

# BULLETIN DE LIAISON

DU

GROUPE INTERNATIONAL D'ÉTUDE  
DE LA CÉRAMIQUE ÉGYPTIENNE

XV

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS D'ARCHÉOLOGIE ORIENTALE DU CAIRE

1991



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Nous rappelons aux auteurs qui contribuent à ce *Bulletin de liaison* que la date limite pour la réception des manuscrits est fixée au 1<sup>er</sup> octobre de chaque année.

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

*Directeur de la publication :* Helen JACQUET-GORDON.

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INSTITUT FRANÇAIS D'ARCHÉOLOGIE ORIENTALE DU CAIRE

1991

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- VI. VII<sup>e</sup> Conférence internationale d'études nubiennes (Genève, 3-8 septembre 1990).
- VII. The Nile Delta in Transition, 4th-3rd millenium B. C. Seminar held at the Netherlands Institute for Archaeology and Arabic Studies (Le Caire, 21-24 octobre 1990).



# I

## CLASSEMENT GÉOGRAPHIQUE DES DÉCOUVERTES

### § 1.

#### **Excavations at Kom el-Dikka in Alexandria 1989-1990. Pottery Research.**

(Polish Center for Mediterranean Archaeology, Alexandria.)

The Archaeological and Restoration Mission at Kom el-Dikka, directed by Dr. W. Kolataj, initiated in 1988 a new program of archaeological research. The main task of this project was to excavate the northern part of the habitation quarter located west of R<sub>4</sub> street. The on-going work has already resulted in the clearing of an extensive area of urban architecture : Houses G, H and a fragment of K. Thanks to a well established stratigraphy it was possible to study the architectural development of this quarter of Alexandria over a long period of time ranging from the 2nd century B. C. to the 7th century A. D.

The usual profusion of ceramics encompassing a wide spectrum, both in geographical and chronological terms, resulted from each of the three successive campaigns. Amphorae total 70 % of the sherd count constituting the bulk of the excavated material. Many of these vessels were intact or restorable to a large extent.

The Late Roman stratum (4th-7th centuries A. D.) yielded a long sequence of amphorae, both Egyptian and foreign, reported already from Kellia and other sites in Egypt. A quantification of the pottery as well as research on material from a number of sealed deposits led to some surprising observations. Of particular interest was a series of well stratified forms related typologically to the so-called Gazan amphorae (Late amphora 4). At least four morphologically

different types could be distinguished ranging from a form hitherto unreported in Egypt and tentatively dated to the 2nd-3rd centuries A. D. to the standard 6th-7th centuries A. D. Gazan form (Egloff 182). All four share virtually the same visual fabric characteristics implying a common area of production for all of them. This discovery suggests not only a much longer tradition in the manufacture of such amphorae in Gaza than previously supposed (if not in the whole district extending from the Eastern Delta to Southern Palestine), but also a quite early date for established trade relations with that region. The volume of Alexandrian trade with South Palestine certainly reached its peak in the late 6th - early 7th century A. D. when Gazan amphorae accounted numerically for almost 50-60 % of all the imported vessels found at Kom el-Dikka. Sherds of the traditional Palestinian bag-shaped amphora (Red Khirbet Ayadiya variety) were also identified, albeit in limited numbers.

Furthermore, several necks and handles belonging undoubtedly to the orange Aswan class amphorae (Adams ware U2) were recorded. This comes as a surprise since hitherto their distribution range was considered to be limited to Upper Egypt and Nubia.

4th-5th century A. D. levels were marked by quite a large repertory of imported vessels. At least two of them are worth mentioning, being rather uncommon finds in Egypt. One is a tall cylindrical African amphora bearing a certain resemblance to the well-known spatheion type. A number of almost complete examples of this form were found reused for the covering of a street sewage channel. The other is a presumably Aegean globular spiked amphora featuring a distinct red micaceous fabric similar to the Form Agora M 273.

The presence of recently isolated new local types has also been observed. Their origin is to be traced to the neighbouring Mareotis district where several amphora kilns have been positively identified by J.-P. Empereur and M. Picon. These forms constitute a local third-century version of Dressel 2-4 amphora as well as a Late Roman-Omayyad small bag-shaped one (Egloff's forms 187-190).

A study of the tablewares also revealed some new specimens which have hitherto gone unreported. Of particular interest were numerous red-slipped examples very closely imitating Cypriot Sigillata ware. All of them were apparently made of a distinctly Nile silt fabric,

their forms, however, being limited mainly to Hayes' early 2nd century A. D. forms 32 and 40.

A publication of the amphorae from Kom el-Dikka is presently being prepared by the author.

Grzegorz Majcherek.

## § 2.

### **Excavations at Marina/El-Alamein.**

(University of Warsaw)

In 1987 an archaeological expedition from the Polish Center of Archaeology of Warsaw University, headed by W. A. Daszewski, commenced regular excavations on the site, concentrating upon the late Hellenistic-early Roman necropolis located to the south-west of the ancient town. (See W. A. Daszewski *et al.*, *Excavations at Marina el-Alamein 1987-1988*, in press.)

The excavations yielded a large assemblage of ceramic material representing geographically a wide spectrum and suggesting flourishing overseas relations.

A surprisingly high percentage of imported pottery had already been noticed during the surface surveys of the area. These findings were largely confirmed by three subsequent field seasons (1987-1990). Imported tablewares, particularly Cypriot Sigillata were found in considerable quantities both on the necropolis and in the town. A number of Eastern Sigillata forms was also recorded. Egyptian pottery is extremely rare, limited to a few sporadic examples of Red Slip ware made of Nile Silt.

Amphorae form the bulk of the excavated pottery. Egyptian vessels, although numerically abundant, are limited to but a few forms. Imported amphorae, on the other hand, show a greater diversity of forms and fabrics. The Egyptian type-series are represented by two forms, only recently recognized by Empereur as Mareotis products (cf. his types 1b and 2), the latter being a local version of the so-called Coan vessels. Another amphora which resembles in overall shape his type 1a was also identified and its place of origin positively ascertained. There is much evidence proving that the workshops

producing this yet unknown form were located further to the west, in the coastal region near El-Dabba.

Prevailing among imported vessels are wine amphorae, although there are also forms commonly thought of as oil or garum containers. Western amphorae are represented mainly by North-African products. Both types : Africana I and Africana II, widely distributed around the Mediterranean, are fairly common at the site. Sherds of Gaulish and Spanish amphorae have also been recorded.

However, the overwhelming majority of the studied material undoubtedly came from the East. The dominant position within this group is held by an amphora usually referred to as Mau XXVII/XXVIII that could be of Cypriot or Asia Minor origin. Cretan amphorae 1 and 3 are also fairly common. The profusion of eastern vessels is further emphasized by numerous fragments of Rhodian, Cnidian and Coan forms.

Of particular interest is the hollow-footed Kapitan II amphora which is widely distributed the Mediterranean. Much to our surprise we found this shape represented in Marina by two entirely different fabrics. One is the standard hard, gritty orange-red (2,5 YR 5/8) fabric, whereas the other is a fine creamy-buff (10 YR 8/4) one, closely resembling Rhodian products.

Some exotic amphorae were also recorded. There is, for instance, one example of a rather obscure form : Kingsholm 107, which shows some affinities with Palestine as far as fabric is concerned.

Most of the excavated material falls into the 1st century B.C.-3rd century A.D. range. However, some Late Roman ceramics were recorded as well; these are mostly made up of African Red Slip sherds and some fragments of Egloff's amphora 169.

Grzegorz Majcherek.

§ 3.

**Tell el-Haraby. A newly discovered kiln-site.**

(The Egyptian Antiquities Organization.)

Recently, an EAO archaeological mission from the Western Desert Inspectorate conducted research at a newly discovered kiln-site on the northwestern coast of Egypt. The site in question, Tell el-Haraby, was discovered accidentally some 173 km west of Alexandria, during road construction works on the Alexandria-Marsa Matruh road.

An extensive mound some 50-60 m across, made up almost entirely of broken sherds, covered the remains of several pottery kilns. The two larger structures were oval, some 5 m in diameter, with walls of dried mudbrick surviving in places to a height of about 3 m. A structural analysis of the remains indicates clearly a dome-like covering for the kiln. Upon clearing the firing chamber, it was found that its floor was pierced by numerous vents set in ray-like fashion, serving to conduct hot air and gasses from the furnace chamber below. Although objective difficulties do not permit a study of the furnace chamber, the specific dislocation of the vents in the kiln floor suggested a method of construction that is known from the pottery kilns discovered at other sites, for instance the Borg el-Arab kiln. In these cases the lower chamber forms a space surrounding a central pillar upon which the floor of the firing chamber is supported.

Evidence provided by numerous sherds at various stages of firing, wasters and a few complete vessels recovered during excavations indicates that the kiln served to produce two basic types of amphora (see Fig. 1, A, B), related by their characteristic fabric. In both cases it is buff-brown to red (2,5 YR 5/6-5 YR 5/4) with considerable amounts of lime and sand temper. Most of the finds have a conspicuously whitish or creamy surface which, however, is not a proper slip, but rather a scum residue on the vessel's surface resulting most likely from the use of salinated water in the manufacturing process.

The remains of a third, smaller structure were discovered in the vicinity of the two large kilns. Although much destroyed, it was clearly a kiln as well, although not intended for amphorae. The profusion of plate fragments, sherds of small bowls and cooking pots indicates the character of the production here.

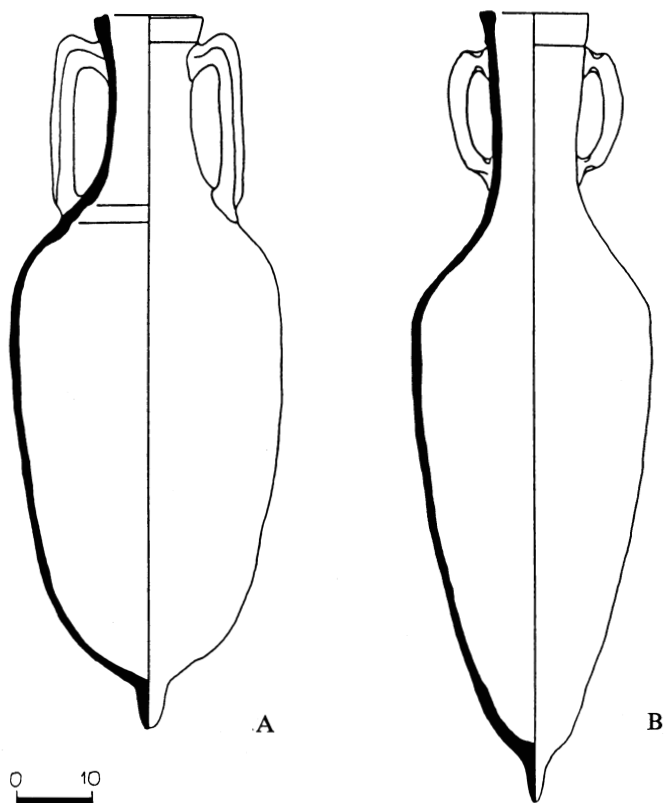


Figure 1. Two types of amphorae produced at Tell el-Haraby.

The archaeological evidence, albeit limited, testifies to two subsequent phases of production. The first phase, dated to the Late Ptolemaic period, was characterised by amphorae of type A as well as by a typical repertoire of common wares from the smaller kiln. In the following phase, it appears that amphorae of type B were almost the sole products of the kilns. Dating the second phase presents some difficulties for it seems that this particular shape of amphora has not been recorded at any Egyptian site so far. Some vessels of a similar form have recently come to light in the excavations of the Polish Center of Archaeology at the site of Marina el-Alamein, where they occur in contexts that are loosely dated to the 1st-2nd centuries



A.D. There is, however, no certain evidence to disprove the appearance of amphora type B during the heyday of the production of type A, in the Late Ptolemaic period.

A brief survey of the area around Tell el-Haraby pinpointed several other possible sites where a concentration of sherds and particularly wasters would point to a developed ceramic production in this region.

Grzegorz Majcherek, A. Shennawi.

§ 4.

**Buto. Tell el-Fara'in. 1990. Late Period.**

(Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Cairo.)

With the kind permission of the DAI, a study season in March and April 1990 gave an opportunity for further work on unregistered pottery from the EES excavation seasons of 1966-1969, much of which has remained in the small site magazine (pottery from 1964 and 1965 was generally not kept). The work concentrated on identifying the sherds, many of whose numbers had faded or been damaged by salting, and on bringing together the fragments of those which had been broken. Some 500 identifications were made, representing around two-thirds of all those theoretically possible. Up to another 100 sherds may be identifiable, and a small number of registered vessels given to the British Museum are available for study. During the excavations the majority of the sherds were drawn; a major task for next season is the checking of these drawings for accuracy and the drawing of the remainder. The identifiable sherds will be grouped by ware and a typology attempted. It may be possible to complete the field work in one further season and cross-referencing of sherds of the same type should allow more accurate dating of levels than was possible at the time; the late Ptolemaic/early Roman material from the DAI work will also be helpful. Except for the lower strata of area W8 (see contemporary reports in the *JEA*) almost all the excavations were at Ptolemaic or Roman levels. It is hoped to have this long-delayed publication ready for press in late 1992; meanwhile, study of the DAI Late Period pottery will continue.

