

INSCRIBED OBJECTS

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A note on the inscriptions found at al-Hiba (Lagash) during the 1984 survey.

CLAY NAIL (N. 500 and E. 450) BRICK FRAGMENTS (N.380 and W.110)

During the survey a fragmentary clay nail and three brick fragments were recovered all from the surface of the site. The clay nail carries the first part of an inscription from the reign of En-ana-tum I identical with the first part of Sollberger Corpus En.I 10, clou A 1 and with Biggs Al Hiba no. 2. The first of these is an inscription of Lumma-banda, a son of En-ana-tum. (The reading of the name, written lum-ma-TUR, is uncertain. Lumma-banda was possibly a younger son, since it was not he but En-metena who succeeded En-ana-tum.) The second, with almost identical wording, is an inscription of one Šuni-aldugud. Both commemorate the manufacture of clay nails for the E-ana of Inana. Nails bearing these inscriptions are relatively common: Biggs Al Hiba nos. 43, 54, 56, 57 and 61 are probably all duplicates of no. 2, while nos. 4 and 5 probably duplicate Sollberger En.I 10, clou A. Since the second column is missing, it is impossible to say whose name should be restored in the present case. A similarly worded inscription is that of the scribe Lu-engura, see Hallo, JNES 17 (1958), p. 215, also commemorating the manufacture of nails for the E-ana.

The head and part of the shaft are preserved; the text runs around the shaft, as follows:

i  
 en-an-na-túm  
 ensí  
 lagas<sub>1</sub> ki  
 mu pàd-da  
 d<sub>1</sub>inana-ka-ke<sub>4</sub>  
 eb-gal  
 é-an-na  
 kur-kur-ra mu-na-diri-ga-a  
 u<sub>4</sub>-ba

ii  
 [ PN  
 girri<sub>x</sub>(KIB) mu-dím-dím  
 é-an-na-ke<sub>4</sub>  
 mu-na-dug<sub>4</sub> ]



2./

"At the time when En-ana-tum, ensi of Lagas, elect of Inana, built the Eb-gal and made the E-ana famous for her throughout the world, [PN had clay nails made and ordered them for the E-ana]".

#### Notes

1. Grammatically the first clause is a nominalised clause dependent on its regens, the following clause introduced by u<sub>4</sub>-ba: "when/after..., at that time..."
2. The interpretation of the word written with the sign KIB as 'clay nail' follows the suggestion of Jacobsen, see JNES 17 p. 215 n. 23. For the reading girri<sub>x</sub> see Hallo in HUCA 33 p. 9 and n. 67. Jacobsen's suggestion is not followed by Biggs, who states that the nails record "the building of the KIB" (Al Hiba, p. 3). But the reduplicated verb form implies plurality of the object made and it is clear that at least three people "made KIBs" for the E-ana, and possibly for other buildings (one of Šuni-aldugud's nails was found at Zurghul, Biggs Al Hiba no. 64). This well suggests the contribution of a number of persons of high, but not the highest, social status, to a decorative or auxiliary feature of moderate expense.
3. The translation of dug<sub>4</sub> as 'ordered' in the restored second portion is uncertain.

The brick fragments were all found in one ten-metre square just south-east of the Bagara temple. Two join; it is likely but not certain that the third belongs to the same brick. A subsequent search in the same area failed to find any further fragments. The fragments are of greenish baked brick, with the surface much damaged by over-firing, and I was not able to make sense of more than the first two lines, which are enough to ascribe the stamp to Amar-Suen. A brick of Amar-Suen's was found during the first season 'near Area B' i.e. in the same general area (see Biggs Al Hiba no. 46). A number of Amar-Suen's brick inscriptions begin in the



3./

same way, with the king's name followed by his special personal epithet 'chosen by  
Nippur', e.g. Thureau-Dangin SAKI pp. 196ff., Bricks B, C and D. The  
thickness of the fragments is about 6cm. The legible part of the stamp reads:

d<sub>1</sub>amar-d<sub>2</sub>EN.ZU

d<sub>1</sub>EN.LÍL KI [-a d<sub>2</sub>en-líl-le mu pàd-da]

