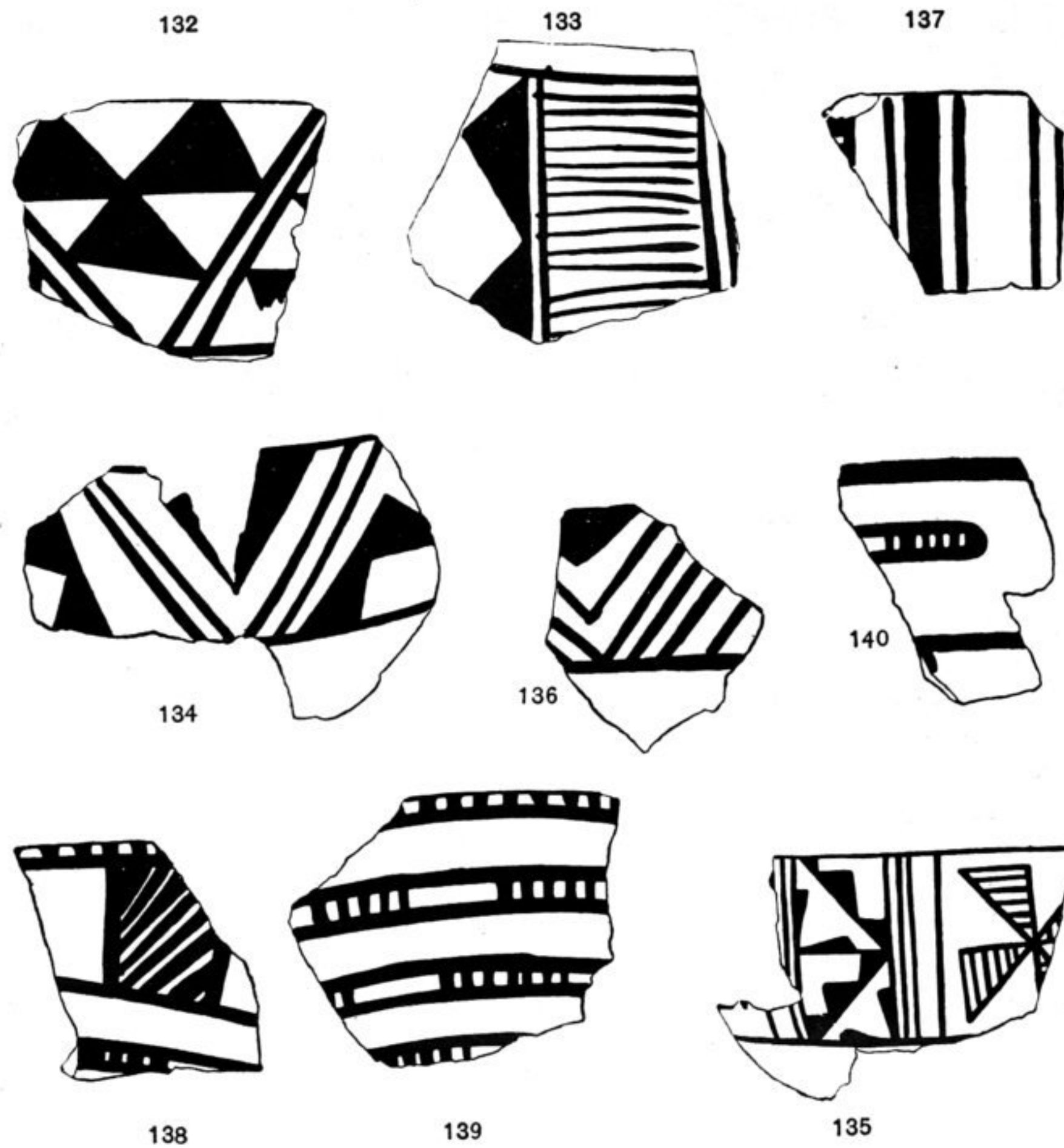


If, now, we compare the pottery of the upper strata with the older pottery from the middle and lower strata, we find a complete revolution in custom and taste. The sharper such contrasts appear the more the question arises: Was the evident revolution a sudden one, and is the contrast absolute? Were there lines of connection between the older and younger cultures? Was the revolution accomplished gradually, technique and forms changing with the change in taste? These questions are all the more important for the reason that on their solution depends another question: Does the appearance of a new pottery signify a new settlement? Was the new pottery brought by a new people who took possession of the place after the disappearance of the former inhabitants and their culture? It is not possible to answer these questions wholly satisfactorily from the material thus far obtained, but I have already remarked that as regards technique and ornamentation it is possible to speak of points of contact and relations between the older and the younger pottery. More can be said when the strata of the North Kurgan, particularly the upper ones, shall have been opened up to a greater extent.



POTTERY FROM THE SOUTH KURGAN.

MIDDLE STRATA, CULTURE III.

The South Kurgan was investigated on a different plan from that pursued in the case of the North Kurgan, but with similar limitations as to area of excavation in the deeper strata. Here too, then, we obtain in the study of the middle strata a good point of view from which to judge the upper and the lower strata. The middle strata extends from a horizontal line drawn between +40 feet and +37 feet downward to the level of +18 feet, to which terraces B and C were sunk. As already remarked, in these deposits of not less than 20 feet thickness, similar objects were found; therefore they belong to one and the same culture epoch,