Figure 19. Building Z. Kraters.
Scales 1:6 (64, 72) and 1:4 (70, 74)

Figure 20 (left). Stirrup-krater 65

Figure 21 (right). Krater 66
60 Krater(s?), pedestal  Fig. 18
C9580 (82A/17). Diam. (foot) ca. 20. Fine buff clay, 5YR 7/6. Three nonjoining fragments of edge of foot, stem, and top of pedestal of probably two kraters (the restored drawing highlights the difficulty of fitting the stem fragment at the angle required by the other two). Narrow resting surface. Glaze fired red-brown, worn. Wholly painted outside and on bowl inside.

Not same vessel(s) as 57 or 58, but possibly belongs with 113.

61 Krater, pedestal

Close in fabric to 58.

62 Krater, pedestal  Fig. 18

Fabric similar to 59, but not the same piece. The clay here does suggest a non-Cretan origin.

63 Krater, pedestal

Fabric similar to 60, 79, and 113, but thicker.

64 Krater, rim and body  Fig. 19
C9766 (82A/10 and 31; 82B/50, 52, 53). Diam. (rim) ca. 40. Fine light purplish red clay, 5YR 7/4 in core. One fragment of rim, ten of body (five joining), and four joining of handle. Some lower body fragments and one rather flat shed of a pedestal base may or may not belong (one of these from pail 31, which, stratigraphically speaking, lies both horizontally and vertically between the rest). Much worn. Inside wholly painted. Sets of bars on top of rim (no set fully preserved). Four bands on outside of lip. Triple vertical zigzag between sets of four verticals at edge of panel. To center, part of a meander pattern above a strip of triple horizontal zigzags, with triple line between. Lower part of panel extremely worn. Bars across strap handle.

Though the firing is rather different from that of 65, it is plausible that the two, together with 66, come from the same krater. The outside of the rim would have been fully glazed between the "warts" and decorated with four bands on the rest of the circumference; a "wart" would then have been placed just beyond the break to the right of the rim fragment of 64.

The fabric is the same as that of skyphoi 85 and 86.

65 Stirrup-krater, rim  Fig. 20
C9762 (65A2/22). P.H. 7.5. Fine buff clay, 5YR 7/4. Two joining fragments of rim and shoulder. Thick, everted rim, 2.4 high. Generally worn. A "wart" preserved on rim to right, the face decorated with an eight-pointed star. Paint fired generally medium to dark red-brown. Inside once painted, now very worn. Top of lip reserved, with three bars reserved. On outside of lip, to left of wart, four horizontals; fully painted to right (presumably near the handle join). On shoulder, five verticals to right, triple vertical zigzag in center, and a single vertical line preserved to left.

Cf. 64 above.

66 Krater, rim and handle  Fig. 21

Associable with 64, 65, and 67.
67 Krater, rim and handle  Fig. 22
C9630 (82A/10; 82B/50, 52). PW. 13. Fine red-buff clay, 5YR 7/4 in core. Eight fragments, several joining. Varying wear on the fragments. Thick rim, 2.4 high and 1.4 thick; one “wart” preserved, presumably flanking a handle attachment. Round, horizontal handle, rising high and once joined to rim by a strap. Rim painted, save the top, on which sets of bars are painted (five in the one fully preserved set), and the face of the “wart,” on which is an eight-pointed star.
Similar to, but not from the same piece, as 64–66.

68 Krater, pedestal and bowl
C9765 (65A2/23). PH. 3.7, Th. (wall) 2. Fine buff clay, 10YR 7/3 in core, 5YR 7/6 on surface. Fragment of pedestal with part of floor of bowl. Extremely heavily worn; outside may have been ribbed and painted; some paint left on floor of bowl.

69 Krater, stirrup handle
C9767 (65A2/22). Diam. (handle) 1.8. Fine orange-buff clay, 7.5YR 6/6. Single fragment. Handle from a comparatively small krater; most of the round handle and part of the strap preserved. Paint fired very dark: two stripes preserved on strap; thin bars between bands on round handle.

70 Krater, rim Fig. 19

71 Krater, rim  Fig. 18

72 Krater  Fig. 19
C9700 (82B/50 and 52, and base fragments from 65A2/22 not included in drawing). PH. 10.2, Diam. (rim) 38, Diam. (foot) 12.8, W. (strap handles) 3.4. Fine light red clay, 10YR 6/6. Eight fragments, including two sets of three, of rim, upper wall, and handle, and thirteen fragments of lower wall and foot. Open-bowled krater with sharply everted rim and wide strap handles (but not stirrup-handled). Slightly flaring ring foot, 1.3 high. One fragment somewhat burnt. Paint fired dark chocolate brown on the outside, orange-red in. Inside painted, save for top of rim. Top and bottom of rim outside reserved, also the area under the handle; wavy line between bands on outside of handle.

