

# Pottery of Manqabad

A selected catalogue of the  
ceramic assemblage from the  
monastery of 'Abba Nefer' at  
Asuyt (Egypt)

Ilaria Incordino



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## Introduction

The present volume has the principal aim to present, document and analyse a selection of ceramics deriving from the Egyptian site of Manqabad (Asyut). The Italian Egyptian project at the monastery of 'Abba Nefer the Hermit' at Manqabad started in 2011, sponsored by the University of Naples "L'Orientale" (UNIOR) and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation (MAECI) and directed by Rosanna Pirelli, professor of Egyptology and Archaeology and Art History of Ancient Egypt at UNIOR. The present writer is in charge of the study of the pottery from Manqabad in the framework of her PostDoc grant "*The Coptic pottery from the monastery of 'Abba Nefer' at Manqabad*", funded by the Department of Asia, Africa and the Mediterranean (DAAM) of the University of Naples "L'Orientale" (2017-2020).

The site is located about 9 km north of Asyut and was accidentally discovered in 1965, during construction work for the local electrical system. Between 1976 and 2010 it was excavated only by Egyptian inspectors of the Antiquities Service (SCA). During the three UNIOR field missions conducted so far, the team has been able to re-discover and outline the history of this huge monastic site (92.000 m<sup>2</sup>) in the Middle Egypt region, which is formed by three main areas (see the picture below): the Northern Sector, a 230m. long double row of monastic housing units and a chapel located at the northern end of the site, today limited by the modern Muslim cemetery; the Central Sector, including more housing units, a possible thermal bath complex of the Late Roman Period and a 'Qasr'; the Southern sector with the possible remains of another church, a monumental gate on the west and a quite high 'dump', which could represent the production area of the site.

The main phases of occupations can be identified as follows: a First Christian Period (Phase I, 6th century AD), a Second Christian Period (Phase II, 8th century AD) corresponding to the beginning of the Islamic Period; an Islamic Period, 19th century CE, reign of Mahmud II). In addition to that, three more periods of possible, or less regular human presence can be suggested as follows: a Pharaonic Period (deduced from the finding of hieroglyphic signs on at least two limestone blocks reused in Christian era analysed during the 2014 and 2018 missions); a Ptolemaic Period (?); and a Late Roman Period (for the presence of thermal-bath-like architectural structures in the central area of the site). Moreover, some literary (papyrus) sources quote the occurrence of a *castrum* at Likopolis still in use during the first half of the 5th century AD. This date can be seen as a *terminus post quem* for the beginning of the monastic settlement at Manqabad.

One of the principal goals of the project is the study and publication of the related findings, today stored at the SCA warehouses in el-Ashmunein and Shutby, together with the analysis of the material deriving from the ongoing excavations. Of course, pottery has a prominent role in the identification of the different phases of occupation and production/domestic activities performed in the ancient monastic community. Therefore this volume aims at presenting the most significant ceramic typologies identified from Manqabad, while collecting as much references and parallels as possible deriving from several different monastic sites in Egypt.

Notwithstanding the still ongoing process of study of this assemblage (many archaeometric and possibly content analysis are still in progress), the wish of the author is to share with the scientific community those typologies identified, in order to contribute to the debate about the documentation, study, publication and classification of ceramic material from Byzantine Egypt.



Aerial view of the monastic site of Manqabad.

### **Methodological issues**

The study conducted on the Manqabad ceramics has been affected, since the first attempts, by several difficulties, of which the effort to find reliable parallels in the available literature is one of the most important. In fact, if we do not consider the most recent volumes and papers dedicated to assemblages of Byzantine pottery from Egypt, many publications, mostly regarding ancient excavation material, still present an incomplete set of data, which cannot be properly used as comparative repertoires. Unfortunately, it was not possible to get technical or general information about vessels (nor even a picture or drawing) deriving, for example, from Thebes (St.Epiphanius), Saqqara (Apa Jeremia) and many other similar sites.

In a few cases, this problem has been solved with the online publication of pottery assemblage today kept in museums, such as the beautiful example of the online collection of Byzantine pottery in the Louvre<sup>1</sup>, but this is still to be considered as an exception to the general rule. Even more frequent is the possibility to find references to a particular pottery type through the use of several different classification systems and acronyms, not infrequently borrowed from Late Roman types. Even if in the last decades many attempts have been successfully made to tackle this issue, the Byzantine ceramic typologies from Egypt still lack a comprehensive treatment. In fact, we still have to deal with the lack of a unique and complete system of classification of the Byzantine pottery in Egypt. Certainly many fundamental volumes are available to be used as parallel repertoires, edited most of all during the last three decades, which form the essential bulk of the relevant literature<sup>2</sup>. But it is still very common to find a single and self-referential system of classification for each site and its related pottery assemblage.

Considering those general methodological issues, this catalogue does not include a new system of pottery classification, but simply refers to previous schemes, when possible, in order to identify the typologies. In particular, the use of acronyms such as ERSW (Egyptian Red Slip Wares) refers to the Hayes classification of Late Roman pottery<sup>3</sup>.

## Acknowledgments

The author would like to thank first of all Prof. Rosanna Pirelli (UNIOR) for giving her the chance to work on this very interesting material in the framework of the Manqabad archaeological mission. She wishes to express her gratitude also to Dr. Jane Faiers and Dr. Maria Cristina Guidotti for their revision of the volume and inspiring suggestions about the classification and identification issues.

The author's indebtedness goes also to the director and inspectors of the el-Ashmunein SCA store (Nasser Nanoss, Ali abd al-Dhahar), to Dr. Ezzat Salib G.D. of the Restoration for Archaeological site, and more in general to the Inspectorate of el-Minia, for granting permission to work on the material from Manqabad, their kindness and co-operation. Many thanks are due also to Richard Sadleir for correcting the many drafts of the English text; to Dr. Delphine Dixneuf for providing parallels and related bibliography; to Dr. Vincente Barba Colmenero for sharing info about the pottery assemblage from Qubbet el-Hawa site; to Dr. Ilona Regulski and Dr. Wolfgang Müller for discussing similar material from Asyut and Aswan and to Dr. Valentina Perna for drawing some selected items.

Last, but not least, the author owes a great debt also to her family, and to her husband Stefano in particular, for the great patience and support shown during the several missions abroad necessary to collect data, without which the publication of this volume would not be possible.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://musee.louvre.fr/bases/neyret/3100.php?page=3100&lng=0&> Unfortunately, during the preparation of this volume, the Louvre database of byzantine pottery was involved in many technical problems related mostly to the impossibility of upgrading the old system, and to an attempt to hack it, so currently the database is not online.

<sup>2</sup> See: Adams 1986; Ballet 1987, 1991, 2003, 2012; Bailey 1998; Beckh 2013; Bourriau 1981; Colmenero 2017; Czyzewska 2013; Dixneuf 2018; Egloff 1977; Faiers 2005, 2013; Gempeler 1992; Guidotti 2004; Hayes 1972; Lecuyot 2000, 2004; Pierrat 1991, 1996; Rodziejewicz 1976; Wodzinska 2010.

<sup>3</sup> Hayes 1972, pp. 387-401.

# **Chapter One.**

## **A selected catalogue of pottery from the SCA el-Ashmunein store and Manqabad site.**

### **Introduction to the catalogue**

The work on Manqabad pottery began in 2014 with the documentation of the material kept in the el-Ashmunein store and continued on the site in 2018, analysing fragments mostly deriving from the housing units of the Northern Sector. Consequently, the following catalogue includes the description of all the pottery specimens deriving from the documentation work at el-Ashmunein store (see below, 74 items), a selection of pottery derived from the cleaning of eight housing units of the Northern Sector of the site (see below, 31 items), and a final assemblage of ceramics deriving from a brief surface collection throughout the site carried out during the final days of the 2018 mission (see below, 12 items).

The volume, therefore, presents 117 previously unpublished pottery items arranged in data sheets, filled with the inventory numbers of the Minya Inspectorate office, an inventory number assigned during the first mission of 2014, provenance information (even if indirect, see below), technical data, pictures, drawings (not in all cases) and a parallel related bibliography. The ceramics have been divided into pottery from the el-Ashmunein SCA store (coarse and fine wares, and a selection of amphorae, flagons and lamps) and pottery from the site of Manqabad (coarse and fine wares, and a selection of amphorae and flagons). This parameter has been adopted despite the difficulty of determining between 'fine' and 'coarse' wares in this particular assemblage, since in many instances what looks like fine ware was probably related to everyday food consumption or cooking activities, and vice versa<sup>1</sup>. As a consequence, the immediately recognisable morphological and/or decorative character has been preferred to classify the material, even if this has meant not having a final homogeneous standard of description.

As regards the typologies of pottery represented in the Manqabad assemblage, it was basically quite impossible to proceed with distribution and statistical analysis so far because of two main reasons. First, the material is strongly affected by the excavation methods of the previous Egyptian colleagues investigating the site since its accidental discovery in 1965, especially concerning the pottery stored at el-Ashmunein. In fact, the inspectors in charge of the excavation collected mostly complete and largely decorated items. Almost no fragments are present in the store, nor in the checked inventories: actually 99% of the pottery stored at el-Ashmunein documented so far is represented by complete items, so it was not possible to analyse fresh breaks on intact (or reconstructed) vessels kept at the store. Moreover, only 12% of the material kept in the el-Ashmunein store can be identified as 'coarse' wares or vessels of everyday use, so it seems that in the past only the aesthetic element was relevant in the choice of the ceramics to store.

In addition to that, no stratigraphy method was adopted by past investigators, so the material from the store is largely decontextualized. The assemblage collected during the last field season, however, even if it can be related only to its general archaeological context, is actually derived from a cleaning of eight

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<sup>1</sup> Faiers 2005 p. 57.

selected housing units of the Northern Sector, already investigated by the previous excavators. Notwithstanding this, it could be only vaguely related to its original position and should be considered as unstratified too. This observation is, of course, even more pertinent to the material which derives from a very brief survey collection conducted at the central and southern areas of the site at the end of the last fieldwork season.

Despite the several difficulties involved in the study of this assemblage, and considering that so far no proper archaeological excavations have been conducted at Manqabad<sup>2</sup>, it is worth mentioning a general exceptionally good state of conservation for the majority of the pottery specimens from the site, due mostly to the fact that it lay unusually undisturbed for centuries after its abandonment until its relatively late discovery in 1965. This situation seems unparalleled in comparison with other Egyptian monastic centers, which unfortunately experienced a complete different fate.

### **1.1 The pottery from el-Ashmunein SCA store.**

The material today kept at the el-Ashmunein store derives from excavations of Manqabad conducted by the Egyptian inspectors since 1976, and includes, according to the checked inventories of the Inspectorate office of Minya, about 245 pottery items out of a total of 833 more general archaeological finds (about 29% of the total findings stored are ceramics). More items are actually kept at Shutby store: out of a total of 80 archaeological finds, about 44 (55%) are pottery specimens.

During the 2014 field season of work, the documentation of pottery was begun at the el-Ashmunein store and concerned 74 pottery vessels out of 245 (about 30% of the total), which have been documented, digitally reproduced and included in a digital database. The choice of the material to document was casual, and depended mainly on the boxes which the Egyptian inspectors found inside the store labelled as deriving from Manqabad, since there is actually no chronological or geographical order in the material stored in this building so far<sup>3</sup>. This element of course affects the heterogeneity of the material presented in the following catalogue, also due to the above mentioned issues related to the choices made by the discoverers.

Nevertheless, thanks to the collaboration with two young Egyptian inspectors<sup>4</sup>, in 2014 it was possible to have access to maps and notes of some previous excavations, which can provide a sort of indirect evidence, in order to give a more precise context to the ceramics. By drawing on this material, it was possible to match the pottery items excavated in the past and stored at el-Ashmunein with the actual division of the Northern Sector of the site into housing monastic units identified by the Italian mission.

As an unplanned consequence of the 'survey' made inside the store, this pottery material turned out to derive mainly from excavations conducted in the northern area of the site occupied by the monastic settlement in the 1997-98, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2006 seasons. Hence each pot could be assigned to its original area of discovery, in this way obtaining at least a general zone of provenance.

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<sup>2</sup> The activities performed so far on the site have included the topographic and archaeological survey of the Northern Sector, and the cleaning of nine housing units in this area. The possibility to open trench pits in some selected areas of the site has been included in the last request for permissions to the local authorities, and so hopefully would start next season (2019/2020).

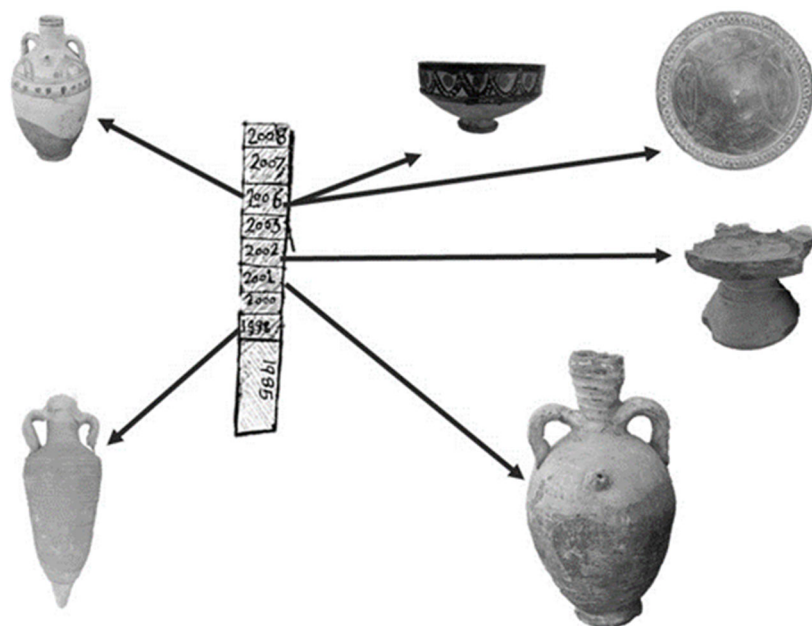
<sup>3</sup> In 2014 the inspectors informed us that a new store will have to be built to replace the old one, but it was not possible to check the actual state of the store since no other visits have been conducted to el-Ashmunein so far. We hope to test the hopefully (!) new store in the forthcoming fieldwork season.

<sup>4</sup> Ali Ahmed Mahfuz e Mahmud Ala, inspectors of the site of Manqabad from 2000 to 2010.

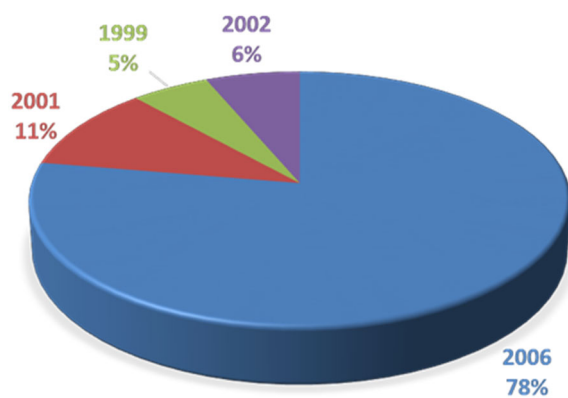


6





Matching the ceramics from the store with the excavated sections of the site.



Distribution chart of the ceramics from the store in the excavated sections of the site.

## **1.2 The pottery from the site of Manqabad.**

The study and survey of pottery material from the Manqabad site has begun in 2018 with the analysis of the ceramic fragments deriving from the cleaning of some northern housing units (HU2N, 3N, 8N, 9N, 8-9 S1  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ ). All the diagnostic pieces (ca. 144) have been selected, documented, and included in the digital database of Manqabad pottery, supplementing the corpus of ceramics documented in 2014 at the el-Ashmunein SCA store. During this process, the help of young Egyptian trainees has been of fundamental importance, considering the total amount of sherds to be selected (400 ca.). Their work has been focused not only on selection, but also on the description, measurement and drawing of diagnostic pieces.

