

BULLETIN DE LIAISON

DU

**GROUPE INTERNATIONAL D'ÉTUDE
DE LA CÉRAMIQUE ÉGYPTIENNE**

XVI

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS D'ARCHÉOLOGIE ORIENTALE DU CAIRE

1992

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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^{er} 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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I

CLASSEMENT GÉOGRAPHIQUE DES DÉCOUVERTES

§ 1.

Alexandria, Kom el-Dikka, 1990-1991

(Polish Center of Archaeology, Cairo.)

In the 1990-1991 field season excavations were carried out in sector U, west of the so-called Theatre Portico and in sector W1N, comprising the habitation quarter east of street R4. The main goal of this year's campaign was to complete the exploration of the spacious Late Roman House H begun in 1988 in the latter of the two areas.¹

As usual the excavations yielded a rich assemblage of Late Roman pottery, including tablewares and amphorae. The amphorae of Egyptian production are relatively few in number, but they represent an extended set of forms and fabrics. The widespread and well-known group of so-called "chocolate" amphorae is represented by a long series of vessels covering several morphologically different types (Kellia forms 172-179). Their dating, based on coins and accompanying imported tablewares, confirms the general outlines of the chronology established by Egloff.

Imported amphorae constitute some 50 % in assemblages of the fifth century A.D., reaching almost 70-75 % of the total number of rims, handles, bases and sherds found in layers of the seventh century

1. For the preliminary results of research see: G. Majcherek, "Excavations at Kom el-Dikka in Alexandria", in: *Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean 1988-1989*. Warsaw 1990, p. 75-83.

A.D. The quantitative superiority of imported vessels versus local products is a specifically Alexandrian phenomenon which has been fully confirmed by recent research on pottery from Kom el-Dikka. Among the imports two types of containers: Late Roman Amphora 1 and Late Roman Amphora 4 hold the dominant position. The *spatheion* class is worth noting: it appears in Alexandria in both morphological types: large and small.² One of our examples, a fragmentarily preserved vessel, bears a red-painted dipinto containing the formula: X[ριστὸν] M[αρία] Γ[εννᾶ].

Beside the traditionally rich repertory of pottery forms belonging to Egyptian Red Slip A ware, there was a considerable number of domestic vessels originating also from the pottery workshops located in the Aswan region. A variety of forms included kegs, bottles, jugs and cooking pots.

A study of the tablewares led to the identification of a group which was not included in Rodziewicz's comprehensive typology. Vessels belonging to this group are made of Nile silt with a sizeable addition of lime particles; contrary to the typical Egyptian Red Slip B ware, the fracture colours present a layered effect presumably resulting from an unstable firing temperature.³ A light cream slip on the inside and outside of the vessels is clearly reminiscent of Rodziewicz's group W, produced in Aswan.⁴ This ware might therefore be considered as a local imitation of the more valuable prototypes manufactured in the south of Egypt. The chronology of this new group needs still to be clarified, but one is safe in dating the pottery to the sixth-seventh centuries A.D. approximately. The

2. For a characteristic of both variants cf. : J.A. Riley, "The Coarse Pottery from Benghazi", in: J.A. Lloyd (ed.), *Sidi Khreish Excavations, Benghazi (Berenice)*, vol. II, Tripoli 1979, p. 226-228.

3. Fabric characteristics closely recall vessels of Egyptian Red Slip H (Hermopolitan) ware. Cf. D. Bailey, "The local Late Roman Red Slip ware of Hermopolis Magna", in: *National Museum in Warsaw Occasional Paper no. 1*, Warsaw 1990, p. 5-26. A possible identification of the white-slipped ware from Alexandria with that from Hermopolis requires actual comparison of samples.

4. M. Rodziewicz, *La céramique romaine tardive d'Alexandrie*, Varsovie 1976, p. 61-62.

repertory of forms is very modest for the moment, being limited to large bowls and plates on ring bases (fig. 1/1-3).

The Early Roman assemblages recovered from the layers underlying the thick Late Roman stratum also represented a rich and diverse set. Numerous body sherds, necks and handles permitted the reconstruction of yet another type of local amphora made of typical Nile silt fabric (fig. 1/4). It is a medium-sized amphora with a spindle-shaped body narrowing into a solid conical spike. The tubular neck ends in a plain rim, which is sometimes thickened. Long, crude handles with a groove on the top stretch from beneath

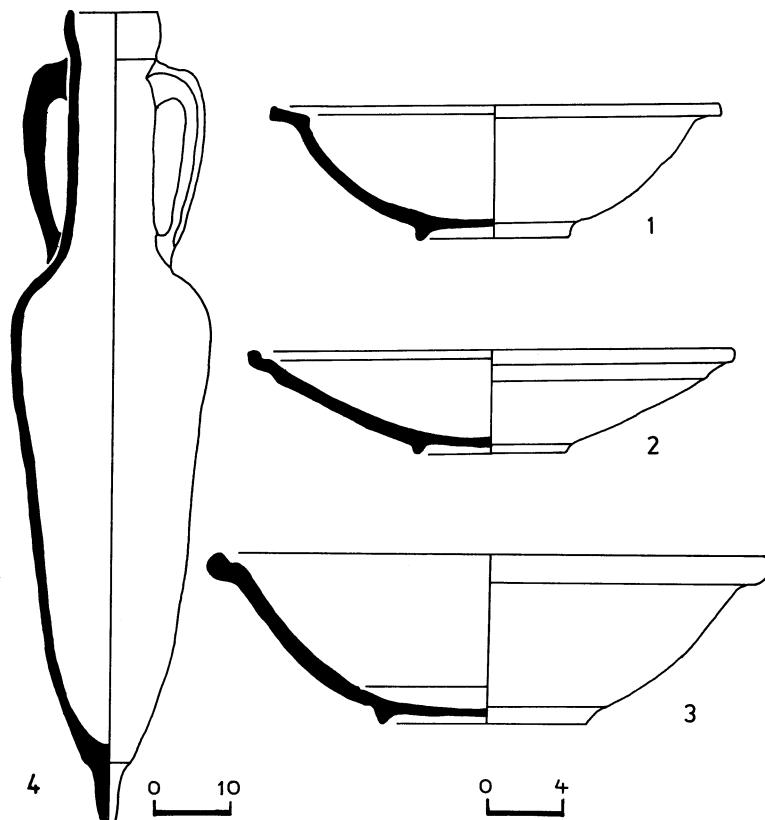


Fig. 1. — White-slipped ware (nos 1-3), scale 1: 4.
Egyptian amphora (no. 4), scale 1:10.

the rim to the shoulders. The form appears to be closely related to the Italian Dressel 1C amphorae.⁵ This type of vessel usually occurs in contexts dated to the late first century B.C. — early first century A.D., although its exact chronological range remains to be determined.

A well-preserved group of sub-Coan amphorae (Dressel 5) and amphorae from Crete (Amphorae Crétaises 1, 3, 4) enlarged the repertory of Eastern products recorded at Kom el-Dikka.⁶

One should also mention the relatively frequent finds of sherds belonging to Baetican oil amphorae (Dressel 20). When considered in the light of amphora stamps in the collection of the Graeco-Roman Museum in Alexandria, these finds will serve to illuminate the sparsely documented problem of Alexandria's trade contacts with the western part of the Empire.⁷

Grzegorz MAJCHEREK.

§ 2.

QANTIR.

(*Excavations of the Pelizaeus Museum, Hildesheim, 1987-1991*).
(I) *Sector Q I.*

During the past five years, the study of the pottery from Qantir has continued and work on the publication of the material from sector Q I is well advanced. Some 18,000 pieces have been drawn, of which it is expected 4,500 will appear in the final publication. While this may seem a large number, it should be remembered that

5. E. Will, "A Sestius amphora: a reappraisal". *Journal of Field Archaeology* 6, (1979), p. 339-350.

6. For the detailed typology and chronology of Cretan amphorae cf.: St. Markoulaki, J.-Y. Empereur, A. Marangou, "Recherches sur les centres de fabrication d'amphores de Crète occidentale", *BCH CXIII/II*, 1989, p. 551-580.

7. For the Baetican stamps in the Alexandrian Museum cf. E. Will, "Exportation of olive oil from Baetica to the Eastern Mediterranean", in: J.M. Blazquez and J. Remesal (eds.) *Prod. y Com. del Aceite en la Antiquedad*, II Congreso Madrid 1983, p. 392-440.

this amounts to approximately 0.1 % of the total number of sherds excavated.

As expected, the most common fabric found was the local Nile E clay (not Nile C as reported in *BCE XII*) with considerable imports of Marl D vessels, almost certainly from the Memphis/Gurob region. Other Egyptian imports, but in substantially smaller numbers, comprise Marl A variant 4 (Hope's 'Pink Compact') and not Marl A3 as in *BCE XII*, and, scarcer still, Nile B2 clays.

While most of the vessel forms appear similar to pieces of the same date excavated south of the Delta, two groups of Ramesside pottery are here singled out as worthy of particular mention. First the considerable corpus of Nile E blue-painted wares. Blue-painted sherds account for some 5 % of all silt sherds, and Qantir can now be seen as a major production centre during the Nineteenth Dynasty. This is perhaps not surprising, since the other areas with substantial quantities of blue painted material, Malkata, Amarna, Memphis and Thebes, all had connections with the royal court, either as habitation sites or as royal necropoleis. The Qantir material, while fragmentary, encompasses a large variety of forms — plates, dishes, bowls, beakers, lids, bottles, various types of jars and, rarely, Bes vases. A type of necked jar, body sherds of which were quite often found, consists of a funnel necked jar with blue bands running around the neck and body with indented vertical scorings ("fluting") on the front of the body. They immediately bring to mind the famous vase in Boston (MFA 64.9) even though there are a number of important differences. Firstly, the Qantir vessels so far found are smaller, the most complete ones being about 35 cm tall. They are always handleless and, probably owing to their small size, do not have fluted decoration on the neck. On the other hand, there are a number of factors which relate the Qantir vessels to Boston MFA 64.9, and would possibly imply an original Qantir provenance for it rather than an Amarna one as has recently been proposed (Hope, *CCE* 2, 1991, p. 61-62). Like the Boston vessel, some Qantir pots, though not necessarily of this type, have a more intense blue on the front of the vessel than on the back, and the decoration consists of plain blue bands (surely indicative of a Nineteenth rather than an Eighteenth Dynasty date) separated by thin black lines. Isolated

rim pieces of the same type as that of Boston MFA 64.9 with the applied 'grapes', and fragments of gazelles and recumbent cow lids (similar to the one now kept with the Boston vase) have also been found at Qantir though, unfortunately, none of these can as yet be linked to the fluted funnel-necked jars. Post-firing polychrome decorated pottery which is often found with blue-painted vessels, is absent at Qantir. This, however, may be due to the high water table which underlies the site, since in such damp conditions any post-firing decoration will have been lost.

The second group of vessels worthy of particular note is a group of marl clay vessels which are particularly endemic to Tell el-Dab'a and Qantir. They are made from a clay not recognized in the Vienna System, but the variety of shapes, both open and closed, made of this material and found in the Eastern Delta strongly suggests a Delta origin for this type of clay. Vessels made in this fabric have been found in the south of the country — the present writer has seen similar sherds at Saqqara, Thebes and Elephantine, with examples also known at Amarna (P. Rose, personal communication) — but these southern sherds are almost always from amphorae clearly used for the transport of wine. Pots made in this Delta fabric are generally thin-walled, often very brittle, and usually left uncoated, though a few vessels, generally mugs and pilgrim flasks, have been given a cream coating which is sometimes burnished. The repertoire of forms is similar to that of the contemporary Marl D corpus known principally from Memphis and Amarna, but with the notable exception of so-called 'meat jars'.

Parallel to the study of the ceramic material from area Q I, excavation has continued in the area of Q IV (Pusch, *GM* 112, 1989, p. 67-95; Aston, *GM* 113, 1989, p. 7-32) and at Tell el-Dab'a preparatory to the building of a site magazine.

David ASTON.

