

# PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE EARLY BRONZE AGE III POTTERY FROM CONTEXTS OF THE 6<sup>th</sup> DYNASTY IN THE ABYDOS MIDDLE CEMETERY

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## INTRODUCTION

New work in the Abydos Middle Cemetery by the University of Michigan, directed by Janet Richards, since 1996 has uncovered archaeological remains that date from the Naqada II Period down to the Islamic Period.<sup>2</sup> One of the main results of this work is the rediscovery of the tomb of Weni, the famous official who served three kings of the 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty and the contextualization of Weni's tomb in an elite *mastaba* cemetery of the late Old Kingdom. This aspect of the excavations has produced a large assemblage of well-dated 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty Egyptian ceramics as well as at least 11 Levantine Early Bronze Age III (EBIII) imports consisting of two handled, flat-based transport jars with combed surface. The existing corpus of Levantine EBIII ceramics from the Upper Egyptian provinces during the Old Kingdom is very limited as is the number of these vessels found in well-dated contexts of the 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty. The material from the Middle Cemetery therefore has the potential to further refine our knowledge of chronological patterns of international trade that existed during the Old Kingdom as well as adding important archaeological evidence to the ongoing discussion of the nature of internal developments that took place during the 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty. The aim of this report is to provide a brief, first insight into the date, archaeological context and character of the imported material recorded during the study season in 2009<sup>3</sup> and to provide a broad frame-

work for understanding its significance. As work on this material is ongoing, all results are to be considered preliminary.

## PRESERVATION, CONTEXT AND ASSOCIATED ASSEMBLAGES OF THE EBIII CERAMIC

The imported material was found as sherds. To date over 400 sherds have been recorded but this is only a preliminary count. The final count can be expected to be far greater as more contexts are fully processed (see below). Although shattered through post depositional processes, the state of preservation of most of the sherds is excellent and does not exhibit the weathered, metallic appearance of sherds exposed for long periods of time on the cemetery surface.

No vessels were found *in-situ* but the horizontal distribution of the sherd material clearly concentrates on three large Old Kingdom *mastaba* tombs that dominated this portion of the Middle Cemetery landscape. In most cases, there is good reason to assume that the sherds came from the tombs in connection with which they were found (see below). These tombs belonged to high officials of the 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty who were among the first to use this area of the Middle Cemetery. In the order that they will be discussed, these are the tombs of (a) Weni, (b) Iuu and (c) Idi/Nekhty (Fig. 1). All three tombs are closely datable and therefore provide a tight chronological and social context in which the imported material may be placed. The following discussion also incorpo-

<sup>1</sup> Monash University.

<sup>2</sup> RICHARDS 2001, 2002a, 2002b, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007a, 2007b, 2010, RICHARDS and HERBICH 2005.

<sup>3</sup> I would like to acknowledge the members of the Middle Cemetery team who were involved in preliminary sorting of the material and the writing up of internal preliminary reports, in particular E. Hart, J. Shirley, A. Sprochi and K. Turner. Special thanks go to P. Lacovara for his work on the ceramics during the 1996 and 2009 seasons. His expertise and advice during the 2009 sea-

son were invaluable. Ceramic reconstruction was undertaken by Nabil Fahmy el Samman and Mohammed Ramadan Soliman from Qift, sherd work by Hamdy Abdel Rahman from Beni Mansour. J. Richards very kindly invited me to work on the material and read a draft of this paper. Fig. 1 was produced by G. Compton. Fig. 7g was drawn by P. Lacovara. The other ceramic drawings and all inkings in the article are by the author. B. Parr assisted with the digitalization of images.

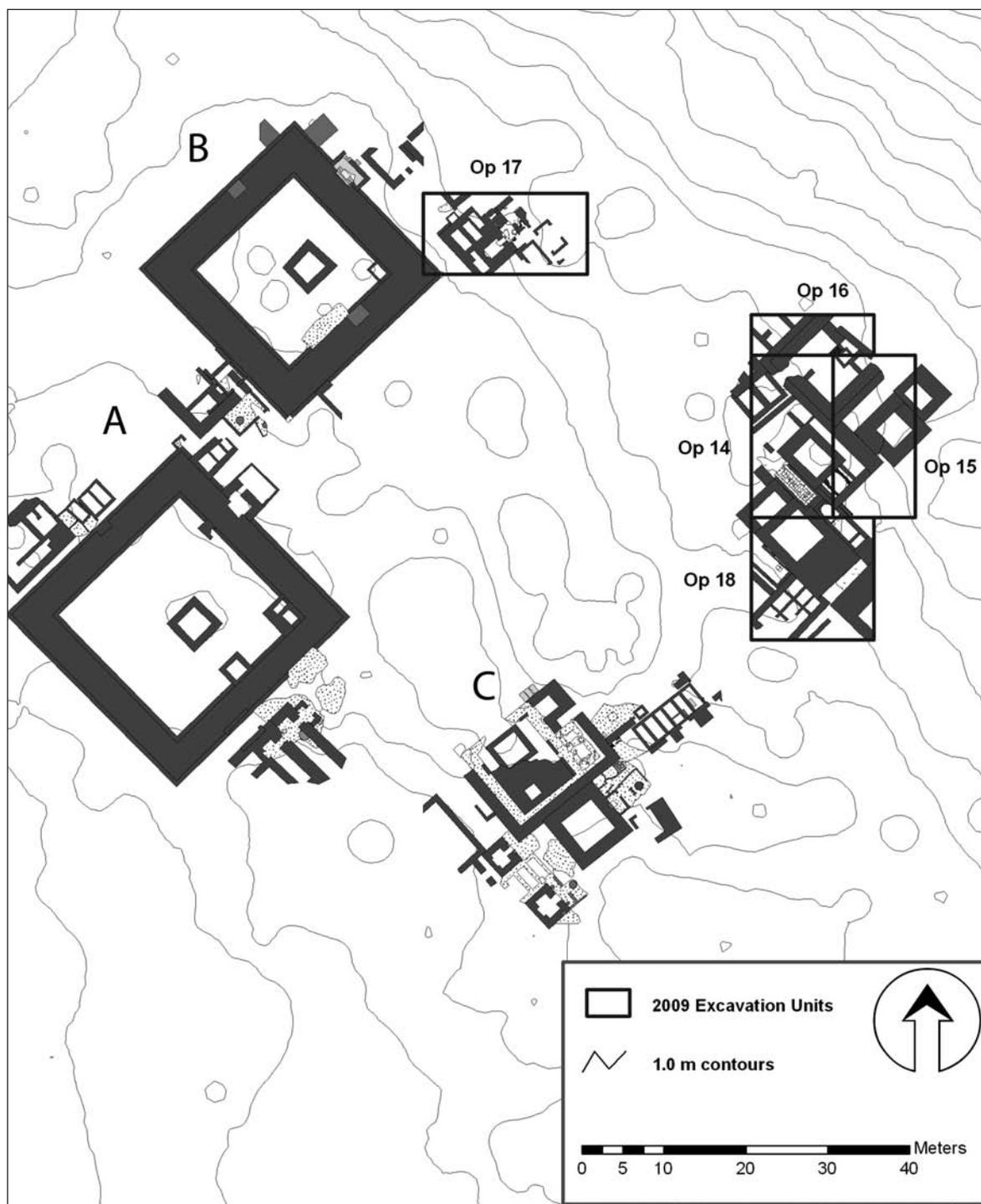


Fig. 1 The Abydos Middle Cemetery (state of work 2009), drawing: G. Compton

rates brief discussion of Egyptian ceramics where these provide contextual information for the EBIII sherds.

(a) Weni, whose tomb was reexcavated in 1999 and 2001, served under three successive 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty kings: Teti, Pepi I and Merenre; a fact that allows us to date his tomb, and more impor-

tantly his burial, with some accuracy. As his “auto”-biography records, Weni was promoted to the position of Governor of Upper Egypt during the reign of Merenre. His final advancement to the position of vizier and chief judge was not recorded in his biography and therefore must have taken place late in his career after the stone

