

The Late Bronze Age shipwrecks of Uluburun and Cape Gelidonya





X Cape Gelidonya
(ca. 1200 BCE)
X Uluburun
(ca. 1300 BCE)

Trajectory of the Uluburun ship



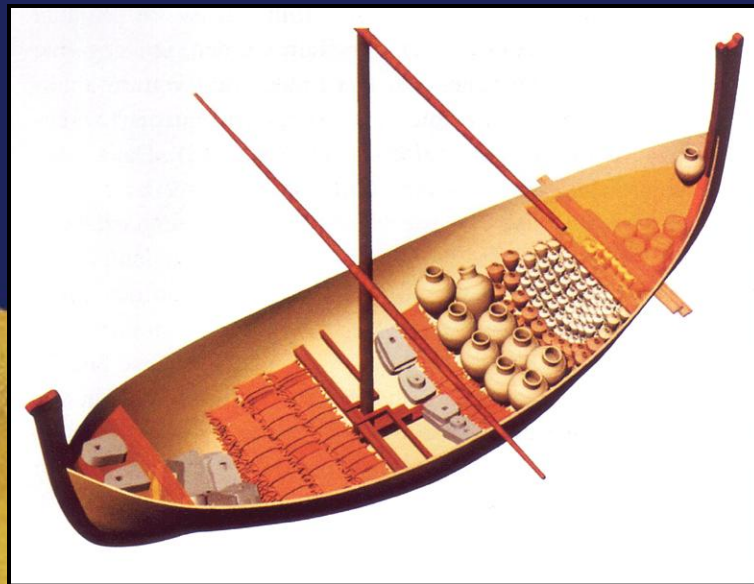
19 Aegean Stirrup Jars



149 Canaanite jars

X

Uluburun
shipwreck

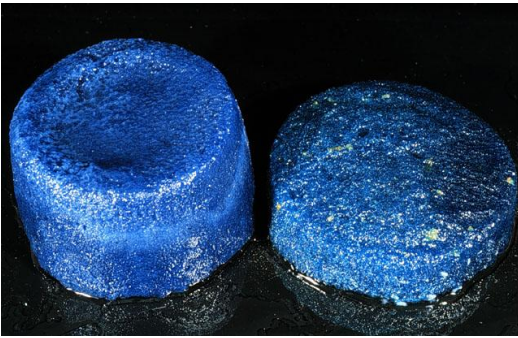
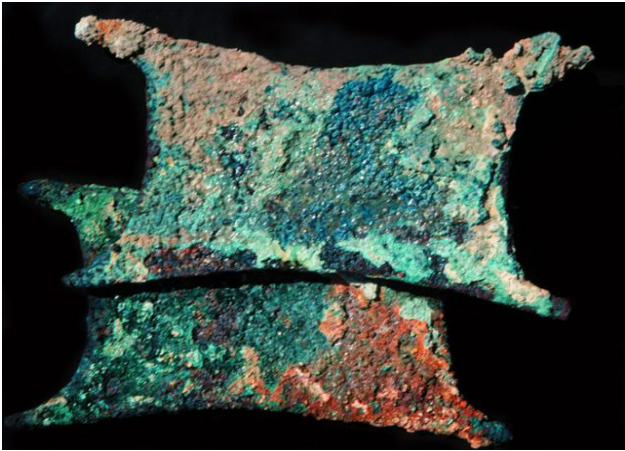


9 Cypriot pithoi



“And now my brother is going to see the things that I have dispatched to my brother. Thus I will dispatch to my brother [gifts].”

(*Amarna Letters* 24 III 61-3.)