Peter French.

§ 5.

**Mendes/Tell el-Roba, 1990.**

(University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana and the University of Washington, Seattle.)

A short preliminary season of excavation was undertaken at Mendes to investigate the Archaic period occupation of the site. Excavations were conducted in two areas to the east (Area A) and north (Area B) of the standing granite naos and continued down in soundings made by the previous excavators in the 1960-1970 seasons <sup>1</sup>.

In Area A, within the walls of a dynasty 5 mastaba, pottery of dynasty 1-2 date was found beneath about 2.3 m of Old Kingdom debris. No associated walls or other features were exposed. The Archaic pottery consisted of typical forms of half polished bowls, bread moulds, necked jars and lids, all made of Nile silt B and C.

In Area B, three levels of occupation were encountered. The uppermost had been disturbed by later Old Kingdom pits but contained dynasty 1-2 pottery similar to that found in Area A.

Below this, several superimposed hearths of Naqada III date were found in association with mudbrick walls. One hearth, measuring 80 cm in diameter had been set into a square depression constructed in a mudbrick platform. The hearth basin was then modeled, not moulded, from Nile mud mixed with straw, and fired in place, resulting in ashy deposits between the ceramic basin and the brick structure surrounding it. The interior of the basin was lined with grey clay. The exterior faces had been smoothed in a vertical direction.

The pottery in association with these features was predominantly composed of straw tempered Nile silt and includes necked jars, reinforced rim bowls and basins, cups and large crude basins presumably used for bread making (fig. 1-2).

1. Allen, S. and Wilson, K. 1980, "Excavations at Mendes, 1976-1979", in *L'Égyptologie en 1979*, I, p. 142. Hansen, D. 1967, "Excavations at Mendes 1965-1966", *JARCE* VI, p. 615 sq.

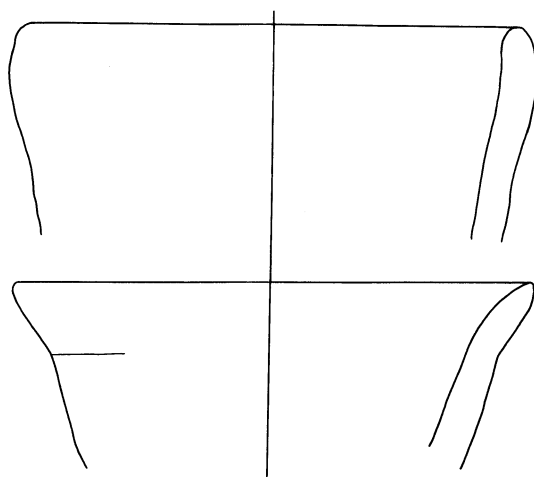
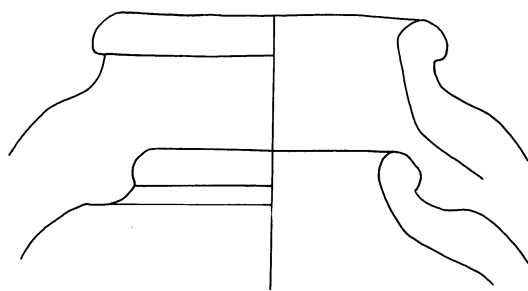


Figure 1. Straw tempered Nile silt jars and cups.  
(Éch.  $\frac{1}{2}$ )

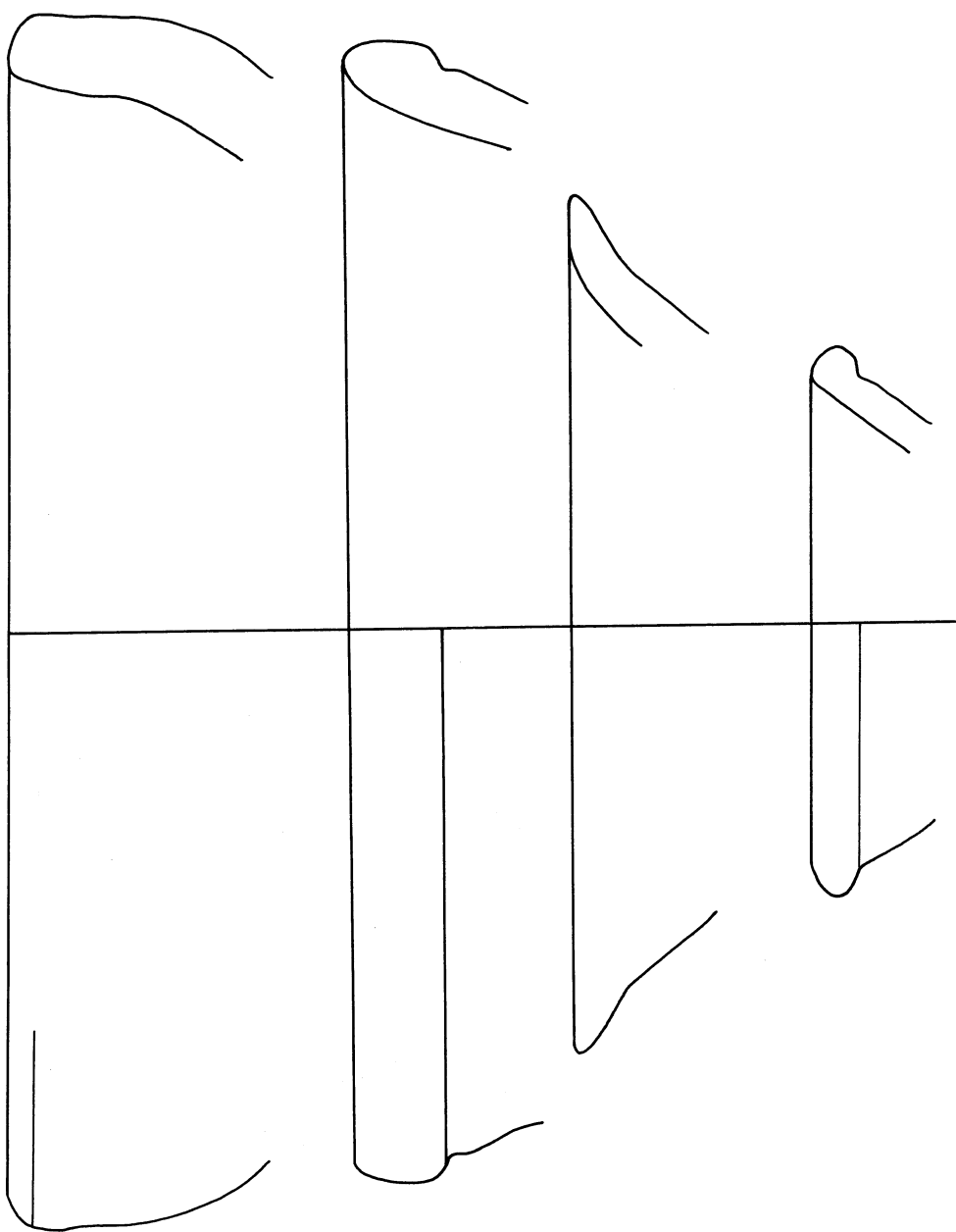


Figure 2. Straw tempered Nile silt basins and bowls. (Éch. 1/2)

A common form in this assemblage is the hole-mouth jar (fig. 3). These relatively thick-walled vessels often have a slightly thickened rim and a diameter ranging from 12-17 cm. A wet incised potmark was found on the interior, just below the rim, on a sherd from one of these vessels. Hole-mouth jars, to date, have been noted only among similarly dated Egyptian influenced assemblages in Palestine<sup>2</sup>. Whether this shape represents a local tradition in cookware (most samples are soot discolored) or is to be considered part of the general Egyptian domestic pottery corpus, remains to be investigated.

A number of sherds with two or three smoothed or reworked edges were also recovered. It has been suggested that these may be

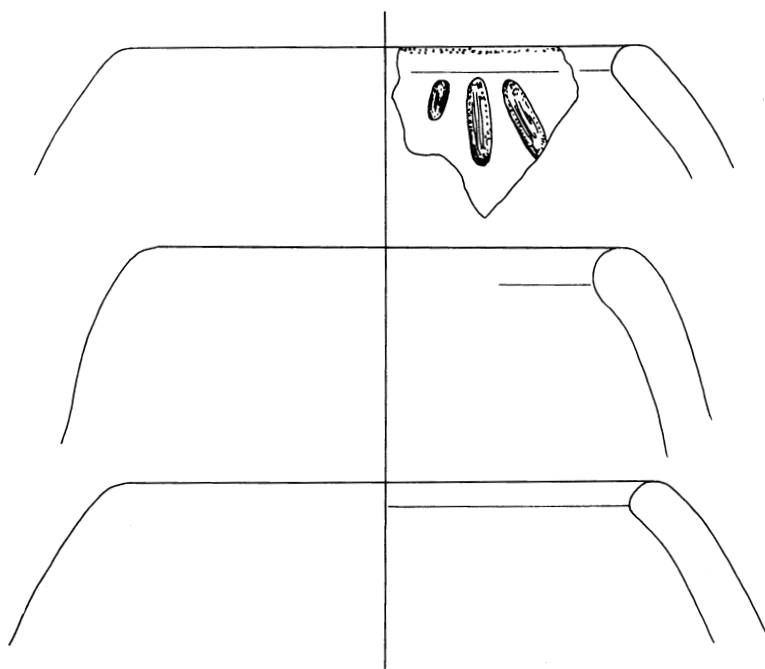


Figure 3. Straw tempered Nile silt hole-mouth jars. (Éch. 1/2)

2. Gophna, R. 1976, "Excavations at 'En Besor", *Atiqot* 11, fig. 6, 14. Gophna, R. 1990, "Relations between 'En Besor oasis, Southern Canaan and Lower Egypt during the late Predynastic and the beginning of the 1st dynasty", paper presented at *The Nile Delta in Transition: 4th-3rd millenium B.C.* Seminar of the Netherlands Institute for Archaeology and Arabic Studies.

parts of fenestrated potstands or rectangular flat or slightly curved pans; however their purpose remains unknown. Similar sherds were found at Buto in level 3 with which this level at Mendes has much in common<sup>3</sup>.

Less than 1% of the material was made of marl clay. The shapes were limited to necked jars, a bowl and one possible cylinder jar (fig. 4). Several sherds of finer Nile silt were coated with a lime slip and occasionally burnished, perhaps in imitation of these marl clays. Red slipped half-polished bowls of Nile silt B1 were rare.

The lowest level was only partially excavated and thus far no architectural elements have been found. The limited ceramic sample was

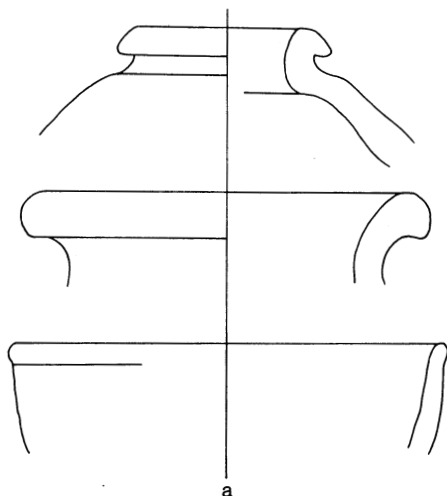


Figure 4a. Marl jars and bowl.

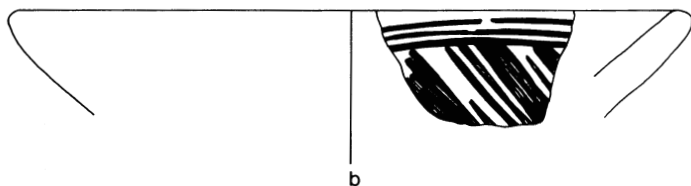


Figure 4b. Nile silt half-polished bowl. (Éch. 1/2)

3. Koehler, C. 1990, personal communication.

generally similar to that found in the previous level, although half polished bowls were lacking, and straw tempered roll rimmed jars without necks predominated.

Several body sherds from the two lowest levels composed of a gritty brown fabric exhibiting fine hair-like voids within the brown slipped and polished exterior surface appear to be identical to material at Buto considered to represent the local Lower Egyptian pottery tradition <sup>4</sup>. Other body sherds of organic tempored Nile clay with red and brown slipped exterior faces suggest a connection to the ceramics from the Lower Egyptian cultural phase A at Tel el-Iswid <sup>5</sup>.

