

Sanjar-Shah Excavations 2025

Michael Shenkar, Sharof Kurbanov, Firuz Aminov and Abdurahmon Pulotov

In 2025, we continued the investigations of the Palace situated in the western part of the site (Areas VII-VIII). Our main efforts were concentrated in the southwestern area of the Palace, where we conducted excavations of the area immediately to the south of the huge Rectangular Hall/Open courtyard that probably served as the Main Throne Room (Figs. 1-3). This season, Room 23, located to the north of the Rectangular Hall, was partially investigated, while Rooms 20 and 22 to the south and south-east were fully excavated (Figs. 4-6). In addition, substantial excavations were also conducted immediately to the north of the Rectangular Hall (Room 24).

This season's excavation works faced considerable difficulties because of the hardness of the soil. We have reached the western edge of the site, where bulldozers repeatedly moved and dumped soil during agricultural works of the Soviet period. The soil is exceptionally compacted, making excavation very difficult and slowing our progress significantly.

Room 20

Room 20 is rectangular in plan and oriented along the north-south axis (Fig. 7). It is situated to the south of the Rectangular Hall and to the west of Room 22. In the 2024 season, it had been excavated to a length of 3.3 m. The width of the room is 4 m. This season, the room was investigated in its entirety, revealing a total length of 10.4 m. Following the excavations, it became clear that the room functioned as a corridor, with a passage in the south leading into an as yet unexcavated room, and a passage in the north opening into a Rectangular Hall. *Sufas* run along Walls 23-24.

Wall 22 was excavated in 2024. It is preserved to a height of 0.45 m above the surface of the *sufa*. The wall is constructed of mudbrick. Its face is very poorly preserved. In some places, plaster up to 1 cm thick is preserved in the lower part adjacent to the *sufa*.

Wall 23 is preserved to a height of 0.6 m above the surface of the *sufa*. Its thickness is 1.2 m. The wall face is poorly preserved. In the south-eastern corner, traces of burning were recorded. The height of the burned area is 30 cm above the *sufa* level; the width of the burned area is 40 cm on Wall 28 and 30 cm on Wall 23.

Wall 28 is preserved to a height of 55–60 cm above the level of the *sufas*. It is built of mudbrick. In some places, plaster 1.2 cm thick is preserved. In the centre of the wall, at a distance of 0.9 m from Wall 24, there is a passage leading south into an as yet unexcavated room. The width of the passage is 1.7 m. The height of the passage jambs is 1.15 m above the floor surface. The thickness of the plaster on the passage jambs is 1.5 cm. The passage was vaulted. The beginning of the vault, that is its lower point, starts at a height of 45 cm above the floor of the room. At a height of 1.15 m, which also corresponds to the height of the wall, the projection of the vault is 10 cm. Towards the passage, the floor level slopes down by 5–7 cm.

Sufas are adjacent to Walls 23 and 24. The *sufa* along Wall 23 has a width of 1.3–1.35 m and a height of 0.5 m above the floor surface. The face of the *sufa* projects 7 cm from the eastern jamb of the passage. On the surface of the *sufa*, near the Wall 23, at a distance of 4.4 m from Wall 22, a burned area was recorded. The length of the area is 76 cm, and its width is 8 cm. The burned area runs in a straight line parallel to Wall 23 but does not extend into it; from the level of the *sufa* surface, it descends into the underlying layers. The *sufa* is abutted against Wall 23, indicating that it was constructed first, followed by the *sufa*. The surface of the *sufa* is even, relatively smooth, and covered with a yellow-coloured plaster.

It should be noted that the traces of burning recorded below the level of the *sufa* surface and not continuing into the wall face belong to an earlier stratigraphic phase. These traces were

sealed during the construction of the *sufa*. Similar burn marks recorded in the thresholds of the northern passage indicate their stratigraphic contemporaneity and most probably reflect a single fire-destruction event of the lower construction phase.

The *sufa* along Wall 24 has a width of 1.1 m and a height of 0.5 m. The edges of the *sufa* are rounded, and it has a connection with both the wall and the floor. The *sufa* projects 7–8 cm from the face of the western jamb of the passage. The surface of the *sufa* is even, relatively smooth, and coated with yellow plaster.

The floor of the room is even and smooth, and has a plaster layer 1 cm thick. The distance between the eastern and western *sufas* is 1.35–1.45 m. The fill of the room consisted of dense layers of clay.

The ceramic assemblage from the fill of Room 20 (Fig. 17) includes fragments of bowls (1–2), jugs (3–7, 9), water-carrying jugs (8, 10–11), a wall fragment of a mug (12), ceramic fragments with ornamentation (13–14), and a fragment of a *khum* (15). The vessels are made of clay with a sandy temper; the colour of the fabric ranges from greyish-brown to reddish-ochre. The bowls are represented by simple forms with smoothly profiled rims, while the jugs include vessels with various degrees of body elongation and shaped rims. The ornamented fragments bear shallow linear or incised decoration. The *khum* fragment belongs to a large storage vessel with thick walls. The bowl and a series of jugs date to the third quarter of the eighth century (Fig. 17: 1, 3, 5–7, 9), whereas another group of jugs, water-carrying vessels, vessel walls, and *khums* belongs to the fourth quarter of the eighth century (Fig. 17: 2, 4, 8, 10–15).

Room 22

The room is located to the south of the Rectangular Hall and to the east of Room 20. It is rectangular in plan and oriented along the north–south axis. The dimensions of the room are

10.9 m along the north–south axis and 7.6–7.9 m along the west–east axis (Fig. 8). *Sufas* run along all the walls, and a hearth is attached to Wall 26.

The room has a complex stratigraphy with several phases. At present, four such phases have been identified, although the cultural layers continue further down. The walls themselves were not rebuilt; however, the plaster on their surfaces belongs to different periods, and the constructions abutting them, as well as the floor levels, can be attributed to different phases. In practice, the room has been investigated mainly with regard to three phases. The fourth phase has so far been recorded only in a sounding in the north-eastern corner of the room. The walls of the room are built of mudbrick. Since the cultural layer continues below, the phases are described from top to bottom.

First phase

A surface covered the entire area of the room. It was recorded at the same level as the tops of the walls. During the construction of this surface, the passage located at the northern end of Wall 26 was blocked.

Second phase

All earlier walls were reused during this period. This phase also includes the upper plaster layer of the walls, *sufas* constructed on the surfaces of earlier *sufas*, the hearth, and the passage in Wall 26. Wall 22 is preserved to a height of 30 cm above the surface of the *sufa* of this period. The wall surface has two layers of plaster. The upper layer, 1.5 cm thick, belongs to this period. The wall thickness is 1.7 m. Along the wall there is a *sufa* 6.2 m long, 35 cm high, and 1.3 m wide. The edge of the *sufa* is built of a single course of bricks, while the interior is filled with earth and small stones. The surface of the *sufa* is even and smooth. It was constructed on the surface of an earlier *sufa*. The eastern edge of the *sufa* projects by 40

cm, thereby forming a vestibule wall 25 cm thick. From the east, a small wall abuts it, 27 cm thick and 1.5 m long; the height of this wall is 30 cm.

Wall 23 is preserved to a height of 35 cm above the surface of the *sufa* of this period. Its thickness is 1.2 m. The wall surface has two layers of plaster, the upper of which belongs to the phase described here. The thickness of this plaster is 1.5 cm. Along the wall, there is a *sufa* 35 cm high above the floor level of this period. The width of the *sufa* is 1.35 m. In the middle of the *sufa* there is a projection 35 cm thick. The total width of the *sufa* together with the projection is 1.7 m. The length of the projection is 3.35 m. The northern edge of the projection is located 2.45 m south of Wall 22. The edge of the *sufa* is constructed of a single course of mud-brick, with the interior filled with earth. The surface of the *sufa* is smooth.

Wall 28 is preserved to a height of 40 cm above the surface of the *sufa*. It has been excavated only for this phase. Like the previously described walls, Wall 28 also has two layers of plaster. The upper plaster layer, 1.5 cm thick, belongs to the third phase. Along the wall there is a *sufa* 1.3 m wide and 40 cm high. The edges of the *sufa* are rounded; the surface is even and smooth, and has a yellow-coloured layer of plaster. The edge of the *sufa* is built of a single course of mud-brick. The western edge of the *sufa*, 0.9 m long, projects 35 cm from the wall face.