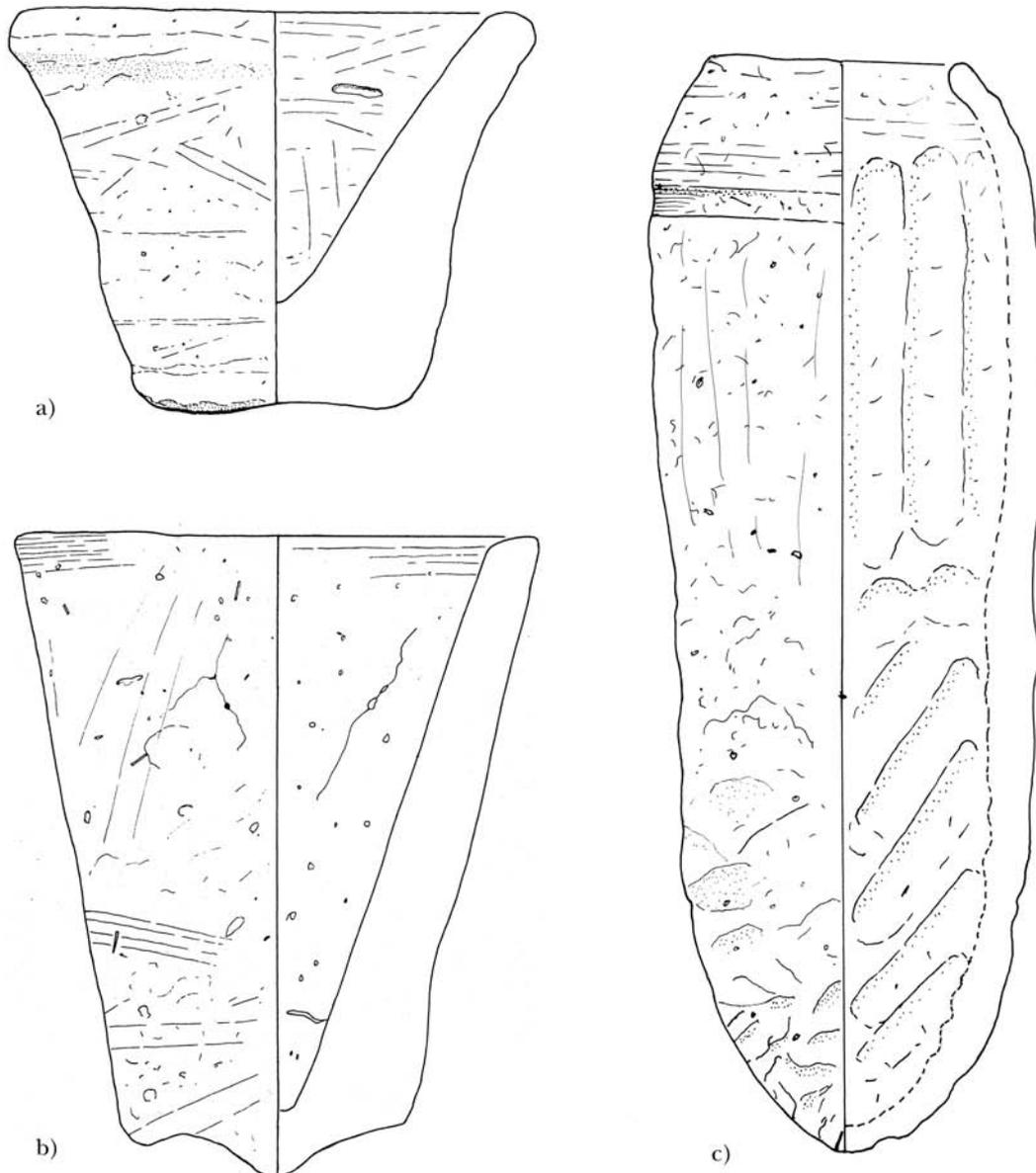


Fig. 2 Egyptian Coarse Silt Pottery from the Tomb of Weni (1:3)

bearing his biography had been completed.<sup>4</sup> His death and burial however probably still occurred during the reign of Merenre as sigilligraphic evidence from the tomb demonstrates.<sup>5</sup>

Weni's tomb is in the form of a large, hollow mud brick *mastaba* that measured nearly 30 × 30 m along its sides and was preserved to a height of

nearly 5m.<sup>6</sup> The 3.5 m thick *mastaba* walls enclosed an open space in the middle of which was located the square tomb shaft. A secondary shaft was located south of this next to the enclosure wall and a *serdab* was built in the southeast corner.<sup>7</sup> The enclosure was filled with sand to create the appearance of a solid *massif*.<sup>8</sup> The chapel from which the biog-

<sup>4</sup> This promotion is recorded on a false door set into the northern exterior wall of the *mastaba*, see RICHARDS 2002b, 93 fig.15.

<sup>5</sup> Richards, personal communication.

<sup>6</sup> RICHARDS 2002b, 89.

<sup>7</sup> RICHARDS 2002b, 88, fig.9, 89. Orientation is according to local north (Nile).

<sup>8</sup> RICHARDS 2002b, 89.

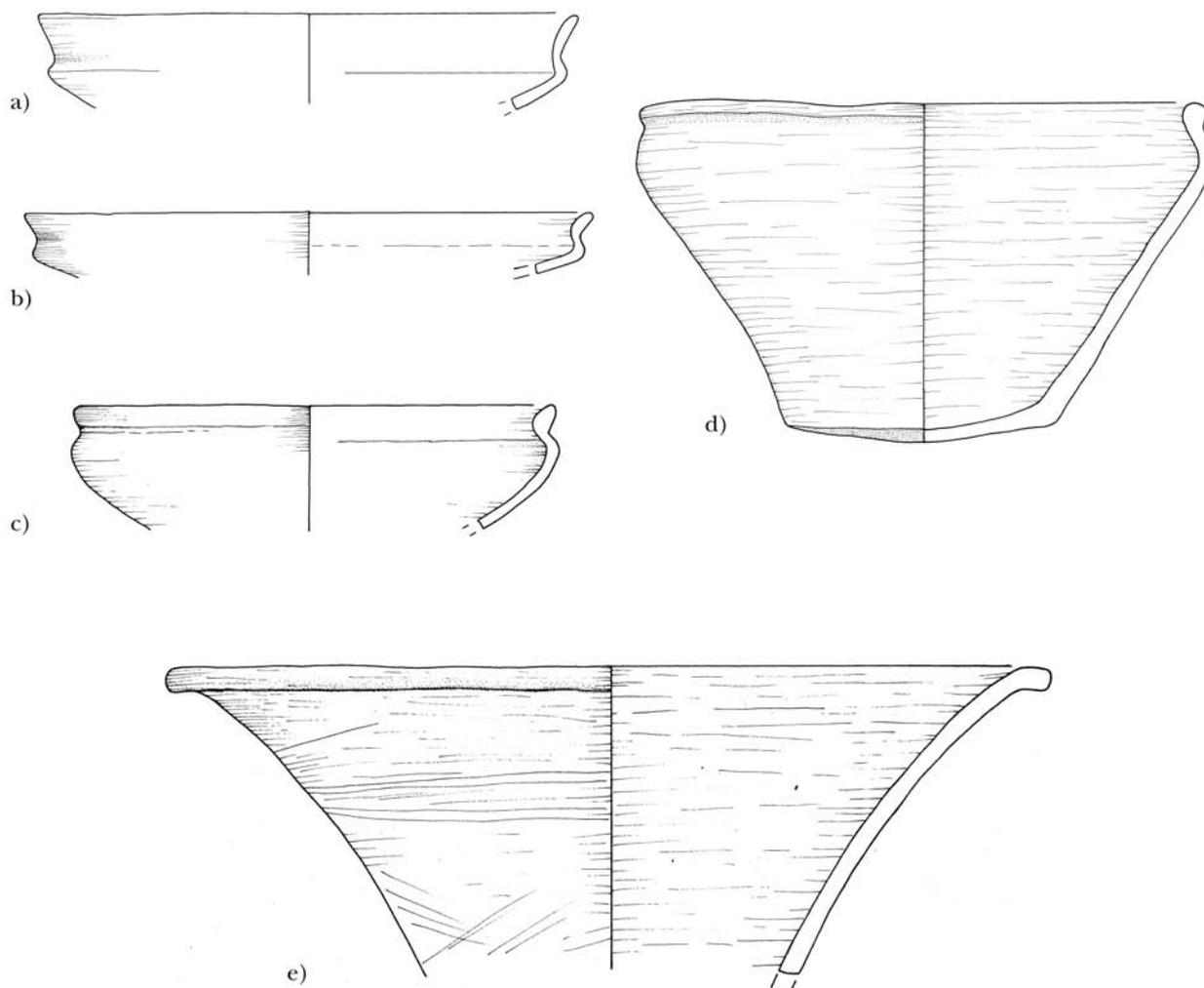


Fig. 3 Egyptian Fine Silt Pottery from the Tomb of Weni (1:3)

raphical inscription derives is on the eastern exterior face of the enclosure.<sup>9</sup>

All areas of the *mastaba* had been thoroughly disturbed in ancient and modern times and there are no “intact” deposits.<sup>10</sup> To date, rims and bases belonging to at least six EBIII vessels have been recorded from disturbed contexts from the eastern half of the interior of the *mastaba* superstructure incorporating the area around the opening of both shafts (Fig. 1a). Apart from later intrusive material, these contexts principally contain offering vessels deposited around the principal shaft at the time of the funeral. Mixed in with this materi-

al is ceramic in all likelihood from the burial chamber and shaft filling that had been redeposited here during previous excavation activity. The Old Kingdom material is homogenous and belongs to one temporally limited period of tomb use

The numerically most important assemblage of vessels is those that were deposited around the principal shaft (Fig. 2). It consists entirely of bread moulds, beer jars and coarse basins. The bread moulds (Fig. 2a, b) are hand made in coarse chaffy silt and soft fired. They exhibit a wide variety that include the typical 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty forms of the *bd3* and *prt* moulds as well as other

<sup>9</sup> RICHARDS 2002b, 96 fig. 18.

<sup>10</sup> For the disturbance of the burial chamber see RICHARDS 2002b, 100–102. In addition to tomb robbing activity and excavation, the interior of the *mastaba* had

became the focus of late burial activity at which time the location and structure of Old Kingdom ceramic deposits had been systematically altered, as documented in the internal ceramic report of 2001 by SPROCHL.

bread types including tall narrow loafs. Coarse ovoid jars (so called beer jars) were found in large quantities (for example Fig. 2c). They too were made of a coarse silt fabric and roughly hand made. Some parallel 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty examples found at other sites<sup>11</sup> but the diversity in forms and sizes is very broad and quite possibly unique.