The continued occurrence of Lower Egyptian wares and the range of shapes in these levels at Mendes suggests a correspondence with level 3 at Buto which has been dated to the beginning of Naqada III and represents the gradual transition to the Upper Egyptian material culture, rather than an abrupt change in ceramics as observed at other Delta sites <sup>6</sup>.

Renée Friedman.

## § 6.

### **Tell Atrib/Benha, 1989.**

(Polish Center for Mediterranean Archaeology, Alexandria.)

Continuing the work begun in the 1987 and 1988 seasons, the Polish-Egyptian Mission directed by Prof. Dr. Karol Myśliwiec conducted a field campaign on Kom Sidi Youssuf in Tell Atrib, ancient Athribis. The work took place in September and October 1989.

The investigated area, south of the Kom, contained a fragment of urban architecture of dried mudbrick dated to the Ptolemaic period. The kilns and kiln refuse which were found in almost all of the rooms

4. Koehler, C. 1990, "The Pottery of the Early Dynastic and Old Kingdom site of Buto (Tell el Fara'in)", paper presented at *The Nile Delta in Transition: 4th-3rd millennium B.C.*

5. Van den Brink, E. 1989, "A Transitional Late Predynastic-Early Dynastic Settlement Site in the Northeastern Nile Delta, Egypt". *MDAIK* 45, p. 67.

6. Von der Way, T. et al. 1989, "Tell el Fara'in-Buto. 4. Bericht", *MDAIK* 45, p. 280-282.

as well as dyes of various colours (some still in bowls) and weights suggest that this complex was of a workshop nature.

The present campaign made it clear that at least some of the kilns had been used to produce pottery, for unfired pots were discovered in some of the rooms containing kilns. The objects found in room 127 were probably pieces rejected before being fired; they were discovered in the kiln refuse : slag, ashes and overfired sherds. Rooms 152 and 128 may have served as areas where the pots were shaped, for the clay found there was the same as the fabric of the unfired pots.

Pottery predominates among the finds from the investigated area. Many of the frequently occurring shapes and types of decoration find parallels among the unfinished products. Bowls with incurved rims are the most common along with plates with a flattened inward bent rim and fragments of pots of closed shapes.

The majority of these vessels was covered with a reddish slip on the upper part which flows down in irregular lines. The neck and the shoulder were accentuated by the use of parallel horizontal lines in a purple-brown or red colour. On some of the pots there is a floral decoration in the form of garlands.

Among the finds are sherds of various imported wares representing plates and bowls with impressed roulette patterns and palmette decoration on an orange-brown surface; the clay is buff-yellow. There are also some fragments of Gnathia style. Many pots produced in local clays are imitations of well-known Greek forms such as the crater, oinochoe, amphorae of various shapes and sizes as well as globular pots with relief decoration.

Among the terracotta finds there are products obviously made from a limited set of moulds signifying that terracotta production had a place in the local workshops as well.

Stamped amphora handles, terracotta figurines, lamps, marble statuary and especially coins found here help to distinguish certain chronological strata. Because of the high water table, the lowest attainable stratum goes back only to the Early Ptolemaic Period, dated by coins of Ptolemaios the 1st to the IVth. A second large group of coins belonging to the time of Ptolemaios the VIth, indicates the period of the most intense activity of these workshops.



During the 1989 season, excavations in the East part of the area South of Kom Sidi Youssuf brought to light walls of dried mudbrick beneath the mixed upper layer. In one of the rooms a deposit of Byzantine pottery was found dated by some 5th century coins. Work will be continued in the next season.

Anna Poludnikiewicz.

## § 7.

### **Les confins orientaux du Delta. Reconnaissance archéologique franco-égyptienne dans le Nord-Sinaï, 1990.**

(Université de Lille III, Organisation des antiquités égyptiennes.)

La première campagne, faite à la demande de l'OAE, s'est effectuée du 1<sup>er</sup> au 19 avril 1990. Les sites repérés au sud-ouest et à l'est de Tell Héboua sont en général riches en céramique, aussi bien de surface qu'en profondeur, pour autant que les traces d'occupations militaires récentes (tranchées, trous d'obus, déblais de souterrains) et les trous de pillage actuels nous l'ont laissé déduire.

Voici un aperçu de ces témoignages de toutes époques, site par site :

HÉBOUA II. — Nouvel Empire-Basse Époque (peut-être antérieur, par exemple un fragment de vase à bord ondulé). Sur tout le site, abondance de poterie domestique rouge à tranche noire (cuves, bassins, plats). Beaucoup d'autres types de pâtes, plus fines, de diverses couleurs, avec parfois engobe blanc ou inclusions blanches très denses. *Nouvel Empire* : moules à pains du type D; « pots de fleurs » parfois percés et/ou marqués d'empreintes de doigts; fragments d'une bouteille genre « beer bottle ». *Basse Époque* : grandes jarres à deux anses (XXII<sup>e</sup>-XXVI<sup>e</sup> dyn.); cruche saïte en pâte jaune. Dans la nécropole, céramique d'importation méditerranéenne et, peut-être, copies locales : amphores de Chios; amphores samiennes à bandes noires; « oil flasks » chypriotes, à décor de cercles concentriques (centre marqué par un instrument pointu) du chypro-géométrique I ou II; une assiette locale saïte (cf. Naukratis, Daphnae). Un objet tricorne pourrait être un brasero, un réchaud (traces de cendres et

de fumée, cf. site T.21). Un tesson porte un décor floral rouge foncé sur pâte rouge à engobe blanc.

**HÉBOUA III. — Deux zones distinctes :**

1° *Tell el-Tabout*. Nouvel Empire ou antérieur. Vases à décor de bandes bleues (XXIII<sup>e</sup>-XX<sup>e</sup> dyn.); morceaux d'un haut support d'offrandes tubulaire; un tesson décoré d'une fleur de papyrus brune sur pâte rouge orangé; cols de gourdes de pèlerin (XVIII<sup>e</sup>-XX<sup>e</sup> dyn.); cols de vases syro-palestiniens en pâte gris-rouge; moules à pains du type D; « pots de fleurs » souvent percés et avec traces de doigts.

2° *Zone du plateau*. Nouvel Empire-Basse Époque. Grande jarre rouge à engobe blanc (type XXIII<sup>e</sup>-XX<sup>e</sup> dyn.). Dans la nécropole du 1<sup>er</sup> millénaire, morceaux de « sarcophages-sabots » en terre cuite peinte (jaune, blanc, rouge, noir) du type de ceux de Tell el-Yahudiyeh (XX<sup>e</sup> dyn.).

**HÉBOUA IV. —** Nouvel Empire-Basse Époque, peut-être Moyen Empire. Col de gourde de pèlerin; « pots de fleurs » (l'un d'eux, mieux conservé, mesure 17 cm de hauteur, pour un diamètre supérieur de 25 cm et un diamètre inférieur de 10 cm).

**HÉBOUA-OUEST T. —** Dans une tombe, de la céramique du 1<sup>er</sup> millénaire.

**HÉBOUA-OUEST A. —** Quelques céramiques à côtes tardives.

**HÉBOUA-OUEST B. —** Nouvel Empire. Vases à huile brunissés dits « bouteilles syriennes » (LB I-LB II); jarres à fond ovoïde.

**HÉBOUA-OUEST C. —** Peut-être Ancien Empire (morceaux du bord et du fond d'un vase en brèche verte). Moyen Empire : fond de récipient cylindrique (ou 2<sup>e</sup> PI ?).

**HÉBOUA-OUEST D. —** Tombes du début du 1<sup>er</sup> millénaire. Dans chacune, de grandes jarres à quatre anses de deux types (à col court et large; à col haut et étroit), du Fer I et II (cf. Tell el-Yahudiyeh, XXII<sup>e</sup> dyn.).

Sur la majorité de ces sites, des lames de faucilles en silex taillé ont été recueillies. Leur examen et leur datation permettra de préciser les époques d'occupation de chacun.

TELL EL-AHMAR. — Petit site au bord de la route d'El-Qantarah. Céramique islamique (nombreux tessons vernissés).

TELL EL-GHABA (nom donné par la Mission). — Abondance de céramique commune (grandes jarres, cuves, bassins). De la céramique d'importation comme à Héboua II, chypriote du 1<sup>er</sup> millénaire. Des vestiges d'installation industrielle : fonds de creusets, scories. Dans la partie haute de ce grand site : céramique islamique, à côtes vernissées.

TELL EL-MOUFARIQ (nom donné par la Mission). — Céramique gréco-romaine caractéristique.

TELL EL-KANAÏS. — Nombreuses céramiques gréco-romaines et peut-être islamiques. Beaucoup de fragments de récipients en verre.

TELL EL-FADDA-EST. — Céramique domestique caractéristique de l'époque islamique.

Étant donné l'abondance et la diversité du matériel repéré en si peu de temps, l'intervention de spécialistes de ces différentes époques et de régions d'origine est indispensable. À la demande de l'OAE, la construction d'un magasin destiné à sa conservation est prévue, ce qui en facilitera la consultation et l'étude.

Françoise Le Saout.

## § 8.

### Memphis/Kom Rab'a, 1990.

(Egypt Exploration Society.)

A study season in October-November 1989 gave a welcome opportunity for examination of some key deposits excavated in recent years. We worked in particular on two areas of study, the Mediterranean imports and all sherds from the pre-Amarna part of the New Kingdom.

Kathryn Eriksson of Sydney University identified the Cypriot wares which comprised Base Ring I and II, Red Lustrous and Black Lustrous, most of the sherds being unfortunately rather small; these derived from deposits dateable by other means variously from the

Second Intermediate Period to the end of Dynasty XVIII. Of particular interest was a Base Ring I juglet from an SIP context. M<sup>s</sup> Eriksson helped also in the identification of the Mycenaean sherds, most of them again small, which proved to fall into the usual date-range between the middle of Dynasty XVIII and the reign of Ramesses II. On exception was a sherd, possibly of Minoan rather than Mycenaean origin, which came from a context of the reign of Amenhotep I.

It was deposits of the early New Kingdom that formed the subject of the remaining work. Fortunately, in the excavated area there is a sandy stratum underlying the earliest New Kingdom deposits; such little pottery as this stratum contains relates to the underlying SIP/MK deposits and it is thus possible to isolate with confidence the sherds of the first part of the New Kingdom. These include Cypriot imports, Canaanite jar fragments and sherds of Nubian Kerma cooking pottery, as well as an important developmental series of Egyptian types. This material is of such interest that a small additional area of this date will be added to the excavation program for autumn 1990, so that a larger sample is available.

Pottery of the later Ramesside and Third Intermediate Periods has now been prepared for publication by David Aston. A study season in 1991 should allow us to complete work on the remaining material of Dynasty XVIII, to be followed by the pottery from the earlier Ramesside Period to complete the New Kingdom. Only then will we embark in earnest on the study of the SIP/MK levels.

Janine Bourriau.

## § 9.

### **Saqqara, New Kingdom Necropolis, 1990.**

(Egypt Exploration Society, Rijksmuseum van Oudheden te Leiden.)

The focus of excavation this season was the clearance of the numerous shafts cut through the walls and courtyards of the tomb of Maya subsequent to the initial construction and use of the tomb in the late XVIII<sup>th</sup> Dynasty. Ten shafts were fully investigated and three

others abandoned as unsafe. Of the former, five are rectangular shafts lined with stone blocks down to bedrock, and with rooms opening at approximately 2 m. below the pavement level of Maya's tomb. These complexes are probably Ramesside in date as, in several cases, New Kingdom relief blocks (perhaps from Maya's tomb) had been built into the rims of the shafts. Two shaft complexes contained primarily New Kingdom pottery; one contained mixed fill, while two yielded Late Period pottery from reuse of the burial chambers. The New Kingdom deposit from shaft xv was dated by a wine amphora (with pointed base, made of a Delta marl) with an hieratic docket specifying a Delta vineyard and dated Year 40 of Ramses II.

The five other shafts which were completely excavated are of Late Period date, roughly square, lined with mudbrick, and generally descending 5-6 m. before opening into a single burial chamber though the possibility exists that one or more may represent the reuse of an existing Old Kingdom shaft. The pottery recovered from the floor of the chambers associated with four of these shafts was entirely of the Late Period, while the fifth shaft had no chambers. The underground rooms had been thoroughly ransacked and the pottery smashed, though many profiles and nearly complete pots were reconstructed. All of the shafts had been open as late as the Coptic Period (or later), as weathered Coptic sherds occurred in the shaft fill.

