

The Asyut Project: Ninth Season of Fieldwork (2011)

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Abstract

This report refers to the different tasks of fieldwork in the necropolis of Asyut. The report concentrates on architecture, wooden models and stoppers from Tomb V (FIP), offering trays dating from FIP to MK coming from the so-called "Hogarth" Depot" in Tomb IV, and the structure and decoration of the Northern Soldiers' Tomb H11.1 (Eleventh Dynasty). From the NK graffiti in Tomb N13.1, one copy of the teaching of king Amenemhat I is published below. An elaborate study on the pottery finds from as early as the Second Dynasty until Ptolemaic Period follows, which clarifies the history and development of the necropolis. Lastly, the animal bones from the Tomb of the Dogs were examined, also using x-ray technology.

From 6 September to 13 October 2011, the Egyptian-German joint mission of Sohag University, the Freie Universität Berlin, and the Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz¹ conducted its ninth season of fieldwork² in the ancient necropolis of Asyut, situated in the western mountains. Fieldwork focused on Tomb V (M11.1) of the First Intermediate Period, Tomb N13.1 and Tomb H11.1 of the Eleventh Dynasty, Tomb I (P10.1) of the Twelfth Dynasty, Tomb of the Dogs of the Late Period to Graeco-Roman Period (O11) and the mapping of the necropolis. In addition, pottery, offering trays, stoppers and wooden material were studied as well as animal remains (see the specific articles below).³

¹ For previous work cf. J. Kahl/M. El-Khadragy/U. Verhoeven et al., The Asyut Project: Eighth Season of Fieldwork (2010), in: SAK 40, 2011, 181-209, Pls. 6-13; J. Kahl/M. El-Khadragy/U. Verhoeven/A. Kilian (eds.), Seven Seasons at Asyut. First Results of the Egyptian-German Cooperation in Archaeological Fieldwork. Proceedings of an International Conference held at the University of Sohag, 10th-11th of October, 2009, The Asyut Project 2, Wiesbaden 2012.

² As in the past, we received full cooperation and encouragement from the Ministry of State for Antiquities during this season. Thanks are due in particular to the Chairman, Dr. Mustafa Amin, to the head of the archaeological sector, Dr. Sabry Abdel-Aziz, to the Director General of Antiquities for Middle Egypt, Dr. Abdel-Rahman El-Aidi, to the Director General of Asyut, Mr. Abdel-Satar Ahmed Mohamed, and to the Head of the Foreign and Egyptian Missions Affairs and Permanent Committee, Dr. Mohamed Ismail.

³ Members of the mission were Jochem Kahl, Freie Universität Berlin, project director and field director; Mahmoud El-Khadragy, Sohag University, field director; Ursula Verhoeven, JGU Mainz, project director; Mohammed Abdelrahim, University of Sohag, field director; Hisham Ahmed Fahid, Egyptologist; Teodozja Rzeuska, Egyptologist; Sameh Shafik, epigrapher; Michael van Elsbergen, Egyptologist; Aneta Cedro, archaeologist; Nadine Deppe, Egyptologist; Andrea Kilian, Egyptologist; Chiori Kitagawa, zooarchaeologist; Laura Sanhueza-Pino, Egyptologist; Monika Zöller-Engelhardt, Egyptologist; Mohamed Mustafa Al-Shafey, Egyptologist; Mohamed Helmi, Egyptologist; Josephine Malur, Egyptologist; Tina Beck, student of Egyptology and Ethnology; Mohamed Farag, student of Egyptology; Eva Gervers, student of Egyptology; Ammar Abu Bakr, draughtsman; Cornelia Goerlich, architect. The accompanying inspectors were Mr. Ahmed Abdelrahim Abdelmageed, Mr. Tariq Mahmoud Mohammed, Mme. Nadia Naguib, the accompanying restorer was Rafat Fakher Karas Abdelmeseeh.

Due to construction work, objects in the magazine at Shutb could again not be studied this year. During the season, Tina Beck and Ammar Abu Bakr conducted an ethnological study based on 23 interviews with representative members of the team of the local workers. Subjects were the historical meaning of the Gebel Asyut al-gharbi and the workers' ideas about the Ancient Egyptian tombs and archaeology in general. The study, which includes selected citations and portraits, will be published in the near future.

J. K. / U. V. / M. K.

Tomb V: Architecture

In the inner hall of Tomb V of nomarch Khety I, the bases of two pillars were uncovered (cf. Plan 1). They were already described by The French Expedition to Egypt in 1799 and the *Description de l'Égypte*, however since ca. 1830 the bases were covered under several meters of debris, which was caused by quarrying activities in the tomb. Wall paintings in the lower part of the northern wall, which were previously blackened by fire, were cleaned and restored by the restoration team from the SCA. In most cases only an original red coating was preserved on the plaster, a few remains from original scenes were brought to light, however they were too fragmented to reconstruct the entire scene. Nevertheless, these fragments show that Tomb V was originally fully decorated. While cleaning Tomb V, several complete hemispherical bowls were found in the debris (see below the contribution by T.I. Rzeuska) In addition, a later burial, probably from Ptolemaic Period, was found and recorded. An individual, presumably male, was buried in an anthropoid tomb cut into the ground of Tomb V (cf. Plan 1). The skeleton was still intact, but in bad condition, due to humidity caused by rainfalls during the last two millennia.

J. K.

Wooden models from Tomb V

The surface of Tomb V (M11.1) showed layers with mixed fragmented finds of various kinds and dates. This situation of randomly mixed material continued in the filling of Shaft 2 of the same tomb, while the bottom of the shaft and especially the large burial chamber yielded a homogeneous group of wooden material.

In general, the condition of the wooden objects from this particular find spot is poor: nearly all finds are fragmented and due to contact with water the timber is porous and very fragile. Most of the fragments are very small and often unidentifiable.

Nevertheless, the compilation of determinable wooden objects constitutes the remains of an extensive burial equipment which once had been of elaborate quality and variety, comparable to other wooden model equipments of the necropolis of Asyut.⁴

⁴ Cf. the original equipment of the burials of Tomb III (N12.1) in: Monika Zöller-Engelhardt, *Wooden Models from Asyut's First Intermediate Period Tombs*, in: J. Kahl *et al.* (eds.), *Seven Seasons at Asyut*, 91-104; or the wooden model material of Nakhti, in: E. Chassinat/Ch. Palanque, *Une Campagne de Fouilles dans la nécropole d'Assiout*, MIFAO 24, 1922, 29-154.

Among the grave goods the wooden (model) equipment contained – as far as the fragments allow a reconstruction – were at least one wooden coffin, several wooden model boats, some statues as well as various model tools and weapons.

Furthermore, it should be kept in mind that the architectural evidence indicates that there must have been a door⁵, originally closing the entrance to the burial chamber, and its fragments could be among the decayed wooden fragments as well.

One of the well preserved elements is a model of a *hs.t*-vase (S10/st1506, Fig. 1), found in the burial chamber (h: 11.3 cm; w: 2.9 cm; th: 2.7 cm).⁶ The small wooden model vessel shows minimal traces of an original golden coating, only preserved as a marginal patch on the vase's body.

Several larger wooden elements (e.g. S10/st1521.44, S10/st1521.45, S10/st1521.46, S10/st1521.51, S10/st1521.68) prove that at least three wooden model boats must have existed originally. The original size of the hull could have been between 70 and 100 cm. The surface of fragments S10/st1521.44, S10/st1521.45 and S10/st1521.46 shows pairs of holes in small irregular intervals, where the figures of the crew had originally been inserted. The position of the holes on fragment S10/st1521.44 indicates that it must have been the prow of a boat with a standing pilot at its front,⁷ while fragments S10/st1521.45, S10/st1521.46 and S10/st1521.51 were parts of boat's centres. The underside of all these elements is rounded, forming the hull of the boats. S10/st1514.12 is the nearly complete hull of a model boat, but in very bad condition. No traces of colour remain on the boat fragments due to their bad condition. In contrast to the find context in Tombs III (N12.1) and IV (N12.2), where numerous model figures and parts of such were discovered, no clearly recognizable fragment of a model figure could be detected among the finds.

Nevertheless, some fragments indicate that at least one wooden statue or statuette respectively, was originally present. The left arm of a small statuette (S10/st1511, Fig. 2a, 2b) is of the same design as some of the arms of statuettes found in Tomb III (N12.1), shafts 3 and 4 and on the surface inside of Tomb III (N12.1) (S05/st1181, S05/st1401.26, S05/st1155, S05/41, S05/56). It is crafted elaborately and consists of a heavy, dark wood. Details like fingernails are carved out. Two larger scale fragments (S10/st1521.43, S10/st1521.47) could be parts of the torso and the lower body of larger statues. The lower part of a leg (S10/st1521.71) and the fragment of a statue's arm (S10/st1466.2) prove that originally one or two wooden statues of a larger size were placed here.

Some parts of handles of various model tools and weapons are better preserved: 83 axe handle fragments were amongst the finds of the burial chamber, as well 40 parts of adze handles and 15 nearly complete chisel handles. Since all adze fragments were identified as parts of different adze heads, the total number of model adzes among the grave goods was at least 40. Of the axe handle fragments, about 20 form the heads of model axes, the remaining elements are fragments of the centre parts, often with remains of the contact area,

⁵ Cf. J. Kahl, Tomb V (M11.1), in: J. Kahl/M. El-Khadragy/U. Verhoeven et al., in: SAK 40, 2011, 183.

⁶ Similar objects were found in the tombs of Nakhti and Mesehti at Asyut, cf. M. Zitman, *The Necropolis of Assiut 2*, OLA 180, Leuven 2010, 210, 259.

⁷ Cf. e.g. numerous examples from the tombs at Deir el-Bersheh, e.g. in: Rita Freed et al. (eds.), *The Secrets of Tomb 10A*. Egypt 2000BC, Boston 2009, 166-177.

where the blade originally had been attached. Thus the total number of axe models placed in the burial chamber must have been more than 20, but an exact number cannot be determined with certainty. In contrast, the chisel handles are very distinctive and in most cases completely preserved, leading to a count of at least 15 chisels among the burial equipment.

Most of the model axes, chisels and adzes show traces of corroded metal where the contact area with the blade is still preserved. In contrast to the finds from the side chamber of Tomb III (N12.1), shaft 3, where only minimal traces of corroded metal⁸ were preserved on the model tools and weapons (e.g. on S05/st1414.17, S05/st1414.26, S05/st1414.29 and S05/st1414.37), nearly all items discovered in Tomb V show small remains of the original metal blade inside the contact areas. The tool handles reveal differences in workmanship, recognisable in size and elaboration. Nos. S10/st1495.6 (l: 12.5+y cm; w: 2.1 cm) and S10/st1504.8 (l: 12.6+y cm; w: 1.7 cm) are larger than the other axe handles, while the remaining fragments of axe handles show an average size of ca. 11 cm from head to the end



Fig. 1: Model *hst*-vessel (© The Asyut Project; Zöllner-Engelhardt 2011).

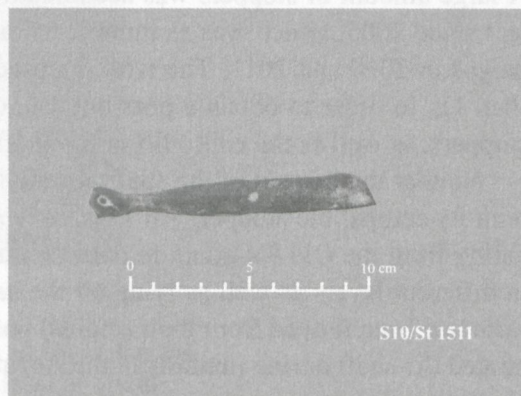


Fig. 2a: Left arm of statuette (© The Asyut Project; Zöllner-Engelhardt 2011).

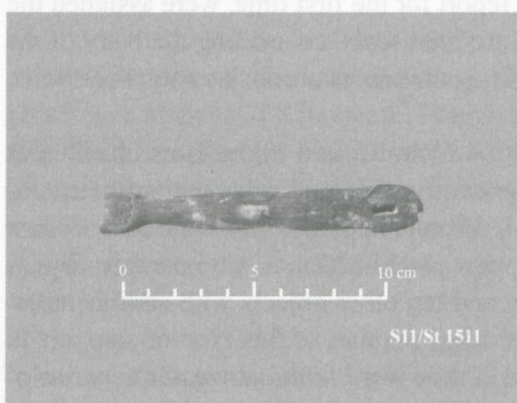


Fig. 2b: Left arm of statuette (© The Asyut Project; Zöllner-Engelhardt 2011).



Fig. 3: Axe handle fragment (contact area) (© The Asyut Project; Zöllner-Engelhardt 2011).

⁸ Neither the burial chambers of the shafts in Tombs III and IV, nor the ones in Tomb V included any complete blades or pieces of metal.

of the 'blade contact area' (the original size would have been about 30-35 cm, Fig. 3). The adzes differ somewhat in size, which could be due to the material and maybe different hands in the manufacturing process. The chisel handles are quite regular, with an average length of ca. 9 cm, varying between 7.8 cm and 10.3 cm at maximum.

In comparison to the model tool and weapon material of Tomb III (N12.1) it seems that the addition of such an amount of tools and weapons is a characteristic feature of the nomarch's burials of Asyut, especially in the First Intermediate Period and Middle Kingdom. The size, variety and quality of the items lead to the assumption that they were part of the original burial equipment of Khety I and date to the First Intermediate Period; an assumption which is yet to be confirmed by the associated material.

M. Z.-E.

Tomb V: Stoppers and lockers from shaft 2

A large amount of stoppers was accumulated through cleaning activities by the Asyut Project since 2005, which was examined and analyzed for the first time during the field campaigns in 2010 and 2011. The work focused on finds from Tomb V, especially shaft 2 (cf. Plan 1), in order to obtain a possible date of the shaft and the tomb chamber, although all stoppers, as well as the entire fill of the shaft, had been disturbed before.

Neither the bottom of the shaft nor the tomb chamber yielded any vessel still complete with its compatible stopper. All stoppers were part of pottery remains of different periods, dating from the Old Kingdom to the Mamluk Period (without New Kingdom), mixed within different layers as well as lying on the natural ground of the shaft. Additionally, the objects had been moved from their original position through incoming rainwater that had penetrated the shaft during rainfalls in the Asyut region over the last centuries.

Two hundred and sixty-six stoppers made of unburnt Nile-mud were found in shaft 2. One hundred and fifteen of these could be identified as stoppers pinning down vessels. The remaining 151 objects are much smaller and in this report for the first time, were assigned the new term "locker". The majority of these lockers are mud seals, connecting the body of the vessel to the stopper to prevent it from falling off. Some others are lockers for door bolts, boxes, etc.

Only one of the 115 stoppers (S10/st1505, Fig. 4-6) was found in the tomb chamber at the north-east side. Due to its location, the stopper can provide a clue for dating the chamber's original fill. The stopper is fully preserved, 33 mm long, 36 mm wide and 19 mm high. The weight is 18 g, the diameter of the support plate is 25 mm. Comparable objects are S10/st1423.6 from layer 8 of shaft 2 (Fig. 7), and ten other objects with similar measurements from different layers of the shaft. The exalted number of this type of stoppers in layers 11 and 12 is conspicuous. Without exception they were found alongside remains of the Old Kingdom (Scale 1 below).

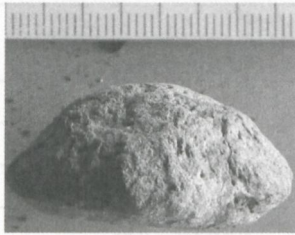


Fig. 4: Tomb V – Section 4/Shaft 2/S10/st1505 (© The Asyut Project; van Elsbergen 2011).



Fig. 5: Tomb V – Section 4/Shaft 2/S10/st1505 (© The Asyut Project; van Elsbergen 2011).



Fig. 6: Tomb V – Section 4/Shaft 2/S10/st1505 Cross section of the spout black plotted (© The Asyut Project; van Elsbergen 2011).



Fig. 7: Tomb V – Section 4/Shaft 2/S10/st1423.6; 20 mm x 25 mm x 17 mm, 25 g (© The Asyut Project; van Elsbergen 2011).



Fig. 8: Stela of Shensetha and Beba-Ur; detail of offering scene (Petrie, Denderah 1898, Plate 11).

The diameter of the base and the dimensions of the stopper may be a criterion to interpret it as a stopper of a *hs.t*-vase. Fragments of such vases were found in the shaft. A stela from Dendera (Fig. 8), dated to the Sixth-Eighth Dynasty (?) by Petrie, shows a depiction of a vessel with stopper, in which the stopper appears to be small in comparison to the hand and the vessel itself. The stopper on the stela corresponds to the stopper in Fig. 4 and 7, but it is doubtful, if the one from Asyut and the picture of the stopper in Dendera date to the same period.

It has a lot to commend it that Tomb V itself, the objects discovered, the architecture and decoration of the tomb walls seem to support a dating of the stopper S10/st1505 to the end of the Old Kingdom and the First Intermediate Period. Only further analyzes of the yet unexamined material will help to confirm the date of this stopper.

Archaeological find	Length	Width	High	Shaft 2	Chamber	Layer Shaft 2/1-14
S10/st1168	40	35	25	1		Shaft 2/02
S10/st1194	40	30	25	1		Shaft 2/04
S10/st1200	30	20	20	1		Shaft 2/04
S10/st1200	30	30	20	1		Shaft 2/04
S10/st585	40	30	25	1		Shaft 2/05
S10/st1408	40	35	20	1		Shaft 2/07
S10/st1423	30	25	20	1		Shaft 2/09
S10/st1444	30	30	20	1		Shaft 2/11
S10/st1444	40	30	25	1		Shaft 2/11
S10/st1451	40	30	20	1		Shaft 2/12
S10/st1451	40	30	25	1		Shaft 2/12
S10/st1505	30	35	20		1	Shaft 2-Chamber/1

Scale 1: Stoppers and lockers from Tomb V (M11.1), shaft 2.

M. v. E.

Pottery and offering trays from the so-called “Hogarth” Depot” in Tomb IV (N12.2)

During the 2012 fieldwork season, the pottery from several locations was analyzed (see below the contribution by T. Rzeuska). Amongst others, Tomb IV (N12.2) was investigated, and some preliminary results obtained from the tomb are presented here. The majority of the material will be published in detail elsewhere, but a short summary on the pottery and offering trays from the so-called “Hogarth” Depot” (Fig. 9) will be presented.

The layout of Tomb IV is very similar to that of Tomb III, if considerably smaller and unfinished (Fig. 9). Two rows of pairs of pillars divided the rock-cut tomb into three aisles, the shafts being located one each directly in front of the rows of pillars respectively. On the southeastern wall, two small “rooms” were added during later times⁹; the tomb originally having been constructed during the reign of Merikare.¹⁰ The southeastern niche is the one called “Hogarth” Depot”, as its top layer comprised a variety of fragments of material, spanning across several periods of the Egyptian history, appearing to be unwanted objects left behind by previous excavators. The remains of English newspaper fragments amongst the finds, dating back to the time of George Hogarth, connected this excavator with the niche and thus gave it its name. Amongst other things, the material consisted of offering trays, limestone blocks, crude stone offering tables, shabtis, worked wood, beads and sherds, all of it fragmented. Not one of the sherds was a matching piece.

⁹ Cf. M. El-Khadragy, *The Rock-cut Chapel of Khety II at Asyut*, in: SAK 37, 2008, Pl. 3, left niche below the marching soldiers.

¹⁰ Ibid. 220. For information on inscription and decoration ibd., 219-241.

