Godin Tepe Period VI Pottery Typology

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The Period VI Pottery

Making a pot entails many important decisions by the potter. Table 1 illustrates the actions that the potter must take to achieve specific results in the finished product.

Table 1. Decision Making in Pottery Manufacture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Action of Potter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Making the Pot</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pot fabric and inclusions</td>
<td>Selection of location of raw clay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Characteristics of clay body</td>
<td>Processing of raw clay, inclusion removal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temper</td>
<td>Addition of straw or grit of varying sizes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size of vessel</td>
<td>Initial piece of clay selected for vessel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pot will have characteristics of manufacturing technique, seen most clearly in radiographs</td>
<td>Action taken to form clay into vessel (handmade [pinch pot, slab, mold, coil] or wheel formed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size of base</td>
<td>Initial disk of clay (handmade) or how far the mound of clay is pulled out (wheel formed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height of body</td>
<td>How much clay is added to the base (handmade) or how far the vessel is pulled up (wheel formed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thickness of body</td>
<td>How thick the clay is that is added to the base (handmade) or how hard the clay is squeezed when it is brought up (wheel formed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shape of vessel</td>
<td>Whether the succeeding coils (handmade, coil technique) are smaller (jar) or larger (bowl) or whether the vessel top is pulled out (wheel formed bowl) or squeezed in (wheel formed jar). In the handmade pinch pot technique, the decision would be made whether to keep the pot ball shaped, or whether to pull the top out to form a bowl. In the handmade slab technique, after the slabs where attached, the pot could either be stretched into a bowl, or just the middle could be stretched to form a jar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thickness of vessel rim</td>
<td>The degree to which the rim is squeezed or added to (handmade pot); the pressure of the hands on the rim – the sides are squeezed in for a tapered pot; pressure is put on the top rim edge for a thickened rim (wheel formed pot)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trimming the Pot</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrape marks on exterior of pot including the base bottom</td>
<td>Pot has had excess clay removed and was probably wheel thrown (hand building is an additive process and clay is rarely removed while forming the vessel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottom of pot has concentric circles or ellipses; body base has excess clay</td>
<td>Pot was wheel thrown (and therefore had to be cut off the wheel) but the excess clay was not trimmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Base bottom of pot has a series of regular concentric circles; body near base has rilling</td>
<td>Pot has been turned upside down and trimmed on the wheel</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decorating the Pot</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slip of vessel</td>
<td>A ‘self’ slip could be the result of using water to form the vessel – essential in making a vessel on the wheel; much less water (if any) is necessary when making a pot by hand. So this in itself could be ‘accidental.’ A colored slip, however, is definitely a decision by the potter to incorporate another material in the pot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnished (shiney) surface</td>
<td>Pot is rubbed with a smooth object when it is ‘leather’ hard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decoration</td>
<td>Painted, slip patterns, appliqué, incising and impressing are all deliberate decisions by the potter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Firing the Pot</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pot is an overall gray color, with a gray core</td>
<td>Pot has essentially been ‘smoked’ or fired in a reduction atmosphere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pot ranges from pink to buff, with a pink to buff core</td>
<td>Pot has been fired in an oxidation atmosphere</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These manufacturing decisions are profoundly influenced by available clay and temper resources, the training of the potter, and the market for which he is producing pots. For the purposes of discussion, the Godin VI pottery will be divided first into functional shapes. Since Operation B is the only place on the mound that has the full sequence from the beginning of Period VI:3 until the end of Period VI:1/V, it will be used for the initial defining study of the pottery of Period VI.

The Period VI pottery is grouped into categories that reflect the functional role of the pot in the pottery assemblage. The categories are beakers (a small bowl variant [BE]), bowls (open forms, classified into small [SB] and large [LB] sizes), jars (constricted forms [JA]), pots (forms which cannot be classified as jars or bowls [JA]), spouted vessels [SP], strainers (perforated vessels [ST], pithoi (very large vessels [PI]), lids (functioning as covers to vessels [LI]), and trays (large short sided vessels [TR]. Additionally, the category of lugs (vessel handles [LU]) has been added to track this functional variant. The percentage occurrence of each type in Operation B Period VI are based on the analysis of whole profile and rim sherds, to which spouts and lug body sherds have been added (Figure 1).
Strainers or Sieves

Strainers or sieves at Godin Tepe Period VI are small bowl shapes with multiple round perforations, unslipped, and most with a medium temper. Their function appears to be that of separating coarser from finer particles, or solids from liquids. The size of the perforations would be a key to what is being separated out, but alternatively a strainer could be covered by a coarse cloth to provide finer additional separation. This type could be functionally classified as a group vessel rather than an individual vessel, and there are correspondingly only a few sherds of this vessel type.

There are no examples of strainers from Period VI:3 (either because the type is unknown in that early period, or due to the low numbers of sherds from that phase). There is only one body sherd from Operation B Period VI:2 (stratum B23 #340). From the Brick Kiln Cut Period VI:2, there are 12 sherds (4 rims: N3 25 #34, N3 31 #5, N3 35 #61, N4 19 #118; 8 bodies: N3 24 #111, N3 28 #14, N3 32 #64, N3 42 #20, N4 19 #117, N4 24 unnumbered, N4 25 #122, N4 25 #124).

Three of the four Period VI:2 rims are from similar vertical sided small bowl shapes with rounded edges. All are unslipped and rag smoothed.