The large chamber off shaft ix was less disturbed than most (some burials still remained *in situ*) and yielded a large and varied group of Late Period pottery including ten marl clay Bes vases, one red-washed silt Bes vase, two inscribed Phoenician amphorae, a red-glazed Greek bottle, an Egyptian imitation of a Greek vessel (red-slipped on the lower body with a spout in one of its handles), a rough Nile silt torch inscribed in ink *W3h-ib-r* (not enclosed in a cartouche, hence apparently a private name), and three globular marl clay flasks with wide black or red bands at rim and shoulder, as well as a large number of red-slipped, burnished bottles and a few red-slipped, burnished, restricted bowls of types similar to those found in Late Period embalmers' caches in previous seasons. This pottery assemblage, as well as the similar pottery recovered from the other Late Period shafts, can be dated to the Persian Period. The burnished

red bottles and bowls have been dated by P. French to "the 5th or (pre-Ptolemaic) 4th century B.C.<sup>1</sup>", the Phoenician amphorae are of a type which occurs from the late 6th — mid 4th century B.C.<sup>2</sup>, while marl clay Bes vases like the Saqqara example (with ring base, ledge rim, applied eyes, nose, mouth, ears and eyebrows, and incised moustache) have been found in a mid 5th century context in Palestine and a late 5th century tomb in Syria<sup>3</sup>.

Concurrently with excavation of the shafts, work continued on the reconstruction of pottery from the subterranean complex belonging to Maya himself. Fifty-two globular, marl clay flasks with long cylindrical necks and horizontal loop handles were wholly or partially reconstructed; many of these bore hieratic dockets (see *Bull. de liaison* XIII, 1988, p. 33). Other marl clay vessels recorded included seventeen amphorae, two pilgrim flasks, four mugs, and four unusual amphorae with a ring on the neck and flaring rim, inscribed *nḥh*-oil.

During last year's study season approximately 75 additional blue-painted pots from contexts both above and below ground, were reconstructed and drawn, bringing the total so far recorded from Maya's tomb to over one hundred blue-painted vessels. Many new and unusual forms were added to the corpus, including goblets with lotus petals in relief, flower holders (?) in the shape of floral bouquets, and globular funnel-necked jars with goblet-style pedestal bases.

The excavation of the underground complex of the tomb of Ramose was also completed this year (the superstructure of the tomb was cleared in 1986), but the pottery remains to be studied next season.

Barbara and David Aston.

1. "Late Dynastic Pottery from the Berlin/Hanover Excavations at Saqqara, 1986", *MDAIK* 44, 1988, p. 80.

2. A. G. Sagona, "Levantine Storage Jars of the 13th to 4th Century B.C.", *Opuscula Atheniensia* 14, 1982, p. 80-82, Type 6. P.W. Lapp, "The Pottery of Palestine in the Persian Period", in *Archäologie und Altes Testament: Festschrift für Kurt Gallig*, 1970, p. 182 sq., "orange ware jars".

3. J.A. Blakely and F.L. Horton, Jr., "South Palestinian Bes Vessels of the Persian Period", *Levant* 28, 1986, p. 116-118, Type IIIB. E. Stern, "Bes Vases from Palestine and Syria", *Israel Exploration Journal* 26, 1976, p. 184 sq.

§ 10.

**Mons Claudianus, 1990.**

(Institut français d'archéologie orientale.)

A fourth season of four weeks was conducted during January and February 1990 at the fortified settlement of Mons Claudianus. For the first time excavation took place inside the fort, where two areas were investigated: the southeast corner and the eastern end of the fort annexe; the granary and animal-lines complex were also explored.

The uppermost layers of the southeast corner were composed of large *sebakh* deposits and excavation of this area concentrated on them. The deposits contained an *ostrakon* of Severan date stratified below Antonine ones, demonstrating that the rubbish had been redeposited in antiquity. It also provided the latest documented date for excavated material. A large quantity of pottery was recovered from this area similar to that found in the *sebakh* area to the south of the fort excavated in previous seasons, again being primarily late-1st to early or possibly mid-2nd century, with some types such as Tripolitanian amphorae potentially later. Sherds differed qualitatively from earlier seasons as many were smaller and more abraded, and although the same range of imported amphorae and fine wares was present these occurred in seemingly lesser quantities. There were no pottery types which could definitely be distinguished as being later than those from the previously excavated 2nd century deposits. While some handled cooking pot forms seemed more common in this area (and elsewhere inside the fort) this could well be a functional rather than chronological difference. Compilation of statistics tabulated from sherd weights and counts which were collected is needed to verify this impression.

Excavations in the fort annexe revealed a multi-phase complex of ovens constructed out of re-used *dolia*. Comparatively little pottery was recovered from this area but it was similar to material from previous seasons. Even less material was found in the granary and animal-lines and again it was in keeping with the pottery from the rest of the site.

The most unusual vessel from this season was the first example of a Dressel 43 or Rhodianstyle amphora from the *sebakh* inside the fort.

Roberta Tomber.

§ 11.

**Karnak. Temple d'Amon-Rê, 1990.**

(Centre franco-égyptien d'études des temples de Karnak.)

Une étude de la céramique tardive (ptolémaïque, romaine et copte) trouvée dans le temple d'Amon-Rê à Karnak <sup>1</sup> nous a amené à mettre en évidence plusieurs productions céramiques identifiées tant par leurs spécificités technologiques que typologiques et chronologiques <sup>2</sup>.

Parmi tout le matériel, la période ptolémaïque est très bien représentée et caractérisée par des changements tant dans la céramique fine que commune. Toutefois, dans l'ensemble du répertoire reconnu, il a été possible de repérer ce qui était probablement des productions locales et des importations <sup>3</sup>. Pour les productions locales, nous pouvons encore distinguer celles qui proviennent de Haute Égypte, voire plus précisément de la région de Karnak et celles qui proviennent d'autres régions d'Égypte.

Dans le cas des dernières citées, quelques céramiques présentant les mêmes caractéristiques n'ont été trouvées qu'en un très petit nombre d'exemplaires (Fig. 1, n<sup>os</sup> 1 à 4). Il s'agit de formes ouvertes, assiette, bol, bol caréné. La pâte passe du gris au noir, peu fine, avec

1. Recherches menées dans le cadre du Centre franco-égyptien d'étude des temples de Karnak.

2. Le matériel provenait aussi bien des fouilles anciennes que récentes. Une partie des céramiques étaient hors stratigraphie, mais pour certaines zones nous avons pu travailler avec les documents de fouilles et replacer les céramiques dans leur contexte. Toutefois, les céramiques à pâte noire ne possédaient plus de contexte stratigraphique.

3. Ces déterminations ont été faites par les types d'argile, les caractéristiques des formes et des techniques, la fréquence, ainsi que la comparaison avec d'autres sites. Ces critères ont permis, dans la mesure où dans cette région les ateliers ne sont pas connus, de donner une cohérence aux groupes identifiés.



des nodules noirs parfois marrons, quelques grains de quartz et de mica. La surface porte un engobe noir. Le seul décor présent mais non systématique, est composé de bandes horizontales minces lissées sur la partie supérieure du vase<sup>4</sup>. À notre connaissance, peu d'ateliers ayant fabriqué ces types de céramiques sont actuellement connus en Égypte. À Tell El-Farā'in<sup>5</sup> plusieurs ateliers ont été repérés et fouillés. Ils fonctionnaient durant les périodes ptolémaïque et romaine et produisaient des céramiques « noires » (Black Ware) dont la surface était polie. Le répertoire des formes est à rapprocher de nos exemplaires. Les céramiques « noires » seraient à dater entre le III<sup>e</sup> siècle et le 1<sup>er</sup> siècle av. J.-C. Une autre production, plus tardive, concernait essentiellement, semble-t-il, des bols et des pots à cuire à pâte rouge.

Une première recherche de la distribution des céramiques noires : Mendès (période hellénistique), Naukratis (II<sup>e</sup> siècle av. J.-C.), Tell Timai (II<sup>e</sup> siècle av. J.-C.), Tell el-Herr (II<sup>e</sup> siècle av. J.-C.), Mit Rahineh (période ptolémaïque), Hermopolis (période ptolémaïque), semblerait être en faveur d'un regroupement dans la région du Delta<sup>6</sup>. Probablement est-ce représentatif d'une localisation des ateliers dans cette région.

De Karnak-Nord proviennent aussi quelques exemplaires dans le même répertoire typologique à la période ptolémaïque<sup>7</sup>. Plus au

4. Ce type de céramique est le résultat d'un passage en cuisson réductrice.

5. SETON WILLIAMS (M.V.), "The Tell El-Fara'in expedition", *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* 53, 1967, p. 146-155.

6. WILSON (K.L.), *Mendes, Preliminary Report on the 1979-1980 seasons, Cities of the Delta, Part II, ARCE Report* 5. Malibu, 1982, pl. XIII, 1. COULSON (W.D.E.), LEONARD (A.), *Naukratis, Cities of the Delta, Part I, ARCE Report* 4. Malibu, 1981, p. 22, fig. 9, n<sup>os</sup> 26-27. SETON WILLIAMS (M.V.), *op. cit.* GRATIEN (B.) et SOULIE (D.), « La céramique de Tell el-Herr. Campagnes de 1986 et 1987. Étude préliminaire ». *Cahier de recherches de l'Institut de papyrologie et d'égyptologie de Lille*, n<sup>o</sup> 10, *Sociétés urbaines en Égypte et au Soudan*, 1988, p. 29, fig. 3a et b. JONES (M.) et MILWARD JONES (A.), "The Apis House Project at Mit Rahinah, Preliminary Report of the fifth season 1986-1987", *JARCE XXIV*, 1987, p. 46, fig. 9, n<sup>o</sup> c. ROEDER (V.), *Hermopolis Magna 1929-1939*. Hildesheim, 1959, p. 240-242, taf. 34, n<sup>o</sup> X.

7. Communication personnelle : JACQUET-GORDON (H.), *Pottery "From the Twenty-first Dynasty to the Ptolemaic Period" at Karnak-North*. 24 p., 21 pl., n<sup>os</sup> AP 385 et AP 707.

sud de telles céramiques ont été trouvées à Qasr Ibrim<sup>8</sup> mais il s'agit selon W. Y. Adams d'importations d'Égypte.

Nous serions tentés de penser<sup>9</sup> que l'adoption de cette technique de cuisson et de ces formes, qui dénotent très clairement des influences de la céramique hellénistique<sup>10</sup>, sont le fait de quelques ateliers

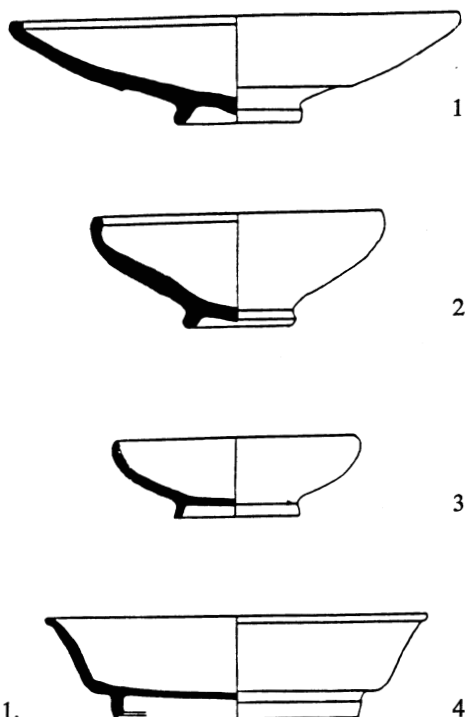


Fig. 1.

8. Communication personnelle reçue en 1988 : ADAMS (W.Y.), *Pottery wares of the Ptolemaic and Roman Periods at Qasr Ibrim : Preliminary ware descriptions*; Ware RBB. Burnished Black Ware, p. 26 sq.

9. Dans l'état actuel de la recherche.

10. Ce type de production hellénistique a été adopté dans tout le bassin méditerranéen et se retrouve tant à Chypre, Antioche, Tarse, Pergame, qu'en Palestine par exemple. Les fouilles de l'agora d'Athènes avaient permis de situer chronologiquement certaines de ces formes. Le n° 1, fig. 1, à bord rentrant serait à dater du III<sup>e</sup> siècle av. J.-C., les n°s 2 à 4, fig. 1, entre les III<sup>e</sup> et II<sup>e</sup> siècles av. J.-C., le n° 4 serait un peu plus tardif dans ce créneau : THOMPSON (H.A.), "Two Centuries of Hellenistic Pottery". *Hesperia III*, 1934, p. 433, fig. 116; p. 436, fig. 117.

géographiquement, sans doute, situés dans la région du Delta <sup>11</sup>. Leurs productions se retrouvent dans toute l'Égypte mais en faible quantité. Il est cependant intéressant de noter que les types de céramiques retrouvées sur les sites sont peu variés, il s'agit surtout de bols ou de bols carénés.