73 Krater, body
C9680 (82B/50). Max. p. dim. 7.5. Fine light red clay, 10YR 6/6. Two joining fragments of body, with handle attachment. Much worn, especially the edges. Dark brown paint; reserved in area behind handle, painted below. Almost certainly from same krater as 72.

74 Krater, rim and shoulder  Fig. 19
C10631 (65A2/22). PH. 3.3, Diam. (rim) 34. Fine buff-brown clay, 5YR 6/4. Two joining fragments of rim and shoulder. Painted, as far as preserved, save for top of rim, which is reserved with sets of six bars. Probably from a stirrup-handled krater.

The very fragmentary nature of this material makes any assessment of the total number of pieces represented hazardous. There are at least six feet of different diameter.
OTHER TYPES

75 Krater, rim and body

C9723 (82A/10 and 82B/50). P.H. 15.5, Diam. (rim) 40, Th. 1.4. Hard-fired medium coarse buff-pink clay, 5YR 7/3, with some large dark inclusions and creamy slip. Five joining and four further fragments of rim and upper wall. Thick-walled krater with ledge rim and ridge at top of wall. Extremely worn. Broad band near rim inside. Traces of paint on outside of rim. Set of at least eleven concentric circles on wall, with central cross.

76 Krater, rim and body

C8054 (65A2/24; the pail spans the broad depth range 3.56 to 4.46 m). P.H. 11.5, Diam. (rim) ca. 35. Near fine, light red clay, 2.5YR 6/4, with large dark red and white inclusions. Three joining fragments of rim and wall. Flat-topped flaring rim; slight molding outside at top of wall. Rim wholly painted, save for top. On upper wall, part of central strip of decoration preserved, flanked on right by triple vertical line and part of a hatched feature. Band of crosshatched hour-glass ornament above one of wholly painted butterfly set in doubly outlined rectangle; further hourglass band below.

For hatched hourglass patterns in central strip, see KNG, fig. 57:5, and more chaotically, fig. 59:1. Probably no later than PGB.

77 Krater(?), body


78 Krater(?), body

C10106 (65A2/22). Max. p. dim. 5.9. Fine buff clay, 5YR 7/4, with paler buff surface. Single fragment of shoulder, with handle scar. Slightly curving rather thin-walled fragment of a large vase. Large handle scar, with two sections of a group of concentric circles in fine brown lines beside it.

79 Belly-handled jar

C7040 (36B/21; a foot fragment from 65A2/22 may belong). P.H. ca. 14, Diam. (rim) ca. 15. Fine ware, orange-buff, 5YR 6/8. Twelve fragments, mending to eight, of rim and wall, with much of one horizontal handle. See Callaghan and Johnston 2000, no. 262. The exterior is painted except for two reserved horizontals on the upper shoulder and a low frieze between the handles, which is decorated with close-set verticals. Bars, perhaps continuous, on top of lip.

The fabric is close to that of several of the stirrup-kraters.
Skyphoi

80 Skyphos Fig. 25
C9729 (82B/50, 52, 53). H. 8.8, Diam. (rim) 14. Fine pale red clay lighter than 10R 6/6. Thirteen fragments from all parts of skyphos, with joins between pails. Low, concave rim, high shoulder, and straight lower profile; flat base. Paint variously fired, dark brown to orange-red. Wholly painted, save for underside and narrow band at top of rim inside, which has sets of probably five verticals on it.

A very worn fragment of rim from 82B/54 may belong, but is difficult to assess. The angular shape is not unparalleled in MG and L.G. Possibly an import, though not Attic.

81 Skyphos, rim Fig. 25

82 Skyphos, rim Fig. 25
C9611 (82A/30). P.H. 3.6, Diam. (rim) ca. 12. Fine light brown clay, 7.5YR 7/4, with fine flecks of golden mica. Single fragment of short and straight offset rim and wall. Very worn, especially inside. Probably once had reserved band inside near lip. Reserved band on outside of rim. Below, part of panel with its bounding line to right; row of small dots above three lines. Painted below, as far as preserved.

Import.

83 Skyphos, rim

A MG form, cf. Coldstream 1972, p. 82, fig. 7, D28. Several other similar rim fragments were recovered from this and adjacent pails.

84 Skyphos, rim and handle
C7041 (36B/21). P.H. 4.2, Diam. (rim) 21. Fine ware, orange-buff, 5YR 7/6. Nine fragments of lip, shoulder, and both handles of a large skyphos; see Callaghan and Johnston 2000, no. 258. Paint variously fired, red to dark brown. Painted inside except for a reserved band near the rim; lip painted outside, with parts of the decoration of the handle zone preserved below, a few verticals only visible.

The type is probably as 85–88 below. The rim on these pieces is relatively short and slightly offset, cf. Forteta, no. 494, pl. 35. The form of decoration is difficult to parallel; cross-and-vertical alternation is found in subsidiary zones in Argive Geometric, and the star-and-vertical pattern is found on skyphoi there (Courbin 1966, pl. 56, C837 and C59; p. 378, note 3, but noting the minimal links between Argos and Crete on pp. 530–536); Samos provides L.G examples (Coldstream 1968, pl. 64a; Samos V, p. 92, no. 29). These pieces would seem to be the work of a single, perhaps local potter/painter, and therefore it is worth noting the minor variations in shape and detail of decoration in the set of material.

