

Compound 11 is the largest building in the whole of area A/II in Phase G/2–1 hitherto excavated and it clearly dominates the north western part of the settlement, which may also be status related.¹⁵³ The assemblage of rooms and courtyards is termed ‘Bezirk I’ by M. BIETAK’s initial publication.¹⁵⁴ It is also possible that the complex consists of two house units built back to back.¹⁵⁵

Parts of this building, which consists of 6 to 7 rooms at a minimum (the northern part was destroyed by the New Kingdom well and remained unexcavated), were found in squares A/II-l/10, A/II-l/11, A/II-m/10, A/II-m/11 and the southernmost corner in square A/II-n/11. It seems that the building was surrounded by a wall [M7a] and [M7b] (see Fig. 4.1) forming a rectangular courtyard to the east of it. This part of the compound stretched over squares A/II-l/11, A/II-l/12 and A/II-m/12 (see below, 129–139). In his latest treatment of this settlement BIETAK¹⁵⁶ agrees with VON PILGRIM’s reconstruction of Compound 11 as a ‘Hofhaus’¹⁵⁷ with a courtyard (L [107]) but with three surrounding room units. Unfortunately it remains unproven if space L [107] had a roof or not. In the relevant section (A11) it can be seen that the rubble of this house had been removed by the later building stages. Thus, it cannot be ascertained if there was roof collapse or not. Also the reconstruction as a courtyard house does not take into account the other spaces to the north of the core unit L [105 a] and L [105 b]. Further, the superposition of the walls of Temple I prevents our knowing whether a possible column base was situated in this area. One argument in favour of the courtyard reconstruction is

the width of L [107] of about 4.30 m, which can possibly just be bridged by tree trunks (e.g. halved palm trunks). Von Pilgrim calculated a likely maximum width of rooms that can be easily covered by means of wooden beams of around 4.0 m at a width of the walls of 0.5 m.¹⁵⁸ Interestingly, in the other buildings with bi-partite lay-out¹⁵⁹ the wider room is only just under 4.0 m or even less wide.

The description of the archaeological remains will follow the sequence of the squares from north to south and west to east (Fig. 3.1).

SQUARE A/II-L/10

Excavation and available records

Square A/II-l/10 was excavated in 1967 (plana 1–3),¹⁶⁰ 1968 (pl. 4)¹⁶¹ and in the autumn of 1983 (pl. 5).¹⁶² All sections were drawn in 1968. No exact dates were given for any of those plans. For Phase G/3–1 A/II-l/10, planum 4 is most relevant. Planum 5 only shows part of the eastern half of the square, previously beneath one of the very wide inner walls of the Later Mortuary Temple I.¹⁶³ The excavation went down to an elevation of about 4.82 m–4.65 m/NN. In general, walls were preserved up to an absolute height of about 5.00 m/NN. No excavation diary is preserved for pl. 4. The large number of different walls leads to a complicated lay-out of the square. They were originally numbered as they appeared.

The original absolute elevation of the tell was recorded in the plan drawing of planum 2:¹⁶⁴ in the

¹⁵³ M. BIETAK, *Houses, Palaces and Development of Social Structure in Avaris*, 18.

¹⁵⁴ M. BIETAK, TD V, 27–29.

¹⁵⁵ M. BIETAK, personal communication 15 May 2017.

¹⁵⁶ M. BIETAK, *Houses, Palaces and Development of Social Structure in Avaris*, 18. The possibility of an open courtyard is already suggested in M. BIETAK, TD V, 28.

¹⁵⁷ C. V. PILGRIM, *Elephantine XVIII, Untersuchungen in der Stadt des Mittleren Reiches und der Zweiten Zwischenzeit*, AV 91, Mainz 1996, 200 and fig. 86.c.

¹⁵⁸ C. V. PILGRIM, *Elephantine XVIII*, 201–203.

¹⁵⁹ B. BADER, *On Simple House Architecture*, passim.

¹⁶⁰ TDplan nos 74, 75 and 76.

¹⁶¹ TDplan no 77.

¹⁶² TDplan no 1642.

¹⁶³ M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 5, 107–116.

¹⁶⁴ TDplan no 75.

north western corner the area showed a level of originally 9.40 m/NN decreasing towards the east down to 8.70 m/NN. The area further sloped down towards the south quite considerably from 9.40 m/NN to 5.87 m/NN in the south western corner and 6.35 m/NN in the south eastern corner of the square. This means that already at the beginning of the work a considerable difference in levels existed, which can be explained by the way a tell site grows in height over time or by post-depositional processes.

Beside the plan drawings of the five plana¹⁶⁵ field drawings and the section drawings of square A/II-l/10, one detailed section of an oven (plan no 1641) was recorded, as well as the sections of the northern, southern and western baulks.¹⁶⁶ In addition a digging diary was kept, a position card file, the register book listing the finds and the original konvolute cards, which record the ceramic sherd material from some of the areas excavated, as well as the find drawings of the more complete material. A considerable amount of the finds were brought to the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna through the find division still in operation at Foreign/Egyptian excavation missions in the 1960s until the early 1980s. Site photography comprises B/W negatives as well as some colour slides and find photos.

Description of architecture and archaeological features (A/II-l/10)

Unfortunately there are two massive later features disturbing the plan of Compound 11 (Fig. 3.2–3.4). Thus, the plan is not as clear as one would like it to be. The first disturbance is a deep and wide well in A/II-k/10, which totally destroyed the northernmost part or the northern unit and the lay-out of anything that would have been situated there. It is, thus, probable that the building continued with even more rooms/courtyards towards the north or that a separate building was added back to back.¹⁶⁷ The second feature hindering a better understanding of this building is Mortuary Temple I of Phase E/2–1. This temple was not dismantled during the excavation according to the wishes of the then Egyptian Antiquities Service (EAO). Thus it remains unknown how the walls of Phase G/4–1 ran below those later, rather massive walls. It has to be noted,

though, that the entrance of this temple must have been in the middle of the northern wall, because the temple follows symmetrical Egyptian plans and the three narrow chambers (sanctuary) are usually situated in the back of temples.¹⁶⁸

The preserved expanse of Compound 11 is at least 23.0 m in a north – south direction while the main axis of the house is slightly tilted towards the west. The west – east extension is about 10 m. This would equal about 42 cubits in length and 20 cubits in width. The available floor space of ‘rooms’/features **L [103–104]** cannot be given due to their incomplete preservation.

The nucleus of the house seems to be constituted by rooms or spaces **L [106]** to **[108]**, which consists of the common “snail house” ground plan, with an additional room to the south of this arrangement, **L [109]**, and a subdivision of the western, narrower part **L[106]** and **L [108]**. On the west side, wall **[M8]** seems to provide an additional corridor, perhaps added later, leading to a possible extension or vestibule of this house, namely **L [105]** and then **L [104]** and **[103]**. To the south east of the house part of a low wall, built from heavily sand tempered mud-bricks with several building sub-phases, surrounds a ‘courtyard’¹⁶⁹ or at least some sort of accompanied and delimited space that might have been used by the owners of Compound 11 **[M7a]** and **[M7b]** see Fig. 4.1. A difficulty in the interpretation of this compound is the position of possible doors that remain rather hard to pinpoint due to the later tomb pits cutting into the archaeological remains (mostly from Phase F).¹⁷⁰

M. BIETAK thinks it quite possible that the northern part of the building **L [103–105]** is perhaps a slightly later addition to the original nucleus **L [106–109]**.¹⁷¹ This must remain unclear because from the original plan drawing it remains uncertain if the bricks of the wall **[M10/11]** protruding from the north eastern corner of the nucleus were laid in a bonded brick pattern and thus, at the same time or abutted afterwards in a join. The impression is, though, that there may have been a later join. Thus, another possibility is that a separate building extended to the north, perhaps beginning only with wall **[M16]**, creating a narrow storage space between walls **[M15]** and **[M16]**.¹⁷² No parallels for such an arrangement have yet been found.

¹⁶⁵ TDplan nos 74–77, 1642.

¹⁶⁶ TDplan nos 79, 80 and 78.

¹⁶⁷ M. BIETAK, personal communication 15 May 2017.

¹⁶⁸ M. BIETAK, TD V, 108–116.

¹⁶⁹ M. BIETAK, TD V, 27.

¹⁷⁰ Cf. M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 2.

¹⁷¹ M. BIETAK, TD V, 27.

¹⁷² M. BIETAK, personal communication 15 May 2017.



Fig. 3.2 Overview of squares A/II-m-l/10 and the excavation towards south-west. Most prominent feature is Mortuary Temple I in the right half of the photo, SW1096/40



Fig. 3.3 A/II-l/10, pl. 3–4 with later Temple I still standing, view towards north, SW1076/18

Additional evidence can be gathered from the size of the sand tempered mud-bricks used for the building: in the southern part they measure 37.0–39.0 by 18.0–20.0 cm, while in the northern part their size is 31.0–32.0 by 15.5 cm. Also the colours differ: in the southern part of the building the heavily sand tem-

pered bricks are yellowish brownish whilst the northern ones are reddish yellow.¹⁷³

The numbering system of the loci used in the first publication¹⁷⁴ will be kept in the following description, but a few more need to be introduced in order to further clarify the description of the building. They are

¹⁷³ M. BIETAK, TD V, 27.

¹⁷⁴ M. BIETAK, TD V, 27–29, plan 2.



Fig. 3.4 A/II-l/10 with later temple still standing, pl. 3–4, SW1076/22

L [103] to **[115]** (see Fig. 3.1). The description of the levels with absolute elevations will start in the north.

The floor level seems to have been “paved” or rather compacted to a mud floor at an elevation of ca 4.50 m/NN with variations of 4.69–4.55 m/NN in **L [104]** and 4.63 m/NN in **L [103]**. Such fluctuations in terms of relative evenness of the floors do not seem to be too unusual.

Locus **L [104]** (Fig. 3.5) consists of a ‘room’ or space that is limited towards the south by a wide wall of ashy sand tempered mud-bricks laid three courses high and with four brick’s width **[M15]**. M. BIETAK describes it as 1.40–1.50 m wide. The first course of bricks was laid out in a way that would place the bricks on long and narrow sides (stretchers) in a row-lock (= “Rollschar”). The preserved elevation of this bench is ca 5.08–5.09 m/NN.¹⁷⁵

An archaeological sounding conducted in 1983 showed that the orientation of the bench deviated slightly from that of Phase G/3–4 below as well as from that of the later Mortuary Temple I (Phase E/2–1) above. Furthermore, the bench was not preserved in its entirety. The assignment to Phase G/2–1 rather than to Phase F was based mainly on the size of the bricks.¹⁷⁶ [More prob-

ably the thickness is meant than the west-east extension.] The base level of the foundation trench for the bench is at 4.75 m/NN and the base level of the wall is at 4.82 m/NN.¹⁷⁷ The floor level in the middle of **L [104a]** is at 4.65 m/NN, which means that the floor level is slightly sloping towards the north-west.¹⁷⁸ M. BIETAK thinks it possible that at least part of the building was already ruined by the time the bench and the oven installation **L [311]** were built.¹⁷⁹ Analysis of the larger area showed that another horse-shoe shaped oven clearly belonged to Phase G/2–1 and therefore it is most likely that those two installations spatially set up closely together also belong to the same phase. Reconsideration of the archaeological records of oven **L [311]** led also to this conclusion (see below 85–101). Thus, what looks like a pit cutting into the bench and wall **[M17]** with the oven set into it, is in fact a later pit cutting the bench, the wall on top of the oven and the uppermost part of the oven installation. The oven was presumably already filled with rubble after having fallen into disuse, and was then covered by a later wall (of Temple I Phase E/2–1).

1.0 m further north in square A/II-l/10 parallel to the wall, that was situated west of oven **L [311]** (see detailed drawing and description below, Fig. 3.28)

¹⁷⁵ M. BIETAK, TD V, 27.

¹⁷⁶ M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 3–4 December 1983.

¹⁷⁷ According to plan drawing TD 1642.

¹⁷⁸ It seems rather a high level for a foundation trench of Phase G compared with the other areas situated further east, but of

course this is the westernmost part of the settlement and it could very well be that the level increases towards the west.

¹⁷⁹ M. BIETAK, TD V, 27. The re-dating of the oven was discussed 4 February 2016.

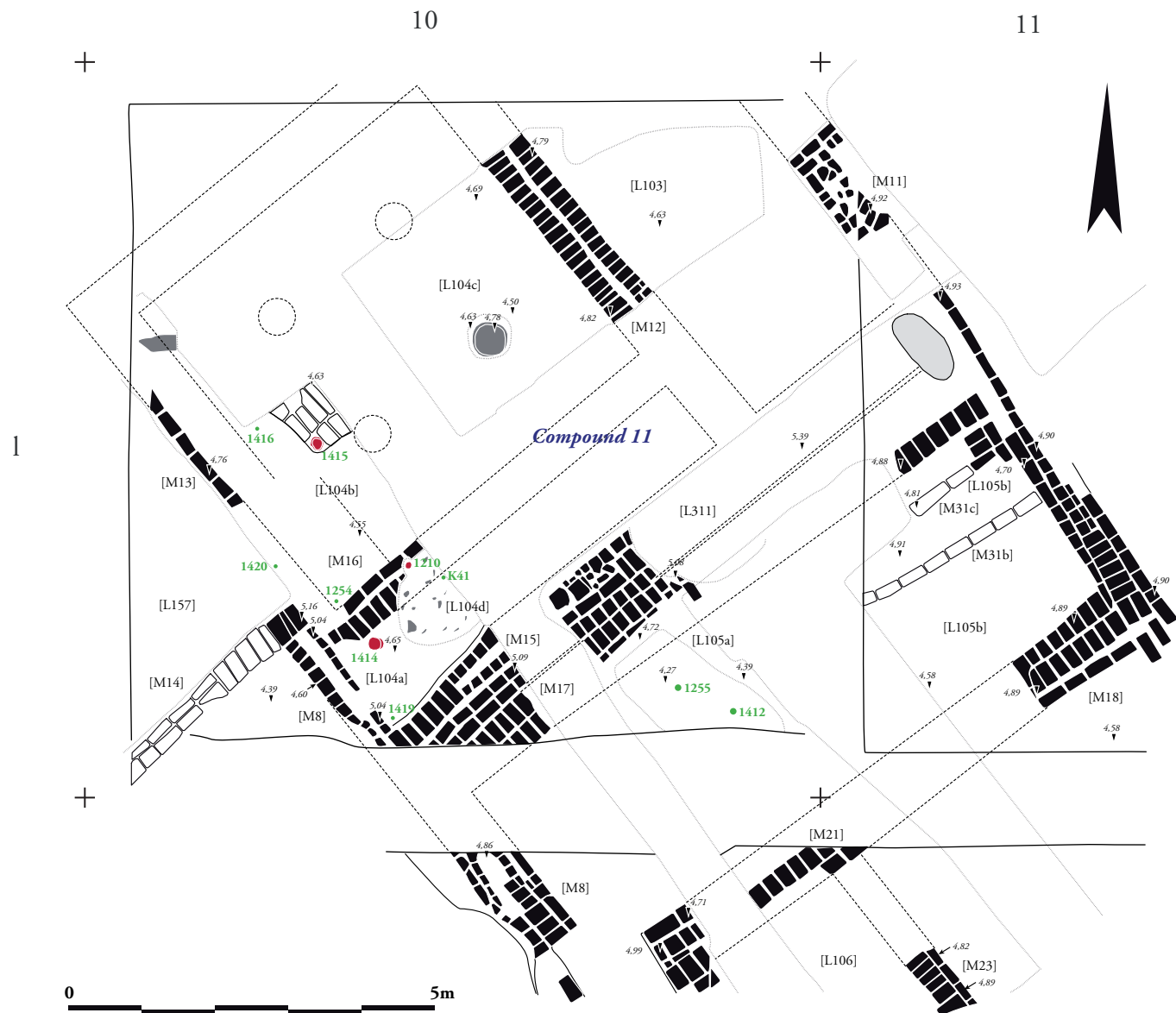


Fig. 3.5 Schematic plan of L [102, 104 and 105]. Adapted from M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 2 and archival records, graphic execution by N. Math

runs a thinner wall [M16] (1 1/2 brick's width = ca 0.6 m). It is unclear, if [M16] extended further to the ENE to join the easternmost wall of Compound 11. The renewed excavation of part of this area in 1983 seems to show that this wall did not continue, thus, it might have been some sort of minor dividing wall or bench. On top of wall [M16] in a little hole at a level of 4.74 m/NN a red burnished juglet (Fig. 3.5, reg.no 1210¹⁸⁰) was found. If this wall was rather a bench than a wall or a disused wall from a prior sub-phase the juglet may be contemporary. On top of that

juglet divided only by a thin layer of 1.0 or 2.0 cm sand a pierced stone (Fig. 3.8.a, 3.9.a, reg.no 1418¹⁸¹) was found. It shows a roughly triangular form with a square hole in the top third.

The pit L [104d] cut partly into this wall/[bench?] [M16], so that it is possible that the finds from K39, including reg.no 1413 belong to this pit (see below, 75–76). The presence of a flat based cup and a direct plate rim hint to a later date of the material from this pit, even though some of the ceramic material fits a dating into Phase G as known from other loci.

¹⁸⁰ Now housed in the KhM, A 2810.

¹⁸¹ Now housed in the KhM, A 1363.

In the space between the wide bench with the oven and the thinner wall/bench [M16] (L [104a]) two ceramic vessel fragments were found: reg.no 1414¹⁸² the base of a larger jar, made from Nile C1–2, which is drawn into the plan; reg.no 1419¹⁸³ was found close to the bench and is a rim fragment of a round tray with incised decoration on top of the rim and small holes pierced into the base of it. The fabric is either that used for copying Syro-Palestinian shapes, Nile E, or a real import (see below 76).

North of the short wall/bench [M16] L [104b] is situated. It is hard to find evidence whether this space had a roof or not, the stone column base in L [104c] may hint at the fact that there was a roof over this space at least partly. In view of the presence of the oven in the wider bench down south this may be more logical. Interestingly, against expectations no large amounts of ash were reported around the oven.

Finds in this space consist of a hemispherical cup, reg.no 1415,¹⁸⁴ that was drawn into the plan; the base of a possible cup with straight base or jar, reg.no 1416¹⁸⁵ and a small dish with outer lip close to the short wall/bench [M16], reg.no 1254.¹⁸⁶

In space L [104c], where the stone base of a column was found, no records describing this base survived but it may be assumed that it was made of limestone, which would be the most usual material for such features, in analogy to thresholds and pivot stones for doors. It was laid on a slight platform on top of the paved floor. The level of the floor is around 4.50 m/NN in the middle and 4.69 m/NN towards the edges. The top of the base was at 4.78 m NN and the lower edge was at 4.63 m/NN. The base has a diameter of 0.50 m almost equivalent of one cubit. There were no traces of what might have been employed on top of that base. A very likely scenario would be the use of a wooden column shaft. Within L [104c] four sherds of gutter rim cooking jars were found, reg.no 1257/a–d,¹⁸⁷ which represent different vessels. They were described as coming out of the room with the column base and above it. Thus, it cannot be ruled out, that these rim fragments belong to the fill of Phase F. It seems quite likely, because this pottery type occurs more frequently in Phase F than G/3–1.¹⁸⁸



Fig. 3.6 Locus [104c], space with limestone column base view towards south-east, SW1078/8–9

In the settlement of Phase G/3–1 this column base is remarkable as it is the only one preserved. The identification of the B/W negative (Fig. 3.6) is perhaps not entirely unequivocal, because it is the first photo of the film and the others don't seem to relate to square A/II-l/10. Considering that a stone column base seems to have been employed nowhere else the identification of that column base in L [104c] with that in the photograph might hold. Considering that this is also the largest building in this settlement, such a suggestion seems reasonable.

No finds were registered from L [103], that is a room/space divided by a two brick's width wide wall [M12] from the western room/unit L [104c] with the stone column base. The paved surface showed an elevation of 4.63 m/NN. The Mortuary Temple I wall, which was not taken down,¹⁸⁹ also obscured much of the ground plan of this part of the dwelling.

Reconstruction of the northern part of the building

Due to the destruction of the northern part of Compound 11 by the well in A/II-k/10 only a hypothetical reconstruction can be attempted (see Fig. 3.7). The basis of the reconstruction was the width of the compound itself with the addition of the 'corridor' on the

¹⁸² Now housed in the KhM, A 2963.

¹⁸³ Now housed in the KhM, A 2967.

¹⁸⁴ Now housed in the KhM, A 2964.

¹⁸⁵ Now housed in the KhM, A 2965.

¹⁸⁶ Now housed in the KhM, A 2838.

¹⁸⁷ Now housed in the KhM, A 2842–2845.

¹⁸⁸ Cf. D. ASTON, *Ceramic Imports*, 46 and fig. 11.3: imported material from G/3–1 to F; B. BADER, TD XIX, 409, type 103g, made from Nile E in Phase F.

¹⁸⁹ M. BIETAK, TD V, 27. According to the wishes of the Egyptian Antiquities Service (EAO).

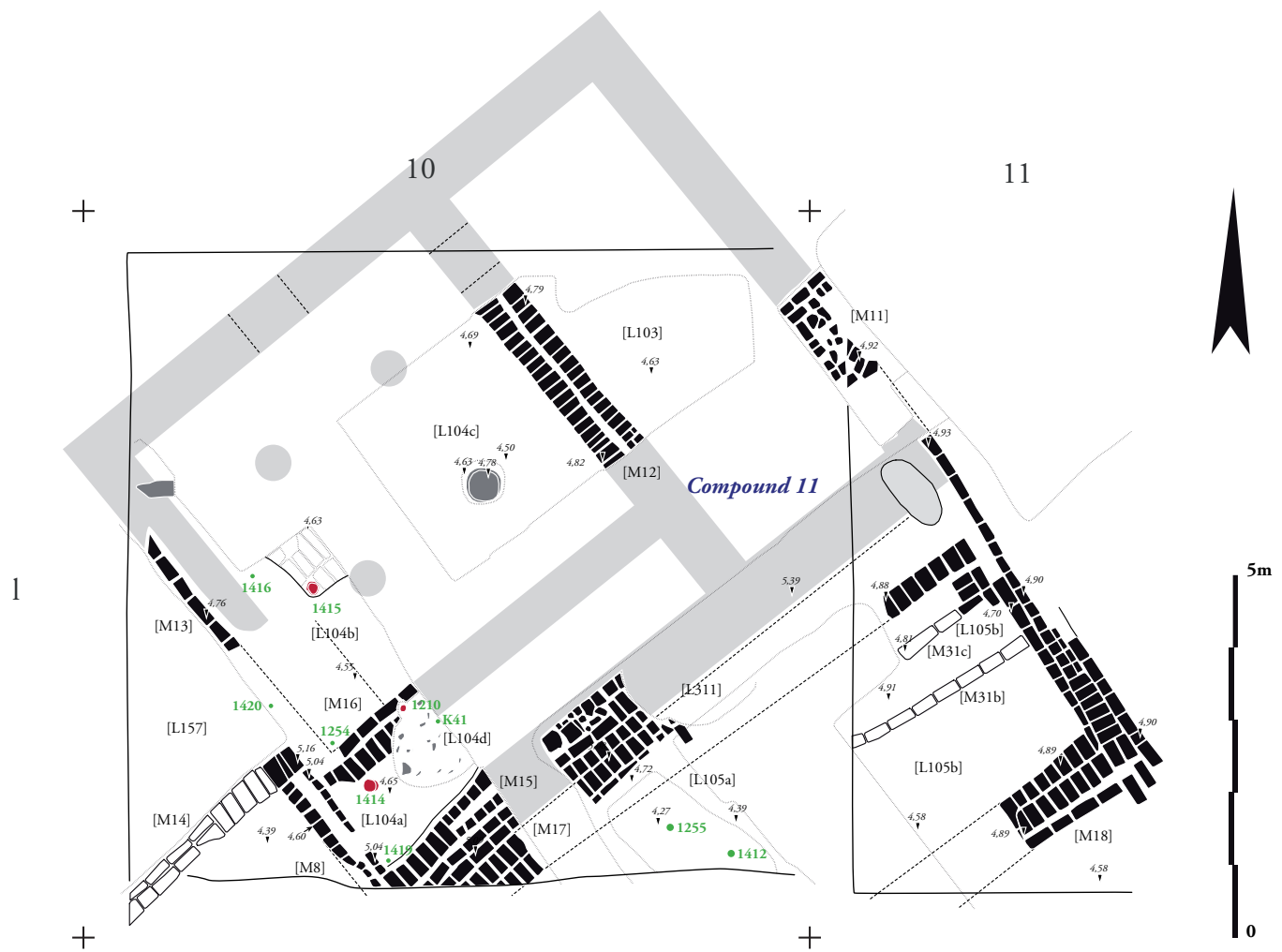


Fig. 3.7 Reconstruction of northern part of Compound 11 by B. Bader, graphic execution by N. Math

western side, which resulted in 10.1 m (almost 20 cubits). For the reconstruction of the length of the house the core units of **L [106] to L [108]** were used with a similar arrangement. The internal wall extending from **[M16]** may be shorter creating an almost square space. In such a reconstruction also the column base would make sense because the area to be bridged would be 6.3 m, which seems too wide to be roofed without the help of a load-bearing element. The location of possible doorways remains unknown.

A possibility may be to reconstruct a unit consisting of the courtyard with the four columns limited by wall **[M16]**, a room/space to its east and a narrow room/‘magazine’ of ca 1.0 m width to the south. Possible doorways may have been situated in the middle of the northern wall of the four column room as well as either in the south or north of its eastern wall **[M12]**.¹⁹⁰

The entire north western corner of the square remains unexcavated, because the Mortuary Temple I (Phase E/2–1) was left standing as a complete building.¹⁹¹

¹⁹⁰ This plausible reconstruction was proposed by M. BIETAK, 15 May 2017.

¹⁹¹ M. BIETAK, TD V, 27.

Discussion of relevant parts of the sections (A/II-1/10¹⁹²)

The northern section (A6, drawn in 1968)¹⁹³ does not mention the late Middle Kingdom Phases H, G/4 and G/3-1. The final inked version of the section shows that the older levels were not exposed due to the restoration and preservation of Mortuary Temple I.¹⁹⁴ The western part of square A/II-1/10 was just excavated to an elevation of ca 5.50 m/NN, whilst the eastern part reached a slightly lower elevation of 4.70 m/NN.

The western section (A51, drawn in 1968)¹⁹⁵ only reached Phase G in a few instances, again due to the Mortuary Temple I in the northern part, which extends from running metres 6.0 to 10 from south. Section no A51-25 represents rubble derived from the walls of the building with section no A51-26, which denotes a sand tempered mud-brick building. The wall assigned to a building, which may be identified with Compound 11, is situated around running metre 5.0 and is probably to be identified with [M13] (= section no A51-26). The base level of this wall must lie below ca 4.60 m/NN, whilst the preserved top was at 4.80 m/NN. Only two brick courses were preserved. For this reason it is unfortunately not possible to ascertain whether any older buildings were situated in this area or not. Also the northern limitation of the building cannot be ascertained. The other wall, section no A51-38, was erected from running metres 0.25 to 1.90 from south with a thickness of ca 1.65 m and seems to have been preserved four brick courses high. Its base level must lie below 4.40 m/NN and its preserved top also reached an elevation of 4.48 m/NN. It can be identified with [M14]. Directly on top of these walls those of a Phase E/2-1 building were set up (section no A51-22). The section indicates that a concerted effort was made to raze the earlier buildings in this area in order to erect the building and its precursor.¹⁹⁶ Section no A51-28, in the northern half of the section represents 'sandy layers with walking horizons' and belongs to Phase G, general. It is situated at running metres 5.30-6.20 at an elevation of 4.80 to 4.55 m/NN. From this sec-

tion it is not very clear whether these features just described belonged to Phase F or Phase G/2-1, but considering the fact that two walls in a similar position were assigned to Phase F as 'Bezirk VII'¹⁹⁷ it is possible that they persisted in both phases, but cannot be told apart due to the exposure reached.

The eastern section (A73) was not drawn/preserved in the records, probably because most of it was disturbed by the pit of tomb A/II-1/10-2 and the still standing Mortuary Temple I of Phase E/2-1.

The southern section (A32, drawn in 1968)¹⁹⁸ was exposed to an elevation of about 4.40 m/NN, where the walls of the Mortuary Temple I and the preserved tops of [M15] and [M17] and [M8] did not block the exposure (running metres 2.0 to 7.0 from east). The bench [M15] and the adjacent wall [M17] and the precinct wall [M8] (all combined as section no A32-36 = Phase G/2-1) show a possible base level¹⁹⁹ at ca 4.60 m/NN. Four brick courses were preserved, so that the preserved top of them is at ca 5.15 m/NN. It is totally unclear if or which features were below, but considering the building history of Compound 1 (see vol. 2, in preparation) it is likely that a smaller structure existed here in Phase G/3 at least. Interestingly it seems as if the walls of Mortuary Temple I (section no A32-16) were built almost directly on top of that wall [M17] and the bench. Heavily sand tempered mud-brick rubble on top of that bench was found up to a level of 5.50 m/NN, which seems indeed too high an elevation to belong to Phase G/2-1.²⁰⁰ To the east of the wall and bench (at running metres 0.5 to 2.0 from the east) section nos A32-32, 33, 34, and 37 are superimposed and assigned to rubble of Phase G/2-1. Section no A32-38 represents part of a foundation pit for [M15] and [M17] (= section no A32-36) at an elevation of ca 4.65 m/NN, which fits well with other parts of the settlement. Section no A32-43 is designated sand tempered mud-brick rubble belonging to Phase G/3. The absolute elevation of these layers is 5.20-5.30 m/NN to 4.60 m/NN (G/2-1) and 4.60 to about 4.40 m/NN. There the excavation in this part of the square ceased. The 'Störung'²⁰¹ drawn into the plan close to the southern

¹⁹² The inked sections were analysed by M. BIETAK. The western and southern sections were supplied with the final section nos, whilst the eastern section was not available. The northern section was only supplied with the provisional section nos derived from the original plan drawings.

¹⁹³ TDplan no 80.

¹⁹⁴ M. BIETAK, TD V, 27. According to the wishes of the Egyptian Antiquities Service (EAO).

¹⁹⁵ TDplan no 78.

¹⁹⁶ M. BIETAK, TD V, 94-95 and plan 4; 138-139 and 5.

¹⁹⁷ M. BIETAK, TD V, 60, plan 3.

¹⁹⁸ TDplan no 79. The section was inked and analysed in full by M. BIETAK with final section nos.

¹⁹⁹ The walls were not exposed enough to be entirely sure.

²⁰⁰ In the final section this item is not numbered or explained. It is very likely much later than Phase G/2-1.

²⁰¹ M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 2, cf. Fig. 3.1.

section (Fig. 3.1) from running metre 0.50 to 2.25 from the east is *not* visible in the section. The nature of this disturbance is unclear. However, this area in the section seems to show the levels of Phase G/3–1, as described in the section analysis. To the west of bench and walls [M15], [M17], [M8] (= section no A32-36) between running metres 6.50 and 8.50 the pit of grave A/II-m/10-8 (Phase F, section no A32-28)²⁰² is situated and cuts away most of the older layers, except part of the lower rubble section no A32-43.

A more detailed schematic plan with the find spots of the archaeological material is given in Fig. 3.5. Note that most of the tomb pits cutting into the settlement from above and the Mortuary Temple I walls have been removed from the plan in order to make it more comprehensible.

Finds from square A/II-l/10, pl. 4

*L [104a?]*²⁰³ In little depression in wall/bench [M16] (Fig. 3.8.a–c, 3.9.a–c)

Stone

Reg.no **1418** (KhM, A 1363), pierced triangular stone, possibly a weight. Position: A/II-l/10, pl. 4 on top of wall/bench [M16]. The object was found 1.0–2.0 cm above juglet reg.no 1210 (Fig. 3.8.b).