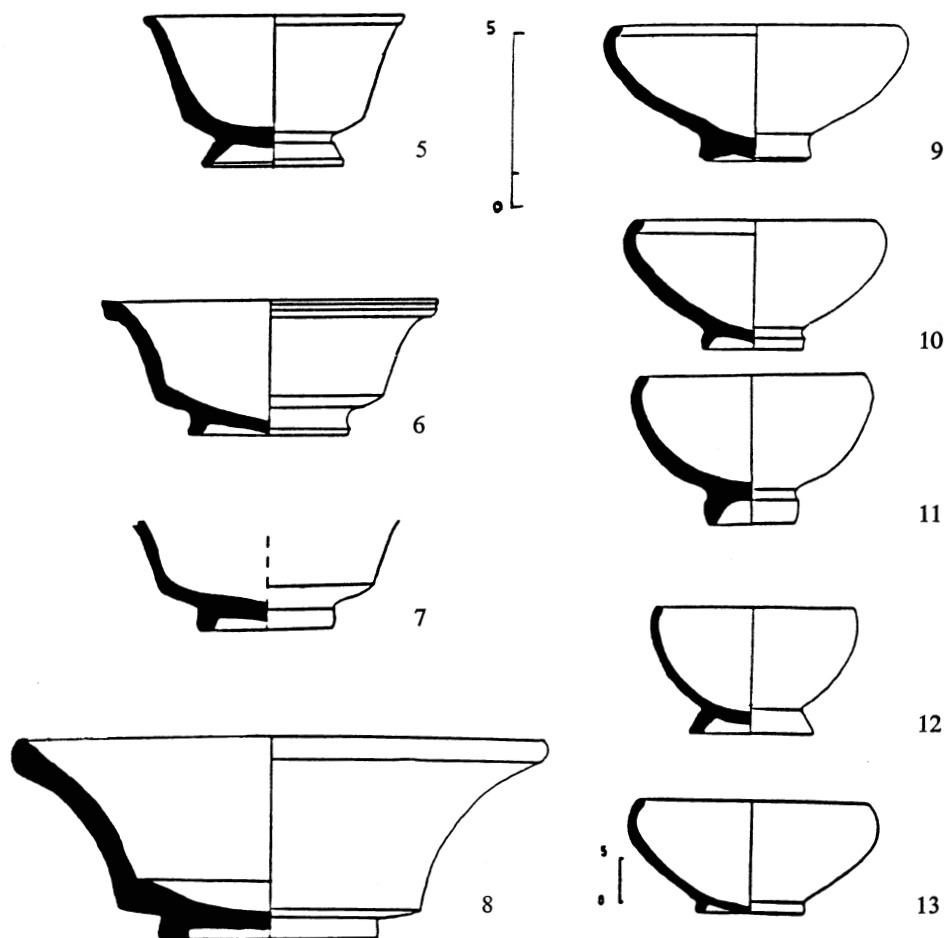


Fig. 2.

11. Il semble que la technique de cuisson en atmosphère réductrice ne fut pas complètement abandonnée. De nos jours, dans le Delta, existent encore des ateliers qui fabriquent des céramiques enfumées (nous remercions M. Maurice Picon pour ce renseignement). Il doit exister une continuité.

Beaucoup plus courantes sont les productions de bols et de bols carénés en pâte et à engobe rouge. Étant donné leur fréquence dans toute l'Égypte, elles sont certainement le témoignage de nombreux ateliers. Les formes trouvées à Karnak sont constituées d'une pâte marron/rouge, peu fine, avec des grains de mica, quelques quartz et de rares dégraissants végétaux. L'engobe rouge recouvre tout le vase. Cette description s'applique aux n<sup>os</sup> 5 à 11, fig. 2. Les bols n<sup>os</sup> 12 et 13 possèdent une pâte beaucoup plus fine, une facture plus soignée.

Les bols à panse hémisphérique, bord rentrant et pied annulaire, sont nettement majoritaires. Nous pouvons supposer l'existence d'un centre de fabrication local pour ces céramiques, mais nous ne pouvons déterminer si les exemplaires en pâte plus fine représentent une production annexe ou si ce sont des importations.

Pour ces céramiques en pâte rouge nous avons bénéficié de quelques informations stratigraphiques, notamment dans la zone ouest du temple devant le 1<sup>er</sup> pylône où des constructions privées ptolémaïques sont bien attestées à l'est de la Voie Royale et aux abords de la chapelle d'Achôris <sup>12</sup>.

Les bols sont fréquents dans les niveaux du II<sup>e</sup> siècle av. J.-C. et tendent à disparaître au début du 1<sup>er</sup> siècle apr. J.-C. <sup>13</sup>. Les formes carénées apparaissent un peu plus tardivement, semble-t-il, dans le II<sup>e</sup> siècle av. J.-C. et n'existent plus au 1<sup>er</sup> siècle apr. J.-C.

En l'état actuel de la documentation dont nous disposons, nous sommes conscientes qu'il sera nécessaire de pouvoir bénéficier de données archéologiques et stratigraphiques précises afin de pouvoir mieux définir la chronologie des céramiques ptolémaïques à pâte et engobe noirs, témoins d'une influence hellénistique et de circuits commerciaux en Égypte. Nous pensons également que ces mêmes

12. LAUFFRAY (J.), SAUNERON (S.), ANUS (P.), « Rapport sur les travaux de Karnak (1967-1968) », *Kémi* XIX, 1969, p. 111-135; LAUFFRAY (J.), « Les travaux du centre franco-égyptien d'Étude des temples de Karnak de 1972 à 1977 », *Karnak* VI, 1980, p. 4 *sq.*, fig. 2.

13. Ceci peut être rapproché du matériel trouvé à Qoseir El-Qadim occupé entre le I<sup>er</sup> et le III<sup>e</sup> siècles apr. J.-C. : WHITCOMB (D.S.), JOHNSON (J.H.), *Qoseir El-Qadim 1978, Preliminary Report*, ARCE, Le Caire, 1979; WHITCOMB, (D.S.), JOHNSON (J.H.), *Qoseir El-Qadim 1980, Preliminary Report*, ARCE, Le Caire, 1982.

conditions nous permettrons de situer la fin de la production des bols et bols carénés à pâte et engobe rouge qui semble correspondre à Karnak à un changement dans la céramique commune locale. D'autres productions apparaissent, en effet, au 1<sup>er</sup> siècle apr. J.-C. et semblent être de courte durée, ce qui représente un bon indice chronologique.

Catherine Grataloup.

## § 12.

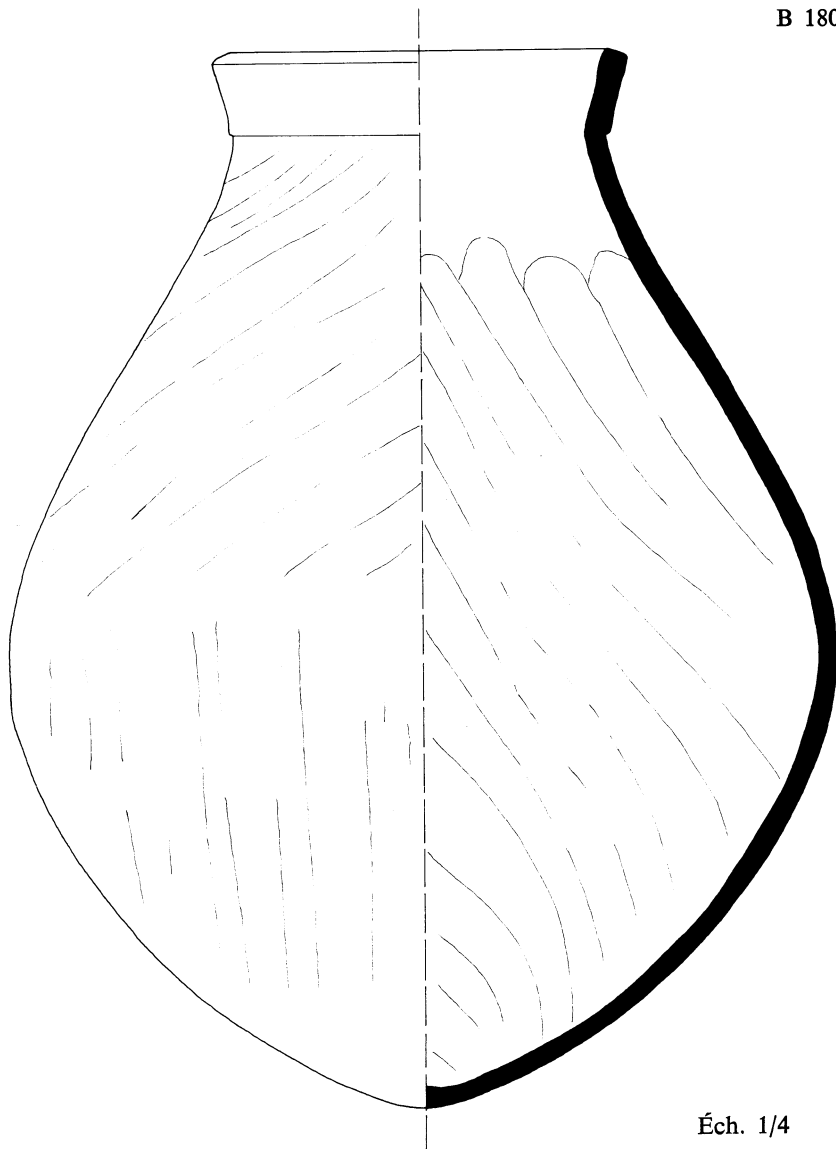
### **Karnak-Nord, 1989.**

(Institut français d'archéologie orientale.)

La fouille de l'IFAO à Karnak-Nord en novembre-décembre 1989 s'est déroulée toujours sur le même emplacement à l'est du Trésor de Thoutmosis 1<sup>er</sup>, à travers des installations artisanales de la Deuxième Période Intermédiaire très semblables à celles décrites dans le dernier *Bulletin de liaison*. Dans la partie nord de la fouille, un ensemble assez cohérent représentait une maison, une série de petites chambres groupées sur les côtés nord et est d'une cour. De grandes jarres enfouies dans les sols de ces chambres nous ont livré, ce qui est rare à Karnak-Nord, des formes entières. Ce sont des jarres aux parois épaisses, en terre marneuse avec beaucoup d'inclusions, de forme biconique, dont seulement la partie supérieure est tournée. Elles servaient sans doute de réserves pour des denrées sèches, plutôt que pour des liquides.

Dans la partie sud de la fouille, la terre de remplissage de la cour, vide de constructions, contenait de plus en plus de cendres à mesure que le niveau descendait, jusqu'à ce qu'on arrive sur un sol dur qui s'en allait en pente vers le nord sous les murs des chambres mentionnées ci-dessus. À ce niveau, aux confins sud de la fouille, se dessinait en surface une construction arrondie qui pourrait être un four de potier à demi détruit. D'après les tessons déjà recueillis aux alentours, nous pensons être arrivé ici dans les couches du Moyen Empire. Ce secteur fera l'objet de nos investigations pendant la saison 1990.

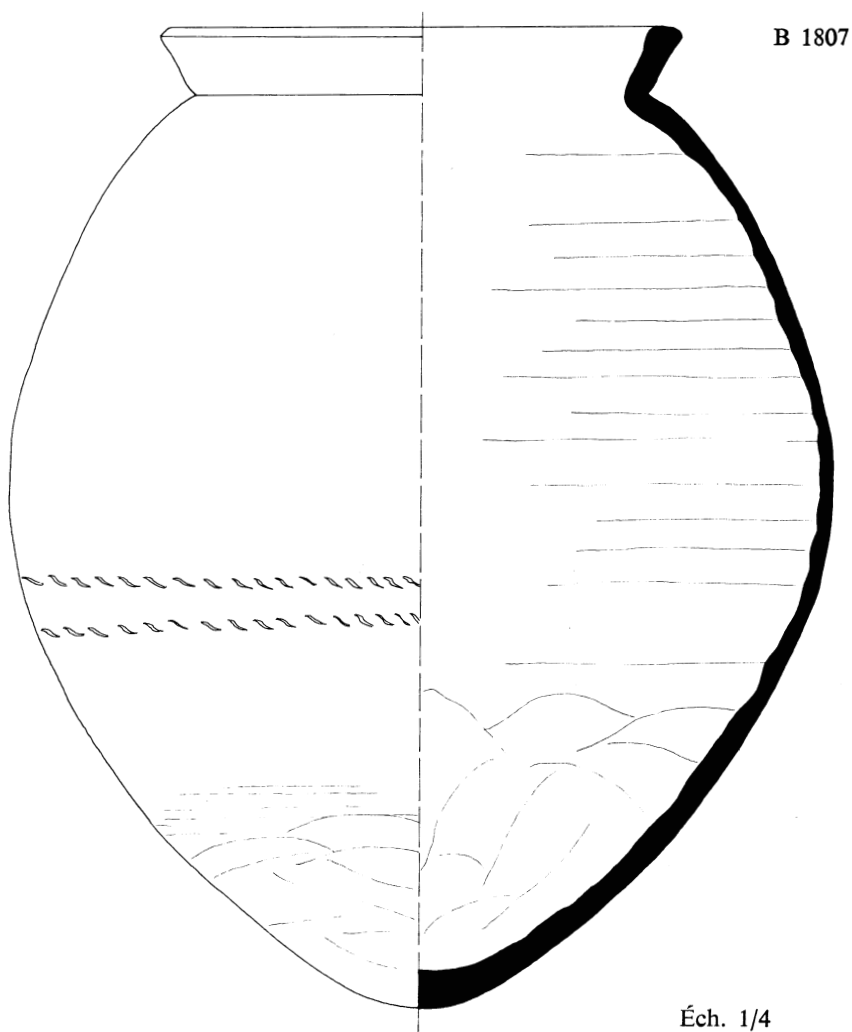
B 1803



Éch. 1/4

Une trouvaille inattendue et intéressante, faite au cours de la dernière campagne, est l'anse d'un bol de « Camares ware », noir avec des raies blanches peintes, du même type que ceux trouvés par Petrie, à Kahun, et attribués à l'époque minoenne moyenne (Kemp et Merrillees, *Minoan Pottery in Second Millenium Egypt*, 1980).

