

**Bayazid Abad (Bayazi Awa): Transition of Material
Patterns from the Middle Bronze to the Iron Age in
North-Western Iran**

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Faculty of Philosophy of Heidelberg University.

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Introduction

The Bayazid Abad grave, located at $45^{\circ}19'04''\text{N}$, $33^{\circ}53'7''\text{E}$, at 1435 m ASL, is a gravesite in North-Western Iran, accidentally discovered during a road construction project in 2011. It contained 15 human skeletons of young and adult individuals alongside a rich collection of objects. The data regarding its period of usage shows that this grave site had been used for almost 1000 years continuously. Analyzing this data, together with the retrieved goods, gives a better perspective on the history of the area and the population that inhabited it.

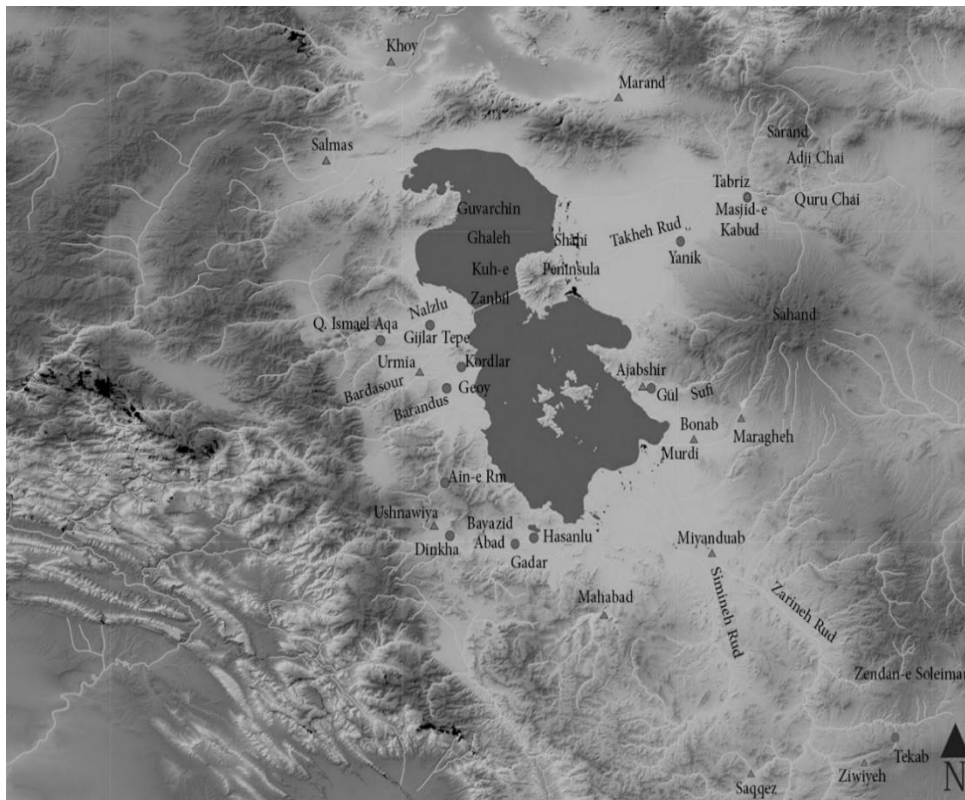


Figure 1. The Lake Urmia basin with the location of Bayazid Abad (<https://maps-for-free.com>, 14 January 2011, Accessed 16 July 2020).

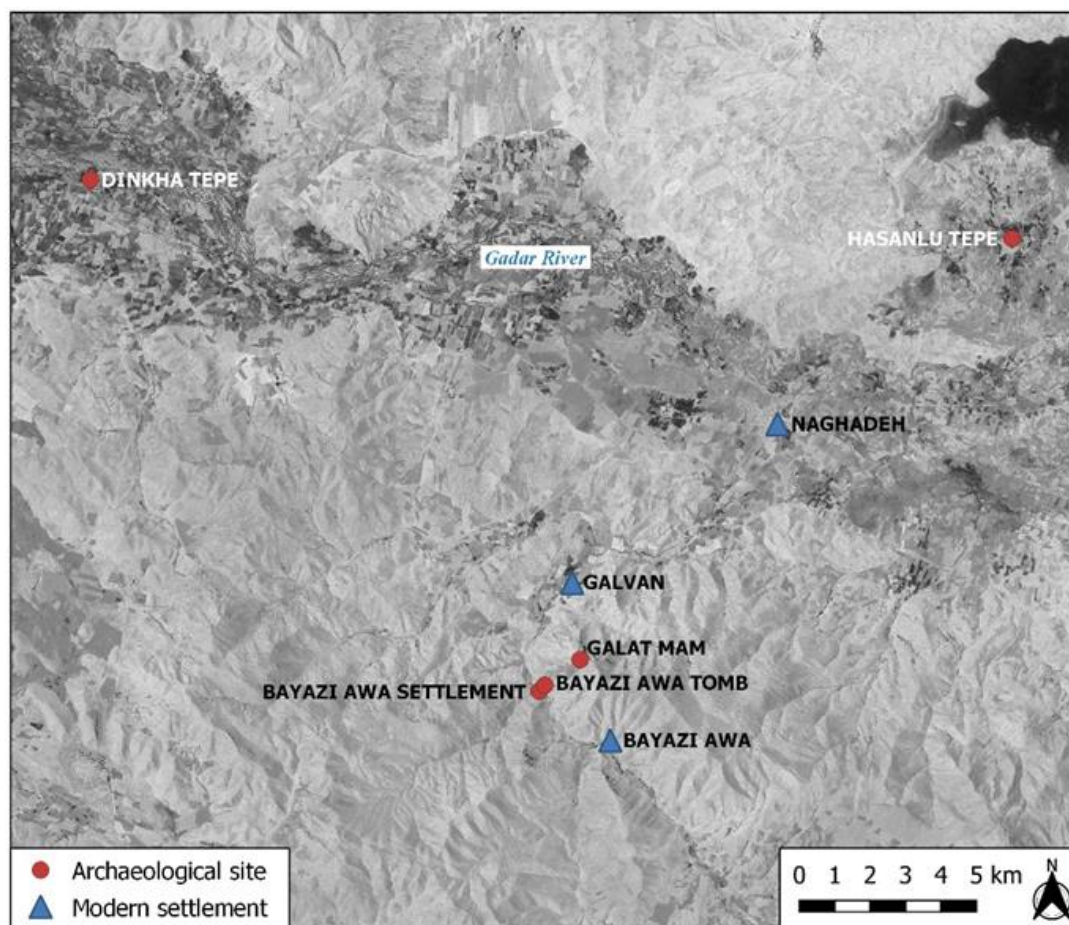


Figure 2. CORONA satellite image, showing the position of Bayazid Abad tomb and its neighbouring sites. Annotated by Michael Brown.

The grave site lies in the Iranian province of West Azerbaijan approximately 5 km from Naghadeh. Piranšar road asphalted pavement extends towards Golvan and Bayazid Abad villages, in a small valley between Golvan and Bayazid Abad, about 2 km to the village of Bayazid Abad, in the range of an ancient castle called Qalat Mam (Figures 1 and 2). The site is 18 km south-west of Hasanlu, and 29 km in the south-western corner of the Urmia Basin. Residents of this region, like the majority of the population living in the Ušnu district, are mostly descendants of the Kurds of the Zerza tribe. The oldest documents referring to their presence date back to 1335 AD.¹

¹ This issue is mentioned in the book (Pathways of sight in the kingdoms of Amasar) مسالك الأبصار في ممالك الأمصار by Ibn Fadlullah Shihab al-Din al-Amri, written in Egypt in 1335 (after Pizzorno 2009: 1).

The tomb laid in the northern part of the Bayazid Abad site, is overlooked by Qalat Mam fortification (Figure 3). Recent survey assemblages² show that the site and castle were occupied during the Second and the First Millennium BC, corresponding to the usage of the Bayazid Abad Hypogeum.

The Bayazid Abad tomb was accidentally discovered in 2011 during road works in the Naghadeh-Bayazi Awa area. Excavation at the site was carried out in the same year by the West Azerbaijan Province's Department of Cultural Heritages directed by Behroz Khanmohamadi. This was a salvage excavation completed over a period of four days. The team documented and collected archaeological remains as well as other objects and transferred them to the Naghadeh museum. The tomb chamber was an east-west rectangular stone-built hypogeum erected from crushed stones. This kind of underground building differentiate itself by the usual burial chambers for its regular measurements and for its wider environment, with taller walls and higher ceilings. The length and height of the tomb were 4.10 m and 2.5 m respectively, while it was not possible to measure its width due to the destruction. However, from the remaining traces of the foundations, which appear as straight and parallel lines, the tomb seemed to be around 2 m wide. The grave had been built using eight layers of rectangular crushed stones, bound together by mud mortar with smaller stones used to fill in the empty spaces between them (Figure 4). It had been covered with several large slabs of stone with an average size of 1 meter with the empty spaces similarly filled with smaller stones (Figure 5). After removing the superficial stones, the excavators found, at a depth of 80 centimeters, the first burials. It should be noted that at the end of the western side the first findings surfaced much earlier, at about 50 cm, consisting not only of disturbed human bones, but also of a ceramic vase and several small spring copper alloy rings and several pins of different sizes (Figure 6).

At a depth of 150 cm from the roof of the tomb, a layer of yellow ash with a thickness of 70 cm was revealed, presenting a great variety of potteries, for sizes, shapes and fabrics. This layer extended across the length of the tomb from east to west (Figure 7). In the eastern part of this layer there were 7 human skulls (two smaller than the others), while in the western part there were 8. All fifteen of them were positioned in such a way that the skullcap was

² Sadrai 2018: 204–220.

pointing toward the north side, and this shows that the bodies were buried in the north-south direction, with their heads in the north and lower bodies in the south. Due to road construction works, the southern part of the tomb collapsed, causing the destruction of the middle and the lower parts of the bodies. Four of the skulls were facing upwards, 3 towards the east, 6 towards the west and 2 downwards.

Of the bowls and jars found on site, some contained charred grain seeds and small and crushed bones. Apparently, these bones are related to the meat that the celebrants put in containers as an offer to the dead. In some other containers, compacted and cream-colored mineral materials were placed. The nature of these has not yet been determined, but it is likely that they are the remains of more food offers.

After the removal of the burial goods from this layer, the rocky and stony bed of the floor appeared. In order to make sure that this bed was the floor of the tomb, the excavator dug a part of the eastern side of the tomb to a depth of half a meter, revealing a horned bull rhyton. Amid the rubble caused by the road construction works, only the 15 aforementioned skulls were still recognizable, while the rest of the bones in the site were in such a state that it was impossible to determine the exact number of the buried.

Due to the widespread destruction of the grave, it was not possible to say exactly how the access way to the grave was.³ This issue was at least in part solved in 2013 when, in the village of Lur Balajoogh, another burial of the same kind surfaced due to a fortuitous case. The hypogeum was found by a villager, at a 3 meters depth, at the bottom of a hole dug by tomb robbers, and informed the authorities. The similarities in structure with the tomb from Bayazid Abad are the only information in our possess regarding this tomb, as it was completely empty of any valuable source of data, plundered by the tomb robbers, thus making the dating process very difficult⁴. Despite this unfortunate circumstance, the empty tomb has been invaluable in reconstructing the internal architecture of the Bayazid Abad site (Figures 8 and 9).

³ Based on the slop of the beneath which the tomb is situated and the amount of soil deposited on the northern, southern and eastern sides of the structure, is it highly likely that the entrance was at the corner of the eastern wall.

⁴ Lur Balajoogh hypogeum measures 4 m in length, 1.90 m in width and 2 m height. It is formed by cobble walls with a roof of stone slabs. In the western wall of the tomb, there is a short entrance with a width of 70 cm and a height of 90 cm. Two big slab stones each 40 cm high act as architrave for the entrance (Khanmohamadi and Sadrai 2022: 238).

Considering the ceramics found on the tepe, in 1984 Paolo Emilio Pecorella and Mirjo Salvini dated the site to Iron Age I, II and III, in their survey titled “Tra lo Zagros e l’Urmia: ricerche storiche ed archeologiche nell’Azerbaijan iraniano” (“Between Zagros and Urmia: hystorical and archeological inquires in Iranian Azerbaijan”).⁵ From this information, it is safe to assume that Lur Balajoogh hypogeum is coeval with the one from Bayazid Abad, while the similarities in the two constructions is such that, from an analysis of Lur Balajoogh, Khanmohammadi could establish many details about the mostly collapsed tomb, like points of entrance, orientation of walls and the height of the ceiling.⁶

Unfortunately, two-third of the grave has been destroyed due to road construction, and many of the burial objects have vanished. But what remains can nevertheless be considered a rich collection. In total, about 1200 objects have been retrieved from the grave. Almost 350 ceramic pieces of different categories have been discovered and all of them have been placed on top of each other on the floor of the tomb, next to the skulls. The most characteristic forms were small Khabur and pinkish grey jars, short and tall pedestal tankard cups, and bridged and unbridged spouted jars. Other important burial goods from this tomb are mainly metal ornaments, recovered from human skeletons, some of them placed with the ceramics. A high percentage of these decorative objects are made of bronze (70%) and iron (20%), respectively. Small rings make up the bulk of these objects. Fifty-seven cylindrical seals were also found, mostly made of faience and frit.

It appears that there was no consistent strategy for the collection or recording of the sherds from Bayazid Abad, and all of the sherds at Naghadeh Museum were already discarded before I had a chance to study them.⁷

For exploring and rebuilding the material and cultural past of North-Western Iran, the Bayazid Abad tomb can play an important role, since it contains extensive amounts of objects that belong to a time span of 1000 years. The objects found here are much more diverse than those found in residential areas, and they present a great variety of typologies. Compared to the diversity of material culture revealed by excavations in North-Western Iran, the findings

⁵ Pecorella and Salvini 1984: 143.

⁶ Khanmohamadi and Sadrai 2022: 235–248.

⁷ According to the director and the employees of the Naghadeh museum and the photos of the site, taken during the salvage excavation.

from the Bayazid Abad site have received little attention from scholars. Danti in reassessment of Hasanlu and Dinkha explorations⁸ relied heavily on pottery and architecture in the Late Bronze and Iron Age I Periods. Other objects and periods were ignored due to a lack of information. An explanation about the chronology of this period can be found in the preceding section.

One of the most important objectives of this dissertation is to study the material culture in North-Western Iran based on the materials excavated from the tomb of Bayazid Abad. The materials found in this tomb show that similar materials have been used continuously for nearly a millennium (from the Middle Bronze Age II to Iron Age II). This dissertation is an attempt to contribute to a better understanding of these phases of material culture by comparing the burial goods with the objects from contemporary sites in North-Western Iran and adjacent areas. As archaeology is inherently comparative, analyzing the similarities and differences of objects found in the Bayazid Abad grave with the objects that we already know from Hasanlu and Dinkha becomes fundamental to understand them. In the same way, comparable objects originating from different places in the nearby sites and time periods also help us in understanding how such items, and the civilizations that produced them, vary through the area and the times in which they existed.

Almost 1200 objects have been excavated from this grave. One of the primary goals of this thesis is also to publish the excavated burial goods which could contribute to the analysis of the chronological and topographical development of the material culture of North-Western Iran. The thesis is divided into seven chapters. Chapter I presents the natural and historico-geographical overview of the Ušnu-Naghada region, especially the southern Lake Urmia Basin.

Chapter II presents mortuary data from the western side of Lake Urmia, in order to investigate the burial customs in this region between the Middle Bronze Age II and Iron Age II.

For a better understanding of the chronology of North-Western Iran, the prominent sites in this area are presented by mentioning the layers related to Bayazid Abad material in Chapter III.

⁸ Danti 2013a.

The publication of the potteries found from the tomb is established in Part III which consists of their basic chronological analysis. The chapter begins with a study of different types of potteries which were predominant in North-Western Iran during the Second and the First Millennium BC.

Chapter IV presents and provides a stylistic classification of the seal designs and iconography for the purposes of cataloguing as well as documenting their chronology and distribution in the ancient world. The chapter begins with a study of the different materials used for Bayazid Abad seals and a brief study on Mitannian Common Style seals, the group to which the majority of the seals from the grave belong.

In chapter V, analysis of the personal ornaments has been presented. In addition to dating the objects based on comparisons with similar specimens in the north-west and neighbouring areas, various applications of these objects have been investigated based on archaeological findings.

Chapter VI consists of weapons, their functions, and chronologies. Finally, Chapter VII concludes my research findings on material culture in North-Western Iran during the Second and the First Millennium BC based on the objects found from the Bayazid Abad grave. It further provides an interesting and unusual opportunity to reconstruct the cultural behavior of this region during this time period.



Figure 3. General view on the Bayazid Abad tomb (from the east).

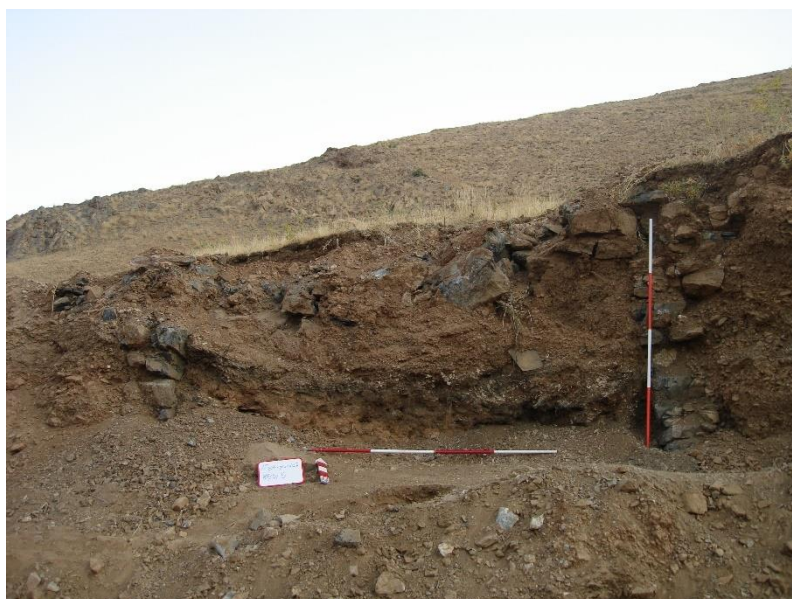


Figure 4. The tomb of Bayazid Abad.



Figure 5. Detail of the tomb's cover.



Figure 6. View of the western corner of the Bayazid Abad tomb.



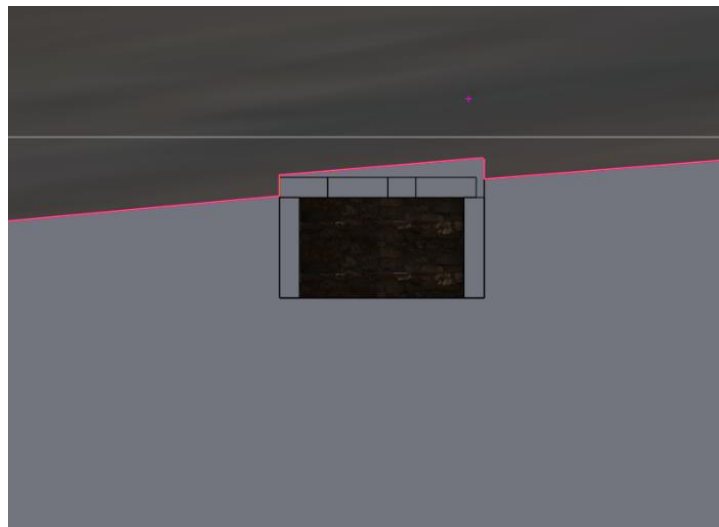
Figure 7. Detail of the tomb interior.



a. Possible initial condition.



b. Possible entrance in the western wall of tomb.



c. Sectional view of the tomb

Figure 8. 3D reconstruction drawing of Bayazid Abad tomb (by Omid Amelirad).

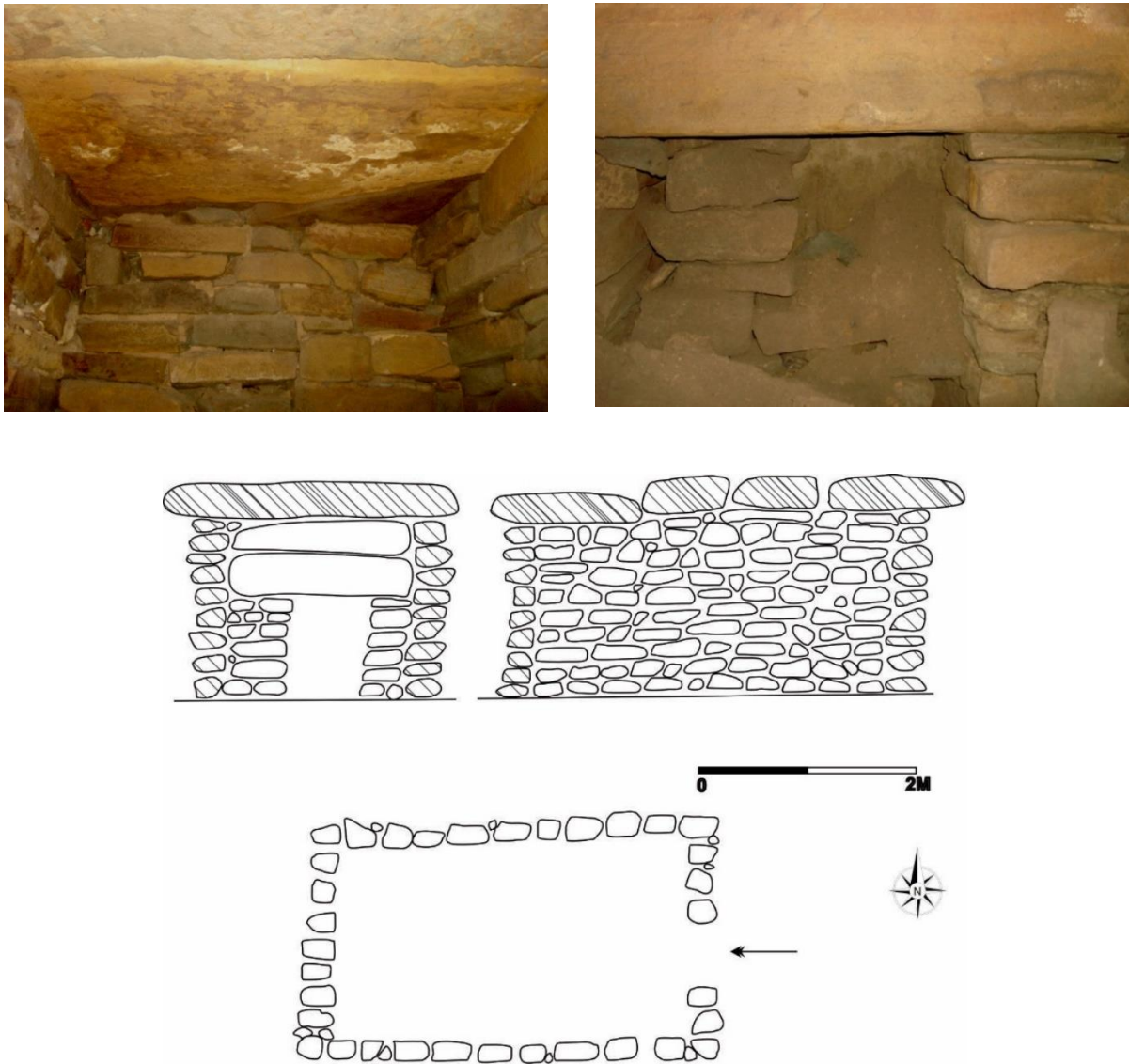


Figure 9. Plan of the architecture and view of the interior of the Lur Balajoogh tomb (Khanmohamadi and Sadrai 2022).

About Chronology

Throughout the twentieth century, the chronology regarding Iron Age in North-Western Iran based on Hasanlu has been subject to alterations and reworkings, making it ambiguous and difficult to navigate in terms of different categorizations and their meanings. The following paragraphs provide a summary of the variations apported by scholars over the years. For all intents and purposes, throughout the rest of this dissertation, I will refer to the chronology of Iron Age in North-Western Iran as intended by Michael Danti.

Iron Age in Iran was first defined by Robert Dyson and Cyler Young. Based on their research in North-Western Iran (Hasanlu, Dinkha Tepe, and Ziwiye), they divided this age into three consecutive periods. Young identified three pottery horizons: the “Early Western Grey Ware Horizon,” the “Late Western Grey Ware Horizon,” and the “Western Buff Ware Horizon,”⁹ while Dyson used a different division, using the terms Iron Age I, II, and III.¹⁰

The definition for Early Western Grey Ware was based on generic ceramic index fossils that make it an unprecise category. Thus, this term that has been in use for a large part of North-Western Iran, is deemed inappropriate. By shifting attention to the differences with the Khabur Ware of the present period, it further made it appear like the wares had been brought by a massive migration.¹¹

In his excavations in Hasanlu, Dyson could identify 10 strata, two of which he categorized as Iron Age: Hasanlu V as Iron Age I,¹² Hasanlu IVb as Iron Age II, 1250–750BC, and Hasanlu IVa and Hasanlu IIIb as Iron Age III, 750–550 BC.

From 1956 to the present, however, there has been some refinement and modification of Hasanlu’s chronology and periodization. There is now,

⁹ Young 1965: 53–85; Young 1967: 11–34.

¹⁰ Dyson 1965: 211.

¹¹ Danti 2013a: 16.

¹² Chronology of Hasanlu V has been changing continuously over the past 60 years. The first dating by Dyson was *ca.* 1500 BC (1960e: 132), then in 1963 he changed it to end of the thirteenth or beginning of the twelfth century BC (1963b: 33). In 1965, the proposed date became *ca.* 1250–1000 BC (1965: 195), further changed to 1200–1000 BC in 1967 (1967: 2957). In Dyson’s publication from 1968 it has been reviewed as 1300–1000 BC (1968a: 85). In two different articles from 1973 the reported dates are 350+/-50 BC (1973a: 705, 712–13) and 1200–1000 BC (1973b: fig. 5 caption). Years later, de Schauensee claimed that the period could be dated 1450–1200 BC (1988: 45). In 1989 Dyson did ulteriorly change his chronology for Hasanlu V three times, first to 1450–1250 BC (1989a: 6), and then, basing his claims on C 14, to 1350–1150 BC (in Dyson and Muscarella 1989: 8). Then in 1989 the beginning was brought forward to post-1500 BC (1989b:107), also confirmed by Young (2002: 386), while Muscarella (1995: 989) placed the ending in the twelfth century.

1. An increasingly strong assertion, although not universally accepted, that there is little overlap between Period V and Period VI;
2. A possible fracture proposed in the chronology between Period V and Period VI;
3. A confirmation of the datation of Period V to 1450–1250 BC;
4. The addition, somewhat haphazardly, of Period IVc to the Hasanlu sequence (now 1250–1050 BC;¹³ and
5. Oscar Muscarella's hypothesis that Hasanlu V should actually be defined as the Late Bronze Age.¹⁴

Initially, there was no adequate presentation and illustration of relevant evidence supporting these statements, but recent and accurate studies from Michael Danti have brought a radical change in this structure resulting in a re-evaluation of the sequence of the strata and their dating, as well as a better understanding of the chronology of the second millennium BC.

In Danti's analysis, a substantial portion of the strata formerly known as Hasanlu V has been renamed Hasanlu IVc and assigned to Iron Age I. Danti distinguishes the ceramic assemblage of this strata as Middle Monochrome Burnished Ware (MBW), dating 1250–1050 BC. Hasanlu IVb is now considered respectively as Iron Age II (1050–800 BC) and Hasanlu IVa as the first part of Iron Age III. This periodization was contested by Stephan Kroll, who defined the existence of Hasanlu IVa as "a fancy."¹⁵

Hasanlu V is now considered to be the Late Bronze Age (1450–1250 BC), while the Middle Bronze Age is attested from strata VIa Middle Bronze Age III (1600–1450 BC), distinguished by its ceramic assemblage as Early Middle Bronze Age Ware.

Dyson divided Hasanlu III into two periods called IIIb and IIIa, corresponding respectively to a layer with Urartian fortification and to the Achaemenid period.¹⁶ Later on, in 2006, Muscarella,¹⁷ and in 2013, Kroll¹⁸ proposed a division into three periods instead, with IIIc corresponding to Urartian fortification, IIIb to a layer with small Urartian

¹³ Danti 2013a: 47.

¹⁴ Muscarella 2006: 75.

¹⁵ Kroll 2013: 181.

¹⁶ Dyson 1999.

¹⁷ Muscarella 2006.

¹⁸ Kroll 2013.

architectures, and IIIa to the late Achaemenid period. Kroll supported his claim with the evidence that between IIIa and IIIb it is possible to observe a period of abandonment.¹⁹

Table 1: Variations in the terminology for third, second, and first half of first millennia BC in North-Western Iran, based on the stratigraphy of Hasanlu

Young	Dyson		Kroll and Muscarella	Danti	
Western Buff Ware Horizon (WBW) 800–550 BC	IIIa: Achaemenid Period	(800–550 BC)	IIIa: Late Achaemenid Period	IIIb: Iron Age	800–550 BC
			—Long Abandonement—	III	
	IIIb: Urartian Fortification		IIIb: Urartian Period	IIIc: Urartian Fortress	
	IVa: Iron Age III		IIIc: Urartian Fortification	—Break—	
Late Western Grey Ware Horizon (LWGW) 1000–800 BC	IVc-b: Iron Age II (1250–800 BC)			IVb: Iron Age II (Dinkha II) 1050–800 BC	
Early Western Grey Ware Horizon (EWGW) 1500–1000 BC	V: Iron Age I (1450–1250 BC)			IVc: Iron Age I (Dinkha III) 1250–1050 BC	
				V: Late Bronze Age (Dinkha III) 1450–1250 BC	
	VI: Middle Bronze Age I			VIa: Middle Bronze Age III (Dinkha III-IV) 1600–1450 BC	
				VIb: Middle Bronze Age II (Dinkha IV) 1900–1600 BC	

¹⁹ Kroll 2013: 190.

			VIIc: Middle Bronze Age I, 2100–1900 BC
			—Potential Break—
	VIIb–a: Early Bronze Age II–III (Mid-Third Millennium BC) ²⁰		VIIb–a: Early Bronze Age II–III
			—Potential Break—
	VIIc: Early Bronze Age I or Painted Orange Ware Phase (Early Third Millennium BC) ²¹		VIIc: Early Bronze Age I

²⁰ Voigt and Dyson 1992: 175; Danti, Voigt, and Dyson 2004; Dyson 1958: 27.

²¹ Danti, Voigt, and Dyson 2004; Dyson 1958: 27.

Chapter I - Ušnu-Naghada and the Lake Urmia

Region

This chapter presents the environmental and historical geography of the main area of the Khabur Ware from the early second millennium BC and the Western Grey Ware (WGW) horizon of the later second millennium BC in Iran.²² The WGW has been correlated with the earliest Iron Age in Iran and the wave of migration and population replacement theories.²³ The WGW region has been the source and origin of great cultural, political, economic, and military developments since antiquity. Various factors have been influential in this regard, including the favorable environmental situation conducive to settlements of varied human groups from prehistoric times to the present day. Proximity and extensive connections of this region with other important ones, such as Anatolia, northern Mesopotamia, and the Caucasus on the one hand and the central plateau and western Iran on the other have also contributed to these developments and the importance of this region.

Any assessment of the origin and growth of cultural horizons requires a comprehensive understanding of both their archaeological and environmental contexts. Ušnu-Naghada and the Lake Urmia Region extend from the north-west to the southern and south-eastern shores of Lake Urmia and the northern end of the Ušnu plain (separated in the south from the Ušnu valley by the Kuh-i Abrišam, with a maximum elevation of 2510 m ASL). From the north, it reaches the Sahand and Bozgush Mountains. The western border of the region lies east of Sardasht along the Iran–Iraq border. The demarcation between the modern Iran provinces of Azerbaijan and Kurdistan towards the south is artificial as it has been traditionally shared by tribal and ethnic groups since antiquity.²⁴

²² Young 1965.

²³ Dyson 1977b.

²⁴ Danti 2013a: 2.

The North-Western region of Iran generally encompasses a vast area that has traditionally been a commercial crossroad between Mesopotamia, South Caucasus, Eastern Anatolia, and the Iranian Plateau due to natural substrates consisting of relatively separate mountain valleys with different environmental conditions and sources.

I.1. Geology

According to the geological and structural divisions of Iran, the West Azerbaijan province is part of West Alborz and Azerbaijan. This zone has undergone many events whose effects are visible from the Precambrian (metamorphic lands of Zanjan, Mianeh, Khoy, and north of Urmia) to this day (Sabalan and Sahand volcanism).²⁵

The last Precambrian movements caused significant uplifts in Azerbaijan and locally caused angular unconformities at several points such as Takab and Qaradagh or Karadagh.²⁶ The final shape of the North-Western irregularities of Iran is the product of developments in the fourth geological age, and in parts of the pre-epoch period that have subsequently undergone minor changes. The area is also geologically active due to its location at the confluence between the main tectonic zones of the eastern-western Iranian plateau (along the Alborz Mountains) and the north-west to south-east (along the Zagros Mountains).

Lake Urmia, the main water body in the region, is the result of a tectonic plume that has survived from the Tertiary geological period and has 12 billion cubic meters of water. The lake is located on a plateau in the north-west of the Zagros geographical zone.²⁷ The Zagros was created by the opening and closing of the Neo-Tethys Ocean and consists of three parallel tectonic zones;²⁸ from south-west to north-east, the Zagros Simply Folded Belt, the Sanandaj-Sirjan Zone, and the Urmia-Dokhtar Magmatic Zone.²⁹

²⁵ Badiei 1983: 139.

²⁶ Badiei 1983: 139.

²⁷ Fisher 1968: 1971.

²⁸ Alavi 1994; Stöcklin and Setudinia 1972.

²⁹ Stöcklin and Setudinia 1972.

I.1.1. Highlands and Mountains

Due to the geographical extent of the North-Western region of Iran on one hand, and the complexity of its structural configuration on the other, the geographical environment of this region offers a wide range of natural, biological, and cultural variety. Broadly, there are three major types of natural environments in this formation: highlands and mountainous areas, lowlands and broad valleys, and lowland areas, each with different biological and cultural perspectives and different historical burdens.³⁰

One of the important features of the natural geography of North-Western Iran is its mountainous terrain. Around 71 per cent of Azerbaijan's territory comprises mountains.³¹ The mountainous terrain of this region starts as a long wall from Armenia-Azerbaijan and extends into both Alborz in the east and Zagros Mountains in the south.³² The shape of these two interconnected highlands in North-Western Iran, alongside the mountains, passageways, corridors, and creases, have a significant influence on the climatic conditions of the region due to their position on the Caspian and Mediterranean fronts,³³ and their topographies play a decisive role in intra-regional relations. Specifically, in the focus area of study, which has been elevated from all directions, communication with the surrounding areas has been restricted to specific channels. Historically, the Azerbaijani highlands have faced difficulties in terms of transporting goods into the Iranian plateau or vice versa, due to road closures in winter, low security, and difficult routes. On the other hand, these highlands have presented a major deterrent against foreign invasions and hostilities.³⁴

Aside from the peripheral heights, which include Sahand and Bozgush range in the north, Zanjan, and Gaflan Kuh in the east, border crossings with Iraq in the west, and the southern highlands around the cities of Saqqez and Baneh, there are significant elevations within the region. Takht-e-Soleyman Mountains, which are a natural extension of Sahand, as well as the intertidal mountains of the Ghezel Ozan River and Zarrineh Rud (river), on the eastern and western sides respectively, are examples of interior heights of the region. These elevations

³⁰ Safinejads 2008: 84.

³¹ Raiesnia 1988: 19.

³² Hajizadeh 1994: 4.

³³ Khamchi 1990: 396.

³⁴ Hovaida 1972: 23.

along with environmental factors affect communication patterns and other biological aspects.

I.1.2. Qaflankuh Mountain Range

Qaflankuh Mountain Range is located to the south and the south-east of Mianeh city and is divided into two sides by the Ghezel Ozan River. The eastern side continues to Manjil city and the western side to Miandoab County and Saqqez city.³⁵ Although not very high, the direction and location of this range along the inland route of the plateau has greatly increased its importance.³⁶

I.1.3. Mount Bozgush

The Bozgush heights, approximately 130 km long and 45 km wide, are stretched in the west-east direction, presenting a natural barrier between the northern and southern areas.³⁷ From the west to Mount Sahand and from the east, to the south of the inactive volcano Sabalan, it joins the Talesh Mountains. The Aji Chay Valley and the Sarab Plain are located between Bozgush and Sabalan volcano and the Qaranquchay Valley. The Aji Chay River flows through the middle of this stretch, and reaches the Ghezel Ozan, marking the distance between Bozgush and Sahand. The Ghezel Ozan valley itself separates Bozgush from the Qarāvól and Qaflankuh mountains. The Bozgush highlands drain part of the natural precipitation into the Mazandaran (Caspian) Sea and some into the Urmia Lake.³⁸

I.1.4. Takht-e Soleyman Massif

The Takht-e-Soleyman Range is located between the cities of Takab in the south, Mahnesan in the east, Hashtrud in the north, and Shahindej in the west. Mount Belqis (3332 m ASL) is the highest peak in the area. Due to the high altitude of the area, there are not many populated centers around these mountains, but there are significant grasslands on the slopes and

³⁵ Afshar Sistani 1989: 55.

³⁶ Hovaida 1972: 53.

³⁷ Khamchi 1990: 236.

³⁸ Hovaida 1972: 53.

foothills. The lands of Takht-e-Soleyman and Zendan-Soleyman are the most important archaeological sites in the southern part of the mountains.³⁹

I.1.5. Iran–Iraq Border Mountains

Iran–Iraq border mountains sequence, which forms the common border between Iran, Turkey, and Iraq, originated from the Ararat Volcanic Mountains and stretch from north-east to the south-east.⁴⁰

Iran's western mountain range retains moisture from the Atlantic, Mediterranean, part of the Black Sea, and the Aras Valley and converts it to atmospheric currents. The stream flows westward towards Lake Van, eastward to Lake Urmia, and southwest to Zab and Tigris. Due to the abundance of water and pasture and other natural benefits, numerous communities have been attracted to the upland and agricultural areas in the lowlands.⁴¹ This border mountain range only allows limited access to the north of Mesopotamia and there are important communication crossings near the towns of Ušnu, Piranšar, Sardasht and Baneh.⁴²

I.1.6. Southern Mountains of Mahabad

The south-western part of Mahabad city and its Lower Zab valley, just east of the Zagros Mountains, presents many heights. Of these, Mount Land-i Shikhan (2781 m ASL) is the highest.⁴³ Sarmastan Mountains (1812 m ASL) and the border mountain of Qizqapan are also located in this part.⁴⁴ The rivers of Mahabad, Lower Zab, and parts of Simineh Rud and Zarrineh Rud are supplied from the southern mountains of Mahabad. These elevations used to limit the region's connections with southern and western parts, specifically in terms of communication channels.⁴⁵ The highlands to the east of Mahabad, from Maragheh to Mahabad, gradually turn into lower and solitary mountains and earthly hills. From the city of Miandoab (1280 m ASL) located on a plateau, to Mahabad and finally to the Iran–Iraq

³⁹ Mollazadeh 2003: 12.

⁴⁰ Afshar 1989: 55.

⁴¹ Hovaida 1972: 62–63.

⁴² Mollazadeh 2003: 13.

⁴³ Mollazadeh 2003: 13.

⁴⁴ Porfaraj 2006: 18.

⁴⁵ Mollazadeh 2003: 13.

border heights in Piranšar, a gradual increase in elevation is noticeable with mountains of Kuh-e Haji Ibrahim rising up to 3400m.⁴⁶

I.2. Climate

North-Western Iran is defined by a series of mountains, plains, and valleys. Their existence in the face of Siberian winds, Atlantic air, Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, and Mazandaran Sea, have created a variety of climates,⁴⁷ but the area of research presents similarities to the Urmia Lake basin's Mediterranean pluviseasonal-continental climate regime.⁴⁸ Most of the Mediterranean climate is affected by cold springs and mountain rains.⁴⁹ During winter, cold air mass from the north affects the Mediterranean air and reduces its temperature significantly. In addition to the aforementioned airflow, other factors such as elevation, the direction of mountains, winds, and sea play an important part in the determining the temperature and atmospheric precipitation in the region. Thus, the climate in this region is a mix of temperate conditions of the Caspian coast and the heat from nearby desert areas of central Iran.⁵⁰ The average annual rainfall in the region varies from 250 mm in Mahabad to 700–800 mm in Baneh city. Most of the precipitation takes place in the fall and winter in the form of snow and rain.⁵¹ The rainy season begins in October and reaches its peak in March and May. The map of the West Azerbaijan Lines shows that the southern basin of Lake Urmia as the source of the main tributaries of Simineh Rud, Mahabadrud, Zarrineh Rud and Ghezel Ozan River is one of the three distinct geographical units in terms of atmospheric downpours around the lake with high precipitation of 600mm.⁵²

The maximum and minimum temperatures in summer and winter months can reach 38 and -28 degrees Celsius, respectively. The freezing weather is especially harsh in places such as Takab, Divandarreh, and Saqqez.⁵³ These areas experience severe winters. Like other

⁴⁶ Hovaida 1972: 65.

⁴⁷ Hovaida 1972: 11.

⁴⁸ Djamali et al. 2008: 414.

⁴⁹ Mollazadeh 2003: 14.

⁵⁰ <http://www.irimo.ir/far/services/climate/794>.

⁵¹ Mollazadeh 2003: 14.

⁵² <http://www.irimo.ir/far/services/climate/794>.

⁵³ Mollazadeh 2003:14.

areas of the Lake Urmia Basin, which often have snow-covered mountain roads in the winter months, the area is separated from neighbouring areas due to heavy snowfall and road closures. This has had a profound effect on the population in ancient times, and as historical sources show, has been very significant for preponderance of small livestock and the seasonal character of battles. This is why winters are considered as one of the strongest deterrents of war against communities occupying the western Zagros.⁵⁴

I.3. Hydrology

In the previous sections, it was noted that the North-Western irregularities of the Iranian plateau are an important factor in shaping the climate of the region and absorbing significant rainfalls, especially from the Mediterranean zone. For this reason, the average annual rainfall in the study area is higher than the average rainfall in other parts of Iran, and until the recent decades of droughts the region had abundant water resources, springs, permanent rivers, and rich underground aquifers.⁵⁵ It has provided conducive conditions for sustenance of a large variety of human communities. Due to the geomorphologic conditions of the region, part of the western and south-western waters of the study area flows into the Persian Gulf through the “Lower Zab” in Sardasht, Baneh, and south-west Mahabad. Most of its surface water flows into Lake Urmia and part of it flows through the Ghezel Ozan River to the Caspian Sea (Figure 10).

I.3.1. Lake Urmia

Lake Urmia is one of the largest salty lakes in the world, with a surface of 5000 km² - 140 km in length and between 15 to 50 km wide - lying at 1200 m ASL. The lake is relatively shallow (8–12 m depth) and has high salinity (>200 g/l, or 22% sodium chloride–sulfate brine⁵⁶). The streams and rivers that feed the lake collect the salt as they pass during their course. The high concentration of salt prevents the lake from freezing during winter.⁵⁷ The size of the

⁵⁴ Danti 2013a: 4.

⁵⁵ Mollazadeh 2003: 14.

⁵⁶ Fisher 1968: 10–12; Kelts and Shahrabi 1986; Sharifi 2002.

⁵⁷ Danti 2013a: 3.

lake varies with the amount of atmospheric rainfall and has fluctuated between 5800 and 4800 km over the past decades.⁵⁸ In 2015, due to drainage, highway construction on the lake, and excessive use of the catchment's water resources, it reached its lowest point (88% reduction). Although this saline lake has little impact on the local economy, the mountainous climate improves its peripheral areas.

Lake Urmia is fed by 13 permanent rivers, mostly in the southern and northern part of the area of study, as well as smaller permanent and seasonal streams and direct rainfall. Historically, the location of these rivers has played a major role in shaping the region's socio-political and economic outlook, and often demarcated separate territories in the past. The most important lakeshores are the Talkeh Rud, Zarrineh Rud, Simineh Rud, Mahabad Rud, Gadar, Shahrechai, Nazlou, Zola Chai, and Barandüz.

A high percentage of the salinity of the lake water is from the Aji Chay, which flows with a gentle slope from Tabriz. The Zarrineh Rud flows to the south of the lake, which is another of its major tributaries and originates from the highlands of Kurdistan with the lowest amount of salt compared to the other rivers of the lake basin. Continuing in the same direction, more lakes and swamps, with both saltwater and freshwater, can be found. The only living being able to survive the salty waters of the lake are *Artemia salina* brine shrimp and leafy green algae.⁵⁹ In this lake, especially in the southern part, there are about a hundred large and small islands and water-borne cliffs, most of which are uninhabited or reserved for wildlife conservation. Of the 56 islands in Lake Urmia, the largest is the Islamic Island.⁶⁰ Some of the lake islands have freshwater springs and have been used occasionally in the past.⁶¹ For example, the island of Kwino Daghi (Kabudan) has a permanent freshwater supply and until recent decades herdsman brought their sheep to the island to use its pastures. The islands of Ashk, Arezo, and Qeshm are also abundant in herbs due to the fresh water⁶² obtained through a rich ecological system.⁶³

⁵⁸ Reza 2000: 423.

⁵⁹ Danti 2013a: 3.

⁶⁰ Reza 2000: 423.

⁶¹ Danti 2013a: 4.

⁶² Reza 2000: 423.

⁶³ Kelts and Shahrabi 1986: 111.

Given the necessity of expressing the natural characteristics of Lake Urmia, it should be noted that the name of the lake varies in different cultures and their texts through time. In the period under study and in the Assyrian texts the lake seems to have been referred to as the “Nairi Sea.”

I.3.2. Gadar River

The Gadar River, starting in western Zagros at the intersection of Iran, Turkey, and Iraq, provides most of the water in Ušnu-Naghada. Its river basin was one of the two main settlement areas, the other being the Šur-Gol Lake zone.⁶⁴ The river, with its three main tributaries, Gadar, Chamkatlan, and Ušnuyeh, flows south-east and eventually crosses Naghadeh and Mohammadyar cities over a distance of 90 to 100 kilometers.⁶⁵ It drains an area of roughly 1,900 km,⁶⁶ reaching the salt marshes and lake of Šur-Gol on the southern shores of Lake Urmia. The Gadar River has changed its course many times in the past. The eastward velocity of the Gadar stream decreases gradually with its depth. Irrigation is more feasible here and partly explains the existence of dense settlements in the area in the past. Gadar is also an important communication line along the southern Urmia Lake Basin, linking north-east Mesopotamia and the Iranian Plateau. It has definitely influenced cultural advancements there for long.⁶⁷

I.3.3. Simineh Rud

Simineh Rud (river) is located in West Azerbaijan province and forms one of the sub-basins of Lake Urmia.⁶⁸ Formerly called Tatāhū Čāy, Simineh Rud, which is also called Tutu, originates from the Saqqez and Baneh Mountains and, after receiving tributaries, flows west of the Bukan city, running parallel to Zarrineh Rud before entering the western plain of Miandoab. The river enters Urmia Lake through the western Miandoab and east of Naghada,

⁶⁴ Danti 2013a: 4.

⁶⁵ Hovaida 1972: 162.

⁶⁶ Voigt 1977: 307.

⁶⁷ Danti 2013a: 4.

⁶⁸ Deghani and Abasbour 2013: 184.

forming a wide delta with its marshes to the south of the lake.⁶⁹ The river is more than 200 km long and its catchment is 2090 km.⁷⁰ The Simineh Rud carries lesser volume of water than Zarrineh Rud, and the river has eroded its bed to a depth where it is difficult for the inhabitants in its basin to reach it or to dig irrigation channels.

I.3.4. Zarrineh Rud

Zarrineh Rud, about 240 km long, originates from the eastern slope of the Chehel Cheshmeh (Chehel Rud) Mountains of Kurdistan. In this part, it is called by the name Khor Khor. Along the route, rivers Cham Saqqez and Saruk of Takab join it. Zarrineh Rud, which then passes through Shahin Dej, before crossing the eastern side of Miandoab, is also combined with the Khvor Khvoreh and Quri Chay rivers. Also, the Leylan Chay and Sarysu rivers flow from the Sahand catchment into the Zarrineh Rud. The river eventually flows into Lake Urmia in the south, forming a vast marsh delta resultant of seasonal floods.⁷¹ There are more than 65 small and large tributaries to the river, which often flow from the right (Chel Cham, Saroogh, and Sahand bases).⁷² Because of its sloping terrain and high velocity, Zarrineh Rud traverses through the bedrock, always carries a large amount of silt, and therefore, its delta is very broad and marshy. The water level is variable, causing a great deal of flooding and damage around Miandoab.⁷³ Due to the flow of this river and the fertility of the soil, a favorable field for human settlements has been created in this valley. The high number of archaeological sites from pre-historic and historical periods, most of which are on the banks of the river, is due to these favorable environmental conditions. The major population centers of the river at present are the cities of Saqqez, Shahin Dej, and Miandoab.

I.3.5. Mahabad River

The river, approximately 2 km long, originating from the confluence of the two main tributaries of Beytas and Deh Bcker, originates from the south and south-western highlands

⁶⁹ Hovaida 1972: 157.

⁷⁰ Nemati, Naghipour, and Fazeli Fard 2014: 10.

⁷¹ Hovaida 1972: 151–150.

⁷² Mollazadeh 2003: 16.

⁷³ Hovaida 1972: 152–151.

of Mahabad and after crossing north-west of Mahabad in the Simineh River Delta and East Gadar river it enters Lake Urmia.⁷⁴ The Mahabad River Watershed is one of the main watersheds of Lake Urmia. The total area of the basin at Mahabad Dam is 807 sq km with a 142 km long periphery.⁷⁵ This basin in the west is separated by the Zagros Mountains Ridge from the Lower Zab Basin and by the Dinavar Dagh from the Gadar catchment. Moreover, elevation separates it from the Simineh River catchment. Mahabad River is the main source of irrigation in the Mahabad plain and the surrounding lands.⁷⁶

I.3.6. Rivers in the south-east of Lake Urmia Basin

Sahand heights is one of the best ponds in the region of Azerbaijan that directs part of the water through Ghezel Ozan and Sefid-Rud to the Caspian Sea and partially to Lake Urmia in different ways.⁷⁷ Some of these rivers originate from the southern slopes of Sahand and flow into the lake after entering the southeastern margin of Lake Urmia and irrigating the plain of Maragheh, Ajabshir, Bonab, and Malkan. These rivers include Sufi Chai and its branches Mehrabad, Marduk Chai, Ghale Chai, and Chekan Chai.⁷⁸ Sufi Chai originates from the western slopes of Sahand and enters the plain after crossing the Alawite State. The river flows north and south through the fields and gardens of Maragheh city and passes through the south of Maragheh into the Bonab area. Sufi Chai is used for farming in the Bonab valley in winter and spring through numerous streams. The river enters Lake Urmia after irrigating Bonab's farmland. Mardi Chai flows about 4 km from the highest slopes of the south to Sahand and, after entering the plain and irrigating some of the Malekandi lands (Malkan), reaches a branch of the Zarrineh Rud.⁷⁹

⁷⁴ Mollazadeh 2003: 17.

⁷⁵ Saberchenari and Aghbari 2015: 139.

⁷⁶ Molazadeh 2003: 18.

⁷⁷ Hovaida 1972: 147.

⁷⁸ Mollazadeh 2003: 19.

⁷⁹ Hovaida 1972: 148–50.

I.3.7. Ghezel Ozan River

The Ghezel Ozan River joins numerous rivers and tributaries in the Kurdistan provinces (branches in the Chel Cham Mountains and the Talvar River), Zanjan (Gurai, Khoyen, Angouran, Ghale Chai, Aji Chay, and Zanjan Rud) and East Azerbaijan (Mianeh: Aydughmush, Shahr Chay and Qaranqu Chay). These have been developed and have a large catchment area.⁸⁰ The river stretches from its source in the Chel Cham Mountains in Kurdistan to Manjil city in Gilan province about 500 km and its catchment area is over 50000 sq km. This river is called up to the Manjil Strait by the name of Ghezel Ozan and Sefid-Rud after that.⁸¹

I.3.8. Lower Zab

The Zab Basin is politically comprised of Piranšar and Sardasht cities in West Azerbaijan province and part of Baneh in Kurdistan province. The basin is bounded on the north by the city of Ushnuyeh, on the east by the cities of Mahabad, Bukan, and Saqqez, and on the west by the international border of Iraq.⁸² Piranšar, Sardasht, Rabat, Jaldīān, Peshawar, Shinabad (Shin Awa), and the villages of Mīrābād, Nalās, Bezhveh, and Boyūrān-e Soflá are among the populated areas of this basin.⁸³ It is located in a region with cold and temperate mountain climate and Mediterranean rainfall regime with average annual temperature between 11.7 and 13.3 degrees Celsius. The annual rainfall in this region is 700 ml. The main river of this basin, the Lower Zab, originates from the Zagros Mountains on the Iranian side, after feeding the Dukan Dam and crossing north of Kirkuk to the Tigris.⁸⁴ The Lower Zab River is one of the major tributaries of the Tigris. Many rivers, namely the Cham Barda Rash, Gell Capo, Nalain and Chouman, Gadar, Voghan, and Baes, are tributaries of the Lower Zab River. It flows through the main fault of Zab, which stretches from Piranšar to Sardasht and, in fact, flows from north-west to south-east and finally extends westwards and exits the country.⁸⁵

⁸⁰ Mollazadeh 2003: 19.

⁸¹ Hovaida 1972: 133.

⁸² Binandeh 2014: 11.

⁸³ Khezri 1999: 12.

⁸⁴ Nami and Mohamadpor 2009.

⁸⁵ Binandeh 2014: 9.

I.4. Plains

I.4.1. Tabriz

The triangular plane of Tabriz located east of Lake Urmia covers 170 to 200 sq km of area.⁸⁶ The delta of the plain is formed by the rivers of Quri Chay and Aji Chay, originating upstream of Sarab and the productive slopes of Sahand Mountain, on the eastern shore of the lake. The city of Tabriz is near the confluence of rivers Quri Chay and Aji Chay, called Talkheh Rud after joining. The latitudinal growth of the Tabriz metropolitan areas has prevented archaeological excavations and there seem to be only a few archaeological sites in the western part of the city. Lack of freshwater may have hindered the establishment. The surface waters of the plain are often malodorous and the rivers are very saline.⁸⁷ The plain has one of the most saline and alkaline soils in the region that extends to the immediate vicinity of the lake, covering an area of about 2000 sq km.⁸⁸ Recent salvage excavations in Tabriz at the cemetery of Masjid-e Kabud have uncovered 108 graves of the Iron Age I-II,⁸⁹ and underlines our incomplete knowledge of the second millennium and the early first millennium BC occupation in the area. The potteries from these burial grounds are connected to the Qeytarieh Group from Piller's classification of Western Grey Ware.⁹⁰

I.4.2. Maragheh-Bonab Plain

In the hydrology section of the area, it was noted that the Sufi Chay and Mordaq Chay rivers flow in the southern foothills of the Sahand Mountain, in the cities of Maragheh and Bonab.⁹¹ A wide salty marsh separates this plain from the lake. Although the area has been subject to several excavations, its archaeological history is unclear.⁹²

⁸⁶ Hovaida 1972: 122.

⁸⁷ Danti 2013a: 9.

⁸⁸ Hovaida 1972: 219.

⁸⁹ Hojabri Nobari 2004.

⁹⁰ Danti 2013a: 9.

⁹¹ Fajjani 2013: 3.

⁹² Danti 2013a: 9.

I.4.3. Miandoab and Mahabad

The Great Plain of Miandoab (Zarrineh Rud Plain) was originally defined and restricted by the route between the Zarrineh Rud and Simineh Rud on its western and eastern sides. Both rivers flow north-west to the swamps south of Lake Urmia. Several studies have been carried out on the margins of these two rivers. The plain of Mahabad is like a triangle; at the top is the city of Mahabad and the base is the shores of Lake Urmia.⁹³ It is a Y-shaped valley extending from the southern end of Lake Urmia at an altitude of 1300 m ASL in the north-south direction. The valley bifurcates to the north, and its two branches flank the eastern and western slopes of the Siah Kuh rich in limestone.

In the area of Mahabad, towards the west of the main city, is an artificial lake generated by a hydroelectric dam on the course of the Mahabad River which hinders the access for archaeologists.⁹⁴

Thus, it has been hard to define the archaeological sequences of the Miandoab and Mahabad area: the main source of data comes from survey materials studied through comparison with excavated sequences from the nearby sites of Ušnu-Naghada, Qalaychi, and Ziwiye⁹⁵ as well as the Takab region.⁹⁶

I.4.4. Gadar Plain

Gadar Chay valley is located south of Lake Urmia. It is also called Ušnu-Naghada (where “Ušnu” is in the west and “Naghada” is in the east) after the two main settlements in the valley. The area comprises 475 sq km of cultivable land between the “Ušnu” and the “Naghada” plains. To the south of Naghada, the mounts of Kuh-e Mehdi Khan, Darreh-ye Jagher, Darreh-ye Porkani, and Kuh-e Farang are found, ranging in height from 1450 to 2300 m ASL. Through the mountain passes, it is possible to proceed south into Kurdistan. On the east, the valley borders the Kuh-e Saral and Kuh-e Qarah Dagh (max. elevation 1659 m ASL) that separate it from Urmia Lake and the Mahabad valley, which connect with Kurdistan

⁹³Hovaida 1972: 127.

⁹⁴Danti 2013a: 9.

⁹⁵Dyson 1963a, 1965; Kargar 2004; Mollazadeh 2008; Mo'tamedi 1996, 1997.

⁹⁶Thomalsky 2006.

Province on the south and Tabriz on the north. In the east, the valley meets Zagros, and from there the Kelashin Pass and Rowanduz Gorge leads to northern Mesopotamia. Western Naghada extends in a narrow 7 km area from north to south, which could be one of the reasons for its low population in antiquity. The valley branches in the north-west to what is called the Dilançi Valley, which opens to the north between the Urmia valley and Ušnu-Naghada.

I.5. Communication ways

Historical sources of the Iron Age II indicate the strategic importance of the Urmia Lake basin. The mountainous roads and other surface features are located in the north-west of Iran at the intersection between Mesopotamia, South Caucasus, Eastern Anatolia, and the central part of the Iranian plateau.⁹⁷ Therefore, investigating intra- and inter-regional cultural interactions, and identifying the influence of cultural links on the formation of archaeological material traits, require a thorough understanding of the entry routes to the area.

In the Second and First Millenniums BC, the connection of the western highlands in the south of the Urmia Lake basin with the north of Mesopotamia was possible from several points in the north to the south, including the Kelashin, Piranšar (Khaneh), Sardasht, Baneh, and Marivan crossings.⁹⁸ The Kelashin Pass—the main route for Urartu campaigns—along with the Piranšar was connected to the Upper Zab Basin and the Rawanduz Strait and was then linked to Assyria. Other mountain passes around Sardasht and Zeribar Lake in Marivan also offered better east-west routes that cross the Zagros Mountain chain, extending westwards to Erbil and Mosul and to the Diyala River, Sulaymaniyah, and Baghdad. These roads headed south and east through Nosoud and Sanandaj to the caravan town of Hamadan on the road to Greater Khorasan.⁹⁹ Access to Hamadan from the east of the study area was also possible from Tabriz via a north-south channel passing through the cities of Maragheh, Miandoab, Shahin Dej, and Takab. On the east side of the region, there is another important connecting route that connects the northern part of the Iranian Central Plateau to the north-

⁹⁷ Danti 2013a: 7.

⁹⁸ Reade 1995: 178.

⁹⁹ Danti 2013a: 7.

west and beyond. This route starts from Tehran and leads to Tabriz via Qazvin, Zanjan, and Mianeh. Moreover, the Urmia Lake basin is linked to the mountains and hills of Kurdistan in the south by the valleys of the Lower Zab, Simineh Rud, and Zarrineh Rud rivers.¹⁰⁰

I.6. Soil

The soil in this area has a heterogeneous composition, affected by climatic conditions, vegetation cover, and erosion factors. The Urmia Lake basin is distinct from other parts of North-Western Iran, especially the areas around the lake (a narrow strip) consisting of salty marsh soils and saline soils. Since the Zarrineh Rud-Mahabad and Urmia plains are composed of sedimentary material, the areas that are not affected by the lake water and have a suitable depth of underground water level are considered to host the best soil in the area.

Overall, the following groups are distinguishable in terms of soil types in the researched area:

- Brown soil consisting of Bonab series of old sediments, Ušnu series of sandy or quasi-sandy hills, and Shahin Dej series of limestone materials.
- Group of saline soils from the Urmia series with certain characteristics of alkaline soils.
- Tatau Series Wet Soils Group.
- Sedimentary soils of Jaghatū series with good natural drainage and Miandoab water series with natural drainage.
- Lithosols soils consisting of limestone.¹⁰¹

I.7. Vegetation and animals

Due to rains, fertile soils, and favorable weather, Azerbaijan and Kurdistan have thriving forests, rich in a wide variety of flora. Danti, based on both Hans Bobek and Willem van Zeist, points out the three main types of vegetation that are most prevalent in West Azerbaijan and Kurdistan:

¹⁰⁰ Danti 2013a: 7.

¹⁰¹ Hovaida 1972: 225.

1. Semi-humid Zagrosian Oak Forest (at elevations of 800–2000 m and average annual precipitation levels of 500–750 mm);
2. Dry Pistachio-Almond-Maple Forest also called *Amygdalus-Pistacia* Savanna (elevated areas with annual precipitation of 300–500 mm); and
3. *Artemisia* Steppe or Afghano-Anatolian Steppe (primarily composed of *Artemisia fragrans* [Dermaneh-e-Moattar] and located at medium elevations with less than 300 mm annual rainfall).

In the past, timber and stone were found near the lake or on the islands, such as Mesopotamia, which shaped the architectural traditions and other local cultural materials. Salt marshes and flat deltas in the east and north-east of the lake are now characterized by saline or vegetation cover. Prior to the deforestation in the Islamic Middle Ages, there were probably trees around the rivers and saltwater trees along the lake shores and saltwater swamps. The province of Kurdistan and the border regions of Iraq and Turkey still have oak forests.¹⁰² In addition, a small percentage of the forests have fruit bearing trees, including peanut, walnut, wild pistachio, pear, hawthorn, grape, elm, maple, and other species. There is a total of about 25165.84 sq km of rangelands, of which half are of an average quality, while the rest are either good or poor. These pastures have provided the basis for growth and prosperity of livestock. Most of them are in mountainous areas and only few in the plains. At present, the vegetation of the region, except in the adjacent areas of Lake Urmia, is mainly of the Artemesian type. Besides forest and pasture cover, various commercial and edible plants, such as Alhagi, licorice, sage, *Peganum harmala*, wheat, sumac, yarrow, Fescues, herbaceous, medicinal herbs, *Anagallis*, Anise, Iris, and many more are found in the region.¹⁰³ In the past, the Tabrizi poplar tree was used for roof beams and columns, and hence the tree was often planted on the edge of canals and other water sources. The elm tree has architectural use and is cited in the sources as an imported commodity from the Caucasus.¹⁰⁴ In the past, suitable and specific biological conditions in the area of study provided the habitat for various species of animals in valleys, mountainous areas, lakes, and rivers. Animals that are found in the area today include wild mammals including ibexbighorn sheep and goats, Persian deer, leopards,

¹⁰² Danti 2013a: 5.

¹⁰³ Molazadeh 2003: 22.

¹⁰⁴ Danti 2013a: 6.

brown bears, wolves, foxes, rabbits, squirrels, wild cats, etc. Birds of prey, passerines, sparrows, partridges, See-see partridge, and reptiles such as snakes and salamanders, are also found.

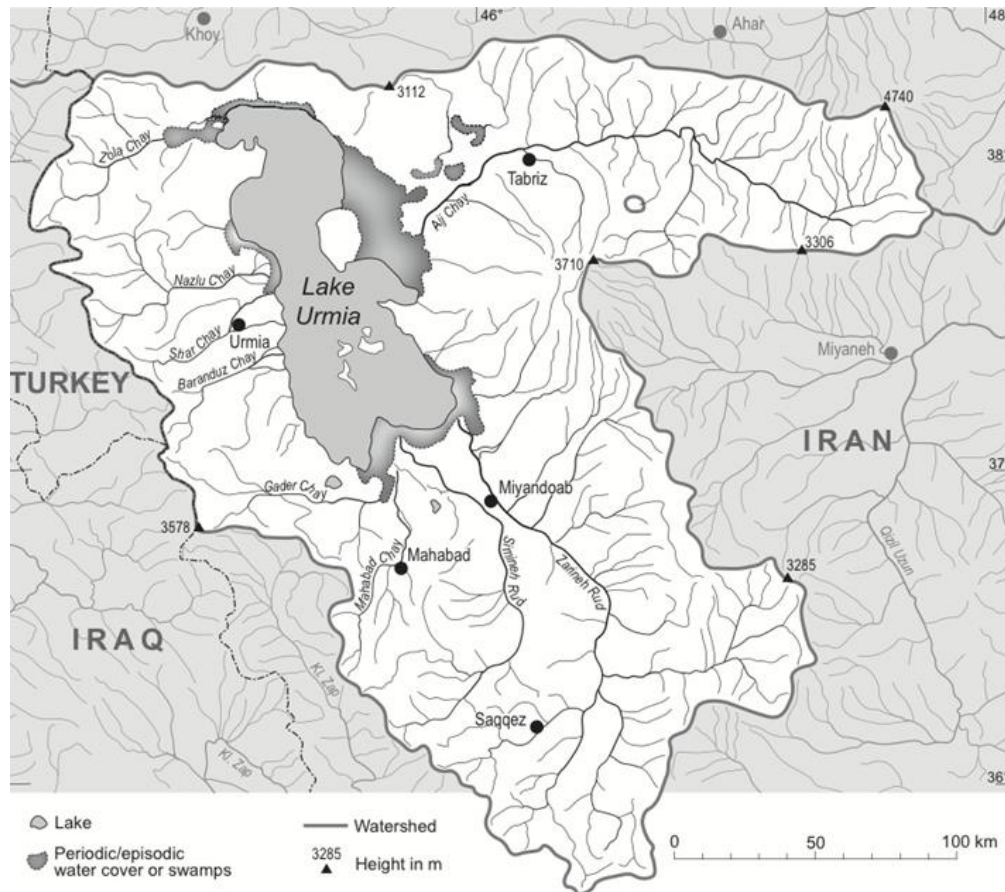


Figure 10. Map of the catchment area of Lake Urmia and the water networks of the southern part of the lake. Encyclopædia Iranica, online edition, 2013, available at <http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/Urmia-Lake> (After: Günther Schweizer, *Untersuchungen zur Physiogeographie von Ostanatolien und Nordwestiran*, Tübingen, 1975: map 5).

I.8. Historical geography of the region in the Second and the First Millennium BC

In the absence of regional documentation, historical texts of the temporary states and neighbouring nations become more important. These texts are often problematic due to the subjective involvement of their creators and their perception regarding the issues and

developments of the region, often due to limited understanding of the historical events of the western and North-Western societies of Iran. The initial phases of the political formation of the region are difficult to reconstruct, mainly due to a lack of textual sources for this early period. Only sparse references to the peoples of the Zagros are available for almost a millennium, until the late second millennium and the early first millennium BC. Among the names of local groups and governments of the Zagros in the second millennium, the name of Turukkaeans can be seen in the sources of Old Babylonian Letters from Shemshara and Old Assyrian Letters from Mari.¹⁰⁵ They were sedentary Hurrian tribes, organized in kingdoms and princedoms at the time of the archives of Shemshara ruled by Kuwari.¹⁰⁶ Durand describes the Turukkaeans as an ethnic mixture, ruled by a nobility of “undeniable” Semitic origin.¹⁰⁷ Eidem and Læssøe think that the heart of Turukkaeans land lies in the plains of the Urmia Basin,¹⁰⁸ and they defined them as “a group of kingdoms in the valleys of the North-Western Zagros, predominantly of Hurrian affiliation.”¹⁰⁹ The leader of the country of Itabalthum in the Urmia Basin was actually the most influential of the Turukkaean leaders, and it is likely that he had a prominent role in a confederacy.¹¹⁰ The texts also report that in the early eighteenth century many Turukkaeans escaped to the Khabur region threatened by the Gutians from the south-east, who dethroned King Šamšī-Adad I and his son, and ransacked many cities, as explained in the Mari documents.¹¹¹

Findings from the Urmia Basin might constitute proof of direct contacts with northern Mesopotamia in a “fairly limited period in the early second millennium BC.”¹¹² The findings amount to early second millennium Khabur Ware from Hasanlu VI and Dinkha Tepe IV. In the 1750s BC, Hammurabi of Babylon fought against the Gutians, who are further mentioned in the Mesopotamian texts, but there is no further mention recorded of the Turukkaeans.¹¹³

¹⁰⁵ Læssøe 1963: 70–73.

¹⁰⁶ On the texts from Tell Shemshara see Eidem 1992 and Eidem and Læssøe 2001.

¹⁰⁷ Durand LAPO II 1937–39: 81.

¹⁰⁸ Eidem and Læssøe 2001: 28–29.

¹⁰⁹ Eidem and Læssøe 2001: 27.

¹¹⁰ Balatti 2017: 9.

¹¹¹ On the Mari letters see MC 12; on the revolt see Charpin and Ziegler 2003: 114–117 and Læssøe 1963.

¹¹² Eidem and Læssøe 2001: 28–29.

¹¹³ Balatti 2017: 9.

Unfortunately, no inscription has been archived that can give historical insights about the tribes living in North-Western Iran till the first millennium.

For political and geographical history of the region in the first millennium BC, Assyrian and Urartian texts are the two important sources:

I.8.1. Assyrian texts

Information about the region during the middle Assyrian period is scarce: recorded itineraries of Assyrians in Iran became known in the new era of the Assyrian period. These military campaign reports start from the Adad-nirari I (1295–1264 BC) era, but from the reign of Ashurnasirpal II (883–859 BC) and Shalmaneser III (858–824 BC) onward more information about North-Western Iran is available through cuneiform sources. These reports continued to be further elaborated until the seventh century, the Sargon II (721–705 BC) campaign report being a prominent example. Around 631 BC, after Ashurbanipal there were no further reports recorded of the Assyrian kings, only texts and limited information can be found about the succeeding kings.¹¹⁴

I.8.2. Urartian texts

The first evidence of Urartian¹¹⁵ presence in the northern Zagros Mountains is dated to the mid-ninth century BC, when Shalmaneser III of Assyria claims to have captured the fortified city of Sugunia and 14 neighbouring towns,¹¹⁶ located somewhere to the west or to the southwest of Lake Urmia. It has been convincingly shown by Andreas Fuchs that the Urartian state had already started its expansive policy from its original heartland around Lake Van at the end of the tenth century BC.¹¹⁷ This model would explain the presence of well-established Urartian fortresses around the Lake Urmia Basin at the beginning of the reign of Shalmaneser III.¹¹⁸ During the reign of successors of Shalmaneser, Urartian kings tried to take advantage

¹¹⁴ Zawadzki 1988: 23.

¹¹⁵ By restoring its syllabic writing and original pronunciation, Ur-ar-ṭu or Ú-ra-ar-ṭu, philologists have been able to discern the phonetic value and meaning of the name Ararat that is preserved in the Bible (André-Salvini and Salvini 2003).

¹¹⁶ RIMA 3, A.0.102.1, 29–30: 8–9. interpreted this as ‘the city Sugunia, the fortified city of Arramu’.

¹¹⁷ Fuchs 2012: 138.

¹¹⁸ The first Urartian fortresses in Lake Urmia region were set up at the beginning of the Urartian kingdom during the reigns of Ishpuini (830–810 BC) and Minua (810–785/780 BC). The fortresses of Gavur Kale and

of the internal difficulties to strengthen their presence in the northern Zagros Mountains and had several campaigns in the area to the south and south-west of Lake Urmia.¹¹⁹ According to the remaining records of the Urartian royal inscriptions, these campaigns were successful. The text inscribed on the Karagündüz stele informs us about the successful campaign of two kings against the towns of Meshta, Qua, Sharitu, Nigibi, and Parsua. These records are the first documented Urartian military activities in the Lake Urmia basin, dated to the period of the co-regency of Ishpuini and his son Minua (*ca.* 820–810 BC).¹²⁰

There are no cuneiform sources about the region in Iron Age I. As mentioned earlier, the first evidence of the Assyrian and Urartian presence in the northern Zagros Mountains are dated to the mid-ninth century BC. According to archaeological data and historical texts the name of two kingdoms that are referenced are Gilzānu and Hubuškia.

I.8.3. Gilzānu

The name of the state appears first in Tukulti-Ninurta II inscriptions. It was one of the regular tributaries of the Assyrian king Tukulti-Ninurta II (890–884 BC).¹²¹ Although Julian Reade considers the initial appearance of this name in the inscription on the White Obelisk. This article refers to the mid-eleventh century, von Soden of the tenth century, and Sollberger about the ninth century. However, from the beginning of the ninth century to about 830 BC, the name of Gilzānu has frequently appeared in Assyrian texts, often along with Hubuškia, in connection with paying tribute and gifts.¹²²

Verahram in the Araxes Valley in the north, Livar in the northeast, Rusai URU.TUR (Bastam) in the north, Qale Ismail Agha, Haftavan III west of Lake Urmia, Mesta (Hasanlu IIIB) and Qalatgah and Bari in the south are the most important Urartian settlements (Biscione 2012; Kroll 2011, 2012a; Salvini 2006; Binandeh Khanmohamadi, and Hajimohamadi 2017).

¹¹⁹ Kroll, in his article titled “Salmanassar III. Und Das Frühe Urartu”, has divided the Urartian inscriptions in to 3 categories. The first group, with examples from Menua or Rusa Sarduri and Rusa Argisti in Iranian West Azarbaijan, comprises inscriptions reporting the construction of buildings on Urarthian land. In the second group are inscriptions reporting the erection of a structure after a successful campaign in a conquered land, as in the case of the inscription of Qalatgah (in the Ushnu Valley southwest of Lake Urmia). The inscriptions of the third category report military successes in an enemy country. The Argistis I inscription on the eastern shore of Lake Urmia and the Argistis II inscriptions in Iranian East Azerbaijan are considered for this group (Kroll 2012b: 10).

¹²⁰ Zimansky 1985: 58.

¹²¹ RIMA 2, A.O. 100.15, 129: 178.

¹²² Reade 1975: 130, 150; 1979: 175.

Recent studies on Assyrian texts show that contrary to the former view of the location of Gilzānu on the western bank of the Urmia Lake and East Hubuškia, the kingdom was located in the south-western part of the Lake, and in the north and north-east of Hubuškia. During its reign, the kingdom of Gilzānu had a friendly relationship with Assyria and apparently was never attacked by it. Gilzānu supplied horses to the Assyrians, and according to Assyrian content, was a wealthy state with a variety of products. Given their continuing relationship this connection must have been manifested in the cultural materials derived from the Gilzānu sites, which could correspond to Hasanlu.

The name of Gilzānu suddenly vanished from Assyrian texts around 820 BC. This date coincides with the seizure of the area by Urartu.

From the beginning of the geographic studies on the region, the location of Hubuškia has been considered in the region of Hakkari in Turkey. The close connection between Gilzānu, Hubuškia, and the sea suggests that the state was based on the West Bank of Lake Urmia, which has been agreed upon by many researchers.

However, in recent studies, the location of Hubuškia has been revised to within the district of Piranšar, so it is possible that Gilzānu was located on the south-west side of Lake Urmia and the plains of Ušnu and Naghada. This probability is further developed by Julian Reade¹²³ and a number of researchers, based upon a map drawn up by a Neo Assyrian.¹²⁴ However, researchers such as Mirjo Salvini still accept the west side of the Lake as the location of Gilzānu.¹²⁵ With a new location, the historic identity of Hasanlu is considered to be the center of the state of Gilzānu, or less likely to be one of its major centers. The cultural material of Hasanlu is perfectly in line with what Assyrian texts have depicted about Gilzānu. One of the most important documents that could help determine the location of Gilzānu and Hubuškia is the report of Shalmaneser III campaign in 858 BC.¹²⁶ That campaign was initially against the northern regions of Assyria and the mainland of Urartu, where the Assyrian armies, on their way back to their homeland, traveled across the north-west of Iran. After

¹²³Reade 1979: 178.

¹²⁴Parpola 2001.

¹²⁵Salvini 1995: 43.

¹²⁶RIMA 3, A.O.102.1, 22-23, 29, 38: 8-9.

crossing a short distance from the west side of Lake Urmia and the district of Piranšar they arrived in Gilzānu.

I.8.4. Hubuškia

Hubuškia was the name of a country and a royal city in a region that the ancient Assyrians called the “Nairi”. Hubuškia, along with Mussasir, was one of the most important buffer states between the powerful Assyrian Empires and Urartu during the ninth to seventh centuries BC.¹²⁷ The name of Hubuškia is mentioned for the first time in the inscription of Tukulti-Ninurta II (891–884 BC).¹²⁸ Information about this small state is found in materials from the first year of reign of Ashurnasirpal II (883–859 BC). In an account of a campaign in this region, when the king of Assyria was in the Mount Kurruru (an area between Erbil and Rawandiz), he overwhelmed the men of Gilzānu and Hubuškia, who brought horses, silver and gold, lead, copper and copper vessels as a tribute for the king of Assyria.¹²⁹ Later, the name of this state appears again with Gilzānu in the accounts of campaigns of Ashurnasirpal II, when he received tribute from Hubuškia and Gilzānu.¹³⁰ The name of this state appears in the same position, in the inscription of other Assyrian kings,¹³¹ until the time of the

¹²⁷ Bryce 2009: 318–319 .

¹²⁸ Zadok 2002: 44.

¹²⁹ RIMA 2, A.O. 101.1, 56–58: 197.

¹³⁰ Kroll 2011: 153.

¹³¹ In the 858 BC itinerary of Shalmaneser's campaign to Hubuškia, Nairi, and Urartu he mentions: “I entered the pass of the land Simesi (and) captured the city Aridu, the fortified city of Ninnu. I erected a tower of heads in front of the city. I burned ten cities in its environs. While I was residing in the same city Aridu, I received tribute of teams of horses from the people of the lands/mountains Ḫargu, Ḫarmasa, Sirišu, Ulmānu, (and) Simerra. Moving on from the city Aridu, I smashed out with copper picks rough paths in mighty mountains which rose perpendicularly to the sky like the points of daggers (and) into which no one among the kings my fathers had ever passed. I moved (my) chariots (and) troops over (those paths and) approached the city Hubuškia. I burned the city Hubuškia (and) all the cities in its environs. Kakia (Kaki), king of the city Hubuškia, (and) the remainder of his troops became frightened in the face of my weapons and they ascended mountains (where) they fortified themselves (lit. “They took as a fortress”). I climbed up the mountains after them. I waged mighty war in the mountains (and) defeated them. I brought back his chariots (and) troops from the mountains. Overwhelmed by fear of the radiance of Aššur, my lord, they came down (and) submitted to me. I imposed upon them tribute of teams of horses. Moving on from the city Hubuškia I approached the city Sugunia, the fortified city of Aramu the Urartian. I besieged the city, captured (it), massacred many of its (people), (and) carried. Moving on from the city Sugunia, I went down to the sea of the land Nairi. I washed my weapons in the sea (and) made sacrifices to my gods. At that time, I made an image of myself (and) wrote thereon the praises of Assur, the great lord, (and) the prowess of my power. I erected (it) by the sea. On my return from the sea, I approached the city Gilzānu. I received tribute from Asû (Asua), the Gilzanean: teams of horses (and) camels with two humps. I brought (it) to my city Assur” (RIMA 3, A.O.102.1, 15–40).

Esarhaddon in the early seventh century BC.¹³² There is no mention of the Hubuškia government in the inscriptions of Esarhaddon and Ashurbanipal, and evidence suggests that during this period, Hubuškia had been annexed to the territory of Mannea and Mannaeans had been able to attack the territory of Assyria through it to add parts of this territory to its kingdom. In the last few decades, the location of Hubuškia has been the subject of controversy between various Assyriologists and Iranologists. At the beginning of the twentieth century and the beginning of the studies of the historical geography of the Assyrian land and the western regions of Iran, the location of Hubuškia was considered to the south of Van Lake in Kurdistan of Turkey, southeast of present-day Turkey (and the upper reaches of the Upper Zab River near the Turkish-Iranian border, more precisely in the Hakkari plain).¹³³ But over the past few decades, and especially since the 1960s and 1970s, some scholars and Assyriologists who have sought to reconstruct the historical geography of western Iran during the Neo-Assyrian period, located Hubuškia in the eastern and southern regions, in their historical maps.¹³⁴ In the late twentieth century, numerous studies were conducted based on the geographical analysis of Assyrian inscriptions that shows the location of Hubuškia in North-Western Iran, in the southwestern part of Lake Urmia and in the upstream areas of the Lower Zab River, and almost where today the towns of Piranšar and Sardasht were formed near the Iranian-Iraqi border.¹³⁵

I.9. Overview of the physical and historical geography of North-Western Iran

A few general observations may be made on the basis of the preceding description. The geographical overview of North-Western Iran covers a large part of the mountainous region of Iran. It rises as a highland and overlooks the surrounding plains, and can generally be

¹³² The name of Hubuškia is also mentioned in the most famous account of Sargon II's campaign, known as the "Report of Sargon's Eighth Campaign", which relates to his invasion of western and North-Western Iran and Urartu in 714 BC. According to the detailed inscription of Sargon, at the end of this long campaign and after crushing and plundering the land of the Urartians, he entered Hubuškia directly from Urartu with his troops and returned most of his troops from there to Assyria, but did not return to Assyria himself. Equipped with war chariots and 1,000 of his fiercer cavalry and more prepared infantry, he made his way through a mountain detour, attacking and looting Musasir. (RINAP 2, Sargon II 65, 298–299; 306–322).

¹³³ Thureau-Dangin 1912: 171–72; Adontz 1946: 105ff.

¹³⁴ Parpola 1970: 409; Reade 1978: 140: 2.

¹³⁵ Lanfranchi 1995: 37–127; Reade 1994: 87–185.

considered as a large crossroad between Mesopotamia, South Caucasus, Eastern Anatolia, and the Iranian plateau due to natural substrates consisting of relatively separate mountain valleys with different environmental conditions and resources.

Due to the mountainous nature of the region and the passage of Mediterranean and sometimes Siberian air currents and relatively high latitude, the climate of this region is cold and humid. In general, the mountains of the north-west can be divided into five parts, with a general west–east direction. Vestibules have formed within these mountains, through which streams flow, making the region prosperous. These vestibules are the result of geological developments of the third and fourth eras, and have communication routes with other lands such as Mesopotamia and Anatolia. It is also from these vestibules that constant conflicts and clashes arose between tribes and nations.

Unfortunately, only very sparse references to the peoples of the Zagros are available in the second millennium BC, but the name of Turukkaeans, is attested in the Old Babylonian documents (the letters from Tell Shemshara) since the late nineteenth century BC. They were probably inhabitants of the Zagros Mountains around Urmia Lake in the first half of second millennium BC for almost a millennium, until the late second millennium to the early first millennium BC. During the first millennium, due to the lack of written documents in the region, the only sources that can help in the reconstruction of the historical geography of the region are the descriptions of the campaigns of the Assyrian and Urartian kings. These sources indicate that these areas were connected through natural passages located in North-Western Iran. Among the toponyms mentioned in these sources, there are the names of two small kingdoms, both located in the north-west and around Lake Urmia: Gilzānu and Hubuškia.

Chapter II - Burial Practices in the Second Millennium and the First Half of the First Millennium BC in North-Western Iran

Funerary customs portray important aspects of the history and archaeology of the ancient Near East, since they can provide answers about social life and culture. Burial goods can in fact produce useful data about the lifestyles of civilizations in regards to both life and death. Inhumations are the main source of information, mirroring ritual practices and the planification of the burial on the part of the officiants. This, in turn, can provide details about the different ideas of afterlife, death, and other cultural ideologies of civilizations from various time periods, if correctly analyzed.

In this chapter, I will present mortuary data from well-known sites in North-Western Iran and analyze their mortuary customs in the crucial period of the second and first millennia. I will discuss the important issues of burial patterns' continuity, social organization, and structure, while comparing different patterns of funerary practices in the area.

Due to its geographical features, North-Western Iran witnessed a large variety of settlements and ethnic groups during the Second and the First Millennium BC, so a wide range of architectural structures in the burial culture of this area can be identified and studied.

In order to better understand the diversity and variety of burials in North-Western Iran in the second and first millennia BC, the reported burials within this period will be examined separately in the following five main periods based on their morphological types:

- 1- Middle Bronze Age II
- 2- Middle Bronze Age III
- 3- Late Bronze Age

4- Iron Age I

5- Iron Age II

II.1. Middle Bronze Age II mortuary practice

The burials of this period are only known from Hasanlu VIb and Dinkha IV D-C. Aurel Stein excavated three graves of this period at Dinkha in 1936. Two simple pit burials were found in his sections iv and vi, and a stone cist from section viii.¹³⁶

The Dinkha IVc graves remain unpublished. Only three examples, two simple inhumations (B7 and B9 from Test Area IV and a stone cist (tomb B28, square B10a) have been mentioned by Muscarella in the article of 1966 excavation,¹³⁷ and another stone cist example (tomb B27, square B10a) has been published by Karen Rubinson.¹³⁸

Seven more burial examples were reported from Hasanlu by Dyson that have been published by Danti.¹³⁹ While Ted Rathbun has published some great information on skeletal remains, and skeletal materials.¹⁴⁰

In Ali Hakimi and Mahmud Rad's report on excavation at Hasanlu, a small painted Khabur Ware was presented, and in the description, it is mentioned that it has been discovered from a grave.¹⁴¹ It seems that Hakimi and Rad, apart from Iron Age II graves, also excavated a Middle Bronze Age II grave. Unfortunately, there is no information about the grave.

¹³⁶ Stein 1940: 373-74.

¹³⁷ Muscarella 1968: 195.

¹³⁸ Rubinson 1991.

¹³⁹ Danti 2013a: 283-90. The grave "SK70" has been dated to Hasanlu V by Dyson and Danti in his revising on Hasanlu material has re-dated it to Terminal Period VIb based on a ceramic handled cup Danti 2013a: 288) which I believe the form of the cup and its handle is parallel to an Iron Age II example from Hasanlu (Muscarella 1966: fig. 29).

¹⁴⁰ Rathbun 1972.

¹⁴¹ Hakimi and Rad 1950: 60, fig. 27 no. 2.

II.1.1. Dinkha Tepe

Middle Bronze Age II graves excavated by Stein:

Grave no. 1 was discovered in section iv; it was a simple burial of a child in a north-south orientation, covered by three big mud bricks, 30.48 cm wide and 10.16 cm thick. The northern end of the grave was closed by a large broken jar. Stein's evaluation that this grave was used for burying a child was based on the small fragments of skull and thigh bones that were found in the grave.¹⁴² Furthermore, two small jars were found: one was a tripod¹⁴³ and the other a handmade coarse bowl.¹⁴⁴ The tripod is similar to an example from stonebuilt tombs at Dinkha IV dated to Middle Bronze Age II.¹⁴⁵ Besides these, other materials such as beads, rings, and a single pin have also been reported by Stein.

Grave no. 2 was discovered in section vi; it was a simple pit inhumation of an adult individual with a north-south orientation. Stein mentioned that one small jar painted with annular band (Khabur Ware) and another small plain jar¹⁴⁶ accompanied the body.

Grave no. 3 was discovered in section viii; it was a single burial stonebuilt tomb, covered by two large stone slabs, with medium and small stones filling the gaps. The grave was of oblong shape, lined on all four sides with walls of rough stones irregularly set in mud in an east-west orientation. Measuring 1.37 m in length and 0,81 m in width, the grave contained rich burial goods: a bronze knife blade,¹⁴⁷ two pins,¹⁴⁸ a ring base small jar with painted annular bands (Khabur Ware),¹⁴⁹ five small jars, one with ring base and incised annular lines,¹⁵⁰ and two heavy bronze rings (armlet or anklet).¹⁵¹ Stein reports that only a single

¹⁴² Stein 1950: 373.

¹⁴³ Stein 1950: pl. XXI no. 2 and pl. XXX no. 4.

¹⁴⁴ Stein 1950: pl. XXI.3.

¹⁴⁵ Rubinson 1991: 378, fig. 11.

¹⁴⁶ Stein 1950: 373.

¹⁴⁷ Stein 1950: pl. XXI no. 4, Stein mentioned it as a dagger.

¹⁴⁸ Stein 1950: pl. XXI no. 1 (the pins have the same shape as the Bayazid Abad's one with bipyramidal head). Even Stein did not mention whether they had an eyelet, but judging from their picture in Stein's book, the shaft evolves to flat and square, tapering the flattened section at the third upper part, probably a sign of the presence of an eyelet.

¹⁴⁹ Stein 1950: pl. XXI no. 1.

¹⁵⁰ This jar has the same decoration and form as pinkish grey wares discovered from Bayazid Abad (jar type III, BA.3), Dinkha IV (Hamlin 1971: 73, pl. I.3) and Hasanlu VI (Danti 2013a: fig. 5.4 A).

¹⁵¹ Stein 1950: pl. XXI no. 7.

body was placed in this tomb. But there is no information regarding the buried individual's position.

II.1.2. Middle Bronze Age II graves of Hasanlu project excavation at Dinkha Tepe

Tomb B27, square B10a:¹⁵² This was a stonebuilt tomb with north-south orientation built by medium-sized stones with smaller stones filling the mud-plastered walls. The interstices are 2.5 m x 1.6 m in area and about 1.6 m in depth. The top of the tomb consisted of three large, flat slabs, with medium and small stones filling the gaps. A minimum of five, not more than nine bodies, including a child were deposited in the tomb. There were also parts of oxen and sheep remains as food offerings. The burial goods consisted of 42 ceramic vessels; a bronze blade and other bronze objects including twelve pins; glass, stone, composite, and other beads, and several distinctive ornaments in gold and silver. The most distinctive burial goods of the tomb were unpainted Khabur Ware,¹⁵³ one tripod jar,¹⁵⁴ and silver and bronze toggle pins.¹⁵⁵

Tomb B28, square B10a: Only limited information about this burial has been published by Muscarella.¹⁵⁶ What can be drawn from the limited published information is that the grave has the same structure as the grave B27, B10a, constructed of rough stones and sealed with flat slabs of great size in an east-west orientation. Six unpainted Khabur Ware vessels,¹⁵⁷ tripod jar,¹⁵⁸ a sword, knives, bronze, and silver toggle pins¹⁵⁹ and gold earrings and pendants were found in the tomb.¹⁶⁰ The remains of at least three individuals and three sheep, three oxen, and a calf were deposited in this grave.¹⁶¹

¹⁵² Rubinson 1991.

¹⁵³ Rubinson 1991: fig. 7.

¹⁵⁴ Rubinson 1991: fig. 11.

¹⁵⁵ Rubinson 1991: figs. 21-22.

¹⁵⁶ Muscarella 1968.

¹⁵⁷ Muscarella 1968: fig. 22.

¹⁵⁸ Rubinson 1991: 375.

¹⁵⁹ Muscarella 1968: fig. 21.

¹⁶⁰ Muscarella 1968: 195.

¹⁶¹ Pizzorno 2011: 234.

Tomb B7, Test Area IV: This was a simple inhumation¹⁶² with north–south orientation,¹⁶³ associated with several buff jars decorated with hatched lozenges enclosed in plain triangles (Khabur Ware).¹⁶⁴

Tomb B9, Test Area IV: was a simple inhumation¹⁶⁵ associated with Istikhan pottery.¹⁶⁶

II.1.3. Hasanlu Middle Bronze Age II graves¹⁶⁷

Hasanlu SK4–5: Multiple inhumations are found in this site, with SK4 furnished with a bowl and a jar, a copper/bronze finger ring, a bone handle, and carnelian, shell, past and granite beads,¹⁶⁸ and SK5 furnished with beads, a copper/bronze knife blade, two copper/bronze anklets, a fragmentary and broken copper/bronze pin, and an animal skull of sheep or goat.¹⁶⁹ No more information about the orientation or the gender of the buried individuals has been provided.

