997: 211). A use as lamps would explain better why, unlike Mercando’s braziers, the Kommian vessels had their exterior as well their interior surfaces covered with a fine engobe and burnished to a hard sheen, so that their permeability to oil was much reduced. Je/27 with its rim diameter of more than 38 cm is slightly larger than the largest Phaistian lamps or braziers published by Mercando. It was burnt on the interior as well as on the rim exterior, a pattern that could have been caused by burning charcoal as well as by multiple uses of a floating wick. Jf/12 did not show any burning, but only differential use wear. Pedestal base X/22 was burnt on the interior as well as on the exterior.

Fireboxes (Pl. 3.12)

Only one example of a firebox was uncovered from the construction fills of Building AA (Ja/43). The interior of its capsule and bowl is fire-blackened, indicating that it was used. With its single large central hole and its well-smoothed surfaces this firebox is datable to the Protopalatial period. Fireboxes are nowhere very common on Crete. Despite the easily recognizable shape of fireboxes, only one other Protopalatial example (Betancourt 1990: 150 no. 1073, fig. 45, pl. 58) and three to four Neopalatial ones have been published from Kommos (Betancourt 1990: 170, 181 nos. 1562, 1826, figs. 58, 63; Watrous 1992: 4 no. 49; Van de Moortel 1997: 218). From Phaistos we have ten Protopalatial and three Neopalatial fireboxes (Levi and Carinci 1988: 262, pl. 113d–h; Levi 1976: pls. 37d, f, 159, 180b, 182d–f), from the Kamilari Tholos Tomb B we have seven Neopalatial examples, and from Aghia Triada we have nine (Georgiou 1986: 7–8; Halbherr, Stefani, and Banti 1977: 129–79; Van de Moortel 1997: 218, 293–94). Their function is in dispute. Chapouthier (1941: 8–10) believed that they were incense burners, whereas Georgiou (1986: 10) thinks that they were used in the manufacture of aromatics. Most Phaistian examples come from palatial or official contexts; the others do not have a stated provenance (see above). Ja/43 has an unusual clear brown fabric and is coated with a red slip. Its fabric most resembles that of vases from the Pediada region in north-central Crete (cf. Fa/1).

Stopers/Ceramic Tools/Gaming Pieces(?) (Pls. 3.12, 3.13)

As many as 17 pottery fragments from the AA construction fills and Group Z have deliberately been cut into a roughly circular or oval shape. The circular ones break down into stan-
Middle Minoan IA and Protopalatial Pottery

Standard sizes of ca. 2.5 cm (Dc/3, Bc/2, C 10726, C 11010, C 11561, C 11556), ca. 3.75 cm (Je/28, C 11529, C 11521, C 11664 [Group Z]), and 5 cm (Je/29 with handle stub, C 11265, C 11552, C 11680)—all multiples of 1.25 cm. The oval fragments are slightly larger and vary in size from 5.2 × 5.4 cm (Jh/2) to 5 × 6.5 cm (Jd/7) and 7 × 7.5 cm (Ja/44). None were made out of fine fabrics. Dc/3 was cut out of a medium-coarse red cooking pot base; Bc/2 and Je/28, of medium-coarse buff closed vases; Ja/44 of a coarse pithos; Jh/2 of the base of a pithos or basin; and Je/29 and Jd/7, of medium-coarse oval-mouthed amphoras, both overfired and including the handle stub. They cannot be dated more closely than the Protopalatial period, on the basis of their fabric preparation and surface finish. No such pieces have been reported from Phaistos.

The function of these circular and oval fragments is uncertain. Several have fractures rounded by wear (Bc/2, Je/28, Je/29, and Jh/2), which suggests that they underwent heavy rubbing. The lack of fine fabrics likewise indicates that they were intended for heavy use. Because of their sizes, it is possible that these fragments were used as stoppers on jugs and oval-mouthed amphoras. Their somewhat irregular shapes would not pose a problem. Ceramic stoppers need not have fit very tightly into the vessel mouth but may have been used merely to hold down wet clay or organic material (e.g., cloth, leaves) pressed into the vase opening. Alternatively one could suggest that these rounded fragments were gaming pieces or informal tokens. A function as official tokens is unlikely, since it would have been all too easy to forge them.

One of the possible stoppers (Jd/7) is distinctly more worn on one of its tapering edges and may have been used as a tool. Another fragment (E/2) was cut to resemble the shape of a stone scraper and shows chipping and heavy wear at its edges. Unlike the possible stoppers, E/2 has a fine fabric. It was made from an MM IB jug fragment decorated with barnacle barbotine fashioned from an even finer slurry. The fabric is reddish with quartz inclusions and may be East Cretan. In spite of its fine fabric, its shape and differential wear suggest that E/2 was used as a scraper. Recut pottery fragments such as this could be used for shaving, scraping, or polishing clay vases (cf. Rye 1981: 87; Rice 1987: 174).

Inscribed Vases (Pl. 3.17)

As many as 14 vase fragments from the AA construction fills bear impressed or incised designs. All were found in Location 10, in soundings below the East Wing of Building AA. Ten pieces come from Group Ja, and the others from Groups Je and Jf. They can be divided into two groups: those with marks on the exterior bottom and those with marks on the rim or upper body.

Three jars (Ja/46, Ja/47, Je/30), a pithos (Je/31), and a small basin (Ja/45), all made from local medium-coarse or coarse fabrics, have impressed and raised designs on the bottom that were applied before firing. All were incompletely oxidized during firing and may date to MM IB or MM IIA rather than later (see above). Designs consist of crosses, lozenges with
concave sides, concentric circles, or combinations thereof. It is likely that these patterns had been impressed into potters' turntables or bats and were transferred to the bottoms of vases as they were being formed. All the vases with raised and impressed designs on their bottoms were handmade; none were wheel-thrown. Pieces of actual bats impressed with closely related designs have been found in Protopalatial and MM III contexts at Phaistos (Levi 1976: pl. 228a–f). The designs of two Protopalatial Phaistian bat fragments are somewhat similar to that of pithos Je/31, except that they have two concentric circles instead of one. One of the Phaistian bats comes from below the slab floor of Room CVII and is datable to MM IIA (Levi 1976: 624, 853, pl. 228d), whereas the other was found among MM IIB Late destruction debris in Room IL of the Phaistian palace (Levi and Carinci 1988: 353; Levi 1976: pl. 228a). The size of their signs is not specified. Even though the Phaistian and Kommian signs are not identical in shape, they resemble each other closely enough to have carried the same meaning. A similar design, consisting of a cross in two concentric circles, has been found incised on a Period V potter's disk from Aghia Eirini, made from local reddish brown micaceous clay (Davis 1986: 54, Z-31, pl. 67; Georgiou 1986: 39 no. 157, pl. 19). Even though the Aghia Eirini sign is only half the size of the Kommian design, its close resemblance to the Phaistian and Kommian signs implies a shared symbolism.

Signs located on the bottoms of storage jars and a basin were obviously not intended to be seen when those vases were holding goods. They would have been visible only when the vases were tilted, and this would have been difficult when they were filled. If these marks indeed indicated ownership of a vase, one would expect them to have been applied on a more visible part of the vase, such as the shoulder, handle, or rim, so that they could have been seen at all times. Moreover, since the signs probably were integral parts of bats, the potter would have needed a different bat to make vases for each owner. This is quite unlikely. It is more plausible that the signs on the bottoms of the Kommian vases were maker's marks and not owner's marks. Such marks would have been useful if multiple potters fired their vases in a shared kiln, or if they wanted their wares to be recognized when distributed to consumers, whether to the general public or to an official authority. The “look-alike” signs found at Phaistos and Kommos may have referred to the same potter’s workshop. Even though they persisted at least during the MM IIA, MM IIB, and MM III phases, the marks are exceedingly rare at Kommos and Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: 297). It is unlikely that they represent a widespread system.

In contrast with this first group of inscribed vases, the second group, encompassing nine fragments, carries incised or impressed marks in highly visible places, such as at the top or exterior of the rim (Ja/48, Ja/51, Ja/52, Jf/13, Ja/53, Ja/54, Jf/14) or on the rim and upper body (Ja/49, Ja/50). (It is possible that other vases had signs on the upper body as well, but that because of their fragmentary condition these have not survived.) All nine vases are cooking pots of Betancourt’s Type B with slightly convex bodies of various shapes, with the possible
Table 3.32. Inscribed cooking vessels from the AA foundation fill: comparison of marks, marking practices, fabrics, and surface finishes (cf. Pl. 3.17, Tables 3.24 and 3.29, T-Space tables).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vase</th>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Time of Application</th>
<th>Fabric</th>
<th>Core</th>
<th>Surface Finish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ja/48</td>
<td>Cross</td>
<td>Rim</td>
<td>Incision</td>
<td>After firing</td>
<td>Coarse red; quartz, schist, mica</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>Red slip?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ja/49</td>
<td>Perpendicular grooves</td>
<td>Rim</td>
<td>Incision</td>
<td>Before firing</td>
<td>Coarse orange; mostly schist, mica</td>
<td>Redder</td>
<td>Interior buff slip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vertical groove</td>
<td>Upper body</td>
<td>Incision</td>
<td>Before firing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ja/50</td>
<td>Perpendicular grooves</td>
<td>Rim</td>
<td>Impression</td>
<td>Before firing</td>
<td>Medim-coarse gray-brown; schist, quartz, mica</td>
<td>Paler</td>
<td>No slip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vertical, slanted grooves</td>
<td>Upper body</td>
<td>Incision</td>
<td>After firing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ja/51</td>
<td>Perpendicular grooves</td>
<td>Rim</td>
<td>Impression</td>
<td>Before firing</td>
<td>Coarse red; mostly quartz</td>
<td>Grayer</td>
<td>Reddish brown slip?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ja/52</td>
<td>Perpendicular grooves</td>
<td>Rim</td>
<td>Impression</td>
<td>Before firing</td>
<td>Coarse red; schist, quartz</td>
<td>Redder</td>
<td>Rim buff slip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jf/13</td>
<td>Perpendicular grooves</td>
<td>Rim</td>
<td>Incision</td>
<td>Before firing</td>
<td>Coarse brown; mostly schist, quartz</td>
<td>Dark brown</td>
<td>White slip in and out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ja/53</td>
<td>Slanted grooves</td>
<td>Rim</td>
<td>Incision</td>
<td>Before firing</td>
<td>Coarse brown; schist, mica</td>
<td>Paler</td>
<td>No slip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ja/54</td>
<td>Slanted grooves</td>
<td>Rim</td>
<td>Incision</td>
<td>After firing</td>
<td>Coarse orange-brown; mostly schist</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td>Reddish brown slip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jf/14</td>
<td>Zigzag</td>
<td>Rim</td>
<td>Incision</td>
<td>Before firing</td>
<td>Coarse red; mostly schist</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td>No slip</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

exception of Ja/53, which may be a cooking jar. Most fragments were incompletely oxidized during firing, suggesting an MM IB or MM IIA rather than a later date.

Rim designs consist of groups of perpendicular grooves, slanted grooves, zigzags, and crosses (Table 3.32). The most popular designs on rims are perpendicular grooves, followed by slanted grooves. Upper body marks consist of vertical or vertical and slanted grooves; they are combined with perpendicular grooves on the rim (Ja/49, Ja/50). Marks were applied
by impression or incision, either before or after firing. No clear pattern can be observed in the application methods. Crosses were incised after firing (Ja/48), perpendicular grooves were impressed (Ja/50, Ja/51, Ja/52) or incised (Ja/49, Jf/13) before firing, slanted grooves were incised before (Ja/53) or after firing (Ja/54), and zigzag lines were incised before firing (Jf/14). The upper body mark on Ja/49 was incised before firing, as was its rim sign, whereas on Ja/50 the upper body mark was incised after firing, but the grooves on the rim were impressed before firing.

