

THE NUBIAN POTTERY FROM THE PALACE DISTRICT OF AVARIS AT ^cEZBET HELMI, AREAS H/III AND H/VI

PART II: THE “CLASSIC” KERMA POTTERY FROM THE SECOND INTERMEDIATE PERIOD AND THE 18th DYNASTY

By Perla Fuscaldó*

In the western part of Tell el-Dab^ca/Avaris, in the palace-complex area at ^cEzbet Helmi (H/III and H/VI),¹ more than fifty Kerma sherds were found during the excavations made by the Austrian Archaeological Mission in 1993–1994, and 1998–2002. Part of this material from the “Classic” Kerma culture was recently published;² and the remainder is presented in this article.³

The sherds of seventeen hand-made vessels, which are fully described below in *The Catalogue*, belong to the “Black-topped ware” and the “incised ware” of the “Classic” Kerma period. The “Black-topped ware”⁴ is represented by fine beakers (the so-called “beaker ware”), bowls and cooking pots, and the “incised ware” by decorated cooking pots.⁵ Most of this material comes from

dumps, mud-brick debris, pits and sandy sediments, from stratum d (= Phase C/3) to stratum b/3 (= Phase C/1), a span of time which covers the beginning of the reign of Thutmosis III (Phase C/3) until the Amarna Period (Phase C/1).⁶

Only two Kerma fragments were found in closed contexts and are chronologically important. One of them, from the early mid 18th Dynasty, is the body sherd of a “black-topped” beaker (No. 1, Inv. No. 8955F, Fig. 1: a), made in I-b-2 (= Nile B₂ in the “Vienna system”).⁷ The “black-topped” rim zone – the rim is missing – is decorated in matte bluish grey and light bluish grey on a reddish brown and red polished slipped exterior surface. The interior is black polished with low lustre.⁸

* National Scientific Council (Department of Egyptology, IMHICIHU-CONICET), Buenos Aires, 2002.

¹ On ^cEzbet Helmi see: Ausgrabungen in dem Palastbezirk von Avaris. Vorbericht Tell el-Dab^ca/^cEzbet Helmi 1993–2000, von M. BIETAK, J. DORNER und P. JÁNOSI, mit einem Beitrag von Angela von dorn Driesch, *Ä&L* 11 (2001) 27–119, and M. BIETAK, Introduction and Stratigraphic Position of the Deposits, in: P. FUSCALDO, *Tell el-Dab^ca X. The Palace District of Avaris. The Pottery of the Hyksos Period and the New Kingdom (Areas H/III and H/VI). Part II: Two Excavation Pits and a Foundation Deposit*, 2000, UZK, Wien (in print).

² See: P. FUSCALDO, The Nubian Pottery from the Palace District of Avaris at ^cEzbet Helmi, Areas H/III and H/VI. Part I: The “Classic” Kerma Pottery from the 18th Dynasty, with an Addendum, *Ä&L* 12 (2002) 167–186.

³ The belonging to the Kerma culture of two Nubian sherds (Nos. 13 and 14) that was doubtful to me, was confirmed by Janine Bourriau and Sandra Giuliani during a visit to Tell el-Dab^ca in October 2002. The Kerma sherds from H/I, H/II and H/IV were published by I. HEIN (Kerma in Avaris, in: *Begegnungen, Festschrift für Endesfelder, Priese, Reinecke und Wenig*, Leipzig 2001, 199–212).

⁴ On the “black-topped”: S. HENDRICKX, R. FRIEDMAN and F. LOYENS, Experimental Archaeology concerning Black-Topped Pottery from Ancient Egypt and Sudan, *CCE* 6 (2000) 171–188.

⁵ On the decoration of the Nubian pottery: B. GRATIEN, Les pots de cuisson nubiens et les bols décorés de la première moitié du II^e millénaire avant J.C. Problèmes d’identification, *CCE* 6 (2000) 113–128.

⁶ Some remarks on the stratigraphy of ^cEzbet Helmi: the *relative stratum e/2* corresponds to the *Phase D/2*, the last Hyksos period, and *e/1* to *Phase D/1*, from the beginning of the Ahmose occupation of Avaris. The *relative stratum d* is the *Phase C/3* and *c* the *Phase C/2*, both phases of the Thutmosid palace-complex at ^cEzbet Helmi; the *relative strata b* and *a* were renamed *b/3* (*Amarna period*) and *b/2* (*Tutankhamun and Horemheb time*) respectively, corresponding both to the *Phase C/1*. All these strata (*d*, *c*, and *b*) were called before *absolute Stratum C*. The *Rameside stratum* was renamed *Phase b/1* (*absolute B*), and the Late Period is *absolute Phase A*. On the stratigraphy of ^cEzbet Helmi, see the bibliography mentioned in note 1. M. BIETAK, J. DORNER und P. JÁNOSI, *op. cit.*, *Ä&L* 11, 30–47, and M. BIETAK, Introduction, in: P. FUSCALDO, *Tell el-Dab^ca X, Part II*.

⁷ I-b-2 is a fabric designation in the Tell el-Dab^ca system, a Nile clay with rounded sand grains, feldspar and mica, tempered with straw.

⁸ “During the Kerma Classique period, the potters had improved the firing technique in a manner which allowed them to reach higher temperatures while still using the open fires necessary for producing black-topped pottery. A consequence of the higher temper-

This *beaker* was found in an offering pit (Locus 4919)⁹ from stratum d (= Phase C/3), which has remains of a funerary repast, with bones of huge bulls and sheep together with the pottery used for the celebration.¹⁰ Typologically the pottery belongs to Phase C/3,¹¹ the first phase of the construction of the 18th Dynasty palace-complex, i.e. the beginning of the reign of Thutmose III.

