

## APPENDIX I

# Postclassic Artifacts from Tetla

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Many of the artifacts recovered from the Tetla excavations and survey are described and illustrated here. Categories of artifacts include ceramic vessels, spindle whorls, miscellaneous ceramic objects, and lithics. Because the latest occupation at Tetla is early Aztec, or Second Intermediate Phase Three, illustration of these materials may prove helpful in identifying early Aztec components in a mixed context.

### CERAMICS

Table I.1 lists the ceramic wares which comprise part of the Middle Postclassic early Aztec assemblage at Tetla. The sherd counts and percentages are derived from the house excavation data, while illustrations also include sherds gathered during reconnaissance of the area. The table includes a breakdown of the ceramic wares by gross form (olla, bowl, comal).

#### **Black on Orange Ware (79 sherds/ 45 rims; Figs. I.1–I.3)**

The Black on Orange ware from Tetla is very similar in both form and decoration to the Culhuacan Negro sobre Anaranjado type described by James Griffin and Antoinetta Espejo (1947; 1950) and Azteca I described by Laurette Séjourné (1970), while only a few similarities can be found with contemporary ceramics presented by Eduardo Noguera (1954) from Cholula. Black on Orange ware types II, III, and IV (Griffin and Espejo's Tenayuca, Tenochtitlan, and Tlatelolco types) are absent from the Tetla ceramic assemblage. Although Black on Orange ware is not the predominant decorated ceramic ware at Tetla, it was the most useful decorated ware for establishing the ceramic phasing of the Postclassic occupation at the site.

#### **Definition**

A black (5YR2/1–2) to dusky red (10R3/

3; 2.5YR2–3/2; 5YR3/1–3) decoration is painted on the natural burnished orange-brown clay surface (2.5YR3/4, 5/8; 5YR4–6/8, 6/3; 7.5YR7/4–6) or on a thinly slipped and burnished orange surface (2.5YR4–5/6–8; 5YR5–6/6–8, 5/4; 7.5YR5/6). The ware is characterized by a wide black band along the interior or exterior rim. Most of the examples have 2–7 mm horizontal straight and/or wavy line decoration, either by itself or combined with other designs such as the common quadrangular scroll and stepped fret, the horizontal S motif, concentric half circles or the “*ojo estelar*,” the *xicalcolihqui* motif (e.g., Fig. I.1*h*) and bound vertical and oblique crossed lines. The paste is fine to medium in texture with a fine sand temper and small, occasional lenticular spaces. Sherd fractures are sharp to slightly crumbly. Vessel wall thickness ranges from 3 to 11 mm with a bimodal distribution around 6 mm and 9 mm. The thicker-walled sherds tend to have wider line decorations and are discussed separately as a typological variant.

The vertical to incurving wall, recurved rim bowl is the predominant vessel form (Fig. I.1). These bowls are generally small, with mouth diameters of 8–12 cm, or a slightly larger group, 16–18 cm. The exterior painted black decoration consists of various combinations of straight and wavy lines, concentric half circles, and variations of the quadrangular scroll and stepped fret motif in a horizontal band under the rim and along the shoulder of the vessel.

Vertical to flaring wall, recurved bowls are shallower, slightly larger, and often supported, and are decorated on the interior of the vessel (Figs. I.2, I.3*a–k*). These interior vessel designs consist of straight and wavy lines and concentric half circles with the addition of the horizontal S motif, irregular dots, or simply bound vertical and oblique crossed lines

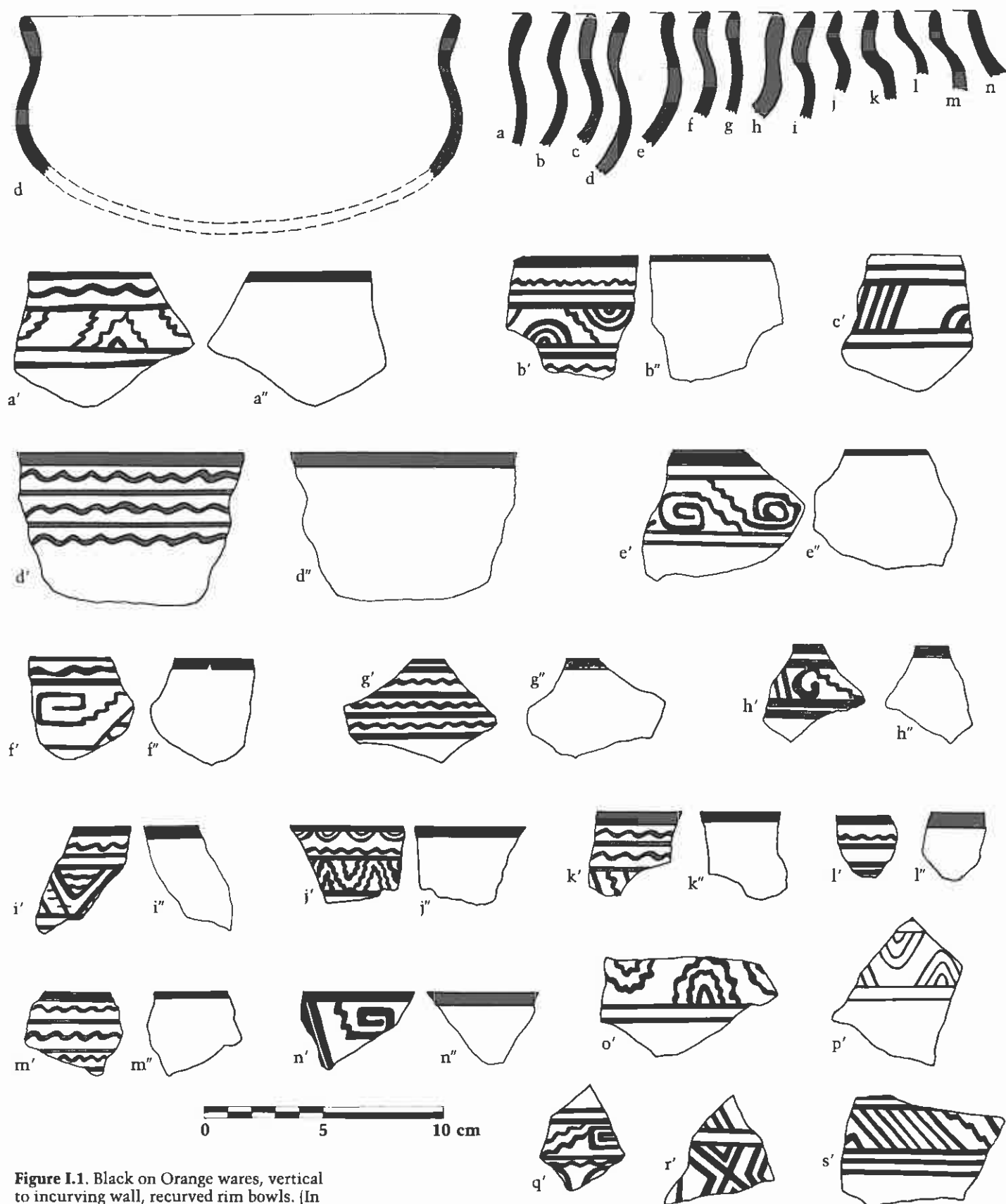
on the vessel wall. The vessel supports are either zoomorphic, hollow truncated conical to cylindrical, or solid conical forms. The supported vessels also have either a painted design, or a stamped design on the interior base or *fondo* of the vessel. Cross-hatched incised grater bottom vessels common in later Black on Orange types are totally absent from the Tetla ceramic assemblage.

There are only a few examples of vessels with an evenly curving direct rim form. These vessel forms range from an incurving to hemispherical bowl form to a shallow supported bowl form. The decoration is very similar to what has already been described and can be found on the interior or exterior of the vessel wall (Fig. I.3*n–s*).

A single everted rim form was found in the subfloor platform fill of the house (Fig. I.3*l*) and a single olla sherd from the house fill (Fig. I.3*m*).

#### **Thick-Walled Variant**

Several of the Black on Orange ware Aztec I sherds, the majority of which were from the Tetla survey rather than the house excavations, were thicker than most and had painted black designs which were thicker-lined, more linear in design, and generally less “busy” than those which have just been described (Fig. I.3*t–kk*). Design motifs such as concentric half circles, the horizontal S motif, and the scroll and stepped fret are absent in these ceramics. Designs which are common are straight horizontal black lines with the addition of a single wavy line, irregular dots or splotches in a horizontal row under the rim, and bound vertical and oblique crossed lines. Many of these designs are reminiscent of some of the Coyotlatelco ceramic designs (Rattray 1966). All of the decoration occurs on the interior of the vessels, which are vertical to flaring wall recurved rim or direct rim vessels. A few sherds have worn areas on the interior walls which



**Figure I.1.** Black on Orange wares, vertical to incurving wall, recurved rim bowls. [In Figures I.1–I.16, the rim profile of each sherd is identified by a letter, such as *a*; the exterior view of sherd *a* is labeled *a'* and the interior view, *a''*.]

Table 1.1. Sherd and Rim Totals from Tetla-11 House Area Excavations

Ceramic Ware	Sherd/Rim Quantities by Vessel Form			Totals
	Olla	Bowl	Comal	
Black on Orange	1/0	78/45		79/45
Polished Red				
Plain Polished Red		238/118		238/118
Black on Red		88/58		88/58
Graphite-Black on Red		57/30		57/30
Black and White on Red		18/9		18/9
Graphite-Black and White on Red		0/0		0/0
White on Red		4/1		4/1
Black and White and Orange on Red		1/1		1/1
White-Slipped Orange Ware Polychromes		25/18		25/18
Red on Burnished Buff	5/0	62/26		67/26
Black on White	10/2	1/1		11/3
Brown-Banded Orange-Slipped		12/6		12/6
Brown or Orange-Slipped Utilitarian	4,708/153	1,238/230	624/97	6,570/480
Unslipped Burnished	766/6	631/112	4/4	1,401/122
Tetla Coarse	No data	No data	No data	2,654/131
Mica Tempered Coarse	7/0	8/0		15/0
Eroded, unidentifiable	No data	No data	No data	4,972/211

Note: Sherd totals shown include rims, which are also tabulated separately.

may indicate that they were once grater bowls. This variant may have a different temporal or spatial significance from the majority of the Black on Orange ware sherds at Tetla.

#### **Polished Red Ware (406 sherds/ 217 rims; Fig. 1.4)**

It is well accepted that Polished Red ware, with its defined types of Black and/or White on Red, is a significant ware in the Aztec ceramic assemblage. At the same time, very little is known about its temporal depth or geographical and cultural origins.

Tetla Polished Red ware is most similar to the Red ware described by Jeffrey Parsons from the Oxtotitlac excavations in the Teotihuacan Valley. Oxtotitlac Red ware is characterized by "thick walled bowls, often with somewhat recurved rims, with a high proportion of polished black interiors" (Parsons 1966: 277). Parsons considers this material to be predominantly Hueixtoci phase, which corresponds temporally to Griffin and Espejo's Culhuacan phase (1947; 1950) and José Luis Franco's I and I-II phases (1949). It is emphasized that the Tetla Polished Red ware discussed here was found in clear association with unmixed Aztec I phase Black on Orange ware, just described, and I believe it serves as a valid definition of Red ware during the early phase of the Aztec ceramic se-

quence southeast of the Basin of Mexico. Polished Red ware comprises 68.2 percent of the decorated ceramics at Tetla, but only 2.5 percent of the total ceramic assemblage.

