



Neither Frescoes nor Rock Reliefs: Zoomorphic plastic decorations on pottery from Western Anatolia in the second millennium BCE

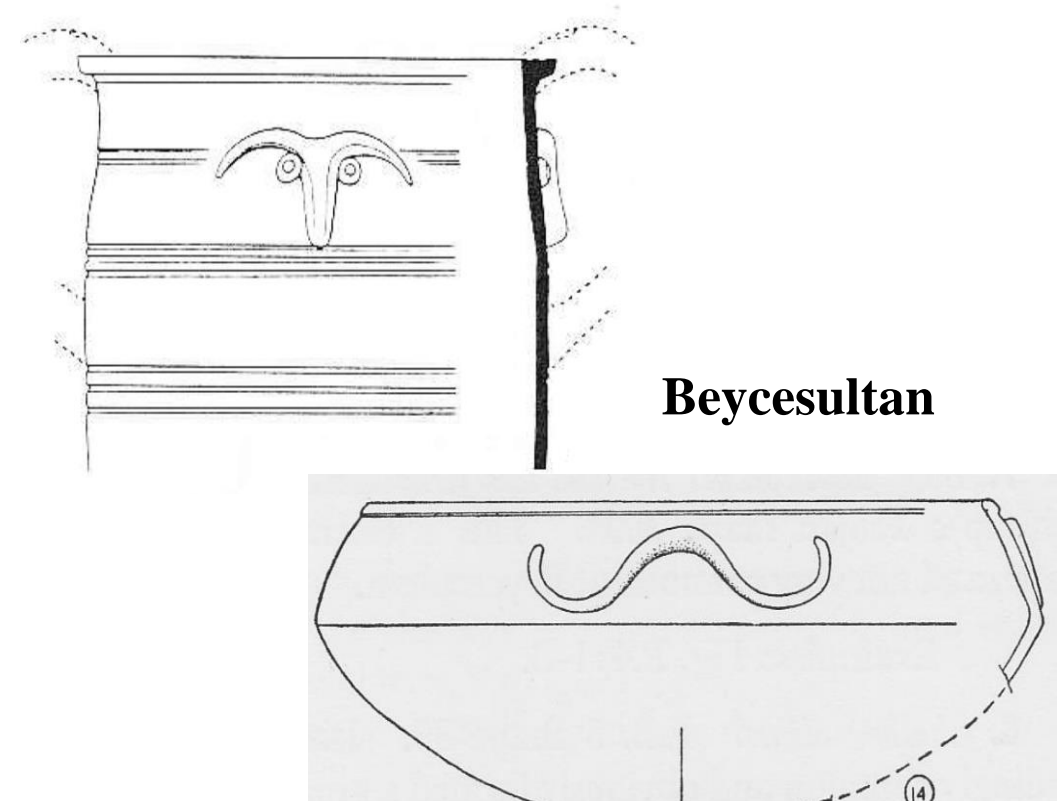


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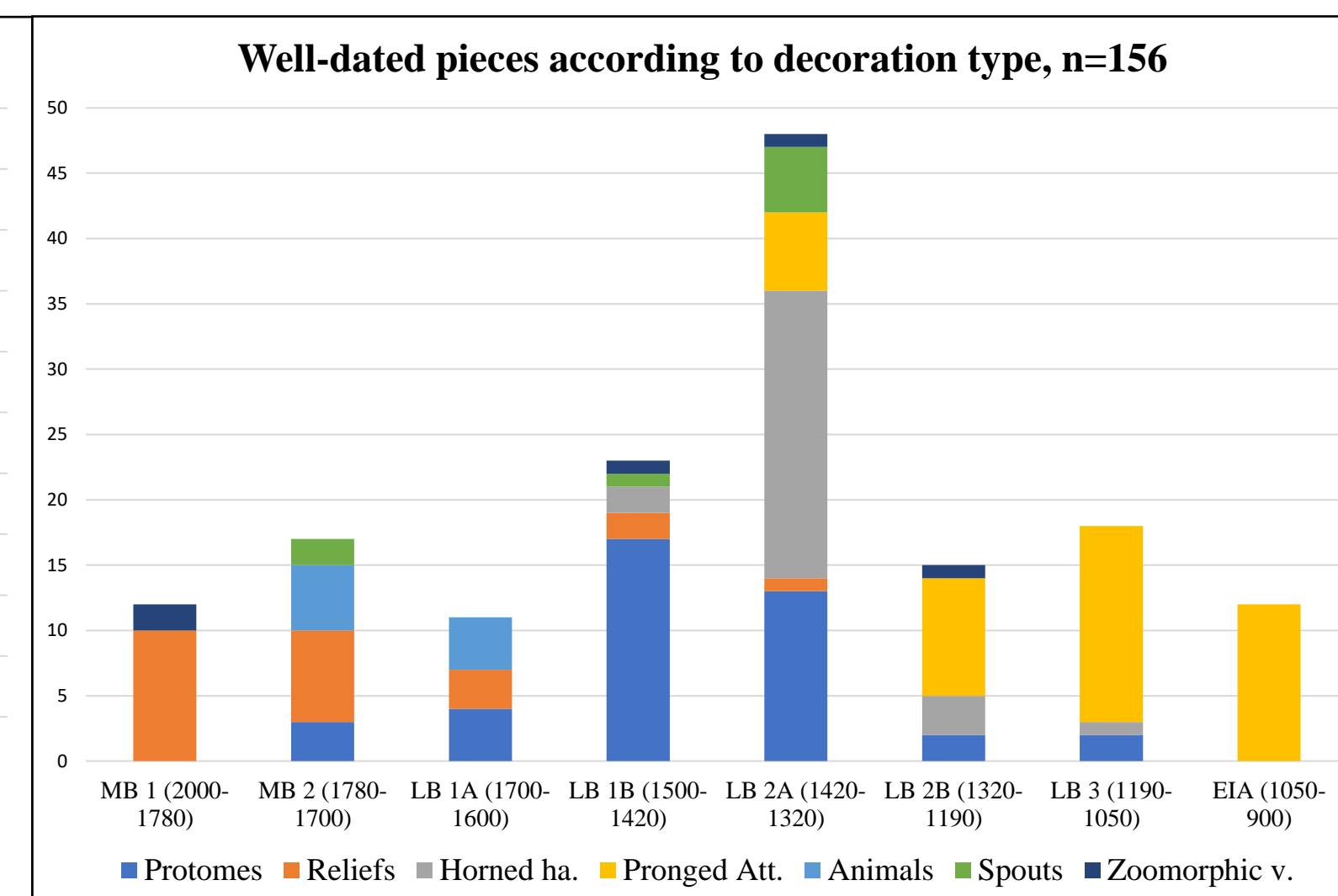
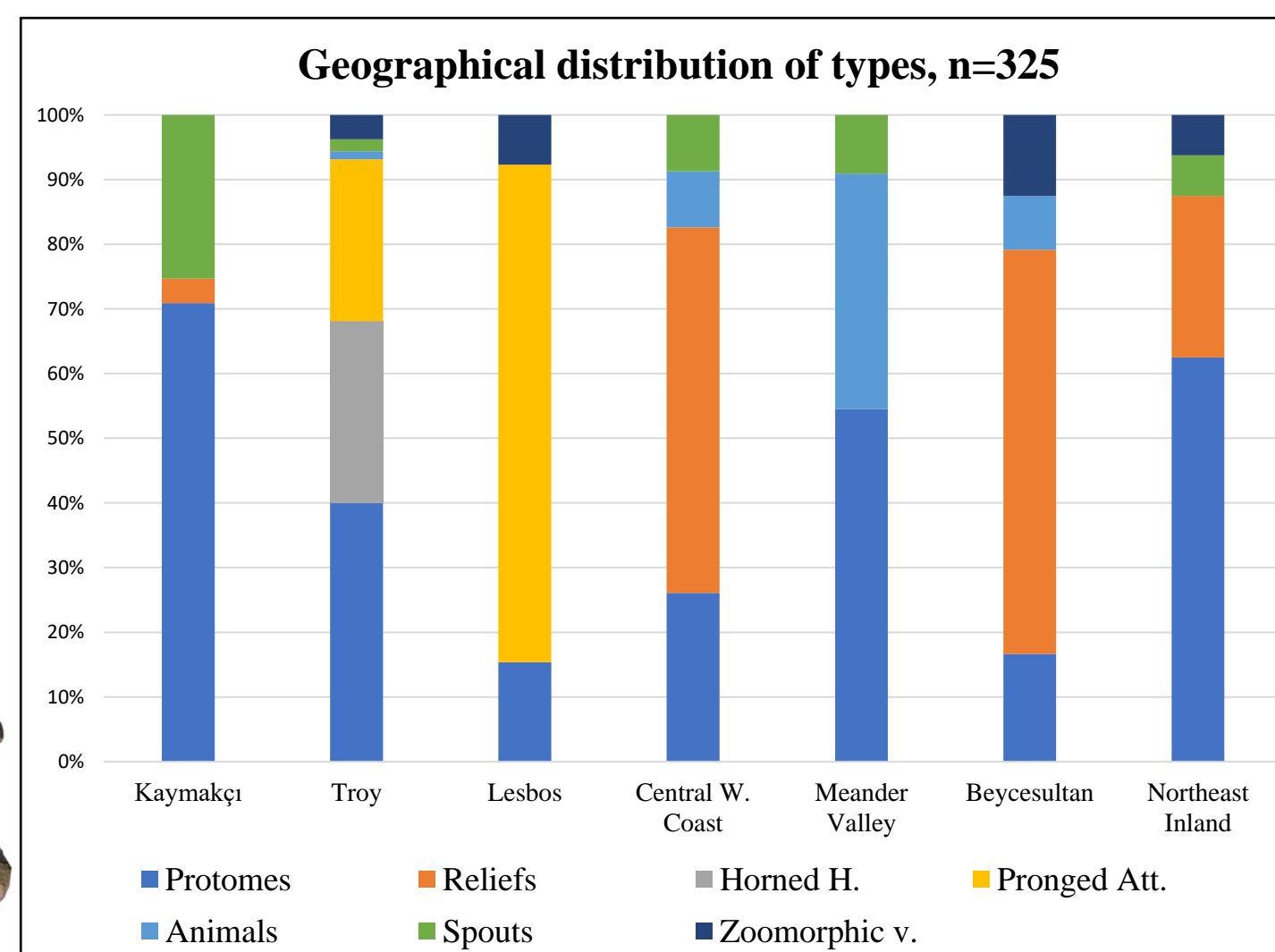
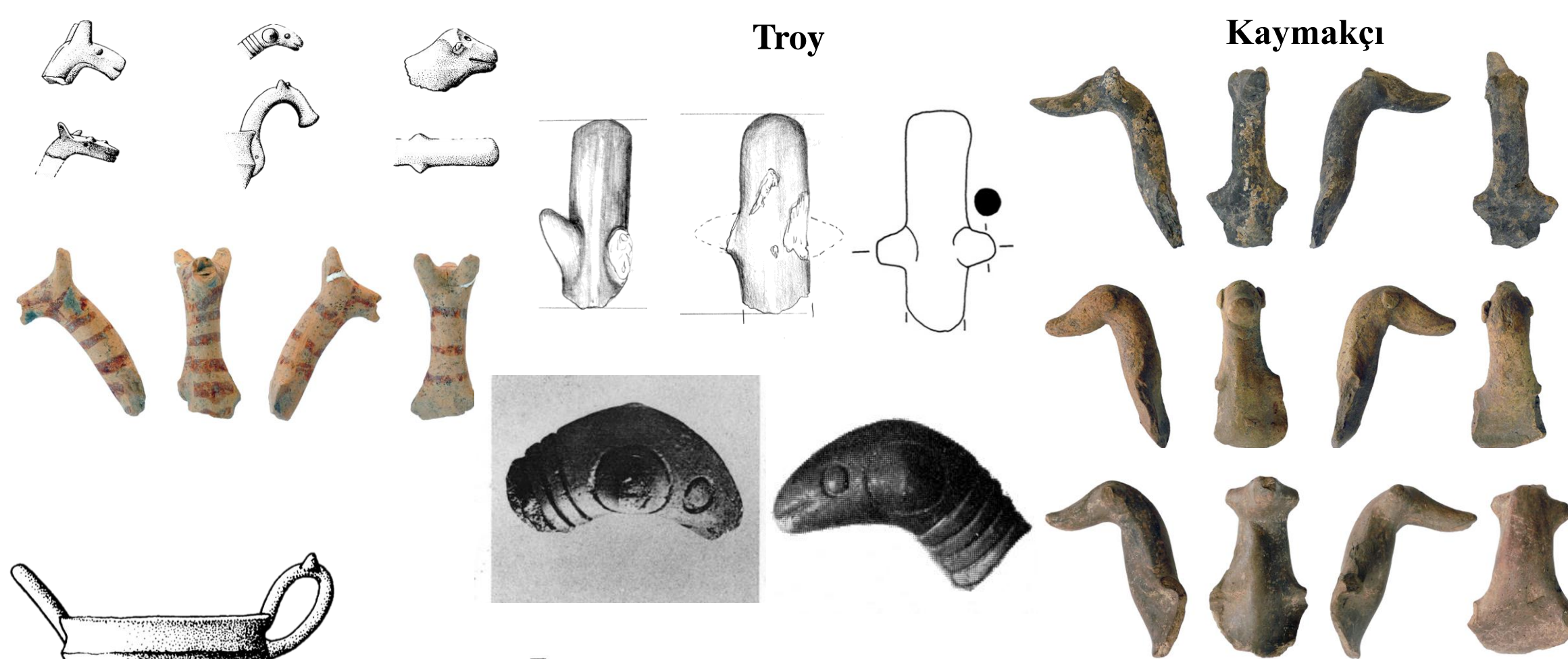
Appliques in the form of **reliefs** seem to be the earliest type. The