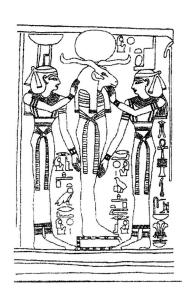


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Golenishev Egyptological Center, Russian State University for the Humanities

CULTURAL HERITAGE OF EGYPT AND CHRISTIAN ORIENT

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В основу статей настоящего сборника легли доклады, представленные на 6-й Международной научной конференции «Культурное наследие Египта и Христианский Восток», прошедшей на базе Института востоковедения Российской Академии наук и Российского государственного гуманитарного университета в мае 2006 года. Публикуемые статьи посвящены истории и культуре древнего Египта, его взаимосвязям с окружающим миром, в особенности с древней Нубией, судьбе его культурного наследия в христианское время, интересу к его цивилизации в средние века и Новое время.

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THE CERAMIC IMPORT IN LATE ROMAN, BYZANTINE AND EARLY ARABIC GIZA: ON THE EXTERNAL CONTACTS OF THE MEMPHITE AREA

Since 1996 Russian archaeological Mission in Giza had been discovered the minor cemetery in Giza. It was found a huge quantity of ceramic material – the whole vessels and potsherds. The majority of the material is dated by the Old Kingdom. Some of the samples are belongs to the latest part of the New Kingdom, Late Period, Ptolemaic, Roman, Byzantine and Early Arabic times. In the midst of the latest is presented import pottery, which indicated the relations between memphite area and foreign countries. The ceramic material of import origin (above 150 potsherds) was found from the debris of Old Kingdom disturbed burials and from the rooms of Khafraankh's rock-cut tomb and was dated by Late Roman (III–IV cent. A.D.), Byzantine (395–641 A.D.) and Early Arabic periods (642–X cent. A.D.). It is characterize by the morphological form and clay fabrics. On its functions, the vessels can be divided on three groups: the tableware (bowls, in general), the containers for transportation and storage food (amphorae) and lighting appliances (lamps).

The group of tableware is presented by 9 fragments of bowls with fine red or brown slip with stamp ornament, the ware so-called "sigillata". Originally sigillate – very qualitative ceramics, were produced in Arretium (modern

¹ In Roman, Byzantine and Early Arabic period Egypt practically was not self-powered state: 30 B.C. – 395 A.D. – Egypt was a province of Roman Empire; 395–641 A.D. – was in Byzantine Empire; since 642 till 905 A.D. – was independent under the reign of Tulunid dynasty; since 969 A.D. was included in Fatimid Khalifat. Nevertheless, Egypt safe trade relations with other countries as a stable geographical region.

Arrezo in Italy) in 50 B.C. – 50 A.D. Since I cent. A.D. it were imitated by the pottery workshops of Gallia, Germany, Asia Minor and Levant,² but this vessels were worse in quality. According to the clay fabrics and colour of surface, the sigillatae from the excavations of Russian archaeological Mission in Giza are divided on two groups. The first group (7 examples) have brilliant red slip surface and is made of fine hard orange-reddish clay with a little quantity of fine white (limestone) and red-brown inclusions:

02/R2/6 – bowl rim (pl. 3, fig. 2) was found in front of the small mud-brick mastaba 48 (48a on pl. 1), in debris;

05/68/37 - bowl rim (pl. 3, fig. 3) was found in Area II, in debris of the complex 68 (68 on pl. 2);

 $06/\text{II}\pi/1$ - bowl rim (pl. 3, fig. 4), was found in Area II, in debris of the south part of the area;

01/24/29 - bowl wall with stamp ornament (pl. 3, fig. 7), was found in Area II, in debris of the south part of the area;

01/23/16 – bowl rim with ornament (pl. 3, fig. 1), was found in Area II, in debris under the shaft 64 (64 on pl. 2);

05/68/36 – bowl rim with stamp ornament (pl. 3, fig.5), was found in Area II, in debris of the complex 68 (pl. 2);

05/67/27 - bowl rim with stamp ornament (pl. 3, fig. 6), was found in Area II, in pit 67, upper level (67 on pl. 2).

