

# PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE POTTERY FROM AREA Q IV AT QANTIR/PI-RAMESSE

Excavations of the Roemer-Pelizaeus Museum, Hildesheim

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## INTRODUCTION<sup>1</sup>

This short paper presents the first results of the ongoing study of the pottery material collected during the excavation of Area Q IV at Qantir/Pi-Ramesse which took place between 1988 and 1998. Area Q IV has already been discussed in a series of preliminary reports and has mainly aroused interest because it has revealed the royal horse stud of the ancient Ramesside capital of the Delta.<sup>2</sup> Together with its adjoining out-buildings, interpreted as “grooms’ houses”, the whole complex constitutes a unique example of its kind in ancient Egypt. However, beyond the specificity of this discovery and the new insights it has provided into ancient Egyptian horse rearing, military organisation and the technological details of chariotry, excavations in this area have also offered an excellent occasion for investigating the change that took place in the ceramic production from the early 13<sup>th</sup> century BC to the end of the Twenty-First Dynasty in the eastern Delta. This is of major importance because stratified material from controlled excavations spanning this whole transitional period is something of a rarity, indeed.

Until now little work has been done on the pottery from Area Q IV at Qantir. A preliminary report published in 1999 presents a series of complete and near complete vessels – mainly from late Nineteenth–early Twentieth Dynasty levels (Stratum Bb)<sup>3</sup> – and a few pieces from Q IV were included into the publication of Area Q I,<sup>4</sup> but no

comprehensive analysis of the assemblages has been undertaken in the aftermath of the excavations. This situation is now being remedied as two study seasons at Qantir have been entirely dedicated to the systematic examination of this material. Pottery collected during the 1988, 1991, 1992 and part of the 1993 excavation seasons has been processed and recorded. About 15 to 20% of the material was kept for publication, part of which has already been drawn and awaits photography. Besides this preliminary sorting, research has also been undertaken towards a better characterisation of the foreign fabric groups at Qantir. This has led to the singling out of a number of fabric types which do not belong to any of the categories previously defined by Aston.<sup>5</sup> In the course of the upcoming seasons, this work will be pursued further with the following three objectives: 1) to refine the system of concordance between the foreign fabrics from Qantir and those identified at other Egyptian sites, such as Tanis, Memphis/Saqqara, Amarna and perhaps, if at all possible, even Buto in the late Third Intermediate Period, with regards to the amphorae of Class IA;<sup>6</sup> 2) to link the Qantir foreign wares to specific Levantine (or possibly Cypriote) morphological types; and 3) to investigate the relationship between fabric groups and chronology and to verify whether changes in fabrics between the late New Kingdom and the Twenty-First Dynasty can indeed be used as chronological indicators within the period concerned by this study.

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<sup>1</sup> I would like to thank Dr. Edgar B. Pusch for having given me the opportunity to study and publish the pottery material from Area Q IV at Qantir. My most sincere thanks also go to my colleagues in Qantir, Tom Uhe, Silvia Prell and Henning Franzmeier, who have kindly prepared the plates for the present publication. Pottery drawings are by Tom Uhe and the author. Unless otherwise stated, all drawings are at a 1:4 scale. The fabric codes used in the present report are those which have been defined by D.A. Aston with regard to the material from Area Q I at Qantir. Their detailed description can be found in ASTON 1998, 60–74.

<sup>2</sup> See in particular PUSCH 1999a; HEROLD 1998; 1999; 2006.

<sup>3</sup> ASTON & PUSCH 1999, 37–76.

<sup>4</sup> ASTON 1998, 542.

<sup>5</sup> ASTON 1998, 60–81.

<sup>6</sup> See BOURRIAU 2003, 225–227; BOURRIAU & FRENCH 2007, 117–118. Although the Buto fabric types are significantly later than those from Qantir, establishing a correlation between the two should still be considered as a tangible possibility. Indeed, not only technology, but also provenance plays a role in the definition of fabric groups.

For the time being, however, this report is only meant to give a general overview of the pottery assemblages found over the first four years of excavation work in Area Q IV. The material examined here has been divided into two main sections, corresponding to the two phases which are best represented so far at the site (Strata Bb and Ba). Each section is followed by a catalogue listing the pieces included in the discussion.

Before to proceed with an account of the pottery, a few words need to be added on the stratigraphical sequence of Area Q IV as well as on the Mycenaean pottery imports and on the vessels related to glass making activities at the site. In effect, although both Mycenaean sherds and fragments relating to glass technology were removed from the pottery assemblages directly after the excavation to be studied separately, a few pieces which had escaped scrutiny can now be added to the Qantir corpus.

#### SUMMARY OF THE STRATIGRAPHY

The bulk of the pottery in Area Q IV comes from Stratum Bb, that is the final stage of the royal horse stud which covers the period from the reign of Seti II to that of Sethnakhte at least, but probably also into that of Ramesses III and the later Twentieth Dynasty. This complex was apparently built over a forerunner stable (Stratum Bc), presumably going back to the reign of Ramesses II, though still in use and modified under Seti II. Below that, but only in a few squares, remains ascribed to the late Eighteenth–early Nineteenth Dynasty were reached, with evidence, presumably in the Nineteenth Dynasty, for the presence of workshops for the production and secondary working of glass (Stratum Bc/d). Excavations into these strata were limited due to the high level of the water table in the whole sector and only a small amount of the pottery coming from it has been processed as yet. Above the stables, two main strata could be identified in the area, both of which have proved of major interest for the later history of the town as well as for the study of the ceramic sequence at the site. Directly above the stables a first layer (Stratum Ba) bears

witness to what has been interpreted as a partial re-occupation of the building complex by squatters, starting shortly after the latter had fallen into disuse, arguably still in the reign of Ramesses III, and continuing into the Twenty-First Dynasty. The buildings associated with this lengthy phase re-used some of the stable's walls and original structures to which narrower mud brick walls were added. Finally the upper layers were occupied in several places by a few tombs dating from the later Twenty/Twenty-First to the Twenty-Second Dynasties, showing that by that time parts of the area had been turned into a cemetery.<sup>7</sup>

One of the important issues which remains unanswered with regards to the stratigraphy in the whole area is the dating of the end of the final phase of use of the horse stud in its original function (Stratum Bb). In earlier publications, a date still in the reign of Ramesses III had been put forward for this event on the basis of two main arguments.<sup>8</sup> The first is that a pottery mould bearing the name of that king was found embedded into the floor of a mud-brick four-chamber tomb which was cutting into the walls of the stables in Squares e-f/29. The second is the fact that no royal name later than that of Sethnakhte was ever recovered from Stratum Bb. Strictly speaking, none of these claims are fully convincing. In terms of stratigraphy, the mould of Ramesses III is, at most, a *terminus post quem*, showing that the tomb could not have been built earlier than this pharaoh's reign. The absence of later Twentieth Dynasty king names, on the other hand, is just not enough in itself as a means of reaching any firm conclusions. In addition, as will be shown below, the pottery material from Stratum Bb does not provide any clear evidence that the stables did not continue to function into the later part of the Twentieth Dynasty.

#### MYCENAEAN POTTERY

A few fragments of Mycenaean pottery belonging to Stratum Bb have been identified in the course of the past season. These mostly belong to stirrup jars, probably of a LH IIIB date.<sup>9</sup> The importance

<sup>7</sup> For preliminary summaries of the stratigraphy in Area Q IV, see PUSCH 1999a, especially 24–25; ASTON & PUSCH 1999, 37–40, 50–51; HEROLD 2006, 45–48; PUSCH &/ REHREN 2007, 31–33. However, the succession, dating and interpretation of some of the phases are still in need of clarification (see also below, Stratum Ba).

<sup>8</sup> ASTON & PUSCH 1999, 40.

<sup>9</sup> In Egypt, LH IIIB pottery is usually connected with the reign of Ramesses II. However, it occurs already in the reign of Tutankhamun and evidence from Ugarit and elsewhere suggests that it continued until that of Merenptah (WARREN & HANKEY 1989, 154–162).

of such finds is enhanced by the fact that Stratum Bb corresponds precisely to the time when the trade in Mycenaean pottery is thought to come to an end in the eastern Mediterranean.<sup>10</sup> However, similar Mycenaean fragments have also turned up in the later Stratum Ba, obviously as intrusions. This fact combined with the fragmentary nature of the Stratum Bb sherds leaves open the possibility that a large part, if not all, of this material might be residual from an earlier phase (perhaps Bc/d). Only a more accurate dating within LH IIIB of the Mycenaean sherds from Stratum Bb might help answering this question.

#### CRUCIBLES, “REACTION VESSELS” AND OTHER POTTERY ITEMS RELATED TO GLASS MAKING TECHNOLOGY

Fragments of vessels related to glass-making activities in Q IV have been recovered in both Strata Bb and Ba, mainly from squares d-f/27–30. They should probably be considered as intrusions from earlier phases as no glass-working installations have been identified in connection with the stables and with layers above it. Although body sherds cannot be linked to specific shapes, the rims and bases mainly belong to beer jars and funnel neck jars thus confirming that these containers were commonly used in relation with the glass production at Qantir.

Beside such vessels, several fragments of so-called “chamotte” crucibles could be identified, mainly belonging to fabric VIII.02.01 and coming from Squares e-f/27–28 and d-f/29–30.<sup>11</sup>

#### Stratum Bb

The material from Stratum Bb is abundant and varied, especially considering the presumable short

duration of this phase. The range of shapes represented is large and many of the forms identified here are already known from earlier (Ramesses II) levels in Area Q I, though some of them display clear morphological and/or technological differences which distinguish them from earlier types.

Prominent in Stratum Bb are plain dishes and bowls with a direct or slightly out-turned rim made of the I.E.01 fabric (Pl. 1:1; Pl. 1:2).<sup>12</sup> As in Area Q I, these may be left uncoated, are covered with a red slip (occasionally burnished) or bear a simple red-slipped band on the rim. Worthy of notice are several fragments of such dishes bearing pre-firing pot-marks of the same type as the mark found on a published bowl from the same stratum.<sup>13</sup> As noted by Aston, this mark already appears on a Nineteenth Dynasty dish from Area Q I, bearing witness to the continuity in potting traditions between these two chronological phases. Other open forms made of silt clays, such as carinated dishes (Pl. 1:3; Pl. 1:4; Pl. 1:5) and bowls or dishes with ledges below the rim,<sup>14</sup> are also regularly found in Stratum Bb, but they are by far outnumbered by those with direct or out-turned rim.

Other common Nile silt shapes encountered here and which are also present in the earlier Q I assemblages are silt clay bottles with a ridge at the base of the neck, dishes with flat bases (Pl. 1:6),<sup>15</sup> drop-shaped jars (Pl. 1:7; Pl. 1:8),<sup>16</sup> neckless slender storage jars and various types of ovoid neckless storage jars.

The bottles with a ridge at the base of the neck (Pl. 2:1) appear in the Ramesside period (Ramesses II) and continue well into the Twentieth and even Twenty-First Dynasty.<sup>17</sup> This holds

<sup>10</sup> The cessation of Mycenaean imports to the east Mediterranean was probably a gradual phenomenon and it is usually situated around 1200 BC, together with the end of Late Helladic IIIB 2. However, identification of Late Helladic IIIC pottery in the last level of Ugarit suggests that imports from the Aegean still reached the Levant in the early years of the 12<sup>th</sup> century BC (e.g. MONTCHAMBERT 2004), though nothing nearly as late as that has ever been found in Egypt.

<sup>11</sup> For a discussion of crucibles from Q IV at Qantir, see e.g. PUSCH 1999b, 119; PUSCH & REHREN 2007, 35–40.

<sup>12</sup> For comparable shapes in Q I, see e.g. ASTON 1998, 166–167, 238–239, 246–247, nos. 448–451, 753, 782. For other plain open shapes from Q IV, Stratum Bb, see ASTON & PUSCH 1999, 41, 47, nos. 18–28, 50–54, 60–61.

