

KIXPEK, EL QUICHE, GUATEMALA

A Preliminary Study of  
the Excavations and Ceramics

Submitted as a  
Senior Honor Thesis

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## Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Environment	2
Kixpek, Group A	
1). Description	3
2). Excavations	3
3). Features	4
4). Burials	5
Kixpek, Group B	
1). Description	9
2). Excavations	9
3). Features	11
4). Burials	13
The Ceramics	18
1). Form Categories	21
2). Type Classifications	32
Evaluation	44
Figures	
Bibliography	

THE EXCAVATIONS AT  
KIXPEK, EL QUICHE GUATEMALA

Introduction:

Robert Burkitt, while working for the University Museum, came to excavate at this site sometime during the years 1922 and 1923.

In Mr. Burkitt's January 1, 1922 letter to the University Museum, he had not yet visited the site. His May 14, 1922 correspondence does mention that he had visited Kixpek and done some digging there, but also that he hoped to return there soon to continue his work. By December 29, 1923 Burkitt was leaving the area of San Cristobal, just west of Kixpek, for the Senahú district. Apparently then, Robert Burkitt excavated at Kixpek sometime between January 1922 and December 1923. What led him there or even how he knew of this site is unknown.

When Burkitt came to Kixpek, no known previous systematic excavations had been made there, and, as to my knowledge, none have been made since. He found Kixpek totally undisturbed by human actions since the original occupants of the site left.

Nothing at all has been published describing the site of Kixpek. The only references made to it since the excavations there were those by Mary Butler (1940: 250-267) in her discussion of ceramic types, a brief mention of Kixpek's Group A burials by Dieseldorf (1926:25), and references in various other works discussing an occasional piece of pottery from the site--usually

the Fine Orange ware that is so prominent at Kixpek.

The field notes, photographs and drawings done by Burkitt together with a working of this material by Butler sometime in the late 1930's, yield the only substantial information we have to date concerning the site of Kixpek. This will all be drawn together to give the most comprehensive study of the site possible.

#### Environment:

The Kixpek Valley, in the Department of El Quiche, Guatemala, is one of a series of small valleys drained by intermittent streams emptying into the Rio Salinas o Chixoy. This area of the Northern Guatemalan Highlands is characterized by ranges of low mountains broken by small stream-cut valleys, trending in an east-west direction. In some of the valleys, the mountains come right down to the banks of the streams, whereas in others, the valley expands into a rolling plain one-half to one mile or more wide. Kixpek is one of these expansions.(fig. 1).

At Kixpek, Robert Burkitt noted that there were as many as half a dozen visible ruins, or groups of ruins. Of these, he dug at two places which he called Group A and Group B. Group A (fig. 2) was a more westerly or upstream area and Group B (fig. 3) was an easterly or downstream area. Group B was approximately one-half to one mile downstream from A. These two groups will be dealt with separately below. Unfortunately, no "site" plan can be made for Kixpek for we have no idea as to what lay in the area between Group A and Group B.

GROUP A--

Description:

Group A consists of a solitary low, flat-top structure (Str. A1) with an oblong shape. The length from north to south was approximately 16 m, the east to west width was 12m, and the height of the structure was 2m. The directional placement of Str. A1 is approximate owing to the fact that no compass key was included in Burkitt's drawing of it. Only the east and west directions were marked on structure sides, but we cannot be sure of their accuracy.

Photograph #158 of Burkitt's prints (for which no corresponding Museum negatives can be found) is a view of Str. A1 taken from the southeast. The rubble in the photo which nearly hides the eastern view of the structure is rubble from Burlitt's excavations.

Throughout his excavations here, Burkitt found Str. A1 and its contents to be undisturbed by anything other than natural ruin.

Excavations:

Burkitt somehow plotted an approximate east-west line running roughly through the center of Str. A1. Once this was done, he proceeded to dig a trench beginning on the east side. We have no knowledge as to how far this trench extended in length, width or depth. Photograph #158 shows just the top of this trench below the man in the photo.

It also seems that he dug at least one other trench from this central one down below the level of the plain. Photo #159

is looking down into this trench after it was cleaned out, and Burial 2 was revealed in it (see below). No dimensions were given for this vertical trench, but from the photograph we can see that it was not much larger in diameter than the dimensions of Bu 2--that is approximately 90cm.

It is important to speculate whether Burkitt made any other excavations here, but all of the material listed from Str. A1 comes from these two burials--one in the horizontal and one in the vertical trench. Thus, we might be led to the conclusion that this represented the extent of his excavations in Group A.

#### Features:

A number of features were revealed by Burkitt's excavations in Str. A1, although he does not label them as such. The base of the structure was lined with stone, according to Burkitt's report. This feature (F1) may represent the remains of a masonry retaining wall. Feature 2 consists of the bottom half of Str. A1 which Burkitt describes as being made up of earthen fill, while F3 or the top half, consists of small pebbles. Perhaps these stones were from the bed of the neighboring stream. The boundary between these features is no more definite than that and cannot be mapped in any way. The limited photographs he supplies us with are of no help in this matter. What these two types of fill do indicate though are, perhaps, two separate construction stages; the first being the earth and the second, or later stage, represented by the stone cobble. We may be dealing here then with two superimposed structures.

This lack of more definite features may be due to poor or incomplete excavations, extensive natural erosion or some other cause. These questions <sup>can only</sup> need to be resolved through future excavations at the site.

### Burials:

Two burials were found by the excavations in Str. A1 (fig.3). Burial 1 was 2m directly above Bu 2, and both were on the central axis of the structure. Bu 1 was found while excavating the horizontal trench, and Bu 2 was found while digging the vertical trench down from the horizontal. Neither burial was centered within the structure, but both were very much nearer to one side.<sup>1</sup> In Str. A1 at Kixpek these burials were closer to the eastern side. Both were disturbed only through natural ruin.

Burial 1-- Bu 1 consisted of a round stone-lined chamber which was, according to Burkitt, made for a seated corpse. The roof of the chamber had fallen in, and the floor had sunken due to the collapse of the roof of the chamber of Bu 2 directly below it. This burial then was doubly displaced, and its original shape and position were only possible to obtain by the tracing of the side walls.

That this truly was a "burial" may be in question as the only skeletal remains found were some teeth and two pieces of jaw

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<sup>1</sup>The discovery of both burials over to one side of the structure seems too coincidental. It seems a likely possibility that Burkitt's excavations only took him into these structures half-way at the most. We shall see again this same occurrence in Group B.

bone (which have since been discarded by the University Museum).  
This paucity of skeletal remains may be due to decay, the extensive natural ruin of the chamber, poor excavation techniques or various other reasons, but the problem of placing a true "burial" status on Bu 1 must be considered.

No exact dimensions were possible due to the state of ruin of burial 1, but Burkitt assumes that they were not much different from those of Bu 2. Perhaps Bu 1 then was approximately 80cm in diameter and 80cm in height. He also infers a "pot"-like shape for Bu 1 similar to that of Bu 2 (see below).

For this burial we have no idea as to where the entrance was. This burial was in such an extensive state of ruin that this information was impossible to obtain. The entrance may have been from above (the burial chamber having been dug-out from above), or it may have been, like Bu 2, directly beneath it, from the east with a slanting entrance shaft reaching to the surface.

The other remains in Bu 1, besides the skeletal fragments already mentioned, included 2 stone beads, an obsidian knife, red paint (cinnabar), 3 bowls and 2 cylinders.

Burial 2-- Bu 2 was situated directly beneath Bu 1 and was approximately 2m below the surface of the construction plaza. It was a round, stone-lined chamber also "made for a seated corpse." The roof of Bu 2 had fallen in.

Photograph #159 is looking down into the vertical trench cleaned out by Burkitt. At the bottom of this is Burial 2 after it had been excavated. The top of the photo is west. The oblong

stone to the east of the trowel is the center of the floor of Bu 2. The floor was paved with this central stone and a surrounding ring of seven other stones. Outside of this was a ring of eight stones standing on edge and sloping outwards. These were the bottom tier of the stones which made-up the sides of Bu 2. The roofing of Bu.2 was most likely also made up of a layer of overlapping stones. It was collapsed when Burkitt came upon the burial, however, and he quickly cleared its debris away and spent no time describing it. In photo #159 the gap in the east side of the walling is where the doorway was.

The entrance to this chamber, in spite of its depth, was not from on top, but was through a doorway on the eastside. Burkitt states that there must have been a shaft leading down to the door, although he did not excavate it. A single flat stone was used as a cover for the doorway. Since Burkitt did not excavate the entrance shaft, we do not know if the point of entry was from the area that was later covered with Str. A1, or if the entrance was outside the area of Str. A1. This would be an important clue in developing the temporal relationship between Burials 1 and 2.

The dimensions for the chamber of Bu 2 are as follows: diameter at top approximately 90cm, at floor 70cm, and the height of Bu 2 was not quite 80cm. This lends a "barrel-shape" to the chamber. Burkitt believed that Bu 1 also originally was of this barrel-shape.

The barrel-shape is caused by the contraction of the chamber

at the top. This contraction is more slight than that at the bottom and this lends the barrel-shape. Burkitt offers the hypotheses that perhaps these stone-lined chambers were originally made as an enlargement of and in imitation of burial urns (see Nebaj). Rectangular chambers then, if one might follow this suggestion, came later as an improvement on the barrel shape.

The contents of Bu 2 include various skeletal remains, among which are three skulls. One skull was at the back of the chamber, or near the west wall opposite the doorway. This skull had the other skeletal pieces associated with it. The other two skulls were placed one on each side of the door. Perhaps the one in the middle was the most recent occupant and the others were the only remains left of the earlier burials, moved off to the sides to make room, or perhaps all three were buried at once. In this case, the two lone skulls may not have been full corpse burials, but only trophies or some other form of dedicatory remains. It would be odd to have a series of three sequential burials in Bu 2. The labor involved in clearing out the shaft leading down to the chamber for each burial might argue in favor of these three skulls having been deposited all at once. This burial, or sequence of burials in Bu 2 must be kept in mind when making a temporal assessment of the chamber.

Besides the skeletal remains, various other objects were also excavated from Burial 2. These include 2 stone beads, pieces of worked bone and scrapers, 2 tripods and 2 cylinders (one a very ornamental polychrome). Bu 2 was also undisturbed by anything other than natural ruin.

Group B--

Description:

Group B, about one-half to one-quarter of a mile downstream from Group A, consists of six structures (fig. 3). These rest on a slight raise in the plain although we have no idea as to how high this raised area was, or exactly what extent it covered. Neither do we know if this was a natural or a man-made feature in the topography. The slope down to the surface of the surrounding plain, we are told, was steepest on the north, south and west sides. Group B was not exactly cardinally oriented but was off of 7°E of North.

Structure B1 was the highest of the structures in this group, being now quite 5m above the level of the constructional plaza. Str. B3 was approximately 4m in height, while the others were "somewhat lower". The limits of Structure B5 and B6 were quite indistinct and difficult for Burkitt to measure.

Str. B1 and B2 may be seen in Photograph #160. Photo #160 was taken from the top of Structure B3 facing west. In the foreground is Str. B2 after Burkitt excavated in it. Structure B1 is just beyond this.

Excavations:

In Burkitt's notes, no mention was made of his excavations into Structure B2 at Kixpek, However, looking at Photograph #160, it is possible to see that he did make two trenches into this structure. One trench ran through its center east to west, and another ran north to south beginning at the central axis

(A-A<sub>1</sub>) and continuing south approximately half way through the structure. Apparently nothing of importance was found in Structure B2, as he lists no objects taken from it in his catalogue.

It seems as though the structure that drew Burkitt's attention was Str. B1. It is from here that all of the information we have about Group B comes.

Burkitt plotted a line A-A<sub>1</sub> which ran east to west centrally through the entire group. This line also bisected Str. B1, and it was along this that he dug his trench into the structure. Photographs #163 and 164 give us the best clues as to the dimensions of this trench. It appears that the trench was approximately 2.5m wide as Burkitt was digging into Str. B1, but it seems to narrow somewhat as he extended it beyond the eastern limits of the structure and below the level of the plaza. So here the trench was only about one and three-quarter meters wide. In length (east to west) this trench most likely extended from the east wall of Bu 1 out past Bu 4---in all about 13m.

Burkitt also cut a north to south trench along the east edge of Structure B. Photograph #166 was taken after Burkitt was done cleaning-out this trench. From this photo, it seems as though this was a rather narrow trench, probably measuring no more than 1.5m wide, 1.5m deep and 7m long (north to south).

