BULLETIN DE LIAISON

DU

GROUPE INTERNATIONAL D’ÉTUDE

DE LA CÉRAMIQUE ÉGYPTIENNE

XIII

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS D’ARCHÉOLOGIE ORIENTALE DU CAIRE

1988
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RAPPEL

Nous rappelons aux auteurs qui contribuent au Bulletin de liaison de la céramique que la date limite pour la réception des manuscrits est fixée au 1er octobre de chaque année.

D'autre part, nous prions les auteurs des articles de bien vouloir fournir à l'éditeur des dessins à l'encre de Chine sur papier transparent plutôt que des photocopies qui demandent à être retouchées.

Le directeur de la publication.
Directeur de la Publication :
Helen Jacquet-Gordon
BULLETIN DE LIAISON
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I
CLASSEMENT GÉOGRAPHIQUE DES DÉCOUVERTES

§ 1.

(20 mai - 30 juin 1988. IFAO.)

La fouille de l’ermitage 195, conduite par M. Wuttmann et N. Henein, étant terminée, nous présenterons ici un essai de synthèse concernant sa documentation céramique (Bull. de Liaison GIECE, XI, § 1; XII, § 1).

La céramique de ce kôm illustre les différentes phases architecturales de l’ermitage. On rappellera qu’une partie de la datation des ermitages des Kellia est fondée sur une identification et un comptage minutieux, par type, des fragments céramiques utilisés dans la construction.

Ainsi, le noyau primitif et son extension sud, proches l’un de l’autre dans le temps, comprend, parmi la céramique qui servit à la construction des voûtes, des éléments qui permettent de dater cet ensemble de la première moitié du 7e siècle apr. J.-C. En effet, prédominent les fragments d’une amphore d’origine orientale (Egloff 164 = Late Amphora 1), dont le réemploi comme élément de construction diminue au cours du 7e siècle; il existe également des tessons de sigillée chypriote (Late Roman D) d’un type répandu au 7e siècle dans les ermitages des Kellia; quelques exemplaires de sigillée tunisienne (Late Roman B = Sigillée Claire D) sont aussi datables, morphologiquement, de cette époque. Parmi la céramique égyptienne, figurent quelques éléments d’une amphore produite à Abou Mina (Egloff 186), dont l’introduction aux Kellia est située au cours de la première moitié du 7e siècle. On
rappellera enfin la présence d’un beau fragment d’ampoule ou de gourde de pélerin moulée, représentant des saints sous des arcades. Le type diverge des ampoules d’Abou Mina; son origine, non égyptienne sans doute, ne nous est pas connue.

On sera plus prudent quant à la datation de l’aile sud pour laquelle de nombreux réaménagements ont été effectués au cours de l’occupation de l’ermitage. On peut cependant affirmer que l’état initial de certaines pièces est vraisemblablement contemporain de l’appartement primitif, d’après la céramique.

L’aile nord de cet ermitage, qui constitue une adjonction postérieure au noyau initial, a été construite à l’aide de tessons de céramiques nettement plus tardives, si l’on en juge par l’importance numérique de certains types d’amphores égyptiennes introduites aux Kellia à partir du milieu du 7e siècle (Egloff 167, 187-190). Les sigillées d’importation en sont absentes, relayées ici par la vaisselle fine égyptienne.

Quant à la céramique des niveaux d’occupation de l’ermitage, correspondant à l’abandon des bâtiments, datée vraisemblablement du 8e siècle apr. J.-C., elle comprend un certain nombre de céramiques fines d’Assouan (Groupe O = Egyptian Red Slip A; Groupe W à engobe blanc ou beige), de la céramique commune telle que des marmites (Egloff 115-116) auxquelles sont adaptés des couvercles à bouton de préhension, des amphores égyptiennes tardives ainsi que des gargoulettes, certaines exemptes de décor peint.

Ainsi, lors des dernières occupations de l’ermitage 195, c’est principalement la céramique d’origine égyptienne qui répond aux besoins de la consommation des moines; la céramique importée occupe une faible part.

On signalera enfin la présence d’une centaine d’inscriptions grecques sur les amphores Egloff 164, dont les fragments sont utilisés dans la construction des voûtes; ces inscriptions, tracées le plus souvent à l’encre rouge et de lecture difficile, indiquent peut-être l’expéditeur, le destinataire, et le nom du produit et sa quantité, ainsi qu’en témoigne
une ligne de lettres correspondant à des chiffres. Un autre type d’inscrip-
tion, plus rare, concerne des graphies noirâtres et sommaires, sur
les amphores-obus; l’une d’entre elles, copte, mentionne « Dieu ».

Pascale Ballet.
IFAO.

§ 2.
Tell el-Fara’in-Buto.

(1988. Deutsches Archaeologisches Institut, Cairo.)

Excavation continued from early March to early May 1988, in the
area opened up close to Sekhmawy village in 1987 (Bull. de Liaison
XII, 2-3). The 10×10 metre square TIX, which had already reached
Old Kingdom levels, was continued almost to the water table. Part
of this square continued to be occupied by an extensive pit; the Saite
pottery in this pit was characterized by a large number of sherds of
jars painted with white spiral bands.

Adjacent to TIX on the south, a second 10×10 metre square (UI)
revealed more of the large Saite building known from TIX. In both
squares, upper levels contained small kilns and firepits cut into the
denuded walls and room-fill of the building, implying a lapse of time
between phases. The pottery of the later phase, although similar to
that occurring in the fill of the building, does show certain differences
including the appearance of new jar and goblet forms as well as small
dishes, together with a reduction in average vessel size and wall thick-
ness. Below the Saite building, further extensive remains of the large
Old Kingdom structure seen in TIX were exposed.

A 10×5 metre square (UIII) to the south of UI and an eastward
extension (UIV) uncovered further parts of the Old Kingdom and
Saite buildings. Although most of the Late Dynastic pottery was as
before, the fill of a small pit close to the surface unexpectedly yielded
new vessel forms, including a thick-walled bowl type. This pottery,
certainly later than the fill of the building, appears to be later than
the pottery of the kilns and firepits also, but may still be of the Saite —
Early Persian period, since the contents of a much disturbed burial,
found during cleaning of the surface for planning close-by, did not
resemble it. This tomb-pottery included fragments of the well-known
thin-walled silt jars with slip and high polish, together with other
sherds recognizable from parallels at Saqqara and elsewhere as belong-
ing to the 5th - early 4th century B.C. The possibility that this polished
pottery is specifically for tomb use cannot be ruled out at this stage.

A short study season in October 1988 will concentrate on Late
Ptolemaic-Early Roman pottery from previous seasons kept in the
site magazine, and further excavation is planned for Spring 1989.

Peter French.

§ 3.

Survey, Sharqiya Province.

(The Amsterdam University Survey Expedition.)

One of the sites investigated more closely by members of the
Amsterdam University Survey Expedition during their 4th season in
1987 was el-Tell el-Iswid (south), situated ca. 14 km. northwest of
Faqus in the northeastern Nile Delta.

Two 5×4 m. soundings (with a max. depth of 4 m.), revealed various
settlement layers dating from predynastic until early dynastic times.

Although the upper (early dynastic) strata were locally separated
from the lower (predynastic) strata by a thin layer of wind blown
sand, there seemed to be no significant temporal hiatus between the
two major phases of occupation, the occupation of the site having
been uninterrupted from predynastic until early dynastic times.

There did however appear to be a clear caesura between the earliest
and latest strata noticeable in building techniques, lithic tradition and
ceramic tradition. With regard to the latter one can say that the
Fig. 2.
upper, early dynastic, strata are characterized by the presence of a relatively high percentage of wares well known from other contemporary — though mainly cemetery — sites in both Upper and Lower Egypt (e.g. Petrie’s Decorated ware, locally produced Wavy-handled ware and Late ware). Some ceramic wares (including a single and probably the earliest occurring spinning bowl) made comparison with material from contemporary sites elsewhere more difficult, probably reflecting the fact that this place is a settlement rather than a cemetery site.

The lower, predynastic, strata are characterized by an almost total absence of Upper Egyptian imports, the occasional presence of Palestinian imports (e.g. fragments of very protruding wavy handles) and — most characteristically — large quantities of a hand-made, always chaff-tempered Nile silt ware, with a rough surface caused by the burning out of the organic temper during firing, and hardly smoothed.

