

THE NUBIAN POTTERY FROM THE PALACE DISTRICT OF AVARIS AT ʿEZBET HELMI, AREAS H/III AND H/VI PART I: THE “CLASSIC” KERMA POTTERY FROM THE 18TH DYNASTY

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During the excavations carried out by the Austrian Archaeological Institute in Egypt under the direction of Manfred Bietak in the western part of Tell el-Dabʿa/Avaris, at ʿEzbet Helmi areas H/III¹ and H/VI,² thirty Kerma sherds were found in pottery assemblages from the 18th Dynasty (Str. d = Ph. C/3 and Str. c = Ph. C/2).³ This pottery is fully described below, in *The Catalogue*.⁴

Most of the Kerma sherds are from the area H/VI,⁵ only two of them from H/III.⁶ The sherds from H/VI come from the large palace (G)⁷ and from its annex building (J);⁸ from the workshop W₂⁹ and the workshop area;¹⁰ from artificial deposits of pottery,¹¹ the mud filling of a pit,¹² a rubbish deposit,¹³ an artificial deposition of mud-brick debris,¹⁴ all of them located south of that palace.

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¹ 1993–1994 and 1997–1998.

² 1999–2000.

³ On the description and the stratigraphy of ʿEzbet Helmi, see: M. BIETAK, J. DORNER und P. JÁNOSI, *Ausgrabungen in dem Palastbezirk von Avaris. Vorbericht Tell el-Dabʿa/ʿEzbet Helmi 1994–1998*, *Ä&L* 11 (2001), 30ff, and M. BIETAK ‘Rich beyond the Dreams of Avaris: Tell el-Dabʿa and the Aegean World – a Guide for the Perplexed’. A Response to Eric H. Cline, *ABSA* 95 (2000), fig. 1.

⁴ The Kerma pottery from H/I, H/II and H/IV is being studied by Irmgard Hein.

⁵ Twenty-eight sherds.

⁶ *Nos. 10 and 20*. *No. 10* was found in a filling (H/III-q/16, plan 0–1, Str. a?), with material of the 18th Dynasty, and *No. 20* in mud-brick debris (H/III-r/19, plan 0–1, Str. b/1), with pottery of the late 18th Dynasty as the most recent ceramics.

⁷ *No. 11* from L 3004V in the north part of the palace G (H/VI-h/18, Str. d = Ph. C/3). L 3004V is the mud-brick debris inside the room L 3004, which belongs to the first phase of the palace, and the pottery is similar to that from L 3005 (see note 11), the filling of the terrace L 3010.

⁸ From the wall M 1232 (*No. 9*) (H/VI-u/12, Str. d = Ph. C/3). It is a strong wall built to enlarge the ramp of the building (J), an annex to the palace G and above of L 4107 cf. M. BIETAK *et al.*, *E&L* 11, 3. *Ausgrabungen in den Arealen H/II–III and H/VI*, 48ff; *idem: op. cit.*, 85: 5. *Der Hauptpalast (G) der 18. Dynastie (Areale H/II–III, H/VI) (Str. d–c), Der palatiale Anbau (J)*.

⁹ *Nos. 3 and 17* from L 4021; *Nos. 26, 28 and 30* from the workshop L 4001, and *Nos. 15, 22, 27 and 29* from the debris (L 400IV) of the same locus. *No. 2* was found in the pottery collection L 4041 and *No. 19* in the pottery assemblage L 4023. All these loci belong to the Str. c = Ph. C/2. L 4021 (H/VI-t/13) is the mud-brick debris inside the room L 4020 in the workshop W₂. There are some ceramics from the Amarna period (David Aston, personal communication) because the area is cut by a massive wall from

this time. L 4001 (H/VI-u/13–16) is the other room of the workshop W₂, with a large amount of objects made of limestone, bases of columns, pottery, pumice fragments and animal bones. The most recent pottery is also from the Amarna period. The mud-brick debris inside L 4001 is called L 4001V. L 4041 is a pottery collection on the courtyard before the entrance to the workshop, and L 4023 another pottery assemblage that covered the room of a house (L 4025) leading to the courtyard mentioned above. (M. BIETAK *et al.*, 3. *Ausgrabungen in den Arealen H/II–III and H/VI*, *op. cit.*, 48ff; *idem: op. cit.*, 89ff: 5. *Der Hauptpalast G der 18. Dynastie (Areale H/II–III, H/VI) (Str. d–c), Die Werkstätten W_{1–2} des Str. c (Ph.C/2)*.

¹⁰ *No. 21* from L 4026 (H/VI-t/13, Str. c = Ph. C/2), a room related to the workshop W₂ (*Ibid.*). This room has no floor and is filled with sand. L 4026 is cut by the thick wall M 1204 with bastions (H/VI-s-t/12–13, Str. b/2 = Ph. C/1) as part of a fortification from the Tutankhamun and Horemheb period. For this reason some post Amarna sherds were found (M. BIETAK *et al.*, 3. *Ausgrabungen in den Arealen H/II–III and H/VI*, *op. cit.*; *idem: op. cit.*, 89ff: 5. *Der Hauptpalast (G) der 18. Dynastie (Areale H/II–III, H/VI) (Str. d–c), Die Werkstätten W_{1–2} des Str. c (Ph.C/2)*.

¹¹ L 4107 (*Nos. 1 and 23*), and L 4107A above the first one (*Nos. 4, 12, 16, 18, 24 and 25*). The pottery assemblage from L 4107 –used to level the surface– typologically belongs to the stratum d, the early mid 18th Dynasty and it is one of the largest found in Tell el-Dabʿa. This collection will be published together with the ceramics from L 3005, from the north part of the palace G, in P. FUSCALDO, *Tell el-Dabʿa X, Part III: The Pottery from the early mid 18th Dynasty* (together with C. KOHEN and S. VIGLIANI (Locus 3005) and C. KOHEN, S. BASILICO and L. MARTÍNEZ (Locus 4107)), forthcoming.

¹² L 4202 (*No. 13*). This pit cuts the walls M 1301 and M 1302. The pottery typologically belongs to the Str. c (David Aston personal communication).

¹³ L 4014 in the south-east part of the square u/12 (*Nos. 5 and 7*). The most recent ceramics from this locus are

There is generally more than one Kerma sherd in the same locus,¹⁵ and in Locus 3004V there is also an Egyptian imitation of a Kerma cooking pot.

All the Kerma pottery is hand-made in Nile silt fabrics, fired in controlled firing conditions. Three fabrics are represented here. One is I-b-2,¹⁶ a Nile clay with few sand grains, feldspar and mica, tempered with organic plant fibres, Nile B₂ in the “Vienna system”.¹⁷ The groundmass is fine to medium and the hardness 2–3 in the modified Moh’s scale. This fabric fires brown to reddish brown on the exterior and black, very dark grey, dark grey, or grey in the interior. The exterior surface has a red slip, polished with high or medium lustre; the interior is polished with high, medium or low lustre.

The sections are black or very dark grey all through, or have a black interior zone and a very thin brown exterior zone, or a very dark grey interior and a reddish brown exterior.¹⁸ This fabric is equivalent to II B in Nordström’s typology.¹⁹

The shapes that occur in this fabric are mainly *beakers*, but also some bowls. Reisner called the style used to decorate the beakers characterised by a “black-topped” rim zone on a red polished slip, “beaker ware.” In the Kerma ceramics from Tell el-Dab^ca, the “black-topped” rim zone is black polished with a high lustre of metallic sheen, black or very dark grey with medium or low lustre. The sherds from more complete beakers preserve a small irregular zone, dark to light grey (low lustre to matt), brilliant grey, matt pinkish grey and bluish grey to dark bluish grey between the wide black-topped rim zone and the red-slipped body. The “black-topped” red-slipped polished ware is, from a technical point of view, one of the finest hand-made Nubian wares, and the Kerma one most widely distributed.

The other two fabrics are I-e-1 and I-e-3.²⁰ I-e-1 is a Nile clay with dominant rounded sand grains,

feldspar and mica, tempered with sand and organic plant fibre, Nile E₁ in the “Vienna system”. The Kerma sherds made of Nile E₁ have a fine to medium or medium groundmass, with a hardness between 2 and 2–3. They fire red, reddish brown, brown or light brown on the exterior surface, polished with medium or low lustre, with a red slip. The interior is black, very dark or dark grey, polished with high or medium lustre, or coated.

The break is entirely very dark grey, brown or yellowish red, or has a distinctive core with exterior and interior zones (dark grey to dark reddish grey or brown core, and very dark grey, dark reddish grey to reddish brown exterior and interior zones). This fabric is used for the “black-topped” bowls, except for two of them made of Nile B₂. The rim or the uppermost part of the vessel is black, very dark or dark grey, polished with medium or low lustre.

I-e-3 is a Nile clay with dominant rounded sand grains, feldspar and mica, tempered with sand and coarse chaff. It can be called Nile E₃ and is identified with II E in Nordström’s typology.²¹ The groundmass is medium or medium to coarse and the hardness 2. This fabric fires dark grey, brown to light brown; reddish to light brown on the exterior and reddish to very dark grey inside, pinkish grey outside and dark grey inside, brown to very dark grey on the exterior and black inside, always polished with low lustre on the interior. The break is black, very dark grey or dark reddish brown; yellowish red to reddish brown outside and very dark grey to black inside; or it has a very dark grey to dark reddish grey core and dark grey to brown zones at the exterior and interior. Nile E₃ is the fabric used for making the cooking pots.

The Kerma pottery from ^cEzbet Helmi (H/III and H/VI) includes ten sherds of fine ware (*beakers*), and twenty sherds of general household ware (nine *bowls* and eleven *cooking pots*).

from the post Amarna period-late 18th Dynasty (Str. b/2) (David Aston personal communication; the pottery from this period onwards from H/VI is being studied by David Aston).

¹⁴ L 4018 in the square u/12 (Nos. 6 and 8). The most recent sherds from this locus are from the time of Amenophis III / Amenophis IV, Str. b/3 (David Aston personal communication).

¹⁵ Two sherds were found in the L 4014 (Nos. 5 and 7), L 4018 (Nos. 6 and 8), L 4021 (Nos. 3 and 17) and L 4107 (Nos. 1 and 23), six in L 4001 (Nos. 15, 22, 26, 28, 29 and No. 30) and seven in L 4107A (Nos. 4, 12, 14, 16, 18, 24 and 25).

¹⁶ I-b-2 is a fabric designation in the Tell el-Dab^ca system.

¹⁷ See the note 20.

¹⁸ It could be produced by the penetration of smoke particles into the body from the surface inwards (H.-Å. NORDSTRÖM, J. BOURRIAU, Ceramic Technology: Clays and Fabrics, in: DO. ARNOLD, J. BOURRIAU (eds.), *An Introduction to Ancient Egyptian Pottery*, Mainz 1993, fasc. 2).

¹⁹ H.-Å. NORDSTRÖM, *Neolithic and A-Group Sites*, Uppsala 1972, The Scandinavian Joint Expedition to the Sudanese Nubia, 3:1. Text, 1, 51–52 and 65–66.

²⁰ I-e-1 and I-e-3 are two fabric designations in the Tell el-Dab^ca system. See note 20.

²¹ H.-Å. NORDSTRÖM, J. BOURRIAU, *op. cit.*

The shapes in the fine “black-topped” red-slipped polished ware are *beaker* (Nos. 1 to 10, Figs. 1:a–j). Nile B₂ is the fabric used for producing all these vessels. No. 1 (Fig. 1:a) is a rim sherd of a tulip-shaped baker with flaring side walls, 16 cm in diameter and 0.30 cm thick, “black-topped” rim with metallic lustre. Nos. 2 to 3 are also flaring sided bakers with 0.30 to 0.35 cm of thickness. No. 2 (Fig. 1:b) has as a decoration a dark grey-light grey irregular zone, low lustre-matt, between the black-topped rim and the red-slipped body; the rim is black inside and outside with metallic lustre. No. 3 (Fig. 1:c) has a matt pinkish grey and a dark bluish grey irregular zone between the black-topped rim area and the body. Nos. 4 to 9 are straight sided, with a wall thickness between 0.30 cm and 0.55 cm, only a rim of 12 cm in diameter is preserved (No. 5, Fig. 1:e). No. 4 (Fig. 1:d) has a similar decoration, a matt bluish grey zone irregularly framed by another one brilliant grey between the red-slipped polished body and the black-topped rim. The others preserved the “black-topped” rim zone, except No. 9 (Fig. 1:i), a sherd from the lower part of the body, red-slipped polished with high lustre. Only a flattened base has been recovered (No. 10, Fig. 1:j), 3 cm in diameter, with a low lustre red-slipped exterior surface.²² The interiors of all these beakers are black, dark grey or grey with low or medium lustre, only one with high lustre (No. 4), and another has the interior smoothed (No. 8, Fig. 1:h).

