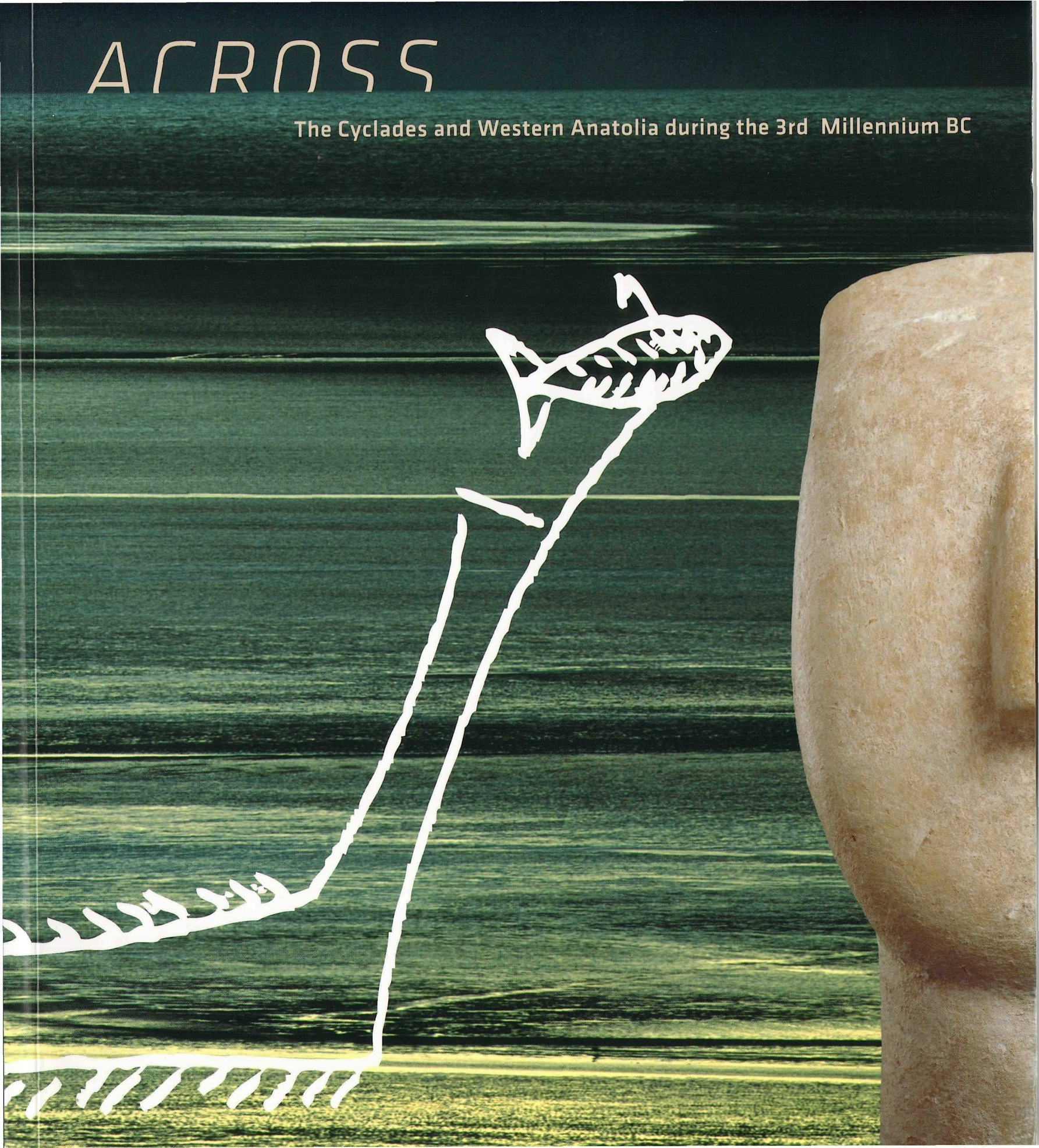
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The Cyclades and Western Anatolia during the 3rd Millennium BC



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Sabancı University Sakıp Sabancı Museum · May 24 - August 28, 2011 - Istanbul
978-605-4348-16-9

