

# EGYPTIAN AND EGYPTIAN-STYLE POTTERY AT TEL DAN

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## INTRODUCTION

This article discusses a small group of vessels and sherds from Late Bronze Age contexts at Tel Dan that can be related to the Egyptian pottery tradition.<sup>3</sup> Tel Dan is situated at the foot of Mount Hermon in northern Israel (Fig. 1). The site covers an impressive area of 50 acres. It was identified with Biblical Dan and Laish – its earlier name. Dan-Laish appears in the Bible, in the Egyptian Exe-cration texts and in the records of Thutmose III (BIRAN 1994: 21–23). Large-scale excavations at the site were carried out by A. Biran from 1966–1999 first under the auspices of the Department of Antiquities and Museums and after 1974 on behalf of the Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Jerusalem (BIRAN 1994: 7–8). Late Bronze Age remains were excavated in various areas. Two main strata were exposed, VIII and VII, covering the LB I–LB II periods (Table 1). Stratum VII was further subdivided into VIIB and VIIA, VIIA into two subphases VIIA2 and VIIA1 (BEN-DOV forthcoming). The most prominent feature of the Late Bronze Age II is the ‘Mycenaean’ tomb (Tomb 387) in Area B, which was published by R. BEN-DOV (2002). This tomb belongs to Stratum VIIB and was dated from the second half of the fourteenth to the early-mid thirteenth centuries BCE, mainly based on its rich collection of Mycenaean imported vessels (Table 1).

Stratum	Feature	Period	Date BCE
VIII		LB I	16 <sup>th</sup> –15 <sup>th</sup> century
VII	‘Mycenaean’ Tomb (VIIB)	LB II	14 <sup>th</sup> –13 <sup>th</sup> century
VI	Iron Age pits	Iron I	12 <sup>th</sup> century

Table 1 Stratigraphy at Tel Dan<sup>4</sup>



Fig. 1

The small assemblage under review includes vessels and sherds that are either actual Egyptian imports or of Egyptian form only. The latter form the bulk of the assemblage and are well known at Egyptian-controlled sites in the southern Levant, Beth Shean being the most prominent (MARTIN 2006; forthcoming a; for other sites see MARTIN 2004; 2005). They may be referred to as Egyptian-style vessels. While such Egyptian-style vessels were generally locally produced at the sites at which they were found, a petrographic analysis conducted by Y. Goren, Tel Aviv University, points to the Lebanese coast as

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<sup>3</sup> Some vessels of this group were already presented pre-

viously (BEN-DOV 2002: figs. 2.29.1–3; 2.30.1, 9, 17; 2.31.4–6). The artefacts were drawn by Noga Zeevi.

<sup>4</sup> Based on BIRAN and BEN-DOV 2002: Table 1.1.

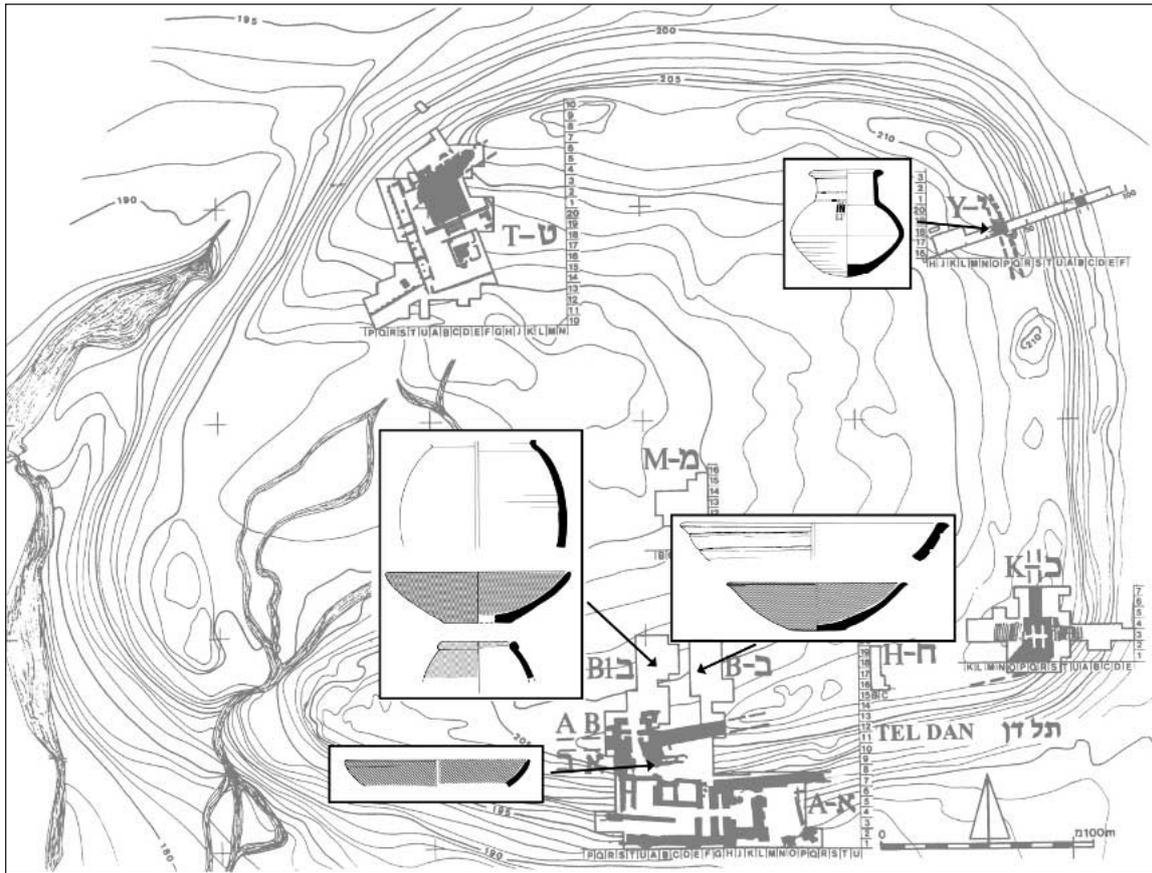


Fig. 2 Topographic site plan of Tel Dan showing distribution of Egyptian-type vessels (after BIRAN and BEN-DOV 2002)

source for most of the examples from Tel Dan (see below).