According to the clay fabric (so-called North African Red Slip Ware),³ this group comes from Tunis and is dated by III-VII cent. A.D. These bowls

² J.Bourriau, Umm El-Gaàb. Pottery from the Nile Valley before the Arab Conquest. Catalogue. Cambridge, 1981. P. 89. Словарь античности. Moscow, 1989. P. 572-573.

³ R.Tomber, J.Dore, *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection: A Handbook.* London, 1998. P. 61, pl. 44.

have four variants of rim: simple straight rim (III cent. A.D., 4 01/23/16 (pl. 3, fig. 1)), roll rim (V–VII cent. A.D., 5 05/68/37, 02/R2/6 (pl. 3, fig. 2, 3)), complex recurved rim (late IV–V cent. A.D., 6 06/IIn/1 (pl. 3, fig. 4)), triangular ribbing rim (late V – early VI cent. A.D., 7 05/68/36, 05/67/27 (pl. 3, fig. 5, 6)).

The area of diffusion the Tunisian sigillatae in world is covered the territory of Byzantine Empire.⁸ In Egypt it is limited by Alexandria, Delta and Northern Sinai from the north and Elephantina from the south.⁹ However

⁴ M.Bonifay, Etudes sur la céramique romaine tardive d'Afrique. Oxford, 2004. P. 159, fig. 85:17 (type 10 = Hayes's type 17).

⁵ L.Bavay, J.-L.Bovot., O.Lavigne, La céramique romaine tardive et byzantine de Tanis. Prospection archeologique sur le Tell San el-Hagar. // CCE 6, Le Caire, 2000. P. 48, fig. 11 (9), 12 (14, 15).

⁶ M. Bonifay, Etudes sur la céramique romaine tardive d'Afrique. P. 171-172, fig. 92:6,8 (type 41B, C = Hayes's type 67). P.Ballet, M.Picon, Recherches préliminaries sur le origins de la céramique des Kellia (Égypte). Importations et productions égyptiennes. // CCE 1, 1987. P. 28, fig. 2 (3). Bayay L., Boyot, Lavigne, La céramique romaine... P. 48, fig. 11 (5, 6).

⁷ M.-O. Rousset, S. Marchand, Tebtynis 1998. Travaux dans le secteur nord. // AI 33. Le Caire, 1999. P. 246-247, №160. M.-O. Rousset, S. Marchand, Secteur nord de Tebtynis (Fayyoum). Mission de 2000. // AI 35. Le Caire, 2001. P. 24, fig. 11a. M.Bonifay, Etudes sur la céramique romaine tardive d'Afrique. P. 165, fig. 89 (type 27 = Hayes's types 82-84). G.Lecuyot, G.Pierrat-Bonnefois, Corpus de la céramique de Tôd. Fouilles 1980-1983 et 1990. // CCE 7, 2004. P. 201, pl. 17, fig. 231.

⁸ Tunisian sigillatae were found in Chersonesos (northern coast of Black Sea), in strata of middle VI – VII cent. A.D., when the town was under the Byzantine Empire. –Крым, Северо-Восточное Причерноморье и Закавказье в эпоху средневековья. IV – XIII века. Moscow, 2003. P. 48, table 27, №5, 6.

P.Ballet, N.Bosson, M.Rassart-Debergh, Kellia. II. L'ermitage copte QR 195. Le Caire, 2003. P. 71. L.Bavay, J.-L.Bovot, O.Lavigne, La céramique romaine tardive et byzantine de Tanis. P. 48. C.Vogt, la céramique de Tell el-Fadda, Sinaï du Nord. // CCE 5, 1997. P. 2, fig. 1. M.-O.Rousset, S.Marchand, Tebtynis 1998. P. 246, 247 (№160). M.-O.Rousset, S.Marchand, Secteur nord de Tebtynis (Favyoum). Mission de 2000. P. 24, 29, fig. 11a, 16b.