Records: B/W negatives SW1106/52, SW1126/24; drawing ZN 47 E, redrawn and re-analysed. (Fig. 3.8.a, 3.9.a) Material: limestone; measurements: height = 12.6, max. width = 10.0, thickness = 4.1, weight = 709 grams. Hole is square in shape. Found in similar position as the juglet below, thus, if the juglet is intrusive

the stone object is also. In case the short wall is a subdivision within the room or a bench it could be contemporary. It remains unclear how this stone was positioned within or on top of the wall/bench [M16]. The identification as loom weight²⁰⁴ depends on several prerogatives. Whilst there is so far no evidence for vertical looms before the late 18th Dynasty, two types of vertical looms exist: the two-beam looms²⁰⁵ and the warp weighted looms.²⁰⁶ The first type needs two weights each of ca 1.0 kg connected to each end of the leash rod to create tension for the loom to work properly,²⁰⁷ whilst the second needs several weights depending on the width of the loom connected to a number of warp threads hanging down on the floor to keep them tidy. Weights for this type of loom have not been given but the weight of 709 grams seems too heavy for this type of loom, although this claim can currently not be substantiated.

Because there is no evidence for vertical looms in the late Middle Kingdom²⁰⁸ this interpretation for reg. no 1418 seemed at first invalid, but the horizontal or ground loom with warp spacer may also have had two weights at each side of the warp beam,²⁰⁹ although such a device is not shown on the weaving model of Meketra, because it lacks the warp spacer.²¹⁰ Whether the fabric woven at Tell el-Dab^a has to be assumed to be linen or wool remains without evidence in this case,²¹¹ even more so as the stone in question has not been found in connection with any textile related installation. Discussions of weaving, however, connect the weaving of wool with the vertical warp weighted loom because a frame is unsuitable due to the nature of the fibre. On the other hand a frame with high tension is necessary to weave linen.²¹²

²⁰² M. BIETAK, TD V, 61–70.

²⁰³ It remains unclear whether these finds belong to those of **L [104a]** proper or if the depression **L [104d]** represents a later disturbance.

²⁰⁴ A similar limestone object in shape and size was identified as loom weight (with round hole), with reference to R. ANTHES, *Mit Rahineh* 1955, Museum Monographs, University Museum, Philadelphia 1959, 45–46, pl. 28b more irregular shapes and from the New Kingdom and later. Also R. ANTHES, *Mit Rahineh* 1956, Museum Monographs, University Museum, Philadelphia 1965, 112–114, pl. 44a, also New Kingdom and later. The Tell el-Dab^a piece has straighter edges. Cf. E. CZERNY, TD IX, fig. 52e. Unfortunately the weight of the piece was not recorded. For objects similar in shape but made of pottery see C. VON PILGRIM, *Elephantine XVIII*, fig. 120.d–f. They were identified as fishing net sinkers. See discussion in C. VON PILGRIM, *Elephantine XVIII*, 275–278.

²⁰⁵ B. KEMP and G. VOGELSANG-EASTWOOD, *Textile Industry*, 335–338.

²⁰⁶ B. KEMP and G. VOGELSANG-EASTWOOD, *Textile Industry*, 392–394. The suspected examples found at Amarna are irregular stones with natural holes through which threads had been wound. They look entirely different.

²⁰⁷ B. KEMP and G. VOGELSANG-EASTWOOD, *Textile Industry*, 409, 415.

²⁰⁸ The model from Meketre's tomb of the early Middle Kingdom shows a horizontal loom. Cf. H.E. WINLOCK, *Models of Daily Life in Ancient Egypt from the Tomb of Meketre-Re at Thebes*, PMMA 18, Cambridge Massachusetts 1955, 88–89, fig. 25–27.

²⁰⁹ B. KEMP and G. VOGELSANG-EASTWOOD, *Textile Industry*, fig. 10.2.

²¹⁰ B. KEMP and G. VOGELSANG-EASTWOOD, *Textile Industry*, fig. 9.2, 9.12 and chapter 9.

²¹¹ Sheep bones have been identified in the settlement of the late Middle Kingdom but it remains unknown whether the wool of these sheep could have been used for weaving or not. Cf. G. VOGELSANG-EASTWOOD, *Textiles*, in: P.T. NICHOLSON and I. SHAW (eds), *Ancient Egyptian Materials*, 269.

²¹² B. KEMP and G. VOGELSANG-EASTWOOD, *Textile Industry*, 392–394.

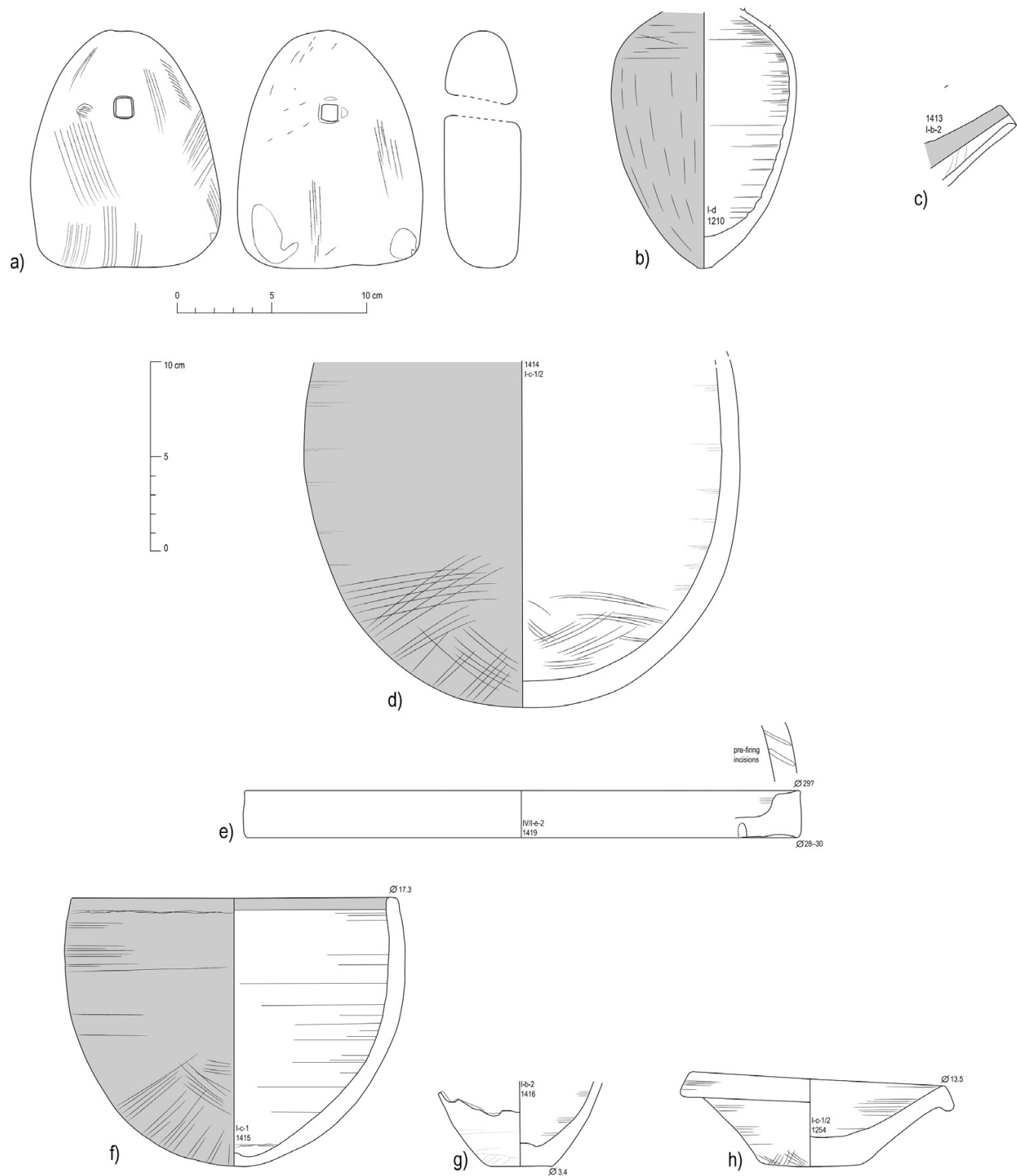


Fig. 3.8 Stone and Pottery from L [104a], L [104b] and L [104c]

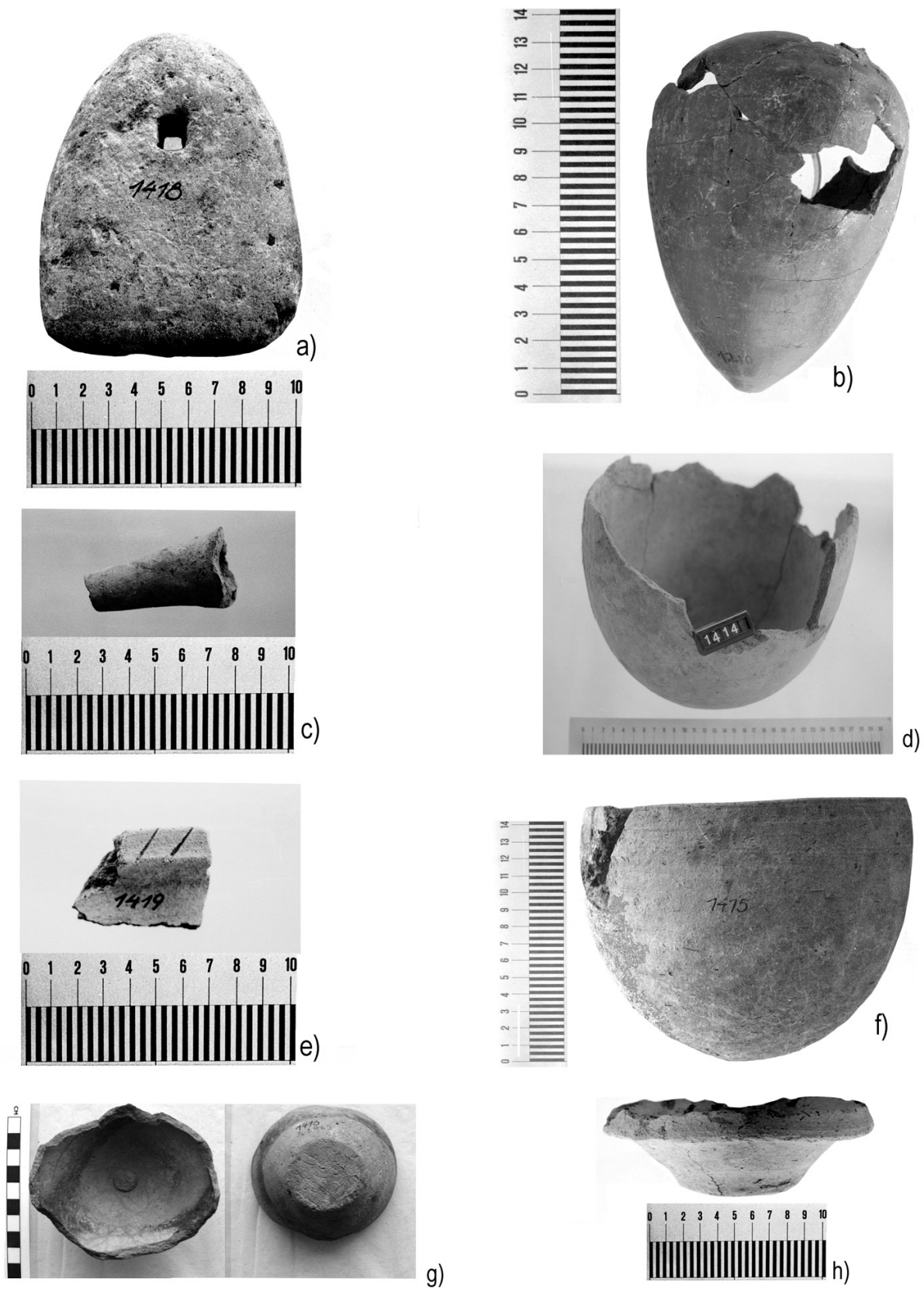


Fig. 3.9 Stone and Pottery from L [104a], L [104b] and L [104c], photos a) SW1106/52, b) SW1104/48, c) SW1126/68, d) SW1130/27–28*, e) SW1126/32, f) SW1126/74, g) SW1126/28, h) SW1100/41–42

Other possible uses for this pierced stone may have been to weigh down something like awnings²¹³ or tie something to it. Similar but smaller limestone objects were identified as plumb bobs elsewhere.²¹⁴ This identification seems unsuitable for the present object due to the weight. Similar, but smaller limestone objects were found in the New Kingdom settlement at Kom Rabi'a, they were also lighter than the present object. Only one object identified as an anchor (but without known weight), is of a similar size.²¹⁵ Nevertheless, the weight seems too light to represent a feasible anchor for a boat.

Pottery

Reg.no **1210** (KhM, A 2810), ovoid juglet, red burnished, rim and neck missing. Position: A/II-1/10, pl. 4, 3.50 m/S and 4.70 m/W, 1.35 m/D[epth]²¹⁶ = ca 4.74 m/NN; Phase G–H.

Records: B/W negative SW1104/48; SW1110/58*; 1123/66; ZN 70/68; redrawn and re-recorded (Fig. 3.8.b, 3.9.b)

RP	I-d	f	W2	Bd. W	ox	2–3	?
----	-----	---	----	-------	----	-----	---

Max.d. = 9.5; bd. = 0.6 (100% preserved); wd. = 0.3–0.6; H1 = 13.4 +x.

Surface colour: RP outside 10 R 4/4 weak red; uncoated inside 10 YR 5–6/4 yellowish brown. Section: uniform brownish; very fine Nile clay fabric, hardly any inclusions visible but lime, fine quartz and mica. Handle scar does not indicate type of handle. The burnishing is of good quality, with vertical strokes on the body towards the base and horizontal ones on the shoulder. At base burnishing had eroded.

The placement of the juglet in a hole in the wall of Phase G/3–1 makes it unlikely to be contemporary with that layer, unless that wall was just some kind of bench (Fig. 3.10).²¹⁷ This is quite possible in the light of the later (Autumn 1983) re-excavation of that square, which showed that wall [M16] does not continue ENE beyond the later Mortuary Temple I wall.



Fig. 3.10 Juglet reg.no 1210, in find position, SW1079/31–32

Reg.no **1413** (KhM, A 2962), spout of a vessel. Position: A/II-1/10, pl. 4. Close to red burnished juglet at elevation of 1.20 m/D[epth] measured from Mortuary Temple I wall. H = ca 4.90–4.80 m/NN.

Records: B/W negatives SW1126/68 and SW1081/69–70*, konvolute card K39, redrawn and re-recorded (Fig. 3.8.c, 3.9.c; also Fig. 3.11.a, 3.12.a).

RFTG	I-b-2	m	W1	–	ox	3
------	-------	---	----	---	----	---

Length of spout 5.3 cm; diameter of hole 1.0 cm

²¹³ B. KEMP and G. VOGELSANG-EASTWOOD, *Textile Industry*, 393.
²¹⁴ W.M.F. PETRIE, *Tools and Weapons*, London 1917, 42, pl. XLVIII.B69: round hole.
²¹⁵ L.L. GIDDY, *The Survey of Memphis II, Kom Rabi'a. The New Kingdom and Post-New Kingdom Objects*, The Egypt Exploration Society, 64th Excavation Memoir, London 1999, 195–198, pl. 39–41. The “anchor” pl. 41.2709 measures 25.0 by 25.0 cm, weight not given. Interestingly none of these objects shows a square hole.

²¹⁶ Measured from the NW–SO running Mortuary Temple I-wall; ca 4.80 m/NN. This elevation is also given in the original plan drawing.
²¹⁷ See B/W negative SW1079/29–30, SW1079/31–32; SW1079/25–26 and SW1079/27–28 for the position of the juglet, Fig. 3.8.

Surface colour: red slip 7.5 R 6/6 light red; dark red stripes: 7.5 R 4/4 weak red. Section: black core with wide reddish oxidation zones; fabric hard fired.



Fig. 3.11 Konvolute K39, reg.no 1413 (a), SW1126/68

The records show the spout (=reg.no 1413, Fig. 3.8.c, 3.9.c, 3.11.a), the base of a dish, a flat base of a cup (Fig. 3.11.d, intrusive, hard fired, with red slip), a (finger) pinched ring base of a dish/cup with red slip (Fig. 3.11.c), a round base of a larger bowl/hemispherical cup with scraping marks, probably re-used as a lid due to its almost regular rounded shape produced secondarily (Fig. 3.11.f), the rim of a ringstand (Fig. 3.11.b), and the (rim) fragment of a plate/dish (Fig. 3.11.e). Except for the spout none of the other finds was available for re-recording (cf. Fig. 3.12–3.13).

L [104a] Floor space between wall [M15] and parallel wall/bench [M16] (Fig. 3.8.d–e, 3.9.d–e)

This ceramic material is most probably derived from various fills. The fact that many parallels for similar vessels and vessel fragments are known from Phase G/3–1 makes it at least possible that it originally belonged to the use of the settlement during this time, even if its deposition may have happened later.

Pottery

Reg.no **1414** (KhM, A 2963), round base of closed vessel. Position: A/II-l/10, pl. 4, found at the elevation of 4.65 m/NN as drawn into original plan (Fig. 3.5), Stratum G/H (Fig. 3.8.d, 3.9.d).

Records: B/W negatives SW1126/78; SW1130/27–28*; drawing ZN 83/68; redrawn and re-recorded; re-constructed from large fragments.

RFTG	I-c-1/2	m	W1	Bd. M(?)	ox	2–3
------	---------	---	----	----------	----	-----

Max.d. = 22.0; wd. = 0.9–1.3; H1 = 18.3 + x; base 100% preserved.

Surface colour: red slip 10 R 5/4 weak red; uncoated inside 7.5 YR 6/4 light brown. Section: red core, yellowish brown oxidation zones; on the surface larger straw particles, within break smaller: just under 7 mm; numerous quartz particles, but not as many as later (“late SIP fabric”); the base was probably made in a mould, inside very well smoothed; outside very well smoothed. In addition, inside white incrustations; it is possible that this body of a closed vessel, presumably a jar, was reused in that context, because the preserved horizontal edges of the vessel around the top seem quite even and well used as if produced secondarily and with intention.

Reg.no **1419** (KhM, A 2967), rim fragment of bread tray. Position: A/II-l/10, pl. 4, 4.40 m/W, 1.10 m/S, 1.30 m/D[epth] (measured down at south section, ca H = 4.70 m/NN), Stratum G/H.

Records: B/W negatives SW1107/10, 1126/32*, drawing ZN 25E, konvolute 41; redrawn and re-recorded (Fig. 3.8.e, 3.9.e).

WFTG?	IV/I-e-2	m-r	W1	Bd. H?	re	3
-------	----------	-----	----	--------	----	---

Rd. = ca 29.0 (3 % preserved); bd. = 28–30.0 (4% preserved); wd. = 1.6; H1 = 2.5;

Surface colour: white slip or scum (?) 10 R 7/2 light gray; could be natural surface colour. Section: black; fabric contains limestone inclusions and black lumpy inclusions (burnt argillaceous inclusions?); incised decoration on top of rim (pre-firing), small holes pierced on the underside of the vessel without cutting through the base; top of rim trimmed with a tool.


During the first recording this piece was given konvolute number K41 with the same find position. It is repeated here for completeness sake (cf. Fig. 3.14).


L [104b] Space north of wall [M16] (Fig. 3.8.f–h, 3.9.f–h, 3.15.a, 3.16.a)

It remains unclear if this space was a closed room or an open space. The Mortuary Temple I of Phase E/2–1 obscures most of the floor space, as it was not taken down at the time.²¹⁸

²¹⁸ M. BIETAK, TD V, 27.

Tell ed Dab'a 1968		Konvolut 39 α Reg.-Nr.:	
Fundpl.: A/II-l/10			
Planum: 4	Bauschichte rel.: d	Bauschichte abs.: G-#	
Position: ein 12cm Troja an der Außenseite eines Biegelmauers, in der Nähe des R.P. Kluges Bau Nr. 1210			
Zeichentafel:	Photo Nr.: \checkmark 81/69-70		



b)  Punktstück des Oberteils eines Langhändlers aus rotem Ton mit einem Faltsack, umgelegte Lippe. ob. ϕ ca 10 cm


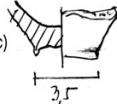


a)  ausgestellt aus rotem Ton, etwas Faltsack v. Inv. 1314

Fig. 3.12 Konvolute card K39, position close to reg.no 1210 and 1413, scale 1:2

c)  ϕ 2,5
Zusatzteil eines Schälchens mit Stacheln, roter Ton, etwas Faltsack

e)  Tellerfragment, roter Ton, etwas Faltsack

d)  Standbodenfragment eines Napfes, roter Ton, etwas Faltsack, hart gebrannt



f)  Zusammengebliebene Fragmente eines Schälchens aus rotem Ton, hart gebrannt, etwas Faltsack, Rundboden.

Fig. 3.13 K39, back of konvolute card, scale 1:2

Tell ed Dab'a 1968		Konvolut 41 β Reg.-Nr.:	
Fundpl.: A/II - l/10			
Planum: 4	Bauschichte rel.: d	Bauschichte abs.:	
Position: 440/W, 110/S; ca 130/T (S-Papier)			
Zeichentafel:	Photo Nr.: \checkmark 81/67-68 m. mit Kavel		



Fragment eines Teils mit weichen Boden, weagelstem Rand mit abgerundeten Ecken. graubrauner Ton, schwarzer Kern.
v. Dawant

Fig. 3.14 Konvolute K41, reg.no 1419, scale 1:2

Pottery

Reg.no **1415** (KhM, A 2964), large hemispherical cup with round base. Position: A/II-l/10, pl. 4. Vessel shown in original plan drawing at ca 3.10–20 m/W and 4.80 m/S, H = 4.55, Stratum G/H.

Records: B/W negative SW1126/74, drawing ZN 83/68, redrawn and re-recorded (Fig. 3.8.f, 3.9.f).

RFTG	I-c-1	f. – m.	W1	Bd. gesp.	ox	2–3
------	-------	---------	----	-----------	----	-----

Rd. = 17.3 (98% preserved); max.d. = 18.0; bd. = round (100% preserved); wd. = 0.7–0.9; H1 = 14.2; VI 125.9.

Surface colour: red slip outside 10 R 5/6 red; uncoated inside 2.5 YR 6/4 weak red. Section: violet core with red and yellowish brown oxidation zones; very well smoothed inside and outside.

Reg.no **1416** (KhM, A 2965), straight-based cup or jar (probably S-Napf?). Position: A/II-l/10, pl. 4, shown in original plan drawing (Fig. 3.8.g, 3.9.g).

Records: B/W negative SW1126/28, drawing ZN 84/68; redrawn and re-recorded.

TG	I-b-2	m.	W1	Bd. abg. gesp.	ox	2–3
----	-------	----	----	----------------	----	-----

Pres. max.d. = 8.7; bd. = 3.4 (100% preserved); wd. = 0.4; H1 = 4.5 +x.

Surface colour: uncoated 2.5 YR 6/8 red. Section: red core with brown oxidation zones; the irregular broken top is smoke blackened as if from use as lamp. It might be possible that the fragment came from the foundation trench of the Mortuary Temple I (Phase E/2–1), when such cups were first appearing. The foundation trench of the ‘bench’ reinforcing the north western corner of the temple is very close to the find spot of this cup base. Probably intrusive.

Reg.no **1254** (KhM, A 2838) dish with flat base and turned out rim. Position: A/II-l/10, pl. 4, 3.30 m/W and 2.80 m/S, 1.30 m/D[epth] (at southern section), H = ca 4.70 m/NN; relative level d = G–H (Fig. 3.8.h, 3.9.h). Records: B/W negatives SW1100/41–42, 1087/7–8; drawing ZN 70/68; redrawn and re-recorded.

TG	I-c-1/2	m. – r.	W1	Bd. abg. gegl.	ox	2
----	---------	---------	----	----------------	----	---

Rd. = 13.5 (90% preserved); max.d. = 14.4; bd. = 5.3

(100% preserved); wd. = 0.9; H1 = 4.3–5.1. VI 337.2. Surface colour: uncoated outside 5 YR 7/6 reddish yellow; uncoated (white slip?) 7.5 YR 7–8/4 pink. Section: dark grey core with red and orange brown oxidation zones, varies within break; edge of rim was trimmed with a tool.

Reg.no **1420** (KhM, A 2968) handle of amphora. Position: A/II-l/10, pl. 4, 3.30 m/S and 2.30 m/W, 1.20 m/D[epth] (at southern section = H = ca 4.80–4.90 m/NN), relative level G/H (Fig. 3.15.a, 3.16.a, 3.17).

Records: B/W negatives SW1126/22, redrawn and re-recorded.

TG	IV-3	m	W1–2	–	ox	3–4	1 RST
----	------	---	------	---	----	-----	-------

Wd. = 0.8; H1 = 19.8 +x; diameter of handle 3.2; reconstructed from three sherds.

Surface colour: uncoated outside 10 YR 8/3 very pale brown; uncoated inside: 2.5 Y 7/3 pale yellow. Section: beige core with slightly darker zone inside; two NAA Holes: #JH254, IV-2-c, provenience given as southern Palestine.²¹⁹

L [104c] Space north of wide bench (Fig. 3.15.b–e, 3.16.b)

This locus designates the part of the room with the column base, delimited on the west by the western wall of Mortuary Temple I of Phase E/2–1 that was not taken down.²²⁰

Pottery

Reg.no **1257a–d** (KhM, A 2842–2845), four different rim sherds, found together. Position: A/II-l/10, [pl. 4]. From the room with the column and above it, level G (Fig. 3.15.b–d, Fig. 3.16.d).

Records: B/W negative SW1087/57, drawing ZN 69/68, (only AS 2843 was drawn), all pieces redrawn and re-recorded.

Reg.no **1257a** (KhM, A 2842), trimmed and burnished rim.

RFTG	I-e-2/IV?	m.	W1	–	mi	2–3
------	-----------	----	----	---	----	-----

²¹⁹ P.E. MCGOVERN, *The Foreign Relations of the ‘Hyksos’. A Neutron Activation Study of the Middle Bronze Age Pottery from the Eastern Mediterranean*, BAR IS 888, Oxford 2000, 125. This

study had to face serious critique due to grave methodological flaws, cf. footnote 385 (for bibliography).

²²⁰ M. BIETAK, TD V, 27.

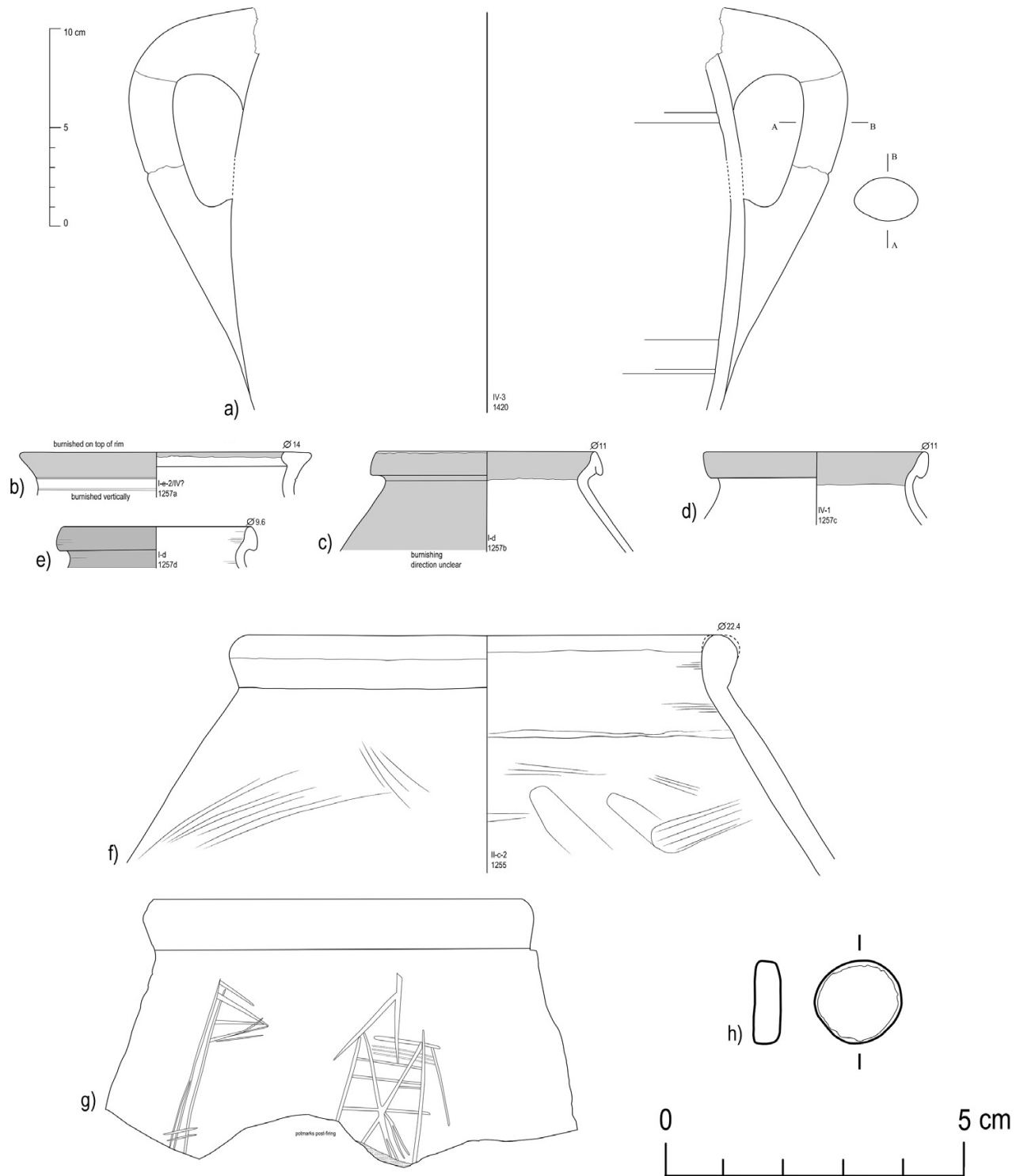


Fig. 3.15 Pottery from L [104b], L [104c] and L [105a]

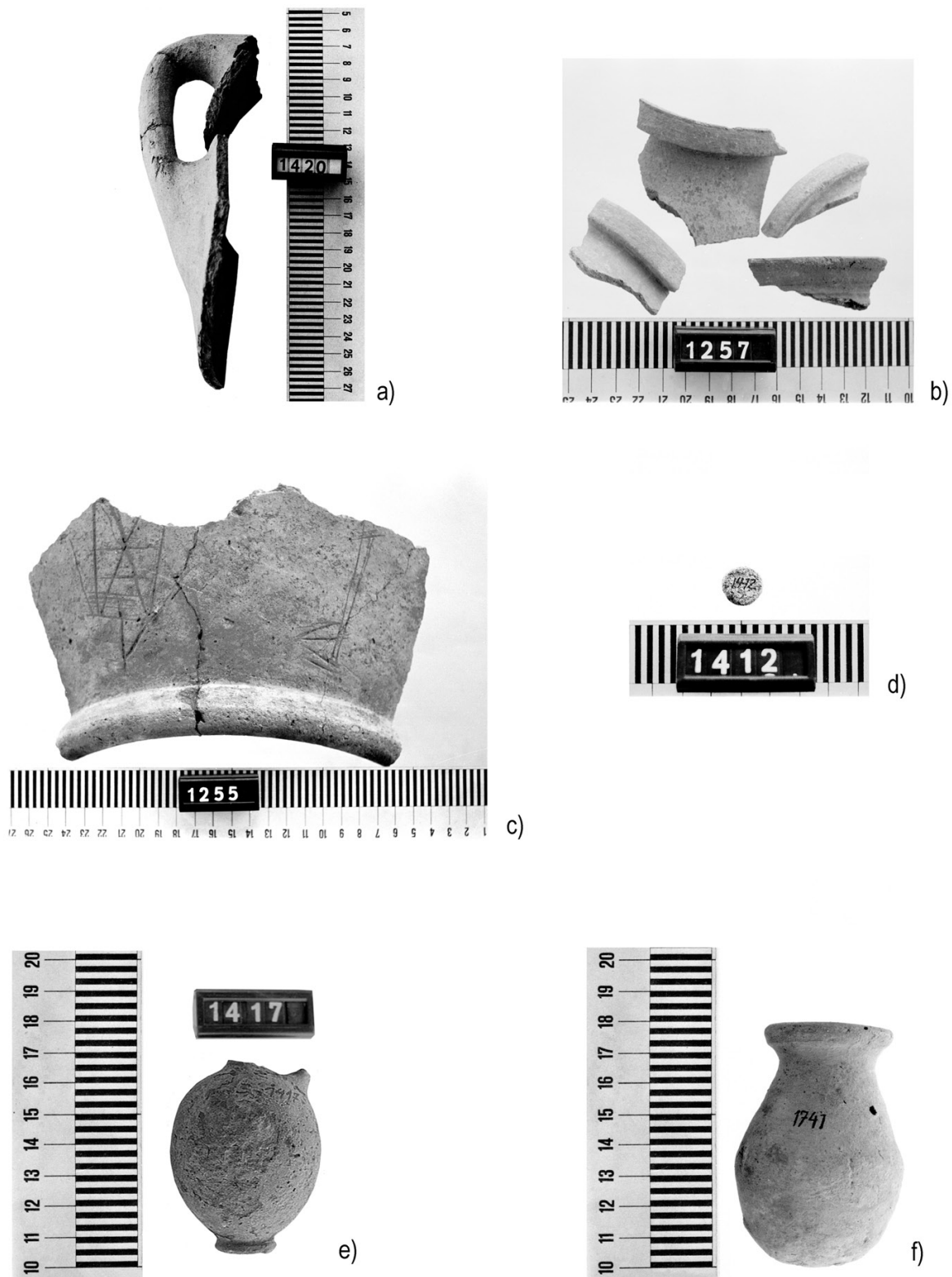


Fig. 3.16 Pottery from L [104b], L [104c] and L [105a], photos a) SW1126/22, b) SW1087/57, c) SW1087/57–58, d) SW1126/70, e) SW1126/26, f) SW1112/67–70



Fig. 3.17 Reg.no 1420, amphora handle, photo by B. Bader, courtesy of KhM

Rd. = 13.0 (14 % preserved); wd. = 0.6; H1 = 2.3 +x; Surface colour: red slip outside 10 R 4/6 red; uncoated inside 2.5 YR 2.5/1 black. Section: uniform greyish brown; on top of trimmed rim burnishing; outside remains of one burnishing stroke, horizontally.

