

A Middle Minoan Cup from 10 Vronwy Hankey* the Kharji Cemetery, Beirut.

This preliminary note is dedicated to the memory of colleagues, friends and teachers, many of them no longer with us, who over many years sought to discover and describe the history of the coastal area of the south-eastern Mediterranean from the earliest times to the present. In company with those who grieved with and for the people of Lebanon during the years of conflict, Vronwy and Henry Hankey offer their best wishes and hopes for the future of all the people of Lebanon, and for the restoration of the National Museum as the guardian of its ancient heritage.

Lebanon remembered

Between early summer 1962 and February 1966, Henry was counsellor and head of chancery at the British Embassy in Beirut. During that happy time, with our four children, we enjoyed the friendship, hospitality and wisdom of many scholars working in or visiting Lebanon. With special affection we remember Maurice and Mireille Dunand, for with them we first saw Byblos and Eshmoun, and often skied with Maurice on the snowy slopes of Faraya. He displayed his Alpine skills with a Savoyard determination that age would not take his wooden skis away from him. On a memorable visit to their home at Loisin, in Haute Savoie, we saw and discussed the contents of his boxes of records rescued from Byblos, and came away with his gift of *Fouilles de Byblos V : L'architecture, les tombes, le matériel domestique, des origines néolithiques à l'avènement urbain* (Paris 1973).

The Mycenaean Connection

In Lebanon I began to collect material for an account of Aegean pottery, made in the mainland of Greece during the Late Bronze Age, and exported to the east, to Cyprus, Syria, Palestine and Egypt. I hoped to renew interest in the study of trading relations between west and east during the Bronze Age, and to work towards a better understanding of the chronology of the Aegean Bronze Age¹.

During my search for unpublished or little known deposits from tombs, and for single pots or even

sherds mentioned in reports of excavation in Lebanon, Jordan and Syria, I learned that Mycenaean pottery had been found in 1954 during construction in the commercial district of Beirut, known as the Kharji². Part of a prehistoric cemetery had been excavated on the site where in 1964 the Rivoli Cinema was showing the early adventures of Sean Connery as 007. In the autumn of 1965 I made notes on finds then displayed in the National Museum. Early in 1966, however, before I could pursue the matter further Henry was transferred to Panama, and I left Beirut unaware that the finds I had noted in the Museum in 1965 represented a very small part of the total rescued from the Kharji cemetery in 1954. Consequently Beirut has no more than a brief entry in my published account of recent finds of Aegean pottery found in or near the coastal area between the mouth of the river Orontes, between Syria and Turkey, and El - Arish on the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt³.

These finds illustrate Europe's first export drive to the south-eastern Mediterranean, organised and maintained by the Mycenaeans. From about 1600 BC Mycenae in the fertile Argolid of southern Greece was the power-base of a vigorous family network. For a time Mycenaeans and Minoans co-operated peacefully in technology, artistic expression and overseas enterprise, but towards the end of Late Minoan IB/Late Helladic IIA (about 1480 - 1425 BC)⁴ the Minoan palaces in Crete were violently destroyed, except for Knossos, which survived damage. Whether this destruction was caused by invasion, by earthquake, or a by combination of both, it led to Mycenaeans ruling at Knossos, in control of the island and its long-established overseas contacts.

The distribution of pottery suggested that the major market for Mycenaean goods was Cyprus, and the main object of trade was Cypriot copper. Wealthy Cypriots imported finely decorated pottery, and perfumed oil packaged in elegant containers. Cypriot merchants, following in the ancient tradition of trade with the Levant coast and Egypt, found room for

Aegean goods among their Cypriot cargoes for Syria and further south. Recent studies in a variety of disciplines show that this picture of the international trading network is more complicated than was previously thought⁵.