During the course of the survey a visit was made to Tello (Girsu), where two frag-  
ments of clay nails were found, both with the same inscription, of Gudea, that re-  
gistered as Brick F by Thureau-Dangin SAKI pp. 142ff.:

d<sub>1</sub>nin-gír-su / ur-sag kal-ga / d<sub>2</sub>en-líl-lá-ra / lugal-a-ni / gù-dé-a / ensí / lagaša<sup>ki</sup> /  
nì-du<sub>7</sub>-e pa mu-na-è / é-ninnu-d<sub>1</sub>imdugud<sup>mu</sup>en-babbar-ra-ni / mu-na-dù / ki-bi mu-na-gi<sub>4</sub>

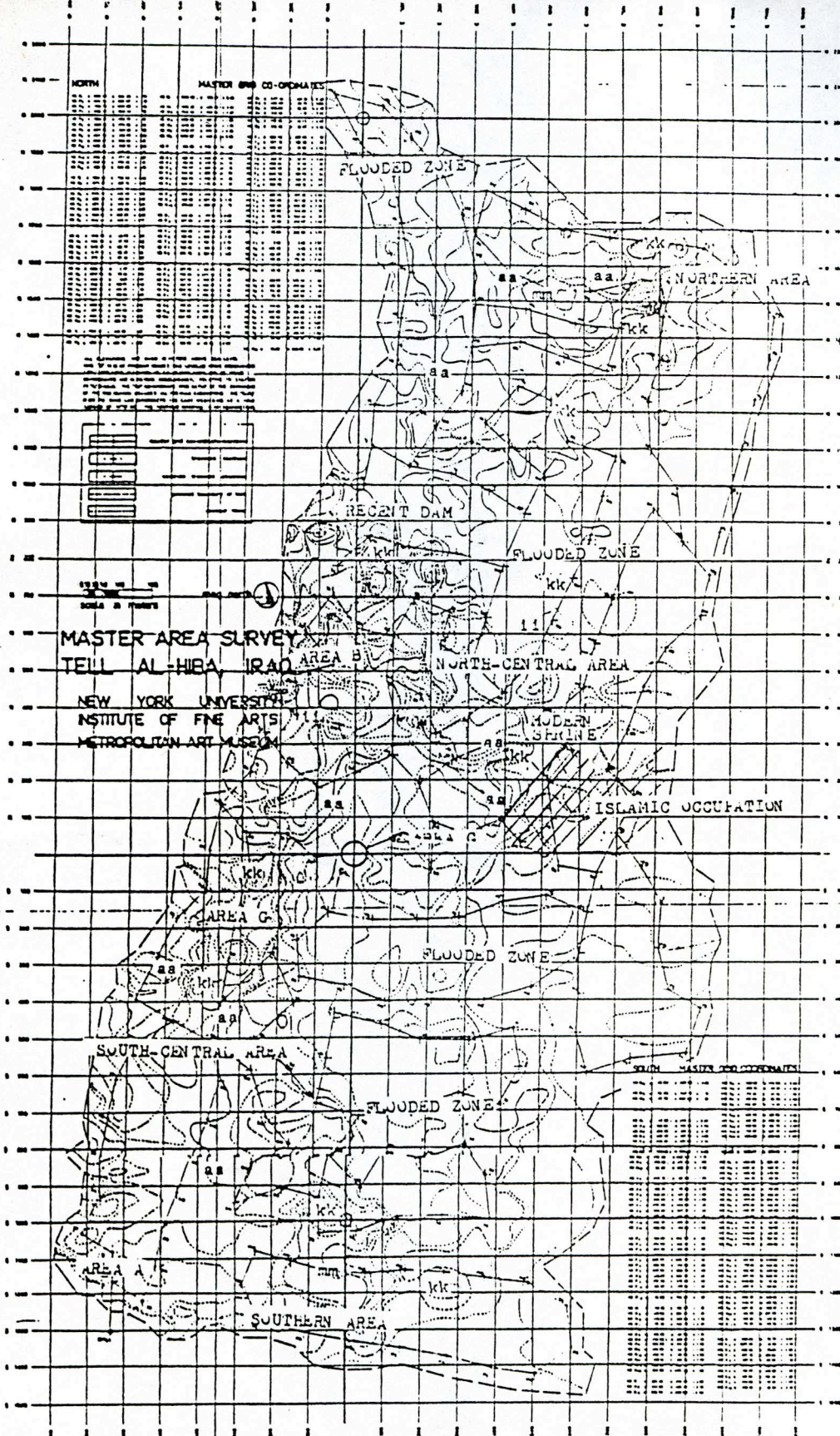
"For his master Ningirsu, Enlil's mighty Hero, Gudea ensi of Lagash publicly  
performed appropriate rites, and rebuilt and restored for him his E-ninnu-Imdugud-~~bābar~~  
The text had earlier been found on a clay nail, see Déc. pl. 38, as well as on a door-  
socket and a tablet, see SAKI p. 142.