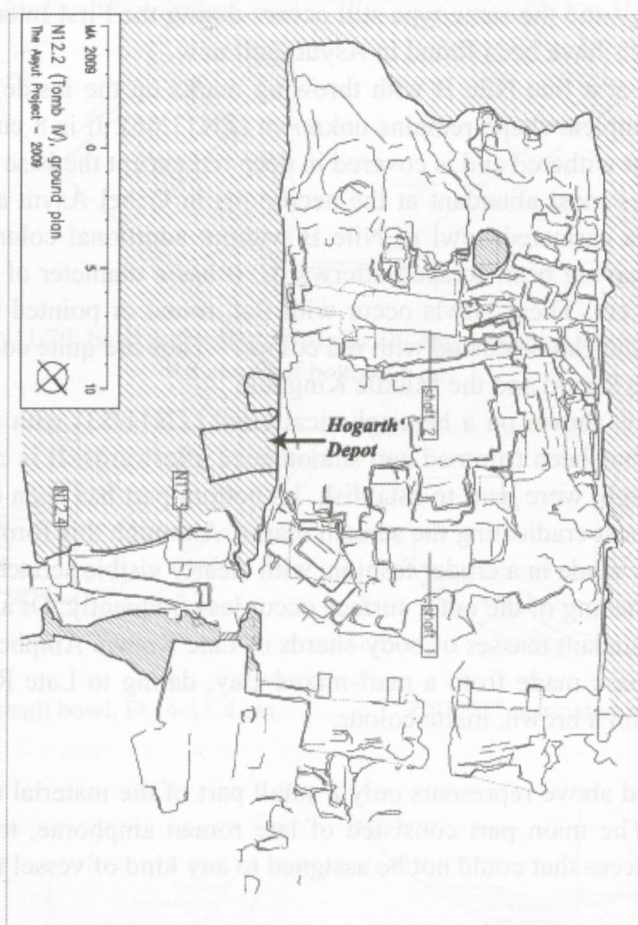


Fig. 9: Tomb IV (N12.2) ground plan
(© The Asyut Project; Maschke 2009).

a) The pottery from the “Hogarth’ Depot”

The pottery retrieved from this area (convolute no. S04/st18) spans a time period from the Old Kingdom to Late Antiquity, with only very little material dating to the New Kingdom and the Third Intermediate Period, which is quite typical for Asyut (Fig. 10).

ZN11/70 is a deep bowl with a groove underneath the rim. It is made of a very fine and hard burnt Nile B variant¹¹, was turned on a wheel and carefully smoothed on the outside, but nevertheless it still shows deep irregular scratch marks. Its bottom is slightly rounded. It is covered in deep brownish-red colour all over and polished. Only 10 % of the rim is preserved, to which a spout is added (the upper part of which is broken). According to D. Faltings, similar vessels have been found in Fifth Dynasty tombs in Qau and Fifth to Sixth

¹¹ Fabric descriptions are based on the Vienna System, cf. H.A. Nordström/J. Bourriau, Ceramic Technology. Clay and Fabrics, in: Do. Arnold/J. Bourriau (eds.), An Introduction to Ancient Egyptian Pottery, SDAIK 17, 1993, 145-190.

Dynasty in Mahâsna,¹² and the same type still occurs during the First Intermediate Period.¹³ No comparable vessels have been found in Asyut until now.

A single bottom of a fine Nile B with throwing marks on the inside has been discovered, too, but the complete shape remains unknown (ZN11/66). It is 8 cm in diameter, the outside is smooth, but withered and is covered in deep red except the base itself.¹⁴

One of the shapes most abundant at the necropolis in Gebel Asyut al-gharbi is represented in ZN11/67, a carinated bowl of Nile B without additional colouring. It is whell-thrown, the bottom having been scraped afterwards. It has a diameter of 12 cm and a preserved height of 6.2 cm. These bowls occur with flat, round or pointed bottom, or with a ring stand attached, and can be coated with red colour.¹⁵ They are quite common throughout the First Intermediate Period and the Middle Kingdom.

The same make is shown on a hemispherical bowl (ZN11/53) with a diameter of 14–15.4 cm. Its bottom has been trimmed and smoothened afterwards. It is contorted so much that diameter and height were hard to establish. Its bottom part has been carefully trimmed and smoothened, almost eradicating the scratch marks. Although this form is quite common in Asyut, it is usually made in a cruder fashion, with clearly visible scratch marks, while the trimming and smoothening of the outer surface occur less frequently. Of a much later date – aside from the all-abundant masses of body-sherds of Late Roman Amphorae – is ZN11/60, a bowl with a ring base made from a marl-mixed-clay, dating to Late Roman times.¹⁶ Its surface is covered with a brown, matte colour.

The pottery described above represents only a small part of the material retrieved from the “Hogarth” Depot”. The main part consisted of late roman amphorae, too damaged to be reconstructed, and pieces that could not be assigned to any kind of vessel type at all.

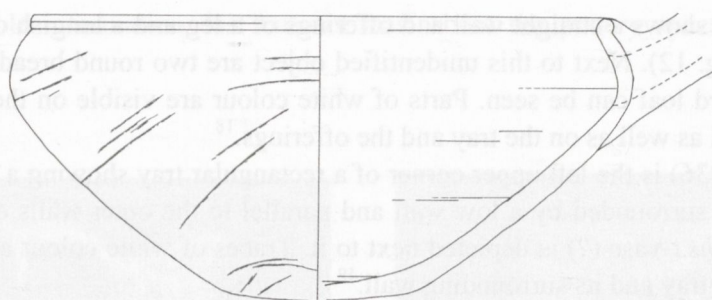
¹² D. Faltings, *Die Keramik der Lebensmittelproduktion im Alten Reich. Ikonographie und Archäologie eines Gebrauchsartikels*, SAGA 14, Heidelberg 1998, 282; Fig. 26.9–10, 27.11 (Qau; 27.11 being very similar with slightly rounded and clearly set bottom, while the other examples are rounded and do not show any interruption between body and bottom part) and Fig. 26.11, 13 (Mahâsna).

¹³ A vessel with similar form and likewise red polished on the in- and outside, but with different spout and greater height was found in late Old Kingdom/First Intermediate Period levels in Herakleopolis Magna: B. Bader, *The Late Old Kingdom in Herakleopolis Magna? An Interim Interpretation*, in: T. I. Rzeuska, A. Wodzińska (eds.), *Studies on Old Kingdom Pottery*, Warsaw 2009, 13–41 (33, Fig. 10.e). See also B. Bader, *Preliminary Observations on Ceramic Material found at Herakleopolis Magna (Ehnasiya el-Medina)*, in: CCE 9, Le Caire 2011, 67, Fig. 3.49; 53f. with further references.

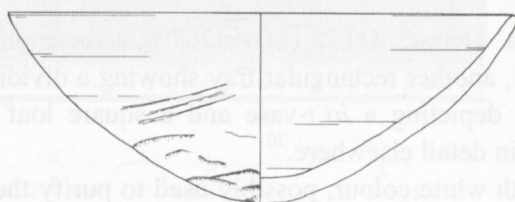
¹⁴ A similar vessel from the end of the Old Kingdom, but with polished outer surface is described in T. Rzeuska, *Pottery of the late Old Kingdom. Funerary pottery and burial customs*, Saqqara II, Warsaw 2006, 152, Pl. 55.214.

¹⁵ Cf. T. Rzeuska, *Pharaonic pottery, Asyut 2010*, in: J. Kahl/M. El-Khadragy/U. Verhoeven et al., *The Asyut Project: Eighth Season of Fieldwork* (2010), in: SAK 40, 2011, 199–209, Fig. 8.

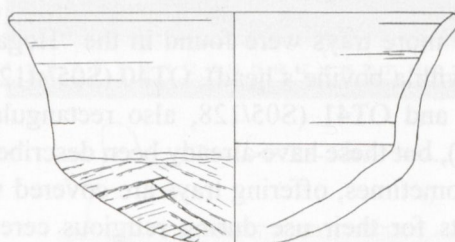
¹⁶ For a similar shape, cf. M. Rodziewicz, *Alexandrie III. Les habitations romaines tardives d’Alexandrie à la lumière des fouilles polonaises à Kôm el-Dikka*, Varsovie 1984, 388, Pl. 26, 36; G. Lecuyot, G. Pierrat-Bonnefois, *Corpus de la céramique de Tôd. Fouilles 1980–1983 et 1990*, in: CCE 7, 2004, 182, Pl. 11, 138.



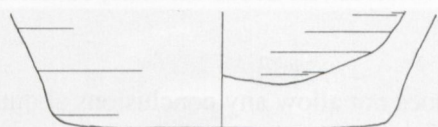
ZN11/70: bowl with spout, Ø of rim: 20 cm, preserved height: 9.8 cm, Ø of bottom: 6 cm.



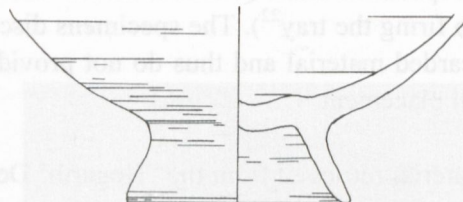
ZN11/53, small bowl, Ø 14-15.4 cm.



ZN11/67: carinated bowl, Ø 12 cm.



ZN11/66, Ø of bottom: 8 cm.



ZN11/60, small bowl with ring base; Ø of bottom: 5.2 cm.

Fig. 10: Pottery from the “Hogarth’ Depot”, S04/st18; Kilian 2008.

b) Offering trays from the “Hogarth’ Depot”

Seven fragments of offering trays were discovered in the “Hogarth’ Depot”, none of the pieces matching. All of them are of Nile Clay C according to the Vienna System, and are formed by hand, with the offerings attached separately.

OT1 (S04/22) is the right front corner of a rectangular tray with a small part of its spout still preserved (Fig. 11). Two basins have been sunk into the tray parallel to each other. Their rear part is rounded and deeper than their straight front part. The surface is covered with a white wash.¹⁷

¹⁷ A parallel for this tray is e.g. D. Dunham, Second Cataract Forts 2, Uronarti Shalfak Mirgissa, Boston 1967, Pl. 44 A, upper row, second fragment from the left.

OT26 (S04/235) shows a straight wall and offerings of a leg and a longish object, arranged parallel to it (Fig. 12). Next to this unidentified object are two round bread loaves and the remains of a third loaf can be seen. Parts of white colour are visible on the outside of the surrounding wall as well as on the tray and the offerings.¹⁸

OT27 (S04/236) is the left upper corner of a rectangular tray showing a basin deepened into the surface, surrounded by a low wall and parallel to the outer walls of the tray (Fig. 13). A modeled *hs.t*-vase (?) is depicted next to it. Traces of white colour are found on the upper part of the tray and its surrounding wall.¹⁹

OT38 (S04/43) is somewhat different from the other trays, as only a basin is preserved (Fig. 14). It has not been deepened into the surface, but was built by adding a wall parallel to the outer wall of the tray (but a little higher), forming a kind of outflow on one side.

Three more trays were found in the “Hogarth” Depot”: OT28 (S04/st267 b, a rectangular tray with a bovine’s head), OT40 (S05/st1281, another rectangular tray showing a dividing wall) and OT41 (S05/128, also rectangular, depicting a *hs.t*-vase and a square loaf of bread), but these have already been described in detail elsewhere.²⁰

Sometimes, offering trays are covered with white colour, possibly used to purify these objects for their use during religious ceremonies/cultic contexts.²¹ Pottery offering trays were originally placed in cult chapels, on the mouth of a shaft, or even in the burial chamber close to the entombed. They appear to have functioned as substitutes for real offerings, providing food for the deceased in the afterlife (an assumption that is supported by an inscribed specimen from Qubbet el-Hawa where part of the offering formula has been incised prior to firing the tray²²). The specimens discussed here have been found amongst a variety of discarded material and thus do not provide any information about the date, function or original placement.²³

The material retrieved from the “Hogarth” Depot” does not allow any conclusions about the original equipment of Tomb IV as it is comprised of objects seemingly regarded as garbage from previous excavators, most probably George Hogarth. Mixed up fragments, no matching pieces, and objects of different periods which make up the topmost layer of this niche that was added to the tomb in much later times, only allow a small insight into the material culture of Asyut during several periods of Egyptian History. Nevertheless, this material still

¹⁸ Parallel: W.M.F. Petrie, Denderah 1898, EEF 17, London 1900, Pl. 19, no. 13.

¹⁹ W.M.F. Petrie, Tombs of the Courtiers and Oxyrhynchos, BSAE 37, London 1925, Pl. 28, no. 710 displays an offering tray with two *hs.t*-vases in an offering stand between two basins, but it is not certain if the vases are modeled or scratched into the surface. However, the round top (or bottom) part of the OT 27-vase is quite unique.

²⁰ A. Kilian, Pottery Offering Trays: General Observations and New Material from Asyut, in: J. Kahl et al. (eds.), Seven Seasons at Asyut, 112 ff. with Pls. 8-9.

²¹ A. Seiler, Tradition und Wandel. Die Keramik als Spiegel der Kulturentwicklung Thebens in der Zweiten Zwischenzeit, SDAIK 32, Mainz 2005, 117 assumes this to be the case with vessels used in cultic contexts; this could also be the case with offering trays.

²² Numbered QH 106/1 in the publication: E. Edel (eds. K.-J. Seyfried, G. Vieler), Die Felsgräbernekropole der Qubbet el-Hawa bei Assuan. 1, 3, Paderborn et al. 2008, 1626-1627, Fig. 2. 1633, Abb. 8.

²³ Cf. A. Kilian, op. cit.

provides valuable information, last but not least about the pottery spectrum of the Old Kingdom.

A. K.

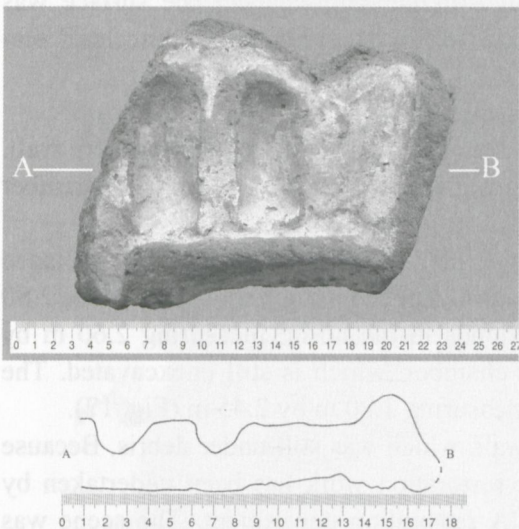


Fig. 11: OT1 (S04/22), offering tray with basins (© The Asyut Project; Kilian 2008).

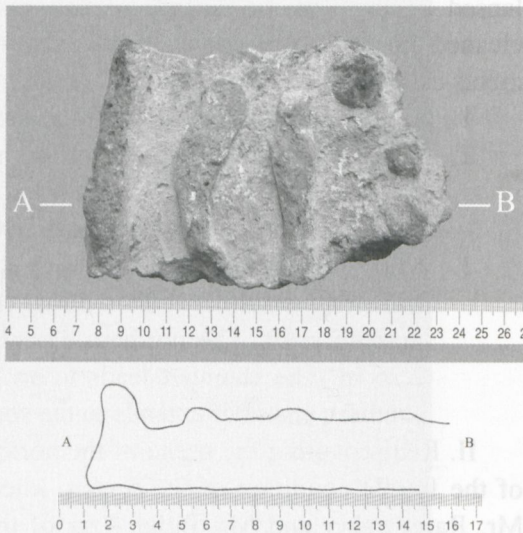


Fig. 12: OT26 (S04/235) with leg, meat (?) and bread (© The Asyut Project; Kilian 2008).

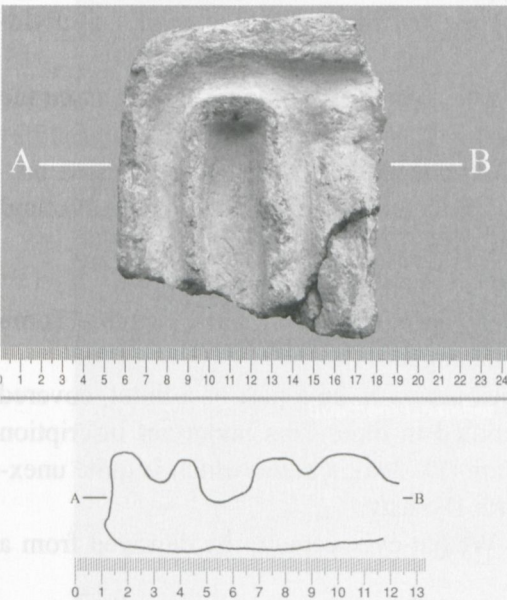


Fig. 13: OT27 (S04/236) with basin and a *h.s.t*-vase (?) (© The Asyut Project; Kilian 2008).

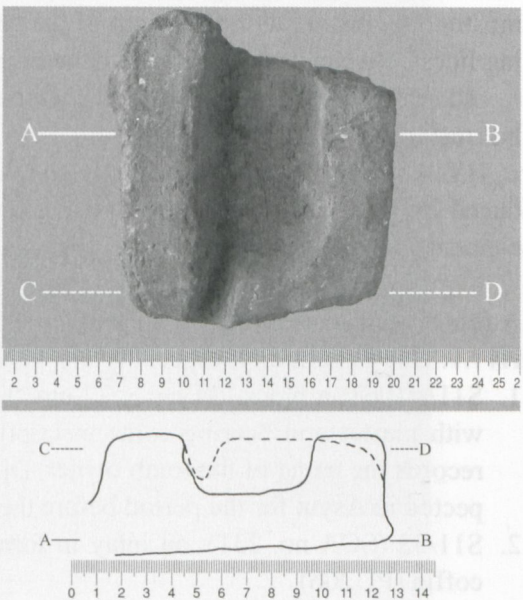


Fig. 14: OT38 (S04/43), displaying a basin (© Kahl 2008).

Northern Soldiers-Tomb (H11.1)

Cleaning and completing the full documentation of Tomb H11.1 was continued this season. Our work focused on:

I. Removing huge blocks and several meters of layers of limestone debris from the collapsed ceiling²⁴ of the surface of the inner hall²⁵ of the tomb-chapel. The surface was cleaned from the western wall onwards. While cleaning, the following architectural elements came to the light:

1. A large part of the original floor is now visible (Fig. 15).
2. A hitherto unknown shaft (western shaft) was revealed, 5 m. from the western wall. A burial chamber was cut into the ground of the 2.70 m deep shaft. The chamber extends to the south, measuring 1.90 m by 2.15 m (Fig. 16).
3. A second unknown shaft (eastern shaft) was also revealed, at about 40 cm distance from the western one. Two burial chambers had been built at the bottom of the 2.80 m deep shaft. The northern chamber extends to the north; measuring 2.60 m by 2.26 m. The chamber leads to an inner chamber, which is still unexcavated. The southern chamber extends to the south; measuring 2.80 m by 2.45 m (Fig. 17).

II. Rediscovering the scene of the northern wall, which was still under debris. Because of the fragile condition of the scenes, intensive restoration work has been undertaken by Mr. Rafet Faker and Mr. Refai Aziz of the SCA restoration department. The scene was recorded photographically and by facsimiles by Dr. Sameh Shafik (Figs. 18, 19).

The scene shows the tomb owner standing in front of the goddess Hathor, and visible inbetween them are two damaged columns of painted inscriptions. The upper parts of the tomb owner and the goddess are lost. In front of the tomb owner is a fragmentary inscription in 10 columns facing outwards. The hieroglyphics are carved in sunk relief, but these mostly only penetrate to the depth of the plaster. They are filled with blue paint, and dividing lines between the columns are painted in blue.

III. Restoring the decoration of the southern wall, which has become fragile since the last restoration.

IV. Updating the architectural plan of the tomb-chapel, which had already been produced by Cornelia Goerlich in 2009. The new architectural plan includes new structural elements, which were revealed this season (see Fig. 20).