Return to Beirut

Following correspondence with Dr Roger Saidah, *Inspecteur à la Direction Générale des Antiquités du Liban*, I returned to Beirut in March 1972 for a short visit, hoping to prepare for a thorough study of the imported Aegean pottery as part of a full publication of the Kharji cemetery, under the direction of Roger Saidah and with the collaboration of specialists reporting on the local pottery, the imports from Cyprus and Egypt, scarabs, jewelry, faience, stone vessels, metal weapons and implements. Tragic conflict put an end to this scheme, and to a later plan for publication of the cemetery, with Helga Seeden and Robert Merrillees, as a memorial to our friend Roger Saidah who died in 1979⁶.

On the first morning, Roger took me downstairs in the National Museum, past Ahiiram's sarcophagus, and the stone sleepers from Sidon (the Ford collection) to a basement storeroom. Several tables were loaded with pottery, roughly sorted into groups relating to individual tombs⁷. I set to work, delighted by the evidence for Beirut's participation in international trade during the Late Bronze Age (particularly between about 1370 and 1200 BC), - something which had never roused much academic inquiry⁸. On my second morning in the chilly basement my preoccupation with Mycenaean exports was suddenly brought to a stop by the sight of a lonely but recognizable foreigner among the dusty piles of Middle Bronze pots on a shelf opposite me. I stared, almost unable to believe what I saw. This was a fine cup, not Mycenaean, but made in Crete in Middle Minoan IIA, between about 1900 and 1850 BC (see illustration 1), and made in a form which is rare, if not unique. It was published summarily in 1989 to illustrate a discussion of the chronology of the Middle Bronze Age in the Aegean⁹. I hope that advance notice of this cup in *National Museum News* may perhaps lead to tracing its present abode, for it may cast a brighter light on the story of Beirut than its frail clay body and faded decoration would suggest.

The Minoan Connection

The first identification of Middle Minoan pottery exported from Crete to Egypt was made by William Flinders Petrie, whose inspired guess gave the label 'Aegean' to non-Egyptian pottery found in his excavations at Kahun, near the Fayyum in 1889-90¹⁰. Rapid publication of his drawings showed that his 'Aegean' sherds indeed came from the same workshops as pottery found in 1886 by Cretan shepherds visiting the Kamares cave on the southern flanks of Mount Ida¹¹. Since then Middle Minoan pottery has been found in small quantities in Cyprus at Karmi; in Syria at Ras Shamra/Ugarit; Mishrife/Qatna; in Lebanon at Byblos, and now Beirut; in Israel at Hazor; in Egypt (as well as at Kahun) at Tell el-Dab'a, Dahshur, Lisht, Harageh, Abydos, Aswan. Silver cups, part of a foundation deposit of a temple at Tod, are identical in design or have close affinities with the finest pottery of MM IIB (second half of the eighteenth century BC), made in imitation of metal prototypes, and used in the palaces of Knossos and Phaistos¹². Moreover, on-going discoveries at Tell el-Dab'a in the Nile Delta have inaugurated a fresh examination of diplomatic and cultural relations between the polities of the south-eastern Mediterranean, Egypt and the Aegean, and particularly the island of Crete¹³. A specific benefit from discussion of all objects which can be related to known datable events or Pharaohs is that each and every one may add something to the construction of a reliable chronological framework for the peoples who created and operated the international network of the Middle Bronze Age¹⁴.

The Kharji Finds

Because a great gap of time separates us from the discovery in 1954, and because so much information and material may have been destroyed, it is not easy now to identify who excavated, cleaned, listed and drew the finds. In 1972 I was given copies of parts of plans headed Beyrouth, Port. Parc No. 289. Propr Waq. Grottes. The plans are as follows:

1. Grotte 4, chambres 1 and 2 made in March 1954, signed by A. Sahab, two tombs used in the Middle Bronze Age, apparently during the Twelfth Dynasty of Egypt. Chambre 2, is roughly circular, 3m across entered from the north-east by a short dromos. No indications of find-spots appear on this plan.