The height of Wall 26 above the surface of the second floor is 60 cm. At the northern end of the wall, there is a passage (Fig. 9). As noted above, this passage was blocked in the fourth period of the room's use. We removed the blockage of the passage, and its width was found to be 1.35 m. The height of the passage jambs is 65 cm above the floor surface of the earlier (third) period. The thickness of the wall at the passage is 1.2 m. At the bottom of the passage jambs, on the side of Room 23, there are recesses for the threshold beam. In the southern jamb, the recess is 30 cm high, 35 cm wide, and 20 cm deep. The recess in the northern jamb of the passage is 20 cm high, 25 cm wide, and 10 cm deep. To the south of the southern

jamb of the passage, over a length of 2.2 m, the wall has two layers of plaster. The upper layer, belonging to the phase described here, is 1 cm thick. In this part of the wall, there is a narrow *sufa*, 40 cm wide and 30 cm high above the floor surface of the third period. The edges of the *sufa* are rounded, and the surface has a smooth layer of plaster. This *sufa* was also used in the earlier period.

At a distance of 4 m south of Wall 22, the face of Wall 26 projects by 30 cm. In this part of the wall, a hearth was constructed (Fig. 10). The hearth is attached to Wall 26, at a distance of 4.8 m south of Wall 22. The width of the internal chamber of the hearth is 0.85 m, and the height of its wall is 65 cm. As a result of intensive use, the hearth has traces of intense burning. In the lower part, to a height of 25 cm, plaster up to 1 cm thick is preserved on the surface. The northern wall of the hearth projects 17 cm from the wall face and has a thickness of 26 cm. The southern wall of the hearth also projects 17 cm and has a thickness of 28 cm. The preserved height of the northern hearth wall is 25 cm, and that of the southern wall is 40 cm above the surface of the hearth podium. This podium functioned during the third period. In the second phase described here, it was levelled to match the floor. In front of the hearth, on the surface of the podium, a burned area was uncovered, equal in width to the hearth and 0.8 m in length. Evidently, the hearth had an enclosure, which is partly preserved parallel to Wall 26 of the hearth over a length of 37 cm. The thickness of this enclosure is 10 cm, and its height is 5 cm. Its edges are rounded.

Small pedestals are attached to both sides of the hearth walls. The northern pedestal is 45 cm long, 35 cm wide, and 30 cm high. The southern pedestal is 45 cm long, 35 cm wide, and 20 cm high. The pedestals project 5 cm from the face of the northern wall of the hearth. The edges of the pedestals are rounded and connected to the hearth podium. At a distance of 30 cm south of the southern pedestal, there is a *sufa* extending 3.8 m to Wall 28. The width of the *sufa* is 1.1–1.2 m, and its height is 40 cm above the floor of the third period. The surface of

the *sufa* is even and smooth, with rounded edges, and is connected to the hearth podium and to the floor of the third period. The north-western corner of this *sufa* is slightly damaged. The edge of the *sufa* is constructed of a single course of mud-brick, while the interior is filled with earth, gravel, and small-sized stones. The surface is smoothed with a plaster layer. Between the *sufa* and the southern pedestal of the hearth, there is a space 28 cm wide and 37 cm deep. In this area, the faces of the *sufa*, the pedestal, and the Wall 26 have traces of soot.

The floor of this period lies 15 cm above the floor of the third period. Its surface is even and smooth and has a plaster layer.

Third phase.

This phase includes the wall paintings, the earlier *sufas*, as well as the passage in the north-eastern corner and the hearth structure, which continued to be used in the third period. In this phase, all the walls in the room were painted. The height of each wall increased by 20 cm, since at a depth of 20 cm there is the surface of an earlier *sufa*. The painted plaster extends down to the level of this *sufa*. The thickness of the painted plaster is 2.5 cm. On Wall 26, the painted plaster reaches the hearth. The height of the *sufas* is 20 cm above the floor. In the third period, the level of the *sufas* was raised. The width of the *sufas* remained unchanged.

The podium located in front of the hearth is recorded at the level of the third floor. The height of the podium is 15 cm above the surface of the third floor; its length is 3.2 m, and its width is 2.15 m. Its surface is even and has a connection with the floor. In the north-eastern corner, there is a small space resembling a vestibule, measuring 2 m along the west–east axis and 1 m along the north–south axis. On the eastern side of this vestibule, there is a passage into Room 22, which was described above.

Fourth phase.

The next, earlier phase was recorded in a sounding laid in the vestibule, along the eastern face of the northern *sufa* and Wall 22 (Fig. 11). The dimensions of the trench are 1.1 m (west–east) × 70 cm (north–south). Within the trench, at a depth of 20 cm below the third-floor level, another floor (fourth) was recorded. The floor is even and smooth.

The fill between the third and fourth floors consists of medium-sized stones, gravel, and fragments of bricks. The same fill extends beneath the *sufa* of the third period. Therefore, it is clear that the *sufa* was constructed on the surface of the third floor. Wall 22 in this area has a thin layer of plaster, 0.3–0.5 cm thick. It seems to continue beyond the level of the fourth floor. The excavations here will be continued in the next season.

Thus, it seems that the walls of Room 22 were originally constructed during the first period of the existence of the Palace complex. At the very least, they predate all the rebuilding phases described above and functioned throughout all periods of the room's existence.

The ceramic material from Room 22 (Figs. 18–21) is represented by assemblages of different dates, recorded within distinct stratigraphic layers. On the surface of the upper floor (that is, the first phase), fragments of wide-mouthed vessels were noted (Fig. 18: 1–2). In the fill of the second floor (second phase), a bowl (Fig. 19: 1), jugs (2, 4), wide-mouthed vessels (3, 5–6), a *khum* wall fragment (7), and a jug base (8) were identified. The bowl and vessels date to the third quarter of the eighth century (Fig. 19: 1–5), whereas the wide-mouthed vessel, the *khum* wall fragment, and the base belong to the second half of the eighth century (Fig. 19: 6–8). In the fill of the third floor (third phase), jugs (Fig. 20: 1, 3), a wide-mouthed vessel (Fig. 20: 2), and a jug wall fragment with incised ornament in the form of a star (Fig. 20: 4) were recovered. One of the jugs can be dated to the late eighth – early ninth century (Fig. 20: 1). On the surface of the earlier *sufa* (attributed to the third phase), a ceramic bowl was found (Fig. 21).

On the basis of the finds and by comparison with the cultural layers of adjacent rooms, the upper (first) floor of the room can be dated to the ninth century. The second and third phases, judging by the ceramic finds, represent a short interval of rebuilding and are dated to the period from 770 to the end of the eighth century. In addition, this date is supported by analogous finds from Room 8, which was excavated at the level of the third floor of Room 22. These include traces of wall painting on the southern part of the western wall of Room 8 and a Bukhārkhudāt coin of al-Mahdī found on the floor between the passages into Room 8 (Area VII) and Room 19 (Area VIII). It should also be noted that it is not coincidental that at this period, during the construction of Room 8, Area VII, the entrance into the large hall of the first period was blocked (specifically, the passage of the “Great Square Hall”), which indicates a reorganisation of the planning structure of the complex.

Wall paintings

The paintings are preserved only on Walls 22 and 23, and are in a very poor state of preservation (Fig. 12). On Wall 22, extending onto Wall 23, the lower part of the painted decoration has survived. It consists of a floral frieze with curling vegetal tendrils framed by the typical Sogdian ‘rows of pearls’. The background of the composition is red.

The subject of the preserved paintings creates the impression of a procession of various animals moving in the eastern direction towards Wall 26. The animal figures overlap one another, indicating that the original composition was complex and included a large number of figures. An area without painted imagery is preserved only in the north-western corner, while the remainder of the surface is densely filled.

In the western part of Wall 22, the best-preserved figure appears to represent a black donkey carrying an object on its back (Fig. 13). Two additional donkey figures seem to be depicted nearby. Other animal legs are preserved only fragmentarily; they may belong to

horses, while another leg may be a paw, possibly of a large feline. Closer to the central part of the wall, a series of parallel lines is visible, forming what appears to be a pyramidal structure, perhaps representing some building.