Tunisian sigillatae don't still attested in Giza officially. Tunisian clay fabric is characterized by very fine red-orange, red or red-brownish colour and obligatory very qualitative red slip of the outside and inside. In IV–V cent. A.D. Tunisian sigillatae were copied in Kharga oasis (so-called Kharga Red Slip Ware). Since the end of IV cent. till the beginning of the IX cent. A.D. in Egypt, in Aswan pottery workshops, had producing local qualitative sigillatae imitations from Aswan rose kaolin clay (so-called Aswan Red Slip Ware). Supposed, that Aswan pottery workshops were specialized on producing the fine tableware only, which imitate the import pottery. That production was diffusing in different sites of Egypt: Kellia (modern Qusur el-Rubayat near Alexandria), Cheixhi Abd al-Gourna, Charge Tod, Cheixhi Charge Egypt). In many Egyptian regions since VI to early IX cent. A.D. coarser sigillatae imitations were made of Nile alluvial clays with middle-fine red slip.

¹⁰ M. Bonifay, Etudes sur la céramique romaine tardive d'Afrique. P. 454-456, fig. 256.

¹¹ M.Rodziewicz M. Introduction à la céramique à engobe rouge de Kharga. // CCE 1, 1987. P. 125-129.

¹² M.-O.Rousset, S.Marchand, Secteur nord de Tebtynis (Fayyoum). Mission de 1999. // AI
34. Le Caire, 2000. P. 398, 420. Ballet, Bosson, Rassart-Debergh, Kellia. II. P. 77-78.
Bonifay, Etudes sur la céramique romaine tardive d'Afrique. P. 460.

¹³ Bourriau, Umm El-Gaàb, P. 88.

¹⁴ Bosson, Rassart-Debergh, Kellia. II. P. 77-78, fig. 4 (№12).

¹⁵ M.-O.Rousset, S.Marchand, *Tebtynis* 1998. P. 196, fig. 16b. M.-O.Rousset, S.Marchand, Secteur nord de Tebtynis. Mission de 1999. // AI 34. Le Caire, 2000. P. 398, 420, fig. 11e, 11f, 38a.

¹⁶ L.Bavay, Cheikh Abd al-Gourna, TT 29. Une installation copte du VIII siècle apr. J.-C. //BCE XXII, 2004. P. 65, fig. 1, 3.

¹⁷ G. Pierrat, Évolution de la céramique de Tôd du II au VII siècle apr. J.-C. // CCE 4, Le Caire, 1996. P. 195, 197, 201, fig. 44, 73, 101.

They were fixed in Giza (bowl 05/67/37 (pl. 3, fig. 10)), Saqqara, ¹⁸ Tebtynis, ¹⁹ Luxor. ²⁰ Probably, they were producing in local pottery workshops, not far from they were used.

The second group of bowls with stamp ornament (2 examples), which was found by Russian Mission in Giza, was made of fine hard light-brown clay without visible inclusions, and was covered by fine brown slip inside and outside:

05/67/33 – bowl bottom with stamp ornament (pl.3, fig. 8), was found in Area II, in pit 67, upper level (67 on pl. 2);

05/68/33 – bowl bottom with stamp ornament (pl. 3, fig. 9), was found in Area II, in debris of the complex 68 (68 on pl. 2).

Such clay fabric with fine brown, red, or light-brown slip comes from Cyprus island (so-called Cypriot Red Slip Ware). This form of the bowls is dated by middle VI-VIII cent. A.D.²¹ Analogical Cypriot bowls were fixed on different sites of Egypt: Kellia,²² Tanis (Delta),²³ Northern Sinai,²⁴ Tebtynis

¹⁸ H. Ghaly, Pottery Workshops of Saint-Jeremia (Saqqara). // CCE 3, Le Caire, 1992. P. 167, fig. 6, 7. Lecuyot G. La céramique du mastaba d'Akhethetep à Saqqara. Observations préliminaires. // CCE 6, Le Caire, 2000. P. 244, fig. 3 (C.4., S.P.126).

¹⁹ M.-O.Rousset, S.Marchand, Secteur nord de Tebtynis. Mission de 1999. P. 390, 409-410,
420, fig. 7d, 27c, 38q, 38r. M.-O.Rousset, S.Marchand, Secteur nord de Tebtynis. Mission de
2000. P. 23, fig. 10c.

²⁰ P.Grossman, D.S.Whitcomb, Excavation in the Sanctuary of the Church in front of the Luqsur-temple. // ASAE LXXII, 1992-1993. P. 30, fig. 4n, 4r).

