

## CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE

# KUSHITE POTTERY FROM THE TOMB OF KARAKHAMUN:

## TOWARDS A RECONSTRUCTION OF THE USE OF POTTERY IN TWENTY-FIFTH DYNASTY TEMPLE TOMBS

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**Abstract:** This paper presents the first results after two seasons of recording the pottery from TT 223 in 2011 and 2012. The ceramics from the burial compartment of Karakhamun were of prime interest and have been studied in detail. Despite the mixed appearance of the material, a small quantity of vessels probably once belonged to the original burial equipment. Some are imported Kushite vessels, attesting to the indigenous tradition of Karakhamun within his Egyptian temple-tomb.

The study of Kushite pottery in Egypt is still an essentially unknown field. This has two main reasons: 1) Despite recent advances, Egyptian pottery of the period of the Twenty-fifth Dynasty is not yet well understood<sup>1</sup> making distinguishing between Kushite and Egyptian material difficult. 2) Pottery from both the so-called ancestor cemetery at el-Kurru and Twenty-fifth Dynasty contexts in modern Sudan has not yet been studied in detail and within Kushite contexts.<sup>2</sup> Many scholars have referred to Egyptian

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\* During my work at TT 223 as part of the Egyptian-American mission of the South Asasif Conservation Project in 2012 I am grateful for the assistance of Federica Facchetti (University of Pisa), Veronica Hinterhuber, Nicole Mosiniak, and Julia Preisigke (all Humboldt University Berlin); for the possibility to combine this research with my participation in the "Osiriskult-Projekt" at Abydos, which provides important Kushite links to Thebes, many thanks go to the German Archaeological Institute Cairo and especially to Ute and Andreas Effland.

<sup>1</sup> Aston 1996a; Aston 1996b; Aston 2009; Budka 2010c. Cf. also studies on new material from Karnak: Masson 2011a; Sullivan 2011; Boulet and Deferenz 2012; Sullivan 2013, 76–143, 169–239; Boulet and Defernez in this volume.

<sup>2</sup> Budka forthcoming b. Cf. the recent overview by Lohwasser 2012, 204–206.

parallels, resulting in a circular reasoning as far as the dating and character of the ceramics are concerned.<sup>3</sup>

Recent archaeological fieldwork at Egyptian sites like Thebes and Abydos has produced new and significant material from the Twenty-fifth Dynasty, including indigenous Kushite vessels.<sup>4</sup> Material unearthed at Thebes in the South Asasif necropolis, especially in the tomb of Karakhamun (TT 223), is of particular interest, coming from an elite context of a Kushite official buried in Egypt.<sup>5</sup>

Two seasons of recording the pottery from TT 223 have been carried out in 2011 and 2012.<sup>6</sup> The main aims were establishing the dating of the ceramics and gaining insights into the complex use-life of the tomb.<sup>7</sup> The ceramics from the burial compartment (area X) were of prime interest and have been studied in detail. Within an assemblage of mixed ceramics, attesting the multiple robberies of the tomb chamber, a small quantity of Twenty-fifth Dynasty vessels was identified that probably belonged to the original burial equipment of Karakhamun. Most interesting within this small pottery corpus are vessels which are not found among typical Egyptian tomb groups of the Twenty-fifth Dynasty. Because of parallels from Kush and Kushite contexts at Thebes, it is reasonable to assume that these vessels from TT 223 are imports, attesting to the indigenous tradition of Karakhamun within his Egyptian temple-tomb.<sup>8</sup> In order to contextualise this material, the paper discusses the use of pottery in Kushite tombs both in Egypt and Kush in modern Sudan.

## The Ceramics from TT 223: General Remarks

Because of the history of both ancient and modern reuse, the ceramics of TT 223 are very mixed in character.<sup>9</sup> In 2012, with excavation work focus-

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., Vincentelli 2006 (referring primarily to Aston 1999). Cf. Budka 2012c, 223, n. 7; Budka forthcoming a; Budka forthcoming b, with further references.

<sup>4</sup> For Thebes, see Budka 2010a, 211–213, 345, fig. 141; Budka 2010b, 32–34; Budka 2010d, 507; Sullivan 2013. For Abydos, see Aston 1996b; Budka 2010b, 55–58; Budka 2010c, 45–46, 50–51, 53–54.

<sup>5</sup> See Budka forthcoming a.

<sup>6</sup> For general information about the recent excavations see Pischikova forthcoming.