A Middle Minoan Cup from 12 the Kharji Cemetery, Beirut.

2. Grotte 4, chambre 1, about 2.50 m north-west of 1, is oblong with rounded corners, about 5.5 m by 2.5 m, also entered from the north-east by a short dromos. Some find-spots are marked, and can be linked with objects recorded in the excavator's and F lists. The Minoan cup is listed with other objects found in chambre 1.

3. Tombe 1, is a double Late Bronze Age tomb approached by four steps down from the north to a square well, off which are two rock-cut chambers, one to the east down one step, the other to the south down three steps. This plan is signed May 1954, by G. Simson. Both chambers have numbered find-spots, which can in many cases be matched with the excavator's and F lists.

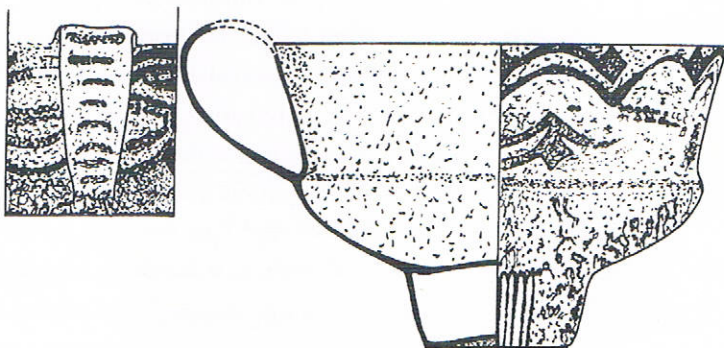
I was not given copies of the sectional plans.

It is hoped that all existing information about all these finds will be published in due course.

**A Middle Minoan II fine cup
from the Kharji cemetery
grotte 4, chambre 1 (F620),
P. Warren & V. Hankey,
Aegean Bronze Age
Chronology, Bristol, 1989,
pl.12A.**

The contents of Grotte 4, Chambre 1.

Markings on all the finds I examined showed two different hands. Most had been marked in ink with a serial number identifying a tomb and indication of the find-spot within the tomb. The excavator or an assistant presumably marked the finds, but another hand gave them a numerical sequence preceded by the letter F (? preliminary registration in the National Museum). Twenty-four objects (pottery, metal, faience and stone) were listed as part of the private collection of His Excellency Sa'eb Sala'am, then Prime Minister of Lebanon. During my stay in Beirut in 1972, the Prime Minister kindly invited me to his house and personally showed me these objects, but I did not make notes on them.

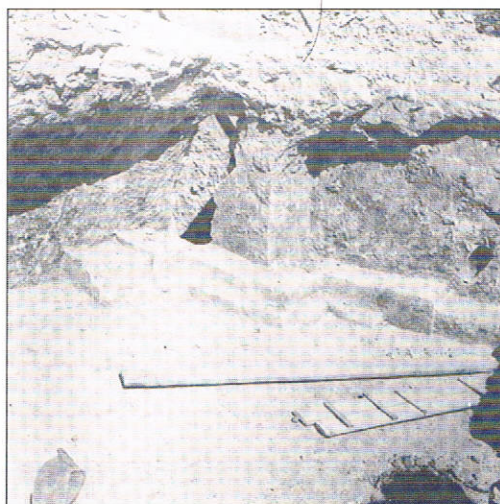
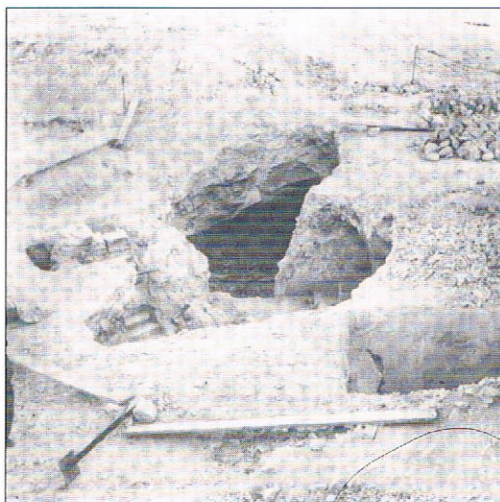