There are nine *bowls*, Nos. 11 to 19 (Fig. 2:a–i). Nos. 11 to 13 are concave sided, made of Nile E₁ except the third one in Nile B₂. No. 11 (Fig. 2:a) has a rim diameter of 12 cm and a wall thickness of 0.45 cm, polished red outside and black inside, with high lustre on both surfaces.²³ Nos. 12 and 13 (Fig. 2:b, c) have the rim trimmed, 16 cm in diameter, and the wall between 0.40 cm and 0.55 cm thick; the surface is reddish brown or light reddish brown with dark grey interior, polished outside and smoothed inside or polished with medium lustre on both surfaces. As a decoration the rim of these three bowls are “black-topped” polished with medium, low or high lustre.

From the other six bowls, only body sherds are preserved, five in Nile E₁ and one in Nile B₂. No. 14

(Fig. 2:d) in Nile B₂ is 0.7 cm thick, has a red slip outside and grey interior, polished with medium lustre on both surfaces. Nos. 15 to 19 (Figs. 2:e–i) are made of Nile E₁, with a thickness between 0.60 and 0.70 cm, uncoated or red-slipped exterior and black to grey interior, polished with low lustre outside and low or medium lustre inside, or smoothed (No. 19). Nos. 15 and 17 have a red slip on the interior with medium lustre. All of them are “black-topped” in black, very dark grey or dark grey and low lustre, except No. 18 with high lustre.

The *cooking pots* are body sherds (Nos. 21 to 30, Fig. 3:b–k), except one that is a rim fragment (No. 20, Fig. 3:a). The fabric used of these cooking pots is Nile E₃, except for No. 21 (Fig. 3:b), made of Nile E₁. They are decorated with an impressed pattern, diagonally made with a toothed wheel with rectangular, ovoid and square-shaped teeth, rolled on the leather hard exterior surface (Nos. 20 to 28, Fig. 3:a–i). No. 20 is decorated below the trimmed and polished rim.

The fragments of two cooking pots have a plain exterior surface. One of them, No. 29 (Fig. 3:j), is the sherd of a concave sided vessel, 0.85 cm thick, with a polished surface – brown with medium lustre outside and black with low lustre inside. The uppermost part of the sherd is dark grey to very dark grey, polished with medium lustre. For the fabric and the thickness of the sherd, it is a “black-topped” cooking pot. The other, No. 30 (Fig. 3:k), has no decoration on the parts preserved, the surface is smoothed, dark grey outside and brown inside.

Besides these Kerma sherds, there is an Egyptian imitation of a Kerma cooking pot (No. 31, Fig. 4). The “incised Nubian ware” was reproduced on a dark grey smoothed surface of an Egyptian wheel-made vessel in Nile E₂. Although the decoration resembles quite well the Kerma “incised” (or “scratched”)²⁴ ware, the fabric, the shaping technique, the firing and the surface treatment clearly reflect the Egyptian ceramic tradition of this fragment. The impressed and the incised wares are found not only in Kerma but also in the A-Group and the C-Group and in the “Pan-graves”, as a characteristic common to all these Nubian cultures which reflects their African origin.

²² Type C III 1b in Gratién’s typology (B. GRATIEN, *Sai I. La nécropole Kerma*, Paris 1986).

²³ It seems to be Type C II 2b in Gratién’s typology, a round-bottomed bowl (B. GRATIEN, *Sai I. La nécropole Kerma*, Paris 1986).

²⁴ As it is called by J. BOURRIAU, *The Pottery*, in: P. LACOVARA, *Deir el-Ballas. Preliminary Report on the Deir el-Ballas Expedition, 1980–1986*, Winona Lake 1990, chap. 4, 18.

These Kerma sherds are dated to the “Classic” phase, according to the classification of Gratién and Privati,²⁵ which is contemporary with the Second Intermediate Period and the early mid 18th Dynasty in Egypt.²⁶

The Kerma pottery that has been found at ‘Ezbet Helmi (H/III and H/VI) shows that there were Kermans in Avaris during the 18th Dynasty.²⁷ Their pottery could have been well-known enough in Avaris to inspire a local imitation of the Kerma vessels.

The Nubian Kerma culture developed in the fertile Dongola basin, south of the 3rd cataract. From a political point of view, the Kerma settlement grew to become a powerful kingdom during the “Classic” phase. This phase of the Kerma culture is found from Buhen in the north to Mahal Teglinos, near Kassala,²⁸ in the south. Semna, Mirgissa, Askut, Ukma,²⁹ Akasha, Tombos, Kawa, Tabo, Bugdumbush and Gism el-Arba,³⁰ were other Kerma centres or settlements with Kerma culture elements, whilst Sai was an important administrative centre of the Kerma kingdom.³¹

The African origin of this culture is not only revealed by the pottery decoration but also by the existence of human sacrifices in the tombs of the kings and the high officials at Kerma,³² sacrifices already known in Sudan in the Neolithic.³³ This practice continued in Kerma until the end of the “Classic” period and shows the stratification of its society.³⁴

Through its strategic position, Kerma was a very important trade centre with a main role in the inter-connections with Egypt, Sudan and the neighbouring regions, and South Arabia,³⁵ through a number of local networks to obtain and transfer the commodities – mainly luxuries for the elite. This trade is connected with human labour,³⁶ gold and “exotic” products. The cross-frontier trade luxuries are principally those from the central Sudanese savannah, “exotic” animals – baboons, hunting dogs, gazelles – and animal products, such as leopard and cheetah skins, ostrich feathers and eggs, semi-precious stones and other minerals, ivory, ebony, and myrrh,

²⁵ B. GRATIEN, *Sai I et la culture Kerma. Essai de classification*. Lille 1978. B. PRIVATI, La poterie de la ville de Kerma. Kerma 1977–1978, *Genava*, NS. 26 (1978), 129–134; B. GRATIEN, La céramique de la nécropole orientale de Kerma: Essai de classification, *CRIPEL* 20 (1999), 41–50. On the pottery from this period see also P. LACOVARA, An Incised Vase from Kerma, *JNES* 44, No. 3 (1985), 213–216.

²⁶ The Classic phase is dated by Bonnet between 1750 and 1500 B.C. (CH. BONNET, Des premières différences sociales à l’émergence d’un État. La Moyenne Nubie (IV^e–II^e millénaire avant J.C.), *CRIPEL* 17/1 (1995), Actes de la VIII^e Conférence Internationale des Études Nubiennes Lille 11–17 Septembre 1994. I. : Communications principales, 146.

²⁷ On the Kerma pottery in Egyptian settlements from the Second Intermediate Period and the beginning of the 18th Dynasty, see J. BOURRIAU, The Pottery, in: P. LACOVARA, *Deir el-Ballas*, 16–17, and the bibliography mentioned there.

²⁸ Kerma and Egyptian ceramics have been found in this settlement. A. MANZO, Les tessons ‘exotiques’ du groupe du Gash: un essai d’étude statisque, *CRIPEL* 17/2 (1997), Actes de la VIII^e Conférence Internationale des Études Nubiennes, Lille 11–17 Septembre 1994. II.– Découvertes archéologiques, 77–87.

²⁹ A. VILA, *Le cimetière kermaïque d’Ukma Ouest*, Paris 1982.

³⁰ This site is located at the entrance of wadi el-Khowi. B. GRATIEN, Gism El-Arba, un habitat Kerma. Les niveaux tardifs, *CRIPEL* 17/2 (1997), 55–65.

³¹ See GRATIEN, *Sai I*.

³² G. A. REISNER, *Excavations at Kerma. Part I–III*, Harvard African Studies 5, Cambridge, Mass. 1923, (tumulus K IV), 110–242.

³³ CH. BONNET, Kerma, royaume africain de Haute Nubie, in: T. HÄGG (ed.), *Nubian Culture Past and Present, Main Papers presented at the Sixth Conference for Nubian Studies in Uppsala, 11–16 August, 1986*, Konferenser 17, Stockholm 1987, 106.

³⁴ CH. BONNET, Des premières différences..., *CRIPEL* 17/1, 143–148. As a result of the increase of Kerma power, it could be supposed that during the “Classic” phase the negroid elements will be more numerous than in the “Ancient” phase, such as was supported by Bonnet (“Kerma, royaume africain de Haute Nubie”..., 105). But the anthropological studies made on the human remains from the Kerma tombs showed that the chief and the sacrificed connected with him belong to the same Kerma population and that there is no more negroid affinities in the second group than in the first one. The “Classic” Kerma population is more close to the Nubian groups than the “Ancient” Kerma (CH. SIMON, Les populations Kerma. Evolution interne et relations historique dans le contexte Egypto-nubien”, *Archéologie du Nil Moyen* 3 (1989), 139–147).

³⁵ The inclusion of the Gash Delta in this exchange network, known through the Kerma and Egyptian products found in Mahal Teglinos during the “Classic” and “Late” phases of the Gash Group, is related to the development of a chiefdom in the Kassala region. This culture acted as an intermediary between Kerma and South Arabia (R. FATTOVICH, The Gash Group. A Complex Society in the Lowlands to the East of the Nile, *CRIPEL* 17/1 (1995), 191–200).

³⁶ It is documented by the “Koller papyrus” (R. CAMINOS, *Late-Egyptian Miscellanies*, London 1954, 438–439).

incense and other aromatic resins from further East.³⁷ All these products are known to be imported into Egypt and they are also found in the Kerma royal tombs, while cereals, honey and unguents were exported from Egypt inside vessels, many of which were deposited as funerary equipment in the Kerma burials.

The existence of diplomatic ties between Avaris and Kerma was already known through a letter sent by the Hyksos king Apophis to the king of Kush³⁸ and mentioned in “the second stela of Kamose”.³⁹ But the ceramic evidence now points to direct contacts between both kingdoms. Gratien⁴⁰ supposes the existence of Egyptians in Kerma in connection with the reception and control of commodities delivered to Egypt. The seals and seal-impressions from Kerma at the end of the 13th Dynasty, with Egyptian names and titles related to the Egyptian administration in the Lower Nubia centres, reflect the relations between both states and the development of the commercial links during the “Classic” phase.⁴¹

Bourriau has mentioned archaeological evidence for Kermans in Egypt during the late 17th and early 18th Dynasties. Two significant factors indicate the presence of Kermans in Upper Egypt at the end of the Second Intermediate Period.⁴² The first reference comes from Deir el-Ballas, a settlement from the late 17th until the beginning of the 18th Dynasty, where “Classic” Kerma pottery – mainly cooking pots but also storage jars and fine ware – has been found in the living areas. The second one is from the necropolis of the 17th Dynasty kings at Dra ^cAbu el-Naga, where there is the tomb of a woman and her child buried with “Classic” Kerma beakers and a golden necklace. She could be a Kerman of importance. At the end of the Second Intermediate Period, the Kerma occupation on the 2nd cataract forts was put to an end, especially in Buhen, and the Egyptian campaign mentioned in “the second stela of Kamose” before the war against Avaris, could have provided Egypt with Kerman mercenaries.⁴³ BOURRIAU supposes that there was a large contingent of Kermans in the army of Kamose.⁴⁴

³⁷ R. MORKOT, *The Economy of Nubia in the New Kingdom*, *CRIPEL* 17/1 (1995), 175–189.

³⁸ “... *I (i.e. Kamose) seized his message on the upland oasis (route) on the way southwards to Kush in a written letter. I found on it the following in writing: ‘From the hand of the ruler of Avaris. ‘Awoserre’, the son of Re^c Apophis greets the son of the ruler of Kush. Why do you ascend as ruler without letting me know? Do you see what Egypt has done against me? The ruler who is there, Kamose, the brave, given life, is attacking me upon my territory although I have not attacked him in the manner of all he has done against you. He chooses these two lands to afflict them, my land and yours, and he has devastated them ...*” (H. S. SMITH and A. SMITH, *A Reconsideration on the Kamose Texts*”, *ZÄS* 103 (1976), 61).