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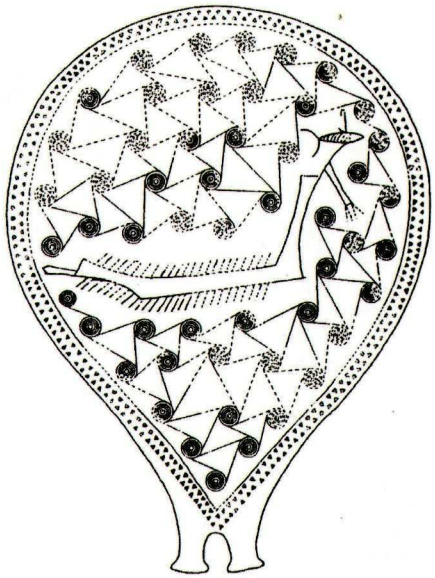
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FOREWORD

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CYCLADES

18 **1 EARLY CYCLADIC PERIOD: INTRODUCTION**
Nicholas Chr. Stampolidis / Peggy Sotirakopoulou

26 **2 PRE-BRONZE AGE CYCLADES**
Nicholas Chr. Stampolidis / Peggy Sotirakopoulou

32 **3 EARLY CYCLADIC ARCHITECTURE**
Nicholas Chr. Stampolidis / Peggy Sotirakopoulou

42 **4 EARLY CYCLADIC POTTERY**
Nicholas Chr. Stampolidis / Peggy Sotirakopoulou

52 **5 EARLY CYCLADIC METALLURGY**
Nicholas Chr. Stampolidis / Peggy Sotirakopoulou

58 **6 OBSIDIAN IN THE EARLY CYCLADIC PERIOD**
Nicholas Chr. Stampolidis / Peggy Sotirakopoulou

64 **7 EARLY CYCLADIC STONE ARTEFACTS AND IDOLS**
Nicholas Chr. Stampolidis / Peggy Sotirakopoulou

86 **8 EARLY CYCLADIC RELIGION AND BURIAL HABITS**
Nicholas Chr. Stampolidis / Peggy Sotirakopoulou

100 **9 EARLY CYCLADIC PERIOD: TRADE AND INTERCONNECTIONS**
Nicholas Chr. Stampolidis / Peggy Sotirakopoulou

110 **10 EPILOGUE: THE LEGACY OF THE CYCLADIC ART IN THE MODERN WORLD**
Lena Papazoglou-Manioudaki

COASTAL WESTERN ANATOLIA

116 **11 THE COASTAL WESTERN ANATOLIA AND THE CYCLADES DURING THE 3RD MILLENIUM BC: INTRODUCTION**
Hayat Erkanal

124 **12 PRE-BRONZE AGE WESTERN ANATOLIA**
Rıza Tuncel

130 **13 EARLY BRONZE AGE SETTLEMENT MODELS AND DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE IN THE COASTAL REGION OF WESTERN ANATOLIA**
Hayat Erkanal

136 **14 EARLY BRONZE AGE POTTERY IN COASTAL WESTERN ANATOLIA**
Vasıf Şahoğlu

144 **15 METALWORKING IN WESTERN ANATOLIAN COASTAL REGION IN THE 3RD MILLENIUM BC**
Levent Keskin

154 **16 THE USE OF OBSIDIAN IN COASTAL WESTERN ANATOLIA DURING THE EARLY BRONZE AGE**
Neyir Kolankaya-Bostancı

158 **17 STONE ARTEFACTS AND IDOLS IN WESTERN ANATOLIA**
Turan Takaoğlu

164 **18 WESTERN ANATOLIAN BURIAL CUSTOMS DURING THE EARLY BRONZE AGE**
Michele Massa / Vasıf Şahoğlu

172 **19 TRADE AND INTERCONNECTIONS BETWEEN ANATOLIA AND THE CYCLADES DURING THE 3RD MILLENIUM BC**
Vasıf Şahoğlu

178 **20 EXPERIMENTAL ARCHAELOGY: PROJECT FOR THE RE-ANIMATION OF CYCLADIC BOATS**
Osman Erkurt

INLAND WESTERN ANATOLIA

186 **21 INLAND WESTERN ANATOLIAN REGION: INTRODUCTION**
Turan Efe / Murat Türkteki