One example (N4 19 #118) from the Brick Kiln Cut is from a bowl with a flared stance, and is similar to a Period VI:1 sherd from the Deep Sounding (B01 86 #4). Lot N4 19 is probably a mixed lot containing
pottery from both Periods VI:2 and VI:1. Although the excavator states it was a continuation of a Period VI:1 lot (N4 18), there are joins between lot N4 19 and Period VI:2 lots (N4 26 and N4 27). It should also be noted that the Deep Sounding B01 86 #4 strainer is finer than the other examples from Godin Tepe, and has smaller perforations.

This flared strainer type is similar to an earlier example from Seh Gabi (Young and Levine 1974: 71, fig. 12:8; Mound B G18 Lot 30 SG71-201, Seh Gabi Period). Contemporary foreign parallels are from Choga Mish (Delougaz and Kantor 1996: 47, Fig. 8, Plate 81:N), and Susa (Susa 17B, LeBrun 1978a:fig. 34:10; Susa 17, LeBrun 1971: fig. 46:3).

There are four strainer body sherds dating to Period VI:1 from the Brick Kiln Cut (N3 40 #7, N4 22 unnumbered, P4 20 #92, #93), and two from the Deep Sounding (Room 2a, A2 1185 #12; and Room 14 B01 78 #17).

Another example of a Brick Kiln Cut strainer is possibly from the very end of Period VI:1 (N3 3 #2, body sherd, Transcaucasian ware).
The overall percentages are no doubt functionally determined and consistent with vessel use patterns, and are remarkably consistent throughout all of Period VI at Godin Tepe. The bowl category is the most numerous type, and is further divided into small and large on the basis of bowl rim diameters from Operation B, which appears to be representative for the rest of the site.
Figure 2 shows distribution of bowl rim diameters across the Operation B Period VI assemblage. Bowls with a rim diameter of 24 cm or less were classified as “small,” and those with a rim diameter of 25 cm or more were classified as “large.” Beakers appear on the chart as a small bowl variant. The largest percentage is made up of small (individual?) serving bowls and cups. The remainder of the assemblage is divided up into vessels which would have had a group use function: large bowls (group serving and food preparation; spouted vessels (serving of liquids), pots (food storage or cooking depending on burn marks), pithoi (for food storage), jars (for food storage), lids (for cooking or storage), strainers or sieves (for separating solids from liquids), and trays (low sided vessels for cooking or serving depending on burn marks). Bases are treated as a separate entity, as most of the time they are not attached to rims, but often they give the most evidence for the manufacturing technique of the vessel.

The pottery is first discussed in the context of these categories, and then the pots are further described by rim type. The distinctive characteristic of almost all rim sherds is the way the rim is finished.

**Finish and Decoration of Period VI Pottery**

All of the pottery of Period VI is fired by oxidation firing, and is earth-colored (ranging from pink to buff) when not slipped. Sometimes cream (possibly from lime) or red (from iron oxide) slips are used.

Fine painted pottery is most commonly colored brown or black, on a cream ground. Half of the painted ware collection is in Tehran, Iran. Cuyler Young used this pottery type in Operation B to separate Period VII from Period VI (Young tba). The charts in Figure 3 and Figure 4 show that painted pottery excavated from Operation B decreases rapidly...
beginning with Operation B stratum 23 which marks the beginning of Period VI:2. The fact that most VI:3 painted wares are made from a fine cream clay shows that the maker intended the pot to be a luxury ware, worthy of the extra time it took to paint the design. In fact, Period VI:3 pottery is characterized by a remarkable attention to each individual pot. Vessels that are not painted are often burnished to a high sheen. All pottery is hand made.

Figure 3. Painted Sherd Occurrence in Operation B

Percent of Painted Sherds In Godin Tape Operation B
(Source: Sherd Count Cards 1965, n = 1149)
Figure 4. Painted Sherd Counts in Operation B

Period VI:2 pottery is marked by an increase in plain wares, and a decrease in time-consuming decorative techniques such as painting and burnishing. Two vessel forms, the rolled rim small bowl, and small jars, are almost always slipped, usually with a cream slip that sometimes burns pink in the firing. During this period, there is evidence for use of the wheel, and forms are often quickly made and crudely trimmed by paring off the excess clay from the base as in the inturned rim bowl shape.

Period VI:1 is marked by the introduction of foreign pottery types such as the beveled rim bowl, and Uruk tray. Additionally, there are two new techniques that are introduced: the manufacture of beveled rim bowls using a variant of the pinch pot technique (reference), and throwing “from the hump” leaving the base bottom with the evidence of string cutting the pot off a lump of clay that remains on the wheel. The latter technique allows the potter to make vessels at a much faster rate, because there is only one step (throwing the vessel) instead of two (throwing and then finishing the vessel). So, there is a progression from the careful handbuilding and decorating of Period VI:3, to the adoption of the wheel in Period VI:2, to making pottery in Period VI:1 in the fastest way possible, with little attention to detail.

Generally, the pottery development that takes place between Period VII (the earliest period examined) through the end of Period VI can be thought of as a continuum, with the most profound changes occurring with technological advances, and/or contact with foreign cultures. It is also apparent that each phase has the most similarities with those immediately before and immediately following, as would be expected. Early
Period VI:3 pottery compares most closely, then, to both late Period VII and middle
Period VI (VI:2); Middle Period VI (VI:2) pottery compares with Early Period VI (VI:3)
and Late Period VI:2 pottery, and so on. The pottery is grouped into categories that
reflect the role of the pot in the pottery assemblage. The overall percentages are no doubt
functionally determined and consistent with vessel use patterns, and are remarkably
consistent through Periods VI at Godin Tepe. These percentages are based on the
analysis of whole profile and rim sherds, to which spouts and lugs have also been added.
The largest percentage is made up of small (perhaps individual) serving bowls and
beakers (58% of early Period VI sherds). The remainder of the assemblage is divided up
into vessels which would have had a group use function: large bowls (group serving and
food preparation; 17% in early Period VI), spouted vessels (serving of liquids; 2% in
early Period VI), pots (food storage or cooking depending on burn marks; 10% in early
Period VI), pithoi (for food storage; 1% in early Period VI), jars (for food storage; 11% in
early Period VI), and lids (1% in early Period VI). There are similar percentages
throughout Period VI.