Most of the here presented vessels and sherds are characterized by a red slip; hence our designation as ‘red-slipped group’. With the exception of a couple of jar rims (Fig. 4:5–7) this group is represented by flat-based simple bowls only (Fig. 3).<sup>5</sup> On the bowls the slip is always applied on both sides, the jars are externally slipped. On the bulk of the examples the slip appears in red (10R 4/6) to dark red (2.5 YR 3/6) shades. Some vessels have a light red (2.5 YR 6/6) slip.<sup>6</sup> Several bowls bear the light red slip on the outside and the red to dark red slip on the inside. On many examples irregular brush strokes are visible, indicating that the colour was applied by painting

(and not by dipping), and not on the rotating wheel. A few bowls have a glossy shine on one or either sides.<sup>7</sup>

Apart from the red-slipped group the Egyptian assemblage includes three fragmentary large bowls (Fig. 4:1–3), an ovoid body of a jar, most probably to be identified as funnel-necked jar (Fig. 4:9),<sup>8</sup> and an intact carinated jar (Fig. 4:4).

The Egyptian-type vessels and sherds come from Areas B1, AB, B (east) and Y (see Fig. 2). As to the contextual setting of the assemblage, the carinated jar originates from Stratum VIII. Two of the large bowls (Fig. 4:1–2) come from Stratum VIIB. Most of the other vessels and sherds originate from Stratum VIIA2. Some Egyptian-type pottery was found in unlined Iron Age pits of Stratum VI,

<sup>5</sup> Ca. 50 such bowls were collected, mostly comprising rim fragments. Figure 3 shows a sample of the better preserved and well stratified examples.

<sup>6</sup> The light red slip seems like a faded version of the darker variants.

<sup>7</sup> This shine does, however, not seem to be result of burnishing or any other known deliberate surface treatment.

<sup>8</sup> An additional storage jar rim with bulging neck (Fig. 4:8) possibly also belongs to this type.

which were cut into earlier levels. We can assume that also the Egyptian-type pieces from those pits originally come from Stratum VIIA2.

#### FABRICS

Fresh breaks of the vessels under review were examined through a binocular microscope at 20 x magnification (by Martin).<sup>9</sup> According to their fabric properties they were categorized in groups, representatives of which were petrographically examined by Y. Goren (BEN-DOV forthcoming).<sup>10</sup>

#### Fabric Group (FG) 1

More than three quarters of the Egyptian-type bowls and jars can be ascribed to a single, rather homogenous fabric group. Vessels of this group consist of marly clay. The sections most commonly have a light reddish-brown to light brown core with light red to pink oxidation zones. They are speckled with white and grey mineral inclusions, the occasional terra rossa balls, and vegetal temper, which is mostly well combusted and discernible in form of elongated voids. Petrographic analyses of representatives of this group point to the Lebanese coast as their origin.<sup>11</sup>

The deliberate admixture of vegetal material (chopped straw) into the clay of Egyptian-style vessels, among them mainly simple bowls, is a well-known practice at Egyptian-controlled sites in the southern Levant and was explained as technological influence of the Egyptian pottery tradition (MARTIN 2004: 274–277).

#### Fabric Group (FG) 2

A couple of simple bowls (e.g. Fig. 3:9), two of the large bowls (Figs. 4:1 and 4:3) and the funnel-necked jar (Fig. 4:9) belong to a different fabric group. The clays of this group are characterized by marl as well as silt components. Sections have red or zoned red and light red to light brown outer zones and a thick, grey to greyish-brown core. The main inclusions comprise mica, lime-

stone grits and phytolithic material. Based on a petrographic analysis Y. Goren suggests that the fabric of the funnel-necked jar can most likely be identified as Egyptian mixed marl-and-silt clay (personal communication).<sup>12</sup> D. Aston, K. Kopetzky and one of the authors (Martin), on the other hand, reject an Egyptian origin of this jar and of all other vessels of this fabric group, based on a microscopic analysis at 20 x magnification (courtesy of D. Aston and K. Kopetzky). Presently, both options have to be considered. In any event, while an Egyptian origin is feasible for the funnel-necked jar, it would be exceptional for the open forms, which in the southern Levant almost exclusively appear as local products (e.g. MARTIN 2006: 140–142; for imported exceptions from Tell Abu Hawam see below). If Fabric group 2 is not of Egyptian origin, then the carinated jar treated below (Fabric group 3) would be the only vessel in the assemblage under review that actually originates from the Nile Valley.

#### Fabric Group (FG) 3 – Egyptian ‘Marl A’

The carinated jar from Stratum VIII (Fig. 4:4) is undoubtedly of Egyptian origin, an identification confirmed both in the microscopic analysis at 20 x magnification and in the petrographic analysis. Its fabric is marly, hard and dense and homogeneous in matrix. The section is pink (5 YR 7/4). Inclusions comprise limestone particles, sand, mica and additional red and small black mineral grits. The fabric can readily be identified as Marl A of the ‘Vienna system’ of classification, variant Marl A2 being the most likely candidate (NORDSTRÖM and BOURRIAU 1993: 176; ASTON 1998: 64). Marl A2 was usually fired at high temperatures (around 1000°C). In Egypt it is most common in the late Second Intermediate Period and the Eighteenth Dynasty. Its distribution argues for an origin in Upper Egypt. Carinated jars were commonly made of Marl A (Marl A2 and, more rarely, the coarser Marl A4).<sup>13</sup>

<sup>9</sup> It was noted above that only a sample of the red-slipped bowls is presented in the figures. For the fabric analysis many more fragments were taken into account.

