UNDER THE POTTER'S TREE

Studies on Ancient Egypt Presented to Janine Bourriau on the Occasion of her 70th Birthday

edited by

D. ASTON, B. BADER, C. GALLORINI, P. NICHOLSON and S. BUCKENGHAM

PEETERS

UNDER THE POTTER'S TREE



Janine Bourriau (centre) with Paul Nicholson and Sarah Buckingham sorting sherds at Memphis (Photograph by David Jeffreys).

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DAVID ASTON, BETTINA BADER, CARLA GALLORINI, PAUL NICHOLSON and SARAH BUCKINGHAM



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SOME POST-OLD KINGDOM POTTERY FROM GIZA¹

Ana TAVARES and Sabine LAEMMEL

I. Introduction

The team of the Giza Plateau Mapping Project has been active for over 20 years at the base of the Gebel Qibli at Giza (Area A) with significant results. Most notably, it has brought to light the settlement of the 4th Dynasty pyramid builders and its associated industrial areas, thus providing invaluable insights into the organisation and socio-economic structure which stood behind one of the most colossal enterprises of the ancient world. However, besides these momentous discoveries, the excavations of Area A have also come across remains, including pottery, dating to periods by far posterior to the time of the pyramids themselves.

Until a more detailed examination of this material was carried out, it was assumed that the great majority of it was directly associated with a series of modest burials excavated between 1999 and 2009 in the area of the "Wall of the Crow". These burials were preliminarily dated to the Late Period and the early Roman Period. However, the majority were devoid of material — ceramic or otherwise² — and a large proportion (about 70%) of the post-Old Kingdom pottery collected in the area originated from neither the burials nor their fills. It is precisely with this assemblage which often comes from disturbed and surface deposits that this paper is concerned. Intrinsically, the interest presented by the analysis

¹ The research reported in this paper was funded by Ancient Egypt Research Associates, Inc., a Boston-based non-profit organization conducting original archaeological research and educational programmes in Egypt. AERA is supported by members, donors, and benefactors, including the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Foundation, the David H. Koch Foundation, Ted Waitt Family Foundation, Peter Norton Family Foundation, Glen Dash Foundation, Marjorie Fisher, Ed and Kathy Fries, J. Michael and Marybeth Johnston, Jason G. Jones and Emily E. Trenkner-Jones, Bruce and Carolyn Ludwig, David Marguiles, and Ann Thompson. We would also like to thank Dr. Zahi Hawass and Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, along with all of our Egyptian colleagues. We also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the editors of the present volume for their hard work and their unlimited patience.

² M. LEHNER, '2000 Years Later: Slipper Coffins and Amphorae Buried in TBLF', *Aeragram* 2-2 (1998), 10; M. LEHNER, 'Up Against the Wall: The Wall of the Crow', *Aeragram* 5-1 (2001), 6; M. LEHNER, 'A Sacred Wall', *Aeragram* 5-1 (2001), 10.

of such a collection is twofold. First, from a chronological perspective, it can help define the periods during which the site was frequented. Second, in terms of function, it may contribute in identifying the role that the area played throughout the history of the site and integrate it into the general setting of Giza beyond the Old Kingdom.³

Admittedly, without better contexts, more complete forms, and/or accompanying finds, some degree of uncertainty remains as to the precise date of some of the sherds discussed below.

II. Chronology and Context

II.1 New Kingdom

The pottery collected in Area A at Giza ranges in date from the New Kingdom to the early Roman period (though with some hiatus periods). The New Kingdom material is concentrated in the area of the "Wall of the Crow", with the largest assemblages coming from Squares 1.C34-C35 and 1.C36-C44/1.D44, on the northern side of the wall to the east of the gate. The stratigraphy of the area does not suggest that the sherds from features [3702-3703] and [3729] were linked to the structure of the "Wall of the Crow" itself. Although some of them are relatively large and some are joining with each other, a more likely explanation for their presence would be to presume that they originated from the dumps of the excavations conducted by Selim Hassan at the base of the sphinx in the 1930s.⁴ Some of the sherds from feature [20403], on the other hand, were reportedly found between the masonry of the wall and may be thus linked to some reuse of the structure in the New Kingdom. The nature of this possible reuse is for the time being uncertain and may only be clarified, if at all, by further field work.

Only one New Kingdom sherd occurred in a sector other than on, or around, the "Wall of the Crow". This is the rim fragment from feature [2875], in the area of Gallery Set I which is a surface layer. This suggests that, unless all traces of activity were obliterated by later human intervention or natural erosion, the ancient workmen's settlement, with the notable exception of the "Wall of the Crow", and unlike other areas of Giza, was mostly deserted during the New Kingdom.

³ On that subject, see especially C. ZIVIE-COCHE, Giza au premier millénaire. Autour du temple d'Isis Dame des pyramides (Boston, 1991).

⁴ M. LEHNER, 'Introduction', in: M. LEHNER and W. WETTERSTROM (eds.), Giza Reports – The Giza Plateau Mapping Project Volume 1 (Boston, 2007), 16.

II.2 Late New Kingdom to early Third Intermediate Period

Only one random sherd among the assemblage examined here was ascribed to this phase and its presence at the site cannot be readily explained. For the time being, no burials of that date were discovered in Area A. It can be argued that, to an even greater extent than in the New Kingdom, the site remained bare during the late 20th and 21st Dynasties and that the presence of this sherd in the area is intrusive and accidental.

II.3 Late Third Intermediate Period

Pottery fragments dating to the later part of the Third Intermediate Period (from the late 22nd to the 24th Dynasty) are still exceptional at the site, but not to the same extent as those of the earlier late New Kingdom-Third Intermediate Period phase discussed above. Moreover, they are not specifically restricted to the area of the "Wall of the Crow" any more. The majority of these come from the "Chute" area --- that is outside the workmen's village enclosure - and were associated with burials dated to the Late Period and the Roman Period, respectively. One of the earliest of this group is Burial 407 which did not contain any pottery material but could be dated to the 25th Dynasty on the basis of an amulet of uncommon type.⁵ Thus, it can be suggested that the Third Intermediate Period sherds listed hereafter are residues left from an early use of the nearby "Chute" area as a cemetery. It is possible that a first series of simple interments in this sector were disturbed either by the implantation of later ones or by natural erosion, washing down a few pottery fragments in the lower reaches of the site.⁶

II.4 25th Dynasty

This phase is the first, after the Old Kingdom occupation, during which the area seems to have again been the scene of significant levels of activity. Several of the burials cleared in the area south-east of the

 $^{^5}$ M.-A. CALMETTES and J. KAISER, 'A Girl and her Goddess', Aeragram 8-2 (2007), 14-15.