* Vronwy Hankey read Classics at Girton College, Cambridge, and studied at the British School at Athens (Visiting Fellow 1974-75). As a student she began field work for an archaeological survey of the island of Euboea, travelled widely in the Aegean, and took part in excavations at Mycenae and at Knossos. She is married to Henry Hankey, a diplomat now retired. Diplomatic assignments imposed a life demanding obedience to the calls of duty, but also allowed the freedom of a privileged wanderer to meet archaeologists at all levels, and take part in research and to lecture whenever or wherever invited, - in Spain, Italy, California, Chile, the Near East, Panama. In 1966, before leaving Beirut, she helped to excavate a Late Bronze Age temple on the airport at Amman, and has published finds from that site. Since the 1970's she has assisted Gerald Cadogan in his excavations at Myrtos Pyrgos on the south coast of Crete and in preparation of the final report. Hankey publications, other than those already mentioned, include: A

Marble Quarry at Karystos, *Bulletin du Musée de Beyrouth* 18 (1965), 53-60; Pottery-making at Beit Shebab, Lebanon, *Palestine Exploration Journal* (Jan-Jun 1968), 27-32 (reprinted in *Ceramic Review*); Mycenaean Trade with the South-Eastern Mediterranean, in *Mélanges offerts à M. Maurice Dunand. Mélanges de l'Université Saint-Joseph* 46 (1970-71), fasc. 2. 9-31; The Aegean deposit at El-Amarna, in (ed V. Karageorghis) *Acts of the International Symposium, "The Mycenaeans in the Eastern Mediterranean"*, Nicosia, April 1972, in *The Mycenaeans in the Eastern Mediterranean* (Nicosia 1973), 128-136; A Late Bronze Age Temple at Amman, *Levant* 6 (1974), 131-178; The Potters of La Arena, Panama, *Ceramic Review* 36 (1975), 10-13; Crete, Cyprus and the South-Eastern Mediterranean, 1400-1200 B.C., in (ed V. Karageorghis) *Acts of the International Symposium, The Relations between Cyprus and Crete, ca 2000-500 B.C.* (Nicosia 1979), 144-157; Pottery and People of the Mycenaean IIIC



Kharji cemetery (Archives of the Beirut National Museum)



Period, in *Archéologie au Levant: Recueil à la mémoire de Roger Saidah* (Maison de L'Orient, Lyon 1982), 167-171; Canaan's Trade with Mycenae and Cyprus, in (ed J. B. Pritchard) *The Times Atlas of the Bible* (London 1987), 52-53, with map; From Chronos to Chronology: Egyptian evidence for dating the Aegean Bronze Age, *The Journal of the Ancient Chronology Forum* 5 (London 1992), 7-29; Pottery as evidence for trade: 1. The Levant from the Mouth of the River Orontes to the Border with Egypt; 2. Egypt, in (eds Carol Zerner with Peter Zerner and John Winder) *Wace and Blegen: Pottery as Evidence for trade in the Aegean Bronze Age* (Amsterdam 1993), 101-108 (Levant), 109-115 (Egypt); A Late Bronze Age Temple at Amman Airport: Small Finds and Pottery discovered in 1955, in (eds Stephen Bourke and Jean-Paul Decœudres) *Trade, Contact and the Movement of Peoples in the Eastern Mediterranean: Studies in Honour of J. Basil Hennessy* (Sydney 1995), 169-185; Stirrup Jars at El-Amarna, in (eds W. Vivian Davies

and Louise Schofield) *Egypt, the Aegean and the Levant: Interconnections in the Second Millenium BC* (London 1995), 116-124; Peter M. Warren and Vronwy Hankey, *The Chronology of the Aegean Bronze Age* (Bristol Classical Press, 1989); V. Hankey and D. Aston, "The Aegean Pottery from Excavations at Saqqara by the Egyptian Exploration Society and the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden, Leiden," in *The Ages of Homer: A Tribute to Emily Townsend Vermeule* in (eds) J. Carter and S. Morris, (University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas 1995), 67-92.