¹⁶² Muscarella 1968: 195.

¹⁶³ Pizzorno 2011: 172.

¹⁶⁴ Muscarella 1968: fig. 23.

¹⁶⁵ Muscarella 1968: 195.

¹⁶⁶ Muscarella 1968: fig. 24. Slender beakers with cylindrical concave bodies, in different varieties: with or without carination, close to a ring or flat base. Parallels to this form are attested in northern Mesopotamia and northern Syria in the second half of the second millennium BC, and as Medvedskaya has suggested, Hasanlu examples probably derived from the west (Medvedskaya 1977: 100; 1982: 36). At Middle and Late Bronze Age Tell Imlihiye (Boehmer and Dämmer 1985: 18, pl. 54) and Nuzi (Starr 1939: 392, see esp. pl. 76: j, k, m) the same form of istikhans have been reported. In North-Western Iran the form of the istikhans continued to be produced in Haftavân Tepe in painted and unpainted Urmia Wares (see examples in Edwards 1981: fig. 7).

¹⁶⁷ Despite the high number of discovered graves at Hasanlu, the publications on the burials themselves are sparse and limited to the work of Danti and Cifarelli (Danti 2013a; Danti and Cifarelli 2015); conversely, a lot of documentation has been produced about the skeletons found at the site. In 1972, Ted Rathbun published his research on the skeletons found in 1957–1964, focusing on the morphological affinities of the remains (Rathbun 1972, and then 1975, 1982), and later on paleopathological findings (Rathbun 1980, 1981, 1984). In 2005, Diana Smay Toebbe, studying the “Osteological Paradox”, analyzed the distribution of trauma in Hasanlu’s bodies, although some samples from Dinkha Tepe were also accidentally included (Toebbe 2005). Also in 2005, Matthew Dulik, in his thesis studied the problematics of biodistance, while trying to distinguish the bodies of the locals from those of the invaders, through the use of craniofacial measurements (Toebbe 2005). Selinski took in exam the whole collection, focusing on the issues of paleodemography and adult aging techniques in her studies in order to take into account sex and age of every single one of them (Selinski 2009). In 2011 the themes of interpersonal violence in Hasanlu and Dinkha has been re-elaborated in an article on the distribution of trauma in the collection “a life of violence: when warfare and interpersonal violence intertwine at Hasanlu IVb” (Monge and McCarthy 2011: 183–194). Also, in 2011 a project seeking to obtain identifiable traces of DNA from Hasanlu’s bodies was developed (Dulik, Lorenz and Schurr 2011: 195–200).

¹⁶⁸ Danti 2013a: 283, fig. 5.1C–E, pl. 5.1b.

¹⁶⁹ Danti 2013a: 283, fig. 5.1F–I, pl. 5.1b.

Hasanlu SK45–47: Multiple inhumations covered by a large stone slab measuring 70 cm wide, 167 cm long, and 14 cm thick. The grave contained three bodies: a female, a male, and a child. The female body was found in a flexed position in an east–west orientation with the skull in the direction of the west, facing south.¹⁷⁰ Nothing was recorded regarding the other skeletons' orientations except that the body of the child was placed over the female body.¹⁷¹

The female body was associated with an ample amount of burial goods, including large amounts of Middle Bronze Age II istikhan types,¹⁷² two small jars,¹⁷³ a painted Khabur Ware jar, two copper/ bronze toggle pins, a coiled copper/bronze earring, a large number of scattered beads, and two shell rings and copper/bronze buttons.

Hasanlu SK49 (UPM¹⁷⁴59-4-103):¹⁷⁵ Stone-built single female inhumation similar to those of Dinkha IV found by Stein and the Hasanlu Project. The stone cist measuring 2.20 m east–west by 1.50 m north–south, contained an adult female in a flexed position lying on the left side and oriented towards east–west with the head to the west, facing north. A bronze toggle pin, a copper/bronze blade, whetstone, and some copper/bronze beads¹⁷⁶ accompanied the body. Some goat/sheep bones in the grave show that they have been used as food offerings.

Hasanlu SK61: Inhumation covered by flat stone slabs. In the report, no skeletal remains were mentioned, but several burial goods were discovered. Grave goods consisted of a small incised burnished pinkish jar,¹⁷⁷ painted Khabur Ware jar, and bowl.¹⁷⁸

Hasanlu SK112: This was a simple inhumation of a body. The sex is undetermined. The grave contained some burial goods such as a red istikhan, a painted Khabur Ware jar, and large amounts of goat and sheep bones which were part of the food offering.¹⁷⁹

¹⁷⁰ Danti 2013a: 283, fig. 5.2.

¹⁷¹ Danti 2013a: 283.

¹⁷² Danti 2013a: fig. 5.2 D–M, pls. 5.3A–B, discovered istikhans are the same as an example from tomb B7 of Dinkha Tepe.

¹⁷³ Danti 2013a: fig. 5.2 B–C.

¹⁷⁴ University of Pennsylvania Museum registration number.

¹⁷⁵ Selinsky 2009: 208; Rathbun 1972: 55.

¹⁷⁶ Danti 2013a: 286, pl. 5.4.

¹⁷⁷ The same type of the example from Bayazid Abed (Jar type III, BA.3).

¹⁷⁸ Danti 2013a: 287, fig. 5.4.

¹⁷⁹ Danti 2013a: 288, fig. 5.6.

Hasanlu SK66: Stone slab-covered inhumation of a child, sex undetermined, found in a flexed position, head turned towards the north–west facing north–east. Two istikhans, two copper/bronze simple pins, a bronze ring, and beads have been associated with this burial. This grave also contained animal bones, likely sheep/goat.¹⁸⁰

II.1.4. Overview of Middle Bronze Age II mortuary practices

Mortuary evidence from North-Western Iran has revealed quantities of burials during the Middle Bronze Age II and a total of 13 tombs have been documented thus far. Burials of various types can be divided into three main categories: the first consists of simple pit graves; the second comprises a variety of stone-built graves covered with big slabs, and the third is stone-covered inhumations.

Physical remains of the number of the interred individuals, position, and orientation of the bodies recovered from Hasanlu and Dinkha provide useful clues to our observation of funerary practices in the Middle Bronze Age II. Limited information on the buried individuals makes it difficult to assess and reach a comprehensive conclusion about the orientation of the corpses. The surviving evidence shows that the tombs were oriented in two different directions: north–south and east–west orientations.

Apart from the human skeletons, the specific contents of the tombs may be divided into three main contextual categories: animal remains, ceramics, and non-ceramic objects. Different types of mortuary practices reveal social inequality in this period, with simple graves hosting a minimum amount of burial goods coexisting with some of the richest graves that were stonebuilt and stone-covered tombs. Both Dinkha and Hasanlu societies used to confer status on the deceased.

Three sharply distinguished types of pottery are present in the Middle Bronze Age II graves: pinkish small grey jars, istikhans, and plain and painted Khabur Ware. Aside from the potteries, other distinguishing features are elaborated silver toggle pins, which have been reported only in Middle Bronze Age II graves in North-Western Iran. Animal remains have

¹⁸⁰ Danti 2013a: 288, fig. 5.5.

been reported from most of the graves which could show the important role of their existence in the commemorative rituals.

II.2. Middle Bronze Age III mortuary practice

Hasanlu VIa and Geoy D provide our best view of Middle Bronze Age III¹⁸¹ mortuary practices in North-Western Iran.

II.2.1. Geoy Tepe

Four stonebuilt tombs of period D (Middle Bronze Age III) have been excavated by Earp in the first archaeological excavation at Geoy Tepe in 1903, results of which were published many years later by Crawford.¹⁸² Later, in 1948, Theodore Burton-Brown further excavated four stonebuilt examples and eight simple pit burials.¹⁸³

Burton-Brown assigned stonebuilt tombs to the period D and C. While Dyson, on the basis of the depth of the graves suggested earlier state of Period D (Middle Bronze Age II) for Tombs B and H, and Period C (Middle Bronze Age III) for Tombs A and J.¹⁸⁴ Michael Edwards, considering burial ceramics on the graves, believes that there are similarities to examples from late Haftavân VIb, which makes the graves contemporary and datable to Period C (Middle Bronze Age III).¹⁸⁵ In addition to the similarity with the late Haftavân VIB specimens, there are also parallels to the Middle Bronze Age III examples from Hasanlu and Dinkha. Also, since the structure of the tombs and the burial goods found by Frank Earp are exactly the same as those found by Burton-Brown, the Middle Bronze Age III can be considered for them as well.

¹⁸¹ The timespan between Hasanlu VIb and Hasanlu V in the southern Lake Urmia has always been considered as a gap in the occupational sequence, or as a sudden and almost complete culture change, maybe as a consequence of the abandonment of the region. Successively, Danti identified this period as Hasanlu VIa, or the MBIII, proposing that the area was continuously occupied by the same culture.

¹⁸² Crawford 1975: 1.

¹⁸³ Burton-Brown 1948.

¹⁸⁴ Dyson 1968: 18.

¹⁸⁵ Edwards 1986: 60–61.

II.2.1.1. Stonebuilt Tombs from Earp Excavation

In total, four stonebuilt inhumations were excavated. Rough squared stones and small and big slabs were used for building walls and covering cists. The first tomb has been described as a single burial tomb “built of roughly squared stones in courses; lid of flat stones, loosely fitting”¹⁸⁶ with stone-paved floor. The south-west end of the tomb was formed by a single large slab stone¹⁸⁷ with internal dimensions of 1.95 x 1.2 x 0.75 m. The tomb contained a single pair of gold hair ring¹⁸⁸ shaped like “ram's horns,”¹⁸⁹ eight toggle pins, three-strand necklaces, and two small ceramic jars, and a plate.¹⁹⁰

Limited information has been published about the second tomb. The tomb was damaged and its external measurements were 2.30 x 0.90 m.¹⁹¹

The third tomb presented internal measurements of 1.67 x 0.81 x 0.65 m, single burial in a south-west head orientation.¹⁹² The tomb contained several bronze or copper tubes with ambiguous function,¹⁹³ two small ceramic jars and two bowls, and a tin bronze dagger falling into Maxwell-Hyslop's type II.¹⁹⁴

The fourth one was a multi-burial tomb with internal measurement of 1.20 m x 0.67 m x 0.62 m.¹⁹⁵ The grave contained 14 toggle pins, two or three bronze earrings, a necklace, and two small ceramic jars, and two small bowls.¹⁹⁶

¹⁸⁶ Description of the tomb based on the Earp notes (Crawford 1975: 3).

¹⁸⁷ Crawford 1975: 3.

¹⁸⁸ The exact parallels for this form has been reported from Middle Bronze Age Trialeti culture (Müller-Karpe 1980: 896, Table 547, 6–7). Such hair rings were popular in the later second half of the third millennium BC in Mesopotamia and some examples were found in the Sargonid tombs of the Ur Royal Cemetery, Woolley's type 6 (1934).

¹⁸⁹ In his publishing of Earp's excavation at Geoy Tepe, Crawford calls the copper and bronze earrings from tomb I and IV “Ram's Hons” (Crawford 1975: 8).

¹⁹⁰ Crawford 1975: 8, pls. 1–2.

¹⁹¹ Crawford 1975: 1.

¹⁹² Crawford 1975: 1.

¹⁹³ Crawford 1975: 8, 19, pl. 3.

¹⁹⁴ Crawford 1975: 16; Maxwell-Hyslop's 1964: 5.

¹⁹⁵ Crawford 1975: 1.

¹⁹⁶ Crawford 1975: 8, pls. 4–5.

II.2.1.2. Burial Examples from Burton-Brown Excavation at Geoy Tepe

II.2.1.2.I. Stonebuilt Inhumations

Tomb A was a stone tomb 81 cm high and irregular rectangular plan, about 137 cm long, and 60 cm wide. On the floor of the tomb, there were traces of yellow bricks. Different techniques have been used for erecting the walls. The northern and eastern walls were built of small flat stones laid in courses. Three orthostatic slabs have been used for the southern wall, completed above with a row of small block stones laid in courses. The tomb's roof consisted of three large slabs and four smaller ones, arranged horizontally.¹⁹⁷ The tomb contained the remains of seven individuals, at least one of which was a male, while another was a child, together with many sheep bones. The bodies were laid directly one on another in different positions: semi-flexed and tightly flexed with bent arms, and hands kept close to their faces.¹⁹⁸ The grave goods included four ceramic vessels: three small bowls and a plate,¹⁹⁹ two bangles, and several beads in different material and a variety of forms.²⁰⁰

Tomb B was an 81 cm high stone cist with an irregular rectangular plan. The south measures about 220 cm in length from south-east corner to south-west corner and the northern side is about 200 cm long. The eastern and western parts had slightly different widths: it measured 100 cm towards the western end 101 cm to the eastern end. The eastern part of the Tomb was a little higher than the other uneven parts, which could have been the provision of a door. The southern part of the grave was made of stones laid in courses and the northern, western, and eastern sides were built by orthostatic slabs. The grave contained three skeletons: two skeletons were found south of the tomb near the door, with sheep bones on the side, and one more skeleton in the northern part, flexed with sheep bones alongside.²⁰¹ Grave goods included a ceramic bowl²⁰² associated with the first individual, and two more

¹⁹⁷ Burton-Brown 1948: fig. 26 Tomb A.

¹⁹⁸ Burton-Brown 1948: 102.

¹⁹⁹ Burton-Brown 1948: fig 27 nos. 9, 10, 14, 840.

²⁰⁰ Burton-Brown 1948: fig. 28 nos. 1504, 1555-59, 1567, 1601-02.

²⁰¹ Burton-Brown 1948: 103-105.

²⁰² Burton-Brown 1948: 108 no. 477.

bowls associated with the second and third bodies,²⁰³ along with a bottle,²⁰⁴ a toggle pin and fragments of two more pins, and a tip of bronze knife.²⁰⁵ Outside of the tomb, sheep bones had been spread at the front of slab door.²⁰⁶

Tomb H was a stone tomb with almost a rectangular plan. The tomb's floor was paved with irregular slabs. Its western wall was built from a vertical-positioned single slab, but the others were built of coursed stones. The tomb was 76 cm in height and was covered with large limestone slabs. Two distorted, incomplete individuals with flexed bodies were discovered at the western end of the Tomb accompanied by some sheep bones.²⁰⁷ Grave goods consisted of a bangle,²⁰⁸ two bowls contained the bones of joint meat,²⁰⁹ and a vessel in the form of candlestick.²¹⁰ Many beads lay around the body in the south-western corner.²¹¹

Tomb J was a 31 cm high stone tomb with a roughly rectangular plan. All four walls of the tomb were made of single orthostatic slabs between 84 cm to 100 cm in length and almost 50 cm in width. The tomb's roof was covered by three slab stones with small stones filling the spaces and an earthen floor. Two individuals, one with flexed body lying on the right side, and one with a straight body lying on the left were recorded at the eastern end of the Tomb. The tomb was furnished just by a toggle pin with an elaborate head²¹² and two beads.²¹³

²⁰³ Burton-Brown 1948: 109 nos. 161, 44.

²⁰⁴ Burton-Brown 1948: 108 no. 1553.

²⁰⁵ Burton-Brown 1948: fig. 29 nos. 1212–1213.

²⁰⁶ Burton-Brown 1948: 105.

²⁰⁷ Burton-Brown 1948: 105.

²⁰⁸ Burton-Brown 1948: fig. 29 no. 1215.

²⁰⁹ Burton-Brown 1948: 108 nos. 338, 348.

²¹⁰ Burton-Brown 1948: 108 no. 36.

²¹¹ Burton-Brown 1948: fig. 28 nos. 1514–16, 1562–64, 1566, 1568–69, 1570, 1572.

²¹² Burton-Brown 1948: 121, fig. 29 no. 1217.

²¹³ Burton-Brown 1948: fig. 28 nos. 1500–1501.

II.2.1.2.II Simple Pit Burials

Eight simple pit burials were discovered from Geoy D.

Grave N: Simple inhumation, containing at least two bodies, which were poorly preserved. One bowl,²¹⁴ a carnelian barrel shape bead,²¹⁵ and two pale grey translucent obsidian arrowheads²¹⁶ were placed in this tomb.

Grave M: Simple inhumation, containing one flexed body. No grave goods were associated with the burial.²¹⁷

Grave L: Contained four individuals laid on their left sides. A part of sheep skull and a pot have been placed in the grave.²¹⁸

Grave D: Contained a contorted body accompanied by some sheep bones, a necklace, and a spouted bowl.²¹⁹

Grave E: Contained a single body laid on its right side.²²⁰ The only burial good in this grave was a bowl similar to an example from Tomb A.²²¹

Grave C: Consisted of six contorted skeletons, a bead necklace, and a bowl.²²²

Grave F: Contained a single, almost flexed body. No grave goods were found.²²³

Grave G: The remains of three skulls with few bones of the bodies were found. The grave was laid on the roof slabs of Tomb J. The skulls were in different positions, one was lying on its right side, one was upside down, and the third one was on its back looking upward. No grave good has been reported from this site.²²⁴

According to the two-season excavation reports at Geoy Tepe, two tomb types were attested at this site: stone cists and simple inhumation pits. Both types were used for multiple

²¹⁴ Burton-Brown 1948: 84 no. 1545.

²¹⁵ Burton-Brown 1948: fig. 28 no. 1618.

²¹⁶ Burton-Brown 1948: 233 nos. 1245-46.

²¹⁷ Burton-Brown 1948: 123-24.

²¹⁸ Burton-Brown 1948: 124.

²¹⁹ Burton-Brown 1948: 124 fig. 24 no. 40.

²²⁰ Burton-Brown 1948: 124.

²²¹ Burton-Brown 1948: fig 27 no. 10.

²²² Burton-Brown 1948: 125 fig. 24 no. 1641.

²²³ Burton-Brown 1948: 125.

²²⁴ Burton-Brown 1948: 125.

as well as single burials. Apart from the structural differences in the tombs, the inventories also disclose profound differences. The stone cists were mostly richly furnished with grave goods, but the simple pits had just a single burial good or none at all. These contrasts culminate in the hypothesis that the stonebuilt tombs indicate social status and could have been used for the burial of elite individuals, while the simple pits were used for common people. The positions and orientations of the bodies follow specific orders and they were buried in different ways.

The types and categories of the funerary goods are typical of the late Middle Bronze Age II and early Middle Bronze Age III in the southern and eastern part of the Urmia basin. The most distinctive forms are the small carinated bowls, a form of late Middle Bronze Age II, and early Middle Bronze Age III of Dinkha Period IV Phase D (Kramer's Bowl 47),²²⁵ and uncarinated small bowl with vertical walls and everted rims (Kramer's Bowl 36),²²⁶ and one of the typical late Middle Bronze Age II of Dinkha IVD bowls, which is also attested in early Haftavân and late VIB²²⁷ and Bayazid Abad.²²⁸ Personal adornments are especially notable in both quantity and quality.

The large amount of simple toggle pins found in two of the stonebuilt tombs, eight and 15, can be considered as an example of a new trend in burial customs during late Middle Bronze Age II and early Middle Bronze Age III. This observation can be used to date the similar featured toggle pins found in Bayazid Abad.

II.2.2. Middle Bronze Age III burials of Hasanlu

In total, three Middle Bronze Age III burials have been discovered from Hasanlu: two examples were discovered by Hasanlu project excavation, and one by Stein.

²²⁵ Hamlin 1971: 97.

²²⁶ Hamlin 1971: 94.

²²⁷ Edwards 1983: figs. 92 nos. 16, 94 nos. 13, 95: 8–9.

²²⁸ For more information see fig. 7 no 18.

II.2.2.1 Examples from Hasanlu Project Excavations

Hasanlu SK25229 (UPM58-4-106): This was a simple inhumation grave of a young adult female around the age of 13–15, in a flexed position laid on her right side with south–east to north–west orientation, facing north. The tomb was furnished with burial goods. The most interesting funerary goods were a small painted Khabur beaker²³⁰ and a grey burnished button-base tankard. Khabur wares are characteristic materials of Middle Bronze Age II in North-Western Iran and the burnished monochrome ware are characteristic ceramics of Middle Bronze Age III. This tomb seems to belong to the transition period from Middle Bronze Age II to Middle Bronze Age III. The presence of these two examples together in a grave indicate the interaction of these cultural materials between the two time periods. The body was also accompanied by some personal ornaments such as two copper/bronze bracelets, a necklace of copper/bronze, stone, and blue frit beads, three simple copper/bronze pins, and the fragments of at least one copper/bronze finger ring.²³¹ A mass of sheep/goat bones and fragments of tortoise-shell were recovered from the tomb.

Hasanlu SK29 (UPM58-4-109): This was a simple inhumation grave of a male body, approximately 40 years of age.²³² A burnished button-base tankard and a burnished jar with a high narrow neck were placed in this grave.²³³ Both vases are Middle Bronze Age III diagnostic ceramics. The excavator noted that the bones appeared to have been disturbed by later Iron Age II grave (SK15), thus no further information about the body's position could be recovered.

II.2.2.2 Middle Bronze Age III Grave Excavated by Stein at Hasanlu

Stein in his Section xv²³⁴ found a grave with a simple inhumation structure. The individual had a flexed body with the head towards the north, facing east.²³⁵ A polychrome jar (Urmia

²²⁹ Danti 2013a: 291.

²³⁰ Danti 2013a: fig. 5.8 A, pl. 5.6d.

²³¹ Danti 2013a: fig. 5.8.

²³² Selinsky 2009: 208; Rathbun 1972: 53.

²³³ Danti 2013a: 292.

²³⁴ Stein 1940: 401.

²³⁵ Stein 1940: 401, fig. 110.

Ware) lay next to his head,²³⁶ a thick red slip bowl was placed next to the Urmia Ware jar.²³⁷ A “pear-shaped” white stone pendant, a carnelian “disc head,” and a small copper ring were placed under his neck.²³⁸ A copper socketed javelin head with a circular blade of 20 cm length and fragments of its wooden shaft were also found in the grave.²³⁹

II.2.3 Overview of Middle Bronze Age III mortuary practices

Due to the limited excavation of this period in Hasanlu and Dinkha Tepe, only three graves of this period have been discovered from Hasanlu. Thus, generalizing these examples as the only existing style would be wrong. It seems that the best burial practices of this period were discovered in Geoy Tepe, since the examples found on this site show a kind of continuity in the burial practice from Middle Bronze Age II. In Geoy Tepe, two types of burials have been attested. The first type was stonebuilt tombs with single and multiple inhumations with elaborate personal ornaments and grave goods, characteristic of Middle Bronze Age II and Middle Bronze Age III material.²⁴⁰ The second type was a simple inhumation pit with a minimum amount of burial goods, but similar to those burial goods from stone cists. In most of the tombs, either at Geoy Tepe or Hasanlu, bones of livestock (goat or sheep) were found, which also show the same ritual beliefs as Middle Bronze Age II.

II.3. Late Bronze Age Mortuary Practices

Mortuary evidence from Dinkha III, Hasanlu V, Geoy Tepe, Tomb K, and a grave at Hajji Firuz have revealed quantities of burials during the Late Bronze Age, and a total of 62 tombs have been documented thus far.

²³⁶ Stein 1940: pls. XXIV no. 3; XXXI.

²³⁷ Stein 1940: pl. XXXI, no.1. This bowl type is known from Geoy Tepe period D with polychrome decoration (Burton-Brown 1948: 74, fig. 19, no. 412; 77, fig. 21 no. 876), also it is known from the Hasanlu U22 Sounding in early Monochrome Burnished ware (Danti 2013a: 239).

²³⁸ Stein 1940: 402, pl. XXV, nos. 21, 27, 20.

²³⁹ Stein 1940: pl. XXVI no. 2.

²⁴⁰ The difference between the stone cists of MBIII and the MBII is that in addition to using medium sized stones, orthostatic slabs have also been used in the construction of tomb walls.

II.3.1. Late Bronze Age burials at Dinkha

A total of 26 Dinkha III burials were excavated²⁴¹ some of which belong to the Late Bronze Age and some belong to Iron Age I. Danti, based on the burial goods, distinguished the graves according to two periods.²⁴²

Dinkha B9a Burial 25: Muscarella, in his article from 1974, mentioned this grave as a simple inhumation and dated it to Iron Age.²⁴³ Edwards mentions the same grave,²⁴⁴ describing it as a stonebuilt inhumation of an adult male. Based on a suggestion by Dyson, he assigned it to period VI (?),²⁴⁵ but later, Danti referred to it as a simple pit inhumation.²⁴⁶ The buried individual presented a flexed body placed on its back with the head facing west. The grave was furnished with an elaborate toggle pin,²⁴⁷ a necklace of paste beads,²⁴⁸ a polychrome jar (Urmia Ware), and a tankard.²⁴⁹ The toggle pin, tankard cup, and the Urmia ware show that this grave belongs to the beginning phase of the Late Bronze Age.

Dinkha Test Trench VII Burial 1: This is a simple inhumation of a young adult female of early period III. The body was “placed in an extended position on the R side, oriented N-S, head to N.”²⁵⁰ A pin, plain loop rings, bracelets, and a torque, a burnished grey spouted vessel, a burnished grey bowl with two holes, and a burnished grey carinated jar were placed in the grave.

Dinkha Test Trench VII Burial 2: This is a brick tomb inhumation of a young adult male attributed to early period III.²⁵¹ The body was in an extended position with partially flexed legs, east–west orientation with the head facing the east. The grave and body were furnished with a plain bracelet, a knife blade, a spouted vase, and a burnished grey pedestal-base

²⁴¹ Muscarella 1968.

²⁴² Danti 2013a: 249–301.

²⁴³ Muscarella 1974: 40; 1994: fig. 4.1.

²⁴⁴ This datation may be attributed to a typo (VI instead of IV) or, more likely, to the fact that Dinkha IV and Hasanlu VI are coeval, both indicating the Middle Bronze Age.

²⁴⁵ “I am indebted to Professor R. H. Dyson for pointing out to me that this burial was wrongly assigned to the Iron Age in an early publication” Edwards 1986: 63.

²⁴⁶ Danti 2013a: 294.

²⁴⁷ Muscarella 1974: fig. 3 no. 473P.

²⁴⁸ Muscarella 1974: fig. 3 no. 420T, fig. 5.

²⁴⁹ Muscarella 1974: fig. 3 no. 696T.

²⁵⁰ Muscarella 1974: 39–40, fig. 3.

²⁵¹ Muscarella 1974: 38–39, figs. 3–4.

tankard. Based on discovered material in both graves at Test Trench VII they could be dated to the Late Bronze Age. The spouted jar from Burial 1 and the tall tankard cup from Burial 2 are characteristic of the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age I.

Dinkha B9a Burial 17: This was a simple inhumation of a mature adult with the body flexed, lying on its left side in a north–south orientation, and the head facing north. Burial goods included a flattened bracelet, two anklets, plain toggle pins, a twisted wire ring, a needle, a plain torque, a burnished grey spouted jar, a burnished grey bowl, and a burnished grey carinated jar.²⁵² The ceramics are common forms of the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age I in North-Western Iran. Based on the discovered ceramics and toggle pins this grave probably belongs to the latest phase of the Late Bronze Age.

Dinkha B9a Burial 23: This was a simple inhumation containing an adult male, poorly preserved skeleton with north–south orientation, head facing south. Grave goods included: two bracelets; a bone pendant; a ring; various paste and stone beads, and a bronze coil; two dagger blades placed in a jar; and a Mitannian Common Style cylinder seal. It also included a burnished grey bridgeless spouted jar, a grey small jar, and a grey bowl with two perforations were placed inside the tomb.²⁵³ Relying on the Mitannian cylinder seal the tomb can be dated to the Late Bronze Age. A cylinder seal with almost the same design also has been excavated from Bayazid Abad (Figure 51.II.a.i.1). (Specific explanation regarding the datation and the design has been provided in chapter V.)

II.3.2. Late Bronze Age burials at Hasanlu

Hasanlu SK504 (UPM65-31-789): This is a secondary inhumation of a male between 30–40 years of age.²⁵⁴ A jar in the form of Urmia Ware (globular body and long neck) decorated with a band of burnished cross-hatching and a tankard were placed in the grave.²⁵⁵ Both the funeral ceramics are the Late Bronze Age common types as mentioned by Danti.

²⁵² Muscarella 1974: 44, 84, figs. 10–11.

²⁵³ Muscarella 1974: 40–43, fig. 6.

²⁵⁴ Danti 2013a: 249; Selinsky 2009: 204; Rathbun 1972: 54–55.

²⁵⁵ Danti 2013a: fig. 5.10.

Hasanlu SK116 (UPM60-20-236): This was a simple inhumation of an old “large rugged hyperdolichocranic” 35–40 years old male,²⁵⁶ laid on his right side with a flexed body. His head was oriented to the north–east, facing north–west. A burnished grey pedestal-base tankard, a burnished grey large carinated bowl with a lug vertically double pierced, and a burnished grey small jar with a loop handle at the shoulder were placed in the grave as funeral offerings. Based on the burial goods, Danti dated this grave to the early phase of Hasanlu V.²⁵⁷

Hasanlu SK67 (UPM60-20-228): This was a simple inhumation of an old female almost 40 years,²⁵⁸ with north–south orientation. The skeleton was tightly flexed and lying on its left side with the head towards the south-east, facing south-west. The burial goods consisted of a grey nipple base tankard, a grey bowl with a lug vertically double pierced, and three simple copper/bronze pins.²⁵⁹ Both the funeral ceramics are characteristic forms of the Late Bronze Age.

Hasanlu SK445/449 (UPM65-31-773,²⁶⁰ UPM65-31-749²⁶¹): This is a simple secondary inhumation of a male aged 50–64, and another male aged 35–49 years, with his skull turned to the left, facing south. A monochrome burnished flat pointed base tankard was the only burial good in this grave. The same pointed base tankard has been discovered at Bayazid Abad tomb (Figure 17: 35a–b). Danti believes that this form of tankard belongs to Late Middle Bronze Age III and early Late Bronze Age.²⁶²

Hasanlu SK459 (UPM65-31-788): This was a simple inhumation of a mature male individual.²⁶³ The body was in a flexed position on the right side, with the head pointed towards the north, facing west. A buff mid-body-carinated jar and a reddish slipped buff

²⁵⁶ Danti 2013a: 295; Selinsky 2009: 209; Rathbun 1972: 53–54.

²⁵⁷ Danti 2013a: 295, fig. 5.11.

²⁵⁸ Danti 2013a: 295; Selinsky 2009: 209; Rathbun 1972: 56.

²⁵⁹ Danti 2013a: fig. 5.12.

²⁶⁰ Selinsky 2009: 213.

²⁶¹ Selinsky 2009: 212.

²⁶² Danti 2013a: 297, 4.25 K.

²⁶³ Danti 2013a: 298; Selinsky 2009: 212; Rathbun 1972: 54.

holemouth jar were the only funeral goods in this grave. Relying on the form of the mid-body-carinated jar, Danti dated this grave to last phase of Late Bronze Age.²⁶⁴

Hasanlu SK53 (UPM60-20-220): This was a disturbed simple inhumation of an adult female individual²⁶⁵ with the flexed body, resting on the right side, head positioned towards the north-east, facing east. The tomb contained a copper/bronze ring and a necklace with frit beads and a glass crescent shape bead.²⁶⁶ Danti, due to the absence of diagnostic material, preferred to consider the date as “Probable V-IVc” but the presence of a crescent shape bead, comparable to the examples from Geoy Tepe Tomb K, suggest a dating to the last phase of Late Bronze Age.²⁶⁷

Hasanlu Stein Section xvii: This was a simple inhumation. The body was discovered at a depth of 3 meters, lying on its back with flexed legs and bent arms holding a tall tankard. The grave contained a chalice, some sheep bones, and a bangle. The form of the tankard in this grave corresponds to examples from Kordlar IV.²⁶⁸

II.3.3. More Late Bronze Age burial examples from Geoy Tepe and Hajji Firuz

Geoy Tepe Tomb K period b:²⁶⁹ A multi-burial, stonebuilt tomb with north-east/south-west orientation, made of small stones laid in courses. The tomb’s length was 193 cm along the northern side and 195 cm along its southern side. The width was 121 cm on the western side, and 129 cm on the eastern side.²⁷⁰ The tomb had been covered with four slabs of stone. Twelve bodies were placed in the tomb and then covered with earth before any later interment was made. The individuals were in a variety of positions; some resting on their back, looking upward, while some were turned to one side. Two had their faces downward.

In total, nine ceramic vases were excavated in this tomb: a bowl with crescent and double drilling close to the rim, a pedestal-base tankard, a mug, and a cup were placed at the bottom

²⁶⁴ Danti 2013a: 299.

²⁶⁵ Selinsky 2009; Rathbun 1972: 55–56

²⁶⁶ Danti 2013a: 307, 309, fig. 5.22 B, pl. 5.13h; HAS59–57.

²⁶⁷ Burton-Brown 1951: fig. 28 nos. 1579, 1481.

²⁶⁸ Lippert 1974: ABB. 67–68.

²⁶⁹ Burton-Brown 1951: 142, figs. 28, 29, 32, 34; Dyson 1965: 196, fig. 2; Young 1965: 70–72, figs. 11, 78; Muscarella 1994: 185, fig. 5.

²⁷⁰ Burton-Brown 1951: 142.

part.²⁷¹ The upper part of the tomb was associated with three bowls, one with “crescent shaped handle in relief” (worm bowl),²⁷² another with double piercing under the rim,²⁷³ and a small bowl. A cup²⁷⁴ and a bridgeless-spouted jar²⁷⁵ were also found in the upper part of the tomb. Two copper/bronze toggle pins²⁷⁶ and large varieties of beads (pendants in crescent shape, spacers, disc shapes, melon types, ball shape, truncated cones, and, long flat oval and ring form) were also a part of funeral goods. Different materials were used for making beads, such as various blue coloured, white and buff paste, bone, stone, shell, and bronze/copper.²⁷⁷ All of the small finds were discovered in the upper part of the tomb. The excavated materials show that this tomb has been used continuously during the Late Bronze Age. The potteries of the bottom layer have the characteristics of the early Late Bronze Age forms (the tall tankard,²⁷⁸ the cup,²⁷⁹ and the worm bowl), and the potteries from the upper part of the tomb have the characteristics of the later Late Bronze Age (a bridgeless spouted jar and a worm bowl).

Hajji Firuz K10 Burial 1: Simple inhumation of an adult with north to north-west to south to south-east orientation. The body had flexed arms and legs and was laid on its right side, with its head towards north to north-west, facing south-west.²⁸⁰ A bridgeless-spouted jar, a worm bowl, and a cup in the form of a tankard were placed as grave goods. The grave has been previously dated by scholars to Iron Age I, but Danti, based on his review of Hasanlu's periods and materials believes that it belongs to the Late Bronze Age.²⁸¹ However,

²⁷¹ Burton-Brown 1951: fig. 34 nos. 22, 38; 67, fig. 16 no. 16; 138, fig. 32 no. 18.

²⁷² Burton-Brown 1951: 951:149 no. 2, fig. 16 no. 2.

²⁷³ Burton-Brown 1951: 149 no. 478, fig. 32 no. 478.

²⁷⁴ Burton-Brown 1951: 138 no. 33.

²⁷⁵ Burton-Brown 1951: 138 no. 37.

²⁷⁶ Burton-Brown 1951: 152, fig. 29 no. 1290/1, 1293.

²⁷⁷ Burton-Brown 1951: 150–52.

²⁷⁸ This type of tall tankard is parallel to an example from Dinkha Test Trench VII Burial 2 (Muscarella 1974: fig. 3 no. 229).

²⁷⁹ This form of cup was one of the common form of Urmia Ware and several examples have been excavated from Kordlar Tepe IV (Lippert 1979: ABB. 9, Raum Z/IV; ABB. 10, Gd1/IV; ABB. 11, Gd1. IV).

²⁸⁰ Voigt 1976: 810–14, fig. 116, pls. LXI–LXII; Muscarella 1974: 49; Muscarella 1994: fig. 2.2; Danti 2013a: 298, fig. 5.15.

²⁸¹ Danti 2013a: 299. His argument regarding the distinction between the periods is that, as opposite to Late Bronze Age, during Iron Age I the characteristic pottery forms (bridgeless-spouted jars, pedestal base cups and worm bowls) have never been discovered as a part of the same assemblage (Danti 2013a: 301–302).

in my opinion, all three excavated ceramic pieces from this tomb are characteristic of both Late Bronze Age and Iron Age I shapes, and thus, it is not possible to give them a certain date.

II.3.4. Overview of Late Bronze Age mortuary practices

Late Bronze Age mortuary patterns of the western side of Lake Urmia continue the Middle Bronze Age II and III trends of simple inhumation burial and multi-burial stonebuilt tombs. Besides the two previous predominant funeral customs, mud-brick structure tombs have also emerged at Dinkha Tepe. Both extended and flexed positions with no special orientation were practiced. Funeral goods were deposited in the graves, but compared to Middle Bronze Age III, they were mostly poorly furnished, and also the same claim can be sustained regarding the food offerings. In opposition to the Middle Bronze Age II, during Middle Bronze Age III, except for the grave from Stein's excavation, none of the burials are reported to have sheep or goat bones. The most characteristic burial goods of this period were bridgeless-spouted jars, pedestal base tankard, and worm bowls; Mitannian Common Style seals; and a restricted number of bronze blades and spearheads. The personal ornaments of this period consist of a small number of toggle pins, beads and bracelets, and rings.

II.4. Iron Age I mortuary practice

Information about mortuary practices of this period is provided by 10 burials from Dinkha III, six burials from Hasanlu Ivc, and one burial from Haftavân V.

II.4.1. Iron Age I Burials at Dinkha Tepe

Dinkha B10a Burial 23:²⁸² Information about this burial has been collected from the burials table in Muscarella's 1974 article and more details have been obtained from his 1994 article.²⁸³ Unfortunately, the sex of the individual was not mentioned in any of the articles. The burial was a simple inhumation with an east–west orientation, flexed body, lying on its back, facing up. In the 1974 article, just a bracelet and a pin have been mentioned as burial goods, but the 1994 article displays only the picture of a tankard. Based on the tankard, this grave can be dated to the early phase of Iron Age I.

Dinkha B10b Burial 13: Information about this grave has also been collected from the burials table in Muscarella's 1974 article²⁸⁴ and more details have been obtained from his 1994 article.²⁸⁵ Brick tomb inhumation of a single adult female, with the flexed body, lying on its left side, north–south orientation with the head pointing north and facing east. In the 1974 article, just a ring, three pins, earrings, and a needle have been mentioned as funeral goods, but the 1994 article, displays pictures of a pin, a needle, a bracelet, a worm bowl with drilled holes located near the rim, a bridgeless spouted jar, and a carinated small jar.²⁸⁶ All of the discovered pottery is characteristic forms of the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age I but the pin with bead and reel molded decoration cannot be later than Iron Age I.

Dinkha B8e Burial 7: The only given information about this burial is that it was a disturbed mud-brick Tomb, furnished with an orange matt basket handled jar, and a buff worm bowl with two crescents, and two holes.²⁸⁷ The same basket handled jar has been published by Muscarella in his 1968 article and presented as a Dinkha II ceramic discovered

²⁸² Muscarella 1974: 85.

²⁸³ Muscarella 1994: fig. 4.2 no. 716.

²⁸⁴ Muscarella 1974: 85.

²⁸⁵ Muscarella 1994: fig. 4.2.

²⁸⁶ Muscarella 1994: fig. 4.2.

²⁸⁷ Muscarella 1974: 47, fig. 17.

from a grave.²⁸⁸ Since this example has been discovered in a grave of Dinkha III and was associated with a worm bowl fairly common in Iron Age I, thus, it may at present be dated to this timeframe.

Dinkha B9a Burial 26: Simple inhumation of a child, flexed on the left side, north–south orientation with its head to the north, facing north-east. Grave goods included two anklets, a bracelet, a torque, and a bronze square plaque pierced in the corners with a large central pin; rings, two gold earrings, needles, and hundreds of carnelian, copper, and paste beads; a calcite disc, a simple bronze phiale mesomphalos, a burnished grey bowl, a buff-smoothed basket-handle teapot, and a burnished grey-brown jar with a bridgeless spout.²⁸⁹ Muscarella states that this grave was the only burial containing gold, in the form of earrings, similar to the gold examples from Hasanlu IV's Burnt Building II.²⁹⁰ Muscarella believes that the discovered bronze phiale mesomphalos at this grave is one of the earliest examples in the region.²⁹¹ The same form of bowl has been reported in the Iron Age II tombs of male warriors (SK 493²⁹² and Sk106²⁹³) at Hasanlu. Danti and Cifarelli have mentioned that many specimens of this type of bowl, with different forms and decorations, have been discovered in the destructed level of period IVb in Hasanlu, associated with high status.²⁹⁴ Based on the material and their strong connection to the Iron Age II examples and the period of the grave (Dinkha III), this burial can be dated to the Late Iron Age I.

Dinkha B10b Burial 10: This is a horizontal brick tomb inhumation of an adult female, flexed tightly on the left side, with north to south orientation and her head to the north.²⁹⁵ The grave has been furnished with a plain pin; a square section rolled head pin; a needle; earrings; a flattened ring with overlapping ends; paste and bronze beads; a grey burnished spouted jar; a grey burnished carinated jar; and a red-slipped worm bowl with two pierced holes, containing animal bones. All the excavated materials of this tomb are characteristic

²⁸⁸ Muscarella 1968: fig. 8.

²⁸⁹ Muscarella 1968: fig. 6; 1974: 43, 84, fig. 7.

²⁹⁰ Muscarella 1974: 48.

²⁹¹ Muscarella 1968: fig. 16.

²⁹² Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 115, fig. 25D, HAS64–289.

²⁹³ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 102–103, fig. 19A, pl. 6b, HAS59–246.

²⁹⁴ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 104.

²⁹⁵ Muscarella 1968: fig. 2; 1974: 46, figs. 15, 16.

examples of the last phase of Late Bronze Age and Iron Age I and the funeral goods are almost the same as those from Burial B10b B13 dated to Iron Age I based on the bead and reel molded pin.

Dinkha B9a Burial 27: This was a simple inhumation of mature adult male, flexed on his back, in a north–south orientation, and head pointed towards the south, facing north-east.²⁹⁶ A plain bracelet, a stone button with drilled designs, a necklace of faience (a cylindrical shape with crosshatch design, a tear shape, a lotus-bud shape, and flat circular shape), and carnelian beads were placed in the grave. A copper/bronze long socketed spearhead; a dark grey burnished spouted vase; and a grey burnished worm bowl with two perforations were placed at the tomb as funeral goods. The potteries are the major diagnostic specimens of Late Bronze Age and Iron Age I and the copper/bronze spearhead, as mentioned by Muscarella, is comparable to the iron made examples from Dinkha II Burials B9a, B9, and B10a, B12.²⁹⁷ At Bayazid Abad, the same type of spearhead has been discovered.²⁹⁸ The use of small cylindrical beads with a cross-hatching decoration become fairly common in Iron Age II in North-Western Iran, as proved by excavated examples from Hasanlu IVb and the skeleton 15b from Kordlar Iib.²⁹⁹ Based on the explanation and comparisons, if we imagine this tomb to be dated to the Iron Age, we have not gone astray.

Dinkha B9a Burial 19: This was a simple inhumation of a child with the flexed body lying on its right side, north to south orientation and head pointed towards the south. A plain bracelet, a plain ring, a tripod bowl, a burnished grey jar, a short pedestal base tankard, and a carinated bowl were placed at the grave.³⁰⁰ The tripod bowl is the characteristic form of Iron Age I and Iron Age II but since this form of bowl has been discovered alongside a tankard (a diagnostic form of Iron Age I), the grave belongs to Iron Age I.

Dinkha B9b Burial 16: This was a simple inhumation of a young adult with south to north orientation. The body was lying flexed on its right side, with the head pointed south

²⁹⁶ Muscarella 1974: 43, 84, figs. 7–8.

²⁹⁷ Muscarella 1974: 43.

²⁹⁸ See figure 124: 4.

²⁹⁹ Lippert 1976: 133, Abb. 16 no. 28.

³⁰⁰ Muscarella 1974: 44–45, 84, fig. 12.

and facing east.³⁰¹ A tripod worm bowl with two drilling holes, a carinated mid-body jar, a bridgeless spouted jar, a tanged blade, a bronze/copper bracelet, a torque, a necklace of paste disc beads, and a bone needle were placed in the grave. All three ceramic pieces present the typical forms of the Late Bronze Age, but the worm bowls also showed a tripod that is a future characteristic of Iron Age I.

Dinkha B9b Burial 12: This was a simple inhumation of a child, sex unknown, with flexed body, lying on its back, north–south orientation, head pointed north.³⁰² The grave contained a plain bracelet, a burnished grey tripod worm bowl, a carinated burnished grey tankard, and a burnished orange carinated jar. All three potteries are diagnostic forms from Iron Age I.

Dinkha B9a Burial 24: This was a simple inhumation of a single adult, with a flexed body, lying on its left side, north–south orientation and head pointed south.³⁰³ A bracelet, three pins (two with incised designs and one with bead and real molded decoration), a needle, a white glass bead in the form of a ram's head, and scores of diverse forms of beads made from various materials, including copper, glass, and frit were found. A buff bridgeless spouted jar with ring base, and a raised stylized “eye” or horn, opposite the jar’s spout, and a carinated bowl with one hole below the rim were also placed in this grave as funeral offering. The bridgeless spouted jars with relief decorations are common forms of Late Bronze Age and Iron Age I but Danti asserted that appliqué design in the form of “horn” provides support for dating it in Late Iron Age I.³⁰⁴ Besides the decoration of the spouted jar, the bead and real molded pin’s presence in this grave support this dating as this form of pins appeared from Iron Age I and became common during Iron Age II.

Dinkha B9b Burial 11: This was a brick tomb inhumation of a child laid on its left side with the head to the north, facing east with north to south orientation.³⁰⁵ The grave contained a rich assemblage of material, including three copper/bronze bracelets; two copper/bronze anklets, and a pair of copper/bronze earrings; a copper/bronze torque, two bronze coils, and

³⁰¹ Muscarella 1974: 46, fig. 16.

³⁰² Muscarella 1968: 192, figs. 15, 17 right; 1974: 45–46, 84, fig. 13.

³⁰³ Muscarella 1968: 194, fig. 19; 1974: 43, 84, fig. 6.

³⁰⁴ Danti 2013a: 304.

³⁰⁵ Levine I 971: 40, fig. 2 top; Muscarella 1974: 43, fig. 13.

a shell bead necklace; a burnished grey bridgeless spouted jar decorated with ridges around the upper body and tail in relief at the rear; an orange large bowl; and an orange carinated jar. The bowl has the typical form of Iron Age I and falls in Danti's bowl type 3.³⁰⁶

II.4.2. Iron Age I burials at Hasanlu

Hasanlu SK479 (UPM65-31-775): This was a simple inhumation of a young female.³⁰⁷ The body was buried in a flexed position, laid on the left side, oriented north-east to south-west, the head pointed towards the north-east, facing south. The grave was furnished with a number of funeral goods. Burnished ware including a grey bowl, a jar, and a unique beaker; a copper simple knob headpin; a bronze bracelet; a bronze ring; a headband made of thin bronze sheet with two perforations at both ends; some cylindrical white paste beads; and rounded carnelian beads; and a bone lozenge-shaped bead.

Hasanlu SK494 (UPM65-31-766): This was a simple inhumation as it contained a child.³⁰⁸ Lying on its back with north-east orientation, legs flexed to the left, resting on the left side, facing south-west. A burnished grey carinated short pedestal base tankard (characteristic of Iron Age I), a bowl, a cylinder seal with chevron design, and several carnelian, glass, and stone beads were placed in this grave.³⁰⁹

Hasanlu SK24 (UPM58-4-105): This was a simple inhumation of a female between 30 to 40 years of age,³¹⁰ in a flexed position and north-west to south-east orientation. The body was laid on the left side, with its head towards the south-east, turned south. The accompanying grave goods included a red pot, a burnished grey jar with "pattern-burnish" design, and a piece of deformed iron (probably "socketed spear or similar weapon") and a bronze pin decorated with incised lines.³¹¹ Based on my comparisons and study on Bayazid Abad ceramics, burnished decoration with no specific design were applied on the potteries from Middle Bronze Age II and continued till Iron Age I. In Iron Age I, the burnished

³⁰⁶ Danti 2013a: 225.

³⁰⁷ Rathbun 1972: 56; Danti 2013a: 302, fig. 5.16.

³⁰⁸ Selinsky 2009: 213.

³⁰⁹ Danti 2013a: 303, fig. 5.17.

³¹⁰ Rathbun 1972: 55.

³¹¹ Danti 2013a: fig. 5.18.

decorations were presented on ceramics with arranged patterns (mostly cross-hatching). As mentioned in the weapons chapter, it seems that the production of iron objects started likely from Iron Age I.

Hasanlu SK73: This was a simple inhumation of a child with the body flexed, lying on the right side in an east–west orientation. The head was resting to the north, facing north. The grave was furnished by worm bowls decorated by an appliquéd crescent on the inner side, two small jars, a carinated bowl, and two bronze spiral bracelets.³¹² The carinated bowl had the same form as an example from burial SK57.³¹³

Hasanlu SK57 (UPM60-20-223): This grave contained a hyperdolichocranic male individual over 30 years old³¹⁴ buried in south-east to north-west orientation with the head to the south-east, facing north.³¹⁵ The body was accompanied by a carinated bowl with a slightly flaring rim and a bi-lobe lug type handle with two vertical holes. In both Ted Rathbun³¹⁶ and Michelle Marcus³¹⁷ works, this grave has been registered as a Hasanlu V burial, but Danti dated it to Late IVc. Danti believes the form of the carinated bowl to be typical of late Hasanlu IVc and especially of Period IVb, while the bi-lobe lug form is comparable to the examples in Period IVc and IVb at Dinkha and Hasanlu. Marcus compared the discovered cylinder seal with examples from Elamite and Middle Assyrian and thinks that the seal was manufactured around the late second millennium BC. Although I agree with the date mentioned by Marcus in connection with the seal, the details on its surface indicate that it belonged to the group of Mitannian and Kassite seals. The complete fish motif, with fins and tail, and its details are completely consistent with examples of the Mitannian Common Style. Frieze of triangles filled with a cross-hatching on the border is usually found on Kassite seals of the late second millennium BC.³¹⁸ Regarding the carinated bowl, the same date (Early

³¹² Danti 2013a: 306, fig. 5.19

³¹³ Danti 2013a: 5.18 A.

³¹⁴ Rathbun 1972: 53.

³¹⁵ Danti 2013: 307, fig. 5.20.

³¹⁶ Rathbun 1972: 53.

³¹⁷ Marcus 1996: 144.

³¹⁸ For instance: Moortgat 1940: no. 563 (from Babylon) and Boehmer 1981: pl. 3 no. 1 and pl. 9 no. 30 (from Tell Subeidi in the Hamrin basin).

Iron Age I) can be proposed as almost the same form was discovered in a grave at Dinkha Tepe (B 9b, burial II).³¹⁹

Hasanlu SK6: This was a simple secondary inhumation with stone cover and north-east to south-west orientation. The grave was furnished with paste beads and a bronze dagger with a lappet-flanged hilt.³²⁰ The same dagger has been published by Christopher Thornton and Vincent Pigott as a Type IIA1b, discovered from Hasanlu V. They noticed this form of dagger as a characteristic type of Iron Age I which does not occur in Period IV.³²¹ The same example has been discovered in Luristan (Iron Age IA)³²², Tell Zubeidi, and Nimrud³²³.

II.4.3. Iron Age I burial at Haftavân

The only reported burial of Haftavân V is grave no. 7, which was a simple inhumation grave of an adult individual, sex undetermined, laid in a flexed position. A bridgeless-spouted jar and a small cup with a pointed base were discovered in this grave.³²⁴

II.4.4. Overview of Iron Age I Mortuary Practices

Information about mortuary practices of this period have been provided by simple inhumations in Dinkha, Hasanlu, and Haftavân Tepe. Simple inhumation graves covered by slabs are attested only in Hasanlu, while brick tombs are found in Dinkha. Dinkha Brick tombs were presented in two types: the first is a grave with just a single wall and the second comprised graves with three walls, containing a long wall against the body with two projections. Based on observation on mortuary practices on the western side of Lake Urmia, it has not been possible to distinguish any specific pattern in the disposition and orientation of the bodies. The most characteristic burial goods are bridgeless-spouted jars, mostly with applique decorations, short tankard cups, carinated jars, worm bowls, and a limited amount of weapons, mostly blades. Compared to the Late Bronze Age, the same kind of offerings were

³¹⁹ Muscarella 1974: fig. 13 no. 85.

³²⁰ Danti 2013a: 307, fig. 5.21B; HAS57 150, UPM58-4-12.

³²¹ Thornton and Pigott 2011: 163, fig. 6.31

³²² Overlaet 2005: 153, fig. 119: BB. 58-5.

³²³ After Boehmer 1983: fig. 1 and Curtis 2012: 36, pl. VIII no. 94.

³²⁴ Burney 1970: 170, fig. 8 nos. 1, 7, pl. IIIc; Burney and Lang 1971: fig. 40.

placed in Iron Age I graves but in a larger number, a consequence of greater availability of the materials, which in turn led to their use as a status symbol.

II.5. Iron Age II mortuary practices

Information about mortuary practices of this period are provided by burials of the Dinkha II, Hasanlu IVb, Haftavân IV, and a grave from Kordlar Tepe.

II.5.1. Iron Age II Burials of Dinkha Tepe

In the 1939 expedition, Stein retrieved a jar burial,³²⁵ later Muscarella asserted that 68 Iron Age II burials were discovered during the Hasanlu Project at Dinkha Tepe, containing twelve simple inhumations, nineteen jar burials, 31 brick tombs and six stone tombs.³²⁶ Muscarella divided the Dinkha II burials into two groups. He noted that four of the graves belonged to the transitional period between Iron Age I and Iron Age II.³²⁷

Dinkha B9a burial 9: This was a three-sided brick tomb inhumation, containing an adult male laid on his back with flexed legs and east–west orientation. The head was almost straight towards the west. The body was ornated with an iron plain bracelet, a bronze corrugated band, three iron and bronze plain rings, a bronze pin, a necklace of carnelian, paste, and Egyptian blue beads. The grave was furnished with a bronze spear, an ax, a dark grey handled bridge-spouted jar, with an abstracted horned animal in relief on both sides, an orange carinated jar, a burnished orange carinated bowl, a small jar with a raised narrow band around its neck, and a small buff jar.³²⁸

Dinkha B9b burial 19: This was a brick tomb containing an adult, sex undetermined, flexed body, lying on the left side. The body was oriented north–south with the head pointed to the north. The tomb contained three bronze pins with grooved decoration at the tops; two bronze earrings, each consisting of a big and a small loop; a plain bronze ring, a group of beads; and a plain bronze torque. In addition, there was also a burnished orange bridge-

³²⁵ Stein 1940: 372.

³²⁶ Muscarella 1974: 58.

³²⁷ Muscarella 1974: 60.

³²⁸ Muscarella 1974: 60–61, figs. 25–26.

spouted jar with an animal-head handle; a burnished red-orange bowl with two holes set within grooves around the rim; and a burnished orange jar.³²⁹

Dinkha B10a burial 16: This was a brick tomb inhumation, containing an infant with body flexed on the left side, oriented in a north–south direction, with the head pointed north. Information about this grave comes from two sources: Muscarella 1968³³⁰ and 1974.³³¹ In the first article, the author presented pictures from three potteries, which were not even mentioned in the latter, where he talked about the structure of the tomb and different funerary goods. Two twisted coiled bronze bracelets, a bronze torque, some beads, a burnished grey teapot with basket-handle, a burnished grey tripod pot stand, a small burnished grey jar, a bridge-spouted jar with crescent decoration on the upper part, a burnished grey barrel shaped jar with animal-head handles were deposited at the tomb. The material of this grave is especially important because of the relief crescent decoration on the bridge-spouted jar, since this form of decoration was very common on the worm bowls from Middle Bronze Age III to Iron Age I, but it seems like in Iron Age II it disappeared from the bowls and has been applied on this form of the jar.

Dinkha B10b burial 11: This was a brick tomb inhumation containing an adult female lying on her back facing upwards with the body extended, in a north–south orientation, with the head turned towards the north. The body was ornated with six pins, a bronze rolled head pin, three plain bronze pins, and two iron plain pins, three grooved iron rings, an iron archer's ring, a necklace of carnelian, jasper, frit, paste, glass, and copper beads. Two burnished grey and orange jars were also placed in the tomb.³³²

Dinkha B10b burial 1: This was a simple inhumation of a young adult, flexed on the right side in an east–west orientation, head towards the east. Two burnished grey bridge-spouted jars, a burnished grey bottlelike jar were found inside the grave.³³³ One of the spouted jars was adorned with a raised small hemispherical decoration.

³²⁹ Muscarella 1974: 61, fig. 27; 1968: fig. 9.

³³⁰ Muscarella 1968: fig. 12.

³³¹ Muscarella 1974: 61, fig. 28.

³³² Muscarella 1974: 61, fig. 29.

³³³ Muscarella 1974: 63, fig. 30.

Dinkha B9a burial 14: It was a brick tomb inhumation containing a mature adult, flexed on its back in a north–south orientation and its head towards the south. The tomb was furnished with three plain bronze armlets, four bronze rings, a bronze torque, a stone and two bronze buttons, a paste plain beads necklace, a grey bowl, a burnished orange bridge-spouted jar with a raised “crow's feet” shape decoration, and a burnished orange jar with zoomorphic handles. A total of 66 sheep knuckles and sheep/goat bones were also discovered in the grave.³³⁴

Dinkha B9b burial 13: This was a stonebuilt tomb covered by big irregular slabs of stone and was the poorest of the stone tombs. Only a few bones were discovered in this tomb and it appears the burial had a north–south orientation. The burial goods were placed outside and inside of the tomb. A burnished orange jar was outside, and placed inside were two plain bronze bracelets, a red-slipped spouted jar, an orange jar, a grey carinated bowl, and sherds of a coarse vessel.³³⁵ Unfortunately, no practical information and pictures have been documented for this grave.

Dinkha B10a burial 6: This was a stonebuilt chamber with a compacted earth floor. The published picture of this tomb in Muscarella's 1968 article shows that the tomb had the same structure as those from Middle Bronze Age III and Late Bronze Age of Geoy Tepe, and both large single slabs and small stones in courses were used to build the tomb. The large slabs were also used to cover the tomb.³³⁶ Some bone fragments were in the tomb, which probably belonged to an adult laid with a north–south orientation. Total 53 objects and 15 ceramic vessels were placed outside of the tomb. Six bridge-spouted jars with relief decorations, two-handled carinated cups, and a simple carinated bowl, a gadrooned jar, two small plain jars, and an iron spearhead and some horse bones were placed outside of the tomb. The inside of the tomb was also richly furnished with grave goods. At the entrance of the tomb, an orange hydria, two buff carinated bowls, a small jar, a bridge-spouted jar with relief decoration, two bronze anklets, an iron mace head, an iron blade, two iron and bronze pins with textile remains, a plain bronze bracelet, and remains of a bronze and iron chain were found. Along

³³⁴ Muscarella 1974: 63, figs. 31–32.

³³⁵ Muscarella 1974: 65, figs. 33–34.

³³⁶ Muscarella 1986: figs. 13–14.

the interior walls of the tomb the following items were found: a bronze star shape mace head, a plain bronze bowl, a flat-band bronze bracelet with elaborate incised decoration, and a plain bronze and four plain iron bracelets. Clusters of bronze and iron rings, a bronze and an iron horse bit, an iron ax, an iron archer's ring, a bronze needle, a bronze boss, a limestone disc, a bone button attached to a reed, two bone awls, and many carnelian, paste, glass, amber, cowrie shell, Egyptian blue, cast antimony, and bronze beads were also found.³³⁷ Most of the potteries were with ring bases, a new feature in this period's ceramics. Besides that, the appearance of metal vessels in the grave shows the beginning of a new trend in North-Western Iran.

Dinkha B10a burial 12: This was a brick tomb inhumation, containing a male with the flexed body placed on its right side, north–south orientation and his head toward the south. The body was ornated with bronze and iron bracelets, carnelian, frit, and paste beads, and a solid bronze beaded cast torque. The tomb was also finished by a bronze spearhead, two burnished grey bridge-spouted jars, an orange carinated bowl, and a burnished orange carinated jar.³³⁸

Dinkha B10a burial 13: This was a simple inhumation of an adult female individual. Bones were found scattered, probably caused by a secondary burial. A bronze stud, some bronze hemispherical beads, and carnelian and frit plain beads, a simple iron ring, two orange jars, two buff jars, and a grey bridged-spouted jar, and some sheep/goat bones were found in the tomb.³³⁹

Dinkha B10a burial 15: A stonebuilt inhumation, with a disturbed body, north–south orientation, and the head towards the north. A part of the tomb's floor was paved by slab stones. Large slab stones were used for building two walls, while the other two were built from small stones in courses. The tomb was covered by large slabs and smaller stones were used to fill the gaps.³⁴⁰ Five iron knob headed pins; five plain iron and two bronze rings; two bronze S-shaped earrings; a collection of carnelian, paste, bronze, Egyptian blue and

³³⁷ Muscarella 1974: 64–67, figs. 34, 35, 36, 37.

³³⁸ Muscarella 1974: 67, fig. 38.

³³⁹ Muscarella 1974: 67, fig. 40.

³⁴⁰ The tomb structure has been inferred from the published pictures. (Muscarella 1974: figs. 41–42).

antimony beads; bronze studs; a small iron pin; and three iron archer's rings have been found in it. In addition, four bridge-spouted jars; two burnished grey and two orange with raised "crow's feet" decoration; two buff hydrias; two buff carinated bowls both containing sheep/goat bones; and six jars were deposited as grave goods.³⁴¹ The pottery consisted of two burnished buffs, one buff, one burnished orange and two greys, a burnished orange cup, a very small gourd-shaped with two holes at one side, and two grey jars.

Dinkha b10b burial 8: This was a three-sided brick tomb inhumation, containing an old female individual. The body was placed in a north-south orientation and positioned on the back with the head towards the north.³⁴² Accompanying grave goods were, a bronze knobbed pin, a flat-band iron ring, a bronze needle, an iron ring, some round carinated, paste, and bronze beads, a burnished grey bowl with zoomorphic, a burnished grey carinated jar, and a buff hydria. In addition, some bone fragments of sheep/goat remain were discovered in this tomb.³⁴³

Dinkha 8a burial 1: This was a stonebuilt chamber containing two disintegrated skeletons. The tomb structure can be inferred from a drawing of the tomb in a 1974 article by Muscarella.³⁴⁴ The tomb floor was paved with neatly laid flat stones. The tomb was covered by large slabs and similar flat slabs were used for the southern and eastern walls. The northern and western walls were built from smaller stones laid in courses. The tomb was very richly furnished with four plain, three bronze, and one bracelet in flattened iron. Three iron pins, three bronze rings, bronze S-shaped earrings, a bronze needle, a bronze nail, two thin bronze strips attached to iron loops (perhaps fragments of a chain), and three iron blades with curved tips were also discovered. Two of these blades, and an iron dagger are the same as the discovered examples from Bayazid Abad.³⁴⁵ In addition, a bronze chain, a large pin with a bronze chain, a hollow bone container decorated with dot circles, and a large number of beads made of amber, coloured glass, glazed paste, Egyptian blue, and carnelian were found under a bowl. Two bronze needles, four plain bronze rings, a bronze coil, a grey

³⁴¹ Muscarella 1974: 67.

³⁴² Muscarella 1968: 189, fig. 2, 1974: fig. 43.

³⁴³ Muscarella 1974: 68, fig. 43.

³⁴⁴ Muscarella 1974: fig. 45 nos. 623, 1046.

³⁴⁵ See chapter VII, figs. 121, 123.

burnished tripod bowl and hydria, a grey jar, a bridge-spouted jar, a burnished orange carinated bowl, and a buff jar were also found.

Dinkha B8e burial 5: This site consisted of two separated burials. The main burial was a stonebuilt chamber with the same structure as the previous examples and outside the tomb's western entrance were two skeletons of a young female individual and a child, separated from the stone tomb by a north–west oriented mud-brick wall. The bodies were covered by 22 pieces of pottery and were partly covered by a broken pithos. The bodies were in a flexed position, facing the mud-brick wall to the east, and laid on their right side with a north–south orientation with their head facing south. The mud-brick tomb was furnished with: five bridge-spouted jars,³⁴⁶ two hydrias, a carinated jar, three jars, a bottle, cups, and a carinated bowl. The body of the child was ornated with three iron and one bronze bracelets, and a disintegrated jar, which was directly associated with the child's skeleton. The female individuals were associated with two bowls, containing sheep/goat bones, three bronze armllets, and a pear-shaped stone mace head. The stone tomb contained partial remains of two skeletons, male and female, probably with north–south orientation. The individual bodies were ornated with 21 bronze and iron simple rings, two iron archer's rings, four S-shaped earrings, a bronze coil, four bronze and two iron bracelets, an iron needle, three rolled headpins, a knob head iron pin, two iron pins with bead and reel molded decorations, three iron pins with blunt heads, two iron hooked sticks, with a bone collar (probably part of a spindle), two iron spearheads, and a curved tip iron knife. Some more objects were mentioned between the burial goods but with no specific indications regarding their association with the bodies. They consisted of a jar, a carinated bowl, a disintegrated vessel, a bronze stud, a stone pestle, a bronze coil, an obsidian blade, and a large amount of paste, bronze, glass, and shell beads.

Dinkha B9b burial 9: This was a three-sided brick tomb. Information about this tomb has been collected from a table of Muscarella's 1974 article³⁴⁷ and a picture is obtained from

³⁴⁶ In the report just two examples have been mentioned but from the published picture of the burial at least five examples can be seen.

³⁴⁷ Muscarella 1974: 86, table II.

Levine's article.³⁴⁸ The tomb contained a child with the body flexed and laid out in a north-south orientation, placed on its left side, facing east. Accompanying grave goods were pins, beads, and buttons, and six vessels: a bridge-spouted jar, a storage jar, three jars, and a carinated bowl.

Jar Burials

A total of 20 jar burials were excavated in Dinkha Tepe, one example was discovered during Stein's sounding in 1936, and 19 more by Hasanlu Project in 1966. The burial jars were either large storage containers or large cooking pots. The burial jar mouths were covered with both large sherds and bowl shape lids, and were mostly placed on their sides with north-south or east-west orientations, following the same pattern practiced in the other forms of burials, but few examples were placed in upright, or upside-down positions. Most of the jar burials were used for infants but in some cases no human remains were discovered, while in one of them some adult individual bones were discovered,³⁴⁹ similar to an example excavated by Stein in section II.³⁵⁰ Some of the burials were associated with grave goods, some samples of which will be presented in the following paragraphs.

Dinkha B9a burial 3: This was a jar burial inclined upward, covered with a bowl. Beside the jar burial, a bridge-spouted jar with relief crescent and nipple decoration on both sides, and two small and one large jar were placed. Inside the jar burial were a plain bronze bracelet, two bronze and one iron rings, and many bronze, stone, paste, and shell beads, and a clay button.³⁵¹

Dinkha B10a burial 2: This was a jar burial, lying on its side facing south-east. The only funeral good was a two-handled bottle with a short upright spout.³⁵²

Dinkha 10a burial 3: This was a jar burial facing up, closed with a sherd. A carinated jar was associated with the burial and an infant's tooth was discovered inside the urn.³⁵³

³⁴⁸ Levine 1971: 40, fig. 2 bottom.

³⁴⁹ Muscarella 1974: 75.

³⁵⁰ Stein 1940: 373.

³⁵¹ Muscarella 1974: 48, fig. 50.

³⁵² Muscarella 1974: 48, fig. 49.

³⁵³ Muscarella 1974: 48, fig. 49.

Dinkha B10a Burial 5: This was a jar burial placed on its side with east–west orientation, pointing east. A large sherd was used to close the jar mouth. A carinated and an asymmetrical jar were placed on one side of the burial and a bridge-spouted jar on the other side.

Dinkha Test Trench III, Burial 1: This was a jar burial containing infant bones and a bronze ring. The jar was laid on its side, pointing north-west. A pedestal base bowl a perforation below the rim and a jar were placed close to the jar burial.³⁵⁴

II.5.2. Iron Age II burials of Hasanlu

The Iron Age II mortuary evidence is provided by Stein's findings; Hakimi and Rad's excavations; and Hasanlu Project excavations in Hasanlu IVb.

II.5.2.1 Iron Age II Burials from Stein's Excavation

Based on the material presented by Stein from his excavation on the northern Hasanlu's Low Mound, in the sections viii, ix, xi, xii, xiv, xvi, and xviii a total of nine Iron Age II burials were discovered.³⁵⁵

The first burial was discovered in **section viii**. It was a jar burial containing a child's bone, some tiny bone beads, two bronze bracelets, and several bronze rings.³⁵⁶

In **section ix**, a simple inhumation, containing an adult female individual was discovered. The body lay in an east–west orientation, with the head to the east. The body was associated with large amounts of beads of different shapes and materials and a bunch of iron and bronze tubes attached to several small rings.³⁵⁷ The most characteristic object discovered was an iron triangular tin-sheet plaque decorated with double row of hemispherical bronze studs around its edges and a raised rib along the center, found on the woman's breast.³⁵⁸ The same ornament, but in copper/bronze, was discovered in four more female burials during the

³⁵⁴ Muscarella 1974: 48, fig. 49.

³⁵⁵ Stein 1940: 397–403.

³⁵⁶ Stein 1940: 379.

³⁵⁷ Stein 1940: 398, pl. XXV.

³⁵⁸ Stein 1940: pl. XXV no. 29.

Hasanlu Project expedition in Hasanlu IVb. Cifarelli believes that these objects were armor scales, and that they were quite common in the ancient Near East with parallels from Lachish, Caucasus, and Talesh.³⁵⁹ A hydria, a burnished black bridge-spouted jar with gadrooning decoration were also found.³⁶⁰ In addition, six more small jars, a burnished grey tripod pot with an elaborate basket handle, and a burnished grey phiale mesomphalos containing ashes and fragments of a small animal were part of the grave assemblage.³⁶¹ A bone container with incised dot-and-circle decoration, similar to the example from Dinkha B8a Burial 1, was also discovered in this grave.³⁶²

In **section xi**, a simple inhumation containing a poorly preserved skeleton was discovered. The body was associated with a dark red and grey hydria,³⁶³ a burnished black bridge-spouted jar, with incised vertical lines in the upper part and two raised small hemispherical decoration patterns under the spout;³⁶⁴ two bowls; a carinated beaker in the form of Middle Bronze Age II examples;³⁶⁵ and a pedestal base beaker decorated with four annular bands.³⁶⁶

In **section xii**, a simple inhumation with a very poorly preserved skeleton, probably an adult female individual, was discovered. The body was associated with a jar burial, containing bones of a child. The grave also contained glass, shell, and carnelian beads; a frit cylindrical seal decorated with simple lines; a pyramid shaped, green stone bead; a hemispherical ivory button with a hole in the middle; and two iron spikes. In addition to the grave goods, there was a bowl with swan-head protome handles, decorated with a zone of pearls in relief,³⁶⁷ a grey bridge-spouted jar with two small raised hemispheres under the spout, and an “echinus-shape” pot with a spout.

³⁵⁹ Cifarelli 2018: 94.

³⁶⁰ Stein 1940: 398, pl. XXIV no. 12.

³⁶¹ Stein 1940: 399, pl. XXIV no. 4.

³⁶² Stein 1940: pl. XXV no. 6, also see Muscarella 1974: fig. 45 no. 1047.

³⁶³ Stein 1940: 399, pl. XXX no. 12.

³⁶⁴ Stein 1940: 399, pl. XXIV no. 10.

³⁶⁵ Stein 1940: 399, pl. XXX no. 11.

³⁶⁶ Stein 1940: 399, pl. XXX no. 13.

³⁶⁷ Stein 1940: 400, pl. XXIV no. 8.

In **section xiv**, two graves were discovered. The first one was a simple inhumation of a middle-aged male individual, with extended body, facing east and his arms along the breast. A limited number of grave goods were placed in this grave. A hydria, two small pots, a burnish grey bridge-spouted large jar, and an iron blade. Some sheep/goat bones and gazelle horns were also discovered in this tomb.³⁶⁸

The second burial was also a simple inhumation with flexed body and the head to the north, facing east. Accompanying the second burial were a burnished grey bridged spouted jar containing some sheep bones; a grey bowl; and a tall, “barrel-shaped” jar with handles modelled as an ibex head and gadrooning decoration scored down to the base;³⁶⁹ a small broken jar; and a bronze needle found inside this jar. Two small bronze pins with bead and reel molded decoration, two bronze square spacers with three channels for cords³⁷⁰ were also deposited in the grave.

In **section xvi**, another Iron Age II simple inhumation was discovered. The grave contained probably a female individual with a flexed body, north–south orientation, and head to the north, facing east. A bronze pin with bead and reel molded decoration,³⁷¹ two bronze rings, a bridge-spouted jar, two small “echinus-shape” jars, and a grey small jar with a raised band decoration³⁷² were also placed in this grave.

Section xviii, also held an Iron Age II simple inhumation burial with numerous grave goods. It contained a tall “barrel-shape” jar with handles modelled as ibex heads under the rim; a burnished dark grey bridge-spouted jar with two pairs of “nipple-like” projections on its body; a globular vessel; two small jars; a ring base bowl, and a broken tripod bowl.³⁷³

II.5.2.2 Iron Age II Burials from Hakimi and Rad Expedition

In 1949, Hakimi and Rad excavated an unknown number of graves in Hasanlu Low Mound, opening 22 trenches. In their report, they mentioned a simple inhumation grave in the

³⁶⁸ Stein 1940: 400.

³⁶⁹ Stein 1940: 401, pl. XXIV no. 7.

³⁷⁰ Stein 1940: pl. XXV no. 23, 24.

³⁷¹ Stein 1940: 402, pl. XXV no. 17.

³⁷² Stein 1940: pl. XXX no. 10.

³⁷³ Stein 1940: 403, pls. XXXI nos. 1, 11, XXIV nos. 9, 16.

eastern part of Low Mound, furnished with pedestal base tankard, worm bowls, bronze pins, simple bronze bangles, and bronze blades.³⁷⁴ Based on their explanation and illustration of burial's goods, they belonged to both the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age I. In the published pictures of their excavation materials, except one painted Khabur Ware jar,³⁷⁵ other materials belonged to Iron Age II. They encountered several Iron Age II grave types:

Simple inhumations: This type of burial is also depicted in three pictures. In two of the burials, the individual was buried with flexed bodies, while in the third it was buried in an extended position. The burials were furnished with Iron Age II potteries such as hydrias and bridge-spouted jars. Subsequently, in another simple inhumation, excavated by Rad in 1935, the grave was furnished with pottery, a gold headband, gold beads, bronze rings, and bracelets, a bronze mace head, and an iron quiver containing some arrowheads. It has been mentioned that the grave also contained four horse bones and many sheep and bird bones inside the pottery.

Mud-brick graves: It has not been mentioned whether they were with three walls or fully surrounded by walls. What has been noted is that the walls were built by two or three mud-brick courses. Also, it has been reported that one of the brick tombs contained an individual in a flexed position, lying on the right side, facing east. A spouted jar with gadrooning decoration, a hydria, an iron armlet, and a stone mace were placed in the grave.

Stonebuilt tombs: It has been mentioned that two different forms of stone tombs have been discovered. The first type was built by irregular slabs and smaller stones with 2 m width and almost 1.50 m length and stone-paved floor.

The second type, just by a single example, was a stone-built rectangular hypogeum covered by rectangular slab stones with 5.0 m north-south by 1.30 m east-west and 1.10 m high. It seems that the tomb was robbed in ancient times and most of the burial goods were robbed. The tomb contained remains of 12 individuals and some horse skulls. Broken iron and bronze objects, black spouted jars, jars with handles modelled as ibex heads, horse bits, mace heads, and broken glazed vessels were discovered in this grave.

³⁷⁴ Hakimi and Rad 1950: 19-20.

³⁷⁵ Hakimi and Rad 1950: fig. 27 no. 2.

The last type of burial was characteristic of children and infants. Children were usually buried in big jars, sealed by sherds with no burial goods. For infants, large bowls were used to cover the body laid on the floor.³⁷⁶

There were also varieties of bridge-spouted jars, decorated with solid animal heads as handles, or elaborate decorations on the bridges of the tripod pot stands among the published materials.

II.5.2.3 Iron Age II Burials from Hasanlu Project Expedition

In the modern village of Hasanlu, in a vineyard and orchard north of the Low Mound, approximately 100 graves of period IVb have been excavated under the Hasanlu Project.³⁷⁷ Unfortunately, only a limited number of the burials have been published.

Marcus in her analysis of the Hasanlu pins, published a photograph of a female burial (SK 59) to show the usage and placement of a shroud pin. The same picture has been published by Cifarelli in 2014,³⁷⁸ with more details in 2016,³⁷⁹ and 2017.³⁸⁰ A burial SK111 was published by Rubinson and Marcus in 2005³⁸¹ and three more examples (SK105, 106,³⁸² and 107³⁸³) in two separate publications in 2012 by Rubinson. The graves SK107³⁸⁴, SK481,³⁸⁵ SK488³⁸⁶ and SK105 and 106³⁸⁷ were also published by Cifarelli.

Danti and Cifarelli in their article, "Iron Age II Warrior Burials at Hasanlu Tepe Iran," published especially Iron Age II burials associated with a hypogeum.

³⁷⁶ Hakimi and Rad 1950: 26, figs. 5–6.

³⁷⁷ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 61.

³⁷⁸ Cifarelli 2014: fig. 4.

³⁷⁹ Cifarelli 2016: fig. 5.

³⁸⁰ Cifarelli 2017a: fig. 10.28.

³⁸¹ Rubinson and Marcus 2005: fig. 1.

³⁸² Rubinson 2012a: figs. 2, 10.

³⁸³ Rubinson 2012b: fig. 27.01.

³⁸⁴ Cifarelli 2017a: fig. 10.18.

³⁸⁵ Cifarelli 2017a: fig. 10.29.

³⁸⁶ Cifarelli 2017a: fig. 10.30.

³⁸⁷ Cifarelli 2019: figs. 5–6.

Hasanlu SK481 (UPM65-31-733/65-31-801): This was a simple inhumation burial, containing a mature adult female aged 35–49.³⁸⁸ The information about this grave has been drawn from a picture and other mentions from an article published by Cifarelli.³⁸⁹ The body was in a flexed position, lying on the left side. The grave was furnished by 10 garments and shroud pins,³⁹⁰ an armor scale, rings, beads, two jars, and a bridge-spouted jar.³⁹¹ According to Cifarelli's assertions, this and two more graves of female individuals contained several gold beads, integrated into necklaces, representing 75 percent of the gold in the graves.

Hasanlu SK448 (UPM 65-31-732): This was a simple inhumation of a mature adult female individual,³⁹² resting on the left side with a flexed body. The published picture of the burial shows that it was furnished with an armor scale, two pins, a jar, a bridge-spouted jar, and a bowl.³⁹³ The armor scale is a recurring element, found in four other burials at Hasanlu, always on female bodies, associated with shroud pins. They are decorated with a phallic motif, in relief on the surface of the object. Marcus claims that such a decoration, drawn on an item that could resemble a stylized vulva, could identify these women as elite members, military segment of the female population, especially considering how the concept of war and femininity come together in important figures as Inanna and Ishtar in Mesopotamian culture,³⁹⁴ while Cifarelli does not exclude the fact that they could have had a more apotropaic value, given to or imposed on women by men in the context of a patriarchal society.³⁹⁵

Hasanlu SK59 (UPM60-20-225)³⁹⁶: This was a simple inhumation, containing a female individual, aged 20–25.³⁹⁷ The body was laid on the back but the legs were bent in an unnatural position. Based on the available picture, the body was ornated with two long pins,

³⁸⁸ Selinsky 2009: 211.

³⁸⁹ Cifarelli 2018: fig. 18.

³⁹⁰ Marcus 1994: fig. 4E. Cifarelli 2018: 98.

³⁹¹ Cifarelli 2018: 98, fig. 18.

³⁹² Selinsky 2009: 211.

³⁹³ Cifarelli 2014: fig. 10.

³⁹⁴ Marcus 1996: 51.

³⁹⁵ Cifarelli 2014: 310

³⁹⁶ Selinsky 2009: 209.

³⁹⁷ Rathbun 1972: 39.

which Marcus,³⁹⁸ and Cifarelli believed to be shroud pins.³⁹⁹ The grave was also furnished with two small jars; a bridge-spouted jar with gadrooning decoration; and a large bowl with remains of an animal, probably sheep, or goat.

Hasanlu SK99: A simple inhumation of an adult individual, this grave had the body in a flexed position, oriented north–south with the head pointing north. The left hand lay on the waist on the opposite side, while the right touched the right shoulder. The body was ornated with simple and ridged rings; small sheet metal bands; a riveted stud; and a total of 24 glass, carnelian, and glazed white composite beads. The grave was also accompanied by an iron knife blade in a wooden sheath, bridge-spouted jar, a hydria, and beaker. Some goat/sheep remains were also discovered in the grave.⁴⁰⁰

Hasanlu SK100: This grave had the remains of a teenager individual, resting on the left side in a flexed position with north–east to south–west orientation, head towards the south-west, facing north-west. Based on some grave goods (pins and spindle whorls), Danti and Cifarelli believed that the grave belonged to a woman. The grave contained a bronze needle, fragments of bronze and iron pins, tubular section iron fragments, bronze tubular beads, two small bronze studs, a blue composite triple spacer bead, several composite beads, seven carnelian beads, a perforated engina shell, a small bronze stud, four hemispheroid buttons, and several fragments of a chain.⁴⁰¹ The same type of chains were also found in Bayazid Abad but they were overly corroded and scattered.

Hasanlu SK101: It was a simple inhumation of an adult individual of undetermined sex, with the body flexed and resting on the right side, in a south-east to north-west orientation and the head toward south-east facing north-east. The grave contained a bronze ring, a hydria, and two beakers.⁴⁰²

³⁹⁸ Marcus 1994: fig. 4A–B.

³⁹⁹ Cifarelli 2017a: 223.

⁴⁰⁰ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 90, fig. 14.

⁴⁰¹ The same examples with more varieties have been discovered from Bayazid Abad and based on the evidences from other sites, I believe that they were used as buttons. For more information regarding the buttons see chapter VI.

⁴⁰² Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 95, fig. 16.

Hasanlu SK102: Some burial goods were discovered in this grave but no skeletal remains were associated. Two bridge-spouted jars, a bowl, and the shaft of an iron spearhead were placed in this grave.⁴⁰³

Hasanlu SK103: This was a simple inhumation burial of a disarticulated body of a child, sex undetermined. A group of beads were the only burial goods containing 17 light blue glazed composite beads decorated with grooved decorations.⁴⁰⁴

Hasanlu SK104: This was a simple inhumation of a child with a flexed body resting on the right side, and the grave of another child, laid on the right side in a flexed position, with the head pointing south-east. The location of the grave has not been recorded or drawn. Fragments of a bowl, a small green stone bead, and a bronze ring shape bead were discovered in this grave.⁴⁰⁵

SK105 and SK106T: These were burials in a stonebuilt “hypogeum.” The tomb was formed by two long, stonebuilt, side walls in five courses of stone 60 cm high, running east to west. The end walls seem to have been made of mud bricks.⁴⁰⁶ In the light of the grave goods, Cuyler Young believed that both skeletons were of male individuals. Danti and Cifarelli, based on the quality and quantity of the burial goods, sustained that this hypogeum belonged to elite warriors.⁴⁰⁷

Hasanlu SK105: A poorly preserved skeleton of an adult individual was found in this burial site, with the skull to the north-west, facing downwards. The body was associated with a large number of burial goods, including an iron short sword, two fragmentary copper/bronze sheet belts coiled together, one was a plain bronze sheet with perforated borders to attach a leather lining and the second decorated with four rows of repoussé dots.⁴⁰⁸ A cluster of 24 copper/bronze finger rings, a bronze tweezer, a flat ring of

⁴⁰³ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 97, fig. 17.

⁴⁰⁴ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 97.

⁴⁰⁵ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 97.

⁴⁰⁶ Rubinson 2012a: 107; Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 97–98.

⁴⁰⁷ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 99.

⁴⁰⁸ The same form of belt was excavated during the Hakimi and Rad excavation in Hasanlu. A depicted grave with a single burial shows the body was associate with a metal belt, metal bracelets, a bridge- spouted jar, a hydria, and unknown number of small vessels (Hakimi and Rad 1950: fig. 13 no. 2). The metal belt, with its raised dots decoration, will later appear in more elaborated variants in Urartian culture. Rubinson thesis in this

copper/bronze, a group of beads, and an iron knife blade with curved tip were found in the grave. In addition, a copper/bronze phiale, three copper/bronze bowl, beaded cast copper/bronze anklets, a blue composite flattened biconical bead with incised lines radiating from the perforation, a flat sheet copper/bronze ring, and tiny copper/bronze studs in three sizes, were also found. The iron knife blade is the same as the examples from Bayazid Abad⁴⁰⁹ as well as the biconical beads.⁴¹⁰

Hasanlu Sk106: An adult individual⁴¹¹ with a disarticulated body laid in an east–west orientation was found in this grave. The skull pointed towards the west, lying on the left side, facing north. Three iron bead casted anklets; a cylinder seal with bronze end caps and a bronze pin in perforation;⁴¹² a bead casted bronze ring; a copper/bronze phiale mesomphalos; a red-slipped bowl, with a loop handle contained an iron knife blade; and two bridge-spouted jars, were associated with this burial.

Hasanlu SK107(UPM60-20-233): This was a simple inhumation, containing a male individual aged 35–49,⁴¹³ buried under the northern wall of the hypogeum, lying on the back in an east–west orientation, with the head to the west, facing south with flexed legs.⁴¹⁴ Rubinson believes that this burial cannot be older than Hasanlu IVb, as it has other Hasanlu IVb burials stratified above it, and belonged to a time before the end of the ninth century.⁴¹⁵ Based on the ample burial goods in SK107 grave, Danti and Cifarelli are of the opinion that it belonged to an individual of high status and other burials in the area were created around and atop this grave.⁴¹⁶ Bronze and iron socketed spearheads, an iron short sword, an iron armband, three copper beads, two bronze rings, carnelian beads, and a perforated snail were placed in the grave along with a bronze belt that had three rows of repoussé decoration featuring around a rectangular field in the center, with a single horizontal line of punched

regard is that such an object would be an expression of a pre-Urartian tradition, common, with its variations, in the southern Caucasus (Rubinson 2012a).

⁴⁰⁹ For more information regarding the knife blades, see chapter VII.

⁴¹⁰ See chapter VI, fig. 110 no. 1.

⁴¹¹ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 102, fig. 19.

⁴¹² Marcus 1996: 131 no. 91, pl. 27.

⁴¹³ Selinsky 2009: 209.

⁴¹⁴ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 104, fig. 20.

⁴¹⁵ Rubinson 2012b: 394.

⁴¹⁶ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 104.

dots.⁴¹⁷ In addition to these, the grave contained a bridge-spouted jar, a mug, a large jar, and a holemouth cup.

Hasanlu SK108: This grave contained no skeletal remains but some burial goods. A bridge-spouted jar, a mug, and two socketed iron spearheads were discovered here.

Hasanlu SK109: This was a simple inhumation of a child with north-west to south-east orientation, with the head to the south-east, facing upwards, with legs flexed to the right. The grave contained a pointed base cup, a small jar, a large beaker, and a hydria.⁴¹⁸

Hasanlu SK110: This was a simple inhumation of an adult individual, oriented north-west to south-east, and body flexed on the right side, facing north. No grave goods were discovered.⁴¹⁹

Hasanlu SK111: This was a simple inhumation containing an adult. The body was in a flexed position on the left side, with the head to the south-east facing south, laid in a north-west to south-east orientation.⁴²⁰ Accompanying the burial was a copper/bronze phiale, two heavily corroded iron objects, probable mace heads, iron blade fragment, bronze pins, a bronze needle, an iron blade, beads varying in different types and materials (carnelian short barrel beads, a white composite bead, a brown polished bead, a greystone bead, a copper bronze tube, “several” small shells, two fluted composite beads, and a cuboid pyrite bead), a circle and dot incised bone spindle whorl, copper/bronze armlets consisting of four separate rings with flattened ends,⁴²¹ two copper/bronze rings.

Hasanlu SK493a (UPM65-31-792a): This was a simple inhumation of a young adult male,⁴²² with the richest burial goods among the Period IVb burials.⁴²³ Two bridge-spouted jars, an elaborate bronze belt with repoussé animals kneeling and flanking,⁴²⁴ a bronze phiale

⁴¹⁷Muscarella 1988: 47–48; Marcus 1995: 2497, fig. 15A; Rubinson 2012b: 396; Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 82, 108; Cifarelli, Castelluccia and Dan 2018: fig. 4E.

⁴¹⁸Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 108–110, fig. 109.

⁴¹⁹Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 111.

⁴²⁰Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 111, fig. 23.

⁴²¹Rubinson and Marcuse described this form of bracelets with snakehead terminals, comparable to the examples from southern Caucasus (Rubinson and Marcus 2005: 136).

⁴²²Rathbun 1972: 67, 82; Selinsky 2009: 214.

⁴²³Cifarelli, Castelluccia and Dan 2018: 551.

⁴²⁴de Schauensee 1988: 52, figs. 36–37; Danti and Cifarelli 2015: fig. 26: M; Cifarelli, Castelluccia and Dan 2018: 551, fig. 12: M. The belt seems to combine the imagery of the Syro-Mesopotamian and Elamite worlds with a technique attested at Marlik and South Caucasus (Cifarelli, Castelluccia and Dan 2018: 554).

mesomphalos, three simple bronze bowl, bridge-spouted jars, two short swords, a bronze needle, a knobbed bronze mace head, two socketed iron spearheads, four bronze bracelets or armlets, and 24 beads (14 small carnelian beads, 3 larger carnelian beads, 5 small copper/bronze disk beads, a single glass “eye” bead, and a composite bead).⁴²⁵

Hasanlu SK491 (UPM 65-31-764/65-31-803): This was a simple inhumation of a young adult male,⁴²⁶ laid in a south-east to north-west orientation, with the head towards the south-east on the left side, facing south-west, and extended body. The grave was furnished with a buff jar with dimple lugs, a broken carinated bowl, and a wooden handle iron knife blade with three rivets. Danti and Cifarelli observing the burial goods concluded that the grave dated to late IV–III.⁴²⁷

Hasanlu SK492 (UPM65-313-767): This was a simple inhumation, containing an infant,⁴²⁸ in an east–west orientation, head pointed east, facing north, with extended body. A necklace was the only grave good of this burial.⁴²⁹

Hasanlu SK495 (UPM 65-31-762): This grave had a simple inhumation of a subadult individual,⁴³⁰ with flexed legs and extended hands, laid on the left side, with the head pointing north, and facing east. The body was ornated with a bronze shroud pin, with bead-and-reel decoration,⁴³¹ 200 beads, mostly small white disks, four glass spherical beads and a white composite broken cylinder bead with chevron decoration, two bronze barrel beads, and a shell bead. In addition, a bridge-spouted jar, resting on a tripod stand, a carinated bowl, and a small jar were also found here.⁴³²

⁴²⁵ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 112–21.

⁴²⁶ Selinsky 2009: 213.

⁴²⁷ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 121, fig. 27.

⁴²⁸ Selinsky 2009: 213.

⁴²⁹ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 123.

⁴³⁰ Selinsky 2009: 213.

⁴³¹ Marcus (1994) did actually refer to the pin as 5, fig. 4C, although, based on the pictures of the materials published by Danti and Cifarelli, it should have been 5, fig. 4E.

⁴³² Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 123, fig. 29.