Potters in Period VI were also quite consistent with the tempering material used.
Throughout the entire period, the primary tempering agent is vegetal, most often straw, or
in the case of very fine straw, it is perhaps from dung. There are certain exceptions, most
notably medium sized jars and cooking pots. However, even very large pithoi are
tempered with a very coarse straw. Cooking pots were made to withstand thermal shock,
and to that end, tempering with small stones would be an advantage (reference Mason).

Functional Types

As noted above, the Period VI pottery is divided into several general functional
types: the beaker, small bowl, large bowl, jar, pot, pithoi, spouted vessel, lid, lug, and
tray.

Small bowls are defined by rim shape and stance: the plain rim bowl with a
vertical or flared stance; the plain bowl with an inturned stance (called the “inturned rim
bowl”), and the rolled rim bowl with a thickened beaded rim. Both the plain rim bowl
and the inturned rim bowl are common bowl types throughout Period VI, but the rolled
rim bowl is not used to finish off small bowls (but is used on large bowls) until Period
VI:2. In the later part of Period VI:2 it becomes the most common small bowl type, and
is usually cream slipped. Included in the small bowl category are the foreign Uruk type
beveled rim bowls that become the most common bowl type in Period VI:1.

Large bowls can be finished with a plain or rolled rim, and in Period VI:2 a new
form is introduced with an expanded “ledge” rim.

The most chronologically significant feature of the Period VI jars is their
decoration: in Period VI:2 rope (raised and impressed) decoration is introduced (perhaps
influenced by Middle Uruk pots from the south), and in Period VI:1, exclusively though
to the Deep Sounding, there is the characteristic Late Uruk jar decorated not only with
rope, but with four pierced lugs as well.

Spouted vessels are consistent throughout Period VI:3 and VI:2, but again,
exclusive to the Deep Sounding, there are two new Uruk type spout forms: the trough
spout and the droop spout.
Handles and lugs are relatively rare, and occur infrequently during all phases of Period VI.

Sieves occur through Period VI, although they are rare. Small bowls of varying types are pierced with holes to form a strainer.

Pithoi, or very large jars, occur throughout Period VI. The most common form is with an impressively large rolled rim, and occasionally a massive disk base. It is not uncommon for these vessels to be cream slipped.

Pots occur mostly with plain rims, and in early Period VI:3 are of Period VII type with burnished red exteriors, and crude straw temper often burnt black during firing.

The are two types of trays: a low sided cooking tray, often with a lug, that occurs from Period VI:3 until Period VI:2, and less frequently in Period VI:1. There is another type of tray, that appears to be more of a serving tray as there is no trace of burning, beginning in Period VI:2. This type of tray becomes more frequent in Period VI:1, and occurs with either a rolled or a plain rim, and often has one thumb impression in the thickened rim edge, forming a crude spout.

Lids are the most rare type of vessel, with only one example from Operation B Period VI:3 (a crude flattened pancake shape), and one example from late Period VI:1 of the Deep Sounding (a flat lid with a strap handle similar to Period VI ETC examples).

![Histogram of Brick Kiln Cut Rim Diameters](image)

**Figure 5. Histogram of Brick Kiln Cut Rim Diameters**
Lids

There was an unusual handmade disk with one side flat and the other convex found in Operation B strata B30-32 (#475). It measures 9 cm in diameter and is 1.5 cm thick at its center. The disk could have functioned as a small lid. The traces of charcoal on its surface (including one charcoal spot) could suggest either its use in cooking or its method of manufacture: it could have been easily made by an unskilled potter in a domestic context and fired in a hearth.

The second lid under consideration was found on the latest floor of Room 2a of the Deep Sounding. It is nearly twice as large as the previous example and slightly thicker.

Although it was probably also handmade, it was constructed with some skill, of uniform
thickness with a beveled edge, and topped with a simple loop handle. It more uniformly charcoal blackened, either from the reduction firing, or from use afterwards.

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**Godin Tepe Small Bowls (rim diameters of 24 cm or less)**

Small Plain Rim Bowls with a Vertical or Slightly Flared Stance

**Beveled Rim Bowls**

The most common foreign pot type at Godin Tepe Period VI is the beveled rim bowl. The crude bowl represents not only a distinctive style of vessel, with its coarse unfinished exterior, smoothed interior, and beveled edge, but a unique manufacture technique adopted most likely from the south. They represent both a stylistic and technological innovation not only in form, where a functionally usable vessel was produced with a minimum of effort and skill (perhaps taking advantage of relatively unskilled labor), and maximum production efficiency.

**Method of Manufacture**

The presence of distinct finger impressions on the exteriors of beveled rim bowls precludes manufacture using a mold, which should have left no trace of the human hand on the vessel exteriors. These finger impressions on both the southern and Godin Tepe examples follow a specific pattern which is consistent with the pinch-pot method of
manufacture proposed by J. Kalsbeek\(^1\), in which the palm of the hand is used to mold the pot base. The consistent pattern of finger impressions indicate that the beveled rim bowl makers of Godin Tepe were either foreigners from the south or locals taught by foreigners (an example of technology transfer).

**Size Range of the Beveled Rim Bowl**

The bases of most beveled rim bowls are remarkably consistent both at Godin Tepe and other sites with Uruk pottery, perhaps limited by the size of the human hand used to make them: never exceeding 12 cm in diameter, with most ranging from 7-10 cm.

