

Compound 14 is situated slightly south-west of Compound 11 and consists of several elements and stretches over at least three squares, namely the larger part of A/II-m/10, A/II-n/10 and A/II-n/11. It is likely that the Compound continues further to the west and north, but the excavation did not expose that area. There are hints that this compound may have been divided into two units. Because of the spatial closeness of the two and their incompleteness they are discussed together here. Compound 14a expands over the western half of A/II-m/10 and the north western part of A/II-n/10 (see Fig. 8.2).

Included in compound 14a are at least three round silos, part of a building that consisted of at least two rooms, most probably in the usual ground plan of one wide room with a narrow one added laterally<sup>755</sup> as well as at least one open space probably used as a courtyard and activity area **L [161]**.

#### **A. COMPOUND 14A**

##### **SQUARE A/II-m/10**

##### **Excavation and available records**

The division of Compound 14a from Compound 14b is based on the following considerations. It seems to be clear though that the open space **L [161]** belongs more to Room 2 than to Room 1, especially because of a southern hurdle wall **[M40]** starting at the south-western corner of Room 2 and leading towards the south dividing the space south and west of Buildings 2 and 1 into two. Thus, space **L [174]** may even be

situated outside of Compound 14 altogether. Another point to consider is the very narrow distance of 0.4 m between the north-western corner of Room 1 and the eastern exterior wall **[M28]** of Room 2. This space could not have been used as a passage except by children and small animals. However, due to the partial excavation and the ambiguity of the access paths it remains unclear whether Compound 14a and b are to be considered belonging to the same general unit or not.

A small part in the east of square m/10 belongs to Compound 11 and is described there. For the details of the excavation and records available see Compound 11.<sup>756</sup>

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

In the relevant planum 6 it is clear that two phases were uncovered (Fig. 8.3–8.4),<sup>757</sup> the lower of which probably belongs to Phases G/3 and/or G/4.<sup>758</sup>

To the west of the dividing wall between Compounds 11 and 14 (**[M8]**) at least three round silos were uncovered **L [158]**, **L [159]**, and **L [160]**. The remains of silo **L [160]** were very scant and consisted only of a few bricks that were destroyed and overlain by more silos in the subsequent Phase F.<sup>759</sup> The silos were built of heavily sand tempered mud-brick walls of half brick's width laid out as headers as usual and measured 2.5 and 3.5 Egyptian cubits in diameter, respectively (= 1.7 and 2.4 m). It seems that in this area a courtyard was situated as already suspected by M. BIETAK.<sup>760</sup> The courtyard may have been accessed through an opening in a flimsy precinct (?) wall **[M26]**, which may be a continuation of, or an

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<sup>755</sup> Cf. B. BADER, On Simple House Architecture, *passim*.

<sup>756</sup> See chapter 3, Compound 11, 110–112.

<sup>757</sup> See chapter 3, Compound 11, 110–112.

<sup>758</sup> See chapter 5. In general it was difficult to connect the stratigraphy of A/II-m/10 to the remainder of the area, because this is the only square that could potentially connect the archaeological remains of the earlier phases of the northern part to those of the southern part, cf. chapters 5 and 9. As it has no direct strati-

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graphic connections to the neighbouring squares much of the phasing must remain tentative. It is mostly due to the fact that Mortuary Temple I was left standing so that the area between the northern and southern parts remained largely unexplored. Cf. M. BIETAK, TD V, 27.

<sup>759</sup> Cf. M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 3, A/II-m/10.

<sup>760</sup> M. BIETAK, TD V, 30.

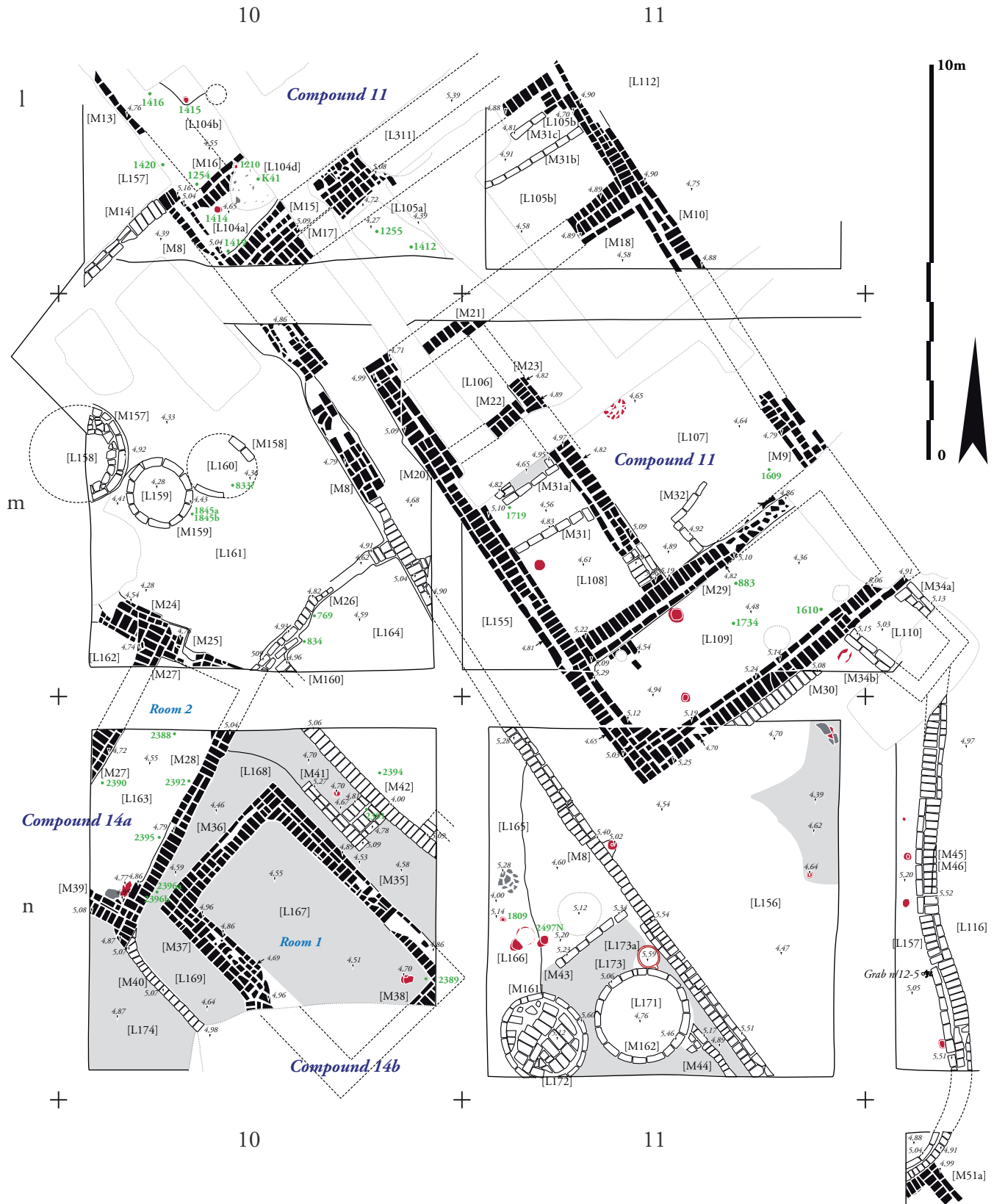


Fig. 8.1 Schematic plan of Compounds 14a and b. Adapted from M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 2 and archival records, graphic execution by N. Math



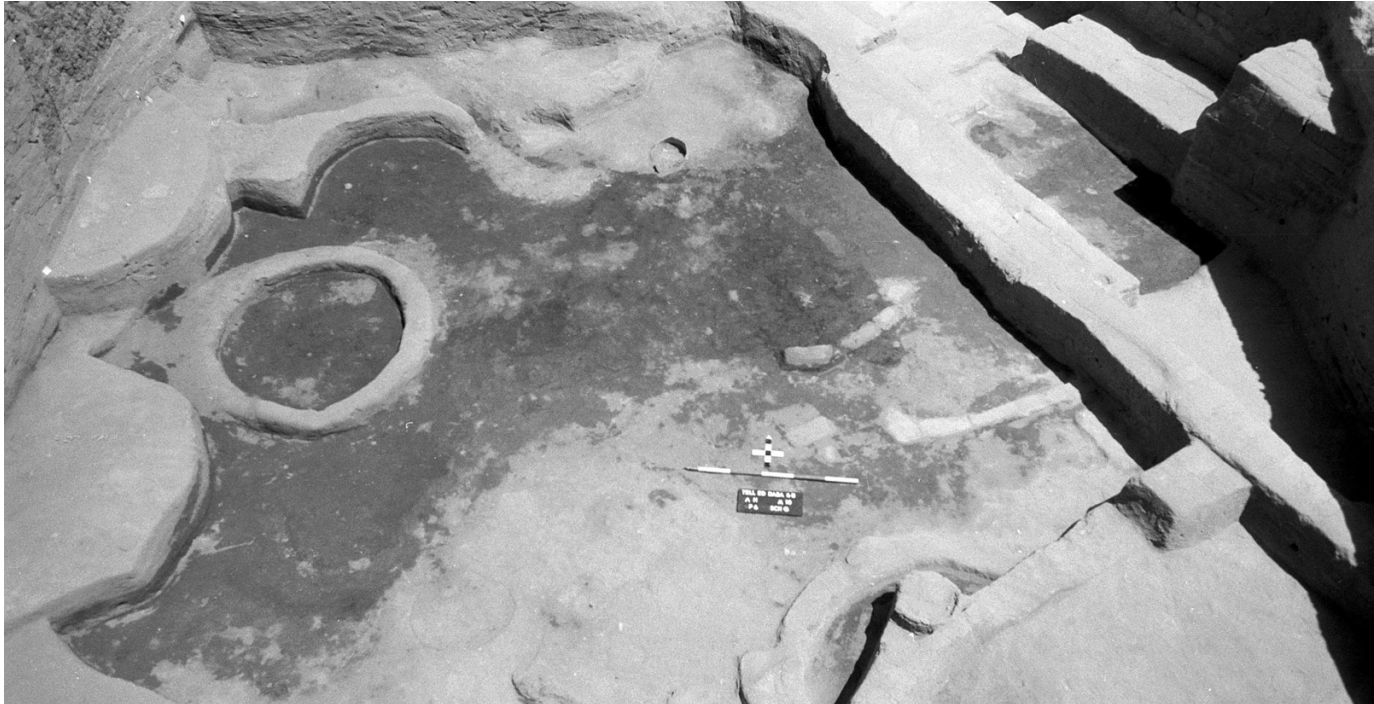


Fig. 8.3 A/II-m/10, pl. 6, view towards north with ashy floor layers, silo L [159] is on the left side of the photo, while [M26] limits the entrance to the southern part of the compound on the right side of the photo, SW1076/10



Fig. 8.4 A/II-m/10, pl. 6, view of square towards north east, for locus numbers see plan above, SW1076/14

except in the northern part (running metres 7.5 to 10.0 from south) because there was the pit of tomb A/II-m/10-9 belonging to Phase F.<sup>770</sup>

In this area of the site no substantial buildings seem to have been located, neither in Phase G/3–1 nor in the older Phases H and G/4. Only in the later Phase F is there a massive wall (section no A50-32) of more than 1.5 m width, which represents the western circumference of a silo.<sup>771</sup> The base level for Phase F is probably about 5.00 m/NN as noted by M. BIETAK in the section (no A50-37). Close to the southern end of the section is another feature of Phase F (no A50-31) but very badly preserved. The extension of wall [M24] (the northern exterior wall of Room 2 towards the west, see Fig. 8.1–8.2) is in turn not visible as an articulated wall. It is possible that the heavily sand tempered mud-brick rubble section nos A50-46 and A50-47<sup>772</sup> (mixed with ashes) represent all that is left of this continuation. There is a disturbance in this area recorded in the plan drawing of

<sup>770</sup> M. BIETAK, TD V, 70–73.

<sup>771</sup> It was cut obliquely in the section, section no A50-32. The structure is in M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 3, [207]. I would like to thank M. BIETAK and N. MATH discussing that structure with me.

<sup>772</sup> Only between running metres 2.0 and 3.0 counting from the south.

planum 6.<sup>773</sup> The base level of this rubble is at ca 4.40 m/NN. To Phase G/2–1 belongs a rounded feature built from sand tempered mud-bricks (section no A50-42), that equals **L [158]** at running metre 7.0 counting from the south. The base level of this round silo is around 4.60 m/NN and therefore would appear to belong to the later stages of Phase G/2–1. To the south of **L [158]** there may have been situated another silo that is badly disturbed and was originally drawn into the settlement plan as a hemispherical disturbance, beginning at running metre 2.5 and ending ca at 4.60 m from the south.<sup>774</sup> There are only a few sand tempered bricks left at an elevation of 4.40 m/NN, which indicates perhaps an earlier date for this silo than for **L [158]**. Apart from this latter feature at a level of ca 4.40 m/NN and below down to 4.00 m/NN a series of finely layered sands, ashes and humic/humous layers were found (section no A50-50) as it is usual in places where thoroughfares or open areas are situated. Thus before Phase G/3 no specific activity took place in this area. Below that the *gezirah* sands were just about reached (section no A50-52), but it remains unclear if the settlement remains stop there or not. A flimsy wall of two heavily sand tempered mud-bricks (section no A50-51) was also found, which may belong to an earlier phase (Phase G/4 or H).<sup>775</sup> Section no A50-49 represents a pit that was dug some time in Phase G/3–1, the purpose of which could not be discerned because it was filled exclusively with clean sand.

The interpretation derived from this evidence suggests that this area **L [161]** was a thoroughfare/courtyard used for storage and probably also a limited amount of cooking/industrial activity(?) at least in the earlier periods of its use life (cf. the ovens and the ashy layers in planum 6). The lack of continuation for wall **[M 24]** in the section suggests either that it did not continue towards the west – the reason may be that there was perhaps a doorway or that **[M 24]** served as a feature for some other purpose. The only other possibility is that no A50-47 in the western section represents this wall after its total denudation.

Noteworthy is wall **[M14]** (= section no A50-38, at the northern limit of the section)<sup>776</sup> already visible in square A/II-l/10 built of heavily sand tempered mud-bricks. This was cut by a later pit (Phase E/1–D/3) and thus, belongs to an earlier phase, perhaps Phase F or G. This wall continues towards the north into A/II-l/10, but because the base level is below the excavated exposure, not much can be said about its relative date of foundation.

The southern section (A37, drawn in 1968) illustrates the position of the walls **[M8]** (= section no A37-66), **[M25]** (= section no A37-61), **[M26]** + **[M160]** (= section no A37-59), and **[M27]** (= section no A37-61 and A37-63). Like all the other walls they were built from heavily sand tempered mud-bricks. To start in the eastern part of the section wall **[M8]** is relatively thin and ca four to five mud-brick courses high preserved (section no A37-66), the base level can be discerned at an elevation of ca 4.20 m/NN. The base level of wall **[M26]** + **[M160]** may have been at an elevation of about 4.00–4.10 m/NN (section no A37-59), which appears to have been built in a very irregular way. The base levels of **[M25]** and **[M27]** may also have been at the same elevation, but the exposure of the trench stops at 4.00 m/NN. It is, thus, possible that the original base levels were even below that elevation because the exposure does not allow a decision as to whether any of the described walls continued further down below. Remarkably, in contrast to many others, they are preserved up to eight or nine mud-brick courses high. This may serve as an additional hint that perhaps more building phases existed here, and that a renewal was initiated immediately on top of the old walls, as more frequently seen in several parts of the settlement.

#### Finds from square A/II-m/10, pl. 4–5 and 5–6

A few finds were recorded, some of which may belong to Phase G/4–1. As most of them lack exact elevations, it must remain quite uncertain if they can really be assigned to this phase. They were all found in the courtyard **L [161]** (see Fig. 8.2, for the distribution).

<sup>773</sup> I would like to thank M. BIETAK and N. MATH discussing this matter with me.

<sup>774</sup> M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 2.

<sup>775</sup> It seems as if just a trench along the western baulk was dug for the purpose of recording the section, because there is no planum with such a low exposure of 4.00 m/NN that would show any structures.

<sup>776</sup> This wall is situated effectively in square A/II-l/10 but the first running metre had been added to the drawing of section of A/II-m/10.