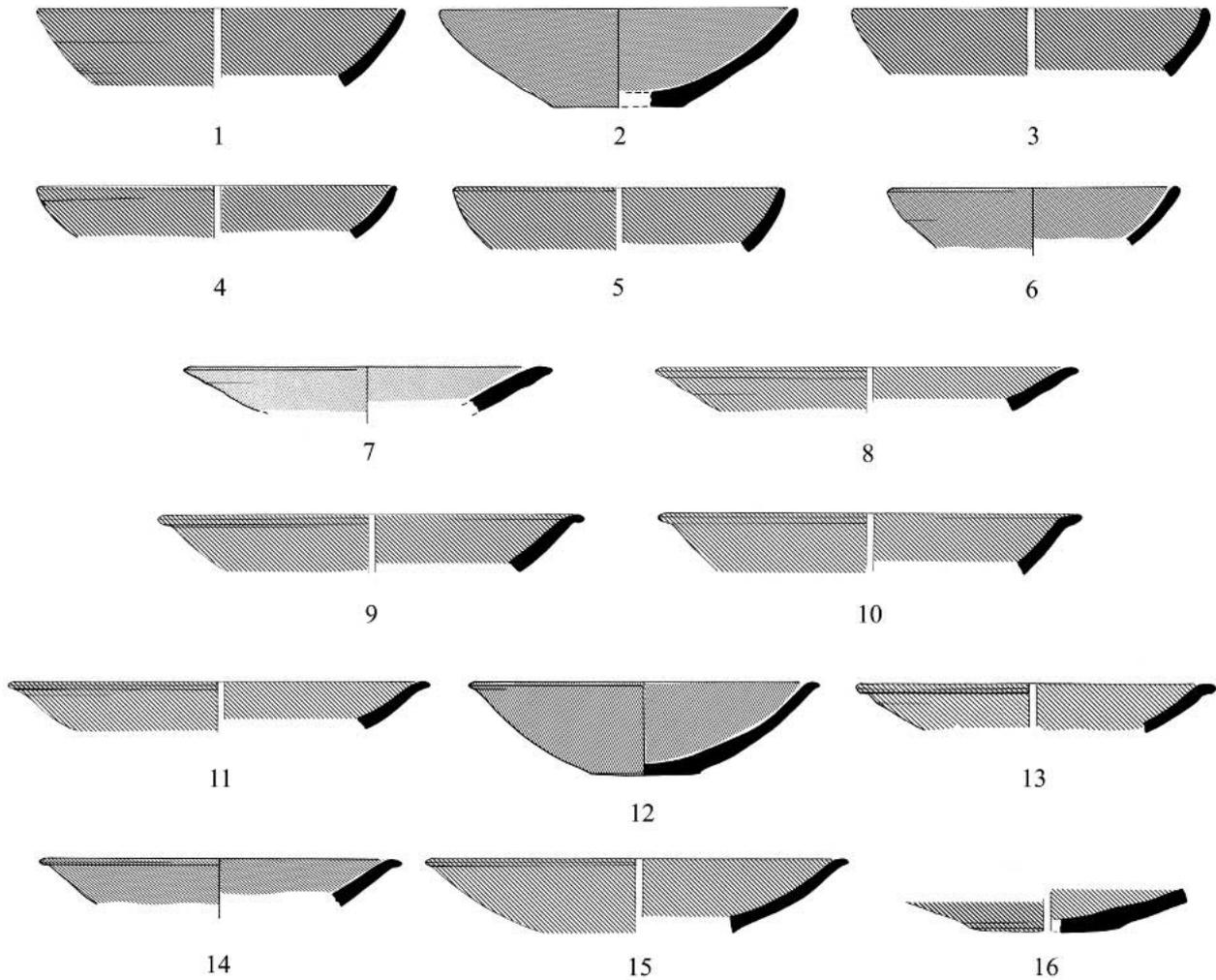
<sup>10</sup> The bowl in Figure 3:6 could not be affiliated with any of the groups. For the result of a petrographic analysis see BEN-DOV forthcoming.

<sup>11</sup> Several sherds have a light brown section without above-referred oxidation zones (Figs. 3:2–4, 4:5), but are characterized by the same inclusions. They are

probably of the same petrographic origin as the other specimens and were thus also attributed to FG 1.

<sup>12</sup> The identification is not straight forward. In any case, an identification as Egyptian Nile silt can be excluded. For Egyptian mixed marl-and-silt clay fabrics see BOURRIAU, SMITH and NICHOLSON 2000: esp. 19–26.

<sup>13</sup> Carinated jars of Marl A were discussed in BOURRIAU 1981: 25–41. For a pot of this fabric from Tell ed-Dabca see HEIN 1994: Abb. 12a. A photograph of a Marl A2



No.	Type	Area	Reg. No.	Locus	Stratum	Fabric	Previously Published
1	Bowl, Type A	B1	23071/1	4626	VIIA2	FG 1	
2	Bowl, Type A	B1	10650/8; 10	1229	VI	FG 1	
3	Bowl, Type A	B1	23034/2	4613	VIIA2	FG 1	
4	Bowl, Type A	AB	23950/1	7160	VIIA2	FG 1	
5	Bowl, Type A	B east	1584/5	363	VIIA2	–	BEN-DOV 2002: fig. 2.29.3
6	Bowl, Type A	B east	1584/6	363	VIIA2	?	BEN-DOV 2002: fig. 2.29.1
7	Bowl, Type B	B1	23034/1	4613	VIIA2	FG 1	
8	Bowl, Type B	B1	23347/1	7054	VI	FG 1	
9	Bowl, Type C	B1	10667/9	1229	VI	FG 2	
10	Bowl, Type C	B1	10650/7	1229	VI	FG 1	
11	Bowl, Type C	B1	23375/1	7055	VI	FG 1	
12	Bowl, Type C	B east	6321/1	437	VIIA2	FG 1	BEN-DOV 2002: fig. 2.30.1
13	Bowl, Type C	B east	6275/5	438	VIIA2	FG 1	
14	Bowl, Type C	B east	1584/4	363	VIIA2	FG 2	BEN-DOV 2002: fig. 2.29.2
15	Bowl, Type C	B1	24905/8	7240	VI	FG 1	
16	Bowl, Type ?	B1	10685/1	1229	VI	FG 1	

Fig. 3 Red-slipped Egyptian-type bowls (Scale 1:5)

## RED-SLIPPED SIMPLE BOWLS

Despite the rather fragmentary nature of the assemblage the existence of three simple bowl types can be inferred, referred to as Types A-C.<sup>14</sup> All three types are rather shallow and stand on flat bases. Bowls of Type A are characterized by rounded sidewalls and a plain rim (Fig. 3:1–6). Bowls of Type B are straight-sided with a plain rim (Fig. 3:7–8). On bowls of Type C, finally, the rim is everted (Fig. 3:9–15). Bowls of this type are most commonly referred to as flaring or splayed rim bowls (MARTIN 2006: 142).

