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Preliminary Report of the Iran Japan Joint Research Study of the Gorgan Material in the National Museum of Iran, Tehran

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به نام خدا

سپاسگزارم که در موزه ملت ایران و در ارتباط با منابع باستان شناسی موجود توانستم تحقیقات علمی را به انجام برسانم و در اینجا یک قسمت از نتیجه را بصورت گزارش و بطور رسمی اعلام می دارم.

لذا از سازمانهای مربوط به دو کشور ایران و ژاپن و نسبت به تحقیقات قبلی انجام شده که سطح فرهنگ علمی ایران را بخوبی بکار برده و تا به امروز نگهداشته کمال تشکر و احترام دارم.

طراح پروژه و مسئول اجراء

تاداهیکو اوتو

استاد دانشگاه چیکوشی جوگانوان

Foreword

The accumulation and diversity of material culture from different regions held in the National Museum of Iran has motivated many researchers to undertake important collaborative work. During the past few months the Museum has begun initiatives with researchers from many countries in order to access archaeological material. Additionally, the National Museum of Iran encourages close relations with foreign universities and institutes for the purposes of conducting joint research projects and interactive programs.

The joint Iran-Japan research group is one such collaborative case. This group has been concentrating on reconstructing the archaeological and historical periods of the Gorgan region, and ascertaining the archaeological site distributions of the region. However, prior to intensive survey work research on ceramic technology was also conducted. This important ceramic material is housed in the National Museum of Iran

It is my hope that this collaboration continues in the following years to come with a memorandum of understanding to completely study the materials and to publish the results.

Azadeh Ardakani (Director, National Museum of Iran)

Acknowledgements

It is truly very difficult to examine anew the data of an archaeological investigation conducted more than 30 years ago, for being blessed with such an opportunity is very rare. But, fortunately this time, various necessary conditions were ready for our ardent wish to realize the plan of the research study.

From the planning stage up to the execution phase, the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tokyo eagerly tried to understand our research purpose and kindly supported us at all times. I wish to express my deep indebtedness, especially to Dr. Seyed Abbas Araghchi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and Seyed Mohammad Ayatollahi and Yuri Semba, staff of the Cultural Affairs Section in the Tokyo Embassy. The Ambassador enabled Japanese team members to use the Guest House of the Foreign Ministry, situated at Bahonar, as an accommodation during our stay in Tehran.

I am full of gratitude to every person concerned at the National Museum of Iran: Azadeh Ardakani, Director; Masoumeh Ahmadi, International Affairs Section; Mohammad Karami, Mozaffar Zarrinkouh, Nahid Ghafoori, Sima Abed Kahn mouie, Pottery Department; Nayereh Nazari, Person in Charge of Custody and Registration of Objects; Mandana Karami, Tourist Guide; and many other staff member of the Museum. They were very hospitable to us in spite of their busy conditions. I believe that it was due to their kind and prompt support that our study was a very fruitful one.

This joint project was financially supported by Chikushi Jogakuen University, the Archaeological Department of Hiroshima University and the National Museum of Iran. I wish to extend, once again, my thanks to all the individuals and organization concerned.

Preface : origin of the research and purpose of investigation

One of the most important subjects in Iranian archaeology is the question concerning the Iron Age period, particularly its origins, transitions, diversity and demise. Research results so far attest to the southern coast of the Caspian Sea as one of the most interesting regions worthy of investigation. From 2001 through 2005, the Iran Japan Joint Archaeological Expedition performed its research at the basin of the Sefid Rud in Gilan Province. The results of this joint research are already published in a five volume report. The results of the excavation of Tappe Jalaliye, in particular, offer a chronological standard regarding the cultural changes during the Iron age period in the southern coastal area of the Caspian Sea. Additionally, a comparative study of the Iron Age culture of this area came to be desired as a subsequent area of investigation. Therefore, the research purpose for the present project was to compile archaeological data in order to conduct an east-west comparison of the Iranian Iron Age period in the south-

ern coastal area of the Caspian Sea.

The archaeological remains, primarily ceramics (that have not yet been reported) ,were used as the effective data for this purpose. These artifacts are precious scientific materials collected by the Hiroshima University mission to the Gorgan Plain in 1976, directed by the late Professor Shiomi. These artifacts are now placed in the safekeeping of the National Museum of Iran, Tehran.

The following researchers from Japan were involved in the research activities: OhtsuTada-hiko, Professor at Chikushi Jogakuen University; Furuse Kiyohide, Professor at Hiroshima University; Adachi Takuro, Research fellow of the Middle Eastern Culture Center in Japan; Nojima Hisashi, Associate Professor at Hiroshima University; Arimatsu Yui, Graduate student at the University of Tokyo; Wakiyama Kana, Graduate student at the University of Hiroshima. They conducted research during their stay in Tehran from February 23 to March 9 in cooperation with the previously mentioned Iranian members.

Dr. Ahmad Mirza Koochak Khoshnevis, Director of the Research Center of the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, kindly visited us, specifically to examine our joint research activities in the Ceramics Department of the Museum. All of the Iran-Japan joint researchers truly appreciate the understanding and cordial support of the relevant Iranian authorities.

I. The Hiroshima University Expeditions to the Gorgan plain during the 1970' s

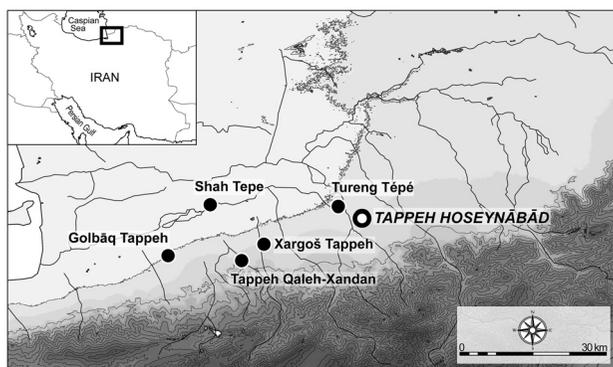


Fig.1 Excavated sites in Gorgan

The department of archaeology at Hiroshima University organized the University Scientific Expedition to Iran to clarify the spread of early agriculture from west Asia to east Asia. The team conducted research on more than 200 archaeological sites in the Gorgan plain near the Caspian Sea in 1971, 1974 and 1976. During the three seasons, the team undertook small scale excavations at Tappeh Sanghi-Chahamac, Tappeh Anjirab and Tappeh Hoseynābād, collecting more than 20,000 individual artifacts consisting of pottery, stone tools and other material. The results of the first season, headed by the late Professor Matsuzaki Hisashi, was published in 1973 with the title, *The way to Steppe-Archaeological Research in Iran, 1971*. The research team investigated representative sites around the north area of Iran from Rasht, Gi-

ran to Mashhad, Khorasan. A small scale excavation at Tappeh Sanghi-Chahamac near Bastam village in Semnan, west Tappeh was conducted during this field season.

