

THE WHITE SLIP WARES FROM TELL EL-DAB^a FROM THE PALACE DISTRICT AT ^cEZBET HELMI (AREAS H/III AND H/VI)

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INTRODUCTION

Some Cypriote White Slip sherds have been found in Tell el-Dab^a/Avaris, in the palace district at ^cEzbet Helmi (areas H/III and H/VI), during the excavations carried out by the Austrian Archaeological Institute in Cairo under the direction of M. BIETAK, between 1998 and 2005.¹

These are sherds from twelve “milk bowls”² of the early styles, six clearly belong to the *Proto White Slip ware*, four to the *White Slip I*, and two to the *White Slip indeterminate ware* (Graphs I to IV). The *PWS* sherds (*Nos. 1 to 6*) have appeared in pottery contexts of the relative strata f and e/2,³ dated to the late Hyksos Period (Phase D/2),⁴ and e/1, from the beginning of the 18th Dynasty (Phase D/1). The *WS I* sherds (*Nos. 7 to 10*) have been found in contexts of strata d (Phase C/3) and c (Phase C/2) from the Palace G (early-middle 18th Dynasty, time of Thutmose III),⁵ except *No. 10*, which comes from a context of stratum b/3 (Phase C/1) onwards that only can be dated

between the late 18th Dynasty and recent times. *Nos. 11 and 12*, found in an early 18th Dynasty context (Phase D/1) and in an early-middle 18th Dynasty context (Phase C/2) respectively, could probably be classified as *PWS* the first one and *WS I* the second, for the quality of the slip and of the decoration, although the pattern cannot be determinate because of the small part preserved. No *White Slip II ware*⁶ has appeared in these contexts. All these Cypriote sherds are described in the *Catalogue*, below.

Other White Slip sherds from ^cEzbet Helmi (areas H/I–V) and from the tell (areas A/II, A/N, A/IV and A/V) were already published by M. BIETAK and I. HEIN.⁷ From these thirty-two sherds, ten have been classified as *PWS* ware, ten as *WS I*, four as *WS indeterminate* and four as *WS II*.

COMMENTARY

The White Slip bowls from ^cEzbet Helmi were reconstructed from sherds. They are medium size

¹ On the preliminary reports of the excavations: BIETAK, DORNER und JÁNOSI 2001, 27–100; and BIETAK und FORSTNER-MÜLLER 2005, 65–100.

² These so-called “milk bowls” were serving dishes, used to serve hot, cooked meals of meat and vegetables prepared with vegetable oil and potherbs, and to drink pine-resin-flavoured wine. C.W. BECK, E.C. STOUT, K.M. WOVKULICH, V. KARAGEORGHIS and E. ALOUPI 2004, 13–44, especially 17–18.

³ The relative strata at ^cEzbet Helmi are dated by BIETAK to the following periods:

Stratum (^c Ezbet Helmi)	Phase (Tell el-Dab ^a)	Egyptian chronology
stratum g stratum f stratum e/2	Phase D/2	Late Hyksos period
stratum e/1.2 stratum e/1.1	Phase D/1.2 Phase D/1.1	Early 18 th Dynasty
stratum d	Phase C/3	Early–middle 18 th Dynasty
stratum c	Phase C/2	(Thutmose III, 1478–1425 BC)*

* BIETAK refers only to the Tuthmosides period. On the stratigraphy of ^cEzbet Helmi: BIETAK and FORSTNER-MÜLLER 2005, 65–100, especially the table on p. 68.

stratum b/3	Phase C/1	Amenophis III and Amarna period
stratum b/2	Phase B/3	Late 18 th Dynasty (Tutankhamun and Horemheb)
stratum b/1	Phase B/2	Rameside period

⁴ The Phase D/2 finished with the Ahmose occupation of Avaris, ca. 1530 BC according to M. Bietak.

⁵ On the pottery typology of Phases D/1 to C/3, see FUSCALDO 2007, 301–316, in: BIETAK and CZERNY (eds.) 2007. The stratum c pottery contexts from H/III and H/VI are currently studied by David Aston.

⁶ *WS II* ware from original contexts was found only in assemblages on top of the strata of the 18th Dynasty at the palace complex (BIETAK, Introduction and chronological implications, 171–174, in: BIETAK and HEIN 2001, in: KARAGEORGHIS (ed.) 2001.

⁷ BIETAK and HEIN 2001, 171–194, in: KARAGEORGHIS (ed.) 2001.

bowls of hemispherical body (*Nos. 3 to 6, and 10*) with a horizontal wishbone handle (*Nos. 5⁸ and 7*). The exterior and interior surface has been covered with a thick white slip, burnished with a pebble, and decorated outside with a painted monochrome or bichrome pattern, except *No. 6* that is plain white. The shaping technique is hand-made, the groundmass is of medium quality and the fabric quite sandy and coarse; the walls are thin, between 0.25 and 0.35 cm. The bowls have inverted direct rims (*Nos. 3 to 6, 9 to 10*), with a diameter between 16 and 18 cm. Only one (*No. 12*) has an everted rim. The height is 6.1 cm and the base round, partially preserved, in the only vessel whose complete section could be reconstructed (*No. 9*).

Proto White Slip ware (*Nos. 1 to 6*)⁹

The *PWS* appears in two styles, “rope lattice” and “plain white”. The fabric has quartz and crushed limestone particles as inclusions, and fires brown to greyish brown or grey.

