

EGYPTIAN SALVAGE EXCAVATIONS AT TELL EL-MANSHEYA

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Abstract: *This archaeological report presents results of rescue excavations conducted by the Ministry of Antiquities at Tell el-Mansheya located in close proximity to Tell el-Koa in Wadi Tumilat. The site was discovered accidentally by the local inhabitants during agricultural works. The archaeological work brought to light a small cemetery and remnants of a settlement dated to the Second Intermediate Period; more precisely to the second half of the 15th Dynasty.*

Keywords: *Tell el-Mansheya, Wadi Tumilat, Second Intermediate Period, cemetery, settlement*

The archaeological site of Tell el-Mansheya is located in the western part of the Wadi Tumilat on the southern slope of the valley, where the landscape is dominated by low sand dunes (Fig. 1).

This small settlement lies only about 200 m to the west of the better known major Second Intermediate Period settlement of Tell el-Koa,⁵ from which it is separated by a sandy stripe, seemingly devoid of ancient remains.

The site of Tell el-Mansheya was discovered by chance during agricultural works. The salvage excavation of the Ministry of Antiquities carried out by Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaid Hashem and their team followed in 2015 and brought to light scattered settlement remains and a small cemetery comprising of 14 mud brick tombs (Fig. 2). In the following article, the results of this salvage excavation are presented. The first part is devoted to the better preserved cemetery. In the second part, the scant remains of the settlement, which partially overlaps with the cemetery, are presented.⁶



Fig. 1 Tell el-Mansheya, view to the west (Photo: Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaid Hashem)

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⁵ See EL-HANGOURY 2003.

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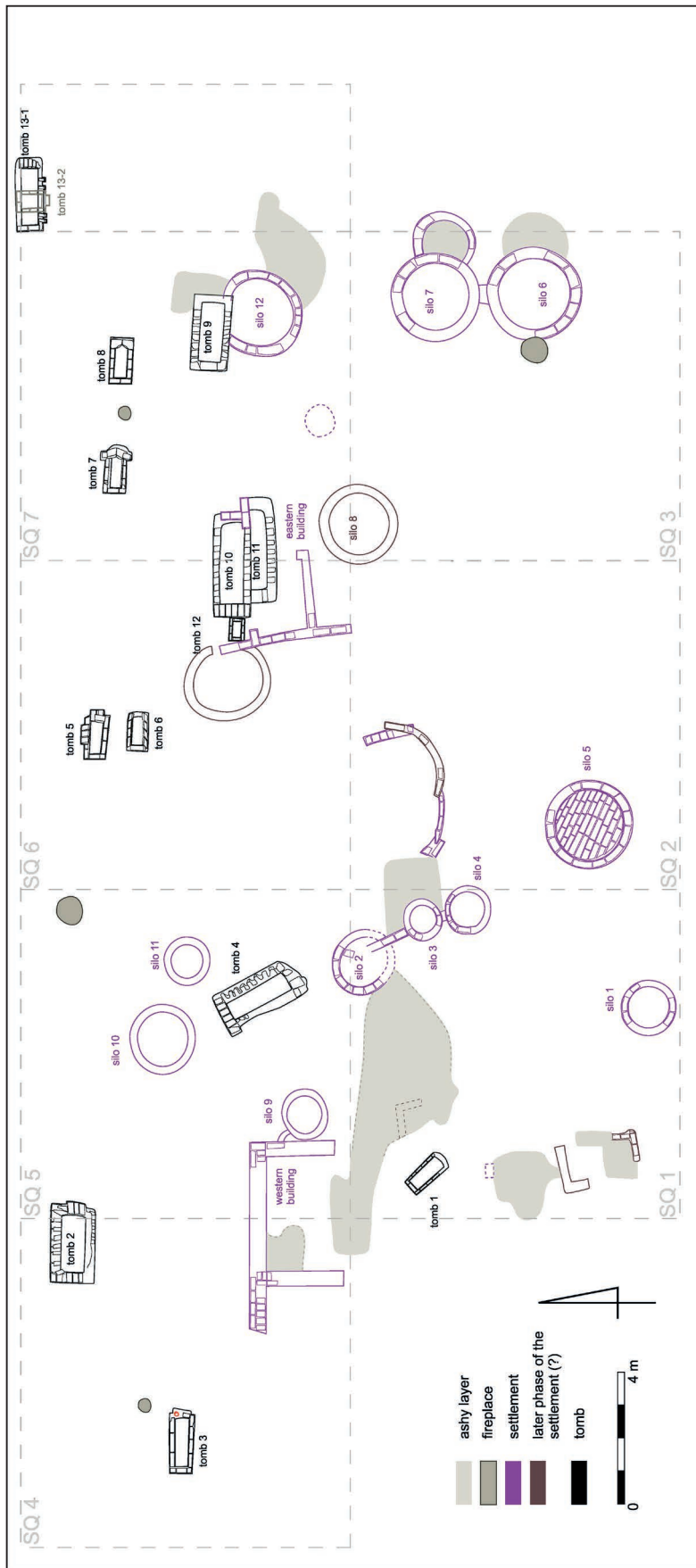


Fig. 2 Plan of the excavation in Tell el-Mansheya (Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaïd Hashem, digitalisation: Lucia Hulková)

The cemetery

Fourteen mud brick tombs of various sizes and construction types were found in Tell el-Mansheya. The tombs occupy the northern part of the excavated site. Since the ancient remains lay very close to the modern surface of the site that was used for agricultural production, most of the tombs are partially disturbed. This makes the identification of the tomb type difficult, because only small traces of the vaults or gabled roofs are preserved. Furthermore, the internments in the tombs suffered strongly from the high level of the ground water. The skeletal material is very badly preserved. Especially the remains of smaller children are almost completely dissolved. The preserved bones were so fragile that they were not collected for anthropological examination. Thus, details on age, sex and health status of the individuals buried in Tell el-Mansheya are not available. Despite this, interesting insight into the life of people in Tell el-Mansheya can be gained from the intact funerary assemblages found in several tombs.

No traces of tomb pits were visible in the yellow sand covering the structures. It is therefore not clear, if the tombs were constructed in narrow tomb pits, or if some kind of entrance shafts were constructed, at least by the larger tombs. It is improbable that the tombs would not be at least partially sunken into the ground. The marking of the tomb sites on the surface was probably quite short-lived, because in two cases (tombs 10 and 11 and 13-1 and 13-2) new tombs were built over older structures, partially disturbing them. In the following paragraphs, the individual tombs are introduced.

Tomb 1

Tomb 1 (Fig. 3) is located in square 1 in the western part of the cemetery. It is the southernmost tomb in the excavated area. It is oriented south-east-northwest, which seems to be unusual for the cemetery, since within the 14 excavated tombs, only four others (tomb 4, tomb 6, tomb 12 and tomb 13–2) differ from the predominant east-west orientation. Because of the grade of modern destruction of the site, it is not clear if this difference results from diachronic changes of funerary rites within the cemetery, or if it points to cultural/social/religious etc. variations within contemporary rituals.



Fig. 3 Tomb 1 after excavation (Photo: Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaid Hashem)

Architecture

The rectangular burial chamber is 1.26 m long and 0.77 m wide on the outside. The $\frac{1}{2}$ ⁷ brick thick walls are constructed of two rows of rectangular mud bricks in stretcher bond. It is not clear how this tomb was roofed, because only the lowest part of the roof is preserved. The northwest gable was

⁷ The relative thickness of the walls is given in terms of bricks – the length of a brick is 1 unit, thus a wall built of stretchers is considered $\frac{1}{2}$ brick thick.

at least one brick row higher than the burial chamber walls. A slightly concave muddy layer is spread over the sandy fill of the burial chamber. It could be the roofing itself – a vaulted roof of a burial chamber composed of mud daub was reported from Tell el-Maskhuta.⁸ However, this muddy layer may just be composed of the dissolved remains of roofing bricks.

Contents of the tomb

No human bones were preserved in the tomb. In the southwestern corner of the burial chamber a broken pottery vessel – possibly a cup – was found, but this vessel was not recorded.

Dating of the tomb

Second Intermediate Period (?) – closer dating of the tomb is not possible.

Tomb 2

This east-west oriented mud brick tomb located in square 5 was once a quite impressive structure



Fig. 4 Tomb 2 after excavation (Photo: Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaid Hashem)

roofed by a barrel vault (Fig. 4). As it lies close to the modern surface of the site, the vault was heavily affected by the gradual surface erosion and agricultural activity and is now completely dissolved. The further damage in the southwestern corner of the burial chamber may be the result of an antique robbery or secondary burial. A concentration of ashes, found outside of the tomb by the

⁸ HOLLADAY 1982, 45.

south western corner of the burial chamber, may be the remains of some cultic activity, performed either during the funeral itself or later in the course of ancestor worship.

Architecture

The external length of the burial chamber was 2.63 m; the external width varies slightly between 1.40 m in the east and 1.50 m in the west. The roughly rectangular burial chamber seems to be only two rows of bricks high. The entrance into the chamber was probably in the east, because the eastern wall seems to be built separately from the other three chamber walls.

Upon the chamber walls, a 1 brick thick platform for the vault was constructed, consisting of one row of bricks in header bond, projecting out of the burial chamber. Only the lowest part of the barrel vault is preserved. Backing bricks were placed on edge in alternating rows on both long sides of the vault, to prevent the alignment of joints. The vault construction was leaning against the stepped triangular gable in the west; details of construction of the eastern gable are not available. This tomb construction corresponds to type 4.3 of Tell el-Dab^a.⁹

Contents of the tomb

No traces of a skeleton were found in the sand filled burial chamber. The body was possibly displaced during a robbery or dissolved by the high groundwater. Only one black burnished juglet MAN_41 in the northeastern corner and a dagger MAN_50 in the southeast were found in the tomb (see Plate I¹⁰).

Juglet, reg. no.: MAN_41 (Plate I)

Shape: small piriform juglet with narrow disc base, single strap handle, and narrow neck

Material: Nile clay (?)

Surface treatment: black, probably burnished

Dimensions:¹¹ h.: 9.2 cm; base Ø: 0.7 cm; rim Ø: 1.6 cm; max. body Ø: 5.3 cm

⁹ FORSTNER-MÜLLER 2008, 29.

¹⁰ The pottery drawings used in the plates were drawn by Mr. Emam Salah and digitalised by Anna Wodzińska. The photographs were made by Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaid Hashem.

¹¹ Following abbreviations were used in the text: h – height, l – length, th – thickness, w – width, Ø – diameter.

State of preservation: strongly corroded surface, only very small fragment of the rim is preserved and its shape is only roughly reconstructed

Remarks: the type is well known from Wadi Tumilat, for instance from Tell el-Maskhuta.¹² Maybe it can be compared to vessels from Tell el-Dab^a stratum D/2 which however are characterised by a more globular body.¹³

Dagger, reg. no.: MAN_50 (Plate I)

Material: copper/copper alloy

Dimensions: max. preserved l.: 14.7 cm, max. w.: 4.1 cm, th.: 0.4 cm

Description: Leaf-shaped blade¹⁴ with heavily corroded edges. The shape of the cross-section of the blade cannot be securely determined due to the bad preservation state. The edges of the blade are slightly convex with several indentations that may result from repeated sharpening and use. The dagger once had at least three rivet-holes for fastening the handle to the blade. One can be seen on the tang and two are located on the shoulders of the blade. No traces of the handle or pommel are preserved. A similar dagger was found also in Tell el-Koa.¹⁵

State of preservation: heavily corroded, part of the tang and tip of the blade are missing.