<sup>13</sup> ASTON & PUSCH 1999, 50, no. 61. The new finds mentioned here are awaiting drawing and will be published

in a more comprehensive report. The mark type belongs to DITZE’s group C05 (DITZE 2007, 308–401).

<sup>14</sup> See for example ASTON 1998, 158–159, nos. 385–391; ASTON & PUSCH 1999, 48, 31.

<sup>15</sup> For parallels from the tomb of Ramesses III, see ASTON, ASTON & BROCK 1998, 148, nos. 45–47, pl. 5.

<sup>16</sup> Shapes such as that on Pl. 1:8 are in fact more typical of the Nineteenth (or even Eighteenth) Dynasty than the late Ramesside period (ASTON 1998, 344).

<sup>17</sup> ASTON & PUSCH 1999, 42–43 (with references); ASTON 2008, 276–277, pl. 105:2117. These vessels are extremely frequent at Qantir in the Ramesside period, mainly in the local I.E.01 fabric (ASTON 1998, 302–305). At Thebes, they occur in the temple of Merneptah (e.g. ASTON 2008, 118–120, nos. 569–570) and at Elephantine, they are attested as late as the “Libyan period” (ASTON 1999, 82–83, pl. 21:611).

true for the south of the country but, for the time being, such forms are rarer in Stratum Ba at Qantir, suggesting that, by that time they were already on the wane, at least in the Nile Delta. This impression is further reinforced by the evidence from Tanis where this shape is absent from the site's pottery repertoire, even in the earliest of its occupation levels.

The neckless slender storage jars (Pl. 2:2; Pl. 2:3) are found in very great quantities in Area Q IV in later Nineteenth and Twentieth Dynasty contexts and several examples are illustrated here. Like in Q I, they tend to be covered with a red slip.<sup>18</sup> They bear sometimes traces of burnishing and are occasionally decorated with blue-painted linear motifs, sometimes also with added black and/or red paint. It seems that these jars descend from late Eighteenth Dynasty prototypes, such as those found at Amarna or Deir el-Medineh.<sup>19</sup> These early examples, however, differ from the Qantir vessels by their longer, slightly out-turned or modelled rim, as opposed to the short, rounded "button" rim or band rim of the Ramesside types.<sup>20</sup>

Large ovoid jars with thickened rim are widespread in Stratum Bb. They can be separated into two groups. The first consists in the handleless "meat jar" type which still belongs to a Nineteenth Dynasty tradition.<sup>21</sup> These are usually (though not always) made of marl fabrics (Pl. 2:4),<sup>22</sup> and are distinguished by their rounded, slightly internally thickened rim. The jars of the second group (Pl. 2:5; Pl. 2:6), on the other hand, are generally made of fine hard silt or mixed clay fabrics. Their shape is similar to that of the meat jars and they probably fulfilled a similar function, but they are endowed with a pair of sturdy handles on the upper body.<sup>23</sup> They are most typical of the Twentieth Dynasty in the eastern Delta and can be con-

sidered as the typological successor of the meat jars. They continue well into the first phase of the Third Intermediate Period, not only at Qantir, but also at Tanis (LAEMMEL, *forthcoming* Section III.1.1.1) and, gradually replace the older handleless type which, nevertheless, is believed to survive well into the Twenty-First Dynasty.<sup>24</sup>

Interestingly, the morphological change manifest in the neckless storage jars production during the Twentieth Dynasty is echoed by a simultaneous shift in the dominant fabric groups used for such vessels. While the earlier New Kingdom meat jars were typically made of marl fabrics (generally Marl D of the Vienna System), the neckless handled storage jars of the Twentieth and Twenty-First Dynasties rather tend to be produced in mixed or fine silt fabrics. This is particularly well illustrated at Qantir where the meat jars of the Ramesside levels of Q I are predominantly made of the marl fabric II.D.02 while those found in the Twentieth Dynasty stratum of Q IV are made of the mixed fabric III.B. The latter is a fine and hard silt fabric, equivalent to the I.B.03 group at Qantir (Nile B3 in the Vienna System), but covered with a good-quality light pinkish-cream or white marl slip.<sup>25</sup> It was first defined as a mixed fabric at Memphis by J. Bourriau where it was called G6a.<sup>26</sup> This ware is often assumed to originate from the Memphite area, because of its resemblance to Marl D, but its extreme frequency and considerable longevity in the eastern Delta makes it possible to suggest that it was also produced there. Such an origin is also supported by the fact that it appears to overlap with the cream- or pink-slipped fabric "A4" at Tanis which is classified as a fine silt fabric. While the Tanitic fabric A4 is most typically attested in the earliest levels of occupation at the site, it lasts, with little alteration, until the end of the Third Intermediate Period.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>18</sup> ASTON 1998, 310–311, nos. 999–1012.

<sup>19</sup> For Eighteenth Dynasty types at Amarna, see, for example, ROSE 2007, 89, SG 1.1–SG 1.2 (344–346, 348–350) and Deir el-Medineh (NAGEL 1938, 79, no. 4, fig. 62).

<sup>20</sup> For well-dated late Ramesside examples of the shape, see at Thebes (ASTON 1996a, 19, fig. 8b:a; ASTON, ASTON & BROCK 1998, 162–163, no. 373, pl. 43) (Ramesses VII) and at Elephantine (ASTON 1999, 42–45, pl. 9:198) (Ramesses XI).

<sup>21</sup> They are common in the Ramesside level of Area Q I at Qantir (*e.g.* ASTON 1998, 478–487, nos. 1799–1910). For a better preserved example from Stratum Bb in Area Q IV, see ASTON & PUSCH 1999, 50, no. 72.

<sup>22</sup> Although it can be securely stated that the vast majority of meat jars were made of marl fabrics, there is evidence for a siltware and mixed clay fabric production of the shape, at Qantir itself, as well as at Thebes in the New Kingdom, where these vessels are interpreted as imports from the eastern Delta (BAYAV 2004, 212–214, fig. 16:27).

<sup>23</sup> See also ASTON & PUSCH, 1999, 49, 50, nos. 59, 70.

<sup>24</sup> ASTON & ASTON, 2001, 55.

<sup>25</sup> ASTON 1998, 68.

<sup>26</sup> BOURRIAU, SMITH & NICHOLSON 2000, 19–20.

<sup>27</sup> BAYAV 1998, 318; DEFERNEZ & ISNARD 2000, 156–157.

This technological change is also noticeable in the production of other, sometimes new, types of vessels at that time. Prominent among these are neckless, ovoid jars with short straight rim (Pl. 3:1; Pl. 3:2),<sup>28</sup> bulged neck storage jars (Pl. 3:3), amphorae and large dishes with internal rim (Pl. 3:4; Pl. 3:5; Pl. 3:6). Though occasionally still occurring in marl fabrics, these types – which all continue well into the Twenty-First Dynasty (see below Stratum Ba) – are increasingly made of the mixed clay fabric III.B and of the related Nile I.B.03 fabric. Moreover, this tendency is accompanied by a proportional increase and diversification of the Nile silt fabrics for the usual household wares. This is epitomized by examples of neckless and bulging neck storage jars made of the traditional I.E.01 fabric. (Pl. 3:7; Pl. 3:8) and, especially, by the globular jars (Pl. 4:1; Pl. 4:2; Pl. 4:3; Pl. 4:4), which appear in the I.B.02, I.B.03 or I.E.01 fabrics. Although not yet as numerous as in the Third Intermediate Period, globular jars are already frequently found in Stratum Bb. They differ in shape from the later variants by a shorter, often more everted neck, but the frequent soot marks on their rims and/or bodies suggest that, like the latter, they were used as cooking pots. Also well represented in this stratum is a type of small-sized globular jar (Pl. 4:5) heralding shapes encountered in the Third Intermediate Period (see below, Stratum Ba).

Egyptian amphorae made of various marl fabrics and imported Levantine storage jars are frequent in Stratum Bb. Several diagnostic sherds of the latter refer to new, as yet undefined fabric types and will be discussed in a future report. Among Egyptian amphorae, those made in the local “Delta” fabrics II.F.02 and II.F.03 are the

most commonly found in Stratum Bb.<sup>29</sup> Marl D (II.D.01 and II.D.02) and, to a lesser extent, Marl A (II.A.02 and II.A.04) fabrics are, however, well attested for these shapes. The majority of the Marl D specimens in Stratum Bb, such as those illustrated here (Pl. 4:6; Pl. 4:7; Pl. 4:9), belong to the large amphora type which is characteristic of the Twentieth Dynasty.<sup>30</sup> Several instances of amphorae made of oases fabrics have also been identified (Pl. 4:8). These come to complement the still meagre corpus of Twentieth Dynasty oases amphorae, examples of which are known notably from the Theban tombs of Ramesses IV and Ramesses VI as well as from stratified levels at Elephantine.<sup>31</sup>

Besides large storage vessels and transport amphorae, marl fabrics in Stratum Bb, like in the Ramesside levels of Q I, also occur for smaller vessels, in particular for mugs with high neck and carinated body (Pl. 4:10)<sup>32</sup> and diverse types of bowls and dishes (Pl. 5:1; Pl. 5:2).

In fact, one of the major differences between the Ramesses II levels from Q I and the transitional late Nineteenth–early Twentieth Dynasty stratum from Q IV is the lesser number of both beer jars and funnel neck jars, though some have been incorporated into the present report (Pl. 5:3; Pl. 5:4; Pl. 5:5, from Stratum Bb, Pl. 6:5, from Stratum Ba).<sup>33</sup> This decrease seems to further intensify later in the Twenty-First Dynasty and funnel neck jars, in particular, become much rarer in Stratum Ba. However, at least as far as Stratum Bb is concerned, it would be premature to interpret this change in terms of chronology only, as it could as well reflect the different functions of the areas excavated. Blue-painted pottery, on the other hand, is still found in significant quantities in Stra-

<sup>28</sup> The shape is also attested in Nile E at Thebes in contexts attributed to the Ramesside period (BAVAY 2004, 212–214, fig. 16.28).

<sup>29</sup> For a description of these fabrics and a discussion of their possible origin, see ASTON 1998, 67. Also ASTON 2004b, 195–197.

<sup>30</sup> ASTON 2004b, 193.

<sup>31</sup> For oases amphorae in the New Kingdom, see HOPE, ECCLESTON, ROSE & BOURRIAU 2002; ASTON 2004b, 203. For late New Kingdom specimens at Thebes, see ASTON, ASTON & BROCK 1998, 158, 160, 165, nos. 274, 316–319, pls. 33, 37; and at Elephantine, see ASTON 1999, 59–60, pl. 13:386.

<sup>32</sup> For other such vessels at Qantir in a late Nineteenth-

early Twentieth Dynasty context (Area Q IV), see ASTON & PUSCH 1999, 44–45, no. 45. The shape should, however, not be considered typical of this period, as it is found in the Ramesside levels of Q I (ASTON 1998, 462, nos. 1686–1690) and before that, already in the late Eighteenth Dynasty at Amarna, typically in Marl D, but also in silt fabrics (ROSE 2007, 85, 123–124, SF 6.1a (333), MD 1.1–MD 1.3 (558–562), MD 2.1 (563); PEET & WOOLLEY 1923, 139, pl. LI, Type XLII).

<sup>33</sup> It should be noted, however, that funnel neck jars are not always easily identifiable on the basis of very small rim sherds. This is especially true of the funnel neck jars with plain direct rims (for example, ASTON 1998, 292–293, nos. 925–941).

tum Bb, showing that this fashion was still well alive in the Twentieth Dynasty at Qantir.

Finally, Stratum Bb has yielded examples of rarer shapes, such as silt clay “fish vessels” (Pl. 5:6), pinched-beak lamps (Pl. 5:8), and pilgrim flasks (here, an unusual large example made of fabric I.C – Pl. 5:7), spinning bowls (Pl. 5:9), deep bowls with grooved rims (Pl. 5:10; Pl. 6:1) and one footed chalice (Pl. 6:2).