The other, from the Second Intermediate Period, is the body sherd of a *cooking pot* (No. 16, Inv. No. 8908D, Fig. 3: e). It is made in the coarse I-e-3 fabric (= Nile E₃),¹² with quartz, mica, small crushed limestone particles and rocks, sand and chaff tempered. The red-slipped polished exterior surface is decorated with a pattern of obliquely

incised lines. The interior is black polished with high lustre. It was found in Locus 1278, an ash and sandy settlement layer (H/III-u/16, stratum g = Phase D/3–D/2)¹³ from the last part of the Second Intermediate Period. Locus 1278 and Locus 1277,¹⁴ both on the turtle-back of the gezirah, provide the most important ceramic material for dating the lowest stratum¹⁵ at ‘Ezbet Helmi, which represents the oldest Canaanite occupation in this area. Both loci are located below the dumps prepared to raise the surface for the construction of the late Hyksos period palace-district (stratum e/2 = Phase D/2),¹⁶ at the end of the Second Intermediate Period.¹⁷

Another two Kerma examples, both of them

atures was the over-saturation of iron oxide at the junction between the black and red parts of the vessel. This results in the metallic band characteristic of the Kerma ware of this period” (S. HENDRICKX, R. FRIEDMAN and F. LOYENS, *Experimental Archaeology*, CCE 6, 185).

⁹ In H/VI-x/19.

¹⁰ M. BIETAK, Introduction, in: P. FUSCALDO, *Tell el-Dab‘a X, Part II*. On the pottery from Locus 4919: P. FUSCALDO, *Tell el-Dab‘a X, Part IV: The Offering Pits (together with S. Lupo, S. Vigliani y L. Martinez)* (forthcoming).

¹¹ The pottery assemblage from this offering pit L 4919 includes around sixty fragmentary vessels: cups, ring-based bowls, red-polished bowls, bowls with flat base, low footed bowls, bowls with exterior lip and with complex rim, carinated bowls, jars, mainly with exterior lip, model bowls and potstands. The fabric is mainly Nile E₄. There are also closed and open vessels in Marl F (in two variants, the common Marl F and the early New Kingdom variant), Marl C₂, Marl A₄ and Marl A₄ with small crushed limestone particles, and Marl B. The imported amphorae are Levantine, in nine different fabrics. There is also a sherd of a polished Nile clay jar, typically from the stratum d. No imported fine ware or Egyptian black rim ware were found in this context. Six of the vessels or sherds are later (stratum c or later: an incurved rim of a bowl in Nile E₄, a small jar or juglet in Nile E, close shapes in Marl D with polished surface and a rim and long neck fragment of an amphora in a very hard Levantine fabric, IV.15?).

¹² I-e-3 is a fabric designation in the Tell el-Dab‘a system, a Nile clay with dominant rounded sand grains, feldspar and mica, tempered with sand and coarse chaff. It can be called Nile E₃ and is identified with IIE in Nordström’s typology (H-Å NORDSTRÖM and J. BOURRIAU, “Ceramic Technology: Clays and Fabrics”. In: DO. ARNOLD and J. BOURRIAU, eds., *An Introduction to Ancient Egyptian Pottery*, Mainz 1993, fasc. 2).

¹³ See M. BIETAK, J. DORNER und P. JÁNOSI, Die frühesten Relikte aus der Hyksoszeit unter dem Palastbezirk Str. g (Ph. D/3), Die Stratigraphie des Palastareals, in: M. BIETAK, J. DORNER und P. JÁNOSI, Ausgrabungen in dem

Palastbezirk von Avaris. Vorbericht Tell el-Dab‘a/‘Ezbet Helmi 1993–2000, *Ä&L* 11, 30–32.

¹⁴ In H/III-u/16, at 2.20–2.40 m. high. L 1277 and L 1278 are the north and the south part respectively of an ash and sandy layer separated by the sinuous wall M 1093.

¹⁵ In L 1278 most of the shapes still belong to the stratum D/2, but earlier ones (stratum D/3 shapes) are also still used: two round-bottomed cups and a drop jar of the short type in Nile B₂, a burnished red-slipped closed shape vessel in Nile D, a jar with interior and exterior lip in Nile C₂, a Tell el-Yahudiyeh biconical juglet and two burnished red-slipped dipper juglets in Nile D. The pottery must be dated in the transitional stratum D/3–D/2, where there are still in use shapes and fabrics typical from the stratum D/3 besides the appearance of new ones, which will develop in stratum D/2. The most characteristic elements from this transitional stratum D/3–D/2 are: the round-bottomed cup besides the flat-bottomed ones, the use of Nile C₁ or Nile B₂ for the ring-based bowls, the preservation of locally made Middle Bronze Age II B–C fine ware, the large amount of Marl C vessels and the lack, or at least the small amount, of pottery in Marl F, the use of Nile D and Nile B₂ for the burnished red-slipped dipper juglets, the predominance of the Nile B₂ fabric over Nile C, which is still used for some shapes (from P. FUSCALDO, A Report on the Pottery from the Settlement Layers at ‘Ezbet Helmi, Area H/III (stratum D/3–D/2), 1999, unpublished).

¹⁶ The last moment of the 15th Dynasty kings in Avaris is represented by the stratum e/2 (= Phase D/2), when the Hyksos citadel at ‘Ezbet Helmi was occupied by Ahmose. See M. BIETAK, J. DORNER und P. JÁNOSI, Die Stratigraphie der Zitadelle der späten Hyksoszeit Str. e/2 (Ph. D/2), Die Stratigraphie des Palastareals, in: M. BIETAK, J. DORNER und P. JÁNOSI, Ausgrabungen in dem Palastbezirk von Avaris. Vorbericht Tell el-Dab‘a/‘Ezbet Helmi 1993–2000, *Ä&L* 11, 32–34.