The depiction of animals is one of the common themes in Sogdian art. The floral ornament, the border of pearls, and the style and technique of execution are characteristic of Panjikent art of the eighth century. However, the attribution of this painting to a period after 770 renders it unique, as no wall paintings of this date are known from Panjikent, which was abandoned by that time. It thus appears that this richly decorated reception hall continued the tradition of Sogdian art beyond the abandonment of Panjikent.

Room 23

This room is situated to the north of the Rectangular Hall. Initially, the face of Wall 16 of the Rectangular Hall was cleared from the outside (northern) side (Fig. 14). It was established that it has a thickness of 1.1 m. Along this wall, an excavation trench was laid, measuring 15.4 m in length along the west–east axis and 2.5–2.75 m in width. To the east, a section was left.

Wall 16 was uncovered to a height of 20–30 cm. At a distance of 3.3 m from Wall 12, a plaster layer prepared for painting was found; its thickness is 1 cm, with a further plaster layer of 1 cm thickness beneath it. The preserved length of the plastered area is 1 m, and its height is 30 cm. At a depth of 20 cm below the surface of Wall 16, an abutting wall, Wall 27, belonging to the second period, was identified. The preserved height of this wall is 0.7 m. Over a length of 6.8 m west of the eastern edge of the section, the later southern wall has a thickness of 1.15 m. Further west, this wall projects to the north, and its thickness increases to 1.4 m at the top and 1.9 m at the base. The face of the wall is heavily eroded and widens towards the bottom. At a distance of 9.4 m west of the eastern section, an ancient pit was recorded in the later wall,

with a diameter of 65 cm. Burned wooden fragments were found inside the pit; as a result, the excavation of the pit was suspended until the next season.

Wall 29, with a thickness of 1.4–1.6 m, is also a later addition. It was excavated over a length of 50–30 cm. The wall simultaneously functioned as the blocking of a passage into the room. The interior of the room was excavated to a width of 50 cm in the western part and 1.35 m in the eastern part. At a depth of 70 cm below the surface of Wall 27, a floor was discovered. The floor is smooth, soft, and yellow in colour. At a distance of 6.8 m from the eastern section, perpendicular to Wall 27, a small wall was discovered, with a height of 30 cm and a thickness of 60 cm. This wall extends northwards beneath the northern section and was cleared over a length of 60 cm.

The ceramic material from the fill of Room 23 of Object VIII at the Sanjar-Shah settlement (Figs. 22–24) is represented by fragments of bowls (Fig. 22: 1–5), jugs (6–16), wide-mouthed vessels (Fig. 23: 1–5), as well as individual fragments of specialised and storage forms. Among these, a fragment of a strainer (*tsedilka*) (Fig. 24: 1), jug wall fragments (Fig. 24: 2–3), a wall fragment of a handmade cauldron with a horseshoe-shaped handle (Fig. 24: 4), and fragments of *hums* (Fig. 24: 5–6) were recorded. Among these, one bowl dates to the seventh century (Fig. 22: 1), another to the first half of the eighth century (Fig. 22: 3), while additional vessel fragment belongs to the late seventh – early eighth century (Fig. 22: 7). The wide-mouthed vessels are characteristic of the third and fourth quarters of the eighth century (Fig. 23: 1–5) The vessels are made of clay with sandy and fine crushed-stone temper; in some cases, the surface is smoothed. The colour of the fabric ranges from grey and greyish-brown to ochre-reddish tones; wall thickness varies, and the degree of preservation of the fragments is uneven. There were a few finds from this room as well as from Room 22 (Fig. 16).

Room 24

To the east of Room 22, at the level of the upper surface of Wall 26, a platform measuring 10 m (north–south) × 4 m (west–east) was cleared; on its surface, wall lines were visible (Fig. 15). On the surface of this area, at a distance of 1 m from its northern edge, a pit was excavated with a diameter of 40 cm and a depth of 20 cm. At a distance of 4 m south of the first pit, a second pit was found. The diameter of the second pit is 60 cm and its depth is 30 cm.

It seems that another room–corridor, similar in type to Room 20, is located here. Excavation of this part of the site will be continued in the next season.

The ceramic material from Room 24 is represented by fragments recorded within two contexts. In the fill of the upper surface (Fig. 25), a bowl (1), a jug (2), a vessel of indeterminate form (3), and a *khum* fragment (4) were found. In the fill of Pit 1 (Fig. 26), fragments of mugs (1–2) and a bowl (3) were identified. The mugs can be dated to the first quarter of the 8th century. Ceramics from the surface of Wall 26 include a jug (Fig. 27: 1) from the second quarter of the 8th century and wide-mouthed vessels characteristic of the third quarter of the eighth century (Fig. 25: 1–5). The vessels are made of clay with a sandy temper; the colour of the clay ranges from greyish-brown to ochre.

Conclusions and further prospects

The most significant results of this season were obtained during the excavations of Room 22, which proved to be a Reception Hall, originally adorned with figural paintings. The importance of this discovery, however, lies in the comparatively late date of the room. Room 22 is clearly later than the Palace and belongs to the Second phase (2a). It now seems that we have a second, later Palace of the Second stage, which we had not previously recognised. The Second stage has always been understood as complex and comprising at least two subphases (2a and 2b), but it now appears that we have identified another palatial structure after the Palace of the First stage was destroyed in the 770-780s, and before the subsequent repurposing of the complex

and ‘peasant occupation’, or perhaps even contemporary with it. Phase 2a represents a period of occupation following the main Palace phase, characterised by the reuse of the walls of the earlier Palace, the construction of new walls, and the replanning of rooms. To this ‘Second palatial stage’ probably belongs the massive structure tentatively identified as a tower (Room 12), erected in the middle of the Rectangular Reception hall, as well as Room 8, which was not excavated to the bottom and may represent another Reception Hall of this second Palace.

The continuation of elite culture at Sanjar-Shah beyond the destruction of the first palace in the 770s is historically significant. It appears that another palatial building was constructed with little or no interruption, indicating that Sogdian political structures persisted in the region during the Abbasid period, even after the abandonment of Panjikent. The full historical implications of this discovery remain to be fully analysed.

For the final clarification of the planning structure of the complex and the spatial relationships between individual rooms, it appears necessary to continue excavations in the areas that have not yet been investigated, including the zone between Room 10 of Area VIII and Room 8 of Area VII, as well as to expand the excavation area in the southern part of Areas VII–VIII, encompassing the south-western sector.

To overcome the soil-related difficulties, we are considering splitting the next season into two parts and carrying out some of the most extensive and labour-intensive earthworks in March and April, when the soil is moist and easier to excavate. Our task for the next season is to focus on identifying the plan and phase of this Second palace and to continue studying the palace complex in its entirety.

Figures

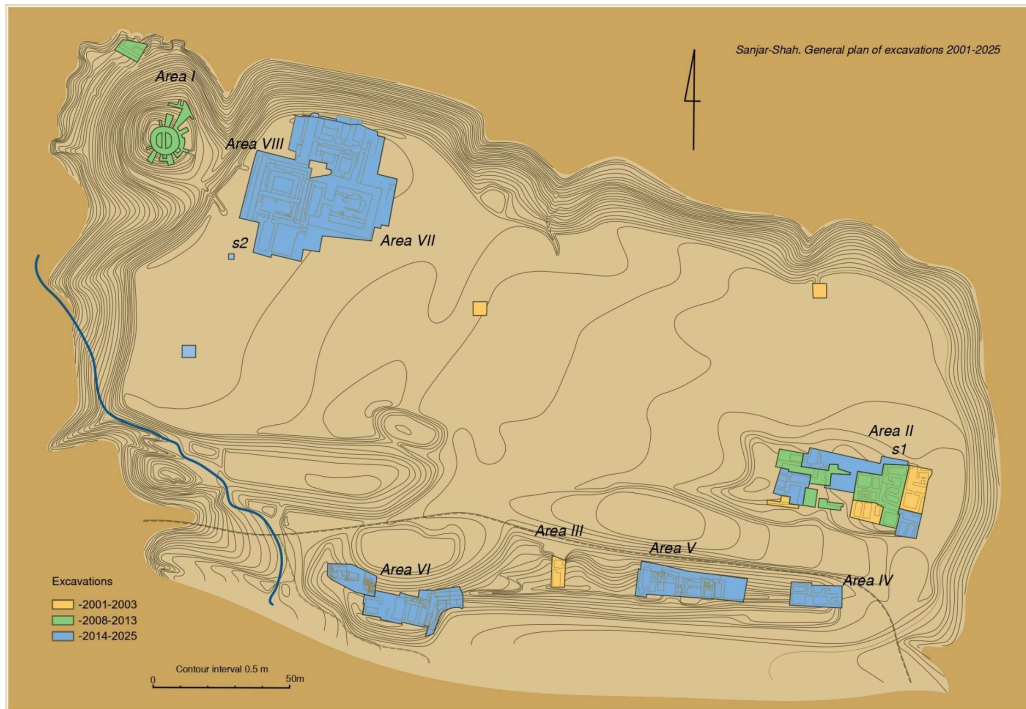


Fig. 1. Sanjar-Shah 2025. General plan of the excavated areas, drawing by Alexey Akulov and Elena Bouklaeva