The second expedition in 1974 directed by the late Professor Shiomi Hiroshi conducted a general survey in the Gorgan plain including small scale of excavations at Tappeh Anjirab and Tappeh Gorbag. This work is presented in the report entitled *Archaeological Map of the Gorgan Plain, Iran No.1* (1976) . The third expedition also headed by the late Professor Shiomi continued this general survey in the Gorgan plain, and carried out small scale of excavations at Tappeh Hoseynābād. The materials are curated at the National Museum of Iran, with the results of this season published in 1978 as, *Archaeological Map of the Gorgan Plain, Iran No.2*.

Although Hiroshima University planned a fourth survey in 1978, it was cancelled due to the subsequent Islamic Revolution and the Iran-Iraq War.

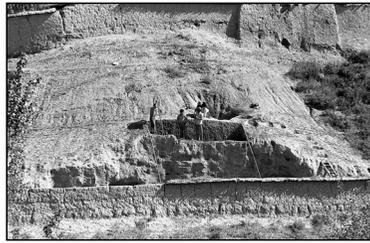


Fig.2 (left) Tappeh Hoseynābād

Fig.3 (right) Test Pit B, Tappeh Hoseynābād

II. Outline of this research study

As previously noted, our purpose for this preliminary research is to understand what kind of prehistoric pottery was manufactured in the Gorgan plain. Contrary to our expectations, the regional characteristics of the prehistoric pottery are still not understood. Consequently, it was fortunate that the National Museum of Iran has thoroughly curated the archaeological material gathered by the Hiroshima University Scientific Expedition to the Gorgan plain.

Our initial strategy to study the artifacts was to search for excavated ceramics in the pot-

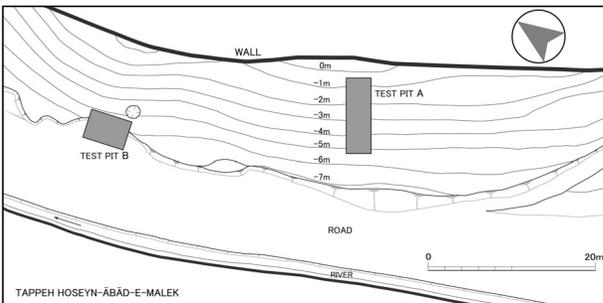


Fig.4 Plan of the Tappeh Hoseynābād and the Location of the test pits A, B

tery storage rooms in the National Museum of Iran. Fortunately, 12 boxes containing many cloth bags were found in the storage rooms through Location of the test pits A, B by the efforts of the Pottery Department of the Museum. When we opened the boxes from the excavation units at Tappeh Hoseynābād (Fig.4) on 27th

February, we found that the pottery had to be washed before beginning the identifications and

analyses.

Initially our recording procedure, that was very time consuming, included photography, artifact illustrations and the compilation of detailed data. However, since our time in Tehran was limited to only two weeks (27 Feb.-9 March) , and there were many bags of pottery from Tappeh Hoseynābād, we had to restrict our recording to only photography and illustrations of the pottery. We made archaeological drawings of representative examples of pottery from all layers from Tappeh Hoseynābād. Thus, with the exception of Tappeh Hoseynābād, we discovered that there was a significant sample of pottery recovered from surface surveys. Subsequent analyses must, therefore, be conducted at a future date.

III. Preliminary report of the pottery excavated from Tappeh Hoseynābād

1. Introduction

We have studied a total of 3067 shards from Tappeh Hoseynābād, including surface material. This material was excavated from Layer I to Layer VII in Test Pit A, and from Layer I to layer VII in Test Pit B.

However, it is possible that we have not yet excavated all of the pottery at Tappeh Hoseynābād. The following analysis is based only on the materials that we have studied during this season. It would be necessary to verify our conclusions after analyzing all of the material. It is probable that most layers in Test Pit A have been disturbed as we have found pottery dated to the plural periods in each layer. Therefore, we will mainly discuss the results of Test Pit B in this chapter.

2. Classification of pottery

Pottery excavated from Test Pit B at Tappeh Hoseynābād consists of Gray ware, painted ware, colored ware, fine ware, grit tempered ware and chaff tempered ware.

Above all, Gray Ware is a characteristic and homogeneous group and occupies a large percentage of the overall ceramic inventory (PL.II-1, 2, 4, 5, 8, PL.III-2~5, PL.IV-2~5) . It is made of dark gray and brownish gray fine paste. The surface takes on same color or can be of a darker color. It has been very carefully smoothed by burnishing, light burnish, polish and wet smooth. This ware is very solid and its shape varies; the following examples can be seen here: bowl (Fig.6-1~10, 13, 14, 23, 24) , deep bowl (Fig.7-4~6, 10) , cup (Fig.7-1~3, 8) chalice (probably on cylindrical feet)(Fig.6-11, 12, 15~21) , necked jar (Fig.7-9, 11~16) and others. The decorative elements are especially common in bowls and cups: vertical ribbing (Fig.6-6, 8~13, Fig.7-1~4) , repoussé round knobs (Fig.7-1) and incised lines (Fig.6-7, 8) also appear.

The painted ware consists of black paint on a reddish brown surface (Black painted red-

dish brown ware) , brown paint on a brown surface (Brown painted brown ware) , gray paint on a dull orange surface (Gray painted dull orange ware) . Above all, Black painted reddish brown ware is the largest category (PL.III-1, 7, PL.IV-1, 6~8) . This pottery was made of reddish brown fine paste. The surface was carefully smoothed and covered with the same colored slip. After that, it was painted with a black geometric motif. These motifs are compounded from vertical straight lines and/or wavy lines, and rarely circles (PL.IV-7) . There is a characteristic motif that is composed of dense wavy lines between parallel vertical lines (PL.III-1, PL.IV-1) . It seems that the grand jar was common in this ware (PL.III-1, PL.IV-1, 6, Fig.7-18) . There are also some small cup (Fig.7-19) and a small product which is probably an imitation of an animal (PL.IV-6) . Brown painted brown ware is carefully burnished. Then, wavy lines and/or straight lines are painted on the inner surface of neck and on the outer surface of body to similar colors on the surface (PL.III-8) . We could not decide whether Gray painted dull orange ware constitutes a group (PL.I-5, 6, 8, Fig.7-17) because there are not many represented in the sample.

We separate the colored ware from the painted ware, since it is questionable that this ware was colored with the intention to decorate it: its surface is colored only partially and irregularly (PL.I-1, PL.II-3) . There is a pottery group with a black slip on a reddish brown surface (Black colored reddish brown ware). There is another group with a black slip on a brown surface (Black colored brown ware) . It uses a dense, brown paste similar to that of the surface. Another kind of pottery is a reddish color on a reddish brown surface (Red colored reddish brown ware) . It also has a reddish brown and dense paste. The surface has the same color. These wares consist of grand jars (Fig.8-2) and small or middle bowls (Fig.7-20, 21) .