Vase fragments with identical crosses and perpendicular grooves were found at Phaistos; the vertical and slanted grooves of Ja/50 may be part of a double-ax sign such as those found on two Phaistian vases (Levi and Carinci 1988: pl. 13d; Levi 1976: pl. 227k–m, q). Like the Kommian signs, the Phaistian ones were applied on the rim and upper body. One of the Phaistian vases combines the double ax on the upper body with perpendicular grooves on the rim. Variants of the N sign incised on the upper body of vases from Phaistos may be incomplete double axes as well and likewise belong to this group (Levi and Carinci 1988: fig. 66; Levi 1976: pl. 227d, r). Signs on Phaistian vases are much more varied than those on Kommian vases, however, including some resembling Linear A hieroglyphic signs, all apparently incised after firing (Levi and Carinci 1988: 297). The vase types to which most of the incised Phaistian fragments belong are not specified, but to judge from rim and handle shape, many may be cooking pots or cooking jars. One is a fragmentary vat from the Grande Frana; it carries six perpendicular grooves on its rim (Levi and Carinci 1988: pl. 13d). Extremely few of the Phaistian fragments have been dated, but a cooking jar inscribed with an N sign comes from an MM IB context in Aghia Photini (Levi and Carinci 1988: 297, fig. 66), and another fragment incised with an X was found among MM IIB Late destruction debris in Room LXXXV of a house west of the West Court. Thus the practice of inscribing persisted throughout the Protopalatial period (Levi 1976: pl. 227q). Few of the signed Phaistian fragments have been found inside the palace (Levi 1976: pl. 227b, p). Most come from the Grande Frana (Levi 1976: pl. 227a, f, k, l, o, s) or the settlement (Levi and Carinci 1988: fig. 66; Levi 1976: pl. 227d, e, i, m, r).

The nine inscribed cooking vessels from Kommos are medium or large, with rim diameters exceeding 18 cm and 30 cm, respectively. No small cooking pots from Kommos have such signs (e.g., Ba/9). The sizes of the Phaistian vases are not given. These cooking pot marks are likely to have had a different function from those of the first group discussed above. They are different in shape and in mode and timing of application, as well as their location on the vessel. Moreover, the parent vessels as a rule had entirely different functions. At least the upper body sign on one vase (Ja/50) cannot have been a maker’s mark, since it clearly was incised after the pot had been burnt from use. It cuts through the blackened surface and has a red interior (5YR 6/6). The other cooking pot signs also are unlikely to have been maker’s marks, because the same signs occur on vases that have different fabrics, shapes, and surface
finishes, and that probably were made at different production centers (Table 3.32; e.g., Ja/49, Ja/50, Ja/51, Ja/52, Jf/13). The interpretation that the signs on cooking pots are symbols of volume can be ruled out even more firmly, since the same marks occur on cooking vases of very different sizes.

Because of their strikingly high visibility to the users, in contrast with the bottom marks of the jars and basin of the first group, it is proposed here that these signs on rims and upper bodies of cooking vessels are marks of ownership. If this interpretation is correct, the multiplicity of designs would rule out the possibility that they all refer to a single official authority residing at Kommos or Phaistos. Rather, the marks may indicate private ownership. The different modes and times of application of the signs suggest an informal system of marking, which perhaps also accords better with private owners. It is conceivable, for instance, that signs incised after firing were applied as pots changed owners. Those made before firing may have been ordered by the owners from the potters (Ja/49, Ja/50, Ja/51, Ja/52, Jf/13, Ja/53, Jf/14), in which case it is likely that the various production centers of cooking pots were located not too far from the Phaistian or Kommian consumers. Like the vases with bottom designs, inscribed cooking vessels may have been marked for use in communal situations in which they would have been mixed up with vases of other owners. Possible occasions would have been the sharing of a food oven or the organization of communal feasts to which the owners contributed cooking vessels with food or drink. The presence of double-ax signs on some vases from Phaistos and possibly Kommos may indicate that sometimes an official authority was involved. The presence of the Linear A and hieroglyphic signs on Phaistian fragments cannot be explained without further study.

It is remarkable that the Kommian inscribed cooking vessels as a group show much less evidence for use than the other cooking vases from the AA construction fills at Kommos. Whereas the overwhelming majority of those have traces of burning as a result of use, only three out of the nine inscribed cooking vessels have evidence of burning (Ja/50, Ja/52, Jf/14). Four others show differential use wear (Ja/48, Ja/49, Jf/13, Ja/53), but two (Ja/52, Ja/54) have seen little or no use. Their relatively low degree of use is perhaps related to their larger-than-average size, or perhaps these inscribed vases were used only for special occasions, such as communal meals.

Further study of the distribution of those signs at Kommos and Phaistos is needed to come to a better understanding of their meaning. For instance, it is not clear at this time what percentage of medium and large Type B cooking pots of the AA construction fills the inscribed vases represent. Of Group Ja nearly all the medium and large Type B cooking vessels carry signs, but we do not know how many uninscribed examples there are in the other groups (Table 3.30). No inscribed cooking pots have been reported outside the foundation fills of Building AA, but this may be because very few remains of the MM IIA and MM IIB periods have thus far been uncovered in other areas on the site. If it can be shown that the
occurrence of inscribed vase fragments is indeed limited to the foundations of the East Wing of Building AA, it could be suggested that these cooking vessels had been in use nearby and were related to the hypothetical predecessor of that building.

**Final Protopalatial Period: Middle Minoan IIB Late**

Stratified between the MM IA–IIB Early construction fills of Building AA and the MM III floors of Neopalatial Building T were some remnants of earthen and slab floors on top of which 39 mendable vases and a number of fragments were found. These ostensibly represent the remains of vases used in Building AA. They show close correspondences with the pottery from the final Protopalatial destruction deposits from Phaistos and can be dated to the Late stage of the MM IIB ceramic phase (Groups K–O; C/1; C 3352; C 9785; Pls. 3.3, 3.10, 3.13–3.17, 3.19, 3.20; Tables 3.33–3.36). This MM IIB Late pottery from Building AA is lightly to heavily worn. The large majority of mendable vases also show differential use wear. Their mendability, homogeneous date, and stratigraphic position leave little doubt that they belong to the inventory of Building AA. However, most vases were not found in situ but appear to have been redeposited during the construction of Building T, the Neopalatial successor of Building AA.

A large group of 23 vases comes from a partially excavated context located in the sottoscala space below staircase 46, in the southernmost wing of Building T (Group L; Location 12; see Chap. 1.1). The mendable MM IIB Late vases of Group L were found in a 20–30 cm thick stratum that continued below the south wall of Gallery 6 of LM IIIA2–B Building P. Excavation was halted before the deposit was completely excavated for fear that the wall of Building P would collapse. Thus we do not know for certain how the stratum of Group L related to the south wall of Building T or to the southernmost foundation wall of Building AA, but its elevation is about 10 cm lower than the projected top of the AA wall, and it probably runs into that wall. Pottery Group L was found in the sottoscala of staircase 46 of Building T. It covered in part a slab floor that continued under the north wall of the Neopalatial staircase and must predate Building T. This slab floor abuts a north-south spur wall to the west and a possible east-west wall to the northeast that ran along the north wall of staircase 46. Excavation was stopped at the slab floor, and we do not have the pottery from underneath to date its construction; however, the elevation of floor and walls and their stratigraphic relationship to the walls of Building T are such that they probably represent some of the few extant architectural remains of Building AA’s superstructure. The slab floor stops about 30 cm short of the presumed south wall of Building AA. The pavement edge is irregular and was presumably cut into by the foundation trench for the south wall of Building T. Most vases of Group L were found in the southeast part of the sottoscala. They were lying partially on the slab pavement but continued beyond it to the south. Thus Group L cannot represent a floor deposit in situ. Since it displays the high mendability and homogeneity of a floor deposit, it
is most likely a floor deposit of Building AA that was redeposited here as a primary fill during the construction of staircase 46 of Building T. Group L was covered by a mass of mostly unmendable and very worn broken pottery fragments of MM IIB (e.g., L/1) and MM III date. To the west of the spur wall, below the lobby of staircase 46, was a mixed MM IIB–III construction fill that contained mendable teacup C 9785, datable by its shape and decoration to the MM IIB Late subphase (Pl. 3.17A). 

Farther to the west was the South Stoa of Building AA. On its earthen floor, stratified over the construction fill of Group I, was a small group of three mendable vases, including a cooking pot that was partially restored from 117 pieces (Group K; Location 9). The two other vases, Type D conical cup K/1 and deep globular bowl K/2, are datable on stylistic grounds to the MM IIB Late subphase. Because of its high mendability and MM IIB Late date, Group K is likely to represent use pottery of Building AA. It may have been deposited there during the destruction of Building AA or somewhat earlier, as a fill during the construction of the stone-lined pit just to its south. This pit itself, located against the south wall of the stoa, was found filled with eight mendable vases datable to MM IIB Late and a number of fragments mostly of MM IIB and MM III date (Group M; Location 9). The function of this stone-lined pit is not entirely clear, but it may well have been a drain (Chap. 1.1).

A fourth group of mendable MM IIB Late vases was discovered on top of the slab floor of Room 5A of Building T (Group O). It consists of a conical cup, a bowl, a Type B cooking pot made up of 40–50 fragments, and five large fresh fragments of a jar or pithos. This pottery was covered by the MM III–LM IA Early east wall of the room set on top of the slab floor. The presence of mendable MM IIB Late pottery on top of the floor of Room 5A, believed to be of Neopalatial construction, is puzzling, and suggests that the deposit is secondary. It may represent a floor deposit of Building AA disturbed during later remodeling operations and moved to this location; however, in view of the pottery’s high degree of mendability, one should also consider the possibility that the slab floor of Room 5A is Protopalatial in date, and that this group represents the remains of a true floor deposit. Only further excavation below the floor of Room 5A can resolve this issue.

In the East Wing of Building AA, stratified on top of an MM IA–IIB Early construction fill (Group Je) and below the west end of Room 28 of Neopalatial Building T was a small fill of unmendable ceramic fragments mixed with stones and pieces of wall plaster that were painted red or decorated with a sponge pattern (Group N; Location 10). This stratum was sealed by the plaster floor of Building T and may be destruction debris of Building AA left behind when T was constructed. The pottery of Group N is predominantly MM IIB in date and is later in character than the underlying construction fill. It is also more mendable, even though no profiles could be restored.

At the west end of the same Room 28 of Building T, a sounding below the plaster floor uncovered a 35-cm-thick stratum of black burnt earth that reached bedrock at +2.73 m and
was almost devoid of pottery fragments. Embedded in this black earth was deep globular bowl C 3352, dated by style to the MM IIB Late subphase. Thus the burnt stratum must postdate the AA construction fills. It is likely to represent destruction debris of Building AA.

Finally, an intact Type J conical cup (C/1) of MM IIB Late style was found in the northwest part of the central court of Building AA (Location 3; below Space 9 of LM IIIA2–B Building N; see Chap. 1.1). It was found upside down between two upright stone slabs that had been set at an angle near the east end of an oval slab pavement of unknown function. The area was covered by the pebbles of Building T’s central court. Conical cup C/1 was excavated together with the underlying AA construction fill (Group C; see above) but must be distinct from it because of its intact and fresh condition. It shows differential use wear at the rim. Being narrowly datable by style within the MM IIB Late subphase, C/1 must have been in use during the lifetime of Building AA. Its function is uncertain. Because of its location and upside-down position between stone slabs, it may have been deposited during some kind of ritual. The earth found within the cup did not contain visible traces of previous contents but has been saved for future analysis.

**Group K**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>MM IIB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total sherds:</strong></td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Weight (grams):</strong></td>
<td>1,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trench/pail(s):</strong></td>
<td>93C/115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cross joins:</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Architectural/physical context:</strong></td>
<td>Fill or floor deposit outside the stone-lined pit in the southeast part of the South Stoa, from +2.72 to +2.70/2.67 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thickness of constituent strata:</strong></td>
<td>2–5 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group and/or date of stratum below:</strong></td>
<td>Group I (MM II)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group and/or date of stratum above:</strong></td>
<td>MM IIB fill (93C/113 and part of 34)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 3.33. Pottery Group K.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
<th>Medium-Coarse Fabrics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sherds</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of sherds (grams)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Middle Minoan IA and Protopalatial Pottery

**K/1 (C 10846).** Conical cup, Kommos Type D. Pl. 3.13.
Wheel-thrown. Spiraling string marks on base indicate that wheel was still in motion when cup was cut from the hump.