The material that probably derives from the burial chamber is different in nature. In addition to the imported material which almost certainly comes from the tomb substructure (Fig. 5)

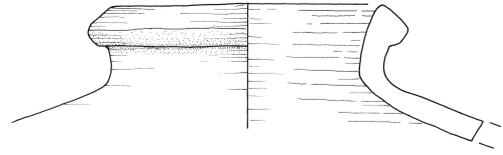


Fig. 4 Egyptian Marl Pottery from the Tomb of Weni (1:3)

two main “ware” groups were recorded. The first of these are red slipped, well smoothed/polished vessels made of an extremely fine silt fab-

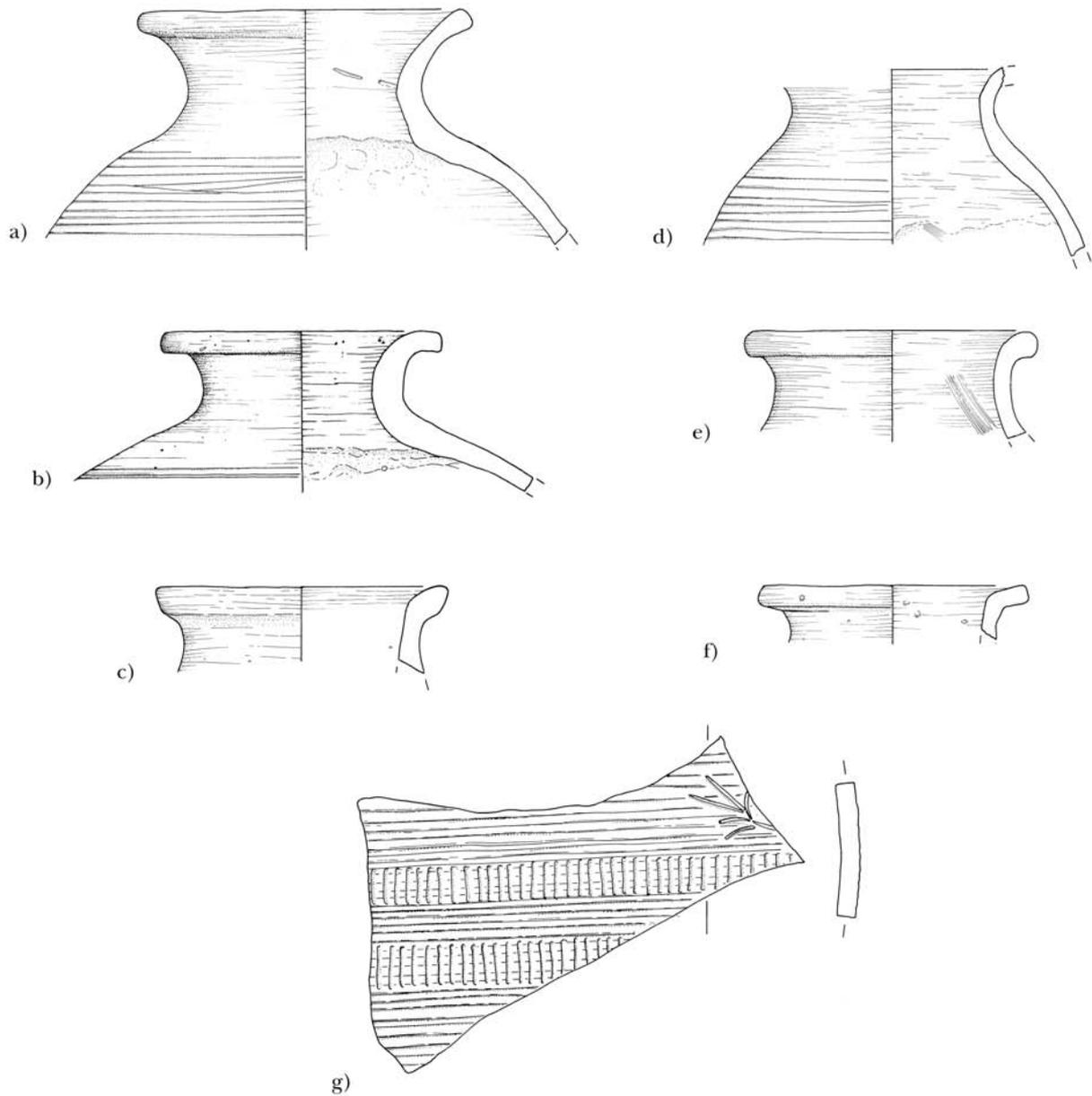


Fig. 5 Imported Pottery from the Tomb of Weni (1:3)

<sup>11</sup> RZEUSKA 2003, 147 fig. 4 SQ1115.

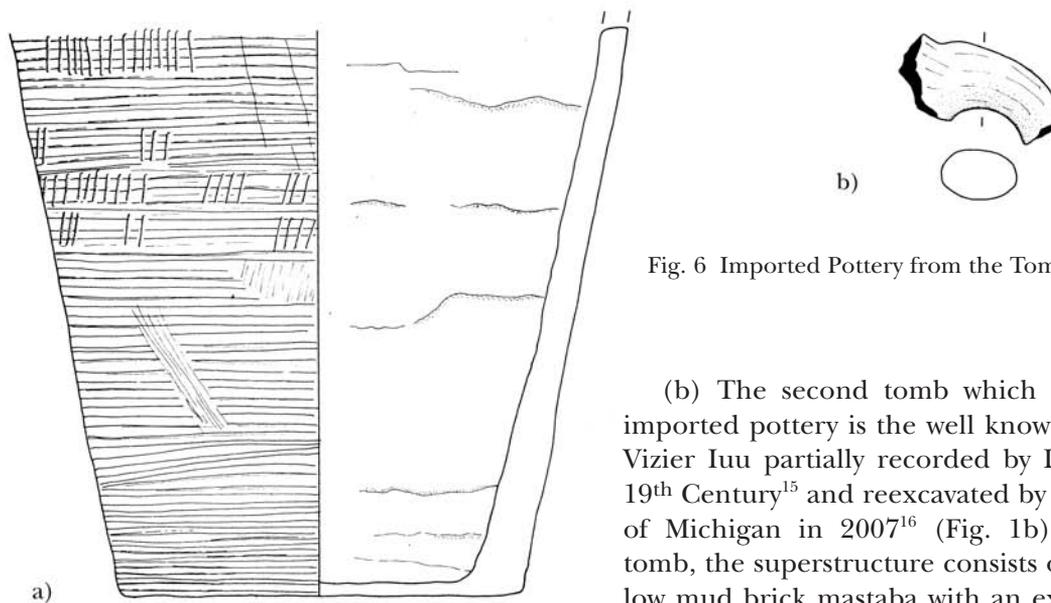


Fig. 6 Imported Pottery from the Tomb of Iuu (1:3)

ric (Fig. 3, a fabric similar to Nile A in the Vienna system<sup>12</sup>). These open vessels have soapy surface texture and a dark red surface coating. They are so alike in their attributes that they may be a set produced specifically for Weni's funeral. Signs of their use in this context include dark oily stains and resinous/fatty accretions on the interior and exterior of some vessels. They all have parallels at Giza in 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty contexts.<sup>13</sup>

The second major ware group is represented by ovoid jars with folded, angular rims made of a medium fine, sandy Marl (Fig. 4). Invariably the exterior shows traces of a white/cream slip. They belong to a long-lived Old Kingdom pottery type termed "wine jars" found frequently within the burial chambers of elite tombs and more recently in settlements.<sup>14</sup>

The EBIII material is preserved in well over 200 diagnostic and body sherds. The different rim shapes are shown in Fig. 5 and represent 6 different vessels.

(b) The second tomb which has produced imported pottery is the well known tomb of the Vizier Iuu partially recorded by Lepsius in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century<sup>15</sup> and reexcavated by the University of Michigan in 2007<sup>16</sup> (Fig. 1b). Like Weni's tomb, the superstructure consists of a large, hollow mud brick mastaba with an external chapel on the eastern face. A square shaft in roughly the centre of the mastaba gave access to the burial chamber.<sup>17</sup> Only one basket of material from this tomb has been studied and so far a single complete, well preserved base belonging to a large combed vessel and a handle made of imported fabric have been recorded (Fig. 6). They come from Unit 10 Levels 3 and 9 which are from the interior of the mastaba superstructure.

Prior to the University of Michigan work the tomb had been assigned alternatively to the 5<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, the reigns of Pepi I and Pepi II and the First Intermediate Period.<sup>18</sup> However the 1999 excavations uncovered a hitherto unknown limestone architectural element later determined to be from the southwest exterior corner of the Iuu mastaba, showing male relatives offering to this Vizier.<sup>19</sup> One of Iuu's relatives is identified as "his eldest son, the Governor of Upper Egypt, Weni the Elder".<sup>20</sup> Iuu therefore was the father of Weni and his tomb belongs a generation earlier.<sup>21</sup> During reexcavation in 2007, the lower half of Iuu's false door was found in place.<sup>22</sup> The only royal name that occurs is that of Pepi I and it is probable that Iuu died during his reign.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>12</sup> BOURRIAU, NICHOLSON and ROSE 2000.

<sup>13</sup> See SEIDLMEYER 1990, 387, Abb. 164.

<sup>14</sup> REISNER AND SMITH 1955, 63, WODZIŃSKA 2007, 297–298 Type AB7.

<sup>15</sup> LEPSIUS 1849–56, Vol.1 pl.65, LEPSIUS 1904, 176:5, BROVARSKI 1994, 24–34.

<sup>16</sup> RICHARDS 2007a, RICHARDS 2010.

<sup>17</sup> RICHARDS 2007a, 2007b.

<sup>18</sup> See BROVARSKI 1994 for a summary of previous scholarship on this tomb.

<sup>19</sup> RICHARDS 2002a, 90, 94 fig.16.

<sup>20</sup> RICHARDS 2002a, 90, RICHARDS 2007a, RICHARDS 2010.

<sup>21</sup> RICHARDS 2002a, 90.

<sup>22</sup> RICHARDS 2007, 2.

<sup>23</sup> RICHARDS, 2010.