⁶ Several elements tend to suggest that wind and/or water erosion seriously affected the areas which are considered here. At the time of the excavation, it was reported that the surface from which the burials had been originally cut could often not be identified any more; M. LEHNER, M. KAMEL and A. TAVARES, *Giza Plateau Mapping Project Seasons* 2006-2007. *Preliminary Report*, Giza Occasional Paper 3 (Boston, 2009), 28.

"Wall of the Crow" (WCES) could be dated to that time. Their hallmark is a distinctive type of storage jar with cylindrical body and thickened rim (e.g. Burials 434, 478, 486). Jars of this type, often in a complete or near complete state of preservation, were also recovered stacked together in caches outside, but in direct proximity to, the burials (e.g. features [6380], [1404]). Some of these groups were made up by at least seven jars.⁷ The significance of these sets, although probably linked to the use of the area as a cemetery, is still obscure --- and without more information may forever remain so. One obvious suggestion would be to see them as embalmers' caches. However, the fact that neither the jars, nor any of the other vessels and sherds found in association with them, bore residues of embalming materials speaks against such an interpretation. Alternatively, they may have constituted stocks for burial furnishings which were stored directly on the burial ground and ready to be sold and used for burial ceremonies. At any rate, these hoarded jars probably functioned in the framework of cultic and/or funerary activities in the area. Some of them may have even been intentionally killed as they often have missing bases.

II.5 Saite and Persian Periods

In direct continuity with the 25th Dynasty, further burials were added in the area during the Saite and Persian Periods. As in the previous phase, these are of a very modest character and are poorly furnished. The contemporary pottery found outside the burials is often fragmentary and comes from both the "Chute" and the "Wall of the Crow" area. Again, as in the previous phases, it certainly originated from disturbed burials. Generally speaking, compared to the 25th Dynasty material, this pottery is scarce and poorly preserved. It is well possible that activity already declined during the course of the Persian Period. At any rate, the early Ptolemaic Period left no archaeological trace in the area.

II.6 Late Ptolemaic Period

A small number of sherds, including amphorae fragments, dating most likely to the late Ptolemaic Period were collected near the eastern end of the "Wall of the Crow" (area WCNE), some of them as surface finds. However, no burials belonging to that phase, or for that matter to the

⁷ M. LEHNER, 'Slipper Coffins and Amphorae', 10.

earlier Ptolemaic Period, have so-far been identified. This, together with the paucity of non-burial pottery dating to this phase, suggests that the area might have again been more-or-less abandoned at that time.

II.7 Early Roman Period

In parallel to the extreme end of the Third Intermediate Period and early Saite Period, the early Roman Period (second half of the 1st century BC – 1st century AD) has left significant traces in Area A. The use of the cemetery, both in the "Chute" area and around the "Wall of the Crow" was resumed, and many burials were added at that time, some of which were furnished with pottery. Early Roman pottery was also recovered from a variety of non-burial contexts, often in a fragmentary and eroded state. By far the majority of this material consists of sherds of Egyptian amphorae belonging to the same types as those found with the burials. However, occasionally, small and eroded fragments of vessels belonging to types not, or only rarely, evidenced in the burials, such as the imported Coan amphorae, the barbotine wares and the cooking pots, leave open the possibility that we are also dealing with discarded materials from a nearby settlement.

III. Pottery

III.1 Fabrics

The system of fabric classification adopted for the pottery dating from the New Kingdom to the Late Period at Giza corresponds broadly to that of the Vienna System.⁸ These descriptions need not be repeated here and it will suffice to note that, at Giza, like at many other Egyptian sites, the "Nile B2" fabric of the Late Period tends to contain slightly more straw temper than its typical New Kingdom counterpart, and often exhibits a wide dark grey core. The Late Period version of the "Nile D" fabric, on the other hand, usually fires to a bright reddish-brown hue throughout and only rarely has a dark core in the break.

Visually, the fabrics encountered in the Roman Period significantly differ from those described in the Vienna System to be called by the same names. Therefore, those which appear in the catalogue will be

⁸ H.-Å. NORDSTRÖM and J.D. BOURRIAU, 'Ceramic Technology: Clays and Fabrics', in: Do. ARNOLD and J.D. BOURRIAU (eds.), *An Introduction to Ancient Egyptian Pottery* Sonderschrift des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts Kairo 17 (Mainz, 1993), 168-182.

described below. The other fabrics encountered here, which are not included in the Vienna System, and originate from outside Egypt are described in the catalogue under each entry.

Roman Nile silt fabrics

RS1: this medium-coarse Nile silt fabric is characterised by abundant chopped plant remains. It is relatively porous with conspicuous air holes, left by both burnt-out plant temper and a somewhat careless mixing of the clay. Apart from vegetable fibres, the fabric also contains occasional rounded sand quartz grains and mica in varying quantities. It is, however, poor in limestone. The break often presents a dark core. Fabric RS1 is typical of the small one- or two-handled jugs of the early Roman Period (fig. 34).

RS2: this is a medium-fine Nile silt fabric with a slightly porous structure and often a red or violet core. Inclusions consist principally in rounded sand quartz, mica and a few limestone grits. It has only little vegetable tempering. It was used for a variety of shapes but seems particularly common for open vessels.

RS3: this is a fine to medium fine, mica-rich fabric. Apart from the mica, it has few other visible inclusions or tempering, though the usual quartz grains and chaff fibres do occur. The colour of the break is often reddish, implying firing at high temperatures. This fabric was typically used, though not exclusively, for the production of cooking pots in the Roman Period.

Roman Nile silt amphorae fabrics

The Roman silt amphora fabrics described below were all used almost exclusively for amphorae. They probably all belonged to a single large group and only differ by the fineness of their matrix, and especially, by the amount of their plant temper. They are easily identifiable by the colour of their surface and break which is of a deep brown tinge. The core of the break is often dark anthracite to black, bearing witness to low firing temperatures, especially in areas where the walls are at their thickest. Non-organic inclusions principally consist of sand, quartz and micas. Limestone grits are rare or absent. The relative paucity of mineral inclusions results in the smooth, sometimes soapy texture of the surface. On better preserved examples, it could be noted that, like elsewhere in Egypt, several types of fabrics were used for a single amphora. While the bodies, necks and rims were often made in the finer versions of the clay, handles and toes/spikes tend to be produced in the coarser variant. RA1: this fabric has relatively few mineral inclusions but a fair amount of medium-coarse added plant temper, not only for handles and toes, but also in other parts of the vessel.