The most significant variation from site to site is the rim diameter-height ratio, as the following chart illustrates:

**Late Uruk Period Beveled Rim Bowl Rim Diameter to Height Ratios**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Susa</th>
<th>Godin</th>
<th>Tepe</th>
<th>Warka</th>
<th>Nippur</th>
<th>Brak</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.06</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
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**Graph:**
- **Susa** (red line)
- **Godin** (green line)
- **Tepe Farukhabad** (blue line)
- **Waraka** (yellow line)
- **Nippur** (purple line)
Whether differences in size of these crudely made vessels would suggest different (local vs. foreign) potters is questionable, although the existence of small variations between the work of different potters, or even in the work of any one potter, has been documented.²

Beveled Rim Bowls at Godin Tepe

Operation B

From the early strata of Operation B, there are only three beveled rim bowl sherds. They are from strata B23 (2 sherds) and B20 (1 sherd), and all of these sherds are in Tehran, Iran and cannot be examined at this time. There is also some question as to whether they are in fact throw downs from earlier levels. As they are well within the time range for this pottery type, (although they are less frequent), they could just as well be from secure contexts. Bevel rim bowls were also found in Operation B18?-19 (1 sherd), and B17-19 (1 sherd). As mentioned above, we do not have examples in Toronto until level B17.

Beginning in stratum B17, the number of beveled rim bowls increases markedly, and begin to dominate the small bowl assemblage (see chart). 53% (10 out of 19) of the small bowl rim sherds in stratum B17 are from beveled rim bowls. Their average percent of rim diameter is also greater than for other small bowls (an average of 13% compared to 8%). Although stratum B16 is tertiary, 6 out of 20 small bowls sherds, or 30%, are from beveled rim bowls. The average rim diameter in B17 is 22.1 cm. In level B17, the body thickness averages range 1.37 cm and the bevel thickness averages 1.43 cm. Since

² B. G. Wood, op. cit., page 85.
beveled rim bowls are handmade, dimensions even on the same vessel can vary significantly.

Beveled rim bowls continue to be a significant part of the small bowl assemblage in the succeeding strata of Operation B (33% in B16, 33% in B14/15, 47% in B13, 31% in B12B/C), although there is some decrease in stratum B12A (no sherds, but the sample size is very small – there are a total of only three small bowl sherds) and the percentage rises to 38% in stratum B11.

Deep Sounding

Operations A and XYZ

Below the earliest architecture within the oval, there are significant numbers of beveled rim bowls from both strata A35 and A34. According to the field sherd counts, 13 of the 20 bowl sherds from stratum A35 (65%) and 8 of the 13 bowl sherds (62%) from stratum A34 were beveled rim bowls.

There are a total of 14 beveled rim bowl sherds from three spits of Operation XYZ: 7 from Spit 1, 6 from Spit 2, and 1 from Spit 4.

Deep Sounding Oval
There are significant numbers of beveled rim bowls from within the rooms of the Deep Sounding oval, and these vessels dominate the small bowl assemblage. From the secondary deposits were are considering, there are ... beveled rim bowl fragments, and ...
whole vessels.

**Brick Kiln Cut**

There are beveled rim bowl sherds from the area of the Brick Kiln Cut immediately below the ‘interface’ stratum (lot N3 23, etc.). They are a minor part of the small bowl assemblage, and there are no whole beveled rim bowls or even entire profiles from this area of Godin Tepe.

**Function of the Beveled Rim Bowl**

There are two issues here: what was the original use for which the beveled rim bowl was manufactured, and what were the secondary uses of these bowls.

To establish original use, the function for which the bowl was intended, the evidence for use would have to apply to the majority of bowls. An exception would be if the bowl were found in unusual conditions that would preserve evidence that would have otherwise been lost. If only a minority of bowls are found with a particular attribute
suggesting a specific function, then it is more likely a secondary use. Secondary uses for vessels are significantly more varied and individualistic in character.\(^3\)

Parallels with other sites are extensive:

Arslan Tepe VIa (Palmieri 1981:105, fig. 2:5);
Brak (Oates TBA)
Chogha Mish (Alizadeh ed. 1996: 49-50, Figure 8; plates 17:J-K; 83:F-S)
Farukhabad (Wright ed. 1981 TBA):
Gebel Aruda (Kalsbeek 1980:10, fig. 1);
Grai Resh Level II (Lloyd and Safar 1940, pl. 3, fig. 7:13);
Habuba Kabira South (Sürenhagen 1974/75 pl. 1:19);
Hacinebi (Stein TBA)
Hassek Hüyük Late Chalcolithic (Hoh 1981, fig. 8:9);
Jemdet Nasr (Mackay 1931, pl. 67:22-23);
Keban Dam area, Tepecik, Late Chalcolithic (Esin 1974, pl. 107:3);
Malyan Banesh period (Sumner 1974:162, fig. 4:d);
Nineveh III-IV (Thompson and Mallowan 1933:168);
Nippur Inanna Temple XIV-XII (Hansen 1965:202);
Qabrestan Period IV (Majidzadeh 1976:288, fig. 37:1,3);
Rubeidheh (Killick ed. 1988: 39-44, fig. 28:1, T1);

\(^3\) A modern analogy would be the wine bottle. If a city were destroyed, the majority of wine bottles would have wine residue, but some would be found with evidence of secondary uses such as candle holders, bottles with number tokens (from Vinnie Testa’s restaurant), and flower vases. There would be much lower numbers associated with these secondary uses, and more varied contexts.
Sialk IV (Ghirshman 1938, pl. 90:S.34);

Susa Acropole I, Level 18 (LeBrun 1978b, fig. 32:6), Susa Acropole I, Level 17B (LeBrun 1978a, fig. 20:8), Susa Acropole I, Level 17 (LeBrun 1971, fig. 47:8-12);

Warka Eanna XII-IV (Haller 1932:42, pls. 18 A:c, 19 A:t, 19 C:o; Lenzen 1965, pls. 23:m-n; 25:p), Warka K/L XII Sounding, Layers 42-34 (Nissen 1970, pl. 104:7);

Yahya Period IVc (Lamberg-Karlovsky and Tosi 1974, figs. 101, 104:D).