³⁹ The two stelae of Kamose belong to the literary genre called the “Königsnovelle” (A. ROSENVASSER, *La novela real en la literatura del Antiguo Egipto*, *RIHAO* 5 (1980), 29–47), but the situation that is described there represents historical facts, such as the existence of three political centres of power (Avaris, Thebes and Kerma) and the imports from Retenu in the Avaris harbour. In “The first stela of Kamose” and “The Carnarvon Tablet”, Kamose says: “... *Why do I (still) contemplate my strength while there is (yet) one Great Man in Avaris and another on Kush, sitting (here idle) united with an Asiatic and a Negro while each man possesses his slice of Egypt, dividing the land with me?*” (H. S. SMITH and A. SMITH, *op. cit.*, 59). In “The Second stela of Kamose” there are mentioned the Asiatic products imported to Avaris: “*three hundred ships of new ^csh-wood filled with gold, lapis-lazuli, silver, turquoise, bronze axes without number, besides ben-oil, incense, fat, honey, iturn-wood, ssndjm-wood and spny-wood, all their costly woods and all the fine products of Retenu...*” (*Ibidem*, 60).

⁴⁰ Les institutions égyptiennes en Nubie au Moyen Empire d’après les empreintes de sceaux, *CRIPEL* 17/1 (1995), 149–166.

⁴¹ See P. CERETTA, *Problemi cronologici e ipotesi di datazione degli scarabei e delle cretule rinvenuti a Kerma*, *CRIPEL* 17/3 (1998), *Actes de la VIII^e Conférence Internationale des Etudes Nubiennes*. Lille 11–17 Septembre 1994. III., *Études*, 73–78, who studies seals and seal-impressions from Kerma in the “Classic” period, inclusive one of them with the name Sheshi, which is probably identified with the Hyksos king Salitis.

⁴² J. BOURRIAU, *Relations between Egypt and Kerma during the Middle and New Kingdoms*, in: W. V. DAVIES (ed.), *Egypt and Africa. Nubia from Prehistory to Islam*, London 1991 (1993), 129–144.

⁴³ In the First Intermediate Period, there are Nubians acting as mercenaries in the Egyptian army (H.G. FISCHER, *The Nubian Mercenaries at Gebelein during the First Intermediate Period*, *Kush* 9 (1961), 44–80). Bonnet mentions a tomb at Kerma from the beginning of the “Middle” phase, which has preserved funerary traditions not only from Kerma origin – such as the round plan of the tomb and the body placed on the right side in contract position – but also from Egyptian origin – a wood sarcophagus with some painted hieroglyphics and an offering table. He says that this tomb could have belonged to a Kerma mercenary who lived in Egypt and returned to his city where he died and was buried in this cemetery (CH. BONNET, *Kerma, royaume africain*, 107, see note 34).

⁴⁴ J. BOURRIAU, *op.cit.*, (see note 42)

Kerma pottery has also been found in Edfu in Upper Egypt, and at Gurob, Saqqarah and Memphis in the Memphis-Fayum region, indicating the presence of Kermans in Egypt at the beginning of the 18th Dynasty.⁴⁵

The Kerma pottery found in Tell el-Dab^{ca} at ‘Ezbet Helmi provides more archaeological evidence of the presence of Kermans in Egypt during the beginning of the 18th Dynasty, that must pre-date the destruction of Kerma in the Dongola basin. After the defeat of the Hyksos dynasty in the Delta and the Canaanite chiefdoms in the region between Avaris and Sharuhén, the Egyptian kings, first Ahmose and then Thutmose I, continued the policy in Nubia against the “ruler of Kush”. The destruction of the Kerma kingdom by Thutmose I and the beginning of the Egyptian colonisation of Upper Nubia meant the loss of the main control of the trade network in Upper Nubia by Kerma, but the local commercial networks continued, and Egypt started to become involved in this international trade network in a more direct way.⁴⁶

THE CATALOGUE⁴⁷

I. “Classic” Kerma pottery in the 18th Dynasty contexts

1. Fine ware

1.1. Beakers (“Black-topped” ware)

Nile B₂ fabric

Flaring sided, tulip type

No. 1 (Fig. 1:a; Plate 1:a). 8943M {2001/141}

[RP]SP	I-b-2	fein	Ha ₁	---	re.	2-3
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Rim sherd, 3/64 preserved.

Rd: 16.0 cm; Wd: 0.30 cm; H₁: 3.5 + x cm

Surface colour: 5YR 2.5/1 black

Break: 5YR 2.5/1 black

Fabric: Nile B₂; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm: very few) and mica (few); straw (very few) tempered

Decoration: “black-topped” rim outside and inside; metallic lustre

Surface treatment: polished, high lustre outside and inside

Field reference: H/VI-t/13, plan 3, Str. d (=Ph. C/3), L 4107 (from the pottery layer. 5.1 m S., 1.2 m W. H: 3.71 m)

No. 2 (Fig. 1:b; Plate 1:b). 8943K {2001/141}

RPSP	I-b-2	fein	Ha ₁	---	re.	2-3
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Body sherd, mended

Wd: 0.35 cm; H₁: 6.0 + x cm

Surface colour: 10R 5/6 red slip on the exterior; 5YR 2.5/1 black on the interior

Break: 5YR 2.5/1 black

Fabric: Nile B₂; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm: very few) and mica (few); straw (very few) tempered

Decoration: a dark grey-light grey irregular zone (5YR 4/1-7/1), low lustre-matt, between the black-topped rim and the red-slipped body; the rim is black (5YR 2.5/1) inside and outside with metallic lustre

Surface treatment: polished outside (medium lustre) and inside (high lustre)

Field reference: H/VI-u/12, plan 3, Str. c (=Ph. C/2), L 4041 (from the pottery collection on the surface of the workshop W₂ area. 3. 7.9 m S., 5.1 m E. H: 4.43 m)

No. 3 (Fig. 1:c; Plate 1:c). 8943L {2001/141}

RPSP	I-b-2	fein	Ha ₁	---	re.	2-3
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Body sherd

Wd: 0.30 cm; H₁: 2.1 + x cm

Surface colour: 10R 5/6 red slip on the exterior; 5YR 2.5/1 black on the interior

Break: 5YR 2.5/1 black

Fabric: Nile B₂; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm: very few) and mica (few); straw (very few) tempered

Decoration: an irregular zone, 5YR 6/2 pinkish grey, matt, and another 5PB 4/1 dark bluish grey between the black-topped rim area (5YR 4/1 dark grey) and the body

Surface treatment: polished outside (medium lustre) and

⁴⁵ For the references see J. BOURRIAU, *Relations between Egypt and Kerma ...* and the bibliography mentioned there; *eadem*, Cemetery and Settlement Pottery of the Second Intermediate Period to early New Kingdom, *BES* 8 (1989/87), 47–59.

⁴⁶ In the southern Atbai, Mahal Teglinos could act as the overland port of trade for the Punt products exported to Egypt (K. SADR, The Medjay in Southern Atbai, *Archéologie du Nil Moyen* 4 (1990), 63–96). References to direct expeditions to Punt are known by Egyptian texts from the Old, Middle and New Kingdoms, which were interrupted during the Second Intermediate Period as it is mentioned in the Hatshepsut inscription at Deir el-Bahari. Besides this inscription, which is the most complete description of the trip to Punt, some references during the reign of Thutmose III, a possible

expedition under Amenophis III and references in an enigmatic inscription at the temples of Amara and Aksha, there is no more references until Ramesses III, in the “Harris Papyrus” (Aksha (Serra West): A. DANERI DE RODRIGO, El templo de Ramsés II. La inscripción enigmática del atrio, *REE* 1 (1990), 47–52).

⁴⁷ Explanations of the vessel descriptions: above the boxes there is the inventory number of the vessel and the drawing number in the records of the Mission and the year when it was drawn; inside the boxes, there are mentioned the ware, the fabric in the Tell el-Dab^{ca} system, the quality of the groundmass, the method of manufacture, the shaping technique of the base, the firing index and the hardness, according to the “Keramikinventar”.

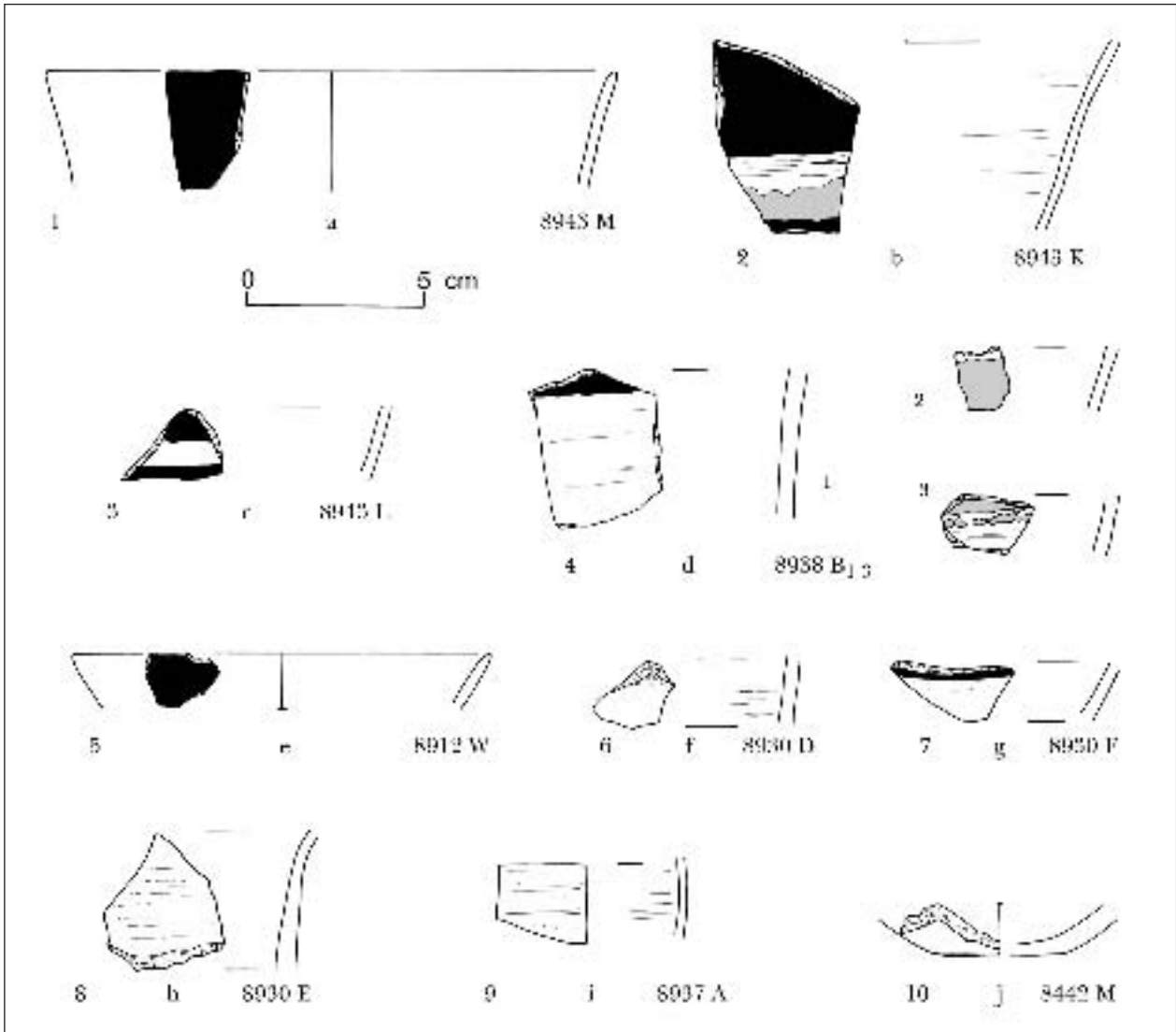


Fig. 1

inside (high lustre)

Field reference: H/VI-t/13, plan 0-1, Str. c (=Ph. C/2), L 4021 (from the debris inside the room L 4020 in the Workshop W₂)

Straight sided

No. 4 (Fig. 1:d; Plate 1:d). 8938B₁₋₃ {2000/47}

RPSP	I-b-2	f.-mid.	Ha ₁	---	re.	2-3
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Body sherds

Size: 1. Wd: 0.3 cm; H₁: 1.7 + x cm; 2. Wd: 0.45 cm; H₁: 1.6 + x cm; 3. Wd: 0.55 cm; H₁: 4.1 + x cm

Surface colour: 7.5YR 5/3 brown; slip on the exterior: 10R 4/6 red (-5/8 very dark grey); 5YR 2.5/1-10YR 2/1 black on the interior

Break: 10YR 3/1 very dark grey

Fabric: Nile B₂; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm and > 0.50 mm: abundant) and mica (abundant); straw tempered

Technical details: striation from the burnishing inside
 Decoration: "black-topped" ware; a grey (5PB 6/1-5/1 bluish grey, matt) zone framed by another one (N4/1

grey, brilliant) between the red-slipped polished body and the black-topped rim

Surface treatment: polished outside (medium lustre) and inside (high lustre)

Field reference: H/VI-u/12, plan 5-6, Str. d (=Ph. C/3), L 4107A (under the hard surface in plan 5, L 4099. H: 4.12-3.86 m)

No. 5 (Fig. 1:e; Plate 1:e). 8912W {2000/77}

[RP]SP	I-b-2	mid.	Ha ₁	---	re.	2-3
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Rim sherd; rim 1/16 preserved

Rd: 12.0 cm; Wd: 0.3 cm; H₁: 1.5 + x cm

Surface colour: 10YR 3/1 very dark grey outside and inside

Break: 10YR 3/1 very dark grey.