(II) *Tell el-Dab'a.*

Die ägyptische AltertümERVERWALTUNG hatte dem Projekt des Pelizaeus-Museums, Hildesheim zur Auflage gemacht ein Magazin für die Lagerung der registrierten Funde aus Qantir/Piramesse zu errichten. Es wurde ein Bauplatz auf dem Tell el-Dab'a zugewiesen, der ca. 2 Kilometer von den Grabungsplätzen Q I-IV entfernt liegt. Vor Baubeginn fand im Herbst 1990 eine archäologische Untersuchung des Geländes statt, welches sich in den eingemessenen Planquadranten TD-r.s/8.9 befindet. Auch wenn es sich lediglich um ein Areal von geringer Größe handelt, konnten neben anderen Objekten insgesamt ca. 50000 Scherben geborgen werden. 2/3 des Materials stammt aus 2 Gruben, die durch den angelegten Schnitt nur unvollständig erfaßt und somit auch nur teilweise ausgenommen wurden.

Obwohl die Bearbeitung der Keramik bislang noch nicht abgeschlossen ist, läßt sich bereits jetzt das Material 2 Zeitstufen zuordnen. Bei dem größten Prozentsatz handelt es sich um Gefäßformen aus der 2. Zwischenzeit/frühe 18. Dynastie. Trotz dieser hohen Anzahl konnten so gut wie keine kompletten Profile zusammengefügt werden. Der verbleibende Rest ist auf Grund der Formen und des spezifischen Werkstoffes der Spätzeit zuzuordnen.

Sie stammt fast ausschließlich aus einer der beiden oben genannten Gruben, die mit nicht abgerundeten, größeren Scherben gefüllt war.¹ In diesem Fall war es möglich sie zu kompletten Profilen zusammenzukleben. Das Formeninventar besteht zu gleichen Teilen aus offenen, sowie geschlossenen Formen, die überwiegend aus Nilton hergestellt sind (signifikant: streifenpolierte, spitzbodige Gefäße, Teller mit breitem Rand, "goldfish bowls", Wannen). Vergleichsstücke lassen sich bereits nicht weit entfernt von Tell el-Dab'a finden, nämlich auf dem Tell Fara'on,² aber auch in Maskhuta³ und Saqqara,⁴

1. Die Vermischung mit Material aus der 2. Zwischenzeit ist nur sehr gering.

2. Mostafa, I., *BCE* XI, p. 10-11, Abb. 1, 2, 5, 8.

3. Holladay, J.S. Jr. in: *Cities of the Delta III. Tell el Maskhuta*, Malibu, 1982, pl. 3, no. 12; pl. 7, no. 1.

4. Bourriau, J./Aston, D. in: Martin, G.T. *The Tomb chapels of Paser and Ra'ia at Saqqara*, (E.E.S., Leiden, 1985), No. 111. French, P./Ghaly, H. "Pottery of the Late Dynastic Period at Saqqara", *CCE* 2, 1991, fig. 63, 83.

um nur einige Fundorte zu nennen. Nach neueren Untersuchungen teilt P. French die Keramik der Spätzeit in 3 Phasen, wobei die oben beschriebenen Gefäße der 2.-3. Phase entsprechen (spätes 7.Jh./frühes 6.Jh. bis spätes 5.Jh./frühes 4.Jh.).⁵

Weiterhin sei zu bemerken, daß sich in der Grube eine Reihe überfeuerter und versinterter Gefäße befanden. Wie hoch der Prozentsatz an der Gesamtmenge ausmacht, ist nicht zu überprüfen, da die Grube nicht vollständig ergraben wurde. Somit ist auch nicht zu klären, ob diese Fehlbrände vielleicht im Umfeld der Grube produziert wurden.

Es ist vorgesehen die Arbeiten an dem keramischen Material von Tell el-Dab'a Ende des Jahres 1991 abzuschließen und es für eine Publikation vorzubereiten.

Barbara DITZE.

§ 3.

Buto, Tell el-Fara'in, Late Period-Roman.

(DAI, Cairo.)

A study season took place from September 15th to October 23rd 1991, giving the opportunity for work on both the EES pottery from the 1966-1969 excavations and the DAI pottery from 1987-1988.

It is proving possible to identify rather more of the EES material than had previously been thought; nearly 700 pieces have now been examined and at least 600 satisfactorily identified with those recorded in the 1960s. It is also now thought that a further 150 or more may be identifiable. It is necessary to soak the pottery to remove the accumulated salts; without this, it would usually be impossible to add new identification numbers, the pottery would be difficult to handle, and the surface treatment would often be obscured. It has

5. French, P. "A preliminary study of pottery in Lower Egypt in the Late Dynastic and Ptolemaic Periods" CCE 3 (in Vorbereitung). An dieser Stelle möchte ich P. French für die vorzeitige Bereitstellung des Manuskriptes danken.

been found that soaking for 10 days seems to be sufficient, provided there are not too many sherds in a bucket and that the water is changed on the first day and every two days thereafter. The need for this work has delayed the probable publication date. Further field-work will take place in spring or autumn 1992, to complete the identifications as far as possible; it will then be necessary to check the original drawings and draw where this was not done, as well as create a typology. The present intention is to publish the material in three categories: sherds seen, checked and fully described recently; sherds drawn and to some extent described in the 1960s but not seen recently; and material neither drawn nor individually described, and not seen recently, but noted with context in the 1960s and typed to another piece for which fuller information exists.

Work on the DAI pottery was confined to the Late Dynastic Period and to the excavations of 1987 to the north of Sekhmawy village. A full analysis is being carried out on the rim-sherds, totalling several thousand, from the 10×10 metre square T IX. The equivalent number of vessels present is being calculated for each context, and typological series are being drawn up. It is hoped that the eventual publication of these series will be accompanied by statistical tables of the frequency of occurrence of each type, to justify its attribution to a particular date range. So far, the work has confirmed the sequence tentatively worked out during excavation. The first building of the Late Dynastic Period was constructed upon the deliberate infill of a deep pit; this infill includes large numbers of sherds of globular silt jars decorated with white horizontal bands applied as a continuous spiral and with two small handles from upper body to rim, used as cooking pots, and should thus be of about Dynasty XXV. The last activity involves the construction and abandonment of kilns whose fire-pits contain vessels and sherds of a very inferior silt ware containing much vegetable matter and which are badly made and frequently underfired; these are not yet of the pottery-types current around 400 B.C. and recognisable in disturbed sub-surface deposits nearby, so must belong to the first half of the fifth century at latest. Between these two phases must lie at least two more, representing the use of the first phase building and of its second phase successor; the pottery of this period is recognisable

and includes small bowls and cups whose bases have been distinctively finished off underneath by wiping a hand across them. One of the contexts with such pieces is a sealed silo, but no attempt has yet been made to sort out these phases.

A further study-season is planned for March-April 1992.

Peter FRENCH and Janine BOURRIAU.

§ 4.

Nazlet el-Samman, 1991. Old kingdom pottery types.
(Egyptian Antiquities Department.)

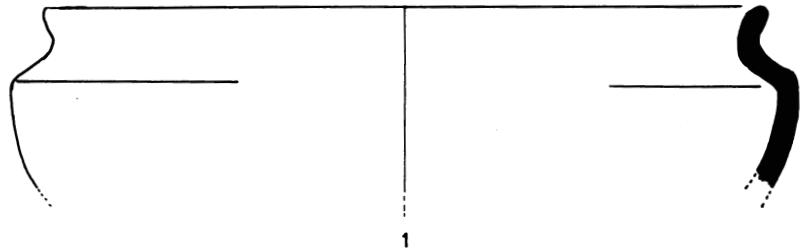
During the construction project of waste area for the village of Nazlet el-Samman, located down at the foot of the great pyramid of Khufu, evidence has come to light of an Old Kingdom settlement of unusually large size.

The settlement was about three kilometres square and proved to extend under the modern villages of Nazlet el-Samman, Nazlet el-Sessi, Kafr el-Gebel and Nazlet el-Batran.¹ In this paper I will describe the pottery dated to dynasty IV which was found during the test sounding at Abou el-Hol Street.²

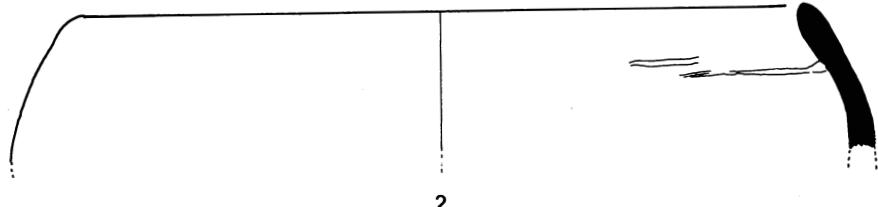
1. Bowl: recurved rim, round base. Wheel-made, Nile silt, burnished. Light red (10R6/8).
2. Bowl: incurved rim, Wheel-made, Nile silt, burnished. Red (10R5/8).
3. Platter: Wheel-made, Nile silt. Red-burnished.
4. Bowl: outward rolled rim. Wheel-made, Nile silt. Light reddish-brown.
5. Platter baking mould: Coarse hand-made ware. Reddish-yellow (5 YR 7 + 6/6).
6. Bowl used as a lid: Flat base. Wheel-made but finished outside by hand. Nile silt.

1. Archaeologists from the Department of Antiquities at the Giza plateau in co-operation with Michael Jones recorded the archaeological evidence from this settlement.

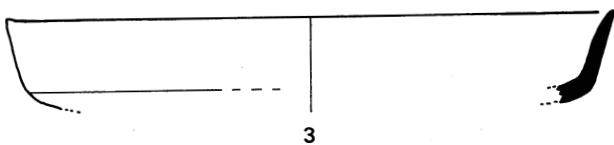
2. The pottery drawings have been made by Mr. Ashraf el-Senosi.