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**Godin Tepe Beakers**

Beakers occur at Godin Tepe in medium (similar to tumblers) and small (similar to cups) sizes. They are differentiated from small bowls by their narrow rim size. Both forms are relatively rare at Godin Tepe.

**Medium Beaker**

A medium beaker is a vessel with a narrow rim diameter (8-10 cm) and general cylindrical proportions with an upright stance (approximately 84 degrees) and a small (3-5 cm) flat base. At Godin Tepe, they are almost always cream slipped, and are tempered with fine to medium fine straw and grit. They usually have a pronounced tapered rim edge (around 0.15 cm) and thin vessel walls (0.2-0.7 cm) especially on the upper half of the vessel.

Although this type of vessel is found in Periods VI:3 through VI:1 in Operation B and the Brick Kiln Cut, it is not found in the Deep Sounding Period VI:1. The vessel is relatively
rare with only around 20 examples from the Brick Kiln Cut and 3 examples from Operation B Period VI:2 while there are 9 examples from the Brick Kiln Cut and one example from Operation B Period VI:1. There are two examples from Operation B Period VI:3. From the Brick Kiln Cut, one example from Period VI:2 and one example from Period VI:1 have painted decoration.

This type occurs at Sialk IV (Ghirshman 1938: Plate XC, S.31 (11.5 H, 7.5 rd), at Choga Mish (Delougaz and Kantor 1996: Plate 83:B, C, D, E, and page 48), and Kunji cave (Wright et al 1975: Fig. 6:c, d, e).

**Small Beaker**

The small beaker or cup is a shorter form of the medium beaker, and occurs Operation B, Period VI:3 and is either painted or left plain.

There is a similar painted example from Sialk III (Ghirshman 1938: Plate LXVI, S.1547, S.176). There are unpainted examples from Choga Mish (Delougaz and Kantor 1996: Plate 80:C, Plate 83:A and page 48).

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**Godin Tepe Spouts**
Spouts are both ubiquitous and infrequent in Godin Tepe Period VI, occurring in all areas excavated, but accounting for only approximately 1% of the diagnostic sherds.\(^4\) Ancient spouts undoubtedly served a similar function to modern spouts: to constrict the flow of a liquid to facilitate pouring.

Two factors probably account for their rarity: breakage patterns and functional considerations. For each broken spouted vessel there would be an average of 13-21 diagnostic sherds. There would be only 1-4 from the spout itself. The majority would be rim and base sherds (10-14 rim and 2-3 base sherds). This factor in itself does not completely account for the low percentages of spouts from Godin Tepe.\(^5\)

The function of a spouted vessel could also contribute to their rarity. One pouring vessel would have been sufficient to distripute a liquid, filling the small drinking bowls of several individuals.\(^6\) Thus, a single spouted jar could easily serve the needs of a group of people. Just one of this type of serving vessel could have been sufficient for the needs of a household. Our modern functional equivalent would be the teapot or coffee pot: a modern household commonly has only one of these types of vessels.

There are six basic types of spouts from Godin Tepe Period VI: straight tubular spouts, short funnel spouts, droop spouts, short wide spouts, and trough spouts, all of which

\(^4\) Of the 928 diagnostic sherds from Operation B strata 34 through 11, only nine (1%) were spouts. There were similar percentages for the Brick Kiln Cut and the Deep Sounding.

\(^5\) In Operation B, if we give these spouts a breakage pattern equivalent to rims, we would have 63 spout fragments, or 6.8% of 928 diagnostic sherds. So, even considering their breakage pattern, spouts are still much less frequent than rim or base sherds.

\(^6\) As discussed above, small bowls are one of the most common pottery forms.
occur on jars. There are also spouted small rolled rim bowls. The straight tubular spout is the typical spout found in the village (Operation B and the Brick Kiln Cut) surrounding the oval of Godin Tepe. There are three examples of spouted rolled rim bowls, all from Operation B or the Brick Kiln Cut. There is only one example of a conical spout (found in the Brick Kiln Cut) which is probably an import. The other three types of spouts, the droop spout, the short wide spout, and the trough spout, are found only within the Deep Sounding oval.

**Straight Tubular Spouts**

The earliest and most common type of spout from the Godin Tepe VI is the straight tubular spout. If the examples are attached to bodies that are cream slipped only on their exterior, then they were probably originally attached to jars with a similar pattern of slipping (most jars have slipped exteriors, and are only slipped partially down the interior). If the spout bodies are cream slipped both on the exterior and interior, then they were most likely attached to small constricted rolled rim bowls (see below).

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7 Both the temper and the method of manufacture of this spouted vessel are unique to Godin Tepe. This sherd would be an excellent candidate for petrographic analysis.
The nine straight tubular spouts from Operation B (all presently at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto) are consistent in form and shape. These spouts occur in stratum B32 (#485), B25 (#409), B23 (#328, #329, #330, and #331), B20 (#213), B15 (#77) and B13 (#62). Similar spouts occur in Brick Kiln Cut lots N3 7, N3 15 (#92), N3 16, N3 24, N3 33 (#68), N4 13, N4 19 (#116), P4 2, P4 20 (#1), and P4 24. There is only one straight spout end fragment (A1 1155 #203) from the Deep Sounding Period VI lots.