Hasanlu SK496 (UPM 65-31-756): This was a simple inhumation of a middle-aged male,⁴³³ in an east–west orientation, resting on the left side, in a tightly flexed position, with the head toward the west, facing north. The only grave good was a small bronze ring.⁴³⁴

Hasanlu SK 497 (UPM 65-31-754): A simple inhumation containing an old male individual⁴³⁵ with north-west to south-east orientation with the head toward south-east facing north-east. The skeleton lays on its back facing right, with flexed legs resting to the right. The grave contained seven beads of carnelian, glass, and bronze. Three small jars, a larger ovoid jar, a bowl with loop handle a bridge-spouted jar, a storage jar, and a pile of animal bones were also deposited in this grave.⁴³⁶

Hasanlu SK498 (UPM65-31-760): It was a simple inhumation containing a child of undetermined sex.⁴³⁷ The body was totally disturbed and scattered. The body accompanied by small jars, a small bottle with a pierced rim, a bridge-spouted jar, a loop handled carinated bowl, and a jar with a characteristic “stepped-out” rim.⁴³⁸

Hasanlu SK499 (UPM65-31-747): This was a simple inhumation of an adult male individual,⁴³⁹ oriented north-west to south-east, with the head toward south. The head and the body were lying on the back with the legs flexed to the right. The grave contained goods including a red MBW bag-shaped jar with strap, a jar with vertical handles and appliqué horn shape decorations, a broken beaker, and a carinated bowl.⁴⁴⁰

II.5.2.4. Iron Age II burials of Haftavân Tepe

According to studies, inhabitants of Haftavân IV buried their dead around the mound. So far, eastern and western parts of the mound have been excavated and 25 graves discovered. Of

⁴³³ Selinsky 2009: 213.

⁴³⁴ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 125, fig. 30.

⁴³⁵ Selinsky 2009: 212.

⁴³⁶ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 125–26, fig. 31.

⁴³⁷ Selinsky 2009: 212.

⁴³⁸ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 127, fig. 32.

⁴³⁹ Selinsky 2009: 212.

⁴⁴⁰ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 127–128, fig. 33.

these, 11 graves were discovered in area A, eight graves from area B, and six graves from area C.⁴⁴¹

Burial 3⁴⁴² and 5⁴⁴³ were the richest graves of the site and they have been presented in the excavation report with details, but the other burials were presented with little information. In the report of the 1968 expedition, some piecemeal details also have been given about one more burial, called burial no. 1.⁴⁴⁴ Burney recorded a cremation jar, likely dating to this period with burned human bones and rodent remains.⁴⁴⁵

Burial 3: This was a simple inhumation of a female child of 7–8 years. The body was in a flexed position, resting on the left side and was oriented west to east, with the head to the east, facing south. A small slab of stone was lying close to the back of the head. The body was ornated with a bronze band on her head, which was apparently affixed to a fabric skullcap together with carnelian and mollusc shell beads, four bronze bracelets, two heavy anklets, S shaped earrings, two roll headed bronze pins, different size studs, seven strings of brown, green, and yellow glass and frit beads, a cylinder seal (probably Mitannian Common Style),⁴⁴⁶ and a bridge-spouted jar.⁴⁴⁷ In the grave, remains of a sheep were also discovered.

Burial 5⁴⁴⁸: This was also a simple inhumation of a female child, 7–8 years old. The body was in a flexed position, resting on the left side, and was oriented north to south, with the head toward the north, facing east. The grave was accompanied by a two-handled bowl, containing remains of a small sheep, a bowl, and a handled jar. The same headdress as the one from burial 3 has also been discovered, decorated with small studs, six tassels, and varieties of beads applied on the vanished skullcap. In addition to these, three simple bronze

⁴⁴¹ Tala'I and Aliyari 2009: 90.

⁴⁴² Burney 1972: 135, fig. 8, pl. IIIa, IVa–b.

⁴⁴³ Burney 1972: 136, fig. 9, pl. IVc, IVd, Va, Vb; Burney 1970: fig. 8 no. 2.

⁴⁴⁴ Burney 1970: 168, fig. 7 and fig. 8 no. 5.

⁴⁴⁵ Burney 1970: 177, fig. 8 no.3.

⁴⁴⁶ Burney mentioned the presence of a Mitannian seal, centuries older than the level in which it was found (Burney 1975: 135, pl. IVb), and the same case occurred with Middle Assyrian seals found in Hasanlu VIb. It can be explained if we consider that these items, given their social and ritual value, would be passed down the generations.

⁴⁴⁷ Burney 1970: 168, fig. 8 no. 2.

⁴⁴⁸ Burney 1975: 135, fig. 9, pls. IVc–Va.

pins, at least four strings of carnelian, blue frit and white beads, a bronze ring, iron bracelets, and S-shaped earrings were placed in the grave.

Burial 1: This was a simple pit inhumation of an infant in a flexed position, facing upward in a south–north orientation, and the head to the south. The body was ornated with a bronze bracelet, bronze rings, S-shaped bronze earrings, and a necklace consisting of bronze, frit, and carnelian beads.⁴⁴⁹

Grave no. 5: It was a simple inhumation of an adult female individual in a flexed position, in an east–west orientation, and the head turned toward east. The grave was furnished with a jar, a bowl, 15 bronze tassel-shaped pendants, two iron pins, a necklace of carnelian beads, a necklace of blue frit beads, and a long bronze chain.⁴⁵⁰

II.5.2.5. The Iron Age II burial at Kordlar Tepe

Grave no. 7: This was one of the richest and important burials of Kordlar Tepe and was discovered on the north-eastern side of “Hd I” fortress in layer IIa. The burial was a disturbed simple inhumation containing a young female adult, in an east–west orientation, resting on the left side. Three bronze pins with beads and reel molded decorations; five rings, four bronze and one iron; one S-shaped earring; and an iron bangle ornated the body.⁴⁵¹

II.5.2.6. Overview of Iron Age II mortuary practices

The burials of this period are characterized by a richness of burial goods, both in quantity and value. Different kind of burial practices have been used during this period: hypogeum and infant bowl burials (found only in Hasanlu), jar burials, (present in Hasanlu, Haftavân, and Dinkha), stone cists, brick tombs (used in Hasanlu and Dinkha), and simple inhumations (attested in the whole area). The jar burials at Hasanlu and Dinkha were mostly used for infants, but some of the exemplars from Dinkha have been reported as containing adult bone

⁴⁴⁹ Burney 1970: 168, fig. 7 top, fig. 8 no. 5.

⁴⁵⁰ Burney 1970: 168, fig. 7 middle, pl. IV a–d; Burney and Lang 1971: fig. 45.

⁴⁵¹ Lippert 1979: 132, pl. 15.

fragments;⁴⁵² the same applies to the only urn of this kind found at Haftavân. Regarding the stonebuilt cists, with walls built from flat slabs of stones, similar to what was in use during Middle Bronze Age III and Late Bronze Age in Geoy Tepe, it has to be noted that their grave goods are among the richest burials in the area.

Evidence for faunal assemblage in mortuary contexts of this period are represented by the remains of food offerings, bone fragments of sheep or goat mostly placed in the burial vessels. Besides the sheep and goat bones, harnesses sometimes accompanied by horse skeletal remains were discovered in some of Hasanlu and Dinkha graves. These particular burials were also richly adorned with precious burial goods and weapons, identifying a highly-considered social class of equestrian warriors, mostly male, probably raised in importance as a consequence of the continuous raids by Assyria and Urartu. Despite the hostilities, there was continuous trade and commerce between the three nations, with strong influences of Assyria and Urartu on the Hubuškian culture, as testified by the design of weapons, especially belts found in the graves.

Presence of elaborated funerary vessels, the use of which was limited to specific rituals executed on the occasion of inhumation, is characteristic of the Iron Age II tombs of the area. The assemblages comprise bridge-spouted jars, sometimes accompanied by pot stands, large and deep pots, hydrias, teapots, a wide array of small jars, and bowls with tab handles. Mostly, they present animal-headed protome handles, solid and looped. The pot stands have sometimes hoof-like feet.

Iron Age II witnesses the introduction of many new entries in the field of metal objects, such as bowls, pins, and other forms of ornaments.

II.6. Overview of the mortuary practices of western part of Lake Urmia during the Second and the First Millenniums BC

In this chapter, burial practices from five periods in the western part of Lake Urmia, from Middle Bronze Age II to Iron Age II, have been studied. The results show strong continuous

⁴⁵² The same type of jar burial (a cremation burial) recently is excavated from Dinka, registered as “C5.3.1 Grave 101”. A carinated jar covered by a carinated bowl, “contained a dark brown soil in which several fragments of human and animal bones were found” (Radner, Kreppner and Squitieri 2020: 72–74, fig. C37).

funeral practices, exemplified by the Bayazid Abad Hypogeum, and considerable variability in grave structures during the second half of the second millennium BC to the first half of the first millennium BC. In the following paragraphs, the different burial categories are listed in order to illustrate their structures and the time span of their usage.

Simple inhumations were attested with two categories: the first group is simple inhumation covered by earth which was the predominant kind of burial, used continuously from Middle Bronze Age II to Iron Age II. During the ages, this type of burial has been used for both rich and poor members of society. The second group is a simple inhumation covered by slab stones or mud-bricks. The burials covered by slab stones were attested during Middle Bronze Age II in Hasanlu with three examples and in Iron Age I only by one example.

Simple inhumation covered by large mud-brick wall is attested just in Middle Bronze Age II by one example in Stein's Section IV at Dinkha.

Stonebuilt cists: This type of grave began to be used from Middle Bronze Age II in Dinkha and Hasanlu and have been used continuously till Iron Age II. They were mostly used for multiple burials and seem to be used to bury the richest members of society. During the Middle Bronze Age III, there were a number of changes in the structure of these kinds of tombs. Instead of using just crushed stones to build tomb walls, large stone slabs were used to build one or two sides of the tombs. Examples include one site from Late Bronze Age at Geoy Tepe and several from Iron Age II in Dinkha Tepe.⁴⁵³

Mud-brick tombs are attested in two forms. The first type consists of a single wall alongside the body and was just attested by an example (B10b Burial 10) at Iron Age I in Dinkha Tepe. The second type comprised graves with three walls, containing a long wall

⁴⁵³ During archaeological excavations in 1979–85 carried out in Ordubad district of Nakhichevan, Gilan several cemeteries named Mardangol, Munjuglutepe, Khali-Keshan, Dalmatepe were excavated, near the villages of Sabir-Diza and Kalantar, currently called Kharaba. The excavators dated the tombs to the first half of the first millennium BC (Aslanov, Ibragimov and Kashkay, 2002: 3). My study on the material of the tombs brought me to a different conclusion: the cemeteries were in fact used for a long period from Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age II. The tomb structures and materials show strong connection to the materials of Geoy Tepe. In all of the mentioned cemeteries crushed stones were used to build the tomb walls during ages (Middle Bronze Age–Iron Age II). In my point of view based on the published material and evidences, the southern Caucasus is the origin of this form of tomb structure and were used by people of western side of Lake Urmia and then by people in southern part of Lake Urmia.

against the body with two projections, predominant during Late Bronze Age, Iron Age I, and II in Hasanlu and Dinkha Tepe.

Hypogeum: Before the discovery of Bayazid Abad tomb, the most ancient hypogeum were two examples of modest size dated to Iron Age II from Hasanlu. One was excavated by Hakimi and Rad with 12 buried individuals associated with horse skeletons, ceramics, and weapons, and another one was excavated during the Hasanlu Project expedition. It contained two warrior bodies. So far, the Bayazid Abad example is the most ancient hypogeum in the area, unique for period of usage (Middle Bronze Age II till Iron Age II), size, structure, number of burials, and burial goods.

Jar and bowl burials: the earliest jar burials of the region were discovered from Early Period VIB at Haftavân Tepe on the low mound in Y2 Phase 2, with two examples; both were child burials sealed by stones.⁴⁵⁴ The latest examples, dated to Iron Age II, were excavated in Hasanlu, Dinkha, and Haftavân. Except for a few examples, containing adult bone fragments, jar burials were mostly used for infants and children. The bowl burials were reported exclusively at Hasanlu by Hakimi and Rad that were used to cover infant bodies.

Regarding the rituals required to bury the bodies, not much can be said. In none of the studied periods, has it been possible to trace any special order about the orientation of the burials. The skeletons were buried in varied positions and no special rule was applied in the execution of the burials.

Multiple burials are well attested in the Hasanlu, Dinkha, and Geoy Tepe from Middle Bronze Age II to Iron Age II and they are mostly accompanied by a rich funerary inventory. Both, simple pit inhumation and stone cists were used for the burial of several individuals.

According to the materials found in the tombs, on the western side of Lake Urmia, the people buried in these graves had died approximately in the same period, except the one from Geoy Tepe tomb K, which presents two-layer stratigraphy. In the lower layer, burial goods dated Early Late Bronze Age have been found, while the upper layer belongs to Later Late Bronze Age.

⁴⁵⁴ Edwards 1983: 62, figs. 35, 40.

In the same area, the Bayazid Abad tomb constitutes a notable anomaly in burial trends, if compared to the neighbouring sites. This grave shows in fact traces of *longue durée* use, spanning from Middle Bronze Age II to Iron Age II. The coexistence of these two different customs testifies how common multiple burials in the area were independent of the duration of their use.

Along with buried bodies, sheep and goat bones have also been found as food offerings, which indicates that their inclusion was an integral part of funerary performance. Starting with Iron Age II, horses also became part of offerings along with other animals, which were used for their meat. The presence of horses may be due to a personal connection with the deceased or for more practical use, such as transportation or war. The animal bones attest to the presence of animals as whole exemplars, or as *pars pro toto*, in the form of single bones.

Offerings were placed in graves to ornate the body of the dead individual; to show their social status and personality; to fulfill a ritual function; or to decorate the enclosed space itself. The most important burial goods in the graves are potteries. The major part has been discovered in the graves, but not so much in settlements, indicating that they were used mostly in ritual ceremonies by the mourning community during the burial process. Considering the predominance of vessels aimed at the conservation and consumption of beverages, it is possible to infer the special role that the act of drinking occupied in North-Western Iran throughout the ages. Also, taking into consideration the tombs for which the sex of the buried person is known, no gender discriminatory practices have been attested. Male and female individuals were buried with the same quality and quantity of burial goods and similar grave structures. The only relevant difference was in relation to the social status of the deceased, which had little to do with gender hierarchy.

Chapter III - Comparative Material Assemblages

The delineation of the geographic distribution of material culture in North-Western Iran is based on an examination of those sites from which comparable material has been discovered and reported. The relevant material and phases from these sites are briefly characterized in the following pages. This introduction begins to define the boundaries of the material distribution in North-Western Iran.

III.1. Hasanlu Tepe

Hasanlu is located in north-eastern Naghada, 11 km from the southern shore of Lake Urmia. The site consists of a central high Tepe, 25 m high and 200 m in diameter (this large Tepe is also called the Citadel Mound), and a smaller Tepe 8 m high and the largest diameter of about 600 m (the low surrounding area as the “Outer Town”). During the Iron Age, it seems that the outer city was used as a cemetery. Graves from this era have been excavated on this site.⁴⁵⁵ The first recorded excavations at Hasanlu were conducted in 1934–35 on the north-eastern High Mound by M. Rad and M. Farhadi of the Office of the Tobacco Monopoly in Naqadeh under a commercial excavation permit.⁴⁵⁶ Sir M. Aurel Stein was the first to scientifically excavate the site for six days in 1936.⁴⁵⁷ Ali Hakemi and Mahmud Rad resumed commercial excavations on the eastern Low Mound in 1947 and 1949 mainly opening a number of graves.⁴⁵⁸ Systematic and extensive excavations were carried out over 10 seasons between 1956 and 1974 by a team from the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania and the Metropolitan Museum of Art directed by Robert H. Dyson, Jr.⁴⁵⁹ The objective of this project was to reconstruct the history of the valleys of Ušnu-Naghada, by

⁴⁵⁵ Dyson 1989b: 107–108.

⁴⁵⁶ Ghirshman 1939:78–79, 253–54, pl. C.

⁴⁵⁷ Stein 1940.

⁴⁵⁸ Hakemi and Rad 1950.

⁴⁵⁹ Muscarella 2006: 69.

extensive drilling in some historically relevant locations of the region, especially the ones showing traces of prehistoric settlements. According to Dyson's excavation, altogether 10 periods—labeled Hasanlu I–X, from latest to earliest—were defined in the Hasanlu sequence.⁴⁶⁰ The courses in this document cover layers VI to II, so I will review them based on Danti's new study.

The Middle Bronze Age I (2100–1900 BC): This period corresponds to Hasanlu VIc as defined by Danti. No trace has been found of painted wares, and the ceramics appear to have a greenish-buff colour. The most typical decoration on the wares is *applique*. Especially relevant are rope designs and horizontal ribs, though punctuated designs and comb incisions in horizontal bands and wavy lines are also worth mentioning. The most common shapes are carinated bowls, large barrel forms, vats with horizontal ribs, and ledge or overhanging rims. The ceramic style and forms seem to be connected to those from northern Mesopotamia of the late third and early second millennium BC.⁴⁶¹

The Middle Bronze Age II (1900–1600 BC): During this period, Khabur Ware makes its first appearance and its production faces decline during the seventeenth century BC, the Terminal Middle Bronze Age II, contemporary to the development of the Early MBW horizon.⁴⁶²

The Middle Bronze Age III (1600–1450 BC): The Hasanlu VIa subperiod was created by Danti to classify some culturally relevant assemblages found on the High Mound and in the graves from the Low Mound at Hasanlu, which used to be considered as the proof of a hiatus in the occupational sequence, or of a rapid and radical substitution of the culture and the populace of the area, as if it was abandoned and immediately occupied by someone else. Hasanlu VIa actually testifies the moment of transition to the Early MBW Horizon and this ware, especially the polychrome painted Urmia Ware, can be used as a marker for the subperiod in north-west Iran.⁴⁶³

Late Bronze Age (1450–1250 BC): Thanks to Danti's studies, it has been shown how Hasanlu V is not part of the Iron Age, as it was previously believed, but should be placed in

⁴⁶⁰ Viggot and Dyson 1992: 17.

⁴⁶¹ Danti 2013a: 13.

⁴⁶² Danti 2013a: 13.

⁴⁶³ Danti 2013a: 13–14.

the Late Bronze Age. During this time period, Early MBW becomes the major ceramic ware in the southern Lake Urmia Basin and in surrounding regions.⁴⁶⁴

Iron Age I (1250–1050 BC): Danti's Hasanlu IVc, or Early Iron Age, used to be classified as Dyson's Hasanlu V/Iron Age I and Young's Early WGW Horizon. Danti labels the Iron Age I ceramic assemblage as Middle MBW. Iron Age I witnessed the appearance and growth of citadel settlements in the Lake Urmia region.⁴⁶⁵ The end of Hasanlu IVc is marked by a fire and the destruction of major buildings on the High Mound and the Low Mound.⁴⁶⁶

Iron Age II (1050–800 BC): The Iron Age II is what used to be known as Young's Late WGW Horizon.⁴⁶⁷ In North-Western Iran, it is represented by Hasanlu IVb. This site can be divided into a fortified citadel (the High Mound) and a Lower Town (the Low Mound); other areas were used as cemeteries.⁴⁶⁸ The citadel is the best-known Iron Age II settlement of North-Western Iran. Approximately 100 Iron Age II graves were excavated at Hasanlu's Low Mound.

III.2. Dinkha Tepe

Dinkha Tepe is located in West Azerbaijan province, 6 km south-east of the city of Uşnu and in the south-western corner of the Urmia Basin. The Urmia Basin is irrigated with rivers that originate from the surrounding perimeter heights, and the areas around this lake are considered to be the most fertile agricultural lands in Iran. Dinkha Tepe is on the eastern part of one of these rivers, called Gadar River which originates from the highest part of the Zagros chain. This river flows down the mountain slopes into the valley plains divided into two parts. The western part is Uşnu, located in the Zagros Mountains. The eastern part is Naghada, which is located on the southern coast of Urmia Lake. Dinkha Tepe is considered to be the largest Tepe in the western part, and its counterpart is in the eastern part of Hasanlu, 25 km east of the Dinkha Tepe. The intersection of the Dare Sur Mountain with the Gadar River (8.5

⁴⁶⁴ Danti 2013a: 15.

⁴⁶⁵ Danti 2013a: 17.

⁴⁶⁶ Danti 2011.

⁴⁶⁷ Young 1965.

⁴⁶⁸ Danti 2013a: 19.

km east of Dinkha Tepe) is considered as the boundary line between Ušnu and Naghada. The maximum area of the site is approximately 400 sq m and it is almost 20 m high.⁴⁶⁹

The name of this site also refers to the presence of a significant Christian population since the tenth century onwards, also supported by clear historical evidence. According to written documents, one of the Christians of the Church of the Assyrians built the Church of Sergius and Bakius in 958 AD in Malatya, and in 1271 AD, the Archdiocese of Assyria was transferred to Ušnuveh by the order of the Nestorian Catholic.⁴⁷⁰ The regions of Ušnuveh and Naghada are included among the Nestorian dioceses.⁴⁷¹ Many of the names of local places, despite their Aramaic and Syriac background, reflect the presence of the Christian population that inhabited them.⁴⁷²

As mentioned earlier, the six days of excavations undertaken by Stein in 1936 were the first recorded excavations at Dinkha Tepe, during which he was able to recover the remains of the Bronze Age at this site.⁴⁷³ Wider excavations were conducted by an American delegation (the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania and the Metropolitan Museum of Art) and the Archaeological service of Iran directed by Muscarella during the years 1966 and 1988.⁴⁷⁴ The goal of the excavation of at Dinkha Tepe was to analyze the shreds of evidence from the early second millennium BC layer, found under the burnt-up area of Hasanlu.⁴⁷⁵ As a result of the excavations in this area, four cultural periods were identified, numbered from top to bottom layers. Prior to Danti's review, layer I was attributed to the Islamic period, layer 2 to Iron Age III, layer 3 to Iron Age I, and layer 4 to the Bronze Age. But in Danti's review, the layout of the layers changed and Dinkha IV Phase D shows the Terminal Middle Bronze Age II settlement, which marks the end of the presence of Khabur Ware in Ušnu-Naghada, with sharply diminishing amounts of annular band-

⁴⁶⁹ Hamlin 1974: 125.

⁴⁷⁰ Minorsky 1954.

⁴⁷¹ Rawlinson 1840; Minorsky 1954.

⁴⁷² The name of the Dinkha Tepe comes from Syriac's word "Denkha" (ܕܢܚܗ) the meaning of "rising" (for example, the sun) "appearing", "irradiance" Or "apparent." This term is used in religious texts to mean "manifestation and appearance", for example, in the feast of "Christ's manifestation" (Payne Smith 1903 after Pizzorno 2009: 1).

⁴⁷³ Stein 1940: 367.

⁴⁷⁴ Muscarella 1968, 1974; Hamlin 1971, 1974.

⁴⁷⁵ Stein 1940; Muscarella 1968; Muscarella and Dyson 1969; Dyson 1979.

painted buff ware and plain buff ware.⁴⁷⁶ Kramer divided Dinkha IV into four phases, A–D.⁴⁷⁷ Layer IV was the oldest settlement in Dinkha, which was immediately below the Iron Age cemetery.⁴⁷⁸ The remains of this cultural period are found in two parts of the site. The first part is to the north of the Tepe and the second is near the center of the Tepe, which contains the oldest settlement.⁴⁷⁹ Dinkha was first settled around the second millennium BC. This settlement was defended by a brick wall, and had been destroyed by a fire and abandoned around 1650 BC.⁴⁸⁰

Layer III is now known as Late Bronze Age and compared with Hasanlu V. It is marked with “worm bowls,” bridgeless spouted jars, and Pedestal-base cups.⁴⁸¹ Layer II has also been reviewed as Iron Age II and is associated with bridge-spouted vessels, carinated mugs, Tripod bowls, and wares often sporting animal-head lugs and handles.⁴⁸²

III.3. Kordlar Tepe

This site is located to the west of Lake Urmia, 13 km from the city of Urmia. The diameter of the Tepe is 225 m and it is about 16 m in height. In 1971–78, an Austrian team conducted excavations at Kordlar Tepe under the supervision of Andreas Lippert.⁴⁸³ From a chronological point of view, it shows occupation fairly continuously from at least the mid-second millennium BC (Kordlar V) to the first millennium BC. However, little is known of Kordlar V since it was revealed only in small soundings, which Edwards dated to a period somewhere in the Middle Bronze Age III–early Late Bronze Age, citing similarities to materials recovered at Dinkha.⁴⁸⁴ Only the top layers, which are contemporary to Hasanlu V and IV, have been excavated. Four upper layers were identified in the excavated area. Periods IV and III relate to the Iron Age I and Period II is attributed by the excavator to 1100 BC.⁴⁸⁵

⁴⁷⁶ Danti 2013a: 14–15.

⁴⁷⁷ Hamlin 1971: 256–57.

⁴⁷⁸ Dyson 1968b: 21.

⁴⁷⁹ Muscarella 1968: 195.

⁴⁸⁰ Dyson 1968b: 21.

⁴⁸¹ Danti 2013a: 42.

⁴⁸² Danti 2013a: 310.

⁴⁸³ Dorner, Kromer, and Lippert 1974; Ehringhaus 1994; Heinsch 2004; Lippert 1975, 1977, 1978, 1979.

⁴⁸⁴ Edwards 1986: 64.

⁴⁸⁵ Lippert 1976: 84.

In his review on the material of this site, Danti suggests a different dating, proposing Late Bronze Age and Iron Age I as more suitable periods for Kordlar IV and III,⁴⁸⁶ dating it from late Hasanlu V and IVc by radiocarbon and dendrochronology,⁴⁸⁷ and Iron Age II for Kordlar II and I.⁴⁸⁸ In the layer IV, a fortified building surrounded by towers on the four corners was discovered. Excavations were also conducted on a 8 m x 8 m hall in the middle of and the site, which revealed that it was continuously modified and rebuilt through the Iron Age II (Kordlar IIa-I). The building sequence at Kordlar shows repeated destructions by fire with some human casualties. The rebuilt versions of the structure are progressively more fortified, probably in response to external threats or repurposing by a new authority.

The majority of the Kordlar IV ceramic assemblages were undecorated and handmade. In some cases, these potteries are burnished, but most of the potteries are not well fired and their fabrics are buff and grey. Most Kordlar ceramic shapes are pedestal-base tankards, cups, holemouth jars, with short spouts and bowls.⁴⁸⁹

III.4. Geoy Tepe

Geoy Tepe is located 7 km to the south of Urmia, and its excavations were conducted in 1948 by Burton-Brown.⁴⁹⁰ However, this site had been looted or commercially excavated before by Erap,⁴⁹¹ and some of those artefacts that later reached major museum collections probably came from Middle-Late Bronze and Early Iron Age tombs.⁴⁹² Through Erap's work, four burials were recovered and Stein later had conducted a surface survey of this site and collected some sherds.⁴⁹³ In 1948, Burton-Brown conducted an excavation in this site for seven weeks opening eight trenches, none of which reached sterile soil. According to the excavations, seven periods were identified, named alphabetically from top to bottom.⁴⁹⁴ The oldest period of establishment was identified as N, and Pisdeli occupations were

⁴⁸⁶ Danti 2013a: 17.

⁴⁸⁷ Ehringhaus 1994: 58-59.

⁴⁸⁸ Danti 2013a: 17.

⁴⁸⁹ Lippert 1979: 134-153.

⁴⁹⁰ Burton-Brown 1951.

⁴⁹¹ Burton-Brown 1951: 5-6.

⁴⁹² Danti 2013a: 7.

⁴⁹³ Sagona 1984: 6.

⁴⁹⁴ Burton-Brown 1951.

documented. The layer N dates back to the early fourth millennium BC and layer M to the end of the fourth millennium.⁴⁹⁵ The K period is divided into three smaller subperiods, K1, K2, and K3, based on ceramic data and stratigraphic changes.⁴⁹⁶ The pottery of the period K is the most complete specimen of pottery data from Early Trans-Caucasian in Azerbaijan.⁴⁹⁷

Geoy G: The fabric of the ceramic of this period is buff, with rare decorations, limited to occasional applique or incision. The excavator has suggested the third millennium BC, comparing the pottery of this period with other sites.⁴⁹⁸

Geoy D: The pottery of this period is red and grey and polychrome painted wares (Urmia Ware). The division of Geoy D into an earlier and later subperiod stems from an analysis conducted by Dyson.⁴⁹⁹ The distinction is necessitated due to the mixing of the two periods, which resulted from the digging of arbitrary levels based on absolute elevations through sloping deposits in Pit [Operation] IV.⁵⁰⁰ In Pit III, a deposit containing Urmia Ware and early MBW sealed stonebuilt tombs initially dated to Geoy Tepe D (Middle Bronze Age II).⁵⁰¹

Geoy C: The pottery of this period is in three groups: monochrome, two-colour, and polychrome, and new ceramic forms have also appeared in this period.⁵⁰² Geoy D and C are contemporary to Haftavân VI Phase B.⁵⁰³ In this layer, four stonebuilt tombs have been excavated that Burton-Brown believed belong to the period D. Dyson⁵⁰⁴ dates Tombs A and J to the Period late D–C (Middle Bronze Age III) based on their elevations, and notes Tombs B and H “could belong to the earlier state”—that is, early Period D (Middle Bronze Age II)—while Edwards dates the tombs to the Middle Bronze Age III.⁵⁰⁵

⁴⁹⁵ Vigot and Dyson 1992: 177.

⁴⁹⁶ Sagona 1984: 60.

⁴⁹⁷ Burney and Lang 1972: 52.

⁴⁹⁸ Burton-Brown 1951: 64–65.

⁴⁹⁹ Dyson 1968b:16–17; see also Edwards 1986: 58–60.

⁵⁰⁰ *cf.* Burton-Brown 1951: figs. 16, 17b–c.

⁵⁰¹ Burton-Brown 1951: 110.

⁵⁰² Burton-Brown 1951: 133.

⁵⁰³ Edwards 1986: 58.

⁵⁰⁴ Dyson 1968b: 18.

⁵⁰⁵ Edwards 1986: 60–61.

III.5. Haftavân Tepe

This Tepe is located 15 km north-west of Lake Urmia in the middle of the fertile plain of Salmas, and it is one of the three largest settlement mounds in the Urmia basin. The Tepe is 600 m in the east–west direction and 500 m in the north–south direction.⁵⁰⁶ Its excavations were conducted by Charles Burney from the University of Manchester, which was the principal sponsor for the excavation. This Tepe was chosen for a first season of excavations in 1968, with subsequent seasons in 1969, 1971, 1973, 1975, and 1978.⁵⁰⁷

Of particular relevance is Haftavân sequence, with the most complete collection of the painted wares typical of Middle Bronze Age II–III.

Excavations did bring to light reports from eight cultural periods, covering the period from the mid-third millennium to the mid-first millennium BC.

Haftavân VIII (Early Trans-Caucasian II): The two strata from the most ancient period present successive circular buildings, and pottery indicating the third quarter of the third millennium BC.⁵⁰⁸

Haftavân VII (Early Trans-Caucasian III): The works regarding this period were mostly held at the citadel on the summit of the mound, with massive mud brick constructions indicating a date around the end of the Early Trans-Caucasian III period at Yanik Tepe. From this period of low occupation, very few burnished blackware potteries have survived.

Haftavân VI: This period in Haftavân Tepe is divided into three smaller periods⁵⁰⁹:

Haftavân VIC (ca. 2200–2000 BC): This period represents a short-term settlement. From this period, a distressed building and a number of storage pits have been identified.⁵¹⁰ The citadel starts to be more inhabited. The pottery of this period is in black, brown, buff, and red. Painted Orange Ware similar to the ones from VII (q.v.) has also been reported. The motifs are geometrically imprinted in black and brown. Seed impressions and geometric incisions have also been presented on black burnished potteries.⁵¹¹

⁵⁰⁶ Tala'i 1995: 61.

⁵⁰⁷ Burney 1970, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977; Edwards 1981, 1983, 1986.

⁵⁰⁸ Burney 1975: 150.

⁵⁰⁹ Edwards 1981: 102.

⁵¹⁰ Edwards 1981: 102.

⁵¹¹ Edwards 1983: 12.

Haftavân VIB: Is divided into Early (*ca.* 1900–1550 BC) and Late VIB (*ca.* 1550–1450 BC), both characterized by a marked burning. During Early VIB, the settlement reached its maximum expanse, and many constructions appeared on the site. Of particular interest are the imposing terraced buildings under the citadel, and the presence of timber reinforcements.⁵¹²

Among the pottery found here are beakers and black-on-red vessels, similar to those found in Trans-Caucasia. In contrast to what happened during Haftavân VIII–VII, an artistic influence from south to north is visible.

In Late VIB, potteries become more relevant, with the production of the so-called Urmia Ware, showing decorative motifs with mostly animal themes, such as felines, horses, or more likely onagers, and waterfowl and other birds. Representation of humans and human activities such as driving animal-drawn carriages are present but rare.⁵¹³

After the destruction of the settlement at the end of early VIB, relations between the Urmia basin and Trans-Caucasia weakened, resulting in a lower distribution of Urmia Ware during late VIB. The early Haftavân VIB ceramics Basin extends to the north of the Aras River and the southern Caucasus, but the late Haftavân VIB ceramic Basin reaches the southern Aras River.⁵¹⁴

Haftavân VIA: The pottery from this level has been recognized as Early VIB and the term Haftavân VIA has since been considered a misnomer, indicating the excavations held during the 1968 and 1969 campaigns, on the eastern perimeter.⁵¹⁵

Haftavân V: This layer shows continuity in pottery production with late VIB, but it also shows Dark Burnished Ware of Iron Age I (*ca.* 1250–1050 BC, based on Danti's chronology). The signs of distant inhabitation could be a sign of diminishing numbers of the population. The mud-brick walls appear to be reinforced, and in at least one case substituted, by stones set in mud. A building has been found, probably a store room, entirely built with the new technique.

⁵¹² Edwards 1981: 102.

⁵¹³ Edwards 1981, 1983.

⁵¹⁴ Edwards 1986: 57–77.

⁵¹⁵ Burney 1994: 54.

Haftavân IV: This is an Iron Age II layer (*ca.* 1050–800 BC), and does not show any particular founding, apart from the inhumations and their content of bronze and iron ornaments with beads, mostly carnelian.

The results from Haftavân III and subsequent layers are beyond the scope of this study, and therefore will not be treated here.

III.6. Conclusion

In connection with prominent sites located in the north-west of Iran, Hasanlu VIb and Dinkha IV offer the most comprehensive and unique material culture related to the Middle Bronze Age II. Studies on the materials of these sites show a very strong connection between the south of Lake Urmia and the north of Mesopotamia. The terminal period of Middle Bronze Age II is known only from excavations at Dinkha Tepe, characterized by a decreased production of Khabur Ware. In the Middle Bronze Age III, aside from Hasanlu VIa and Dinkha IV–III in the south of Lake Urmia basin, more sites have been settled to the west and north of Lake Urmia. In this period, two cultures have spread side by side throughout the North-Western region: Urmia Ware and early Monochrome Burnished Ware cultures, both showing a strong connection to southern Caucasus. One of the most important sites, with a unique collection of Urmia Ware, is Haftavân Tepe VIb. Dinkha Tepe also presents a collection of Urmia Ware, alongside the early Monochrome Burnished Ware. Late Bronze Age is best attested at Hasanlu V and Dinkha III. Further information about Late Bronze Age comes from a single grave at Geoy Tepe and Kordlar II.

Hasanlu IVc, Dinkha III, Kordlar IV, and Haftavân V correspond to Iron Age I in North-Western Iran and the period is characterized by the presence of Late Monochrome Burnished Ware. Hasanlu VIb, Dinkha II, Geoy Tepe A, Kordlar I, and Haftavân IV provide a primary example of the Iron Age II in the region.

Chapter IV - Ceramics

This chapter is divided into two parts. The first delves into different ceramic cultures of the region during the Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age II, and the second is a study of different phases of Bayazid Abad ceramics and their categorization.

IV.1. Explaining the place of Bronze Age and Iron Age ceramic cultures in North-Western Iran

Bronze Age in North-Western Iran spans the early third millennium to the late second millennium BC. During this period, we face several distinct cultures in the region, such as Yanik, Godin III, Khabur Ware, Urmia Ware, and Early Monochrome Burnished Ware. The Early Bronze Age in North-Western Iran is known as Kura-Araxes, Yanik, or Trans-Caucasian.⁵¹⁶ The term Kura-Araxes was first used by Kuftin, due to the numerous sites of this culture identified between the Kura and Araxes rivers.⁵¹⁷

It is likely that this culture has spread through ethnic migration. The first houses of Yanik Tepe, like all types of Caucasian regions, have a circular plan.⁵¹⁸ Ceramics from Kura-Araxes are clearly a diagnostic element of this culture because they exhibit specific technical and morphological characteristics.⁵¹⁹ Particularly, the constant burnish and the contrast of red-black colors between the exterior and interior surfaces of the vessels.⁵²⁰ Decoration appears only in phase II⁵²¹ and consisted of panels or strips of geometric patterns excised and filled with white paste.⁵²² Swiny identified 15 sites that were characterized by Yanik pottery.⁵²³

⁵¹⁶ Alizadeh and Azarnoush 2003: 11.

⁵¹⁷ Kiguradze 2000: 221.

⁵¹⁸ "Kura-Araxes I settlements were recognized around the lake and the excavated sites such as Yanik and Haftavân just attested the phases II and III of this phenomenon" (for more information see Maziar 2015).

⁵¹⁹ Iserlis et al. 2010.

⁵²⁰ Palumbi 2008: 205.

⁵²¹ As a discrete sequence, the Kura-Araxes sequence can be dated between 3600/3500–2900 (phase I) and 2900–2600/2500 (Phase II) BC (Badalyan 2014: 71).

⁵²² Muscarella 1995: 986.

⁵²³ Swiny 1975: 82–83.

Around 2000 BC, the Yanik culture (Godin IV) ended and was replaced by the pottery cultures of Godin III and Khabur. The characteristic culture of the Middle Bronze Age can be seen emerging at Godin III, as its range extends far beyond the the Yanik culture in western Iran, even transcending the central Zagros boundaries.⁵²⁴ The Godin III culture, with its characteristic pottery and exclusive architecture, covers the whole of the central Zagros from about 2600 to 1500 BC, and is located immediately east of central Zagros on top of the deposits of Godin IV or Yanik culture. The distinctive pottery of this culture has been used throughout this period, despite its typical role in the six phases,⁵²⁵ while retaining general features such as wheel made, buff colour, painted monochrome.⁵²⁶ However, due to the limited excavation at Godin Tepe, only the right-angled architecture is mentioned.

The Khabur Ware horizon is characteristic of the nineteenth–seventeenth centuries BC, and most of the major vessel forms continue into Middle Bronze Age II.⁵²⁷ Influences from northern Mesopotamia grew more pronounced in the Middle Bronze Age II or Hasanlu Period VIb/ Dinkha Period IV. This period is marked by the introduction of Khabur Ware—a cream-slipped buff ware found in painted, incised, and plain varieties.⁵²⁸

In the Middle Bronze Age III, we witness the disappearance of Khabur Ware and the emergence of two new styles in pottery: the Urmia Ware and Early Monochrome Burnished Ware. Urmia Ware probably develops out of the Middle Bronze Age II painted pottery traditions in the northern part of this region,⁵²⁹ best attested at Haftavân Early VIb and Geoy Tepe early D.⁵³⁰

⁵²⁴Henrickson 1986.

⁵²⁵In Godin Tepe sequence for the period of early Chalcolithic (about 4000–3000 BC) three periods VI, VII, and V were defined. In the initial sequence, period VII was introduced as "Hossein Abad," period VI as "Cheshmeh Noosh," and period V as the well-known "Oval Compound " and Uruk pottery (bevel-rim bowls) were introduced as periods influenced by the South and Western cultures (Mesopotamia and Khuzestan) (Levine and Young 1987). Young later made changes to this sequence; By dividing period VI into three smaller stages (VI1–3), he deleted the period V and named it as VI1 (Young 2004). Godin IV layer was introduced as the basis of chronology and identification of the Bronze Age of the central Zagros (Young 1969). Godin III occupations spanned approximately the mid-third millennium to the mid-second millennium BC, the end of the Bronze Age (Henrickson 1984; Levine and Young 1987). Level II is represented by a single structure, a fortified, mud brick walled architectural complex, a fortified structure of the Medes about 133 m long and 55 m wide ca. 750/700 BC (Young 1969). Godin I is represented by an Islamic shrine.

⁵²⁶Henrickson and Blackman 1992.

⁵²⁷Danti 2013a: 14.

⁵²⁸Frane 1996; Hamlin 1971, 1974; Oguchi 1997, 1998.

⁵²⁹Danti 2013a: 14.

⁵³⁰Edwards 1981, 1983, 1986; Rubinson 2004.

The following sections describe some of the most common pottery from the Middle Bronze Age II to the Iron Age II in North-Western Iran.

IV.1.1. Khabur Ware

Khabur Ware is a cream-slipped buff ware, found in plain and painted varieties with red, brown or black geometric patterns, produced in the north of Mesopotamia. It comes in several distinct forms, including jars, bowls, cups, and containers. The cultural horizon of Khabur Ware is marked by this special type of West Asian pottery, originating from a “multilateral cultural influence” of northern Mesopotamia, Syria and Cilicia, and the clash of cultures surrounding various economic centers in Anatolia. It is now regarded as an early cultural marker of the mid-second millennium BC in northern Mesopotamia.

Mallowan provided the first dates for Khabur Ware based on the tablets found together with this pottery from the earliest phase of Chagar Bazar. He separated the Khabur Ware culture into “early” and “late,” based on stratigraphic and stylistic features.⁵³¹ During the 1940s/1950s, Khabur Ware was also classified as older and younger styles, based on subjective assessment of changes in style and form of the materials available at the time.⁵³² An assemblage was considered “younger” wherever an increase in fine-ware cups and small jars (beakers) was observable, while larger coarse-ware jars were considered as part of the “older” Khabur Ware.⁵³³

The term Transitional Khabur-Mitannian Ware, has been suggested by Kantor for the identification of a period during which both Khabur and Mitannian Wares were used.⁵³⁴

Recently, Khabur Ware’s features and classification have been subject to further criticism and analysis.⁵³⁵

According to studies by Hiromichi Oguchi, the emergence and prevalence of Khabur Ware consists of four phases dating from 1900 to 1400 BC.⁵³⁶ The first phase of this pottery

⁵³¹ Mallowan 1936: 37, 47.

⁵³² Hrouda 1957; Stein 1984 no. 4.

⁵³³ Mallowan 1937; Hrouda 1957; Kantor 1958b.

⁵³⁴ Kantor 1958b: 24–23.

⁵³⁵ Oguchi 1997, 2000, 2001; Hrouda 2001; Pfälzner 2002; Kolinski 2014.

⁵³⁶ The first phase (1900–1814 BC) has been identified in a number of areas of Nineveh, Tell Afar (Iraq) and the Khabur region. The second phase, or classical pottery era (1814–1700 BC), is introduced through mud slabs and identified in areas such as Tell Brak. The third phase or the late Khabur Ware (1550–1400 BC) has been

coincides with the Old Assyrian period, and the second is dated to the Šamshi-Adad era, based on written evidence from Mesopotamia and southern Anatolia. In the first phase (1900 BC) there is considerable evidence for the distribution of Khabur Ware in the main area. During this phase, in addition to north of Mesopotamia, Khabur Ware has been identified close to Lake Urmia, in North-Western Iran (north of Zagros Mountains).⁵³⁷ In fact, during this phase of Khabur Ware, only the two sites, Dinkha and Hasanlu, evolved outside the main area. During Phase II (1700 BC), northern Mesopotamia is still the main area for Khabur Ware, but exemplars have also been found in the Ušnu-Naghada Valley at Dinkha, Hasanlu, Gandawale, Kordlar, Mohammad Shah, and Gard-i Khosrow, all considered as peripheral (secondary) areas of distribution for Khabur Ware.⁵³⁸ This pottery has also been identified in surface surveys of areas east to west along the Gadar River.⁵³⁹

Although surface surveys in the valleys south of Lake Urmia to Mahabad have identified few sites with Khabur Ware, the distribution of Painted Khabur Ware sites in Iran is still limited. This pottery is absent in the northern and eastern parts of Lake Urmia.⁵⁴⁰ The German field surveys⁵⁴¹ did not yield any data on the Middle Bronze Age II and the pottery culture east of Lake Urmia or the Maraghe Plain, which was referred to by Tala'i.⁵⁴² As a result, the largest number of cultural materials related to Khabur Ware in Iran have only been obtained from Hasanlu and Dinkha sites. In addition to these sites, the Bayazid Abad tomb is one of the few places where this kind of pottery has been discovered. During the excavation at Dinkha, traces of the Bronze Age have been identified at two points.⁵⁴³ In Control Sounding, phase B of layer IV of this tepe (Middle Bronze Age II) comprises 24 percent of the total Painted Khabur Ware, and in phase D the same ware contains 8 percent of the potteries. Unpainted wares and annular band-painted wares are typical examples of Khabur Ware in

identified in Tell Rimah and the fourth phase or the Khabur-Mittani transitional period (1450–1550 BC) has been identified in Tell Rimah and Tell Brak (Koliński 2014: 17). On the other hand, Kolinski claims, in light of new evidences, that KW first appeared in 1950 BC (Kolinski 2014), and Pfälzner, supported by Schmidt, places early KW at the end of the Early Jezirah V period – 2100–2000 BC, considering the finding of early KW sherds in the 'House of Puššam' at Tell Mozan (Phase C7) (Pfälzner 2002: 154; Schimdt 2012: 173).

⁵³⁷ Palmisano 2012: 2.

⁵³⁸ Oguchi 1997: 206–207.

⁵³⁹ Kroll 1994a: 165.

⁵⁴⁰ Hamlin 1974: 131.

⁵⁴¹ Danti 2013a: 9.

⁵⁴² Danti 2013a: 9.

⁵⁴³ Muscarella 1968: 194.

this phase. The Middle Bronze Age II Khabur Ware assemblage is highly localized in North-Western Iran.⁵⁴⁴ The final part of the Middle Bronze Age II at Dinkha, where it is designated Dinkha IV Phase D, and a few graves at Hasanlu are characterized by the rapid decline in the production of Khabur Ware, and constitute an important transitional period during which time the early Monochrome Burnished Ware horizon emerges.⁵⁴⁵ Layer VI of Hasanlu has also been attributed to the Middle Bronze Age, and somehow the cultural period of this layer coincides with a similar period in northern Mesopotamia and Syria. The data of this layer is similar to layer IV at Dinkha and they together represent the cultural horizon of Khabur Ware in Iran.

Radiocarbon dating, thermoluminescence dating, and cuneiform inscriptions associated with stratigraphy in several areas west of the Zagros have provided a definitive framework for Khabur Ware chronology. A number of radiocarbon dates has also been taken from samples obtained from Dinkha and Hasanlu. Charcoal dating from the Dinkha IV layer links the date of this layer and Hasanlu's VI layer to 1750–1450 BC.⁵⁴⁶

Despite these dates, no independent chronological evidence has been identified pertaining to the time of North-Western Iran's entry into the Khabur cultural horizon.⁵⁴⁷ Although no inscriptions of this period have been found in Hasanlu and Dinkha, the link between date-inscriptions with Khabur Ware in other sites increases the value of the Dinkha and Hasanlu radiocarbon dating.⁵⁴⁸

Layer IV of Dinkha Tepe has four deployment phases in the Middle Bronze Age. Phase A coincides with the end of the first phase of Khabur pottery, and phases B and C correspond to the peak of this pottery culture, which began at the start of the Šamshi-Adad era in the Old Assyrian period and continued until 1700 BC. Phase D of Dinkha dates back to the period of decline of Khabur Ware at this tepe, and coincides with the beginning of the “late era of Khabur Ware” in northern Mesopotamia, and with the late Middle Bronze Age II in the seventeenth century BC.

⁵⁴⁴ Danti 2013a: 14.

⁵⁴⁵ Danti 2013a: 13.

⁵⁴⁶ Bieniada 2009: 16.

⁵⁴⁷ Danti 2013a: 1.

⁵⁴⁸ Hamlin 1974: 131.

As in northern Mesopotamia, the surface of Khabur ware vessels at Dinkha is sometimes slipped, usually smoothed, matt, and then painted. Decorative motifs on Dinkha Khabur Ware include birds, quadrupeds, butterfly or double axes, dotted circles, wheels, cross-hatched triangles, polka dots, ladders, checkerboard, various triangles, cross-hatched bands, miscellaneous geometric motifs, zigzag, miscellaneous curvilinear motifs, and the ubiquitous horizontal band.⁵⁴⁹ In the typical classification of dyke clays, the first category contains jars that have been identified from phase A to phase D, their occurrence decreasing from the beginning to the end of period IV, going by the number of painted samples. The second group consists of high-diversity bowls that are often obtained in phases B and C. The painted samples of this type are also noticeably reduced from the first phase to the fourth phase of Dinkha. The third category consists of pots, which have the most varieties among the pottery of this layer of Dinkha, and from the beginning to the end of the period there has been little change in the extent of their presence within the pottery complex.

The development and distribution of Khabur Ware was done by the trade system of Karum in the old Assyrian period, and there is a clear correlation between the geographical density of this pottery and the Assyrian bureaucracy in the early second millennium BC.

Hamelin believes⁵⁵⁰ that the limited presence of a collection of Old Assyrian Potteries in the Ušnu-Naghada Valley is likely a reflection of one of the components of a complex and far-flung trade network in which tin was obtained from some unidentified source east of Šimshara. Palmisano also believes that the presence of Khabur Ware in peripheral areas such as the Ušnu-Naghada Valley could be a result of intra-regional economic collisions with northern Mesopotamia.⁵⁵¹ Dyson believes that proving North-Western Iran's connection with Mesopotamia is not a difficult task, and it is clear that the fourth layer of Dinkha represents settlement in the Ušnu-Naghada Valley created by the Mesopotamian invaders.⁵⁵² Typical vessel forms are carinated bowls, large barrel forms, and vats with horizontal ribs and ledge rims or overhanging rims, all of which indicate the influence of northern Mesopotamian traditions on the North-Western Iranian plateau. These are the first signs of

⁵⁴⁹ Hamlin 1974: 127.

⁵⁵⁰ Hamlin 1974: 132.

⁵⁵¹ Palmisano 2012.

⁵⁵² Dyson 1969: 44.

the emergence of Khabur Ware in the region from the nineteenth to seventeenth centuries (Middle Bronze Age II).⁵⁵³ Although it is easy to see that the rise of Khabur Ware in Dinkha and Hasanlu was a result of economic activity with the west,⁵⁵⁴ it is still difficult to prove that Dinkha and perhaps Hasanlu were “Karum” (commercial establishments) in the Middle Bronze Age, along with Old Assyria, without textual evidence.⁵⁵⁵

It is possible that a trade route in Old Assyria began from the city of Assur, and one of its eastward branches passed into Zagros, crossing the banks of the Upper Zab, the Rawanduz Plain and the Kel-i Shin Mountain, and reached the area of Ušnu-Naghada and the Dinkha Tepe.

Khabur pottery continued in places such as the Ušnu-Naghada Valley to the end of the Khabur horizon, and the Upper Zab route to the Ušnu-Naghada Valley was in use for a long time after the Assyrian trade boomed. The connection to the main areas of Khabur Ware continued for a long time as well. This implies the longevity and long-term continuation of dynastic trade relationships with northern Mesopotamia, which could have had other reasons besides the tin transfer hypothesis.⁵⁵⁶ The continuation of Khabur Ware in places such as the Ušnu-Naghada Valley may indicate the continuation of tin transport along this route, or the functional differentiation of the site from other peripheral bases established during the tin trade.

Khabur Ware jars, similar to the ones depicted on seal impressions⁵⁵⁷ representing the consumption of wine and beer, surfaced in an Old Assyrian Karum in southern Anatolia (Kültepe-Kanesh). The similarities between these vessels and the ones from Dinkha Tepe leads to the conclusion that the beverages were imported from North-Western Iran, a well-known center of wine production, to be exported to Mesopotamia, where wine and beer were rare and precious goods, following the same commercial routes as followed by the tin trade.

⁵⁵³ Danti 2013a: 12

⁵⁵⁴ Muscarella 1968: 196.

⁵⁵⁵ Danti 2013a: 13.

⁵⁵⁶ Hamlin 1971: 306–308; Hamlin 1974: 132.

⁵⁵⁷ Bieniada 2009: fig. 18.

IV.1.2. Urmia Ware

The term “Urmia Ware” was first used by Edwards to describe potteries obtained from Haftavân Tepe VIb. The term was also used following a suggestion made by Stronach.⁵⁵⁸ Danti believes that Urmia Ware probably developed out of the Middle Bronze Age II painted pottery traditions of the northern part of the region,⁵⁵⁹ best attested at Haftavân Early VIb⁵⁶⁰ and Geoy Tepe early D.⁵⁶¹ This theory, however, is contradicted by evidence⁵⁶² of similar designs in use during Middle Bronze Age II in the southern Caucasus, which were later also applied on common Monochrome Burnished Ware forms. From there the production and distribution of Urmia Ware expanded and developed slowly, gradually reaching North-Western Iran. These potteries are datable from Middle Bronze Age onward. Urmia Wares vary in type and decoration despite their commonalities. Beside southern Caucasus and Urmia Lake Basin, they are confined to areas such as north-east Anatolia, and the Mughan alluvial plain.⁵⁶³ A number of researchers segment this pottery based on the dominant local-regional decoration. Among these, Kushnareva proposes five indigenous cultures, which are: 1-Transcaucasus, 2-Trialeti, 3- Karmirberd, 4- Seven-Uzerlik, and 5- Kizyalvank.⁵⁶⁴ Belli and Bahşaliyev classified the pottery as follows: 1- Trialeti, 2- Karmirberd, 3- Seven-Uzerlik, 4- Kizyalvank, and 5- Nakhichevan.⁵⁶⁵ Özfırat has also presented a segmentation as follows: 1- Trialeti-Kirovakan, 2- Tazekank (Karmirberd), 3- Seven-Uzerlik, and 4- Kizil Vank/ Van-Urmia.⁵⁶⁶

A new substrate for Urmia Ware, named Sagzabad, has been suggested by Iranian archaeologists Tala’i,⁵⁶⁷ Azizi, and Moradi,⁵⁶⁸ on the basis of the retrieval of polychrome painted wares in north–central Iran.

⁵⁵⁸ Edwards 1983: 121; 1981: 5.

⁵⁵⁹ Danti 2013a: 14.

⁵⁶⁰ Edwards 1983.

⁵⁶¹ Burton-Brown 1951.

⁵⁶² The best examples (both Monochrome Burnished Ware and Urmia Ware with same shapes) can be seen at *longue durée* cemeteries of Khaly-Keshan (at the Tomb 1, 3 and 8) and Mardangol (at the tomb 1) (Aslanov, Ibragimov and Kashkay 2002: pl. VI nos. 3–6; pl. IV: 6; pl. VI nos. 11–12).

⁵⁶³ Belli and Bahşaliyev 2001: 36.

⁵⁶⁴ Kushnareva 1997: 84.

⁵⁶⁵ Belli and Bahşaliyev 2001: 51.

⁵⁶⁶ Özfırat 2001: 17.

⁵⁶⁷ Tala’i 1997.

⁵⁶⁸ Azizi Kharanaghi and Moradi 2010.

In this discussion, two groups of this pottery will be examined in order to relate them to the study area. First group is Urmia subtypes (Kizil Vank/ Van- Urmia) and the second group is Sagzabad.

IV.2.2.1. Urmia Ware Subspecies (Kizil Vank/ Van- Urmia)

The substrate vessels of Kizil Vank/ Van- Urmia were first recorded in 1936 during the excavations of Fadorov, Meshaninov, and Miller in the Kizil Vank cemetery. These examples of polychrome painted ware, known for a long time as the “Findings of Kizil Vank,” were later called “Kizil Vank Culture.”⁵⁶⁹ Relying on the widespread discovery of painted ware in many cultural areas of Nakhichevan, some scholars have also referred to this culture as “Nakhichevan Culture.”⁵⁷⁰ In Iran, this subtype was identified for the first time in the western parts of Lake Urmia, in areas such as Haftavân Tepe,⁵⁷¹ Geoy Tepe,⁵⁷² Hajji Firuz,⁵⁷³ and Dinkha Tepe.⁵⁷⁴ In Armania a painted pottey tradition synchronous with Van-Urmia is known as Karmir-Vank.⁵⁷⁵

These wares were first identified by Çilingiroğlu, working on exemplars from an unauthorized excavation exposed in museums throughout Anatolia.⁵⁷⁶

The proposed area for this ware subtype, within the borders of Iran, is delimited on the north by the northern side of Urmia Basin, along the Aras River; on to the south by Geoy Tepe, Hajji Firuz⁵⁷⁷ and Dinkha;⁵⁷⁸ on the east by the area from Marand to Jolfa; and from Maku to

⁵⁶⁹ Mirzaei 2014: 26.

⁵⁷⁰ Seyidov, Bahşaliyev, Novruzlu and Babayev 1995: 29.

⁵⁷¹ Edwards 1981, 1983. Kuftin separated the Bronze Age ceramics from Kizil Vank into two phases: the first, Kizil Vank I (Middle Bronze Age), can be compared to the pottery from Late VIB; the second one, Kizil Vank I till (Late Bronze Age), has the same shoddy painting and carinated forms as the Haftavân VIA phase (Kuftin and Field 1946: 341).

⁵⁷² Burton Brown 1951.

⁵⁷³ Hamlin 1971: 32.

⁵⁷⁴ Hamlin 1974.

⁵⁷⁵ Avetisyan and Bobokhyan 2008: 124. Significant correlations of the painted pottery of Haftavân Early VIB are typical of and specific for the painted pottery from Trialeti-Vanadzor 2, while the Karmir-Berd and Karmir-Vank painted pottery show a connection to examples of monochrome and polychrome from Late VIB ceramics from Haftavân (Avetisyan and Bobokhyan 2008: 128).

⁵⁷⁶ Çilingiroğlu 1988, 1990, 1994.

⁵⁷⁷ Hamlin 1971: 32.

⁵⁷⁸ Rubinson 2004: 662, n 10.

Salmas on the west. It also seems to have extended to the southern areas of Ardabil province.⁵⁷⁹

The Anatolian Urmia Ware area is delimited on the northern side by the Lake of Van⁵⁸⁰ and the Caucasus. The Urmia ware zone includes Nakhichevan and southern Armenia.⁵⁸¹

This handmade ware is a “highly distinctive grit-tempered red ware with slip and polychrome painting in combinations of red and brown–black are applied over a lighter field typically of tan, off-white, or ‘apricot’ paint or slip on the upper portions of vessels.”⁵⁸² In the Late Bronze Age, the upper part of the ceramics has orange or buff slip and the designs were painted in orange/brown or black.⁵⁸³

The motifs of Ealy Haftavân VIB include geometric designs such as wavy strips, rows of butterfly, rhombus, square, and triangle motifs, and the motifs are filled with a variety of decorations, including smooth parallel and wavy strips. In the Late Haftavân VIB, motifs with realistic and natural human and animal motifs were added as well.⁵⁸⁴

IV.2.2.2. Sagzabad Subtype:⁵⁸⁵

The tradition of producing and using pottery with monochrome and biochrome motifs penetrated the central plateau and the Qazvin plain region around 1600 BC,⁵⁸⁶ closely resembling the material culture of Urmia and Khabur Ware in North-Western Iran.⁵⁸⁷ Christian Piller believes that the pottery of Sagzabad might be a sign of the art trade.⁵⁸⁸ Studies show that both painted and Burnished Grey Wares of Bronze Age tradition keep coexisting in the Sagzabad region,⁵⁸⁹ even around 1100 BC. Sagzabad’s painted ware is usually available in two colours: red, and black on a red and orange background. The use of

⁵⁷⁹ Khanali, Mirzaei, and Tahmasebi 2014.

⁵⁸⁰ Edwards 1986: 72.

⁵⁸¹ Belli and Bahşaliyev 2001: 51–52

⁵⁸² Danti 2013a: 187.

⁵⁸³ Özfırat 2001: 24–25.

⁵⁸⁴ Edwards 1981: 107–108.

⁵⁸⁵ At the end of the second millennium BC, Late Bronze Age in Sagzabad occurs suddenly and without any connection with previous prehistoric cultures of the region. Handmade monochrome and polychrome potteries (Urmia Ware) are the cultural indicators of this period (Azizi Kharanaghi and Moradi 2010: 21).

⁵⁸⁶ Azizi Kharanaghi and Moradi 2010: 23.

⁵⁸⁷ Pourfaraj 2001: 64.

⁵⁸⁸ Piller 2004: 312.

⁵⁸⁹ Tala'i 1997: 263.

two different types of slip can be seen in wares, such as buff slip on the top and red slip on the bottom; such a contrast of colour can be seen in Urmia Wares at Haftavân Tepe and Geoy Tepe. Motifs are usually geometric and animals; birds, though rare, have also been reported. Most of the ceramics are handmade. Animal designs, especially the bird, are similar to the Haftavân VIB features and are an important and common element in both areas. In the second period of Sagzabad all the pottery types of the preceding period exist. A new type of pottery has emerged in brown, while the quantity of red, buff, and orange wares has been reduced, with geometric and black motifs.⁵⁹⁰ Common forms of this period are mostly small potteries, including a variety of bowls and small jars, with simple everted rims. Bowls with simple rims are also visible. Wares generally have simple bases, but there are also examples of button bases that are almost all in the same colour. The use of tripod ware is also not common in this period, and two of its examples are in the polychrome ware collection. The pedestals are slightly taller than the base. Small cups and miniature dishes are also included in the pottery collection. The use of the handle can be seen in small cups and also in small holemouth jars.⁵⁹¹

IV.1.3. Burnished Grey Ware

With the definition of the Eastern and Western Gray Ware in the early 1960s, T. Cuyler Young laid the foundations that are still largely valid today. Since then, the possible relationships between the Early to Middle Bronze Age Eastern Gray Ware and the Iron Age Western Gray Ware have also been frequently discussed. Attempts were often made to establish a direct link by means of ethnic interpretation between the two regions.⁵⁹²

Before archaeologists addressed the issue of Grey Ware and its connection to Aryan tribes, historians and linguists had already dealt with it. Based on textual sources and linguistic data, theories about the arrival of Aryan tribes have been formulated. Meanwhile, a number of archaeologists have noticed the relatively rapid and sudden emergence of

⁵⁹⁰ Pourfaraj 2001: 64, 65.

⁵⁹¹ Azizi Kharanaghi and Moradi 2010: 25.

⁵⁹² Piller 2003–2004: 143.

Burnished Grey Ware in the northern half of Iran.⁵⁹³ This event occurred around the second half of the second millennium BC. For example, Schmidt believed that the prevalence of Grey Ware rather than painted ware in Hissar II was due to the influx of new people into the area, from the north and Turkmen Sahara.⁵⁹⁴ Ghirshman also initially believed that the people buried in the Sialk Cemetery were Iranians who had migrated through the Caucasus.⁵⁹⁵

These theories led Young to put forward his own theory of Aryan immigration to Iran, based on the relationship between the Grey Ware of the north-west and west Iran with the north-east Grey Ware of Iran.⁵⁹⁶ In his first article he deals with the typology of the pottery of the Iron Age of Iran from 1500 to 500 BC⁵⁹⁷ and identified three groups of pottery: the Early Western Grey Ware (EWGW) Horizon, the Late Western Grey Ware (LWGW) Horizon, and the Western Buff Ware (WBW) Horizon. The first group consists of a combination of plain grey and buff and painted buff pottery. The second group is less cohesive than the other two and contains only grey pottery, and in the third group there is mostly painted, buff pottery.⁵⁹⁸

In his second article, Young followed Dyson and used his inventive reform of Iron Age I to III to divide various phases of the Iron Age and replace them with earlier pottery horizons. His theory may be summarized as following: at the beginning of the Iron Age, ruptures in the pottery tradition of Late Bronze Age Iran occurred in the north-west and south of the Alborz Mountains to the eastern parts of the Zagros Mountains. The new pottery tradition, the Early Western Grey Ware Horizon, dominated most of the north-west and north of Iran. This tradition had a relative unity in this vast area, signifying the arrival of Indo-Iranian ethnicities. In addition to pottery, this new tradition also appeared in architecture, burial, and new ornaments.⁵⁹⁹ In the Late Western Grey Ware Horizon, which Young described as Iron Age II, although the use of Grey Ware continued, its relative integrity was largely lost.

⁵⁹³ Efforts to find archaeological evidence for migration theories' have so far met with little success. In contrast, in the chronology some important advances are being made on the logical questions (Piller 2003–2004: 143).

⁵⁹⁴ Deshayes 1969: 16.

⁵⁹⁵ Ghirshman 1939: 105.

⁵⁹⁶ Young 1965: 55–59.

⁵⁹⁷ C14 dating from Hasanlu indicated the beginning of the Early Western Gray Ware up to about 1500 BC (Dyson and Muscarella 1989: fig. 17).

⁵⁹⁸ Young 1965: 53–85. This datation and classification has been reviewed and update by Danti. Cf. Foreword.

⁵⁹⁹ Dyson 1989b: 109.

Native features seemed to have a great impact on regionalization; Young attributed this to the resurgence of past indigenous traditions and the evolution of pottery processes, as well as to the influence of external factors, such as Assyria to a certain extent.⁶⁰⁰

Young's claim triggered a variety of reactions. Dyson, despite his belief that there was a cultural break-up at the beginning of the Iron Age attributed to arrival of new ethnicities, did not clearly call these people Aryan.⁶⁰¹ Based on Young's theories on migration from east to west, Jean Deshayes proposed a theory in which he considers the origin of Aryan tribes in Gorgan.⁶⁰² Muscarella also did not accept the attribution of these emerging phenomena to Aryan tribes, though he did believe that these developments took place during the period.⁶⁰³

The most ardent opponents of the theory of immigration are Medvedskaya and Danti. They believe that there was no cultural disruption at the beginning of the Iron Age with the earlier period in Iran, and that the pottery tradition of the Bronze Age continued. After examining Iron Age theories and the sudden emergence of Iron Age culture, they believe that a number of pottery forms did not appear suddenly in the Iranian plateau but rather evolved from earlier forms. Medvedskaya believes that the Early Iron Age pottery collection includes several local groups, and each site of this era is characterized by its own pottery collection; with even the most common forms varying from place to place. Therefore, pottery relations do not support the assumed unity for the earlier cultures, and do not represent the migration of the creators of some unified pottery traditions that was not a new phenomenon in the region. Examination of burial customs also shows that the burial rituals of Bronze Age did not exist clearly in Iron Age contexts. According to her, Early Iron Age material culture represents a mixture of elements based on local interactions.⁶⁰⁴

Danti continues, putting the focus on how the large diffusion of this change, especially in terms of ceramic findings, has been misrepresented by a faulty chronology and analysis of the sequence, which lead to an exaggeration of the phenomenon, for the sake of following a dated theory. He observed a lack of fully researched and analyzed data on Hasanlu VIa, which represents the border between Hasanlu VI and V, and of a study looking for changes in

⁶⁰⁰ Young 1967: 10–23.

⁶⁰¹ Dyson 1965: 197.

⁶⁰² Deshayes 1969: 16.

⁶⁰³ Muscarella 1994: 140.

⁶⁰⁴ Medvedskaya 1982: 24.

Dinkha IV Phase D. This resulted in a misrepresentation of Middle Bronze Age II as a homogenous period, which brought him to contest the comparison between Hasanlu's Period V – a mixed assemblage spanning over circa 600 years – and the materials from the Dinkha IV Phases A–B and Hasanlu VIb, which cover *ca.* 300 years in Middle Bronze Age II. Danti has been especially doubtful about the criteria used in the comparison between ceramic exemplars in order to assign them to the Early Iron Age and Hasanlu VI, based mostly on the presence of painted ware with Early Iron Age Grey Ware.⁶⁰⁵ He also believes that the early Monochrome Burnished Wares were developed from Kramer's Wares II and VI.⁶⁰⁶

He proposes that the increased production of Monochrome Burnished Ware Horizon in the Middle Bronze Age III and early Late Bronze Age, could have been caused by the discontinuation of Khabur Ware Horizon, which has to be seen as an exception, due to an external presence in the area, in the style and culture of second millennium BC North-Western Zagros.⁶⁰⁷

Tala'i also points out that Young has objected to the 'migration theory' and believes that generalizing a site excavation to the whole of Iran is a mistake. He believes that although there has been a sudden cultural shift evident from archaeological evidence in Hasanlu V, in sites such as Sagzabad and Haftavân Tepe we witness cultural continuity, and consequently the theory of cultural dynamism cannot be replicated throughout expanded areas of interest.⁶⁰⁸

In his third article, Young, according to more recent data, postpones the beginning of the grey ware horizon and considers it to be beginning *ca.* 1500 BC. He also dated the end of the Late Bronze Age in Turang Tepe to 1700 BC, thus limiting the time gap between the north-eastern Grey Ware and the North-Western Grey Ware. It also restricts the extension of the Early Western Grey Ware Horizon field to North-Western Iran and the southern slopes of Alborz. Although he points to scattered evidence for the presence of Early Western Grey Ware in the Zagros region, he describes it in an uncertain condition. He believes that wherever Early Western Grey Ware is seen, there is a severe breakdown of the cultures that

⁶⁰⁵ Danti 2013a: 146.

⁶⁰⁶ Danti 2013a: 169.

⁶⁰⁷ Danti 2013a: 147.

⁶⁰⁸ Tala'i 1994: 159.

preceded it. In this paper, Young concludes that the ancient Western pottery in western Iran cannot be regarded as a sign of the arrival of Aryan tribes. These people were probably tribes who migrated from the north-east to the west and brought Grey Ware. And the emergence and evolution of the Western Buff Ware Horizon in western Iran is probably the best indicator of the emergence of Iranians in western Iran.⁶⁰⁹

IV.2. Ceramic assemblage of Bayazid Abad

One of the most important cultural materials obtained from the Bayazid Abad tomb is its variegated pottery collection. At the tomb of Bayazid Abad, a large collection of various potteries relates to a long period of activity during the Bronze and Iron Ages, facilitating the study of technical changes of pottery in different periods, as also the examination of continuity and/or rupture in pottery traditions during the transition from one period to another.

Unfortunately, the vicissitudes of this collection, whether during the process of their burial in a long and continuous period inside the tomb, or during their identification and extraction from the tomb, have caused shortcomings in their documentation and study.

Preliminary studies on the arrangement of burial goods inside the tomb have shown that during 15 successive burials, before each new interment the materials of the older burial were moved and piled up without any order.

This tomb was accidentally identified during construction activity, part of it was destroyed and its cultural materials were scattered. Also, the haste of the rescue excavation, without any regard toward the archaeological context and stratigraphic position of artefacts, has rendered using this assemblage to establish a chronology a very difficult and a somewhat impossible task. Therefore, in order to achieve accuracy in the chronology of pottery for this collection, a rigorous work of comparison has been required, taking into account potteries from settlements in North-Western Iran and adjacent areas. In this regard, in the present study, all the pottery collections obtained from Bayazid Abad were documented,

⁶⁰⁹ Young 1985.

photographed, and some selected examples of different categories have been drawn, and technical specifications of each pottery carefully recorded.

The main category of each period are jars, bowls, and cups with some variations. The comparative study led to a division of Bayazid Abad ceramics into five periods: Middle Bronze Age II, Middle Bronze Age III, Late Bronze Age, Iron Age I, and Iron Age II. The vessels are catalogued with the acronym BA, for Bayazid Abad, and numbered in a continuous sequence, from the earliest to the most recent. Drawings are provided for one or more examples of each type of shapes, together with a table which provides information about their manufacture, colour (following the Mansel code), and grit and their peculiarities. In cases where more than one exemplar of the same form has been taken into consideration, the pottery are identified with an alphabetical letter after their number (ex. BA1a, BA1b etc.)

IV.2.1. Middle Bronze Age II ceramics from Bayazid Abad (1900–1600 BC)

The Bayazid Abad ceramic assemblage from this period is quite small and includes 33 examples. In this section, only 13 of them are detailed, since some of these present a strong resemblance with each other. The samples from this collection of Middle Bronze Age II consist of eight types of jars and one type of cup. Jars are mostly handmade, small, and miniature, and the cups are of a single type. These ceramics of this period are attested in late Dinkha IV and Hasanlu VIb.

IV.2.1.1. Description of ceramic shapes

IV.2.1.1.1. Jars

Jar type I with one example, BA.1, is a burnished matt ware with a simple everted rim, S-profile body, and a ringed, flat base. The mouth, with its trumpet like opening, presents a circumference as wide as the largest part of the body. If we ignore the relatively large crater size of this jar, its other shape features are similar to those in phase D of Dinkha Tepe IV from the late Middle Bronze Age II (Terminal Middle Bronze Age II). These S-profile beakers have

parallels with S-profile tankards and beakers in Sialk A.⁶¹⁰ According to Michael Danti,⁶¹¹ these types of jars are primarily buff, in five cases they are painted Khabur Ware and three or two examples of this type are grey.

Jar type II with one example, BA.2, is a very distinctive type of Khabur pottery, with three parallel horizontal lines on the shoulder and one horizontal line on the neck. Danti identified this form of pottery as a cup in his category classes. More precisely it falls in Danti's cup Type 8a of shouldered beakers.⁶¹² This jar has a rounded body with ring shape base. Danti⁶¹³ quotes Hamelin, saying that the jars belonging to the tradition of Khabur in Dinkha Tepe are almost all decorated with horizontal rings and constitute 6 percent of the jars in the pottery collection. He also refers to the jars with the same characteristics as one of the Vlb-era burials in Hasanlu.⁶¹⁴ Despite the general resemblance to the shape and linear motifs of Hasanlu's jar,⁶¹⁵ the details of the body, the rim and the base are different from those of Dinkha and Bayazid Abad. The similarity between the samples of Dinkha and Bayazid Abad Khabur is starker than that of Hasanlu. Hence, it is proposed that the pottery of Bayazid Abad, whose period coincides with a similar sample from layer IV phase D of Dinkha, may be dated to the final part of the Terminal Middle Bronze Age II. The best parallel for this type of vase comes from northern Mesopotamia at Tell Brak⁶¹⁶ and Tell Al-Rimah.⁶¹⁷

Jar type III with one example, BA.3, is a small burnished grey jar with everted rim and short narrow neck, very similar to Bayazid Abad's single painted Khabur Ware. The colour of the body is pinkish grey and its surface is finely polished. This jar is decorated with two narrow grooves on the shoulder. In spite of these three distinct characteristics of the jar, the overall appearance of the jar remains reminiscent of Khabur ware. The samples comparable to the jar from Bayazid Abad are found in the Dinkha Tepe from layer IV of phase D and B⁶¹⁸ and fall in Kramer's Ware V (fine grey ware).⁶¹⁹ This type of jar has also been attested at one

⁶¹⁰ Ghirshman 1939: pls. XL: 473b; XLI: 494b, 495; XLVII: 671a.

⁶¹¹ Danti 2013a: 159.

⁶¹² Danti 2013a: 173.

⁶¹³ Danti 2013.

⁶¹⁴ Danti 2013a: 161.

⁶¹⁵ Danti 2013a: fig. 5.4 B.

⁶¹⁶ Oates, Oates, and McDonald 1997: 63–64, fig. 195: 381–382.

⁶¹⁷ Postgate, Oates, and Oates 1997: pls. 72–76.

⁶¹⁸ Hamlin 1971: 73, pl. I.3.

⁶¹⁹ Hamlin 1971: 65.

of Hasanlu's VIb burials.⁶²⁰ One thing to note about this jar is that Michael Danti did not consider Hasanlu's sample as part of the Khabur category, and introduced it as a monochrome burnished ware.⁶²¹ He considered it as an imitation of painted Khabur Ware. According to Kramer, however, this type of ceramics is attested in Chagar Bazar and Amuq and also has a similarity to Greek Minoan ware.⁶²²

Danti believes that the jars with these characteristics are often buff and belong to the D phase of Dinkha Tepe IV in the Late Middle Bronze Age II period, but early Monochrome Burnished Ware appears in the Middle Bronze Age III period. An example of this is the presence of jars with incised decorations typical of Monochrome Burnished Ware. Taking the above into consideration, as also the jars similar to the sample from Bayazid Abad in the Dinkha and Hasanlu districts along the distinctly Khabur Ware, it is possible to infer a temporal and technological connection between these two types of pottery. And by identifying definitive evidence, it can even be possible to infer the influence of the Khabur tradition on the Monochrome Burnished Ware tradition. For example, forms similar to the Bayazid Abad vase with a prominent inward rim have an identifiable background among the Hasanlu VIb Khabur ware.

Jar type IV with five examples, BA.4, are holemouth small uncarinated jars with simple out-turned rims. They fall under Danti's jar type 4.⁶²³ These small simple jars are more abundant in Terminal Middle Bronze Age II and Middle Bronze Age III levels at Dinkha Tepe.⁶²⁴ Also, another similar example was discovered from terminal Middle Bronze Age II in Dinkha IV Phase D Tomb B10a B27.⁶²⁵

Jar Type V with one example. BA.5, is a burnished pinkish grey vase with burnished pattern decoration running from the top of the shoulder to the rim, and from the middle of the body to the base. This kind of jar is unique and no other samples have been reported from any of the sites in North-Western Iran or neighbouring areas. Despite the lack of parallels, it

⁶²⁰ Danti 2013a: fig. 5.4 A.

⁶²¹ Danti 2013a: 286.

⁶²² Hamlin 1971: 65.

⁶²³ Danti 2013a: 205.

⁶²⁴ Danti 2013a: figs. 4.9 A, 4.12 N-P, S, V.

⁶²⁵ Rubinson 1991: fig. 27b.

is still possible to date it to Middle Bronze Age II, based on its colour, which is well known at Dinkha IV and is typical of Kramer's Ware no. V.

Jar type VI with two examples, BA.6, is a light brown jar with rounded body and rounded base and slightly everted rim and long neck. This form of jar is quite rare at Bayazid Abad, and is also absent from neighbouring sites. But the presented incised motif occurred on the small sherds from Kramer's potteries in Dinkha VID.⁶²⁶

Jar type VII with 25 examples, BA.7a-b-c-d, are small handmade jars made by the rudimentary forefinger-and-thumb molding technique, sand tempered, with pinkish/brown surface colour, and simple, slightly everted rims and rounded flat bases. A total of 15 small jars of the same type have been discovered at Bayazid Abad. The fabrics vary from fine to coarse in texture. This form of small jars reported from the early and late Haftavân VIB has a colour spectrum of buff to red fabric.⁶²⁷

Jar type VIII with one example, BA.8 is a grey-fired buff cup, with a round handle attached to the rim and body, and a matt surface with rounded base and simple everted rim. Similar form of the body is attested in Haftavân bowls with polychrome decoration (Urmia Ware) Edwards Type — 6b in Early and Late Period VIB.⁶²⁸

Table 2: The jar assemblage of Middle Bronze Age II

No.	Manufacture	Temper	Quality	Colour	Remarks
BA.1	Wheel	Sand	Fine	7.5YR 7/4 Buff	Smoothed
BA.2	Wheel	Sand	Fine	7.5YR 7/4 Buff	Smoothed, painted horizontal bands
BA.3	Wheel	Sand	Fine	5YR 6/1 Grey	Polished, narrow cannelure horizontal bands
BA.4	Handmade	Sand and lime	Medium	2.5YR 6/6 Light red	

⁶²⁶ Hamlin 1971: pl. 14N.

⁶²⁷ Edwards 1983: pl. 81.

⁶²⁸ Edwards 1983: fig. 97: 7

BA.5	Wheel	Grit	Fine	7.5YR 7/2 Pinkish grey	Burnished with strike marks visible
BA.6	Handmade	Sand	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Narrow cannelure vertical band and light red slip
BA.7a	Handmade	Grit	Coarse	2.5YR 5/6 Red	
BA.7b	Handmade	Lime and sand	Medium	7.5YR 7/3 Reddish yellow	
BA.7c	Handmade	Grit and quartz	Coarse	5YR 6/4 Light reddish Brown	
BA.7d	Handmade	Grit And lime	Medium	5YR 6/6 Reddish yellow	
BA.8	Handmade	Sand and grit	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Narrow cannelure vertical bands

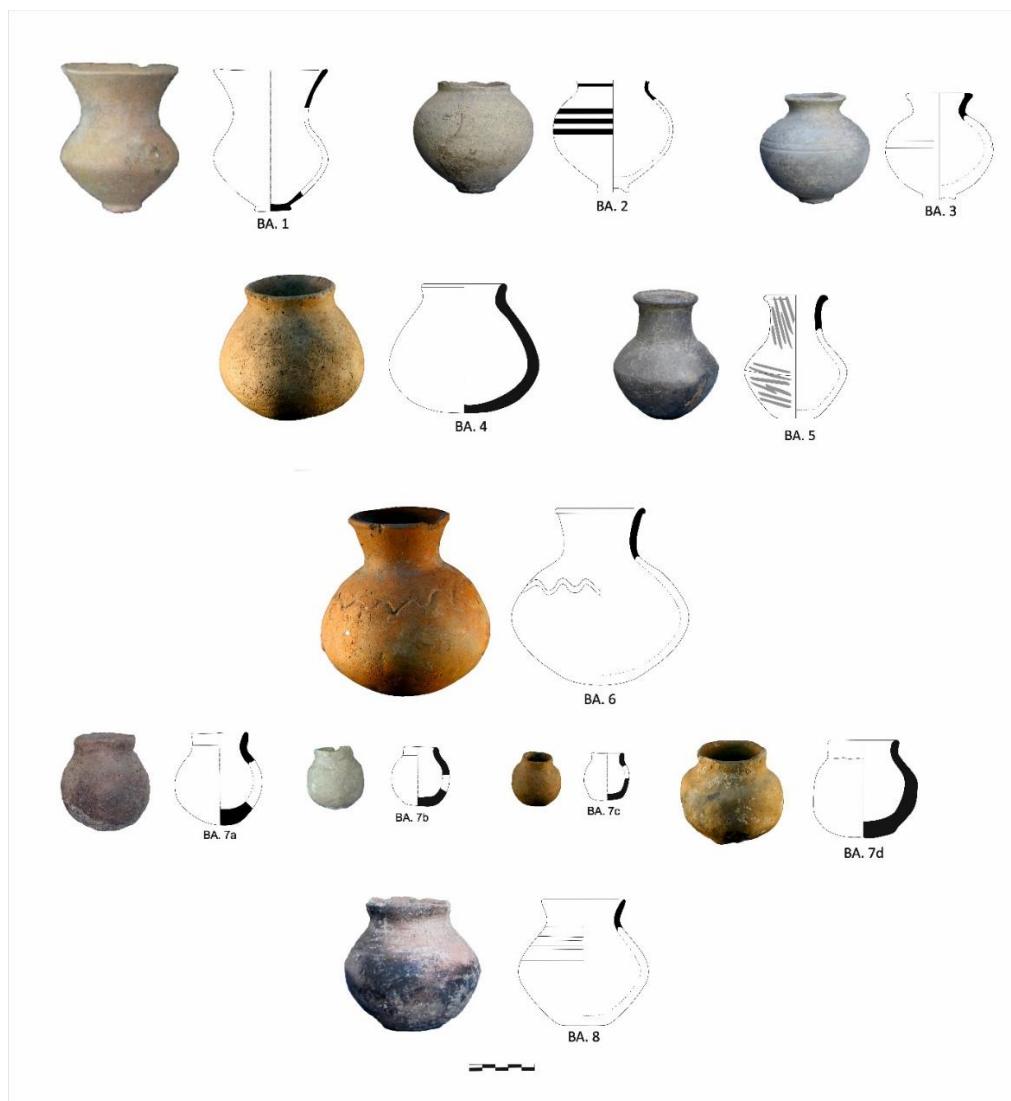


Figure 11. Jar assemblage from Middle Bronze Age II.

IV.2.1.1.2. Cups

Cup type I with one example, BA.9 is the sole exemplar of this type discovered from this period. It is a small handmade cup with an outward rim and a rounded base. A loop handle connects the rim and body. It is light brown pottery made of fine levigated clay with a smooth slip. No exact parallel has been found from neighbouring sites, but it can be placed between

the small handmade bowls from Dinkha Tomb B10a B27, made with thumb/forefinger pinching technique in different shapes.⁶²⁹

Table 3: The cup from Middle Bronze Age II assemblage

Cup					
No.	Manufacture	Temper	Quality	Colour	Remarks
BA.9	Handmade	Fine grit and lime	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	One vertical handle



Figure 12. The Bayazid Abad cup from Middle Bronze Age II assemblage.

IV.2.1.2. Overview of the Middle Bronze Age II ceramic assemblage from Bayazid Abad

The ceramic production of Middle Bronze Age II in Bayazid Abad is highly varied in the quality and decoration patterns of its exemplars. Their study reveals a wide variety of small jars and a single type of cups. Four of the jars of this period are Khabur Ware and Pinkish Grey wares; the others are local handmade ceramics. Kramer believes that Pinkish Grey Wares in North-Western Iran are connected to examples from Chagar Bazar and Amouq. However, based on the study of samples of this pottery in Hasanlu and Dinkha Tepe, Michael Danti proposes that this pottery is indigenous and has been influenced by Khabur Ware forms in the southern areas of Lake Urmia. Although we do not currently have any evidence of the origin of this pottery and how it appeared in the Middle Bronze Age II, Danti's studies have shown that the pottery itself is the source of the Early Burnished Monochrome Ware in

⁶²⁹ Robinson 1991: fig. 29 a, n.

Middle Bronze Age III. The Middle Bronze Age II Khabur Ware in Bayazid Abad has similar examples in Hasanlu and Dinkha during the same period and shows a strong connection with Mesopotamia. Two kinds of decorations have been applied to Pinkish Grey Ware. One kind is a likely imitation of the design appearing on Khabur Wares, with two parallel incised lines; the other consists of burnished pattern lines. In both cases (Pinkish Grey Ware and Khabur Ware) the vessels are wheel turned and have higher quality than local handmade potteries. The only decoration used on handmade pottery is in the form of alternated straight and wavy parallel incised lines. IV.2.2. Middle Bronze Age III Ceramics from Bayazid Abad (1600–1450 BC).

The Bayazid Abad ceramic assemblage from this period comprises nine jars in six categories and 52 bowls divided in 17 categories. A single exemplar was also retrieved, representing the earlier form of a tankard cup comparable with those from Hasanlu. This period in Hasanlu is known as VIa and in Dinkha early period III, Geoy Tepe D, and Haftavân VIb.

IV.2.2.1. Description of ceramic shapes

IV.2.2.1.1. Jars

Jar type I, with one example, BA.10, is a globular jar with a flat base and incised crosshatched triangles on the upper half of its body. Although a unique occurrence, this type exhibits typical Middle Bronze Age III traits, and finds parallels in sherds from Haftavân VIb Edwards Type — 1c.⁶³⁰ In attributes and design, it appears to imitate the painted geometric motifs found on Urmia Ware. There are examples of similar incised designs in Early Monochrome Burnished Ware at Dinkha in the Middle Bronze Age III and later on red painted pottery of the Achaemenid periods.

Jar type II, with one example, BA.11, is a globular holemouth jar with a low-to-medium neck with vertical patterned burnished lines on it, and a continuous elaborate geometric incision on the upper part of its body. The base is flat, with lines arranged in a radial pattern around it; this type is only attested by one example. This form has not been found in

⁶³⁰ Edwards 1983: fig. 114 no. 10.

neighbouring sites, but the incision of a row of stacked chevrons filled with a field of impressed dots is a design attested in Dinkha Tepe,⁶³¹ and it is thus possible to infer that it belongs to Middle Bronze Age III. Although a jar with the same radial pattern around the base and geometric incision on the upper part of body was excavated at the tomb no. 10 in Necropolis of Munjuglutepe dated to Iron Age I–II.⁶³²

Jar type III, with one example, BA.12, is a monochrome burnished jar with typical burnished pattern around the neck and under the rim, fine grit tempered. A similar vessel was attested in Geoy Tepe from grave B in Pit III could belong to the earlier state—e.g., early Period D dated to Middle Bronze Age II. Edwards instead assigned the grave to the Middle Bronze Age III.⁶³³ The same form has also been attested in Haftavân Tepe Edwards Type 2b — Early VIIb with polychrome decoration (Urmia Ware). In the Middle Bronze Age III in North-Western Iran, Urmia Ware and Monochrome Burnished Ware emerged simultaneously, and the forms of these two groups influenced each other. For this reason, these two ceramic groups have been widely shared on sites in this geographical area. In southern Caucasus Middle bronze Age polychrome painted Urmia Ware examples are reported from Shakhtakhty.⁶³⁴

Jar type IV, with one example, BA.13, had a slightly everted neck and a simple everted rim with disk base. This vessel form is well known in northern Mesopotamia from Tell al-Rimah.⁶³⁵ At Dinkha, the type is attested in the Middle Bronze Age III.⁶³⁶

Jar type V, with three examples, BA.14a–b, are long neck jars with everted simple rims and flat bases. Long narrow neck jars are attested in the Middle Bronze Age II and III in North-Western Iran. A vessel of the same type has been excavated in Haftavân VIIb from a Middle Bronze Age III context.⁶³⁷

Jar type VI with two examples, BA.15a-b. These monochrome burnished wares fall in Danti's jar type 6⁶³⁸ category, with black and reddish yellow colour, globular to oval forms,

⁶³¹ Danti 2013a: 4.16 T.

⁶³² Aslanov, Ibragimov and Kashkay 2002: 24, pl. 35 no. 2.

⁶³³ Edwards 1986: 60–61.

⁶³⁴ Huseyin Oglu 1991: pl. 29: 6-8.

⁶³⁵ Postgate, Oates, and Oates 1997: pl. 30 nos. 905–907.

⁶³⁶ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.16 N.

⁶³⁷ Edwards 1983:122, fig. 4.

⁶³⁸ Danti 2013a: 204.

high necks, simple everted rim, and flat base. They are of particular importance for understanding the Middle Bronze Age–Late Bronze Age transition.⁶³⁹ Jars of this type, presenting geometric polychrome decoration have been discovered only in 5 sites which have been already listed by Danti⁶⁴⁰. In the graves at Dinkha (B9a Burial 25),⁶⁴¹ this kind of vessel was found together with a toggle pin with a finely decorated top, and short pedestal-base tankards. In graves at Hasanlu, it occurs two times: in SK29, as Early Monochrome Burnished Ware,⁶⁴² and in SK504. The latter presents a band of pattern-burnished cross-hatching decoration on the shoulder,⁶⁴³ and was found in co-occurrence with a sharply carinated button base tankard, typical of the Late Bronze Age.

In Stein Section XV grave this shape is attested with a decoration of pendant triangles in a frieze, filled with hatching cross, alternated in red and black colour (polychrome Urmia Ware).⁶⁴⁴

They are also known from Haftavân in polychrome Urmia Ware, where they co-occur with raised neck jars with everted rim.⁶⁴⁵

In southern Caucasus a burnished example was discovered at the tomb no. 10 projection, together with Late Bronze Age characteristic worm bowls at Munjuglutepe⁶⁴⁶ and an example Necropolis of Mardangol decorated with painted band of pattern-burnished cross-hatching decoration on the shoulder.⁶⁴⁷ A Jar of this type, dated to Middle Bronze Age, also occurs at Yaydzhi with monochrome painting in the upper part of the body and neck.⁶⁴⁸

⁶³⁹ Danti 2013a: 204.

⁶⁴⁰ Danti 2013a: 204.

⁶⁴¹ Muscarella 1974: fig. 3 no. 420.

⁶⁴² Danti 2013a: fig. 5.9 B.

⁶⁴³ Danti 2013a: fig. 5.10 A.

⁶⁴⁴ Stein 1940: Stein 1940: 401, pl. XXXI no. 8.

⁶⁴⁵ Edwards 1981:112–13, fig. 11 nos. 1–4, 6–8.

⁶⁴⁶ Aslanov, Ibragimov and Kashkay, 2002: 24, pl. XXXV: 5.

⁶⁴⁷ Aslanov, Ibragimov and Kashkay, 2002: 10, Plate LXXII: 12.

⁶⁴⁸ Huseyin Oglu 1991: pl. 27: 1.