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## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1--Site map showing major finds of the survey
- Fig. 2--Surface pottery of the Early Dynastic Period
- Fig. 3--Surface pottery and finds of the late third-  
early second millennium B.C.
- Fig. 4--Surface pottery and glass of the Islamic Period
- Fig. 5--Inscribed objects from the survey of al-Hiba
- Fig. 6--Inscribed objects from Telloh





MASTER AREA SURVEY

TELL AL-HIBA, IRAQ

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS

METROPOLITAN ART MUSEUM

KEY

- ARCHITECTURAL TRACES aa
- INSCRIBED OBJECTS 11
- HIGH AREAS kk
- MICROLITHS mm

FIG. 10 MAP SHOWING MAJOR FINDS OF THE SURVEY

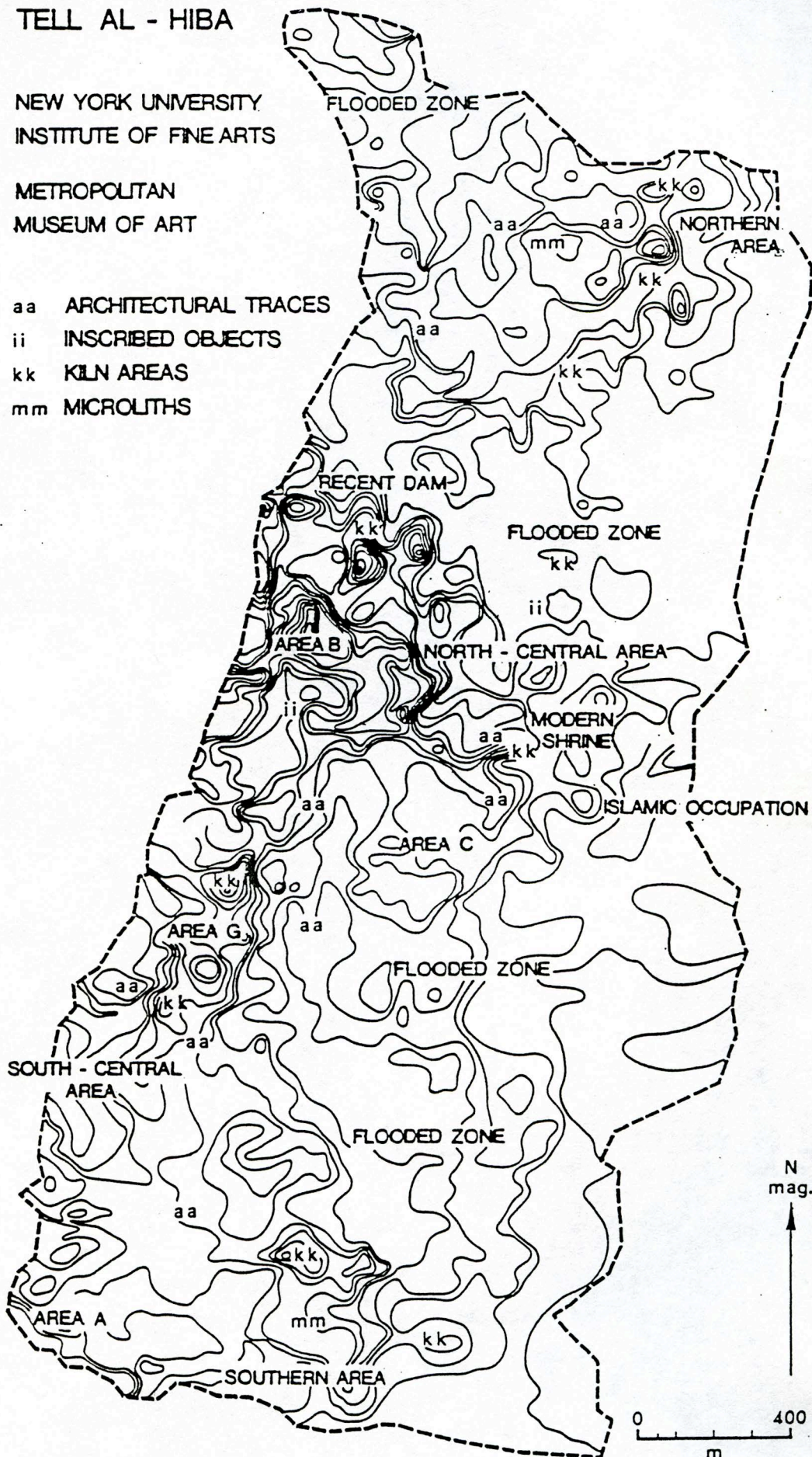


# TELL AL - HIBA

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY  
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METROPOLITAN  
MUSEUM OF ART

- aa ARCHITECTURAL TRACES
- ii INSCRIBED OBJECTS
- kk KILN AREAS
- mm MICROLITHS





ILLUSTRATED OBJECTS

Fig. 2

|   | Locus          |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Conical bowl (5Y 7/3)  | S. 981 W. 570  |
| 2. Conical cup (2.5 Y 7/4)  | S. 520 W. 470  |
| 3. Conical cup, base (5Y 6/4)                                       | N. 1750 W. 470 |
| 4. Kiln stand (?) (2.5 Y 7/4)                                       | N. 140 W. 280  |
