TERRACOTTA OBJECTS FROM AREA A OF 'USIYEH,

Part 2: Terracotta Statues and Others

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Many terracotta objects were found in Area A of 'Usiyeh, including plaques, models, statues, statuettes and others. In this Part 2, the outline of such terracotta statues and statuettes, and other unique terracotta objects as were not handled in Part 1 [Oguchi 1999] is given.

The site of 'Usiyeh, now underlying the water of the Haditha dam, was located on the right bank of the Euphrates river, between the town of Haditha and the town of Ana¹⁾. It is at 34°20′00″ north latitude and at 42°07′30″ east longitude. The site had a vast expanse as a protrudent area caused by the meanders of Euphrates River. Area A was the highest place of the site, and the excavations of Area A were carried out from November 1982 to December 1983 by the Japanese Archaeological Expedition in Iraq (from Kokushikan University), headed by Professor Hideo Fujii, with cooperation of the State Organization of Antiquities and Heritage in Baghdad²⁾.

A multi-room underground structure (Underground Structure) and other structural remains were discovered in Area A [cf. Fujii et al. 1984/85: pp. 112ff.; Oguchi 1992: pp. 61ff. and Oguchi 1996: pp. 66ff.]. A considerable number of fragments of terracotta statues and statuettes were found scattered mainly around the staircase (Staircase) and its front floor (F3) (Fig. 1). The Staircase was found beside the Underground Structure and the associated floor (F2) that was found partially overlying the Underground Structure. These discoveries proved that in Area A there had been a large public or religious building. The terracotta objects which are reported here have been considered contemporary with such a building as should be differentiated from the Underground Structure.

Unfortunately there was not time enough to fully appreciate or reconstruct these terracotta objects in the field. Therefore only the principal terracotta statues and statuettes of the finds are illustrated in this article. At least the existence of four life-sized lion terracotta statues, middle-sized animal statues, a lion statuette and statuettes of human-like figures has been confirmed³⁾. It was difficult to identify fragments as parts of the statues that could be reconstructed, and to assign all of them to every particular statue, because they fragmented into small pieces and were mixed together when they were discovered there. Therefore we cannot say that these were *in situ*, although it seems likely that they were placed on the sides of the Staircase and F3 as guardian lions for the entrance.

Material used for these terracotta objects was usually clay with sand and much straw temper, and sometimes with small gravels included⁴⁾. The range of the fabric colour was reddish to greenish, the same as the pottery vessels.

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¹⁾ This site was an objective of the rescue survey of the Qaddisiyeh (Haditha) Dam Salvage Project. Therefore many sites and towns, including the site of 'Usiyeh and the town of Ana, have sunk under the water of the Dam.

²⁾ The Expedition was given a grant (Science Research Promotion Fund) from the Japan Private Schools Promotion Foundation. Preliminary reports on the excavations appeared in *al-Rāfīdān* Vol. 5/6 [Fujii *et al.* 1984/85: pp. 111–150] and in *Archiv für Orientforschung* Band 34 [Fujii and Matsumoto 1989: pp. 166–173]. A full report has been made in my Ph. D. thesis [Oguchi 1996]. I would like to thank Professor Hideo Fujii for permitting me to use all the finds from Area A of 'Usiyeh for my study. Moreover, I would particularly like to thank Mr. Charles Burney for giving me many suggestions. Thanks are also extended to the members of the expedition [for the members, see Oguchi 1992: p. 72 Notes 5 and 6; Oguchi 1996: p. 18f.].

³⁾ The main contents of this paper are those which have been condensed, with reconsideration, from parts of my Ph. D. thesis [Oguchi 1996].

⁴⁾ Some life-sized lion statues made partly of gypsum were also found at the Mound of 'Usiyeh, which was excavated by an Iraqi team.

Lion Statues⁵⁾

T27 to T42 are parts of the lion statues that were found there. It can be inferred from the state of fragments that there are lion statues various in sizes. They are divided into roughly three size groups, such as one group of life-sized lion statues (T27 to T37, T41 and T42), another group of medium-sized lion statues (T38 to T40), and the other group of small-sized lion statue or statuette (T43). The life-sized lion statues seem to have been guardian lion statues for the gate or entrance of a temple or shrine. The medium-sized statue and the statuette may have been votive or sacred objects to the temple or the shrine, because these are not like daily objects.

The posture of all the lion statues and the statuette, except for T40 (see below), seems to be sitting with the forelegs standing on a low pedestal, and they have a stern face with opened mouth. Their skin is painted red and their manes black. The statues have a hollow body with a thick wall. These are characteristics common to all the lion statues.

Life-sized Lion Statues (Guardian Lion Statues)

T27 was reconstructed tentatively, and therefore the reconstruction is not beyond the scope of inferrence (Figs. 2 & 3 and Pl. 1)⁶⁾. Actually T27 is that which was reconstructed with fragments of more than two lions. However, the size and the

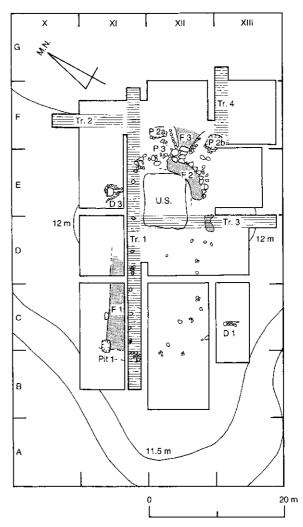


Fig. 1 Main excavated Area and Remains.

impression seem to be able to be regarded as similar to the original lion statue. The statue reconstructed measures about 120 cm in height, 89 cm in length and 45 cm in width. The measurement seems to be marked as the average of all the life-sized lion statues.

The face of T27 was made out of two or three lion's faces. The lower part of it, the lower chin, was too small to join the upper chin. Comparatively his original mouth must have been more widely opened horizontally. Also the origin of his mane must have been a single plait-like edge on both sides, but now his mane hangs down in another short plait on both sides. This new appearance of the lion statue was necessitated in the course of the reconstruction. There is actually some gap between the size of the upper chin and that of the lower chin. The upper part of the head was also made of fragments of different statues with similar decorations. There was also a fragment of a cheek with similar decoration to T27, which has concentric incised circle lines with a swelled centre. Anyhow there seem to have been two or three similar lion statues, which have similar decorations but slightly differ in size.

The gouged-out eyes, nostrils, ears and mouth of T27 are connected by a hollow body, and his

⁵⁾ The author drew the original drawings of the figures of this article. Mrs. Sachiko Kogure made the tracing in ink and the arranging of the fugures. Dr. Hiromichi Oguchi took the photographs of the plates.

