

CHAPTER 3

REPORT ON THE 1987 EXCAVATIONS
HOUSE P46.33: THE POTTERY

by

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The sherds from excavations in this house complex remain to be processed, although their basic quantification has contributed to the discussion of the processes of decay at work on the house (Chapter 4). However, whilst excavations were in progress records were kept of substantially complete or restorable vessels from the house, and it is these vessels, eighteen in number, that are described here, in the order of the areas in which they were found. Figures 4.10, 4.11b, and Table 4.3 show how they were distributed. These vessels are most likely to have been in use when the house was abandoned, although no. 21, its pieces found just under the surface and scattered across more than one area, was clearly separated from its original context.

The vessels are referred to by their vessel catalogue number. This system has been introduced to complement the running sherd catalogue, in order to give scope for the more elaborate recording required for complete vessels. The fabric classification follows that of *AR 2*, Chapter 8. Where possible, forms are described in terms of the pottery typology of *COA II*. All measurements are in centimetres. The illustrations, by A. Boyce, reproduce the vessels at a scale of 1:3.

Number: 35 (Figure 3.1).

Provenance: K15 [3685], [3686], [3703]. Area 1.

Measurements: Height 34.6. Maximum diameter c 22. Rim diameter c 15.5.

Condition: Restored from fragments. Much of the base and one side as well as the rim are missing. The surface of the remaining base is lost.

Fabric: I.1

Style: Painted in blue, red, and black on a cream slip, which covers the entire exterior. The decoration is in two bands: the first, around the shoulder, is of continuous petals below a framing band, and the lower, around the maximum diameter, of individual petals.

Description: A biconical jar (*COA* type XIII.13) with a medium-length flared neck and rounded rim. Around the outside of the rim is a band and trails of black material, perhaps from sealing the vessel. The base is slightly pointed.

Number: 36 (Figure 3.1).

Provenance: K15 [3685], [3686], [3703]. Area 1.

Measurements: Height 19.8. Rim diameter 48. Base diameter c 11.

Condition: Restored from fragments, about two-thirds of the vessel being preserved. The central interior is blackened from burning, as are areas of the rim on the inside, and large areas of the exterior.

Fabric: I.1

Style: Red burnished slip on all surfaces, including the underside of the base.

Description: A large open bowl (not in the *COA* corpus) with a squared-off rim and a slightly convex base.

Number: 37 (Figure 3.1).

Provenance: K15 [3703]. Area 1.

Measurements: Height 7.6. Maximum diameter c 14.2. Rim diameter 12.

Condition: One sherd only preserved.

Fabric: I.1

Style: The lower exterior is coated with a cream slip, including the base. The upper exterior and

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interior are coated in red, and there are clear brushmarks visible at the junction of the slips on the outside. The slip is worn away on the central interior.

Description: A fragment of a small bowl with an incurved tapered and modelled rim (not in the *COA* corpus), and a very shallow ring base. This vessel is unusual both for its colouration and shape.

Number: 39 (Figure 3.1).

Provenance: K15 [3686], [3703]. Area 1.

Measurements: Height >21.9.

Condition: Restored from fragments. Most of the body is preserved, but one handle, the neck, and rim are missing. The interior surface is badly eroded.

Fabric: IV.3

Style: Grey matte slip over the exterior.

Description: Part of a pilgrim bottle (*COA* type not ascertainable). The body was made in two parts.

Number: 93 (Figure 3.3).

Provenance: K15 [3686], [3703]. Area 1.

Measurements: Height 30.1. Maximum diameter c 23.5. Rim diameter 12.

Condition: Partially restored from fragments. About three-quarters of the vessel is preserved.

Fabric: I.4

Style: A thick creamish-white coating covers the exterior.

Description: A small jar (approximately *COA* type XIV.3) with a short vertical neck and externally thickened rim, and a rounded base.

Number: 185 (Figure 3.3).

Provenance: K15 [3686], [3703]. Area 1.

Measurements: Height 8.65. Maximum diameter 7.3. Rim diameter 5.6. Base diameter 2.

Condition: Restored from fragments; about half preserved.

Fabric: III.2

Style: Cream burnished slip over entire exterior.

Description: Small one-handled cup.

Number: 38 (Figure 3.3).

Provenance: K15 [3349]. Area 3.

Measurements: Height 4.5. Rim diameter 18.