#### **Definition**

In most cases a thick, highly polished dark red slip (7.5R4/8, 3/4–8; 10R3–4/6) has been applied to both interior and exterior vessel surfaces. Occasionally, the lower portion of the vessel exterior is unslipped and burnished, with burnishing streaks still visible. The dark red slip fired to a reddish brown color (10R3–4/3–4; 2.5YR3–4/2–6) in 8 percent of the Tetla sample. Decoration consists of black and/or white painted geometric or curvilinear designs on the red slip, with an occasional addition of an orange to yellow (2.5YR6/6; 5YR6/6) paint. An engraved decoration is sometimes found to accompany a painted black decoration, but independent of, not outlining, the painted design. The clay fires to a grey or light brown (5YR5/3; 7.5YR6/4) or reddish brown (2.5YR4–6/4–6; 5YR5/4), often leaving a grey-black central core. The paste is fine-textured with sparse fine-grained sand temper. Small air pockets visible in clay suggest that a fibrous temper may also have been used.

Polished Red ware vessels are most often flat-based and round-sided bowls with a curving wall-base juncture. These simple bowl bases are often dimpled,

with a circular raised area in the center of the interior base. Both direct and recurved rim forms are common. The rim is often slightly thickened, then tapered up to the lip. Total vessel height, as seen from the few partial vessels, is from 5 to 9 cm. Flat-based vessels with either direct or recurved rim forms are usually tripod support vessels. Both the solid zoomorphic support and the hollow globular support are common at Tetla. Mouth diameter ranges from 12 to 28 cm with the most common vessel size between 20–24 cm. Vessel wall thickness ranges from 4 to 9 mm with a modal thickness of 6–7 mm.

Tetla Polished Red ware was typed according to painted decoration. Two types of black paint occur, a plain matte black and a greyish, graphitic (specular) black. White and orange painted decorations are also found, but not in great quantity.

#### **Plain Polished Red Type (238 sherds/118 rims; Fig. 1.4a–p)**

The first type is the basic, undecorated Polished Red ware described above. Some of the sherds included in this type are surely fragments of the decorated vessels which had no decoration on the part of the vessel from which these sherds came. A nearly complete vessel with a dimpled and raised base and other large undecorated rim sherds support Plain Polished Red as a valid type. Rim forms are mostly direct, but recurved rims

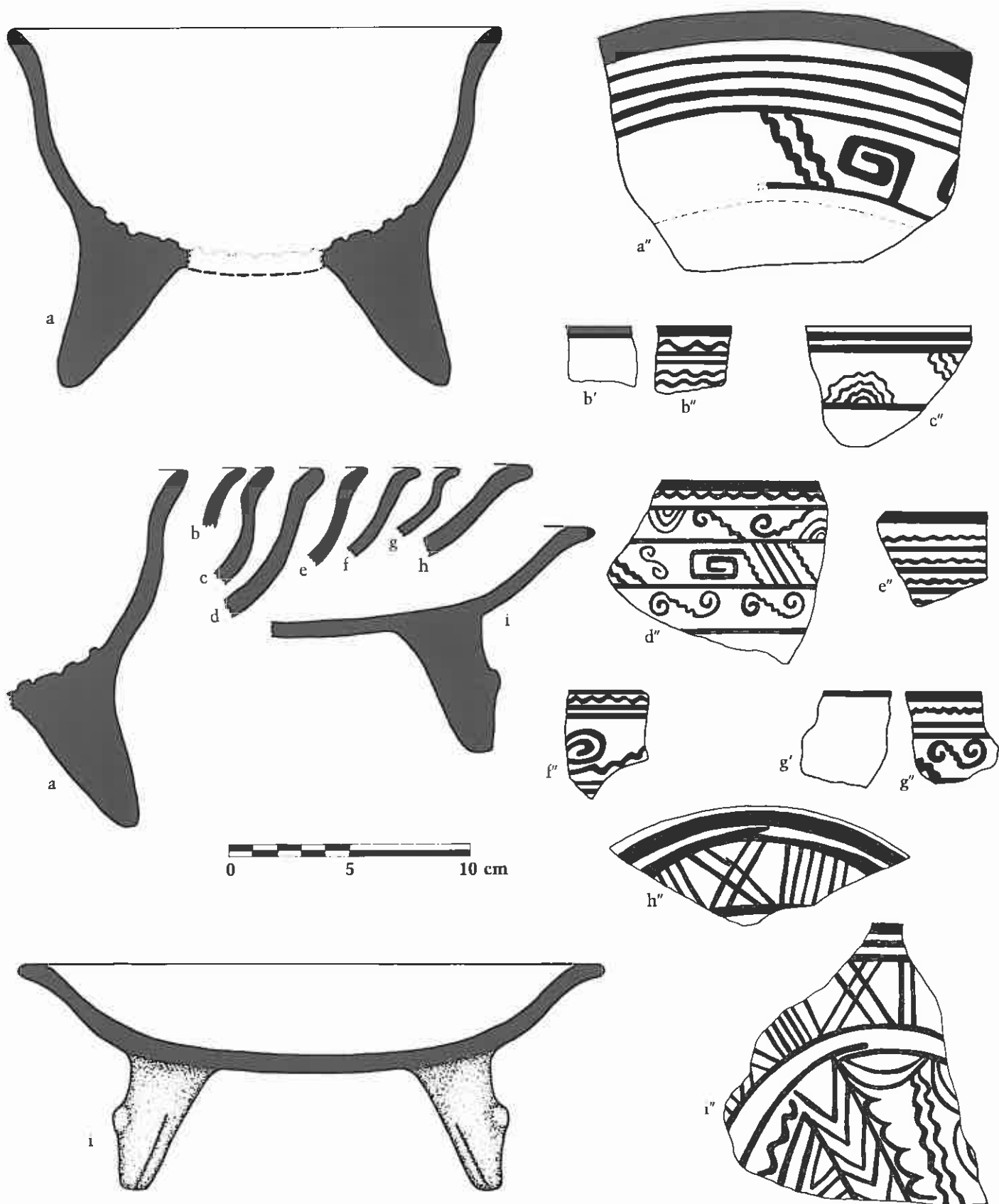


Figure I.2. Black on Orange wares, vertical to flaring wall, recurved rim bowls.



Figure 1.3. Black on Orange wares: *a–k*, interior designs; *i–k*, stamped interior bases; *l*, everted rim; *m*, olla sherd; *n–o*, evenly curving direct rim bowls; *s*, stamped interior base; *t–kk*, thick variants recovered in survey.

comprise more than one-third of the sample. Included in this type are several support forms: solid zoomorphic, hollow globular, mammiform, and conical.

Seven Plain Polished Red sherds have exterior engraved designs. Although classified as Plain Polished Red, all are actually considered to be portions of decorated Black or Graphite-black on Red vessels. These engraved sherds are very small, and none are rims or bases, where the black painted decoration generally occurs.

**Black on Red Type (88 sherds/58 rims; Fig. 1.4q-ee)**

The Black on Red type is defined by a painted black decoration (10R2/1; 2.5YR2/0-2; 5YR2/1; 7.5YR2/0) on the red-slipped surface. This black decoration is painted in 8-20 mm wide horizontal bands along the rim, the basal break, or the raised interior of a dimpled base. Or, as in the case with the Oxtoticpac sample, the entire interior surface may be painted black. This simple decoration is sometimes accompanied by painted geometric or curvilinear designs, or simple engravings such as a repeating vertical hook or parallel horizontal wavy lines. Vessel forms are shallow to hemispherical bowls with an occasional dimpled base. Rims are generally direct with some slightly thickened, then tapered lips. Recurved rim forms are present, but scarce. No supports are known to belong to this type.

**Graphite-Black on Red Type (57 sherds/30 rims; Figs. 1.5-1.7)**

According to an analysis by the Illinois State Geological Survey, the black-painted decoration of this type is graphite. The color of this paint is a lustrous dark steel grey (7.5YR3-4/0) and looks like heavy pencil shading. The painted decoration of this type is much the same as that of the Tetla Black on Red type, simple parallel banding and curvilinear designs. Vessel form is much the same, with the addition of plate forms with zoomorphic, slab, and hollow supports and a slightly higher frequency of recurved rims (Fig. 1.6). Engraving is most common on the Graphite-Black on Red type and is often the repeating vertical hook design on the wall of the vessel exterior (Fig. 1.7).

**Black and White on Red Type (18 sherds/9 rims; Fig. 1.8a-o)**

A black and white decoration, sometimes complex geometric and curvilinear designs, was applied most often to the exterior of shallow or hemispherical

bowl forms. The interior of these vessels was sometimes left unslipped and burnished, a natural clay color of light brown (7.5YR5-6/4, 2.5YR6/4), or sometimes slipped black (2.5YR2/0). A single rim form from the house excavations is recurved, while the remaining rims are direct. The additional rims from Tetla are consistent with this latter form.

**Graphite-Black and White on Red Type (no sherds from excavations; Fig. 1.8p-q)**

Two sherds from the surface survey near the ball court have exterior painted decorations of complex linear and geometric graphite-black and white designs. The only rim form (Fig. 1.8p) is from a vertical wall recurved rim vessel with a mouth diameter of 18 cm. The interior of this vessel is plain, polished red, while the interior of the body sherd (Fig. 1.8q) shows a portion of a large, thin-lined quadrangular scroll motif painted in specular black paint on red.

**White on Red Type (4 sherds/1 rim; Fig. 1.8r)**

The single rim form is a shallow bowl with a direct rim which is slightly bolstered, then tapered to the lip. The decoration occurs on the vessel exterior.

**Black and White and Orange on Red Type (1 sherd/1 rim; Fig. 1.8s-z)**

One shallow bowl rim from the house excavations has painted orange and black decoration over the red slip (Fig. 1.8s). A resist technique was used to leave the red background showing as if it were the actual painted design on an orange surface. The rim form is direct, with a bolstered, then tapered rim. There are two rims from near the ball court which have an orange painted decoration incorporated within the black and white design on the vessel exterior (Fig. 1.8t, u). One rim, a shallow direct rim bowl, has an undecorated dark reddish brown interior (2.5 YR 3/4) and a paneled horizontal S motif in rows of alternate white and pinkish orange (2.5YR6/6) designs (Fig. 1.8x). The other rim also has an undecorated, but unslipped interior (7.5YR5/4). The exterior design uses the orange (5YR6/6) to shade a portion of a stepped fret design. This second rim form is also direct and is from a hemispherical bowl form (Fig. 1.8v).

**Other (2 partial vessels; Fig. 1.9)**

Tetla strata pit excavations several meters to the southwest of the house uncovered the remains of a cremation burial in a small shallow bowl with a black painted interior and an undecorated pol-

ished red exterior. Covering the cremation vessel was one-half of a mammiform-supported Polished Red plate with a resist feathered-serpent motif on the interior base and rim.