Helen Jacquet-Gordon.



§ 13.

Tôd, 1989.

(Musée du Louvre.)

Le secteur au nord-est de la chapelle de Thoutmosis III, fouillé depuis 1984, a vu s'élever des constructions dès l'époque romaine. C'est le niveau le plus bas d'une succession de couches d'occupation apparemment ininterrompue. On a distingué : une couche II<sup>e</sup>-III<sup>e</sup> siècles et une couche IV<sup>e</sup>-V<sup>e</sup> siècles; la partie supérieure de cette dernière constituant un remblai sous une maison construite au début du VI<sup>e</sup> siècle (fouilles 1988), abandonnée et remplie de déblais, environ 150 ans plus tard. Le matériel céramique de ces niveaux, quand il sera publié, complètera le tableau donné par la fouille des niveaux supérieurs, de la fin du VII<sup>e</sup> siècle au début du XIII<sup>e</sup> siècle (à paraître dans *Cahiers de la Céramique égyptienne*, II, IFAO).

Avant l'époque romaine, aucune construction ne s'élevait entre le mur d'enceinte (arasé) qui s'ouvre sur le *dromos* et la chapelle de Thoutmosis III. C'était un angle de la cour du temple, dont le pavement a été mis en évidence, ici comme de l'autre côté de l'axe de la cour (secteur de la mosquée). Sur ce pavement, une couche de détritiques accompagnait des restes de silos en terre crue. Le matériel céramique de cette couche est datable de l'époque ptolémaïque, plutôt, de sa première moitié. Il était mêlé de quelques tessons plus usés, datant du début de la XVIII<sup>e</sup> dynastie. Le matériel ptolémaïque et les silos pourraient être mis en relation avec le chantier des deux salles du temple sous Ptolémée VIII, et le matériel de la XVIII<sup>e</sup> dynastie, avec le chantier de la chapelle de Thoutmosis III.

Les couches immédiatement sous le pavement contiennent des tessons du Moyen Empire : petits fragments de bols en pâte alluviale, quelques morceaux de cols de jarres en pâte calcaire.

Geneviève Pierrat.



§ 14.

**Dakhla oasis, the Neolithic Pottery.**

(Dakhleh Oasis Project, University of Sydney.)

The Neolithic sites in the Dakhleh Oasis in south Central Egypt have been studied since 1978 by the Dakhleh Oasis Project. Until 1987, the pottery from those sites was studied by C.A. Hope<sup>1</sup>, who devised the ware system. I took over in 1988 as part of a B.A. (Hons.) project, and followed and extended the analytical system already devised. I should like to thank C. Hope for his extensive assistance and support, including his comments on an earlier draft of this essay.

A short report on the major features of the Neolithic pottery is presented here. 1847 pieces, nearly all of them sherds, were retrieved from 105 sites. Seventeen whole or nearly complete vessels were recovered.

There is a wide variety of fabrics. Most sherds contain varying amounts of fine angular particles of shale and rounded or angular particles of sand. About 100 sherds contain sand and large, coarse shale particles, occasionally with small chert inclusions. 27 Sherds are made of a sandy fabric containing flakes of opaque white limestone. 79 Sherds are made from a fine silty fabric. Most fabrics have relatively thick walls (c4-12mm.), though the silty fabric tends to be thinner (c3-8mm.) and some examples of the fabric with sand and limestone flakes may be thin. One variant of the common sand and shale fabric is thin-walled and fine. This variant, as well as the silty fabric, is commonly finished with a self-slip. Examples of the fabrics with large, coarse flat shale pieces may also have a self-slip. Otherwise, the majority of the sand and shale fabric are unslipped.

1. For preliminary reports on the Neolithic sites, see M.M.A. McDonald in *JSSEA* 10, 1980, p. 315-329; 12, 1982, p. 115-138; 13, 1983, p. 158-166; 15, 1985, p. 126-135. "A preliminary report on the Neolithic pottery" by W.I. Edwards and C.A. Hope has appeared in L. Krzyzaniak and M. Kobusiewicz (eds.), *Late Prehistory of the Nile Basin and the Sahara*, Poznan, 1989, p. 233-242. Other reports by Hope appeared in *JSSEA* 10, 1980, p. 285; 11, 1981, p. 237; and 13, 1983, p. 142.

The pots were hand-made and usually spiral coiled, though some of the larger vessels were built up by adding individual coils. Some pots had pinched bases to which coils would then be attached. Rims were normally direct and simple, or thickened or thinned. The most common shapes were a large, deep conical bowl and a small hemispherical bowl. Smaller conical bowls, bowls with incurving walls and a variety of jars are less common. The jars include one complete piece with a straight rim and an ovoid body (the jar was recovered from 31/420-C10-2 in central Dakhleh, and is now in the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, Canada). Other jars may have out-curving or incurving walls, and a few have straight, outward sloping walls. One site, 30/435-J6-2, is unique in the eastern Sahara in having yielded ten whole or nearly complete pots. These include a tall, deep ovoid bowl, a deep hemispherical bowl and a variety of conical bowls. Shapes which are represented by only one example are a spherical jar with a modelled rim and a "spoon" that may have had a high, straight handle<sup>2</sup>. Repair holes are a common feature, and the jar in Toronto has two suspension holes. One sherd with a portion of an attached lug handle was found, but unfortunately the sherd was too small to permit a clear definition of the shape of the vessel. Finally, some sherds were re-worked to produce circular or oval shapes pierced through the centre; they have been labelled "discs". The functions of all these pots are uncertain, though a deep conical bowl containing gazelle bones was found in a hearth at one site, and two sherds of deep conical bowls are covered in soot (added postfiring, as the sections are clean). Consequently, this shape at least may have been used for cooking.

Most pots were smoothed with the fingers or with bunches of what could have been reeds or rushes. These left characteristic striations on one or both surfaces of the pots, usually parallel and about 5-10 mm. thick. This form of finishing is the major characteristic of the pottery. Often pots bear finger striations along the coil junctions, indicating that the coils would first be joined and the junctions smoothed; vertical striations leading from the rim down the body of the pot might then be added over these marks. One sherd bears the

2. These two pots were published by Edwards and Hope (*loc. cit.*, n° 1).

marks of a thin, pointed burnishing tool, possibly a bone. It and other sherds were burnished, sometimes to a fine polish. Rare sherds bore a dusky or plum red slip; some of these were also burnished. Fourteen sherds from black-topped pots were found, either jars or small conical bowls<sup>3</sup>. One of these had a burnished black rim and a smooth brown exterior, similar to Badarian "Smooth Brown Ware". Analyses of trace elements in this sherd showed that its composition was more similar to Nilotic than Dakhlan clays, indicating that there is at least one imported black-topped sherd at Dakhleh. Three other black-topped sherds were analysed by X-Ray Fluorescence Analysis and shown to be dissimilar to Dakhlan sherds; Segnit<sup>4</sup> concluded that they were probably Nilotic.

Very few pots were decorated. Some bowls or jars had milled or incised rims; two sites yielded a range of small bowls with incised chevrons or parallel lines, or groups of impressed dots inside incised triangles or horizontal lines<sup>5</sup>. These pots were made of the normal sand and shale fabric, but bore a self-slip and were fired in a reducing atmosphere (most pots from Dakhleh were oxidised). These sherds are paralleled by finds from the Gilf Kebir<sup>6</sup>.

Two sherds bore light ripples that could have been made with a five-pointed comb, though light finger rippling is more probable. Three pots were probably made inside baskets, as their exteriors are covered with basket impressions.

Pots were probably fired in open firing pits, though no evidence of these pits has been found on Neolithic sites as yet. A possible pit was found at 30/435-J6-2 in 1989, but further investigations in 1990 revealed that the feature was probably a small deflated dune on

3. Edwards and Hope mention one of these sherds in their report.

4. See Segnit's addendum in Edwards and Hope, "Preliminary Report on the Neolithic Ceramics from the Dakhleh Oasis" in W.I. Edwards, C.A. Hope and E.R. Segnit *Ceramics from the Dakhleh Oasis*, Melbourne, 1987, p. 1-11.

5. Edwards and Hope (*loc. cit.*, n° 1), fig. 2.

6. See W. McHugh, *JNES* 34, 1975, fig. 5, bottom row, and "Archaeological Investigations in the Gilf Kebir and the Abu Hussein Dunefield", in F. El-Baz and T. Maxwell (eds.), *Desert Landforms of Southwest Egypt*, Washington, 1982, p. 301-334. Other parallels may be found in R. Kuper, *BAVA* 3, 1981, p. 250, fig. 27, 5, 6, 8.

which the surface vegetation had caught fire. Most pots were oxidised, though some were also fired in a reducing atmosphere. Smoke clouds are common on the exteriors of pots, or on the interior rims, indicating that firing was probably haphazard and without complete control over the results. Grey interiors are common, indicating that pots may have been fired upside down.

The pottery is not overly similar to other wares from the eastern Sahara and the Nile<sup>7</sup>. The lack of combed pottery is significant when one compares the sherds to finds further west in Chad, Libya and the Great Sand Sea<sup>8</sup>, or further south in the Sudan or at Nabta Playa and Bir Kiseiba<sup>9</sup>. Here combing is the dominant decoration. The range of shapes and incised designs finds better, albeit still few, parallels in Badarian or Naqadan sites in Upper Egypt. Detailed parallels are few; the black-topped pottery is possibly derived from Nilotic prototypes. Two red-fired, self-slipped jars from 30/450-C6-1 may be imitations of Nilotic red-polished wares. One jar with an everted rim is quite like Naqada I examples, and the spoon is probably also to be compared to Nilotic examples<sup>10</sup>.

7. This point was first made by C. Hope, in *JSSEA* 13, 1983, p. 142.

8. See on Chad : G. Bailloud "L'évolution des styles céramiques en Ennedi (République du Tchad)" in *Colloque international d'archéologie africaine*, Fort Lamy, 1964, p. 31-45. On Libya see B. Barich, *Origini* 8, 1974, p. 7-184; and *Archaeology and Environment in the Libyan Sahara*, Oxford, 1987, especially p. 123-219. I must thank Renate Liermann for some information on her pottery from the Great Sand Sea, and B. Barich for providing copies of her articles.

9. On Nabta Playa see K. M. Banks, "Early Ceramic-Bearing Occupations in the Egyptian Western Desert", in L. Krzyzaniak and M. Kobusiewicz (eds.) *Origin and Early Development of Food-Producing Cultures in North-Eastern Africa*, Poznan, 1984, p. 149-161. On Bir Kiseiba see F. Wendorf and R. Schild (assemblers) and A. Close (ed.), *Cattle-Keepers of the Eastern Sahara*, Dallas, 1984, *passim*.

10. The jar with everted rim can be paralleled in a Naqada I context at Matmar (cf. G. Brunton, *Matmar*, London, 1948, p. 17, and by Naqada I-II examples from W.M.F. Petrie's *Corpus of Egyptian Pottery and Palettes*, London, 1921, pl. V, 46; VI, 57b; VII, 75b, 77b. The spoon has general parallels at Hemamieh and Merimde. Discs are also known from Nilotic sites such as El-Mahasna (J. Garstang, *Mahasna and Bet-Kallaf*, London, 1903, pl. V, 6); Mostagedda (Brunton, *Mostagedda*, London, 1937, pl. XXXIII, 5d, 5j); Abydos (T. E. Peet,

Four sherds of a marly clay may be local copies of Archaic L-Ware.