Reg.no **1257b** (KhM, A 2843), red burnished, sharply trimmed rim.

RP?TG	I-d	m.	W1	-	re	2-3
-------	-----	----	----	---	----	-----

Rd. = 11.0 (16 % preserved); wd. = 0.4-0.3; H1 = 5.0 +x. Surface colour: red slip outside 10 R 5/4 weak red; uncoated inside 7.5 YR 4/1 dark gray; red slip inside on rim. Section: wide dark grey core with very thin red oxidation zones; outside remains of burnishing strokes, but unclear in which direction.

Reg.no **1257c** (KhM, A 2844), rim of imported red burnished jar.

RPTG	IV-1	f. - m.	W1	-	ox	2-3
------	------	---------	----	---	----	-----

Rd. = 11.0 (15 % preserved); wd. = 0.4; H1 = 3.7 +x. Surface colour: red slip and burnish outside 10 R 6/4 pale red; uncoated inside 7.5 YR 6/3 light brown; red slip inside on rim. Section: slightly greenish core with wide red oxidation zones; outside remains of vertical burnishing strokes; fabric looks similar to Marl C.

Reg.no **1257d** (KhM, A 2845), rim of red burnished jar.

RFTG	I-d	f. - m.	W1	-	ox	2-3
------	-----	---------	----	---	----	-----

Rd. = 9.6 (20 % preserved); wd. = 0.4; H1 = 2.2 +x. Surface colour: red slip outside and inside on rim 10 R 5/3 weak red; probably red slip in only in rim area, but sherd not well enough preserved. Section: wide grey core with thin red oxidation zones; outside no real remains of burnishing strokes.

L [105a] Area south of wall [M17]
(Fig. 3.15.f-g, 3.16.f-g)

This locus is (artificially) limited by the bench around the western *cella* wall of Mortuary Temple I because it was not dismantled in the course of the excavation.²²¹

It is unclear if the two objects (reg.nos 1255, 1412) were found in a disturbance as drawn in the plan at an elevation of 4.27 m/NN or if they were below or above that disturbance. Fact is that the finds are derived from ca 4.27 m/NN, but the southern section was not exposed to such a depth. The lowest elevation shown in the section consists of “sandy earth with fragments of sand tempered mud-brick rubble of Phase G/3” (section no A32-43). There is the possibility that a disturbance reaches below that level, but nothing of the kind is indicated in this section.

²²¹ M. BIETAK, TD V, 27.

Pottery

Reg.no **1255**²²² (KhM, A 2839), rim fragment of large storage jar. Position: A/II-l/10, pl. 4, 1.30 m/S and 2.00 m/E, 2.00 m/D[epth] (measured at south section), H = ca 4.27 m/NN (Fig. 3.15.f–g, 3.16.c). Records: B/W negative SW1087/57–58, drawing ZN 69/68, Section ZN 21E, redrawn and re-recorded.

TG	II-c-2	m	Ha2	–	ox	3
----	--------	---	-----	---	----	---

Rd. = 22.0²²³ (28 % preserved); wd. = 1.15–1.3; H1 = 12.0 +x;

Surface colour: uncoated outside with scum 7.5 YR 7/4 pink; uncoated inside: 5 YR 7/3–4 pink. Section: wide reddish grey core with thin red oxidation zones; both pot marks post-firing; the broken edges of the storage jar rim are very abraded as if from use.

Faience

Reg.no **1412** (KhM, A 2982) small disc. Position: A/II-l/10, pl. 4, 1.30 m/S and 2.00 m/E; 2.00 m/D[epth] (at south section, H = ca 4.27 m/NN); Stratum G/H; same position as reg.no 1255 (Fig. 3.15.h, 3.16.d). Records: B/W negative SW1126/70, redrawn and re-recorded.

Measurements: max.d. = 1.5 cm, thickness 0.5 cm. Material: blackish turquoise glaze with silvery sheen.

Finds from square A/II-l/10, pl. 4, probably belonging to other phases (Fig. 3.14.e–f)

Pottery

Reg.no **1417** (KhM, A 2966), ovoid juglet with distinct ring base and double stranded handle; rim and neck missing. Position: A/II-l/10, pl. 4. Found within pit of tomb west of western wall [M13], most probably intrusive or belongs to nearby tomb (Fig. 3.16.e). Records: B/W negatives SW1126/26, SW1130/34, redrawn, re-recorded.

SP	I-d?	f. – m.	W1	Bd. gef.	re	2–3	2RST
----	------	---------	----	----------	----	-----	------

Max.d. = 5.3; bd. = 2.0 (100% preserved); wd. = ca 0.3; H1 = 6.9 +x.

Surface colour: 7.5 YR 2.5/1 black; burnishing not well preserved, direction cannot be detected. Section: uniform black, but no fresh break available for inspection.

Reg.no **1741** (KhM, A 3181), model jar. Position: A/II-k-l/10 baulk: 1.00 m/W; 1.60 m/D[epth], layer I, immediately north of a thin wall appearing out of the baulk; it runs in north east direction (Fig. 3.16.f).

Records: B/W negative SW1112/69–70; drawing ZN 28E.

Later than or contemporary with Phase G/3–1.

RFTG	I-b-2	m.	Ha1?	Bd. gesp.	–	2–3
------	-------	----	------	-----------	---	-----

Rd. = 4.0; max.d. = 5.3; H1 = 8.2; (rim and base 100% preserved).

Surface colour: red slip 10 R 6/6 red. Section: intact, no break available for inspection.

Sherd collections/konvolutes from A/II-l/10 pl. 4

Some of the sherd collections from this square seem to be chronologically inhomogeneous, judging by the experience accumulated since the first excavations 50 years ago. The fact that Mortuary Temple I was left standing during the excavation might *inter alia* have led to contamination of the sherd collections with material from the foundation trenches, for example.

K42. Position: A/II-l/10 pl. 4, 3.70 m/S and 1.50 m/E; 2.20 m/D[epth] (at south section), H = ca 4.00 m/NN; below the corridor leading towards the westernmost sanctuary [of Temple I]. In the plan (see Fig. 3.1) the ‘disturbance’ in the form of the oven **L [311]** east of wall [M15] (Fig. 3.21) is exactly at the spot described, and the lowest point inside it shows a level of 4.01 m/NN in the original plan. This means that the sherds could have been located beneath the oven, or are mixed with material from fill of the oven. It seems to have been sealed by the wall of Mortuary Temple I.

The southern section (A32) does not illustrate what lies beneath the elevation of 4.20 m/NN. It could even be that the material is derived from below the bench and could thus be assigned to the levels of Phase G/3–1 rubble and fill. Perhaps it even belongs to the older phase. As this area was not excavated further down no more clarity can be gained on this point.

²²² In B. BADER, TD XIII, 163, reg.no 1255 was erroneously described as from the southern section due to a misunderstanding of the description of the find spot in the register book. Therefore the date of G/4–1 may not be tenable. If it came out of a

disturbance it may in fact be older than G/3–1. That disturbance is not visible in plan drawings further up (pl. 3), thus a later contamination seems unlikely.

²²³ This measurement represents the inner edge of the rim.

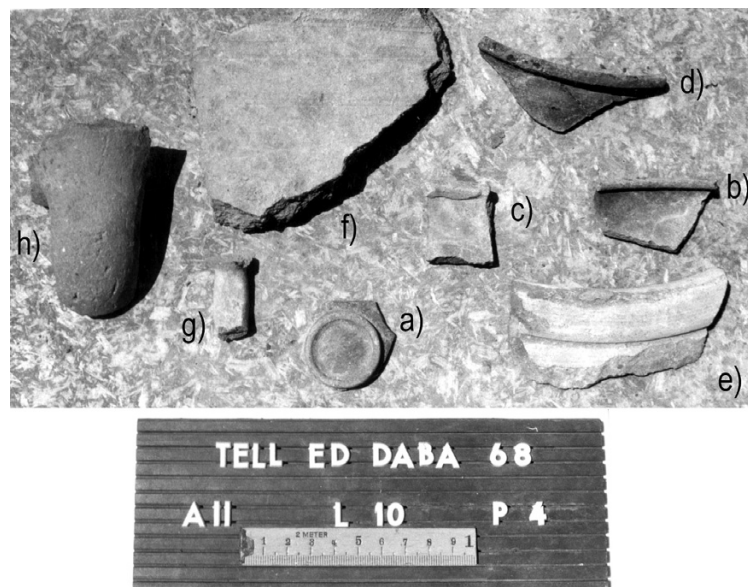


Fig. 3.18 Konvolute K42, archive photo SW1093/21

The discussion of the pottery pictured and described by the original records shows that, at least by comparison with the remainder of the settlement and other phases, some of the pieces are unlikely to belong to the settlement material of Phase G/3–1 or earlier. The material was not available for re-study (Fig. 3.18–3.19).

a) The base of a dish with applied ring, which appears wheel-made, is probably intrusive from later Phases E/2–D/2, when they are most common.²²⁴ Most likely this fragment consists of Nile B2.

b–c) Two dishes with inturned lip are common in various fabrics and with different surface treatments from quite early on until the late Second Intermediate Period (Phase D/2). No comments of surface treatment are given in the original record. Also the fabric is decisive for a relative dating: Nile B2 dishes are more common from Phase F onwards.²²⁵

d) Presumably a cooking jar rim, because of its smoke blackening, tends to be more common in Phase F than in G/3–1, but does occur.²²⁶ The sketch does not reflect the sharply edged rim, which such types usually have and the photo seems to suggest.

e) Restricted bowl (cooking pot) rim with white slip, most probably Nile E2, rim diameter is ca 23.0 cm, which is a quite normal size.²²⁷ This vessel type appears extremely often in the settlement (see below, *passim*).

f) Bowl with everted rim, could be dated to Phase F,²²⁸ but could also be earlier.

g) Strap handle fragments of red polished jugs tend to belong to juglets of the later Second Intermediate Period. Imports mostly show round strand handles or multiple stranded handles. Thus it is likely that this fragment is a local product.²²⁹

h) One fragmentary handle top, which might belong to a Canaanite transport amphora, most probably with a rounded section. Because it was described as ‘steinhengemagert’ importation from Syria-Palestine seems likely, but a distinct assignation to certain phases without renewed inspection of the fabric is not possible. Even if such had been possible some fabrics remain popular for a longer time span.

K41. Position: A/II-1/10, pl. 4. South western corner, ca 5.00 m/W and 3.00 m/S; 1.30 m/D[epth] (measured at southern section), H = ca 4.70 m/NN (Fig. 3.20).

²²⁴ See D. ASTON, TD XII/2, 218–221, types 206–212.

²²⁵ D. ASTON, TD XII/2, 91–98, types 72–75; 273–276, types 262–264 in various under groupings and fabrics, from Phase G/4 to D/3; B. BADER, TD XIX, 248, type 5c; 266, type 23f; 269, type 24d; 273, type 26g; 278, type 27e; 376, type 77a; 386, types 87c, 88c; 388, types 89a, 90a.

²²⁶ D. ASTON, TD XII/2, 190–192, type 158; B. BADER, TD XIX, 396–399, type 98c or type 98d.

²²⁷ B. BADER, TD XIX, 402–409, type 103.

²²⁸ B. BADER, TD XIX, 390–393, type 93a, esp. fig. 226 [D1174], from Phase E/3.

²²⁹ Cf. the relevant sections in D. ASTON, TD XII/2, 117–160; 284–292.

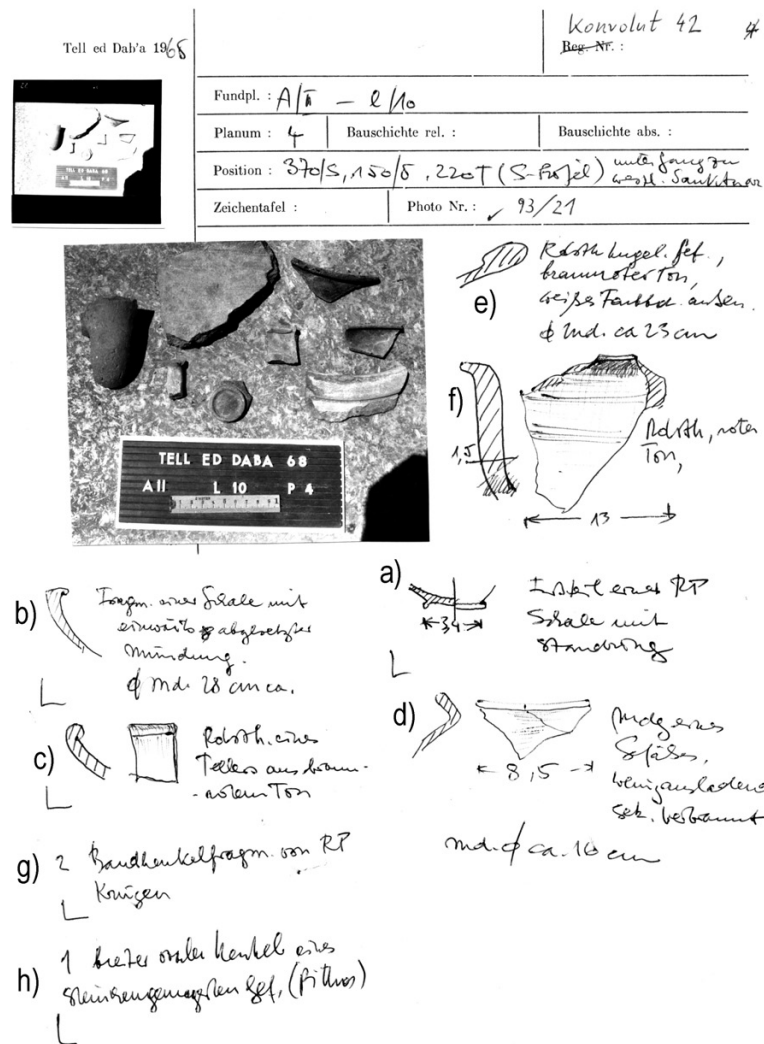


Fig. 3.19 Original konvolute card K42, scale 1:2

The find was not available for re-recording. The approximate find position assigns the sherds to the pit **L [104d]** (see above, 68), but it might be located at a slightly higher level and therefore be later than those finds. May be considered together with K39 (see above Fig. 3.12).

The approximate level of this material would be at an elevation of ca 4.70–4.90 m/NN, depending on where exactly along the southern section the ‘depth’ was measured. 4.90 m/NN is also the approximate absolute elevation of K39. The sherds appear to belong to a large jar, most probably made of an imported (amphora) or Nile clay fabric. Depending on which of these identifications is correct, this vessel fragment

may belong the late Middle Kingdom settlement (if an imported amphora) or to a later phase of the site (if a Nile clay fabric, because the only large closed vessels of Nile Clay fabric belong to Nile C2 ‘beer’ jars, and the photograph does not support such an identification).

Animal Bones

In the same position as **K42** (see above, 82–83), a cattle bone was found. It was described as a tibia, proximal part with the epiphyseal cartilage in the process of growing together.²³⁰ Due to the position this bone can be attributed to Phase G/3–1, perhaps the oldest of those.

²³⁰ J. BOESSNECK, TD III, 10.

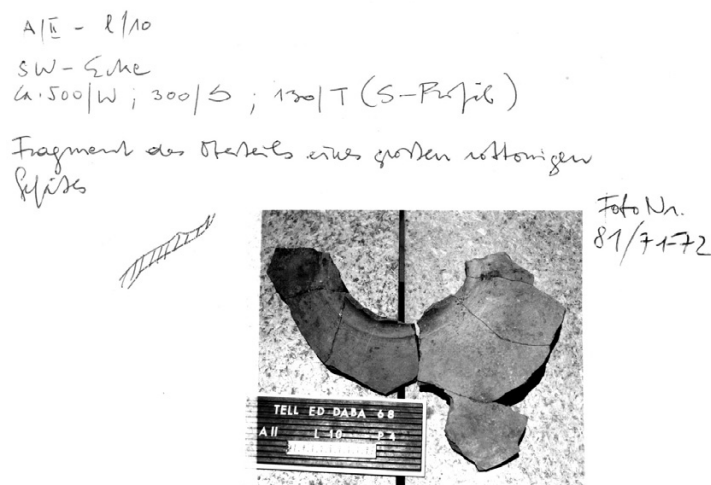


Fig. 3.20 Konvolute K41, back of original card but different find spot, scale 1:2, SW1081/71-72

THE EXCAVATION OF 1983 IN A/II-L/10

In 1983 a sounding was made in the area of Mortuary Temple I, during which the area below the benches of that temple was excavated. This resulted in the modified plan drawing (Fig. 3.21).²³¹

What looks like a 'block' of wall to the west of the trench consists most probably of the two walls [M15] and [M17] beside each other. The elaborate pattern visible for this brickwork may have its reason in a rebuilding phase, when perhaps the walls were renewed at the same time. Seemingly wall [M15], with a base level of 4.82 m/NN overlies wall [G/3-M15], with a base level of 4.55 m/NN, and neither follows exactly the orientation of the older wall [G/3-M15], nor that of the first Mortuary Temple 1 of Phase E/3,²³² slightly south. After Phase G/2-1 or in the last phase of G/1 the large building, loci L [103-104], was at least partly denuded. It is possible and likely that the wall [M15] was built against the southern wall [M17], which is also suggested by the fact that these walls are visible side by side in the western section of square A/II-1/11.²³³ The heavily sand tempered mud-bricks were of a greenish yellow (10 YR 5/3-4) to yellowish brown (7.5 YR6/4) colour, (30-35 cm long; 17.5-20 cm wide). The bench was ca 1.40 m wide and 1.15 m long aligned in a west-east direc-

tion, and most notably there was a gap between the two walls and oven 2 [M165] L [311] (see below, 97-101). Whether this results from post-depositional processes or was intentional, facilitating use remains unclear. One wall or two walls beside each other were indeed recorded in the western section of A/II-1/11 (A56), with section no A56-31, which in alignment and base level (4.74-4.86 m/NN) could form a continuation of them or belong to the same building phase and it is also drawn as a mass of bricks into plan 4 of A/II-1/11 adjacent to [M17]. Two to three brick courses were preserved and the lowest course in the south of the wall was laid edgewise as a rowlock (= Rollchar). The base level of [M15]+[M17] was measured at the south western edge of [M15] at 4.82 m/NN, which fits the base levels of the western section well.

Unfortunately the southern section of A/II-1/10 (A32) was not excavated deep enough to clarify the base levels of the walls [M15] and [M17]. The relationship of the walls to each other was not examined here. Since there is no sufficient connection of this sounding to the older excavations in the neighbouring areas and because there were hardly any finds recorded, the finds from 1983 are discussed here separately (see below), even more so, as they represent a sequence. The specifics of the ovens [M165] and

²³¹ M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 3-4 December 1983.

²³² M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 4, Phase E/3.

²³³ Section no A56-31 for both walls, base level ca 4.70 m/NN for [M15] and base level 4.85 m/NN for [M17].

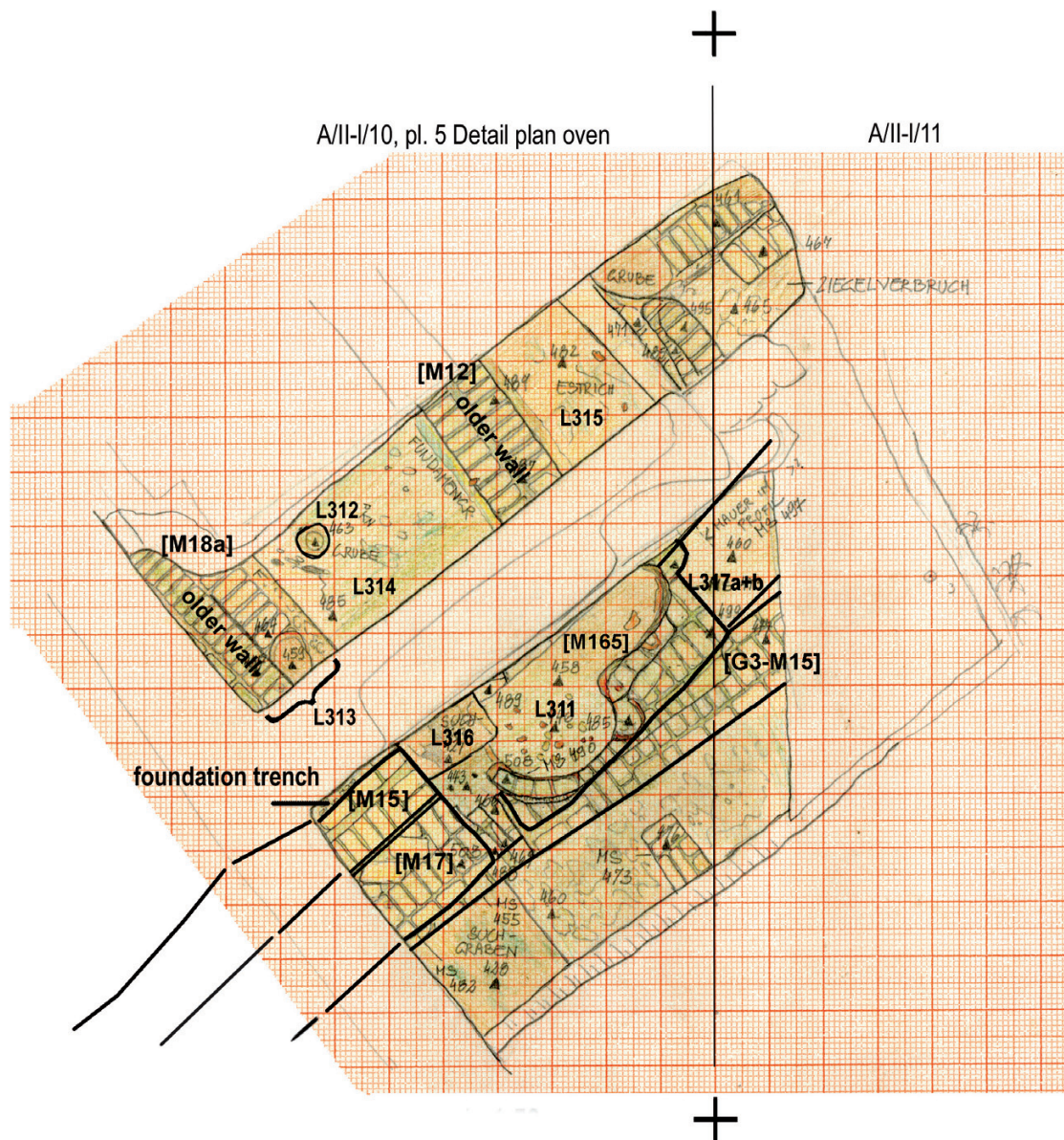


Fig. 3.21 Plan drawing of the oven (all phases combined), TDplan 1642 drawn by H.C.S, scale 1:75

[M166] on the other hand, will be discussed below (98–102), because they seem to have been used after the walls described above had fallen into disuse at least partly. With the view that Oven 1 in the next square A/II-l/11 belongs in Phase G/2–1²³⁴ it seems most likely to assume that Oven 1 and Oven 2 were built and used at least at roughly the same time. Whilst for Oven 1 an end of use in or before Phase F can be ascertained, it is possible that Oven 2 may have been included in the remaining design of Compound 11 and may have been used longer.

²³⁴ A Phase F tomb group is cutting the oven, see below.

Finds from the excavation in 1983 in A/II-l/10

From this re-excavation six sherd collections (K3767, K3768, K3769, K3771, K3772 and K3817) were registered.

The loci mentioned in the following description are marked in the plan drawings (see Fig. 3.1, 3.2 and 3.21).

Definitely the oldest wall in this area is [M18a],²³⁵ which is visible in A/II-l/10, pl. 5. A similar wall but with a slightly different alignment is drawn into A/II-l/10 pl. 4 [not separately numbered]. Because no section

²³⁵ It could not be connected to a building.

was recorded in this area, and the temple walls were left standing, it remains unclear whether this represents the same wall or two different ones.²³⁶ The wall[s] was/were preserved both to about the same height of 4.63 m/NN and 4.64 m/NN, respectively. I do not believe that the plan drawing is wrong, but they could have been very badly preserved and overlaid each other.

L [316] – older than Compound 11 (Phase G/4 or G/3–1)

Probably the oldest material from this square is derived from a test trench, which was sunk into the area just south of the wall of the Mortuary Temple I (Phase E/2–1) and immediately adjacent to the east of walls [M15] + [M17], L [316] (Fig. 3.21). This trench was sunk into the ground down to an elevation of 4.27 m/NN and therefore reaches well below the floor level of planum 5 (ca 4.60 m/NN), and should, therefore, contain ceramics older than the current architectural phase. No obvious disturbance was recorded in the plans or diary.

Pottery

Relevant sherd collection/konvolute

K3817. Position: A/II-1/10, pl. 5, H = 4.30–4.60 m/NN.

As not very much material was found [selected sherds],²³⁷ the date range from Phase G/4 to the older part of Phase G/3–1 seems most likely (cf. Fig. 3.22). Arguments for an earlier than average date, are the relatively wide rim diameters of the hemispherical cups. The remainder of the material occurs in both phases elsewhere, and is thus of little help in deciding which phase the material belongs to.²³⁸

Objects made of pottery

A disc (79349) of ca 4.0 cm diameter was secondarily cut from a broken and re-used sherd. The sherd was also pierced in the middle (post-firing) so that the object seems most likely to have been used as a spindle whorl. The wall thickness of the sherd is ca 0.9 cm (Fig. 3.22.a).

KONV-no	Sherd-no	WARE	PART	SPP	Remarks
3817	79349	II.c.2.01	X	2	37

Vessel types

A.) Nile B2 pottery

A.a) Hemispherical cups

The hemispherical cups are of a wide, open shape with a (tentative) rim diameter of 13.0 cm (Fig. 3.22.b–c). The rims were painted with a red rim band. The fabric belongs to the slightly rougher variation of Nile B fabrics.

KONV-no	Sherd-no	WARE	PART	SPP	SPR	DM	DM-%
3817	79343	I.b.2.02	R	1	1	130?	2
3817	79342	I.b.2.02	R	1	1	130	7

B.) Nile C2 pottery

B.a) Large bowls

The large bowl with a thickened lip or just about turned outwards lip shows a very steep profile and a wide diameter (Fig. 3.22.d). The sherd was red slipped on the interior and the exterior and the rough Nile C2 fabric also showed an additional tempering with quartz, which is typical for the delta site of Tell el-Dab^a.²³⁹

KONV-no	Sherd-no	WARE	PART	SPP	SPR	DM	DM-%	Re- marks
3817	79344	I.c.2.08	R	1	10	320	6	Sandy fabric

C.) Marl C1 pottery

C.a) Ovoid jars with corrugated/grooved necks

Two examples of corrugated/grooved necks were found in this context (Fig. 3.22.e–f). Whilst one was made with a high number of ribs and grooves (79345) it seems that the other was already very eroded making it impossible to be certain about the number of grooves and ribs.

KONV-no	Sherd-no	WARE	PART	SPR	DM	DM-%
3817	79346	II.c.2.01	R	10	140	5
3817	79345	II.c.2.01	R	10	110	20

²³⁶ It seems that M. BIETAK interpreted them as one and the same wall because it does not occur in plan 2.

²³⁷ Presumably this remark signifies that the diagnostics have been kept, whilst the undiagnostic body sherds were discarded.

²³⁸ Cf. e.g. B. BADER, TD XIII, type 36, 108–124; type 46, 129–145

²³⁹ This is a rather rare type at Tell el-Dab^a: Cf. K. KOPETZKY, TD XX/2, fig. 29. K3479, ph. G/4, note that the rims are still assigned to one single type although their forms differ.