85 Skyphos, rim and handle Fig. 25
C9739 (81B/66, east of Z). P.H. 6.4, Diam. (rim) 15.6. Fine pinkish red clay, 10YR 6/4. Four joining fragments of lip, wall, and handle. Low, everted rim and large, round handle. Decoration fired dark brown. Painted inside, save for reserved band at rim with (continuous?) frieze of verticals. Outside, rim painted; panel in handle zone with eight verticals and part of an X; wall reserved under handle.

86 Skyphos, rim Fig. 25
C10101 (81B/65, outside Z). P.H. 4.6, Diam. (rim) 17.8. Fine pink-buff clay, 5YR 7/4. Fragment of rim and body. Low, everted rim and full body. Paint fired dark brown inside, red outside, much worn. Inside glazed, save for reserved band at top. Outside, rim painted, panel in handle zone; parts of at least six verticals discernible, the rightmost, incompletely preserved, ending below as a diagonal.

Possibly from same piece as 85.

87 Skyphos, rim Fig. 25
C9577 (82A/15, 16A, 33; 82B/50). P.H. 8.1, Diam. (rim) 20.2. Fine red-brown clay, 7.5YR 7/6. Fourteen, mostly joining fragments of lip and body wall. A foot fragment from 82B/50, reserved underneath, with slightly raised disk foot, may belong. Low, everted rim. Paint variously fired, dark brown to orange, inside and out. Worn to very worn. Reserved band on inside of rim with sets of six verticals on it. Two reserved lines on outside of lip. Panel in handle zone decorated with alternating X and sets of five or six verticals. Reserved area below handles. Reserved band below handle zone, not continuous under handles.

88 Skyphos, rim and body Fig. 25
C10040 (82A/25). P.H. 8.3, Diam. (rim) 18. Fine clay, variously fired, pale orange-brown to orangered, 5YR 7/8. Seven fragments, four joining, of rim and body wall. Low, lightly offset lip with full body; thick walls. Glaze fired red-brown to black. Inside painted, save for band near top of rim, with traces of vertical bars at one point. Outside, reserved band on rim. Frieze in handle zone with alternating X and sets of six verticals; two bands below.

89 Skyphos(?) foot Fig. 25
Figure 25. Building Z. Skyphoi.
Scale 1:3
The type of foot suggests a date before L.G. The shape could perhaps be a pxis; cf. KNC, T292.77.

90 Skyphos(?) body Fig. 25
C10696 (82A/10). P.H. 6. Fine beige clay, 7.5YR 7/6. Fragment of wall of a skyphos; Wall of deep-bowed open vase, with turn to lip just preserved. Inside reserved, save for band at top; outside painted down to lower wall.

The context dates to the 8th century, while the shape is that of a PG bell-skyphos; the decorative scheme is not, however, found on other bell-skyphoi.

91 Skyphos, rim Fig. 25

Probably an import. A similar rim fragment comes from 82A/32.

92 Skyphos, rim Fig. 25

93 Skyphos, rim Fig. 25
C10698 (82B/50). P.H. 2.3, Diam. (rim) 13.2, Th. (wall) 0.25. Fine pink-buff clay, 5YR 7/4. Two nonjoining fragments of rim of a skyphos (rather than cup). Fine-walled, with low, concave rim, offset from the shoulder by a groove. Probably once wholly painted. 7

Kantharoi

94 Kantharos Fig. 26
C10041 (82A/25). H. with handles ca. 12; Diam. (foot) 5.2. Fine light buff-brown clay, 5YR 7/6. Thirteen fragments, a few joining, of foot, body, and handles. The preserved handle fragments cannot easily be accommodated to a single handle; the restored rim remains conjectural. Flat foot. Extremely worn surface; traces of paint remain on inside, underneath the foot, and on the outside of the handles; probably once wholly glazed.

95 Kantharos
C7039 (36B/21). P.H. 7.3, Diam. (rim) ca. 13. Fine ware, light buff-brown (7.5YR 7/6). Twenty small sherds from rim to belly, with parts of both handles; see Callaghan and Johnston 2000, no. 259. Unpainted.

The S profile and thick, narrow handle are early features in cups, where the type survives into the early LG period. Cf. Coldstream 1972, p. 83, fig. 8, E3. 8

96 Kantharos(?) Fig. 26
C10705 (82A/10). Diam. (foot) 7.4, W. (handle) 2.8. Fine micaceous red-tan clay, 2.5YR 6/8. Eight fragments, mending to six, of an open vase with at least one vertical strap handle; low ring foot and flat floor. Underside reserved, rest streakily painted red-brown.

Import.