From a study of the photographs, the sequence of Burkitt's excavations at Group B can be tentatively worked out. In Photograph #161 Burkitt is just beginning his excavations. Here we can see that he began just outside the eastern edge of Str. B1

and dug down to the level of Bu 3. From the level of the top of Bu 3, he then proceeded to dig the trench into the structure to uncover Burials 1 and 2. After this, he returned to excavate Bu 3, and, in so doing, enlarged the trench surrounding it and so uncovered Burial 4. Finally he opened up his north-south trench and found Burials 5, 6, and 7.

Features:

As seen in Structure A1 at Kixpek, the upper half of Str. B1 was also mainly stone, although here they were not as small as those in Str. A1. Below this level the structure was earthen fill as seen in Photo #161. In between these two levels is a strange layer of compact red earth. Upon excavation, Str. B1 took on a step formation with the rise of each step being faced by stone. Above the height of the third step (F-3b), the original surface of the structure could not be found by Burkitt (fig.5). Feature 1--This is the layer of sandy earthen fill. Whether this fill was of the same sort as that of the surrounding plaza is unknown, but this seems the likely case. F-1a is the first step in Str. B1 that Burkitt found. It was faced with stone. Burkitt believes that perhaps this step may have originally been two steps (F-1a and F-1b?). The uncertainty involved here comes from the state of extensive natural ruin he found Str. B1 to be in. The reconstruction of F-1a (or F-1a and F-1b), was only possible from what could be found on either side of his trench. As he did not excavate very far either way, we cannot be sure of the exact nature of F1. Photograph #161 shows part of F-1a--up

half way or until the area where it might have split into F-1a and F-1b. The whole height of this main step is marked by the top of the hoe. Burial 2 was found in F1.

Feature 2--This feature consisted of a surface of compact red earth quite distinct from the earth below and the fill above. This appeared as a level red streak about two inches thick. In Photo #161, the handle of the hoe was purposefully placed against this feature. The streak does not show up in the photo, but it does give some idea as to where the feature was situated. Some of the stone fill above this F2 was cleaned away and on the top surface of F2, traces of charcoal and remains of fires were found. It became evident that this was a floor. Whether it was a living floor or some area of ceremonial significance, it was certain to Burkitt that this red layer was indeed a floor. Str. B1 then, it may be suggested, had existed as an earthen platform, of the height of the bottom step (of F1) at least long enough for a floor to accumulate.

Feature 3--This upper part of Str. B1 seems to have been the superstructure built upon F1 and F2. Feature 3 was made-up of small stone fill, and Burkitt found two steps rising up on the line A-A<sub>1</sub> on the east side. The top of F-3a, a step-like feature is marked in Photo #161 by a man sitting on it on the right and, on the left, a hoe lying down. F-3b may be made out as the step rising beyond this hoe. Above F-3b no more of the original structure could be found by Burkitt. This was most probably due to heavy erosion of the structure. This feature contained Bu 1.

Burials:

Four burials were found by Burkitt's excavations along A-A<sub>1</sub> (fig. 4). The top and bottom burials were in stone chambers while the intermediate two were not.

Burial 1--This burial was a very interesting one for Burkitt as it was neither artificially disturbed nor naturally ruined. It consisted of a rectangular stone-lined chamber. Burkitt states that the doorway made-up the entire east side of the chamber and was closed by a walling-up of stones. Burkitt makes no mention of the surface entry point, but it is most likely that it was in from the east or through the step which now makes up F-3a (fig. 4). Photograph #162 was taken of Bu 1 after the entrance stones were removed. The floor of Bu 1 was at the level of F-2, the red floor, and was paved with stone. The floor was covered with a fine gray mud, deepest at the west end. We do not, however, know just how deep this layer of mud was. This debris layer was probably due to seepage of earth into the burial after its construction. The roof was held by one long stone laid centrally across the chamber from the north to south sides like a beam. The gaps east to west were then crossed by smaller stones. In Photo #160 the stone you see looking like a lintel is the east side of this cross-beam after the smaller stones reaching from the east to the center were removed. Photo #163 gives a clearer view of this cross-beam. The height of the chamber was approximately 80cm, the length (from east to west) 130cm, and the width about 120cm.

Burkitt thinks that the burial he found here had been put in later, after the original burial had been made. He bases this claim on two facts: a broken bowl hidden under some rubble in the front (east) side of the chamber; and some fragments of a mirror in the back (west) of the chamber. Both of these objects, Burkitt states, were "plainly foreign to the actual burial." In his collections, however, Burkitt did not keep either of these objects.

The actual 'body' was almost lacking as three teeth were the only remnants of the corpse, but its position could be noted by the empty space on the floor (fig. 5). It seems the body was seated against the west wall and the mortuary offerings were laid out in a very orderly way which may be seen in fig 5.

Burial 2--However the walls of Bu 2 were held in place before, whatever supports, if any, they may have had, there was no trace of it left when Burkitt excavated here. This burial began one-half meter below F-2 and continued down less than another one-half meter. It had all collapsed in and so gave the impression of a "confused pile embedded in the earth." In Photograph #163-166, Bu. 2 appears as the small 'pockmark' just above the large opening of Bu 3. It was not possible to take any dimensions of this burial.

The disturbance of the earth above Bu 2 indicated to Burkitt that the entrance to it was probably from above, and the place of Bu 2 was marked at the surface by a stone sunk in the red floor, or F-2. This marker is visible in Photo #161 in the middle, next to the basket and on top of a column of earth. No skeletal remains were found here, so perhaps Bu 2 was no burial at all, but served some other purpose, such as a cache or refuse deposit of some kind.

Burial 3--This burial was placed just under the edge of Str. B1 (fig. 4), and was below the construction plaza, down into the natural earth. The chamber was not stone-lined, but was merely a hollow area dug out of the hard, firm sand. All around the sides and top of this chamber, Burkitt states "you saw the strokes of the antique pick; long, gouging strokes."

The entrance to Bu 3 was from a slanting shaft which came out to the surface in front of Str B1. The doorway to the chamber was on the east side and closed by a walling-up of stones. The shaft was then filled with earth (fig. 5). Photo #163 shows this stone "walling-up" of Bu 3. This is the group of stones in the lower half of the photo in the center of the trench. Burkitt states that the walling stones of the entrance were not fitted exactly. When he opened this burial chamber then, he found it to be full of loose earth.

Photo #164 is this chamber after cleaning out. There were very few skeletal remains in Bu 3. Burkitt also thinks that this burial, like Bu 1, may have had an earlier occupant. Again he sites the presence of odd fragments of scattered vessels and mirror fragments to prove his point. These fragments, again like Bu 1, were not kept.

The dimensions of Bu 3 were approximately 1.5 square meters. Burial 4--This burial consisted of a small rectangular stone-lined chamber about three-quarters of a meter east from the edge of Str. B1. It had an earthen floor which was at the depth of 2.2m below the level of the plaza. The roof had mostly fallen in and the sides

had spread somewhat. In Photo #164, Bu 4 has its top cleared. This is just visible in front of the man in the photo. From this photograph, it appears as though the interior of Bu 4 is filled with earth. Whether this occurred before the final closing of the chamber or afterwards as the result of the semi-falling in of the roof we are not sure. In Photograph #165 the roof and the east side were removed and the remains of the burial cleaned out.

This burial measured about 1 square meter and was very poor in remains of any kind.

Burials 5,6,7--Three other burials were found along the base of the east side of Str. B1 (fig. 6). All three and Bu 3 were nearly at the same level and all were hollowed out of the earth with a stone walled doorway. In spite of this, Bu 5,6 and 7 do not appear to be one group with Bu 3. Instead of being just inside the line of Str. B1, these latter three burials are just outside of it. Also, the placement of Bu 5 and Bu 6 was more carefully set than that of Bu 3 with respect to the central line A-A<sub>1</sub>. Bu 3 seems to be off-center, slightly to the south. This can be seen both in Photo #165 and again in Photo #163 by comparing its placement with that of the stakes and the top chamber (see also fig. 6). In contrast, Bu 5 and Bu 6 are placed precisely equidistant from the central axis.

Photo #166 was taken from the northeast when Burkitt was done excavating all four burials. In the right-hand top corner you see Bu 1. A man is sitting in each of the four graves below (right to left Bu 5, 3, 6, and 7). The man in Bu 3 is behind the row of the other three men and nearer to Bu 6 than to Bu 5.

Above both Bu 5 and 6, the remains of the stone retaining edge of Str. B1 are visible. On top of Bu 7 the plain of the plaza can be seen coming out from the base of this stonework.

In Bu 7, which is the least excavated of these four burials, the north wall has been removed. In front of the man sitting in the grave you see the stones of the doorway walling. Bu 7 differed from burials 5 and 6 in that it was more square and nearly empty. It contained no skeletal remains and only one pottery vessel. Bu 5 and 6 were rounded and contained skeletal material as well as other objects. Each of these three burials covered an area of approximately one cubic meter.

For Group B at Kixpek, we can hope to give no other description/evaluation than that for Str. B1. Burkitt's limited excavations at this group give us no information concerning any other of the six visible structures here.

NOTE: The Ceramics Forms

The following discussion of the ceramics from Kixpek is part of a broader study of highland Guatemala pottery being undertaken by a number of students at Penn. For the most part, conventions have been established for the format and the naming of ceramic forms and their variations. These will be listed below so that the numbering system used later in the text will seem less confusing.

- I. Cylinders
- II. Hemispherical Bowls
  - A. without a flange
  - B. with a flange
- III. Composite Bowls
  - A. without flange
  - B. with flange
- IV. High-necked Bowls
  - A. vertical necks
  - B. outflaring necks
- V. Low-necked Bowls
  - A. vertical necks
  - B. outflaring necks
  - C. concave necks
- VI. Constricted Orifice
- VII. Rim Constricted Bowls
  - A. without flange
  - B. with flange
- VIII. Flaring -walled Bowls
- IX. High-walled Bowls
- X. Vertical-walled bowls
- XI. Handed Bowls
- XII. High-necked, shouldered Bowls
  - A. without flange
  - B. with flange
- XIII. Low-necked, shouldered Bowls
- XIV. Concave-sided Bowls
- XV. Outflaring rimmed Bowls
- XVI. Shoe-shaped vessels
- XVII. Flaring-walled cylinders

Each of the above listed form categories will be defined in the appropriate following section.

Within each of these form categories, there are occasionally minor variations--variations other than those designated with an A. or B. after the category number. These variations listed below have to do with the method of support.

- Variant 1. no support (flat or rounded base)
- 2. tripod
- 3. ring base
- 4. concave base
- 5. pedestal
- 6. tetrapod

While the above lists do not cover every possible form or variant, we believe they are adequate for our collections for the moment. With more intensive study, new variations may be created and old destroyed. But, for the group as a whole, these seem adequate.

The Ceramics:

A ceramic collection consisting of 31 whole vessels and 1 sherd ( a dog-faced rattling foot) came from Burkitt's excavations at Kixpek and are rather hastily described in his notes. Only 23 of these pieces were available in the University Museum's collection. Of those vessels that were missing or "unavailable", unfortunately, two were carved glyphic bowls and one was a polychrome cylinder. As these are just the kinds that we have very few examples of, they may have added much needed information to our evaluation of this collection. A brief description of these vessels will be given below.

- NA11583- A small, flat-bottomed dish. White slip, blackened interior. Incised geometric design--black filled (imitation negative painting?). Ht. 4cm, Dia. at rim 11cm. Provenience- Group A, Str. 1, Bu 1.
- NA11587- Cylinder. White slip with geometric negative painting in black. This design is a geometric framework enclosing a single large hieroglyph. Incised glyphic band below rim, red filled, space between glyphs is chamfered. Ht. 15.5cm, Dia. 14cm. Provenience- Group A, Str. 1, Bu 1.
- NA11600- Cylinder-polychrome. The body has two opposite paintings with writing in between. These two scenes are quite extraordinary paintings of squatting persons in elaborate costumes. Ht. 15.5cm, Dia. 15.5cm. Provenience- Group A, Str. 1, Bu 2.
- NA11606- Fine Orange bowl. Exterior is carved on opposite sides with a reclining man. A snake head(?) and various glyphs are carved in between. A row of glyphs is above. Stamped. Ht. 8cm, Dia. at rim 21cm. Provenience- Group B, Str. 1, Bu 1.
- NA11608- High-necked bowl. Very similar to 11607 which the University Museum has in its collection. The main difference is that this pot was very plain. Probably buff, fine red paste. Ht. 19cm, Dia. at rim 11cm. Seen in Photo #162 lying on its side. Provenience- Group B, Str. 1, Bu 1.