The “rope lattice” motif decorates the bowls *Nos. 1 to 5*. A horizontal wavy line around the rim and horizontal rope lattice bands on the body have been painted on a very pale brown slip, pebble burnished with low lustre. The decoration has a bichrome effect, reddish brown and reddish yellow, or brown and yellowish brown.

No. 3 (Fig. 1c, Plate 1c; Inv. No. 8966Y₁₋₈) is one of the most complete bowls, 16 cm of rim diameter and more than 8.5 cm high. A horizontal wavy line around the rim, three horizontal rope lattice bands below, vertical rope lattice bands and the frontal “eye and nose” decoration have been painted in brown and yellowish brown, on the very pale brown slip.¹⁰

The body sherds of other bowls, *No. 1* (Fig. 1a, Plate 1a; Inv. No. 8967A₂) and *No. 2* (Fig. 1b, Plate 1b; Inv. No. 8967A₁), preserved only the horizontal “rope lattice” motif in reddish brown and reddish yellow. *No. 4* (Fig. 1d, Plate 1d; Inv. No. 9070Y₃) is the rim sherd from a bowl, 17 cm diameter. A horizontal wavy line around the rim and a horizontal rope lattice band on the body, reddish brown and reddish yellow, have been painted on the very pale brown slip.

⁸ Only the swelling of the handle is preserved.

⁹ Fig. 1 and Plate 1.

The bowls *No. 1 to No. 4* have been found in contexts from the late Hyksos period (Phase D/2).

No. 5 (Fig. 1e, Plate 1e; Inv. No. 9070Y₁₋₂) is the rim and body sherd from another bowl, 17 cm diameter and more than 5.8 cm high. A horizontal wavy line around the rim, two horizontal rope lattice bands on the body, and a wavy line in the attachment of the handle have been painted in reddish brown and reddish yellow on a very pale brown slip.

The “plain white” milk bowl (*No. 6*, Fig. 1f, Plate 1f; Inv. No. 9070W₁₋₅), 16 cm of rim diameter and more than 5.5 cm high, has a white (10YR 8/1) slip burnished with a pebble outside and inside, with low lustre. It is the only example of this style recovered in the site. *No. 5* and *No. 6* have been found in contexts of the early 18th Dynasty (Phase D/1).

White Slip I ware (*Nos. 5 to 10*)¹¹

It is attested in two decoration styles, “framed lozenge” and “rope lattice”, painted on a very pale brown, pinkish white or pink slip, pebble burnished with lustre generally low. Quartz and crushed limestone particles were included in the groundmass, which fired brown to reddish brown or dark grey interior and reddish brown exterior. *No. 9* (Fig. 2c; Inv. No. 8945G₁₋₈) is a milk bowl of which the complete section could be reconstructed. It has a rim of 17 cm, a maximum diameter of 17.2 cm, 9.8 cm of height, and 175 of vessel index. A horizontal wavy line around the rim, a chain of lozenges framed by two bands below, and a vertical ladder motif on the body, have been painted in red and yellowish red on very pale brown slip. The context where it has been found is dated to the early–middle 18th Dynasty (stratum c = Phase C/2). To the same style belongs *No. 8* (Fig. 2b, Plate 1i; Inv. No. 8967B), a body sherd from a bowl with a vertical lozenge pattern framed by two parallel lines, painted in brown and reddish yellow on a white slip. It also has been found in an early–middle 18th Dynasty context (stratum d = Phase C/3).

The bowl *No. 10* (Fig. 2d, Plate 1h; Inv. No. 9071N), 16 cm of rim diameter, belongs to the

¹⁰ Similar to the bowl from Akhera (Tomb I.85), published by POPHAM 1972, fig. LXXIX, 3.

¹¹ Figs. 1–2 and Plate 1.

“rope lattice” style, with a horizontal rope lattice band around the rim and a vertical one? on the body, painted in reddish yellow on a pink slip. This example has no wavy line below the rim. It comes from a recent artificial accumulation of sand, dated to the late 18th Dynasty onwards (Phase C/1 to recent times).

The only wishbone handle that is preserved (*No.* 7, Fig. 2a; Inv. No. 8907Y) has been painted with four parallel lines and a wavy line alongside, in dark grey on a very pale brown slip. It has been found in an early–middle 18th Dynasty context (Phase C/3).¹²

Proto White Slip? and White Slip I?

The decorative motif on the bowls *Nos.* 11 and 12¹³ cannot be determinate because the small part preserved. From the first one, *No.* 11 (Fig. 2e; Inv. No. 9070X₁₋₂), only two sherds have been recovered, one of them has a horizontal and a vertical band painted in reddish brown and reddish yellow on a pinkish white slip (7.5YR 8/2). They have been found in a context from the early 18th Dynasty (Phase D/1).

From the second one, *No.* 12 (Fig. 2f, Plate 1g; Inv. No. 8967C₁₋₂), only a small sherd has preserved the decoration: a wavy line below the rim outside and a vertical straight line inside, painted in brown-strong brown on a very pale brown slip. It is a bowl with an everted direct rim of 17 cm. It has been found in a context from the early–middle 18th Dynasty (Phase C/2).