Basket-moulded pottery is unique in the eastern Sahara and the Nile Valley. Impressions with pieces of basketry were noted on Neolithic pots from Borkou in Chad, but actual basket-moulded pottery is only present further west at Oran in Algeria<sup>11</sup>. Given the distance of Oran from Dakhleh this is probably a fortuitous parallel.

A preliminary series of C-14 dates is now available<sup>12</sup>, indicating that the Dakhlan Neolithic should be placed between c8000 and 4000 b.p. The pottery shows a clear evolution over that timespan. An early phase may be defined, dating between c8110 and 6900 b.p. Deep conical bowls and small hemispherical bowls begin the sequence; some burnishing is present, as well as occasional sherds with finger striations from smoothing. The jar with lug handle and the globular jar also belong in this phase.

In the next phase, dated between c6300 and 4300 b.p., decorated sherds appear (incised and basket-impressed, as well as slipped and burnished), and the variety of shapes increases (smaller conical bowls become common, and jar shapes with necks or everted rims and "fancy" shapes such as the "spoon" appear). Black-topped and imitation red-polished pottery appears at the end of this sequence, contemporary with the Badarian and Naqada I in Upper Egypt. Sites with the fine incised bowls referred to above have not been C-14 dated, but parallels for them may be found at the Gilf Kebir, site 80/7 Layer 5, dated to the end of the 6th Millennium b.p.<sup>13</sup>. Consequently, the fine incised sherds from Dakhleh may also be placed approximately within this period.

*The Cemeteries of Abydos* II, London, 1914, p. 5 et pl. III, 3) and Naqada (De Morgan *et al.*, *Recherches sur les Origines de l'Égypte* 2, fig. 493-496).

11. On Borkou see G. Camps, *Les Civilisations préhistoriques de l'Afrique du Nord et du Sahara*, Paris, 1974, p. 238; on Oran see C. Goetz, *Bulletin de la Société de géographie et d'archéologie de la province d'Oran* 63, 1942, p. 60-107.

12. Some dates are still unpublished; others were published by I. Brookes in *Quaternary Research* 31, 1989, p. 75-91.

13. For these dates see Kuper, *op. cit.*, p. 251.

Over-all, the pottery has a strongly individualistic character. This may reflect a low level of cultural contact with other areas. The scanty finds from Farafra and Kharga <sup>14</sup> are generically similar to those from Dakhleh, but lack the diversity of fabrics, shapes, and decorations. The pottery from Dakhleh has a few general parallels with Nilotic Upper Egyptian cultures, but lacks the diversity and range of techniques present in that material. Consequently, the picture to be derived from the pottery is of a strongly regional tradition, throughout the Neolithic, though with some contact with the Nile Valley towards the end of the sequence. This raises significant questions about the extent of regionalism in the eastern Sahara; one can now argue that the different oases may well have possessed regional traditions that were broadly similar but also different. This tends to refute views that the oases formed part of one general savannah region over which similar pastoral groups roamed; the picture to be derived from Dakhleh is rather of individual cultures anchored to the oases. Dakhleh need not be taken as symptomatic of the Saharan Neolithic, though, and further work in Farafra, Kharga and the Great Sand Sea might well reveal a different picture. The little available information from those areas does tend to indicate differences in ceramic traditions and lithic industries <sup>15</sup>. Clearly, such research is the next step toward a clearer understanding of the Neolithic in the eastern Sahara.

Daniel Tangri.

14. On Farafra see B. Barich and F. Hassan, *Nyame Akuma* 29, 1987, p. 16-21, and F. Klees, "Lobo : A Contribution to the Prehistory of the Eastern Sand Sea and the Egyptian Oases", in L. Krzyzaniak and M. Kobusiewicz (eds.), *Late Prehistory of the Nile Basin and the Sahara*, Poznan, 1989, p. 229.

15. Farafra shares a general flake/blade technology and points with the other oases; Kharga alone has axes. The ceramic assemblages of Farafra and Kharga are very simple and plain and could be subsumed within the Dakhlan assemblage, but lack its diversity and variety.

§ 15.

**Dakhla Oasis, Ismant el-Kharab. — Notes on Pottery Manufacture in Dakhla Oasis; Ancient and Modern.**

(Dakhleh Oasis Project, University of Sydney.)

The study of manufacturing techniques has been an important facet of work on the ceramic material of Dakhleh Oasis throughout both the survey period and the later excavations which have been undertaken by the Dakhleh Oasis Project. This work has been carried out under the direction of Dr. C.A. Hope, co-investigator of the Dakhleh Oasis Project and the site excavator of Ismant el-Kharab, and who has published various aspects of this work.

The following brief notes on manufacturing techniques result, in particular, from the processing of the excavated ceramic material from the site of Ismant el-Kharab. This material has been provisionally dated to the period of the third to the fourth centuries A.D.

Frequently found on this site are sherds and some intact examples of large water kegs which are made from local iron rich, quartz tempered clays. The barrel-shaped body of these vessels has a diameter of some 35 cm and a length of some 45-50 cm. The height of the neck of these vessels is region about 4 cm and the rim has a diameter of around 4.5 cm. The vessel is thrown and the throwing is technically quite proficient. The result is a large vessel which we assume was more suitable for water storage than cartage as the keg, which must have been quite heavy when filled, could be rolled until the neck was in a pouring position. It is interesting that similar vessels are still being made in the oasis by the potters of Qasr el-Dakhleh. These however are somewhat smaller, having a "cigar shape" rather than the barrel shape of the kegs from Ismant el-Kharab.

During the processing of the sherds and the intact or restorable kegs, it became increasingly obvious that these vessels did not exhibit any thickening or working of the walls that could be interpreted as indicating that they had been made in more than one piece. Moreover, to the ceramic analysts working with Dr. Hope and who had practical working knowledge of pottery making, the throwing marks that were present on the inside of both 'ends' of the keg were not

in keeping with the spirals which would result from "opening up" the clay to form a vessel and which are usually observed on the interior of the base of other vessels. From these observations it was then surmised that the body of the kegs may have been made from one piece of clay but in two stages, in the procedure outlined below.

The potter works with a lump of clay and proceeds to throw a cylinder of the required size using only a certain amount of the clay and leaving, on the wheel, a thick lump of clay at the base of the form. This cylinder is then closed up by gently squeezing or "collaring in" the upper edge to form an enclosed space which has the shape of a dome. The partly formed vessel is then removed from the wheel and allowed to dry for a time, after which it is inverted and put back on the wheel, held in a "chuck" (essentially a form of a suitable shape to hold the vessel steady). In pottery, making a "chuck" can be, and often is, simply and quickly made from clay. The potter is now able to open up the thick wad of clay which was left in the first operation and throw and close up a cylinder in the same manner as for the first part of the keg. It now only remains, after a period of drying, for a suitable sized opening to be cut in the middle of the 'barrel' and clay added and thrown to make the neck and rim.

Once this method of manufacture had been surmised it became obvious that other vessels may also have been made in a similar manner. Certain deep bowls, jars and cooking pots with direct round bases exhibited the same configuration of marks or "dimples" inside the base as was present in the interior of the 'ends' of the kegs. It was then realised how the ancient potters could have made these quite thin-walled vessels without any secondary "turning" or trimming, as it had already been observed that this technique was not indicated by the exterior surfaces on any of these forms of the period. In the second stage of the throwing, the upper body and the rim would have been formed and the vessel completed. This would have been a quick and also very economical pottery technique, as not only was less time likely to have been used in making the vessel but also no time would have been taken up in reclaiming the parings from "turning" or trimming the hard leather vessels.



Also occurring frequently in the ceramic assemblage of Ismant el-Kharab are sherds of vessels with a low ring base. The base has a diameter of some 7 cm and is most common in the shale tempered fabric which was used to make the quite thinly thrown forms of this period, although it also occurs in other fabrics. These particular ring bases had aroused interest because they did not appear to have been made by addition of a ring of clay to the base of the vessel which was then thrown to make the ring, nor did they appear to have been "turned" to achieve the required shape. However, subsequent to the conclusions on the manufacturing technique of the Dakhleh potters of the Roman period outlined above, it was reasoned that the vessels with this ring base, which are predominantly necked flasks, could also have been made in that technique, that is, in one piece but in more than one operation. The lower part of the vessel would have been thrown first as a closed form which, because it is enclosed and contains air, is quite stable and easy to work with, and at this stage the foot could have been made by 'pinching' or 'pleating' the wall of the pot together to make the ring base. After being set aside for a period of time, the pot would have been returned to the wheel with the ring base probably resting in a chuck, and the upper part of the vessel, the neck and rim in the case of flasks, finished off.

This technique of forming ring bases was unknown to us as a modern technique. Nevertheless, the visual evidence pointed to this method and informal visits to the pottery at Qasr el-Dakhleh were to be exciting events which showed that these potters are still using the same technique, that is, they make the lower body of the pots as enclosed forms in the first stage of the throwing process and make ring bases on their vessels in the way suggested above. As mentioned, water kegs are still being made and used in the oasis, though most likely in rapidly dwindling numbers as modern containers become more plentiful. On separate visits to the Qasr pottery, these kegs have been seen at different stages attesting to the process which has been suggested for the manufacture of the Roman water keg.

In addition, a further observation can be made on the shale tempered flasks mentioned above which might be of interest to potters

and ceramists. It has been noted that the handles of these flasks are made of a different fabric, a quartz tempered fabric. In pottery terms this is fairly unusual as different fabrics will vary in their rates of expansion and shrinkage during drying and firing causing cracking and breakage. However, in this case, the two clay bodies were obviously compatible; presumably, the reason for using the two different clays was that the quartz tempered clay was easier to "pull" into handles.

Another very common find amongst the excavated material from the houses at Ismant el-Kharab is a large deep bowl with a thick folded rim, the diameter of which can be between 30-40 cm. Some complete examples have been found, although sherds of the rims and bases are most prevalent. Once again, it was the bases which particularly aroused much deliberation. These are ring bases and have a diameter of 12-14 cm and a height of some 3 cm. Many were recovered intact or as a considerable portion of the whole. As it does not appear that these ring bases were "turned" we originally thought that they were made as separate bases, applied and thrown. However, as we have seen more of these sherds during the excavations, we are now of the opinion that the ring base may be a continuation of the wall of the vessel. We surmise, that at least on some of these vessels, the bottom of the inverted bowl was "opened up" and the ring part of the bases thrown and finished, and that as another operation, the floor was put into the bowl, most likely by hand. The reason for this procedure may have been to prevent the cracking of the floor which can be a difficult problem. This issue is still a matter of some conjecture and it would be interesting to know if similar observations have been made on other sites.

Further visits to the Qasr el-Dakhleh pottery and study of the potters' techniques are planned as a continuing aspect of the work of the Project during future seasons to Dakhleh Oasis.

Shirley Patten.

## II

### INFORMATIONS GÉNÉRALES

#### § 16.

#### **Aspects of the dating of certain Egyptian lamps.**

(British Museum, Dept. of Greek and Roman Antiquities.)

During a visit in February 1989 to the excavations by an international team at the Roman fort at Mons Claudianus in the eastern desert of Egypt, it became clear that for the first time, close archaeological dating could be applied to certain groups of Egyptian lamps. In the *Catalogue of the Lamps in the British Museum* vol. III, I dated many lamps of types now found at Mons Claudianus to the third and fourth centuries A.D. The two main groups concerned are the Neo-Hellenistic Lamps Q 2100-2122 and the barbarous Frog-type lamps Q 2163-2177. Both these groups are found in some quantities at Mons Claudianus associated with a mass of written material closely dated to the reign of the emperor Trajan; there can be no doubt that the lamps and the ostraca are contemporary. These lamps were therefore in production at the beginning of the second century A.D. and E.M. Cahn-Klaiber's (and indeed, Petrie's) early dating of the first group, which I had rejected, is thus vindicated. Although their first appearance must then be pushed back, their period of production seems to have been very long, and may have continued into the third and even, perhaps, into the fourth century. This same longevity may also have applied to other groups of Frog and Frog-type lamps, as a fragment of a lamp like Q 2158 was also found at Mons Claudianus. The suggestion in the catalogue that lamps like Q 2163-2177 may be of Theban origin is supported to a certain extent by their large presence at Mons Claudianus; an Upper Egypt source is very likely.

I am grateful for the opportunity to make these corrections as it is conceivable that the British Museum catalogue may be used by archaeologists as a chronological guide to these lamps; the dates given in the catalogue are, of course, all secondary.

Donald Bailey.