Table 4: Jar assemblage from Middle Bronze Age III

Jars					
No.	Manufacture	Temper	Quality	Colour	Remarks
BA.10	Wheel	Grit	Fine	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Concave geometrical decoration on body covered with red slip
BA.11	Wheel	Grit	Fine	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Concave geometrical decoration on body and burnished vertical stroke on neck
BA.12	Handmade	Grit	Fine	Gley1 2.5/ Black	Burnished with strike marks visible
BA.13	Handmade	Sand and grit	Medium	2.5YR 6/6 Light red	Burnished
BA.14a	Handmade	Mica, lime, grit sand and quartz	Medium	5YR 6/4 Light reddish Brown	
BA.14b	Handmade	Grit	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	
BA.15a	Wheel	Fine grit	Medium	Gley1 2.5/ Black	Polished
BA.15b	Wheel	grit, sand and quartz and straw	Fine	7.5YR 6/6 Reddish yellow	Smoothed

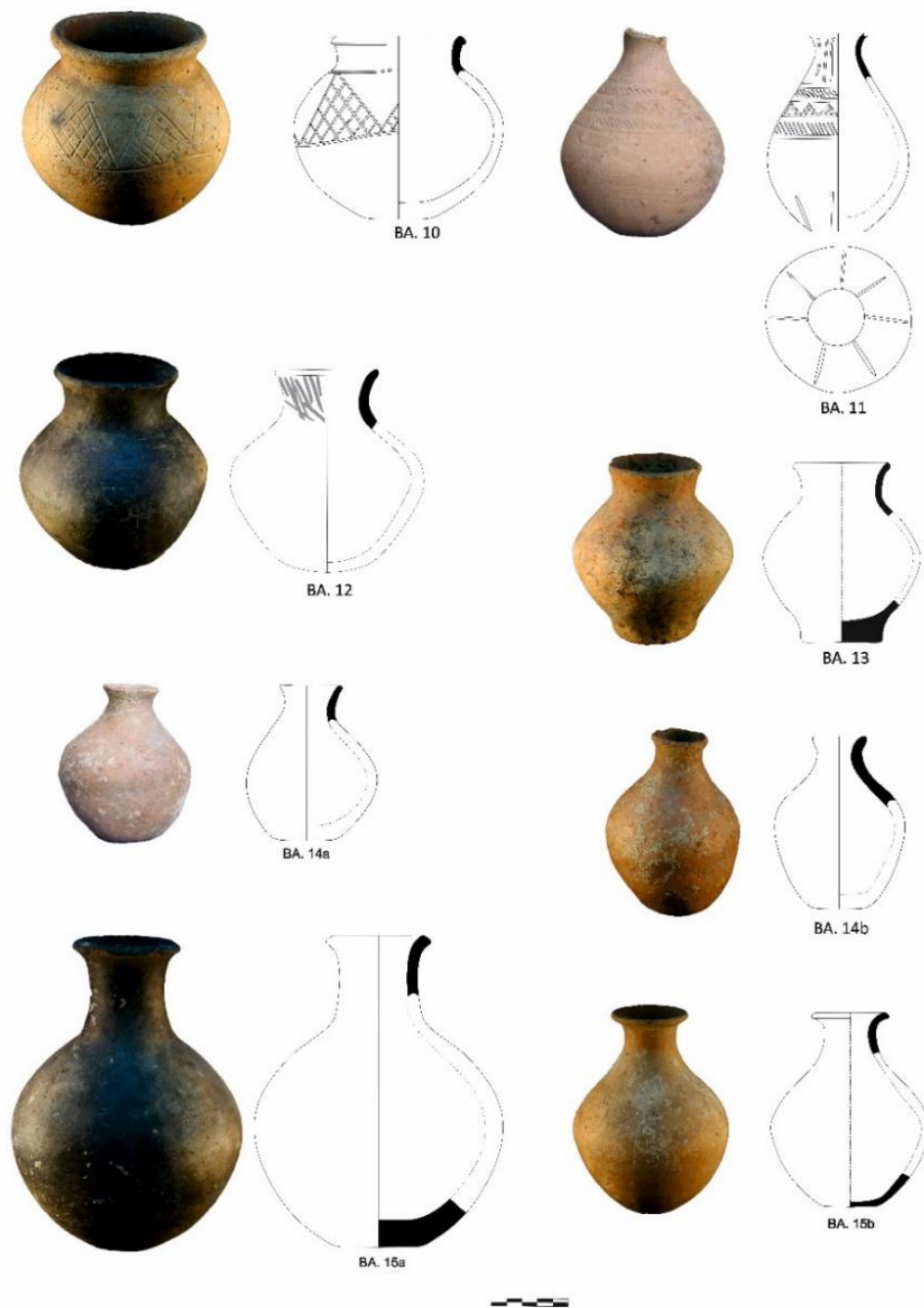


Figure 13. Jar assemblage from Middle Bronze Age III.

IV.2.2.1.2. Bowls

Bowl type I, BA.16, with two examples, falls under Kramer's Bowl type 36. It is a small uncarinated bowl with a rounded base, vertical walls, and burnished surface, a generic form that occurs throughout the Late Bronze Age at Hasanlu. A similar bowl is attested in the polychrome painted Urmia Ware in Middle Bronze Age III at Dinkha.⁶⁴⁹ This type of bowl is of particular importance for the understanding of the Middle Bronze Age–Late Bronze Age transition.

Bowl type II, BA.17, with one example, is a carinated simple bowl with a slightly convex body of equal thickness throughout. The body turns to the base in a gentle curve and with flat base. Only one sample of this type has been excavated in Bayazid Abad. This ware falls within the category of Kramer's Bowl 38b, which has been represented by two nearly complete examples in Dinkha Tepe.⁶⁵⁰ The same type is also attested in Haftavân Edwards Type — 6a in Early Period VIB.⁶⁵¹

Bowl type III, BA.18a–b, has two examples, which are burnished uncarinated bowls with vertical walls and everted rims. A similar bowl is attested in polychrome painted Urmia Middle Bronze Age III Dinkha and these wares fall in the category of Kramer's Bowl 36 in Middle Bronze Age II at Dinkha.⁶⁵² In Dinkha many bowls with the same form and almost same size have been discovered, in different colours, with the rim diameter ranging from 18 to 25 cm, the average being 20–21 cm. Most of the samples from Dinkha Tepe are buff with burnished surface, a few with a matt surface, and two with a cream slip. More examples from northwestern Iran discovered during survey expeditions at Gird Khaja Emam II (Galvan)⁶⁵³ and Tepe Sakhesi in Valin Jeq.⁶⁵⁴

⁶⁴⁹ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.17a: B.

⁶⁵⁰ Hamlin 1971: 94, pl. IV no. 38.

⁶⁵¹ Edwards 1983: fig. 93:4.

⁶⁵² Hamlin 1971: 94.

⁶⁵³ Sadrai 2018: 184, fig. 24.

⁶⁵⁴ Ebrahimi 2017: fig. 3 the second sample.

The form is attested at Haftavân-Edwards Type — 6a in Early and Late Period VIB,⁶⁵⁵ Geoy Tepe D from the tombs from pit III⁶⁵⁶ in Middle Bronze Age II, and is similar to bowls⁶⁵⁷ at Sialk A⁶⁵⁸ and Sagzabad.⁶⁵⁹

Bowl type IV, BA.19, has two examples. It is a mid-carinated grey burnished bowl with inverted wall and flat base, corresponding to Kramer's Bowl Type 38a.⁶⁶⁰ This shape is attested in two nearly-complete vessels with walls in Dinkha D. The two rims from Kramer's Ware VIII (Urmia Ware) are also part of this category,⁶⁶¹ with parallels from Geoy C⁶⁶² and Varzaghan.⁶⁶³ This shape is also found in Tomb B10a B27 in Dinkha,⁶⁶⁴ dated to Terminal Middle Bronze Age II⁶⁶⁵, and at Haftavân in Early and Late Period VIB Edwards Type 6b—⁶⁶⁶ in early Monochrome Burnished Ware (Middle Bronze Age II and Middle Bronze Age III).⁶⁶⁷ Sialk A also presents this kind of bowl in Central Grey Ware,⁶⁶⁸ Danti believes this type is a transitional form of the Terminal Middle Bronze Age II–Middle Bronze Age III.⁶⁶⁹

Bowl type V, BA.20, with one example, falls under the type of Kramer's Bowl 42,⁶⁷⁰ which represents 5.88 percent of Dinkha IVd bowls.⁶⁷¹ It is a lightly burnished uncarinated buff bowl with inverted walls and rim. It shows parallels with two bowls, smaller in size, found in stone tomb B10a B27 from Dinkha.⁶⁷² All of Dinkha's bowls were lightly burnished,

⁶⁵⁵ Edwards 1983: figs. 92 nos.16, 94 no. 13, 95 nos. 8–9

⁶⁵⁶ Burton-Brown 1951: fig. 27 no. 348.

⁶⁵⁷ Examples from both Sialk and Sagzabad have similar almost identical forms to the ones from Bayazid Abad, differing only for the base, which is flat instead of rounded.

⁶⁵⁸ Ghirshman 1939: pl. XXXVII no. 443.

⁶⁵⁹ Piller 2003–2004: pl. 12 no. 2.

⁶⁶⁰ Hamlin 1971: 94.

⁶⁶¹ Hamlin 1971: 95.

⁶⁶² Burton-Brown 1951: fig. 31 no. 60.

⁶⁶³ Hejebri 2017: 47–129.

⁶⁶⁴ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.12 H.

⁶⁶⁵ Danti 2013a: 155.

⁶⁶⁶ Edwards 1983: figs. 98 nos. 13–14; 99 no. 3.

⁶⁶⁷ Danti 2013a: 155.

⁶⁶⁸ Ghirshman 1939: pl. XXXVII no. 443

⁶⁶⁹ Danti 2013a: 155.

⁶⁷⁰ Hamlin 1971: 96, pl. V no. 42.

⁶⁷¹ Danti 2013a: 155.

⁶⁷² Danti 2013a: figs. 4.7a: G, 4.12 E, G.

smoothed and matt.⁶⁷³ Kramer's Bowl 42 from Tomb B10a B27 show remarkable parallels with a bowl of Haftavân late VIb Edwards Type 2,⁶⁷⁴ and Sialk A.⁶⁷⁵

Bowl type VI, BA.21, with three examples is a small uncarinated bowl with slightly everted wall and pinched rim; only one sample has been excavated from Bayazid Abad. Kramer's Bowl type 13,⁶⁷⁶ is attested in the Phase D assemblage at Dinkha with two examples, one with plain disk base and incised marks and another with flat base and burnished buff colour.

Bowl type VII with one example, BA.22, is an uncarinated bowl with inverted walls and a single groove under the rim as is Kramer's Bowl Type 39. This kind of bowl is attested in Geoy Tepe from late Period D.⁶⁷⁷ The form is also attested at Haftavân early VIb on the Middle Bronze Age II —Edwards Type 6a.⁶⁷⁸

Bowl type VIII, BA.23, with four examples, is a small handmade uncarinated bowl with slightly everted walls, thickened rounded rim and rounded base, covered in heavy red slip in both surface, and smoothed matt. The surface of this ware has begun to flake off in sheets because of the largest white grit inclusions. It falls in Kramer's Bowl Type 31 from Dinkha Tepe assemblage with only one example being found in phase D at Dinkha.⁶⁷⁹

Bowl type IX, BA.24, with one example is a carinated bowl with everted rim and flat base. This type is attested in Haftavân in Early and Late Period VIb, Edwards Type 6b—, in Early and Late Period VIb.⁶⁸⁰

Bowl type X with one example, BA.25, is a carinated bowl with straight or slightly everted rims and ring base, which are typical of late Middle Bronze Age II. They belong to Kramer's Bowl Type 18.⁶⁸¹ The type occurs in Dinkha Tepe with two grey colour samples.⁶⁸² The examples have been found in Hasanlu U22 Sounding.⁶⁸³ These bowls generally have everted

⁶⁷³ Hamlin 1971: 96.

⁶⁷⁴ Edwards 1983: fig. 82: 16.

⁶⁷⁵ Ghirshman 1939: pl. XLVII no. 674d.

⁶⁷⁶ Hamlin 1971: 87, pl. III no. 13.

⁶⁷⁷ Burton-Brown 1951: fig. 24 no. 936.

⁶⁷⁸ Edwards 1983: fig. 96 no. 4

⁶⁷⁹ Hamlin 1971: pl. IV no. 3.

⁶⁸⁰ Edwards 1983: fig. 87 no. 9.

⁶⁸¹ Hamlin 1971: pl. III no. 18.

⁶⁸² Hamlin 1971: 88.

⁶⁸³ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.20 F.

simple rims. Also, similar bowls have been reported from the Middle Assyrian layer from Tell Al Rimah⁶⁸⁴ and from Bakr Awa in the Middle Bronze Age Horizon.⁶⁸⁵

Bowl XI with two examples, BA.26 a–b, are small uncarinated bowls with everted walls, and simple rim that seem to have been handmade by the simple forefinger-and-thumb molding technique. The texture of the fabric vary from fine coarse buff to brown, red/brown and orange/grey in colour. Twenty-five small bowls have been excavated from Bayazid Abad. This type of bowl is attested in the Dinkha Phase D tombs⁶⁸⁶ and they fall in Kramer's Bowl Type 32 category, with similar small bowls reported from Haftavân early and late VI periods.⁶⁸⁷

Bowl type XII with one example, BA.27, is a small uncarinated bowl with everted walls and overhanging rounded rim and a single groove under the rim. The body turns to the base in a gentle curve with flat base and seems to be handmade with the simple forefinger-and-thumb molding technique. No parallels were found among the comparative samples in Bayazid Abad. The closest comparative sample has been excavated from Haftavân Edwards Type 6 — in Late Period VIB.⁶⁸⁸

Bowl type XIII with two examples, BA.28, is a carinated monochrome burnished bowl with vertical to inverted wall and simple inverted rim, corresponding to Kramer's Bowl 35 of the Dinkha IVd bowls.⁶⁸⁹ Similar incurving bowls, albeit with thickened rims, are attested in the early Late Bronze Age at Hasanlu⁶⁹⁰ and Kordlar⁶⁹¹; Stein found one in a Hasanlu VIa grave at Hasanlu alongside an Urmia Ware jar (Seriation: Section XV).⁶⁹²

Bowl type IX with one example, BA.29, is a small close mouth bowl with rounded body, rounded base and simple rim, which turns diagonally outward, and a thin wall with a rather smooth slip, covered with granulated soil sediment surfacing on the exterior of the vessel. Similar bowls are recorded in Phase B of Haftavân Late VI, falling in Edwards' Bowl Type

⁶⁸⁴ Postgate, Oates, and Oates 1997: pl. 30.

⁶⁸⁵ Miglus et al. 2013: fig 14 b.

⁶⁸⁶ Hamlin 1971: pl. IV no. 32.

⁶⁸⁷ Edwards 1983: fig. 81 nos. 13–16.

⁶⁸⁸ Edwards 1983: fig. 94 no. 12.

⁶⁸⁹ Hamlin 1971: fig. IV no. 35.

⁶⁹⁰ Danti 2013a: 4.28 E.

⁶⁹¹ Lippert 1976: pl. 4 no. 4.

⁶⁹² Danti 2013a: 154.

6a.⁶⁹³ Comparable examples have been found in Bayazid Abad, Marlik⁶⁹⁴ and Ghalekuti I in the Dailaman of Gilan, dated by Fukai between the end of the Bronze and the beginning of the Iron Age.⁶⁹⁵ Similar vessels were also discovered at Beshtasheni in the Caucasian region; for them, Schaeffer proposes the date 1200–1000 BC.⁶⁹⁶

Bowls type XV, BA.30, with one example, is a hemispherical bowl with thickened rim, flat base and light red slip, a well-attested type in Haftavân with polychrome painted decoration (Urmia Ware) Edwards Type 6a — in early and late period VIB. The type also occurs in Hasanlu from the early period of Late Bronze Age ceramics from the U22 sounding.⁶⁹⁷ Stein found one red-slipped and burnished bowl of this type at Hasanlu in a grave with an Urmia Ware jar.⁶⁹⁸

Bowls type XVI, BA.31, with one example, is a chalice or goblet shaped vessel on a short foot. It is well known in Turkey and north Syria dated *ca.* 1900–1550 BC, and is part of the painted potteries Cilician Hittite, Painted Cilician, or Pre-Hittite, studied by Garstang.⁶⁹⁹ The geometric pattern appears to imitate painted geometric motifs found on Cilician wares.⁷⁰⁰ This kind of decoration was common in Middle Bronze Age III at Dinkha Tepe where some sherds with the same design have been discovered.⁷⁰¹

Bowl type XVII with one example, BA.32, is a small uncarinated bowl with straight walls and flattened rim and rounded base. The form and design of this bowl finds an exact parallel at Dinkha Tepe's 'trash' deposit.⁷⁰² The differences between these two examples from Bayazid Abad and Dinkha Tepe is that the design from Dinkha Tepe was filled with a white grit while the Bayazid Abad sample is simple. Design patterns are reminiscent of the Middle Bronze Age III, which is especially notable due to its connection to the early Late Bronze Age of the southern Caucasus⁷⁰³. This kind of decoration has been detected in Lchashen-

⁶⁹³ Edwards 1983: fig. 93 no. 3.

⁶⁹⁴ Negahban 1996: fig. 24 no. 567.

⁶⁹⁵ Fukai and Ikeda 1971: 3, 29, pl. XXIX no. 6, pl. XXX no. 2, pl. XXXVI: 2.

⁶⁹⁶ Schaeffer 1948: 503, fig. 278 no. 3, fig. 285 no. 2.

⁶⁹⁷ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.12 K.

⁶⁹⁸ Stein 1940: 40, pl. XXXI no. 1.

⁶⁹⁹ After Seton Williams 1953: 57.

⁷⁰⁰ Seton Williams 1953: fig. 4–2.

⁷⁰¹ Danti 2013a: 4.16 Q.

⁷⁰² Danti 2013a: 4.18 C.

⁷⁰³ Danti 2013a: 205.

Metsamor 1,⁷⁰⁴ while burnished grey ware with white in-filled designs and impressions has been found in Mitanni settlements of northern Mesopotamia at Tell Al-Rimah,⁷⁰⁵ Tell Brak,⁷⁰⁶ and Nuzi.⁷⁰⁷

Table 5: Bowls assemblage from Middle Bronze Age III

Bowls					
No.	Manufacture	Temper	Quality	Colour	Remarks
BA.16	Handmade	Sand and lime	Coarse	2.5YR 4/6 Reddish brown	
BA.17	Handmade	Grit, sand, and lime	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Carinated body
BA.18a	Handmade	Sand and grit	Medium	7.5YR 4/3 Brown	Burnished
BA.18b	Handmade	Grit	Fine	5YR 3/2 Dark reddish brown	Burnished
BA.19	Handmade	Grit, mica, and quartz	Medium	5YR 5/1 Grey	Carinated body
BA.20	Handmade	Sand and Lime	Medium	2.5YR 4/6 Reddish brown	Smoothed
BA.21	Handmade	Sand	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Light red slip
BA.22	Handmade	Grit, mica, and quartz	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Smoothed
BA.23a	Handmade	Sand and grit	Medium	2.5YR 4/6 Reddish brown	Smoothed
BA.23b	Handmade	Sand	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Smoothed

⁷⁰⁴ Smith, Badalyan, and Avetisyan 2009: 73.

⁷⁰⁵ Postgate, Oates, and Oates 1997: 56–57, pl. 23d–f.

⁷⁰⁶ Oates, Oates, and McDonald 1997: fig. 108 lower, fig. 208 nos. 588–589.

⁷⁰⁷ Starr 1939: 402, pls. 91: N–R, T–W; 92: A–S.

BA.24	Handmade	Sand and lime	Coarse	2.5YR 4/6 Reddish brown	
BA.25	Handmade	Sand	Fine	7.5 5/1 Grey	
BA.26a	Handmade	Sand	Medium	5YR 6/6 Reddish yellow	
BA.26b	Handmade	Sand and lime	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light red	Smoothed
BA.27	Handmade	Sand and lime	Medium	2.5YR 4/6 Reddish brown	Carinated body
BA.28	Handmade	Sand and quartz	Medium	2.5YR 6/4 Light reddish brown	Smoothed, carinated body
BA.29	Handmade	Fine grit and lime	Fine	2.5YR 6/4 Light reddish brown	Smoothed
BA.30	Wheel	Grit, sand, mica, and lime	Medium	7.5YR 4/3 Brown	
BA.31	Handmade	Mica, quartz, and sand	Medium	2.5YR 6/6 Light red	Incised geometric decoration
BA.32	Wheel	Grit and lime	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Incised geometric decoration, slip

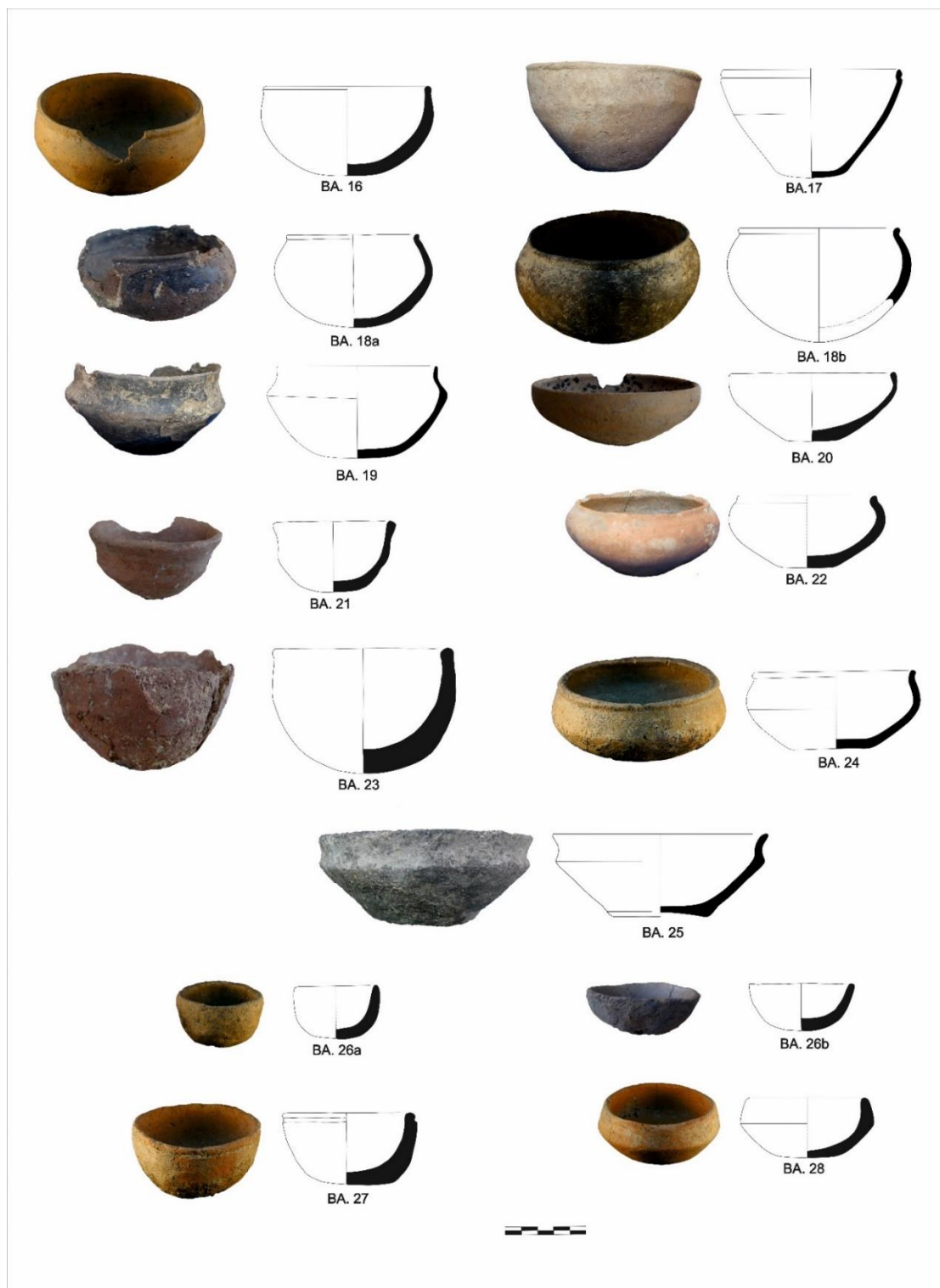


Figure 14. Bowls assemblage from Middle Bronze Age III.

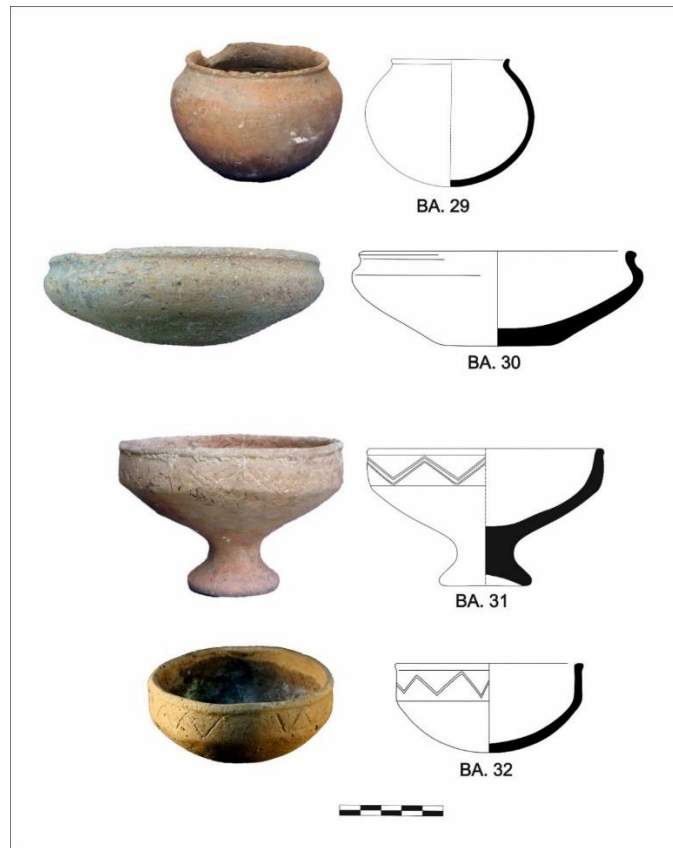


Figure 15. Bowls assemblage from Middle Bronze Age III.

IV.2.2.1.3. Cups

Cup type I with one example, BA.33, is a heavily grey burnished tankard with button base, slightly flaring neck, and simple rim. It falls in Danti's cup Type 1a. Two examples of this type were found at Hasanlu: one in grave SK25 and one in SK29, associated with an Early Monochrome Burnished Ware jar. Both findings have been dated to Middle Bronze Age III by Danti,⁷⁰⁸ due to their S-profile and the way in which the handles are attached near the rim. Button bases, characterized by a sharp joining point with the bottom and a short concavo-convex profile, appear to have an earlier dating between the ceramics of Ušnu-Naghada, Middle Bronze Age III–Late Bronze Age. Drinking vessels showing this kind of bases are present in Hasanlu, but only in Middle Bronze Age III and early Late Bronze Age graves. These

⁷⁰⁸ Danti 2013a: 137, figs. 4.26 B, 5.8 A–B.

tankards' profiles are more similar to the ones from Middle Bronze Age II–III, than to the ones from Late Bronze Age, which presents a sharp carination.

Table 6. Tankard cup from Middle Bronze Age III

No.	Manufacture	Temper	Quality	Colour	Remarks
BA.33	Wheel	Grit, sand, and quartz	Fine	5YR 3/1 Very dark grey	One vertical handle



Figure 16. Tankard cup from Middle Bronze Age III.

IV.2.2.2. Overview on Middle Bronze Age III ceramic assemblage

Bayazid Abad pottery employs two styles of decoration in this period. The first one uses geometric incised decorations on both jars and bowls, which is generally confined to the shoulders in bowls. The second one has a burnished pattern, and is attested only on jars. The incised decoration style appears on sherds in Dinkha, showing strong connections to the southern Caucasus. In Bayazid Abad, both techniques have been applied on jar no. 11. In this period, we also witness the emergence of the early Monochrome Burnished Ware, a new tradition of pottery contemporary to Urmia Ware in North-Western Iran. The origins of the Monochrome Burnished Ware can be traced to Middle Bronze Age II, where the technique has been applied on pinkish grey ware.

Monochrome Burnished Ware are grit-tempered, in a variety of colours including light grey to black, pinkish-buff to red, and buff to brown. The ceramics are usually slipped or wet smoothed, and burnished. The samples from Bayazid Abad are globular to oval jars with high necks (no. 15a–b), simple everted rim, and flat base; and uncarinated bowls with vertical walls and everted rims (no. 18a–b). These shapes are also present in the Dinkha IV and III and have also been excavated at Haftavân VIIb in painted ware related to Urmia Ware. Danti believes that the Monochrome Burnished Ware developed from Kramer's Ware II and VI.⁷⁰⁹ At the same time, scholars who had previously worked on the same materials thought that this kind of pottery had developed as a consequence of a sudden replacement of the population and its culture by an unstoppable invading force.

Mid-body carinated grey burnished bowl (no. 18) and carinated bowls with straight or slightly everted rims and ring base (no. 24) are other examples of the common form in Middle Bronze Age II and III in North-Western Iran, and they have parallels in Dinkha IV. The chalice bowl is one of the special examples not reported from any other contemporary sites in North-Western Iran. It is a well-known form in Turkey and North Syria during the Middle Bronze Age. Another distinctive form of this period is the dark burnished grey tankard with a button base, with a parallel at Hasanlu.

The ceramic assemblage of Middle Bronze Age III in Bayazid Abad tomb indicates strong connections to the primary key sites of Hasanlu and Dinkha. In contrast to Middle Bronze Age II, during which pottery forms were specific to the Hasanlu and Dinkha, it is indeed possible to notice intensification of ties between northern and southern parts of Lake Urmia in Middle Bronze Age III. In this period, aside from the usual contacts with Mesopotamia to the west, relationships are further expanded to the southern Caucasus in the north. The ceramic assemblage of Middle Bronze Age III in Bayazid Abad tomb indicates strong connections to the primary key sites (Hasanlu and Dinkha).

⁷⁰⁹ Danti 2013a: 169.

IV.2.3. Late Bronze Age ceramic assemblage from Bayazid Abad (1450–1250 BC)

At the Bayazid Abad tomb, 65 Late Bronze Age ceramics were obtained in total, which can be divided in three groups: cups, jars, and bowls. In this section, only 20 of them are presented, since some of these wares share similar features. Tankard cups are presented in two categories, while the small simple cups have three sub-categories, the jars have 13, and the bowls two. Before the discovery of Bayazid Abad, most of the data regarding Late Bronze Age ceramics of Uşnu-Naghada came from the lower levels of the U22 Sounding at Hasanlu; its operations T22–23, U22–23, and V22–23; the Dinkha B9/10a Control Sounding; and operations in the immediate vicinity.⁷¹⁰ Additional input come from the burial sites at Hajji Firuz,⁷¹¹ Dalma,⁷¹² Haftavân,⁷¹³ and Yanik,⁷¹⁴ and from an early Late Bronze Age grave at Geoy Tepe.⁷¹⁵

IV.2.3.1. Description of ceramic shapes

IV.2.3.1.1. Cups

a. Tankards cups

This form of cups falls in Danti's Cup Type 1 Tankards. At Bayazid Abad from Late Bronze Age two categories of this form can be registered. Most of these tankards present a sharp carination or shoulder right in the middle, and clearly distinguishable upper and lower halves. A straight or flaring neck with a simple rim characterizes these cups in their upper portion, while the lower part is usually globular, conic, or ovoid. Handles mostly show a round profile and a tendency to attach below the rim where the carination is at its widest. Danti assumes that there is continuity between the Middle Bronze Age and Late Bronze Age

⁷¹⁰ Danti 2013a: 182.

⁷¹¹ Voigt 1976: 810–14, fig. 116, pls. LXI–LXII.

⁷¹² Young 1962: 707–8, fig. 8.

⁷¹³ Burney 1970: 165, fig. 8 nos. 1, 7.

⁷¹⁴ Burney 1962: 136, 146–47, pl. XLIIc nos. 24–29.

⁷¹⁵ Burton- Brown 1951: 142–45.

for this form in Ušnu-Naghada, as well as for the footed goblets/beakers and tankards of North-Western Iran, as seen in the developmental sequence of Giyan.⁷¹⁶

Type I, with three examples, BA.34a–c, has short solid-footed and ring bases, with carinated and goblet bodies. It falls in Danti's Cup Type 1b and is attested in Dinkha graves. Burial 25B9a, Burial 2 VII, Burial 23B10a⁷¹⁷ and Hasanlu graves, Burial SK504 and Burial SK116.⁷¹⁸ The earliest sample of this tall pedestal-based form has been excavated in Dinkha IVD.⁷¹⁹ Evidences from Hasanlu and Dinkha Tepe shows in the Late Bronze Age, the evolution of button bases into ring and pedestal bases, increasing in height and width.

Type II, with two examples, BA.35a–b, is attested in two examples: a grey-coloured nipple-based tankard with slim carinated body, and another one with goblets burnished black body. They fall in Danti's Cup Type 1c⁷²⁰ and are attested by only two vessels from early Late Bronze Age graves at Hasanlu: Burial SK67 and Burial SK445/449.⁷²¹ These forms could have been influenced by Mesopotamia⁷²².

During Late Bronze Age in Mesopotamia, the tall tankards evolved in a way similar to the button-base beakers and tankards of the Middle Bronze Age III and early Late Bronze Age in North-Western Iran. Except for the presence of handles and the most evident dissimilarities in wares, a parallel can be traced between these materials from north western Iran and Mesopotamian Kassite beakers from Nuzi, as pointed out by Henrickson.⁷²³ In addition, Danti traced more parallels with other Mitanni shouldered drinking vessels,⁷²⁴ but they actually appear to be related more to examples with flat or pedestal bases from southern Caucasus: Shahtahty,⁷²⁵ Qizilburun,⁷²⁶ Khali-Keshan, and Mardangol,⁷²⁷ both plain and painted.

⁷¹⁶ Danti 2013a: 201.

⁷¹⁷ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.26 E, F, H.

⁷¹⁸ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.26 G, I.

⁷¹⁹ Muscarella 1974: fig. 3 no. 229.

⁷²⁰ Muscarella 1974: 200.

⁷²¹ Danti 2013a: 4.26 J, K.

⁷²² Danti 2013a: 201.

⁷²³ Henrickson 1983–84: no. 38.

⁷²⁴ Danti 2013a: 201.

⁷²⁵ Agayev 2002: pl. 26 nos. 2–4.

⁷²⁶ Ismayilzade and Ibrahimli 2013: pl. 5 no. 5, pl. 7 no. 1.

⁷²⁷ Aliyev 2018: pl. 40 nos. 1–3, 10–11.

Table 6: Late Bronze Age tankard cups

No.	Manufacture	Temper	Quality	Colour	Remarks
BA.34a	Wheel	Fine grit and mica	Fine	5 YR 6/6 Orange	Monochrome Burnished Ware, one vertical handle
BA.34b	Wheel	Fine grit	Fine	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Monochrome Burnished Ware, one vertical handle
BA.34c	Handmade	Fine grit	Fine	Gley1 5/ Grey	One vertical handle, smoothed
BA.35a	Handmade	Fine grit	Medium	Gley1 6/ Grey	
BA.35b	Wheel	Fine grit	Fine	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Monochrome Burnished Ware, one vertical handle

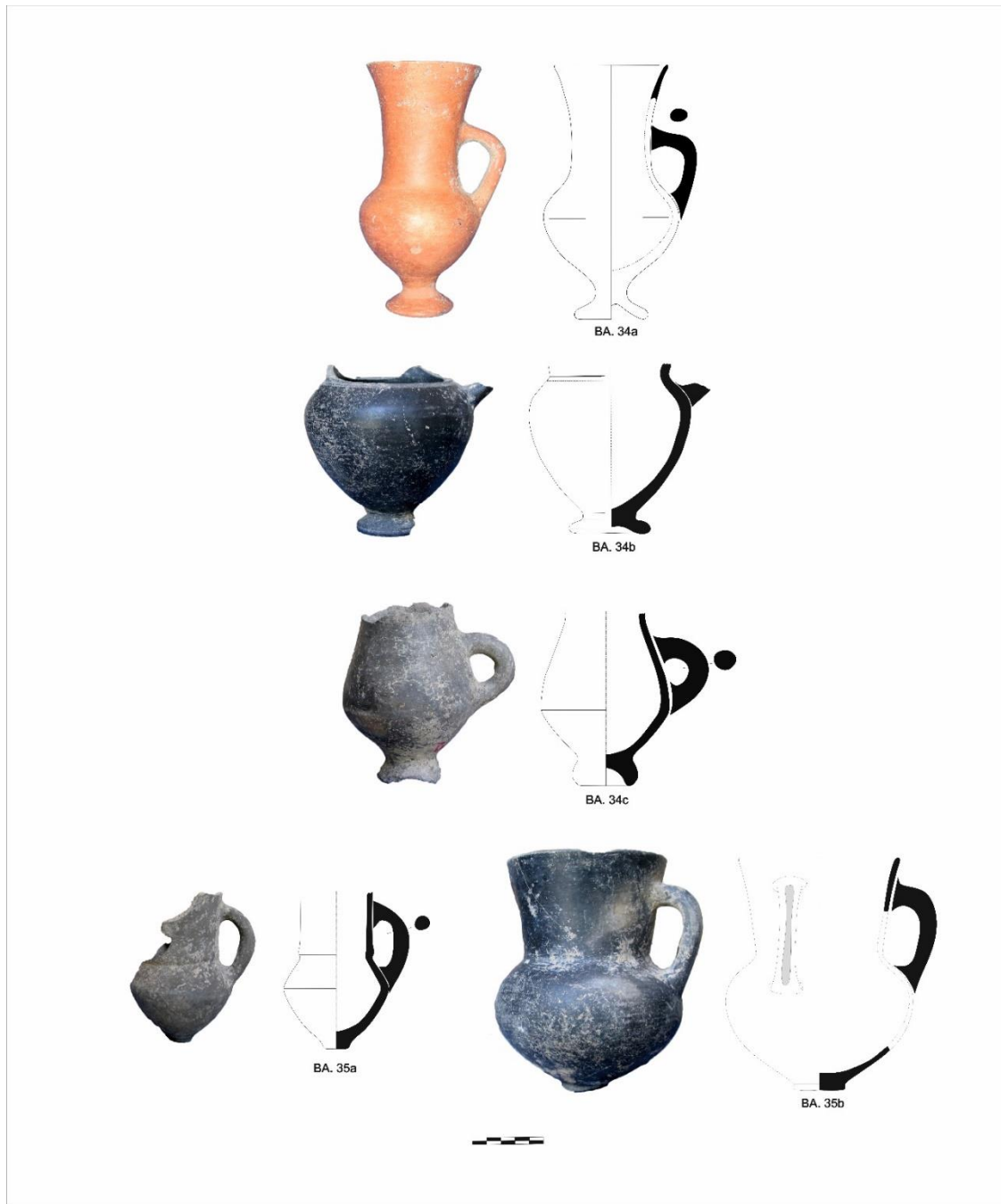


Figure 17. Late Bronze Age tankards cups from Bayazid Abad.

b. Normal cups

Cup type I with one example, BA.36, is a carinated mug with vertical grooved handle at the rim and small raised disk base, with sand temper and a very thin pinkish grey slip. The rim is almost vertically beveled on the outside but beveled slightly inward on the inside. The same form of mugs, were attested at Dinkha from Late Bronze Age from “Trash Deposit” operation,⁷²⁸ and Hasanlu in a grave “SK498 Operation VIh Burial 8,” belonging to Iron Age II.⁷²⁹ The same grooved handle has also been discovered from Kordlar Tepe IV⁷³⁰ and Haftavân Tepe IV.⁷³¹ These kinds of cups can be dated from Late Bronze Age to Iron Age II.

Cup type II with one example, BA.37, is a simple cup with rounded base, slanting convex sides, and a rim almost vertically beveled on the outside but beveled slightly inward on the inside. It has a vertical loop handle, located on one side, attached below the rim and to the body. This cup has direct parallels at Geoy Tepe B from a Late Bronze Age level.⁷³²

Cup type III, with one example, BA.38, is a small cup with a handle connected to the rim on the upper side and to the body on the lower side. It has a flat base and simple turned-out rim, with a single groove beneath it. The closest parallel to this cup has been excavated at Geoy Tepe between the ceramics of Lower Tomb K,⁷³³ dated to the Late Bronze Age.

Cup type IV, with one example, BA.39 is an uncarinated bowl with inverted wall and club headed rim, with a horizontal ribbing below it, and rounded base. It is very similar in shape with the samples from Kordlar IV from the Late Bronze Age.⁷³⁴

Cup type V, with four examples, BA.40a–c, has large handles, a simple slightly everted rim and flat to rounded base. Vessels with this exact shape have not been found in North-Western Iran, but similar samples without handles have been excavated in Hasanlu V.⁷³⁵

⁷²⁸ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.18 E.

⁷²⁹ Danti 2013b: fig. 32 G.

⁷³⁰ Lippert 1974: pl. V.

⁷³¹ Tala'i 2007: pl. 2, b.

⁷³² Burton-Brown 1951: fig. 33 no. 1004.

⁷³³ Burton-Brown 1951: fig. 32 no. 18.

⁷³⁴ Lippert 1979: pl. 7 no. 13.

⁷³⁵ Danti 2013a: 4.31 R, D.

Table 7: Late Bronze Age cup assemblage

No.	Manufacture	Temper	Quality	Colour	Remarks
BA.36	Wheel	Sand and grit	Medium	7.5YR 7/2 Pinkish grey	One vertical handle and carinated body
BA.37	Handmade	Fine grit, sand, and lime	Medium	5YR 5/6 Yellowish red	One vertical handle
BA.38	Handmade	Fine grit	Medium	7.5YR 7/4 Pink	One vertical handle
BA.39	Handmade	Fine grit	Fine	5YR 5/3 Reddish brown	One vertical handle
BA.34 0a	Handmade	Sand and lime	Medium	5YR 6/6 Reddish yellow	Smoothed, one vertical handle
BA.40 b	Handmade	Sand and lime	Medium	5YR 5/3 Reddish brown	One vertical handle
BA.40c	Wheel	Fine grit	Fine	7.5YR 5/2 Brown	Polished, grey slip, one vertical handle



Figure 18. Late Bronze Age cups of Bayazid Abad.

IV.2.3.1.2. Jars

Jar type I with 10 examples, BA.41a-e, mid-body carinated jars with flat bases. This type becomes far more prevalent during Iron Age I and II, but no simple carinated jar with rounded body has been reported from Hasanlu and Dinkha. This type illustrates the transition from rounded carinated body to carinated jars with flaring sides, in the late second–early first millennium, and the jars can all be dated to the early Late Bronze Age. In Caucasus examples with rounded bodies are present in both plain and decorated with painted designs of hatched triangles⁷³⁶.

Jar type II with one example, BA.42, is a fine jar with a slightly everted rim and flat base, with a vertical incised line around its shoulder. Comparative examples have not been reported from any neighbouring sites, but in Dinkha Tepe there are some rim sherds with the same form, discovered from a trash deposit of the Late Bronze Age.⁷³⁷ Also, the decoration is typical of the Middle Bronze Age II from Dinkha Tepe.⁷³⁸ In Necropolis of Munjuglutepe, the same example was excavated in Tomb no.10 dated to Iron Age I–II.⁷³⁹

⁷³⁶ Aslanov, Ibragimov and Kashkay 2002: pl. 6 nos. 3, 10.

⁷³⁷ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.18 L, M, N.

⁷³⁸ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.16 W.

⁷³⁹ Aslanov, Ibragimov and Kashkay 2002: 24, pl. 35 no. 15.

Jar type III with 11 examples, BA.43, is a Danti's holemouth Type 8, the only one true holemouth jar attributed to this period in Hasanlu,⁷⁴⁰ and it comes from a rare late Period V burial "SK459." Danti dated this grave to late Hasanlu V, given the mid-body-carinated jar in buff ware with a relatively high neck and simple rim⁷⁴¹ characteristic of Late Bronze Age and Iron Age I. Such jars are attested in the Late Bronze Age at Qumluq in southern Caucasus.⁷⁴²

Jar type IV with 10 examples, BA.44 is a grey burnished jar with flaring necks, simple rims and flat base. Several similarly fine rims with small diameters have been reported from Hasanlu, while a whole example is known from Late Bronze Age Grave B 9a, burial 19 at Dinkha Tepe⁷⁴³.

Jar type V with one example, BA.45, is a small vessel with a shape similar to a teapot. It was probably used for feeding infants, and compares with successive exemplars, like the one found in grave B8e, burial 7 at Dinkha.⁷⁴⁴ BA 45 differs in two features: the absence of basket handles, and in being taller. This kind of jars, attested in Urmia Ware in the Middle Bronze Age III from Dinkha Tepe⁷⁴⁵ and Geoy Tepe.⁷⁴⁶

Jar type VI with one example, BA.46, falls within Danti's holemouth Jar Type 8.⁷⁴⁷ The grey burnished bridgeless spouted hemispherical vessel with a short and everted rim. It presents burnished vertical lines around the body and ring base, and an angled protrusion below it emerges from one side of the body, opposite the jar's spout, the vessel has an appliqué element.

At Geoy Tepe, Tomb K, a similar jar has been obtained, similar to another one from Khurvin, dated by Vanden Berghe to the late eleventh century BC.⁷⁴⁸ The grave itself is considered contemporary to Hasanlu Level V, dated by Dyson to 1250–1000 BC.⁷⁴⁹

⁷⁴⁰ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.36 F.

⁷⁴¹ Danti 2013a: 298.

⁷⁴² Aliyev 2018: pl. 42: 8–9.

⁷⁴³ Muscarella 1974: fig. 12 no. 952.

⁷⁴⁴ Muscarella 1974: fig. 17 no. 937.

⁷⁴⁵ Rubinson 2004: fig. 2 no. 20.

⁷⁴⁶ Burton Brown 1951: fig. 41 no. 113.

⁷⁴⁷ Danti 2013a: 197.

⁷⁴⁸ vanden Berghe 1959: 123–24, 128, pl. 153 C.

⁷⁴⁹ Dyson 1965: 196, pl. XXXII, fig. 2 nos. 32–37; pl. XLIV, fig. 13.

According to Danti, spouted vessels, both bridged and bridgeless, are highly stylized theriomorphic bird jars, representing local aquatic birds such as pelicans and others.⁷⁵⁰ A variation of this jar appears in the Middle Bronze Age Tomb B 9b, b16 at Dinkha.⁷⁵¹

In Nakhichevan, Azerbaijan in Kizil-Vank, Sortepe,⁷⁵² Qizilburun,⁷⁵³ Khali-Keshan, Mardangol, Munjuglutepe,⁷⁵⁴ Qaladjik, and Azerbaijani Kultepe I and II,⁷⁵⁵ vessels with both bridged and unbridged spouts, and plain and polychrome textures were excavated.

In general, these types of ceramics became more common in the Late Bronze Age, with the characteristic of bridgeless spouts, while in the Iron Age II they appear more widely characterized by bridged spouts.⁷⁵⁶ This form of pottery has been prevalent in the northern half of Iran, although its distribution is not homogeneous, and it can be divided into three smaller areas. First is the eastern region, from Kashan in the south-east and Tehran in the east to the Qazvin plain and the Sefid Rud valley in the west. The second area is the North-Western part of Iran, which covers the south and west of Lake Urmia. The third zone, the western region, covers the central Zagros region. In these areas the number of sites and samples is not the same. The eastern region is the most populated area with Uzbaki,⁷⁵⁷ Marlik,⁷⁵⁸ Khorvin,⁷⁵⁹ Sialk,⁷⁶⁰ Ghaitariyeh,⁷⁶¹ and Jiran Tepe.⁷⁶² The north-west region contains the areas of Hasanlu,⁷⁶³ Dinkha, Haftavân,⁷⁶⁴ and Geoy Tepe,⁷⁶⁵ with fewer samples than the eastern region. From the western region the lowest number is obtained.

⁷⁵⁰ Danti 2013a: 197.

⁷⁵¹ Muscarella 1974: fig. 16 no. 269.

⁷⁵² Rubinson 2004: 663; Seyidov 2003: figs. 43 nos. 6, 8; 44: 3 no. 10.

⁷⁵³ Some grave pictures from the expedition of II Meshshaninov at Qizilburun are published which shows these bridgeless spouted jars were placed in the tombs (Ismayilzade and Ibrahimli 2013: figs. 7–10, pl. 1 nos. 1–2, and pl. 2 no. 1).

⁷⁵⁴ Aslanov, Ibragimov and Kashkay, 2002: pl. VI no. 5, pl. LXXII no. 5, pl. XI no. 16, pl. XII, ol. LVII no. 2, pl. 62 no. 3.

⁷⁵⁵ Agayev 2002: 80–87, pls. XVI–XVII.

⁷⁵⁶ Danti believes that the appliqué decoration and the development of a foot are characteristic of late Iron Age I and Iron Age II (Danti 2013a: 304).

⁷⁵⁷ Majidzadeh 1999: pl. 7.

⁷⁵⁸ Negahban 1996: pl. 109–110, 116.

⁷⁵⁹ Vanden Berghe 1964: *passim*.

⁷⁶⁰ Ghirshman 1939: *passim*.

⁷⁶¹ Kambaxsh-Fard 1991: 56, 58, 83.

⁷⁶² Majidzadeh 2000: pl. 5/10.

⁷⁶³ Stein 1940: pl. XXIV; Hakimi and Rad: 1950: 44–45.

⁷⁶⁴ Burney 1968: pl. VIII.

⁷⁶⁵ Burton Brown 1951: figs. 32, 37.

Jar type VII, with one example, BA.47, is monochrome burnished, and mid-body carinated. The jar is hemispherical with a short, vertical simple rim and two loop handles on both sides. An example is from Dinkha B 8e, burial 7 with bridgeless spout.⁷⁶⁶ In general, this kind of carinated jar is attested in the late second millennium BC from the later Late Bronze Age in North-Western Iran.

Jar type VIII with one example, BA.48, is a flat base jar with carinated body, concave neck, and an outward rim. The same form has been discovered from the Late Bronze Age grave in Dinkha Tepe.⁷⁶⁷

Jar type IX with one example, BA.49, is a globular jar with simple everted rim, flat base and burnished patterns on the body. Typically, vertical pattern-burnished Monochrome Burnished Ware holemouth jars occur in the Late Bronze Age. The shape of these jars, especially the body and base, suggests a relationship to the pottery found in North-Western Iran belonging to the second half of the second millennium BC; rare examples of patterned burnished vessels occur at Hasanlu V,⁷⁶⁸ but not in the graves of Dinkha III.

Jar type X with one example, BA.50, is made of reddish pottery with fine red burnished slip. It has a disk base and a globular body with a very short neck that turns to an outward rim. A loop handle is attached to the neck and body. No comparable jug has been discovered from neighbouring sites, so it is hard to date this vase. According to the style of base and handle it can be dated to the Late Bronze Age, same as the jug with a similar base and handle discovered from Hasanlu grave SK116.⁷⁶⁹

Jar type XI with one example, BA.51, has a globular body with a round base and a rather short upright concave neck with a projecting rounded outward rim. It has a smooth red slip. It falls in Danti's holemouth jars Types 3–5, a class of ovoid jars present in late Period V at Hasanlu.⁷⁷⁰

⁷⁶⁶ Muscarella 1974: fig. 17 no. 937.

⁷⁶⁷ Muscarella 1974: fig. 12 no. 952.

⁷⁶⁸ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.35 BB–DD, F–GG.

⁷⁶⁹ Danti 2013a: fig. 5.11 B.

⁷⁷⁰ Danti 2013a: 4.33 F.

Table 8: Late Bronze Age jar assemblage

No.	Manufacture	Temper	Quality	Colour	Remarks
BA.41a	Handmade	Sand	Medium	5YR 5/3 Reddish brown	Smoothed
BA.41b	Handmade	Fine grit and mica	Fine	Gley1 2.5/ Black	Burnished
BA.41c	Handmade	Sand	Medium	2.5YR 6/6 Light red	Smoothed
BA.41d	Handmade	Sand and quartz	Medium	2.5YR 5/6 Red	
BA.41e	Handmade	Mica and sand	Medium	7.5YR 7/3 Pink	
BA.42	Handmade	Sand and lime	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Incised vertical lines
BA.43	Handmade	Fine grit	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	
BA.44	Handmade	Grit	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	
BA.45	Handmade	Quartz, sand, and grit	Medium	2.5YR 6/6 Light red	With Spout Tube
BA.46	Handmade	Sand and quartz	Fine	5YR 4/1 Dark grey	Applique tail, burnished with narrow cannelure vertical band and incised decoration on base
BA.47	Wheel	Grit	Fine	5YR 4/1 Dark grey	Burnished with two vertical handles

BA.48a	Wheel	Grit	Fine	7.5YR 7/2 Pinkish grey	Burnished with strike marks visible
BA.48b	Handmade	Grit, sand, and quartz	Medium	5YR 6/6 Reddish yellow	Carinated body
BA.49	Wheel	Grit	Fine	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Burnished with strike marks visible
BA.50	Handmade	Fine grit	Medium	2.5YR 5/6 Red	One vertical handel and red slip
BA.51	Handmade	Mica, lime, grit sand and quartz	Fine	5YR 6/4 Light reddish brown	

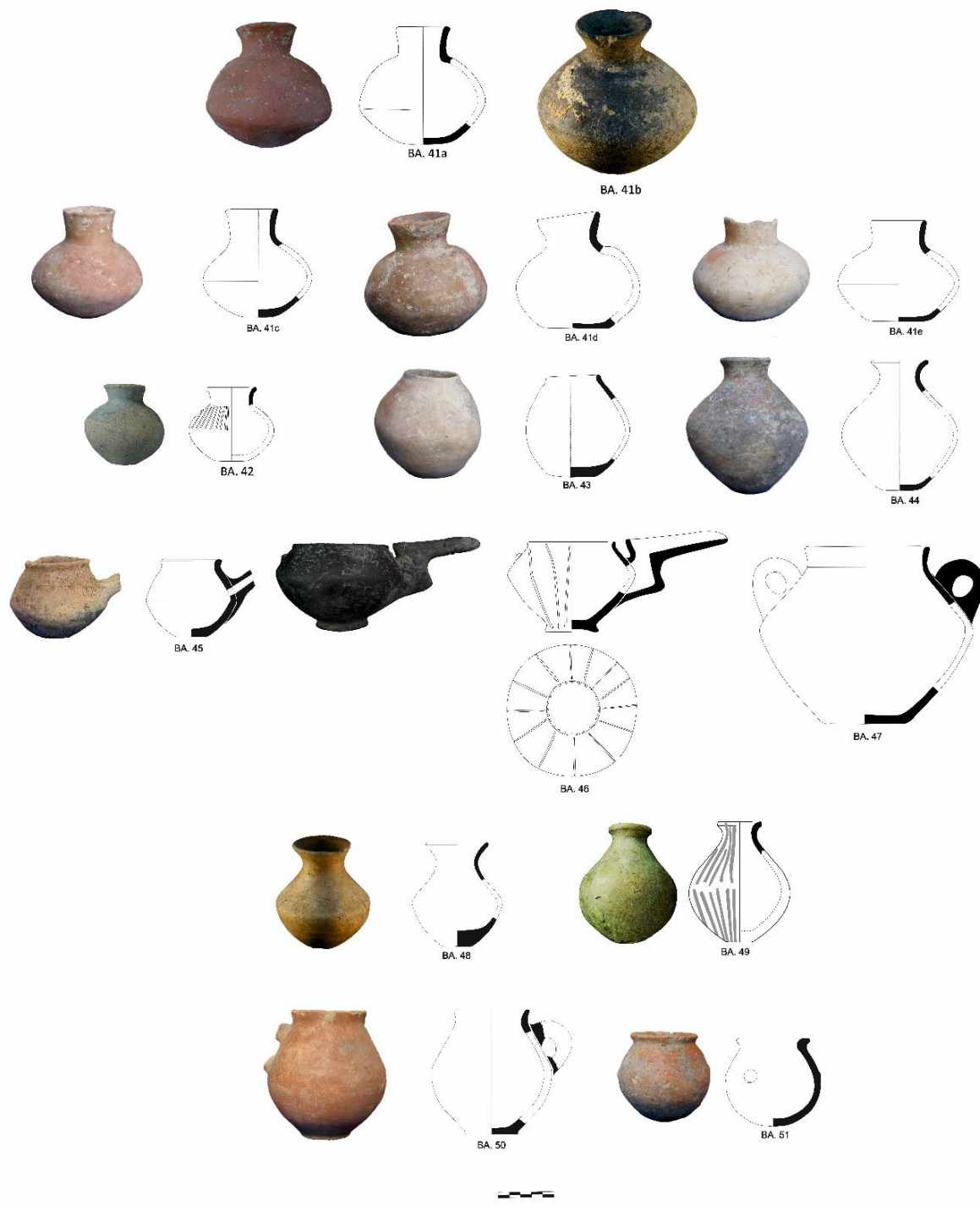


Figure 19. Late Bronze Age jars from Bayazid Abad.

Jars with Lids

Three jars with lids have been discovered from Bayazid Abad, all dated to the Late Bronze Age.

Jar type XII has two examples: BA.52 a–b. Jars with lids are not attested in major sites of North-Western Iran. The only trace of this kind of vessels is found in Kordlar IV,⁷⁷¹ where a lid with the same form as those from Bayazid Abad has been excavated, the only difference being two pierced fish tail shaped handles on the sides and one on the top. Both lids belong to globular jars with ring bases and two vertical pierced lugs.

Jar type XIII with one example, BA.53, is a globular jar with two vertically pierced fishtail lugs, rounded base, and everted rim. It seems that this vase has been covered by a lid with carination on the middle of the body, with three pierced knobs on the top. This form of vase and lid is not attested from any site in North-Western Iran. The feature that can help with the dating is the fish tail handles, attested on the discovered lid from Kordlar Tepe IV.⁷⁷²

Table 9: Late Bronze Age jars with lids assemblage

No.	Manufacture	Temper	Quality	Colour	Remarks
BA.52a	Wheel	Sand	Medium	7.5YR 4/3 Brown	Burnished
BA.52 b	Wheel	Sand	Fine	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Burnished
BA.53	Wheel	Lime and sand	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Smoothed

⁷⁷¹ Lippert 1976: fig. VI no. 12.

⁷⁷² Lippert 1976: fig. VI no. 12.

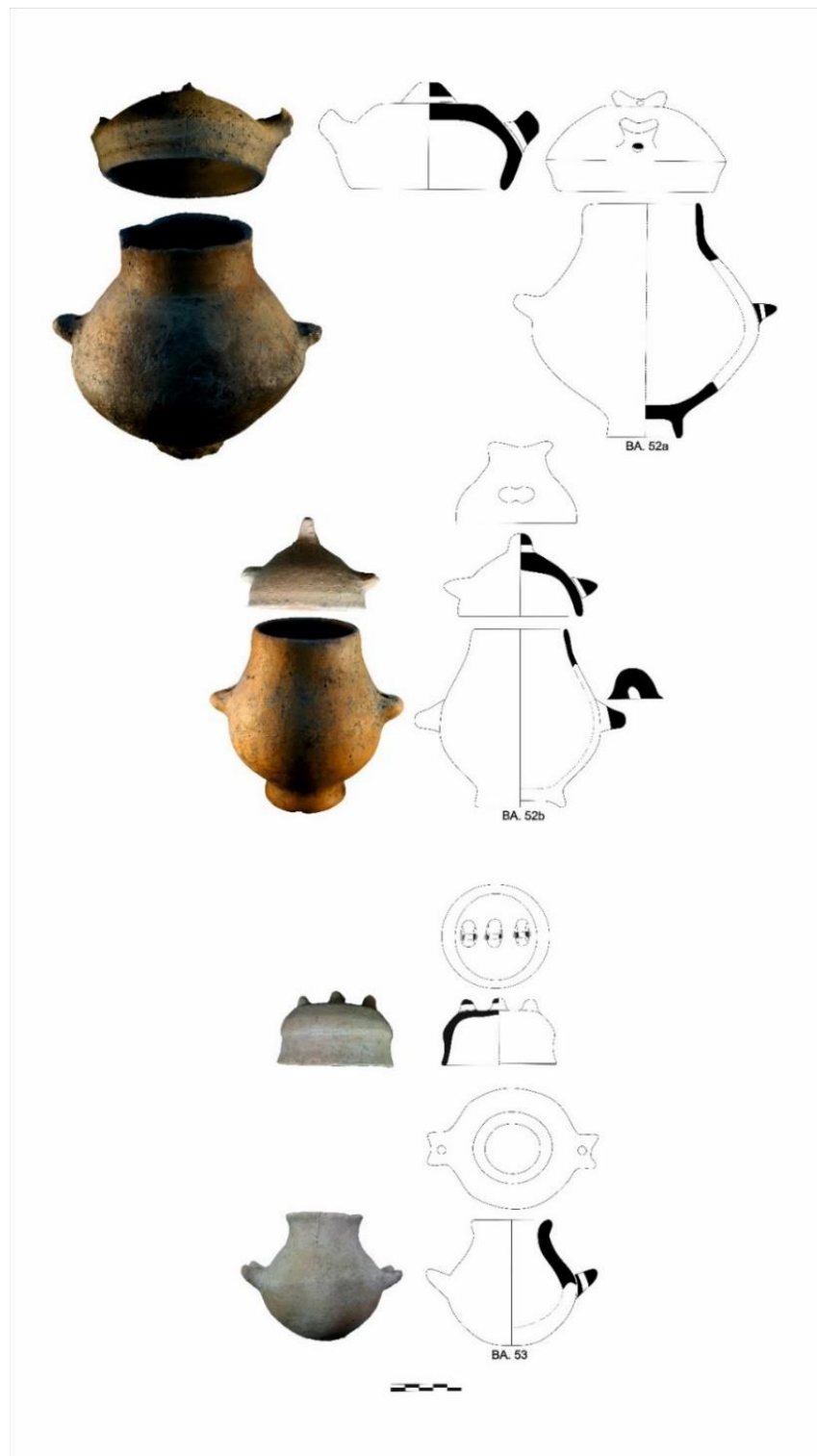


Figure 20. Late Bronze Age jars with lids from Bayazid Abad.

IV.2.3.1.3. Bowls

Bowl type I with two examples, BA.54, is a holemouth bowl with mid-body carinated form; the body turns to the base in a gentle curve and with flat base. In Late Bronze Age, these small carinated globular jars were relatively common in North-Western Iran.⁷⁷³ In the Iron Age I, holemouth jars with bridgeless spouts show a tendency toward globular forms, while the typical spouted jars of Dinkha in the later Late Bronze Age and Iron Age I have a bi-conical shape, and the neck and the rim usually have a size varying from low to medium. One similar jar with elaborate incisions and a loop handle with mid-body carination has been discovered from Hasanlu Tepe, RS22–23 columned hall.⁷⁷⁴ One example of this type with a low pedestal base, bridgeless spout, and appliquéd horn motif tail comes from a grave at Dinkha Tepe.⁷⁷⁵ The same holemouth jar has also been excavated in Geoy Tepe B with polychrome decoration (Urmia Ware).⁷⁷⁶ In Kordlar IV the same form with elaborately burnished decoration on the shoulder was discovered.⁷⁷⁷

Bowl type II with one example, BA.55, is a medium fine grey vessel, burnished inside, with three horned shape pods and inward turned rim. Tripod bowls are widely known in Mitanni contexts, and were found from Level 5 to Level 2 in Tell Brak⁷⁷⁸ (one Rimah example came from an Old Babylonian context⁷⁷⁹). At Brak, a number of them were grey and often burnished; and some bore a red or brown burnished slip. One exact example has also been discovered from Gheyтарыeh Trench BE8 grave no. 340,⁷⁸⁰ Dinkha Tepe B9a, burial 19,⁷⁸¹ and Bardi-i Bal tomb 10.⁷⁸²

Bowl type III with five examples, BA.56, is a carinated hemispherical bowl, with everted rims. This shape is typical of Late Bronze Age pottery at Hasanlu: the medium-to-large bowl

⁷⁷³ Danti 2013a: 4.47 A–E.

⁷⁷⁴ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.42 N.

⁷⁷⁵ Muscarella 1974: fig. 6 no. 936.

⁷⁷⁶ Burton-Brown 1951: fig. 32 no. 698.

⁷⁷⁷ Lippert 1979: fig. 1.

⁷⁷⁸ Oates, Oates, and McDonald 1997: fig. 205.

⁷⁷⁹ Postgate, Oates, and Oates 1997: fig. 1203.

⁷⁸⁰ Kambaxsh-Fard 1991: fig. 308.

⁷⁸¹ Muscarella 1974: fig. 12 no. 982.

⁷⁸² Overlaet 2003: fig. 114 BB. 10–25.

with thickened rims is in fact one of the more diagnostic types of this class.⁷⁸³ Stein found one red-slipped and burnished bowl of this type at Hasanlu in a grave with an Urmia Ware jar.⁷⁸⁴ With the exception of the grave excavated by Stein, this form of bowl is absent in the graves of Hasanlu or Dinkha.⁷⁸⁵

Table 10: Late Bronze Age bowl assemblages

No.	Manufacture	Temper	Quality	Colour	Remarks
BA.54	Handmade	Grit, sand and quartz	Medium	5YR 6/1 Grey	Burnished
BA.55	Wheel	Fine Grit	Fine	5YR 3/1 Very Dark grey	Smoothed
BA.56	Handmade	Grit, sand and lime	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Carinated body

⁷⁸³ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.21 J-N.

⁷⁸⁴ Stein 1940: pl. XXXI no. 1.

⁷⁸⁵ Danti 2013a: 193.

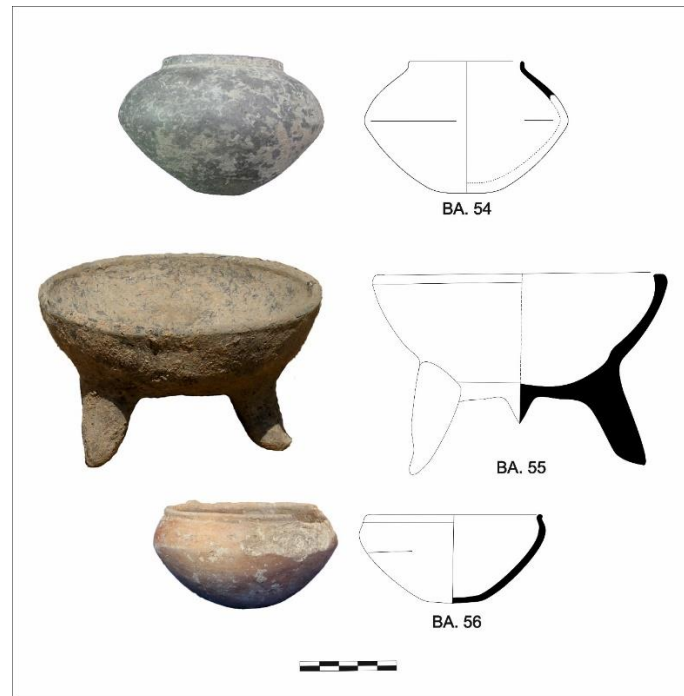


Figure 21. Late Bronze Age bowl assemblage of Bayazid Abad.

IV.2.3.1.4. Theriomorphic vessel

No. BA.57, among the ceramics from Bayazid Abad is a unique oblong, cow-shaped theriomorphic rhyton in brick-red colour. The vessel measures a maximum of 21 cm in length, 8.2 cm in width, and 16.3 cm in height, with tapering crescent horns above it. The eyes are small pierced knobs. Down the front of the almost vertical chest and under the stomach and on the back, there is a narrow ridge representing a dewlap. The body is tubular and ends as a drinking cup. It stands on four feet. The theriomorphic vessel are presented just as in Hasanlu V⁷⁸⁶ and Kordlar Tepe II/III⁷⁸⁷ in their respective Late Bronze Age assemblages.

⁷⁸⁶ Danti 2013a: 217.

⁷⁸⁷ Lippert 1976: fig. 7 no. 1a.

Table 11: Theriomorphic rhyton of Late Bronze Age

Bowls					
No.	Manufacture	Temper	Quality	Colour	Remarks
BA.57	Handmade	Mica, quartz, and sand	Medium	2.5YR 6/6 Light red	Zoomorphic

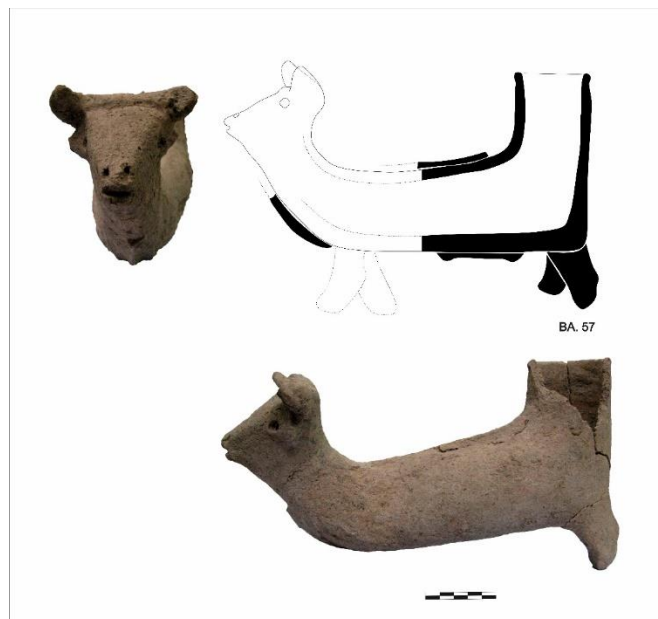


Figure 22. Theriomorphic rhyton of Late Bronze Age.

IV.2.3.2. Overview on the Late Bronze Age ceramic assemblage

The most obvious change in the Late Bronze Age ceramic assemblage of Bayazid Abad is the preponderance of Monochrome Burnished Ware, which makes up the majority of material available for this study. These vessels had the same fabric as those from Middle Bronze Age III but with more new forms. Surface decoration consists of pattern burnishing.

Jars are a large part of the assemblage. One of the most frequent is the bridgeless spout jar, which persists in Iron Age I and II along with bridged spouts. Other jars are provided with

a lid, and their dating was possible through comparison with a similar sample from Kordlar. What sets apart this kind of vase from the others is the shape and the number of pierced lock handles: three on the lid, one on top and two on the sides, and two more at the sides of the vase, all fashioned after a fish tale. The carinated tankard with pedestal and button bases are the most commonly employed shape for drinking cups in the Late Bronze Age: they evolve from short vessels with button bases in Middle Bronze Age III and early Late Bronze Age. In the Late Bronze Age, we see the growing popularity of mid-body carinated jars, while zoomorphic vessels appear in limited examples. A variety of cups with looped handles and bowls were used during the period. The predominant types are carinated and incurving cups with thickened and simple rims.

Megan Cifarelli's examination of the ornaments in Late Bronze Age burials of Hasanlu shows a decreasing trend in the quantity of material deposited in the graves. She believes this could imply a decrease in the welfare and wealth of its residents.⁷⁸⁸ On the other hand Danti, having worked on ceramics rather than on ornaments, observed an opposing trend, which lead him to claim that Graves from Hasanlu and Dinkha should be considered a clue of a wider availability of precious goods, and of their value as status symbol.⁷⁸⁹ The ceramics of the Bayazid Abad from Late Bronze Age may also confirm this hypothesis, as the pottery obtained from this period has more volume and variety.

The gathered information traces an outline of marked regional variation, which opposes the punctuated demic diffusion theories and their idea of cultural homogeneity, which have been discussed in connection with Hasanlu V relating to the Late Bronze Age.

IV.2.4. Iron Age I ceramic assemblage from Bayazid Abad (1250–1050 BC)

In total 107 vessels from Bayazid Abad can be dated to Iron Age I. Jars are present in 16 categories with 65 examples. In this section, only 30 of them are presented, since some of these wares present a strong resemblance with each other. Bowls are present in nine categories with 19 examples. In the Bayazid Abad collection, a pyxis is also present that can be categorized as a bowl. There are three subcategories of tankard cups with five examples,

⁷⁸⁸ Cifarelli 2013: 319.

⁷⁸⁹ Danti 2013a: 16.

and five categories of cups with 17 examples. There is a small vase with a unique form that may not be fitted in any of the present categories.

IV.2.4.1. Description of ceramic shapes

IV.2.4.1.1. Jars

Jar type I with 25 samples, BA.58 a–j, are mid-body carinated jars. They fully conform to the North-Western Iran Iron Age I and II fine monochrome ware type, found in a variety of colours, such as grey, black, and buff. They fall in Danti's jar type 3.⁷⁹⁰ During late period V, mid-body carinated vessels begin to be a predominant type at Hasanlu in Periods IVc and IVb⁷⁹¹. Due to the lack of data about the frequency of carination, which could only be provided through the documentation of whole samples, our information about this trend comes uniquely from the tombs from Hasanlu and Dinkha. One of the black jars, BA.58d, is burnished and decorated with a burnished pattern on the shoulder, and another one, BA.58e, is also burnished with some horizontal lines on the neck. Based on these two patterns, this form can be dated to Iron Age I. Another good example is vase number "BA.57h," with small raised flat base, a type that is also present at Hasanlu⁷⁹² SK498 Operation VIh Burial 8 from Iron Age II grave and Pusht-i Kuh Luristan in Iron Age IA.⁷⁹³

Jar type II, with two samples, BA.59, are mid-body carinated jars with high neck and simple everted rim. This form of carinated jar has not been discovered in any site in North-Western Iran, but considering the shape and the presence of mid-body carination, the vase can be dated to Late Bronze Age–Iron Age I.

Jar type III with three samples, BA.60, is a mid-body carinated jar with flaring rim and flat base. It has the same characteristics as the other carinated jars in Bayazid Abad but with

⁷⁹⁰ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.36 D–E, H–J.

⁷⁹¹ Danti 2013a: 213.

⁷⁹² Danti and Cifarelli 2015: fig. 32C.

⁷⁹³ Overlaet 2003: fig. 90.

some differences in appearance. It is comparable to vessel found in Dinkha B9b, burial 16 dated to Iron Age I.⁷⁹⁴

Jar type IV with one example, BA.61, is a small openmouthed jar with a flaring rim and flat base. Fine jars and beakers with raised ribs are a common attribute and abundant in later Iron Age I and Early Iron Age II in North-Western Iran, especially in Hasanlu. Examples have been reported from the Test Trench A in the center-west storeroom (Room 14) of Burned Building II (Grid BB28),⁷⁹⁵ south storeroom (Room 6) of Burned Building V,⁷⁹⁶ and south storeroom (Room 6) of Burned Building V⁷⁹⁷ of Hasanlu. One example, by definition a tankard, has a handle from the west storeroom (Room 4) of Burned Building V⁷⁹⁸ in Hasanlu.

Jar type V with one sample, BA.62, is dark grey with fluting on its upper portion, flat base, carinated body, a rather short concave neck, and outward rim. The similar, fine Monochrome Burnished Ware jars with gadrooning, commonly appear with basket handles and spouts.⁷⁹⁹ The form and decorative style date to the late second-early first millennium on the High Mound of Hasanlu Period IVc⁸⁰⁰ and in Geoy A context.⁸⁰¹

Jar type VI with one sample, BA.63, is a grey-fired ovaloid jar with long neck, everted rounded rim, and flat base. It has been covered with red solid slip. This category falls in Danti's Jars Type 1. The same example but with shorter neck has been discovered from Dinkha Tepe grave B 9a, burial 23 where it co-occurs with a glazed faience cylindrical seal of Mitannian design.⁸⁰² This grave is dated to the Late Bronze Age. And later in Hasanlu IVc (Iron Age I) the exact samples are attested in the occupation deposits⁸⁰³ and few examples were excavated in graves at Dinkha.⁸⁰⁴

Jar type VII with one example, BA.64, shows an everted simple rim and flat base. It seems like it used to have a tube spout but is now broken, and likely represents a feeding jar for

⁷⁹⁴ Muscarella 1974: fig. 16 no. 949

⁷⁹⁵ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.57 B-C.

⁷⁹⁶ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.58 K-Q.

⁷⁹⁷ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.59 A-C, E, H.

⁷⁹⁸ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.60 M.

⁷⁹⁹ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.31 X.

⁸⁰⁰ Danti 2013b: fig. 10 H.

⁸⁰¹ Burton-Brown 1951: fig. 38 no. 1081.

⁸⁰² Muscarella 1974: fig. 6.

⁸⁰³ Danti 2013a: figs. 4.43 H-I, 4.49 D, F-G, J.

⁸⁰⁴ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.53 E, G.

infants. This form of jar is attested in Iron Age I and II with the S profile. Tube spouts are also attested in the late second–early first millennia BC.

Jar type VIII with 10 examples, BA.65a-b, are jars with rounded bodies and rounded bases with two vertical handles attached to the shoulders of jars and pierced horizontally, which means they have two distinct attachment points. It shows a coarse surface due to heavy use with big sand inclusions. Here, they are discussed together since the available data are often insufficient to make a distinction between the two types. No other similar type has been reported from North-Western Iran except one from Kordlar level IV.⁸⁰⁵ Outside of North-Western Iran, they are characteristic for the Iron Age I and II from Pusht-i Kuh in Luristan⁸⁰⁶, Kaloraz in Rodbar⁸⁰⁷ and are also attested at Nippur.⁸⁰⁸ A sample with flat base has been excavated from Bakr Awa.⁸⁰⁹

Jar type IX with one example, BA.66, is a globular jar with flaring rim and flat base, and falls in Danti's Jar Type 2. It is attested only by one example from late Period V–IVc ceramics in Hasanlu, RS22–23.⁸¹⁰

Jar type X with two examples, BA.67, is a long neck vase, with slightly everted rim and small ring base, carinated body, comparable to a jar from Khurvin, dated by Vanden Berghe to the late second millennium and the early first millennium BC.⁸¹¹ An exact parallel has been discovered at Pusht-i Kuh,⁸¹² while some examples with handles are reported from Marlik.⁸¹³

Jar type XI with two examples, BA.68, is a wheel made vase with slightly simple everted rim and flat base. Rims are likely Danti's Type 1a⁸¹⁴ and 1b.⁸¹⁵ This type of jars are attested in the occupation deposits of Hasanlu. Some well-preserved samples have been excavated from burials at Dinkha.⁸¹⁶

⁸⁰⁵ Lippert 1979: fig. 5–5.

⁸⁰⁶ Overlaet 2003: figs. 85–86.

⁸⁰⁷ Hakemi 2017: 116, fig. 145.

⁸⁰⁸ Gibson et al 1992: fig. 77 no. 5.

⁸⁰⁹ Miglus et al. 2013: fig. 9: 2200/4.

⁸¹⁰ Danti 2013a: 4.31 W.

⁸¹¹ Vanden Berghe 1964: pl. 17, 147.

⁸¹² Overlaet 2003: fig. 80 no. 3.

⁸¹³ Neghahban 1996: fig. 21 no. 532.

⁸¹⁴ Danti 2013a: 4.49 C, E.

⁸¹⁵ Danti 2013a: figs. 4.43 H–I, 4.49 D, F–G, J.

⁸¹⁶ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.53 E, G.

Jar type XII with one example, BA.69, is a black-coloured well-proportioned jar with burnished surface, narrow horizontal raised bands on the upper shoulder and neck, globular body, everted rim, and a flat base. This type of jar is almost unique with no comparable sample but the colour and decoration can help to date it. Narrow horizontal raised band around neck or shoulder is one of the most obvious and ubiquitous Late Bronze Age and especially Iron Age I attribute.⁸¹⁷

Jar type XIII with five examples, 70 a–b, are ovoid jars with short neck, simple everted rim, and flat base. They have small lime pops because of white grit inclusions. They fall in Danti's Jar Type 9 and were included among the grave goods of SK73 at Hasanlu⁸¹⁸ and Dinkha B9a, burial 9.⁸¹⁹ These kinds of vessels and small beakers often show a horizontal rib at the shoulder-neck transition that appears in multiple exemplars from burial sites of the Iron Age II period.

Jar type XIV with seven examples, 71 a–d, are Danti's Type 23 Holemouth Jars. With simple everted rims and short-to-medium necks they present an overlap between bag-shaped jars and holemouth jars. They are common in the graves at Dinkha B9a Burial 19⁸²⁰ and similar rims from probable jars were found in occupation deposits at Hasanlu.⁸²¹ They appear in large numbers in Iron Age I, especially in the latter part of the period, and in Early Iron Age II.

Jar type XV with one example, BA.72, is a rounded jar with an everted simple rim and rounded base. It is rare in neighbouring sites' assemblages. Only one similar jar has been reported from Hasanlu grave Burial SK479 which falls in Danti's Jar Type 1.⁸²² Another similar ware with pattern-burnish decoration and almost flat base was excavated in grave SK24 from Hasanlu.⁸²³

Jar type XVI with two examples, BA.73 a–b, are wares with globular body, short necks, flaring rims, and flat bases. There are few jars of this type in Iron Age I and Early Iron Age II

⁸¹⁷ Danti 2013a: 263.

⁸¹⁸ Danti 2013a: 5.19 C–D.

⁸¹⁹ Muscarella 1974: fig. 26 no. 173.

⁸²⁰ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.53 E.

⁸²¹ Danti 2013a: figs. 4.43 K, 4.49 A–B, H–I.

⁸²² Danti 2013a: fig. 4.53 D.

⁸²³ Danti 2013a: fig. 5.18 A.

relative to earlier periods. This form is attested in Hasanlu⁸²⁴ by two rims from Iron Age I, and in Dinkha by the complete example from Iron Age II in grave B 10a burial 6.⁸²⁵

Table 12: Iron Age I Jar assemblage

No.	Manufacture	Temper	Quality	Colour	Remarks
BA.58a	Wheel	Grit and lime		5YR 6/6 Reddish yellow	Carinated body
BA.58b	Wheel	Grit		5YR 4/1 Dark grey	Carinated body
BA.58c	Handmade	Grit	Fine	7.5YR 7/3 Pink	Smoothed
BA.58d	Wheel	Fine Grit	Fine	Gley1 2.5/ Black	Burnished
BA.58e	Handmade	Fine grit	Fine	Gley1 2.5/ Black	Burnished with strike marks visible
BA.58f	Handmade	Grit	Medium	7.5YR 7/3 Pink	Smoothed
BA.58g	Handmade	Grit and sand	Medium	5YR 4/1 Dark grey	Burnished
BA.58h	Handmade	Grit and lime	Medium	7.5YR 7/2 Pinkish grey	Burnished
BA.58i	Handmade	Grit and mica	Medium	7.5YR 5/1 Grey	Burnished
BA.58j	Handmade	Mica, sand, and quartz	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Burnished
BA.59	Handmade	Grit and quartz	Medium	2.5YR 6/6 Light red	Smoothed
BA.60	Handmade	Grit and mica	Fine	7.5YR 7/3 Reddish yellow	Smoothed

⁸²⁴ Danti 2013a: figs. 4.43 L, 4.49 K.

⁸²⁵ Muscarella 1974: fig 37 no. 169.

BA.61	Wheel	Lime and sand	Medium	7.5YR 7/3 Reddish yellow	Narrow convex horizontal band
BA.62	Handmade	Sand	Medium	7.5YR 4/3 Brown	Gadrooning
BA.63	Handmade	Grit, lime, and quartz	Medium	5YR 5/3 Reddish Brown	Red slip
BA.64	Wheel	Lime and sand	Medium	7.5YR 7/3 Reddish yellow	With tube spout
BA.65a	Handmade	Grit and lime	Medium	5YR 6/4 Light reddish brown	Two vertical handles
BA.65b	Handmade	Grit and lime	Medium	2.5YR 6/6 Light red	Two vertical handles
BA.66	Handmade	Mica, lime, grit, sand, and quartz	Medium	5YR 6/4 Light reddish brown	
BA.67	Wheel	Fine grit and mica	Medium	7.5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	Red slip
BA.68	Wheel	Lime, grit, and sand	Fine	7.5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	
BA.69	Handmade	Sand and lime	Medium	Gley1 2.5/ Black	Burnished
BA.70a	Handmade	Sand and lime	Course	2.5YR 5/6 Red	
BA.70b	Wheel	Fine grit	Fine	5YR 6/4 Light reddish brown	Burnished
BA.71a	Wheel	Mica, lime, grit, sand, and quartz	Fine	7.5YR 7/3 Reddish yellow	Smoothed
BA.71b	Wheel	Mica, lime, grit, sand, and quartz	Fine	7.5YR 7/3 Reddish yellow	Smoothed

BA.71c	Wheel	Mica, lime, grit, sand, and quartz	Fine	7.5YR 7/3 Reddish yellow	
BA.71d	Wheel	Mica, lime, grit, sand, and quartz	Fine	7.5YR 7/3 Reddish yellow	
BA.72	Handmade	Sand	Medium	5YR 5/3 Reddish brown	Red slip
BA.73a	Wheel	Lime and sand	Fine	7.5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	
BA.73b	Wheel	Grit	Fine	2.5YR 6/6 Light red	



Figure 23. Carinated mid-body Jars of Iron Age I.



Figure 24. Iron Age I jar assemblage of Bayazid Abad.

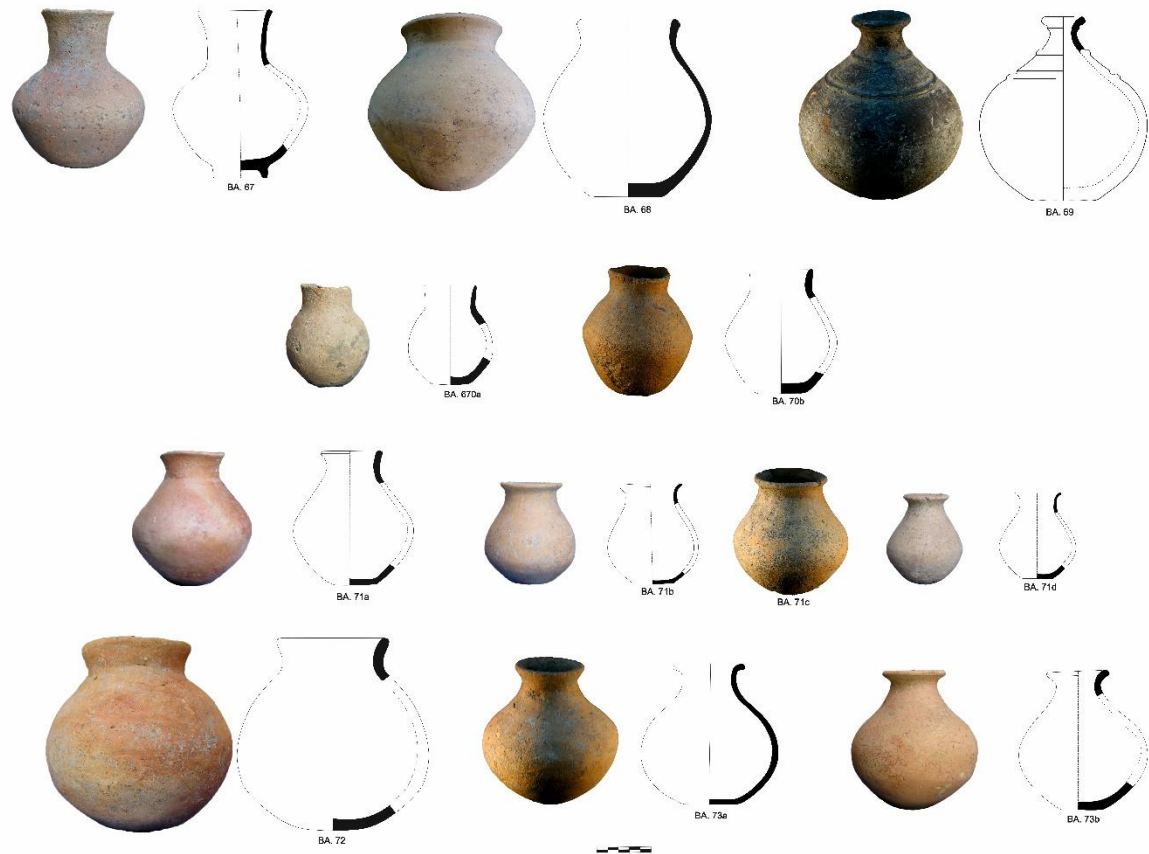


Figure 25. Iron Age I jar assemblage of Bayazid Abad.

IV.2.4.1.2. Bowls

Bowl type I with one example, BA.74, is a unique occurrence. This type exhibits typical Iron Age I attributes, having a carinated form, a horizontal rib, and thinned rim and flat base, attested by a single example with a loop handle in Hasanlu from U22 Stratum 5–6.⁸²⁶

Bowl type II with one example, BA.75, is a small fine cup with out-turned rim and concave line under the rim and flat base. It can be dated to later Iron Age I and one close example has been discovered from Hasanlu in the south storeroom (Room 6) of Burned Building V.⁸²⁷

⁸²⁶ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.54 E.

⁸²⁷ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.58 V.

Bowl type III with three examples, BA.76, is Danti's Bowl Type 8⁸²⁸ with uncarinated body, inverted wall, and a single groove under the rim. Simple and thickened rims are quite common in occupation deposits of Hasanlu during Iron Age I.

Bowl type IV with two examples, BA.77, present a carinated body, straight rolled rim, and rounded base. This bowl is one of the few examples of this distinctive type from Bayazid Abad, and one example has been discovered from Hasanlu Iron Age I from the ceramic assemblage of stratum U22.⁸²⁹

Bowl type V with one example, BA.78, is a simple small bowl with inverted walls, inverted thickened simple rim and flat base. The same parallel is attested in Kordlar III⁸³⁰ and dated to Iron Age I.

Bowl type VI with two examples, BA.79, is a large uncarinated bowl with everted walls, rounded base and simple rim, covered in heavy red slip, falling in Danti's Bowl Type 2c.⁸³¹ It appears in the graves of Dinkha at Iron Age I in examples with short tripod legs.⁸³² An exact parallel was discovered from Kordlar IV.⁸³³

Bowl type VII with three examples, BA.80, is a carinated burnished bowl with rolled rim and flat base. A similar type of bowl has been found in Hasanlu YZ27-29⁸³⁴ and another one with the same shape, but with a slightly inverted rim, has been excavated from Geoy Tepe B.⁸³⁵

Bowl type VIII with two examples, BA.81, is a hemispherical simple bowl with slightly everted simple rim, attested at Hasanlu Tepe Period IVc from U22 Stratum 5-6.⁸³⁶ It falls in Danti's Bowl Type 8.⁸³⁷

Bowl type IX with three examples, BA.82, is a small holemouth bowl with carination and simple everted rim, dated to Iron Age I. Many examples of this type with handles have been

⁸²⁸ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.46 D.

⁸²⁹ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.54 G.

⁸³⁰ Lippert 1976: pl. 3 no. 2.

⁸³¹ Danti 2013a: 224: fig. 4.54 G.

⁸³² Muscarella 1974: fig. 28 no. 230.

⁸³³ Lippert 1976: pl. 5 no. 4.

⁸³⁴ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.45 X.

⁸³⁵ Burton- Brown 1951: fig. 33 no. 1015.

⁸³⁶ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.54 A.

⁸³⁷ Danti 2013a: 253.

discovered from Bayazid Abad, but its individual attributes certainly accord well with larger developmental trends of the late second millennium BC, toward the production of the carinated tankard form. Their presence is a clear indicator for Hasanlu's Iron Age I, when they first appear, and Iron Age II.⁸³⁸ An example with handle has been discovered from Hasanlu IVc grave SK57, Operation Via.⁸³⁹

Table 13: Iron Age I bowl assemblage

No.	Manufacture	Temper	Quality	Colour	Remarks
BA.74	Wheel	Lime and sand	Medium	2.5YR 6/6 Light red	
BA.75	Handmade	Sand and quartz	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Narrow concave vertical band
BA.76	Handmade	Fine grit and lime	Medium	2.5Y 6/6 Light red	
BA.77	Handmade	Sand	Medium	7.5YR 5/8 Red	
BA.78	Handmade	Sand and lime	Medium	5YR 7/4 Pink	Smoothed
BA.79	Handmade	Grit, mica, and quartz	Medium	2.5YR 5/6 Red	Burnished
BA.80	Handmade	Sand and mica	Medium	7.5YR 6/3 Light brown	Carinated body
BA.81	Handmade	Quartz and lime	Medium	7.5YR 7/3 Reddish yellow	
BA.82	Handmade	Grit, sand, and lime	Coarse	5YR 3/2 Dark reddish brown	

⁸³⁸ Danti 2013a: 239.

