

Report to the State Organization of Antiquities and Heritage
on the Surface Survey of al-Hiba--Lagash, 1984

The sixth season of archaeological field work at al-Hiba--Lagash was devoted to a surface survey of the site. Work began on January 10, 1984 and ended March 10, 1984. Our thanks are due to Dr. Mu'ayed Sa'id Demirji, President of the SOAH, and his colleagues, particularly Dr. AbdulSattar Al-Azzawi, Director General of the Southern Region, Dr. Munir Taha Yusef, Director of Archaeological Excavations, and Sd. Riath Al-Qaissi, Director of External Relations, who provided us with the support necessary to carry out our field work. The Metropolitan Museum of Art continued its long-term financial backing of the al-Hiba project and contributions were made by the Academic Senate and the von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies at UCLA. We are grateful to Dr. Prudence O. Harper and Holly Pittman of the Metropolitan Museum and Profs. J. Sackett and C. Meighan of the Institute of Archaeology at UCLA who skillfully dealt with numerous administrative problems on our behalf.

Staff for this season included Elizabeth Carter, acting director, Sd. Hamzeh Hamood Hamzeh, representative of the SOAH, and William Lincoln, archaeologist. Jane Moon-Killick, archaeologist, Robert Britton, draftsman, and Dr. Jeremy Black, epigrapher, all attached to the British Archaeological Expedition in Iraq, made working visits to the site and generously offered their expert help. Prof. Donald P. Hansen, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, the project director and the field director of all previous excavations at the site, assisted us in the preparatory phases of the

project. Without his encouragement and full access to his records the work done this season would not have been possible.

Aims and Methods

The major goal of our work was to provide an overview of the ancient settlement through a systematic surface reconnaissance of the site. Earlier inspection of the remains indicated that much of the occupation was of ED date and that architectural traces of that period were frequently visible on the surface. Thus a survey was seen as a means of gaining some insight into the composition of an early Sumerian city. Excavations had already revealed the Bagara of Ningirsu (Area B) and the IB.GAL of Inanna (Area A), two of the major temple complexes as well as a large part of a multi-roomed public building (Area C), all of the ED period (Hansen 1978). Therefore we hoped to identify industrial and residential quarters.

However, al-Hiba is one of the largest sites in southern Mesopotamia (maximum dimensions--3600 meters N.S. by 1900 meters E.W.). The size of the site, our available resources and the ultimate aims of our research indicated that the most efficient way to approach the task was to utilize a random sampling procedure. An excellent contour survey of the mound at a scale of 1/2000 permitted W. Lincoln to work out a systematic unaligned random sample of 10% (10 m² in each 100 m² grid section) on paper. In the field, using a plane table and compass it was possible to set-up over concrete traverse stations whose positions and co-ordinates were given

on the base map. From these fixed points we ran east-west traverse loops across the mound locating the southwest corner of each collection unit. The size and shape of the units was chosen for ease of comparison with excavated materials. Distances between the points had been calculated in advance and were measured on the ground using a tape; angles were sited using an open site alidade. A 1/50 plan of the 10 m² and a 1/500 sketch of the surrounding grid square were made. Then all material found on the surface was collected except where it proved impractical, e.g. areas densely covered with small bits of slag or sherds. Body sherds were counted in the field. The rest of the collections were washed and recorded in the laboratory.

The pottery was coded for computer-aided analysis using a typological system based on that compiled by Prof. E. O. Ochsenberger on the basis of excavated finds. The small objects, mostly flint tools, clay sickle fragments, and bits of copper/bronze objects were classed according to material, shape and size.