Among this material, it has been possible to collect fragments of at least 3 complete vessels, and 6 vessels preserved between 50% and 80% of their original shape. Three vessels have been found intact. The decorated and inscribed fragments, together with the intact and semi- intact vessels (a total of ca. 49 items), have been stored in the small police building at the entrance to the site. The remaining diagnostic fragments have been buried in the northern section of HU4 housing unit (currently not subject to cleaning). Of the above collection, 43 items have been included in the following catalogue, in order to better represent the typologies identified.

## The pottery from el-Ashmunien warehouse.

### Coarse wares.

Manqabad 1



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)  
**Inv. No:** 1718 (Mynia), Mnq 17  
**Technical data:** h 3 cm, max Ø 12,9 cm,  
base Ø 5 cm, width 0,4 cm.  
**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977, typ. 3 (?)

Plate, Egyptian red Slip Ware (ERS) type with fragmentary/broken rim. Traces of painted (?) decoration in red on the inner and outer surface.

Manqabad 2



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)  
**Inv. No:** 1698 (Mynia), Mnq 15  
**Technical data:** h 8 cm, max Ø 4 cm  
base Ø 3,2 cm, width 0,2 cm.  
**Bibliography:** Ballet 2012 pl. 59, n.566.

Vessel for ointment, two holes in the base, dark/black color.

### Manqabad 3



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)  
**Inv. No:** 1713 (Mynia), Mnq16  
**Technical data:** h 4,8 cm, Ø 5,7 cm  
Ø base 3,7 cm, width 0,1 cm  
**Bibliography:** Ballet 2012 pl.5 n.70  
Bailey 1998 pl.132 M35.

Small beaker, wheel made (spirals) on the inner and outer base surface, light color, possibly traces of reddish slip (inner and outer?).

### Manqabad 4



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)  
**Inv. No:** 1728 (Mynia), Mnq 24  
**Technical data:** h 2,4 cm, Ø 15,5 cm  
**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 type 3 (?)

Fragmentary rough plate (6 pieces), possibly traces of white slip (inner and outer?).

## Manqabad 5



**Provenance:** 2002 area, HU15-18(?)

**Inv. No:** 1582 (Mynia), Mnq26

**Technical data:** h 23,4 cm, max Ø 8 cm  
base Ø 5 cm, width 0,5 cm, Ø rim 2,2 cm

**Bibliography:** (no parallels found so far)

Triangular bottle, straight rounded rim, ribbed external surface, no organic content.

## Manqabad 6



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1740 (Mynia), Mnq 29

**Technical data:** h 9,3 cm, Ø 15 cm  
base Ø 13 cm, h handle 2 cm,  
handle width 1,2 cm.

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977, type 150 (?).

Cooking pot with two banded handles, rounded rim, inner light slip (?), wheel made (traces/spiral on the outer base). No organic remains, recomposed (2 pieces), a small hole visible on the body (intentional?).

### Manqabad 7



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11 (?)

**Inv. No:** 1739 (Mynia), Mnq32

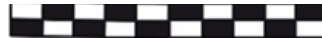
**Technical data:** h 8,3 cm, max Ø 8,2 cm  
base Ø 6,2 cm, width 0,4 cm.

**Bibliography:** Bailey 1998, pl. 102 O33.

Rough globular small vessel, wheel made (spiral on the outer base), remains of light slip.

**Dating:** second half of the V century AD.

### Manqabad 8



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1734 (Mynia), Mnq 34

**Technical data:** h 5,5 cm, Ø 11 cm  
base Ø 6 cm, rim Ø 10,5 cm,  
width 0,6 cm.

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977, pl.82 n.1, Bailey 1998  
pl.101 M4, Lecuyot 2015 fig.4 SP 1101.

Small rough bowl with a flange just under the rim, wheel made (spiral on the outer base). Possibly red slip, now faded.

### Manqabad 9



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11 (?)

**Inv. No:** 1736 (Mynia), Mnq35

**Technical data:** h 3,5 cm, max Ø 2,8 cm  
width 0,3 cm.

**Bibliography:** (no parallels found so far).

Small cup/stopper with possibly traces of red slip (?), or spout.

### Manqabad 10



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1742 (Mynia), Mnq 36

**Technical data:** h 8,8 cm, Ø 18 cm  
base Ø 7 cm.

**Bibliography:** Lecuyot 2015 fig. 11 SP 1043.

Small rough bowl, wheel made (concentric circles on the outer surface). Several vegetal inclusions. Flat straight rim.

### Manqabad 11



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11 (?)

**Inv. No:** 1744 (Mynia), Mnq37

**Technical data:** h 5,5 cm, max Ø 24,6 cm  
width 1,2 cm, base Ø 11,5 cm.

**Bibliography:** Bailey 1998 pl.98 G3.

Rough irregular plate, wheel made, possibly outer red slip now faded (?). Not centered.

### Manqabad 12



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1745 (Mynia), Mnq 38

**Technical data:** h 5 cm, Ø 25 cm  
base Ø 11,5 cm, width 1,2.

**Bibliography:** Bailey 1998 pl.98 G3

Rough irregular plate, wheel made, possibly outer red slip now faded (?). Not centered.

### Manqabad 13



**Provenance:** 1998 area, HU26-28 (?)

**Inv. No:** 1422 (Mynia), Mnq41

**Technical data:** h 10,5 cm, max Ø 10 cm, rim Ø 8,5 cm, width 0,8 cm.

**Bibliography:** Bailey 1998 E400, Jacquet/Gordon 1972 pl. CCVIII N.5, Guidotti 2004 tav. VII 39.

Small globular vessel with restored rim and ribbed surface. Wheel made, rounded base, organic remains of pitch on the outer surface and generally organic on the inside (burned). **Dating:** VIIIth century AD.

### Manqabad 14



**Provenance:** 1998 area, HU26-28(?)

**Inv. No:** 1421 (Mynia), Mnq 43

**Technical data:** h 5,6 cm, Ø 11,4 cm, base Ø 4 cm, width 0,7 cm, h rim 3,2 cm.

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 type 285, Jacquet/Gordon 1972 pl. CCIV n.10, Lecuyot 2004 fig. 3 C2, Guidotti 2004 tav. XC 541 e 547.

Small rough cup, with straight tall rim (partially reconstructed), wheel made (concentric circles on the outer base), many vegetal inclusions. **Dating:** V-VIIIth century AD.



### Manqabad 15



**Provenance:** 1998 area, HU26-28 (?)

**Inv. No:** 1420 (Mynia), Mnq44

**Technical data:** h 5,5 cm, max Ø 10,5 cm, base Ø 4,5 cm, width 0,8 cm, h rim 2,8 cm.

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 type 285, Jacquet/Gordon 1972 pl. CCIV n.10, Lecuyot 2004 fig. 3 C2, Guidotti 2004 tav. XC 541 e 547.

Small rough cup, with straight tall rim, wheel made (concentric circles on the outer base), irregular shape, possible digital impression on the body. **Dating:** V-VIIth century AD.

### Manqabad 16



**Provenance:** 2002 area, HU15-18(?)

**Inv. No:** 1556 (Mynia), Mnq 55

**Technical data:** h 12 cm, Ø 28,5 cm, base Ø 11 cm, width 0,7 cm, h base 1,5 cm.

**Bibliography:** Bailey 1998 pl. 109 R16 pl.111 C282.

Rough plate with ring base, straight tall rounded rim, wheel made (concentric circles on the outer base), many vegetal inclusions.

### Manqabad 17



**Provenance:** 2002 area, HU15-18 (?)

**Inv. No:** 1557 (Mynia), Mnq56

**Technical data:** h 11 cm, max Ø 10,8 cm, rim Ø 8,5 cm, width 0,8 cm.

**Bibliography:** Bailey 1998 E400/401.

Small globular vessel, with straight rounded rim, wheel made (concentric circles on the outer base), irregular shape, possible burning traces on the inside and on the rim.

### Manqabad 18



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1731 (Mynia), Mnq 46

**Technical data:** h 48,5 cm, Ø 39 cm, rim Ø 23,5 cm, rim width 0,9 cm, base Ø 4,2 cm.

**Bibliography:** Guidotti 2004 p. 150 n. 330.

Tall storage jar, button base and straight tall rounded rim. wheel made, fragmentary neck, incised decoration on the lower half of the vessel. Painted decoration on the shoulders: cream slip with reddish garlands. Tripartite fabric with black core and buff outer layers.  
**Dating:** Vth-VIIth century AD.

## Manqabad 19



**Provenance:** 2001 area, HU19-21(?)

**Inv. No:** 1541 (Mynia), Mnq 2

**Technical data:** h 54,2 cm, max Ø 48 cm, width 4 cm, rim Ø 24 cm

**Bibliography:** Faiers 2005 fig. 3.7 n. 50; Neyret 1968 p. 151 a; Egloff 1977 typ.158.

Large globular storage jar with raised base, tall neck, rounded rim and painted decoration on the neck, shoulder and body of the vessel. Decoration themes: geometrical motifs (small black dots) with braids on the upper half of the vessel.

## Fine wares.

### Manqabad 20



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1716 (Mynia), Mmq 4

**Technical data:** h 7,5 cm, max Ø 18,5 cm, base Ø 15,5 cm, rim Ø 8 cm, width 0,9 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977, typ. 30; Bailey 1998, pl.125 D327 bis, pl.114 C350; Colmenero 2017 fig.12, 15; Faiers 2005 pl.68 n.21, 24; Winlock 1926 fig.37S p. 86; Rodziewicz 1976 fig. 47-48.

Egyptian red Slip Ware (ERS) with stamped decoration on the inner base (7 small circles not regularly distributed) and a small flange just under the rim. Possibly Aswan production. **Dating:** second half of the Vth to the VIIIth century AD.

### Manqabad 21



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1722 (Mynia), Mmq5

**Technical data:** h 7,5 cm, Ø 18 cm base Ø 15,5 cm, rim Ø 7,8 cm, flange 1,3 cm, flange width 0,3 cm.

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ. 30; Bailey 1998, pl.125 D327 bis, pl.114 C350; Colmenero 2017 fig.12, 15; Faiers 2005 pl.68 n.21, 24; Winlock 1926 fig.37S p. 86; Rodziewicz 1976 fig. 47-48.

Egyptian red Slip Ware (ERS) with stamped decoration (not well preserved) on the inner base and a small flange just under the rim. Possibly Aswan production. **Dating:** second half of the Vth to the VIIIth century AD.

## Manqabad 22



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1721 (Mynia), Mnq 6

**Technical data:** h 7,5 cm, max Ø 19 cm, base Ø 7,5 cm, rim Ø 17,3 cm, flange 0,5 cm., flange width 0,3 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 30, Bailey 1998 pl.125 D327 bis, pl.114 C350; Colmenero 2017 fig.12, 15; Faiers 2005 pl.68 n.21, 24; Winlock 1926 fig.37S p. 86; Rodziewicz 1976 fig. 47-48; Gempeler 1992 taf.15.6.

Egyptian red Slip Ware (ERS) with well preserved 'rosette' stamped decoration on the inner base and a small flange just under the rim. Possibly Aswan production. **Dating:** second half of the Vth to the VIIIth century AD.

### Manqabad 23



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)  
**Inv. No:** 1717 (Mynia), Mnq7  
**Technical data:** h 7,5 cm, Ø 17 cm  
base Ø 15,5 cm, rim Ø 7,3 cm,  
flange 0,5 cm, flange width 0,3 cm.  
**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977, 30  
Bailey 1998, pl.125 D327 bis, pl.114 C350  
Colmenero 2017 fig.12, 15. Faiers 2005  
pl.68 n.21, 24; Winlock 1926 fig.37S p. 86;  
Rodziewicz 1976 fig. 47-48; Gempeler 1992  
Taf. 15.6.

Egyptian red Slip Ware (ERS) with a small flange just under the rim and a stamped decoration on the inner base (flower with 4 petals and 4 leaves). Possibly Aswan production. **Dating:** second half of the Vth to the VIIIth century AD.

### Manqabad 24



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)  
**Inv. No:** 1720 (Mynia), Mnq 10  
**Technical data:** h 4,7 cm, max Ø 19,5 cm  
base Ø 7,5 cm, width 0,7 cm.  
**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 3.

Egyptian red Slip Ware (ERS) (?) without any decoration, very bad damaged surface, ring base.



### Manqabad 25



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)  
**Inv. No:** 1699 (Mynia), Mnq11-1  
**Technical data:** h 5,5 cm, Ø 10,6 cm  
 h base 1,8 cm, width 0,2 cm  
**Bibliography:** Bailey 1998, pl.120 C35(?)  
 Egloff 1977 30, Czyzewska 2013 pl.132 M53.

Cup with raised base, stamped decoration on the inner base (a circle with 10 points), wheel made, light color.

### Manqabad 26



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)  
**Inv. No:** 1700 (Mynia), Mnq 11-2  
**Technical data:** h 5,5 cm, max Ø 11,3 cm  
 h base 2,3 cm, width 0,3 cm.  
**Bibliography** Bailey 1998, pl.120 C35 (?)  
 Egloff 1977 30, Czyzewska 2013 pl.132 M53.

Cup with raised base, stamped decoration on the inner base (a circle with 9 points, 1 in the centre), wheel made, light color.

### Manqabad 27



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)  
**Inv. No:** 1701 (Mynia), Mnq11-3  
**Technical data:** h 5,6 cm, Ø 10 cm  
 h base 2 cm, width 0,2 cm  
**Bibliography** Bailey 1998, pl.120 C35 (?)  
 Egloff 1977 30, Czyzewska 2013 pl.132 M53.

Cup with raised base, stamped decoration on the inner base (a circle with 12 points, 1 in the centre), wheel made, light color.

### Manqabad 28



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)  
**Inv. No:** 1702 (Mynia), Mnq 11-4  
**Technical data:** h 5,2 cm, max Ø 9 cm  
 h base 1,7 cm, width 0,8 cm.  
**Bibliography** Bailey 1998, pl.120 C35 (?)  
 Egloff 1977 30, Czyzewska 2013 pl.132 M53.

Cup with raised base, stamped decoration on the inner base (a circle with 7 points, 1 in the centre), wheel made, light color.

### Manqabad 29



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1703 (Mynia), Mnq11-5

**Technical data:** h 4,6 cm, Ø 8,5 cm  
h base 1,4 cm, width 0,2 cm

**Bibliography** Bailey 1998, pl.120 C35 (?)  
Egloff 1977 30, Czyzewska 2013 pl.132 M53.

Cup with raised base, stamped decoration on the inner base with one small point in the centre, wheel made, light color.

### Manqabad 30



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1704 (Mynia), Mnq 11-6

**Technical data:** h 5 cm, max Ø 8,3 cm  
h base 1,6 cm, width 0,2 cm.

**Bibliography** Bailey 1998, pl.120 C35 (?)  
Egloff 1977 30, Czyzewska 2013 pl.132 M53.

Cup with raised base, stamped decoration on the inner base (a circle with 7 points, 1 in the centre), wheel made, light color.

### Manqabad 31



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1705 (Mynia), Mnq11-7

**Technical data:** h 4,6 cm, Ø 7,9 cm  
h base 1,7 cm, width 0,2 cm

**Bibliography** Bailey 1998, pl.120 C35 (?)  
Egloff 1977 30, Czyzewska 2013 pl.132 M53.

Cup with raised base, stamped decoration on the inner base (a circle with 6 points, 1 in the centre), wheel made.

### Manqabad 32



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1706 (Mynia), Mnq 11-8

**Technical data:** h 5,1 cm, max Ø 8,5 cm  
h base 1,7 cm, width 0,2 cm.

**Bibliography** Bailey 1998, pl.120 C35 (?)  
Egloff 1977 30, Czyzewska 2013 pl.132 M53.

Cup with raised base, stamped decoration on the inner base (a circle with 7 points, 1 in the centre), wheel made.