Dating of the tomb

Based on the material found in the tomb we can perhaps date it to the period corresponding to stratum D/2 of Tell el-Dab^a that is the later phase of the 15th Dynasty. It is interesting to note that metal weapons are more characteristic for earlier strata in Tell el-Dab^a,¹⁶ while in Wadi Tumilat they are known also from later 15th Dynasty contexts.¹⁷

Tomb 3

The east-west oriented mud brick tomb 3 (Fig. 5) is located in square 5 close to the western border of the excavated area, some 4.5 m southwest of tomb 2. It lies close to the modern surface, and the upper part of the tomb is heavily destroyed. North-

¹² REDMOUNT 1989, 877, 884, 886, Fig. 147, especially no. 7 with disc base.

¹³ ASTON 2004, 286, Pl. 274, no. 1016.

¹⁴ PHILIP 2006, 47–52.

¹⁵ EL-HANGOURY 2003, 133.

¹⁶ FORSTNER-MÜLLER 2008, 385.

¹⁷ NOUR EL-DIN *et al.* 2016, 84–86.

Plate I

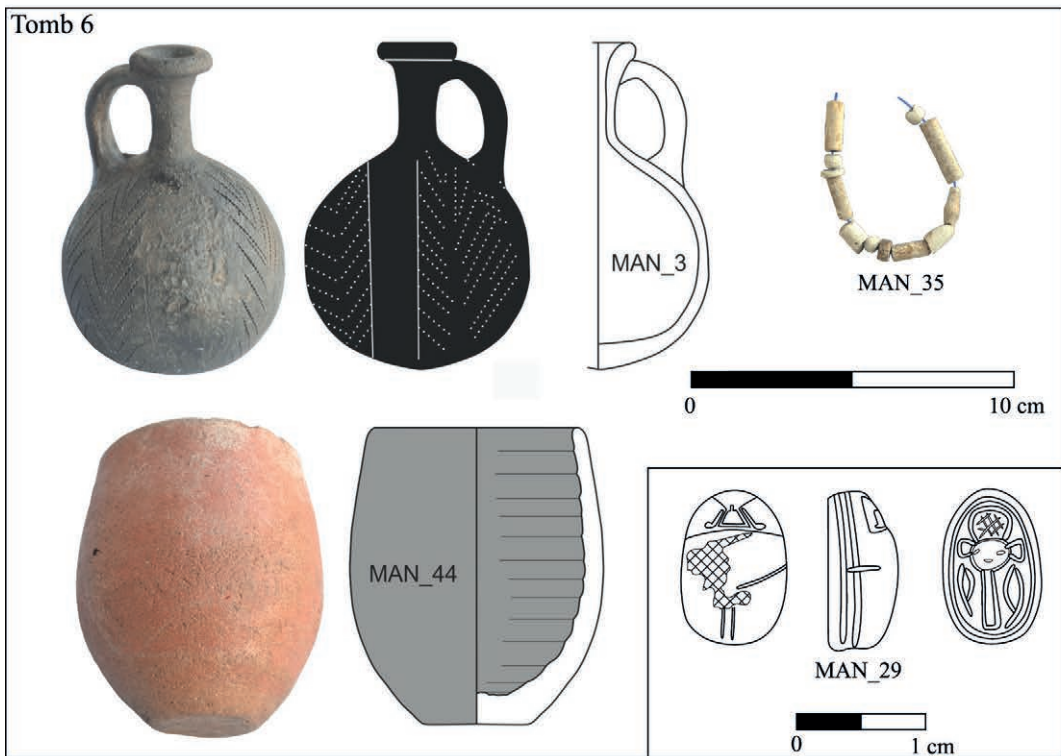




Fig. 5 Tomb 3 after excavation (Photo: Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaïd Hashem)

east of the tomb, a small concentration of ashes was found, which may indicate a kind of cultic activity connected with the grave.

Architecture

The rectangular burial chamber is 2.30m long on the outside; its external width ranges from 0.85 m in the east to 0.90m in the west. The burial chamber walls were 2 rows of bricks high. The long northern and southern walls and the eastern wall are 1/2 bricks thick. The western wall is partially obscured by the gable construction, but it seems that it was built together with other chamber walls. Based on the width of the burial chamber, it is probable that it was roofed over by a vault, but no details of the construction could be gained, since only the lowest part of the roof is preserved. In the west, one row of bricks in header bond reaching into the burial chamber is preserved. In the east, the preservation is even worse, but it seems that bricks in header bond reaching out of the burial chamber were used here. It is not sure, if the vault was constructed of mud bricks; the typical back-

ing bricks placed along the long sides of a burial chamber are not visible here.¹⁸

Contents of the tomb

No grave goods were found in the tomb. The skeleton seems to be disintegrated completely, apart from a fragment of a leg (?) along the southern wall of the burial chamber. A broken pottery vessel was found on the northeastern outer corner of the tomb structure at the height of the gable, but it was not documented.

Dating of the tomb

Second Intermediate Period (?) – closer dating of the tomb is not possible.

Tomb 4

This large, southeast-northwest oriented mud brick tomb with a vault was located in square 5 (Fig. 6). The upper side of the vault was heavily destroyed, probably in course of modern agricultural work – the deep parallel ridges in the structure seem to be caused by ploughing. Tomb 4 is one of the few tombs in the excavated part of the cemetery that are not east-west oriented.



Fig. 6 Tomb 4 with the burial (Photo: Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaïd Hashem)

Architecture

The rectangular mud brick burial chamber is 3.1 m long on the outside; the outer width varies between 1.6m in the east and 1.7m in the west. The burial chamber walls are 4 brick rows high and one brick thick. All the chamber walls were clearly built together, without any entrance opening.

¹⁸ It may of course be due to bad preservation, but it is also possible, that they were not used, like in the Tell el-Dab'a tomb type 6; see FORSTNER-MÜLLER 2008, 31. It is also possi-

ble that the vault was constructed of daub, placed on the sandy fill of the chamber. A similar type of construction was reported from Tell el-Maskhuta; see HOLLADAY 1982, 45.

The vault was built directly upon the walls of the burial chamber. Only the first row of vault bricks is preserved. Based on the angle of the backing bricks, the vault leaned against the north-western gable. The backing bricks were placed on edge in alternating rows. No further details of the vault construction are available, due to the bad preservation of the upper parts of the tomb.

Contents of the tomb

In the northwestern part of the tomb a badly preserved human skeleton was found. The individual was lying on the left side, with the head in the southeast, looking west. Almost no traces of the upper body and arms are preserved. The legs are strongly contracted, placed above each other, with knees pointing westwards.

Most of the grave goods were placed in the southeastern part of the tomb. In the south western corner, a large pottery bowl MAN_47 was placed. Over the bowl and east and north of it, a relatively large number of animal bones were uncovered. They were very badly preserved; therefore, it is not clear if different joints of meat or a more or less complete skeleton of one or more animals were placed here. Another pottery vessel – a carinated beaker MAN_9 – was found between the animal bones by the eastern wall. Two further pottery vessels – a red burnished juglet MAN_13 and a black Tell el-Yahudiya juglet MAN_43 – were placed by the western wall at the height of the body of the deceased, possibly where the hands were once lying (see Plate II).

Carinated beaker, reg. no.: MAN_9 (Plate II)

Shape: small carinated beaker with slightly concave base and flaring rim

Material: Nile clay (?)

Surface treatment: red slipped; one part of the rim and outer side of the vessel is blackened, most probably due to firing conditions

Dimensions: rim \varnothing : 10.5 cm, h.: 7.1 cm; base \varnothing : 3.8 cm

State of preservation: slightly corroded surface, complete

Remarks: carinated beakers can be found in Tell el-Dab^a stratum D/2 (late 15th Dynasty) – similar forms were published by Aston.¹⁹ Unpublished material from Tell um-Bordi also contained a beaker of the type.²⁰

Juglet, reg. no.: MAN_13 (Plate II)

Shape: piriform juglet with narrow ring base, single strap handle and slender neck with averted rim

Material: Nile clay (?)

Surface treatment: red slipped and burnished

Dimensions: max. \varnothing : 7.6 cm; rim \varnothing : 3.6 cm; base \varnothing : 2.2 cm; h.: 12.5 cm

State of preservation: slightly corroded surface, complete

Remarks: a juglet of the same type was also found in tomb 8 (see reg. no. MAN_42). A number of red burnished juglets found in Tell el-Dab^a came from a transition stratum between the levels E/2 and E/1 dated to the early and middle 15th Dynasty;²¹ also from level E/1 dated to the middle 15th Dynasty;²² stratum D/3²³ and D/2²⁴ of the late 15th Dynasty. They were also found in Wadi Tumilat sites like Tell el-Maskhuta²⁵ and Tell el-Retaba.²⁶

Tell el-Yahudiya juglet, reg. no.: MAN_43 (not drawn, Plate II)

Shape: globular juglet

Material: Nile clay (?)

Surface treatment: black burnished, with incised decoration in herringbone pattern

Dimensions: max. \varnothing : 6.6 cm

State of preservation: corroded surface, shoulder, neck, handle and rim missing

Remarks: the juglet is of the same type as reg. nos. MAN_2 and 3.

Bowl, reg. no.: MAN_47 (Plate II)

Shape: large conical plate with flaring rim and flat base

Material: Nile clay (?)

Surface treatment: smoothed

Dimensions: rim \varnothing : 25 cm; h.: 7 cm; base \varnothing : 7.2 cm

State of preservation: slightly corroded surface, complete

Remarks: shallow bowls of this type can be compared with examples from Tell el-Maskhuta,²⁷ and from Tell el-Dab^a, stratum D/2.²⁸

¹⁹ ASTON 2004, 304, Pl. 292, especially no. 1079.

²⁰ EL-HANGOURY 2003.

²¹ BIETAK 1991, 157, Abb. 120, 26–29.

²² For instance BIETAK 1991, 172, Abb. 132.

²³ FORSTNER-MÜLLER 2008, 324, Fig. 245a:16–17.

