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POLYCHRONO: A NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE IN CHALKIDIKE *

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In the summer of 1987 two rescue excavations south of the village of Polychrono provided the opportunity for the study of the antiquities, whose existence was already known, of Geromoiri Hill.¹ Polychrono is situated on the eastern coast of the Kassandreia peninsula, a few miles opposite the west coast of Sithonia, where the excavations of Professor Alexander Cambitoglou each year reveal new discoveries from ancient Torone.

The opening of a forest road from Polychrono to Kassandrino produced a stratigraphical section on the southern slope of Geromoiri Hill. The bulldozer brought to light destroyed walls, scattered Archaic and Classical sherds of excellent quality, and a furnace that had been halved, almost as if it had been cut in two with a knife.

Cleaning and preliminary research were undertaken at two points. In trench A the machines had destroyed a building the lower walls of which were made of well-worked stones. A small portion of its north-western corner could be saved. In an interior area, enclosed by two walls, there was a rectangular kiln, which measured 0.65 x 0.30 m, for the working of iron ore. Its exterior was covered by unbaked clay, 17 cm thick (pl. 15:1). Half a metre beyond the ventilating hole smelted iron ore (slag) was found. On the basis of the pottery sherds associated with it, it is believed that the furnace was in use in the 5th cent. BC. This rare find is exceedingly important for the study of the technology of this period.

In trench B successive buildings were excavated in the 4.50 m deep fill (pl. 15: 2). On the basis of the pottery sherds that were collected from the cleaning of its eastern and southern faces the contents of the cutting are dated generally to the 6th cent. BC.

Trench C was made in 1988 through the forest road, a small distance from trench A. Three walls were uncovered, two of which were perpendicular to one another and only had one visible face. They were constructed in the isodomic technique with excellently worked stones. The first wall is preserved to a length of 5.40 m, and to a height of 1.85m. The placement and construction of the walls, with only one visible face, show that they were meant to retain the unstable soil. The central part of the city must have spread out on the level surface a few metres higher than the present road. The inscription Δεμοῖτε on the foot of a black-glaze kylix of the 5th cent. BC, found in the cemetery on the coast, encourages the hope that there are also public buildings.

In 1987, cemeteries were located at two sites which are associated with the ancient city at Geromoiri. One is by the sea near the chapel of Panagouda, about 500 m south-east of Geromoiri; the other, the larger of the two, is along the forest road at Nyphe on the south-western foothills of Geromoiri.

* The archaeologist, Mrs M. Pappa, supervised the excavations of the cemeteries of Polychrono; the excavation details included in this study are owed to her observations. Mrs B. Tsigarida supervised trench C. I warmly thank Professors Stella Drougou, University of Thessaloniki, and E. Walter-Karydi, University of Munich, for their

suggestions. I also thank Mr S. Paspalas for the excellent translation of my Greek text.

¹ A preliminary overview of the 1987 excavation was published in the volume Το αρχαιολογικό έργο στη Μακεδονία και Θράκη, I (1987) 282-4.

The larger part of the cemetery at Panagouda was destroyed during the excavation for the laying of foundations of a holiday house. The complete area of the site is only 80 m², and so we assume that it was a family cemetery. Due to the destruction carried out prior to our arrival and because of the lack of stratigraphy it has not been possible to gain an overall picture of the cemetery. Only in two cases were successive tombs determined, while the small difference in level between the tombs (1.40 m) is probably due to the existence of a small sandhill. An unworked stone, 0.70 m high, which was found upright between graves 1 and 4, may have been a marker.

Of the thirteen graves, one was a cist grave, four were tile burials, and eight were pot burials. No uniform orientation of the graves was observed. Two features appear to be characteristic of the cemetery: the use of unworked stones to support the tiles or the burial vessels, and small piles of stones over the latter, especially over their mouths which were closed with a flat stone or part of a tile. Nearly all the graves were of children or infants and it is not impossible that the site was used especially for the burial of children.² The graves at the cemetery of Panagouda cover the period from the end of the 6th cent. to about the middle of the 4th cent. BC. Most of the tombs belong to the Late Archaic and Early Classical periods.

Graves 4, 10, and 11 are of note for the amount of tomb-goods with which they were equipped and for the decoration of their burial vessels.

Grave 4.

Pot burial of a child in a painted cauldron-shaped vessel (pl. 16: 2). Its mouth was closed by an undecorated kalathoid vessel placed upside-down, which was covered with stones (pl. 15: 3); amongst the stones were found seven figurines and eleven vases. Inside the burial vessel were found a glass amphoriskos and a small bowl which is dated to the second quarter of the 5th cent. BC.³ The Attic vessels in the pile of stones, such as a black-glaze skyphos and two stemmed kylikes⁴ with inscribed names on their bases: 'Αρ[σ]ταρχος] and Εὐθυ [μυδης], date to the same period and more specifically to c.470–460 BC. Date of burial 470–460 BC.

Grave 10.