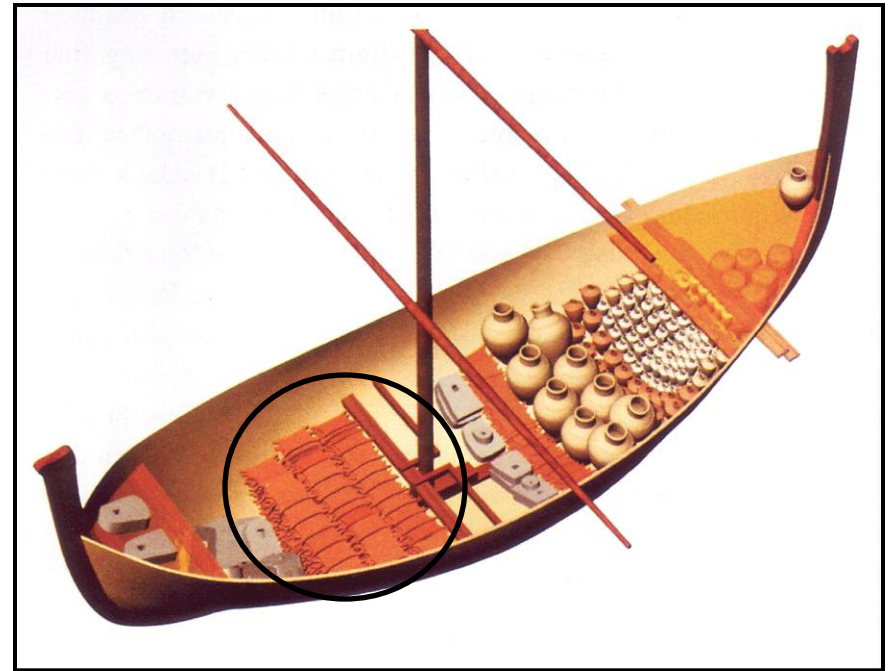


Desirable objects and materials recovered from the Uluburun shipwreck (similar objects and materials listed in gift giving inventories): this is a directional cargo

'I herewith send to you 500 talents of copper.' (*Amarna Letters* 35.10)



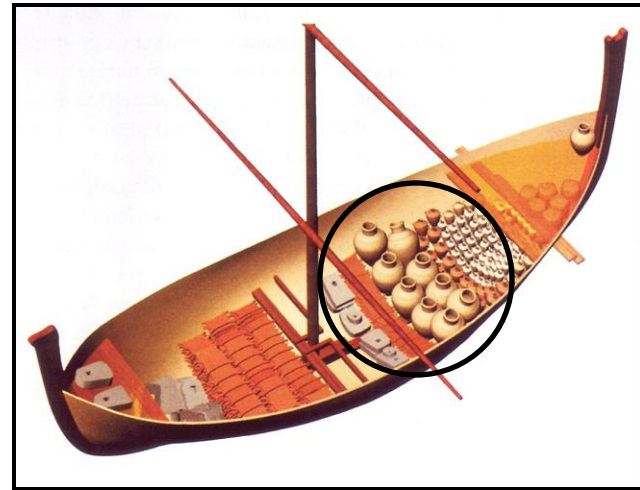
Copper oxide ingot recovered from the Uluburun shipwreck



Roughly 325 talents of copper recovered, likely part of the directional cargo

10 tons of copper and one ton of tin recovered from the Uluburun shipwreck
10:1 copper to tin ratio was the norm for bronze in the Bronze Age