Fig. 2. Plan of Areas VII-VIII, the Palace, drawing by Elena Bouklaeva



Fig. 3. Areas VII-VIII (the Palace), Excavations in Progress looking east

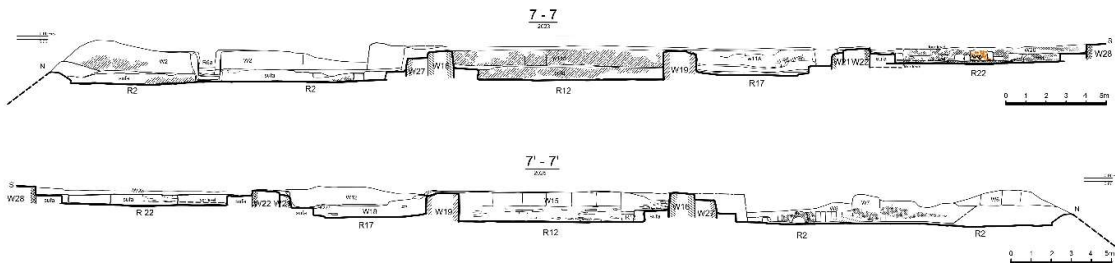


Fig. 4. Area VIII, section 7-7

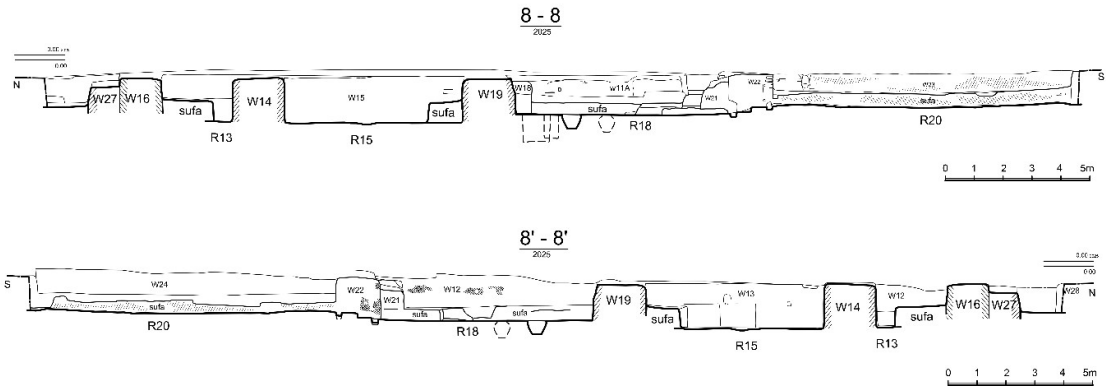


Fig. 5. Area VIII, section 8-8

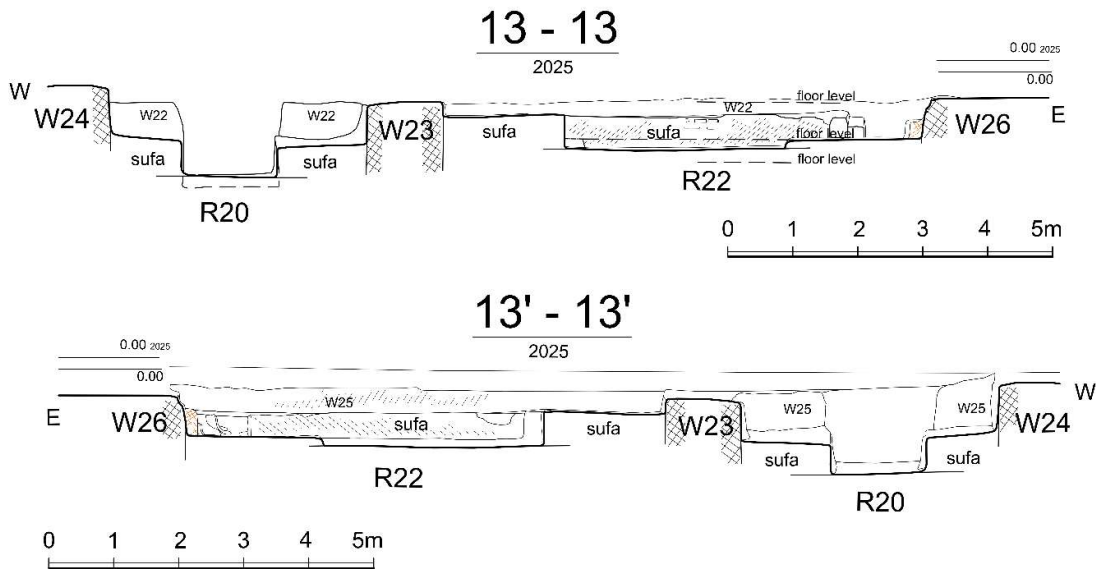


Fig. 6. Area VIII, section 13-13.



Fig. 7. Area VIII, Room 20, looking north.



Fig. 8. Area VIII, Room 22, looking north.



Fig. 9. Area VIII, Room 22, the passage in Wall 26.



Fig. 10. Area VIII, Room 22, the hearth



Fig. 11. Area VIII, Room 22, the sounding



Fig. 12. Area VIII, Room 22, Wall 22 with fragments of wall painting



Fig. 13. Area VIII, Room 22, Wall 22, a fragment with the black donkey



Fig. 14. Area VIII, Room 23, looking west



Fig. 15. Area VIII, Room 24, looking north

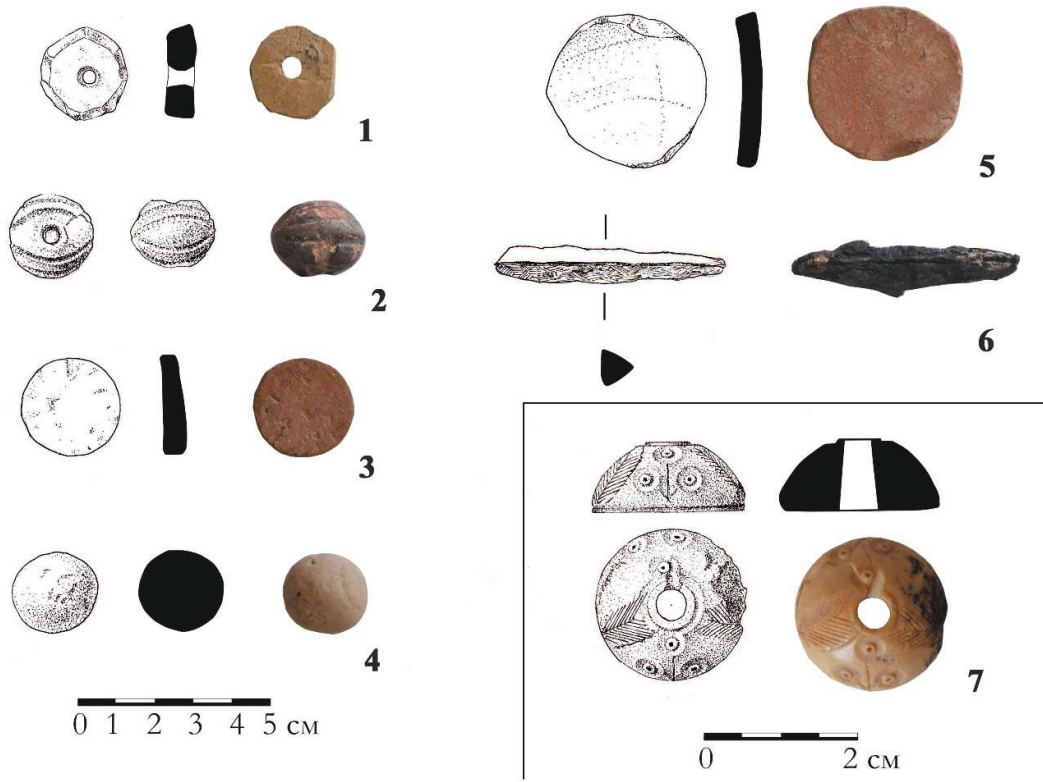


Fig. 16. Finds.