## Stone

Reg.nos 1854a and b are probably those most securely belonging to Phase G/3–1, because they were found in planum 5–6, albeit without a more precise level. The level between planum 5 and 6 is about 4.86 m/NN (recorded in pl. 5) to 4.30 m/NN. No pits were recorded in this area.

Reg.no **1854a**,<sup>777</sup> (Museum Cairo), vessel/mortar made of limestone. Position: A/II-m/10, pl. 5–6, 3.3 m/W; 4.10 m/S, just south east of silo **L [159]**, relative stratum f (Fig. 8.5.b, 8.6).

Records: B/W negative SW1547/26–31, drawing ZN 165/68.

Rd. = 20.0 (67 % of rim preserved); bd. = 16.3, wd. = 1.8–3.0; H1 = 11.3.

The photo (Fig. 8.6.a) shows a cut mark in the rim of the vessel.

Reg.no **1854b**,<sup>778</sup> stone object made of green stone, round. Position: A/II-m/10, pl. 5–6, 3.3 m/W, just south east of silo **L [159]**. 4.10 m/S. relative stratum f. H = between 4.30 m/NN and 4.86 m/NN (recorded in pl. 5) (Fig. 8.5.a).

Records: drawing 165/68.

Max.d. = 12.5 cm; height without protrusion 2.0 cm. Surface rough and uneven, one central protrusion/core was left in place and rough, whilst around it polishing was noticed. Initially the object was interpreted as a large lid of vessel. M. BIETAK identified the object as possible part of a potter's wheel.<sup>779</sup> The material is described as greenish stone, thus it might be identified as siltstone or schist.<sup>780</sup>

Reg.no **833** (KhM, A 1833), pierced stone ('loom weight'). Position: A/II-m/10, pl. 4–5, relative level e, in central round feature of pl. 6,<sup>781</sup> (Fig. 8.5.b).

Records: drawing ZN 137/67, redrawn and re-recorded.

Material: limestone, with irregular brown stains.

Measurements: length = 6.8 cm, max. width = 4.5,

thickness = 1.8–2.9, weight = 93.4 grams. The stone was roughly worked at the bottom, if the part with the hole is considered the top. Some rough smoothing marks were visible with the naked eye. The small amount of weight of this object makes it difficult to assess its possible function in the weaving craft, because while light enough for a warp weighted loom, this type is not attested that early. See the comprehensive discussion in chapter 3, 72–75. Other functions such as a rough plumb bob are possible.

## Pottery

The following finds from **L [161]** and **L [164]** may belong to Phases F or G/3–1 and are mentioned here rather for completeness' sake.

Reg.no **769** (KhM, A 2571), base of amphora, reused. Position: A/II-m/10, pl. 4–5, 1.70 m/S, 3.80 m/E, relative level e, below wall of Phase E/3–2, therefore Phases F or G/3–1 (Fig. 8.7.a).

Records: B/W negative SW1057/69, drawing ZN 137/67, redrawn and re-recorded.

TG	IV-2	m	W1-2	Bd. W	ox	3
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Bd. = 13.0, (100% preserved); H1 = 2.5 cm + x  
Surface colour: outside 7.5 YR 6/4 light brown; inside: 7.5 YR 5/3 brown. Section: wide dark grey core with reddish brown (exterior) and light brown (interior) oxidation zones. Dense fabric; broken into two halves; outer surface not combed. NAA was conducted: The result suggested it was Nile alluvium, but the fabric did not look like a Nile clay fabric at macroscopic examination.<sup>782</sup> The base seems to have been re-used as a plate, the edges being cut seemingly deliberately because they show some sort of abrasion although not as smooth as a scraper. The corner of the transition between the base and the body was sharply executed with a tool. The interior of the base shows irregular rilling lines.

<sup>777</sup> This find was re-registered in 1981 under reg.no 3377 in order to be brought to the Museum in Cairo. It was not possible to re-assess that find physically.

<sup>778</sup> This find was not available for re-study.

<sup>779</sup> Entry in the register book in M. BIETAK's hand writing.

<sup>780</sup> For other objects made from this material see B. BADER, *Stone Objects*, 25–41.

<sup>781</sup> All documentation shows the same description of the location, therefore it is unclear if the object came from pl. 4–5 or 6 because it was not stated in the register book. The fact that it was registered with other finds from pl. 4–5 does not allow for more certainty. Also both pl. 5 and 6 contain separate central

rounded features, which are also shown as find sketch on the find slip.

<sup>782</sup> P.E. MCGOVERN, *Foreign Relations*, 127. The fragment was identified by MCGOVERN as the base of a flat based cooking pot, made of Ie3. This seems unlikely in the light of the new study, because the vessel fragment has a convex and wheelmade base, which would not be able to rest stably on a flat surface. The bases of handmade cooking pots are really flat. The base of an amphora with wider base and without handles seems much more likely, cf. for example D. ASTON, *Ceramic Imports*, fig. 10.4–5. Ultimately an error with the reg.nos among the samples taken cannot be discounted.

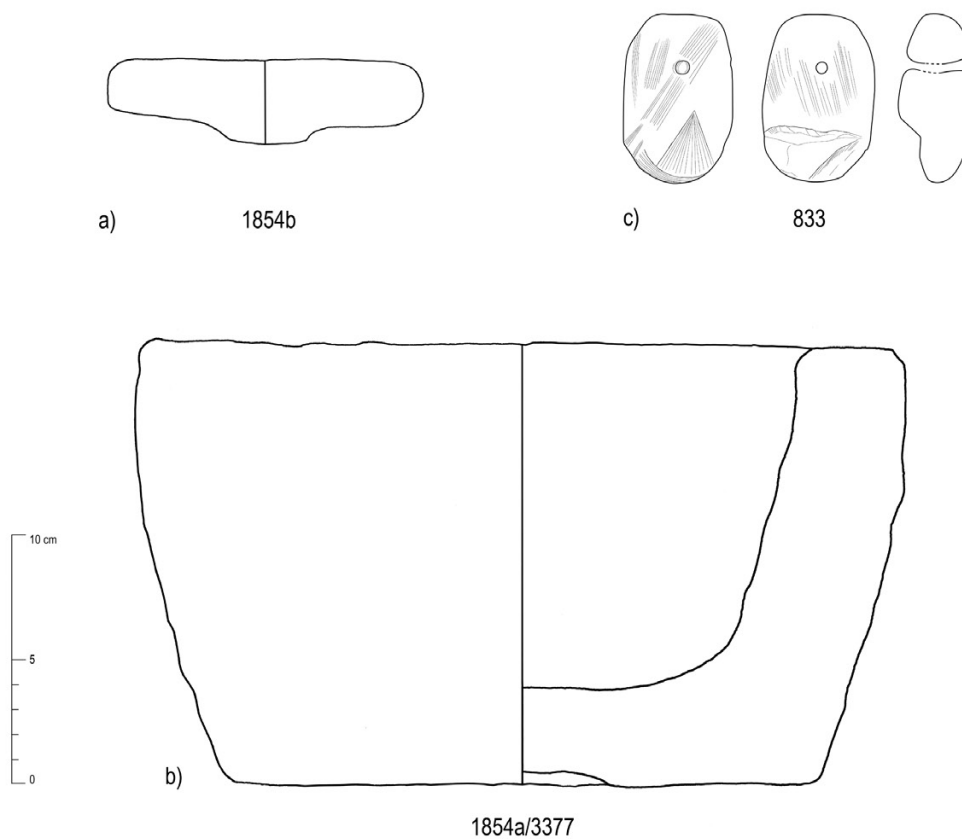


Fig. 8.5. a) Reg.no 1854b, lid/potter's wheel made from greenish stone, L [161], b) reg.no 1854a, mortar made from limestone, L [161] ZN 165/68, c) reg.no 833, pierced stone, drawing 139/67

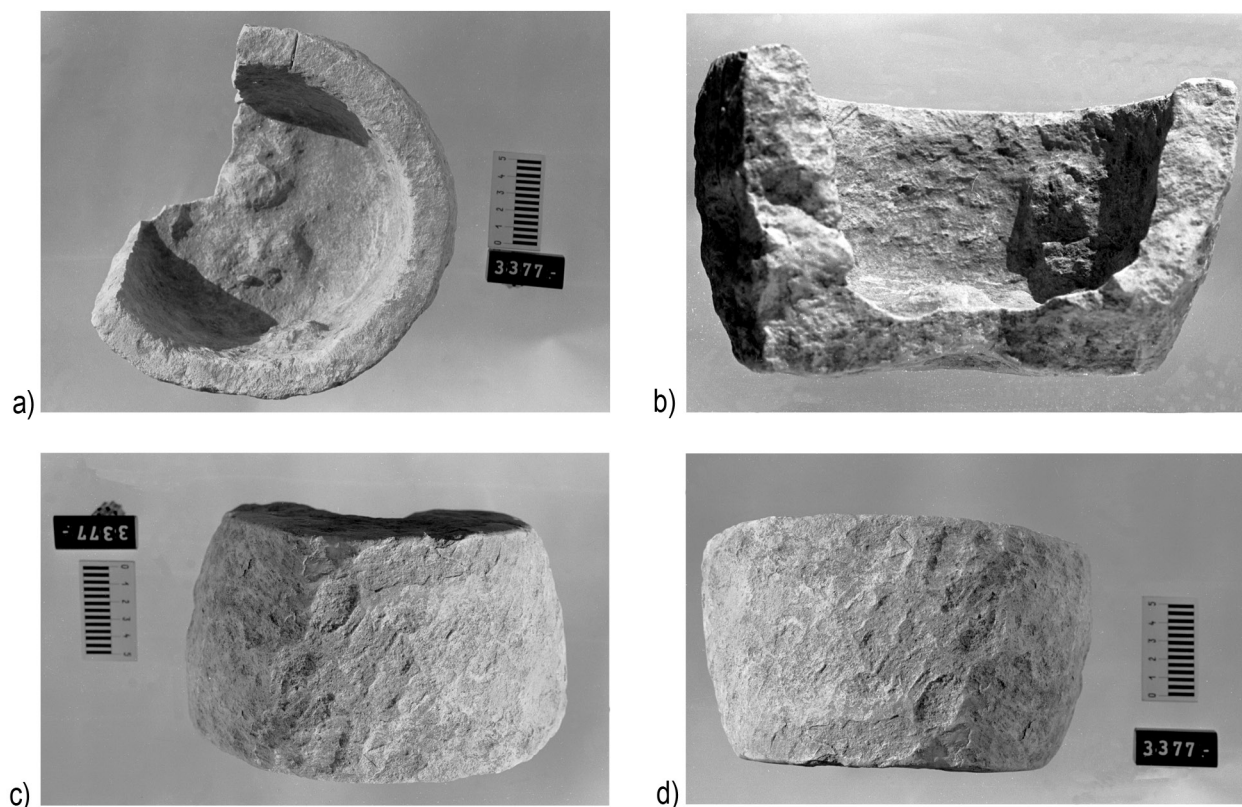


Fig. 8.6 Reg.no 1854a, limestone mortar, a) SW1547/26, b) SW1547/32, c) SW1547/27, d) SW1547/28

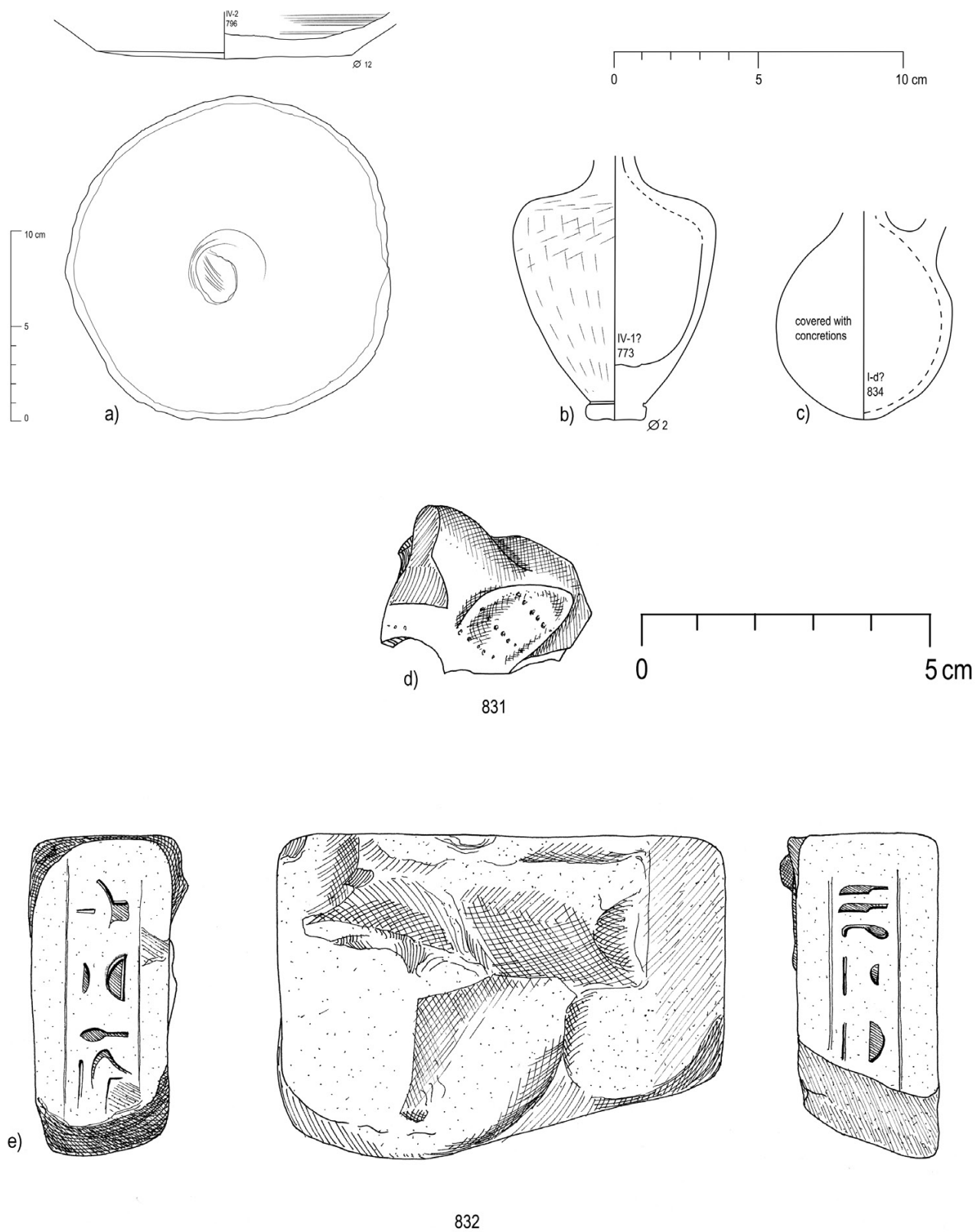


Fig. 8.7 a) Reg.no 769, re-used base of amphora, scale 1:3, b) reg.no 773 piriform juglet, scale 1:2, c) reg.no 834, globular juglet, scale 1:2, d) reg.no 831 bovine (?) Tell el-Yahudieh juglet, scale 1:1, e) reg.no 832, pedestal of a statuette, scale 1:1



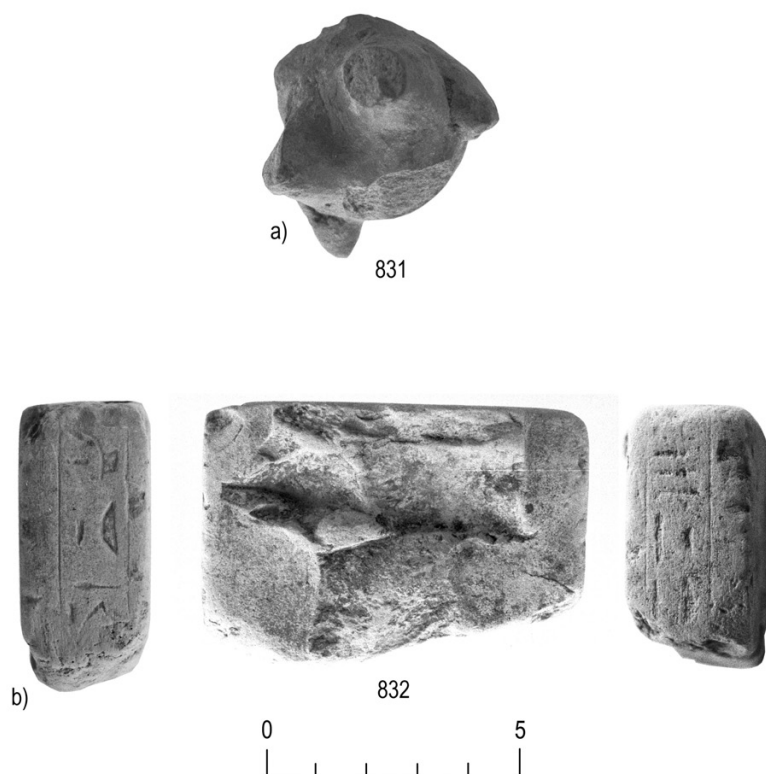


Fig. 8.8 a) Reg.no 831, bovine (?) Tell el-Yahudieh juglet SW1053/14, b) reg.no 832, statuette base, view from top SW1053/11, inscriptions on the sides SW1049/75, SW1053/9

Reg.no **773** (KhM, A 2575), juglet with button base. Position: A/II-m/10, pl. 4–5, relative level e, 1.40 m/S, 4.90 m/E, #JH 283, Str. F or G (Fig. 8.7.b).