A few objects were found in the southern chamber of the eastern shaft while cleaning Tomb H11.1. Due to humidity, especially the wood was damaged.

1. S11/st1061: a block, 34 cm x 77 cm. The block seems to be a part of a lintel, covered with plaster and bearing some inscriptions painted in blue. This important inscription records the name of the tomb owner, Djefai-Hapi (Pl. 20a), a name which is quite unexpected in Asyut for the period before the Twelfth Dynasty.
2. S11/33 (SCA no. 231): an inlay in form of a Wedjat-eye seems to be deprived from a coffin (Pl. 20b).

M. A. / H. F.

²⁴ The ceiling collapsed because of quarrying activities in the nineteenth century CE.

²⁵ It is suggested that the tomb had also a forecourt which is now destroyed.

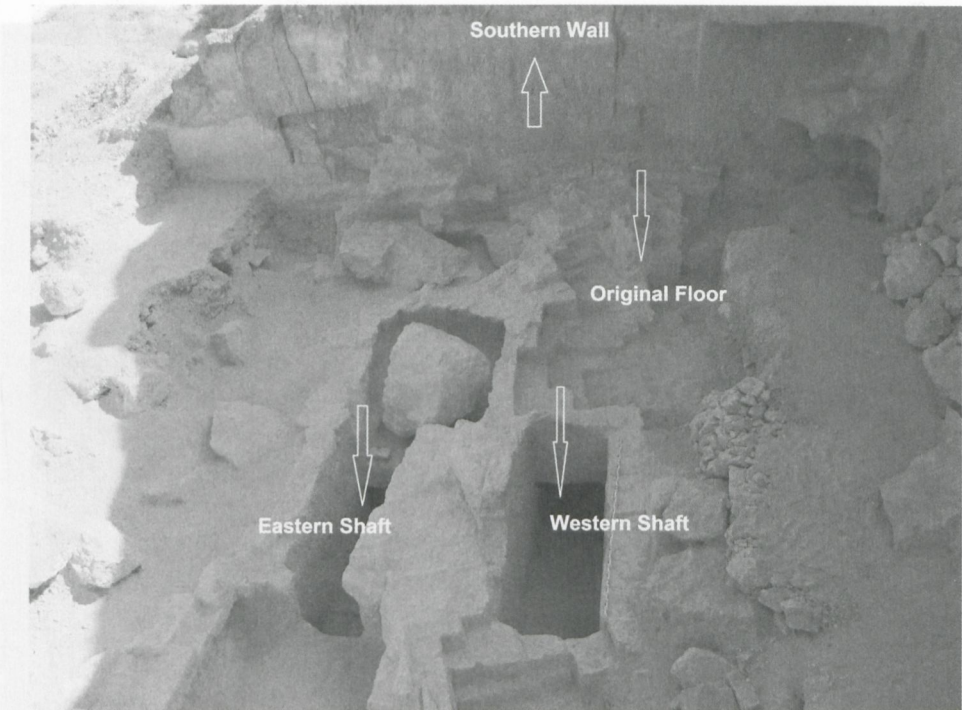


Fig. 15: Tomb H11.1, view from the North (© The Asyut Project 2011).

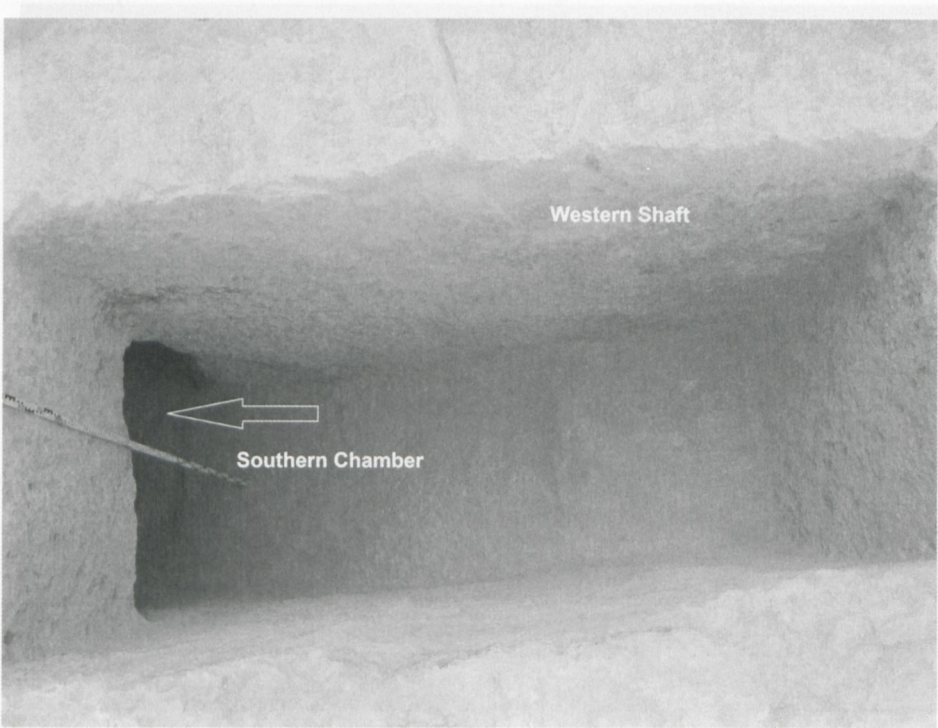


Fig. 16: Tomb H11.1, western shaft (© The Asyut Project 2011).

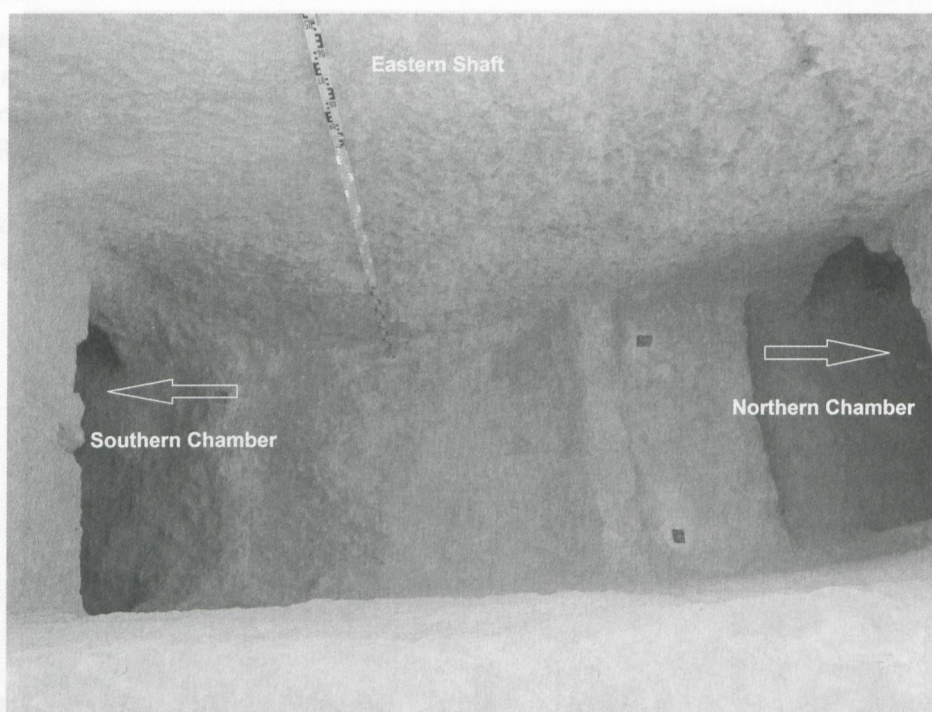


Fig. 17: Tomb H11.1, eastern shaft (© The Asyut Project 2011).



Fig. 18: Tomb H11.1, northern wall before restoration (© The Asyut Project 2011).

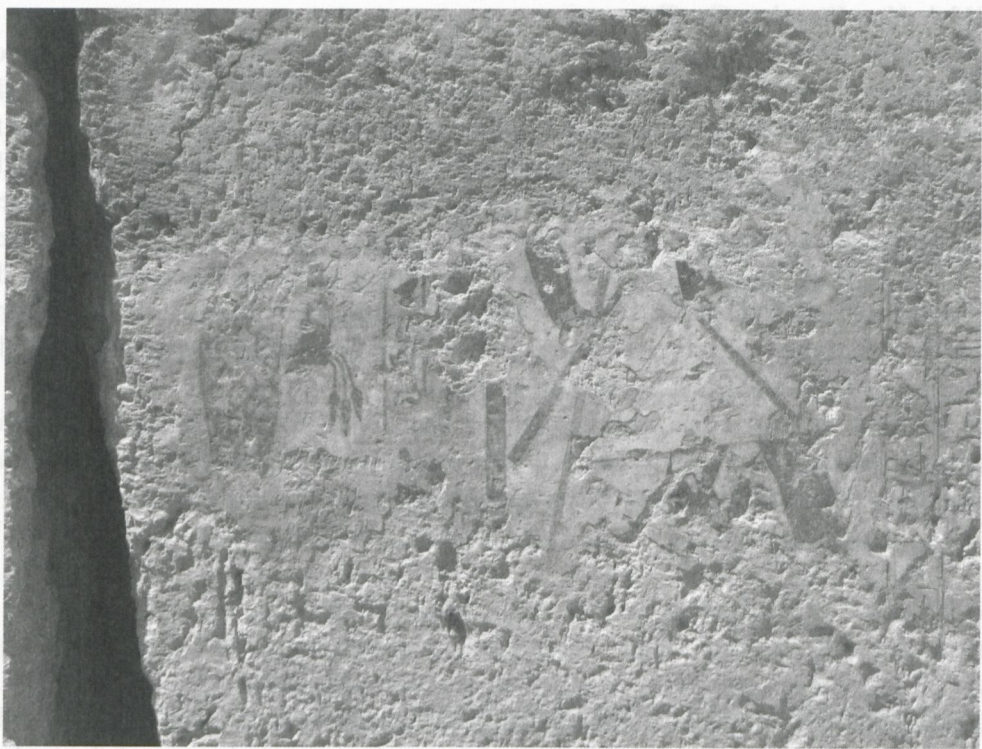


Fig. 19: Tomb H11.1, northern wall after restoration (© The Asyut Project 2011).



Fig. 20: Tomb H11.1 (© The Asyut Project, C. Goerlich 2011).

Tomb N13.1: New Kingdom Graffiti

The graffiti from the New Kingdom in Tomb N13.1²⁶ were again examined intensively on site, using methods like drawing, photography, taking measurements, and collation of the facsimiles. It was necessary to renumber all of the graffiti, because of more recent identifications and joints. The current amount is 201 graffiti. The number of textual graffiti on the north wall is 47, west wall 32, south wall 41, east wall 1, pillars 21, all in all: 142 text items. The 59 pictorial graffiti are also distributed over most of the walls: north wall 6, west wall 25, south wall 21, east wall 1, pillars 6.²⁷ The placement of each graffito within the original decoration was documented based on some former observations in N13.1 and recent research concerning other Egyptian sites, which have shown that the scribes often did not choose the space for their texts simply by chance.

Since the tomb was used as a praying place in later times, possibly in connection with the *maqam* of Skeikh Abu Tuq located northwest of Tomb N13.1, the two painted *mihrab* (in red) and the Arabic graffiti (in red, black and yellow) were also documented this year.

U. V.

Tomb N13.1: The Teaching of Amenemhat I (§1-2) on pillar B

The famous Teaching of Amenemhat I to his son Senwosret I is partly copied in three different graffiti inside the Tomb N13.1. One copy can be found on the north side of pillar B, two are located on the lower area of the eastern part of the north wall. The text on the pillar is presented here as a preliminary publication, because it seems to be one of the earliest graffiti in this tomb.

The graffito is written on an empty part of the surface underneath the decorated area, in which the tomb owner is sitting on a chair. Therefore the graffito does not cross or touch any original texts or pictures.

The area of the text lines measures 45 cm wide by 14 cm high. The text begins 183 cm below the ceiling or 72 cm above the ground floor, the rock tomb being about 255 cm high in this area. Because of its low location it must have been very comfortable to sit on the ground of the tomb in front of the pillar while writing. The surface is not intact mostly at the top of the text. The scribe only used black ink. The text is structured in five lines showing a break or spatium between the third and fourth lines. As we can see, this corresponds with the content of the text, for the first line starts with the text of the §1, while the fourth line starts with §2. This is similar to the arrangement of texts on the wooden scribe tablets from the beginning of the Eighteenth Dynasty.

The digital copy of the hieratic text in N13.1 (Fig. 21) is based on a hand copy and several on-site examinations:

²⁶ For a recent overview cf. U. Verhoeven, in: J. Kahl et al. (eds.), *Seven Seasons at Asyut*, 47-58 with Pls. 1-4 and Pls. 28-29.

²⁷ Cf. op. cit., 48.

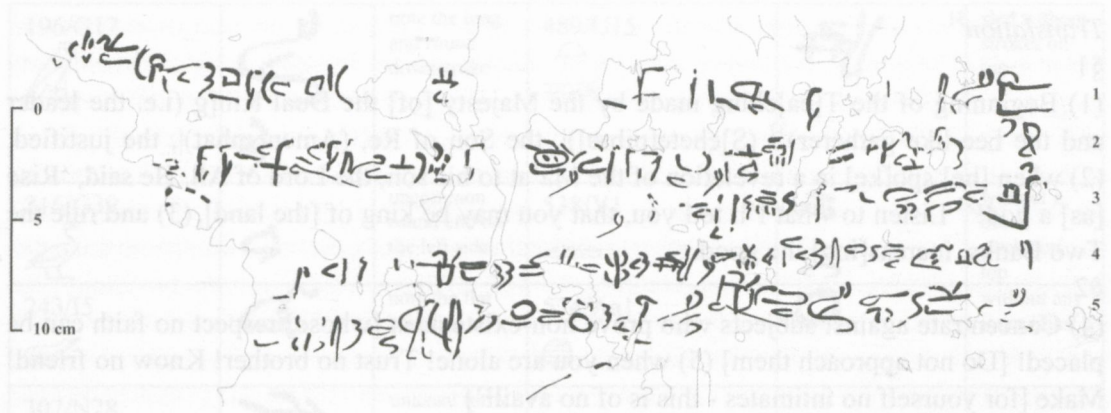
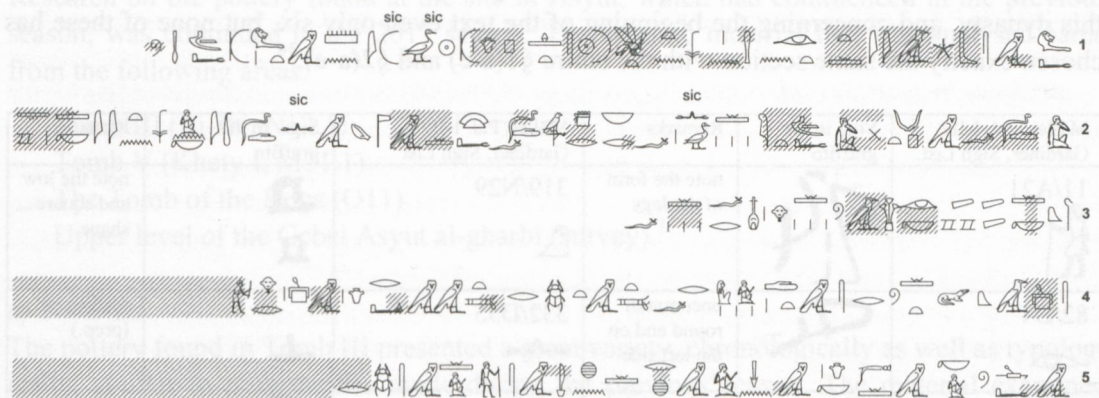


Fig. 21: Teaching of Amenemhat I on pillar B

(© U. Verhoeven, facsimile by S. A. Gülden and U. Verhoeven)

The transliteration in hieroglyphs runs as follows:



Transcription

(1) *h3.t- m s[b3.]y[t] jr.t.n hm [n] nsw-[bj.t (S)h[t(p-jb-R)] s3 R^c (Jmn-m-h3.t) m3^c hrw*

(2) *d[d=f] m wp.t M3^c.t n²⁸ s3=f nb-r-dr dd=f h^c(.w) [m] ntr sdm(.w) n dd.tj=j n=k nsw.y=k [t3]*

(3) *hk3(.y)²⁹=k jdb.wy jr[=k] h[3]w hr nfr.w=f³⁰*

(4) *s3k.tw r smd.t r=f tm.t hpr tmm(.t) rdj jb m-s3 hrw[.w=s m tkn.w jm=sn]*

(5) *m w^c.w=k w m mh(.w) jb=k m sn m rh(.w) hnms m shpr[(.w) n=k k.w nn km jrj]*

²⁸ The dative *n* is written like the negation *n*.

²⁹ The double reed found in most of the manuscripts is missing here.

³⁰ The suffix *-f* is only found in the Ramesside oDeM 1293, oDeM 1020 and oGardiner 322, cf. F. Adrom, *Die Lehre des Amenemhet*, BiAeg XIX, Turnhout 2006, 9.

*Translation*³¹

§1










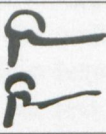



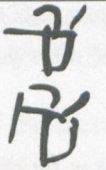


(1) Beginning of the T[ea]ching made by the Majesty [of] the Dual Kin[g (i.e. the leader and the bee-like gatherer)]³² (S)ehete[pibre]), the Son of Re, (Amenemhat)], the justified, (2) when [he] spo[ke] in a revelation of the Ma'at to his son, the Lord of All. He said, 'Rise [as] a god!³³ Listen to what I'll tell you, that you may be king of [the land], (3) and rule the Two Banks, increas[ing] the good.

§2

(4) Concentrate against subjects who prove non-existent, in [whose] respect no faith can be placed! [Do not approach them] (5) when you are alone! Trust no brother! Know no friend! Make [for yourself no intimates - this is of no avail!']

Paleography and dating

The handwriting of the graffito shows some particularities. Some are very unusual (82/D4, 179/F34, 461/T21, 307/N28), some show forms which can be found in sources before the New Kingdom (11/A21, 319/N29, 332/D35), some have parallels until the time of Amenhotep II (146/F4, 196/G17). Altogether a date from the very beginning of the Eighteenth Dynasty seems possible. This is important having only eleven of 244 sources dating into this dynasty, and concerning the beginning of the text even only six, but none of these has chosen exactly the same section with the entire §1(a-e) and §2(a-e).³⁴


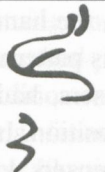












Möller, Pal. I-II / Gardiner, Sign List	Sign in the graffito	Remarks	Möller, Pal. I-II / Gardiner, Sign List	Sign in the graffito	Remarks
11/A21 		note the form of the legs	319/N29 		note the low and square shape
82/D4 		uncommon round end on the left side	332/D35 		reading: <i>n</i> (prep.)
146/F4 		with a stroke under the back of the head	459/V22 		unusual form
179/F34 		unusual form	461/T21 		

³¹ The translation is based on R.B. Parkinson, *The Tale of Sinuhe and Other Ancient Egyptian Poems 1940-1640 BC*, London 1997, 206.

³² For the interpretation of *nsw-hjt* cf. J. Kahl, in: E.-M. Engel et al. (eds.), *Zeichen aus dem Sand. Streiflichter aus Ägyptens Geschichte zu Ehren von Günter Dreyer*, MENES 5, 2008, 307-351. Currently, S. Schweitzer, in: *Cahiers Caribéens d'Égyptologie* 15, 2011, 83-92 proposes a reading *jnz* instead of *nsw*.

