

# TELL BASTA DURING THE SECOND INTERMEDIATE PERIOD<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract:** *Excavations of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation at Tell Basta under Shafik Farid and Ahmed el-Sawi and of the University of Zagazig under Mohamed Bakr revealed several tombs from the Second Intermediate Period (SIP). These, however, remained unpublished or were not recognized as such. This paper will provide a short overview of different burials of the SIP, including some donkey burials. A catalogue of small objects is attached.*

**Keywords:** *Tell Basta; Shafik Farid; Ahmed el-Sawi; Mohammed Bakr; Second Intermediate Period; tombs; donkey burials*

## I. Introduction

Tell Basta is situated about 80 km to the northeast of Cairo at the southeastern edge of the city of Zagazig, the capital of the Sharqiya Governorate. The site was known in ancient times as *bast* or *per bastet*, classical Bubastis, which means “the domain of the goddess Bastet”. This goddess was originally represented as a lioness- and later generally as a cat-headed woman. In ancient times, the city was situated on the eastern bank of the Pelusiac Nile branch, controlling the two routes to Asia: via the Wadi Tumilat and via the Pelusiac branch to north Sinai. This made it a very important economic and political centre, which continuously flourished from the archaic period until

Roman times. The ruins of Tell Basta are good testimonies for its importance in Egyptian history.<sup>3</sup> The most important monuments include the great temple of Bastet, the Ka-temple of Pepy I, the Ka-temple of Tety from the 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, the so-called palace of Amenemhat III, and the cemeteries in the northwest area of the site, which date from the Old Kingdom to the Late Period. They also include tombs of two Viceroys of Kush. Yet, the situation during the Second Intermediate Period (SIP) is not clear, due to the lack of published archaeological material from this time. Nevertheless, Bietak placed the site of Tell Basta among the unidentified Middle Bronze Age sites at the Eastern Delta,<sup>4</sup> because through his visits to the excavations of Shafik Farid and Ahmed El-Sawi he had some previous knowledge about the tombs of the SIP. It also caused the confusion of Van Siclen about the nature of the Hyksos penetration into Tell Basta.<sup>5</sup>

The following pages aim to shed some light on the site during the SIP, in the hope to understand more about the nature of the Hyksos rule at Tell Basta.

## II. SIP materials from Tell Basta

For a long time, two architectural blocks were the only SIP monuments known from Tell Basta. One is a block of King Apophis mentioning the con-

<sup>1</sup> This report attempts to make results of old excavations available, even when the documentation is incompletely preserved. The article is based on the field notes of the excavations of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation under Shafik Farid, Ahmed el-Sawi and of the excavations of the University of Zagazig under Mohamed Ibrahim Bakr. These materials were recovered from the archives of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation/Supreme Council of Antiquities. As far as photographs and sketches were available, they were included into this report as well.

<sup>2</sup> MSA, Egypt.

<sup>3</sup> See NAVILLE, É., *Bubastis (1887–1889)*, London 1891; GAUTHIER, H., Un vice-roi d’Éthiopie enseveli à Bubastis, *ASAE* 28 (1928), 129–137; HABACHI, L., *Tell Basta*, CASAE, Cahier N° 22, Cairo 1957; FARID, SH., Preliminary report on the Excavations of the Antiquities Department at Tell Basta (Season 1961), *ASAE* 58 (1964), 85–98;

EL-SAWI, A., Preliminary Report on Tell Basta Excavations. Seasons 1969, 1970, 1971, *ZÄS* 104 (1977), 127–131; id., *Excavations at Tell Basta. Report of Seasons 1967 - 1971 and Catalogue of Finds*, Prague 1979; BAKR, M. I., *Tell Basta I. Tombs and Burial Customs at Bubastis*, Cairo 1992; VAN SICLEN III, Ch. C., The city of Basta, an interim report, *ARCE Newsletter* no.128 (1984), 28–39; TIETZE, CH. and ABD EL-MAKSOU, M., *Tell Basta, A Guide to the Site*, Potsdam 2004; SPENCER, N., *A Naos of Nekhthorheb from Bubastis*, with a contribution by D. ROSENOW, London, British Museum Press 2006.

<sup>4</sup> BIETAK, M., *Avaris the Capital of the Hyksos*, London British Museum Press 1996, 39, fig.34, id., Egypt and Canaan during the Middle Bronze Age, *BASOR* 281 (1991), 29, fig. 1; id., Hyksos, in, *LÄ* 3, 93–103.

<sup>5</sup> VAN SICLEN III, Ch. C., The city of Basta, an interim report, *ARCE Newsletter* 128 (1984) 35.

struction of a pillared hall for a specific unknown god,<sup>6</sup> the other is the lower part of a statue of King Khayan.<sup>7</sup> Labib Habachi believed that these blocks were moved from the ruins of Piraesese to Bubastis in the Libyan period, when Bubastis and Tanis were furnished with ritual and official buildings after the end of the New Kingdom.<sup>8</sup> However, there is also some direct evidence from the Hyksos Period at the site.