Pot burial of a child in the painted, pointed amphora A29 (see below). The mouth was closed by a stone slab and around and above the vessel had been placed stones. In the vessel, except for a few bones and a fair number of knucklebones, were found a figurine of a bird, a black-figure eye cup,⁵ and a Corinthian spherical aryballos with a quatrefoil,⁶ which date to the last decade of the 6th cent. BC. Outside the mouth of the vessel were found four small pots.

Grave 11.

Pot burial of a child in the painted amphora A30 (for which see below). The mouth is closed by part of a tile which is supported by two stones. In the amphora there were only two knucklebones and one Corinthian kotyle of a common type with vertical wriggles in its handle-zone.⁷ Outside the amphora were found six vessels amongst which were a Corinthian kotyliske, a black-figure lekythos with a kithara player between two seated figures—a common work of the wider circle of the Haimon Painter (c.480–460 BC),⁸ and a clay female protome.

Date of burial: 480–460 BC.

² D. Kurtz–J. Boardman, *Greek Burial Customs* (1979) 55, 71.

³ Cf. B. A. Sparkes–L. Talcott, *The Athenian Agora 12: The Black and Plain Pottery of the Sixth, Fifth and Fourth Centuries B. C.* (1970) no. 855.

⁴ Cf. *ibid.* no. 341 (skyphos), nos. 412–13 (kylikes).

⁵ Cf. *ibid.* no. 418 (for the shape), M. B. Moore–M. Z. Peaze Philippides, *The Athenian Agora 23: Attic Black-figured Pottery* (1986) no. 1783 (for the

decoration); c.510–500 BC.

⁶ A common type throughout the 6th cent. BC, see H. G. G. Payne, *Necrocorinthia* (1931) no. 1263.

⁷ Cf. T. J. Dunbabin (ed.), *Perachora II* (1962) pl. 119 nos. 2947–8; Payne *op. cit.* no. 1517; *Late Corinthian II*. For the miniature kotyliskai, see I. Vokotopoulou *et al.*, *Σίνδος. Κατάλογος της έκθεσης, Αρχαιολογικό Μουσείο Θεσσαλονίκης* (1985) 58 no. 78.

⁸ Cf. Moore–Philippides *op. cit.* no. 1216.

At the south-western foothills of Geromoiri Hill, at the edge of the ancient city, the old forest road passes the northern corner of an extensive cemetery at the site of Nyphe. Even though a fair number of graves must have been robbed in the 1950s, and others were destroyed with the opening of the road, the 50 m² area which we excavated in 1988 was densely packed with burials which were equipped with many grave-goods. These burials cover the same period as the cemetery at Panagouda—from the end of the 6th cent. to the middle of the 4th cent. BC. An impressive new feature is the existence of parts of walls constructed of unworked stones, as well as accumulated stones, which are always associated with the burials. The damage which these constructions have sustained from clearing and cultivation, and the small area examined, do not enable, as yet, the formulation of an opinion as to their uses in the local burial practices. Also of note were the pyres for the offerings to the dead. Pyre 3 has a diameter greater than 2 m and a depth of more than 0.50 m. In the carbonized earth many burnt sherds and a few animal bones were found. At a distance of 1.50 m was the slightly smaller Pyre 4. Between both was found an accumulation of vessels that date from the last quarter of the 6th to the beginning of the 5th cent. BC, which most probably came from the cleaning of the oldest phase of Pyre 3, as they are not associated with any grave.

The eighteen burials at the Nyphe cemetery are of the three types observed at Panagouda: cist graves, pot burials, and tile burials. Numerically the child burials predominate and they were the most well-endowed with grave-goods. As at Panagouda stones were placed at the mouths of the burial vessels and along the sides of the tile burials. A large number of grave-goods were placed outside the burials, a practice that is also paralleled at Panagouda. Only once were successive burials noted, graves 6 and 13.

The following burials are noteworthy:

Grave 13.

Tile burial. Length 1.70 m, width 0.62 m. Two tiles, 0.90 x 0.45 m, formed the floor of the grave which was covered by six whole and two half tiles. Two offerings were placed outside the grave along its eastern side: a Corinthian exaleiptron and a stemless cup. They date the grave to 480–470 BC.⁹

Grave 14.

Pot burial of an infant in the painted, pointed amphora A21 (pls. 15: 4; 17: 2). The mouth was closed by a clay disc supported by large stones. Above the amphora, between its rim and a rock to the north, was a pile of stones mixed with grave-goods. Only a Corinthian kotyle and knucklebones had been placed inside the amphora. In the pile of stones were found thirteen figurines and over thirty vessels, of which we distinguish four Attic lekythoi of the first quarter of the 5th cent. BC, two black-glaze skyphoi dating to 480–470 BC,¹⁰ and stemmed and stemless black-glaze cups which date to 480–460 BC on the basis of finds from the Athenian Agora.¹¹ One of the stemmed cups has inscribed on the lower surface of its foot the name Φερεκρά[της].