- NAll634- Dog-faced, rattling foot tripod. Deep buff slip. Geometric negative painting almost gone. Overfired. No metric data. Provenience- Group B, Str. 1, Bu 5.
- NAll637- Burkitt says that this vessel is identical to NAll634, and was buried already damaged. Provenience- Group B, Str. 1, Bu 6.

It is realized that the information given about the vessels listed above is quite and incomplete, but it is all the information we have concerning these vessels. Until their whereabouts can be discerned, this is all we can say about these seven pots. No attempt will be made here to place these vessels into the categories set up for the remainder of the collection.

I. CYLINDERS

Frequency;  $3/24$  or 12.5%

Description; Flat bottomed, vertical walled vessels. N11615 has a direct rim while both 11588 and 11599 have collars around their rims and bases. 11615 also has a lid with a flat top and vertical sides. Vessel height is greater than the diameter.

Metric Data; Ht-- 13cm-17cm  
Dia at rim-- 12cm-12.5cm  
Ratio Ht/Dia-- 1.04-1.416

Catalogue Numbers; N11588, 11599, 11615(vessel with lid)

Provenience; N11588 Group A, Str 1, Bu 1  
11599 Group A, Str 1, Bu 2  
11615 Group B, Str 1, Bu 2

Associated Types; Unslipped: Red 1  
Slipped: Black 1  
Stucco: White 1

II. HEMISPHERICAL BOWLS

Frequency; 1/24 or 4.16%

Description; A simple rounded silhouette bowl with an unrestricted orafice. This collection from Kixpek contains only one such bowl.

II.A. HEMISPHERICAL BOWLS WITHOUT A FLANGE

Frequency; 100%

Description; The wall profile of this vessel is a smooth line, unbroken by any type of flange.

Metric Data; Ht(without supports)-- 6.5cm  
Dia at rim-- 15cm  
Ratio- Ht/Dia-- .4333

Catalogue Numbers; NA11633

Provenience; NA11633 Group B, Str 1, Bu 5

Associated Types; Unslipped-Brown, micaceous

VARIATIONS

Variant 2- Tripod

Frequency; 100%

Description; The tripod supports on this vessel are round, hollow, rattling feet. Each has two small round vents, one above the other.

III. COMPOSITE BOWLS

Frequency; 6/24 or 25%

Description; These are vessels in which the side of the wall does not lie in one plane but 'breaks' or changes somewhere along the side. All have concave upper portions of the walls and rounded bases. Some have flanges and some do not.

III.A. COMPOSITE BOWLS WITHOUT FLANGES

Frequency; 4/6 or 66.66%

Description; In this class of vessels there is no flange which signals the break in the plane of the wall.

Metric Data; Ht-- 6cm-7cm  
Dia at rim-- 21cm-22cm  
Ratio- Ht/Dia-- .2857-.3181

Catalogue Numbers; NA11597, 11598, 11605, 11627

Provenience; NA11597 Group A, Str 1, Bu 2  
11598 Group A, Str 1, Bu 2  
11605 Group B, Str 1, Bu 1  
11627 Group B, Str 1, Bu 4

Associated Types; Slipped- Black on White- 4

VARIATIONS

Variant 2; Tripod

Frequency; 100%

Description; All composite vessels without flanges are tripods with rattling feet. NA11597, 11598, and 11627 have bulbous, pointed feet while 11605 has dog-faced feet.

Metric Data; Ht-- (with supports) 8cm-10cm  
Dia at rim-- same as above--21cm-22cm  
Ratio Ht/ Dia-- .3809-.4761

Catalogue Numbers; NA11597, 11598, 11605, 11627

III.B. COMPOSITE BOWLS WITH FLANGE

Frequency 2/6 or 33.33%

Description; These composite vessels, while still retaining the concave upper portion of the wall, now have a flange that marks the break in the plane of the wall.

Metric Data; Ht--6.5cm-8cm  
Dia at rim-- 27cm- 29.5cm  
Ratio Ht/Dia-- .2407-.2711

Catalogue Numbers; NA11584, 11585

Provenience; NA11584 Group A, Str 1, Bu 1  
11585 Group A, Str 1, Bu 1

Associated Types; Slipped; Black on White-- 2

### VARIATIONS

Variant 2; Tripod

Frequency; 100%

Description; All flanged composite vessels have, like their unflanged counter parts, three rattling feet. All variants of this sort have bulbous, pointed feet.

Metric Data; Ht--(with supports) 9.5cm- 10.5cm  
Dia at rim-- same as above 27cm-29.5cm  
Ratio Ht/Dia-- .3518-.3559

Catalogue Numbers; NA11584, 11585

IV. HIGH-NECKED BOWLS

Frequency; 7/24 or 29%

Description; This category consists of hemispherical or slightly incurving bowls with long vertical necks. The neck height is equal to or greater than 40% of the body height.

Both 11604 and 11607 have direct rims and squared lips. 11602 and 11617 have sizeable, slightly concave collars; while 11638 has a small, outflaring collared rim. 11631 and 11641 have exteriorly folded rims.

11604 has a spout and a strap handle that has broken away. Both these appendages originate from the vessel body.

IV.A. HIGH-NECKED BOWLS WITH VERTICAL NECKS

Frequency; 100%

Description; All high-necked vessels from Kixpek have vertical or nearly vertical necks.

Metric Data; Ht-- 13cm-25.5cm  
Dia at rim-- 5.5cm-16.5cm  
Neck ht-- 6cm-12cm  
Ratio Neck Ht/Body Ht-- .4117-.5714

Catalogue Numbers; NA11602, 11604, 11607, 11617, 11631, 11638, 11641

Provenience; NA11602 Group B, Str 1, Bu 1  
11604 Group B, Str 1, Bu 1  
11607 Group B, Str 1, Bu 1  
11617 Group B, Str 1, Bu 2  
11631 Group B, Str 1, Bu 5  
11638 Group B, Str 1, Bu 6  
11641 Group B, Str 1, Bu 7

Associated Types; Unslipped: Brown-micaceous 1  
Buff 1  
Orange 1  
Slipped; Orange 1  
Plumbate 1  
Stucco; Pink on White 1  
Polychrome 1

VARIATIONS

Variant 1; No supports, flat or round base

Frequency; 1/7 or 14.2%

Description; Only one high-necked bowl from Kixpek has a perfectly flat base.

Metric Data; Ht-- 21cm  
Dia at rim-- 11cm

Catalogue Numbers; NA11607

Variant 3; Ring base

Frequency; 2/7 or 28.5%

Description; These two vessels have slight ring or annular bases.

Metric Data; Ht-- 20.5cm-23cm  
Dia at rim-- 14cm-16.5cm

Catalogue Numbers; NA11602, 11617

Variant 4; Concave base

Frequency; 3/7 or 42.8%

Description; The majority of the high-necked vessels have concave or dimpled bases. These bases consist of a small impression in the middle of the base.

Metric Data; Ht-- 14cm-25.5cm  
Dia at Rim-- 8.5cm-14cm

Catalogue Numbers; NA11604, 11631, 11641

Variant 5; Pedestal base

Frequency; 1/7 or 14.2%

Description; This vessel is what is usually called in the literature a lamp chimney. It is supported by a tall pedestal base. The height of the base is equal to the height of the body, while the neck is almost the height of either.

Metric Data; Ht--13cm                      Neck Ht-- 6cm                      Body Ht--3.5cm  
Dia at rim-- 5.5cm

Catalogue Numbers; NA11638

VI. CONSTRICTED ORAFICE VESSELS

Frequency;  $3/24$  or 12.5%

Description; In this category are bowls whose rim diameter is smaller than the average body diameter. The widest part of the body is either at its midpoint or the vessel is occasionally barrel-shaped with the widest body point approximately two-thirds of the way down.

Metric Data; Ht-- 8.5cm-13.5cm  
Dia at rim-- 10.5cm-19cm  
Dia at widest point-- 12.4cm-15cm  
Ratio Ht/Dia at rim-- 1.235-1.7058  
Ratio Dia at rim/Dia at widest point-- .63-.9

Catalogue Numbers; NA11603, 11629, 11630

Provenience; NA11603 Group B, Str 1, Bu 1  
11629 Group B, Str 1, Bu 5  
11630 Group B, Str 1, Bu 5

Associated Types; Unslipped: Brown, micaceous 1  
Slipped: Fine Orange 1  
Slipped: Red 1

VARIATIONS

Variant 1; No supports, flat base

Frequency;  $2/3$  or 66.6%

Description; Two of the three vessels in this category have flat bases. Interestingly, these are the vessels which also have the widest point of their body two-thirds of the way down.

Metric Data; Ht--14.5cm-19cm  
Dia at rim-- 8.5cm-13.5cm

Catalogue Numbers; NA11603, 11630

Variant 4; Concave base

Frequency;  $1/3$  or 33.3%

Description; This vessel has a slightly indented or concave base.  
This is also the vessel in this category whose widest  
body point is midway on the vessel.

Metric Data; Ht--10.5cm  
Dia at rim-- 8.5cm  
Dia at widest point-- 13.5cm

Catalogue Numbers; NA11629

VIII. FLARING WALLED VESSELS

Frequency; 2/24 or 8.33%

Description; The vessels in this category have either flat or rounded bases, supports or no supports, but all have flaring walls. The walls all flare in one plane. NAl1632 has a wide horizontally everted rim.

Metric Data; Ht-- 5.5cm-7cm  
Dia at rim-- 19cm-26cm  
Ratio Ht/Dia-- .2115-.3684

Catalogue Numbers; NAl1622, 11632

Provenience; NAl1622 Group B, Str 1, Bu 3  
11632 Group B, Str 1, Bu 5

Associated Types; Unslipped; Brown, without mica 1  
Slipped; Fine Orange 1

VARIATIONS

Variant 2; Tripod

Frequency; 100%

Description; Both flaring-walled vessels have tripod supports, but these are of two different kinds. NAl1622 has small, round, rattling feet with one round vent in each. NAl1632 has tall, cylindrical, rattling feet; each with three circular vents, one above the other.

Metric Data; Ht--(with supports) 9.5cm-12cm  
Dia at rim--(same as above) 19cm-26cm  
Ratio Ht/Dia-- .4-.5

Catalogue Numbers; NAl1622, 11632

XII. HIGH-NECKED, SHOULDERED BOWLS

Frequency; 1/24 or 4.166%

Description; Vessels in this category are similar to those in category IV in that they all have high vertically, or nearly vertically, walled necks. The bodies of these vessels are not hemispherical but curve inward to meet the neck. This creates a 'shoulder' on the vessel between the base of the neck and the widest point of the body. The body of these vessels can be either flanged or without a flange.

XII.A. HIGH-NECKED, SHOULDERED BOWLS WITHOUT A FLANGE

Frequency; 100%

Description; The one bowl in this category from Kixpek has no flange on its body. Instead the body rounds up to the neck in one smooth curve.

Metric Data; Ht-- 14.5cm  
Dia at rim-- 7.5cm  
Neck ht-- 6.5cm  
Ratio Ht/Dia--1.933  
Ratio Neck ht/Body ht-- .8125

Catalogue Numbers; NAl1639

Provenience; NAl1639 Group B, Str 1, Bu 6

Associated Types; Slipped: Plumbate (anthropomorphic effigy) 1

VARIATIONS

Variant 4; Concave base

Frequency; 100%

Description; There is a pronounced dimple or indent in the base of this high-necked, shouldered vessel.

XIV. CONCAVE-SIDED BOWLS

Frequency; 1/24 or 4.166%

Description; The concave-sided bowl here has a flat base and highly concave walls. The diameter of the rim and the base is approximately equal while the diameter at the mid-point of the vessel is 3cm less.

Metric Data; Ht--11.5cm  
Dia at rim-- 15cm  
Dia at narrowest point-- 12cm  
Ratio Ht/Dia at rim-- .7666

Catalogue Numbers; NAl1596

Provenience; NAl1596 Group A, Str 1, Bu 2

Associated Types; Slipped: Black on White 1

NOTE: The Ceramic "Types"

The following "type" descriptions are basically a 'type-class' designation after Gifford (1977). No attempt has been made at this time to formulate any kind of type-variety nomenclature for Kixpek or for any of the highland sites now being studied by our group. The labels given these ceramics are very general, descriptive ones and not consistent throughout the group now working on this project.