One specific type of small, flat based and frequently smoke stained cooking vessel with plain surface, restricted orifice and rolled rim, with a diameter varying between 9 and 12 cm., was frequently decorated with geometrical designs, either horizontally incised zigzags (fig. 1) or vertically impressed «pointillé» lines, often in convergent pairs (fig. 2). Although complete vessels of this type have not been found so far, the finding of decorated rim, body and base sherds suggests that the vessels were decorated from top to bottom.

It can be said that in general these findings are corroborated by the results of soundings made last year by our team at yet another site covering both the late predynastic and early dynastic times, called Tell Ibrahim Awad, situated about 3 km. east of el-Tell el-Iswid (south) (cf. Bull. de Liaison X, 1986).

Edwin C.M. van den Brink.
§ 4.

Minshat Abu Omar.

(Staatliche Sammlung Ägyptischer Kunst, München.)

The evaluation of the ceramics found in Minshat Abu Omar (Eastern Delta) continued in the years 1986 and 1987, with the typology being enlarged due to the material found during the excavation seasons of those two years. The four preliminary grave groups I-IV established in 1985 ¹, on the basis of certain characteristic and well-dated types of vessels, continued to be tested as new material was found.

The preliminary results show that the four groups of graves continue to hold up according to the ceramic types found, and that, as previously mentioned, the four groups of graves have a mutually exclusive ceramic repertoire ².

Group I graves, in which ball and bag shaped vessels as well as wavy-handled vessels are the most characteristic (fig. 1), were found in much reduced numbers in the north-eastern part of the hill on which work was concentrated in 1986 and 1987. In all graves of this type the paucity of offerings (generally less than 5 vessels) was again observable.

Group II which is characterized by cylindrical wavy-handled vessels were not found at all in the last two seasons of excavation.

Graves belonging to Group III however continued to be found in large numbers in the last two seasons. The group has been established on the basis of the larger storage vessels with profiled lip and lightly indented half-bow decoration on the shoulder applied before

the firing of the vessel (fig. 4). It was found that the storage vessels of this type discovered in the NW part of the cemetery were frequently of a smaller size and the form was not as dynamic as in some of the other graves. A degeneration of this vessel type seems to be indicated and may lead, on further examination, to a chronological sequence within this one type of vessel. Another characteristic vessel of this group (III), the cylindrical jar, shows similar features of degeneration in some of the grave offerings. Many of the cylindrical vessels, especially those found in 1987, were rather badly made with uneven walls and bases and are often of a smaller size than the cylindrical jars of an older date. The cord decoration (fig. 3) which was frequent in the graves in the SE and middle part of the cemetery occurs rather rarely in the graves found in the last two years.

The graves in Group IV increased in number in the last two years of excavation. The characteristic vessels of this group, the so-called «wine-jars», were found in great numbers and in many variations (fig. 6). The sizes reach up to one meter in height with the cord decoration in relief, applied horizontally around the shoulder and the foot, being either well marked or only symbolically applied; in some cases the vessel is left undecorated. As regards these «wine-jars», the last seasons confirmed observations made in previous seasons. The contents of these vessels often consists of charred fish and animal bones, seeds and ashes mixed with badly worn potsherds (not belonging to the pot itself). The repeated encounter on our part of such contents in these vessels indicates that the «wine-jars» were used as waste containers into which the remains of a fireplace (probably used for food preparation) were poured. Possibly this was done in association with some sort of ritual meal at the time of the burial, since the vessels were found in an undisturbed context within the tomb, mostly with the original roof of the grave and the sealing of the pot still in situ.

The second type of vessel characteristic for Group IV tombs is the very roughly made conical vessel with a small concave neck and
rough smoothing marks on the outside (fig. 2). The large numbers in which these vessels are present in the graves may lead to a differentiation of types, a possibility which is now being investigated. Some of the vessels found in 1987 again show a degeneration of form in that the body shape becomes weaker and smaller tending somewhat towards the shape of the Old Kingdom «beer-jar», which probably represents the last form in a chain of development from the jars of the Early Dynastic period.

Another distinct group of ceramics which has been found in the last few years on a larger scale is only in the initial stage of examination. Most pieces are bowls, mainly of two shapes: boat-like carinated bowls (fig. 5) or deep, steep-walled bowls. In most cases the walls have been slipped a reddish brown and lightly polished. The uniqueness of the bowls apart from their shape and color is the temper of the paste. At first it was thought to be a crushed shell temper; but the material has since been identified as crushed calcite in large amounts and a high amount of sand as well as some numulites (personal information from Naomi Porat). In all cases the bowls made of this material are easily identifiable if sherds are available. If the bowl is whole however, only the color can give a hint of the type of material which is present since the surface is usually well slipped and, as said above, polished to some degree. According to Naomi Porat a few boat-shaped bowls of this type, with similar temper have been found in the Sinai and at certain Delta sites so that one is tempted to assign a Delta production to this type of material. However since finds from Upper Egypt have not been examined with this question in mind it may perhaps be somewhat early to reach a decision on this point. It would be good to be in touch with colleagues who may have, or think they have, some vessels of the same type at their site.

The last two years of excavations at Minshat Abu Omar have confirmed the preliminary four grave groups which have been established according to the ceramic repertoire. It was found that the four
groups contain characteristic vessels which are mutually exclusive, a circumstance which is unique since in most other cemeteries a transition from one group to another is generally found. The exclusiveness of the ceramic types corresponds to a differentiation in burial position. The burials of Groups I-II are always found lying on the right side in a contracted position whereas the burials of Groups III-IV are always found placed on the left side.

This seems to indicate some sort of event having taken place at the end of the Nagada. IIc period or the beginning of the Ist Dynasty which changed the burial practices in Minshat Abu Omar.

The proportions of the various burials belonging to each group, as established above, will have to be altered according to the finds of the last two years which differ to some extent from those of the previous seasons. As the excavation continues in the more northerly part of the site (and in the western area) Group IV is represented in much greater numbers than previously thought.

Also noticeable is the occurrence of a larger number of mudbrick built tombs in this area dated to the beginning of the Ist Dynasty. It may be possible to establish a horizontal distribution of tombs running from south to north with the older tombs being located in the south and the later tombs in the NW area of the hill. In this case older levels should be expected in the yet unexcavated southern part of the hill where the «suk» of the present day village is located. The next season of excavation will take place in Sept.-Nov. 1988.

Karla Kroeper.

§ 5.

Tell Fara'ón-Imet.


The sixteenth excavation campaign at Tell Fara'ón-Imet on behalf of the E.A.O. was begun on December 13th, 1986 and continued until January 14th, 1987.

The excavations of this season continued in survey square F.L investigating the topography of the Saite settlement, whose remains were unearthed during the last season (cf. Bulletin de Liaison XI, 1986, p. 8-12).

Unfortunately, the funds for this campaign have not been quite enough to answer our purpose, therefore, the major focus of the excavation during this season was in square F.L/c-3,4 and also extends further to the east to include squares F.L/b-6,7 and c-5-7, revealing the following:

1. In square F.L/c-3,4, the surface debris (10-25 cm. thick) was removed; below this debris the first layer (115 cm. thick) contained four circular ovens. One of them at the western edge of square c-4, (int.h. = 115 cm.; int. diameter = 140 cm.) was completely excavated while the three others, extending to the north are still underneath square b-4.

In addition, the foundations of a mud-brick room (preserved up to a maximum height of 50 cm. and measuring 215 cm. E-W by 310 cm. N-S, with its entrance at its north-west corner, facing west) were unearthed at the north-east corner of this square.

Many ceramics were derived from this layer, the majority dating to the Graeco-Roman period (fig. 1-7), associated with the sparse material of the Late Egyptian period. Possibly the Graeco-Roman settlement extended to this point of Tell Fara'ón.
Fig. 1 (exc.nr.83). — Amphora base, Nile clay, pink core, red/yellow surface.
2 (exc.nr.50a). — Small flask, red burnished.
3 (exc.nr.76). — Ring-based bowl, red burnished.
4 (exc.nr.2a). — Bowl, black burnished.
5 (exc.nr.26). — Bowl, black burnished.
6 (exc.nr.31b). — Bowl, black burnished.
7 (exc.nr.31a). — Ring-based dish, black burnished.
Fig. 8 (exc.nr.85). — Jar, Nile clay, red wash, ext.smoked.

