BULLETIN DE LIAISON

DU

GROUPE INTERNATIONAL D'ÉTUDE

DE LA CÉRAMIQUE ÉGYPTIENNE

I

RAPPORT SUR LES TRAVAUX DU 4e COLLOQUE:
THE MANUAL OF ANCIENT EGYPTIAN POTTERY

1975
PRÉSENTATION

L'étude, la datation des poteries égyptiennes, dont chaque fouille ramène au jour de monstrueuses quantités, posent des problèmes presque insolubles : après cent ans d'archéologie, nous sommes, en ce domaine, à quelques exceptions près, presque aussi démunis d'outils d'identification et de critères de datation que nos prédécesseurs du dernier siècle. De ce fait, le temps passé, à la suite de chaque fouille, à reconstituer des poteries, à les dessiner, à tenter de les dater, est totalement disproportionné à la place que ce matériel devrait raisonnablement tenir dans l'ensemble des produits d'une fouille, et au rôle qu'il joue dans la reconstitution de la vie des hommes, de leurs techniques, de leurs échanges.

Cette situation, ressentie de façon plus aiguë chaque année, a conduit les fouilleurs à chercher en commun une solution à un problème isolément démesuré. À l'instigation de Mme. Dorothea Arnold, des réunions périodiques permettent, depuis maintenant deux ans, de mettre en commun expérience et idées.

Parallèlement à ces efforts, tendant à des réalisations pratiques, il m'a semblé qu'une chronique élaborée en commun, année après année, pourrait assurer une meilleure information réciproque, et faciliter des comparaisons entre matériels voisins.

Le présent bulletin, auquel chacun est invité à collaborer, groupera trois types de données :

a) des informations sommaires, site, par site, attirant l'attention sur les découvertes présentant de l'intérêt pour l'étude de la céramique.
Chaque fouille livre avec abondance poteries et tessons. Mais ces trouvailles ne sont à signaler que lorsque des éléments intacts, ou suffisamment caractéristiques, sont associés à un contexte daté; ou lorsque les conditions de la trouvaille livrent des renseignements utiles sur l’usage fait de ces poteries, sur leur fabrication, sur leur diffusion.

b) un index répartissant chronologiquement les éléments fournis par la liste précédente, et mettant en relief les trouvailles de documents contemporains.

c) des informations générales sur les travaux en cours.

Cette chronique n’existera, et n’aura de valeur, que par la contribution que vous lui apporterez. Soyez-y, tous, les bienvenus.*

Le Caire, 24 mars 1975
Serge Sauneron

* Les notices devraient parvenir à l’IFAO chaque année avant les mois d’été. Le bulletin pourrait ainsi être diffusé à l’automne, avant la reprise des chantiers.
I

CLASSEMENT GÉOGRAPHIQUE DES DÉCOUVERTES

§ 1. — Poterie soudanaise.

« I have in preparation or in the press the following publications dealing with the pottery wares of Nubia (both Egyptian and Sudanese):


Both of the above are more or less summary reports enlarging and bringing up to date my earlier published studies in Kush, Vol. X and Vol. XII. They deal comprehensively with the Meroitic, X-Group, Christian, and post-Christian wares. »

William Y. Adams

§ 2. — Manuel de la poterie de Basse-Nubie.

A two-volume comprehensive handbook of Meroitic, X-Group, and Christian pottery wares, containing over 3,000 illustrations of vessel forms and designs, is being readied for the press. It will appear as a Memoir of the Archaeological Survey of Sudanese Nubia.

William Y. Adams

§ 3. — Ceramic Industries of Ancient Nubia will appear in either two or three volumes, as part of the Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of Sudanese Nubia. This will be the final, definitive
report of my Nubian pottery studies, including over 100 detailed
ware descriptions and more than 400 pages of line drawings of vessel
forms and decorations. It covers all Nubian wares from the Meroitic
to the modern period. The work is in an advanced state of prepa-
ration, but there are as yet no definite arrangements for publication.

William Y. Adams

§ 4. — Tabo, île d’Argo, Soudan. (Joint Expedition of the Henry
M. Blackmer Foundation and the University of Geneva,

La céramique de ce site, principalement méroïtique et chrétienne
mais comprenant aussi du matériel plus ancien (Kerma, Nouvel
Empire, Napata) est en cours de classement et d’étude en vue de sa
publication.

Helen Jacquet-Gordon

§ 4 bis. — Saï.

Les recherches effectuées par nous autrefois sur l’île de Saï en 1955
(avec la mission du Pr. Vercoutter), livrèrent une poterie Abkienne
(Néolithique) associée à une industrie lithique de cette époque. Ce
matériel sera prochainement publié par nous dans Cahiers de Recher-
ches de l’Institut de Papyrologie et d’Egyptologie de l’Université de
Lille (CRIPEL).

Fernand Debono

§ 4 ter. — Saï, Soudan. (Mission Archéologique Française au Sou-
dan, dirigée par le professeur J. Vercoutter).
Plusieurs secteurs de ce site livrent chaque année de la céramique en grande abondance.

— Tombes de l'époque « Kerma » et apparentées « Groupe C » (Br. Gratien).
— Tombes du Nouvel Empire (A. Minault-Gout et F. Thill).
— Plusieurs tombes probablement de la XXIᵉ dynastie (F. Geus et J. Reinold).
— Tombes « Groupe X » (Y. Labre).

Un autre secteur comprend une forteresse où se succèdent de haut en bas des niveaux ottomans, chrétiens, Groupe X, méroïtiques et pharaoniques de la XVIIIᵉ dynastie, ainsi qu'une ville du Nouvel Empire (M. Azim et F. Geus).

Le travail sur la céramique se poursuit chaque année sur le terrain, puis à l'Institut de Papyrologie et d'Égyptologie de l'Université de Lille.

Un tessonier regroupant, par époque, les types de formes, de décors, de pâtes, etc... a été constitué avec l'aide de A. Hesse; il est complété chaque année au fur et à mesure des trouvailles.