first examples come from the late phase of the Early Bronze Age. Reliefs then occur during the Middle and early Late Bronze Age with the final pieces from middle Late Bronze Age. The most common to appear are animal heads or pairs of buffalo horns. The most common ware is Red or Brown (ca 60%).



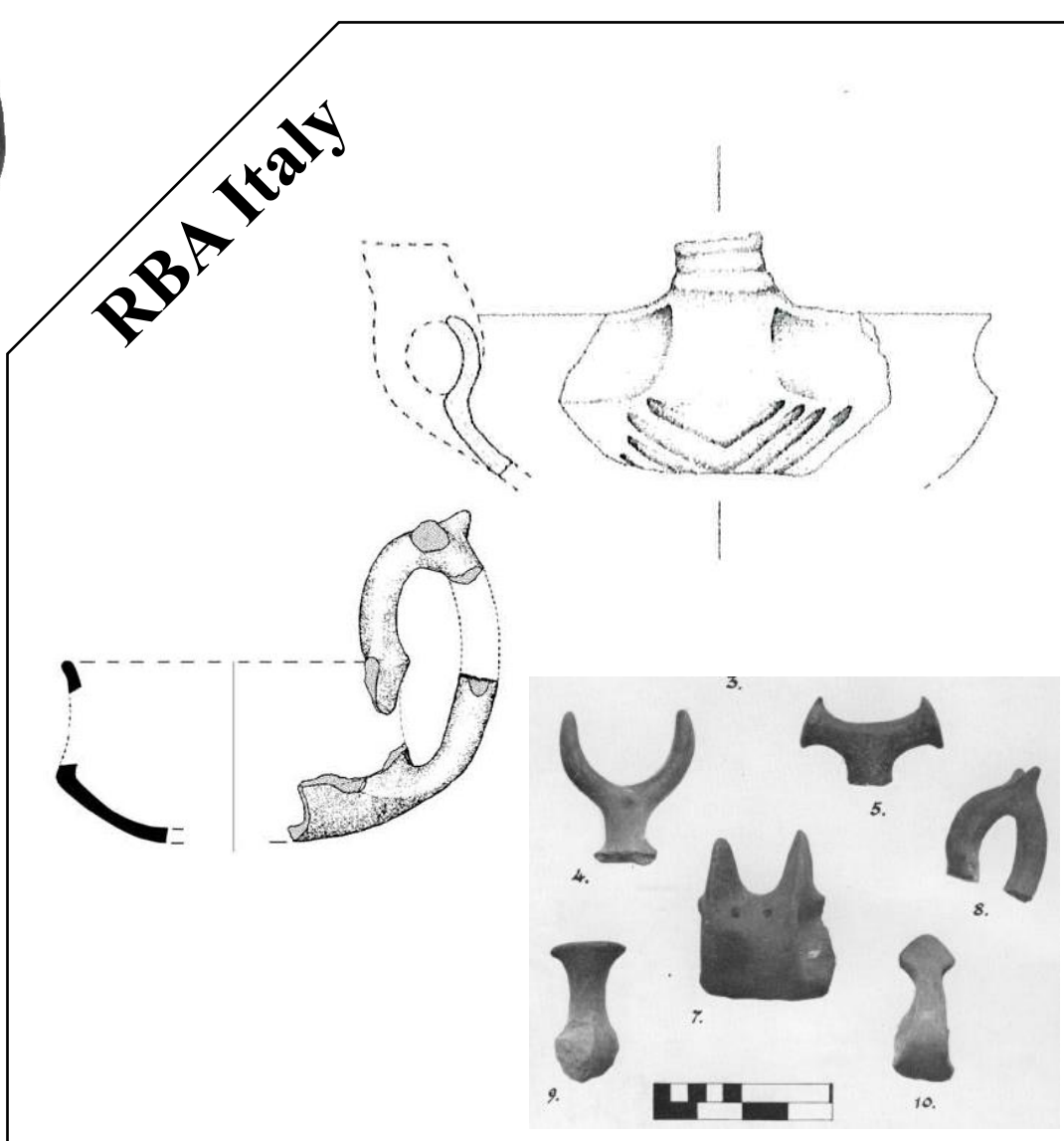
- There are 325 examples known from 22 sites so far, with the most coming from Troy and Kaymakçı.