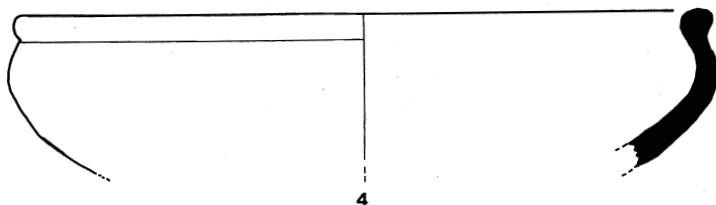
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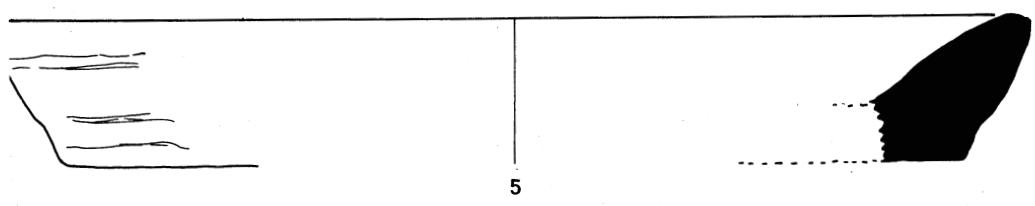
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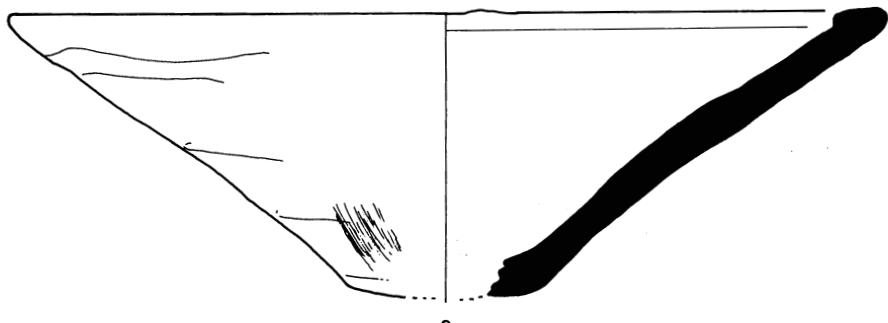
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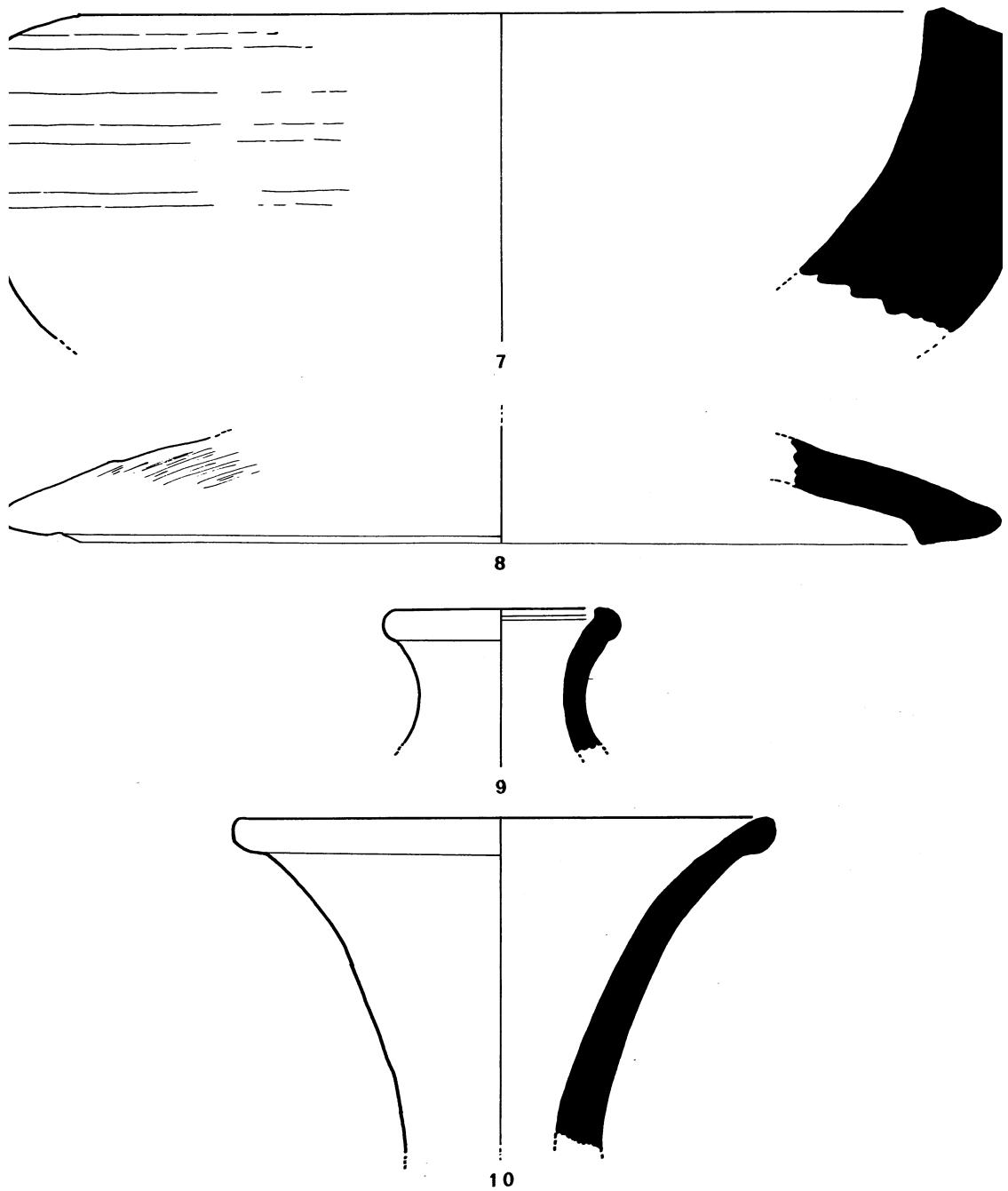
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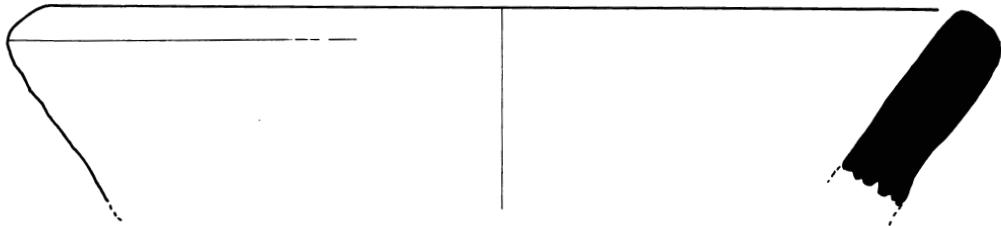


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6





11

7. *Hetep* baking mould used also as a cooking vessel (end of the third dynasty and early fourth dynasty). Hand-made, Nile silt. Light brown. It is blackened outside and there is evidence of burning inside as well.
8. Lid. Wheel-made but finished by hand. Nile silt, light brown in colour.
9. Neck of a storage jar with incurved rim. Wheel-made, Nile silt. Burnished. Colour light red (25 YR6/6).
10. Tall stand. Wheel-made. Nile silt with a red wash.
11. Plain *hetep* baking mould. Wheel-made. Coarse Nile silt.

It is believed that this settlement represents the Pyramid city of Khufu located south of the Valley Temple of the great pyramid.

Zahi HAWASS.

§ 5.

Memphis, Kom Rabi'a, 1991. (Egypt Exploration Society.)

A study season began at Memphis on October 12th 1991 and is expected to continue until December. Excavation ceased in autumn 1990, when the water-table was reached. Pottery deposits at this lowest level suggested a date late in Dynasty XII. Kom Rabi'a has thus provided a continuous sequence of stratified deposits of domestic occupation from this date to the Third Intermediate Period.

The pottery team consisted of Ingrid Blom (Hildesheim), Janine Bourriau (Cambridge University), Kathryn Eriksson (Sydney University),

Paul Nicholson (Sheffield University) and Sally Swain (Manchester University).

The first priority is completion of the sorting of pottery from the Middle Kingdom deposits. The method has been described in previous reports, but involves sorting all sherds from a single deposit into wares, and (where easily recognisable) forms, and weighing the resulting groups. The body sherds are then discarded and diagnostic sherds bagged for later recording. We can already see, as we examine these deposits, how slowly and steadily the ceramics evolve through the Late XIIth and XIIIth Dynasties and the Second Intermediate Period. There are no abrupt changes in the sequence from our earliest deposits to those in the sand layer which underlies the deposits of the early XVIIIth Dynasty. This slow evolution is in marked contrast to the rapid changes in the ceramics observed in the compressed stratigraphy of the New Kingdom levels.

While the long and tedious work on the Middle Kingdom sherds continues, other projects are under way. Paul Nicholson and Janine Bourriau are writing up a study of the marl fabrics of the New Kingdom to be published in the *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology*. It aims at refining the field classification, used also by David and Barbara Aston in the nearby New Kingdom Necropolis at Saqqara.

Descriptions of the fabrics taken from thin sections are being compared with descriptions made using a low-powered binocular microscope. We hope that by keeping the magnification low ($\times 20$) we can relate our descriptions clearly to what can be seen with a $\times 10$ hand-lens. The fractures on which the descriptions are based have been photographed through the microscope, and a selection of the photographs will illustrate the study. It is hoped to help solve the problem all ceramicists have of identifying and describing fabrics in such a way that material from other sites may be recognised and compared. The marl fabrics from Amarna, where the EES is also working, are included in the study so that a concordance may be made with Memphis/Saqqara.

Kathryn Eriksson is preparing a study of the Cypriote pottery from Kom Rabi'a. Red Lustrous, Black Lustrous and Base Ring I and II wares occur in deposits from the Second Intermediate to the Ramesside Period. The corpus is small but occurs in association

with closely-datable Egyptian pottery; it should provide important new evidence relating the ceramic-based chronology of Cyprus in the Middle Bronze-Iron Age Period to the absolute chronology of Egypt.

Once the Middle Kingdom material has been sorted, it is planned to continue sampling and recording that of the New Kingdom. The procedures have been described in a previous issue of the *Bulletin de Liaison*.

A report on the latest structures on the site, and the related post-New Kingdom pottery, has been completed by David Jeffreys and David Aston and is in press; it will appear as a volume in the EES 'Survey of Memphis' series.

Janine BOURRIAU.

§ 6.

Saqqara, Anubieion, 1991. (Egypt Exploration Society).

A study season began on October 29th and is continuing at the time of writing. It is expected that most of the underlying phases, preceding the construction of the temple, will have been dealt with by the end of the season. The pottery from these has proved to be both more varied and more voluminous than was suspected at the time of the excavation in 1977-1979. Work on the most informative part of the sequence, that from the temple proper, has already begun, with particular reference to the marl wares. Another study season is planned for autumn 1992, to include further drawing, which is expected to bring the number of drawn pieces up to about 1000 and to include classification of most of the Ptolemaic and Early Roman types.

Peter FRENCH.

§ 7.

Tebtynis, Umm al-Brigat (Fayoum), 1991.

(Institut français d'archéologie orientale et Institut de papyrologie de l'université de Milan.)

Depuis octobre 1988, une mission franco-italienne a repris fouilles et études architecturales du site gréco-romain de Tebtynis, situé à la lisière méridionale de l'oasis du Fayoum, et qui a attiré, à maintes reprises, l'attention des papyrologues et des archéologues depuis le début du XX^e siècle.¹

Les travaux archéologiques, menés par Cl. Gallazzi et G. Hadji-Minaglou, portent sur une zone à l'est du téménos et du vestibule du temple de Soknebtynis et correspondent à la partie sud du kôm. Ce secteur comprend plusieurs îlots d'habitat, un espace ouvert (rue ou place) débouchant sur le vestibule du temple et une chapelle dont l'axe du dernier état est perpendiculaire à celui du dromos. La fourchette chronologique du secteur fouillé est comprise entre le tout début de la période hellénistique et la fin du II^e s./début du III^e s. apr. J.-C. Il n'est pas exclu néanmoins que certains des niveaux inférieurs soient pré-ptolémaïques ainsi qu'en témoignent certaines caractéristiques de la céramique (cf. *infra*); mais aucun élément ne permet de l'affirmer avec certitude.

Des sondages ont été effectués dans la nécropole située au sud du kôm, à proximité des établissements gréco-romains. Ils ont livré un matériel daté du II^e s. et du début du III^e s. apr. J.-C.

Une étude du temple de Soknebtynis et de son dromos est en cours (V. Rondot et G. Soukiassian); elle est destinée à enrichir et à compléter les travaux antérieurs restés inédits de la mission italienne.

Nous présenterons ici quelques résultats céramologiques des espaces fouillés depuis 1988, c'est-à-dire des îlots, de l'espace ouvert et de la chapelle, situés à l'est du temple. La céramique gréco-romaine de

1. Cl. Gallazzi, « Fouilles anciennes et nouvelles sur le site de Tebtynis », *BIFAO* 89, 1989, p. 179-191; G. Hadji-Minaglou, « Fouilles à Tebtynis en 1988 », *ibid.*, p. 192-202; *id.*, « Rapport préliminaire sur la deuxième campagne de fouilles à Tebtynis (octobre 1989) », *BIFAO* 90, p. 229-240; N. Grimal, « Travaux de l'Institut français d'archéologie orientale en 1989-1990 », *ibid.*, p. 397-399.

Tebtynis s'inscrit dans un ensemble documentaire varié où figurent papyri et ostraca grecs et démotiques, monnaies, ronde-bosse, lampes, figurines de terre cuite, etc. Face à la rareté des publications de céramiques hellénistiques et romaines d'Égypte en contexte et « épaulées » de documentation écrite et numismatique datée, l'étude de la céramique de Tebtynis vise deux objectifs : détermination des productions locales et des importations; datation relative (évolution des formes et des fabriques) et absolue (à l'aide des papyri et des monnaies) pendant plus de cinq siècles d'occupation.

Les principales phases de la céramique sont chronologiquement les suivantes.

Période hellénistique.

Les couches les plus anciennes (fin IV^e-début III^e s. av. J.-C. selon toute vraisemblance) comprennent des céramiques de tradition pharaonique (formes « archaïsantes », dégraissant végétal abondant, types de polissage et d'engobe) voisinant avec des productions nouvelles, telles que les céramiques fines noires (cuisson réductrice fermée ou mode B) et les fines rouges.