- 1) Button, Room 22 (second phase), fill on the surface of the podium, near the hearth. Dimensions: diameter 2.3 cm, thickness 0.8 cm. Description: Fired clay. Turned from the wall of a ceramic vessel. Perforated with a through-hole; 2) Bead, Room 22, fill of the second floor (second phase). Dimensions: diameter 2.1 cm, thickness 1.8 cm. Description: Fired clay. The surface is decorated with a relief ornament. Perforated with a through-hole; 3) Button blank, Room 22, fill of the second floor (second phase). Dimensions: diameter 2.5 cm, thickness 0.5 cm. Description: Fired clay. Turned from the wall of a ceramic vessel; 4) Bead blank, Room 22, on the early surface of the northern *sufa* (third phase). Dimensions: diameter 2.0 cm. Description: Clay. Circular; 5) Spindle-whorl blank, Room 23, fill of the second floor. Dimensions: diameter 4.0 cm, thickness 0.5 cm. Description: Fired clay. Turned from the wall of a ceramic vessel; 6) Arrowhead, Room 22, fill of the third floor near the northern wall (third phase). Dimensions: 6 × 1 × 0.5 cm. Description: Iron; 7) Button, Room 23, on the floor surface. Dimensions: diameter 2.0 cm, thickness 0.8 cm. Description: Bone. Decorated with compass-drawn and incised ornament. Perforated with a through-hole.