³³ Or: "he speaks risen as God": following G. Burkard, in: J. Assmann, E. Blumenthal (eds.), *Literatur und Politik im pharaonischen und ptolemäischen Ägypten*, BdE 127, Cairo 1999, 155ff.

³⁴ pMillingen (§1sq.), tBrooklyn I A + B = 16.119 (§2a-6a), oQurna 85/60 (§1a-2a), oSaqqara 70 (§1a-2a), oSenenmut 142 (§1a-b), oSenenmut 143 (§2a), cf. Adrom, *Die Lehre des Amenemhet*, IX-XVII.

196/G17 		note the long and round downstroke	489/U15 		sled without strokes on top
216/G39 		uncommon round end on the left side	538/Y1 		without a dot or stroke on top
243/I5 		note the flat base line	574/Aa1 		without any inner lines
307/N28 		unusual form			

U. V.

The Pottery, Asyut 2011

Research on the pottery found at the site in Asyut, which had commenced in the previous season, was continued in the 2011 season. The ceramic material that was analysed came from the following areas:

Tomb III (Iti-Ibi, N12.1)

Tomb V (Khety I, M11.1)

The Tomb of the Dogs (O11)

Upper level of the Gebel Asyut al-gharbi (survey).³⁵

a) Tomb III

The pottery found in Tomb III presented a great variety, chronologically as well as typologically, similar to observations made during the previous season. The material examined ranged from the early Old Kingdom (the Fourth Dynasty beer jars) to the seventh century CE (various Late Roman amphorae). Markedly, it contained no complete vessels, only fragmentarily preserved examples.

Some periods, like the Middle Kingdom, were particularly well represented. There were numerous fragments of the various types of small bowls, plates, hemispherical cups, and stands. The medium and large sized vessels, e.g. plates and bowls, as well as the closed forms, including the beer jars, were slightly less frequent. The dominating majority of these ceramics dated from the late Eleventh Dynasty until the end of the Twelfth Dynasty. The new types of vessels, which appeared during this period, were particularly interesting. One was a medium sized *thymiaterion* - censer on a tall full leg, a sort of a ritual vessel (AS 135, Fig. 22).

It was executed in Nile B2 fabric, and the surface was covered in red slip prior to firing. The leg was trimmed in a characteristic manner, apparent from the marks left by vertical

³⁵ The previous season report, see: T. Rzeuska, *Pharaonic Pottery, Asyut 2010*, in: J. Kahl et al., SAK 40, 2011, 199-209.

strokes. Vessels of this kind were usually made from two parts, the handmade leg and the wheel-turned bowl, and the Asyut example appears to follow this pattern. The fragmentarily preserved bowl, which constitutes the main element of censers, had a sunken middle which helped placing the burning incense/offering in the right position. Interestingly, traces of burning were observed inside this object. The surface of the censers was often secondary painted in white, sometimes repeatedly over a period of time, effectively covering it in a thick coat of paint. It is possible that was a ritual to purify the vessel, which was used for cult activities, and as such belonged to the sphere of sacrum.

The identical treatment has been observed on pottery used in rituals associated with the mortuary cult during the late Old Kingdom,³⁶ the Second Intermediate Period,³⁷ as well as the New Kingdom.³⁸

Although the surface of the censor from Asyut was damaged, the traces of red slip and white paint were still visible in some places. Assuming that this object originally came from Tomb III – which may be suggested by the place of its discovery in the southern side burial chamber of shaft IV – it could be considered an evidence of ritual activities involving the burning of offerings (incense?) taking place inside the tomb. An identical and nearly complete vessel was found in Asyut by the Italian mission directed by E. Schiaparelli. It is currently stored in the Museo Egizio in Turin.³⁹ The censor appears to date back to the late Eleventh/early Twelfth Dynasty, which may be further supported by the analogical object from tomb 4973 at Qau.⁴⁰

Another example worth mentioning is a rim of a Marl C2 *zir*, an import from the Memphis-Fayum region (AS 139, Fig. 23). Following B. Bader's typology of the Marl C ceramics, it represents type 57e, dating from the end of the Twelfth /beginning of the Thirteenth Dynasty to the early Fifteenth Dynasty.⁴¹ Its closest analogy is an object from Tell el-Dab'a from the end of Thirteenth /beginning of Fifteenth Dynasty, the terminal phase of the Middle Kingdom/the beginning of the Second Intermediate Period.⁴² The discovery of this vessel in Asyut is quite significant. Firstly, it confirms the use of the necropolis on the gebel during the terminal phase of Middle Kingdom/early Second Intermediate Period. Secondly,

³⁶ T. Rzeuska, Some Remarks on the Old Kingdom White Painted Funerary Cult Pottery from West Saqqara, in: J. Popielska-Grzybowska (ed.), *Egypt 2001: Perspectives of Research*. Warsaw 5-7 March 2001, Warsaw 2003, 125-134.

³⁷ A. Seiler, Tradition und Wandel. Die Keramik als Spiegel der Kulturentwicklung in der Zweiten Zwischenzeit, SDAIK 32, Mainz 2005, 120, proposes a slightly different interpretation which suggests that the vessels would be painted in this way after the burning of offerings but before placing them back in the tomb.

³⁸ L. Hulin, Pottery Cult Vessels from the Workmen's Village, in: B. Kemp (ed.), *Amarna Reports I*, London 1984, 165-177.

³⁹ Courtesy of Museo delle Antichità Egizie di Torino and Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici del Piemonte, Nr inv. 9211.

⁴⁰ G. Brunton, Qau and Badari II, BSAE 45, London 1928, Pl. XCII, type 98 N, with pink slip (4973 IX), here, on the contrary, the top part of the vessel is preserved. Apart from this object, there was an early Middle Kingdom hemispherical cup and two bag-shaped vessels, which indicate this date.

⁴¹ B. Bader, Typologie und Chronologie der Mergel C-Ton Keramik. Materialien zum Binnenhandel des Mittleren Reiches und der Zweiten Zwischenzeit, Tell el-Dab'a XIII, Wien 2001; 166-178. See also K. Kopetzky, Die Chronologie der Siedlungskeramik der Zweiten Zwischenzeit aus Tell el-Dab'a, Tell el-Dab'a XX, Wien 2010, vol. I, 165-167, vol. II, 170, Form 339, Zir Typ 4, from the phase E/3, and D. Aston, A Corpus of Late Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate Period Pottery, Tell el-Dab'a XII, Wien 2004, 100-101, Group 68d, Pls. 73-77.

⁴² Bader, Typologie, 175 and 177, Kat. Nr. 296, Abb. 53a.

it proves the continuing trade relations between Asyut and the Memphis-Fayum region after the Middle Kingdom had practically collapsed and was divided into separate centres, cultivating different traditions reflected in the distinct archaeological sequences.⁴³

Ceramic material found during the 2011 season yielded a small amount of New Kingdom pottery, which like in the previous season had mainly been represented by the jar fragments with Blue Painted decoration, dating to the second half of the Eighteenth-Nineteenth Dynasty. Another late Eighteenth Dynasty example is a large egg-shaped storage vessel which was possible to reconstruct from fragments found in different parts of Tomb III (AS 341, Fig. 23). This wheel-thrown object, made from Upper Egyptian fabric Marl A4, bears an impression of a rope at the widest point of the body, which would protect the vessel during the drying process. It has a very characteristic thick rim and a just as characteristically shaped round bottom, with a small ring base attached to it. The ring base is so tiny that the round bottom projects from underneath. This vessel clearly could not stand on its own but needed to be placed on a stand or being pressed/dug into the ground.

The closest analogies can be found in Amarna although they are shorter and effectively more squat,⁴⁴ and in Herakleopolis Ehnasya el-Medina.⁴⁵ The largest example found at Amarna was 39 cm high and 39.6 cm in diameter, while the vessel from Asyut shows a preserved height of 45 cm, plus the missing fragment, and a diameter of 40.4 cm. If our reconstruction is correct, it would be the fourth largest type, alongside the three smaller and squatter ones identified in Amarna.⁴⁶

The late New Kingdom and the following epoch, the Third Intermediate Period, is represented just as modestly - primarily by small fragments of vessels, most likely the ushabti containers or canopic jars with decoration painted in red, yellow and black, and applied post firing.⁴⁷

⁴³ J. Bourriau, *Beyond Avaris: The Second Intermediate Period in Egypt Outside the Eastern Delta*, in: E.D. Oren (ed.), *The Hyksos: New Historical and Archaeological Perspectives*, Philadelphia 1997, 159 – here the author distinguished 5 regions: Eastern Delta, Memphis-Fayum, Middle Egypt to Asyut, Upper Egypt, and finally region around Aswan; J. Bourriau, *The relative Chronology of the Second Intermediate Period: Problems in Linking Regional Archaeological Sequences*, in: M. Marée (ed.), *The Second Intermediate Period (Thirteenth-Seventeenth Dynasties): Current Research, Future Prospects*, OLA 192, Leuven-Paris-Walpole, PA. 2010, 11.

⁴⁴ P.J. Rose, *The Pottery Distribution Analysis*, in: B.J. Kemp et al., *Amarna Reports I*, London 1984, 137, type 14, Fig. 10.1; P.J. Rose, *The Eighteenth Dynasty Corpus from Amarna*, London 2007, 136, 284, type MG 2; T.E. Peet/C.L. Woolley, *The City of Akhenaten: Excavations of 1921 and 1922 at el-'Amarnah*, London 1923, vol. I, Pl. LII, type LVI/69.

⁴⁵ The lower parts of the analogical vessels cf. M.J. López Grande/F. Quesada Sanz, *La Céramica*, in: *Excavaciones en Ehnasya el Medina (Herakleópolis Magna)*, vol. II, Madrid 1995, Pl. L, c-d. They have been dated to the Late Period.

⁴⁶ Rose, *The Eighteenth Dynasty Corpus*, 136: small or medium-sized are painted; so traces of any decoration preserved on our object.

⁴⁷ Analogical vessels from Abydos: T.E. Peet, *The Cemeteries of Abydos*, Part II, EEF 34, 1911-1912, London 1914, Pl. XX.5; D. Randall-Maciver/A.C. Mace, *El Amrah and Abydos, 1899-1901*, EEF 23, London 1902, Pl. XXIV, lower photograph on the left, the vessel dated to the Twelfth Dynasty. Although D. Aston ruled out post-firing polychrome decoration from the late New Kingdom styles and the Third Intermediate Period cf. D. Aston, *Egyptian Pottery of the Late New Kingdom and Third Intermediate Period (Twelfth-Seventh Centuries B.C.)*. *Tentative Footsteps in a Forbidding Terrain*, SAGA 12, Heidelberg 1996, 79; also see more recent publication which presents an alternative opinion cf. A. Masson, *Jarres au décor polychrome du Musée Pouchkine: manifestations originales de la tendance archaïsante de 25e-26e dynastie?*, in: D. Aston/B. Bader/C. Gallorini/P. Nicholson/S. Buckingham (eds.), *Under the Potter's Tree. Studies on Ancient Egypt Presented to Janine Bourriau on the Occasion of Her 70th Birthday*, OLA 204, Leuven-Paris-Walpole, MA 2011, 655-661.

The Late Period, in turn, is represented by a significant amount of ceramics, although these are of little typological variety, belonging to the so-called Animal Necropolis Ware. The 2011 season yielded cylindrical pots made even more crudely, as well as lids made from Nile B2 fabric, with untreated surface and, apart from small details, almost identical to one another. It was possible to observe at least three distinct ways of closing and sealing the vessels. Some of the examples bear traces of a white substance, others traces of black resinous material, and finally some show traces of a white-grey substance mixed with ash. Unfortunately, due to the unstratified context of these objects, it has not been possible to determine whether the mentioned features translate to specific chronological periods, or whether an animal species was buried in the vessel, which was then closed in the particular manner.

On the contrary, the Roman ceramics, especially the late Roman ones, are extremely well represented within the discussed material. A fragment of a globular amphora is particularly noteworthy amongst the early Roman examples. It has a triangular rim with a flat edge, shallow groove close to the mouth, and another one at the top of the neck, just above where the handles are attached (AS 187, Fig. 23). The short handles, ovoid on the inner face, and double-grooved on the outer, started immediately below the rim and ended on the shoulders. The amphora is made of hard, beige-orange, homogenic clay, even in fracture, which shows a moderate amount of sandy inclusions. The inside was lined with blackish resin, indicating that the vessel was used for transporting wine. This type of amphora is found very rarely and its provenance has yet to be determined – though most likely it is the Pamphylia region in Asia Minor.⁴⁸ The closest analogies are from Quseir el-Kadim⁴⁹ and from Mons Claudianus.⁵⁰ The latter of the two allows to date the object to the reign of Trajan.

The Late Roman period is represented by several amphorae. As expected, the dominating majority were Egyptian amphorae of type LR 7, which according to recent studies of D. Dexneuf, are products of Middle Egyptian pottery workshops.⁵¹ The next, slightly less numerous group comprised the amphorae of type LR 1, originating from the eastern part of the Mediterranean Basin;⁵² ours are possibly of Cypriot or Cilician provenance.⁵³ Finally,

⁴⁸ V. Grace, Imports from Pamphylia, *Études Déliennes*, in: BCH Supp. 1, Paris 1973, 186-187, Fig. 2a. The jar is from the Alexandria Museum, see also J.-Y. Empereur, Les amphores complètes du Musée d'Alexandrie: Importations et productions locales, in: J.-Y. Empereur (ed.), Commerce et artisan dans l'Alexandrie hellénistique et romain, BCH Supp. 33, Paris 1998, 396, Fig. 5.

⁴⁹ D.S. Whitecomb, Roman Pottery, in: D.S. Whitecomb/J.H. Johnson, Quseir el-Qadim 1980. Preliminary Report, American Research Centre in Egypt Reports, Malibu 1982, 57, Pl. 16a.

⁵⁰ R. Tomber, The Pottery, in: R. Tomber/K. Knowles/D. Bailey/R. Thomass with contribution by H. Couvigny, Survey and Excavation, Mons Claudianus 1987, vol. III, Ceramic vessels and Related objects, Cairo 2006, 170-171, Fig., 166, no. 59-976, type 59.

⁵¹ D. Dixneuf, Amphores égyptiennes. Production, typologie, contenu et diffusion (III^e siècle avant J.C.-IX^e siècle après J.C.), *Études Alexandrines* 22, Alexandrie 2011, 154-163, Fig. 181.

⁵² D.P.S. Peacock/D.F. Williams, Amphorae and the Roman economy, an introductory guide, London 1991, 185-187; Class 44; D. Pieri, Le commerce du vin oriental à l'époque byzantine (Ve-VIIe siècles). Le témoignage des amphores en Gaule, *Bibliothèque Archéologique et Historique* 174, Beyrouth 2005, 80.

⁵³ P. Ballet/M. Picon, Recherches préliminaires sur les origines de la céramique des Kellia (Égypt). Importation et productions égyptiennes, in: CCE 1 (1987), 26; A.F. Ferrazzoli, Economy of Roman Eastern Rough Cilicia: Some Archaeological Indicators, *Biollettino di Archeologia on Line*, 2010, Volume Speciale, Congresso di Archeologia A.I.A.C. 2008, G/G10/5, 46-47, see: <http://151.12.58.75/archeologia>.

amphorae of type LR 4 – the so-called Gaza Jar – constituted the last and the least numerously represented of the groups. The fact that only a few examples of type LR 4 had their inside covered with resin, made the latter group particularly interesting. This suggested that they were used for transporting wine, whilst those without could have been used for fish sauce – garum, or sesame oil.⁵⁴

b) Tomb V

Excavations carried out in Tomb V during the 2011 season, yielded a rich and significant ceramic material. Due to the preliminary nature, this report only deals with the three assemblages: two pottery deposits from the inner hall and ceramics found in the burial shaft 2.

The inner hall

Both of the ceramic deposits were found within a layer of crushed limestone filling the inner hall – a location of great significance which will be further discussed below. Deposit 1, discovered in the north-western part of the inner hall, comprises three small vessels (AS 73, AS 75, and AS 72, Fig. 24). Not far from these, a fourth vessel (AS 141, Fig. 24) was found which may originally have belonged to this assemblage. All of the objects are wheel-turned and made of Nile B fabric, most likely variant 1.⁵⁵ The lower parts of the bellies and bases have been scraped and/or trimmed, and subsequently smoothed by hand. Their exteriors are red slipped. The flat-based vessels with a wavy rim and a characteristic horizontal groove on the shoulders are covered in a red matte slip. The round-based vessel, on the contrary, has a straight rim, no horizontal groove and the slip is orangey red and slightly glossy. One of the vessels has a decoration incised in the form of minuscule half-circles on the shoulders (AS 73, Fig 24), while the other three have been decorated post-firing with white-painted geometric motifs such as: vertical hashes running from the rim to the middle of the belly (AS 72), irregularly scattered dots (AS 141), and vertical hashes alternating with dots (AS 75). Although both, the flat-based vessels and the round-based one, can be dated to the First Intermediate Period typologically, a date further supported by a seriation of similar objects from the Qau-Matmar region,⁵⁶ the latter object appears to still follow the traditions of the late Old Kingdom. Undoubtedly, the most striking feature, common for all the vessels (AS 75, AS 72, AS 141, Fig. 24), is their unique decoration. Until recently, the “white-dotted” decoration was considered rather typical for the late Middle Kingdom and the Second Intermediate Period/New Kingdom⁵⁷, based on the then-known ceramic materi-

⁵⁴ D.M. Bailey, Pottery, in: A.J. Spencer/D.M. Bailey/A. Burnett, British Museum Expedition to Middle Egypt, Ashmunein (1982), British Museum Occasional Paper No. 46, London 1983, 83.

⁵⁵ Due to the complete preservation of the vessels, fabric classification is based exclusively on the surface analysis.

⁵⁶ S.J. Seidlmayer, Gräberfelder aus dem Übergang vom Alten zum Mittleren Reich. Studien zur Archäologie der Ersten Zwischenzeit, SAGA 1, Heidelberg 1990, 172-176, Figs. 74-75, the flat-based vessels correspond with type K-B63.04, dated to phases IIB-IIC, while the round-based vessel with type K-B75.05, dated to phases IIA-IIIB onwards.

⁵⁷ Do. Arnold, Keramikbeispiele aus den Gräbern der frühen 11. Dynastie von El-Târif, in: MDAIK 23, 1968, 39; A. Seiler, The Second Intermediate Period in Thebes: Regionalism in Pottery Development and its Cultural Implications, in: Marcel Marée (ed.), The Second Intermediate Period (Thirteenth-Seventeenth Dynas-

al. Only the most recent research proved that this type of decoration appeared much earlier, at the beginning of the First Intermediate Period, and both the Asyut and Dendera ceramics provide good evidence for such dating.⁵⁸

Deposit 2, discovered in the northern part of the inner hall, comprised 9 fully preserved hemispherical cups with flaring or straight rims (4 selected examples: AS 346, AS 347, AS 348, AS 349, Fig. 25), as well as one complete bowl with a wavy rim (AS 350, Fig. 25, Pl. 21a). Three of the hemispherical cups were laid one inside another, the remaining ones in their immediate vicinity. All the cups are wheel-turned and made of the coarser variant of Nile B1 clay with a high content of organic inclusions.⁵⁹ Their bases have been trimmed and then roughly smoothed. Both the exterior and interior are entirely covered with a thick coat of brick red and slightly glossy slip, except for the bowl, which has untreated surface. Typologically and stylistically, the vessels show a striking similarity, just like products not only made in the same pottery workshop, but also by one and the same potter during the same time span. Just at a first glance the most striking feature is the surface treatment of the cups, which are entirely slipped, including the base.