¹⁷ A close ceramic context from this period comes from Locus 66 (H/III-q/16 to p/16, q/17 to p/17 and p/18), a street between a building and a defence wall. On this material: P. FUSCALDO, *Tell el-Dab‘a X, Part I: Locus 66*, UZK 16, Wien 2000.

from the Second Intermediate Period, are also specially mentioned here, although they were not found in closed stratigraphic contexts. One is a *cooking pot* (No. 15, Inv. No. 8964J, Fig. 3:d; Plate 1:e), with concave shape and round base, made in I-e-1 (=Nile E₁, a fabric with quartz and mica, tempered with sand and coarse straw), and decorated with obliquely incised lines all around the body, on a reddish brown to light brown surface, with the rim polished with high lustre whilst the black polished interior bears striation marks. The section of this fragmentary cooking pot (half of the vessel is preserved) is complete, the only one in this condition among the Kerma material from Tell el-Dab^a, all of which is extremely fragmentary. It was found on the hard mud floor of a room, below the large storage building with silos from stratum e/1.

The other is also a *cooking pot* (No. 17, Inv. No. 8442N, Fig. 3: f), a body sherd of a “black-topped” ware. It is made in I-e-3 (=Nile E₃). The weak red-slipped polished exterior, below the “black-topped” rim zone, is decorated with a pattern of vertically incised lines made with a comb. It is the only example from Tell el-Dab^a with this decoration. It was found in the ash and sandy mud filling on the south-west corner of the room Locus 47, by the platform C (H/III-s/18, Pl. 2–3, stratum e/2, = Phase D/2).¹⁸

Janine Bourriau has mentioned archaeological evidence for the presence of Kermans in Upper Egypt at the end of the Second Intermediate Period (during the late 17th and early 18th Dynasties),¹⁹ and in the Memphis-Fayum region at the beginning of the New Kingdom.²⁰ The Kerma pottery found in Tell el-Dab^a at ‘Ezbet Helmi (in H/III and H/VI, and in H/I, H/II and H/IV), five silex arrow points,²¹ some Nubian male bodies in soldier burials and two Nubian skulls in an execration pit (Locus 1053) of the stratum D/1 (early 18th Dynasty)²² provide

more archaeological evidence of the presence of Kermans in Egypt from the last part of the Second Intermediate Period until the early to mid 18th Dynasty.

THE CATALOGUE

I. “Classic” Kerma pottery in 18th Dynasty contexts

1. *Fine ware*

1.1. Beakers (“Black-topped” ware)

Nile B₂ fabric

No. 1 (Fig. 1: a). 8955F {2002/311}

Field reference: H/VI-x/19, Pl. 2, Locus 4919, stratum d (= Phase C/3). From the filling of an offering pit.

RPSP	I-b-2	f.–mid.	Ha ₁	—	re	2–3
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Body sherd. Wd: 0.55 cm; H₁: ca. 5.0 + x cm.

Surface colour: 5YR 6/4 light reddish brown; 5YR 5/4 reddish brown and 10R 5/8 red slip outside; 7.5YR 2.5/1 black inside.

Break: 7.5YR 2.5/1 black.

Fabric: Nile B₂; inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: few) and mica (few); straw tempered.

Decoration: “black-topped” [rim] with a matte bluish grey zone (Chart 2 for gley 10B 6/1); in between a matte light bluish grey zone (5PB 8/1); below a black one (7.5YR 2.5/1) framing a light bluish grey line, and some parts in weak red (10R 4/3) and red (10R 5/8) colour.

Surface treatment: polished, medium lustre outside (below the rim band) and low lustre inside.

No. 2 (Fig. 1: b; Plate 1: a). 8962M {2002/149}

Field reference: H/VI-w/12, Pl. 2–3, Locus 4018, stratum c–d (= Phase C/2–C/3). From mud-brick debris. H: 4.50 m; ca. 2.5 m S, 3.0 m E.

RPSP	I-b-2	f.–mid.	Ha ₁	—	re	2–3
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Body sherd. Md: 11.0 + x cm; Wd: 0.35; H₁: 5.8 + x cm.

Surface colour: 7.5YR 6/4 light brown outside; 7.5YR 2.5/1 black inside; 2.5YR 5/6 red polished slip outside.

Break: 7.5YR 2.5/1 black.

Fabric: Nile B₂; inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: few) and mica (few); straw tempered.

Decoration: a reddish black (2.5YR 2.5/1) zone and a pale red (2.5YR 7/2) thin zone below the [black-topped rim];

¹⁸ See the bibliography mentioned in note 1, fig. 13.

¹⁹ J. BOURRIAU, Relations between Egypt and Kerma during the Middle and New Kingdoms, in: W.V. DAVIES (ed.), *Egypt and Africa. Nubia from Prehistory to Islam*, London 1991 (1993) 129–144.

²⁰ For the references see J. BOURRIAU, *Relations between Egypt and Kerma*, and the bibliography mentioned there, and EADEM, Cemetery and Settlement Pottery of the Second Intermediate Period to early New Kingdom, *BES* 8 (1989/87) 47–59.

²¹ From H/I-k/27. Similar arrow points from the early

18th Dynasty were found in the cemetery of Soleb. Two of them (TD 9022 and TD 8023, in Cairo Museum) were published by A. TILLMANN, Zwei Pfeilspitzen, in: *Pharaonen und Fremde, Dynastien im Dunkel*. Katalog zu einer Sonderausstellung des Historischen Museums der Stadt Wien im Rathaus. 8. Sept.–23. Okt. 1994. Wien 1994, 257 (Kat. Nr. 348, 349).