**White Slipped Orange Ware Polychromes (25 sherds/18 rims; Fig. 1.10)**

Only a few examples of White-Slipped Orange ware polychromes were found at Tetla. Some show close similarities in both form and decoration to Noguera's Cholula *polichroma firme* (1954:122-136, Pls. 122, 126, no. 3, 129, no. 1) and, to a lesser degree, to George C. O'Neill's Chalco polychrome and Orange Rubbed ceramics (1962:64-81), while others show few similarities to either. There are also no clear-cut paste or temper distinctions within this group of Tetla polychromes.

**Definition**

A white slip was applied over a smoothed or burnished orange clay surface. A polychrome design of orange, red, maroon, and brown and/or black was painted on the white slip and covered with a thin yellow *laca*-like finish. Vessel forms are shallow to hemispherical bowls and supported plates. The paste is fine and hard with sparse temper to slightly crumbly with moderate amounts of sand temper.

The examples which resemble the Cholula and Chalco polychromes are primarily open bowls, one with a raised area in the interior base, or supported plates. The white slip covers most of the vessel, and the painted decoration geometric or banded vertical lines on the interior vessel walls and curvilinear on the interior base (Fig. 1.10a-f). Two hemispherical bowls with maroon-painted rim bands and another hemispherical bowl resemble the surface treatment described by O'Neill for his Orange Rubbed ceramics where the white slip appears to be rubbed into the self-slipped orange paste of the vessel, giving a streaky appearance to the surface (Fig. 1.10g-i).

Examples illustrated in Figure 1.10j-u do not particularly resemble any polychromes described by either O'Neill or Noguera. These vessels are primarily hemispherical bowls, and all examples but one have their only decoration just under the rim on the vessel exterior. The vessels are predominantly the burnished orange color of the clay, and vessel interiors are often streaky black or streaky cream-colored. Las Pilas collections contain similar ceramics (Michael E. Smith,

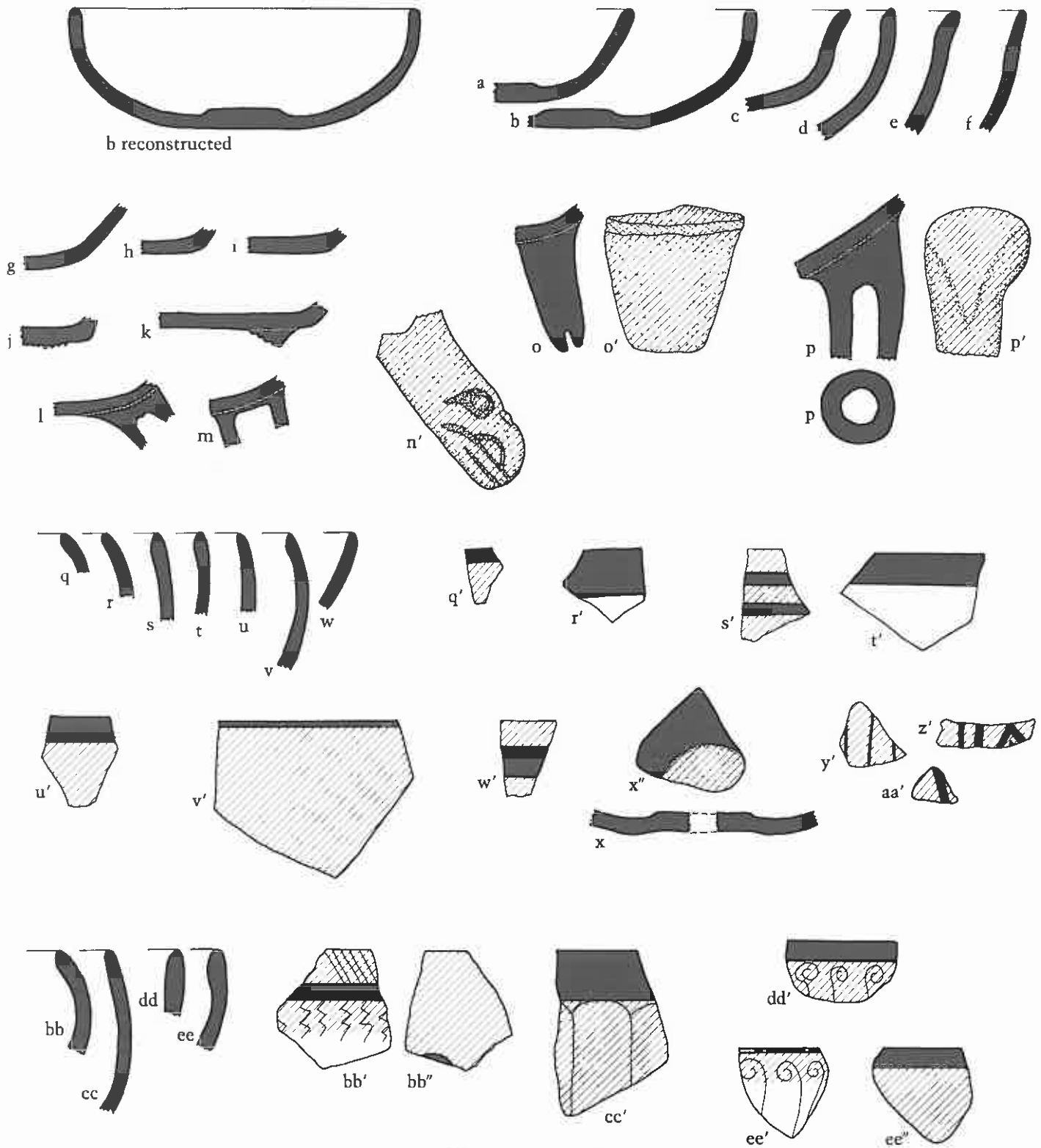
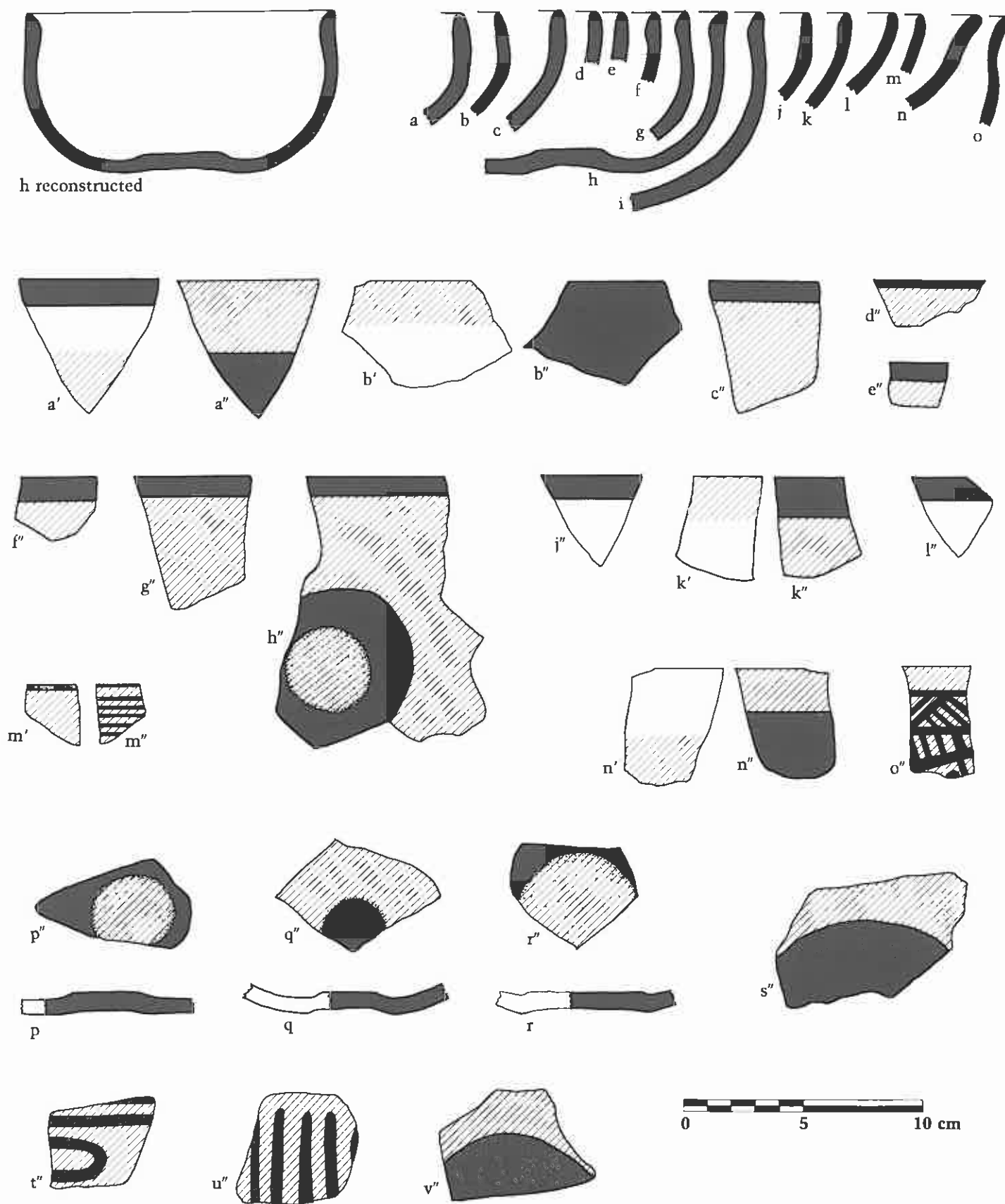
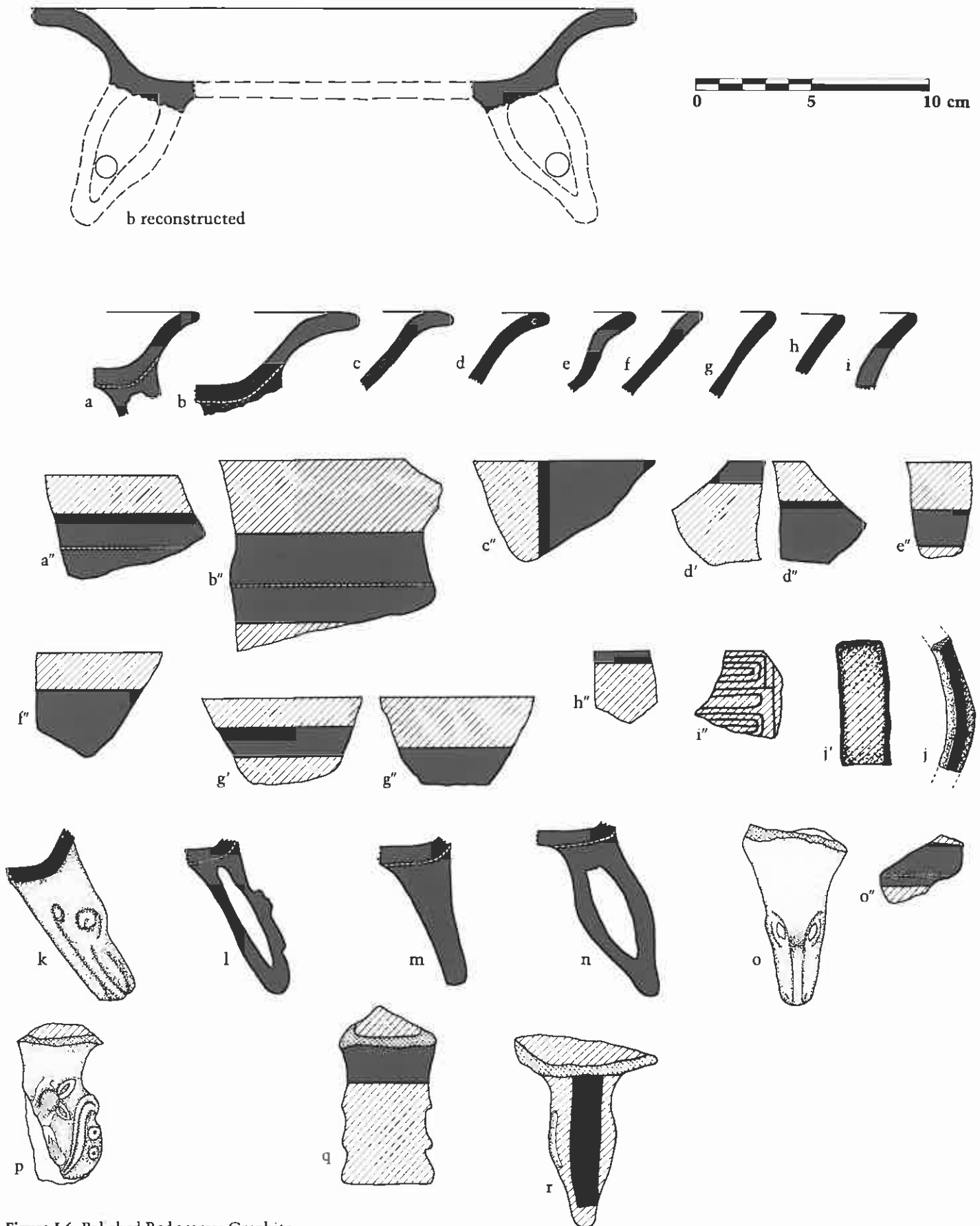