Une phase hellénistique « classique » (III^e-II^e s. av. J.-C.) est illustrée par la mise en place des principaux types céramiques qui prévaudront jusqu'au Haut Empire inclus, avec bien entendu une évolution des formes et des techniques : céramiques fines rouges et noires d'assiettes et de bols, de fabrication assez soignée, relativement bien cuites, à surface engobée ou polie, voisinent avec des formes similaires beaucoup plus grossières; assiettes et plats à pâte calcaire assez fine; les récipients de cuisson sont généralement d'assez belle qualité, à pâte alluviale, à parois fines, et représentés par plusieurs types de formes très caractéristiques, notamment des plats de cuisson à large marli marqué de ressauts. Parmi les céramiques fines fermées, plusieurs groupes coexistent : vases à pâte calcaire et à décor peint rouge et brun (bandes horizontales, bandes verticales), vases à pâte alluviale et à engobe rouge poli, quelques *lagynoi*. Le maintien des traditions pharaoniques se manifeste dans certains types de jarres et de jattes. Les amphores de cette phase hellénistique classique ne nous sont pas encore bien connues, trop peu de formes complètes ou de fragments d'importance ayant été recueillis; néanmoins il semble

que ce soit l'imitation des formes rhodiennes, ici à pâte brune sans doute alluviale, qui prédomine; on reconnaît le profil coudé de l'attache supérieure de l'anse; l'attache inférieure est fixée sur l'épaule de profil oblique (types d'amphores assez similaires à Kôm Dahab près de Naucratis et à Tell al-Haraby près d'al-Alamein); dès cette époque néanmoins, il existe un autre type d'amphore pour lequel l'anse est exclusivement fixée au col et qui représente sans doute une évolution du précédent; il caractériserait davantage le II^e s., voire le I^{er} s. av. J.-C. (le type existe également à Tell al-Haraby).

Une phase pré-romaine (I^{er} s. av. J.-C.) présente quelques modifications par rapport à la phase précédente, tout en conservant les principaux aspects : un groupe de céramiques fines à stries de polissage luisantes et concentriques constitue une des caractéristiques majeures de cette période; les récipients à pâte calcaire sont très peu représentés; quelques types de marmites sont aisément repérables dont une série à col marqué d'une collerette; les amphores brunes semblent poursuivre les tendances morphologiques amorcées précédemment. Dans ces niveaux pré-romains, les céramiques fines du Proche-Orient (*Eastern Sigillata A*) commencent à apparaître.

Pour l'ensemble de ces trois phases hellénistiques, les lampes, peu abondantes, représentent les types principaux de la période ptolémaïque en Égypte : tournées noires, brillantes; tournées en forme de petite cruche; moulées, apparentées au type dauphin, décorées de stries radiées et d'oves. Les figurines de terre cuite ne sont pas très nombreuses, mais, issues de contextes sûrs, elles constituent un apport documentaire appréciable; signalons d'emblée un Harpocrate assis à l'égyptienne, coiffé de la couronne florale, aux couleurs encore bien conservées, provenant du remplissage d'un silo daté du I^{er} s. av. J.-C. Également en modeste quantité, la faïence hellénistique témoigne d'une relative variété de techniques de façonnage et de couleurs.

Période romaine.

Le premier siècle impérial est encore difficile à cerner à Tebtynis : beaucoup de niveaux de cette période semblent avoir été oblitérés (pillages, détériorations et reconstructions antiques). Un signe assez net de cette carence dans la séquence chronologique est la rareté des lampes moulées à médaillon, à bec court ou long, du premier siècle de notre

ère. Parmi les quelques éléments sûrs, il semble que les céramiques fines à stries de polissage se maintiennent et que les amphores évoluent faiblement par rapport à celles de la période ptolémaïque.

La phase la plus récente du secteur fouillé à Tebtynis peut être datée du II^e s. jusqu'au début du III^e s. apr. J.-C. On note la pérennité des céramiques fines à stries de polissage, d'autres formes ouvertes variant de fabrique fine à plus grossière (diminution des bols à fond annulaire). La forme des marmites a sensiblement évolué depuis l'époque ptolémaïque; les plats de cuisson sont soit carénés, parois s'évasant au-dessus ou à parois verticales et à marli rainuré ou simple. Parmi les groupes à pâte calcaire, il existe une série de petits bols convexes et une série de petits bols à marli. Dans l'ensemble des vases à boire, des gargolettes et gourdes à pâte calcaire figurent ainsi que des gargolettes à pâte poreuse et ouverte (alluviale ou mixte) et à engobe beige. Un type d'amphore prédomine : à col haut, nettement strié, à petites anses fixées à la partie supérieure du col, sous le rebord, à panse en forme de carotte dont l'épaulement (ou diamètre maximum) est marqué de stries adoucies; ces amphores sont faites à partir de pâtes soit alluviales, soit mixtes, et présentent souvent des cas de légère surcuisson, la surface externe marquée d'une certaine décoloration tirant au verdâtre.

On trouve associés à ce matériel céramique des premiers siècles de notre ère des lampes du type *palm and frog* ou *boss and frog*, selon la classification de Petrie, un large choix de figurines et de faïences (bols à collarette et à fond annulaire; formes ouvertes, évasées, à marli; vases fermés à décor en relief moulé ou appliquéd).

Pascale BALLET.

§ 8.

Tell el-Amarna. Current Ceramic Projects.

(Egypt Exploration Society.)

Introduction.

The work of the Egypt Exploration Society at Amarna has always been geared toward obtaining the fullest possible picture of the social and economic life in the ancient community, and this has involved the team not only in excavation but in experimental and ethnoarchaeological

work. The ceramics team, comprising Jane Faiers, Catherine Powell, Pamela Rose and the writer have been particularly concerned with these aspects of the work.

Survey.

A 'surface-sherd-survey', directed by Pamela Rose, is currently taking place across the whole site. This involves selecting target areas for examination, both those excavated in the past and un-excavated, and making a survey of their surface sherds. In order to make valid comparisons between different areas of the site the area examined is always of the same size. This is done by marking out a circle of given diameter and collecting all the surface sherds from it. These are then divided into groups according to fabric, form, etc. and the results plotted as graphs. The sherds are returned to the circles from which they came immediately after counting and weighing and the position of the circle surveyed in.

This work is gradually giving us some idea of the likely functions of different buildings/areas of the City and will be useful in planning future excavation work.

Processing of Excavated Material.

The large quantity of material produced by excavation at Amarna is gradually being recorded for publication. The first stage of this work is to examine material, by unit, as it is removed from the ground. The material from each unit is roughly sorted according to general fabric group, ware, etc., counted and weighed. Only rims, handles, bases and decorated sherds are kept, the body sherds being discarded after weighing and counting. Where it is likely that there may be joins or a particular context is judged to be of especial interest the body sherds may be kept for more detailed examination. In any case no undiagnostic material is discarded without record. The bags are then given a unique number so that material from any given context can readily be located in the pottery workroom for later recording. During this preliminary sorting any material from the unit dating to the Old Kingdom or Roman period is removed and bagged separately. The Roman material is being examined by Mrs. Faiers, the Pharaonic by Ms. Rose and the writer.

The bags of material are later recorded in detail. For this the general fabric groups recorded when first examined are refined into fabric subgroupings, thus a general group of 'imported fabrics' will be divided into particular recognized imported fabrics and so on. The diagnostic sherds are matched against a typology, rim/base diameters and percentages of diameter preserved are recorded along with general comments. All recording is done direct onto FORTRAN recording forms as a numerical code which can then be entered onto computer, either in the field or in Britain.

Experimental Work.

Experimental work is currently being undertaken in a number of fields, including ceramics, Catherine Powell, a professional potter with an interest in ancient potting technology, has reconstructed an XVIIIth Dynasty potter's wheel based on excavated evidence from Amarna and elsewhere. This is of the pivotted-stone type with upper and lower stones forming a turntable onto which a larger table or wheel-head can be fixed. She has already been able to show that such a wheel is not merely a tournette or 'slow-wheel' but can be used for throwing vessels. Her work will be of considerable interest to those studying pottery of this period and will be published in the near future.

The current writer is examining firing technology and has reconstructed one of the kilns excavated in recent years from the site. A number of different reconstructions of the perforated kiln floor have been attempted with a view to discovering which is most satisfactory. Temperature readings during experimental firings have been recorded using a pyrometer and thermocouples. Fuel efficiency is also being examined. The vessels fired have either been purchased, green hard, from a local potter (next section) or are being made by Catherine Powell.

Delwen Samuel (archaeobotanist) is currently studying ancient Egyptian bread-making and brewing processes, and bread moulds have been produced for her experimental work. In this way the ceramics specialists are integrated with the environmental specialists and so on. The continual interchange of information between specialists of all groups working at the site is proving valuable.

Ethnoarchaeological Work.

This has been centred around a potter's workshop in Deir Mawas, close to the site of Amarna itself. Clay procurement and processing and forming technology have been examined by the writer, with the assistance of other members of the team. Willeke Wendrich (basketry specialist) has helped in the production of a video archive to supplement the still photographs taken at the workshop.

It has been found that many of the traditional practices observed by Winifred Blackman in the 1920's survive unchanged at the workshop, which in its scale and organisation seems to offer valuable insights into some of the practices and technologies of the Amarna (and other) workshops. Firing technology has also been recorded, again using thermocouples and pyrometers so that comparison can be made with the experimental kiln.

Laboratory Work.

The writer has conducted a series of re-firing experiments on material fired at known temperatures in the Deir Mawas kiln, as well as from Deir el-Gharbi (near Ballas in Upper Egypt) and on ancient sherds. These experiments aim at determining the ancient firing temperature, and refining the method of temperature determination used.

Thin-section analyses, and examination by Inductively Coupled Plasma Spectrometry have also been undertaken on material from Amarna collections in Britain.

Conclusion.

The battery of techniques being applied to the Amarna pottery is gradually helping to build up a picture of the production of pottery at the site in the New Kingdom, and of its distribution. Studies of the Roman pottery by Jane Faier will also lead to a fuller understanding of the position of the site in the Roman period, and her work will be of particular value to scholars of Roman Egypt.

Reports of work undertaken on all aspects of the Amarna excavations are published regularly in *Amarna Reports* by the Egypt Exploration Society.

Paul T. NICHOLSON.

§ 9.

Hu.

(University of Boston).

In summer 1991, excavations were undertaken at the Predynastic settlement site of Hu, on the west bank of the Nile, some sixty miles north of Qena. The work was sponsored by the National Geographic Society and carried out under the direction of Dr. K. Bard of Boston University.

Earlier surveys had revealed a Predynastic settlement area close to the modern village of Halfia Gibli; this proved to be under threat from cultivation and the work was in the nature of a rescue excavation.

Cultivation on the site had already seriously disturbed the deposits, which were considerably deflated. The pottery did not come from well-stratified contexts, but does represent a general assemblage of material from a Predynastic settlement.

The pottery was dated to between Naqada I c and II b-c. One rim-sherd of white, cross-lined ware was precisely diagnostic of Naqada I c, and the other material also fitted into the date range of late Naqada I and early Naqada II.

The pottery included a large number of rims, bodysherds and bases of Nile Silt 'C' storage jars with rolled rims and flat bases. These were generally rather small, with an average rim diameter of 14 to 16 cms.

Also present were smaller amounts of polished red, and bi-chrome red and black pottery in Nile Silts A and B2. Some of these were extremely well made and finished, with walls as fine as 2 mm at the rim. Forms included hole-mouthed jars and open bowls. A single piece of white cross-lined ware was also found.

A few pieces of Nile Silt B2 had incised or punctate designs on the surface and resembled those from the settlement sites of Armant and Hemamieh. Such pottery is not yet known in graves of the Predynastic Period.

One piece of a very sandy fabric tempered with coarse straw was identified as the rim of a flat bread-mould. A number of bodysherds of the same fabric were also found, along with a piece from a flat, very smooth base.

Two finds of especial interest were a small, Nile Silt B2 handle which had been "pulled" from wet clay, and a roughly modelled Nile Silt B2 potstand. The latter was small (about 7.5 cm in diam.) and formed from a finger-pinched ring of clay, being deliberately tapered to the top and with the underside flattened off. Several sherds had been re-cut to be used as "gaming pieces".

No pottery which was not Predynastic in date was identified; the technology was simple, including coil built or hand pinched bodies, turned or handmade rims, and flat bases. No wheel-made material was found.

The pottery from the site was much as would be expected from a settlement, some of it showing evidence of smoking in cooking fires. It was heavily dominated by wares which had many domestic functions.