⁶⁾ Mr. Hirotoshi Numoto reconstructed T27 (Pl. 1). Then, it was exhibited in "The Grand Exhibition of Silk Road Civilization" held at Nara in Japan in 1988. Afterwards, it was displayed in the Iraq National Museum. Unfortunately, plunders broke it during the Iraq War in 2003.

mane is emphasized by the squarish front which was filled by incised decoration, generally in the herringbone pattern, with black paint. His hollow body has a plain surface decorated with reddish paint. His tail was inferentially reconstructed in a standing position along his back, and with the tail end curving to his left. This reconstruction seems to be right, because there is a similar specimen (T41), although the tail of T41 curves to the right (Fig. 8 and Pl. 4). His forelegs were basically wheel made and painted in red, and each have incised decoration which is an eye-like motif. He seems to fasten his claws. His hindlegs are bent at his knees, and have long and sharp claws.

Each part of the statue, such as the low pedestal, the feet, legs, head, front of the mane and body with a tail, was made separately then joined and coordinated on the pedestal, and later fired. The thickness of wall is irregular; therefore the firing may have been difficult.

T28 is a part of a lion head (Fig. 4 and Pl. 2). His flat ear is pierced from front to back. This type of ear is only to be found in this specimen. The centre of his eye is also pierced. His brow is very low and has an edge which comes down over the outline of his ear. His mane is emphasized by incised decoration, a herringbone pattern, with black paint.

T29 is a part of an eye (Fig. 4 and Pl. 2), which is not pierced and just dented. On the other hand, the eye of T30 is pierced (Fig. 4 and Pl. 2)⁷⁾, like T28. T31 and T32 are parts of an ear, respectively (Fig. 5 and Pl. 2). The ear of T32 is buried in his mane, but T31 seems made separately then joined to his mane. T36 seems a part of the mane, probably the back of his ear (Fig. 6 and Pl. 3). T33, T34 and T35 are a part of lion's muzzle (Fig. 7 and Pl. 3). One of these, T34, is a plain muzzle with reddish paint, and expresses the realistic muzzle. The others have stylized decorations. T33 is that which was decorated with incised lines, and T35 has many ledges. The cheek of T33 seems to have had the whiskers pricked out, because there are many small holes on his cheek. On T33, there is some trace of black paint below his muzzle. T37 is probably part of a lion's groin for a foreleg and mane (Fig. 6 and Pl. 3).

T41 is a lion's tail in a standing position (Fig. 8 and Pl. 4). On the other hand, T42 not only shows a different tail position to T41 but also shows a completely different tail design (Fig. 8 and Pl.

Comparative specimens to the life-sized lion statues were found at Tell Harmal [Baqir 1946 p. 23] and Khafajeh (Tutub) [Deloguz 1990 Pls. 59b and 60], located on the Diyala river, at Haradum [Kepinski-Lecomte 1992 Figs. 150, 151, 152 and 153] located in the middle Euphrates region, the same area as 'Usiyeh, and at Susa [De Mecquenem et al. 1943 p. 55] located in the east. There are also similar examples in the Louvre [Parrot 1954 Pl. 31] and the Burrel collections [Peltenburg 1991 pp. 65–67]. The authour intends to write about early guardian lion statues in Mesopotamia, the contents of which will be also include consideration of the aforementioned lion statues too.

Medium-sized Lion Statues

There are also parts belonging to the medium-sized terracotta statues in 'Usiyeh. These are T38, T39 and T40, which seem to have been lion figures (Fig. 7 and Pl. 4). Of these, T38 must be a part of a lion's hind leg and belly, and T39 is also a part of a leg. T40 is a low pedestal of a statue with the toes of a forepaw, which also seems to be a part of a lion statue. The posture of this statue is different from the other lion statues, because there is a long trace of his forepaws on the pedestal. Therefore his forelegs must have been bent.

A comparable specimen to the medium-sized terracotta lion head was found at Mari. Its remaining height measures 10cm [Parrot 1936 p. 25f. and Fig. 14; Parrot 1959 Pl. 27 Figs. 49 (M.684: AO.18227)]. Unfortunately the body of the specimen is missing and only its head remains. Parrot believes that this specimen was used as a decoration for the arm of a throne, because it has a mortise hole [ibid. p. 59 note 2]. However, there seems to be no clear evidence of this use. In addition, the

⁷⁾ T30 was about 3 cm in thick

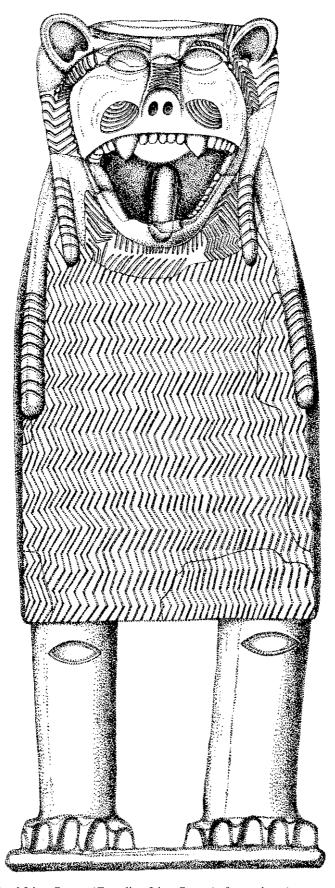


Fig. 2 Life-sized Lion Statue (Guardian Lion Statue), front view (reconstruction) (T27).



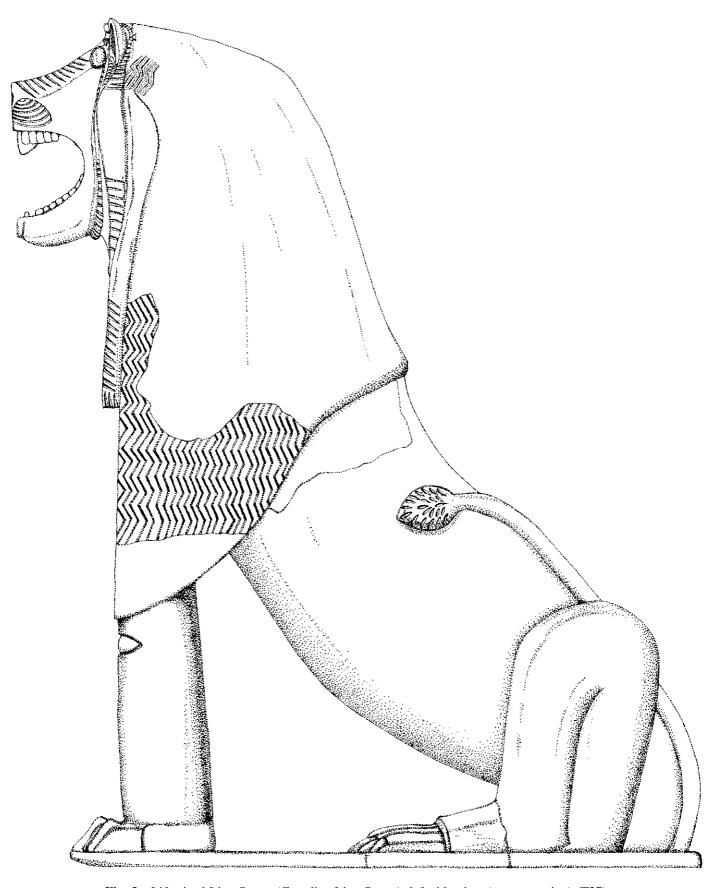


Fig. 3 Life-sized Lion Statue (Guardian Lion Statue), left side view (reconstruction) (T27).