Condition: Restored from fragments; a large part of the rim and some of the base are missing.

Fabric: I.5

Style: Unslipped.

Description: A "bread platter" (*COA* types II.5, II.6) with a rounded rim and a flat base, the edge of which is deeply indented with finger impressions.

Number: 21 (Figure 3.2).

Provenance: L15 [3067], K16 [3033]. Areas 4 and 6.

Measurements: Height >77.3. Maximum diameter 28.

Condition: Restored from fragments. An unknown length of neck and the rim are missing. The surface is very friable, and much of it is lost.

Fabric: I.1

Style: Painted in blue, red, and black on a cream slip which covers the entire exterior. As preserved, the decoration is in four bands, of which only traces remain of the uppermost. This, and the two lowest rows, are of individual petals between framing bands, and separated from the upper of these by a row of red dots; the other band is composed of a "continuous" row of petals.

Description: A large drop-shaped vessel (not in the *COA* corpus). There are string-impressions around the maximum diameter and lower body. Although the vessel was probably manufactured in several sections, no trace of this is visible.

Number: 34 (Figure 3.3).

Provenance: K16 [3181], [3321]. Area 10.

Measurements: Height 16.2. Maximum diameter 14.8. Rim diameter 11.1.

Condition: Restored from fragments. Part of the rim and neck are missing. The sherds are covered with hard concretions.

Fabric: III.2

Style: A cream slip over all surfaces, but only the exterior is burnished.

Description: A one-handed carinated cup (*COA* type XX.11) with an externally thickened rim and a shallow ring stand, through which the bottom of the vessel protrudes.

Number: 16 (Figure 3.3).

Provenance: L15 [3185]. Area 11.

Measurements: Height 8.9. Rim diameter 12.2. Base diameter c 5.

Condition: Almost half the rim and upper wall are missing, and part of the surface around the base has broken away. There are areas of burning on the interior and exterior, suggesting that the vessel may have been used as a lamp.

Fabric: I.1

Style: Unslipped.

Description: A cup (*COA* type IX.5) with rounded rim and a flat, string-cut base. Turning marks are visible on the exterior, and the area around the base is particularly poorly finished.

Number: 65 (not illustrated).

Provenance: L15 [3185]. Area 11.

Measurements: Height c 28.5. Maximum diameter c 27.

Condition: The rim, neck, and most of the handles are missing.

Fabric: III.2

Style: Cream burnished slip on the exterior.

Description: The body of a pilgrim vessel, made in two wheel-thrown parts. A hole for the neck has been pierced through the vessel wall, traces of which are clearly visible on the interior.

Number: 29 (Figure 3.3).

Provenance: L15 [3069], [3071], [3229]. Areas 11 and 12.

Measurements: Height 42.9. Maximum diameter c 31. Rim diameter c 16.

Condition: Large parts of the rim and wall are missing.

Fabric: I.4

Style: Painted in blue, red, and black on a cream slip which covers the entire body, and in which brushmarks from its application can be seen. The decoration is in three bands, each consisting of rows of individual petals between framing bands. Each framing band consists of a wide blue stripe with narrow black bands at the top and bottom, and a narrow red stripe running between them along the centre of the blue band.

Description: A large jar (approximately *COA* type XIV.11) with a rolled rim. The rim and upper body are badly warped. The base is rounded, and the separate plug of clay used to block the hole during manufacture is clearly visible on the interior. The exterior of the base has been trimmed with a knife.

Number: 17 (Figure 3.4).

Provenance: L15 [3230]. Area 12.

Measurements: Height 28. Maximum diameter 10. Rim diameter 4.8.

Condition: Complete except for a small chip from the handle. The surface is discoloured in some areas.

Fabric: Not visible; perhaps III.9.

Style: Matte cream slip on the exterior.

Description: A one-handed bottle (*COA* I type XXXIX/1011B), with a tall neck and externally thickened rim and a small button foot. The latter is too small to support the vessel.

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Number: 22 (Figure 3.4).

Provenance: L15 [3229], L16 [3320]. Area 12.

Measurements: Height 12.3. Maximum diameter c 20. Rim diameter 17.7–20.6.

Condition: Restored from fragments. A small area of the rim and wall is missing. The slip and decoration on the interior are worn.