9 (exc.nr.67/4). — Cooking pot, Nile clay, red wash, ext.smoked.

10 (exc.nr.88). — Jar, Nile clay, red wash.

11 (exc.nr.76). — Jar, Nile clay, red wash.
Fig. 12 (exc.nr.46/10). — Tall pot-stand, Nile clay, black core, red burnished.

13 (exc.nr.90/3). — Plate, Nile clay, red wash, ext.smoked.

14 (exc.nr.72/7). — Cylindrical jar, Nile clay, red wash.

15 (exc.nr.72/4). — Plate, Nile clay, red wash.
2. Directly below the first layer, the mud-brick foundations of a second stratum (containing only the northern part of a building with two small rooms) were recovered; it extended to the south in square d-4. At the top of the northern wall of this building (preserved up to 1.50 m. high and 1.85 m. thick) is an ancient pit (about 1.50 m. diameter) from the Late Period, containing a mass of ceramics (potsherds of various jars, cups, bowls, plates, flasks, pot-stands as well as some almost complete vessels). All of these ceramics date to the Late Egyptian period (e.g. the tall pot-stand illustrated on fig. 12).

3. In squares F.L/b-6,7, c-5,7 and c-3,4 the foundations of mud-brick buildings (preserved up to 50 cm. high max.) were uncovered; amongst them were the remains of two houses situated back to back. The first, on the north, oriented south-north contains at least six preserved rooms and there may have been another extension to the south which was destroyed by the local people early in the present century. The second, on the north is oriented north-south. Its arrangement is not yet completely clear, but it seems to be the same design as the first house, containing living rooms, storage rooms and kitchens. This last house was damaged by another mud-brick building built later in the same period; this new building extends below squares a-5,6 and b-5.

All the ceramics found within this stratum (containing various cooking pots, jars, bowls, plates, cups, pot-stands, sherds of big storage jars and some Phoenician amphora sherds) are Saite period and later (fig. 8-11, 13-15). Nothing in our finds this season was earlier than the Saite period.

A detailed further study of the ceramics found during this season will be carried out later; this study and an illustrated catalogue on the ceramics of Tell Fara’on-Imet, by the author, will appear in the near future.

Ibrahim Ali Mostafa.
E.A.O. FAQUS.
§ 6.

Tell Fara'oum-Imet.


The seventeenth excavation season at Tell Fara'oum-Imet on behalf of the E.A.O. took place from November 3rd to December 6th 1987.

The main aim of this season was to extend our knowledge about the layout of the Saite settlement, remains whereof have been unearthed during the last two seasons (cf. Bulletin de Liaison XI, 1986, pp. 8-12).

Therefore, excavations were continued in squares F.L / a-5,6; b-5,6; d-3,4, revealing the following:

1. The disturbed top layer (25-70 cm. thick) in squares a-5,6 and b-5 contained many different kinds of material (e.g. amulets, fragments of terracottas, fragments of stone vessels, etc.) in association with mud-brick debris. Amongst these was found a large quantity of ceramics dating from various periods, although nothing earlier than the XXVIth Dynasty.

The bulk of this material consists of locally produced pottery dating from the Late Egyptian (fig. 1) and Roman periods, as well as imports dating especially from the Ptolemaic era (fig. 2).

2. The next stratum exposed in squares F.L / a,b-5,6 contained the extension of those mud-brick foundations already partly uncovered during the 1985/1986 season. It is now clear that they belong to a magazine-like mud-brick building, oriented north-south, and measuring 12,8 m. N-S by 12,9 m. E-W, containing 10 small storage rooms.

All ceramics found within the debris of this structure (including sherds of bowls, cups, plates, flasks, big storage jars, pot-stands as well as several almost complete vessels) date from the XXVIth Dynasty (figs. 3-7).
Fig. 1 (exc.nr.95). — Two handled flask, Nile clay, red washed.

2 (exc.nr.11). — Globular flask, imported, ext.burnished, painted bands in dark brown and dark red.

3 (exc.nr.27). — Cooking pot, soft ceramic, Nile clay, red washed; small hole at the lower part of its wall.


5 (exc.nr.35). — Beaker, marl clay, with a whitish surface.

6 (exc.nr.55). — Jug. imported.

7 (exc.nr.56). — Conical bowl or lid, Nile clay.

8 (exc.nr.17). — Jug, imported.

9 (exc.nr.18). — Plate, Nile clay, red washed.

10 (exc.nr.49). — Lid, Nile clay, int./ext. smoked on lower edge.

11 (exc.nr.69). — Beaker, Nile clay, red washed.

12 (exc.nr.70). — Cup, Nile clay, red washed.

13 (exc.nr.86). — Pot-stand, Nile clay, red washed.
3. The foundations of another mud-brick building, already exposed during the 1982/1983 season by Magdy S. Salib in squares F.L/ d-3 and 4, were finally removed.

Below these foundations a 80 cm. thick layer of debris appeared, containing enormous quantities of sherds of various vessel types dating from the Saite period (for some of the complete vessels amongst this material see figs. 8-10).

Below this layer the foundations of yet another mud-brick building (preserved up to 80 cm. high max.) were recovered, containing a number of small, rectangular rooms, which had been destroyed by fire in ancient times.

Amongst the debris of this building many sherds and some complete vessels dating to the XXVIth Dynasty were found (figs. 11-13).

Some human skeletal remains were found here as well, possibly indicating that this building served as a tomb, which later on, during the Persian invasion, had been destroyed.

A further study of the ceramics found during this season will be carried out later on.

Ibrahim Ali Mostafa.
E.A.O. Faqous.

§ 7.

Pottery from the archaeological survey of the Eastern Nile Delta, Egypt — interim report.

(Italian Archaeological Mission of the Ligabue Study and Research Center, Venice.)

In autumn 1987 an archaeological survey to the Eastern Nile Delta was carried out by the Italian Mission under the direction of Professor Rodolfo Fattovich. The area investigated lies to the west of the Bahr Muweis / El Sufiya Canal, between 30° 50’ and 31° 00’ North latitude and between 31° 30’ and 31° 50’ East longitude.
In this region more than forty tells and kôms were examined. On 32 of them remains of ancient settlements were noticed and pottery was collected from 28 of them. We did not collect materials from the sites excavated earlier in this area by the Egyptian Antiquities Organization except at Tell Abu Shi'ëisa, now largely destroyed by farmers digging for sand. From each site was collected a representative sample of material containing from a dozen to several hundred potsherds. Material dated to Greco-Roman times was discovered on most of the sites. Also very distinct are the materials from Late Predynastic-Early Dynastic times. Rather unclear, however, are the data from the period later than the Old Kingdom and earlier than the Ptolemaic period.

Because the main duty of the expedition was to recognize the oldest settlements in the investigated area, our greatest attention was given to those sites where Late Predynastic/Early Dynastic material was found. From these tells and kôms come all the larger collections of pottery with more than one hundred sherds.

The biggest sample of pottery was collected at Tell e! Farkha. The bulk of the material is rough ware with chaff temper. There are fragments of big storage pots, bread moulds, bowls and jars. Sometimes simple potmarks occur on this pottery. There was also found brown and red burnished ware — mostly bowls, rarely jars. On pots with a red slip, marks of horizontal burnishing are visible near the orifice, and radial or vertical marks on the lower part. It is necessary to mention a fragment of a spouted bowl of red burnished ware. In Tell el Farkha a small fragment belonging to a rim of black polished (or black topped) ware was also found. Pottery types clearly belonging to the Late Predynastic period occur on this site as well as forms which continued into Early Dynastic and Old Kingdom times.

A second large sample of pottery comes from Tell el Dab'a. There, besides the traces of an early settlement we also find abundant pottery from Greco-Roman times. Among the early pottery a complete bread
mould made of reddish-brown ware with abundant coarse chaff temper was found. The upper part was smoothed, while the lower part is uneven and irregular. Its rim diameter is 28 cm, the height 18 cm, and wall thickness 25-35 mm. On this site fragments of bread moulds are fairly numerous. Among the coarse ware with chaff temper were also found big baggy-shaped pots having a diameter of more than 50 cm, as well as large, deep bowls and jars. Brown and red burnished bowls form the second group of pottery.