²² According to the anthropological studies made by Karl Grossschmidt (M. BIETAK, Introduction, in: *Tell el-Dab^a X, Part II.*)

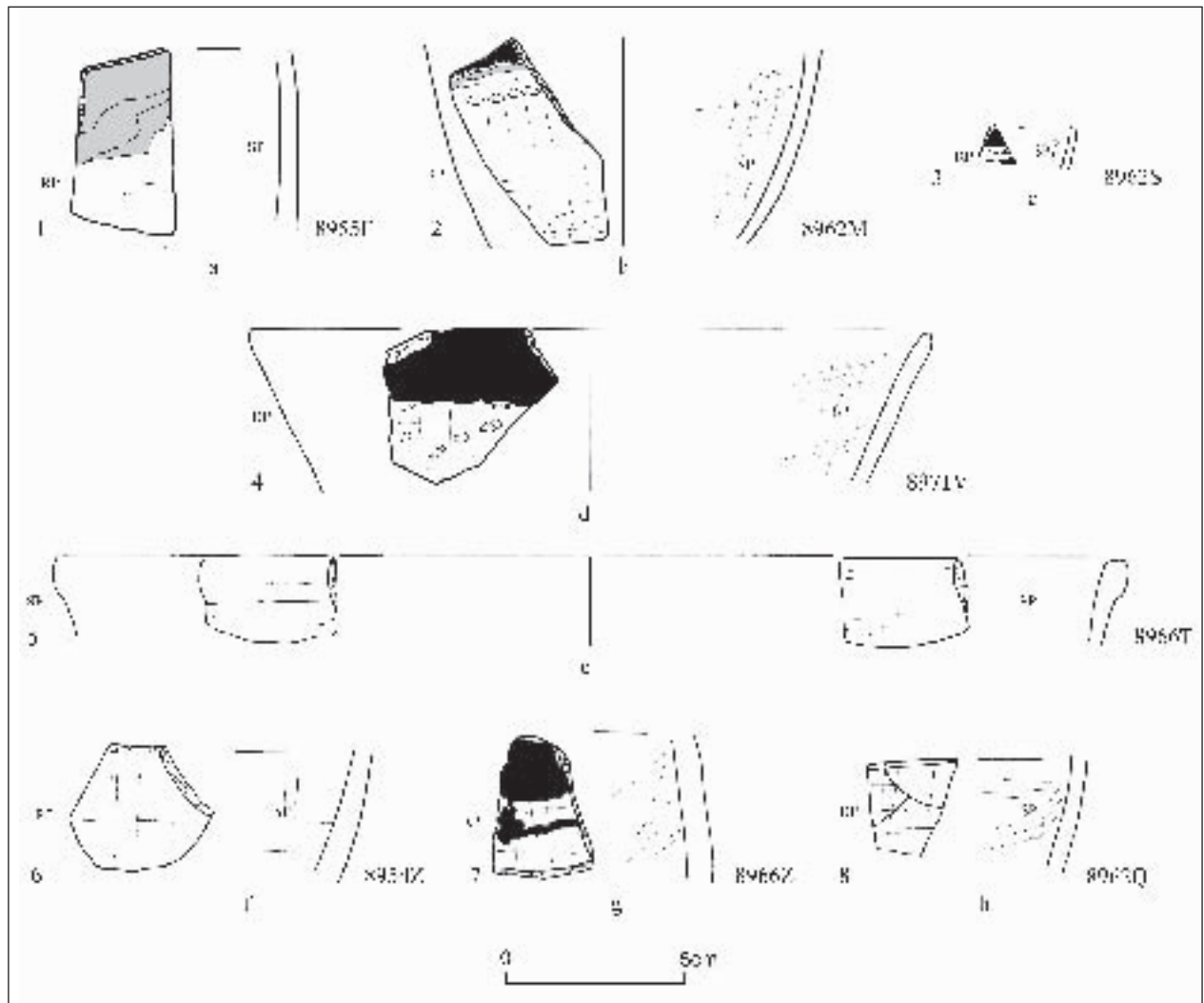


Fig. 1

below a dark reddish brown (2.5YR 3/3) zone.

Surface treatment: polished, high lustre outside and low to matte lustre inside.

No. 3 (Fig. 1: c). 8962S {2002/149}

Field reference: H/VI-w/19, Pl. 0/1–2, Locus 4825, stratum b/3–c (= Phase C/1–C/2). From the mud filling of the large dump.

RPSP	I-b-2	f.–mid.	Ha ₁	–	re	2–3
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Body sherd. Wd: 0.25 cm; H₁: 1.2 + x cm.

Surface colour: 2.5YR 6/6 light red slip outside; 5YR 2.5/1 black inside.

Break: 5YR 2.5/1 black.

Fabric: Nile B₂; inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: few) and mica (few); straw tempered.

Decoration: bluish grey (Chart 2 for gley 10B 6/1) and reddish grey (10R 5/1) zones, and a weak red (10R 4/4) irregular band below the ["black-topped" rim]; below this decoration a polished reddish grey zone.

Surface treatment: polished, high lustre outside and inside.

2. General household ware

2.1. Bowls ("Black-topped" ware)

Nile B₂ fabric, straight sided

No. 4 (Fig. 1: d; Plate 1: b). 8971V {2002/149}

Field reference: H/VI-v/19, Pl. 2–3, Locus 4018, stratum c–d (= Phase C/2–C/3). From mud-brick debris. H: 4.50 m; ca. 2.5 m S, 3.0 m E.

RPSP	I-b-2	f.–mid.	Ha ₁	–	re	2–3
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Rim sherd, 3/64 preserved. Rd: 19.0 cm; Wd: 0.4 cm; H₁: 4.1 + x cm.

Surface colour: 2.5YR 5/8 red slip outside; 5YR 4/1 dark grey inside.

Break: 5YR 2.5/1 black.

Fabric: Nile B₂; inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: few) and mica (few); straw tempered.

Decoration: "black-topped" rim (5YR 4/1 dark grey) with a reddish grey (2.5YR 6/1) and weak red (10R 5/4) zone below.

Surface treatment: polished, high lustre outside and medium lustre inside.

No. 5 (Fig. 1: e). 8966T {2002/307}

Field reference: H/VI-t/12, Pl. 5–6, Locus 4099, stratum d (= Phase C/3). From a sandy layer.

SP	I-b-2	f.–mid.	Ha ₁	—	re	2–3
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Rim sherd, 1/32 preserved. Size: Rd: 30.0 cm; Wd: 0.35 cm; H₁: 2.3 + x cm.