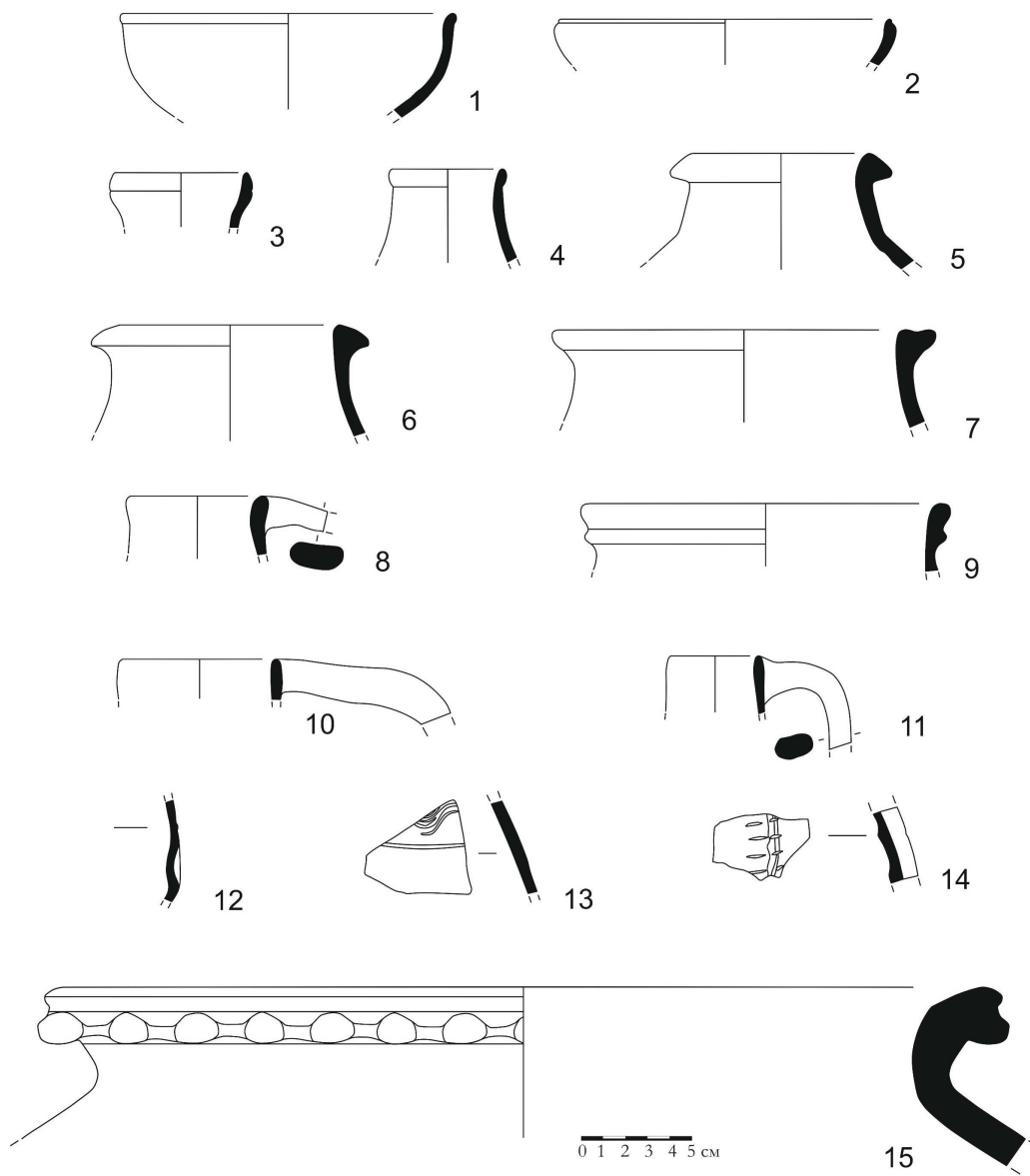


Fig. 17. Area VIII, Room 20, Ceramic assemblage

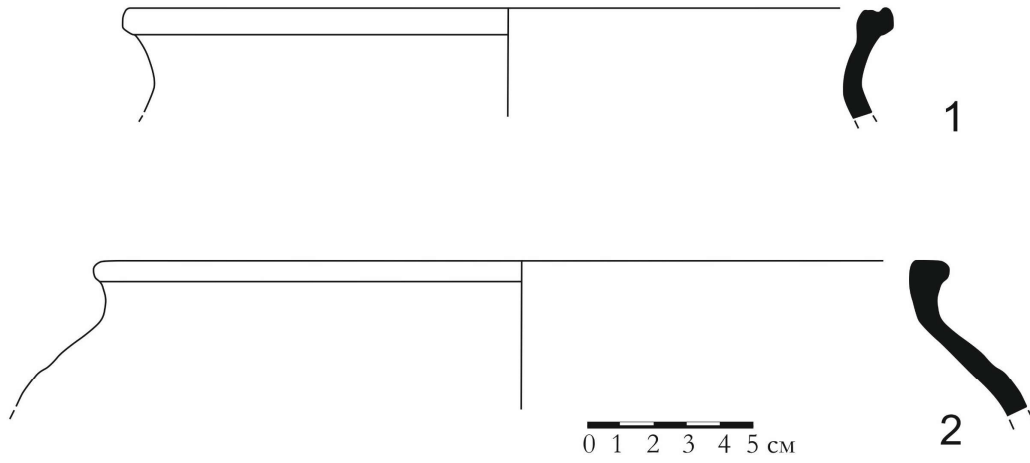


Fig. 18. Area VIII, Room 22, Ceramic assemblage

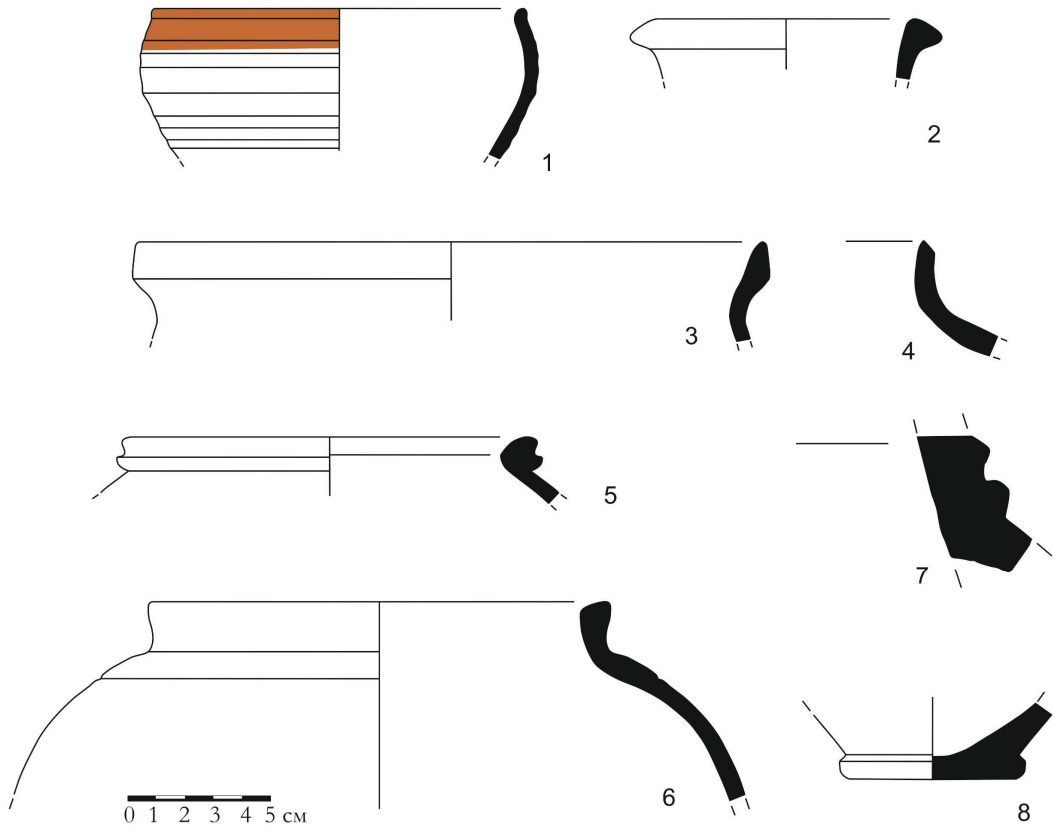


Fig. 19. Area VIII, Room 22, Ceramic assemblage

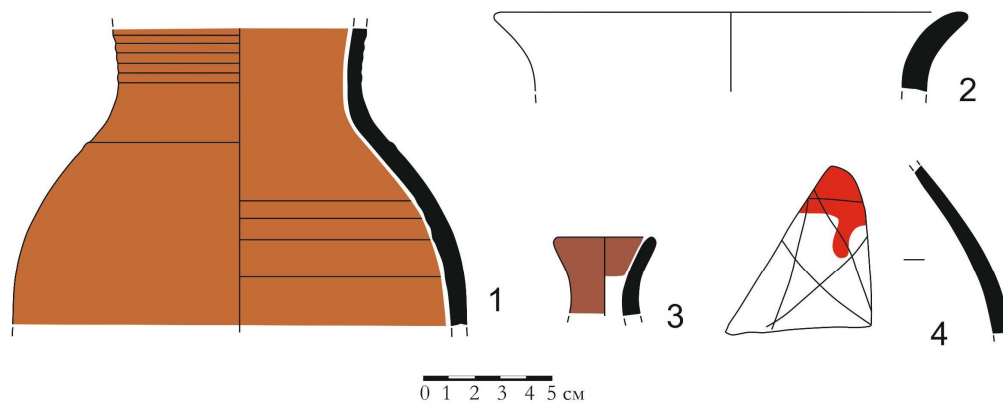


Fig. 20. Area VIII, Room 22, Ceramic assemblage