Egyptian alabaster vase with full names of Ramesses II. Kharji cemetery, tomb 1 bis (F 586), P. Warren & V. Hankey, *Aegean Bronze Age Chronology*, Bristol, 1989, Fig.11.I



A Middle Minoan Cup from the 14 Kharji Cemetery, Beirut.

Appendix

The list of contents of Grotte 4, Chambre 1 was made from information provided by the Service des Antiquités du Liban in 1972. A list of the contents of the Late Bronze tomb at Kharji is being prepared.

Measurements of objects in centimetres. D = Diameter, H = Height.

SSC = Sa'eb Sala'am Collection

Excavator's number is in ink on the base of pots, and in suitable position on other objects. F followed by no. = marking in a different hand from the series 1 - 72.

Some pots have a label in the same hand as the excavator's series 1 - 72:

Example: Kharji 1954 Charji Grotte 4 ch 1 Carré 22. On reverse of label. N52

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Sherds; | 28. Bronze dagger, broken (F642); | 54. Sherds; |
| 2. Sherds including jug with ovoid body (F593); 3. Bronze fragments and sherds (F 641); | 29. Piriform jug, H 16 (F612); | 55. Bronze dagger, broken (F662); |
| 4. Sherds; | 30. - 33. Sherds; | 56. Sherds; |
| 5. Bronze dagger, broken (F644); | 34. Two bronze axe-heads, broken (F650, F651); | 57. Calcite (Egyptian alabaster) jar (F567); |
| 6. Jug, H 16.0 ; | 35. - 37. Sherds; | 58. Bronze knife, broken (F655); |
| 7. - 8. Sherds; | 38. Bronze knife (F640); | 59. Two bronze axe-heads (F653, F654) ? SSC; |
| 9. Jug with tall neck (F 589); | 39. Bronze spear-head (F649); | 60. Silver pin, bronze pin, broken (F663); |
| 10. Sherds (?F621), and jug = F622; | 40. Bronze knife, broken (F 665); | 61. Jug, H 10.5 (F615); |
| 11. Hippopotamus, white faience (F570), like Byblos from the Obelisk Temple; 12. Juglet (F598); | 41. Bronze spear-head ((F644); | 62. Bowl with three loop feet, Carré 40 (F578); |
| 13. Juglet (F597 and F619); | 42. Bronze fragments, knife (F 648), spear-head (F645); | 63. Bronze knife, broken (F657); two bowls, Carré 40 (F574); |
| 14. Juglet (also F597); | 43. Jug, H 15 (F ?); | 64. Bronze dagger, broken (F652), white faience scarab marked Carré 38 (F668); two silver earrings, crescent-shaped (F669); |
| 15. Scarab, white faience, spiral design (F636), bronze pin (F667), sherd from a cup, black with faint pattern in white; | 44. Sherds; | 65. Piriform juglet (F609); |
| 16. Sherds and bones; | 45. MM IIA cup, H 7.5, D of rim 11.8 (F620), sherds; | 66. Globular jug with ring handle (F591); |
| 17. Bones; | 46. Basalt mortar, H, 10. D of rim 20 (F566); | 67.; 68. Juglet with button base, Carré 40 (F581); |
| 18. Sherds; | 47. Sherds; | 69. Juglet with trefoil lip, Carré 39 (F580); |
| 19. Silver pin (F660); | 48. Bronze dagger, broken (F656); | 70.; 71. Piriform juglet with tall neck, Carré 26 (F574); |
| 20. - 23. Sherds; | 49. Scarab, white faience, elaborate scroll design (F635); | 72. Juglet with trefoil lip, Carré 26 (F579). |
| 24. Jug, H 14 (F623); | 50. Juglet with trefoil lip and button base, H 8, Carré 33 (F 582); | -Kharji cemetery (Archives of the Beirut National Museum) |
| 25. Scarab, amethyst (F632); scarab, carnelian (F633) SSC; | 51. Deep bowl, Carré 36, banquette (F572); | |
| 26. - 27. Sherds; | 51 bis. Deep bowl (F 571) | |
| | 52. Juglet with narrow neck (F576) SSC; | |
| | 53. Scarab, amethyst, uninscribed (F634); | |