Date of burial: c.480–460 BC.

Grave 15.

Pot burial of a child in an unpainted pithos with a pointed base. Height 1.37 m. At its mouth were a rock and a pile of stones. In the pithos were five miniature vases (two kotyliskai, a lekythion, an exaleiptron and a skyphidion), three pig figurines, one of a pigeon, and one of a female figure. Beyond the mouth of

⁹ Vokotopoulou *et al.* op. cit. no. 470 (Corinthian exaleiptron) 480–470 BC; Sparkes–Talcott op. cit. nos. 446, 448, 456 (Attic stemless cups) 500–470 BC.

¹⁰ For the lekythoi, see Moore–Philippides op. cit.

nos. 1181, 1188, 1237; for the skyphoi, Sparkes–Talcott op. cit. nos. 339–40.

¹¹ *Ibid.* nos. 435–6 (stemmed kylikes), nos. 454–6 (stemless kylikes).

the pithos were three figurines and nine vessels of which we distinguish a black-glaze cup-skyphos (480 BC),¹² a black-figure lekythos with three standing figures of the circle of the Haimon Painter (480–460 BC),¹³ another lekythos of the same period decorated with black-figure palmettes, a footed plemochoe with lid, two large and two smaller Corinthian kotylai of 480–470 BC, and a cylindrical Corinthian oinochoe.

Date of burial: c.480–470 BC.

Only weapons and jewellery are missing from the corpus of grave-goods. Among the vessels and figurines, Attic products predominate, followed by Corinthian.

The most important finds of the excavations were the four painted burial vessels of Panagoudas graves 4, 10, and 11, and Nyphe grave 14.

A. Amphora A29 (Panagouda cemetery, grave 10). Pl. 16: 1.

Height 63 cm; diam.: rim 30 cm, belly 50 cm, base 10.5 cm.

The clay is brown-red and contains inclusions and mica. Beige slip, opaque black paint, at places brown-red.

Pointed lower body with a small circular foot, vertical handles at the shoulder. On the upper surface of the rim groups of transverse short lines. Around the tall and wide neck broad horizontal bands. On the shoulder, between two horizontal bands, groups of vertical wiggly lines frame compass-drawn concentric circles. Dots frame the circles in irregular vertical groups. There follows a zone with horizontal Ss and below that two wide bands each of which is framed by two thinner ones. On the back of the handles are transverse lines and between their roots are groups of wiggly lines.

Date (on the basis of other offerings found in this grave): 510–500 BC.

B. Cauldron-shaped vessel B (Panagouda cemetery, grave 4). Pl. 16: 2.

Height 61 cm; diam.: rim 40 cm, belly 58 cm.

Brown-red clay with mica and inclusions. Thin yellowish slip which does not cover the irregularities of the rough brown-red surface. About a third of the lower body is missing.

Pointed base with cylindrical body, vertical rim and horizontal triple handles. Two pairs of raised bands and one single raised band demarcate the two painted zones on the body: the top one is decorated with a lotus and bud chain, and the lower by a similar chain of lotus buds and large horizontal Ss. The paint covers the raised bands, and two bands of paint encircle the shoulder and lip, with groups of transverse lines between them.

Date (on the basis of other offerings found in this grave): 470–460 BC.

C. Amphora A30 (Panagouda cemetery, grave 11). Pl. 17: 1.

Height 60 cm; diam.: rim 27.5 cm, belly 46 cm, base 10 cm.

Clean, well levigated clay, light brown with a rosy shade. On the surface a slip of dilute clay. Colours of paint brown-black and light brown-red.

Pointed lower body with small cylindrical base on which it is precariously balanced, small vertical handles on the shoulder, wide neck which widens towards the rim.

On the upper surface of the rim a group of wavy transverse lines. In upper zone of neck a linked lotus chain. In lower zone of neck a double lotus-palmette chain; palmettes comprised of alternating red and brown fronds. The main decoration is on the shoulder and upper part of the belly between two thick bands, one at the base of the neck and the other at the middle of the belly: a bichrome double lotus-palmette chain interspersed with groups of four vertical wiggly lines. Below is a shoot with pairs of pointed leaves, a horizontal series of dots and a zone of densely packed vertical wiggly lines. On the lower part of the vessel a brown horizontal band balances the painted rim—which is of the same width—and limits the second-last decorated zone in which lotus buds, alternatively pointing upwards and downwards, are suspended from dotted curvilinear stalks. The decorative field is closed off by a brown-red horizontal wavy band. Below the arches of the handles there is a group of three lotus flowers and a many-leaved palmette. On the reverse the main decorative field of the shoulder is narrower. The row of dots is omitted and most probably there was no room—this area is not entirely preserved—for the groups of vertical wiggly lines.

Date: 480–460 BC.

¹² Cf. *ibid.* no. 578.

¹³ Cf. Moore–Philippides *op. cit.* nos. 1216–21.