Cups

There is considerable variety in the treatment of lip and bowl of the many black-glazed cups from the building; however, the fabric is normally rather heavy and the foot almost always flat or slightly concave (e.g., from 82A/48); one foot, in 82A/30, whose material otherwise is solidly MG, has a slight groove around the outer part of the underside, while others have a slightly raised disk foot (e.g., from 81B/65). High and low rims appear in the same pails (e.g., 82A/50 and 52), the latter far more common, though

7. Most pails have isolated skyphos fragments: from 82B/50, fifteen feet from cups or skyphoi, twelve painted, three reserved underneath; from 82A/16-16A, joining fragments of a dark-glazed skyphos base with ring foot; from 82A/26, several rims and a ring foot; and from 82A/32, a foot similar to that from 82A/26 (underside and lower wall resolved) and a rim similar to 91.

8. From 82A/25 there is also a rim and wall fragment of a thin-walled, straight-sided, painted kantharos, lightly ribbed horizontally.
three vessels in 82A/16 have a high rim. The handle tends to be attached to the top of the rim, neither clearly inside nor outside. The examples given below are among the better-preserved pieces. Comparable is the range of shapes found in room G at Phaistos (Rocchetti 1974–1975, pp. 261–262).

97 Cup, rim
MG. For the type, cf. Fortetsa, no. 1032, pl. 62; Coldstream 1972, p. 95, no. D105.

98 Cup

99 Cup
of rim and shoulder. Low slightly concave lip: three slight grooves at top of shoulder; rounded body, with fairly thick walls. Once wholly painted.

**100 Black-glazed cup** Fig. 26


**Other Shapes**

**103 Uncertain shape** Fig. 28

C10710 (82A/26 and 27). P.H. 3.7, Diam. 20. Fine buff-brown clay, 7.5YR 6/6. Uncertain shape, perhaps to be turned round, as a lid; four worn fragments, three joining. Triple ribbing on outside of rim; wall turns out a little at lowest-preserved point. Dark paint. Inside plain; band over outside of rim, reserved area at break.

**104 Uncertain shape** Fig. 27

C9679 (82B/50). Max. p. dim. 7.2. Fine pink clay, 5YR 6/4. Single fragment from rather elaborate piece. Painted outside in mottled chocolate-red glaze. The piece suggests an amphora neck, but a swelling top left is not normally found near handle attachments, and there are parts of two holes preserved, top left and right, which run diagonally or obliquely through the fabric.

**105 Chytra** Fig. 28


The piece is unusual; though the clay is of fine consistency, with little temper, the surface is porous and unpolished. If this had been a black-glazed piece, it might have been dated late in the 8th century.

Extremely worn fragments of a lid, or possibly kalathos (C11248), come from 82A/26.

**Cooking Ware**

**106 Cooking pot, rim** Fig. 28

C9698 (82B/52 and 53). P.H. 5.8. Coarse light brown clay, 7.5YR 6/4, with wide variety of inclusions. Four nonjoining fragments of rim and wall. Deep bowl with simple everted rim; part of a lug handle, close to rim, preserved on one fragment. Rim warped.

A piece of similar fabric from a lower level (82B/55) has part of a small, round, vertical handle at the same point as the lug here.
Figure 28. Various shapes from Building Z and later material.
Scale 1:3
107 Cooking pot, rim Fig. 28

C10479 (82B/52). H. of largest fragment 5.4, Diam. (rim) ca. 20. Coarse ware, full red-brown in core, 5YR 5/6, with a little mica. Two nonjoining fragments of rim of a shallow cooking pot. Ledge rim, slightly concave with light molding below; the start of the outturn of a spout preserved on one fragment.

In 82B/50 there was much cooking ware of various shapes but no complete profile. From 82A/16A came one leg and much of the lower part of a tripod cooking pot with a flat floor. Otherwise, such ware was very sporadic and fragmentary. Fragments of a pithos with herringbone incised decoration on at least one raised band came from several pails, 82A/26, 27, 32, 52, and 53.

UPPER LEVELS

The levels above ca. 4.30 m show consistent evidence of later dating, after the solidly MG to earliest LG terminus ante quem of the material considered so far. Later material is particularly evident at the east end of the gallery at this level. Added separately to the catalogue are a few pieces of interest from the rather scrappy surface levels above ca. 4.60 m, where burning and limpets, plus cooking-ware sherds, reflect regular 7th-century open-air activity. The highest-preserved point of the walls of Z lies at 4.86 m; this level is fairly uniform, as if it were the product of intentional leveling.

The pails of relevance are listed in Table 1. I list the material below by section from east to west, and from lower levels upward.

108 Transport amphora, handle

C9697 (83C/64). P.L. 12.7, Diam. at break 3.2. Slightly micaeous, rather coarse, clay, gray in core, rose-pink in "halo" around core (10YR 6/4) and orange on surface (5YR 7/6). Five fragments of handle, virtually round in section; lower part of handle, near shoulder join, is ridged outside. Surface worn.