During the excavation carried out by Shafik Farid at Tell Basta in the seasons 1961–1962 to the north of the great temple, in the area of the so-called palace of Amenemhat III and the area around it, hundreds of burials were discovered in the layers above the Middle Kingdom (MK) palace and in the vicinity around it. About 603 of these tombs contained pottery coffins.<sup>9</sup> All the tombs were dated by the excavators to the New

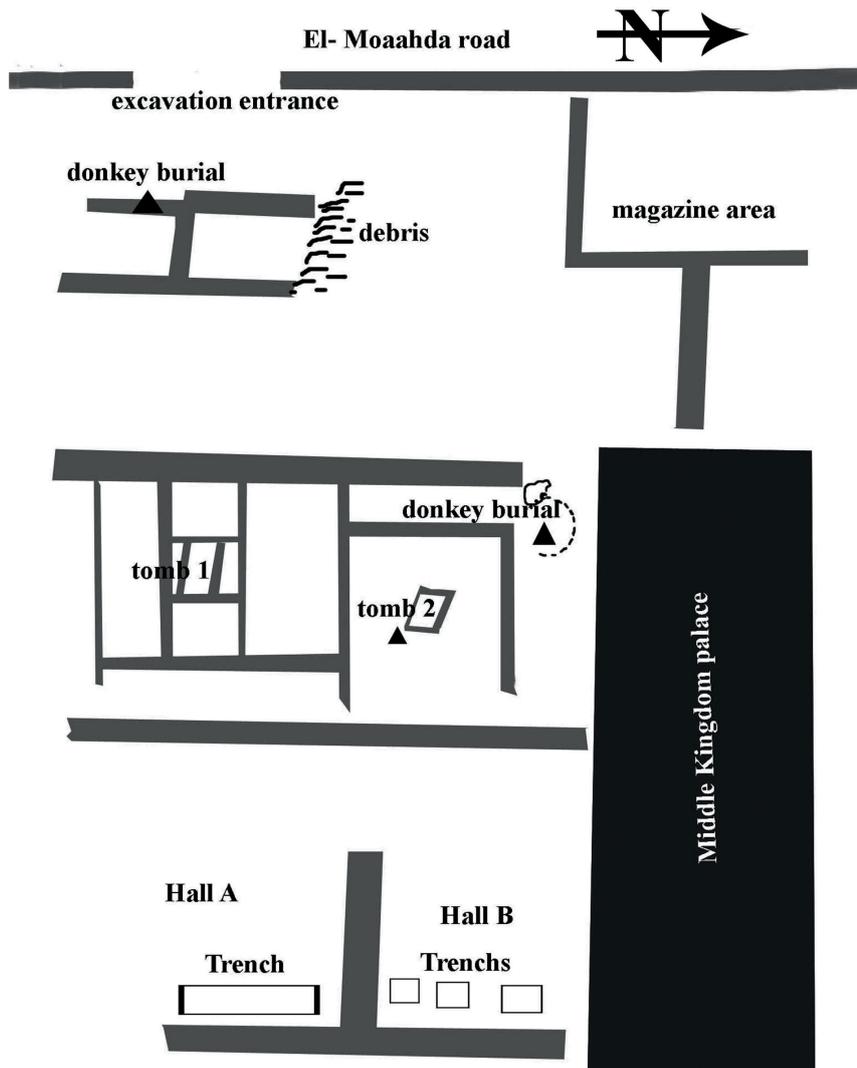


Fig. 1 Sketch drawing of the winter 1978 excavation of Zagazig University (exc. M.I. Bakr) based on the inspector's sketch drawings

<sup>6</sup> NAVILLE, E., *Bubastis*, London 1891, 23, pl. XXXVc; HELCK, W., *Historisch-biographische Texte der 2. Zwischenzeit und neue Texte der 18. Dynastie*, Wiesbaden, 1983, 57, no.84; REDFORD, D.B., Textual Sources for the Hyksos Period, in: E. OREN (ed.), *The Hyksos*, Philadelphia 1997, 7.

<sup>7</sup> NAVILLE, E., *Bubastis*, pl. XII; XXXVa; REDFORD, *op.cit.*, 6; HELCK, *op.cit.*, 54, no.70.

<sup>8</sup> HABACHI, L., *Tell el-Dab'a I*, Vienna, 2001, 92–95.

<sup>9</sup> ADEL ABD EL-MONEIM, M., *Pottery Anthropoid Coffin Burials of New Kingdom – Late Egyptian Period at Tell Basta*, in: Special Studies, Zagazig University, Faculty of Arts, May 1999.

Kingdom and the Late Period, but a careful re-examination of the material from those tombs, besides the objects from the debris of this cemetery, showed that some of them must be dated earlier, to the SIP. The data from this cemetery were, however, not published. In addition, the excavations of Ahmed El-Sawi and Mohamed I. Bakr provided more material from the SIP, but again, most of the evidence was not fully published.

Among the tombs which are safely dated to the SIP the following ones may be mentioned:

Tomb no. B.69: discovered by Shafik Farid in 1961, at the southeastern corner inside the Middle Kingdom cemetery. At the head of the burial there was a cup (2 cups?) with a flat base made of Nile clay (Fig. 6 e; 4 a), two Tell el-Yahudia juglets, a bracelet of different materials (Fig. 6 f), four scar-

abs near the left hand, and a *Wedjat* eye at the neck (see the catalogue).