| 5. Conical bowl stand (5Y 6/2)                                      | N. 1500 E. 480 |
| 6. Stemmed-dish base (5YR 5/6)                                      | S. 1300 W. 150 |
| 7. Stemmed-dish plate (5Y 7/3)                                      | S. 900 E. 70   |
| 8. Spouted jar with reserved slip<br>(slip-5Y 7/3; ware- 2.5YR 5/4) | N. 1655 E. 780 |

Fig. 3

|                                   |               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Jar neck (2.5Y 7/4)            | N. 580 E. 150 |
| 2. Step-shouldered jar (5Y 8/4)   | N. 480 W. 70  |
| 3. Grooved jar rim (5Y 7/3)       | N. 60 E. 40   |
| 4. Ledge-rim pot (2.5y 8/4)       | N. 580 E. 150 |
| 5. Goblet foot (2.5Y 8/4)         | N. 580 E. 150 |
| 6. Terra-cotta bed model (5Y 7/4) | N. 480 W. 190 |

Fig. 4

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| 1. Ewer neck (5Y 8/3)  | Area D-L      |
| 2. Handed jar neck (5Y 6/3)  | Area D-L      |
| 3. Corrugated pot (?) rim (5Y 7/3)   | Area D-L      |
| 4. Jar rim and shoulder<br>(slip-5Y 7/2; ware- 10 YR 8/4)<br>Incised decoration under dark blue-<br>green glaze. | Area D-L      |
| 5. Same as above   |               |
| 6. Pointed base (5Y 6/3)   | N. 70 E. 640  |
| 7. Clear glass bowl  | N. 140 E. 570 |
| 8. Cut glass bottle  | Area D        |
| 9. Turban handle (10 YR 8/3)   | Area D-L      |

