

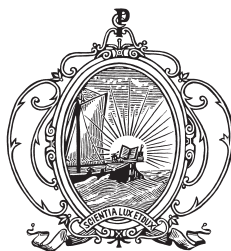
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UNDER THE POTTER'S TREE

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

edited by

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FIELD NOTES FROM DRA ABU EL-NAGA ON
THE FIRST INTERMEDIATE PERIOD / EARLY MIDDLE
KINGDOM POTTERY

María J. LÓPEZ GRANDE¹

During the 2007-2009 field seasons of the Spanish-Egyptian Mission at Dra Abu el-Naga,² several pottery vessels which can be dated to the First Intermediate Period/Early Middle Kingdom were found below the floor level of the courtyard of TT 11 (Djehuty). I wish to pay tribute to Janine Bourriau in this *Festschrift* in her honour, by dedicating a study of these pottery finds to her not only because of her interest in Egyptian pottery, but also because the study of Egyptian pottery and the name of Janine Bourriau has become intertwinably linked in the minds of all her colleagues. In 1988 I had the pleasure of meeting Janine for the first time at Saqqara and showing her some pottery sherds I was then studying. May the following lines remind her of that time in Egypt and thank her for her constant kindnesses ever since.

1. A small pottery assemblage of three vessels

In February 2007, on reaching the floor level of the extremely long courtyard, TT 11, it was found that a large area of its surface had been built as an artificial terrace resting on a conglomerate of limestone chips and sand. This levelled area, located at a distance of 12 m away from the

¹ I would like to express my warmest thanks to Mr. James Land for helping me with the English translation of this paper. I am also indebted to some colleagues for providing figures and plates for this paper: C. Cabrera-fig. 1; P. Rodríguez-fig. 2-4; and J.M. Parrals. 1-3.

² The Spanish Mission at Dra Abu el-Naga headed by J. M. Galán was inaugurated in 2002. Its primary objectives are the study, restoration and preservation of the rock tombs TT 11, the tomb of Djehuty, dating to the reign of Hatshepsut; 399, whose owner is still unknown, and TT 12, the tomb of Hery, which can be dated to the reign of Amenhotep I. See: J.M. GALÁN, 'The Tombs of Djehuty and Hery (TT 11-12) at Dra Abu el-Naga', in: J.-C. GOYON and C. CARDIN (eds.), *Proceedings of the Ninth International Congress of Egyptologists*, Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta 150 (Leuven, 2007), 777-787. J.M. GALÁN, 'Tomb-Chapels of the early XVIIIth Dynasty at Thebes', in: J. MYNAROVA and O. PAVEL (eds.), *Thebes. City of Gods and Pharaohs/Theby. Mesto bohů a faraonu* (Prague, 2007), 88-101; J.M. GALÁN, 'Excavations at the Courtyard of the Tomb of Djehuty (TT 11)', in *Proceedings of the Tenth International Congress of Egyptologists*, Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta (Leuven, in press).

façade, stretched out across 22 m reaching the east mudbrick wall of the courtyard (fig. 1, A). The paved space filled the irregular shape of the rocky hill slope where it sinks below the floor level, and, at the same time, it also hid from view a number of earlier burials placed here long before TT 11 was constructed.

Whilst clearing this area, three Nile clay pottery vessels which date to the Late First Intermediate Period/Early Middle Kingdom came to light. They belonged to the funerary equipment of an adult, almost elderly, lady buried in an uninscribed wooden coffin, which had been laid on the bedrock without any visible protection above it.³ The vases were found in the compacted, undisturbed layer of limestone chips and sand which covered the coffin, not far away from its lid. Despite their simplicity, these vessels seemed to have been the most significant pieces of the lady's grave goods. No other remains related to her were found, but inside the coffin, in addition to the human remains were traces of textiles, and a few small faience beads, whilst seven *balanos* seeds/fruits were located under the coffin.

The pottery vases of this small assemblage are of small/medium-dimensions and are rather poor in their manufacture and finishing (fig. 2a-c). Their size and shape suggest that they were most probably used for ritual or symbolic purposes rather than as genuine containers to store funerary food offerings. The assemblage comprises one *hs*-vase, an ovoid jar and a flat-based bowl.

1.1. *hs*-vase

The most typical funerary vessel from among these three pots is a Nile B1⁴ *hs*-vase with direct rim and slender body, tapering to a flaring base (fig. 2b; 8D75-1). It has two gentle rather horizontal lines at the base of the neck and slightly carinated shoulders. The rim, neck and shoulders are finished on a turning device and the outer surface of its body is slightly trimmed vertically from the major point to the base, the latter being cut to shape. Its maximum length is 17.7 cm, with a maximum width (located above the middle of its height), of 8 cm, and has a rim

³ J.M. GALÁN, '11th Dynasty Burials below Djehuty's Courtyard (TT 11) in Dra Abu el-Naga', *Bulletin of the Egyptological Seminar* (in press).

⁴ All the fabrics alluded to in this paper have been designated according to the nomenclature of the Vienna System, H.-A. NORDSTRÖM and J. BOURRIAU, *Ceramic Technology: Clays and Fabrics in: Do. ARNOLD and J. BOURRIAU (eds.), An Introduction to Ancient Egyptian Pottery*, Fascicle 2, Sonderschrift des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts Kairo 17 (Mainz, 1993), 168-186.

diameter of 6.3 cm and measures 6.5 cm at its base. Its outer surface is rather eroded, but traces of almost completely lost red (7.5 YR 7/4-5/4) wash were still present. It was found broken in two pieces and restored.

The *hs*-vase is well known as a ritual vessel⁵ used for dispensing water and the shape can be traced back to the Early Dynastic Period.⁶ They were used to pour out libations in temples and cemeteries in ceremonies where ritual purification was necessary.⁷ As a result of its specialized function the shape of the *hs*-vase rapidly became stereotyped and was only slightly modified in later periods.⁸ According to S. Seidlmayer,⁹ the earlier examples evolved throughout the Old Kingdom and the First Intermediate Period to the time of the 12th Dynasty when the type acquired its distinctive high, round shouldered, but slender tapering body, with tall neck, and flat rim and base.

The shape of the slender *hs*-vase found in this assemblage was typically used at the end of the Old Kingdom,¹⁰ with significant parallels being found in three partially preserved examples from the tomb QH 98 (Aswan), dated to the middle of the reign of Pepy II.¹¹ A similar *hs*-vase with direct rim, carinated shoulders and a body tapering to a narrow flat base, dated to the early 11th Dynasty is known from el-Tarif,¹² whilst other examples dated to the First Intermediate Period/Middle Kingdom are known from Dendera¹³.

⁵ MESNIL DU BUISSON, *Les noms et signes égyptiens désignant des vases ou objets similaires* (Paris, 1935), 109-119; A. GARDINER, *Egyptian Grammar*, 3rd edition (Oxford, 1957), 529, W 14; A. ERMAN und H. GRAPOW, *Wörterbuch der Ägyptischen Sprache*, Akademie-Verlag (Berlin, 1982), Vol. III, 154.

⁶ K.N. SOWADA, 'Black-topped Ware in Early Dynastic Contexts', *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* 85 (1999), 87.

⁷ H. BALCZ, 'Die Gefäßdarstellungen des Alten Reiches', *Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts Abteilung Kairo* 5 (1934), 45-49.

⁸ J. BOURRIAU, *Umm el-Ga'ab. Pottery from the Nile Valley before the Arab Conquest (Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge 6 October to 11 December 1981)* (Cambridge, 1981), 61, 232-233.

⁹ S. SEIDLMAYER, *Gräberfelder aus dem Übergang vom Alten zum Mittleren Reich. Studien zur Archäologie und Geschichte Altägyptens 1* (Heidelberg, 1990), 86-90.

¹⁰ M. LOPATTA, 'Das Festbankett des Gaufürsten und sein Ritualgeschirr', in: E. CZERNY, I. HEIN, H. HUNGER, A. SCHWAB and D. MELMAN (eds.), *Timelines. Studies in Honour of Manfred Bietak*, *Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta* 149 (Leuven, 2006), Vol. I, 201-202, 204.

¹¹ E. EDEL, *Die Felsgräbernekropole der Qubbet el-Hawa bei Assuan*, I. Abteilung, Band 2 (München, Wien, Zürich, 2008), 1334-1335, Figs. 15 QH 98/15-17 QH 98/11, specially the last one; 1351.

¹² DO. ARNOLD, 'Weiteres zur Keramik von el-Tarif', *Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts Abteilung Kairo* 28,1 (1972), Abb. 5, 1872.