Burial no. B.927: discovered by Shafik Farid in 1962, to the southeast of the MK palace, about 1.30m above the temple floor. From the debris of this burial came a group of scarabs and beads, which are dated to the SIP.

Tomb no. B.1286: discovered in 1967 by Ahmed El-Sawi under supervision of Shafik Farid. It is situated to the west of the Middle Kingdom palace, in the northern part of the magazine area. From this tomb came four Tell el-Yahudia juglets, a bracelet, and two scarabs.

During his excavation to the east of the El-Mo'ahda road in 1968, Ahmed El Sawi discovered some tombs which contained materials that are dated to the SIP. These include tomb no. 9, which

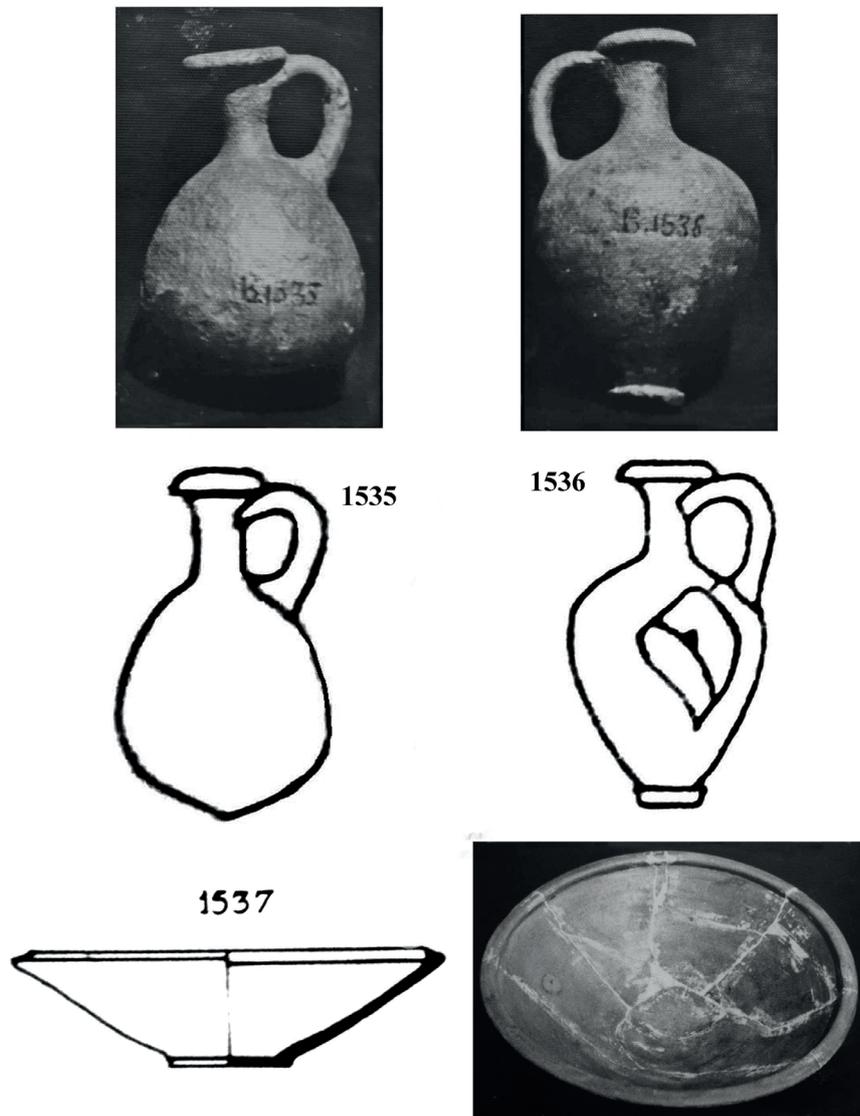


Fig. 2 B.1535–1537, Basta Tomb 9 (exc. A. e-Sawi 1968), after EL-SAWI, *Excavations at Tell Basta*, figs. 16–19



**a**



**B. 153**

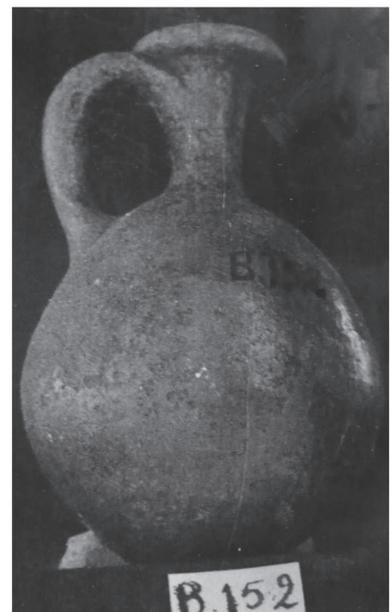
**b**



**c**



**d**



**e**

Fig. 3 a: B.1492, juglet, tomb B.1286 (Excavation A. el-Sawi 1967); b: B.153, juglet, tomb B. 69 (exc. Sh. Farid 1961); c: B.1491, juglet, tomb B.1286 (exc. A. el-Sawi 1967); d: B.1493, juglet, tomb B.1286 (exc. A. el-Sawi 1967); e: B.152, juglet, tomb B.69 (exc. Sh. Farid 1961)

contained two Tell el-Yahudia juglets and a burnished bowl with an incurred rim (Fig. 2),<sup>10</sup> tomb no. 13, which contained a group of scarabs that date from the 13<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> dynasty,<sup>11</sup> and tomb no. 94, which contained among other finds a scarab with a *nr*<sup>c</sup> decoration, and some Egyptian amulets.<sup>12</sup>