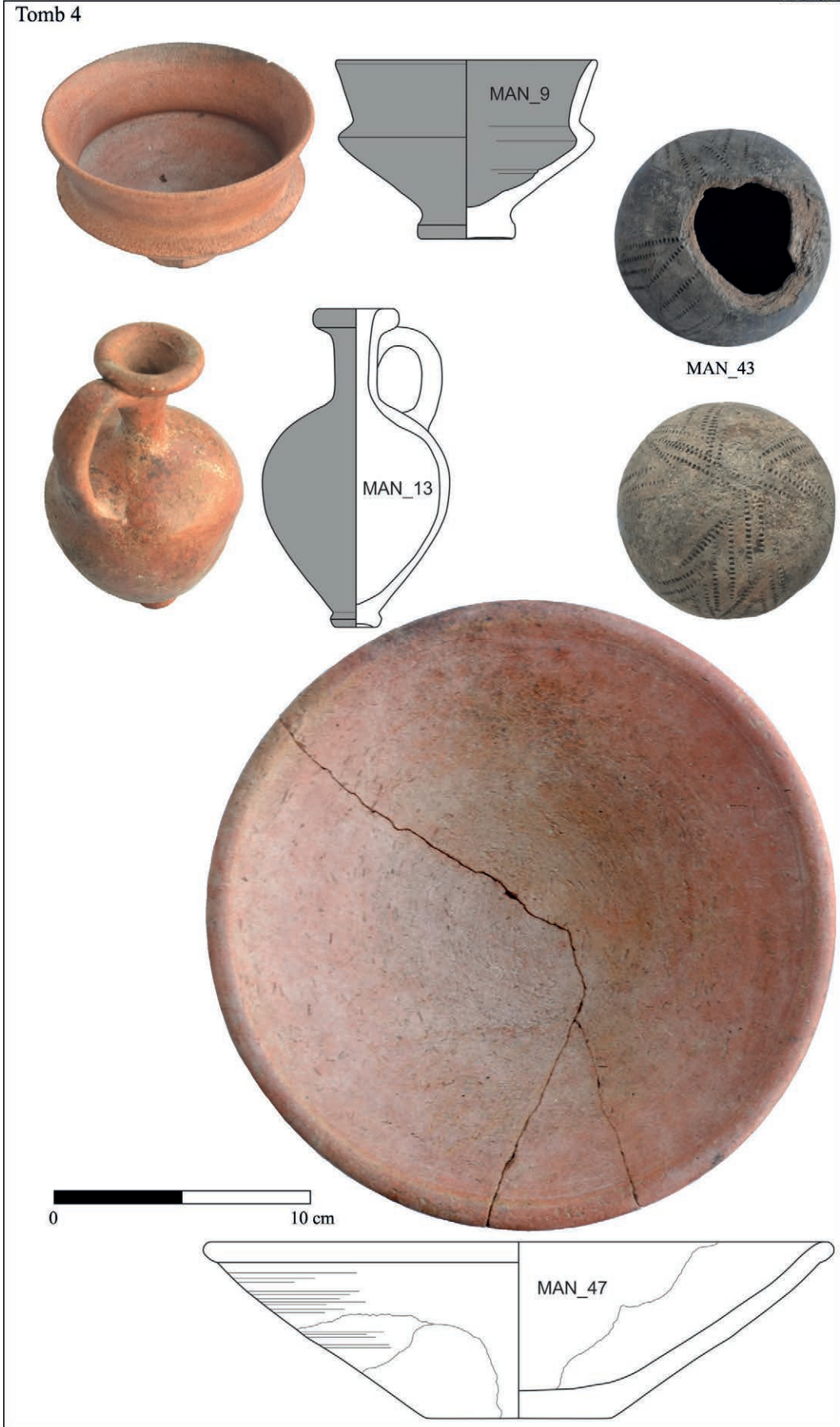
²⁴ FORSTNER-MÜLLER 2008, 372, 384, Figs. 296:12 and 311.

²⁵ REDMOUNT 1989, 877, 883, 886, Fig. 147, especially no. 1.

²⁶ WODZIŃSKA in NOUR EL-DIN et al. 2016, 102–103, Fig. 28:1–3.

²⁷ REDMOUNT 1989, 791, 793, 797 and 919, Fig. 129 especially no. 6 and Fig. 154:7.

²⁸ HEIN/JANOSI 2004, 104–105, Abb. 80A:10.



Dating of the tomb

The tomb can probably be dated to the later phase of the 15th Dynasty, corresponding to stratum D/2 in Tell el-Dab^a.

Tomb 5

The east-west oriented tomb 5 (Fig. 7) is only a simple structure located immediately south of tomb 6 in square 6. No tomb pit was observed at the time of the excavation. It is possible, that the tombs 5 and 6 were built for the individuals of the same family, because they are located very closely together. However, this proximity may also be unintentional, since the tombs have slightly different orientation.



Fig. 7 Burial inside tomb 5 (Photo: Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaid Hashem)

Architecture

This small mud brick tomb has a rectangular burial chamber covered by a gabled roof. The burial chamber consists of two rows of bricks in stretcher bond. The walls are ½ brick thick and the burial chamber is 145 cm long and 70 cm wide on the outside. The 50 cm long eastern wall projects slightly beyond the ends of the northern and southern walls. The roofing construction is very badly preserved. The only traces can be seen on the north-eastern corner. It seems that the gabled roof was placed directly on the burial chamber walls, hanging over slightly.

Contents of the tomb

Only a skull was preserved in the eastern part of the burial chamber, looking north. In the south-eastern corner, a Tell el-Yahudiya juglet MAN_38 was placed. In the fill of the chamber a scarab MAN_31 was found, and also the juglet MAN_37 (see Plate I).

Tell el-Yahudiya juglet, reg. no.: MAN_37 (Plate I)²⁹

Shape: juglet with biconical body, narrow ring, strap handle and flaring rim

Material: Nile clay (?)

Surface treatment: black burnished; the body is decorated with horizontal herringbone pattern on the shoulders and on the body, divided by burnished stripes

Dimensions: h.: 11 cm; rim Ø: 3.1 cm; max. Ø: 7.7 cm; base Ø: 2.2 cm

State of preservation: complete

Remarks: the pot can be classified as type L.5.3a according to Tell el-Yahudiya typology.³⁰ Such vessels known from Tell el-Dab^a came from levels E/2 to D/1; i.e. they can be dated to the early 15th Dynasty. Some of them can be dated even later, to the phases D/3³¹ and D/2,³² up to the beginning of the 18th Dynasty.³³ Juglets of this type were found in Tell el-Maskhuta³⁴ as well.

Tell el-Yahudiya juglet, reg. no.: MAN_38 (Plate I)

Shape: small juglet with globular body, slightly pointed base, single strap handle and slender neck with rolled rim.

Material: Nile clay (?)

Surface treatment: black burnished; the body is decorated with herringbone pattern in at least three fields

Dimensions: h.: 7.6 cm; rim Ø: 2.4 cm; max. Ø: 4.8 cm

State of preservation: complete, strongly corroded surface

Remarks: similar small globular juglet was found in Tell um-Bordi,³⁵ also in Wadi Tumilat.

Scarab, reg. no.: MAN_31 (Plate I)

Material: steatite

Dimensions: l.: 1.2 cm; w.: 0.9 cm; th.: 0.6 cm

²⁹ See footnote above.

³⁰ ASTON/BIETAK 2011, 231, 234, Fig. 162.

³¹ FORSTNER-MÜLLER 2008, 315, Fig. 235:23.

³² FORSTNER-MÜLLER 2008, 381, Fig. 307:3.

³³ ASTON/BIETAK 2011, 555–556, Fig. 253.

³⁴ REDMOUNT 1989, 914, Fig. 151:18.

³⁵ EL-HANGOURY 2003.

Description: lengthy perforation, head type D3; back type PS; side type e11. The base decoration shows two *nfr*-signs flanked by two stylised cobras (?), enclosed by a single line.
State of preservation: well preserved.

Dating of the tomb

The dating is not completely secure, because the type of juglets found inside was used for a long time. Notwithstanding, the tomb most probably dates to the later phase of the 15th Dynasty corresponding to strata D/3–D/2 in Tell el-Dab^a.

Tomb 6

The southeast-northwest oriented mud brick tomb 6 (Fig. 8) is one of smallest tombs found in the cemetery. It is located in square 6, immediately north of tomb 5, but it has a slightly different orientation than the larger tomb 5.



Fig. 8 Burial inside tomb 6 (Photo: Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaid Hashem)

Architecture

The tomb consists of a rectangular burial chamber that was only one row of bricks high. Only the western gable, projecting slightly beyond the ends of the northern and southern walls of the burial chamber was at least three rows high. The walls were only half brick thick. The outer dimensions of the burial chamber were 110 cm by 75 cm.

The roof consists of four pairs of sloping bricks, placed directly on the walls of the burial chamber and covering the eastern wall. It seems that the roofing construction was leaning on the western gable. The gaps between the roof and the walls were filled with bonding mass.

Contents of the tomb

No traces of the buried individual were preserved in the burial chamber. The bones seem to be completely dissolved. Only a small cup MAN_44 was placed in the southeastern corner and the globular Tell el-Yahudiya juglet MAN_3 was also found in the fill of the burial chamber, along with the scarab MAN_29 and beads MAN_35 (see Plate I).

Tell el-Yahudiya juglet, reg. no.: MAN_3 (Plate I)

Shape: juglet with globular body, round base, single strap handle and slender neck with rolled rim.

Material: Nile clay (?)

Surface treatment: black burnished; the body is decorated with a herringbone pattern in three partially line-defined fields, divided by burnished stripes.

Dimensions: h.: 10.2 cm; rim \varnothing : 2.5 cm; max. \varnothing : 7.1 cm

State of preservation: slightly corroded surface, complete

Remarks: relatively large globular Tell el-Yahudiya juglets were found in neighbouring Tell el-Koa.³⁶ The same types were found in other Tell el-Man-sheya tombs, see reg. nos. MAN_2 and 43. Similar juglets are also known from Tell el-Maskhuta.³⁷

Cup, reg. no.: MAN_44 (Plate I)

Shape: small cup with direct rim and flat base

Material: Nile clay (?)

Surface treatment: red slipped

Dimensions: h.: 9.3 cm; rim \varnothing : 6.7 cm; max. \varnothing : 8 cm

³⁶ EL-HANGOURY 2003.

³⁷ REDMOUNT 1989, 877, 880, 914, Fig. 146:9 and Fig. 151, especially no. 19.

State of preservation: slightly corroded surface, complete

Remarks: cups with flat bases and simple direct incurving rims date to the late 15th Dynasty and are known from Tell el-Dab^a, coming from strata D/2.³⁸ They are also very well known in Tell el-Koa³⁹ and Tell el-Maskhuta.⁴⁰

Scarab, reg. no.: MAN_29 (Plate I)

Material: steatite

Dimensions: l.: 1.3 cm; w.: 0.9 cm; th.: 0.5 cm

Description: lengthy perforation, head type D6; back type LN; side type e11. The base decoration shows the motive 10A1i,⁴¹ the Hathor-emblem flanked by two stylized cobras (?) or floral motives, enclosed by a single line.

State of preservation: well preserved, scratches on top of the back.

Beads, reg. no.: MAN_35 (Plate I) Material: faience

Dimensions: cylinder: l.: 2.2 cm; Ø: 0.6 cm; lozenge: l.: 1.3 cm, max. Ø: 0.5 cm, disc: Ø: 0.75; th.: 0.3 cm, globular: Ø: 0.6; th.: 0.4 cm

Description: 5 cylindrical beads of white faience, 3 globular beads of white faience; 2 disc beads of white faience; 1 lozenge bead of white faience.

State of preservation: corroded surface, one cylindrical bead is broken.

Dating of the tomb

On the basis of the vessels found in tomb 6, it can be dated to the later phase of the 15th Dynasty, that is level D/2 of Tell el-Dab^a stratification.

Tomb 7

This small east-west oriented tomb (Fig. 9) was located in square 7. East of tomb 7, about half way to tomb 8, another ashy concentration was found that probably had cultic meaning.

Architecture

The tomb structure consists of a rectangular burial chamber built of mud bricks. The outer length of the chamber is 120 cm; the width is 68 cm. The



Fig. 9 Tomb 7 after excavation (Photo: Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaid Hashem)

one row of bricks high walls in stretcher bond were roofed by a gabled roof made of pairs of sloping bricks.

Contents of the tomb

In the east, part of the head of a child was preserved. A Tell el-Yahudiya juglet MAN_7 was found by the internment, together with a string of beads MAN_36 around the neck and a scarab MAN_26 that seems to be part of the necklace (see Plate III).