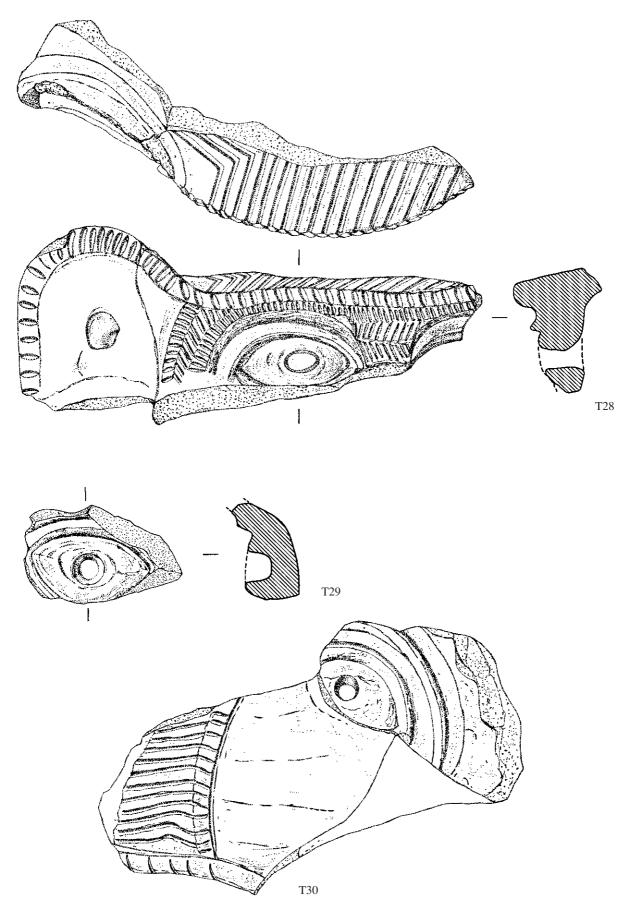
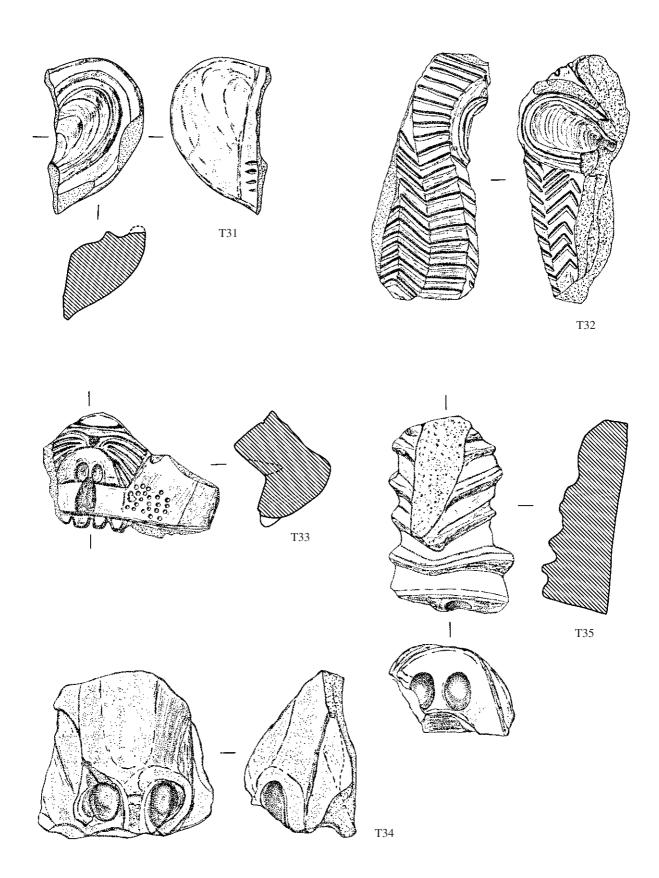


Fig. 4 Fragments of Life-sized Lion Statues (T28, T29 and T30) (scale: 2/5).



 $\textbf{Fig. 5} \quad \text{Fragments of Life-sized Lion Statues (T31, T32, T33 , T34 and T35) (scale: 2/5)}.$

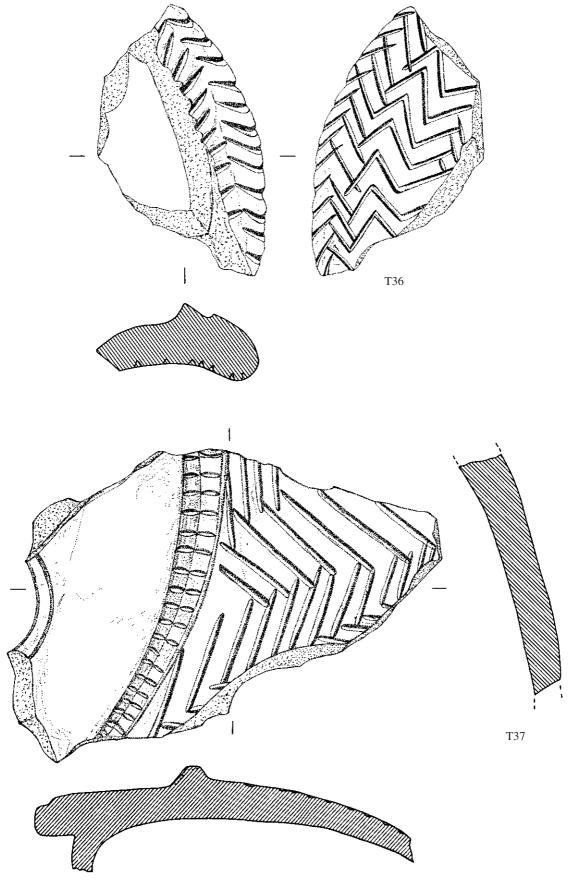


Fig. 6 Fragments of Life-sized Lion Statues (T36 and T37) (scale: 2/5).