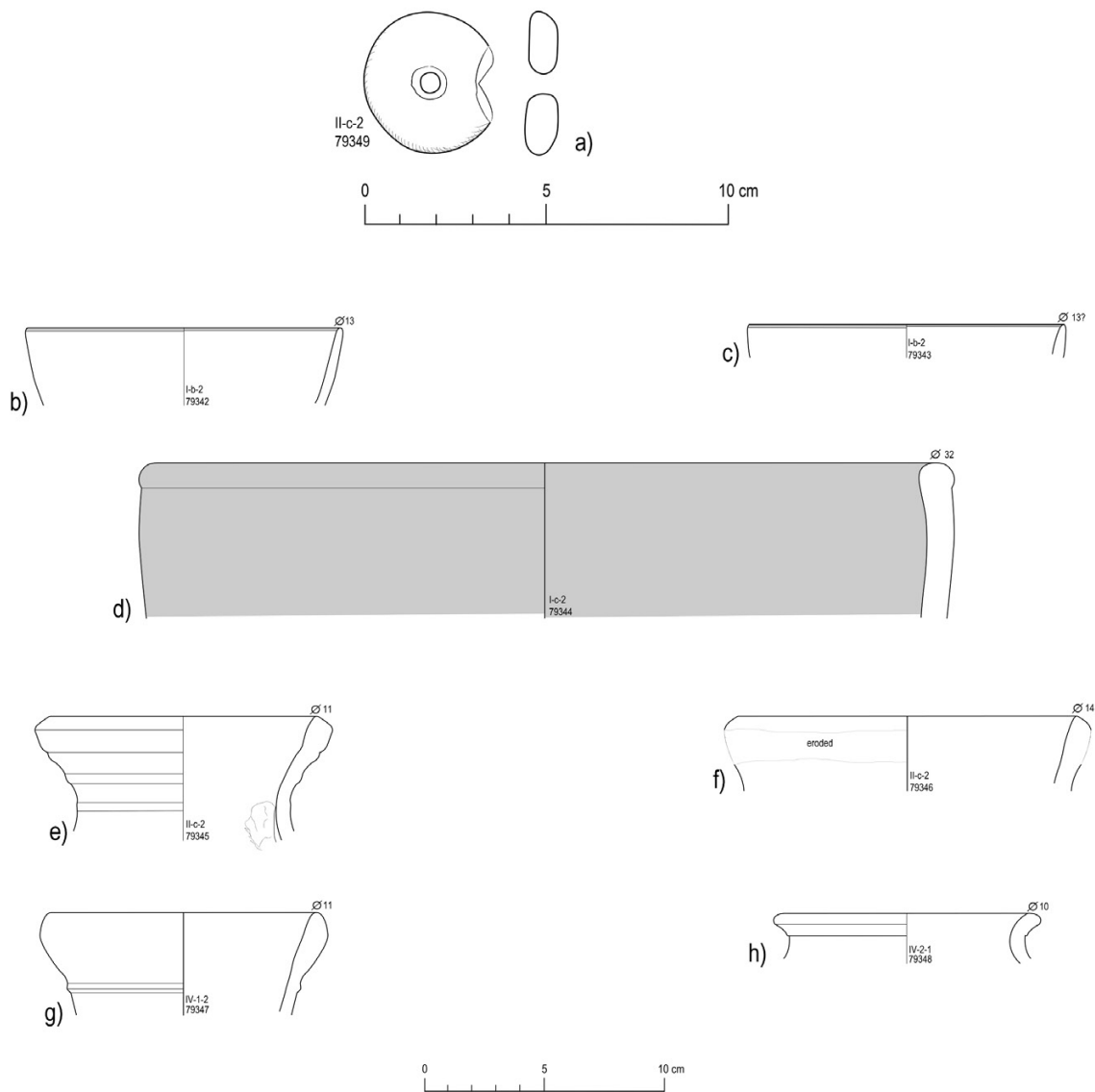


Fig. 3.22 Pottery from L [316], konvolute K3817

D.) Imported pottery

D.a) Large transport amphorae

The rims of transport amphorae were folded outwards and fastened on to the exterior of the neck (Fig. 3.22.g–h). Whilst the first (79347) has an elongated lip with a well pronounced raised rib at the neck, the

other one (79348) was much shorter and reminds one of the Marl C-medium jars with bulbous rims. Scrutiny of the fabric, however, makes it certain that this vessel was not made in Egypt.

KONV-no	Sherd-no	WARE	PART	SPP	SPR	DM	DM-%
3817	79347	IV.1.2.01. 00.00.25	R	1	10	110	17
3817	79348	IV.2.1.01	R		10	100	6

The number of body sherds of the fabric groups was not recorded.

Distribution of Vessel types in context L [316]

Vessel type	Rim eves	Percent
Hemisph. cups B2	0.09	14.3%
Large bowls C2	0.06	9.5%
Ovoid jars with corrugated neck Marl C1	0.25	39.8%
Imported amphorae	0.23	36.4%
Grand total	0.63	100%

L [313] Small test trench

To the same phase belongs the ceramic material from L [313], which is a small trench dug into space L [314] (see Fig. 3.21). At the bottom of this space wall [M18a] and an older wall appeared.

Relevant sherd collection/konvolute **K3772**. Position: A/II-1/10, pl. 5, H = 4.64–4.84 m/NN. The corpus comprises a typical collection of settlement pottery types (Fig. 3.23).

A.) Nile B1 pottery

A.a) Hemispherical/carinated cups

The rim fragment of such a cup without red rim band and with a quite straight contour suggests rather a

carinated than a hemispherical cup. The rim diameter is 11.0 cm (Fig. 3.23.a).

KONV-no	Sherd-no	WARE	PART	SPP	SPR	DM	DM-%
3772	79330	I.b.1.01	R	1	1	105?	5

A.b) Base of closed (?) form

Most probably this fragment belongs to a closed vessel type because the rilling lines are visible on the

interior and traces of a red slip were only visible on the exterior (Fig. 3.23.b). The base was hand modelled and has a diameter of 4.0 cm.

KONV-no	Sherd-no	WARE	PART	SPP	SPB	DM	DM-%
3772	79332	I.b.1.06	B	1	3	40	15

B.) Nile B2 pottery

B.a) Hemispherical cups

These two fragments were assigned to the same type although sherd 79331 has a rim diameter of about 15.0 cm (Fig. 3.23.c–d). Because it could not be measured with certainty it seems more appropriate to

list this fragment here. That sherd also sports a red rim band and shows a slightly incurved contour.²⁴⁰ The other fragment 79329 is by contrast more straight and without a red rim band.

KONV-no	Sherd-no	WARE	PART	SPP	SPR	DM	DM-%
3772	79329	I.b.2.01	R	1	1	100	15
3772	79331	I.b.2.02	R	1	1	150?	3

B.b) Ringstands

The base of a ringstand with typical scraping marks on the interior from the manufacturing process and

a red slip on the exterior belongs to this context (Fig. 3.23.e).

KONV-no	Sherd-no	WARE	PART	SPP	SPB	DM	DM-%
3772	79333	I.b.2.06	B	1	30	100	6

²⁴⁰ This form is equivalent to BOURRIAU'S and GALLORINI'S 'closed hemispherical cup' shape. The present author defines it differently. Cf. J. BOURRIAU and C. GALLORINI, *Survey of Memphis VIII: Kom Rabia: The Middle Kingdom and Second*

Intermediate Period Pottery, Levels VIII to VI, Egypt Exploration Society, Excavation Memoir 108, London 2016, 40; B. BADER, TD XIX, 202, fig. 162, fig. 175.

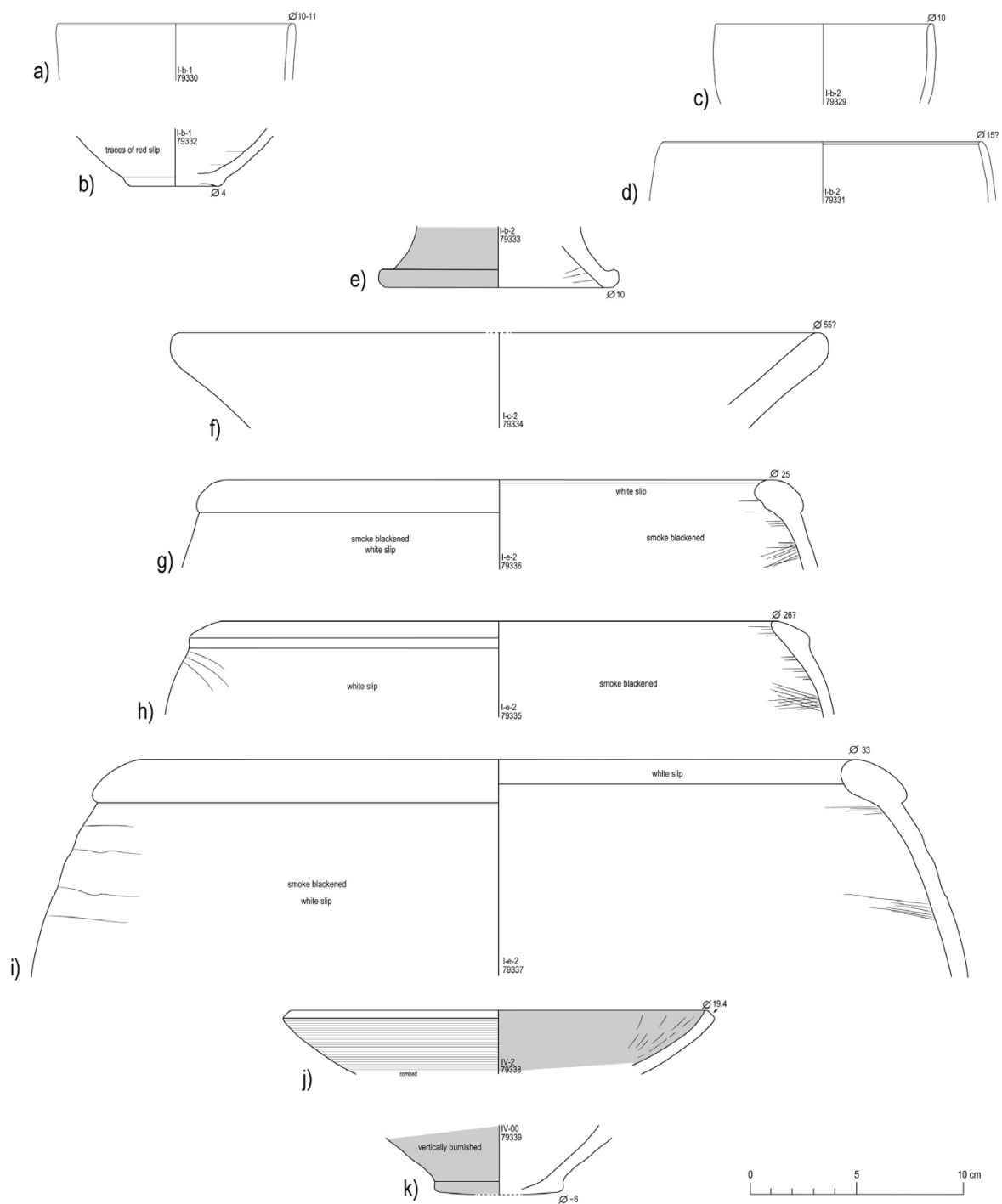


Fig. 3.23 Pottery from L [313], konvolute K3772

C.) Nile C2 pottery

C.a) Large dishes/plates

A direct rim of Nile C2 without any slip shows a quite steep stance, so that it may belong to the dish category (Fig. 3.23.f). The rim diameter is approximately

around 55.0 cm but as usual such fragments are difficult to measure with accuracy if only a small percentage is preserved.

KONV-no	Sherd-no	WARE	PART	SPP	SPR	DM	DM-%
3772	79334	I.c.2.01	R	1	1	550?	3

D.) Nile E2 pottery

D.a) Large restricted bowls

The restricted bowls follow the known parameters of the type (Fig. 3.23.g–i). The rim diameters are from 25.0 cm to 33.0 cm. All of them were more or less smoke blackened or smoke stained. Their shoulders are not pronounced and their contours are falling quite steeply. The manufacturing technology is like most of these vessels coiled by hand and then the top was con-

nected by hand with visible smear marks at the connection. Subsequently the rim was turned on a turning device. A white slip had been applied and in two cases the slip reached over and inside the vessel to form a white rim band on the interior. Whether this is an accidental feature or a speciality of the local pottery in the *chaîne opératoire*, remains unclear at present.

KONV-no	Sherd-no	WARE	PART	SPP	SPR	DM	DM-%	Remarks
3772	79336	I.e.2.D1	R	2	10	250	9	Smoke blackened interior/exterior
3772	79335	I.e.2.15	R	2	10	260?	3	Smoke blackened interior
3772	79337	I.e.2.D1	R	2	10	330	11	Smoke blackened exterior

E.) Imported pottery

E.a) Fine wares: jugs

Imported material is represented by one base with a red slip that had been subsequently burnished vertically (Fig. 3.23.k). The technology of the base was

not well preserved, and it could have been made on the wheel. Most probably the base belonged to a medium sized jug.

KONV-no	Sherd-no	WARE	PART	SPP	SPR	SPC	DM	DM-%	Remarks
3772	79339	IV.00.06.22	B	1	1	1	60	30	Base technology unclear

E.b) Plates/dishes with inturned lip

One of the rare imported dishes belongs in this context (Fig. 3.23.j). Whilst the sherd was visibly combed (horizontally) on the exterior without any coloured slip, the interior shows a red slip with vertical

burnishing. The inturned lip has almost become a thickened rim only that had been trimmed on the exterior edge with a tool. The diameter is about 20.0 cm.

KONV-no	Sherd-no	WARE	PART	SPP	SPR	SPC	DM	DM-%	Remarks
3772	79338	IV.2.1.07.23	R	1	1	99	194	14	Sandy variant of fabric, Edge of vessel trimmed with tool

Distribution of pottery vessel types in L [313]

Vessel type	Rim eves	Percent
Hemisph./carinated cups B1	0.05	8.4%
Hemisph. cups B2	0.15	25.0%
Dishes C2	0.03	5.0%
Restricted bowls E2	0.23	38.3%
Imported dishes	0.14	23.3%
Grand total	0.60	100%

The non-diagnostic body sherds of this context were not counted.

L [312] Small pit dug into space L [314]

For the position of this locus see Fig. 3.21. The finds from a small pit **L [312]** north of the Mortuary Temple wall comprise the shoulder of a Late Period Phoenician amphora (reg.no 7350 V, not shown)²⁴¹ as well

L [317a and b] test trench

Another test trench was sunk into the eastern corner of the southern half of the square **L [317]**. Two layers were excavated **L [317a and b]** (see Fig. 3.21) where **L [317b]** is the older layer and will therefore be considered first. **L [317a]** is later and discussed below (see 96).

A.) Nile B1 pottery

A.a) Hemispherical cups

The material includes three fragments of hemispherical cups with rim diameters of 10.0, 12.0 and 14.0 cm

KONV-no	Sherd-no	WARE	PART	SPP	SPR	DM	DM-%
3768	79350	I.b.1.02	R	1	1	100	9
3768	79351	I.b.1.02	R	1	1	120	9
3768	79352	I.b.1.01	R	1	1	140	6

B.) Nile B2 pottery

B.a) Hemispherical cups

One slightly coarser hemispherical cup rim sherd with 12.0 cm rim diameter and open shape together with

KONV-no	Sherd-no	WARE	PART	SPP	SPR	DM	DM-%	Remarks
3768	79353	I.b.2.01	R	1	1	120	11	Surface eroded

B.b) Ringstands

There were four fragments of Nile B2 ringstands one with red slip and horizontal burnishing, the others uncoated/eroded or with red slip (Fig. 3.24.e–h). One of

KONV-no	Sherd-no	WARE	PART	SPP	SPR	SPB	DM	DM-%	Remarks
3768	79355	I.b.2.01	R	1	10		120?	6	Sandy variant of fabric
3768	79371	I.b.2.08	R		10		100	6	Perhaps belongs to a jar
3768	79354	I.b.2.08.03	R	1	10		100	13	
3768	79356	I.b.2.06	B	1		30	140	6	

as some imported and Egyptian pottery (konvolute K3771). The lowest elevation measured there is at 4.63 m/NN. The ceramic finds are, thus, contaminated. For this reason this material is not shown here.

L [317 b]

Pottery

From the lower layer **L [317b]** a sherd collection quite typical for the lower layers of Phase G/3–1 was recorded (see Fig. 3.24)

Relevant sherd collections/konvolutes

K3768. Position: A/II-l/10, pl. 5, H = 4.60–4.80 m/NN (Fig. 3.24).

(Fig. 3.24.a–c). The widest fragment did not show a red rim band, but the others did. All are of open shape.

the finer cups (see above) represent the fine wares of Nile clay fabric in this context (Fig. 3.24.d).

the fragments is very small and may have belonged to a small to medium jar type. These fragments can be considered very usual in the settlement pottery repertoire.

²⁴¹ Cf. E. BETTLES, *Phoenician Amphora Production and Distribution in the Southern Levant: a Multi-Disciplinary Investigation*

into Carinated-shoulder Amphorae of the Persian Period (539–332 BC), BAR IS, Oxford 2003.

C.) Nile C2 pottery

C.a) Large jars ('beer' jars)

The fragment of a 'beer' jar rim with kettle mouth was too eroded on the exterior surface to be certain whether it had been red slipped or not (Fig. 3.24.i). The fabric

contained a higher amount of quartz as tempering agent than usual. The Aperture index 2 is with 473.9 well suited for the Phases G/3-1.²⁴²

KONV-no	Sherd-no	WARE	PART	SPP	SPR	DM	DM-%	Type	Remarks
3768	79357	I.c.2.06	R	1	10	100	18	19c	Sandy variant of fabric. Surface eroded

C.b) Large ringstands (?)

The fragment tentatively identified as a large ringstand shows a very large rim diameter and a folded

rim (Fig. 3.24.j). As with the other Nile C2 sherd (Fig. 3.24.i) a higher quartz content in the fabric was noted.

KONV-no	Sherd-no	WARE	PART	SPP	SPR	DM	DM-%	Remarks
3768	79358	I.c.2.01	R	1	10	260	11	Sandy variant of fabric

D.) Nile E2 pottery

D.a) Large restricted bowls

These examples of large restricted bowls with a white slip on the exterior and a white rim band on the interior follow the usual manufacturing technology of this

type with coiled bodies and turned folded rims (Fig. 3.24.k-l). These two did not show traces of smoke staining.

KONV-no	Sherd-no	WARE	PART	SPP	SPR	DM	DM-%
3768	79360	I.e.2.D1	R	2	10	300	9
3768	79359	I.e.2.D1	R	2	10	260	6

E.) Marl C1 pottery

E.a) Large storage jars

The rim fragment of a large storage jar exhibits a modelled rim type with a more bulbous appearance than the simpler and mostly later forms (Fig. 3.24.m-n).²⁴³ The rim was turned whilst the body of the vessel was hand made.

The set-off base with a diameter of 12.0 cm was made in a mould, which is exemplified by the finger marks on the interior of the vessel. The base resembles that of a complete jar discovered at Dahshur.²⁴⁴ Such bases (but not the tops) are also known from Tell el-Dab'a.²⁴⁵

KONV-no	Sherd-no	WARE	PART	SPP	SPR	SPB	DM	DM-%	Type
3768	79361	II.c.2.01	R	2	10		290	9	67c
3768	79366	II.c.2.01	B			19	120	50	68

F.) Imported pottery

F.a) Fine wares: carinated bowls

The well preserved base of a carinated bowl is quite special in this context, because it shows a very sharp carination (Fig. 3.24.o). That the two non-joining sherds belong to the same vessel is quite likely because the fir-

ing of the fabric was very distinctive and unusual, whilst the diameters of the sherds allow for the presumed reconstruction shown in the drawing. The vessel was red slipped on the exterior and vertically burnished even

²⁴² Z. SZAFRANSKI, Seriation and Aperture Index, fig. 4.

²⁴³ Cf. B. BADER, TD XIX, fig. 143, type 3.

²⁴⁴ J.P. ALLEN and S. ALLEN, Two Vessels with Measured Commodities from Dahshur, in: E. CZERNY, I. HEIN, H. HUNGER, D.

MELMAN and A. SCHWAB (eds), *Timelines: Studies in Honour of Manfred Bietak*, OLA 149/1, Leuven 2006, fig. 3, 29-36.

²⁴⁵ B. BADER, TD XIII, cat.no 336-337, Phases G/3-1 to F.

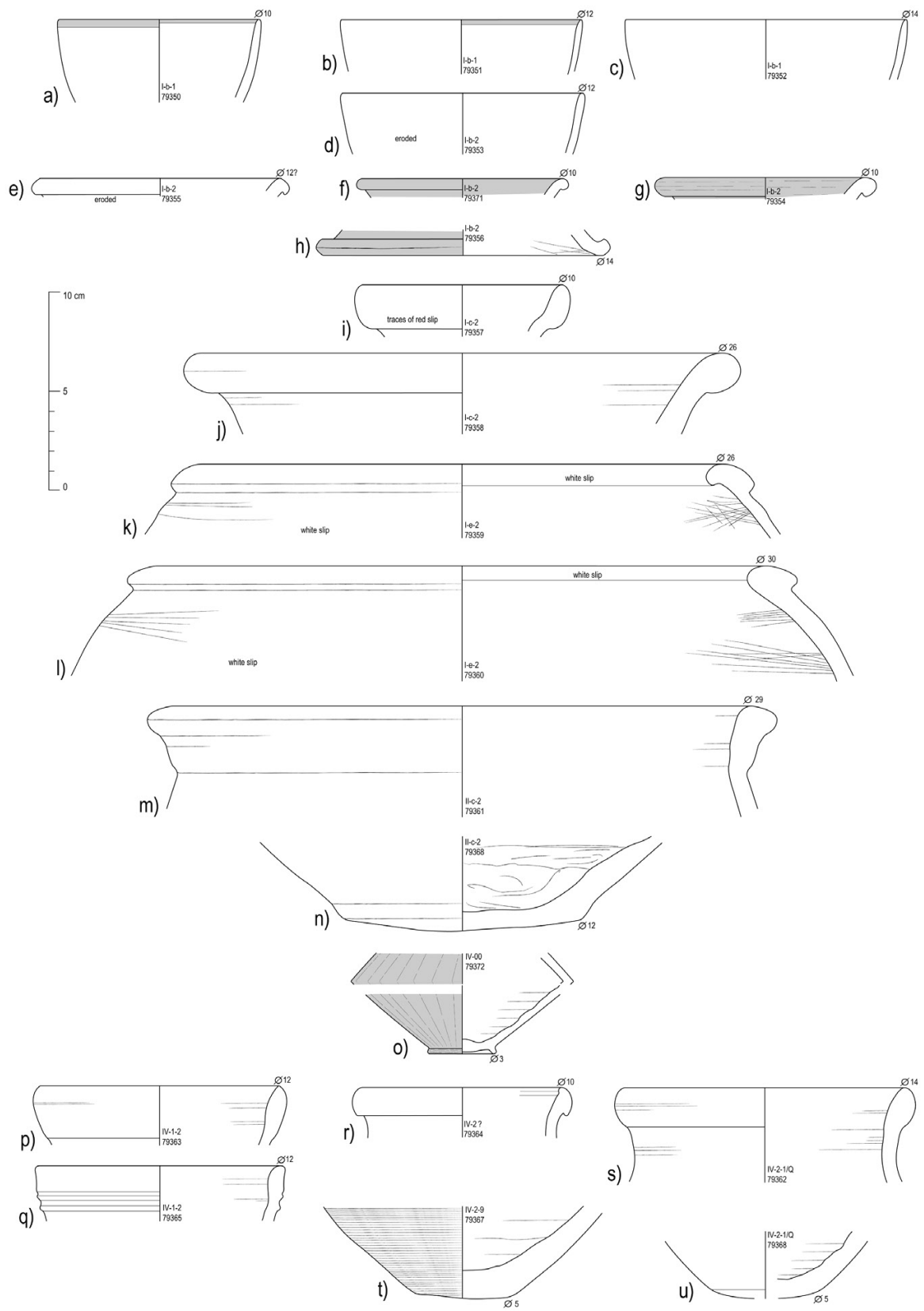


Fig. 3.24 Pottery from L [317b], konvolute K3768

over the sharp carination. Only the exterior of the base was burnished horizontally. Slip and burnishing were

also applied on the underside of the base in a ring pattern. This is a very rare type in the settlement repertoire.

KONV-no	Sherd-no	WARE	PART	SPP	SPB	DM	DM-%	Remarks
3768	79372	IV.2.1.06.26	B	1	1	30	94	Uncertain identification of subgroup of fabric; burnished under base, round

F.b) Large transport amphorae

The imported transport amphorae were as usual again present in the form of rims, bases and handle fragments (the non-diagnostic body sherds were not counted by fabric group) (Fig. 3.24.p-u). The fabric families IV-1, IV-2 and IV-3 were identified. One of the bases was probably made in a mould (79367) whilst the other was wheel turned although irregular

(79368). Only the identification of one small rim fragment with modelled shape and sharp grooves (79364) was not entirely certain. It is thinner than the average amphora rim, and not typically elongated, but the lack of colour-slip and burnishing makes the identification as a jar equally doubtful. No exact *comparanda* exist.

KONV-no	Sherd-no	WARE	PART	SPP	SPR	SPB	SPC	DM	DM-%	Remarks
3768	79363	IV.1.2.01	R		10			120	5	
3768	79365	IV.1.2.01.00.00.D4	R		10			120	15	
3768	79362	IV.2.1.01	R	1	10			140	6	Sandy variant of fabric
3768	79368	IV.2.1.01	B			01		50	28	Sandy variant of fabric
3768	79364	IV.2.01	R		10			100	9	Identification of fabric uncertain
3768	79369	IV.2.9.01	HT	2			11	26	100	
3768	79367	IV.2.9.01.00.00.D5	B			19	1	50	88	
3768	79370	IV.3.2.01	HT	2			11	37	100	

Distribution of pottery vessel types L [317b].

Vessel type	Rim eves	Percent
Hemisph. cups B1	0.24	16.2%
Hemisph. cups B2	0.11	7.4%
Ringstands B2	0.25	16.9%
'Beer' jars C2	0.18	12.2%
Potstands C2	0.11	7.4%
Restricted bowls E2	0.15	10.1%
Storage jars Marl C1	0.09	6.1%
Imported amphorae	0.35	23.7%
Grand total	1.48	100%

Non-diagnostic sherds have not been recorded from this context.

L [317a]

Overlaying the previous context was **L [317a]**.

Relevant sherd collection/konvolute

K3769. Position: A/II-l/10, pl. 5, H = 4.99–5.10 m/NN, (see plan Fig. 3.21).

The ceramic corpus represented by this sherd collection contains at least two sherds that appear to be later than Phase G/3–1 in comparative analysis with other parts of the site. Among these is one jar rim with inner and outer lip (BADER type 39o),²⁴⁶ that occurs most frequently in the later Second Intermediate Period Phases E/2 to D/2. The other clearly intrusive sherd is a Late Period *desheret*²⁴⁷ ('goldfish') bowl with a wet smoothed outer surface.²⁴⁸ Contamination probably happened after the material was excavated, because a relatively long time went by before the sherds were processed.

Apart from those fragments the collection looks homogeneous and can be attributed to Phase G/3–1 and/or F. The types comprise one Nile B1 hemispherical cup rim (rim diameter 9.0–10.0) of open shape and two bases, a Nile C1 basin with inturned rim and lip, a Nile B2 jar rim fragment (?), a large Nile C2 beer jar rim with a very thick lip (it could be a stand but the rim diameter of 10.0 cm and the white slip on the interior and exterior may speak against this suggestion). Further, there was a Nile E2 cooking pot rim with a massive lip, probably handmade and smoke stained on the inside. One Nile D (or perhaps imported) juglet without rim, but the preserved double stranded handle scar was red slipped and burnished. The imported wares are relatively numerous making 73.0% of this assemblage. Amphorae are relatively rare, but red slipped and burnished jars or carinated bowls with a rim diameter from 8.0 to 13.0 cm are quite frequent. More unusual shapes are represented by dishes with inturned rim with a diameter of 20.0 cm, as well as by larger and probably handle less storage jars. The shape of the amphora rims is known from other contexts as well. The fabrics found include the IV-2 fabric group (for most of the red burnished jar rims), the sandy variant of IV-2-1 and examples of IV-1-2, IV-2-13, IV-2-15 and IV-2-8, which may be subgroups of the larger IV-2 fabric group. Because there are intrusive pottery fragments included in this sherd collection it is not illustrated.

²⁴⁶ B. BADER, TD XIX, fig. 190, 321.

²⁴⁷ M. RAVEN, *Desheret Bowls and Canopic Jars*, in: D. ASTON, B. BADER, C. GALLORINI, P. NICHOLSON and S. BUCKINGHAM (eds), *Under the Potter's Tree, Studies on Ancient Egypt Presented to Janine Bourriau on the Occasion of her 70th Birthday*, OLA 204, 795–808.

L [314]/[315] Fill of "room"

Pottery

The last sherd collection is derived from the area north of the Mortuary Temple I wall, partly in **L [314]** and **L [315]**, before the older wall dividing this area in two was discovered. This material represents the latest pottery from the re-excavation in 1983.

Relevant sherd collection/konvolute

K3767. Position: A/II-l/10, pl. 5, H = 5.10–5.30 m/NN. 0–20 cm below the level of the bench of Mortuary Temple I. This material might date to Phases (G/1–)F because no obviously intrusive material was found in the collection but the elevation would be very high to really belong to anything else than fill. For this reason this collection is not illustrated.

One Nile B1 hemispherical cup with a rim diameter of 10.0 cm was found as well as a base of the same vessel type. The base of a Nile B2 hemispherical cup and a base of a ring based bowl were also found, but the surface of the latter was too eroded to be sure if it was turned on the wheel (my impression was that it was not). A base fragment of a ringstand made from Nile B2 with some quartz inclusions represents this pottery type and also the complete profile of a ringstand made from Nile B1 with red slip on the outside and about halfway down the inside. The ringstand does not have the usual folded lips at the rim and the bottom but is only slightly thickened. A shallow dish or lid with direct rounded rim made of Nile B2 has a rim diameter of 14.0 cm. The type of Nile C2 potstands is represented by a massive bulbous base. Copies of Middle Bronze Age pottery are represented by a bowl with inturned rim of Nile E1 with lime (perhaps Nile D) and a jar rim of Nile E2 with lime with a red slip and horizontal burnishing on the outside.²⁴⁹ A range of Nile E2 hole mouth jars some with very small lips, but where detectable all made by hand with a turned rim; all were white slipped on the outside and one example burnt in and out. One type 5 Marl C1 storage jar rim with a square section was found.²⁵⁰ The imported wares again include jar rims, red slipped and burnished mostly horizontal on the rim and vertical on the neck. Two fragments of 'ivy leaf' shaped imported storage

²⁴⁸ Kindly and unequivocally identified by D.A. ASTON.

²⁴⁹ Parallels for these are B. BADER, TD XIX, type 88c drawing D331, fig. 224 for the dish and type 98f in fig. 230.

²⁵⁰ Cf. B. BADER, TD XIX, fig. 143.

jar rims²⁵¹ are also present as well as some other usual amphora rim shapes. The fabrics belong to the IV-2 group, one of them with ample quartz inclusions.

Animal bones

J. BOESSNECK and A. VON DEN DRIESCH analysed the animal bones found below the bench of Mortuary Temple I and due to the position sketch and date of discovery should belong to the same locus as konvolute K3767. Sample **T84/167**.²⁵² Position: A/II-1/10, pl. 5. 0–0.4 m below the “bench”.²⁵³

Cattle: 1 neurocranium; 1 and vert. cerv.; 2 vert. thor.; 4 vert. lumb.; 1 sacrum; 10 costae; 1 humerus; 3 carpalia; 3 metacarpus; 1 pelvis; 4 femur; 1 patella; 2 tibia; 1 talus; 4 metatarsus; 2 phalanx 2.

Sheep: 1 epistropheus; 1 scapula; 3 humerus; 1 pelvis; 1 metatarsus; 1 phalanx 1.

Sheep/goat: 1 mandibula; 2 atlas; 1 vert. thor.; 2 vert. lumb.; 2 sternum; 3 scapula; 2 humerus; 2 radius; 1 metacarpus; 3 pelvis; 1 femur; 3 tibia.

Goat: 1 epistropheus; 1 scapula; 1 metacarpus; 1 phalanx 1.

Pig: 1 and vert. cerv.; 1 scapula; 1 humerus; 1 radius; 2 metatarsus; 2 phalanx 2.