¹³ R.A. SLATER, *The Archaeology of Denderah in the First Intermediate Period*. Phd thesis, University of Pennsylvania, 1974, 79-80, Fig. 20, L1a; the same in A. WODZINSKA,

1.2. Ovoid jar

In the same assemblage a fragmentary Nile B1 ovoid jar with direct rim and a probably rounded, but now lost base (fig. 2a; 8D75-2) was found. This jar could also be used as a ritual vessel for dispensing water or other liquid but most probably it was a medium-size container for keeping drinking water or any type of beverage such as milk, beer, wine, etc, to be consumed using the carinated drinking-cup of this same assemblage (see below no. 1.3). The lower part of its body shows hand smoothed finishing, while its upper part and rim have been finished on the wheel. There is a horizontal, slightly incised, line in the upper part of its body, probably made by the potter with a sharp object or his own finger nail. The eroded outer surface seems to be uncoated but scant remains of a red (7.5 YR 7/4-5/4) dense slip could be seen at its rim. The jar was found broken, a single fragment which corresponds to half of its complete shape excluding the lost base. Its maximum length is 11 cm, its maximum width at the middle of its body 9.7 cm and the diameter of its rim is 5.2 cm.

The morphological type of this jar is well known from the end of the Old Kingdom to the 11th Dynasty, but exactly similar parallels are difficult to find because these vessels are partially handmade. Medium-size ovoid jars with direct rims have been found in Old Kingdom pottery workshops at Ayn-Asil (Dakhla oasis),¹⁴ whilst related but rather larger examples, some of them with a trend towards a more bag-shaped form than an ovoid one, are known from Qubbet el-Hawa, where they date to the Late Old Kingdom.¹⁵ 11th Dynasty pottery from the el-Tarif necropolis includes ovoid jars with the same features,¹⁶ and the type is also attested in Dendera.¹⁷ A rather similar but deformed jar with a

A Manual of Egyptian Pottery, Vol. 2: Naqada III-Middle Kingdom, Ancient Egypt Research Associates Field Manual Series 1 (Boston, 2009), 152 nos. 16-17.

¹⁴ G. SOUKIASSIAN, M. WUTTMAN, L. PANTALACCI, P. BALLEST and M. PICON, *Balat III. Les ateliers de potiers d'Ayn-Asil, fin de l'ancien empire première période intermédiaire*, Fouilles de l'Institut, Français d'Archéologie Orientale 34 (Cairo, 1990), 100, Pl. 23, 50-53.

¹⁵ E. EDEL, *Felsgräbernekropole*, Band 1, 73-74, Fig. 25 25/187, 78, 81, Fig. 28 25/356, 87, 89, Fig. 54, 25/398; E. EDEL, *Felsgräbernekropole*, Band 2, 1002, 1006, Fig. 49 QH 88/268, 1087, 1089, Fig. 21 QH 89/198; E. EDEL, *Felsgräbernekropole*, Band 3, 1599-1600, Fig. 126 QH 105/76, 1827, 1831, Fig. 16 206/43, 1838-1839, Fig. 39 QH 206/148 (bag shaped with potmark), 1847, 1914-1916, Fig. 133 QH 207/175, Fig. 136 QH207/178, Fig. 137 QH 207/179, 1946, 1957, Fig. 195 QH 207 0/1163.

¹⁶ Do. ARNOLD, 'Keramikkbeispiele aus den Gräbern der frühen 11. Dynastie von El-Tarif', *Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts Abteilung Kairo* 23 (1968), 54-56, Abb. 7. Do. ARNOLD, 'Weiteres zur Keramik von el-Tarif', Abb. 3, 1876.

¹⁷ R.A. SLATER, *Archaeology of Denderah* 89-90, 500, Fig. 25, R5b.

flattened base, dated to the 11th – 12th Dynasties, is known from Beni Hassan.¹⁸

1.3. Carinated bowl

The third pot of this assemblage is a Nile B1 gently carinated bowl with direct rim and flat base (with its center slightly pushed inwards) which was found broken and incomplete (fig. 2c; 8D75-3). It shows distinct evidence of hand smoothing but the base was left rough, and traces of whitish slip, now almost entirely lost on both the inner and outer surfaces. Its maximum length varies from 6.0 to 6.2 cm, with a diameter of 10.7 cm at its rim and 2.6 cm at its base. By its form and size this vessel belongs to a well known pottery type which seems to derive from the most developed Old Kingdom “Meidum bowls”¹⁹ and is generally understood as a drinking cup. These vessels are well known in Middle Kingdom contexts,²⁰ but are found from the Late Old Kingdom onwards in funerary and domestic contexts. There are quite a few examples dated to the end of the reign of Pepy II in different tombs of the Qubbet el-Hawa necropolis.²¹

The type has also been found in the Old Kingdom workshops at Ayn-Asil,²² where by the time of the First Intermediate Period they had evolved into a different form of carinated bowl with the carination at the lower part of their bodies, rounded or ring bases, and most of them with an incised horizontal line in their outer surface, close to the rim.²³

Carinated bowls have also been found in Old Kingdom/First Intermediate Period domestic contexts at Dendera²⁴ where the main features of the type still remain in some red slipped bowls dated to the 11th Dynasty.²⁵

¹⁸ A. WODZINSKA, *A Manual of Egyptian Pottery*, Vol. 2, 179, no. 36.

¹⁹ S. MARCHAND, ‘Le survey de Dendara (1996-1997)’, *Cahiers de la Céramique Égyptienne* 6 (2000), 266.

²⁰ J. BOURRIAU, *Umm el-Ga’ab*, 7.

²¹ E. EDEL, *Felsgräbernekropole* Band 1, 138 Fig. 244 25/330, 197-198, Fig. 444 26/354 (its lip more pronounced); 229-230; E. EDEL, *Felsgräbernekropole*, Band 2, 990, Fig. 9 QH 88 0/1377; 991, Fig. 13 QH 88/01392 (more sloping lips); 1000, Fig. 35 QH 88/01436; 1002, 88/268; 1005-1006, Fig. 60 QH 88/279; 1298, Fig. 25 QH 93/32.

²² G. SOUKIASSIAN et al, *Balat III*, 145, Pl. 17, 14.

²³ G. SOUKIASSIAN et al, *Balat III*, 145-146, Pl. 18, 20-25.

²⁴ R.A. SLATER, *Archaeology of Denderah*, 63-65, 487, Fig. 12, C6f; S. MARCHAND, ‘Fouilles récentes dans la zone urbaine de Dendara: La céramique de la fin de l’Ancien Empire au début de la XIIe dynastie’, *Cahiers de la Céramique Égyptienne* 7 (2004), 220, 225, Figs. 35-36, 40; A. WODZINSKA, *A Manual of Egyptian Pottery*, Vol. 2, 159, no. 41.

²⁵ S. MARCHAND, ‘Le survey de Dendara’, 266.

At this time, that is the 11th Dynasty, the type became common in the Theban area at the sites of Gurna,²⁶ el-Tarif²⁷ and Asasif.²⁸ In these two last necropoleis, two different carinated forms of open shapes with more-or-less flat bases succeeded each other. One of them, known from el-Tarif is dated to the 11th Dynasty up to the reign of Mentuhotep Nebhepetre. These peculiar bowls are gently carinated with rounded, or flattened, bases.²⁹ The other type comes from the Asasif necropolis and is dated to the reign of Montuhotep Nebhepetre; these bowls are more obviously carinated with a definite horizontal ridge which divides the contour of the vases in two different forms, one tapering out ending up in the lip, and the other tapering in ending up in the base.³⁰ The features of these later bowls fit very well with the carinated vase of our small assemblage from Dra Abu el-Naga.

This bowl could be related to the ovoid jar described above as a well matched pair of pots for keeping (the jar) and drinking (the bowl) water, which was a vital requisite for the dead as much as for the living,³¹ or both for keeping and drinking other beverages such as milk, beer, wine, etc, beneficial for the well-being of the deceased.

The peculiarities in the shape of this gently carinated bowl (rather deep and thin walled, with a small flat base slightly pushed inwards at its center), bring it close to the forms which evolved from the Late Old Kingdom types³² and continued throughout the First Intermediate Period. Besides, the features of the discussed bowl make a contrast with the much more accurate shape of the carinated drinking bowls of the 12th Dynasty and beyond, when the type has a definite ridge³³ and some

²⁶ W.M.F. PETRIE, *Qurneh*, British School of Archaeology in Egypt (London, 1909), 2, Pl. XV, nos. 167-170; K. MYSLIWIĘC, *Keramik und Kleinfundte aus der Grabung im Tempel Sethos' I. in Gurna*, Archäologische Veröffentlichungen 57 (Mainz, 1987), 27-28, 1a.

²⁷ Do. ARNOLD, 'Weiteres zur Keramik von el-Tarif', Abb. 2, 3, number 1925.

²⁸ Do. ARNOLD, 'Weiteres zur Keramik von el-Tarif', Abb. 2, 3, number K3157.

²⁹ Do. ARNOLD, 'Weiteres zur Keramik von el-Tarif', Abb. 2, 3, number 1928.

³⁰ Do. ARNOLD, 'Weiteres zur Keramik von el-Tarif', Abb. 2, 3, number K3157.

³¹ J. BOURRIAU, *Umm el-Ga'ab*, 61.

³² S. MARCHAND, 'Le survey de Dendara', 81, number 13.