An important Late Predynastic/Early Dynastic site is Tell el Samara, but because of difficult sighting conditions our collection of early pottery is fairly small. As on all sites from these times, we found here thick-walled pottery with chaff temper (fragments of bread moulds, bowls and jars) and also red burnished bowls as well as orange-red fine ware.

Modern cemeteries have much destroyed the sites in Umm el Zaiyat, Tell Gandiya and Gezira el Faras. The pottery discovered there suggests that these places were settled in Early Dynastic times and continued at least until the Old Kingdom. We found there abundant fragments of rough ware (bread moulds, jars, simple shaped bowls) sometimes with simple potmarks, as well as red slip, burnished ware-mostly simple shaped bowls, occasionally jars. Internal surfaces of some bowls are burnished radially (vertically), and only near the rim horizontally. Brown burnished or well smoothed bowls and jars are also encountered. Very rare are S-shaped bowls. One red burnished bowl of this kind was found at Tell Gandiya, and the second, brown, at Umm el Zaiyat. A fragment of a cylindrical jar found at Gezira el Faras should also be mentioned.

Similar material was found on almost completely destroyed sites in Kom Om Sir, Tell el Ein and Tell el Diba'.

Greco-Roman pottery was collected from 26 sites. We found materials from Ptolemaic to Late-Roman and Byzantine times. These later materials are the most abundant. Not all the Greco-Roman sites
could be precisely dated on the basis of the collected pottery, because some of the collections are small and without diagnostic elements. In this report I want to focus only on some of the more interesting samples of pottery.

At least part of the pottery from Tell Umm el Lahm - south can be dated to the Ptolemaic period. We found there fragments of a fine, light ware decorated with black bands as well as fragments of jars, amphorae and bowls of brown and reddish-brown ware, mostly with chaff temper, and a fragment of a black bowl. Many of the forms met there are also common in Late Roman times.

On four sites we found fragments of light terra sigillata: at Kôm el Hamam, Tell el Qanan, Ezbet Aniz Ghebrial and Tell Abu Shi’eisa. There are fragments of shallow bowls with modelled rims, based on a low foot and usually with simple decoration. On the same sites occur many fragments of amphorae of red, reddish-brown, brown or buff ware as well as bowls of Red Slip ware. At Kôm el Hamam among pots of the last class we found a bowl with many-angled rim (Hayes, Late Roman Pottery, Form 96). Red Slip ware pots were found also at Kôm Umm el Lahm - south, Telî el Ahmar, Tell el Dab’a, Tell el Dar el Hamra, Tell el Lugga, Tell Thufiya and Tell el Samara. From Tell el Lugga comes the second bowl with many-angled rim. We found there also covers of different shapes and many fragments of amphorae and bowls of brownish-red ware with chaff and sand temper.

At Tell el Ahmar also, two decorated fragments of reddish-brown ware (with no trace of a slip) are worth mentioning. One has incised wavy and horizontal line decoration, and the second deep and wide vertical grooves.

Red ware is very common in Tell el Dab’a. Part of this pottery carries traces of a red slip. They are mainly fragments of footed bowls, sometimes carinated, and small pots with cylindrical or tulip-shaped necks. There was also found a fragment of a carinated bowl in a black lustrous ware.
Coarse red, brown or brownish-red wares with sand and chaff temper dominate on all Greco-Roman sites. It should be mentioned that on many sites there occur likewise a brown ware with a yellow slip, a buff ware and a dark grey fine ware.

Finally I want to draw attention to Tell Abu Shiéisa, now a much destroyed site. There we found material which could be as old as the Early Dynastic period, but basically it is a Greco-Roman cemetery. Apart from the fragments of terra sigillata mentioned above we found there bowls of Red Slip ware and black burnished ware. Dark grey ware and brown ware with yellow slip is also not uncommon. Most abundant, however, is reddish-brown coarse ware with chaff or sand temper. To this technological group belong fragments of amphorae, multiple horizontal handles, fragments of jugs or amphorae with a handle continuing above the orifice level, and also flower pots with thumb marks on the bottom.

Most of the Greco-Roman pottery was wheel made and only rarely handmade. Of all the Greco-Roman sites from which we have richer collections of pottery, the most abundant is the material dating from the fourth to the sixth century A.D. Although it is conceivable that settlement in these places dates to older periods, on the surface of kôms and tells we find mostly material connected with the last phase of settlement.

Marek Chłodnicki.

§ 8.


(Université de Lille III et l’Organisme égyptien des Antiquités.)

La céramique recueillie au cours des deux premières campagnes de fouilles effectuées sur le site de Tell el-Herr (Nord-Sinaï) par la Mission archéologique franco-égyptienne de Tell el-Herr a été présentée dans un rapport préliminaire publié dans le CRIPEL 10 (1988).
Exemples de céramiques préhellénistiques à Tell el-Herr
a, b (éch. 1/4); c, d, e (éch. 1/2).
Au cours de la dernière campagne, de février à avril 1988, un sondage au nord-est du fort a été élargi et approfondi et l’angle du rempart dégagé, ces travaux amenant la découverte de nouveaux types de céramique.

Appuyées contre la face externe des fortifications ont été dégagées cinq amphores de type samien, non décorées, à la panse ventrue et au talon en bouton.

Les murs de la période pré-hellénistique ayant été arasée et le terrain comblé et nivelé, avant la construction d’un nouvel établissement, la poterie retrouvée dans ces couches est encore très mélangée et comporte la plupart des types pré-hellénistiques et hellénistiques décrits dans l’article cité plus haut.

La céramique attique de la fin du Vᵉ siècle av. J.-C. est toujours présente : céramique vernissée estampée et petits lécythes à figures rouges. Un fragment de lécythe à fond blanc pouvant remonter au VIIᵉ siècle av. J.-C. a été découvert. Les amphores grecques sont toujours très nombreuses. La poterie palestinienne est représentée par des lampes phéniciennes, des mortiers, des amphores à anse de panier, des amphores torpêdo, et un nouveau type d’amphores en obus, d’ailleurs imité localement (fig. a).

La poterie d’origine locale est fréquente et comporte un certain nombre d’imitations de vases étrangers, telles les amphores mentionnées ci-dessous, une copie de cratère en pâte lustrée noire (fig. e), de petits vases à parfum en forme d’amphores miniatures (fig. c et d). Outre ceux-ci, plusieurs fragments de vases Bès et de nombreux exemplaires de poterie commune atypique dont des vases à bec et de nombreuses jattes bordées d’une petite lèvre Ronde, en pâte grossière rouge recouverte d’engobe rouge foncé (fig. b).

B. Gratien.
§ 9.

Kôm Rabî’a, Mit Rahina.

(The Egypt Exploration Society.)

The fifth season of excavation at Kôm Rabî’a by the Egypt Exploration Society ran from September 15th until November 3rd 1988.

The terraces described in the last Bulletin (see now JEA 7, 1988), were taken down and a series of rebuildings of the terrace walls defined. The highest terrace to the west was found to be entirely built on fill within the second terrace (on which a donkey skeleton RAT-913 was found in 1987).

To the east of a casemate wall bounding these terraces the quadrant of a large circular brick-built feature (silo ?) within the exposure was removed. A large pit filled with rich organic deposit was found to lie beneath the silo, but must have been covered over by successive sand and brick rubble deposits before the silo was built. Below the pitting a substantial brick enclosure wall was exposed at the end of excavation, following the recognized Middle Kingdom orientation.

A small sounding was made in the south-west corner of the original excavation site in order to clarify the deep terracing down to the south, identified in 1986. Here a series of New Kingdom features were recorded, including the construction trench for a very substantial wall built of grey clay bricks. At the end of excavation a possible construction trench for the terrace wall was defined, containing re-deposited Middle Kingdom pottery from contexts disturbed by the terracing.