The “fish vessels” are so far not known from sites other than Qantir, and there from Area Q IV only.<sup>34</sup> As it has not been found in either earlier or later levels, whether at Qantir or elsewhere, the type may be considered as a good indicator for a late Nineteenth–early Twentieth Dynasty date. Of course, the optimistic-sounding note of such a statement is tempered by the seemingly limited geographical distribution of this type and by its rarity.

Altogether less than a dozen lamps with pinched beaks have been identified with certainty among the material from Q IV studied during the past two seasons at Qantir, all made of the local I.E.01 silt fabric. Such finds are rare at Egyptian sites and only a few examples are known so far, although it should be kept in mind that where the diagnostic pinched beak is not preserved, body sherds, bases and small rim fragments can be easily interpreted as small dishes.<sup>35</sup> Only Tell el-Dab<sup>c</sup>a has produced significant quantities of locally-made pinched beak lamps in the late Middle Kingdom (usually with a ring-base) and the Hyksos strata.<sup>36</sup> Admittedly, the late Middle Kingdom and Hyksos periods at Tell el-Dab<sup>c</sup>a should

be considered as a special case within Egyptian archaeology and there is certainly no doubt as to the ultimate Palestinian origin of this shape.

This raises the obvious question: how did the shape come to be imitated locally if no imported examples are actually known? It is of course conceivable that those existed but have since disappeared from the archaeological record. Another possibility is that the Egyptian clay versions were actually based on luxury items made of metal, such as the lamps which have been recovered from Cypriote and Levantine sites.<sup>37</sup> This is also made more plausible by the fact that the lamps from Qantir, although coming from contexts clearly contemporary with the Late Bronze IIB to Iron IA in the Levant, do not correspond typologically to the Levantine pottery lamps with neatly out-turned rim and strongly pinched beak of that time. Rather, they all belong to the shallow, direct rim type of the Middle Bronze II and Late Bronze I periods which continued to be the form of the metal versions of the shape throughout the Late Bronze Age.<sup>38</sup>

Spinning bowls also find their morphological equivalents in the Levant in both Late Bronze II and Iron I periods, though in this case, the shape rather appears to be Egyptian in origin.<sup>39</sup> Indeed, they are known already in late Eighteenth Dynasty contexts at Amarna in both silt and marl fabrics<sup>40</sup> and they continue throughout the New Kingdom and beyond, in the Third Intermediate Period.<sup>41</sup> They are relatively well represented in Area Q IV at Qantir, much better than in any of the other excavated areas of the site.<sup>42</sup> All the examples

<sup>34</sup> ASTON & PUSCH 1999, 43, nos. 16–17.

<sup>35</sup> Until now, the shape was only represented by a single unstratified example at Qantir (ASTON & PUSCH 1999, 54, no.102). Others are known from Amarna in Eighteenth Dynasty domestic contexts (ROSE 2007, 71, SD 13.3 (240–241); PEET & WOLLEY 1923, 140, pl. LIV, type LXXXIII; FRANKFORT & PENDLEBURY 1933, 113, pl. LIV, type XXII.6), in New Kingdom Memphite officials’ tombs (ASTON 1991, 49, pl. 47:1; ASTON & ASTON 2001, 59, pl. 41:55), at Tell el-Yahudiyeh in association with Twentieth Dynasty material (GRIFFITH 1890, 46, pl. XV.3) and at Aniba, in Nubia, dated from the time of Tuthmosis III to the late Nineteenth to Twentieth Dynasties (STEINDORFF 1937, 130, pl. 77:24).

<sup>36</sup> ASTON 2004a, 242–243, pls. 176, 293, nos. 643–645, 1083. One single imported example has been published from Tell el-Dab<sup>c</sup>a, coming from a Late Middle Kingdom context (ASTON 2004a, 165–166, pl. 176, no. 642).

<sup>37</sup> In the Levant, bronze lamps are known from Syria, Palestine and Jordan (ARTZY 1995, 26, fig. 2.13; PRITCHARD 1980, fig. 4:19; STRANGE 1997, 402; STRANGE 2001, 300, fig. 8.3) and lead examples from Enkomi Level IIIA, dated c. 1200/1190–1150 BC (DIKAIOS 1969–1971, 686, 689, pl. 163:64–65).

<sup>38</sup> For the typological development of the pottery lamp in the Levant, see AMIRAN 1969, 190, pl. 59.

<sup>39</sup> For spinning bowls, see ALLEN 1997. For Levantine examples, see *e.g.* DOTHAN & BEN-SHLOMO 2005, 117, fig. 3.34:1.

<sup>40</sup> ROSE 2007, 60–61, 73, 118–119, SD 6.1–6.2 (147–148), SD 6.4 (151), SE 3.2 (256), MC 4.2 (533–534); PEET & WOLLEY 1923, 137, pl. XLVIII, type XIII.

<sup>41</sup> ASTON 1996a, 61, fig. 191d, f.

<sup>42</sup> Only one spinning bowl from Qantir has been published, originating from Area Q II (ASTON 1998, 524–525, no. 2127).

from Q IV are made of either marl or mixed clay fabrics and are covered by a light coloured slip on the inside and the outside.

As expected, totally new shapes are rare in Stratum Bb, but mention can be made of a type of restricted bowl or ovoid jar in marl fabric (Pl. 6:3) and of an unusual pot-stand with straight sides (Pl. 6:4).

To conclude, many of the changes in the pottery production of the transitional phase of the late Nineteenth–early Twentieth Dynasties may be more subtle and, perhaps, not as dramatic as previously thought. In fact, they mainly consist in gradual morphological modifications of existing forms and in the fading out of some of the most typical shapes of the Nineteenth Dynasty, such as funnel neck jars with direct rims and beer jars. Unprecedented morphological types, proper to the Twentieth Dynasty and which are not represented in Area Q I, are hardly represented so far in the material from Q IV, and may be limited to the fish-vessel, the footed chalice or the bowls with in-turned rims. Thus, the degree of continuity of potting traditions between the two periods is not to be underestimated. It is particularly well illustrated by the survival of specific technological features, such as the permanence of the blue-painted pottery of the Nineteenth Dynasty and by the perpetuation of the unchanged dominance of the I.E.01 fabric group. On the other hand, the period also sees the emergence of certain features which are considered most typical of the subsequent phase, such as globular jars, silt fabric pilgrim flasks as well as two-handled ovoid storage jars. This is accompanied by the expanding popularity of the silt ware fabrics in general and of the fine silt fabric I.B.03 in particular. The proportion of mixed clay fabric III.B also increases considerably, so as to become one the dominant wares in Twenty-first Dynasty assemblages.

### Catalogue

- Plate 1:1 QIV-h/29.30, planum 1–2. **92/1528,57** (KeZn 08/452)  
Dish with direct rim; d. rim 23.5 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, uncoated.
- Plate 1:2 QIV-h/29.30, planum 1–2. **92/1533,12** (KeZn 08/456)  
Bowl with direct rim; d. rim 22.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, uncoated.
- Plate 1:3 QIV-h/27, planum 2–3. **92/1472,25** (KeZn 07/188)  
Carinated dish; d. rim 30.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, uncoated.
- Plate 1:4 QIV-h/29.30, planum 1–2. **93/0050,6** (KeZn 07/316)  
Carinated dish; d. rim 22.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, uncoated.
- Plate 1:5 QIV-h/29.30, planum 1–2. **93/0090,8** (KeZn 08/490)  
Carinated dish; d. rim 22.0–25.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, thin red slip in.
- Plate 1:6 QIV-h/27, planum 3–4. **93/0090,14** (KeZn 08/489)  
Dish with flat base, direct rim; d. rim 20.5 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, uncoated.
- Plate 1:7 QIV-i/27, planum 1–3. **92/1307,21** (KeZn 08/383)  
Drop-shaped neckless jar; d. rim 9.4 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, red slip out.
- Plate 1:8 QIV-h/27, planum 2–3. **92/1560,1** (KeZn 07/223)  
Drop-shaped neckless vase; d. rim 9.5 cm; d. max. 10.8 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, red slip out.
- Plate 2:1 QIV-h/29.30, planum 1–2. **93/0039,2** (KeZn 08/482)  
Bottle ridge at base of neck; d. rim 11.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, red slip out.
- Plate 2:2 QIV-O-Schnitt, planum 0–1. **93/0118,15** (KeZn 08/512)  
Neckless slender storage jar; d. rim 11.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, red slip out.
- Plate 2:3 QIV-i,j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1463,1** (KeZn 08/429)  
Neckless slender storage jar; d. rim 9.4 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, uncoated.
- Plate 2:4 QIV-O-Schnitt, planum 0–1. **93/0118,49** (KeZn 08/494)  
Meat jar; d. rim 22.0 cm; marl fabric II.D.02, white slip out, worn surface.
- Plate 2:5 QIV-i/27, planum 1–3. **92/1307,33** (KeZn 08/369)  
Neckless storage jar; d. rim 28.0–30.0 cm; mixed clay fabric III.B, orangy-pink slip out.
- Plate 2:6 QIV-h/27, planum 2–3. **92/1441,25** (KeZn 07/172)  
Handled storage jar; d. body max. 34.0 cm; mixed clay fabric III.B, pink-orangy slip, soot out.
- Plate 3:1 QIV-h/27, Planum 2–3. **92/1441,21** (KeZn 08/396)  
Neckless storage jar with straight rim; d. rim 22.5 cm; mixed clay fabric III.B, orangy slip out.
- Plate 3:2 QIV-h/27, planum 2–3. **92/1461,5** (KeZn 08/425)  
Neckless storage jar with straight rim; d. rim 22.0 cm; mixed clay fabric III.B, white-cream slip out.
- Plate 3:3 QIV-h/27, planum 2–3. **92/1373,35** (KeZn 08/412)  
Storage jar with wide bulging neck; d. rim 30.0 cm; mixed clay fabric III.B, orangy slip out.
- Plate 3:4 QIV-h/29.30, planum 1–2. **93/0035,4** (KeZn 08/474)  
Large dish with internal rim; d. rim 37.0 cm; mixed clay fabric III.B, pink-orangy slip in and out.

