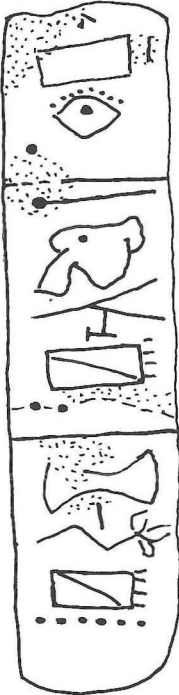
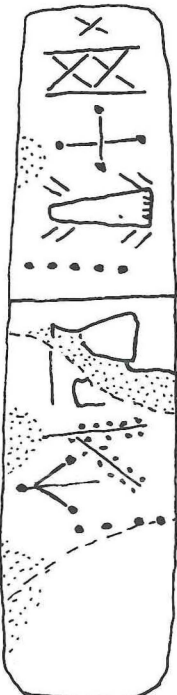


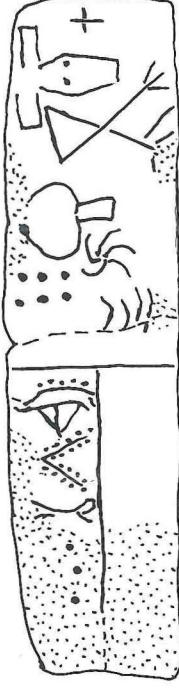
Clay bars



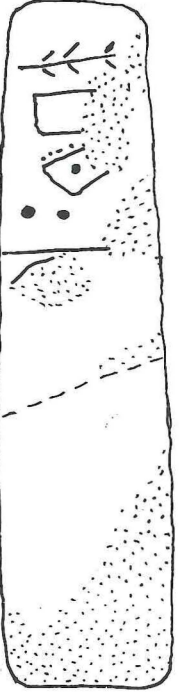
a



b



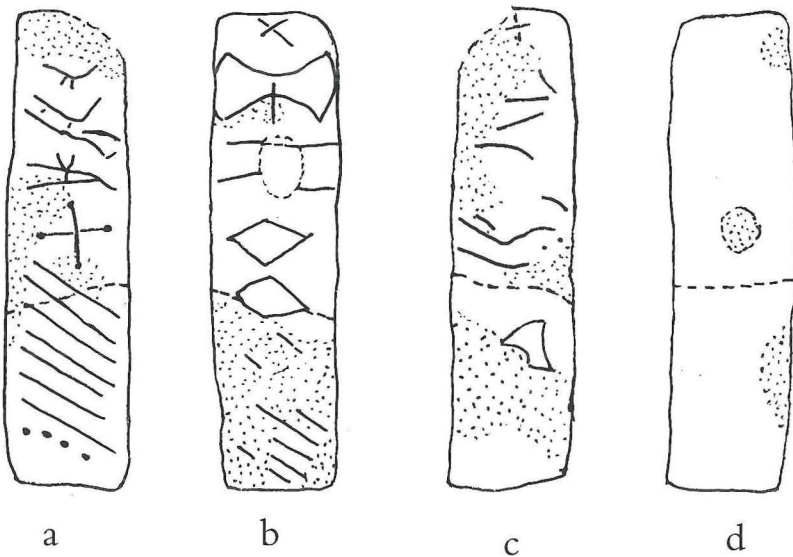
c



d







**CB2**, ME 96/0359, **PE Hh 017**, Square A, Pass 1

**Four-sided clay bar**, almost completely preserved. No suspension hole. Clay: fine, soft yellow. No fingerprints. Smoothed on all four sides. Surface of all four sides partly damaged, while a large hole has been pierced obliquely through sides b and d of the clay bar. The bar is inscribed on three of the four sides. Stylus very fine pointed end. Incisions deep, and in places very deep; dots very deep.  $\text{Ø } 6.48 \times 2.0 \times 1.8$ .

*The inscription*

- a     [•]-080-057-070 740
- b     X 042-[•] 3500
- c     X *vest.*-[•]-*vest.*
- d     *vacat*

a. Too little of the first sign is preserved to suggest any reading. The second sign is not immediately recognisable, but its main characteristics seem to be an oblique “baseline” with something above – hence the suggestion that it is an elaborate 080. Sign 057 seems a bit unusual with the bent lower stroke – perhaps accidental?

b. In front of the numerals there are traces of two signs. The first is 042 executed in the particular style of the Petras tradition, while based on the preserved strokes, and mutilated by the oblique hole; no reading shall be suggested for the second sign.

c. On side c there are some light incisions remaining from signs, the central one of which seems to have a long slightly bent stroke with something attached at one end (078?).

d. Side d, which is relatively well-preserved, is uninscribed.

*Comments:* See further comments under inscriptions



**CB3**, ME 97/0030A, **PE Hx 018**, Square II, Pass 2

**Clay bar** or **label**?, tiny fragment. Fine, light reddish-brown clay. No fingerprints. Moderately smoothed surface. Rectangular section. Part of two surfaces preserved. The larger surface is inscribed. Stylus medium to rough, rather rounded end. Incision medium, dot deep. No certainty about how the fragment should be turned. Ø [1.40 × 0.9]. Th. [0.45].

*The inscription*

a        [•] 10 |

The suggested reading is in no way certain, but there are two strokes extending all the way out to the edge of the fragment with a very deep dot in between. A reasonable interpretation would – with reference to the other four-sided clay bars – be sign, numeral, word-divider. The only unusual aspect in this case would be that one sign extends all the way out to the edge.

*Comments:* The dot (10) is very deep as also seen on the other clay bars.



**CB4**, ME 97/0042A, Square II, Pass 3

**Clay bar**? Fragment with three surfaces preserved. Corner piece. Clay: very light yellow-reddish. No fingerprints. Polished? Rectangular shape and profile. Inside fracture, no impressions. All sides smoothed flat and *vacat*. Ø [0.73 × 0.65]. Th. [0.65].

*Comments:* Probably corner from clay bar – does not join complete ones.



**CB5**, ME 97/0043A, Square II, Pass 3

**Clay bar**? Fragment with three surfaces preserved. Corner piece. Clay: light, reddish-brown, soft. No fingerprints. Some polish. Rectangular shape and profile. Inside fracture, no impressions. All sides smoothed flat and *vacat*. Ø [1.23 × 1.08]. Th. 0.9.

*Comments:* Probably corner from clay bar – does not join complete ones.