Distribution of animal bones in L [314]/[315]

cattle	sheep	sheep/goat	goat	pig	unidentified
41	12	30	5	11	2

The industrial ovens [M165] and [M166]

Oven 2 (L [311]) is constituted by a keyhole shaped wall [M165], which was excavated in the later sounding in 1983. Most of the oven was excavated, only the northernmost part was situated below a wide wall of Mortuary Temple I and two attached benches, which were at first not dismantled according to the wishes of the then Egyptian Antiquities Service. Two test trenches were sunk into the eastern half of square A/II-1/10.²⁵⁴ Three different layers were detected under the ‘pro-naos and naos’ dividing wall of the Mortuary Temple I of Phase E/2–1.²⁵⁵ Wall [M15] and [M17] (see Fig. 3.21, 3.27) were cut by a pit into which Oven 2 was set. Below these two another wall, [G/3-M15],

is visible. The published plan²⁵⁶ does take the new plan drawing into account in as far as wall [M17] is added, which was cut by the oven. Only scant remains are preserved. [M17] belongs to Compound 11 and its base level is at an elevation of 4.82 m/NN. It consists of a one and 1/2 mud-brick’s width (ca 0.8 m) wide wall and is up to three courses preserved (brick measurements: 32–31 cm × 15.5 cm; colour 7.5 YR 6/4–6 light brown to reddish yellow). The actual oven was not included in the published plan and marked with the label ‘Störung/Ofen’. In the first publication the oven was assigned to Phase G/2–1, in any case at a time when the dwelling had fallen out of use or at least that part of it.²⁵⁷ There is no real reason to assume that the southern part of Compound 11 could not have been used longer e.g. until the end of Phase G/3–1. The only argument against this supposition lies in the fact that the fumes of that oven would have polluted the air in the area of Room/Space L [107], although the position of the doorways may have accommodated this problem.

Considering the fact that Oven 1 in square A/II-1/11 (see 99–101) quite securely belongs to Phase G/3–1 (cut by a tomb group of Phase F) it may be suggested that the second oven was also built in Phase G/2–1. Oven 2 may have been in use as late as Phase F, because the walls [M15] and [M17] and the top elevation of the oven are at 5.08 m/NN. The state of preservation of only 0.26 m is usual. The relation of the oven to the surrounding later walls cannot be ascertained too well, because a later pit cut away the top of the oven, which is duly marked in the published plan as “Störung”.

The keyhole shaped oven L [311] had a (preserved) diameter of ca 1.20 m. The contour of the oven was laid out by headers in key-hole shape. The section of the oven (Fig. 3.27) at least suggests that it had been built free-standing although it cut into existing walls. The excavation proceeded down at least 0.6 m and it seems as if the original brickwork of the oven was visible (see also Fig. 3.25–3.26). The photos show the interior of the oven during the excavation with the four brick courses of the outer core of the oven preserved. Thus, it seems as if the oven was built from bricks starting at a presumed base level of ca 4.55 m/NN.

²⁵¹ Cf. B. BADER, TD XIX, fig. 280, type 1980.

²⁵² Photo P8201886. The identification of the bones was conducted by J. BOESSNECK and A. VON DEN DRIESCH.

²⁵³ This means that at least some of the bone material may belong to Phase G.

²⁵⁴ Planum 5, Plan no 1642, only partially excavated under the benches of Temple I.

²⁵⁵ M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 3–4 December 1983.

²⁵⁶ M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 2.

²⁵⁷ M. BIETAK, TD V, 27.



Fig. 3.25 Oven L [311] in A/II-l/10, pl. 5 view towards north, TDcolour 2390

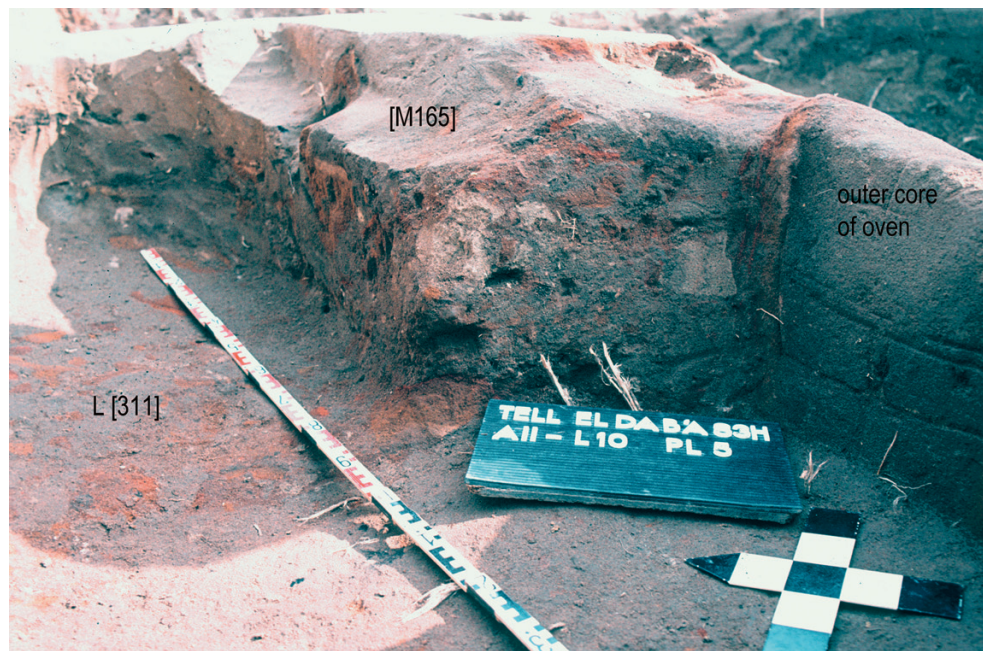


Fig. 3.26 Oven L [311] in A/II-l/10, pl. 5 view towards north-east, TDcolour 2389

Interestingly there was no wall connected to Oven 1 (see below, 100) and perhaps there was none with Oven 2 (Fig. 3.28). East of the key-hole shaped opening of the oven, there is a channel with possible reinforcement of it (see reddish tubing in the section, which may have been a kind of mud-brick tube that became totally burnt and subsequently eroded, Fig. 3.27). The tubular front was interpreted as a means to facilitate

the emptying of the oven hole proper. There is a possibility that the tube like channel was used for airing the oven. This feature was perhaps meant to facilitate the air flow or a mechanism in connection with bellows of unknown description. It is possible that the position of the tubing remains was caused by destruction of the oven during levelling for the later building stages as a winding air tubing system does not seem to be

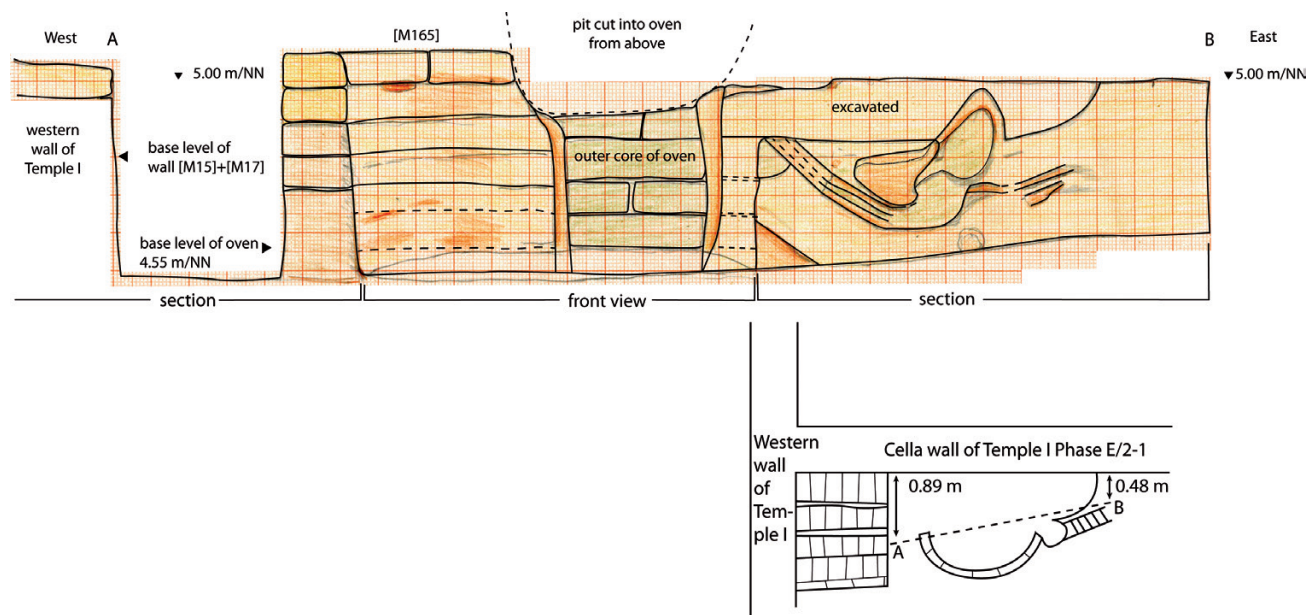


Fig. 3.27 West-east section through the oven L [311], combined with front view, scale 1:20, TDplan no 1641.

Drawing by J. Dorner, graphics by B. Bader

practicable for any industry.²⁵⁸ Burnt rubble of bricks situated in the substructure of the oven shows according to M. BIETAK²⁵⁹ that the oven was at least once torn down and rebuilt again (Fig. 3.25–3.26). The structure to the west of the oven, a ‘platform’ constituted by the older walls [M15] and [M17], might have been used as placement area for products coming out of the oven or about to go inside.²⁶⁰ An astonishing fact, though, is that there are traces of heavy burning, but there are no overly thick ash accumulations in or around the oven as if it had been cleared regularly and the refuse dumped elsewhere. The colour coding of the plan drawing shows the usual clayey and sand tempered mud-bricks and rubble derived from it, but not massive burning.

The absence of kiln wasters, ceramic waste and massive ash deposits in general led M. BIETAK to believe that the installation was used for smelting.²⁶¹ The presence of at least two limestone moulds for tools although not in the direct vicinity and not *in situ* provides some additional evidence (cf. chapter 2, 58–60). Another possibility might be a bread oven

which may appear rectangular or rounded. The absence of massive ash deposits seems to speak against such identification.²⁶²

In square A/II-1/11 another key-hole shaped oven was unearthed, [M166]. Oven 1 is only partly preserved, because its northern part was cut away by a later tomb (A/II-1/11-no 4, Phase F)²⁶³ and not excavated in the next square west, because Mortuary Temple I was not dismantled.²⁶⁴ Thus, only part of this feature was excavated and at first interpreted as a rounded silo with a paved floor. The base level of this structure is at 4.60 m/NN.²⁶⁵ Only the first brick course and the pavement itself were preserved (running metres 1.70–3.26 from north to south). The oven is oriented north east south west with a stoking hole in the north east. No finds were made in the area around this oven and it only became clear what type of feature existed here, when the second more complete one was discovered ca 1.75 m towards the south-west, situated in square A/II-1/10. The western section of A/II-1/11 shows that this oven is very close to the foundation trench of

²⁵⁸ I thank M. BIETAK and M. MEHOFER for discussing this oven with me, personal communications May 2017.

²⁵⁹ M. BIETAK, *Digging Diary*, 3–4 December 1983, p. 2.

²⁶⁰ M. BIETAK, TD V, 27.

²⁶¹ M. BIETAK, TD V, 27.

²⁶² Cf. C. v. PILGRIM, *Elephantine XVIII*, 209–211; 213–214. For similar horseshoe shaped features at Elephantine from the Middle

Kingdom see P. KOPP et al, *Report on the 39th Season of Excavation and Restoration on the Island of Elephantine*, 4–5.

²⁶³ This is clearly visible in the western section of A/II-1/11 (A56), section nos A56-34 (oven) and A56-26 (tomb no 4). For the tomb see M. BIETAK, TD V, 50–51.

²⁶⁴ M. BIETAK, TD V, 27 on demand of the EAO.

²⁶⁵ Section A56, section no A56-34.

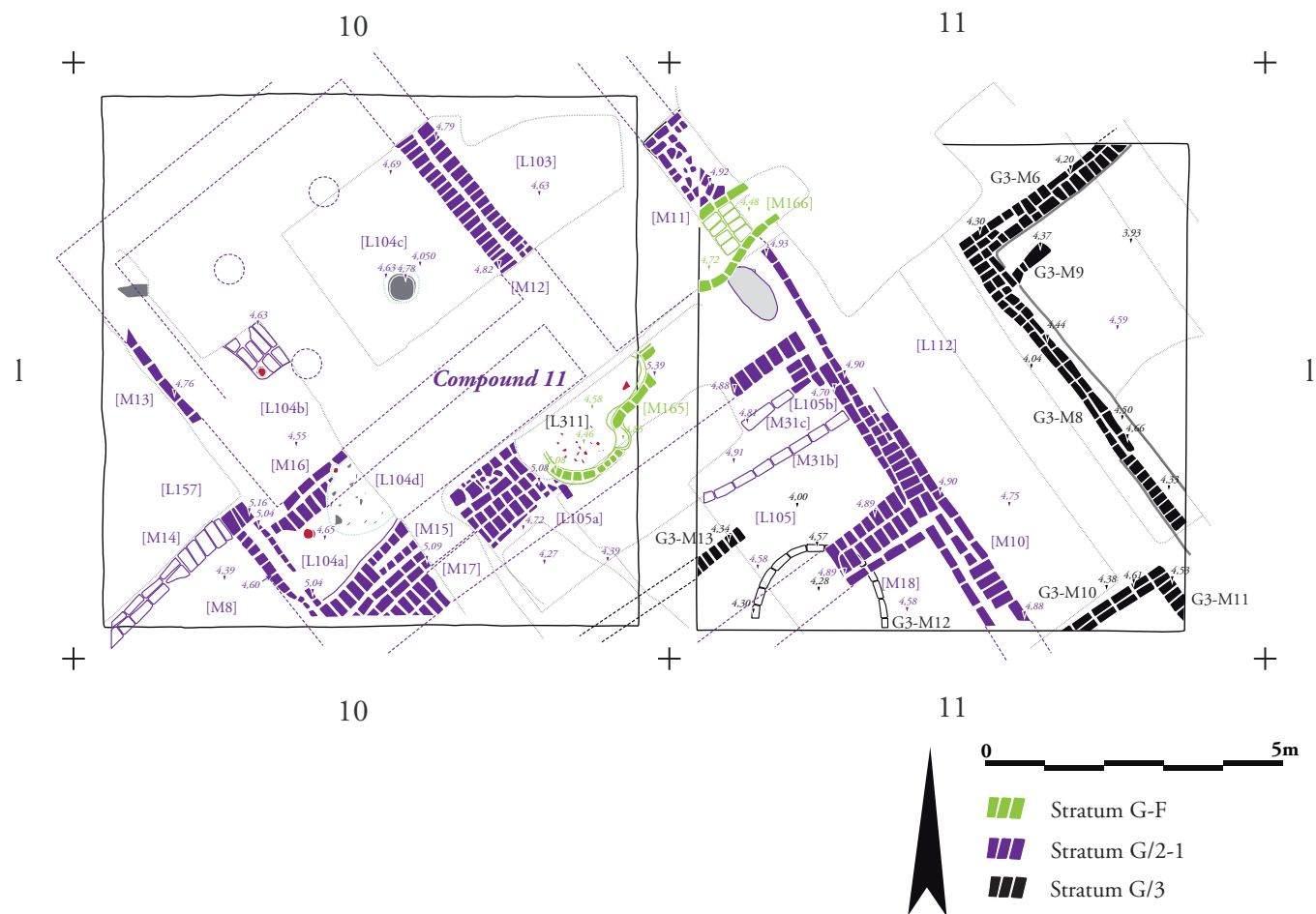


Fig. 3.28 Schematic drawing of ovens and relation to neighbouring walls.
Based on TDplans no 77 and 83 drawn by H. Swozilek, H.C.S. and J.E, graphic execution by N. Math

Wall [M15], so that it is not entirely clear whether the trench cuts it or not. Similar absolute elevation seems to suggest that the [M15] and [M166] cannot be too far removed in time from each other and that the oven would be situated just outside Compound 11. Unfortunately a group of tombs of Phase F²⁶⁶ cuts into this area so that the relation of [M166] to the building in the north and wall [M11] remains unclear. It seems likely that Oven 1 would have been active after the northern part of the building/northern building fell out of use. Thus, both ovens might have been active roughly at the same time.

Problems of this interpretation and for relative dating

- 1) The southern part of wall [M12], which was continued east of the oven in the published plan,

cannot belong to this wall, because in the plan the base level is given as 5.20 m/NN! Such an elevation lies well above the top of the oven. It has been removed from the plan in Fig. 3.1.

- 2) Wall [G/3-M15] seems to run below the oven, which probably cuts into it, and is recorded in section (A56) without section no at running metres 5.20–5.58 with a base level of 4.74 m/NN. In A/II-l/10 pl. 5 [G/3-M15] was recorded with 4.55 m/NN and therefore I would like to assign it to Phase G/3 (see Fig. 3.21).
- 3) Between the remains of the two cut walls [M15] adjacent to [M17] and the oven is a gap. Then along the same alignment there is another wide wall that was recorded in section (A56) as section A56-31 with a base level of 4.74 to 4.82 m/NN. They may be interpreted as two adjacent walls,

²⁶⁶ A/II-l/11, tombs 1–4.

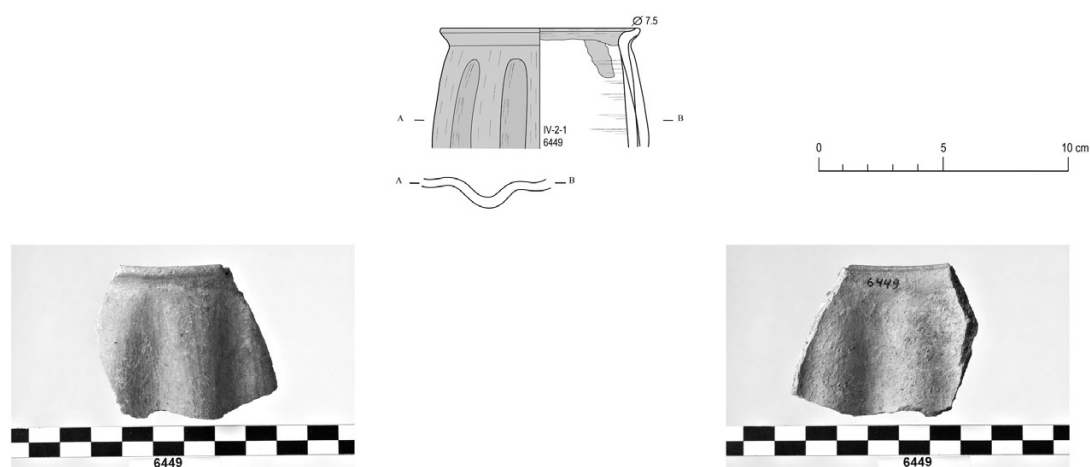


Fig. 3.29 Reg.no 6449, restricted vessel with undulating body from L [311], drawing by B. Bader, photos by A. Krause

one built at a slightly higher level than the other. This base level is almost in accord with the other base levels of Compound 11. Note that they are at a much higher elevation than in the other parts of the site during the early phases, which may be due to some topographical feature of the tell or to previous settlement debris.

Finds from L [311] – The oven

Pottery

Reg.no **6449** (TD), beaker with undulating body.²⁶⁷ Position: A/II-1/10, pl. 5. From the [secondary?] fill of the oven **L [311]** H = 4.50–4.60 m/NN.²⁶⁸ Although the position is not original the sherd fits well with the MBA tradition of Phases G/3–ca E/3. However, no direct parallels have been found. It dates after the end of the use phase of Oven 2, thus, probably to Phase F (Fig. 3.29).

Records: B/W negative SW2387/10, drawing ZN 116/88, redrawn and re-recorded.

RPTG	IV-2-1	m	W+H	–	ox	3
------	--------	---	-----	---	----	---

Rd. = 8.0 (14% preserved); max.d. = 8.7; wd. = 0.4 0.5; H1 = 4.8 +x.

Surface colour: burnishing on a red slip on exterior and on interior on rim 10 R 4/6 red; inside uncoated 7.5 YR 7/4 pink. Section: thin light grey core with thin pink oxidation zones; burnishing vertical outside and horizontal on the inside of the rim; the body of the beaker shows elongated vertical indentations, two of which are preserved; the vessel might have been designed with a metal vessel as template, but no immediate parallel was found.

SQUARE A/II-L/11

Excavation and available records

The square was first excavated in autumn 1966 (planum 1–3²⁶⁹), whilst planum 4,²⁷⁰ the last one investigated, was dug in 1967. The basic elevation of the tell met in this square before excavation was from 5.28 m/NN to 6.09 m/NN. On top of that mud-brick buildings were rising up in some parts to 6.87 m/NN belonging to Phase C (cf. the northern section of A/II-1/11²⁷¹).

Planum 3 (basic elevation 4.58 m–5.12 m/NN²⁷²) seems to fit best in terms of levels and brick structures, thus, it was chosen for the overall plan of Phase G/2–1 and shows comparable levels for the floors (see Fig. 3.1).²⁷³ Only a part of the walls, shown in planum 3,

²⁶⁷ Cf. D. ASTON, TD XII/1, 113; TD XII/2, pl. 94, cat.no 296, fabric I-d. Dating to „G/3–1 to F?“. This unique piece was assigned to the group of carinated bowls.

²⁶⁸ A note was added by K. KOPETZKY in the register book that this vessel was found directly inside the oven, presumably dating to str. F or E/3 without more information.

²⁶⁹ TDplan nos 81–83.

²⁷⁰ TDplan no 84.

²⁷¹ Section A7, TDplan no 90.

²⁷² M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 1966 undated.

²⁷³ M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 2.

belong to Phase G/3–1 as the later walls of Mortuary Temple I were left standing at this point.²⁷⁴ Below, planum 4, excavated to a basic floor level of around 4.00 m/NN, only some structures in some places (elevation of around 3.95 m/NN) belong to the earlier Phase G/4 or H (see Fig. 5.4–5.5).

Archaeological documentation exists in the form of a digging diary, plan and section drawings (see above), layer descriptions, archival B/W negatives and photographs and slides, entries in the register book and object drawings.

Description of architecture and archaeological features (A/II-l/11)

From the archaeological documentation it becomes clear that the walls of Mortuary Temple I had base levels of roughly 4.70 m/NN (east wall), 4.75 m/NN (eastern division wall) 4.80 m/NN (south wall) to 5.02 m/NN (western division wall) in square A/II-l/11.²⁷⁵ These differences in base levels may hint at pre-existing differences in elevation of the underlying area. This temple was set into foundation trenches which cut into the archaeological layers below. In Phases E/3 and F there seems to have been little to no archaeological activity in this area except for the construction of tombs, which seem to belong to the older Mortuary Temple I in the southern square (A/II-m/11).²⁷⁶ These tombs also cut deeply into the older settlement layers, in one case down to 3.94 m/NN.²⁷⁷ For this reason the older structures are often badly damaged and very disrupted, so that the connections of the settlement structures are quite hard to grasp.

The settlement levels below these activities were, thus, not easy to reconstruct. One feature shown in the previously published plan is the fallen wall (towards the east) that may have belonged to [M11] (see Fig. 3.30).²⁷⁸

The sections of the square will be discussed here in as far as relevant walls for the settlement layers of the late Middle Kingdom could be identified.

Discussion of relevant parts of the sections (A/II-l/11²⁷⁹)

The northern section²⁸⁰ (A7, drawn in 1967) is mainly characterised by the heavily sand tempered mud-brick walls of Mortuary Temple I (section nos A7-9 and A7-13; Phase E/2–1) and in the eastern part by tombs A/II-l/11-2 and A/II-l/11-3,²⁸¹ which destroyed the earlier levels in the western half of the section (no 10). In the lowest levels thick ash layers (section no A7-12) and heavily sand tempered mud rubble and brick walls [H-M18] (= section no A7-11b) and [G/3-M6] (= section no A7-11a) are present (see Fig. 5.1, 5.9). Their base levels are around 3.95 m/NN and 4.00 m/NN, respectively. Preservation is for both only two brick courses, reaching an elevation of 4.10 and 4.20 m/NN, respectively. The lowest elevation excavated in this square is ca 3.70 m/NN,²⁸² and thus Phase G/4 and most probably also Phase H were reached. The ashy layers were deposited up to a level of about 4.30 m/NN. The walls [H-M18], [G/3-M6] and unnumbered remains of a wall built from sand tempered mud-bricks close-by, were defined as relative stratum f, which is equated with Phases G/4–3 in other sections of this square, while section no A7-12 lacks a relative designation. In squares A/II-k/11, A/II-k/12 and A/II-l/10 a similar ash layer was found to cover the settlement layers of the earliest Phase H, but burnt brick material, which would hint at destroyed architecture, was not mentioned in the records.

The western section²⁸³ (A56, drawn in 1967, Fig. 3.31) was better preserved at the northern end (7.40 m/NN) than at the southern end (6.30 m/NN). In the western section the sand tempered mud-bricks of Phase

²⁷⁴ On demand of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation, see M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 2, in Fig. 3.1 these walls have been removed for clarity.

²⁷⁵ See M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 5.

²⁷⁶ See M. BIETAK, TD V, plans 3 and 4.

²⁷⁷ Tomb A/II-l/11-no 1. Cf. M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 4.

²⁷⁸ See M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 2, square A/II-l/11 “umgestürzte Mauer”. In the schematic plans this collapse has been removed for clarity (see Fig. 3.30).

²⁷⁹ The analyses of all sections were conducted by M. BIETAK. The final inked versions are available for A/II-k/11-l/11 eastern section (A77–78); A/II-k/11-l/11 western section (A56–57);

A/II-l/10-l/11 southern section (A31–32); A/II-l/10-l/11 northern section (A6–7). An inked version of the northern section A5–6 was found, but without the final section nos. A31, A56 and A78 were supplied with the final section nos. For A7 only the provisional section nos from the original plan drawing were available.

²⁸⁰ TDplan 90 = A7. No „Profilbesprechung“ of the northern sections A/II-l/10–11 was found in the records.

²⁸¹ M. BIETAK, TD V, 43–50, Phase F.

²⁸² Note that this is the highest part of the tell thus, the water table seems to have been lower. Perhaps in 1966–67 the water table was also lower than later.

²⁸³ TDplan no 92 = A56.



Fig. 3.31 Western section of square A/II-l/11 (A56), drawn by Helga Singer (†), © M. Bietak

Excursus Section analysis of A/II-l/11 west²⁸⁹

- 1) Sebakh pits with loose silty earth, pottery fragments and limestone chips.
- 2) Walls running north-south built from soft, eroded mud-bricks (0.40 × 0.19–20 × 0.09–0.11 m), Phase B.
- 5) Coating of a round well made from mud. Section through southern part of the coating with a step for descending to the well.
- 8) Northern edge of the east-west running wall surrounding the later temple of originally 20 cubits (ca 10.5 m) width but much destroyed by sebakh diggers, Phase B.
- 9) Remains of mud-brick pavements or building ramps for wall 8).
- 10) Foundation trench for wall 8), Phase B.
- 12) Silty and loamy layers on top of the mud-brick rubble 13), Phase E/2–1.²⁹⁰
- 13) Sand tempered mud-brick rubble from the interior of Temple I, Phase E/2–1.
- 14) Dividing wall between middle and western cella of Temple I, Phase E/2–1.
- 15) Mud-brick bench built against dividing wall 14), almost no foundation.
- 16) Door jamb between pro-cella and the three sanctuaries of Temple I, obliquely cut by section, Phase E/2–1.
- 17) Limestone pavement of floor between pro-cella and the three sanctuaries of Temple I, Phase E/2–1.
- 18) Foundation of dividing wall between pro-cella and the three sanctuaries of Temple I, running below the pavement consisting of sand tempered mud-bricks. The second brick course was laid as a rowlock, Phase E/2.
- 19) Foundation trench of 18). The starting point was not visible. Due to other sections it must have been located below floors 20), Phase E/2.
- 20) Series of white floors alternating with walking surfaces, immediately on top of the basic elevation of Temple I, Phase E/2–1.
- 21) Quern, probably Phase E/3 or E/2.
- 22) Walking surfaces in sandy depositions. According to the southern section of A/II-l/11 these belong to a building of Phase E/3, which was levelled before building Temple I.
- 23) Ash depositions, base horizon of Phase E/3.
- 24) Articulated sand tempered bricks, perhaps marking tomb A/II-l/11-no 4, Phase F.
- 25) Robber's pit through 24) into tomb A/II-l/11-no 4, Phase F or E/3.
- 26) Tomb A/II-l/11-no 4, set into a pit. It was built adjacent to A/II-l/11-no 2, but is slightly later,²⁹¹ Phase F.
- 27) Mud-brick rubble in upper fill of tomb A/II-l/11-no 2, Phase F.
- 29) Lateral wall of tomb A/II-l/11-no 2, set into a trench, Phase F.
- 30) Sand tempered mud-brick row of a hurdle wall of Phase F or remains of rubble of 31).
- 31) Remains of a [two] sand tempered mud-brick walls of Compound 11 [M15] and [M16], Phase G/2–1.
- 31a) Wall of sand tempered mud-bricks [G/3-M15], Phase G/3.
- 32) Walking surfaces in sandy depositions, layered with fine ashy levels, [outside Compound 11], Phase G/2–1.
- 33) Densely layered walking surfaces and white washed surfaces of Phase G/2–1.
- 34) Remains of [an oven] set into a shallow trench/pit with paved floor, Phase G/2–1.
- 35) Levelled rubble of sand tempered mud-bricks, in order to provide an even surface for Compound 11.
- 36) Wall of sand tempered mud-bricks, Phase G/3.
- 37) Remains of sand tempered mud-brick walls belonging to Phase G/4: 37a = [G/4-M9], 37b = [G/4-M10]. The foundation of the walls cut into the ash layer. Some of the ash was transported upwards, either by the weather [or human activity].
- 38) Wall of sand tempered mud-bricks, Phase G/3–4.
- 39) Loamy layers of walls 37) and 38) probably a spot to prepare loam mortar, base horizon for Phase G/4–1.
- 40) Deposition of pure charcoal, transported by weather from the upper part towards the lower one.
- 41) Wall of sand tempered mud-bricks, Phase H.
- 42) Top of the gezirah.

4.00 m/NN and represents the oldest building phase in this square and thus belongs probably to Phase H.²⁹² Section no A56-37b is the other wall constituting the corner of the oldest building.²⁹³ This wall fragment is very denuded and consists only of two brick courses

and some rubble. In contrast to most other early walls this is one and half brick's width wide.

Section no A56-40 represents a series of very thick layers of ashes (charcoal only), which covers the oldest building phase. It seems to represent the dividing

²⁸⁹ Translated from the analysis of M. BIETAK, unpublished. German "Profilbesprechung". The detailed assignments to the earlier Phases H, G/4 and G/3–1 and remarks in [] are by the author. Please note that the analysis of the section was conducted together with the western section of square A/II-k/11, but here only those numbers occurring in A/II-l/11 are listed.

²⁹⁰ For Temple I see M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 6.

²⁹¹ M. BIETAK, TD V, 42–51.

²⁹² In the inked section it is designated as "G/5", which is a marginal sub-phase of G/4.

²⁹³ = [G/4-M10], see plan Fig. 5.5.

horizon between Phases G/4 and H.²⁹⁴ Again burnt brick walls were not mentioned in the archival material. It is possible that the ash provides evidence for industrial activity in this part of Compound 11 but ash deposits are also usual in normal settlement activity. The remains of the one brick's width wide 'wall', section no A56-41,²⁹⁵ at running metre 4.0 from south, probably represents the oldest built structure in this section, because section no A56-42 was identified as *gezirah* sands of the natural soil 'turtle backs'. Of what nature this structure might have been remains unclear because only two brick courses of the very thin wall survive.

The eastern section²⁹⁶ (A78, drawn on 24–25 May 1967) mainly shows the massive walls of Mortuary Temple I (section no A78-22, Phase E/2–1) and tomb A/II-l/12-no5.²⁹⁷ This section was exposed down to an elevation of about 3.70 m/NN in some places but not at the southern and northern end. Again the lowest levels reached are characterised by a thick layer of ash (section no A78-45, ends at an elevation of about 4.00 m/NN) met already in other squares most probably derived from domestic activities (cf. 46, 47). As observed on the western side the elevation of the remaining tell is higher (at 7.10 m/NN) in the north than at the southern end (6.50 m/NN). Towards the southern end of the eastern section there are three sand tempered mud-brick walls that are assigned to Phases G/3 and G/4 or H without more specification.