Fig. 7 Fragments of Medium-sized Lion Statues (T38, T39 and T40) (scale: 2/5).

T40

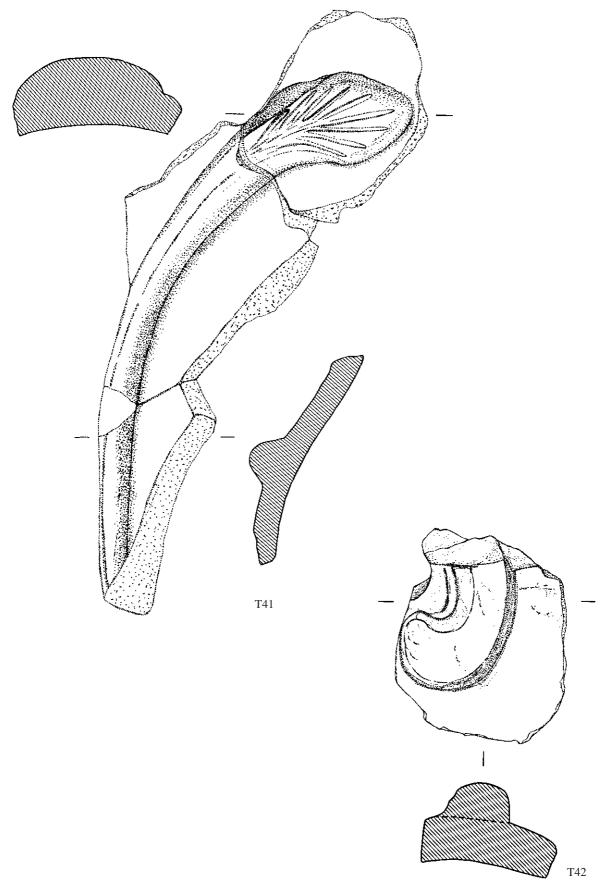


Fig. 8 Fragments of Lion Statues (T41 and T42) (scale: 1/3 (T41), 2/5 (T42)).

terracotta material seems not to be suitable for this use, as Parrot himself believed. With regard to 'Usiyeh, all the statues and statuettes have hollow bodies, but these hollows seem not to be mortise holes. In the case of the specimen of Mari, it seems also possible that the hollow was not a mortise hole and the head was a part of a statue.

Lion Statuette

T43 is a lion statuette (Fig. 9 and Pl. 6). The statuette is made by hand and has a hollow body, although his legs are solid. The hollow is stopped up at the bottom end. Therefore the height is confirmed as 16.6 cm, except for the pedestal. After the restoration of T43, two fragments of legs were found, and these seem to be parts of T43 (Fig. 9). Unfortunately the toe section could not be found. We do not know whether this statuette was fitted on to a low pedestal or not. On other hand, the toe section was possibly made with the pedestal, like T40. His mane is emphasized by incised decoration of a scaly pattern with black paint. His body and face are painted red, like the life-sized lion statues. T43 is a more realistic figure than the large terracotta lion statues which were found in 'Usiyeh.

Two specimens comparable to T43 were found at Mari [Parrot 1959 Fig. 59 (M.983)] and Tell ed-Der [De Meyer et al. 1971 Pl. 29-6]. The former is particularly fragile and is vividly realistic. It was found in Court 51 of the Palace of Zimri-Lim [Parrot 1959 p. 77]. The latter is the head of a terracotta lioness, and was found in stratum Z of Sondage B. It probably dates to the early second millennium B. C. [H. Gasche 1971 p. 50].

The Other Statues

The terracotta statues of 'Usiyeh are not only the lions but also some fragments of the other statues. T44 and T45 (Fig. 10 and Pls. 5 & 8) seem to be human figures. Of these, T44 was put on a plaque, although it was not cast from a mould like the terracotta plaques [cf. Oguchi 1999]. It was made by hand, and there are some holes between the plaque and the figure. Therefore the basic form was probably not so carefully made. The figure is dressed in a short skirt with triple borders decorated by rows of incised short lines, notched bands. The skirt itself has some incised decoration. The surviving height is about 25 cm, so the complete height of the figure seems to measure nearly 60 cm. T45 is probably part of a chest and a belly, if it was really a human figure. The surface of T45 has some incised decorations, notched bands between horizontal incised lines. T45 must not have been solid. T46, T47 and T48 are possibly parts of some statues (Fig. 10 and Pls. 7 & 8), but unfortunately they were too fragmented and their original figures are unknown. These also have some incised decorations.

Miscellaneous Terracotta Objects

There are also some unique terracotta objects there. T49 is part of a zoomorphic vessel with a spout that has an animal head (Fig. 11 and Pl. 7). It was probably filled through its back and poured out through the mouth. Its body is decorated with comb pricks. A comparable specimen was found at Tell Songor B. It was a grave object dating from the Isin-Larsa period [Matsumoto and Yokoyama 1989 p. 247, Fig. 5 and Pl. 74-a].

There is also the statue of a human figure (T50), which is not like the aforementioned human statues (Fig. 11 and Pl. 8). T50 was put into Pit 1 with some beads (B31, B77, B133 and B167) [cf. Oguchi 1998], although the function of Pit 1 is unknown. It is now suggested as a basic method of construction that T50 was formed first by using the wheel, and was second formed into a human figure and decorated. Unfortunately the top of the head, the lower arm and the body below the waist were missing. The face is plain and the neck is not constricted. Two ladder-pattern bands run from his back vertically, and they are closed on his breast through both his shoulders. This decoration may

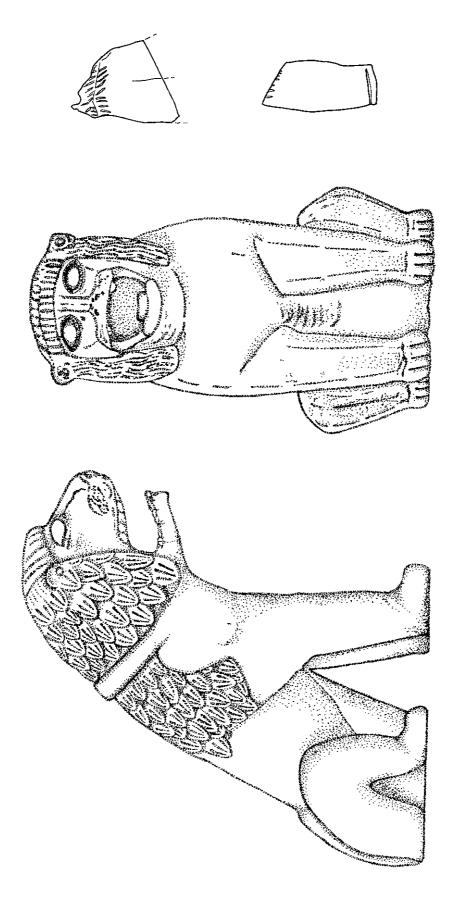


Fig. 9 Lion Statuette (T43) (scale: 4/5).