A Preliminary Description of the Results

Only further analysis will allow us to evaluate fully the successes and failures of our methods. The summary below represents a preliminary assessment and is not for publication. The site has been divided into four major sections from South to North. It is further subdivided into lettered areas as shown on figure 1. The southern area from S. 1400 to S. 600

The main feature of the section is the IB.GAL

of En-ana-tum I excavated in Area A at the southeastern edge of the mound. Observations and collections between Area A and approximately the W. 200 line suggest the remains of private houses of the late ED period. Numerous drains all apparently of late ED date were noted. Most of the preserved occupations levels are probably of a somewhat earlier date. The mounds rising around the N. S. 00 base line are clearly associated with ceramic manufacture. Wasters, slag, fragments of kiln walls and kiln stands (fig. 2) are common as are the circular outlines of kilns or pits associated with pottery production. Some microlithic tools (drills, burins, "bullet" cores) were collected around S. 1200-E. 100 and this area is worthy of a more detailed examination (see below p. for a description of similar tools from the northern mounds). Burned brick walls were eroding near N. 875 and W. 370. These were reminiscent of the walls noted in Area C (see below p. 6) before excavation (cf. Hansen 1978: 74).

The south-central area from S. 600 to 00

North of N. 900 and east of E-W 00 is a large roughly semi-circular area that has the appearance of a dry lake bed and has been flooded at different times in the past by the marsh. This area was not collected systematically. The few rises examined show traces of kiln debris.

The western side of the sector includes area G where over seven meters of ED I trash were excavated before the water-table was reached (Hansen 1978: 76). This area, like the

southern sector, was an industrial zone with numerous kilns. Differences in the ceramics suggest that these installations are to be dated to the ED I-II time range. Several sherds of Uruk period types were found indicating the possibility of an earlier occupation in this area.

The sector around S. 450 and W. 400 could profitably be planned from surface traces as streets (?), walls, and courtyards seem clearly visible in certain lights.

This area appears to be a residential quarter. Three large white stones were seen eroding out near S. 300 and W. 460. They may be part of a large courtyard belonging to a building with a plan like a *carsavanserai*. Again each of these sections should be planned and collected in the future.

The north-central area from 00 to N. 1000

The north-central area includes two of the major excavations, the Bagara (Area B) and the late ED "administrative building" in area C (Hansen 1978). Collections around area B reflected accurately the sequence discovered in the excavations of that sector. Sherds of IL-OB date were predominant with scattered fragments of ED-Ur III pottery in most of the collection units.

The survey identified an industrial area of IL-OB date in N 700-900 to 00-E. 200. The mounds in N. 250-310, E. 350 - 470 are also probably second millennium kiln mounds; while the mound at 700-800, E. 500-600 is covered with ED kiln debris and stands like an island in the middle of a once-flooded area.

The collections from Area C also included some pottery of post ED date. The intense fire that destroyed the excavated building appears to have spread over almost the entire area. Many traces of walls are easily visible and could be mapped with little problem. Our collections contained numerous pieces of finished copper items as well as a large (approximately 4 cm³) chunk of unfinished lapis lazuli. An hitherto unreported occupation of the Islamic period was identified on the eastern edge of Area C in areas D and L (fig. 1). Collections included numerous fragments of glass and sherds of a soft yellow-buff ware covered with blue or blue-green all-over glaze (cf. Adams 1981: 236-239). Most interesting was a four-footed "molar" flask possibly of 9th or 10th century date (Kühnel 1971: 206-207). (fig. 4).

Inscribed brick fragments of Amar-Suen (c. 2046-2038 B.C.) were found at N. 350 and W. 110 and an inscribed cone dated to the reign of En-ana-tum was found at N. 500 E. 450. (See Dr. Black's note for full details.) Although both these texts were known from earlier finds on the site their presence in the random sample squares is of methodological interest.

The northern area from N. 1000-N. 2100

The area is separated from the adjacent north-central zone by a low-lying channel (possibly an old canal bed) that is blocked by a recent earthen dam running from N. 950 and E.W. 00 to N. 1020 and E. 100. The occupation

in the northern sector can be compared to that identified in the southern zone. All the mounds were covered with kiln debris. Residential areas were possibly located on the flatter zones. The pottery from the kiln mounds suggests that stands were the primary product of the large kilns in N. 1500 and E. 800. At N. 1500 and E. 480 a zone of approximately 25 m² was covered with a large number of broken sea (?) shells. Collection of a 10m² located on this mound led to the discovery of a number of microlithic tools including drills, saws, borers and several "bullet" cores. This assemblage is generally thought to be characteristic of much earlier periods. Its association at al-Hiba with ED ceramics and the shell midden date them to the third millennium (cf. Tosi and Piperno 1973 for a similar assemblage of third millennium date from Tepe Hissar.) Unfortunately only a few finished products (several beads and fragments of worked shell) were found and thus we cannot say exactly what was produced here.