### Manqabad 33



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1707 (Mynia), Mnq11-9

**Technical data:** h 4,9 cm, Ø 8,6 cm  
h base 2 cm, width 0,2 cm

**Bibliography** Bailey 1998, pl.120 C35 (?)  
Egloff 1977 30, Czyzewska 2013 pl.132 M53.

Cup with raised base, stamped decoration on the inner base (a circle with 6 points, 1 in the centre), wheel made.

### Manqabad 34



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1708 (Mynia), Mnq 11-10

**Technical data:** h 4,5 cm, max Ø 8 cm  
h base 1,6 cm, width 0,2 cm.

**Bibliography** Bailey 1998, pl.120 C35 (?)  
Egloff 1977 30, Czyzewska 2013 pl.132 M53.

Cup with raised base, stamped decoration on the inner base (a circle with 7 points, 1 in the centre), wheel made.

### Manqabad 35



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1709 (Mynia), Mnq11-11

**Technical data:** h 6 cm, Ø 10,7 cm  
h base 2,4 cm, width 0,2 cm

**Bibliography** Bailey 1998, pl.120 C35 (?)  
Egloff 1977 30, Czyzewska 2013 pl.132 M53.

Cup with raised base, stamped decoration on the inner base (a circle with 15 points, 1 in the centre), wheel made.

### Manqabad 36



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1710 (Mynia), Mnq 11-12

**Technical data:** h 5,8 cm, max Ø 10,8 cm  
h base 2,3 cm, width 0,3 cm.

**Bibliography** Bailey 1998, pl.120 C35 (?)  
Egloff 1977 30, Czyzewska 2013 pl.132 M53.

Cup with raised base, stamped decoration on the inner base (a circle with 13 points, 1 in the centre), wheel made, black color.

### Manqabad 37



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1712 (Mynia), Mnq11-13

**Technical data:** h 5 cm, Ø 9 cm

h base 1,9 cm, width 0,3 cm

**Bibliography** Bailey 1998, pl.120 C35 (?)  
Egloff 1977 30, Czyzewska 2013 pl.132 M53.

Cup with raised base, stamped decoration on the inner base (a circle without points), wheel made, black color.

### Manqabad 38



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1714 (Mynia), Mnq 11-14

**Technical data:** h 5,7 cm, max Ø 8,6 cm

h base 2 cm, width 0,2 cm.

**Bibliography** Bailey 1998, pl.120 C35 (?)  
Egloff 1977 30, Czyzewska 2013 pl.132 M53.

Cup with raised base, stamped decoration on the inner base (a circle with 6 points, 1 in the centre), wheel made, black color.

### Manqabad 39



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1715 (Mynia), Mnq11-15

**Technical data:** h 5,5 cm, Ø 11 cm

h base 2,3 cm, width 0,3 cm

**Bibliography** Bailey 1998, pl.120 C35 (?)  
Egloff 1977 30, Czyzewska 2013 pl.132 M53.

Cup with raised base, stamped decoration on the inner base (a circle with 6 points, 1 in the centre), wheel made, black color.

### Manqabad 40



**Provenance:** 2002 area, HU15-18(?)

**Inv. No:** 1549 (Mynia), Mnq60

**Technical data:** h 7,6 cm, Ø 24,6 cm

base Ø13,5 cm, width 0,3 cm.

**Bibliography** Egloff 1977 4, Bailey 1998  
pl.109 D508, Ballet 2012 pl.12 n.156, pl.16  
n.206, Wodzinska 2010 p.212, pl.8.7 (UC19455).

Large Red Slip Ware (ERS) plate with straight rounded rim, reconstructed (five pieces), wheel made (concentric circles on the outer base). **Dating:** VI-VIIIth century AD.

## Manqabad 41



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

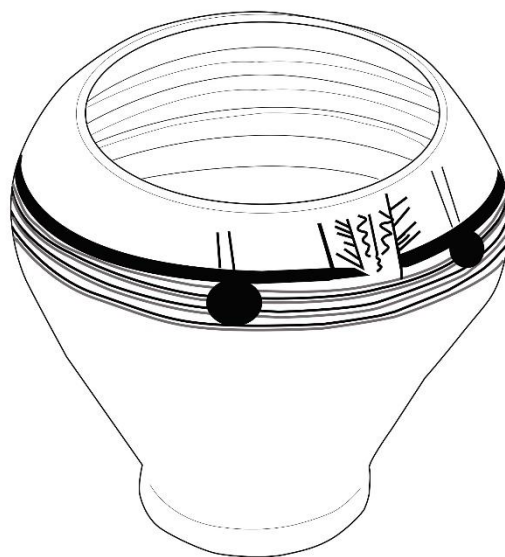
**Inv. No:** 1743 (Mynia), Mnq28

**Technical data:** h 5,5 cm, max Ø 15,3 cm, base Ø 5,3 cm, rim Ø14 cm, width 0,5 cm.

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ.30; Bailey 1998 pl. 125 D327 bis, pl.114 C350; Colmenero 2017 figs. 12, 15.

Egyptian red Slip Ware (ERS) with a small flange just under the fragmentary/broken rim. Circular knot in relief on the inner base and a small flange just under the rim. Production of the Aswan atelier. **Dating:** from the second half of the Vth to the VIIIth century AD.

## Manqabad 42



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11 (?)

**Inv. No:** 1719 (Mynia), Mnq 3

**Technical data:** h 11 cm, max Ø 11 cm, base Ø 6 cm, width 0,4 cm, rim Ø 9 cm

**Bibliography:** Bailey 1998 pl. 100 J239, Faiers 2005 fig. 2.24 n.188; Rodziewicz 1976 pl. 23 O6 and fig. 54.

Globular beaker with painted decoration on the upper half of the body. No rim, Decoration themes: geometrical (small black dots) with horizontal and vertical lines. Organic remains on the inside (burned).

### Manqabad 43



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1697 (Mynia), Mnq 12

**Technical data:** h ? cm, Ø 13,4 cm

base Ø 10,6 cm, rim Ø 6,4 cm

flange 0,5 cm, flange width 0,5 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 pl. 39/3; Bailey 1998 pl. 125 D327 bis; Jacquet/Gordon 1972 pl. CCIV n.11; Wodzinska 2010 pl. 8.2; Gempeler 1992 taf. 29.5 form T323a; Faiers 2005 pl. 68 n.17,19; Rodziewicz 1976 figs. 27-31; Mackensen et alii 2006 fig. 10 n. 6.

Egyptian red Slip Ware (ERS) plate with rouletted decoration and a small flange just under the rim and. Incised decoration on the inner base (5 concentric circles).

### Manqabad 44



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11 (?)

**Inv. No:** 1695 (Mynia), Mnq 13

**Technical data:** h 4,4 cm, max Ø 11,3 cm

base Ø 6 cm, width 0,3 cm.

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 pl. 39/3; Bailey 1998 pl. 125 D327 bis; Jacquet/Gordon 1972 pl. CCIV n.11; Wodzinska 2010 pl. 8.2; Gempeler 1992 taf. 29.5 form T323a; Faiers 2005 pl. 68 n.17,19; Rodziewicz 1976 figs. 27-31; Mackensen et alii 2006 fig. 10 n. 6.

Egyptian red Slip Ware (ERS) plate with rouletted decoration and a small flange just under the rim. Incised decoration on the inner base (5 concentric circles).

## Manqabad 45



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1696 (Mynia), Mnq 14

**Technical data:** h 3,8 cm, Ø 12 cm, base Ø 6 cm, width 0,4 cm, flange 0,5 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 pl. 39/3; Bailey 1998 pl. 125 D327 bis; Jacquet/Gordon 1972 pl. CCIV n.11; Wodzinska 2010 pl. 8.2; Gempeler 1992 taf. 29.5 form T323a; Faiers 2005 pl. 68 n.17,19; Rodziewicz 1976 figs. 27-31; Mackensen et alii 2006 fig. 10 n. 6.

Egyptian red Slip Ware (ERS) plate with rouletted decoration and a small flange just under the rim. Incised decoration on the inner base (5 concentric circles).



## Manqabad 46



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11 (?)

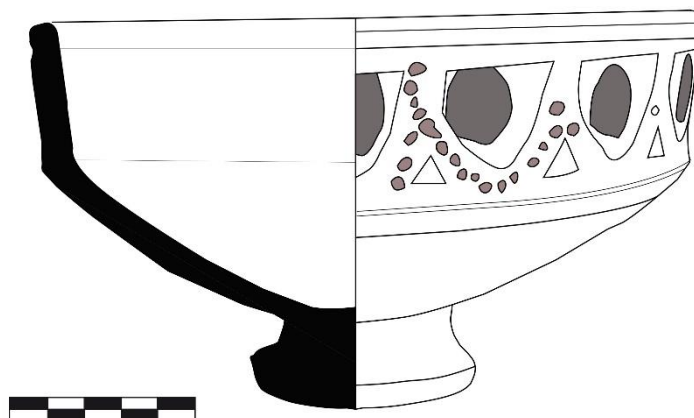
**Inv. No:** 1711 (Mynia), Mnq 18

**Technical data:** h 6,2 cm, max Ø 8 cm, base Ø 5,1 cm, width 0,3 cm.

**Bibliography:** Donadoni 1974, fig. 18; Rodziewicz 1976 pl. 32 W8.

Fine decorated beaker, with incised waved line along the body and painted red decoration just under the rim (two horizontal lines and between them short vertical lines at regular distance). Ring base, straight rounded rim, reddish slip.

## Manqabad 47



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1726 (Mynia), Mnq 21

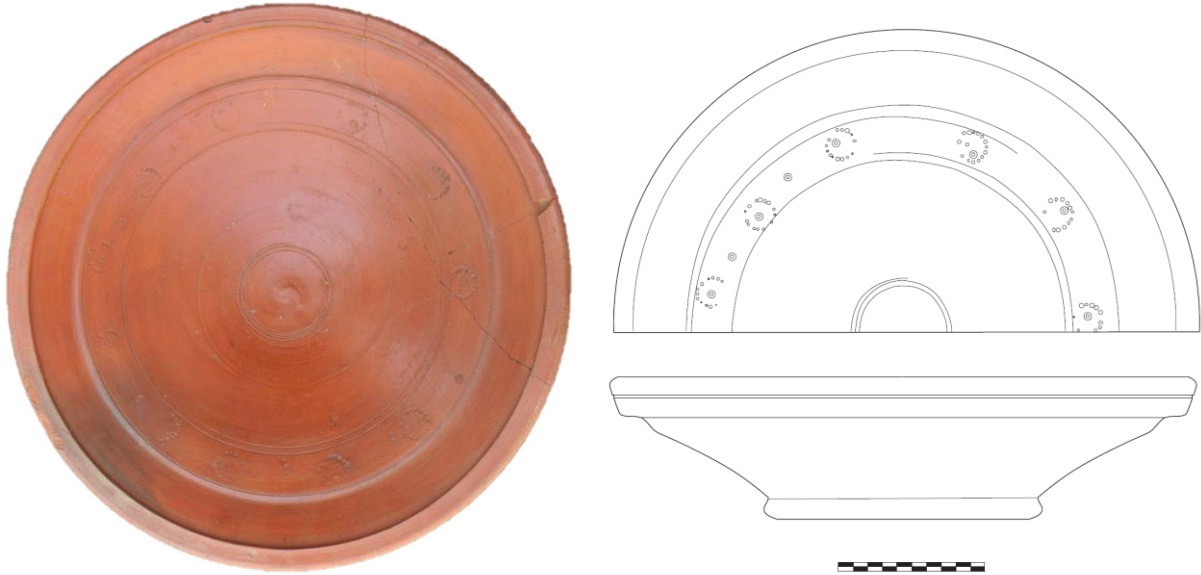
**Technical data:** h 12,8 cm, Ø 23,5 cm, base Ø 8,5 cm, width 0,9 cm, h decorated band 5,5 cm,

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ. 363 (?); Neyret 2008 E10739, AF4926, Gempeler 1992 T370, T636; Ballet/Scandon 1991, p. 506 fig. 3.

Fine decorated and carinated bowl with raised base, light slip on the body and black rim. Ring base, vertical rounded rim. Black painted band just below the rim with decoration pattern of 16 black arches (with 12-13 white dots within) framing ochre background with red dots. **Dating:** VIIth cent. AD, known as 'Pseudo-Samian'.



## Manqabad 48



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1727 (Mynia), Mnq 22

**Technical data:** h 10 cm, max Ø 39,2 cm, base Ø 16,5 cm, width 2 cm

**Bibliography:** Hayes 1972 typ. 82A; Bailey 1998 p.6, pl. 4 n. A162; Guidotti 2004 pl.186 n.475.

Egyptian red Slip Ware (ERS) plate, (African *sigillata*) reconstructed in 3 pieces. Ring base, straight tall rounded rim, incised decoration on the inner base (4 concentric circles). Wheel made, inner strip of stamped decoration few centimeters under the rim (11 circles with small dots). **Dating:** V-VIth century AD.

## Manqabad 49



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

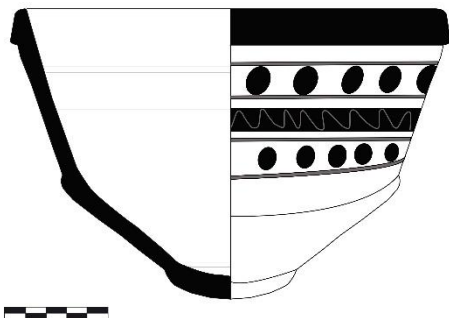
**Inv. No:** 1725 (Mynia), Mnq 23

**Technical data:** h 11,5 cm, Ø 32,1 cm, base Ø 14,6 cm, width 1,9 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ. 261; Neyret 2008 E11776; Winlock 1926 pl. XXXIII B; Lecuyot/Bonnefois 2004 pl. 2 n. 24,25; Ballet et alii 2003 pl. 8.3 n. 54.

Egyptian red Slip Ware (ERS) plate. Imitation of Roman *sigillata* produced in Aswan since 3 cent. AD, in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> cent more elaborated motifs) reconstructed in 6 pieces. Ring base, straight tall rounded rim. Wheel made (traces on the outer surface), and rouletted outer decoration. Painted inner decoration: on the rim cream background with black contour (leaf motif with black dots inside). Inner surface divided in 4 arches and a central section with the depiction of a cross. The 4 section include representation of 2 fishes and 2 combs. Reddish background and black contours.

## Manqabad 50



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

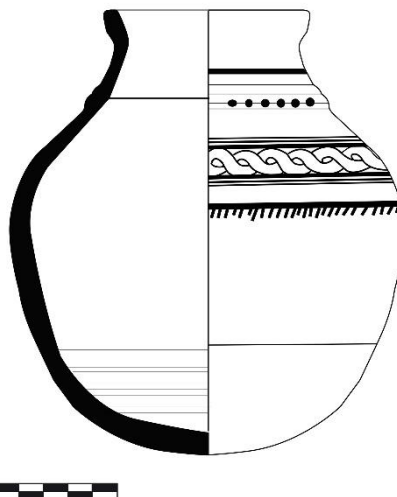
**Inv. No:** 1741 (Mynia), Mnq 30

**Technical data:** h 17,2 cm, Ø 25,3 cm  
base Ø 9,4 cm, width 0,9 cm

**Bibliography:** Wodzinska 2010p. 227 n. 124,  
Pl. 100 n. C72; Czyzewska 2013 fig. 24.4 ASL306.

Carinated bowl with straight rounded rim and ring base. Reconstructed from 2 pieces, inner surface not decorated. Painted band just above the rim: two horizontal cream lines with red dots and a reddish strip in the between. **Dating:** V-VIth century AD.