The ceramic phase described in the previous report for the Bulletin and which compares to that of Sector 7 at Dahshur (excavations of the German Institute of Archaeology under Dieter Arnold) continued throughout the Middle Kingdom structures on the site. This phase, labelled provisionally Middle Kingdom E, corresponds to the XIII th
Dynasty according to the evidence from Dahshur. At Kôm Rabîʿa, the depth of deposit and its consistent character are especially interesting. The next phase, Middle Kingdom E/D, is characterized by the appearance of rim types in Nile C jars and Marl C storage jars of the type found in XII th Dynasty deposits at Dahshur (Dorothea Arnold in *Mitteilungen de Deutschen Archaeologischen Instituts Abteilung Kairo, Band* 38 (1982), Abb. 7, 11. Abb. 8, 6). They occur together with a change in the technology. Flat bases of open forms often show marks of finishing by hand using the fingers or a tool, in contrast to the previous phase (Middle Kingdom E) when most flat bases were finished on the wheel. The ceramic phase, Middle Kingdom E/D may tentatively be equated with the early XIIIth Dynasty, and represents the period missing from the sequence at Dahshur, which covers only the late XIIth and the late XIIIth Dynasties, with a gap in between the two.

Several deposits in one specific section of the site produced numerous pan-grave sherds, amounting in all to 7 or 8 bowls, together with small quantities of Tell el-Yahudiyeh ware, in both Nile silt and an imported fabric. There were also three types of imported amphorae, probably originating in the Levant. These amphorae are similar in fabric to those of the New Kingdom but show different shape characteristics.

Throughout Middle Kingdom E and E/D, fragments of «fish-platters» know from Kahun, Dahshur and Lisht were found. One complete and very fine example, found upturned beneath the foundation courses of a wall, was restored from fragments. All the fish platters were made of Marl C fabric. They continue to appear at Kôm Rabîʿa until the early XVIIIth Dynasty, though in this latest stage of their appearance they are made of Marl B and the decorative designs reduced to linear patterns. The function of these large, oval, handmade dishes covered on the inside with incised decoration is not clear but they form such a consistent group, common in fabric, technique of manu-
facture, style of decoration and shape that we must assume a common function. Husking trays or bread moulds have been suggested but neither theory is totally convincing. None of the examples show signs of wear or of great heat. One other example from Ballas (courtesy of Peter Lacovara) had a grain of cereal lodged in the incisions. Their occurrence at Kôm Rabî'a in a domestic setting confirms their connection with the preparation and consumption of food, and we can presume that this explains their appearance at other sites, like Lisht, in tombs. The decoration, confined to the inside, consists of two distinct zones, the base and the sides. The base in all examples found so far carries the motif of a fish, the scales of which are represented by half-moons made in the wet clay with the finger nail. Around the sides, the motifs are desert animals, antelope and lion, but linear motifs and fish occur again. The character of the incised line is confident, if stylised.

The New Kingdom ceramic deposits covered the period from the late to the mid-XVIIIth Dynasty, with a deposit of the early XVIIIth Dynasty found in a pit fill on the last day of excavation.

The following members of the team worked on the pottery from Kôm Rabî'a in 1988: Sarah J. Buckingham, Janine Bourriaux, Barbara Ditzer, Paul T. Nicholson and Amanda Parrish.

Janine Bourriaux.

§ 10.

Saqqara (Unas Causeway Area).


In autumn 1987 it became necessary for reasons of public safety to re-grade the south side of the Unas causeway excavation at the eastern end of the restored section, a short distance east of the tomb of Khnum-hotep and Ny-ankh-Khnum. Excavations by Dr. Huleil Ghali, Director of Antiquities for Saqqara and Memphis, revealed the
tops of tomb-shafts of the Late Old Kingdom, together with associated tomb-chapels of mud brick.

Only some 25% of the 11,000 sherds recovered were of the Old Kingdom, however; most of these derived from coarse jars of medium size. 60% were Coptic (dated by Pascale Ballet and Janine Bourriau to the 5th - 6th centuries A.D.), doubtless to be associated with the monastery of Apa Jeremias, immediately adjacent to the south. 15% were Late Dynastic, mainly of the 5th - 4th centuries B.C. Late Dynastic and Coptic burials were found in the sand above the shafts.

Among the Late Dynastic material, marl vessels predominate over silts. In a domestic context in the Memphis region at this time the reverse would be expected, and it may be that much of the pottery was made for funerary purposes. Commonest were medium-sized wide-mouthed marl jars, which may have contained offerings, and larger marl jars stained black or containing the remains of black resinous substances no doubt used in the mummification process. As is characteristic of this period, a large proportion of the silt vessels and a few of the marls, were covered with a fugitive red slip or wash and many were wholly or partly burnished. Restricted forms were more frequent than open forms among both marls and silts, but especially among the marls. There were several Aegean amphora types, including a number of probable Corinthian origin.

The Coptic pottery consisted mainly of known (though so far unpublished) wares and forms which occurred in the Sacred Animal Necropolis and the New Kingdom Necropolis, both at Saqqara.

Full publication of the Late Dynastic pottery is planned for an early issue of the « Cahiers de la Céramique », and it is hoped to publish the new elements among the Coptic pottery also.

Peter French.
§ 11.

Saqqara, New Kingdom Necropolis.


Excavation of the tomb of Maya, Overseer of the Treasury (temp. Tutankhamun — Horemheb) continued this season with the clearing of the eastern end of the outer court, the pylon, and the narrow area between the tombs of Maya and the two Tias. Simultaneously, excavation of the underground chambers was undertaken which revealed a complex of 18 rooms and passageways on two levels. The upper level had been reused for LP burials but the lower level, although completely plundered and thoroughly disturbed (e.g. sherds of one vessel were recovered from seven different rooms), was virtually uncontaminated with later material.

In a sideroom on the lower level the bases of eleven large white-washed Nile silt storage jars were found in situ, and although their tops had been smashed off, the bases still contained part of their original contents — a light brown powder (possibly flour). Also from the lower level came a large number of hieratic docketts from small marl-clay vessels which specified the various contents as honey, moringa-oil (ḥk), mrḥt-oil and ṳḥ oil « for the funeral procession of » Maya. Of particular interest because of their presence in such a closely dated context, were fragments of two Mycenaean stirrup jars found amongst the pottery of the lower level.

Joins were found between pottery from Chamber A in the upper level of Maya’s tomb and the NK deposit from the surface over the central chapel described last year (Bull. de Liaison XII, 1987, 19-20), indicating that this deposit actually derived from the first chamber of Maya’s underground complex. Associated with the LP burials in Chamber A were two Aegean amphorae and four partially reconstructable Phoenician amphorae. The bulk of the pottery from
the underground chambers remains to be studied next season; however, 25 blue-painted vessels have already been reconstructed including two fluted goblets, four nmst-vases (clearly constituting a single set as all have nearly identical decoration), a set of four hs-vases, three lids, two fine thinwalled bowls (one with a pendant lotus design), and a tall carinated beaker with rosettes applied around the rim.

Clearing of the eastern end of the superstructure of the tomb revealed that the mudbrick pylon had collapsed preserving the reliefs in the entranceway and also burying a large mass of pottery deposited in the SE corner of the outer court and an even larger deposit just in front of the pylon. The pottery from these deposits will be studied next year, however it is clear that they contained a large number of «beer jars», small funnel-necked jars, and a fair amount of blue-painted pottery. Already one join has been noticed with pottery from the south chapel indicating that the deposits represent part of the cult pottery used for the presentation of offerings in Maya’s tomb. It may be noted that for the first time in the New Kingdom necropolis we have available for comparison a large quantity of cult pottery recovered from the superstructure, and a contemporary funerary assemblage from the substructure of the same tomb.

In the narrow space between the south wall of the tomb of Maya and the tomb of the Tias, a NK embalmers’ cache was uncovered consisting in part of marl clay amphorae filled with natron and sealed with plaster, large round-bottomed Nile silt jars with square rims, also filled with natron, and a «meat jar» filled with natron and a black powder. Since the top of the cache was more than a metre above the pavement level of Maya’s outer court, it is probably to be associated with the Tia tomb (temp. Ramses II) rather than with Maya.

Four LP embalmers’ caches were also discovered at a height of approximately 2 metres above Maya’s pavement level — three south of the south wall of the tomb and one north of the north wall.
Cache 1 contained a minimum of 155 vessels, including, in order of frequency:

1. Red-slipped burnished Nile silt bottles (with an ovoid body and long cylindrical neck).
2. Red-slipped burnished Nile silt bowls (slightly restricted with the greatest diameter in the lower part of the bowl).
3. Coarse Nile silt ringstands.
4. Thick-walled, self-slipped Nile silt plates.
5. Thin-walled beakers of fine Nile silt red-slipped and burnished, and one of a lighter mixed-marl clay.
6. Large two-handled Nile silt storage jars.
7. Large, thick-walled Nile silt platters, hand-made on the ground, self-slipped or with a red-washed rim.
8. Small white-washed Nile silt platters.