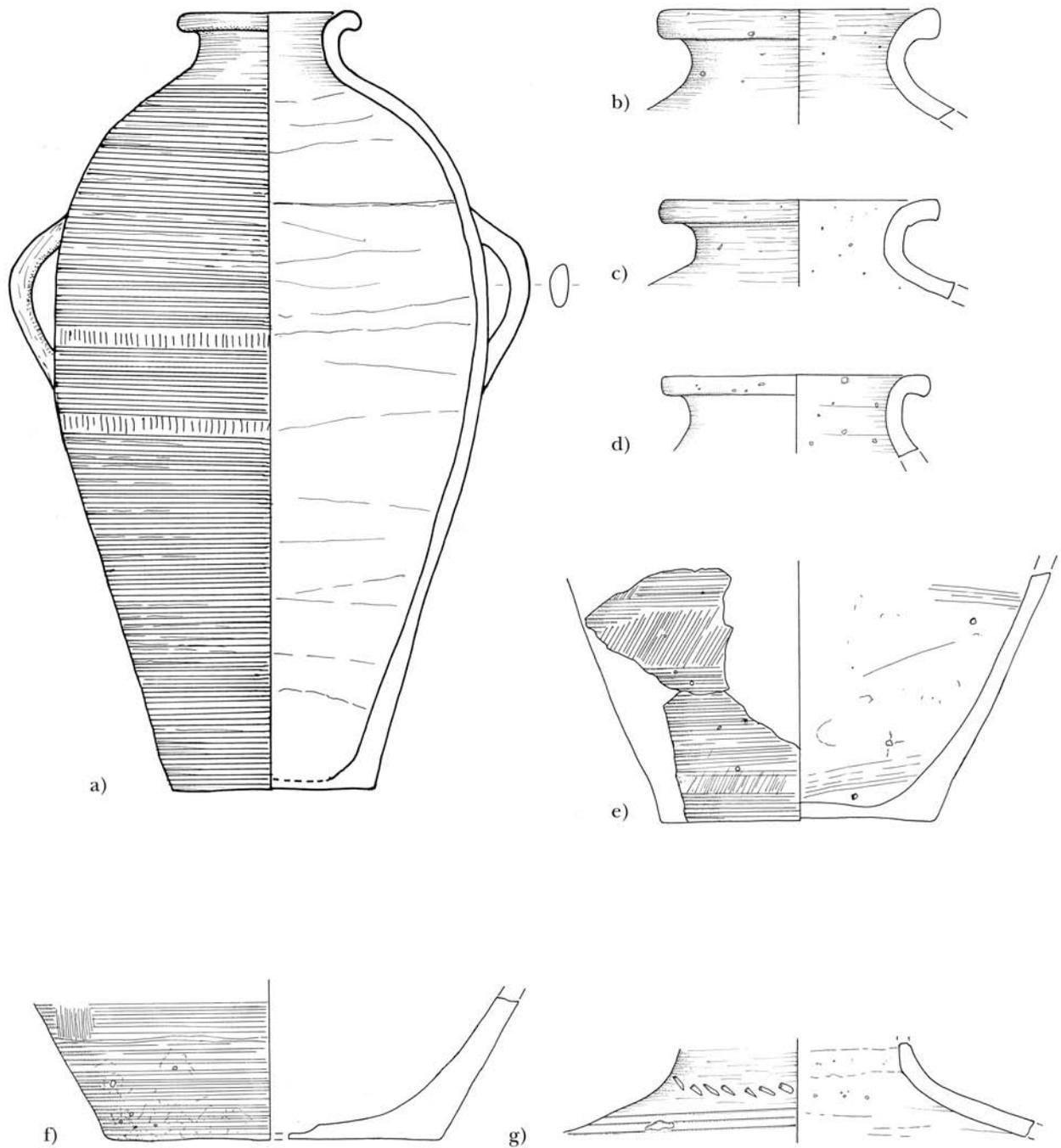


Fig. 7 Imported Pottery from the Tomb of Idi (a 1:4, b–g 1:3)

The third tomb which has produced imported EBIII pottery is a smaller mud brick *mastaba* ca. 25m south of Weni's tomb excavated in 1999 and 2001 (Fig. 1c). Rims and bases belonging to at least four different EBIII vessels were recorded in association with this tomb, all in disturbed contexts (Fig. 7). The history of this structure is however complicated and requires a brief explanation

if the significance of the contexts is to be understood correctly.

The complication arises because there are two known tomb owners. The name and titles of one of the tomb owners are given on the exterior of an inscribed lintel found *in-situ* above the entrance to the burial chamber and on patches of plaster on the lid and interior of the sarcophagus.

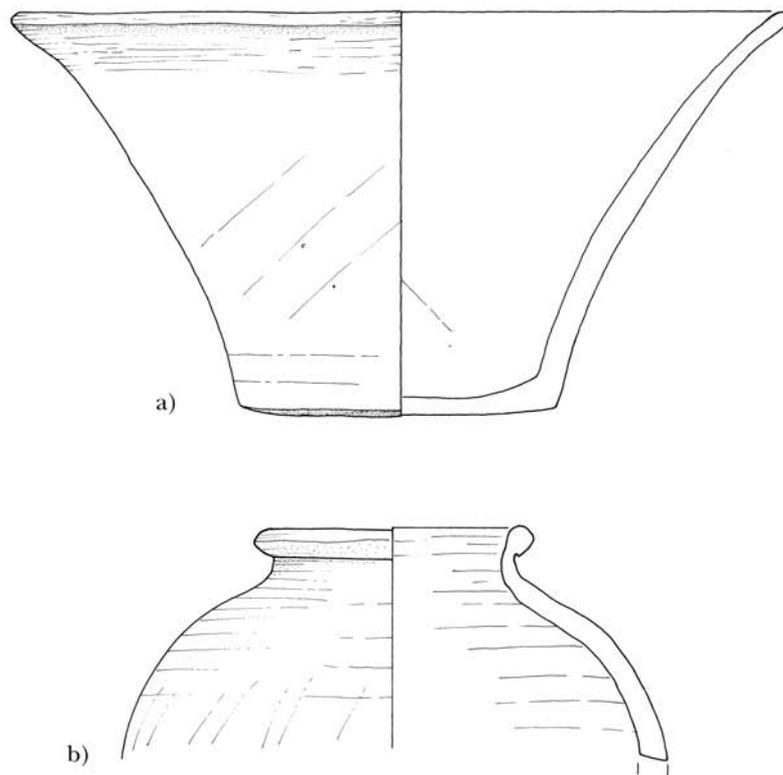


Fig. 8 Egyptian Silt Pottery from the Shaft and Chamber of the Tomb of Idi (1:3)

This tomb owner was Nekhty, a “prince, count, sole companion and chief priest”.<sup>24</sup> The occurrence of Nekhty’s name and titles however, belong to a phase of tomb remodelling during which the identity of an earlier tomb owner had been systematically replaced with the name of Nekhty or covered over by architectural alterations. The original tomb owner was in fact Idi, a 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty Governor of Upper Egypt, nomarch, royal treasurer and lector priest.<sup>25</sup> On the basis of Idi’s name and titles as well as the design and decoration of his burial chamber the date for the original tomb construction must be roughly contemporary with the tomb of Weni.<sup>26</sup> This general date is supported by the recent identification of the owner of an offering courtyard attached to the Idi *mastaba*. Here Richards found the possible

original emplacement of Cairo stela CG1576 which belonged to Mesenet, the granddaughter of the Vizier Iuu, father of Weni.<sup>27</sup> As pointed out by Brovarski, this stela shares a rare orthographical element in common with Cairo CG 1574, Weni’s false door.<sup>28</sup> A date around the reign of Merenre for Idi is therefore not unlikely. In contrast Nekhty’s titles and the unique blue paint used to write his name in the burial chamber suggests that the tomb was remodelled later in the Old Kingdom or even during the First Intermediate Period.<sup>29</sup>

The contexts in which the EBIII sherds were found are disturbed and contain a chronologically diverse mixture of material. Isolated sherds have been found in Unit 3 Levels 1 and 2 - the uppermost level of surface debris found around

<sup>24</sup> RICHARDS 2001, 48; RICHARDS, 2002b, 18–21, cover; RICHARDS 2003, 403.

<sup>25</sup> RICHARDS 2002b, 20.

<sup>26</sup> Project epigrapher B. ELBS considered the decoration of the burial chambers of both tombs to be so alike that they are probably contemporaneous, Richards, personal communication. See also RICHARDS 2002b, 20.

<sup>27</sup> RICHARDS 2003, 403. The stela is published in BROVARSKI 1994, 30 fig. 2.4.

<sup>28</sup> BROVARSKI 1994, 31, 32 fig. 2.5: d, e.

<sup>29</sup> The use of blue paint was more common in the Abydene cemeteries on stelae dating to the First Intermediate Period, RICHARDS 2002b, 20.

the mastaba consisting of excavation refuse presumably emptied from the chambers; and Unit 3 level 12 – excavator’s backfill in the primary shaft down to the local southern shaft wall. The majority of imported sherds however come from Unit 3 levels 17 and 18. Level 17 is the lowest level of “fill” from the shaft and entranceway to the burial chamber of the tomb of Idi/Nekhty, while level 18 is a layer of fill and debris within the burial chamber itself. It may probably be associated with a previous emptying of the burial chamber.

The ceramic from Levels 17 and 18 contains ceramics of three distinct phases of cemetery use: (a) an earlier Old Kingdom phase; (b) a 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty phase; and (c) ceramic from the very late Old Kingdom/early First Intermediate Period. However, the evidence for the earlier and late Old Kingdom is weakest and consists of:

-(a) two rim sherds belonging to red slipped, carinated bowls (Meidum bowls). The fabric (Marl A), angle of carination, and width of the rim diameter in relation to the diameter at the point of carination suggest a date in the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> Dynasties.<sup>30</sup> There are no other sherds in this fabric from the context and they are likely intrusive. They may be tools used by robbers;

-(c) three rims belonging to red slipped, carinated bowls (Meydum) that date to the very late Old Kingdom and early First Intermediate Period.<sup>31</sup> A jar rim and around 20 body sherds of the same date were also found. This material could date to the period of remodelling for Nekhty but only a low percentage of the rim diameter was preserved (less than 5%) and the sherds were eroded.