²¹ M.-O.Rousset, S.Marchand, *Tebtynis* 1998. P. 246-247, №166. M.-O.Rousset, S.Marchand, *Secteur nord de Tebtynis (Fayyoum). Mission de 1999.* P. 412, fig. 29b. Rousset M.-O., Marchand S. *Secteur nord de Tebtynis (Fayyoum). Mission de 2000.* P. 22, fig. 9a.

²² P.Ballet P, N.Bosson, M.Rassart-Debergh, Kellia. II. P. 74-75, fig. 3 (№6, 7).

²³ L.Bavay, Bovot J.-L., O.Lavigne, La céramique romaine tardive et byzantine de Tanis. P. 49.

(Fayum).²⁵ It is supposed, that Cypriot pottery workshops produced imitations of Tunisian sigillatae, at the same time in workshops of Phocea and Thessalonike, since IV cent. A.D.²⁶

The most numerous group of import wares is amphorae. During 10 seasons of Russian excavations in Giza were found about 140 fragments of import amphorae of Late Roman, Byzantine and Early Arabic times. These findings are concentrated predominantly in Area II, rarer – in the debris of Khafreankh's rock-cut tomb (Old Kingdom) and Area I.

The majority of examples (in the main walls of vessels) belong to the so-called type "Late Roman Amphorae 1" (LRA1). This type comes from East Mediterranean area: Cyprus, Rhodes, Palestine, Antiochus, Cilicia (central Turkey) and is dated by V-VIII cent. A.D.²⁷ Unlike sigillatae, amphorae were imported not for itself, but as the container with oil or wine. The first opinion is based on some amphorae's dipinti.²⁸ The latest opinion is based on the fact, that amphorae for wine were spreading by resin inside for hermetic. We have some ceramic examples of LRA1 from our excavations with traces of resin inside. It

P.Ballet, Péluse – le théâtre Romain. // CCE 5, 1997. P. 112-113, pl. 1, fig. 11. P.Ballet,
 Tell al-Farama Sud. // CCE 5, 1997. P. 123, pl. 1, fig. 1. Ballet P. Tell al-Kanaïs. // CCE 5,
 1997. P. 129, pl. 1, fig. 1.

²⁵ M.-O.Rousset, S.Marchand, Tebtynis 1998. P. 247 (№166).

²⁶ M.Bonifay, Etudes sur la céramique romaine tardive d'Afrique, P. 459.

²⁷ J.-Y. Empereur, M.Picon, Le Reconnaissance des productions des ateliers céramiques: L'exemple de la Maréotide. // CCE 3, 1992. P. 149. P.Ballet, N.Bosson, M.Rassart-Debergh, Kellia. II. P. 132, fig. 15 (No93). M.-O.Rousset, S.Marchand, Tebtynis 1998. P. 243-244 (No146). M.Egloff, Kellia. La poterie copte. Quatre siècles d'artisanat et d'échanges en Basse-Égypte. Recherches suisses d'archéologie copte III. Genève, 1977. P. 112-113.

²⁸ Amphora with greek inscription from Tanis. – L.Bavay, J.-L.Bovot, O.Lavigne, ^{La} céramique romaine tardive et byzantine de Tanis. P. 58.

was usual for Egyptian wine amphorae of types LRA7 and "Egloff 172",²⁹ which were produced in Middle Egypt and were diffused in Egypt from Delta to Nubia.³⁰ Ancient Roman historian Plinius noted about this technical method.³¹ Alfred Lucas made some analysis of black covering in amphorae – in all cases it was resin.³²

According to research, 80% of LRA1 were imported in Egypt from Cyprus, 15% – from Cilicia, and 5% – from other regions of East Mediterranean.³³ The amphorae LRA1 were discovered in many Egyptian sites, from Delta and Northern Sinai to Nubia and oases of Lybian desert (Kharga).³⁴

The amphorae from Russian excavations in Giza (97/8/40 (pl. 4, fig. 4), 99/17/3 (pl. 4, fig. 1), 99/17/57, 99/17/58, 05/68/40, 05/68/44, 05/69/7 (pl. 4, fig. 2), 05/69/13, 05/69/21(pl. 4, fig. 5), 05/69/6 (pl. 4, fig. 3)) were made of middle-coarse marl clay of beige or light-beige colour with large quantity of mineral

²⁹ For example, amphorae's fragments from Russian excavations in Giza: type LRA7 (99/24/98, 01/23/18a, 05/67/17), type "Egloff 172" (01/23/19, 01/23/34).