MM IIB. Comparanda as for Ba/2 and Je/2. Cf. O/1.

**K/2 (C 10847).** Deep bowl or globular pyxis. Pl. 3.13.
Coarse body with fine rim. Inclusions small and evenly distributed, apparently as a result of careful sieving and mixing. Coil-built and drawn. Finger impressions on interior. Wheel ridges on exterior from smoothing on turntable or wheel. Two shades of red used. Most of decoration illegible. Baggy shape corresponds more to that of MM IIB globular pyxis than to deep bowl.

MM IIB. Comparanda as for C 3352. Cf. L/16 for the use of a fine rim coil on a polychrome-painted MM IIB Late pitharaki.

**K/3 (C 10265).** Cooking pot, Type A, medium. Pl. 3.13.


### Group L

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>MM IIB, MM III</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total sherds:</strong></td>
<td>1,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Weight (grams):</strong></td>
<td>27,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trench/pail(s):</strong></td>
<td>90A/71, 72; 93C/117, 118, 121, 121a, 122, 124, 125, 126; 97D/17, 18 with joins in 90A/66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cross joins:</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Architectural/physical context:</strong></td>
<td>J. W. Shaw, Chap. 1.1; redeposited MM IIB floor deposit, part of MM IIB–III construction fill below staircase 46 of T, from +2.95 to +2.78/2.73 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thickness of constituent strata:</strong></td>
<td>17–22 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group and/or date of stratum below:</strong></td>
<td>Unexcavated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group and/or date of stratum above:</strong></td>
<td>LM I fill (90A/66)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.34. Pottery Group L.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
<th>Medium-Coarse Fabrics</th>
<th>Cooking and Lamp Fabrics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
<td>Conical Cups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of sherds</strong></td>
<td>185</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>As % of total</strong></td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Weight of sherds (grams)</strong></td>
<td>680</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>As % of total</strong></td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**L/1 (C 10664).** Conical cup, Kommos Type A. Pl. 3.13.
Wheel-thrown. Projecting rim indicates date in MM IIB Late rather than Early.

MM IIB Late. Betancourt 1990: 89, 152 nos. 333–35, 1134, fig. 48, pl. 17; Van de Moortel 1997:
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35, fig. 5 (Kommos). Fiandra 1973: pl. 34q–s; Levi and Carinci 1988: 244, pl. 102v, w, z, a' (MM IIB Early and Late Phaistos).

L/2 (C 10658). Conical cup, Kommos Type A. Pl. 3.13.

Medium-fine fabric overfired to a greenish shade. Wheel-thrown, with rudimentary surface finish.


L/3 (C 9919). Conical Cup, Kommos Type C. Pl. 3.13.

Medium-fine fabric overfired to a greenish shade. Wheel-thrown. Regular contour but thick base. Spiralling string mark on base indicates it was cut from a wheel in motion. Rudimentary surface finish. Finger impressions at base.


L/4 (C 10267). Conical cup, Kommos Type C. Pl. 3.13.

Medium-fine fabric. Wheel-thrown with a lot of water, resulting in lumpy surfaces. Spiralling string mark on base indicates it was cut from a wheel in motion. Base cracked open during firing; unsuitable for holding liquids.

MM III. Comparanda as for L/3.

L/5 (C 10659). Teacup. Pl. 3.13.

Shaping techniques cannot be determined, but interior was wheel-finished before impressed decoration. Eggshell-thin wall (1.3 mm) with impressed ribs and groove lending the cup a metallic appearance. Vertical strap handle tapers towards upper attachment. Illegible traces of white and red polychromy. Well-smoothed exterior has metallic sheen. Highest-quality "Kamares” style.


L/6 (C 9920). Carinated cup. Pl. 3.13.

Fabric less fine and surface less carefully finished than usual for Protopalatial fine utilitarian pottery. Wheel-thrown, with lot of water. Spiralling string mark on base indicates it was cut from a wheel in motion. String cut left excess clay on one side of base. Base lightly cracked during firing but can still hold liquids.

MM IIB surface finish. Unusually high carination resembles that of earlier Protopalatial carinated cups in the western Mesara, but is also seen on unpainted carinated cups from a mostly MM IIB Late stratum at Phaistos. Fiandra 1973: pl. 34n (MM IIB Phaistos); Levi and Carinci 1988: 214–15, pl. 90l (MM IIB Early Phaistos); La Rosa 1998–2000: 50, fig. 46 (MM IIB Late Phaistos). Cf. Popham 1974: fig. 6, P. 12, P. 17, P. 18; MacGillivray 1998: 82, 84, fig. 2.21.4 (MM IIB Knossos).

L/7 (C 10667). Straight-sided cup. Pl. 3.13.

Wheel-thrown. Shape regular, wall of even thickness. Surface heavily worn. Careful exterior finish, including exterior bottom: MM IIB Late rather than MM III. No trace of pattern-painted decoration.


L/8 (C 9885). Straight-sided cup. Pl. 3.13.

Wheel-thrown. Shape regular, wall of even thickness. Spiralling string mark on base indicates it was cut from a wheel in motion. Careless surface finish, uneven bottom. Strap handle slanted and slightly twisted to the left of the viewer: typical for MM IIB–LM IB Kommian cups. No trace of pattern-painted decoration.

MM IIB Late–MM III. Comparanda as for L/7.
Middle Minoan IA and Protopalatial Pottery

Wheel-thrown. Shape regular, wall of even thickness. Diagonal stretch marks on lower body indicate that wheel turned counterclockwise. Spiraling string mark on base indicates it was cut from a wheel in motion. Careless surface finish. Possible traces of white-painted decoration.

MM IIB Late–MM III. Comparanda as for L/7 but base edge not beveled.

L/10 (C 9896). Flaring bowl, deep, medium. Pl. 3.13.
Probably coil-built and wheel-finished, remnant of MM IB–IIA Early manufacturing technique. Rim uneven, diameter not certain. Traces of white-painted decoration on interior, presumably horizontal bands. Interior fire-darkened; exterior few dark spots: used as a lamp?


Wheel-thrown, base trimmed. Ordinary surface finish as on conical cups, unpainted. Exterior lower body covered with fine slip, thickening toward base and partially folded over base edge. Burnt rim: used as a lamp.


L/12 (C 9895). Flaring bowl, shallow, medium. Pl. 3.13.
Wheel-thrown. Ordinary surface finish as on conical cups, unpainted. Uneven rim. Spiraling string mark on base indicates it was cut from a wheel in motion. Two patches of burning on interior upper body and near base: used as a lamp.

MM IIB Late. Comparanda as for L/11.

L/13 (C 9887). Bridge-spouted jar, large. Pl. 3.14.
Coil-built, leaving slight finger impressions on body interior. Body more globular than in MM III. Slanted coil handles, more upright than on large MM IB or MM IIA bridge-spouted jars, more slanted than on MM III examples from the western Mesara (Van de Moortel 1997: 141, 363, fig. 37, C 9187). Large white spiral covering mid- and upper body, bordered below by a band.


MM IIB. Comparanda as for L/13.

Medium-coarse body with coarse neck and handle. Coil-built, possibly wheel-smoothed, then flattened into lentoid shape. Vertical finger impressions on interior body from joining of coils. Three pointed lugs below and at either side of spout. Illegible white traces on neck and handle.


L/16 (C 10266). Pithoid jar, piriform, pedestal, medium. Pl. 3.14.
Holes in the rim probably for the insertion of flower appliqués. Body and large handles are medium fine, whereas rim, small handles, and remnants of appliqués at rim are made of fine fabrics. Use of fine clay enabled potter to give rim sharp metallic edges. Lower body and foot missing.

MM IIB. A complete example with rows of running and interlinked spirals (cf. FM 46), pedestaled base and flower appliqués inserted into holes in the rim was found in an MM IIB context at Aghia Triada: AR 1994: 72–73, fig. 63. Marinatos 1930–31: pls. 23–24 (Voroi, Tholos Tomb A).

L/17 (C 10660). Bucket jar, large. Pl. 3.15.
Wheel-thrown base and lower body, leaving spiral marks. Rest of body coil-built. At least one horizontal and four vertical handles. Rim opposite handle slightly pulled, possibly intentional to facilitate pouring.


L/18 (C 10663). Cooking pot, Type B, large. Pl. 3.15.
Coarse noncalcareous brown to gray body and legs, with somewhat darker core. Coil-built and wheel-finished (wheel marks at rim). No spout or handles preserved. Bottom scored for attachment of leg. Oval impressions at leg attachment are decorative but also aided the making of the join and counteracted cracking during firing. Interior reddish yellow slip. Hard fired. Exterior has grayish cast from exposure to fire.


L/19 (C 9889). Cooking pot, Type B, large. Pl. 3.15.
Medium-fine noncalcareous reddish yellow body, completely oxidized, with coarse legs. Coil-built. Rim warped, diameter varying from 26 to 34 cm, averaging roughly the same as L/18. Circumference warped. Spout pulled from the rim. Possible traces of pink slip on interior. Hard fired. Exterior and rim interior burnt.


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L/20 (C 10771). Cooking pot, Type B, large. Pl. 3.15.
Medium-coarse noncalcareous red fabric, completely oxidized. Coil-built. Pot presumably had spout pulled from the rim and two horizontal handles on either side. Leg scored for attachment to bottom. Medium-coarse layer added to lower body and base, its surface deliberately left rough, perhaps to facilitate heat conduction (Schiffer 1990). Hard fired.


L/21 (C 10665). Cooking pot, Type B, large. Pl. 3.15.
Medium-fine noncalcareous light red body, with dark gray core, incompletely oxidized. Medium-coarse rim and handles. Coarse buff clay layer added to exterior when wet, possibly covering entire area between handles; deliberately roughened, perhaps to facilitate heat conduction (Schiffer 1990).


L/22 (C 9884). Portable conical lamp, small. Pl. 3.15.
Medium-fine reddish yellow fabric with slightly yellower core, completely oxidized. Body possibly wheel-thrown. Rim attached as a separate coil. Attachment of stick handle preserved. Wheel-finished. Slightly concentric, not spiraling, string mark on base indicates it was cut from a slowly revolving wheel. String cutting mistake above base left as a gash. Hard fired.

MM IIB Late. No comparanda published from Kommos. Mercando 1974–75: 82–90, esp. nos. 3, 18–19, figs. 72.3, 81, 134.2; Speziale 1993: pl. II.3; La Rosa 1998–2000: 50, fig. 43 (MM IIB Late Phaistos). Closely related, but not identical, is a MM IB lamp type from Knossos: Popham 1974: 189, fig. 8.9, pl. 32h; MacGillivray 1998: 86–87, Type 2, fig. 2.24.2, e.g., 150 nos. 596–600, pl. 98 (West Polychrome deposits), and 163 no. 887 from the Loomweight Basement; pl. 14j and PM II: fig. 176h from the House of the Sacrificed Oxen (South Polychrome deposits). Cf. M/6.

L/23 (C 10217). Pedestaled lamp, medium. Pl. 3.15.
Medium-coarse noncalcareous reddish yellow
body with red core, completely oxidized. Manufacturing technique cannot be determined. Interior and exterior surfaces badly eroded and exfoliated, apparently by water. Preserved parts of surfaces and rim do not show use wear. Erosion pattern suggests that lamp had pedestaled base. Hard fired.


L/24 (C 9890). Pedestaled lamp, large. Pl. 3.16.


L/25 (C 9893). Slab or box. Pl. 3.16.

Handmade, of uneven thickness. Rim attached as a separate coil. Possibly spout attached to rim. Illegible traces of dark paint on both sides, as well as on rim and possible spout.


L/26 (C 10666). Conical bowl, medium. Pl. 3.20.