<sup>7</sup> Cf. studies undertaken for tombs in the Northern Asasif, e.g., Budka 2008; Budka 2010a, 373–431; Budka 2010c.

<sup>8</sup> For Kushite ceramics imported to Egypt, see Budka and Kammerzell 2007, 172; Budka 2010a, 197, 345, fig. 141, 583–585; Budka 2010d, 507, fig. 3, 514.

<sup>9</sup> See in more detail Budka forthcoming a.

ing on the open courtyard, looking for Kushite pottery within tons of mixed and mostly Coptic to recent material was a real search for a needle in a haystack. A total of 1,807 sherds from this area have been analysed thus far and only one small fragment of a Twenty-fifth Dynasty storage jar<sup>10</sup> was observed as the single diagnostic piece from the original phase of the tomb among the ceramics excavated in the courtyard.

The majority of the pottery from the 2012 excavation season in TT 223 clearly points to a domestic use of the tomb of Karakhamun in the Late-Roman, Coptic, and Islamic times. Large numbers of modern pottery vessels, especially *zir* vessels, *qadus*, and cooking pots, reveal aspects of the recent history of the Twenty-fifth Dynasty monument in connection with the Abd el-Rasul family.<sup>11</sup>

Apart from Coptic and modern ceramics, the peak of pottery presence in the studied material from TT 223 is clearly the early Ptolemaic Period. This is unsurprising within the Theban necropolis: the reuse of monumental temple-tombs flourished especially during the fourth and third centuries BC.<sup>12</sup> Large numbers of small votive dishes and incense cups as well as ensembles of pot stands and round-based elongated jars find many parallels in other Theban tombs, for example the tomb of Ankhhor (TT 414).<sup>13</sup>

Some pottery relates to burials of the Saite Period, and a Persian embalming cache including Chiotic and Phoenician amphorae is attested,<sup>14</sup> finding parallels at Thebes and Saqqara.<sup>15</sup> The presence of material from the fifth century BC (Persian Period) in TT 223 is remarkable, particularly as this phase is still not well understood in Theban funerary archaeology.<sup>16</sup> Altogether, relevant material for the original phase of use of TT 223 derived primarily from shafts and subterranean chambers.

<sup>10</sup> A rim sherd belonging to type 157 of Aston (2009, 325, 344, fig. 36). See also Sullivan 2013, 236 [vessel type 22].

<sup>11</sup> For a good overview of modern vessel types, see Redmount 2002. For the recent history of TT 223, see Pischikova in this volume; Ikram in this volume.

<sup>12</sup> Budka 2010a, 358–364; Budka 2010e, 57 with further literature.

<sup>13</sup> Bietak and Reiser-Haslauer 1978, 150–151; Budka 2008, 78–79, fig. 15; Budka 2009, 86, fig. 17.

<sup>14</sup> See Budka forthcoming a. For Late Period embalming caches, see Budka 2006; Aston 2011; Budka forthcoming c.

<sup>15</sup> Cf. e.g., Budka 2010a, 425–426, 449–450; Budka forthcoming a. For Saqqara, see most recently Aston and Aston 2010, 27–59; Aston 2011.

<sup>16</sup> Cf. Budka 2010a, 356–358, with further references.

## Twenty-fifth Dynasty Pottery from the Burial Compartment

A total of 35 pieces found in the main burial compartment can be associated with the primary use of TT 223 during Kushite times.<sup>17</sup> This material is of high interest, as it is very distinctive and markedly different from what we know from contemporaneous tombs in the Northern Asasif.<sup>18</sup> A small amount of the material falls into well-known Egyptian types of the Twenty-fifth Dynasty, for example, the common beakers with a flat base and a conical shape (figs. 25-1c-d).<sup>19</sup> Several lower parts have survived from TT 223, but none complete (nrs. P2011.7.1, P2011.19, and P2011.139.1). These cups or beakers very often show traces of burning and it is safe to assume that within the funerary context they were used as incense burners.<sup>20</sup>

Another characteristic type of the period is a globular jar with a straight, medium high neck.<sup>21</sup> Two fragments from TT 223 were found, covered with a red wash (nrs. P2011.58.2 and P2011.58.3, figs. 25-1a-b). Such vessels are well attested from settlement contexts and functioned as containers.<sup>22</sup>

So-called sausage jars are eminent from Egyptian burials of the Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth Dynasties,<sup>23</sup> with several variants notable in TT 223. The dating of these Nile clay vessels is not always straight-

<sup>17</sup> This is 1.9% from a total of 1,805 sherds from the burial compartment. Cf. Budka forthcoming a, table 1.