Due to the fact that most of the vessels from Kixpek are whole vessels, Munsell color readings could not be taken for the paste test. When natural breaks occurred, paste readings are given. In all classes, color readings of the surface are given. Black is simply noted as black without numerical notations.

Because the type naming system used here is so general, it is difficult to find comparable pieces from other archaeological sites in the area. If such comparable pieces were found in the future, they are listed at the end of each ceramic ware class.

UNSLIPPED:

The ceramics classified below are all unslipped wares but most are highly burnished so as to have a kind of luster.

1. BROWN WARE

Identifying Characteristics; There are two subdivisions of brownware in the collection from Kixpek. Both are unslipped, burnished wares and all show a great deal of fireclouding. Because of this fireclouding, it was difficult to obtain Munsell readings, but, looking at what I believe were representative areas of the vessels, the readings varied around 7.5Yr 4/4, 7.5Yr 5/5 and 10Yr 5/3.

1.a. BROWN WARE-MICACEOUS

Identifying Characteristics; This is a brown ware with heavy inclusions of mica in the paste.

Frequency; 3/24 or 12.5%

Catalogue Numbers; NA11604, 11630, 11633

Munsell Codes; 7.5Yr 4/4, 7.5Yr 5/4, 10Yr 5/3

Decoration; The surface is very plain in most instances. In only one case is there a small modeled head on one side of the vessel. Otherwise there is no decoration.

Appendages; 11604(IVA) has a long spout originating at the base of the neck and remnants of what was once most probably a strap handle also on the body. 11633(IIA) has round, rattling tripod supports.

Associated Forms (Codes); This class of pottery is found in three form categories: IIA, IVA, VI.

1.b. BROWN WARE WITHOUT MICA

Identifying Characteristics; This vessel is basically the same color as the micaceous variety, but color is hard to distinguish because of the heavy fireclouding. This vessel is also highly burnished. There is no noticeable inclusion of mica in the paste.

Frequency; 1/24 or 4.16%

Catalogue Numbers; NA11632

Munsell Codes; 7.5Yr 5/4

Decoration; The surface is very plain, with no decoration at all. This vessel does have a wide, everted rim.

Appendages; Three tall, cylindrical, rattling feet with three round vents each.

Associated Forms (Codes); VIII

2. RED WARE

Identifying Characteristics; Vessels with a deep red color throughout the paste and the surface. This vessel may have been burnished before decorating.

Frequency; 1/24 or 4.16%

Catalogue Numbers; NA11588

Munsell Codes; 2.5Yr 4.5/6

Decoration; This vessel has a model-carved surface and a raised band of glyphs around the rim and base. There are traces of what was probably white paint over the decoration.

Appendages; None

Associated Forms (Codes); I.

Comparisons; A very similarly carved cylindrical vessel is illustrated in Butler's article (1940: Plate VII,s). This vessel comes from another of Burkitt's sites in the Guatemalan Highlands-- Ratinlixul.

3. BUFF WARE

Identifying Characteristics; The surface color of this vessel is much lighter than those in the 'Brown ware' class and neither has the surface of this vessel been burnished. The pot is very porous. The paste here is similar to that found in Plumbate wares. One might venture a guess that this is a highly worn plumbate vessel as the form is also a common one for plumbate.

Frequency; 1/24 or 4.16%

Catalogue Numbers; NA11641

Munsell Codes; 10Yr 6/3

Decoration; There is a small amount of incising found on this vessel. This consists of two lines at the base of the neck and three crudely incised vertical lines on one side of the body.

Appendages; None

Associated Forms (Codes); IVA.

4. ORANGE WARE

Identifying Characteristics; There seem to be traces of a light burnishing after other surface modifications had been made on this light orange colored, unslipped vessel. The pot is also slightly porous.

Frequency; 1/24 or 4.16%

Catalogue Numbers; NA11602

Munsell Codes; 5Yr 5/6

Decoration; There is a row of small bosses encircling the collar of the neck and five larger indents encircle the body. All of these are perfectly round.

Appendages; None

Associated Forms (Codes); IVA.

SLIPPED:

The following classes of vessels are slipped. That is they have all been covered, either partially or wholly, with a fine mixture of clay and water after they were formed. This slip was usually of a color different than the paste of the vessel. As most of the vessels from Kixpek are whole vessels, there was little opportunity to study the pastes of these pots, and so they are classed according to their surface slip color and subdivided on the basis of differing secondary painting..

5. ORANGE WARE-SLIPPED

Identifying Characteristics; This vessel is very much like the Orange Ware that is unslipped in its form. Here the vessel has an exterior slip that makes the vessel less porous and slightly darker in color.

Frequency; 1/24 or 4.16%

Catalogue Numbers; NA11631

Munsell Codes; 5Yr 4/8

Decoration; The body of this vessel (the hemispherical portion below the neck) is gadrooned to give the appearance of a melon-shaped body.

Appendages; None

Associated Forms (Codes); IVA.

Comparisons; Xinabahul Orange-Red (Woodbury & Trik 1953: 176). This ware is described as being slipped all over, like the Kixpek vessel; the forms found in this type contain examples similar to the long-necked bowl from Kixpek. The Munsell readings are also similar.

6. FINE ORANGE

Identifying Characteristics; The paste is without noticeable inclusions and is also relatively soft. The surface slip is very worn but of a deep orange color. One vessel has a fine orange paste, but almost a dark, plumbate-like slip. This has led Mary Butler to call it a mixture of Fine Orange and Plumbate in her notes concerning this collection.

Frequency; 2/24 or 8.33%

Catalogue Numbers; NA11603, 11622

Munsell Codes; SLIP-- 2.5Yr 4.5/6, .5Yr 4/1  
PASTE-- 5Yr 6/6, 5Yr 7/8

Decoration; One is a grater bowl with incised lines on the interior base. The other has a gadrooned, melon-shaped body.

Appendages; 11622 has three round rattling feet.

Associated Forms (Codes); VI, VIII.

Comments; Kixpek has often been cited in the literature because of the abundance of Fine Orange ware from the site. The vessels available for study contained only these two vessels, but, if one can believe the often mistaken notes of Burkitt and Butler, there is also one more Fine Orange vessel from Kixpek. There is indeed then, a high proportion of Fine Orange ware among the collection from Kixpek.

Comparisons; Cedro gadrooned and Pabellon Modeled-carved (Rands & Smith 1965). Shepard 1948: 133-37. R.E. Smith 1957: 137-38.

7. PLUMBATE

Identifying Characteristics; The paste on this ware is a gray color with usually a dark core traditionally. One of the plumbate vessels from Kixpek does indeed have such paste, but the other has a light orange paste. The surface slip is a dark gray that is almost completely worn away in one of the examples so that no Munsell reading could be obtained.

Frequency; 2/24 or 8.33%

Catalogue Numbers; NA11638, 11639

Munsell Codes; SLIP-- 5Yr 3.5/1  
PASTE-- 7.5Yr 5/0, 7.5Yr 7/6

Decoration; Incising--occasional incised lines encircling the body at different points. Modeling--one vessel has an anthropomorphic, bearded effigy on one side.

Appendages; One vessel is what is often termed in the literature a lamp-chimney. It has a tall pedestal base.

Associated Forms (Codes); IVA, XIIIA. Both forms are quite similar.

Comparisons; Shepard (1940; Fig 8 and 18) These vessels are from such varied locations as Suchitotc, El Salvador; San Andres Sajcabaja, Guatemala; and Guazapa, El Salvador.

8. RED WARE-SLIPPED

Identifying Characteristics; A deep red slip covers approximately two-thirds of this vessel, from the rim down. The bottom third is an unslipped buff.

Frequency; 1/24 or 4.16%

Catalogue Numbers; NA11629

Munsell Codes; SLIP--10R 3/3.5  
PASTE--5Yr 5/3

Decoration; Applied fillets around the waist and an applied frog's head at the waist also.

Appendages; None

Associated Forms (Codes); VI

9. WHITE SLIP--BLACK ON WHITE WARE

Identifying Characteristics; As an overall qualitative category, all these vessels should be classified together. All consist of some form of black painting on a white slipped surface. Variations occur with the usage of a third color. This would, strictly speaking, make these variants polychrome, but they are all so alike that they have been grouped together here. All fall together in the same form category (III) except one (XIV). Yet, even this one is so similar that it too belongs to this group. All except one have blackened interiors and this one is different in that the painting is carried over into the interior. In all cases, the designs are done mainly in black with geometric designs and imitate negative painting. There is only one true instance of negative painting among these vessels.

Frequency; 7/24 or 29.16%

Catalogue Numbers; NA11584, 11585, 11596, 11597, 11598, 11605 and 11627.

Munsell Codes; SLIP-- 10Yr 7/3

9.a. BLACK ON WHITE WARE--PLAIN

Identifying Characteristics; These vessels have only the white exterior slip, blackened interiors and geometric painting in black over the slip. The base of one vessel is not slipped.

Frequency; 2/7 or 28.57%

Catalogue Numbers; NA11596, 11597

Munsell Codes; same as above SLIP-- 10Yr 7/3  
PAINT-- Black

Decoration; Geometric, imitation negative painting in black on a white slip.

Appendages; One has conical, pointed tripod supports with rattles. Each has only one vent. The other has a flat base.

Associated Forms (Codes); IIIA., XIV.

9.b. BLACK ON WHITE WARE--WITH RED

Identifying Characteristics; Geometric, painting in black on a white slip. 11605 is the one example of true negative painting. This varies from the group as a whole because occasional red stripes are used over various portions of the body.

Frequency; 2/7 or 28.57%

Catalogue Numbers; NA11598, 11605

Munsell Codes; SLIP-- 10Yr 7/3  
Red-- 2.5 Yr 5/8, 10R 4/8

Decoration; Geometric painting in black over a white slip; red stripes either on two opposite portions of the rim (11605) or on the base (11598). Both are painted over the black and white design.

Appendages; Both have tripod supports. 11598 has conical, pointed feet while 11605 has dog-faced feet.

Associated Forms (Codes); IIIA.

9.c. BLACK ON WHITE WARE--WITH REDDISH BROWN

Identifying Characteristics; Two of these vessels (11584 and 11585) are identical in all respects. Both have the base and feet painted with a reddish-brown. The third vessel in the subdivision (11627) is the most variant of this ware class. Its surface is a reddish-brown with most of the white slip and black overpaint gone now. What design remains is carried on into the interior of the vessel.

Frequency; 3/7 or 42.85%

Catalogue Numbers; NA11584, 11585, 11627

Munsell Codes; SLIP-- 10Yr 7/3  
Reddish-brown-- 5Yr 3/4, 5Yr 4/5, 2.5Yr 4/4

Decoration; Geometric painting in black on a white surface. The feet are painted reddish-brown in all instances, and the exterior base is also painted in two vessels.

Appendages; All are tripod vessels with conical, pointed, rattling feet. All have one vent each.

Associated Forms (Codes); IIIA., IIIB.

10. BLACK WARE

Identifying Characteristics; The exterior and interior of this vessel is slipped and lowly polished. The paste is a light pink color with no visible inclusions.

Frequency; 1/24 or 4.166%

Catalogue Numbers; NA11599

Munsell Codes; SLIP-- Black  
PASTE-- 7.5Yr 7/4

Decoration; Outset collar around the rim and base. The body is very slightly gadrooned.

Appendages; None

Associated Forms (Codes); I.

Comparisons; Nebaj Fine Black (Smith & Kidder 1951: Fig. 74,k). In both, the slip covers the whole vessel. Both have soft red to pinkish brown paste.

STUCCO:

11. WHITE STUCCO--PINK ON WHITE

Identifying Characteristics; Although these vessels are not, in the strict sense, slipped, they are both covered with a white stucco and then painted over in part or in whole with a red or pink paint.

Frequency; 2/24 or 8.33%

Catalogue Numbers; NA11615, 11617

Munsell Codes; SLIP--white  
PAINT-- 5R 6/4, 10R 5/6

Decoration; Both are painted in pink. The stucco is very worn in both cases and so any decoration is almost impossible to see. In one case what seems to be a human figure is outlined in pink.

Appendages; None. 11615 does have a lid with a flat top and vertical sides.