The excavation of M.I. Bakr at the same area in 1978 uncovered more materials from the SIP. The most important of them were donkey burials (see below), which were published by him.<sup>13</sup>

One of the tombs (no 2/78) with a rectangular mud brick chamber (110 cm × 42 cm) contained the burial of an individual in a contracted position, with the head to the west. Behind the head a red polished Tell el-Yahudia juglet was discovered (Zagazig University register book no. 192) as well as a scarab in front of the face of the deceased, decorated with a *khesut* sign on the base.<sup>14</sup> (Fig. 1, Tomb 2).

### III. Donkey burials at Tell Basta

One of the characteristics of the Near Eastern Middle Bronze Age Culture of the SIP in the eastern Delta are donkey burials attached to tomb entrances or in separate pits in the cemeteries<sup>15</sup> or in front of the temples.<sup>16</sup>

The excavation of the Zagazig University at the site in 1978, joined by Inspector Mahmoud Yasin Shahbu<sup>17</sup> in site E1, which is situated to the north-west of the Middle Kingdom palace, directly next to the El Mo<sup>c</sup>ahda road, uncovered a donkey burial

inside a silo. According to the inspector's report the identification of the osteological remains was confirmed by a veterinarian from the Zagazig University, who examined it. In the winter season of the same year, the mission, joined by Inspector Mohamed Said El Sawi,<sup>18</sup> uncovered more donkey burials; only parts of the animals were discovered at this time. According to the sketch drawing of the inspector these burials were situated to the south and the southwest of the Middle Kingdom palace (Fig. 1). The first burial was located near the entrance of the excavation site from the El Mo<sup>c</sup>ahda road. This burial consisted of a donkey skull and three broken pottery vessels of different sizes. The second burial is situated further to the east of the first one. It contained three donkey skulls buried carefully in a circle-like shape beside a broken pottery plate.

### IV. Catalogue of the small objects

#### B.147: Necklace (Fig. 6 f)

Tomb no. 69

Found around the neck of the deceased

1 amulet in form of a *Wedjat* eye, faience, L. 1.3 cm

1 spheric bead, amethyst, L. 0.8 cm

1 snail-shaped bead, feldspar (?), L. 0.9 cm

1 globular bead, carnelian, L. 0.6 cm

4 globular beads, garnet (?), L. 0.4 cm

(Now stored in the archeological magazine at Tell el-Yahudia)

<sup>10</sup> EL-SAWI, A., *Excavations at Tell Basta*, 7; 67, figs.16, 17, 18, 19.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, 7f.; 65, Fig. 9 (1576)

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, 26; 77, fig 64 (1734).

<sup>13</sup> محمد ابراهيم بكر ,صفحات مشرفة من تاريخ مصر القديم ,المجلس الاعلى للآثار سلسلة المائة كتابل رقم 18 ,القاهرة 1994 ,ص 235 ,244.

<sup>14</sup> محمد سعيد الصاوى , تقرير عن العمل فى الفترة من 1978/9/19 حتى 1978/11/18 مع بعثة آثار جامعة الزقازيق بتل بسطة , ص 2 , غير منشور , الحفظ العلمى بمنطقة الشرقية

<sup>15</sup> BIETAK, M., *Avaris, Capital of the Hyksos*, 25; id. *Avaris and Pi-Ramesse*, London 1979, 245f; id., Canaan, *BASOR* 281, 34; id., From where came the Hyksos and where did they go?, in: M. MARÉE (ed.), *The Second Intermediate Period (Thirteenth – Seventeenth Dynasties): Current Research, Future Prospects*, OLA 192, Leuven 2010, 159, fig. 11; WILLIAMS, B., *Archaeology and Historical Problems of the Second Intermediate Period*, PhD Dissertation, Univ. of Chicago/Illinois 1975, 66; FORSTNER-MÜLLER, I., *Tombs and Burial Customs at Tell el-Dab<sup>c</sup>a during the Late Middle Kingdom and the Second Intermediate Period*, in M. BIETAK (ed.), *The Middle Bronze Age in the*

*Levant. Proceedings of an International Middle Bronze Age Conference on MBIIA Ceramic Material in Vienna 24th-26th of January 2001*, CChEM 3, Vienna 2001, 132; VAN DEN BRINK, E., *Tombs and Burial Customs at Tell el-Dab<sup>c</sup>a*, *Beiträge zur Ägyptologie* 4, Vienna 1982, 56; REDMOUNT, C.A., *On an Egyptian/Asiatic frontier: An archaeological history of the Wadi Tumilat*, PhD dissertation, Univ. of Chicago 1989, 254, fig.165; HOLLADAY, J.S., *The Eastern Nile Delta During the Hyksos- and Pre-Hyksos Periods: Towards a Systemic /Socioeconomic Understanding*, in E. OREN (ed.), *The Hyksos*, Philadelphia 1997, 188; MACDONALD, B., *Excavation at Tell El-Maskhuta*, *Biblical Archaeologist* 43 (1980), 53f, 56; Aiman ASHMAWY ALI, *Tell el-Yahudia: New information from unpublished excavations*, *E&L* 20 (2010), 31–34.