192 **22 INLAND WESTERN ANATOLIA IN THE PRE-BRONZE AGE**
Turan Efe / Murat Türkteki

198 **23 EARLY BRONZE AGE ARCHITECTURE IN THE INLAND WESTERN ANATOLIAN REGION**
Turan Efe / Murat Türkteki

208 **24 SEYİTÖMER HÖYÜK**
A. Nejat Bilgen

214 **25 EARLY BRONZE AGE POTTERY IN THE INLAND WESTERN ANATOLIAN REGION**
Turan Efe / Murat Türkteki

224 **26 METAL WORKING IN INLAND WESTERN ANATOLIA (3RD MILLENIUM BC)**
Turan Efe / Murat Türkteki

228 **27 BAKED CLAY FIGURINES AND IDOLS IN INLAND WESTERN ANATOLIA DURING THE EARLY BRONZE AGE**
Turan Efe / Murat Türkteki

232 **28 INTER-REGIONAL RELATIONS AND TRADE IN THE EARLY BRONZE AGE**
Turan Efe / Murat Türkteki

234 **CATALOGUE**

356 Catalogue Entries

404 Bibliography for Catalogue Entries

17 STONE ARTEFACTS AND IDOLS IN WESTERN ANATOLIA

Turan Takaoğlu

The nature of the extent of cultural interactions and exchange between Western Anatolia and the Cyclades in prehistoric times has been one of the most intriguing questions in Aegean archaeology. As it stands at present archaeological evidence indicates that links between western Anatolia and the Cyclades go back to as early as the late 7th millennium BC. Neolithic societies in Western Anatolia managed to obtain obsidian artefacts from the Cycladic island of Melos (fig. 1).[1] Some coastal villages acquired the Melian obsidian directly from specialist knappers arriving by boat with their load of obsidian. In this system of exchange, some coastal villages benefitted from maritime trade by serving as nodes of exchange in the redistribution of the Melian obsidian. As in most parts of the Aegean world, Melian obsidian was most likely valued for its physical appearance and also because of its exotic status, even more than for its functional properties. The Melian obsidian continued to be valued in the succeeding Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Ages in this region. Troy and Liman Tepe are among those western Anatolian Early Bronze Age sites, which still used obsidian from the Cycladic island of Melos.

Besides obsidian, marble artefacts of Cycladic origin circulated in western Anatolia in the Early Bronze Age, albeit sporadically. This is suggested by the few examples of marble vessels and figurines found at sites in western Anatolia. The ruling class of this period occasionally looked westwards to the Cyclades for the purpose of obtaining prestige items or status symbols of an exotic nature such as marble vessels and figurines that could be of use in socially and ritually significant contexts. The reason for Early Bronze Age western Anatolians preferring Cycladic stone artefacts probably had something to do with the importance attached to exotic artefacts. The costs of production and transportation probably made such valuable Cycladic objects as marble vessels and figurines accessible mainly to wealthy individuals.



1: Selected Melian obsidian artefacts from Neolithic Coşkuntepe in northwest Turkey.

Marble vessels from the Cyclades reached the coastal sites of western Anatolia as early as the Early Bronze I period. The site of Iasos on the Carian coast in southwestern Anatolia was one of those coastal western Anatolian sites, which had extensive contacts with the sites of the Cyclades. Several cist graves in

the Iasos cemetery yielded three exotic marble vessels peculiar to the Grotta-Pelos phase of the Early Cycladic I period in the course of archaeological excavations conducted in the 1960s.[2] Two of these specimens found respectively in graves 19 and 81 represent flat-based marble beakers. The third specimen found in grave 28 is a marble bowl with one vertical handle. The precise use of this distinctive type of flat-based beaker is unknown. The example found in grave 81 had been placed upside down against the mouth of the dead person.[3] Perhaps these had symbolic value by serving as drinking vessels in funeral rites, after which they were deposited in burials. The deposition of these marble vessels of Cycladic origin in burials at Iasos clearly supports the idea that these highly valued objects obtained through seafaring were the possessions of rich individuals during their lifetime.