Surface colour: 7.5YR 2.5/1 black.

Break: 7.5YR 2.5/1 black

Fabric: Nile B₂; inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: abundant) and mica (few); straw tempered.

Decoration: “black-topped” rim (7.5YR 2.5/1 black).

Surface treatment: polished, medium to high lustre outside and inside.

Nile B₂ fabric, body sherds

No. 6 (Fig. 1: f; Plate 1: c). 8954Z {2002/311}

Field reference: H/VI-x/19, Pl. 2, Locus 4919, stratum d (= Phase C/3). From the filling of a pit.

RPSP	I-b-2	f.–mid.	Ha ₁	—	re	2–3
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Body sherd. Wd: 0.65 cm; H₁: 4.3 + x cm.

Surface colour: 7.5YR 6/4 light brown; 10R 2.5/1 reddish black inside; 10R 5/8 red slip outside.

Break: a thin zone inside, 10R 3/1 dark reddish grey; a thick zone outside, 2.5YR 5/6 red.

Fabric: Nile B₂; inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: few) and mica (few); straw tempered.

Surface treatment: polished, medium lustre outside and inside.

Nile E₁ fabric, body sherds

No. 7 (Fig. 1: g). 8966Z {2002/315}

Field reference: H/VI-t/13, Pl. 0–1, Locus 4023, stratum c–d (= Phase C/2–C/3). From mud-brick debris in L 4025 and L 4024.

RPP	I-e-2	mid.	Ha ₁	—	mi	2–3
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Body sherd. Wd: 0.6 cm; H₁: 3.8 + x cm.

Surface colour: 7.5YR 6/4 light brown outside; 5/2 brown polished inside; 10R 5/6 red slip outside.

Break: 7.5YR 4/1 dark grey interior; 2.5YR 5/6 red exterior.

Fabric: Nile E₁; inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: abundant; >0.50 mm: medium; <2 mm: few) and mica (few); sand and straw tempered.

Decoration: “black-topped” ware, with a dark reddish grey (10R 4/1) and red (4/8) zone above, and a dark reddish grey, red and light grey (10R 7/1) zone below.

Surface treatment: polished, medium lustre outside, low lustre inside.

Bowl (or beaker?)

Nile B₂ fabric

No. 8 (Fig. 1: h). 8962Q {2002/194}

Field reference: H/VI-t/11, Pl. 6–7, Locus 4238, stratum c (= Phase C/2). From sandy mud sediment.

RPSP	I-b-2	mid.	Ha ₁	—	re	2–3
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Body sherd. Wd: 0.5 cm; H₁: 3.0 + x cm.

Surface colour: 2.5YR 6/4 light reddish brown outside; 5YR 4/1 dark reddish grey inside; 10R 5/6 red slip outside.

Break: 2.5YR 5/6 red outside; 3/1 dark reddish grey inside.

Fabric: Nile B₂; inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm and >0.50 mm: abundant), mica (few) and crushed limestone particles, occasionally; straw tempered.

Surface treatment: polished, medium lustre outside and high lustre inside.

2.2. Cooking pots

2.2.1. “Black-topped” ware?

Nile E₁ fabric, body sherds

No. 9 (Fig. 2: a). 8966U {2002/307}

Field reference: H/VI-t/11, Pl. 2–3, Locus 4008, stratum b/3 (= Phase C/1, Amarna period). From a mud-brick debris layer (surface in Pl. 2 and Pl. 3). From the context K-9016.

RP	I-e-2	mid.	Ha ₁	—	re	2–3
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Body sherd. Wd: 0.5 cm; H₁: 4.4 + x cm.

Surface colour: 10R 5/8 red slip outside; 7.5YR 7/1 light grey inside.

Break: 7.5YR 2.5/1 black.

Fabric: Nile E₃; inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: abundant), mica (few) and crushed limestone particles (occasionally); sand and straw tempered.

Technical details: striation marks inside, made with an instrument.

Surface treatment: polished outside, medium lustre.

No. 10 (Fig. 2: b; Plate 1: d). 8964O {2002/307}

Field reference: H/VI-t/12, Pl. 5–6, Locus 4099, stratum d (= Phase C/3). From a sandy layer.

RP	I-e-1	mid.	Ha ₁	—	mi	2–3
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Body sherd. Md: ca. 23.0 cm; Wd: 0.7 cm; H₁: 6.1 + x cm.

Surface colour: 7.5YR 5/4 brown; 5YR 5/1 grey – 7/1 light grey inside; 10R 5/6 red slip outside.

Break: 5YR 6/4 light reddish brown outside; 3/1 very dark grey inside.

Fabric: Nile E₁; inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: abundant) and mica (few); sand and straw tempered.

Technical details: striation marks inside made with an instrument.

Surface treatment: polished outside, high lustre.

Nile E₃ fabric

No. 11 (Fig. 2: c). 8442L {1994/128}

Field reference: H/III-r/19, Pl. 0–1, Locus —, stratum b/3 (= Phase C/1). From mud-brick debris. H: 3.90–4.20 m. From the context K-6054.

PSP	I-e-3	mid.–roh	Ha ₁	—	re	2–3
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Body sherd. Wd: 0.75 cm; H₁: 4.0 + x cm.

Surface colour: 7.5YR 4/2 brown – 4/1 dark grey outside; 5YR 2.5/1 black inside.

Break: 10YR 4/2 dark grey.

Fabric: Nile E₃; inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm and >0.50 mm: abundant; <2mm: few), mica (abundant), small crushed limestone particles and rocks and grog; sand and chaff tempered; porous fabric.

Surface treatment: polished, low lustre outside, medium inside.