Rim diameters of Type A bowls vary between 20 and 23 cm, of Type B bowls between 22 and 26 cm and of Type C bowls between 21 and 28 cm. Bases range between 7.5 and 10 cm in size (Fig. 3:16). The only two complete profiles restored have a vessel height of 7 cm (Fig. 3:2) and 6.5 cm (Fig. 3:12) respectively.

Bowls of these shapes and sizes are best known from New Kingdom Egypt and Nubia, where they form the main component of every ceramic assemblage of that period (MARTIN 2006: 142). In the southern Levant they occur mainly in the thirteenth-first half of twelfth centuries BCE and mostly at sites under direct Egyptian control. Thus, they were directly related to the New Kingdom Egyptian pottery tradition. Main sites include Beth Shean, Tell es-Sa'idiyeh, Tel Aphek, Tel Mor, Ashkelon, Tel Sera<sup>c</sup>, and Deir el-Balah (MARTIN 2005: Types BL10, 12 and 13; MARTIN 2006: BL70 and 73). They also occur at northern

Levantine sites, such as Kamid el-Lôz (METZGER 1993: pls. 81–87, 96; mainly Temple 2)<sup>15</sup> and Ugarit (MONCHAMBERT 2004: 27–70, Types 1–2 and 5–7 of plates ('assiettes'); Ugarit récent 3 = mainly LB IIB).<sup>16</sup> Indirect evidence of their existence at the Lebanese coast is provided by the examples from Tel Dan themselves (see above, Fabric group 1).

Examples with a red or reddish-brown slip are common in Level VII at Beth Shean (JAMES and MCGOVERN 1993: e.g., figs. 12:9, 36:3, 41:2) and in correlating strata of the Hebrew University Excavations<sup>17</sup> (MARTIN 2006: 142, 149–150; MARTIN forthcoming a). They are also common in tombs of the cemetery at Tell es-Sa'idiyeh, dated towards the end of the Late Bronze Age (PRITCHARD 1980: 3; 28–29). Two examples come from Stratum VIII at Megiddo (LOUD 1948: pl. 61:10–11), however not from reliable loci.<sup>18</sup> From Tell Abu Hawam comes a group of red-slipped bowls of Type A (BALENSI 1980: pl. 6:5–8), which is reported to be of Egyptian origin (BALENSI 1980: 344–345, 377).<sup>19</sup> As noted above this can be regarded as exceptional, as these utilitarian forms were generally locally produced. One very shallow example – best referred to as 'plate' – with splayed rim (Type C) originates from local Phase B in Area P at Hazor (MAZAR 1997: fig. V.1:25), which was correlated with general Stratum 1B (and 2?) of the lower tell (MAZAR 1997: 354). The stratigraphic affiliation of the vessel is, however, not unambiguous.<sup>20</sup> Also among the bowls at Kamid el Lôz (METZGER 1993: pls. 83:1, 5; 84:8; 85:4; 86:2; 96:3;

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example from Diospolis parva is shown in NORDSTRÖM and BOURRIAU 1993: fig. 18. At Qustul and Adindan in Nubia carinated jars were produced of 'hard pink pottery' – clearly also Marl A fabrics (WILLIAMS 1992: 24–25, 40).

<sup>14</sup> BEN-DOV forthcoming: Types BO5a–c.

<sup>15</sup> *Type A*: METZGER 1993: e.g., pls. 81:2, 6–8, 11; 84:3, 6–8, 10–11; 85:2–4, 6, 10–11; *Type B*: METZGER 1993: e.g., pls. 82:5; 83:7; 85:9; 86:10; 96:1, 2, 10; *Type C*: METZGER 1993: e.g., pls. 83:1, 5; 96: 3–5, 7–9

<sup>16</sup> *Type A*: MONCHAMBERT 2004: 28, Type 5 ('assiettes'); *Type B*: MONCHAMBERT 2004: 28, Type 1 ('assiettes'); *Type C*: MONCHAMBERT 2004: 28, Types 2 and 7 ('assiettes'). Types 2a–c, 2f and 3a of Monchambert's 'bols' (MONCHAMBERT 2004: 71–85) are deeper variants of above-listed plate types and may also be regarded as comparanda for the Tel Dan bowls.

<sup>17</sup> Conducted in the years of 1989–1996 under the direction of Amihai Mazar.