Many of the bottles and bowls were filled with wads of blackened linen, and one large bottle contained a complete bowl broken in pieces and packed between layers of linen. Included in the cache was a large quantity of white powdery natron, some of it loose in the sand and some tied up in small linen-wrapped packets. The pots had been covered with a layer of chaff, much of it blackened, and matting laid on the top. Caches 2-4 contained 9, 17 and 8 vessels respectively.

Barbara and David Aston.

§ 12.

Mons Claudianus.

(IFA.O.)

Excavations at Mons Claudianus continued for the second season under the direction of Professor Jean Bingen of the University of Brussels. A five week season, taking place in January and February
1988, extended work initiated during 1987 on the sebakht located
south of the fort (Bingen 1987). In addition to the rubbish mound,
building complexes along the western and northern edge of the sebakht
were investigated.

A large quantity of pottery was recovered during the 1988 season,
and approximately one ton was classified, allowing the ceramic
typology initiated in 1987 to be enlarged. Like the pottery from 1987,
it formed a cohesive group of late-first to early-second century A.D.
material, a date which is in keeping with evidence from the ostraca.
Assemblages from the three areas of excavation, the sebakht and
buildings to the west and north, were apparently homogeneous in
composition and date, and no pottery of later date could be identified.

At least 90% of the pottery consisted of amphorae, and Egyptian
types produced from Nile clays predominated. Non-Egyptian imports
accounted for less than one percent of the total amphorae but, despite
this small quantity, the variety of types represented sources in Italy
(Dressel 2-4), Spain (Dressel 20, Haltern 70), Gaul (Gauloise 4) and
Tripolitania. Of these, the Dressel 2-4 wine amphorae occurred most
frequently and although they were sparse in absolute numbers they
represent a consistent source.

Re-use of amphorae is a well-known phenomenon and the site pro-
vided some expecially good examples of this. In addition to vessels
found in situ in building floors, re-worked spikes (possibly used as
whetstones) and small vessels fashioned out of portions of the larger
amphorae were identified. An unique find, a hand-shovel cut from
an amphora body sherd, was also present.

The remainder of the pottery was almost entirely Egyptian, although
rare sherds of red slipped wares from the Levant (Eastern Sigillata
A) were identified. Apart from these imports, the fine ware assem-
blage was composed primarily of Egyptian thin walled wares, many
with barbotine decoration. Faience glazed vessels also occurred.
A similar supply pattern was reflected by the lamps, most of which
belonged to the Egyptian ‘frog’ tradition with only rare Italian products present. Cooking wares and undecorated table wares appeared to be exclusively Egyptian in origin.

The material from Mons Claudianus is similar to that found at Quseir al-Qadim on the Red Sea coast (Whitcomb and Johnson 1979 and 1982), although the latter’s port location has resulted in a greater quantity and slightly wider range of imports.

Research on the pottery will continue during the 1989 field season, and special emphasis will be placed on technological studies to assess manufacturing techniques for the different types of Egyptian pottery.

Roberta Tomber.
University of Southampton.

References


§ 13.

Douch/Kysis, oasis de Kharga.
(1er-31 mars 1988, IFAO.)

La campagne de fouilles, menée sur le tell de l’antique Kysis par M. Reddé, a porté sur divers secteurs du site urbain et du temple.

1. La céramique.

La céramique des niveaux récents (4e-5e siècles apr. J.-C.).
Elle provient des niveaux supérieurs de la rue nord-sud, du nettoyage de surface effectué entre la forteresse et le temple en brique, ainsi que
des dégagements effectués près de la porte nord de l’enceinte de la forteresse. La céramique présente les caractéristiques habituelles des productions tardives de l’oasis et de Kysis, étudiées lors des campagnes précédentes et dont la classification est bien avancée (*Bull. de Liaison GIECE*, XI, § 18; XII, § 16).

**La céramique des niveaux anciens (1er av.-1er apr. J.-C.).**

Elle provient des remblais situés sous le dallage de la seconde cour du temple, et sous le dallage de la chapelle adossée; la céramique de ces deux secteurs est de même époque et peut être datée, dans l’état actuel de nos connaissances, du 1er siècle av. au 1er siècle apr. J.-C. Il s’agit là encore de productions locales; les pâtes possèdent les mêmes types d’inclusions que pour la céramique des 4e-5e siècles après J.-C. La distinction entre ce matériel ancien et la céramique du Bas-Empire réside essentiellement dans les formes et les techniques de finition et de revêtement, ici plus sommaires. À la différence des céramiques tardives, celle-ci est rarement décorée.

On signalera, comme forme caractéristique de ces niveaux anciens, une coupe à bord convexe, rebord légèrement rentrant, à pied annulaire, avec également la variante à fond plat, qui semble caractéristique de la fin de la période hellénistique et du Haut-Empire.

La céramique provenant des fosses dites anciennes de la rue, antérieures, sur le plan de l’aménagement de cette zone, au tracé actuel de cet axe nord-sud, présente un certain nombre de points communs avec la céramique des sondages effectués sous le dallage du temple; elle est effectivement la plus ancienne du site de Kysis. Les formes les plus caractéristiques sont des bols de petite taille, à fond plat ou annulaire; des couvercles, des cruches de taille et de forme diverses et des jattes de taille modeste.

Si l’on se fonde sur la chronologie relative du site ainsi que sur les composantes de la céramique provenant de ces niveaux anciens, celle-ci paraît antérieure au matériel d’un dépotoir d’atelier
de potier fouillé en 1985; or, celui-ci comprenait, outre la céramique, des ostraca grecs et démotiques, dont deux sont datés du début du 2me siècle après J.-C.

2. Activités de potiers à Douch/Kysis.

Dès 1985, l’attention des archéologues avait été attirée par l’abondance de scories et de ratés de cuisson, en surface, sur les pentes nord du tell, en particulier là où un léger replat du profil est propice à des installations. Un dépotoir d’atelier, proche d’un puits, avait été fouillé, livrant une quantité importante de céramiques communes.

Lors de la campagne 1988, une structure de four apparaissant en surface sans doute à la suite d’un récent balayage éolien, j’ai pu procéder à la fouille de ce secteur, constitué d’un complexe de deux fours. Le premier est un grand four cylindrique conservé sur 1,60 m. de haut, d’un diamètre extérieur de 2,50 m. (niveau de la sole). La chambre de chauffe, parfaitement conservée, est totalement vitrifiée; elle est installée dans le substratum, donc située sous le niveau du sol, pour que la calorification soit meilleure.

Le second four est de plus petite taille, de forme rectangulaire; seule la partie inférieure de la chambre de chauffe est conservée; ses parois internes sont également couvertes d’une épaisse couche de vitrification.

Une zone de circulation relie ces deux fours.

La céramique y était peu abondante; en effet, ce sont généralement les dépotoirs avoisinants qui comprennent la majeure partie de la production d’un atelier. On peut noter néanmoins la présence de gargoulettes à engobe blancâtre, de plats à marli et de bouchons, dont certains aspects morphologiques rappellent les céramiques provenant des niveaux anciens des maisons 1 et 2. Parmi les aspects intéressants sur le plan technique, ce sont des éléments de calage, dits bobines, dont la forme ressemble à des supports de vases, peu élevés. Ces cales ont plusieurs formes, parois concaves et droites, plus ou moins bas,
de diamètre variant de 9 à 19 cm. Ces accessoires d’enfournement attestent très nettement une romanisation des techniques.

Tout autour du tell, nous avons repéré au moins cinq autres ateliers, dont subsistent les dépotoirs; apparaissent parfois les structures de fours. Ces zones devraient pouvoir être raccordées au plan topographique général.

Pascale Ballet.
IFAO.

§ 14.
Balat, oasis de Dakhla.

(Janvier-février 1988, IFAO.)