Fabric: Nile B₂; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm: abundant), feldspar, mica (abundant) and crushed limestone (very few and small); straw (very few) tempered

Decoration: "black-topped" rim (10YR 3/1 very dark grey)

Surface treatment: polished, low lustre outside and medium inside

Field reference: H/VI-u/12, plan 0–1, Str. b/2 (=Ph. B/2), L 4014 (from a rubbish deposit in the south-east part of the square, filled with ash, a large amount of sherds and fragments of faience, limestone and mud-bricks)

No. 6 (Fig. 1:f; Plate 1:f). 8930D {2000/161}

RPSP	I-b-2	mid.	Ha ₁	---	re.	2–3
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Body sherd

Wd: 0.4 cm; H₁: 2.0 + x cm

Surface colour: 2.5YR 5/6 red slip on the exterior; 10YR 3/1 very dark grey on the interior

Break: 10YR 3/1 very dark grey with a 5YR 5/4 reddish brown exterior zone

Fabric: Nile B₂; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm: abundant), feldspar, mica (abundant) and crushed limestone (very few and small); straw (very few) tempered

Decoration: “black-topped” rim zone (10YR 3/1 very dark grey)

Surface treatment: polished outside and inside, medium lustre

Field reference: H/VI-u/12, plan 2–3, Str. b/3 (=Ph. B/2), L 4018 (from the mud-brick debris probably fallen from the wall M 1201 of the workshop W₂, located in the square u/13)

No. 7 (Fig. 1:g; Plate 1:g). 8930F {2000/77}

RPSP	I-b-2	mid.	Ha ₁	---	re.	2–3
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Body sherd

Wd: 0.4 cm; H₁: 1.7 + x cm

Surface colour: 2.5YR 5/6 red slip on the exterior; 10YR 3/1 very dark grey on the interior

Break: 10YR 3/1 very dark grey and a 5YR 5/4 reddish brown exterior zone

Fabric: Nile B₂; inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: abundant), feldspar, mica (abundant) and crushed limestone (very few and small); straw (very few) tempered

Decoration: “black-topped” rim zone, very dark grey (2.5Y 3/1) to black (2.5Y 2.5/1)

Surface treatment: polished, high lustre outside and low lustre inside

Field reference: H/VI-u/12, plan 0–1, Str. b/2 (=Ph. B/2), L 4014 (from a rubbish deposit in the south-east part of the square, filled with ash, a large amount of sherds and fragments of faience, limestone and mud-bricks)

No. 8 (Fig. 1:h; Plate 1:h). 8930E {2000/78}

RP?	I-b-2	mid.	Ha ₁	---	re.	2–3
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Body sherd

Wd: 0.45–0.50 cm; H₁: 4.0 + x cm

Surface colour: 5YR 5/3 reddish brown to 5YR 4/2 dark reddish grey on the exterior (slip?); 7.5YR 4/1 dark grey on the interior

Break: 10YR 3/1 very dark grey

Fabric: Nile B₂; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm: abundant), feldspar, mica (abundant) and crushed limestone (very few and small); straw (very few) tempered

Surface treatment: polished outside (medium lustre) and smoothed inside

Field reference: H/VI-u/12, plan 2–3, Str. b/3 (=Ph. B/2), L 4018 (from the mud-brick debris probably fallen from the wall M 1201 of the workshop W₂, located in the square u/13)

No. 9 (Fig. 1:i; Plate 1:i). 8937A {2001/47}

RPSP	I-b-2	f.–mid.	Ha ₁	---	re.	2–3
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Body sherd

Wd: 0.2 cm; H₁: 2.1 + x cm

Surface colour: 2.5YR 5/6 red slip on the exterior; 10YR 4/1 dark grey on the interior

Break: 2.5YR 5/6 red outside and 10YR 3/1 very dark grey inside

Fabric: Nile B₂; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm and > 0.50 mm: few) and mica (abundant); straw (very few) tempered

Decoration: “black-topped” ware

Surface treatment: polished outside (high lustre) and inside (medium lustre)

Field reference: H/VI-u/12, plan 7–8, Str. d (=Ph. C/3)

(from the south section of the wall M 1232)

Flattened base

No. 10 (Fig. 1:j; Plate 1:j). 8442M {1994/129}

RPSP	I-b-2	mid.	Ha ₁	Ha	re.	2–3
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Base sherd, 7/32 preserved; mended

Bd: 3.0 cm; Wd: 0.65 cm; H₁: 1.1 + x cm

Surface colour: 7.5YR 5/4 brown; slip on the exterior: 10R 5/6 red; 7.5YR 5/1 grey–3/1 very dark grey on the interior

Break: 10YR 3/1 very dark grey with a 5YR 5/4 reddish brown exterior zone

Fabric: Nile B₂; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm, > 0.50 mm and > 2.0 mm: abundant; < 2 mm: occasionally), feldspar, mica (abundant) and small crushed limestone and rocks; straw tempered

Surface treatment: polished, low lustre

Field reference: H/ III-r/19, plan 0–1, Str. b (=Ph. B/2); from K-6054 (from the mud-brick debris. H: 3.90–4.20 m)

2. General household ware

2.1. Bowls (“Black-topped” ware)

Nile E₁ fabric

Concave sided

No. 11 (Fig. 2:a; Plate 2:a). 8929L_{1–2} {2000/77}

TGSP	I-e-1	mid.	Ha ₁	---	re.	2–3
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Two sherds, a rim and a body sherd; rim 1/32 preserved
Size: 1. Rd: 12.0 cm; Md: 13.0 + x cm; Wd: 0.45 cm; H₁: 1.7 + x cm
2. Md: 15.3 cm; Wd: 0.45 cm; H₁: 4.6 + x cm

Surface colour: 2.5YR 5/6 red on the exterior; 10YR 2/1 black on the interior

Break: 10YR 3/1 very dark grey

Fabric: Nile E₁; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm and > 0.50 mm: abundant; < 2.0 mm: occasionally), feldspar and mica; sand and straw tempered

Technical details: horizontal polishing marks inside.

Decoration: “black-topped” rim (10YR 2/1 black), polished with medium lustre

Surface treatment: polished, high lustre outside and inside

Field reference: H/VI-h/18, plan 1–2, Str. d (=Ph. C/3), L 3004V; from K-9032 (from the mud-brick debris inside the room L 3004. H: 4.50 m)

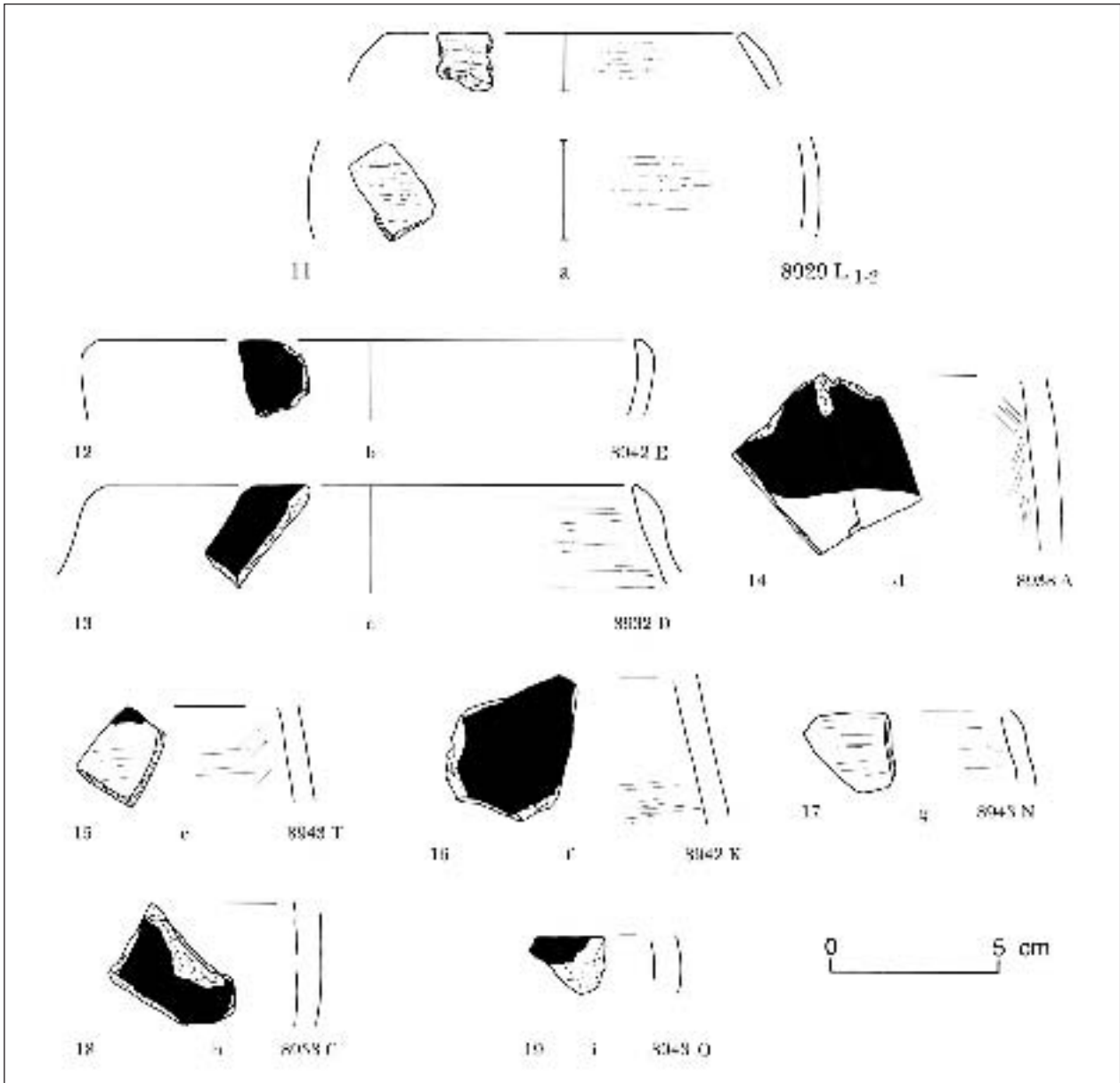


Fig. 2

Concave sided with trimmed rim

No. 12 (Fig. 2:b; Plate 2:b). 8942E {2001/48}

TGSP	I-e-1	mid.	Ha ₁	---	mi.	2-3
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Rim sherd, 1/3 preserved

Rd: 16.0 cm; Wd: 0.4 cm; H₁: 2.3 + x cm

Surface colour: 5YR 5/3 reddish brown on the exterior;

5YR 3/1 very dark grey on the interior

Break: 5YR 4/6 yellowish red

Fabric: Nile E₁; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm: abundant), mica (abundant) and crushed limestone (few); sand and straw (few) tempered

Decoration: "black-topped" rim (5YR 3/1 very dark grey), polished outside and inside, low lustre

Surface treatment: polished outside and smoothed inside

Field reference: H/VI-u/12, plan 5-6, Str. d (=Ph. C/3), L 4107A (under the hard surface in plan 5, L 4099.

H: 4.12-3.86 m)

Nile B₂ fabric

Concave sided with trimmed rim

No. 13 (Fig. 2:c; Plate 2:c). 8932D {2000/161}

TGSP	I-b-2	f.-mid.	Ha ₁	---	re.	2-3
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Rim and body sherd; rim 1/32 preserved

Rd: 16.0 cm; Wd: 0.55 cm; H₁: 3.3 + x cm

Surface colour: 5YR 6/3 light reddish brown on the exterior;

2.5YR 3/1 very dark grey on the interior

Break: 2.5YR 3/1 very dark grey

Fabric: Nile B₂; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm: few) and mica (abundant); straw (few) tempered

Decoration: "black-topped" rim, 2.5YR 2.5/1 black (2.5YR 3/1 very dark grey on the lower part), polished with low lustre outside (on the flattened part of the rim) and inside, and high lustre on the lower part of the black zone.