⁸³⁹ Danti 2013a: fig. 5.20 B.

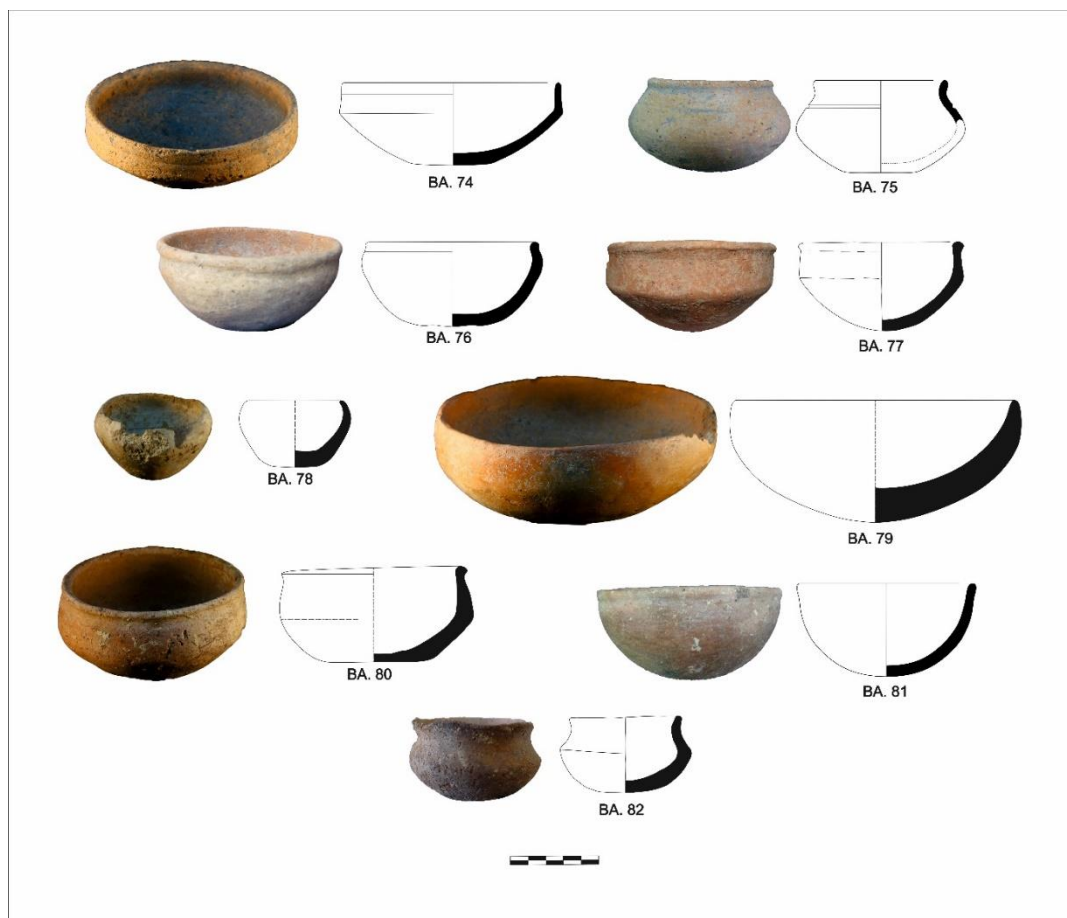


Figure 26. Iron Age I bowl assemblage of Bayazid Abad.

IV.2.4.1.3. Pyxis

The carinated pyxis, BA.83, has a flat base, simple rim, and two pierced lugs on the rim for attachment of the lid, and a leaf shaped lid. This class is common throughout the Iron Age I and Early Iron Age II in western and North-Western Iran. Similar bowls with lids were common in Luristan Iron Age I,⁸⁴⁰ and such vessels were also excavated at Kul Tarikeh.⁸⁴¹

⁸⁴⁰ Overlaet 2003: fig. 108.

⁸⁴¹ Rezvani and Roustai 2007: fig. 23 no. 8.

Table 14: Iron Age I pyxis from Bayazid Abad

No.	Manufacture	Temper	Quality	Colour	Remarks
BA.83	Handmade	Sand and lime	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Lid and bowl



Figure 27. Iron Age I pyxis from Bayazid Abad.

IV.2.4.1.4. Cups

a. Tankard cups

Tankard cup type I with one example, BA.84, is a globular carinated tankard with short pedestal base. This form is not otherwise attested in North-Western Iran and the best parallels come from Iron Age I burials from Godin Tepe.⁸⁴²

Tankard cup type II with one example, BA.85, is a carinated tankard with flat base and everted rim. This has the same shape as other tankard cups from Iron Age I in North-Western Iran, with the base as the only difference. The examples obtained from other sites have a pedestal base, but this sample has a flat base. It appears to be the best precursor of carinated

⁸⁴² Young 1969: fig. 25 nos. 9, 13.

mugs and beakers of the later Iron Age I and Iron Age II. Similar vessels are attested in Gheytyar⁸⁴³ in the central plateau of Iran.

Tankard in type III with three examples, BA.86a–c, are tall cups with narrow openings. This form of cups is found in two distinct variants in sites of North-Western Iran: tall and short. The tall pedestal cups occur in high numbers of sherds in deposit YZ27–29 at Hasanlu.⁸⁴⁴ They are an important marker of the Iron Age I and in graves at both Hasanlu and Dinkha,⁸⁴⁵ and the shorter forms are attested in Dinkha graves B 9a, burial 19 and B 9b, burial 12⁸⁴⁶ and Kaloraz.⁸⁴⁷ These cups co-occur with tripod-base “worm bowls”⁸⁴⁸ and were associated with the burial of children. This type of cup also occurs at Geoy Tepe A.⁸⁴⁹ The form is almost certainly related to the tall tankards of the Late Bronze Age, trending toward shorter, broader vessels in the later Late Bronze Age and Iron Age I and it is probable that they were precursors of carinated mugs and beakers of the later Iron Age I and Iron Age II.⁸⁵⁰

⁸⁴³ Kambaxsh-Fard 1960: 1576, 2026, 1701.

⁸⁴⁴ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.50 B–D, H–U.

⁸⁴⁵ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.52 A–C.

⁸⁴⁶ Muscarella 1974: figs. 12 no. 3; 14 no. 87.

⁸⁴⁷ Hakemi 2017: 134, fig. 204.

⁸⁴⁸ “Worm bowls are large open bowls with simple rims, which often has an appliquéd crescent (“worm”) and/or a pair of drilled holes near the rim. Their first appearance dates to Bronze Age III at Dinkha and Geoy Tepe late D–C, but Late Bronze Age they are more frequent, and in Hasanlu they have been widely used until the Early Iron II” (Danti 2013a: 187).

⁸⁴⁹ Burton-Brown 1951: figs. 36 no. 102; 41 no. 27.

⁸⁵⁰ Danti 2013a: 237.

Table 15: Iron Age I tankard cup assemblage

No.	Manufacture	Temper	Quality	Colour	Remarks
BA.84	Wheel	Fine grit	Medium	Gley2 3/3 Very dark bluish	Monochrome Burnished Ware; one vertical handle
BA.85	Wheel	Fine grit	Fine	7.5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	One vertical handle and burnished pattern
BA.86a	Handmade	Fine grit	Fine	Gley1 5/ Grey	One vertical handle, smoothed
BA.86b	Handmade	Sand and mica	Fine	Gley2 4/1 Dark bluish grey	Monochrome Burnished Ware; one vertical handle
BA.86c	Wheel	Fine grit and mica	Fine	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Monochrome Burnished Ware; burnished vertical stroke pattern; one vertical handle



Figure 28. Iron Age I tankard cup assemblage of Bayazid Abad.

b. Normal Cups

Cup type I with seven examples, BA.87a–d, are short carinated cups with flat bases, everted rims, and loop handles attached to the rim and body. It is almost the same form reported from Hasanlu SK57,⁸⁵¹ a grey carinated bowl with slightly flaring rim and a bi-lobed lug with double vertical piercing, a typical form of late Iron Age I and especially period Iron Age II bowls. Danti believes that this form is worthy of note for the dating of the grave, and is important for our understanding of the evolution of drinking vessels in the late second millennium BC. They represent a transition from short pedestal-base tankards and cups to taller, gradually carinated mugs and beakers in the late second millennium and the early first millennium BC.

Cup type II with two examples, BA.88a–b, are carinated cups with slightly everted rims and handles on one side. They fall in Danti's Type 3 bowls of subtypes 3a–f. This form is attested in area RS22–23 at Hasanlu from Late Iron Age I and Early Iron Age II.⁸⁵²

⁸⁵¹ Danti 2013a: 5.19 B.

⁸⁵² Danti 2013a: fig. 4.55 F.

Cup type III with two examples, BA.89a–b, are made with rounded bases, rounded bodies, and slightly everted rims. Comparable examples have been found at Hasanlu from trench YZ27–29 below Floor NR of BBIE south wall Period Ivc.⁸⁵³

Cup type IV with two examples, BA.90, is a fine black burnished cup with a round body loop, outward rim, and pedestal base. A loop handle with a projecting control is attached at mid height as a thumbstop. A similar vessel of identical size with a burnished black feature occurs in Kordlar IV⁸⁵⁴ in graves dated to Iron Age I. The same projecting handle has also been reported from Hasanlu period Ivb.⁸⁵⁵

Cup type V with four examples, BA.91a–d, are large and small cups with a flat base, globular body with concave sides, a short vertical neck, and a wide brim with a diagonal straight rim. They have flat bases and vertical handles attached to the rim and the body on one side. It is quite common a type, fairly generic, present at most sites, particularly in north-west Iran. Their shape is very similar to handled cups from Late Bronze Age to Iron Age II North-Western Iran. They are identical to the ones of similar types from Late Bronze Age in Kordlar IV,⁸⁵⁶ Iron Age I in Hasanlu Ivc,⁸⁵⁷ and Iron Age II sites from Zagros Graveyard⁸⁵⁸ and Zendan-e Soliman,⁸⁵⁹ Haftavân Tepe,⁸⁶⁰ Sialk Cemetery B55,⁸⁶¹ Marlik.⁸⁶² Cups with large handles have also been found at Khurvin, dated by Vanden Berghe to the late second millennium to the early first millennium BC.⁸⁶³

⁸⁵³ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.47 M.

⁸⁵⁴ Lippert 1979: ABB. 11.

⁸⁵⁵ Danti 2011: fig. 19N.

⁸⁵⁶ Lippert 1974: pl. III no. 3.

⁸⁵⁷ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.42 A, C.

⁸⁵⁸ Amelirad Overlaet and Hearink 2012: pl. 29.

⁸⁵⁹ Thomalsky 2006: 245; Abb. 11, 12.

⁸⁶⁰ Tala'i 2007: pl. 2b.

⁸⁶¹ Ghirshman 1939: pl. LXXXIII A, F.

⁸⁶² Neghahban 1996: pl. 108 nos. 556–57.

⁸⁶³ Vanden Berghe 1964: pl. XI nos. 59, 62.

Table 16: Iron Age I cup assemblage

No.	Manufacture	Temper	Quality	Colour	Remarks
BA.87a	Handmade	Grit	Medium	Gley1 6/1 Greenish grey	One vertical handle
BA.87b	Handmade	Sand and lime	Medium	7.5R 4/1 Dark reddish grey	One vertical handle
BA.87c	Handmade	Grit	Medium	7.5YR 4/1 Brownish grey	One vertical handle
BA.87d	Handmade	Grit	Fine	7.5YR 7/4 Pink	One vertical handle
BA.88a	Handmade	Fine grit, sand, and lime	Medium	5YR 5/6 Yellowish red	One vertical handle
BA.88b	Handmade	Grit, sand, and quartz	Medium	5YR 5/2 Greyish brown	One vertical handle
BA.89a	Handmade	Grit	Fine	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	One vertical handle; three narrow concave vertical bands
BA.89b	Handmade	Grit and sand	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	One vertical handle
BA.90	Handmade	Fine grit and mica	Medium	Gley 2 4/1 Dark burnish grey	One vertical handle
BA.91a	Handmade	Grit and sand	Medium	2.5YR 6/6 Light red	One vertical handle
BA.91b	Handmade	Grit and sand	Medium	2.5YR 6/6 Light red	One vertical handle
BA.91c	Handmade	Sand and lime	Medium	5YR 6/6 Reddish yellow	Smoothed; one vertical handle
BA.91d	Handmade	Sand and grit	Medium	2.5YR 4/6 Red	One vertical handle

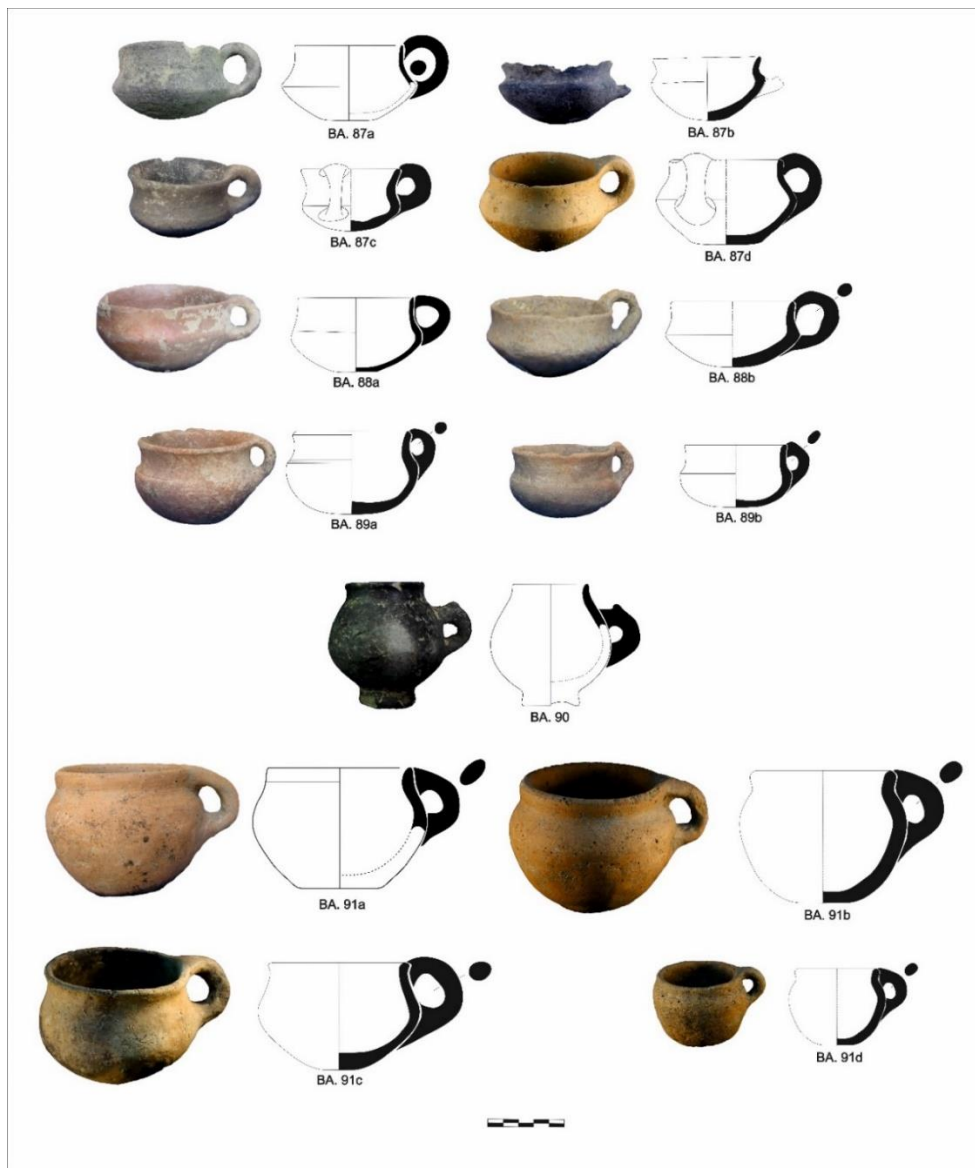


Figure 29. Iron Age I cup assemblage of Bayazid Abad.

IV.2.4.1.5. Miscellaneous vessel

Vase BA.92 is a well-fired gourd-shaped vessel with two symmetrical pouring holes on the shoulder. Three examples of this type were found at Hasanlu in 1947⁸⁶⁴ and also from Tomb B 15, square B 10a at Dinkha period II.⁸⁶⁵ Another example has been discovered at

⁸⁶⁴ Muscarella 1968: 189.

⁸⁶⁵ Muscarella 1968: fig. 11.

Büyükardıç in Turkey, positioned next to the hearth of the deceased, with green and red metal corrosion around the holes and at the base of the vessel. Şenyurt, the excavator of the site, believes it to be used for melted minerals.⁸⁶⁶ This kind of vessel might actually have been imported from Anatolia to North-Western Iran.

Table 17: Iron Age I miscellaneous vase

No.	Manufacture	Temper	Quality	Colour	Remarks
BA.92	Wheel		Fine	5YR 3/2 Dark reddish brown	



Figure 30. Iron Age I miscellaneous vase of Bayazid Abad.

IV.2.4.2. Overview on Iron Age I background and assemblages

Iron Age I ceramic assemblages of Bayazid Abad, constitute the majority of the ceramic collection of the grave. In terms of form, this pottery is divided into three groups of jars, cups, and bowls. Three ceramic traditions can be mentioned for this period: monochrome burnished, matte, and red slipped wares. Ceramics with red slip are attested just by one example, a grey-fired ovaloid jar with a long neck, everted rounded rim, and a flat base. Other forms of potteries of this period have been presented in both monochrome and matte.

Monochrome Burnished Ware, the majority of ceramics of Iron Age I assemblage, are highly burnished and have a glossy appearance. Surface colour ranges from grey to black,

⁸⁶⁶ Şenyurt 2006: fig. 6.

buff to brown, and pinkish buff. Surface decoration consist of burnished patterns. This style of decoration has been popular since the Middle Bronze Age II, and has reached its peak of elegance in Iron Age I, from irregular lines to regular designs. Use of grooved and cannellure bands on the shoulders of the jars and projecting control on the handles are characteristic of Monochrome Burnished Ware decorations. Gadrooning also emerges as a decorative technique on matte potteries.

Bayazid Abad ceramics are useful to retrace the stylistic evolution for the majority of materials and related shapes for Iron Age I. In this period, tall tankard cups, with short pedestal-base and carinated handle body, are derived from the taller types of the Late Bronze Age. The largest part of the assemblage is made of mid-body carinated jars, derived from the same type of Late Bronze Age, together with ovoid jars with short necks and thick rims. In this period, we observe new types of jars, with two handles and everted rims.

The techniques of monochrome and matte traditions are a continuation of the previous period, and the same can be said about most of the ceramic forms and decorative techniques in the Bayazid Abad ceramic assemblage, like other areas around Lake Urmia. During this period, for the first time, the red slip tradition, the mid-body carinated bowls and jars form, and the decorative technique of gadrooning are revealed.

IV.2.5. Iron Age II ceramic assemblage from Bayazid Abad (1050–800 BC)

In total, 86 vessels from Bayazid Abad can be dated to Iron Age II. Jars have been presented in 27 categories with 70 examples. In this section, only 48 of them are presented, since some of these wares show a strong resemblance with each other. Bowls have been presented in six categories with 12 examples, and only eight of them have been presented. There are just two categories of cups with two examples. These two are unique small vases that cannot be placed in any of the present categories. The Iron Age II is covered by Young's Late Western Grey Ware Horizon,⁸⁶⁷ and corresponds to Hasanlu IVb, which succeeds Iron Age I. Most of Hasanlu materials are yet to be published,⁸⁶⁸ while Dinkha II, Geoy Tepe A, Kordlar II-I, and

⁸⁶⁷ Young 1965.

⁸⁶⁸ Muscarella 2006.

Zendan-e Sulaiman I have been thoroughly excavated. Despite the lack of publications, the Hasanlu IVb settlement is the most well-known for the Iron Age II period in North-Western Iran. At Hasanlu's Low Mound, about 100 Iron Age II graves have been found, while 68 have been excavated at Dinkha II,⁸⁶⁹ 25 at Haftavân, from Iron Age I-II,⁸⁷⁰ and 108 at the Masjide Kabud graveyard in Tabriz,⁸⁷¹ also dating to Iron Age I-II.

IV.2.5.1. Description of ceramic shapes

IV.2.5.1.1. Jars

Jar type 1, with one example, BA.93, is a carinated, red slip jar with flaring rim and raised band around its neck. There is no parallel for this vase in neighbouring sites, but from the shape and decoration it can be dated to Iron Age II. An almost similar form but smaller with a different shaped rim has been discovered from Hasanlu grave SK56.⁸⁷²

Jar type II, with two examples, BA.94, is an ovaloid jar with short neck and slightly everted simple rim, and flat base. On the neck it has a narrow-incised line. The same form is attested in Hasanlu IVb SK493a Operation VIh Burial 3 with bridged spout and handle.⁸⁷³

Jar type III, with one example, BA.95, is a medium-size jar with short neck, everted rim and flat base. It falls in Danti's Jar Type 2 and is widely attested in the assemblages from Hasanlu.⁸⁷⁴ It is decorated with a raised band on the upper shoulder, a typical attribute of periods V and IVc, which survives in Iron Age II, and can be useful to discriminate between later Monochrome Burnished Ware from the Middle Bronze Age III and Late Bronze Age.⁸⁷⁵

Jars of type IV, with 15 examples, BA.96a-g, are S-shaped and everted rims, in slim, tall and rounded variation, hand and wheel made. The majority are small, measuring between 12 and 20 cm in height. Although there are a few characteristic subgroups, the latter cannot be strictly distinguished and many intermediate shapes also occur. Corresponding examples

⁸⁶⁹ Muscarella 1974: 58ff.

⁸⁷⁰ Tala'i 2007; Tala'i and Aliyari 2009.

⁸⁷¹ Hojabri Nobari 2004.

⁸⁷² Danti 2013b: 17.14H.

⁸⁷³ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: fig. 25B.

⁸⁷⁴ Danti 2013a: figs. 4.55 L-T, 4.57 B-D, 4.60 O.

⁸⁷⁵ Danti 2013a: 236.

are published from Dinkha II,⁸⁷⁶ Hasanlu, Geoy A,⁸⁷⁷ Haftavân IV,⁸⁷⁸ Zendan-I Soliman,⁸⁷⁹ Sialk,⁸⁸⁰ and War Kabud in Pusht-i Kuh.⁸⁸¹ In the Iron Age II it was common to put small jars with ribbing decoration close to the neck of the deceased in graves. Sometimes such vases were found together with a bridge-spouted jar and hydria.⁸⁸²

Jar type V with one example, BA.97, is a jar with rounded body, flaring rim and ring base, and raised band around the neck. This is attested by jars with handles found by from Hasanlu IVb, Operation LI, stratum 5.⁸⁸³

Jar type VI with one example, BA.98, is a flat based vessel with a rounded convex body, an outward rim, and a short, narrow neck with a raised band on the neck. This form of jar is attested in Hasanlu IVb SK106 Operation LIE Burial 4⁸⁸⁴ with bridged spout, and also another jar with the same form in a hydria with three handles found in Hasanlu IVb SK109 Operation LIVf Burial 1.⁸⁸⁵

Jar type VII, BA.99, has four examples. These are open mouth jars with flat base and everted rim. These small, fine jars are abundant in later Iron Age I and Early Iron Age II at Hasanlu. One sample has been discovered from Test Trench A in the north-west storeroom (Room 13) of Burned Building II.⁸⁸⁶ Another example comes from the south storeroom (Room 6) of Burned Building V⁸⁸⁷ and from the west storeroom (Room 4) of Burned Building V.⁸⁸⁸

Jar type VIII, with one example, BA.100, is a mid-carinated jar with a rounded body that turns to the base in a gentle curve, and a flat base. The same type has been excavated from Hasanlu Tepe: SK497 Operation VIh Burial 7.⁸⁸⁹

⁸⁷⁶ Muscarella 1974: figs. 48 nos. 805, 812 and 51 no. 15.

⁸⁷⁷ Burton-Brown 1951: fig. 40 no. 1177.

⁸⁷⁸ Tala'i 2007: pl. 5B-C.

⁸⁷⁹ Thomalsky 2006: Abb. 14 nos. 1-4.

⁸⁸⁰ Miroschedji 1978: fig. 53 no. 7.

⁸⁸¹ vanden Berghe 1987: fig. 13 no. 3.

⁸⁸² Danti 2013a: 310.

⁸⁸³ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: fig. 8B.

⁸⁸⁴ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: fig. 19I.

⁸⁸⁵ Danti 2013a: fig 22 D.

⁸⁸⁶ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.57 B-C.

⁸⁸⁷ Danti 2013a: figs. 4.58 K-Q, 4.59 A-C, E, H.

⁸⁸⁸ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.60 G-J, L-M.

⁸⁸⁹ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: fig. 31 A.

Jar type IX, with two examples, BA.101, is an open mouth jar (beaker) with a simple, slightly everted rim, and flat base. The only close parallel example has been excavated at Hasanlu area YZ27-29⁸⁹⁰ dated to Iron Age II. It falls in Danti's Cup 8b Type. The jar from Hasanlu is decorated with a horizontal rib at the shoulder-neck transition but the example from Bayazid Abad is simple.

Jar type X, with two examples, BA.102a-b, are simple ovoid jars with slightly everted rims that are quite rare among Iranian North-Western sites. The only similar sample has been reported from Dinkha Tepe B 8e, burial 5, but with loop handle on one side.⁸⁹¹

Jar type XI with one example from Bayazid Abad, BA.103, is a carinated jar, wide at the outward facing rim, flat base, and decorated with horizontal grooves from the top of the shoulder. An exact sample has been discovered from Geoy Tepe Phase A, Iron Age II.⁸⁹²

Jar type XII, with 10 examples, BA.104a-f, are small jars with everted rims and flat to slightly rounded bases, some with a narrow horizontal raised band on the upper shoulders. A similar form is attested in Iron Age II graves from Dinkha Tepe B9a, burial 9⁸⁹³ and B 8a, buria1⁸⁹⁴ and Hasanlu IV.⁸⁹⁵

Jar type XIII, with five examples, BA.105a-e, are medium-size jars with globular bodies, narrow short necks with everted rims, and flat bases. They are distinctive of the Iron Age II in North-Western Iran. This kind of pottery has been produced in different varieties of colour and size, with a somewhat fine texture, in Bayazid Abad. They are not as widely attested in the available assemblages from late second millennium to the early first millennium BC as in the previous periods. One example comes from Tomb B10a burial 6 at Dinkha,⁸⁹⁶ which makes possible a precise dating. Another jar with the same form has also been discovered from Kordlar room Z/IV⁸⁹⁷ but with two horizontal lugs. These jars are similar to glazed jars from the destruction level of Hasanlu BBII.⁸⁹⁸ In their publication of the "Assyrianizing

⁸⁹⁰ Danti 2013a: 4.49 O.

⁸⁹¹ Muscarella 1974: fig. 47 no. 805.

⁸⁹² Burton-Brown 1951: pl. 38 no. 20.

⁸⁹³ Muscarella 1974: fig. 26 no. 252.

⁸⁹⁴ Muscarella 1974: fig. 44 no. 801.

⁸⁹⁵ Young 1963: fig.7, no. 9.

⁸⁹⁶ Muscarella 1979: fig. 37 no. 169.

⁸⁹⁷ Lippert 1979: ABB: 5 no. 1.

⁸⁹⁸ Danti and Cifarelli 2016: 363.

contexts at Hasanlu IVb," Danti and Cifarelli considered this kind of vessels as Assyrian ceramic, similar to those displayed in Assyrian reliefs showing jars on racks.⁸⁹⁹ Other good parallels can be seen in the Zenadan-e Soliman.⁹⁰⁰

Jar type XIV, with three examples, BA.106a–b, are wheel made jars with long bodies, simple everted rims and flat bases, in reddish brown and reddish yellow colours. This type is relatively rare in North-Western Iran. The closest sample can be seen in Dinkha in grave B 8e, burial 5; it belongs to Iron Age II but with longer neck and burnished decoration under the neck.⁹⁰¹

Jar type XV, with one example, BA.107, is a small ovoid jar with everted simple rim. It resembles a well-known bridgeless-spouted jar from upper Tomb K of Geoy Tepe B during the Late Bronze Age⁹⁰² and the exact example known from Hasanlu Operation LIV Ceramics Strata 4–5 of the Iron Age II.⁹⁰³

Jar type XVI, with one example, BA.108, is a globular jar with an everted rim and rounded base and angular carination at the shoulder. This form can be seen on pyxides assemblage in Hasanlu.⁹⁰⁴ This type became increasingly common in Iron Age I, especially during the latter part of the period, and in Iron Age II.

Jar type XVII, with five examples, BA.109a–c, are carinated jars with slightly everted, simple rims. The appearance of mid-body carinated jars with simple everted rims and short-to-medium necks represents the introduction of a form common to Iron Age II. They are present in the graves at Dinkha burial Tomb 10b, burial 8⁹⁰⁵ and Hasanlu.⁹⁰⁶ Short squat pitchers with bridged spout with the same body form have also been discovered from Dinkha in Tomb 10a burial 6,⁹⁰⁷ which illustrates the use of this form of jars in other types. Small-to-medium mid-body carinated jars continue in the Iron Age II with loop handles on

⁸⁹⁹ Danti and Cifarelli 2016: fig. 32.7.

⁹⁰⁰ Thomalsky 2006: pl. 14 no. 5.

⁹⁰¹ Muscarella 1974: fig. 47 no. 790.

⁹⁰² Burton-Brown 1951: fig. 32 no. 37.

⁹⁰³ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: fig. 9L.

⁹⁰⁴ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.58V.

⁹⁰⁵ Muscarella 1974: fig. 43 no. 250.

⁹⁰⁶ Danti 2013a: figs. 4.43K, 4.49 A–B, H–I.

⁹⁰⁷ Muscarella 1974: fig. 37 no. 48.

their sides. In Dinkha Tepe in grave B9a, burial 14, the same form of jar has been excavated with two animal-head lugs.⁹⁰⁸

Jar type XVIII, with one example, BA.110, is a carinated jar with slightly everted rim and flat base and a projecting band around the neck. A vase of the same type has been reported from Kordlar⁹⁰⁹ dating to Iron Age II.

Jar type XIX, with two examples, BA.111, is a carinated jar with a long narrow neck and raised flat base. In the assemblages of Iron Age I and Iron Age II in the north-west, the walls of these vases are often fluted. A close parallel for this jar but with shortened neck has been excavated from Dinkha in grave B 10a, burial 3.⁹¹⁰

Jar type XX, with one example, BA.112, is a high ovaloid jar with two horizontal lugs and simple everted rim and flat base. It has been decorated with small appliqué tail on the body. Similar forms have not been found at neighbouring sites, but in Iron Age I in Hasanlu and Dinkha several jars with similar appliqué tail decoration have been discovered.⁹¹¹

Jar type XXI with one example, BA.113, has a a very well-balanced spherical body and rounded base with drilled holes located at the base, and a relatively short vertical neck with concave sides that gradually open toward the outward rim and loop handle attached at mid height. A vessel similar in general shape but not as elaborate as the Bayazid Abad examples was found at Marlik in strata of the Bronze Age and beginning of the Iron Age,⁹¹² and an exactly similar example was found from Yanik Tepe, Trench K Level 2 Pit X of the Late Iron Age.⁹¹³

Jar type XXII with one example, BA.114, has two vertical lugs, and has a brick buff texture with a round base, a globular body, a short, diagonally outward neck, and a straight rim. Cooking pots with handles comparable to this were found at War Kabud in the Pusht-i Kuh region of Luristan, dated by Haerinck and Overlaet to the Iron Age III.⁹¹⁴

⁹⁰⁸ Muscarella 1974: fig. 32 no. 401.

⁹⁰⁹ Lippert 1979: Pl. 14 no. 8.

⁹¹⁰ Muscarella 1974: fig. 50 no. 905.

⁹¹¹ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.52 F, G, H.

⁹¹² Negahban 1996: fig. 19 no. 523.

⁹¹³ Summers and Burney 2012: fig. 8 no. 2.

⁹¹⁴ Haerinck and Overlaet 2004: fig. 38 nos. B171–3.

Jar type XXIII with one example, BA.115, has a globular body, short neck with an outward rim and flat base, decorated with a raised band around its neck with hooked ends. This decoration is the only element to indicate a possible date, since this jar has no parallel in North-Western Iran sites. Modeling/appliqué are common decorations of later Iron Age I and Iron Age II.

Jar type XXIV with two examples, BA.116a, has a globular body, long narrow neck with simple slightly everted rim and flat base, depressed appliquéd backward horn motif tail hanged from ribbing decoration around the neck, and five appliquéd dots. For this jar, still no comparable example has been found in North-Western Iran, and we have to rely on the decoration in order to establish a date. A similar decoration has been applied on the vase from a grave in Hasanlu SK99 burial 9.⁹¹⁵ BA.115b is a broken neck jar with globular body and flat base. It has been decorated with two appliquéd circles and two dots. This jar seems to have the same form as BA.115 with a long narrow neck.

Jar type XXV with two examples, BA.117, is a teapot decorated with incised lines on the shoulder, with a short pouring spot and looped handle connecting the upper end to the rim and almost to the point of carination of the body. This form of teapot is attested by only one vessel from Iron Age II grave at Kordlar.⁹¹⁶

Jar type XXVI with one example, BA.118, is a teapot with rounded body and short spout tube. This generic example is difficult to date precisely, but generally falls in the earlier part of the Monochrome Burnished Ware Horizon. Teapots and bowls with tube spouts typify the span of Monochrome Burnished Ware in North-Western Iran. A closely related type has been discovered from Yanik Tepe Iron Age III,⁹¹⁷ Geoy Tepe level A and B⁹¹⁸ and Hasanlu from Operation LI Ceramics Stratum 5.⁹¹⁹

Jar type XXVII with two examples, BA.119a–b, are bridged spout jars with a rounded body, short necks, flaring mouths, and striking spouts. On one of the sides is a pointed spout, and immediately under it, an angled protrusion. A small bridge connects the rim and the

⁹¹⁵ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: fig. 33B.

⁹¹⁶ Lippert 1972: pl.1 no. 1.

⁹¹⁷ Summers and Burney 2012: fig. 12A.

⁹¹⁸ Burton-Brown 1951: fig 33 no. 19; fig. 40 no. 1644; fig. 41 no. 113.

⁹¹⁹ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: fig. 8N.

spout. Vase no. 118a is grey, with a vertical incised pattern on the body, and the vase no. 118b has a buff surface and flat base. Bridged spouts appear in Late Iron Age I–Early Iron Age II in North-Western Iran. A grey ware jar of grey-black colour with a bridged spout, given to Stein by the Khan of the village of Gurdji, is kept in the collection of the British Museum (ANE 136185).⁹²⁰ Also, there are bridged spout vessels with parallels at Dinkha Iron Age II⁹²¹ and Hasanlu.⁹²² A similar form with painted body is also reported from Sialk B.⁹²³

Table 18: Iron Age II jar assemblage

No.	Manufacture	Temper	Quality	Colour	Remarks
BA.93	Wheel	Fine grit	Fine	2.5YR 5/6 Red	Narrow raised vertical band
BA.94	Wheel	Fine grit	Fine	7.5YR 5/1 Grey	Narrow raised vertical band
BA.95	Handmade	Lime and sand	Medium	5YR 3/1 Very dark grey	Burnished with narrow raised vertical band
BA.96a	Handmade	Sand and quartz	Medium	7.5YR 7/3 Reddish yellow	Narrow raised vertical band
BA.96b	Handmade	Sand	Medium	2.5YR 6/6 Light red	Narrow cannellure vertical band
BA.96c	Handmade	Mica, sand, and grit	Medium	2.5YR 5/6 Red	Narrow cannellure vertical band
BA.96d	Handmade	Sand and quartz	Medium	7.5YR 6/6 Reddish yellow	Narrow cannellure vertical band
BA.96e	Handmade	Sand	Medium	7.5YR 5/3 Brown	Narrow cannellure vertical band

⁹²⁰ Kroll 1994b: 2005, no. 68.

⁹²¹ Muscarella 1974: fig. 47 nos. 845, 840, 403, 278, 333, 849; fig. 44 no. 841.

⁹²² Danti and Cifarelli 2015: figs. 14G; 17A, C; 19I, J; 20B.

⁹²³ Ghirshman 1939: pls. 9–11.

BA.96f	Wheel	Fine grit and mica	Medium	7.5YR 4/3 Dark grey	Narrow raised vertical bands
BA.96g	Wheel	Fine grit	Fine	7.5YR 7/2 Pinkish grey	Two narrow raised vertical bands
BA.97	Wheel	Grit	Fine	10YR 7.4	Burnished, raised vertical band
BA.98	Wheel	Fine grit	Fine	7.5YR 6/6 Reddish yellow	Narrow raised vertical band
BA.99	Wheel	Grit, lime, and quartz	Fine	2.5YR 6/6 Light red	Narrow raised vertical band
BA.100	Handmade	Grit and mica	Medium	7.5YR 7/3 Reddish yellow	
BA.101	Handmade	Grit, sand, and quartz	Medium	7.5YR 7/6 Reddish Yellow	
BA.102a	Handmade	Sand and lime	Medium	5YR 3/1 Very Dark Grey	Smoothed
BA.102b	Handmade	Grit and lime	Course	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	
BA.103	Handmade	Grit, sand, and mica	Medium	7.5YR 7/2 Pinkish grey	Two narrow raised vertical bands
BA.104a	Wheel	Lime, grit, and sand	Fine	7.5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	
BA.104b	Handmade	Fine grit and mica	Fine	7.5YR 7/4 Buff	
BA.104c	Wheel	Grit	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Narrow raised vertical band

BA.104d	Wheel	Grit	Medium	2.5YR 4/6 Reddish brown	Burnished, narrow raised vertical band
BA.104e	Wheel	Grit	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Narrow raised vertical band
BA.104f	Wheel	Sand and grit	Fine	2.5YR 5/6 Red	Burnished
BA.105a	Wheel	Sand and grit	Fine	2.5YR 6/4 Light reddish brown	Narrow raised vertical band
BA.105b	Wheel	Sand and lime	Fine	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Narrow raised vertical band
BA.105c	Wheel	Sand and grit	Fine	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Narrow raised vertical band
BA.105e	Wheel	Sand and grit	Fine	2.5YR 6/4 Light reddish brown	Smoothed
BA.105f	Handmade	Sand	Medium	7.5YR 4/3 Brown	Appliqué dots
BA.106a	Wheel	Mica, lime, grit, sand, and quartz	Fine	7.5YR 7/3 Reddish yellow	
BA.106b	Wheel	Mica, lime, grit, sand, and quartz	Fine	5YR 6/4 Light reddish brown	
BA.107	Wheel	Fine grit and mica	Fine	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Smoothed
BA.108	Handmade	Grit and sand	Medium	7.5YR 7/3 Reddish yellow	Narrow cannellure vertical band and carinated body
BA.109a	Handmade	Sand	Medium	2.5YR 5/6 Red	Carinated body

BA.109b	Handmade	Sand	Medium	2.5YR 5/6 Red	Red slip and carinated body
BA.109c	Handmade	Grit and quartz	Medium	7.5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	Two vertical handles
BA.110	Handmade	Grit and lime	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Raised band on the shoulder
BA.111	Handmade	Lime	Medium	5YR 5/2 Reddish grey	Smoothed
BA.112	Handmade	Grit and sand	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Smoothed, an appliqué tail, and two horizontal handles
BA.113	Wheel	Grit	Fine	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	One vertical handle and a hole in the base
BA.114	Handmade	Grit, lime, quartz, and mica	Medium	2.5YR 8/3	Two vertical handles
BA.115	Handmade	Sand and mica	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Smoothed, an appliqué band and tail
BA.116a	Handmade	Sand	Medium	7.5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	An appliqué band and tail and light brown slip
BA.116b	Handmade	Grit and lime	Medium	5YR 5/3 Light reddish brown	Appliqué circles and dots around shoulder
BA.117	Handmade	Sand and lime	Medium	5YR 3/1 Very dark grey	With spout tube, one vertical handle, and an incised horizontal

					line on the shoulder
BA.118	Handmade	Quartz, sand, and grit	Medium	7.5YR 7/4 Pink	With spout tube
BA.119a	Handmade	Grit	Medium	5YR 3/1 Very dark grey	Smoothed with Incised lines
BA.119b	Wheel	Sand and lime	Medium	2.5YR 6/6 Light red	Smoothed

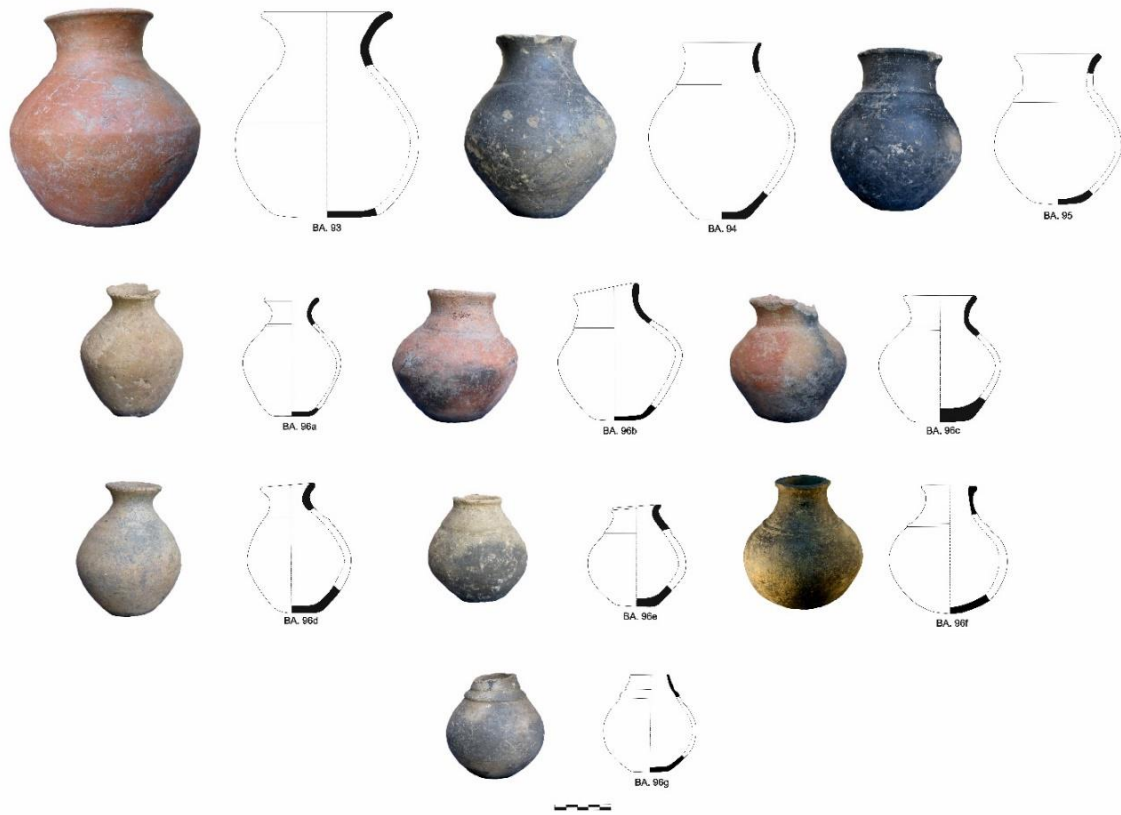


Figure 31. Iron Age II jar characters assemblage of Bayazid Abad.

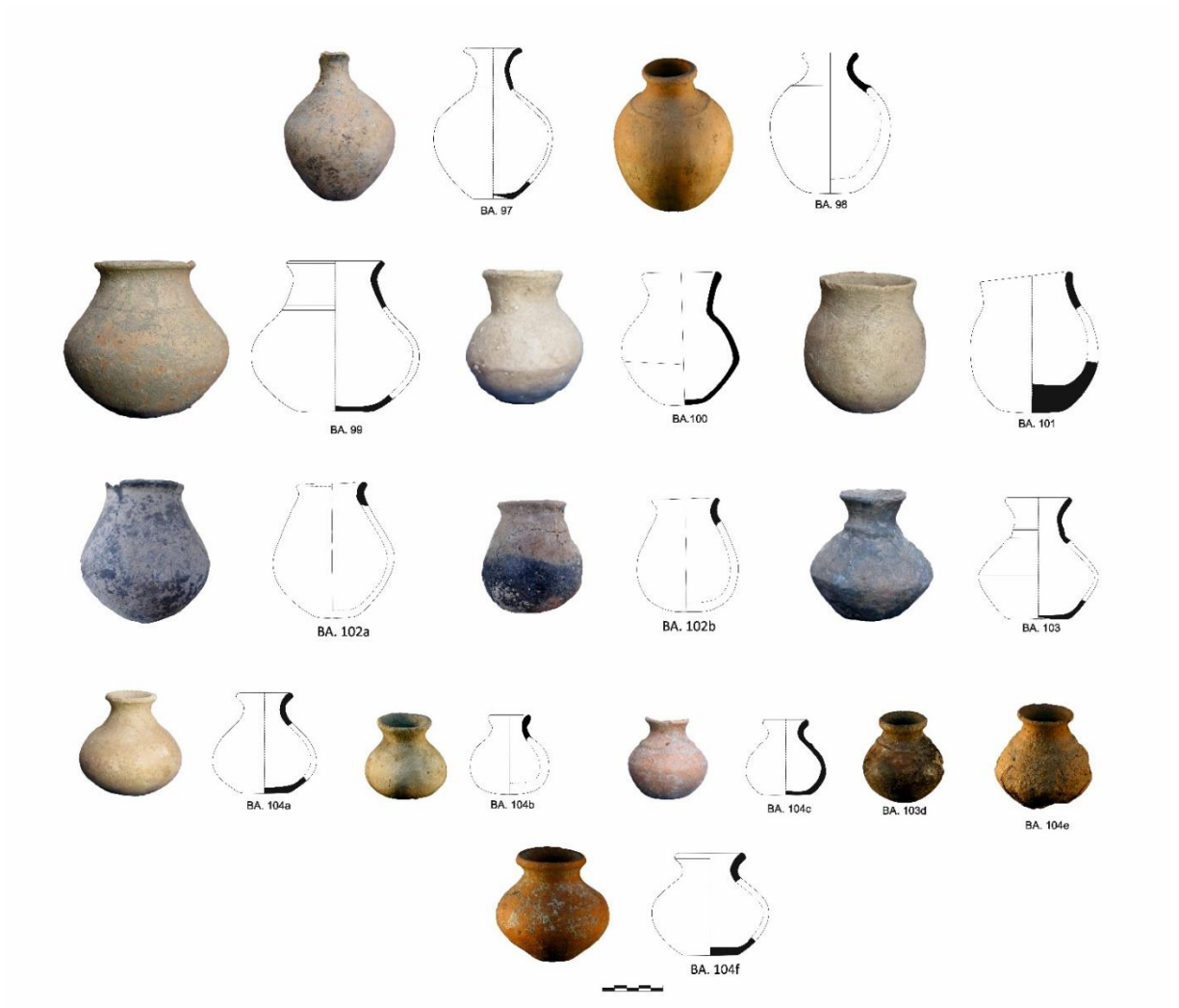


Figure 32. Iron Age II jar characters assemblage of Bayazid Abad.

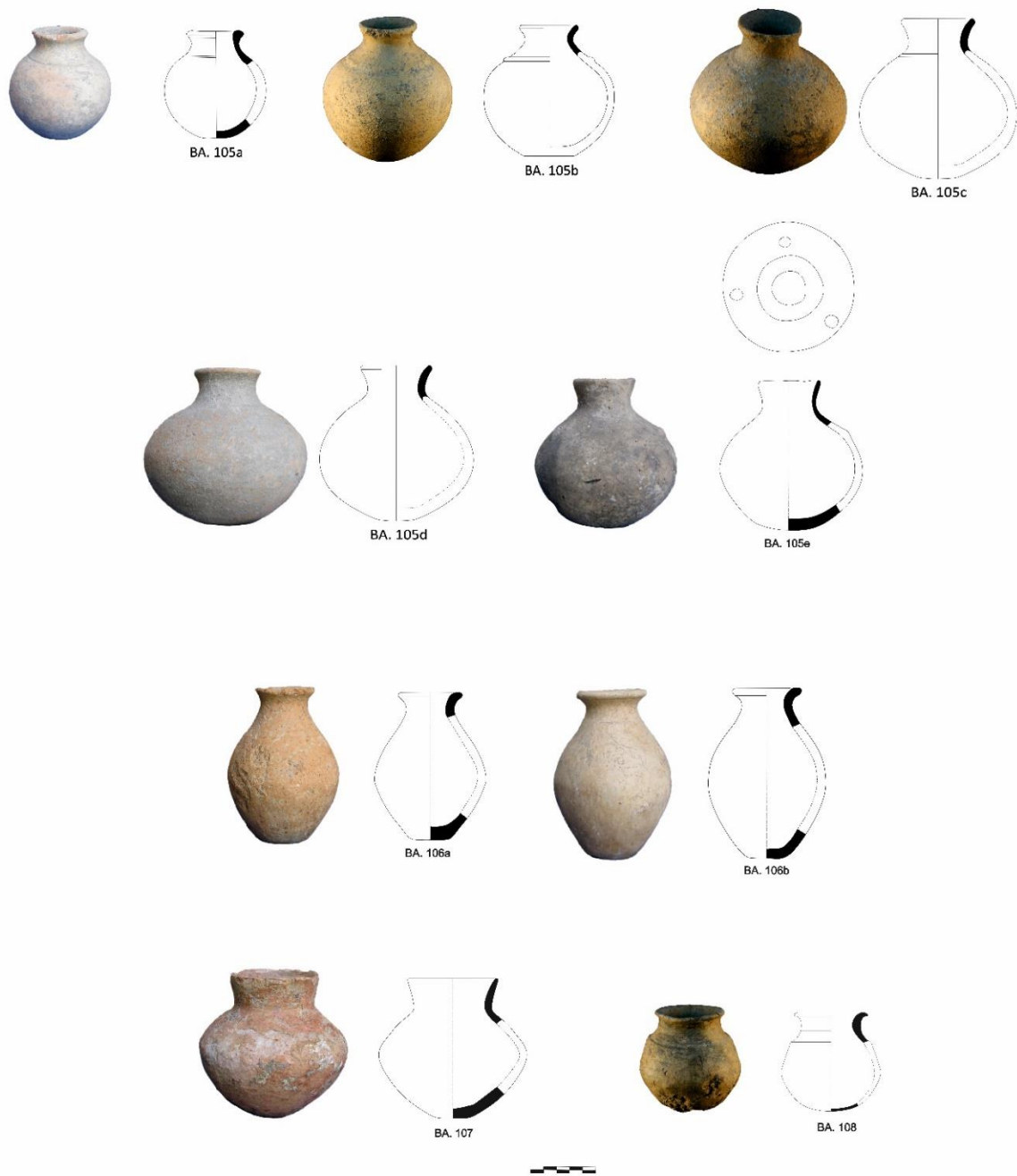


Figure 33. Iron Age II jar characters assemblage of Bayazid Abad.

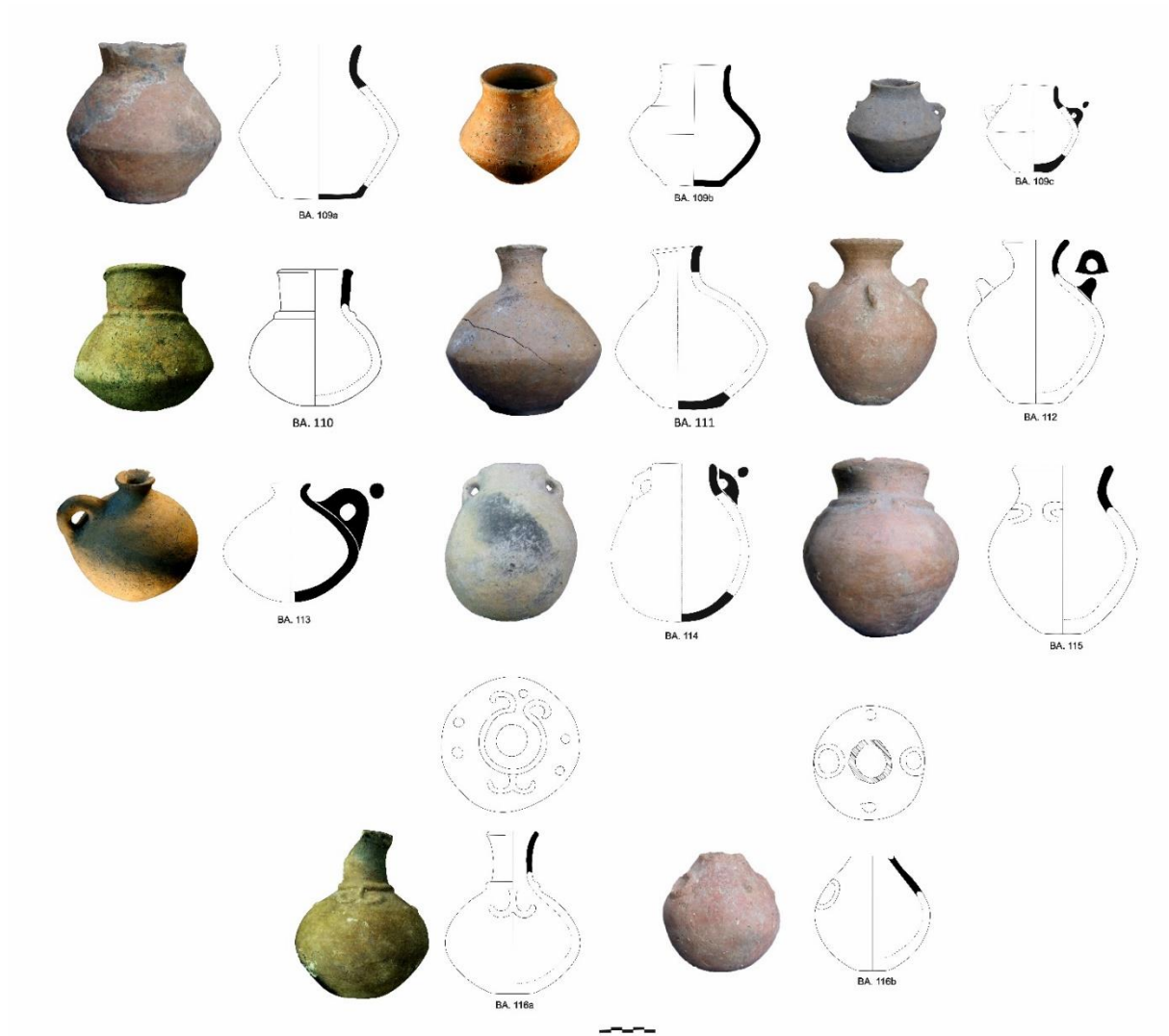


Figure 34. Iron Age II jar characters assemblage of Bayazid Abad.



Figure 35. Iron Age II jars (teapots?) of Bayazid Abad.

IV.2.5.1.2. Bowls

Bowl type I with five examples, BA.120a–b, are carinated bowls with simple, slightly everted rims and flat bases. The best parallels for this form are attested in Kordlar I⁹²⁴ and Hasanlu IVb⁹²⁵ dated to Iron Age II.

Bowl type II with one example, BA.121, is relatively common in Iron Age II and falls in Danti's Bowl Type III. They are represented in Hasanlu with handles⁹²⁶ and one example with gadrooning decoration.⁹²⁷ A similar form with loop handle has also been discovered at Kordlar II.⁹²⁸

⁹²⁴ Lippert 1979: pl. IV nos. 1–2.

⁹²⁵ Young 1963: fig. 7 no. 1.

⁹²⁶ Danti 2013a: figs. 4.54 B, E, K, X, 4.55 A–C, E–F, M, 4.58 D, E, 4.60 D.

⁹²⁷ Danti 2013a: fig. 4.55 C.

⁹²⁸ Lippert 1979: pl. 13 no. 5.

Bowl type III with one example, BA.122, is an inverted carinated bowl. This form of bowls occurs frequently in the graves of Iron Age I and Early Iron Age II at Hasanlu.⁹²⁹

Bowl type IV with two examples, BA.123, are uncarinated bowls with inverted walls and rolled, inverted rim. It falls in Danti's Bowl Type 3⁹³⁰ and is relatively common in Iron Age II at Hasanlu, where they appear with⁹³¹ or without handles.⁹³²

Bowl type V with one example, BA.124, is rare in neighbouring sites but the form of the rim is attested on some bowls from Hasanlu⁹³³ in Iron Age II; appliqué decoration started as a decoration from Iron Age I and became relatively common in Iron Age II in North-Western Iran.

Bowl type VI has two examples: BA.125a–b. Iron Age II can be identified through the appearance of a number of new forms and formal and stylistic attributes attested in North-Western Iran. As a new form, two burnished grey chalices can be mentioned. BA.202 is a chalice with a small button base, carinated body and loop handles are attached to the rim and body and the concave button base. BA.203 has a pedestal base with a drilling hole, and a carinated body with everted rim. Looped handles are attached to the rim with two triangular projections on top of the handles. Similar pedestal bowls have been excavated from the Hasanlu Tepe high mound.⁹³⁴

Table 19: Iron Age II bowl assemblage

No.	Manufacture	Temper	Quality	Colour	Remarks
BA.120a	Handmade	Sand and lime	Medium	2.5YR 4/6 Reddish brown	
BA.120b	Handmade	Sand and lime	Medium	2.5YR 4/6 Reddish brown	

⁹²⁹ Danti 2013a: figs. 4.54 F, 4.55 D, G, I, 4.58 F.

⁹³⁰ Danti 2013a: 249.

⁹³¹ Danti 2013a: figs. 4.54 B, E, K, X, 4.55 A–C, E–F, M, 4.58 D, E, 4.60 D.

⁹³² Danti 2013a: figs. 4.54 X, 4.55 C.

⁹³³ Danti 2013a: fig.4. 55 G.

⁹³⁴ Danti 2013b: fig. 17.13 K–L.

BA.121	Handmade	Fine grit and mica	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	
BA.122	Handmade	Fine grit	Medium	7.5YR 6/6 Reddish yellow	Burnished
BA.123	Wheel	Sand and mica	Fine	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Smoothed
BA.124	Handmade	Sand	Medium	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Three appliqué dots
BA.125a	Handmade	Fine grit	Medium	5YR 3/1 Very dark grey	Burnished, two vertical handles
BA.125b	Wheel	Fine grit	Fine	5YR 3/1 Very dark grey	Burnished, two vertical handles

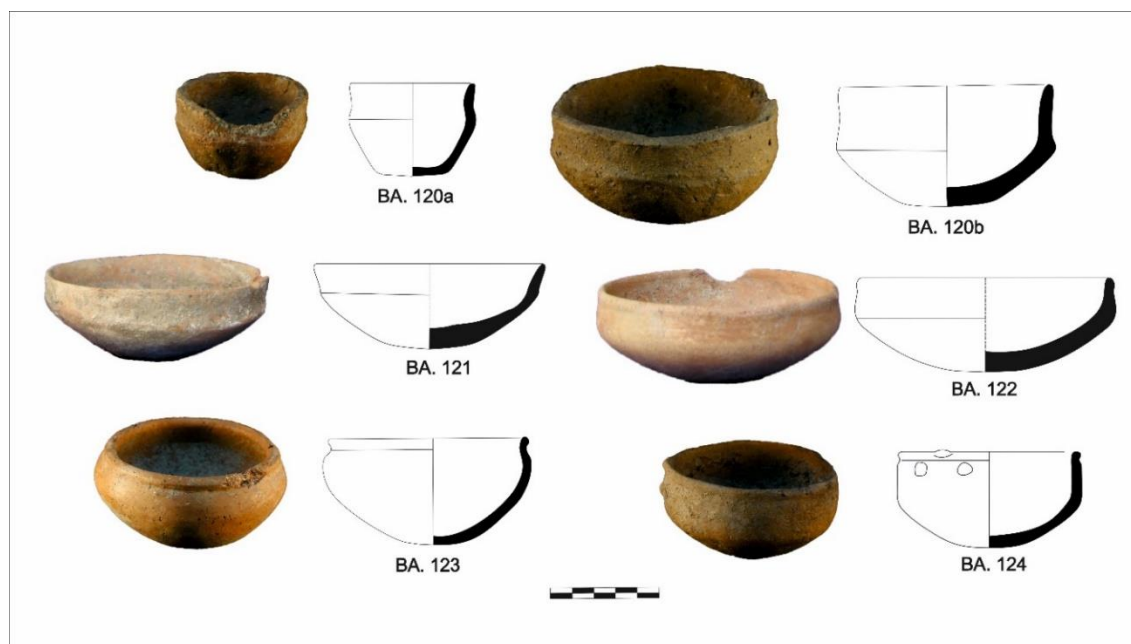


Figure 36. Iron Age II bowl characters assemblage of Bayazid Abad.

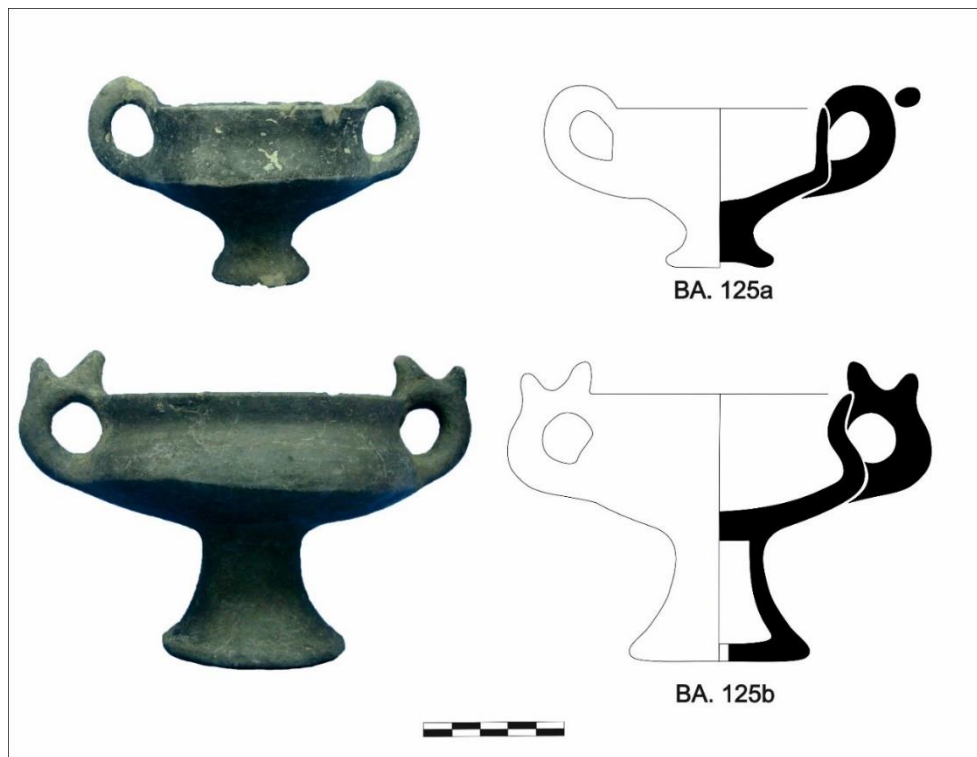


Figure 37. Iron Age II chalices characters of Bayazid Abad.

IV.2.5.1.3. Cups

Cup type I with one example, BA.126, is a small carinated cup with incised horizontal lines and burnished lines around the base, typical of Iron Age II in North-Western Iran. The same cup type has been excavated from Hasanlu SK101 Operation LID Burial 3. It was discovered with other grave goods such as a three-handled Monochrome Burnished Ware hydria and a grey burnished jar, which dates the grave to Hasanlu IVb.⁹³⁵ Another example, which can help to date the Bayazid Abad cup, is an Iron Age II vessel with an almost identical shape, and the very same type of handle from Hasanlu.⁹³⁶

Cup type II with one example, BA. 127, is a small carinated buff cup with a loop handle at the rim. The cup is identical to one from Hasanlu Tomb SK70 which has previously been dated to “Period V” (Late Bronze Age) by the excavators, and then re-dated by Danti to

⁹³⁵ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: fig. 16A.

⁹³⁶ Danti 2011: fig. 18A.

Terminal Period VIb (Middle Bronze Age II).⁹³⁷ The same form of cup has also been recovered from the Hasanlu Excavation in 1964 in the south end of the pillared hall, in the east storerooms, and in the second-store debris of the brick-paved room and large south room. This building, named BB II, is situated in Hasanlu IVb and dated to Iron Age II.⁹³⁸

Two hypotheses can be put forward regarding the production of this type of pottery:

First, production of this type of pottery from the Late Bronze to Iron Age was common.

Second, Danti in his study of Hasanlu Tomb SK70 made a mistake re-dating it because he put this pottery as earliest and compared it to second millennium pottery from Dinkha,⁹³⁹ which does not resemble this kind at all.

Table 20: Iron Age II cup assemblage

No.	Manufacture	Temper	Quality	Colour	Remarks
BA.126	Wheel	Grit, sand, and quartz	Fine	Gley1 6/1 Greenish grey	One vertical handle, three narrow concave vertical bands, and burnished vertical strokes
BA.127	Handmade	Grit, sand, and quartz	Medium	5YR 5/2 Greyish brown	One vertical handle

⁹³⁷ Danti 2013a: 289.

⁹³⁸ Muscarella 1966: fig. 29.

⁹³⁹ Rubinson 1991: fig. 28b.



Figure 38. Iron Age II cup assemblage of Bayazid Abad.

IV.2.5.1.4. Miscellaneous vessels

There are two vases which cannot be placed in any of the other categories.

Vase BA.128 with one example, is a small beaker with tripod feet dated to Iron Age II. Three examples are known from Kordlar Tepe.⁹⁴⁰ The jar has a globular body, with the shoulders slanting very gradually toward a neck that spreads outward to a plain rim. Three equally spaced, short narrow conical legs are attached to the flat base. Fine tripod vases like this have been attested in well-known contemporary sites such as a Marlik⁹⁴¹ and Gheyтарыeh-.⁹⁴²

Vase BA.129 with one example, is a chalice shape beaker with a disk base. This form of beaker is rare in North-Western Iran. The only comparable example is a glazed beaker with elongated base that comes from Hasanlu IVb.⁹⁴³ Danti and Cifarelli (2016) interpret some of

⁹⁴⁰ Lippert 1972: pl. XII nos. 6–8.

⁹⁴¹ Negahban 1996: pl. 101 no. 498.

⁹⁴² Kambaxsh-Fard 1969: 95.

⁹⁴³ Danti and Cifarelli 2016: fig. 32.6 no 64–114.

the Hasanlu materials as a result of the Neo-Assyrian influence. In the necropolis of Munjuglutepe another example was also excavated from the altar⁹⁴⁴ of tomb no. 10.⁹⁴⁵

Table 21: Iron Age II miscellaneous vessels

No.	Manufacture	Temper	Quality	Colour	Remarks
BA.128	Handmade	Lime and sand	Course	7.5YR 7/4 Pink	
BA.129	Wheel	Grit and sand	Fine	2.5YR 6/6 Light red	



Figure 39. Iron Age II miscellaneous vessels of Bayazid Abad.

IV.2.5.2. Overview on Iron Age II Ceramic Assemblage of Bayazid Abad

Bayazid Abad pottery shows the emergence of two styles of decoration in this period. Appliqué and incised vertical lines on the body were used liberally.

Throughout Iron Age II, new forms are introduced in the manufacture of vessels, and it is possible to use them to identify the period of deposition. An example is the appearance in Bayazid Abad of distinctive grey burnished carinated pedestal-base bowls (chalice). Overall,

⁹⁴⁴ The tombs of this graveyard were all stone cist and most of them were associated with a smaller, identical replica, which was named as an altar by the excavators, used exclusively for grave goods.

⁹⁴⁵ Aslanov, Ibragimov and Kashkay 2002: 24, pl. 35 no. 4.

there is a developmental continuity with the Iron Age I material culture of this period at Bayazid Abad. According to this study, bowls of Iron Age II tend to be mostly carinated. Jars with raised bands at the shoulders became more dominant, and the hemispherical bowl is also a relevant shape. The most diagnostic forms for showing the transition from Iron Age I to Iron Age II are the bridged spout jar and the mid-carinated jar with medium-to-high necks and simple everted rims, which become far more prevalent in Iron Age II. At neighbouring sites, a form similar to the mid-carinated jar has been discovered, with bridged spouts and handles. The small to medium jar with ribbing decoration on the neck is the most prevalent form of ceramic from Bayazid Abad.

Chapter V - Cylinder Seals

In this chapter, seal materials, seal production, and iconographic groups of the seals salvaged at Bayazid Abad are discussed. At a first glance, the most readily identifiable ones are attributable to the so-called Mitannian Common Style, which is in fact a group defined by motifs, cutting technique, and style. Their stylistic/iconographic groups are presented here. Some 20 of the seals are of the Mitannian Common Style⁹⁴⁶ and most of the remaining 37 bear geometric patterns.⁹⁴⁷ Before the discovery of these Mitannian cylinders, the second millennium BC seals found in North-Western Iran, were limited to two examples from the Hasanlu V⁹⁴⁸ and one from Dinkha B9a Burial 23,⁹⁴⁹ coeval with Hasanlu V (LBA).

The significant number of cylinders under discussion bears evidence of strong ties between North-Western Iran and Mesopotamia.

V.1. Seal materials

Seals are fashioned in different materials, which are indicative of the period, style, function, or further attributes, such as an amuletic or votive significance.⁹⁵⁰ The use of a particular material, together with its design is especially useful as a chronological marker.⁹⁵¹ It can also give indication of the trading and contact route of the time in which they were manufactured, depending on from where the material was imported.⁹⁵²

Despite their importance, seal materials lack systematic identification and a unified nomenclature system for the classification and cataloguing of glyptic materials. Most seal studies have been conducted by researchers whose area of expertise is not mineralogy, which lead to inconsistencies in the way the information on material were treated in

⁹⁴⁶ For more detailed information on the term of Mitannian Common Seals, see part 3 of this chapter.

⁹⁴⁷ Amelirad and Khanmohamadi catalogued and described the 57 seals covered in this chapter in 2016.

⁹⁴⁸ Marcus 1996: figs. 115–16.

⁹⁴⁹ Muscarella 1974: fig. 6 no. 637.

⁹⁵⁰ Matthews 1990: 14.

⁹⁵¹ Collon 2005: 100.

⁹⁵² Collon 2005: 100.

publications, with seals and materials mislabeled, often only on the basis of simple observations, without any kind of petrological analysis.

This subjective approach to materials conditions the language used to describe them, giving priority to colour and indication that the seal is made non-committally of “stone.” While this prevents the risk of misusing scientific terms, it makes the nomenclature too subjective, thus rendering serious comparison across publications a relatively fruitless exercise.⁹⁵³ In the absence of a shared vocabulary for scholars and excavators of different origins, a danger of multiple false identifications based on each other exists.⁹⁵⁴

Matthews proposed a solution which would not sacrifice clarity in favour of simplicity, by providing two main distinctions in the classification of seals’ materials: artificial/natural and hard/soft.⁹⁵⁵ While serviceable, unluckily, this system leaves out all of the “social” information that a material can give us, including the aforementioned ones on trade and contact routes, or how much a specific material was valued in the society that used it, how much it was representative of a styles, or what kind of technology was employed in its manufacturing, which would lead to an understanding on how such technologies evolved. Cylinder seals from Bayazid Abad can be divided in two categories based on their material.

V.1.1. Quartz-based artificial materials (faience and frit)

Starting from the work of Egyptian specialists about the nature and production of quartz-based materials, especially Reisner’s analysis of faience production during Egyptian Middle Kingdom,⁹⁵⁶ it has been possible to obtain an outline of quartz-based material production, though without taking into account the differences between Mesopotamia and Egypt.⁹⁵⁷ These materials, including faience, frit, and glass, are all made of silica (quartz sand); an alkali, lime, and usually a copper colourant in varying amounts and proportions.⁹⁵⁸ The

⁹⁵³ Moorey 1994: 166; Matthews 1990: 14

⁹⁵⁴ Moorey 1994: 166; Matthews 1990: 14.

⁹⁵⁵ Matthews 1990: 14.

⁹⁵⁶ Reisner 1923: 134.

⁹⁵⁷ Moorey 1994: 182.

⁹⁵⁸ Nicholson and Peltenburg 2000: 178; Rapp 2002: 193.

different combinations of these base materials give three main substances, which cannot be confused with each other.⁹⁵⁹

V.1.1.1. Frit

Frit is an unglazed material with a fused polycrystalline body.⁹⁶⁰ It presents a heterogeneous body with interstitial glass, a feature which appears also in faience, with the difference that faience is glazed.⁹⁶¹ In fact, in cases where the glazing has completely degraded, faience might be confused with frit.⁹⁶²

V.1.1.2. Faience

The term 'faience' is actually a misnomer for this material,⁹⁶³ derived from its apparent similarity to majolica, a tin-glazed medieval ceramic from Faenza, northern Italy.⁹⁶⁴ Due to its first discoveries in Egypt, it has been sometimes called Egyptian Faience,⁹⁶⁵ but this usage has been discouraged, since it leads one to think that examples found in Mesopotamia and Iran are imports from Egypt, whereas they were in fact produced locally.⁹⁶⁶

Producing this material requires several steps. Initially a paste of mixed lime, silica, and soda is placed in a mold, or modeled by cutting and abrasion after letting it dry a bit.⁹⁶⁷ The molded paste is fired at 800°–1000°C. The glaze is applied or painted on the object after the firing or during the firing process, through the technique of efflorescent or cementation (or the Qom technique, named after an Iranian city whose artisans still use this method⁹⁶⁸).

After firing, faience can be worked the same way as stone, including cutting, carving and abrasion,⁹⁶⁹ turning out a wide variety of heterogeneous exemplars of shape and glazing.⁹⁷⁰

⁹⁵⁹ Nicholson and Peltenburg 2000: 178.

⁹⁶⁰ Moorey 1994: 167.

⁹⁶¹ Nicholson and Peltenburg 2000: 178.

⁹⁶² Moorey 1994: 167.

⁹⁶³ Moorey 1994: 167.

⁹⁶⁴ Moorey 1994: 167; Nicholson and Peltenburg 2000: 177; Rapp 2002: 192.

⁹⁶⁵ Moorey 1994: 167; Nicholson and Peltenburg 2000: 177.

⁹⁶⁶ Moorey 1994: 167; Nicholson and Peltenburg 2000: 177.

⁹⁶⁷ Moorey 1994: 181–84; Nicholson and Peltenburg 2000: 190–91.

⁹⁶⁸ Moorey 1994: 181–84; Nicholson and Peltenburg 2000: 190–91.

⁹⁶⁹ Moorey 1994: 167–69.

⁹⁷⁰ Moorey 1994: 181–84.

V.1.2. Glazed Steatite

Glazed steatite is a white variation of the rock steatite, but the name is also applied to examples in chlorite,⁹⁷¹ whose colour may be artificially altered⁹⁷² by subjecting the material to high temperature firing, which hardens the rock.⁹⁷³ In an experimental study, Bannister and Plenderleith,⁹⁷⁴ produced a material similar to glazed steatite, in terms of hardness and colour, by firing a steatite fragment at 900°C,⁹⁷⁵ and despite this study being 70 years old, glazed steatite is nevertheless considered as a separate and fully recognizable category of material.⁹⁷⁶ Unfortunately, it is still to be determined, through scientific investigation, whether the colour of the original glazed steatite derives from the firing or the application of glaze.⁹⁷⁷

V.2. Seal production

Cylinder seals were cut with an instrument known in Akkadian as *purkullu*, name derived from the Sumerian *burgul*. In lexical lists, this lexeme is often associated with the term *zadim*, which refers to the person in charge of the stone working and cutting.⁹⁷⁸

Microscopic studies of cylinder seals held in the late 1970s illuminate the techniques used in their manufacture.⁹⁷⁹ Stone and metal tools were employed for working through micro-chipping, filing, cutting wheel, and drilling.⁹⁸⁰ The works of Sax, Meeks and McNabb, together with the chapters on glyptic in Moorey's *Ancient Mesopotamian Materials and Industries*⁹⁸¹ and Collon's general glyptic studies⁹⁸² thoroughly cover the process of creation of seals, to the point where it is impossible to cover the matter without directly quoting them.

⁹⁷¹ Pittman 1994: xv.

⁹⁷² Pittman 1994: 134.

⁹⁷³ Collon 2005: 20; Pittman 1994: XV, 134.

⁹⁷⁴ Bannister and Plenderleith 1936.

⁹⁷⁵ Bannister and Plenderleith 1936: 4

⁹⁷⁶ Pittman 1994.

⁹⁷⁷ Pittman 1994: 133–34.

⁹⁷⁸ Teissier 1985: XXIV.

⁹⁷⁹ Gwinnett and Gorelick 1978; 1979; 1981a, 1981b; 1992; 1987; Sax and Meeks 1994; 1995; Sax, McNabb and Meeks 1998; Sax, Meeks and Collon 2000.

⁹⁸⁰ Sax and Meeks 1995: 28–35; Sax, McNabb and Meeks 1998: 4–8

⁹⁸¹ Moorey 1994: 103–106.

⁹⁸² Collon 2005: 100–104.

V.3. Mitannian seals

Using the seals and sealings detailed by Porada in her “Seal Impressions of Nuzi”⁹⁸³, the so-called Mitannian seals can be divided into two groups:

1-Common Style: The majority, made of faience or glazed steatite, occur in levels dating to the fifteenth and fourteenth centuries in many Middle Eastern sites. Surprisingly, despite a number of examples distributed across a large geographic area, this group shows homogeneous features.⁹⁸⁴ They are grouped mainly according to similarity in the engraving, which is schematic and repetitive. The fall of the Mitannian kingdom in *ca.* 1350 BC, marks the beginning to end of the Common Style, but it reoccurs occasionally in the thirteenth century.⁹⁸⁵ In her dissertation, Pirhiya Beck suggested that Common Style favoured certain motifs, such as contest scenes, which date to the fourteenth or thirteenth centuries, perhaps even earlier.⁹⁸⁶

According to Porada, this style was developed around 1500 BC.⁹⁸⁷ Prior to this Frankfort dated the Common Style (“Popular Style”) 1700–1200 BC,⁹⁸⁸ at the time of the Indo-Aryan Mitannian settling. This identification is based on the deities in their religious pantheon, and in the recurring motif of the winged sun disk, which connects the Indo-Aryans with the Vedic texts and their mention of the pillar which supports heaven, from which such a shape was derived.

2-Elaborate style:⁹⁸⁹ Made for the most part of marble, chert or hematite, this group of seals shows high quality of production, with carefully engraved and varied decoration, dating about 200 years after the Common Style. In their regard, Frankfort states that the huge extension in the manufacture of Common Style seals may have been the foundation for the developing of this finely crafted category.⁹⁹⁰

⁹⁸³ Porada 1947.

⁹⁸⁴ Porada 1947: 11.

⁹⁸⁵ McEwan and Kantor 1958a: 84.

⁹⁸⁶ Beck 1967: 116.

⁹⁸⁷ Porada 1979: 2.

⁹⁸⁸ Frankfort 1939: 278–83.

⁹⁸⁹ Definition of this term, e.g., Porada 1980: 13; Buchanan 1966: 179.

⁹⁹⁰ Frankfort 1939: 278.

Helene Kantor classified seals into two categories: “depleted” and “thickly modeled.” The “depleted” class of seals show a simplified version of Mitannian designs, such as a deer and a guilloche. However, despite being easily found in Palestine, there is no way to say that they are typical to that area. They appear to date after the fall of the Mitannian kingdom (*ca.* 1350).

The “thickly modeled,” class of seals, according to Kantor, could be a class of thirteenth century descendants of the “elaborate” style. Kantor cites Lachish-2 IVF as depicting examples of this style.⁹⁹¹

V.4. Bayazid Abad cylinders

A total of 57-cylinder seals were salvaged in the Bayazid Abad grave. Their materials consist of frit, faience, glazed steatite, and soft stone. The frit and faience seals are by definition respectively unglazed and glazed. Frit seals are more numerous. The surfaces of most seals are badly weathered. Some seals have simple geometric designs while others elaborate designs with more precise workmanship. Judging by their size, it is possible that several of the objects may not actually have been used as seals at all, but rather as beads/pendants. Nonetheless, they will be included in this dissertation, due to the possibility of them actually being a very simple kind of geometric seals. Eighteen of the seals can be counted as of the Mitannian Common Style, while others have a yet to be classified non-figurative patterns. The compositions have been created by lines, drillings, and curves formed by arcs of tubular drills.

A previous study of the Bayazid Abad seals⁹⁹² divided them into four groups according to their decoration, especially iconography.

I. Human groups

- a.* Human only
- b.* Human with stylized symbols
- c.* Humans with animals
- d.* Humans with plant ornament

⁹⁹¹ McEwan and Kantor 1958a: 84.

⁹⁹² Amelirad and Khanmohamadi 2016.

V.4.1. Human groups

The human group, according to the scenes and details, is divided in five subdivisions:

V.4.1.1. Human only

There is only one seal with this kind of representation (Figure 40. I. a. 1). It shows a row of schematized, standing, men marching toward the right. It is made of faience, and measures 2.4 cm in height and 1.1 cm in diameter. The cutting technique included the use of a cutting wheel, and drilling with tubular, small, round headed borers. There are three horizontal grooves around the seal: the first is the line border; the second one is at shoulder high and may indicate arms; and the last one is at hip height and maybe the hem of a kilt. The main scene belongs to Stein's Group 5A⁹⁹³ which concentrate on one or two motifs that are often repeated in horizontal registers or vertical panels. The elementary rows and pattern which characterize this group are assembled in Porada's Group VIII⁹⁹⁴ based on her study on the Nuzi glyptic. According to her, the series of naked human figures, disposed in rows and columns, show the basic feature of the representation of groups of dancers, considering how each portrayed figure touches the shoulder of the next one.⁹⁹⁵ Seal designs of this type seem to have been more popular in the east, particularly Nuzi⁹⁹⁶ and Tell Mohammed Arab⁹⁹⁷ than in the west⁹⁹⁸ (from Beth Shan in Level VII) and Alalakh VII.⁹⁹⁹ An example of this form also was discovered in a Late Bronze Age grave at Artik in Armenia.¹⁰⁰⁰ Another one at Tell Zar'a depicts a row of fish on the upper border.¹⁰⁰¹ and two more examples present three stylized standing figures perpendicular to the seal's axis associate with a stand gazelle striding to the left with its head turning back at Tell Zar'a¹⁰⁰² and Pella.¹⁰⁰³ Two seals of the same kind

⁹⁹³ Stein 1993a: vol. I: 98, vol. II, no. 182.

⁹⁹⁴ Porada 1947: 56–61, 66–87.

⁹⁹⁵ Porada 1947: 116–19.

⁹⁹⁶ Porada 1947: 325ff; Stein 1993a: figs. 124, 182–83, 196, 479, 484, 618, 628, 688.

⁹⁹⁷ Collon 1988: 68: 4. 45S:21.01, pl. VII.

⁹⁹⁸ Parker 1949: figs. 74, 93.

⁹⁹⁹ Collon 1975: fig. 205.

¹⁰⁰⁰ Khachatryan 1975: fig. 77 nos. 1, 4; Khachatryan 1979: n–35.

¹⁰⁰¹ Häser et al. 2016: fig. 6.

¹⁰⁰² Häser et al. 2016: fig. 9.

¹⁰⁰³ Egger and Keel 2006: 242–243, no. 92.

surfaced at Dschabal al-Hawayah, depicting stylized human figures associated with images of trees.¹⁰⁰⁴

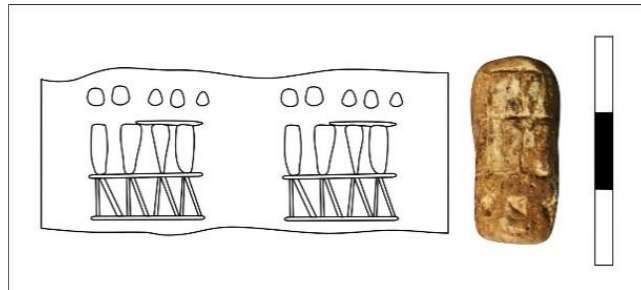


Figure 40. I. a. 1. Mitannian Common Style cylinder seal with a stylized human scene.

V.4.1.2. Human with stylized symbols

Two such seals occurred at Bayazid Abad: The first of this group (Figure 41. I. b. 1) is made of faience, measuring 3.2 cm in height, and 1.1 cm in diameter, worked by incision, cutting wheel, and drilling with tubular borers. A stylized figure of a deity in a long robe, seated on an X-shaped stool, raises his arm toward a standing human figure with legs spread apart. He is standing opposite to a crescent disk standard. The seals from Bayazid Abad belong to Salje's Syrian Group 3.2.1.¹⁰⁰⁵ This scene is a member of a distinctive group, which is known from widely scattered sites such as a Beth Shean, Hala Sultan Tekké,¹⁰⁰⁶ Enkomi and Idalion,¹⁰⁰⁷ Mycenae,¹⁰⁰⁸ and Tell Artal.¹⁰⁰⁹ The style also occasionally appears on unprovenanced seals. Other cylinder seals, similar in material, technique, composition of the main scene, position, and detail came to light at Ras Shamra,¹⁰¹⁰ Nippur¹⁰¹¹ and is almost identical to one from Palestine.¹⁰¹² The man seated on a stool with the same hat and position

¹⁰⁰⁴ Egger and Keel 2006: 154–155, nos. 10–11.

¹⁰⁰⁵ Salje 1990: 85; pl. 9 nos. 178–80.

¹⁰⁰⁶ Kenna 1971: fig. 112.

¹⁰⁰⁷ Schaeffer 1983: 164.

¹⁰⁰⁸ Schaeffer 1983: 168, fig. 3.

¹⁰⁰⁹ Beck 1967: fig. 189 no. 2.

¹⁰¹⁰ Schaeffer 1983: 121, R.S. 19.188.

¹⁰¹¹ Legrain 1925: 631; Matthews 1992: 139, 206.

¹⁰¹² Beck 1967: fig. 189 no. 2.

is witnessed also on the other cylinder seal from a context in Ras Shamra dated to 1550 to 1450 BC¹⁰¹³ and the standing figure also appears on another seal from Ras Shamra.¹⁰¹⁴

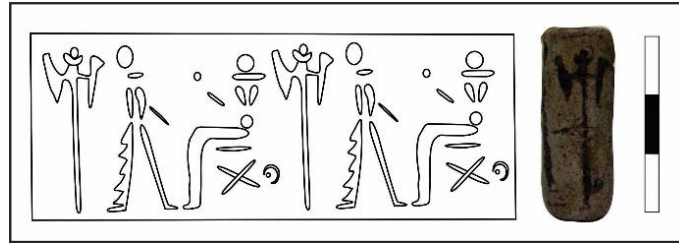


Figure 41. I. b. 1. Mitannian Common Style cylinder seal with human and stylized symbol scene.

The second seal of this group (Figure 42. I. b. 2) is made of white faience, measuring 2.0 cm in height and 1.1 cm in diameter. Its upper half is broken. The surviving half shows a long-robed figure sitting on an X-shaped stool facing left, opposite to a short kilt figure who kneels facing right with raised hands. Between them stands an altar or standard. The seated deity appears in several examples along a series of thirteenth century impressions, called “altar scene” by Matthews.¹⁰¹⁵ These are mostly dated to Shalmaneser. Parallels for the scene with altar have turned up in Assyria.¹⁰¹⁶



Figure 42. I. b. 2. Cylinder seal with human and stylized symbol scene.

V.4.1.3. Humans with animals

¹⁰¹³ Schaeffer 1983: 117, R.S. 17.160.

¹⁰¹⁴ Schaeffer 1983: 120, R.S. 19.187.

¹⁰¹⁵ Matthews 1990: 110.

¹⁰¹⁶ Matthews 1990: fig. 503.

Three seals with the mentioned characteristic were unearthed at Bayazid Abad: The first seal from this group (Figure 43. I. c.1) is made of faience, measuring 3.4 cm in length and 1.0 cm in diameter. Manufacturing techniques included incision, cutting wheel, and drilling with tubular, large and small round-head borers. The design on the seal consists two antithetic figures in long garments and round caps with raised arms facing a winged standard with globular base. Above them is a frontal antelope head with a pair of forked horns in the lower part. Behind them there are three superimposed animals to the right, and above them a goat leans its head downward as if grazing or becoming ready for a sacrifice. Below, two recumbent goats lie with their head down, facing downward perpendicularly to the base line of the seal. All three of them have two slightly curved horns shown alongside. They have pointed eyes and nozzles. This seal could belong to Salje's Northern Mesopotamian/Syrian Group 3.1.1¹⁰¹⁷ and/or Stein's Group 1 based on her study of Nuzi seals,¹⁰¹⁸ which represent the worship of divine and human figures by devotees or subordinates.

In this group, the scheme consists of two, three or, occasionally, four figures. In Porada 1947, this scene corresponds to her Groups 16,¹⁰¹⁹ 17,¹⁰²⁰ and 19.¹⁰²¹ Details such as couchant animals positioned sideways, confronted, and addorsed frequently appear on their own or as part of scene,¹⁰²² and they are found on Mitannian Common-Style glyptic from within and beyond the southern Levant, at times differing in iconography or style. On the Mitannian seals, examples of couchant animals occur on seals from Nuzi,¹⁰²³ Ras Shamra,¹⁰²⁴ Beth Shean,¹⁰²⁵ Tell Zar'a,¹⁰²⁶ Tell Şafit/Gath,¹⁰²⁷ and Nippur.¹⁰²⁸ Grazing horned animals are

¹⁰¹⁷ Salje 1990: 82, pl. 9:166–68.

¹⁰¹⁸ Stein 1993a: 81.

¹⁰¹⁹ Porada 1947: figs. 602–33.

¹⁰²⁰ Porada 1947: figs. 634–62.

¹⁰²¹ Porada 1947: figs. 678–708.

¹⁰²² Collon 1987: 62.

¹⁰²³ Stein 1993: figs. 7, 8, 34, 180, 284, 612, 633.

¹⁰²⁴ Schaeffer 1983: 136: fig. 24.44.

¹⁰²⁵ Recumbent antelope set at right angles upon a standing sphinx (Parker 1949: 22, pl. XIV no. 90).

¹⁰²⁶ Häser et al. 2016: fig. 3.

¹⁰²⁷ A pair of recumbent stags set at right angles upon a pattern (Bliss and Macalister 1902: pl. 83 no. 4S).

¹⁰²⁸ Matthews 1992: figs. 199–200.

presented on the seals from Beth Shean,¹⁰²⁹ Hazor,¹⁰³⁰ and Megiddo,¹⁰³¹ beyond the southern Levant, e.g., Ugarit¹⁰³² (Ras Shamra) and Nuzi.¹⁰³³ Moreover, the antelope head motif appears on examples from Nuzi.¹⁰³⁴ The main scene consisting of two antithetic figures with raised arms facing a winged standard is also represented in some seals in Nuzi¹⁰³⁵; the site which also offers the best parallel for this seal.¹⁰³⁶ Similar scenes are found at Shamiram, Tomb 5,¹⁰³⁷ Amman Airport¹⁰³⁸ and Tell Deir'Allaand,¹⁰³⁹ and Tepe Ma'murin in the Tehran Plain,¹⁰⁴⁰ present each a seal raffigurating two human figures with a tree between them, while at Merdangöl necropolis in Nakhichevan (Azerbaijan),¹⁰⁴¹ the interposing element is represented by a lion and by what appears to be a stylized tree.

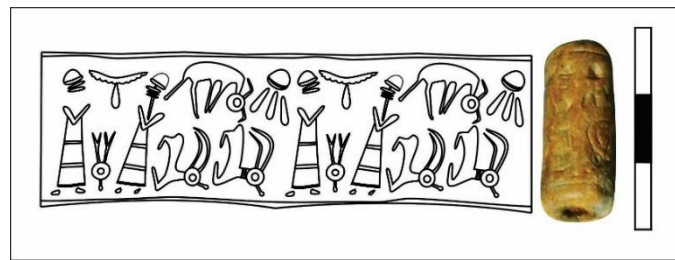


Figure 43. I. c. 1. Mitannian Common Style cylinder seal with human and animal scene.