The Operation B straight spouts are all very similar, with the exception of B13 #62. The remaining spout body thicknesses average around 7 cm, and the spout tip diameters close to 2 cm, and range from 5.5 to 9.6 cm in length. All are slipped Munsell white or slightly darker. B13 #62 is unusual in that it has a tip diameter of only 1.1 cm, and a maximum preserved diameter of 1.5 cm. Furthermore, the tip has a beveled edge, similar to droop spout examples, and is not slipped at all.

All spouts, including #62, have a temper ranging from fine to medium, with varying mixtures of grit and straw. If the spouts were used in vessels that contained liquids, it is likely that these vessels would need to be as impervious to leakage as possible. Therefore, a fine or medium temper would be desirable. The core colors of these spouts also do not vary significantly, and most are in the Munsell pink to very pale brown ranges. All spouts were rag smoothed, but #329, #330, #331 and #409 also showed traces of burnishing. No spouts had wheel marks, but there were wheel marks on the bodies attached to spouts #328 and #330.
Straight spouts seem to be a local type. Foreign parallels include Sialk III, Plate LXIX, S.135;

*Uruk Type Short Funnel Spouted Jars*

From the Brick Kiln Cut, there is an unusual funnel spouted jar (N3 28 #1) that differs from the straight spouts of Godin Tepe in shape, temper, manufacturing marks, and surface treatment. The funnel shape of this short spout is exceptional for Godin Tepe. The temper is medium grit, and markedly different from the plant temper predominant at Godin Tepe. The exterior clearly exhibits the impressed marks from fingers joining the spout to the body of the vessel, while the exterior of other Godin Tepe spouts was completely smoothed. This spout is also not slipped which is also unusual for a spouted vessel at Godin Tepe. It seems likely that this vessel was imported.  

There are similar short funnel spouted jars from Middle Uruk Nippur (Inanna XX [7N816], XVII [7NP281] and XVII [7NP281] all unpublished). Nippur jar 7N816 (XX) also has a simple everted rim (the details are missing from the unpublished drawing).

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8 Further testing with thin section and neutron activation analysis should elucidate the origin of this vessel.
Nippur jar 7NP281 (XVII) has a very similar rim to the Godin example, and a comparable spout (although it is only sketched). There is a similar funnel spout from Sialk IV (Ghirshman 1938 Plate LXXXIX, S.43b)

Uruk Type Droop Spouts

A2 1127

The droop, or bent, spout is only found within the Godin Tepe Deep Sounding oval, and are notably absent in the surrounding village (Operation B and the Brick Kiln Cut). Except for one possible droop spout fragment (A1 1155 #202), they occur only in later deposits in tertiary contexts (A2 1127, A01 34, A01 34) without attached rims or bases. They are made of comparatively fine ware, similar to the straight spouts of both Operation B and the Brick Kiln Cut, and likewise are usually cream slipped. One exceptional example is red slipped (A2 1127), and there is enough preserved of the body to suggest that it could be a tall jar (although it is not definitive).

Parallels with other Late Uruk sites suggest these droop spouts may have originally joined to jars with bottle necks. Bottle necks are also rare at Godin Tepe, but there are two examples from good contexts from the Deep Sounding (B1 479 #152 and B1 503 #77; three other possible bottle rims are B1 479 #173, #174 and B01 55 #9). Unfortunately in all of our examples, little of the body remains.
Bottles with droop spouts occur at many sites, including Choga Mish (Delougaz and Kantor 1996 Plate 111), Warka/Uruk (Lenzen 1959a, pl. 21:f), Sialk (Period IV, Ghirshman 1938, Plate LXXXIX:S.43d), Susa (Level 18, LeBrun 1978b, fig. 34:8; Level 17B, LeBrun 1978a, fig. 30:7-14; Level 17, LeBrun 1971, fig. 52:5) and Habuba Kabira (Sürenhagen 1974/75, pl. 17:101-04). Droop spouts appear at Nippur beginning in Inanna level XVII, and continuing through to level XV (Hansen 1965: Fig. 17, 18; Level XVII also had the first tall spouted jars).

The Short Wide Spout

There are two examples from the Deep Sounding of jars with short wide spout. One is fairly well preserved, and attached to the shoulder of a collar necked jar (A1 1163 #4). There is another example (A1 1164 #4), but the spout itself is broken away.

Trough Spouts

Trough spouts are spouts that are open on the top, forming a trough for pouring liquids. They occur in only the Deep Sounding at Godin Tepe, where they are the most frequent spout type in deposits under consideration. These spouts are all made by hand and then
attached to the vessel, which at Godin Tepe is a small rimless jar. Often the imprint of the hand is readily felt underneath the spout where the spout was held while the trough was rag smoothed. Trough spouts first appear on the earliest floors associated with the buildings of the Deep Sounding oval. Although there are no whole vessels, they occur in both in unpainted (A2 1185/1187 #21) and painted (B1 519 #5, although only the body is preserved) varieties.

It is possible that this type of spout had a metal precedent, as this shape would have been easily produced by simply bending the metal. The shape carination and tapered rim (where the bodies are preserved) also suggests a metal precedent, and also the decoration of simple stripes. There is a copper example of a trough spout in the Old Kingdom Egyptian collection of the University of Pennsylvania Museum (check also Royal Graves at Ur metal vessels).