Medium-coarse reddish yellow fabric with light reddish brown core, incompletely oxidized. Many angular schist inclusions. Wheel-thrown. Interior wet-smoothed, exterior smoothed. Interior and possibly exterior pink slipped. Spiraling string mark on base indicates it was cut from a wheel in motion turning counterclockwise. Used as a lamp.

MM IIB Late context. Provenance uncertain: East Crete (Malia)? Needs confirmation by scientific analysis.

L/27 (C 10661). Lentoid flask, large. Pl. 3.20.

Medium-coarse fabric with reddish yellow exterior, light brownish gray to light gray core, and light reddish brown (“pink”) interior. Lentoid body made of two joining bowls, each coil-built and drawn. Body asymmetrical in section, one bowl being more convex than the other. Bottom of flatter bowl (d 14.6 cm) may have been cut out temporarily during vessel formation to allow passage of hand joining the two bowls (cf. Davis 1986: 82). Interior surface roughly scored at juncture of bowls, presumably by tool used to press the joining parts together. Preserved handle coarser than body. Exterior smoothed, monochrome red to reddish brown coated. Fabric, shape, and strong push-through handle not local.


Group M

**Date:**

**Total sherds:**

**Weight (grams):**

4,215

**Trench/pail(s):**

93C/114, 116

**Cross joins:**

**Architectural/physical context:**

J. W. Shaw, Chap. 1.1; fill of stone-lined pit in southeast part of South Stoa, from +2.74 to +2.215 m

**Thickness of constituent strata:**

59 cm

**Group and/or date of stratum below:**

Unexcavated

**Group and/or date of stratum above:**

MM III fill (93C/34)
Table 3.35. Pottery Group M.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
<th>Medium-Coarse Fabrics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sherds</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of sherds (grams)</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

M/1 (C 10232). Straight-sided cup. Pl. 3.16.
Wheel-thrown. Thin and even-walled. Diagonal stretch marks on interior and exterior indicate that wheel ran counterclockwise. Spiraling string mark on base indicates it was cut from a wheel in motion. Rim warped, pushed in by attachment of handle. Vertical strap handle, slightly slanted.
MM IIB Late–MM III. Comparanda as for L/7.

M/2 (C 10236). Straight-sided cup. Pl. 3.16.
Wheel-thrown. Thin and even-walled. Rim warped, pushed in by attachment of handle. Base too eroded to show string marks.
MM IIB Late–MM III. Comparanda as for L/7.

M/3 (C 10238). Conical basin, medium. Pl. 3.16.
Coil-built and wheel-finished. Even wall thickness, regular shape, but warped rim. Ordinary finish.

M/4 (C 10235). Milk jug, simple spouted. Pl. 3.16.
Wheel-thrown. Wheel ridges indicate that wheel turned counterclockwise. Spiraling string mark on base indicates it was cut from a wheel in motion. Spout pulled from rim. Ordinary finish.

M/5 (C 10239). Convex lid. Pl. 3.16.
Manufacturing technique cannot be determined. Waster, but only slightly deformed. Warped rim. Handle not preserved.

M/6 (C 10233). Portable conical lamp, small. Pl. 3.16.
Medium-fine body, completely oxidized. Body wheel-thrown. Rim attached as a separate coil and wheel-finished. Concentric string mark on base indicates it was cut from a slowly revolving wheel. Cut at an angle, clay dragged over edge, and not smoothed. Handle not preserved. No trace of fire.
MM IIB Late. Comparanda as for L/22.

M/7 (C 10234). Portable conical brazier, large. Pl. 3.16.
Medium-coarse fabric, completely oxidized. Clay “folded over” base edge. Left side of handle (seen from rear) trimmed to a straight edge. Rear indentation of rim repaired with clay patch. No trace of fire.

M/8 (C 10237). Cooking pot, Type B. Pl. 3.19.
Medium-fine fabric with yellowish red exte-
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rior, light red to dark gray interior; incompletely oxidized. Coil-built and drawn. Vertical finger impressions on interior. Interior incompletely smoothed. Exterior smoothed; covered by coarse very pale brown engobe with rough surface, presumably to facilitate heat dispersion (Schiffer 1990); cf. L/20, L/21.

**Group N**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Little MM IB, mostly MM IIB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total sherds:</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (grams):</td>
<td>1,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trench/pail(s):</td>
<td>86D/47 and part of Pail 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross joins:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architectural/physical context:</td>
<td>J. W. Shaw, Chap. 1.1; dump or fill on top of compartment fill below east end of T Room 28, from +3.36 to +3.26/3.23 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thickness of constituent strata:</td>
<td>10–13 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group and/or date of stratum below:</td>
<td>Group Je (Early MM IIB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group and/or date of stratum above:</td>
<td>Neopalatial plaster floor of T (86D/45)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.36. Pottery Group N.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fine Fabrics</th>
<th>Medium-Coarse Fabrics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conical Cups</td>
<td>Painted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unpainted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cooking Fabrics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**N/1 (C 11571).** Closed vessel. Pl. 3.19.

Medium-coarse reddish yellow fabric with angular schist inclusions, completely oxidized. Manufacturing technique cannot be determined. Interior and exterior well smoothed; exterior very pale brown slip; red horizontal and curvilinear bands. Exterior possibly polished. MM IIB Late context. East Cretan fabric.

**Group O**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Some MM IB, mostly MM IIB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total sherds:</td>
<td>Ca. 90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (grams):</td>
<td>4,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trench/pail(s):</td>
<td>36A/25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cross joins:
Architectural/physical context:

Thickness of constituent strata:
Group and/or date of stratum below:
Group and/or date of stratum above:

O/1 (C3458). Conical cup, Kommos Type D. Pl. 3.17A.
Wheel-thrown. Differential wear: ca. 5 cm of rim very worn and chipped, presumably from use.
MM II.B. Comparanda as for Ba/2 and Je/2. Cf. K/1.

O/2 (C3459). Convex-sided bowl, large. Pl. 3.17A.

Ungrouped Vases
C 3352. Deep bowl or globular pyxis. Pl. 3.10.
From burnt black stratum below west end of T Room 28 (36B/31), from +3.10/3.08 to +2.73 m.
Possibly wheel-thrown. Traces of polychrome decoration on exterior. Reddish rim band is orange rather than red.
MM II.B. Closely corresponds in shape and decoration to deep bowls from the final MM II.B destruction horizon at Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: 174–75, pl. 78d–i; Levi 1976: pls. 120–21) but also to a somewhat larger globular pyxis from Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: 159, pl. 70c, Levi 1976: fig. 941). A similar deep bowl was found in an MM III context at Kommos but must be an heirloom (Betancourt 1990: 98 no. 471, fig. 24). An MM II.B Late globular pyxis from Phaistos is more baggy in shape and has a rolled-out rim (Levi and Carinci 1988: 159, pl. 70b; Levi 1976: pl. 138b). Cf. K/2.

C 9785. Teacup. Pl. 3.17A.
From MM II.B–III construction fill below lobby of T staircase 46 (90A/50).
Wheel-thrown. Exterior well smoothed, but fingerprints on and around handle; interior less carefully smoothed, showing faint wheel marks. At Phaistos, teacups with wavy-line patterns are of a similar quality but somewhat less carefully finished than the highest-quality class (Levi and Carinci 1988: 191; Van de Moortel 1997: 311–12). Cf. FM 53.

DESTRUCTION DATE OF BUILDING AA

The mendable vases of Groups K, L, M, and O represent only a tiny part of the material that must have been used in Building AA. Nevertheless, their presence indicates that this monumental structure came to a violent end. The remainder of the inventory of Building AA must have been removed when its walls and most of its floors were removed to make way for Building T (see Chap. 1.1). There is no good evidence for a general destruction by fire. The only location where evidence of burning was found is the thick stratum of black earth below the west end of Building T’s Room 28, dated to the MM IIB Late subphase by the presence of deep globular bowl C 3352 (see above, “Ungrouped Vases”).

The actual destruction date of Building AA is somewhat ambiguous, as the pottery evidence supports a date either at the end of the MM IIB Late subphase or at the very beginning of the MM III phase. The stratigraphic position of the mendable vases (Groups K–M, O) and fragments (Group N), situated directly or indirectly above the MM IA–IIB Early construction fills of Building AA, as well as the homogeneous MM IIB Late character of nearly all would suggest that the destruction of Building AA took place in the MM IIB Late subphase, contemporaneous in ceramic terms with the end of the Protopalatial residential phase on the Central Hillside at Kommos and the final, violent destruction of the first palaces and settlements at Phaistos, Knossos, and Malia (Wright 1996; Betancourt 1990; Carinci and La Rosa 2001; MacGillivray 1998; Poursat 1988: 74–75; Pelon 1982: 180–83).

However, together with the 23 mendable MM IIB Late vases of the sottoscala fill (Group L) were three conical cups of undisputable MM III date (L/2, L/3, L/4; Pl. 3.13). Each was mended from three or four fragments and is lightly to moderately worn. Whereas cup L/2 preserves only its profile, L/3 and L/4 are largely complete. In addition, the straight-sided cups from Group L (L/7, L/8, L/9) and Group M (M/1, M/2) are of a type that occurs in both the MM IIB Late and MM III phases. In the absence of mendable MM IIB Late conical cups in Group L, one could argue that the three mendable MM III conical cups are in fact part of the displaced floor deposit of Building AA, and that Building AA was destroyed at the very beginning of the MM III phase, when the pottery in use was still largely MM IIB Late in style but conical cups were already being produced in the new, careless fashion typical of MM III. That conical cups would have been among the first vessel types to change should not cause surprise in view of their popularity and their high discard rates, as shown by their abundance in Minoan floor deposits and in dumps and fills, respectively, where they routinely represent between one-sixth and one-third of the assemblage. If one includes the MM III conical cups L/2, L/3, and L/4 with the AA floor deposit of Group L, one must consider that the destruction of Building AA may have taken place slightly later than the final
Protopalatial destructions at Phaistos and elsewhere. The destruction would still have occurred well before the MM III destruction horizon identified on the Central Hillside and in Building T at Kommos, which is both stratigraphically and stylistically later (see below).

In spite of their mendable condition, however, one could consider the mendable MM III conical cups of Group L to be part not of the AA floor deposit but of the MM IIB–III sherd fill that was deposited with it during the construction of Building T’s staircase 46. Since MM III conical cups are thick walled and sturdily built, one could argue that they tended to survive better than MM IIB and other MM III vase types. In this interpretation, the date of AA’s demise is maintained at the end of the MM IIB phase. This date is to be preferred if it can be proved that Building AA was destroyed by the same violent earthquake that destroyed Phaistos at the end of the MM IIB Late subphase. The evidence for such earthquake is at present not entirely convincing (La Rosa 1995).

**FUNCTION OF BUILDING AA**

The assemblage of 39 mendable MM IIB Late vases and possibly 3 MM III vases believed to have been used in Building AA is admittedly small. However, it shows some striking characteristics that do not accord with those of normal household assemblages and suggests that public ceremonies or rituals took place in this monumental building.

A glance at the composition of pottery Groups K, L, and O shows an interesting repetition of shapes (Table 3.37).

Small groups K and O, even though found far apart in the South Stoa and the northwest part of Building AA, respectively, are similar in composition. Both consist of a single conical cup, a medium or large bowl, and a fairly large cooking pot. They lack normal household shapes such as pouring or storage vessels. This repetition of shapes is noteworthy, but the disturbed and possibly incomplete nature of these two small groups does not allow us to attach much weight to it when considering those groups by themselves. What is remarkable, however, is that the composition of Groups K and O is repeated in Group L of the sottoscala deposit. In fact, Group L can be considered to be an amplification of Groups K and O, since it includes at least one conical cup (L/1, and possibly L/2, L/3, L/4), four medium bowls,
including one with a nonlocal fabric (L/10, L/11, L/12, L/26), and four medium and large cooking pots (L/18, L/19, L/20, L/21). In addition it has a high-quality teacup (L/5) with egg-shell-thin walls, a utilitarian carinated cup (L/6), three straight-sided cups (L/7, L/8, L/9), two large bridge-spouted jars (L/13, L/14), a large lentoid jug (L/15) and flask (L/27), a highly decorated pithoid jar (L/16), a medium bucket jar (L/17), a small handheld lamp (L/22), medium (L/23) and large (L/24) stationary lamps, and a fragment of a slab or box (L/25) of unknown purpose.