Fabric: I.1

Style: Painted in blue, black, and red on a cream slip. On the outside, the decoration consists of a blue rim band with a black hatched band below it. A narrower similar band runs around the maximum diameter. Both handles are painted with a lotus motif at the top, and a black sedge motif pendant from the bottom. On the interior are a blue flying duck and a red insect.

Description: A carinated handled bowl (form not in the *COA* corpus) with a ring base, through the ring of which the rounded bowl base protrudes.

Number: 23 (Figure 3.4).

Provenance: L15 [3229]. Area 12.

Measurements: Height 25.9. Maximum diameter 16. Rim diameter 10.3.

Condition: Restored from fragments. Part of the rim and a small area of the body are missing.

Fabric: I.1

Style: A red slip over the entire exterior and rim top.

Description: A small jar with an upright, rounded rim (approximately *COA* type XV.4). There are several deep turning marks over the lower body, and the same area has a number of vertical marks either from the application of the slip or from wet smoothing over the base.

Number: 24 (Figure 3.4).

Provenance: L15 [3229]. Area 12.

Measurements: Height 9.4. Maximum diameter 10.8. Rim diameter 10.4–10.8.

Condition: Restored from fragments; part of the rim and wall are missing. The area around the rim is heavily burnt on the inside and outside. Like no. 16, it may have been used as a lamp.

Fabric: I.1

Style: Unslipped

Description: A crudely shaped flaring cup (*COA* type IX.7) with a tapering, pointed rim and a “flat”, string-cut base, although it is, in fact, uneven and the vessel is unstable when standing on it. The rim is also uneven in height. Finger impressions can be seen around the base and lower body.

Number: 25 (Figure 3.4).

Provenance: L15 [3229]. Area 12.

Measurements: Height 9.1. Maximum diameter 34.7. Rim diameter 34. Base diameter 8.5.

Condition: Restored from fragments; about 20% of the rim and wall are missing. On the interior, areas of slip have been worn away.

Fabric: I.1

Style: A red polished slip covers the entire surface, including the underside of the base.

Description: An open bowl with an out-turned rim and a flat base (approximately *COA* type IV.1).

Number: 94 (Figure 3.5).

Provenance: L15 [3229], [3230]. Area 12.

Measurements: Height 51. Maximum diameter c 27.5. Rim diameter c 14.

Condition: Partially restored from fragments; almost complete. The slip is worn off in places, especially around the base.

Fabric: I.4

Style: Red slipped on the exterior.

Description: A large biconical jar, in form most closely resembling *COA* type XIII.12. It has a tall flaring neck with rounded rim. The base is a flattened point, very thin at the centre. Scraping marks occur over the lower body below maximum diameter, together with traces of string-impressions, some of which have been trimmed away during secondary shaping.