D. Amphora A21 (Nyphe cemetery, grave 11). Pl. 17: 2.

Height 75 cm; diam.: rim 37.5 cm, belly 53 cm, base 13.5 cm.

One handle and part of the base are not preserved. Rose-coloured clay with a fair number of inclusions and mica. Pale yellow slip. Colour thin brown. Defects in the shaping of the walls. Pointed lower body, vertical handles on the shoulder and broad neck which widens abruptly towards the top.

On the upper surface of the rim strokes in the shape of lambdas. On the neck four wide encircling bands. Main decoration on the shoulder: in the centre of both the obverse and the reverse a large eleven-leaved rosette with outlined leaves, encircled by small oblique leaves and flanked on either side by a bending column of pairs of pointed leaves. Between the rosette and the handles a pair of obliquely-set concentric circles. Around the middle of the vessel, between two pairs of encircling bands, a series of concentric circles, the centres of which are not on the same plane. The base is also encircled by a painted band.

Date: 480–460 BC.

Of these four monumental vessels, the first dates to the end of the 6th cent. while the other three date to the middle of the first half of the 5th cent. BC. Amphora A differs from C and D in shape. On the former, the horizontal axes dominate and are emphasized by the wide cylindrical neck. It also differs in regard to its decoration—geometric motifs are dominant and the floral elements of the amphorae C and D are totally lacking. The difference must be attributed to a chronological gap of at least one generation. This period would separate A from the other vessels, though it is evident that it forms with them one single group.

The basic decorative scheme of the Panagouda vessels comprises the following characteristics: wide horizontal bands bordering decorative zones in which concentric circles, wavy lines, horizontal Ss, and vertical wiggly lines survive as fossils from the Early Iron Age. These conservative elements are directly combined with floral decorative elements already described, such as the lotus chains.

The combination of the old geometric decoration with rich floral motifs is not seen for the first time in Chalkidike on the vessels from Polychrono. Exactly the same pottery was found in the granaries of Olynthus dating from the Persian destruction,¹⁴ while a complete amphora was used in a burial at the end of the 6th or beginning of the 5th cent. in the cemetery at that site.¹⁵ The excavations at Torone enriched our knowledge of this type of pottery with a series of large vessels of the first half of the 5th cent. which are most probably the products of a local workshop.¹⁶ The vessels from Polychrono are closer to the group from Olynthus in regard to production (the same clay and whitish slip) and decorative elements.¹⁷

The vessels from Torone appear to follow the groups from Olynthus and Polychrono by a short time span; they probably date to the second quarter of the 5th cent. BC.

The group of vessels from Pyrgadikia must be a little later than those from Torone. On the coastal knoll of Aspros Kavos near Pyrgadikia, where ancient Piloros—a city belonging to the territory of the Chalkidians—is placed with some certainty,¹⁸ limited excavations in 1969 unearthed three monumental vessels and fragments of two others,

¹⁴ Olynthian pre-Persian Group III: see G. E. Mylonas in: D. M. Robinson, *Excavations at Olynthus 5: Mosaics, Vases and Lamps of Olynthus* (1933) pls. 26–41; D. M. Robinson, *Excavations at Olynthus 13: Vases found in 1934 and 1938* (1950) pls. 1–10.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* 45–6 pls. 1–2. This amphora, as does the contemporary amphora A from Polychrono, only has subgeometric decoration similar to that of the vessels of late 7th-cent. BC date found at Mende: see Το αρχαιολογικό έργο στη Μακεδονία και

Θράκη, II (forthcoming).

¹⁶ A. Cambitoglou–S. Paspalas–O. Tudor Jones in: *Ancient Macedonia* (Australian Exhibition Catalogue, 1988) 225–7 nos. 168–70.

¹⁷ See esp. *Olynthus 13* (cit. n. 14) pls. 3, 6; *Olynthus 5* (cit. n. 14) pls. 25, 41, 45.

¹⁸ I. Vokotopoulou in: Τόμος στη μνήμη Δημητρίου Λαζαρίδη (forthcoming)

which were dated by E. Youri to the 4th cent. BC.¹⁹ This group of vessels included a pointed amphora of the type found at Polychrono (pl. 18: 1–2), a stamnoid-krater of the type found at Torone and Olynthus, a lekane such as found at Torone, and fragments of another two amphorae. The first three vessels carry abundant floral decoration amongst which were placed protomes and birds (partridges and swans). Added white is used as on pre-Persian vessels at Olynthus. As the excavation details are not exactly reliable, due to the lack of any stratigraphy—the few sherds are mainly of the first half of the 5th cent. BC, but there are also two or three black-glaze sherds of the 4th—comparisons that were made with analogous floral motifs or protomes on Apulian vessels led to the dating of these vessels to the 4th cent. BC. However, these motifs already appear in the 5th cent. BC.