Associated Forms (Codes); I., IVA.

Comparisons; Zaculeu (Woodbury & Trik, 1953: 206), Nebaj (Smith & Kidder 1951: 57).

### POLYCHROME

#### 12. POLYCHROME

Identifying Characteristics; Red slipped interior. Exterior is variously painted in white, orange, red and black. A wide row of painted glyphs encircles the long neck.

Frequency; 1/24 or 4.16%

Catalogue Numbers; NA11607

Munsell Codes; 5Yr 5/8-- yellowish-red  
10Yr 7/3-- very pale brown(white)  
10R 4/8-- red  
Black

Decoration; Glyphic decoration around the neck. White band at neck. Yellow glyphs outlined in black, details in red.

Appendages; None

Associated Forms (Codes); IVA.

From the preceding listing and description of the ceramic wares from Kixpek and looking at Fig. 7, we can see that there are a few note-worthy features about this collection. The vast majority of the vessel forms from this site are high-necked bowls, yet this seems to be a very general form with no consistent type of surface treatment. In a very literal sense, no two high-necked bowls are alike. There does seem to be a form and type cluster-ind in the Composite bowl category. Whether the vessels have a flange or not seems to be irrelevant--all have white slips, geometric painting in black,, and tripod supports. The high proportion of Fine Orange wares and Plumbate wares also makes this site unique in this highland area of Guatemala.

EVALUATION

To make any kind of temporal assessment for the various excavated features at Kixpek we must turn to Mary Butler's (1940) article on the ceramic sequence from the Alta Verapaz. In this article, she sets up a chronological framework for many sites in this highland area of Guatemala, Kixpek included.

For Group A, Str 1, Bu 1, a temporal assignment of Chamá 4-Chipal 1 must be given. This is based on the finding of composite bowls with geometric designs on white slip here (NA11584 and 11585), and on the association with deeply carved and incised ware (NA11588). This period corresponds to the early Postclassic (Rands and Smith 1965: 99).

Assuming that this structure was first built, and then burial 1 was intruded into it, we may be able to state that Structure 1 in Group A at Kixpek is no older than the early Postclassic.

We know that Burial 2 was entered through a slanting shaft to its east, but we do not know if this shaft came to the surface beneath what is now Structure 1 or if it came out to the east of Str. 1.

In spite of this, it is still possible to judge its relationship with Bu. 1. Butler states that Bu. 2 corresponds to the first half of Period II (Chamá 3). Geometric negative painting is common for this phase (NA11596, 11597, 11598). Along with this, a decoration of three broad vertical orange stripes over the design is also characteristic of Chamá 3 wares (NA11598), as is the occurrence of indented disks on the exterior bases of these bowls (11598).

This lower burial at Kixpek may be placed in the Middle to Late Classic Period then (Borhegyi 1965: 57). Therefore, if the entry shaft for Bu 2 did come to the surface beneath Str 1 we may assume that the structure was built sometime in the Middle to Late Classic times. Whereas if the entrance was beyond the eastern edge of Str 1, this may show that this structure was built even before the placement of Bu 2 beneath it. Only further excavation at this site could clarify this question.

Butler assigns to Bu 1 on Group B, Str 1, the category of Period III or even perhaps Period IV, (Chipal 2 or 3 respectively). That it should be placed in the Chipal 2 sub-period is supported by the use of bosses and indents as decoration (NA11602), dog-foot tripods (11605-NAS<sup>1</sup>), and Fine Orange ware (11603). All of these are present in the material from Bu 1 in Group B. Other factors, however, would argue for Bu 1 to be placed in the Chipal 3 sub-period. Pyrite mirrors are common during this period, and four of these are found in this burial (NA11610-11613). These artifacts were not discussed in this paper. All evidence considered though, points strongly to the early Postclassic or Butler's Period III-Chipal 2 phase.

According to Butler, Burial 2 in Group B belongs to Period II, the Chamá 4- Chipal 1 sub-period. This is evidenced, she claims by the presence of a decorated cylinder in the chamber (NA11615). Burial 2 was rather poor in grave goods, and so

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<sup>1</sup>NAS refers to Not Available for Study. The information concerning these vessels is taken from Burkitt's and Butler's notes.

perhaps the placement of this burial into a temporal period should not be relied on too heavily on this evidence alone. I do agree, however, that burial 2 is earlier than Bu 1.

Burials 3, 5, 6, and 7, while they may not have all been dug at once, do all seem to fall within the same general period--Period III--Chipal 2. In this, they are approximately contemporary with burial 1 of this same Group B.

Fine Orange ware, a diagnostic ware of this period, is found in Bu 3 (11622) and Bu 6 (11638-NAS). Animal-foot tripods are also common to Chipal 2 and found in Bu 3 (11623-NAS), Bu 5 (11634-NAS) and Bu 6 (11637-NAS).

Burial 7 was very poor in artifacts, however, judging from the level at which it was found and its likeness to Bu 3, 5 and 6 in all other respects, it may be a safe assumption to state that it was contemporary with them.

Burial 4 seems to be the earliest of all the burials excavated by Burkitt at Group B. This burial, if on will follow Butler's lead, falls into Period II--Chamá 3. This assumption is also a shakey one though, as it is based on only one vessel with geometric negative painting on a composite tripod (NA11627) as its diagnostic trait.

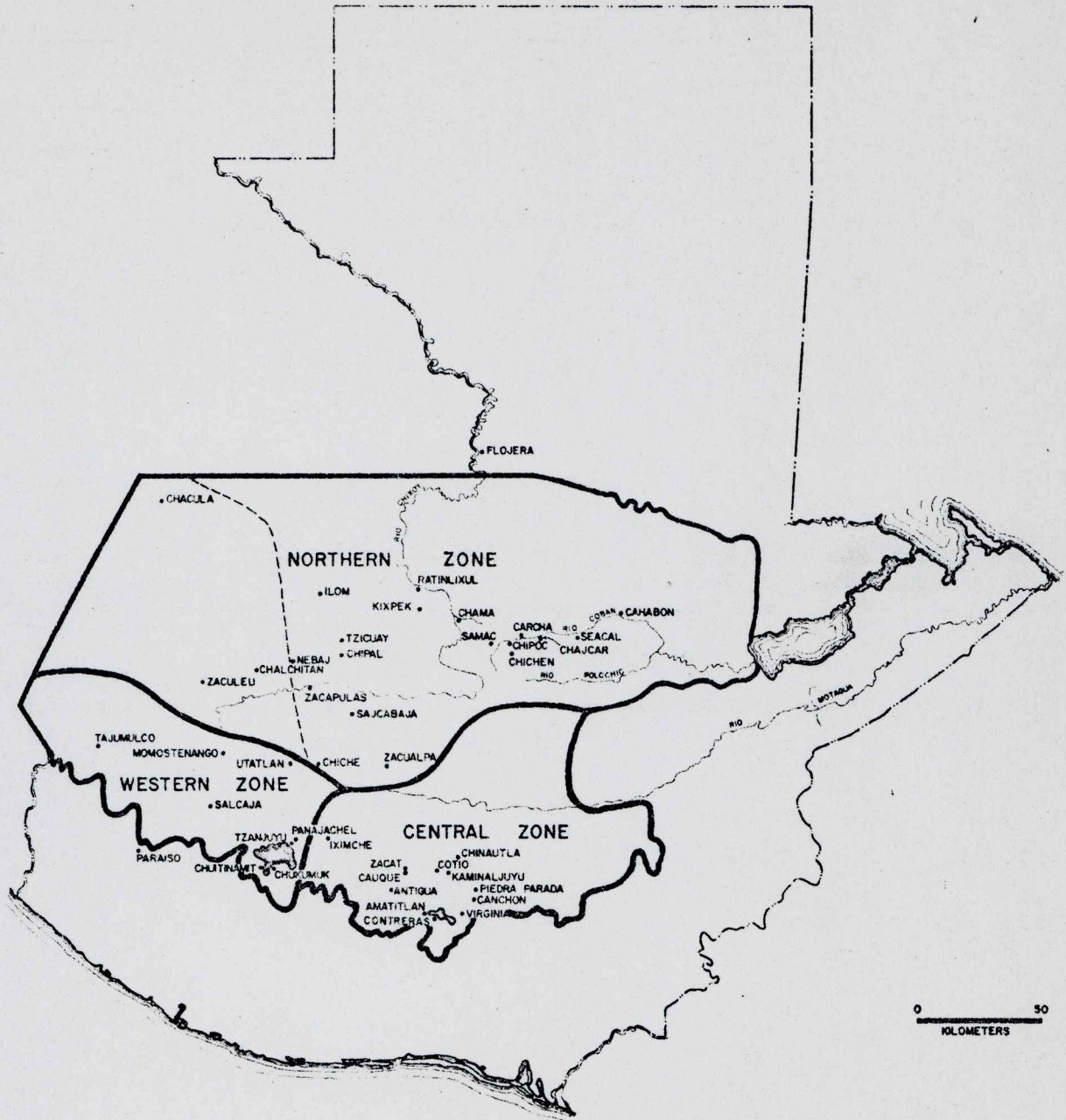
From the above discussion, it is now possible to offer a tentative hypothesis as to the development of Str 1 in Group B and its burials at Kixpek. Burial 4 was the first to be dug down beneath the constructional plaza sometime in the middle Classic. Next, the platform level (F1) of Str 1 was built and Bu 2 was

intruded into it sometime in the Late Classic or early Postclassic. This is suggested due to the fact that a marker was put into the plaza floor to mark the burial. Then Burial 3 was dug down under the eastern edge of the platform and soon afterwards, the series of burials--Bu 5, 6, and 7--were added in a line along this platform's eastern edge. This all occurred during the Postclassic times.

Sometime along the way, the superstructure (F3) was built upon the platform (F1) and finally Bu 1 was dug into this superstructure from the east side, roughly contemporary with the burials on the edge, but perhaps a little later in the Postclassic.

From this we can see that while these two groups at Kixpek (Group A and Group B) did have some Classic Period construction going on, it did not bloom as a site until the Postclassic period. The abundance of Fine Orange and Plumbate at the site attests to this conclusion.