The remainder of the pottery is “well preserved” and it is possible to reconstruct complete vessels from the sherd material (Fig. 8). It is represented by three main ware groups which correspond to three different vessel types<sup>32</sup> and I am inclined to believe it represents a single phase of tomb use. The largest proportion of sherds (762 sherds) belongs to white slipped ovoid jars with rolled rim exhibiting an internal groove and

rounded bases (Fig. 8b). This is the same jar type found in association with the tomb of Weni, but the jars here are made of Nile silt. The next largest group of sherds belongs to the imported material, in total 168 sherds. This includes at least one complete vessel (Fig. 7a). The latter is ca. 60% complete and is reconstructed from 35 pieces. Finally there are sherds belonging to a red slipped basin made of medium fine silt (Fig. 8a). It too parallels pottery from the tomb of Weni (Fig. 3e), but differs by the slight coarseness of the clay caused by the presence of fine organic admixture and the direct, angular rim. Both its interior and exterior surfaces were covered with white plaster.

The impression that this material gives is of being almost contemporary with the ceramics from the tomb of Weni, but possibly slightly later or simply less carefully made. For this reason it may belong to the original use of the tomb by Idi. It certainly does not correspond to the known late Old Kingdom Abydene assemblage which one would expect to find in the burial of Nekhty.<sup>33</sup> Its presence in the chamber and shaft despite the tomb’s reuse is not surprising: A false floor was built 60cm above the original burial chamber floor during the reconstruction work undertaken for Nekhty.<sup>34</sup> At this time earlier ceramic debris, most likely belonging to the burial of Idi was not completely removed from the chamber. Rather the floor was simply built directly on top of it. This false floor had been partially disturbed during a previous clearing exercise, probably by Mariette, with the result that much of the sealed Idi material was redeposited in the chamber and the shaft.<sup>35</sup> It is therefore likely that the imported pottery and associated assemblage belonged to the Governor of Upper Egypt Idi who built his tomb at around the same time as Weni during the reign of Merenre. His burial may have occurred under this king or early in the reign of his successor Pepi II.

The results of the preceding discussion of the preservation, context and date of the EBIII ceramic may be summarised as follows:

<sup>30</sup> This matter will be discussed in a forthcoming article by the present author.

<sup>31</sup> The fabric is medium fine silt with abundant fine to medium fine chaff. Very similar material from the Abydos North Cemetery will be published in BESTOCK and KNOBLAUCH, forthcoming.

<sup>32</sup> Here „ware“ refers to the character of the sherd, the type of clay, the treatment of the surface, the

absence/presence of a slip and its colour and the tempering material, see KÖHLER 1998, 3 Tabelle 1.

<sup>33</sup> The red polished material is made of a coarser silt fabric more akin to fabrics of the FIP found at the site, see KNOBLAUCH and BESTOCK, forthcoming.

<sup>34</sup> RICHARDS 2002b.

<sup>35</sup> Personal communication, RICHARDS 2009.

<b>Tomb Owner</b>	<b>Examples</b>	<b>Died under</b>	<b>Highest Position</b>
(a) Weni	6	Merenre	Vizier
(b) Iuu	1	Pepi I	Vizier
(c) Idi	4	Merenre/Pepi II	Governor of Upper Egypt

#### FABRIC, MANUFACTURE, SURFACE TREATMENT AND VESSEL MORPHOLOGY OF THE IMPORTED MATERIAL

##### Fabric

Identification of fabrics of the Imported material was made by observing a fresh break with a x10 hand lens. In some cases where reconstruction is ongoing no fresh break was made. In such cases visual observation of a number of old breaks was supplemented by an examination of the surface at different places.

Sherds made of the foreign fabric(s) are brittle and stand clearly outside the tradition of Egyptian Old Kingdom fabrics. The surface colour of vessels made of this fabric range from a light gray through to a dark red brown. The colour of the break can be uniform (red, orange-brown, light brown) or zoned (most often red or pink with a gray core). The hardness of the sherds varies from medium soft to hard.

There is only one basic fabric in which variations can be observed. These differences include the relative abundance and size of common tempering materials and the presence/absence of other inclusions. Three variants were identified:

##### NE 1

The “standard mix”. Large white particles (angular to sub rounded) between 2 and 3.7mm in size are well distributed throughout the paste and are especially visible near the interior and exterior surfaces of the vessels, often appearing to almost burst out of the matrix. Smaller white particles, .5mm, possibly limestone, are also present and similarly well distributed throughout the paste. Fine to medium fine quartz is well distributed throughout the matrix. Occasional yellow, beige and darker coloured stones (ca. 1mm) are common.

##### NE 2

A sandy variant of the last. The fine to medium fine quartz is so dominant that the individual particles are almost touching one another. The other difference to the fabric just described is that the upper size limit of the characteristic white particles is reduced (ca. 2mm).

##### NE 3

The last variant is similar to the “standard mix” but in addition to the tempering material listed there, fine black particles (grit) are well distributed throughout the paste

NE 1 Vessels made of this fabric occur in the tomb of Idi (7a–g) and in the tomb of Weni (Fig. 5f). NE 2 It occurs in the tomb of Weni (Fig. 5a–c). NE 3 Vessels made of this fabric occur in the Tomb of Weni (Fig. 5d, e).

All three variants can be compared with the fabric description of late 4<sup>th</sup> Dynasty combed sherds recorded from the Giza settlement,<sup>36</sup> the fabric of a 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty combed, two-handled jar from West Saqqara<sup>37</sup> and the fabric description of the 4<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty single-handled and two-handled jars found in the Giza cemetery<sup>38</sup>. The latter description is rather vague and as demonstrated by SOWADA, masks a number of different fabrics.<sup>39</sup> According to her reclassification of this material by visual examination, the strongest affinity is with the fabrics of her Wares V, VI, VII and VIII<sup>40</sup>. The feature common to all the fabrics just mentioned is the presence of abundant white inclusions and quartz. Combed vessels from the Levant which share this visual description have a wide geographical distribution: They occur in Southern Palestine,<sup>41</sup> Byblos<sup>42</sup> and the northern Syrian Coast.<sup>43</sup> The metallic combed ware from northern Canaan, however, is unrelat-

<sup>36</sup> WODZIŃSKA 2007, 289 Fabric GC.

<sup>37</sup> RZEUSKA 2003, 146.

<sup>38</sup> REISNER and SMITH 1955, 64, 75.

<sup>39</sup> SOWADA 2001, 213–214.

<sup>40</sup> SOWADA 2001, 213–214.

<sup>41</sup> GREENBERG and PORAT 1996.

<sup>42</sup> SOWADA 2001, 215.

<sup>43</sup> I.e. Sukas Period L2–L1 (Layers 41–21), OLDENBURG 1991, 37, 42; Tell-Hamam and Tel Simiriyan, BRAIDWOOD 1940.

ed.<sup>44</sup> NAA performed on both Egyptian and Levantine combed vessels broadly confirm the relationship between some combed vessels found in Egypt and combed ware found in Southern Palestine and Byblos<sup>45</sup> (see below).

### Manufacture

The bodies of the vessels were hand-made. This is visible in the uneven section of Fig. 6a and the wet smoothing on the interior of Fig. 7a. In Fig. 7a, one can observe that the joins of the coils on the interior were concealed and any excess clay was removed by roughly horizontal wet-smoothing utilizing a tool. This however was not always done carefully and the interior surface can be quite rough. The neck and rim of all vessels show evidence of having been finished on a turning device (i.e. Fig. 6c) and it may be that the necks were made separately and then joined to the vessel body: In some cases (Fig. 5a, b, d) the interior surface adjacent to the shoulder exhibits coarse finger impressions where the potter has joined the two parts. In other cases, the join (if this is what it is) is lower near the handles (Fig. 7a). These show a variety of forms and can be ovoid (Fig. 6b) to ellipsoid (Fig. 7a).

### Surface Treatment

The single vessel with complete profile as well as all the sherd material studied to date exhibit a similar pattern of surface treatment. From the neck upwards the potter has carefully wet smoothed both the interior and exterior of the vessel aperture on a turning device. In one case, the transition from the shoulder to the neck has been decorated with incised faux-robe decoration (Fig. 7g (Idi)).

The exterior surface from the base of the neck to the base of the vessel is filled mainly with horizontal combing, created with long strokes of a multi-pronged tool. This was presumably done while the clay was leather hard. The horizontal combing is by no means uniform and one can distinguish between vessels where the combing was very light and vessels where the combing is very pronounced. Vessels with pronounced combing in turn can be differentiated by the width of-

the distance between the teeth on the comb. Vertical/diagonal combing is present, but where this occurs, it has been created with short, often superficial strokes in roughly horizontal bands after the horizontal combing had already been completed. In some cases, such as Fig. 7a, the diagonal combing is hardly visible. The bands of vertical combing interrupt the horizontal combing at irregular intervals.

So far such bands are found near the vessel base (Fig. 7a, f) and as high as the lower join of the handle (Fig. 7a). Further reconstruction work must take place in order to determine whether there is any pattern behind the vertical distribution of the bands on the vessel surface.

White slips are often cited as being particularly diagnostic of vessels with combed surfaces found in Egypt (see below). Despite this, none of the material from Abydos studied to date was white or cream slipped, i.e., had a white surface coating applied pre-firing. Some vessels, for example figs. 5g and 7a have a white powdery substance adhering to the exterior surface, but this is patchy, uneven and unstable. Rather than a slip it may be simply a concretion as found elsewhere on similar jar types<sup>46</sup> or a lime wash. The latter, as opposed to a slip, was applied post firing and in essence was a "thin coat of lime plaster" added to the vessel surface.<sup>47</sup> Some vessels may have had traces of a thin red slip but this is difficult to determine.