³³ Do. ARNOLD, "Keramikbearbeitung in Dahschur 1976-1981", *Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts Abteilung Kairo* 38 (1982), Abb. 11, 2; S. TYSON SMITH, *Askut in Nubia* (London and New York, 1995), 59, fig. 3.5E; C. VON PILGRIM, *Elephantine XVIII, Untersuchungen in der Stadt des Mittleren Reiches und der Zweiten Zwischenzeit*, Archäologische Veröffentlichungen 91 (Mainz, 1996), 320-321, Abb. 140, b; 336-337, Abb. 149, g-j; 338-339, Abb. 150, a-b; 352-353, Abb. 157, f; 356-357, l-n; A. SEILER, 'Ein Kultkeramikensemble aus dem Mittleren Reich' *Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts Abteilung Kairo* 55 (1999), 380-381, Abb. 15, e; D.A. ASTON, *A Corpus of Late Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate Period Pottery*, Tell el-Dab'a XII, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Denkschriften 28 (Vienna, 2004), Vol. I, 60, Group 11, 196, Group 215, Vol. II, 19, Pl. 7, 30-34; 220, Pl. 208, 812-814.

examples include incised decoration in a wavy line pattern,³⁴ features which go into the 13th Dynasty and later in Egypt and Nubia.

These three vessels, the *hs*-vase, the ovoid jar and the drinking bowl, were the only pottery items associated with the intact burial of the elderly lady. Probably these pottery vases represent a desire to employ ritually correct forms for funerary use at a time of the First Intermediate Period close to the reign of Montuhotep Nebhepetre as is suggested by this carinated bowl, even in a burial which, in view of its humble grave goods seems to be rather poor.

2. A single pot in an intact burial and a food offering tray

One season later, in January-February 2008, in the courtyard of TT 11 at the same distance from the tomb's façade where the elderly lady's coffin and the assemblage of pottery vessels had been discovered the previous year, another burial came to light. It was found undisturbed, 1.5 m below the level of the courtyard floor, near its south/west sidewall in a small irregular and rough recess in the bedrock (fig. 1, B). This grave held an inscribed, well-preserved, early 11th Dynasty wooden coffin at the head end of which lay a group of five arrows and a medium-sized globular jar. Inside the coffin, there was the mummy of a man and other interesting objects as grave goods. According to the inscriptions on the outer surface of the coffin, this man was called Iqer.³⁵

2.1. Globular jar

Behind the coffin, partially sunk in the sandy floor, right up against the inner wall of the tomb a complete wide mouthed globular jar made of marl clay (light red core, pink surface) was found. It was found intact, broken when excavated and later restored.

The vessel shows a nearly perfect globular shape (fig. 2d, pl. 1; 9C79-1), with modelled rim and a very short neck; its maximum length is 15.2 cm; maximum width 13.5 cm; and the diameter of its open-mouth is 8.1 cm. It was made of a marl clay, pinkish white (10R 6/6) to light red (2.5 YR 6/6) in colour, but it is not easy to classify it in the Vienna System, since it resembles both a Marl C and also an early version of Middle Kingdom

³⁴ S. TYSON SMITH, *Askut in Nubia*, 61, fig. 3.7D; C. VON PILGRIM, *Elephantine XVIII*, 356-357. Abb. 150, o; A. SEILER, 'Ein Kultkeramikensemble aus dem Mittleren Reich', 380-381, Abb. 15, f; E. EDEL, *Felsgräbernekropole* Band 2, 992, Fig. 16 0/1402; 1039, 1042, Fig. 148 QH 88/293; E. EDEL, *Felsgräbernekropole* Band 3, 1902, Fig. 97 QH 207/158.

³⁵ J.M. GALÁN, '11th Dynasty Burials below Djehuty's Courtyard', (in press).

Marl A.³⁶ It was fired at a very high temperature with incipient vitrification and shows a bicoloured burned surface. It was very carefully finished, as is usual with marl clay vases, with its upper body and rim smoothed on the wheel, and its base carefully smoothed by hand, whilst its outer surface was white slipped.

Globular jars carefully made of Nile D1, about the size of the discussed vase, have been found in Dra Abu el-Naga where they are dated to the Late 11th –early 12th Dynasties³⁷ and they are also attested in Dendera.³⁸ Vessels similar in size but rather bag shaped and more roughly finished, had previously been attested in el-Tarif and ascribed to the same date.³⁹ These early globular/bag-shaped jars of the First Intermediate Period, seem to derive from Late Old Kingdom Nile clay vessels, usually in bigger sizes and most of them taller necked, which are well known from the tombs of Qubbet el-Hawa.⁴⁰ By the time of the Late 12th – early 13th Dynasties, the early globular jars of the First Intermediate Period evolved into a bag shaped type.⁴¹

Globular jars are understood as food containers and they are attested both in funerary and domestic contexts.⁴² By the time of the Late Old Kingdom and throughout the First Intermediate Period, they were, according to the known archaeological evidence, mainly made of Nile clay, most of them poorly finished. The discussed pot, made of Marl

³⁶ The later classification has been suggested by Dr. Irmgard Hein in her visit to the excavation site in February 2009. I am indebted to her for many helpful comments.

³⁷ A. SEILER, 'Ein Kultkeramikensemble aus dem Mittleren Reich', 384-389, Abb. 17, a-b.

³⁸ R.A. SLATER, *Archaeology of Denderah*, 67-68, 500, Fig. 25, Q2e.

³⁹ Do. ARNOLD, 'Keramikbeispiele', 41, Abb. 1, 2-4; Do. ARNOLD, 'Weiteres zur Keramik von el-Tarif', Abb. 3.7.

⁴⁰ E. EDEL, *Felsgräbernekropole*, Band 1, 197-198, Fig. 442 26/352 (bigger in size); 310, 312, Figs. 21 QH 29/45, 22 QH 29/46 (similar size but more developed necks); 315-316, Fig. 25 QH 29/162 (found sealed); 330-352, Fig. 50 QH 29/107 (about the size but higher necked); 334, 336, Figs. 61 QH 29/112 (bigger), Fig. 63 QH 29/114 (about the size, more higher necked); Fig. 64 QH 29/115 (bag shaped); 566-567, Fig. 10 QH 34h/13 (close in shape and size to the discussed vase); E. EDEL, *Felsgräbernekropole*, Band 2, 1002-1006, Figs. 51 QH 88/270, 54 QH 88/273, 58 QH 88/277 (higher necked); 1034, 1036, Figs. 136 QH 88/193 (bigger), 137 QH 88/194 (higher necked); 1152-1154, Fig. 53 QH 90/2 (close in shape and size to the discussed vase); E. EDEL, Band 3, 1517-1528, Fig. 17 QH 103/144, 1532, Abb. 10/3 (higher necked); 1572, 1574, Figs. 40 QH 105/40, 41 QH 105/41 (both bigger and narrow mouthed), Fig. 42 QH 105/42 (higher necked and gently carinated at its base); 1627, Fig. 3 QH 106/16 (higher necked), 1782, Fig. 81 QH 110/200 (bigger, the rim joined on to the body); 1892, 1900, Fig. 73 QH 207/138 (bigger).

⁴¹ Do. ARNOLD, 'Keramikfunde aus Qila' el-Dabba', in: A. FAKHRY, *Denkmäler der Oase Dachla*. Archäologische Veröffentlichungen 28 (Mainz, 1982), 55; Do. ARNOLD, 'Keramikbearbeitung in Dahschur 1976-1981', 62-64.

⁴² S. SEIDLMEYER, *Gräberfelder*, Abb. 31.

clay, with its well proportioned shape and finish, is a peculiar one. It was found filled with the fine sand which covered the floor of the rock tomb along with small pieces of the rubble like that found inside the sepulchre, but nothing of its original contents, if there were any, remained in it.

This globular jar has to be considered as a pot of the 11th Dynasty, a very good example of the marl clay vessels produced at that time.

2.2. Pottery tray related to the burial

Outside this rock tomb a handmade Nile C, brown (7.5YR 5/4) offering tray was found. It is oval in shape (fig. 2e; 8C-D77-1), with a representation in a central square modelled frame of some elements such as an ox fore-leg applied to the surface, three conical pieces of bread depicted together, and a small rounded loaf. One of the tray's ends is modelled like a spout to allow the liquid to be poured out. The inner surface is covered with an eroded thick weak red (7.5R 5/4) slip. Its maximum length is 33.0 cm; maximum width 25.0 cm; and maximum height 6.1 cm.

Trays of food offerings are common in First Intermediate Period funerary contexts. They were placed at the mouth of the tombs to provide perpetual offerings for the deceased.⁴³

3. An assemblage of pottery with five vessels

Outside this burial, at a lower level an assemblage of five complete pottery vases were found. These vessels were lying within a 35 cm layer of very thin sand (fig. 1, C; pl. 3). It is thought that this assemblage might be related to a destroyed tomb, of which the collapsed entrance, as well as part of a corridor belonging to it, have been identified,⁴⁴ but it is, at the time of writing, still unexcavated.

The assemblage comprises two slender shouldered *hs*-vases in different sizes, a globular jar with wavy rim, an ovoid-bodied jar with a flat base, and a small globular *nw*-pot.