Des rapports partiels paraissent tous les ans depuis 1973 dans Cahiers de Recherches de l'Institut de Papyrologie et d'Égyptologie de l'Université de Lille (CRIPÉL) en attendant la publication définitive.

Anne Minault-Gout

§ 5. — Akasha. (Joint Expedition of the Henry M. Blackmer Foundation and the University of Geneva).

Le matériel rapporté du Soudan par la mission, et comprenant un grand nombre de poteries provenant d'un « cimetière Kerma », d'églises, de cimetières et d'habitats chrétiens, est en cours d'étude et de publication.

Frederika Von Känel
§ 5 bis. — Soudan-Nord.

A classification of the hand-made C-Group, Pan-grave and Kerma Culture pottery found in the Scandinavian concession between Faras and Gamai will appear in Vol. 4 of the Scandinavian Joint Expedition to Sudanese Nubia Publications — a detailed analysis of the Pharaonic, wheel-made pottery wares of the same region will also be included (Dr. H.-A. Nordström). This volume is scheduled for publication towards the end of 1975.

A classification of the Pharaonic, wheel-made pottery of the Scandinavian concession will appear in Vol. 5 of the same publication series (Mr. R. Holthoer). This volume is scheduled for publication in 1976.

Hans Åke Nordström


Meroitic, X-Group, and Christian pottery from the fortress site of Qasr Ibrim is undergoing continuous study as the excavations proceed.

William Y. Adams

§ 7. — Eléphantine.

(In Zusammenarbeit mit dem Schweizerischen Institut für Ägyptische Bauforsehung und Altertumskunde).

Hauptfundgruppen:

a) AR mit vielen Formen und Varianten aus Wohnlagen, in stratigraphisch gesicherten Schichten.

b) 1. Zwischenzeit bis MR, ebenfalls aus Wohnlagen und stratigraphisch gesicherten Schichten.
c) Saiten und Folgezeit aus dem Chnumtempelbezirk (s. MDIK 29, 1973).

d) Keramik der Ptolemäer- und aus der römischen Kaiserzeit aus Wohnlagen und Tempelbezirken.

e) Spätromische und koptische Keramik aus Wohnlagen im Bereich des Chnumtempels.

Derzeitige Schwerpunkte der Bearbeitung:

a) Keramik des AR (G. Dreyer).

b) Spätromische bis koptische Keramik (R. Gempeler, G. Haeny, G. Grimm).

Dorothea Arnold

§ 8. — Assouan, nécropole occidentale.


a) Village et nécropole protodynastiques (en particulier céramique de Nagada II): BIFAO 74, 1974, 193-195 (§ 365) et pl. XLI-XLII.

b) Dans l’un des trois ermitages repérés dans le désert à l’Ouest de ʿAḍaīma, une cachette a été trouvée, fermée par une dalle, et qui contenait la réserve d’un ermite. Plus de 90 vases et plats intacts ont été retrouvés, neufs ou ayant servi: assiettes, grandes jarres, bols, encensoirs, louches, etc... Cet ensemble cohérent et contemporain, voisin du groupe des ermitages d’Esna, et datable de la seconde
partie du VIᵉ siècle, sera l’objet d’un chapitre de Mme. Helen
Jacquet-Gordon, dans la publication à venir de *Aḍaīma 1974
(voir déjà *BIFAO* 74, 1974, p. 186-193 et pl. XXXII-XXXVI).

Serge Sauneron

§ 10. — Les ermitages du désert d’Esna. (Fouilles de l’IFAO,

Le matériel céramique recueilli au cours de ces fouilles est main-
tenant publié : *Les Ermitages Chrétiens du Désert d’Esna* [Fouilles
de l’IFAO, Tome XXIX/3, 1972], 100 pages, 29 planches (dessins),
15 planches photographiques, 1 frontispice et un plan-clé inséré.
Date : VIᵉ-VIIᵉ siècles.

Helen Jacquet-Gordon

§ 11. — *Esna*. (Fouilles de J. Garstang, 1905-1906).

La poterie trouvée lors de ces fouilles est publiée par Dorothy
Downes, *The Excavations at Esna*, 1905-1906 (Aris & Phillips, War-

§ 11 bis. — *Karnak*, secteur à l’Est du Lac Sacré. (Centre Franco-
Egyptien).

Les sondages stratigraphiques opérés par nous, pour le Centre
Franco-Egyptien de Karnak, en mars 1975, à l’Est du Lac Sacré,
fournirent 24 couches ou sols différents, composés de strates et de
restes d’habitats superposés. Les plus récentes donnèrent une céra-
mique de la XIᵉ à la XIIᵉ dynastie et de la poterie Pan-Grave, accom-
pagnées aussi d’empreintes de cachets sur argile et d’un outillage de

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silex taillés. Les dépôts sous-jacents contenaient une poterie plus ancienne. De la céramique Hyksos se retrace en d'autres endroits de ce secteur. Ces documents seront étudiés par nos soins dans « Publications du Centre Franco-Egyptien de Karnak ».

Fernand Debono

§ 11 ter. — *Karnak*. (Fouilles du Centre Franco-Egyptien d’Etude des Temples de Karnak, 1974-75).

Une fouille menée dans la partie Ouest de la cour du VIIIᵉ pylône a mis au jour la base en brique crue d’un échafaudage d’époque romaine, utilisé pour coucher l’obélisque occidental du VIIᵉ pylône, avant son transport à Constantinople. Cette opération fut décidée par l’Empereur Constantin vers 335. Les vestiges d’un couvent copte installé dans cette même cour ont également été dégagés.

Une importante quantité de poterie copte, actuellement à l’étude, a été recueillie lors de cette fouille, en particulier une très belle assiette à décor floral, intacte, trouvée dans une couche de terrain qui semble correspondre à une occupation du Vᵉ ou du VIᵉ siècle.