For Phase G/2–1 no walls exist in this area. In the earlier phases the wall [G/3-M8] (= section A78-39, a longish accumulation of mud-bricks),²⁹⁸ is relevant here. It is a well-built wall of sand tempered mud-bricks with at least eight courses preserved and one and a half brick's width. In planum 4 the base level was noted as 4.01 m/NN, which attests to the early relative date of this wall. Section no A78-41 represents the oldest wall in the section with the base level going down to 4.10 m/NN and presumably lower.²⁹⁹ The base levels of the walls of Phases G/4–1 and H cannot exactly be ascertained, because their bases were not reached, but they are below 3.80 m/NN. Thus, it must

remain unclear which walls overlay one another, i.e. in which sequence they were built.

The southern section³⁰⁰ (A31, drawn in 1967) was exposed to an elevation of 4.20 m/NN in some places, only in the westernmost running metre the low elevation of 3.95 m/NN was reached. According to the analysis of the section Phase G/2–1 starts approximately at an elevation of about 4.60 m/NN with section no A31-33 and A31-34, heavily sand tempered mud-brick and roof rubble, which in some places is about 0.4 m deep and, thus reaches up to almost 5.00 m/NN, at least in the western half of the section. The base level of Phase G/2–1 can be found at about 4.70 m/NN. The only wall of Phase G/2–1 running into this section is section no A31-35 [= M10], see Fig. 3.30. This wall was in the section already quite denuded. The next older Phases G/3 and G/4 are represented again by sand tempered mud-brick rubble and the remains of the walls section no A31-39,³⁰¹ A31-45³⁰² and A31-47a³⁰³ and b.³⁰⁴ The base level of those is probably around an elevation of 4.10–4.20 m/NN or below, but unfortunately the section does not expose them deep enough to be certain. Thus, it is also not possible to know which ones are earlier. Their state of preservation is remarkable because most of these walls show five to six brick courses, which may hint at renewal and thus longer use.³⁰⁵ Wall [G/3-M10] (= section no A31-39) may belong to a square building or silo from Phase G/3–2 according to M. BIETAK, the foundations of which cut into the older layers. An installation for grain storage was suspected, but so far no more evidence has come forward to evaluate this opinion.³⁰⁶ Whether this building/installation continued into square A/II-m/11 cannot be ascertained, because that square was not excavated down to this level. The ashy layer marking the division between Phases G/4 and H was not exposed in this section, although section no A31-49 might represent the beginning of it as it shows streaks of ash sandwiched between sandy walking horizons at an elevation of 4.10 m/NN.

²⁹⁴ Analysis of section by M. BIETAK.

²⁹⁵ Not recorded in the plan drawing of A/II-l/11, planum 4, presumably because it was too badly preserved.

²⁹⁶ TDplan no 93 = A78.

²⁹⁷ M. BIETAK, TD V, 51–60, plan 3.

²⁹⁸ See plan Fig. 5.9. It is very possible that the oldest wall in this square [H-M10] = [G/4-M8] is also represented by this section no, cf. Fig. 5.1 and 5.5.

²⁹⁹ = [G/3-M11], see plan Fig. 5.9.

³⁰⁰ TDplan 91.

³⁰¹ = [G/3-M10], see plan Fig. 5.9.

³⁰² Not recorded in A/II-l/11, planum 4 – probably too badly preserved.

³⁰³ [H-M10] see chapter 5, Fig. 5.1 and [G/4-M8], see plan Fig. 5.5.

³⁰⁴ [H-M9] see chapter 5, Fig. 5.1 and [G/4-M7], see plan Fig. 5.5.

³⁰⁵ This is reflected in the use of some walls in Phases H and G/4, cf. Fig. 5.1 and 5.5.

³⁰⁶ Section analysis.

L [105a and b] – the northern room

Square A/II-l/11 was left partly unexcavated beneath Mortuary Temple I from Phase E/2–1.³⁰⁷ **L [105]** is situated in the south eastern and south western regions, respectively of squares A/II-l/10 **[105a]** and A/II-l/11 **[105b]**. Locus **[105]** is thus divided artificially by the Mortuary Temple I wall and the baulk. The westernmost cella-wall and benches of Mortuary Temple I were left standing and took up most of the floor space in **L [105]**.³⁰⁸ The room was delimited by **[M19]** to the west, **[M17]** in the north, **[M18]** and **[M21]** in the south and by the east wall of Compound 11 **[M11]**. The hypothetical floor space available would be ca 2.8 m by 8.5 m (23.8 m²). This would equal ca 5.3 cubits by 16.2 cubits (85.86 square cubits). M. BIETAK interpreted this feature as a vestibule or anteroom that may have had a roof. Moreover, **L [105]** was screened from view by the re-enforced wall **[M8/19]** on the western side (see also Fig. 3.1). Thus, the northern part of the alleyway **L [155]** may also have had a roofing construction of some sort (see Fig. 3.1 and 3.30).³⁰⁹ The brick rubble visible in photograph SW1098/62 and 64 (A/II-m/10, pl. 6, see below 112) may hint at such a construction.

Towards the south a part of a wall **[M18]** juts out from the eastern wall **[M11/M10]**. This feature may perhaps be considered to mark a doorway although the continuation of this wall by means of heavily sand tempered mud-bricks is drawn into the plan of planum 3. The situation, however, was not preserved well enough to be sure if indeed there was a doorway. **L [105a]**, thus in A/II-l/10, contained finds reg.nos 1255 and 1412 (see above, Fig. 3.15.f–g, 3.16.d).

The brick sizes of wall **[M11]** are 35–40 cm by 15–20 cm.³¹⁰ The thickness of the bricks could not be measured. The same general measurements are valid for **[M10]**.

Within **L [105b]** two very thin brick walls were built perpendicular to **[M10/M11]** (see Fig. 3.30), each half a brick's width wide (laid out as headers). These two walls may belong to a very short lived installation, and were not shown in the published plan.

No other evidence for the purpose of those two thin walls was discovered.

To the north of **L [105]** at a level of 4.86 m [4.26 m/NN published in the plan is a printing error]³¹¹ a fire place ('Feuerstelle') or brick built hearth was found. It seems to also cut into the continuation of wall or bench **[M15]** which continued from A/II-l/10 into A/II-l/11. Access to it was most probably afforded via **L [103]** from the north. Due to the massive denudation of this part of the settlement it remains unclear how access was gained to space **L [103]**, in turn. The fact that the eastern external wall **[M11]** continued to constitute space **L [103]** might be evidence in favour of suspecting a room rather than part of a courtyard.

M. BIETAK specifically noted for A/II-l/11, pl. 3 that the lack of settlement debris suggests a relative cleanliness on the part of the inhabitants of this dwelling as well as a planned abandonment of this house.³¹²

The east and south of the square

To the east of the remaining wall of Mortuary Temple I, dividing square A/II-l/11 diagonally roughly into two, no further features of Phase G/2-1 were discovered. Between the former Mortuary Temple I wall and the eastern external wall of Compound 11 **[M11]** a layer of sand brick rubble was detected, at a level of 4.85 m/NN, which was interpreted as a fallen wall.

In the north east corner of **L [107]** no finds were recorded. In the baulk between A/II-l/11 and A/II-m/11 a ringstand reg.no 1723 was discovered, but no level was recorded. It seems that the ringstand was drawn into the plan of the baulk (drawing no 185: A/II-m/11, pl.5) just west of a mud-brick wall assigned to Phase E/3. This would be just outside the northernmost external wall of the older Mortuary Temple I, Phase E/3. The plan drawing also does not give an elevation.

To the north east of wall **[M10/M11]** a group of four tombs cuts into the square A/II-l/11 and neighbouring A/II-l/12), destroying the underlying settlement even more, particularly in the north western corner. They can be dated to Phase F³¹³ and are thus omitted from Fig. 3.30.³¹⁴

³⁰⁷ M. BIETAK, TD V, 27.

³⁰⁸ These features have been largely removed from Fig. 3.30 to provide a clearer outline of the situation but see the original plan in M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 2.

³⁰⁹ M. BIETAK, TD V, 28.

³¹⁰ Measurements taken from the plan drawing scale 1:50.

³¹¹ It is thus possible that the fire place does not belong to G/3-1 but should be dated later. It is also unclear if those 4.86 m/NN are the base level of the fire place. Because no finds were recovered from it, a closer dating is impossible.

³¹² M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 1966, no date, A/II-l/11, p. 39.

³¹³ M. BIETAK, TD V, 41–50.

³¹⁴ Cf. M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 2.

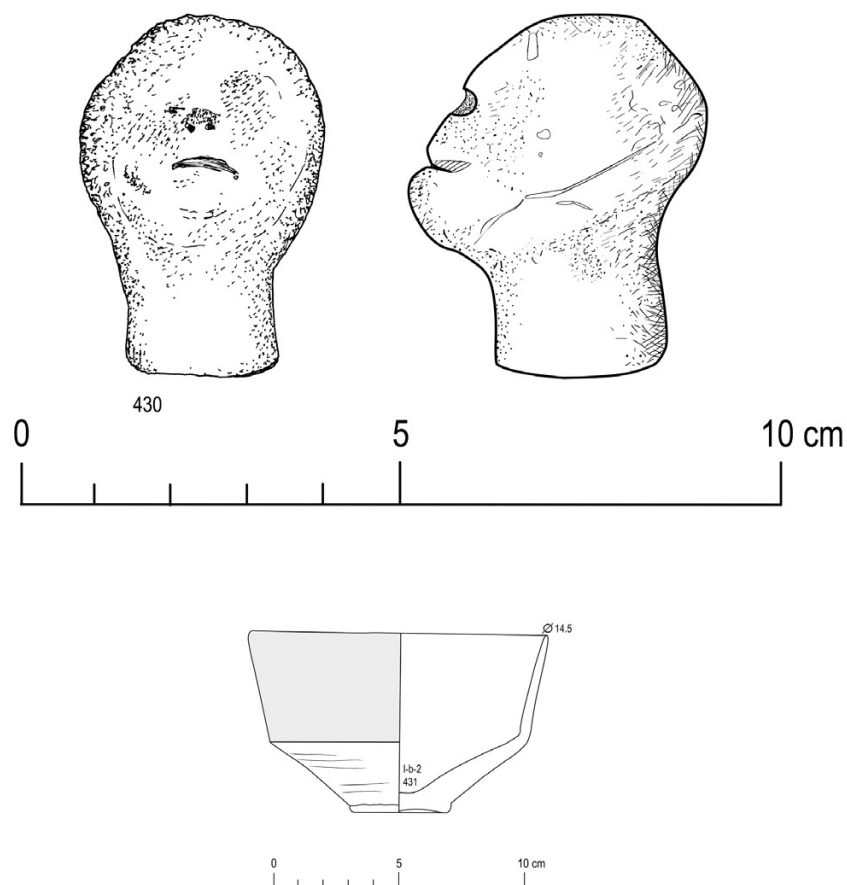


Fig. 3.32 Drawings of reg.no 430 and 431

The general ground level of the area east of the house, presumably an open area is between 4.59 m and 4.75 m/NN. No finds were made in this area belonging to **L [112]**, except a carinated bowl, reg.no 431, and perhaps a sculpture of a human head, reg.no 430 (see below).

Finds from square A/II-l/11, pl. 3–4

L [112] Open space east of building (Phases G/3 to F)

Pottery

Objects

Reg.no **430** (KhM, A 1796) Human (?) head modelled from clay (Fig. 3.32–3.33). Position: A/II-l/11, pl. 3–4. From north western quarter of the square, relative

phase b or d = absolute G. No elevation was recorded. The lowest elevation of pl. 3 in this position is 4.59 m/NN, whilst that of pl. 4 is roughly 4.00 m/NN. Thus, the object would have been deposited between Phases G/3 and F.

Records: ZN 43/66; redrawn and photographed

Measurements: height = 4.7 cm; width = 3.9 cm.

Material: The head was made from a very sandy fabric, equivalent to Nile E2. Thus, it is likely to be a local product due to the common feature that quartz inclusions are very frequent in the Delta from the sandy ‘turtle backs’, on which the settlement areas were placed. The head was planned as a small bust, in the sense that the neck was not broken off, but was flattened at the base of the neck intentionally (see Fig. 3.33. mid row). The lower jaw is very prominently modelled.

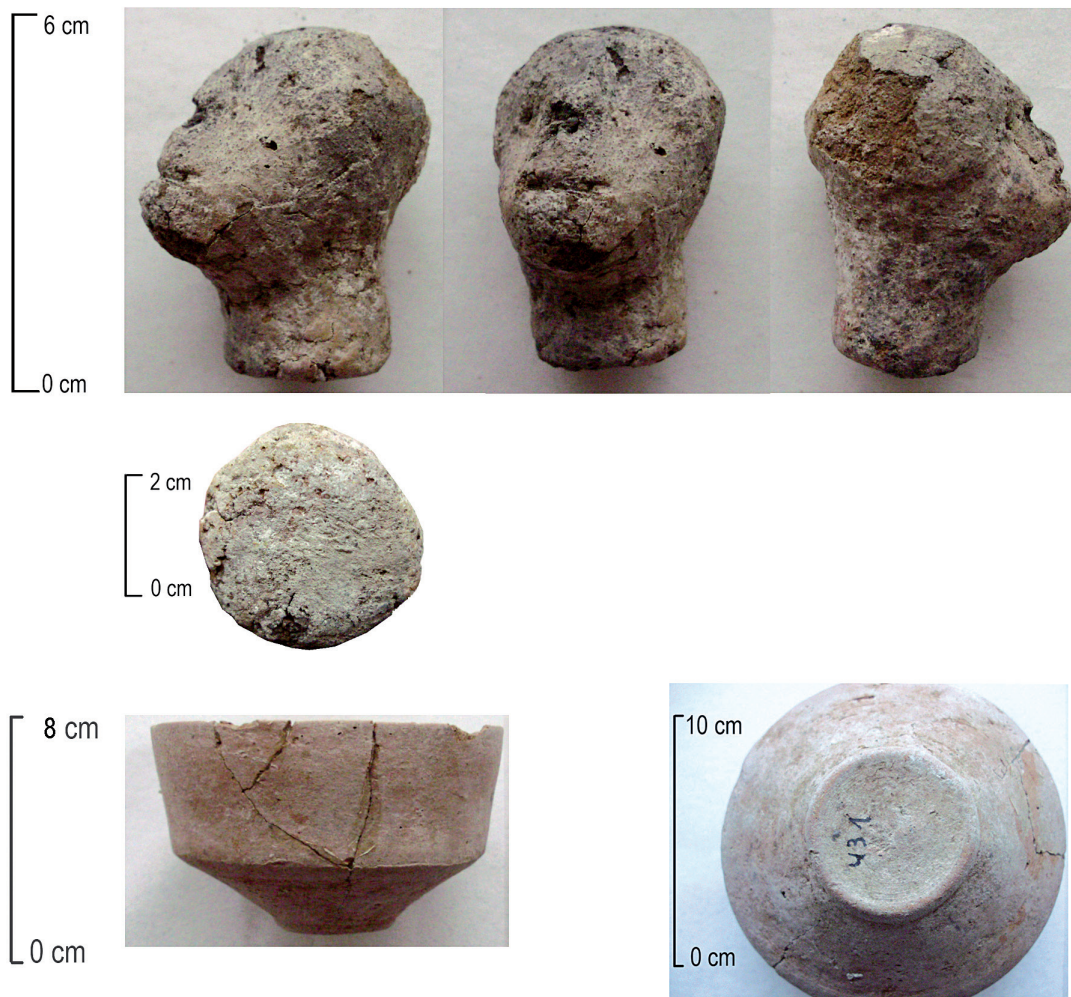


Fig. 3.33 Photos of reg.nos 430 and 431, photos by B. Bader, courtesy of KhM

Vessels

Reg.no **431** (KhM, A 2322), carinated cup (Fig. 3.32–3.33). Position: A/II-l/11, pl. 3–4, 4.0 m/N and 3.50 m/W. No elevation was given; thus the same reservations for the date of this object hold true as for that above (reg.no 431), in that it is not clear if the vessel really belongs to Phase G/2–1.

Records: drawing ZN 43/66, redrawn and rerecorded.

RF	I-b-2 ³¹⁵	f. – m.	W1	Bd. H	ox	2–3
----	----------------------	---------	----	-------	----	-----

Rd. = 11.4 (65 % preserved); bd. = 3.9–4.0 (100%

preserved); wd. = 0.3–0.7; H1 = 7.1 cm. Surface colour: red slip outside above carination 10 R 5/8 red; inside obscured by whitish layer. Section: 5 YR 5/4 reddish brown, uniform; the vessel is very well made, thin walled; the base was scraped first and then the ring base added as a pad and subsequently formed by finger modelling; the carination is very sharply executed, possibly with a wooden tool.

Animal bones

No animal bones from this area are mentioned in the publication of J. BOESSNECK.³¹⁶

³¹⁵ This is the most probable fabric identification, because no fresh break was available.

³¹⁶ TD III, passim.

SQUARE A/II-M/10

Excavation and available records

A/II-m/10 was excavated first in 1967 (planum 1–5³¹⁷), whilst planum 6³¹⁸ was explored in 1968. The original top elevation before setting out planum 1 was 6.60 to 5.93 m/NN. The original surface had been pitted severely by *sebakh* diggers and presumably led to the rising of the area from north to south. The original elevation of the tell represents a rising of the terrain from north (5.90 m/NN north west corner) to south (7.54 m/NN south west corner) and also from west to east (6.35 m/NN north east corner; 7.55 m/NN south east corner), thus the difference in level along the southern edge of the square and the northern edge is between 1.5 m and 1.3 m.

In November 1983 a small sounding took place, which concerns exclusively Phase E/3. The work had no bearing on the interpretation of the older phases.

Planum 6 seems to be the relevant plan drawing for Phase G/3–1. The lowest elevation reached in pl. 6 was at around 4.16 m/NN in the centre of the square, whilst it was 4.68 m/NN close to the eastern section.³¹⁹

Available documentation for this square consists of the digging diary, plan drawings planum 1–6, some detailed drawings (mostly tombs), the section drawings (north,³²⁰ south³²¹ and west³²²), B/W slides, colour slides, registered finds, register book, convolute cards and object drawings.

Description of architecture and archaeological features (A/II-m/10)

The building remains, visible in planum 6, belong to more than one building phase. Below planum 6 a number of archaeological features just appear in the plan drawing, that most probably belong to one of the phases below, namely some very thin walls of just half a brick's width, at least one silo, two ovens/hearths³²³ and several walls of half a brick's width to one brick's width (see chapter 5 and the Phase H–G/4 and G/4 plans Fig. 5.4–5.5). They were all built from heavily sand tempered bricks. The oldest feature seems to be

the silo, situated ca 4.5 m/N and 4.5 m/E [G/4-M16], which is probably equivalent to Phase G/4 because the preserved height of the top of the wall is at 4.16 m/NN.

The features immediately relevant to Compound 11 are walls [M8] and [M20], which form an alleyway and allow access to L [105] of Compound 11. The bricks of these walls measure 37–38 sometimes 40 cm by 19–20 with a thickness of 10–11 cm.³²⁴

This may have been a later development, because only a few centimetres below this alleyway several walls and the two ovens appear which are built over by wall [M8] and which would have blocked access to L [105]. A note in the digging diary further relates that besides the ovens there are also traces of collapse of a sand brick wall in this alleyway (cf. Fig. 3.35).³²⁵

The contemporary walking level of square A/II-m/10 in Phase G/2–1 of Compound 11 is at about 4.60 m/NN.³²⁶ The phase below was reached at a level of about 4.30 m/NN and there seem to have been ashy depositions in the northern half of the courtyard L [161], which belongs to Compound 14a (see below, 243). It is possible that these ashy deposits are derived from the ovens situated below the alleyway of L [155], which were spread at a later time, cf. Fig. 3.35, where the two round ovens are visible). There is no further evidence that there could have been more cooking/firing installations.

The northern part of the square in the western half was mostly destroyed by the tombs A/II-m/10-8 and A/II-m/10-9, dateable to Phase F.³²⁷ They also cut into a number of thin heavily sand tempered brick walls, which probably belong to Phase G/4 or H. The base level of these walls is not given in the plan drawing.

In the digging diary³²⁸ M. BIETAK also noted that Phase G/3–1 was built on top of an ash layer (as in the other squares l/10, l/11, k/11, and k/12), but was also covered by another ash layer which was not observed in the other squares. All walls were built from heavily sand tempered mud-bricks.

The archive photographs (Fig. 3.34–3.35) show that this area was probably used to dump ash from the two (older) ovens that are visible in the background on the photo on the right (Fig. 3.35). The pattern of the obliquely laid, or broken (rubble?), heavily sand

³¹⁷ TDplan nos 164, 165, 166, 167, 169.

³¹⁸ TDplan no 170.

³¹⁹ M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 2.

³²⁰ TDplan no 178.

³²¹ TDplan no 176.

³²² TDplan no 179.

³²³ This can clearly be seen because the foundation trench of wall [M8] e.g. cuts through the ovens, cf. TDplan no 170.

³²⁴ M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 21 May 1968, back of p. 7.

³²⁵ M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 21 May 1968, back of p. 7.

³²⁶ Cf. M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 2.

³²⁷ Cf. M. BIETAK, TD V, 61–73.

³²⁸ M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 21 May 1968.

tempered mud-bricks is visible in both. These features were interpreted by M. BIETAK as collapsed walls belonging to the phase below and levelled³²⁹ (cf. above), or this material could belong to a roofing construction such as a vault covering the northern part of L [155]³³⁰ (see above at L [105]).

Discussion of relevant parts of the sections (A/II-m/10³³¹)

The northern section of A/II-m/10 was excavated and recorded (A10, drawn in 1968) down to an elevation of 4.40 m/NN in most places. Only tomb A/II-m/10-8³³² was excavated down to 4.20 m/NN. Relevant for Phase G/3-1 are three walls with section no A10-47³³³ (running metres 5.00–7.50 from west) and one with section no A10-42 (in the eastern corner of A/II-m/10 extending into A/II-m/11. Section no A10-42 represents wall [M21] that appears in the baulk at an oblique angle and therefore seems wider than it is. Unfortunately most base levels of these walls are unclear, because they were not exposed. They were at or below 4.25 m/NN. M. BIETAK assigned to section no A10-42 [M21] the slightly later relative phase of (g/3-2) than wall section no A10-47 (relative phase g/4). The preserved top of the wall reached up to 4.90 m/NN. The two walls with section nos A10-47 a and b (running metres 5.00–6.00 from west) represent walls [M8] and [M19] of Compound 11 and it can be clearly seen that they were built separately but adjacent to each other. [M8] was built at a slightly higher elevation (4.35 m/NN) than the other two, which might suggest a slightly later date of its erection. It is also only one brick's width wide. The easternmost wall A10-47c is not easy to assign to a phase, although it is quite wide (~1.30 m one brick's width?). The preserved top of this wall is at 4.80 m/NN. Presumably this may be wall [G/3-M18], which runs into this baulk at roughly this spot, see Fig. 5.9. The baulk was not taken down, which might have clarified the relationships of these walls. The lowest point, down to which the walls section no A10-47 b and c were recorded is around 4.25 m/NN, which means that the real base lies below that.

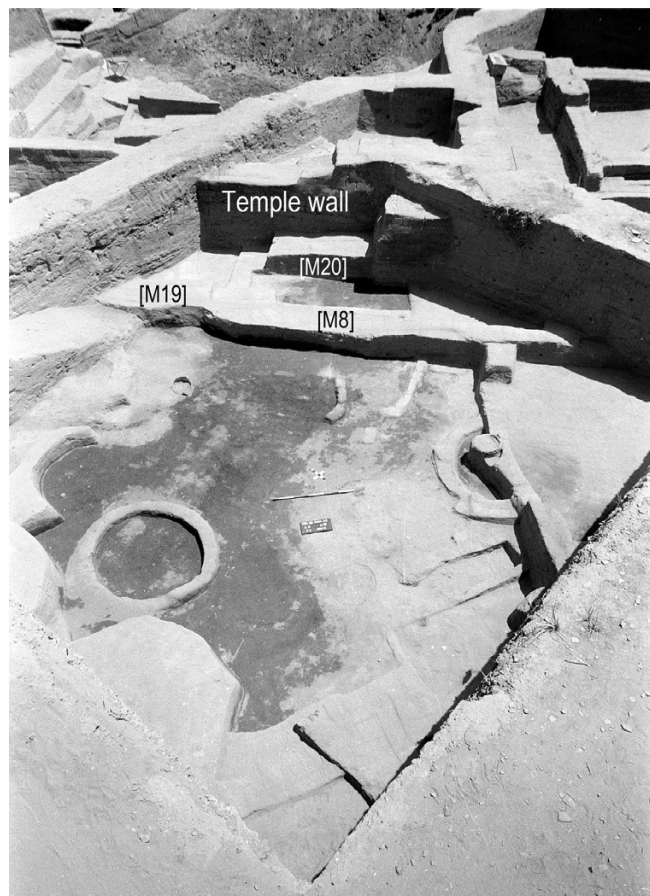


Fig. 3.34 A/II-m/10, pl. 6, 1968. View of square towards north-east, Silos of Compound 14a in foreground
B/W negative SW1076/4

Rubble from heavily sand tempered mud-bricks can be found in the northern section in some places as high as 4.80 m/NN as well as down to 4.20 m/NN. Section no A10-34 represents the pit, into which tomb A/II-m/10-8 was set, and is the only obvious relic of Phase F from running metre 1.7 to almost 5.0. It is noteworthy that none of the ash layers noticed in the other squares was found here, most probably because the excavation did not go down deep enough and the section was dominated by the tomb pit and quite wide walls. Also remarkable is the fact that the walls of the Mortuary Temple I Phase E/2-1 seems to sit almost

³²⁹ M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 21 May 1968.

³³⁰ M. BIETAK, TD V, 28.

³³¹ The sections were inked and were analysed by M. BIETAK. All sections except the eastern one were supplied with the final section nos. Only those sections are described here that have a bearing on Compound 11. The others are mentioned in chapter 8 with Compound 14.

³³² M. BIETAK, TD V, 61–70, plan 3.

³³³ They were consecutively assigned the letters *a* to *c* from west to east [provisional]: 47a = 47b = [M8]; 47c = [M19], see plan Fig. 3.1.



Fig. 3.35 A/II-m/10, pl. 6, SW1098/62 and 64 view towards the older ovens (north-west).
In the foreground the access alley towards the entrance to Compound 11

immediately on top of rather sturdy and thick walls of Phase G/3–1 at a base level of 5.30 m/NN. This happened because the foundation trench cut into the existing layers but it is possible that any other building remains were razed before building the temple.

The eastern section was either not recorded or the record is no longer available, thus the base levels of walls [M8] and [M20] in that area and their relation to each other remain unclear. No finds were reported from this square.

SQUARE A/II-M/11

Excavation and available records

Square A/II-m/11 was excavated in 1967 (planum 1–4³³⁴) and in 1968 (planum 5³³⁵ and 6³³⁶). The general elevation in planum 1 varies from 6.94 m/NN to 6.30 m/NN, whilst the top of the tell measured in this area rose from 7.53 to 7.97 m/NN on the southern

edge of the square (sloping from east to west). The elevation on the northern edge of the square is from 6.35 to 6.48 m/NN.

Walls built from heavily sand tempered mud-bricks started to appear in planum 5 (see Fig. 3.36), the tops of the walls are preserved up to a level of 5.13–5.10 m/NN [M20], 5.19–5.14 m/NN [M29], 5.06–5.19 m/NN [M30], and 4.79–4.81 m/NN [M9].

The base level of walls measured in the southern section were ca 4.50 [M30] to 4.65 m/NN [M20]. Unfortunately no base level measurements or sections of the internal walls [M29] and [M23] exist, thus it is not possible to be certain about the sequence of building and if the foundation (trench) of the internal walls were shallower than those of the exterior walls.

Planum 6 is most relevant for the settlement structures of Phase G/2–1 although in this planum drawing more building phases than just G/2–1 seem to be represented. However, only Phase G/2–1 is shown in the publication.³³⁷

³³⁴ TDplan nos 181, 182, 183, 184.

³³⁵ Part of the excavation of planum 5 was conducted in 1967, but the recording and overall description except for the tombs was done in 1968. TDplan no 185.

³³⁶ TDplan no 186.

³³⁷ M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 2.

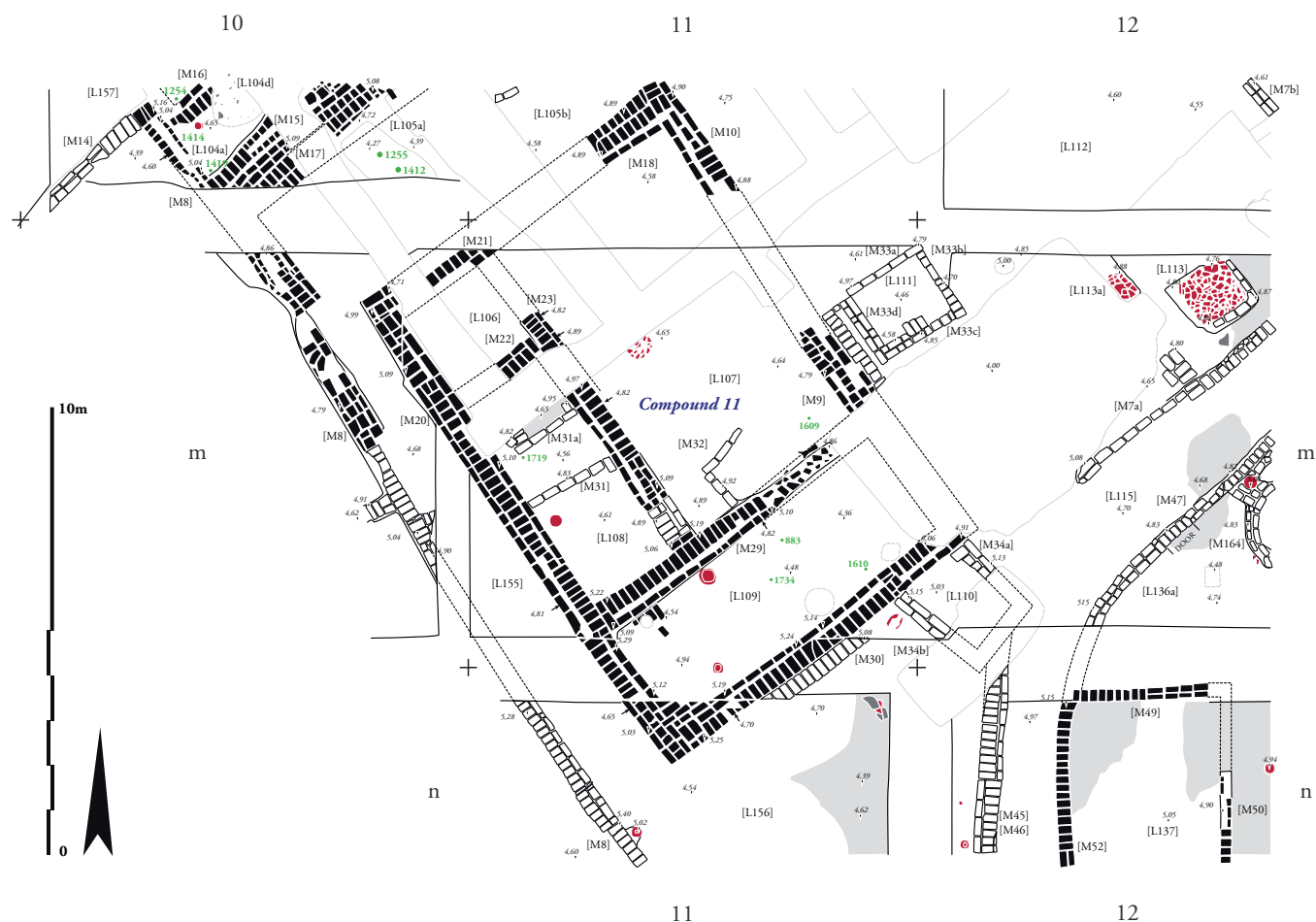


Fig. 3.36 Schematic plan of A/II-m/11 with finds, adapted from M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 2 and archival records, graphic execution N. Math

The archaeological documentation consists of the digging diary, plan drawings, section drawings³³⁸ and descriptions of layers, register book, and the photographic archive of the excavations and the finds. In addition there are find drawings and the objects.