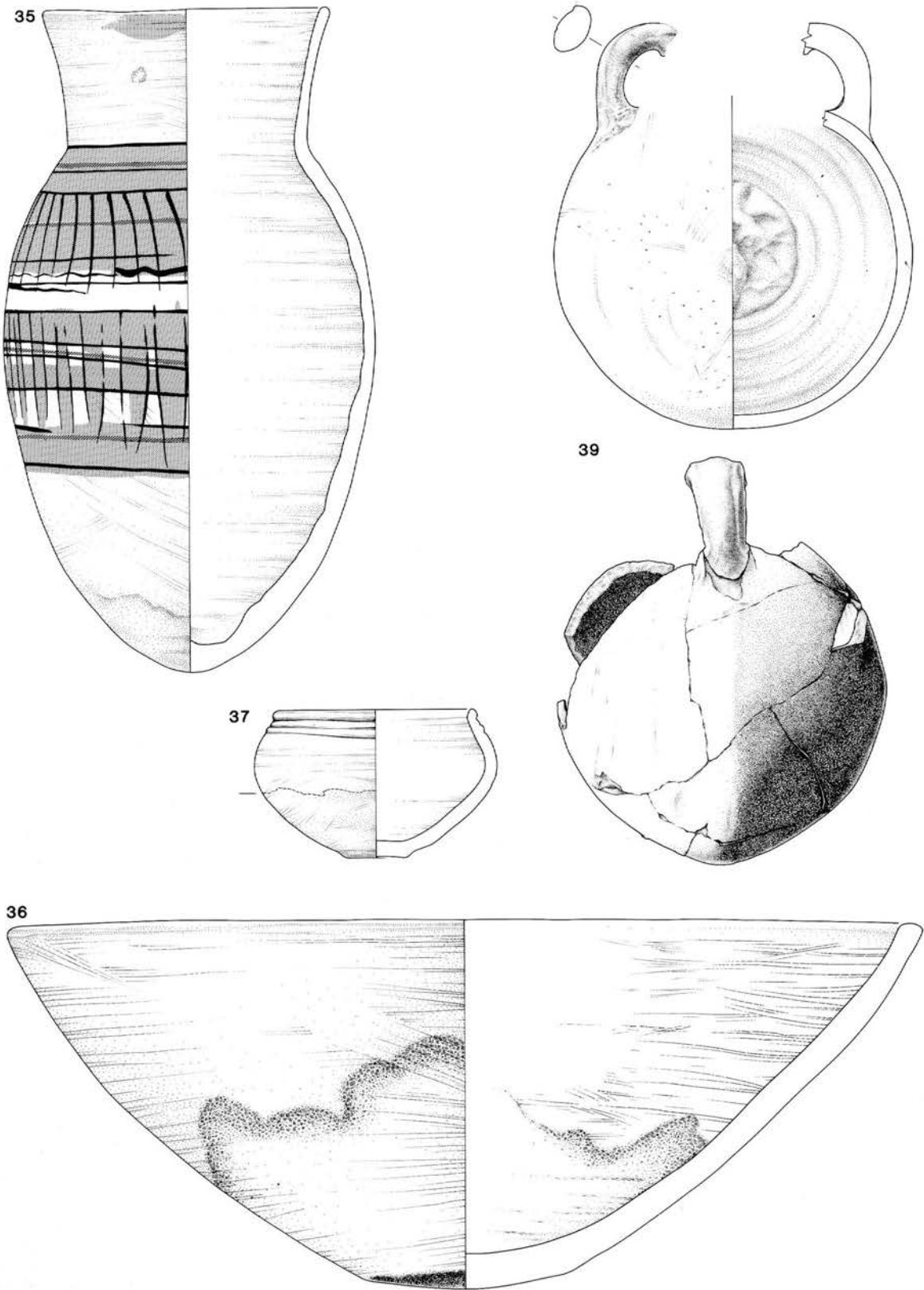


Figure 3.1. Pottery from house P46.33. Scale 1:3. Drawings by A. Boyce.