- Several repeating types can be recognized, varying in chronological and geographical distribution, as well as in preferred ware and origin.
- Spatial distribution of/within settlements and mentions of zoomorphic representations of deities on pottery in Hittites texts, can indicate possible ritual functions of specific types.

- Comparison with Central Anatolia, Cyprus, Mainland Greece and Italy shows similarities especially with **Central Anatolia in the Assyrian Colonies period**, and **Italy in the Recent Bronze Age**.
- It is interesting that not one of the 149 protomes was found with a complete, or significant part of the vessel body.
- At Troy and Kaymakçı we can also see several almost identical pairs of protomes, found however in different parts of the settlements.

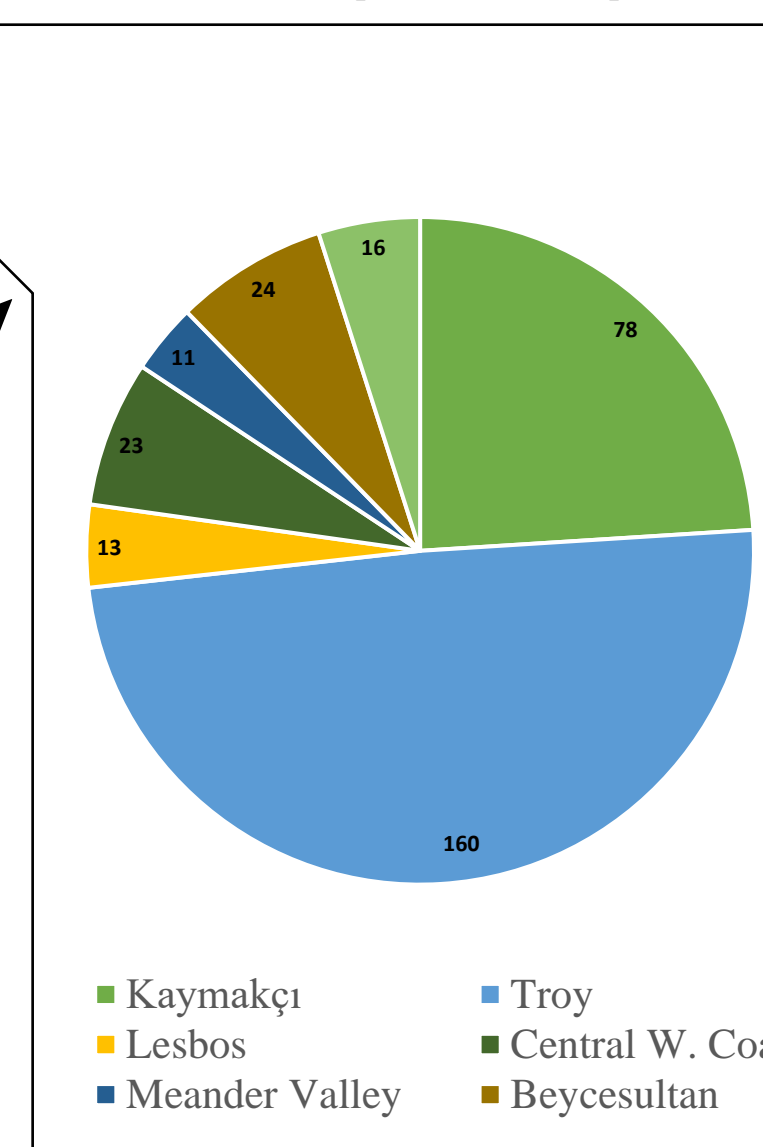