FIGURE I



From: Rands & Smith 1965: Fig. 1

FIGURE 2

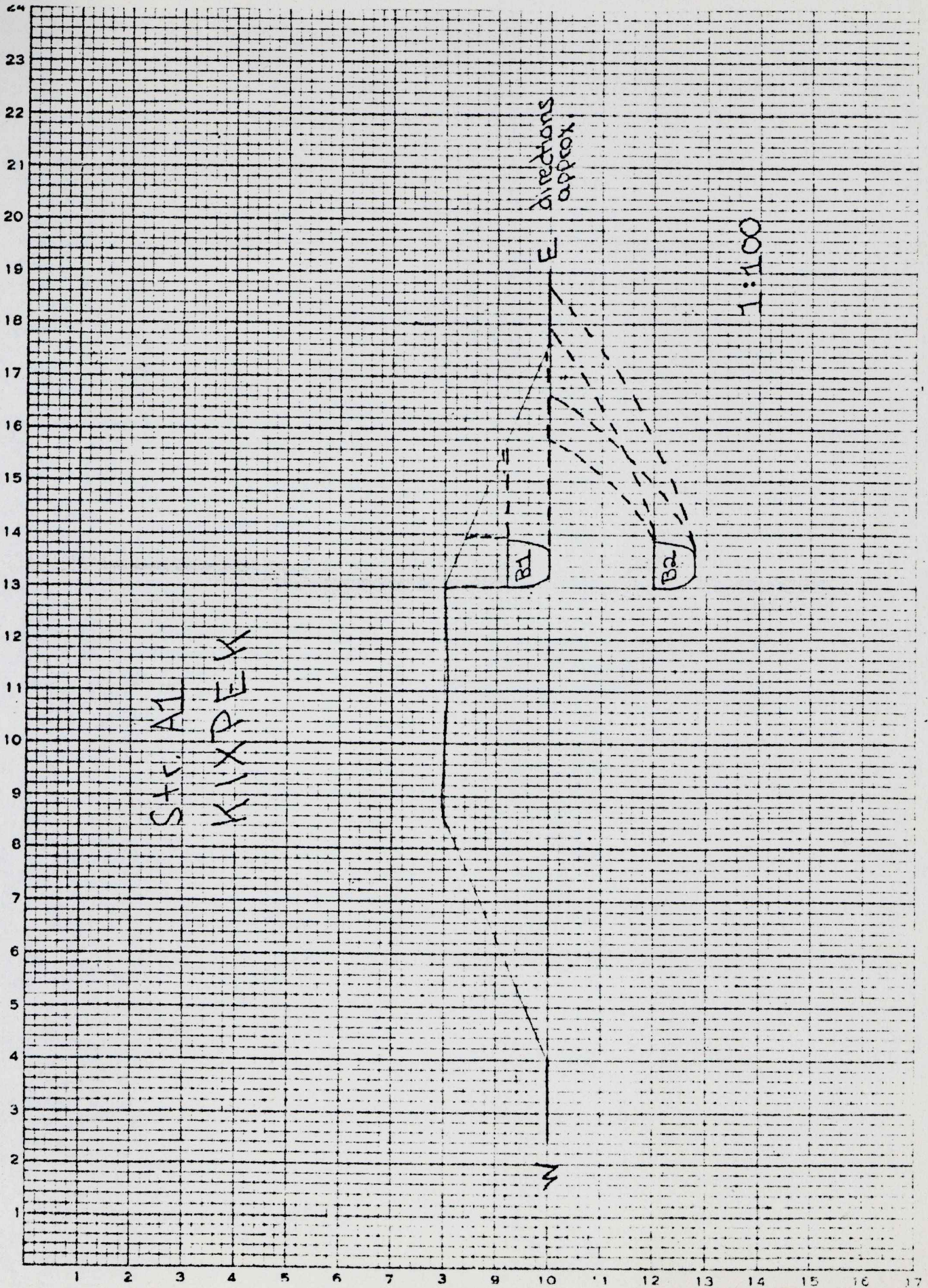


FIGURE 3

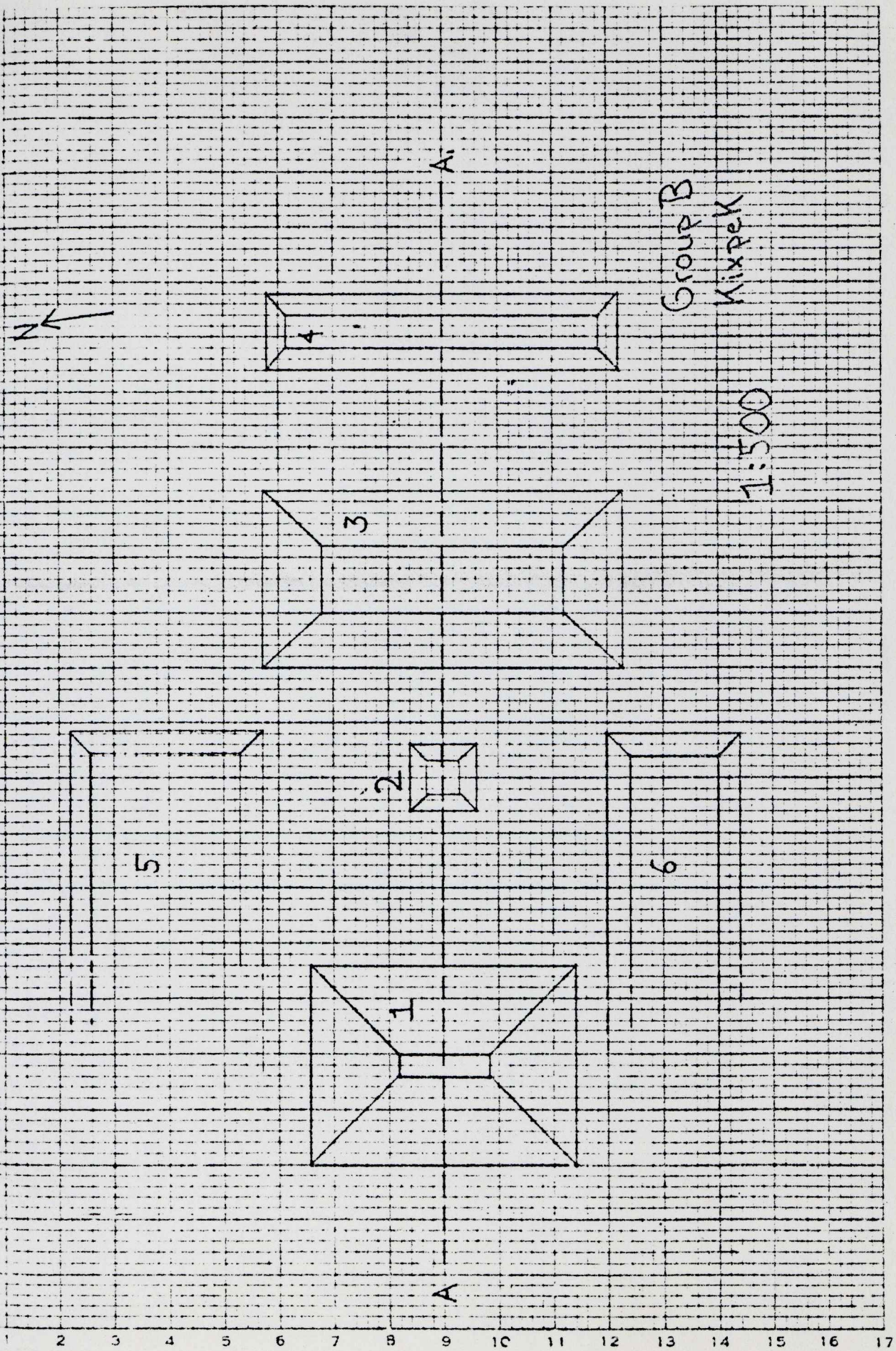


FIGURE 4

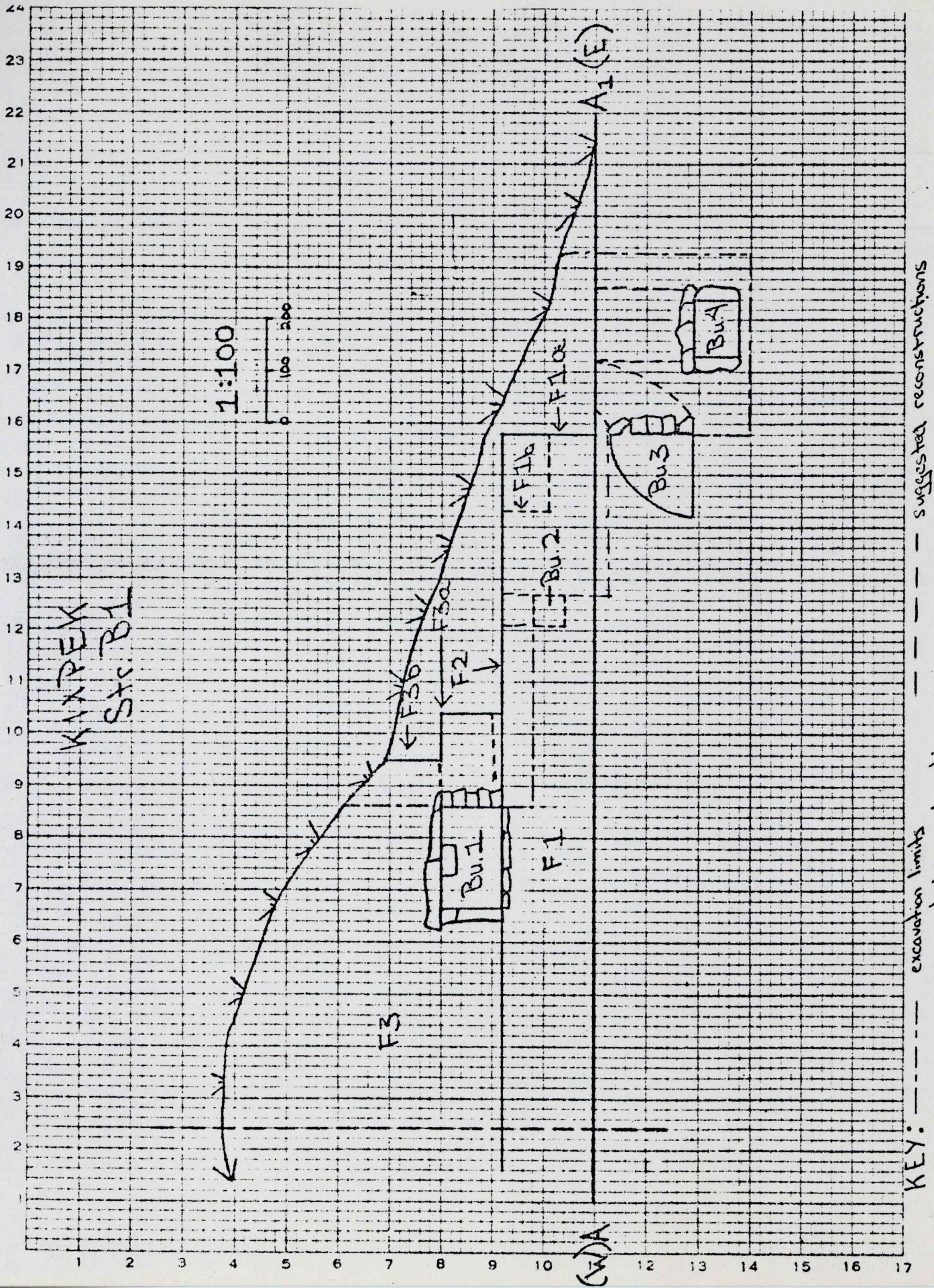
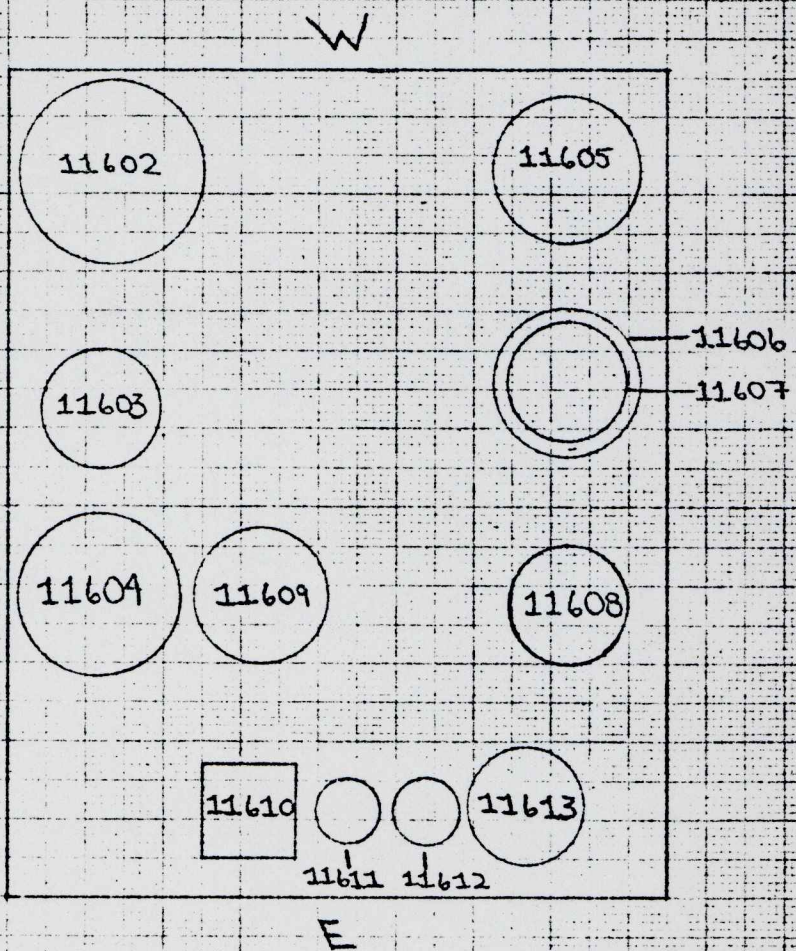