### Pot marks

To date only one example of a potter's mark has been found (Fig. 5g). It occurs on a sherd from the tomb of Weni that has yet to be joined to a diagnostic sherd. However, it can be deduced that the approximate position of the sherd on the vessel body would have been between the shoulder and the maximum diameter (the upper half of the vessel). The potter's mark, unfortunately incomplete, was incised into the pot surface pre-firing but post-combing. The left hand side of the mark consists of two diagonal lines above two shorter, roughly horizontal lines. To the right of these are two lines which converge on each other. Their distal ends and the remainder of the mark have at present not been recovered.

<sup>44</sup> The northern Canaanite material is discussed in GREENBERG and PORAT 1996.

<sup>45</sup> ESSE and HOPKE 1986, 323–337.

<sup>46</sup> ESSE 1991, 110–111.

<sup>47</sup> ESSE and HOPKE 1986, 333.

### Vessel Morphology

As shown by the reconstruction of Fig. 7a, the combed sherds and the non-combed rims belong to flat based, two handled jars, ideal for transportation. As reconstruction is ongoing, the various elements of the vessels are discussed separately.

#### Neck and Rim Types

As the vessels in question were hand made and only wheel finished, a detailed typology of rim shapes is dispensed with here. For the purposes of discussion only four basic rim section types are categorized.

1. A short (1.5–2cm) vertical or slightly sloped neck leading to a long, everted and roughly horizontal rim. The rim section can be rounded or slightly angular. In most cases the end of the rim is lightly down turned. The rim diameter (measured from the widest external point on the rim) is between 12.3 and 13cm. Five vessels have this neck and rim type: Fig. 5b, f, and Fig. 7 a, c, d. Two of these come from the tomb of Weni, three are from the tomb of Idi.
2. A short curved neck leading to a short, everted and thickened rim. The rim section can be angular to rounded. The rim diameter is ca. 13cm. Two examples: figs. 5e, 7b. One each from the tombs of Weni and Idi.
3. A wide flaring neck leading to a slightly thickened, rounded rim. Only one example of this type has been recorded (Fig. 5a). It has a rim diameter of 14cm. Found in the tomb of Weni.
4. A vertical neck leading to a short, slightly upturned, thickened rim. Only one example (Fig. 5c) has been identified thus far. The rim diameter is 13cm. Found in the Tomb of Weni.

#### Bases

Only a small proportion of the bases have been recorded to date. Although they are all wide and essentially flat, no two are identical due to their

being hand made. They can be flat and have an even width (Fig. 6a), slightly raised and thickened in the middle (Fig. 7e), or flat and thin in the middle (Fig. 7f) The only criteria which may have typological validity is the base diameter. So far “narrow” (12.5cm: Fig. 7a, f (Idi)) and “wide” (15.5cm: Fig. 7e (Idi), 15cm: Fig. 6a (Iuu)) bases have been recorded.

### Parallels

The style of combing has no noticeable chronological significance: Pattern Combing<sup>48</sup> whereby horizontal lines are interspersed with superimposed diagonal or vertical lines are present in Egyptian contexts of the 4<sup>th</sup>,<sup>49</sup> 5<sup>th</sup><sup>50</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasties.<sup>51</sup> In the Levant it occurs in northern Syria,<sup>52</sup> Byblos,<sup>53</sup> northern Palestine,<sup>54</sup> and southern Palestine<sup>55</sup> during EBII and EBIII. It cannot be ruled out that some of the vessels were combed exclusively with horizontal strokes, a style known from Sukas<sup>56</sup> and Ras Shamra in Syria.<sup>57</sup>

Incised roped decoration only occurs once at Abydos reflecting the limited number of two-handled imported vessels found in Egypt bearing this type of decoration. Interestingly, incised rope decoration is overrepresented in contexts dating to the reign of Pepi II. Only one vessel, Giza 35-8-8 from G5020 predates this monarch. The remainder of parallels are firmly in the 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty including Giza 12-12-569 and 12-12-570 from G2381a (Pepi II)<sup>58</sup> and a two handled vessel from the tomb of Idi in the Pepi II cemetery at South Saqqara.<sup>59</sup> In the Levant, this type of decoration has a wide geographical distribution.<sup>60</sup>

As discussed above, none of the Abydos combed vessels were coated with a white/cream slip. Esse identified the presence/absence of this type of slip as a possible indicator of the origin of the imported pottery in Egypt. He found that slipped vessels were far more common in southern Palestine at sites such as Tel Hesi, Tel Yarmouth, and Lachish than they were in the

<sup>48</sup> For this term see EHRICH 1939, 30.

<sup>49</sup> Giza 13–10–29, REISNER and SMITH 1955, 76, fig. 96.

<sup>50</sup> The tomb of Kaaper at Abusir South, BARTA 2001, 185, pl. LXXXVIIIb.

<sup>51</sup> For example SQ 1132, Abusir, RZEUSKA 2002, 145 fig. 3.

<sup>52</sup> For Qalcat er-Rus, EHRICH 1939, 30.

<sup>53</sup> DUNAND 1939, vol. 2, 790, fig. 911: 15667.

<sup>54</sup> Tel Dan, GREENBERG and PORAT 1996, 8 fig. 2:3–5.

<sup>55</sup> Tel Hesi, FARGO 1980, 35, 37 fig. 8:6.

<sup>56</sup> OLDENBURG 1991, 37.

<sup>57</sup> DE CONTENSON 1969, 64.

<sup>58</sup> REISNER and SMITH 1955, 76.

<sup>59</sup> JEQUIER 1929, 14 fig.10.

<sup>60</sup> Tel Dan, GREENBERG and PORAT 1996 fig.2:4; Lachish, AMIRAN 1969, 67 Photo 69; Syria, EHRICH 1939 pl. XVII fig. A XIV.

Lebanon and Syria.<sup>61</sup> Slipped vessels did occur there but not in the same quantities that they do in the south. This evidence is inconclusive but may point to a northern origin for the Abydos material.

Due to the ongoing state of reconstruction, it is too early to include a detailed discussion of vessel morphology here. Apart from Egypt where there are a number of parallels, the single complete vessel has broad similarities with jars published from Byblos.<sup>62</sup> The only other complete and near complete examples of which I am aware, those from Tel-Dan are much wider and ovoid in shape than the Abydos material.<sup>63</sup> The long, roughly horizontal rim type (Type 1) present in the tombs of Weni and Idi parallel the rims of vessels found in Egyptian contexts of the late 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasties. These include Vessel 35-7-41 from Giza Tomb G2370B (Reign of Unas)<sup>64</sup> and Vessel 12-12-569 from Giza Tomb G2381a (Reign of Pepi II).<sup>65</sup> The rim of the two handled vessel from the tomb of Weshi-Ptah at Saqqara (reign of Pepi II) is similar.<sup>66</sup> Type 2 rims have a wider chronological distribution and are found in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty Contexts at Giza. A vessel neck and rim from a horizontally combed vessel from Byblos published by ESSE and HOPKE may be cited as a parallel.<sup>67</sup> Type 3 has parallels in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Dynasties, namely Vessel 29-2-256 from Giza Tomb G7630c (Khafre)<sup>68</sup> and Vessel 13-1-506 from Giza Tomb G2175b (1<sup>st</sup> half of 5<sup>th</sup> Dynasty).<sup>69</sup> Vessel 19259 from Byblos is not wholly dissimilar to Type 3<sup>70</sup> as is a neck and rim belonging to a horizontally combed vessel made in a hard and brittle, gritty red fabric recorded at Tell Simiriyan on the northern Syrian Coast.<sup>71</sup>

While the best parallels therefore are imported material found in Egypt, the evidence for these rim types in the Levant is admittedly weak. However, where parallels exist these are from Byblos and the Syrian Coast. Good parallels from southern and northern Palestine are more difficult to find but this does not mean they do not exist. However, as far as I could determine, comparable storage jar and pithoi rims from Tel Hesi, Lachish and Tel Beit Mirsim are generally rounded and appear folded and are quite unlike the material from Abydos.<sup>72</sup>

#### DISCUSSION AND FUTURE RESEARCH

Where a vessel is at present represented by a rim only, it is admittedly impossible to determine whether the vessel it belonged to was a two handled jar with combed surface rather than another imported vessel type. There are, however, indications that the former identification is the correct one: Until now, the only bases recorded in the same fabric as the rims are wide, flat and combed and all the body sherds deriving from below the vessel neck are also combed. In comparison, the only other imported type of which I am aware, the single handled vessels,<sup>73</sup> were rarely combed, and do not occur in 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty contexts in Egypt.<sup>74</sup> A final judgment must await further processing and reconstruction work, but the most likely scenario is that the Abydos material represents a minimum of 11 combed, two handled vessels.

Regardless of vessel type, the material from Abydos will significantly expand the existing corpus of imported pottery found in Egypt in 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty contexts. Until recently the total number

<sup>61</sup> I.e. ESSE 1991, 110ff.. Only a single combed sherd with gray slip comes from Sukas, OLDENBURG 1991, 37, fig. 35.6 = inv. nr.3837/1.

<sup>62</sup> SAGHIEH 1983, pl. XXXIX: E3, E4.

<sup>63</sup> GREENBERG and PORAT 1996, 8 fig. 2:3-4.

<sup>64</sup> REISNER and SMITH 1955, 76, fig. 98, pl.53a. This vessel bears a much-discussed seal impression, for example REISNER and SMITH 1955, 75, HELCK 1962, 34, fn.3 9. The owner of Tomb 2370 was Vizier under Isesi but is thought to have died during the reign of Unas, REISNER and SMITH 1955, 75-76.

<sup>65</sup> REISNER and SMITH 1955, 76, fig. 96 lower left. The mud stopper on another imported vessel from this tomb (12-12-571 = MFA 13.2932) bore a seal impression containing the name of Pepi II, REISNER and SMITH 1955, 76.

<sup>66</sup> JÉQUIER 1929, 26 fig.25.

<sup>67</sup> ESSE and HOPKE 1986, 336 fig.31.4 b (Sample BY72).

<sup>68</sup> REISNER and SMITH 1955, 76, fig. 97.