## Manqabad 51



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11 (?)

**Inv. No:** 1746 (Mynia), Mnq 31

**Technical data:** h 21,5 cm, max Ø 21 cm  
base Ø 11 cm, width 0,7 cm, rim Ø 10 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 pl. 64 n. 4, pl. 70  
n.1.

Olla/Ovoid jar (for storage) with painted decoration in black contour. Tall straight rounded rim, two lines in relief on the neck, ribbed lower half of the body. Geometrical motifs painted on the upper half of the vessel (braid).

## Manqabad 52



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11 (?)

**Inv. No:** 1735 (Mynia), Mnq 33

**Technical data:** h 8,3 cm, max Ø 8,2 cm, base Ø 6,2 cm, width 0,4 cm.

**Bibliography** Egloff 1977 pl. 39/3; Bailey 1998 pl. 125 D327 bis; Jacquet/Gordon 1972 pl. CCIV n.11; Wodzinska 2010 pl. 8.2; Gempeler 1992 taf. 29.5 form T323a; Faiers 2005 pl. 68 n.17, 19; Rodziewicz 1976 figs. 27-31; Mackensen et alii 2006 fig. 10 n. 6.

Egyptian red Slip Ware (ERS) plate with rouletted decoration and a small flange just under the fragmentary rim. Wheel made (concentric circles on the outer base), ring base.

## Manqabad 53



**Provenance:** 2001 area, HU19-21(?)

**Inv. No:** 1547 (Mynia), Mnq 52

**Technical data:** h 10,5 cm, Ø 12 cm, width 0,3 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ. 247 (?), Neyret 2008 AF4965-68, Adams 1986 fig. 310 n. 34 Pierrat 1988 fig.4; Godlewski 1998 fig. 7

Aswan White Slip Ware beaker, with painted decoration. Red clay fabric, white/cream slip inside and outside. Rounded base, wheel made. Possibly Nubian origin. Geometric motif painted in black and red. Straight rim painted in black. Two red strips painted just under the rim and in between a peculiar motif: alternating arches in cream and red paint. **Dating:** VIIIth-IXth century AD.

## Manqabad 54



**Provenance:** 2001 area, HU19-21(?)

**Inv. No:** 1546 (Mynia), Mnq 53

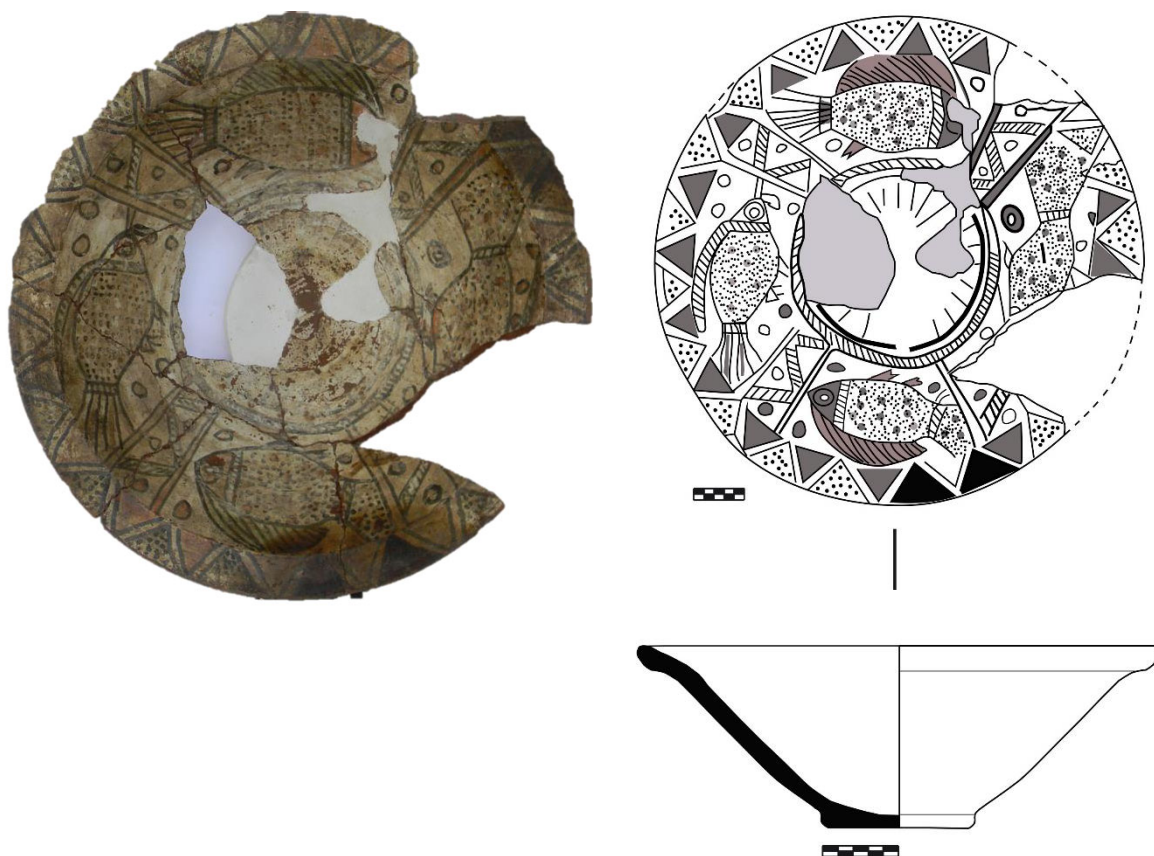
**Technical data:** h 20 cm, base Ø 7,2 cm, rim Ø 8,5 cm, width 0,8

**Bibliography:** Bailey 1998 pl.123 S19; Guidotti 2004 p. 58 fig. 4 C; Jacquet/Gordon 1972 pl. CCIII n.6; Lecuyot/Bonnefois 1992 fig. 4; Ballet 2012 pl. 52 n. 472.

Small globular jar with tall straight rim. Painted decoration (almost completely faded) in black and red on cream/light slip/background. Ring base, two relief lines between the neck and the shoulder. Wheel made. This jar has morphological similarities with the so called 'Saqqara-jars', even if its dimensions are certainly smaller. Interesting, a parallel form from Antinoë has fish sauce as content. **Dating:** VIII-IXth century AD.



## Manqabad 55



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11 (?)

**Inv. No:** 1753 (Mynia), Mnq 62

**Technical data:** h 13,5 cm, max Ø 35 cm, base Ø 11 cm, width 0,9 cm.

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ. 261; Neyret 2008 E11776; Winlock 1926 pl. XXXIII B; Lecuyot/Bonnefois 2004 pl. 2 n. 24,25; Ballet et alii 2003 pl. 8.3 n. 54.

Fine decorated plate reconstructed from 11 pieces. Ring base, triangular narrowing rim. Wheel made (traces on the outer surface), cream slip on the inside. Painted inner decoration: on the cream background with black contour the surface has been divided in 4 sections with depictions of fishes. The central space is badly damage, vegetal themes (lotus flowers?) are painted on the rim.

## Manqabad 56



**Provenance:** 2002 area, HU15-18(?)

**Inv. No:** 1570 (Mynia), Mnq 61

**Technical data:** h 10,5 cm, Ø 14 cm, h base 8 cm.

**Bibliography:** Neyret 2008 E11756, E11907-2; Bourriau 1981 p. 93; Incordino 2019.

Cup with raised base and fine painted decoration. The upper part is fragmentary (no rim remains), conical base (?), tripartite fabric with black core and buff outer layers. Inner cream slip with a peculiar depiction of a human head, possibly female. The figure wears an elaborate curly headdress adorned with red beads (pearls?) and a vertical red and creamy bands element on her forehead (row of pearls hanging?). Her eyes are quite big and round, black outlined, while the mouth is just sketched in red with a black dot underneath, giving the effect of shading between mouth and chin. The eyebrows are rendered in a continuous red line, with their hair indicated by rows of small black dots, meeting the nose line at right angle. The figure is possibly included in a round (?) framework, formed by black dots on red background, still clearly visible on either side of the head. **Dating:** VIth century AD.



## Amphorae, flagons and lamps.

Manqabad 57



**Provenance:** 2001 area, HU19-21(?)

**Inv. No:** 1542 (Mynia), Mnq 1

**Technical data:** h 47 cm, max Ø 28,5 cm  
width 1,4 cm, rim Ø 8 cm, h neck 8,8 cm  
max Ø 28,5 cm.

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 166-167 (?),  
Dixneuf 2018 fig.37 08.022 (?); Beckh 2013  
taf.102 Typ. 377ZN05-406.

Large ovoid jar with two handles, rounded rim and narrow neck. Wheel made (traces on the shoulders and under the base). Light decoration (?) with incised hatching lines just under the shoulders. Possible variant of LRA1/AE8 (?).

Manqabad 58



**Provenance:** 2001 area, HU19-21(?)

**Inv. No:** 1543 (Mynia), Mnq 20

**Technical data:** h 44 cm, max Ø 30 cm  
base Ø 19,5 cm, width 1,6 cm, rim Ø 7,5 cm  
handle 3,7 cm, h neck 10 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ. 167(?), Ballet  
et alii 2003 pp. 148-149 pls. 128-133; Beckh  
2013 taf. 110 (?)

Amphora in Nile clay with two banded handles. Straight rim, tall neck, wheel made, incised decoration on the shoulder and above the rounded base. Possibly similar to LRA5/6 morphologically, at Kellia possibly production from south-west Delta.  
**Dating:** second half of the VII – VIII cent. AD.

## Manqabad 59



**Provenance:** 2002 area, HU15-18(?)

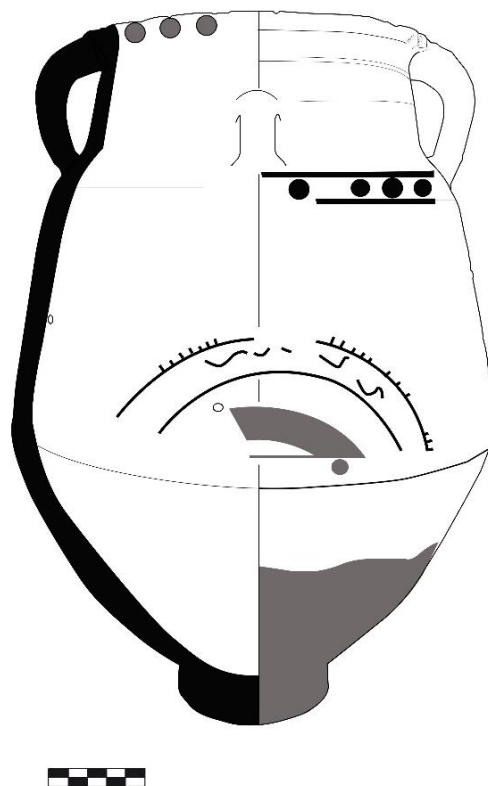
**Inv. No:** 1559 (Mynia), Mnq 25

**Technical data:** h 35 cm, Ø 22 cm, base Ø 11 cm, width 0,7 cm, rim Ø 5 cm, handle 3,5 cm, h neck 8,5 cm, spout Ø 2,7 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ. 204, 210 (?); Jacquet/Gordon 1972 pl. CCXXX n. 1H; Faiers 2005 fig. 2.46 n. 312; Ballet et alii 2012 pl. 4.

Fine decorated ovoid flagons, with 2 handles and one spout. Ring fragmented base, straight rim, tall neck. Cream slip, painted black decoration and relief application. The body of the vessel is divided in three registers by small bands of vegetal themes, black contours. The handles are decorated in relief, with three small circles on the half of the handle and two in the junction with the shoulder. Under the handles there are painted motifs of braids/garlands. The spout is included in the depiction of a human head (bearded? Bes like?) with long hair and big eyes. On the other side there is a relief application of a palm leaf (?) flanked by two flowers with 8 petals (one black dot is drawn for each of them).

## Manqabad 60



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU9-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1751 (Mynia), Mnq 39

**Technical data:** h 50,5 cm, Ø 34,5 cm, base Ø 12,5 cm, width 1,2 cm, rim Ø 24 cm, banded handle 4,3 cm, ring handle 1,8 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ. 158/161 (?); Neyret 2008 E27228, E10993, Faiers 2013 fig. 2.65 n. 406.

Large storage jar with two banded handles and two smaller ring handles. Tall neck, narrowing rim, ring base. Along the body there are several small holes (wine?). Wheel made, cream slip almost faded, painted decoration on the rim, shoulder and just above the base. On the rim, there are some reddish circles at fixed distances, which are present also on the shoulder, on a lighter red band. On the lower half of the body, there are traces of painted arches/garlands in red (black contour). Decoration in a quite bad state of conservation. **Dating:** V-VIIIth century AD.

## Manqabad 61



**Provenance:** 1999 area, HU26-28 (?)

**Inv. No:** 1424 (Mynia), Mnq 40

**Technical data:** h 52 cm, max Ø 18,5 cm, width 1,9 cm, h neck 11 cm, h base 9,5 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ.177-173(?); Winlock 1926 pl. XXVIII pp. 78-79; Neyret 2008 AF12892, Fares 2013 fig. 2.95 575, 576; Marchand/Dixneuf 2007 fig. 46-47; Faiers 2005 fig. 2.61 n. 444; Guidotti 2004 Tav. XI fig. 58; Dixneuf 2011 fig. 158.

LRA7 amphora with restored neck, generally used as wine container and widely spread in all monastic sites of Egypt. For this particular stage of evolution attested in Manqabad (rounded shoulder, maximum diameter 18,5 cm). In fact, this amphora has a characteristic elongated form, with high neck, two band-like handles, pointed base and ribbed external surface. In the Minya Inspectorate inventories, more than 35 LRA7 have been recorded as finds from the Egyptian excavation in the central area of the site, conducted in 1984-85 and during the last mission more have been found in AU9. Possibly a production from Antinoopolis. **Dating:** VIIth century AD.

## Manqabad 62



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11 (?)

**Inv. No:** 1733 (Mynia), Mnq 45

**Technical data:** h 40 cm, max Ø 31 cm, width 1 cm, h neck 8,5 cm, rim Ø 6,5 cm; Stopper : h 5,4 cm, max Ø 5,5

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ. 186-169(?); Ballet et alii 2003 pp. 15 (?); Dixneuf 2011 fig. 175 (?).

Ribbed globular (?) amphora with two handles starting from the neck. Complete item, tall neck straight rim, and rounded base, wheel made (concentric circles on the outer base). Incised and relief decoration on the lower half of the body, with signs imitating ropes (?). On the shoulder there is a band of incised waved decoration (multiple arches made with a comb ?) of 5,2 cm high. Faded traces of red slip (?). Small stopper in clay (?) still in place. Very good state of conservation. Possibly to be compared with some variant or imitations of LRA1 produced in Saqqara (?).



## Manqabad 63



**Provenance:** 2001 area, HU19-21 (?)

**Inv. No:** 1548 (Mynia), Mnq 47

**Technical data:** h 31 cm, max Ø 19 cm, width 2,1 cm, base Ø 9,5 cm; Spout: max Ø 2,6

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ. 204-205(?); Neyret 2008 AF7578, E12384, E15413; Bailey 1998 pl. 49 J44, Faiers 2005 fig. 2.46 n.310.

Anphoriskos of ovoid shape, (there are 3 very similar items with the same inventory number) with two handles starting from the base of the neck (one handle is fragmentary). Tall ribbed neck, straight rim, and ring base and spout. Cream slip, tripartite fabric with black core and buff outer layers. In one instance, there is an inscription (?) painted in black just under the spout. On the lower half, the body is ribbed. **Dating:** VIth-VIIth century AD.

## Manqabad 64



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11 (?)

**Inv. No:** 1747 (Mynia), Mnq 49

**Technical data:** h 28 cm, max Ø 21 cm, width 0,9 cm, base Ø 9 cm; rim Ø 11 cm, h neck 8 cm.

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 pl. 24 n.12; Bailey 1998 S186.