<sup>16</sup> BIETAK, M., *Avaris the Capital of the Hyksos*, 40.

<sup>17</sup> محمود يس شهيو , تقرير عن حفائر بعثة جامعة الزقازيق بتل بسطة لسنة 1978 , الحفظ العلمى بمنطقة الشرقية , ص9 غير منشور

<sup>18</sup> محمد سعيد الصاوى , تقرير عن العمل فى الفترة من 1978/9/19 حتى 1978/11/18 مع بعثة آثار جامعة الزقازيق بتل بسطة , ص 3,2 , غير منشور , الحفظ العلمى بمنطقة الشرقية



**a**



**b**



**c**



**d**

Fig. 4 a: B.151, cup with flat base, tomb B.69 (exc. Sh. Farid 1961); b: B.383, cup with flat base, tomb B.927 (exc. Sh. Farid 1962); c: B.647, dipper juglet, from the debris; d: B.149, kohl-pot with lid, tomb B.69 (exc. Sh. Farid 1961)

**B.148:** Scarab-bracelet (Fig. 5 a-b)

Tomb no. 69

Four scarabs found around the wrist of the left hand of the deceased of burial no. 69

1 scarab, amethyst, L. 1.1 cm, stylized head, undecorated base

1 scarab, steatite, L. 2.0 cm; base: framed by an interlocked scroll pattern with a vertical row of pseudo-hieroglyphs in the middle from top to bottom: a *šn*-sign, a *h<sup>c</sup>*- (*R<sup>c</sup>*-) sign followed by a *hpr* and a *k3*-sign (Pseudo-*Hpr-Ka-Ra*)

1 scarab, steatite, L. 1.9 cm; base: in the middle one concentric circle with stylized lotus flowers in all four directions, framed by stringed concentric circles

1 scarab, steatite, L. 1.8 cm; base: three S-shaped interlocking spirals filled in the free spaces with two antithetic *nfr*-signs

(Now stored in the archeological magazine at Tell el-Yahudia)

**B.149:** Kohl pot with lid (Fig. 4 d)

Tomb no. 69

Calcite (Alabaster), surface eroded

Found at the head of burial no. 69

H. 5.7 cm, diameter 4.5 cm

(Now stored in the archeological magazine at Tell el-Yahudia)

**B.150:** Plate with flat base

Tomb no. 69

Nile clay

Found near the head of the deceased of burial no. 69

H. 6 cm, rim diameter 23.5 cm.

**B.151:** Cup with flat base (Fig. 4 a)

Tomb no. 69

Nile clay

Found near the head of the deceased of burial no. 69

H. 15.6 cm, rim diameter 13.2 cm

(Now stored in the archeological magazine at Tell el-Yahudia).

**B.152:** Juglet (Fig. 3 e)

Tomb no. 69

Tell el-Yahudia globular juglet, with rim turned outside. Pottery, burnished (?)

Found near the head of the deceased of burial no. 69

H. 10 cm, rim diameter 2.7 cm

**B.153:** Juglet (Fig. 3 b)

Tomb no. 69

Tell el-Yahudia cylindrical juglet, rim turned outside, strap handle. Pottery, black burnished.

Around the max. diameter one horizontal zone of chevron pattern is incised with a comb and filled with a white paste.<sup>19</sup>

Found near the head of the deceased of burial no. 69

H. 7.4 cm, rim diameter 2.5 cm

**B.383:** Cup with flat base (Fig. 4 b)

From the debris southeast of the temple, about 3.5 m above floor level, next to tomb no. 927

Nile clay

H. 9 cm, rim diam. 7 cm

(Now stored in the archeological magazine at Tell el-Yahudia)

**B.647:** Dipper juglet (Fig. 4 c)

From the debris at the western part of the temple

Pottery

H. 16.5 cm, rim diameter 3 cm

Broken and restored, parts are missing

(Now stored in the archeological magazine at Tell el-Yahudia)

**B.824:** Six Scarabs (Fig. 5 c-d)

Tomb no. 927

Group of six scarabs found in the debris of burial no. 927, which is located to the southeast of the MK palace, about 1.30 m above floor level

1 scarab, glazed steatite, L. 1.5 cm. Back: the head is formed in the shape of a human face. The wings are separated by three parallel lines. At the upper part of the wings two hanging triangles are visible. Head: the human face is of triangular shape and topped with fringes of hair. Beyond them are connected eye brows which sit above two button-like eyes, a stylized nose and mouth. Base: a representation of a standing nude goddess, whose head is seen in profile.<sup>20</sup>

1 scarab, glazed steatite, L. 1.3 cm. Back: hour-glass shaped head, undivided back. Base: a central

<sup>19</sup> PETRIE, W.M.F., *Hyksos and Israelite cities*, London 1906, pl. VII/5.<sup>20</sup> See TUFNELL, O., *Studies on Scarab Seals*. Volume II: Scarab Seals and their Contribution to History in the Early Second Millennium B.C., Warminster 1984, 138, pl. XLVIII.