- Plate 3:5 QIV-h/27, planum 2–3. **92/1472,41** (KeZn 07/187)  
Dish with internal rim; d. rim 26.0 cm; Marl fabric II.D.01, cream-pink slip in and out.
- Plate 3:6 QIV-O-Schnitt, planum 1. **92/1407,5** (KeZn 07/297)  
Dish with internal rim; d. rim 23.0 cm; marl fabric II.D.01, pink slip in and out.
- Plate 3:7 QIV-h/27, planum 2–3. **92/1373,4** (KeZn 08/422)  
Ovoid neckless storage jar; d. rim 28.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, uncoated.
- Plate 3:8 QIV-h/29.30, planum 1–2. **92/1528,3** (KeZn 08/447)  
Storage jar with short bulging neck; d. rim 25.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, red slip out, very worn surface.
- Plate 4:1 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1307,5** (KeZn 08/371)  
Globular jar (cooking pot); d. rim 12.5 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, pink slip out, soot on external surface.
- Plate 4:2 QIV-h/29.30, planum 1–2. **92/1528,34** (KeZn 08/444)  
Globular jar (cooking pot); d. rim 8.5 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.02, thick pink slip out, soot on external surface.
- Plate 4:3 QIV-h.i/30, planum 0–1. **93/0030,5** (KeZn 08/470)  
Globular jar (cooking pot); d. rim 11.5 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.03, pinkish-beige slip out, soot on external surface.
- Plate 4:4 QIV-i.j/26, planum 3–4. **92/1464,1** (KeZn 07/320)  
Globular jar; d. rim 8.8 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.02, uncoated.
- Plate 4:5 QIV-h/27, planum 2–3. **92/1472,42** (KeZn 07/189)  
Small globular jar; d. rim 5.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.02, pink slip out.
- Plate 4:6 QIV-e/28, planum 0–1. **88/0217,1** (KeZn 07/246)  
Amphora; d. rim 13.0 cm; marl fabric II.D.01, white slip out.
- Plate 4:7 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1195,8** (KeZn 07/311)  
Amphora; d. rim 14.5 cm; marl fabric II.D.01, white slip out.
- Plate 4:8 QIV-h/27, planum 2–3. **92/1373,47** (KeZn 08/419)  
Amphora; d. rim 9.0 cm; Oases fabric V.02, grey-black slip out.
- Plate 4:9 QIV-h/29.30, Planum 1–2. **92/1489,1** (KeZn 07/306)  
Amphora; d. rim 16.5 cm; marl fabric II.D.01, white slip out.
- Plate 4:10 QIV-h.i/30, planum 0–1. **93/0030,412** (KeZn 08/473)  
Mug; d. neck 7.8 cm; marl fabric II.D.01, white slip out.
- Plate 5:1 QIV-h/29.30, planum 1–2. **93/0039,4** (KeZn 08/484)  
Dish with internally rolled rim; d. rim 28.0–32.0 cm; marl fabric II.F.02, thick matte white slip in and out.
- Plate 5:2 QIV-O-Schnitt, planum 0–1. **93/0118,57** (KeZn 08/507)  
Dish with direct rim; d. rim 22.0 cm; marl fabric II.A.02, red slip in and out.
- Plate 5:3 QIV-O-Schnitt, planum 0–1. **93/0118,37** (KeZn 08/495)  
Beer jar with carinated shoulder; d. rim 9.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, uncoated.
- Plate 5:4 QIV-h/29.30, planum 1–2. **93/0050,1** (KeZn 07/314)  
Funnel neck jar; d. rim 14.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, cream slip, blue paint on upper part of neck and thin black-painted line below the rim.
- Plate 5:5 QIV-h/29.30, planum 1–2. **93/0050,2** (KeZn 07/318)  
Funnel neck jar; d. rim 12.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, red slip out, blue painted wide band below rim.
- Plate 5:6 QIV-O-Schnitt, planum 0–1. **93/0118,294** (KeZn 08/499).  
Fish vessel; h. max. 3.8 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01 cream slip, blue paint out.
- Plate 5:7 QIV-h/27, planum 2–3. **92/1441,20** (KeZn 08/392)  
Pilgrim flask; d. neck 6.5 cm; Nile silt fabric I.C, cream slip out.
- Plate 5:8 QIV-e/29, planum 1–2. **88/0655,1** (KeZn 07/225)  
Lamp; l. 13.8 cm; h. 4.2 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, uncoated, soot on rim.
- Plate 5:9 QIV-h/29.30, planum 1–2. **92/1528,41** (KeZn 08/345)  
Spinning bowl; d. base 9.0 cm; marl fabric II.D.01, yellowish slip in and out.
- Plate 5:10 QIV-h/27, planum 2–3. **92/1373,31** (KeZn 08/413)  
Dish or bowl with triangular modelled rim; d. rim 23.0–25.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, uncoated.
- Plate 6:1 QIV-h/27, planum 2–3. **92/1373,2** (KeZn 08/414)  
Dish or bowl with triangular modelled rim; d. rim 16.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.02, uncoated.
- Plate 6:2 QIV-i/27, planum 1–3. **92/1307,31** (KeZn 08/380)  
Chalice; d. foot 1.6 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, pink-orangy slip in and out, blue paint out.
- Plate 6:3 QIV-h/29.30, planum 1–2. **93/0035,5** (KeZn 08/478)  
Bowl/jar with in-turned rim; d. body 36.0 cm; marl fabric II.D.01, pink-orangy slip out, worn surface.
- Plate 6:4 QIV-O-Schnitt, planum 0–1. **93/0118,39** (KeZn 08/497)  
Stand; d. base 30.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, uncoated.



### Strata Ba–Ac

The following Stratum (Ba) which bears witness to a domestic reoccupation of the stables is best detectable in the western part of the excavated area, where the end of Stratum Ba is neatly marked by a burnt layer. The strata above that, however, are much more elusive due to the effects of natural erosion and later human activity. The cemetery phase of the Twenty-First and Twenty-Second Dynasties, in particular, is most blurred as it is only represented by three graves, namely the above mentioned four-chamber tomb, a child's burial in an amphora, both in Squares e–f/29 and a woman's burial in a pottery coffin in Squares h.i/28.<sup>43</sup>

Part of the pottery discussed in the present section comes from the central part of the excavated area, but the majority comes from its western fringe (Squares i.j/26). Part of the latter assemblages, namely those from the western half of the squares, are best dated to the Twenty-First or even the early Twenty-Second Dynasties. They were found out of context, in association with a disturbance created by a pond-like feature dated provisionally to a post Third Intermediate Period or Persian period phase.<sup>44</sup> It is difficult to determine at present whether this material originally corresponded to a settlement phase or to a series of tombs which would have once occupied the area. Though no definite answer to this question can be given here, both the quantities and nature of this pottery rather tend to validate the first of these two options. The preliminary solution adopted here is to consider together both the material from the extreme western edge of the excavation area and that lying directly above the abandonment layer of the stables. This can be justified by the fact that the two groups do correspond to a large extent to each other, both in terms of chronology and of function. While it is hoped that further work on the stratigraphical sequence of Area Q IV will help clarifying the situation, there is no doubt that the pottery belonging to these later phases in Area Q IV is of special significance for Qantir

because, until now, very little material of this date has been documented at the site and even less has been published.

As will be shown below, the majority of the vessel types discussed here are already known from Twenty and Twenty-first Dynasty contexts as well as from slightly later Third Intermediate Period levels in the eastern Delta. Many of the most typical shapes (globular jars, dishes with out-turned rims or carinated bowls) also possess antecedents in the late Nineteenth or early Twentieth Dynasty repertoire, but specific morphological and technological changes set this material aside from earlier assemblages at the site.

With regard to technology, three important observations ought to be made here. First, vessels which in the Nineteenth Dynasty were made of Marl D fabrics, such as ovoid storage jars and amphorae, are increasingly produced in the mixed clay fabric III.B. This feature was already noticeable in Stratum Bb but it intensifies in Stratum Ba and by the end of the phase, Marl D vessels have been virtually wholly supplanted by the new ware. Second, the traditional I.E.01 silt fabric of the earlier Ramesside period gradually declines to be replaced either by a fine version of I.B.02, or by a fine-sanded, well-fired version of the I.E.01 fabric which has been temporarily termed I.E.01 *late*. Finally, in a more general manner, the dominance of local Nile silts on both Upper Egyptian and Memphite area marls becomes increasingly marked during this phase, implying a change in local pottery manufacture and procurement.

As far as shapes are concerned, the ubiquitous globular jars (Pl. 6:6; Pl. 6:7; Pl. 6:8; Pl. 6:9), perhaps more clearly than any other type, emerge as one of the hallmarks of this phase and are found in a variety of silt fabrics (I.B.02, I.B.03, I.E.01 *late*) and in the mixed clay fabric III.B. The majority of them seem to have been used as cooking pots as they bear soot marks on their bodies and rims. The frequency of this shape is paralleled in a great number of contemporary contexts elsewhere in the region, including in domestic areas, at sites such as Tanis or Tell Balamun.<sup>45</sup> As in the

<sup>43</sup> MOJE 1999, 57–61; for the child's burial, see ASTON 1998, 694–695.

<sup>44</sup> See most recently, PUSCH & REHREN 2007, 31–33.

<sup>45</sup> For Tanis, see BRISAUD 1987, 77, figs. 20:259, 21:268, 274; BAVAY 1998, 321, fig. 33:18; and for Tell Balamun, see SPENCER 1999, 48, 68, pls. 55a:6–8, 73:9, 11–14.

previous Stratum Bb, these jars also occur in smaller versions (Pl. 6:10).<sup>46</sup> The ovoid storage jars with thickened or short straight rim (Pl. 7:1; Pl. 7:2; Pl. 7:3; Pl. 7:4; Pl. 7:5; Pl. 7:6; Pl. 7:7), the amphorae (Pl. 8:1; Pl. 8:2) and the large dishes with internal rim of the type discussed above follow the same trend and are, as a rule, made of silt or mixed clay fabrics with marl examples becoming exceptional.<sup>47</sup>

Besides the ovoid neckless jar, other types of storage vessels make their appearance in Stratum Ba. These have no clear antecedents in the traditional Nineteenth Dynasty repertoire, and are confined to late New Kingdom and early Third Intermediate Period contexts. As is often the case when dealing with settlement material, especially with regards to large-size containers, many of them are only incompletely preserved and their body shape cannot be securely reconstructed. Nevertheless, two main morphological groups can be distinguished. The first consists in wide mouth jars with nearly straight rims, made of the hard Nile silt fabric I.B.03 or the mixed clay fabric III.B (Pl. 8:3; Pl. 8:4; Pl. 8:5; Pl. 8:6). Without larger, better preserved fragments, it is impossible to determine whether these jars were of the necked type or not, but similar wide mouthed vessels do occur in the late Twentieth or very early Twenty-First Dynasty at Tanis.<sup>48</sup> The second, which is still more frequent, is made up by a series of rims which could either belong to slightly bulging or sloping neck storage jars (Pl. 8:7; Pl. 8:8; Pl. 9:1). They are made in usually hard fired Nile silt fabrics (I.B.03 or I.E.01) or in mixed clay fabrics. The silt examples are either left uncoated or covered with a slip solution varying from white-cream to orange. The method of application of the slip which was smeared in thin layers over the surface

in wide horizontal or diagonal brushing movements is characteristic of the shape and of the period. Like the other storage jars of this phase, these find parallels at sites such as Tanis and Mendes, in the late New Kingdom and Third Intermediate Period, respectively.<sup>49</sup>

Other storage vessels found in Stratum Ba at Qantir and which can be mentioned here are neckless jars with button rim – possibly deriving from the neckless slender storage jars of the Ramesside period (Pl. 9:2) – various types of short neck jars (Pl. 9:3) and wide-bodied, relatively squat jars, one of which still has a pair of handles at mid-body height (Pl. 9:5). This vessel was found together with the body of a large ovoid storage jar which like the former is made of the hard version of the I.E.01 fabric (Pl. 9:4).

Bowls or dishes with out-turned or rolled rim (Pl. 9:6; Pl. 9:7; Pl. 10:1) are another typical feature of this phase.<sup>50</sup> Taken in isolation, without their associated assemblages, these vessels are not always easily distinguishable from their earlier prototypes of the Ramesside period.<sup>51</sup> However, a range of specific differences can help telling them apart. The first is technological as their fabric tends to be somewhat harder and tempered with finer sand-grains than the typical Ramesside I.E.01, thus corresponding to the later version of the ware. The second is morphological (but also less reliable than the first) as these vessels often assume a deeper shape and a more strongly out-turned rim than those from the New Kingdom.<sup>52</sup> Moreover, the tradition of adding a band of red slip on the rim, though still occasionally attested (Pl. 10:2), is already on the wane in Stratum Ba. The same holds true for the use of a good quality red slip on the inside and/or outside of the vessels.

<sup>46</sup> Small-sized globular jars, similar to the one illustrated here, are notably attested in Tombs 8 and 13 at Tell el-Retabeh which dates to the Twenty-First Dynasty at the earliest (PETRIE 1906, 33, pl. XXXVc:8,13; ASTON 1996a, 27–28; ASTON 2007, 42).

<sup>47</sup> Again, good comparative material for these shapes is found in late New Kingdom and early Third Intermediate Period contexts at Tanis and Tell Balamun (BAVAY 1998, 319–329, figs. 32:3 (dish), 34:42–43 (amphorae), 35:57 (storage jar); SPENCER 1999, 67–68, pls. 71a:1 (dish); 74:3–5 (storage jar)), as well as at Memphis, in 11<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> century contexts (ASTON 2007, 33, fig. 28:151–152 (storage jars)).

<sup>48</sup> BAVAY 1998, 323, fig. 35:50.