Traces of streets and walls were easily visible on the flanks of the main northern kiln mound and immediately east of the shell mound. Farther to the east two large round structures and some walls and a pavement of baked plano-convex bricks were located at N. 1295 and E. 135.

The northern tip of the site from N. 1900 to N. 2100 was salt covered and disturbed by a modern ruin whose walls are still standing. Some traces of II-OB material was found here but it was mixed with sherds of ED date.

Prospects for Future Research

The location and recording of extant surface remains combined with a study of associated materials should provide an invaluable aid in planning future research at the site. Through most of its history and particularly in the ED period al-Hiba-Lagash had a flourishing ceramic industry. The relatively indestructable nature of the kilns and their waste products no doubt leads to their over-representation and the masking of associated technologies. Only a finer grained survey of the industrial areas would lead to the discovery of these remains, but the shell mound and our own surface observations indicates their presence. The State Organization for Antiquities and Heritage has kindly granted us a loan of some of our finds so that we may continue our analysis of the material. Hopefully these studies will allow us to speculate on the size of the settlement in each of its major periods of occupation.

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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:

<p>i</p> <p>en-an-na-túm</p> <p>ensí</p> <p>lagas₁ ki</p> <p>mu pàd-da</p> <p>dinana-ka-ke₄</p> <p>eb-gal</p> <p>é-an-na</p> <p>kur-kur-ra mu-na-diri-ga-a</p> <p>u₄-ba</p>	<p>ii</p> <p>[PN</p> <p>girri_x(KIB) mu-dím-dím</p> <p>é-an-na-ke₄</p> <p>mu-na-dug₄]</p>
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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 u₄-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_x 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 dug₄ 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:

d₁amar-d₂EN.ZU

d₁EN.LÍL KI [-a d₂en-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.:

d₁nin-gír-su / ur-sag kal-ga / d₂en-líl-lá-ra / lugal-a-ni / gù-dé-a / ensí / lagaša^{ki} /
nì-du₇-e pa mu-na-è / é-ninnu-d₁imdugud^{mu}en-babbar-ra-ni / mu-na-dù / ki-bi mu-na-gi₄

"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.