³⁰ L.Bavay, J.-L.Bovot, O.Lavigne, La céramique romaine tardive et byzantine de Tanis. P. 59.

³¹ Plin., XIV, 25.

³² А.Лукас, *Материалы и ремесленные производства Древнего Египта.* Моscow, 1958. P. 60.

J.-Y.Empereur, M.Picon, Les régions de productions d'amphores impériales en Méditerranée orientale. // Amphores romaines et histoire économique. Dix ans de recherche, Collection de l'École française de Rome 114, 1989. P. 242.

³⁴ D.M.Bailey, The pottery from the South Church at El-Ashmunein. // CCE 4, Le Caire, 1996. P. 80, fig. 53, №2. L.Bavay, J.-L.Bovot, O.Lavigne, La céramique romaine tardive et byzantine de Tanis. P. 57. P.Ballet, N.Bosson, M.Rassart-Debergh, Kellia. II. P. 131. P.Ballet Tell al-Kanaïs. P. 130. S.Marchand, D.Dixneuf, Amphores et conteneurs égyptiens et importes du VIIe siècle apr. J.-C. Sondages récents de Baouit (2003-2004). // CCE 8 (in print). P. 13-14, fig. 33-35. G.Lecuyot, La céramique du mastaba d'Akhethetep à Saqqara. P. 248-249, fig. 3.4 (C.17.). S.Marchand, D.Laisney, Le survey de Dendara (1996-1997). // CCE 6, Le Caire, 2000. P. 272, №121, 122. J.Bourriau, Umm El-Gaàb. P. 122-123, №243.

inclusions of brown, grey and black colour. Such clay fabric is characterized for Cypriot amphorae.³⁵ They were found in debris of the slope in the tomb of Khafreankh, in debris of the shaft 17 (Area I, pl. 1), in debris of Area II (complexes 68, 69, pl. 2). Some fragments from Russian excavations are note of red simple wave ornament (05/69/7 (pl.4, fig. 2), 05/69/21 (pl. 4, fig. 5)). One fragment of LRA1, probably was used as ostracon (05/69/6 (pl. 4, fig. 3)), but the text, unfortunately, was not understandable.

Recently appeared facts about producing in Egypt local imitations of LRA1. Such examples come from Giza (from our excavations), Saqqara (pottery workshop of St. Jeremia's Monastery, 36), Baouit, 37 Kellia. But this phenomenon had not mass character. The distinctions between import LRA1 and its local Egyptian imitation consist of the clay fabric and quality of manufacture. The clay fabric of local imitations more fine than import. In many cases was used middle-fine Nile alluvial beige-brown clay with small quantity of fine mineral inclusions (97/8/38 (pl. 4, fig. 6)). Some examples were made of fine marl hard clay of light-yellowish-beige colour, with small quantity of middle fine brown mineral inclusions and small quantity of middle size organic inclusions (99/17/4, (pl. 4, fig. 7)). The manufacturing of these vessels is also better, than its import prototypes.

In the minor cemetery in Giza were found two fragments of amphorae with infundibular neck – so-called Late Roman Amphorae of type 2 (97/8/37, 05/68/20 (pl. 5)). They were found in debris in the slope of Khafreankh's tomb and in complex 68 (Area II, pl. 2). The fragment 05/68/20 (pl. 5, fig. 2) was made of fine hard marl clay of beige-orange colour, with middle quantity of

³⁵ R.Tomber, J.Dore, *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection.* P. 108, pl. 83.

³⁶ H.Ghaly, Pottery Workshops of Saint-Jeremia (Saggara). P. 168, fig. 16.

³⁷ S.Marchand, D.Dixneuf, Amphores et conteneurs égyptiens et importes du VIIe siècle apr. J.-C. P. 9-10, fig. 21-23.