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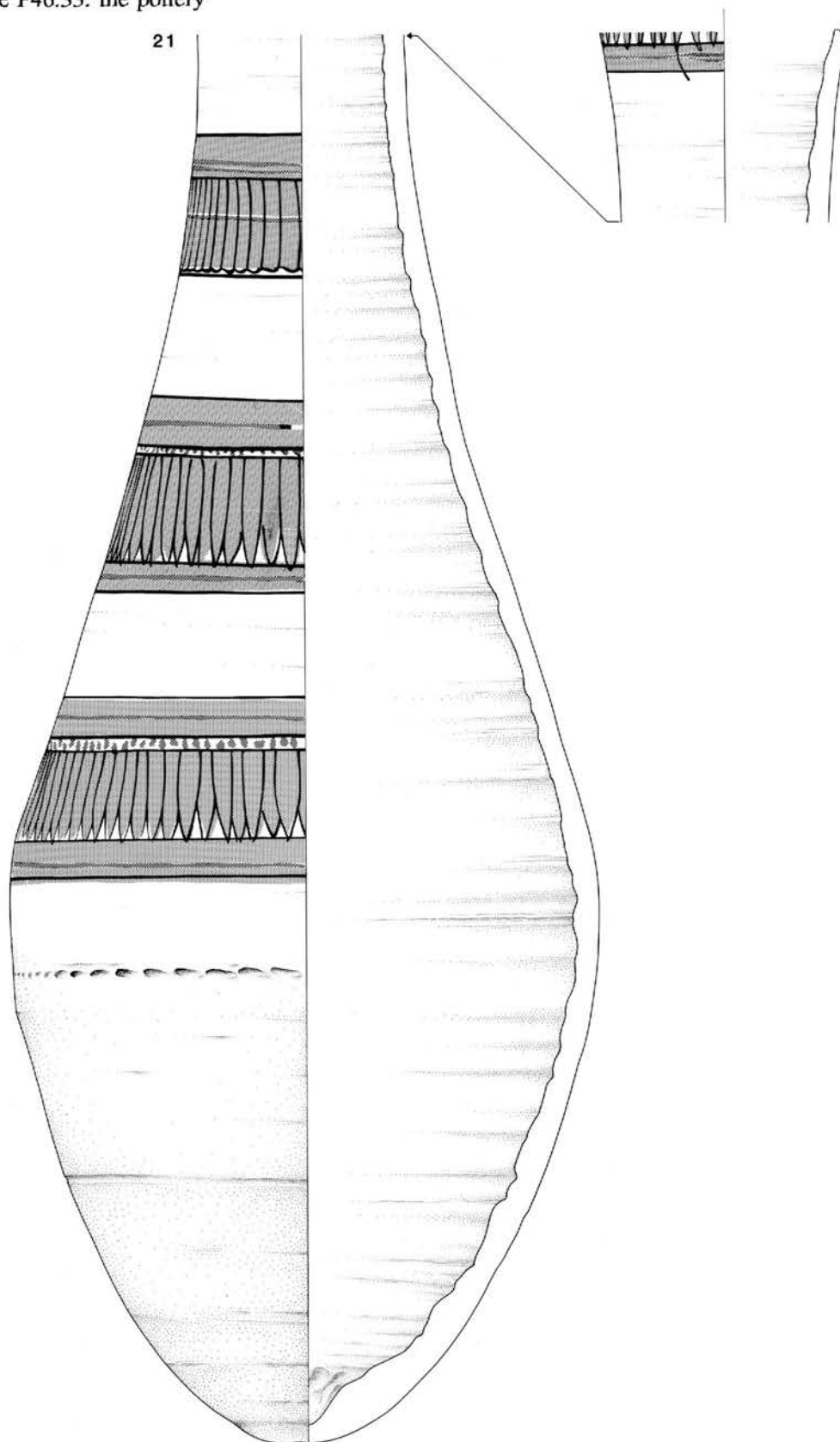


Figure 3.2. Pottery from house P46.33. Scale 1:3. Drawing by A. Boyce.