### III

#### CLASSEMENT CHRONOLOGIQUE DES INFORMATIONS

##### INCLUSES DANS LES PARTIES I ET II

(les numéros renvoient aux paragraphes)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Néolithique : 14.                                   | Époque byzantine : 6.                             |
| Badarien : 14.                                      | VII <sup>e</sup> -XIII <sup>e</sup> siècles : 13. |
| Naqada I : 14.                                      | Époque copte : 9, 11.                             |
| Naqada III : 5.                                     | Époque islamique : 7.                             |
| I <sup>e</sup> -II <sup>e</sup> dynasties : 5.      | Céramique importée :                              |
| Moyen Empire : 7, 12, 13.                           | Chypriote : 2, 7, 8.                              |
| II <sup>e</sup> Période Intermédiaire : 8, 12.      | Grecque : 9.                                      |
| Nouvel Empire : 7, 9.                               | Kerma : 8.  |
| Début de la XVIII <sup>e</sup> dyn. : 13.           | Minoenne : 8, 12.                                 |
| Pré-Amarnien : 8.                                   | Mycénienne : 8.                                   |
| XVIII <sup>e</sup> -XIX <sup>e</sup> dynasties : 8. | Palestinienne : 7, 8.                             |
| Époque ramesside : 9.                               | Amphorae : 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 10.                     |
| III <sup>e</sup> Période Intermédiaire : 8.         | Chypriote : 2.                                    |
| Époque tardive : 4, 7, 9.                           | Cnidienne : 2.                                    |
| Époque perse : 9.                                   | Crétoise : 2.                                     |
| Époque ptolémaïque : 4, 6, 11, 13.                  | Espagnole : 2.                                    |
| Fin : 2, 3.   | Gauloise : 2.                                     |
| Époque romaine : 4, 7, 11.                          | Nord-africaine : 2.                               |
| Début : 2, 3, 10.                                   | Palestinienne : 2, 9.                             |
| II <sup>e</sup> -III <sup>e</sup> siècles : 1, 13.  | Rhodienne : 2, 10.                                |
| II <sup>e</sup> -IV <sup>e</sup> siècles : 16.      | Tell el-Yahudieh ware : 7.                        |
| III <sup>e</sup> -IV <sup>e</sup> siècles : 15.     | Lampes : 16.                                      |
| IV <sup>e</sup> -VII <sup>e</sup> siècles : 1, 13.  | Fours à potiers : 3, 6.                           |

#### IV

### PUBLICATIONS RÉCENTES SUR LA CÉRAMIQUE DE LA VALLÉE DU NIL

1. Aston (David), " Ancient Egyptian " Fire-dogs " — a New Interpretation ", *MDAIK* 45, 1989.
2. Debono (Fernand) and Mortensen (Bodil), *The Predynastic Cemetery at Heliopolis*, DAI Archäologische Veröffentlichung 63. Von Zabern, Mainz, 1988.
3. Gosline (Sheldon Lee), *Bahariya Oasis Expedition Season Report for 1988, Part I : Survey of Qarat Hilwah*. Van Siclen Books, San Antonio, 1990.
4. Myśliwiec (K.), « Dreihenkelige Gefäße in Ägypten », *MDAIK* 45, 1989.
5. Rizkana (I.), and Seeher (J.), *Maadi I-The pottery of the Predynastic Settlement*, DAI Archäologische Veröffentlichung 64. Von Zabern, Mainz, 1987.
6. Soukiassian (G.), Wuttmann (M.), Pantalacci (L.), Ballet (P.) et Picon (M.), *Les ateliers de potiers d'Ayn Asil, FIFAO XXXIV*. IFAO, Le Caire, 1990.
7. Sztetyllo (Zofia), « Timbres céramiques des fouilles polonaises à Alexandrie (1974-1979) », *Études et Travaux XIV*. Éditions scientifiques de Pologne, Varsovie, 1990.

V

**5th COLLOQUIUM OF THE INTERNATIONAL GROUP  
FOR THE STUDY OF ANCIENT EGYPTIAN POTTERY**

(Berkeley, Californie, 30 avril-1<sup>er</sup> mai 1990.)

Je n'ai pas reçu d'informations détaillées sur les activités du colloque.

## VI

### VII<sup>e</sup> CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE D'ÉTUDES NUBIENNES

(Genève, 3-8 septembre 1990.)

#### LES ÉTUDES SUR LA POTERIE

Bien que la céramique n'ait pas fait l'objet de séances particulières durant la conférence, les études portant sur cette matière ont constitué l'un des éléments fondamentaux des discussions entre archéologues, non seulement dans le domaine de la typologie et de la technologie, mais aussi comme facteur de restitution du développement chronologique, de la distribution des cultures sur le territoire et des rapports « politiques » et culturels entre régions et périodes différentes.

Une présentation du répertoire céramique dans son contexte archéologique a été faite par Ch. Bonnet pour la séquence culturelle mise au jour à Kerma, y compris les aspects documentés de l'habitat pré-Kerma, qui est attribué à une phase néolithique tardive. La présentation des fouilles et reconnaissances menées par R. Fattovich dans le delta du Gash a inclu une description générale de la poterie qu'il utilise pour établir une chronologie relative des cultures du Soudan oriental. Le même effort est fait par R. Kuper qui a illustré brièvement les différentes céramiques des phases préhistoriques définies sur cette base dans la reconnaissance systématique du B.O.S. dans le désert occidental. Une définition culturelle fondée sur l'analyse des tessons de poterie a caractérisé aussi la reconnaissance faite par K. Sadr dans le désert oriental de l'Égypte (région du Atbai septentrional). F. Geus a également fait référence à la céramique préhistorique dans son exposé sur l'histoire des recherches concernant les cultures de la préhistoire tardive du Soudan septentrional, alors que



G. Idris présentait les résultats de travaux menés à Burget Tuyur, un établissement néolithique du Sahara oriental.

V. Fernandez a accordé une attention particulière aux éléments typologiques du décor imprimé de la céramique du mésolithique et du néolithique de Khartoum en utilisant ces facteurs, intégrés aux données fournies par l'industrie lithique, pour l'attribution culturelle de la couche néolithique du site de Haj Yusif, près de Khartoum. La même démarche est poursuivie par E. Garcea dans l'analyse des sites mésolithiques de la région de Khartoum, dont elle essaye de reconstruire les variations dans la distribution territoriale, selon le développement chronologique attesté dans la région. C'est encore sur la distribution territoriale de certains attributs du décor céramique qu'est fondée l'hypothèse des mouvements migratoires à la fin du néolithique, présentée par R. Haaland. Il propose que des groupes de pasteurs spécialisés, provenant du Sahara, aient remplacé, dans le Soudan central, les populations agro-pastorales nilotiques, en poussant ces dernières vers les régions méridionales.

À travers l'analyse des formes dans le répertoire céramique du néolithique tardif du Soudan central et de la Nubie, J. Reinold a élaboré une typologie qui lui permet de formuler des considérations chronologiques sur les nécropoles de la région de Kadruka, ainsi qu'une meilleure définition de cette phase du néolithique final de Nubie et des comparaisons culturelles entre Kadruka et les cultures préhistoriques du Soudan central.

Une méthode de classification intégrée a été présentée par A. Manzo, C. Perlingieri et C. Capuano, avec une étude systématique de la poterie préhistorique de Mahal Teglinos (Kassala); une analyse de plusieurs éléments, tels que la pâte, la surface, la forme, le décor et les dimensions, est proposée, avec l'utilisation d'un microscope binoculaire. Cette approche permet de faire des observations sur la technologie et une nouvelle lecture de la stratigraphie du site.

En ce qui concerne les périodes plus récentes, une description très exhaustive de la poterie funéraire « post-méroïtique » (Alwa ware)

a été faite par P. Lenoble qui a mis l'accent sur les caractères technologiques et la distribution d'un type de bonbonne ainsi que sur ses implications dans la reconstruction du développement méroïtique — post-méroïtique en termes de continuité plutôt que de discontinuité. Ce sont également des poteries « post-méroïtiques » qui ont été présentées par I. Caneva, au cours d'une communication sur des tombes à tumulus de la région de Khartoum, de même que par M. el-Tayeb, dans un exposé sur les fouilles conduites par le Service des Antiquités du Soudan sur le site d'un cimetière à tumulus, dans la région de Old Dongola.

La fouille et la documentation d'un atelier de potier d'époque napatéenne, à Kerma, ont fait l'objet d'une communication de Salah Eddin M. Ahmed, qui a tenté de reconstituer les phases de construction et de fonctionnement du four.

B. Zurawski et K. Pluskota ont discuté certains aspects du matériel chrétien de Old Dongola. Les observations faites lors du « survey » de l'arrière-pays de Qasr Ibrim ont été présentées par P. Rose. L. Smith a illustré des méthodes de classification et de comparaison de poteries anciennes par des analyses pétrographiques sur lames minces, avec des exemples appliqués à des contextes de la Nubie médiévale. C'est en utilisant les résultats d'analyses du même genre, appliquées par Francaviglia et Palmieri aux contextes préhistoriques de la région de Khartoum, que A. Magdi a évoqué les problèmes de connexion culturelle et de chronologie relative entre les sites néolithiques du Soudan central.

Isabella Caneva.

## VII

**THE NILE DELTA IN TRANSITION  
4TH-3RD MILLENIUM B.C.,  
SEMINAR HELD AT THE NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE  
FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND ARABIC STUDIES  
(Cairo, 21-24 October 1990.)**

Under the title "The Nile delta in Transition, 4th-3rd millenium B.C. ", a seminar took place at the Netherlands Institute for Archaeology and Arabic Studies in Cairo, from October 21 to 24, 1990. The seminar was organized by the author on behalf of the Netherlands Foundation of Archaeological Research in Egypt.

An odd thirty papers focusing on the transition from the Late Predynastic to the Proto/Early Dynastic period in the Nile Delta as well as on the contacts and relations of Lower Egypt with contemporaneous EBI Canaan and with the Naqadian II and III of Upper Egypt were read. Subsequent discussions touched on many different aspects of these relationships as reflected in architecture, flint tools, pottery, botanical remains, tombs, and burial customs as well as on the problems of palaeogeography and chronostratigraphy.

About fifteen of the papers dealt with the excavations of a number of (Late) Predynastic sites (Maadi and Geziret el-Masha'la) and some transitional Late Predynastic - Early Dynastic sites (Minshat Abu Omar, Tell el-Fara'in/Buto, el-Tell el-Iswid (south), Tell Ibrahim Awad, Tell el-Farkha) in Lower Egypt, as well as a number of Proto/Early dynastic sites in Lower Egypt (Ezbet el-Tell/Kufr Nigm, Ezbet Hassan Dawud (in the Wadi Tumilat), Beni Amir and Tarkhan).

Four papers dealt with two major Upper Egyptian sites (Abydos and Hierakonpolis) and six papers dealt exclusively with the Egyptian and egyptianizing finds in Northern Sinai and southern Canaan

during the periods under discussion (e.g. 'En Besor, Tell Erani, Tell Arad, Taur Ikhbeineh, Nizzanim, Afridar). The paleogeography of the Nile Delta was the subject of three papers and finally, there were two papers discussing exclusively the flint tools.

As for pottery, the various presentations focused on a number of topics :

a) The typical Lower Egyptian local pottery, that was produced especially during the Late Predynastic period e.g. in Maadi, Tell el-Fara'in/Buto, el-Tell el-Iswid (south), Tell Ibrahim Awad and Tell el-Farkha. One of the typical markers being a simple zigzag decoration on the outside of vessels in 'rocker stamp' technique<sup>1</sup>.

b) The presence or absence of Upper Egyptian Late Naqada II imports within these Late predynastic layers of the aforementioned sites.

c) Possible Lower Egyptian influences during the Late Predynastic period in contemporary Naqadian assemblages in Upper Egypt.

d) The Early Bronze I-age Canaanite imports in both Upper and Lower Egypt. On this topic it is useful to quote from the abstract of the paper by Günter Dreyer ("Recent discoveries at Abydos cemetery U"), dealing with tomb U-j, dating from the Naqada IIIa2 period, that was (re-) discovered in 1988 :

"The largest group of the Egyptian pottery are wavy-handled pots (type W 50/51a), many of them 'inscribed' with one or two large signs in black ink (most frequently a scorpion). Three chambers contained pots of Palestinian origin only (similar types are known from northern Sinai, Tell Far'ah, Arad and Bab edh-Dhra'). Their large numbers (c. 400) point to a well established trade relationship. Ruth Amiran discussed Petrie's F-ware (Fancy ware), which she suggested should be renamed (Fancy) Foreign-ware."

1. Cf. Edwin C.M. v.d. Brink, "A Transitional Late Predynastic-Early Dynastic Settlement Site in the Northeastern Nile Delta, Egypt", *MDAIK* 45, 1989, p. 70-74.

e) Egyptian imports and local egyptianizing imitations found in northern Sinai and especially southern Canaan, where an odd twenty Early Bronze I sites have been attested, yielding such material. (Moreover, three of these sites provided evidence of Egyptian mud-brick architecture).

The seminar was successfully concluded with excursions to the University Museum at Zagazig and to the site-museum at Maadi<sup>2</sup>.

Edwin C.M. van den Brink.

2. The proceedings of the seminar will, we hope, be published before the end of 1991.





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