Figure I.4. Polished Red wares: *a-p*, Plain Polished Red; *q-aa*, Black on Red; *bb-ee*, Black on Red engraved.



**Figure I.5.** Polished Red wares: Graphite-Black on Red bowls.





**Figure I.6.** Polished Red wares: Graphite-Black on Red plate forms.

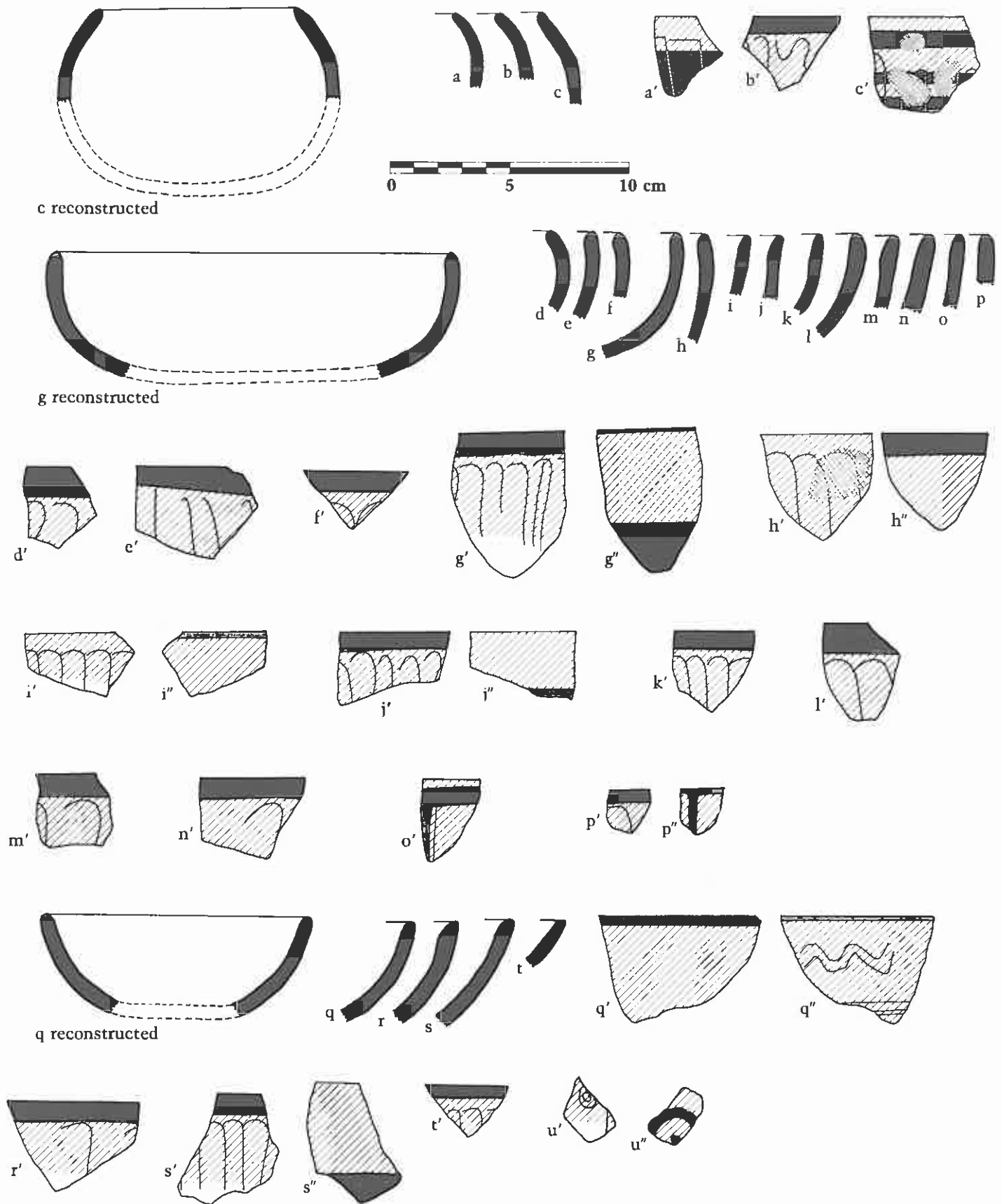


Figure I.7. Polished Red wares: Graphite-Black on Red engraved bowls.

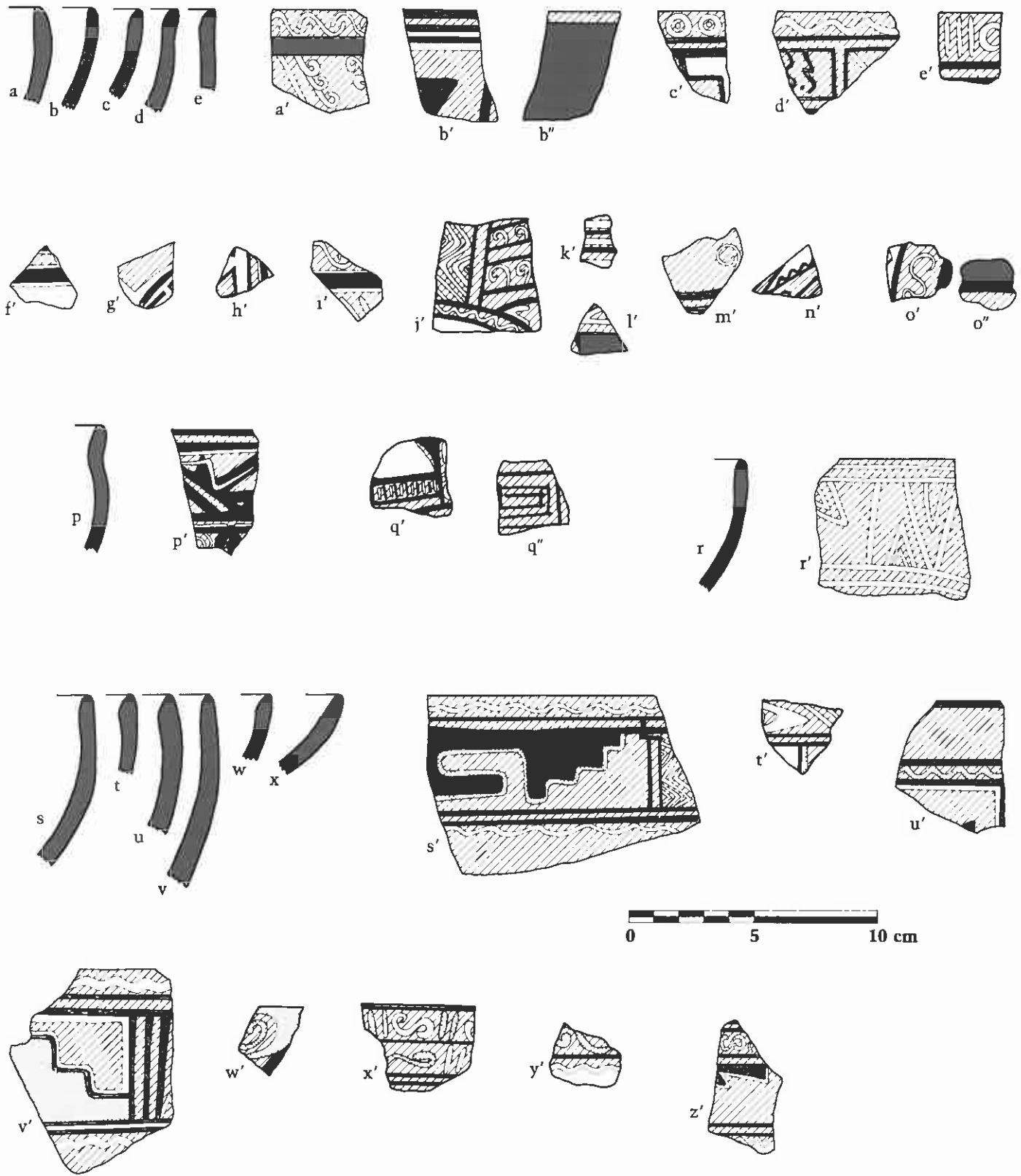


Figure I.8. Polished Red wares: *a–o*, Black and White on Red; *p–q*, Graphite-Black and White on Red; *r*, White-on-Red; *s–z*, Black and White and Orange on Red.

personal communication), and these polychromes may be related to the Tlaluica ceramics of western Morelos, although their association at this time is anything but clear.

**Red on Burnished Buff Ware (67 sherds/26 rims; Fig. I.11)**

Red on Burnished Buff ware comprises the third most frequently occurring decorated ware at Tetla, 10.4 percent of the decorated ceramics. These ceramics at Tetla are nearly identical to those found at Culhuacan by Séjourné (1970:35, Figs. 27, 27A) in Aztec I and II contexts. By all indications, at Tetla these ceramics are also a genuine component of the early Aztec ceramic complex and not simply a result of mixing with earlier levels.