Parallels for this type of vessel are limited to Late Uruk Iran, at Susa 17 (LeBrun 1978b fig. 24: 9, 10) and Siyalk IV (Ghirshman 1938 pl. LXXXVIII; Amiet 1985:298, S. 41; 299, Fig. 3:7,10 [plain]; 295, Fig. 1, Tepe Sialk, chantier I, S.27; 298, Tepe Sialk, chantier I, S.40, 52 [painted]). At both Choga Mish (Delougaz and Kantor 1996 Plate 85:D, E, F, G, H) and Nippur (XX-XIX [7N808]), there are open spouts, but they are attached to straight sided bowls.

**Spouted Small Rolled Rim Bowls**
There are only four examples of spouts attached to slightly constricted cream slipped small rolled rim bowls from Godin Tepe: Operation B stratum 21 #297, and Brick Kiln Cut N4 19 #115, P4 2 #2, and P4 28 #1. None of the spouts are complete, and in most examples, only the spout bases remain. It appears as if the interior of the spout is slipped in all cases when it is attached to a bowl (while the opposite is true when a spout is attached to a jar). The spout in the P4 28 #1 example is shorter than many of the typical Godin Tepe straight spouts discussed above, and may flare at the edge, which is unfortunately incomplete. The function of these vessels could be for the feeding of children or the sick.

There is a somewhat similar vessel at Choga Mish (Delougaz and Kantor 1996 Plate 84:X).

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Godin Tepe Perforated Vessels

Strainers or Sieves

Strainers or sieves at Godin Tepe Period VI are small bowl shapes with multiple round perforations, unslipped, and most with a medium temper. Their function appears to be
that of separating coarser from finer particles, or solids from liquids. The size of the perforations would be a key to what is being separated out, but alternatively a strainer could be covered by a coarse cloth to provide finer additional separation. This type could be functionally classified as a group vessel rather than an individual vessel, and there are correspondingly only a few sherds of this vessel type.

There are no examples of strainers from Period VI:3 (either because the type is unknown in that early period, or due to the low numbers of sherds from that phase). There is only one body sherd from Operation B Period VI:2 (stratum B23 #340). From the Brick Kiln Cut Period VI:2, there are 12 sherds (4 rims: N3 25 #34, N3 31 #5, N3 35 #61, N4 19 #118; 8 bodies: N3 24 #111, N3 28 #14, N3 32 #64, N3 42 #20, N4 19 #117, N4 24 unnumbered, N4 25 #122, N4 25 #124).

Three of the four Period VI:2 rims are from similar vertical sided small bowl shapes with rounded edges. All are unslipped and rag smoothed.

One example (N4 19 #118) from the Brick Kiln Cut is from a bowl with a flared stance, and is similar to a Period VI:1 sherd from the Deep Sounding (B01 86 #4). Lot N4 19 is
probably a mixed lot containing pottery from both Periods VI:2 and Period VI:1.

Although the excavator states it was a continuation of a Period VI:1 lot (N4 18), there are
joins between lot N4 19 and Period VI:2 lots (N4 26 and N4 27). It should also be noted
that the Deep Sounding B01 86 #4 strainer is finer than the other examples from Godin
Tepe, and has smaller perforations.

![Images of strainers]

This flared strainer type is similar to an earlier example from Seh Gabi (Young and
Levine 1974: 71, fig. 12:8; Mound B G18 Lot 30 SG71-201, Seh Gabi Period).

Contemporary foreign parallels are from Choga Mish (Delougaz and Kantor 1996: 47,
Fig. 8, Plate 81:N), and Susa (Susa 17B, LeBrun 1978a:fig. 34:10; Susa 17, LeBrun
1971: fig. 46:3).

There are four strainer body sherds dating to Period VI:1 from the Brick Kiln Cut (N3 40
#7, N4 22 unnumbered, P4 20 #92, #93), and two from the Deep Sounding (Room 2a, A2
1185 #12; and Room 14 B01 78 #17).

Another example of a Brick Kiln Cut strainer is possibly from the very end of Period
VI:1 (N3 3 #2, body sherd, Transcaucasian ware).
Godin Tepe Perforated Vessels

Strainers or Sieves

Strainers or sieves at Godin Tepe Period VI are small bowl shapes with multiple round perforations, unslipped, and most with a medium temper. Their function appears to be that of separating coarser from finer particles, or solids from liquids. The size of the perforations would be a key to what is being separated out, but alternatively a strainer could be covered by a coarse cloth to provide finer additional separation. This type could be functionally classified as a group vessel rather than an individual vessel, and there are correspondingly only a few sherds of this vessel type.

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One example (N4 19 #118) from the Brick Kiln Cut is from a bowl with a flared stance, and is similar to a Period VI:1 sherd from the Deep Sounding (B01 86 #4). Lot N4 19 is probably a mixed lot containing
pottery from both Periods VI:2 and VI:1. Although the excavator states it was a continuation of a Period VI:1 lot (N4 18), there are joins between lot N4 19 and Period VI:2 lots (N4 26 and N4 27). It should also be noted that the Deep Sounding B01 86 #4 strainer is finer than the other examples from Godin Tepe, and has smaller perforations.

This flared strainer type is similar to an earlier example from Seh Gabi (Young and Levine 1974: 71, fig. 12:8; Mound B G18 Lot 30 SG71-201, Seh Gabi Period). Contemporary foreign parallels are from Choga Mish (Delougaz and Kantor 1996: 47, Fig. 8, Plate 81:N), and Susa (Susa 17B, LeBrun 1978a:fig. 34:10; Susa 17, LeBrun 1971: fig. 46:3).