FIGURE 5

KIXPEK  
Group B, Str. B1, Bu. 1



1:20

FIGURE 6

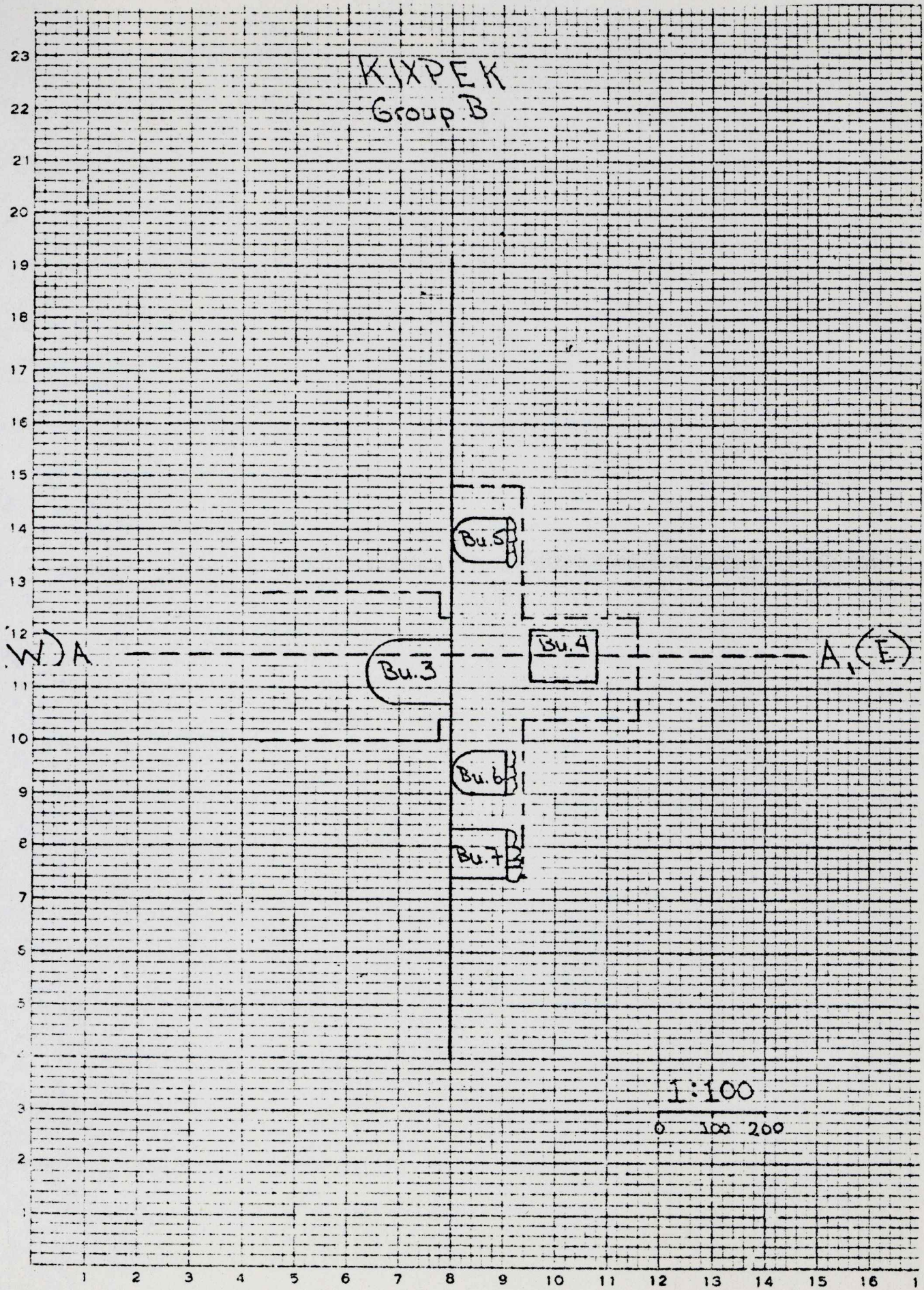


FIGURE 7

<u>FORMS:</u>	Cylin- ders	Hemis. bowls	Comp. bowls	Comp. bowls	High- neck	Constr. orifice	Flare walls	High. shoul	Concave walls	<u>TOTALS</u>
<u>WARES:</u>										
UNSLIPPED										
Brown										
micaceous		1		1		1				3
w/o mica							1	1		1
Red	1									1
Buff				1						1
Orange				1						1
SLIPPED										
Orange				1						1
Fine Orange						1	1			2
Plumbate				1				1		2
Red						1				1
Blk on Wt.										
plain			1						1	2
w/red			2							2
w/br-red			1	2						3
Black	1									1
STUCCO										
Pink on Wt.	1				1					2
POLYCHROME										
Polychrome					1					1
<u>TOTAL</u>	3	1	4	2	7	3	2	1	1	

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THE CERAMICS OF KIXPEK  
DEPARTMENT OF EL QUICHE, GUATEMALA

Barrel-shaped bowls

Definition; flat-bottomed bowls with convex or barrel-shaped walls. The height of these vessels is no less than but no more than the rim diameter. The widest part of the vessel is in the lower 1/3 of the body.  
 N11603 has the most pronounced barrel-shape. 11615 has a direct, squared lip. This same vessel also has a lid with a flat top and nearly vertical sides. 11599 and 11603 have slight exterior collars while 11630 has an exteriorly folded rim. 11599 also has a basal collar.

Frequency; approximately 17.4% Or 4/23 (12.5% = 1/32)

Metric Data; Height-- 12.5-19 (15.75 mean)  
 Dia. at rim-- 8.5- 13.5 cm ( 11.75 mean)  
 Ratio;

Catalogue Nos; N11599, 11615(vessel and lid), 11603, 11630

Illus. Ref.; see fig. \_\_\_\_\_

Provenience; N11599 Group A, Str. 1, Bu. 2  
 11615 Group B, Str. 1, Bu. 2  
 11603 Group B, Str. 1, Bu. 1  
 11630 Group B, Str. 1, Bu. 5

Associated "Types"; N11603- Plumbate (w/ Fine Orange mixed?)

Comparisons;

11603 Body is gadrooned. There are 3 raised bands above the gadrooning parallel to the rim.

11630 Appear face on 1 side in low relief.

THE CERAMICS OF KIXPEK  
DEPARTMENT OF EL QUICHE, GUATEMALA

11598  
11592 has a slight indented ring in its otherwise  
rounded base.

Composite dishes

Definition;

vessels in which the side of the wall does not lie in one plane but 'breaks' or changes somewhere along the side. These vessels have heights between  $1/3$  and  $1/4$  the diameter at the rim and all have concave walls. In this collection all such dishes are tripods with rattling feet. All except N11605 have pointed feet while 11605 has dog-faced feet and specimen 11623 consists of a single dog-faced rattling foot.

All vessels have rounded bases and N11584 and 11585 have a medial flange.

Frequency;

approximately 26% Or  $6/23$  (18.75% : 7/32)

Metric Data;

Height-- (without feet) 6-8 cm (6.6 mean)  
(incl. feet) 8-10 cm (9.3 mean)  
Dia. at rim-- 21-29.5 cm (23.7 mean)  
Ratio; Ht.(without ft)/ Dia.--  $1/3-1/4$

Catalogue Nos.;

N11584, 11585, 11597, 11598, 11605, 11623, 11627.

Illus. Ref.;

see figs. \_\_\_\_\_

Provenience;

N11584 Group A, Str. 1, Bu. 1  
11585 Group A, Str. 1, Bu. 1  
11597 Group A, Str. 1, Bu. 2  
11598 Group A, Str. 1, Bu. 2  
11605 Group B, Str. 1, Bu. 1  
11623 Group B, Str. 1, Bu. 3  
11627 Group B, Str. 1, Bu. 4

Associated "Types";

Comparisons;

Position and shape of vent:

Circular

4

In rear (near weld) - 3

In both sides - 1

Crescentric

2

In both sides - 2

No vent

1

THE CERAMICS OF KIXPEK  
DEPARTMENT OF EL QUICHE, GUATEMALA

Concave-sided bowls

Definition; vessels in which the bottom is flat and the walls are concave. The one vessel in this collection have a base and rim diameter that are the same while the diameter at the body waist is 3cm less.

Frequency; approximately 4.4% Or 1/23

Metric Data; Height-- 11.5cm  
Dia. at rim-- 15cm

Catalogue Nos.; NA11596

Illus Ref.; see figs. \_\_\_\_\_

Provenience; NA11597 Group A, Str. 1, Bu. 2

Associated "Types";

Comparisons;

*Fine red paste, white slip, geo. neg ptng. in blk, blk/red interior.*

THE CERAMICS OF KIXPEK AND TAMBOR  
DEPARTMENT OF EL QUICHE, GUATEMALA

Constricted-neck bowls

Definition; bowls whose rim diameter is smaller than the average body diameter. The one bowl in this category has a flat base and a slightly everted rim. (The widest part of the body is at its midpoint.)

Frequency; approximately 4.4% Or 1/23 (3.125: 1/32)

Metric Data; Height-- 10.5cm  
Dia. at rim-- 8.5cm

Catalogue Nos.; NA 11629

Illus. Ref.; see figs. \_\_\_\_\_

Provenience; NA11629 Group B, Str. 1, Bu. 5

Associated "Type";

Comparisons;

2 applied fillets above the waist + an applied frog's head

THE CERAMICS OF KIXPEK  
DEPARTMENT OF EL QUICHE, GUATEMALA

Water Bowl

Definition;

There is only one such bowl in this collection. NAl1622 has a rounded base and slightly out-flaring walls. It is a tripod with rounded rattling feet. Each leg has one small slot facing outward.

Frequency;

approximately 4.4% Or  $1/23$  (3.125% :  $1/32$ )

Metric Data;

Height-- (without feet) 7 cm  
(incl. feet) 9.5 cm

Dia. at rim-- 19 cm.

Ratio; Ht(without feet)/ Dia.-- approx.  $2/3$

Catalogue Nos.;

NAl1622

Illus. Ref.;

see figs. \_\_\_\_\_

Provenience;

NAl1622 Group B, Str. 1, Bu. 3

Associated "Type";

NAl1622- Fine Orange: uniform fine-textured paste. Both paste and surface are soft enough to cut with a fingernail.

Comparisons;

incised line just below rim + parallel to it.

THE CERAMICS OF KIXPEK AND TAMBOR  
DEPARTMENT OF EL QUICHE, GUATEMALA

Hemispherical bowls

Definition; this collection consists of only one such specimen. The diameter at the rim is more than twice the height of the bowl. It is a tripod with small, round, rattling feet.

Frequency; approximately 4.4% Or  $1/23$  (3.125% :  $1/32$ )

Metric Data; Height--(without feet) 6.5cm. (including feet) 9cm  
Dia. at rim-- 15 cm.  
Ratio --  $H$  (w/o feet) / Dia.  $> 1/2$

Catalogue Nos.; NA 11633

Illus. Ref.; see figs. \_\_\_\_\_

Provenience; NA11633 Group B, Str. 1, Bu. 5

Associated "Types";

Comparisons;

*note: each leg has 2 round slots, one above the other*

*parallel line incised exteriorly just below the rim*

THE CERAMICS OF KIXPEK  
DEPARTMENT OF EL QUICHE, GUATEMALA

Flaring-sided dish

Definition; This vessel has a flat bottom and flaring walls with a wide everted rim. It is a tripod with cylindrical, rattling feet-- each foot has three circular vents one under the other. The diameter at the rim is more than 5 times the height of the vessel (without feet).

Frequency; approximately 4.4% Or 1/23 (3.125 : 1/32)

Metric Data; Height-- (without feet) 5.5cm  
(incl. feet) 12 cm  
Dia. at rim-- 30 cm

Catalogue Nos.; NA11632

Illus. Ref.; see figs. \_\_\_\_\_

Provenience; NA11632 Group B, Str. 1, Bu. 5

Associated "Type";

Comparisons;

THE CERAMICS OF KIXPEK  
DEPARTMENT OF EL QUICHE, GUATEMALA

High-necked bowls

Definition; hemispherical or incurving bowls with long vertical (NA11602, 11604, 11607, 11617, and 11638) or slightly inflaring (NA11631, 11639, and 11641) necks. The neck height is equal to or greater than  $1/3$  the body height.

Both 11604 and 11607 have direct rims and squared lips. 11602 and 11617 have sizeable, slightly concave, collars; while 11638 and 11639 have small outflaring collared rims, and 11631 and 11641 have exteriorly folded rims.

Only 11607 has a perfectly flat base. 11602 and 11617 have annular bases and 11638 has a pedestal base. The others (11604, 11631, 11639, and 11641) have dimpled bases.

11604 has a spout and a strap handle that has since broken away.

Frequency; approximately 34.8% Or 8/23 (25% : 8/32)

Metric Data; Height-- 13-25.5 cm (18.7 mean)  
Dia. at rim-- 5.5-16.5 cm (11.3 mean)  
Ratio; neck ht./body ht.--  $1/3$

Catalogue Nos.; NA11602, 11604, 11607, 11617, 11631, 11638, 11639, 11641.