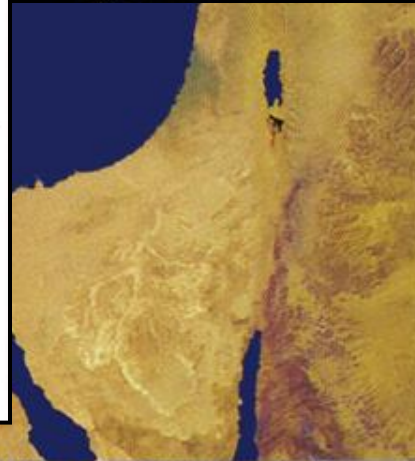
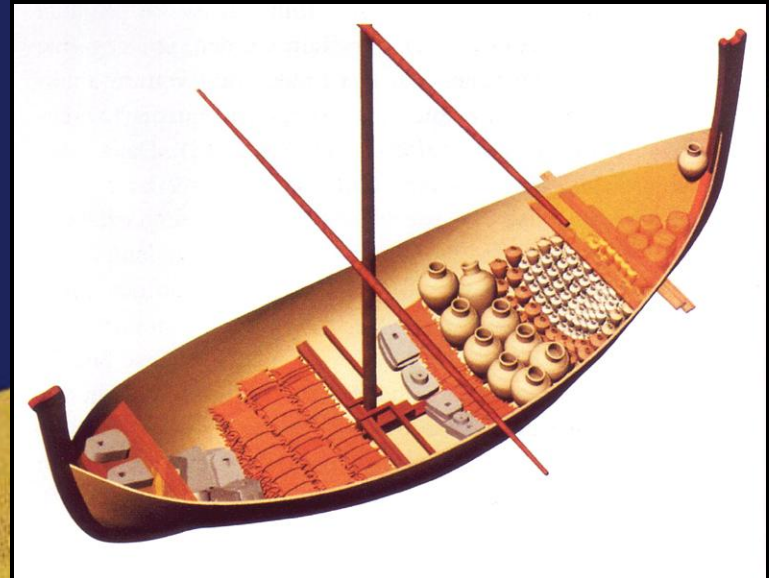
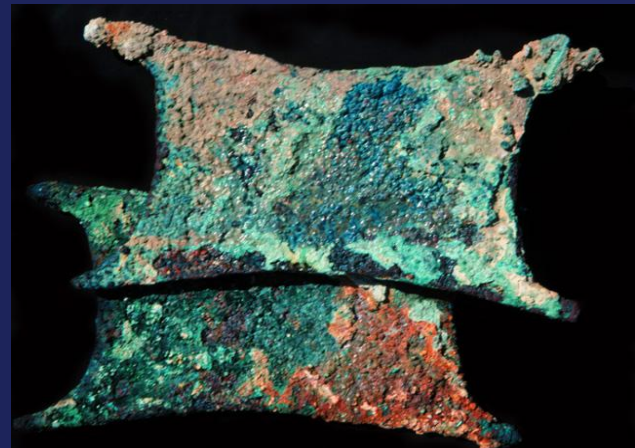
Hundreds of Cypriot bowls and lamps packed in these large Cypriot pithoi (a 'tramping' cargo)



Different kinds of destinations for the cargo of the Uluburun ship (directional on the left and tramping on the right)