Les résultats de l’étude de cette céramique seront publiés dans *Karnak V*.

Michel Azim


a) En attendant la publication finale qui doit faire suite à la fouille en cours, les dessins des différents types de poterie (environ 800) ont été reproduits en un nombre limité d’exemplaires pour

*b) Les dépôts de petits bols d'offrande trouvés au cours des campagnes de 1970 à 1974 dans les strates qui recouvrent le temple de Thoutmosis Ier sont en cours d'enregistrement et d'étude. Date probable : XXe Dynastie.*

c) Un article sur l'évolution des moules à pain égyptiens, partiellement basé sur le matériel provenant des fouilles de Karnak-Nord, est en préparation. Il sera publié dans le prochain volume des *MDIK* qui sera entièrement consacré à la céramique.

d) Des échantillons tirés du matériel céramique de Karnak-Nord représentant les pâtes les plus fréquemment trouvées et provisoirement identifiées sur le terrain, vont être soumis à une analyse physique dans le but d'en donner des descriptions précises et systématiques, facilitant ainsi leur reconnaissance parmi un matériel comparable provenant d'autres sites.

Helen Jacquet-Gordon

e) Un important ensemble de poterie peinte du Nouvel Empire, trouvé à l'angle Sud-Est de l'enceinte de Thoutmosis Ier à Karnak-Nord, est en cours d'étude par les soins de Philippe Brissaud (voir *BIFAO* 71, 1972, p. 195 [§ 143]).

Serge Sauneron


Large quantities of domestic pottery excavated from the palace and accompanying town of Amenhetep III. Some of the pottery
bears painted decoration. The 1974 season saw the completion of recording and the establishment of a typology, based both on shape and on fabric.

David O’Connor

§ 14. — Poteries de la *tombe de Toutânkhamon*.

Pottery from the tomb of Tutânkhamun to be published in *Tutânkhamun Tomb Series*. Manuscript under preparation by R. Holthoer.

Rotislav Holthoer

§ 15. — *Qourna*. (Fouilles de l’Université de Bâle et de l’Institut Suisse du Caire).

Les trois puits de la tombe n° 74 (Aménophis II - Thoutmosis IV) ont fourni de nombreux fragments de vases peints ou non décorés qui pourront être, du moins partiellement, reconstitués. Le nom du propriétaire de la tombe, inscrit sur quelques exemples, et l’empreinte du sceau royal sur des bouchons, confirment la date du lot.

Gerhard Haeny


Le dégagement de l’église de Qournet Mar’î a livré une masse considérable de poterie copte, ainsi qu’une centaine d’amphores intactes. Date : VIᵉ-VIIᵉ siècles. Cet ensemble de poteries est en cours de dessin (B. Lenthal’c) et d’étude (Mme Clémence Neyret). (Voir *BIFAO* 73, 1973, p. 230 [§ 266] et 74, 1974, p. 204-205 [§ 391]).

Serge Sauneron
§ 17. — *Qourna*. (Fouilles de l’Université de Milan, Prof. E. Bresciani, 1973).

Tombe de la XIe dynastie, utilisée jusqu’à la XVIIe dynastie, avec poterie intacte et poterie fragmentaire (restaurée lors de la saison 1974), à dater entre la XIe et la XVIIe dynastie.

Edda Bresciani

§ 18. — *Assasif* — Tombe 386.

Hauptfundgruppen :

a) 11. Dyn. bis MR aus verschiedenen Gräbern.


c) Stratigraphisch auf die Zeit vor Psametik I. festgelegte Gruppe von Scherben.

d) reicher Katalog an ptolemäischer, römischer, spätrömischer Keramik.

Schwerpunkte der Bearbeitung :


b) Für die saitische und spätere Keramik ist eine Zusammenarbeit mit der benachbarten österreichischen Mission geplant.

Dorothea Arnold

§ 19. — *Qourna*, temple de Séthi Ier.

Hauptfundgruppen :

a) Ptolemäische und römische Keramik aus Wohnlagen im Tempelhof.
b) Ausgedehnte koptische Töpfereianlage mit Ofen, vielen Fehlbränden, Scherben etc... (Kampagne Nov.-Dez. 1974).

Schwerpunkte der Bearbeitung auf den genannten beiden Gebieten.

Dorothea Arnold

§ 20. — El-Tarif:

Hauptfundgruppen:

  a) Keramik aus Siedlungsresten der späten Negade I bis frühen Nagade II (MDIK 30, 1975).
  b) Reiche Scherbenfunde der Thinitenzeit (MDIK ebenda).
  c) In situ, gefundene Gefässe aus einer Mastaba der frühen 4. Dynastie (darunter 1 bemalter Krug) (MDIK ebenda).
  g) Reiche Funde der 2. Zwischenzeit.

Schwerpunkte der Bearbeitung:

  b) Publikation der Keramik der Thinitenzeit (Derselbe).
  c) Publikation der AR-Keramik (Ders. erscheint 1975).
  e) Die Keramik der 11. Dynastie und des MR aus dem Bereich des Saff el-Kisasije (Dies.).

Dorothea Arnold
§ 21. — Antinoë.


Les poteries protodynastiques figurent aux fig. 6-12 et aux pl. 2-10.


Les poteries d'époque romaine et copte trouvées lors de ces fouilles sont publiées dans le Rapporto preliminare delle campagne 1968 e 1969 (sous presse).

Edda Bresciani

§ 23. — Saqqara-Nord.

North Saqqara : (Egypt Exploration Society). Pottery associated with mastabas in the archaic necropolis, IIInd Dynasty; Pottery from a Coptic cemetery and village, probable date late 5th to early 6th century.

Janine Bourriaud

§ 24. — Saqqara.

Nettoyage et restauration du tombeau de Bokoris, vizir de Psamétique Ier, par l'Université de Pise, en collaboration avec le Service des Antiquités de l'Égypte (1974) : poteries intactes d'époque romaine, associées à un ensemble de verres romains intacts.