⁴³ W.M.F. PETRIE, *Gizeh and Rifeh*, British School of Archaeology in Egypt 13 (London, 1907), 14-20, Pl. 14; W.M.F. PETRIE, *Qurneh*, 4, Pl. 21; A. NIWINSKI, 'Plateaux d'offrandes et "maisons d'âmes"'. Genèse, evolution et fonction dans le culte des morts au temps de la XIIe dynastie', *Études et Travaux* 8 (1975), 73-122; J. BOURRIAU, *Umm el-Ga'ab*, 118-119, n. 238; E. EDEL, *Felsgräbernekropole*, Band 2, 1192, Fig. 5 QH 90b 0/754; 1288-1289, Figs. 8 QH 93 0/665, 9 QH 93 0/668, 10 QH 93 0/669; 1293-1294, Fig. 15 QH 93 0/621; E. EDEL, *Felsgräbernekropole*, Band 3, 1777, 1781, Fig. 64 QH 110/90; 1962, Fig. 268 QH 207 0/1325.

⁴⁴ J.M. GALÁN, '11th Dynasty Burials below Djehuty's Courtyard', (in press).

3.1. Taller *hs*-vase

This Nile B1 shouldered vase is the tallest pot of the group. It has a slightly warped mouth and a slender body tapering to a flaring rather than flat base shaped by hand (fig. 3a; pl. 3 (centre); 8D79-1). It shows a smooth transition from rim to body with its outer surface from shoulder to base scraped vertically. The inner surface has spiral lines of modelling and it is thinly red slipped (7.5 R 5/4). Its maximum height is 20 cm, with 7.8 cm of mouth diameter, 10.1 cm of maximum width, and 6 cm of diameter at its base. It was found complete, filled with thin sand from the layer.

3.2. Shorter *hs*-vase

Another *hs*-vase was found in the same assemblage. This second one is also a Nile B1 shouldered vessel but smaller than the previous example. It has a warped mouth (slightly broken at its edge) and a slender ovoid body narrowing to a narrow flat (but unstable) base (fig. 3b, pl. 3 [second starting from the right]; 8D79-2). It was probably made in two parts and joined below the shoulders; these, together with the neck and the rim, have been shaped with a tool on a turning device while the body and the base have been smoothed by hand, and scraped vertically from the shoulder to base on its outer surface and is slipped light red (2.YR 6/6 light red). Its maximum height is 16.3 cm, with 5.8 cm of mouth diameter, 9.6 cm of maximum width, and 4.2 cm of diameter at its base. It was discovered chipped at the rim but otherwise intact, filled with thin sand, which evidently derived from the layer in which it was found.

Similar *hs*-vases to both of the above are known from the pottery groups found in some of the tombs at Qubbet el-Hawa which are dated to the Late Old Kingdom/First Intermediate Period. The shortest one shows a striking similarity to a jar from tomb QH 93⁴⁵ which came in a group of pottery vessels that included another, but smaller, *hs*-vase as well as an ovoid-bodied jar with quatrefoil mouth.⁴⁶ Other small or medium sized jars, not slender but rather wide, from this ancient cemetery show a warped mouth which suggests their ritual use for pouring out

⁴⁵ E. EDEL, *Felsgräbernekropole*, Band 2, 1298-1299, Fig. 20 QH 93/23; see also 1482, Fig. 17 QH 102c/30.

⁴⁶ E. EDEL, *Felsgräbernekropole*, Band 2, Figs. 24 QH 93/25 and Fig. 21 QH 93/25, respectively.

libations,⁴⁷ while fragmentary taller vases are reminiscent of the taller *hs*-vase of the discussed assemblage.⁴⁸

Several jars in the shape of *hs*-vases were found in the Theban necropolis at el-Tarif and Asasif in funerary contexts dated to the early 11th Dynasty. One of the ritual vessels from el-Tarif,⁴⁹ shows some similarities with the smaller discussed vase while the wide neck and warped rim of one of the *hs*-vases from Asasif,⁵⁰ recalls the two ceremonial jars of our deposit.

The features of both jars allow them to be chronologically ascribed to the time of the 11th Dynasty, as neither of them shows the typical round shouldered upper body, the tall neck and even the height that *hs*-vases achieved at the beginning of the 12th Dynasty. A *hs*-vase similar to the taller one of our assemblage, broken at its neck, was found in Elephantine, and dated to the Middle Kingdom.⁵¹

3.3. Globular jar with wavy rim

This vase could probably be described as a Nile B1⁵² hard fired globular jar with round base and wavy rim or quatrefoil mouth, made by pinching with the fingers, and two parallel incised lines above its maximum diameter (fig. 3d, pl. 3 [first starting from the left]; 8D79-3). Its maximum height is 14.3 cm, its rim diameter 7.7 cm and its maximum width 11.6 cm. The jar is skilfully thrown and shaped; the base seems to have been scraped with a tool and smoothed. Its outer surface is coated with a fine thick light red coating and polished to a weak shine (10R 6/6 5/6). It was found filled with thin sand.

The wavy rim as well as the accurate finish of this jar permits it to be considered not as a simple vase, but as a ritual one. Examples of the use of this type are known from Qubbet el-Hawa, in pottery assemblages

⁴⁷ E. EDEL, *Felsgräbernekropole*, Band 1, 105, 117, Figs. 154 QH 25/291, 155-156 QH 25/291; 411, 417, Fig. 48 QH 30b/114; E. EDEL, *Felsgräbernekropole*, Band 2, 1148-1149, Fig. 34 90/25; 1152, Fig. 50 QH 90/95; 1164-1665, Fig. 88 QH 90/385; 1483, Fig. 31 QH 102c/45; 1577, 1579, Fig. 57 QH 105/359; 1828, 1831, Figs. 21 QH 206/47, 25 QH 206/52; 1892, 1900, Fig. 72 QH 207/138; 1960, Fig. 230 QH 207 0/1265; 1261, Figs. 257 QH 207 0/1316, 258 QH 270 0/1317; 1962, Fig. 265 QH 207 0/1323.

⁴⁸ E. EDEL, *Felsgräbernekropole*, Band 2, 1164, Fig. 83 QH 90/365; 1335-1336, Figs. 15 QH 98/15, 16 QH 98/9+13, 17 QH 98/11, Fig. 18 QH 98/12; 1596-1507, Figs. 111 QH 105/32 (very tall, with narrow neck), 114 QH 105/85 (made of wood).

⁴⁹ DO. ARNOLD, 'Weiteres zur Keramik von el-Tarif', Abb. 5, 12, 1871.

⁵⁰ DO. ARNOLD, 'Weiteres zur Keramik von el-Tarif', Abb. 5, 12, K3080.

⁵¹ C. VON PILGRIM, *Elephantine XVIII*, 340-341, Abb. 151, e.

⁵² The vessel is intact so no fresh break could be examined.

dated to the Late Old Kingdom/First Intermediate Period.⁵³ It seems to have been a long lasting type which is still found, at least in the Asasif,⁵⁴ Beni Hasan⁵⁵ and Dendera,⁵⁶ in funerary contexts of the 11th Dynasty. The striking polished outer surface of this jar permits it to be related to the groups of funerary pottery recovered from the tombs of royal women from the 11th to the 13th Dynasty, where some small or medium-size vessels show a red-coated and polished finish.⁵⁷ The source of inspiration for their peculiar thick red polished coating seems to have been the burnished pottery types of the Old Kingdom.⁵⁸ The jar of our assemblage shows great technical skill, particularly in the firing, likened to that of some good Old Kingdom vessels. This feature, together with its coated finish, allows it to be considered as a pot of the 11th Dynasty, but made in the tradition of the Old Kingdom funerary pottery.

3.4. Ovoid-bodied jar with direct rim and flat base

This is a rather squat Nile C jar, washed (5YR 7/4 pink) in its outer surface. It was probably thrown on a turning device, perhaps after it had been built up from coils (fig. 4a, pl. 3 [second starting from the left]; 8D79-4). It shows a smooth transition from rim to body, a maximum width well below the middle of the height, and a cut-off flat base with finger marks all over it. All its features fit well with a First Intermediate Period/Early Middle Kingdom pot. It was found filled with fine sand.

Some examples of rough flat-based jars are known from Qubbet el-Hawa, in assemblages of pottery vessels dated to the Late Old Kingdom/First Intermediate Period.⁵⁹ The type is not very common in such con-

⁵³ E. EDEL, *Felsgräbernekropole*, Band 1, 411, 417, Figs. 41 QH 30b/104, 42 QH 30b/105 (both quite similar but smaller); E. EDEL, *Felsgräbernekropole*, Band 2, 1145-1146, Fig. 20 QH 90/70; 1150, Fig. 44 90/48; 1297-1298, Fig. 21 QH 93/25 (smaller, with two *hs*-vases); 1385, Fig. 6 QH 101/8; 1901, Fig. 76 QH 207/141; 1958, Figs. 197 QH 207 0/1172, 198 QH 207 0/1173, 199 QH 207 0/1173.01, Fig. 200 QH 207 0/1173.02, 201 QH 207 0/1174.

⁵⁴ Do. ARNOLD, 'Weiteres zur Keramik von el-Tarif', 42, Pl. XIX, d.