Tell el-Yahudiya juglet, reg. no.: MAN_7 (Plate III)

Shape: small juglet with biconical body, ring base, single strap handle and slender neck with rolled rim

Material: Nile clay (?)

Surface treatment: black burnished; the body is decorated with incised pattern.

Dimensions: rim Ø: 3.1 cm; max. Ø: 8.8 cm; base Ø: 2.6 cm, h.: 9.5 cm

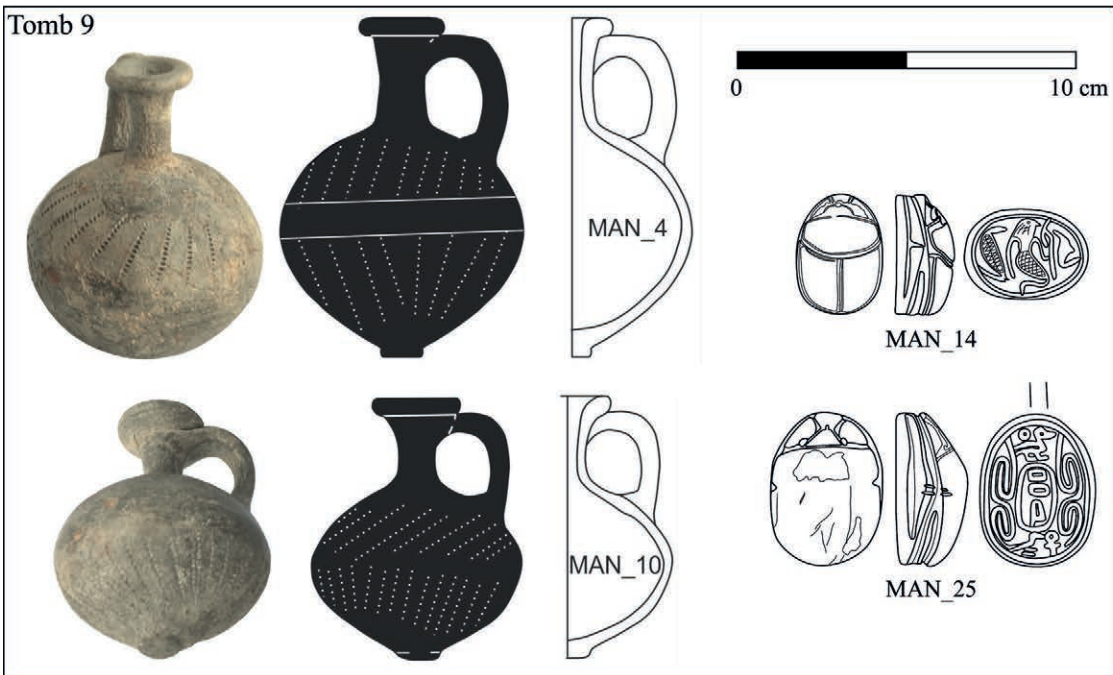
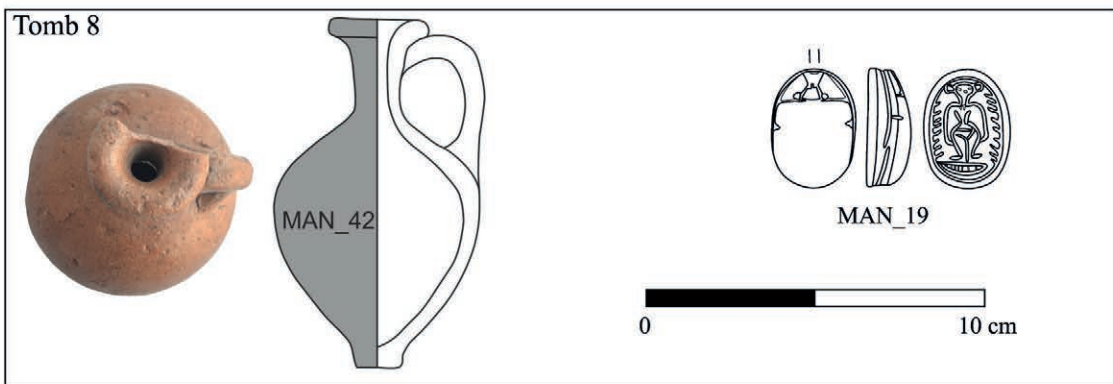
State of preservation: strongly corroded surface, complete.

³⁸ BIETAK 1991, 305, Abb. 282, Nos. 5–7; see also: ASTON 2004, 318, Pl. 306:1147; FORSTNER MÜLLER 2008, 372–373, Figs. 296:7 and 298:19–20.

³⁹ EL-HANGOURY 2003.

⁴⁰ REDMOUNT 1989, 818–820, Fig. 135, especially nos. 1–9 and 16–19.

⁴¹ KEEL 1997, 212 § 577; MLINAR 2001a, 199, TD 802; MLINAR 2001b, Abb. II/2:6.



Remarks: the juglet can be compared to type L.5.3c from the Tell el-Yahudiya typology.⁴² Tell el-Dab^a examples are associated with levels D/3 to D/1 dated to the middle 15th Dynasty to the early 18th Dynasty.⁴³ The pot can especially be compared to a juglet found in Tell el-Dab^a stratum D/3 published by Forstner-Müller.⁴⁴ Possibly, the type was also found in Tell um-Bordi.⁴⁵

Scarab, reg. no.: MAN_26 (Plate III)

Material: steatite

Dimensions: l.: 1.1 cm; w.: 0.7 cm; th.: 0.5 cm

Description: lengthy perforation, head type A4/D2; back type PS; side type d5. The base decoration shows a loop, enclosed by a single line.

State of preservation: well preserved.

Beads, reg. no.: MAN_36 (Plate III)

Material: faience?

Dimensions: cylinder: l.: 1.6 cm; Ø: 0.5 cm; globular: l.: 0.4 cm; Ø: 0.6 cm; incised: l.: 1 cm; w.: 0.6 cm; th.: 0.2 cm

Description: 49 globular beads of faience (?), 10 disc beads of faience; 2 cylindrical beads of white faience; 1 lozenge bead of white faience, 2 beads with incised decoration.

State of preservation: corroded surface, one cylindrical bead is broken.

Dating of the tomb

The presence of the Tell el-Yahudiya juglet type L.5.3c suggests that tomb 7 may be dated between the middle and later phase of the 15th Dynasty – strata D/3 to D/1 in the Tell el-Dab^a stratification.

Tomb 8

The small east-west oriented tomb 8 (Fig. 10) is located in square 7, north of the larger tomb 9.

Architecture

This mud brick tomb is a rather simple structure. The burial chamber walls built of stretchers are ½ bricks thick and only one row high. Only the eastern and western gables were at least one brick higher. The external dimensions of the burial chamber were 127 cm by 74 cm.



Fig. 10 Tomb 8 after excavation (Photo: Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaid Hashem)

Directly upon the walls of the burial chamber, a roof made of three pairs of sloping bricks was constructed. As only the lowest part of the roof is preserved, no further details can be said about its construction.

Contents of the tomb

Inside the burial chamber, a head of a child-skeleton was found by the eastern wall. One red juglet MAN_42 was placed immediately next to it, partially covering the skull. Other bones of the interment were completely dissolved. Apart from this vessel, a scarab MAN_19 and possibly also animal bones were found in the burial chamber (see Plate III).

Juglet, reg. no.: MAN_42 (Plate III)

Shape: piriform juglet with strap handle, rolled rim and button base

Material: Nile clay

Surface treatment: red slipped and polished

Dimensions: h.: 10.4 cm; rim Ø: 3.2 cm; max. Ø: 6.1 cm; base. Ø: 1.4 cm

State of preservation: corroded surface, part of the rim broken off.

Remarks: see remarks to juglet reg. no. MAN_13 from tomb 4.

⁴² ASTON/BIETAK 2011, 231, 236, 239, Figs. 164 and 167.

⁴³ ASTON/BIETAK 2011, 231; see also HEIN/JÁNOSI 2004, 171–172, Abb. 129:3 from stratum D/2.

⁴⁴ FORSTNER-MÜLLER 2008, 310, Fig. 231:8.

⁴⁵ EL-HANGOURY 2003.

⁴⁶ KEEL 1997, 210–211.

Scarab, reg. no.: MAN_19 (Plate III)

Material: steatite

Dimensions: l.: 1.8 cm; w.: 1.35 cm; th.: 0.6 cm

Description: lengthy perforation, head type D3; back type PS; side type e5. The base decoration shows the design 10A1h,⁴⁶ depicting a naked female goddess standing on a *nb*-basket, flanked by twigs on both sides, enclosed by a simple line. This motive is of Palestinian origin and seems to be known from Egypt only from the Eastern Delta – Tell el-Dab^ca,⁴⁷ Tell el-Yahudiya,⁴⁸ and Tell el-Retaba,⁴⁹ presumably from the second half of the Second Intermediate Period.

State of preservation: well preserved.

Dating of the tomb

It is possible to date the tomb to the later phase of the 15th Dynasty (stratum D/2 in Tell el-Dab^ca).

Tomb 9

This east-west oriented mud brick tomb with a vault (Fig. 11) is located in square 7. The vault is almost completely missing, because the structure was very close to the modern surface of the tell. The southern part of the tomb was partially built over by a later circular structure, possibly a silo. In the northeast, the tomb structure is covered by an ashy layer. This indicates that the area around the tomb was used as a settlement some time later, probably still during the Second Intermediate Period.

Architecture

The tomb consists of a roughly rectangular burial chamber that was roofed over by a mud brick vault. The outer length of the chamber was 230 cm. The outer width varied between 120 cm in the west and 140 cm in the east. The chamber walls are only two bricks high and probably only ½ bricks thick. The coursing of the bricks cannot be recognised.

Upon the walls of the burial chamber, one row of bricks was laid in header bond, protruding out of the burial chamber. Upon this basis, the vault was built. Only the first row of vault bricks is preserved. Based on the angle of the backing bricks,



Fig. 11 Tomb 9 and its surroundings before excavation (Photo: Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaid Hashem)

placed on edge in alternating rows, the vault was leaning on the eastern gable. No further details of construction can be inferred.

Contents of the tomb

In the eastern part of the burial chamber, a human skeleton was placed on the back (Fig. 12). The head of the deceased is in the east, looking north. The bones are very badly preserved, but the arms seem to be crossed on the chest, while the legs are pulled upwards and leaning on the northern wall of the burial chamber.

By the abdomen of the deceased (in the left hand), two scarabs MAN_14 and MAN_25 were found. By the feet of the buried individual, animal bones and two Tell el-Yahudiya juglets MAN_4 and MAN_10 were placed (see Plate III).

Tell el-Yahudiya juglet, reg. no.: MAN_4 (Plate III)

Shape: globular juglet with single strap handle, rolled rim and button base

Material: Nile clay (?)

Surface treatment: black burnished; with incised decoration in two zones on the shoulder and bottom of the vessel, divided by a burnished stripe.

Dimensions: h.: 10.1 cm; rim Ø: 2.5 cm; max. Ø: 7.5 cm; base Ø: 1.6 cm

State of preservation: corroded surface, complete.

Remarks: for comparison see a juglet from Tell el-Dab^ca, stratum D/3.⁵⁰

⁴⁷ MLINAR 2001c, 200, TD 1073.

⁴⁸ PETRIE/DUNCAN 1906, Pl. ix:137, 138.