Records: B/W negative SW1057/59, drawing ZN 8b/67, redrawn and re-recorded.

BP	IV-1-2?	f	W1-2	Bd. W	re	3
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Max.d. = 7.0; wd. = 0.45; bd. = 2.0, (100% preserved); H1 = 9.3;

Surface colour: brown burnishing 7.5 YR 5/3; red in places 10 R 4/6 red. Section: uniform black, not fresh; fabric contains many limestone particles (small and large); quartz, small and large; handle scar does not allow identification if a strap or a round handle was present; neck and rim not preserved; the burnishing was conducted vertically on the juglet body, and roughly horizontal on the shoulder, where it was more eroded; inside and on some places outside the juglet shows green discolouring as if from an offering pit;<sup>783</sup> the juglet was

tested by NAA (#JH 283) as attested by a drill hole and was found to be of “Fayyum-marl”.<sup>784</sup> As this result would represent the only juglet made of “Fayyum marl” that equals Marl C, it must be regarded with utmost scepticism.<sup>785</sup> Because no fresh break was available, macroscopic examination does not add any knowledge.

Reg.no **834** (KhM, A 2606), juglet, globular, black burnished, A/II-m/10, pl. 4–5, level e, 2.60 m/S, 4.20 m/E (Fig. 8.7.c).

Records: B/W negative SW1049/73–74, drawing ZN 137/67, redrawn and re-recorded.

Also derived from **L [161]** are reg.nos 830, 831 and 832 (Fig. 8.7–8.8), but it is rather unlikely they should belong to Phase G/3–1, and are only mentioned here to provide a complete overview, especially considering the parallels of some of these items.

<sup>783</sup> V. MÜLLER, TD XVII/1, 216, esp. foot note 487.

<sup>784</sup> P.E. MCGOVERN, *Foreign Relations*, 127.

<sup>785</sup> It might perhaps be possible that sample numbers were mixed somewhere during the analysing process. The same holds true for reg.no 769.

Reg.no **830** (KhM, A 2605), Cypriot WPPLS. Position: A/II-m/10, pl. 4–5, 2.90 m/S, 1.20 m/E, 2.50 m/D (~ H = 5.10 m/NN); under a wall of relative level d [and close to a wall of Phase E/3 (cf. plan 4, of TD V)]. Previously published by L.C. MAGUIRE as belonging to Phases E/3 or F.<sup>786</sup>

Reg.no **831** (KhM, A 1809), fragment of an animal shaped (bovine?) Tell el-Yahudieh juglet.<sup>787</sup> Position: A/II-m/10, pl. 4–5, 1.80 m/W; 2.10 m/S [on top of wall [M26], therefore certainly later than Phase G/3–1], relative level e (Fig. 8.7.d, 8.8.a).

Records: B/W negative SW1053/13, drawing ZN 139/67.

SPI	I-d	f	W+H	–	re	3
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H1 = 1.3; wd. = 0.35; measurements: 3.6 by 3.2 cm. Surface colour: 2.5 Y 4/1 very dark grey; burnished slip: not preserved. Section: uniform dark grey; decoration added with a five toothed comb. The drawing shows at least three rows of incised dots.

Reg.no **832** (Museum Cairo, JE 91579), part of a pedestal base of small statuette. Position: A/II-m/10, pl. 4–5, in central round feature, relative level e (Fig. 8.7.e, 8.8.b).

Records: B/W negatives SW1049/75–80, SW1053/7–12, colour slide nos TD896, TD1090, drawing ZN 139/67.

Material: yellowish limestone, one half of base is missing, on top of base traces of the missing figure perhaps with a back pillar, but it remains unclear

whether the space was sufficient for a standing, a sitting or a kneeling figure; Colour: 2.5 Y 7/4 pale yellow. The two shorter sides of the base fragment carry an incised fragmentary inscription, the left side (from the observers point of view) reads .....m3<sup>c</sup> 788 *hrw nbt jm3h(w)* and the right side ....(n) *nb n Ttjj (?)*.<sup>789</sup> The back of the base pedestal seems to remain more or less intact not bearing an inscription (no photograph or drawing of the back exists). The front seems to have been damaged. The statuette could have been of a standing figure with a back pillar, judging from the traces on top of the pedestal. Measurements: width = 7.8 cm, length = 5.6+x cm, thickness = 2.6 cm.

The inscription reads “...True of voice, Lady of dignity” [“Gerechtfertigte, Herrin der Würdigkeit”].<sup>790</sup> The inscription on the right side seems to contain the name *Ttjj* or *Tjj*<sup>791</sup> “...for the lady *T(t)jj*”. Epigraphic work resulting in personal dossiers of women in the Middle Kingdom attests at least the occurrence of the name *Tjj* several times.<sup>792</sup> Because no other names of relatives such as husband or children are known it is not possible to provide any more information except that the name written without another *t* is known from the Middle Kingdom.

The search for parallels did not yield many: female statuettes, as indicated by the preserved name, are exceedingly rare and even more so with inscriptions around the sides of the pedestals rather than on top of them. Such material in general is also rare and none was inscribed with a similar name.<sup>793</sup>

<sup>786</sup> L.C. MAGUIRE, TD XXI, 93, DAB 8, fig. 26.

<sup>787</sup> D.A. ASTON and M. BIETAK, TD VIII, 526, cat.no 649, pl. 116. All dated parallels for similar items are in the so-called Late Egyptian Group, representing Phases E/2–1 up to D/2, cf. D.A. ASTON and M. BIETAK, TD VIII, 524–529.

<sup>788</sup> The writing of *m3<sup>c</sup>* with the sickle seems to be rather rare, judging from comparing to stelae of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Dynasty at least.

<sup>789</sup> A. WÜTHRICH and R. GUNDAKER kindly shared their opinions (2019) with me: Either a name, a title or an offering formula would be expected in this space. For each of these options an emendation of the hieroglyphs would be necessary: either the addition of *nb(t pr)* or the assumption of an hitherto unknown name. For the offering formula there is least evidence.

<sup>790</sup> Wörterbuch, vol. 2, Leipzig 1928, 17 for *m3<sup>c</sup>-hrw*; Wörterbuch, vol. 1, Leipzig 1928, 81 for *nb jm3h*. This phrase appears also on Stelae, e.g. on the stela of *Tr-gmt.f* dating to the late 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> Dynasty in Vienna, AS 133. Cf. I. HEIN and H. SATZINGER, *Die Stelen des Mittleren Reiches I*, Corpus Antiquitatum Aegyptiacarum, Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Lieferung 4, Mainz 1989, Wien 4, 42, line 11. Note that *im3h* is written without the *m33* sickle here.

<sup>791</sup> H. RANKE, *Die ägyptischen Personennamen*, vol. 1, 385, no 13 as female and male name, known from the Middle Kingdom, but only written with one reed, cf. also 383, no 21 and the variants there. Other possible names could be *Tjj* (H. RANKE, *Personennamen*, vol. 1, 377, no 22) for both gender occurring in the Middle Kingdom, or *Tj* as a female name in the Middle Kingdom (H. RANKE, *Personennamen*, vol. 1, 377, no 12). I would like to thank G. MOERS for some comments on that name and additional references. Cf. for the Old Kingdom also K. SCHEELE-SCHWEITZER, *Die Personennamen des Alten Reiches, Philippika, Marburger Altertumskundliche Abhandlungen* 28, Wiesbaden 2014, 722, [3611].

<sup>792</sup> D. STEFANOVIĆ, *Dossiers of Ancient Egyptian Women in the Middle Kingdom and the Second Intermediate Period*, London 2016, 202, dossier no 399 with references.

<sup>793</sup> Checking the statuary corpora of B. HORNEMANN, *Types of Ancient Egyptian Statuary*, vols 1–7, Kopenhagen 1951–1969, E. DELANGE, *Catalogue des statues égyptiennes du Moyen Empire 2060–1560 av. J.-Chr.*, Musée du Louvre, Paris 1987; J. VANDIER, *Manuel d'archéologie égyptienne*, Tome 3: *Les grandes époques: La statuaire*, Paris 1958, for similar statuettes of the Middle Kingdom did not provide exact parallels.

If this find, indeed, was a burial gift, as originally thought by M. BIETAK, then this find is certainly older than the level in which it was found. This means on the one hand that the inhabitants knew that there were earlier tombs around and also that they themselves most probably emptied them. Whether it should be called robbery or if some statuettes were at least for some time used as cult objects or on private altars, cannot be fathomed sufficiently due to the archaeological circumstances of the find. The find spot in the silo clearly indicates that the object had been discarded by the inhabitants of Phases G/2–1 to F. This indicates perhaps that some of the older tombs were already robbed and, thus, that those inhabitants were not descendents of those buried earlier, although this is speculation. This statuette base indicates a female person adhering to Egyptian funerary traditions. Furthermore this fragment indicates a familiarity with Egyptian traditions in that area prior to Phases G/2–1 to F.

#### Animal bones<sup>794</sup>

In planum 5–6 without a precise description of the location the following bones were assigned to Phases F–G:  
Cattle: 1 frag. of a lower jaw; 1 talus.

Sheep: 1 frag. of humerus.

Sheep/goat: 1 rib.

Again in planum 5–6, several animal bones were found at the bottom of the pit of tomb A/II-m/10-8,<sup>795</sup> more exactly to the south of the tomb chamber. Thus, these bones belong to Phase G/3–1, into which the later tomb cut.

Cattle: splinters of scapula with closed tuber; 1 radius with distal epiphyseal cartilage closed (adult); 1 metatarsus distal part, epiphyseal cartilage open (calf).

Sheep: 1 radius, proximal epiphyseal cartilage closed, distal epiphyseal cartilage open.

## SQUARE A/II-N/10

### Excavation and available records

The excavation of square A/II-n/10 started on 29 April 1969 and continued to 8 June 1969. The top soil of A/II-n/10 was very much disturbed and pitted by *sebakh* diggers.<sup>796</sup> The first levels recorded start at an elevation of about 7.00 m/NN. All 5 plana were excavated in 1969.<sup>797</sup> The structures uncovered in planum 4 were assigned to Phase F, which will be also shown here, for completeness sake (see below).<sup>798</sup> Most relevant for the settlement of Phase G/3–1 is planum 5. There most structures found have been assigned to the plan of sub-phases G/2–1. There are a few walls present, which may belong to the phase below, probably G/3.

For the evaluation of this square and its interpretation the following records were available: digging diary, original plan drawings, the register book, konvolute card recordings of sherd material, a card index of finds, archival photographs, and drawings of the objects.<sup>799</sup>

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

Only the building in the western part of the square (Room 2) belongs to Compound 14a (Fig. 8.2), because presumably the eastern exterior wall [M28] and its continuation [M26] seem to delimit Room 2 from Room 1 situated further to the east. There is a gap between wall [M8] and [M26] which may constitute a thoroughfare between the two.

Most of the surface outside of the presumed two-room house (Room 2) L [163] is covered by a thick layer of ashy and charcoal deposits<sup>800</sup> (see Fig. 8.2, 8.9.a).<sup>801</sup> The interior of L [163] shows a sandy layer on the presumed floor without any traces of ash (Fig. 8.9.a). Room 2 in square A/II-n/10 runs into the

<sup>794</sup> J. BOESSNECK, TD III, 12–13.

<sup>795</sup> M. BIETAK, TD V, 61–70, Phase F.

<sup>796</sup> According to TDplan no 267.

<sup>797</sup> TDplan nos 267–270, 276.

<sup>798</sup> M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 3.

<sup>799</sup> It seems no section drawings for this square exist. The work there could not be finished due to the need to leave the site because of war related activities in 1969, see note 737 above.

<sup>800</sup> M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 8 June 1969, “thick layer of charcoal“.

<sup>801</sup> The southern section of A/II-m/10 shows as position 51 a multiple deep layer of ash at an elevation of ca 5.00 to 5.30, covering the structures of Phase G. Cf. section no A37-51.

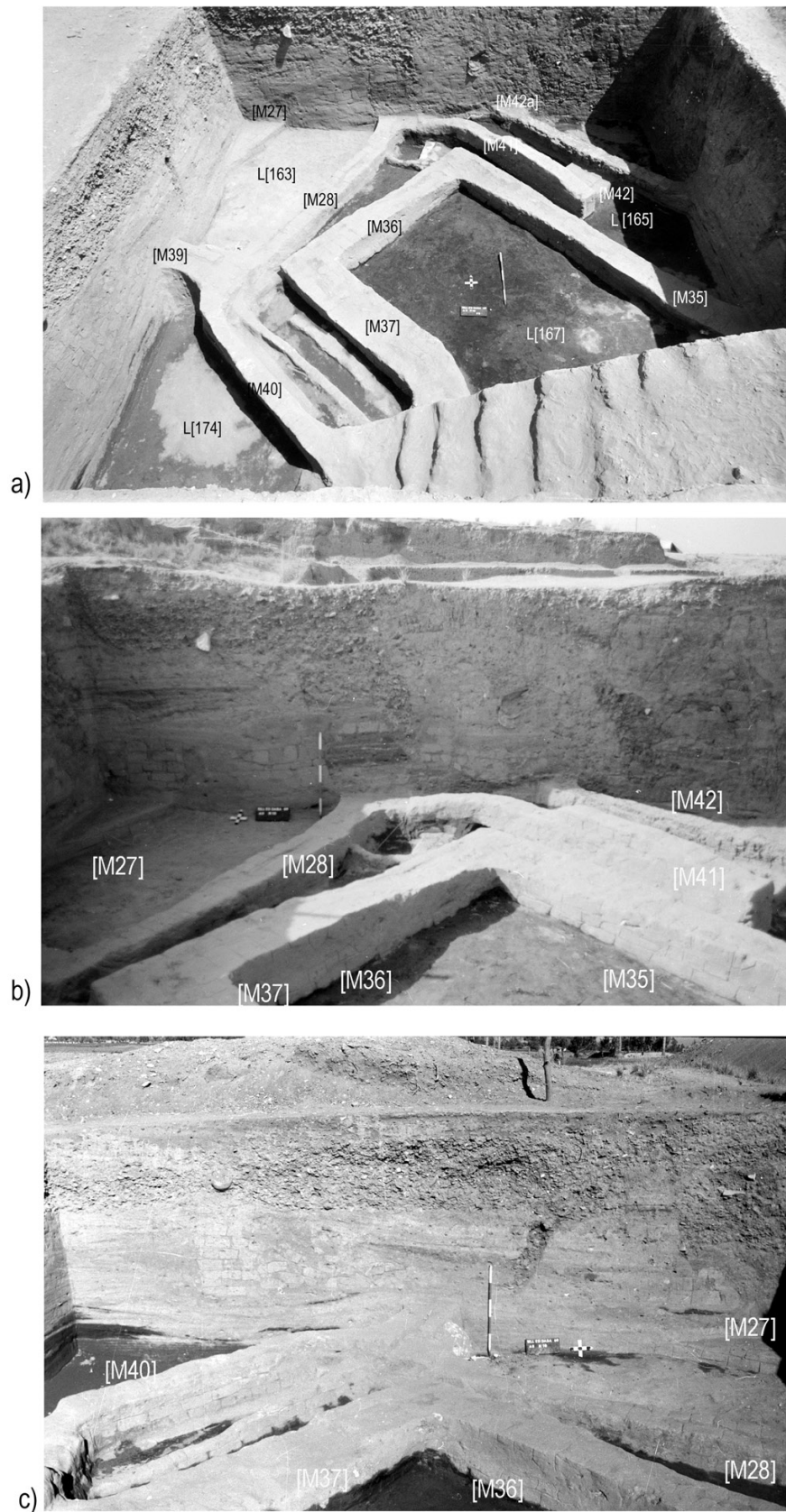


Fig. 8.9 A/II-n/10, pl. 5, a) view towards north, SW1165/40, b) northern section with walls running into it, SW1172/4, c) A/II-n/10, western section with all the walls and the later features cutting into the top of the late Middle Kingdom settlement layers, SW1167/71