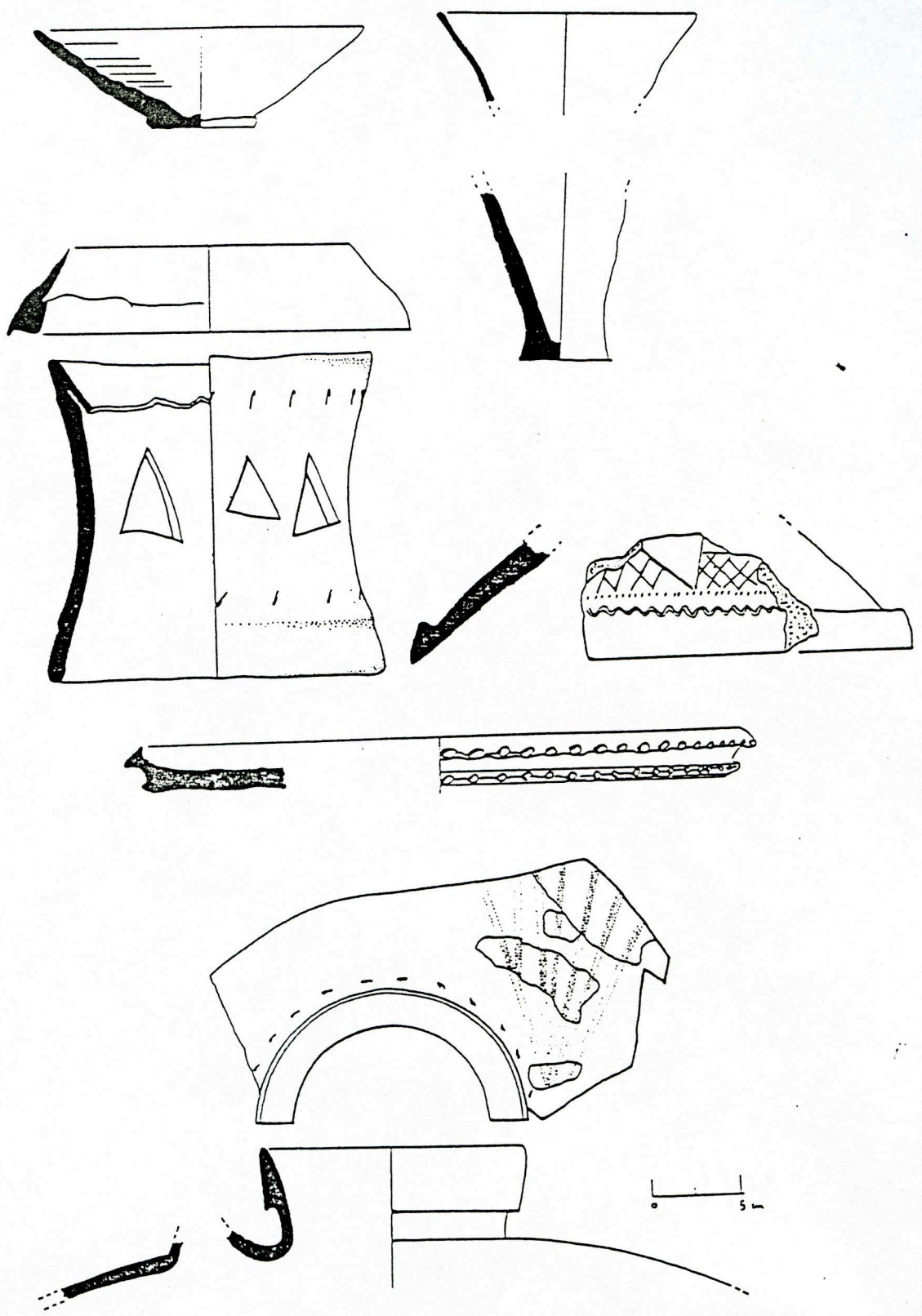


FIG. 1. CERAMIC VESSELS OF THE EARLY CHALCOLITHIC PERIOD



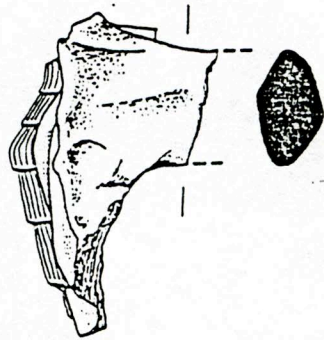
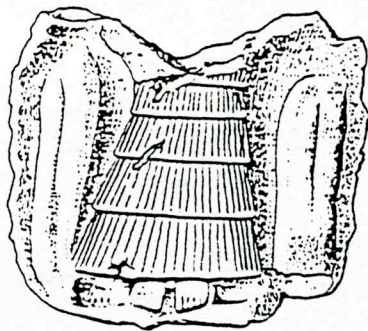
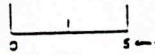