³⁸ P.Ballet, N.Bosson, M.Rassart-Debergh, Kellia. II. P. 152-153 (№138, 139).

middle-fine limestone inclusions. Another fragment 97/8/37 (pl. 5, fig. 1) was made of middle-fine middle-hard marl clay of beige colour, with small quantity of fine and middle size mineral inclusions (sand, limestone), with beige-brown smooth. Probably, these fragments have different origin.

The type LRA2 comes from Aegean region (Chyos island, in generally) and from Argolida (north-eastern Peloponnesus), and is dated by III-VI cent. A.D., mainly second part of VI cent. A.D.³⁹ This is the rare type for Egypt: besides Giza, it was found in Gabbari (Alexandria necropolis), Baouit (Middle Egypt) and Ashmunein (ancient Hermopolis Magna in Middle Egypt). According to S. Marchand, ceramologist of IFAO, these amphorae can be producing also on territory of modern Romania.⁴⁰

The latest group of import Byzantine and Early Arabic vessels, which were found by Russian Archaeological Mission in Giza – is lamps. In this group we have the sole fragment of import lamp (05/68/34 (pl. 6)), which was found in debris of the complex 68 (pl. 2). It was made from very fine marl clay of orange colour, without visible inclusions. The surface was covered by very fine redorange slip. According to the clay fabric (so-called African Red Slip Ware), the origin of this lamp is Tunis. The analogous form of lamps was dated by IX–X cent. A.D., but was produced in Egyptian workshops from local alluvial (Nile silt) clay. 41

In Late Roman, Byzantine and Early Arabic periods in the Memphite sites (in particular, in Giza) were supplied different goods (wine, oil, qualitative

³⁹ А.П.Абрамов, Античные амфоры. Периодизация и хронология. // Боспорский сборник. Вып. 3. Moscow, 1993. P. 19, 51, 135, fig. 67. S.Marchand, D.Dixneuf, Amphores et conteneurs égyptiens et importes du VIIe siècle apr. J.-C. P. 16.

⁴⁰ S.Marchand, D.Dixneuf, Amphores et conteneurs égyptiens et importes du VIIe siècle apr. J.-C. P. 16, fig. 41.

⁴¹ M.-O. Rousset, S.Marchand, *Tebtynis* 1998. P. 227 (№72). M.-O. Rousset, S.Marchand, *Secteur nord de Tebtynis. Mission de 2000.* P. 43, fig. 33h.

pottery) from three Mediterranean regions: Northern Africa (Tunis), Eastern Mediterranean (Cyprus) and the islands of Aegean region. These goods were so popular, that got a wide diffusion on all Egypt, and some of them become a prototype of the productions of the local Egyptian pottery workshops. But the trade was not one-sided. Egypt exported different wares to another provinces of Roman and Byzantine Empires, for example, glass vessels, beads,⁴² pottery bowls, wine amphorae from Abou-Mina (near Alexandria) were found even in the towns of Northern Black Sea coast,⁴³ where these goods were luxury.

⁴² N.Kunina, Ancient glass in the Hermitage collection. St.-Petersburg, 1997. P. 269-271 (№103-108 – the necropolis of Pantikapei, Olbia, Kertch); 288 (№175 – Kertch), 339 (№424, 425, 429, 431, 432– the necropolis of Pantikapei, Chersonesos, Kertch).

⁴³ Крым, Северо-Восточное Причерноморье и Закавказье в эпоху средневековья. С. 51, 52, табл. 23 (№12). Amphora №12 was mistakably attributed as a production of pottery workshops in Chersonesos, but its form characterized for LRA5/6 (ware from Abou-Mena, north-western Egypt), as well as import amphorae LRA1 (№5 from Cyprus or Cilicia) and LRA4 (№4 from Gaza).

Abbreviations.

AI - Annales Islamologiques. Le Caire.

ASAE - Annales du Service des Antiquités de L'Égypte. Le Caire.

BCE - Bulletin de la Céramique Égyptienne. Le Caire.

CCE – Cahiers de la Céramique Égyptienne, Institut français d'archéologie orientale. Le Caire.

Plate 1. Russian Archaeological Mission in Giza. Plan of the Area I.