The grit tempered non-decorated ware is divided into Fine ware, Common ware, Coarse ware (PL.III-6, PL.IV-5) and Very coarse ware. One example of the Fine ware has paste that is similar to the Black colored brown ware, but without black paint (Brown fine ware) (PL.II-3, 7) . The other is similar to Black colored reddish brown ware and Red colored reddish brown ware, but without black paint or a red color (Reddish brown fine ware) (PL.II-7) . Grand jars are common in these groups (Fig.8-1, 3~5) . Common ware mainly corresponds to jars (Fig.7-23, Fig.8-4) and probably bowls. Coarse ware consists of jars (Fig.8-6, 8, 9, 11, 14) , non-necked jars (Fig.8-10, 12, 13, 15~18) and bowls (Fig.8-7) .

Furthermore, in spite of very small numbers, we want to mention that there is also a chaff tempered pottery (Chaff tempered ware) . It does not have any decoration nor did we find any shards that show what type of shape they are. It might be subdivided by the quantity of temper.

3. Stratigraphical change of pottery in Test Pit B at Tappeh Hoseynābād

Based on the above classification, we now survey the stratigraphical change of pottery.

In Layer VII (total 43 shards) , the assemblage consists of mainly the grit tempered ware and the colored ware (PL.I-1) : Black colored brown ware and Red colored reddish brown ware (Fig.7-20) , Coarse ware (Fig.8-6, 11) , Very coarse ware. We can find also a small number of Chaff tempered ware and Gray ware (Fig.6-23, Fig.7-16) .

In Layer VI (total 244 shards) , we can confirm a definite Gray ware to some extent (109 shards) (PL.I-2, Fig.6-5, 22, Fig.7-15) . On the other hand, Colored ware decreased in number (PL.I-3) , and the proportion of Chaff tempered ware and Mineral tempered ware (PL.I-4, Fig.7-23, Fig.8-9, 17, 18) increased slightly.

Layer V (total of 132 shards) is characterized by the co-existence of two new kinds of wares. First, Reddish brown fine ware (15 shards) , then Gray painted dull orange ware is also characteristic, but occurs in very small numbers (3 shards) (PL.I-8, Fig.7-17) . Except for these, there are samples of Gray ware (PL.I-5-8, Fig.7-11, 14) , Common ware (PL.I-5-7, Fig.7-23) , Coarse ware (Fig.8-7, 8) , Very coarse ware and a very small number of Chaff tempered ware.

In the bottom part of Layer IV (total 168 shards) , the incidence of Gray ware increases (91 shards) and its shape also diversifies (PL.II-1, 2) . By then, simple bowls (Fig.6-3, 4) and jars (Fig.7-12, 13) were the major shapes. From this period, the chalice on cylindrical feet probably also appeared (Fig.6-21) . Gray ware, Reddish brown fine ware and Coarse ware (PL.II-3, Fig.8-16) continue in the sequence. Regarding Colored ware, there is also Black colored brown ware (Fig.7-1) , and Brown fine ware (Fig.7-2) that appear at the same time (PL.II-3) .

Layer IV (total 229 shards) is characterised by the appearance of Black painted reddish brown ware. However it there is only a small amount (3 shards) and its paint consists of only straight lines (PL.II-6) . In this layer, Gray ware increased and its shape became more diver-

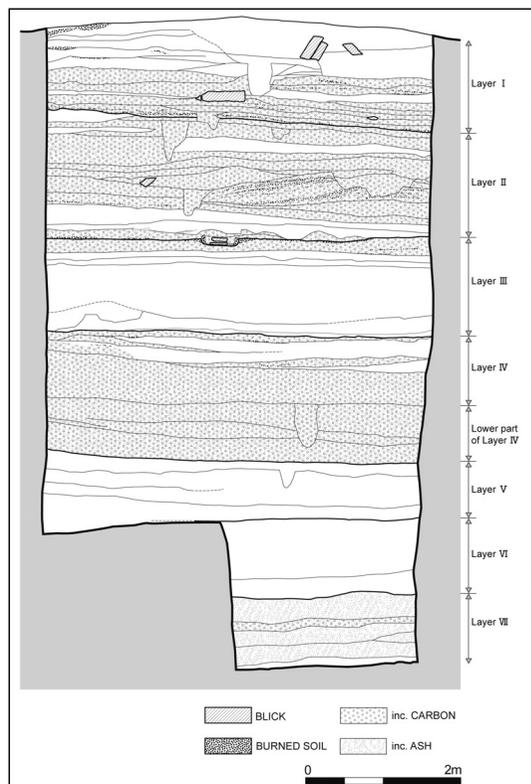


Fig.5 East side section of the test pit B in the Tappeh Hoseynābād

sified (PL.II-4, 5) . The obvious appearance of the chalice on cylindrical feet (Fig.6-17~20) and the grand deep jars (Fig.7-6, 9) are especially characteristic. In addition to Reddish brown fine ware (Fig.8-3, 5) , Brown fine ware also continued. And the colored wares are also found.

In Layer III (total 63 shards) , Black painted reddish brown ware increases slightly (10 shards) (PL.III-1) . Among these, the characteristic motif of this ware (dense wavy lines between parallel vertical lines) appeared. Gray ware also increased (PL.II-8, Fig.6-14, 16, Fig.7-7) . Vertical ribbing (Fig.6-9) and incised lines (Fig.6-10) represent a significant change in this period.

After Layer II (total 443 shards in Layer II; total of 322 shards in Layer I) , Gray ware (PL.III-2~5, PL.IV-2~4) and Black painted reddish brown ware (PL.III-7, PL.IV-1, 6~8, Fig.7-19) became the majority (Gray ware: 145 shards in Layer II, 140 shards in Layer I. Black painted reddish brown ware: 229 shards in Layer II, 152 shards in Layer I) . Additionally, vertical ribbing was used for Gray ware (PL.III-2, PL.IV-3, Fig.6-6, 11~13, Fig.7-1~4) , moreover the repoussé round knobs (PL.III-4, PL.IV-3, 4, Fig.7-1) and the incised lines (Fig.6-7, 8) were introduced. At the same time, its shape also changed (Fig.6-11, 12, Fig.7-8, 10) : it might be that the pear-shaped cup increased (Fig.7-1~3) . There is nearly only Coarse ware in the assemblage (PL.III-5, 6, PL.IV-5, Fig.8-10, 12~14) , except these two wares. Only in Layer II, Brown painted brown ware also existed (37 shards) (PL.III-8) .

In Test Pit B, we can find the sequence that represents the entire assemblage and also details about each ware themselves. At first, in Layer VII and layer VI, the colored ware, the grit tempered ware and a small number of Chaff mingled. Following this period, we can point out some additional characteristics: the rise of Black painted reddish brown ware, the morphological diversification of Gray ware. And especially after Layer II, the polarization of the assemblage itself into these wares was intensifying.