Edda Bresciani

La poterie trouvée à Abou Roach lors des fouilles de Pierre Montet (Kêmi 7, 1938, p. 11-69), puis de Bisson de la Roque (FIFAO I et II), et déposée à l’IFAO après le partage, a été étudiée pendant l’hiver 1974-1975 par Mlle Michèle Delneuf. (Iʳᵉ et IVᵉ dynasties).

§ 26. — Poterie de Qolzoum.

La poterie retrouvée lors des fouilles de B. Bruyère en 1930, 1931, 1932, à Qolzoum, a été étudiée par Alîred Fontaine, qui a laissé un manuscrit qui sera publié par l’IFAO. Époques : romaine, copte et islamique.

§ 27. — Abou Mena.

Hauptfundgruppen :


b) Spätere Komplexe, die bis ins 10. Jahrhundert hinauf reichen.

Schwerpunkt der Bearbeitung durch J. Engemann, Bonn, bei den früheren Gruppen.

Dorothea Arnold
II

CLASSEMENT CHRONOLOGIQUE DES INFORMATIONS

Protodynastique : 21.
   — Nagada I : 20 a.
   — Nagada II : 9.
Epoque thinite : 20 b; 25.
3e dynastie : 23.
4e dynastie : 20 c; 25.
Fin 5e - début 6e dynastie : 23.
   « Ancien Empire » : 7 a; 8; 20 d.
1re période intermédiaire : 7 b; 18 a; 20 d.
11e dynastie : 11 bis; 17; 18 a; 20 c.
   « Moyen Empire » : 11 bis; 18 a; 20 f.
2e période intermédiaire : 11 bis; 17; 20 g.

   « Pan-graves » : 5; 11 bis.
18e dynastie :
   — Thoutmosis III : 18 b.
   — Aménophis II - Thoutmosis IV : 15.
   — Toutânkhamon : 14.
Epoque ramesseide : 12 b; 12 c.
   « Nouvel Empire » : 12 e.
Présaïte et saïte : 7 c; 18 c.
Ptolémaïque : 7 d; 18 d; 19 a.
Romain : 7 a; 18 d; 19 a; 21; 22; 24; 26; 27.
Copte : 7 e; 9; 10; 11 ter; 16; 19 b; 21; 22; 23; 26; 27.
Chrétien tardif : 1; 27 b.

Céramique nubio-soudanaise :

Abkienne : 4 bis.
Groupe C : 5 bis; 30.
   « Pan-graves » : 5 bis.
Kerma : 4; 4 ter; 5; 30.
21e dynastie : 4 ter.

   Napata : 4.
Méroïtique : 1; 2; 3; 4; 4 ter; 6; 19 a.
Groupe X : 1; 2; 4 ter; 6.
Chrétienne : 1; 2; 4; 4 ter; 5; 6.
III

INFORMATIONS GÉNÉRALES


I have just completed as part of the *Handbuch der Orientalistik*, to be published by Brill and edited by Prof. Hrouda, a Prehistory of the Nile Valley... In it I have given some thermo-luminescent dates for Badarian, obtained from sherds from Caton-Thompson’s dig at Hemamieh. I obtained them from Mrs. E. Whittle of the Research Laboratory for Archaeology, Oxford; and she said they are to be published in *Archeometry*.

§ 29. — *Communication de Mme. Dorothea Arnold*.

*a) Untersuchung der Keramik vom Ende des AR bis zum Ende des MR mit besonderer Berücksichtigung von Landschaftsstilen (Do. Arnold mit einem Stipendium der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft).*

*b) J. Riederer-Do. Arnold, Naturwissenschaftliche Untersuchung und Auswertung der so gewonnenen *Ergebnisse von Scherbenproben der Zeit vom Ende des AR bis zum Ende des MR.*

*c) Entwicklung von Möglichkeiten einer *maschinen Ausfahme von Scherbenprofilen* (P. Kuhlmann - I. Wilmanns).*

Alle drei Projekte 2 bis 4 werden von der Stiftung VW-Werk finanziert).


Une thèse sur les rapports entre les cultures dites «Groupe C» et «Kerma» a été soutenue en 1974 à l’Université de Lille.

§ 31. — Communication de M. Rotislav Holthoer.

a) Undersigned is occupied with the taxonomy, shape analysis and the typology of pharaonic, wheel-made pottery found by the Scandinavian Joint Expedition in the Wadi Halfa-region in northern Sudan (17th and 18th dyn.). The number of pieces amounts to ca 3000 complete and fragmentary but restorable and a large quantity of sherds.

The manuscript dealing with all above mentioned aspects and including an excursus upon the wheel-method in the MK- and NK-Egypt as reflected by the pictorial material, is under preparation. It will be published in Vol. 5 of the SJE Publications.

b) An article by the undersigned, dealing with the shape analysis has appeared in Studia Orientalia 45 (Helsinki, 1974) under the title «Classification of pottery shapes — an experiment». 
§ 32. — *Communication de Mr. Allyn L. Kelley* (Research Assistant, Egyptian Department, Royal Ontario Museum).

I have completed the manuscript draft of *The Pottery of Ancient Egypt*. This compendium contains at this point, 590 plates with accompanying ware descriptions and provenances. The corpus is primarily drawn from the pottery published by the Egypt Exploration Society and the now defunct British School of Archaeology in Egypt, with the additional inclusion of selected forms from other publications and covers Dynasty I through Roman times. It is hoped that the corpus will be published shortly by the Royal Ontario Museum, in an unbound, boxed format which will permit the inclusion of further wares from additional sites.

§ 33. — *Communication du Groupe International d’Etude de la céramique égyptienne*.

At the fourth meeting of the group, at the French Institute of Archaeology in Cairo, on 1st-3rd April 1975, it was decided to prepare an «Introductory Guide to Ancient Egyptian Pottery» for immediate use in the field. This will consist of a brief general introduction to the character and development of Ancient Egyptian and Nubian pottery. Illustrations and commentary on the forms most common at different periods will be given with a short bibliography, and finally the guide will offer suggestions on methods of recording pottery in the field.