¹ F. H. Stubbings, *Mycenaean Pottery from the Levant* (Cambridge 1951).

² See Philippe Marquis, *Les Fouilles du Centre-Ville, État d'Avancement des Travaux: Mars à Septembre 1995*, *National Museum News* 2 (1995), 10-12, plan site 18.

³ V. Hankey, *Mycenaean Pottery in the Middle East: Note on Finds since 1951*, *The Annual of the British School at Athens* 62 (1966), 107-147. This study was written in Panama, thanks to constant postal help from the late Olga Tufnell, whom I first met in the National Museum of Beirut, and from whom I learned much. I was also fortunate in having access to the extensive library of the Canal Zone of Panama, then under the administration of the United States Government. For distribution of exports see Vronwy Hankey and Albert Leonard Jr., *Ägypten und die Levante, Ägäische Importe des 2. Jahrtausends v. Chr.* Herausgegeben vom Sonderforschungsbereich 19, *Tübinger Atlas der Vorderen Orients* (TAVO) der Universität Tübingen (Wiesbaden 1992). A. Leonard Jr., *An Index to the Late Bronze Age Aegean Pottery from Syria-Palestine* (Paul Åström, Jonsered, Sweden 1995) is a comprehensive, up-to-date and indis-

pensable guide, with full references, illustrations and distribution maps.

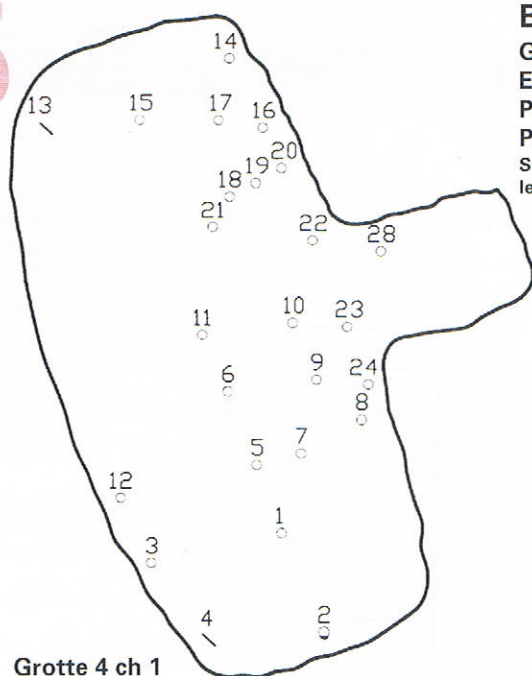
⁴ *Egypt, the Aegean and the Levant: Interconnections in the Second Millenium BC* (eds W. Vivien Davies and Louise Schofield (British Museum Press 1995) contains recent discussions and information.

⁵ Research into the sources of copper has modified views held previously. See Zofia Stos-Gale, Noel Gale and Judy Houghton, *The Origins of Egyptian copper: Lead-Isotope Analysis of Metals from 33 El-Amarna, in Egypt, the Aegean and the Levant* (note 4), 127-135, with references to other studies.

⁶ Objects from the Kharji cemetery will be published in *Berytus* 42.1993-1994.