4. Position of the pottery from Test Pit B at Tappeh Hoseynābād

4.1. Chronological position

Black painted reddish brown ware is comparable to the pottery excavated from TurengTépé and Shah Tepe. At the former, this ware was excavated from period IIA (Deshayes 1967; Deshayes 1966: PLANCHE II-Fig.7; Martinez 1990: Planche 47-fig. 1, Planche 48-Fig.1, Fig.7) . At Shah Tepe, similar examples were excavated from deposits from the period III (Arne 1945: 164-170, fig. 276, 278, 282, 283, 286, 287, 294, 295, pl. XLI) .

Similar examples of Gray Ware were also excavated from Tepe Hesār, in addition to Shah Tepe and Tureng Tépé. The chalice (Schmidt 1933: Pl. XCVII-H1664, Pl. XCVIII-H1604; Schmidt 1937: Pl. XXV-H5119, H3917; Arne 1945: Fig.348, 349; Deshayes 1966: PLANCHE

I-Fig.3; Martinez 1990: Planche 37-fig.1~7) and the pear-shaped cup (Schmidt 1933: PLATE XCVIII-H1150; Schmidt 1937: PLATE XXVI-H4177, H4783, H2208; Martinez 1990: Planche 39) are comparable to shapes found at Tepe Hesār IIA~IIB, Shah Tepe III, and Tureng Tépé IIA.

Furthermore, by comparison of the decoration of Gray ware, we can find the vertical ribbing at Tepe Hesār IIB (Schmidt 1937: PLATE XXV-H5070) , Shah Tepe III~IIB (Arne 1945: PL. XLIV-Fig.315) , Tureng Tépé IIA (Deshayes 1966: PLANCHE I-Fig.3; Martinez 1990: Planche 29-fig.3, Planche 39, Planche 43-fig.1, Planche 45-fig.3, 4, 7~9, 12, Planche 46-fig.7, 8) . Additionally, the incised lines and the repoussé round knobs are often used at these sites in the same period. At Tureng Tépé, many of them date to this period IIA (Martinez 1990: Planche 28-fig. 2, 3, Planche 37-fig. 8~12, Planche 39-fig. 6, 7, Planche 45-fig.5, Planche 46-fig.3, 5, 6, 11, 17, 18) .

Consequently, most of the pottery excavated from Test Pit B (especially Layer III where Black painted reddish brown ware was found and a variety of Gray wares occur) at Tappeh Hoseynābād is contemporaneous with Tepe Hesār IIA~IIB, Shah Tepe III~IIB, and Tureng Tépé IIA: in essence, these wares are representative of the Bronze Age. In comparison with Tepe Hesār, they date to the late fourth millennium B.C. (Dyson and Remsen 1989: 108) .

4.2. Regional position

Gray Ware is found not only in Gorgan, but also in Northern Iran (Arimatsu 2008; Mousavi 2001; Mousavi 2005) . Considering this point, we can interpret that Tappeh Hoseynābād was situated in the easternmost area of the Bronze Age Gray Ware culture. On the other hand, the examples of Black painted reddish brown ware are limited to the Gorgan region. The Colored ware groups and Fine ware groups co-existed with Gray ware before the appearance of Black painted reddish brown ware; we cannot point out any other similar examples. These groups might not be comparable just because of their simplicity. However, it is certain that they were not distributed more widely than Gray ware.