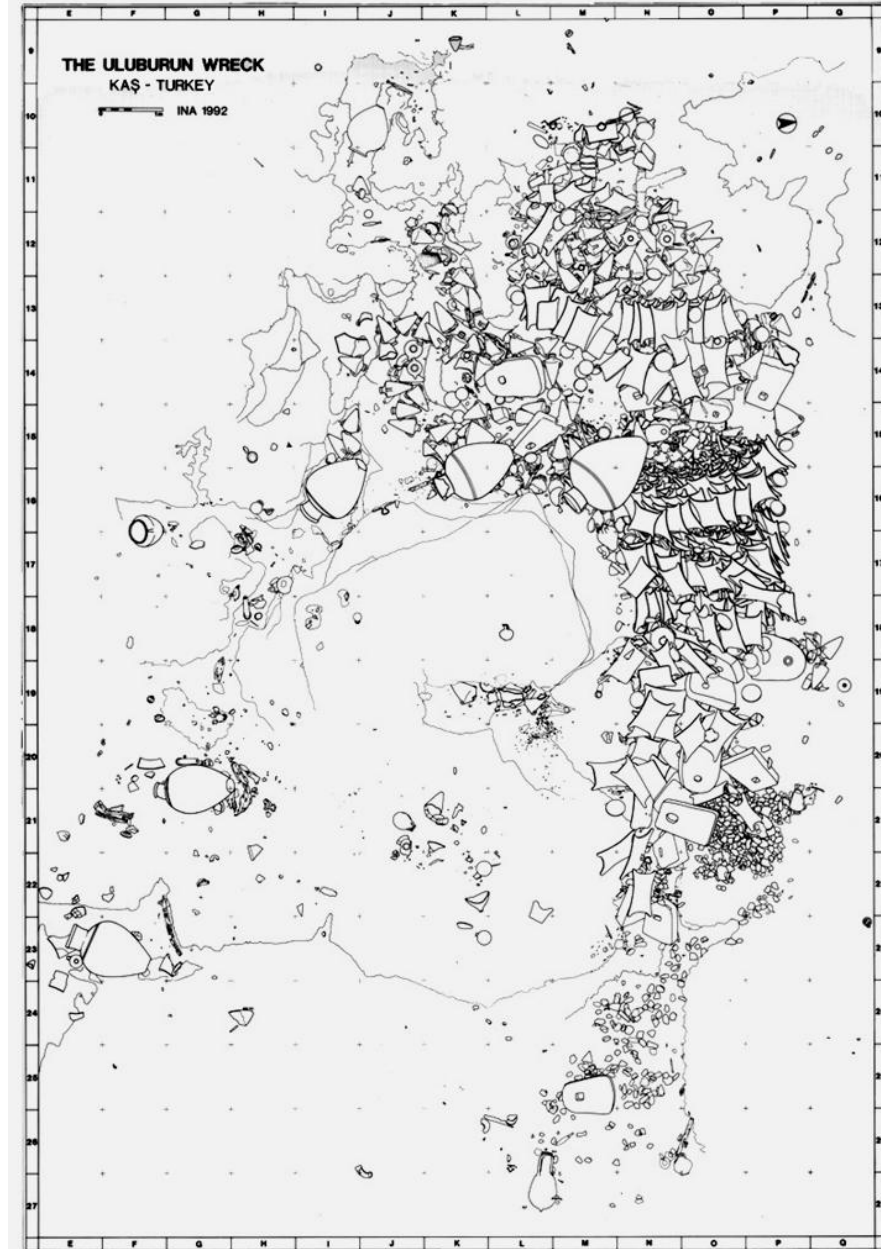
X
Uluburun
shipwreck



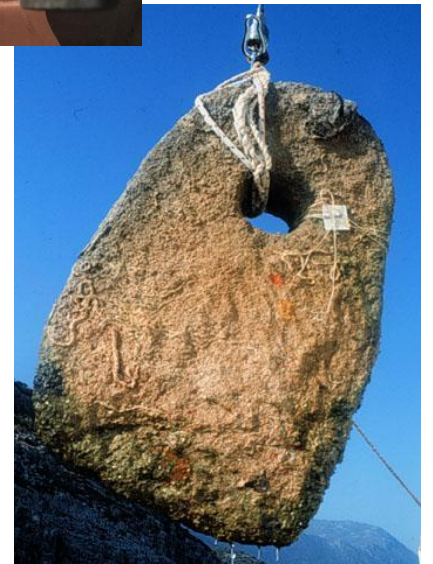
Some thoughts on the people on board the Uluburun ship, and a few of their shipboard activities



How to distinguish cargo from personal effects or objects of shipboard use



Syro-Palestinian and Cypriot objects that may have seen use,
or were intended to be used on board