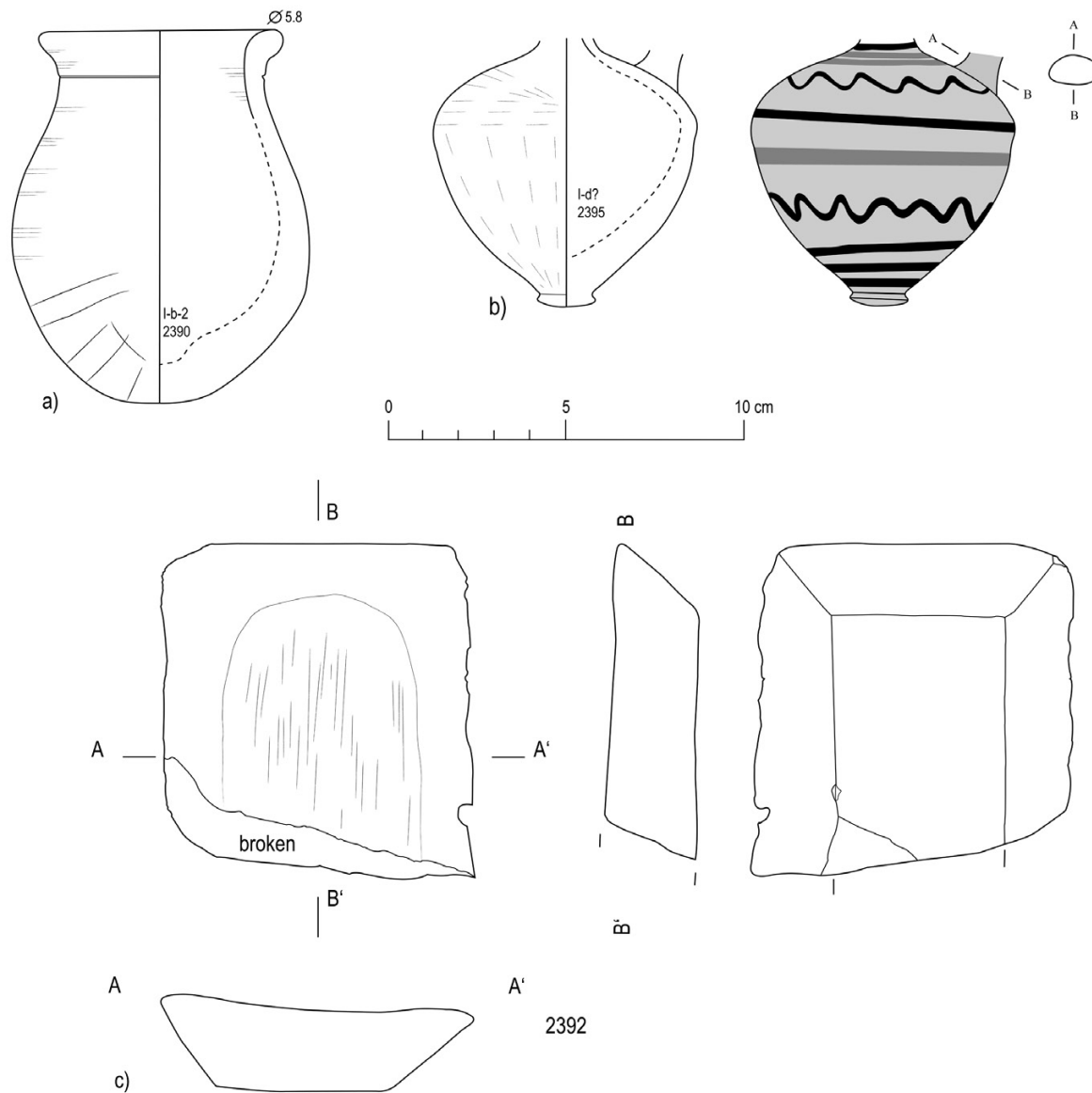


Fig. 8.10 Finds from A/II-n/10. a) reg.no 2390, small jar, b) reg.no 2395, painted juglet, c) reg.no 2392, siltstone palette, drawn by B. Bader

western baulk and beyond the limit of the excavation. Due to the preserved remains it is at least possible to assume a two-room house here, because wall [M24] runs further to the west and suggests at least a second room. M. BIETAK suspected the door opening just in the western profile because there is no articulated wall in this spot.<sup>802</sup> Whether there were more rooms further west is impossible to state without new investigations.<sup>803</sup> Walls [M25, M28, M39 and M27] constitute

the narrow room **L [163]** of Room 2. The base level of wall [M28] is at an elevation of 4.58 m/NN, very similar to that from wall [M37] of Room 1 (see below, 255). The possible position of doors/doorways cannot be ascertained from the fragmentary plan. An opening is likely to have been located at the south-western end of wall [M27] or towards its north-eastern end. The dimensions of the bricks are very similar to those of Room 1 0.33–0.35 m by 0.17–0.185 m.<sup>804</sup> The inner

<sup>802</sup> M. BIETAK, TD V, 30.

<sup>803</sup> Cf. B. BADER, On Simple House Architecture, passim.

<sup>804</sup> M. BIETAK, TD V, 30.



Fig. 8.11 Finds from A/II-n/10. a) reg.no 2390, small jar, b) reg.no 2392, siltstone palette, c) reg.no 2395, painted juglet. Photos taken by B. Bader, courtesy of KhM

dimensions of the room **L [163]** are ca 6.0 m by 2.20 m resulting in an area of 13.3 m<sup>2</sup>. In cubits this would equate 4 by 11.5 with an area of ca 46 square cubits.<sup>805</sup> The earlier phases of G/3 and those below were not reached in this square. The photo, Fig. 8.9.a, indicates that there were earlier structures below Phase G/2–1.

#### Discussion of relevant parts of the sections (A/II-n/10)

There are no section drawings available for this square only two archival photos for the northern and the western sections (Fig. 8.9.b–c).

<sup>805</sup> It has to be noted though that the room is not perfectly rectangular, the same as many mud brick buildings. Cf. for the general

size of such houses B. BADER, On Simple House Architecture, passim.

**Finds from square A/II-n/10, pl. 4–5 and 5***L [163], Room 2*

It is possible that the finds listed below do indeed belong to Phase G/2–1, but because the relative elevation could only be estimated this is not entirely certain.

**Stone**

The plan (Fig. 8.1–8.2) shows in the south eastern corner of room **L [163]** a stone implement, that was described as a column base. The shape of the stone find suggests that it was already broken or only a fragment. Besides, the room in which the object was found would not have needed a column to bridge a distance of only 2.20 m. Perhaps the stone implement represents a quern or a mortar. Unfortunately no photo of this detail was available.

**Pottery**

The plan (Fig. 8.1–8.2) also shows in the south eastern corner of room **L [163]** a collection of pottery that does not seem to have been recorded.

Reg.no **2390** (KhM, A 3592), small jar. Position: A/II-n/10, pl. 4–5, in rubble of wall of rel. level g, 1.15 m/W, 2.00 m/N, 2.50 m/D (H~ 5.00 m/NN).<sup>806</sup> Records: B/W negative SW1189/62–63, drawing ZN 124/69, redrawn and re-recorded.

TG	I-b-2	f.	W1	Bd. gesp.	ox	2–3
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Rd. = 5.8 (22% preserved); nd. = 5.7; max.d. = 8.4; H1 = 10.5; (Base 100% preserved).

Surface colour natural: 7.5 YR 6/4 light brown. Section: red core, yellowish brown oxidation zones. Vessel well smoothed (Fig. 8.10.a, 8.11.a). The type seems to be a smaller version of a well-known Marl C pottery type,<sup>807</sup> and it could be argued that the vessel was perhaps white slipped. The traces were not unequivocal. The fabric is fine and therefore typical

for the late Middle Kingdom rather than a later date ('Hyksos' period), when quartz inclusions become much more abundant than in the earlier phases.<sup>808</sup>

**Small finds**

Reg.no **2388** (KhM, A 3965), two tubular faience beads. Position: A/II-n/10, pl. 4–5, [0.]80 m/N, 3.10 m/W, 2.85 m/D (H~ 4.55 m/NN),<sup>809</sup> relative level g.

Records: not drawn, not photographed, disintegrated in the KhM. It was possible to see the remains of these beads with light blue glaze.

a) length = 0.7; width = 0.35; b) pres. length = 0.8; width = 0.4.

Close to or within the wall **[M28]**, respectively; two more finds were recorded, which are likely to belong to the later Phase F. This is because directly on top of the denuded walls of Phase G/2–1 those of Phase F are set along the same size of rooms and orientation.<sup>810</sup>

**Stone**

Reg.no **2392** (KhM, A 3594), part of a palette of siltstone.<sup>811</sup> Position: A/II-n/10, pl. 4–5, 1.90 m/N, 3.40 m/W, 2.40 m/D (H~ 5.00 m/NN).<sup>812</sup> Found within wall of relative level f.

Records: B/W negatives SW1190/42–44, redrawn and re-recorded.

Rectangular palette with a shallow depression in the middle (due to wear?) edges damaged (Fig. 8.10.c, 8.11.b). Traces of red paint in one corner of the palette. Length = 9.4 + x, width = 8.8, height = 2.3–2.6. Section shows form of irregular rhomboid.

**Pottery**

Reg.no **2395** (KhM, A 3595), red burnished juglet with bichrome decoration, Position: A/II-n/10, pl. 5, 2.70 m/W, 3.20 m/N, 2.30 m/D (H~ 5.20 m/NN).<sup>813</sup> Found within the wall of relative level f, perhaps foundation deposit ['Bauopfer'].

<sup>806</sup> Height estimated by means of southern section of A/II-m/10.

<sup>807</sup> B. BADER, TD XIII, 108–120, esp. cat.nos 174, originally recorded by C. GALLORINI, cf. *Potmarks from Kahun. Systems of Communication in Egypt During the Late Middle Kingdom*, unpublished PhD Dissertation, University College London 1998, fig. 7.3–7.4.

<sup>808</sup> B. BADER, TD XIX, 610–612.

<sup>809</sup> The elevation was estimated by means of southern section of A/II-m/10.

<sup>810</sup> Cf. M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 8 June 1969. Southern section of A/II-m/10, running metre 9.0, section no A37-52.

<sup>811</sup> Cf. B. BADER, Stone Objects, 27–32.

<sup>812</sup> Elevation estimated from southern section of A/II-m/10.

<sup>813</sup> Elevation estimated by means of southern section of A/II-m/10.

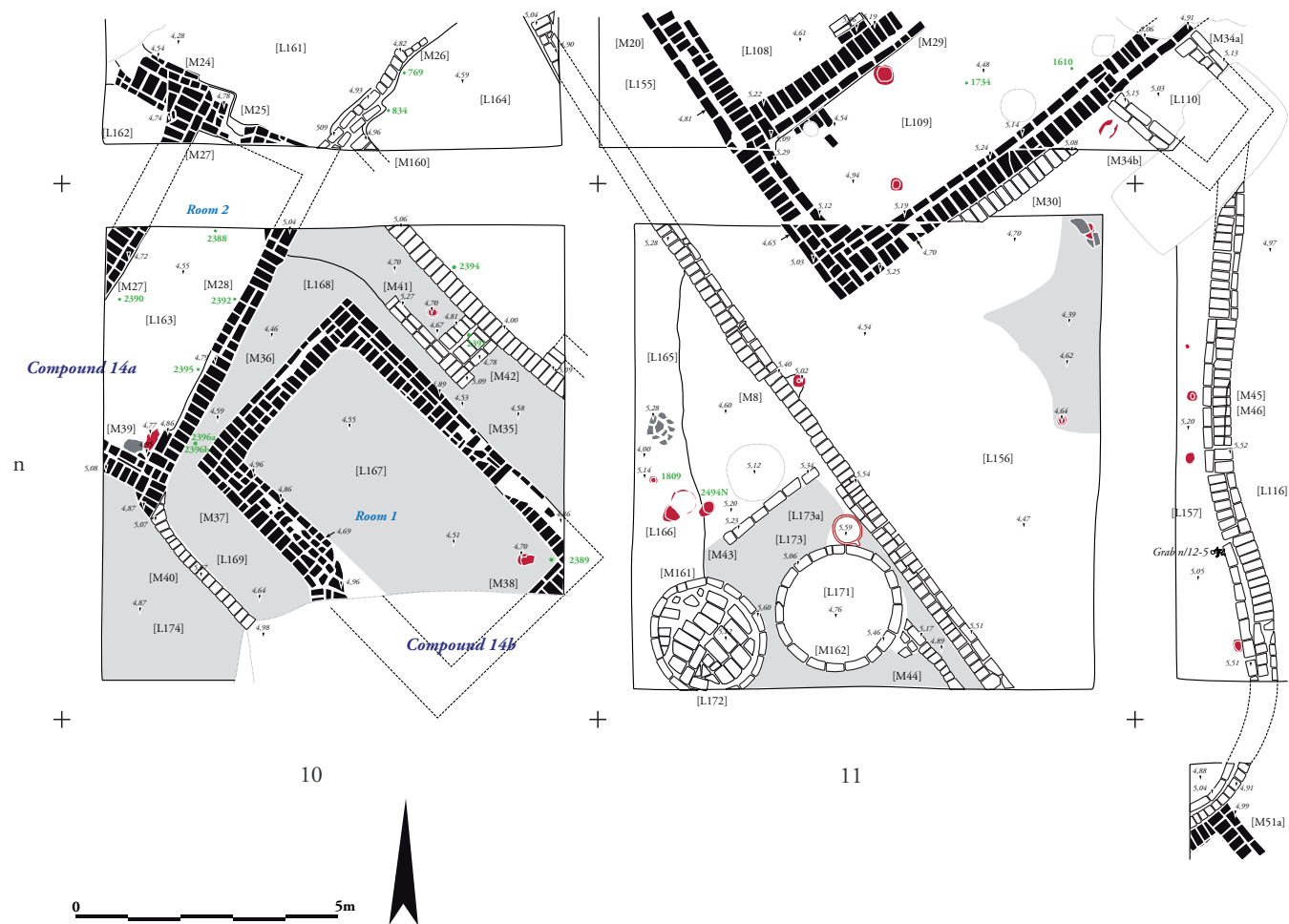


Fig. 8.12 Schematic plan of Compound 14b. Adapted from M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 2 and archival records, graphic execution by N. Math

Records: B/W negative SW1189/30–31, drawing ZN 124/69, redrawn and re-recorded.<sup>814</sup>

RPBI	Id <sup>815</sup>	f.	W1-2	Bd. W	ox	3	1Bd?
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Max.d. = 7.4; bd. = 1.6 (100% preserved); H1 = 7.6 +x.  
 Surface colour of red slip beneath burnish: 2.5 YR 5/6 red; black/dark brown paint: 2.5 YR 3/1 reddish brown; red paint: 2.5 YR 4/4 dusky red. Section: lilac core inside with reddish brown outer oxidation zone. The fabric is dominated by limestone particles coming through the surface as well as abundant amounts of mica. The groundmass looks very much like a Nile clay fabric. Handle and neck missing. The remains of the handle suggest a strap handle, one black line runs

around the handle. The bi-chrome pattern consists of black/dark brown wavy and straight horizontal lines, where only three of them are red (see drawing). The paint was applied after the juglet was burnished and the burnishing was horizontal on the shoulder and vertical below the max.d. The base is rounded (probably button base) and does not allow for the juglet to stand up by itself (Fig. 8.10.b, 8.11.c).

## B. COMPOUND 14B

Compound 14b consists of the more southern part of the structures in squares A/II-n/10 and A/II-n/11 (see Fig. 8.1, 8.12).