<sup>69</sup> REISNER and SMITH 1955, 75.

<sup>70</sup> SAGHIEH 1983, pl. XXXIX E1=19259.

<sup>71</sup> BRAIDWOOD 1940, pl. XXVII.2:1.

<sup>72</sup> Tel Beit Mirsim, ALBRIGHT 1933 pl. 1:1-2; Lachish, TUFNELL 1958, pl.62:291-295; Tel Hesi, FARGO 1979, 26, 28 fig. 3:1-2.

<sup>73</sup> REISNER and SMITH 1955, fig. 95.

<sup>74</sup> The latest example is from Mastaba shaft 294 at Giza, see HASSAN 1936:145. The tomb is dated to the mid 5<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, SOWADA 2001, 91. The other examples are all 4<sup>th</sup> Dynasty in date.

Site	Context	Date	Nr .	Published
Giza	G2379a	6 <sup>th</sup> Dyn.	1	REISNER and SMITH 1955, 76, fig. 97, pl. 53e
Giza	G2387A	6 <sup>th</sup> Dyn.	1	REISNER and SMITH 1955, 76, fig. 98, pl. 51e
Giza	G I-S/Iti=f	6 <sup>th</sup> Dyn.	1	JUNKER 1929, fig. 14:12
Giza	G2381	Pepi II or later	5	REISNER and SMITH 1955, 54, 76, pls. 52e, d; 54, 76, fig. 96, pls. 52a; 54, 76, fig. 96, pls. 52a; 54, 76, pls. 52e; 54, 76, pl. 52g, d
Giza	G 2450	6 <sup>th</sup> Dyn.	2	REISNER and SMITH 1955, 76, pl. 51h
Abusir: South	Qar	2 <sup>nd</sup> half Dyn. 6	6	BÁRTA 2003, 23–24, pl. 12
Abusir: South	Sendjemib	2 <sup>nd</sup> half Dyn. 6	2	BÁRTA 2003, 23 fig. 4
Saqqara: Mid.	Qar	6 <sup>th</sup> Dyn.	1	Unpublished, referred to in BÁRTA 2003, 29 fn. 30
Saqqara: West	Meri?	Pepi I–Merenre	2	RZEUSKA 2003, 145 fig. 3, 146
Saqqara: South	Idi	Pepi II	1	JEQUIER 1929, 13, 14 fig. 10
Saqqara: South	Weshiptah	Pepi II	1	JEQUIER 1929, 26 fig. 25
Matmar	3209	late Dyn. 5–6	1	BRUNTON 1948, 29, 45, pl. 37
Edfu	Isi	Pepi I	2	MICHALOWSKI <i>et al.</i> 1950, 43, 251:687a; 48

Table 1 Imported Pottery in probable 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty Egyptian Contexts

of imported 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty vessels was low, especially when compared with the 4<sup>th</sup> Dynasty.<sup>75</sup> This apparent dearth of imported pottery during the 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty has been interpreted differently. Explanations vary from possible disruptions to production of the substance transported in the jars to a symptom of internal strife in the Egyptian political system. The latter resulted in a refocus of foreign trade on essential items such as cedar.<sup>76</sup> However, when the examples from the Middle Cemetery as well as the newly discovered jars from Saqqara and Abusir are added to the already known 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty jars from Giza, Saqqara, Matmar and Edfu, the total corpus of imported vessels in 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty contexts rises to around 36 examples (Table 1). With the benefit of hindsight, it is now possible to attribute the disproportionate concentration of imported pottery in contexts of the 4<sup>th</sup> Dynasty to the simple fact that Giza with its concentration of 4<sup>th</sup> Dynasty contexts, was, and remains, the most thoroughly excavated and documented Old Kingdom site. Clearly, until this imbalance in the archaeological record is redressed further

through excavation at other Memphite cemeteries as well as in the provinces, any conclusions drawn from patterns in the chronological distribution of imported pottery in the Old Kingdom are best avoided entirely.

On the other hand, the Abydos material may in time confirm and strengthen an old claim for which the evidence was heretofore weak. Namely that the geographical distribution of imported pottery during the late 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasties was far wider than during the 4<sup>th</sup> Dynasty. In the past it has been correctly pointed out that imported pottery occurs in provincial graves during the late 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasties and that during the 4<sup>th</sup> Dynasty it does not, but until now this claim has been based on only three vessels. One of these from Matmar was repaired, reused and therefore quite possibly in a secondary context.<sup>80</sup> The remaining two vessels come from a single grave at Edfu.<sup>81</sup> The new examples from Abydos therefore considerably broaden the quantitative and geographical basis for the claim of greater geographical diffusion of imported pottery during the 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty.

<sup>75</sup> HELCK 1971, 33.

<sup>76</sup> For a full discussion of these explanations, see SOWADA 2001, 116–118, 207–208, 222–223.

<sup>77</sup> See the comments by SOWADA 2001, 96, regarding this context.

<sup>78</sup> Two of these vessels are labelled “faked syroplestinian (sic) pottery” in BÁRTA 2003 pl. 12. Possibly this is a ref-

erence to the fact that the vessels were sealed with personalised Egyptian seals, see BÁRTA 2003, 23–24, pl. 13.

<sup>79</sup> SEIDLMEYER 1990, fig. 81.

<sup>80</sup> Published in BRUNTON 1948, 29, 45, pl. 37, discussion of reuse in SOWADA 2001, 112, 207–8.

<sup>81</sup> MICHALOWSKI *et al.* 1950, 43, 251 :687a ; 48.

However, this pattern of distribution of imported pottery in the provinces does not support the claim that imported pottery was available to a wider social-spectrum of individuals that was previously the case.<sup>82</sup> Excluding the evidence from Matmar which is ambiguous, the prosopographical data of officials who owned imported pottery and were buried in the provinces in the 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty is clear. As outlined above, both Weni and Iuu were Viziers. Idi was a Nomarch and Governor of Upper Egypt and therefore of a similarly lofty rank. Finally Isi, the owner of the Edfu tomb in which two imported vessels were found, was a career official who served under Kings Isesi, Unas and Teti. He also became Vizier, probably dying during the reign of Pepi I.<sup>83</sup> Rather, the distribution of imported pottery at Abydos conforms to a distributional trend for imported pottery in Old Kingdom Egypt described by Bárta: It is found almost exclusively associated with the burials of wealthy, male officials.<sup>84</sup> For this reason, he tentatively suggests that imported pottery was a gendered burial good that was used by high officials to “demonstrate their elevated status”.<sup>85</sup>

The ritualised expression of status is complex as individuals can perform various roles within society. Different statuses may be stressed in different contexts. The representation of Weni in the funerary landscape at Abydos is an interesting case. In the context of his father’s grave, Weni is shown amongst his family members, but in the foremost position, stressing his status as heir.<sup>86</sup> This is made explicit by the position of Weni in relation to Iuu and the accompanying inscription which labels him as eldest son. In comparison, in the mortuary cult components of his own tomb, Weni is conspicuously silent concerning his familial relations.<sup>87</sup> Rather the identity that is stressed in the famous biography is that of a king’s man whose status is repeatedly defined in terms of his

professional relationship to, and the estimation in which he was held by the various kings whom he served.<sup>88</sup> Royal patronage was also materially manifest in the provision by the king of elements of Weni’s tomb assemblage including the coffin. Given that foreign trade was controlled by the residence during the Old Kingdom, it may be hypothesized that the imported pottery found in his tomb is further confirmation of Weni’s status as a king’s man and that it was this particular aspect of his status that was being expressed by the inclusion of foreign pottery in his funeral. This fits well with Richards’ argument that the tomb of Weni was a symbol of the Egyptian state projected onto the provincial landscape.<sup>89</sup>

On a utilitarian level, the substance contained in the vessels was of more importance than the vessels themselves. Traces of this substance were identified on the interior of the vessel bases in the form of black accretions and as black resinous/fatty stains on the base interior of Fig. 6f and the rim interior of Fig. 6c. The only analysis to date of the contents of combed jars in Egypt is that conducted by LUCAS on two vessels from Giza.<sup>90</sup> He concluded that the vessels in question originally contained a resin from a coniferous tree.<sup>91</sup> Helck identified the contents with *sft* oil, a pine product used in the embalming of officials.<sup>92</sup> However, more recently Esse has suggested that the jars were used to transport olive oil but this theory has yet to be tested scientifically.<sup>93</sup> The jar contents, regardless of their identity, constituted an important component of elite Old Kingdom funerals and identifying them will help sharpen our image of burial customs at that time as well as possibly helping to narrow down the origin of the jars they were transported in. It is hoped that future scientific analysis of the contents of the vessels from Abydos will contribute towards an answer concerning this aspect.

<sup>82</sup> I.e. KANTOR 1992, 20.

<sup>83</sup> ALLIOT 1935, 22, SEIDLMAYER 1990, 63.

<sup>84</sup> BÁRTA 2003, 29. The exception of course is Hetepheres, who as BÁRTA (2003, 29) points out was mother of the king and therefore of a special status.

<sup>85</sup> BÁRTA 2003, 29. In his discussion of foreign pottery in the tomb of Kaaper at Abusir, BÁRTA (2001, 179, 180, 191) raises the interesting possibility that its inclusion in the burial may be related to Kaaper’s professional duties on the north-eastern border of Egypt. As is well known, Weni was also active in Palestine, EYRE 1994, 115.

<sup>86</sup> RICHARDS 2002a, 94 fig. 16.

<sup>87</sup> RICHARDS 2002a, 90, 102.

<sup>88</sup> EYRE 1994; RICHARDS 2002a.

<sup>89</sup> RICHARDS 2002a, 90.

<sup>90</sup> See REISNER and SMITH 1955, 75.

<sup>91</sup> REISNER and SMITH 1955, 75.

<sup>92</sup> HELCK 1962, 28, 35.