RA2: this fabric is similar to RA1 but is medium-fine. It has the same type of non-organic inclusions, but is much poorer in vegetable temper.

RA3: this is the finest variant of the Egyptian amphora fabrics. It is made of a well levigated clay with very little, if any, added plant temper.

Roman Marl fabric

Aswan fabric: this is a very fine pink fabric with usually no core. It has virtually no visible inclusions at 10x magnification, apart from a few small limestone grains.

III.2 New Kingdom

This assemblage generally fits a late 18th-early 19th Dynasty date. It includes a number of blue painted sherds, and a number of undecorated pottery types, such as beer jars, ovoid jars, drop shaped jars, bowls and dishes with red slip and/or red slip on rim, funnel-neck jars and large dishes with string impressions. All have good parallels at Qantir, Amarna, and Thebes.⁹ It also comprises two imported fragments, both from the Levant. The first is a rim of a Canaanite jar made of a well known Lebanese fabric, equivalent to Fabric IV.07.05 at Qantir¹⁰ and P30 at Memphis/Saqqara.¹¹ The second is a fragment of a large carinated bowl, with thick walls. It is made of a distinctive limestone-rich fabric and is left uncoated. The shape, just like the fabric, leaves little doubt as to its

⁹ For example, D.A. ASTON, *Die Keramik des Grabungsplatzes QI. Teil* 1: Corpus of Fabrics, Wares and Shapes, Forschungen in der Ramses-Stadt 1 (Mainz, 1998), 184-186, n. 523-528; B.G. ASTON, 'The Pottery', in: M.J. RAVEN, *The Tomb of Pay and Raia at Saqqara*, Egypt Exploration Society Excavation Memoir 74 (Leiden, London, 2005), 107, n. 32-33 (beer jars); B.G. ASTON, Untersuchungen im Totentempel des Merenptah in Theben Band IV: The Pottery, Beiträge zur Ägyptischen Bauforschung und Altertums-kunde 17 (Mainz, 2008), 123-124, pl.30:618 (ovoid jars), 61-62, 84-85, pl. 4:50-52, pl. 13:248 (dishes and bowls), 157-158, 165-166, pl. 47:916, pl. 51:983; D.A. ASTON *Die Keramik des Grabungsplatzes QI*, 284-293, n.917-945 (funnel neck jars), D.A. ASTON *Merenptah IV*, 56-57, pl. 1:2-5; D.A. ASTON, 'Pottery', in: M. J. RAVEN, *The Tomb of lurudef. A Memphite Official in the Reign of Ramesses II*, Egypt Exploration Society Excavation Memoir 57 (Leiden, London, 1991), 50, pl. 47:12; B. ASTON, 'The Pottery', in: M.J. RAVEN, *Pay and Raia*, 106-107, n. 19-26; P.J. RoSE, *The Eighteenth Dynasty Pottery Corpus from Amarna*, Egypt Exploration Society Excavation Memoir 83 (London, 2007), 69, SD2.2-SD2.5 (dishes with string impressions).

¹⁰ D.A. ASTON Die Keramik des Grabungsplatzes QI, 70.

¹¹ D.A. ASTON, 'Pottery', Iurudef, 49.

south Lebanese or Palestinian origin. Parallels for this type of vessel are found, among others, in the Late Bronze I and II levels at Hazor, Area C, and Megiddo.¹²

Large dish with rounded rim

fig. 1 (3729,07). Complete profile. Nile B2, uncoated. [3729]. Square 1.C34.

Dish with out-turned rim

fig. 2 (3729,01). Rim. Nile B2, red slip in and out and red slip on rim. [3729]. Square 1.C34.

Dish with direct rim

fig. 3 (3702,17). Rim. Nile B2, red slip in and out and red slip on rim. [3702]. Square 1.C34.

Ovoid jar

fig. 3 (3702,01). Base and body. Nile B2/E, uncoated, red slip stains on shoulder. [3702]. Square 1.C34.

Drop jar

fig. 4 (20403,02-03). Complete profile (reconstructed from two non-joining parts). Nile B2, uncoated. [20403]. Squares 1.C36-1.C44-1.D44.

Funnel neck jar

fig. 5 (3702,11). Rim. Nile B2, red slip. [3702]. Square 1.C34.

fig. 6 (20403,01). Base. Marl A4, self slip, black blue and red painted horizontal bands on body. [20403]. Squares 1.C36-1.C44/1.D44.

Necked jar

fig. 7 (3703,04). Rim. Marl D, original surface eroded. [3703]. Square 1.C35.

Beer jar

fig. 8 (20403,04-05). Rim (reconstructed from two non joining parts). Nile B2, uncoated. [20403]. Squares 1.C36-1.C44-1.D44.

Storage jar

fig. 9 (3702,09). Base. Marl B, original surface eroded. [3702]. Square 1.C34.

¹² Y. YADIN, Y. AHARONI, R. AMIRAN, T. DOTHAN, I. DUNAYEVSKI and J. PERROT, *Hazor II. An Account of the Second Season of Excavations, 1956* (Jerusalem, 1960), 93, 114, pl. CXVI:6, pl. CXXV:9; Y. GADOT, A. YASSUR-LANDAU and D. ILAN, 'The Middle Bronze III and Late Bronze I Pottery from Areas F and N', in: I. FINKELSTEIN, D. USSISHKIN and B. HALPERN (eds.), Megiddo IV. The 1998-2002 Seasons, vol. 1 (Tel Aviv. 2006), 179, fig. 12.5,7.

Canaanite jar

fig. 10 (3702,08). Rim. Import: Qantir Fabric IV.07.05 – Memphis/Saqqara Fabric P30, uncoated. [3702]. Square 1.C34.

Krater

fig. 11 (3237,01). Rim. Import: light beige fabric, grey core, abundant limestone inclusions and grey angular pebbles, gritty surface, uncoated. [3237]. Square 3.Y45.

III.3 Late New Kingdom

Among the material studied here only one sherd can be securely ascribed to the period dating from the late 20th to the 21st Dynasty. It consists of an amphora handle made of a mixed clay fabric and covered with a thick pink slip. It corresponds to a typical production of the late New Kingdom, attested at sites such as Qantir¹³ and Memphis.¹⁴

Amphora

fig. 12 (4,01). Handle. Mixed clay fabric, pink slip. [04]. Square C11.