The shape is typically Lesbian, and this piece seems to be a very early example of a red-fired variety of Lesbian amphora, though the clay has less mica than one would expect. Dupont (1998, pp. 160–161) lists examples of such early material. The handle does not seem to accord with the "Phocean" variety of such jars as published by Özgüç 1994, pp. 88–90. The pail concerned is from a level which, a little to the west, in and immediately outside Z, is below that of the transition from pure MG to later material; this piece is stratigraphically intriguing.

109 Amphora, rim/neck Fig. 30

C9671 (81B/61). Diam (rim) ca. 15. Fine brownish pink clay, 5YR 7/4, slipped creamy white. Two joining fragments of neck and rim of a thick-walled amphora; offset at base of lip; rest lost. Inside reserved, as far as preserved. Decoration in dark paint; rim and upper part of neck painted; frieze of linked Xs; painted below.

110 Hydria(?), handle, body, and foot

C9651 (81B/50D, 56A, 61; 83C/59 and 61). Max. p. dim. 35; Diam. (foot) 12.3. Micaceous gray-brown to pink clay, 7.5YR 6/2 to 5YR 7/6. Gray surface. Over eighty fragments of foot, body, and one handle probably of a hydria. Closed vase with ring foot and full body; low
and thin floor. Root of a horizontal handle on one fragment. Surface generally worn. Variegated firing makes definition of decoration difficult, compounded by uncertainties whether there are one or two pots here. Band on outside of foot and on lower wall; three bands below waist; parts of a sinuous band preserved in zone above, perhaps of "mustache" or "scroll" shape.

Perhaps East Greek. The stratigraphy does not allow a close dating.

111 Amphora(?), neck Fig. 28

C9650 (81B/50E). P.H. 9.7, Diam. (neck) ca. 13. Semicrude buff-pink clay, 5YR 7/4, with redder core; gray and red inclusions. Four joining fragments of neck. Broad black bands partly preserved at top and bottom, with broad vertical band connecting them. Added white decoration on the glaze: concentric circles between pairs of lines on lower band, stacked chevrons between pairs of lines on vertical band, and two lines preserved on upper band.

LG or Early Orientalizing. White-on-dark is rarely found preserved at Kommos. For early, MG, examples of the technique, see the black-glazed cup from Eleutherna, Stamoulidis 1990, p. 389, fig. 17, and pithos lids and cups from Knossos, KNC, pp. 330 and 389.

112 Krater(?), body Fig. 31


Orientalizing.

113 Krater, pedestal Fig. 32

C9667 (82B/49). Max. p. dim. 4.5. Fine buff clay, 5YR 6/6, with some mica. Single fragment of pedestal. Parts of three ribs of stem preserved and part of top of foot. Extremely worn; remains of red-brown paint on outside.

Perhaps from the same vase as 60.

114 Kalathos Fig. 28

C9668 (82B/49). H. 3.2, Diam. 8.5. Fine buff clay, 7.5YR 8/6. Two joining fragments of a small kalathos. String-cut base, thin walls with slightly everted lip; one small excrescence preserved on top of lip. Plain. The type may be of Cretan pedigree, though might be termed a miniature; cf. the MG–LG piece, Coldstream 1972, p. 96, no. 110.

115 Cup Fig. 28


The shape and build suggest a LG date or a little later.

116 Jug, body and foot Fig. 28

C10690 (82B/46, 47, 48). P.H. 20.4, Diam. (foot) 7. Fine light gray-buff clay, 10YR 7/4. Twenty-one fragments, mending to ten. Complete profile, save for upper parts and handle. Very fine vessel. Dull brown paint: band on outside of foot and another on lower wall; band above three lines at waist; crosshatched triangles, painted a little irregularly, at top of shoulder; two bands preserved on lower neck.

LG or Early Orientalizing. Cf. Fortezza, no. 704, pl. 45, for the general decorative system and shape.

117 Amphora, neck and shoulder Fig. 33

C10080 (82B/45, 47, 48). Diam. 32. Nearly fine salmon-pink clay, 7.5YR 8/5, with paler buff surface. Twenty-one fragments, mending to thirteen. Large, full-bodied amphora with round handles; slight inset at base of neck, of which 5 cm is preserved. Dull brown glaze, terribly worn. Band at base of neck and parts of two broad bands preserved on lower shoulder, supporting sets of six concentric semicircles.
The piece seems to be a LPG survival; there is a further possible fragment, from a lower level, in 82B/55 (see above p. 196).

118 Uncertain shape, body Fig. 28

C10688 (82B/47). P.H. 5.6. Fine buff clay, 10YR 7/6, more pink in core, with many dark inclusions. Single fragment of wall of closed vase. Very worn paint: part of a hatched zigzag, a diagonal line, and a small circular motif preserved.