Members of the group have agreed to prepare the different sections of the guide, and the German Institute of Archaeology has generously offered to finance its publication. It is hoped that the guide will be ready in manuscript by the next meeting of the group in 1976.
§ 34. — *Le prochain colloque.*

The next meeting of the International Group for the Study of Egyptian Pottery will be held in Assuan during the second half of March, 1976.

The theme of the meeting will be «The Problem of Pottery Typology». 
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MANUAL
OF ANCIENT EGYPTIAN POTTERY

The International Group for the Study of Ancient Egyptian Pottery held its 4th Meeting in the French Institute of Archaeology, in Cairo, on 1-3 April, 1975.

It was unanimously agreed that a Manual of Ancient Egyptian Pottery should be created as set out in the following paper.

It was urgently felt that the various scientific institutions and Individuals concerned should support such an undertaking, which Egyptian Archaeology badly needs.

It was recommended that every effort should be made to sponsor the preparation and completion of such a joint undertaking, and to appeal to the necessary authorities for financial support.

As a first response to this recommendation, the following institutions have pledged their support. They invite other interested individuals and institutions to join them in this international enterprise:

Service of Antiquities of Egypt.
Institut Français d’Archéologie Orientale.
Institut Suisse de Recherches Architecturales et Archéologiques au Caire.
Royal Ontario Museum (Egyptian Department), Toronto.
German Institute of Archaeology, Cairo.
Istituto di Papirologia, Università di Milano.
Istituto d’Egittoologia, Università di Pisa.
Egypt Exploration Society (Saqqara Expedition).
Polish Center of Archaeology, Cairo.
Institute of Egyptology, Uppsala University, Sweden.
Archaeological Section of Italian Cultural Institute.
Centre Franco-Egyptien de Karnak.
Austrian Archaeological Institute, Cairo.
Finnish Egyptological Society, Helsinki.
Staatliche Museen Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin.
American Research Center in Cairo.

An editorial committee for the Manual was appointed consisting of the following:

Dr. Dorothea Arnold.
Dr. Manfred Bietak.
Miss Janine Bourriau, B.A.
Dr. Helen Jacquet-Gordon.
Mr. Rotislav Holthoer, B.A.
Dr. Hans-Åke Nordström.
Mr. Claude Traunecker.
FRAMEWORK OF THE MANUAL

INTRODUCTION

These proposals have arisen out of our collective experience of the problems of studying Egyptian pottery in the field and intend to show how a manual of the pottery of different periods and/or regions could be constructed for the use of archaeologists in the field and in museums, students of ceramics, and students of all aspects of the culture of Ancient Egypt.

The usefulness of such a manual can hardly be overstated. If available for reference in the field, it would not only enable an excavator to get an immediate idea of the nature of the pottery which he is finding from day to day, but it would likewise speed up both the process of recording and the final publication of a site’s ceramic material. Less pottery would need to be stored for further study, and students might be encouraged to approach the existing backlog of unpublished material, which is a problem which we all share. In general terms there is enormous benefit to be gained from a site director or museum curator being able to assess, more confidently than at present, the character and date of the pottery in his hands.

The manual is envisaged as a complement to not a substitute for the publication of individual site reports. These document the material in full and give a complete picture of the archaeological data, whereas the manual will draw together only the information relevant for the frequency, distribution and date of the pottery.

Although this present proposal has been stimulated largely by practical difficulties encountered in the field, the need for such a reference work for archaeological and historical research in a wider
sense is just as imperative. Pottery studies in Egypt have lagged behind those in other parts of the Near East, so much so that Egyptian evidence is drawn on with increasing reluctance in comparative studies written by scholars outside Egypt. Elsewhere detailed studies of the production and distribution of pottery have provided the basis for analysis of trade patterns as well as the social structure of communities. In Egypt, (in Nubia the situation is better, thanks to the various Nubian Surveys and the Unesco campaign) the study of pottery as a commodity has not yet begun, and cannot be started until studies exist drawing together and analysing material of the same period from different sites.

The need for such studies is not new, and has been urged at least since the first organized corpus of Egyptian pottery was published. Petrie's corpus of predynastic pottery was not intended to stand alone, but to be the first of a series. Towards the end of his career, Petrie tried to construct a single corpus of New Kingdom pottery out of the corpora already published from different sites excavated by him. Only a few plates of the work were made up. The International Corpus of Egyptian Pottery was a much more ambitious project, and generated at least one conference, but it too foundered before producing one volume.

These failures underline the size and complexity of the task we are facing. They suggest too, the futility of trying to set up a comprehensive corpus covering all possible variations of type, within a uniform and rigid format. The concept behind the present proposal is to create a preliminary working manual capable of being added to and refined, yet sufficient to provide a starting point for the future progress of ceramic studies. Our presumption is that it is necessary now, before we are completely absorbed by the need to assimilate new material, to synthesize and re-examine material from current and also from long past excavations. The older excavated material is rapidly becoming more difficult to relate to the new and eventually
it will become dead for most scholarly purposes. Yet we cannot afford to set it aside since it is most unlikely that future excavations will be able to replace it.

Although the idea of this manual has long been in the minds of some of us, the stimulus towards the first step, this working paper, has come from the series of meetings, three to date, which have taken place over the past 18 months between people working in Egypt on pottery. The meetings have proved how much scope there is for cooperation between the individual pottery specialists and between expeditions, and how much duplication of effort can be avoided by keeping in close touch with each others’ activities. A project such as that proposed here would draw heavily on this co-operation, at the same time providing a channel and a goal for the interest which has so far been generated. It might also encourage more people to take an active rather than a passive interest in the propagation of pottery studies.