⁷ Dimitri Baramki's paper read at the International Symposium *The Mycenaeans in the Eastern Mediterranean*, Nicosia, April 1972, was perhaps the first archaeological study to focus attention on Lebanon's share in overseas

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Grotte 4 ch 1

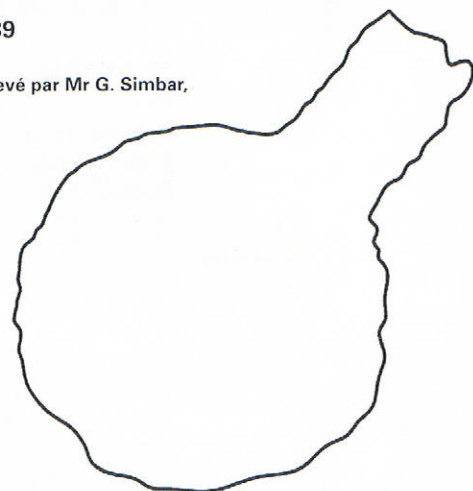
Beyrouth

Grottes

Echelle: 1/50

Port Parcelle No 289

Propriété Waqf

Service des Antiquités levé par Mr G. Simbar,
le 10/5/1954

Grotte 4 ch 2

1. Coarse jar, not catalogued
2. F 646, hache
- 3.
4. F 646, spear-head
- 5.
- 6.
7. F 596
8. F 604, on surface F 732, dagger
- 9.
- 10.
11. Faience Hippopotamus
- 12.
13. Lance
- 14.
- 15.

16. F 601
- 17.
18. F 606, 733 dagger
- 19.
20. F 594, F 730 spear-head
- 21.
22. F 728, knife
23. F 729, knife
24. F 599
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
28. F 608, 642 spear-head

-Plans of Kharji chamber
tombs of the Middle-Late
Bronze Age periods found
in 1954 between the Rivoli
and the Byblos theatres
(from Vronwy Hankey,
drawn by the Department
General of Antiquities)

trade in the Late Bronze Age. See D. C. Baramki, *The Impact of the Mycenaeans on Phoenicia*, in (ed V. Karageorghis) *Acts of the International Symposium, "The Mycenaeans in the Eastern Mediterranean"* (Nicosia 1973), 193-197. Dimitri Baramki is remembered with gratitude.

⁸ The name Beirut (Beruta) is recorded in letters preserved in the royal archives of the Pharaoh Akhenaten (Amenophis IV) at El-Amarna in Egypt.

⁹ Peter Warren and Vronwy Hankey, *Aegean Bronze Age Chronology* (Bristol 1989), 134-135, pl 12A).

¹⁰ W. M. F. Petrie, *Illahun, Kahun and Gurob* (London 1891), 8-11.

¹¹ Ann Brown, 'I propose to begin at Gnosso', *Annual of the British School at Athens* 81 (1986), 37-44. See also V. Hankey, *From Chronos to Chronology*, *Journal of the Ancient Chronology Forum* 5 (London 1992), 7-29.

¹² Warren and Hankey (note 9), 131-133, pls 5 - 11.

¹³ Manfred Bietak, *Pharaonen und Fremde: Dynastien im Dunkeln* (Sonderausstellung des Historischen Museums der Stadt Wien in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Ägyptologischen Institut der Universität Wien und dem Österreichischen Archäologischen Institut Kairo, Rathaus Wien, Volkshalle, 8. Sept. - 23. Oct. 1994); *Connections between Egypt and the Minoan World: New Results from Tell el-Dab'a/Avaris*, Davies and Schofield (note 4), 19-28.

¹⁴ I record my gratitude to the late Emir Maurice Chéhab for help, friendship and hospitality during my stay in Lebanon.

A Middle Minoan Cup from the 16 Kharji Cemetery, Beirut.