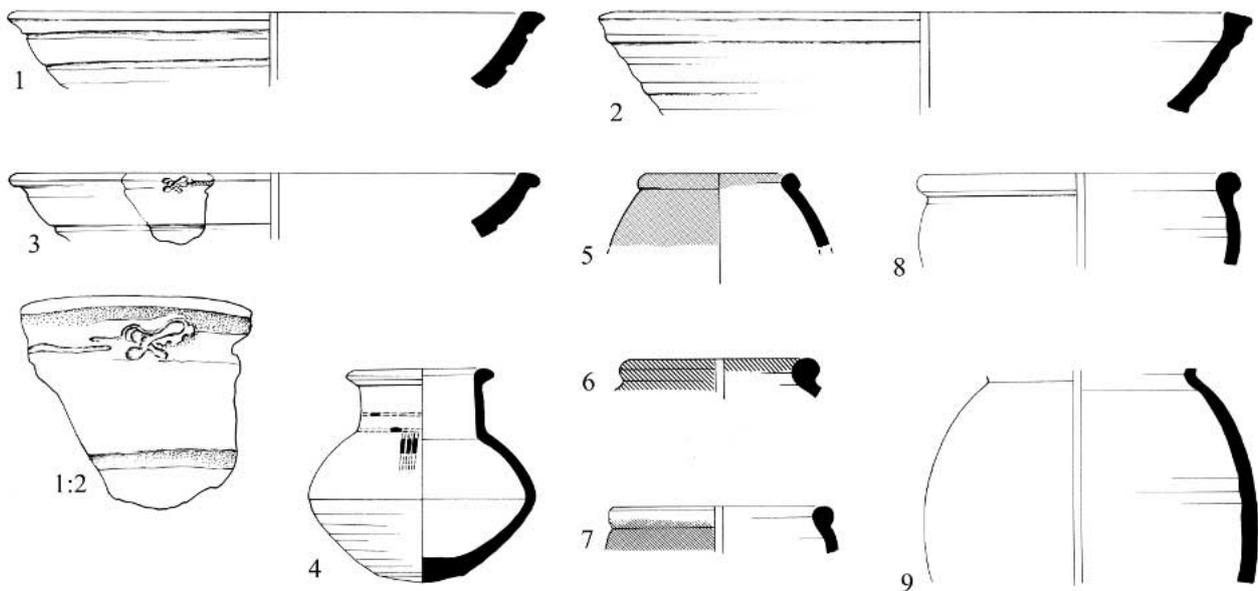
<sup>18</sup> Plate 61:10 is additionally decorated with a red band on

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the rim. For a list of reliable Stratum VIII loci refer to FINKELSTEIN and ZIMHONI 2000: 227–228.

<sup>19</sup> By courtesy of the Israel Antiquities Authority one example from the Rockefeller Museum was inspected by D. Aston and M. Martin and identified as Egyptian Nile B2 of the 'Vienna System' of classification (NORDSTRÖM and BOURRIAU 1993: 171–173).

<sup>20</sup> The vessel comes from Locus 1413B in the gate tower. The conjectured floor of this locus is at an elevation of 192.28 m (see locus list in MAZAR 1997: 385). However, the vessel was found at 192.75 m, which is only 5 cm below the conjectured floor of Phase A. The Phase B affiliation should therefore be treated with caution. In the southern Levant plate variants of Type C are unattested prior to the thirteenth century (MARTIN forthcoming b; for the chronology of flaring rim bowls in general see MARTIN 2006: 143). Thus, if really belonging to Phase B, the plate from Hazor contradicts the fourteenth century date assigned to Stratum 1B by YADIN (1993: 595).



No.	Type	Area	Reg. No.	Locus	Stratum	Fabric	Previously Published
1	Large bowl	B east	6296/1	443	VIIIB	FG 2	BEN-DOV 2002: fig. 2.30.9
2	Large bowl	B east	6371/2	442	VIIIB	FG 1?	BEN-DOV 2002: fig. 2.30.17
3	Large bowl	B east	1564/6	358	Mixed locus	FG 2	
4	Carinated jar	Y	17191/1	3214	VIII	FG 3, Marl A	
5	Neckless jar	B1	23039/4, 5	4609	VIIA2	FG 1	
6	Neckless jar	AB	24032/7	7005	VIIA2	FG 1	
7	Neckless jar	AB	23826/4	7145	VIIA2	FG 1	
8	Funnel-necked jar?	B1	23365/9	7059	VIIA2	FG 2	
9	Funnel-necked jar	B1	24810/4	7230	VIIA2	FG 2	

Fig. 4 Egyptian-type large bowls and jars (Scale 1:5)

155:6, 10) and Ugarit (MONCHAMBERT 2004: 29) examples with red or reddish-brown slip appear occasionally. They are also attested in the south, such as at Tel Aphek, Tel Mor and Tel Sera<sup>c</sup> (MARTIN 2005: 185–189).

If the bowls from Tel Dan can be directly linked with the Egyptian pottery tradition or if they are just coincidental in shape with their Egyptian counterparts, might be a matter of debate (particularly if Fabric group 2 turns out not to be Egyptian; see above). Especially bowls of Types A and B are so basic in shape that they might have evolved independently in various regions. The fact that for northern Levantine sites the likelihood – or unlikelihood – of an Egyptian association of these bowls was never thoroughly discussed, makes this issue even more intricate. However, even if Fabric group 2 is not of Egyptian origin, the authors argue for a link of the red-slipped bowls at Tel Dan to the Egyptian potting

tradition. This assumption is first corroborated by the fact that Types A–C appear together (the ensemble of these three types forms the backbone of every Egyptian and Egyptian-style ceramic assemblage in the Ramesside period) and, secondly, by their co-occurrence with the red-slipped Egyptian-style neckless jars with rolled rim (Fig. 4:5–7; and see below), the Egyptian association of which is beyond doubt based on their morphology only. Note that these jars are also of the same petrographic origin as most of the red-slipped bowls – the Lebanese coast (Fabric group 1).

#### LARGE BOWLS

Three rim fragments in the assemblage under review belong to large, open bowls with thick, straight to slightly curved sidewalls and squared-off or modeled rim. All three examples were found in Area B east in close vicinity to each other. Two originate from Stratum VIIIB (Fig.

4:1–2), one comes from a mixed locus (Fig. 4:3).<sup>21</sup> According to their Egyptian and Egyptian-style counterparts such bowls most commonly stand on ring bases. The rim diameter of the Tel Dan fragments ranges around 35–40 cm, elsewhere examples occur in sizes of 30–60 cm.

In Egypt these large, open bowls are characteristic Nile silt types. They appear with various rim variants (squared-off, profiled, outer-thickened, folded or ledged) and are common throughout the entire New Kingdom. They are most commonly undecorated, like the examples from Tel Dan, occasionally also red-slipped or red-rimmed. Occurrences were collected in MARTIN 2005: Type BL20–21.