Jeremy Black

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

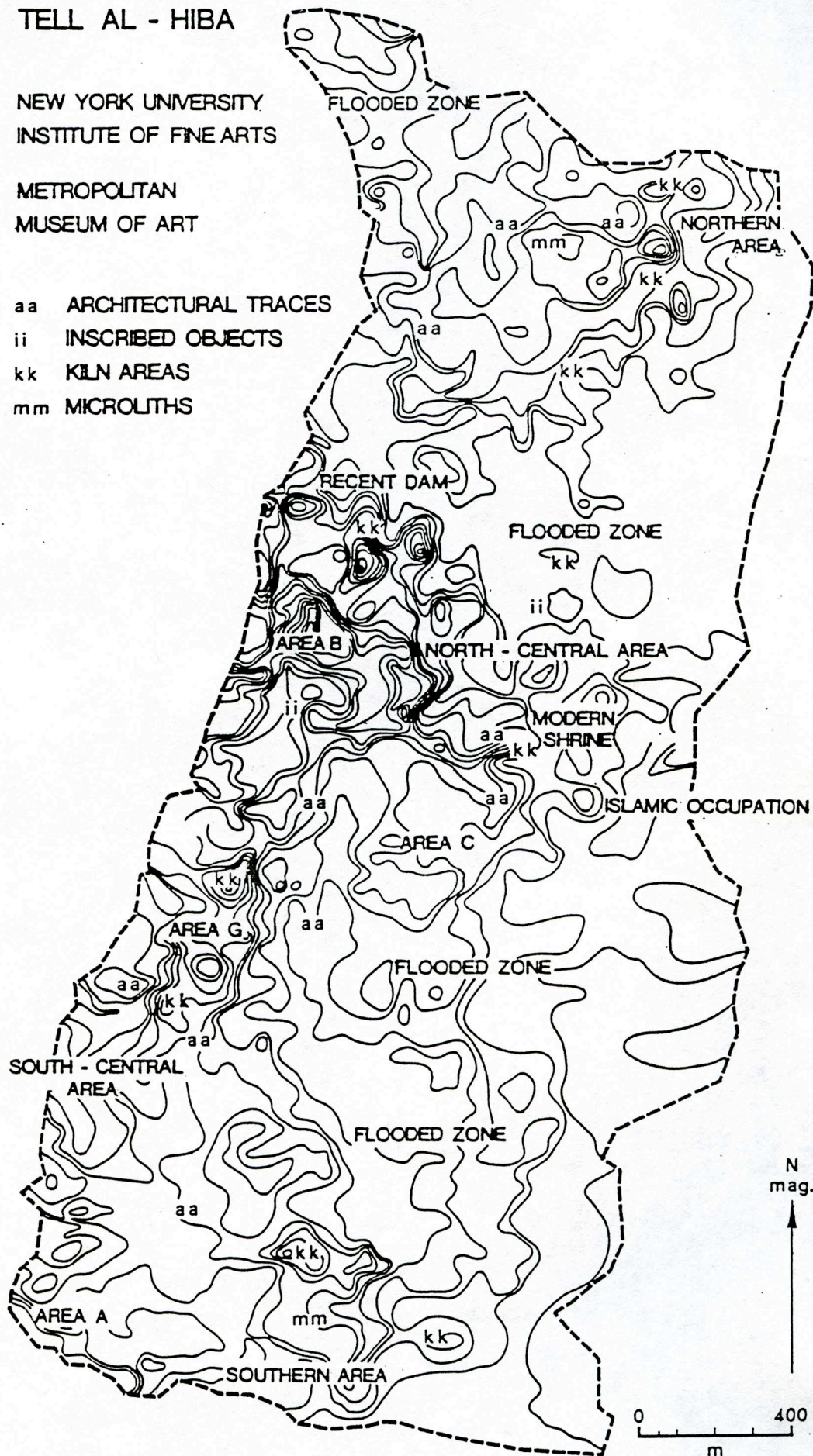
- Fig. 1--Site map showing major finds of the survey
- Fig. 2--Surface pottery of the Early Dynastic Period
- Fig. 3--Surface pottery and finds of the late third-
early second millennium B.C.
- Fig. 4--Surface pottery and glass of the Islamic Period
- Fig. 5--Inscribed objects from the survey of al-Hiba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

TELL AL - HIBA

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS

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 (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 (slip-5Y 7/2; ware- 10 YR 8/4) Incised decoration under dark blue- 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