<sup>18</sup> See, e.g., material from the tomb of Harwa (TT 37), Laemmel 2013. One has to stress that the understanding of the pottery from the original phase of use of the Asasif elite tombs is still very limited.

<sup>19</sup> Aston 1996a, 73, fig. 217c-e; Aston 2009, 323, 329 [type 55]. For this type from Karnak, see Masson 2011a, 271-272, figs. 13, 17; Boulet & Deferenz 2012, 5 with parallels, fig. F; Sullivan 2013, 210 [type I].

<sup>20</sup> Seiler 2003, 363-364, fig. 18; Budka 2010a, 211 with n. 1061; Masson 2011a, 271-272.

<sup>21</sup> Aston 2009, 323, 330 [type 59]. Cf. Sullivan 2013, 191-192 [type 18], 231.

<sup>22</sup> Aston 1999, 170-172 [nrs. 1588-1595], pls. 50-51.

<sup>23</sup> Aston 1996a, 76, fig. 221c; Aston 2003, 152, fig. 10; Rose 2003, 204, fig. 1; Seiler 2003, 364-366; Aston 2009, 324 [types 124-126], 334-335, figs. 26-27; Budka 2010a, 213-215, fig. 81; Sullivan 2013, 192-193 [type 19], 233. For attestations of this vessel type within embalming caches, see Budka 2006, 92, fig. 6a.

forward; differences in proportions and ware are notable. The attribution of nr. P2011.137 to the Twenty-fifth Dynasty remains tentative.<sup>24</sup>

The fragment of a Nile silt hole-mouth jar nr. P2011.58.1 is unclear in its dating and attribution (fig. 25-4a). It was found in Karakhamun's burial chamber and an association with the primary burial of TT 223 is possible, but not certain.

The Marl clay rim fragment nr. P2011.5 of a storage vessel (fig. 25-3c) is comparable to Aston's type 135.<sup>25</sup> Other Marl clay vessels are also attested in small numbers in TT 223, most of them belonging to closed shapes. The rim sherd nr. P2011.63 from the burial chamber falls into type 159 of Aston, which is known to continue into the Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh Dynasties.<sup>26</sup> His type 157,<sup>27</sup> commonly found in contexts of the Twenty-fifth Dynasty,<sup>28</sup> with an equally ribbed body is also present in TT 223 (e.g. nr. P2011.158 from the open courtyard, fig. 25-3a), but was not documented within the burial compartment.

The next group, round based slender beakers with direct rims, is included in Aston's typology, but such vessels are particularly rare in Egyptian contexts.<sup>29</sup> The standard Egyptian beaker of this period has a slightly pointed base, a much larger mouth diameter, and therefore different proportions.<sup>30</sup> As can be shown with exact parallels from Kush, the round based slender variant is a Nubian drinking vessel (see below).<sup>31</sup> Such beakers appear in TT 223 both as red burnished (nr. P2011.26.2, fig. 25-4c) and as Marl clay variants (nr. P2011.27, fig. 25-4d) and were clearly not produced in Egypt. Both variants of surface treatments and fabrics find parallels in Kush.<sup>32</sup> Apart from these round-based beakers, handmade

<sup>24</sup> Cf. Budka 2010a, 219. Two rim fragments from IV.N4 in TT 223 (nr. 2011.123.1–2) most probably date to the Twenty-fifth Dynasty, falling into Aston's type 125, see Aston 2009, 324.

<sup>25</sup> Aston 2009, 324–325 [type 135], fig. 32. See also Sullivan 2013, 191 [type 17.1], 230 (Stratum 2).

<sup>26</sup> Aston 2009, 325, fig. 37. see also Sullivan 2013, 195 [type 22.11], 236 (Stratum 1, Twenty-sixth to Twenty-seventh Dynasties). Cf. Masson 2011a, 272–273, figs. 20–27; Masson 2011b, 646–647 with further parallels.

<sup>27</sup> Aston 2009, 325, 344, fig. 36.

<sup>28</sup> E.g., at Elephantine and South Karnak, see Sullivan 2013, 236 [type 22].

<sup>29</sup> Aston 2009, 322 [types 39–40], fig. 21.