<sup>814</sup> T. BAGH, TD XXIII, cat.no TD 0084, 206–207, fig. 27c, dated to Phase F.

<sup>815</sup> Macroscopic scrutiny of a non-fresh break. Cf. with McGovern's results JH 318 also P.E. MCGOVERN, Foreign Relations, 129, dates the juglet to Phase F or earlier.



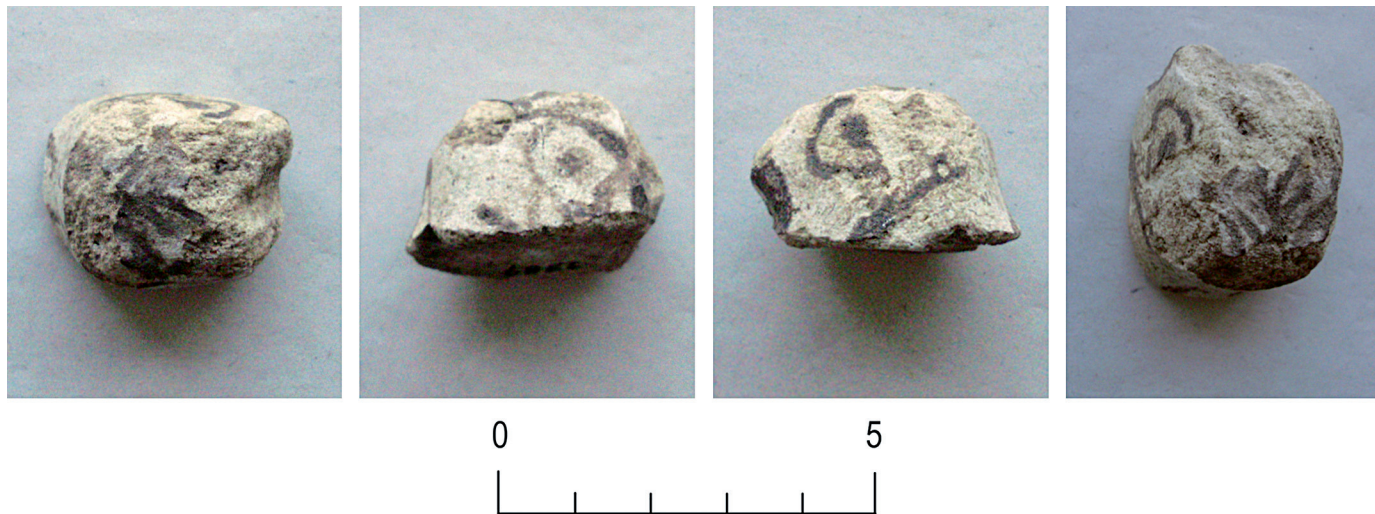


Fig. 8.13 Reg.no 2389, faience object, photos by B. Bader, courtesy of KhM

## SQUARE A/II-n/10

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

The main feature in square A/II-n/10 is a rectangular house (Room 1) consisting of only one room **L [167]** with walls **[M35–M38]**.<sup>816</sup> It is oriented in a NW-SE direction, almost in the same way as the main building of Compound 11 but slightly more tilted towards the west. It is unclear if there were more rooms (not directly connected) belonging to this domestic house unit in squares A/II-o/10 or A/II-o/11, because these were left unexcavated. The base level of wall **[M37]** could be ascertained at 4.69 m/NN. The walls show a thickness of 1 1/2 brick's width with the western wall **[M37]** being slightly thicker, about two brick's width. The size of the bricks varies as follows: 0.33–0.35 m by 0.17–0.185 m. The walls were only preserved three to four brick courses high.<sup>817</sup> It is noteworthy that a lot of the bricks drawn into the plan are not of regular size, but shorter or thinner, and in wall **[M37]** they even make an impression as if they were reused rubble or very close to, or actually, the first brick layer (see also Fig. 8.9.a). This may also be due to the preservation of the walls. The internal dimensions of the building are 5.75 m by 2.90 m resulting in 16.68 m<sup>2</sup>

(cubits: almost 11 by 5.5 resulting in 60.5 square cubits). The proportion is 2:1. The outside dimensions are 6.80 m by 4.5 m, which is equivalent to an even cubit number, 13 by 8. Only walls **[M35]** and **[M36]** are preserved in their entire length, and they show no obvious door opening. Thus it is likely that a door was situated close to the south western corner in wall **[M37]**, because that would provide a bent axis access and thus more privacy. If the entrance was situated in wall **[M38]** a frontal access would have to be proposed. Such a reconstruction seems unlikely in view of the location of other doorways in the settlement. Structural reasons may also favour a door opening in a longer wall.<sup>818</sup>

The narrow space between Rooms 1 and 2 at the north western corner of Room 1 and the south eastern corner of Room 2 prevents passage between those two, but **L [168]** as well as **L [169]** could have been activity areas accessible from different directions. The finding of two limestone weights (see below) does not suggest an area particularly designed for dumping.

Wall **[M40]** creates a narrow alleyway **L [169]** of 1.15 m width along the south-west wall of Room 1, and at the same time prevents direct access to Room 2, as it runs directly into the south eastern corner of Room 2. This arrangement may indicate a property

<sup>816</sup> See also description in M. BIETAK, TD V, 30.

<sup>817</sup> See M. BIETAK, TD V, 30.

<sup>818</sup> See M. BIETAK, TD V, 30. See also B. BADER, On Simple House Architecture, 112–114.

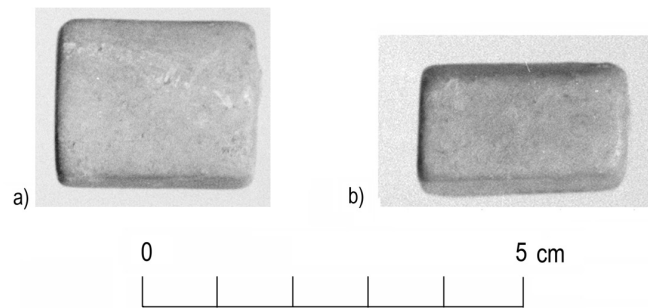


Fig. 8.14 a–b) Reg.no 2396b, stone weight, from top SW1187/17 and the side view SW1187/19

boundary and protects Room 1 suggesting again that the entrance was in the western wall [M37]. More evidence for Room 2 belonging to a separate compound can be found in the deviating orientation as well as in the presence of wall [M26], which creates if not a screen at least some sort of boundary between Compounds 14a and b. M. BIETAK thinks that the compound was only divided at a later stage.<sup>819</sup> Whilst this is possible, it cannot be proven because the exact point where wall [M26] abuts [M28] was within the southern baulk of A/II-m/10.

In addition there were a few more walls in the square [M41, M42, M42a], probably functioning as dividers or as features to be used in daily life. Because [M41] and [M42] are cut by a later tomb (A/II-n/10-1, Phase D/2<sup>820</sup>) it must remain unclear what function this feature could have had. The closeness to wall [M35] makes a passage between them impossible (distance 30 cm). Thus it is possible that they belong to an area L [165] formed by [M8] and [M43] in square n/11, in which several finds were recorded (see below). It has to be said though that these walls do not meet exactly at right angles.

### Finds from square A/II-n/10, pl. 4–5 and 5

#### L [167] Fill of room

Close to the south eastern corner of L [167] a faience object was found.<sup>821</sup>

#### Small finds

Reg.no 2389 (KhM, A 3966), faience object in the shape of a bird's head (?). Position: A/II-n/10, pl. 4–5, [0.]80 m/E, 2.90 m/S, 2.10 m/D (H~5.10 m/NN),<sup>822</sup> relative level f (Fig. 8.13).

Records: none available; seen and photographed.

Fragment of faience with white (?) glaze<sup>823</sup> and black drawing. Length = 3.2; width = 2.6; height = 1.9.

#### Pottery

Although a relatively large piece of pottery was drawn into the plan of A/II-n/10, pl. 5, close to the south east corner inside the house L [167] no sherd collection was recorded, thus, the type cannot be identified.

<sup>819</sup> M. BIETAK, TD V, 30.

<sup>820</sup> M. BIETAK, TD V, 309–313.

<sup>821</sup> There are numerous small animal figurines made of white faience with black painting known from the Middle Kingdom. E.g. Jerboas. Cf. K. YAMAMOTO, *Comprehending Life. Community, Environment, and the Supernatural*, in: A. OPPENHEIM, DO. ARNOLD, DI. ARNOLD and K. YAMAMOTO (eds), *Ancient Egypt*

*Transformed – The Middle Kingdom*, New York 2015, 208–209, cat.no 145.

<sup>822</sup> The elevation was estimated by means of western section of A/II-n/11.

<sup>823</sup> The original registration entry mentions a blue-green glaze but this was not observed in the re-study of the object.

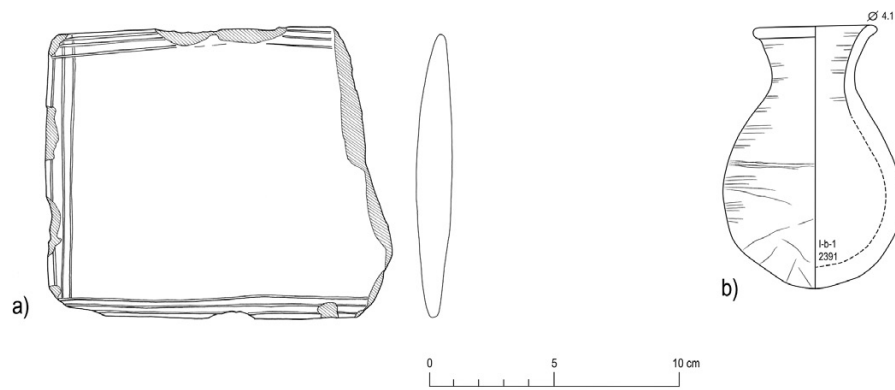


Fig. 8.15 a) Reg.no 2394, pre-historic palette L [164], b) reg.no 2391, small jar, on top of wall [M42].

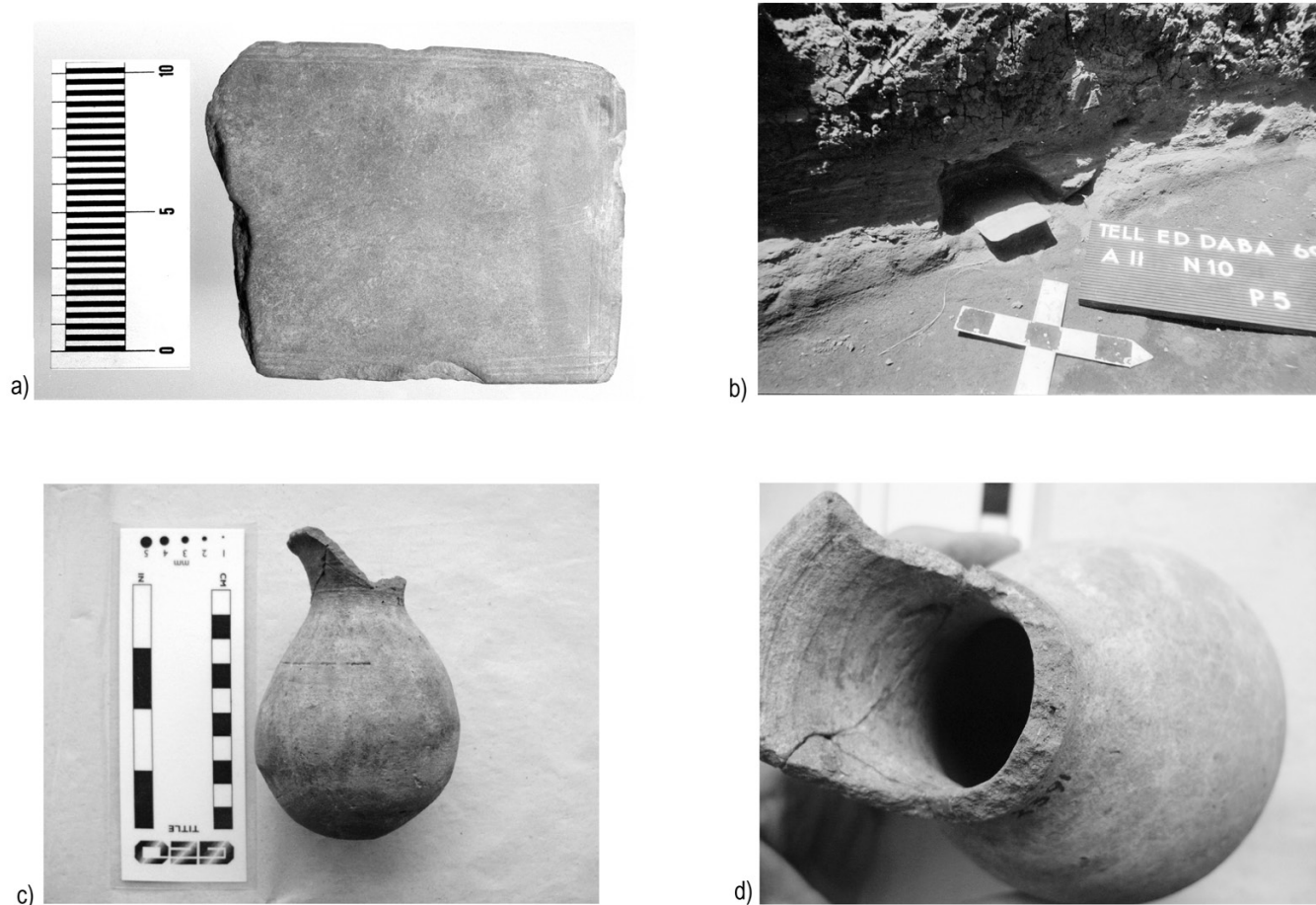


Fig. 8.16 a) Reg.no 2394, pre-historic palette L [164], SW1190/46, b) 2394 in situ, SW1165/52. c–d) reg.no 2391, small jar, on top of wall [M42], photos by B. Bader, courtesy of KhM



Fig. 8.17 A/II-n/10, pl 4. a) View towards south-east, SW1183/61, b) view towards north, SW1183/59. Both represent a later stage with installations of the following Phase F, although the lay-out is very similar to Phase G/3–1 (cf. BIETAK 1991, plan 3)

*L [168] Open space north of Room 1*

Stone

Reg.no **2396a, b** (Museum Cairo), two limestone weights. Position: A/II-n/10, pl. 5, 2.40 m/W, 4.80 m/N (H~ 4.70–4.80 m/NN), 15 cm below preserved top of wall of relative level g.<sup>824</sup>

Records: B/W negatives SW1187/19, 17.

a) prismatic, slightly damaged, on top 8 incised lines, two times four beneath each other; Length = 5.9; width = 4.7; height = 3.4; weight = 215 grams, not photographed.

b) small prismatic shape, top convex; Length = 2.7; width = 2.1; height = 1.6; weight = 29 grams (Fig. 8.14.a–b).

<sup>824</sup> From the records it did not become entirely clear which wall was meant: [M36]: H~4.80 m/NN; [M28]: H~4.70 m/NN;

[M40]: H~4.80. [M28] is the most likely wall because it is the nearest to the find.