**Definition**

A Red (7.5R3-4/6, 3/8, 10R4/6) slip or painted decoration was applied over a light brown (5YR6/3, 7.5YR6/2-4) unslipped burnished surface. The painted decoration is generally in horizontal straight or wavy lines on the interior wall and base and nearly always found on the interior and exterior lip of the vessel. The zoned incised examples (Fig. I.11 a-p) have geometric areas delimited by incisions and filled in with red on the unslipped burnished surface of the exterior of the vessels. The interiors of these zoned incised sherds are consistently solid red.

The bowl vessel forms for both types are predominantly vertical to flaring straight and slightly curved wall bowls with flat to nearly flat bases. Hollow supports and solid anthropomorphic supports (Fig. I.11 q-t; MacNeish, Peterson, and Flannery 1970:Fig. 111) are present. A sherd with a fragment of a raised bottom was also found.

**Black on White Slipped Ware (11 sherds/3 rims; Fig. I.12)**

**Definition**

A dark reddish brown to black (2.5YR 4/4, 5YR2-3/1-2) design of linear, curvilinear, and geometric motifs is painted on a poorly smoothed and unevenly slipped creamy white surface (10YR8/3, 7/4, 7.5YR8/2, 7/2-4, 5YR6/4). The sherds are mostly olla fragments. Decoration occurs on both the interior and exterior of the olla rims and only in the interior of the shallow dish rim form. A bowl basal fragment from the ball court area may be a portion of a grater bowl. The paste is light brown to light red (7.5

YR6-7/4, 10YR7/3, or 2.5YR6/8) and sometimes has a dark grey core. The vessel walls are from 5 to 8 mm thick, and the clay is heavily tempered with predominantly black sand, giving the sherds a coarse, crumbly texture.

This ware is not at all like the fine-paste Black on White Huasteca ceramics described by Parsons (1966:276-277) which occur in the Teotihuacan Valley Aztec ceramic sequence. No other discussion of a Black on White ware in an Aztec context could be found in the literature. A relationship to the Tlaluica Black and Red on White and Orange is possible, but seems unlikely when one compares the differences in vessel form, pastes, and quality of manufacture. The Las Pilas collections in the

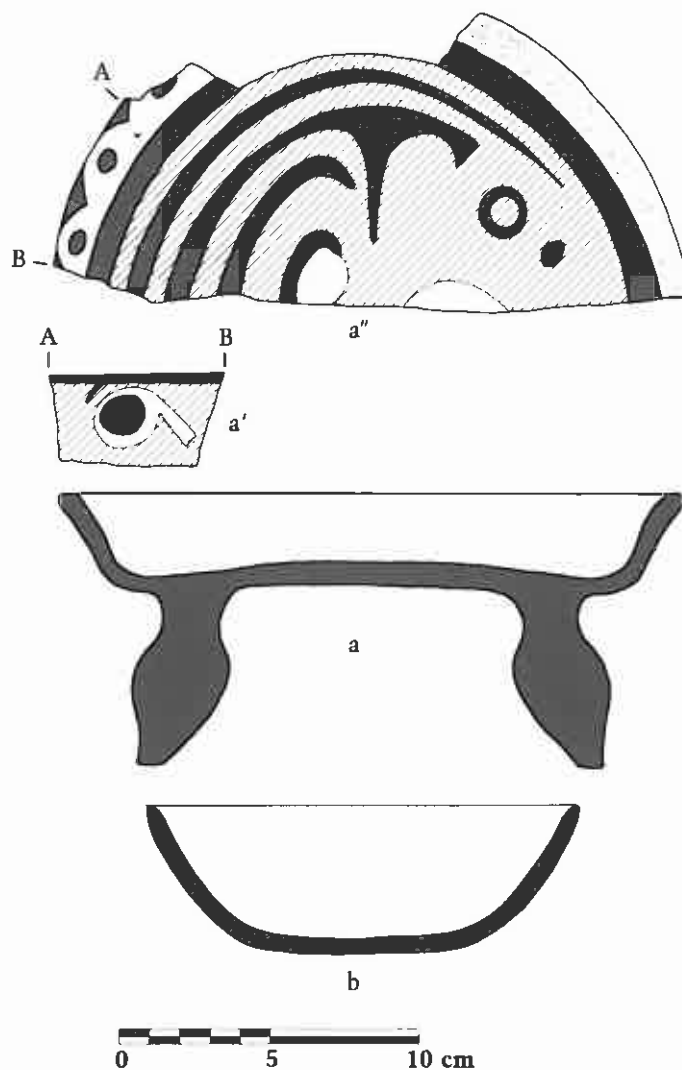


Figure I.9. Vessels associated with a burial: a, Polished Red plate; b, Black on Red bowl.

Palacio de Cortez, Cuernavaca, have examples of a Black on White slipped ware which seem to be the same ceramic ware as the Tetla samples. Xochipala, Guerrero, surveys have also produced a fair amount of a similar ware (Paul Schmidt, personal communication).

**Brown-Rimmed Orange-Slipped Ware (12 sherds/6 rims; Fig. I.13)**

A minor decorated ceramic ware at Tetla, only 2 percent of the decorated ceramics, the Brown-Rimmed Orange-Slipped ware may actually be only a variant of the Brown- or Range-Slipped Utilitarian ware, whose description follows this one. The paste of the small sample of Brown-Rimmed Orange-Slipped ceramics appears distinctly finer in texture and

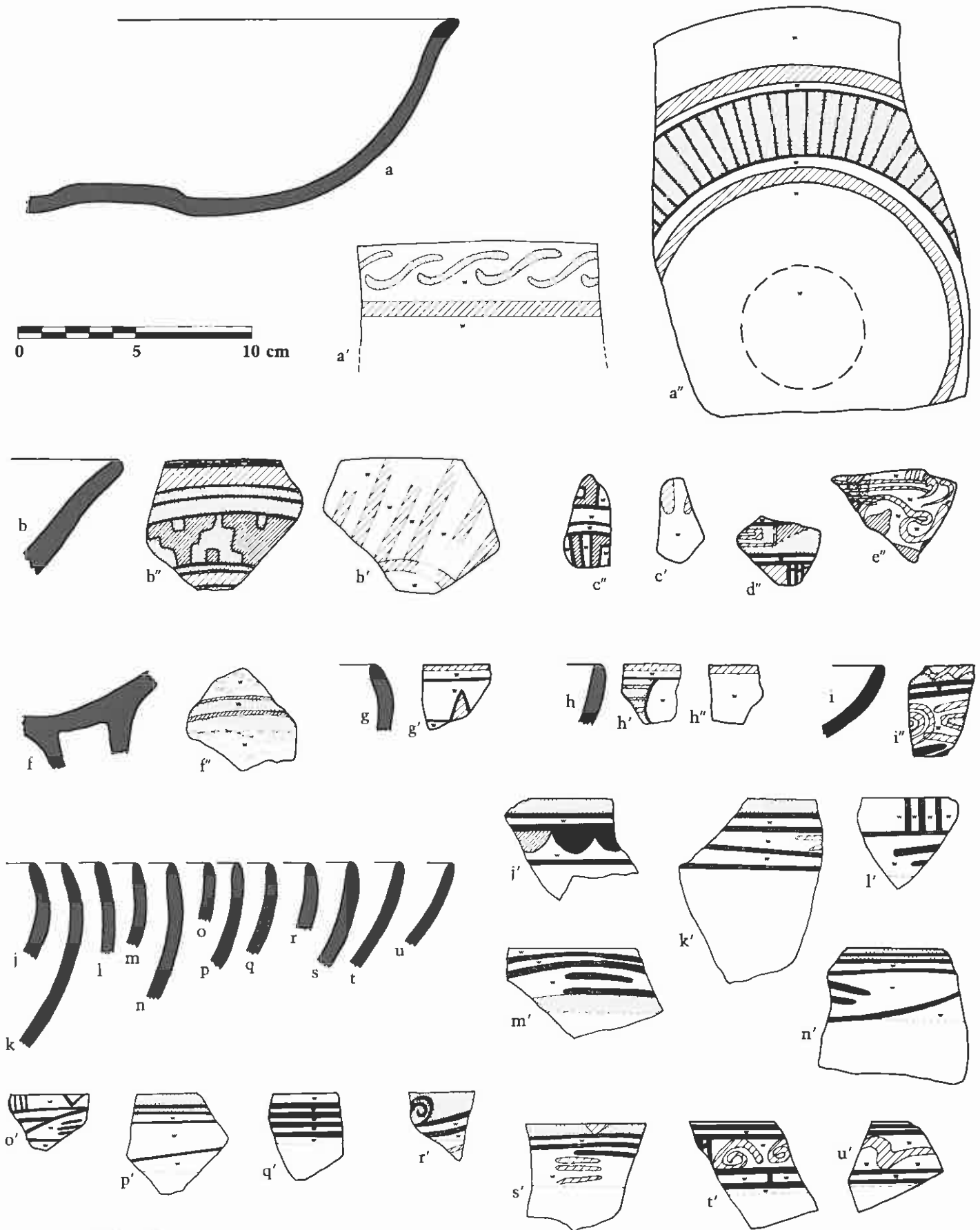


Figure I.10. White-Slipped Orange ware polychrome bowls.

lighter in color, and the slip is consistently at the lighter and brighter orange end of the color scale of the Brown- or Orange-Slipped Utilitarian ware.

#### Definition

A thinly applied orange slip or wash (5YR5-6/8) and brown (5YR4-5/4) rim band, as well as a fine and porous yellow (10YR8/6 and 7.5YR8/6) paste, are characteristic of the few examples which have been identified at Tetla. Small bowls with a rim diameter of around 10-12 cm and a curving basal break are the only known form.

#### Brown- or Orange-Slipped Utilitarian Ware (6,570 sherds/480 rims, 1 whole vessel; Fig. I.14)

A brown- or orange-slipped ware comprised of mostly utilitarian vessels is the predominant ceramic ware at Tetla, making up 40.5 percent of the total Aztec I phase ceramic assemblage.

#### Definition

A reddish brown (2.5YR2-4/2-4, 3/6; 5YR2-4/2-8) or an orange (5YR5-6/6-8; 7.5YR5-6/6-8) slip was applied to nearly all smoothly finished vessel surfaces. The slip, in some cases, is sufficiently burnished to give the surface a slight luster. The paste is light yellowish brown (7.5YR7/6), porous, sandy, and sometimes crumbly. Vessel wall thickness ranges from 4 to 13 mm with most of the vessels falling between 6 and 9 mm.

#### Ollas (4,708 sherds/153 rims, 11 handles; Fig. I.14a-v)

The Tetla ollas are necked jars with a globular to slightly shouldered body form and one of two basic neck configurations: upright or flaring. Flaring-neck ollas are defined by a sharp break between the body of the olla and the flaring neck. Approximately one-fourth of all Tetla ollas are of this form (Fig. I.14a-h). The angle of the flaring neck varies only slightly and is generally greatly flaring at an angle of 70 to 90° from the olla body. Vessel wall thickness is greatest at the neck-body juncture and ranges from 9 to 16 mm. Vessel body thickness ranges from 5 to 8 mm. The interior neck surface is slipped and burnished to or just below the neck-body juncture. The remaining interior surface is unfinished, as is typical of Mexican ollas. Mouth diameter ranges from 16 to 24 cm.