Hemispherical cups represent the most classic type of a ceramic vessel found in great numbers on the archaeological sites dated from the First to the Second Intermediate Period throughout the entire Egypt. Thanks to their mass-produce character, it has been possible to reconstruct their evolution and effectively, hemispherical cups are commonly used as the precise dating markers.⁶⁰ However, the ceramicists stress that this type⁶¹, just like the entire pottery of the First Intermediate Period and early Middle Kingdom, evolved slightly differently in various regions. Hence, the dating criteria derived from ceramics found on one site/region should be applied cautiously to pottery from other regions.⁶² In this respect, Deposit 2 deserves a more in-depth discussion, as it is a crucial assemblage for the reconstruction of evolution of the local, Asyutian, examples of hemispherical cups.

ties): Current Research, Future Prospects, OLA 192, Leuven-Paris-Walpole, PA, 44-45, Fig. 7; R. Meyers/O.H. Mond, *Cemeteries of Armant I*, London 1937, 59.

⁵⁸ S. Marchand, *Fouilles récentes dans la zone urbaine de Dendera: La céramique du la fin de l'Ancien Empire au début de la XII dynastie*, in: CCE 7, 2004, Figs. 51-52, cups dated to phase 3, i.e. the end of the First Intermediate Period and Eleventh Dynasty. Importantly, this pottery comes from the city, not necropolis which is normally the case with the vessels decorated in such manner.

⁵⁹ Similarly to the objects of Deposit 1, the fabric was only identified based on surface examination. One of the vessels, AS 344 (not included in the report) appears to be made of clay which due to a high content of inclusions visible on the surface, could be classified as a more delicate variant of Nile B2.

⁶⁰ Do. Arnold, *Pottery*, in: Di. Arnold, *The Pyramid of Senwosret I*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art Egyptian Expedition, vol. XXII, New York 1988, 57, 140-141; Do. Arnold, *Keramikbearbeitung in Dahschur 1976-1981*, in: MDAIK 38, 1982, 60-65, Abb. 17-18.

⁶¹ A. Seiler, *Ein Kultkeramikensemble aus dem Mittleren Reich*, in: D. Polz *et al.*, *Bericht über die 6., 7., und 8. Grabungskampagne in der Nekropole von Dra' Abu el-Naga/Theben West*, MDAIK 55, 1999, 387, footnote 132 in particular.

⁶² Arnold, *Keramikbeispiele*, 39, footnote 1, where it is stated that the Theban pottery differs considerably from the chronologically correspondent ceramics from Sedment. He quotes G. Brunton, who also observed the differences between the Qau and Sedment vessels, though did not seem to use this information to understand the regionalisation of pottery during that period, cf. Brunton, *Qau and Badari II*, 23.

Before moving on to the subject of dating of Deposit 2, the circumstances of its discovery are certainly worth mentioning. The fact that the vessels were found as an assemblage, and are complete, strongly suggests that they may represent a part of the funerary furnishings belonging to the primary burial of the nomarch Khety I, for whom Tomb V was cut in the rock. Such scenario is further supported by the location of the vessels within the layer of limestone crush – a by-product of cutting the tombs and shafts in the bedrock. After depositing the body and funerary goods in the tomb, the limestone crush would be used as back-fill, sealing the burial shaft this way. It is known as *dakka* in Arabic, and to this day it creates a hard and difficult to break barrier – a fact which modern archaeologists are also familiar with.

It is very likely that this was a way of securing the burial against looting, though clearly such method failed quite often and there are many examples of robbed out tombs. A concentration of *dakka* in the inner hall or near the shaft, particularly when it is mixed with ceramics, is a sign of robbery.⁶³ All these factors suggest that it is very likely that the hemispherical cups of Deposit 2 were thrown, or rather carefully taken out from the shaft 2 during a robbery. If this was indeed the case, it would mean the cups should be dated to the period of the Tenth Heracleopolitan Dynasty. Such a date is also confirmed by the vessels themselves. The vessel index of the cups from Deposit 2 varies from 217 to 275, reaching the average between 235 and 250 (see below, Diagram 1) and indicating that the cups ought to be dated to the First Intermediate Period.⁶⁴

Analogical examples from the neighbouring region Qau-Matmar have also been dated to the First Intermediate Period by S. Seidlmayer.⁶⁵ Ceramics found in Thebes in the Saff el-Dawaba tomb of Intef I – the first ruler of the Theban Eleventh Dynasty – are typologically identical, though stylistically different (see below).⁶⁶ Considering that Khety I and Intef I were probably contemporary with one another, it is very likely that pottery within Deposit 2, and possibly Deposit 1, was originally part of the funerary goods of Khety I.

As for the mentioned stylistic differences, various styles of surface treatment for hemispherical cups existed during this period in other parts of Egypt, reflecting the regional pottery traditions.

⁶³ Arnold, *Keramikbeispiele*, 39; T. Rzeuska, *Late Old Kingdom Pottery from Saqqara. Pottery and Burial Customs, Saqqara II*, Warsaw 2006, 453-455.

⁶⁴ Arnold, *Pottery*, 140, Fig. 75; Marchand, *Fouilles récentes*, 213-214, p. 3.

⁶⁵ Seidlmayer, *Gräberfelder*, 150-151, Abb. 60, typ K-A09.01, "Steilrandschalen" correspond with phases IIA-IIC, see also Fig. 168 „Chronologische Synopse“.

⁶⁶ Do. Arnold, *Weiteres zur Keramik von el-Târif, Saff el-Dawâba 1970/1971*, in: MDAIK 28,1, 1971, 42, Abb. 4, Gruppe 4, Taf. XIXa.

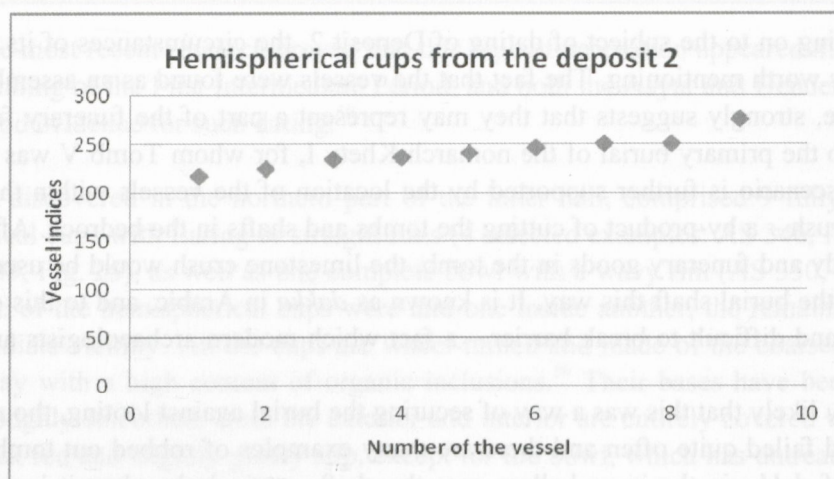


Diagram 1: Vessel indices of the hemispherical cups from Deposit 2.

In Elephantine for example, the cups were coated with light pinkish-reddish slip at that time, which entirely covered the interior of the vessel, but only half of the exterior;⁶⁷ in Thebes (El-Tarif), the entire exterior was covered in brown-coloured slip and the external surface only had a band, either only a few centimeters wide or up to the midpoint of the belly;⁶⁸ in Dendera, the cups only had their interior slipped, whilst the external surface remained untreated;⁶⁹ and finally, in Abu Ghâlib in the Delta, these vessels were entirely covered with red slip.⁷⁰

The features that hemispherical cups from all of these sites, including Asyut, have in common, are the shape and the very similar, or identical, manufacturing technique. The vessels have thick walls with scraped or trimmed bases, sometimes additionally smoothed, with wheel-marks clearly visible on the outside, as well as in profile, where they form a subtle ribbing in the middle part of the cup. These elements allow to easily distinguish the cups of this period from those dating to the Middle Kingdom. Apart from the shape and the manufacturing technique, the cups from different regions share a similar fabric, described as a less fine clay with more frequent small organic and/or sandy inclusions than the fabric later cups were made of.⁷¹ Considering all these facts, it appears quite likely that the hemispherical cups from Deposit 2 represent an early stage of this type's evolution which could be dated to the Tenth Dynasty. Stylistically, the vessels are typical products of Middle Egypt differing from those manufactured in Upper Egypt.⁷²

⁶⁷ T. Rzeuska, *Middle Kingdom Pottery from Elephantine*, in preparation; also T. Rzeuska, *Elephantine. A Place of an End and Beginning*, in: A. Seiler/R. Schiestl (eds.), *Handbook of the Middle Kingdom Pottery*, in press.

⁶⁸ Arnold, *Weiteres zur Keramik*, 42, Abb. 4, Gruppe 4, Taf. XIXa; cf. Arnold, *Pottery*, 140-141.

⁶⁹ Marchand, *Fouilles récentes*, 219, Figs. 23-30, Fig. phase 2 dated to the First Intermediate Period.

⁷⁰ T. Bagh, *Abu Ghâlib, an Early Middle Kingdom Town in the Western Nile Delta: Renewed Work on Material Excavated in the 1930s*, in: *MDAIK* 58, 2002, 43-44, 48-49, Fig. 4b; about dating of the settlement see also Seidlmayer, *Gräberfelder*, 389.

⁷¹ Arnold, *Weiteres zur Keramik*, 42.

⁷² The different character of the local hemispherical cups has been already discussed in the previous report.

Finally, the last object from Deposit 2, the small bowl with a wavy rim, deserves a closer look. Its nearest analogy comes from Qau⁷³ – other examples from sites located further to the south, like Hawawish⁷⁴ or Thebes (El-Tarif)⁷⁵, are slightly different. Whereas the bowl from Asyut and the one from Qau have round bases and thin walls, similar forms from the southern regions are flat-based with thick walls. It is very likely that the differences stem from the distinct pottery tradition, just as it is the case with the hemispherical cups. This form, rarely found amongst the First Intermediate Period ceramics, is rooted in the tradition of the Old Kingdom. A strong analogy comes from the West Saqqara necropolis of the Sixth Dynasty nobles.⁷⁶ It is executed in a similar fabric (fine Nile B1), but both the exterior and interior are red-slipped. Hence, there is a likelihood that both the examples from Asyut and Qau follow the Memphitian pottery tradition.

To summarize our discussion on the pottery deposits from the inner hall of Tomb V, it should be stressed that there is a high possibility that both assemblages are the only remains of the original ceramic furnishings of the tomb known up to now. This is not only supported by the place of discovery, state of preservation, high quality of ceramic and its original decoration, but most of all by the typological and stylistic features of the vessels, which point to the First Intermediate Period. Moreover, it is quite significant that the ceramics of this epoch were very sparse in burial shaft 2, which appears to be the main shaft of Tomb V.

The pottery presented above is the first such large assemblage of completely preserved vessels found in the tombs of nomarchs in Asyut. Furthermore this is the first ceramic group of well-established provenance and hence chronologically sound.

Shaft 2

The pottery found in the burial shaft 2 was noticeably mixed, ranging from the early Old Kingdom up to the Byzantine period. The chronological and typological diversity and, most of all, the condition of the vessels – no complete examples were found – leave no doubt about the secondary nature of this assemblage.

⁷³ Brunton, Qau and Badari II, Pl. LXXXII, type 7o; Seidlmayer, Gräberfelder, 149-151 Fig. 59, type K-A05-2, dated to phases from IIA (excluding B) to III B.

⁷⁴ C.A. Hope, *The Pottery*, in: C.A. Hope/A. McFarlane, *Akhmim in the Old Kingdom*, vol II, The Australian Centre for Egyptology Studies 7, Sydney 1992, 37, Fig. 1, Pl. 1a, Type BIIIb.1. dated to the First Intermediate Period - early Twelfth Dynasty. It is executed in Nile B2 and has both the exterior and interior slipped.

⁷⁵ Arnold, *Keramikbeispiele*, 49-50, Abb. 6, 42-43, both made of medium fine Nile B, one slipped on the inside and on the external surface of the rim, the other is entirely unslipped.

⁷⁶ T.I. Rzeuska, *Saqqara 2009*, *The Pottery 2008-2009*, in: PAM XXI, Warsaw 2012, vessel no. SQ 09-1986, in press.

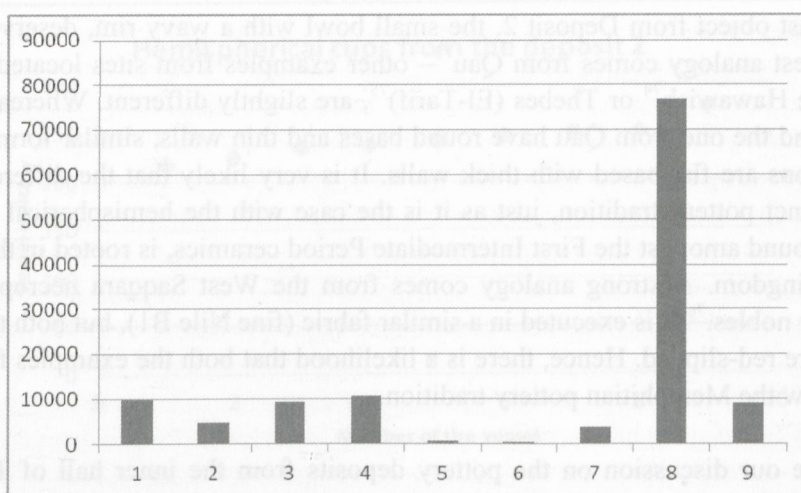


Diagram 2: The weight ratio of ceramics representing the particular chronological periods identified in the burial shaft 2 and the burial chamber (in grams): 1. Old Kingdom; 2. First Intermediate Period-early Middle Kingdom, 3. Middle Kingdom, 4. Second Intermediate Period, 5. Late Period, 6. Animal Necropolis Ware; 7. Late Roman Imported Amphorae; 8. Ptolemaic-Late Roman. 9. Pharaonic non-diagnostic.

The above diagram shows that the largest group comprised ceramics dated to the Ptolemaic-Roman period (bar 8). The most dominant were fragments of amphorae representing type LR 7, large storage vessels executed in Nile clays, as well as thin-walled cooking pots. These forms were accompanied by small fragments of imported type LR 1 amphorae with partially preserved red *dipinti* (bar 7). Another group comprised the Animal Necropolis Ware, which was represented by a mere handful of fragments (bar 6). Of the Late Period worth mentioning is a shoulder fragment of a Levantine storage vessel with a partially preserved handle (AS 321, Fig. 26). The characteristically broad carinated shoulders prove beyond doubt that we are looking at the so-called “Phoenician amphora”. In A.G Sagona’s typology, it corresponds with type 6 – typical of the Persian era,⁷⁷ while in E. Bettles’ typology of amphorae it falls into type A8.⁷⁸

A very good example of how extensively the ceramics were mixed throughout the entire shaft, is an imported Canaanite amphora, dating from the period of the late Middle Kingdom through to the Second Intermediate Period (AS 329A, Fig. 26, Pl. 21b). Judging by the fabric, it originates from the Mediterranean Basin, the area between Acre in Israel and Akkar in Lebanon.⁷⁹ Its fragments, found in the different fills deposited in the burial

⁷⁷ A.G. Sagona, *Levantine Storage jars of the 13th to 4th Century B.C.*, OpAth XIV:7, 1982, 80-81, Fig. 2.2.

⁷⁸ E.A. Bettles, *Phoenician Amphora Production and Distribution in the Southern Levant*. A multi-disciplinary investigation into carinated-shoulder amphorae of the Persian period (539-332 BC), BAR International Series 1183, Oxford 2003, 115. The precise fabric identification and so the provenance of the amphora remains open to future research.

⁷⁹ A. Cohen-Weinberger/Y. Goren, *Levantine-Egyptian Interactions During the 12th to the 15th Dynasties based on the Petrography of the Canaanite Pottery from Tell el-Dab’a*, Ägypten und Levante XIV, 2004, 74. The author would like to thank Dr. Karin Kopetzky for helping to identify the clay (Austrian Academy of Sciences).

chamber, matched perfectly to one another allowing the complete reconstruction of the vessel.

The late Middle Kingdom (bar 3) is represented by a fragment of a hemispherical cup with a wide red band below the rim (AS 309, Fig. 27) and a beer jar rim (AS 290, Fig. 27), whilst the early Middle Kingdom is represented by an early type of a hemispherical cup (AS 313, Fig. 27), typologically analogical to those found in the inner hall (Fig. 25), as well as shoulders of a medium sized jar with a characteristic decoration (AS 259, Fig. 27). The decoration in the form of short diagonal incisions was executed with a comb-like tool (most probably a fin of a fish from the *Synodontis* family). Ornaments of such type are rooted in the southern regions of Egypt, where they emerged under the influence of the Nubian C-Group pottery traditions.⁸⁰ Analogies have been found in Elephantine⁸¹, El Kab⁸², and Qurna.⁸³

The Old Kingdom ceramics (bar 1) formed a well defined group, represented primarily by the beer jar fragments, including those dated to the Fourth Dynasty (AS 280, Fig. 27). Additionally, it should be noted that the material contained a small fragment of the belly of an imported vessel classified as the Early Bronze Age III Levantine Combed Ware, most likely an amphora.

Summarizing, the ceramic material discovered within the burial shaft 2 was considerably mixed. However, despite the mixed character, there appears to be a certain regularity in the chronological distribution of ceramics found within the shaft.

Taking a closer look at the distribution of ceramics⁸⁴ found within the shaft and the chamber, one can observe a concentration of ceramics dated to the Ptolemaic and Late Periods (including the Late Roman amphorae), mixed with a small number of Old Kingdom pottery in the upper part of the shaft. Further down into the shaft the number of vessels dated to these periods decreases and they are gradually replaced by material dated from the First to the Second Intermediate Period, which is not present in the upper part of the shaft.

The burial chamber revealed a concentration of First Intermediate Period ceramics – unsurprisingly so, given that the tomb dates to this period. It is very likely that this assemblage represents the remains of the funerary goods of the primary burial. However, a concentration of late Middle Kingdom/early Second Intermediate Period pottery – one of the most enigmatic periods in Asyut – is an intriguing element.⁸⁵ It is even more puzzling when one considers the better condition than that of the vessels found within the shaft – the nearly complete Canaanite amphora described above is a good example. Hence, it is highly

⁸⁰ T. Rzeuska, Zigzag, triangle and fish fin. On the Relations of Egypt and C-Group during the Middle Kingdom, in: W. Godlewskiego/A. Łajtara (eds.), *Between the Cataracts*, Proceedings of the 11th Conference of Nubian Studies, Warsaw University, 27 August–2 September 2006, Part 2. Fasc. 2, Session Papers, Warsaw 2010, 397-419.

⁸¹ Rzeuska, Middle Kingdom, vessel no. MR 4209.

⁸² F. Steinmann, Tongefäße von der Vordynastischen Zeit bis zum Ende des Mittleren Reiches, *Katalog Ägyptischer Sammlungen in Leipzig Band 2*; Mainz am Rhein 1998, 116-117, no. 335, Taf. 96.1-2, J.E. Quibell, *El Kab*, ERA 3, London 1897, Taf. XVI, type 48.

⁸³ W.M.F. Petrie, *Qurneh*, BSAE 16, London 1909, Pl. XVI, no. 352.

⁸⁴ Due to the fragmentary nature of the material and the dominant majority of the non-diagnostic fragments, the author decided to apply the statistical method based on the weighing results.

⁸⁵ J. Kahl, *Asyut and the Asyut Project*, in: J. Kahl/M. El-Khadragy/U. Verhoeven/A. Kilian (eds.), *Seven Seasons at Asyut*, 15.

feasible that Tomb V was used for a secondary burial during the late Middle Kingdom/early Second Intermediate Period. It is not clear, however, why these tombs were used for secondary burials. Perhaps it resulted from a particularly high regard held for the deceased nomarch, and a desire to be buried close to him; or perhaps it was simply the result of practicality in cases where the tomb that already existed and had possibly been robbed out was to be used for a new burial. Both scenarios are just as likely, and it is uncertain if this question will ever be answered.