1. Le Mastaba.

Très peu de matériel céramique a été trouvé lors de cette campagne, menée par M. Vallogia et consacrée presque exclusivement à préparer la fouille de l’appartement funéraire. La poursuite de la fouille de la descenderie, commencée en 1987, a livré un dépôt de céramiques constitué d’une quinzaine de petites jarres à fond plat, épaule bien marquée et col court, de quelques formes ouvertes (assiette et vasque à rebord en bourrelet), enfin de deux bassines à pâte grossière et à parois épaisses, enduit à l’intérieur d’une couche de plâtre (?) dont la présence reste inexplicée. Ce dépôt est datable de la VIe dynastie.

Lors des travaux d’élargissement des limites de la fouille à l’intérieur du mastaba I/D et sur ses abords, à la partie supérieure, une coupe de la fin du Moyen Empire a été trouvée.

2. Le Kom sud.

La fouille des tombes du Moyen Empire et de la 2e PI du kôm sud de Qila’ el-Dabba, conduite par S. Aufrère, a été particulièrement fructueuse quant au matériel céramique. Une meilleure appréciation
des formes et des contextes nous a permis d'affiner la chronologie et de dissocier deux époques d'inhumation, l'une du Moyen Empire (on signalera en particulier un petit bol convexe à parois extrêmement fines, à rebord peint en rouge, importé de la Vallée), l'autre de la fin du Moyen Empire/2ePI, les formes les plus caractéristiques étant des coupes sur pied à carène. Trois céramiques, un pot globulaire à fond plat et deux cruches à eau sont à pâte calcaire; ces céramiques pourraient être également des importations, sans certitude absolue néanmoins.

Les datations proposées, outre les données que fournissent les scarabées, sont actuellement fondées sur les types parallèles de Qaṣr el-Sagha et de Dahchour; ici, deux contextes, l’un de la XIIᵉ dynastie, l’autre de la XIIIᵉ, présentent dans les deux cas des parallèles avec la céramique des tombes du kôm sud de Qila’ el-Dabba, que l’on peut donc répartir en deux ensembles morphologiquement et chronologiquement assez distincts. Ces deux ensembles semblent par ailleurs correspondre à deux types d’inhumation.

Par rapport à la céramique de la campagne 1987, on notera que le matériel provenant de la tombe 16 présente des types tout à fait nouveaux, dont le bol signalé plus haut, une série de petits pots à col, à panse allongée, et un petit pot caréné, à deux anses horizontales, engobé d’un rouge assez brillant.

Pascale Ballet.

IFAO.

§ 15.

La céramique des bâtiments napatéens à Kerma (Soudan).

(Mission archéologique de l'Université de Genève).

le même emplacement, a été étudié. Il se trouve à environ 680 mètres à
l’ouest de la deffufa occidentale, au centre de l’agglomération actuelle
de Kerma. L’architecture, le matériel inventorié et les échantillons de
C14 étudiés ont permis de dater l’occupation des premiers siècles du
royaume de Napata 1. Lors de la campagne 1987-88, un deuxième
bâtiment de la même époque a été dégagé à 80 mètres au nord. Mal-
heureusement, ce bâtiment était en très mauvais état de conservation.

Les fouilles ont permis de mettre au jour une quantité considérable
de céramique. Plus de 40 récipients ont été retrouvés, conservés com-
plètement ou partiellement, in situ dans les pièces; ils appartiennent
aux différentes phases de l’occupation du bâtiment. Ces poteries se
rattachent plutôt aux formes destinées au stockage des réserves alimen-
taires. Plusieurs d’entre-elles contenaient des grains d’orge, des arêtes
de poisson et des os d’animaux. Certains récipients aux fonds brisés
étaient renversés dans des jarres plus anciennes. Ils étaient proba-
blement réservés à la conservation des poissons, en saumure. Cette
pratique est encore en usage dans la société nubienne. Des centaines
de tessons ont été recueillis sur le sol et dans les couches de destruction
des bâtiments. Un sondage effectué en 1987 dans le deuxième bâtiment
au nord a fourni des céramiques comparables à celles du premier
bâtiment.

La majorité de la céramique montre des traces de tournage. La
pâte, essentiellement brune, brun-clair ou brun-rouge, est de l’argile
du Nil mélangée à un dégraissant de sable et de la paille. Très peu de
plats ont été fabriqués avec une pâte calcaire. Les surfaces sont générale-
ment lissées ou parfois brossées, avec traces de pinceau à l’extérieur,
ou avec de l’engobe rouge sur les lèvres de certains gobellets et bols.

Les jarres, de dimensions variables, sont les formes les plus courantes
de cet ensemble. Certains exemples avec des lignes horizontales incisées

dans Genava, t. XXXII, 1984, p. 35-42.
sur la surface extérieure rappellent des jarres retrouvées par G.A. Reisner dans le cimetière d’El-Kurru 2. Les autres types sont des bols, des cruches, des plats, des gobelets et des moules à pains. Ces derniers sont de forme conique, allongée et à fond pointu. Ils ressemblent aux exemples rattachés par H. Jacquet-Gordon à la période napatéenne 3. D’autres moules à pain sont de forme circulaire et présentent un fond plat avec un rebord bien marqué. Le matériau est en cours d’étude; il sera présenté prochainement dans le cadre d’une thèse de doctorat à l’Université de Lille III.

Salah ed Din M. Ahmed.

II

INFORMATIONS GÉNÉRALES

§ 16.

Pottery Studies in the Alexandrian Region and the Conference organized by the «École française d’Athènes».

(October 9-12, 1988). Athens.

Pottery studies in the Alexandrian region are divided between two major spheres of archaeological research: Classical Mediterranean and Egyptian. The first of these fields concerns scholars not only in Alexandria but also in Greece, North Africa, Asia Minor and Palestine. Among the subjects now being investigated we can enumerate the following:

1) *Hadra vases.* A number of remarkable publications concerning Hadra vases are available (cf. those of Brown, Guerrini, Cox, Callaghan, Enklaar). However, recent investigations in Crete have brought to light new material suggesting that the production of these vases was centered in that Island. Arnold Enklaar came recently to Alexandria after an absence of some years in order to re-examine the collection of Hadra vases in the Greco-Roman Museum in pursuance of this research.

2) *Mycenaean ceramics.* A wide interest in the subject of Mycenaean pottery found in Egypt has been manifested in the last years consequent to the identification of such sherds at various sites in this country. The most recent are those found by the American expedition at Paraetonium (Marsa Matruh) and published by D. White in JARCE XXIII (1986). Others have been identified in the excavations of Abou el-Goud at Luxor (*Bull. de Liaison* IX / 9); at Kôm el-Rabi'a
at Memphis (*Bull. de Liaison* IX / 5 and X / 7); in the New Kingdom tombs at Saqqara (*Bull. de Liaison* X / 8, XI / 12 and XII / 11); at Qantir in the Delta (*Bull. de Liaison* XII / 3); at Karnak North in the excavations of the Treasury of Tuthmosis I and at Tabo (Argo Island) in the Sudan; the two latter are unpublished.

3) *Pottery kilns*. Two kilns have recently been identified, the first by the Marsa Matruh Inspectorate at Borg el-Arab and another by the West Delta Inspectorate located 23 km. south-west of Alexandria at a place called Mergham.

4) *Amphorae*. On-going research on the amphorae from the collection of the Greco-Roman Museum in Alexandria is being conducted by J.Y. Empereur of the «École française d’Athènes».

5) *Pottery from the peristyle building* (Hospitium) excavated by the author on behalf of the EAO West Delta project during the years 1983-1986.

Most of these subjects were discussed at a Round-Table Conference held at Athens (9-12 of October, 1988), organized by the «École française d’Athènes» and concerned with Alexandrian industry and commerce. A good deal of its time was devoted to the discussion of the pottery and other ceramic products of that city and its *chora*. New information on pottery production centers was presented by Mr. Feisal Eshmawy in relation to the kiln at Borg el-Arab mentioned above. A smaller kiln of early Roman date not yet completely excavated was described by Mr. Ahmed Abdel Fattah. It produced amphorae of forms Dressel 2-4 during the first and second centuries A.D..