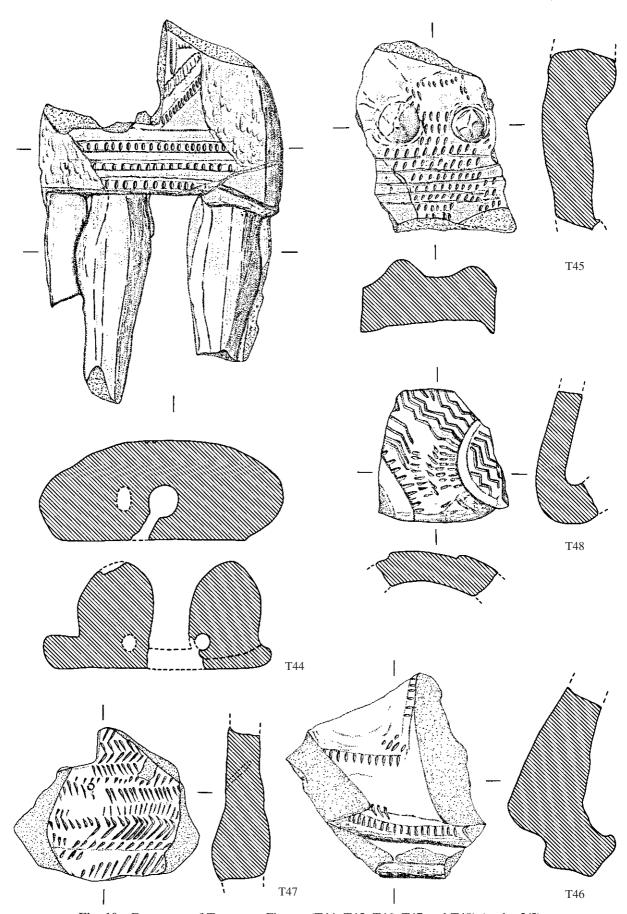
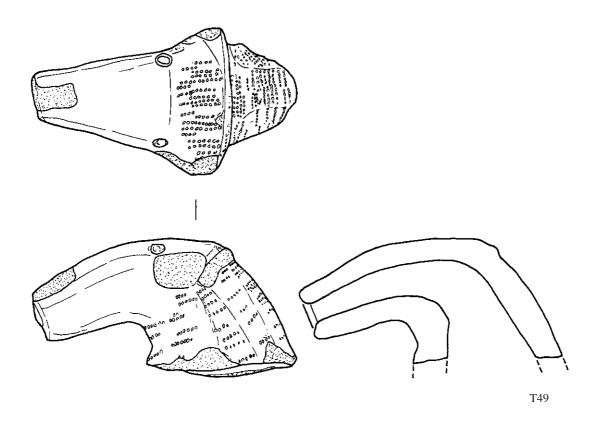


Fig. 10 Fragments of Terracotta Figures (T44, T45, T46, T47 and T48) (scale: 2/5).



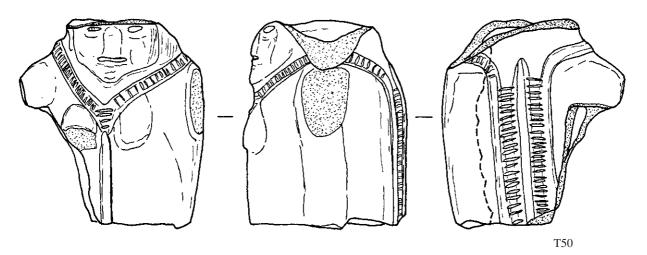
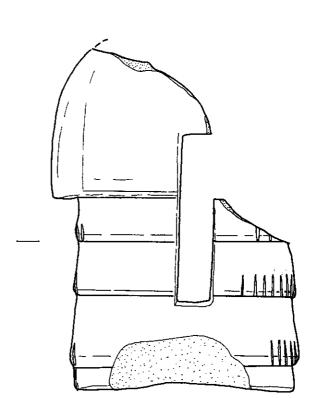


Fig. 11 Terracotta Figures (T49 and T50) (Scale: 1/1).



T51

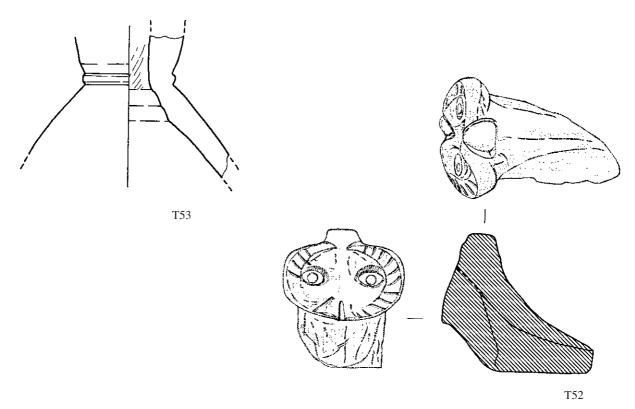


Fig. 12 Fragments of Terracotta Objects (T51, T52 and 53)(scale: 1/3).

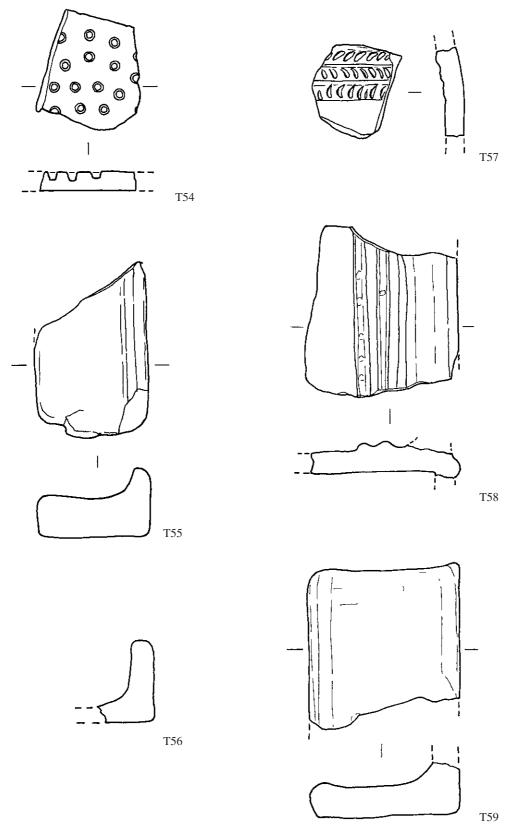


Fig. 13 Fragments of Terracotta Objects (T54, T55, T56, T57, T58 and T59) (scale: 1/3).

probably represent the design of the hem of his clothes.