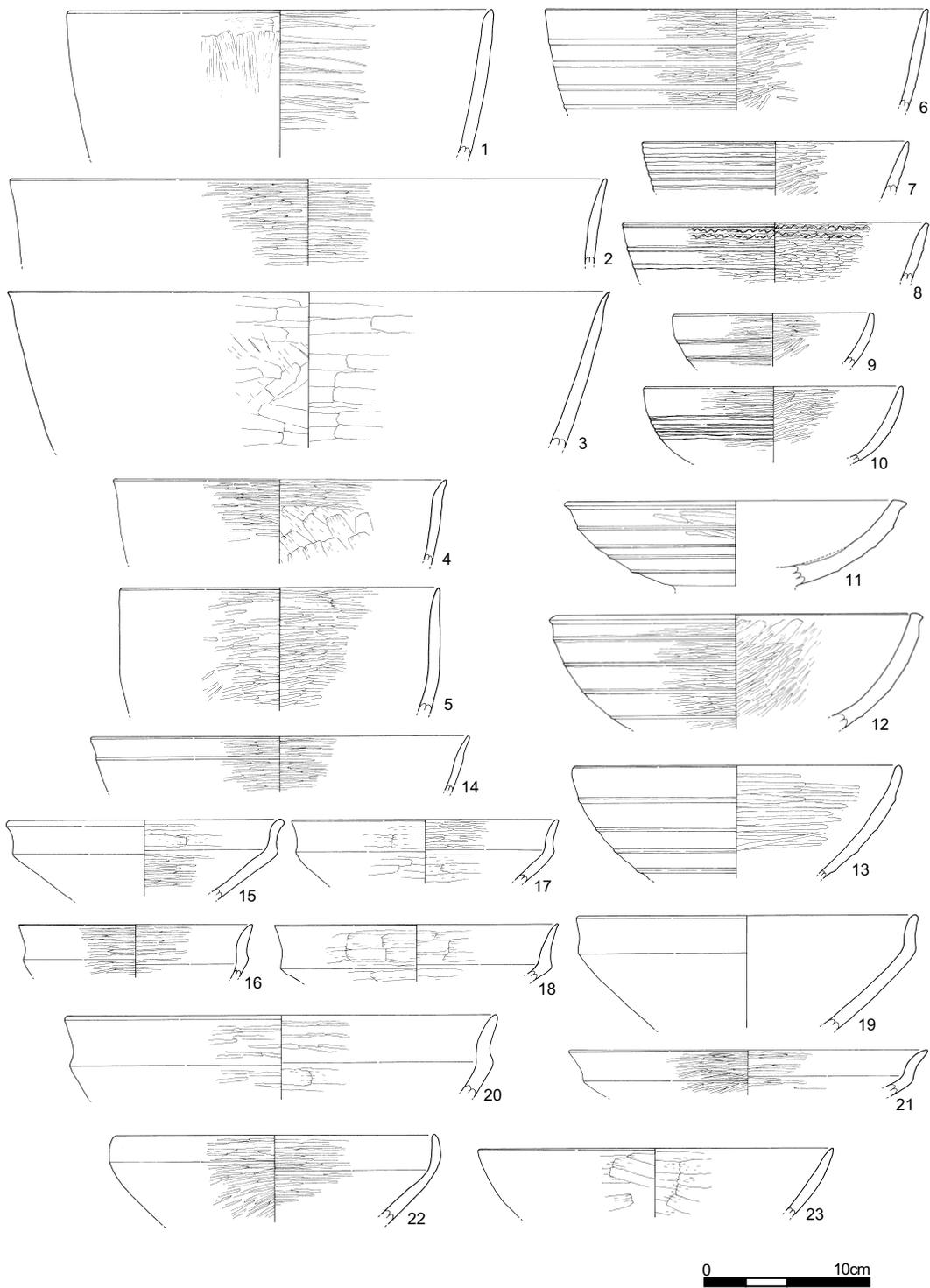


Fig. 6 Pottery excavated from Tappeh Hoseynābād

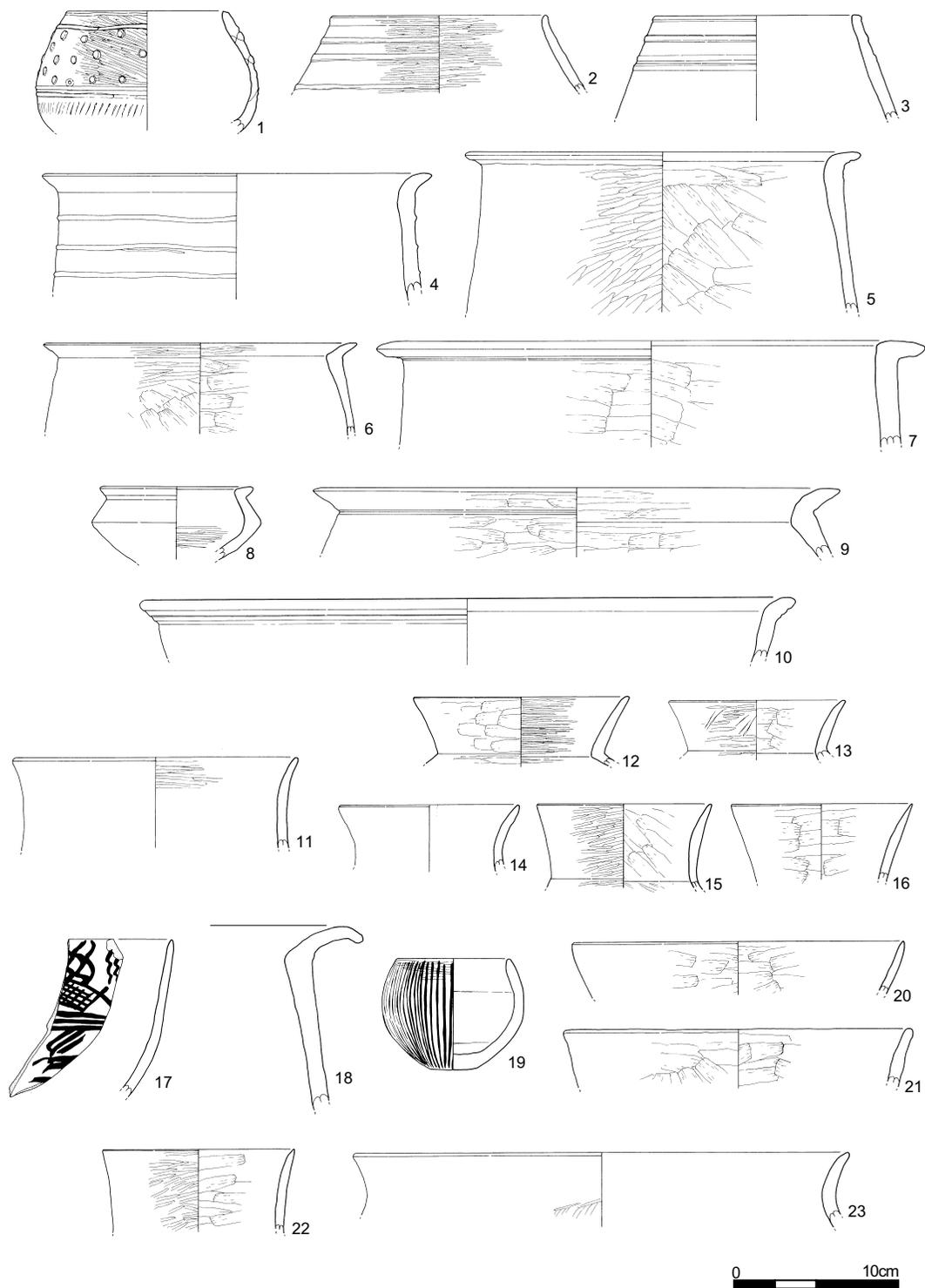


Fig. 7 Pottery excavated from Tappeh Hoseynābād

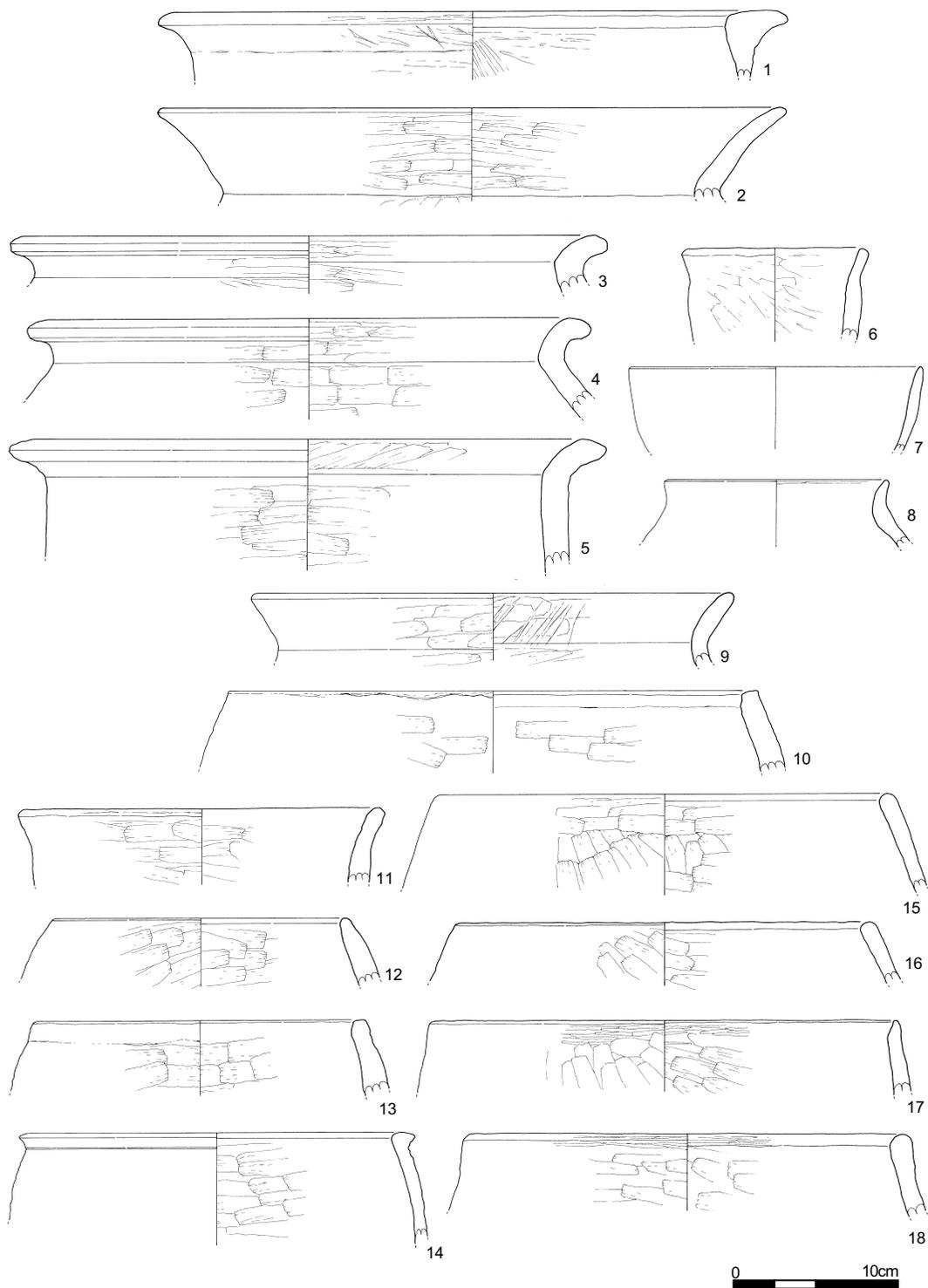


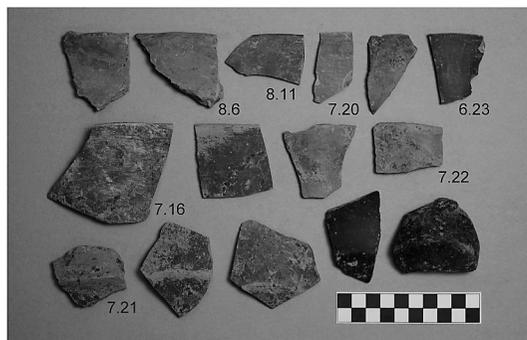
Fig. 8 Pottery excavated from Tappeh Hoseynābād

Table : Pottery study

Fig. No.	Pl. No.	Bag. No.	Draw. No.	Test pit	Layer	Shape	Part	% Color	clay	in	out	Decoration and Technique	Temper	Method (H/W)	Period
6-1	III(5)	045	488	B	II	Bowl	Rim	5	10YR4/1	10YR4/1	10YR4/1	Light burnish	Fine	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
6-2	II(5)	044	458	B	IV	Bowl	Rim	5	10YR5/1	10YR6/2	10YR4/1	Light burnish	Fine	H	TH IIA, ST III, or Trans. p (TT I to II?)
6-3	II(2)	049	539	B	Low. IV	Bowl	Rim	5	10YR4/1	10YR5/1	10YR4/1	Wet smooth	A few spalls	H	TH IIA, ST III, or Trans. p (TT I to II?)
6-4	II(1)	030	375	B	Low. IV	Bowl	Rim	5	5Y3/1	5Y3/1	5Y3/1	Wet smooth, Light Burnish	A few spalls	H	TH IIA, ST III, or Trans. p (TT I to II?)
6-5	I(2)	017	190	B	IV	Bowl	Rim	5	7.5Y6/1	7.5Y7/1	7.5Y6/1	Wet smooth after Light Burnish, Ribbed lines	Fine	H	Trans. p (TT I to II?)
6-6	6	001	026	B	I	Bowl	Rim	5	10YR4/1	2.5Y5/1	10YR4/1	Burnish, Ribbed lines	Fine	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
6-7	7	001	027	B	I	Bowl	Rim	5	10YR4/1	2.5Y5/1	10YR4/1	Burnish, Incised lines	Fine	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
6-8	III(2)	008	107	B	II	Bowl	Rim	5	10YR3/1	10YR5/1	10YR3/1	Burnish, Ribbed lines, Incised	Fine	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
6-9	II(8)	048	529	B	III	Bowl	Rim	5	10YR5/1	7.5YR5/1	10YR5/1	Burnish, Ribbed lines	Fine	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
6-10	II(8)	048	528	B	III	Bowl	Rim	5	10YR3/1	10YR6/2	10YR4/1	Burnish, Ribbed lines	Fine, Gray core	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
6-11	IV(4)	018	229	B	I	Chalice	Rim	10	2.5Y3/2	2.5Y4/2	2.5Y3/1	Light burnish	Fine	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
6-12	III(2)	008	110	B	II	Chalice?	Rim	5	10YR5/2	10YR5/3	10YR4/1	Wet smooth, Light burnish	Fine	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
6-13	III(5)	045	489	B	II	Bowl	Rim	5	2.5Y3/1	2.5Y5/1	2.5Y3/1	Burnish, Ribbed lines	Fine	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
6-14	II(8)	048	527	B	III	Bowl	Rim	5	7.5YR3/1	10YR7/2	7.5YR3/1	Burnish	Fine	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
6-15	IV(2)	001	020	B	I	Chalice?	Rim	5	7.5YR4/1	2.5Y5/1	2.5YR5/1	Wet smooth	Fine	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