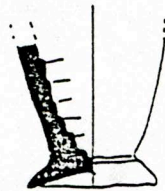
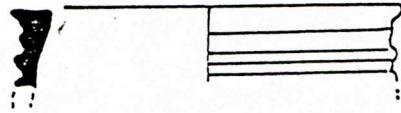
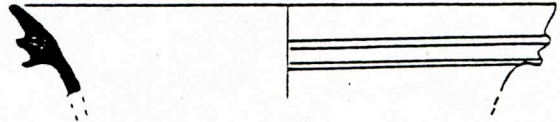
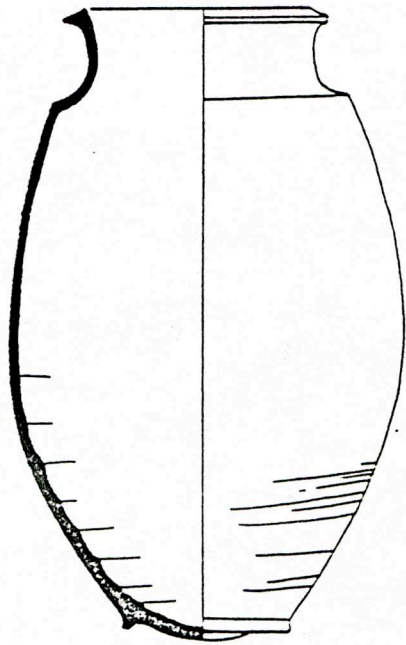
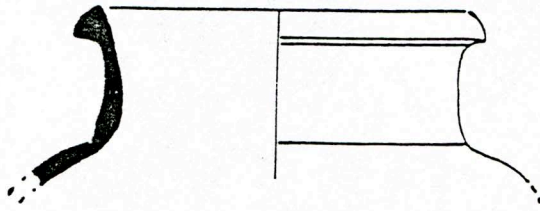
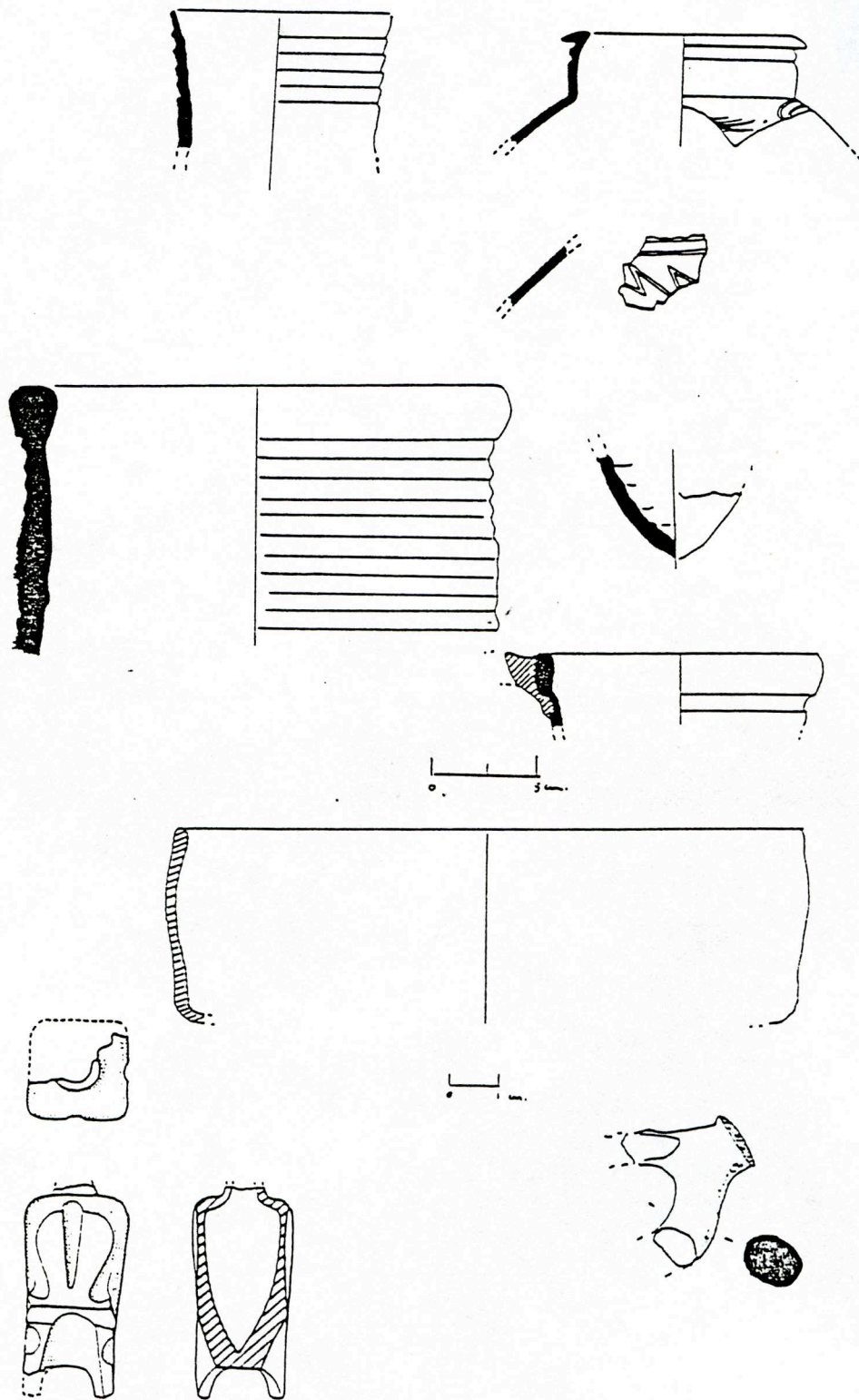