To have any chance of success, the proposal must also have the tangible support of the Service of Antiquities, of the institutions and expeditions who work in Egypt, and of museums with large collections of pottery, for all of whom the manual will be written. The research necessary to collect the material for the manual will be costly and time consuming. The purpose of this working paper is to set out as clearly as possible the framework within which we consider the manual might be constructed, and to ask the directors of those bodies who would benefit from it to consider sponsoring part of the work necessary to produce it.

1. GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE MANUAL.

We envisage the manual as a series of fascicles for different periods and/or regions. Each fascicle would be divided into two parts, the first part being the description of the pottery with its date range and
frequency, and the second part containing the analysis of the material and any wider historical discussion which it may provoke. Each fascicle would be the work of a particular author, or team of authors, but within a common framework which we will define more closely below.

Since the greater part of the published pottery from excavations in Egypt has never been adequately treated according to present-day standards, and since much of the recently discovered material has not yet been published, prolonged research in Museums and excavation store-rooms will be necessary before any part of the manual can be written. Inevitably, a certain amount of material which is no longer available for re-study will nevertheless have to be included. For this reason we propose to make a fundamental distinction, which should be retained throughout the manual between primary and secondary source material.

*Primary source material* is defined as drawings and descriptions of pottery made or checked by the authors of the manual from the originals, and *secondary source material* as unchecked drawings and descriptions of published or unpublished pottery. We are very much aware that by setting up this distinction we are making great demands of the potential authors, but if material from past excavations is not to be ignored, and if the manual is to be equal to the highest standards of current excavations, (unless it is, it would seem hardly to justify the labour of producing it) a very considerable amount of pottery will have to be re-examined and re-recorded.

2. THE DOCUMENTARY PARTS OF THE MANUAL.

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE POTTERY.

It is of course understood, that the following outline can be extended in detail where the material demands such expansion. On the other hand it is likewise evident that not all of the subheadings
into which the main criteria are divided here, are necessarily relevant in every case. To begin with, we would define the material relevant for the manual as containers, potstands, lids and pipes, made of ceramic material, coming from excavations or other undetermined sources, dating from the earliest times to the early Islamic Period.

The nature of ceramic material can be described in terms of the technique of shaping the clay, of shape, fabric, decoration and surface properties. The order in which these elements are dealt with in each section of the manual will depend on the character of the pottery being discussed and will consequently be left up to the authors, so that they can feel free to search for the arrangement which best suits their particular material.

**Technique:** There are four fundamental techniques of forming the clay: by hand, by the use of a turntable, by throwing on the wheel, and by casting.

1) The handmade class can be subdivided into at least five separate techniques: a) modelling by hand from a lump of clay, b) coiling, c) plate building in which slabs are used instead of coils of clay, d) moulding in which the clay is pushed into shape over a core, e) shaping on a turntable which is confined to the vessel's upper part.

2) The turntable technique designates pottery wholly made on a turntable or similar device.

3) The wheelmade class includes pottery wholly wheelmade, as well as that in which the lower part is handmade and only the upper part is wheelmade.

4) The casting process uses a mould of desired shape into which the clay is pressed or poured.
It will obviously be necessary, even in cases where the pottery treated in a fascicle has been made by only one of the above mentioned techniques, to examine in detail how the particular method of shaping has been applied and can be recognized. The use of photographs is especially valuable in illustrating the methods used for different parts of the vessel body.

*Fabric:* This term designates the raw materials and ceramic technology, that is, the methods used in the preparation of the clay and the firing process, characteristic of a vessel. These are primarily properties which can be recorded on sherds while studying a freshly broken fracture in reflected light with a magnifying glass or a low power microscope. The properties that may be analysed in this way are:

A — Texture of the clay.

B — Composition, texture (particle size), frequency and shape of the non plastic materials, such as sand, crushed mineral and limestone particles, straw or ashes.

C — Colour variations of the fracture.

D — Hardness.

E — Porosity.

F — Transverse strength.

G — Permeability.

Some or all of these properties can be recorded in a general way on samples in the field and more precisely by specialists in the laboratory.
The analysis and classification of fabrics is particularly difficult, from the point of view of their identification from the raw material and of their illustration and description in publications. It is suggested therefore that the authors of each fascicle of the manual make available for research teams and archaeological missions working in Egypt, a standard reference set of different fabrics which they have identified. These could then be used in conjunction with the written manual.

As an example of how this problem can also be approached, it may be mentioned that the fabrics of the MK pottery found in Assasif by the German Archaeological Institute will be illustrated in the publication by a colour plate giving photographs of the section (at a fresh break) of type sherds at a scale of 5:1. It is proposed that each fascicle of the manual could include such a plate. In the end — if we may already speak of that — it might be useful to collect all such plates into a special fascicle or *Atlas of the Fabrics of Ancient Egyptian Pottery*.

**Shape:**

The nomenclature of shape may be defined in terms of the following properties: size, proportions, contour, parts of the vessel, and additional features such as lips, knobs, handles, spouts, etc. Consistency in terminology between one fascicle and others is not, in our view, as important as consistency in defining the words used.

It may be that the author of a particular part of the manual prefers to use another system for describing the shape than that which has been put forward here. As an example of such a system, which could be used within the terms of this framework we mention the «Code descriptif des Formes» by Claude Traunecker, which was presented to the ceramic colloquium at Karnak last year.

A — Size. Size groups can be established on the basis of the vessel’s maximum dimensions, whether of width or height. What
the size range within each group should be will again be dependent on the character of the material.

B — Proportion. The proportion common to all vessels and so the most important in defining shape is the vessel index, the ratio of the maximum width to the maximum height. Other proportions, according to the shape being considered, may be equally as descriptive, as, for example in a restricted vessel, the minimum to maximum width, or, the height of the vessel at the point of maximum width in relation to the overall height.