The second seal of this group (Figure 44. I. c. 2) is made of faience, measuring 2.7 cm in length and 1.1 cm in diameter. It is incised, cut on a wheel, and round-head drilled. This seal shows a schematized 'hero'—probably male—fighting against a long-muzzled animal. Two groups of contestants are portrayed, each including two flanking heroes. On the left, a nude hero wearing a rounded wide-brimmed hat and doubled belt and the head which is like a drop, ends in a round cap facing right. A horned animal (antelope) stands on its hind legs and

¹⁰²⁹ Parker 1949: fig. 43.

¹⁰³⁰ Beck 1989: pl. CCCXX no. 1.

¹⁰³¹ Parker 1949: 23, pl. XV no. 97.

¹⁰³² Schaeffer 1983: 92 (RS 7.157), 123 (RS 20.49), 152–153 (RS 25.380).

¹⁰³³ Stein 1993: figs. 567, 745.

¹⁰³⁴ Stein 1993: figs. 3, 57, 133, 579.

¹⁰³⁵ Stein 1993: figs. 263, 306, 686.

¹⁰³⁶ Stein 1993: fig. 515.

¹⁰³⁷ Avetisyan and Bobokhyan 2008: fig. 38 no. 1.

¹⁰³⁸ Egger and Keel 2006: 78–79, no. 33.

¹⁰³⁹ Egger and Keel 2006: 412–413, no. 40.

¹⁰⁴⁰ After Mucheshi and Tala'i 2012: fig. 26.

¹⁰⁴¹ Aliyev 2018: fig. 55 no. 5.

faces right with brush-tipped horn. The 'hero's' right foot is placed on the animal's hind leg. His left hand grasps one of its horns and his right its tail. The contestant on the right wears a bordered short kilt with doubled belt and rounded brimmed hat. He has the animal's foreleg in the right, while holding the blade of a halbard at the animal's neck with the left one. The upper and lower ends of the seal are demarcated by horizontal lines. The group on the right is identical. This seal also belongs to Salje's Palestinian Group 3.4.1.¹⁰⁴² Mitannian seals depicting contests between rampant antelopes and heroes were also found in Tell Mohammed Arab,¹⁰⁴³ Hazor,¹⁰⁴⁴ Beth Shean Stratum IX,¹⁰⁴⁵ and Lori Berd in Armenia.¹⁰⁴⁶

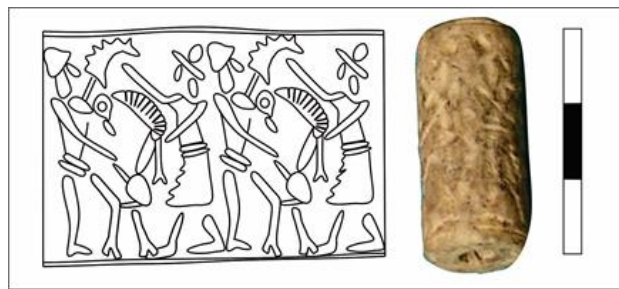


Figure 44. I. c. 2. Mitannian Common Style cylinder seal with human and animal composition.

The third seal of this group (Figure 45. I. c. 3) is made of faience, measuring 2.9 cm in length and 1.1 cm in diameter. It is manufactured by drilling with tubular and round-headed borers and incised by puncturing. The main scene shows two standing "deities" with round caps, wearing open bordered mantles and open skirts, which completely cover their hind legs, but expose the front one, being shorter on that side. Both hold a lash or sickle-sword with the right hand, pointing downward, and with their left hands they hold the tail of a winged griffin. Their hand gestures slightly differ, one is holding onto the griffin's tail and the other one has his hand close to the griffin's tail. Representations of human-like figures holding the same kind of weapon are recognizable on seals of the Mitannian Common Style,

¹⁰⁴²Salje 1990: 93, pl. XI: 206–210. Salje claims that the 21 seals of this group, 15 of which from Syria represent the images of naked men. On most of them a bird also appears, sometimes next to a tree or standard. This kind of association finds parallels in the eastern Mediterranean region rather than in Mesopotamia.

¹⁰⁴³ Collon 1988 67, 3. 40P: 07.01, pl. VI.

¹⁰⁴⁴ Beck 1989: pl. CCCXIX nos. 3–4, Yadin 1961: pl. 319: 3.

¹⁰⁴⁵ Parker 1949: 16, pl. VII no. 48.

¹⁰⁴⁶ Devedjyan and Davtyan 2021: 216, fig. 3.

including ones from the southern Levant¹⁰⁴⁷ at Ras Shamra,¹⁰⁴⁸ Tell el-Far‘ah North,¹⁰⁴⁹ southern Levant, e.g., Akko,¹⁰⁵⁰ Gezer,¹⁰⁵¹ Lachish,¹⁰⁵² Tell Jemmeh,¹⁰⁵³ Tell Zakariyah/Azekah,¹⁰⁵⁴ and Hazor. From Temple H, a sickle-sword holder is involved in a contest scene.¹⁰⁵⁵ While no perfectly matching parallel exists for this scene, the deity with a scimitar and griffin are quite common in Mitannian seals, especially the ones from Nuzi.¹⁰⁵⁶ Moreover, the griffin on the Early Neo-Elamite cylinder seal also occurs in Surkh Dum.¹⁰⁵⁷

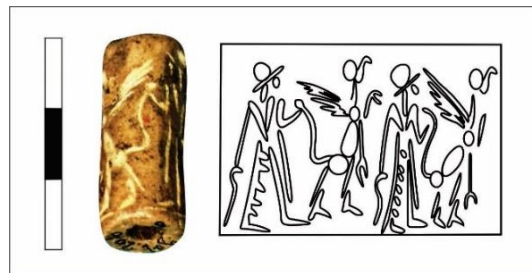


Figure 45. I. c.3. Mitannian Common Style cylinder seal with a human and winged hybrid scene.

V.4.1.4. Humans with plants

Two seals of this iconographic group occur at Bayazid Abad:

The first seal (Figure 46. I. d. 1) is made of glazed faience, measuring 3.1 cm in length and 1.1 cm in diameter. The object is rendered by drilling with tubular, large and small round-head bore cutting incision, cutting, and chiseling. It depicts standing schematized nude figures, looking forward. The upper part of the body of one of them is crossed by three bars and the other by two bars. The stylized figures stand in between six branched (globular dots) trees and three-line lozenges with three central dots. Four small globules appear around the lozenges. In most of Mitannian common seals, branched bouquet-trees are depicted with

¹⁰⁴⁷ Porada 1947: 112–113; Stein 1993: 204–206, 208.

¹⁰⁴⁸ Schaeffer 1983: 111 (R.S. 11.733), 114 (R.S. 14.117, R.S. 14.154).

¹⁰⁴⁹ Amiet 1996: 24–26, F2904.

¹⁰⁵⁰ Beck 1977: fig. 2.

¹⁰⁵¹ Macalister 1912: II, 345, fig. 464.

¹⁰⁵² Parker 1949: figs. 113, 183.

¹⁰⁵³ Ornan 2014.

¹⁰⁵⁴ Parker 1949: fig. 86.

¹⁰⁵⁵ Beck 1989: pl. CCCXIX no. 3.

¹⁰⁵⁶ Stein 2010: 366: fig. 2; 1993: 431.

¹⁰⁵⁷ Muscarella 2013: 451, no. 38.

globular end branches, of which the best examples are documented in Collon's Alalakh assemble motifs.¹⁰⁵⁸ But this bouquet tree with six drilled dots is special and to date is known exclusively at Bayazid Abad. To the best of my knowledge, there is no depiction similar to this seal's scene among the other Mitannian seals in the way that a figure, tree, and lozenge are represented.

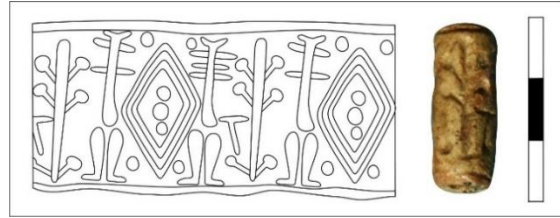


Figure 46. I. d. 1. Mitannian Common Style cylinder seal with humans and plant ornament.

The second seal in this group (Figure 47. I. d. 2) is made of green glazed faience, and measures 3.0 cm in length and 1.4 cm in diameter. Its motif is rendered by incision and chiseling. Two figures are depicted. The first one is a spidery palm-tree with two tiers of horizontal branches, similar in style to the date palms represented on a group of seals from Ugar, a likely local manufacture, as suggested by Schaeffer.¹⁰⁵⁹ Beside the stylized tree, there is a schematized human, which is crossed by three bars, showing his face, shoulder, and hands. This seal is attributable to Salje's Syrian Group 3.2.1.¹⁰⁶⁰ The stylized palm-tree occurs with different details in many of the Mitannian seals and seems to have been particularly popular in the latter half of the second millennium BC.¹⁰⁶¹ It is depicted alongside an ibex, like the seal discovered at Tell Mohamad Arab¹⁰⁶² and Megiddo.¹⁰⁶³ In some of the examples from Ugarit, stylized human in form of Salje's Syrian- Palestinian Group 3.3.1 are depicted beside the same type of tree with date-clusters hanging below.¹⁰⁶⁴ An exact parallel to Bayazid Abad seal was found at Enkomi-Alasia.¹⁰⁶⁵

¹⁰⁵⁸ Collon 1982: fig. 2.

¹⁰⁵⁹ Schaeffer 1983: 167 (R.S. 8.152, R.S. 25.172).

¹⁰⁶⁰ Salje 1990: 84, pl. XI nos. 172-77.

¹⁰⁶¹ Kepinski 1982: vol. III, figs. 355, 394, 416, 418, 419, 424.

¹⁰⁶² Collon 1988: 63, 45R: 09.01 (MA 394) pl. VI.

¹⁰⁶³ Amiran 1970: pl. 50 no. 4.

¹⁰⁶⁴ Schaeffer 1983: 167 (R.S. 8.152, R.S. 25.172).

¹⁰⁶⁵ Schaeffer 1983: 164 (R.S. 4.108).

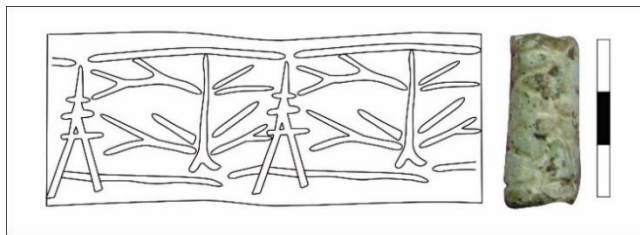


Figure 47. I. d. 2. Mitannian Common Style cylinder seal with abstract humans and plant ornament.

V.4.1.5. Humans with patterns

One of the seals shows humans with patterns (Figure 48. I. e. 1). It is made of faience and white glazed composite material, with traces of green glaze remaining, measuring 2.9 cm in length and 1.1 cm in diameter. It was manufactured by incision and drilling. Two registers are divided by a horizontal line. The design is framed at top by cross-hatching, and the lower one depicts a row of five highly schematic human heads facing right. Each head has a prominent nose and large circular eye and a wide brimmed round hat. The scene is divided by two horizontal parallel lines. Seals with ‘cross-hatching’ in a design in horizontal registers are rare amongst the seals with the same scene—a guilloche or grooves are more common in such seals.¹⁰⁶⁶ Rows of schematized human heads appear in the Mitannian Common Style glyptic in two main variants. One, as on the discussed seal, in a horizontal file. The other depicts a vertical row with the heads facing right. Both variants are present in Nuzi, assigned to group XIV by Porada and by Stein to her Group 5. Both variants are known from the southern Levant. Particularly relevant are two seals with a horizontal composition found in Beth Shean¹⁰⁶⁷ and one seal in Hazor,¹⁰⁶⁸ and a much worn similar seal, perhaps identical in style, from Khirbet Ya‘mun, Jordan.¹⁰⁶⁹ One example from Nippur, but with a grill-pattern instead of cross-hatching is stylistically identical to these seals, and may have also been made in the same atelier.¹⁰⁷⁰ Although not so numerous, this design is, nonetheless, distributed

¹⁰⁶⁶ Matthews 1992: 52.

¹⁰⁶⁷ Parker 1949: figs. 82, 115; Dabney 1993: fig. 39, pl. 61h; Rowe 1940: pl. 38 no. 9.

¹⁰⁶⁸ Ornan and Peri 2017: fig. 9.14.

¹⁰⁶⁹ Egger and Keel 2006: 142–43, fig. 9.

¹⁰⁷⁰ Matthews 1992: 196.

over a large area.¹⁰⁷¹ For the other variant in the southern Levant, see Beth Shean,¹⁰⁷² Beth Shemesh,¹⁰⁷³ Megiddo,¹⁰⁷⁴ and Jordan.¹⁰⁷⁵ In Hasanlu, the same type of scene, but with some differences, was retrieved from the northern side of the southern doorway in Room 2, Burned Building II, which is dated to Iron Age II and falls in Marcus's 'Uncertain Stylistic Legacy' type. Marcus could not recognize the row of human head figures and described the figures as trees.¹⁰⁷⁶ Porada believed that the stylized rows of human heads are a representation of worshippers.¹⁰⁷⁷

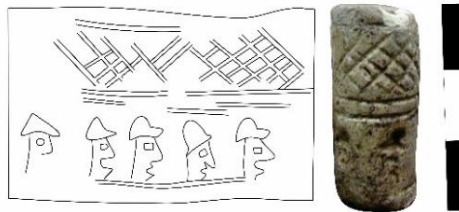


Figure 48. I. e. 1. Mitannian Common Style cylinder seal characters with human heads and cross-hatching.

V.4.2. Animal group

In the Bayazid Abad seals, animal group scenes fall into three categories: Quadrupeds, fishes, and birds.

V.4.2.1. Quadrupeds

The first subgroup of the animal group consists of depictions of mammals, which has three further subdivisions: mammals alone, mammals with plants, and mammals with plants and patterns.

¹⁰⁷¹ Salje 1990: 32, 37, 200, 203, pls. II no. 21, III no. 57.

¹⁰⁷² Parker 1949: fig. 120; Rowe 1940: 85, pl. 38 no. 5.

¹⁰⁷³ Parker 1949: fig. 126.

¹⁰⁷⁴ Lamon and Shipton 1939: pl. 66 no. 4.

¹⁰⁷⁵ Egger and Keel 2006: 242–43, fig. 92.

¹⁰⁷⁶ Marcus 1996: fig. 108 no. 86. This seal has been excavated in Hasanlu IVb (Iron Age II), despite presenting the iconography and style of Mitannian Common Style (Late Bronze Age). This apparent incongruity finds explanation in the fact that such items were often used as heirlooms and transmitted through the generations.

¹⁰⁷⁷ Porada 1947: 39.

Quadrupeds only

Two seals depict a mammal scene. The first of this group (Figure 49. II. a. i. 1) is made of white sintered quartz, measuring 3.8 cm in length and 1.1 cm in diameter. The design is formed by drilling with large, small and tubular borers, incision and cutting wheel techniques. A pair of grooves frame the design above and below. The design consists of a row of tree animals, possibly stylized caprids, facing left with dot eyes and nozzles. The short antlers may imply that the quadrupeds are young deer. Sequences of horned mammals, in different poses, are commonly found in Mitannian Common-Style.¹⁰⁷⁸ They also appear less commonly in Nuzi.¹⁰⁷⁹ In the southern Levant this design is attested in several variants, most likely locally produced; especially popular was the rendering of the animals with their head turning backwards.¹⁰⁸⁰ The examples of this type are retrieved from Beth Shean,¹⁰⁸¹ Gezer,¹⁰⁸² Tell el-Ḥesi,¹⁰⁸³ Tell Deir ‘Alla¹⁰⁸⁴ and Zar‘a,¹⁰⁸⁵ Jordan, and Kāmid el-Lōz, Lebanon.¹⁰⁸⁶ A similar design, featuring striding or galloping animals, is also attested in the Syro-Palestinian style S/P2,¹⁰⁸⁷ Tell Mevorakh,¹⁰⁸⁸ and Ta‘anach.¹⁰⁸⁹ In addition to these variants, a row of grazing-like antelopes known from Assur from the time of Eriba-Adad¹⁰⁹⁰ and another variant (topped by a double row of fish) is pictured on a seal from Megiddo¹⁰⁹¹ and Maraq cemetery in Kashan.¹⁰⁹²

¹⁰⁷⁸ Salje 1990: 56–58, 63–64, 90, 95–96, 215–16, 219, 233, pls. VI nos. 109–113, VII nos. 128,131, X nos. 195–196, XIII nos. 243, 245, 253.

¹⁰⁷⁹ Porada 1947: 16, group II, nos. 58–61; Stein 1993: 98–99, group 5F, fig. XXXVI.

¹⁰⁸⁰ Salje 1990: 92 (Palestinian group P1).

¹⁰⁸¹ Parker 1949: figs. 40 [level X?], 54, 85; Dabney 1993: pls. 58i, 60k.

¹⁰⁸² Dever 1974: pl. 40:7.

¹⁰⁸³ Parker 1949: fig. 110.

¹⁰⁸⁴ Egger and Keel 2006: 414–415: fig. 43.

¹⁰⁸⁵ Häser et al. 2016: fig. 6.

¹⁰⁸⁶ Kühne and Salje 1996: 73–74: fig. 27.

¹⁰⁸⁷ Salje 1990: 90, 233, pl. X nos. 195, 196.

¹⁰⁸⁸ Stern 1984: 25, fig. 4 no. 3, pl. 32 no. 1.

¹⁰⁸⁹ Keel 2015: fig. 30.

¹⁰⁹⁰ Beran 1957: fig. 99.

¹⁰⁹¹ Parker 1949: fig. 97.

¹⁰⁹² Hoseinzadeh Sadati and Makvandi 2021: fig. 4.

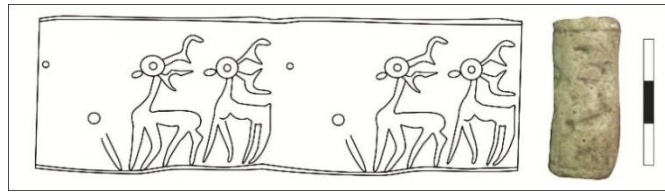


Figure 49. II. a. i. 1. Mitannian Common Style cylinder seal characters with caprid composition.

The second seal of this group (Figure 50. II. a. ii. 2) is cut in faience, measuring 2.3 cm in length and 1.1 cm in diameter, manufactured by incision, chiseling, and drilling techniques. The design is bordered by a pair of groove frames at top and bottom. The main scene is not well-preserved, but can be partially reconstructed. The design consists of a row of three quadrupeds. Seals featuring rows of animals are best documented in the Levant. Hence, they are classified as the western Mitannian Common-Style glyptic.¹⁰⁹³ Some examples of this type of seals appear in Nuzi.¹⁰⁹⁴ Three similarly striding horned animals are depicted accompanied by a tree and two friezes of running spirals on a seal from Hazor Temple H¹⁰⁹⁵ and one sample which was retrieved from the entrance to Building 7050 on an LB floor.¹⁰⁹⁶

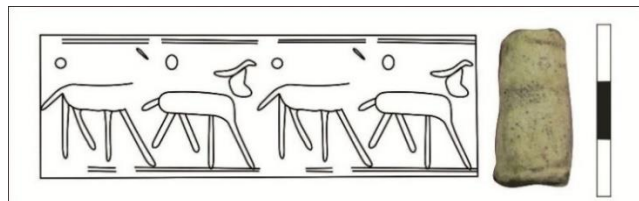


Figure 50. II. a. i. 2. Mitannian Common Style cylinder seal characters with aligned quadrupeds.

Quadrupeds with plants

Two seals belong to this group. The first seal of this group (Figure 51. II. a. i. 1) is made of faience and measures 2.9 cm in length and 1.4 cm in diameter. The device is rendered by chiseling, puncturing, incision, and drilling with tubular and round headed borer techniques.

¹⁰⁹³ Salje 1990: 56–58, 63–64, 90, 95–96, 215–16, 219, 233, pls. VI: 109–13, VII: 128, 131, X: 195–196, XIII: 243, 245, 253.

¹⁰⁹⁴ Porada 1947: 16, group II, nos. 58–61; Stein 1993: 98–99, group 5F, fig. XXXVI.

¹⁰⁹⁵ Beck 1989: 317–18, pl. CCCXX no. 4.

¹⁰⁹⁶ Ornan and Peri 2017: fig. 9.16.

The design, framed by paired grooves at both ends, consists of stylised eight-branched bouquet-trees, aligned vertically with pairs of flanking globular dots, beside a quadruped caprid with drilled nozzle and with its head turned back over its shoulders. Another antelope is posed turned 90° with its head extended in profile to the left and its horns shown facing front. The theme of a mammal in front of a bouquet tree in a variety of combinations and styles is common on Mitannian Common-Style glyptic,¹⁰⁹⁷ during the second half of the second millennium BC. Seals with a main scene depicting a horned animal(s) facing a tree are known from other south-Levantine sites: a seal from Tell Batash,¹⁰⁹⁸ Beth Shean,¹⁰⁹⁹ Tell Zar'a,¹¹⁰⁰ Hazor,¹¹⁰¹ Medigo and Fara,¹¹⁰² Ras Shamra,¹¹⁰³ and Lachish and Tell el-Hessi.¹¹⁰⁴ This type of seal have parallels at Tell Abu Hawan and Gezer¹¹⁰⁵ and seal impression in Nippur.¹¹⁰⁶ A stylistically close parallel to the present seal comes from Dinkha Tepe¹¹⁰⁷ and Kiš.¹¹⁰⁸

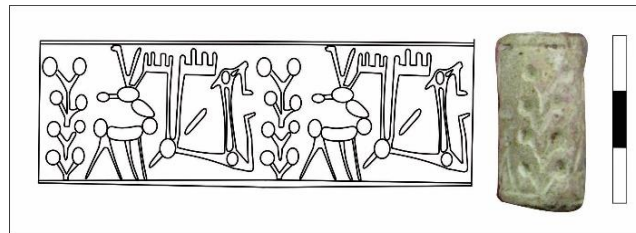


Figure 51. II. a. i. 1. Mitannian Common Style cylinder seal characters with cervids/caprids and plant ornament.

The second seal of this group (Figure 52. II. a. ii. 2) has been cut in faience, measuring 3.3 cm in length and 1.3 cm in diameter. The design is fashioned by incision, wheel cutting, and possibly shallow drilling techniques. Backward bent horned quadrupeds (ibex?) with small

¹⁰⁹⁷Salje 1990: pls. IV no. 67, V no. 91, VI nos. 119–120.

¹⁰⁹⁸Mazar 2006: 237–38, no. 1.

¹⁰⁹⁹Parker 1949: nos. 40, 44, 52, 54, 79.

¹¹⁰⁰Häser et al. 2016: fig. 2.

¹¹⁰¹Yadin 1961: 317, pl. 320 no. 2.

¹¹⁰²Parker 1949: fig. 40, 114, 125, 127.

¹¹⁰³Kühne 1980: fig. 49.

¹¹⁰⁴Parker 1949: nos. 105, 110.

¹¹⁰⁵Parker 1949: nos. 99, 117.

¹¹⁰⁶McCown and Haines 1967: pl. 120 no. 6.

¹¹⁰⁷Muscarella 1974: fig. 6: 637.

¹¹⁰⁸Buchanan 1966: fig. 939.

ears are depicted, opposed to each other. The ibexes are flanking on either side of the tree. In the lower part there are two fishes on either side of the tree. One with a V-shaped tail and two fins on the lower and upper sides, facing right. The other one is schematically depicted only with a tail, turning left. A cross is visible in the upper right part of the seal.

The Second Kassite¹¹⁰⁹ style which are generally uninscribed and often depict caprids symmetrically posed flanking a tree. Horns of this kind are common in both Assyrian and Second Kassite seal depiction groupings and correspond to no.17 in Matthews's examples of horns, presented in his study on the late second millennium Near Eastern glyptic.¹¹¹⁰ Trees are depicted with globular dots or spidery branches in Mitannian glyptic, but those of the Second Kassite category depict trees branches in a pine cone shape, known as "Second Kassite volute tree." It seems that the tree depicted on the Bayazid Abad seal is a simplified form of the tree known from a seal impression on a tablet from Nippur dated to the seventeenth year of Kurigalzu II, i.e., 1329 BC.¹¹¹¹ The most obvious parallels for this tree are those from Tell Mohammed Arab,¹¹¹² Tell Billa,¹¹¹³ Ras Shamra,¹¹¹⁴ and Surkh Dum.¹¹¹⁵

The field in examples from Third Kassite is usually occupied by symbols, the most relevant among them being the bird, the Maltese cross, the rhombus, the star, and the crescent.¹¹¹⁶ The cross has been taken to symbolize a Kassite deity.¹¹¹⁷ Particularly relevant are two second Kassite Style seals with elaborate designs.¹¹¹⁸ In general the Bayazid Abad seal is not a standard Kassite seal, but may be a local imitation of the Third Kassite Style.

¹¹⁰⁹ Babylonian seals from later second millennium BC are classified into four style categories: First, Second, Third and pseudo Kassite. Beran defined the first three groups (Beran 1957–8), while pseudo Kassite named and described by Porada based on her study on the seals from Choga Zanbil (Porada 1970), but Matthews further expanded its study (Matthews 1990).

¹¹¹⁰ Matthews 1991: 25, pl. I. II.

¹¹¹¹ Beran 1957–8: 265, 267: Abb. 11; Collon 1987: 60 no. 60.

¹¹¹² Collon 1988: 70:6.

¹¹¹³ Matthews 1991: 40:37.

¹¹¹⁴ Collon 1988: 6. 49S:25.01.

¹¹¹⁵ Muscarella 2013: 452, fig. 39.

¹¹¹⁶ Matthews 1990: 65.

¹¹¹⁷ Porada 1981: 61.

¹¹¹⁸ Matthews 1990: fig. 212 Ash 563; Buchanan 1966: Pl. 38: 563a, 563b; Matthews 1990: fig. 214 Geneva 58.

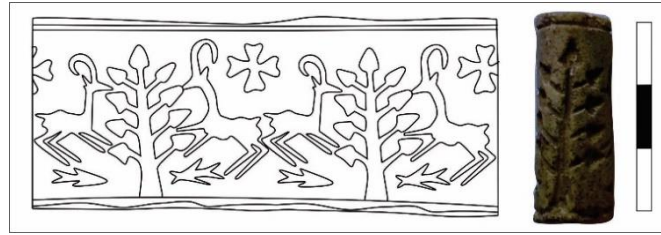


Figure 52. II. a. ii. 2. Third Kassite Style cylinder seal showing mammals with 'sacred tree'.

The third frit seal of this group (Figure 53. II. a. iii. 3), measures 5.5 cm in length and 1.7 cm in diameter, cut mainly by incision techniques. A stylized quadruped with V shape legs and long and slightly curved horns is the main motif alternating with stylized trees at the center. The trees are reduced to a trunk, branches, and leaves: all the elements are recognizable, but reduced to essential form. The depicted tree is unique and there is no close parallel for it.

Similar representations of quadruped figures associated with tree appear on Mitannian Common Style seals from Hazor.¹¹¹⁹ The animals with same horns are presented on Kassite seals and falls in Matthews's horn code 4¹¹²⁰ categories, which also finds numerous Cypriot seal parallels.¹¹²¹

The upper part of the seal is bordered by a band of pendant triangles filled with cross-hatchings, and the lower part has two horizontal friezes of diagonal hatching. This kind of design is associated with Kassite seals of the late second millennium BC,¹¹²² as a cheaper reproduction of more precious cylinder seals showing a triangular pattern, but set in gold caps, and enriched with a gold granulation, known from sealings on fourteenth century BC tablets from Nippur.¹¹²³ The border with frieze of diagonal hatchings is present on Mitannian seals from Ras Shamra.¹¹²⁴

¹¹¹⁹ Ornan and Peri 2017: fig. 9.12.

¹¹²⁰ Matthews 1990: 24.

¹¹²¹ Matthews 1990: 24.

¹¹²² For instance: Moortgat 1940: no. 563 (from Babylon) and Boehmer 1981: pl. 3 no. 1 and pl. 9 no. 30 (from Tell Subeidi in the Hamrin basin).

¹¹²³ Clay 1906: pl. XIV nos. 39-42 and pl. XV no. 48.11. For more examples and discussion see Trokay 1981. Kantor 1958a: 76 and n. 75; Porada 1970: 13.

¹¹²⁴ Schaeffer 1983: R.S. 9.458, R.S. 7.060.

There is no exact comparable seal from another site for this Bayazid Abad seal, so we will need to date it based on just its details. It has Mitannian and Kassite details and it seems like a local imitation and a combination of these two styles.

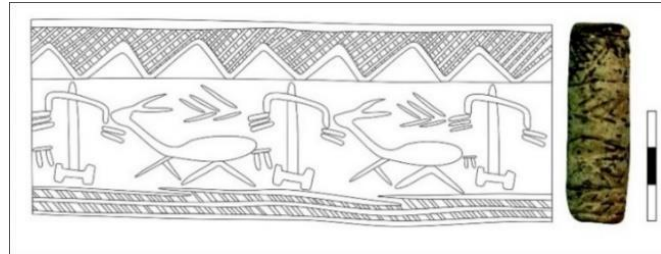


Figure 53. II. b. iii. 3. Cylinder seal with a quadruped and tree band in the center zone.

V.4.2.2. Fish

Three seals bear this decoration.

The first seal of this group (Figure 54. II. b. 1) is made of glazed soft stone and measures 2.6 cm in length and 1.1 cm in diameter. The device is fashioned by means of cutting, and drilling with round-head borer techniques. Grooves frame the design at top and bottom. The main scene consists of two rows of swimming fishes. They are schematically rendered with fins on both sides of the body and V-shaped tails. Horizontal files of fish are common in the repertoire of the Nuzi glyptic, attested sporadically in Porada's group II¹¹²⁵ and included by Stein in her group 5G.¹¹²⁶ Seals depicting animal bands are assigned to the Syro-Palestinian group.¹¹²⁷ The blessing or protecting powers of the seals were incremented through the repetition of the patterns.¹¹²⁸ The fish motif has been interpreted as having a religious and cultural meaning connected to the concepts of "Life" but also "Life after Death," as observable in some ancient Near Eastern visual records.¹¹²⁹ The earliest testimony for this motif-group, a seal from Beth Shean,¹¹³⁰ is datable at the earliest to the fifteenth century BC. Seals featuring

¹¹²⁵ Porada 1947: 15–16, nos. 78–84.

¹¹²⁶ Stein 1993: 267.

¹¹²⁷ Salje 1990: 57, 58, 66–68, 216, 217, 220–22, pls. VI no. 106, VII nos. 136–44; Brandl 2013: 1000–1004.

¹¹²⁸ Keel 1995; Horowitz and Ornan 2014: 1019.

¹¹²⁹ Hrouda 1990: 113.

¹¹³⁰ Beck 1989: 319; pl. 322 nos. 1–4.

rows of fish is typical of the Mitannian glyptic. Rows of fish pictured on Mitannian seals are depicted in different variations. Sometimes they are presented alone in two or three rows¹¹³¹ or they are depicted in combination with a row of a non-figurative patterns¹¹³² and also, they appear in association with other elements.¹¹³³

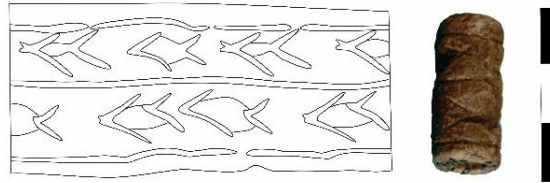


Figure 54. II. b. 1. Mitannian Common Style cylinder seal with row of fish.

The second example of this group (Figure 55. II. b. 2) is made of faience and measures 2.6 cm in length and 1.3 cm in diameter. The seal is rendered by means of cutting and a round-head borer drilling technique. Grooves frame the design at top and bottom. The decoration consists of three horizontal rows of fish. The fish in the uppermost row face right in the impression, and face left in the second and third rows. They are presented variously, some with fins on one side with V-shape tail, some just with V-shape tail, and others with fins on both sides of the body and V-shape tails. For classification, stylistic attribution, and suggested interpretation concerning the fish see Figure 50. II. b. 1.

¹¹³¹ Sapor-Kharaba (Shanshashvili and Narimanishvili 2015: pl. II no. 11), Amman Airport (Eggler and Keel 2006: 76–77, no. 29); Jebel el-Quseir (Eggler and Keel 2006: 158–159, no. 2); Beth Shean level VII (Rowe 1940: pl. 37 no. 1; Dabney 1993: 232, no. 12), Megiddo (Brandl 2013: 1000–1004).

¹¹³² Examples of this group are excavated from Giyan Tepe (Contenau and Ghirshman 1935: pl. 10, no. 2), Beth Shean (Parker 1949: nos. 31, 63, 70, 144; Dabney 1993: pl. 62a–c); Gezer (Parker 1949: nos. 185–187); Tell Zar'a (Häser et al. 2016: fig. 6); Hazor (Beck 1989: 319, pl. CCCXXII nos. 1–4, Ornan and Peri 2017: figs. 9.23–9.28); Megiddo (Loud 1948: pl. 161 no. 14); Gezer (Parker 1949: no. 186); Tel Yin'am (Liebowitz 2003: 202–203, nos. 2–3). See also Kāmid el-Lōz, Lebanon (Kühne and Salje 1996: 67–69, nos. 24–25); Jordan: Tell Zar'a (Häser et al. 2016: fig. 6), Pella (Eggler and Keel 2006: 240–243, nos. 89, 91), Tell Deir 'Alla (Eggler and Keel 2006: 414–415, no. 44).

¹¹³³ Marāq Cemetery in Kashan (Hoseinzadeh Sadati and Makvandi 2021: fig. 4); Beth Shean (Parker 1949: nos. 42, 72, 82); Megiddo (Parker 1949: no. 97; Pella, Jordan, Eggler and Keel 2006: 244–245, no. 95), Khirbet Ya'mun (Eggler and Keel 2006: 142–143, no. 11); Kāmid el-Lōz (Kühne and Salje 1996: 60–61, no. 20).

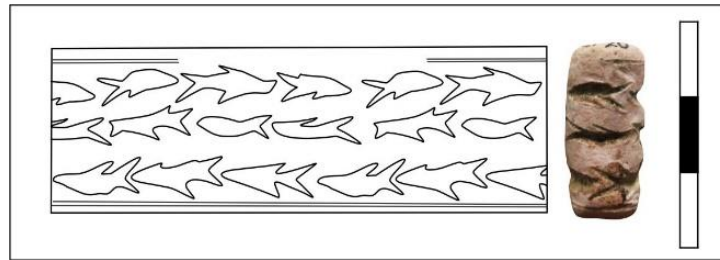


Figure 55. II. b. 2. Mitannian Common Style cylinder seal with aligned rows of fish.

The third seal of this group (Figure 56. II. b. 3) is made of faience; traces of white glaze are extant. The artefact is manufactured by means of incision and chiseling techniques. Bordered by grooved lines at the top and below, the main scene is depicted by three vertical panels of fish in rows facing left.

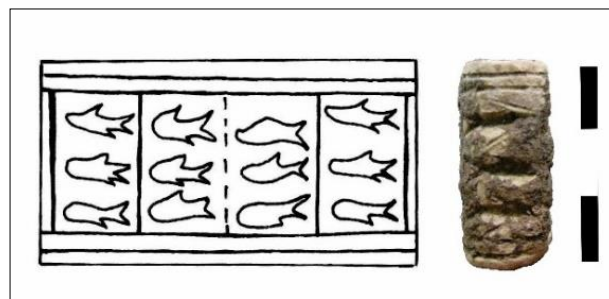


Figure 56. II. b. 3. Mitannian Common Style cylinder seal with aligned rows of fish.

V.4.2.3. Birds

Two seals bear this kind of decoration.

The first example of this group (Figure 57. II. c. 1) is made of faience, and measures 2.6 cm in length and 1.1 cm in diameter. The design is largely made of incision, and shows winged humanoids with star shaped headgear flanked by concentric circles on either side. The torso of each figure is drawn as a triangle, with the downward facing vertex joined by the inverted “V” shaped legs at the waist line of the figure. A seal from Hazor¹¹³⁴ shows a composition with three figures, one of which has wings, symbolizing its divine nature, and a triparted headgear, in what appears to be a better-defined version of the being on this seal. The Hazor seal falls

¹¹³⁴ Ornan and Peri 2017: fig. 9.31.

in to Salje's LB Egyptianized Syro-Palestinian seals.¹¹³⁵ Judging from the falcon head of one of the other figures, and from headgears worn by the others, the Hazor seal likely depicts an encounter between deities, in an Egyptian-like style.

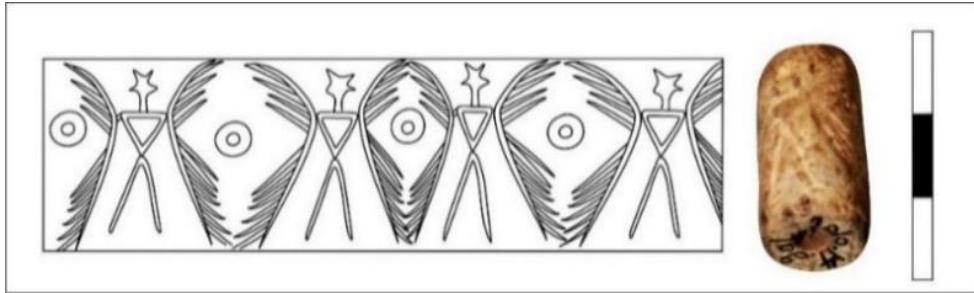


Figure 57. II. c. 1. Cylinder seal device with winged figure.

The second seal of this group (Figure 58. II. c. 2) is made of faience, and measures 3.4 cm in length and 1.1 cm in diameter. The device is rendered by incision, chiseling, and shallow drilling. A horizontal line divides the seal into three registers, the upper and lower parts consist of cross-hatching bands. The central part shows two engraved birds, with two pairs of wings each, and bifurcated tails. This type of bird is unique, but the same combination of fish and lattice is attested on a seal from Nuzi.¹¹³⁶ Also the same form of the fish is presented on a seal from Hasanlu V.¹¹³⁷ The fish motifs on seals from Hasanlu V appear as an upper border of the seal. Marcus believes that seal belongs to another Iranian style-group that do not represent the Hasanlu "local style," but nevertheless show signs of possible local production.

¹¹³⁵ Salje 1990: 125–26 (group L/Ä 1).

¹¹³⁶ Matthews 1992: no. 203.

¹¹³⁷ Marcus 1996: fig. 115; pl. 48.

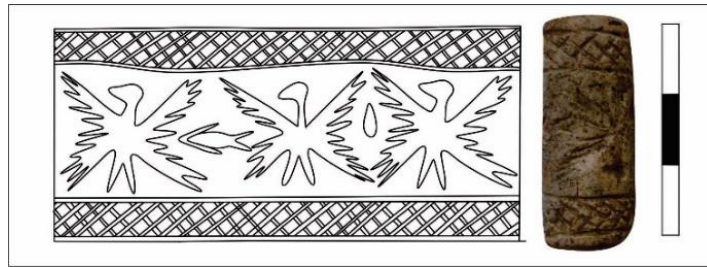


Figure 58. II. c. 2. Cylinder seal with bird decoration.

V.4.3. Plant group:

The plant group represented by just one example among Bayazid Abad (Figure 59. III. 1), is made of faience with traces of green glaze remaining, measuring 4.2 cm in length and 1.5 cm in diameter. The object was rendered by incision, chiseling, and possibly shallow drilling techniques. The decoration is a tree with three tiers of horizontal branches, with two irregularly shaped six-pointed star at its side, and a single snake-like figure under them. Five horizontal lines are visible under the branch directly next to the symbols. The tree is fashioned in a similar manner to the date-palms rendered on seals from Ugarit of local manufacture.¹¹³⁸ The Bayazid Abad tree seal corresponds to Salje's Syrian Group 3.2.¹¹³⁹ The tree is sometimes depicted on Mitannian seals together with human or animal figures. Similar examples are present at Tell Mohammad Arab¹¹⁴⁰ and Ras Shamra.¹¹⁴¹ This particular plant is a recurrent motif during middle of the second millennium BC,¹¹⁴² and Schaeffer-Forrer has dated the Ugarit workshop 1550–1450 BC.

¹¹³⁸ Schaeffer 1983: 167 (R.S. 8.152, R.S. 25.172 respectively figs. a-b); also, an unprovenanced seal in the Anavian collection in New York, Volk 1979: 159.

¹¹³⁹ Salje 1990: 84: pl. 9 nos. 172–74.

¹¹⁴⁰ Collon 1982: fig. 1 45R: 09. 01.

¹¹⁴¹ Schaeffer 1983: 91 (R.S. 7.107).

¹¹⁴² Kepinski 1982: vol. III, nos. 355, 394, 416, 418, 419, 424.

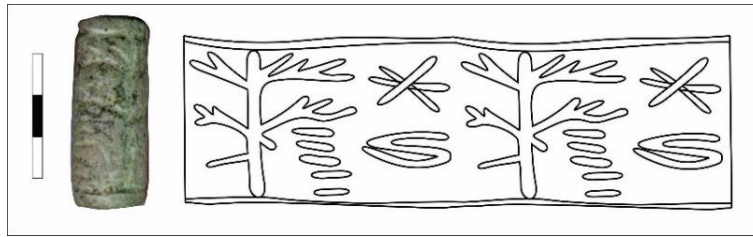


Figure 59. III. 1. Mitannian Common Style cylinder seal with stylized tree.

V.4.4. Geometric group

This group includes 36 cylindrical seals made of composite material. They are carved with geometric designs that include: bands of lattice; vertical rows of chevrons; vertical rows of horizontal and/or diagonal lines; “Xs” scattered in the field; and combination of parallel diagonal lines and Xs; parallel zigzag patterns; and rows of open horizontal bands. The classification and dating of geometric designs have long been used in all cultures of the Middle East. For example, hatched designs do not present any particular feature that could be used to assign them to a particular period or another. Two items from different periods may appear similar. Most of the devices are consistently bordered with one, two, or three horizontal lines at the top and bottom, some by short diagonal lines.

In her study, Collon hypothesizes that some seals were actually small pieces of ornament, worn as beads after being covered with a bright glaze, but lost now due to adverse chemical reactions (“weathering”), without excluding that some of them could also have been used for sealing purposes.¹¹⁴³ Marcus corroborates this idea in her work about the Hasanlu’s IVb seals. These geometric-style cylinder seals present different size and dimension from simple beads, and their design shows similarities with earlier seal impressions from Mesopotamian and Iranian sealings. However, no impressed sealings or tablets have surfaced in Hasanlu. These seals have usually been excavated in groups, as if they were part of a simple geometric type. The clearest example has been found in a burial in the Outer Town Area, 41 came to light under a skull, together with beads, suggesting they were part of a collar.¹¹⁴⁴

¹¹⁴³ Collon 1987: 69.

¹¹⁴⁴ Marcus 1996: 33.

V.4.4.1. Lattice bands

Seven seals with diagonal cross-hatching have been excavated from Hasanlu. The seals of this type, often contexted with beads, are commonly referred to as cylinder seal-beads.

The first seal of this group (Figure 60. IV. a. 1) is made of white faience, measuring 2.2 cm in length and 1.2 cm in diameter, rendered mostly by incision. The seal is framed at the top and bottom by grooves. A grid of intersecting diagonal lines can be seen in the middle. Based on Marcuse's study on excavated seals from Hasanlu, this type of seal is referred as the other Iranian style¹¹⁴⁵ and based on Stein's study of Nuzi seals, this form of decoration falls in her Group 5.¹¹⁴⁶ Seals of this kind are consistently present in the Near East from the second half of the second millennium BC. The most similar seals with the same design, material, and sizes occurred in southern Caucasus in Late Bronze Age graves, dated fifteenth–fourteenth century BC associated with the Mitannian seals from Trialeti, in Imera graveyard,¹¹⁴⁷ Sapar-Kharaba,¹¹⁴⁸ Khaly-Keshan,¹¹⁴⁹ and Qizilburun.¹¹⁵⁰ More examples from Armenia dated to the first half of the first millennium BC come from Sarukhan,¹¹⁵¹ and Kapan dated to the end of second millennium to the first half of the first millennium BC.¹¹⁵² Examples were also found at Hasanlu,¹¹⁵³ Chogha Zanbil,¹¹⁵⁴ Sialk VI,¹¹⁵⁵ Sarem Tepe,¹¹⁵⁶ Ghalekuti.¹¹⁵⁷ and at Tell Abu Charaz¹¹⁵⁸, Beth Shean¹¹⁵⁹ and Tell as-Sa'idiya,¹¹⁶⁰ Jordan and Tell Sabi Abyad,¹¹⁶¹ Syria. Furthermore, a similar seal was found in an Iron Age II grave in the so-called Zagros

¹¹⁴⁵ "Other Iranian style" includes: (1) conoid-knob stamp seals and related impressions on sealings; (2) geometric-style cylindrical seal-beads; and (3) unengraved cylinders.

¹¹⁴⁶ Stein 1993: nos. 109, 173, 178.

¹¹⁴⁷ Shabshashvili and Narimanishvili 2015: pl. I no. 7; pl. II nos. 5–6.

¹¹⁴⁸ Shabshashvili and Narimanishvili 2015: pl. I nos. 5–8; pl. III nos. 2–4.

¹¹⁴⁹ Aslanov, Ibragimov and Kashkay 2002: 7, pl. 5 no. 14.

¹¹⁵⁰ Ismayilzade and Ibrahimli 2013: pl. 12 no. 18, pl. 15 no. 14.

¹¹⁵¹ Piliposyan 1998: pl. 24 no. 12.

¹¹⁵² Aleksanyan et al. 2018: 307, fig. 6 no. 6.

¹¹⁵³ Marcus 1989: fig. 13; 1996: 33.

¹¹⁵⁴ Porada 1970: no. 153.

¹¹⁵⁵ Ghirshman 1939: pl. XCVII.

¹¹⁵⁶ After Mucheshi and Tala'i 2012: fig. 8.

¹¹⁵⁷ Egami, Fukai and Masuda 1965: Tomb B–III, pl. XXXIII no. 4, pl. LXVII no. 17.

¹¹⁵⁸ Egger and Keel 2006: 280–281, nos. 4–5.

¹¹⁵⁹ Rowe 1940: pl. 37 nos. 14–16.

¹¹⁶⁰ Egger and Keel 2006: 368–369, no. 6.

¹¹⁶¹ Akkermans and Smits 2008: 259, fig. 3 no. 22.

Graveyard¹¹⁶² and in a Neo-Babylonian tomb at Uruk.¹¹⁶³ At the Artik graveyard in Armenia, many seals of this category were discovered along with beads, which can show with certainty that they were part of a necklace.¹¹⁶⁴ Two examples are reported from a secondary context at Norşuntepe (Turkey).¹¹⁶⁵

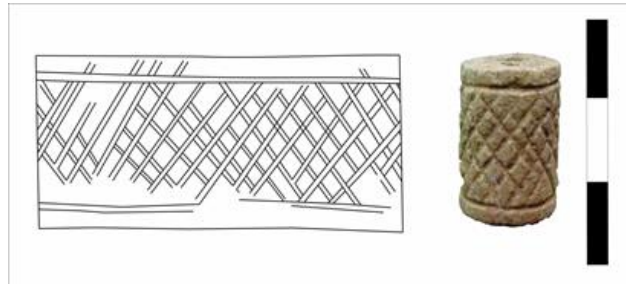


Figure 60. IV. a. 1. Lattice bands.

The second seal of this group (Figure 61. IV. a. 2) is turquoise glazed faience, measuring 2.6 cm in length and 1.1 cm in diameter, with the motif incised. Framed at top and bottom by an incised line, its solely ornamental use is strongly likely given its small size.

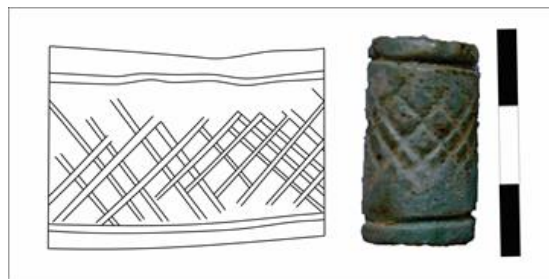


Figure 61. IV. a. 2. Lattice bands.

The third seal of this group (Figure 62. IV. a. 3) is made of faience, measuring 3.4 cm in length and 1.3 cm in diameter, with the motif incised. The decoration consists of a wide band of diagonal cross-hatching, flanked by three horizontal lines above and below.

¹¹⁶² Amelirad, Overlaet and Hearink 2012: pl. 22 no. 6.

¹¹⁶³ Boehmer, Pedde and Salje 1995: pl. 84cl.

¹¹⁶⁴ Khachatryan 1979: n-111, n-117, n-120, n-121, n-204, n-227, n-274, n-422.

¹¹⁶⁵ Schmidt 2002: 87, pl. 68 nos. 1090-1091.

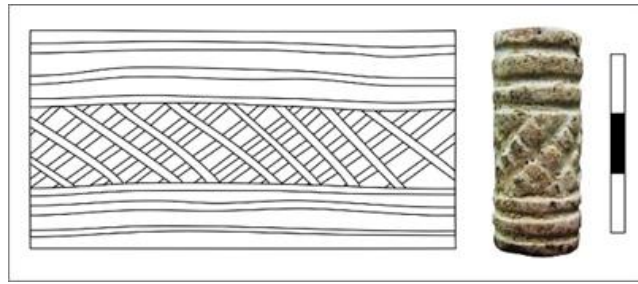


Figure 62. IV. a. 3. Lattice band.

The fourth seal of this group (Figure 63. IV. a. 4) is made of faience and measures 2.3 cm in length and 1.1 cm in diameter. The motif is incised with horizontal bands as borders above and below. The cross-hatching decoration has been roughly traced, the lines are not precise, and often overlap with the border. Its relatively smaller size suggests solely ornamental use.

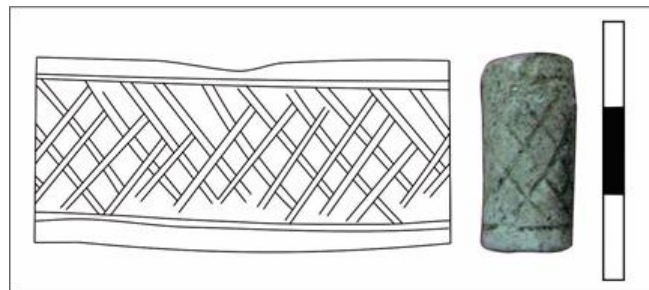


Figure 63. IV. a. 4. Lattice band.

The fifth seal of this group (Figure 64. IV. a. 5) is made of faience with traces of green glazing, and measures 2.1 cm in length and 1.1 cm in diameter. The incised motif is framed by horizontal lines on the upper and lower borders. The main design is a band of cross-hatching. Its relatively small size suggests solely ornamental usage.

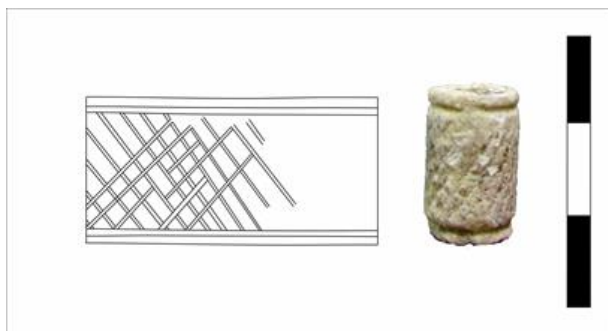


Figure 64. IV. a. 5. Lattice band.

The sixth seal of this group (Figure 65. IV. a. 6) is made of faience, and measures 1.4 cm in length and 1.2 cm in diameter. The incised motif is of horizontal lines framing a wide band of diagonal cross-hatching.

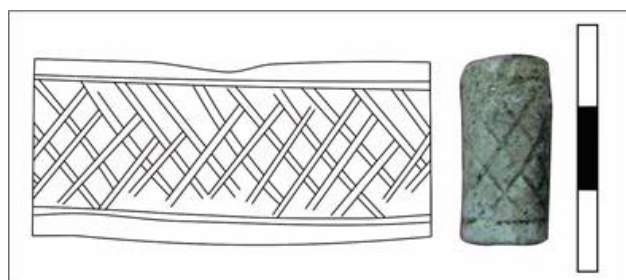


Figure 65. IV. a. 6. Lattice band.

The seventh seal of this group (Figure 66. IV. a. 7) is made of faience, and measures 1.6 cm in length and 1.2 cm diameter. Incised motif shows horizontal lines forming the borders above and below of the main design, that is a band of cross-hatching. The relatively smaller size suggests ornamental use.

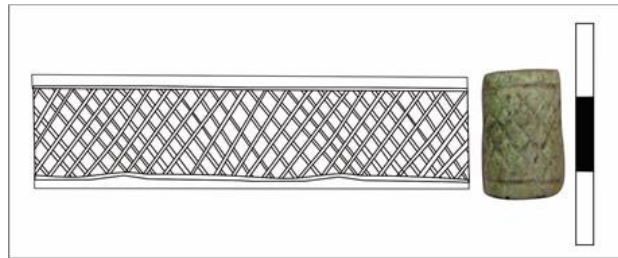


Figure 66. IV. a. 7. Lattice band.

V.4.4.2. Bands of vertical rows of chevrons

Fourteen seals with bands of chevrons with different sizes have been excavated in Bayazid Abad. They are made of glazed and unglazed faience, Egyptian blue;¹¹⁶⁶ one sample of glazed Steatite and one stone sample is also present. It has not been possible to give an exact date for these seals, despite them being easily found in many areas of Near East from the second half of the second millennium onward. From Iron Age I graves at Maraq cemetery in Kashan¹¹⁶⁷ and Sarm Tepe, examples of the same design were discovered.¹¹⁶⁸ The first findings of seals of this kind, consistently present in North-Western Iran, belong to Iron Age II at Ziwiye,¹¹⁶⁹ Hasanlu,¹¹⁷⁰ Kordlar,¹¹⁷¹ and west of Iran in Choga Zanbil,¹¹⁷² Susa,¹¹⁷³ Surkh Dum-i-Luri,¹¹⁷⁴ Chigha Sabz,¹¹⁷⁵ and Kamtarlan.¹¹⁷⁶ In an Iron Age III context, similar

¹¹⁶⁶ "Egyptian blue frit, together with faience and glass, is part of the 'vitreous materials' of antiquity. This blue materia differs from faience in the absence of any kind of glaze. It owes its color to the presence of calcium-copper tetrasilicate crystals ($\text{CaCuSi}_4\text{O}_{10}$) in its composition. It was likely first employed in Egypt during the Old Kingdom (ca. 2613–2181 BC), and almost contemporaneously in Mesopotamia. At the end of the third millennium BC, or possibly the very beginning of the second, it appears also in the Aegean Area. It was very common during the Late Bronze Age and was widely used during the Graeco–Roman period." (Tite and Maniatis 2015: 1769).

¹¹⁶⁷ Hoseinzadeh Sadati and Makvandi 2021: fig. 5.

¹¹⁶⁸ After Mucheshi and Tala'i 2012: figs. 9–10.

¹¹⁶⁹ Ascalone and Baseri 2014: fig. 1.

¹¹⁷⁰ Marcus 1996: 37.

¹¹⁷¹ Lippert 1979: pl. 20 no. 13.

¹¹⁷² Porada 1970: 144, 128.

¹¹⁷³ Amiet 1972: 2097.

¹¹⁷⁴ Schmidt, van Loon, and Curvers 1989: pl. 247 nos. 197, 198.

¹¹⁷⁵ Schmidt, van Loon, and Curvers 1989: pl. 247 no. 199.

¹¹⁷⁶ Schmidt, van Loon, and Curvers 1989: pl. 248 no. 223.

examples are found at Gul Khanan Murdah.¹¹⁷⁷ A similar seal was also excavated from the Temple, Phase 2, and room 26 at Tell Rimah from Mitannian context.¹¹⁷⁸ Also, an example from Tell Zubeidi¹¹⁷⁹ and examples from the Late Bronze Age context were discovered from Chaliankhevi,¹¹⁸⁰ Merdangöl Nekropolis,¹¹⁸¹ and Haraba Gilana¹¹⁸² in Nahchivan; and at Artikskiy,¹¹⁸³ Noratus, Sarukhan,¹¹⁸⁴ and Lori Berd¹¹⁸⁵ in Armenia. This category was manufactured locally, as seen in the main Iron Age II and III contexts of North-Western Iran dating periods, from the beginning of ninth to the end of seventh century BC.

The first seal of this group (Figure 67. IV. b. 1) is made of Egyptian blue, measuring 4.4 cm in length and 1.1 cm in diameter. Manufactured by incision technique, its design consists of three vertical rows of roughly rendered chevrons, bordered at the top and bottom by simple incised double straight lines.

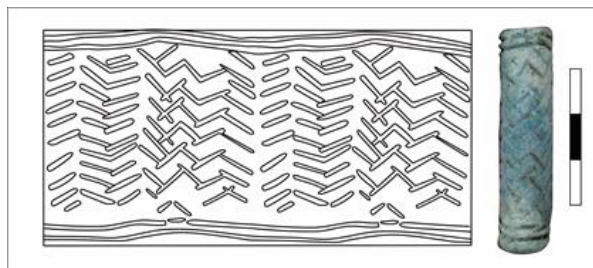


Figure 67. IV. b. 1. b. Band composition of vertical rows of chevrons.

The second seal of this group (Figure 68. IV. b. 2) is made of white faience, measuring 4.8 cm in length and 1.8 cm in diameter. The incised design is bounded below by a double chevron pattern. The upper part of the design is broken, but it possibly had a similar symmetrical design.

¹¹⁷⁷ Haerinck and Overlaet 1999: ill. 51.

¹¹⁷⁸ Parker 1975: pl. XIV: 41.

¹¹⁷⁹ Boehmer and Dämmer 1985: pl. 154 no. 699.

¹¹⁸⁰ Piliposyan 1998: 30, pl. 26 no. 15.

¹¹⁸¹ Huseyin Oglu 1991: fig. 55 no. 8.

¹¹⁸² Aslanov, Ibragimov and Kashkay 2002: pl. 41 no. 9.

¹¹⁸³ Khachatryan 1979: pl. 625; Khachatryan 1975: 132, 188, fig. 77 no. 3.

¹¹⁸⁴ Piliposyan 1998: 30, pl. 26 nos. 2 and 12.

¹¹⁸⁵ Devedjyan and Davtyan in press: figs. 4–5.

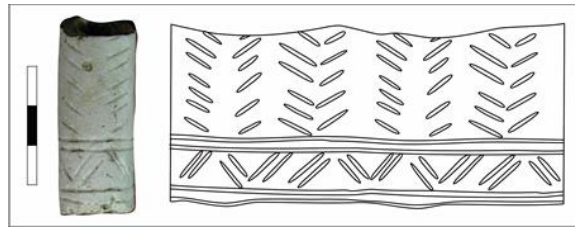


Figure 68. IV. b. 2. Bands of vertical rows of chevrons.

The third seal of this group (Figure 69. IV. b. 3) is made of faience, and measures 2.6 cm in length and 1.1 cm in diameter. The incised design consists of two vertical rows of chevrons bordered at the top and bottom by one simple incised straight line.

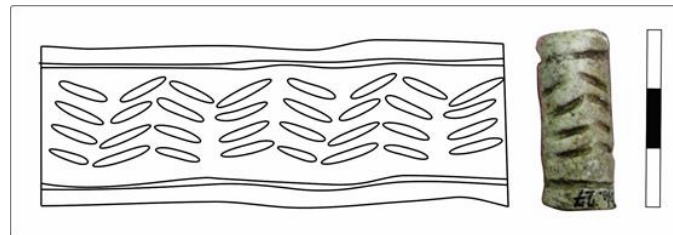


Figure 69. IV. b. 3. Bands of vertical rows of chevrons.

The fourth seal of this group (Figure 70. IV. b. 4) is made of a buff-coloured composite material, measuring 4.8 cm in length and 1 cm in diameter with a broken upper part. The incised design consists of two vertical rows of chevrons bordered above and below by double incised straight lines.

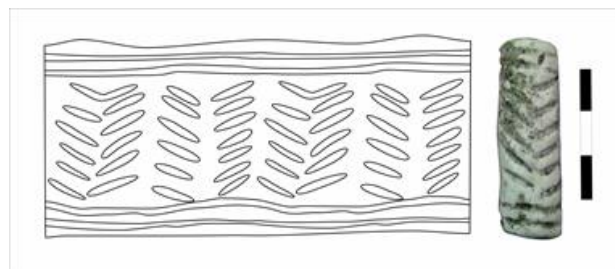


Figure 70. IV. b. 4. Bands of vertical rows of chevrons.

The fifth seal of this group (Figure 71. IV. b. 5) is made of glazed Steatite, measuring 3.8 cm in length and 1.1 cm in diameter. The incised design consists of three rows of vertical chevrons bordered at the top and bottom by double straight lines.

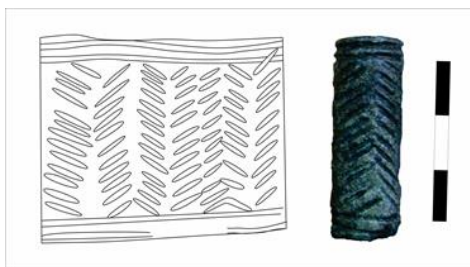


Figure 71. IV. b. 5. Bands of vertical rows of chevrons.

The sixth seal of this group (Figure 72. IV. b. 6) is made of light blue glazed steatite, measuring 4.3 cm in length and 1.3 cm in diameter. The incised design consists of three rows of vertical chevrons bordered at the top and bottom by a simple line.

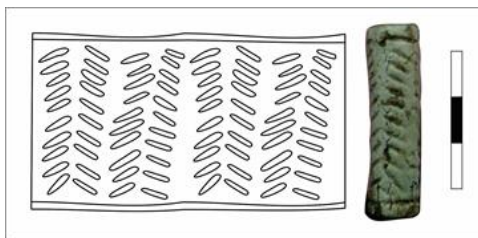


Figure 72. IV. b. 6. Bands of vertical rows of chevrons.

The seventh seal of the vertical chevrons group (Figure 73. IV. b. 7) is made of white faience, and measures 4.1 cm in length and 1.1 cm in diameter. The incised design consists of two rows of diagonal lines bordered above and below by straight lines.

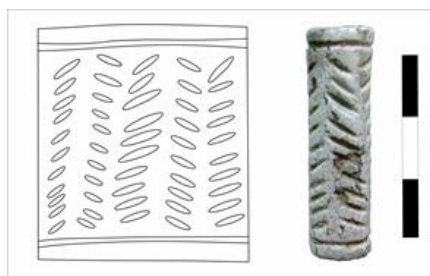


Figure 73. IV. b. 7. Bands of vertical rows of chevrons.

The eighth seal of chevrons group (Figure 74. IV. b. 8) is made of faience, and measures 3.9 cm in length and 1.2 cm in diameter. Manufactured by incision, the motif consists of two rows of diagonal lines bordered above and below by an incised straight line.

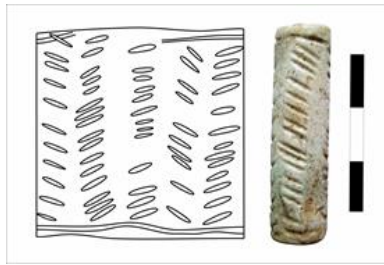


Figure 74. IV. b. 8. Bands of vertical rows of chevrons.

The ninth seal of this group (Figure 75. IV. b. 9) is made of blue glazed steatite, measuring 4 cm in length and 1.1 cm in diameter. The design consists of two rows of chevrons bordered above and below by double incised lines.

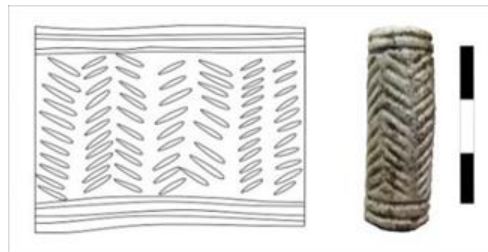


Figure 75. IV. b. 9. Bands of vertical rows of chevrons.

The tenth seal of this group (Figure 76. IV. b. 10) is made of green glazed steatite, and measures 4.9 cm in length and 1.2 cm in diameter. The design consists of two rows of chevrons bordered above and below by incised straight lines.

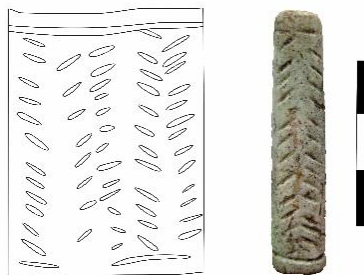


Figure 76. IV. b. 10. Bands of vertical rows of chevrons.

The eleventh seal of this group (Figure 77. IV. b. 11) is made of blue glazed faience, and measures 4.3 cm in length and 1.0 cm in diameter. Manufactured by incision, the design

consists of two rows of deeply carved, loosely ordered chevrons. Bordered above and below by an incised straight line.

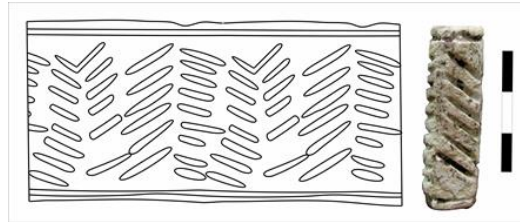


Figure 77. IV. b. 11. Bands of vertical rows of chevrons.

The twelfth seal of this group (Figure 78. IV. b. 12) is made of blue glazed faience, and measures 3.4 cm in length and 1.0 cm in diameter. Manufactured by incision, its design consists of two rows of deeply incised chevrons, bordered below by an incised line. The other end is broken.



Figure 78. IV. b. 12. Bands of vertical rows of chevrons.

The thirteenth seal of this group (Figure 79. IV. b. 13) is made of green glazed steatite, measures 4.9 cm in length and 0.9 cm in diameter. Manufactured by incision, its design consists of two row of chevrons, bordered above and below by an incised line.

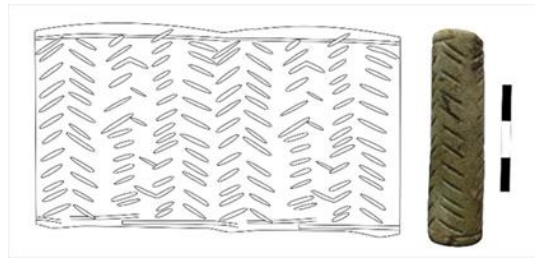


Figure 79. IV. b. 13. Bands of vertical rows of chevrons.

The fourteenth seal of this group (Figure 80. IV. b. 14) is made of green stone, measures 3.4 cm in length and 1.1 cm in diameter. Manufactured by incision, the design consists of scattered chevrons.

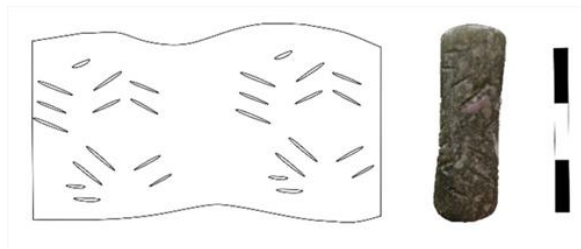


Figure 80. IV. b. 14. Bands of vertical rows of chevrons.

V.4.4.3. Xs scattered in field

Two seals with this characteristic design pattern have been discovered in Bayazid Abad. According to the available evidence, this design seems to have low occurrence in North-Western Iran. However, examples of this form have been excavated from Sarm Tepe,¹¹⁸⁶ Hasanlu,¹¹⁸⁷ and Kordlar,¹¹⁸⁸ from the center of Citadel Mound, to the north of Burned Building I West. They have been classified by Marcus in the “Other Iranian Style,” and based on its context, dated to Iron Age II.

¹¹⁸⁶ After Mucheshi and Tala’i 2012: fig. 7.

¹¹⁸⁷ Marcus 1996: fig. 66 no. 42.

¹¹⁸⁸ Lippert 1979: pl. 20 no. 25.

The first seal of this group (Figure 81. IV. c. 1) is made of white paste (faience?), measuring 3.5 cm in length and 1.4 cm in diameter. Manufactured by incision, the motif consists of Xs scattered in field, bordered at the top and bottom by an incised simple line.

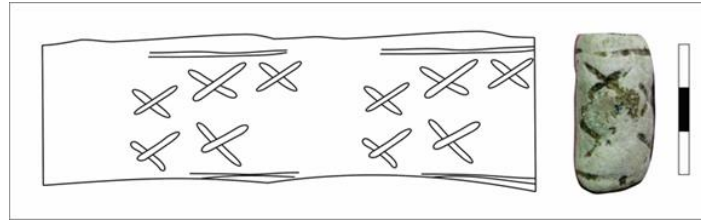


Figure 81. IV. c. 1. X's scattered in field.

The second seal of this group (Figure 82. IV. c. 2) is made of faience, measuring 2.2 cm in length and 1.4 cm in diameter. Manufactured by incision, the X ornamentation is scattered across the design field. A groove borders the design at the preserved end.

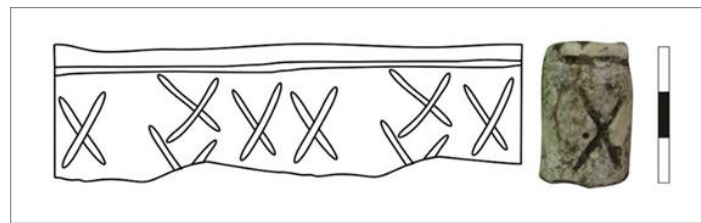


Figure 82. IV. c. 2. X's scattered in field.

V.4.4.4. Band of Xs and chevrons

Alternating chevrons and Xs (crosses) appear on three seals. This pattern could be useful in dating the seals, as they might be coeval to the ones with just one of the two symbols.

The first seal of this group (Figure 83. IV. d. 1) is made of blue glazed steatite, preserved size measures 2.1 cm in length and 1 cm in diameter. Manufactured by incision, the motif consists of chevrons and interspersed Xs. Only half of the cylinder is now preserved. A groove borders the design at the preserved end.

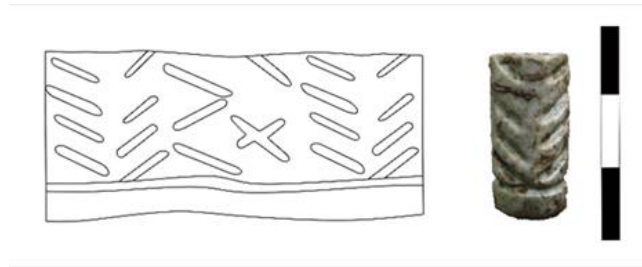


Figure 83. IV. d. 1. Band of X's and chevrons.

The second seal of this group (Figure 84. IV. d. 2) is made of Egyptian blue, and measures 2.1 cm in length and 1 cm in diameter. Manufactured by incision, the design consists of vertical rows of chevrons interspersed with Xs. Only half of the cylinder is preserved. The lower end of the design consists of a row of dashes.

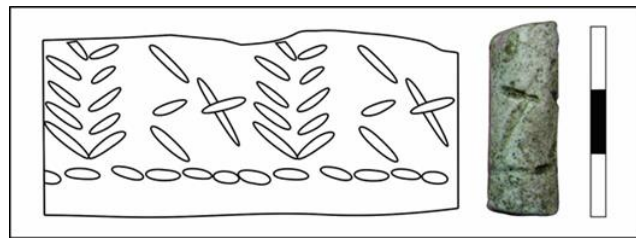


Figure 84. IV. d. 2. Band of X's and chevrons.

The third seal of this group (Figure 85. IV. d. 3) is made of blue glazed steatite, measures 3.5 cm in length and 1.1 cm in diameter. Manufactured by incision, the design consist of a deeply cut row of diagonal lines in one row, and a row each of Xs and chevrons. These are bordered at the top and bottom by incised simple lines.

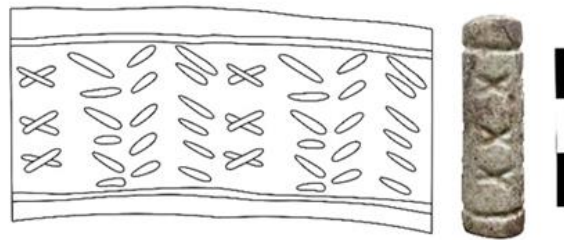


Figure 85. IV. d. 3. Band of X's and chevrons.

V.4.4.5. Band of vertical rows of short horizontal and diagonal lines

Three seals present a coarse surface, decorated with imprecise, roughly incised horizontal lines. They have parallels in Hasanlu IVb.¹¹⁸⁹

The first seal of this group (Figure 86. IV. e. 1) is made of faience, measuring 3.1 cm in length and 1.2 cm in diameter. Manufactured by incision technique, it consists of parallel short horizontal lines and bordered at the top and bottom by one simple incised straight line.

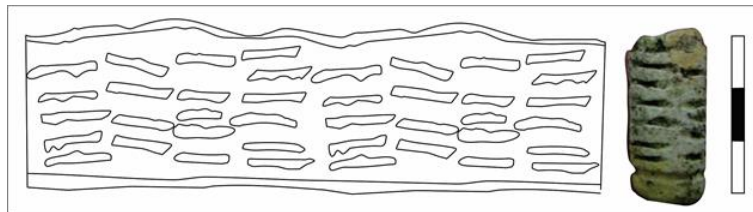


Figure 86. IV. e. 1. Band of vertical rows of short horizontal and diagonal lines.

The second seal of this group (Figure 87. IV. e. 2) is made of dark brown faience. Its design consists of loosely ordered diagonal cuts. Manufactured by incision, the object is fragmentary with only two-thirds of the original cylinder preserved. The design consists of deeply-cut, scattered short diagonal lines. Pair of grooves frame the pattern on the preserved part, which measures 3.9 cm in length and 1.0 cm in diameter.

¹¹⁸⁹ Marcus 1996: fig. 63 no. 38.

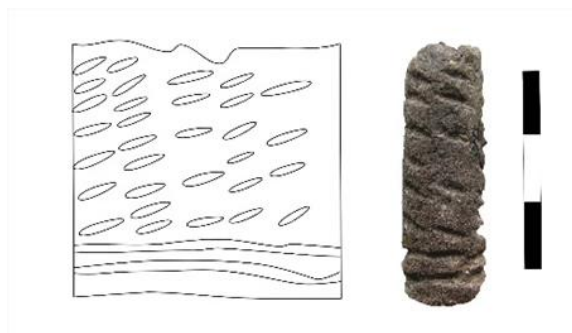


Figure 87. IV. e. 2. Band of vertical rows of short horizontal and diagonal lines.

The third seal of this group (Figure 88. IV. e. 3) is made of brown faience, and the existing size measures 2.9 cm in length and 1.1 cm in diameter. The seal has been manufactured by incision technique, and only two-thirds of the original cylinder is now preserved. The design on the seal shows deeply cut scattered short diagonal lines. A groove frames it on the preserved side.



Figure 88. IV. e. 3. Band of vertical rows of short horizontal and diagonal lines.

V.4.4.6. Bands of horizontal rows of chevrons

Two seals with horizontal chevrons have been discovered in the Bayazid Abad collection. These seals have the same characteristic as those with bands of vertical rows of chevrons.

The first seal in this group (Figure 89. IV. f. 1) is made of faience, measuring 2.3 cm in length and 1.1 cm in diameter. Manufactured by incision technique, its design consists of three rows of horizontal chevrons that cover the entire field of the cylinder seal. The design is framed at the top and bottom by grooves.

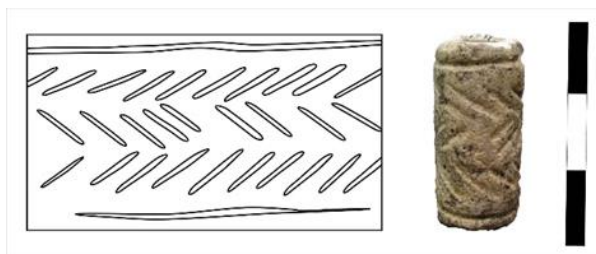


Figure 89. IV. f. 1. Bands of horizontal rows of chevrons.

The second seal of this group (Figure 90. IV. f. 2) is made of green glazed composite material, measuring 2.1 cm in length and 1.1 cm in diameter. Manufactured by incision technique, the design consists of a row of horizontal chevrons, which cover the entire field of the cylindrical seal. The design is framed above and below by straight lines. The example of this design came to light at Tell Abu Charaz.¹¹⁹⁰

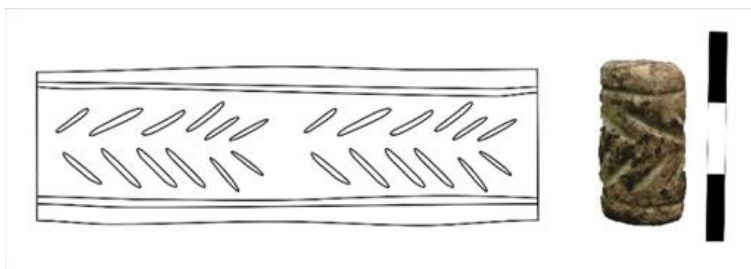


Figure 90. IV. f. 2. Bands of horizontal rows of chevrons.

V.4.4.7. Bands of horizontal rows of zigzag

There are two seals with bands of zigzag pattern among Bayazid Abad seals. The example of this form have also been excavated from Chiga Sabz¹¹⁹¹ and Surkh Dum-i-Luri.¹¹⁹²

The first seal of this group (Figure 91. IV. g. 1) is made of white paste (faience?), measuring 2.3 cm in length and 1.3 cm in diameter. Manufactured by incision, its two registers are divided by double horizontal lines. A double zigzag band encircles the seal in

¹¹⁹⁰ Egger and Keel 2006: 280–281, no. 6.

¹¹⁹¹ Schmidt, van Loon and Curvers 1989: pl. 247 no. 205.

¹¹⁹² Schmidt, van Loon and Curvers 1989: pl. 248 no. 214.

the lower and upper bands. A line frames the design at the preserved end. The seal is fragmentary, with only two-thirds of the original cylinder preserved.

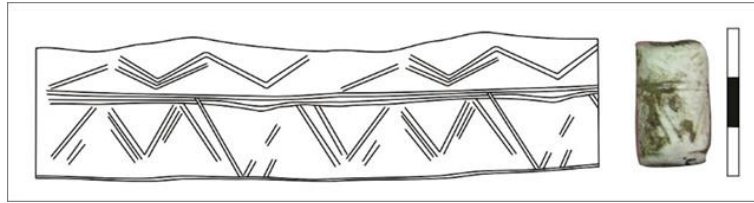


Figure 91. IV. g. 1. Bands of horizontal rows of zigzags.

The second seal of this group (Figure 92. IV. g. 2) is made of faience, and measures 3.2 cm in length and 1.2 cm in diameter. Manufactured by incision are two parallel zigzags. Three lines frame the pattern above and below.

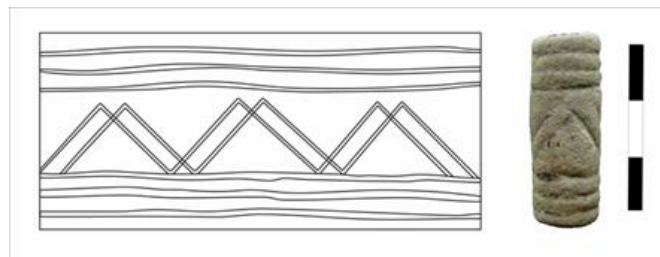


Figure 92. IV. g. 2. Bands of horizontal rows of zigzags.

V.4.4.8. Miscellaneous

Among the cylinder seals from Bayazid Abad some are decorated with miscellaneous geometric designs.

The first such seal (Figure 93. IV. h. 1) is made of faience, measuring 4 cm in length and 1.2 cm in diameter. Manufactured by incision technique, the design consists of a row of long diagonal lines that cover the entire field of the cylinder seal, bordered at the top and bottom by three incised simple straight lines. A similar seal has been discovered from Ras Shamra, dated 1550–1450 by Schaeffer.¹¹⁹³

¹¹⁹³ Schaeffer 1983: 134 (R.S. 23.443).

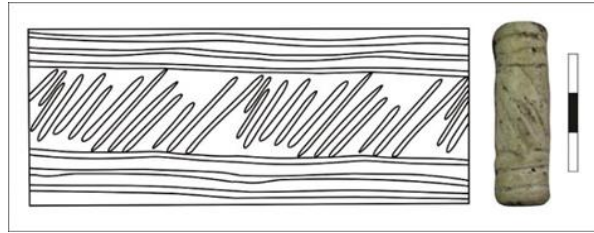


Figure 93. IV. h. 1. Miscellaneous geometrical motif.

The second seal in this group (Figure 94. IV. h. 2) is made of green glazed faience, measuring 4.9 cm in length and 1.4 cm in diameter. Manufactured by incision, the design is formed by long diagonal cross-hatching, framed above and below by incised lines.

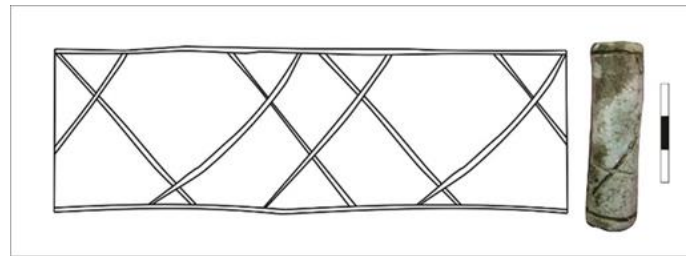


Figure 94. IV. h. 2. Miscellaneous geometrical motif.

V.4.5. Overview on the seals salvaged from Bayazid Abad

Prior to the discovery of the Bayazid Abad grave, seals obtained from North-Western Iran were mostly confined to Hasanlu and dated to the Iron Age. The seals from earlier periods were confined to Dinkha Tepe and the Late Bronze Age Hasanlu. Since the subject under discussion is a review of the North-Western Iranian material culture based on data obtained from Bayazid Abad from Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age II, a review of Marcus's study of Hasanlu IVb seals requires comment as some of the seals obtained from Hasanlu and Bayazid Abad fall in the period she deals with.

Marcus presents a detailed description of the art, distribution, and practice of the seals and sealings at Hasanlu IVb (Iron Age II). Robert Dyson's teams excavated the site from 1954 to 1977. Marcus tried to differentiate the seals that were likely imported from those locally produced, thereby clarifying trade and contact with neighbouring civilizations. In addition, she examined in detail the manner and context of the artistic and cultural exchanges and

relations that existed between Hasanlu and other important early first-millennium centres in the Near East, particularly the Neo-Assyrian state.

She divides the available seals into six groups: two groups of locally produced seals; three groups of seals imported from outside the region and from areas which had a foreign art style; and a group whose style is not entirely clear. Some revealing examples are the local seals whose details seem influenced by the art style of the Assyrian Empire, with a tendency toward the art style of the Syrian and Palestinian seals.

Taken together, there seems to be a regional production centre between Hasanlu and Assyria that shows the impact of a Common Style, showing influences of Neo Assyrian and Iranian art.

Combining art history methods with archaeological and historical evidences provides information and conclusions about the type of production and use of seals in Hasanlu in the ninth century BC, as well as regional relations with neighbouring civilizations and exchanges between North-Western Iran and the major Assyrian and Syrian centres in the west, and Elam and Luristan in the south.

As mentioned earlier, pre-Iron Age seals in North-Western Iran are few and cannot represent a comprehensive understanding of art style and regional interactions. The seal collection obtained from Bayazid Abad can help to fill this lacuna.

They put the spotlight on the complex relationships between neighbouring and distant lands, from the Mediterranean Sea to the Indus Valley. It is difficult to explain why similar seals occur in disparate places, often thousands of kilometres apart. It is very possible that local workshops produced large quantities of a particularly popular kind of seal, to be distributed in different parts of the world, through trade or as gifts. The majority (18 of 20) of the Bayazid Abad cylinder seals with elaborate designs are assigned to the Mitannian Common Style,¹¹⁹⁴ which dates between the fifteenth and the eleventh centuries BC, with its smooth lines and drilled holes; repeated schematic and coarse motifs, and the most exclusive use of glazed steatite and faience.

¹¹⁹⁴ Mitannian glyptic art has traditionally been connected with the kingdom of Mitanni, which existed in the northern Mesopotamia and north Syria between 1500 and 1350 BC.

As previously indicated, the Bayazid Abad cylinder seals consist of a collection of 20 seals, each of which showcases intricate motifs. Notably, two of these seals exhibit a captivating amalgamation of Kassite motifs and local elements, adorning them in a manner that embraces a heightened sense of naturalism.

In a pioneering study, Frankfort pointed out¹¹⁹⁵ that the Mitannian Common Style cylinders transcended the borders of the Mitannian kingdom, both geographically and chronologically. His explanation for this fact was that the seals were produced by a single workshop specialized in glazed artefacts, and from there traded between different countries.

Kantor¹¹⁹⁶ subdivided the Mitannian Common seals into two groups. The first resemble seal impressions of the Nuzi tablet archive (1500–1350 BC).¹¹⁹⁷ The second group was made of simpler seals, with desalinated and “depleted” motifs, assignable to the thirteenth century BC of Levantine origins. However, Beck rejected this hypothesis, and revised Frankfort’s idea of a single production centre.¹¹⁹⁸

Taking into consideration all of the comparisons between Bayazid Abad and other sites, it can be seen that the larger group of Mitannian type seals is attributable to a time range from the fifteenth to the eleventh century BC, and all may have been imported from a production centre in the Mitanni kingdom. Given the limited number of seals obtained from key sites of Hasanlu and Dinkha Tepe in North-Western Iran, dating from the second half of the second millennium BC to a particular Mitanni style, it seems that at this point of time, there was no centre for seal production in the area. Seals from Bayazid Abad can also support this theory. Although, in this study we identified two seals of local production under the influence of the Kassite style, it appears that they were also produced outside of North-Western Iran, and then exported, from an unknown centre specializing in simplified imitations.

Another group of seals from the Bayazid Abad grave show geometric designs of which 37 examples are extant. The longest of all measures 4.9 cm in length, the broadest 1.4 cm in diameter, and the smallest one is 2.5 cm in height and 1.0 cm in diameter. Smaller examples

¹¹⁹⁵ Frankfort 1939: 280.

¹¹⁹⁶ Kantor 1958a: 82–84.

¹¹⁹⁷ Maidman 1976: 29–31.

¹¹⁹⁸ Beck 1967.

may have been worn as beads while larger specimens may have been used as seals. It is impossible to date these seals precisely because this style was common from the second millennium to the middle of the first millennium, as these cylinders have parallels from all over the ancient Near East, especially seals that have cross-hatching and chevron ornamentation. Such design seems to have served as the main, and less often as auxiliary, motifs on the seals discussed here. In North-Western Iran, examples of this style occurred in Hasanlu IVB (Iron Age II). Marcus holds this group of seals to be local products, used as a bead¹¹⁹⁹ and she believes there is no reason to look for their place of production outside of North-Western Iran. The same seals also occurred in the Marlik tombs and have been identified as local products because of their smooth rendering of the lines and the use of frit and gypsum dating back to the late second millennium BC.¹²⁰⁰

¹¹⁹⁹ Marcus 1996: 37.

¹²⁰⁰ Neghaban 1977: 102.

Chapter VI- Personal Ornaments

Bayazid Abad tomb contains a large number of personal ornaments from the Middle Bronze Age II to Iron Age II. Assembled in this chapter are details of various kinds of personal ornament such as pins, torques, bracelets, finger-rings, earrings, and beads.

Pins, mostly found in vessels, were not necessarily used as ornaments but as some sort of gifts or status symbol. They might also have had a ritual function. The publication of the personal ornaments of the second and the first millennium in North-Western Iran has been piecemeal. The studies have been focused on just some of Hasanlu's exemplars, mentioned in preliminary publications, and as part of analysis of objects classified by material.¹²⁰¹ In the 1990s and early 2000s, Michelle Marcus published a study of cylinder seals from Hasanlu (most of which should be classified as personal ornaments as they were worn as beads), and a series of articles on small artefact groups dating to Period IVb.¹²⁰² More recently, several metal strip belts found in the Lower Mound cemetery were examined.¹²⁰³ Rubinson has demonstrated how the personal ornaments at Hasanlu were connected to southern Caucasus,¹²⁰⁴ and Cifarelli has published about personal ornaments from the earlier layers of the graveyard.¹²⁰⁵ Cifarelli's last publication, in particular, focuses on the analysis and comparison of personal ornaments used during everyday life and in burials, claiming that such items had an important place in a strongly gendered and militarized civilization such as Hasanlu during the period IVb.¹²⁰⁶ The latest publication on the subject by Cifarelli, Casteluccia and Dan, explores the extension of the reciprocal cultural influences between Hasanlu IVB, southern Caucasus and Assyria, examining the case of three belts from the graveyard.¹²⁰⁷

¹²⁰¹ Muscarella 1965; 1988; de Schauensee 1988.

¹²⁰² Marcus 1993; 1994a; 1994b; 1995; 1996a; 1996b; Rubinson and Marcus 2005.

¹²⁰³ Rubinson 2012.

¹²⁰⁴ Rubinson 2012.

¹²⁰⁵ Cifarelli 2013.

¹²⁰⁶ Cifarelli 2014.

¹²⁰⁷ Cifarelli, Casteluccia and Dan 2018.

This study gives a more expanded perspective on the material culture and the use of ornaments during the second and the first millennium BC, related not to the high-status citizens, or the ritual and social meanings that such items could have for them, but to the everyday life of people who wore them outside of a formal context.

In the archaeological record, it is easy to detect traces of this self-presentation through an analysis of durable ornaments in mortuary contexts, which are often the most typical archaeological find spots for personal ornaments.¹²⁰⁸

The following pages, discuss and describe in the detail the ornaments from Bayazid Abad.

VI.1. Pins¹²⁰⁹

This part is an attempt to systematically analyze the Bronze Age and Iron Age pins of Bayazid Abad. The types of pins occurring at Bayazid Abad are surprisingly varied and often hard to date, since the main stylistic features remained unchanged for a long time in most categories of pins. Therefore, they must be dated by other objects discovered in the context, or by comparison with similar specimens from other sites. For this reason, the pins found in the areas mentioned in this study will be examined in two separate periods: Middle and Late Bronze and Iron Age

Although other objects, such as pottery, may have a higher chronological value, bronze pins are especially helpful in the reconstruction of the culture and habits of the people who created them. Commonly found, and related to myriad aspects of life, they are an exceptional source of information about beliefs, fashion, and material culture in ancient Near Eastern societies.

Function of the pins

To this day, the exact function of these pins is still not completely clear, but we are reasonably confident in assuming that they could have been used to keep dresses and hair in place. These

¹²⁰⁸ Hodder 1987: 6–7.

¹²⁰⁹ The pins from this chapter were partly published in Iran Journal 2022 by Shelir Amelirad and Behroz Khanmohamadi.

suppositions are sustained by residues of fabric and hair found on early Bronze Age pin from Qal'at el-Mudig.¹²¹⁰

It is also of interest to note how in Mesopotamian arts, women are often depicted wearing pins decorated with pearls and possibly also cylinder seals, mounted on cords that hung down, while plates from Luristan show depictions of pins worn in pairs on the shoulders.¹²¹¹ Pre-Sargonic shell inlays from Mari show curved toggle pins seemed to be used individually, as it might also be the case with the straight ones, and to be reserved for just some women, at least at Mari.¹²¹² Both curved and straight pins, can hold either something like a string of beads held together by a kind of ring, or a cylindrical seal.¹²¹³ It is very possible that the term “*tudittum*,” an Akkadian word that used to be considered as referring to pectorals, could actually indicate toggle pins.¹²¹⁴ The excerpt “KUB 15.1 i 1-11” from the text 98 of Hittite Poems, mentions the use of pins as *Tudittum*, a breast toggle pin:¹²¹⁵

[...] I will make a TUDITTUM-pin for your breast and they will call it the TUDITTUM-pin of the goddess!

Marcus, in her study of pins from Hasanlu IV, believes that “[...at] least in Mesopotamia woman’s pins were with symbolic meaning, possibly marking various stages of the female life cycle (marriageable girl or virgin, married woman, and mother.”¹²¹⁶ To complement Marcus’ position, the contribution of Michel is noteworthy. She has found a mention about the removal of garment pins marking the moment of repudiation by a husband. The newly divorced woman would have had to leave the conjugal roof completely naked after the ritual removal of the pins and the garment. It confirms that these pins were the most important element of the woman’s clothes and linked to femininity.