6-16	II(8)	048	530	B	III	Chalice?	Rim	5	7.5YR2/1	10YR6/1	7.5YR2/1	Light burnish	Fine	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
6-17	II(4)	029	357	B	IV	Chalice?	Rim	5	5Y7/1	5Y5/1	5Y4/1	Light burnish	Fine	H	TH IIA, ST III, or Trans. p (TT I to II?)
6-18	II(5)	044	461	B	IV	Bowl?	Rim	5	10Y3/1	10YR6/2	10Y5/2	Light burnish	Fine	H	TH IIA, ST III, or Trans. p (TT I to II?)
6-19	III(5)	045	487	B	II	Chalice	Rim	5	10YR5/1	10YR5/1	10YR5/1	Light burnish	Fine	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
6-20	II(4)	029	356	B	IV	Chalice	Rim	5	5Y4/1	5Y5/1	5Y4/1	Light burnish	Fine	H	TH IIA, ST III, or Trans. p (TT I to II?)
6-21	II(1)	030	377	B	Low. IV	Chalice	Rim	5	5Y6/1	5Y6/2	5Y5/1	Light burnish	Fine	H	TH IIA, ST III, or Trans. p (TT I to II?)
6-22	I(2)	017	192	B	IV	Bowl	Base	5	7.5Y6/1	7.5Y6/1	7.5Y5/1	Wet smooth after Light	Fine	H	Trans. p (TT I to II?)
6-23	I(1)	067	703	B	VII	Bowl	Rim	5	10YR5/1	10YR5/1	10YR3/1	Wet smooth	A few spalls	H	Trans. p (TT I to II?)
7-1	III(4)	008	115	B	II	Bowl	Rim	5	2.5Y3/1	10YR5/2	2.5Y3/1	Wet smooth, Burnish, Indented pattern, Knobs, Ribbed lines	Fine, Gray core	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
7-2	7	001	025	B	I	Bowl	Rim	5	10YR4/1	2.5Y5/1	10YR4/1	Burnish, Ribbed lines	Fine	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
7-3	III(2)	008	112-	B	II	Bowl	Rim	5	10YR5/2	10YR5/2	10YR4/1	Wet smooth, Burnish	Fine	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
7-4	IV(3)	010	160	B	I	Jar	Rim	5	2.5Y6/1	2.5Y6/1	7.5YR4/2	Wet smooth	A few spalls	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
7-5	III(4)	008	117	B	II	Jar	Rim	5	10YR4/1	5YR5/6	10YR4/1	Wet smooth	Fine	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
7-6	II(7)	044	456	B	IV	Jar	Rim	5	2.5Y5/1	2.5Y6/1	2.5Y4/1	Wet smooth, Light burnish	Fine	H	TH IIA, ST III, or Trans. p (TT I to II?)
7-7	II(8)	048	525	B	III	Jar	Rim	5	7.5YR5/1	7.5YR5/1	7.5YR4/1	Wet smooth	Fine	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
7-8	III(3)	045	483	B	II	Bowl	Rim	5	10YR5/1	10YR6/2	10YR5/1	Light burnish	Fine	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
7-9	II(5)	044	455	B	IV	Jar	Rim	5	2.5Y5/2	2.5Y4/2	2.5Y6/3	Light burnish	A few spalls	H	TH IIA, ST III, or Trans. p (TT I to II?)
7-10	IV(2)	001	16	B	I	Bowl	Rim	5	10YR4/1	2.5Y5/1	10YR4/1	Burnish	Fine	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
7-11	I(8)	041	470	B	V	Jar	Rim	5	5YR4/1	5YR4/1	5YR4/1	Light burnish	Some spalls	H	Trans. p (TT I to II?)