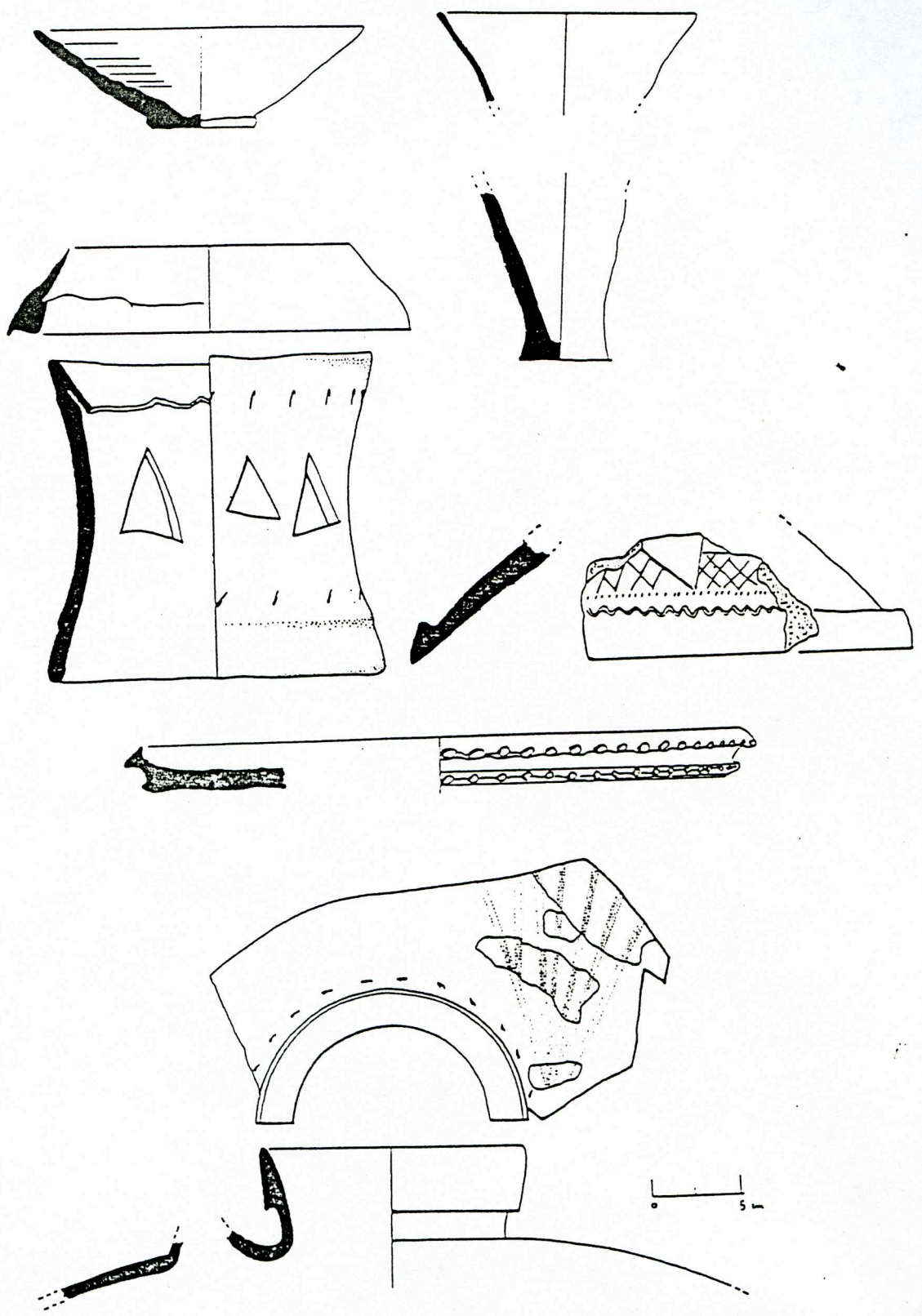


FIG. 1. CERAMIC VESSELS OF THE EARLY CHALCOLITHIC PERIOD

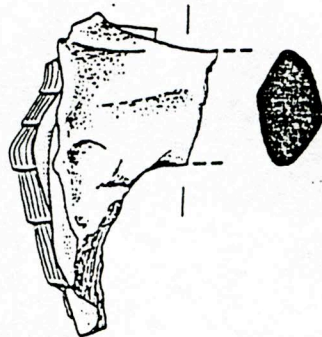
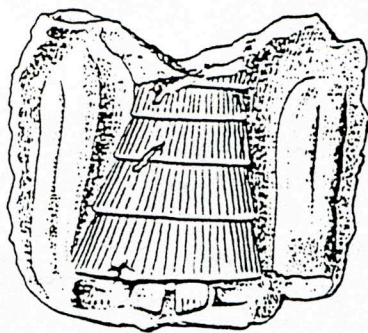
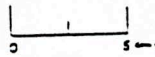
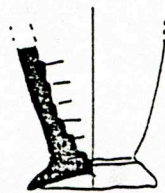
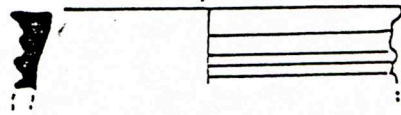