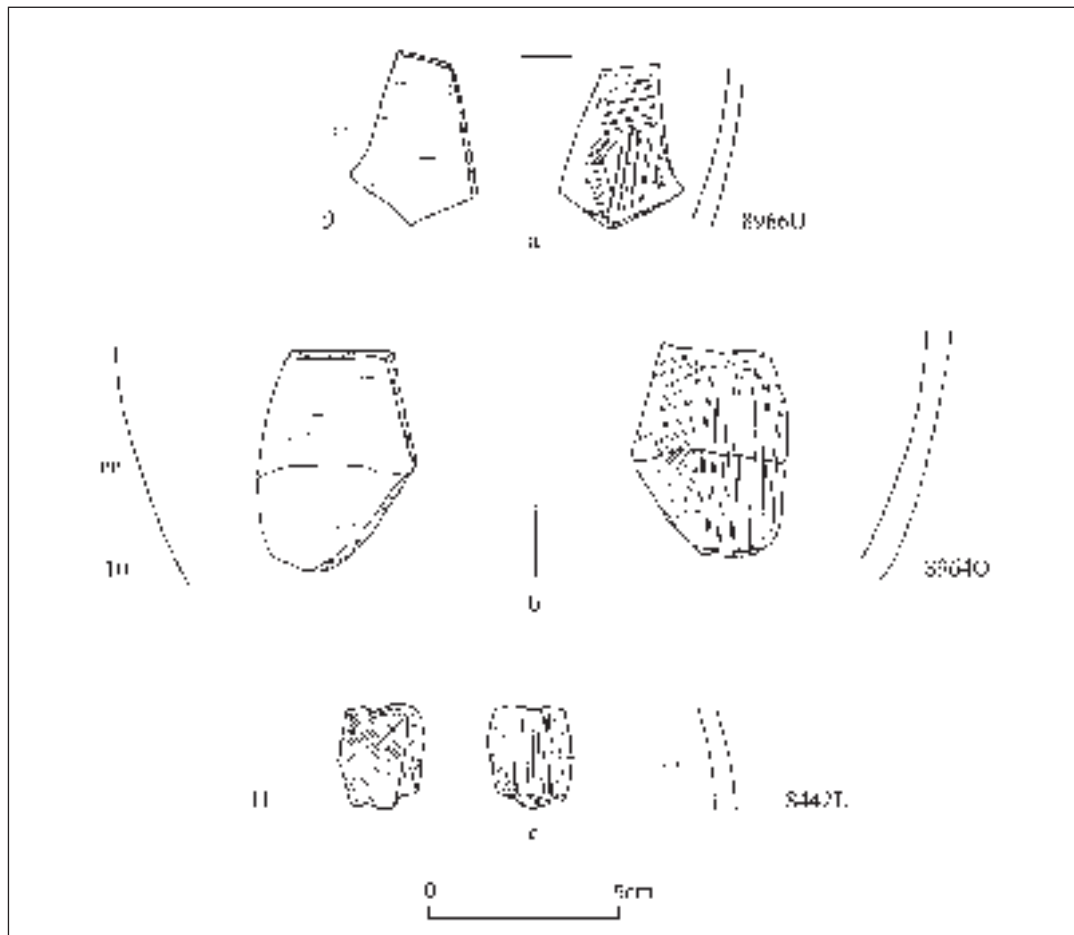


Fig. 2

2.2.2. Cooking pots with incised decoration

Nile E₃ fabric, body sherds

No. 12 (Fig. 3: a). 8929M {2000/77}

Field reference: H/VI-h/18, Pl. 1–2, Locus 3003V, stratum d (= Phase C/3). From an accumulation of fallen mud-brick debris inside the room L 3003, in the north part of the palace G (From the context K-9030).

PSP	I-e-3	mid.-roh	Ha ₁	—	re	2–3
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Rim sherd; concave. Rd: 16.0 cm; Wd: 0.55 cm; H₁: 1.9 + x cm.

Surface colour: 10YR 4/1 dark grey.

Break: 10YR 3/1 very dark grey.

Fabric: Nile E₃; inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm and >0.50 mm: abundant; <2mm: few), mica (abundant), small crushed limestone particles and rocks; sand and chaff tempered.

Decoration: a horizontally polished rim band (3/1 very dark grey) framed by a horizontally incised line; an obliquely incised-line pattern on the shoulder.

Surface treatment: polished rim band, medium lustre.

No. 13 (Fig. 3: b). 8205N {2000/78}

Field reference: H/III-q/18, East section. Sherd fallen from the baulk. H: 4.4–5.0 m; 2.4 m S.

Body sherd; [concave]. Wd: 0.6 cm; H₁: 3.0 + x cm.

TGSP	I-e-3	mid.-roh	Ha ₁	—	re	2–3
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Surface colour: 10YR 5/3 brown outside; 10YR 4/1 dark grey –2.5Y 3/1 very dark grey inside.

Break: a thick zone outside, very dark grey (10YR 3/1); a thin zone outside, brown (10YR 5/3).

Fabric: Nile E₃; inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm and >0.50 mm: abundant; <2mm: few), mica (abundant), small crushed limestone particles and rocks; sand and chaff tempered; porous fabric.

Technical details: some striations inside.

Decoration: a lozenge pattern of incised cross-diagonal lines on the exterior.

Surface treatment: horizontally polished inside, medium lustre.

No. 14 (Fig. 3: c). 8892E {2000/78}

Field reference: H/III-q/19, Pl. 1–2, Locus 0007; stratum b/3 (= Phase C/1). From the humus filling of a pit. H: 4.2–4.45 m (From the context K-6301).

TGSP	I-e-3	mid.-roh	Ha ₁	—	re	2–3
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Shoulder sherd; [concave] vessel. Md: 30.0 + x cm; Wd: 0.8 cm; H₁: 2.7 + x cm

Surface colour: 10YR 6/3 pale brown; 3/1 very dark grey inside.

Break: 7.5YR 2.5/1 black.