The composition of the pottery from Group L is peculiar and quite different from that of a normal MM IIB Late or MM III household assemblage (cf. Speziale 2001; Wright 1996). Unusual are the absence of small or medium pouring vessels, the relative scarcity of cups (5–8), and the abundance of large pouring vessels (4), cooking pots (4), and lamps (7). In addition to the three specialized lamp shapes, all four bowls from Group L have been used as lamps as well, as is indicated by their burning patterns. The pottery vessels of Group L were found together with fragments of plaster tables (catalogued as PT10, PT11, PT12, PT14, PT15, PT16; M. C. Shaw, Chap. 4.5), fragments of a quadruped and a bull figurine (Sc9, Sc10) (Chap. 4.6), and a fragment of a ceramic slab or box (L/25). It is argued here that this entire assemblage is specialized, and may be ritual or ceremonial in character.

This interpretation is further supported by the presence of three rare vase types, which seem to have had special significance. These are pedestaled pithoid jar L/16, lentoid jug L/15, and lentoid flask L/27. Pithoid jar L/16 (Pl. 3.14) was carefully manufactured with a combination of fine and medium-fine fabrics and intricately decorated with white-painted spiral patterns on a black ground (cf. FM 46) and now-vanished plastic appliqué inserted into holes in the rim. A similar jar with piriform body, preserved pedestal base, and flower appliqué has been found among MM IIB destruction debris near a platform or altar, not far from the cemetery area in the northeast sector of the town of Aghia Triada, where also a fragment of a _grattugia_ was found [trench M/4, stratum 30d]; (AR 1994: 72–73, fig. 63; cf. Carinci 1999: 121, 129, fig. 3). At least three complete examples of such pithoid jars, but without appliqué, were found outside Tholos Tomb A at nearby Voroi (Marinatos 1930–31: pls. 23–24). The complexity of these pithoid jars, together with the fact that none have been encountered in ordinary domestic contexts, strongly suggests that they were vases with a special function.

Lentoid jug L/15 has a Mesara fabric and must have been locally produced, whereas lentoid flask L/27 with its nonlocal fabric must have been imported from outside Crete (Pl. 3.20). The lentoid body shape may have originated in the Aegean, Western Anatolia, or perhaps the Eastern Mediterranean (see below). Lentoid jugs and flasks seem to have been newly introduced into the Central Cretan pottery repertoire in the MM IIB phase and their use may have been restricted to official contexts at Knossos, Phaistos, and Kommos. In addition to L/15, only one other lentoid jug has been found in a good context: Large lentoid jug F.1039, made in a local fabric, comes from a specialized, and probably cultural, assemblage in Room LV of the Phaistian palace (see below). A number of fragments and wasters belonging to
dozens of lentoid jugs of various sizes were found in a mostly MM IIB Late fill overlying the area west of the palace; decorated with similar motifs, they are interpreted by Carinci as the waste of a local pottery workshop (Carinci 1997: 319; Levi 1976: figs. 934–36). La Rosa, however, believes that they come from the Old Palace and may have been used in ceremonies (La Rosa 1998–2000: 44–50, 123–24, figs. 36–37). The stratum in which they were found, Levi’s so-called Grande Frana, is reinterpreted by La Rosa as final Protopalatial destruction debris removed from the Old Palace and deposited here in LM IB in preparation for the construction of the New Palace. At Knossos, all lentoid jugs and flasks are stylistically datable to the MM IIB phase and come from clean-up dumps from the destroyed First Palace. All have local fabrics. One lentoid jug was found in the South East or South Polychrome deposit (PM II: pl. IXe; MacGillivray 1998: 169 no. 1003, pl. 149), and three lentoid flasks in the West Polychrome deposits (MacGillivray 1998: 149 nos. 570–72, pl. 20, 94). A large lentoid jug made of a Central Cretan fabric and closely comparable to the MM IIB jugs was recently found at Miletus in an unspecified context (Raymond 2001: 20–22, fig. 2).

The area in which Group L was found is located close to the South Stoa of Building AA and would have been accessible directly from the outside. If Building AA had a south entrance nearby, as did later Building T (Pl. 1.114), it is possible that the pottery of Group L, which was redeposited here, had also been in use here or nearby during the lifetime of Building AA, either in connection with a south entrance or the South Stoa. If we accept that Group L was a ceremonial or ritual assemblage, the large size of its pouring vessels and most of its cooking pots, and the absence of small pouring vases, suggest that this pottery was used in gatherings involving a sizable number of people, which thus may have been public rather than private. Group K, found in the South Stoa, and Group O, uncovered near the northwest entrance of the later Building T, with their medium-sized to large bowls and large cooking pots, also may be remnants of public rather than private rituals.

In this respect it is interesting to compare the size of large pouring vessels from Kommos and Phaistos. It appears that those from Phaistos generally are larger than their Kornonian counterparts, reaching routinely 45 cm in height, and sometimes even 55–65 cm (Levi and Carinci 1988: pls. 25, 27, 40, 51c). Nearly all very large pouring vessels come from the Phaistian palace, and especially from Room LV, which contained a very large bridge-spouted jar (F.1400, h 63 cm), two very large jugs (F.1041, h ca. 60 cm; F.1040, h 50 cm), and four large jugs, including the lentoid jug discussed above decorated with the same painted pattern as the bridge-spouted jar (F.1039, h 28 cm; F.1034, h 36 cm; F.1032, h ca. 35 cm; F.1589, h ca. 35 cm; F.1060, h 33 cm), and a hydria with molded shell decoration (F.1041, h 58 cm). With the lentoid jug were two large cooking pots of Types A and B (the second, F.1597, h 35 cm) as well as the well-known large krater (F.1031, h 44.5 cm) and fruit stand (F.1053, h 25 cm, d 59 cm) decorated in the Creamy-Bordered Style with rosette appliqués, and two rhyta (Levi and Carinci 1988: pls. 62a, 63a; Levi 1976: pl. 115a, c, d). Very close by was the equally well-known bowl painted with images of dancers and apparently a snake goddess (Levi 1976:
Middle Minoan IA and Protopalatial Pottery

97–105, pl. XVIIa; Levi and Carinci 1988: 357, pls. 10e, 11h, 15c). Being associated also with three libation tables, a terra-cotta hearth, two horned vases, a rare incense burner with an interior perforated bulge (Levi and Carinci 1988: pl. 112b; Levi 1976: pl. 115a, c–e), and other special equipment, this group of large vases from Room LV is thought to have been used in connection with religious ceremonies that took place either in or near this complex of rooms in the southeast wing of the Old Palace. Since this complex opened up to the lower West Court as well as the palace interior, it seems likely that these ceremonies were accessible to the public (Gesell 1985: 11–12, 124–27). The discovery of almost 90 restorable cups and over 100 mostly small pouring vessels among the pottery in the nearby sottoscala and other rooms of this complex also is indicative of public ceremonies (Levi and Carinci 1988: 353–58). The larger size of those Phaistian pouring vessels, then, appears to reflect the attendance of more people and the greater importance of the Phaistian palace over Building AA at Kommos.

Even though Group L has been only partially excavated, it is worth pointing out the variation in quality of its cups. Of the highest quality is a single eggshell-thin teacup with impressed decoration (L/5). It is followed by three straight-sided cups of somewhat lesser quality (L/7, L/8, L/9), and finally by one to four cups of utilitarian quality (L/6 and possibly L/2, L/3, L/4). It is possible that these different levels of quality reflect differences in the social status of the participants in the ceremonies. Until the remainder of this context is excavated, however, it is hazardous to posit the existence of a hierarchy of cups, as Duhoux was able to propose for the list of LM IB vases on Linear A tablet HT 31 from Aghia Triada (Duhoux 2000–01: 56).

Other evidence of ritual or ceremonial activity in Building AA was found in the northwest part of its central court. It consists of an assemblage of two small upright stone slabs set at an angle and an intact conical cup (C/1) placed upside down between them, which seems to be related to the oval slab pavement of unknown use bordering it to the west (Chap. 1.1, Location 3; see above).

In contrast with C/1 and Groups K, L, and O, Group M has a pottery assemblage that can be characterized as domestic (Table 3.37). It includes two straight-sided cups (M/1, M/2), a medium-sized conical basin (M/3) and milk jug (M/4) of utilitarian manufacture, a large tripod cooking pot of Type B (M/8), probably from East Crete, a small handheld lamp (M/6) and brazier (M/7), and a lid (M/5) of a medium-sized or large vase. Having been found in the filling of a pit or drain in the South Stoa of Building AA, Group M may well represent the remnants of domestic activities that were once carried out in Building AA.

In conclusion, most of the 39 surviving MM IIB Late mendable vases from the use of Building AA appear to belong to assemblages with ritual or ceremonial significance (Groups K, L, O; C/1). Even though they must represent only a fraction of the pottery once employed in Building AA, it is fairly safe to conclude that one of the roles of this monumental structure was the enactment of public rituals or ceremonies.
MIDDLE MINOAN IIB LATE POTTERY AT KOMMOS: NEW EVIDENCE FROM THE CIVIC CENTER

Of the 39 mendable MM IIB Late vases dating to the lifetime of Building AA, 37 can be determined to have been produced in the western Mesara on the basis of fabric recipes and manufacturing practices. These represent the first sizable group of MM IIB Late mendable local pottery from good contexts found at Kommos. Betancourt published 314 MM IIB vases and sherds, but most of them were very fragmentary and came from somewhat mixed fills, dumps, or casual accumulations (Betancourt 1990). The vases and fragments published here make an important contribution to our understanding of pottery developments at Kommos in this subphase and allow more detailed comparisons with the contemporary pottery from the final Protopalatial destruction levels at Phaistos (Table 3.7).

GENERAL CERAMIC DEVELOPMENTS

In the MM IIB Late subphase, several important changes took place in the pottery production of the Phaistian area. These developments can now be better described thanks to the clear stratigraphic separation of MM IIB Late from earlier pottery deposits in Building AA. In general, there was a distinct evolution in the MM IIB Late subphase toward greater standardization in fabric use and vase shapes, a more widespread adoption of the potter’s wheel, and a simplification of shapes and surface finishes. All seem to reflect a desire on the part of the potter to decrease labor-intensive practices and speed up production. Reductions in labor input were relatively small, however, and potters in the western Mesara maintained high standards of quality in the production of all vase types. It is only in the subsequent MM III phase that the desire to speed up production led to a noticeable drop in standards in this region.72

In terms of fabric recipes, finer fabrics were employed for larger vases than in the earlier Protopalatial phases. This is exemplified in the use of a medium-fine buff fabric for pithoid jar L/16, which originally must have stood about 30 cm high, and of 10% medium-coarse buff fabric for bridge-spouted jars L/13 and L/14 and lentoid jug L/15, which belong to the 25–30-cm height range (see the pottery tables in T-Space). In addition, there was a greater degree of standardization of fabric use in relation to vessel function. Fine buff fabric remained restricted to cups and small bowls, with high-quality teacups and straight-sided cups having only 1 percent or fewer inclusions. Medium-coarse buff fabrics having between 10 and 15% of inclusions were employed not only for large bridge-spouted jars and the lentoid jug but also for lid M/5 and all medium-sized bowls, except for deep globular bowl or pyxis K/2, which displays the combination of coarse and fine fabrics popular in earlier phases. Coarse buff fabrics were still used occasionally for small and medium-sized utilitarian vases, such as milk jug M/4, medium-sized basin M/3, and medium-sized bucket jar L/17; however, none are as coarse (30%) as some of the utilitarian vases from earlier phases.