The female protomes are far closer to protomes on white-ground lekythoi of the second quarter of the 5th cent. BC²⁰ and to a female head on a Late Archaic Clazomenian sarcophagus in Marburg,²¹ than they are to the Italian vessels. The acanthus leaves appear from the end of the second quarter of the 5th cent. on island funerary monuments.²² The acanthus volutes appear in the middle of the 5th cent. on the floral attachments of bronze hydriai, as on the Torone hydria and on the handles of a hydria in the Louvre.²³ In the same period monumental acanthus volutes are found on the acroteria of the Parthenon and the finials of Attic funerary stelai.²⁴ Palmettes with widely spaced leaves, whose tops bend downwards are not unknown in the first half of the 5th cent. BC.²⁵ The scale ornament on the Pyrgadikia amphora is paralleled in northern Ionia and Samos from the middle of the 6th cent., while the wreath on its neck is paralleled in Aeolis and on the pre-Persian vessels from Olynthus.²⁶

The chronological proximity of the stamnoid-krater from Pyrgadikia and a krater from Olynthus is evidenced by their similar shapes. The Olynthus krater is decorated with ivy tendrils as is one of the fragmentary amphorae from Pyrgadikia.²⁷ On another

¹⁹ ADelt 22B, 1967, 403 - 4 pl. 307a; 24B, 1969, 310 - 11 pl. 325; ead. in: ΚΕΡΝΟΣ. Τιμητική προσφορά στον καθηγητή Γεώργιο Μπακαλάκη (1972) 6 - 14 pls. 3 - 6; I. Vokotopoulou in: Η Μακεδονία από τα Μυκεναϊκά χρόνια ως τον Μέγα Αλέξανδρο (1988) 126 no. 141.

²⁰ C. Bérard, Anodoi. Essai sur l'imagerie des passages chthoniens (1974) pls. 4: 14; 6: 24, of the Beldam Painter Workshop.

²¹ R. M. Cook, Clazomenian Sarcophagi (1981) pl. 27: 2.

²² H. Möbius, Die Ornamente der griechischen Grabstelen (2nd rev. ed., 1968) pl. 2a-b.

²³ I. Vokotopoulou in: ΑΜΗΤΟΣ. Τιμητικός τόμος για τον καθηγητή Μανόλη Ανδρόνικο, I (1986) pls. 25: 1; 26: 3.

²⁴ Möbius op. cit. pl. 7a; H. Gropengiesser, Die pflanzlichen Akrotere klassischer Tempel (1961) pls. 6, 10.

²⁵ Olynthus 13 (cit. n. 14) pl. 12: 3, low kylix of the first half of the 5th cent. BC. On a lekythos by the Bowdoin Painter of the second quarter of the 5th cent. BC there are parallel palmettes which spring from volutes and calyxes analogous to those from Pyrgadikia; Kurtz, AWL pls. 62: 3; 63: 2-3.

In the third quarter of the 5th cent. BC there are examples by the Schuwalow Painter and his circle: A. Lezzi-Hafter, Der Schuwalow-Maler (1976) pls. 78, 79, 84. From the Athenian Agora: Sparkes-Talcott op. cit. (n. 3) nos. 534-42; Moore-Philippides op. cit. (n. 5) no. 259. For Euboean pyxides dated to c.425 BC, with sparse palmettes and other linear decoration as on the Pyrgadikia vessels, see A. D. Ure, BSA 58, 1963, 1-18 pl. 1.

²⁶ For the scale pattern, see the hydria Thessaloniki no. 1355, which Ph. Zapheiropoulou, BCH 94, 1970, 410 fig. 55, dates to the second half of the 4th cent. BC and attributes to a local workshop. The hydriai in the Lambropoulou Collection belong to the same Chalkidian workshop and the same period; they are the last examples of the floral style of Chalkidike: Youri art. cit. (n. 19) pl. 6: 4-5. See also E. Walter-Karydi, Samos 6 pt. 1: Samische Gefässe des 6. Jahrhunderts v. Chr. Landschaftsstile ostgriechischer Gefässe (1973) pl. 60: no. 493; pl. 113: no. 931. For the wreath, Olynthus 13 (cit. n. 14) pl. 10: 4-5; J. Boehlau-K. Schefold, Larisa am Heros 3: Die Kleinfunde (1942) pl. 53: 1.

²⁷ Olynthus 5 (cit. n. 14) pls. 37-8; Youri art. cit. (n. 19) pl. 6: 6-7.

part of the same amphora there is a myrtle branch which is paralleled at Olynthus, Torone, and on the vessels from Polychrono. The attribution of this amphora, which it is to be noted was found with the other Pyrgadikia vessels, to the Olynthian group has already been made by Youri.²⁸

The quality of the clay, the use of a thin slip, the colour of the paint, and the large curvilinear motifs are common features on pottery that bears floral decoration found at the four sites of Chalkidike. At three of these it has been assured that this pottery type did not continue past the 5th cent. BC. It would be inexplicable if the Pyrgadikia vessels—which are inseparably associated with the other examples of this group—belong to the 4th cent. BC. If, indeed, they did date to that century it would be equally difficult to explain why vessels like those from Pyrgadikia were not found in the 4th-cent. BC layers at Olynthus which was one of the main production centres of this group. G. E. Mylonas's and D. M. Robinson's dating²⁹ (6th cent.—beginning of 5th cent., before 479 BC, the year of the Persian destruction of Olynthus) of this group has been confirmed in general terms and defined more closely by the excavations at Polychrono and Torone. Consequently, the group's lowest chronological limit may be brought down to the last quarter of the 5th cent., while the appearance of the floral motifs will not extend much further back than the end of the 6th cent. BC. In regard to the fossilized curvilinear lines and geometric elements these follow an unbroken tradition whose origins are lost at the end of the second millennium as the recent excavations at Mende indicate.