<sup>93</sup> ESSE 1991, 123.

Egyptologists and Near Eastern archaeologists have justifiably devoted considerable effort to uncovering the origin of the Levantine combed ware exported to Egypt during the Old Kingdom. The current “consensus view” of those who have personal experience with material from the Levant is that the material in Egypt shows close affinity to combed storage jars found along the Syro-Lebanese coast.<sup>94</sup> The parallels for the Abydos material that I have discussed here, although far from conclusive appear to support this conclusion. However, aspects of this picture remain distinctly fuzzy. A comparison of NAA results from combed vessels from Giza with sherds from the Levant while confirming the Egypt-Byblos connection did not rule out an

origin in southern Palestine for some examples.<sup>95</sup> Some scholars accept this as evidence that the trade with Southern Palestine during EBII continued into EBIII.<sup>96</sup> However the authors of the study did not fully endorse their own results and contrasted the excellent evidence for official trade relations between Byblos and Egypt during the Old Kingdom/EBIII with the paucity of evidence for such relations with southern Palestine, concluding that new archaeological would be needed to confirm a relationship with southern Palestine.<sup>97</sup> It is hoped that the work of future seasons will incorporate chemical analyses and allow the question of origin to be further tested using a well-dated and numerically significant sample.

### Captions and Descriptions of Figures

#### Figure 1

The Abydos Middle Cemetery (state of work 2009), G. Compton.

#### Figure 2

Egyptian Coarse Silt Pottery from the Tomb of Weni

- a) P09-39 AMC 99 Unit 7E Stratum 1 (NE Side of Weni)  
RD: 21cm 100% BD: 11cm 100% H: 16cm  
Coarse chaffy silt. Hardness: Medium soft. Interior and exterior coarsely wet smoothed. 5YR 6/4–6/6 (I & E).
- b) P09-40 AMC 99 Unit 7 Level 2 (near shaft)  
RD: 21.5–22cm 70% BD: 12cm 70%  
Medium coarse chaffy silt. Hardness: Medium soft. Interior medium coarse wet smoothed. Exterior coarse wet smoothed. 5YR 6/2–6/3 (I & E).
- c) P09-42 AMC Unit 7 West Level 2 (near shaft)  
RD: 10.8cm 100% H: 43.5cm  
Medium coarse silt. Hardness: Medium hard. Interior and exterior coarse wet smoothed. Base very rough. 7.5YR 7/4 (I & E).

#### Figure 3

Egyptian Fine Silt Pottery from the Tomb of Weni

- a) P09-126 AMC 01 Unit 9 Level 1  
RD: 22cm 5%  
Fine silt. Hardness: Hard. Interior and exterior very well smoothed and red slipped. 2.5YR 5/4 (I & E).
- b) P09-127 AMC Unit 9 Level 1  
RD: 23cm 10%  
Fine silt. Hardness: Hard. Interior and exterior very well smoothed and red slipped. 10R 5/8–4/8 (I & E).

- c) P09-123 AMC 01 Unit 9 level 2 – AMC 01 Unit 8 Level 1 Stratum 1  
RD: 19.5cm 65%  
Very fine silt. Hardness: Medium hard. Interior and exterior red slipped and polished. 2.5YR 5/6 (I & E).
- d) P09-118 AMC 01 Unit 9 Level 2 – AMC 01 Unit 8 Level 1 Stratum 2  
RD: 22.5–23cm 50% BD: 11cm 50%  
Very fine silt. Hardness: Medium hard. Interior and exterior red slipped and very well wet smoothed. 10R 5/6 (I & E).
- e) P09-121 AMC 01 Unit 9 Level 2 – Unit 8 Level 1 Stratum 2  
RD: 36cm 20%  
Fine silt. Hardness: Medium hard. Interior and exterior brown-red slip and lightly polished. 10R 5/4–5/6 (I & E).

#### Figure 4

Egyptian Marl Pottery from the Tomb of Weni (Fig. 1A)

- a) P09-129 AMC 01 Unit 9 Level 1  
RD: 12.5cm 80%  
Medium fine sandy Marl. Hardness: Hard. Interior and exterior wet smoothed. Possible white slip on exterior. 5YR 8/1–8/2 (E), 10R 6/3 (I).

#### Figure 5

Imported Pottery from the Tomb of Weni (Fig. 1A)

- a) P09-78 AMC 01 Unit 7 Level 5  
RD: 14cm 15%  
Fabric NE2. Hardness: Hard. Rim exterior and interior wet smoothed. Horizontally combed on exterior shoulder. 2.5YR 6/6–6/8 (I & E). White powdery substance on exterior (accretion?).

<sup>94</sup> GREENBERG and PORAT 1996, 18.

<sup>95</sup> ESSE and HOPKE 1986.

<sup>96</sup> KANTOR 1992, 20.

<sup>97</sup> ESSE and HOPKE 1986, 337.

- b) P09-74 AMC 01 Unit 7 Sand Level  
RD: 12.3–12.4cm 80% (100% of neck)  
Fabric NE2. Hardness: Hard. Rim exterior and interior wet smoothed. Light horizontal combing near bottom of sherd. 2.5YR 5/4–6/6 (I & E). White powdery substance on exterior (accretion?).
- c) P09-75 AMC 99 Unit 2 West Extension of North Wall  
RD: 13cm 20%  
Fabric NE2. Interior and exterior wet smoothed, possible red slip on exterior. 10R 5/6–5/8 (E). Interior covered with dark fatty substance.
- d) P09-77 AMC 99 Unit 7E Level 1  
ND: 9cm 25%  
Fabric NE3. Hardness: Medium hard. Interior and exterior wet smoothed. Horizontally combed near base. Possible red slip on exterior. 10R 6/4 (E). Interior covered with white powdery accretion.
- e) P09-78a AMC 99 Unit 7E Level 1  
RD: 13cm 16%  
Fabric NE3. Hardness: Medium hard. Rim interior and exterior wet smoothed. 2.5YR 6/4–6/6 (I & E). White powdery accretion on sherd.
- f) P09-76 AMC 99 Unit 2 Extension North Wall  
RD: 12cm 6.5%  
Fabric NE1. Hardness: Hard. Interior and exterior wet smoothed. 2.5YR 5/4 (E), 2.5YR 6/6 (I).
- g) P09-72a AMC 01 Unit 7 level 5  
Max. width 19.3cm  
Fabric analysis not completed. Horizontal combing with superimposed bands of vertical combing. Incised pot mark (prefiring). White accretions on surface.
- medium hard. Wet smoothed on turning device. Possible red slip on exterior. 5YR 5/4 (I & E)
- c) P09-131 AMC 99 Unit 3 Level 12  
RD: 13cm 25%  
Fabric NE1. Wet smoothed on turning device. Possible red slip on exterior. Dark fatty/oily substance on interior surface. 5YR 6/6 (I & E)
- d) P09-132 AMC 99 Unit 3 Level 1  
RD: 12.5cm 23%  
Fabric NE1. Hardness: Medium Hard. Interior wet smoothed on turning device. Exterior surface eroded. 5YR 6/6 (E), 7.5YR 5/6 (I)
- e) P09-132a AMC 99 Unit 3 Level 2  
BD: 12.5cm 45%  
Fabric NE1. Hardness: Medium hard. Interior wet smoothed. Exterior deeply horizontally combed with some light diagonal combing on top of this. 5YR 5/3 (E), 10R 5/6 (I)
- f) P09-133 AMC 99 Unit 3 Level 1  
BD: 15.5cm 36%  
Fabric NE1. Hardness: Medium hard. Interior corroded and stained with dark resinous substance. Exterior horizontally combed with some light vertical combing on top of this. 2.5YR 6/6 (E), 5YR 8/2 (I)
- g) P09-157 AMC 99 Unit 3  
ND: ca. 11cm  
Fabric NE1? (coarse). Neck interior and exterior wet smoothed. Light horizontal combing near sherd base. Incised rope decoration around base of neck (pre-firing). 2.5YR 5/6 (I & E).

*Figure 6*

## Imported Pottery from the Tomb of Iuu

- a) P09-71 AMC 07 Unit 10 Level 9  
BD: 16cm 100% H: 22.5cm  
Fabric NE (further analysis not yet completed).
- b) P09-72 AMC 07 Unit 10 Level 9  
H: 6.6cm Diameter of Handle: 3 × 2cm  
Fabric NE (further analysis not yet completed).

*Figure 7*

## Imported Pottery from the Tomb of Idi

- a) P09-148 AMC 01 Unit 3 Levels 17–18  
RD: 11–11.5cm 100% BD: 12.5cm 50% H: 39cm. Handle D: 2.2 × 1.1cm  
Fabric NE1 (medium coarse). Hardness: Medium soft. Rim exterior, interior and neck wet smoothed on turning device. Remainder pattern combed. 2.5YR 6/6–5/6 (E), 5YR 6/4 (I)
- b) P09-130 AMC 99 Unit 3 level 2  
RD: 13cm 45%  
Fabric NE1 (medium coarse). Hardness: Medium soft-

*Figure 8*

## Egyptian Silt Pottery from the Shaft and Chamber of the Tomb of Idi

- a) P09-134 AMC 01 Op 3 level 17 feature 1  
RD: 31cm 70% BD 12.3cm 70% H: 16.2cm  
Medium fine silt. Interior and exterior red slipped, carefully wet smoothed and lightly polished. Interior and exterior covered with powdery white plaster. Pot surface (non plaster): 10R5/6 (I&E)
- b) P09-167 AMC 01 Unit 3 level 17 feature 1  
RD: 9.5cm 90%  
Medium fine silt. Interior and exterior wet smoothed, exterior and rim interior coated with white slip. 5YR 8/2 (E), 5YR 5/4 (I).

## Abbreviations

RD	Rim Diameter
BD	Base Diameter
ND	Neck Diameter
H	Height
I	Interior
E	Exterior

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