Sally SWAIN.

§ 10.

KARNAK NORD. (I.F.A.O.)

La saison de fouilles de l'IFAO à Karnak Nord en 1990 s'est déroulée comme d'habitude en novembre-décembre, à l'est du Trésor de Thoutmosis I^{er}, sur le même terrain que l'année précédente. Dans la partie sud de la fouille, la construction aperçue à la surface et qu'on pensait pouvoir attribuer à un four s'est avérée n'être qu'un petit mur ondulé de quelques briques de profondeur. Aucune autre construction n'étant apparue dans toute cette partie de la fouille, il a été décidé pendant la présente saison d'y faire un sondage profond pour examiner les strates du sous-sol. Ce sondage de 5 m² a été poursuivi jusqu'au niveau de la nappe d'eau souterraine sans rencontrer de murs. Les strates sont composées de haut en bas de cendres, de fragments de briques brûlées, de tessons appartenant surtout à des jarres grossières et de nombreux moules à pain de la forme haute et étroite avec base plate caractéristique du Moyen Empire. Il est évident que toute cette région a servi de dépotoir pendant une période assez longue.

Le grand mur est-ouest de 5 m de large datant de la fin de l'époque ramesside ou de la XXI^e dynastie qui traversait la partie nord de la fouille ayant été dégagé jusqu'à ses fondations, il est apparu au nord de celui-ci un dépôt de grandes jarres. Elles étaient entassées dans une cuvette peu profonde limitée à l'est par un muret ondulé, et s'étendait visiblement sous les fondations du grand mur. La partie du dépôt visible en 1990 contenait déjà une quarantaine de céramiques : grandes jarres et bouteilles, deux mouilloirs, bassins très évasés, hauts supports et moules à pain omniprésents. Au cours de la saison 1991, le grand mur qui cachait la partie sud du dépôt a été rasé, révélant son étendue en entier. L'analyse de cette partie du dépôt n'est pas encore finie, mais on peut déjà dénombrer une centaine de céramiques qui ajoutent aux formes actuellement identifiées des bols hémisphériques, des jarres de petite taille et deux exemples de jarres grises hautement polies avec anse et col évasé, dont un certain nombre de fragments ont déjà été répérés ici pendant la fouille du Trésor de Thoutmosis I^{er}.

Aucun objet en dehors de la céramique n'a été trouvé dans le dépôt. Par contre, une des grandes jarres contenait toute une série d'empreintes de sceaux parmi lesquelles plusieurs sont des sceaux officiels appartenant au département du trésor (ils n'ont bien entendu aucun rapport avec le bâtiment de Thoutmosis I^{er}). Ils sont de forme rectangulaire, cintrée et contiennent l'inscription : ...*htm n pr-hd*.¹ On peut donc avancer l'hypothèse que ce dépôt de pots représente les déchets de livraisons de denrées, en partie probablement du grain, provenant des magasins du trésor et destiné à la fabrication de pains d'offrande. Toutes les caractéristiques de la céramique, certainement toutes contemporaines, ainsi que le style des sceaux suggère une datation pour cet ensemble de la fin de la XII^e ou de la XIII^e dynastie.

Helen JACQUET-GORDON.

1. Pour des sceaux semblables, voir Geoffrey Martin, *Egyptian Administrative and Private-Name Seals principally of the Middle Kingdom and the Second Intermediate Period*, Oxford, 1971, Nos 1842 et 1843, pl. 46/8 et 43/12.

§ 11.

Vallée des Reines.

CNRS (URA 1064). CEDAE.

Une abondante céramique a été trouvée au cours des fouilles menées depuis 1973 dans la vallée des Reines. Elle couvre une large période historique qui va du Nouvel Empire à l'époque byzantine. Son étude a été entreprise à partir de 1984 (mise sur fiches de toutes les poteries archéologiquement complètes pour l'élaboration d'un corpus des formes). En dépit du pillage généralisé et de l'état très bouleversé des sépultures, il paraît néanmoins possible de reconstituer, tout au moins en partie, certains ensembles archéologiques et de se faire une idée du matériel déposé dans les tombes. Les différentes occupations de la nécropole et leur importance ressortent assez clairement de ce matériel. C'est le cas, en particulier, pour le début de la XVIII^e dynastie et pour l'époque romaine, entre les II^e et IV^e siècles.

Nous avons principalement, pour le Nouvel Empire, des coupes, des coupelles (dont il existe de nombreux parallèles dans la céramique de Deir al-Medina) et de grandes jarres de stockage, mais aussi des canopes et des vases décorés. Signalons une pièce originale : un vase décoré de chevaux passants (cf. l'article de A. M. Loyrette et M. Fekri, *CCE* 2, Le Caire, 1991). Nous constatons que, pour la III^e Période Intermédiaire, la céramique est moins abondamment représentée alors que, pour l'époque romaine, foisonnent d'innombrables tessons d'amphores en terre cuite marron, à paroi lisse, et beaucoup de petits récipients (marmites, bols, coupelles et lampes). Notons, enfin, quelques beaux fragments de vases décorés de l'époque copte (VI^e et VII^e siècles).

Pour une présentation générale, cf. G. Lecuyot, « La céramique de la Vallée des Reines », à paraître dans les actes du V^e Congrès d'égyptologie du Caire, 1988.

Les recherches en cours apportent des données complémentaires. D'une part, dans les tombes de la Vallée des Trois Puits, ont été mis au jour tout un ensemble de vases de l'époque thoutmoside (coupes, coupelles et grandes jarres) et, d'autre part, nous avons recueilli, au Deir Roumi, des exemples de vaisselle usuelle pour les périodes romaine et copte.

G. LECUYOT.

§ 12.

Askut, Sudan.

(University of California at Los Angeles)

The island fortress of Askut was excavated from 1962-1964 by the late Alexander Badawy, as a part of the UNESCO Aswan High Dam Salvage Campaign and under the sponsorship of UCLA.¹ Due to a generous division with the Sudan Antiquities Service, virtually the entire collection from this project is curated in the Fowler Museum of Cultural History at UCLA. Unlike the majority of other sites in the area, there was no 'winnowing' of 'undesirable' or 'uninformative' objects. Preservation was relatively good, and the standards of excavation were at least adequate. The result is one of the largest collections of well provenanced Egyptian and native Nubian domestic pottery outside of Egypt or the Sudan. I estimate that the collection consists of over 50,000 sherds total, including Meroitic and Christian. Some 30,000 are Pharaonic, and approximately 20,000 of these are from good stratified contexts. There are perhaps 1000 or more whole vessels, or vessels with a complete profile. Many of them are bowls and stands of course, but larger jars are also represented. This allows for a far better reconstruction of the total assemblage and its stratigraphic associations than has previously been the case for Egyptian sites in Nubia.

This collection offers us an unparalleled opportunity to track the association of native Nubian and Egyptian pottery from the later Middle to New Kingdoms. The former always appears as a component of a predominantly Egyptian ceramic and cultural assemblage, never amounting to more than 10-25 % of the pottery in any given context. All of the Nubian pottery is handmade. Although this discussion focuses on the decorated Nubian pottery, a variety of plain and black topped types also exist, ranging from very crude to quite sophisticated examples. The decorated pottery falls into two

1. Alexander Badawy, "Preliminary Report on the Excavations by the University of California at Askut" *Kush* 12, 1964, p. 47-53; *id.*, "Askut: A Middle Kingdom Fortress in Nubia", *Archaeology* 18, 1965, p. 124-131; *id.*, "Archaeological Problems Relating to the Egyptian Fortress at Askut", *JARCE* 5, 1966, p. 23-27.

distinct groups, one from the Middle Kingdom, the other from the Late Second Intermediate Period/New Kingdom.

Middle Kingdom [Fig. 1]. — Most of these sherds come from mid-Dynasty 13 contexts, although Figure 1 A and B may be somewhat earlier, perhaps early Dynasty 13 or very late Dynasty 12. They generally derive from hemispherical bowls, often crudely fashioned. Few if any storage vessels occur. They often are heavily burnt [Figs. 1 C, D, F], and were presumably used for cooking, along with purely Egyptian types. This group shows a close affinity to types of the roughly contemporary Kerma Moyen (KM).² The triangle motif of Figure 1 A and C is the most common, with the herringbone pattern of F also occurring frequently. The two are combined in an interesting variant E, the only example encountered at Askut thus far. Lined and criss-cross motifs [Fig. 1 B, D] also occur, but are somewhat less common.

Late Second Intermediate Period/New Kingdom [Figs. 2, 3, 4]. — A distinct change in both the Egyptian and native Nubian ceramic repertoire occurs at this period. The existence of a late Second Intermediate Period occupation is somewhat speculative, ongoing quantification and analysis of the pottery and other objects from these levels will we hope resolve this question. The site was certainly occupied from the founding of Dynasty 18 through Dynasty 19.

Kerma Classique (KC) pottery appears in substantial quantities in these strata, but still in a predominantly Egyptian assemblage. This material includes beakers of the finest quality [Fig. 2 A, Gratien Type 11³], as well as large storage jars with roulette decoration below the rim [Fig. 2 B, Type 7]. Not illustrated but also present are large storage jars of Gratien's Type 15, and fine quality bowls of Type 10. Mat and chord impressed sherds [Fig. 4 B, C] are also very common in these contexts, as are roughed base sherds

2. Brigitte Gratien, *Les Cultures Kerma*, Université de Lille, 1978, p. 175, 243-4; *id.*, *Sai I*, Lille CNRS, 1985, p. 419 sq., fig. 313; Charles Maystre, *Akasha I*, Librairie de l'université de Genève, 1980, Pl. XLVII-XLVIII.