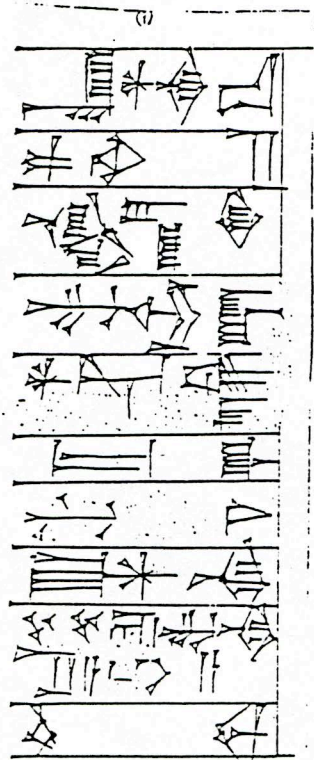
FIG. 1. Fragments of a ceramic vessel, showing the rim and the body of the vessel.



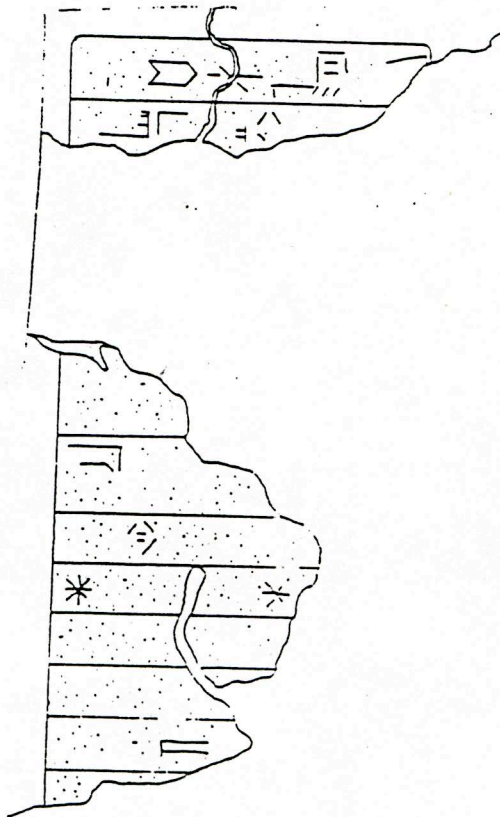


NEW FINDINGS IN POTTERY AND JARLS OF THE LATE PERIOD





CLAY NAIL (N. 500 E. 450)



BRICK FRAGMENTS (N. 380 W. 110)