T51 is a unique terracotta object, although the function and the complete figure are unknown (Fig. 12 and Pl. 8). The basic shape of T51 seems to have been a hollowed horseshoe form, and the body was divided into five layers. The top layer is an additional part and has a different appearance from the other layers, which looks like a semi-dome shape with a teeth-like edge. The lowest two, the third and the fourth layers, have also teeth-like edges produced by incised decoration. The side of the wall, between the third layer and the top layer, has a square window decoration. There is some trace of reddish paint on the edge of the top layer. Blackish material also adhered to part of the interior.

T52 is probably part of a large sized terracotta object or a decoration of a pottery vessel or basin? (Fig. 11 and Pl. 8). T52 seems to be an animal face with horns at both sides, but this is not certain. There is some trace of black paint on the surface, except on the face.

T53 seems to be part of a terracotta object rather than a pottery vessel, although it was constructed by using the wheel (Fig. 12). It has a very thick wall, and its exterior surface was decorated with a reddish wash.

T54, T55, T56 T57, T58 and T59 are also unknown terracotta objects (Fig. 13). Of these T55, T56 and T59 are oblong-shaped with a standing edge. These seem to be also fragments of some terracotta objects rather than fragments of pottery vessels.

A Considerable number of terracotta objects were discovered from 'Usiyeh. Especialy these were found concentrating in Area A and the Mound of 'Usiyeh. The number of the life-sized terracotta lion statues must have been more than ten, because four of them, at least, were placed in Area A, and several fragments of lion statues were also found under the Mound. The original places of the former four statues must have been within Area A. On the other hand, it seems that the latter fragments were carried into the Mound itself in the course of the formation of the Mound, after the destruction of the statues in Area A: the author considers that the original place of the latter may have been also in Area A. The location of Area A seems to have been the most important place of 'Usiyeh, because of its location being at the highest point of 'Usiyeh. Area A is considered to have been suitable as a place for a temple or a shrine. On the other hand, the Mound is located in a low place8). The fact is that Life-sized lion statues were usually discovered in temples, and were never discovered in ordinaly houses. Therefore, the discoveries of the lion statues prove that 'Usiyeh had been an important religious place or temple in the early second millennium B.C.

The lions discussed here seem to belong to the period of F2 and F3, the floors discovered in Area A, and not to belong to the Underground Structure. The date of the buildings that yielded the lion statues are slightly later than the Undergtound Structure; and they, as well as the terracotta objects, may be dated between 1800 B.C. and 1700 B.C.

Catalogue of Terracotta Objects

(No.: 1. Field no. 2. Find spot 3. Colour 4. Fabric 5. References)

T27: 2. be scattered around Grid E, F-XII 3. greenish to buff with black and reddish paint 4. much straw and much sand temper 5. Fujii et al. 1984/5 Fig. 12-4; Oguchi 1996 Pls. 33a, 133 and 198

T28: 1. UTB-3 2. be scattered around E, F-XII (2) 3. reddish paint 4. much straw and sand temper 5. Oguchi 1996 Pls. 134 and 199a

T29: 1. UTB-9 2. E -XII ① 3. greenish 4. much straw and sand temper 5. Oguchi 1966 Pls. 134 and 199b

T30: 1. UTB-5 2. E-XII ② 3. reddish paint 4. much straw and sand temper (partly gypsum temper) 5.

⁸⁾ The mound was of artificial constrction, measuring 90 m × 60 m in extent and 8.5 m in height from the surrounding areas. The difference in level between Area A and the surrounding areas is about 9 m.

- Oguchi 1996 Pls. 134 and 199c
- **T31**: 1. UTB-2 2. be scattered around E, F-XII 3. reddish paint 4. much straw and sand temper 5. Oguchi 1966 Pls. 134 and 199b
- **T32:** 1. UTB-4 2. be scattered around E, F-XII 3. black and reddish paint 4. much straw and sand temper 5. Oguchi 1966 Pls. 134 and 199b
- T33: 1. UTB-3 2. be scattered around E, F-XII 2 3. greenish, partly yellowish with reddish and black paint 4. much straw and sand temper 5. Fujii et al. 1984/5 Fig. 12-8 (left); Oguchi 1966 Pls. 135 and 199d
- T34: 1. UTB-1 2. E-XII ② 3. reddish paint 4. much straw and sand temper 5. Fujii et al. 1984/5 Fig. 12-8 (middle); Oguchi 1966 Pls. 135 and 199d
- T35: 1. UTB-13 2. F-XII(W) ② 3. brownish to greenish with reddish paint 4. much straw and sand temper 5. Fujii et al. 1984/5 Fig. 12-8 (right); Oguchi 1966 Pls. 135 and 199d
- **T36**: 1. UTB-21 2. be scattered around E, F-XII ② 3. greenish 4. much straw and sand temper 5. Oguchi 1966 Pls. 135 and 200a
- T37: 1. UTB-22 2. be scattered around E, F-XII ② 3. greenish 4. much straw and sand temper 5. Oguchi 1966 Pls. 135 and 200b
- **T38**: 1. UTB-20 2. be scattered around E, F-XII ② 3. greenish to reddish with reddish paint 4. much straw and sand temper 5. Oguchi 1966 Pls. 34a and 136
- T39: 1. UTB-11 2. E -XII ② 3. greenish with reddish paint 4. much straw and sand temper 5. Oguchi 1966 Pls. 136 and 200c
- **T40**: 1. UTB-15 2. be scattered around E, F-XII ② 3. greenish to reddish pink 4. much straw and sand temper 5. Oguchi 1966 Pls. 136 and 200b
- **T41**: 1. UTB-8 2. be scattered around E, F-XII ② 3. greenish with reddish paint 4. much straw and fine sand temper 5. Oguchi 1966 Pls. 36 and 201a
- **T42**: 1. UTB-10 2. E -XIII ① 3. greenish to buff with reddish paint 4. much straw and sand temper 5. Oguchi 1966 Pls. 136 and 201c
- **T43**: 2. F-XII ② 3. greenish with black and reddish paint 4. much straw and sand temper 5. Fujii et al. 1984/5 Fig. 12-7 5. Oguchi 1966 Pls. 33, 137 and 202
- **T44**: 1. UTB-12 2. F-XII (W) ② 3. greenish with reddish paint 4. much straw and sand temper 5. Oguchi 1966 Pls. 35, 138 and 201d
- **T45**: 1. UTB-14 2. be scattered around E, F-XII 2 3. reddish with reddish paint? 4. much straw and sand temper 5. Oguchi 1966 Pls. 138 and 203a
- **T46**: 1. UTB-17 2. be scattered around E, F-XII 2 3. reddish 4. much straw and sand temper 5. Oguchi 1966 Pls. 138 and 203b
- **T47**: 1. UTB-18 2. be scattered around E, F-XII 2 3. reddish 4. much straw and sand temper 5. Oguchi 1966 Pls. 138 and 204a
- **T48**: 1. UTB-19 2. be scattered around E, F-XII ② 3. reddish 4. much straw and sand temper 5. Oguchi 1966 Pls. 138 and 204b
- **T49**: 1. UT-13 2. Room S 4 5. I. M. 48 5. Oguchi 1966 Pls. 139, 204c and 204d
- **T50**: 2. Pit 1 3. reddish buff. ex.: creamy 4. small straw temper 5. Fujii et al. 1984/5 Fig. 12-6 5. Oguchi 1966 Pls. 35d and 139
- **T51**: 2. be scattered around E, F-XII ② 3. reddish and black paint 4. much straw and sand temper 5. Oguchi 1966 Pls. 35 and 140
- **T52**: 1. UTB-26 2. Trench 1 ② 3. greenish with black paint 4. much straw and sand temper 5. Oguchi 1966 Pls. 35 and 140
- T53: 1. UTB-6 2. F-XII 2 3. reddish with reddish paint 4. sand temper 5. Oguchi 1996 Pls. 34 and 140
- **T54**: 1. UP-459 2. Room S ② 3. reddish, creamy surface 4. much straw and fine sand temper 5. Oguchi 1966 Pl. 141
- **T55**: 1. UP-130 2. E -XII ① 3. light greenish 4. sand and straw temper 5. Oguchi 1966 Pl. 141
- **T56**: 1. UP-127 2. E -XI (2) 3. greenish 4. sand, gravel and straw temper 5. Oguchi 1966 Pl. 141
- T57: 1. UP-461 2. E -XII 2 3. greenish 4. much straw and fine sand temper 5. Oguchi 1966 Pl. 141
- **T58**: 1. UP-131 2. E -XII ③ 3. reddish 4. much straw and sand temper 5. Oguchi 1966 Pl. 141
- **T59**: 1. UP-128 2. Room M, below Phase 3 3. reddish 4. much sand, straw and gravel temper 5. Oguchi 1966 Pl. 141