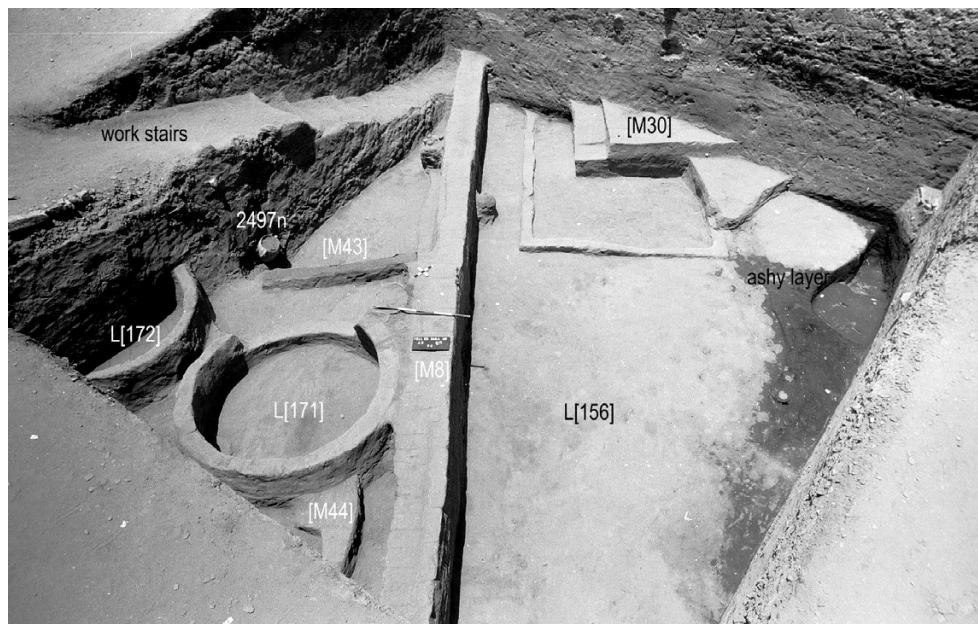


Fig. 8.18 Square A/II-n/11 in pl. 4, SW1095/14

*L [164] Open space east of Room 1*

## Stone

Reg.no **2394** (Museum Cairo, JE 94641), stone palette. Position: A/II-n/10, pl. 5, 1.60 m/N, 2.10 m/E, 2.90 m/D (H~ 4.70 m/NN. The object was found below the base level of wall [M42a], and below base level of the tomb chamber of A/II-n/10-1 (Phase D/2). Records: B/W negative SW1190/46, drawing ZN 8E. Rectangular palette of grey slate (siltstone?) with tapering sides and slightly rounded edges (Fig. 8.15.a, 8.16.a); on the top of the palette three incisions run along the edges and overlap in the corners. Measurements: length = 13.8 + x; width = 11.8, thickness = 1.4.<sup>825</sup>

According to the parallels this is an ancient palette even in the time of the settlement of the late Middle Kingdom. Now it is impossible to find an evidence

based explanation of how this palette got there, or if Tell el-Dab<sup>a</sup> was indeed already founded in early dynastic times. However, it should be kept in mind that Minshat Abu Omar and Tell Ibrahim Awad are perhaps close enough to ancient Avaris to hypothesise that a stone palette might have been taken from there to the settlement. Beside undecorated palettes<sup>826</sup> also very similar ones with the three incisions crossing each other in the corners have been found at least at one of these sites.<sup>827</sup> A hitherto unknown site of this date may be closer than those two mentioned.

*On top of wall [M42]*

Due to this find position of the vessel it is very possible that this jar belongs to a later phase than G/2–1, perhaps Phase F. Small jars appear often in offering pits<sup>828</sup> but there are parallels dating to Phase G/3–1 as well.<sup>829</sup>

<sup>825</sup> Some very good parallels were found in Minshat Abu Omar from “Dynasty 0” see note 827, see also the palette from Dendarah, reg.no 98.4.56 dated to the pre-dynastic period to the 1<sup>st</sup> Dynasty.

<sup>826</sup> K. KROEPER and D. WILDUNG, *Minshat Abu Omar I, Ein vor- und frühgeschichtlicher Friedhof im Nildelta*, Mainz 1994, 106, 758/1.

<sup>827</sup> K. KROEPER and D. WILDUNG, *Minshat Abu Omar II, Ein vor- und frühgeschichtlicher Friedhof im Nildelta*, Mainz 2000, 34–41, tomb 137 (866) palette 1: 27.7 × 19.5 × 1.3 cm; palette 2: 14.5 × 10.2 × 1.1 cm dated to Dynasty 0/MAO Phase III; 69–72, tomb 152 (400), palette 17.8 × 12.4 × 1.5 cm dated to Dynasty

0/MAO Phase III; 144–146, palette 19.2 × 15.5 × 1.2 cm dated to Dynasty 0/MAO Phase III; 169–172, tomb 203 (434), palette 1: 18.1 × 14.6 × 1.1 cm, palette 2: 21.2 × 16.9 × 1.3 cm dated to Dynasty 0/MAO Phase III. All these palettes were described as „slate“ siltstone.

<sup>828</sup> Cf. V. MÜLLER, TD XVII/1, 157–167, Phases E/1–D/3 but usually Nile B2. For Phase E/3 see A/II-o/12 pit A, M. BIETAK, TD V, 97–100.

<sup>829</sup> Cf. L [123] in Compound 12, chapter 6, 179; M. BIETAK, TD V, 32–33.

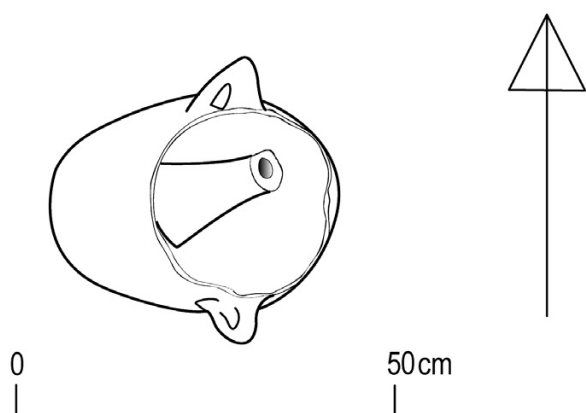


Fig. 8.19 Detail of imported transport amphora reg.no 2497N with the base of a stand reg.no 2497O within it, TDplan 280, inked by B. Bader

### Pottery

Reg.no **2391** (KhM, A 3593), small jar. Position: A/II-n/10, pl. 4–5, 2.30 m/E, 2.80 m/N, 2.40 m/D (H~5.00–5.10 m/NN), relative level g).

Records: B/W negatives SW1188/1 and 3, SW1189/74–75, ZN 124/69, redrawn and re-recorded.

TG	I-b-1	f.	Ha1	Bd. gesp. g.	ox	2–3
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Rd. = 4.0 (25 % preserved), nd. = 3.3; max.d. = 7.2; H1 = 10.4; (base 100% preserved).

Surface colour: 7.5YR 6/3–4 light brown. Section: uniform brown section. Joining line is visible in the height of the max.d. The base is well smoothed the fabric is not very sandy (Fig. 8.15.b, 8.16.c–d).

### Compound 14b in Phase F (A/II-n/10)

Of interest for the settlement history is the fact, that Compound 14b in square A/II-n/10 was used along the same lines than in the phase before (Fig. 8.17). The walls follow the same lay-out and were probably just renewed as can be seen in so many instances throughout the whole settlement. In Phase F the buildings were numbered **L [214]** and **L [216]**.<sup>830</sup> Only the precinct walls seem to have been abandoned. The plan drawing of planum 4 shows a stone mortar in **L [216]**. The digging diary mentions a thin walled vessel in

**L [214]**,<sup>831</sup> but it could not be identified in the records, presumably it turned out to be a non-diagnostic body sherd. The heavily sand tempered mud-bricks show an average measurement of 0.34–0.35 m by 0.16–0.18 m. The walls were built to 1 1/2 brick's width.<sup>832</sup>

### SQUARE A/II-n/11

#### Excavation and available records

The history of excavation and records of square A/II-n/11 has already been discussed in chapter 3.

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

The south-western corner of Compound 11 (corner constituted of **[M20]** and **[M30]**) continued into square A/II-n/11 and protruded from the northern baulk of the square. Also the open space south of Compound 11, **L [156]**, was already discussed (see chapter 4, 140–142).

The south-western half of the square, in the triangular shape of an English sandwich, belongs to Compound 14b, whilst the eastern half represents space **L [156]** and could have belonged to and been used by both the inhabitants of Compounds 11 and 14b (Fig. 8.18). Unfortunately the access to Compound 14b remains unclear as square A/II-o/11 was not excavated. It is possible that a door opening existed there in the precinct wall. It has to be assumed that the walls enclosing the Compounds were too high to just step over them although they were never more than a few brick courses preserved. A low wall seems unlikely because it would not protect privacy and appear entirely superfluous. Wall **[M8]** continued from square A/II-m/10 into A/II-n/11 and seems to constitute the eastern border of Compound 14b. This wall shows a thickness of about 1 to 1 1/2 brick's width. The heavily sand tempered mud-bricks measure about 0.33–0.36 m by 0.16–0.18 m with a thickness of 0.08–0.10 m.<sup>833</sup> The preserved height of the wall is at an elevation of 5.50 m/NN at the highest. No base levels were taken in the square, but from the southern section it can be seen at an elevation of around 4.70 m/NN (section no

<sup>830</sup> M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 3. This is roughly equivalent to the plan drawing of pl. 4 in square A/II-n/10.

<sup>831</sup> M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 27 May 1969, p. 7.

<sup>832</sup> M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 27 May 1969, p. 7.

<sup>833</sup> M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 21 June 1968, p. 32.

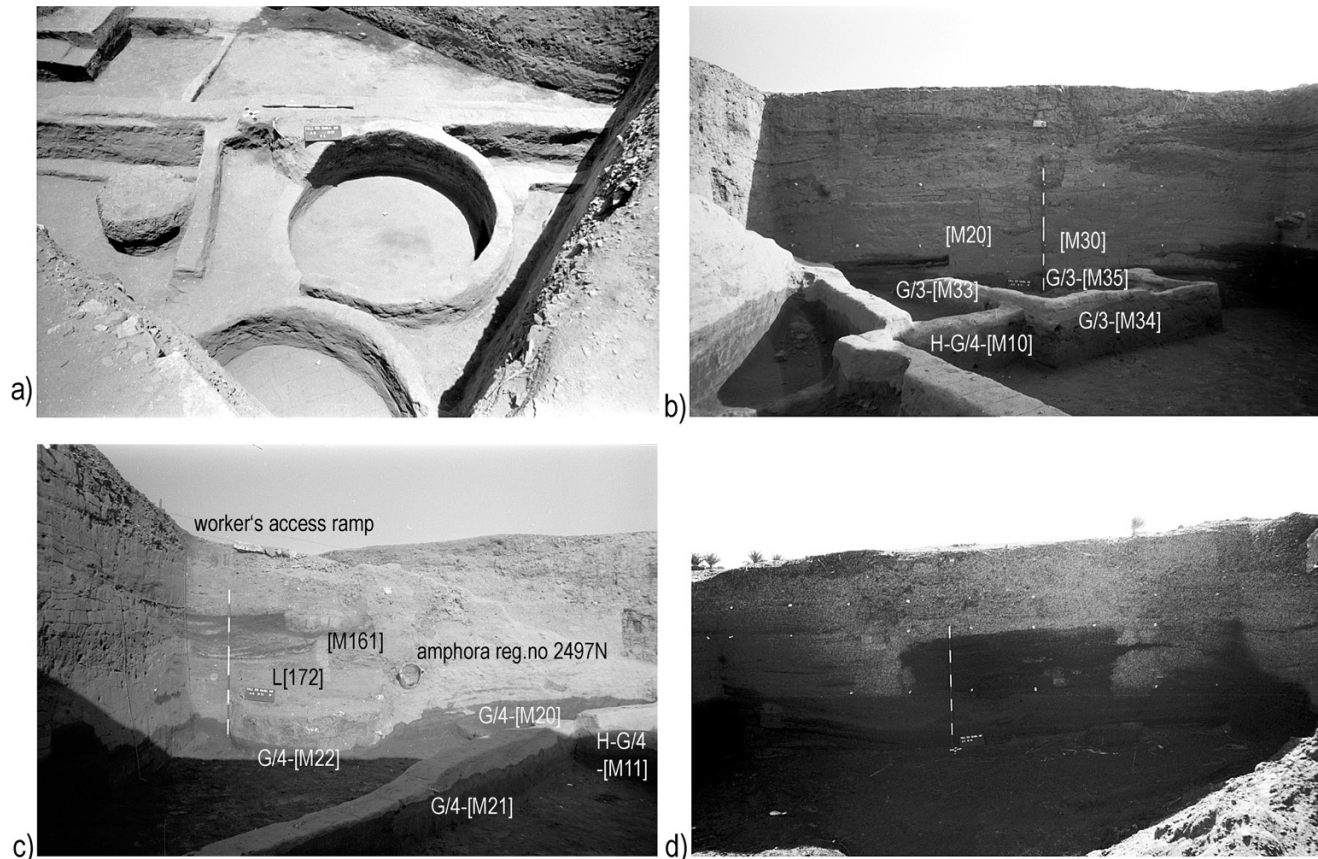


Fig. 8.20 A/II-n/11. a) detail with the silos, [M43], the oven and the tree pit, not yet removed, SW1095/16, b) northern section, SW1114/5, c) western “section” (work stairs) with amphora, SW1114/11, d) southern section with wall [M8] in the left part of the photo, and the wall of the silo on the right, the other walls are obscured by the dampness of the earth, SW1153/34a

A41-37). Approximately in the middle of the wall as it runs in square A/II-n/11 a perpendicular thin wall of half a brick’s width was built [M43], but only one course of it was preserved, so that it remains totally unclear whether it was a real wall or just a screen like feature. [M43] is about 2.0 m long and does not directly abut [M8] but stops short before it would reach it. It is also obvious from the plan drawing that the mixture of the paste for the mud-brick does not contain as much sand as the other parts of this assemblage.

To the north of wall [M43] there is a presumably open space L [165], which might have been bordered by wall [M44] in square n/10, but due to the disturbance of tomb 1 there, this must remain unclear. Within this space a seemingly planned arrangement

of smaller limestone fragments was found. “Nothing special” was situated below these stones.<sup>834</sup> Their top was at an elevation of 5.28 m/NN.<sup>835</sup> There is a possibility that this installation served for a wooden column and this column in turn provided some sort of roofing (reeds are as possible as palm fronds) much in the way that modern stables for cattle are provided in the Delta. The distance to be bridged from the presumed column base to walls [M42], [M8] and [M43] would have been about 1.5 and 3.0 metres and seems manageable. Perhaps such a roofing possibility would also explain the gap and the strange angle between Buildings 1 and 2 and wall [M41] that is too narrow for passage. M. BIETAK assumed that this area might have been used as a bath,<sup>836</sup> or as a dumping ground

<sup>834</sup> M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 21 June 1968, back of p. 32.

<sup>835</sup> This elevation appears very high in relation to the other features of that square that were assigned to Phase G/2-1. It is possible that it belongs actually to Phase F (see Fig. 8.17).

<sup>836</sup> A sherd pavement has not been located in this area.

because three broken amphorae were found here (Fig. 8.12) dug into the ground **L [166]**. This feature is approximately 1.0 m to the south of the stone feature. The amphorae contained animal bones, and pottery sherds (see Fig. 8.19). The vessel in the middle contained a stone (probably unworked, as no records of it were found). North of these vessels a jar with a spout was found (see Fig. 8.12, reg.no 1809) made from Nile B1 (see below for finds).<sup>837</sup> The tops of these vessels were at an elevation of 5.14–5.20 m/NN. The vessel height of ca 0.45 m of the amphora makes it likely that the amphora belonged to Phase G/2–1. With reg.no 1809 of ca 0.2 m height such an assignation is more questionable. Thus, the vessel may belong to Phase F. Fig. 8.18 shows that vessel 2497N was found half in the descending ramp for working access of the square that was only removed later.

South of wall **[M43]** an oven **L [173a]** with a burnt wall was situated in space **L [173]**, immediately adjacent to silo **L [171]**. The oven showed a diameter of one cubit.<sup>838</sup> Only south of wall **[M43]**, which also seem to have been covered by ash, there are noticeable ashy layers<sup>839</sup> up to 0.5 m (see Fig. 8.12), which fill the south west corner of the square up to the preserved tops of the walls. It seems as if an ash layer is extending across this south west area close to the floor level, running up the walls and covering the lower parts of them.<sup>840</sup> Whilst the western section of A/II-n/11 does not show massive layers of ash the eastern section does (see chapter 4, Fig. 4.19a and in the plan drawing, section no A80-59) especially in the northern half of it. This ash layer is thickest in the first two running metres (H = 4.20–4.80 m/NN and decreasing towards the south), but this belongs to the space **L [156]** east of wall **[M8]** (see chapter 4, 141). The same ash layer is also visible in the drawing of planum 4 (TDplan no 280). Due to the sterility of this layer without any settlement refuse a wind blown deposition was assumed.<sup>841</sup> The southern section shows moderate ash layers (section no A41-46). This can be interpreted as a local feature in the SW area of the square, which may be derived from the oven **L [173a]**.<sup>842</sup> The eleva-

tion of the top of the oven is at 5.59 m/NN, which means if it belonged to Phase G/2–1 it was very tall. The base level was not taken, but the level of the floor around it seems to be at about 4.80 m/NN. Thus, an estimate of the height of the oven installation can be made at about 0.80 m.