<sup>30</sup> See Aston 2009, 322 [types 30–38], figs. 20–21.

<sup>31</sup> Budka 2007a, 244; Budka 2010a, cat. 353, 583–585 with a list of parallels; Budka 2010d, 507, fig. 3.

<sup>32</sup> Red washed/burnished, e.g., Dunham 1950, 28, fig. 10b [nr. 19-3-50]; Vila 1980, 156–157 [type II-1A]; Vincentelli 2006, fig. 2.86 [nr. 564]; Lohwasser 2012,

household ware like cooking pots and bowls fired under reduced atmosphere (nrs. P2011.53 and P2011.54, fig. 25-4b) fall into the category of indigenous Kushite pottery from TT 223.<sup>33</sup> The fabric of these handmade vessels is different from Egyptian Nile silts, being less well sorted, more porous, and with much dung.<sup>34</sup>

As yet, no fine or medium black-topped vessels of typical Nubian style<sup>35</sup> have been documented from Karakhamun's tomb. However, a red ribble burnishing (fig. 25-2) also indicates a Napatan origin,<sup>36</sup> especially in combination with a soft silt fabric of high porosity as is the case for the carinated dish nr. P2011.57 (fig. 25-4e). Coming from the burial chamber, this open form finds no parallel in Egyptian tomb groups.<sup>37</sup>

### Twenty-fifth Dynasty Pottery from Other Areas of TT 223

Twenty-fifth Dynasty pottery was also documented outside of the burial compartment of Karakhamun, especially from the shafts just off the Second Pillared Hall (room V), mixed with Saite and Persian pottery and especially Ptolemaic pottery.<sup>38</sup>

The Twenty-fifth Dynasty ceramics include Kushite round-based beakers (nrs. P2011.26.2 and P2011.27, figs. 25-4c-d) and some Marl clay storage vessels (of Aston's type 157, see above) as well as a fragment of a small bottle of Oasis ware (nr. P2011.64). For the latter, a date of the Twenty-fifth Dynasty is supported by numerous parallels from Abydos and Karnak among other sites.<sup>39</sup> The small rim fragment nr. P2011.44.1 from shaft V.A1 belongs to a vessel in typical Napatan red ware (fig. 25-

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221, fig. 69 [type K]. Wheel-made caoline variant, e.g., Williams 1990, 8, note a. See also Budka 2010a, 197, 345.

<sup>33</sup> Finding parallels in Kush, for example, at Hillat el-Arab, see Vincentelli 2006, 46, fig. 2.28; and Sanam, see Lohwasser 2012, 224-225, fig. 71 [type M].

<sup>34</sup> Cf. Vincentelli 2006, 46 for a similar "silt tempered with cattle dung, following an old Nubian tradition".

<sup>35</sup> Cf. Williams 1990, 5.

<sup>36</sup> Cf. Vila 1980, 156-157; Williams 1990, 8.

<sup>37</sup> As yet, I was also unable to find a parallel in ancient Sudan (see, however, a similar type of burnished bowl, but with a different form of rim from Qustul, Williams 1990, fig. 26a). For now, the date of the piece from TT 223 must therefore remain uncertain; faded rope impressions at the carination suggest an Egyptian origin after all.

<sup>38</sup> Cf. Budka forthcoming a.

<sup>39</sup> Aston 1996b, fig. 3 [type 14]; Budka 2010c, 51 with n. 158. See also Sullivan 2013, 222 [types 7-8 to 7-11].

3b)—the ware and the shape are both non Egyptian, but find parallels in Kush (see below). The beakers with a ledged base are also present: nr. P2011.7.1 from V (fig. 25-1e) and nrs. P2011.29.1–2 from V.B1 are dateable to the Twenty-fifth Dynasty.<sup>40</sup>

## The Kushite Pottery of TT 223 in Context

Pottery of the Twenty-fifth Dynasty coming from the burial chambers of Egyptian tombs shows some innovations: shapes like the footed beaker appear for the first time during Kushite rule and later become standardised during the Twenty-sixth Dynasty.<sup>41</sup> The Marl clay vessels like Aston's type 157, another novelty of the Twenty-fifth Dynasty, show an evolution until Ptolemaic times.<sup>42</sup> The deep grooves on the exterior of these vessels are marks of a new technological feature.<sup>43</sup> Such storage jars are attested in Lower and Upper Egypt as well as in Sudan.<sup>44</sup> Their body may vary from bag-shaped to longitudinal; a shoulder formed by a sharp edge usually separates the rim from the body.<sup>45</sup> According to the Marl clay fabric (Marl A 4, variant 2), they were probably produced in the Theban region<sup>46</sup>, but no workshops have yet been found.<sup>47</sup>