Mylonas emphasized the close relationship of Olynthian pre-Persian pottery with the eastern Aegean and Ionia, while Robinson's comparisons directed him towards seeing a relationship with Rhodes.

In reality a close relationship exists with a not particularly widespread group of vessels from Aeolian Larisa which bear floral decoration. K. Schefold dated this group to c.550–450 BC and stated that its inspirational source must be looked for in Ionia.³⁰ A small number of examples of the same pottery style have been recently found at Miletus.³¹ A great number of the decorative elements of the vessels from Olynthus and Polychrono exactly parallel the motifs on the sherds from Larisa—palmettes, ivy branches, myrtle, large S-like wavy lines, tongue-like and leaf-shaped ornaments.³² Skyphoi solely decorated with a myrtle branch, as at Larisa, have recently been found at two cemeteries in the Thessaloniki region. Two basic differences between Larisa and Chalkidike are that in the latter region added white is not used as widely and the occurrence of fossilized geometric decorative motifs—such as concentric circles and groups of vertical and wiggly lines—is far more apparent here than in Aeolis. In Aeolis the amphora type with vertical handles on the shoulder, typical of this region and northern Ionia, is dominant while in the wider areas of Aeolian art, and particularly on Lemnos in the same period (end of the 7th and beginning of the 6th cent. BC), the shape of the stamnoi from Pyrgadikia, Torone, and Olynthus is paralleled.³³ Consequently, the

²⁸ Ibid. 14.

²⁹ Olynthus 5 pp. 25–63 esp. 54, 59; Olynthus 13 pp. 4–7.

³⁰ See Boehlau–Schefold op. cit. 128–15 pls. 49–56.

³¹ *IstMitt* 32, 1982, pl. 18: 61–4.

³² Boehlau–Schefold op. cit. pls. 49: 1–8; 51; 52: 1–16; 53: 1–8; 54; 55; 56: 1–5.

³³ E. Walter-Karydi in: *Studien zur griechischen Vasenmalerei*, *AntK Beih.* 7 (1970) 7 pl. 5: 3–5, esp. nos. 4, 5, the amphora Louvre B 561 from Myrina, which appears to be a forerunner for amphora D from Polychrono with a rosette on each of its shoulders and a wavy line on its lower body. Lemnian stamnoi: *AEphem* 1937 vol. II 654 pl. 1; *ASAtene* 54, 1976, 346 pl. 6a–b, p. 348 fig. 4. The decoration with spirals is repeated on the Olynthian stamnos Olynthus 5 pls. 37–8.

Chalkidian vessels bearing floral decoration, made from local clay, are products of local workshops which were under clear influence from Aeolis.

The floral decorated pottery is not the only point of contact between the two areas. Contemporary simple banded wares are found as commonly in Chalkidike as they are in Aeolis and Ionia, while in the Archaic period there are abundant examples in Chalkidike of Grey Ware—a category of pottery believed to be typical of Aeolis³⁴—of excellent quality. In Chalkidike, though, and generally in Macedonia, it appears that it follows a local Bronze Age tradition.

At the end of the Archaic period there is a strong presence of Ionian and Aeolian art in the settlements and cemeteries of Chalkidike; Ionian cups, plates, figurines, Chian chalices, Clazomenian sarcophagi, sarcophagi with carved Ionian kymatia, etc. Communications and exchanges existed between the two regions from the end of the 7th cent. BC; the great increase in trade, though, with the Greek cities of Aeolis and Ionia in the Late Archaic period is not unrelated to the political unification of the north-eastern Aegean after the extension of Persian domination to Thrace and Chalkidike.³⁵ The occupation of Lemnos by Miltiades in 513 BC,³⁶ in the opinion of the excavators of Lemnos,³⁷ brought about the emigration of Lemnian Pelasgians to Sithonia. This view is based on Thucydides' account of their presence there in the 5th cent. BC, and, indeed, he states that they comprised the majority of the population.³⁸ The settlement of the Lemnians on Sithonia (Torone is situated on the tip of the peninsula, Pyrgadikia at its base) may have led to the flowering of the floral style of Aeolis in Chalkidike where it was combined with the local tradition and influence from Ionia.