In contrast with the more standardized use of buff fabrics, the variability among cooking
pot fabrics remained the same, ranging from fine orange (1% inclusions, K/3) to medium-fine, medium-coarse, and coarse orange, red, or brown. That the coarseness of MM IIB Late cooking pot fabrics did not increase with vessel size is illustrated by the fact that the largest cooking pot from Group L (L/21) has a medium-fine fabric (5% inclusions) and the smallest one (L/18) a coarse fabric (30% inclusions). Unlike cooking pots, lamps seem to have been made out of more standardized fabrics: medium-fine (5–7%) for small handheld specimens (L/22, M/6), medium-coarse (10%) for medium-sized stationary lamps (L/23), and coarse (20%) for large lamps (L/24).

The practice of combining different fabric textures on a single vase persisted, but was now much less common. Special display vases, such as highly decorated deep globular bowl or pyxis K/2 and pithoid jar L/16, still employed very fine buff fabrics in combination with coarser fabrics to create crisp rim edges and for plastic decoration, such as the appliqués of L/16. Also, the small handles of this pithoid jar were made out of very fine fabric. A different combination is seen on lentoid jug L/15, which has a medium-coarse body and a coarse neck and handle. The use of coarser fabrics for handles has a longstanding tradition in the Mesara. Its purpose may have been to create stronger handles, but since coarser clay dries faster than finer clay, it also ensured that the wet clay of the handle would dry more or less together with the leather-hard clay of the body, thus preventing the development of cracks (Van As and Jacobs 1987). Whereas engobes have not been attested among this MM IIB Late pottery, thin slips of fine buff clay are still common. They sometimes were folded over the base (L/11).

In terms of formation techniques, the use of the wheel was expanded somewhat in the MM IIB Late subphase. It was now employed to throw small milk jugs with coarse fabrics (M/4) as well as medium-sized utilitarian flaring bowls L/11, L/12 with medium-coarse fabrics (It. piatelli). Even the bottom part of a medium-sized bucket jar (L/17) was thrown on the wheel to a height of at least 6 cm and a diameter of 18 cm; its upper parts were fashioned from coils. Wheel ridges on milk jug M/4 indicate that the wheel turned counterclockwise, as it continued to do in the western Mesara throughout the Neopalatial period (Van de Moor-tel 1997). String marks on the bottom are now most often arched (L/22) or spiraling (K/1, L/6, L/8, L/9, L/12, M/1, M/4), showing that the potters as a rule cut the newly formed vases off when the wheel was still in motion. Large closed shapes were still entirely handmade, having deep finger impressions on their interior surface from the joining and perhaps drawing up of coils (e.g., L/14).

Standardization of vessel shapes, known before mostly for utilitarian vases, now became widespread among high-quality vases. With the appearance of teacup types (C 9785) and the standardized flaring variety of straight-sided cups (L/7, L/8, L/9, M/1, M/2), virtually all MM IIB Late high-quality cups belong to standard types. Among bowls, high-quality standardized types appeared for the first time with deep globular bowls (C 3352, possibly K/2) and simple convex bowls (Betancourt 1990: 159, fig. 52, nos. 1281, 1282). Flaring utilitarian bowls
and other earlier vase types persisted. This increased standardization of shapes can be interpreted as reflecting a concern on the part of the potter to streamline and speed up production. The deterioration in the surface finish of several vases, and most notably of straight-sided cups, can be similarly explained.

Even though very little painted decoration has survived, a certain degree of standardization and simplification can be seen in the design structure of a number of high-quality vases. Continuous circumcurrent decoration, such as horizontal rows of running spirals (L/16), and decorations such as wavy-line (C 9785), scale, and arcade patterns appeared for the first time in the MM IIB Late subphase (Van de Moortel 1997: 311–12). They increased in popularity in the MM III phase, and horizontal rows of running spirals became a standard Minoan motif until the end of the Bronze Age. Simultaneously with the introduction of these more standardized patterns on high-quality pottery, however, vases of top quality in the MM IIB Late subphase began to show much more complex individualized painted designs than ever before (Levi and Carinci 1988: 299; Betancourt 1990: 34–36; Van de Moortel 1997: 865–66, 882–85). The subsequent MM III phase saw an intensification of the trends toward standardization of vessel shape and decoration, increased use of the potter’s wheel, more careless surface finish, and, in general, a reduction in the amount of time spent in making a vessel (Van de Moortel 1997: 228–35, 379–86, 642–48; 2002).

**OVERVIEW OF VESSEL SHAPES**

**Conical Cups (Pls. 3.3, 3.12, 3.17A)**

Conical cups of Type A (L/1) and J (C/1) with well-developed ledge rims appeared for the first time at Kommos and Phaistos in the MM IIB Late subphase, even though a Type A cup with weakly developed rim had already occurred at Phaistos in an MM IIB Early context (Levi and Carinci 1988: 244, pl. 102v; see above). The fabric of Type A conical cup L/1 is less fine and its surfaces less well finished than those of most MM IIB Late conical cups, and it already resembles in these respects MM III conical cups (e.g., L/4). It is conceivable that L/1 was produced very late in the MM IIB phase. Type A and J cups are not very common in the MM IIB Late subphase at Kommos or Phaistos. By far the most common conical cup types at the two sites were C and D (K/1, O/1). Typical for the MM IIB Early and Late subphases are their sloping interior bottom surfaces and sharp, well-formed rims. None of the other rare MM IIB Late conical cup types of the western Mesara have been found in Building AA (Van de Moortel 1997: 37–38, 310–11).

**Teacups (Pls. 3.13, 3.17A)**

Defined as fine rounded cups with articulated rims and single vertical handles, teacups appeared for the first time in this phase. Not a single example occurs among the more than 28,000 pottery fragments of the MM IA–IIB Early construction fills of Building AA or contemporary contexts to its east and south, contradicting Fiandra’s claim that this shape began
at Phaistos as early as the MM IB phase (see above). In contrast, fragments of as many as 20 teacups were found in MM IIB fills on the Central Hillside; only two with full profiles were published by Betancourt (1990: 90–91, fig. 21, nos. 370–71). In Levi and Carinci’s interpretation of Phaistian Protopalatial stratigraphy, teacups also represent a new MM IIB Late cup type.

MM IIB Late teacups at Phaistos and Kommos range in shape from squat to rather tall semiglobular (Levi and Carinci 1988: 189–90, pls. 84–85f; Levi 1976: figs. 117f, 905a–b, 1091, pls. XLVII–LIc, 124b–125b, d–k, m; La Rosa 1998–2000: 50, fig. 53; Van de Moortel 1997: 81–83). Squat cups are in general of the highest quality and have eggshell-thin walls, while the taller ones are thicker walled and of a somewhat lesser quality. All are as a rule elaborately decorated with polychrome or white-painted motifs on a dark ground. Impressed designs also occur (Levi 1976: pls. 124a, 179c). There is a large variation in motifs—linear, curvilinear, spiraliform, and stylized floral—organized in ever-changing combinations and arrangements (Van de Moortel 1997: Appendix A, B).

Teacup C 9785, found in a mixed MM IIB–III fill below the lobby of Neopalatial staircase 46, is a typical MM IIB Late teacup with a squat globular body and vertical strap handle (Pl. 3.17A). The painted wavy-line pattern (cf. FM 53) covering its entire body is equally diagnostic for the MM IIB Late subphase. This pattern continued into the MM III phase, but by then it no longer reached below midbody (Van de Moortel 1997: 87). C 9785 provides the best-preserved example of an MM IIB Late wavy-line pattern at Kommos. However, in spite of its intricate decoration, it does not show a top-quality surface finish. Some wheel marks are visible on the interior, and the upper handle attachment is merely stuck on the body, without its clay being smoothed over the rim surface. Fingerprints were left on top of and around the handle. This observation confirms Levi and Carinci’s assessment that teacups with wavy-line, scale, and arcade patterns are of somewhat lesser quality than the top-quality teacups (Levi and Carinci 1988: 191). Their lower quality did not prevent them from being exported overseas to places such as Phylakopi, Kea, Ugarit, and Tell ed-Dab’a (MacGillivray 1998: 63).

In contrast with teacup C 9785, teacup L/5 of Group L can be considered to belong among the top-quality “Kamares” vases (Pl. 3.13). With its eggshell-thin walls (1.3 mm), finely impressed horizontal ribs and groove, exquisitely smoothed surface, and now largely vanished polychrome decoration, it represents a considerable investment of skill and labor on the part of the potter. Its eggshell-thin wall with impressed ribs and groove and unblemished shiny black surface was undoubtedly intended to lend this cup a metallic appearance.

Carinated Cups (Pl. 3.13)

High-quality carinated cups are common in MM IIB Late destruction levels at Phaistos and in MM IIB fills in the residential area on the Central Hillside at Kommos (Van de Moortel 1997: 97–100; Levi and Carinci 1988: 198–201), but they are lacking among the surviving use pottery of Building AA. Only one example of a utilitarian carinated cup remains (L/6).
Whereas MM IIB carinated cups as a rule have their carination low on the body, that of L/6 is rather high. A number of unpainted carinated cups from a mostly MM IIB Late stratum at Phaistos have similarly high carinations, however (La Rosa 1998–2000: 50, fig. 46), and the convex lower body of L/6 is a common feature of the MM IIB Late subphase. Its careless surface finish seems to foreshadow the MM III phase.

**Straight-Sided Cups (Pls. 3.13, 3.16)**

In contrast to the earlier Protopalatial phases, when straight-sided cups varied widely in shape, a real straight-sided cup type appears for the first time in MM IIB Late contexts at Kommos and Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: 202–11, pls. 88a–h, o–r, 89a–e, g–i). The five examples found in use deposits of Building AA (L/7, L/8, L/9, M/1, M/2; Pls. 3.13, 3.16) can be added to the five cups with complete profiles published by Betancourt and allow us to discuss the characteristics of this MM IIB Late vase type at Kommos in more detail than was possible before (Betancourt 1990: 34–35, 90, 160 nos. 355, 357–59, 1287, figs. 21, 52; Van de Moortel 1997: 101–3, fig. 17). Standardized straight-sided cups are much more common than teacups in this subphase (Betancourt 1990: 34–35). Like the Phaistian cups, the Kommian examples are quite standardized in shape, their flaring walls varying from straight to slightly concave. Proportions show significant differences, however, ranging from squat to slender. Base edges are usually, but not always, beveled. Surfaces may be carefully finished, but more often show a lack of care, with unsmoothed wheel ridges, stretch marks, or excess clay, and occasionally a handle attachment that has not been well smoothed and reveals its seam (M/2). MM IIB straight-sided cups of the western Mesara and Knossos as a rule are less well finished than contemporary teacups or carinated cups and may be considered to be of somewhat lesser quality. The five straight-sided cups from Building AA are dark coated; their surfaces are too worn to reveal whether they once carried pattern-painted decoration.

In contrast to the situation at Kommos and Phaistos, at Knossos mass-produced wheel-thrown straight-sided cups appeared as early as the MM IB phase (MacGillivray 1998: 69–70, fig. 2.10.6). In the western Mesara, the flaring straight-sided cup variety continued nearly unchanged from the MM IIB Late into the MM III phase, except for a tendency toward thicker walls (ca. 3 mm) and a sloppier surface finish. With their thin walls, the straight-sided cups from Groups L and M belong to the MM IIB Late subphase rather than the MM III phase, although differences are too small to allow for a secure dating. Three have their strap handle preserved (L/2, M/1, M/2). All three handles have an off-center depression, and their lower parts are twisted to the left of the viewer. Identical details of shape are seen on strap handles of all local MM IIB, MM III, LM IA, and LM IB cups from Kommos and Phaistos. Because of their wide distribution and longevity, they must represent a motor habit passed down through generations of potters. Straight-sided cups always far outnumber teacups in MM IIB Late, MM III, and LM IA Early contexts at Kommos and Phaistos, perhaps
because with their simple shape they were thrown more quickly. Spiraling string marks on
the bases of some cups (L/8, L/9, M/1) also are indicative of fast production.