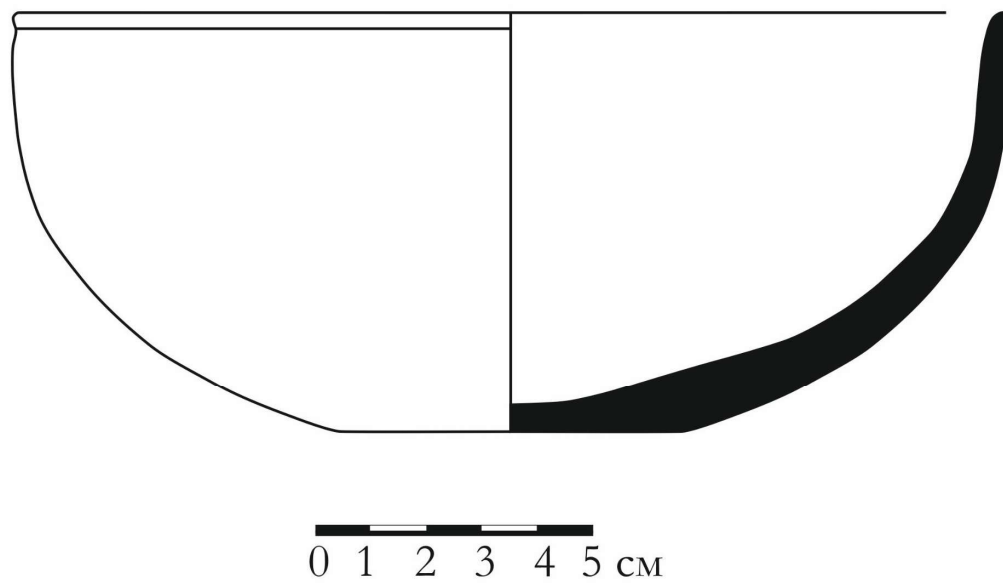


Fig. 21. Area VIII, Room 22, Ceramic assemblage

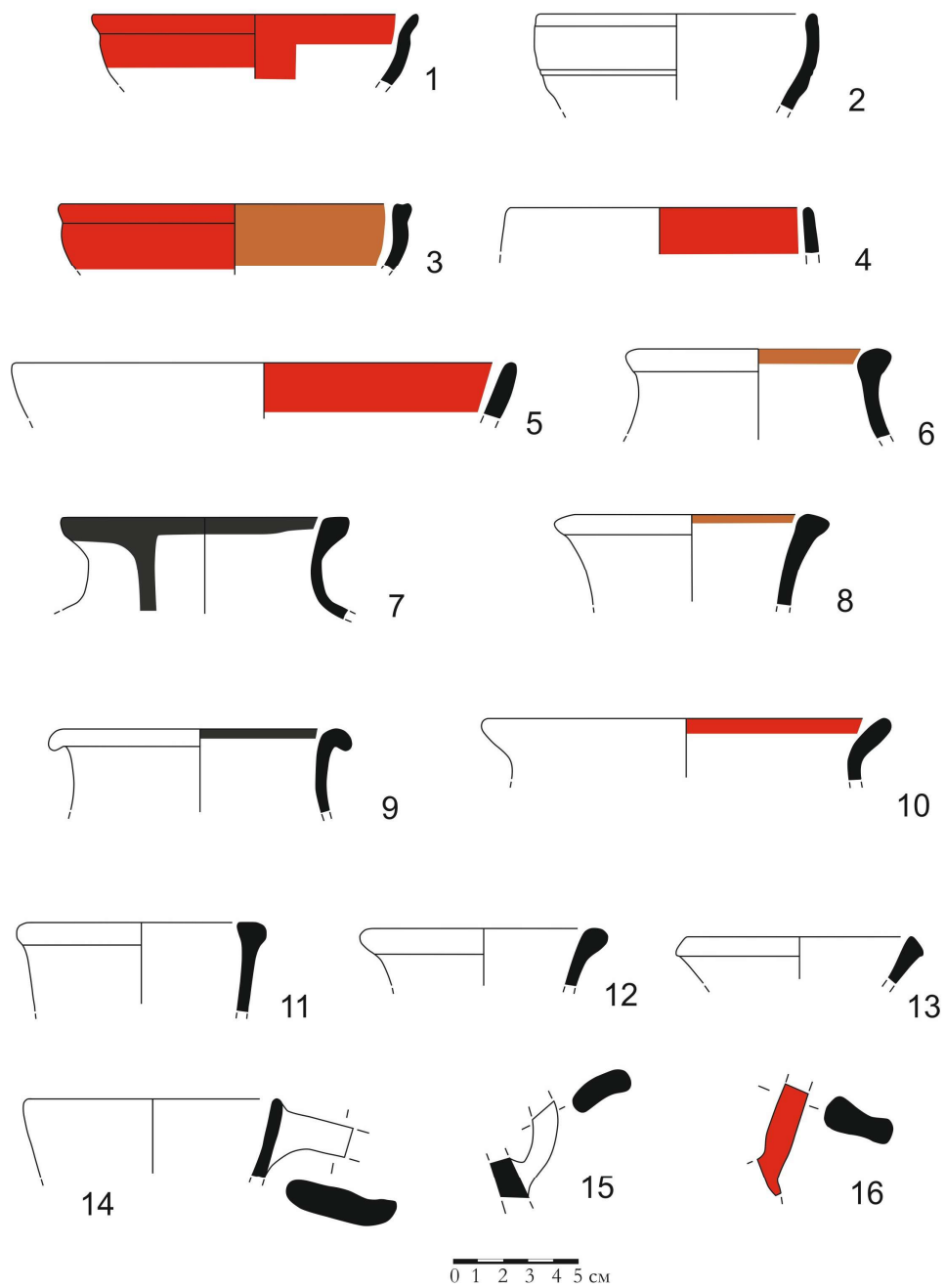


Fig. 22. Area VIII, Room 23, Ceramic assemblage

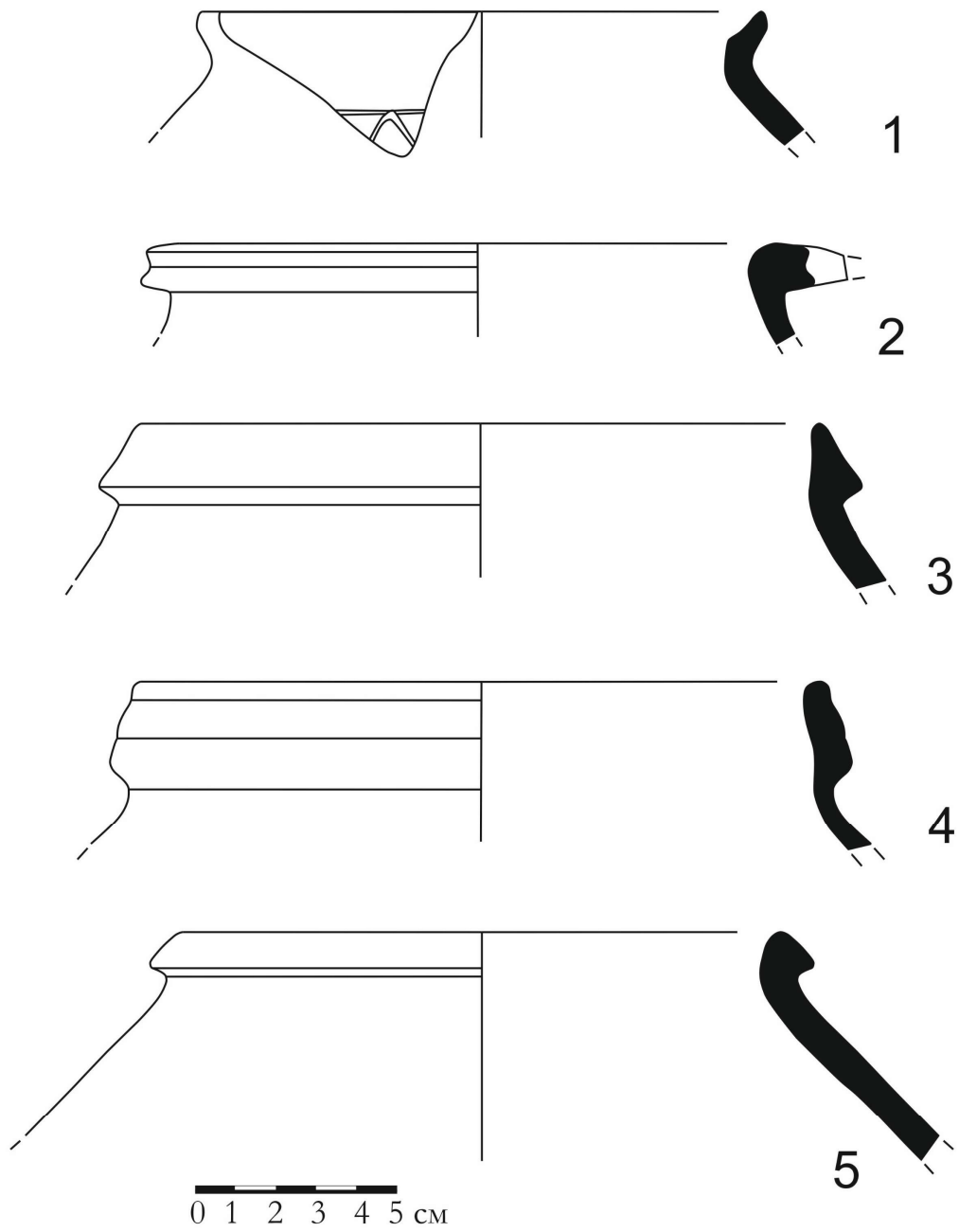


Fig. 23. Area VIII, Room 23, Ceramic assemblage

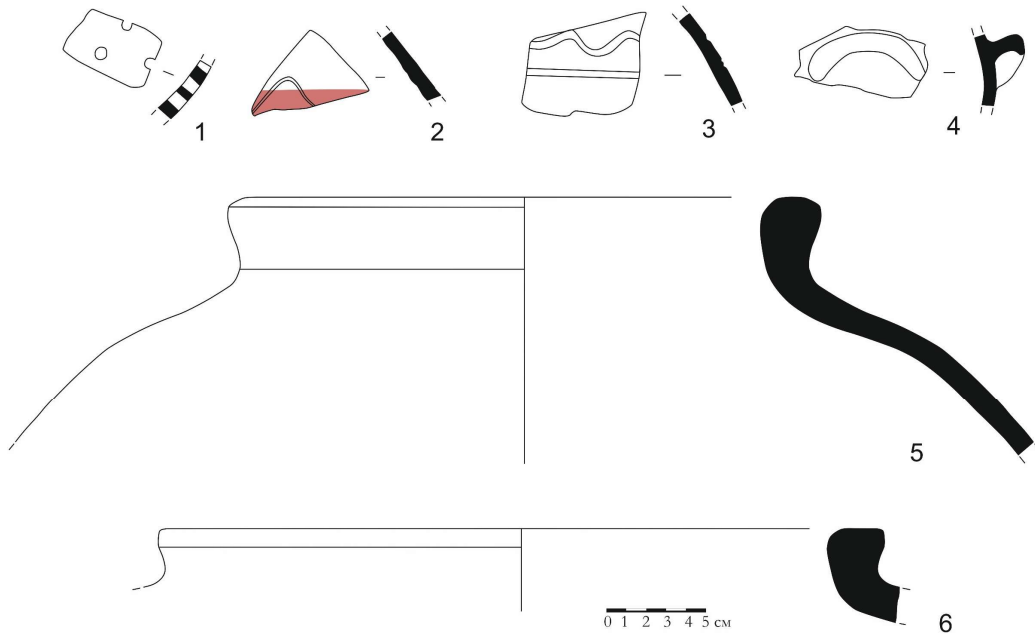


Fig. 24. Area VIII, Room 23, Ceramic assemblage