<sup>49</sup> At Tanis, see BAVAY 1998, 328–329, fig. 35:53, 58; and Mendes, see HUMMEL & SCHUBERT 2004, 157, pl. L:16–18.

<sup>50</sup> At Tanis, for example, these bowls are found in great quantities in late New Kingdom–early Third Intermediate Period contexts (BAVAY 1998, 318–329, figs. 32:1, 33:32, 34:38–39).

<sup>51</sup> ASTON 1998, 238–242, nos. 755–767.

<sup>52</sup> For such an example at Qantir, also from Q IV, see ASTON 1998, 564–565, no. 2307.

Among the open shapes of this phase, mention should also be made of several types of carinated bowls or dishes. These are already known by the late Nineteenth Dynasty but they are not all that common in Stratum Bb. In the later part of the Twentieth and in the Twenty-First Dynasty, on the other hand, they appear in several variants, either with a more or less everted rim (Pl. 10:3; Pl. 10:4; Pl. 10:5) or with a high carination which sometimes even turns into a simple groove below the rim (Pl. 10:6; Pl. 10:7).<sup>53</sup> One of the carinated bowls from Stratum Ba departs strongly from the other vessels discussed here. It is made of a well-fired fine-sanded Nile silt fabric and it is decorated with narrowly spaced wide bands of black paint on the exterior and interior surface interspaced on the interior by a thin line of red paint (Pl. 10:8). This is interesting because it is evocative of the painted bowls of the Early Iron Age Syro-Palestinian area,<sup>54</sup> though the much redder uncoated fabric of the Qantir example makes it look quite different. No complete profile of small and medium-sized carinated bowls has yet been recovered from Stratum Ba. However, larger examples of the shape – also pointing to a late Twentieth–early Twenty-First Dynasty date – suggest that they may have had a ring rather than a rounded base (Pl. 10:9).<sup>55</sup> Interestingly, neither Stratum Ba, nor Stratum Bb at Qantir have yielded examples of the typical carinated decorated bowls found, among others, in the tomb of Ramesses IV at Thebes, among the settlement material from Elephantine and at Abydos.<sup>56</sup> These are certainly typical of the Twentieth Dynasty, but their absence from the Qantir corpus suggests that they were really a southern product.

Besides the vessels discussed in some details above, Stratum Ba has also yielded a series of

shapes, made of Nile silt fabrics, which in many ways are more characteristic of the Twenty-First than the Twentieth Dynasty and herald the later Third Intermediate Period. Among these, are several domestic, often coarse ware types, such as “pigeon pots” (Pl. 11:1) and bread plates (Pl. 11:2).<sup>57</sup> Finer wares of this group consist in bowls and dishes with incurved rims (Pl. 11:3; Pl. 11:4; Pl. 11:5), conical bowls (Pl. 11:6), drop-shaped jars with black painted bands (Pl. 11:7)<sup>58</sup> and rounded base jars with bulbous neck (Pl. 11:8).<sup>59</sup>

To this list should be added high footed chalices with solid feet, fragmentary pieces of which could be identified in Stratum Ba (Pl. 11:9). Although they are usually dated to the final phase of the Third Intermediate Period and not to the Twenty-First Dynasty,<sup>60</sup> their occurrence before that time can be corroborated by the evidence from nearby Tanis, where similar shapes have also been recovered from early Twenty-Second and, possibly, still Twenty-First Dynasty contexts (LAEMMEL *forthcoming*, Section III.1.8.3). Although chalices have been lacking from stratified archaeological contexts, their occurrence prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC does not come as a surprise when considering the fact that the form was commonly produced in faience in the Twenty-Second Dynasty (though especially at the site of Tuna el-Gebel) and, before that, in the New Kingdom already.<sup>61</sup> Finally, in the same vein, a chalice covered by a thick white slip and decorated with linear red and black painted motifs was found in Square i.j/26 (Pl. 11:10). As noted above, the stratigraphy of this area is complex and seemingly perturbed. Thus, although the chalice comes from a deep level, it is associated with material which cannot be dated earlier than the Twenty-First Dynasty. The type of decoration attested on this fragment,

<sup>53</sup> These are mostly known from early Third Intermediate Period levels (for example, BRISAUD 1987, fig. 16:205).

<sup>54</sup> For example, FINKELSTEIN, ZIMHONI & KAFRI 2000, 252, fig. 11.2:3; MAZAR 1985, figs. 12:2, 5; 18:11, 19.

<sup>55</sup> For a parallel at Tanis, see BAVAY 1998, 319–320, fig. 32:4.

<sup>56</sup> ASTON, ASTON & BROCK 1998, 153–155, nos 165–194, pls. 17–21; ASTON 1999, 34–36, pl. 6:137–143; BUDKA 2006, 108–109, figs. 1–3.

<sup>57</sup> ASTON 1998, 550–551, 564–565, 570–571, nos. 2242, 2314, 2340–2341.

<sup>58</sup> This sherd finds parallels in the Twenty-First and Twenty-Second Dynasty at Memphis (ANTHES 1965, 146, pl. 60:442; ASTON 2007, 53, fig. 47:552–553).

<sup>59</sup> For a good parallel from the Twentieth or, possibly, early Twenty-First Dynasty at Tanis, see BRISAUD 1987, 77, fig. 19:252. See also at Memphis in the 11<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> centuries BC: ASTON 2007, 53, pl. 47:547.

<sup>60</sup> Aston, in his book on Third Intermediate Period pottery, situates chalices in his third (southern) chronological phase (ASTON 1996a, 74, Group 14, fig. 218e). However, since this book was written, evidence has come from northern sites suggesting that the shape was also frequent there (e.g. DEFERNEZ & ISNARD 2000, 82, Group 34AB, pl. XIX).

<sup>61</sup> VON BISSING 1902, 22, 28, 30–33, nos. 3678, 3692, 3698, 3703–3707; GIDDY 1999, 268, no. 55, pl. 58.

especially in combination with the chalice shape, had not yet been documented at Qantir where it is certainly very rare. One option would be to consider this piece as an heirloom from the Eighteenth Dynasty as Bichrome red and black decoration is well-known during the early part of that period.<sup>62</sup> This possibility can find support in the fact that Second Intermediate Period fragments, mainly consisting in cooking pot rims and sherds of Tell el-Yahudiyeh ware, regularly turn up in the pottery assemblages from Q IV.<sup>63</sup> However, three arguments can be put forward against such a view. The first is that the typical Thutmoside Bichrome style predominantly occurs on desert marl fabrics and more rarely on Nile silts.<sup>64</sup> The second is that it seems to be confined to larger or closed vessels, as it is most commonly attested on large drop-shaped jars.<sup>65</sup> Finally, the third is that Egyptian Bichrome is not frequent in the eastern Delta, whether at Tell el-Dab'a or Qantir. In fact, this sherd is strongly evocative of a fragment from Tanis (probably also a chalice) found in an early Third Intermediate Period context.<sup>66</sup> This latter piece has itself been tentatively linked to a specific decorative style recently identified at Mendes in a landfill situated west of the temenos wall of Nectanebo in the Royal Necropolis.<sup>67</sup> This style makes use of a range of principally red and black, and also sometimes blue painted motifs, often including checkerboard patterns, applied post-firing, over a thick cream or pink slip. Except for the fact that the decoration was applied after firing, the ware from Mendes corresponds quite well to both the Qantir and the Tanis specimens. The date of the Mendes landfill itself, which is made up of New Kingdom and Third Intermediate Period material, also fits with the suggested dates of both the Qantir and the Tanis fragments.

Finally, Stratum Ba suggests that imports from the Levantine coastland continue virtually

unabated from the earlier late Nineteenth–early Twentieth Dynasty levels. As in this earlier phase, the latter are made up of two major groups: storage or transport jars (Canaanite jars) and pilgrim flasks. Canaanite jars are often represented by their heavy bases and handles which tend to better survive the test of time than rims and body sherds. Many of the jar bottoms in Stratum Ba are of the stump base type (Pl. 12:2; Pl. 12:3). Such bases belong to the Late Bronze IIB Palestinian tradition but they continue into the earlier Iron Age I and disappear in the 11<sup>th</sup> century BC at the very latest.<sup>68</sup> Two of the bases illustrated here are narrower and relate probably to slightly older types (Pl. 12:1; Pl. 12:4).<sup>69</sup> Rim types show a certain degree of variation, from direct, straight or slightly out-turned rims (Pl. 12:5; Pl. 12:6) to band rims (not illustrated). These can also be paralleled by Iron IA specimens in the Levant.<sup>70</sup> Among the fabrics used for their manufacture, several correspond closely to groups which are known from the previous period, though a few new fabric groups have been identified and are in course of study. Other Levantine imports are small sized pilgrim flasks, whose fabrics sometimes corresponds to that of the Canaanite jars. One of the examples illustrated here compares well with a flask from Early Iron Age Jordan (Pl. 12:7; Pl. 12:8).<sup>71</sup>

As many find morphological parallels in 12<sup>th</sup> century BC contexts in the Levant, the imports from Stratum Ba in their majority are unlikely to be residual from the earlier Stratum Bb. Therefore, they may be taken as evidence that contacts with the eastern Mediterranean were not as deeply affected as is usually assumed during a period when not only Egypt, but also the wider Mediterranean world were subject to widespread political and socio-economic upheavals. The continuity of contacts with the Levant is also support-

<sup>62</sup> Because it does not appear among the material from Malkata and Amarna, it is generally assumed that this style is confined to the early part of the Eighteenth Dynasty and disappears before the reign of Tuthmosis IV (ASTON 1996b, 179–180; HOPE 1987, 109).

<sup>63</sup> E. Pusch explains the presence of such sherds in Q IV by suggesting that they had originally been used as temper for the mud-bricks of the Ramesside period (personal communication Autumn 2007).

<sup>64</sup> ASTON 1996b, 184, no. 34; LYLIQUIST 2003, 65, 72, P82, fig. 72a; see also HOPE 1987.

<sup>65</sup> HOPE 1987, 109.

<sup>66</sup> LAEMMEL, forthcoming, Section III.1.11.1, fig. 157.

<sup>67</sup> HUMMEL & SCHUBERT 1994, 10–11; HUMMEL & SCHUBERT 2004, p. 142.

<sup>68</sup> MAZAR 1985, 56; DOTHAN & BEN-SHLOMO 2005, 74, fig. 3.6:7,9; BIKAI 1978, 8–9, 45–46, pl. XXVI:13, 15, 21.

<sup>69</sup> At Tyre, for example, such bases do not occur beyond Stratum XIII (BIKAI 1978, 45, pl. XXXV:12).

<sup>70</sup> E.g. MAZAR 1985, 54–56, fig. 48:11.

<sup>71</sup> See FISCHER 1997, 47, fig. 15:1–2.

ed by the increased popularity of shapes such as pilgrim flasks with concentric circles on the body, which, though produced in local silt fabrics, are singularly close to contemporary vessels of Syro-Palestinian origin (Pl. 12:9; Pl. 12:10).<sup>72</sup> Such flasks are by no means specific to the site of Qantir. They are found in sometimes great quantities in other Twenty-First and Twenty-Second Dynasty contexts, especially in the eastern Delta, but also (though perhaps to a lesser extent) in the Memphite area.<sup>73</sup>

To conclude, one of the most noticeable features in the pottery material from Stratum Ba at Qantir is its high proportion of silt wares and a strong quantitative decline in marl fabrics. This feature is by no means specific to the site of Qantir as it has been noticed at many other places throughout Egypt at the beginning of the Third Intermediate Period.<sup>74</sup> On the other hand, a certain degree of regionalism may be detected, as exemplified by the decorated chalice which may be paralleled at sites such as Mendes and Tanis. Stratum Ba also marks the end of the blue-painted ware production at Qantir. Isolated blue-painted sherds do still occasionally appear in this stratum, but their rarity and their worn appearance suggest that they are heirlooms from the preceding phase. Another dimension of the material from Stratum Ba is the abundance of domestic vessels, such as cooking-pots, storage jars and dishes and bowls. This leaves little doubts as to the residential function of the area during the period concerned. Such domestic re-settlement of former royal structures should not be underestimated when considering the history of the site as a whole. Most notably it shows that, contrarily to what is commonly thought and to what textual sources tend to suggest, the site remained inhabited after the beginning of the Twenty-First Dynasty.<sup>75</sup> Further, far from being a short-lived, insignificant phenomenon this occupation seems to have spanned over a century at least and, judging from the amount of pottery recovered from it, to have been, if not affluent, at least fairly dense in character.