Fig. No.	Pl. No.	Bag. No.	Draw. No.	Test pit	Layer	Shape	Part	% Color	Clay			Decoration and Technique		Temper	Method (H/W)	Period
									in.	out.	clay	in.	out.			
7-12	II(2)	049	538	B	Low. IV	Jar	Rim	5	10YR3/1	10YR6/1	10YR3/1	Light burnish	Light burnish	Fine, Firing after boring	H	TH IIA, ST III, or Trans. p (TT I to II?)
7-13	II(1)	030	376	B	Low. IV	Jar	Rim	5	5Y3/1	5Y5/1	5Y3/1	Light burnish	Light burnish	A few spalls	H	TH IIA, ST III, or Trans. p (TT I to II?)
7-14	I(8)	041	472	B	V	Jar	Rim	5	5YR4/1	5YR5/1	5YR4/1	Light burnish	Polish	A few spalls	H	Trans. p (TT I to II?)
7-15	I(2)	017	191	B	IV	Jar	Rim	5	7.5Y6/1	7.5Y5/1	7.5Y6/1	Wet smooth after Light	Light burnish	Fine	H	Trans. p (TT I to II?)
7-16	I(1)	067	704	B	VII	Jar	Rim	5	7.5YR7/4, 7.5YR4/1	2.5YR6/6	7.5YR7/4, 7.5YR4/1	Wet smooth after Black paint on Buff	Light burnish after Black paint on Buff	A few spalls	H	Trans. p (TT I to II?)
7-17	I(8)	041	466	B	V	Bowl	Rim	5	5YR6/6	5YR6/6	5YR5/6, 5YR4/2	Light burnish	Light burnish, Black paint on Red wash	Fine	H	Trans. p (TT I to II?)
7-18	IV(1)	002	37	B	II	Jar	Neck	5	10R4/6, 5YR3/1	2.5YR6/6	10R4/6, 5YR3/1	Black paint on Red wash	Wet smooth, Black paint on Red wash	Fine	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
7-19	IV(7)	018	225	B	I	Bowl with Spout?	Rim-Base	40	2.5YR4/6	2.5YR6/8	10Y5/6, 10R4/2	Wet smooth, Red wash	Burnish, Black paint on Red wash	Fine, Mica	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
7-20	I(1)	067	701	B	VII	Bowl	Rim	5	5YR4/4	5YR4/4	5YR4/4	Wet smooth, Red slip	Burnish, Red slip	Fine	H	Trans. p (TT I to II?)
7-21	I(1)	067	708	B	VII	Bowl	Base	5	7.5YR6/4	7.5YR6/4	7.5YR6/4	Wet smooth	Burnish	Fine	H	Trans. p (TT I to II?)
7-22	I(1)	067	707	B	VII	Jar	Rim	5	7.5YR6/4	7.5YR6/4	7.5YR6/4	Wet smooth	Burnish, Black paint on Buff?	Fine	H	Trans. p (TT I to II?)
7-23	I(6)	050	555	B	V	Jar	Rim	5	5YR3/1	10YR6/2	5YR6/4	Wet smooth	Light burnish, Red slip	Fine	H	Trans. p (TT I to II?)
8-1	II(3)	030	364	B	Low. IV	Jar	Rim	5	10YR6/4	2.5Y6/3	10YR6/4	Wet smooth	Wet smooth, Light burnish	Fine	H	TH IIA, ST III, or Trans. p (TT I to II?)
8-2	II(3)	030	363	B	Low. IV	Jar	Rim	5	10YR6/4	10YR6/4	10YR6/4	Wet smooth	Wet smooth	Fine, Mica	H	TH IIA, ST III, or Trans. p (TT I to II?)
8-3	II(7)	044	450	B	IV	Jar	Rim	5	5YR6/4	5YR6/3	5YR6/6	Light burnish	Light burnish	Fine	H	TH IIA, ST III, or Trans. p (TT I to II?)
8-4	III(1)	048	515	B	III	Jar	Rim	5	5YR6/8	5YR6/4	5YR6/6	Light burnish, Wet smooth	Wet smooth	Fine	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
8-5	II(7)	044	448	B	IV	Jar	Rim	5	2.5YR6/6	2.5YR6/6	2.5YR5/6	Wet smooth, Light burnish	Wet smooth, Light burnish	A few spalls	H	TH IIA, ST III, or Trans. p (TT I to II?)
8-6	I(1)	067	699	B	VII	Jar	Rim	5	2.5YR6/6	2.5YR6/6	2.5YR6/3-6/6	Wet smooth	Wet smooth	Some spalls	H	Trans. p (TT I to II?)
8-7	I(6)	050	557	B	V	Jar	Rim	5	5YR6/4	5YR6/4	2.5YR5/6	Wet smooth	Wet smooth	A few spalls	H	Trans. p (TT I to II?)
8-8	I(6)	050	558	B	V	Jar	Rim	5	10YR5/1	10YR5/1	10YR5/3	Wet smooth	Wet smooth	A lot of spalls	H	Trans. p (TT I to II?)
8-9	I(3)	017	206	B	IV	Jar	Rim	5	7.5YR6/2	7.5YR6/2	5YR6/4	Wet smooth	Wet smooth	Some spalls	H	Trans. p (TT I to II?)
8-10	IV(5)	010	163	B	I	Jar	Rim	5	7.5YR4/2	7.5YR5/2	7.5YR3/1	Wet smooth	Wet smooth	A lot of spalls	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
8-11	I(1)	067	700	B	VII	Jar	Rim	5	5YR4/4	5YR6/6	5YR4/4	Wet smooth after Red slip	Wet smooth after Red slip	A few spalls	H	Trans. p (TT I to II?)
8-12	IV(5)	010	164	B	I	Jar	Rim	5	7.5YR4/2	7.5YR5/2	7.5YR3/1	Wet smooth	Wet smooth	Some spalls	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
8-13	IV(5)	010	162	B	I	Jar	Rim	5	7.5YR4/2	7.5YR5/2	7.5YR3/1	Wet smooth	Wet smooth	Some spalls	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
8-14	III(6)	008	124	B	II	Jar	Rim	5	2.5Y3/1	7.5YR6/4	2.5Y3/1	Wet smooth	Wet smooth	Some spalls	H	TH IIA-IB, ST III-IB, TT IIA
8-15	II(5)	044	465	B	IV	Jar	Rim	5	2.4Y4/1	2.5Y5/1	2.5Y5/1	Wet smooth	Wet smooth	Some spalls	H	TH IIA, ST III, or Trans. p (TT I to II?)
8-16	II(2)	049	544	B	Low. IV	Jar	Rim	5	10YR3/1	2.5Y6/1	10YR5/2	Wet smooth	Wet smooth	Some spalls	H	TH IIA, ST III, or Trans. p (TT I to II?)
8-17	I(3)	017	208	B	IV	Jar	Rim	5	7.5YR3/1	7.5YR6/1	7.5YR6/2	Wet smooth	Wet smooth	Some spalls	H	Trans. p (TT I to II?)
8-18	I(4)	017	199	B	IV	Jar	Rim	5	5YR6/6	5YR4/2	5YR2/1	Wet smooth	Wet smooth	A lot of spalls	H	Trans. p (TT I to II?)