⁵⁵ J. BOURRIAU, *Umm el-Ga'ab*, 61, number 108. A similar example dated to the Middle Kingdom in C. REGNER, *Keramik*, Bonner Sammlung von Aegyptiaca 3 (Wiesbaden, 1998), 174-175, n. 156.

⁵⁶ R.A. SLATER, *Archaeology of Denderah*, 87, 499, Fig. 24, Q1b.

⁵⁷ S.J. ALLEN, 'Queens's Ware: Royal Funerary Pottery in the Middle Kingdom', in: C.J. EYRE (ed.), *Proceedings of the Seventh International Congress of Egyptologists (Cambridge, 3-9 September 1995)*, Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta 82 (Leuven, 1998), 42.

⁵⁸ S.J. ALLEN, 'Queens's Ware', 48.

⁵⁹ E. EDEL, *Felsgräbernekropole*, Band 1, 368, 381, Fig. 42 30/39; 530, 533, Figs. 5-9 34g/52-34g/56 (they are smaller); E. EDEL, *Felsgräbernekropole*, Band 2, 1082, Fig. 10

texts, since the flat-based jars found there show a trend towards rather prominent shoulders or are more or less slender open mouthed beaker jars. A similar but shorter vase, dated to the 11th – 12th Dynasties, is known from Beni Hasan, grave 868.⁶⁰

3.5. *Small globular nw-pot*

The last item of this assemblage is a small globular pot with everted rim which may be identified as a ritual *nw*-pot. It is made of alluvial clay, possibly Nile B1⁶¹ (fig. 3c, pl. 3 [first starting from the right]; 8D79-5). Its globular body was probably made by coiling, but the surface has been carefully smoothed by hand, so that the coils are rather invisible. The pot is red slipped (10R 5/6 5/6-8), and burnished even at its base. It is 7.9 cm high, with maximum width of 8.1 cm, and a rim diameter of 5.2 cm.

Few parallels are known to me for this type. Some examples which are carefully finished have been found in the Late Old Kingdom pottery workshops at Ain-Asil.⁶² Another similar pot, with slightly flattened base and less pronounced lip, dated to the 11th – 12th Dynasties is known from the excavations at the Sety I Temple in Gurna⁶³ and the type is also attested in Dendera,⁶⁴ as well as among the pottery recovered by J. Garstang from early excavations in the necropolis at Esna.⁶⁵ A rather larger vase, dated to the Middle Kingdom, was brought to light at Elephantine,⁶⁶ and a later example, stratigraphically dated to the 13th Dynasty, was found in Tell el-Dab'a.⁶⁷

Nw-pots have been related to wine offerings given to the gods, since from the Old Kingdom onwards they are usually represented on temple walls as well as in three-dimensional statues of the king, in a kneeling

QH 89/13 (warped lip); 1196, Abb. 7 0/739; E. EDEL, *Felsgräbernekropole*, Band 3, 1424, 1428, Figs. 67 102/138, 68 102/139, 69 102/142, 70 102/150, 1455, Abb. 30 QH 102/138; 1497, Abb. 9 QH 102c/30.

⁶⁰ Ashmolean E.4153, J. BOURRIAU, *Umm el-Ga'ab*, 61-62, number 109.

⁶¹ There is no break on its surface which would allow us to check it.

⁶² G. SOUKIASSIAN et al, *Balat III*, 99, group h.1, 135, Fig. 46, H.

⁶³ K. MYSLIWIEC, *Keramik und Kleinfunde*, 27-29, 20a.

⁶⁴ R.A. SLATER, *Archaeology of Denderah*, 80-81, 496, Fig. 21, M11, M3f, also in A. WODZINSKA, *A Manual of Egyptian Pottery*, Vol. 2, 156, nos. 30-31.

⁶⁵ D. DOWNES, *The Excavations at Esna 1905-1906* (Warminster, 1974), 27, 32, types 42-44.

⁶⁶ C. VON PILGRIM, *Elephantine XVIII*, 358-359, Abb. 160, a.

⁶⁷ D.A. ASTON, *Tell el-Dab'a XII*, 69, Group 22, Fig. 55, j.

position, holding two globular jars.⁶⁸ But specific information about the kind of liquid contained in those two vessels is rather infrequent till the later periods when the so-called *nw*-pots were the most commonly used containers in wine offerings. Nevertheless, there are exceptions, and there are other kinds of offerings related to this particular vase type, the design of which, in hieroglyphic writing, make us aware of the wide range of potential content related to it.⁶⁹

The five vases of this assemblage remind us of the performance of sacred ceremonies related to rituals performed in the necropolis which involve libations, probably of water, related to the *hs*-vases, as well as the presence of other liquids which could be contained in the wavy rim jar and in the *nw*-pot. These religious practices were probably performed at the nearby tomb, in order to purify the place and perhaps to consecrate a new tomb as the resting place of the deceased, a sacred building suitable as his/her funerary shrine or temple. Due to the specific pottery types found in this assemblage and the quality of some of them, which recall good quality Old Kingdom pots, we may conclude that this pottery group did not consist of five mere household vases, but of five sacred or ritual vessels whose specific details let them be dated to the 11th Dynasty.

4. The discovery of an isolated broken bowl

At the end of January 2008 an isolated Nile A bowl with direct rim and round base (edge missing) (fig. 4b, pl. 4; 8D74-1) was found, broken into pieces, its sherds badly damaged, in a layer characterized by the lack of any artefacts. The area was identified in the following season as the beginning of an open-air sloping passage which leads to a tomb entrance, which goes into the rock via a corridor with an unfinished shaft dug in its floor. The excavation of the corridor yielded an ovoid-bodied jar (see below 5.1, fig. 4c; pl. 5; 79C-1), while the clearance of the unfinished shaft in the 2009 season brought to light another very similar bowl (see below 5.2, fig.4d, pl. 2; 9C79-P1).

The bowl here discussed was 4 m away from the newly discovered tomb entrance, and it is difficult to know if it is related to this tomb which is currently still unexcavated.

⁶⁸ MU-CHOU-POO, *Wine and Wine Offering in the Religion of Ancient Egypt* (London, New York, 1995), 39-40.

⁶⁹ MESNIL DU BUISSON, *Noms et signes égyptiens*, 12; A.H. GARDINER, *Egyptian Grammar*, sign list, w 24.

Restored from sherds, this very thin-walled Nile A bowl, was carefully smoothed and has a pale red coloured outer surface which is badly preserved, whilst the inner surface is partially burnt. Its measurements are 5.9 cm high, with a rim diameter of 13.3 cm and it has a vessel index (Arnold) of 238.18. According to Arnold,⁷⁰ round-bottom cups from Lisht dated to the 9th and 10th Dynasties have a vessel index above 200 whilst by the later 12th and early 13th Dynasties the vessel-index varies between 190 and 150. Following these parameters, this bowl, with an index of 238.18 suggests an earlier date somewhere from the 9th to 11th Dynasties.

Bowls or cups could be used for many purposes. The type here discussed is well known in Late Old Kingdom/First Intermediate Period and Middle Kingdom contexts.⁷¹ Similar examples, but larger in size, with remains of a burned substance in their inner surface, have been found in layers dated to the Early Middle Kingdom in Ain Soukhna.⁷² Other bowls of the same type, closer in size, have been found in domestic contexts dated to the First Intermediate Period and to the 11th Dynasty in Dendera⁷³.

The profile of these vases evokes the shape of the so-called hemispherical bowls, but the direct walls of the vessel here discussed are more open than those of the hemispherical types. This special feature has been pointed out by several researchers with examples found in Middle Egypt (Ain Soukhna)⁷⁴ and Ain Asil being very similar to the bowls depicted in figs. 4b and d of our excavation. At Ain Asil, bowls of this type are the most significant pots found in the workshops 1-4 of the Late Old Kingdom/First Intermediate Period.⁷⁵ Another interesting parallel, dated to the same time, is known from Qila'el-Dabba, (Dakhla oasis).⁷⁶ By the time of the Early 11th Dynasty these bowls are clearly identifiable in the necropoli of el-Tarif⁷⁷ and Gurna,⁷⁸ and the shape is also found

⁷⁰ DO. ARNOLD, 'Pottery' in: DI. ARNOLD, *The Pyramid of Senwosret I, The Metropolitan Museum of Art Egyptian Expedition, The South Cemeteries of Lisht*, Vol. I (New York, 1988), Vol. I, 140.

⁷¹ C. DEFERNEZ, 'La céramique d'Ayn Soukhna: observations préliminaires', *Cahiers de la Céramique Égyptienne* 7, (2004), 59-89.

⁷² C. DEFERNEZ, 'La céramique d'Ayn Soukhna', 66-67, Fig. 3, S 19 II.

⁷³ MARCHAND, 'Fouilles récentes dans la zone urbaine de Dendara', 216-218, 224, Figs. 24-26.

⁷⁴ C. DEFERNEZ, 'La céramique d'Ayn Soukhna', 66-67, 73.

⁷⁵ G. SOUKIASSIAN et al, *Balat III*, 144, Fig. 15, 1-3, 5.

⁷⁶ DO. ARNOLD, 'Keramikfunde aus Qila' el-Dabba', 42-56, 42, Tafel 62 A.