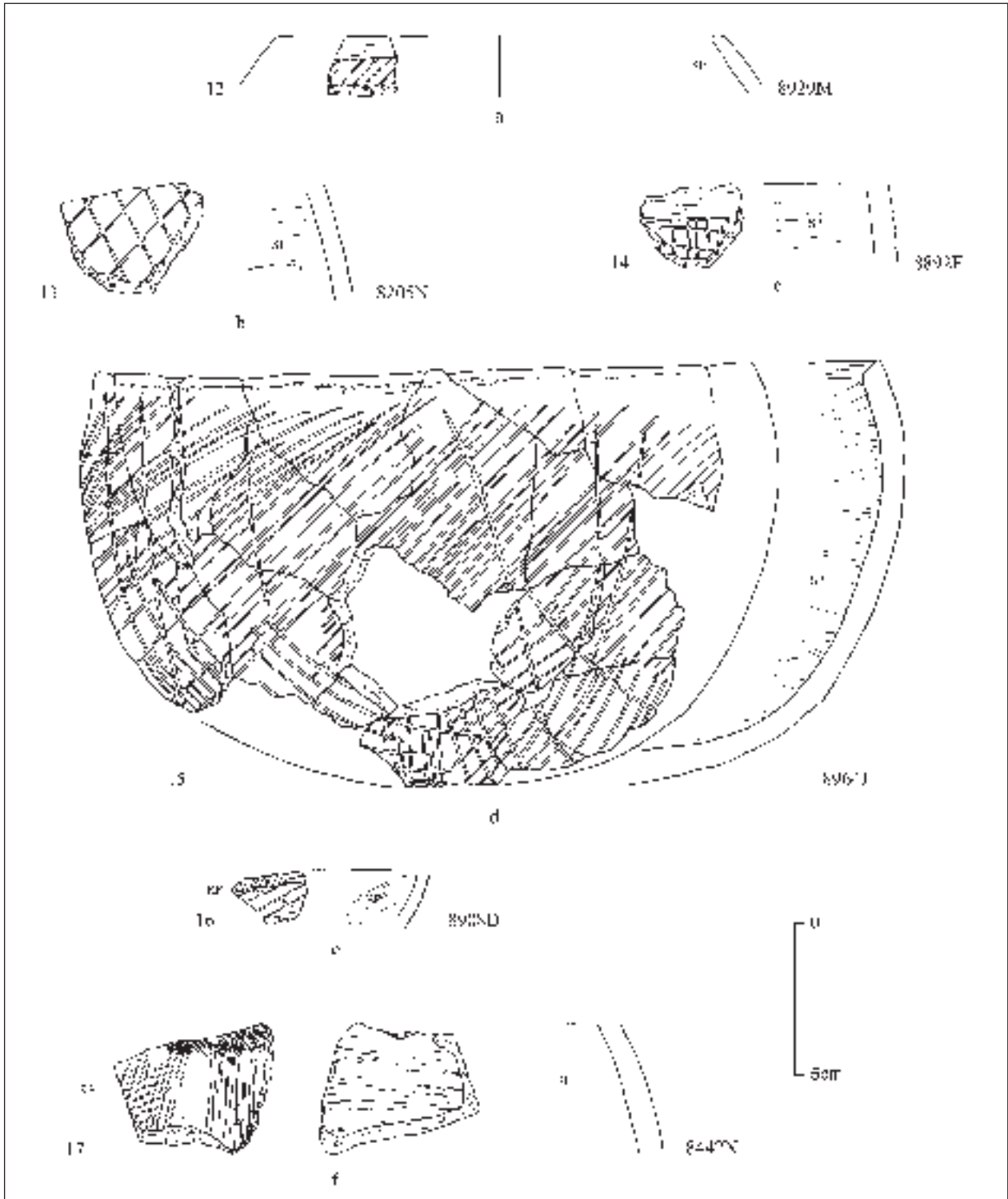


Fig. 3

Fabric: Nile E₃; inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm and >0.50 mm: abundant; <2mm: few), mica (abundant), small crushed limestone particles and rocks; sand and chaff tempered; porous fabric.

Decoration: a horizontally polished [rim-] band (10YR 5/1 grey); a lozenge pattern of incised cross-diagonal lines outside.

Surface treatment: horizontally polished inside, high lustre.

II. "Classic" Kerma pottery in 15th Dynasty contexts

I. General household ware

1.1. Cooking pots with incised decoration Nile E₁ fabric

No. 15 (Fig. 3: d; Plate 1: e). 8964J [2002/197]

Field reference: H/VI-w-x/18, section, Locus 5018, stra-

tum e/2 (= Phase D/2). From the hard mud floor of the room L 5018.

TGSP	I-e-1	mid.–roh	Ha ₁	Ha	re	2–3
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Complete, fragmentary; ½ preserved; mended. Rd: 22.0 cm; Md: 23.0; Wd: 0.9 cm; H₁: 13.7 cm; H₂: 9.6 cm. VI: 168.

Surface colour: 5YR 5/4 reddish brown – 7.5YR 6/3 light brown outside; 7.5YR 2.5/1 black inside.

Break: 7.5YR 2.5/1 black.

Fabric: Nile E₁; inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm.: abundant) and mica (few); sand and straw tempered.

Technical details: striation marks inside.

Decoration: incised obliquely lines, crossing in the base.

Surface treatment: polished on the rim outside; horizontally polished inside.

Nile E₃ fabric

No. 16 (Fig. 3: e). 8908D {1999/153}

Field reference: H/III-u/16, Pl. 8, Locus 1278, stratum g (= Phase D/3–D/2). From an ash and sandy settlement layer, south of the wall M 1083. H: 2.20–2.40 m (From the context K-6663).

RPSP	I-e-3	mid.–roh	Ha ₁	—	re	2–3
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Body sherd. Md: ca. 20.0 + x cm; Wd: 0.45 cm; H₁: 1.8 + x cm.

Surface colour: 10R 5/6 red slip outside; 5YR 3/1 very dark grey – 2.5/1 black inside.

Break: 7.5YR 4/2 brown.