Surface treatment: polished; medium lustre on the body outside and inside

Surface treatment: polished; medium lustre on the body outside and inside

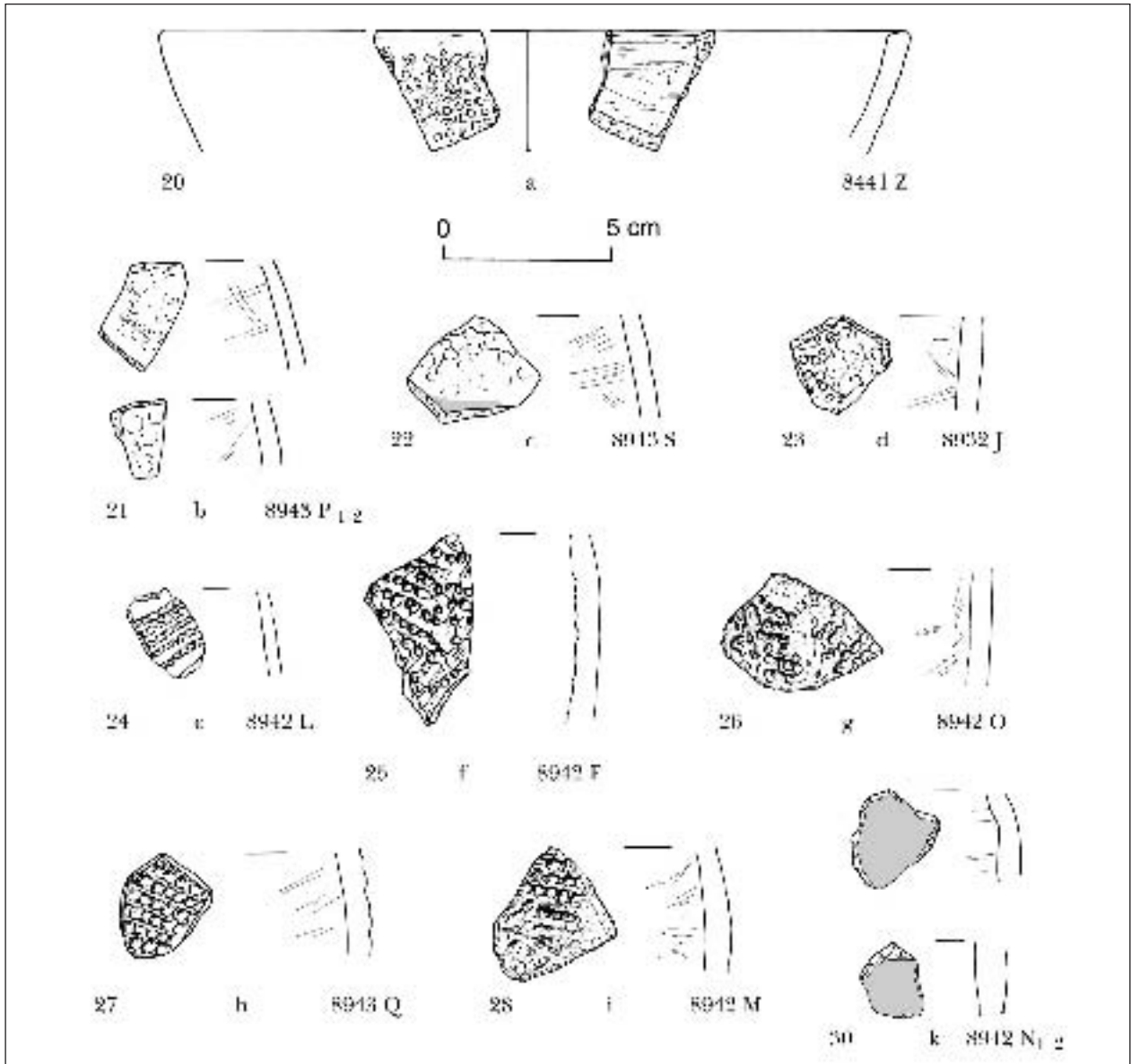


Fig. 3

Field reference: H/VI-v/14, plan 1, Str. c (= Ph. C/2), L 4202 (from the mud filling of a pit)

Bowls ? (body sherds)

Nile B₂ fabric

No. 14 (Fig. 2:d; Plate 2:d). 8938A {2001/047}

RPSP	I-b-2	f.-mid.	Ha ₁	---	re.	2-3
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Body sherd, mended

Wd: 0.7 cm; H₁: 5.2 + x cm

Surface colour: 7.5YR 5/3 brown; slip on the exterior: 10R 5/3 weak red; 7.5YR 5/1 grey on the interior

Break: 7.5YR 2.5/1 black with a very thin brown (7.5YR 5/3) zone at the exterior

Fabric: Nile B₂; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm and > 0.5 mm; abundant) and mica (abundant); straw tempered

Decoration: "black-topped" rim zone, 7.5YR 3/1 very dark grey, polished with low lustre

Surface treatment: polished; medium lustre outside and inside

Field reference: H/VI-u/12, plan 5-6, Str. d (=Ph. C/3), L 4107A (under the hard surface in plan 5, L 4099. H: 4.12-3.86 m)

Nile E₁ fabric

No. 15 (Fig. 2:e; Plate 2:e). 8943T {2000/77}

RP	I-e-1	f.-mid.	Ha ₁	---	re.	2-3
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Body sherd

Wd: 0.65 cm; H₁: 2.7 + x cm

Surface colour: 5YR 5/3 reddish brown; slip on the exterior (10R 5/6 red) and interior (10R 4/2-4/3 weak red)

Break: 5YR 3/1 very dark grey

Fabric: Nile E₁; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm: abundant), feldspar and mica; sand and straw (few) tempered
 Technical details: horizontal polishing marks inside

Decoration: "black-topped" rim zone, 5YR 4/1 dark grey, polished with low lustre

Surface treatment: polished, low lustre outside and medium inside

Field reference: H/VI-u/13, plan 0–1, Str. c (=Ph. C/2), L 4001V (from the debris inside the room, between the base (plan 1) until 10 cm below the upper part of the wall)

No. 16 (Fig. 2:f; Plate 2:f). 8942K {2001/48}

TGSP	I-e-1	mid.	Ha ₁	---	re.	2–3
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Body sherd

Wd: 0.65 cm; H₁: 4.0 + x cm

Surface colour: 7.5YR 5/2 brown on the exterior; 7.5YR 2.5/1 black on the interior. The exterior is covered by the black-topped zone

Break: 7.5YR 4/3 brown

Fabric: Nile E₁; inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: abundant) and mica (abundant); sand and straw (few) tempered.

Decoration: "black-topped" rim zone, 5YR 4/1 dark grey, polished with low lustre

Surface treatment: polished inside, medium lustre.

Field reference: H/VI-u/12, plan 5–6, Str. d (=Ph. C/3), L 4107A (under the hard surface in plan 5, L 4099. H: 4.12–3.86 m)

No. 17 (Fig. 2:g; Plate 2:g). 8943N {2001/146}

RP	I-e-1	f.-mid.	Ha ₁	---	re.	2–3
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Body sherd

Wd: 0.65 cm; H₁: 2.5 + x cm

Surface colour: 10R 5/4 red–2.5YR 5/4 reddish brown slip on the interior; the exterior is covered by the black band

Break: 5YR 4/1 dark grey–4/2 dark reddish grey core with 5YR 3/1 very dark grey exterior and interior

Fabric: Nile E₁; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm: abundant) and mica (abundant); sand and straw (few) tempered

Decoration: "black-topped" rim zone, 5YR 2.5/1 black, polished with low lustre

Surface treatment: polished, medium lustre inside.

Field reference: H/VI-t/13, plan 0–1, Str. c (=Ph. C/2), L 4021 (from the debris inside the room L 4020 in the Workshop W₂)

No. 18 (Fig. 2:h; Plate 2:h). 8938C {2000/161}

[P]SP	I-e-1	mid.	Ha ₁	---	re.	2–3
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Body sherd

Wd: 0.6 cm; H₁: 2.5 + x cm

Surface colour: 7.5YR 5/3 brown–6/3 light brown on the exterior; 7.5YR 3/1 very dark grey on the interior

Break: 7.5YR 4/3 brown core with 7.5 YR 3/1 very dark grey exterior and interior

Fabric: Nile E₁; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm and > 0.50 mm: very abundant), mica (abundant) and crushed limestone (few); sand and straw (few) tempered.

Decoration: "black-topped" rim zone, 2.5YR 3/1 very dark grey, polished with high lustre

Surface treatment: polished inside

Field reference: H/VI-u/12, plan 5–6, Str. d (=Ph. C/3), L 4107A (under the hard surface in plan 5, L 4099. H: 4.12–3.86 m)

No. 19 (Fig. 2:i; Plate 2:i). 8943O {2001/141}

[P]	I-e-1	mid.	Ha ₁	---	re.	2–3
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Body sherd

Wd: 0.7 cm; H₁: 1.7 + x cm

Surface colour: 5YR 4/1 dark grey inside; the exterior is covered by the black band

Break: 5YR 4/1 dark grey core with 5YR 4/2 dark reddish grey–5YR 4/3 reddish brown exterior and interior zones

Fabric: Nile E₁; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm: abundant), mica (few); sand and straw (few) tempered.

Decoration: "black-topped" rim zone, 5YR 2.5/1 black, polished with low lustre

Surface treatment: polished outside?; smoothed inside

Field reference: H/VI-t/13, plan 0–1, Str. c (=Ph. C/2), Locus 4023 (from a pottery collection in the mud-brick debris that covered the room of a house (locus 4025))

2.2. Cooking pots

Cooking pots with impressed decoration

Nile E₃ fabric

Straight sided with trimmed rim

No. 20 (Fig. 3:a; Plate 3:a). 8441Z {1994/122}

TG	I-e-3	mid.	Ha ₁	---	re.	2
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Rim sherd, 3/64 preserved

Rd: 24.0 cm; Wd: 0.6 cm; H₁: 3.4 + x cm

Surface colour: brown, 7.5YR 5/4 on the exterior and 7.5YR 5/3 on the interior

Break: very dark grey (10YR 3/1) core with thin brown (10YR 5/4) exterior and interior zones

Fabric: Nile E₃; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm and > 0.50 mm: abundant), feldspar, mica (abundant), crushed limestone and grog; sand and coarse straw tempered

Decoration: diagonally impressed pattern made with a toothed wheel below the polished rim

Surface treatment: smoothed outside; an uneven surface inside

Field reference: H/III-q/16, plan 0–1, Str. a (from a filling. H: 4.30 cm)

Body sherds

No. 21 (Fig. 3:b; Plate 3:b). 8943P₁₋₂ {2001/146}

TGSP	I-e-1	mid.	Ha ₁	---	re.	2
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Two body sherds

Size: 1. Wd: 0.4 cm; H₁: 3.0 + x cm 2. Wd: 0.5 cm; H₁: 2.5 + x cm

Surface colour: 1. 5YR 5/3 reddish brown–5YR 5/2 reddish grey on the exterior and 5YR 4/1 dark grey on the interior. 2. 5YR 5/3 reddish brown on the exterior and 5YR 4/1 dark grey on the interior

Break: 1. 5YR 5/4 reddish brown exterior and 5YR 3/1 very dark grey interior. 2. 5YR 5/4 reddish brown core with 5YR 4/1 dark grey exterior and interior zones

Fabric: Nile E₃; inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: abundant) and mica (few); sand and straw (few) tempered

Decoration: diagonally impressed pattern made with a toothed wheel

Surface treatment: smoothed outside; polished inside, low lustre

Field reference: H/VI-t/13, plan 1–2, Str. c (=Ph. C/2), Locus 4026 (from the small section along the corner of the room, 2.29 m wide, with the floor not preserved, filled with sand, related to the workshop W₂)

No. 22 (Fig. 3:c; Plate 3:c). 8943S {2001/146}

TGSP	I-e-3	mid.	Ha ₁	---	re.	2
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Body sherd

Wd: 0.55 cm; H₁: 3.3 + x cm

Surface colour: 5YR 5/4 reddish brown on the exterior; 5YR 5/2 reddish grey and 5YR 3/1 very dark grey on the interior

Break: 5YR 2.5/1 black inside and 5YR 5/3 reddish brown outside

Fabric: Nile E₃; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm: abundant), mica (few); sand and chaff (few) tempered

Technical details: striation marks inside

Decoration: impressed pattern made with a toothed wheel, not well preserved; “black-topped” ware?