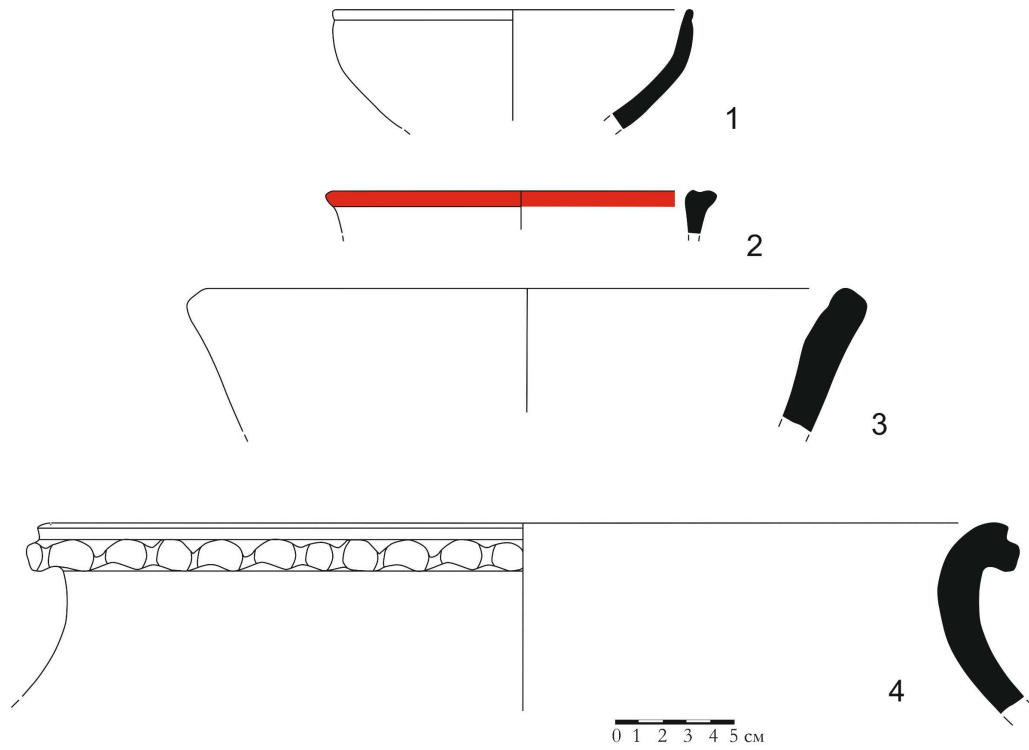


Fig. 25. Area VIII, Room 24, Ceramic assemblage

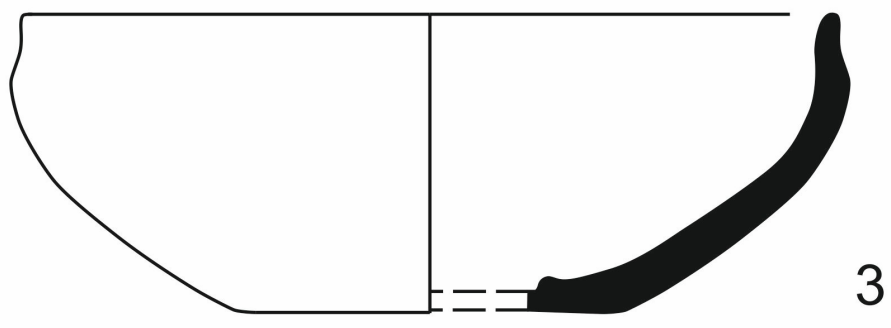
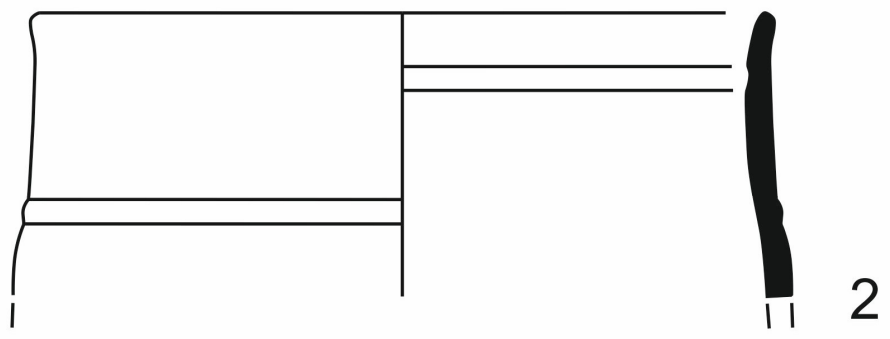
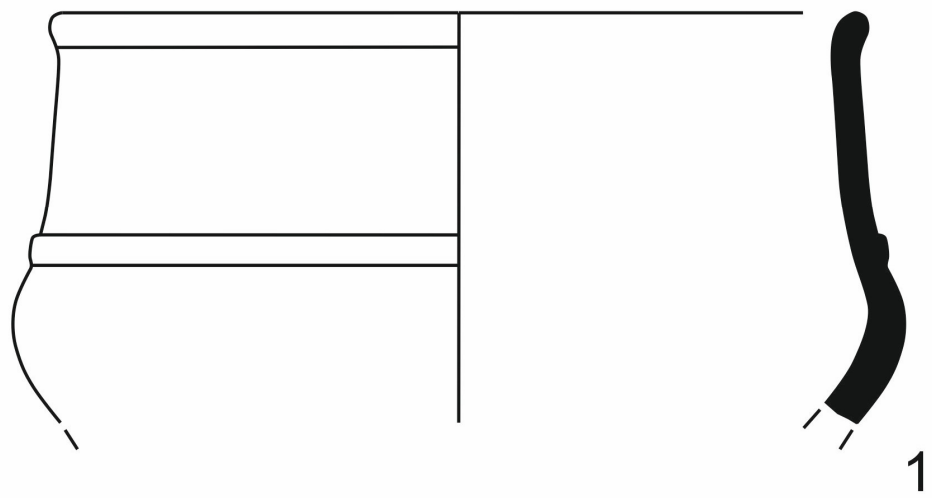


Fig. 26. Area VIII, Room 24, Ceramic assemblage

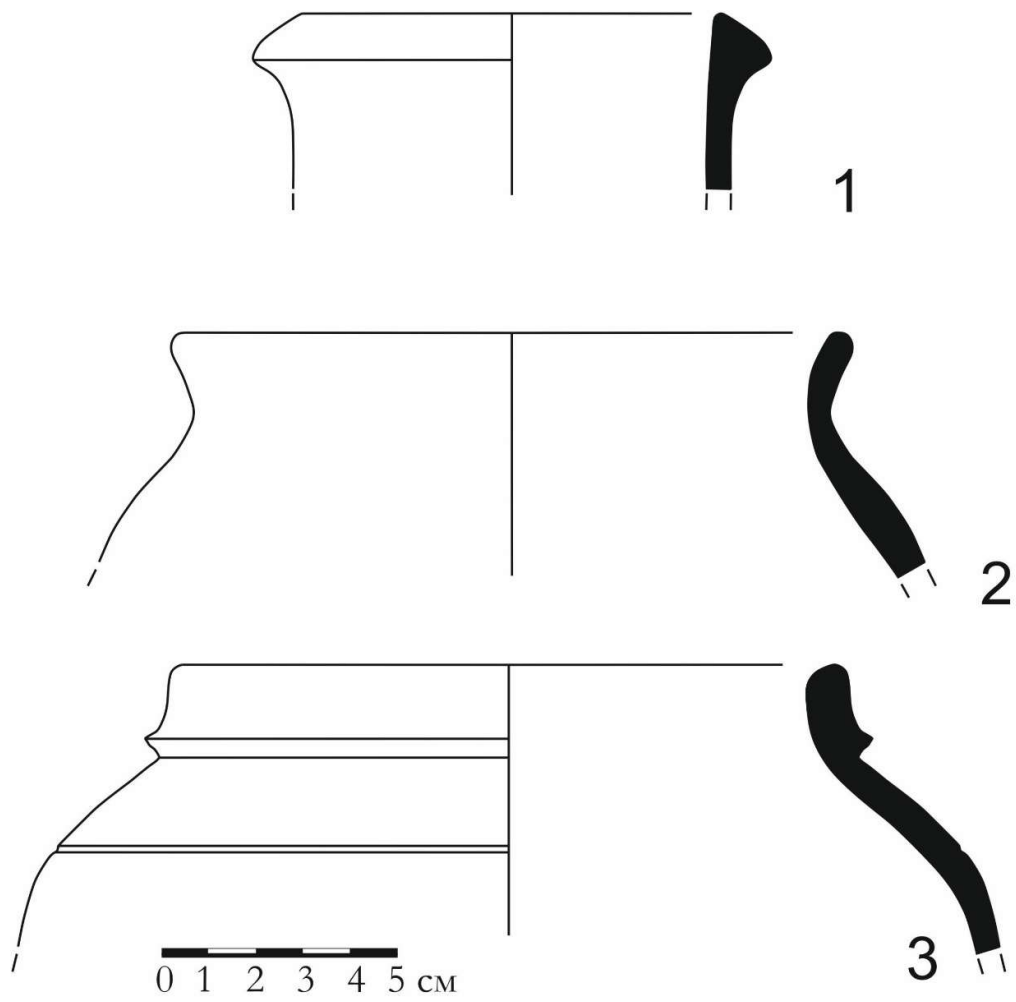


Fig. 27. Area VIII, Room 24, Ceramic assemblage