¹²¹⁰ Collon et al. 1975: 122; Woolley 1934: 274.

¹²¹¹ Klein 1994: fig. 194: 1.

¹²¹² Klein 1994: figs. 192–193. It has been mentioned that in the Mari inlays the pins depicted on the female figures have different length according to the social status of the women, the bigger been applied to the most important once (Couturaud 2019: 58).

¹²¹³ Correspond to those found in excavations at Mari, three types of pins depicted on the Mari’s inlays – short and straight worn by pairs, curved, long with a visible head (Michel 2020a: 183).

¹²¹⁴ Klein 1994.

¹²¹⁵ Mouton 2013: 3.

¹²¹⁶ Marcus 1994: 7.

Puzur-Šamaš married Hašušārnikā as amtum-wife. If Puzur-Šamaš breaks the contract and divorces her, he shall pay 1 mina of silver. If Hašušārnikā commits a misdeed, she shall leave (the house) drawing out the toggle pin (of her cloth).¹²¹⁷

This conclusion is based on an ancient text from Mesopotamia, which sometimes points to the ritual removal or loosening of a garment pin from a woman's dress after the marriage.¹²¹⁸ In addition, women occasionally address their male lovers as their garment or turban pin in early Sumerian love songs.

My pure “pin”, my pure “pin”, your appeal is sweet, my brilliant “pin” onto which a lapis lazuli seal is attached, your appeal is sweet.¹²¹⁹

There is also mention of a pin in a celebratory song gifted to queen Kabatum after the birth of the first son of king Shu-Suen:

Because I hailed it, because I hailed it, the lord gave me things.
 Because I hailed it, with a cry of exultation, the lord gave me things.
 A gold pin and a cylinder seal of lapis lazuli—the lord gave me things!
 A gold ring and a ring silver inwrought.¹²²⁰

In the Old Assyrian texts, smaller toggle pins are regularly offered to women, sometimes young women at the occasion of their marriage, as in the following text:

[A] pin of 13 shekels of silver for our daughter-in-law.¹²²¹

¹²¹⁷ Michel 2020b: no. 32.

¹²¹⁸ Landsberger 1968: 104. Based on her study on Hasanlu IVb examples, Megan Cifarelli believes that: “Elite women consciously embraced the wearing of dress ornaments that served as visual amplification of the closure of their garments, and the unassailability of their persons, a strategy that might have offered them protection from physical injury” (Cifarelli 2017b: 115).

¹²¹⁹ Alster 1985: 146.

¹²²⁰ Alster 1985: 141.

¹²²¹ Lewy 1935–1937: TC 3, 202: 15–16.

Findings from excavations in Alaca Höyük,¹²²² Tel el-Ajjul,¹²²³ and Abu Salabih¹²²⁴ strongly suggest the usage of pins as belt locks, as also referenced in a text passage from a student tablet from Susa, with the word “*Tudida*.”¹²²⁵

The variety in size of the pins, which ranges between 40 cm to 5 cm, led to the conclusion that smaller pins could also have been used as kohl pins.

Other suggestions, such as by Henschel-Simon’s¹²²⁶ and Marcus,¹²²⁷ about their use as a concealed weapon, however, still lack evidence to support them.¹²²⁸

In her study on Hasanlu pins excavated from graves, Marcus suggested that the shorter pins (<13 cm) are garment pins and that the longer ones (13–30 cm) are shroud pins. The shorter pins appear to have been used to close elite women’s garments¹²²⁹ and they were consistently found on the shoulders of skeletons, usually with the sharp end facing up. Cifarelli suggests the division of this category in two more subcategories, depending on their size and type of finials: the longer pins with decorated finials were associated with women’s burials, and the ones with needle-headed finials were found in men’s burials, or the destruction levels of the site.¹²³⁰

The shroud pins seem to have been associated primarily with elite individuals, who were buried with as many as 15 bronze finger rings, six bronze anklets, elaborate bronze and iron head-dresses and hair ornaments, and hundreds of beads made of gold, carnelian, shell, and other imported materials. Cifarelli’s study shows that in Hasanlu pins were often discovered in pairs, with one usually lying horizontally across the shoulders or diagonally across the chest, and the other lying vertically along the side of the skeleton.¹²³¹

¹²²² Maxwell-Hyslop 1971: pl. 33.

¹²²³ Maxwell-Hyslop 1971: 122f, fig. 87.

¹²²⁴ Martin et al. 1985: 11.

¹²²⁵ Meer 1935: 190 I 6; after Klein 1992: 247.

¹²²⁶ Henschel- Simon 1938: 170.

¹²²⁷ Marcus 1994.

¹²²⁸ Megan Cifarelli (2017b: 115) believes that: “Although potentially lethal in their size and sharpness, it is unlikely that these pins were intended to be used as weapons, but they certainly could have implied a capacity for violence.”

¹²²⁹ Marcus 1994; Cifarelli 2013.

¹²³⁰ Cifarelli 2014: 304.

¹²³¹ Marcus 1994: 4.

VI.1.1. Middle and Late Bronze Age pins:

Considering the shape and decoration of the pins from this period, one main group, comprised solely of toggle pins can be distinguished, and further subdivided according to their head and shank designs.

VI.1.1.1. Eyelet pins (toggle pins):

Discovery of this collection of toggles pins gives further information from a chronological and geographical perspective about these kinds of items. Pins with eyelets are commonly referred to as toggle pins, a term introduced by F. Petrie.¹²³² The wearers would use them to fasten their garments by passing a string through the hole, and then securing one of the edges of the pin to an eyelet on the garment, as observed by de Morgan after his excavation at Lawar in Armenia.¹²³³ Both men and women would use toggle pins as an important social marker: the poorer tombs have at least one made out of copper while other group of tombs can sometimes contain eight pins, with or without the hole in the shaft to fix a seal-cylinder.¹²³⁴

The retrieval of these pins testifies that such items were in use for about two thousand years, roughly until 1000 BC.¹²³⁵ Henschel-Simon, in her study, maintains that the origin of the earliest toggle pins in Canaan can be associated with the arrival of the Hyksos, who brought this new feature from the north.¹²³⁶

Toggle pins are known from Iran as well. They begin to appear towards the middle and the end of the Middle Bronze Age. For example, at a mid-second millennium tomb at Dinkha Tepe,¹²³⁷ or at Geoy Tepe in D strata¹²³⁸ and one pin with elaborate ornamented head surfaced at Hasanlu from grave SK45.¹²³⁹

In Mesopotamia they are found until the end of thesecond millennium, but in adjacent areas, such as in Luristan, toggle pins were produced until the first millennium, occurring at

¹²³² Petrie 1906: 12.

¹²³³ de Morgan 1927: 294, fig. 292.

¹²³⁴ Archi 2002: 188.

¹²³⁵ Stol 2016: 41.

¹²³⁶ Henschel-Simon 1938: 176.

¹²³⁷ Rubinson 1991: figs. 21–22.

¹²³⁸ Burton-Brown 1951: fig. 29.

¹²³⁹ Danti 2013a: fig. 5.2: O.

Iron Age I graves (see Duruyeh¹²⁴⁰). In North-Western Iran, evidence from the grave B9a, burial 17 at Dinkha Tepe¹²⁴¹ shows that their use lasted till Late Bronze Age.

Bayazid Abad's toggle pins are divided into two main groups: pins without heads and pins with head. The subdivisions within these two groups are arranged schematically, chiefly in order to split up the large number of Middle Bronze Age and Late Bronze Age pins. This distinction, however, sometimes appears to be unreliable or incomplete.

Headless toggle pins

1. Plain
 - a. Eyelet situated in the middle of shank (nos. 1-9)
 - b. Eyelet situated in the upper part of the shank (nos. 10-11)
2. Incised
3. Annular-incisions/ ribbed

Headed toggle pins

1. Conical head toggle pins
 - a. Plain
 - b. Decorated
2. Knob-headed toggle pins
3. Biconical head toggle pins
 - a. Geometrically incised
 - b. Bead and reel molded
4. Hemispherical mushroom head toggle pins
5. Domed and globular head toggle pins

VI.1.1.1.1. Headless toggle pins

The pins of this group have no heads per se but rather show an eyelet in the upper third or in the middle of the shaft. To date, they represent the largest collection of this kind of

¹²⁴⁰ Overlaet 2005: 202: fig. 166.

¹²⁴¹ Muscarella 1974: fig. 11 no. 326.

artefacts for the Early Middle and Late Bronze Age. Headless pins fall into three subgroups according to their decoration: plain, incised, and annular incision.

VI.1.1.1.1. Plain

Twenty-three plain toggle pins were included in the Bayazid Abad tomb inventory. Examples of the plain group can be subdivided into two types, based on the different position of the eyelet in the shank: in type (a) the eyelet is situated in the middle or at the lower third of shank (figure 95: nos. 1–9) and in type (b) the eyelet is situated at the upper end of the shank (figure 95: nos. 10–11). In all of the examples the shank has a cylindrical or square cross-section, changing to flat in the area around the eyelet. Except for pin nos. 11 and 12, with flattened heads, all other examples are knobbed at the upper end. Despite having very similar diameters (0.3–0.4 cm), their lengths differ ranging from 10–18 cm.

Pins of group (a) with a plain shaft are assignable to Henschel-Simon's type 3,¹²⁴² Woolley's type 1,¹²⁴³ and fall into Klein's type 1.3a, b, and c1,¹²⁴⁴ a common form with a wide chronological and spatial distribution. Toggle pins with plain shafts occur in Syria and the Levant in the late Early Bronze Age¹²⁴⁵ and have turned up at Enan,¹²⁴⁶ Ma'ayan Barukh,¹²⁴⁷ Megiddo,¹²⁴⁸ Tell Brak,¹²⁴⁹ Chagar Bazar,¹²⁵⁰ El Hammam,¹²⁵¹ Mishrife-Qatna¹²⁵² (in graves no. 1 and 2¹²⁵³), Gaya,¹²⁵⁴ Tel Fara¹²⁵⁵ (from both third to early second-millennium contexts¹²⁵⁶), and Byblos,¹²⁵⁷ Tallon labels this form "club like head toggle pins" and

¹²⁴² Henschel-Simon 1937: 192.

¹²⁴³ Woolley 1955: pl. 73: p. 1.

¹²⁴⁴ Klein 1994: pl. 62.

¹²⁴⁵ Prell 2020: 496.

¹²⁴⁶ Eisenberg 1985: 70 f, fig. 10.59–61.

¹²⁴⁷ Amiran, 1961: 91, figs. 8.22–23.

¹²⁴⁸ Guy 1938: 169, fig. 173 nos. 1–3.

¹²⁴⁹ Oates et al. 1997: fig. 233 no. 28.

¹²⁵⁰ Mallowan 1937: 132, fig. 12 no. 1.

¹²⁵¹ Schaeffer 1948: 79c.

¹²⁵² Schaeffer 1948: fig. 99 nos. 4–5.

¹²⁵³ Schaeffer 1948: fig. 104 nos. 15, 17.

¹²⁵⁴ Schaeffer 1948: fig. 123 no. 26.

¹²⁵⁵ Schaeffer 1948: fig. 133.

¹²⁵⁶ Mallowan 1936: 132, fig. 12, 1; 1947: 188; pl. XLI no. 7.

¹²⁵⁷ Dunand 1939: pl. 104 no. 1276.

mentions that they were also common in Susa, appearing for the first time in period IIIA, and remaining in use till the first millennium BC.¹²⁵⁸

Similar types also were excavated in North-Western Iran at Dinkha Tepe in mid second millennium BC,¹²⁵⁹ Geoy Tepe¹²⁶⁰ in both Middle Bronze Age III and early Late Bronze Age tombs, and from Dinkha from a later Late Bronze Age grave: B9a burial 17.¹²⁶¹

Pins of group (b) correspond to Klein's type 1.1a, a1. Specimens are documented at Zincirli,¹²⁶² Ešnunna,¹²⁶³ Nuzi,¹²⁶⁴ and Kiš¹²⁶⁵ and the Iranian highlands¹²⁶⁶ and in Syria from Tell Ansari¹²⁶⁷ and Sweyhat¹²⁶⁸ in layers of the Early Bronze Age II to III. These appear to date to the last third of the second millennium BC. In a mid-second millennium tomb at Dinkha two examples fashioned of bone have been excavated.¹²⁶⁹

VI.1.1.1.1.2. Incised

Only one such pin exists in the collection under discussion (Figure 96: no. 6). However, the shaft is broken and only the upper part of the shaft and small part of its hole remain. It has a simple herringbone pattern engraved above the perforation. There is no parallel for this type, but as it has the same form as the plain headless pins, we can date it from the Middle Bronze Age to the Late Bronze Age.

¹²⁵⁸ Tallon 1987: vol. I, 229, type A1b, vol. II: 288, nos. 843–849.

¹²⁵⁹ Rubinson 1991: fig. 21: i.

¹²⁶⁰ Two stone tombs from Earp's excavation at Geoy Tepe provide the largest number of this type of the pins in the region (Crawford 1975: pl. II, pl. V, pins IV: 5–16); Burton-Brown 1951: fig. 29: nos. 1290–1292.

¹²⁶¹ Muscarella 1974: fig. 12, no. 326.

¹²⁶² Luschan 1943: 94: fig. 114.

¹²⁶³ Frankfort, Lloyd and Jacobsen 1940: fig. 127b.

¹²⁶⁴ Starr 1937: pl. 125: S.

¹²⁶⁵ Mackay 1929: pl. 40: 1:2.

¹²⁶⁶ Bani Surmah (Vanden Berghe 1968: 49, fig. 11–1) and Tepe Giyan (Contenau and Ghirshman 1935: pl. 30, tomb 102/9).

¹²⁶⁷ Suleiman 1984: pl. 5 no. 43.

¹²⁶⁸ Holland 1976: 64. fig. 15 no. 37.

¹²⁶⁹ Rubinson 1991: fig. 17: C.

VI.1.1.1.1.3. Annular-incisions/ Ribbed

Five pins with big lozenge-shaped and a small circular hole perforated at about one third from the top, decorated with incised parallel lines / reel molded above the perforation (Figure 96: nos. 1–5). Although the diameters are more or less the same (*ca.* 0.3–0.4 cm). The length ranges around 12–14 cm. Pins with horizontally ribbed shafts belong to Henschel-Simon's type 6a–c¹²⁷⁰ and Kenyon's type F and G.¹²⁷¹ Prell, in her study on the examples from Tell el-Dab'a, adds six more subgroups to the Henschel-Simon type 6a–c. She believes that in Levant such toggle pins with ribbed decoration do not occur before MB IIA and lists several sites with comparable examples.¹²⁷² More examples occurred in Level 1 (Middle Assyrian) at Tell Brak;¹²⁷³ another comes from Ras Shamra.¹²⁷⁴ Despite being manufactured with the same technique used for headless plain toggle pins, these ribbed examples are unique in North-Western Iran. However, two second millennium BC examples came to light at Kalleh Nisar.¹²⁷⁵

¹²⁷⁰ Henschel-Simon 1937: 197–200.

¹²⁷¹ Kenyon 1960: 298.

¹²⁷² Prell 2020: 520, Table 3.

¹²⁷³ Oates, Oates, and McDonald 1997: fig. 233: 32.

¹²⁷⁴ Schaeffer 1948: fig. 45 J.

¹²⁷⁵ Haerinck and Overlaet 2008: 40, fig. 19: AI.3–1 and D2–15.

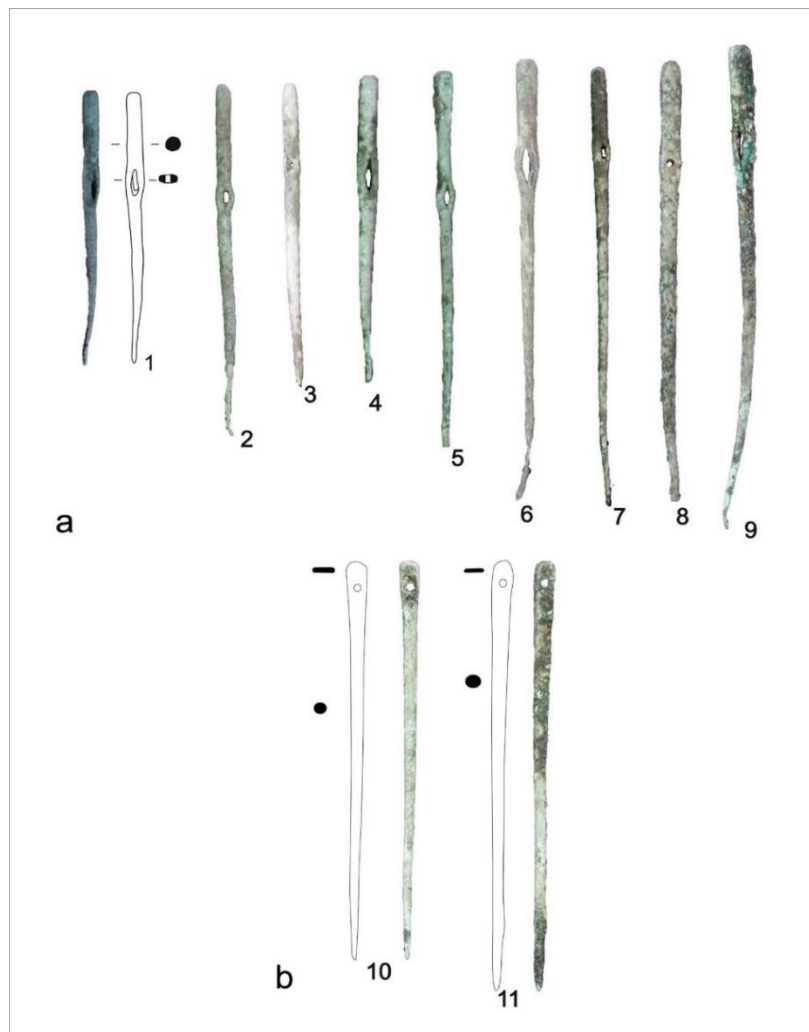


Figure 95. Plain toggle pins/ (a)- Headless, plain with eyelet situated in the middle of the shank (1-9), (b)- Headless, plain with eyelet situated in the upper part of the shank.

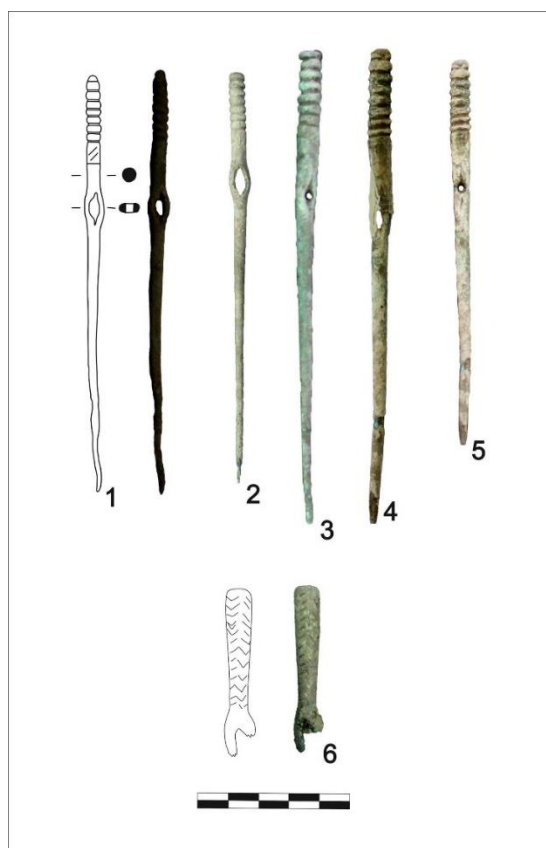


Figure 96. Annular-incisions/molded and incised decorated toggle pins without head.

VI.1.1.1.2. Headed toggle pins

VI.1.1.1.2.1. Toggle pins with a conical head

Nine such pins were salvaged from Bayazid Abad (Figure 97). They have cone heads and shafts with a circular section, perforated at about one third from the top of shaft. Here we have divided them in two groups: (a) *plain* and (b) *decorated* (one sample). The diameters and their lengths are more or less the same (*ca.* 0.4–0.5 cm), and they tend to measure around 10–12 cm. This form of pins has been more common in Mesopotamia than Iran. In Iran, similar pins have been found at the graveyards of Kalleh Nisar¹²⁷⁶ in Luristan, Kaloraz in

¹²⁷⁶ Haerinck and Overlaet 2008: 40–42, fig. 19, pls. 18, 68 (C3–31); Haerinck and Overlaet 2010: 138–40, fig. 40, pls. 52, 68 (KN. AII. 18–4).

Rodbar¹²⁷⁷ and at Tepe Sialk,¹²⁷⁸ while in Mesopotamia they occur at Bakr Awa,¹²⁷⁹ Tell Suleima,¹²⁸⁰ Kheit Qasim,¹²⁸¹ Tell Songor B,¹²⁸² and Ešnunna.¹²⁸³



Figure 97. Toggle pins with conical heads.

VI.1.1.1.2.2. Knob-headed toggle pins

Simple knob-headed pins are represented in Bayazid Abad with 10 examples (Figure 98). This form of pins is known exclusively at this location, and has not been reported from nearby sites; although they are broadly equivalent to Klein's type 2.8A2.¹²⁸⁴ These examples

¹²⁷⁷ Hakemi 2017: 157, fig. 267.

¹²⁷⁸ Ghirshman 1939: pl. XL no. S464.

¹²⁷⁹ Miglus et al. 2013: fig. 21: BA 1108/5.

¹²⁸⁰ Hauptmann and Pernicka 2004: pl. 47 nos. 804–11.

¹²⁸¹ Fiorina 2007: 155, fig. 8b; Hauptmann and Pernicka 2004: pl. 25 no. 399.

¹²⁸² Matsumoto and Yokoyama 1989: 253, fig. 16, pl. 81f.

¹²⁸³ Hauptmann and Pernicka 2004: pl. 7 no. 77.

¹²⁸⁴ Klein 1992.

have certain similarities to pins fashioned in silver¹²⁸⁵ and bronze at Ur.¹²⁸⁶ A bronze example occurred in Mitannian context at Nuzi,¹²⁸⁷ Byblos,¹²⁸⁸ and Tepe Giyan from tomb 101.¹²⁸⁹ This kind of pin dates to the first half of the second millennium BC. It seems to have been worn mainly in western Syria and sometimes in Ras Shamra, where it was used with an eyelet ring. Some also are represented exclusively in western Syria during the Middle Bronze Age.¹²⁹⁰



Figure 98. Toggle pins with a knob-head.

VI.1.1.1.2.3. Biconical head toggle pins

This form of toggle pin is represented by two types: (a) long pyramidal head pin with geometrical decoration incised on the shaft (Figure 99–1) and, (b) biconical head pin with bead and reel molded decoration (Figure 99–2). The first type is broadly equivalent to Klein's type 2.10A2¹²⁹¹ and is assignable to Henschel-Simon's type 12.¹²⁹² This example also resembles a pin believed to be from Luristan, which unlike our example has a constricted

¹²⁸⁵ Parrot 1968: fig. 17: M. 4422, 4423.

¹²⁸⁶ Parrot 1968: fig. 18: M. 4425–4424.

¹²⁸⁷ Starr 1937: pl. 125U.

¹²⁸⁸ Schaeffer 1948: fig. 61 B. Dunand 1939: pl. 103 no. 3228.

¹²⁸⁹ Contenau and Ghirshman 1933: pl. 29 no. 5.

¹²⁹⁰ Klein 1992: 269.

¹²⁹¹ Klein 1992: pl. 32.

¹²⁹² Henschel-Simon 1937: pl. 71 no. 131.

neck.¹²⁹³ The second type consists of pins with horizontally ribbed shafts. They are assignable to Henschel-Simon's type 8.¹²⁹⁴ Pins with biconical heads and ribbed decoration on the shaft are known from a Middle Assyrian context at Tell Brak level I, and also from a Late Bronze Age feature in Palestine.¹²⁹⁵ A plain example occurred at Agha-Evlar in Iranian Talish.¹²⁹⁶ The low numbers of examples reported in Klein's corpus of needles and pins testifies to the rarity of this particular kind of toggle pins—showing both heads and incised decoration—in northern Syria.¹²⁹⁷

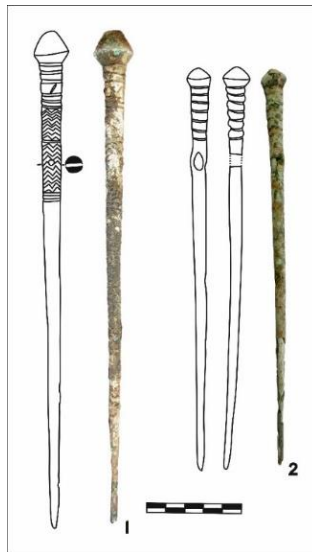


Figure 99. Toggle pins with biconical head.

VI.1.1.1.2.4. Hemispherical mushroom head toggle pins

Eight pins with hemispherical mushroom heads, ribbed around the upper part of the shaft, were found in the Bayazid Abad context (Figure 100). One of them seems to have been bent into a ring shape (no. 2). It is possible that such an item could have been employed as a wrist ornament, or used in some kind of ritual. Such pins, both decorated and plain, fall into Klein's

¹²⁹³ Amiet 1976: no. 9.

¹²⁹⁴ Henschel-Simon 1937: 197–200.

¹²⁹⁵ Tufnell 1958: 81, pl. 24 no.19.

¹²⁹⁶ de Morgan 1905: fig. 774–787 no. 780.

¹²⁹⁷ Klein 1992: pl. 109 nos. 12–13.

type 1.9.¹²⁹⁸ These toggle pins were worn in western Syria and in the Ğezire.¹²⁹⁹ Hemispherical mushroom head with ribbed decorations are also known from Mari¹³⁰⁰ in Syria and Gedikli in Turkey.¹³⁰¹ The latest example of this kind of pins derives from the Deve Höyük collection, which dates to Iron Age III. It is associated with other types of toggle pins there. Moorey believes that the presence of such pins, in association with objects from the fifth century inhumation cemetery, is surprising and the possibly that they are Late Bronze Age intruders cannot be excluded.¹³⁰²

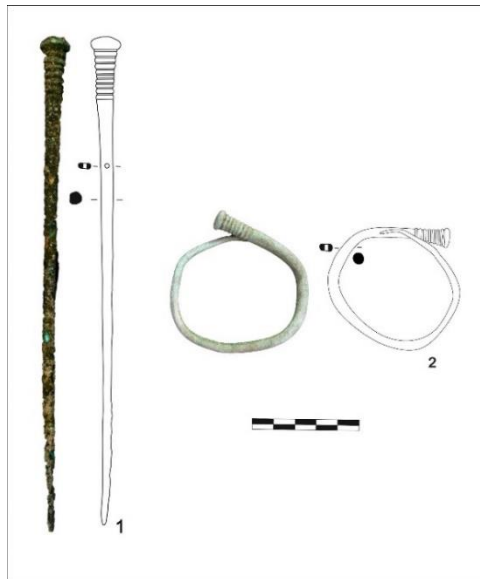


Figure 100. Toggle pins with hemispherical mushroom heads.

VI.1.1.1.2.5. Domed and globular headed toggle pins

Both pin forms show the peculiarity of a short neck (Figure 101: 1–2). They are attributable, even if barely, to Klein's type 1.10B3, and present some similarities to pins with constricted necks, both in bronze and bone, from Nuzi's Mitannian contexts¹³⁰³ and from the later second

¹²⁹⁸ Klein 1992: pl. 95–96.

¹²⁹⁹ Klein 1992: 271.

¹³⁰⁰ Parrot 1968: fig. 20: M.4429–4428.

¹³⁰¹ Alkim and Alkim 1966: fig. 36: GK203, 205.

¹³⁰² Moorey 1980: 91: fig. 14 no. 366.

¹³⁰³ Starr 1937: pl. 125T, 127BB.

millennium context in Iran, where they are present in larger numbers.¹³⁰⁴ They are known from third-millennium contexts in north Mesopotamia,¹³⁰⁵ but also in the palace at Mari¹³⁰⁶ and in the cemetery at Baghouz¹³⁰⁷ dating to the earlier second millennium.

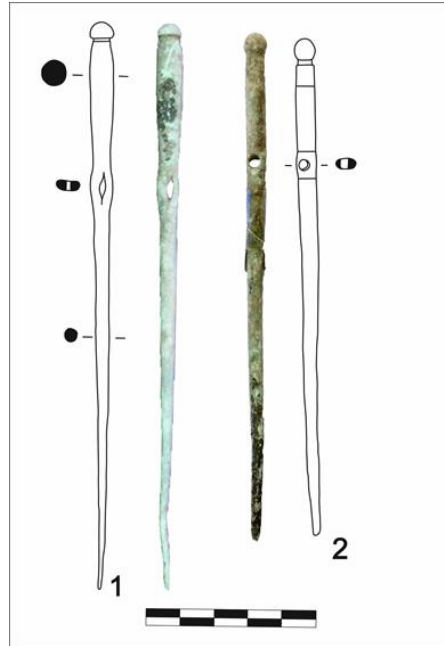


Figure 101. Toggle pin with domed and globular head.

VI.1.2. Iron Age pins

This group is comprised of five groups of straight pins without perforation in the shaft. The subdivisions within the five main groups are arranged schematically, chiefly in order to split up the large number of Iron Age I and Iron Age II pins.

VI.1.2.1. Double spiral headed pins

This type of pin has is represented in the Bayazid Abad context with 10 examples (Figure 102). The lengths of pins in this group vary, the shortest being *ca.* 8 cm and the longest 18 cm.

¹³⁰⁴ Moorey 1971: 182.

¹³⁰⁵ Mallowan 1947: 166–8, pl. XXXI nos. 3–5.

¹³⁰⁶ Parrot 1959: 94–5, fig. 69, pl. XXXIII no. 790.

¹³⁰⁷ du Mesnil du Buisson, 1935: pls. LXII and LXIII.

Pins with a long, thin stem which becomes a little larger at the upper ending, where they continue on both sides into two spirals, corresponding to Klein's type 1.14B5a¹³⁰⁸ and Woolley's type 13.¹³⁰⁹ It has been claimed that these kinds of pins were used widely in western Asia from the later prehistoric period until the first millennium BC¹³¹⁰—a long tradition.¹³¹¹ Pins with double spiral heads are known elsewhere in the third millennium, for example at Ras Shamra and Alaca Höyük.¹³¹²

This type of pin is attested in Anatolia since the late Uruk period in the Amuq plain¹³¹³ in Cilicia¹³¹⁴ and in the Orontes valley from Middle Bronze Age layers.¹³¹⁵ At Tepe Hissar¹³¹⁶ such pins were discovered with double spiral pendants, dating to the second half of the third millennium BC.¹³¹⁷ The same kind of pin came to light at Tepe Giyan¹³¹⁸ and Khurvin, the latter dated by Vanden Berghe to the late second millennium to the early first millennium BC,¹³¹⁹ and later the same form of pins were reported from Sorkh Dum-i-Luri¹³²⁰ and Hasanlu IVb,¹³²¹ which is the site closest to Bayazid Abad. It seems that the pins with double spiral heads were in use during Iron Age I and II in North-Western Iran.

¹³⁰⁸ Klein 1992: 278, pl. 127.

¹³⁰⁹ Woolley 1955: pl. 73 no. p13.

¹³¹⁰ Moorey 1971: 187.

¹³¹¹ Huot 1969.

¹³¹² Huot 1969: 51, 61.

¹³¹³ Braidwood and Braidwood 1960: 421, fig. 324: 6, pl. 53 no. 4 .

¹³¹⁴ Goldman 1956: fig. 431 nos. 207–209.

¹³¹⁵ Klein 1992: 278.

¹³¹⁶ Schmidt 1937: pl. 29–H4856.

¹³¹⁷ The archaeological number for these is H3609. Copper spiral pendent at Tepe Hissar closely parallel the gold example discovered at Ur. See Woolley 1934: pl. 134 and Maxwell-Hyslop 1971: pl. 79.

¹³¹⁸ Herzfeld 1941: 148, pl. 30.

¹³¹⁹ Vanden Berghe 1964: PL XLIII, no. 313.

¹³²⁰ Schmidt, van Loon, and Curvers 1989: pl. 165: e–f.

¹³²¹ Danti 2013b: 17.18: Y; Cifarelli, 2017: fig. 9, presented excavation drawing of SK 481 shows in Iron Age II this form of pin was used as a garment pin.



Figure 102. Double spiral headed pins.

VI.1.2.2. Roll-headed pins

Roll-headed pins, square in cross-section (Figure 103) fall into Klein's type 1.14B1¹³²² and Woolley's type 10-11,¹³²³ a common form widely distributed from both a chronological and geographical point of view. This form was common across the entire Middle East, probably due to their easier manufacturing process. It has been suggested that some pins with rolled heads could be considered as bodkins, that is, as thick needles.¹³²⁴ It is possible that small ornamental objects such as beads, seals, or amulets could be attached to the ring like head of the pin.

Examples from Bayazid Abad can be seen in two categories: first, an example with rolled enlarged flat-sheet head (no. 4), and second, examples with wire rolled head with circular cross-sections (except sample no. 10, which has a square cross-section). The first category

¹³²² Klein 1992: 277: pl. 125.

¹³²³ Woolley 1995: pl. 73 p10-11.

¹³²⁴ de Feyter 1988: 609.

falls into Tallon's type B1b from the classification of Susa's collection with the earliest example dated to the Late Uruk period.¹³²⁵ Examples of this form occurred in graves at Kalleh Nisar¹³²⁶ in Iran, Kiš¹³²⁷ in Mesopotamia and Khan Sheikhoun¹³²⁸ in Syria.

The second category falls into Tallon's types B1c and B1d. The earliest examples of this type date to the Late Uruk period.¹³²⁹

The oldest piece of this type was excavated in Cilicia in an early Chalcolithic layer in Mersin.¹³³⁰ At Norşuntepe the earliest examples come from layer VIII (Late Chalcolithic) and their chronological occurrence extends to layer I.¹³³¹ They are also attested from Early Dynastic Mesopotamia, depicted on costumes of women on the Mari mosaic panel.¹³³² Evidence from Susa shows that at the beginning of the Early Bronze Age such pins were already used as supports for cylinder seals.¹³³³ A notable example, no. 1 with a ring attached to the rolled head has a parallel from Merdangöl,¹³³⁴ which shows a chain attached to the ring, both the cases demonstrating that pins were often linked to some other items, or hung to the garments.

Jacobsthal¹³³⁵ remarked that roll-headed pins originate in the Early Bronze Age and survive into the Iron Age. For example, such pins were found in the Royal Cemetery at Ur¹³³⁶ and they occur in graves at Assur dated to the Ur III period.¹³³⁷ Similar exemplars from Zincirli¹³³⁸ seem to come from early levels.

¹³²⁵ Tallon 1987: vol. I, 232, vol. II, 290 no. 872.

¹³²⁶ Haerink and Overleat 2008: 40, fig. 19: C3-159.

¹³²⁷ Mackay 1929: pl. XIX: 5,8.

¹³²⁸ du Mesnil du Buisson 1935: pl. 34: T I 5 and pl. 40: T III 86.

¹³²⁹ Tallon 1987: vol. I, 232, vol. II, 290, no. 873-877.

¹³³⁰ Garstang 1953: 76: fig. 50.

¹³³¹ Schmidt 2002: 72, pl. 62 nos. 900-910.

¹³³² Parrot 1962: 64, fig. 11, pl. 11 nos. 1-2; Orthmann 1975: pl. 93b.

¹³³³ Amiet 1972: pl. 97 no. 904.

¹³³⁴ Agayev 2002: pl. 32 no. 19.

¹³³⁵ Jacobsthal 1956: pl. 32 no. 19.

¹³³⁶ Woolley 1934: pl. 231, type 4.

¹³³⁷ Haller 1954: pls. 8b, 9c; Hockmann 2010: pl. 58, Grave 36: 23021, g; pl. 74: Grave 44: 20556, f; pl. 76: Grave 46: 20561, g; pl. 78, Grave 49: 20573, m.

¹³³⁸ Andrae 1943: 93, figs 109-10.

At the end of third millennium BC roll-headed pins are represented from Cilicia (Tarsus),¹³³⁹ South Anatolia (Gedikli),¹³⁴⁰ Northern Mesopotamia (Tell Brak)¹³⁴¹ and Levant (Byblos).¹³⁴² Several examples were excavated in the Middle Bronze Age tombs at Bani Surmah,¹³⁴³ Surkh Dum-i-Luri,¹³⁴⁴ and Kamtarlan II.¹³⁴⁵

Examples in North-Western Iran are known from Middle Bronze Age and Iron Age I at Gilavan,¹³⁴⁶ Late Bronze Age at Shakhtakhty,¹³⁴⁷ Demyeler and Khali-Keshan¹³⁴⁸ in Nakhichevan and Kaloraz¹³⁴⁹ and Dinkha grave B 10b, burial 10,¹³⁵⁰ and later many of them have been reported from Iron Age II in Hasanlu.¹³⁵¹ In Mesopotamia, they were excavated from Neo-Assyrian contexts at Nimrud and Khorsabad.¹³⁵²

In Haftavân IV (Iron Age II) a pair of rolled-head pins are documented on the shoulders of the skeleton of a young girl,¹³⁵³ and it is likely that they could have served to fasten her garment or shroud.

¹³³⁹ Goldman 1956: 430: 181–184.

¹³⁴⁰ Alkım and Alkım 1966: fig. 37 nos. GK214–215.

¹³⁴¹ Mallowan 1947: pl. XXXI no. 6

¹³⁴² Dunand 1939: pl. 104 no. 3320 and pl. 105 no. 1753; Schaeffer 1948: fig. 68 no. 41; Dunand 1939: fig. 278 no. 5157.

¹³⁴³ Haerinck and Overlaet 2006: 43, fig. 21.

¹³⁴⁴ Schmidt, van Loon and Curvers 1989: 267, pl. 165b–c.

¹³⁴⁵ Schmidt, van Loon and Curvers 1989: 183, 194, 276, pl. 122 f.

¹³⁴⁶ Rezalou and Ayremlou 2016: 16: B24: N8, 20: B12: N18; 33: B25: N12– B25: N13; Rezalou and Khanali 2017: fig. 8: B29:N1–B29:N2.

¹³⁴⁷ Aghayev 2002: pl. 32 nos. 1, 3, 4.

¹³⁴⁸ Aliyev 2018: pl. 54 nos. 3, 4, 5, 6.

¹³⁴⁹ Hakemi 2017: 183: fig. 18.

¹³⁵⁰ Muscarella 1974: fig. 16 no. 200.

¹³⁵¹ Danti 2013b: fig. 17.18; Cifarelli 2017a: fig. 8.

¹³⁵² Curtis 2013: 121, pl. XCIII nos. 1161, 1166.

¹³⁵³ Burney 1972: 135, fig. 8, pl. IIIa.

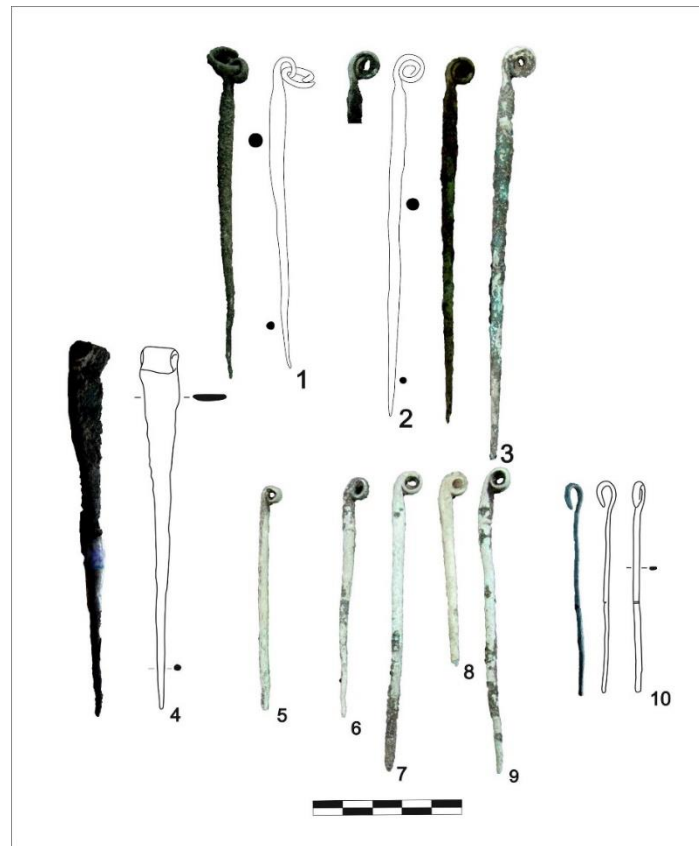


Figure 103. Roll-headed pins.

VI.1.2.3. Bead-and-reel molded pins

Pins with a domed head and bead-and-reel decoration are all plain, except for one that has geometric decoration around its upper part of the shank (Figure 104–105, table 22). All have the same decoration and form, but differ in the number of rings and the form of their heads are distinctive. The sizes differ, in both diameter and length. Diameters range between *ca.* 0.3–0.10 mm. The length of the smallest one is *ca.* 15 cm, while the longest is *ca.* 38 cm. They are found in both iron (5) and bronze (30).

Pins with bead-and-reel decoration make their first appearance in the mid-second millennium BC,¹³⁵⁴ as known from examples from the Levant, and in Mesopotamia from Tepe

¹³⁵⁴ Moorey 1971: 177.

Gawra and Nuzi. Bead-and-reel decoration is represented in Mesopotamia as early as the Sargonic period – a bone toggle from Ur is of this date.¹³⁵⁵

The Adam Collection hosts a cast bronze garment, a pin of probable Luristan origin, with bead-and-reel moldings and incised linear patterns, datable to Iron Age I–II.¹³⁵⁶ Similar exemplars have been found from the Levant to Mesopotamia, in the Mitannian, Caucasian, Caspian, and west Persian regions, as well as at Marlik and later Sialk Cemetery B.¹³⁵⁷ More or less contemporary with our pins are examples from Cemetery B at Sialk,¹³⁵⁸ Tepe Giyan at Level I (dated by Contenau and Ghirshman to about 1400–1100 BC),¹³⁵⁹ Mundjuqlu Tepe in Nahchivan,¹³⁶⁰ and some more examples excavated by Jacques de Morgan in the district of Lerik.¹³⁶¹ An especially fine bronze pin with bead-and-reel decoration is the long quiver pin found by Layard at Nimrud.¹³⁶²

This type of pin was also present in the large collection of bronze work recovered by the Danish Expedition from Tang-i-Hamamlan in Luristan.¹³⁶³ The same type of pins have also been discovered from the Hasanlu SK495 Operation, VIh Burial 5,¹³⁶⁴ Kordlar Tepe¹³⁶⁵ and Dinkha Tepe from graves: B 9a, burial 23; B 9b, burial 19; B 10a, burial 6; and B 8a, burial 1.¹³⁶⁶ These pin forms disappeared during Iron Age III and turned into fibulas with bead and reel molded decorations.

¹³⁵⁵ Woolley 1934: pl. 218; U.17927.

¹³⁵⁶ Moorey 1974: fig. 89: 114–118.

¹³⁵⁷ Moorey 1971: 176–177, 183, pl. 42 nos. 231–232; pl. 46 nos. 275–276.

¹³⁵⁸ Ghirshman 1939: pl. xxix no. 2.

¹³⁵⁹ Contenau and Ghirshman 1935: pl. 10, tombs 10, 11, 12, 13, 14; pl. 12, tombs 21, 24; 13, tomb 26.

¹³⁶⁰ Aliyev 2018: pl. 54, nos. 14–16.

¹³⁶¹ de Morgan 1896: 99, figs 100, three examples from Veri (nos. 1,2,4,17,18), two examples from Djönü (nos. 6–7).

¹³⁶² Curtis 2013: pl. XCIII: 1157.

¹³⁶³ Thrane 1964: 158: fig. 5.

¹³⁶⁴ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: fig. 29A.

¹³⁶⁵ Lippert 1979: fig. 29A.

¹³⁶⁶ Muscarella 1974: fig.6 no. 477, fig 27 no. 375, fig. 36 no. 1031, fig. 45 no. 1032, 1034.

Table 22: Bead-and-reel molded pins

No.	Material	Remarks
BA.259	Bronze	bead-and-reel molded head, divided from shank by four grooves and decorated with geometric design
BA.263	Iron	bead-and-reel molded head, divided from shank by three grooves
BA.273	Bronze	bead-and-reel molded head, divided from shank by four grooves
BA.274	Bronze	bead-and-reel molded head, divided from shank by seven grooves
BA.275	Bronze	bead-and-reel molded head, divided from shank by six grooves
BA.278	Bronze	bead-and-reel molded head, divided from shank by four grooves
BA.279	Bronze	bead-and-reel molded head, divided from shank by four grooves
BA.260	Bronze	bead-and-reel molded head, divided from shank by four grooves
BA.261	Iron	bead-and-reel molded head, divided from shank by four grooves
BA.262	Iron	bead-and-reel molded head, divided from shank by four grooves
BA.280	Bronze	bead-and-reel molded head, divided from shank by four grooves
BA.264	Bronze	bead-and-reel molded head, divided from shank by four grooves
BA.265	Bronze	bead-and-reel molded head, divided from shank by four grooves
BA.266	Bronze	bead-and-reel molded head, divided from shank by four grooves
BA.267	Bronze	disc head, divided from shank by 6 grooves
BA.268	Bronze	bead-and-reel molded head, divided from shank by six grooves
BA.269	Bronze	disc head, divided from shank by six grooves
BA.270	Bronze	disc head, divided from shank by six grooves
BA.271	Bronze	disc head, divided from shank by six grooves
BA.272	Bronze	bead-and-reel molded head, divided from shank by four grooves
BA.276	Bronze	bead-and-reel molded head, divided from shank by four grooves
BA.277	Bronze	bead-and-reel molded head, divided from shank by five grooves



Figure 104. Bead-and-reel molded pins.

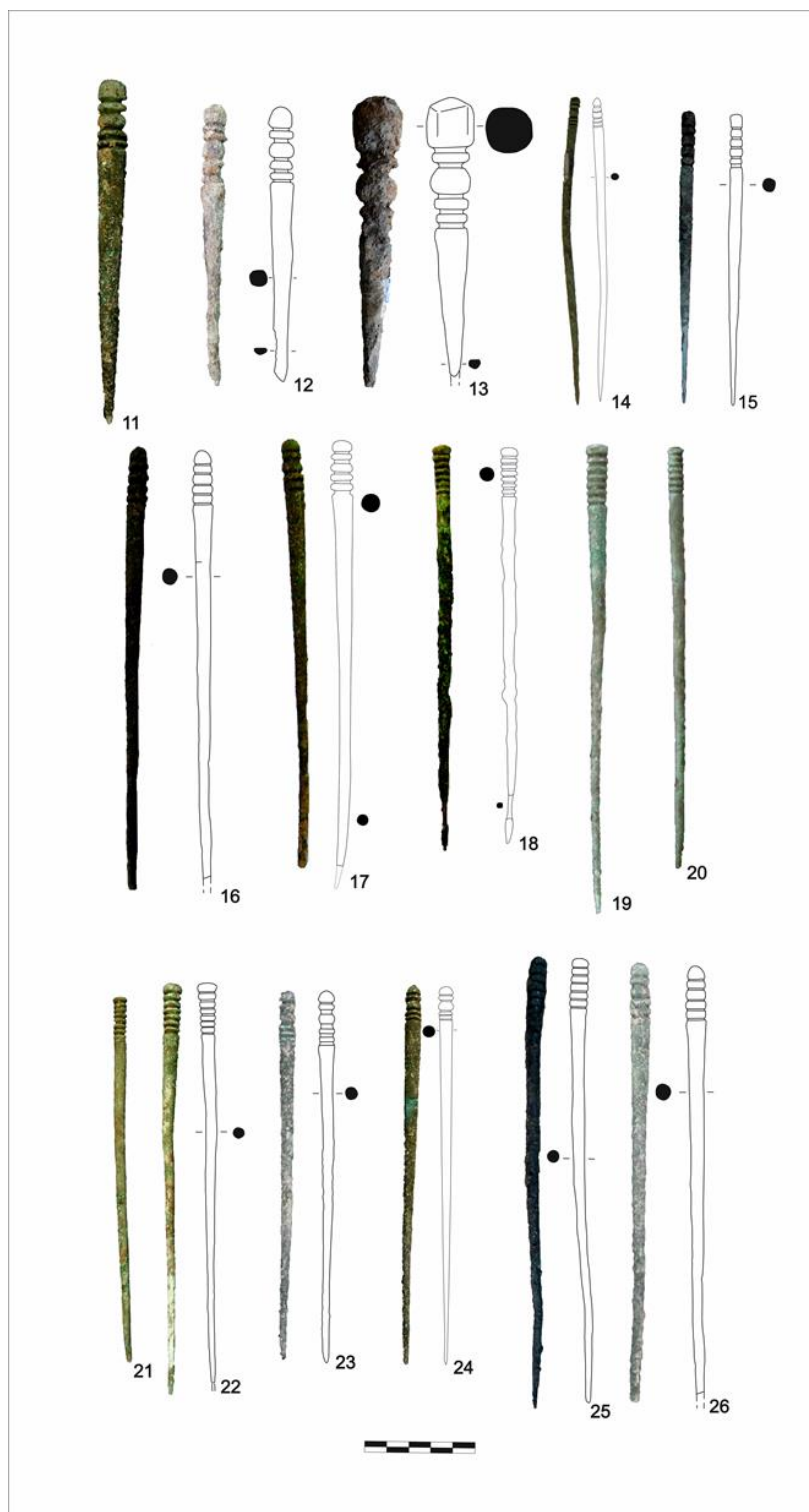


Figure 105. Bead-and-reel molded pins.

VI.1.2.4. Club-like headed pins

This form of pin is attested from Middle Bronze Age II till Iron Age II in North-Western Iran (Figure 106). Examples from the Bayazid Abad tomb fall into two categories: plain and decorated with geometrical incision in the upper part of the shank. This form corresponds to Klein's type 2.1b, a, a1.¹³⁶⁷ This group varies in both diameter and length: Diameter is *ca.* 0.2–0.5 cm, and length *ca.* 7 cm–27 cm. The shorter pins appear to have been used as garment pins and longer ones as shroud pins. Burials of Hasanlu VIb and V show similar pins pairwise in different sizes in the graves. The best examples occurred in graves SK67,¹³⁶⁸ SK25,¹³⁶⁹ and SK66.¹³⁷⁰ The simplest pins of this kind date to the later third millennium in Elam, while in Levant (Byblos)¹³⁷¹ they appear in second millennium BC context. Moorey also claims that they first appeared in Elam in the later third millennium BC, and afterward in Tepe Giyan in Luristan, Siyalk Cemetery B, and the area south of the Caspian Sea, Caucasia, and Khurvin.¹³⁷² More examples were excavated from Bardi-Bal,¹³⁷³ Koleh Nisar,¹³⁷⁴ and Sarab Bagh.¹³⁷⁵ Based on the comparable findings from Hasanlu and Dinkha,¹³⁷⁶ it seems that the simplest and shortest ones were used in Middle Bronze Age II and Late Bronze Age and the longest and most decorated ones were common in Iron Age I and II. Exact matches with the same form and decoration as Bayazid Abad nos. 11 and 12 occurred in Middle Bronze Age graves at Chigha Sabz.¹³⁷⁷ Tallon has published an example, which was already published by Mecquenem dating to the 2300 BC.¹³⁷⁸ Other specimens dated to Iron Age were discovered in the same area at Surkh Dum-i-Luri.¹³⁷⁹ More parallels with incised decoration were

¹³⁶⁷ Klein 1992: pl. 23.

¹³⁶⁸ Klein 1992: fig. 5.12.

¹³⁶⁹ Klein 1992: fig. 5.8.

¹³⁷⁰ Klein 1992: fig. 5.5.

¹³⁷¹ Schaeffer 1948: 66 no. 1.

¹³⁷² Moorey 1971: pl. 41:222, pl. 42: 234–236: 175–177.

¹³⁷³ Vanden Berghe 1973a: pl. XXII: 2a, b.

¹³⁷⁴ Haerink and Overleat 2008: 40, fig. 19: C3–33, C13–32, C3–55, C3–56.

¹³⁷⁵ Vanden Berghe 1973b: 36.

¹³⁷⁶ Muscarella 1974: fig. 7.

¹³⁷⁷ Schmidt, van Loon and Curvers 1989: pl. 122: a–d.

¹³⁷⁸ Tallon 1987: vol. I, 228, II, 286 no. 812.

¹³⁷⁹ Schmidt, van Loon and Curvers 1989: pl. 165: g–h.

discovered in a grave at Dinkha dated to Iron Age I,¹³⁸⁰ Hasanlu dated to Iron Age II,¹³⁸¹ and plain examples were discovered from Dinkha III¹³⁸² and Hasanlu IVb.¹³⁸³



Figure 106. Club-like headed pins.

¹³⁸⁰ Muscarella 1974: fig. 6.

¹³⁸¹ Marcus 1994: fig. 4d.

¹³⁸² Muscarella 1974: figs. 6, 16.

¹³⁸³ Muscarella 1988: fig. 38; Cifarelli 2017a: fig. 8.

VI.1.2.5. Dome-headed pins

The distinctive feature of this pin type, which is distributed throughout western Iran, is not so much the form of the head, but rather its position. The head does not rest directly on top of the shank, but is joined to it by a short neck with concave sides. They fall into the EIa type in Tallon's classification, and were well-known at Susa during the Late Uruk.¹³⁸⁴ Dome-headed pins at Bayazid Abad fall into two categories (Figure 107). The pins in the first group are simple (nos. 1–3) and the ones in the second group bear incised decoration and encircling bands horizontal to the length, with the upper tract of the shaft torsionally twisted, in the area between the first and the second group of the horizontal bands (nos. 4–6). This kind of pin first came to light at Nuzi, but variants occur: for example, those with a perforated shank and encircling horizontal bands;¹³⁸⁵ a similar example was also excavated at Dinkha Tepe grave B9a, burial 25¹³⁸⁶ of the second millennium. Comparisons to the Bayazid Abad pin no. 6 are documented in Early Iron Age context at Mundjuqlutepe in Nakhichevan¹³⁸⁷ and at Kaloraz in Rodbar, north of Iran.¹³⁸⁸ Parallels for pins nos. 4 and 5 are attested at Kaloraz.¹³⁸⁹ Pins from the cemetery at Sialk B have similar characteristics.¹³⁹⁰ The stratified example from Hasanlu IVb¹³⁹¹ presents the closest similarities to those from Bayazid Abad, and helps date them. The closest example of dome-headed pins with incised decoration and encircling horizontal bands came to light at Hasanlu in a grave dated to Iron Age I¹³⁹² and another example from a grave dated to Iron Age II.¹³⁹³

¹³⁸⁴ Tallon 1987: vol. I, 236, vol. II, 293, nos. 907–931.

¹³⁸⁵ Starr 1937: pl. 125T.

¹³⁸⁶ Muscarella 1974: fig. 3 no. 473.

¹³⁸⁷ Aliyev 2018: pl. 54 nos. 1–2.

¹³⁸⁸ Hakemi 2017: 182: fig. 17, the second pin from the right.

¹³⁸⁹ Hakemi 2017: 182: fig. 17, the first three examples from the left.

¹³⁹⁰ Ghirshman 1939: pl. XXXIX no. 2.

¹³⁹¹ Danti 2013b: fig. 17. 18: AA.

¹³⁹² Danti 2013b: fig. 17.10 D.

¹³⁹³ Marcus 1994: fig. 7a.



Figure 107. Dome-headed pins.

VI.1.2.6. Globular head pins

Twenty thick globular headpins with grooved moldings on the upper shank have been excavated at Bayazid Abad (Figure 108). Such pins are widespread during the late second millennium and the early first millennium BC, having turned up in Giyan,¹³⁹⁴ Hasanlu,¹³⁹⁵ Dinkha,¹³⁹⁶ and the Russian Talish.¹³⁹⁷

¹³⁹⁴ This form of pins are been found in Giyan Tepe at the graves nos. 12 and 14. Contenau and Ghirshman 1933: pl. 10.

¹³⁹⁵ Danti 2013b: fig. 17.18: U.

¹³⁹⁶ Muscarella 1974.

¹³⁹⁷ Schaeffer 1948: figs. 227 no. 29; 236 no. 5.



Figure 108. Globular head pins.

VI.1.3. Needles and bodkins

The needles are of familiar type, long and slender with an oblong narrow eye. Twelve bronze needles have their eyelets formed by flattening and perforation of metal (Figure 109). The eye of the needle is formed in two different ways: by folding the upper end around to form a closed loop (e.g., no. 2) or by perforation (e.g., no. 8). Their shape suggests that they were intended as sewing needles. The dimensions of this group vary in both diameter and length. Diameters are *ca.* 0.2–0.3 cm, and length *ca.* 10 cm–18 cm.

The main criterion for distinguishing pins from needles is the shape of the head. In the case of a needle, the head must be able to pass easily through the material being stitched, and the term bodkin (awl) is used to describe piercing instruments that have short, thick shanks¹³⁹⁸ and large eyes.

Our no. 7 is one of the largest needles: the eye is formed by bending the top end of the shank back onto itself. Given the size of the eyelet, the needle must have been used on extremely coarse cloth or perhaps net; nos. 1 and 5 could also have been used for net, or perhaps leather, since their blunt ends would work only on the coarsest cloth.

¹³⁹⁸ Curtis 2013: 35.

In his study of the Boğazköy material, Boehmer terms this form of needle as “Ösennadeln” in German, claiming they were actually worn as pins.¹³⁹⁹ Muscarella also shares this belief, and calls this particular shape “needle pins” based on an example excavated from Hasanlu IVb.¹⁴⁰⁰ More long, needle-headed examples, also considered pins, were found at Hasanlu in BBII near SK156, SK157, and SK158, suggesting that these they may have been worn or carried by the living¹⁴⁰¹. More examples surfaced in the grave of a warrior (SK493a) and the another one under the mid torso and behind the back of SK37, by the men in the Gold Bowl group.¹⁴⁰² According to Dyson's interpretation, these long needles, potentially used as garment pins, secured a tunic around the neckline.¹⁴⁰³

Overlaet notes that such needles could have also been worn as garment pins, as they have been discovered in pairs in Pa-yi Kal tomb 3 and in Shurabah tomb 1 in Pusht-i Kuh,¹⁴⁰⁴ even though examples from Norşuntepe with the same character as those from Bayazid Abad have been considered as sewing needles.¹⁴⁰⁵

Such “needles” are common and occur throughout the Near East.¹⁴⁰⁶ Findspots include Dinkha, in Iron Age II grave B 10a, burial 6 and B 8a, burial 1.¹⁴⁰⁷ Another example is from a grave excavated at Hasanlu.¹⁴⁰⁸ At Pusht-i Kuh, such needles occur in graves at Bard-i Bal, Pa-yi Kal, Kalleh Nasir¹⁴⁰⁹ and Shurabah.¹⁴¹⁰ At Susa a needle of this type came to light in the Ville Royale II, level 8, dated to the eighth century BC.¹⁴¹¹ Other examples derive from Tepe Sialk B,¹⁴¹² the so-called Zagros graveyard,¹⁴¹³ Gilvan¹⁴¹⁴ and Kaloraz.¹⁴¹⁵

¹³⁹⁹ Boehmer 1972: fig. 33: m.

¹⁴⁰⁰ Muscarella 1988: 40, fig. 37.

¹⁴⁰¹ Danti and Cifarelli 2013: 74.

¹⁴⁰² Danti and Cifarelli 2013: 51.

¹⁴⁰³ Danti 2014: 798.

¹⁴⁰⁴ Overlaet 2003: 206.

¹⁴⁰⁵ Schmidt 2002: 54, pl. 50 nos. 654–672.

¹⁴⁰⁶ Overlaet 2003: 206.

¹⁴⁰⁷ Muscarella 1974: figs. 36 no. 470; 45 no. 1017.

¹⁴⁰⁸ Danti 2013b: fig. 17.18: Q.

¹⁴⁰⁹ Haerinck and Overlaet 2008: 40, pl. A1. 1–2.

¹⁴¹⁰ Overlaet 2003: fig. 147.

¹⁴¹¹ de Miroschedji 198: 23. 90–91: fig. 28: 6.

¹⁴¹² Ghirshman 1939: 59: pl. XXIX: 2, LXXV: S.920. XCIIIe.

¹⁴¹³ Amelirad Overlaet and Hearink 2012: pl. 35.

¹⁴¹⁴ Rezalou and Ayremlou 2016: fig. 26, N. 13.

¹⁴¹⁵ Hakemi 2017: 183, fig. 18.

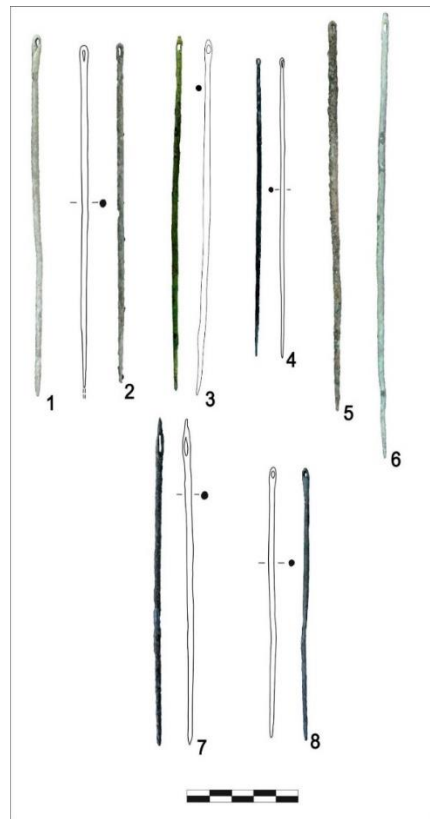


Figure 109. Needles and bodkins (awls).

VI.2. Rings

There are seven categories of rings found from Bayazid Abad, based on their forms and decorations.

2.1. Simple rings

2.2. Rings with ridged surface

2.3. Flat widening rings with geometric decoration

2.4. Lobed rings

2.5. Ring with horizontal groove decoration

2.6. Rings with raised central hump

2.7. Coiled rings

VI.2.1. Simple rings

A total of 269 (Figure 110: 7–21) bronze and 22 iron rings (Figure 110: 1–5) occur in Bayazid Abad in a variety of shapes and sizes. Simple rings can be divided into three groups: the first is of narrow annular rings; the second consists of thin sheet rings; and the third one by convex thin sheet rings. It is very difficult to date this form of rings, since simple rings have a long history,¹⁴¹⁶ and often their function remains ambiguous. Apart from being used as a ring, we can assume several other uses for these rings based on the evidences obtained from other sites.

The rings in the first group, the simple annular rings, measure less than 2–3 cm in diameter and have square or rounded cross-section. Some of the bronze rings (1 and 8) are too small to be finger rings. Rings with open ends and knobbed at the ends (11) could have been earrings, or they were used on a belt to hold daggers or other objects; it is not always easy to discern between the two uses, especially for the ones with round cross-section.¹⁴¹⁷ The larger rings (18–19), could have been thumb rings, or toe rings, as attested in Mesopotamia, Babylon, and Uruk.¹⁴¹⁸ Stein found an iron toe ring in Hasanlu IVb in a grave belonging to a woman.¹⁴¹⁹

At Tepe Guran, the Danish expedition discovered the burial of a male warrior from Iron Age II, which contained apart from his weapon and other grave goods, several iron finger rings.¹⁴²⁰ Also, in Hasanlu the members of higher social classes have been buried with as much as 15 bronze rings between the other ornaments.¹⁴²¹ This also attests the habit of men to wear several rings.

The second group comprises simple rings made from a thin bronze sheet with overlapping ends with a somewhat spiral shape (20). It is often difficult to positively identify finger-rings unless they are found in graves and their relationship to the skeleton is clear but according to the shape and size of this form of the rings they were certainly worn on the finger.

¹⁴¹⁶ Carriere and Barrois 1927: pl. LIV .100–1.

¹⁴¹⁷ Overlaet 2003: 208.

¹⁴¹⁸ Nasrabadi 1999: 236.

¹⁴¹⁹ Stein 1940: pl. XXV no. 2.

¹⁴²⁰ Thrane 1970: 32; 2001: 95–97.

¹⁴²¹ Marcus 1994: 4.

The third group is formed by convex wide thin sheets rings. This kind of rings are obviously finger rings.

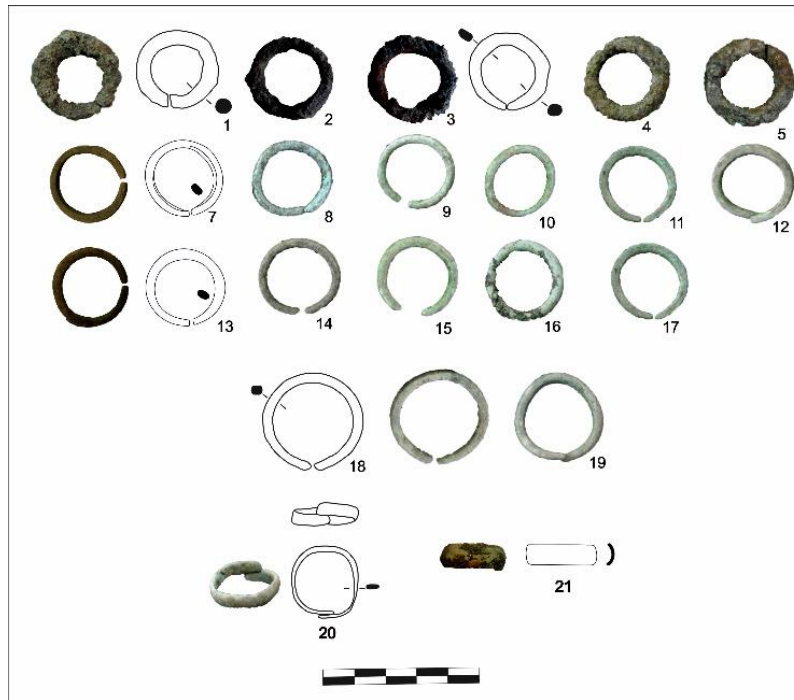


Figure 110. Simple rings.

VI.2.2. Rings with ridged surface

These are grooved, open ended cast bronze rings (Figure 111: 22). This form of decoration was apparently not common outside of North-Western Iran, but its proximity to the site of Qalat-i Dinka¹⁴²² at the border with Iraqi Kurdistan causes some doubts about its diffusion. Bracelets with ridged surfaces were discovered at Hasanlu IVb¹⁴²³ but no examples of rings occurred. In Changbar Graveyard dozens of similarly shaped rings came to light in Iron Age I and II graves.¹⁴²⁴

¹⁴²² The excavators of Qalat-i Dinka assume the discovered example could come from a looted tomb (Radner Kreppner and Squitieri 2020: 107, fig. E1.18).

¹⁴²³ Muscarella 1988: 34, fig. 18.

¹⁴²⁴ Naghshineh 2007: *passim*.



Figure 111. No. 22: Rings with ridged surface; No. 23–24: Flat widening rings with geometric decoration; No. 25–26: Lobed rings; No. 27: Ring with horizontal groove decoration; No. 28: Rings with raised central hump.

VI.2.3. Flat widening rings with geometric decoration

In total two rings with curved geometric design have been discovered at Bayazid Abad. They are made of thin bronze sheets. The first ring (Figure 111: 23) is broken in the half and it seems likely that it had open ends. It is framed at top and bottom by a pair of grooves framing the main design, and a pair of zigzag rows. A similar design appears on a cylinder seal of the Bayazid Abad collection. The second ring (Figure 111: 24) is an open-ended ring with slightly flared terminals, decorated with three vertical incised lines on both ends. The main design on the ring's surface is a single, continuous zigzag line, framed at the top and bottom by grooves.

An example was excavated from Late Bronze Age context at Büzeyir necropole.¹⁴²⁵

¹⁴²⁵ Kerimov 2006: fig. 25 no. 8.

In the Iron Age III graves at Pusht-i Kuh the rings with geometric design are very common.¹⁴²⁶ Three silver finger rings also appeared at Mala Mcha from tomb 13, dated to the Iron Age III.¹⁴²⁷

VI.2.4. Lobed rings

These iron rings have joined endings and present an oval, leaf-like small flat bezel mounted at the top (figure 111: 25–26). The same type of ring has been found in Hasanlu IVb grave, but there is no mention about the employed material.¹⁴²⁸ Aurel Stein at Hasanlu IV graves has reported three of the similar rings in iron.¹⁴²⁹ In Dinkha II graves seven of such rings in iron have been reported from grave B 10a, burial 6;¹⁴³⁰ B 10a, burial 11;¹⁴³¹ and B8e, burial 5.¹⁴³²

VI.2.5. Ring with horizontal groove decoration

Ring made from a bronze sheet with abutting ends, narrow band decorated with one horizontal groove in the middle (Figure 111: 27).

VI.2.6. Rings with raised central hump

Three rings made of thin bronze sheet decorated with raised band and overlapping ends surfaced at Bayazid Abad (Figure 111: 28). No comparable samples appear from the neighbouring sites but in Luristan at War Kabud a similar ring has been excavated.¹⁴³³

¹⁴²⁶ Haerinck and Overlaet 1999: 173.

¹⁴²⁷ Amelirad et al. 2017: fig. 30.

¹⁴²⁸ Danti 2013b: fig. 17.19: GG.

¹⁴²⁹ Stein 1940: 398, pl. XXV no. 2.

¹⁴³⁰ Muscarella 1974: fig. 36: 195.

¹⁴³¹ Muscarella 1974: 61.

¹⁴³² Muscarella 1974: 72 nos. 483T, 485P.

¹⁴³³ Haerinck and Overlaet 2004: fig. 25: b191–4.

VI.2.7. Coiled rings

A total of 47 coiled bronze rings were found in Bayazid Abad (Figure 112). They vary in diameter between 1.5 cm. and 3.0 cm. Generally, they have tapered terminals, and their cross-sections are circular or square.

Such spiral rings are well known in Western Asia, dated from the third millennium BC onwards.¹⁴³⁴ Their use is, however, not known for sure. Archaeological finds suggest several uses for them, for example, as hair rings, finger rings, or earrings. Their employment as a form of currency or means of exchange is also likely. They were most commonly identified as hair rings. Gold and silver examples appear at Ur, in graves dated to Early Dynastic, Sargonid and Ur III periods, generally identified as hair rings.¹⁴³⁵

Woolley¹⁴³⁶ notes that in the Royal Cemetery at Ur coiled rings often stayed on the heads of the bodies and close to the ears, but since they often occurred together with earrings, they presumably served a different purpose, and hence their identification as hair rings. However, Woolley concedes that they might sometimes have served as earrings. They were occasionally found in front of the shoulder, suggesting that they held together a lock of hair that hung down to the breast.

At Susa, excavators found a bronze spiral ring in a grave dated to the mid-third millennium BC,¹⁴³⁷ while at Mari, copper and silver examples occur among the so-called "trésor d'Ur," contemporary with Mesopotamian, and silver hair rings of Akkadian date emerged at Tell Brak.¹⁴³⁹

Their popularity in the first millennium BC is attested at Assur, where at least 46 "Haarringe," either of silver or more commonly bronze, surfaced in the Late Assyrian graves and tombs, but we have pictures and description of just two of them.¹⁴⁴⁰ Those from tomb 64 were found around the ears of the corpse.

¹⁴³⁴ Curtis 1984: 9.

¹⁴³⁵ Maxwell-Hyslop 1971: 5, 23, 67, pl. 5.

¹⁴³⁶ Woolley 1934: 241.

¹⁴³⁷ Carter 1980: 106, fig. 43.

¹⁴³⁸ Parrot 1968: pl. XI.

¹⁴³⁹ Mallowan 1947: pl. XXXIII.

¹⁴⁴⁰ Haller 1954: pl. 38d.

At Nimrud a single bronze and two silver hair rings surfaced¹⁴⁴¹ and a solitary bronze example comes from Khorsabad.¹⁴⁴²

An example from Zagros Graveyard found in the Iron Age II burial, shows that this kind of coil rings could also serve as finger rings.¹⁴⁴³

For the first time Dayton suggested that many of the spiral rings found in archaeological contexts are "a possible form of money or means of exchange,"¹⁴⁴⁴ while Sollberger claims that the word "har" in Sumerian documents of the Ur III period, which is used with the meaning of "currency," could refer to coil rings. This would have a helicoidal shape, not dissimilar to the rings from North European Early Middle age tombs,¹⁴⁴⁵ and their worth would be proportional to their length¹⁴⁴⁶.

At Nush-i Jan Tepe, 26 coiled silver rings occurred within the hoard discovered at the end of the 1967 season.¹⁴⁴⁷ Curtis has also suggested that the silver rings at Nush-i Jan could be considered as a currency, based on ring no. 55, which had a short length of silver wire deliberately wrapped around it, presumably to bring it up to a required weight.¹⁴⁴⁸

In the neighbouring site of Dinkha Tepe, some bronze examples surfaced in five of the Iron Age II burials¹⁴⁴⁹ and another at Kordlar Tepe.¹⁴⁵⁰ An example came to light at an IVa grave at Hasanlu, placed on a skeleton,¹⁴⁵¹ which demonstrate that such items have been used as a finger ring in North-Western Iran.

In Iran, many examples appeared at Bronze and Iron Age sites. Silver coiled rings are known from tombs at Tepe Giyan and Tepe Jamshidi in Iran.¹⁴⁵² Other examples emerged at Tepe Sialk, where graves of Necropolis B contained bronze and silver specimens,¹⁴⁵³ and at

¹⁴⁴¹ Curtis 2013: pl. LXXXVI: 949–50.

¹⁴⁴² Loud and Altman 1938: pl. 59 no. 132.

¹⁴⁴³ Amelirad, Overlaet and Hearink 2012: pl. 19c.

¹⁴⁴⁴ Dayton 1974: 41.

¹⁴⁴⁵ Sollberger 1956: 23.

¹⁴⁴⁶ In connection with the hypothesis of using coil ring as currency, Curtis has provided detailed explanations and sources in "Nush-I Jan III the Small Finds" (Curtis 1984: 9).

¹⁴⁴⁷ Curtis 1984: 9.

¹⁴⁴⁸ Curtis 1984: 10.

¹⁴⁴⁹ Amelirad Overlaet and Hearink 2012: pl. 19: c.

¹⁴⁵⁰ Kromer and Lippert 1976: pl. XI no. 3.

¹⁴⁵¹ Muscarella 1988: 29.

¹⁴⁵² Contenau and Ghirshman 1935: pls. 31, 76, 80.

¹⁴⁵³ Ghirshman 1938–39: II, 56, pl. XCIV: S1384, S1424b.

Baba Jan where a single bronze example was found.¹⁴⁵⁴ Elsewhere in Luristan spiral rings in both bronze and silver surfaced in a number of cemeteries, such as Bani Surmah,¹⁴⁵⁵ Sardant,¹⁴⁵⁶ Mir Khair,¹⁴⁵⁷ War Kabud and Sar Kabud,¹⁴⁵⁸ Bard-i Bal¹⁴⁵⁹ and Karkhai.¹⁴⁶⁰

In southern Caucasus examples came to light from Büzeyir necropolis graves¹⁴⁶¹.

In connection with the items found in Bayazid Abad, their use cannot be determined, as this grave has not been scientifically excavated, but in general, since the spires of most of the rings are thickly joined, it is possible to take in consideration their use as finger rings and hair rings.



Figure 112. Coiled rings.

¹⁴⁵⁴ Goff 1978: 56, fig. 14: 15.

¹⁴⁵⁵ Haerinck and Overlaet 2006: fig. 23.

¹⁴⁵⁶ Vanden Berghe 1973a: 34, figs. 20–1.

¹⁴⁵⁷ Vanden Berghe 1979: fig. 18, pl. XI.

¹⁴⁵⁸ Vanden Berghe 1978: figs. 3 nos. 4–5, 5 nos. 6–7.

¹⁴⁵⁹ Vanden Berghe 1971: fig. 35.

¹⁴⁶⁰ Vanden Berghe 1973b: 29, figs. a–b.

¹⁴⁶¹ Kerimov 2006: pl. 12 no. 1.

VI.3. Earrings

VI.3.1. S-shaped bronze earrings

This form of earring has 57 examples at Bayazid Abad (Figure 113: 1). The S-shaped earring type appeared in the graves of Hasanlu VIb (Middle Bronze Age II) Burials SK70 and SK45 in female burials.¹⁴⁶² In the Iron Age II grave in Haftavân Tepe the same earrings are found in situ on a young girl's skeleton,¹⁴⁶³ and on two more skeletons of unidentified gender.¹⁴⁶⁴ From Dinkha II,¹⁴⁶⁵ and Kordlar Tepe¹⁴⁶⁶ also the same type on earrings emerged. In Zagros graveyard in Sanandaj, similar earrings appear in a very rich burial of a female, dated to Iron Age II.¹⁴⁶⁷ In Tepe Sialk B, S-shaped earrings are well-known and turned out in many graves.¹⁴⁶⁸ Certainly, the samples found in North-Western Iran served as earrings. There is reasonable doubt that the same applies also to the ones found in Silk, considering that several dozens of samples were chained together in each grave, and that all of them were men's burials.

VI.3.2. Beaded cast bronze earrings

This type of earrings has five examples at Bayazid Abad (Figure 113: 2). The bottom part of the rings are thick, gradually thinning and tapering towards the end. These kinds of rings did not surface at any other neighbouring site, but the beaded decoration on other personal ornaments is present at Hasanlu and Dinkha Tepe, dated to Iron Age II. The same decoration can also be seen on a torque unearthed from Bayazid Abad.

VI.3.3. Plain crescentic bronze earrings

This type of bronze earring has a lunate-shape body with a wire holder. The bottom part is thick, gradually tapering towards the ends. This form of earring occurred with 49 examples

¹⁴⁶² Cifarelli 2013: 314–15.

¹⁴⁶³ Burney 1972: 135: fig. 8.

¹⁴⁶⁴ Burney 1972: 136: pl. Vb.

¹⁴⁶⁵ Muscarella 1974: fig. 52: 159.

¹⁴⁶⁶ Lippert 1979: pl. 15 no. 1a.

¹⁴⁶⁷ Amelirad, Overlaet and Hearink 2012: fig. 17c.

¹⁴⁶⁸ Ghirshman 1939: pls. L; LIX; LXII; LXIII; LXIX; LXXIII; LXXIX.

at Bayazid Abad (Figure 113: 3). Crescentic bronze earrings are widely present in the entire Near East. Examples come from Late Bronze Age context at southern Caucasus at Qizilburun.¹⁴⁶⁹ They were particularly popular in the Akkadian period.¹⁴⁷⁰ Examples appear also in Middle Assyrian contexts, as the gold earrings found from grave 45 and 752 at Assur.¹⁴⁷¹ Similar specimens in gold were discovered from Marlik,¹⁴⁷² Nimrud,¹⁴⁷³ Tel Fara, and Tell Ajjul.¹⁴⁷⁴

Amongst the large number of earrings found in the graves and tombs at Assur there are two lunate gold earrings.¹⁴⁷⁵ Two bronze earrings found in House 24 are apparently of similar shape.¹⁴⁷⁶ There is a similar example from Ephesus amongst the treasure from the Artemision, dated to the eighth century BC.¹⁴⁷⁷ Two more examples were retrieved by locals during my survey in Hawraman (Paigalan) and another one was excavated at Qalat-i Dinka in Iraqi Kurdistan.¹⁴⁷⁸

¹⁴⁶⁹ Ismayilzade and Ibrahimli 2013: pl. 20 no. 51.

¹⁴⁷⁰ Woolley 1934: 246: pl. 219: type 10; Mallowan 1947: pl. XXXIV no. 28.

¹⁴⁷¹ Haller 1954: pl. 36; Maxwell-Hyslop 1971: 175, fig. 109; Jakob-Rost 1962: fig. 1.

¹⁴⁷² Negahban 1996: pl. 86: 384.

¹⁴⁷³ Curtis 2013: pl. LXXXVI no. 915.

¹⁴⁷⁴ Maxwell-Hyslop 1971: 225, 227, pls 197, 198d-e, 208.

¹⁴⁷⁵ Haller 1954: pls 17k: 38d: top left.

¹⁴⁷⁶ Preusser 1954: 34.

¹⁴⁷⁷ Moortgat 1927: pl. vi, no. 10.

¹⁴⁷⁸ Radner Kreppner and Squitieri 2020: 101, fig. E1.9.

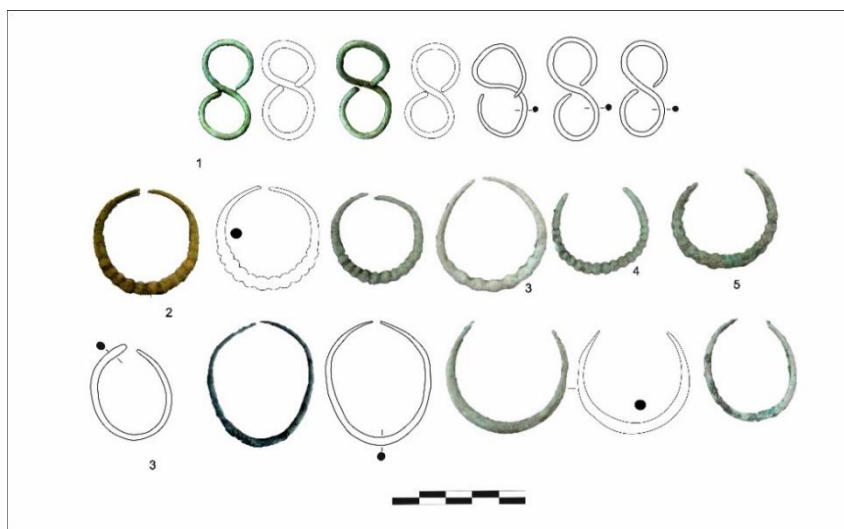


Figure 113. Earrings. No. 1: S-shaped bronze earrings; No. 2: Beaded cast bronze earrings; No. 3: Plain crescentic bronze earrings.

VI.4. Torque

Metal torques were particularly common in the late third and early second millennium BC, especially in the East Mediterranean littoral.¹⁴⁷⁹

In total three bronze torques were found at Bayazid Abad. Two of them are plain (Figure 114: 1–2) and one decorated (Figure 114: 3).

The first specimen is a plain bronze penannular torque with a circular cross-section, and a circumference of 14.2 cm and 14.7 cm in diameter, thicker at the center than at the joined terminals.

The second plain torque measures 12.5 in circumference and 12.4 cm in diameter. It is likely that this one had joined terminals too, but the joining points are broken. It also shows a thicker center and thinner terminals. Many specimens of this type of torques appear in the Bronze Age and Early Iron Age graves from Southern Caucasus.¹⁴⁸⁰

¹⁴⁷⁹ Tufnell and Ward 1966: 208–11.

¹⁴⁸⁰ Aliyev in his book presents examples from Mardangol, Dalmatepe, Munjuglutepe and Demyeler (2018: pl. 57). More examples are excavated at Qizilburun (Ismayilzade and Ibrahimli 2013: pl. 12 no. 1), Artik (Khatartyan 1979: passim) and Shahtahty (Agayev 2002: pl. 33 nos. 14, 32).

They are also attested at Dinkha Tepe III (Late Bronze Age) by two examples. The first example comes from tomb B 9b, burial 16,¹⁴⁸¹ and at Dinkha II the same example is present at grave B 9b, burial 14.¹⁴⁸² The plain torques with hooked ends are known from Surkh Dum-i Lori.¹⁴⁸³

The third example is a beaded cast bronze torque with broken ends. The bottom part thickens in the middle and gradually tapers towards the ends. A similar example surfaced at grave B10a, burial 12 from Dinkha II dated to Iron Age II¹⁴⁸⁴ found on a male skeleton buried in a brick tomb. The example at Dinkha Tepe was complete with hooked ends when it was found. Beaded cast decoration appears on other ornaments such as rings and bracelets at Hasanlu¹⁴⁸⁵ and on a bracelet from Igdyer on Mount Ararat.¹⁴⁸⁶

¹⁴⁸¹ Muscarella 1974: fig. 16 no. 1037.

¹⁴⁸² Muscarella 1974: fig. 32 no. 1040.

¹⁴⁸³ Schmidt Schmidt, van Loon and Curvers 1989: pl. 160: X.

¹⁴⁸⁴ Muscarella 1974: fig. 39 no. 115.

¹⁴⁸⁵ Muscarella 1988: 35: 20–22; Danti and Cifarelli 2015: fig. 19: D–E.

¹⁴⁸⁶ Barnett 1963: fig. 32 no. 8.



Figure 114. Plain bronze penannular torques (No. 1 and 2) and beaded cast bronze torque (No. 3).

VI.5. Bracelets

Distinguishing between bracelets and anklets could be hard and potentially susceptible to errors, considering that without any further element to contextualize the finding the distinction could be solely based on the size. In his study on the material artifacts from Deve Hüyük, Moorey¹⁴⁸⁷ proposed that bangles with a width ranging from 4.5 to 7.5 cm were likely to be bracelets, while those wider than 7.5 to 8 cm were more likely to be anklets. However, he acknowledged the importance of considering that bracelets worn by men in the Assyrian style, positioned high on the arm, could have similar diameters to anklets.

Bracelets from Bayazid Abad can be divided into four major groups.

¹⁴⁸⁷ Moorey 1971a: 227.

The first type, with one example (Figure 115: 1), is the spiral bracelet. It is made of a circular cross-section bronze wire. As the maximum internal diameter of this bracelet is only 6.2 cm, we can safely assume that it was meant to be worn on the wrist rather than the upper arm or ankle. Since these bracelets have undecorated terminals and are otherwise quite plain, no significant comment can be made about their date or the distribution of the type.

The second group consists of simple cast bronze bracelets with open, touching, or overlapping ends. They are represented by 10 examples in both iron which have highly corroded surfaces (Figure 115: b–c) and bronze (Figure 115: a) with circular cross-sections. The bronze examples have mostly flattened terminals. At nearby Hasanlu, plain bracelets appeared in Iron Age I grave SK479¹⁴⁸⁸ and from both Iron Age I and II period's graves at Dinkha.¹⁴⁸⁹ Recently an iron made example was excavated from Qalat-i Dinka.¹⁴⁹⁰

The third form of bracelets (Figure 115: 3. a-b) counts two examples. One of them is about 7.2 cm in diameter and 2.5 cm wide. It is formed by a rather thick band of rusted bronze strengthened by three horizontal channels separated by ribs in relief, running lengthwise from one end to the other. At the terminals of the bracelet there are four small holes, two at each side indicating that it had probably been riveted or attached to another material, possibly a leather lining. The second one has almost the same diameter but is 1.6 cm wide. It has the same decoration as the first one but the terminals are missing so it is not possible to determine whether the four holes were present or not. The same bracelet has been found in Iron Age II grave at nearby Hasanlu Tepe,¹⁴⁹¹ Igdyer on Mount Ararat¹⁴⁹² and in a grave at the Council graveyard (Armenia).¹⁴⁹³

The fourth form of bracelets (Figure 115: 4) is a bronze band made of thin sheeting. The terminals are missing so it is not possible to determine its diameter. Muscarella has mentioned that at Hasanlu V the bronze sheet bracelet, pierced at both ends has been

¹⁴⁸⁸ Danti 2013a: fig. 5.16 F.

¹⁴⁸⁹ Muscarella 1974: fig. 6 no. 453, fig. 7 nos. 531–532, 603, fig. 11 no. 539; fig. 12 no. 541; fig. 16 no. 300; fig. 45 no. 1012; fig. 47 nos. 368, 456, 220.

¹⁴⁹⁰ Radner, Kreppner and Squitieri 2020: 102, fig. E1.11.

¹⁴⁹¹ Danti 2013b: fig. 17.19 X.

¹⁴⁹² Barnett 1963: fig. 27 no. 2.

¹⁴⁹³ Lalayan 1931: 177, fig. 149.

excavated¹⁴⁹⁴ which can show this kind of bracelets had probably been riveted or attached to another material, possibly a leather lining.

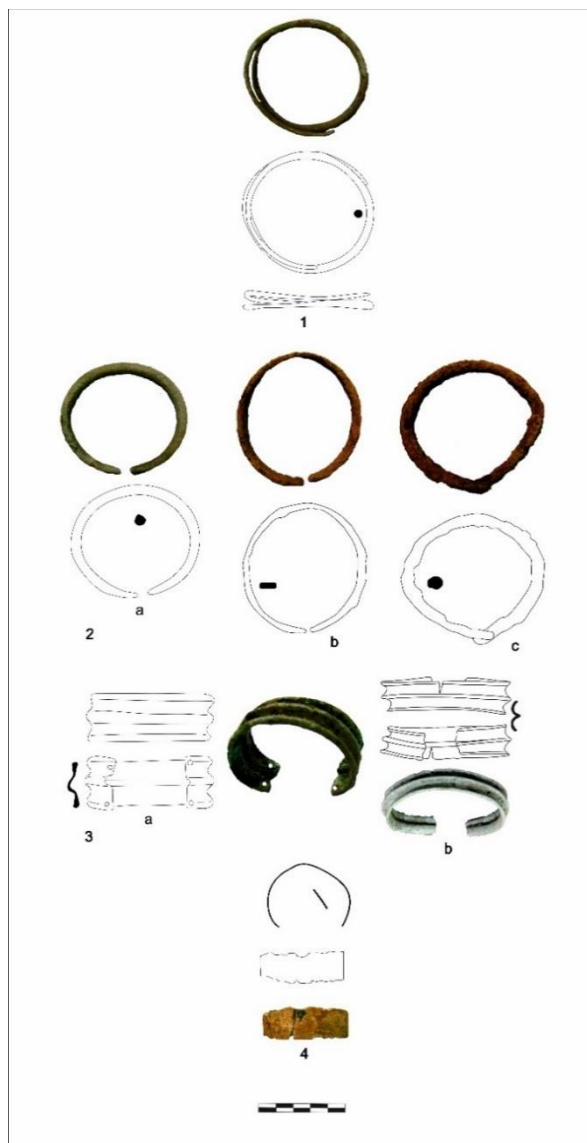


Figure 115. Bracelets: no. 1- Spiral bracelets, no. 2- Simple cast bronze bracelets, no. 3- Ribbed relief bracelets, no. 4- Thin sheet band bracelet.

¹⁴⁹⁴ Muscarella 1974: 48.

VI.6. Beads

The use of beads, not only as ornaments but also as trading and ritual goods, has ancient origins, and still survives today. Different beads had different meanings, were considered fit for different ages, genders and social status, and of course they could be used as means of transacting wealth between persons.

In his definition, Horace Beck differentiated beads as ornaments, dividing them into pendants and buttons, also called “sequins.” The former category presents a single longitudinal perforation, whilst the latter showcases differently arranged stringing holes. Based on the position of the holes he also named another kind as the “spacer” bead, which had double stringing holes drilled transversally. The relative numbers of second and first-millennium beads at Bayazid Abad occur in the following order: 1- frit or faience (250); 2- glass (20); 3- stone (78); 4- shell (13); and 5- bone (2).

VI.6.1. Frit or faience beads

Frit is an easily molded material, and there used to be a great variety of shapes and sizes, ranging from elaborate multiform conceptions of four strings of beads of different type cast into one, down to the simple tiniest, spherical bead. Spherical, semi-spherical, cylindrical, elliptical, fluted, ribbed, lentoid, and rectangular and many other variations and combinations of these shapes were present in large numbers. The faience beads fall into several main typological groups. Bead types are assigned a Beck classification number.¹⁴⁹⁵

VI.6.1.1. Biconical beads

The first group (Figure 116: 1) of the frit beads is lentoid beads with parallel vertical-ribbed decoration. They occur in two sizes: big (Figure 116: 1-a) and small (Figure 116: 1-b). The big species occur predominantly in yellow, with the average diameter of 2.00 cm, and the smaller species occur in blue, with the average diameter of 0.78 cm. They fall in Beck Group XXIII.¹⁴⁹⁶ Beads of this kind, but with dentation at the edge, appear in Marlik in Tomb 50

¹⁴⁹⁵ Beck 1972.