⁴⁹ NOUR EL-DIN *et al.* 2016, 84, Pl. II:676.

⁵⁰ HEIN/JÁNOSI 2004, 59, Abb. 31:1.



Fig. 12 Burial inside tomb 9 (Photo: Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaid Hashem)

Tell el-Yahudiya juglet, reg. no.: MAN_10 (Plate III)

Shape: globular juglet with strap handle, rolled rim and button base

Material: Nile clay (?)

Surface treatment: black burnished, and similar incised decoration to MAN_4.

Dimensions: h.: 7.8 cm; rim \varnothing : 2.7 cm; max. \varnothing : 6.3 cm; base \varnothing : 1.3 cm

State of preservation: corroded surface, complete

Remarks: the pot can be compared to Tell el-Yahudiya type L.8.1b, associated generally with the strata E/1 to D/1 in Tell el-Dab^a.⁵¹

Scarab, reg. no.: MAN_14 (Plate III)

Material: steatite

Dimensions: l.: 1.8 cm; w.: 1.3 cm; th.: 0.85 cm

Description: lengthy perforation, head type A4/A5, separated from pronotum by a line; back type LN

with double line separating the elytra; side type d5. The base decoration shows the motive 10C2b after Keel,⁵² a kneeling falcon headed figure, holding a *was*-sceptre, flanked by two antithetic orientated cobras, enclosed by a simple line. The figures are hollowed out and decorated by cross-hatching. This type of motive is well attested from the 15th Dynasty.

State of preservation: well preserved.

Scarab, reg. no.: MAN_25 (Plate III)

Material: steatite

Dimensions: l.: 2.2 cm; w.: 1.7 cm; th.: 0.9 cm

Description: lengthy perforation, head type D3; back type PS; side type d5. The base decoration shows a cartouche of king *Sheshy*, with the titles *sa-Ra* and *ankh-djet*. The motive is flanked by spirals to the right and to the left.

State of preservation: well preserved, scratches on top of the back

Dating of the tomb

The tomb can be probably dated to the period between the middle and later phase of the 15th Dynasty – strata E/1 to D/1 in Tell el-Dab^a.

Tomb 10

The east-west oriented mud brick tomb with a vault (Fig. 13) is located in the western part of the cemetery, in the squares 6 and 7. It was built almost directly above tomb 11 that has the same orientation (Fig. 14). Immediately west of tomb 10, another small tomb 12 was located. Based on the close proximity between the tombs 10 and 12, it is possible that the interred individuals were members of the same family or kinship group.

Architecture

The roughly rectangular burial chamber is 280 cm long on the outside. The outer width varies between 90 cm in the west and 115 cm in the east. The burial chamber was three rows of bricks high. The walls seem to be 1 brick thick. On the top of the wall, the first row of the vault bricks is preserved. It consists of backing bricks placed on edge in alternating rows. The details of the con-

⁵¹ ASTON/BIETAK 2011, 240, 254, 256, Fig. 177.

⁵² KEEL 1997, 228 § 619, however, this design might be a variation of the motive 9C2, that was in use from the late 13th

into the very early 18th Dynasty, but was most common during the 15th Dynasty; see KEEL 1997, 192 § 525.



Fig. 13 Burial inside tomb 10 (Photo: Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaïd Hashem)



Fig. 15 Tombs 10 and 12 after excavation (Photo: Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaïd Hashem)



Fig. 14 Position of tombs 10 and 11 (Photo: Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaïd Hashem)

struction of the western gable are obscured by tomb 12 (see Fig. 15).

Contents of the tomb

In the western part of the burial chamber, a skeleton placed on its right side was found. The bones are very badly preserved. The skull seems to be

facing north. The right hand is placed in front of the mouth, while the left is placed across the abdomen. The legs seem to be strongly flexed. In front of the mouth of the deceased, a red pottery juglet with black painted decoration MAN_8 was placed. Southeast of the body, further bones were found. They could be animal bones, placed in the tomb as a food offering. However, further bones placed in the southwestern corner seem to be associated with three scarabs MAN_18, MAN_20 and MAN_22 and possibly also a toggle pin and further two vessels – a Tell el-Yahudiya juglet MAN_2 and a black painted juglet MAN_40, found by the western wall.

Further seven scarabs MAN_16, MAN_17, MAN_24, MAN_27, MAN_28, MAN_32 and beads MAN_33 were found in the fill of the burial chamber. Their original location is not known (see Plate IV).

Tell el-Yahudiya juglet, reg. no.: MAN_2 (not drawn, photo in Plate IV)

Plate IV



Shape: juglet with globular body, slender neck, rolled rim and single strap handle

Material: Nile clay (?)

Surface treatment: black burnished; the body is decorated by an incised herringbone pattern

Dimensions: h.: 9.8 cm; rim \varnothing : 2.5 cm; max. \varnothing : 6.5 cm

State of preservation: well preserved

Remarks: the juglet is of the same type as reg. nos. MAN_3 and 43.

Black painted juglet, reg. no.: MAN_8 (Plate IV)

Shape: juglet with rolled rim, single strap handle, cylindrical body and pointed base.

Material: Nile clay (?)

Surface treatment: red slipped; the vessel is decorated with black painted lines on the handle, rim, neck and body of the vessel.

Dimensions: h.: 11.3 cm; rim \varnothing : 2.6 cm; max. \varnothing : 7.8 cm State of preservation: corroded surface, complete.

Remarks: a juglet of exactly the same shape was found in Tell el-Dab^a in stratum D/2, covered with red slip and polished; however, without black decoration.⁵³

Black painted juglet, reg. no.: MAN_40 (Plate IV)

Shape: juglet with a slender neck and ovoid body; the vessel used to have a handle that was broken off in the antiquity.

Material: marl clay (?)

Surface treatment: smoothed, decorated with three black lines – the middle one being wavy.

Dimensions: h.: 13.9 cm; rim \varnothing : 2.9 cm; max \varnothing : 7.7 cm.

State of preservation: strongly eroded surface.

Scarab, reg. no.: MAN_16 (Plate IV)

Material: steatite

Dimensions: l.: 1.8 cm; w.: 1.3 cm; th.: 0.8 cm

Description: lengthy perforation; head type: D6; body type: LS; side type: e5. The base decoration shows the motive 9E1,⁵⁴ depicting a striding lion

looking forward with a round sun disk underneath, enclosed by a simple line. The body of the lion is hollowed out and the mane is indicated by linear hatching.

State of preservation: well preserved.

Scarab, reg. no.: MAN_17 (Plate IV)

Material: steatite

Dimensions: l.: 2.2 cm; w.: 1.6 cm; th.: 0.8 cm

Description: lengthy perforation; head type: D7; body type: PS; side type: d5. The base decoration shows the motive 9E2c⁵⁵ a striding lion flanked by a cobra (?) and a crocodile. The bodies are hollowed out and decorated by hatching and cross-hatching. The motive is enclosed by a simple line. This variation is particularly rare. The pieces with the general motive 9E2 are well attested from the 15th Dynasty, with possible forerunners from the 13th Dynasty.⁵⁶ State of preservation: well preserved.

Scarab, reg. no.: MAN_18 (Plate IV)

Material: steatite

Dimensions: l.: 2 cm; w.: 1.5 cm; th.: 0.8 cm

Description: lengthy perforation; head type: D9; body type: PS; side type: e11. The base decoration probably shows a variety of motive 9D1b,⁵⁷ depicting a falcon-headed sphinx flanked by a cobra and a crocodile over another crocodile, representing the flood. This motive appears at the very end of the 13th Dynasty and is used during the 15th Dynasty.

State of preservation: well preserved.

Scarab, reg. no.: MAN_20 (Plate IV)

Material: steatite

Dimensions: l.: 2.1 cm; w.: 1.5 cm; th.: 0.9 cm

Description: lengthy perforation; head type: A4/D2; body type: PS; side type: d6. The base decoration shows the design 10A2d,⁵⁸ depicting a standing crocodile-headed figure holding a *was*-scepter, standing on a *nb*-basket. Between the figure and the scepter the symbols *sa* and *djet* are incised. The figure is, unlike most other known examples⁵⁹

⁵³ ASTON 2004, 290, Pl. 278, no. 1050, stratum D/2?; see also HEIN/JÁNOSI 2004, 171, Abb. 128:3, stratum D/2.

⁵⁴ The striding lion seems to be popular in the MB IIB period, but the lion motive is known since the Middle Kingdom and remained in use well into the Persian period; see KEEL 1997, 195–196. A similar example dated into the late Palestinian series was found in Beith Pelet; see BEN-TOR 2007, Pl. 100:3.

⁵⁵ KEEL 1997, 198.

⁵⁶ KEEL 1997, 196.

⁵⁷ KEEL 1997, 194.

⁵⁸ KEEL 1997, 216–217.

⁵⁹ KEEL 1997, 217.

not hollowed-out, but the skirt is decorated by crosshatching.

State of preservation: well preserved.

Scarab, reg. no.: MAN_22 (Plate IV)

Material: steatite

Dimensions: l.: 1.6 cm; w.: 1.2 cm; th.: 0.65 cm

Description: lengthy perforation; head type: A5; body type: LS; side type: e11. The base decoration shows the design B9, depicting a striding capride with a twig. This motive was used throughout the 2nd half of the 13th and the 15th Dynasty, possibly even longer.

State of preservation: well preserved.

Scarab, reg. no.: MAN_27 (Plate IV)

Material: steatite

Dimensions: l.: 1.95 cm; w.: 1.4 cm; th.: 0.8 cm

Description: lengthy perforation; head type: D9; body type: PS; side type: e5. The base decoration shows the motive 9D1b,⁶⁰ depicting a falcon flanked by two cobras, standing above a crocodile. The bodies of the figures are hollowed out and decorated by cross-hatching. The whole motive is encircled by a single line. This motive seems to be typical for the 15th Dynasty. Very similar examples were found in Jericho⁶¹ and Tell el-Dab^a.⁶²

State of preservation: well preserved.

Scarab, reg. no.: MAN_28 (Plate IV)

Material: steatite

Dimensions: l.: 1.8 cm; w.: 1.2 cm; th.: 0.7 cm

Description: lengthy perforation; head type: D3; body type: LN; side type: d4. The base decoration motive 9C⁶³ shows two pairs of antithetic oriented cobras above one another, divided by a papyrus stem (?). The bodies of the cobras are hollowed out and decorated by cross-hatching. The whole motive is encircled by a single line. This motive seems to be in use during the 13th and 15th Dynasties. The closest parallel to this motive comes from Jericho,⁶⁴ but here the cobras are adorsed.

State of preservation: well preserved.

Scarab, reg. no.: MAN_32 (Plate IV)

Material: steatite

Dimensions: l.: 1.9 cm; w.: 1.4 cm; th.: 0.8 cm

Description: lengthy perforation; head type: D9; body type: PS; side type: e11. The base decoration shows the motive 10A2b,⁶⁵ – a standing falcon-headed figure, holding a lotus flower, flanked by two cobras. The bodies of the figures are hollowed out and decorated by cross-hatching. The whole motive is encircled by a single line. This decoration motive appears as early as in the 13th Dynasty⁶⁶ and was popular throughout the Second Intermediate Period.

State of preservation: well preserved.