Description of architecture and archaeological features (A/II-m/11)

Square A/II-m/11 contains the main part or core of the ground plan of Compound 11, namely loci [107], [108], and [109] (Fig. 3.36). The southern wall of Mortuary Temple I of Phase E/2-1 was left standing,³³⁹ thus obscuring the plan of the house and going right through

L [107].³⁴⁰ For this reason almost no finds were recorded from that locus. Also the baulk A/II-m-n/11 was not taken down to floor level, thus the south western part of the fill of room L [109] was left unexcavated.

The overall external dimensions of the house nucleus of L [106-109] are ca 12.0 m by 8.65 m (103.8 m²) equalling 24 by 16.5 cubits (396 square cubits). The area of the living space (without the walls) is ca 64.6 m² or 233.25 square cubits.³⁴¹

In some parts the walls of this building were preserved up to a height of 0.40 m with brick sizes of 37-39 by 18-20 cm. The walls were one and a half brick's width wide. The rooms were filled with brick rubble but not with household refuse, which was interpreted

³³⁸ The northern section was drawn in 1968 whilst the western, eastern and southern sections were drawn in 1967. Only the southern section exposes the levels down to 4.00 m/NN along the whole length of the section.

³³⁹ M. BIETAK, TD V, 27.

³⁴⁰ For the benefit of clarity this wall has been removed from the schematic plan Fig. 3.36.

³⁴¹ M. BIETAK, TD V, 26.

as cleanliness in house-keeping.³⁴² It also hints at a planned abandonment with a certain amount of levelling activities. When exactly this levelling took place either as preparation for further use or as a side effect of the next building phase remains unclear, because no dateable finds could be connected to this activity.

L [106] is a very small room, partly situated in squares A/II-m/10 and A/II-m/11. The internal dimensions of this room are ca 2.0 m by 2.20 m (4.4 m²) or 3.75 cubits by 4 cubits (15 square cubits). It is delimited by **[M20]**, **[M22]**, and **[M21]**. It has to remain unclear if wall **[M23]** also contained a door opening. Again the walls of Mortuary Temple I prevent knowing if a door could have been in wall **[M21]** as an alternative. In addition, the northern end of wall **[M23]** is so badly preserved that the continuation could not be found. No finds were recorded from this room.

L [108] is a rectangular room in the western part of Compound 11, delimited by **[M20]** the exterior wall of the compound, **[M29]** in the south and **[M23]** in the east. A small part of **[M22]** was also excavated. These walls were built from heavily sand tempered mud-bricks, mostly one and a half brick's width wide (the northern, southern and eastern walls, ca 0.6–0.7 m). Only the western exterior wall **[M20]** was of two brick's width, ca 0.75 m. The size of the sand tempered mud-bricks in this area is 35–45 cm in length, with most of the bricks being around 40 cm long and the width from 17–20 cm. The southern end of wall **[M23]** probably contained a doorway of ca 1.05 m width (= 2 cubits). The internal dimensions are 2.05 m by 5.2 m (3.75 by 10 cubits) allowing 10.66 m² as a living area (= 37.5 square cubits).

There are two features within room **L [108]**, which may belong to a slightly later or earlier phase of this building as they are not shown in the published plan of Phase G/2–1 and no base levels are available for them (Fig. 3.37). One rectangular installation of sand bricks **[M31a]** runs under the southern wall of the Mortuary Temple I and may have run against the northern internal wall **[M22]**. This feature was filled with ash and may, thus, have been a hearth.³⁴³ Interestingly, outside that feature there was not a lot of ash on

the floor. Another thin wall **[M31]** (half brick's width) runs perpendicular to **[M20]** and **[M23]** and thus divides **L [108]** into two exactly equal halves (2.5 m = 4.75 cubits). From the plan it does not look as if **[M31]** was cut by those walls and may therefore have been a slightly later modification.³⁴⁴ The base level of this wall could not be taken. If **[M31]** was a proper room dividing wall it would mean that the northern half of **L [108]** would have needed a separate entrance in the northern part of the room (somewhere in **[M23]**). In combination with the hearth installation it is possible that this wall was erected in order to protect the southern part of **L [108]** from heat and fire hazard. This would also mean that it is unlikely that **[M22]** would have been running against **[M20]**, because somewhere in this area a doorway was necessary in order to service the hearth. Unfortunately the south western corner of the Mortuary Temple I runs over this area, so that proof for this idea cannot be obtained.

It is also possible that the dividing wall **[M31]** existed first and was later removed in order to enlarge the room and the hearth was only built then.³⁴⁵

From the southern section the base levels for the walls **[M20]** and **[M30]** are between 4.56–4.61 m/NN.³⁴⁶ This fits the floor level for Phase G/2–1, which is given in this room with about 4.56–4.61 m/NN. In parts of the building the floor may have been undercut going down into the earlier phase of G/3. In this area the base of a pottery vessel is drawn into the plan close to the western outside wall. It was not possible to identify this find.

L [107] is situated south of **L [105]** (see Fig. 3.36), the vestibule of this suite of rooms or an open courtyard (see page 63 above), and probably accessible from there. Unfortunately the northern wall of room/courtyard **L [107]** is not preserved very well, and can only be reconstructed from the western **[M21]** and eastern **[M18]** corners. At least the western end of **[M18]** in A/II-l/11 looks almost straight as if a doorway might have been located there. The internal dimensions of the room are 8 by 15 cubits (= 4.2 by 7.8 m) yielding 120 square cubits living space (32.76 m²). All the walls defining this room/courtyard are one and

³⁴² M. BIETAK, *Digging Diary*, A/II-m/11, p. 35, 1967, no date.

³⁴³ M. BIETAK, *Digging Diary*, A/II-m/11, p. 35, 1967. „Rundherum auf dem Boden ein paar Scherben roter indifferenten Hauskeramik.“ They were not available for re-study.

³⁴⁴ The five heavily sand tempered mud bricks were laid as headers with the sixth one laid as a stretcher, as if it were there to use the available space to a special advantage. They are also complete

and uncut. It is unclear how many courses of this wall were preserved, thus, providing no information if this feature would have been a proper room dividing wall or a mere screen wall.

³⁴⁵ M. BIETAK, personal communication May 2017.

³⁴⁶ Unfortunately these are the only base levels available for this building, because the other sections did not reach deep enough.

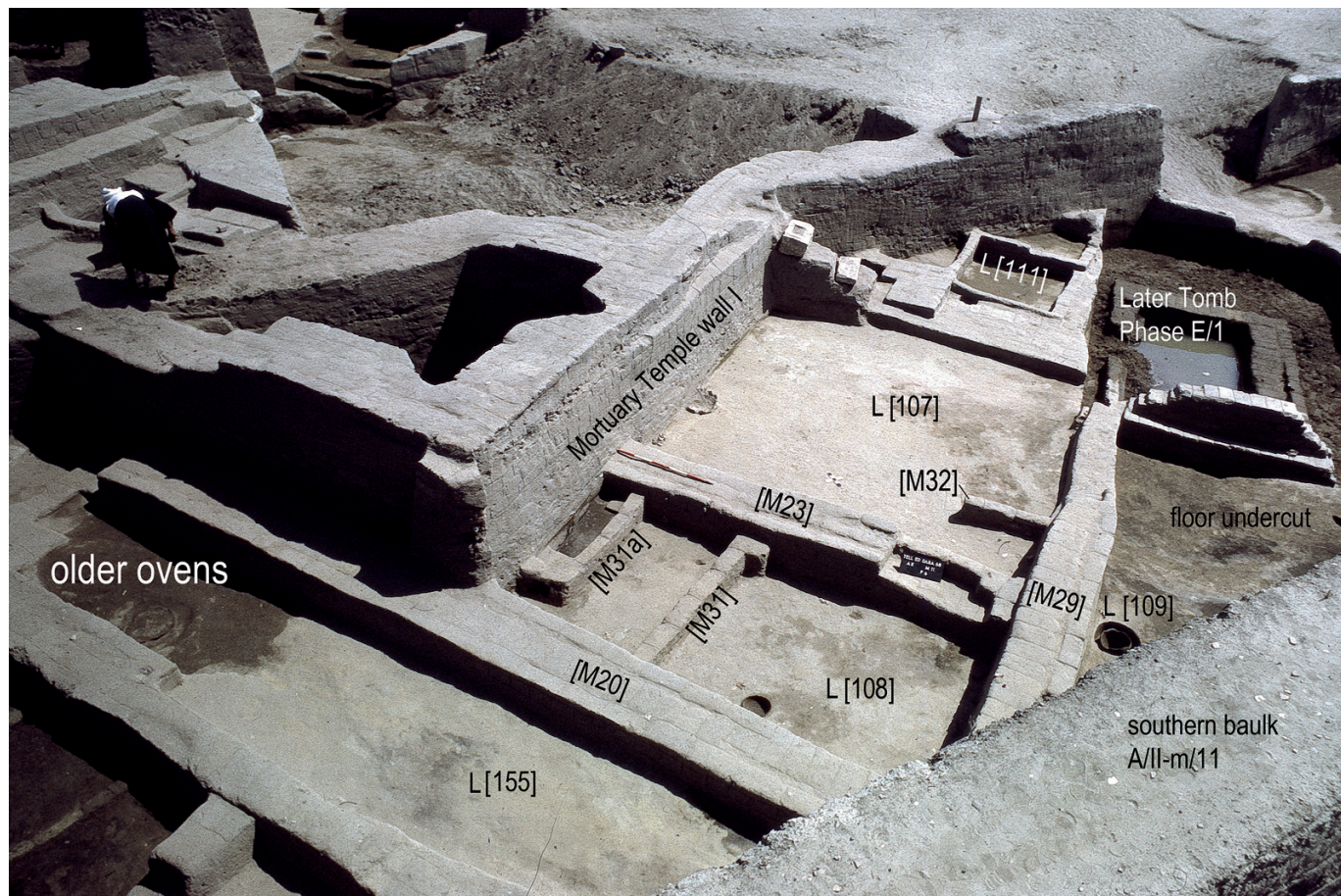


Fig. 3.37 A/II-m/10–11, pl. 6 after the removal of the western and eastern baulks (Cairo Archive)

a half brick's width (1 cubit). The preservation of the eastern outer wall of this suite of rooms [M9/10] is very bad as it was destroyed by a tomb of Phase E/2–1 (A/II-m/12-9³⁴⁷). Due to the presence of a hearth-like feature [M32], in this space, M. BIETAK suspected L [107] was a courtyard, the same as C. VON PILGRIM.³⁴⁸ The architectural lay-out of the ground plan with one wide room L [107] and one narrow room L [108] with the door opening in the far end of the dividing wall [M23] led BIETAK to the conclusion that this arrangement is reminiscent of the typical “snail-house” ground plan represented by the hieroglyphic sign Gardiner O4 “Winding Wall”.³⁴⁹ BIETAK also suspected

that the other rooms L [106, 108 and 109] were accessible from this room.³⁵⁰

The addition of the hearth [M32] to L [107] may have happened a little later (the base level of this wall was not taken to allow any hypothesis³⁵¹). A thin wall of stretchers [M32] was laid adjacent to [M29]. It runs towards the north and then bends at right angles after 1 m towards the east for another 1.25 m. This installation was later disturbed by a shallow depression.³⁵² It was interpreted as a hearth, although neither the original plan drawing nor the photographs show an extraordinary amount of ash accumulations in that area. Thus, if there was a hearth the ashes

³⁴⁷ M. BIETAK, TD V, 155–160.

³⁴⁸ C. VON PILGRIM, *Elephantine XVIII*, 200 and fig. 86.c.

³⁴⁹ F. ARNOLD, A Study of Egyptian Domestic Buildings, *Varia Aegyptiaca* 5 (1989), 90, in contrast saw a one room house with a court represented by that sign. Cf. a synthesis in B. BADER, *Simple House Architecture*, 129–130.

³⁵⁰ Cf. for description and interpretation M. BIETAK, TD V, 28; M.

BIETAK, Zum Raumprogramm ägyptischer Wohnhäuser des Mittleren und Neuen Reiches, in: M. BIETAK (ed.), *House and Palace in Ancient Egypt*, Vienna 1996, 24–25.

³⁵¹ It seems as if only one brick course was preserved and only in the west of the installation.

³⁵² This was removed from the plan (Fig. 3.36) for clarity.

had been taken and dumped elsewhere.³⁵³ No mention was made if the bricks of [M32] showed any traces of burning, which would have allowed further conclusions.

Drawn into the plan of L [107] was a broken vessel 1.0 m distant from the western wall [M23] directly run over by the Mortuary Temple I wall of Phase E/2–1.³⁵⁴ It was not possible to identify this vessel. Most probably it was a storage vessel, perhaps of Marl C clay or an imported fabric. These types of closed vessels are by far the most frequent in this phase of the site.³⁵⁵ Thus, the same may hold true for the vessel in L [107].

L [109] is a rectangular room situated at the south of the compound, its internal dimensions are 2.4 by 7.1 m (= 4.5 cubits by 13.5 cubits) resulting in an area of 17.04 m² or 60.75 square cubits. Due to the fact that the continuation of wall [M20] to the south of L [108] is slightly thinner M. BIETAK thought that this room was probably added at a later stage in the history of the compound. The remains of the walls do not allow one to judge if there was a clear join or if the southern part of [M20] abutted the south western corner of room L [108]. Five brick courses were preserved, up to a height of ca 0.60 m.³⁵⁶ The base levels of [M20] and [M30] are ca 4.55–4.60 m/NN (= section no A36-56 in the southern section). This room is delimited by walls [M20], [M30] and [M29]. The continuation of the eastern external wall [M19] has been cut away by tomb A/II-m/12-9 belonging to Phase E/2 (see above, 115). Thus, it can only be reconstructed (see Fig. 3.36).³⁵⁷ While the relevant plan drawing (planum 6) shows a considerable ash accumulation in the eastern part of that room (section no A36-65 in the southern section of A/II-m/11), it seems from the southern section that most of this layer in the south belongs to the time span between the end of the building phase below (walls section nos A36-66 and A36-67 in southern section) and Phase G/2–1. Thus, it is likely that the ash visible in the east of L [109] also belongs to this layer, especially because the excavation went slightly deeper here. A very thick ash layer of about 40–50 cm is particularly noticeable to the east outside of room L [109]. This deposit of ash,

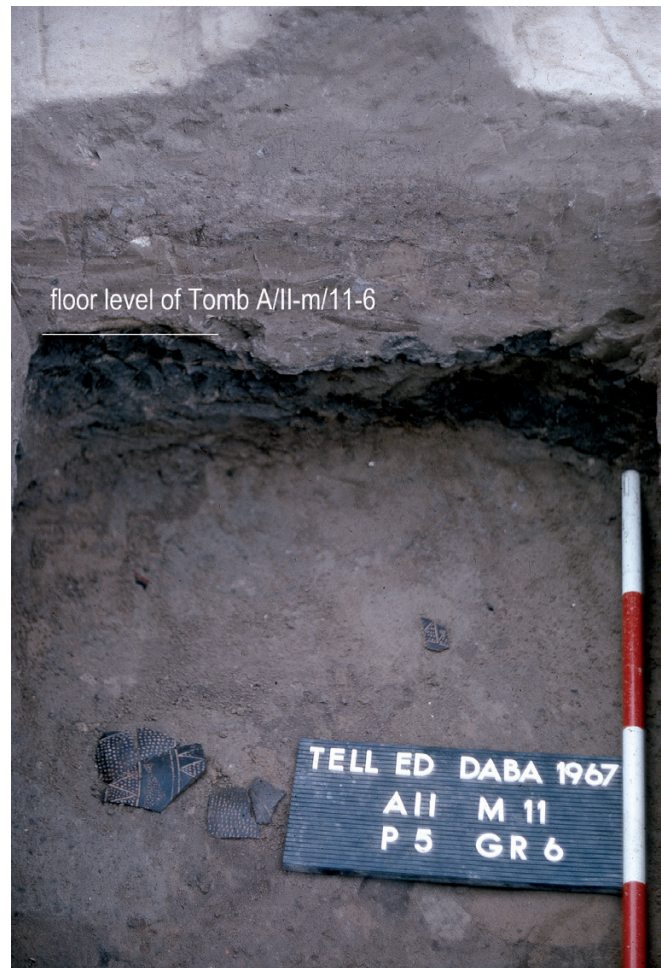


Fig. 3.38 Reg.no 833, fragments of large Tell el-Yahudieh jug, in find position close to the south-western wall (foot end) of tomb A/II-m/11-6, colour slide TD2428

although starting below the wall of Phase G/2–1 continues into this phase. Inside room L [109] one storage jar³⁵⁸ was found very close to wall [M29] 2.5 m east of [M20], while three more pits (“Gruben” A–C, Fig. 3.36) might also have held ceramic vessels. Two of the pits, A and C, were situated along the southern wall [M30], close to the eastern limit of space L [109], whilst the other, B, was close to the north western corner directly south of wall [M29] secured by a mud-brick feature. These pits contained an ashy-

³⁵³ A deep layer of ashes was found in the north eastern corner of A/II-n/11, see A36-65. The path to reach this area in L [156] would have been quite complicated unless a door was situated in the southern end of wall [M9]. Another possibility for dumping the ash is in the alleyway L [155].

³⁵⁴ The wall of Mortuary Temple I has also been removed from the schematic plan Fig. 3.36.

³⁵⁵ But if the vessel had been an amphora, presumably the handles would have been drawn into the plan, because the plans are usually very accurate. According to M. BIETAK, personal communication May 2017, this vessel fragment belonged to a Marl C storage jar.

³⁵⁶ M. BIETAK, TD V, 28.

³⁵⁷ M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 2.

³⁵⁸ The vessel could not be identified.



Fig. 3.39 Reg.no 883a–c, fragments of large Tell el-Yahudieh jug, below tomb A/II-m/11-6, colour slide TD2429

loamy fill.³⁵⁹ It remains therefore unclear if some sort of hearth was situated here, and it must also remain unclear whether these installations belonged to Phase G/2–1 or the earlier Phase G/3. Among the finds was a Nile C ringstand, probably intended for support for a storage vessel.³⁶⁰ Thus, a storage function for this room can be proposed.

On or already below the floors of **L [107]**³⁶¹ and **[109]** several fragments of an unusually large brown burnished Tell el-Yahudieh jug reg.no 883 (Fig. 3.38–3.39) were found as well as in **L [111]** which joined sherds from other locations (see below, 124). The jug shows a band of incised fish in the lower part and the dots were incised by a single pointed tool, the rounded handle is three stranded (reg.no 1734, see below 105). The jug could not be reconstructed entirely since the rim and much of the shoulder are missing.³⁶² All together at four different locations sherds of this jug

were found (in planum 5 and 6) scattered over the south eastern part of the square. Some of these sherds were found on the approx. floor level, while the largest amount may have belonged to the layer below the floor of building of G/2–1, because that floor was undercut in the eastern part of room **L [109]**.³⁶³ Thus the jug may have been used in the previous building that is thought to have existed roughly along the same outline by the southern section.

To the east of **L [107]** the square annex **L [111]** is situated, which was built as a separate unit against wall **[M9]** from the exterior with a separate back wall. The structure looks very similar to **L [110]**, also built against the southern wall **[M30]** but utilizing it. The two structures differ in that **L [111]** consists of walls **[M33a–d]** laid out as stretchers, resulting in a very thin wall (half brick's width). The walls **[M34a, b]** of the southern structure are laid as stretchers but in

³⁵⁹ According to the section drawings on TDplan 186. No other description was available.

³⁶⁰ M. BIETAK, TD V, 28.

³⁶¹ These fragments were found below tomb A/II-m/11-6 of Phase E/2–1, cf. M. BIETAK, TD V, 155–160. The 'floor' on which the dead body of the tomb owner was laid out is at about 4.77–

4.79 m/NN. The floor level would be approx. 4.64 m/NN according to planum 5.

³⁶² M. BIETAK, TD V, 28–29.

³⁶³ The exact elevation of the find was not given. The elevation of the area in which it was found is 4.36 m/NN which is lower than the base levels of the walls.

a double row, resulting in a wall of a brick's width. Tomb A/II-m/12-10³⁶⁴ cut away the southern part of this feature so that it remains unclear whether it had a square or rectangular shape. Unfortunately none of the base levels of these walls could be measured, because in the eastern section the exposure was not deep enough. **L [110]** seems to have been used as a tomb (A/II-m/12-11) for a child at a later point in time³⁶⁵ while **L [111]** may have been a square silo. This hypothesis is reinforced by the presence of a step like feature on the interior of the southern wall **[M33c]**. The internal size of the structure is approximately 1.5 m by 1.7 m resulting in 2.55 m² (2.9 cubits by 3.3 cubits, 9.57 square cubits).³⁶⁶ It is also possible that more square features might have been situated south of **L [111]**, but this space was destroyed by tomb A/II-m/12-9.

Only a short part of the alleyway **L [155]** runs through A/II-m/11 on the western side of the building, coming from the courtyard **L [156]** south of Compound 11 and continuing into A/II-m/10 (see above 110). In this area the top of a red burnished juglet was found reg.no 924 (see Fig. 3.37 and below 128). It seems as if this space only became an alleyway in Phase G/2-1, because before at the end of it two older ovens were unearthed (see Fig. 3.35 right, and 165).

At that stage it is unclear how access was gained to the predecessor of Compound 11 or of course if it existed in that form. It is possible that the southern part of **[M11]** (see Fig. 3.1) did not exist and access could be gained from the east or that there was an opening close to its southern end. The older phases were not exposed.

Discussion of relevant parts of the sections (A/II-m/11³⁶⁷)

The northern section (A11, drawn in 1968) was excavated down to a depth of ca 4.50 m/NN although in some places the exposure went down to an elevation of 4.20 m/NN. In the westernmost corner of this section the wall **[M21]** is just visible in this square (section no A11-42). About five courses of brick work are preserved but the base level of the wall was not reached, it must have been below 4.20 m/NN. From running

metre 1.70 to 6.30 (from west to east) the Mortuary Temple I of Phase E/2-1³⁶⁸ obscures the section because it was not taken down.³⁶⁹ At running metre 7.40 from west the preserved top of a wall (at 4.85 m/NN) assigned to Phase G is visible and was preserved two courses high (section no A11-42a). The base level was not reached, but it must be below 4.60 m/NN. This wall is probably **[M9]**, which is only preserved in the section in this area. The next wall assigned to Phase G/2-1 appears just before running metre 10.0 from west (no 42b) and it is very thin and only two brick courses were preserved. Again the base level was not reached but must lie below 4.60 m/NN. It belongs to the square 'silo' wall **[M33a/b]**. The layers with the section nos A11-40 to A11-47 belong to Phase G/3-1 and represent roof collapse, brick rubble and walking horizons.³⁷⁰ The levels below remained unexplored.

The western section (A55, drawn in 1967) was excavated to an elevation of 5.00 m/NN in the southern half of the square and only to 5.20 to 5.40 m/NN in the northern half of the square. Again the northern half of the section is dominated by the Mortuary Temple I of Phase E/2-1 (south western corner equals section no A55-38 in the section plan). Only in the southern part of the section structures and layers relevant for Phase G/2-1 are recorded, namely wall **[M20]** (= section no A55-70) ca running metres 3.00 to 4.80 from south. The preserved top of the wall is at 5.10 m/NN and at least three brick courses are preserved but the base level remains unknown (below 4.80 m/NN). A series of layers runs against the southern face of the wall **[M20]** (= section no A55-70) and they represent the walking horizons on the street/alleyway **L [155]** up to Phase E/3 (section nos A55-69, A55-64). It is interesting that Phase F does not seem to be represented here. Perhaps this part was unused during this period as indicated by the published plan.³⁷¹

The eastern section (A79, drawn in 1967) was excavated to just below 5.00 m/NN in most of its length and represents the elevation of planum 5-6. Because this section is dominated and destroyed by tomb A/II-m/12-9, Phase G/2-1 is hardly represented at all in this plan drawing. The wall section no A79-55 represents **[M30]**, on top of which another one had been

³⁶⁴ M. BIETAK, TD V, 161-165.

³⁶⁵ M. BIETAK, TD V, 130-131, Phase (E/3-)E/2.

³⁶⁶ The measurements of the outside dimensions fit better with cubits: ca 4 by 3.5.

³⁶⁷ All sections have been inked and were analysed by M. BIETAK. They are also all supplied with their final section nos.

³⁶⁸ It was decided to leave that temple standing. Cf. M. BIETAK, TD V, 27.

³⁶⁹ M. BIETAK, TD V, 27.

³⁷⁰ Note that the section nos were distributed for the combined section m/10-12.

³⁷¹ M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 3.

built later, is the only one relevant here. It is very well possible that it was also built on top of an older one, but the exposure of the section does not reach deep enough to be certain, but it would be entirely in character.

The southern section (A36, drawn in 1967) (Fig. 3.40) was exposed down to an elevation of 4.00 m/NN and, thus, gives the best evidence for Phase G/2–1 and those below. It seems unlikely that the ash layer observed further north in the area in almost all sections at a level of about 4.00 m/NN and even below can be the same as that seen here (section no A36-65) at a height of about 4.50 m/NN, although it is perhaps possible that the unevenness of the tell caused it to be higher in the southern region than further to the north. In general, however, the elevations of the north western part are higher than the south eastern ones. Nevertheless there is no real proof that these levels are the same. If this were so then walls section nos A36-66 and A36-67 would have to be considered as a part of Phase H, which appears too high (cf. a base level of ca 3.80–3.90 m/NN in the northern part A/II-k/11–12).³⁷² It is much more likely that these are the ash deposits visible in the courtyard to the south of Compound 11, in **L [156]**, cf. Fig. 4.17, and chapter 4. Walls belonging to Phase G/2–1 are section nos A36-56a/b and A36-59. The two walls with no A36-56a and b represent wall **[M30]** at running metres ca 1.80 to 2.50 from east and **[M20]** at running metres ca 6.90 to 7.50 from east with a base level of 4.50 m/NN and 4.65 m/NN, respectively. About four to five brick courses were preserved. The interior of the room is represented by a sequence of finely laminated floor levels with several layers of rubble and fill on top of it. Below those features an ash layer of considerable thickness is visible (section no A36-65 = **L [156]**), thus this part of the house **L [109]** is later than that layer. It is noteworthy that wall **[M30]** cuts into this level and outside to the east a massive ash layer of 0.3 m thickness was recorded. This ash layer continues to the east

in A/II-m/12 in the same thickness, but is destroyed by a tomb and continues as a thinner layer there (see A/II-m/12, section no A36-38) running lower. It may be refuse from a hearth although no obvious location for such an installation was found. Industrial activity is also possible.³⁷³ It is slightly unclear if the whole of the deep ash layer is derived from the digging of a foundation trench and heaping it up outside or if some ash accumulation also happened during the ‘life-time’ of the building. This may have happened in **L [156]** just south of Compound 11, which seems to have been an open space with ash accumulations (see Fig. 3.36).³⁷⁴ The interior of room **L [109]** shows at least two use phases. The heavily sand tempered mud-brick rubble (section no A36-57) suggests a first levelling phase perhaps of the lowermost two courses of sand tempered mud-bricks between the walls **[M30]** and **[M20]**. After that a new floor divides section no A36-57 from A36-55, which represents another sub-phase, that in turn is covered by sand tempered mud-brick rubble section no A36-54. It is interesting to note that even on top of that wall a continuation of the “wall tradition” is represented by the Phase E/3 walls no A36-47, almost in the same place as the earlier structure. Much the same can be said for the older wall section no A36-66a below wall **[M20]**. Below wall **[M30]** in the east of the section a rubble layer of destroyed sand tempered mud-bricks suggest the presence of an older wall as well (section no A36-67). These walls may belong to the hypothetical building formed of walls **[G/3-M33]**, **[G/3-M35]** and **[G/3-M35]** which may fit the position of the walls. The position of the older building **[H-G/4-M6]** and **[H-G/4-M7]** fits less well, cf. Fig. 9.1 and 9.6. In the western corner of this section another wall (no A36-59) belonging to Phase G/2–1 wall **[M8]** is visible with a similar base level of about 4.65 m/NN. This suggests a similar date of erection. Below this wall was another, thinner one (section no A36-66b), which may be its predecessor.

³⁷² Ultimate certainty cannot be gained at the moment.

³⁷³ Perhaps from the ovens in A/II-l/10 and A/II-l/11.

³⁷⁴ The plan drawing of A/II-n/11, pl. 4 also shows a considerable ash layer in this locus. See Compound 14.