⁷⁷ DO. ARNOLD, 'Weiteres zur Keramik von el-Tarif', 42, group 4, Fig. 2, 1 1929, Pl. XIXa.

⁷⁸ W.M.F. PETRIE, *Qurna*, 2, Pl. XIII, 8-9, 11.

in the south cemetery of Lisht, in a context of the Early 12th Dynasty,⁷⁹ in Qubbet el-Hawa,⁸⁰ Elephantine⁸¹ and in Qasr el-Saga, where these bowls are considered as belonging to the 12th Dynasty classical period.⁸² In the Theban area the type is also attested in Early Middle Kingdom contexts, with some examples from Dra Abu el-Naga.⁸³

The evidence suggests that this kind of bowl was in use from the Late Old Kingdom to the end of the Middle Kingdom. Given the lack of other artifacts related to the context where the discussed example was found, it is difficult to assert a more specific date for it and for the similar one found in the unfinished shaft (fig. 4d, pl. 2).

5. An ovoid-bodied jar and a bowl related to a newly discovered tomb

In the course of the eighth field season (2009), the excavation proceeded to the corridor of a rock-cut tomb located not far from the find of the described assemblage of the five ritual vessels (fig. 1, D). Its corridor yielded a pottery jar while the excavation of an unfinished shaft located in its floor brought to light eight limestone hammers or axe heads alongside a pottery bowl broken into pieces.⁸⁴

5.1. Ovoid-bodied jar

This is a Nile B1 ovoid-bodied jar with a short neck, concave contour and a slightly modelled rim. It has been made in two pieces carefully joined together just below its maximum diameter, the process leaving slightly visible traces in its outer surface (fig. 4c, pl. 5; 79C-1) which also shows two parallel, slightly incised lines in the upper part of the jar's body and another one just below its maximum diameter. The jar is smoothed, red slipped and burnished (10R 5/6-4/6), the burnishing given in horizontal lines; its base is carefully smoothed by hand. Small stains of a light pinkish mud (10R 7/4), still remain on its neck and shoulders -

⁷⁹ DO. ARNOLD, 'Pottery' in: DI. ARNOLD, *The Pyramid of Senwosret I*, Fig. 65, 12, 112, 159-160.

⁸⁰ E. EDEL, *Felsgräbernekropole*, Band 2, 992, Fig. 17/01405; 1194, Fig. 7 QH 90b/1; 1367, Fig. 6 QH 99/119; E. EDEL, *Felsgräbernekropole*, Band 3, 1570-1571, Fig. 22 QH 105/8; 1595-1596, Fig. 107 QH 105/26.

⁸¹ C. VON PILGRIM, *Elephantine XVIII*, 356-357, Abb. 159, f-h.

⁸² DI. ARNOLD and DO. ARNOLD, *Der Tempel Qasr el-Saga*. Archäologische Veröffentlichungen 27 (Mainz, 1979), 36-38, Abb. 22a, 5a.

⁸³ A. SEILER, 'Ein Kultkeramikensemble aus dem Mittleren Reich', 379, Abb. 15, a-b.

⁸⁴ J.M. GALÁN, 'Excavations at the Courtyard of the Tomb of Djehuty', (in press).

probably the remains of a lost stopper to seal the jar. It has a maximum height of 15 cm, a maximum width (located below the middle of its height) of 10.5 cm, and a rim diameter of 5.5 cm.

The jar was found intact, isolated in a layer of thin sand which seems to cover the floor of a passage which has been understood as the corridor of a rock-cut tomb⁸⁵ greatly disturbed by floods. The jar was found filled with the same thin sand of the layer in which it was lying. The pinkish remains of mud stuck to its neck, suggest it was once filled with a specific content and sealed, so it was used as a container for foodstuffs or water.

Because of the lack of other pots or any other artefacts in the excavation of this passage, the jar by itself was an interesting find. Its diagnostic features indicate that it should be considered as one of those burnished vessels which have been called "Pyramid ware" or "Queen's ware"⁸⁶ attested in the tombs of royal ladies from the 11th Dynasty to the 13th Dynasty.

Although there are two similar but roughly finished vases, with more bag-shaped bodies and rather flattened bases known from Qubbet el-Hawa,⁸⁷ the closest parallels known to me for this type are two Middle Kingdom jars, one bigger in size and with a less careful finish, found at Elephantine;⁸⁸ the other, with a better polished finish, being found in Askut, in Nubia.⁸⁹

5.2. *A bowl with direct rim and round base*

In an unfinished shaft, located at the end of the passage where the above described ovoid-bodied jar was found, a nearly complete Nile A bowl with direct rim and round base came to light (fig. 4d, pl. 2; 9C79-P1). It was found broken into pieces, lying alongside eight limestone hammers or axe heads, in the sandy layer which filled the shaft.⁹⁰

Restored from sherds, the bowl shows very thin walls, is carefully smoothed and has a pale orange-coloured wash on its outer surface which is badly preserved, but it apparently also bore a red band at the rim. It is 6.2 cm high with a rim diameter of 14 cm and has a vessel index (Arnold)

⁸⁵ J.M. GALÁN, 'Excavations at the Courtyard of the Tomb of Djehuty', (in press).

⁸⁶ S.J. ALLEN, 'Queen's Ware', 42-48.

⁸⁷ E. EDEL, *Felsgräbernekropole*, Band 2, 1081, 1082, Fig. 9 QH 89/10; 1153-1154, Fig. 56, QH 90/5.

⁸⁸ C. VON PILGRIM, *Elephantine XVIII*, 352-353. Abb. 157, b.

⁸⁹ S. TYSON SMITH, *Askut in Nubia*, 1995, 60, Fig. 3.6 H, 199.

⁹⁰ J.M. GALÁN, 'Excavations at the Courtyard of the Tomb of Djehuty', (in press).

of 229.5. According to Arnold,⁹¹ the index of this pot suggests a date range from the 9th to 11th Dynasties, but it is not possible to ignore the ovoid-bodied jar found in the corridor of the same structure, which fits well with pottery examples of the Middle Kingdom.

As has been said before in relation to the bowl found at the beginning of the open-air sloping passage, there are similar pots which fit very well with these two vessels, from Middle Egypt (Ain Soukna),⁹² Ain Asil and Qila'el-Dabba dated to the Late Old Kingdom/First Intermediate Period. By the time of the Early 11th Dynasty these bowls are clearly identified in the necropoleis of el-Tarif⁹³ and Qurna,⁹⁴ the shape lasting throughout the 12th Dynasty in archaeological contexts at Lisht, Qubbet el-Hawa, Qasr el-Saga and Dra Abu el-Naga.

Taking into account the rather wide range of the chronology given to this pottery type and the lack of artifacts found in the context of the discussed bowl, it is not easy to suggest a date for our vessel. The ovoid-bodied jar found in the corridor of the same hewn structure, points to a Middle Kingdom chronology, but the clearance of the spot is still in progress,⁹⁵ consequently, this proposed date must be regarded as subject to possible revision.

Conclusions

The excavation and study of these pottery vessels has provided us with archaeological evidence of the First Intermediate Period/Early Middle Kingdom in the ancient cemetery of Dra Abu el-Naga. We came into two pottery assemblages related to funerary ceremonies, one consists of three vases while the other one comprises five, and then there are finds of isolated pots.

The first assemblage (fig. 2a-c) is clearly related to the burial of an elderly woman. Its three pots, one *hs*-vase, an ovoid-bodied jar and a drinking bowl, brings to mind the performance of a ritual of purification where pouring out water was required and performed with an specific vase, the *hs*-vase of this pottery group. The ovoid jar and the bowl could be related to each other as a well matched couple of pots for keeping (the

⁹¹ DO. ARNOLD, 'Pottery', in: DI. ARNOLD, *The Pyramid of Senwosret I*, Vol. I, 140.

⁹² C. DEFERNEZ, 'La céramique d'Ayn Soukhna', 66-67, 73.

⁹³ DO. ARNOLD, 'Weiteres zur Keramik von el-Tarif', 42, group 4, Fig. 2, 1 1929, Pl. XIXa.

⁹⁴ W.M.F. PETRIE, *Qurneh*, 2, Pl. XIII, 8-9, 11.

⁹⁵ J.M. GALÁN, 'Excavations at the Courtyard of the Tomb of Djehuty', (in press).

jar) and drinking (the bowl) water or other kind of beverage beneficial for the well-being of the dead. These three vessels were found broken, and whilst the *hs*-vase could be completely restored; the other two remain incomplete due to missing pieces. The breaking of these pots, and even the absence of some pieces in two of them, could be part of the ritual itself. We are dealing with acts performed in order to provide the dead with a new and eternal life. Perhaps the ovoid jar and the drinking cups were understood as pots which never again had to be used.⁹⁶ On the other hand, the *hs*-vase had to keep its ritual function, and for that reason, has been preserved. Accordingly, the ritual vase should pour out libations beyond the time of the burial itself, at any time throughout eternity when the purification may be needed.