Scaraboid, reg. no.: MAN_24 (Plate IV)

Material: steatite

Dimensions: l.: 1.8 cm; w.: 1.3 cm; th.: 0.6 cm

Description: the base decoration shows the motive 10A1i/10d2,⁶⁷ depicting a Hathor emblem flanked by two cobras. The figures are hollowed out and decorated by cross hatching. The whole motive is encircled by a single line. A similar composition can be found on a late Palestinian series scarab from Gaza.⁶⁸

State of preservation: well preserved.

Beads, reg. no.: MAN_33 (Plate IV)

Material: steatite

Dimensions: Ø: 0.7 cm; l.: 0.8 cm; Ø: 0.6 cm; l.: 0.4 cm

Description: two beads made of translucent amethyst. One has a round shape, the other is rather disk shaped.

State of preservation: well preserved.

Dating of the tomb

On the basis of the vessels found inside tomb 10, it can be dated to the later phase of the 15th Dynasty (stratum D/2 in Tell el-Dab^a).

Tomb 11

The upper part of the east-west oriented tomb 11 (Fig. 14) was largely destroyed by tomb 10 that was built over it. However, the burial chamber and the internment seem to be intact.

⁶⁰ KEEL 1997, 194 §534.

⁶¹ BEN-TOR 2007, Pl. 99:7.

⁶² MLINAR 2001c, 183–184, TD 702.

⁶³ KEEL 1997, 191.

⁶⁴ BEN-TOR 2007, Pl. 77:16.

⁶⁵ KEEL 1997, 215–216 §587.

⁶⁶ KEEL 1997, 216.

⁶⁷ BEN-TOR 2007, 181; KEEL 1997, 212.

⁶⁸ BEN-TOR 2007, Pl. 106:7.

Architecture

The tomb seems to be built of yellowish sandy mud bricks. It consisted of a rectangular burial chamber with the outer length of 280 cm. The outer width of the burial chamber was 140 cm. The burial chamber was three rows high. No further details of the structure are discernible. Only the lowest level of the vault is preserved. The usual backing bricks were placed on edge in alternating rows. It is not clear if these bricks were placed directly on the burial chamber walls, or on a broader platform created for them.

Contents of the tomb

In the eastern part of the tomb a skeleton lying on the right side with the skull in the east facing north was preserved. The arms are placed on the abdomen; the legs are strongly contracted, with the knees pointing north. This internment is about 35–40 cm lower than the internment in tomb 10.

Between the skull and the eastern wall, five vessels were arranged. In the southeastern corner, a large plate MAN_48 with a red juglet MAN_11 was placed. Another red juglet MAN_12 and a black burnished juglet MAN_45 were placed immediately east of the skull. Further north of them, a red bowl MAN_6 was found. A toggle pin MAN_49 was located north of the pelvis. Three scarabs MAN_15, MAN_21 and MAN_30 were found in the fill of the burial chamber. Their original intended location is not known (see plates V and VI).

Bowl, reg. no.: MAN_6 (Plate V)

Shape: medium bowl with hemispherical body and ring base

Material: Nile clay (?)

Surface treatment: red slip on the interior, and also a thick band of red slip on the rim on external surface

Dimensions: h.: 6.7 cm; rim \varnothing : 11.9 cm; base \varnothing : 4.2 cm

State of preservation: well preserved

Remarks: the bowl can be compared with similar forms from Tell el-Maskhuta,⁶⁹ and Tell el-Dab^ca (stratum E/1 or D/3),⁷⁰ although examples from the

latter had only painted rims not covered with red slip.

Juglet, reg. no.: MAN_11 (Plate V)

Shape: juglet with globular body, slender neck, strap handle and rolled rim

Material: Nile clay (?)

Surface treatment: red slipped? and burnished?

Dimensions: h.: 10 cm; rim \varnothing : 2.6 cm; max. \varnothing : 6.3 cm

State of preservation: well preserved

Remarks: a juglet of similar type, but without black painted decoration, was found in Tell el-Maskhuta.⁷¹ A red burnished juglet of similar shape, also without black paint, was found in Tell el-Dab^ca in stratum E/1.⁷²

Juglet, reg. no.: MAN_12 (Plate V)

Shape: juglet with globular body, slender neck, strap handle and rolled rim

Material: Nile clay (?)

Surface treatment: red slipped and burnished

Dimensions: h: 9.8 cm; rim \varnothing : 1.6 cm; max. \varnothing : 5.9 cm

State of preservation: well preserved.

Remarks: examples that can be well compared with this vessel came from Tell el-Dab^ca, found in stratum D/3.⁷³ Red burnished juglets, however, of not exactly the same shape were well known also in Tell el-Maskhuta.⁷⁴

Juglet, reg. no.: MAN_45 (Plate V)

Shape: juglet with biconical body, slender neck, strap handle and rolled rim

Material: Nile clay (?)

Surface treatment: black burnished

Dimensions: h.: 8 cm; rim \varnothing : 2.8 cm; max. \varnothing : 6.3 cm; base \varnothing : 2.1 cm

State of preservation: well preserved.

Remarks: black burnished juglets of the same shape were found in Tell el-Dab^ca in strata D/3,⁷⁵ and D/3–D/2.⁷⁶

Plate, reg. no.: MAN_48 (Plate VI)

Shape: large hemispherical plate with incurved rim and flat base

Material: marl clay (?)

Surface treatment: smoothed

⁶⁹ REDMOUNT 1989, 790–791, Fig. 128, especially nos. 7–9.

⁷⁰ FORSTNER-MÜLLER 2008, 297, Fig. 216b:24–25.

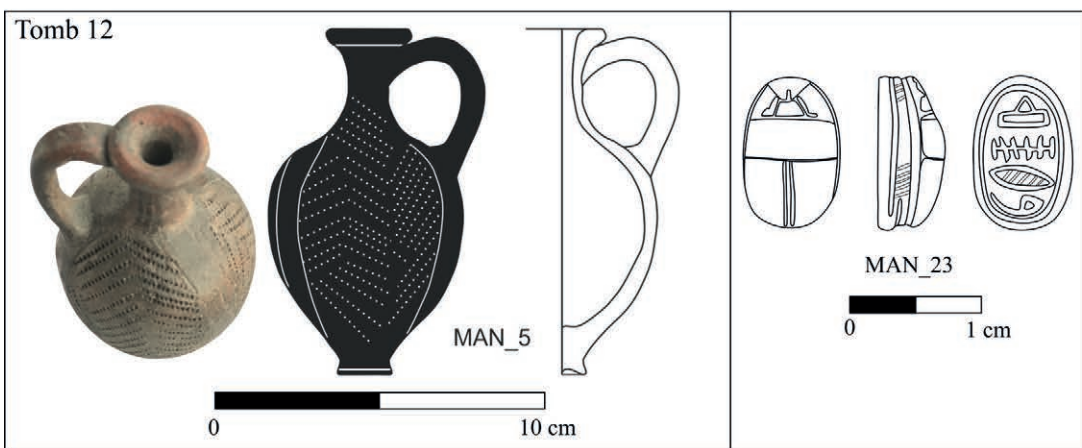
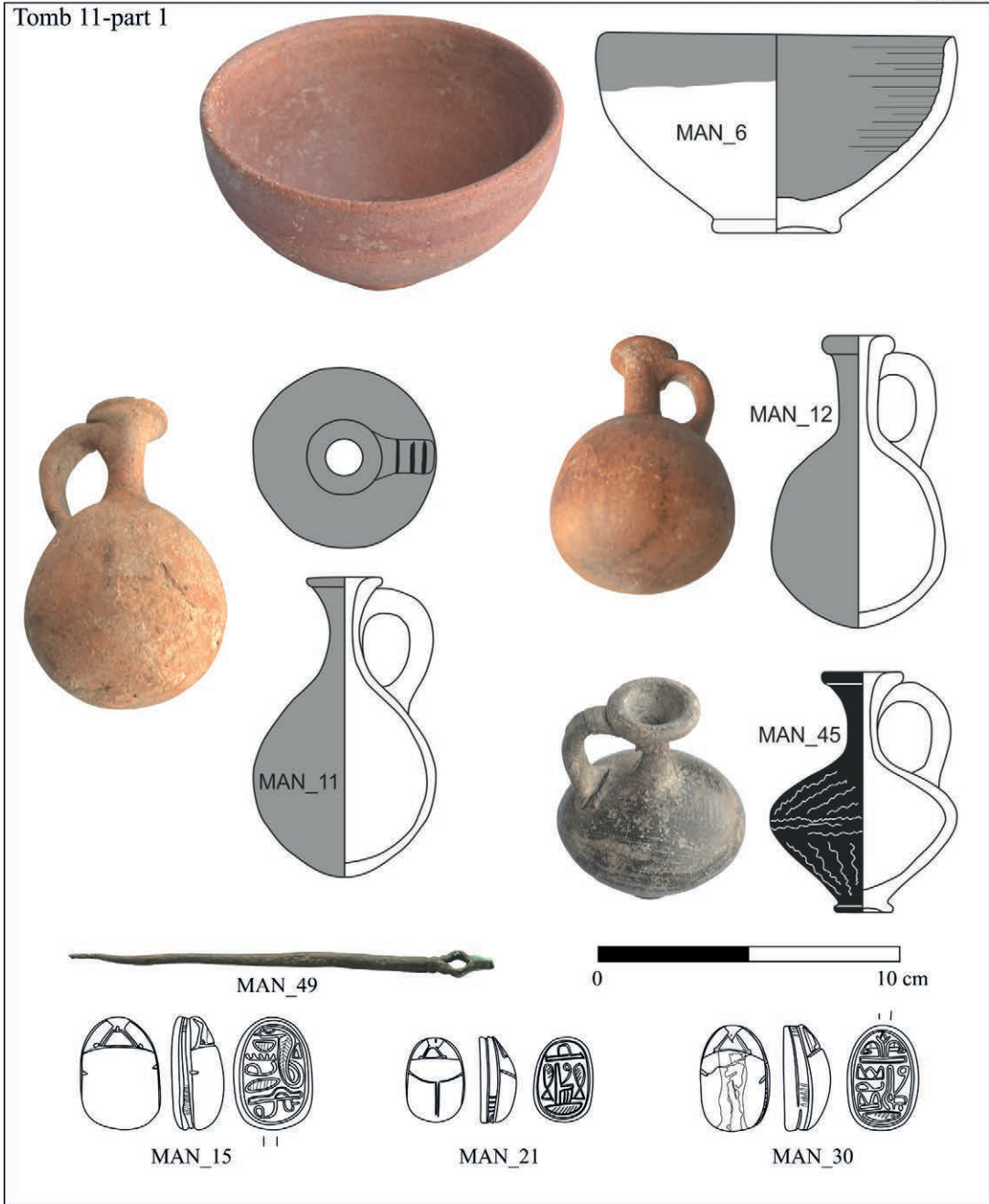
⁷¹ REDMOUNT 1989, 877, 883, 886, Fig. 147:5.

⁷² ASTON 2004, 290, Pl. 278:1047.

⁷³ FORSTNER-MÜLLER 2008, 326, Fig. 246b:24; see also HEIN/JÁNOSI 2004, 52–53, Abb. 27:1.

⁷⁴ REDMOUNT 1989, 877, 883, 886, Fig. 147:1–5.