Objects that had definitely seen use on the journey



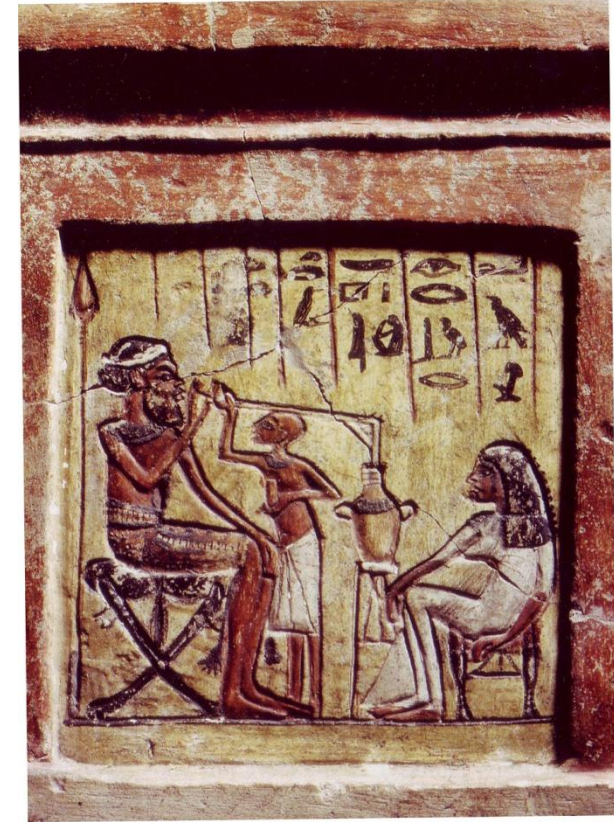
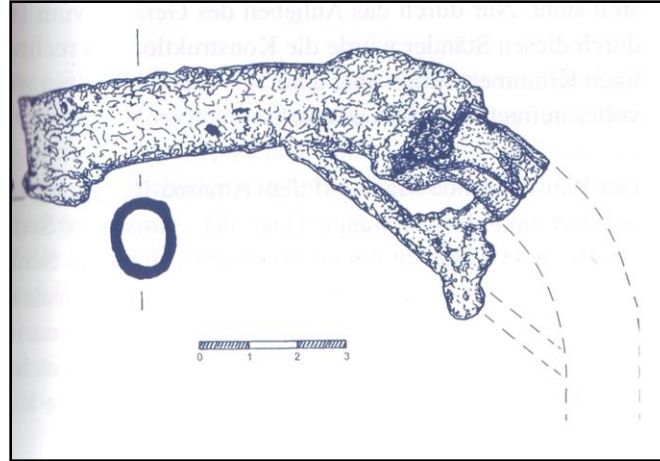
fastened to the mast?



Cypriot manufactured wall bracket and lamp showing evidence for burning



Drinking straw (as seen in Egyptian representations, a drinking Syrian)



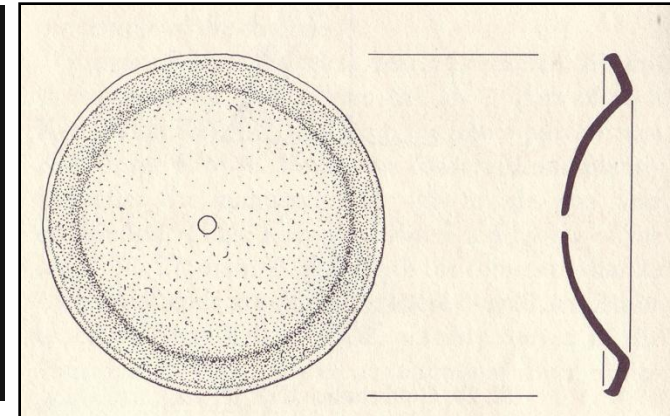
Some time for leisure



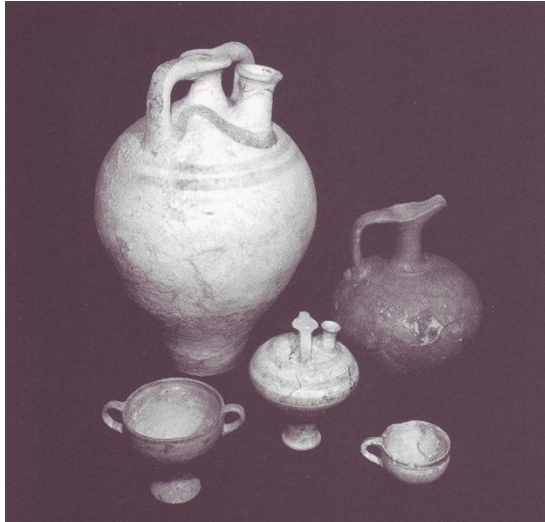
Knucklebones (astragali)



Trumpet and finger cymbal (Syro-Palestinian)



Objects of Aegean manufacture that may have seen shipboard use,
or had been intended for shipboard use