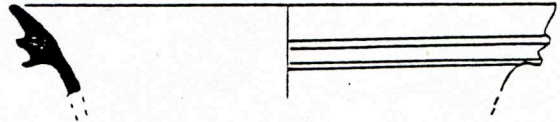
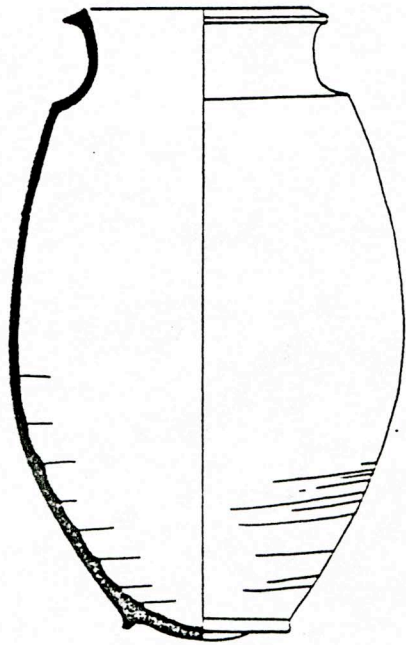
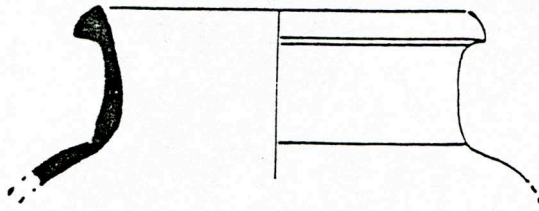
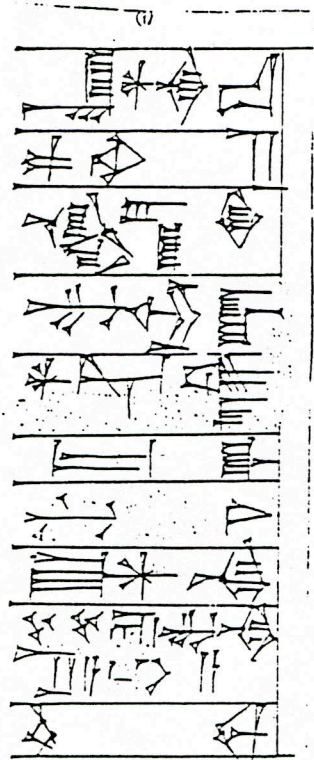
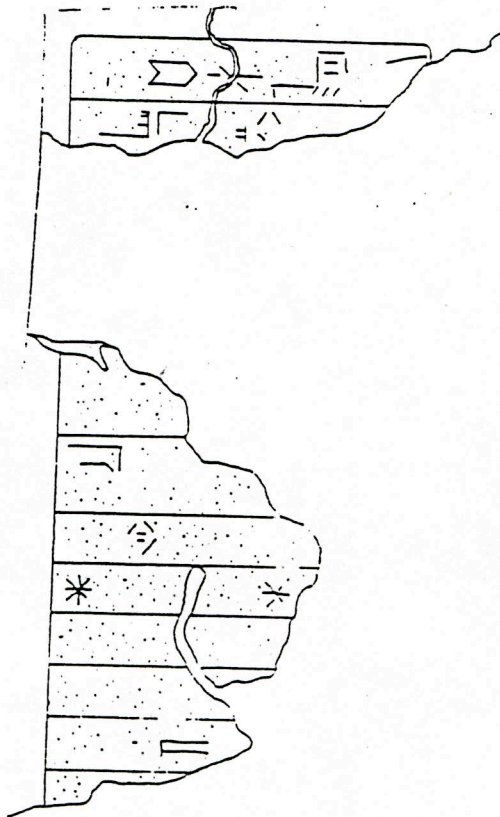


FIG. 1. Fragment of a vessel rim with a dark, curved handle or projection on the left side. Scale bar: 0-5 cm.