2: Two shallow marble bowls with four ledge lugs from Ballıca in central-west Turkey

Examples of stone vessels originating in the Cyclades also turned up at Liman Tepe in the Early Bronze II period level. For instance, several fragments of marble bowls were reported from excavations around the citadel of Liman Tepe.[4] One of them represents a fragment of the rolled-rim bowl type common in the Early Cycladic II period. Likewise, a fragment of a limestone sauceboat found along with several pottery sauceboats[5] might have been an import from the Cyclades, or possibly modelled locally after an imported original.

Two curious marble bowls with four ledge lugs displaying close Cycladic affinities that were accidentally uncovered when a water-well was dug in the village of Ballıca near Akhisar, at a distance of nearly 100 km from the coast (fig. 2).[6] These two marble bowls with four oblong lugs slightly projecting from the rim were found in a pithos burial by a villager, along with a metal hoard composed of six copper-based metal artifacts (a crescentic axe-head, a flat axe, a dagger, a spearhead, a knife, and an awl), a silver mirror preserved in fragments, and a juglet. The two marble bowls might have been imports from the Cyclades in the Early Bronze II period, since such bowls were characteristic of the Early Cycladic II period. Numerous such marble bowls with four ledge lugs have been reported from sites throughout the Cycladic islands, including Syros, Naxos, Siphnos, Keros, Delos, Antiparos,

and Amorgos, although the majority of these bowls were found in excavations in the cemetery of Chalandriani on Syros which dates from the Early Cycladic II period. It must also be mentioned that unusually shallow ledge-lug bowls similar to the Ballıca examples are, however, rare in the Cycladic repertoire, which tends to consist of deeper forms. If these two marble vessels recovered at the Ballıca burial do represent imports, they might suggest an elite class that employed exotic goods to display wealth and social status.

Besides marble vessels, figurines of Cycladic origin also casually made their way to the sites of coastal western Anatolia in the Early Bronze Age. A head fragment of a Dokathismata type marble figurine of the Keros-Syros Culture was discovered at Miletus, which is situated at a strategically very important point at the mouth of the River Menderes (Meandros).[7] This fragment of a Cycladic marble figurine was discovered in a sounding south of the Athena Temple at Miletus. Prior to this discovery at Miletus, marble figurines were also reported from Cape Krio (Cape Deveboynu) in the Datça Peninsula to the south of Miletus nearly a century ago.[8] Although marble vessels and figurines originating in the Cyclades appeared at the sites of western Anatolia in the Early Bronze Age, there is evidence to show that production of marble vessels and figurines was also flourishing locally at this period, albeit on a different scale to that in the Cyclades. Western Anatolia is rich in metamorphic rock sources and the craftsmen living in the region apparently took advantage of this resource. Finely polished marble bowls reported from such sites as Ovabayındır in the Yortan culture area are regarded as evidence that a workshop may have existed somewhere in central-western Anatolia in the Early Bronze Age.[9]

Schematic figurines shaped mainly from marble were also a characteristic feature of Early Bronze Age western Anatolian sites. The most common shape is the so-called figure-of-eight shaped figurine, which is characterized by a pronounced division between the head and body. Such figurines are particularly common at levels I and II at Troy. Facial features such as arched eyebrows, eyes and nose are often marked in relief on this type of figurine.[10] The Kusura figurine with a discoidal head on a long neck rising from rectangular body is another schematic figurine variety common particularly in southwestern Anatolia, although examples occasionally turn up at other western Anatolian sites such as Troy. The so-called 'violin' figurine with rounded body, rudimentary triangular arms and tall tapering neck constitutes another schematic figurine variety valued mainly in southwest Anatolia at this period. Such small figurines with abstract human forms were probably used in household shrines or in cult contexts. These three common schematic figurine types characteristic of the Early Bronze Age western Anatolian societies do not resemble the typical folded-arm figurines of the Cyclades at the same period. Thus, slight similarities





3: Waste by-products of conical rhyton manufacture at Kulaksızlar workshop.