Altogether, our knowledge about Kushite pottery and its character is still very limited and closely dateable contexts are the exception.<sup>48</sup> Noteworthy is an *in situ* find within tomb VII of the Austrian concession in the

<sup>40</sup> Cf. numerous fragments at Umm el-Qa'ab, see Budka 2010c, 46, fig. 26 [types BK 500–511]. See also Boulet and Defernez in this volume, fig. 1 [N].

<sup>41</sup> Budka 2010a, 211; Budka 2010b, 32. See also Aston 1996a, 75, fig. 219c.

<sup>42</sup> Aston 2007, 427, fig. 5; Masson 2011a, figs. 20–27.

<sup>43</sup> Cf. Masson 2011b, 648. See also Boulet and Deferenz in this volume.

<sup>44</sup> For parallels from Napatan cemeteries, see Vincentelli Liverani 1997, 122 (Hillat el-Arab, el-Kurru, Missiminia, and Qustul).

<sup>45</sup> See, e.g., Vila 1980, 161, fig. 184 [type III-5]; Vincentelli Liverani 1997, 122, fig. 3.8; Vincentelli 2006, 48 [nr. 166], fig. 2.29; Lohwasser 2012, 211, fig. 63 [type C], with a very close parallel from the Ptah Temple at Karnak, Boulet and Deferenz 2012, 1–2, fig. E. This type is also well attested at Abydos/Umm el-Qa'ab (personal observation, publication in preparation).

<sup>46</sup> Cf. Aston 1999, 186, pl. 156. See also Vincentelli 2006, 48.

<sup>47</sup> Much potential lies here in the research conducted by Stéphanie Boulet, doctoral student at Free University Brussels (see her joint contribution with Defernez in this volume). She spoke about Kushite pottery in Sudan and Egypt in a paper held at a Round Table discussion in Lille, September 2013.

<sup>48</sup> Cf. Budka 2010d. See also above and Boulet and Defernez in this volume.

Northern Asasif.<sup>49</sup> Within this small Kushite family tomb, the pottery beaker reg. 306, A1998 was discovered in the interior of an infant's coffin,<sup>50</sup> finding close parallels in all important Kushite sites in Sudan.<sup>51</sup> Within Egypt this type of beaker is restricted to Kushite contexts—to the tomb of Karakhamun in addition to the funerary chapel of Amenirdis at Medinet Habu.<sup>52</sup> Reg. 306 from tomb VII is a Kushite Marl clay variant.<sup>53</sup> More common for this type of vessel are red burnished Nile silt fabrics, especially at sites in ancient Sudan.<sup>54</sup> It is significant that in TT 223 both groups of these wares of Kushite beakers have been documented, from the burial compartment of Karakhamun and also the shafts in room V (see above and figs. 25-4c-d).

If we consider the complete set of ceramics from TT 223, thus including also the non-Egyptian pottery, the best parallels are found in Karakhamun's old homeland, present Sudan, for example at Hillat el-Arab,<sup>55</sup> Qustul,<sup>56</sup> and at the royal cemetery at el-Kurru.<sup>57</sup> The middle class cemetery at Sanam and the site of Kawa provide equivalents as well.<sup>58</sup>

Similar to TT 223, these Napatan burials display a thought-provoking mixture of both traditions: Egyptian Marl clay storage vessels are well attested, but indigenous, locally made ceramic vessels, especially drinking vessels and cooking ware, as well as different jars complement the assemblage. Remarkable is the fact that the long lasting Nubian tradition of depositing cooking vessels as burial gifts<sup>59</sup> is also found within Egyptian monumental tomb architecture. This contrasts considerably from the main Egyptian tradition of equipping the dead with storage vessels holding

<sup>49</sup> Budka 2007a; Budka 2010a, 583–585; Budka 2010d, 507.

<sup>50</sup> Budka and Kammerzell 2007, 170–172; Budka 2010a, 344–346; Budka 2010d, 507.

<sup>51</sup> Especially at Missiminia, Qustul, Sanam, Hillat el-Arab, el-Kurru, and Nuri; see Budka 2010a, 583–585. For settlement contexts at Kerma, see Mohamed Ahmed 1992, 60, fig. 23.