The upright-neck ollas (Fig. I.14i-r) have either a direct, everted, or beveled rim form and an evenly curving neck-body juncture. The direct rim is by far the most common. Upright-neck ollas

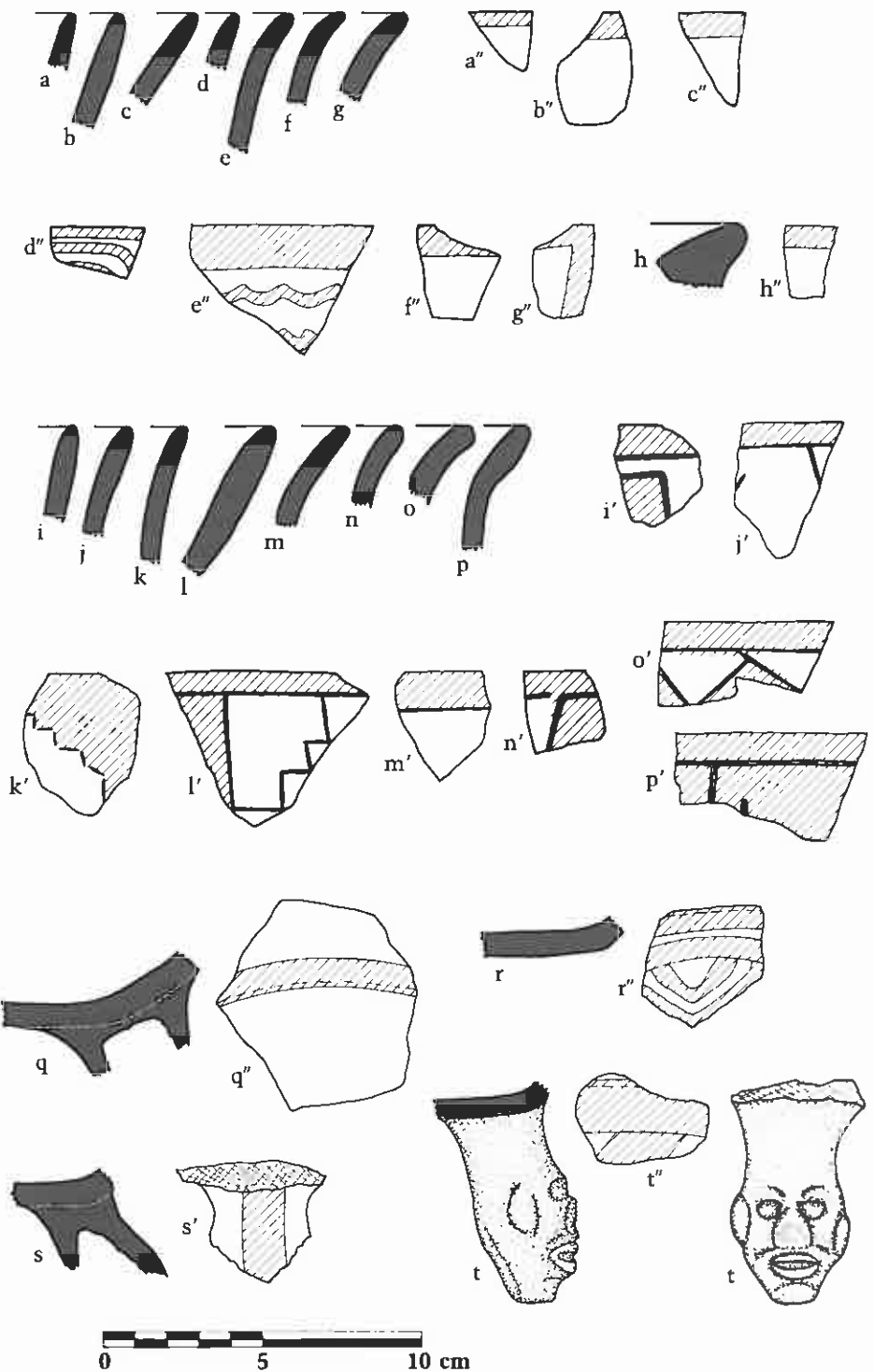


Figure I.11. Red on Burnished Buff wares.

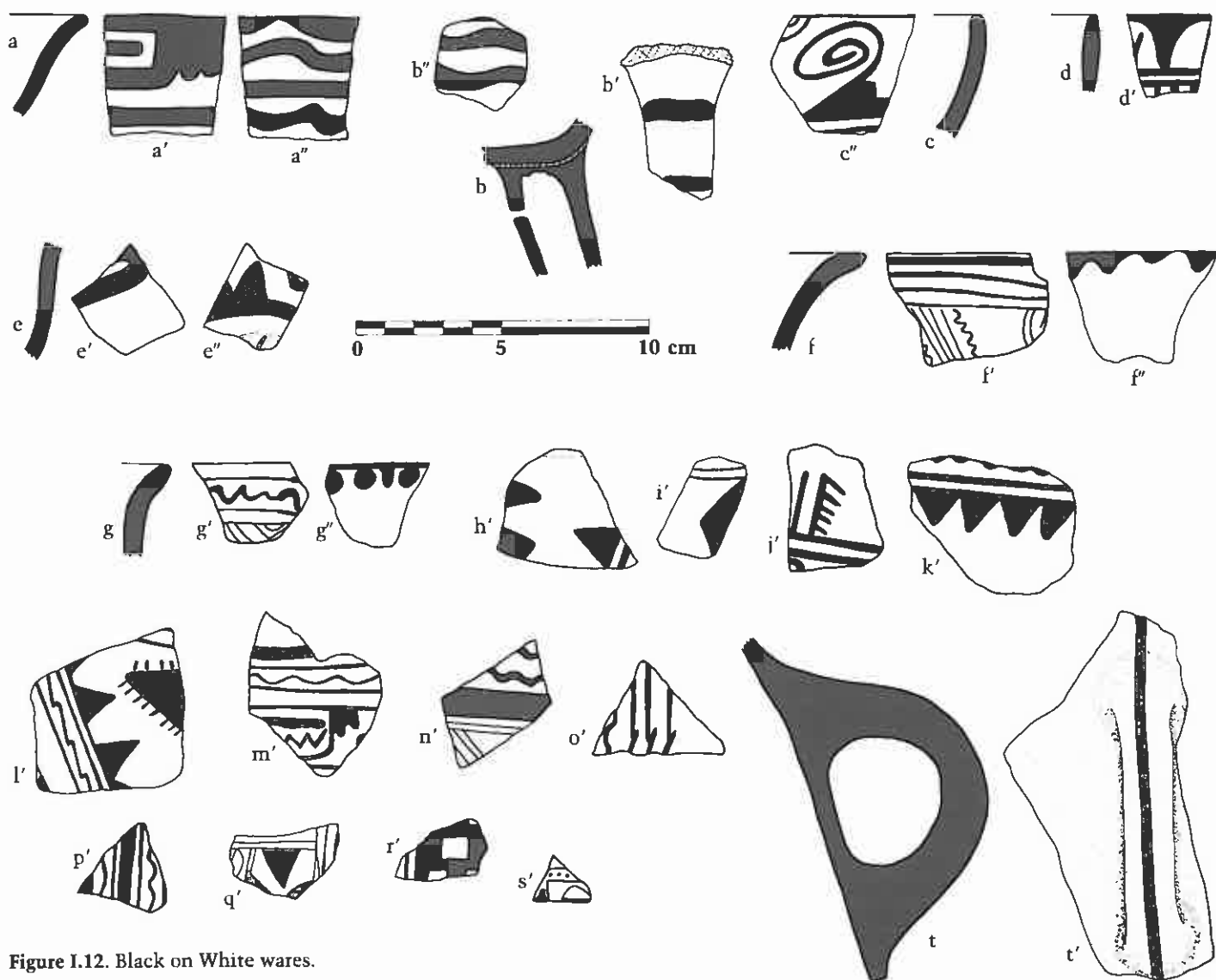


Figure I.12. Black on White wares.

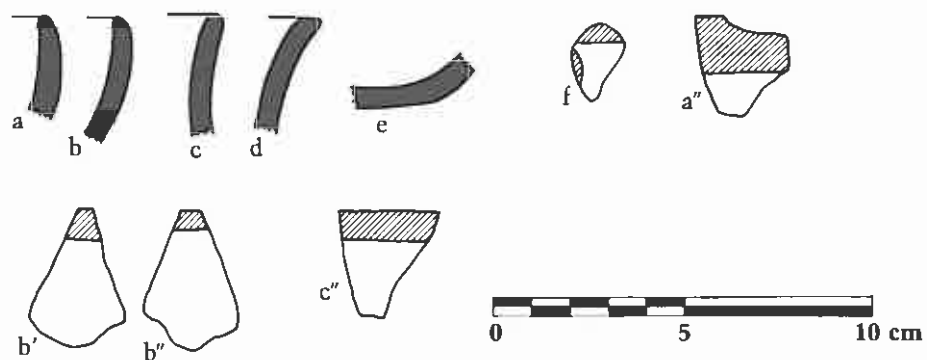


Figure I.13. Brown-Banded Orange-Slipped wares.





are heavy-walled with a modal wall thickness of 8–11 mm. Mouth diameters are equal to or much larger than those of the flaring neck ollas, and range from 12 cm up to 44 cm. Interior neck surfaces are slipped and burnished, as in the exterior, while the body interior is left unfinished.

Only eleven handles or handle fragments were uncovered. Olla handles were not found to be attached vertically to the rim, as is the case in the collections from the Teotihuacan Valley (J. Parsons 1966: Figs. 65, 66). Strap handles which were found in the Tetla collection (Fig. I.14s–u) appear to have been placed vertically on the olla body near the neck-body juncture of upright-neck ollas. A double-nubbin form of lug (Fig. I.14v) is attached to one olla body sherd and may be a basal vessel support or a shoulder lug handle.

**Comales (624 sherds/97 rims; Fig. I.14w–jj)**

The entire *comal* interior and the upper exterior rim surfaces are slipped and burnished. The lower exterior surface is rough and unfinished. It is difficult to get an accurate measurement of a *comal* rim diameter when the sherd is small and the diameter is large. From a small measurable sample, the *comal* diameters at Tetla range from 28 to 44 cm. Rim forms are simple, either straight, direct, or flaring. Two unusual rim forms are also illustrated (Fig. I.14ii, jj).