4: Rim fragments of marble conical rhyta broken at the stage of hollowing out found at Kulaksızlar workshop. Note the rotary drilling marks left on the interior surfaces.

observed between the schematic figurines of western Anatolia and the Cyclades in the Early Bronze Age might be the result of casual cultural contacts or maritime trade.

Despite rich assemblages of marble objects identified at the sites dating from the Early Cycladic Period, no evidence for a marble workshop has so far been identified on any of the Cycladic islands. The discovery of an example of a structured and specialized marble workshop focused on the production of marble figurines and vessels at the site of Kulaksızlar located nearly 100 km east of İzmir, however, provided a clear picture of what kind of site archaeologists might expect to find in the Cyclades for the production of marble objects (fig. 5).[11] The Kulaksızlar workshop, first identified by the meticulous studies of Rafet Dinç, focused on the production of two main products, namely the so-called Kilia figurine and the conical beaker or rhyton. The conical rhyton often has two opposed vertical lugs on the upper part of the body (fig 3 and 4). These vertically elongated lugs are pierced so that the vessel may be suspended. The conical beaker is known from several sites of this period and is probably the most common and widespread type of marble vessel in western Anatolia during the 5th millennium BC. The available examples representing this type are all fragments that have been found at sites such as Smintheion (Gülpınar), Beşik-Sivritepe, Hanaytepe, and Kumtepe in the Troad and Demircihöyük in the Eskişehir region. However, comparable complete conical beakers from the Cycladic sites of Kephala and Naxos, as well as those from Tigani on Samos show what this distinctive vessel looked like. Because Kulaksızlar dates to at least a millennium earlier than these Cycladic sites, it is possible that the pointed beakers manufactured at Kulaksızlar might have served as prototypes for those later Cycladic examples. Whether or not the recently found marble conical beakers from



5: Series of sandstone drill bits used to hollow out conical rhytons.



6: Waste by-products of Kilia figurine manufacture at the Kulaksızlar workshop.

Liman Tepe[12] were a product of the Chalcolithic Kulaksızlar workshop or one of the so far unidentified later period Cycladic workshops is a puzzling question, whose answer would shed valuable light on this period.

Another major product of the Kulaksızlar marble workshop is the so-called Kilia figurine (fig. 6) which derives its name from the site of Kilia in the Gallipoli Peninsula, where the first example was identified.[13] The schematic Kilia ("stargazer") figurines demonstrate very fine craftsmanship. They are characterized by broad backward-tilting heads, which contrast with a thin flat body. It has a narrow cylindrical neck and its broad shoulders slope in graceful curves ending abruptly at the elbows. The arms are sharply bent at the elbows and point upwards. These bent arms are sometimes separated from the torso by oblique incisions. The feet are also separated either by a slender cleft or by a superficial incision. The pubic triangle is also marked by an incision. Facial features such as eyes, nose, and ears are often marked by raised projections. The distribution of schematic Kilia figurines is mainly restricted to western Anatolia. They are commonly dated to the 5th millennium BC, although they occasionally turn up at find sites dating from the 3rd millennium BC. Most complete examples are unfortunately in private collections located worldwide. The third millennium BC date offered for Kulaksızlar products is not plausible in view of the lack of excavations at the site and the fact that surface finds of pottery are mainly Chalcolithic in character.

The most important aspect of the Kulaksızlar marble workshop is that it provides a full understanding of the ways in which marble figurines and vessels might have been manufactured in the so-far undiscovered marble workshops of the Cyclades. It seems that both western Anatolia and the Cyclades developed their own marble working industries and sporadically interacted with each other over time.