<sup>52</sup> Hölscher 1954, 74, pl. 47 [x 4]; Budka 2010a, 583.

<sup>53</sup> For this fabric, see Budka 2010a, 197. Cf. also Aston 2009, 319 with reference to the then unpublished identification by Budka as Kushite ware.

<sup>54</sup> For parallels to these Nile silt versions, see, e.g., Williams 1990, pl. 7a–c (Qustul); Welsby 2008, 38, pl. 12 (Kawa); Lohwasser 2012, 220–223, fig. 69 [type K] (Sanam).

<sup>55</sup> Vincentelli Liverani 1997, fig. 3; Vincentelli 2006, 49–50 and *passim*.

<sup>56</sup> E.g., Williams 1990, 54, fig. 2, 70, fig. 21.

<sup>57</sup> Cf. Heidorn 1994, 115–131; Budka forthcoming b.

<sup>58</sup> Sanam: Lohwasser 2012, 199–234; Budka 2012c, 221; Kawa: Welsby 2008.

<sup>59</sup> See, e.g., Gratién 2000; Lohwasser 2012, 200 [type J, cooking pots without traces of use].



provisions,<sup>60</sup> but finds a parallel in the Kushite infant burial within tomb VII in the Northern Asasif. Like in this case, the Kushite beakers from TT 223 seem to attest to specific Kushite aspects of burial pottery. This type of beaker is very common in Kush, in different social strata, not only in royal contexts, but also in simple non-elite burials such as Qustul.<sup>61</sup> Here it appears together with a Napatan red ware jar, reflecting the findings in TT 223 with nr. P2011.44.1.<sup>62</sup> While the latter does not find a close parallel in the Egyptian vessel corpus, the Kushite cups and beakers are well-known from Egyptian contexts in slightly different shapes. It is therefore highly significant that Kushites buried in Egypt did not simply use this Egyptian equivalent or adapted the vessel type according to their preference, but that they used authentic vessels which had to be imported from Kush. Here it might be relevant that some kind of special native function of Nubian style vessels like the black-topped and red rimmed beakers could have existed also at Napatan cemeteries, as Lohwasser has recently assumed.<sup>63</sup>

For contexts in Egypt it is obvious that the Kushite beaker as a drinking vessel differs from the typical types of funerary pottery of Late Period Thebes, which primarily functioned as containers for provisions.<sup>64</sup> The only exception from the container purpose is the footed beaker, discussed above, which was used as an incense burner. It is noteworthy that incense burners have a similar long lasting tradition in Kush as in Egypt,<sup>65</sup> but that in TT 223 only Egyptian types of burners have been found. These ritual vessels are therefore no identity markers, but relate to their context of deposition.

## Conclusion

To conclude, I think we can differentiate three main groups within the Twenty-fifth Dynasty ceramics of TT 223. (1) The first group is Nubian in character: drinking vessels like the Kushite beakers and handmade bowls were imported from the old homeland—this seems to reflect that even high-status persons like Karakhamun were sticking to original traditions

<sup>60</sup> Cf. Rose 2003; Aston 2009, 321–348.

<sup>61</sup> Williams 1990, 54, fig. 2.

<sup>62</sup> Williams 1990, 70, fig. 21.

<sup>63</sup> Lohwasser 2012, 208 (with Sanam as case study).

<sup>64</sup> Cf. Budka 2010b, 34. Also in Kush the majority of funerary pottery falls into the category of containers for provisions, see Lohwasser 2012, 251–253.

<sup>65</sup> See Budka 2007b, 80, with parallels in note 35.

for eating and drinking, at least partly. It is unreasonable to assume that the Kushite beakers, bowls, and cooking pots were brought to Egypt to serve as burial equipment in the first place.<sup>66</sup> The two other groups of the ceramic corpus in TT 223 are Egyptian in character: (2) typical vessels as storage containers for provisions and (3) the well attested footed cups for incense burning, thus ritual activities.

All three groups are also attested in Egyptian burials of the Twenty-fifth Dynasty, but with a notable difference: drinking/eating vessels are rarely included and if so, they follow the Egyptian wheel-made tradition. All three groups are equally represented in Kush for Napatan burials, but again differing in one important aspect: incense burners follow the local, indigenous tradition and are never Egyptian in style.