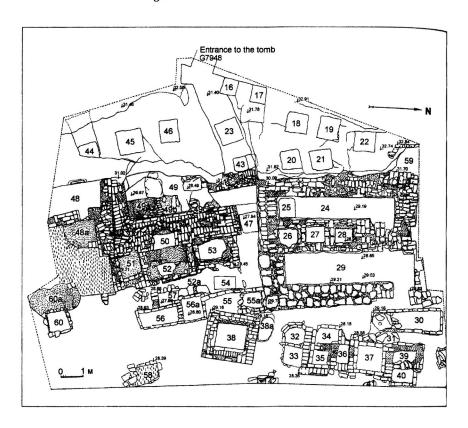


Plate 2. Russian Archaeological Mission in Giza. Plan of the Area II.

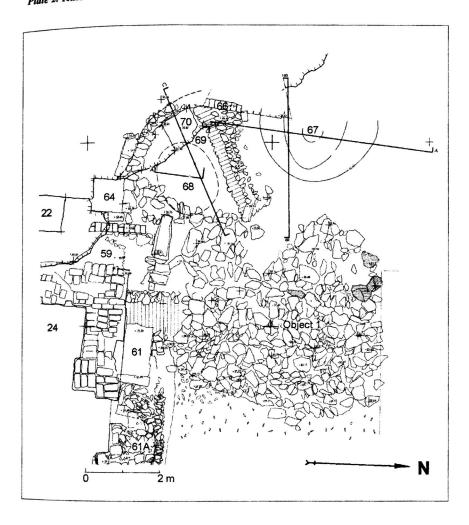


Plate 3. Sigillatae

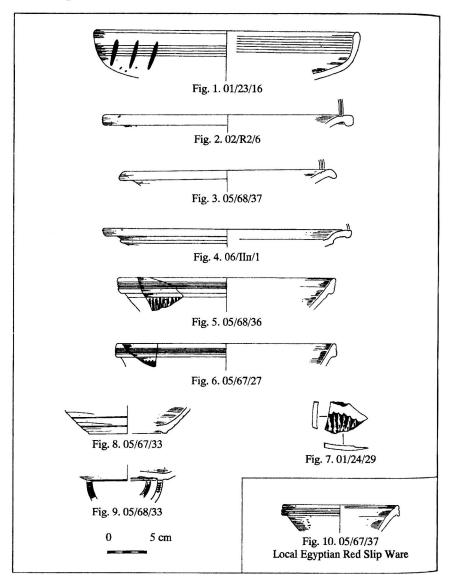


Plate 4. Late Roman Amphorae of type 1.

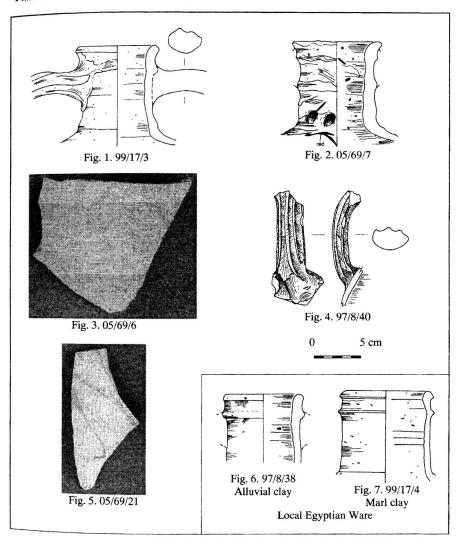


Plate 5. Late Roman Amphorae of type 2.

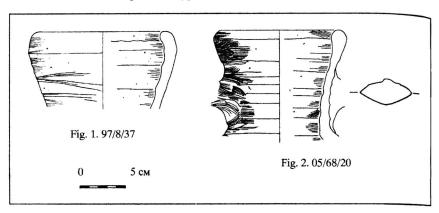
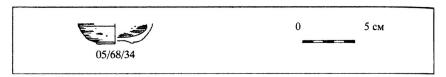


Plate 6. Lamp.