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171
Chisel
Early Bronze Age II, Liman Tepe
Arsenical copper
17.6 cm x 1.65 cm x 0.7 cm
İzmir Archaeological Museum, inv. 16722
reg. no. 1176


171

172
Shaft-hole axe
Early Bronze Age II (late) - IIIA, Bakla Tepe, Tomb 296
Copper
11.5 cm x 3.2 cm x 2.3 cm, diam. of hole 2.2 cm
İzmir Archaeological Museum, inv. 21467
reg. no. 65018/3


172

173
Bowl
Early Bronze Age II, Troy
Silver
H. 3.8 cm, diam. 14.6 cm
Istanbul Archaeological Museums
inv. 36.449


173

STONE AND MARBLE

174
Conical Beaker
Early / Middle Chalcolithic, Liman Tepe
Marble
H. 11.3 cm, W. of body (preserved) 8 cm, diam. of base 1.2 cm, wall thickness approx. 1.2 cm
Liman Tepe Excavation Store House
reg. no. 28388/5


174

175
Marble vase lug
Early / Middle Chalcolithic, Liman Tepe
Marble
H. (preserved) 4.4 cm, W. (preserved) 4.1 cm, wall thickness 0.8 mm., H. of handle 1 cm, L. of handle (preserved) 4.4 cm
Liman Tepe Excavation Store House
reg. no. 32041/2


175



176

176
Conical beaker waste fragment

Chalcolithic, Kulaksızlar
Marble
Preserved height 16 cm, diam. 8.3 cm
Manisa Archaeological Museum, study collection no: Kulaksızlar 99.29



177

177
Conical beaker waste fragment

Chalcolithic, Kulaksızlar
Marble
Preserved height 7.8 cm, width 10.4 cm
Manisa Archaeological Museum, study collection no: Kulaksızlar 95.216



178

178
Conical beaker waste fragment

Chalcolithic, Kulaksızlar
Marble
Preserved height 11 cm, width 7.4 cm
Manisa Archaeological Museum, study *collection no: Kulaksızlar 95.214*



182



183



184



185



186

187
Flat-based beaker
Early Bronze Age I, Iasos, Tomb 19
Marble
Rim diam. 11.5 cm, H. 10.4 cm
İzmir Archeological Museum, inv. 4654


187

188
Flat-based beaker
Early Bronze Age I, Iasos, Tomb 81
Marble
Rim diam. 14.5 cm, H. 16.7 cm
İzmir Archeological Museum, inv. 5251

189
Bowl base
Early Bronze Age, Liman Tepe
Marble
H. (preserved) 3.2 cm, diam. of base 4.3 cm
Liman Tepe Excavation Store House
reg. no. 1245


189

190
Stone sauceboat
Early Bronze Age II (late), Liman Tepe
Lime stone
L. (preserved) 14.5 cm, W. (preserved) 8.8 cm
Liman Tepe Excavation Store House
reg. no. 6250


190

191
Torso of a Kilia figurine
Chalcolithic period, Beşik-Sivritepe, found in the fill of Hellenistic tumulus
Marble
Preserved dimensions 7.2 cm x 5.3 cm
Çanakkale Archaeology Museum, inv. 4529


191

192
Torso of a Kilia figurine
Chalcolithic period, Kulaksızlar (?)
Marble
Preserved dimensions 7.5 cm x 5.7 cm
İzmir Archaeology Museum, inv. 24412


192



193

193
Kilia figurine with missing head

Chalcolithic period, Kulaksızlar (?)
Marble
Preserved dimensions 3.5 cm x 2.5 cm
İzmir Archaeology Museum, inv. 20675

194 - 195
Two Kilia figurine heads

Chalcolithic period, Alaağaç
Marble
Left 3.2 cm x 2.6 cm; right 3.1 cm x 4.2 cm
Manisa Archaeology Museum
inv. 7768 and 7769



194



195



196

196
Kilia figurine head

Chalcolithic period, Kulaksızlar
Marble
3.3 cm x 1.5 cm
Manisa Archaeology Museum, inv. 7751

197
Idol

Early Bronze Age, provenance unknown
Marble
Y. 10.7 cm, K. 0.4 cm,
Istanbul Archaeological Museums
inv. 75.150 T



197



198

198
"Beycesultan Type" Idol

Early Bronze Age, provenance unknown
Marble
L. 9.4 cm, W. (shoulder) 3.1 cm, W. (body) 4.2 cm, W. (neck) 1.4 cm
Istanbul Archaeological Museums
inv. 90.71 T