119 Uncertain shape, body Fig. 28

C10700 (82B/47). P.H. 6.6. Fine pink-tan clay, 5YR 6/6, with red inclusions. Fragment, probably of lower wall, of a closed vase. Inside and edges extremely worn. Part of a band of solid double axes and sets of at least five verticals preserved between bands.

L.G? The motif was spread, no doubt via Attic MG, to many areas of the Greek world. The clay appears Cretan.

120 Krateriskos or pyxis Fig. 28

C10714 (82B/45 and 47). P.H. 9.6, Diam. (rim) 17.8. Semicosrse pinkish buff clay, 7.5YR 7/6, with many inclusions. Thirteen fragments, some joining. Much burnt. Upper parts of some form of large bowl; sharply modeled, everted rim with ridge below. Upper parts painted outside; perhaps a frieze of double concentric circles below (Fig. 28 shows the only set well preserved, on two fragments); two lines and a band preserved on the lower parts.

7th century. An unusual shape, with crisp molding and hard, but nearly coarse, clay; vessel seems to have been used for cooking.

121 Jug(?) , body

C10689 (82B/45). 4.5 x 4.1, Th. 0.6. Fine buff-pink clay, 5YR 6/4. Two joining fragments of wall perhaps of a jug. Broad band of dull dark paint with a set of five concentric circles (plus central dot) in added white on it. Another rare example of white-on-dark decoration, though not closely datable.

122 Cup or kantharos, Fig. 34

rim and handle

C9576 (82A/20). P.H. 7.6 (with handle), Diam. (rim) 14. Fine light red clay, 2.5YR 5/6, with much small mica. Eight fragments, mostly joining, of rim, wall, and handle. Deep with straight wall, flaring slightly at plain lip; one heavy, vertical strap handle preserved. Wholly painted in dark glaze, save for area behind handle.
Figure 34. Material from upper levels. Scale 1:3
Cf. Fortetsa, no. 1057, pl. 73, though our piece may be an import. LG?

123 Cup
Perhaps later than MG.

124 Jug or aryballos, body
LG? Cf. Fortetsa, p. 171, no. 41, “mainly LPG, except the aryballos which are LG.”

125 Jug, body and foot
C10709 (82A/14 and 24). P.H. 13.2, Diam. (foot) 6. Fine pinkish beige clay, 5YR 6/6, with some large inclusions. Twenty joining fragments of foot and body. Flat-based jug with very narrow neck; handle not preserved. Worn paint; band at base and two on lower wall; four close-set bands on shoulder.

126 Skyphos, rim
The presumed height of the frieze suggests that the motif consists of sigmas, not chevrons; chevron skyphoi, of whatever origin, are not otherwise attested at the site. The decoration here floats in the field, and, together with the short, low lip, indicates a LG date.

---

Figure 35. Skyphos 126

127 Cup
The build clearly belongs to the MG tradition.

128 Cup
C1037 (82A/13). H. with handle 12.5, Diam. 15.6, Diam. (foot) 7. Fine, rather soft, pink-buff clay, 5YR 7/6 to 7.5YR 7/6. Twenty fragments, including two joining sets. Rather heavy build, with slightly concave base. Painted red-brown inside and out.
Similar to 127.

129 Amphora, rim/neck
C9628 (82A/11 and 13). P.H. 16.8, Diam. (rim) 18. Medium coarse reddish yellow clay, 5YR 7/6. Five fragments, four joining, of rim and neck. Broad neck, flaring to rim with vertical outer face, considerably hollowed on inside. Lip painted; lower neck painted, as far as preserved; horizontal zigzag at mid-neck.
Cf. 22 above.

130 Closed vessel
C10050 (82A/7 and 13). Diam. (foot) 5. Fine orange-red clay, paler surface, 2.5YR 6/6. Eight fragments, two (from both pails) joining; of lower parts of a small closed vase. Worn, noticeably on breaks. Heavy wheel marks inside. Flat base and slim body. Painted streakily in dull red-brown glaze.
The fabric is comparable to that of some of the stirrup-kraters and skyphoi. An 8th-century date would therefore be indicated.

131 Cup, rim and body
The shape is typologically early, but the fine build would be unusual in MG.

132 Kantharos(?), rim and body
An import; reminiscent of the developed Chian chalice and also Samian cups (cf. Furtwängler 1980, p. 209, fig. 16.I/1).

133 Cup, rim, body, and handle
C10701 (82A/11). P.H. 6.4, Diam. (rim) 14. Semi-coarse beige-brown clay, 7.5YR 6/6, more red in core, with much included matter; cream surface. Four fragments, two joining, of lip, wall, and handle. Upper parts with heavy strap handle; fairly low and straight lip. Traces of paint remaining; probably once wholly painted (or dipped).
This is another cup of MG tradition at a high level in Building Z; cf. 127.