All three examples under review exhibit a series of two to three spaced, impressed horizontal bands of different widths (varying between 0.1–0.8 cm) encircling the upper exterior part of the body below the rim. Characterized by horizontal veining (Fig. 5) these bands clearly derive from thin, long leaves impressed into the wet clay. The same impressed bands were identified on two large Egyptian-style bowls from Stratum X-14 at Tel Aphek, where N. Lipschitz suggested their derivation from thin leaves of date palms or certain graminæ, such as wheat, barley or reed (MARTIN, GADOT and GOREN forthcoming: Type EgB 7a–b). Several such leaves (one for each impressed band) were evidently tied around the upper part of such large bowls to hold them together during the drying process. One of the Tel Dan fragments preserves the spot, where one of these leaves was tied up (Figs. 4:3 and 5). This practice can probably be related to the Egyptian pottery tradition, where it was twined ropes instead of the leaves, which were tied around such large bowls (ARNOLD 1993: 91; ASTON 1998: 110). The impressions they made are commonly found on finished products (for an example from Qantir see ASTON 1998: no. 329). Such rope impressions appear on most large Egyptian-style bowls in



Fig. 5 Horizontal leaf impressions (upper one with knot) on large Egyptian-type bowl (Fig. 4:3, Scale 1:1)

Levels VII–VI at Beth-Shean (e.g., YADIN and GEVA 1986: fig. 35:1; MARTIN 2006: pl. 2:8). They are also attested on large Egyptian-style bowls at Kamid el-Lôz (METZGER 1993: pl. 90:9–11; Temple 2b-a), Lachish (TUFNELL, INGE and HARDING 1940: pl. 38:55–56; Fosse temple III) and Deir el-Balah (BEIT-ARIEH 1985: fig. 5:13).

#### CARINATED JAR

An almost intact jar (Figs. 4:4 and 6) from Stratum VIII in Area Y was identified as Egyptian Marl A import (see Fabric group 3 above). This 15 cm high vessel is characterized by a squat, carinated body, a straight neck with a shelf rim and a slightly convex base. Despite the somewhat soft carination it may be readily associated with the Egyptian family of carinated jars (see mainly HOLTHOER 1977: 133–145 and BOURRIAU 1981: 25–41).<sup>22</sup> More specifically, it can be ascribed to the broad-necked variant (cf. *broadnecked carinated vessels* [CV 1] of HOLTHOER's typology; 1977: pls. 30–32; for good comparanda see Type III P/5D/a–d).<sup>23</sup> Carinated jars in general appear with round, slightly convex, flat, disc or ring base. Examples have

<sup>21</sup> Figures 4:1 and 4:3 concur in fabric and shape and may be part of the same vessel (originally deposited in Stratum VIIB). However, as the fragments do not join and come from different contexts, it was decided to draw them separately.

<sup>22</sup> HOLTHOER notes that the carination of these vessels typologically is of less importance and otherwise very similar jars occur also without it (1977: 33). Therefore, he includes also those vessels with a more rounded pro-

file into his family of carinated jars (HOLTHOER 1977: pls. 30–32).

<sup>23</sup> HOLTHOER distinguishes between shortnecked (his Class CS), ordinary carinated (CV) and widemouthed (CW) carinated vessels (1977: 133–145; pls. 30–32). Ordinary carinated vessels are distinct from short-necked carinated vessels by their longer neck. They are further subdivided into broadnecked (CV 1) and narrow-necked (CV 2) carinated vessels.



Fig. 6 Egyptian carinated jar (Fig. 4:4, Scale 1:2)

been found containing doum-fruits and honeycombs.

While the surface of the jar from Tel Dan is heavily worn, remains of a cream slip (2.5 Y 8/2 'white') were encountered in certain spots, which originally covered the entire exterior of the vessel. At one place right below the neck faint traces of a bundle of three vertical, black lines can be recognized. Such vertical line bundles appear commonly on the upper body of carinated jars and are generally combined with one or more horizontal lines at the base of the neck, remains of which can also be discerned on the jar under review. At times, they are paired with a criss-cross decoration (e.g., HOLTHOER 1977: pl. 31 Type IIIP/5D/a-d).<sup>24</sup> Other examples are characterized by horizontal bands only, which may appear on the upper body and neck (e.g., HOLTHOER 1977: pl. 32 Type IIIR/3D/a-d). Moreover, these jars are often burnished, a trait not verifiable on the Tel Dan specimen.

In Egypt carinated jars are common in the Second Intermediate Period and Eighteenth Dynasty. While shortnecked carinated vessels (Holthoer's CS) occur from the Second Intermediate Period to the early Eighteenth Dynasty, broadnecked carinated vessels (Holthoer's CV1) appear only from

<sup>24</sup> Other vertical decoration patterns on the shoulder include wavy lines (e.g., HOLTHOER 1977: pl. 30 Type IP/6D/c-d) and ladders (e.g., GUY and ENGBERG 1938: pl. 41:17).

the late Second Intermediate Period and are most common in the early-mid Eighteenth Dynasty (HOLTHOER 1977: 133–134; BOURRIAU 1981: 29–30; HOLTHOER, SÄVE-SÖDERBERGH and TROY 1991: 25, 30, 39; WILLIAMS 1992: 41–42). While popular already in the early Eighteenth Dynasty, the peak of the latter is clearly in the reigns of Hatshepsut-Thutmosis III, as in the cemetery of Fadrus in Nubia, where they are most common in local Phases IIa-b (HOLTHOER, SÄVE-SÖDERBERGH and TROY 1991: 30; SÄVE-SÖDERBERGH and TROY 1991: 225–244).<sup>25</sup> From the time of Thutmosis III comes an example from Tell el-Dab<sup>c</sup>a (HEIN 1994: 43 fig. 12a). Soon after the reign of Thutmosis III broadnecked carinated jars decrease in popularity and have disappeared by the late Eighteenth Dynasty. At Fadrus they still appear in considerable numbers in Phase IIc (Amenophis II-Thutmosis IV), are almost absent in Phase IIIa (Amenophis III) and have completely disappeared in Phase IIIb (late Eighteenth Dynasty) (SÄVE-SÖDERBERGH and TROY 1991: 225–244). They are unattested in the palace complex of Amenophis III at Malqata (HOPE 1989), at Tell el-Amarna (PEET and WOOLLEY 1923; FRANKFORT and PENDLEBURY 1933) and in the tomb of Tutankhamun (HOLTHOER 1993). Undecorated versions seem to have a somewhat earlier distribution than decorated ones, as at Fadrus, where the former appear mainly in Phases Ia-IIa, while the latter are most common in Phases IIa–c (HOLTHOER, SÄVE-SÖDERBERGH and TROY 1991: 39). Apart from that Holthoer notes that vessels with vertical and criss-cross decoration seem to be earlier than those with horizontal bands only (1977: 134; on pls. 30–32 examples of the former belong to Fadrus Ia–IIb, of the latter mostly to Fadrus IIb–IIIa). Summarizing the evidence, it may be attested that with its tall, straight and broad neck and traces of a vertical decoration the carinated jar from Tel Dan fits best in the period of Hatshepsut-Thutmosis III.