Flagon of globular/ovoid shape, with two handles starting from the neck. Tall and lightly ribbed neck, straight and fragmentary rim, and ring base. Filter inside the neck, with 6 holes (wine? incense?) Cream slip, tripartite fabric with black core and buff outer layers. Painted decoration on the handles, rim, neck and body of the vessel in black and reddish/brown. Geometrical motifs (reddish/brown circles on the maximum diameter circumference).



## Manqabad 65



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11 (?)

**Inv. No:** 1748 (Mynia), Mnq 50

**Technical data:** h 35 cm, base Ø 9 cm, width 0,6 cm, rim Ø 7 cm; rim Ø 11 cm, spout 2,6 cm.

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ. 204 (?); Neyret 2008 AF5353; Guidotti 2004 n.293, 295-298.

Flagons of ovoid shape (there are 2 very similar items with the same inventory number) with two handles starting from the base of the neck. Tall and lightly ribbed neck, straight and rim, spout and ring base. Cream slip all over the body except for the base area. Well preserved painted decoration on the handles, rim, neck and body of the vessel in black and reddish/brown. Geometrical motifs (reddish/brown circles on the maximum diameter circumference) and 4 arches on the shoulder. Organic (?) remains on the rim of one vessel.

## Manqabad 66



**Provenance:** 2001 area, HU19-21(?)

**Inv. No:** 1546 (Mynia), Mnq 54

**Technical data:** h 31 cm, base Ø 7,2 cm  
width 0,8 cm, rim Ø 8,5 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 pl. 60 n.4-5, typ. 186;  
Bailey 1998 pl.133 T126; Lecuyot 2005 186; Bailey  
S.P.1067; Dixneuf 2011 fig.131; Beckh 2013  
taf. 105; Colmenero 2017 fig. 20 n. 82.

Large ovoid LRA5/6 amphora with two small handles. Straight rounded rim, rounded base, tall neck, small ribbed decoration along the lower part of the body (horizontal parallel lines) and in the shoulder area. Faded painted decoration (?). **Dating:** VII-VIIIth century AD.

## Manqabad 67



**Provenance:** 2003 area, HU11-14(?)

**Inv. No:** 1545 (Mynia), Mnq 57

**Technical data:** h 36 cm, max Ø 20 cm  
base Ø 8,3 cm, width 1,2 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 pl. 60 n.4-5, typ. 186;  
1998 pl.133 T126; Lecuyot 2005  
S.P.1067; Dixneuf 2011 fig.131; Beckh 2013  
taf. 105; Colmenero 2017 fig. 20 n. 82

Large ovoid LRA5/6 amphora with two small handles. Straight rounded rim, rounded base, tall neck, small ribbed decoration along the lower part of the body (horizontal parallel lines) and in the shoulder area. **Dating:** VII-VIIIth century AD.

## Manqabad 68



**Provenance:** 2003 area, HU11-14 (?)

**Inv. No:** 1662 (Mynia), Mnq 63

**Technical data:** h 35 cm, max Ø 21 cm, width 0,3 cm, rim Ø 6 cm; rim Ø 6 cm, spout 2,1 cm.

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ. 204 (?); Faiers 2013 fig. 2.72 n.446; Faiers 2005 fig. 2.46 n. 311; Neyret 2008 AF7578, E12384, E15413; Bailey 1998 pl. 49 J44; Guidotti 2004 p. 146 n. 287-288; Donadoni 1974 fig. 24.

Flagon of ovoid shape with two handles starting from the base of the neck. Tall and lightly ribbed fragmentary neck, straight and rim, spout and ring base. Filter inside the neck (6 holes). Red (?) slip all over the body. Quite well preserved painted decoration on the upper half of the vessel in black, cream and reddish/brown. Geometrical motifs (reddish/brown circles on the maximum diameter circumference) and 4 spirals on the shoulder. Under the painted decoration there is a low relief/ribbed motif. Very similar morphologically to **Manqabad 65**. **Dating:** VIIIth century AD.

## Manqabad 69



**Provenance:** 2001 area, HU19-21(?)  
**Inv. No:** 1544 (Mynia), Mnq 58  
**Technical data:** h 38 cm, max Ø 20 cm, base Ø 8 cm width 0,8 cm, rim Ø 3,8 cm  
**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 pl. 60 n.4-5, typ. 186; Bailey 1998 pl.133 T126; Lecuyot 2005 S.P.1067; Dixneuf 2011 fig.131; Beckh 2013 taf. 105; Colmenero 2017 fig. 20 n. 82.

Large ovoid LRA5/6 amphora with two small handles. Straight rounded and fragmentary rim, rounded base, tall neck, small ribbed decoration along the lower part of the body (horizontal parallel lines) and in the shoulder area. Organic (?) remains on the neck.

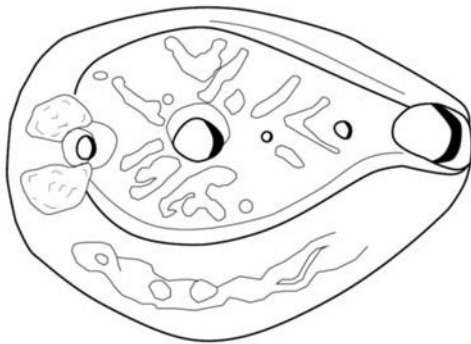
## Manqabad 70



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)  
**Inv. No:** 1732/51 (Mynia), Mnq 27  
**Technical data:** h 44 cm, max Ø 33 cm base Ø 19 cm, rim Ø 8 cm, h neck 8,8 cm  
**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ. 164; Dixneuf 2011 pp. 82-83.

Globular large jar with two banded handles, (LRA1) *titolo picto* on the shoulder, just above the rounded rim, incised lines across the entire surface at varying distances.

## Manqabad 71



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1724 (Mynia), Mnq 8

**Technical data:** h 2,5cm, length 8 cm

**Bibliography:** Winlock 1926 pl. XXXII A;  
Faiers 2005 fig. 2.54 n. 405.

Small carinated oval fragmentary lamp, handle missing, low relief decoration with vegetal and flower themes. Two small holes along the body, one above the handle, oval spout. Light color of the clay, low relief decoration stamped on the base, with a circle which includes 9 circles, 1 bigger at the center.

## Manqabad 72



**Provenance:** 2006 area, HU8-11(?)

**Inv. No:** 1723 (Mynia), Mnq 9

**Technical data:** h 4,3 cm, length 10,6 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff pl. 34 n.7.

Small fragmentary lamp, ovoid shape, handle missing. Circular depression around the central hole. Dark color of the clay, circular spout. Traces of burning also on the base. No decoration.



### Manqabad 73



**Provenance:** 1999 area, HU26-28(?)

**Inv. No:** 1423 (Mynia), Mnq 42

**Technical data:** h max 4,5 cm, length 8,2 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 pl. 86 n. 2.

Small lamp, ovoid (?) shape, with one handle and fragmentary spout. No decoration, reddish color of the clay, traces of burning.

### Manqabad 74



**Provenance:** 2002 area, HU15-18(?)

**Inv. No:** 1572 (Mynia), Mnq 59

**Technical data:** h 3,5 cm, length 9,5 cm

**Bibliography:** Bailey 1998 p. 108 X171; Winlock 1926 p. 88 fig. 38; Faiers 2005 fig. 3.9 n. 72.

Small lamp, ovoid (?) shape, with one handle. Brown color of the clay, oval spout, tall rim around the main hole. Traces of burning on the spout, possibly reconstructed from 2 pieces. No decoration. **Dating:** VIII-IX the century AD.

## The pottery from Manqabad site.

### Coarse wares.

Manqabad 75



**Provenance:** HU2 N

**Inv. No:** S2

**Technical data:** h max 6 cm, max Ø 11 cm  
width 0,5 cm.

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 285, Jacquet/Gordon  
1972 pl. CCIV n.10; Lecuyot 2004 fig. 3 C2;  
Guidotti 2004 tav. XC 541 e 547.

Small fragmentary beaker or cup, Nile clay, red slip on the inside and possibly also on the outside (?), tripartite fabric with black core and buff outer layers, ring base, straight rounded rim. Traces of white slip on the outer rim (?), small flange just under the rim.

Manqabad 76



**Provenance:** HU3 N

**Inv. no:** S9

**Technical data:** h max 4 cm, max Ø 6 cm

**Bibliography:** Bailey 1998 pl.116 E402,  
Faiers 2005 Fig.2.31 n.241.

Ring base of a small globular vessel (unguents?), no decoration, dense and homogeneous fabric of red color. Two small holes along the ring base (to be suspended?), clay remains on the inner base.



## Manqabad 77



**Provenance:** HU3 N

**Inv. No:** S10

**Technical data:** h max 6 cm, max Ø 7 cm

**Bibliography:** (small flagon) Egloff 1977 typ. 204, 210 (?); Jacquet/Gordon 1972 pl. CCXXX n. 1H; Faiers 2005 fig. 2.46 n. 312; Ballet et alii 2012 pl. 4

Ring base of a jar or small flagon (?), Nile clay, quite large black inclusions in the fabric, tripartite fabric with black core and outer layers. Traces of clay remains in the inner base (rough), possibly traces of slip/paint of cream color on the inside and on the outside, as the ribbed surface.

## Manqabad 78



**Provenance:** HU9 S

**Inv. no:** S13

**Technical data:** h 13 cm, max Ø 14 cm width 0,4, base Ø 7 cm, h neck 2 cm.

**Bibliography:** Jacquet/Gordon 1972 pl. CCXXV n.3; Egloff 1977 typ. 7/18 (?).

Small globular vessel (reconstructed from 10 pieces), possibly inserted into the floor (?). Fine fabric, orange color, no visible inclusions, rounded base, tall straight rounded rim.

## Manqabad 79



**Provenance:** HU9 N

**Inv. No:** S15

**Technical data:** h max 15 cm, max Ø 17 cm

**Bibliography:** Bailey 1998 pl.116 E402

Small globular vessel, upper half preserved, straight flattened rim, Nile clay, tripartite fabric with black core and buff outer layers. Traces of cream/light slip inside and outside, possibly traces of quite large vegetal inclusion (voids). Possibly traces of burning in the base area, base missing.

## Manqabad 80



**Provenance:** HU 26

**Inv. no:** S16

**Technical data:** lg max 12,5 cm, h max 8 cm

**Bibliography:** Faiers 2005 fig. 2.59 n.429.

Fragmentary ladle with one handle, Nile clay, tripartite fabric with black core and buff outer layers, wheel made (traces on the outer base), no slip, possibly traces of burning on the outer surface (base area), rounded base. Handle partially missing.

### Manqabad 81



**Provenance:** HU 26

**Inv. No:** S17

**Technical data:** max Ø 23 cm

**Bibliography:** Bailey 1998 pl.131 N204/5

Large ovoid storage (?) jar with black slip (?), Nile fine clay, reconstructed in 4 fragments. Only rim portion preserved. straight flattened rim with a waved motif.

### Manqabad 82



**Provenance:** HU 26

**Inv. no:** S18

**Technical data:** max Ø 23 cm, h max 11 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 pl.82 n.1; Bailey 1998 pl.101 M4; Lecuyot 2015 fig.4 SP 1101

Large plate with ring base (?) and flange under the rim, just half preserved. Nile clay, tripartite fabric with black core and buff outer layers, no slip, possibly traces of plaster (?), wheel made, triangular straight rim.

### Manqabad 83



**Provenance:** HU 26

**Inv. No:** S19

**Technical data:** max Ø 14 cm, h max 9,5 cm

**Bibliography:** Bailey 1998 pl.118 C623  
Colmenero 2017 Fig.12 n.11.

Small cup with high foot and ring base. Nile fine clay, orange homogeneous color (RS?), no slip, partially preserved. Straight rounded rim, small flange under the rim, produced in Aswan.

### Manqabad 84



**Provenance:** HU 26

**Inv. no:** S20

**Technical data:** max Ø 10 cm, h 10,5 cm

**Bibliography:** Jacquet/Gordon 1972 pl CCXXV n.3; Egloff 1977 typ. 7/18 (?).

Small globular jar, very thin walls, with tall neck, straight rim (almost completely missing), rounded base. Nile fine clay, cream/light homogeneous color, possibly traces of cream outer slip (?).

### Manqabad 85



**Provenance:** HU 26

**Inv. No:** S21

**Technical data:** max Ø 9,5 cm, h max 5,5 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 285, Jacquet/Gordon 1972 pl. CCIV n.10; Lecuyot 2004 fig. 3 C2; Guidotti 2004 tav. XC 541 e 547.

Small fragmentary beaker or cup, Nile clay, no slip, ring base, straight rounded rim. Small flange under the rim, irregular shape, no clear treatment of surface (rough).

### Manqabad 86



**Provenance:** HU 26

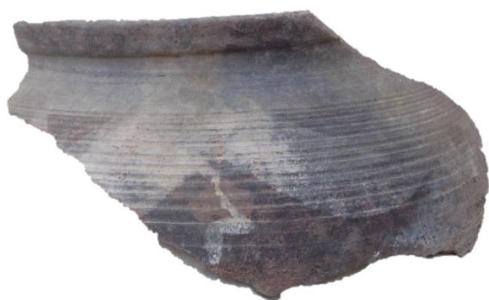
**Inv. no:** S22

**Technical data:** max Ø 26 cm, h 13 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 type 7/18?

Large bowl with straight rim and ring base, partially preserved. Nile fine clay, light orange homogeneous color, no slip, traces of wheel made, possibly traces of burning on the inside.

### Manqabad 87



**Provenance:** HU 3S

**Inv. No:** S4

**Technical data:** h 10 cm, max Ø 26 cm

**Bibliography:** Faiers 2013 fig. 2.59 n. 385  
Beckh 2013 taf.35 typ 111b:ZN06-640

Large storage (?) jar, tripartite fabric with black core and buff outer layers, flattened straight rim. Wheel made, light ribbed surface. Wait paint on the shoulder with waved white band on a reddish/brown slip on the outer surface.

### Manqabad 88



**Provenance:** HU 3

**Inv. no:** S6

**Technical data:** lg max 28 cm, h max 17 cm

**Bibliography:** Bailey pl.133 K11 and pl. 117 K12; Guidotti 2004 tav.XXVIII n.209

Large bowl with straight rim and ring base, partially preserved. Nile fine clay, light orange homogeneous color, no slip, wheel made (traces all over the outer surface), possibly traces of burning on the inside.

## Manqabad 89



**Provenance:** Pottery 'dump', level 2

**Inv. No:** S33

**Technical data:** max Ø 22 cm, h max 11 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 pl.82 n.1; Bailey 1998 pl.101 M4; Lecuyot 2015 fig.4 SP 1101.

Large bowl, with small flange under the rim, straight rounded rim, base missing. Reddish fine fabric, wheel made, reconstructed from three fragments, no slip. (similar to **Manqabad 11 (?)**, **Manqabad 83**).

## Manqabad 90



**Provenance:** Pottery 'dump', level 2

**Inv. No:** S34

**Technical data:** h max 8 cm, max Ø 24 cm

**Bibliography:** Bailey 1998 pl.116 E402.

Ovoid jar (storage) with flattened rounded rim, fragmentary, base missing. No slip, tripartite fabric with black core and buff outer layers, reconstructed from five fragments. Traces of burning on the lower half of the body. (similar to **Manqabad 80**).



### Manqabad 91



**Provenance:** Central Survey

**Inv. No:** S35

**Technical data:** max Ø 8 cm, h max 4 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 285, Jacquet/Gordon 1972 pl. CCIV n.10, Lecuyot 2004 fig. 3 C2, Guidotti 2004 tav. XC 541 e 547.