The ancient city that remains hidden on Geromoiri Hill of Polychrono still retains its anonymity. Herodotus lists the cities which Xerxes' fleet sailed past in 480 BC on the eastern coast of Pallene (Kassandraia), south of Potidaea.³⁹ However, the number of sites at which ancient settlements have been noted is greater than the names which the 'father of history' has preserved. We will have to await some excavated find—an inscription or a stamp on a tile—in order to identify this new archaeological site with, in all probability, Aige, Neapolis, or Therambos.

(Trans. from the Greek by S. Paspalas.)

³⁴ Bochlau-Schefold op. cit. 135ff. for banded pottery and 99–128 for Grey Ware.

³⁵ CAH IV (1988) 243–53. The views that have been expressed on the ethnological composition of central Macedonia (the area of Sindos etc.) have to be reconsidered after the recent Archaic finds from Aegae (Vergina) and Aeane in Upper Macedonia.

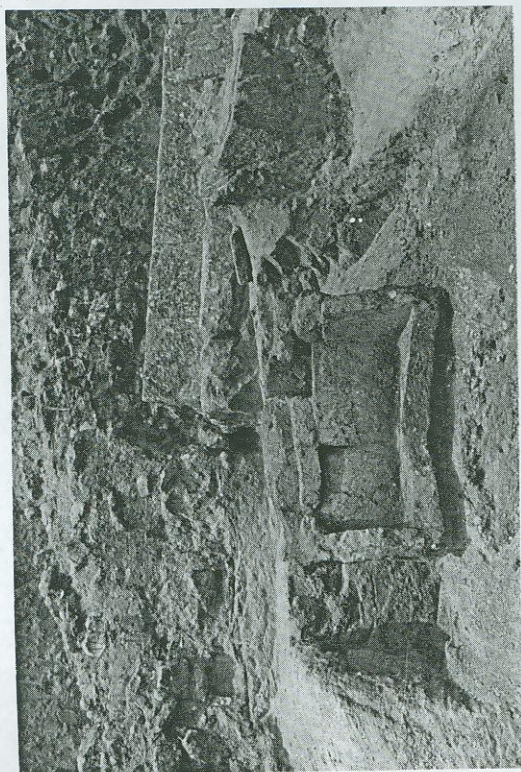
³⁶ Hdt. VI 137–40; EAA IV (1961) 543 s.v. Lemno (Bernabò-Brea).

³⁷ A. Di Vita, *ASAtene* 54, 1976, 345.

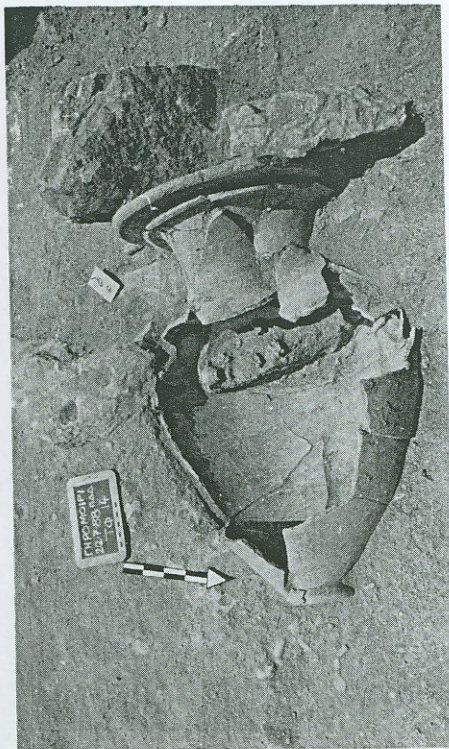
³⁸ IV 109.

³⁹ VII 123.

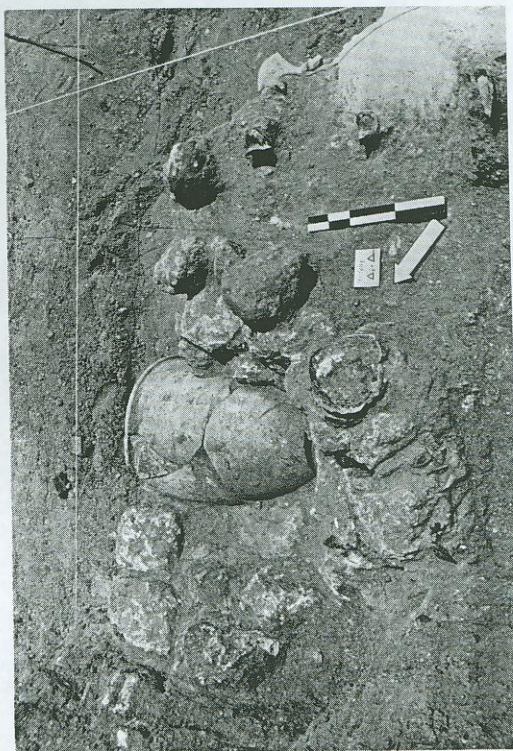
1. Polychrono, Chalkidike. Trench A, smelting furnace.