In general, funerary customs in Kush as reflected by ceramics have been investigated by several authors trying to assess their cultural implications.<sup>67</sup> The case of the royal cemetery at el-Kurru can be used as an example to illustrate the adaption of Egyptian traditions and the development of a specific Napatan tradition with close links to Egypt.<sup>68</sup> The self-confidence and representation of the Kushites is exceptional for foreigners in Egypt.<sup>69</sup> An insistence on Kushite tradition is obvious, even when they took over largely Egyptian traditions and customs.<sup>70</sup> Their foreign descent was demonstrated openly, for example, by the fact that Kushites wear their indigenous costume in the Egyptian context.<sup>71</sup>

I believe that the composition of the ceramics in TT 223, here especially the presence of imported Kushite pottery, has a similar background. Such vessels have been used in Egypt for a bit of Kushite lifestyle abroad and were buried with their users as it was the custom at home. Similar to the royal tombs at el-Kurru and the famous painted burial chamber of Tantamani, Karakhamun displays an intriguing mixture in his tomb: of both Egyptian and Nubian elements he created something new—a Kushite monument.<sup>72</sup> The ceramics from his tombs are therefore tiny, but highly relevant and integral parts of this complex picture displaying the Kushite identity of Karakhamun in his function as an Egyptian official.

<sup>66</sup> For the specific function of such vessels in everyday life, see Seidlmayer 2002, 103.

<sup>67</sup> For a recent summary, see Budka forthcoming b. Cf. also Lohwasser 2012, 347.

<sup>68</sup> Cf. Lohwasser 2006; Budka forthcoming b.

<sup>69</sup> Cf. Lohwasser 2006; Budka 2012a.

<sup>70</sup> Cf. Török 2009, 304–309.

<sup>71</sup> Lohwasser 2006, 136; Hallmann 2007; Budka 2010a, 347, fig. 143. See also Leahy in this volume.

<sup>72</sup> Cf. Budka 2012a.

This paper hopes to have illustrated that the South Asasif necropolis holds rich potential for the study of the little-known pottery of the Twenty-fifth Dynasty. Future research will have to address the question of Kushite indigenous pottery at Thebes further. A comparison of the material from TT 223 with ceramics from the tomb of Karabasken (TT 391), but also with Karnak, Abydos, and sites in modern Sudan, promises rich insights into ritual connections between Abydos, Thebes, and el-Kurru. Such an integrated view will offer new aspects for our understanding of the complex cultural history of the Kushite Period.<sup>73</sup>

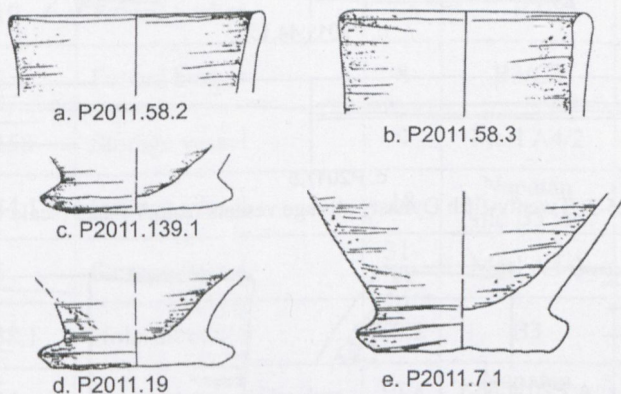


Fig. 25-1: Egyptian style Twenty-fifth Dynasty pottery from TT 223 (scale 1:3).

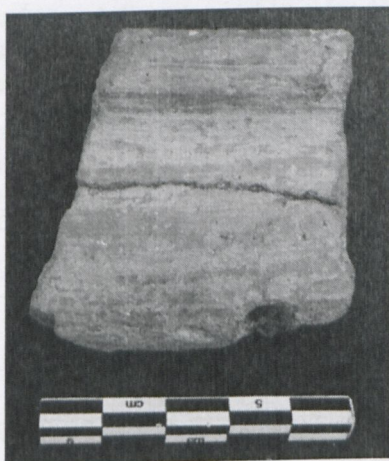


Fig. 25-2: Rim sherd of carinated dish P2011.57 (author's photo).

<sup>73</sup> Cf. Budka 2012b; Budka forthcoming a; Budka forthcoming b.