Small cup with a tiny flange under the rim, straight rounded rim, ring base. Reddish fabric, wheel made (not well centered), no slip. (similar to **Manqabad 15, 76, 86**).

### Manqabad 92



**Provenance:** HU8N

**Inv. No:** S25

**Technical data:** width max Ø 7,5 cm, h max 9 cm.

**Bibliography:** Bailey 1998 pl. 127 L5 and pl. 117 K5  
Guidotti 2004 tav. XXXVIII n.206.

Fragment of a possibly storage jar with triangular straight rim, no base. Dark quite fine fabric, red slip on the outside (?). Painted decoration on the outer surface in white/cream color (net pattern ?) with transversal lines and small dots.

**Manqabad 93**



**Provenance:** Pottery 'dump' Survey

**Inv. No:** S38

**Technical data:** (left) max Ø 9 cm, h max 3 cm; (right) max Ø 13 cm, h max 5,5 cm.

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 285, Jacquet/Gordon 1972 pl. CCIV n.10, Lecuyot 2004 fig. 3 C2, Guidotti 2004 tav. XC 541 e 547.

Small cups with straight rounded rim, ring base. tripartite fabric with black core and buff outer layers wheel made (not well centered), no slip, traces of burning on the outer base surface (production traces?) (similar to **Manqabad 15, 76, 86**).



**Manqabad 94**



**Provenance:** Pottery 'dump' Survey

**Inv. No:** S39

**Technical data:** h max 9 cm, lg max 13 cm.

**Bibliography** Egloff 177-173(?) Winlock 1972 pl.XXVIII pp. 78-79, Neyret 2008 AF12892; Faiers 2013 fig. 2.95 575, 576; Marchand/Dixneuf 2007 fig. 46-47; Faiers 2005 fig. 2.61 n. 444; Guidotti 2004 tav. XI fig. 58; Dixneuf 2011 fig. 158.

Body sherd (amphora?) with a Coptic inscription (not clear), ribbed outer surface, quite straight shoulder, no outer slip, possibly inner (white/cream?). Brown fabric (LRA7?).

## Fine wares.

Manqabad 95



**Provenance:** HU2

**Inv. No:** S1

**Technical data:** max Ø 10 cm, h max 6,5 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ. 204 (?); Neyret 2008 AF5353; Guidotti 2004 n. 293, 295-298.

Small ovoid vessel in fragmentary condition, (no rim, no base) with painted decoration on the shoulder. Possibly small flagon. Cream slip on the outer surface, tripartite fabric with black core and buff outer layers, red rough inner side. Decoration themes: geometrical motifs (small black dots and horizontal lines) with reddish bands (similar to the painted decoration of flagons **Manqabad 65**).

Manqabad 96



**Provenance:** HU3

**Inv. No:** S7

**Technical data:** h 9 cm, max Ø 7 cm

**Bibliography:** Neyret 2008 E11756, E11907-2; Incordino 2019 taf.32, 36.

Small plate (no rim preserved) reconstructed in two pieces, with possibly high foot, tripartite fabric with black core and buff outer layers ARS imitation (?) red slip on the outer and inner surface. Painted decoration in brown, one thick circle and a central cross (?) included in a thinner circle at the center of the plate.

## Manqabad 97



**Provenance:** HU8/9

**Inv. No:** S11

**Technical data:** Ø max 22 cm, h max 7 cm

**Bibliography:** Winlock 1926 pl. XXXIII B  
Lecuyot/Bonnefois 2004 pl. 2 n. 24,25; Ballet  
et alii 2003 pl. 8.3 n. 54; Egloff 1977 typ. 261

Large plate reconstructed from 2 fragments. tripartite fabric with black core and buff outer layers straight flat rim with painted decoration (brown dots at regular distance on a red background). Possibly cream slip on the inner surface, no slip on the outside, possibly burning traces. Similar to the painted plate **Manqabad 49**.

## Manqabad 98



**Provenance:** HU8/9

**Inv. No:** S12

**Technical data:** max Ø 24 cm, h max 6,5 cm

**Bibliography:** Winlock 1926 pl. XXXIII B  
Lecuyot/Bonnefois 2004 pl. 2 n. 24,25; Ballet  
et alii 2003 pl. 8.3 n. 54; Egloff 1977 typ. 261

Large plate reconstructed from 2 fragments. tripartite fabric with black core and buff outer layers, straight flat rim with painted decoration (brown dots at regular distance on a red background). Possibly cream slip on the inner surface, no slip on the outside, possibly burning traces. Similar to the painted plate **Manqabad 49**.

## Manqabad 99



**Provenance:** HU8/9

**Inv. No:** S14

**Technical data:** Ø max 14 cm, h max 7 cm.

**Bibliography:** (small flagons) Egloff 1977 type 204, 210 (?); Jacquet/Gordon 1972 pl. CCXXX n. 1H; Faiers 2005 fig. 2.46 n. 312; Ballet et alii 2012 pl. 4.

Fragments of a small globular jar or flagon (?) reconstructed from 3 fragments, tripartite fabric with black core and buff outer layers. No rim nor base preserved. Painted red and brown decoration on a cream slip (horizontal bands and two vertical vegetal elements in black/brown). No slip on the inside (closed mouth?).

## Manqabad 100



**Provenance:** HU26

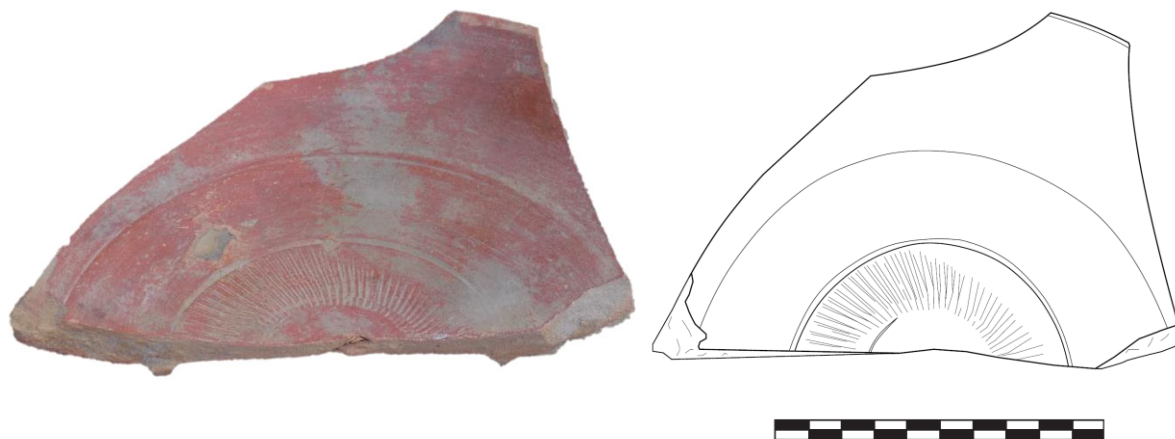
**Inv. No:** S24

**Technical data:** Ø max 8 cm, h max 5,5 cm

**Bibliography:** Gempeler 1992 T370, T636; Ballet/Scandon 1991, p. 506 fig. 3; Beckh 2013 taf. 89 typ 332:ZN08-466.

Fragment of a small cup or beaker with fine pink clay fabric (few inclusions visible). Straight rounded rim, rounded base (almost completely missing). Black (?) slip on the inside and the outside, wheel made. Painted decoration on the outer surface: net pattern in black with cream background and red dots. Traces of burning (?) on the inside. Similar painted motif on cup **Manqabad 47**.

## Manqabad 101



**Provenance:** HU18N

**Inv. No:** S23

**Technical data:** max Ø 15 cm, max length 8,5 cm.

**Bibliography:** Faiers 2005 Fig. 2.8 n. 76-77; Hayes 1972 pl.XIV form 64.1; Colmenero 2017 fig.12 n.18-20; Bailey 1998 pl.2-3; Rodziewicz 1976 fig.51, 55; Guidotti 2004 n.496-497; Faiers 2013 fig. 2.11 n.82.

Fragmentary ARS ware (*sigillata Africana*) with incised decoration. Fine, pink homogeneous fabric, ring base, triangular flat rim with incised horizontal lines (3). Incised decoration on the inside: in the center of the plate there is a circle with vertical lines all around it.

## Manqabad 102



**Provenance:** HU20

**Inv. No:** S26

**Technical data:** Ø max 16 cm, h 22 cm, rim Ø 13,7 cm, base Ø 0,9 cm, width 0,9 cm.

**Bibliography:** Neyret 2008 E14213; Mohamed 2004 p. 1239; Bailey 1998 pl.123 S19; Guidotti 2004 p. 58 fig. 4 C; Jacquet/Gordon 1972 pl. CCIII n.6; Lecuyot/Bonnefois 1992 fig. 4; Ballet 2012 pl. 52 n. 472.

Small globular vessel with tall neck, everted flat rim and ring base. Liquid container (white plaster on the inside?). No slip (same color of the fabric?), light red/pink fine fabric with some visible calcareous inclusions. Painted decoration on the outer surface (black and reddish colors): one horizontal black line the neck (half way). Vegetal themes on the body of the vessel: on one side a horizontal oval red leaf with black dots and contour; one vertical red palm (?) leaf on the other side with black contour. The vegetal elements are included in a register limited by a red band with black contour. Those kind of painted decoration has many parallels (see Turin Suppl.15626 and Cairo Inv. no. 9065 for the vegetal elements) and could be included in the so-called 'Saqqara jars' type. Similar to jar **Manqabad 54**.



## Manqabad 103



**Provenance:** Pottery 'dump', level 3

**Inv. No:** S36

**Technical data:** h max 13,5 cm.

**Bibliography:** Neyret 2008 E14213; Mohamed 2004 p. 1239; Bailey 1998 pl.123 S19; Guidotti 2004 p. 58 fig. 4 C; Jacquet/Gordon 1972 pl. CCIII n.6; Lecuyot/Bonnefois 1992 fig. 4; Ballet 2012 pl. 52 n. 472.

Small globular vessel with tall neck, straight rounded rim and missing base. No slip (same color of the fabric?), light red/pink fine fabric with some calcareous incl. Painted decoration on the outer surface (black and reddish colors): four horizontal black lines and two lines of black dots on the neck. Vegetal themes on the body of the vessel: on one side a horizontal oval red leaf with black dots and contour; one vertical black palm (?) leaf on the other side with black contour (fragmentary). The vegetal elements are included in a register limited by a red band with black contour (lower band missing). Those kind of painted decoration has many parallels (see Turin Suppl.15626 and Cairo Inv. no. 9065 for the vegetal elements) and could be included in the so-called 'Saqqara jars' type., no slip. (similar to **Manqabad 56 (?)**, **Manqabad 103**).

## Manqabad 104



**Provenance:** Central Survey

**Inv. No:** S37

**Technical data:** max Ø 8 cm, h max 5 cm.

**Bibliography:** Faiers 2013 fig. 2.70 n. 434; Bailey 1998 pl.133 J46-9.

Small flagon with high neck and flattened rim, fine pink fabric, orange/cream slip (?). Reconstructed in two pieces, painted decoration in black and red horizontal bands just under the rim. **Dating:** 675-750 AD.

## Amphorae and flagons.

### Manqabad 105



**Provenance:** HU3

**Inv. No:** S3

**Technical data:** h max 14 cm, max Ø 16 cm.

**Bibliography:** Dixneuf 2011 fig. 155 n.317; Egloff typ. 173, 174, 177.

Fragmentary amphora (?) reconstructed from 3 pieces, one handle missing, rim and base missing. Wheel made, possibly high neck (not preserved), ribbed surface, white/cream slip, incised monogram of Christ next to the remaining handle, tripartite fabric with black core and buff outer layers. Possibly variant of the LRA7/AE7-1.3 produced at Bawit.

### Manqabad 106



**Provenance:** HU9

**Inv. No:** S8

**Technical data:** h max 22 cm, max Ø 18 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 177-173(?) Winlock 1972 pl.XXVIII pp. 78-79, Neyret 2008 AF12892 Faiers 2013 fig. 2.95 575, 576; Marchand/Dixneuf 2007 fig. 46-47; Faiers 2005 fig. 2.61 n. 444; Guidotti 2004 Tav. XI fig. 58; Dixneuf 2011 fig. 158.

Fragmentary LRA7 (AE7) amphora with 2 handles and high neck. Base missing, wheel made, ribbed surface, brown fabric. Quite straight shoulder, similar to Antinoopolis (northern necropolis) Inv. 622, wine container (capacity less than 6 liters). **Dating:** VII-VIIIth century AD.

### Manqabad 107



**Provenance:** HU9S

**Inv. No:** S27

**Technical data** h 58 cm, max Ø 19 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 177-173(?) Winlock 1972 pl.XXVIII pp. 78-79, Neyret 2008 AF12892 Faiers 2013 fig. 2.95 575, 576; Marchand/Dixneuf 2007 fig. 46-47; Faiers 2005 fig. 2.61 n. 444; Guidotti 2004 Tav. XI fig. 58; Dixneuf 2011 fig. 158.

LRA7 (AE7) amphora from a so called 'amphorae deposit' in HU10. Wine container with possibly traces of dried palm tree leaves (?). Elongated shape, with high neck, two band-like handles, pointed base and ribbed external surface. **Dating:** VIIth century AD.

## Manqabad 108



**Provenance:** HU16

**Inv. No:** S28

**Technical data:** h max 16 cm, max Ø 18 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ. 204-205(?); Neyret 2008 AF7578, E12384, E15413; Bailey 1998 pl. 49 J44; Faiers 2005 fig. 2.46 n.310.

Fragmentary small amphora with 2 handles missing and a spout. High ribbed neck, lower half and base missing, wheel made, white/cream slip on the outer surface (some traces also on the inner surface of the neck), fine red fabric, no visible incl. no painted decoration.

## Manqabad 109



**Provenance:** HU16

**Inv. No:** S29

**Technical data** h 16,2 cm, max Ø 14 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ. 204-205(?); Neyret 2008 AF7578, E12384, E15413; Bailey 1998 pl. 49 J44; Faiers 2005 fig. 2.46 n.310.

Fragmentary small amphora with 2 handles, high ribbed neck, lower half and base missing, wheel made, white/cream slip on the outer surface, fine red and black fabric, no visible incl. Painted decoration on the outside surface in brown on red and cream back ground, vegetal motifs on the upper half of the vessel.

## Manqabad 110



**Provenance:** HU20

**Inv. No:** S30

**Technical data:** h max 12 cm, max Ø 24 cm.

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ. 164; Dixneuf 2011 pp. 82-83.

Fragmentary amphora with ribbed surface, base and rim missing, fragmentary high neck. Pink/light orange fine fabric, no slip, Coptic inscription on the shoulder (“palm tree”?). Possibly LRA1 for remains of handle placement on the preserved portion of the neck, to be partially compared with similar LRA1 amphora **Manqabad 70**.



## Manqabad 111



**Provenance:** HU9N

**Inv. No:** S31

**Technical data:** h max 11 cm.

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ. 182-183; Majcherek 1995 pl.4 1A; Dixneuf 2011 pp. 129-133 figs 113-116

Fragmentary amphora possibly LRA4 (form 1) imported from Gaza, section of the shoulder and one handle, ribbed surface, pink/light orange fine fabric, base and rim missing.

## Manqabad 112



**Provenance:** HU3

**Inv. No:** S5

**Technical data** h max 8 cm, rim Ø 9 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ. 204, 210 (?); Jacquet/Gordon 1972 pl. CCXXX n. 1H; Faiers 2005 fig. 2.46 n. 312; Ballet et alii 2012 pl. 4.

Small flagon (wine container?) with two handles, straight rounded rim, tall neck, wheel made, painted decoration on the neck and handles (horizontal lines in brown color). Pink clay, cream slip on the outside and inside surface.