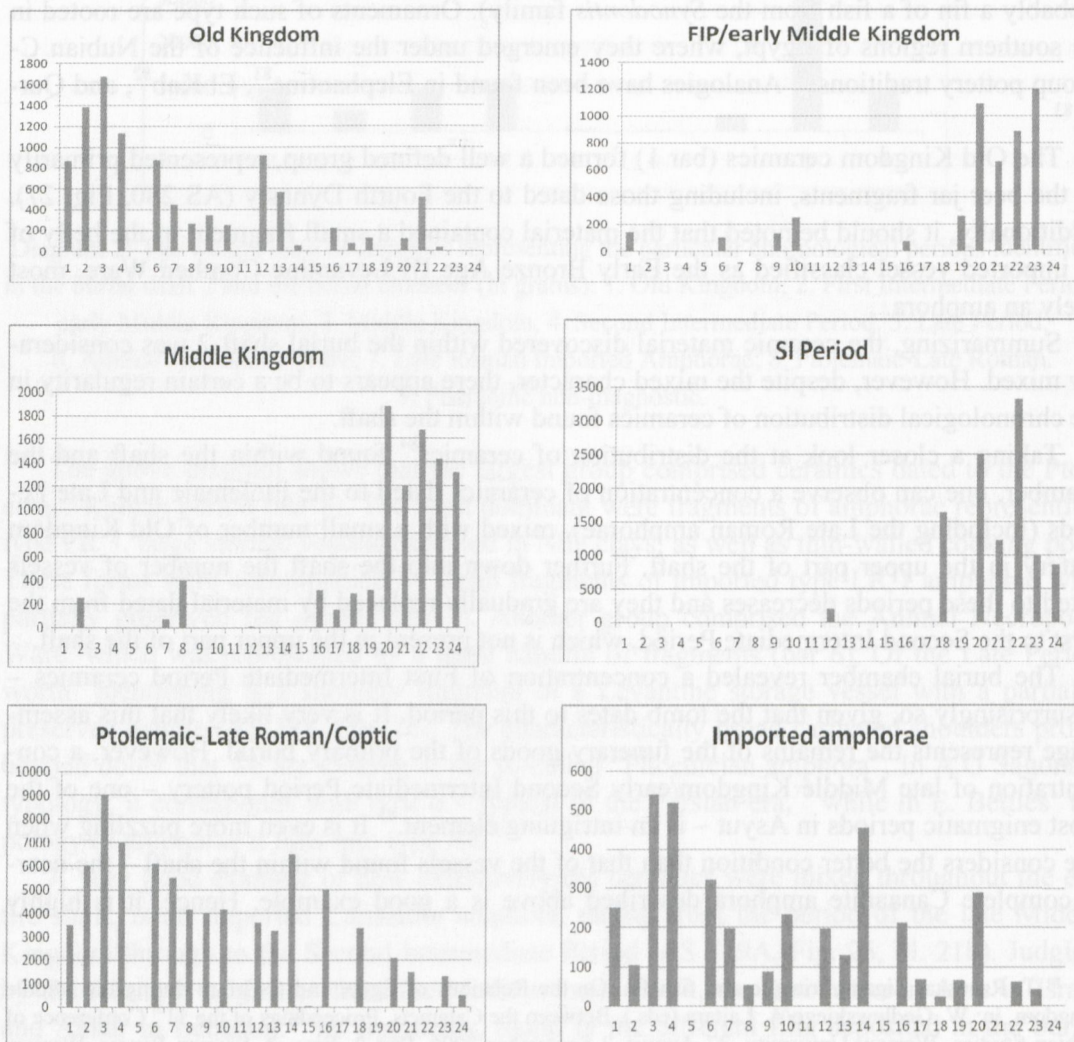


Diagram 3: Chronological distribution of ceramic material from shaft 2

(1-18 on the horizontal axis corresponds with contexts located from the top to the very bottom of the shaft), at the entrance (19 on the axis), and in the burial chamber (20-24 on the axis).

c) Tomb of the Dogs

The pottery found in the Tomb of the Dogs and the immediate vicinity of its entrance is a small, though chronologically and typologically diverse, assemblage.

The most prominent is a deposit that was found inside the tomb, close to the modern entrance, comprising three large storage vessels. Two of the objects are presented in this report (Fig. 28). The context in which the deposit has been found indicated in situ preservation. One of the vessels was nearly complete, with only the rim missing (AS 330, Fig. 28, Pl. 21d), the other one was broken in pieces but it could be fully reconstructed (AS 331, Fig. 28). Both vessels have narrow rims, the first one has a cylindrical belly, the second one is bag-like, and both have round bases and a pair of small vertical handles. They are wheel-turned and made of Nile clay tempered with organic inclusions, corresponding with Nile B2 in the Vienna System. The exterior of both vessels is wet smoothed. The deposit was found within a layer of *tafla*, with no other objects associated to help the dating. It is therefore necessary to look for analogical examples from other sites.

The first vessel (AS 330) has two close analogies: a marl jar from a tomb in Heracleopolis Magna dated to the Third Intermediate Period,⁸⁶ and a Nile silt jar from Amarna, dated to the Late Period.⁸⁷ The closest analogy for the second vessel (AS 331) was found in Medinet Habu. The Medinet Habu example is nearly identical in shape and has very similar deep wheel marks on the exterior.⁸⁸ Regrettably its dating is not very precise and ranges from the Twenty-second to Twenty-sixth Dynasty. Other analogies, this time from a more sound context, are a similar jar with a slightly different rim found in Asasif, dating to the Twenty-fifth/Twenty-sixth Dynasty,⁸⁹ and a jar from Amarna, roughly dated to the Twenty-fifth Dynasty.⁹⁰ Summarising, the deposit comes from the Late Period, most probably Twenty-fifth – Twenty-sixth Dynasty, although a slightly later date cannot be ruled out.

An interesting feature in both jars is the so-called killing hole. The first object has a small hole in the middle of the base (unmarked on the drawing), the second one has a round opening, about 8 cm in diameter, in the lower part of the belly – both made post-firing. The custom of deliberately puncturing necropolis vessels is known from as early as the late Middle Kingdom/early Second Intermediate Period.⁹¹ It appears that the reason behind this was to prevent the further use of the vessel in everyday life – the profanum – as it had been used in the sphere of sacrum.

The presence of this deposit in the Tomb of the Dogs is difficult to explain. It is possible that the vessels were used in some sort of ritual activity, indicated by the killing holes. It cannot be ruled out, however, that they represent remains of a kind of embalming cache.

⁸⁶ M.J. López Grande/F. Quesada Sanz, *La Céramica*, 90, Pl. XLb, Type XXIV.C.

⁸⁷ P. French, *Late Dynastic Pottery from the Vicinity of the South Tombs*, in: B.J. Kemp et al., *Amarna Reports III*, London 1986, Fig. 9.21.4.

⁸⁸ U. Hölscher, *Excavations at Medinet Habu V. Post Ramessid Remains*, Chicago 1954, Pl. 75, see also D.A. Aston, *Egyptian Pottery of the Late New Kingdom and Third Intermediate Period (Twelfth-Seventh Centuries BC)*, SAGA 13, Heidelberg 1996, 54, Fig. 174.F2.

⁸⁹ J. Budka, *Bestattungsbrauch und Friedhofstruktur im Asasif. Eine Untersuchung der spätzeitlichen Befunde anhand der Ergebnisse der österreichischen Ausgrabungen in den Jahren 1969-1977*, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Denkschriften der Gesamtkademie, Band LIX, Wien 2010, 693, Abb. 304.

⁹⁰ Aston, *Egyptian Pottery*, 43.

⁹¹ E.g. Seiler, *Tradition und Wandel*, 83, Abb. 37.

Another unusual assemblage from the Tomb comprised a small jar covered with a bowl/lid (AS 226, AS 225, Fig. 29).

Both objects are executed in Nile B2, rather crudely wheel-turned, with untreated surface. The jar, the top of which is missing, has a slightly rounded belly and flat base. In the middle of the vessel there is a small and rather rachitic-looking knob, which probably served as a handle.

The small bowl/lid has a straight rim and a characteristically narrow and thin base. The dating of these two vessels is rather difficult, as neither the place of discovery nor the analogies allow for a date more precise than the Late Period. Likewise, it is difficult to interpret the function of the set – perhaps it attests to some cult activities, though it is possible that it represents part of some funerary furnishings. A similar set, but of a different date (the Third Intermediate Period) has been found in Asasif.⁹²

The sandy deposit located in front of the Tomb of Dogs, contained a few interesting ceramics. Despite the fact that none of those can be associated with the Necropolis of Sacred Animals, or any particular burial for that matter, they certainly deserve a closer look.

They are two fragments of minuscule Ptolemaic perfume or oil containers, known as unguentaria, (Fig. 29, AS 336, AS 332). They are made from the marl clays: the first one (AS 336) is made from pink, very fine kaolin clay sourced in the Aswan region, the other from green-yellow fine Quena-Ballas fabric. Both fragments indicate that the vessels were probably made from a mould.

Only the top part of the first object (AS 336) is preserved. It has a characteristically trimmed rim, triangular in section, with a shallow groove on the inside, and a globular belly. Of the second example (AS 332) on the other hand, only the bottom half is preserved, showing a base with a small thickening in the middle. According to V.R. Anderson-Stojanović's typology, both fragments represent Shape 1, the first one being biconical fusiform unguentarium, the second one slender fusiform unguentarium.⁹³ The first example has an analogy from Tebtunis⁹⁴, the second from Qau⁹⁵, Tod⁹⁶, and Asasif.⁹⁷ The biconical unguentarium appears to be older than the slightly younger spindle-shaped one, perhaps from the Third to Second century BCE.

Another interesting object is a small thin-walled hemispherical cup made from pink, very fine marl fabric, most likely of Aswan origin (AS 357, Fig. 29). Both its exterior and interior are decorated. The external ornaments are fairly modest, in form of a 1.5 cm wide black band with a thin black line running below. The decoration on the inside is much more elaborate. There is a red band below the rim, its lower edge forming a zigzag, split in the

⁹² J. Budka, *Bestattungsbrauch und Friedhofstruktur im Asasif. Eine Untersuchung der spätzeitlichen Befunde anhand der Ergebnisse der österreichischen Ausgrabungen in den Jahren 1969-1977*, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Denkschriften der Gesamtakademie, Band LIX, Wien 2010, 324, Abb. 137.

⁹³ V.R. Anderson-Stojanović, *The Chronology and Function of Ceramic Unguentaria*, *AJA* 91, no. 1 (Jan. 1987), 106-108.

⁹⁴ P. Ballet, *Céramiques hellénistiques et romaines d'Égypte*, in: P. Lévêques/J.-P. Morel, *Céramiques hellénistiques et romaines III*, Paris 2001, 137, Fig. 23.

⁹⁵ G. Brunton, *Qau and Badari III*, *BSAE* 50, London 1930, Pl. XLI, no. 30, described as "buff", from the group 1454.

⁹⁶ G. Pierrat-Bonnefois, *La céramique dynastique et ptolémaïque des fouilles du Louvre à Tôd 1989-1991*, *CCE* 6, 2000, 308-309, Fig. 101.

⁹⁷ Budka, *Bestattungsbrauch und Friedhofstruktur im Asasif*, 571, nos. 309-310, Abb. 244.

middle by a similar black panel. Below this is a floral motif in the shape of two intertwined branches with heart-shaped ivy (?) leaves in between, which are red elements, most likely flowers or buds. This motif, in turn, is bordered at the bottom by a narrow black line below which there is another ornament, although so poorly preserved that it is impossible to reconstruct. This type of decoration represents the non-figural “Silhouette Style”, originating from the early Ptolemaic Period.⁹⁸ The closest analogical object comes from Mons Claudianus and allows for the cup to be dated to the reign of Hadrian (117-138 CE).⁹⁹

Finally, an amphora fragment from Rhodes with a rectangular stamp on the handle (AS 144; S11/09, Fig. 30, Pl. 21c) is one of the most interesting finds from the Tomb. Inside the rectangular border of the stamp a name of the amphorae manufacturer is preserved, reading “Ἀριστίωνος[ς]” (Ariston). His products are dated to the end of the third – beginning of the second century BCE. Amphorae with identical stamps are commonly found throughout the entire Mediterranean Basin, from Sicily to the coast of the Black Sea.¹⁰⁰ In Egypt they have been found in Alexandria¹⁰¹, Tanis¹⁰² and Tell Atrib¹⁰³ in Lower Egypt, in Tell El-Faram in the Sinai¹⁰⁴, and in Akoris in Middle Egypt.¹⁰⁵

This example is yet another stamp from Rhodes found in Asyut by the Asyut Project, the previous one being found from Tomb III¹⁰⁶ and, judging by the eponym’s name, it is a little older. Generally speaking, the Rhodes stamps are best represented amongst the stamps in Egyptian ceramics of the Ptolemaic Period. This is not a surprise, given not only the geographical, but also political vicinity as both Rhodes and Egypt were part of the Ptolemaic Empire. Hence, this is an example of an import from “inside” the Empire.

Its presence on the necropolis suggests that Asyut was an important centre during Ptolemaic times, using the geographical location as an advantage.

⁹⁸ D.A. Aston, Pottery from the town, N.W. of the Khnum Temple, in: Werner Kaiser et al., *Stadt und Tempel von Elephantine*, 17./18. Grabungsbericht, MDAIK 46, 1990, 236-242; D.A. Aston, Pottery from the Late New Kingdom to the Early Ptolemaic Period, *Elephantine XIX*, AV 19, Mainz am Rhein 1999, 247.

⁹⁹ R. Tomber, The Pottery, in: R. Tomber/K. Knowles/D. Bailey/R. Thomass with contribution by H. Couvigny, *Survey and Excavation, Mons Claudianus 1987*, vol. III, Ceramic vessels and Related objects, Le Caire 2006, 34-35, Fig. 1.9:28; Type 29, a thin-walled mug.

¹⁰⁰ For more detailed information on dating and distribution of the stamps from this potter as well as the accompanying names of Rhodian eponyms see: Z. Sztetyło, *Pottery Stamps from Nea Paphos* (Excavations in 1990-2006), Nea Paphos VI, PAM Monograph Series vol. 2; Warsaw 2010, 88-89, no. 75.

¹⁰¹ Z. Sztetyło, *Timbres amphriques grecs des fouilles polonaises à Alexandrie* (1962-1972), *ÉtTrav VIII*, 1975, 159-235; Z. Sztetyło, *Timbres céramiques des fouilles polonaises à Alexandrie* (1979-1982), *ÉtTrav XVI*, 1992, no. 29.

¹⁰² Ch. Le Roy, *Timbres provenant de Tanis: complement*, BIFAO 84, 1984, nos. 9-10, two stamps; R. Chabay, *Les timbres amphoriques trouvés à Tanis de 1976 à 2008*, Paris 2009, 6, no. 8, three stamps. The first one is dated to 240-220 BC, the second one to 198-193 BC, phase IIc-IIIa.

¹⁰³ Z. Sztetyło, *Stamped amphora handles from Polish Excavations in Tell Atrib* (1957-1961), *Eos LIII/2* (1963), 338, no. 4; Z. Sztetyło, *Pottery Stamps*, in: Z. Sztetyło/K. Myśliwiec, *Tell Atrib 1985-1995*, vol. I, Warsaw 2000, 94, no. 61.

¹⁰⁴ J.Y. Carrez-Maratray/G. Wagner/A. El-Taba'i/R. El-Gindi, *Timbres amphoriques de Tell Farama (TAFE) et de Tell el Herr (TATEH)*, *CRIPEL* 18, 1996, 182, no. 14.

¹⁰⁵ H. Kawanishi/Y. Suto, *Amphora stamps: 1997-2001*, vol. 1, Tsukuba 2005, nos. 131-132, two stamps.

¹⁰⁶ J. Kahl, *Ancient Asyut. The First Synthesis after 300 Years of Research*, *The Asyut Project* 1, Wiesbaden 2007, 119, Pl. 9b.

d) Upper level of the Gebel Asyut al-gharbi (survey)

During the 2011 season, the survey of the upper level of the gebel as well as its summit was continued. Although the results will be published separately, some of the finds are worth mentioning in this report as they cast new light onto the history of the necropolis.

Gebel Asyut is well known as a First Intermediate Period necropolis, though some of the oldest tombs date back to the Sixth Dynasty.¹⁰⁷ Despite the fact that the earlier phase of the necropolis has not been identified, a small number of objects was found, dating to the Early Dynastic Period,¹⁰⁸ and the early Old Kingdom.¹⁰⁹ The survey carried out by the Asyut Project of the top of the gebel, resulted in the discovery of the oldest known necropolis in Asyut. This is evident from the ceramic material, primarily a fragment of an early type of carinated bowl (so-called early Meidum bowl) (AS 200, Fig. 31) found in the northern part of the gebel, as well as the numerous beer jar fragments (e.g. AS 316, Fig. 31) found around the openings of two burial shafts.

The bowl, made from medium fine Marl fabric (similar to A1 in the Vienna System), is moulded and has both the interior and exterior coated in red slip. Its decoration shows uncommon elements in the form of two horizontal grooves at the widest point of the belly executed prior to firing, as well as small thickening on the shoulders which looks like a place where a beak may have been attached. Analogical examples from Adaïma and Elkab help dating the bowl to the Second Dynasty.¹¹⁰ The beer jars are characteristically thin-walled and made by hand from Nile C. They are identical to those found during the last season.¹¹¹ Analogical vessels come from layers V-IV (Stufen) in Elephantine likewise corresponding with the Second Dynasty.¹¹² The burial shafts around which the jars were found are located along the easternmost edge of the gebel, one in the northern part of the area (shaft 1), the other in the southern (shaft 2). While the area around shaft 2 produced about a dozen of fragments only, numerous, mostly diagnostic fragments, were found around shaft 1.

e) Summary

The pottery analyses carried out during the 2011 season have yielded a fair amount of new data on the development of the necropolis. As a result, the oldest known necropolis on the gebel, dating to the times of the Second Dynasty, has been identified by the pottery. Further, pottery analysis of the ceramics found in shaft 2 helped establish that the tomb of Khety I (Tomb V) had been reused as a burial place at the end of the Middle Kingdom/early Second Intermediate Period, thus providing evidence of activity on the gebel during this least known of periods in the history of the necropolis.¹¹³

¹⁰⁷ J. Kahl, *Asyut and the Asyut Project*, in: J. Kahl *et al.* (eds.), *Seven Seasons at Asyut*, 10.

¹⁰⁸ Kahl, *Asyut and the Asyut Project*, 10.

¹⁰⁹ Rzeuska, *Pharaonic Pottery, Asyut 2010*, Fig. 11.1-3.

¹¹⁰ L. Op de Beck, *Possibilities and Restrictions for the Use of Meidum-Bowls as Chronological Indicators*, CCE 7, 2004, 247-248, Fig. 2.2 (from Adaïma) and Fig. 3.1-2 (from Elkab).

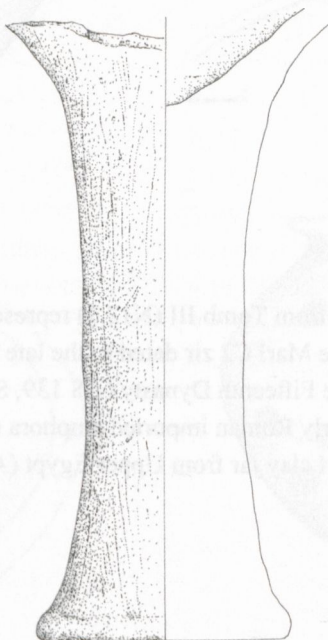
¹¹¹ Rzeuska, *Pharaonic Pottery, Asyut 2010*, Fig. 12.1-2, tentatively dated to the "early Old Kingdom".