2. Polychrono, Chalkidike. Trench B, Archaic structures. ⇒

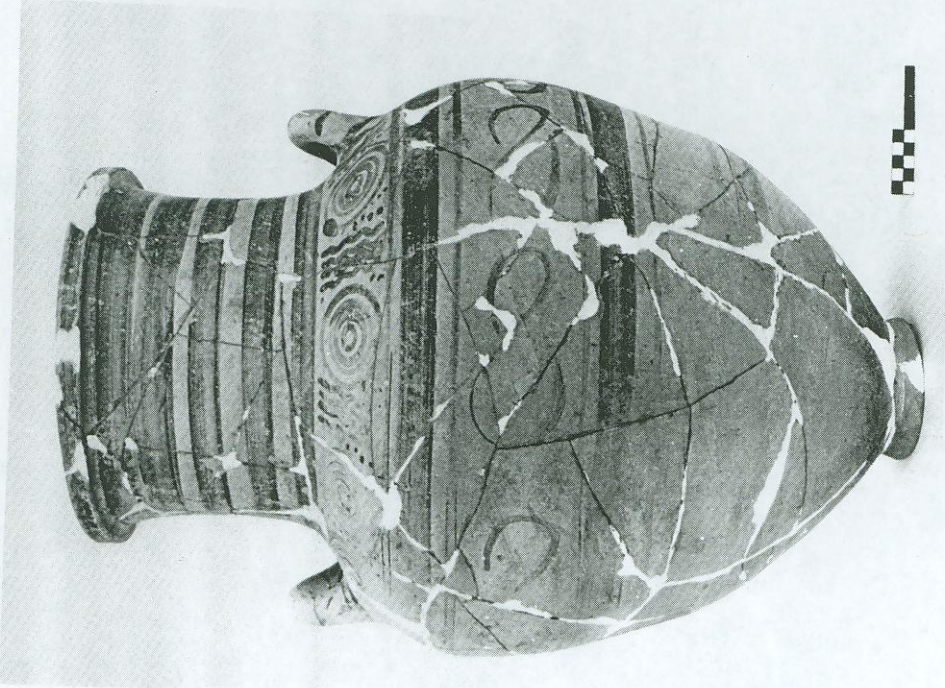


4. Polychrono, Nyphe cemetery: grave 14.



3. Polychrono, Panagoudas cemetery. The kalathoid vessel of grave 4.

1. The amphora A29 (A) from grave 10 Thessaloniki ΜΠ 966.

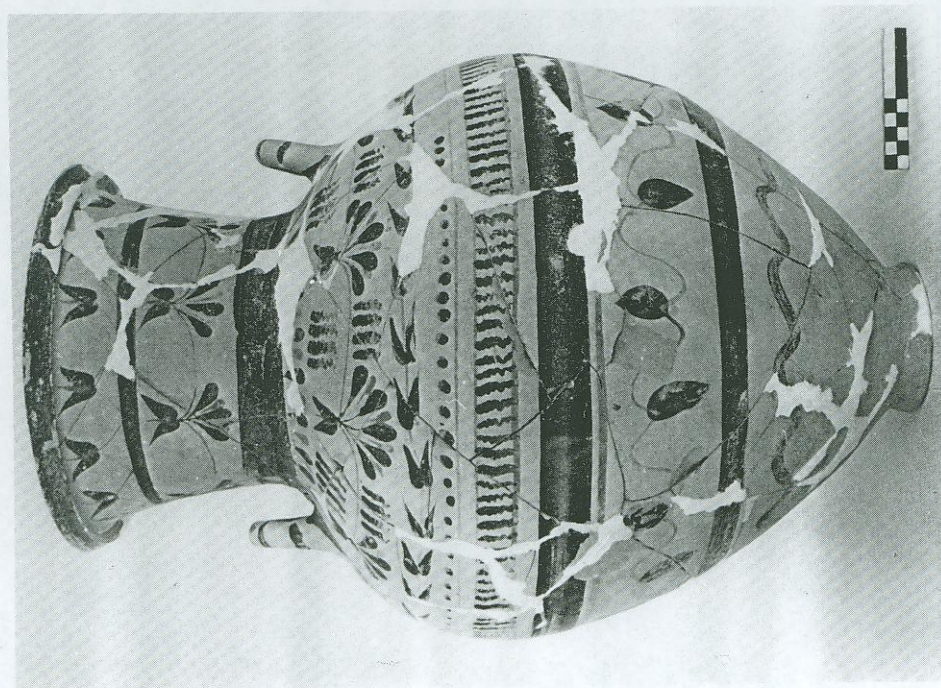


2. The cauldron-like vessel (B) from grave 4. Thessaloniki ΜΠ 965.





2. The amphora A21 (D) from grave 14. Thessaloniki ΜΠ 967.



1. The amphora A30 (C) from grave 11. Thessaloniki ΜΠ 965.



1. The Pyrgadikia amphora. Thessaloniki 10156.



2. As 1, detail of the shoulder decoration.