**a**



**b**



**c**



**d**

Fig. 5 a+b: B.148, 4 scarabs, tomb B.69 (exc. Sh. Farid 1961); c+d: B.824, 6 scarabs, tomb B.927 (exc. Sh. Farid 1962)

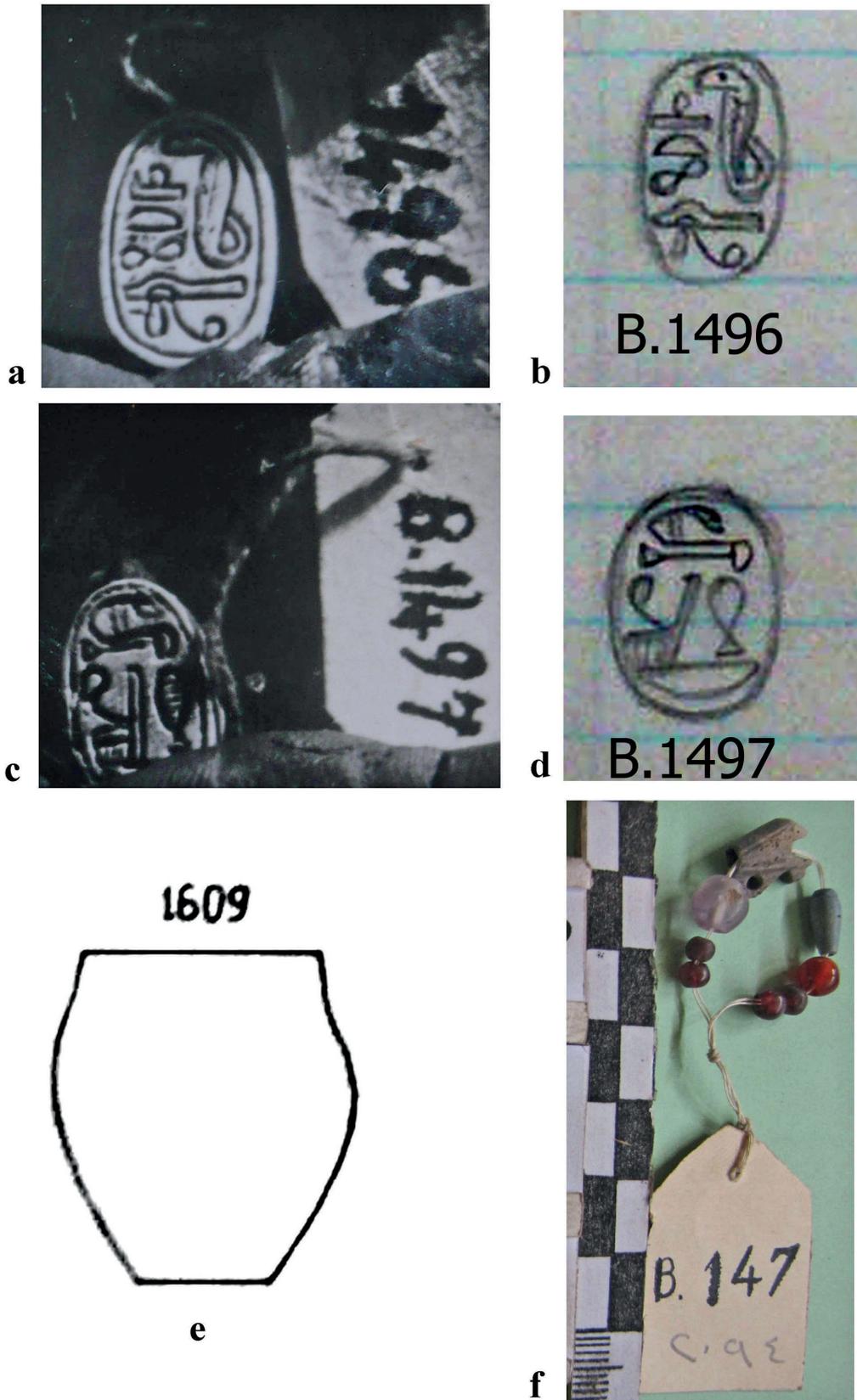


Fig. 6 a+b: B.1496, scarab, tomb B.1286 (exc. A. el-Sawi 1967); c+d: B.1497, scarab, tomb B.1286 (exc. A. el-Sawi 1967); e: B.1609, cup with flat base, tomb B.69 (exc. Sh. Farid 1961); f: B.147, necklace, tomb B.69 (exc. Sh. Farid 1961)