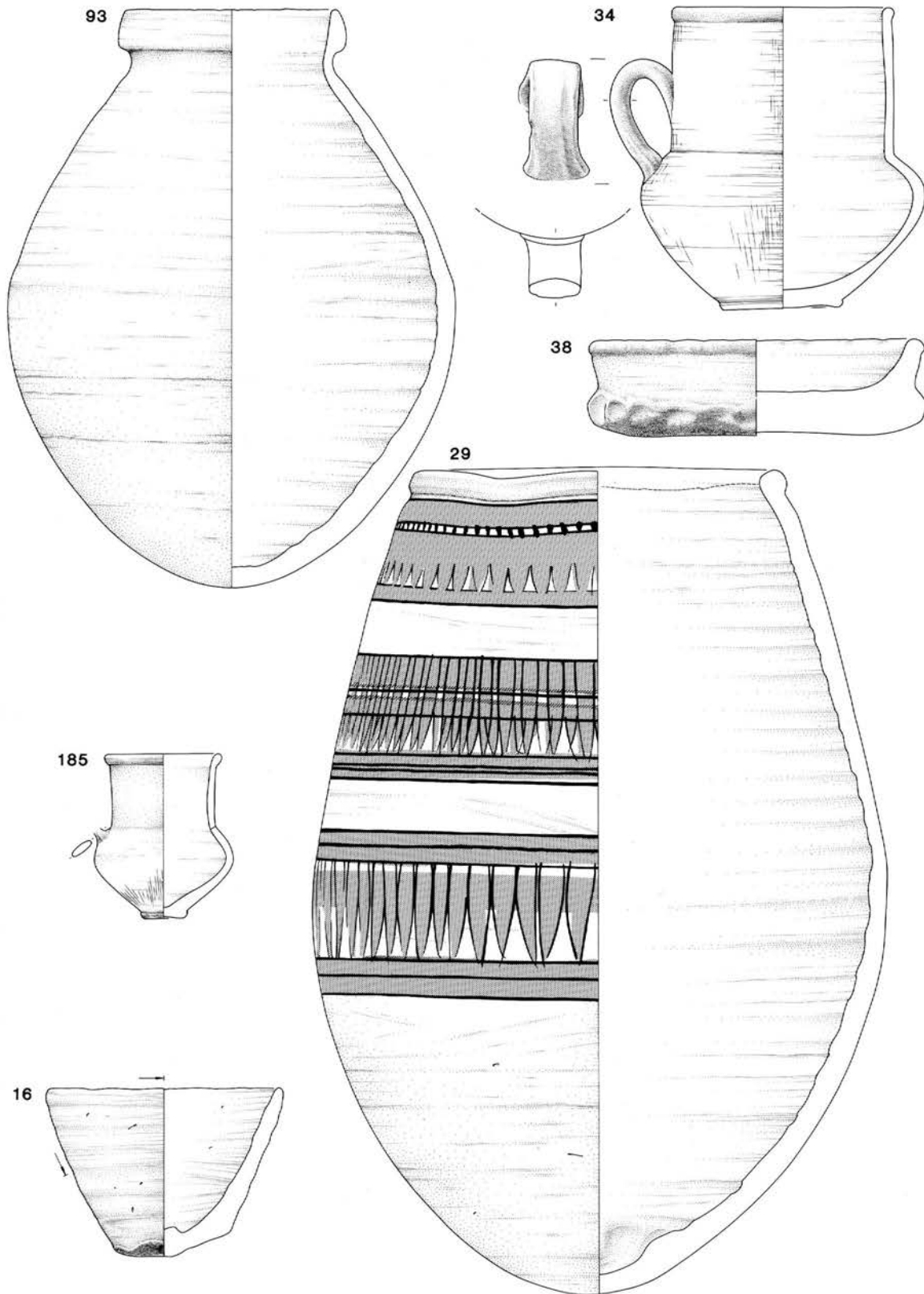


Figure 3.3. Pottery from house P46.33. Scale 1:3. Drawings by A. Boyce.

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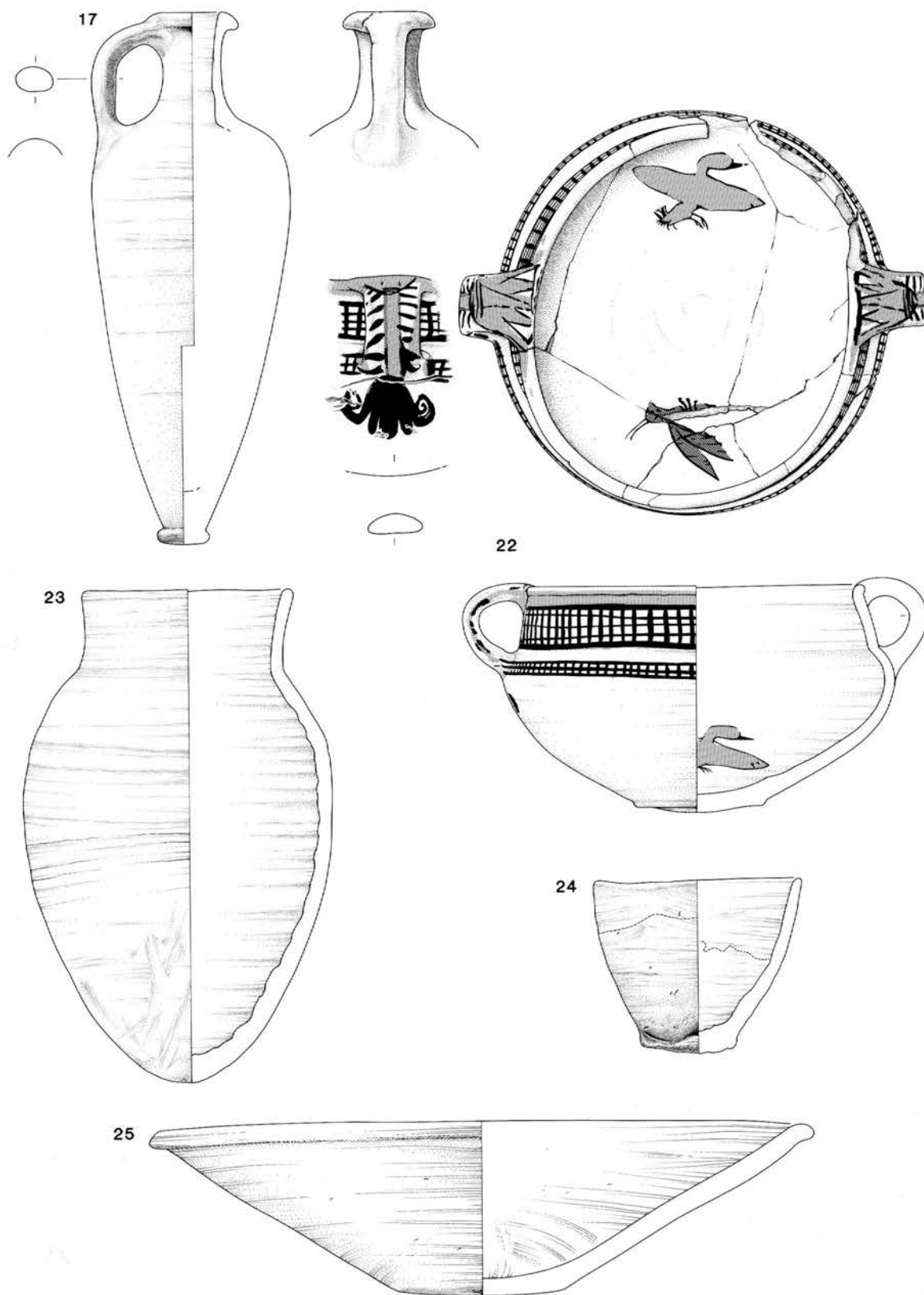