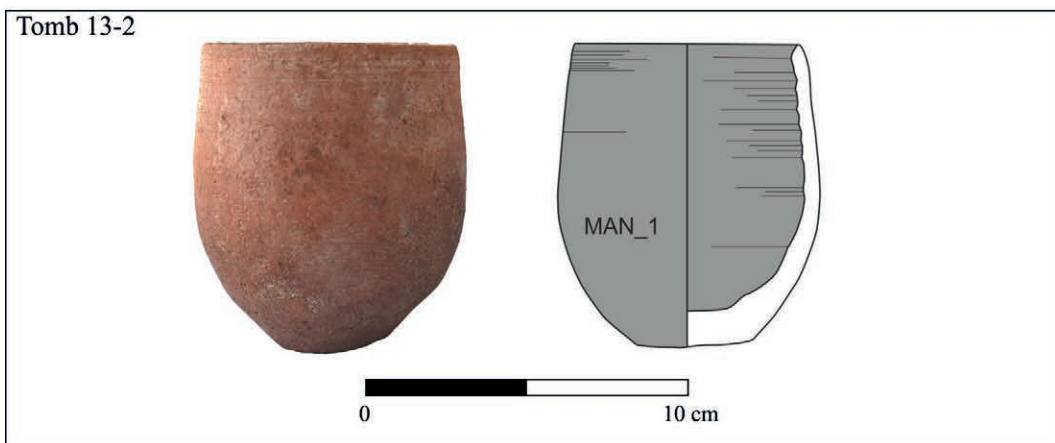
Plate V



Tomb 11 – continued



Tomb 13-2



Dimensions: h.: 8.6cm; rim \varnothing : 31.2cm; base \varnothing : 9.2cm

State of preservation: well preserved.

Scarab, reg. no.: MAN_15 (Plate V)

Material: steatite

Dimensions l.: 1.9 cm; w.: 1.3 cm; th.: 0.7 cm

Description: lengthy perforation; head type: D6; body type: PS; side type: e10. The base decoration shows a variant of the 3C motive, depicting a left facing cobra, *anra*-signs and a *udjat*-eye. The whole motive is encircled by a single line. The closest parallel to this motive can be found in a scarab dated to the early Palestinian series.⁷⁷ Its early date is supported by the fact that the figures are not hollowed out,⁷⁸ as it is by other scarabs found in Tell el-Mansheya.

State of preservation: well preserved.

Scarab, reg. no.: MAN_21 (Plate V)

Material: steatite

Dimensions: l.: 1.5 cm; w.: 1.1 cm; th.: 0.6 cm

Description: lengthy perforation; head type: D3; body type: LN; side type: e10. The base decoration shows an unusual variant of design 3B3,⁷⁹ depicting a single red crown on a *neb*-basket flanked by two *sa*-signs. The whole motive is encircled by a single line. The depiction of a single red crown – apart from the later L-shaped variant 3B3e⁸⁰ – is quite rare. A similar piece was found in Tell el-Dab^a (TD 502) and dates to stratum E/1.⁸¹

State of preservation: well preserved.

Scarab, reg. no.: MAN_30 (Plate V)

Material: steatite

Dimensions: l.: 1.8 cm; w.: 1.2 cm; th.: 0.9 cm

Description: lengthy perforation; head type: D9; body type: PS; side type: e9/10. The base decoration shows an assortment of hieroglyphic signs. The design can be divided into three registers: a floral motive 1E3/1E1c⁸² above a single *wedjat*-eye – this is somewhat unusual – and a *neb*-basket. The whole motive is encircled by a single line.

State of preservation: the top of the back is extremely worn (Fig. 16).



Fig. 16 Specific traces of use on the back of scarab MAN_30 (Photo: Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaid Hashem)

Toggle pin, reg. no.: MAN_49 (Plate V)

Material: copper alloy (?)

Dimensions: l.: 9 cm; max. \varnothing : 0.4 cm

Description: toggle pin with a circular cross-section and one tapering end. The perforation is located closely to the top of the toggle pin (but the upper part may be broken away). Under the perforation two grooves are applied to the pin.

State of preservation: possibly broken.

Dating of the tomb

The tomb contained a very interesting set of ceramic vessels, which can generally be dated between the middle and later phase of the 15th Dynasty corresponding to strata E/1 to D/3 in Tell el-Dab^a.

Tomb 12

The tomb is a small southeast-northwest oriented mud brick tomb with gabled roof (Fig. 15), built immediately west of tomb 10.

Architecture

The tomb consists of a rectangular burial chamber. Its outer length is 100 cm. The structure is only

⁷⁵ BIETAK 1991, 286, Abb. 266:3; see also ASTON 2004, 287, Pl. 275, no.1028.

⁷⁶ ASTON 2004, 188, Pl. 276, no. 1029.

⁷⁷ BEN-TOR 2007, 119, 133–134, Pl. 56:22.

⁷⁸ For discussion see KEEL 1997, 130–131 §329 and §330.

⁷⁹ BEN-TOR 2007, 18–19.

⁸⁰ BEN-TOR 2007, 19.

⁸¹ BEN-TOR 2007, Pl. 50:3; MLINAR 2001c, 158; MLINAR 2001a, 277.

⁸² MLINAR 2001c, 119–120, TD 607.

43 cm wide and 1 row of bricks high. The chamber was roofed with sloping mud bricks.

Contents of the tomb

Only a Tell el-Yahudiya juglet MAN_5 together with a scarab MAN_23 (see Plate V) were found in the burial chamber (Fig. 17). The bones of the internment were completely dissolved, probably due to the high ground water level.

Tell el-Yahudiya juglet, reg. no.: MAN_5 (Plate V)

Shape: juglet with narrow ring base, piriform body, slender neck, strap handle and rolled rim
Material: Nile clay (?)

Surface treatment: black burnished; on the body, three lozenge areas are decorated with incised decoration. They are bordered by an incised line. The stripes between the decorated areas are burnished.

Dimensions: h.: 10.5 cm; rim \varnothing : 2.7 cm; max. \varnothing : 6 cm; base \varnothing : 1.7 cm

State of preservation: well preserved.

Remarks: according to the typology of Tell el-Yahudiya ware, the juglet can be placed in group

L.1 (L.1.3 more exactly) of late Egyptian piriform vessels,⁸³ dated to Tell el-Dab'a phases between E/2 and D/2⁸⁴ to D/3.⁸⁵ Similar juglets are known from other Wadi Tumilat sites, for instance Tell el-Retaba, associated with the later phase of the 15th Dynasty;⁸⁶ Tell el-Koa;⁸⁷ and Tell el-Maskhuta.⁸⁸

Scarab, reg. no.: MAN_23 (Plate V)

Material: steatite

Dimensions: l.: 1.3 cm; w.: 0.8 cm; th.: 0.5 cm

Description: lengthy perforation; head type: D6; body type: LS; side type: e10. The base decoration shows the motive 3C, depicting only *anra*-signs⁸⁹ encircled by a single line.

State of preservation: well preserved.

Dating of the tomb

The dating of the tomb can be based on the presence of one Tell el-Yahudiya juglet which indicates a period between the middle and later phase of the 15th Dynasty (strata E/2 to D/2 in Tell el-Dab'a).

Tomb 13–1 and 13–2

The tombs 13–1 and 13–2 (Fig. 18) are located in the northeastern corner of the excavation area.

Architecture

Tomb 13–1 consists of a rectangular burial chamber with an external length of 220 cm. The external width is 80 cm. Upon the walls of the burial chamber a mud brick vault was constructed. It was built over an older structure of different orienta-



Fig. 17 Tomb 12 after excavation (Photo: Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaïd Hashem)



Fig. 18 Tombs 13–1 and 13–2 (Photo: Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaïd Hashem)

⁸³ ASTON/BIETAK 2011, 206, 217, Fig. 147.

⁸⁴ ASTON/BIETAK 2011, 553, 555–556, Fig. 253; see also FORSTNER-MÜLLER 2008, 360, Fig. 287:1.

⁸⁵ FORSTNER-MÜLLER 2008, 315, 326, Figs. 235:21 and 245b:21–22.

⁸⁶ WODZIŃSKA in NOUR EL-DIN *et al.* 2016, 102–103, Fig. 28:4–7.

⁸⁷ EL-HANGOURY 2003.

⁸⁸ REDMOUNT 1989, 877, 879, Fig. 146:3.

⁸⁹ BEN-TOR 2007, Pl. 56:31 dating into the early series; MLINAR 2001c, 161, TD 521.

tion, tomb 13–2. It is north-south oriented, 120 cm long and 90 cm wide on the outside.

Contents of the tomb

No internment was preserved in tomb 13–1. However, in the underlying structure 13–2, a cup MAN_1 was found (see Plate VI).

Cup, reg. no.: MAN_1 (Plate VI)

Shape: cup with flat base and direct rim

Material: Nile clay (?)

Surface treatment: red slipped

Dimensions: h.: 9.4 cm; rim \varnothing : 7.2 cm; base \varnothing : 3.7 cm

State of preservation: well preserved.

Remarks: the same type as reg. no. MAN_44

Dating of the tomb

Tomb 13–2 can be probably dated to the later phase of the 15th Dynasty – level D/2 in Tell el-Dab^a.

Settlement structures

Apart from a cemetery, scattered settlement remains were excavated in 2015. The preservation of these remains is very poor, because they are located only about 20 cm under the present site surface. The uncovered remains consist of a few not adjoining walls, rounded structures that were probably used as silos and patches of ashy layers spreading in between. Sherds of flat-bottomed handmade cooking pots seem to have been abundant in these levels (see Plate VII).

In general, the settlement remains are concentrated more to the south than the tomb structures (see Fig. 2); however, there is some overlap between the settlement and the cemetery. In the few cases, where a stratigraphic relationship between tombs and settlement structures could be established, the settlement postdates the cemetery. However, this observation cannot be securely extrapolated to the whole settlement area, since almost no internal settlement stratigraphy could be established between the largely isolated structures. Thus, no coherent dating of the settlement can be gained.

Despite the bad preservation state, remains of at least two buildings could be identified. They were called western and eastern building, according to their position on the map. However, their stratigraphic relation could not be established. It is, therefore, possible that they belonged to differ-

ent phases of settlement activity and do not have to be contemporary. Between them, wall 2 is located. This about 2.5 m long segment of a mud brick wall runs in east-west direction and then turns towards north. This wall might indicate the remains of a further building, but its poor preservation prevents further interpretation.

Western Building

Scant remains of a rectangular building were traced in the southern part of square 5 (Fig. 19). The longest wall (wall 1) is east-west oriented and measures 5.7 m. In the south, short remains of two perpendicular walls about 0.56 m in the north-south direction, delineating two rooms, can be seen. These walls are relatively substantial, 1½ brick thick structures built in rectangular mud bricks. It seems these walls delineate the north-eastern corner of a larger building, but since only about one row of bricks is preserved and the larger part of the building to the south and east is missing, it is not possible to identify further architectural details or the function of the building or individual rooms.