S-shaped spiral is flanked at both sides by antithetic papyrus plants whose stems end in spirals  
 1 scarab, glazed steatite, L. 1.1 cm. Back: triangular head and clypeus. Undivided back, the prothorax is separated from the wings by only two notches. Base: two *nfr*-signs in the middle flanked on both sides by a papyrus plant with hanging heads  
 1 scarab, glazed steatite, L. 0.75 cm. Back: stylized head with a simple separation of the prothorax from the wings. One groove is separating the wings. Base: hieroglyphic signs  
 1 scarab, glazed steatite, L. 1.2 cm. Back: trapezoid head, undivided back. Base: a deeply cut scarab flanked on both sides by a cobra<sup>21</sup>  
 1 scarab, glazed steatite, L. 1.0 cm. Back: a rectangular head framed at both sides by button-eyes, wide segmented clypeus. The prothorax is separated from the wings only by two notches. Base: In vertical order is a *h<sup>c</sup>*-sign, followed by three *nfr*-signs and a small *nb*-sign below  
 (Now stored in the archeological magazine at Tell el-Yahudia).

**B.1491:** Juglet (Fig. 3 c)

Tomb no. 1286 (west of the MK palace, area of the northern magazines)  
 Nile clay, black burnished and incised  
 H. 9.5 cm, rim diameter 1.5 cm, base diameter 1.5 cm  
 Tell el-Yahudia juglet, piriform 2a, rim rolled to the outside, strap handle, three vertical segmented zones filled with a herring-bone pattern made with a comb. In between are vertically burnished bands  
 (Stored in the Heryat Razna Museum at Zagazig)

**B.1492:** Juglet (Fig. 3 a)

Tomb no. 1286 (west of the MK palace, area of the northern magazines)  
 Nile clay  
 H. 7.7 cm, rim diameter 1 cm. Biconical juglet with the rim rolled to the outside. Strap handle  
 (Stored in the Heryat Razna Museum at Zagazig)

**B.1493:** Juglet (Fig. 3 d)

Tomb no. 1286 (west of the MK palace, area of the northern magazines)  
 Nile clay, black burnished  
 H. 11 cm, rim diameter 1.5 cm, base diameter 1.5 cm  
 Tell el-Yahudia juglet, piriform 2a, rim rolled to the outside, strap handle. Three vertical segments

filled with a herring-bone pattern made with a comb. In between are vertically burnished bands. Traces of the white filling are still visible

**B.1494:** Juglet

Tomb no. 1286  
 Nile clay, black burnished and incised  
 H. 10.2 cm, rim diameter 1.5 cm, base diameter 1.5 cm  
 Tell el-Yahudia globular juglet. The body is decorated with incised dots, once filled with white material. The rim is broken and restored

**B.1495:** Bracelet

Tomb no. 1286  
 Amethyst, carnelian and lapislazuli  
 L. 7.5 cm, L. of the heart amulet 1.5 cm, L. of the frog amulet 1 cm.  
 Bracelet made of different amethyst beads, in the middle are two amulets, one in the form of a heart and the other in the form of a frog  
 (Stored in the Heryat Razna Museum at Zagazig)

**B.1496:** Scarab (Fig. 6 a-b)

Tomb no.1286  
 Steatite  
 L. 1.4 cm  
 Base: In the upper right part is a cobra looking to the left. In front of it is a *htp*-sign followed by a *t*-sign and a diagonal 8-loop (?), below an *Wedjat*-eye is incised  
 (Stored in the Heryat Razna Museum at Zagazig)

**B.1497:** Scarab (Fig. 6 c-d)

Tomb no. 1286  
 Steatite  
 L. 1.3 cm  
 Base: at the top is a papyrus stem with a hanging bud connected to a *r*-sign. Below one finds a red crown next to a *s3*-sign filled with hatches above a *nb*-sign  
 (Stored in the Heryat Razna Museum at Zagazig)

**V. Discussion**

It must be noted that according to the Tell el-Dab<sup>a</sup> stratigraphy the material found at Tell Basta dates to a later phase of the SIP. According to Bietak, the cups with a flat base and a direct rim date to the second half of the SIP. They are typical for the

<sup>21</sup> See a parallel from Tell el-Yahudia: PETRIE, W.M.F., *Hyksos and Israelite Cities*, BSAE 12, London 1906, Pl. 9, 146.

phases D/3-D/2 at Tell el-Dab<sup>a</sup>, but occur already in E/1. This type of cups replaced the round base cups. As we have so far found no round bottomed cups at Tell Basta, common for the Middle Kingdom and the early SIP, the time assessment corresponding to the phases D/3-D/2 at Tell el-Dab<sup>a</sup> seems to be correct.<sup>22</sup> The types of Tell el-Yahudia pottery including Piriform juglets type 2b and red polished juglets are all typical of the Hyksos Period at Tell el-Dab<sup>a</sup>, phases E/1-D/3.<sup>23</sup> The other common types of Tell el-Yahudia pottery came from the same context as the flat base cups, which date them to the same period. In addition, the type of the dipper juglet is possibly dated to a later phase in the SIP.<sup>24</sup>

The human headed scarab also seems to be late in date in SIP. Scarabs with human heads are well attested during the SIP, particularly for the reign of Apophis.<sup>25</sup> However, they continue to be produced well into the New Kingdom, particularly the Ramesside epoch, and even beyond.<sup>26</sup> However, the naked goddess on the base of the human headed scarab is a typical MB IIB motive, which is mainly found at places in the eastern Delta in Egypt that are connected with Syro-Palestinian MB culture.<sup>27</sup>

As for the donkey burials, they were found during the whole SIP period at Tell el-Dab<sup>a</sup>.<sup>28</sup> At Tell Basta they must be dated to a late phase of the SIP, in accordance with the dating of the SIP pottery.