**Bowls (Pls. 3.13, 3.14, 3.17A)**

Remains of almost thirty MM IIB bowls from Kommos have been published by Betancourt
(1990), but most were small single fragments, and only four profiles were preserved. MM IIB
Late bowls are much better preserved at Phaistos, where they include a wide range of shapes
and qualities, going from polychrome specimens of the highest quality, made of fine fabrics,
to utilitarian examples made of coarser fabrics and carrying simple or no decoration. Three
high-quality subtypes can be discerned at Phaistos, and two of those are represented at Kom-
mos. One is a highly decorated semiglobular subtype with, as a rule, eggshell-thin walls, a
straight, tapering rim, and two horizontal, round-sectioned loop handles (Levi and Carinci
1988: 172–73, pl. 75g–h; Levi 1976: fig. 927, pls. XLIIIb, 122a–c). Two examples were found
below spaces CH 16–17 in the residential area at Kommos (Betancourt 1990: 159 nos. 1281,
1282, fig. 25). A second subtype consists of large, semiglobular bowls with flat rims and
horizontal handles (Levi and Carinci 1988: 174, pl. 76b–c; Levi 1976: figs. 120, 893, pls. 160b–c,
LXVIIa). It has not yet been identified at Kommos. Unlike these two subtypes, which carry
their main decoration on the interior, the third high-quality subtype, made up of large, deep
bowls with semiglobular or semi-ovoid bodies, offset rims, and two vertical strap handles,
carries its main decoration on the exterior (Levi and Carinci 1988: 174–75, pl. 78d–i; Levi 1976:
pls. 120, 121b, e, g–h). To these belong bowls C 3352 and K/2 from Building AA at Kommos
(Pls. 3.10, 3.13). Even though made of medium-coarse or coarse fabrics, these bowls carry intri-
cate polychrome decoration on their dark-coated exteriors and must have been used as high-
quality serving vessels. Neither C 3352 nor K/2 has pattern-painted decoration preserved, but
both have polychrome rim bands. K/2 is rather large and could have been a pyxis as well. Its
combination of coarse and fine fabrics is unusual in the MM IIB Late subphase.

Utilitarian bowls at Phaistos and Kommos can have fine or coarser fabrics and come in
various shapes and sizes. Some have low, semiglobular bodies with thick walls and either
thickened or flattened rims (Levi and Carinci 1988: 176, pl. 75k–l; Levi 1976: pls. 142p, 143o,
179n). Others have a deeper, ovoid profile and a slightly everted rim (Levi and Carinci 1988:
pl. 75m) or deep conical bodies with straight or everted tapering rims and two horizontal
coil handles (Levi and Carinci 1988: 177, pl. 76g–h; Levi 1976: pls. 117e, 121a, c). They include
some subtypes such as small bowls with lug handles resembling conical cups in shape (Levi
and Carinci 1988: 245–46, pl. 103m–n; Levi 1976: pl. 144p, x, z, a’, c’), large and medium-
sized conical bowls with pinched-out spouts at the rim (Levi and Carinci 1988: 221; pls.
94o–t, 95a–d; Levi 1976: figs. 856b, 888c, pl. 139a, c–g, n–p), and a conical subtype with
concave-flaring walls (piatelli) (Levi and Carinci 1988: 224–26, pls. 95a–h, p–q, 96c–n, s–v,
97a–b; Levi 1976: figs. 147l–m, 202a–d, 207, 244b, 541b, 888a-b, d, pls. 142l, q, 143a–d, g–h,
Utilitarian bowls may be unpainted, dark-dipped, dark monochrome coated, or painted with simple light-on-dark or dark-on-light patterning.

Bowl O/2 from Building AA is a simple convex bowl of medium size, painted on the interior and exterior with sloppy dark horizontal bands (Pl. 3.17A). Its interior was slipped and polished. It is fire-darkened on the bottom. The three other utilitarian bowls from Building AA are *piatelli* (Pls. 3.13, 3.14), the first ones to be reported from MM IIB Kommos. L/10 with its coil-built and wheel-finished body is indistinguishable from earlier Protopalatial examples. L/11 and L/12 are similar in shape to MM IB–IIB Early concave-flaring bowls, but differ in that they are unpainted and wheel-thrown. Their manufacturing technique places them firmly in the MM IIB Late subphase, since not a single example of wheel-thrown concave-flaring bowls has been encountered in the MM IA–IIB Early AA construction fills at Kommos. Their lack of painted decoration also may be part of a trend among MM IIB Late *piatelli* at Phaistos and Kommos.

**Basins (Pl. 3.16)**

Basins are defined here as large, thick-walled open shapes, usually with medium-coarse fabrics and of utilitarian quality. MM IIB Late basins at Phaistos and Kommos can have conical, convex, or cylindrical bodies, and their rims are straight, thickened, slightly everted or overhanging (Levi and Carinci 1988: 22–27; Van de Moortel 1997: 120–22, 319–20, fig. 25). Conical basin M/3 is the first MM IIB Late example with a complete profile published from Kommos (Betancourt 1990: 87–88 nos. 308–10, 312). It is unpainted and of utilitarian quality. It is comparable in shape to conical basins from Phaistos, which form a loose morphological type (Levi and Carinci 1988: pl. 12e–o, q).

**Bridge-Spouted Jars (Pl. 3.14)**

Even though high-quality bridge-spouted jars are extremely common in MM IIB Late contexts at Phaistos and MM IIB fills in the residential area at Kommos (Van de Moortel 1997: 137–39, 321–24), small and medium-sized bridge-spouted jars are lacking among the MM IIB Late use pottery from Building AA. Instead, we have two large examples with medium-coarse fabrics from Group L (L/13, L/14). L/13 provides us for the first time with a complete profile of a large Protopalatial bridge-spouted jar at Kommos. The Kommian jars are similar to those from Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: 110–16, pl. 49–52). Their tall ovoid or globular bodies, folded-back rims, and slanted horizontal coil handles are not specific to the MM IIB Late subphase but are found throughout the Protopalatial period at Phaistos. L/13 carries a large white-painted spiral on its upper body, perhaps as part of a bifacial design.

**Jugs (Pls. 3.14, 3.16)**

MM IIB Late jugs are very common and come in many subtypes at Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: 50–92, 217–20; Van de Moortel 1997: 324–28). With some simplification we can list...
them as follows: narrow-mouthed jugs, wide-necked jugs, trefoil-mouthed jugs, ewers, “hy- 
driai,” askoid jugs, lentoid jugs, milk jugs, and juglets (h < 10 cm). At Kommos only frag-
ments of jugs have been encountered in MM IIB fills of the Central Hillside; they include 
40 cm) to medium (h ca. 25–30 cm) and medium-small to small (h ca. 10–20 cm). They are 
made out of fine or medium-coarse fabrics, and may be of utilitarian or high quality (Levi 

The mendable vases from Building AA include only two jug types, both previously unat-
tested in MM IIB Kommos. Small milk jug M/4 belongs to a slender utilitarian type (Pl. 3.16).
It was mass-produced on the wheel, and its rim appears to have been deliberately deformed 
to facilitate pouring. MM IIA and MM IIB milk jugs at Kommos and Phaistos have incurring 
upper bodies, whereas MM III examples have straighter upper walls.

The only high-quality jug preserved from Building AA is tall lentoid jug L/15 (Pl. 3.14). Its 
body was built up with coils and then flattened into a lentoid shape. Too little of the body 
is preserved to determine whether its profile was asymmetrical, as it often is on lentoid flasks 
and on an MM III lentoid jug from Kommos. The body of L/15 was decorated with a large 
white-painted foliate band (FM 64). Its fabric is local. Lentoid jugs occurred in the western 
Mesara for the first time in this phase, and they seem to have been used for special functions 
(see above).

Lentoid jugs first appeared in the Cyclades and may have been developed as imitations 
of lentoid flasks. As many as eight examples of lentoid flasks and jugs have been found at 
Aghia Eirini on Kea, the earliest being a late EB flask of Period III (Caskey 1972: 375 no. 
C49, fig. 7). It had a flat bottom and a push-through handle and probably imitated earlier 
Anatolian models. It had been made from two bowls, one deeper than the other. The 
earliest jug with lentoid shape of the Aegean was found in Period IV at Aghia Eirini, corre-
sponding to early MM IB on Crete (Overbeck 1989: 1, 11, 79–80, pl. 43, no. AH-41). Over-
beck describes its fabric color as “brown” and considers it to be a Minoan ware, but his 
use of the latter term is ambiguous and does not make clear whether this jug was locally 
made or imported. Since lentoid jugs or flasks do not appear as part of the Minoan reperto-
toire until the MM IIB Late subphase, as noted above, it seems more likely that early MB 
lentoid jug AH-41 from Aghia Eirini was a local vase imitating earlier lentoid flasks rather 
than a Minoan shape, as Overbeck believed it to be. As many as six lentoid jugs were 
found in Period V at Aghia Eirini, corresponding to the MM IIB and MM III phases on 
Crete (Davis 1986: 6, 82; see above, comparanda of L/15). All these later jugs were unambig-
uously identified as Minoan imports, suggesting that Cretan potters had now taken the 
lead in the production of this shape. Similarly, the lentoid jug from Miletus is identified 
by its fabric as a Central Cretan import (Raymond 2001: 20–22). With its ovoid shape, 
lentoid jug L/15 is morphologically most closely related to jug C-31 from Aghia Eirini.
Unlike L/15, however, the bodies of the Kean and Milesian jugs were made by the joining of two bowls.

**Pithoid Jar (Pl. 3.14)**

Pithoid jars are quite common throughout the Protopalatial period at Phaistos, but seem to occur at Kommos only from the MM IIB Late subphase onwards (Levi and Carinci 1988: 11–13, pls. 5–6; Van de Moortel 1997: 173; Betancourt 1990). Medium-sized pithoid jar L/16 from Building AA belongs to rare high-quality MM IIB subtype with apparently special ceremonial significance (see above). Only its upper body is preserved, but comparanda from Aghia Triada and Voroi show that it had a piriform body and pedestaled base. It was painted with an intricate light-on-dark patterned spiral design (cf. FM 46) and its rim probably had flower appliqués. It is remarkable that no pedestaled pithoid jars have thus far been reported from Phaistos. Perhaps their absence there is to be attributed to chance, because of the extreme rarity of this subtype. Levi and Carinci do not mention the combined use of different fabrics on pithoid jars, but the fine rim and coarser body of L/16 appear to have an MM IB antecedent at Phaistos, to judge from the illustration of a fragmentary pithoid jar found to the west of the West Court (La Rosa 1998: 59, fig. 70).

Small pithoid jars or pitharakia (h < 25 cm) appear at Kommos and Phaistos from the MM IIB Late subphase onward (Van de Moortel 1997: 173–78; Levi and Carinci 1988: 166–70, pls. 71–73). The MM IIB Late pedestaled pithoid jar appears to be the predecessor of the MM III pedestaled pitharakia that were deposited in large numbers in the Kamilari tomb (Levi 1976: 722, fig. 1156, pls. 202–6) and were encountered also in floor deposits in the settlements of Phaistos and Kommos. Those MM III pedestaled pitharakia have similar bases and, being the largest pitharakia of the MM III phase, they are not much smaller than the MM IIB pedestaled pithoid jars. Likewise, several MM III pedestaled pitharakia belong to the top-quality class of that phase (e.g., Betancourt 1990: 109 no. 609, fig. 29; Van de Moortel 1997: 176–77, 370–71; Levi 1976: pls. LXXXIII, 204b, d, g, 205b, g).