Surface treatment: smoothed outside; polished inside, low lustre

Field reference: H/VI-u/13, plan 0–1, Str. c (=Ph. C/2), Locus 4001V (from the debris inside the room, between the base (plan 1) until 10 cm below the upper part of the wall)

No. 23 (Fig. 3:d; Plate 3:d). 8932J {2000/161}

TGSP	I-e-3	mid.–roh	Ha ₁	---	re.	2
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Body sherd

Wd: 0.6 cm; H₁: 2.6 + x cm

Surface colour: 7.5YR 6/2 pinkish grey on the exterior; 7.5YR 4/1 dark grey on the interior

Break: 2.5YR 3/1 very dark grey

Fabric: Nile E₃; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm and > 0.50 mm: very abundant), mica and crushed limestone (few); sand and coarse straw tempered

Decoration: diagonally impressed pattern made with a toothed wheel, outside; “black-topped” ware?

Surface treatment: smoothed outside; polished inside, low lustre

Field reference: H/VI-u/12, plan 6, Str. d (=Ph. C/3), Locus 4107 (from the pottery layer. H:3.85 m)

No. 24 (Fig. 3:e; Plate 3:e). 8942L {2001/048}

TG	I-e-3	mid.–roh	Ha ₁	---	re.	2
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Body sherd

Wd: 0.4– 0.45 cm; H₁: 2.3 + x cm

Surface colour: 5YR 4/1 dark grey on the exterior and interior

Break: 5YR 3/2 dark reddish brown

Fabric: Nile E₃; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm: abundant; > 2.0 mm: few), mica (abundant) and crushed limestone (few); sand and coarse straw (few) tempered

Decoration: diagonally impressed pattern made with a toothed wheel

Surface treatment: smoothed on the exterior; uneven inside

Field reference: H/VI-u/12, plan 5–6, Str. d (=Ph. C/3), L 4107A (under the hard surface in plan 5, Locus 4099. H: 4.12–3.86 m)

No. 25 (Fig. 3:f; Plate 3:f). 8942F {2001/048}

TG	I-e-3	mid.–roh	Ha ₁	---	re.	2
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Body sherd

Wd: 0.65 cm; H₁: 5.0 + x cm

Surface colour: 7.5YR 4/6 light brown

Break: 5YR 4/6 yellowish red outside and 7.5YR 3/1 very dark grey inside

Fabric: Nile E₃; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm: medium; > 2.0 mm: few), mica (abundant) and crushed limestone (few); sand and coarse straw (few) tempered

Decoration: diagonally impressed pattern made with a toothed wheel (decoration had preserved)

Surface treatment: smoothed outside; uneven inside

Field reference: H/VI-u/12, plan 5–6, Str. d (=Ph. C/3), L 4107A (under the hard surface in plan 5, L 4099. H: 4.12–3.86 m)

No. 26 (Fig. 3:g; Plate 3:g). 8942O {2001/049}

TGSP	I-e-3	mid.–roh	Ha ₁	---	re.	2
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Body sherd

Wd: 0.65 cm; H₁: 3.2 + x cm

Surface colour: 5YR 3/1 very dark grey on the exterior; 5YR 2.5/1 black on the interior

Break: 5YR 2.5/1 black

Fabric: Nile E₃; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm and > 0.5 mm: abundant; > 2.0 mm: few) and mica (abundant); sand and coarse straw (few) tempered

Decoration: diagonally impressed pattern made with a toothed wheel

Surface treatment: smoothed outside; polished inside, low lustre

Field reference: H/VI-u/13, plan 1, Str. c (=Ph. C/2), L 4001 (from the sand on the floor of the room).

No. 27 (Fig. 3:h; Plate 3:h). 8943Q {2001/146}

TGSP	I-e-3	mid.	Ha ₁	---	re.	2
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Body sherd

Wd: 0.7 cm; H₁: 3.4 + x cm

Surface colour: 7.5YR 6/4 light brown on the exterior; 7.5YR 3/1 very dark grey on the interior

Break: 7.5YR 3/1 very dark grey

Fabric: Nile E₃; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm: abundant) and mica (few); sand and chaff (few) tempered.

Decoration: diagonally impressed pattern made with a toothed wheel.

Surface treatment: smoothed outside; polished inside, low lustre

Field reference: H/VI-u/13, plan 0–1, Str. c (=Ph. C/2), L 4001V (from the debris inside the room, 10 cm below the upper part of the wall)

No. 28 (Fig. 3:i; Plate 3:i). 8942M {2001/049}

TG	I-e-3	mid.–roh	Ha ₁	---	re.	2
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Body sherd

Wd: 0.65 cm; H₁: 3.4 + x cm

Surface colour: 5YR 5/4 reddish brown on the exterior; 5YR 3/1 very dark grey on the interior

Break: 5YR 4/3 reddish brown with a very thin zone outside very dark grey (5YR 3/1)

Fabric: Nile E₃; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm and > 0.5 mm: abundant) and mica (abundant); sand and

coarse straw (few) tempered.

Decoration: diagonally impressed pattern made with a toothed wheel.

Surface treatment: smoothed outside and inside

Field reference: H/VI-u/13, plan 1, Str. c (=Ph. C/2), L 4001 (from the sand on the floor of the room)

Cooking pot (“Black-topped” ware?)

Nile E₃ fabric, concave sided

No. 29 (Fig. 3;j; Plate 3;j). 8943R {2001/146}

PSP	I-e-3	mid.	Ha ₁	---	re.	2
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Body sherd

Wd: 0.85 cm; H₁: 3.0 + x cm

Surface colour: 7.5YR 5/3 brown on the exterior; 4YR 2.5/1 black on the interior

Break: 5YR 4/2 dark reddish grey core with 5YR 4/1 dark grey exterior and interior zones

Fabric: Nile E₃; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm: abundant), mica (few); sand and chaff (few) tempered.

Decoration: “black-topped” ware?, 5YR 4/1 dark grey–3/1 very dark grey, polished, medium lustre

Surface treatment: polished, medium lustre outside and low lustre inside

Field reference: H/VI-u/13, plan 0–1, Str. c (=Ph. C/2), L 4001V (from the debris inside the room, between the base (plan 1) until 10 cm below the upper part of the wall)

Cooking pot (undecorated)

Nile E₃ fabric, concave sided

No. 30 (Fig. 3;k; Plate 3;k). 8942N₁₋₂ {2001/049}

TG	I-e-3	mid.–roh	Ha ₁	---	re.	2
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Two body sherds

Size: 1. Wd: 0.75 cm; H₁: 2.5 + x cm 2. Wd: 1.0 cm; H₁: 2.1 + x cm

Surface colour: 1. 7.5YR 4/1 dark grey outside and 7.5YR 4/1–4/3 brown inside. 2. 7.5YR 4/1 dark grey–5/3 brown outside and inside

Break: 1. 7.5YR 4/1 dark grey; 2. 7.5YR 4/1 dark grey

Fabric: Nile E₃; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm and > 0.5 mm: abundant; > 2.0 mm: medium), mica (abundant) and crushed limestone (few); sand and coarse straw tempered. The fragment 1 is coarser than 2

Surface treatment: smoothed outside and inside

Field reference: H/VI-u/13, plan 1, Str. c (=Ph. C/2), L 4001 (from the sand on the floor of the room).

II. Egyptian imitation of a Kerma cooking pot

- Nile E₂ fabric, uncoated ware

No. 31 (Fig. 4; Plate IV). 8930C {2000/078}

TG	I-e-2	mid.	W ₁	---	re.	2
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Shoulder sherd

Md: 16.0 + x cm; Wd: 0.5 cm; H₁: 4.8 + x cm

Surface colour: 2.5R 4/1 dark grey

Break: wide core, 2.5Y 3/1 very dark grey, with thin exterior and interior zones, 2.5Y 4/1 dark grey.

Fabric: Nile E₂; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm, > 0.50 mm and > 2 mm: abundant), feldspar and mica; sand tempered

Decoration: an obliquely incised-line pattern

Surface treatment: smoothed on the wheel

Field reference: H/VI-h/18, plan 1–2, Str. d (=Ph. C/3), L 3004V; from K-9032 (from the mud-brick debris inside the room L 3004. H: 4.50 m)

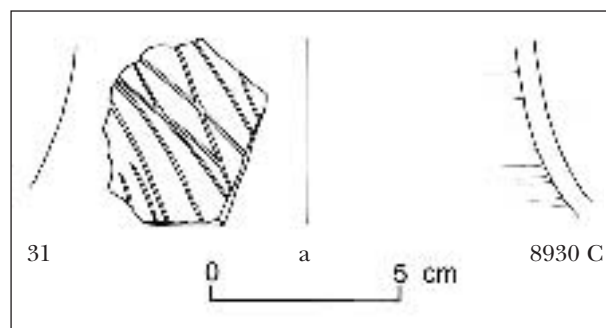


Fig. 4

ADDENDUM**

Since the conclusion of the article on the Kerma pottery from ‘Ezbet Helmi in 2001, five new sherds were recovered from the southern part of the 18th Dynasty palace-complex in the area H/VI, during the Spring 2002 campaign.⁴⁸ These sherds, which are described in *The Catalogue* below, belong to the “black-topped” red-slipped polished ware from the “Classic” period of the Kerma culture. Four of them are fragments of *beakers* (Nos. 32 to 35, Fig. 5:a–d) and one of a concave *bowl* (No. 36, Fig. 5:e).⁴⁹ The pottery contexts where they have appeared are dated to the early to

** April, 2002.

⁴⁸ On the stratigraphy of ‘Ezbet Helmi, see M. BIETAK, J. DORNER und P. JÁNOSI, *Ausgrabungen in dem Palastbezirk von Avaris. Vorbericht Tell el-Dab^ca/‘Ezbet Helmi 1994–1998*, *Ä&L* 11 (2001), 30ff.

⁴⁹ The drawings of the main article and the *Addendum* were scanned by Nicola Math and the digital photos of the sherds described in the *Addendum* by María Antonia Negrete Martinez.

middle 18th Dynasty (stratum C), except one of them (Locus 4929) that is from the beginning of this dynasty (relative stratum *e*/1 = absolute D/1).⁵⁰

All these sherds are hand-made in Nile B₂ (=I-b-2) fabric, fired in controlled firing conditions, with a groundmass fine to medium or medium, and a hardness 2 or 2 to 3. The exterior surface has a red polished slip with high to low lustre; the interior is black, polished with high lustre for the beakers, and smoothed for the bowl.

The body sherds of three of the beakers and of the bowl preserve part of the “black-topped” decoration, a black to very dark grey irregular zone, with medium or low lustre (*Nos.* 33 and 35), above a bluish grey to dark bluish grey matt area framed by a red border (*Nos.* 34 and 36). *No.* 32 is the flattened base of a beaker that belongs to this fine ware.

THE CATALOGUE

I. “Classic” Kerma pottery in 18th Dynasty contexts

1. Fine ware (“Black-topped” ware), Nile B₂ fabric

1.1. Beakers, flaring sided, tulip type

No. 32 (Fig. 5:a; Plate 5:a). 8956L {2002/089}

RPSP	I-b-2	f.–mid	Ha ₁	Bd. H	re.	2–3
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Base fragment, 1/1 preserved

Bd: 4.0 cm; Wd: 0.40 cm; H₁: 1.5 + x cm

Surface colour: 5YR 5/4 reddish brown; exterior slip: 10R 5/6–4/8 red; polished interior: 10R 2.5/1 black

Break: 10R 2.5/1 black

Fabric: Nile B₂; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm: very few) and mica (few); straw (very few) tempered

Decoration: the “black-topped” rim is not preserved

Surface treatment: polished, high lustre outside and inside

Field reference: H/VI-w/19, plan 3, stratum d (=Ph. C/3), Locus 4825 (from the mud filling, probably a dump)

No. 33 (Fig. 5:b; Plate 5:b). 8956M {2002/089}

RPSP	I-b-2	mid	Ha ₁	---	re.	2–3
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Body sherd

Wd: 0.35 cm; H₁: ca. 2.0 + x cm

Surface colour: 10R 5/6 red polished slip (exterior); polish interior: 7.5YR 2.5/1 black (interior)

Break: 7.5YR 2.5/1 black

Fabric: Nile B₂; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm: very few) and mica (few); straw (very few) tempered

Decoration: a very dark grey to black (7.5YR 3/1 very dark grey–2.5/1 black) medium lustre rim zone; below a bluish grey (5/1) to dark bluish grey (4/1) matt zone with a red (10R 4/6) border.