CONCLUSIONS

At Tell el-Dab^ca, the PWS ware appears only in the absolute Phase D/2. Therefore it is associated

with the late Hyksos period, which finished around 1530 BC with the conquest of Avaris by Ahmose. It continues during the early 18th Dynasty.¹⁴ The attested styles are “rope lattice” and “plain white”. PWS is also documented in Canaan at the end of the Middle Bronze IIC.¹⁵

WS I appears in Cyprus in the Late Cypriote IA period, and in Egypt only at the beginning of the 18th Dynasty.¹⁶ It is associated with other diagnostic Late Cypriote wares, such as WP V and WP VI, Cypriote wheel-made BI and BR I.¹⁷ At Tell el-Dab^ca, WS I has been already found in contexts from the early 18th Dynasty, it means after 1530 BC,¹⁸ although the milk bowls published in this article that were classified as WS I come from strata d and c (= Phase C/3 and C/2; early–middle 18th Dynasty), and not before. But the WS I examples from other areas of ^cEzbet Helmi and from the tell are dated, for the contexts, to the beginning of the 18th Dynasty (Phase D/1). This is in concordance with the evidences from other Eastern Mediterranean sites: WS I is reported at the beginning of the Late Bronze IA, and is usually associated with diagnostic Late Cypriote wares. It became more popular by the early–middle 18th Dynasty.

The PWS decorative style attested at Tell el-Dab^ca is “rope lattice”, with a wavy line at the rim and a pair of vertical rope lattices between the horizontal bands on the body. The WS I styles are “framed lozenge” and “rope lattice”; no “wavy line” or “dotted row” styles had appeared in this site. This is a situation similar to that at Tell el-^cAjjul, where the “framed lozenge” and the “rope lattice” styles are the most frequent, and the “wavy line”¹⁹ and the “dotted row”²⁰ very rare. According

¹² The stratum d pottery from this locus includes: Nile E₄ fabric, red polished bowls with everted direct rims or inverted rims, small bowls with red-slipped and burnished interior surface, some Marl C sherds from zirs, two sherds from a “Classic” Kerma beaker (“black-topped red polished ware”; Inv. No. 8929L₁₋₂), and an Egyptian imitation of a Kerma pot (Inv. No. 8930C). The last two vessels were published in FUSCALDO 2002, 167–186.

¹³ Fig. 2e and Plate 1e.

¹⁴ Probably until stratum C. BIETAK and HEIN 2001, 171–194, in: KARAGEORGHIS (ed.) 2001.

¹⁵ On the WS ware in Canaan, see OREN 2001, 127–144, in: KARAGEORGHIS (ed.) 2001.

¹⁶ There is no WS I in Canaan before the Late Bronze I, or in Egypt before the beginning of the 18th Dynasty,

except at Tell el-^cAjjul. It seems that an “early” WS I began to appear in Canaan in the same period as PWS, before the fully developed, normal styles of WS I, which arrived during the Late Bronze I. There is evidence from Cyprus for a gradual stylistic development from PWS to WS I (BERGOFFEN 2001, 145–155, and discussions on p.159, in: KARAGEORGHIS (ed.) 2001).

¹⁷ BIETAK and HEIN 2001, 171–174, in: KARAGEORGHIS (ed.) 2001.

¹⁸ BIETAK and HEIN 2001, 171–194, in: KARAGEORGHIS (ed.) 2001. On the Bichorme ware from Tell el-Dab^ca: BIETAK 2001, 175–202, and HEIN 2001, 231–247, in: ÅSTRÖM (ed.) 2001.

¹⁹ POPHAM 1972, fig. LXXX, 2; BERGOFFEN 2003, fig. 3, in: BIETAK (ed.) 2003.

²⁰ POPHAM 1972, fig. LXXX, 4.

to Celia Bergoffen, who compared the decoration of the WS ware from Tell el-^cAjjul with that from Cypriote sites, it is highly probably that a large part of the assemblages of PWS and WS I from Tell el-^cAjjul derived from NW Cyprus, and this points to the existence of a regionally-based trade.²¹ This affirmation can also be applied to the WS ware from Tell el-Dab^ca.

CATALOGUE²²

Proto White Slip ware

Hemispherical bowls with bichrome effect

No. 1 (Fig. 1a, Plate 1a), 8967A₂ {2003/009}

PBI	VI	mi	Ha1	—	m	3
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Body fragment; mended; hemispherical bowl. Wd: 0.35 cm; H₁: 2.9 + x cm.

Surface colour: 10YR 8/2 very pale brown slip.

Break: 7.5YR 4/3 brown.

Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm and >0.5 mm: abundant) and crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm: medium).

Decoration: painted pattern; horizontal rope lattice motif; bichrome effect (7.5YR 6/6 reddish brown and 5YR 6/6 reddish yellow).

Surface treatment: pebble burnished outside and inside, low lustre.

Field reference: H/VI-x/18, Pl. 5, **L5025**, stratum f. Phase D/2 (*late Hyksos period*).

No. 2 (Fig. 1b, Plate 1b), 8967A₁ {2003/009}

PBI	VI	mi	Ha1	—	m	3
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Body fragment; mended; hemispherical bowl. Wd: 0.35 cm; H₁: 3 + x cm.

Surface colour: 10YR 8/2 very pale brown slip.

Break: 7.5YR 4/3 brown.

Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm and >0.5 mm: abundant) and crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm: medium).

Decoration: painted pattern; horizontal rope lattice motif; bichrome effect (7.5YR 6/6 reddish brown and 5YR 6/6 reddish yellow).

Surface treatment: pebble burnished outside and inside, low lustre.