¹⁴⁹⁶ Beck 1972: 24: fig. 21: A. 1. d.

(Trench XXI L)¹⁴⁹⁷ and Tchila-Khane in Iranian Talish, dated by Schaeffer-Forrer to Talyche Recent 2, around 1450–1350 BC.¹⁴⁹⁸ In Southern Caucasus such beads surfaced from Late Bronze Age context at Plovdag Necropolis,¹⁴⁹⁹ Artik.¹⁵⁰⁰ This type of bead is commonly found also at the sites along the Syro-Palestinian coast. It falls in type 57 at Hama, “disque lenticulaire avec sillons radiaires,” and Woolley’s type 17 at Alalakh, spoked-wheel beads.¹⁵⁰¹ Similar beads also occur at sites such as Alishar Höyük;¹⁵⁰² Tell Zubeidi¹⁵⁰³ and Tell Brak from the Mitannian Palace, Room 11;¹⁵⁰⁴ and Minet-el-Beida, Ras Shamra, dated by Schaeffer-Forrer to the fourteenth to thirteenth centuries BC.¹⁵⁰⁵ Examples also come from Giyan Level I, which Contenau and Ghirshman assigned to 1400–1000 BC.¹⁵⁰⁶ At Hasanlu this type of bead emerged from an Iron Age II grave.¹⁵⁰⁷

VI.6.1.2. Cylindrical beads

The second group (Figure 116: 2) is composed by the simple cylinder frit beads. Twenty-three unengraved cylinders have been discovered at Bayazid Abad. They fall in Beck’s A. 2. B RLS. 3 typologies.¹⁵⁰⁸ They range in length from 2.2 cm to 3.5 cm. They have similar size to the cylinder seals with geometric decoration from Bayazid Abad and Hasanlu. Several examples are available from Artik graveyard, associated with various kind of beads.¹⁵⁰⁹ In Hasanlu in Burned Buildings I West, three unengraved cylinders with copper/bronze or gold¹⁵¹⁰ end caps and a bronze suspension pin with a looped end were placed inside the well-

¹⁴⁹⁷ Negahban 1996: 160, pl. 71 no. 292.

¹⁴⁹⁸ Schaeffer 1948: 423–424, fig. 236 no. 10, 179.

¹⁴⁹⁹ Ibrahimli 2018: fig. 18.

¹⁵⁰⁰ Khachatryan 1979: 34 no. 96, 65 no. 317, 75 nos. 396, 398.

¹⁵⁰¹ Riis 1948: 165, no. 57; Woolley 1955: 270 no. 17.

¹⁵⁰² Schmidt 1932: vol. I: 275, no. b 2663.

¹⁵⁰³ Boehmer and Dämmer 1985: 56 no. 545.

¹⁵⁰⁴ Oates et al. 1997: fig. 133.

¹⁵⁰⁵ Schaeffer 1948: 510, 512. figs. 286–288.

¹⁵⁰⁶ Moorey 1974a: 168–16, fig. 156 no. 20.

¹⁵⁰⁷ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: fig. 18N.

¹⁵⁰⁸ Beck 1972: 15: fig. 16.

¹⁵⁰⁹ Khachatryan 1979: 32 n. 85, 34 n. 96, 78 n. 422.

¹⁵¹⁰ Marcus 1996: pl. 15 nos. 43–44.

known gold bowl. Unengraved cylinders occurred at Choga Zanbil,¹⁵¹¹ and four examples in different sizes come from Kordlar.¹⁵¹²

VI.6.1.3. Collared beads

The third group (Figure 116: 3) is composed by fluted spherical bead with hubs, falling in Beck No. XXIII.A.2.a, collared. This form of beads is attested in Late Bronze Age burial at Dinkha Tepe (B9a, burial 24)¹⁵¹³ and Büzeyir necropole.¹⁵¹⁴ Examples occur frequently in gold in Mesopotamia and constitute much of the well-known Dilbat necklace.¹⁵¹⁵ Closer collared parallels exist at Beth Pelet,¹⁵¹⁶ Amman,¹⁵¹⁷ and Lachish,¹⁵¹⁸ and an example in glass emerged at Nuzi,¹⁵¹⁹ This type of bead is also present during Iron Age III, and examples were discovered from the War Kabud graveyard.¹⁵²⁰

VI.6.1.4. Spacers

They come in two variations, with double and triple perforations (Figure 116: 4, a–b). The same type of spacer has been excavated at Dinkha II in grave B8e, burial 5,¹⁵²¹ and an example each occurred at Hasanlu IVb grave¹⁵²² and at Kordlar.¹⁵²³

VI.6.1.5. Melon beads

The fluted sphere or melon bead (Figure 116: 5, a–b) is the most common of all the frit or faience type. They were widely diffused during both Bronze Age and Iron Age, and common materials include faience, glass, gold, and stones such as lapis lazuli, carnelian, or rock crystal. In North-Western Iran, melon beads were present in Late Bronze Age and Iron Age I graves

¹⁵¹¹ Porada 1970: nos. 158, 160.

¹⁵¹² Lippert 1979: pl. 16 nos. 9–12.

¹⁵¹³ Muscarella 1974: fig. 6 no. 1052d.

¹⁵¹⁴ Kerimov 2006: fig. 29 no. 2.

¹⁵¹⁵ Maxwell-Hyslop 1971: 88–9.

¹⁵¹⁶ Starkey and Harding 1932: pl. LXXII no. K28.

¹⁵¹⁷ Hankey 1995: 176–7, no. 5885 j.

¹⁵¹⁸ Tufnell et al. 1940: pl. XXXV, no. 51; Tufnell 1958: pl. 29 nos. 33, 35.

¹⁵¹⁹ Starr 1937: pl. 130J.

¹⁵²⁰ Haerinck and Overlaet 2004: fig. 36 no. 5A27–3, 6A44–4.

¹⁵²¹ Muscarella 1974: fig. 47no. 997.

¹⁵²² Danti and Cifarelli 2015: fig. 15 no. H13.

¹⁵²³ Lippert 1979: pl. 16 no. 3

at Dinkha.¹⁵²⁴ Samples in lapis and carnelian emerged from the third millennium BC Royal Cemetery at Ur,¹⁵²⁵ and this kind of beads was widely used in Mesopotamia until the Late Bronze Age.¹⁵²⁶ Examples in faience appear in numerous sites along the Syro-Palestinian coast, from Alalakh to Gaza.¹⁵²⁷ Comparable examples at Norşuntepe were excavated from Iron Age tombs.¹⁵²⁸

VI.6.16. Globular beads

They fall in Beck No. I.B.1.a (spheroid) group (Figure 116: 6). The shape and dimensions of globular beads could show minor variations in their manufacturing processes. The beads used to be yellow, as revealed through magnification, with differences in value and chroma, and the occasional green or blue glaze. In North-Western Iran this kind occurred at two graves at Hasanlu dating to Middle Bronze¹⁵²⁹ and Iron Age II.¹⁵³⁰ At Dinkha they appear in graves from Late Bronze to Iron Age I.¹⁵³¹ Globular beads are common along the Syro-Palestinian coast, with close parallels to the Bayazid Abad beads found at Tell Abu Hawam¹⁵³² and Megiddo.¹⁵³³ Such beads are also present in 12th-century BC graves at Tell Zubeidi in Mesopotamia¹⁵³⁴ and at Norşuntepe at Turkey.¹⁵³⁵

VI.6.1.7. Tiny beads

This form of bead falls in Beck No. I.B.2.b group. They are short with cylindrical shape (Figure 116: 7). Almost 25 tiny faience beads were recovered from Bayazid Abad. With the average diameter of 0.23 cm and average length of 0.12 cm. Colours include white and yellow. As this

¹⁵²⁴ Lippert 1979: fig. 47c, fig. 6d.

¹⁵²⁵ Woolley and Burrows 1934: pl. 132: U. 1728. PG/1116.

¹⁵²⁶ Melon beads have been found at Tell Zubeidi (Boehmer and Dämmer 1985: 56, no. 544A–B), Nineveh (Beck 1931: 429–30 no. 15), and Tell Brak (Oates 1987: pl. XLc–d).

¹⁵²⁷ In addition to Alalakh (Woolley 1955: 269 no. 3) and Gaza (Petrie 1932: pl. XXV no. 37), melon beads were found at Hama (Riis 1948: 164, no. 42), Tell Abu Hawam (Hamilton 1935: 61, no. 383), Megiddo (Loud 1948: pl. 209 no. 38, pl. 212 no. 53), and Lachish (Tufnell et al. 1940: pl. XXXV nos. 50, 54).

¹⁵²⁸ Schmidt 2002: 88, pl. 68 nos. 1101–1106.

¹⁵²⁹ Danti 2013b: fig. 5.2 p.

¹⁵³⁰ Cifarelli 2018: fig. 6.

¹⁵³¹ Muscarella 1974: *passim*.

¹⁵³² Hamilton 1935: 62 no. 396

¹⁵³³ Loud 1948: pl. 212 no. 55.

¹⁵³⁴ Boehmer and Dämmer 1985: 55, no. 537.

¹⁵³⁵ Schmidt 2002: 88, pl. 68 nos. 1097–1100.

kind of beads have no decoration and are otherwise quite plain no significant comment can be made about its date or the distribution of the type. VI.6.1.8. Square bead

One example of square-shaped white faience bead with incised dotted circles exists from Bayazid Abad (Figure 115: 8). This form of bead is not common in other North-Western Iranian sites. Considering the incised dotted circle decoration on this bead, it could be dated to Iron Age I, like many artefacts with the same decoration from Hasanlu and Dinkha. In general, incised dotted circles were a common decorative element in Iran as elsewhere in the Middle East from an early period.¹⁵³⁶ A similar bead but with two perforations has also surfaced at Kordlar Iron Age I period¹⁵³⁷ and Munjuglutepe.¹⁵³⁸

VI.6.2. Glass beads

Two glass eye beads come from Bayazid Abad (Figure 116: 10, a–b). In ancient Western Asia glass eye beads are widely distributed from about the eighth century BC onwards.¹⁵³⁹ In Iran, eye beads are present at a number of sites including Hasanlu,¹⁵⁴⁰ Dinkha Tepe,¹⁵⁴¹ and Ghalekuti in the Dailaman area.¹⁵⁴² They had an apotropaic function against the well-known curse of the Evil Eye, a glare charged with envy, jealousy, or insincere admiration, able to harm whoever received it.¹⁵⁴³

VI.6.3. Stone beads

In total, 78 stone beads came to light at Bayazid Abad. The most frequently used stones were carnelian and agate. Other stones include grey rock, of which there are just two examples.

¹⁵³⁶ Curtis 1984: 47.

¹⁵³⁷ Lippert 1979: pl. 8 no. 15.

¹⁵³⁸ Aslanov, Ibragimov and Kashkay 2002: 11, pl. 29 no. 7.

¹⁵³⁹ Curtis 1984: 42.

¹⁵⁴⁰ Hakemi and Rad 1950: fig. 52.

¹⁵⁴¹ Muscarella 1974: figs. 36 no. 994g, 45 no. 1049c.

¹⁵⁴² Sono and Fukai 1968: pls. XLVI: 16–17, L: 3, 6, LXXIX: 8–9, LXXXV: 34–6; LXXXVII: 18–27; col. pls. 5–6.

¹⁵⁴³ See Elsworthy 1895; Safer and Gill 1982: 140–141.

VI.6.3.1. Carnelian and agate beads

Carnelian and agate are semi-precious stones. In Bayazid Abad they occurred in simple shapes: cylinder, barrel, sphere, and disc (Figure 116: 10). Three cylindrical agate beads, one of them tapering toward the ends, have been unearthed from Bayazid Abad. The average diameter is 0.78 cm and 1.5 cm is the average length. They have a rather well polished surface in various shades of black, brown, and white. The red carnelian beads present various shapes and sizes.

VI.6.3.2. Grey rock beads

Two grey rock beads have been discovered from Bayazid Abad (Figure 116: 11). One is in a circular form (a) and the other one with an almost square form (b) with perforation set in a central depression.

VI.6.4. Shell beads

Shells were used in trade, and their presence is evidence of exchanges with other regions.¹⁵⁴⁴ They also had ornamental and decorative value,¹⁵⁴⁵ and were used to craft protective amulets or as a ritual item. From the latter function it is possible to infer that they highlighted the power and status of the owner. Ornamental shells are present in many archaeological contexts, such as a mention or description in ancient texts or represented on statues and figurines.¹⁵⁴⁶ Despite the existence of some exemplary studies, in the context of Near Eastern archaeology very little attention has been paid to these items.¹⁵⁴⁷ The materials from Hasanlu IVb are dated to the end of the ninth century BC, and they are the main source for the use of shells at Iranian Iron Age sites with roughly 7700 registered and studied examples. Around 99 percent of these came from the Persian Gulf or the Indian Ocean, while only a few shells were of Mediterranean origin or sweet water shells.¹⁵⁴⁸ Two groups of complete perforated shells have been discovered at Bayazid bad.

¹⁵⁴⁴ Safer and Gill 1982.

¹⁵⁴⁵ Clark 1986: 23ff, Bar-Yosef Mayer 2005.

¹⁵⁴⁶ Beck 1995: figs 3.16–3.17, 3.19–3.20.

¹⁵⁴⁷ See Moorey 1994: 138.

¹⁵⁴⁸ Reese 1989: 80.

VI.6.4.1. Cowrie shells

They are shells of the genus *Cypraea*, salt water shells common in the Persian Gulf.¹⁵⁴⁹

Examples from Bayazid Abad are found modified with their dorsum removed, resulting in a big hole, which might have been done in order to use them for attachments to garments or other textile items, rather than just be worn as beads (Figure 116: 12).

There are mentions of cowrie shells in Neo-Assyrian records, listed together with precious items and metals, testifying for the importance of this shells in outside the borders of North-Western Iran.¹⁵⁵⁰ Such texts confirm the value of this kind of shells from a religious, social, and economic point of view. Scholars from different fields of the study of antiquity agree that the shell was renowned for the peculiar shape of its underside vaguely similar to a female vulva or a squinting eye. They were considered as means to fend off sterility, to increase fertility, and to protect from the evil eye and bring good luck.¹⁵⁵¹

VI.6.4.2. Engina shell beads

In Bayazid Abad three Engina shells have been discovered (Figure 116: 13). This species of shells were commonly used as grave goods, either to indicate wealth, or as amulets.¹⁵⁵² They represent 73 percent of the objects in Reese's study on Hasanlu shells.¹⁵⁵³ This category is especially peculiar, since all exemplars seem to originate in the eastern Gulf, the Makran coast, and the Gulf of Oman.¹⁵⁵⁴

VI.6.5. Bone beads

In total, four beads made of bone (Ivory?) came to light in Bayazid Abad. The shape of these beads suggests that they were worn as a spacer or sewn to the textures as a dress decoration. Bayazid Abad bone beads can be divided into three categories.

¹⁵⁴⁹ Reese 1989: 81.

¹⁵⁵⁰ Fales and Postgate 1992: 66, 68, 72, 118, 129.

¹⁵⁵¹ Clark 1986: 23ff; Andrews 1990: 65; 1994: 42.

¹⁵⁵² Gensheimer 1984: 67.

¹⁵⁵³ Reese 1989: 80.

¹⁵⁵⁴ Gensheimer 1984: 69.

The first category is the lozenge-shaped bead with incised dotted circles (Figure 116: 14). This form of bead was present at an Iron Age I grave at Hasanlu, associated with a bronze band made of thin sheeting with two perforations and cylindrical white paste beads and rounded carnelian beads laid in the area of the forehead of the body.¹⁵⁵⁵ Danti believes that the bronze sheet band and beads were used as decoration of the head.¹⁵⁵⁶

The second group is the cylindrical bone bead, decorated with two incised dotted circles (Figure 116: 15). It has the same decoration as the lozenge-shaped bead. The same example appeared at Kordlar dated to Iron Age I¹⁵⁵⁷ and Munjuglutepe.¹⁵⁵⁸

The third one is the rectangular parallelepiped with three holes traversing its surface on the larger side (Figure 116: 16).

¹⁵⁵⁵ Danti 2013a: fig. 5.16 I.

¹⁵⁵⁶ Danti 2013a: 302.

¹⁵⁵⁷ Lippert 1979: pl. 8 no. 32.

¹⁵⁵⁸ Aslanov et al. 2002: 26, pl. 39.

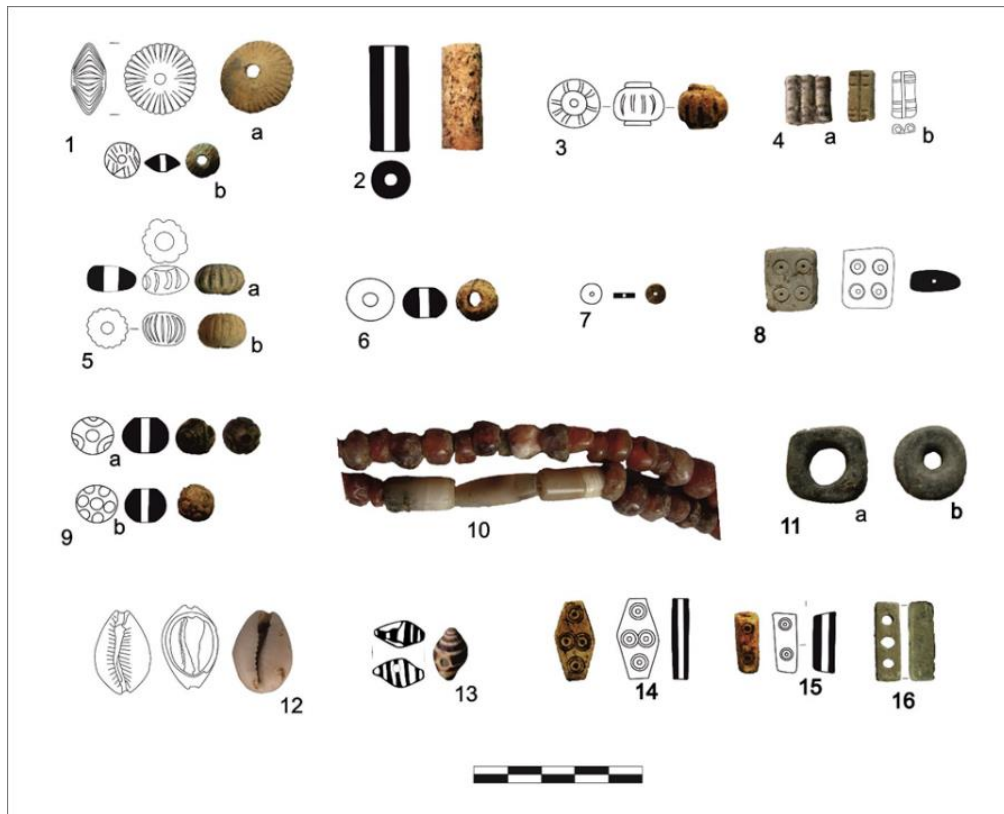


Figure 116. Bead species characters.

VI.7. Buttons

The buttons from Bayazid Abad can be divided into four categories according to their shapes.

VI.7.1. Cap shaped buttons

In total 21 cap shaped buttons with attachment holes in the center were found at Bayazid Abad. They vary from *ca.* 1.5 cm to 4.2 cm in their diameter, and are made of three different materials: bone, faience, and stone.

This type of objects could also serve as spindle whorl, since the bone-made sample has been discovered with a pin consisting of an iron hooked-top set into a bone button and attached to a reed, with traces of thread. Iron Age II burials from Dinkha Tepe give us further evidence in support of this idea, considering that two of them contain what Muscarella called

“iron/reed pin hooks.”¹⁵⁵⁹ In Hasanlu from Iron Age II grave HAS59-286 the same objects are present with hooked iron pins,¹⁵⁶⁰ which suggests that the bone hemispheroids with iron pins served the same function.

These objects are connected to the practices of weaving and dying and are easy to find almost anywhere in Iron Age Middle East. Despite their large diffusion across the area, in contexts geographically and culturally far from each other, they remain mostly unaltered in shapes and materials. In the process of yarn spinning, the whorl is the rotating part of the spindle,¹⁵⁶¹ which twists the cord, a number of times depending on its diameter. The smaller the whorl, the greater will be the number of rotations in a single spinning motion.¹⁵⁶²

Considering the uncertainty in distinguishing whether they served as a spindle whorl or as a button, all of the found items will generally be referred as buttons, as this items with both functions are a nearly-ubiquitous item of material culture from Middle East’s Iron Age contexts.

Bone buttons are represented by 10 samples (Figure 117: 1, a–i). Nine of them are decorated by incised dotted circles. They are very similar to each other except for their size, the largest being about 2.5 cm and the smallest about 1.5 cm in diameter. Similar bone discs emerged also at Hasanlu, found by Hakimi and Rad¹⁵⁶³ and other examples come from Iron Age II graves in male burials, published by Danti and Cifarelli at Hasanlu.¹⁵⁶⁴ Other examples surfaced from Haft Tepe¹⁵⁶⁵ and Kani Koter.¹⁵⁶⁶

Faience button, are made of paste and glaze that is bluish (Figure 117: 2). Most of the border is covered by a cross-hatched decoration, with a few vertical lines on the rest of it.

¹⁵⁵⁹ Muscarella 1974: fig. 36: 755; fig. 47 nos. 756–757.

¹⁵⁶⁰ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: 32.

¹⁵⁶¹ For a discussion about weights and sizes of spindle whorls see: Liu 1978; Andersson Strand et al. 2006; Olofsson et al. 2015.

¹⁵⁶² Barber 1991.

¹⁵⁶³ Hakimi and Rad 1950: figs. 51, 53.

¹⁵⁶⁴ Four has been excavated from grave SK100 and one from grave SK111. (Danti and Cifarelli 2015: figs. 15: F1–3; H2 and 23: L4).

¹⁵⁶⁵ Negahban 1991: figs. 218–227.

¹⁵⁶⁶ Amelirad and Azizi 2018: fig. 23.

From several sites come similar decorated faience discs: Khatunban B,¹⁵⁶⁷ Surkh-i Dum,¹⁵⁶⁸ Tepe Giyan,¹⁵⁶⁹ Susa,¹⁵⁷⁰ Marlik,¹⁵⁷¹ and Uruk.¹⁵⁷²

Stone buttons are circular convex shaped, with flat bottom, and a hole in the center. Seven of them are plain and four show decorations (Figure 117: 3, a-l).

No. 3-a, is decorated with two rows of impressed circles with a point in the center, four circles form the inner row and three semi-circle the outer row near the edge.

No. 3-b, is decorated with four triangles disposed around the hole, their bases touching the hole's border. Each triangle is punctured with six dots placed irregularly. Four incised dotted circles are around the hole, each one between each couple of the aforementioned triangles.

No. 3-c, is decorated with four holes standing at the corners of a square like shape, with three dots between each of them, acting as the sides. Below each one of the four corners, there is a vertical column of three dots.

No. 3-d, is designed by three roughly engraved triangle pointing their tops toward the central top. Each triangle is punctuated with numerous dots.

Stone buttons came to light in Dinkha B9a, burial 27,¹⁵⁷³ Mala Mcha,¹⁵⁷⁴ and Kani Koter.¹⁵⁷⁵

In Khatunban B this kind of buttons emerged associated to bent bronze nails with rounded caps. It is believed that they were stuck on a thin, perishable material. Possibly they decorated straps of horse trappings or were used on the clothing of the deceased.¹⁵⁷⁶

¹⁵⁶⁷ Haerinck et al. 2004: pl. 17-18.

¹⁵⁶⁸ Schmidt, van Loon and Curvers 1989: 245, pl. 148a-c, e.

¹⁵⁶⁹ Contenau and Ghirshman 1935: 20, pl. 10.

¹⁵⁷⁰ de Miroschedji 1981: fig. 48 no. 5.

¹⁵⁷¹ Negahban 1996: 442, 439, pl. 92.

¹⁵⁷² Lindemeyer and Martin 1993: pl. 100a.

¹⁵⁷³ Muscarella 1974: fig. 7: 616.

¹⁵⁷⁴ Amelirad et al. 2017: fig. 47.

¹⁵⁷⁵ Amelirad and Azizi 2018: fig. 23.

¹⁵⁷⁶ Haerinck et al. 2004: 127: pl. 17-18.

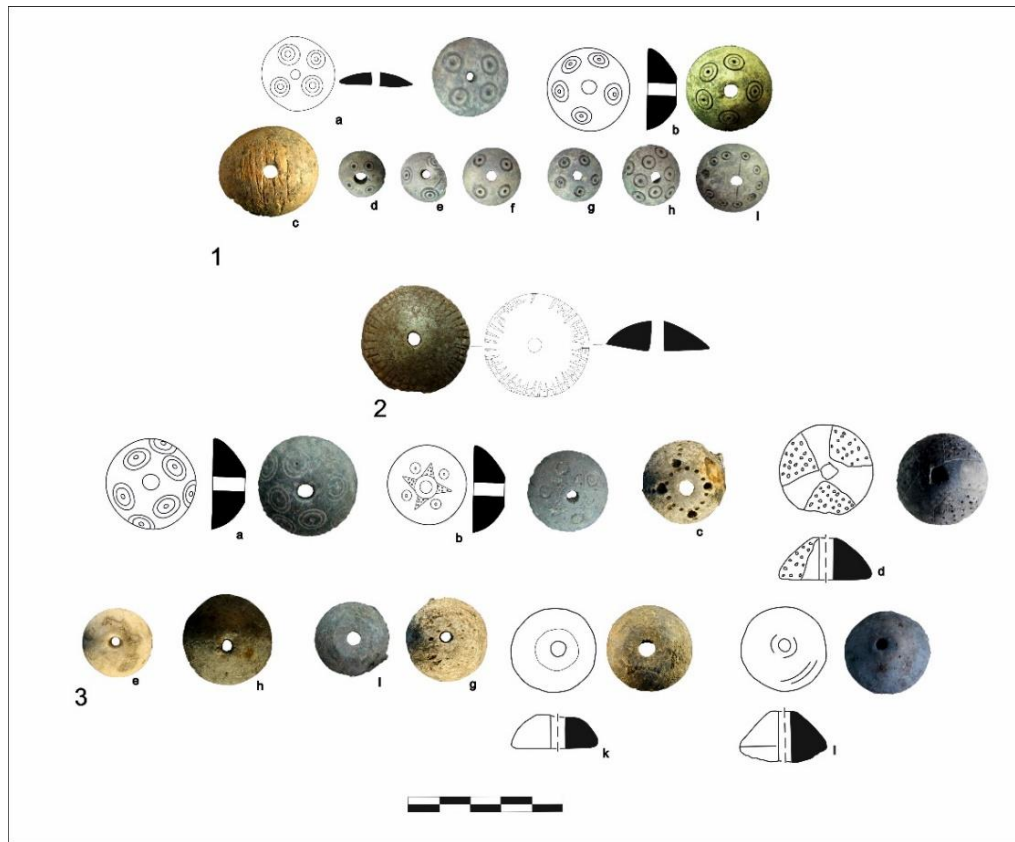


Figure 117: Cap shaped buttons.

VI.7.2. Bronze bosses or studs

In total 13 bronze bosses come from Bayazid Abad. They are very similar to each other except for a difference in size: the largest being about 1.7 cm and the smallest about 0.95 cm in diameter. Ten of them have a drilled shank (Figure 118: 1) for attachment, while three of them have a wire-eyelet¹⁵⁷⁷ (Figure 118: 2, a-b).

Based on archaeological findings several function can be considered for this form of buttons.

¹⁵⁷⁷ At Dinka Settlement in Iraqi Kurdistan not far from Bayazid Abad, examples in both iron and bronze were excavated during 2019 campaign, believed be used for assemble wooden furniture (Radner, Kreppner and Squitieri 2020: 106, fig. E1.16).

Headdress: At the Zagros cemetery in tomb A12 several bosses surfaced, located on the skull of the body clearly indicating that they once decorated a cap or scarf¹⁵⁷⁸ and an exemplar from Haftavân shows they were originally sewn onto a headdress.¹⁵⁷⁹ In Masjed-e Kabud in Tabriz, on a burial site dated to the Iron Age, a skull presented similar caps disposed on a row around it, in what seems to have been the decoration of a head garment from the Iron Age I and II of Hasanlu and Dinkha.¹⁵⁸⁰

Ornaments decoration: According to Ghirshman the bronze buttons from one of the graves (no. 123) in necropolis B at Sialk were attached to leather as a bracelet.¹⁵⁸¹ In Zagros graveyard in tomb 12 they were mounted on shell beads and large Lambis shells, though they might also have decorated clothing articles.¹⁵⁸²

Garment ornaments: In the Caucasus, bronze buttons are common in tombs of the Early Iron Age.¹⁵⁸³ De Morgan has no doubt that they are dress ornaments.

Horse harness: At Baba Jan, bosses appear in a horse burial,¹⁵⁸⁴ and also at both Tepe Giyan¹⁵⁸⁵ and Tepe Sialk (tomb IS), where decorative bosses or “phalerae” are found in the same kind of tombs as various parts of the harness. At Hasanlu, bronze bosses were found with most of the horse’s headstalls recovered¹⁵⁸⁶ and also at War Kabud.¹⁵⁸⁷ At Kaloraz a burial contained two horses’ bodies lying one alongside the other. The bosses are still in place, were they used to be a fixed to the leather part of the harness.¹⁵⁸⁸

Decoration of quiver: In Hasanlu IVb emerged a quiver decorated by bronze bosses.¹⁵⁸⁹

¹⁵⁷⁸ Amelirad et al. 2012: pl. 14.

¹⁵⁷⁹ Burney 1972: 136, fig. 8.

¹⁵⁸⁰ Azarnoush and Helwing 2005: 218–220, figs. 44–45.

¹⁵⁸¹ Ghirshman 1939: pls. LXXIX, LV–LVI.

¹⁵⁸² Amelirad et al. 2012: pl. 16.

¹⁵⁸³ De Morgan 1889: I, 49, fig. 9 nos. 126–7, figs. 107–8.

¹⁵⁸⁴ Goff 1969: fig. 7 no. 4.

¹⁵⁸⁵ Contenau and Ghirshman 1935: pls. 5, 8.

¹⁵⁸⁶ Dyson 1972: fig. 11; de Schauensee and Dyson 1983: 62–7, figs. 6–9.

¹⁵⁸⁷ Haerinck and Overlaet 2004: 54–55, fig. 19 nos. 1–5.

¹⁵⁸⁸ Hakemi 2017: 62–63, figs. 5–8.

¹⁵⁸⁹ Pigott 1989: 75, fig. 14.

Such buttons also were excavated at Tepe Hissar,¹⁵⁹⁰ Djub-i Gauher and Ban Kulkan in Luristan,¹⁵⁹¹ Baba Jan,¹⁵⁹² Agrab Tepe,¹⁵⁹³ Sagzabad,¹⁵⁹⁴ Nush-i Jan,¹⁵⁹⁵ and Dinkha Tepe.¹⁵⁹⁶

The use of this kind of button has a long history and the first evidence emerged in grave Pg 985 in the cemetery at Ur¹⁵⁹⁷ but to dating the Bayazid Abad samples the closest sites will be considered. In North-Western Iran nearly contemporary examples were found from Dinkha, Hasanlu, and Haftavân, belonging to Iron Age II.

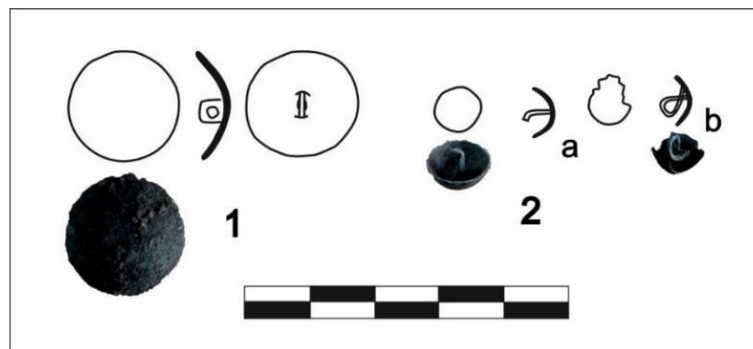


Figure 118. Bronze bosses.

VI.7.3. Faience made pyramid studs

From Bayazid Abad five faience pyramid studs have been excavated. They are very similar to each other except for a difference in decoration. Two of them present couples of incised dotted circles to form the four corners of a square (Figure 119: 1, c), and the other three show decorations with six small dots on the edge of each of the four sides (Figure 119: 1, a–b). The reverse surface is flat, with two holes punctured in diagonal direction on two opposing corners of the studs, perhaps used to sew them to the fabric. A similar stud has been discovered from Iron Age II grave at Dinkha.¹⁵⁹⁸

¹⁵⁹⁰ Schmidt 1937: pl. LV: H263l.

¹⁵⁹¹ Vanden Berghe 1978: fig. 8c; 1980, fig. 7 no. 5.

¹⁵⁹² Goff 1978: fig. 14 nos. 34–37, 44.

¹⁵⁹³ Muscarella 1973: fig. 27 no. 17.

¹⁵⁹⁴ Shahmirzadi 1979: 59, fig. 5 nos. 10–15.

¹⁵⁹⁵ Curtis 1984: fig. 7 nos. 289–294.

¹⁵⁹⁶ Muscarella 1974: fig. 32 no. 1005.

¹⁵⁹⁷ Woolley 1934: 161–2.

¹⁵⁹⁸ Muscarella 1974: fig. 52 no. 815.

VI.7.4. Hemispherical faience stud

In total two buttons of this kind have been retrieved (Figure 119: 2). They are decorated with four dotted circles and their diameter is *ca.* 1 cm. The reverse is flat, with two holes whose shape lead to think they were excavated through the faience introducing a needle in a diagonal or horizontal direction. Similar examples have been excavated in graves at Hasanlu IVb¹⁵⁹⁹ and Qalat-i Dinka.¹⁶⁰⁰

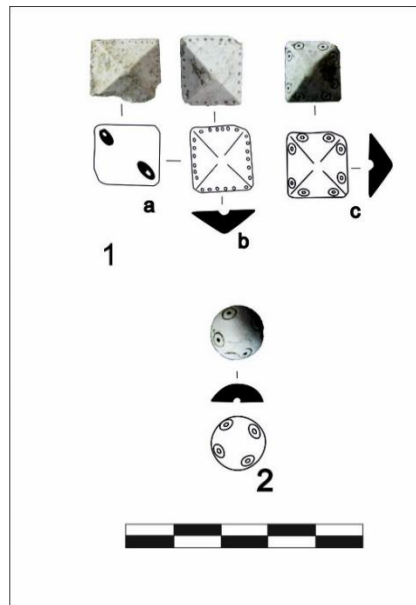


Figure 119. Faience studs. No.1: Pyramid shaped studs; No. 2: Hemispherical faience studs.

VI.8. Miscellaneous objects

Two unusual perforated objects have been obtained from Bayazid Abad, the use of which is unknown. The first one is an Egyptian blue bird (Figure 120: 1), perforated horizontally, its tail is decorated by diagonal cross-hatching and has a bronze ring around its neck. It could have served as an amulet to hang somewhere for protection.

The second item is a rectangular tile made of bone (Figure 120: 2), presenting a row of two perforations on each of the endings on the shorter sides, with six rows of circular

¹⁵⁹⁹ Danti and Cifarelli 2015: fig. 15 no. H5.

¹⁶⁰⁰ Radner, Kreppner and Squitieri 2020: 99, fig. E1.5.

carvings between them, similar to the pips of playing dice. The exact function of the tile is unknown, but it is possible that the four perforations were used to sew the item to clothing, like a sort of badge.

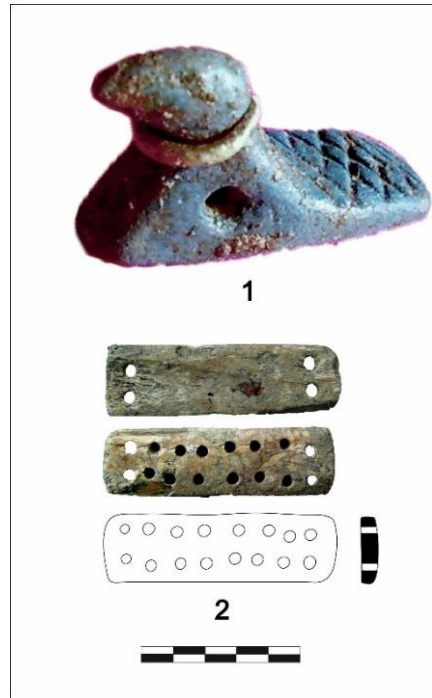


Figure 120. Miscellaneous objects.

VI.9. Overview on the Personal Ornaments of Bayazid Abad

Bayazid Abad tomb yields the most comprehensive information on personal ornaments in North-Western Iran in the second and the first millennium BC. The data reflect widespread trade and contacts. The vast amount of ornaments found in this tomb indicates the social status and superiority of people buried in this grave.

The types of pins occurring at Bayazid Abad are surprisingly varied for such a limited context. Prior to the discovery of Bayazid Abad, a very limited number of pins were found from other sites in North-Western Iran, and their publication was piecemeal. The collection from Bayazid Abad helps a deeper and broader understanding of their widespread occurrence in the Near East. A rich net of trades between regions, together with the popularity of some pins fashioned in a specific way, might actually explain how pins are

easily found all over the Middle East without notable variations in shapes, independently from the differences in locations or social features of such a wide area. The various pins have been analyzed in order to better understand the material culture of North-Western Iran in the period 1800–800 BC, using pins as a litmus test for the way of life of the cultures that used them. More than 120 pins, all the ones found in Bayazid Abad in the context of the Middle Bronze Age and Iron Age, have been taken into consideration. According to comparisons with neighbouring sites, conical pins without eyelets have been used in Bayazid Abad during Late Bronze Age, while toggle pins survived throughout Middle Bronze Age till Late Bronze Age, in a far wider array of variations than in other part of the North-Western Iran. This kind of pins is then substituted during Iron Age I by double spiral and rolled headed pins, the use of which survived till Iron Age II. During Iron Age II, we witness the introduction of new models of bead and reel molded headed pins, both plain and decorated. In this phase for the first-time iron takes the place of bronze as raw material for the making pins.

Unlike the pins, which belong to several periods, the other ornaments found in this tomb belong to the Iron Age I and II and most of them show well-established local traditions and very strong connection with other contemporary sites in North-Western Iran, especially Hasanlu and Dinkha. Evidence from Bayazid Abad, Hasanlu, and Dinkha indicate that Iron Age I and II were characterized by a wider availability of rare and precious goods, worn as a sign of higher status, and by a more stratified hierarchy.

The simple rings have a long history in the ancient world and they are very commonly found in the Bronze and Iron Age. The same applies to simple bracelets with a circular cross-section. Of course, long-term use can be considered for bronze specimens, but in connection with iron specimens based on archaeological findings from North-Western Iran, a date of about 1050 to 800 BC (Iron Age II) can be proposed. During the Iron Age II, iron archer's (Lobed) rings were used in North-Western Iran and they were excavated in Hasanlu and Dinkha burials.

Torques from Bayazid Abad are similar to those from Dinkha and evidence from Dinkha shows that they have been worn by men, women, and children in Iron Age II. They have also been found in Hasanlu IV in small quantities.¹⁶⁰¹

¹⁶⁰¹ Muscarella 1974: 80.

In connection with the beads found in Bayazid Abad, the only way to date them is based on comparisons with the specimens found in Hasanlu and Dinkha Tepe, as the evidence shows that Bayazid Abad's grave has a strong connection with these two sites. Regarding shell beads (cowrie and engina), they are saltwater shells common in the Persian Gulf and their presence in North-Western Iran indicates long distance trade. In connection with other beads made of faience, they have forms that are widely found from the Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age II in the Middle East, and that makes it difficult to date them. But as mentioned, we can determine their date basing on comparisons with the findings from neighbouring sites, from which we can conclude that most of the beads found belong to the Iron Age I and II.

In connection with the buttons found, we can express an opinion similar to what has been said about the beads, and that all of the retrieved species are comparable to the existing specimens from the Iron Age I and II of Hasanlu and Dinkha.

Chapter VII - Weapons

Weapons are a trove of important data on crafting technologies and processes besides being an important source on material culture. From their shapes, it is possible to infer about the context in which they have been used. The forging techniques employed, the relevant designs in a specific time and place, trade between countries, and the aesthetic sense of the culture that produced or imported them can be deduced from the shapes of the weapons. In Bayazid Abad, excavated weapons can be arranged in five categories: 1- dagger, 2- dagger blade, 3- knives, 4- spearheads, and 5- mace head.

VII.1. Daggers

Two iron daggers were excavated in Bayazid Abad (Figure 121). The daggers have mushroom or quasi-crescentic pommel and indented grip, and a mid-ridged blade. The blade and hilt are formed from a single piece of hammered iron. They are flanged to receive inlays in different materials (bone, wood or stone). The first dagger has four survived rivets, which secure the hilt inlays, three of them in grip and one in guard. The blade has a triangular section, which tapers toward the damaged point. The second dagger has two rivet holes, one in the upper part of the hilt and the other close to the guard for holding inlays.

Both of the daggers have flanged guards, and fall into Type IIA1a¹⁶⁰² of the four categories described by Thornton and Pigott in their study on the daggers from Hasanlu IVb, the most common type in the period.¹⁶⁰³ Maxwell-Hyslop also discussed this form of dagger, putting it into groups 31, 32, 35, and 36. This type of daggers were also discovered at many sites from eastern Mediterranean to India.¹⁶⁰⁴ Maxwell-Hyslop and Hodges proposed¹⁶⁰⁵ that

¹⁶⁰² Thornton and Pigott 2011: 163.

¹⁶⁰³ Dyson 1960: 10; Dyson 1964a: 21, right; Dyson 1964b: 32ff: 42: fig. 2:2, 3, 7, 8; Wever 1969: 26, top fig. c; Pleiner 1969: fig. 5 no. 3.

¹⁶⁰⁴ Maxwell-Hyslop 1946: 35–46.

¹⁶⁰⁵ Maxwell-Hyslop and Hodges 1966: 172.

this type is a part of a series of swords forged in Iran between the early eleventh and the late ninth century. From Nimrud, the same dagger came to light at the North-West Palace and Curtis believes that it is imported and manufactured in Iran¹⁶⁰⁶ and it may be presumed to date from the ninth to the seventh century BC.

Bayazid Abad's daggers are a faithful reproduction in iron of the typical bronze examples from Mesopotamia and the Syro-Palestinian region in the second millennium BC.¹⁶⁰⁷ There is also a well preserved example from period I (1200–1050 BC) at Hama.¹⁶⁰⁸ Flanged daggers have been the subject of many archaeological studies.¹⁶⁰⁹ The oldest example of flanged daggers have been discovered from Chogha Zanbil and have been dated to thirteenth century BC.¹⁶¹⁰ Other examples come from Godin,¹⁶¹¹ Bit-Sorgh,¹⁶¹² and Giyan.¹⁶¹³

An important series of flange-hilted iron swords occurred in cemeteries of the eighth and seventh centuries BC in western Luristan.¹⁶¹⁴ It seems that this form of dagger lasted till the Achaemenid period, and examples have been discovered at Dave Höyük¹⁶¹⁵ and Persepolis.¹⁶¹⁶

¹⁶⁰⁶ Curtis 2013: 37, pl. VIII: fig. 96.

¹⁶⁰⁷ Moorey 1971: nos. 46–7 and Boehmer 1972: fig.22.

¹⁶⁰⁸ Riis 1948, 120, fig. 135A, G IV 301.

¹⁶⁰⁹ Maxwell-Hyslop 1946: 59ff; Moorey 1971a: 71ff. Boehmer 1972: 41ff. Medvedskaya 1982: 68ff; Thornton and Pigott 2011: 152–168.

¹⁶¹⁰ Ghirshman 1966: pls. LIV: I–3, XCII.

¹⁶¹¹ Young 1969: pl. 25: II.

¹⁶¹² Dyson 1964b: fig. I.

¹⁶¹³ Contenau and Ghirshman 1953: pl. V no. 2, tomb 10:7.

¹⁶¹⁴ Vanden Berghe 1968: pl. 27B; Overlaet 2003: nos. 152–162.

¹⁶¹⁵ Moorey 1980: 148.

¹⁶¹⁶ Schmidt 1975: pl. 75 nos. 1–2.

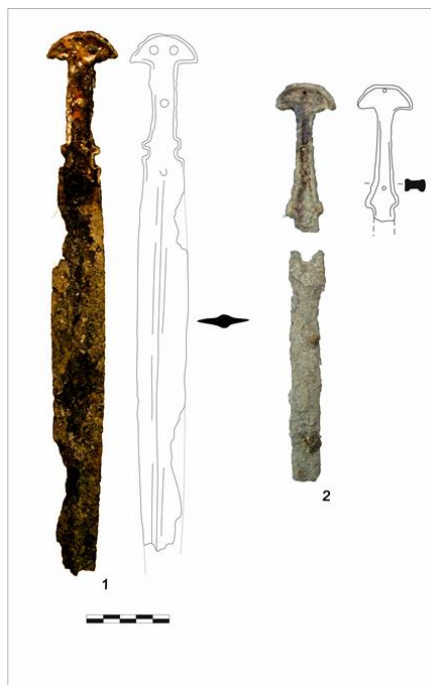


Figure 121. Daggers.

VII.2. Dagger blade

A single dagger blade has been excavated in Bayazid Abad. It is a pointed iron blade with straight sides, curved cross-section, triangularly placed rivets, and concave cutting edges, which could be a result of long use (Figure 122). The shoulder shows two rivets, and slopes into a narrow tang with one rivet. This form of the blade falls in Maxwell-Hyslop group 5. It is believed this type of blade originated in Anatolia and Syria.¹⁶¹⁷ This form of blade falls in type A2 Tallon's classification and was used in the beginning of third millennium BC in northern Syria, and widely used in the Early Dynastic III period in Mesopotamia. It was also excavated at Ur in Akkadian period.¹⁶¹⁸ This type of dagger blade is known from Fara,¹⁶¹⁹

¹⁶¹⁷ Maxwell-Hyslop 1946: 9-10.

¹⁶¹⁸ Tallon 1987: vol. I: 118-119, 326.

¹⁶¹⁹ Heinrich 1931: 90, pl. 12.

Tello,¹⁶²⁰ Ur,¹⁶²¹ Tell al-Wilayah,¹⁶²² Tell Sabra.¹⁶²³ It seems it is not so popular in Iran; only one sample was discovered in Susa,¹⁶²⁴ three at Bani Surmah from Early Bronze Age,¹⁶²⁵ and one at Geoy Tepe, also from Early Bronze Age.¹⁶²⁶ To the author's best knowledge, no similar blade in iron has been reported from any other neighbouring site.

This kind of blade was very popular in Mesopotamia during Bronze Age. Considering the few exemplars found in North-Western Iran, it is possible that this type was imported or imitated. Discovery of the iron exemplar from Bayazid Abad testifies to the continuation in production of this blade type from Bronze Age through to the Iron Age, although in a very limited amount.

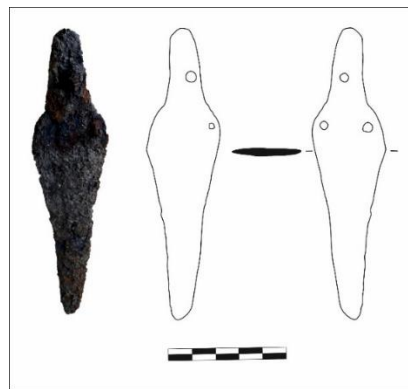


Figure 122. Dagger blade.

VII.3. Knife blades

Four knives were dug out from the Bayazid Abad grave. All of them are made of iron (Figure 123). No. 1 is a flat blunt iron blade, with well-marked shoulders and a long, narrow tang, and short hilt, which could be fitted in a wooden handle. This form of blade falls in Maxwell-Hyslop group 27. Maxwell proposed that the small tanged blades without rivet are actually knives, and not spearheads, as they are sometimes referred to. The ones with the rivet could

¹⁶²⁰ de Genouillac 1934: vol. I. pl. 92 no. 1c.

¹⁶²¹ Woolley 1934: 308, pl. 228.

¹⁶²² Madhalum 1960: fig. 8, pl. 12.

¹⁶²³ Tunca 1987: 32, pl. 20, 33 nos. 3-4.

¹⁶²⁴ Tallon 1987: vol I: 118-119, 326; vol. II. no. 119.

¹⁶²⁵ Haerinck and Overlaet 2006: fig. 14.

¹⁶²⁶ Burton-Brown 1951: fig. 29 no. 1229.

instead be daggers, or had a domestic use.¹⁶²⁷ At Dinkha from a grave of Late Bronze Age, an example with rivet hole was excavated in tomb B 9a, burial 23,¹⁶²⁸ and in Iron Age context an exact similar example was discovered from grave B 9b, burial 16.¹⁶²⁹ Moreover, the iron examples were excavated at Kul Tarikeh in grave no. 7.¹⁶³⁰

In the second half of the second millennium BC, bronze knives with wide flat tangs arranged in a straight line along the tang were well-known in Western Asia. Deshayes¹⁶³¹ collected examples from Syria, Anatolia, and Palestine, as well as areas to the west. However, he had found none from Mesopotamia and Iran. He remarked that these knives were common from the beginning of the Late Bronze Age onwards, and considered their origins to be in Greece. However, in the first millennium BC, iron knives of the same type were widely distributed and examples may be found at Alishar Höyük,¹⁶³² Tarsus,¹⁶³³ Boğazköy,¹⁶³⁴ Hama,¹⁶³⁵ Lachish,¹⁶³⁶ and Gerar.¹⁶³⁷

No. 2 is a long slender blade made of iron, which tapers to a recurved point from the hilt area before curving back to form an upturned tip. The blade continues on the other side into a thin handle with curled ending, as a sort of decoration or perhaps to fit the blade into a wooden grip.

No. 3, curves out prominently from the hilt area before curving back to form an upturned tip with flanged handle, which originally retained wooden plaques. No. 4 has almost the same appearance as No. 3 but with slightly upturned tip.

Iron knives with narrow and spiky tangs have prototypes in bronze dating from the third and second millennia. A similar knife was excavated at Ur,¹⁶³⁸ Tell Sifr,¹⁶³⁹ and Kish.¹⁶⁴⁰ There

¹⁶²⁷ Maxwell-Hyslop 1946: 27.

¹⁶²⁸ Muscarella 1974: fig. 6 no. 649.

¹⁶²⁹ Muscarella 1974: fig. 16 no. 241.

¹⁶³⁰ Rezvani and Roustaei 2007: pl. 17c-d.

¹⁶³¹ Deshayes 1960: vol. I, 313-16.

¹⁶³² Von der Osten 1937: fig. 449 nos. c 1198, c 633, c 694.

¹⁶³³ Goldman 1963: fig. 168 nos. 6, 9-10, 12, 20.

¹⁶³⁴ Boehmer 1972: pl. XVII nos. 1323, 1325-6.

¹⁶³⁵ Riis 1948: 124-5.

¹⁶³⁶ Tufnell 1953: pl. 59 nos. 13-15, 17.

¹⁶³⁷ Petrie 1928: pl. XXX, no. 12.

¹⁶³⁸ Woolley 1934: pl. 229 no. U15633.

¹⁶³⁹ Moorey 1971b: pl. XXIII no. 30.

¹⁶⁴⁰ Mackay 1925: pl. XVII no. 7.

are examples from the first millennium in the Syro-Palestinian region.¹⁶⁴¹ In Mesopotamia, the same form of knives have been discovered at Nimrud.¹⁶⁴² In addition, an example was discovered from Carchemish¹⁶⁴³ and in some of Anatolian sites namely Boğazköy,¹⁶⁴⁴ the city of Midas,¹⁶⁴⁵ and Tarsus. In southern Caucasus, iron and bronze examples were excavated from Armenia in Shirak¹⁶⁴⁶ and Azerbaijan from Hellen-Dorff¹⁶⁴⁷ Ganjachay, Akhmakhi, Damgolu, and Khojaly¹⁶⁴⁸ dated to Iron Age I. Four exact parallels to knives with curved blade and upturned tip were excavated at Dinkha Tepe from Iron Age II tombs.¹⁶⁴⁹ And, at Hasanlu IVb a number of examples have been discovered.¹⁶⁵⁰ Moreover, a bronze example was excavated in a tomb at Hellen-Dorff in Azerbaijan.¹⁶⁵¹ Moorey believed¹⁶⁵² that the finding of this kind of knives, together with Akinakai, at the Tli graveyard, points out their provenance from Iran, where similar artefacts were discovered at Pasargadae, Persepolis, Susa and the West Caspian provinces.¹⁶⁵³ Curtis believed that iron knives with spiky tangs were more popular in the northern part of Western Asia than elsewhere.¹⁶⁵⁴ The shape of the knives implies that they are lensing knife to skin animals, or maybe to shear sheep.¹⁶⁵⁵ Weapons of this kind were discovered at Hasanlu,¹⁶⁵⁶ and at Dinkha Tepe¹⁶⁵⁷ in graves from the same time.

¹⁶⁴¹ Gerar: Petrie 1928: pl. XXXI; Lachish, Tufnell 1953: 387, pl. 59 no. 13ff; Megiddo: Guy 1938:166, fig. 172 no. 4, pl. 167.2; Tell Abu Hawam: Hamilton 1935: pl. 33 no. 124; Beth-Pelet I: Petrie 1930: pls.XXI no. 96, XXX no. 129, XXIV no. 212; Hama: Riis 1948: 124–5; Carchemish II: Woolley 1921: fig. 19, pl. 23 nos. 10–11.

¹⁶⁴² Curtis et al. 1979: 328, fig. 20.

¹⁶⁴³ Woolley 1921, pl. 23 no. 11.

¹⁶⁴⁴ Boehmer 1972: pls xlvi nos. 1301c, 1307, 1311, xlvii nos. 1314–15, 1321, 1322a.

¹⁶⁴⁵ Haspels 1951: pl. 43 no. 8.

¹⁶⁴⁶ This type of knife was common in Armania during Late Bronze Age and Iron Age I and many examples were discovered at Artik necropolis, Redkin Lager, Noraduz in burial 3, Muhan tombs and Ayrivank (Khachatryan 1975: 237, fig. 151).

¹⁶⁴⁷ Hummel 1933: 219, fig. 14 no. 233.

¹⁶⁴⁸ Aliyev 2018: fig. 4.17 nos. 4, 5, 8,9,11.

¹⁶⁴⁹ Muscarella 1974: figs. 45: 623, 48: 707.

¹⁶⁵⁰ Muscarella 1988: 60: nos. 74–45.

¹⁶⁵¹ Hummel 1933: 219, fig. 14 no. 233.

¹⁶⁵² Moorey 1980: 58.

¹⁶⁵³ Tli: Tekhov 1972: fig. 2, nos. 308, 326; Stronach 1978: fig. 95 nos. 12–14; Schmidt 1957: pl. 81.13; Susa: Ghirshman 1954: pl.XLIX no. G.S.2099; Morgan 1927: fig. 251.

¹⁶⁵⁴ Curtis 2013: 35.

¹⁶⁵⁵ Egami et al. 1965.

¹⁶⁵⁶ Muscarella 1988: 60, fig. 74; Piggot 1989: fig. 12.

¹⁶⁵⁷ Muscarella 1974: figs. 45 no. 623, 48 no. 704.

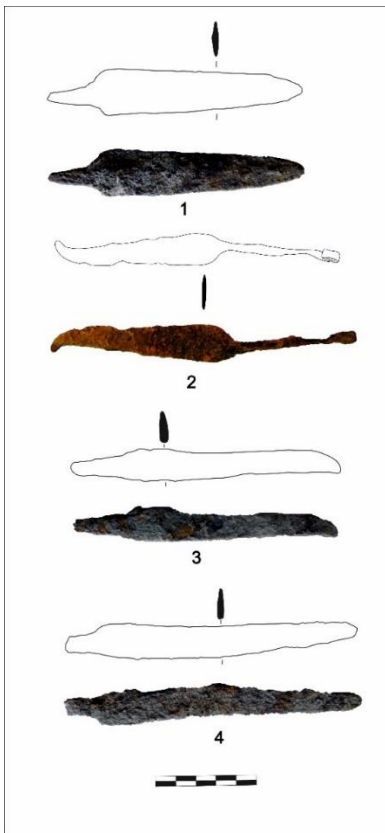


Figure 123. Knife blades.

VII.4. Spearheads

Four iron (Figure 124: 1-4) and one bronze (Figure 124: 5) spearheads or pikes were discovered at Bayazid Abad tomb. They are solid socketed blades with rectangular cross-sections in different lengths, varying between 15.92 cm to 37.8 cm.

All of the examples fall into type IIA of the three categories described by Thornton and Pigott in their study on the spearheads from Hasanlu IVb.¹⁶⁵⁸ None of the Bayazid Abad spearheads has rivets in their sockets. Stronach¹⁶⁵⁹ in his study on the discovered spearheads at Nimrud explained the absence of rivets by proposing that the spearheads were mounted

¹⁶⁵⁸ Thornton and Pigott 2011: 149.

¹⁶⁵⁹ Stronach 1958: 170.

on the shaft while they were still red hot, so that the metal of the socket contracted around the shaft as it cooled.

No. 1, is a long iron spearhead with long folded socket and short leaf-shape blade with gently sloping shoulders and a prominent triangular midrib. Remains of wood survive in the socket.

No. 2, is a heavily corroded iron spearhead, with a long-folded socket, and a prominent triangular midrib. The tip of the blade is broken and both sides of the remainder blade are corroded and damaged.

No. 3, is a short iron spearhead, with short folded socket and gently rounded shoulders, damaged blade edges, and a low slightly convex midrib.

No. 4, is a long bronze spearhead, with long tapered sheet folded socket, and a long triangular-shaped tapering blade with a prominent midrib.

No. 5, is a bronze spearhead, with short folded socket, and a long wide blade with tapering cylindroid midrib and gently sloping shoulders.

Socketed spearheads first appeared in the second millennium BC, replacing the earlier tanged types.¹⁶⁶⁰ By the eighth–seventh century iron spearheads occurred throughout Western Asia.¹⁶⁶¹ In Iran, spearheads are quite common in the Late Iron Age II and throughout the Iron Age III.¹⁶⁶² They were present in North-Western Iran in many sites, namely Hasanlu IV,¹⁶⁶³ Dinkha Tepe,¹⁶⁶⁴ Zagros Gravyard,¹⁶⁶⁵ Kani Koter,¹⁶⁶⁶ and Sarrez.¹⁶⁶⁷ In Pusht-i Kuh, several were discovered at Djub-i Gauhar,¹⁶⁶⁸ War Kabud,¹⁶⁶⁹ and Baba

¹⁶⁶⁰ Yadin 1963: 61.

¹⁶⁶¹ Curtis 2013: 38.

¹⁶⁶² Amelirad, Overlaet and Hearink 2012: 51.

¹⁶⁶³ Muscarella 1989: 26, fig. 2a.

¹⁶⁶⁴ Muscarella 1974: 72–74, fig. 48.

¹⁶⁶⁵ Amelirad, Overlaet and Hearink 2012: 51–52: pl. 6–9 no. 33.

¹⁶⁶⁶ Amelirad and Azizi 2018: fig. 25.

¹⁶⁶⁷ Amelirad and Razmpoush 2015: fig. 3.

¹⁶⁶⁸ Haerinck and Overlaet 1999: 26–27, ill. 12.

¹⁶⁶⁹ Haerinck and Overlaet 2004: 47, fig. 14.

Jilan.¹⁶⁷⁰ Also, examples were reported at Surkh-i Dum¹⁶⁷¹ and Tepe Sialk.¹⁶⁷² In Urartu, iron spearheads occurred at Karmir Blur¹⁶⁷³ and Toprak Kale.¹⁶⁷⁴

The bronze spearhead from Bayazid Abad has the same shape as those in iron. Socketed bronze spearheads appeared in second millennium in Near East. Examples were discovered in Western Iran,¹⁶⁷⁵ Mesopotamia,¹⁶⁷⁶ Anatolia,¹⁶⁷⁷ and Caucasus.¹⁶⁷⁸

When looking for parallels to the spearheads from Bayazid Abad, it is important to note that they have a close connection to those from Hasanlu IVb studied by Thornton and Pigott, who concluded that such weapons were produced locally.¹⁶⁷⁹ Considering the similarities, it is quite likely that the same applies to the Bayazid Abad's exemplars.

¹⁶⁷⁰ Hasanpur et al. 2015: pl. 20.

¹⁶⁷¹ Schmidt et al. 1989: 257–258, pl. 177d.

¹⁶⁷² Ghirshman 1939: pls. LVII, LXVIII, XCII.

¹⁶⁷³ Barnett 1959: 3, 7, 11, 14.

¹⁶⁷⁴ Lehmann-Haupt 1907: 101, fig. 72 no. 2 on left; Piotrovsky 1966: 239.

¹⁶⁷⁵ Schmidt 1933: pl. 69 no. H770; Rezalou and Ayremlou 2016: fig. 24, N.11.

¹⁶⁷⁶ Hauptmann and Pernicka 2004: 782–789.

¹⁶⁷⁷ Erkanal 1977: pl. 15.

¹⁶⁷⁸ Rubinson 1977: 238.

¹⁶⁷⁹ Thornton and Pigott 2011: 170.

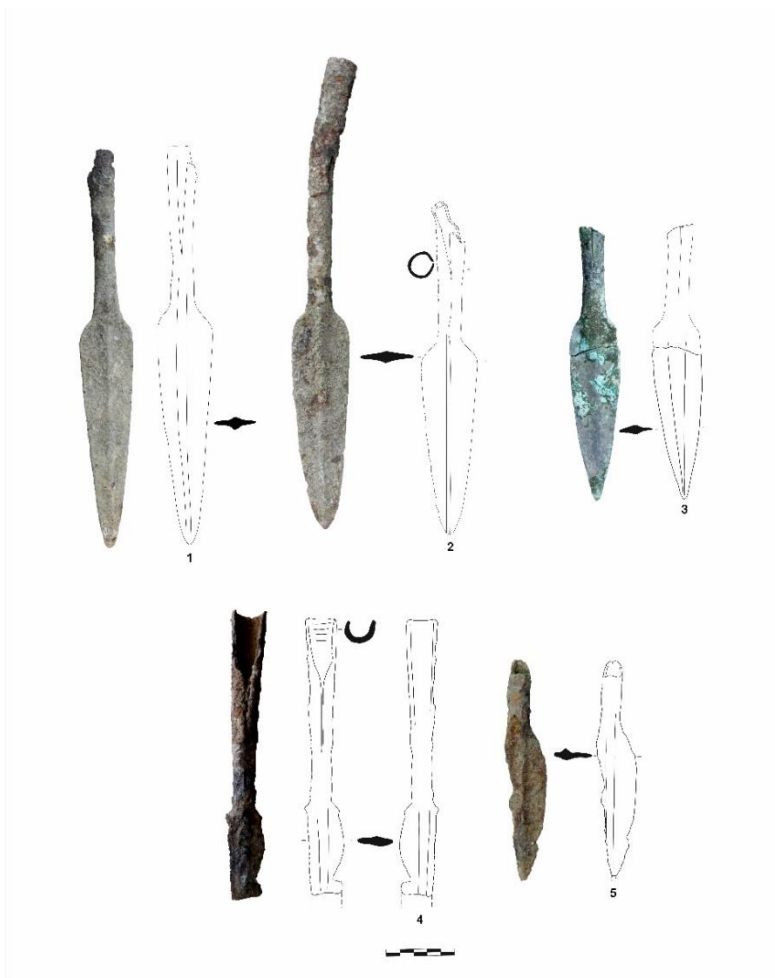


Figure 124. Spearheads.

VII.5. Mace head

Only one example of a mace head was discovered in Bayazid Abad, which is made of white stone with a globular head, curving in to a short neck that flares slightly outward at the handle end. The surface is polished with some cracks and dents from use (Figure 125). Three knobs decorate its body. The stone mace is rare in North-Western Iran and just one dark stone, pear-shaped mace appeared in the Iron Age II grave B8e, burial 5 at Dinkha.¹⁶⁸⁰ White stone mace heads were discovered in the Temple of Gal and Kiririsha at Choga Zanbil, dated

¹⁶⁸⁰ Muscarella 1974: fig. 48 no. 1019.

by Ghirshman to 1250 BC.¹⁶⁸¹ Large number of stone mace heads, mostly broken, were excavated at Haft Tepe made of a variety of stones in different sizes and shapes.¹⁶⁸² Five examples were discovered at Marlik.¹⁶⁸³ Moreover, an example appeared in Assur, which is dated to the ninth century BC.¹⁶⁸⁴

This kind of ornate mace, not destined for a martial use, is an almost unique find, with parallels only with another one from Dinkha Tepe. It is notable that one of the figures on the Golden Bowl from Hasanlu, a woman riding a lion, is depicted as holding a mirror in one hand and a similar globular mace in the other. The extreme rarity of the artefact, together with its appearance on an item of undeniable ritual value, leads us to believe that it was likely an attribute of higher status, like a scepter, than a weapon.



Figure 125. Mace head.

VII.6. Whetstones

Two whetstones were excavated at Bayazid Abad (Figure 126), with perfect polished surfaces and square cross-sections. The first one measuring 12.5 cm x 1 cm and the second one 11 cm x 1.5 cm. Their presence is linked to metal weapons, which need to be sharpened very often. This also accounts for their relatively small sizes, as it must have been necessary to carry them around. Whetstone no. 2 presents a bottleneck near the narrower ending,

¹⁶⁸¹ Ghirshman 1966: 127–30, pl. 57.

¹⁶⁸² Negahban 1991: 45.

¹⁶⁸³ Negahban 1981: figs. 20–24.

¹⁶⁸⁴ Herzfeld 1941: pl. 26 bottom register.

forming a sort of “head.” This peculiarity leads to the theory that the stone could be secured to the belt with a string. Whetstones were common throughout the Near East during the Bronze Age and Iron Age, mostly discovered in graves. They were used as both elaborate and plain exemplars. The elaborate example was reported from a grave in the royal tomb of Meskalamdug at Ur, made from lapis lazuli and a golden ring.¹⁶⁸⁵

During the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age, the whetstones started to be presented in a more elaborated design, with animal heads carved in the stone itself, or with the insertion of decorations in ivory or metal, again with zoomorphic protome. Examples of the first kind were discovered from Kanesh II,¹⁶⁸⁶ Chogha Zanbil,¹⁶⁸⁷ Sialk B,¹⁶⁸⁸ Sé Girdan,¹⁶⁸⁹ and Hasanlu.¹⁶⁹⁰ In the second group, one exemplar in ivory was discovered at Alalakh.¹⁶⁹¹ The second group in metal were discovered in Bard-i Bal with four examples,¹⁶⁹² Surkh-i Dum,¹⁶⁹³ and Susa.¹⁶⁹⁴

The plain examples are more common and were discovered in Surkh-i Dum,¹⁶⁹⁵ Bard-i Bal, Kotal-i Gulgul,¹⁶⁹⁶ Sialk B,¹⁶⁹⁷ Marlik,¹⁶⁹⁸ Zubeidi, and Tell Imlihiye.¹⁶⁹⁹

¹⁶⁸⁵ Woolley 1934: 156, pl. 155a.

¹⁶⁸⁶ Ozgüç 1999: pl. 100 no. 1.

¹⁶⁸⁷ Ghirshman et al. 1966: pl. LXXVII; 1968: pl. LXXXII.

¹⁶⁸⁸ Ghirshman 1939: fig. 7.

¹⁶⁸⁹ Muscarella 1969: fig. 27.

¹⁶⁹⁰ Hakimi and Rad 1950: pl. 41.

¹⁶⁹¹ Woolley 1955: pl. 76: AT/47/62.

¹⁶⁹² Overleat 2003: 181, fig. 146.

¹⁶⁹³ Schmidt, van Loon and Curvers 1989: pl. 177f.

¹⁶⁹⁴ de Mecquenem 1905: 135, pl. 24; Harper, Aruz and Tallon 1992: 149.

¹⁶⁹⁵ Schmidt, van Loon and Curvers 1989: 352, pl. 217.

¹⁶⁹⁶ Overleat 2003: 181, fig. 146.

¹⁶⁹⁷ Ghirshman 1939: 60–61, fig. 7.

¹⁶⁹⁸ Negahban 1996: 299–300, pl. 130.

¹⁶⁹⁹ Boehmer 1983: 107–108, figs. 6, 11.

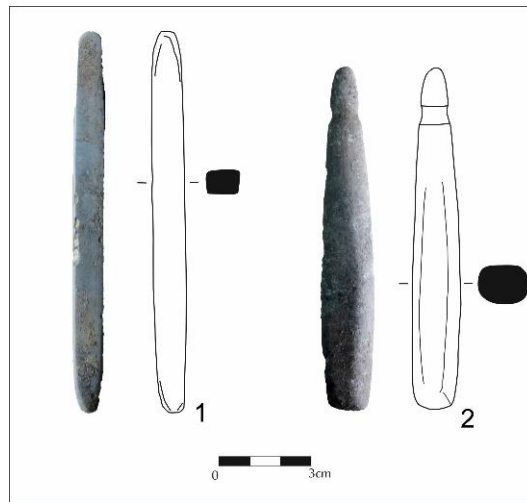


Figure 126. Whetstones.

VII.7. Overview of Bayazid Abad weapons

The corpus of weapons at Bayazid Abad show a strong connection to those from Hasanlu and Dinkha Tepe in Iron Age II period. The daggers exhibit cultural parallels with many other regions across south-west Asia. The closest parallels were from Hasanlu, Luristan, and Nimrud during the Iron Age II, and it was suggested that this type of daggers had an Iranian origin. The riveted dagger blades have a long history. They had been used in western Asia in the beginning of the third millennium BC and small number of them were discovered in Iran from the Bronze Age. Up to now, the Bayazid Abad's example is the only sample made of iron in Iran. Two forms of knives were attested in Bayazid Abad. The first type is a flat blunt iron blade whose history goes back to the second half of the second millennium BC. It became widespread in western Asia while the iron examples of this form appeared only in North-Western Iran. The bronze prototypes of the second type with recurved point blades are dated from the third and second millennia BC, and seems to be a distinctly 'Mesopotamian' type. The spear of Bayazid Abad are specific to the North-Western region and they have a strong tie to the Hasanlu's examples. The weapons' standardization leads to the hypotheses that a network of local workshops for weapons existed here, sharing styles, ideas, and technologies, rather than an import market.

Chapter VIII- Conclusion

The present study was based on the findings obtained from the tomb of Bayazid Abad in North-Western Iran, 18 km from Hasanlu. The material culture of this tomb belongs to the Middle Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age, and Iron Age I and II. Hence, the results of this study rely on the results obtained from other sites of the region, including Hasanlu and Dinkha in the mentioned periods.

The basis for recognizing and dating the Bronze Age and Iron Age of North-Western Iran was constructed on the findings of excavation at Hasanlu, taking it as a reference site. However, the stratigraphy and dating of different periods of this site has changed since the expedition of Dyson. Michael Danti conducted the most comprehensive and complete study of Hasanlu. The study includes a review of both stratigraphy and site dating, mainly related to the review of architecture and pottery of layers VI, V, and IVc (Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age I). In this dissertation, the chronology was referred to as intended by Danti. This method was applied not only to architecture and ceramics –on which Danti’s changes to chronology are based –but also to the seals, beads, weapons, and other findings from Bayazid Abad, considering the strong connection between this site and Hasanlu.

Study on various burial goods from Bayazid Abad made it possible to extend the understanding and evaluation of the material culture of North-Western Iran during second to the first millennium BC. The main goal was to discover the period or periods of North-Western Iran’s culture constituted by Bayazid Abad, a unique and very large hypogeum, as it hosts a huge amount of burial goods. The second goal was to find the connections between the tomb and the neighbouring main sites of the region (Hasanlu and Dinkha). Finally, it was aimed to find helpful data from this grave for improvement of the database of the material culture in North-Western Iran.

Previous studies of North-Western Iran were more focused on pottery, and other objects on a case-by-case basis. In addition to pottery, Bayazid Abad can also be of great help in

connection with other kinds of material culture. The investigation of findings in Bayazid Abad was divided into five sections. Brief conclusions of each section are as following.

Middle Bronze Age II and III (1900–1450 BC)

Characteristic burial goods of the Middle Bronze Age II were Khabur Wares, Pinkish Grey Wares and toggle pins. Khabur Wares were excavated in a few sites in North-Western Iran, and the presence of this pottery has been extensively observed in Dinkha Tepe and, to a limited extent, in Hasanlu, while it is completely absent from other areas of North-Western Iran. The presence of this type of ceramic in Bayazid Abad, the last stage of the presence of this kind of pottery in North-Western Iran, revealed the importance of this site and its strong relation to the two key sites of Hasanlu and Dinkha. The dissertation also discussed the strong influence of northern Mesopotamia on this site. A very similar specimen to Khabur Ware was detected in the period under discussion in Bayazid Abad, which, contrary to the tradition of Khabur, was made utilizing decorative motifs with incised horizontal lines. This scheme was produced in the tradition of Burnished Grey Ware. The connections with the tradition of Monochrome Burnished Ware of later periods in North-Western Iran were shown using Middle Bronze Age Grey Ware. Despite the differences in colour with the later examples in North-Western Iran, it was possible to recognize the sign of presence of a *longue durée* tradition of Monochrome Burnished Wares in this region. This indicated the inhabitants' knowledge about this technique. It seemed that in the following periods, with the development of the metallurgy industry, the colour of burnished wares changed and became closer to the black spectrum, probably in an attempt to imitate the colour of metal.

On the other hand, the possibility of a constant evolution in the burnished pattern used to decorate the vases from Middle Bronze Age II till Iron Age I was recognized. The pattern progressively became more elaborate and rich, showing a continuity, rather than a gap, in an increasingly refined production.

Other ceramics of this period were plain handmade wares which tended to have parallels with other areas of the Zagros.

Middle Bronze Age III of North-Western Iran is characterized by the emergence of Monochrome Burnished Ware and Urmia Ware, and represents an important transitional period. Although no samples of Urmia Wares were detected in Bayazid Abad (nor in Hasanlu), the presence of Monochrome Burnished Ware, which in some cases have common forms with Urmia Ware, indicated the strong connection between these two types of potteries. These common forms were present in the Geoy Tepe, Haftavân Tepe, and Dinkha and southern Caucasus, especially in Nakhichevan. Most common characteristic vessels were globular to oval jars with high necks, simple everted rims, and incarnated bowls with vertical walls and everted rims. Another particular form of Monochrome Burnished Ware was the short button-base tankard, showing Khabur Ware influences originating from northern Mesopotamia, and attested in numerous sites, including Nuzi and Assur.

Apart from Monochrome Burnished Ware, some other ceramics with incised running pendent triangles that may be solid, nested, or cross-hatched were attested in Bayazid Abad. Finding such ceramics revealed the existence of a definite link to decorative motifs from southern Caucasus in the Lchashen-Metsamor horizon.

Beside ceramics, other objects such as different type of toggle pins and, in particular, a group without head, with simple and ring-incisions, indicated strong contacts with Mesopotamia. Unfortunately, there was not enough findings to discuss other ornaments, since all of the goods were mixed in the grave. Moreover, evidences from neighbouring sites showed that in Middle Bronze Age III burials were relatively poor in ornaments and just contained simple beads and bronze rings.

Late Bronze Age (1450–1250 BC)

In the Late Bronze Age context, distinctive ceramic shapes were recognized. One of the most frequent types of pottery was the tall pedestal-base and button-base tankard. This type was recognized as an evolution of short vessels with button bases in Middle Bronze Age III. Bridgeless spout jars are the other typical ceramics of Late Bronze Age. Both forms had parallels in Hasanlu, Dinkha, and Geoy Tepe. The most important findings of this period were Mitannian Common Style seals. They were attributable to a time ranging from the fifteenth to the eleventh century and reflected widespread trade and contact with Mesopotamia. The

same kind of cultural connections was also evident from toggle pins but it was not possible to differentiate the discovered samples and assign them to specific periods. From the Middle Bronze to the Late Bronze, this type of pin had been used continuously in near east, and it was uncommon to find information about these objects from other sites in the area because the excavated materials were very limited.

Iron Age I (1250–1050 BC)

Cornerstones of the period were tall and short pedestal-base and carinated handled cups, derived from the taller types of the Late Bronze Age. Bayazid Abad Iron Age I assemblage consisted mostly of incurving-rim and everted rim carinated vases. It was also possible to observe new types of jars, with handles and everted rims. Mid-body carinated jars were still present, together with ovoid jars with short necks and thickened rims and also Pyxis carinated bowls. The design of spouted jars, had been in use since Late Bronze Age, underwent changes in the form of a bridge connecting the rim to the spout. Gadrooning emerges as a decorative technique. Projecting controls were frequently added to handles.

In addition to ceramic assemblage, other objects such as a double spiral and rolled head pins also belong to this period.

Iron Age II (1050–800 BC)

Based on the available findings, it appeared that during Iron Age II, the tomb of Bayazid Abad was used more extensively. The excavated assemblage consisted of a wide variety of S-profile jars with raised bands around their necks, bridged spouted jars, mid-body carinated jars, and tube spouted jars. All of the ceramic forms were traced to Late Bronze Age forms, except for two burnished grey chalices. These greys were extremely rare findings in North-Western Iran, having parallels only in Hasanlu IVb. Along with pottery, a large amount of ornaments, seals, and weapons were obtained from this period. Comparisons between the seals from the two sites, showed that seals with geometric decorations of chevrons and cross-hatching were in use in Iron Age II in North-Western Iran. Bronze and iron were used in the manufacture of

ornaments. The use of iron in the manufacturing of ornaments in North-Western Iran, starting from Iron Age II, probably indicated special value of this metal.

Except for the pins with rolled head and double spiral head, some of which could belong to Iron Age I, a new form of pin with bead and reel molded decoration were obtained in large volumes. Other ornaments were torques (both plain and with bead and reel molded decoration); bronze and iron plain round rings; coiled rings; and flat-band rings. The bodies discovered in Bayazid Abad were dressed, and wore bracelets with similar rounded cross-section, and rusted bronze strengthened by three horizontal channels separated by ribs in relief. Iron archer's rings were also excavated in Bayazid Abad. S-shaped earrings, and plain and beaded cast crescentics were also unearthed. The ornaments showed that they were fabricated in a local production center in the southern Lake Urmia region with exact parallels in Hasanlu and Dinkha.

Hundreds of beads of all typical materials, including semi-precious stones, quartz-based artificial materials (frit, faience, and glass), and bone and shell in different shapes, were found in the grave. Since most of the beads found, both in terms of material and form, were used uniformly in different periods in North-Western Iran, their exact dating is very difficult. However, based on the study of graves in other northern sites of Iran, it seems that before the Iron Age II the placement of beads in graves was very limited.

Weapons were excavated in small quantity. They included iron knives with curved tips, iron and bronze socketed spears, dagger blade, and stone mace heads. These findings indicate strong connection to the samples in North-Western Iran and north Mesopotamia and southern Caucasus. Confrontations with similar materials from Hasanlu IVb showed that Iron was used in the forging of weapons since Iron Age II.

Afterword

The material culture of Bayazid Abad grave showed very strong cultural contact between south Lake Urmia and Mesopotamia, Anatolia, and southern Caucasus. During the Middle Bronze Age II, the materials from Bayazid Abad exhibited a connection with north-eastern Mesopotamia, evident in both pottery and pins. In this period, the southern part of Lake Urmia Basin ties was limited to just Mesopotamia, which represents a unique situation in

North-Western Iran. During the first half of the second millennium BC, according to information from Tell Shemshara tablets, southern Lake Urmia was under Turukkaeans power. They extended their dominion into the Khabur region, as attested in documents from Mari. The presence of a huge amount of Khabur Ware in Hasanlu VI and Dinkha IV reflected the direct connection between southern Lake Urmia and northern Mesopotamia.

Across the Middle Bronze Age III, the connections of the southern coast of Lake Urmia expanded to Southern Caucasus and Anatolia, as proved by the emerging of Urmia Ware in the area, but also in the northern side of the lake, in Haftavân VIB. It was recognized that some of the Monochrome Burnished Ware from Bayazid Abad showed a strong affinity in shape with Urmia Ware, a pottery type totally absent from the site. Another evidence regarding the connection between southern Caucasus and southern Lake Urmia was the presence of incised geometric designs on the pottery from Bayazid Abad, Hasanlu, and Dinkha Tepe. The relationship with Mesopotamia was also evident from toggle pins and button and pedestal base tankard cups, a combination of button base Khabur small jars and Mitannian beakers, produced in North-Western Iran by adding a handle on the body.

New forms of potteries, such as bridgeless spouted jars also demonstrated continuous connection with southern Caucasus, while toggle pins, Mitannian seals, and pedestal and button base tankard cups showed strong ties to Mesopotamian culture during the Late Bronze Age in Bayazid Abad.

Regarding the Iron Age I material of Bayazid Abad, continuous usage of pedestal base tankard cups, and bridged spouted jars indicated prolonged relationships with Mesopotamia and Caucasus.

Iron Age II in Bayazid Abad and other sites of North-Western Iran was marked by the emerging of new form of potteries and bead and reel molded pins. In this region, especially in Hasanlu and Bayazid Abad, hundreds of this kind of pins were discovered. Sparse traces of them appeared around the whole of Middle East and Mesopotamia, leading to the conclusion that these items were a specialized local production of North-Western Iran. The connection with Caucasus was still strong during Iron Age II as proved by the presence of bridged spouted jars on the site.

Although, the majority of the ornaments of this period were produced locally, some examples, such as the two bracelets of the third category from Bayazid Abad, had parallels in eastern Anatolia. Regarding to the relation with Mesopotamia in this period globular small jars (type XIII, No. 105) could be mentioned.

Overall, the two main issues related to immigration and population replacement theories were raised based on the origin and development of the Early Western Grey Ware horizon and a change in mortuary practices in the southern Lake Urmia Basin. It has been commonly accepted that the arrival of the new dominant culture introduced, together with their ceramics, a new kind of burial tradition in the form of common graveyards outside of the inhabited areas.

The study of Bayazid Abad tomb and the collection of materials obtained from this grave revealed the existence of a long-term sequence from the Middle Bronze Age II to the Iron Age II, which was realized in different material collections of the tomb, specifically between the ceramics of this site. The most characteristic ceramics with a long duration of production were the button and pedestal handled tankard cups. During Middle Bronze Age III this form of cups had been produced with button bases and in Late Bronze Age they had been manufactured with both button and pedestal bases. Finally, during Iron Age I, only examples with pedestal bases and carinated body were detected. The form of this drinking vessels was related to Kassite and Mitannian beakers. The other category of ceramics, attested in several periods but with some small changes, are bridgeless (Late Bronze Age) and bridged (Iron Age I and II) spouted jars with strong parallels with the examples from southern Caucasus.

The strong cultural connections between Bayazid Abad, Hasanlu, and Dinkha over such a long period suggests that the life of the people buried in Bayazid Abad revolved around these two major cities. In none of the two settlements long duration burial has been reported. It is only known that during Iron Age II, a stone-built hypogeum was excavated in Hasanlu during Hakimi and Rad sounding. Moreover, one more example was discovered during Hasanlu Project expedition. This information, or lack thereof, may appear to support the idea of a break in the burial tradition from Middle Bronze to Iron Age, but Bayazid Abad tomb chamber demonstrated that the use of hypogeum has a long tradition in the region. In general, what makes this tomb unique is its long-time employment (1000 years).

The amount and quality of the findings in Bayazid Abad demonstrated that it used to be a burial site for high-status families: fifteen bodies were buried in the tomb, and a total of 120 pins were found in it; this number significantly exceeded the average number of two to four pins usually associated with the burial of a single person.

Between the Iron Age II potteries of Bayazid Abad, five globular small jars were present. This kind of vessel, displaying shapes and decorations of Assyrian influence, was also discovered in high numbers in the Lower Mound of Hasanlu, in temple BBII and also in a collapse storage room, among ivory inlays, signifying their religious and social importance in the area.

Another argument in favor of the prestigious status of the bodies from Bayazid Abad was the high number of cylinder seals discovered in the grave (57), probably used as precious ornaments, or to seal personal belongings. Eighteen of them were Mitannian Common Style seals, and two were imitations of Third Kassite Style. The remaining 37 presented geometrical motifs, all of them datable from Middle Bronze Age II to Iron Age II.

From the identification of Bayazid Abad as a “high status” tomb, with respect to other contemporary sites, it was possible to set the origins of the hierarchical stratification of the population in North-Western Iran to the Middle Bronze Age II. The previous dating for this phenomenon was based on the finding of a rich Iron Age II graveyard on the low mound of Hasanlu.

The continued and uninterrupted use of Bayazid Abad as a burial ground over such a long span of time disproves the theories that interpret the presence of Middle Bronze Age III wares as a fracture in the material culture due to a rapid and forceful substitution in the population after the abandonment of the site, like in the case of an invasion.

Naghada Museum Registration Number

Figure 11					
No. 1: 522	No. 2: 90	No. 3: 584	No. 4: 624	No. 5: 451	No. 6: 609
No. 7: a, 431; b, 482; c, 436; d, 536.	No. 8:				
Figure 12					
No. 9: 507					

Figure 13					
No. 10: 515	No. 11: 53	No. 12: 621	No. 13: 512	No. 14a: ?; No. 14b: 462	
Figure 14					
No. 16: 474	No. 17: 568	No. 18a: ?; No. 18b: 612	No. 19: -	No. 20: 567	No. 21: -
No. 22: 494	No. 23: -	No. 24: 613	No. 25: 570	No. 26a: 410; No. 26b: 574	No. 27: 635
No. 28: 404					
Figure 14					
No. 29: 601	No. 30: 402	No. 31: 544	No. 32: 575		
Figure 16					
No. 33: 633					

Figure 17					
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No. 34a: 467; No. 34b: -; No. 34c: -	No. 35a: -; No. 35b: -				
Figure 18					
No. 36: 542	No. 37: 563	No. 38: 538	No. 39: 502	No. 40a: 543; No. 40b: -; No. 40c: -	
Figure 19					
No. 41a: -; No. 41b: 595; No. 41c: 559; No. 41d: 617; No. 41e: -	No. 42: -	No. 43: 531	No. 44: 606	No. 45: -	No. 46: 471
No. 49: 487	No. 50: 433	No. 51: 586			
Figure 20					
No. 52a: 611- 658	No. 52b: 638- 457	No. 53: 610- 456			
Figure 21					
No. 54: -	No. 55: 562	No. 56: -			
Figure 22					
No. 57: 643					

Figure 23					
No. 58a: 588	No. 58b: 427	No. 58c: 607	No. 58d: 489	No. 58e: 490	No. 58f: -
No. 58g: 576	No. 58h: -	No. 58i: 622	No. 58j: 560	No. 59: 409	No. 60: 521
Figure 24					
No. 61: 603	no. 62: 465	No. 63: 446	No. 64: -	No. 65a: 499; No. 65b: 420	No. 66: -
Figure 25					
No. 67: 618	No. 68: -	No. 69: 561	No. 70a: -; No. 70b: 425	No. 71a: 593; No. 71a: 513;	

				No. 71b: 532; No. 71c: 578	
No. 72: 639	No. 73a: 623; No. 73b: 516				
Figure 26					
No. 74: 553	No. 75: -	No. 76: 552	No. 77: 480	No. 78: 422	No. 79: 637
No. 80: 403	No. 81: 552	No. 82: -			
Figure 27					
No. 83: 520					
Figure 28					
No. 84: 470	No. 85: 577	No. 86a: -; No. 86b: -; No.86c: 466			
Figure 29					
No. 87a: 483; No. 87b: 483 - ; No. 87c: 483; No. 87d: 508	No. 88a: 488; No. 88b: 526	No. 89a: -; No. 89b: 546	No. 90: 469	No. 91a: 483; No. 91b: -; No.91: 543; No. 91: 417	
Figure 30					
No. 92: 472					

Figure 31					
No. 93: 620	No. 94: -	No. 95: 496	No. 96a: 503	No. 96b: 493	No. 96c: 508
No. 96d: 583	No. 96e: 438	No. 96f: 506	No. 96g: 439		
Figure 32					
No. 97: -	No. 98: 429	No. 99:-	No. 100: -	No. 101: 629	No. 102a: -; No. 102b: -
No. 103: 495	No. 104a: 415	No. 104b: 500	No. 104c: -	No. 104d: 440	No. 104e: 485
Figure 33					
No. 105a: 504	No. 105b: -	No. 105c: 596	No. 105d: -	No. 105e: 608	

No. 106a: 486; No. 106b: 437	No. 107: 497	No. 108: 418			
Figure 34					
No. 109a: 505; No. 109b: 419; no. 109c: -	No. 110: 446	No. 111: 450	No. 112: 455	No. 113: 459	No. 114: 517
No. 115: 627	No. 116a: -; No. 116b: -				
Figure 35					
No. 117: 463	No. 118: -	No. 119a: 464; No. 119b: 468			
Figure 36					
No. 120a: 475; No. 120b: 411	No. 121: 539	No. 122: -	No. 123: 615	No. 124: 478	
Figure 37					
No. 125a: 453; No. 125b: 460					
Figure 38					
No. 126: 556	No. 127: -				
Figure 39					
No. 128: -	No. 129: 461				

Seals

Figure 40: 629	Figure 41: 691	Figure 42: 700	Figure 43: -	Figure 44: 697	Figure 45: -
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Figure 46: -	Figure 47: 675	Figure 48: 694	Figure 49: 698	Figure 50: 674	Figure 51: 710
Figure 52: -	Figure 53: 689	Figure 54: 680	Figure 55: 687	Figure 56: 708	Figure 57: -
Figure 58: -	Figure 59:673	Figure 60: 718	Figure 61: 688	Figure 62: 678	Figure 63: 711
Figure 64: 722	Figure 65: 723	Figure 66: 714	Figure 67: 803	Figure 68: 801	Figure 69: 681
Figure 70: 676	Figure 71: 696	Figure 72: 693	Figure 73: 704	Figure 74: 709	Figure 75: 699
Figure 76: 671	Figure 77: 679	Figure 79: 702	Figure 79: 685	Figure 80: 720	Figure 81: 677
Figure 82: -	Figure 83: 683	Figure 84: 690	Figure 85: -	Figure 86: 703	Figure 87: -
Figure 88: -	Figure 89: 682	Figure 90: 715	Figure 91: 701	Figure 92: 686	Figure 93: 705
Figure 94: 695					

Figure 95					
No. 1: 762	No. 7: 756				
Figure 96					
No. 2: 771	No. 3: 761	No. 4: 669			
Figure 97					
No. 2: 755					
Figure 98					
No. 1: 622	No. 4: 758	No. 5: 753			
Figure 99					
No. 1: 790	No. 2: 645				
Figure 100					
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Figure 101					

No. 1: 666					
Figure 102					
No. 3: 766	No. 4: 663	No. 6: 757			
Figure 103					
No. 1: 765					
Figure 104					
No. 4: 781	No. 5: 667	No. 7: 664	No. 8: 783	No. 10: 764	
Figure 105					
No. 11: 751	No. 12: 792	No. 13: 786	No. 14: 774	No. 15: 759	No. 16: 760
No. 19: 784	No. 22: 779				
Figure 106					
No. 8: 659	Figure 2: 763				
Figure 107					
No. 3: 773	No. 4: 660	No. 5: 661	No. 6: 665		
Figure 108					
No. 1: 767	No. 2: 750	No. 3: 775	No. 5: 772		
Figure 109					
-					
Figure 110					
-					
Figure 111					
No. 25: 754					
Figure 112					
No. 3: 768	No. 4: 769	No. 5: 770			
Figure 113					
No. 2: 728	No. 3: 730	No. 4: 746	No. 3: 748, 740, 739, 737, 729		
Figure 114					
No. 1: 743	No. 2: 744	No. 3: 670			
Figure 115					
No. 1: 727	No. 2: 734	No. 3a: 725; No. 3b: 726			
Figure 116					

No. 1, 8, 11: 653	No. 2: 654	No. 3, 5a-b: 468	No. 4,6, 7, 9: 649	No. 10: 652	No. 14: 717
No. 15: 716					
Figure 117					
No. 1: 656	No. 2c: 797	No. 3 g, k: 798, 800			
Figure 118					
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Figure 119					
No. 1a: 806; b: 807; c: 808	No. 2: 809				
Figure 120					
No. 2: 799					
Figure 125: 813					

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