Surface treatment: polished, low lustre outside and high lustre inside.

Field reference: H/VI-v/16, plan 1, stratum c (=Ph. C/2), Locus 4001V (from the sandy surface)

No. 34 (Fig. 5:c; Plate 5:c). 8956N {2002/089}

RPSP	I-b-2	mid	Ha ₁	---	re.	2–3
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Body sherd

Wd: 0.4 cm; H₁: ca. 1.3 + x cm

Surface colour: 7.5YR 6/4 light brown; slip: 10R 6/6 light red; polished interior: 7.5YR 2.5/1 black

Break: 7.5YR 2.5/1 black interior (thick); 5YR 6/6 reddish brown exterior (thin)

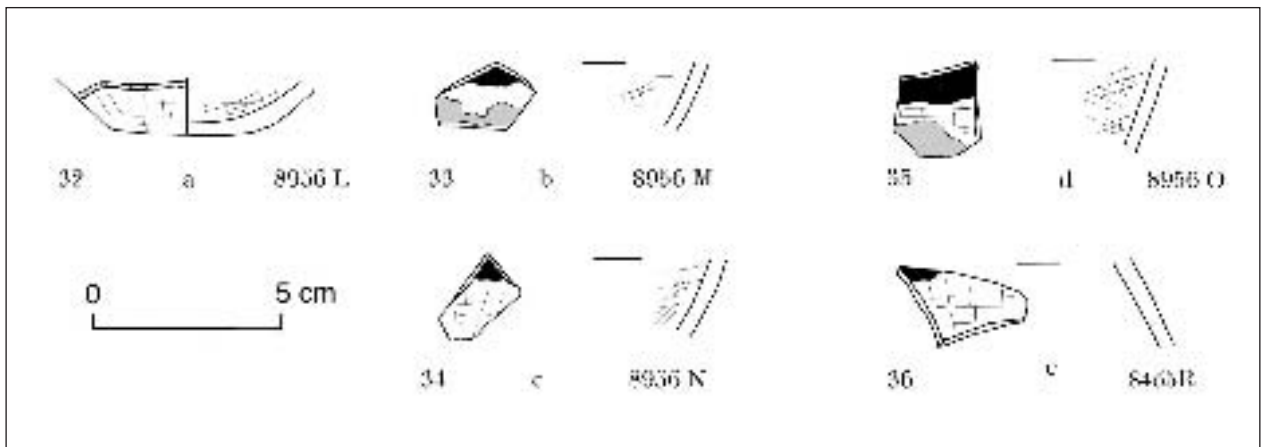


Fig. 5

⁵⁰ On No. 35, see note 51. Some remarks on the stratigraphy of ^cEzbet Helmi: The *relative stratum e*/2 corresponds to the *Phase D*/2, the last Hyksos period, and *e*/1 to *Phase D*/1, from the beginning of the Ahmosis occupation of Avaris. The *relative stratum d* is the *Phase C*/3 and *c* the *Phase C*/2, both phases of the Thutmomid palace-complex at ^cEzbet Helmi; the *relative strata b* and

a were renamed *b*/3 (*Amarna period*) and *b*/2 (*Tutankhamun and Horemheb time*) respectively, corresponding both to the *Phase C*/1. All these strata (*d*, *c*, and *b*) were called before *absolute Stratum C*. The *Rameside stratum* was renamed *Phase b*/1 (*absolute B*), and the Late Period is *absolute Phase A*. On the stratigraphy of ^cEzbet Helmi, see the article mentioned in note 48.

Fabric: Nile B₂; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm: very few) and mica (few); straw (very few) tempered

Decoration: dark grey (7.5YR 4/1) rim zone, low lustre, on a red slip (10R 4/6 red).

Surface treatment: polished, low lustre outside and high lustre inside.

Field reference: H/VI-v/17, plan 0–1, stratum c (=Ph. C/2), Locus 4551 (from a ceramic heap on the top of the wall)

No. 35 (Fig. 5:d; Plate 5:d). 8955R {2002/089}

RPS	I-b-2	mid	Ha ₁	---	re.	2–3
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Body sherd

Wd: 0.4 cm; H₁: ca. 2.3 + x cm

Surface colour: 7.5YR 5/4 brown; slip: 10R 5/4 weak red–2.5YR 5/6 red; interior: 7.5YR 2.5/1 black

Break: 7.5YR 2.5/1 black interior (thick); 5YR 6/6 reddish brown exterior (thin)

Fabric: Nile B₂; inclusions: quartz (> 0.25 mm: few), mica (few); straw (few) tempered

Decoration: a black rim zone (7.5YR 2.5/1, medium lustre); below a grey band (7.5YR 6/1, matt)

Surface treatment: polished, low lustre outside and high lustre inside

Field reference: H/VI-x/19, plan 2–3, stratum e/1 (Stratum D/1), Locus 4929 (from the cutting of the north section. H: 4.40 m, ca. 5 cm above the dump).⁵¹

1.2. Bowl, concave sided

No. 36 (Fig. 5:e; Plate 5:e). 8956O {2002/089}

RPS	I-b-2	mid	Ha ₁	---	Re.	2
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Body sherd

Wd: 0.5 cm; H₁: ca. 2.5 + x cm

Surface colour: 10R 5/6 red slip; interior: 7.5YR 2.5/1 black

Break: 7.5YR 2.5/1 black interior (thick); 7.5YR 5/3 brown exterior (thin)

Fabric: Nile B₂; inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: few), mica (few); straw (few) tempered

Decoration: a black rim zone (7.5YR 2.5/1 black) with some parts bluish grey (5/1), dark bluish grey (4/1), and red (10R 4/6), medium lustre

Surface treatment: polished, medium lustre outside and smoothed inside

Field reference: H/VI-v/19, plan 2, stratum b–c (=Ph. C/1–2), Locus 4878 (from the upper part of the filling of a pit, probably a dump)

Abbreviations:

Bd	base diameter
f.–mid.	fine to medium quality of the groundmass
fein	fine quality of the groundmass
H ₁	total height of the vessel
Ha	hand-made base
Ha ₁	hand-made shaping technique
L	locus
Md	diameter at the major point
mi.	fired in medium atmosphere
mid.	medium quality of the groundmass
mid.–roh	medium to coarse quality of the groundmass

P	polished
PSP	polished exterior, black polished interior
re.	controlled firing conditions
Rd	rim diameter
RP	red-slipped polished
RPSP	red-slipped polished exterior, black polished interior
SP	black polished
TG	uncoated
TGSP	uncoated exterior, black polished interior
W ₁	low simple wheel
Wd	wall thickness

⁵¹ The latest ceramics are stratum d: a black-rim ware bowl, a fine red-slipped polished bowl, and a closed shape in Marl F with polished surface.

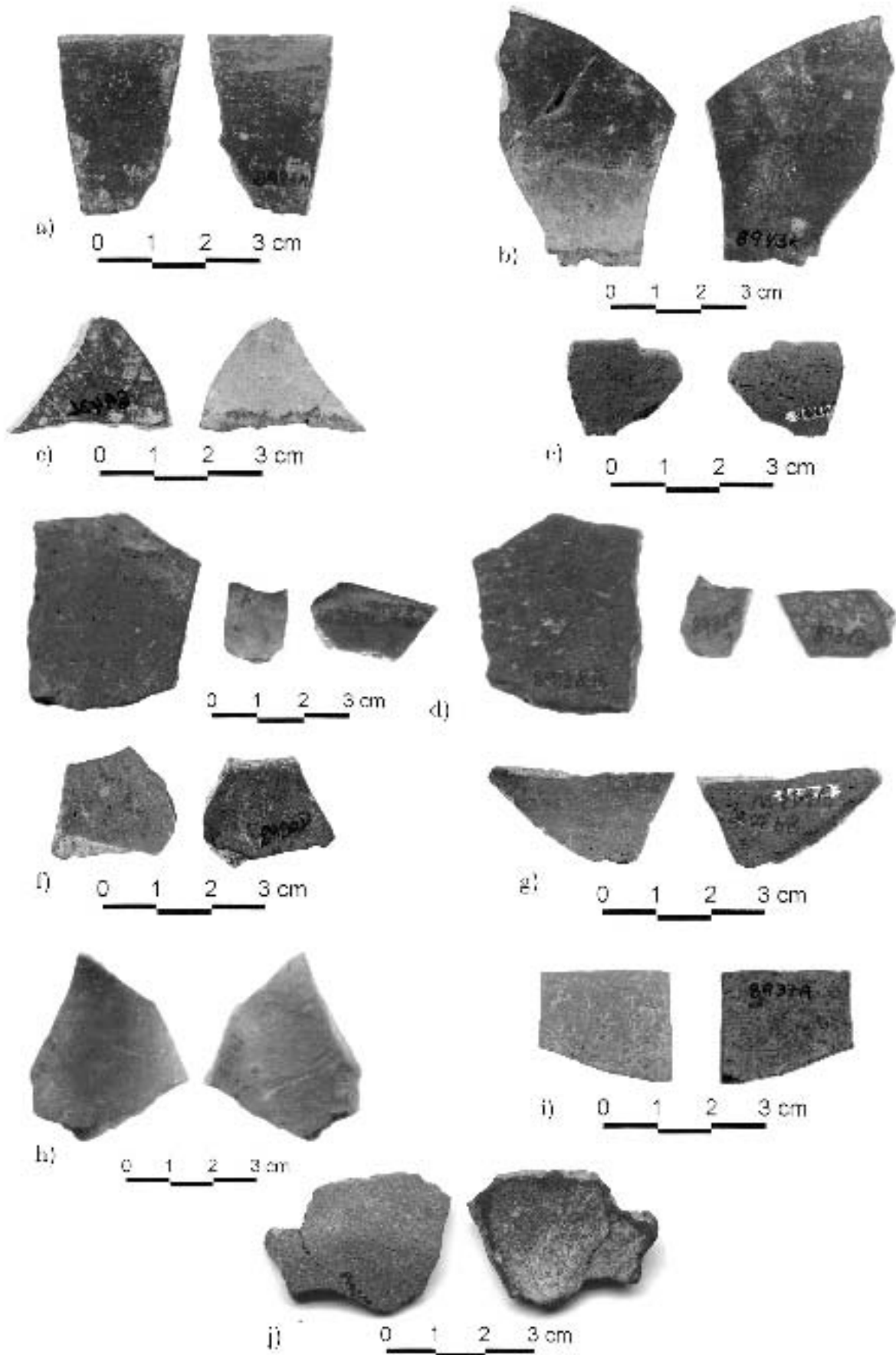


Plate 1 a) Inv. Nr. 8943 M; b) Inv. Nr. 8943 K; c) Inv. Nr. 8943 L; d) Inv. Nr. 8938 B₁₋₃; e) Inv. Nr. 8912 W; f) Inv. Nr. 8930 D; g) Inv. Nr. 8930 F; h) Inv. Nr. 8930 E; i) Inv. Nr. 8937 A; k) Inv. Nr. 8442 M