3. Gratien, *Kerma*, p. 210 sq.

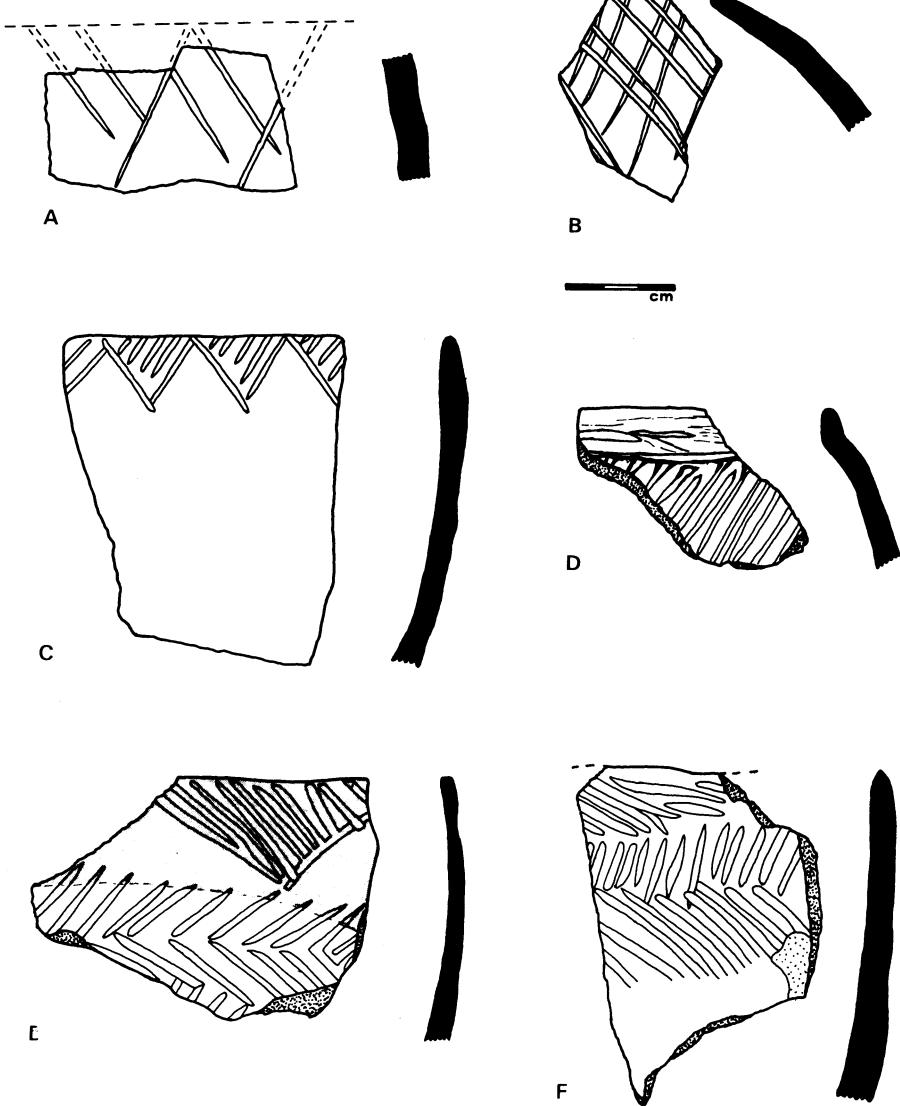
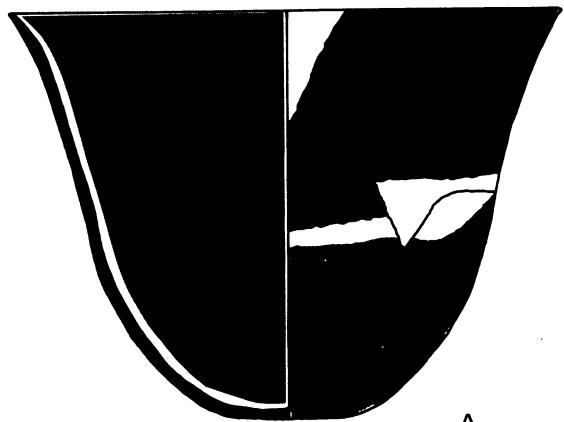
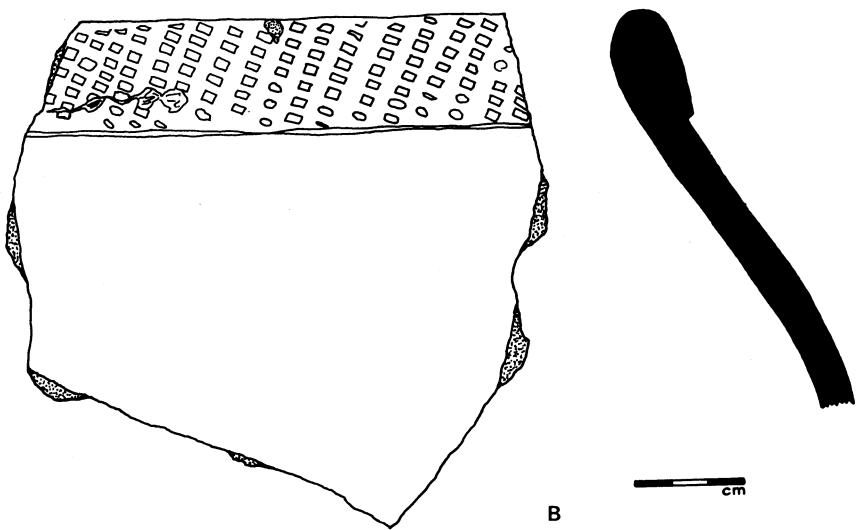


Figure 1



A



B

Figure 2

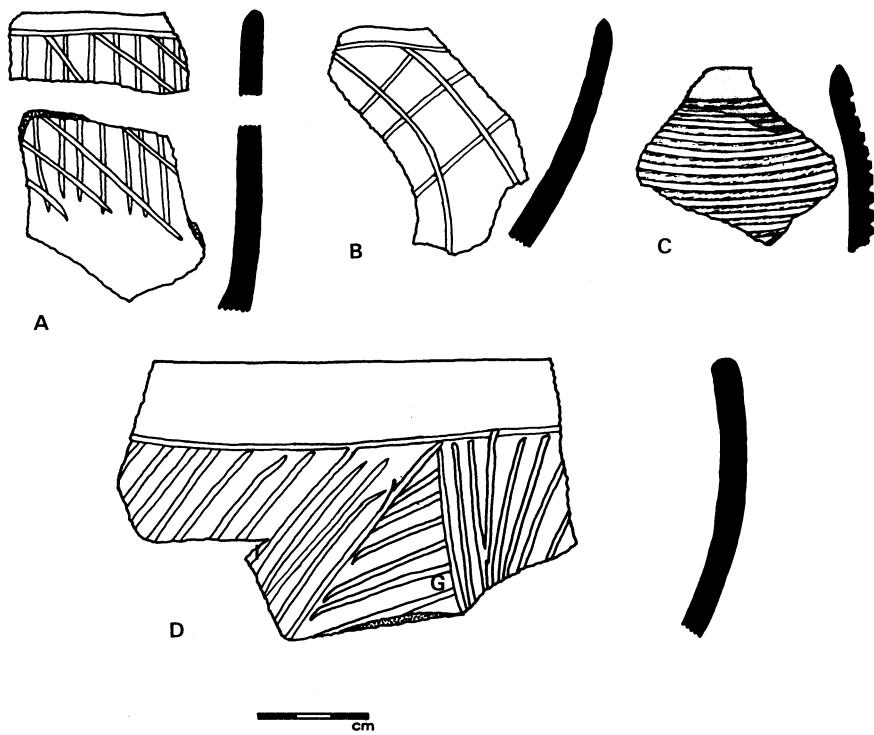


Figure 3

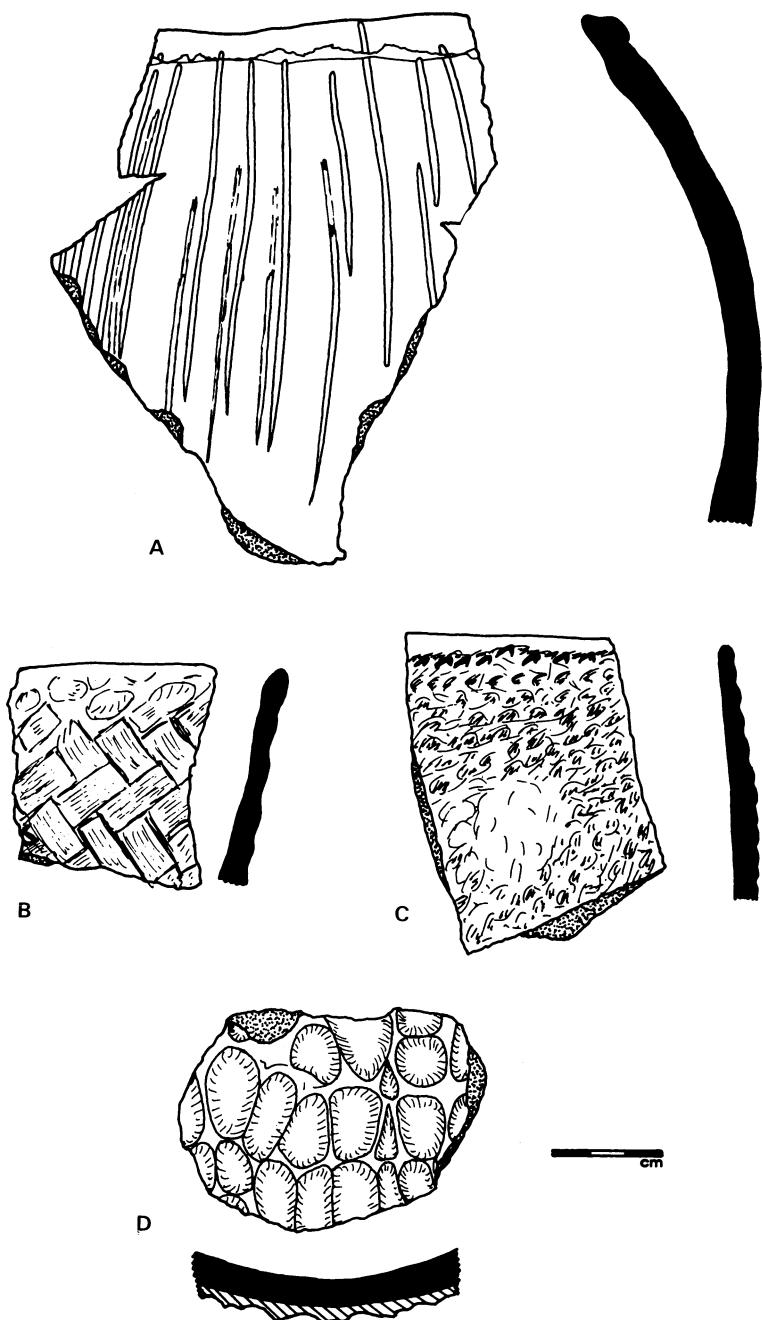


Figure 4

[Fig. 4 D]. Similar sherds have been found in Egypt at Memphis and Deir el-Balas.⁴

Along with the Kerma pottery, and persisting into mid-late New Kingdom contexts, is a group of incised ceramics. These now show a closer affinity to Pan-Grave and C-Group types.⁵ The crisscross and alternating hatched motifs of Figure 3 A, B and D, and Figure 4 B are particularly common, and are characteristic of the Pan-Grave wares. The designs are all typically set off from the rim. The triangle motif of Figure 3 E is also quite common, and is very similar to examples from the C-Group settlement at Wadi el-Seuba. The multiple line design [Fig. 3 C], is rare, and also reminiscent of examples found there, although this is probably a Pan-Grave type.

These preliminary distributions have interesting implications for native Nubian-Egyptian relations over the course of this period. By the mid-thirteenth Dynasty, we see an apparently regular interaction with Kerma. The exchange is primarily in open forms, often used as cooking vessels. Storage vessels are not present. This would tend to imply relations with a settled group, rather than long distance trade, possibly indicating that the large Kerma presence at Saras may have begun as early as Dynasty XIII.⁶ With the fall of the Middle Kingdom came more wide-ranging cultural contacts, with much Kerma and Pan-Grave pottery. The presence of large storage vessels along with open forms indicates trade in substantial goods as well as with settled groups. C-Group pottery is rare throughout, and none of the elaborate incised wares characteristic of this culture have yet appeared in the collection, in spite of the presence of a substantial C-Group occupation at nearby Saras. This implies either a deliberate policy of exclusion during the Middle Kingdom, or a lack of contemporaneity in the Egyptian and C-Group sites.

4. Janine Bourriau, in Peter Lacovara, *Deir el-Balas*, New York, ARCE, 1990, fig. 4.1.

5. Karim Sadr, "The Territorial Expanse of the Pan-Grave Culture," *Archéologie du Nil Moyen* 2, 1987, p. 270 sq., fig. 4; Brigitte Gratien, "Le village fortifié du groupe C à Ouadi es-Séboua Est, typologie de la céramique," *CRIPEL* 7, 1985, p. 52-53, fig. 12-13.

6. Anthony J. Mills, "The Archaeological Survey from Gemai to Dal. Report on the 1965-1966 Season" *Kush* 15, 1967-1968, p. 200-210.

The study and publication of the full assemblage from Askut, with its good context and fine preservation, can add significantly to our understanding of Egyptian and native Nubian interactions and ceramic development in general from the Middle to the New Kingdom.

Stuart Tyson SMITH.

§ 13.

Kerma. Un atelier de potiers de l'époque napatéenne
(Mission de l'université de Genève au Soudan.)

Dans ce rapport, nous voulons donner une brève description des fouilles de sauvetage, effectuées par la Mission de l'université de Genève, dans la ville moderne de Kerma. Ces fouilles (1982-1985 et 1987-1989) ont permis de mettre au jour une partie de l'agglomération napatéenne de Kerma; il s'agit en fait de deux bâtiments résidentiels et d'un four pour la fabrication de la céramique. Le premier bâtiment (bâtiment I) a été reconstruit ou restauré au moins quatre fois sur le même emplacement. Le matériel archéologique qui est très proche de celui inventorié dans les tombes d'El-Kourrou et de Nouri, et les analyses C14 suggèrent une période d'occupation de cette maison allant de la première moitié du VIII^e s. av. J.-C. jusqu'à la fin du VI^e ou le début du V^e s. av. J.-C.¹

Le deuxième bâtiment (bâtiment II) fouillé à 80 m au nord-est du premier site a été retrouvé dans un très mauvais état de conservation. Seul l'angle nord-est était conservé. L'épaisseur des murs et la qualité de la construction montrent que cet habitat était d'une importance égale à celle du premier bâtiment. L'étude du matériel archéologique et sa comparaison avec celle inventorié sur le premier site permet d'associer cette céramique avec celui des tombes de Nouri. Nous pouvons donc envisager une période d'occupation entre le début du VII^e et la première moitié du V^e s. av. J.-C. pour la deuxième maison.