III.4 Late Third Intermediate Period

Only two sherds among the material considered here can be tentatively ascribed to the late Third Intermediate Period (late 22nd to 24th Dynasty). They bear the same feature number and come from a mixed assemblage which also includes clear 26th Dynasty to Persian Period pottery as well as material of Roman date. Both of them are shapes which continued to be produced into the Saite and probably Persian Periods but the specific examples discussed here seem more typical of earlier times for a variety of reasons.

The first of these possibly earlier types is represented by a rim sherd of a bell-shaped jar (fig. 13), a common find in 22nd Dynasty assemblages in the Delta and the Memphite region.¹⁵ On the basis of his exca-

¹³ S. LAEMMEL, 'Preliminary Results on the Pottery from Area Q IV at Qantir/ Pi-Ramesse', *Ägypten und Levante* 18 (2008), 181; D.A. ASTON *Die Keramik des Grabungsplatzes QI*, 618-619, n. 2513-2514.

¹⁴ D.A. ASTON and D.G. JEFFREYS, *The Survey of Memphis III. The Third Intermediate Period Levels*, Egypt Exploration Society Excavation Memoir 81 (London, 2007), 23-24.

¹⁵ C. DEFERNEZ and F. ISNARD, 'La céramique provenant de la structure elliptique', in: Ph. BRISSAUD and C. ZIVIE-COCHE (eds.), *Tanis: Travaux récents sur le Tell Sân el-Hagar* ² (Paris, 2000), 165, Group 9B, pl. IX; H.G. FISCHER, 'The Pottery', in: R. ANTHES, *Mit Rahineh* 1956 (Philadelphia, 1965), 144, pl. 57:402-404.

vations at Tell Balamun, Spencer claimed that bell shaped jars did not appear before the 26th Dynasty.¹⁶ However, this statement is challenged by the above-mentioned evidence from both Tanis and Memphis and also by further late Third Intermediate Period parallels from Heracleopolis.¹⁷

The second is a large storage jar with thickened rim (fig. 14). It relates to the series of large jars with cylindrical body discussed below (figs. 15-17) but bears its handles much lower on the body than the latter, and is made of a hard, fine and micaceous Nile silt fabric. All these elements favour an earlier date for this jar, not much beyond the end of the 22nd Dynasty.¹⁸

Bell jar

fig. 13 (6296,03). Rim. Mixed clay fabric, pink slip. [6296]. Squares 2.E3-2. E5/2.F3-F4/2.G3-G4/2.H3.

Storage jar with handles below rim

fig. 14 (6296,08). Rim. Nile B3, red slip. [6296]. Squares 2.E3-2.E5/2.F3-F4/2. G3-G4/2.H3.

III.5 25th to early 26th Dynasty

Together with the early Roman assemblage, material of 25th Fifth Dynasty date constitutes the largest quantitative group among the pottery from Area A. It principally includes shapes which were also attested in several of the site's burials, such as the two-handled storage jars (figs. 15-17), the conical bowls (fig. 19-20) and the dishes with out-turned rims (fig. 21).

The most frequent shape within this chronological phase in area A (whether with or outside burials) is a two-handled storage jar with rounded base and narrow body. Two different variants of Nile silt fabrics are attested for its manufacture, broadly equivalent to the Nile B2 and the Nile D of the Vienna System. All of these jars were wheel-made; they were thrown in three or four separate parts which were joined

¹⁶ A.J. SPENCER, *Excavations at Tell el-Balamun 1991-1994* (London, 1996), 90, pl. 64:C1.

¹⁷ M.J. LOPEZ-GRANDE, F. QUESADA SANZ and M.A. MOLINERO POLO, *Excavaciones* en Ehnasya el Medina (Heracleopolis Magna) II (Madrid, 1995), 95-96, pl. XLIIIa-b.

¹⁸ D.A. ASTON, Egyptian Pottery of the Late New Kingdom and Third Intermediate Period. Tentative Footsteps in a Forbidding Terrain, Studien zur Archäologie und Geschichte Altägyptens 13 (Heidelberg, 1996), 27, fig. 46:16; W.M.F. PETRIE, Hyksos and Israelite Cities, British School of Archaeology in Egypt 12 (London, 1906), pl. XXXVIA:14.

together when the clay was leather hard. The join was concealed by vertical and horizontal smoothing of the surface which also resulted in creating irregularities in the profile. The handles were formed separately and added at a later stage, sometimes not exactly opposite each other.

Although these jars represent a highly standardized group, a number of differences in body proportions, handle attachment and surface treatments can also be noticed. For example, handles were generally placed just below the rim, but a few jars have the upper extremity of their handle fixed on the rim itself, while others bear the handles lower down on the body. One (fig. 15) even bears a pair of small lug handles between the larger vertical ones. Similarly, whilst the jars were, as a rule, covered with a fugitive matte red slip, some examples were left uncoated and others have a cream slip. It is possible that such stylistic and technological variations mirror the chronological evolution of the type. However, unless they constitute a secondary use, the fact that the different variants sometimes occur together in a single context (for example in features [1153], [1404] and in several of the burials) goes against this proposal.

At Giza, these jars were first dated to the 26th (Saite) Dynasty. In effect, they can be broadly compared with a type of jar often found in Saite levels, especially in the Nile Delta, for example at Tell Maskhuta¹⁹ and Tanis.²⁰ However, in the present instance, a case can be made for arguing for a slightly earlier date, still in the 25th Dynasty. Although broadly comparable jars were indeed still produced in the Saite Period, the type evidenced at Giza derives directly from an earlier version of the shape, made of a harder, more micaceous, Nile silt fabric, which is epitomized among the material recovered from the fill of the so-called "Structure Elliptique" at Tanis²¹ The fill of this installation (if not the installation itself) can be securely dated to the late Third Intermediate Period, probably in the early 8th century BC, during the reign of Sheshong III.²² Morphologically, the jars from Giza are still very close to

¹⁹ J.S. HOLLADAY Jr., *Cities of the Delta III. Tell el Maskhuta*, American Research Centre in Egypt, Reports 6 (Malibu, 1982), 51, 82-83, pl. 3:7.

²⁰ S.A. LAEMMEL, 'La céramique du temple d'Horus de Mesen et des sondages du centre du Tell', *Bulletin de la Mission Françaises des Fouilles de Tanis*, forthcoming, figs. 230-231.