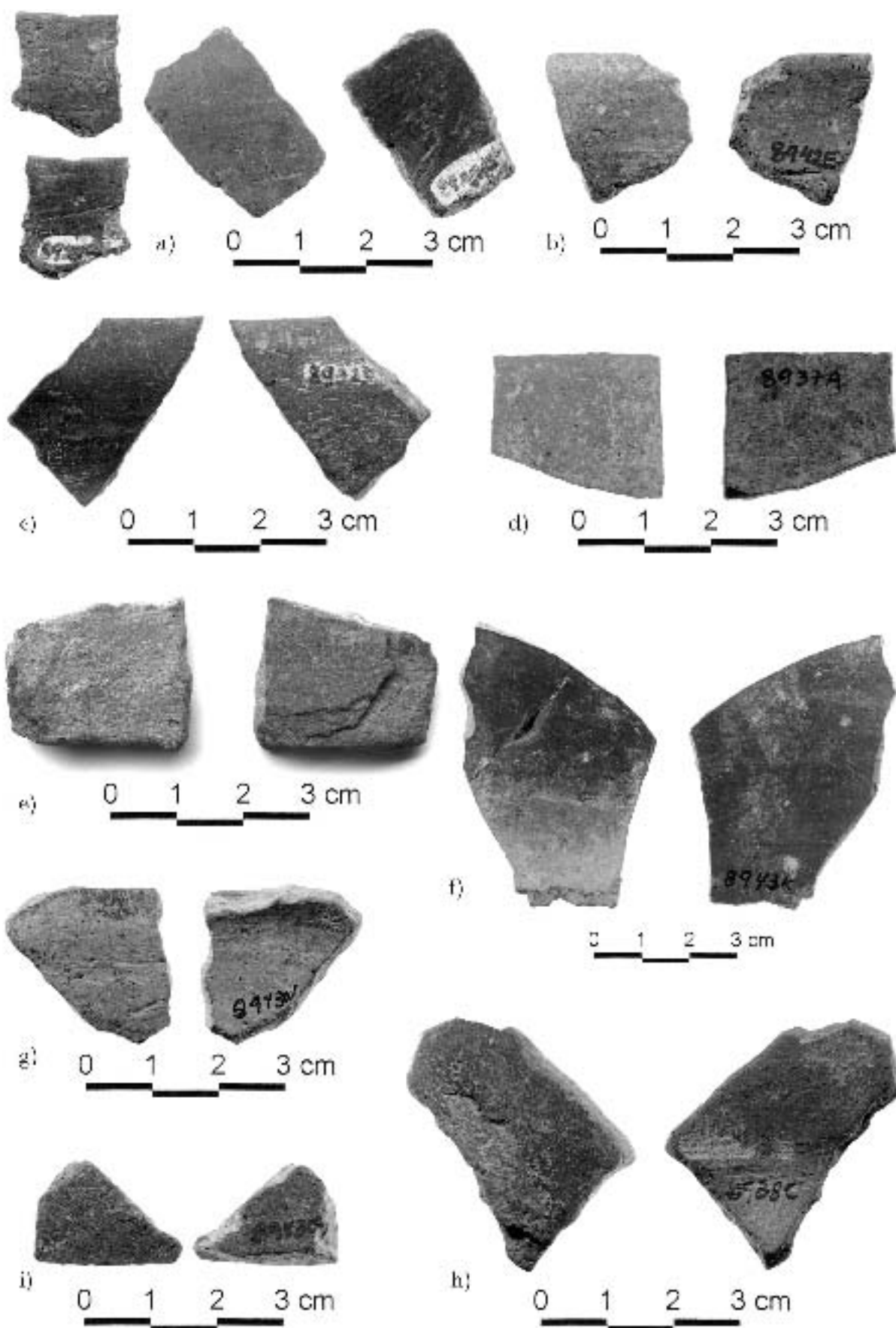


Plate 2 a) Inv. Nr. 8929 L₁₋₂; b) Inv. Nr. 8942 E; c) Inv. Nr. 8932 D; d) Inv. Nr. 8938 A; e) Inv. Nr. 8943 T; f) Inv. Nr. 8942 K; g) Inv. Nr. 8943 N; h) Inv. Nr. 8938 C; i) Inv. Nr. 8943 O

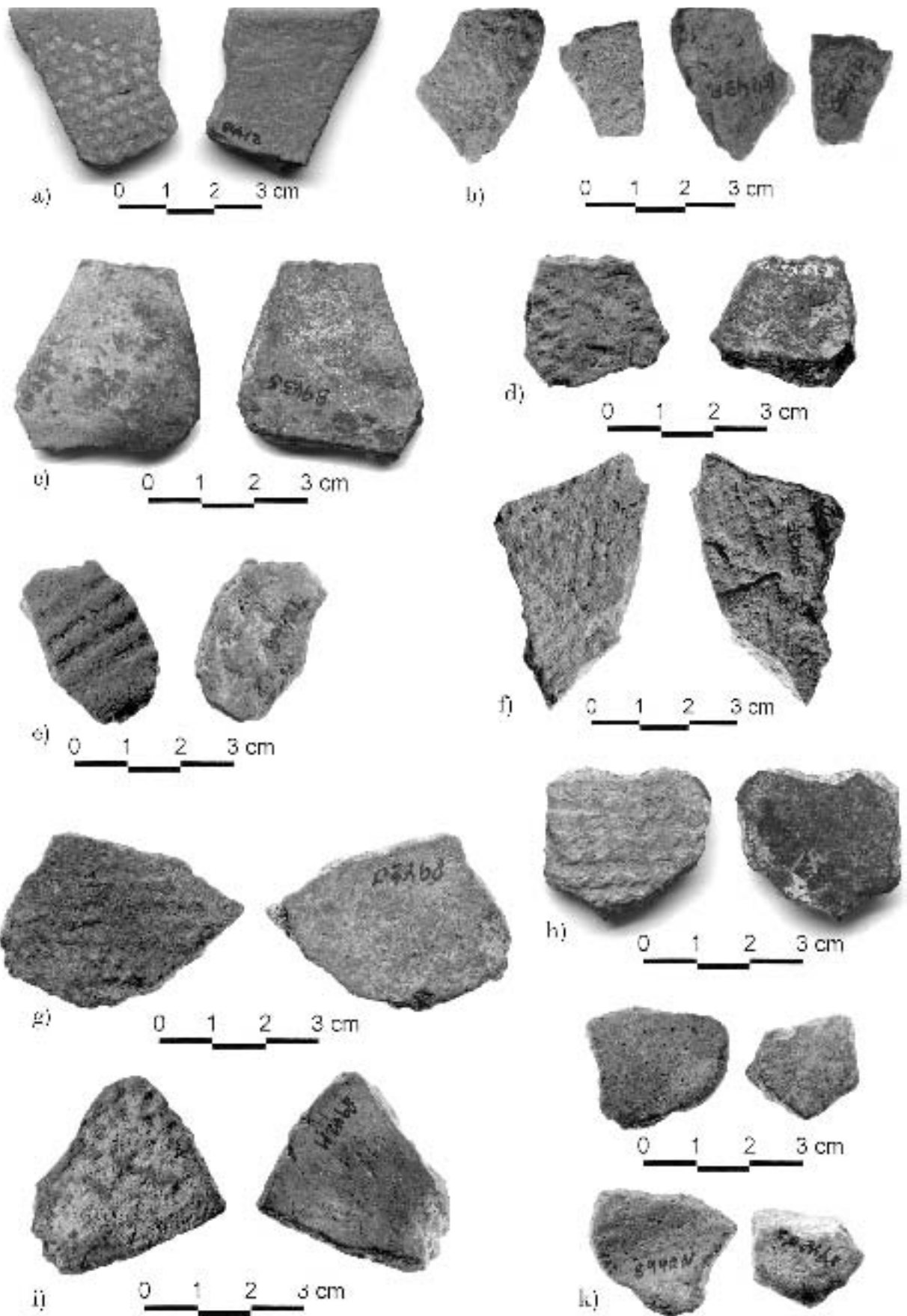


Plate 3 a) Inv. Nr. 8441 Z; b) Inv. Nr. 8943 P₁₋₂; c) Inv. Nr. 8943 S; d) Inv. Nr. 8932 J; e) Inv. Nr. 8942 L; f) Inv. Nr. 8942 F; g) Inv. Nr. 8942 O; h) Inv. Nr. 8943 Q; i) Inv. Nr. 8942 M; k) Inv. Nr. 8912 N₁₋₂

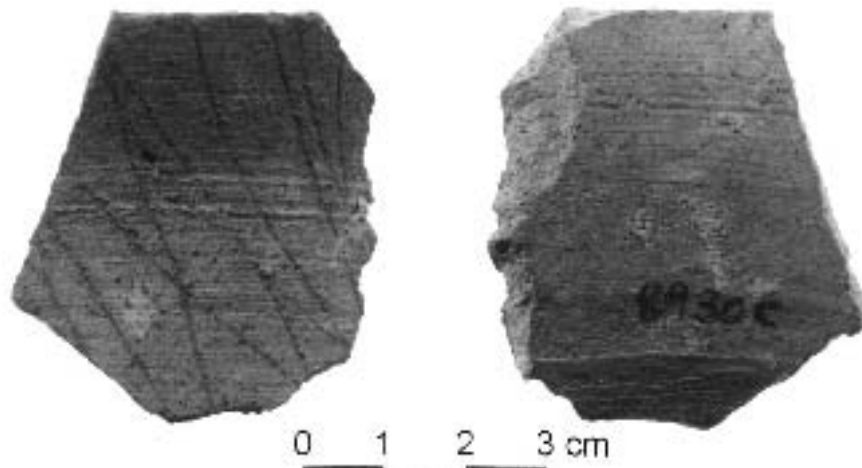
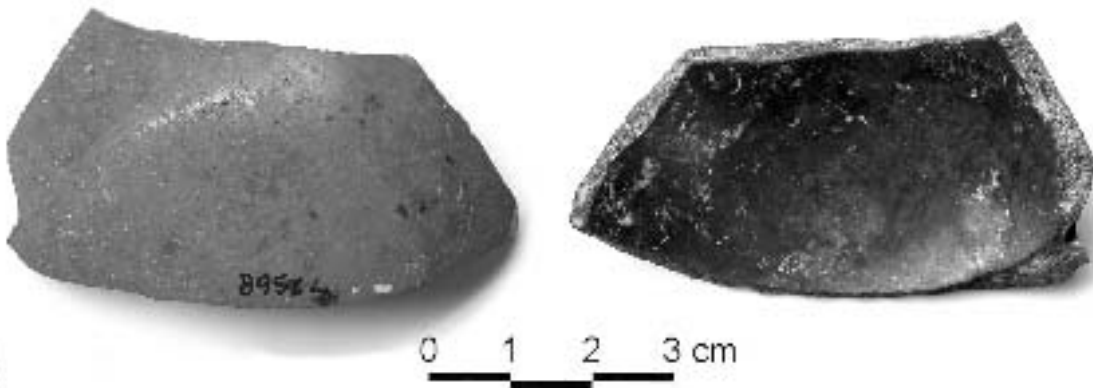
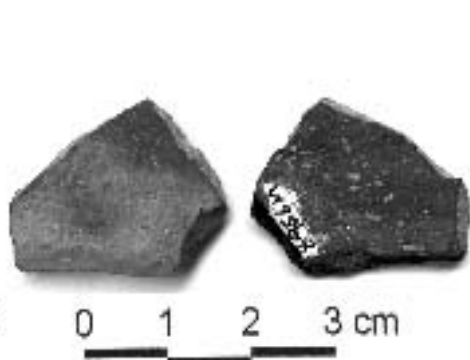


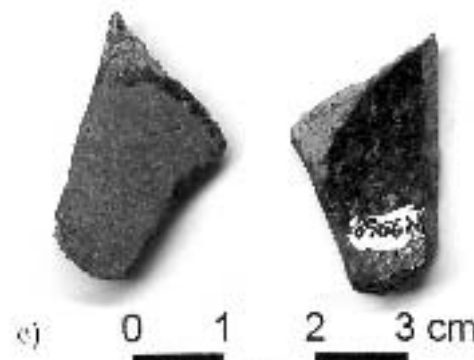
Plate 4 Inv. Nr. 8930C



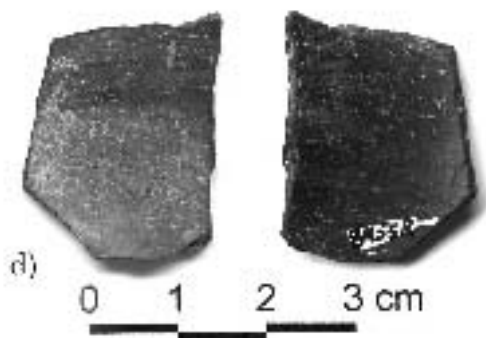
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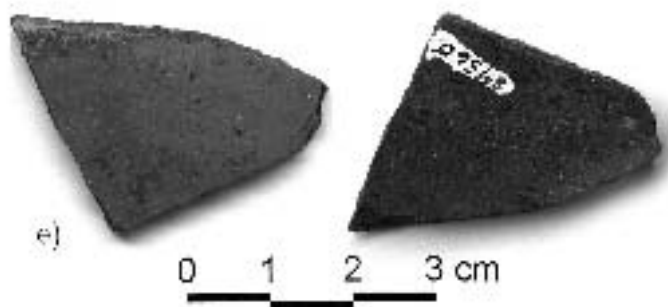
b)



c)



d)



e)

Plate 5 a) Inv. Nr. 8956 L; b) Inv. Nr. 8956 M; c) Inv. Nr. 8956 N; d) Inv. Nr. 8455 R; e) Inv. Nr. 8956 O

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