The later assemblage is composed of five vessels (figs. 3a-d, 4a, pl. 3). It was found in a layer characterized by a lack of other archaeological remains located near the collapsed entrance of a tomb which still has to be excavated. These five pots were found intact. The two *hs*-vases clearly evoke ritual ceremonies of purification, a peculiarity which could also be extended to the globular jar with wavy rim. On the other hand, the *nw*-pot brings into one's mind a specific offering of wine or other high quality beverage, which, according to iconographical and textual evidence was mostly done in temples. The ritual function of these vessels allows us to think of a ceremony involving the pouring out of water (with the *hs*-vases) and perhaps of other liquids (with the globular jar), as well as the offering of a specific product (the *nw*-pot). The flat-based jar of this pottery group could be understood as a container of the required stuff for the performance of the ceremony which should be related to the building of the tomb itself, a sacred place for the resting of the dead. Two vessels of this deposit, the *nw*-pot and the ovoid-bodied jar with wavy rim, show a shiny outer surface which allows us to consider them as pieces of the so-called "Pyramid or Queen's ware" attested in the tombs of royal ladies from the 11th Dynasty through the 13th Dynasty, and bring it near to the ovoid-bodied jar found isolated in the passage of a newly discovered tomb.

The pottery vessels found by themselves (figs. 2d-e, figs. 4b-d, pls. 1, 3-5), seem to have had a different use. For one thing there is the globular jar found in the intact burial of Iqer (fig. 2d, pl. 1) which should be understood as a very good example of the marl clay food

⁹⁶ R.K. RITNER, *The Mechanics of Ancient Egyptian Magical Practice*, Studies in Ancient Egyptian Civilization 54 (Chicago, 1993), 148-150.

containers produced at the time of the 11th Dynasty. Then there is the pottery tray related to the same burial (fig. 2e), a ritual pot left beside the mouth of the tomb in order to provide perpetual offerings for the deceased.

The ovoid-bodied jar was found in the passage of a tomb whose excavation is still in progress (fig. 4c, pl. 5). Some stains of mud at its neck and shoulders, indicate that the vase had been sealed, perhaps in order to keep some offering food or water. Its red coated surface allows it to be considered as one of those burnished vessels called "Pyramid or Queen's ware", and brings it near to the *nw*-pot and the ovoid jar with wavy rim found in the five pot deposits.

Both of the much destroyed but restorable bowls with direct rims and round bases, were also found in isolation. One of them (fig. 4b, pl. 4) was clearly used for burning some substance, perhaps as a burnt and/or pleasant aromatic offering. The other one was perhaps just a drinking cup, belonging to the workers who never finished the shaft where it was found (fig. 4d, pl. 2).

From a chronological point of view, all these pottery vessels have close parallels from the First Intermediate Period to the early times of the Middle Kingdom. As the clearance of the area of the excavation site where all of them have been found is still in progress, it is not possible to fix a definitive date for all of them. Those related to Iqer's burial can be dated to the 11th Dynasty while all the others fit well with that date except for the ovoid-bodied jar found in the passage of the newly discovered tomb, whose more closer parallels are dated a little later, to the beginning of the Middle Kingdom.

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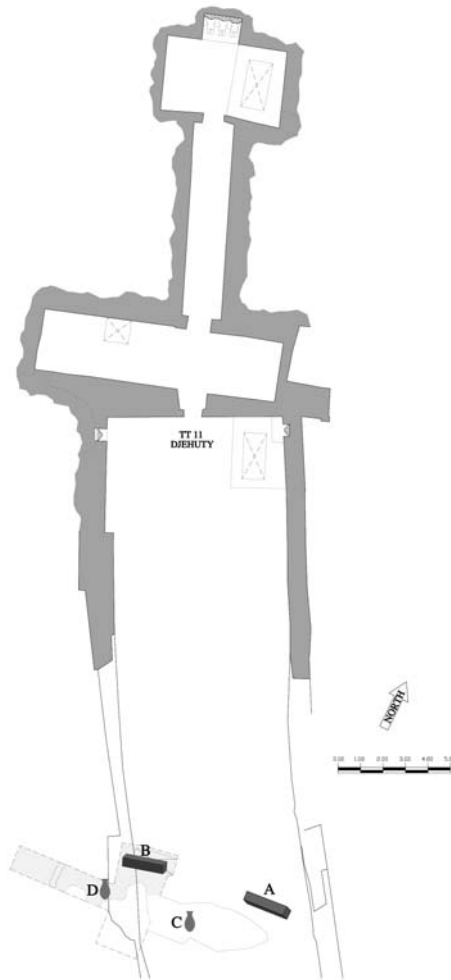


Fig. 1. TT 11, The tomb of Djehuty.

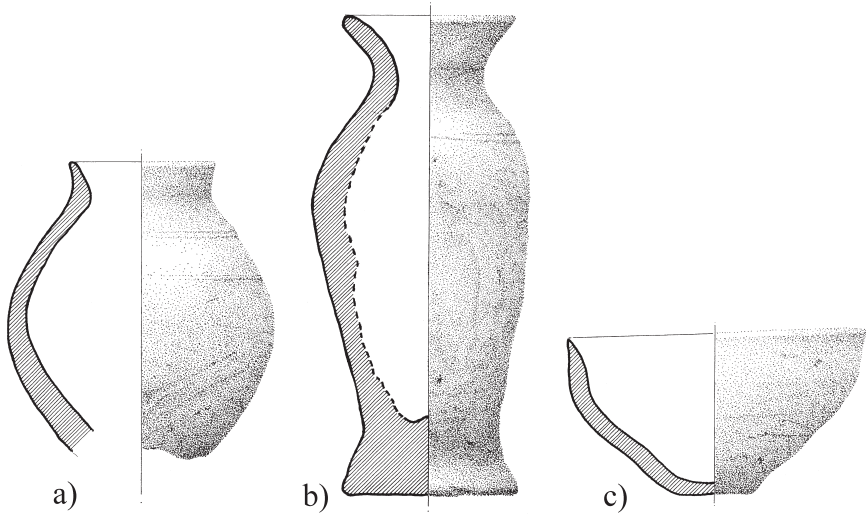


Fig. 2a. Ovoid jar, 8D75-2.

Fig. 2b. *hs*-vase, 8D75-1.

Fig. 2c. Carinated bowl, 8D75-3.

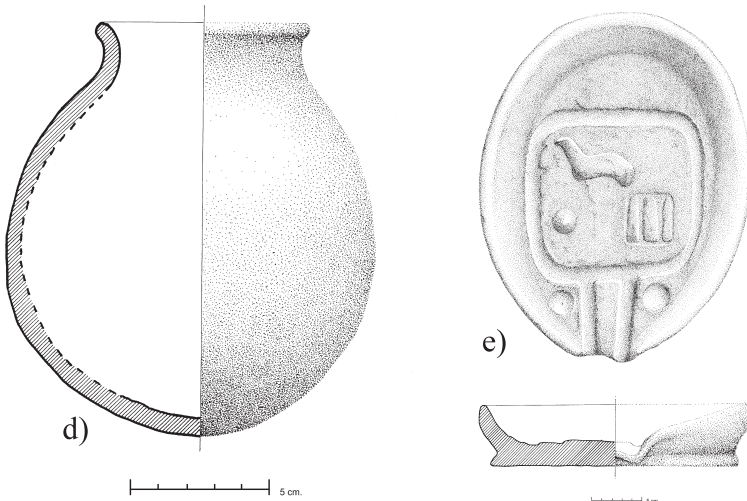


Fig. 2d. Globular jar, 9C79-1.

Fig. 2e. Offering tray, 8C-D77-1.

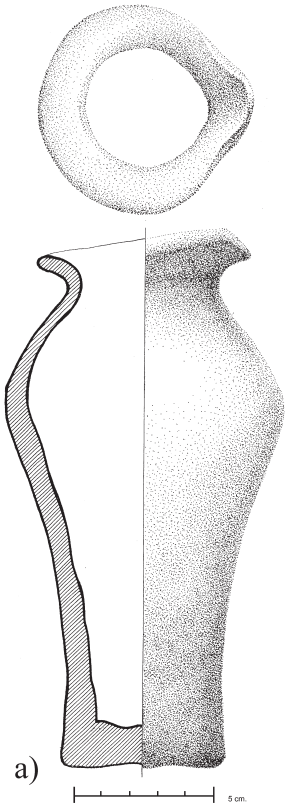


Fig. 3a. Tall *h*s-vase, 8D79-1.

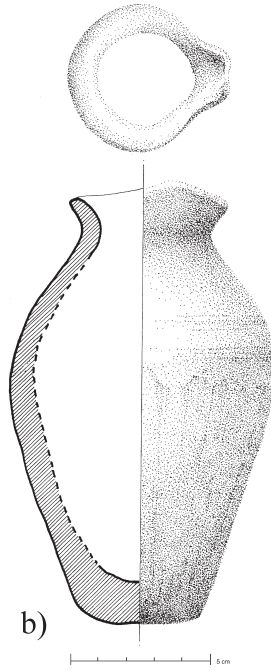


Fig. 3b. Shorter *h*s-vase, 8D79-2.