Other Alexandrian pottery industries discussed at the meetings were:

1) Amphorae (J. Y. Empereur); 2) Ptolemaic fine wares of Alexandria (A. Enklaar); 3) Brasers from the Alexandria Museum (O. Didelot); 4) Imported and local pottery found in the Mareotic region.
(M. Rodziewicz). This includes the material from the double peristyle house (Hospitium) in Hawaryia. Analysis of these sherds, most of which come from two deposits east of the building, was completed last year and the publication is now in preparation. 30 plates of pottery forms, including local and imported wares of the late Vth to the VIIIth centuries A.D. will illustrate this work. It should form a useful complement to the pottery finds from the cult centre of St. Menas soon to be published by Dr. Joseph Engemann. The repertory of forms from the two sites will doubtless be similar, but certain differences may help us to a better understanding of the local pottery market in early Christian times. 5) Material from recent excavations conducted by the Alexandria Museum in the Eastern necropolis (Hadra), (Mrs. Dorreye Said, read by Dr. Daoud Abdu Daoud). The most important objects from these excavations were several Hadra vases, four of them bearing inscriptions datable to the second half of the third century B.C.. All of them are decorated with black floral motifs. The fabric is clearly of non-Egyptian origin — a pale yellow paste, very dense, with little temper. Associated with these were a variety of other types, mostly open forms together with a few jugs. All this material will be published in a forthcoming number of the BCH.

Future pottery research in this area will be concentrated on a number of artificial kôms located along the southern coast of Lake Mareotis where many pottery wasters are visible. The presently identified sherds from these kôms represent a limited number of amphora forms (published by Empereur in BCH 1987) and certain other kinds of pottery (including large basins 0.50 cm. in diameter and 0.25 cm. high) which were attested at Borg el-Arab and are thought to have been produced locally.

Michel Rodziewicz.
§ 17.

Prospections d’ateliers de potiers dans l’Égypte romaine tardive et byzantine.
(Automne 1987, IFAO.)


Il s’agissait de repérer les centres de fabrication de la céramique à l’époque romaine tardive et byzantine et d’identifier les productions. Afin de permettre une étude plus précise sur ces productions, un certain nombre de tessons ont été prélevés et déposés au Musée Copte, avec l’accord du Dr Gawdat Gabra, directeur général du Musée Copte, et de l’Organisation des Antiquités égyptiennes.

Tous les sites précités possèdent des ateliers de potiers, de taille et d’importance diverses.

Parmi les principaux résultats, il apparaît que les ateliers de la Moyenne Égypte sont des producteurs d’une très grosse quantité de céramique, en particulier d’amphores brunes côtelées principalement vinaires (Late Roman 7) et de céramique fine du groupe K; ce fait est frappant pour Scheikh Ibada/Antinoé, dont les dépotoirs atteignent une hauteur de parfois plusieurs dizaines de mètres. Il s’agit de productions à pâte alluviale.

De la région d’Assouan, nous avons pu également identifier avec certitude certains ateliers de la céramique dite d’Assouan (Groupe L = Egyptian Red Slip A), constituée d’argile de type kaolinite.

On peut établir une hiérarchie : gros ateliers, fabriquant à la fois pour l’exportation et la consommation locale (Scheikh Ibada, ateliers d’Assouan); ateliers de taille moyenne, dont la distribution est régionale (Édfou); ateliers modestes liés à un établissement urbain ou monastique de petite taille (Deir el-Fakhouri).

Pascale Ballet.
IFAO.

ERRATA

La rédaction se doit de signaler deux erreurs qui se sont glissées dans le *Bulletin de Liaison* XII et qui m’ont été signalées récemment.

1. Dans le rapport, § 8, sur « North Saqqara (Anubieion) 1987 :
   — page 14, l. 9, *lire* : « . . . only two spindle-shaped unguentaria . . . »
   — page 15, l. 3, *lire* : « . . . with the exception of two dubiously-provenanced pieces, . . . »

2. L’auteur du rapport sur les fouilles de l’EES/Leiden Museum à Saqqara n’est pas David Aston mais bien *Barbara* Aston.
III

CLASSEMENT CHRONOLOGIQUE
DES INFORMATIONS INCLUSES DANS LES PARTIES I ET II

Prédynastique : 3, 7.
   Negada II : 4.
Premières dynasties : 3, 4, 7.
Ancien Empire : 2, 4, 7.
   Fin : 10.
Moyen Empire : 9, 14.
   XIIIe dynastie : 9.
2e Période Intermédiaire : 14.
Nouvel Empire : 11.
   XVIIIe dynastie : 9.
Napatéen : 15.
Saïte : 2, 5, 6.
Persan : 2.
Période tardive : 5, 6, 8, 10, 11.
   Ptolémaïque : 6, 7, 16.
   Fin : 2.
Greco-Romain : 5, 7.
Romain : 6.
   Commencement : 2, 12, 16.
   Fin : 7, 13, 17.
Byzantine : 7, 17.

Chrétien :
   5e-6e siècles : 10, 16.
   7e-8e siècles : 1, 16.
Amphores : 1, 8, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17.
Fours à Potier : 2, 13, 16, 17.
Lampes : 8, 12.
Pan-Grave wares : 9.
Tell el-Yahudiya wares : 9.
Importations :
   Attique : 8.
   Chypriote : 1.
   Corinthienne : 10.
   Egéenne : 10, 11.
   Espagnole : 12.
   Gauloise : 12.
   Italienne : 12.
   Mycénienne : 11, 16.
   Palestinienne : 3, 8.
   Phénicienne : 11.
   Tripolitaniennne : 12.
   Tunisienne : 1.
IV

PUBLICATIONS RÉCENTES
SUR LA CÉRAMIQUE DE LA VALLÉE DU NIL


Hope (Colin) and Zimmer (Jennifer). *Catalogue of Ancient Middle Eastern Pottery from Palestine, Cyprus and Egypt in the Faculty of Arts Gallery, RMIT, June 1983. Essays on Australian Contributions to the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East.* — 1983.


Nous donnons ici la liste des conférenciers ainsi que les sujets de leurs conférences.

Bailey (D.M.). *The local Late Roman Red Slip Ware of Hermopolis Magna.*

Rose (P.). ‘Late Roman’ Pottery in Lower Nubia.

Gorecki (T.). *Coptic Painted Amphorae from Tell Atrib.*


Godlewski (W.). *Coptic Pottery from Deir el-Naqlun (Fayoum).*

Engemann (J.). *Early Islamic glazed pottery of the eighth century A.D. from the excavations at Abu Mina.*

Whitcomb (D.). *Coptic glazed ceramics from the excavations at Aqaba, Jordan.*

Kubiak (W.). *Roman type pottery in the Mediaeval Period.*

Zagorska (K.). *Early Islamic glazed pottery from Kom el Dikka (Alexandria).*

Török (L.). *Meroitic pottery styles.*

Strouhal (E.). *Further analyses of the hand-made pottery of the Dodekaschoinos (3rd-6th century A.D.)*


Daszkiewicz (M.) and Raabe (J.). *Pottery from the kiln site at Old Dongola : firing temperature.*

Smith (L.). *Pottery from Old Dongola : Technical analyses.*
Welsby (D.). *Pottery production at Soba East in the Christian Period.*
Grzymski (K.) and Phillips (J.). *Christian pottery from Hambukol, Upper Nubia.*

Trois séances de discussion tournaien autour des sujets suivants :

1. The tradition of Late Roman Pottery in the Nile Valley. Early Islamic pottery in Egypt.
2. Main centers of Coptic Pottery production.
3. Nubian pottery, centers of production and circulation.
FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF EGYPTOLOGY
(Cairo, Egypt, October 29-November 3, 1988)

La céramique était le sujet des conférences suivantes:

Brack (A.). Aloe oder Ensete (Wildbanane) auf der dekorierten Naqada II-Keramik?

Ballet (P.). Prospection d’ateliers de potiers dans l’Égypte romaine tardive et byzantine.

Eisa (N.). Study of ancient Egyptian pottery from the Eighteenth Dynasty excavated Tombs at Mitrakina.

Pilipenko (M.-A.). La céramique de la tombe du vizir Aper-el et des tombes voisines.


Bietak (M.). On methods of processing ceramical material from multiple strata.

Quesada (F.). The Herakleopolis Magna Pottery Project.

Lecuyot (G.). La céramique de la Vallée des Reines.

Majcherek (G.). Remarks on Roman Pottery from a newly discovered Site at Marina (El-Alamein).
Le Bulletin de Liaison du Groupe international d’Étude de la Céramique égyptienne XIII est en vente, sous la référence IF 682 :

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[B.P. Kasr El-Ayni n° 11562.]

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