All this evidence seems to conclude that the city of Tell Basta was under Egyptian rule during

the first half of the SIP and, unlike Tell el-Dab<sup>a</sup>, it seems that there was no Asiatic influence in it.

Kim Ryholt believes that Heliopolis, Tell Basta and Athribis were parts of the territory of the 13<sup>th</sup> Dynasty for different periods and he considers Tell Basta to represent the northern extent of the 13<sup>th</sup> Dynasty.<sup>29</sup>

It was only after the Hyksos dominions were united under one ruler and the establishment of the 15<sup>th</sup> Dynasty that they started to enlarge their territory. Tell Basta may have been one of the earliest cities which had witnessed the clash with the new power, which overcame the city and took it by the sword. Archeological evidence shows traces of destruction on the walls of the Middle Kingdom palace and the statues discovered in it.<sup>30</sup> This destructive act was also documented on other buildings in the area.<sup>31</sup> The echo of this violent conflict can be traced in the Manethonian tradition. It seems that at the end the people of the city submitted to the Hyksos rule. Unlike in Tell el-Dab<sup>a</sup>, the majority of the population at Tell Basta were Egyptians, so the Hyksos rulers began to approach the citizens in the city by keeping their temples and cults. Besides that, they even started to add a pillared hall and statues to the temple of Bastet. Kim Ryholt goes even further than this and believes that the Hyksos Khayan adopted the Egyptian beliefs of the afterlife and suggested that Khayan possessed a Ka-temple at Tell Basta for himself.<sup>32</sup>

The end of the Hyksos presence at Tell Basta is unclear, we do not know whether they were driven

<sup>22</sup> BIETAK, M., Problems of Middle Bronze Age Chronology. New Evidence from Egypt, in *AJA* 88 (1984), 471–481, fig. 2; id., Egypt and Canaan During the Middle Bronze Age, *BASOR* 281 (1991), 50–51, fig. 14; ASTON, D., *Tell el-Dab<sup>a</sup> XII: A corpus of late middle kingdom and second intermediate period pottery*, Vienna 2004, 199f.

<sup>23</sup> BIETAK, M., *Avaris the Capital of the Hyksos*, fig. 46; id., *AJA* 88, fig. 12.

<sup>24</sup> KOPETZKY, K., *The MB IIB-Corpus of the Hyksos period at Tell el-Dab<sup>a</sup>*, in M. BIETAK and E. CZERNY (eds.), *The Bronze Age in the Lebanon*, Vienna 2008, fig. 13; eadem, *The dipper juglets of Tell el-Dab<sup>a</sup>. A typological and chronological approach*, in M. BIETAK (ed.), *The Middle Bronze Age in the Levant*, Vienna 2002, 232–237 and figs. 3–6. Note that this dipper juglet looks similar to a Cypriote white shaved juglet, which would date to the late 18th Dynasty at the earliest. Cautious investigation is required to establish its archaeological affiliation.

<sup>25</sup> NEWBERRY, P.E., *Scarabs, An Introduction to the Study of Egyptian Seals and Signet Rings*, London 1908, 73, fig 69; BOURRIAU, J., The relative chronology of the Second Inter-

mediate Period: Problems in linking regional archaeological sequences, in M. MARÉE (ed.), *OLA* 192, 25, fig. 11.

<sup>26</sup> KEEL, O., *Corpus der Stempelsiegel-Amulette aus Palästina/Israel*, OBO/SA 10, Freiburg-Göttingen 1995, 72–74, §164–168.

<sup>27</sup> KEEL, O., *op. cit.*, 210–212, §574–576. Two scarabs with this motive were previously found at Tell el-Yahudia: PETRIE, W.M.F., *Hyksos and Israelite Cities*, BSAE 12, London 1906, Pl. 9, 137; 138.

<sup>28</sup> BIETAK, M., Egypt and Canaan During the Middle Bronze Age, *BASOR* 281 (1991), 52, fig. 16.

<sup>29</sup> RYHOLT, K.S.B., *The Political Situation in Egypt During the Second Intermediate Period*, Copenhagen 1997, 76–77.

<sup>30</sup> FARID, SH., Preliminary report on the excavations of the Antiquities department at Tell Basta (season 1961), *ASAE* 58 (1964), 92; VAN SICLEN III, Ch., *op. cit.*, 35.

محمد محسن، مذكرة عن حفائر تل بسطة 1961–1960 (الإرشيف العلمي بتل بسطة)

<sup>31</sup> EL-SAWI, A., *op. cit.* 76.

<sup>32</sup> RYHOLT, K.S.B., *op. cit.*, 149.

out from the city and the strong fort at Tell el-Yahudia by force or retreated to Tell el-Dab<sup>a</sup> because of Egyptian military pressure, especially after the fall of Heliopolis. In addition, the role of the citizens of Tell Basta in this conflict is still not clear.