134 Krater, pedestal
Type and date similar to material from lower levels, see 57ff.
To be added to the catalogued material above are the following pieces of clear 7th-century date:

83C/61: body fragments of a Chian amphora, Protocorinthian kotyle handle, Orientalizing amphora sherd.
81B/50E: Protocorinthian linear kotyle sherd.
81B/61: amphora foot in coarse red clay, with joining fragments from 82B/51 and 83C/59.
82B/49: several fine-walled black-glazed cup fragments and one foot with a groove near the outer edge, comparable to that in 82A/30 (p. 214 above), but more crisply modeled.
82B/48: several black-glazed cup feet with concave underside and perhaps a body fragment from a Samian amphora.
82B/47: a very worn body fragment, perhaps from a Chian amphora.
82B/45: two Lesbian amphora body fragments; a fine juglet base, with a groove at the edge of the underside and a spiral of glaze at the center; and a chyttra of fine fabric with tall lip.
82B/41: lowest appearance of Protocorinthian (worn kotyle fragments) within the area of Z, together with clearly later 7th-century black-glazed cup feet. Fragments of a pithos with an impressed circle frieze on a raised band were found in both 82B/41 and 45.
82A/19: little clearly later than MG, though the handle of a jug with a wavy line down it probably is so. Cooking ware is scarce in this area, but this pail has part of a flat-floored tripod bowl (other sherds in 82A/13 and 18).
82A/23 and 23A: scraps of fine-walled black-glazed cups.9

From the surface levels, three pieces are of particular interest:

**135 Amphora, rim and neck**  Fig. 36

**136 Open vessel, body and foot**  Fig. 34
C10711 (82B/42). P.H. 8, Diam. (foot) 7.8. Micaceous fine tan clay, 7.5YR 6/6. Three joining fragments of lower part of an open vase. Flat foot and steep walls. Rather roughly finished inside. Wholly painted, save for underside. The paint inside precludes the most obvious inference that this is a closed vase, such as an olpe, though one may note the rough finish of the inside of East Greek pyxides; Kerschner 1997, col. 185, with note 67.

**137 Amphora or hydria, body and foot**
C10712 (82B/41). Diam. (foot) ca. 14. Fine micaceous tan clay, 7.5YR 6/6, with gray core and pale beige surface. Six fragments, joining to three, of foot and body. Tall, spaying ring foot. Banded decoration in dull red-brown glaze; band on outside of foot (not extending onto wall); double band on lower body; wavy band, ca. 1.0 thick on small body fragment. Typical of a range of East Greek amphoras found on the site; 7th century.
GENERAL REMARKS

As noted in the introduction, we have here a good cross-section of local pottery styles of ca. 800–725 B.C., with finds from the earlier Iron Age levels being very poorly preserved and almost wholly discrete from the material from the phase of use above.

Stratigraphically, the pottery distribution goes some way to confirming that a second floor was laid at ca. 4.35 m, above the large deposit in 82B/50, although some sherds from pots found mainly below this floor do appear in higher levels. Certainly, stylistically later pottery only begins to be found at this point, with some sherds clearly showing Late Geometric to Early Orientalizing trends; there is an admixture of earlier material, with a little Minoan pottery, but amounts are very small until we reach a level where the area seems to have been once more open land, into which Bronze Age residue drifted sometime in the 7th century. A more precise date for the end of the period of use of Building Z is less easy to establish, largely because of the chronologically recalcitrant nature of the pottery found, though there are also difficulties in distinguishing which sherds are from the final phase of use of Z and which are from later use of the area.

The pottery that can be surely attributed to the main period of use, however, can be definitively isolated and attributed to the Middle Geometric period, probably late in it. There are few obvious exceptions, of which 41, primarily found to the north, and 14, which is one of the few tolerably well preserved large vessels, are the clearest examples, bracketing either side of MG. Much of the material from within the building is preserved in small fragments, with no joining sherds found outside; the erosion to the west hampers closer argument, but it would seem that a residue of sherds from pots once used in the building remained there, and that we might think of a period of use in very rough terms of about two generations. Another possible way of considering the chronology is to reflect on the lack of Corinthian pottery in Building Z; does this indicate a “pre-Thapsos” date, therefore earlier than apparently comparable material from the temple area? An unhelpful, but fair, answer is that Corinthian LG pottery is so rare at Kommos that we should not expect a piece to appear in the restricted corpus of Building Z.

There is in fact no Corinthian pottery at all in Building Z, and the amount of other imported material is small; Phoenician pottery is scant (though not absent), and a number of micaceous vases, mostly of closed shape, will have had a Euboean, Cycladic, or East Greek origin; they are more frequently encountered in the upper levels. It is probable that some kraters and skyphoi are imports from elsewhere in Crete. The range of shapes is wide and variety of decoration within each shape also considerable, to the extent that it is rare that closely similar vases are found. There are clear exceptions in the very fragmentary amphoras with concentric semicircles on the shoulder (the majority of which are included in the catalogue above), the black-glazed cups, and the “symposium sets” of krater, skyphos, and (more rarely) jug; the import 12 and the later 110 also conceal more than one piece. Overall in Building Z the number of decorated

10. It is largely local and without strong diagnostic features. For Knossos, cf. Coldstream and MacDonald 1997, p. 237: “close dating of seventh century sherds is rarely possible.”