## Manqabad 113



**Provenance:** pottery 'dump' Survey

**Inv. No:** S40

**Technical data:** max Ø 10,5 cm, h max 9 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ. 204 (?); Neyret 2008 AF5353; Guidotti 2004 n.293, 295-298.

Fragmentary amphora (or small flagon) with two handle and high neck with ribbed surface, rim missing. tripartite fabric with black core and buff outer layers, cream/white outer slip, lower half missing, no painted decoration visible. (similar to **Manqabad 70, 67, 65, 110, 111**).

## Manqabad 114



**Provenance:** Central Survey

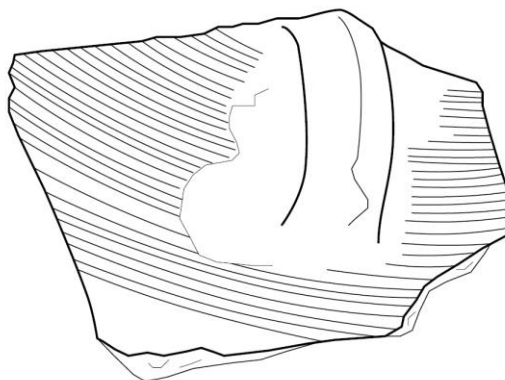
**Inv. No:** S42

**Technical data:** max Ø 8,5 cm, h max 8 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ. 204 (?); Neyret 2008 AF5353; Guidotti 2004 n.293, 295-298

Fragmentary amphora (or small flagon) with two handle (one is missing) and high neck with ribbed surface, rim missing. tripartite fabric with black core and buff outer layers, cream/white outer slip (some slip traces also on the inner surface of the neck), lower half missing, painted decoration visible with black dots. (similar to **Manqabad 65**).

## Manqabad 115



**Provenance:** Central Survey

**Inv. No:** S43

**Technical data:** max length 15 cm, h max 9 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ. 182-183; Majcherek 1995 pl.4 1A; Dixneuf 2011 pp. 129-133 figs 113-116.

Fragmentary amphora possibly LRA4 imported from Gaza, section of the shoulder and one handle, ribbed surface, pink/light orange fine fabric, base and rim missing (similar to **Manqabad 111**).

## Manqabad 116



**Provenance:** Central Survey

**Inv. No:** S44

**Technical data:** lg. max 14 cm, h max 11 cm

**Bibliography:** Egloff 1977 typ. 164; Dixneuf 2011 pp. 82-83.

Possibly fragment of LRA1 amphora with two handles (one missing), no painted decoration. Light yellow fine fabric, no slip, rim and neck in fragmentary state. Flattened flat rim, quite high neck. (similar to **Manqabad 64(?)**, 111).

## Manqabad 117



**Provenance:** Central survey

**Inv. No:** S41

**Technical data:** max Ø 14 cm, h max 11 cm

**Bibliography:** Bailey 1998 pl. 18 C642; Winlock 1926 pl. XXIV (first flagon upper right).

Body sherd of a flagon (?) with two handles (one missing), painted decoration on white (waved line) and waved incisions on the shoulder. Ribbed outer surface on the neck and shoulder area, rim and neck missing. Lower half of the body missing, black fabric, reddish slip (?).

## Chapter Two.

### Observations and comments on the typologies.

The data deriving from the pottery study of the Manqabad assemblage refer in particular to the northern section of the monastic housing units, excavated by the Egyptian inspectors in 2002-2003 (about 78% of the items documented derive from this area). The topographic survey conducted by the University of Naples “L’Orientale” in this section has identified a small church or chapel (HU9), of which this fine assemblage could represent the liturgical equipment.

#### 2.1 Analysis of the pottery typologies: coarse wares

As regards coarse wares, they are not so numerous in the el-Ashmunein store, because of the above mentioned methodological issues related to the previous Egyptian excavations at the site (see the Introduction to the catalogue), but still a small selection of types can be noticed. Among them, a small vessel for ointment, with interesting holes in the ring base (**Manqabad 2**), which cannot be compared properly with similar items so far, except for one possible parallel from Tebtynis<sup>1</sup>. It’s worth noticing that among the Manqabad assemblage, there is another small container for unguents (?) (**Manqabad 76**), with similar ring base pierced by two holes (possible re-use?), but different shape (globular).

A similar interest arises for a conical bottle, almost triangular in shape, with ribbed external surface, for which no parallels have been found so far (**Manqabad 5**). Possibly, the ribbed surface could evoke the external treatment of wine amphorae of LRA7/AE7 type, with their typical ribbed motif all over the body, in order to give an indication of the function of the bottle as a wine (?) container.

More comparisons can be found regarding some small coarse wares of globular shape and no slip, whose maximum height can be measured between 6 and 15 centimetres (**Manqabad 7, 13, 17, 78, 79, 84**). Once again, the most similar items are to be found among the assemblage from el-Ashmunein<sup>2</sup>, Antinoopolis<sup>3</sup> and, in some occasions, Esna<sup>4</sup>.



El-Ashmunein (Left, E400-401) and Antinoopolis (right) parallels for Manqabad small globular vessels.

<sup>1</sup> Ballet 2012 pl.59 n. 566/567.

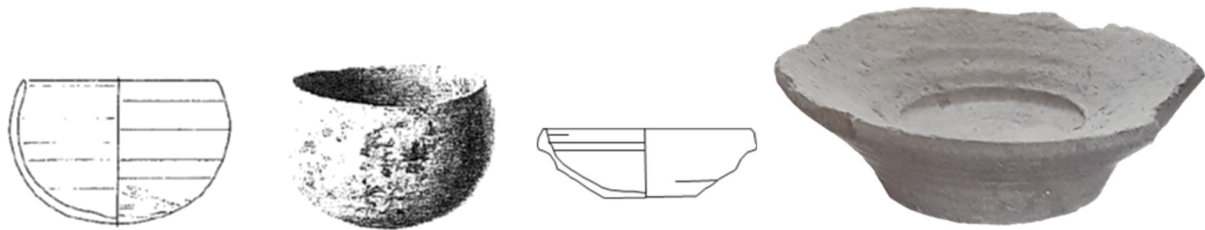
<sup>2</sup> Bailey 1998 E400-401, O33.

<sup>3</sup> Guidotti 2014 tav. VII 39.

<sup>4</sup> Jacquet/Gordon 1972 pl. CCVIII n.5.



As regards cooking wares, one casserole with vertical handles and walls can be noticed among the assemblage from the SCA store (**Manqabad 6**), possibly comparable with some similar pots from Kellia<sup>5</sup>. One fragmentary ladle (**Manqabad 80**) and a large bowl with ring base (**Manqabad 86**) can be added, even if few equivalents have been found, mainly among the material from Amarna Kom el-Nana and, possibly, Kellia. Few coarse plates (**Manqabad 24, 1, 11, 12, 16**) and one bowl (**Manqabad 10**) and a cup (**Manqabad 3**) complete the wares for everyday use from Manqabad, with similarities found among the assemblage from el-Ashmunein, Tebtynis and Saqqara.



Tebtynis , Saqqara, el-Ashmunein parallels for Manqabad coarse wares.

Surprisingly, not many large storage jars have been found so far in the Manqabad material stored at el-Ashmunein: it is possible to mention only two instances (**Manqabad 19, 18**) and few fragments (**Manqabad 81, 91**) derived from the site survey. It has to be noticed that the general inventory from the SCA office of Minya includes at least more 15 large jars, which should be currently kept at the Shutby (Asyut) store, which has never been the object of documentation and analysis so far.

Another reason for this condition is largely to be associated with the unfinished state of the excavation at the site (past and present), especially regarding the lack of large storage jar usually sunk into the floor, which are commonly found in similar monastic building in Egypt. During the survey of the housing units of the Northern Sector, it was possible to notice only one large jar still in situ, in the HU26Nβa room, a possible modest storage room located in the underground level of the unit (see Chapter Three).

The Manqabad catalogue also contains a large storage jar with four handles, with painted decoration, deriving from the excavation of the housing units area HU9-11 (**Manqabad 60**). Considering the large size of the vessel (height 50.5 cm), it seems likely that it was placed originally in the floor of a storeroom, even if this hypothesis cannot be verified because of the substantial lack of an excavation report by the Egyptians. This typology is quite common among the Egyptian monastic communities, and can be found in several assemblages (Saqqara, Tod, Esna, Qurna, Armant) with a wide range of dating (second half of the Vth-VIIIth centuries AD).

Some peculiar features of the type are: an average height of 50-60 centimeters, a painted decoration only on the upper half of the body (when present), and the occasional piercing of the jar. The latter occurs also on the Manqabad item, even if with only three holes not regularly distributed in the body of the vessel.

<sup>5</sup> Egloff 1977 pl.92 n.3.



Four handles jars from unknown provenance (left), Saqqara (center) and Tod (right).

In other examples this 'pattern' can be found all over the jar, but the interpretation is, again, far from clear. If the four handles secured the closing of the jar and the preservation of its contents, a few holes in the walls of the body could be associated with wine fermentation. This hypothesis seems not likely if applied to completely pierced jars, which could be related to different cooking techniques, such as the drying of food (fish, beans) or steam cooking<sup>6</sup>.

Very interesting are some small carinated cups with no decoration, which occur both in the el-Ashmunein store and on the site (**Manqabad 14, 15, 75, 85, 92, 93**). Not many parallels of this typology have been found, mainly from Antinoopolis, Esna, Kellia and Tod, possibly deriving from Roman shapes, and generally dated to 650-850 AD<sup>7</sup>.



Tod - Antinoopolis - Esna

A possibly remarkable observation about the function of those cups could be deduced from the finding of one of them still *in situ* (**Manqabad 85**), inserted into a vessel sunk into the floor of a plastered basin

<sup>6</sup>[http://musee.louvre.fr/bases/neyret/notice.php?lng=0&idOeuvre=30&vignette=oui&nonnotice=1&no\\_page=1&total=1&text=&titre=&numInv=&localisation=&periode=&artiste=&date=&type=&categorie=&acquisition=&f=3110&images\\_sans=images&nb\\_par\\_page=36](http://musee.louvre.fr/bases/neyret/notice.php?lng=0&idOeuvre=30&vignette=oui&nonnotice=1&no_page=1&total=1&text=&titre=&numInv=&localisation=&periode=&artiste=&date=&type=&categorie=&acquisition=&f=3110&images_sans=images&nb_par_page=36)

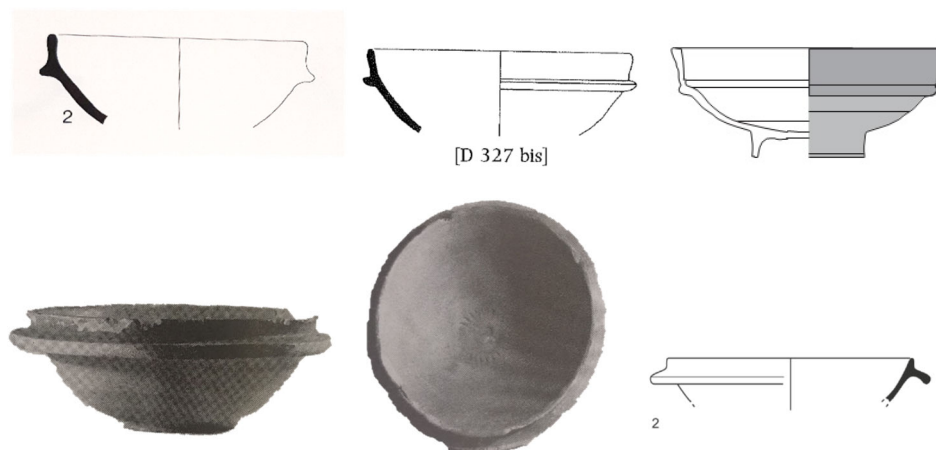
<sup>7</sup> Lecuyot 2004 p. 191, pl.14 n. 193.

in the housing unit HU26S. This cup was found in a corner of the basin, whose general function is still unclear, but could be possibly related to private gardens (vegetables?). Even if the position of the cup could represent a secondary deposition, it seems clear that it has to be considered as a water container, most probably connected to the use of offering water to people accessing the monastic units. In this sense, it is more likely that their original position could be located in the vessels sunk into niches, usually set into the oriental wall of the cell (Northern Sector, see Chapter three).

Unfortunately, no reference to other cups found *in situ* in other monastic sites is known to the present writer so far, therefore there is no evidence for an indirect parallel, even if the hypothesis of a water/liquid container could be consider reliable on the basis of the above mentioned equivalents deriving from other monastic sites of Egypt.

## 2.2 Fine wares

A significant amount of parallels have been traced for the nine bowls with a small flange just under the rim (**Manqabad 20-23, 41, 82, 83, 90**), possibly Aswan production of Egyptian Red Slip Ware, with a stamped motif on the inner base. Those bowls are characterised by a projecting flange and their form could possibly be based on imported African Red Slip Ware (possibly origin: Hayes 91A), usually slipped inside and out<sup>8</sup>. The most striking equivalents can be found among the material deriving from El-Ashmunein and Amarna (Kom el-Nana), dated to the second half of the Vth century AD. More similarities can be spotted among the material from Alexandria (Group K5 Rodziewicz 1976), where some items also bear similar stamped motifs, maybe deriving from African Red Slip Ware Style A<sup>9</sup>.



El-Ashmunein (upper left), Qubbet el-Hawa (upper, right),  
Alexandria (lower left), Asyut el-Gharbi (lower right n.2)

<sup>8</sup> Bailey 1998, pp.46.

<sup>9</sup> Hayes 1972 pp. 398-399.

The stamped motifs on the inner base of the Manqabad bowls are mainly rosette, and, in only one instance, seven small circles not regularly distributed around a larger circle. The rosette motif is frequently found as stamped decoration of similar items, such as an example from Elephantine island<sup>10</sup>.



Stamped motifs on Manqabad bowls (left) and Elephantine (right).

Quite peculiar to the assemblage kept at the el-Ashmunein store is a set of 15 bowls with raised foot and stamped decoration on the inner base, derived from the Egyptian excavation of the area roughly corresponding to the units HU8-11 of the Northern Sector (**Manqabad 25-39**). Actually, no convincing parallels have been found so far for this type of pedestal bowls (and for similar sets considered as a single item), mainly because of their still unparalleled modest size and dark slip. Some high foot bowls with waved rim and painted external decoration have been noticed in the Kom el-Nana<sup>11</sup> assemblage and at Kellia<sup>12</sup>, but only vaguely morphologically comparable with the Manqabad ones.

Those bowls could probably represent a homogeneous table-set for the everyday food consumption, since they share similar size and capacity. Their reconstructed provenance from the housing units area HU8-11 could add more evidence to this hypothesis, considering the interpretation of the AU9N as a large square oratory, associated with a housing unit (HU8N), a large courtyard with service rooms and a complex of underground warehouses (HU8/9 S1), probably belonging to the Abbot of Manqabad monastery<sup>13</sup>.



The collection of small pedestal bowls from Manqabad.

<sup>10</sup> Gempeler 1992 taf.15.6

<sup>11</sup> Faiers 2012 fig. 2.32 n.233.

<sup>12</sup> Egloff 1977, pl. 33 n. 12.

<sup>13</sup> Pirelli et alii 2018, p. 312, fig.17.