Field reference: H/VI-x/18, Pl. 5, **L5017** (from the section; 4.30 m E, 8 m N, 30 cm deep), stratum e/2. Find No. 7; from C-9276. Phase D/2 (*late Hyksos period*).

No. 3 (Fig. 1c; Plate 1c), 8966Y₁₋₈ {2003/010 and 2003/011}

PBI	VI	mi	Ha1	—	re	3
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Rim and body fragments; rim 7/32 preserved. Reconstructed shape; mended; hemispherical bowl; inverted direct rim.

Rd: 16 cm; Md: 17.5 cm; Wd: 0.35 cm; H₁: 8.5 + x cm.

Surface colour: 10YR 8/2 very pale brown slip.

Break: 10YR 5/2 greyish brown.

Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: abundant; >0.5 mm: medium) and crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm: few).

Decoration: painted pattern; horizontal and vertical rope lattice motifs. A horizontal wavy line around the rim and three horizontal rope lattice bands below; vertical rope lattice bands and a frontal “eye and nose” decoration; bichrome effect (10YR 5/3 brown and 5/6 yellowish brown).

Surface treatment: pebble burnished outside and inside, low lustre.

Field reference: H/VI-x/18, Pl. 5, **L5017** (from the section, 4.3 m E, 8 m N, 0.3 m deep), stratum e/2. Find No. 7; from C-9276. Phase D/2 (*late Hyksos period*).

No. 4 (Fig. 1d; Plate 1d), 9070Y₃ {2003/007}

PBI	VI	mi	Ha1	—	ox	3
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Rim sherd; rim 1/8 preserved. Reconstructed shape; mended; hemispherical bowl; inverted direct rim.

Rd: 17 cm; Md: 19.5 cm; Wd: 0.35 cm; H₁: 2.5 + x cm.

Surface colour: 10YR 8/2 very pale brown slip.

Break: 7.5YR 5/3 brown.

Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: abundant; >0.5 mm: medium) and crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm: few).

Decoration: painted pattern; horizontal rope lattice motif. A horizontal wavy line around the rim and two horizontal rope lattice bands on the

²¹ BERGOFFEN 2001, 154, in: KARAGEORGHIS (ed.) 2001.

²² Explanations of the vessel description: above the boxes there are the inventory number of the vessel, the drawing number in the records of the Mission and the year when it was drawn; inside the boxes, there are men-

tioned different attributes: ware, fabric in the Tell el-Dab^ca system, quality of the groundmass, method of manufacture, shaping technique of the base, firing index and hardness, according to the “Keramikinventar”.

body; a wavy line on the attachment of the handle; bichrome effect (2.5YR 4/4 reddish brown and 7.5YR 6/6 reddish yellow).

Surface treatment: pebble burnished outside and inside, low lustre.

Field reference: H/VI-x/18, Pl. 5–6, **L5027**, stratum e/2. *Phase D/2 (late Hyksos period).*

No. 5 (Fig. 1e; Plate 1e), 9070Y₁₋₂ {2003/004}

PBI	VI	mi	Ha1	—	ox	3
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Rim sherd and body fragments, the swelling of the handle; rim 1/8 preserved. Reconstructed shape; mended; hemispherical bowl; inverted direct rim. Rd: 17 cm; Md: 19.5 cm; Wd: 0.35 cm; H₁: 5.8 + x cm. Surface colour: 10YR 8/2 very pale brown slip.

Break: 7.5YR 5/3 brown.

Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: abundant; >0.5 mm: medium) and crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm: few).

Decoration: painted pattern; horizontal rope lattice motif. A horizontal wavy line around the rim and two horizontal rope lattice bands on the body; a wavy line on the attachment of the handle; bichrome effect (2.5YR 4/4 reddish brown and 7.5YR 6/6 reddish yellow).

Surface treatment: pebble burnished outside and inside, low lustre.

Field reference: H/VI-x/18, Pl. 5–6, **L4987** (a mud layer which covers the stratum e/2 wall M1600, below the silos wall M1586); from C-9297, stratum e/1.2.

Plain White hemispherical bowl

No. 6 (Fig. 1f; Plate 1f), 9070W₁₋₅ {2003/001}²³

P	VI	mi	Ha1	—	m	3
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Rim and body fragments; rim 1/16 preserved. Reconstructed shape; mended; hemispherical bowl; inverted direct rim.

Rd: 16 cm; Md: 16.5 cm; Wd: 0.25–0.3 cm; H₁: 5.5 + x cm.

Surface colour: 10YR 8/1 white slip.

Break: 5YR 6/1 grey.

Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm and >0.50 mm: abundant).

Decoration: whole body white.

Surface treatment: pebble burnished outside and inside, low lustre.

Field reference: H/VI-x/19, Pl. 3, **L4973** (a sherd carpet which goes over walls M1581 and M1582, possibly a continuation of L4926. H: 4.55–4.62 m; 1 m W, 1 m N), stratum e/1.1. Find No. 34; from C-9288. *Phase D/1.1 (early 18th Dynasty).*

White Slip I

Hemispherical bowl

Monochrome decoration

No. 7 (Fig. 2a), 8907Y {1999/152}

PMO	VI	f-mi	Ha1	—	re	3
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Handle; wish-bone handle from a bowl. Hd: 0.8 × 0.75 cm.

Surface colour: 10YR 6/3 pale brown; 8/2 very pale brown slip.

Break: 10YR 5/3 brown.

Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm, >0.5 mm and > 2 mm: abundant), crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm, >0.5 mm and >2 mm: abundant) and black grits.

Decoration: four parallel lines and a wavy line alongside; 10YR 4/1 dark grey.

Surface treatment: pebble burnished, medium lustre.

Field reference: H/VI-h/18, Pl. 1–2, **L3004V** (silt mud-brick debris, in the upper part of the fill of the room L3004, in the Palace G. H: 4.25 m; 4.15 m W, 2.75 m N), stratum d; from C-9032. *Phase C/3 (early–middle 18th Dynasty).*

Bichrome effect

No. 8 (Fig. 2b; Plate 1i), 8967B {2003/001}²⁴

PBI	VI	mi	Ha1	—	m	3
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Body fragment; hemispherical bowl. Wd: 0.25 cm; H₁: 3.5 + x cm.

Surface colour: 7.5YR 8/2 pinkish white slip.

Break: 7.5YR 5/3 brown.

Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm and >0.5 mm: abundant; >2 mm: few) and crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm: medium).

Decoration: a painted vertical lozenge pattern framed by two parallel lines; 7.5YR 5/3 brown and 6/6 reddish yellow.

Surface treatment: pebble burnished outside and inside, low lustre.

²³ Published before in FUSCALDO 2007, 310, in: BIETAK and CZERNY (eds.) 2007.

²⁴ Published before in FUSCALDO 2007, 314, in: BIETAK and CZERNY (eds.) 2007.

Field reference: H/VI-x/19, Pl. 1, **L4840** (a sherd heap; 3.4 m W, 4.5 m S), stratum d. *Phase C/3* (early–middle 18th Dynasty).

No. 9 (Fig. 2c), 8945G₁₋₈ {2003/032}

PBI	VI	mi	Ha1	Ha	ox	3
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Rim sherd and body fragments. Reconstructed shape; mended; hemispherical bowl; slightly inverted direct rim and round base; the central part of the base is broken.

Rd: 17 cm; Md: 17.2 cm; Wd: 0.3 cm; H₁: 9.8 cm.

Surface colour: 10YR 8/2 very pale brown slip.

Break: 5YR 5/4 reddish brown.

Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: abundant; >0.5 mm: few) and crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm: few).

Decoration: painted pattern; a horizontal wavy line and framed lozenges around the rim; vertical ladder motif on the body; 2.5YR 4/6 red and 5YR 5/8 yellowish red.

Surface treatment: pebble burnished outside and inside, low lustre.

Field reference: H/VI-v/15, Pl. 0–1, **L4379** (a sherd layer; H: 5.5–5.25 m, in the south corner of the square), stratum c; from C-9060. *Phase C/2* (early–middle 18th Dynasty).

Monochrome decoration

No. 10 (Fig. 2d; Plate 1h), 9071N {2003/020}

PMO	VI	mi	Ha1	—	re	3
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Rim sherd, 1/16 preserved; slightly inverted direct rim.

Rd: 16 cm; Wd: 0.35 cm; H₁: 2.3 + x cm.

Surface colour: 5YR 7/3 pink slip.

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

Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: abundant) and crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm: medium). Decoration: painted pattern; rope lattice motif, horizontal around the rim, and vertical on the body?; 5YR 6/6 reddish yellow.

Surface treatment: pebble burnished outside and inside, medium lustre.

Field reference: H/III-n/14, Pl. 0–1, **L2000** (a recent artificial accumulation of sand. H: 4.9–5 m), stratum b/3 (*Phase C/1*, late 18th Dynasty) to recent;²⁵

²⁵ A sherd from a “Classic” Kerma beaker of the black-topped red polished ware (Inv. No. 9072H) was recovered in this locus.

PWS?

Hemispherical bowl with bichrome effect

No. 11 (Fig. 2e), 9070X₁₋₂{2003/004}²⁶

PBI	VI	mi	Ha1	—	ox	3
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Body fragments; mended.

(1) Wd: 0.35 cm; H₁2 + x cm. (2) Wd: 0.35 cm; H₁: 0.5 + x cm.

Surface colour: 7.5YR 8/2 pinkish white slip.

Break: 5YR 5/4 reddish brown.

Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm and >0.5 mm: abundant; > 2 mm: few) and crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm: few).

Decoration: painted pattern; indeterminate motif; bichrome effect (2.5YR 4/4 reddish brown and 7.5YR 6/6 reddish yellow).

Surface treatment: pebble burnished outside and inside, low lustre.

Field reference: H/VI-x/19, Pl. 3, **L4973** (a sherd carpet which goes over walls M1581 and M1582, possibly a continuation of L4926. H: 4.55–4.62 m), stratum e/1.1; Find No. 34; from C-9239. *Phase D/1.1* (early 18th Dynasty).

WS I?

Hemispherical bowl with monochrome decoration

No. 12 (Fig. 2f; Plate 1g), 8967C₁₋₂ {2003/004}

PBI	VI	mi	Ha1	—	m	3
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Rim and body fragment; rim 1/32 preserved; hemispherical bowl, everted direct rim.

(1) Rd: 17 cm; Wd: 0.45 cm; H₁: 1 + x cm. (2) Wd: 0.45 cm; H₁: 1.1 + x cm.

Surface colour: 10YR 8/2 very pale brown slip.

Break: 7.5YR 5/4 brown.

Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm and >0.5 mm: abundant) and crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm: few).