11. Further MG material was found, apparently redeposited, in disturbed levels in Gallery 4 to the south (trench 86F); equally fragmentary, this material presents no joins with material from Z nor with the temple deposits. These sherds will be treated more fully in my third report on the Iron Age pottery, but they are noted here as the only other concentrated set of contemporary material excavated in the vicinity of Z.

12. This material is treated in Callaghan and Johnston 2000, p. 312, n. 12; the amount is very restricted.
amphoras would originally have been substantial, but larger semicoarse or coarse pithoi appear in a very restricted number of fragments.

In many respects, the character of the period-of-use pottery can be matched closely with that from the temple area deposits, though the virtual lack of joins between the two areas does not _prima facie_ suggest that Building Z acted simply as a storage facility for festival equipment. In both areas vessels that could not be described as such equipment are rare. There are indeed differences in the assemblages, for example, no trace of figurines in Z, more pedestal kraters in Z, and a greater variety of cups and skyphoi in the temple area, but it might be impertinent in view of the incomplete recovery of the material there (because of overlying features) and the highly fragmentary nature of Z to describe these differences as significant, except perhaps with respect to the kraters (adding those mentioned in note 11 above), which do point to sympotic activity being more frequent than, or at least of a different character from, whatever such activity was carried out in the temple area. The closer definition of such activity, whether reflecting a Cretan form of syssition or more "mainland" style of male commensality, is scarcely possible on available evidence. Nonceramic finds are very few, most noticeably a set of four iron points from a relatively high level (82A/8), two probable spindle whorls (from different areas), and some fishhooks (also from a high level, 82A/48), together with a few worked stones—a mortar and ten stone fishing weights. Substantial traces of hearths, together with bones, limpets, and pumice, complete the picture of food preparation actually in the building, though we have noted that cooking ware is of no great prominence. There are some pointers here to Building Z being a form of andreion, certainly not a cooking-free andreion of later type, but naturally there are dangers in imposing later developments on 8th-century evidence.

The building would appear to have been abandoned by about the end of the 8th century B.c.; some 7th-century sherds were found at a level slightly below the highest remains of the walls of Building Z, but associated finds point to the area being open at the time. The material here includes imported amphoras, and it may be tempting to suggest, with respect to the function of Z, that it was replaced by the long, snaky Building Q, a little to the west-northwest, where 7th-century amphoras constitute so much of the material recovered, and evidence of use as any form of syssition is lacking. The presence of these amphora sherds above Z could, however, be misleading, since there would certainly appear to be a hiatus between the end of the use of Z and the installation of Q, possibly a hiatus of some considerable extent that would remain even if we favored a radical downdating of Late Geometric and Subgeometric material. Yet one factor that begs an explanation remains: the architecture of Q seems, in its extraordinary length and without contemporary parallel, to mimic a gallery of P. Could it not be modeled on Building Z, a reworking of one of the galleries, thereby implying that Z was still at least visible when Q was built? While it should be noted that Building Q was a longer building than Z could have been, it may be that Q took as its model another of the galleries that may have remained visible, possibly still in use, well down into the 7th century. This does not of course nullify any argument that the

---

13. The attempt to differentiate between symposium and other vessels has always seemed to me to be largely misplaced, since most allegedly diagnostic material would be suitable for a range of social activity. Certainly the whole corpus of any material has to be examined as a unit for confident conclusions to be drawn, and in the case of Z, it may be only the sheer amount of pottery and the relative elaborateness of much of it that point to a "higher" social use such as in a symposium at a festival.


15. For the dating and use of Building Q, see Johnston 1993, esp. pp. 374–376, and for the architecture, see _Kommos IV_, pp. 14–36.

16. For a useful statement of the possibilities, see Vink 1996, even if a little overgeneral on the difficulties of dating the pottery.
functions of Q and Z were similar, but to support it, at least on current evidence, an explanation would be required concerning the location, or indeed locations, of those functions through much of the 7th century.

There are no comparable corpora of material published from individual buildings in central Crete, a situation that one hopes can be rectified in the near future. It is to be regretted that the finds from similarly dated rooms at Phaistos are even more fragmentary than this set from Kommos, while those from Gortyn are naturally to be associated more with the sanctuary material at our site. This publication is therefore intended as an initial exploration rather than the final word.

REFERENCES

Samois V = H. Walter, Frühe samische Gefässe: Chronologie und Landschaftsstile ostgriechischer Gefässe (Samos V), Bonn 1968.
———. In press. Υπομυκηνική, Πρωτογεωμετρική, Γεωμετρική και Ανατολικά οίκοι κεραμικής της Εποχής Περιοχής (Athens).

Alan W. Johnston
Institute of Archaeology
University College London
31–34 Gordon Square
London WC1 0PY
England
alan.johnston@ucl.ac.uk