There are four strainer body sherds dating to Period VI:1 from the Brick Kiln Cut (N3 40 #7, N4 22 unnumbered, P4 20 #92, #93), and two from the Deep Sounding (Room 2a, A2 1185 #12; and Room 14 B01 78 #17).

Another example of a Brick Kiln Cut strainer is possibly from the very end of Period VI:1 (N3 3 #2, body sherd, Transcaucasian ware).

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N4 19 # 118

B01 86 # 4

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N3 3 # 2
Godin Tepe Jars with Stripes and Geometric Motifs

B22 #310

B1 506 #1

P3 5 #18

A2 1195 #5

A1 1152 #68

B01 56 #14

A01 49 #13
Godin Tepe Beer Jars

A01 44 / 45 / 71 #49

“Gouge marks” inside 2/3 down from the rim

A2 1178 #401
Godin Tepe Beer Jars

A01 44 / 45 / 71 #49

A2 1178 #401

“Gouge marks” inside 2/3 down from the rim
Godin Tepe Jars with Short Collar Necks

A1 1064  #2

A2 1189  #16

A2 1176  #51
Godin Tepe Jars with Impressed Decoration

A1 1163 #8

A2 1181 #400
Jars

IIb. neckless

VII. red slipped

VI: 2/3

IIc. Hole mouth

VI: 2/3

IIId. Everted rim

VI:2 red slipped

VI:2

IIe. Fine Jars

VII
Godin Tepe Coarse Hole Mouth Jar

B 20-21 (G 20-21) #282
Godin Tepe Wine Jars

Room 18
A01 44, 45

Room 20
A01 56 Gd 73-113

Room 2a
A2 1176 #52

A01 56 Gd73-112
Godin Tepe Small Rolled Rim Bowls

B 20 (G 20) #274
B 20 (G 20) #275
B 20 (G 20) #277
B 19-21 (G 19-21) #197
B 19-21 (G 19-21) #203
B 20 (G 20) #280.3
B 20 (G 20) #280.8
B 21 (G 21) #299.1
B 20 (G 20) #280.7
B 20 (G 20) 280.8
B 22 (G 22) #311
B 23 (G 23) #362
B 22 (G 22) #311
B 23 (G 23) #362
B 20-21 (G 20-21) #284
B 19-22 (G 19-22) #209
B 20 (G 20) #278
B 21 (G 21) #297
B 21 (G 21) #296
B 20 (G 20) #280.2
N4 20 Gd 73-142
B1 517 Gd73-283
B01 76 #118
B1 479 #147
P4 10 #8
Red Slipped Bowl
N4 14 #19
Godin Tepe Pithoi

B 32 (C 9) #486

B 23 (G 23) #361

N3 34 #111

B 20 (G 20) #221

B 20 (G 20) #225
Godin Tepe Miniature Vessels

N3 30 Gd73-198

A2 1178 Gd 73-356

B1 503 Gd73-352

B1 510 Gd 73-311
Godin Tepe Lids

B 30-32 #475

B1 517 Gd73-329

A2 1183/1179/1176 #63
Godin Tepe Bottles

Operation B 30-32 #463

B1 503 #77

B1 479 #173

A2 1185 #13

B1 479 #152

B1 517 #6
Early Period VI Jars

B 34 (C 11) #514

B 33 (C 10)

B 32 (C 9) #488

B 30-32 (C 7-9) #459

B 26-29 (C 3-6) #438

B 26-29 (C 3-6) #428

B 31 (C 8) Jar
Early Period VI Jars

Early Period VI Everted Collar Necked Jars with a Beveled Edge

B 34 (C 11) #514

B 33 (C 10)

B 32 (C 9) #488

B 30-32 (C 7-9) #459

B 26-29 (C 3-6) #438

B 26-29 (C 3-6) #428

Early Period VI Rolled Rim Jar

Early Period VI Small Jars

B 31 (C 8) Jar
Godin Tepe Everted Rim Jars

Gd73-110 A01  56

A1 1163 #7

A2 1195 #3

A2 1188 #18
Constricted Rolled Rim Bowls with Impressed Decoration

B 26-29 (C 3-6) #429

B 19-22 (G 19-22) #205

B 20 (G 20) #255

B 19-22 (G 19-22) #205

A1 1155 #101

N4 18 #16

Rolled Rim Bowls with Raised and Impressed Decoration

P4 20 #105

N4 5 #32

B 18?-19 (G 18?-19) #179
Godin Tepe Everted Collar Necked Jars

B 34 (C 11) #514

B 33 (C 10)

B 32 (C 9) #488

B 26-29 (C 3-6) #438

B 23 (G 23) #393

B 21 (G 21) #304

B 20 (G 20) #220

B 18-19 (G 18-19) #178

B17 (G17) #161

N3 23 #17

N3 42 #30

N3 24 #23

N3 33 #50

N3 34 #170

A1 1163 #7

A2 1195 #3

A2 1189 #15

N3 30 #128

N3 34 #63

N3 32 Gd73-301
Godin Tepe Beveled Rim Bowls

A2 1188 #4
Gd73-284 B1 517
B1 479 #1
B1 479 #12
B1 479 #5
B1 479 #42
B 15 #78

A01 53 #76
B1 510 #314
B1 483 #234
B01 76 #119
B01 71 #117
Beer Jars with Strap Handles

"Gouge marks" inside 2/3 down from the rim

A2 1178 #401

A01 44 / 45 / 71 #49
Godin Tepe Four-Lugged Jars

B01 58 #1
red slipped

B01 58 #10 (A1 1152, B2 361, B01 56 #15)
red slipped

A01 44 #47 & #48

A2 1181 #2

A2 1187 #41

A1 1151 #403

A01 67 #1