Illus. Ref.; see figs. \_\_\_\_\_

Provenience; NA11602 Group B, Str. 1, Bu. 1  
11604 Group B, Str. 1, Bu. 1  
11607 Group B, Str. 1, Bu. 1  
11617 Group B, Str. 1, Bu. 2  
11631 Group B, Str. 1, Bu. 5  
11638 Group B, Str. 1, Bu. 6  
11639 Group B, Str. 1, Bu. 6  
11641 Group B, Str. 1, Bu. 7

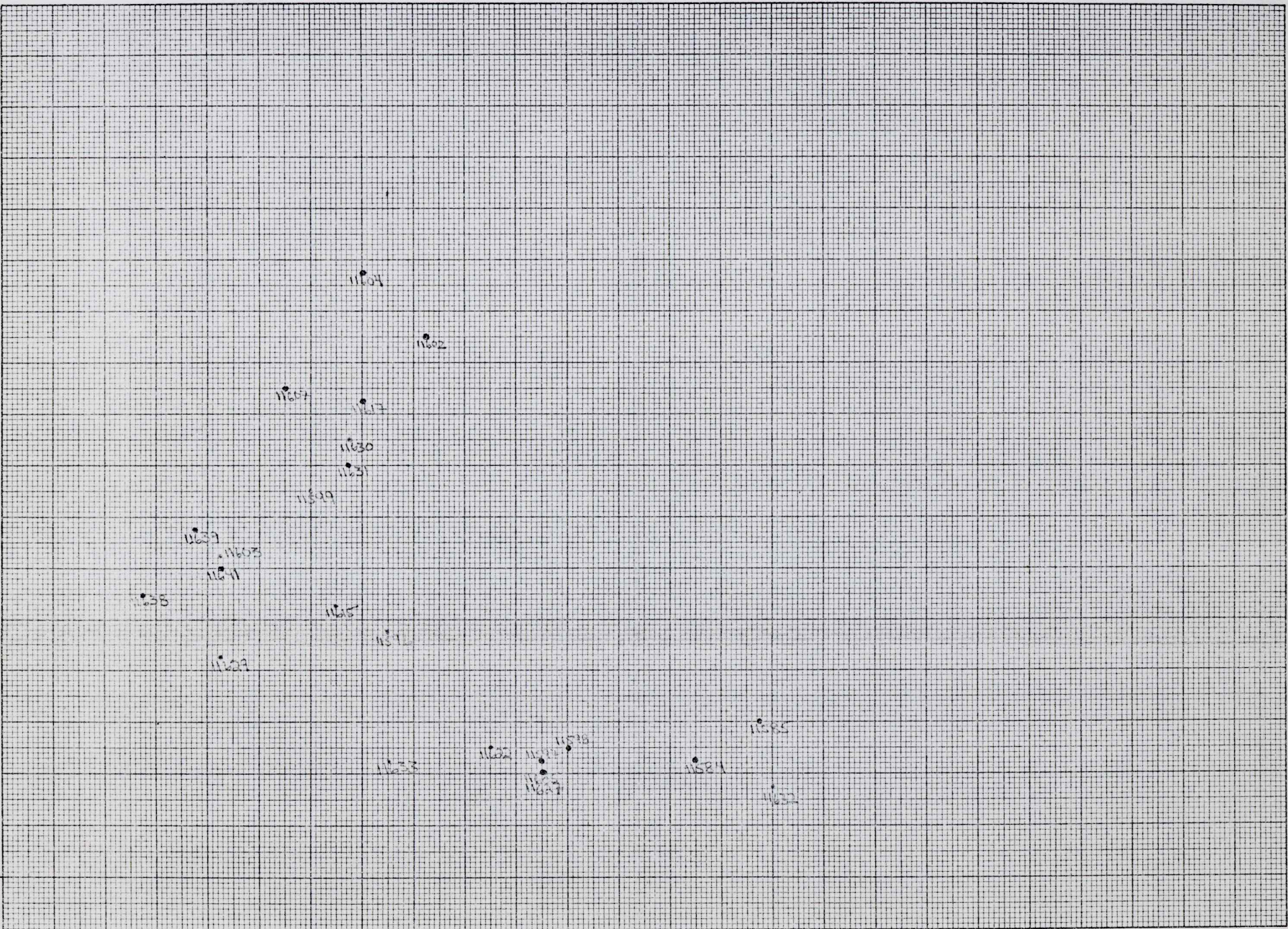
Associated "Types"; NA11639- Plumbate

Comaprison;

- 11602 A row of round bosses encircle the neck just below the rim. 5 round indents are on the body.
- 11607 Red slipped interior, poly. exterior. A wide band of blue. circle the neck + a band of blue + white (very badly eroded but maybe herringbone) encircles the body while just below that is a single red band.
- 11617 Polished red, covered w/white plaster, painted pink. Shaded interior.

28  
26  
24  
22  
20  
18  
16  
14  
12  
10  
8  
6  
4  
2

2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 26 28 30



- long neck bowls
- barrel-shaped
- composite bowls

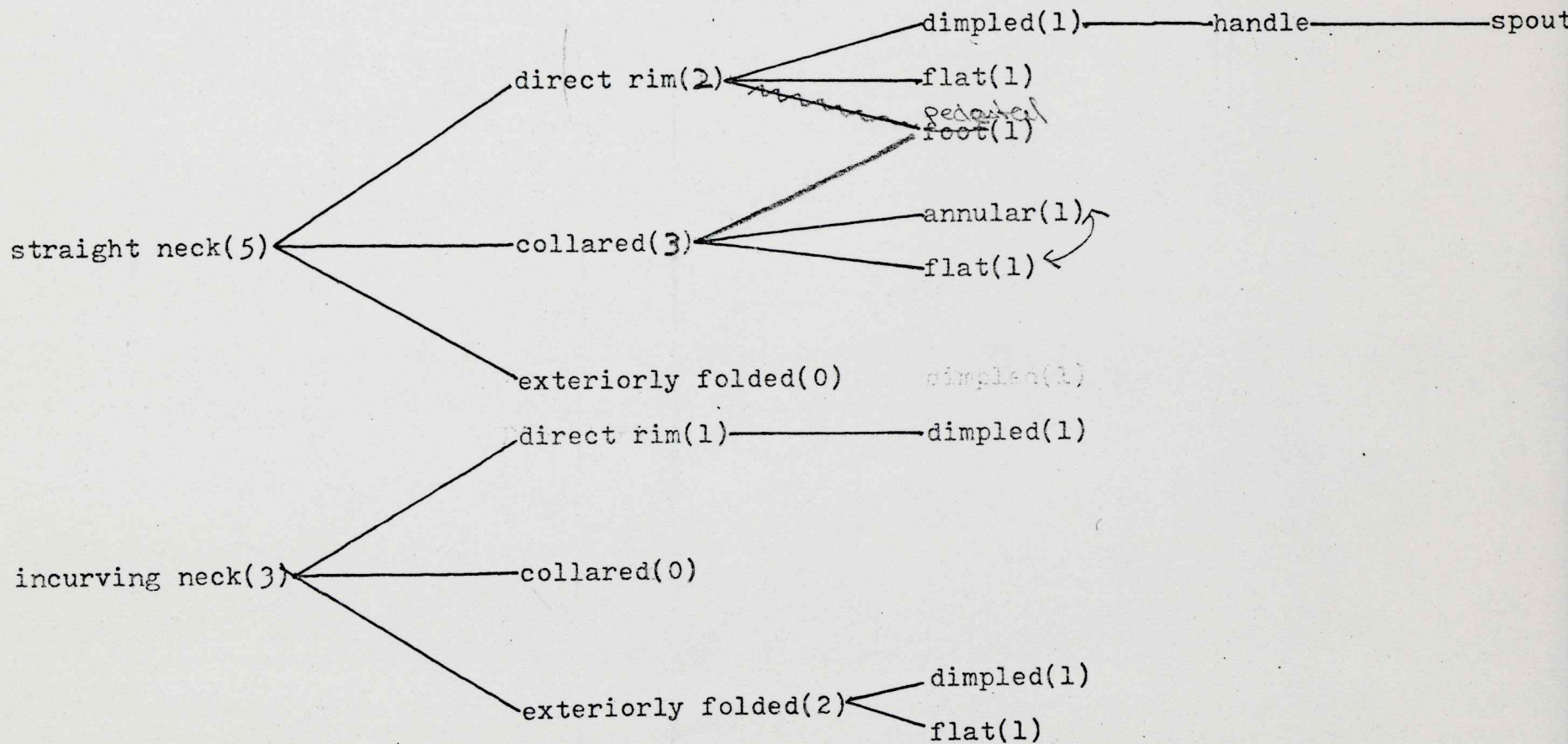
HIGH - NECKED BOWLS

Neck Profile

Rim Profile

Base

Appendages



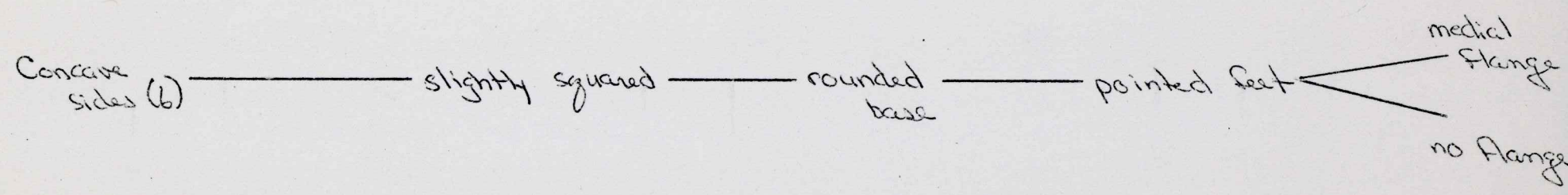
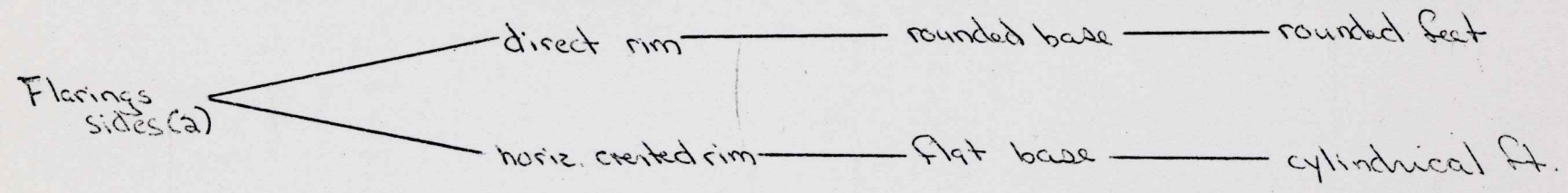
COMPOSITE BOWLS  
DISHES

WALL PROFILE

RIM PROFILE

BASE

SUPPORTS



THE CERAMICS OF KIXPEK  
DEPARTMENT OF EL QUICHE, GUATEMALA

MEASUREMENTS

High-neck bowls	Height (total)	Height (body)	Height (neck)	Dia. (rim)	Dia. (widest pt)
NA11602	23cm	11.5cm	11.5cm	16.5cm	21cm
11604	25.5	15	10.5	14	21.5
11607	21	9	12	11	14
11617	20.5	9	11.5	14	17.5
11631	18	10	8	13.5	17.5
11638	13	3.5	6	5.5	7.5
11639	14.5	8	6.5	7.5	14
11641	14	8.5	6.5	8.5	12.5

Barrel-shaped

NA11599	17			12	13
11615	12.5			13	14.5
11603	14.5			8.5	12.5
11630	19			13.5	15

Constricted-neck

NA11629	10.5			8.5	13.5
---------	------	--	--	-----	------

Concave-sided

				Dia. (narrowest pt)
NA11596	11.5		15	12

## MEASUREMENTS (p.2)

Composite bowls	Height (w/o feet)	Height (with feet)	Dia. at rim
NA11584	6.5cm	9.5cm	27cm
11585	8	10.5	29.5
11597	6.5	8	21
11598	7	9.5	22
11605	6	8	21
11623			
11627	6	10	21
Flaring-wall dish			
NA11632	5.5	12	30
Grater Bowl			
NA11622	7	9.5	19
Hemisph. bowl			
NA11633	6.5	9	15