In the southern Levant imported Egyptian carinated jars appear at Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Ajjul, Yoqne<sup>c</sup>am, Megiddo, and Beth Shean. At Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Ajjul two examples of the earlier, shortnecked type come from the renewed excavations under the direction

<sup>25</sup> Phase IIa was dated in the reigns of Hatshepsut-Thutmosis III and IIb in the reign of Thutmosis III only.

of P. Fischer and M. Sadeq (FISCHER and SADEQ 2002: 122–123 fig. 14:1–2). Both vessels were identified as imports from Upper Egypt. They are red-slipped and burnished. The vessels were retrieved from contexts, which can be dated to the first half of the Eighteenth Dynasty (LB IA–IA/B; FISCHER and SADEQ 2002: 139). From the Petrie excavations come both, the shortnecked (undecorated) and tallnecked<sup>26</sup> (decorated) variants (PETRIE 1932: pl. XXX: 32A4–32A16; 1933: pl. XXXIII: 32A7–32A11). An example of the earlier, short-necked type was found in Stratum XXa at Yoqne'am (BEN-TOR, BEN-AMI and LIVNEH 2005: fig. IV.21:8), the destruction of which was tentatively correlated with Thutmose III's campaign in Year 22 of his reign (BEN-TOR, BEN-AMI and LIVNEH 2005: 242–243) – 1457 BCE according to Kitchen's chronology (2000: 49). From Megiddo comes a broadnecked example from Tomb 38B in the eastern cemetery (GUY and ENGBERG 1938: pl. 41: 17). The vessel is burnished and decorated, bearing a horizontal line at the base of the neck and vertical lines and a ladder pattern on the shoulder. A fragmentary, broadnecked example comes from Level F-10a in Area F of the renewed excavations of the Megiddo Expedition (GADOT, YASUR-LANDAU and ILAN 2006: fig. 12.4:5).<sup>27</sup> It is white-slipped and decorated with black horizontal lines on neck and upper body. Level F-10a was correlated with Level IX of the Chicago Expedition (GADOT, YASUR-LANDAU and ILAN 2006: 188). The decoration of the jar with only horizontal lines favours a date in the mid-Eighteenth Dynasty (Thutmose III) or later.<sup>28</sup> Another two carinated jars, finally, come from Beth Shean. A broadnecked example was retrieved from Level IX of the University Museum Excavations of the University of Pennsylvania (MULLINS 2002: 263–264 and pl. 57:13). It is decorated with vertical lines on the upper body and horizontal lines at the base of the neck. A very squat specimen with a tall but rather narrow, slightly everted neck comes from Stratum R-3 in Area R of the Hebrew University Excavations, which was attributed to the late MB II (MAZAR

2003: 328 fig. 5). With its narrow neck the vessel probably fits best into Holthoer's group CV2 – his *narrownecked carinated vessels* (1977: pl. 32 CV2, especially Type IIR/0/e–f). The vessel is made of Marl A2, red-slipped and burnished. According to M. Bietak this Upper Egyptian jar was not likely to reach the southern Levant before the beginning of the Eighteenth Dynasty, thus providing an important correlation between the end of the Middle Bronze Age in the southern Levant and the beginning of the New Kingdom in Egypt (MAZAR 2003: 328 footnote 5).

#### NECKLESS STORAGE JARS WITH ROLLED RIM

Fig. 4:5–7 shows rim fragments with incurving profile and rolled rim,<sup>29</sup> clearly belonging to Egyptian-style neckless storage jars with ovoid to elongated bag- or sausage-shaped body and round base (for a complete profile of this type see MARTIN 2004: fig. 3:16). All fragments derive from Stratum VIIA2. In Egypt these handleless jars are typically made of Nile silt and popular from the beginning of the Nineteenth Dynasty onwards (ASTON and PUSCH 1999: 42).

The rims measure 10–14 cm in diameter, which is in well accordance to their Egyptian and Egyptian-style counterparts in Egypt and in the southern Levant. All pieces can be attributed to Fabric group 1 (see above). As mentioned above they belong to the 'red-slipped group'. On two examples the external slip is unusually pale – light red 2.5 YR 6/6 (Fig. 4:5) and weak red 10R 5/2 (Fig. 4:7). Fig. 4:6 bears a red 2.5 YR 4/6 slip. A red slip is a very common surface treatment on this type of jars both in Egypt and in the southern Levant (MARTIN 2006: 148–149).

In Egypt well dated Nineteenth Dynasty examples come from Qantir (ASTON 1998: 310–311, nos. 999–1008), Saqqara (ASTON 1991: 51, pl. 48, no. 45), and Qau el-Kebir (BRUNTON 1930: pl. XXVII:71). These jars are very popular during the Twentieth Dynasty, with examples known from Qantir, dated between the reigns of Seti II/Twosret and Ramesses III (ASTON and PUSCH 1999: 42,

<sup>26</sup> Both, broadnecked (Holthoer's CV1) and narrow-necked (Holthoer's CV2) variants appear.

<sup>27</sup> Undertaken under the auspices of Tel Aviv University with Pennsylvania State University as senior American partner.

<sup>28</sup> The LB IA affiliation of Level F-10a suggested by

GADOT, YASUR-LANDAU and ILAN (2006: 188) is too early in any case. On basis of the carinated jar a LB IB (or theoretically even early LB IIA) attribution should be envisaged.