¹¹² D. Raue, *Ägyptische und nubische Keramik der 1.-4. Dynastie*, in: W. Kaiser *et al.*, *Stadt und Tempel von Elephantine*, 25./26./27. Grabungsbericht, MDAIK 55, 1999, 176-177, Abb. 35.2.

¹¹³ Kahl, *Asyut and the Asyut Project*, 15.

The significance of the pottery found in the tomb of Khety I cannot be overestimated. For the first time it was possible to identify such a large and chronologically sound assemblage, dated to the First Intermediate Period (Tenth Dynasty), which most likely was a part of Khety I's funerary goods. The exquisite quality of these ceramics and, most of all, the original white painted decoration, unknown at the time in other parts of Egypt beyond Dendera, leave no doubt that we are dealing with the unique local style. Additionally, there is a large variety of pottery that was made outside of Egypt: starting from the Old Kingdom (EB III Combed Ware), through to the late Middle Kingdom/early Second Intermediate Period (Canaanite amphora), Ptolemaic and early Roman Periods (amphorae from Rhodes and Pamphylia), right to the Late Roman/Byzantine era (LR 1 and LR 4). Not only does this attest Asyut's location on the trade routes crossroads, but also the fact that Asyut actively used it to its advantage.

T. Rz.



AS 135

Fig. 22: An early Middle Kingdom high-footed censer (AS 135, S05/st1444) from Tomb III (N12.1).

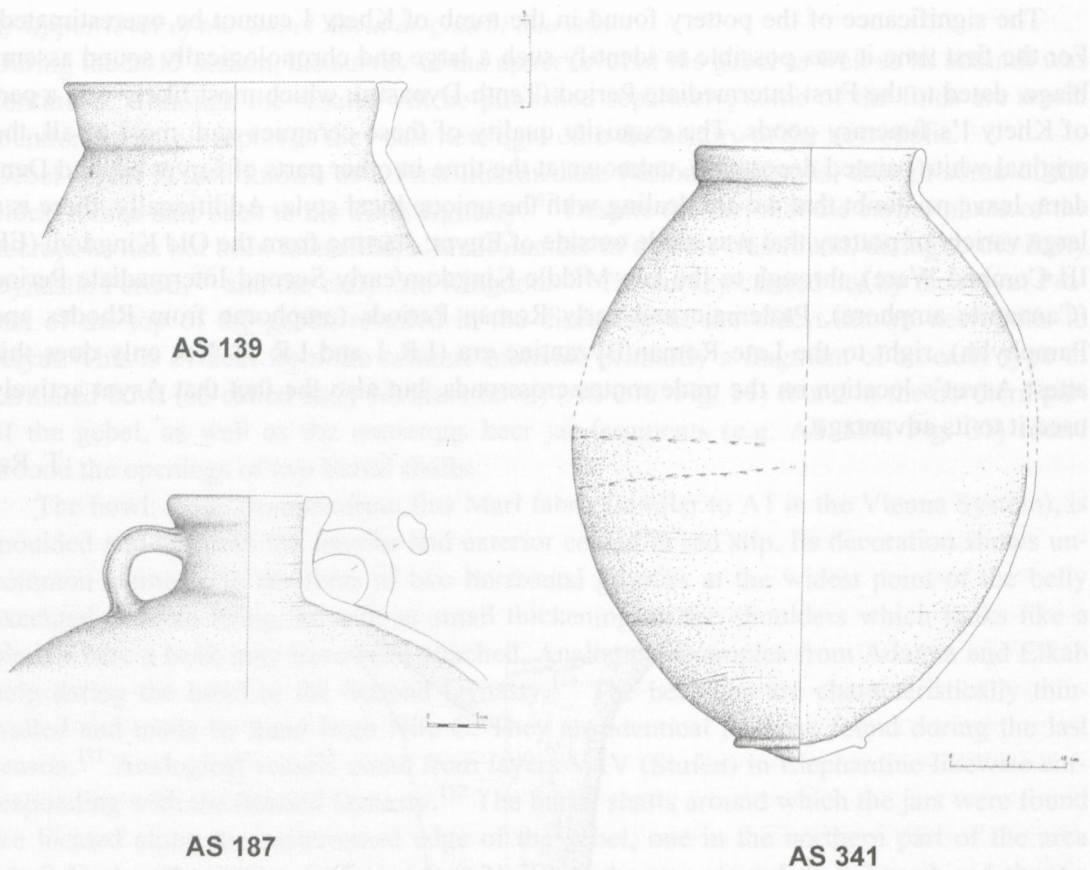
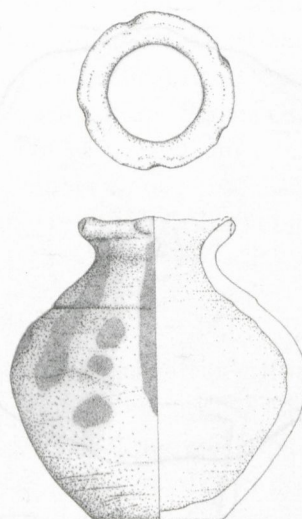


Fig. 23: Ceramics from Tomb III (N12.1) representing different periods:

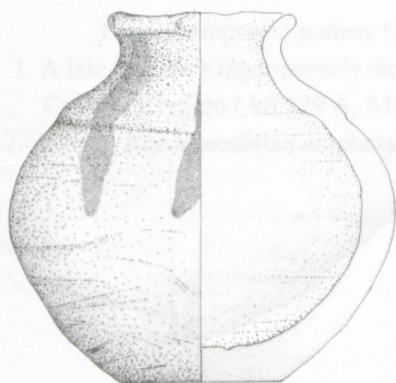
1. Rim of a large Marl C2 jar dated to the late Thirteenth-beginning of the Fifteenth Dynasty (AS 139, S04/st393),
2. Rim of an early Roman imported amphora (AS 187, S04/st387),
3. A New Kingdom marl clay jar from Upper Egypt (AS 341, S04/st1, 21, 70, 101).



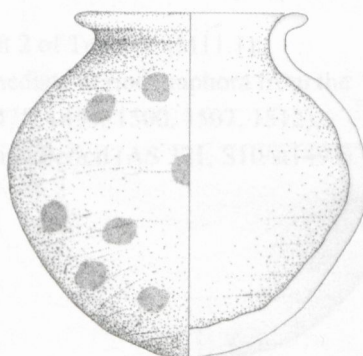
AS 73



AS 75



AS 72



AS 141

Fig. 24: Small juglets from the late First Intermediate Period (Tenth Dynasty) found in the inner hall of Tomb V (M11.1), bearing decoration characteristic for the period and region:

1. Impressed decoration in the form of minuscule half-circles on the shoulders (AS 73, S11/5),
2. White-painted decoration in the form of vertical lines running from the rim to the lower part of the belly, with dots in between (AS 75, S11/4),
3. White-painted decoration of vertical lines running from the rim to the lower part of the belly (AS 72, S11/6),
4. White-painted dotted decoration (AS 141, S11/12).

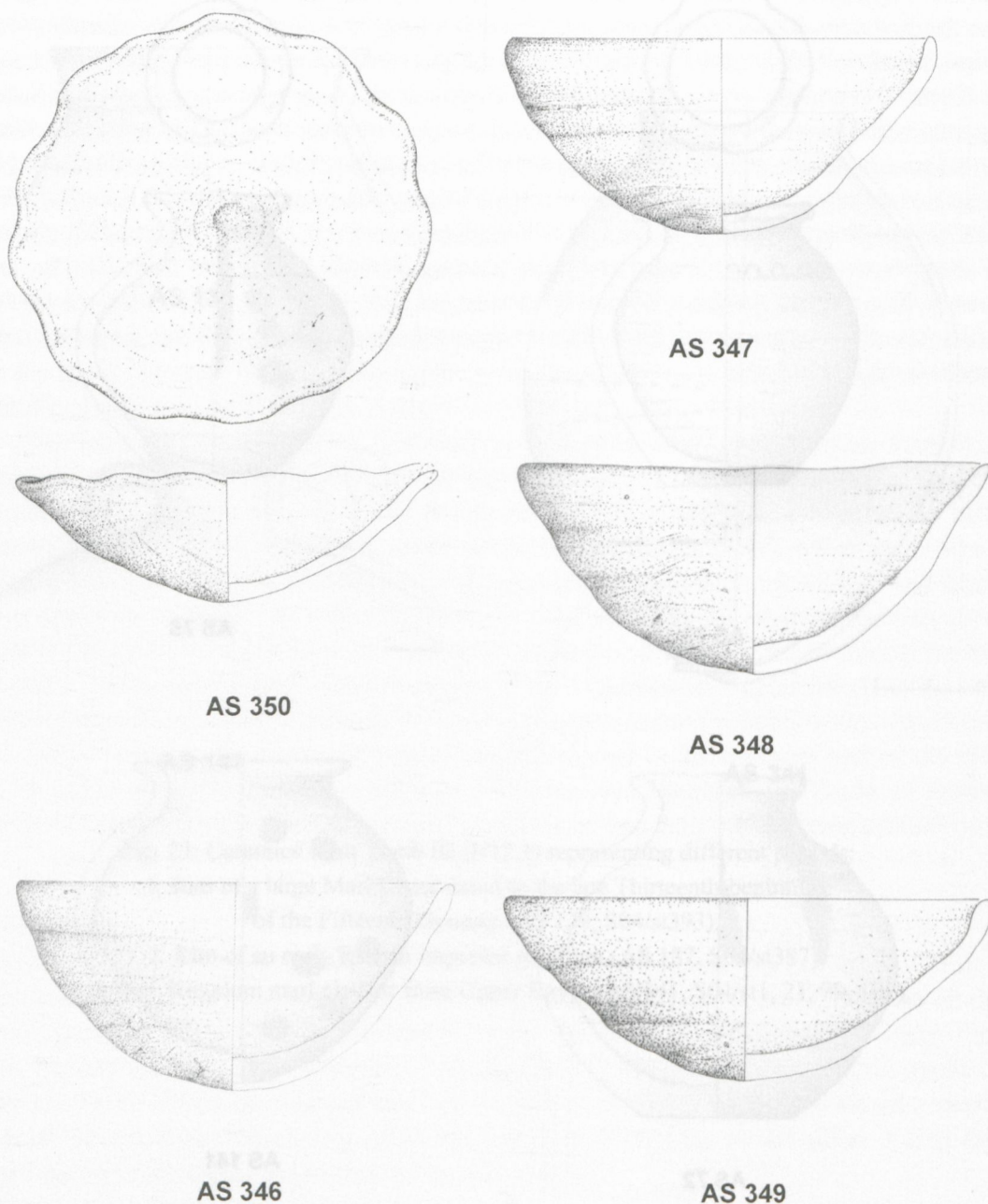


Fig. 25: Selected ceramics from the funerary deposit found in the inner hall of Tomb V (M11.1), dated to the late First Intermediate Period (Tenth Dynasty): bowl with a wavy rim (AS 350, S11/28) and four out of seven bowls (AS 346, S11/28; AS 347, S11/29; AS 348, S11/30; AS 349, S11/31).

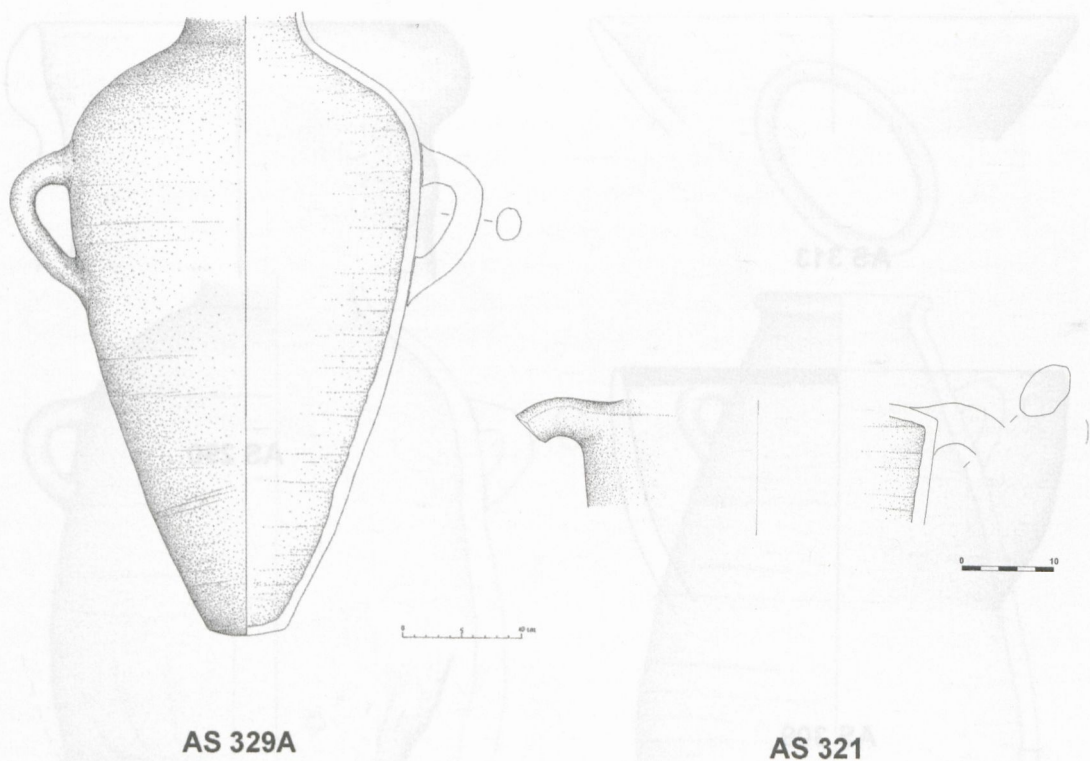


Fig. 26: Imported pottery found in shaft 2 of Tomb V (M11.1):

- 1. A late Middle Kingdom/early Second Intermediate Period amphora from the Canaanite region (AS 329 A, S10/st1507, 1475, 1493, 1500, 1507, 1512),
- 2. An Iron Age Phoenician amphora of the Persian Period (AS 321, S10/st1493).

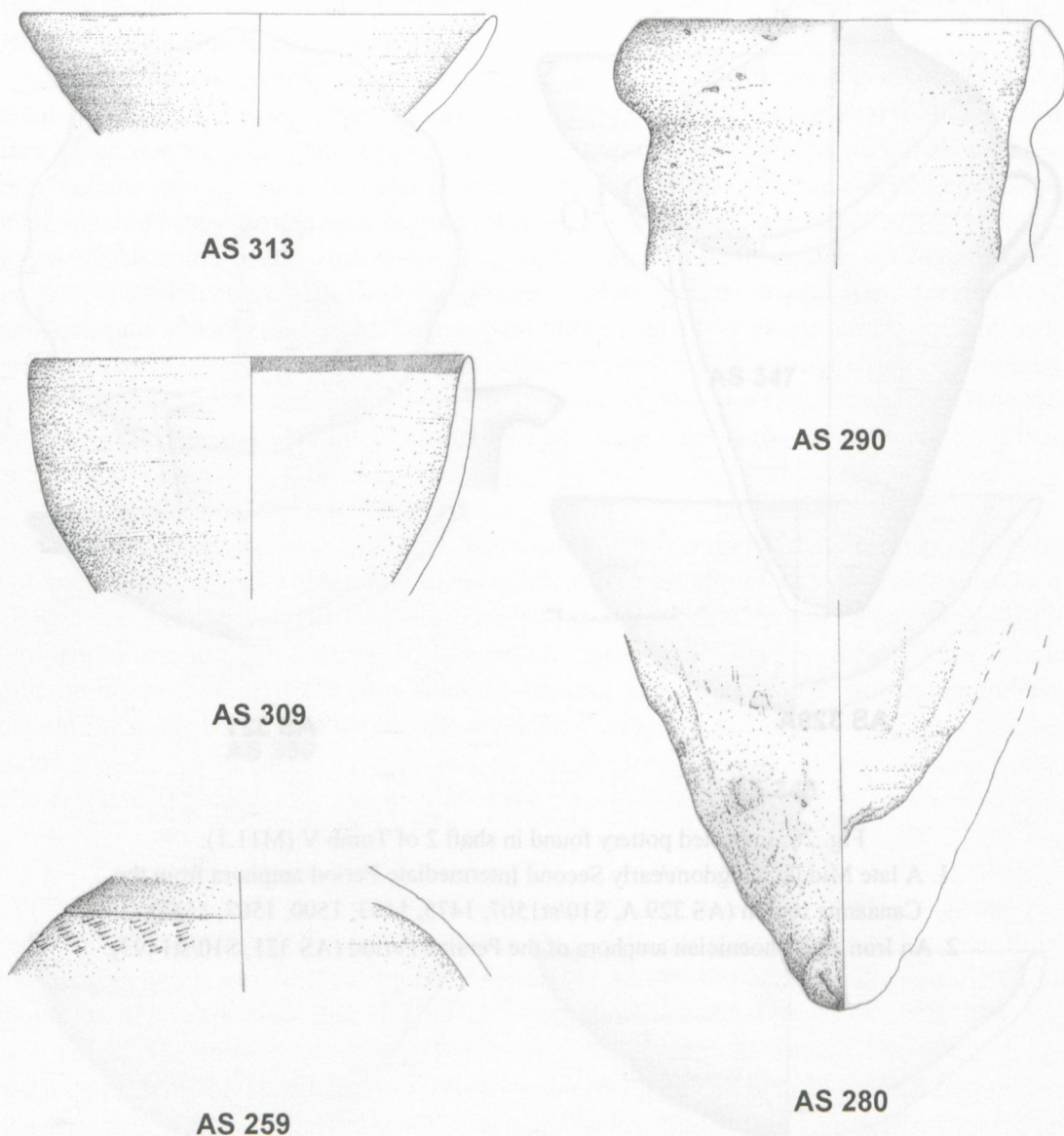


Fig. 27: Ceramics from shaft 2 of Tomb V (M11.1):

1. A late First Intermediate Period bowl (AS 313, S10/st588),
2. A late Twelfth/Thirteenth Dynasty hemispherical cup with a characteristic red-painted rim (AS 309, S10/st1500),
3. Shoulders of a small jug with incised decoration of late First Intermediate Period - early Middle Kingdom (AS 259, S10/st1507),
4. Rim of a beer jar, late Twelfth/early Thirteenth Dynasty (AS 290, S10/st1512),
5. Base of an early Old Kingdom jar (AS 280, S10/st1414).