**Bowls (1,238 sherds/230 rims; Fig. I.14kk–jjj)**

With the exception of one direct rim hemispherical bowl fragment (Fig. I.14tt), bowl rims of this ware were broken fairly close to the rim so that vessel form was difficult to determine. Rim forms are both direct and recurved with vessel mouth diameters ranging from 12 to 24 cm. Some of the direct rim fragments appear to be straight-walled and flaring, and may be plate fragments. The bowl basal fragments are all flat with straight walls. No complete rim-base profiles were found intact. Recurved rims are either flaring or vertical, and these vessel forms, as well as plate forms, may have been supported. As is the case with the Black on Orange Ware, unslipped burnished supports which may have been attached to a slipped or decorated vessel have all been included with the plain, Unslipped Burnished ware. There is one example of a *molcajete fondo sellado* (stamped grater bottom; Fig. I.14ijj) with a portion of a hollow

support still attached which by definition of paste and surface treatment does not seem to be simply an undecorated Black on Orange ware sherd.

**Colanders or Incensarios (8 sherds; Fig. I.14kkk–lll)**

Several small perforated sherds, either colander or *incensario* sherds, were found. These Tetla examples have either triangular or round perforations.

**Shoe-Pot (1 complete vessel; Fig. I.14mmm; Fig. 25.5)**

A small ceremonial shoe-pot was found under the stucco floor near the domestic shrine portion of Room C. The mouth diameter of this vessel is 10 cm, and it is 16 cm long from under the single handle to the toe of the extended body. The handle is attached directly from the shoulder of the vessel to the lip of the rim. The toe of the pot is heavily fire clouded from use in a fire.

**Unslipped Burnished Ware (1,401 sherds/122 rims; Fig. I.15)**

The Unslipped Burnished category, based on surface treatment, is inevitably to some degree a catch-all category and surely includes unslipped, undecorated portions of decorated vessels or Classic period wares. However, only nine rims could be considered from rim form to probably be Late Classic and not part of the early Aztec Tetla ceramic assemblage. This ware has considerably more bowl rim forms (by a factor of eleven) than olla or *comal* rim forms (Table I.1), compared to a one-to-one occurrence for the other common utilitarian ware, Brown- or Orange-Slipped Utilitarian, indicating that the common utilitarian bowl form was generally given an unslipped burnished surface treatment while the ollas and *comales* were predominantly brown- or orange-slipped.

**Definition**

Surfaces range from smoothed to moderately burnished. The waxy surface luster of the unslipped burnished ceramics from the Late Classic is generally not found on early Aztec ceramics. Surface and paste color is varied and ranges from grey (10YR5/1) to light brown (7.5YR 5–6/4 and 5YR6/4) and reddish brown (5YR5/3 and 2.5YR5/4–6).

Bowls are predominantly outcurving wall and hemispherical forms, although many other varied forms also occur. Unslipped burnished vessel supports are either hollow globular or solid effigy forms, and, as mentioned earlier, some may be portions of decorated vessels.

Figure I.14. Brown- or Orange-Slipped Utilitarian wares: a–h, flaring-neck ollas; i–r, upright-neck ollas; s–v, handles and lugs; w–jj, *comales*; kk–jjj, bowls; kkk–lll, colander or *incensario* sherds; mmm, shoe-pot.

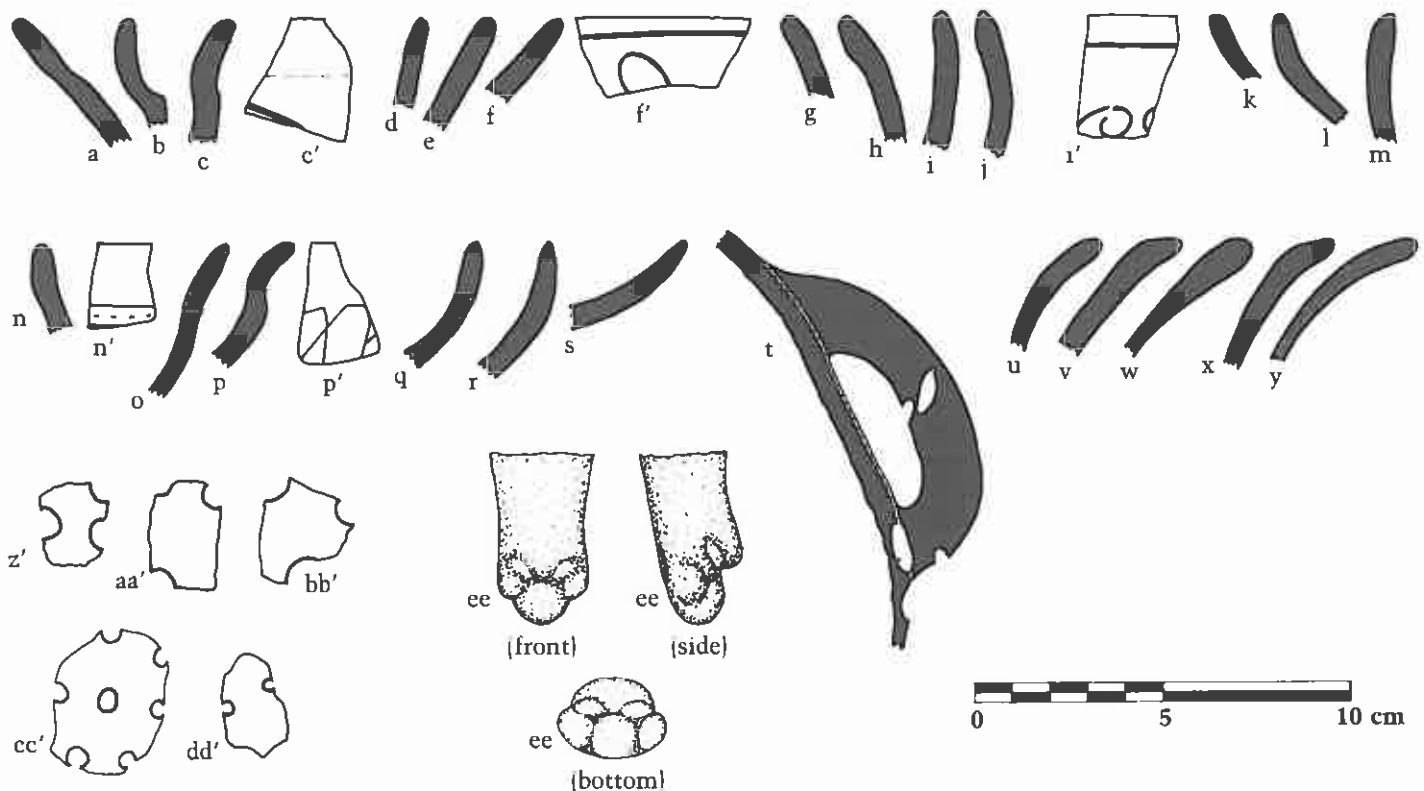


Figure I.15. Unslipped Burnished wares.

Olla rims are vertical, slightly outcurving forms. Colander or *incensario* fragments (five) with small round holes also occur within this ware. Incising is the only form of decoration and is rare.

**Tetla Coarse Ware (2,654 sherds/131 rims; Fig. I.16)**

**Definition**

Tetla Coarse ware has been defined by the lack of surface finish, beyond rough smoothing, and a dense, coarse sandy paste. Because of the coarse, unfinished nature of the ceramics, it was difficult to define vessel forms from body sherds (olla vs. bowl vs. *comal*). Many of the recognizable forms were heavy brazier fragments with appliqué, deep punctates, or incised lines (Fig. I.16).

Several of the brazier forms at Tetla are similar to those illustrated by MacNeish, Peterson, and Flannery (1970:Fig. 128) for their Late Venta Salada phase in the Tehuacan Valley.

**Mica Tempered Coarse Ware (15 sherds/no rims)**

Mica Tempered Coarse is obviously a minor coarse ware but significant in that the mica (or other foliated metamorphic rock) temper is not found in the vicinity of Chalcatzingo. This is thus probably a non-local ware.

**Definition**

A thinly applied brown or orange slip covers the exterior olla and both interior and exterior bowl surfaces. Pieces of a foliated metamorphic rock, such as a mica or a talc schist, have been added to the dense paste as temper. Both olla and bowl body sherds were found. One olla body sherd had a single line of exterior incising or grooving.

**Eroded (4,972 sherds/211 rims)**

Sherds were put into the Eroded category when the distinguishing characteristics of surface treatment and paste texture had been sufficiently destroyed to prohibit their classification. A total of 30.6 percent of the Tetla Aztec I ceramic assemblage was so classified.

**SPINDLE WHORLS**

**Tetla Type A Spindle Whorl (63 specimens)**

The Type A whorl is small and lightweight, comparable to the Type III whorls from the Teotihuacan Valley and the Texcoco region. The Tetla whorls are varied in form: conical and truncated conical, semispherical, cylindrical, and composite silhouette. The maximum whorl diameter ranges from 18 to 42 mm and the weight from 3 to 28 gm. Whorl surface treatment is nearly as varied as form. The clay was either smoothed, polished, or slipped to give the whorl a finished surface. The Type A whorls include decorations which are incised or mold-made, or they are undecorated.

**Type A Incised (24 specimens; Fig. I.17, nos. 1–24)**

All incised decoration is on the sides and lower surface of the whorl. The flat upper surface is left undecorated, but the surface is often finished in the same manner as the decorated portion of the whorl. The design is most often rota-

tionally symmetrical and is frequently divided into quadrants. Other decoration includes small punctates or a white or polished red slip.

**Type A Mold-Made (21 specimens; Fig. I.17, nos. 25–45)**

Whorls with a mold-made design tend to be larger in diameter and slightly heavier than the incised whorls. Mold-made decoration is again only on the bottom and sides of the whorl. There is a strong trend to use design elements such as the quadrangular scroll, concentric half circles, and feather motifs. Other design elements include a kneeling human figure (no. 36) and three or four running animal figures, possibly dogs or rabbits (nos. 30, 35, 42).

**Type A Undecorated (18 specimens; Fig. I.17, nos. 46–63)**

Most of the undecorated whorls are very small, 18–28 mm in diameter with the largest at 38, and range in weight from 3 to 16 gm. Forms are composite silhouette, conical, and truncated conical. All have polished and unslipped clay surfaces, light brown to light orange in color.

**Tetla Type B Spindle Whorl (5 specimens)**

The Type B whorl is relatively large and is probably functionally equivalent to Mary Parsons' Type I and II whorls from the Teotihuacan Valley and the Texcoco region. Whorl diameters range from 45 to 54 mm, and weights range from 38 to 52 gm. Whorl designs are either mold-made or incised, and surfaces are smoothed, polished, or slipped.

**Type B Incised (3 specimens; Fig. I.17, nos. 64–66)**

One example, a truncated conical form, has been thinly slipped dark reddish-brown and polished after the grooved design was made. The design is simple, widely spaced vertical grooves bound by horizontal lines top and bottom (no. 64). The upper surface of the whorl is slipped but undecorated. The second grooved whorl is unslipped and unpolished and has a grooved design of concentric circles on the lower surface and a quadrangular scroll motif bound by vertical lines and concentric circles on the upper surface (no. 65). The third whorl is light tan and has a rectilinear design on the flattened top and no design on the convex lower

surface (no. 66).