Beyrouth

Grottes

Echelle: 1/50

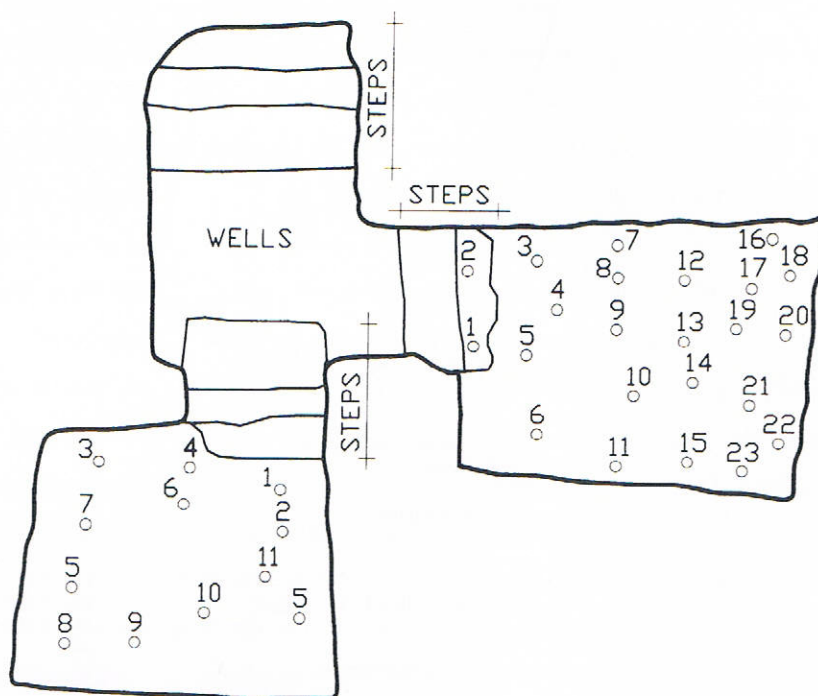
Port Parcelle No 289

Propriété *Waqf*

Service des Antiquités levé par

Mr G. Simbar, le 10/5/1954

Plans of Kharji chamber tombs of the Middle-Late Bronze Age periods found in 1954 between the Rivoli and the Byblos theatres (from Vronwy Hankey, drawn by the Department General of Antiquities).



Objects in numbered findspots 1 bis

1. F 592, Lenticular flask
2. Stirrup jar
3. 697, Globular stirrup jar
4. Jug (32.IV.54)
5. 695, Shaved ware juglet
6. Krater with bird decoration
- 7.
8. 693, Basalt dish, pedestal foot
9. Lenticular flask (38.IV.54)
10. Lenticular flask (39.IV.54), "Myc" type
11. Shaved juglet and sherds
12. 691, Axehead
13. 694, Stirrup jar, 695 basalt mortar
14. 692, Calcite jar- alabastron vase
15. Sherd
16. Shaved juglet (43.IV.54)
17. 696, Imitation of base Ring II juglet
18. 698, Carinated bowl
19. Sherd, Base Ring II
20. 701, 702 and sherds of Base Ring II
21. Shaved ware local
22. 703, Stirrup jar
23. White slip bowl
24. Calcite vase with cartouche of Ramesses II
25. 699, Carinated bowl

There were two boxes of sherds with 706 objects in numbered findspots 2 bis.

1. 706, Lenticular flask + sherd shaved ware, + "Myc" - s.jar
2. 705, Stirrup jar
3. 710, Stirrup jar + sherds
4. 712, Stirrup jar
5. Stirrup jar
- 6.
- 7.
8. 708 (White slip bowl)
9. 711 (White slip bowl)
10. 707 (Base Ring bowl)
11. 713 (Lenticular flask)
12. 704, Stirrup jar
- 13.
14. Small bowl
15. F 594, F 730 spear-head
- 16.
17. F 728, knife
18. F 729, knife
19. F 599
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
28. F 608, 642 spear-head