Figure 3.4. Pottery from house P46.33. Scale 1:3. Drawings by A. Boyce.

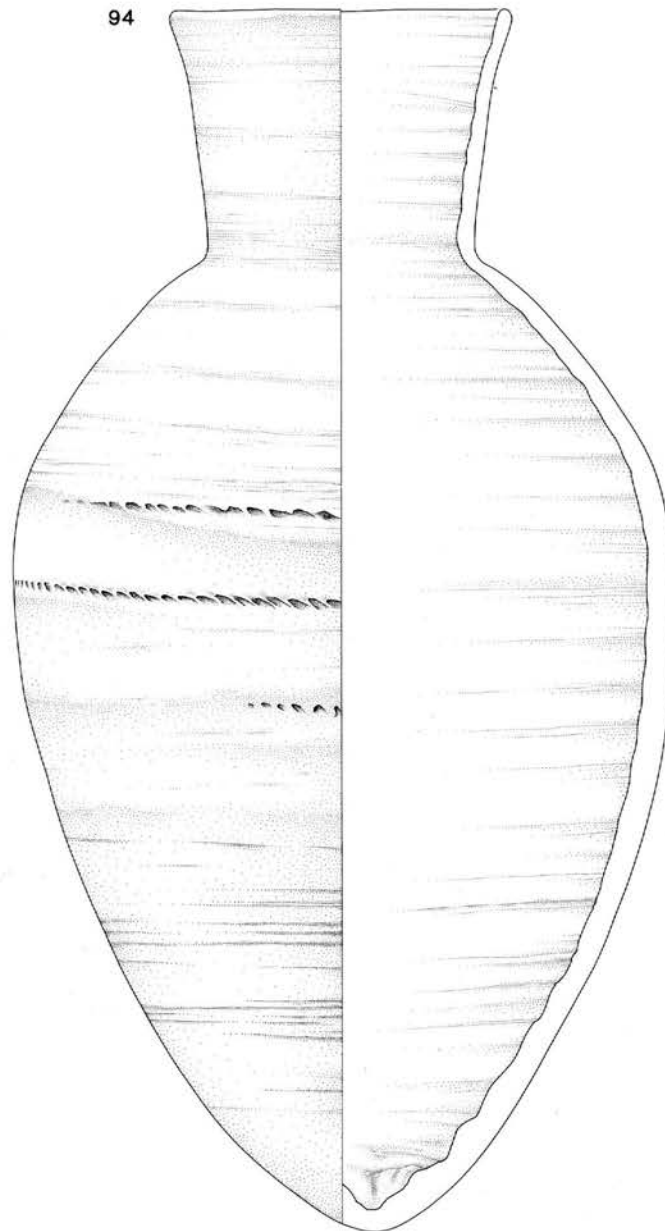


Figure 3.5. Pottery from house P46.33. Scale 1:3. Drawing by A. Boyce.