²¹ C. DEFERNEZ and F. ISNARD, 'La céramique provenant de la structure elliptique', 164, Group 8, pl. VIII

²² Ph. BRISSAUD, 'La structure elliptique: un aménagement énigmatique contemporain des tombes royales', in: Ph. BRISSAUD and C. ZIVIE-COCHE (eds.), In *Tanis: Travaux récents sur le Tell Sân el-Hagar* 2 (Paris, 2000), 86.

those from the "Structure Elliptique"; they stand closer to them than to the Saite and later examples of the type, which have a much thicker, more massive rim and a more globular body. Their fabrics, however, are already different, being somewhat coarser, and they show evidence of having been fired at lower temperatures, both features which are more characteristic of the Late Period Nile silt pottery production. The combination of these elements points to a date between the late 22nd Dynasty and the Saite Period, most likely in the 25th Dynasty.²³

Such a date is further supported by the nature of the other pottery found in association with these vessels. Apart from intrusive Old Kingdom sherds, this material notably includes small conical bowls and dishes with out-turned rims (figs. 19-21). Significantly, both these types find good parallels in late Third Intermediate Period and 25th Dynasty contexts. Again, they are represented in the "Structure Elliptique" from Tanis²⁴ as well as at Tell el-Balamun in the Third Intermediate Period²⁵ and Memphis, mainly in the 11th and 10th centuries BC, but also later until the 8th-7th centuries BC.²⁶

In addition, a 25th Dynasty date for the cylindrical jars is also supported by the evidence from the burials. Two of those containing such jars also yielded imported "torpedo" amphorae from the Syro-Palestinian coast. The rim and general morphology of these latter vessels hint at a date in the last third of the 8th century and they find very good parallels at Tyre in Strata II-III²⁷ and Hazor in Stratum VA, Area B.²⁸

Another type of storage jar was also evident in association with those with cylindrical bodies (fig. 18). These have short necks, button bases and a pair of handles on the shoulders but their special particularity is their pinched-in waist which hints at a late 8th-7th century BC date.²⁹

Finally, a fragment of an imported Black-on-Red (probably II/IV) Cypriote juglet (fig. 22), albeit from the eroded and melted surface,

²⁶ D.A. ASTON and D.G. JEFFREYS, *Survey of Memphis III*.37, fig. 33:292, 300-302, fig. 41:425-530, fig. 42:446-476).

²⁷ P.M. BIKAI, The Pottery of Tyre (Warminster, 1978), 46, 67, pl. IV:6.

²⁸ Y. YADIN et al., *Hazor II*, 56, pl. XCI:9.

²³ See also a parallel at Tell Balamun - A.J. SPENCER, *Excavations at Tell el-Balamun* 1999-2001 (London, 2003), 17, pl. 15:15.

²⁴ C. DEFERNEZ and F. ISNARD, 'La céramique provenant de la structure elliptique', 174-175, 177, Groups 24, 23E, 26C and 26C', pls. XV, XVII.

²⁵ A.J. SPENCER, *Excavations at Tell el-Balamun 1995-1998* (London, 1999), 13, pl. 11b.

²⁹ D.A. ASTON, Burial Assemblages of Dynasty 21-25. Chronology – Typology – Developments, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften Denkschriften 54 (Vienna, 2009), 324, figs. 26-27.

deserves mention here. It belongs to a ware that was produced on Cyprus between the mid-10th and the last quarter of the 8th centuries BC³⁰ and is attested as an import elsewhere in Egypt.³¹

Storage jars with cylindrical body

fig. 15 (1404,02). Near complete profile, tip of base missing, pair of additional lug handles. Nile B2, cream slip. [1404]. Square 4.N9.

fig. 16 (1404,03). Complete vessel. Nile B2, uncoated. [1404]. Square 4.N9. fig. 17 (6381,01). Complete profile. Nile D, uncoated. [6381]. Square 2.E5.

Storage jar with pinched-in waist

fig. 18 (1153,01). Complete profile. Nile B2, red slip. [1153]. Square 4.011.

Small conical bowl

fig. 19 (6379,01]. Rim. Nile B2, uncoated. [6379]. Square 2.E5.

Large conical bowl

fig. 20 (1553,01). Complete vessel. Nile B2/E, red slip in and out. [1553]. Square 4.N9.

Dish with out turned rim

fig. 21 (1153,05). Rim. Nile B2/C, uncoated. [1153]. Square 4.011.

Cypriote Black-on-Red juglet

fig 22 (3447, 02). Body sherd. Cypriote fabric: pink homogeneous fabric with tiny silt-size white grits, no core, red-orange thick slip and brown painted horizontal bands on external surface. [3447]. Square 2.B6.

III.6 Late Saite to Persian Period

A smaller quantity of sherds and vessels are certainly later than the 25th Dynasty. This is the case of the so-called "goldfish bowls" (fig. 23) and the torches (fig. 28) which appear in the 26th Dynasty and continue into the 30th Dynasty.³² The Nile silt bottles and the jars with pointed

³⁰ E. GJERSTAD, *The Swedish Cyprus Expedition Vol. IV.Part 2. The Cypro-Geometric, Cypro-Archaic and Cypro-Classical Periods*, (Stockholm, 1948), 69-71, fig. XXXVIII:9, fig. XXXIX:14a; N. SCHREIBER, *The Cypro-Phoenician Pottery of the Iron Age*, Culture and History of the Ancient Near East 13 (Leiden, Boston, 2003).

³¹ B. ASTON, 'The Pottery', *Pay and Raia*, 121, 127, n.161, 214. For a more specific parallel, see for example at Alassa, F. FLOURENTZOS, *Excavations in the Kouris Valley. I. The Tombs* (Nicosia, 1991), 36-40, pl. XXXII:27, 29.

³² V. CHAUVET and S. MARCHAND, 'La céramique préptolémaïque des fosses de l'avant-cour du temple d'Amon de Tanis', in: Ph. BRISSAUD and C. ZIVIE-COCHE (eds.),

base and/or ridge at the base of the neck (figs. 22-27), often covered with a red slip and sometimes burnished, are typically late Saite to Persian in style.³³

"Goldfish" bowl

fig. 23 (4510,02). Rim. Nile D, uncoated, red slip band on rim; soot stains inside. [4510]. Squares 2.C5-D5/2.C6-D6/2.E5-D6.