## Catalogue

- Plate 6:5 QIV-h/27, planum 2–3. **92/1419,7** (KeZn 08/401)  
Funnel neck jar with direct rim; d. rim 13.0–14.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, uncoated.
- Plate 6:6 QIV-e/28, planum 0–1. **88/0256,8** (KeZn 08/519)  
Globular jar; d. rim 10.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.03, orangy slip out.
- Plate 6:7 QIV-i,j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1167,28** (KeZn 08/346)  
Globular jar; d. rim 12.1 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.02, uncoated.
- Plate 6:8 QIV-i,j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1167,27** (KeZn 08/355)  
Globular jar, ridge at base of neck; d. rim 10.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.02, uncoated.
- Plate 6:9 QIV-i,j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1201,1** (KeZn 07/174)  
Globular jar; d. rim 10.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01 late, uncoated.
- Plate 6:10 QIV-f/29, planum 0–1. **88/0311,1** (KeZn 07/224)  
Small globular jar; d. rim. 4.6 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.02, uncoated.
- Plate 7:1 QIV-h/27, planum 2–3. **92/1419,24** (KeZn 08/406)  
Neckless storage jar; d. rim 33.0–34.0 cm; marl fabric II.D.01, pink-orangy slip out.
- Plate 7:2 QIV-i,j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1247,9** (KeZn 08/367)  
Neckless storage jar; d. rim 36.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.03, uncoated.
- Plate 7:3 QIV-f/26, planum 0–1. **91/0014a,2** (KeZn 07/284)  
Neckless storage jar; d. rim 28.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.03, uncoated.
- Plate 7:4 QIV-f/26, planum 0–1. **91/0014a,11** (KeZn 07/279)  
Neckless storage jar; d. rim 31.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.03, thin cream slip out.
- Plate 7:5 QIV-g/26, planum 0–1. **91/0025,17** (KeZn 07/276)  
Neckless storage jar; d. rim 22.0 cm; mixed clay fabric III.B, white-pinkish slip; worn external surface.
- Plate 7:6 QIV-i,j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1256,10** (KeZn 07/208)  
Neckless storage jar; d. rim 34.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.03, thin cream slip (flaked off).

<sup>72</sup> See for example at Megiddo Stratum VIB (FINKELSTEIN, ZIMHONI & KAFRI 2000, 257–262, fig. 11.1); and Tel Qasile (MAZAR 1985, figs. 37:1, 3, 42:16, 50:10).

<sup>73</sup> Similar pilgrim flasks are found for example at Mendes (HUMMEL & SCHUBERT 1994, 10, fig. 3:3) and Tanis in

the early Third Intermediate Period (LAEMMEL, forthcoming, Section III.1.10.2). For Memphis, see ASTON 2007, 53, fig. 47:556–557.

<sup>74</sup> ASTON 2007, 57 (with references).

<sup>75</sup> See especially, BIETAK 1975, 211–212.

- Plate 7:7 QIV-g/26, planum 0–1. **91/0025,28** (KeZn 07/272)  
Neckless ovoid storage jar; d. rim 29.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01 *late*, uncoated.
- Plate 8:1 QIV-h/28, planum 1–2. **92/1546,49** (KeZn 08/466)  
Amphora; d. rim 14.5 cm; mixed clay III.B, white slip out.
- Plate 8:2 QIV-f/27, planum 0–1. **88/0364,1** (KeZn 07/222)  
Amphora; d. rim 15.0 cm; mixed clay fabric III.B, white slip out.
- Plate 8:3 QIV-d/27, planum 2–3. **92/1494,2** (KeZn 08/431)  
Wide-mouth storage jar; d. rim 27.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.03, uncoated.
- Plate 8:4 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1256,9** (KeZn 07/207)  
Wide-mouth storage jar; d. rim 21.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.02, thin cream slip out(?)
- Plate 8:5 QIV-f/29, planum 0–1. **88/0311,5** (KeZn 07/226)  
Wide-mouth storage jar; d. rim 32.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.03, uncoated.
- Plate 8:6 QIV-d/27, planum 2–3. **92/1491,2** (KeZn 07/323)  
Wide-mouth storage jar; d. rim 29.8 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01 *late*, uncoated.
- Plate 8:7 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1247,10** (KeZn 08/368)  
Storage jar with bulging neck; d. rim 30.0 cm; mixed clay fabric III.B, thin pink slip out.
- Plate 8:8 QIV-h/26, planum 1–2. **92/1333,1** (KeZn 07/196)  
Storage jar with bulging neck; d. rim 18.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.03, uncoated.
- Plate 9:1 QIV-g/26, planum 0–1. **91/0025,36** (KeZn 07/273)  
Storage jar with short bulging neck; d. rim 19.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.03, thin brushed orangy slip out.
- Plate 9:2 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1167,4** (KeZn 08/363)  
Narrow mouth neckless jar; d. rim 11.5 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.03, uncoated.
- Plate 9:3 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1413,3** (KeZn 07/220)  
Short neck jar; d. rim 14.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01 *late*, uncoated, worn surface.
- Plate 9:4 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2. **92/1519** (KeZn 07/259)  
Ovoid storage jar; d. max 30.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01 *late*, thin cream slip out.
- Plate 9:5 QIV-i.j/26, Pl. 2. **92/1520** (KeZn 07/17)  
Handled storage jar; d. max 27.5; Nile silt fabric I.E.01 *late*, uncoated.
- Plate 9:6 QIV-f/26, planum 0–1. **91/0014a,6** (KeZn 07/287)  
Dish with out-turned rim; d. rim 29.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01 *late*, uncoated.
- Plate 9:7 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1245,32** (KeZn 07/213)  
Dish with out-turned rim; d. 28.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01 *late*, uncoated.
- Plate 10:1 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1256,5** (KeZn 07/201)  
Dish with out-turned rim; d. rim 28.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01 *late*, uncoated.
- Plate 10:2 QIV-h/27, planum 2–3. **92/1419,19** (KeZn 08/404)  
Dish with direct rim; d. rim 33.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, red slip on rim.
- Plate 10:3 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1256,2** (KeZn 07/206)  
Carinated dish; d. rim 11.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.02, uncoated.
- Plate 10:4 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1201,11** (KeZn 07/173)  
Carinated dish; d. rim 20.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.02, uncoated.
- Plate 10:5 QIV-f/26, planum 0–1. **91/0014a,23** (KeZn 07/282)  
Carinated dish; d. rim 14.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.02, uncoated.
- Plate 10:6 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1167,121** (KeZn 08/348)  
Dish with groove below rim; d. rim 20.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01 *late*, uncoated.
- Plate 10:7 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1256,4** (KeZn 07/202)  
Dish with groove below rim; d. 40.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.02, uncoated.
- Plate 10:8 QIV-e/30, planum 0–1. **88/0265,2** (KeZn 07/233)  
Carinated dish; d. rim 24.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01 *late*, uncoated, black painted horizontal bands in and out and red horizontal line in.
- Plate 10:9 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2. **92/1518** (KeZn 07/227)  
Large bowl with internal rim and ring base; d. max. 34.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, uncoated.
- Plate 11:1 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1413,2** (KeZn 07/219)  
Pigeon pot; d. base 3.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.03, uncoated.
- Plate 11:2 QIV-d/27, planum 2–3. **92/1491,4** (KeZn 07/324)  
“Dokka” (bread plate); d. max. 24.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.C, uncoated.
- Plate 11:3 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1245,27** (KeZn 07/214)  
Small dish with incurved rim; d. 19.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01 *late*, uncoated.
- Plate 11:4 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1167,105** (KeZn 08/362)  
Bowl with incurved rim; d. rim 20.5 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01 *late*, uncoated.
- Plate 11:5 QIV-h/27, planum 2–3. **92/1419,13** (KeZn 08/398)  
Bowl with incurved rim; d. rim 18.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01, thin reddish-pink slip out.

- Plate 11:6 QIV-f/26, planum 0–1. **91/0014a,8** (KeZn 07/285)  
Conical bowl; d. max. 11.4 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.02, uncoated.
- Plate 11:7 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1256,29** (KeZn 07/205)  
Drop-shaped jar; d. neck 5.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.E.01 *late*, uncoated, black-painted horizontal bands on body.
- Plate 11:8 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1247,6** (KeZn 08/366)  
Bottle with bulbous neck; d. max. 7.0 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.02, uncoated, red painted band on neck.
- Plate 11:9 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1247,8** (KeZn 08/364)  
Chalice; d. stem of foot 2.1 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.02, uncoated.
- Plate 11:10 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1416,1** (KeZn 07/175)  
Chalice; d. stem of foot 1.4 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.02, white slip out, black and red painted horizontal bands on foot.
- Plate 12:1 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1201,33** (KeZn 07/179)  
Canaanite jar; d. base 4.0 cm; imported fabric IV.07.10, uncoated
- Plate 12:2 QIV-i./29, planum 1–2. **92/1543,1** (KeZn 07/325)  
Canaanite jar; d. base 6.2 cm; imported fabric IV.07.05, uncoated.
- Plate 12:3 QIV-f/26, planum 0–1. **91/0014a,29** (KeZn 07/280)  
Canaanite jar; d. foot 3.9 cm; imported fabric IV.07.04, uncoated.
- Plate 12:4 QIV-i./29, planum 1–2. **92/1543,2** (KeZn 07/326)  
Canaanite jar; d. base 3.8 cm; imported fabric IV.07.11, uncoated.
- Plate 12:5 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1167,138** (KeZn 08/360)  
Canaanite jar; d. rim 12.0 cm; imported fabric IV.07.9, uncoated.
- Plate 12:6 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1201,35** (KeZn 07/180)  
Canaanite jar; d. rim 14.0; imported fabric IV.07.04, uncoated.
- Plate 12:7 QIV-e/30, planum 0–1. **88/0265,19** (KeZn 07/236)  
Pilgrim flask, heart-shaped handles; d. rim 3.2 cm; imported fabric IV.07.05, uncoated.
- Plate 12:8 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2. **92/1522,1** (KeZn 07/176)  
Pilgrim flask; d. mouth 2.0 cm; imported fabric IV.07.11, uncoated, worn surface.
- Plate 12:9 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1167,6** (KeZn 08/356)  
Pilgrim flask; d. rim 5.4 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.03, orangy slip out.
- Plate 12:10 QIV-i.j/26, planum 2–3. **92/1167,78** (KeZn 08/357)  
Pilgrim flask; d. rim 3.7 cm; Nile silt fabric I.B.02, uncoated.

## CONCLUSIONS

This brief survey of the pottery from Area Q IV at Qantir has provided a preliminary overview of the last phase of development of the New Kingdom pottery sequence in the eastern Delta and of the transition into the Third Intermediate Period. This is important because until quite recently, pottery material of that date was notoriously poorly documented and little researched in Egypt. Fortunately, several studies encompassing this period have now started to fill the gap.<sup>76</sup> These mainly deal with the south of the country and the Memphite area but they provide precious comparative material for the study of the Qantir assemblages and for identifying regional trends. In this respect, comparison between the material from Stratum Ba and that from the earliest levels from the nearby site of Tanis is most interesting, as it shall eventually allow for mapping more precisely the ceramics development of the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> centuries BC in the eastern Delta.