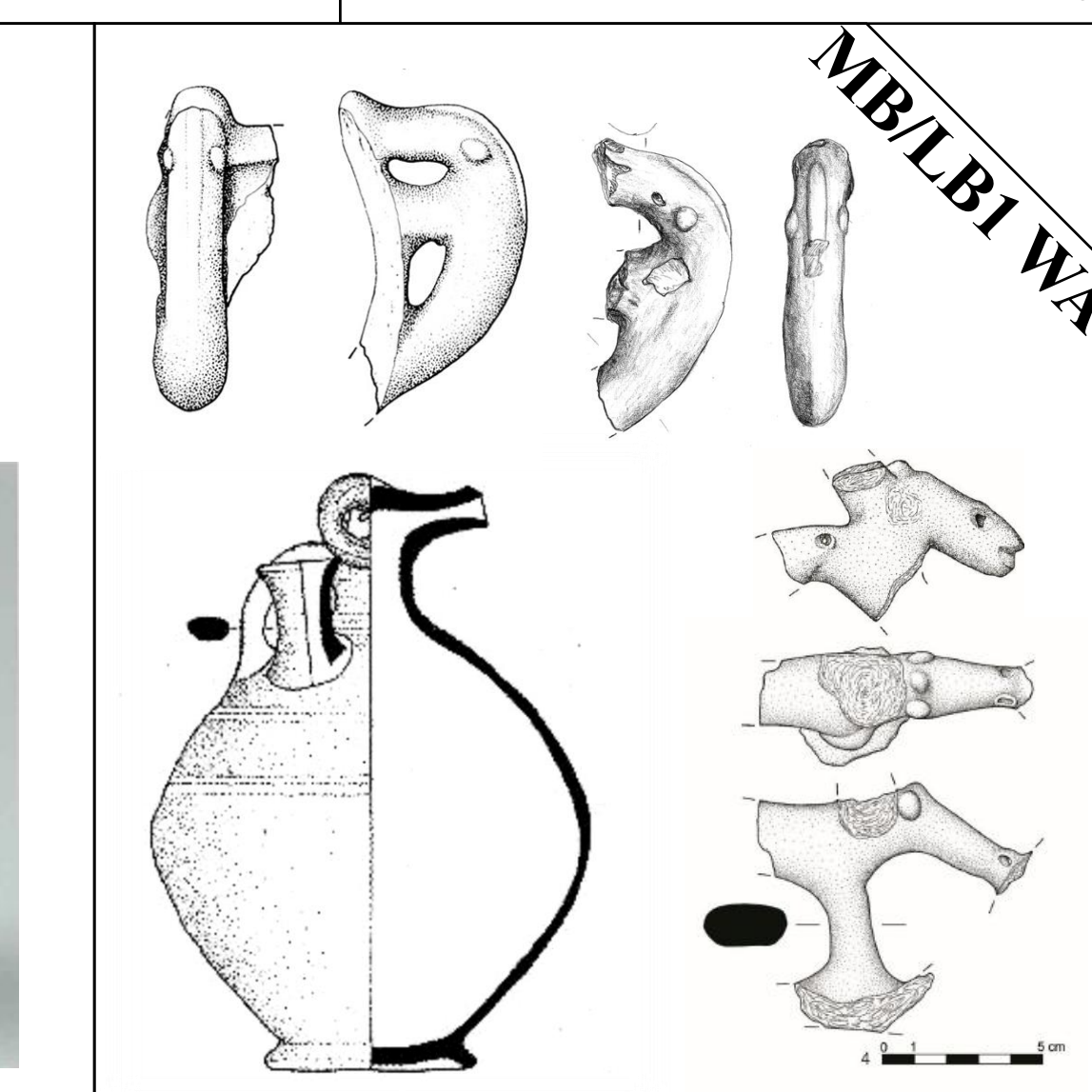
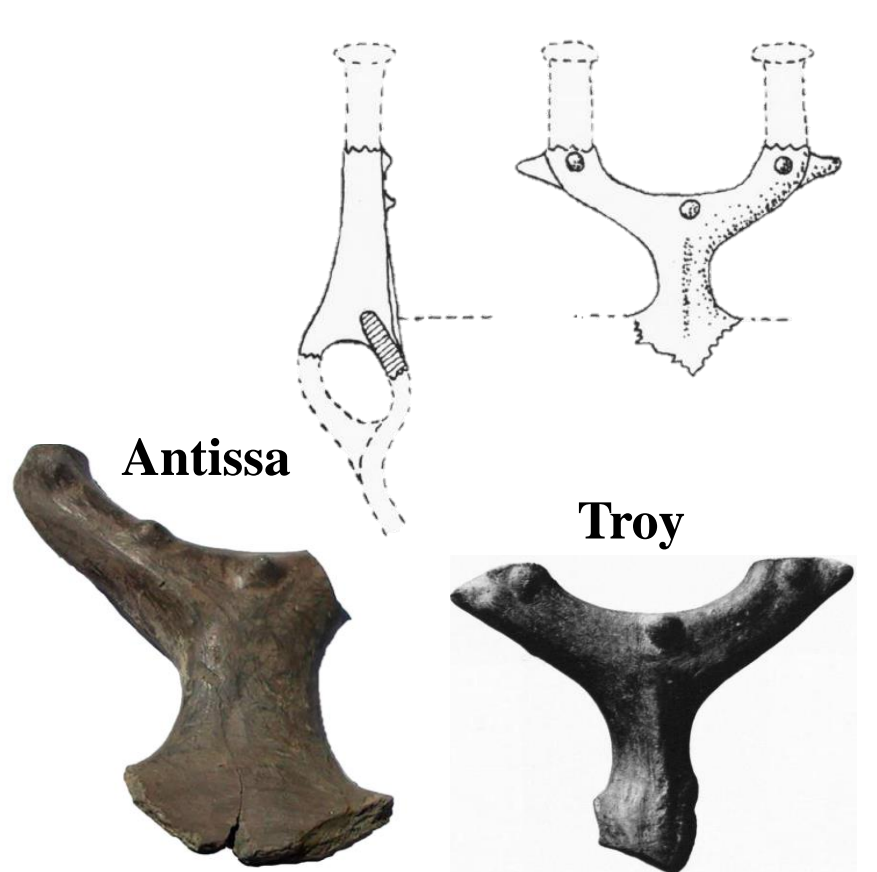
Protomes are the most common, appearing already in the later Middle Bronze Age, but their main occurrence is in Late Bronze Age 1B and 2A. This type is also the most variable of appliques, from relatively detailed ones from Troy to almost abstract pieces. They are usually made in Anatolian Gray Ware (75%).



Horned handles are very specific to Troy. Their greatest popularity seems to be at the end of Troy VI and in VIIa, that is in the LB 2 phase. Horned handles occur almost exclusively on carinated goblets of Blegen's type A100, and carinated bowls linked with his type A99. They are almost exclusively in Gray Ware (ca 90%).



Pronged Attachments follow up the trend of protomes and horned handles. They appear mainly towards the end of the Late Bronze Age (Troy VIIb) and continue down to the Early Iron Age, where the type loses all of its "animal" character. 49 pieces come from Troy, as well as from Antissa and Pyrrha on Lesbos. Most typical ware is again Gray (80%).



I would like to thank the Troy Project and the Kaymakçı Archaeological Project for allowing me to do research on the respective material as well as to T.C. Ministry of Culture and Tourism for permissions.