Bottle with round base

fig. 24 (4518, 01). Complete vessel. Nile B2, red slip. [4518]. Square 2.C6.

Globular jar with relief ridge at base of neck

fig. 25 (3554, 01). Body sherd. Nile B2, red slip. [3554]. Square 2.C7.

Jars with pointed base

fig. 26 (6407,01). Base. Nile B2, red slip burnish. [6407]. Square 2.D6.

fig. 27 (3330, 01). Base and body. Nile B2, uncoated. [3330]. Squares 1.A45-A46.

Torch

III.7 Late Ptolemaic

Some sherds and vessels still seem to belong to the 1st century BC and were thus dated to the late Ptolemaic Period, rather than to the following Early Roman Period. These sherds mainly consist in fragments of ampho-

Tanis: Travaux récents sur le Tell Sân el-Hagar (Paris, 1998), 343, fig. 10; P.G. FRENCH and H. GHALY, 'Pottery Chiefly of the Late Dynastic Period from Excavations by the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation', *Cahiers de la Céramique Égyptienne* 2 (1991), 112-113, 123-124, n. 57-59, 112-115; B. ASTON, 'The Pottery', *Pay and Raia*, 121-122, n.163.

fig. 28 (6296,02). Body sherd. Nile B2/C, uncoated. [6296]. Squares 2.E3-2. E5/2.F3-F4/2.G3-G4/2.H3.

³³ P.G. FRENCH and J. BOURRIAU, 'A Pottery Assemblage of the First Half of the Sixth Century BC', *Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts Abteilung Kairo* 63 (2007), 111-112, fig. 17:2, fig. 18:3. See also E. STERN, *Material Culture of the Land of the Bible in the Persian Period* 538-332 B.C. (Jerusalem, 1982), 125-126; G. LEHMANN, *Untersuchungen zur späten Eisenzeit in Syrien und Libanon. Stratigraphie und Keramikformen zwischen ca.* 720 bis 300 v. Chr., Altertumskunde des Vorderen Orients Band 5 (Münster, 1996), 422-423, pl. 54:324/1-325/2,329d. The jars with pointed base, especially the one with a relief ridge at the base of the neck, are evocative of typical Assyrian shapes, such as those found at Tell Keisan, Level 5, dated 720-650 BC (A. CHAMBON, 'Le Niveau 5 (Fer IIC)', in: J. BRIEND and J.-B. HUMBERT, *Tell Keisan* (1971-1976): une cité Phénicienne en Galilée, Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis Series Archaeologica, Band 1 (Fribourg/Göttingen/Paris, 1980), 165-166, pl. 37:8,13a).

rae with flat rim,³⁴ but it also includes one complete dish with incurved rim.

Amphora

fig. 29 (6285,089). Rim. RA1, uncoated. [6285]. Squares 2.D3-D.5/2.E3-E5/2. F3-F5/2.G3-G5/2.H3-H5.

Bowl with incurved rim

fig. 30 (6297,01). Complete vessel. RS2, original surface eroded. [6297]. Squares 2.E3-E5/2.F3-F4/2.G3-G4.

III.8 Early Roman Period

A large part of the pottery of the early Roman Period, originating from non-burial contexts, is made up by Egyptian Nile silt amphorae. The predominant type, as was the case in the burials, is the amphora with modelled sloping rim, long ribbed neck and smooth body (fig. 31) which was produced in the late 1st and 2nd century AD.³⁵ A few other types of Nile silt amphorae were also recorded, such as those with thickened rim (fig. 32) which are also characteristic of the early Roman Period.³⁶ The amphora on fig. 33 is probably slightly earlier than the other examples illustrated here. It still has the flattened rim of the Ptolemaic phase, but its handles, though long, are already fixed on the neck.

The second most common vessel of that date attested in Area A is a type of small juglet with ring-base and ovoid body made of the medium-coarse, low-fired RS1 fabric (fig. 34). It finds good parallels in other early Roman contexts.³⁷

Other early Roman pottery types, such as kraters with pair handles (fig. 38), small bowls (fig. 36), dishes (fig. 37) and cooking pots (fig. 35)

³⁴ D. DIXNEUF, 'Le matériel amphorique', Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts Abteilung Kairo 63 (2007), 145, fig. 35:6-7.

³⁵ D. DIXNEUF and G. LECUYOT, 'Note préliminaire sur les amphores découvertes par la mission "Recherches sur les ateliers de potiers hellénistiques et romains de Bouto" (2002-2003)', *Cahiers de la Céramique Égyptienne* 8 (2007), 136, fig. 6; D. DIXNEUF, 'Le matériel amphorique', 145-146, fig. 35:9-10. M.D. RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII. Early Roman Industries on Elephantine*, Archäologische Veröffentlichungen 107 (Mainz, 2005), pl. 90:1488.

³⁶ R. TOMBER, 'The Pottery', in: V.A. MAXFIELD and D.P.S. PEACOCK (eds.), Survey and Excavation – Mons Claudianus 1987-1993 Volume III. Ceramic Vessels and Related Objects, Fouilles de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale du Caire 54 (Cairo, 2006), 148, fig. 1.57:12-860.

³⁷ E.g. J. LAUFFRAY, La Chapelle d'Achoris à Karnak. I. Les fouilles, l'architecture, le mobilier et l'anastylose (Paris, 1995), 88-91, fig. 43:205.

are only represented by isolated, often small sherds. However, like the amphorae and the ring-base juglets, they all belong to the early Roman pottery corpus.³⁸ The same holds true for two very thin walled fragments of barbotine ware (one juglet and and one small carinated cup). Both find good parallels at Aswan in early Roman levels.³⁹

Pottery of early Roman date also includes four fragments of imported Coan amphorae with bifide handles, dating to between the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD.⁴⁰

Egyptian Amphorae

fig. 31 (2234,01-02). Rim, neck and shoulder. RA2, uncoated. [2234]. Square 2.C5.

- fig. 32 (1006,01). Rim. RA3, uncoated. [1006]. Square A7.
- fig. 33 (6285,103). Rim and neck; pitch remains inside neck. RA3, uncoated. [6285]. Squares 2.D3-D.5/2.E3-E5/2.F3-F5/2.G3-G5/2.H3-H5.

Juglet

fig. 34 (2008,03). Body sherd. RS2, uncoated(?), original surface eroded. [2008]. Square Q5.

Cooking pot

fig. 35 (115,01). Rim. RS3, uncoated. [115]. Square A7.