Fabric: Nile E₃; inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm and >0.50

mm: abundant; <2mm: occasionally), mica (abundant), small crushed limestone particles and rocks; sand and chaff tempered; porous fabric.

Decoration: a pattern of obliquely incised lines on the exterior.

Surface treatment: polished, high lustre inside.

1.2. Cooking pot with combed decoration

Nile E₃ fabric, body sherd

No. 17 (Fig. 3: f). 8442N {1994/130}

Field reference: H/III-s/18, Pl. 2–3, Locus 47, stratum e/2 (= Phase D/2). From the ash and sandy mud filling on the SW corner of the room L 47 (From the context K-6008).

RPSP	I-e-3	mid.	Ha ₁	—	mi	2–3
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Body sherd. Md: ca. 30.0 + x cm; Wd: 0.80 cm; H₁: 5.0 + x cm. Surface colour: 10R 5/4 weak red slip outside; 7.5YR 2.5/1 black inside.

Break: 10YR 3/1 very dark grey interior zone; 5YR 5/4 reddish brown exterior zone.

Fabric: Nile E₃; inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm and >0.50 mm: abundant, <2 mm: occasionally) and mica; sand and chaff tempered; porous fabric.

Technical details: striation marks inside.

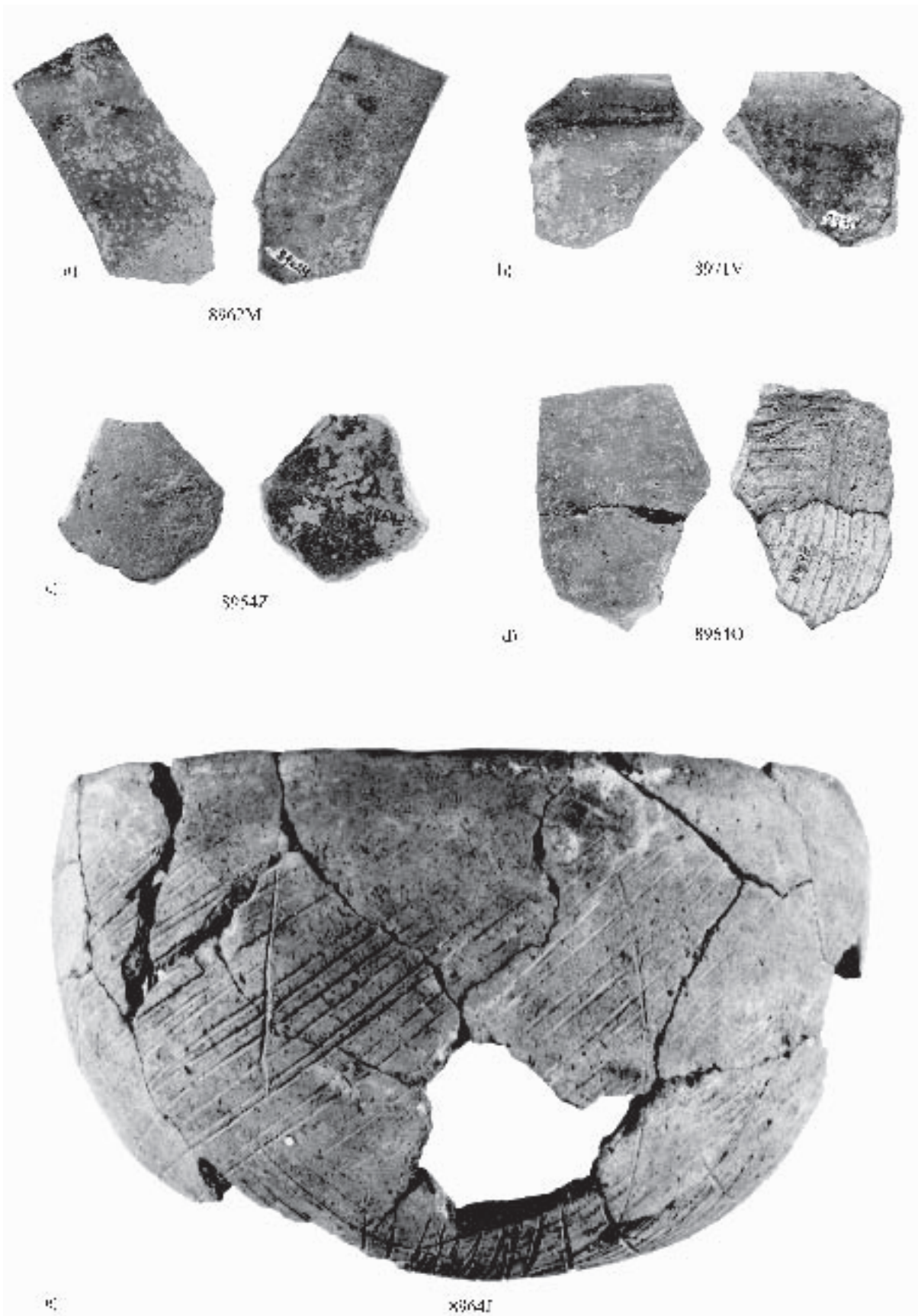
Decoration: polished “black-topped” rim, 7.5YR 2.5/1 black–3/1 very dark grey; a pattern of vertically incised lines made with a comb, medium lustre; polished section on the exterior.

Surface treatment: polished, medium lustre outside and high lustre inside.

Abbreviations

Bd	base diameter
f.–mid.	fine to medium quality of the groundmass
H ₁	total height of the vessel
Ha	hand-made base
Ha ₁	hand-made shaping technique
Md	diameter at the major point
mi	fired in medium atmosphere
mid.	medium quality of the groundmass
mid.–roh	medium to coarse quality of the groundmass

re	controlled firing conditions
Rd	rim diameter
RP	red-slipped polished
RPP	red-slipped polished exterior, polished interior
RPSP	red-slipped polished exterior, black polished interior
SP	black polished
TGSP	uncoated exterior, black polished interior
Wd	wall thickness



Pl. 1