Drinking service



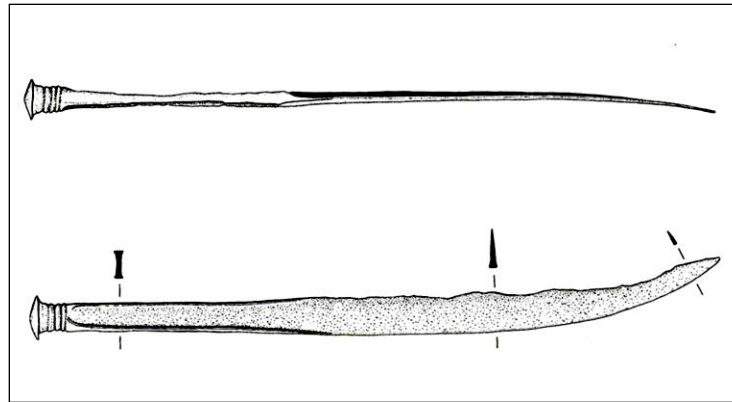
Spear points (x22)



Razors (x3)



Swords (x2)



Knives (x3)



Seals (x2)

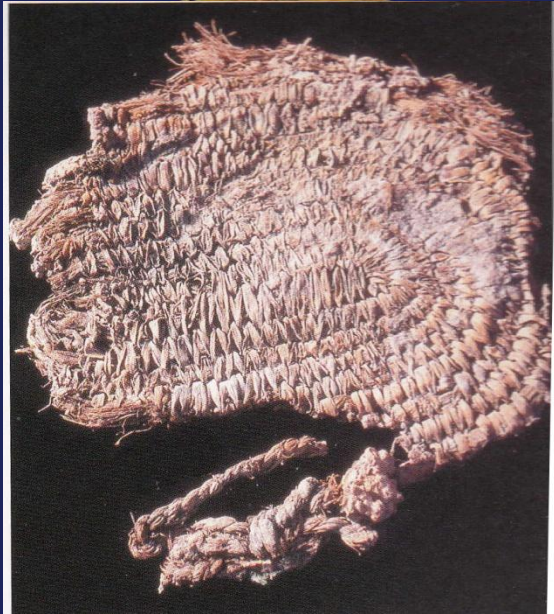


X Uluburun (ca. 1300 BCE)

X Cape Gelidonya (ca. 1200 BCE)

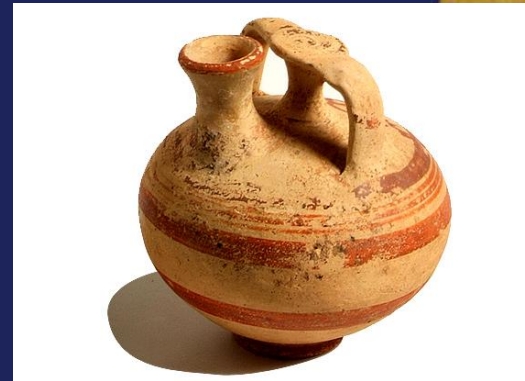
Dating Cape Gelidonya:

Radiocarbon dating on organics and relative dating on pottery=ca. 1200 BCE



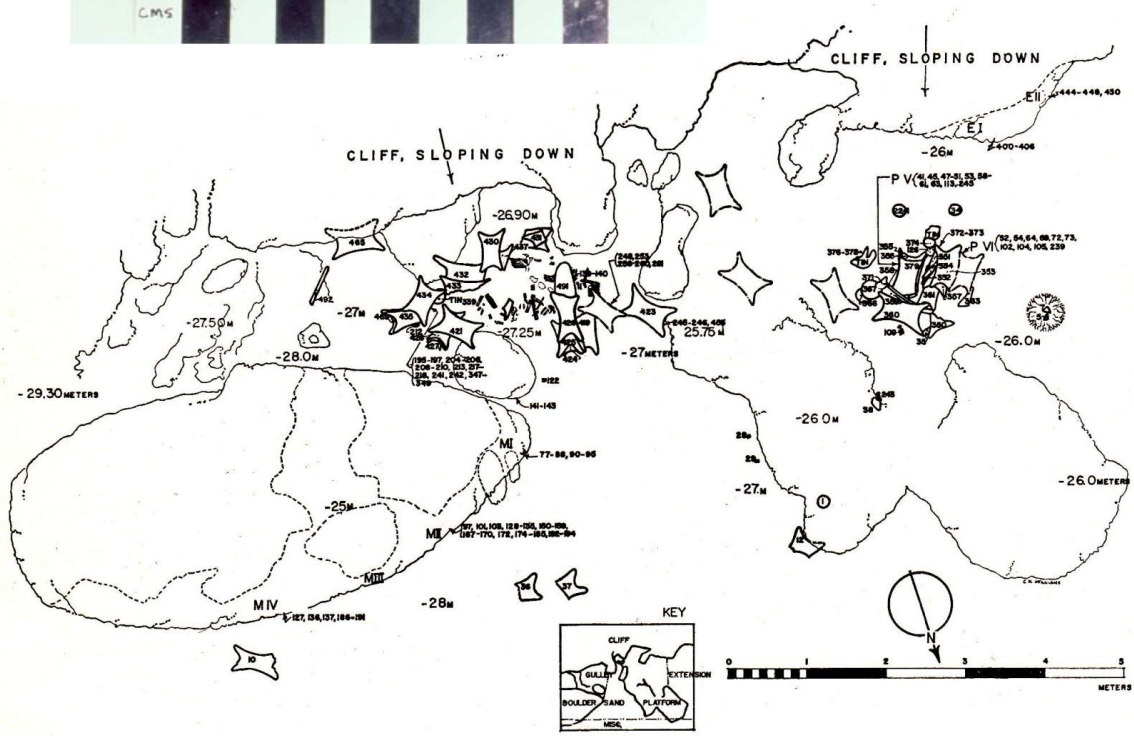
basketry

X Cape Gelidonya
(ca. 1200 BCE)



Again, Aegean pottery (Mycenaean stirrup jars) useful for dating the shipwreck

All that remains of the ship (!): a single tenon (with a peg hole)



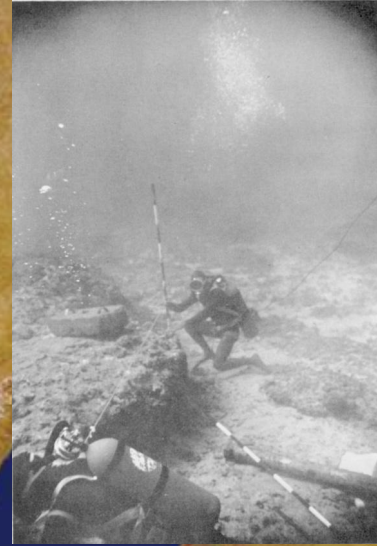
Dimensions of the wreck site: 10 meters (length)
3-4 meters (breadth)

**the ship was probably smaller than Uluburun = 15:5 m

The cargo of Cape Gelidonya:
in some respects similar, but also very different

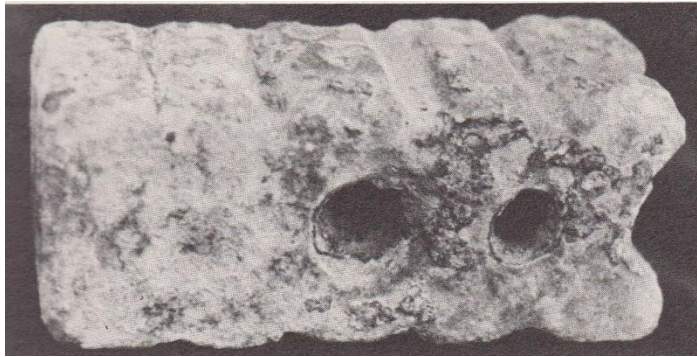


X Cape Gelidonya
(ca. 1200 BCE)



Less than 1 ton of metal, including baskets of scrap metal and small quantities of tin—and very few ceramic storage/transport containers, and no high prestige ‘luxury’ objects and materials

Baskets of scrap metal and tools for metal working, including a swage (a kind of mould) stone hammers and anvils (this kind of thing is not observed on Uluburun)