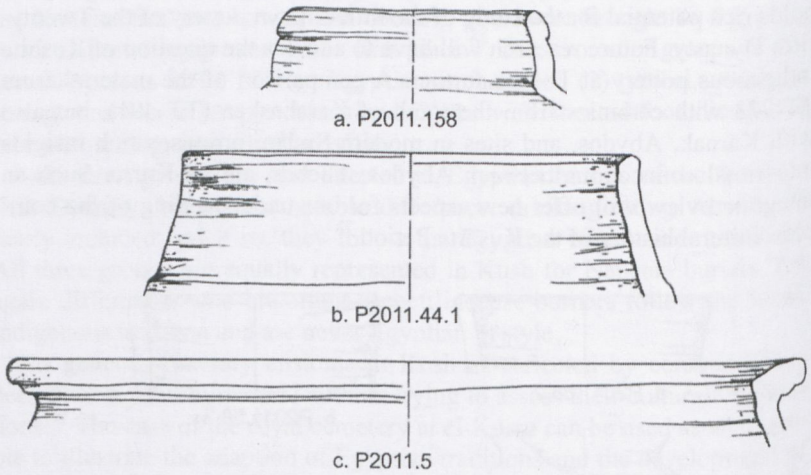


Fig. 25-3: Twenty-fifth Dynasty storage vessels from TT 223 (scale 1:3).

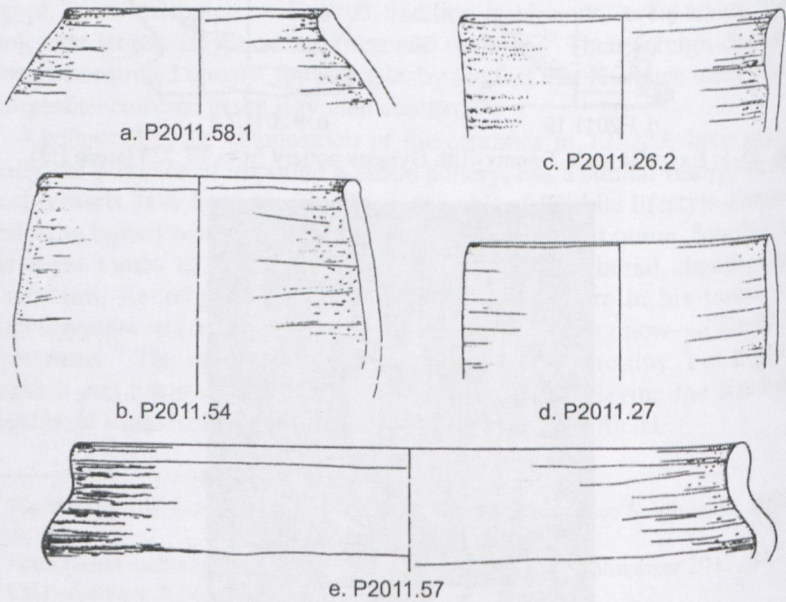


Fig. 25-4: Pottery of indigenous Kushite style from TT 223 (scale 1:3).

Ceramic Catalogue<sup>74</sup>

Record nr.	Description	D.	Fabric	Fig.
P2011.58.2	Globular jar, red wash	9.7	B3	25-1 [a]
P2011.58.3	Globular jar, red wash	9.6	B3	25-1 [b]
P2011.139.1	Footed beaker; maybe formerly red washed?	7.5	B3	25-1 [c]
P2011.19	Footed beaker	7.5	B3	25-1 [d]
P2011.7.1	Footed beaker	8	B3/C3	25-1 [e]
P2011.158	Storage vessel	9	Marl A4/2	25-3 [a]
P2011.44.1	Storage vessel	18	Napatan Nile B3 var.	25-3 [b]
P2011.5	Storage vessel	31-33	Marl A4/2	25-3 [c]
P2011.58.1	Hole-mouth jar	10.2	B3	25-4 [a]
P2011.54	Cooking vessel/ beaker	12.4	Napatan Nile C var.	25-4 [b]
P2011.26.2	Beaker, red slipped	12.4	Napatan Nile B3 var.	25-4 [c]
P2011.27	Beaker	11.4	Napatan Marl A var.	25-4 [d]
P2011.57	Carinated bowl, red slipped/burnished, date?	26	C3 var.	25-2, 4 [e]

<sup>74</sup> D = diameter in cm. The fabric labels follow the Vienna System with indications of subgroups (B3 = Nile B, variant 3 etc.), specific for the Late Period, cf. Budka 2010c, 39. A detailed description of the Napatan fabrics will be published elsewhere.

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