Decoration: painted; indeterminate motif; a horizontally wavy line around the rim, outside; a vertical straight line inside; 7.5YR 4/4 brown - 5/6 strong brown.

Surface treatment: pebble burnished outside and inside, low lustre.

Field reference: H/VI-v/17, Pl. 1–2, **L4553** (the

²⁶ FUSCALDO 2007, 310, in: BIETAK and CZERNY (eds.) 2007.

burnt fill of the room), stratum c; from C-9079. Phase C/2 (early-middle 18th Dynasty).

Abbreviations:

Ha hand made base

BI Bichrome ware

BR Base Ring ware

C context

f-mi fine to medium quality of the groundmass

H₁ total height of the vessel

Ha₁ hand-made shaping technique

Md diameter at the major point

m fired in a medium atmosphere

mi medium quality of the groundmass

ox fired in an oxidizing atmosphere

P polished surface

PBI polished with bichrome decoration

PMO polished with monochrome decoration

PWS Proto White Slip ware

Rd rim diameter

re fired in controlled firing conditions

RLWM Red Lustrous wheel made ware

VI Cypriote fabric

Wd wall thickness

WP White Painted ware

WS White Slip ware

WS I White Slip I ware

WS ind. White Slip indeterminate ware

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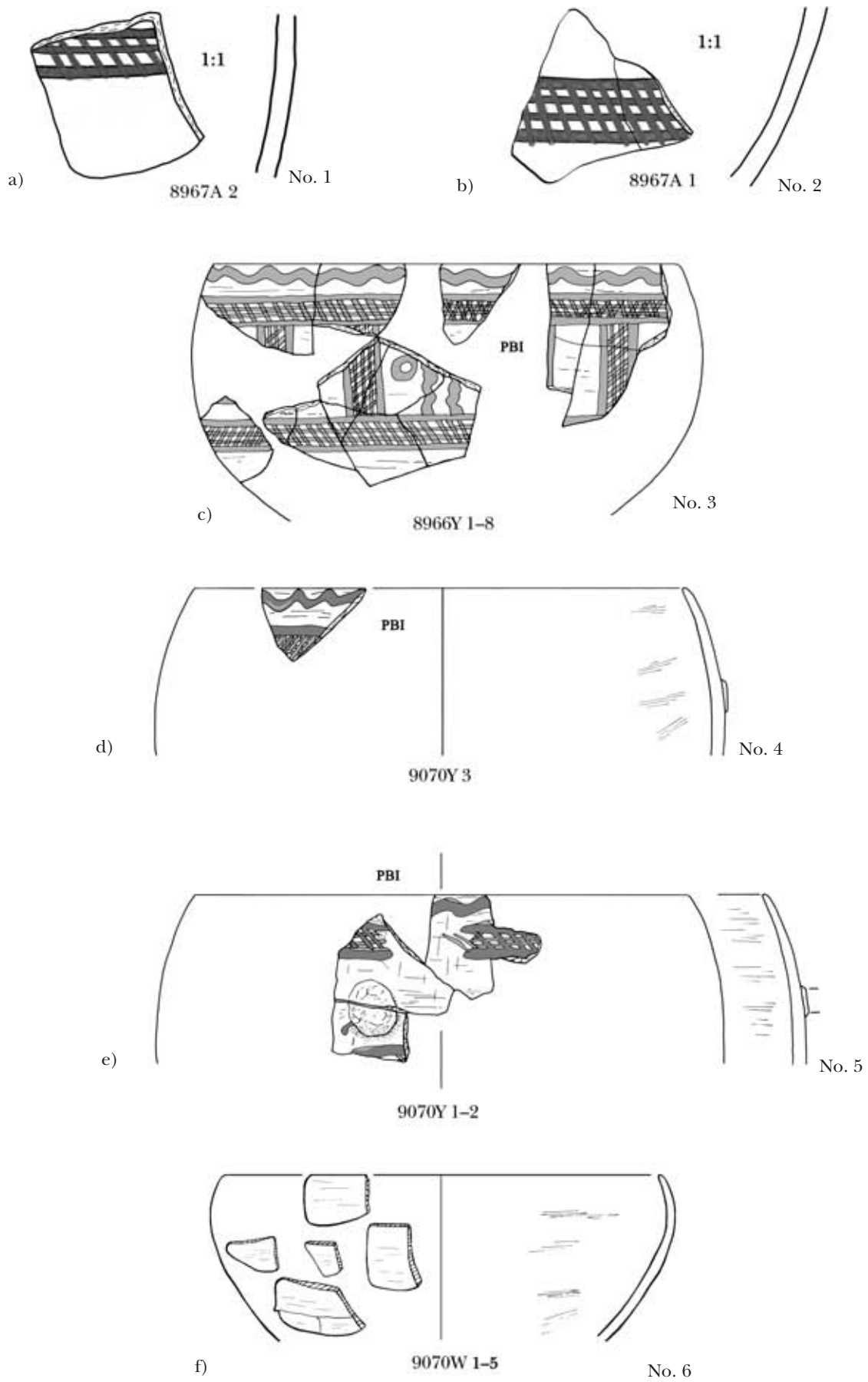