Further south two round silos were excavated **L [171]** and **L [172]**, the western one of which showed a pavement with an elevation of 5.12 m/NN also built of heavily sand tempered mud-bricks. The southern section suggests that there were two building phases on top of each other. The base level of the first wall, taken from the southern section is at an elevation of ca 4.70 m/NN (section no A41-57). The second, later base level is at an elevation of ca 5.00 m/NN (section no A41-39).<sup>843</sup> The size of the bricks of the silo is 0.36–0.37 by 0.175–0.18 m.<sup>844</sup> South of silo **L [171]** another wall of sand bricks **[M44]** abuts the silo, at a distance of 0.5 m west of wall **[M8]**. It may have been part of an installation to access the silo, as it becomes wider close to it, or a skin wall to **[M8]**. The interpretation of this wall is all the more difficult because the next square to the south, where it might have continued was not excavated. It is perhaps represented by section no A41-58 in the southern section but it is only one brick course high preserved surrounded with some rubble.

#### Discussion of relevant parts of the sections (A/II-n/11)

The northern section (A16, drawn in 1968) was excavated and documented to an elevation of 4.00 m/NN but only in the eastern corner. To the west the exposure goes down to about 4.50 m/NN. An ash layer **L [156]** (= section no A16-74) runs over the two oldest walls with section no A16-78 in the eastern part of the section (= A16-78a), but in a rather thin layer, whilst the more eastern wall section no A16-78b is overlain by a homogenous level of sand with small mud-brick fragments. Both these walls were assigned to Phase H. Their base levels were not reached because

<sup>837</sup> M. BIETAK, TD V, 30.

<sup>838</sup> M. BIETAK, TD V, 30.

<sup>839</sup> Visible in TDplan no 280.

<sup>840</sup> M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 21 June 1968.

<sup>841</sup> M. BIETAK, analysis of southern section, TDplan no 290.

<sup>842</sup> Presumably it is possible to assume that some ashes of the oven **L [173a]** may also have been dumped in **L [156]**, but there is no proven opening in the wall **[M8]** close to the oven. Thus the effort to go and dump ash in the far corner of **L [156]** seems perhaps an unlikely solution because it appears impractical.

<sup>843</sup> M. BIETAK, section nos of southern section of A/II-n/11.

<sup>844</sup> M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, late June 1968.



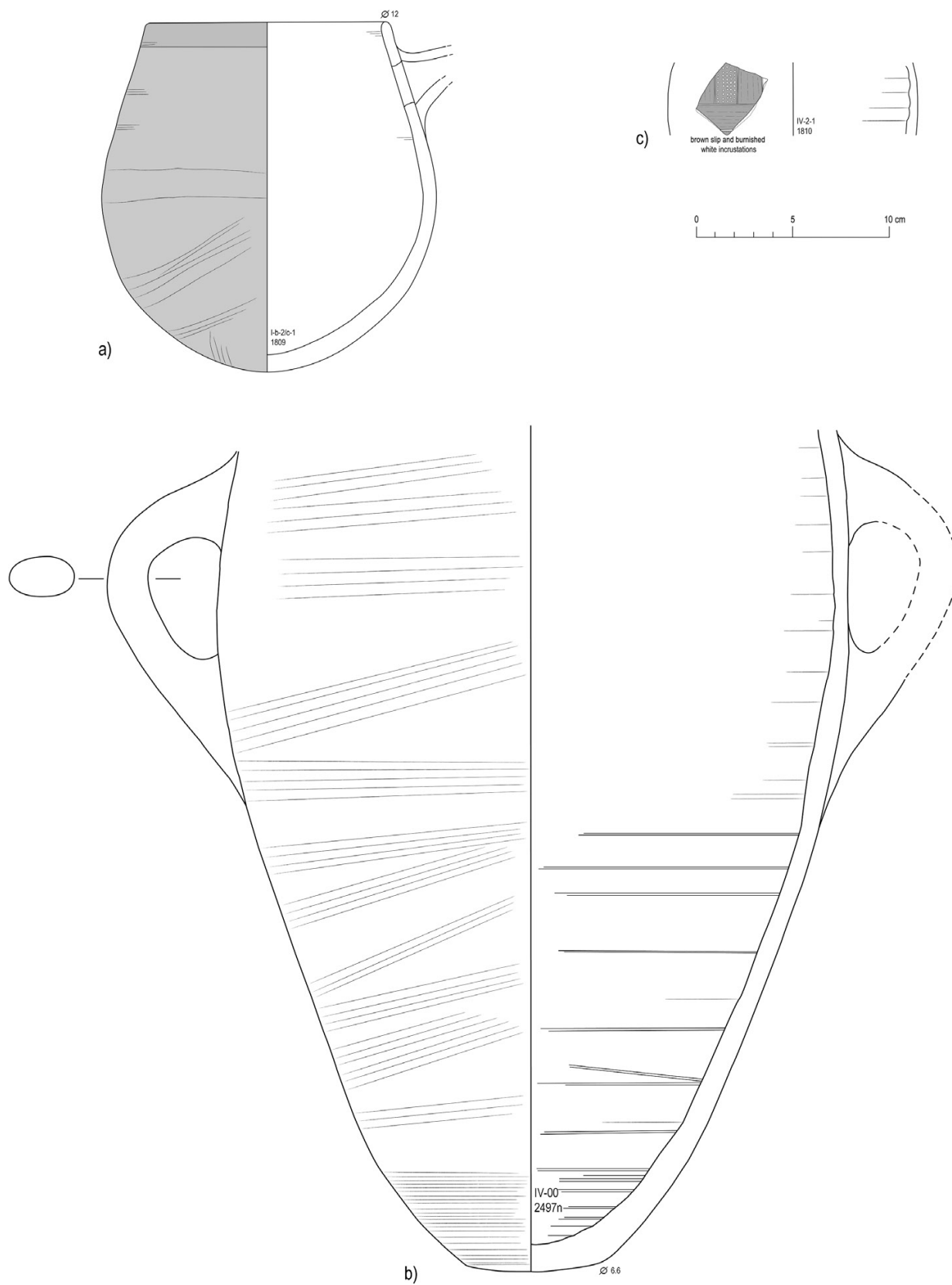


Fig. 8.21 a) Reg.no 1809, vessel with spout, b) reg.no 2497N, transport amphora, c) reg.no 1810, Tell el-Yahudieh sherd

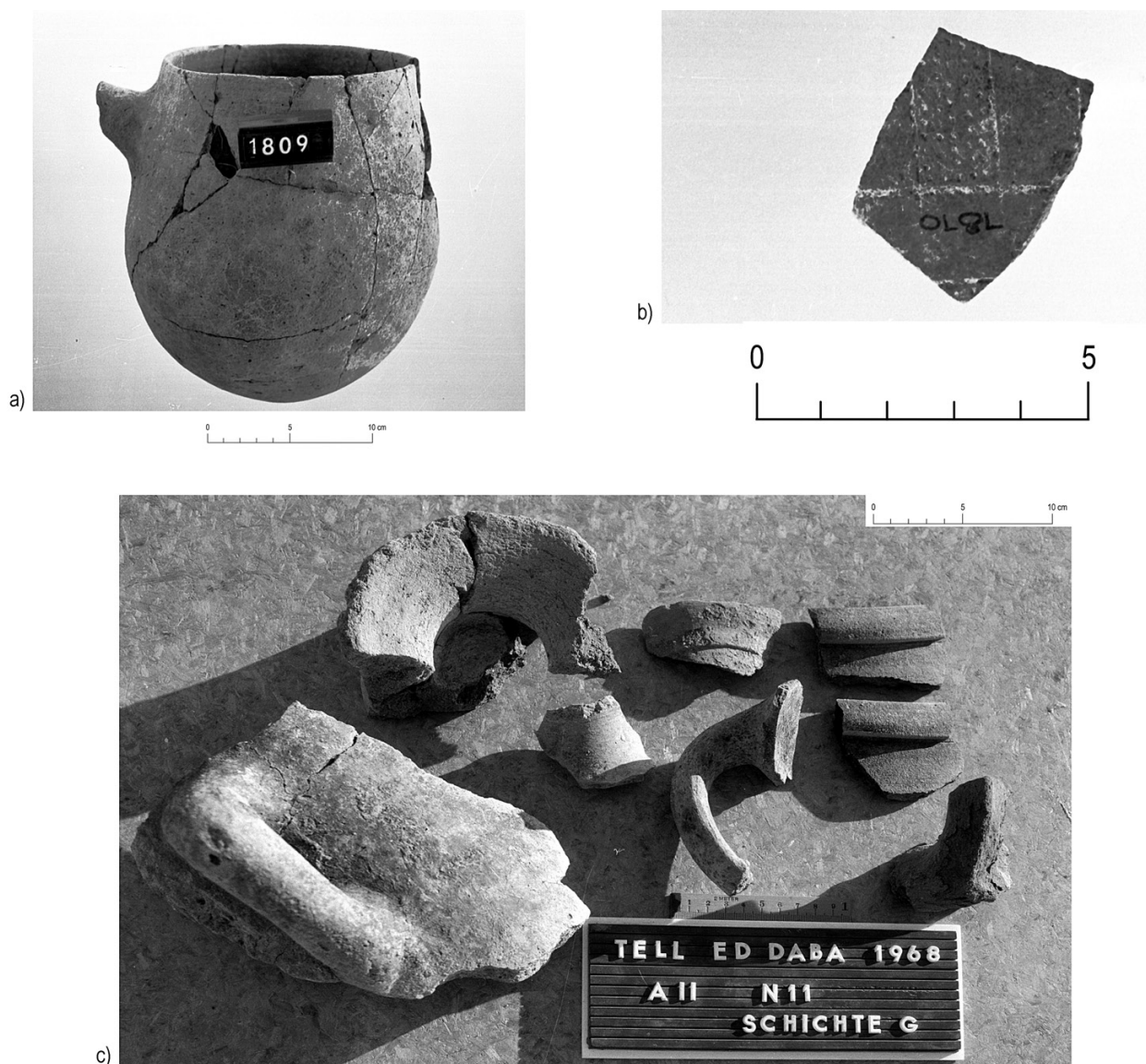


Fig. 8.22 a) Reg.no 1809, SW1146/15a, b) reg.no 1810, Tell el-Yahudieh sherd, SW1146/16a, c) konvolute K151, SW1152/15–16

they were below the exposure of the excavation and their preserved tops are at an elevation of 4.40 m/NN and 4.30 m/NN, respectively. They can be identified with ([H-G/4-M6] (= A16-78a) and [H-G/4-M7] (= A16-78b). There is no separate plan drawing for these early walls.<sup>845</sup> At a base level of 4.50 m/NN there is a single sand brick (section no A16-73) visible and only one course of mud-bricks preserved, approximately at running metre 5.75 measured from the west. This wall corresponds to the wall [G/3-M35] in planum

4 that runs underneath that of Compound 11 [M30] (= section no A16-60) and is therefore earlier than Compound 11 (cf. chapter 3), probably to be assigned to Phase G/3 (cf. Fig. 9.6). It is noteworthy that this wall [G/3-M35] was razed almost to the ground with just one brick preserved. Exactly on top of that wall and much wider and more thoroughly built section no A16-60 represents the corner of walls [M30] and [M20] at a base level of 4.70 m/NN. Five brick courses are preserved, taking the elevation of the preserved

<sup>845</sup> These oldest walls as they are overlaid with ashes were assigned to Phase H. Because there is no connection to the other

parts of the early levels it is difficult to reconstruct the layout of the earlier settlement structures in this area.

top to 5.30 m/NN. [M20] is less well preserved than [M30] and seems to have been repaired at one point. The fill belonging to Compound 11 (L [109]) consists of several fine layers of building rubble, a compacted layer of loamy rubble (section no A16-62) and a very thin white floor (no number). On top of these are layers section no A16-61, upper fill of the room, and section no A16-57, which runs already over the preserved top of the wall and signifies the end of the room phase. Section nos A16-62 and A16-75 signify building rubble of Compound 11. East and west of Compound 11 there are a series of finely layered levels indicating a certain amount of domestic activities there and perhaps free passageways on either side of Compound 11. It is interesting that no walls were assigned to Phase F and the older Temple I of Phase E/3 is almost exactly superimposed on top of the ruined core unit of the older Compound 11.<sup>846</sup>

The western section (A54, drawn in 1968) was exposed down to an elevation of 4.40 to 4.20 m/NN. It seems that the *gezirah* was reached here at a level of 4.20 m/NN in the middle part of the section (section no A54-75). The relevant levels for Phases G/3–1 and below are situated between the elevations of 4.20 and about 5.00 m/NN and consist of a series of finely stratified layers made up of various sand and ash layers. Only one ash layer is slightly thicker namely that with section no A54-72 which is less than 10 cm deep. The 6.0 running metres from north towards south are devoid of any walls, indicating that this area was used as an open space like a courtyard with some activity involving open fire perhaps, here again the oven L [173a] can be mentioned (see above). From running metre 1.65 to 3.0 from the south a heavily sand tempered mud-brick structure of 1.40 m width with section no A54-73 was recorded. Its base level was below the excavated elevation, but there can be little doubt that this item represents the superposition of the paved silo L [172] with a preserved top elevation of 4.90 m/NN (from pl. 4) and an older silo slightly shifted to the south (from pl. 5) with a base level of 4.17 m/NN measured in the plan drawing, but the section was not recorded down that far in this area (see Fig. 8.12, 8.20.a: visible in the photo). Whether the older silo [G/4-M22] belongs to Phases H, G/4 or G/3 remains quite unclear. If section no A54-75 represents indeed the *gezirah*, as stated, there is not much choice than to assume section no A54-73 belongs to Phase H

or to assume this area was not used so early and assign it to G/4, cf. Fig. 9.1.

The southern section (A41, drawn in 1968) was also exposed down to an elevation of 4.00 m/NN and it contains several walls in the relevant elevations. The oldest wall seems to be section no A41-63[a] between running metres 6.0 and 7.0 counting from the east. It is three courses high and preserved up to an elevation of 4.40 m/NN, while the base level was not reached. No wall is recorded in this position in the plan drawing of planum 5 (TDplan 281), which I cannot explain. It must have been overlooked in the varied and dense mud-brick rubble filling the square in the area delimited by walls [G/4-M20] and [G/4-M21] and the western and southern baulks, cf. Fig. 9.1. The wall section no A41-63[b] (= [G/4-M21]) is visible and is seemingly the predecessor of wall [M8] of the following Phase G/2–1. Its base level is at an elevation of 4.22 m/NN. The area between running metres 3.0 and 6.0 from east was disturbed by a pit dug from the next later phase, namely G/3–1. Between running metres 5.0 and 6.0 from the east a wall with section no A41-41[a] was built. It consisted of heavily sand tempered mud-bricks and six courses were preserved (up to 5.10 m/NN). The base level was at ca 4.50 m/NN, but there is no suitable wall shown in any of the plan drawings. The same holds true for wall no A41-41[b], whose base level is slightly higher at an elevation 4.70 m/NN. Those two walls A41-41 [a] and A41-41 [b] are only 0.4 m apart from each other and they were set into a pit or pits that was/were dug from the surface of the same phase into which silo L [172] belongs. Why these two walls are not traceable in the plans can only be explained by their seemingly total destruction there. It is unfortunate that square o/11 was not excavated to try and trace these enigmatic walls. It might be possible that they belong to another round silo that was not discovered in the baulk between A/II-n/11 and A/II-o/11 although the distance seems a bit too close.

The wall with section no A41-37 represents the boundary wall of this Compound [M8]. Its base level is at 4.70 m/NN and it is rather well preserved with eight courses of heavily sand tempered mud-bricks up to an elevation of 5.60–5.70 m/NN. It seems possible that it was rebuilt once after the fifth course, because it is slightly uneven there. The area east of this wall comprises a series of thicker levels among them again

<sup>846</sup> Cf. M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 4.