Eastern Building

Further east in the squares 6/7, another building (delineated by wall 3) spreads over the tombs 10 and 12. It has a different orientation than the building in the west and is built only of ½ brick walls that are about 0.2 m thick. The longest preserved wall runs for about 4.8 m in a north north-

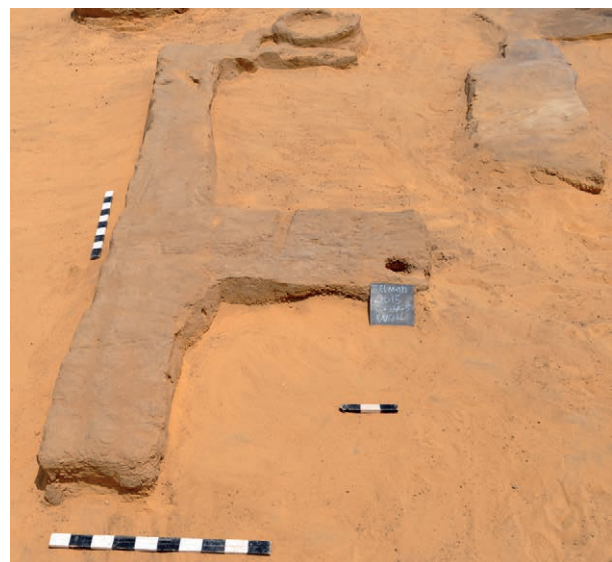
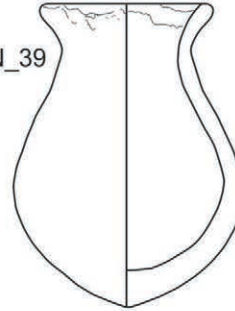


Fig. 19 Western building view to the east (Photo: Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaid Hashem)

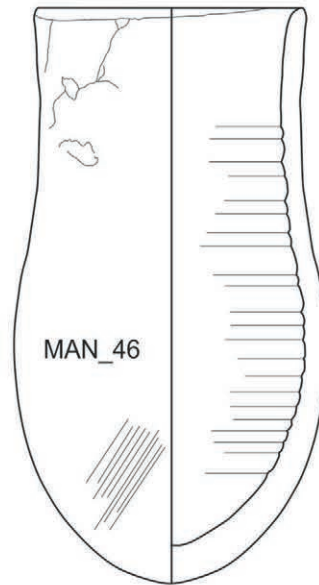
Settlement material



MAN_39



MAN_46



west-south southeast direction. The structure probably consisted of at least two rooms, but the preservation of the walls is so bad, that no further details can be inferred. It is possible that the small pottery vessel MAN_39, found in the ashy layer by these walls once belonged to the inventory of the building.

The stratigraphic relation to the western building could not be traced, but underneath the eastern building in the north a round structure (wall 5) – possibly a round silo with $\frac{1}{2}$ brick thick walls – was located. This structure is about 1.2m wide in the east-west direction. It looks like this silo was disturbed by tomb 12. This indicates that several phases of settlement activity occurred in Tell el-Mansheya. A further complete vessel MAN_46 was recovered from the ashy layer spreading around the eastern building (see Plate VII).

Jug, reg. no.: MAN_39 (Plate VII)

Shape: jug with globular body, flaring rim and round base

Material: Nile clay

Surface treatment: smoothed

Dimensions: h.: 8.7cm; rim \varnothing : 5cm; max \varnothing : 6.6cm

State of preservation: broken, rim missing.

Remarks: small vessels of the kind are known from Tell el-Dab^a, level D/3.⁹⁰

Beaker, reg. no.: MAN_46 (Plate VII)

Shape: vase with ovoid body, wide direct rim and round base

Material: Nile clay (?)

Surface treatment: smoothed

Dimensions: h.: 16.5cm; rim \varnothing : 7.7cm; max \varnothing : 8.9cm

State of preservation: broken, complete.

Remarks: large vessels with wide rim and round base can be associated with Tell el-Dab^a stratum D/3.⁹¹

Silos and Ashy Layers

Most of the settlement features found in Tell el-Mansheya are round structures built of mud bricks with $\frac{1}{2}$ brick thick walls. They are usually badly preserved, with only one layer of bricks remaining from the original height of the walls. The floors of these structures were usually covered with mud plaster (Fig. 20). Only in the case of the silo 5 a mud brick floor was placed inside (Fig. 21).



Fig. 20 Silos 6 and 7 (Photo: Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaid Hashem)



Fig. 21 Mud brick floor in silo 5 (Photo: Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaid Hashem)

The following table 1 summarises the dimensions of the silos found within the excavated area.

	internal diameter	external diameter	internal area
silos 1	130cm	150cm	5,31 m ²
silos 2	164cm	195cm	8,45 m ²
silos 3	90cm	120cm	2,54 m ²
silos 4	85cm	128cm	2,27 m ²
silos 5	200cm	240cm	12,56 m ²
silos 6	220cm	260cm	15,20 m ²
silos 7	180cm	230cm	10,17 m ²
silos 8	190cm	220cm	11,34 m ²
silos 9	60cm	90cm	1,13 m ²
silos 10	142cm	171cm	6,33 m ²
silos 11	100cm	150cm	3,14 m ²
silos 12	130cm	270cm	5,31 m ²

⁹⁰ HEIN/JÁNOSI 2004, 38, Abb. 11:3.

⁹¹ HEIN/JÁNOSI 2004, 39, Abb. 12:4.



Fig. 22 Silos 2, 3 and 4 (Photo: Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaïd Hashem)

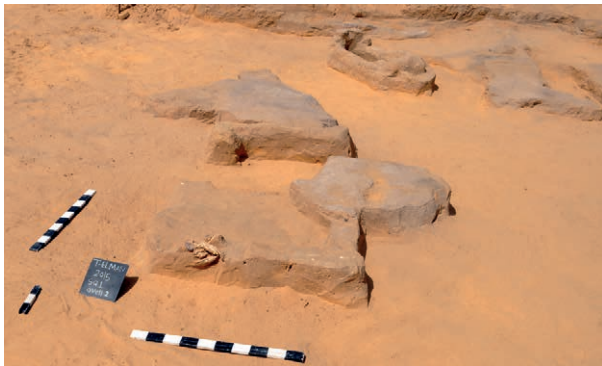


Fig. 23 Ashy layers south of the Western Building, view to the north (Photo: Mostafa Hassan Mahmud Ahmed and Sameh Ahmed Elsaïd Hashem)

It is difficult to say to which building the silos belonged. Furthermore, it is possible that not all of them are contemporary. Silos 2, 3 and 4 are built closely together (Fig. 22) at the same level. They seem to belong together, but it is not clear to which building/compound they belong. They are in one line with silos 5 and 10 that seem to run parallel with walls of the eastern building; however, they probably do not belong together, since c. 6m lay between these structures. Silos 6 and 7 (Fig. 20) also seem to belong together – they are even connected by a short wall.

Other remains of settlement activity are extensive ashy layers mixed with mud (Fig. 23). These are scattered throughout the excavation area. They are quite extensive, with a thickness varying from 8 to 10cm. Occasionally, heaps of animal bones and pottery were found in these layers. These and quite large numbers of stone tools like grinders and saddle querns as well as ceramic sherds found in these layers are further indicators of settlement activity (Plate VII). Some of the loose sherds found in the settlement structures can be identified as fragments of large marl C jars (so-called *zir*), very well known from Second Intermediate Period sites, for instance from Tell el-Dab^ca from strata D/3⁹² D/3–2,⁹³ and D/2.⁹⁴ There were also sherds of handmade vessels with flat bases, cooking pots, generally known from Wadi Tumilat Second Intermediate Period sites like Tell el-Retaba,⁹⁵ and Tell el-Maskhuta (occurring in greater quantities in early phases 1 and 2 of the Second Intermediate Period).⁹⁶ The material from Tell el-Maskhuta corresponds with Tell el-Dab^ca strata E/1–D/3.⁹⁷ In Tell el-Dab^ca they are known from strata d/2,⁹⁸ d/2–1,⁹⁹ d/1,¹⁰⁰ G/1–3,¹⁰¹ generally dated to the late 12th and 13th Dynasties. The pots are typical settlement material not appearing in tombs.

Conclusions

The modest remains of the settlement excavated at Tell el-Mansheya add another piece to the intricate puzzle of Second Intermediate Period occupation in Wadi Tumilat. It seems that we have here a small hamlet or satellite settlement located just at the outskirts of Tell el-Koa – a situation that has so far not been explored in this region. The settlement itself is too disturbed to allow any comparison with Tell el-Koa or other sites from Wadi Tumilat such as Tell el-Retaba or Tell el-Maskhuta. However, the grave goods recovered from the tombs indicate, that its inhabitants had access to goods comparable with large settlements from the Wadi. In this respect, it is also interesting to note that 12 out of 14 excavated tombs contained burial goods and outside of a further tomb a vessel (not documented) was found, which may also be con-

⁹² ASTON 2004, 265–267, Pls. 253–255, nos. 931–933.

⁹³ ASTON 2004, 268, Pl. 256, no. 934.

⁹⁴ KOPETZKY 2010, 335, Abb. 327.

⁹⁵ WODZIŃSKA in RZEPKA *et al.* 2014, 97–98, Fig. 102:7.

⁹⁶ REDMOUNT 1989, 820, 825–282, Fig. 137.

⁹⁷ BADER 2009, 411.

⁹⁸ ASTON 2004, 161–162, Pls. 149–150, nos. 592–593.

⁹⁹ ASTON 2004, 161–162, Pls. 149–150, nos. 591, 595–596.

¹⁰⁰ ASTON 2004, 163, Pl. 151, no. 597.

¹⁰¹ ASTON 2004, 163–164, Pls. 151–152, nos. 598–601, 603–604.

sidered part of the burial. Even the children, who often went without grave goods in cemeteries of Tell el-Koa¹⁰² or Tell el-Retaba¹⁰³, got a scarab and/or a pottery vessel. Tell el-Yahudiya juglets seem to be especially popular in this cemetery. As in other Second Intermediate Period cemeteries in Wadi Tumilat, the children were buried in simple mud brick tombs. The burials of infants in large pottery vessels known for example from Tell el-Dab^a¹⁰⁴ are curiously absent from this region so far.

A further interesting fact is that in two cases older tombs were disturbed some time later by younger tombs. It is possible that the disturbance of older tombs was not entirely accidental – the very precise position of the robbery pits in Tell el-Maskhuta¹⁰⁵ and Tell el-Retaba indicate that the position of tombs was still well known during the following occupational phases. The newly built tombs do not disturb the older internments, only the tomb chambers. We do not know why the older tombs were disturbed. Similar cases seem to be rare in Wadi Tumilat. In Tell el-Retaba, only one such case is known¹⁰⁶ so far. In Tell el-Koa

multiple consecutive burials in one tomb are more common.

The site of Tell el-Mansheya can be generally dated to the middle and later phase of the 15th Dynasty. There is no material which can be associated with the beginning of 15th Dynasty. Some of the pots found in tombs could even be dated to the early 18th Dynasty; however, there are no clear indicators that the site existed much longer than the end of the 15th Dynasty. This is very interesting especially with respect to the neighbouring Tell el-Koa that was clearly occupied longer, as pottery very well dated to the early 18th Dynasty shows. Tell el-Mansheya was occupied simultaneously with Tell el-Koa and abandoned at a time when Tell el-Koa was still settled. Sadly, the settlement remains in Tell el-Mansheya are too badly preserved to offer any kind of clue to how or why the settlement was abandoned. It can be suggested that when the land was reclaimed by the Egyptians they concentrated on the larger settlement in Tell el-Koa, leaving Tell el-Mansheya unoccupied. However, it is also possible that later occupational layers were denuded over the centuries.

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¹⁰² EL-HANGOURY 2003.

¹⁰³ NOUR EL-DIN *et al.* 2016, 78, 90–91.

¹⁰⁴ FORSTNER MÜLLER 2008, 25–26.

¹⁰⁵ PAICE *et al.* 1996, 164.

¹⁰⁶ NOUR EL-DIN *et al.* 2016, 101.

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