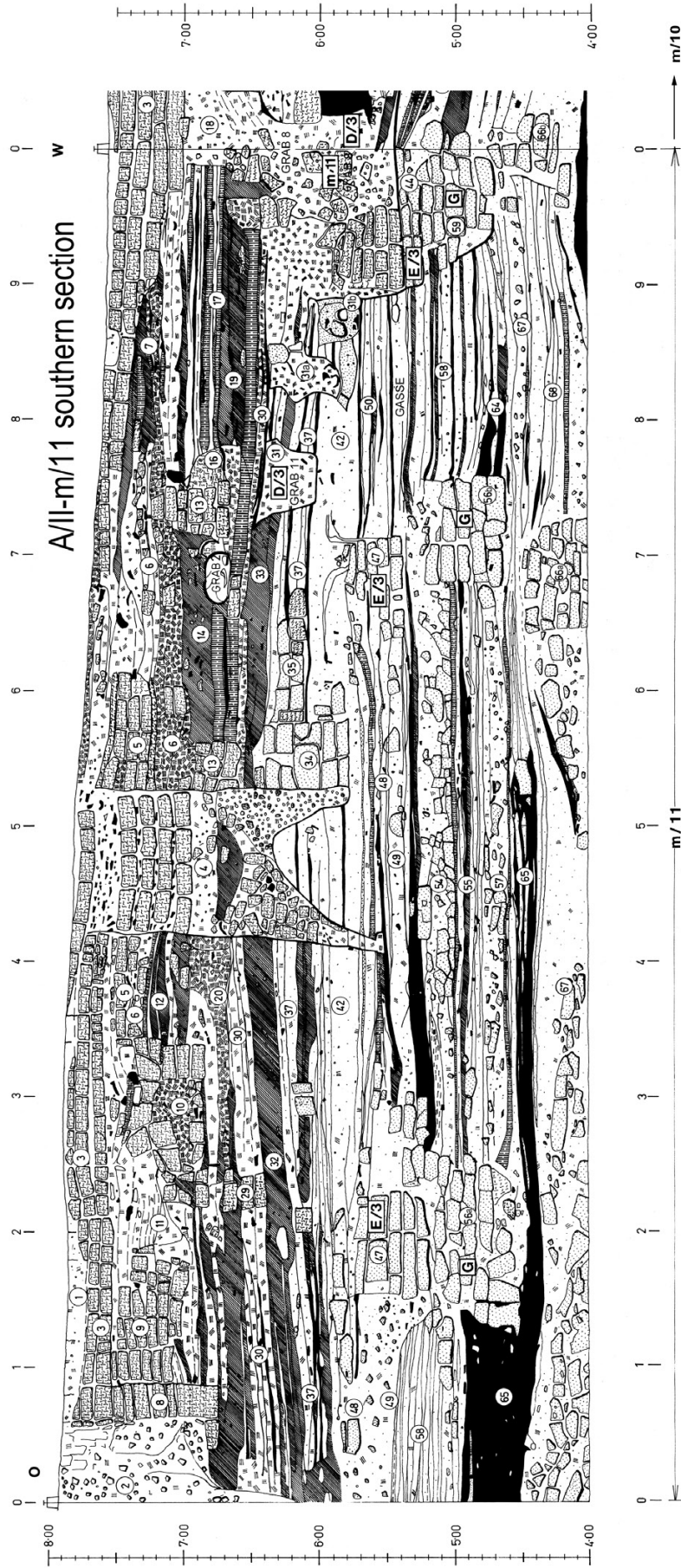


Fig. 3.40 Southern section of A/II-m/11 (A36), drawn by H. Singer (†). © M. Bietak

Excursus Section analysis of A/II-m/11 south³⁷⁵

- 1) Loose surface rubble, silty dust.
- 2) Modern robber's shaft leading to Tomb A/II-m/12 no 10, filled with loose silty earth, mud-brick rubble and pottery fragments.
- 3) Wall built from crumbly dark mud-bricks, homogeneously grey of bad quality. Stratum B, probably B/1. Most probably foundation of wall.
- 4) Pit which is in horizontal section circular, filled with loose earth and mud-brick rubble. In the top fill there were four layers of crumbly dark grey mud-bricks. Below that was an ash deposit, Stratum A or B.
- 5) Bonded mud-brick structure, NNW-SSE and perpendicular to this, sits on top of rubble of Phase D/2, therefore it probably belongs to Phase D/1.
- 6) Mud-brick rubble of Phase D/2, partly overlaid by no 7.
- 7) Ashy layers
- 8) South west wall of Building complex I built of mud-bricks, Phase D/2, partly destroyed by robber's pit 2. The horizontal joints of the lowermost three brick courses are not distinguishable.
- 9) Homogenous loamy mud-brick wall, Phase D/2, which was built in later between Complex I and III/A. It closed off the narrow alleyway between those two building units.
- 10) Tomb A/II-m/11-no 2, Phase D/2.
- 11) Finely laminated walking 'floors' of silty mud, Phase D/2.
- 12) Settlement layers: silty earth and ash depositions, later Phase D/2. This area was initially an alleyway and was used later as settlement by built in huts, cf. wall no 9.
- 13) Mud-brick walls of Building complex III/A, early Phase D/2 or D/3-2. This building was probably older than Complex I.
- 14) Ash deposits with pottery fragments, in this layer the pot burial A/II-m/11 no 2 was buried, Phase D/2.
- 15) Position of painted dish, reg.no 1974, burial gift for A/II-m/11-no 2, cf. 14.
- 16) Mud-brick rubble, heavily weathered, partly fill of voids along the foundation trench.
- 17) Settlement layers: alternating ash loamy 'floors', silty earth and walking 'floors'. The western end of this pack of levels was disconnected from the other side, none the least because of the loose fill of tomb A/I-m/11-no 8 and because of the vertical 'draught' of robber's pit no 18. It remains unclear from which exact elevation the settlement layers should be assigned to Phase D/2, except everything above no 16).
- 18) Tomb robber's pit in tomb A/II-m/18-no 8 filled with loose silty earth, mixed with mud-brick rubble and ash.
- 19) Deep ash accumulation.
- 20) Levelling layer consisting of compacted silty earth with mud-brick rubble; derived from Phase D3, prepared for the structures of Phase D/2.
- 21) [only in A/II-m/10] Pit in ash accumulation. The limits of the pit cannot be determined exactly. This pit was probably intended for a storage vessel (cf. the sherds found within), Phase D/2. It is possible that this pit belongs with the pit of tomb A/II-n/10-no 1.
- 22) [only in A/II-m/10] North east corner of mud-brick chamber of tomb A/II-n/10 –no 1, late Phase D/2.
- 23) [only in A/II-m/10] Pit of tomb A/II-n/10-no 1, cut obliquely by the section. Thus, the limitations of this pit are very irregular. Filled with loose silty earth, pottery fragments and mud-brick rubble. The eastern limit of this pit remains unclear, but is probably situated just east of wall no 22). Between the edge of the wall and the limit of the pit mud-brick rubble was wedged in.
- 24) [only in A/II-m/10] Mud-brick wall, Phase D/2. Foundation trench was cut from west; east of the wall settlement layers were deposited: trampled 'floors' consisting of silt and ash.
- 25) [only in A/II-m/10] Pithos: storage jar or pit burial, Phase D/2.
- 26) [only in A/II-m/10] Settlement refuse of Phase D/2, pottery fragments, ash loose silty earth.
- 27) [only in A/II-m/10] Settlement layers: alternating walking 'floors', silty earth, ash depositions alternating; lowermost layers Phase D/3 uppermost transition to Phase D/2.
- 28) [only in A/II-m/10] Mud-brick rubble of Phase D/3.
- 29) [only in A/II-m/10] Three mud-brick walls of Phase D/3. In square A/II-m/10, running metres 3.40–6.70 from east a building was set into a foundation trench. This building was later very destroyed. The majority of settlement layers no 27) may have belonged to this building.
- 30) Walking 'floors', consisting of silty dust and ash depositions, Phase D/3.
- 31) Tombs of Phase D/3: A/II-m/11-no 8 and no 11. Tomb no 8 consists of a mud-brick chamber with a vault [partly in A/II-m/10], which was destroyed by robbing (by pit no 18). East of Tomb A/II-m/11-no 8 two pits filled with sand and pottery depositions were found [31a, 31b]. These belong to tomb 8, because one of the two pits was hollowed out from the tomb pit.

³⁷⁵ Translated from the analysis by M. BIETAK, unpublished. The detailed assignments to earlier phases such as H, G/4 and G/3-1 and remarks in [] are by the author. Please note, that the analysis

of this section was conducted together with the southern section of A/II-m/10. Thus some of the numbers only occur in A/II-m/10. Cf. the respective plans in M. BIETAK, TD V.

- 32) Compacted silt layers with some ash in between.
- 33) Ash accumulations, base horizon of Phase D/3.
- 34) Sand tempered mud-brick wall of Phase E. According to its orientation, this wall was probably in use beginning with the use period of the Mortuary Temple I (Phase E/2) including Phase E/1. The differentiation between Phases E/2 and E/1 is hardly evident in this area.
- 35) Added to no 34), mud-brick and sand tempered mud-brick mixed, probably Phase E/1.
- 36) [only in A/II-m/10] Mud-brick wall, Phases D/3 or E/1.
- 37) Sandy floor alternating with ash depositions, Phase E/1. In square A/II-m/11, running metres 7.00 to 9.00 from east lime whitewash was observed. In this area an alleyway was situated, which led towards the south into the cemetery area.
- 38) [only in A/II-m/10] Sand tempered mud-brick rubble, levelled in the interior of the building (walls no 39).
- 39) [only in A/II-m/10] Sand tempered mud-brick walls of a building laid out during Phase E/3. It was in use until at least Phase E/2, if not Phase E/1. The building (running metres 9.00 to 10.00 in A/II-m/11 and 0.0 to 4.40 in A/II-m/10) was set into a foundation pit as a whole. This foundation pit cuts through an ash pack. The eastern wall in A/II-m/11 is completely destroyed by tomb A/II-m/11-no 8 (cf. no 44).
- 40) [only in A/II-m/10] Tightly laminated walking 'floors', alternating sand and ash, Phases E/3–2.
- 41) [only in A/II-m/10] Sandy accumulations and wind-blown sand against wall no 39) above wall no 43).
- 42) Sandy accumulations, partly aeolean and re-deposited; in square A/II-m/11, running metres 2.0 to 5.0 from east above it walking 'floors' were situated. Most of these layers belong to Phase E/2. In square A/II-m/11, running metres 1.0–1.80, at elevation of 5.70–5.90 m/NN there are remains of thin sand tempered mud-brick hurdle walls of Phase E/2.
- 43) [only in A/II-m/10] Sand tempered mud-brick wall built close to house no 39). Sandy layers overlay the preserved tops (no 41) and abut wall no 39) as well. Thus, this wall was only in use in Phase E/3. On the other hand it cuts into the excavated ash of the foundation trench of wall no 39, and was therefore only built after wall no 39); west of it flattened mud-brick rubble.
- 44) Sand tempered mud-brick wall cut by tomb A/II-m/11-no 8; this wall belongs either to building no 39) (Phase E/3) or wall 39) is later than no 44) because the lowermost walking 'floors' (no 46) do not start at the base of the wall (as in no 39) but seem to draw further up. For this reason it is possible that no 44 may belong to Phase F (cf. no 52). The opposite section (A/II-n/11 north, no 51) makes clear that there is a wall in continuation of the present one (no 44), which can be assigned to Phase E/3 unequivocally.
- 45) [only in A/II-m/10] Trampled silt 'floors' with ash depositions in between, Phases E/3 and E/2.
- 46) [only in A/II-m/10] Base elevation of building no 39). Base of foundation trench of Phase E/3. Flattened silt and sand layers, with one layer of mud-brick rubble above (building rubble). Due to a pit below the building processes of subsidence are visible.
- 47) Sand tempered mud-brick of a building of Phase E/3; they were set into a foundation pit as a whole. The erection of the building may have happened a little later than that of building no 39).
- 48) 'Floors', Phase E/3, consisting of earth mixed with sand, clean sand layers, fine ash layers with a silt layer on top (this could be derived from roof collapse). Above these layers a few horizons derived from laying fallow.
- 49) Sand tempered mud-brick demolition waste or sand tempered mud-brick rubble of building no 47), Phase E/3.
- 50) Tightly layered walking 'floors': sandy alternating with ash and red and white whitewash layers, Phase E/3.
- 51) [only in A/II-m/10] Ash accumulations between Phases F and D/3; between them fine sand layers, which belong perhaps to Phase E/3. A larger amount of ash had been accumulated between the walls no 39) and 43) by the excavation of the foundation pit for building no 39). Further to the west the excavated material might have completely covered wall no 52) of Phase F.
- 52) [only in A/II-m/10] Sand tempered mud-brick wall, Phase F. Only the wall on the western edge of the south section of A/II-m/10 can be unequivocally assigned to Phase F because here is a direct connection to two tombs of Phase F (A/II-m/10-no 8 and 9). The remains of a wall in A/II-m/10, running metres 4.00–4.60 from east, belongs also to Phase F.
- 53) [only in A/II-m/10] Pit filled with sand tempered mud-brick rubble, sandy earth and limestone fragments, Phase F L [212].
- 54) Levelled sand tempered mud-brick rubble of buildings of Phase G[2–1], which sits partly on a loamy layer, which in turn may represent a roof collapse (m/10, running metres 0.0–5.0; m/11 running metres 2.0–7.0).
- 55) Tightly layered walking 'floors', sandy with intermittent ash accumulations in the interior of the building no 56), Phase G[2–1].
- 56) Sand tempered mud-brick walls of a building of Phase G[2–1] A/II-m/11, running metres 1.25 to 2.60 (= [M30] and from 6.80 to 7.70 (= [M20]). The building was set into a foundation pit as a whole. Through this action the ash accumulation (no 65 = L [156]) was cut in this area and loosened up by the ancient excavation at the base of the foundation pit. The excavated material may have been deposited east of the building, resulting in a thicker ash layer there. The building is obviously older than the next wall west no 59).
- 57) Flattened building rubble at the base of the foundations, situated below was a thin loamy layer (perhaps a compacted floor) = L [109].

- 58) Tightly laminated walking ‘floors’, alternating fine ash accumulations and thin reddish and whitish white wash layers in the area of the alleyway. The layers from the elevation of 4.90 to 5.30 m/NN belong to Phase G in square A/II-m/11 (running metres 7.60 to 9.0 = **L [155]**) and above it to Phase F and E/3.
- 59) Sand tempered mud-brick walls [one in square A/II-m/11 (= **[M8]**) one in A/II-m/10 (= **[M26]**), Phase G[2–1]. The one in square A/II-m/11 represents the ENE wall of compound 11, whilst that in square A/II-m/10 belongs to Compound 14b (= **[M26]**). The walls no 59) were also set into a foundation trench, the base of which might have gone down to no 64) unless no 59) was built on top of a denuded wall of an older Phase [G/4 or G/3], against which no 64) runs.
- 60) [only in A/II-m/10] Ash accumulations mixed with humic earth and alternating with clean sand layers (Phase G[2–1]). They may be derived from the excavated material of the foundation pits/trenches of Phase G, which cut into the ash layer no 65). Above this feature sandy earth with walking ‘floors’ and a compacted (trampled) loamy layer is situated, which can be identified on both sides of pit no 53).
- 61) [only in A/II-m/10] Sand tempered mud-brick walls of a building with deep foundation trenches [or at a lower elevation of the natural ground], Phase G/2–1, Compound 14b, Building 2, walls **[M25]** and **[M27]**.
- 62) [only in A/II-m/10] Levelled and compacted sand tempered mud-brick rubble in the interior of Compound 14b, Building 2 [= **L [163]**] with loamy lumps and walking ‘floors’ with sandy accumulations, Phase G[2–1].
- 63) [only in A/II-m/10] NNE-edge of foundation pit for Compound 14b, Building 2 wall **[M27]**; The pit was excavated beginning at a level of ca 4.50 to 4.70 m/NN.
- 64) Secondary distribution (by aeolian activity[?]) of thin ash accumulations perhaps derived from the original deposition no 65) further east.
- 65) Ash accumulation (by fire), partly re-deposited by aeolian activity or cut and disturbed by the buildings of Phase G/2–1, particularly deep in the eastern part, running metres 0.0 to 1.2 m.
- 66) Two sand tempered mud-brick walls, 66a and 66b of Phases G/3 or G4–H. (These walls may belong to the hypothetical building formed of walls **[G/3-M33]**, **[G/3-M35]** and **[G/3-M35]** which may fit the position of the walls. The position of the older building **[H-G/4-M6]** and **[H-G/4-M7]** fits less well).
- 67) Sand tempered mud-brick rubble of Phases G/3 or G4–H. The rubble of the building in square A/II-m/11, running metres 0.0 to 7.0 happened obviously before the fire.

Finds from square A/II-m/11, pl. 5–6

L [107] Room (Fig. 3.41.a)

Pottery

Reg.no **1609**, body fragment of a Tell el-Yahudieh jug. Position: A/II-m/11, pl. 5, 2.20 m/E, 4.5 m/N, Phase G.

Records: drawing ZN 112/68.

BP	IV-2-c	f. – m.	W2	–	mi	3
----	--------	---------	----	---	----	---

Height = 5.0, width = 4.0;

Cf. reg.no 1734, this fragment joined the large jug 1734 (see below, 127), cf. also reg.no 883 (see below, 124). Brown burnished with an incised depiction of a fish and white filling of incisions.

Probably to Phase F belongs a ringstand in the upper fill of room **L [107]** with a wall of Phase E/3 running over that fill close by.

Reg.no **1723** (KhM, A 3167), ringstand base. Position A/II-l/11-m/11 baulk,³⁷⁶ 6.00 m/E, Phase F.

Records: BW negative SW1123/58, no drawing number; re-drawn and re-recorded.

RFTG	I-b-2	m	W1	Bd. gesp.	ox	2–3
------	-------	---	----	-----------	----	-----

Bd. = 10.0 (95% preserved), wd. = 0.5–0.8, max.d. = 11.4, H1 = 5.8 + x; reconstructed from sherds.

Surface colour: red slip 10 R 4/6–8 red; uncoated in: 2.5 YR 6/6–8 red. Section: red core with brown oxidation zones. The fabric is certainly not as sandy to warrant an assignment to the late Second Intermediate (‘Hyksos’) Period. The red slip is relatively dark compared to later pottery.

³⁷⁶ There is another ringstand drawn into planum 6 baulk m–n/11 at roughly 4.50 m/East at a level of 4.94 m/NN (TDplan no 186).

This would belong to the fill of room **L [109]**, and probably date to Phase F.

L [108] Room (Fig. 3.41.b)

Pottery

Reg.no **1719** (KhM, A 1745), lid – reused base of ‘chalice’³⁷⁷. Position: A/II-m/11, pl. 6, Phase G, from narrow room.

Records: drawing Z 28E; re-drawn and re-recorded

RF	I-b-2	m	W1	Bd. W1	n.r.	n.r.
----	-------	---	----	--------	------	------

Bd. = 3.5 (25% preserved), max.d. = 5.0, H1 = 1.4 +x; Surface colour: red slip 10 R 6/3 pale red, natural surface: 5 YR 6/6 reddish yellow; section: red core with yellowish brown oxidation zones; the fabric contains abundant amounts of quartz.

L [109] Room (Fig. 3.41.c–e)

Pottery

Reg.no **883** (Cairo Museum, JE 91172),³⁷⁸ three body fragments of a large brown burnished and white incrustrated Tell-el-Yahudieh jug. Position: A/II-m/11, below tomb 6, burial 2, (cf. Fig. 3.38–3.39, 3.41.c–d) distributed in an area of ca 2.20 m/E and 3.50 m/S).

Records: Colour slides nos TD2429, TD2428; B/W negatives SW1051/21–23, SW2784/3; drawing ZN 29B/1967.

BP	IV	f. – m.	W2	–	mi	3
----	----	---------	----	---	----	---

Sherd with fish: height = 13.7, width = 7.7; sherd with dots: height = 11.8, width = 13.3

The pattern of the sherd with the fish shows the remains of a row of hanging triangles (three are partly preserved) limited by a horizontal line, beneath which another horizontal line was made. The pre-firing incised lines were filled with a white substance that

remained intact in large parts. Beneath his line one fish is preserved almost completely, while the head of another just follows the tail of the first fish. The body is filled with dots, the fins are shown as two strokes each on the back and the belly of the fish. Below the row of fish swimming to the right is a decorative band of hanging and standing triangles also filled with dots and limited by a single line. The dots are made by means of a single pointed tool and not by a comb, which is a dating criterion for such pottery. It means it belongs to the early range of such pottery.³⁷⁹

The decoration of the sherd with the dots consists of a horizontal band limited by two lines and a vertical band of which one incised line is preserved. This presumable panel (cf. reg.no 1734) is again filled with singly incised dots in quite uneven and irregular rows. Below the horizontal band the beginning of a hanging row of triangles is just recognisable. It is very likely that these two sherds belong to reg.no 1734 (see below 127). The photograph shows that the incised lines have irregular outlines probably due to the white incrustation, while the little holes, where the white, probably limestone or gypsum based filling³⁸⁰ has disappeared appear with an exact contour. Common opinion maintains that this step was done post-firing.³⁸¹ The triangular form of these holes suggests a tool like reg.no 1700 (see 202).

Reg.no **1610**, body fragment of large dark brown burnished Tell el-Yahudieh jug. Position: A/II-m/11, pl. 5, ca 1.00 m/E, 1.5 m/S, H = 4.65 m/NN.

BP	IV	f. – m.	W2	–	mi	3
----	----	---------	----	---	----	---

Height = 4.3, width = 3.6

Pattern: large white incrustrated dots, some of triangular shape above and below a burnished zone, which is delimited by a pre-firing incised line, white incrustrated, belongs to reg.no 1734 (see below 127).

³⁷⁷ This shape signifies a ceramic type that occurs very frequently at Sedment in the First Intermediate Period/early Middle Kingdom: type family 30. Cf. W.M.F. PETRIE and G. BRUNTON, *Sedment I*, London 1924, pl. XXIX; B. BADER, *Sedment*, in: R. SCHIESTL and A. SEILER, *Handbook of Pottery of the Egyptian Middle Kingdom*, Vienna 2012, 209–235 discusses the development of these cups: p. 218. The burial of Ankhty from the early 12th Dynasty: DI. ARNOLD, *The Pyramid Complex of Senwosret I*, 54–58, pl. 67–69. Carinated cups with pedestal bases also appear at Tell el-Dab^a in the early MK levels. Cf. E. CZERNY, TD XXII, 276–281.

³⁷⁸ Cf. D.A. ASTON and M. BIETAK, TD VIII, 345–347, fig. 80; M. BIETAK, *MDAIK* 23 (1968), Taf. XXXIIa.

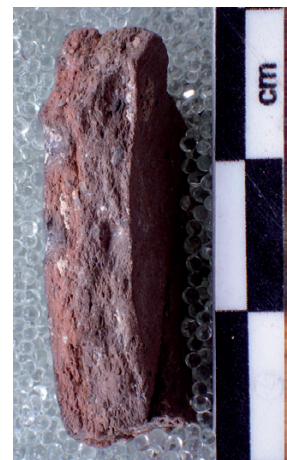
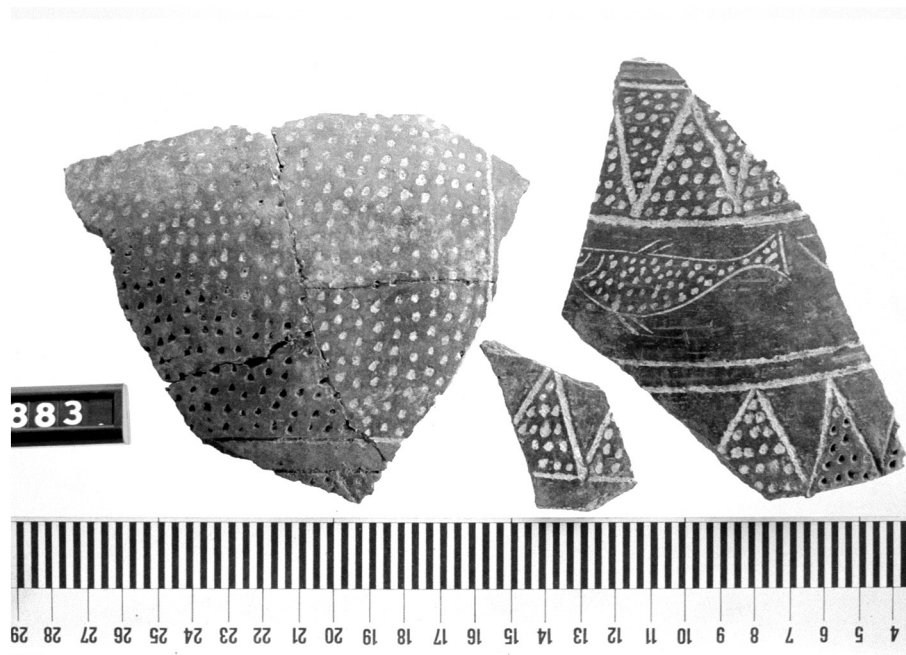
³⁷⁹ Cf. D.A. ASTON and M. BIETAK, TD VIII, 346, pl. 5, and 556.

³⁸⁰ P.E. MCGOVERN, J. BOURRIAU, G. HARBOTTLE and S. ALLEN, The Archaeological Origin and Significance of the Dolphin Vase as Determined by Neutron Activation Analysis, *BASOR* 296 (1994), 34.

³⁸¹ M. DE VREEZE, ‘A Strange Bird will breed in the Delta Marsh’: The Evolution of Tell el-Yahudiya Juglets and the Role of Tell el-Dab^a as a Hybrid Zone, in: B. BADER, C.M. KNOBLAUCH and E.C. KÖHLER (eds), *Vienna 2 – Ancient Egyptian Ceramics in the 21st Century*, Leuven – Paris – Bristol, CT 2016, fig. 3.



Fig. 3.41 Pottery from L [107], L [108], L [109] and L [155]



© Kunsthistorisches Museum, Wien

Fig. 3.42 Parts of the large Tell el-Yahudieh jug in Vienna reg.no 1734, KhM and its reconstruction (courtesy of KhM)

Reg.no **1734** (KhM, A 1691), brown burnished large Tell el-Yahudieh jug with ring base (Fig. 3.42).³⁸² Position: A/II-m/11, pl. 6, 2.50 m/E, 2.00 m/S in an area of about 2 m², Phase G.

Records: B/W negatives SW1112/57–58, 1112/59–60, 1112/61–62, 1131/13; drawing ZN 112/68.

BP	IV-2-c	f. – m.	W2	Bd. gef.	mi	3	3 RST
----	--------	---------	----	----------	----	---	-------

Max.d. = 29.0, bd. = 9.45, wd. = 0.9, H1 = 29.8 +x, H2 = 17.7; handle 3.38 × 1.65;

Surface colour: 10 YR 4/1–5/2 dark gray to gray brown. Section: gray core with light red to pink oxidation zones; burnished horizontally and vertically including the patterned zones. The burnishing was achieved before the large single dots were incised.

Pattern: Five horizontal bands of patterning consisting of standing triangles incised pre-firing on the shoulder filled with singly incised dots all filled with a white pigment. Along the maximum diameter are six square panels divided from each other with vertical bands delimited by two incised lines each. Each of the squares is filled with singly incised dots. Below a band of hanging triangles again filled with singly incised dots are visible. Below this geometric band one with figurative decoration was incised and again filled with white pigment/material. A row of fish (seven are preserved) facing towards the right is shown. The impression they give is that they just dive into the water. Each fish has two fins on the back and on the belly (except one, which has three each) the heads are indicated as well as their eyes. They are all depicted in the same manner only one fish is noticeably wider than the others. The bodies are filled with incised dots. These fish may be reminiscent of dolphins, although the design of such fish from the famous dolphin jug from Lisht is entirely different. The backs of the dolphins are not as bent as in the Lisht jug and their bodies are only filled with incised dots but not with wavy

lines. The overall proportions of the Dolphin jug from Lisht are similar, although in the Lisht vessel the base is missing, whilst in the Tell el-Dab^a jug the rim is missing. Also there is a size difference, and the design of the handles also differs in that the three strands are beside each other in the Lisht jug, whilst in the Tell el-Dab^a jug the third thinner strand is mounted on top of the two thicker strands. As both these jugs are unique it is very difficult to fathom the relationship between them. Whilst the Tell el-Dab^a jug is quite well dated into Phase G/2–1, the phase in which the broken sherds were distributed, or earlier. The Dolphin jug from Lisht may have been older in the context in which it was found.³⁸³ Only thorough analysis of Lisht tombs will bring further light into this question.

The lowermost decorative band consists again of triangles – standing and hanging – divided by single incised lines and filled with dots incised singly. 15 standing triangles are preserved, whilst there are 12 hanging ones. Interestingly the number of dots incised in each triangle seems to start with about 6 dots at the bottom of the standing triangles. Below this last decorative band there is one other incised line below in a distance of about 1 cm.

The ring base seems to have been at least turned on the wheel if not completely wheelmade. The base itself has been burnished in a circular manner close to the ring base, whilst further in the middle the burnishing strokes also go across the base in a rather untidy way. This part of the surface is not too well preserved.

Quite a few of the incised dots are of triangular shape, reminiscent of the bone awls found in **L [139]** in Compound 12 (see chapter 6, 202) reg.no 1700 and b, see also Fig. 3.34. No parallel has been found for this unique imported jug from Syria/Palestine so far. The fabric belongs clearly to the Syro/Palestinian imports according to recent macroscopic scrutiny by the author.

³⁸² M. BIETAK, TD V, 28–29; D.A. ASTON and M. BIETAK, TD VIII, 345. Neutron Activation Analysis was conducted and published in P.E. MCGOVERN, J. BOURRIAU, G. HARBOTTLE and S. ALLEN, *The Archaeological Origin and Significance of the Dolphin Vase as Determined by Neutron Activation Analysis*, *BASOR* 296 (1994), 31–43.

³⁸³ M. BIETAK and K. KOPETZKY suspect an origin in the Lebanon. Cf. M. BIETAK and K. KOPETZKY, *The Dolphin Jug: A Typological and Chronological Assessment*, in: J. D. SCHLOEN (ed.), *Exploring the Longue Durée*, Essays in Honor of Lawrence E. Stager, Winona Lake, Ind. 2009, 17–34.

L [111] Square feature (silo?)

Pottery

Reg.no **1611** (KhM, A 1691), body fragment of a large brown polished Tell el-Yahudieh jug. Position: A/II-m/11, pl. 5, 2.10 m/N, 0.80 m/E, H = 4.60 m/NN, north of tomb A/II-m/12-9.

Records: ZN 112/68.

BP	IV-2-c	f. – m.	W2	–	mi	3
----	--------	---------	----	---	----	---

Height = 3.6; width = 5.0;

Cf. reg.no 1734, this fragment joins the large jug. Dark brown to black burnished, decorated with incised triangles, filled with large dots, white incrustation.³⁸⁴

The fragments with reg.nos 883, 1609, 1610, and 1611 belong to and partly join vessel reg.no 1734. Thus, its deposition in different loci of Compound 11 indicates that the jug broke before the unit was in use or early in its use period because the fragments were dispersed in several rooms of the house and it is possible that reg.nos 883 and 1734 are derived from below the original floor of room **L [109]**. This jug is certainly the largest yet found. It is an unequivocal import from the Levant,³⁸⁵ and so far no exact parallel for it has been located. It seems to have been an especially luxurious article containing a substance that must have been precious. The size of the vessel indicates a relatively large amount of such valuable substance, perhaps a diplomatic present??³⁸⁶ There is no additional evidence to suspect any cultic background for this jug.

L [155] Space west of building (Fig. 3.41.f–g)

Pottery

Reg.no **924** (KhM, A 2669), rim of a red burnished jug with double stranded handle. Position: A/II-m/11, in the south western corner of the square, 1.60 m/S, 0.80 m/W, H = ca 4.80 m/NN (= 2.70 m depth down the southern section), relative level e–f, Phase G[–F]; Records: B/W negatives SW1070/43, 45; redrawn and re-recorded.

R/BP	IV-3-2	f. – m.	W2	–	ox	3–4	2 RST
------	--------	---------	----	---	----	-----	-------

Rd. = 2.5 (100% preserved), wd. = 0.5, H1 = 3.5 +x. Surface colour: brown burnished 2.5 YR 5/3 weak red, natural surface colour 7.5 YR 7/4 pink. Section: grey core with red and beige oxidation zones; subjected to NAA analysis sample #JH 286.³⁸⁷

It is possible, but not likely, that the following fragment, a stopper fragment, belongs to Phase G/2–1. More probably it belongs to Phase F.

Reg.no **1578** (KhM, A 3075), fragment of pottery vessel. Position: A/II-m/10–11, baulk, 2.3 m/S, 2.5 m/D (measured at southern baulk; H~ 5.20 m/NN). Records: ZN 124/68.

RF	I-b-2	m.	W1	–	ox	2–3
----	-------	----	----	---	----	-----

Max.d. = 7.4; H1 = 4.0+x.

Surface colour: red slipped 10 R 6/8 red.

³⁸⁴ According to P. E. MCGOVERN, J. BOURRIAU, G. HARBOTTLE and S. ALLEN, *The Archaeological Origin and Significance of the Dolphin Vase*, 34, the white filling of the dots was done after firing using calcium carbonate (calcite) or gypsum.

³⁸⁵ M. BIETAK, TD V, 28, JH 338 with provenance in Southern Palestine. Cf. MCGOVERN, *Foreign Relations*, but also the critique concerning his work, reviews e.g. D. ASTON, Review: The Foreign Relations of the 'Hyksos'. A Neutron Activation Study of Middle Bronze Age Pottery from the Eastern Mediterranean by P. E. McGovern, *JEA* 90 (2004), 233–237; A. COHEN-WEINBERGER and

Y. GOREN, *Levantine-Egyptian Interactions during the 12th to the 15th Dynasties based on the Petrography of the Canaanite Pottery from Tell el-Dab^a*, *Ä&L* 14 (2004), 69–100.

³⁸⁶ Cf. D. ASTON, *Mother's Best Tea Service – Pottery as Diplomatic Gifts in the Second Intermediate Period*, in: B. BADER and M.F. OWNBY (eds), *Functional Aspects of Egyptian Ceramics in Their Archaeological Context*, OLA 217, Leuven 2013, 375–401.

³⁸⁷ P. E. MCGOVERN, *Foreign Relations*, 127, most similar to Tell Ibn Hani.