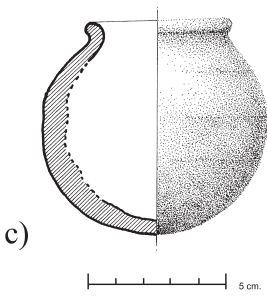


Fig. 3c. Small *mw*-pot, 8D79-5.

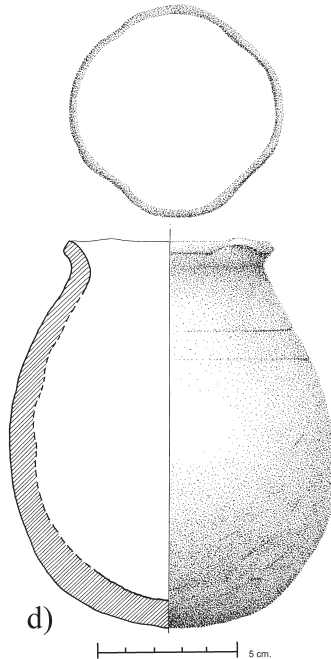


Fig. 3d. Globular jar, 8D79-3.

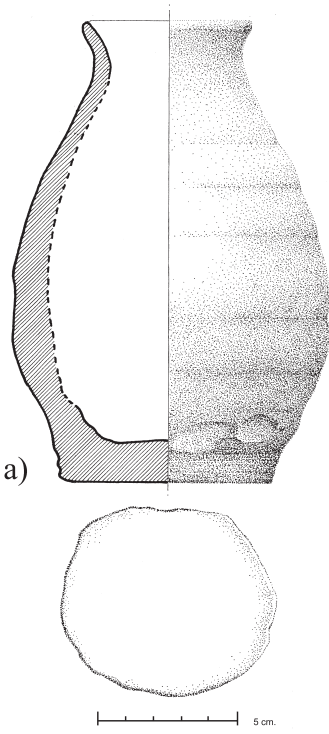


Fig. 4a. Ovoid jar, 8D79-4.

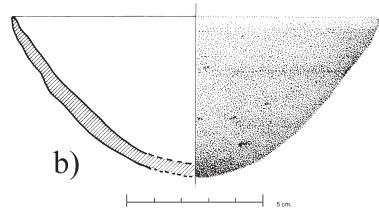


Fig. 4.b. Bowl, 8D74-1.

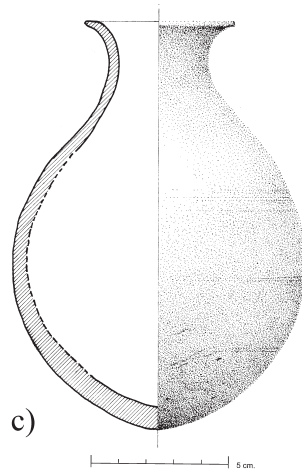


Fig. 4c. Ovoid Jar, 79C-1.

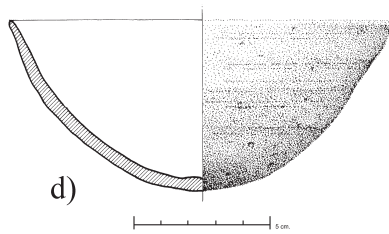


Fig. 4d. Bowl, 9C79-P1.



Plate 1. Globular jar, 9C79-1.

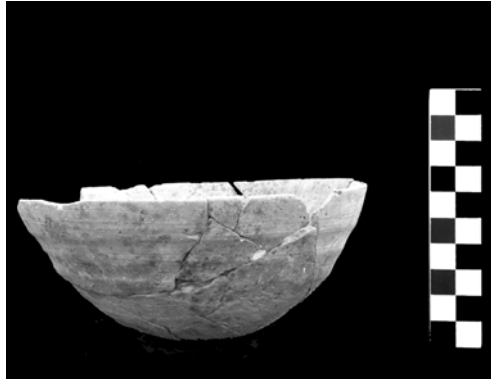


Plate 2. Bowl, 9C79-P1.



Plate 3. Five vessels, 8D79-1 to 8D79-5.

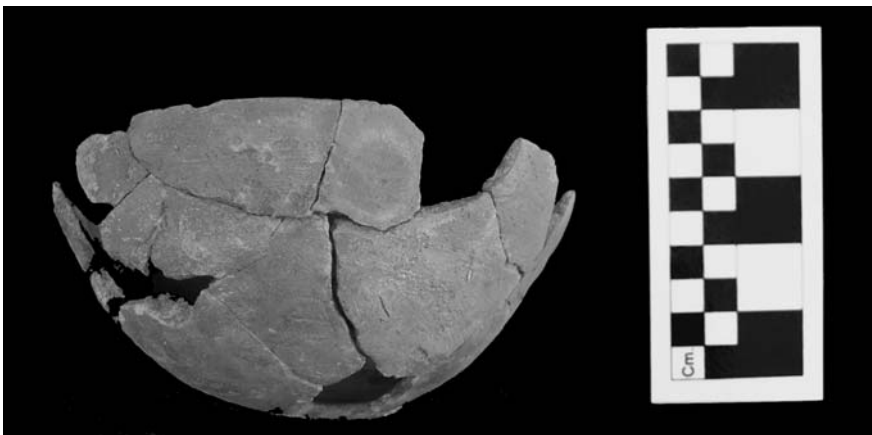


Plate 4. Bowl, 8D74-1.

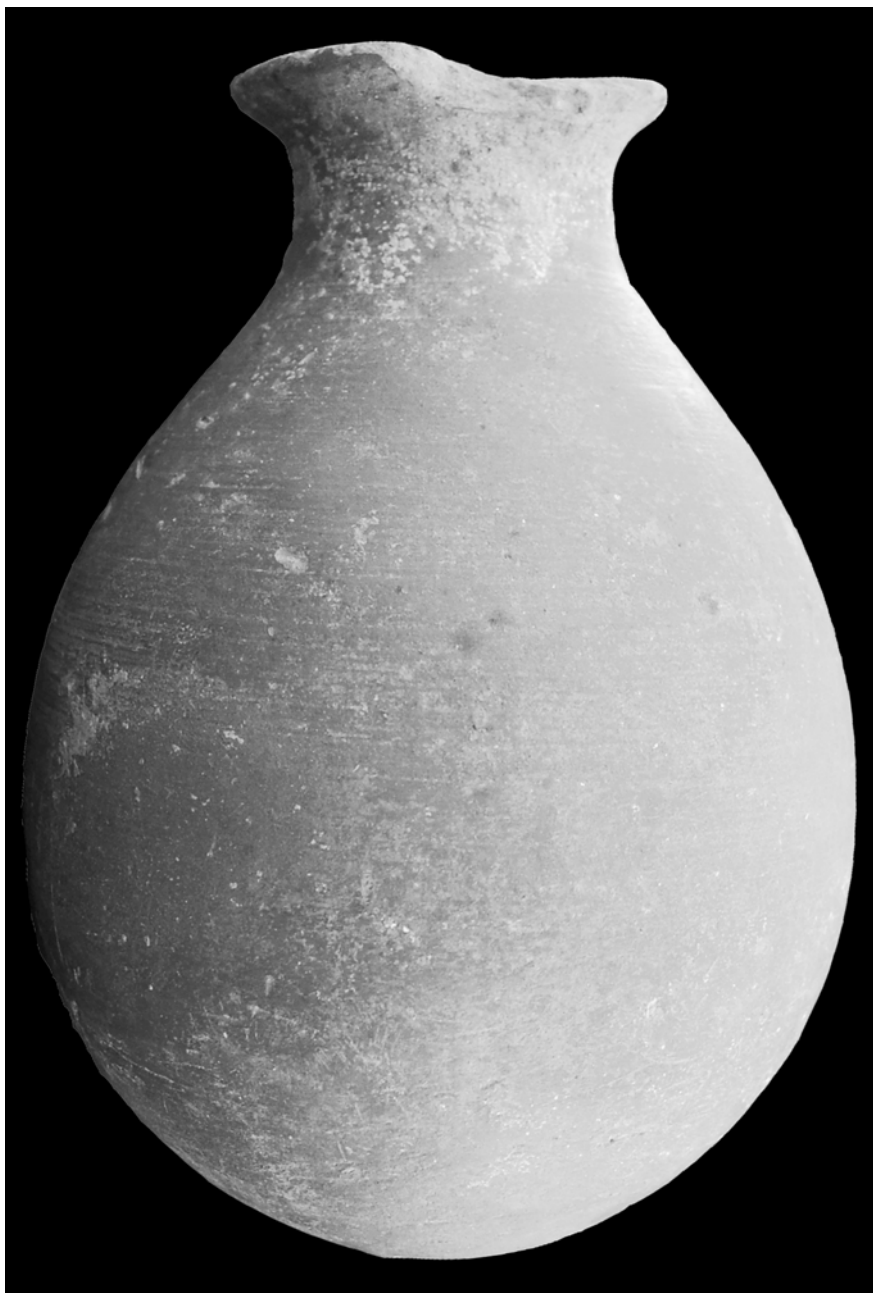


Plate 5. Ovoid jar, 79C-1.