C — Contour. Contours of containers may be defined as the general outline of the exterior of the vessel between the base plane and the orifice. Contours fall into two main categories, unrestricted (open) and restricted (closed). In the detailed description of contours it is suggested that use be made of the terms discussed in Anna Shepard, Ceramics for the Archaeologist, p. 226-232: inflection points, corner points, and points of vertical tangency, as well as other clearly defined geometric points.

D — Principal parts of the vessel. The parts of a vessel which make up its characteristic shape may be listed as follows:

1 — Base: The part of the vessel which supports the body, or, while not always acting as a support, which is set off from the body by a corner or an inflection point. This definition includes the term foot. The bottom, which may be rounded, dimpled, flattened or pointed, of a vessel is the lowest part of a body, and is continuous with the body contour. It applies where the word base, as defined above, cannot be used. The word floor is defined as the interior bottom of a vessel.
2 — Body: The main part of a vessel lying between the base and the neck, or the base and the rim. The body may be divided
at its maximum width into a lower and upper part. If the form is waisted the body may be divided at its minimum width into a lower and upper part. The upper part may include the shoulder.

3 — Shoulder: Part of a restricted vessel, between the maximum diameter and the base of the neck or the rim.

4 — Neck: Upper part of a restricted vessel, set off at its base from the body of the vessel by an inflection or corner point, or other clearly defined points, such as ledges or ribs, and at the top by the rim.

5 — Rim: The topmost part of the vessel which defines the orifice. Orifice is here used to designate the main aperture (mouth) of the vessel. There are two categories of rims, direct rims which are a simple continuation of the vessel wall, and modelled rims in which additional clay has been used to modify the profile.

E — Additional parts of the vessel. Handles, spouts, lips, knobs, and other functional features such as suspension holes and holes in the base made before drying and firing (e.g. flower pots).

Surface Properties: Different ways of treating the surface of a vessel may be classified broadly according to the method used. The term hand finish is employed when a tool or the potter’s hand alone has been used to modify the surface appearance; wheel finish for modifications, such as ribbing, made on the wheel; and coating when a liquid covering the whole or part has been applied to the surface. The vessel may have been treated on the exterior or the interior or both, at random over the whole surface, or only on certain spots.

A — Surface Treatment.

1 — Untreated surface. The surface has been left untouched after the initial forming of the vessel.
2 — Hand finish:
   a — Smoothed: surface worked over by hand, brush or cloth, with or without a self slip, leaving a matt surface.
   b — Polished by burnishing: surface worked over with a hard, smooth tool, creating a compacted lustrous surface on which the strokes are usually visible.
   c — Polished by rubbing: surface worked over with a yielding tool creating a uniform lustre.
   d — Scrapped: surface worked over with a straight edged tool, usually leaving planes in the material.
   e — Scratched or combed: surface worked over irregularly with a hard, toothed edge.

3 — Wheel finish:
   a — Ribbing: regular ondulations of the surface, either concave or convex.
   b — Scrapped or shaved: surface worked over with a tool, usually leaving planes or striations in the material that follow the rotation of the wheel.

4 — Coating:
   a — Wash: a mixture of water and pigment, usually red ochre but sometimes a white calcium compound, applied to the surface.
   b — Slip: a mixture of water and clay, sometimes with pigment added, applied to the surface.
   c — Glaze.

B — Contour of the surface. This includes the colour of the original clay and the coating.

Decoration: The decoration of pottery may be considered under three aspects, the technique used to carry it out, the different elements which make up its pattern and the overall
structure of the design of decoration. In considering technique, the quality of the workmanship as well as the method should be noted. It is evident that several techniques will often be found on the same vessel. Surface treatments, whose purpose is not wholly decorative are listed above under surface properties. As far as the categories of decoration and surface properties are concerned, the headings we give are based on what we have discerned in the material we have handled ourselves. Further study will show whether they adequately represent the pottery of all periods.

A — Technique of decoration:

1 — Incised: lines made with a pointed or toothed implement.
2 — Impressed: surface indented with fingernails, with an individual stamp or roulette, etc.
3 — Gouged: surface cut away with rounded chisel.
4 — Pinched: surface squeezed with finger tips.
5 — Modelled: material, formed by hand or on the wheel, which has been added to the surface.
6 — Moulded: pieces made in a mould, which have been applied to the surface.
7 — Painted: pigment applied to the surface by brush, fingers or other means.
8 — Inlaid: filling in of incised surface with pigment.

B — Pattern elements and motifs: for example — parallel lines, concentric circles, dots, splashes; and for motifs: floral patterns, human or animal figures, etc. It is impossible to list all the possibilities.

C — Structure of design: composition and distribution on the surface of the vessel of pattern elements.
Miscellaneous: A category remains which can only be called miscellaneous, since it covers a wide range of characteristics acquired usually after firing and so outside most of the divisions so far discussed, but which nevertheless provide criteria for certain classes of pottery.

A — Pot marks or inscriptions made before or after firing, whether incised, painted or stamped.

B — Cord marks, made before firing, and their position on the vessel.

C — Impressions of textiles or matting made before firing and their position on the vessel.

D — Repair holes.

E — Deliberately made holes in the vessel, made after firing.

F — Traces of ancient usage and wear, for example, worn areas around the handles, rope around the neck, etc.

G — Lining of the interior of the pot with pitch or resin.

H — Contents of the vessel, indicated by inscriptions, or by chemical analysis.

J — Auxiliary parts of the vessel made in a material other than fired clay, for example: seals, whether of mud or woven material.

K — Condition of pottery when recorded, if this is indicative of function or other characteristics.

In addition analysis of such evidence as contents of the vessel and of pigments and inlays should be made and may provide material for an appendix to the fascicle or a fascicle of its own.
B. DESCRIPTION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT.