Indeed, one of the features which deserves to be emphasised with regards to the pottery from Stratum Ba is its striking stylistical and technological proximity to that from other contemporary sites in the region. This differs from the situation in the Ramesside levels where, until about the mid/late Twentieth Dynasty, pottery assemblages at Qantir are of a much more eclectic nature than in the later phases. In particular, the high proportion of blue-painted wares at Qantir is remarkable – not to mention the relative high quantity of relief vases – and makes the site stand out against other settlements which have revealed New Kingdom remains in the Delta, such as Mendes, Tell Basta or Tell Balamun. This shift in the pottery repertoire is interesting because it seems to run parallel to the changing political situation of the time, when the city of Ramesses lost its royal character. Without going so far as to suggest that blue-painted ware was

<sup>76</sup> ASTON 2007, 40; ASTON 2008; ASTON, ASTON & BROCK 1998; ASTON 1999.

exclusively associated with nobility or royalty, it seems that it had at least a special connotation which was somehow evocative of the Ramesside dynasty in the area. Such an ideological dimension makes also sense when considering the fact that blue-painted pottery was never found at Tanis, even in the earliest late Twenty and Twenty-First Dynasty contexts. While this can only reflect a mere change of fashion, one may also see it as a conscious ideological statement, intended to mark a clear break with the ruling families of the preceding period.

Beyond the insight it provides into pottery developments intrinsic to Egypt, the material from area Q IV also allows for a new approach to international relations and trade in the period concerned. In that respect, besides the presence of Levantine imports in both strata Ba and Bb, one of the points which have come to the fore in the present study is a still ill-defined stylistic connection between the Levantine and the local material. This connection only concerns a small selection of shapes. It is best noticeable in Stratum Ba with the pilgrim flasks and the painted carinated bowls and dishes, but it may be traced in Stratum Bb already, as suggested for example by the lamps with pinched beak.

However, if contacts with the Levant were apparently well-sustained throughout the period considered here, Cypriote pottery, unless we can

securely attribute some of the so-called Canaanite jars fabrics to Cyprus, is virtually absent. Cypriote fine wares are at present also lacking, although it is not impossible that the ongoing study of "Mycenaean" pottery found at Qantir might reveal the presence of sherds of Cypriote-made Mycenaeanizing wares. In any case, a closer examination of the foreign material from Area Q IV at Qantir has much to contribute to a better understanding of the political and socio-economic changes which affected the wider Eastern Mediterranean ambit at the transition from the Late Bronze to the Early Iron Age. The site can indeed provide a view from Egypt on a series of proposals which deal with this period in the Levant and on Cyprus.<sup>77</sup>

The study of the material from Area Q IV is still at its beginnings. However, it already allows for important observations, not only in terms of pottery development, but also with regards to the history of the city at the time period immediately preceding and contemporary with its abandonment as the capital of Egypt. In particular, it helps us understanding the process of decline which the place underwent in the late Twentieth Dynasty. We can follow here the loss of the city's royal character and its transformation into what looks like a rather modest settlement in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries BC, after it had been spoiled of the last remnants of the greatness of its past.

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<sup>77</sup> See for example, ARTZY 1997; SHERRATT 1998; 2001



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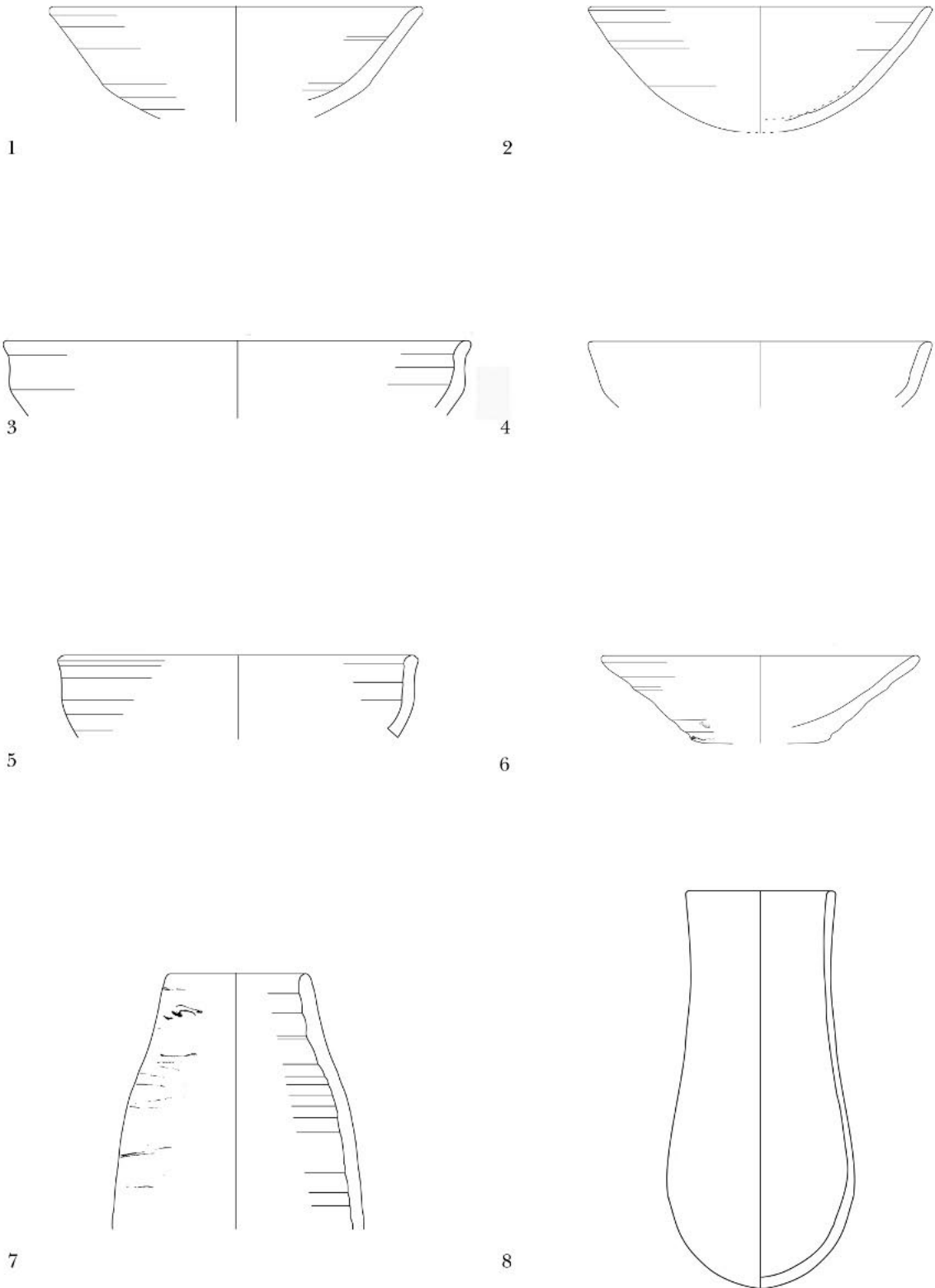
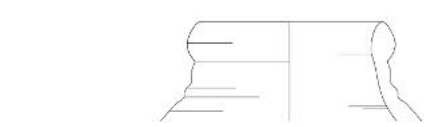


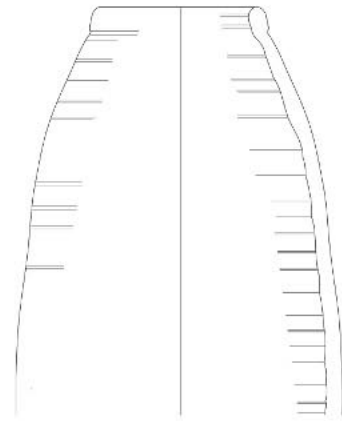
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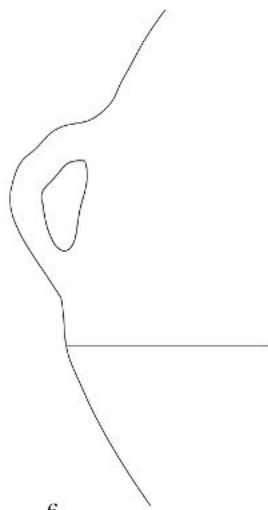
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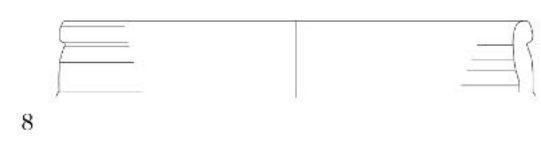
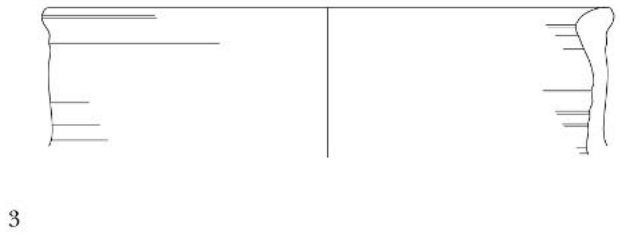
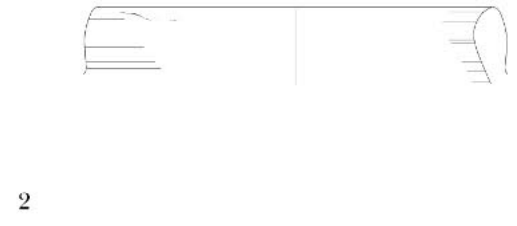
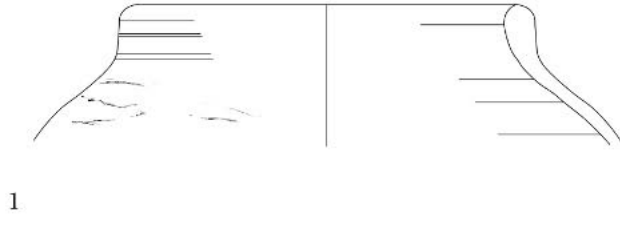
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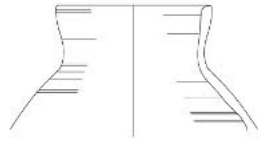


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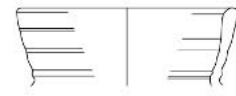