Fig. 1

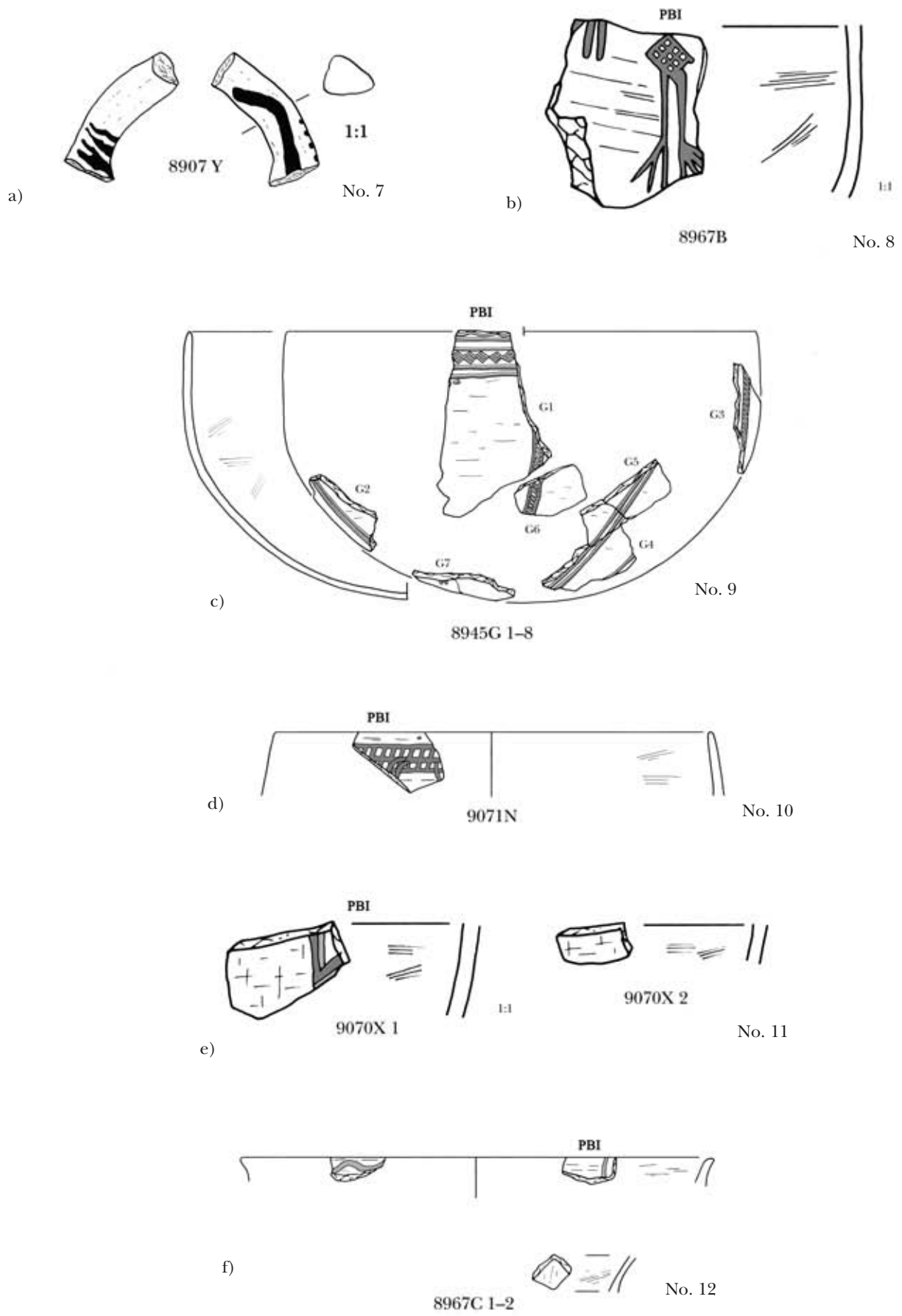
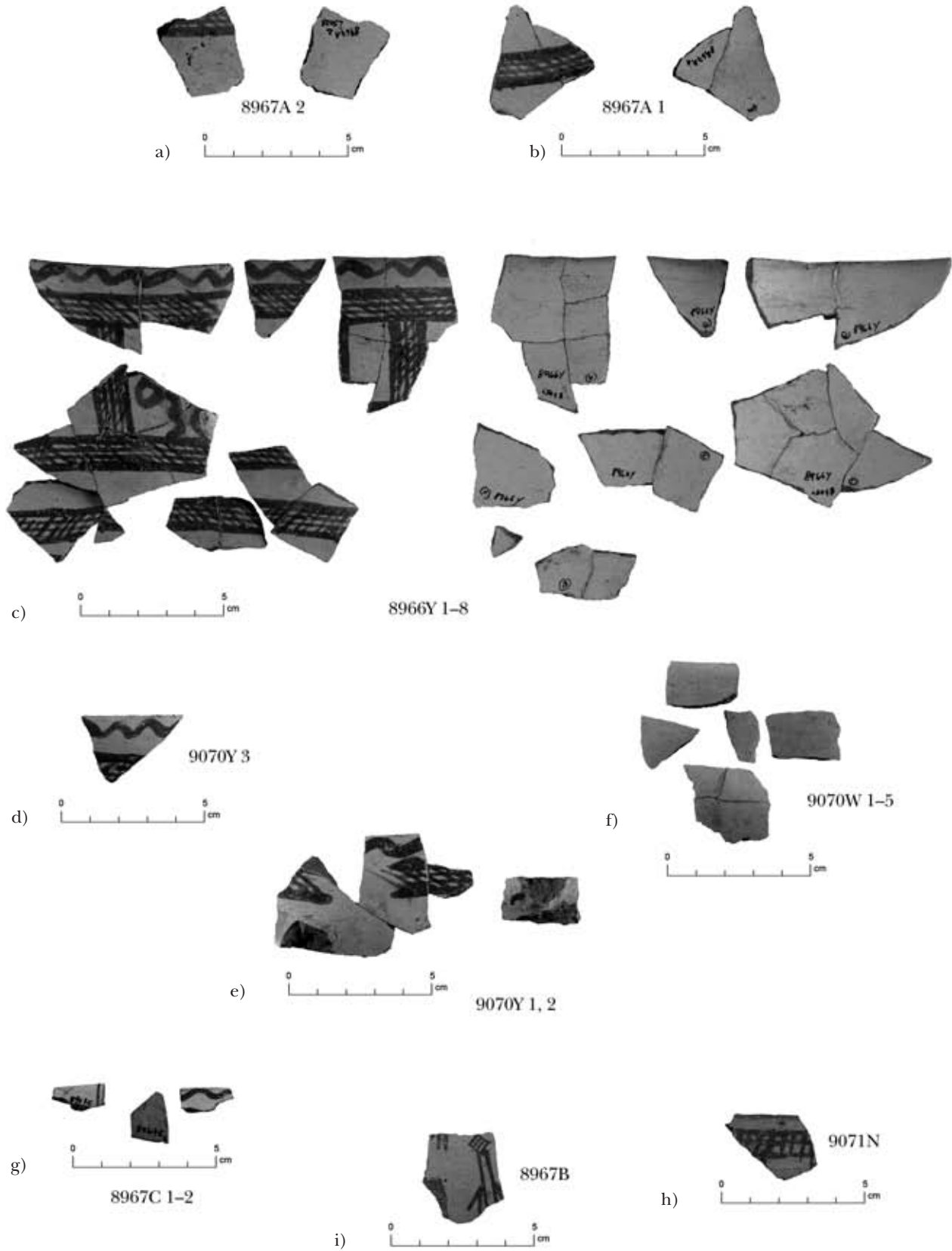