Small bowl

fig. 36 (2972,13). Rim. RS2, uncoated. [2972]. Squares 2.C7-C8/2.D7-D8.

Dish

fig. 37 (2972,12). Rim. RS2, thick matte red slip in and out. [2972]. Squares 2.C7-C8/2.D7-D8.

³⁸ For example, small bowls with ledge rim have early Roman period parallels at Aswan (M.D. RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII*, pl. 71:1065-1173), while the cooking pot compares with pieces from Thebes (L. GABOLDE, H.I. AMER, P. BALLET and M. CHAUVEAU, "Le Tombeau Suspendu" de la "Vallée de l'Aigle", *Bulletin de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale* 94 (1994), 221-222, n. 82). The jar with pair handles can be compared to an early Roman type occuring at Saqqara in the Anubieon (P. French, personal communication, April 2010).

³⁹ M.D. RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII*, pl. 65:1053-1054. Gempeler discussed the barbotine vessels at Elephantine as imports (R.D. GEMPELER, *Elephantine X. Die Keramik römischer bis früharabischer Zeit*, Archäologische Veröffentlichungen 43 (Mainz, 1992), 41). M.D. RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII*, 72-79, is of another opinion and, especially on the basis of their fabric, argued for a local production for these vessels. See also J.W. HAYES, *Handbook of Mediterranean Roman Pottery* (London, 1997), 68, colour plate IV.

⁴⁰ A. MARANGOU and S. MARCHAND, 'Conteneurs importés et égyptiens de Tebtynis (Fayoum)', *Cahiers de la Céramique Egyptienne* 8 (2007), 2007, 244, fig. 6-11.

Jar with pair handles

fig. 38 (2972,11). Rim. RS1, uncoated. [2972]. Squares 2.C7-C8/2.D7-D8

Barbotine wares

- fig. 39 (3075,03). Body sherd. Aswan fabric, thin greyish slip with barbotine decoration, white paint on applied relief. [3075]. Square 4.86.
- fig. 40 (2875,03). Rim. Aswan fabric, black matte slip with barbotine decoration, white paint on applied relief. [2875]. Square 4.U13.

Coan amphora

fig. 41 (2138,01). Rim. Coan fabric: beige-buff fabric, gritty surface. The core is red-brown and inclusions consists primarily in limestone and mica grits, uncoated. [2138]. Square 4.E21.

IV. Conclusions

According to Wodzinska, the post-Old Kingdom pottery in Area A only amounts to about 0.14% of the total pottery assemblage at the site.⁴¹ In addition, many of the contexts from which this later pottery originates were contaminated by Old Kingdom (4th Dynasty) sherds. This only emphasises the pre-eminence and preponderance of the Old Kingdom strata relative to later phases in the area.

However, albeit not quantitatively important, the post-Old Kingdom material from Area A at Giza is significant in other respects. For one thing, it covers a very long period of time. Although some of the shapes, such as the storage jars of the late 8th century BC or the amphorae of the early Roman Period are extremely common (in the case of the latter both to Giza and to other sites) a number of more unusual types also appear, including some imports from Eastern Greece, the Levant and Cyprus. From another perspective, this assemblage also provides isolated instances of sherds dating to periods which were not previously attested in the area, such as the late New Kingdom and the late Ptolemaic Period.

While, as argued above, much of the earliest fragments of the collection discussed here (New Kingdom-early Third Intermediate Period) may be extraneous to Area A, the major part of the pottery datable to the 25th Dynasty onwards can most certainly be interpreted as vestiges of actual human activity at the site. The most straightforward explanation for its presence is that it was connected to the use of the area as a cemetery, but one other hypothesis is at least worth mentioning. The Late Period material, in particular, may bear witness to various cultic activities that were performed in the sector of the "Wall of the Crow". Indeed, deposits of animal bones and dogs' burials belonging to that chronological phase were also brought to light in the area. Furthermore, excavations in this sector have even uncovered worked limestone blocks which might have belonged to a dismantled edifice of Late Period date.⁴² Although these remains are far too little to argue for the presence of a Late Period cultic building in the neighbourhood of the "Wall of the Crow", all the elements mentioned above, as well as the human burials themselves, suggest that this monumental structure was considered as a sacred space for most of the later history of the site.⁴³ Natural erosion and human activity are undoubtedly responsible for obscuring our knowledge of the area in post-Old Kingdom times. Thus, for the time being, and quite likely for the future too, such knowledge must depend on little more than humble potsherds.

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⁴¹ A.WODZINSKA, 'Preliminary Report on the Ceramics', in: M. LEHNER and W. WET-TERSTROM (eds.), *Giza Reports v. 1: Project History, Survey, Ceramics and Main Street and Gallery III.4 Operations*, The Giza Plateau Mapping Project Volume 1 (Boston, 2007), 284.

⁴² M. LEHNER, M. KAMEL and A. TAVARES, Giza Plateau Mapping Project, 28-30.

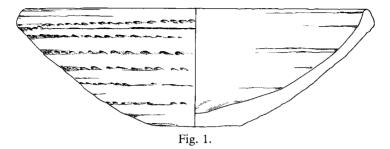
⁴³ M. LEHNER, 'Up Against the Wall', 6.

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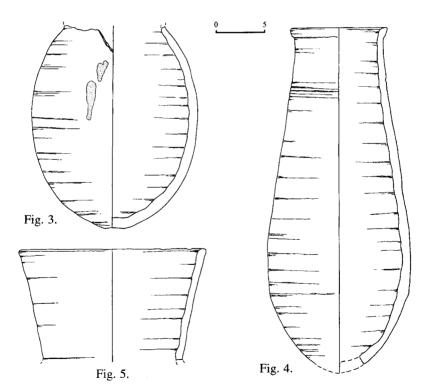


Fig. 1. (3729,07). — Fig. 2. (3729,01). — Fig. 3. (3702,01). — Fig. 4. (20403, 02-03). — Fig. 5. (3702,11).

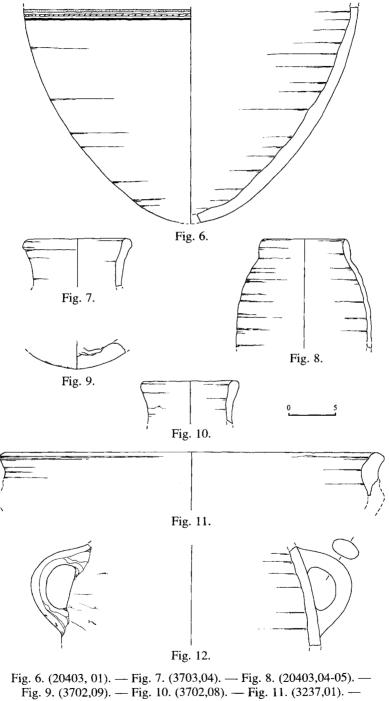


Fig. 12. (4,01).