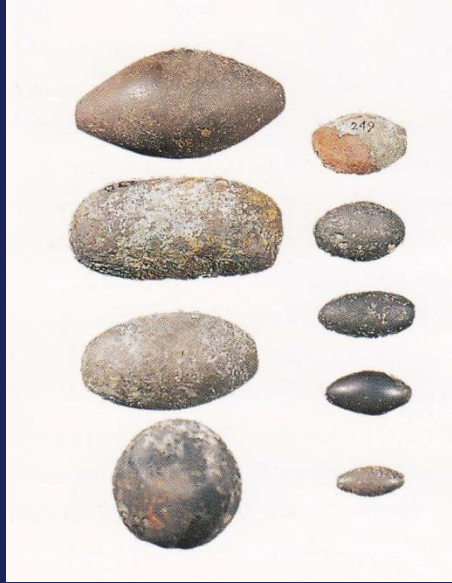


swage



The last voyage of the Cape Gelidonya ship

Weights and seals, all broadly of Syro-Palestinian origin and found near to one another



Pan balance weights
(59 total)



Cape Gelidonya
(ca. 1200 BCE)

Above, Egyptianizing scarab of
Syro-Palestinian manufacture;
Below, cylinder seal of the
same regional origin

Additional things that saw shipboard use: a lamp (of Syro-Palestinian origin) and stone anchors (similar to the kinds used on the Uluburun ship)

X Cape Gelidonya
(ca. 1200 BCE)

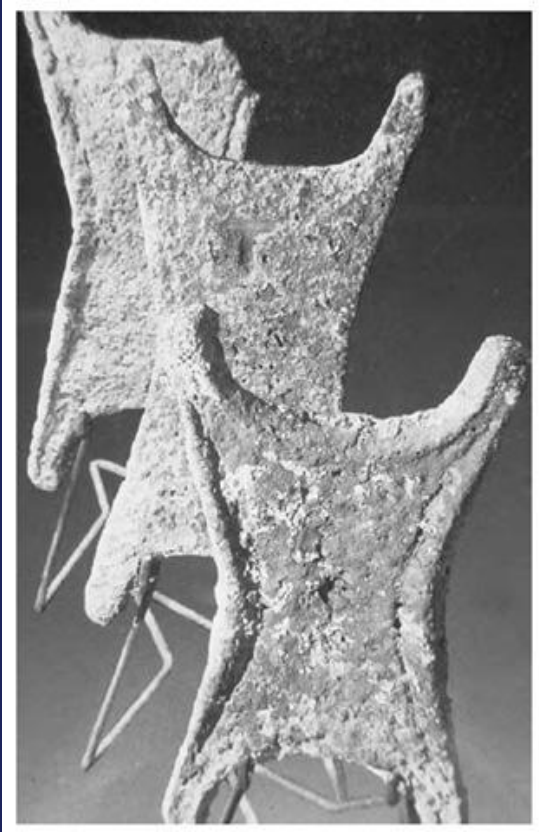


Fig 7. In 1994, INA divers discovered the first Bronze Age stone anchor from the Cape Gelidonya wreck (weight 219 kg). This anchor is heavier than any of the anchors from the Bronze Age shipwreck at Uluburun. (Photo: L. Ray Martin)

The interpretive significance of the Cape Gelidonya shipwreck (when it was published in 1967)
**Distribution of exported Aegean ceramics (1400-1200 BCE)

Before Cape Gelidonya it was widely believed that the Minoans and Mycenaeans were the dominant traders in the Late Bronze Age eastern Mediterranean





X Cape Gelidonya
(ca. 1200 BCE)



Cape Gelidonya revealed for the first time the shipment of a bulk cargo, including metal which is very elusive in the 'terrestrial' archaeological record, and vital to Bronze Age societies and economies



X Uluburun (ca. 1300 BCE)
X Cape Gelidonya (ca. 1200 BCE)



And the Cape Gelidonya shipwreck contrasts in compelling ways with the Uluburun shipwreck (though only a century apart, and sailing the same trajectory)