✖ Low. IV: Lower part of layer IV
 ✖ Burnish: with luster and appearing polishing line. Light burnish: no luster but no appearing polishing line. Polish: with luster but no appearing polishing line. Light polish: no luster and no appearing polishing line.
 ✖ TH: Tepe Hasar. ST: Shah Tepe. TT: Turenda Tepé.
 ✖ Trans. p: Transitional period



(1) Test Pit B, Layer VII



(2) Test Pit B, Layer VI



(3) Test Pit B, Layer VI



(4) Test Pit B, Layer VI



(5) Test Pit B, Layer V



(6) Test Pit B, Layer V



(7) Test Pit B, Layer V



(8) Test Pit B, Layer V



(1) Test Pit B, Under part of Layer IV



(2) Test Pit B, Under part of Layer IV



(3) Test Pit B, Under part of Layer IV



(4) Test Pit B, Layer IV



(5) Test Pit B, Layer IV



(6) Test Pit B, Layer IV



(7) Test Pit B, Layer IV



(8) Test Pit B, Layer III



(1) Test Pit B, Layer III



(2) Test Pit B, Layer II



(3) Test Pit B, Layer II



(4) Test Pit B, Layer II



(5) Test Pit B, Layer II



(6) Test Pit B, Layer II



(7) Test Pit B, Layer II



(8) Test Pit B, Layer II



(1) Test Pit B, Layer II



(2) Test Pit B, Layer I



(3) Test Pit B, Layer I



(4) Test Pit B, Layer I



(5) Test Pit B, Layer I



(6) Test Pit B, Layer I



(7) Test Pit B, Layer I



(8) Test Pit B, Layer I

5. Prospects of the archaeological study at Tappeh Hoseynābād

Gray Ware represents the majority of pottery at Tappeh Hoseynābād, and is an indicator of the Bronze Age in Northern Iran. However, the process of its appearance and the background of distribution have not yet been well understood. If we consider the remark that Gray ware in Iran had originated in the Gorgan plain (Dyson and Remsen 1989: 108), the materials excavated from Tappeh Hoseynābād would offer important dates for revealing the regional change in Bronze Age Culture, not only in Gorgan, but also in the rest of Iran. At the same time, we confirm stratigraphic changes in pottery at Tappeh Hoseynābād. If we base our understanding of dating on this sequence, it will be possible to subdivide and clarify the chronology of this period.

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IV. Recent Archaeological Investigations in Gorgan-Northeast of Iran

The closed relations between prehistoric cultures of northeast Iran and its neighbors, the origin of Parthian culture and the splendor of the Islamic periods are some of the main subjects

that attract many researchers to this region. Japanese archaeologists and their investigations in this zone have conducted many joint archaeological projects north of Iran before and after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

After a long interruption, five seasons of systematic survey and excavation was conducted by joint Iranian and Japanese archaeologists between 2001 to 2005 that yielded new data from the north of Iran during the prehistoric to Islamic periods. On the other hand, in addition to the archaeological investigations, interdisciplinary research also received attention. The Iranian research on this project as well as publications made this one of the best organized, and systematic projects (Ohtsu et al., 2003, 2004a, 2004b and 2005) .

In recent years a series of surveys and excavations especially in the Gorgan region has shed new light on the archaeology of northeast Iran. Defensive wall excavations are one of the important projects that deals with the historical and Islamic periods (H. Omrani and E. Suer, 2006) . The Jorjan project in particular, conducted by ICAR (M. Mortezaiee, 2005a and 2005b) , is an important defensive wall outline.

Narges Tape is located at the Emam airport and is one the important sites in the Gorgan plain that is represented by prehistoric, Iron age, Parthian and Islamic periods. It was excavated during the 2004 and 2006 seasons (Gh. Abbasi, 2007) . Some researchers believe that Narges Tape possessed evidence of the Median and Achaemenid periods (Attaiee, 2008) .



Fig.9 Toli Tape (left) and Solieman Tape in Minou Dash Plain, Gorgan

At the same time, the Minou Dasht plain was surveyed and about 80 archaeological sites were found (M. M. Borhani, 2005) . The material culture of this survey revealed a lengthy occupation in the region from the 6th millennium B.C. until late Islamic period.

The study of material from previous archaeological investigations and field projects has been part of the northeast region' s researchmandate during recent decades. Restudy of the Shah Tepe material culture is one important initiative (Orsaria, 1995) . The National Museum

of Iran also has a lot of Gorgan archaeological material that can be reanalyzed using new methods and modern techniques. Fortunately, in recent years the Pottery Department of the National Museum of Iran has created good opportunities for researchers to access and study the ceramics from different regions of Iran. In this way, we are pleased to have close reciprocal relationships with other research centers as well as universities outside of Iran. During 2010 we received a Japanese team that was working in Iran since before the Gorgan survey. This survey was conducted by a Japanese team before the 1979 Islamic revolution, and as yet is unpublished. The first steps have been successful and we hope that this joint project continues in the future. However, the next field studies are required before any future activities are to be conducted.

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