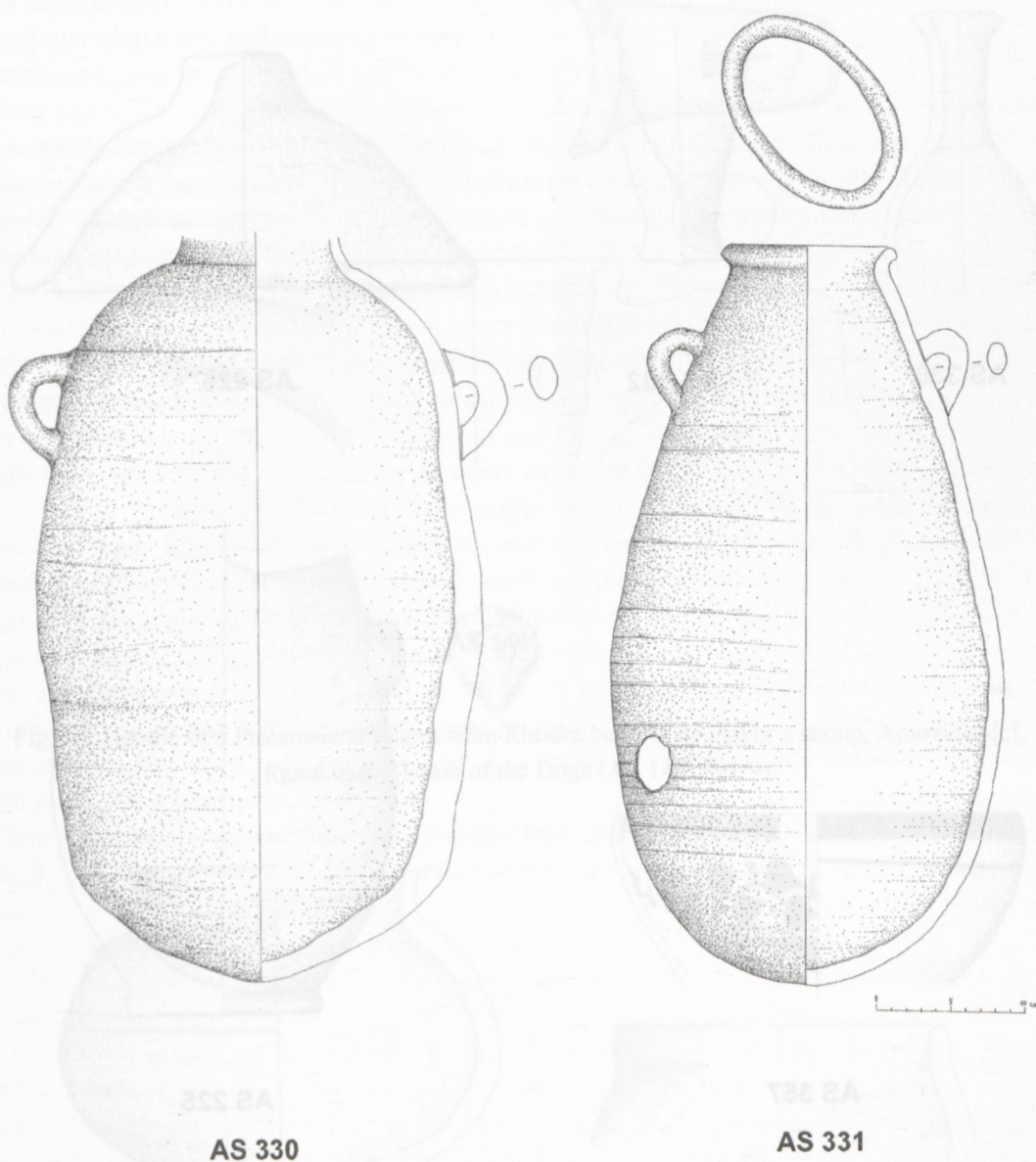


Fig. 28: Two large jars dated to the Late Period found in the Tomb of the Dogs (AS 330, S11/st666; AS 331, S11/st665).

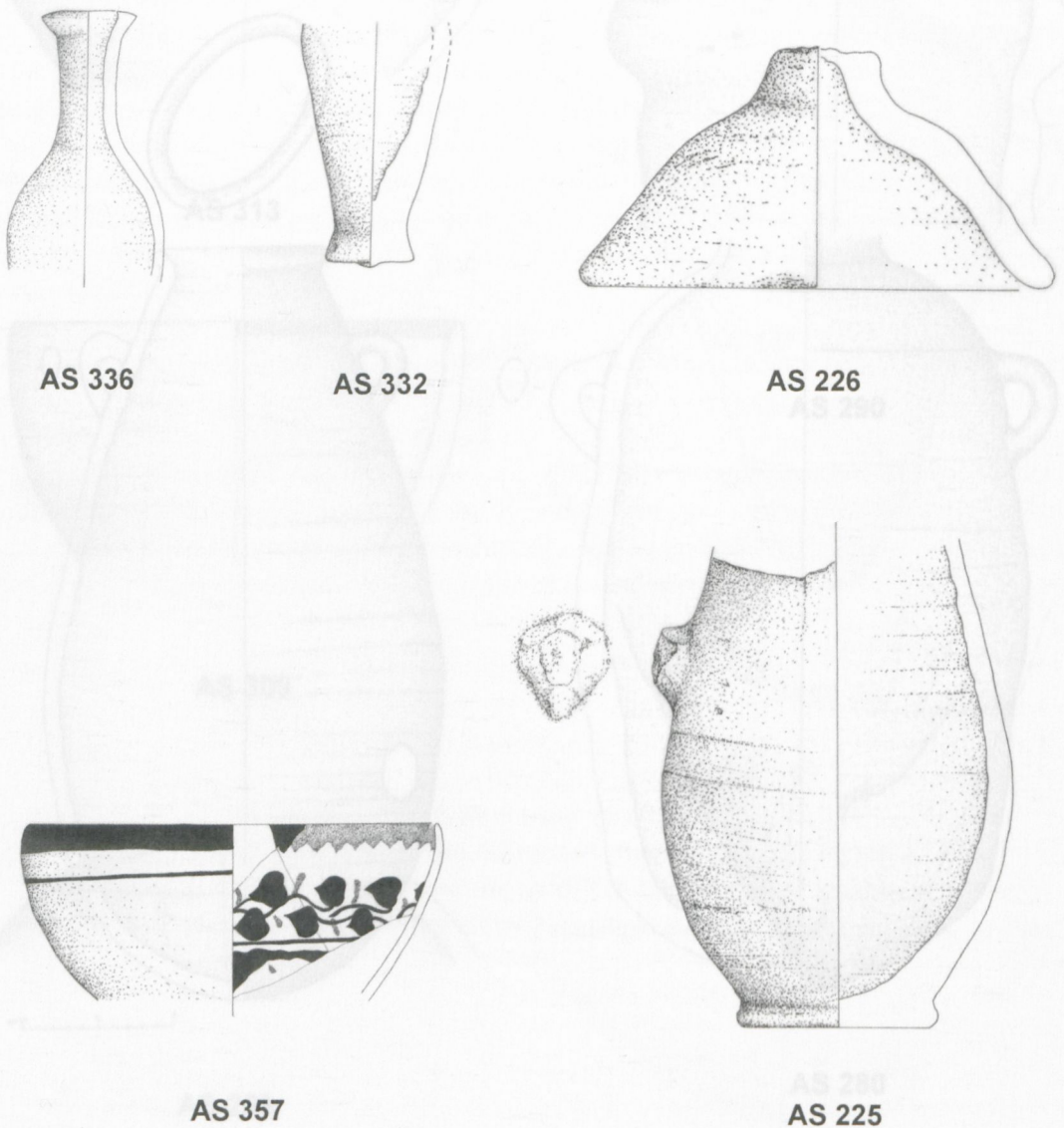


Fig. 29: Pottery from the Tomb of the Dogs and the area around:

- 1.-2. Ptolemaic unguentaria (AS 336, S09/st336; AS 332, S09/st1182),
3. Small early Roman bowl with a painted floral decoration (AS 357, S08/st850).
4. Ceramic set of Late Period comprising a small lid (AS 226, S11/22A) and a juglet (AS 225, S11/22).

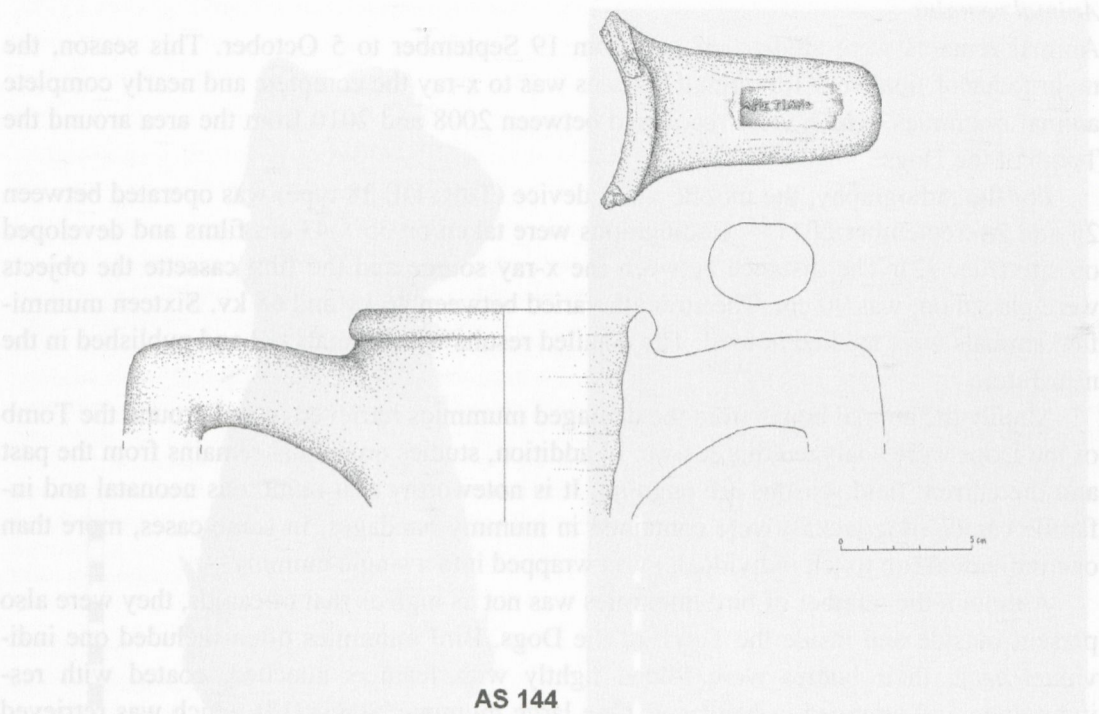


Fig. 30: Handle of a Ptolemaic amphora from Rhodes bearing its maker's stamp, Ἀριστίωνο[ς], found in the Tomb of the Dogs (AS 144, S11/9).

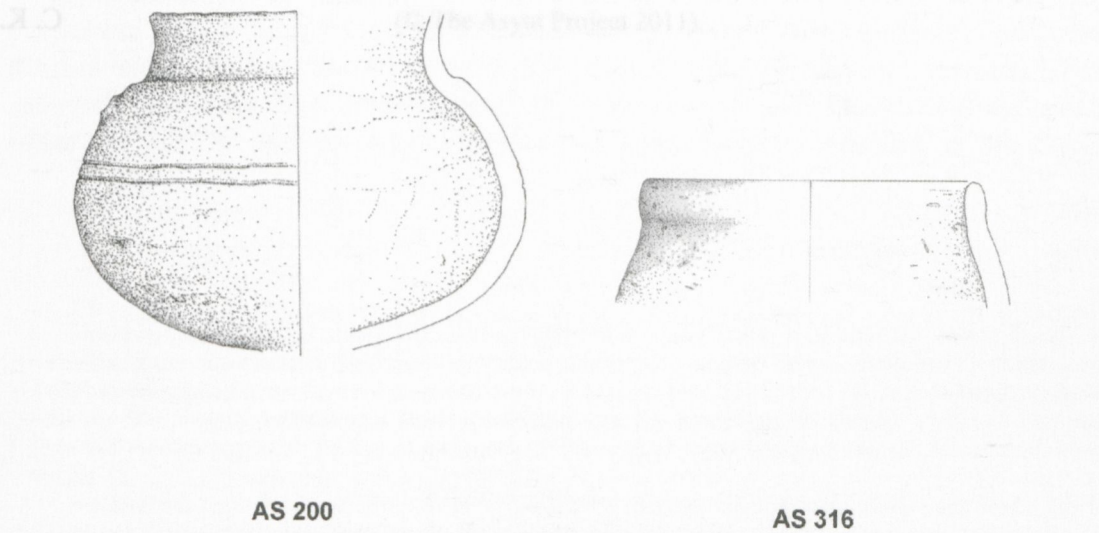


Fig. 31: Pottery retrieved during the survey in the upper levels of the northern part of Gebel Asyut al-gharbi: 1. Archaic Meidum(?) bowl (AS 200, S11/st601), 2. Rim of an Archaic-early Old Kingdom beer jar (AS 316, S10/st1179).

Animal remains

Animal remains were studied on site from 19 September to 5 October. This season, the main focus of fieldwork for animal remains was to x-ray the complete and nearly complete animal mummies, which were recovered between 2008 and 2010 from the area around the Tomb of the Dogs.

For the radiography, the mobile x-ray device (TuR: DE 38 type) was operated between 25 and 28 September 2011.¹¹⁴ Radiographs were taken on 35 x 43 cm films and developed on site (Fig. 32). The distance between the x-ray source and the film cassette the objects were placed on, was 90 cm. The strength varied between 46 kv and 68 kv. Sixteen mummified animals were studied in total. The detailed results will be analyzed and published in the near future.

Mainly the animal bones from the damaged mummies retrieved in and around the Tomb of the Dogs were analyzed this season. In addition, studies on animal remains from the past and the current field seasons are ongoing. It is noteworthy that numerous neonatal and infantile canids (dog/jackal) were contained in mummy bandages. In some cases, more than one individual (up to ten individuals) was wrapped into a single mummy.

Although the number of bird mummies was not as high as that of canids, they were also present outside and inside the Tomb of the Dogs. Bird mummies often included one individual each, their bodies were folded tightly with feathers attached, coated with resin/bitumen and wrapped in bandages. One large mummy (S08/st813) which was retrieved outside of the Tomb of the Dogs, however, contained an infant cat, two neonatal dogs and 12 birds, mostly consisting of different sizes of birds of prey. Unlike other bird mummies, only remnants of soft tissue and skin with very few bird feathers were observed in this bandage. It is not yet clear whether these different types of mummies originated from different periods or were contemporary, but with different mummification techniques applied.

C. K.

¹¹⁴ X-ray machine was operated by Attiya Soliman (Horus Radiology Centre in Helwan) and Tarek Abdel-Alla Mohamed (accompanying inspector, Ministry of State for Antiquities).

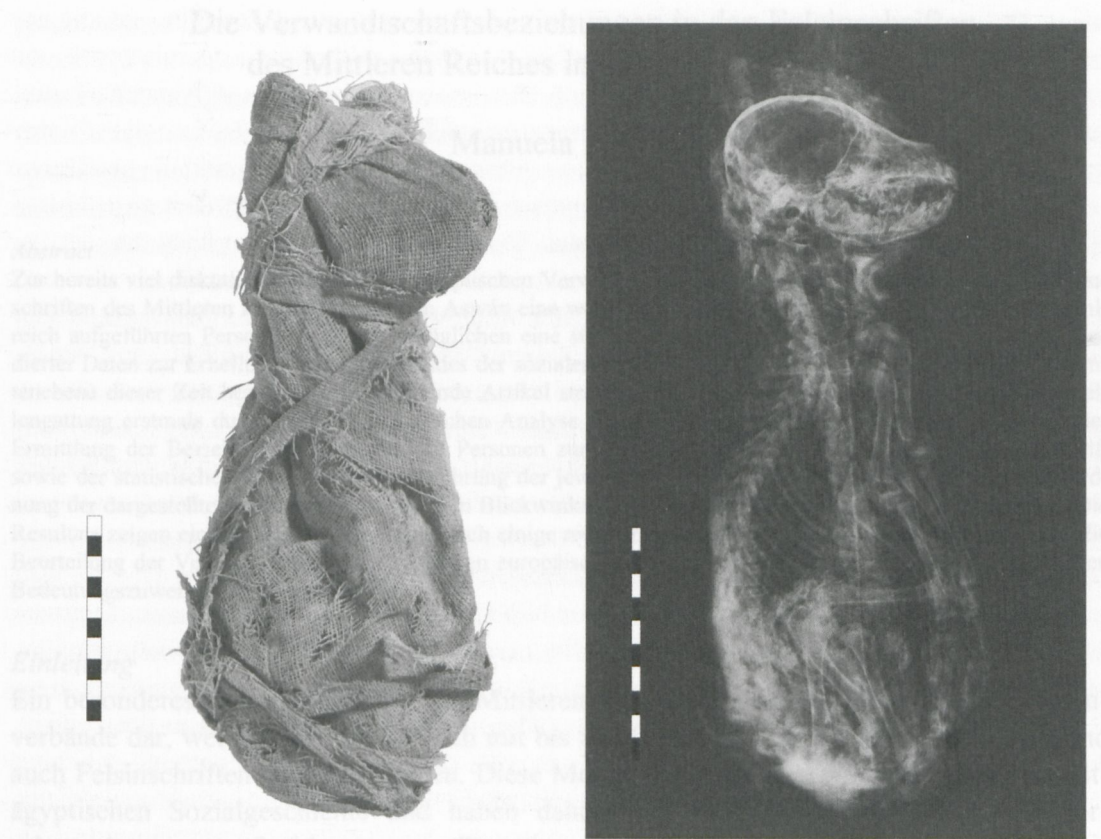


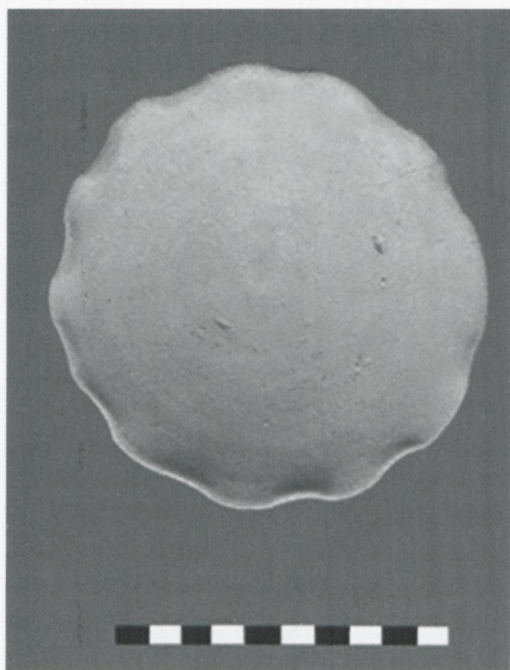
Fig. 32: Dog mummy (S09/st175), photograph (left) and radiograph image (right)
(© The Asyut Project 2011).



a: Tomb H11.1, part of a lintel mentioning the name Djefai-Hapi
(© The Asyut Project 2011).



b: Tomb H11.1, Coffin-inlay in the form of an eye
(© The Asyut Project 2011).



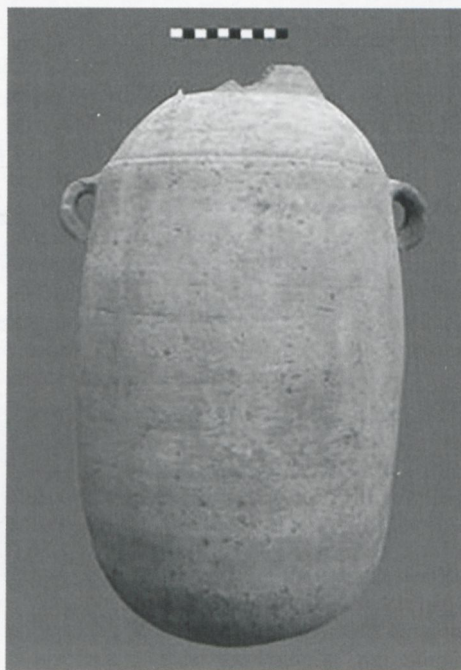
a: Small bowl (AS 350, S11/32) from the funerary deposit found in the inner hall of Tomb V (M11.1).



b: A late Middle Kingdom/early Second Intermediate Period amphora from the Canaan region (AS 329 A, S10/st1507, 1475, 1493, 1500, 1507, 1512), found in burial chamber of the shaft 2 of Tomb V (M11.1).



c: Handle of a Ptolemaic amphora from Rhodes bearing its maker's stamp, Ἀριστίωνο[ς], found in the Tomb of the Dogs (AS 144, S11/9).



d: A Late Period storage vessel from the Tomb of the Dogs (AS 330, S11/st666).