1. Ch. Bonnet et Salah el-Din M. Ahmed, "Un bâtiment résidentiel d'époque napatéenne". *Genava*, n.s., XXXII, 1984, p. 35-42.

Le troisième site, à plus de 100 m vers le sud et à 700 m à l'ouest de la Deffufa occidentale, sur lequel nous sommes intervenus, est un atelier de potiers comprenant un four à céramique, une petite habitation et des fosses pour la préparation de l'argile [Fig. 1].

Le four.

Le four est formé d'une fosse circulaire aux parois verticales de 2,40 m de diamètre et de 0,60 m de profondeur. Quatre piliers en briques (environ $0,60 \text{ m} \times 0,85 \text{ m}$) sont appuyés contre les bords de cette fosse. Le four est orienté est-ouest. À l'ouest, une ouverture (porte) de 0,42 m est accessible par une descenderie de 1,77 m de longueur; la largeur de cette descenderie est de 0,70 m à l'extrémité ouest, 0,80 m au milieu et 0,94 m près de la porte à l'est. À l'opposé (est) un autre accès (fosse) semi-circulaire conduit à une autre porte de mêmes dimensions (0,40 m). Les parois de la fosse ont été renforcées par une couche de briques crues. Ces dernières, ainsi que celles des piliers, sont couvertes d'une couche de limon. Un sol de « mouna », aménagé dans la partie centrale de la fosse, entre les piliers, s'étend jusqu'à l'accès occidental du four.

La fosse était remplie de cendres, de morceaux de charbon de bois, de bouse et de tessons de céramique. Parmi ces derniers se trouvaient quelques ratés de cuissons, ce qui prouve que ces tessons résultaient bien de la production du four en question. Des briques de grandes dimensions ($0,40 \times 0,18 \times 0,09 \text{ m}$) étaient également présentes dans le remplissage.

La reconstitution de la forme générale de ce four rappelle des exemples égyptiens représentés sur les murs des tombes de l'Ancien, Moyen et Nouvel Empire². Il est aussi proche des fours tardifs retrouvés, plus au nord, sur des sites chrétiens. Cette construction était à l'origine une double chambre, comprenant un foyer sous terre et une chambre de cuisson au-dessus. Les quatre piliers soutenaient vraisemblablement une voûte en briques. Le foyer était alimenté en combustible et nettoyé par la descenderie et la porte occidentale. La

2. G. Steindorff, *Das Grab des Ti*, Leipzig, 1913, pl. 84; P.E. Newberry, *Beni Hassan I*, Londres, 1893, pl. XI, p. 31; N. De Garis Davies, *The Tomb of Ken-Amun at Thebes I*, New York, 1930, p. 51, pl. LIX.

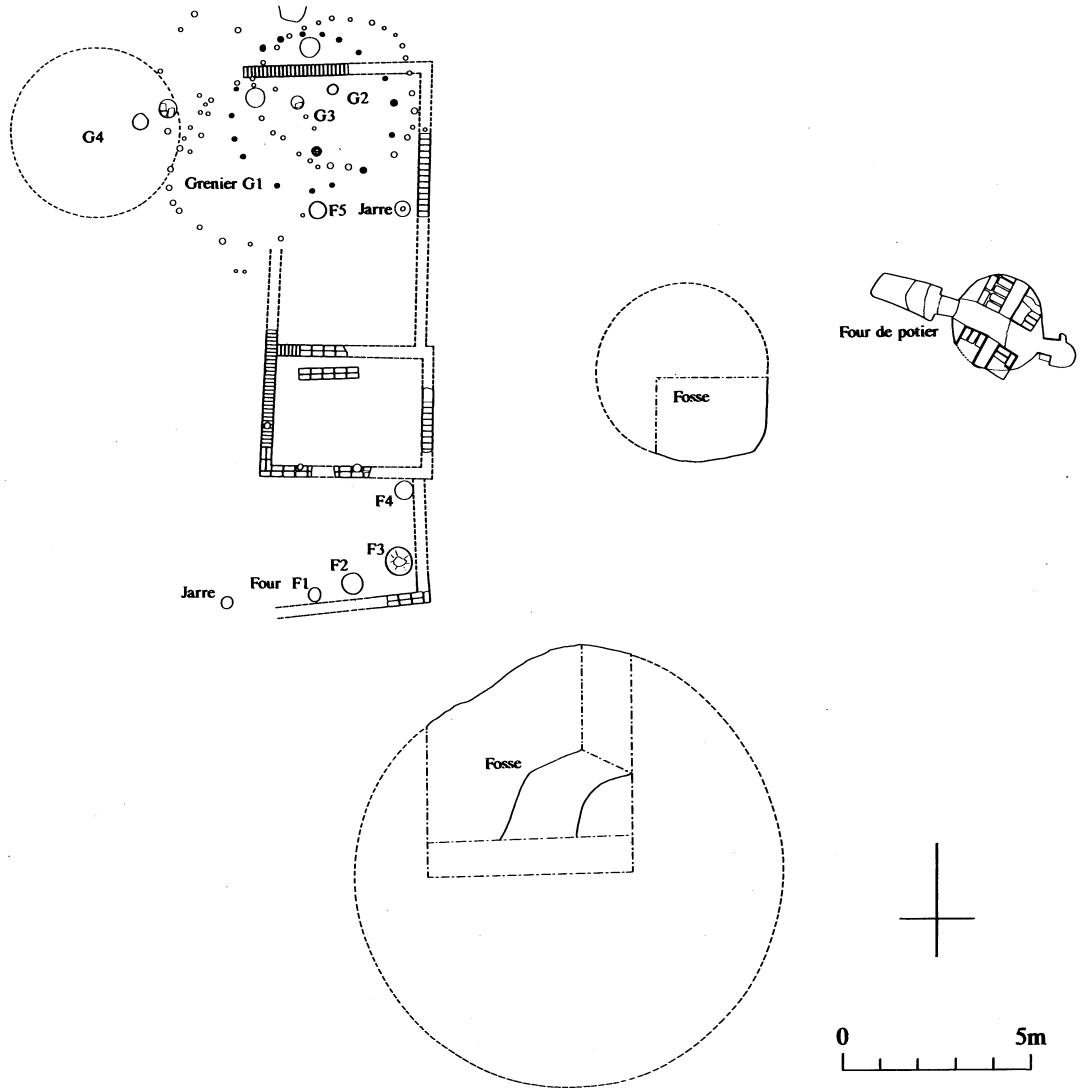


Fig. 1. — L'atelier de potiers (plan général).

fosse est pourraient marquer la base d'une cheminée pour l'élimination des gaz du foyer contribuant ainsi, avec l'accès qui se trouve à l'ouest, à une bonne ventilation [Fig. 2].

L'habitat.

Une petite construction en briques crues a été dégagée à 15 m à l'ouest du four de potiers. Les quelques murs retrouvés ont permis de reconstituer le plan d'une habitation formée d'une succession (nord-sud) de trois salles rectangulaires. Ces constructions ont été abandonnées pendant l'occupation du site et remplacées par des huttes en bois ainsi qu'en témoignent les trous de poteaux retrouvés sur l'emplacement de l'ancien habitat.

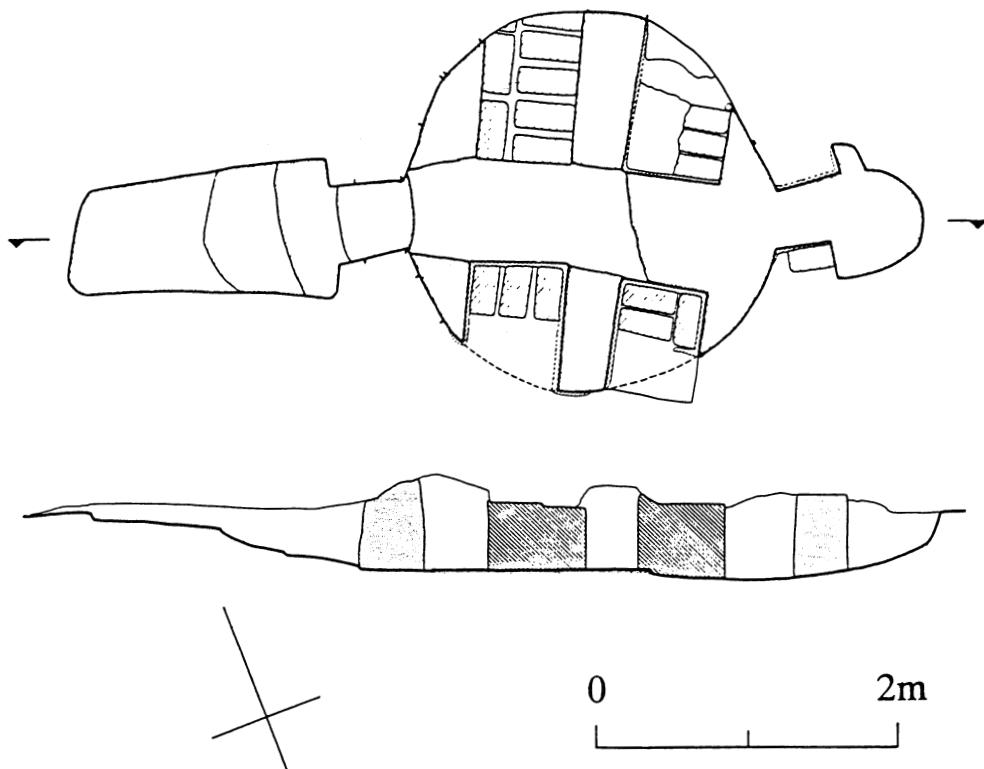


Fig. 2. — Le four de potiers (plan et coupe).

Les fosses.

Deux fosses ont été fouillées entre le four et l'habitat. Il est certain que ces dernières étaient utilisées par les potiers pour la préparation de la terre. Abandonnées plus tard, elles ont reçu les déchets après les nettoyages du four. Des milliers de tessons de poterie et une trentaine de vases mal cuits ont également été retrouvés.³

Datation.

La comparaison des céramiques de l'atelier avec celles des deux sites fouillés à plus de 100 m vers le nord et avec la poterie inventoriée dans les tombes royales de Nouri suggère une période d'occupation de l'atelier entre la deuxième moitié du VI^e et la fin du V^e s. av. J.-C.

Salah el-Din M. AHMAD.

3. Salah el-Din M. Ahmed, *Les Habitats Kouchites : caractères et évolution. Un modèle de Kerma. Thèse de doctorat* (nouveau régime). Université de Lille III, 1990, vol. I, p. 132-138; vol. II, fig. 27-29.