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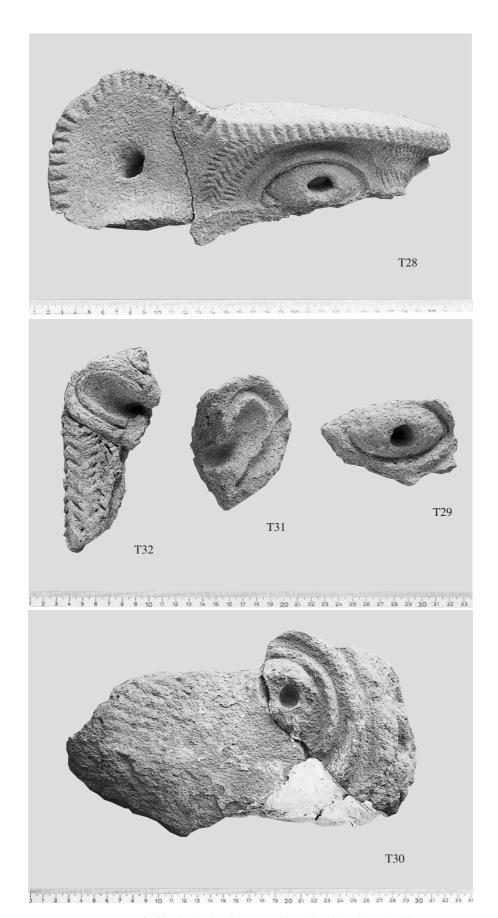
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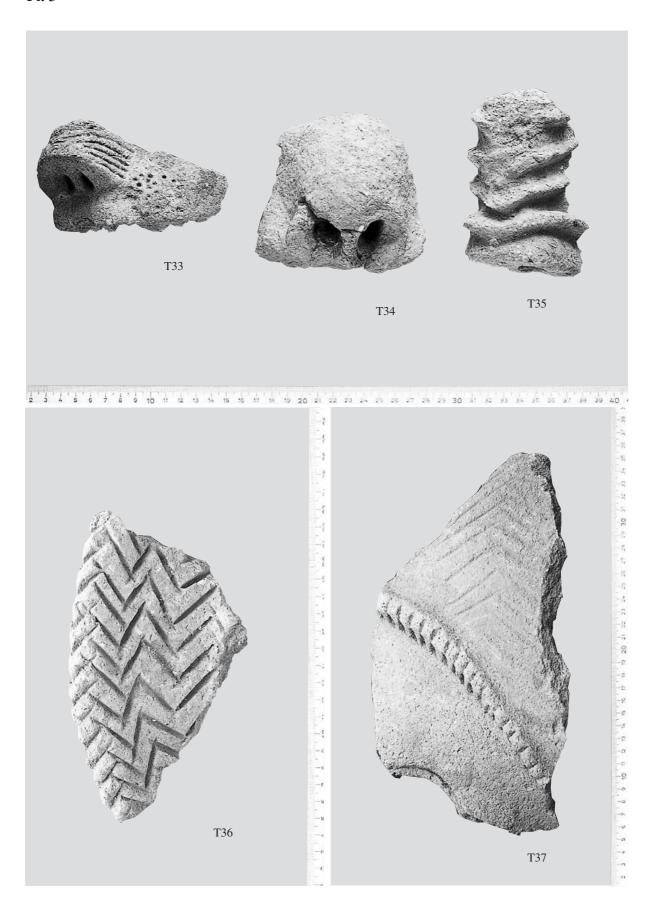
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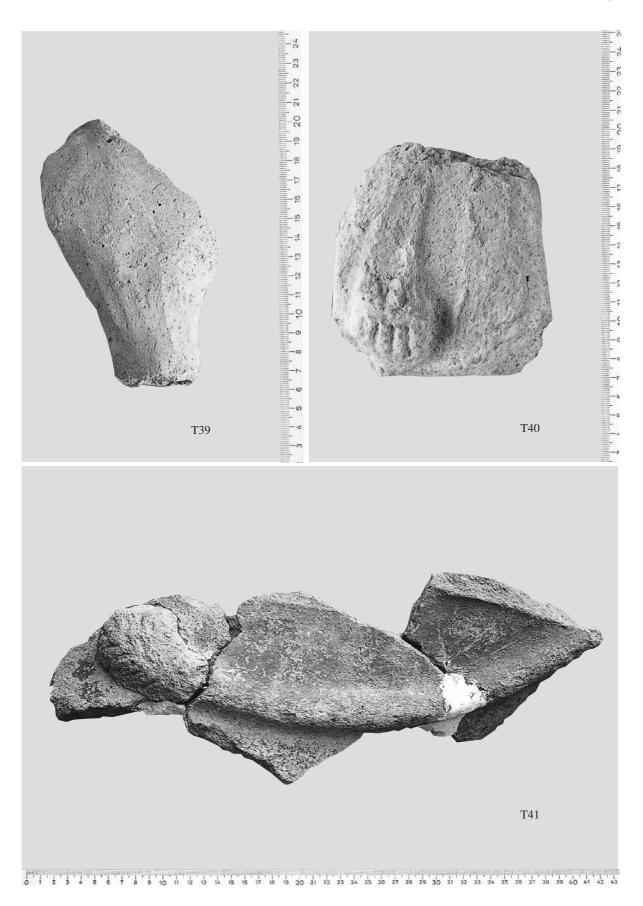
Guardian Lion Statue (T27).