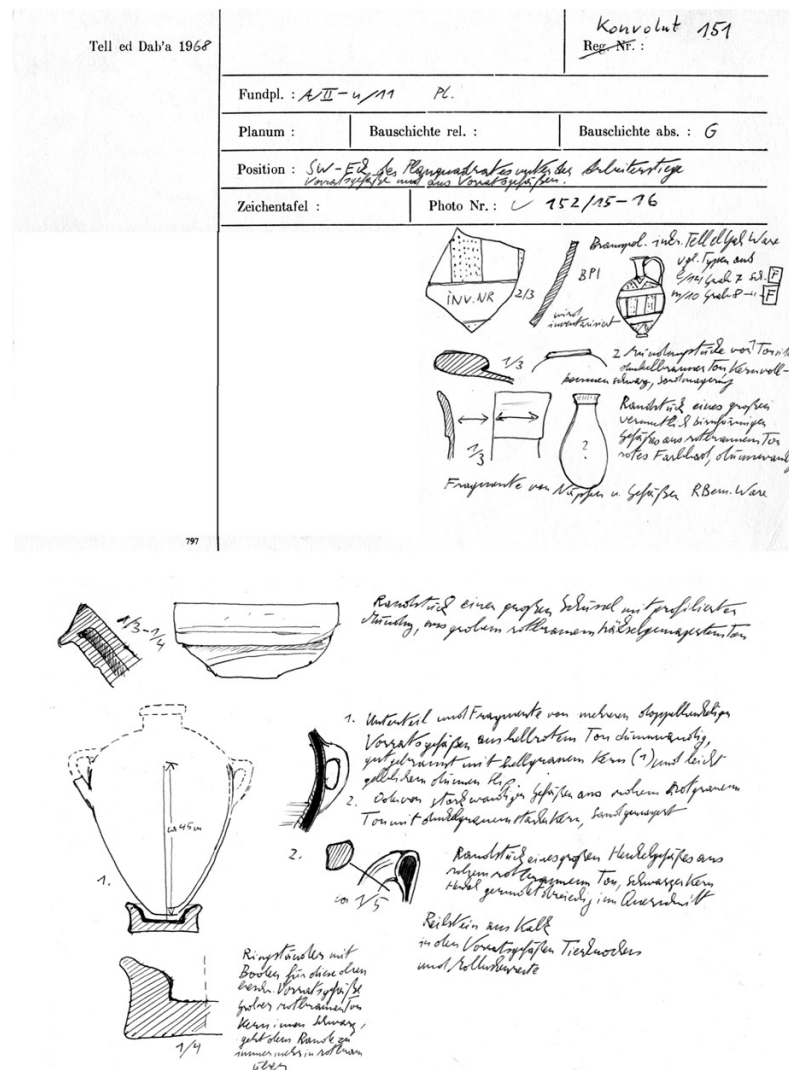


Fig. 8.23 Original record of konvolute K151, which was no longer available, scale approx. 1:2

rich clayey loam which was interpreted as the remains of collapsed roof constructions. They continue east into square A/II-n/12.

Note that here the *gezirah* was not reached, although the excavation went down to the elevation of 4.00 m/NN! This seems to corroborate the unevenness of the original topography of this area.

The eastern section, A80, is discussed with L [156] in chapter 4.

### Finds from square A/II-n/11, pl. 4 and 4–5

L [166]

Pottery

Reg.no **1809** (KhM, A 3225), round based jar with spout. Position: A/II-n/11, pl. 4, 1.0 m/W, 4.5 m/S, H = 5.14 m/NN, relative phase g,<sup>847</sup> (Fig. 8.21.a, 8.22.a).

<sup>847</sup> Published in D.A. ASTON, TD XII/1, pl. 17, no 82, as Phase F, with the old drawing.

Records: B/W negatives SW1153/12A–13, SW1146/15a, drawings ZN E/23, ZN 157/68, redrawn and re-recorded.

RF	I-b-2/c-1	f. – m.	W1	Bd. gesp. g.	ox	2–3
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Rd. = 12.2 (97 % preserved); max.d. = 17.4; wd. = 0.5–0.7; H1 = 18.1; (bd. 100% preserved).

Surface colour: red slip 7.5 R 5/8 red; uncoated: 7.5 YR 6/4 light brown. Section: red core, brown oxidation zones. The fabric is not yet as full of quartz as the later fabric variant. Perhaps there was a red slipped rim as well, but the surface is not well enough preserved to be certain. The interior of the vessel was very well smoothed, the trimmed base also on the outside. In the middle of the height at the max.d a joining line is very visible although it has been smoothed very well. Perhaps this vessel is to be dated to Phase F, if it was found in the fill of the space and not on the floor. Due to the vast difference in height between this and the following vessels this need not necessarily mean that 2497n and the others must belong to Phase F. Also M. BIETAK did not think there were any structures belonging to Phase F in this area.<sup>848</sup> Thus, remains the question, why an almost complete vessel would have been deposited there in Phase F, if no structures were in use at that time. Nevertheless, some activities might not have necessitated any built structures.

Reg.no **2497N**, Canaanite transport amphora, lower part. Position: A/II-n/11, pl. 4, 4.0 m/S, 2.0 m/W, top of vessel H = 5.20 m/NN, from ash deposit close to the silo in the SE corner, drawn into plan (Fig. 8.12).<sup>849</sup> Found together with two more fragmentary Canaanite jars,<sup>850</sup> (Fig. 8.21.b).

Records: B/W negatives SW1114/11–12, 9–10; drawing ZN 173/68; partly redrawn.<sup>851</sup>

TG	IV-00	mi. – r.	W2	Bd. W	ox	3
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Bd. = 6.6 (100 % preserved); H = 45.0 +x; rim and handles missing.[?]

Surface colour: 5 YR 7/5 reddish yellow. Section: uniform reddish yellow. Inclusions: quartz, Limestone particles, very hard, homogeneous. NAA JH 71.<sup>852</sup>

Reg.no **1810** (KhM, A 3226), Tell el-Yahudieh juglet, body fragment. Position: A/II-n/11, pl. 4, within one of

the storage jars of **L [166]** together with molluscs<sup>852a</sup> and animal bones (Fig. 8.21.c).

Records: B/W negative SW1146/16a–17, drawing ZN 157/68, redrawn and rerecorded.

BPI	IV-2-1 brown	fine	W2	–	n.r.	n.r.
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Length = 3.5; width = 2.7;

Surface colour: Brown burnish: 10 YR 5/2 grayish brown; inside 10 YR 6/1 gray. Section: dark brown core inside outside very thin oxidation zone. Of the decoration one incised rectangle standing on its shorter side is filled with incised dots. The two rectangles beside it are burnished, and below this the part of another rectangle is just visible. The dots were incised with a comb not with a single point (see Fig. 8.22.b). The reconstructed diameter of the body is 12.0 cm.

The sherd collection derived from the interior of the amphora including reg.no 1810 was recorded as konvolute K151 (Fig. 8.22.c,<sup>853</sup> 8.23). It is clear that this fill does not represent the original contents of the amphora, but that it had been filled later either by rubbish from the settlement – similar to the deposition of such material in a silo – or that the earth filling the jar already contained these ceramic fragments.

Konvolute **K151**. Position: A/II-n/11, pl. 4. Storage jars and finds from within storage jar (reg.no 2497n). The sherd collection comprises pottery that can be paralleled in the better known settlement repertoire of the area further to the east belonging to Phase G/3–1 (cf. vol. 2, in preparation). But Phase F cannot be entirely excluded due to the composition of the context. # 2 Fragments of Nile E2 cooking pots, ca 33% preserved (two top sherds close to the right edge of photo, Fig. 8.22.c).

# 1 Rim fragment of a Canaanite transport amphora, ca 33%.

# 1 Base/lower part of a Canaanite transport amphora, + several fragments, including at least two handles or parts thereof.

# 1 Rim fragment of a large Nile C2 dish, ca 25%.

# 1 Stand fragment, perhaps belonging to complete profile 2497o (see below), Nile C2, ca 25%. Such a type of stand with a closed base is hitherto unparalleled in the settlement pottery from Tell el-Dab'a in the late Middle Kingdom layers.

<sup>848</sup> M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 3.

<sup>849</sup> M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 2, L [166].

<sup>850</sup> The other material was recorded as konvolute K151.

<sup>851</sup> I would like to thank DAVID ASTON for redrawing the remaining parts of this vessel and checking the fabric.

<sup>852</sup> P.E. MCGOVERN, *Foreign Relations*, 119, provenience according to NAA Southern Palestine, dated to Phase G/2–1.

<sup>852a</sup> The mollusc sample has been located in the KhM. Identification is pending.

<sup>853</sup> Note that not all fragments mentioned on the card are shown in the photo, because those incorporated in the official register were processed differently.

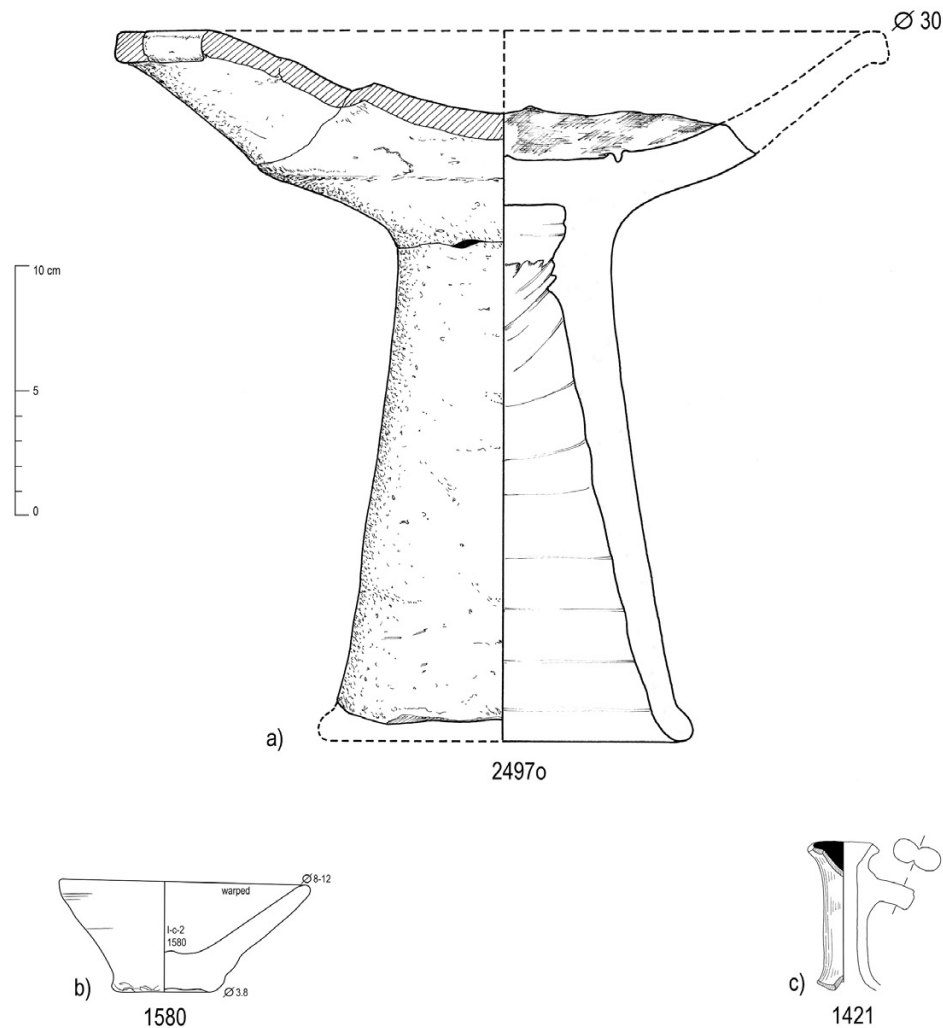


Fig. 8.24 a) Reg.no 2497O, footed bowl, b) reg.no 1580, warped small dish, c) reg.no 1421, red burnished juglet, ZN 86/68

For the following vessel no specific find spot was recorded.<sup>854</sup> Most likely, this footed dish belongs to **L [166]**, because the detailed drawing of the Canaanite jar 2497N, shows the foot of a footed dish inside (see Fig. 8.19). This is the more likely explanation and is corroborated by the consecutive numbering of reg.nos. Also the rim with out-turned lip of konvolute K151 would fit with this reconstruction: left upper corner on the back of card, cf. Fig. 8.23.

Reg.no **2497O**, footed bowl. Position: A/II-n/11, pl. 4 (Fig. 8.24.a).<sup>855</sup>

Records: drawing ZN 141/68.

TG?	I-c-1/2?	m. - r.?	W1?	Bd. W1?	ox?	2-3?
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Rd. = 30.0; bd. = 14.8; H1 = 28.2.

#### Animal bones

Among the animal bones from the Amphora the scapula of a sheep, with the distal end broken was recorded.<sup>856</sup>

<sup>854</sup> Perhaps the ceramic find in planum 4 at ca 3.75 m/W and 3.60 m/N at a level of 5.02 m/NN is actually this footed dish but usually if the pottery was recognisable it was drawn as correct type even in the plans in scale 1:50.

<sup>855</sup> Similar examples of footed bowls occur in Phase G/4 and later at Tell el-Dab'a. Cf. D.A. ASTON, TD XII/2, plates 27–28.

<sup>856</sup> J. BOESSNECK, TD III, 15.

In the south western corner of A/II-n/11, pl. 4, presumably close to the silo **L [172]**, a large number of animal bones was found and identified by J. BOESSNECK.<sup>857</sup>

Cattle: a minimum of 33 bone fragments of cattle from all parts of the skeleton (minimum number of animals; 1 calf and 1 adult).

Sheep: 1 scapula; 2 phalangeae (minimum number of animals: 1 adult).

Sheep/goat: 1 frag. of upper jaw; 1 frag. of lower jaw; 2 vert. cerv.; 2 rib frags.; 1 frag. of humerus; 1 frag. of the shaft of a metacarpus; 1 frag. of a pelvis; 1 frag. of a femur, proximal part; epiphyseal cartilage closed; 1 frag. of the shaft of a metatarsus.

Goat: 1 scapula frag.

Pig: 1 frag. of neurocranium; 1 upper jaw of female, adult; 2 frags. of scapula; 1 humerus, distal part in the process of closing (minimum number of individuals 2: one female adult, 1 juvenile).

Donkey: 1 complete metacarpus.

Fish: lates niloticus or Nile perch: 1 distinctive fin ray of the dorsal fin.

Distribution of animal bones in south west corner of **L [173]**

cattle	sheep	sheep/goat	goat	pig	donkey	lates
33	3	11	1	5	1	1

### Finds from square A/II-n/11, pl. 3

These finds most probably do not belong to Phase G/2–1 but to F or even E/3. They are listed here for completeness' sake. The layout of the features in this square is already roughly the same as in the next older layer below (planum 4), with the silos and the boundary wall being perhaps still in use.

*L [173] Fill of open space in south west corner of square*

### Pottery

Reg.no **1580** (KhM, A 3076), small dish with straight base. Position: A/II-n/11, pl. 3, from between the two round silos 2.40 m/[S] (H~5.15 m/NN), recorded as relative phase e = G. Perhaps it belongs to filling/dumping still Phase G/3–1 or F.

Records: drawing ZN 28E, redrawn and re-recorded.

TG	I-c-2	roh	W1	Bd. abg.	ox	2
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Rd. = 8.0–12.0 (45% preserved), bd. = 3.8 (100% preserved); H1 = 4.3–4.6;

Surface colour: 7.5 YR 7/4 pink. Section: red core with brown oxidation zones. The vessel is warped and the vessel orifice oval; the vessel was carelessly made and cut off the wheel (clay hump) with a string. The fabric contains ample quartz, which can also be observed on other vessel types made from Nile C2 of Phase G/3–1 (e.g. beer bottles<sup>858</sup>).

The following ceramic find comes from the fill/dump north of **[M43]** probably from a disturbance. It comes from above **L [165]**, quite close to the find spot of reg. no 2497n but above it.

Reg.no **1421** (KhM, A 2969), rim of jug. Position: A/II-n/11, pl. 3, 3.80 m/S; 2.2 m/W elevation not given, from sand brick building emerging from under the work stairs.

Records: B/W negative SW1126/30, drawing ZN 86/68. Not re-recorded.

RP	?	?	W2	–	?	2–3	2 RST
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Rd. ~3.0; (~60% preserved); H1 = 6.0 + x.

<sup>857</sup> J. BOESSNECK, TD III, 15–16. He stated also that the bone material was generally in a bad state of preservation, very broken up and flaky.

<sup>858</sup> Cf. B. BADER, TD XIX, 622–625.