<sup>29</sup> Fig. 4:5 combines two fragments, which although not joining, clearly belong to the same vessel.

nos. 10, 41), from two foundation deposits of Ramesses IV dug into the *temenos* of the mortuary temple of (Tutankhamun)-Ay-Horemheb at Medinet Habu (ANTHES 1939: 116–117, pls. 56, 58), from the tomb of Ramesses VII in the Valley of the Kings (ASTON, ASTON, and BROCK 1998: 162, 209, pl. 43, no. 373), and from Elephantine (ASTON 1999: 44, no. 198), where such a jar was found inscribed with the titulary of Ramesses IX.

At southern Levantine sites the most impressive collection of complete and fragmentary examples of these neckless jars comes from thirteenth and twelfth century strata at Beth Shean (MARTIN 2006: 148–149; MARTIN forthcoming a). Additional examples can be cited from Tell es-Sa'idiyeh (PRITCHARD 1980: fig. 15:5 Type 63; Tomb 110), Tel Mor (MARTIN and BARAKO forthcoming, Strata VIII–VI), and Tel Sera<sup>c</sup> (MARTIN forthcoming b, Stratum IX).

#### FUNNEL-NECKED JARS

Stratum VIIA2 produced a body of an ovoid jar with the beginning of a neck (Fig. 4:9), which recalls Egyptian funnel-necked jars in shape (for a complete profile of this type see, e.g., MARTIN 2004: fig. 3:15). An Egyptian affiliation is also corroborated by the fabric of the vessel, which is either Egyptian or, at least, related to other Egyptian-type vessels at Tel Dan (see above, discussion of Fabric group 2).

Funnel-necked jars are medium-sized slender jars with ovoid body, rounded to slightly flattened base and tall, diverging neck, the neck itself resembling a funnel (ASTON 1998: 188). The neck can be straight or convex. In Egypt these jars are typical Nile clay vessels. They are popular from the mid-late Eighteenth Dynasty to the end of the New Kingdom. Egyptian occurrences were collected in MARTIN 2005: Type JR12. As to southern Levantine sites a nice collection of these jars comes from Level VI at Beth Shean (MARTIN forthcoming a: especially Stratum S-4). They are also attested at Tel Sera<sup>c</sup> (OREN 1984: fig. 7:2, Stratum IX) and Tell el-Far<sup>c</sup>ah (S) (STARKEY and HARDING 1932: pl. XLIX:924; Tomb 924, Type 75 O).

Apart from the fragmentary jar described above a rim fragment from Stratum VIIA2 bears mentioning (Fig. 4:8). It is characterized by a rolled rim and slightly bulging neck. Judging from its morphological properties and size (19 cm) this rim might belong to a large variant of funnel-necked jars, with examples coming from Qantir (ASTON 1998: 307, no. 972; Nineteenth Dynasty) and Tanis (BRISAUD 1987: 99 no. 273; Twentieth Dynasty).<sup>30</sup> Although of the same fabric (Fabric group 2), the size difference excludes that this rim and the body fragment described above belong to the same vessel.

#### CONCLUSIONS

In an attempt to reconstruct a possible Egyptian involvement at Tel Dan in the Late Bronze Age (namely in Stratum VIIA2), it might be easily inferred from a comparison with typical Egyptian garrison sites, such as, for instance, Beth Shean and Deir el-Balaḥ that the situation is entirely different from those sites. The small size of the Egyptian assemblage at Tel Dan and the marked scarcity of types clearly argue against an assumption of physical Egyptian presence, as it was postulated for above-mentioned garrisons (MARTIN 2004: 279–280; 2005: 342–348; KILLEBREW 2005: 81–83).<sup>31</sup> The Egyptian ceramic forms discussed here arrived at Tel Dan by trade.

Of special interest is the link to the Lebanese coast, from which most of the material under review originates. This link does not only provide us with information about Dan's trade connections in the LB II but also gives us some hunch of the Egyptian influence in above-referred region, the nature of which is not yet well-known on the basis of material culture evidence. Recent excavations like the one of the British Museum at Sidon are shedding more light on this aspect (e.g., MARÉE 2006).

#### Chronology

The first vessel of Egyptian type, the carinated jar from Stratum VIII, can be dated to the second half of the fifteenth century BCE and thus corroborates the date given to this stratum by the

<sup>30</sup> Alternatively, the rim may be ascribed to a large Egyptian-type two-handled storage jar, referred to as 'amphora' (for Egyptian amphorae see HOPE 1989: 87–110).

<sup>31</sup> There is also a dearth of Egyptian or Egyptian-style small finds. Among the few pieces an Egyptian statuette from Area T (BIRAN 1994: 161 and fig. 120) and a Ram-

ses II scarab from Area Y (BIRAN 1994: fig. 85) bear mentioning. The statuette was retrieved from an Iron Age context but may well originate from one of the Late Bronze Age levels. The scarab comes from an unstratified context.

excavators. Apart from two large bowls Egyptian forms are absent from Tomb 387 and any sealed loci of Stratum VIIB. Most of the Egyptian-type pottery at Tel Dan belongs to Stratum VIIA2. This is in well accordance to the marked increase of Egyptian-type ceramics in the southern Levant in the course of the thirteenth century (MARTIN 2004), a result of a more direct Egyptian involve-

ment in the Ramesside period (WEINSTEIN 1981: 17–22). The red-slipped simple bowls are the most prominent feature in the VIIA2 assemblage. Their appearance at Tel Dan fits well to their distribution at Beth Shean, where they are most common in the contemporaneous Level VII but rare to absent in the previous Level VIII and the following Level VI.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> James and McGovern note the general absence of Egyptian-style simple bowls in Level VIII (1993: 79). A similar conclusion was drawn from the Hebrew University Excavations (MARTIN 2006: 150–151). In Level VI

and correlating strata in the Hebrew University Excavations the red-rim decoration has largely replaced the decoration with a red slip (MARTIN 2006: 150; MARTIN forthcoming a).

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