We have set out the framework for the description of the pottery, but now we must consider the data relating to the archaeological context in which the pottery was found. It is essential that information concerning the frequency, the distribution and the dates provided by the context should be given with the description. This means that for each occurrence of a particular type it will be necessary to indicate the character of the deposit, that is whether it was closed and the objects in it contemporary or not, and secondly the absolute or comparative dates which can be assigned on the basis of associated materials or stratigraphy. The degree to which this information will be available will depend very much on the proportion of primary to secondary material that each author has been able to obtain, so it is suggested that at the beginning of each fascicle the quality of source material is reviewed, stating how much has come from past excavations, how much from recent excavations, how much is without provenance and, most important, to what extent the remaining records, whether published or not, have been checked against the originals and so may be considered as primary source material.

The description of the context of each occurrence of a particular type will have to vary similarly according to whether the example comes from a published, unpublished or badly published source. In the first case the contextual data may be given very simply, for example as follows:

Let us assume that the pot type in question is 20h published in the New Kingdom Corpus in Gurob, pl. XXXIV and it occurs also at Qau. In fact, since it is a very common type, it occurs in addition in many other places, but these two sites will serve for purposes of illustration.

Gurob (26 Amenophis I →), 76, 95).
Qau (619, 909, 7028, 7108, 7113, 7131, 7139, 7163).
The line underneath the tomb number means the deposit, in this case they are intact burials, is closed, and Amenophis — means that Gurob 26 can be no earlier than the reign of that king and may be later. The burial actually contains a scarab of Amenophis I. «— Amenophis I» would mean the deposit must be earlier than the reign of that king. For any further information, the reader is referred by the tomb number to the publication.

It is easy to foresee however, that there will be many cases where the writer of the manual will, as a result of his researches be able to reconstruct a wholly or partly unpublished context, or to question the interpretation given to a published context. In these cases it is suggested that the same data be given as for a published deposit, but with a footnote reference to an Appendix at the back of the fascicle which would provide in full all the new evidence. Perhaps it can be assumed that writers who come across extensive unpublished material, will publish it fully elsewhere if possible.

3. REMARKS ON THE RELEVANCE OF THE MANUAL FOR EGYPTOLOGICAL STUDIES.

So far we have spoken only of the documentation of the physical properties of pottery and the archaeological context to which it belongs, but we should like to stress that we do not suppose that the presentation of this data is the sole aim of the manual. While this information will necessarily be useful to the archaeologist, it is our conviction that the study of ancient Egyptian pottery can provide more than the means for dating a certain structure or stratum found in an excavation. Pottery was used in every activity of life, and has, as a valuable tool for the examination of technological, economic and sociological as well as historical processes, a proper place in the re-creation of the ancient culture as a whole.
It is for this reason that we suggest that the fascicles be divided into two parts, one providing the basic data and the other the conclusions, historical and other, which can be gained from a study of the pottery of a particular period and/or region. The important question of the function of the different types of pottery will be under consideration throughout the fascicle, but may be examined in more detail in the second part. To outline a framework for this second part is neither necessary or desirable. It is clear that the authors will have to employ present methods of archaeological analysis, such as seriation charting and mapping, and problems of typing and classification will have to be considered. Finally the conclusions arrived at will have to be viewed in the light of the historical facts of the particular period.

But if the manual thus, and it can only thus, contributes to closing the gap which exists between Egyptology and other fields of research into past cultures, it must not at the same time be forgotten that the manual is not treating the ceramic remains of any unknown culture XY, but those of Ancient Egypt, a culture which has left ample evidence, pictorial and written concerning technological processes, every day life, economic conditions and trade, and even the status of potters and the various people who used pots. To fail to make use of this evidence would be a fundamental error in the planning of the manual.

We are aware, of course, that here again we are asking a great deal of the authors. With the exception of a very few cases the above mentioned evidence has not yet been studied with reference to the pottery industry. So that again co-operation is necessary, this time of those Egyptologists who are already working, with papyri and ostraca, in the field of economic, social and cultural history. As in the case of the technologists and the natural scientists, it is envisaged that one whole fascicle might be devoted to the presentation of such evidence, especially in cases where the source material is voluminous,
as for example in the New Kingdom, or with reference to special problems like the Egyptian names of pottery vessels. Elsewhere the written evidence would be incorporated into the various fascicles, for there should surely be no complete separation between the archaeological and linguistic source material. Both should work together towards the common aim of a better knowledge and understanding of ancient Egyptian culture as it is expressed through its pottery.

Here follows a preliminary outline of the divisions suggested for the Manual. The individual fascicles will carry the letter appropriate to each section but will be numbered in the order in which they are published (eg. A1, B1, C1, C2, B2). The introductory fascicles will contain discussions of raw materials, manufacturing processes, methods of field recording, the history of ceramic studies in Egyptology, and studies of the written and pictorial evidence.

**Divisions of the Manual**

A. Introductory Fascicles.
B. Predynastic.
C. Early Dynastic.
D. Old Kingdom.
E. First Intermediate Period.
F. Middle Kingdom.
G. Second Intermediate Period.
H. XVIIIth Dynasty : Pre-Amarna.
J. Ramesside Period.
K. XXIst-XXVth Dynasties.

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<td>L.</td>
<td>Saite - Early Ptolemaic Period.</td>
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<td>M.</td>
<td>Ptolemaic to Early Roman (until 200 A.D.).</td>
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<td>N.</td>
<td>Late Roman (3rd-5th centuries A.D.).</td>
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<td>O.</td>
<td>Christian and Early Islamic Period.</td>
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<td>Indices.</td>
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A fascicle for part E will be prepared by Dr. Dorothea Arnold, fascicles for part G by Miss Janine Bourriau, and Dr. Manfred Bietak, a fascicle for part H by Mr. Rostislav Holthoer, a fascicle
for part L by Dr. Helen Jacquet-Gordon, a fascicle for part N by Dr. Mieczystaw Rodziewicz, and fascicles for part P by Dr. Nordström, Dr. Riederer, and Mr. Traunecker.

Anybody interested in joining this undertaking and contributing work on one of the fascicles, is requested to contact the secretary of the editorial committee, Miss Janine Bourriau, Department of Antiquities, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, England.