CLAY NAIL (N. 500 E. 450)



BRICK FRAGMENTS (N. 380 W. 110)



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

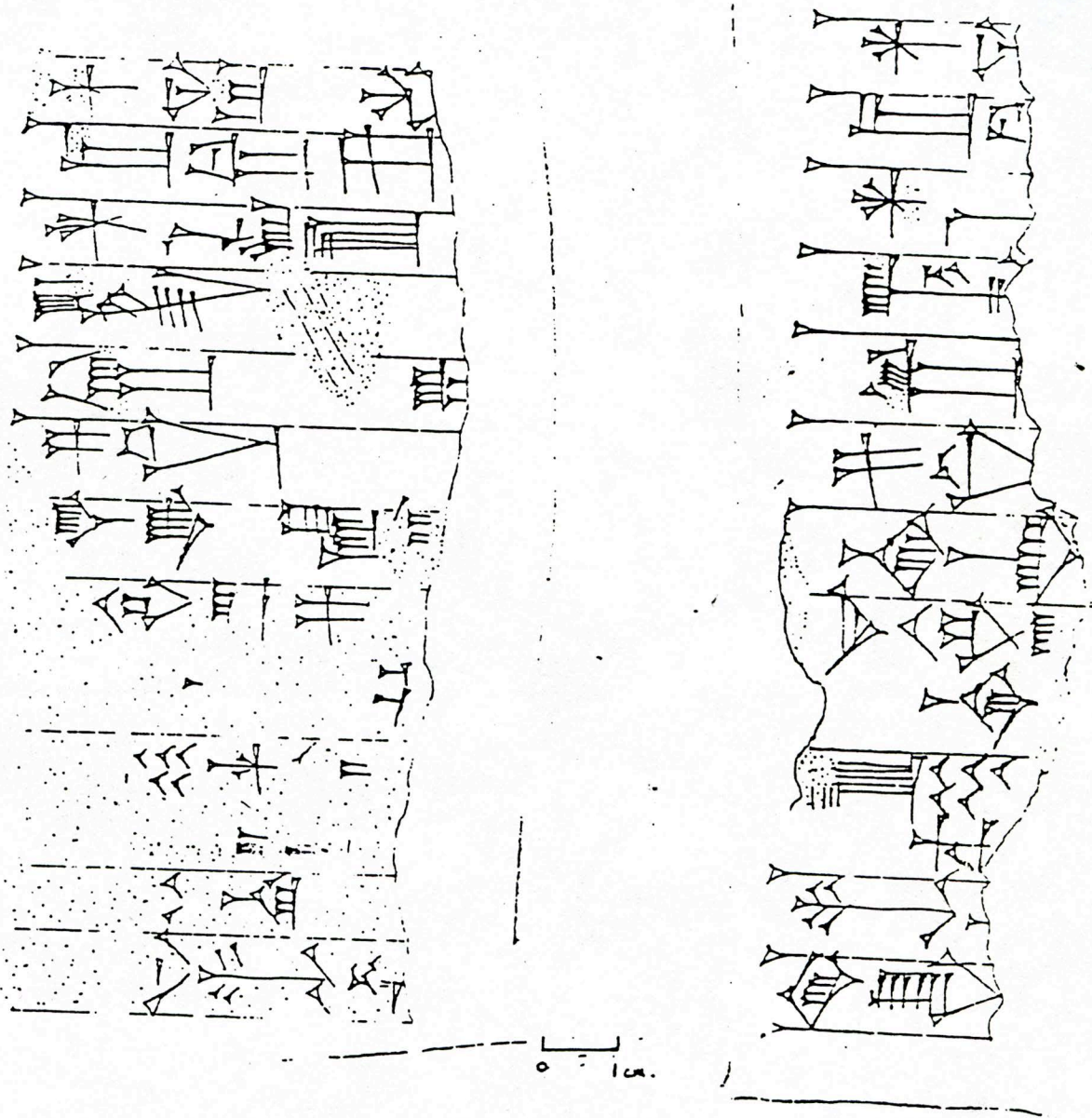


FIG. 6--INSCRIBED CLAY NAIL FRAGMENTS FROM TELLO--GIRSU