**Bucket Jar (Pl. 3.15)**

The utilitarian bucket jar is a rare shape that begins in the western Mesara in the MM IB phase. In addition to a medium-sized bucket jar L/17 from the sottoscala fill, MM IIB Late examples have been published from Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: 9, 15–16, fig. 3, pl. 9d–f; Van de Moortel 1997: 183, 332, 372). Whereas most Phaistian jars are bridge-spouted and usually stand on three short feet, L/17 has a spout pulled from the rim and no feet. It most closely resembles a fragmentary bucket jar found in a mostly MM II stratum west of the West Court at Phaistos (La Rosa 1998–2000: 54, fig. 58). L/17 has four vertical handles and one horizontal handle opposite the spout to facilitate pouring. Its wheel-thrown base represents an advance in the use of the potter’s wheel (see above). The type continued, with some changes, into the MM III phase (e.g., Betancourt 1990: 108 no. 597, pl. 31; Levi 1976: pl. 197e).
Lids (Pl. 3.16)
Ceramic “lids” continue to be common in the MM II Late subphase at Phaistos without undergoing distinct morphological changes (Levi and Carinci 1988: 229–33). In contrast, not a single lid has been published by Betancourt (1990) from MM IIB Kommos. Lid M/5, a fragmentary, simple convex lid with slightly upturned rim is our first example. It must have served to cover the mouth openings of medium-sized jars. It may have had a spool handle, as did a similar lid from the Grande Frana at Phaistos (Levi and Carinci 1988: 230, pl. 97i; Levi 1976: fig. 908). Like the Phaistian lid it has white-painted patterned decoration on a dark ground.

Cooking Pots (Pls. 3.13, 3.15)
The MM IIB Late destruction horizon at Phaistos yielded cooking pots of Betancourt’s Types A and B in various sizes and morphological variants, as well as cooking jars, cooking trays, and a cooking dish (Levi and Carinci 1988: 29–33, 279; see above). A similar variety of cooking vessels was published by Betancourt from MM IIB contexts at Kommos (Van de Moortel 1997: 202–4; Betancourt 1990). Of the six cooking pots found in MM IIB Late contexts in Building AA, only one belongs to Betancourt’s Type A (K/3). It combines a fine orange body and medium-coarse legs. It belongs to a hole-mouthed variety with thickened rim that is mentioned but not illustrated by Betancourt (1990: 216; cf. Betancourt 1980). One other MM IIB Type A cooking pot has been published from the Central Hillside at Kommos (Betancourt 1990: 93, fig. 23 no. 423). This scarcity of Type A cooking pots in MM IIB levels at Kommos is remarkable and contrasts with their abundance at Phaistos.

The other four cooking pots from Building AA are of Type B, the most common type at Kommos throughout the Protopalatial period, and the only type to survive in the western Mesara in the Neopalatial period (Betancourt 1990: 79, 83; Van de Moortel 1997). Three vessels are quite uniform in shape, although their fabrics differ (L/18, L/19, L/20; see above). One is very tall and has a flattened rim (L/21). Both L/20 and L/21 have a partial coarse slip that was deliberately left rough. Its function may have been to provide a secure grip or to increase the heating surface of the vase, thereby improving its heating capabilities (Schiffer 1990).

Lamps (Pls. 3.15, 3.16)
In the MM IIB Late subphase at Phaistos, large stationary lamps continue and, according to Speziale, small convex portable lamps are joined by a new type with conical body (Speziale 1993: 543–44; Mercando 1974–75: 53–96; La Rosa 1998–2000: 50, fig. 43). At Kommos, Betancourt published many more from MM IIB Late contexts on the Central Hillside than from earlier contexts, including six handheld (Betancourt 1990: 89, 95, 153 nos. 352, 457, 1146–49, figs. 21, 23, 48) and nine stationary lamps (Van de Moortel 1997: 211–12). All handheld lamps from the Central Hillside have convex bodies, and nearly all (except for Betancourt’s no.
are of the variant with everted rim identified already in the MM IIB Early subphase at Kommos.

Conical portable lamps appear for the first time among the MM IIB Late use pottery of Building AA. The fact that not a single example was found in the MM IA–IIB Early foundation fills of AA or contemporary contexts at Kommos strongly supports Speziale’s MM IIB Late dating of this lamp type. As at Phaistos, conical handheld lamps can be unpainted (M/6) or dark monochrome coated (L/22). They compare well in shape to MM IIB lamps from Trial KV and the West Polychrome deposits at Knossos, although their rims are somewhat different. Other lamp types used in Building AA are a medium-sized stationary lamp (L/23) and a large stationary lamp or brazier (L/24).

Medium-sized pedestaled lamp L/23 is also a new shape in the MM IIB Late subphase, and has thus far been found only at Kommos. Its wide ledge rim is reminiscent of MM III lamps from Kommos and Phaistos (Betancourt 1990: 108, 167, 170 nos. 595, 1464, 1554, figs. 27, 56; Mercando 1974–75: 109–11, fig. 102 nos. 33, 35, 36, 37), but a comparable pedestaled lamp was found in a mostly MM IIB dump below spaces CH 16–17 at Kommos, and was dated by Betancourt to MM IIB, presumably on the basis of its fabric and surface finish (Betancourt 1990: 158 no. 1263). Large stationary lamp or brazier L/24 is of a type known throughout the Protopalatial period at Phaistos and Kommos. For a discussion of the function of this shape as a lamp or brazier, see above. Its low proportions, thinner walls, and lack of engobe distinguish L/24 from the stationary lamps of the earlier Protopalatial AA construction fills (Je/27, Jf/12). More data are needed to determine whether these features are diagnostic for the MM IIB Late subphase. L/24 probably had a pedestal base (cf. Mercando 1974–75: 96–111).

Braziers (Pl. 3.16)

Like handheld lamps, handheld braziers in MM IIB Late Phaistos come in two basic types: convex and conical. Convex handheld braziers already appear in MM IB and continue through MM IIB and into the MM III phase (Mercando 1974–75: 112–16). We do not have examples from Kommos. Conical handheld braziers such as M/7, like conical portable lamps, appear to have originated in the MM IIB Late subphase at Kommos and Phaistos. Not a single brazier of this type was found in the AA construction fills. Also, at Phaistos the earliest stratified examples came from MM IIB Late destruction contexts (Mercando 1974–75: 116–19; Levi and Carinci 1988: 311–51). These braziers have a conical body that is sharply indented in the rear, and a single stick handle. The sharp indentation is typical for the Protopalatial period, whereas Neopalatial examples are heart-shaped with a less pronounced curvilinear indentation (Betancourt 1990: 166, 183 nos. 1461, 1838, fig. 63).

Slab or Box (Pl. 3.16)

Medium-coarse buff fragment L/25 may be part of a slab or of a box with partitions. It may have been coil- or slab-built. Its rim was attached as a separate coil. Surfaces and rim carry
traces of dark paint. Both slabs and boxes are rare in the western Mesara, and their function is not well understood.

3. Neopalatial and Later Minoan Pottery
Jeremy B. Rutter

Introduction: History of Neopalatial and Subsequent Late Bronze Age Ceramic Studies at Kommos

Over the past fifteen years, four major studies have been devoted either wholly or in part to the description, classification, and analysis of the pottery in use at Kommos during the Neopalatial era (Table 3.38; Betancourt 1985a: 103–48). As part of his survey of the Neolithic through Middle Minoan (MM) ceramic sequence at the site, Betancourt (1990) published in detail context groups that can be assigned to the first two of the phases considered here to be Neopalatial (MM III and LM IA Early), and among the pieces included in his study from “miscellaneous contexts” are a significant number that can now be dated to even later phases. Thanks to a destructive event plausibly identified as an earthquake, numerous floor deposits of MM III date have allowed this ceramic phase to be characterized in unusual detail. Watrous’s volume (1992) on the Late Bronze Age pottery of Kommos includes relatively little that can be closely dated to specific subphases within LM IA but incorporates substantial quantities of LM IB pottery, notably a large deposit of the earlier part of that phase. Profiting from the large quantities of well-stratified LM I pottery recovered from House X in the early 1990s (J. W. Shaw and M. C. Shaw 1993: 131–61), and also benefiting from the discovery of an LM IA kiln constructed within the ruins of Building T’s South Stoa, Van de Moortel has constructed an unusually sensitive, although highly localized, relative chronology for Neopalatial Kommos based foremost on the most frequently occurring single ceramic form throughout Crete in this era, the conical cup. Using changes in this form to create a chronological skeleton (1997: 32–81), she has incorporated the rest of the Neopalatial ceramic repertoire encountered at Kommos into a schema of six subphases that constitute the essence of the Neopalatial chronology that is followed here: a single MM III subphase, three LM IA subphases (Early, Advanced, and Final), and two LM IB subphases (Early and Late) (Table 3.38; Van de Moortel 1997: 225–74; 2001: 89–94). Basing her chronology to the maximum extent possible on floor deposits of whole and largely preserved vases (1997: 698–746), Van de Moortel has been able to provide individual shape histories for more than 25 of the most common vessel forms employed at Neopalatial Kommos (Table 3.38; also Van de Moortel 2001: 66–87). Through an equally detailed accounting of these same forms during the final stage of the preceding Protopalatial era, namely, the MM IIB ceramic phase (1997: passim), she has also supplied an analysis of what the principal changes were in the entire local ceramic corpus at the transition from the Protopalatial to the Neopalatial era. Thanks to an extensive investigation into ceramic developments during the same timespan (MM
Table 3.38. Publication record of Neopalatial ceramics from Kommos.

|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------------|

IIB–LM IB) at other sites in the western Mesara (Aghia Triada and Phaistos) as well as at the north-central Cretan center of Knossos, Van de Moortel has extended the applicability of her localized Kommian ceramic sequence throughout central Crete by establishing how her Kommian subphases relate to those so far recognized in deposits published from these other Neopalatial centers (1997: 275–663). The full publication of the LM IA kiln at Kommos and the preliminary assessment of the range of fabrics and shapes fired in it during its relatively
brief period of operation during the LM IA Advanced and Final subphases has resulted in as complete a documentation of local ceramic production during these phases as during MM III (J. W. Shaw et al. 2001).

Watrous’s extensive and richly illustrated survey of the later stages of the LBA ceramic sequence at Kommos from LM II through LM IIIB (1992: 20–102, 105–10, 119–47, 200–225), supplemented by one major preliminary report (J. W. Shaw and M. C. Shaw 1993) and a few recently published specialized studies (Watrous, Day, and Jones 1998; Rutter 1999, 2000, 2003a, 2004, forthcoming [a]), continues to be definitive for pottery of the fifteenth through thirteenth centuries B.C. A few late-eleventh-century-B.C. vessels, technically of LBA date, have been included in the pottery published from the Iron Age sanctuary at the site by Callaghan and Johnston (2000: 212–14).

Additions to this wealth of already-published ceramic data from Kommos are justifiable only when they provide new information. The pieces selected for publication here have been chosen with several different purposes in mind: first, to provide the basic evidence for the dating of specific events in the architectural history of the Civic Center at Kommos; second, to present such information as ceramics can furnish that may be relevant in establishing the functions of particular architectural spaces for specific periods of time; third, to amplify the so-far relatively skimpy record of publication for the developed and later stages of the Neopalatial ceramic sequence at Kommos (i.e., LM IA Final through LM IB Late) by presenting some stratified groups of material to support the six-subphase chronology currently in use at the site; and finally, to add to the already large corpus of ceramics imported to the site both from other regions of Crete and from other culture zones throughout much of the eastern and central Mediterranean (Watrous 1992: 149–83; Cline 1994: passim; Knapp and Cherry 1994: 138–41; Rutter 1999). In pursuit of these goals, only select pieces of the full ceramic record from Kommos’s Civic Center are presented here, although every attempt has been made in what follows to quantify the total amounts of pottery recovered from the relevant excavation units.82

Early Neopalatial: Middle Minoan III and Late Minoan IA Early

Excavations at Kommos since 1976 have uncovered an exceptional number of floor deposits dating from the earliest stages of the Neopalatial era, in addition to some very large but chronologically homogeneous fills (Van de Moortel 1997: 225–35). Moreover, such deposits have been found in all areas of the site so far explored, from the Hilltop (Betancourt 1990: 117–21 (Context 18), 124–29 (Contexts 20–21); M. C. Shaw and Nixon 1996: 55–56, 73–75; Van de Moortel 1997: 719–21, 728–30) to the Central Hillside (Betancourt 1990: 96–116 (Contexts 15–17), 121–23 (Context 19); Wright and McEnroe 1996: 140–99, 238–41; Van de Moortel 1997: 700–19, 726–28) to the area immediately north of House X (J. W. Shaw and M. C. Shaw 1993: 134–36; Van de Moortel 1997: 698–99) to the area of the Civic Center under consid-