CONTENT

CULTURAL HERITAGE OF ANCIENT EGYPT. IMAGE AND TEXT.
ARQUIER Bernard. Les decans de l'Osireion de Sethy I ^{er} à Abydos3
GUILHOU Nadine. La naissance du soleil et ses voyages d'Esna à Saïs : une
lecture astronomique de la cosmogonie d'Esna
GUILHOU Nadine. Le soleil et la lune sur les sarcophages
LADYNIN Ivan. An Observation on The Harper's Song of The Papyrus Harris
500 (BM 10060) (The Antef Song), Lines 6.4-535
MALYKH Svetlana. The Ceramic Import in Late Roman, Byzantine and Early
Arabic Giza: On the external contacts of the Memphite Area45
POMERANTZEVA Natalia. The Images of the Foreigners in Egyptian Art61
TARASENKO Nikolai. «Ruti-scene» in Ancient Egyptian Religious Art (19
21 Dynasties)
VASILIEVA Olga. Representations of Osiris' Resurrection in the ancient
Egyptian Iconography123
COPTIC TEXTOLOGY AND ART
KAKOVKINE Alexander. The Image of Jethro in the painting of the Exodus
Chapel at al-Bagawat145
SMAGINA Eugenia. The Coptic Manichaean Cosmogonical Sources and Early
Talmudic Legends 147
ANCIENT SUDAN. HISTORY AND RELIGION
AVIGLIANO Teodoro. Pyramid n.11 in the Royal Cemetery of Meroe: a
Reconstructive Hypotesis

FANTUSATI Eugenio. Defensive Aspects of the Island of Philae During the
Roman-Meroitic Age171
KORMYSHEVA Eleonora. On the Goddess Amesemi183
VARRIALE Maria Rita. Hydraulic Systems in the Island of Meroe: the Case of
the Hafirs193
ANCIENT NEAR EAST. HISTORY AND ART
CIRANNA Simonetta. Franciscan Architecture in Palestine during the first half
of the 1900s: Works by Antonio Barluzzi205
ENDOLTSEVA Ekaterina. La scène de l'Ascension et les circonstances de son
apparition dans l'iconographie paléochrétienne225
HAMARNEH Basema. Egyptian Symbols on Early Byzantine Amulets251
LECHITSKAIA Olga. Aphrodite Ahadyomene. Interpretation of the Textile
Images
Images
•
MICHAUX-COLOMBOT Danièle. The identification of the Lubim, Sukkīyim
MICHAUX-COLOMBOT Danièle. The identification of the <i>Lubim</i> , <i>Sukkīyim</i> and <i>Kušīm</i> mercenaries in II <i>Chronicles</i> 12, 3-4
MICHAUX-COLOMBOT Danièle. The identification of the <i>Lubim</i> , <i>Sukkīyim</i> and <i>Kušīm</i> mercenaries in II <i>Chronicles</i> 12, 3-4
MICHAUX-COLOMBOT Danièle. The identification of the <i>Lubim</i> , <i>Sukkīyim</i> and <i>Kušīm</i> mercenaries in II <i>Chronicles</i> 12, 3-4
MICHAUX-COLOMBOT Danièle. The identification of the <i>Lubim</i> , <i>Sukkīyim</i> and <i>Kušīm</i> mercenaries in II <i>Chronicles</i> 12, 3-4
MICHAUX-COLOMBOT Danièle. The identification of the <i>Lubim</i> , <i>Sukkīyim</i> and <i>Kušīm</i> mercenaries in II <i>Chronicles</i> 12, 3-4
MICHAUX-COLOMBOT Danièle. The identification of the Lubim, Sukkāyim and Kušīm mercenaries in II Chronicles 12, 3-4
MICHAUX-COLOMBOT Danièle. The identification of the Lubim, Sukkīyim and Kušīm mercenaries in II Chronicles 12, 3-4
MICHAUX-COLOMBOT Danièle. The identification of the Lubim, Sukkīyim and Kušīm mercenaries in II Chronicles 12, 3-4

RUSSIA AND EGYPT

BASOVSKAYA Natalia. Egypt, the civilization rose (based on the field shoot	of
the RSUH working group)	41
BELIAKOV Vladimir. Russian Orthodox Church in Egypt34	45
ERMAKOVA Nina. The Image of Martyr Christopher Cynocephalus Reflect	ed
in Ancient Russian Ecclesiastical Embroidery3	51