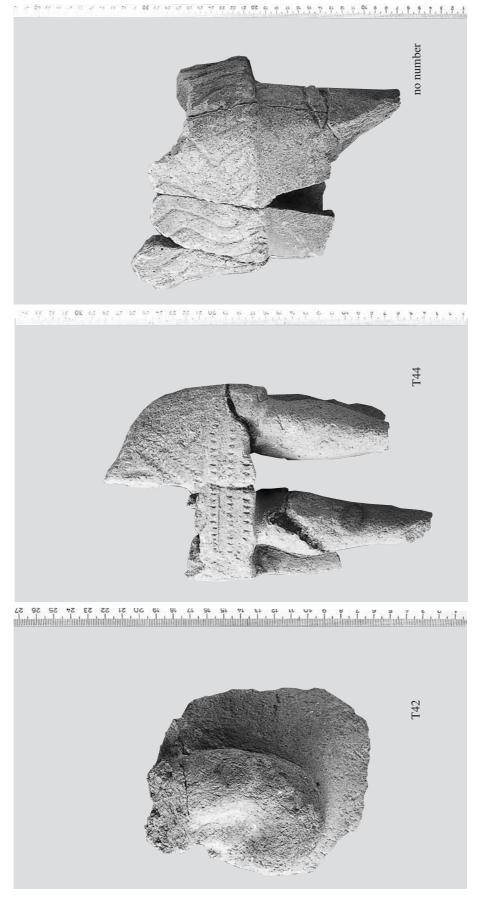
Fragments of Life-sized Lion Statues (T28, T29, T30, T31 and T32).



Fragments of Life-sized Lion Statues (T33, T34, T35, T36 and T37).



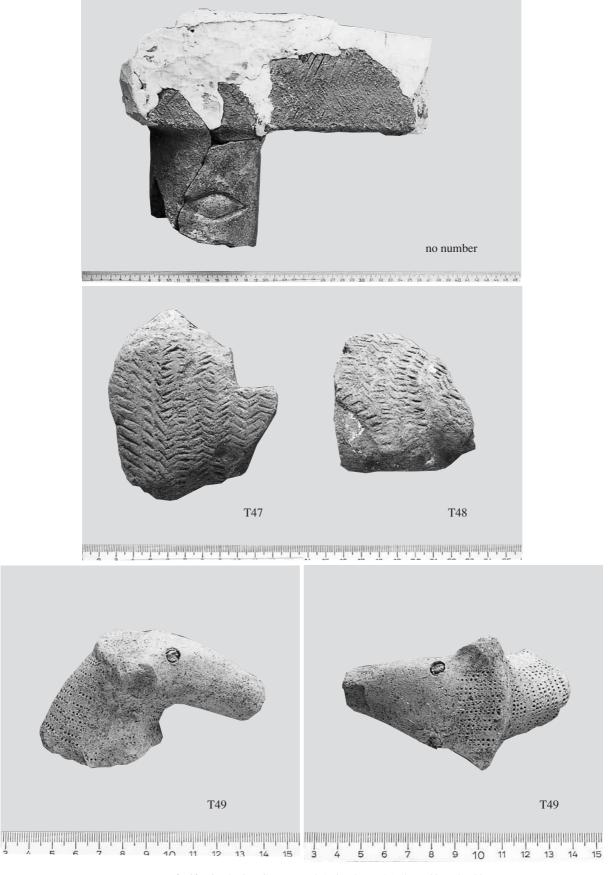
Fragments of Lion Statues (T39, T40 and T41).



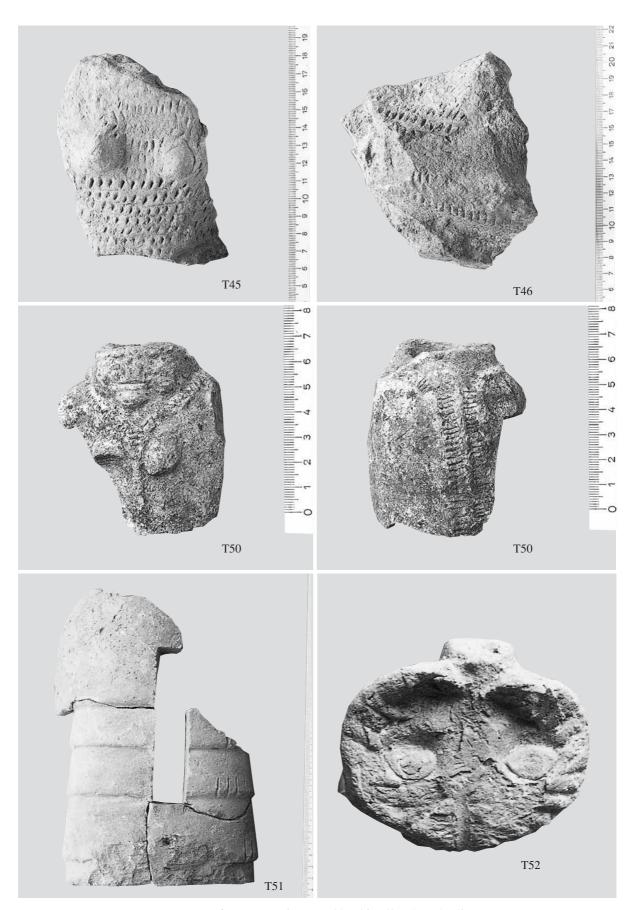
Fragments of Lion Statues (T42 and T44).



Lion Statuette (T43).



Fragments of Life-sized Lion Statues and Animal Head (T47, T48 and T49).



Fragments of Terracotta Figures (T45, T46, T50, T51 and T52).