FIG. 5--INSCRIBED OBJECTS FROM THE SURVEY OF AL-HIBA--LAGASH



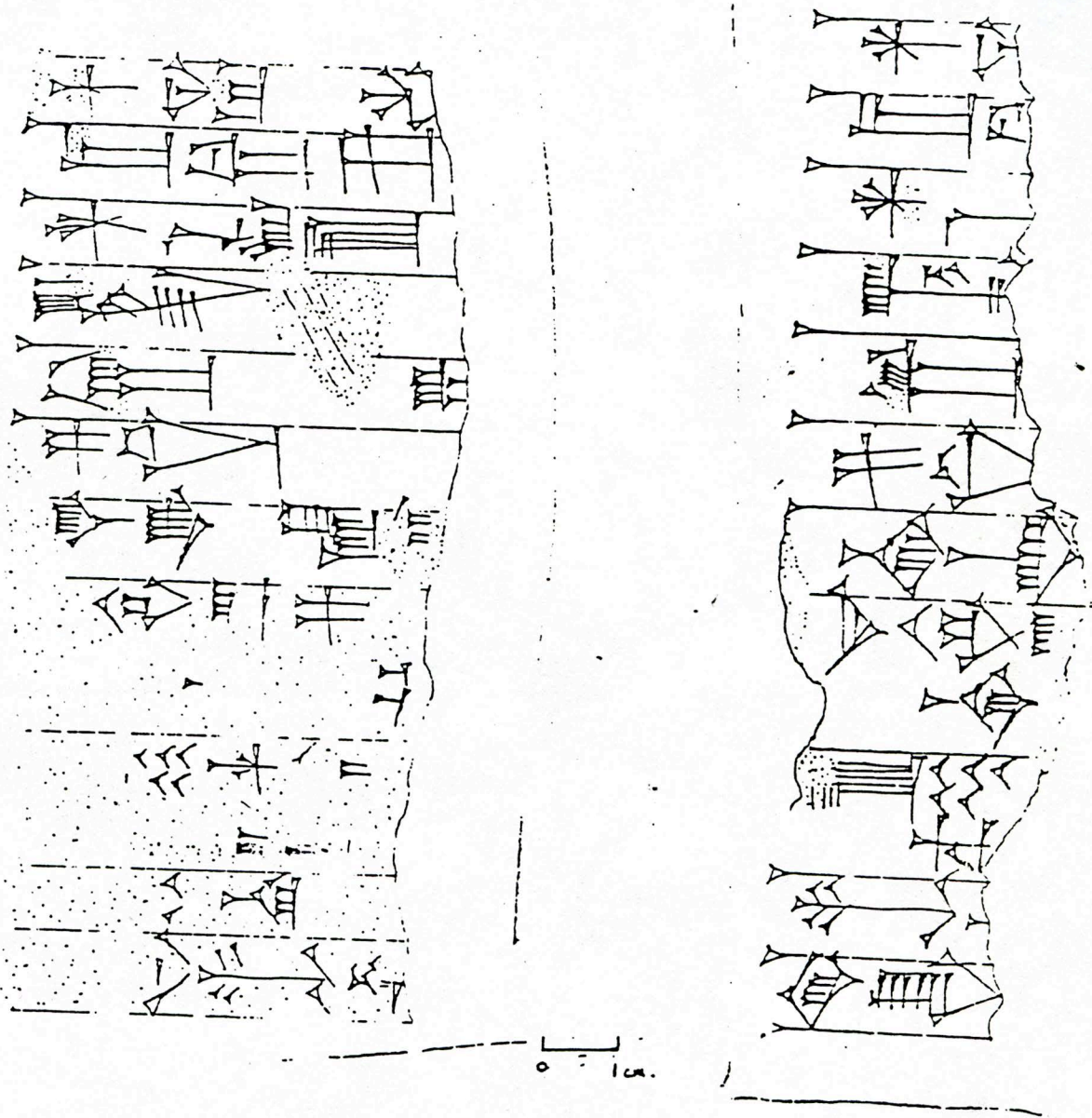


FIG. 6--INSCRIBED CLAY NAIL FRAGMENTS FROM TELLO--GIRSU