II

CLASSEMENT CHRONOLOGIQUE DES INFORMATIONS INCLUSES DANS LA PARTIE I

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Prédynastique : 9. | Époque tardive : 2/II. |
| Nagada I c et II c : 9. | VII ^e -IV ^e siècles av. J.-C. : 2/II. |
| Ancien Empire : 4. | V ^e siècle av. J.-C. : 3. |
| Moyen Empire : 10, 12. | Époque ptolémaïque : 6, 7. |
| Fin XII ^e dynastie : 5, 10, 12. | Époque romaine : 8, 11. |
| XIII ^e dynastie : 5, 10, 12. | I ^{er} siècle : 1, 6. |
| Kerma Moyen : 12. | II ^e -III ^e siècles : 7, 11. |
| II ^e Période Intermédiaire : 2/II,
5, 12. | VI ^e -VII ^e siècles : 1. |
| Kerma Classique : 12. | Époque byzantine : 11. |
| Pan-Grave : 12. | Époque copte : 11, 12. |
| C-Groupe : 12. | Fours à céramique : 3, 8, 13. |
| Nouvel Empire : 5, 8, 11, 12. | Céramique importée : |
| XVIII ^e dynastie : 2/II. | Chypriote : 5. |
| XIX ^e dynastie : 2/I, 12. | Méroïtique : 12. |
| Ramesside : 2/I, 5. | Nubienne : 12. |
| III ^e Période Intermédiaire : 11. | Amphorae : |
| XXV ^e dynastie : 3. | Baétique : 1. |
| Napatéen : 13. | Crétoise : 1. |
| | Sub-Coan : 1. |

III

PUBLICATIONS RÉCENTES SUR LA CÉRAMIQUE DE LA VALLÉE DU NIL

1. Bourriau (Janine). “Canaanite jars from New Kingdom deposits at Memphis, Kom Rabi'a”, *Eretz-Israel* 21, 1990.
2. Bourriau (Janine). Chapter 4, “The Pottery”, Peter Lacovara, *Deir el-Ballas, Preliminary Report on the Deir el-Ballas Expedition, 1980-1986*. ARCE Report 12, Winona Lake, 1990.
3. *Cahiers de la céramique égyptienne* 2. IFAO, 1991.
4. *Coptic and Nubian Pottery, Part I*. International Workshop, Nieborow, August, 1988. Occasional Paper No. 1. National Museum, Warsaw.
5. Dérache (V.) et Spieser (J.-M.) (ed.). «Recherches sur la céramique byzantine», *Bulletin de correspondance hellénique, Suppl. XVIII*. École française d'Athènes, Paris, 1989.
6. Empereur (Jean-Yves) et Picon (Maurice). «Les régions de production d'Amphores impériales en Méditerranée orientale», *Amphores romaines et histoire économique, dix ans de recherche*. École française de Rome, n° 114, Rome, 1989.
7. Faltings (D.). “Die Keramik der Nördlichen Pyramide des Snofru in Dahschur”, *MDAIK* 45, 1990.
8. Riederer (J.), Slusallek (K.) et Arnold (Do.). *Matérialanalysen an altägyptischer Keramik des 3. und 2. Jahrhunderts v. Chr.* Sonderbeschreibung des *DAI* 16.

IV

ATELIERS DE POTIERS ET PRODUCTIONS CÉRAMIQUES EN ÉGYPTE :

(Table ronde tenue à l'Institut français d'archéologie orientale
du 26 au 30 novembre 1990.)

Cette rencontre organisée par l'IFAO, au cours de laquelle vingt-sept communiquants présentèrent leurs travaux, visait deux buts principaux : faire un état des recherches actuellement menées sur les ateliers de potiers en Égypte; réfléchir sur les critères de détermination et les caractéristiques des productions locales d'un site donné, même lorsque les structures d'ateliers n'ont pas été repérées.

Parmi les travaux archéologiques récents sur les ateliers de potiers, figuraient ceux d'al-Omari, d'Abousir, de 'Ayn-Asil (Dakhla), de Tell al-Amarna, de la région d'al-Alamein, de Tell Atrib, de la région d'Assouan, de Douch (Kharga), de la Maréotide et de Saint-Jérémie de Saqqara (cités par ordre chronologique). L'Égypte actuelle n'était pas oubliée avec deux exemples d'ateliers cairote, un atelier de Fusṭāṭ et la manufacture de porcelaine de Mostorod et avec l'évocation d'un atelier provincial traditionnel, celui d'El-Qaṣr (Dakhla).

Les déterminations de production locale ont été présentées pour les sites suivants : Minshat Abou Omar, Boutu, Abou Mina, Saqqara-Memphis, Lisht, le Mons Claudianus, la vallée des Reines, Karnak, Tôd et la région d'Assouan.

Les techniques décoratives avaient également leur place dans cette table ronde et concernèrent les décors peints prédynastiques (le type *D 46 D* de Petrie), ceux de la Troisième Période Intermédiaire, enfin les gourdes noires à décor en relief d'époque gréco-romaine.

Les communications d'archéométrie portèrent sur des questions de méthodologie et les différentes techniques mises en œuvre pour la reconnaissance des productions céramiques.

Les résultats de cette table ronde seront publiés dans le troisième numéro des *Cahiers de la céramique égyptienne*.

Pascale BALLET.

V

**WORKSHOP ON ANCIENT EGYPTIAN AND SUDANESE
CERAMICS**

(Boston, April 29-30, 1991).

Les travaux du Workshop portaient sur quatre sujets différents :

- I. Faience and Glazes.
- II. Egyptian Ceramics.
- III. Imports and Foreign Wares.
- IV. Nubian Ceramics.

Quatre conférenciers ont eu l'obligeance d'envoyer des résumés de leur texte :

- 1. Peter Lacovara, Yvonne Markowitz, "The Faience from Kerma".
- 2. Susan Allen, "Spinning Bowls in Ancient Egypt".
- 3. J.P. Dessel, "Egypto-Canaanite Relations in the IVth Millennium. A view from the Halif Terrace".
- 4. Elieze D. Oren, "Late Old Kingdom Ceramics from North Sinai: Chronology and Interconnection".

* * *

THE FAIENCE FROM KERMA
Peter LACOVARA and Yvonne MARKOWITZ.

As part of the ongoing project of the Department of Egyptian and Ancient Near Eastern Art of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston to publish and research the materials from the excavations of George Reisner, the authors, along with Prof. Alex Kaczmarczyk, P. Vandiver, H. Hatcher and J. Henderson have been examining the fragments

of faience vessels and objects from the site of Kerma. One of the main goals of this project is to determine which faience was locally produced at Kerma and which had been imported from Egypt.

A large number of specimens were examined by electron microprobe, optical and scanning electron microscopes, and X-Ray fluorescence for both composition and structure of the glazes and bodies.

Analysis revealed a clustering of three main types: 1. Local Production, 2. Imported Egyptian and 3. Indeterminate. The Kerma glazes tend to be lower in soda, calcium oxide and chlorine and higher in copper oxide, possibly as the result of the exploitation of a different alkali source. The faience that tends to conform to this composition includes the large tiles and inlays and the cruder forms of vessels.

* * *

SPINNING BOWLS IN ANCIENT EGYPT

Susan J. ALLEN

This paper examines the class of pottery forms known as "spinning bowls" in the literature and attempts to relate the actual bowls found in excavations to the depictions of spinning from tomb models and wall paintings and to studies done of the spinning process and modern survivals of hand spinning in the Near East. All spinning bowls have in common multiple loops anchored to the bottom interior of the vessels. Some also have holes pierced through the upper wall of the bowl or basin. An analysis of spinning bowls found in excavations from the Middle Kingdom onward shows evidence of wear on the inner surfaces of the loops and the upper edges of the holes in the walls. Combined with the knowledge of hand spinning technology and the ancient Egyptian representations of the spinning process, it is clear that the bowls should more properly be termed tension bowls. Their function was to contain the prepared flax (or roves) and as these roves were pulled upward through the loops in the bowl base and the holes in the vessel walls to provide tension which stretched the fibers as they were twisted by the rotation of the spindle whorl. The quality of the resulting

linen thread was greatly improved by the tension incorporated into the thread during spinning. Further study of well-dated examples, particularly from the Middle Kingdom would increase our knowledge of this pottery form and its origins.

* * *

EGYPTO-CANAANITE RELATIONS
IN THE FOURTH MILLENNIUM:
A VIEW FROM THE HALIF TERRACE
J.P. DESSEL (University of Arizona)

The relationship between Egypt and Canaan in the fourth millennium is known primarily through archaeological data. Within the archaeological corpus the ceramic evidence is by far the most abundant and sensitive to the fluctuating nature of the Egypto-Canaanite relationships. The sequence from the Halif Terrace mirrors these changes and provides a quantified body of ceramic material by which to gauge Egypt's relationship with Canaan. The excavation of substantial quantities of Egyptian ceramics at the site of the Halif Terrace in southern Canaan has led to a reexamination of the two primary explanations of the Egypto-Canaanite relations in the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze I, commerce or conquest.

The Egyptian presence in Canaan in the fourth and third millennia can be divided into three separate but dependant phases of interactions. Each is motivated by different needs and expectations, which are reflected in the types and quantities of materials found.

The earliest Egyptian contact with Canaan is in the Chalcolithic period, which corresponds to the Naqada I and Naqada II a-b. This consists of Egyptian prestige goods reaching Canaan and perhaps the transfer of Canaanite technological and stylistic traditions to Egypt. Contact is neither regular nor well established. This low level of interaction continues into the Early Bronze I A.

The intensification in the Egyptian presence seen at the Halif Terrace in the Early Bonze I B is also found throughout southern Canaan. There is a dramatic increase in the local production of

Egyptian pottery in the Early Bronze I B. A concomitant increase is not as obvious regarding the imported pottery. Unlike the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze I A, the Egyptian material found in this period is almost exclusively ceramic, with a marked absence of prestige items.

In southern Canaan the departure of the Egyptians at the beginning of the Early Bronze II is swift and complete. The dearth of Egyptian material in Early Bronze II Canaan suggests that by the Early Bronze II Egyptian trade for 'Levantine' products such as timber, resins, wine and olive oil centered on Byblos. Overland trade to Canaan is all but abandoned at the beginning of the Early Bronze II.

Careful attention to the type, quantities and context of Egyptian materials in Canaan suggests that neither commerce nor conquest are viable explanations of the Egyptian presence in southern Canaan. Symbolism, organization and ideology are the driving forces behind the establishment of Egyptian communities in Canaan in the Early Bronze I. These should be considered as central features in the evolution of Egyptian social complexity.

* * *

LATE OLD KINGDOM CERAMICS FROM NORTH SINAI : CHRONOLOGY AND INTERCONNECTION

Eliezer D. OREN

The Ben Gurion University expedition explored 284 settlement sites in North Sinai, between the Suez Canal and Raphia, which were represented by identifiable Early Bronze IV/Middle Bronze I (EBIV/MBI) artifacts. The distribution of the sites, by criteria of size and number of objects, indicates a distinctive clustering pattern and hierarchy of base sites, which apparently coordinated the social and economic activities, and small seasonal campsites. The homogeneous pottery assemblage is characteristic of the EBIV/MBI culture of southern Canaan (Amiran's Family A). Significantly, the North Sinai assemblage is represented by late variants of the Egyptian "Meidum Ware" which is recorded in late Old Kingdom — early

First Intermediate Period contexts at Giza, Saqqara, Dahshur, el-Tarif, Mendes, etc. Recent studies enable us to narrow down the date of this class between the late VIth Dynasty (Pepi II) and just before the rise of the Hieracleopolitan Dynasty. As a result it is possible now to determine accurately the chronological position of EBIV/ MBI settlement in North Sinai (and southern Canaan) in ca. 2250-2150 B.C. and, in turn, date closely the southern group of EBIV/ MBI pottery.

The archaeological record from North Sinai suggests that the clusters of EBIV/MBI sites belong to pastoralist groups which interacted symbiotically with certain sedentary agriculturalist communities in the region of El-Arish — Raphia and also maintained limited economic ties with the farming villages in the Egyptian Delta. Evidently, commercial activity or cross-cultural exchanges, particularly between Egypt and Canaan, did not figure at all, in the economy of the EBIV/MBI pastoralists of North Sinai. It is suggested that the EBIV/MBI population of North Sinai should be identified with the *'Aamu* and *hryw-š'* (sand dwellers) groups who, according to Egyptian sources, infiltrated into the Delta in the late Old Kingdom, disrupted the law and order in Egypt, settled in the villages and contributed to the anarchy that brought about the collapse of the Egyptian Old Kingdom.

VI

LE VI^e CONGRÈS INTERNATIONAL D'ÉGYPTOLOGIE (Turin, 1-8 septembre 1991.)

Les conférences suivantes concernaient surtout la céramique.

1. G. Capuano, A. Manzo, C. Perlingieri. "Progress Report on the pottery from the Gash Group Cemetery at Mahal Teglinos (Kassala), 3rd-2nd millennium B.C."
2. Samuel Delwen, "Baking and Brewing in Ancient Egypt."
3. J.-Cl. Goyon, P. Dupont. « Amphores grecques archaïques de Gurna. À propos d'une publication récente. »
4. Cristina Guidotti. « Studio preliminare sulle forme de pane del tempio funerario di Tutmosi IV. »
5. Grande Lopez, J. Maria et Fernando Quesada Sanz. "Two Third Intermediate Period Pottery Deposits at Hierakleopolis Magna."
6. Paul Nicholson. "The Relationship between excavation, ethno-archaeology and experiment in Egyptology."

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