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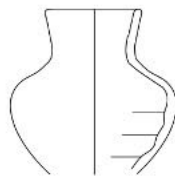
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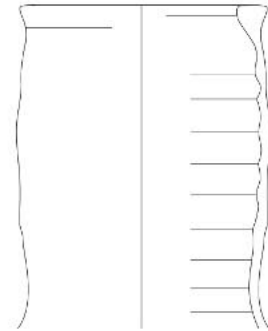
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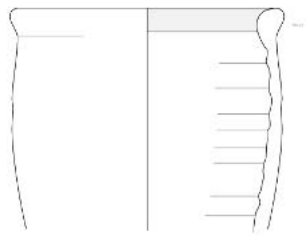
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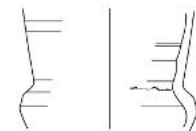
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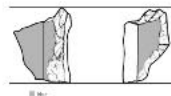
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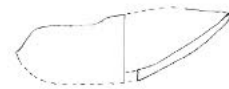
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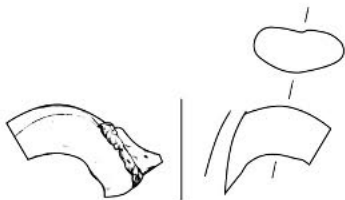
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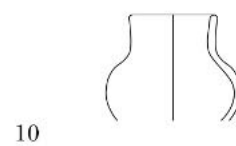
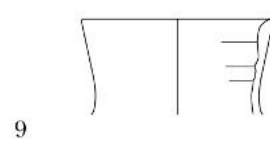
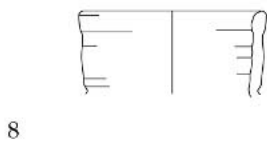
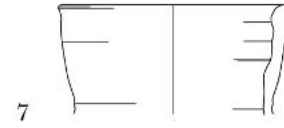
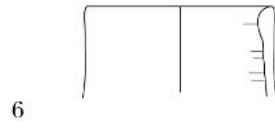
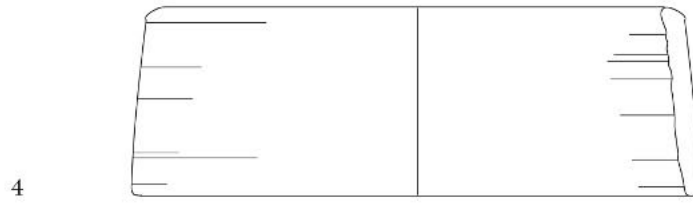
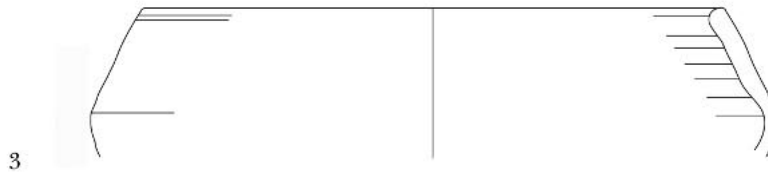
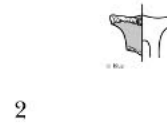
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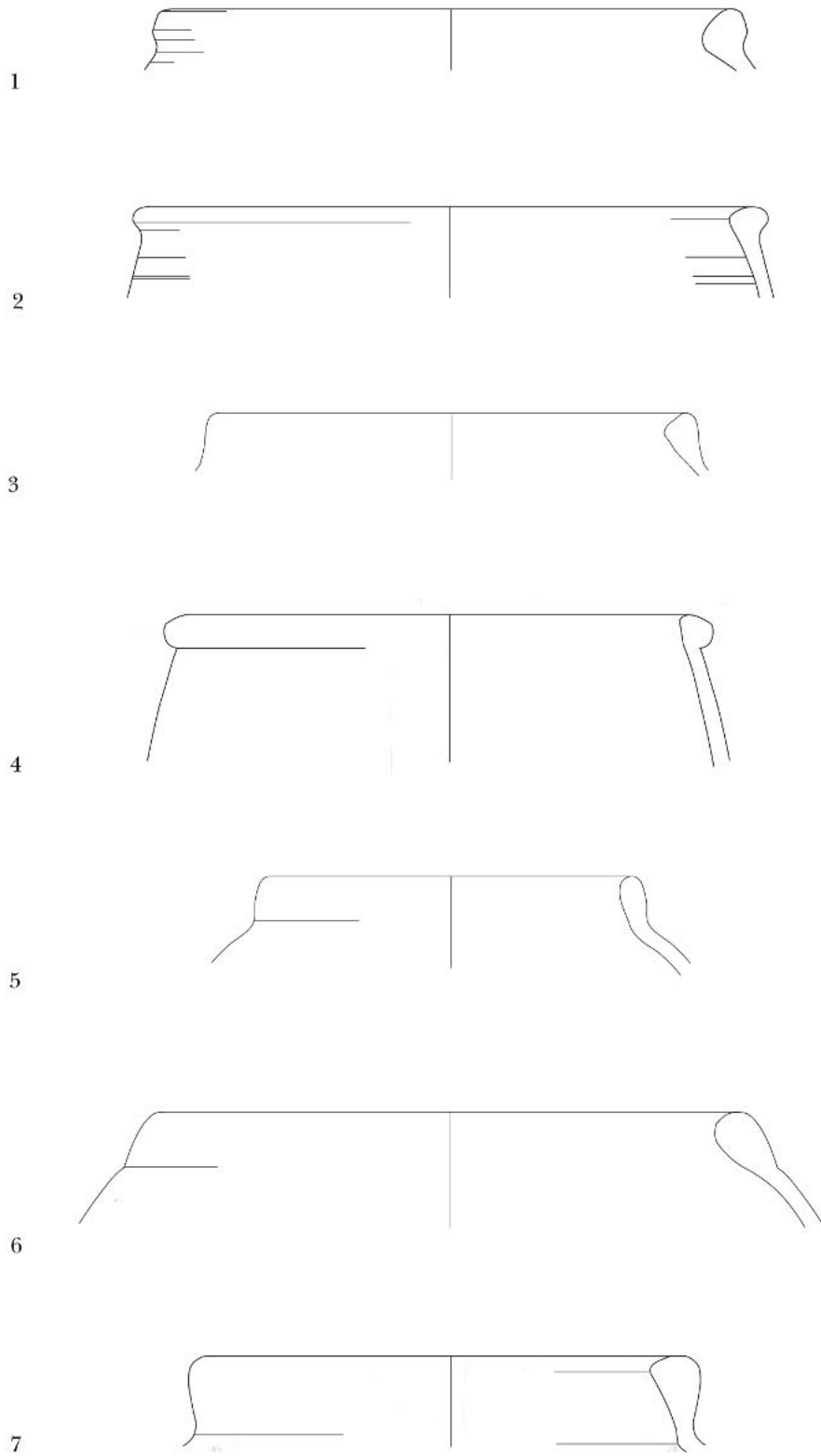
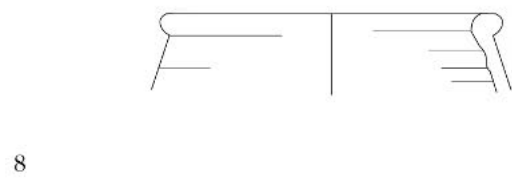
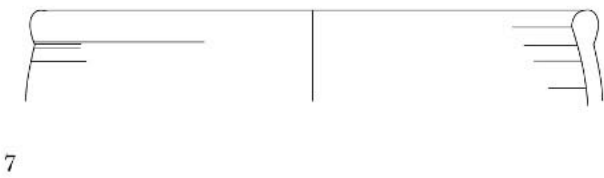
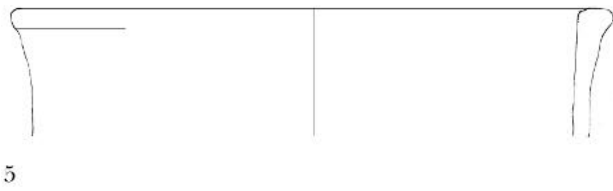
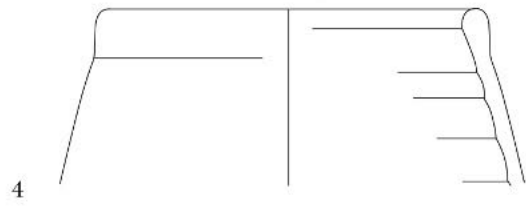
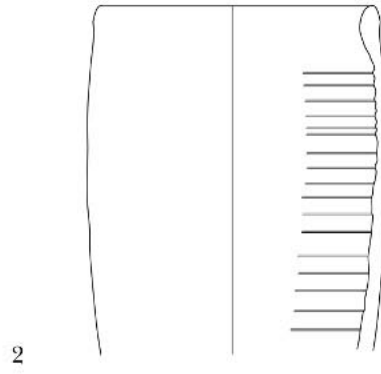
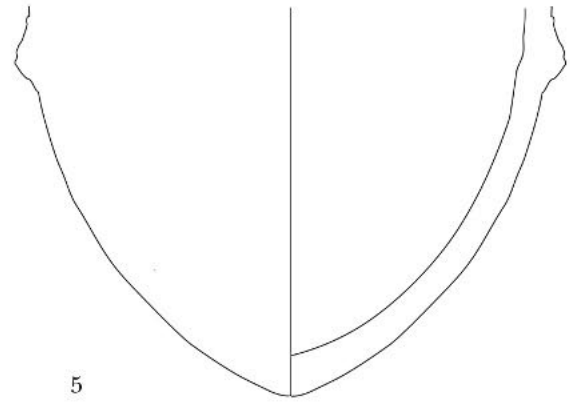
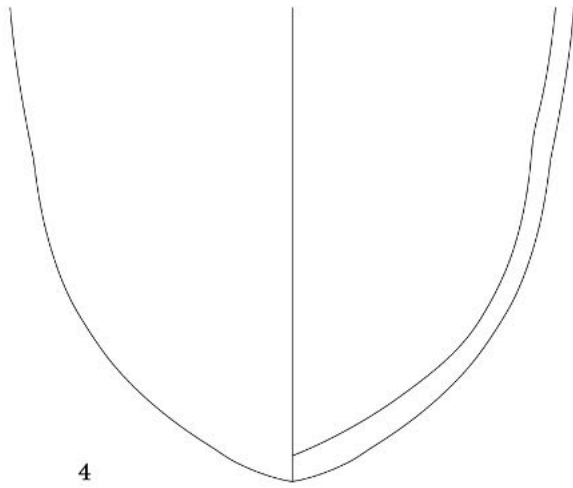
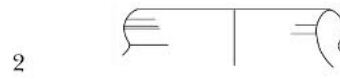


Plate 7



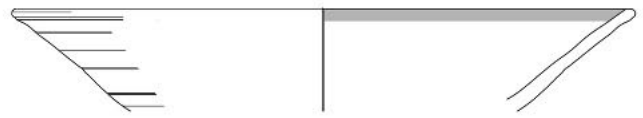


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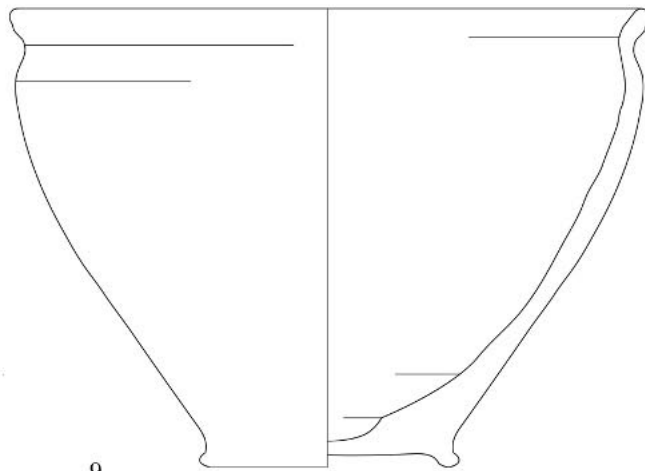
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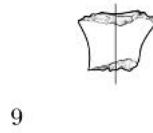
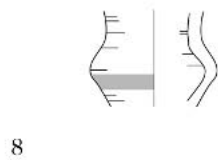
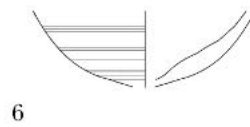
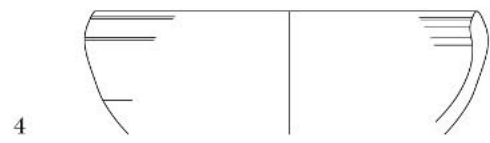
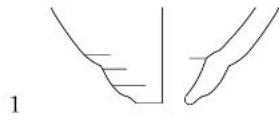
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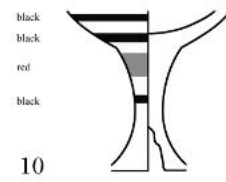
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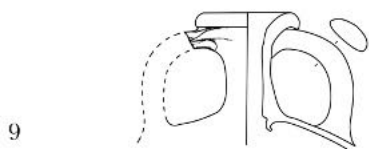
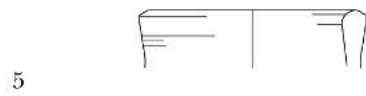
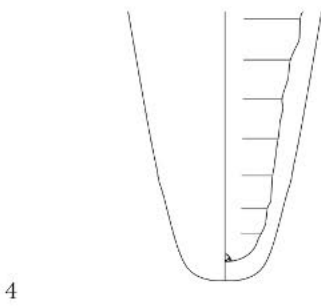
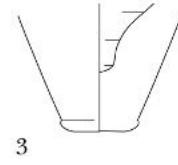
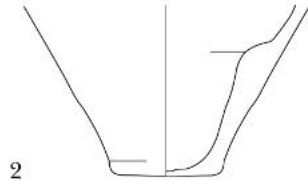
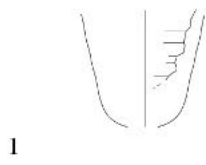


Plate 12