Fig. 2

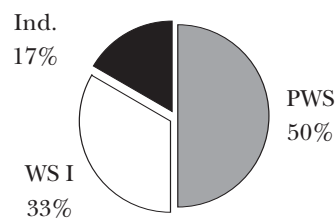


Pl. 1

Order	Figure	Inventory number	WS ware	Decoration Motif	Colour	Area	Context	Phase	Date of the contexts
No. 1	1a	8967A2	PWS	rope lattice	bichrome	H/VI	L5025	Phase D/2	Late Hyksos period
No. 2	1b	8967A1	PWS	rope lattice	bichrome	H/VI	L5017	Phase D/2	Late Hyksos period
No. 3	1c	8966Y1-8	PWS	rope lattice	bichrome	H/VI	L5017	Phase D/2	Late Hyksos period
No. 4	1d	9070Y3	PWS	rope lattice	bichrome	H/VI	L5027	Phase D/2	Late Hyksos period
No. 5	1e	9070Y1-2	PWS	rope lattice	bichrome	H/VI	L4987	Phase D/1	Early 18 th Dynasty
No. 6	1f	9070W1-5	PWS	plain white		H/VI	L4973	Phase D/1	Early 18 th Dynasty
No. 7	2a	8907Y	WS I		monochrome	H/VI	L3004V	Phase C/3	Early-middle 18 th Dyn.
No. 8	2b	8967B	WS I	framed lozenge	bichrome	H/VI	L4840	Phase C/3	Early-middle 18 th Dyn.
No. 9	2c	8945G1-8	WS I	framed lozenge	bichrome	H/VI	L4379	Phase C/2	Early-middle 18 th Dyn.
No. 10	2d	9071N	WS I	rope lattice	monochrome	H/III	L2000	Phase C/1 onwards	Late 18 th Dyn. onwards
No. 11	2e	9070X1-2	PWS?	indeterminate	bichrome	H/VI	L4973	Phase D/1.1	Early 18 th Dynasty
No. 12	2f	8967C1-2	WS I?	indeterminate	monochrome	H/VI	L4553	Phase C/2	Early-middle 18 th Dyn.

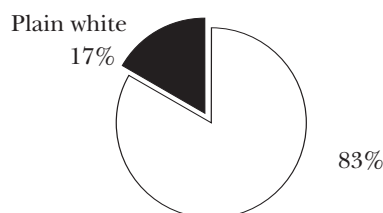
Graph I The WS sherds from 'Ezbet Helmi, H/III and H/VI

Ware	Amount	%
PWS	6	50
WS I	4	33
Ind.	2	17
Total	12	100



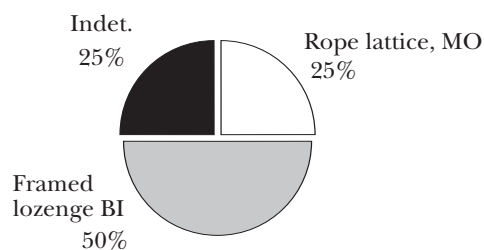
Graph II Amount of sherds by ware

Style	Amount	%
Rope lattice, BI	5	83
Plain white	1	17
Total	6	100



Graph III Amount of PWS sherds by style

Style	Amount	%
Rope lattice, MO	1	25
Framed lozenge, BI	2	50
Indeterminate	1	25
Total	4	100



Graph IV Amount of WS I sherds by style