**Type B Mold-Made (2 specimens; Fig. I.17, nos. 67–68)**

Mold-made designs occur on the top, bottom, and sides of both whorls in this category. Design motifs consist of the quadrangular scroll, concentric half-circles, and feathers. Whorl surfaces are unslipped, and one whorl appears to have been polished after molding. The whorls are cylindrical and truncated conical in form.

## LITHICS

No formal lithic analysis has been performed on the Tetla lithic artifacts, and only descriptive information can be presented here. Obsidian comprised only 55 percent of the lithic material recovered, in contrast to Paul Tolstoy's (1971b) figures of 80–95 percent for the Valley of Mexico. The remaining 45 percent is predominantly white chert. Green and grey-black obsidian were found to occur in nearly equal quantities, a 6:5 ratio, with little preference to tool type. Unretouched blades, flakes, and cores make up 96 percent of the total lithic collection. The remaining 4 percent includes projectile points, bifaces, scrapers, eccentrics, and worked blades (Table I.2).

### Projectile Points

Most of the Tetla projectile points are made of either grey-black obsidian or white chert; two examples are of green obsidian. Three distinct forms and four types are definable from the whole or nearly whole points. As did Tolstoy (1971b), whenever possible, I have followed the Suhn and Krieger typology of Texas. Eight points are side-notched, one is broad-stemmed, and another is contracting-stemmed.

### Side-Notched Points

One small grey-black obsidian point is of the Harrell side-notched type. It is chipped out of a flake or large blade and formed to give the point an ovoid cross-section. The point is an estimated 33 mm in length. One chert basal fragment with an estimated total length of 35–40 mm may be a Harrell point in its largest form. The sides of these points are slightly convex, the bases are slightly concave, and the small side notches are placed approximately one-third of the total distance along the side from the proximal end.

Five small greyish-black obsidian points are tentatively typed as Texcoco

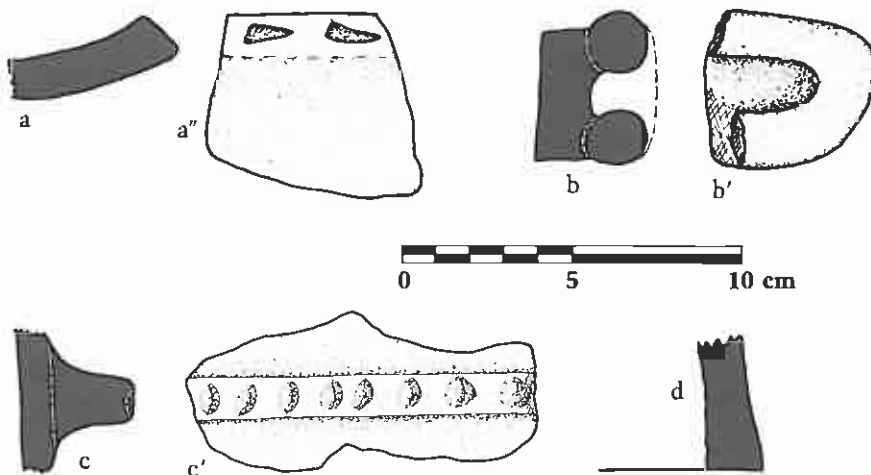


Figure I.16. Tetla Coarse wares.



points. Tolstoy (1971b) says the Texcoco points "vary from 4 to 7.5 cms. in length, and often retain both the curvature and parts of the surface of the blades on which they are made." The Tetla examples fit this description with the exception of their small size, 27–41 mm. The small notches are placed approximately one-fourth the total length from the proximal end. I have chosen to call these five points "Texcoco" because of the technique of manufacture rather than "Harrell" because of size. There can be no doubt of the early Aztec date for these points. The largest came from the living floor surface of Room C, and two smaller ones came from a subfloor stratum of unmixed Aztec I phase materials. The remaining are from the house fill. A similar unnotched proximal fragment may have been discarded as a broken or unfinished Texcoco point.

One side-notched white chert point remains untyped. This point is bifacially flaked but is larger than the Harrell points. The sides of this point are also more convex and the base more concave than those of Harrell points. The notches

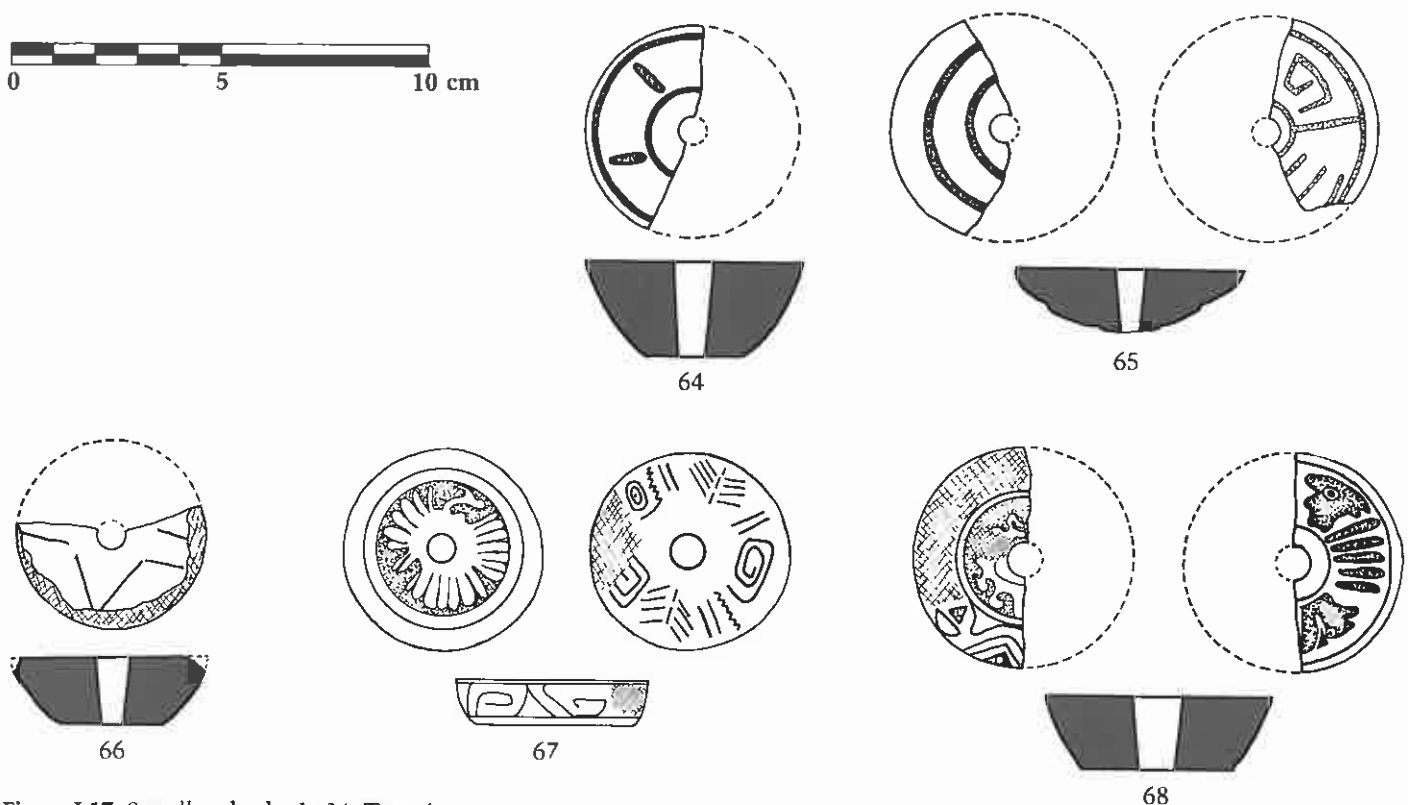
are placed exactly one-third of the total distance from the proximal end.

#### Broad-Stemmed Point

One clear chert proximal fragment of a broad-stemmed point came from the living floor surface of Room C. This point is essentially identical to the Tula Type A broad-stemmed point described by Margaret Mandeville (1974: Fig. 27h). From her analysis of Tula chipped stone artifacts, she found the broad-stemmed point to comprise 62.5 percent of all types found at Tula during the University of Missouri project. The estimated complete length of the Tetla point is 40–45 mm. The sides are straight, the stem sides are parallel and at nearly right angles to both the base and shoulders. The cross-section is thin, approximately 3 mm.

#### Contracting Stem Point

A small, 29 mm grey-black obsidian point of the contracting-stem variety was found in the fill of the courtyard area to the north of the house. Tolstoy (1971b) describes a similar stemmed point with diminutive barbs recovered by George C. Vaillant from Teotihuacan. These points



**Figure I.17.** Spindle whorls: 1–24, Type A incised; 25–45, Type A mold-made; 46–63, Type A undecorated; 64–66, Type B incised; 67–68, Type B mold-made.

Table 1.2. Tetla Lithic Artifacts

	Material				Artifact Type	Total	%
	Obsidian		Chert				
	Grey-black	Green	White	Other			
	34	65	39	0	Triangular cross-section blade	138	15
	112	154	8	0	Trapezoidal cross-section blade	274	29
	66	50	338	0	Waste flake	454	49
	2	1	18	0	Flake with cortex	21	2
	3	2	1	0	Core	6	1
	5	3	0	0	Worked blade	8	1
	0	1	3	0	Scraper	3	0
	0	0	6	1	Knife (biface)	7	1
	10	2	5	1	Projectile point	18	2
	1	1	0	0	Eccentric	2	0
Total	233	279	417	2		931	100
Percentage	25	30	45	0			

are similar to the Hayes and Bonham types of Texas and are thought to be late in the Teotihuacan sequence and to have been used as arrow points. These points differ from the Gary Small type by the presence of small barbs.

#### *Bifaces*

One complete bipointed, bifacially flaked knife was found in association with the Room B-C subfloor cremation burial. It measures 106 mm in length and 48 mm in width, with a thin, 10 mm cross section. It was the only example of a light pink-brown and white mottled chert. Two bifacially flaked white chert pieces were found in the Room A work area and four other fragments in the house and courtyard area fill. Most fragments are distal or mid-sections. A single proximal end fragment has a flat base and unnotched sides at a near 90° angle to the base.

#### *Scrapers*

Three chert scrapers were found, one from the courtyard area, one from Room C, and the last from just outside the doorway of Room A. The scrapers from Rooms A and C are ovate in form and are primary flakes with cortex and a small amount of unifacial retouching at one end. The small scraper from the courtyard is also unifacially flaked with retouch flaking along the sides and one end. A single green obsidian scraper was made from a core which was broken longitudinally. Unifacial retouching occurs along both sides and one end of the scraper.

#### *Eccentrics*

Two obsidian blades were worked into eccentrics, one crescent and one trilobal, and these are discussed in Chapter 25.

#### *Worked Blades*

Tetla worked blades were simply retouched along one or both of the edges, sometimes narrowing the blade considerably at the distal end. Worked blades were made on both green and grey-black obsidian.

#### *Ornamental Stone*

Three greenstone beads were found in the house fill, and one was found associated with the Room B-C cremation. An engraved greenstone fragment came out of the fill in Room B, and a polished hollow earspool fragment was found on the surface just east of the large boulder which overhangs the house. A white stone drill core was found in the doorway to Room A.