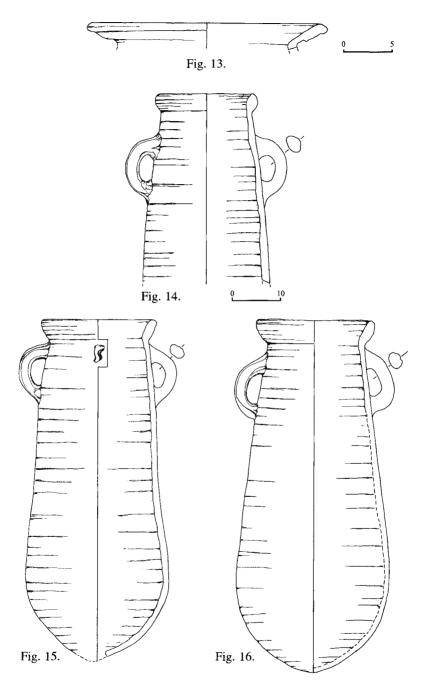


Fig. 13. (6296,03). — Fig. 14. (6296,08). — Fig. 15. (1404,02). — Fig. 16. (1404,03).

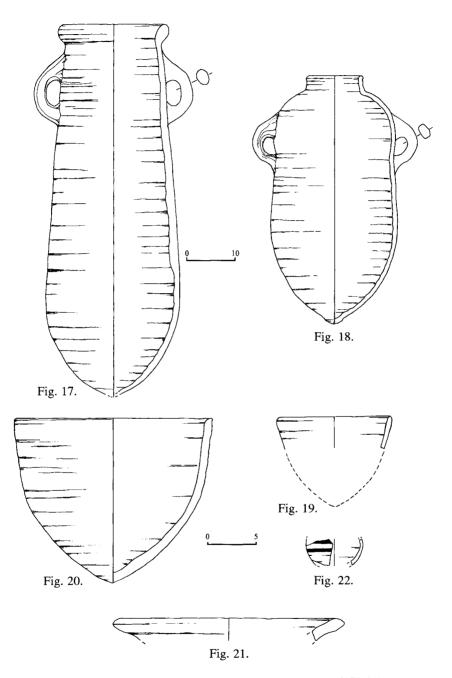


Fig. 17. (6381,01). — Fig. 18. (1153,01). — Fig. 19. (6379,01). — Fig. 20. (1553,01). — Fig. 21. (1153,05). — Fig. 22. (3447,02).

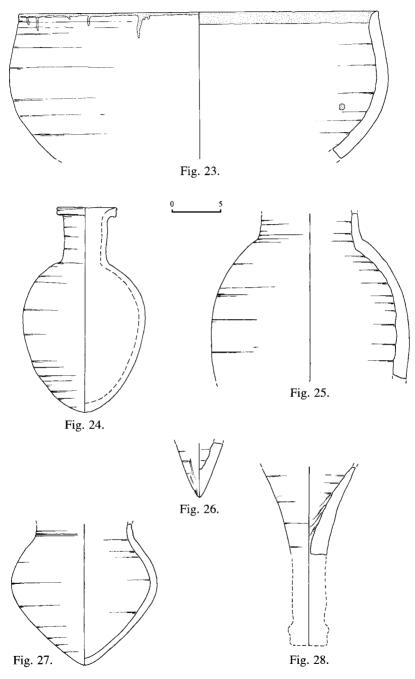


Fig. 23. (4510,02). — Fig. 24. (4518,01). — Fig. 25. (3554,01). — Fig. 26. (6407,01). — Fig. 27. (3330,01). — Fig. 28. (6296,02).

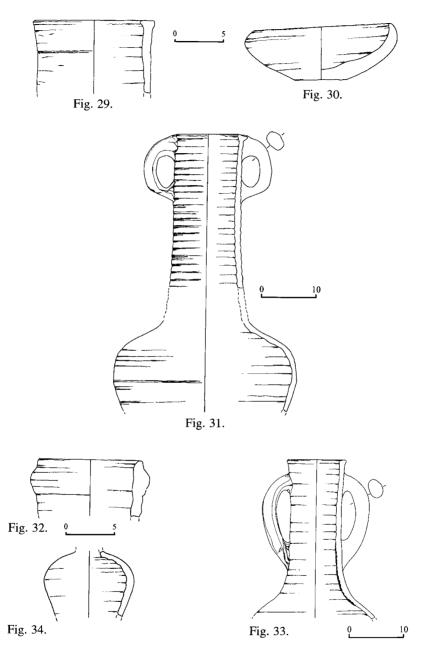


Fig. 29. (6285,89). — Fig. 30. (6297,01). — Fig. 31. (2234,01-02). — Fig. 32. (1006,01). — Fig. 33. (6285,103). — Fig. 34. (2008,03).

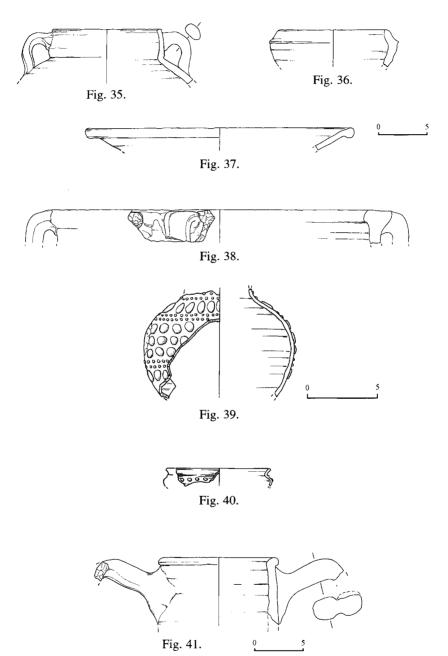


Fig. 35. (115,01). — Fig. 36. (2972,13). — Fig. 37. (2972,12). — Fig. 38. (2792, 11). — Fig. 39. (3075,03). — Fig. 40. (2875,03). — Fig. 41. (2138,01).