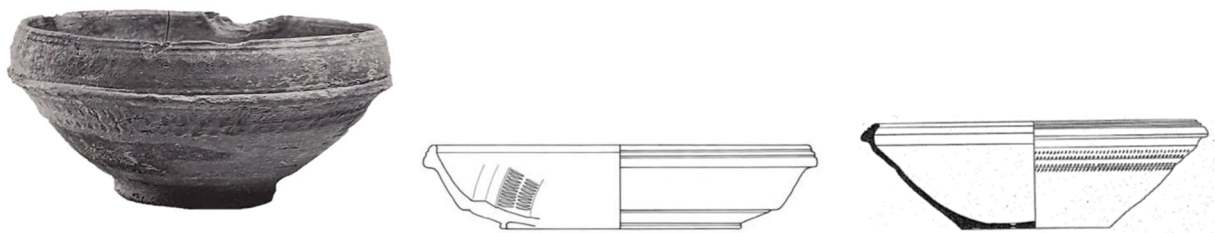
Even for this typology, it could be possible to note different stamped patterns on the inner side of the vessel, which are basically formed by small circles arranged around a larger circle, differing between each other only by the overall number of small dots (from a minimum of 6 to a maximum of 15). Many doubts still remains about the hypothesis that they could represent some manufacturing marks: only further investigation will, possibly, confirm this idea.



Stamped motifs on Manqabad pedestal bowls.

During the documentation of the el-Ashmunein stored items it could be possible to observe another interesting typology of Egyptian Red Slip ware bowls, with a characteristic ‘rouletting’ decoration. About four complete bowls of this type have been found in the storehouse so far (**Manqabad 43, 44, 45, 52**), which have several parallels in the assemblage from Kellia, el-Ashmunein, Amarna (Kom el-Nana), Qubbet el-Hawa, Esna, Elephantine, Alexandria and Nag el-Hagar.

Usually in the Manqabad examples, the rouletting motif is incised all over the external surface of the bowls (rim included), which often bear also a projecting small flange just below the rim (three instances out of four). This decoration is characteristic of O Group wares (Rodziewicz types O3-4, 22a, 24)<sup>14</sup>.

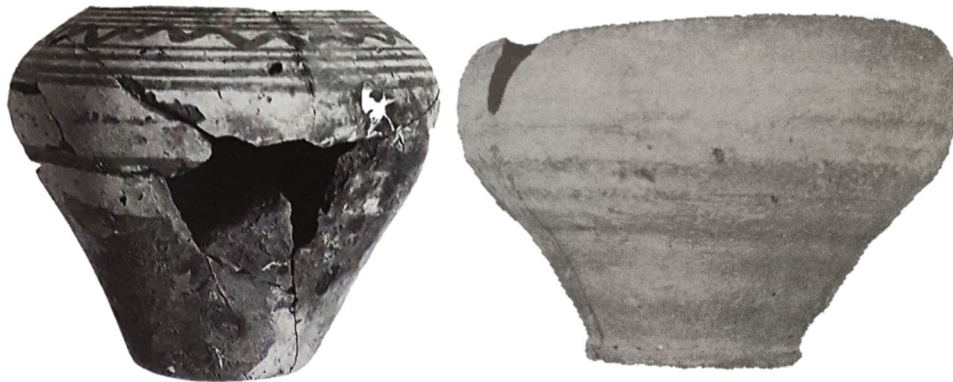


Elephantine – Nag el-Hagar – Kellia, equivalent of Manqabad ‘rouletting’ bowls.

<sup>14</sup> Rodziewicz 1976, p. 56.

Parallels from Kom el-Nana are dated between the second half of the VIth to the first half of the VIIth century AD<sup>15</sup>. Those bowls derive from the HU8-11 units of Manqabad monastery, so the previous observations about the consumption of food in one of the most important housing units of the site could be considered valid also for this typology. Even some comparisons from Qubbet el-Hawa indicate this type of ERS fine ware as part of the liturgical and ritual ceramics, possibly produced in Aswan because of the peculiar orange-pink fabric<sup>16</sup>, which can be attribute also to the Manqabad items.

Among the painted ceramics, worth of mentioning are several beakers or bowls, covered with different colour of slip, and decorated mainly with geometrical or vegetal themes. The examples from Manqabad include simple cylindrical beakers with ring base and a combination of incised and painted motifs (**Manqabad 46**), whose parallels can be spotted among the assemblages from Antinoopolis and Alexandria. One case of an oval painted cup (**Manqabad 42**) has been compared to similar items from Amarna Kom el-Nana and el-Ashmunein, the latter being almost identical to the morphology of Manqabad example and dated to the VIIIth-IXth century AD<sup>17</sup>.



El-Ashmunein – Kom el- Dikka (Alexandria)

Produced in Aswan is an example of Aswan White Slip Ware beaker (**Manqabad 53**), found in the el-Ashmunein store, and possibly deriving from the housing units AU19-21. This cylindrical beaker with white slip and geometrical motifs painted in red and black on the upper half of the vessel has many parallels, especially from Kellia, Tod, Deir el-Naqlun, Sohag, and could be dated to the 650-850 AD. Very likely, this type could have originated in Nubia<sup>18</sup>.

<sup>15</sup> Faiers 2005 p. 69.

<sup>16</sup> Colmenero 2017 pp. 98, 101.

<sup>17</sup> Bailey 1998 p.88.

<sup>18</sup> Adams 1986 p.554 group A4 form 84.





Unkown provenance (Louvre AF4965-68) – Sohag.

Another example of a fine painted bowl (**Manqabad 47, 100**) is the carinated high base vessel-chalice found in the region of the housing unit AU8-11, again associated with the ritual assemblage of the Abbot area. This type could have originated from *sigillata* pottery, it can be found in assemblages from Kellia, Elephantine, Edfu, Qurna and el-Ashmunein, and dated to the VIth-VIIIth century AD. Moreover, those bowls are usually related to the ERSW type A, generally considered to be an imitation of Samian wares<sup>19</sup>, which is probably the reason why several descriptions of the parallels found bear the definition of ‘pseudo-Samian’ wares<sup>20</sup>.



Unkown provenance (Louvre E10739) – Edfu (? Louvre AF5355) – Elephantine (T636).

A different theme is portrayed on the inner surface of another vessel-chalice/bowl with a raised base (**Manqabad 56**) found in the area of the housing units AU15-18 and currently kept in the el-Ashmunein store. In fact, this fragmentary cup bears the image of a female figure, richly bejeweled, with an elaborate headdress. Definitively, no strict parallels have been found for this kind of representation on this specific shape: female representation on Byzantine pottery are rare, but the few known examples are painted on different forms. The morphological comparisons found so far are all related to hemispherical bowls with a high foot (see picture below) and painted decoration with vegetal themes,

<sup>19</sup> Wodzinska 2010 p. 181.

<sup>20</sup> [http://musee.louvre.fr/bases/neyret/notice.php?lng=0&idOeuvre=206&vignette=oui&nonnotice=1&no\\_page=1&total=1&text=&titre=&numInv=&localisation=&periode=&artiste=&date=&type=&categorie=&acquisition=&f=3110&images\\_sans=images&nb\\_par\\_page=36](http://musee.louvre.fr/bases/neyret/notice.php?lng=0&idOeuvre=206&vignette=oui&nonnotice=1&no_page=1&total=1&text=&titre=&numInv=&localisation=&periode=&artiste=&date=&type=&categorie=&acquisition=&f=3110&images_sans=images&nb_par_page=36)

except for few cases. The item from Manqabad has been tentatively dated through parallels of female representation on different supports, such as tapestry, wall paintings, mosaics, and could be possibly identified as a product of the VIth century AD<sup>21</sup>.

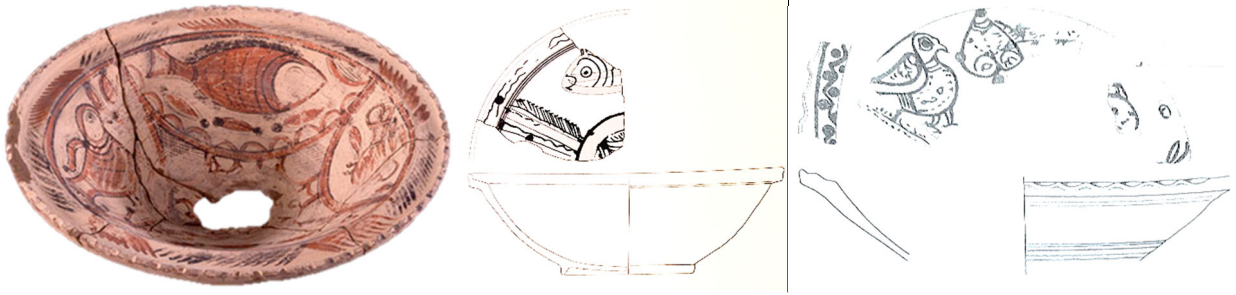


Louvre E11756 (Saqqara) – Unknown provenance (Louvre E11907).

Fine productions ERSW, probably of Aswan atelier, are two plates with painted inner decoration, reconstructed from fragments in the el-Ashmunein store (**Manqabad 49 e 55**). Many parallels of this shape and decoration have been spotted especially among the material from el-Ashmunein, Kellia and Tod. The Louvre Museum holds a quite convincing comparison of unknown provenance (E11776), which has been dated to the VIIth century because of some parallels from Kellia.

The latter shares in particular with the **Manqabad 49** also the size and measurements, such as for instance the average maximum diameter (32/35 cm for Manqabad plates while the Louvre one is 30 cm.) or the tall vessels (11,5 cm for the Manqabad plate and 9,5 cm for the Louvre one), but include decoration themes (a pair of fishes and a pair of birds) and patterns, especially regarding the inner division in registers defined by semi-circles of vegetal garlands. They basically differ only by the colour of the slip, ivory in the Louvre example and reddish in the item from our site.

<sup>21</sup> Incordino 2019 pp. 107-116.



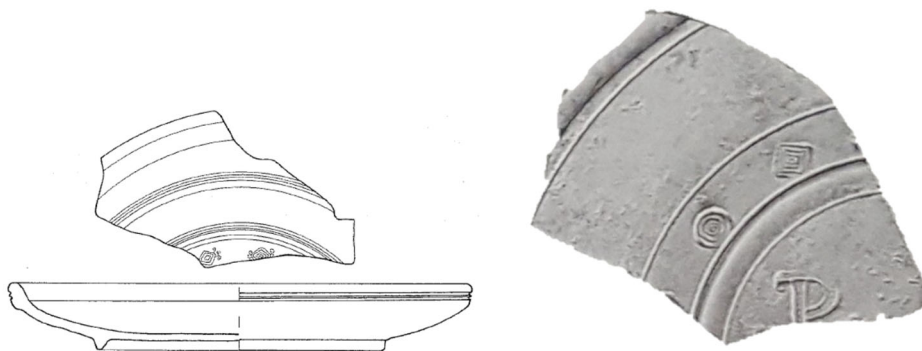
Unknown provenance (Louvre E11776) – Tod – Kellia

These typologies imitating Roman *sigillata* were probably produced at Aswan from the IIIrd century AD, but were decorated with more complex themes, often related to the Christian motifs, from the VIth century onwards. In fact, the derivation from more ancient prototypes is quite clear: if we look at some Apulian vessels the similarity of shape and decoration is quite striking (see picture below). Again, those artefacts derive from the housing units HU8-11 of the Egyptian excavations, and therefore can be associated with the ritual practice in this area.



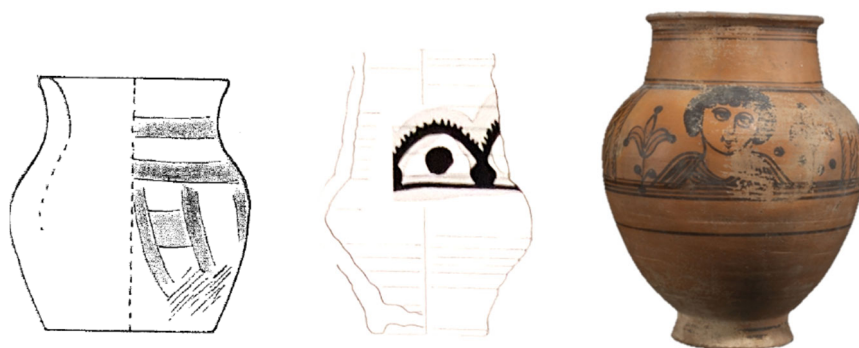
Apulian 'Fish Plate', Getty Museum, 320 BC.

Clearly deriving from an imitation of *African sigillata* is the ERSW with incised decoration (**Manqabad 48**) found in the el-Ashmunein store and possibly associated with the housing unit area AU8/11. This shape is very common, the most relevant comparison comes from the necropolis of Antinoopolis, outside the city wall, dated to the Vth-VIth century AD.



Antinoopolis (sin) el-Ashmunein (dst)

The African Red Slip Ware (ARS) found in el-Ashmunein, for example, derive from the Africa Proconsularis is dated to 400-550 AD, and bears a stamped decoration often with a central monogram, unfortunately never present in the decoration of those fine plates among the Manqabad assemblage. As regards jars, a very interesting item has been found in the el-Ashmunein store in 2014, which could resemble a so called 'Saqqara jar' morphologically (**Manqabad 54, 102, 103**), even if its dimensions are notably inferior to the model. The surface of the jar was originally painted, but today unfortunately much has faded. A connection with material produced in Saqqara would be very interesting, considering other parallels with the site found among the architectural elements of Manqabad and some religious links between Onophrius and Apa Jeremia<sup>22</sup>. Due to the lack of the decoration of the Manqabad jar, this hypothesis cannot be supported so far. A similar item from the Louvre Museum (E14213) of unknown provenance gives an idea of its possible chronological range, i.e. Vth-VIth century AD<sup>23</sup>.



Antinoopolis (sin) – Tod – Louvre (unknown provenance)

<sup>22</sup> Pirelli et alii, 2017, p. 496.

<sup>23</sup> [http://musee.louvre.fr/bases/neyret/notice.php?lng=0&idOeuvre=144&vignette=oui&nonnotice=1&no\\_page=1&total=1&text=&titre=&numInv=&localisation=&periode=&artiste=&date=&type=&categorie=&acquisition=&f=3110&images\\_sans=images&nb\\_par\\_page=36](http://musee.louvre.fr/bases/neyret/notice.php?lng=0&idOeuvre=144&vignette=oui&nonnotice=1&no_page=1&total=1&text=&titre=&numInv=&localisation=&periode=&artiste=&date=&type=&categorie=&acquisition=&f=3110&images_sans=images&nb_par_page=36)



Among the Manqabad assemblage, painted flagons are one of the most widely represented typology, with about twenty items (**Manqabad 59, 63, 64, 65, 66, 108, 109, 112, 104, 113, 114, 117**), sometimes also with applied decorations. The most frequent themes are geometrical, vegetal garlands, dark dots and spirals, which can be found also in many other examples from Antinoopolis, el-Ashmunein, Kellia, Amarna Kom el-Nana and Esna.



Louvre unknown provenance – Kellia - Antinoopolis

Some parallels of unknown provenance from the collection of the Louvre Museum are dated to the VIth-VIIIth century AD. The average height of Manqabad flagons is between 30 and 35 cm, with vegetal painted garlands adorned by small red dots. Probably also for this typology one might suggest a derivation from the main Middle Egypt ateliers of el- Ashmunein and Amarna (Kom el-Nana), since there is evidence of the local production of those little ‘gargoulettes’ made of calcareous fabric, often with a six-holes filter inside the neck, like the Manqabad item (**Manqabad 64**).



El-Ashmunein - Kellia

### 2.3 Amphorae and lamps.

The amphorae found at Manqabad include the most common types among the Byzantine assemblage in Egypt, which are best represented by the LRA7/AE7<sup>24</sup> vessel used as a wine container. This amphora has a characteristic elongated form, with high neck, two band-like handles, pointed base, ribbed external surface and a typical dark brown fabric. In the Minya Inspectorate inventories, more than 35 Late Roman Amphorae 7 have been recorded as finds from the Egyptian excavation in the central area of the site, conducted in 1984-85. Actually, about five LRA7 complete or in fragments have been documented in the el-Ashmunein store and on the site (**Manqabad 61, 105, 106, 107, 94**), but more are to be added, since the discovery of a so called 'amphorae deposit' in AU9 S, during the last fieldwork season. Moreover, hundreds of pointed bases have been spotted during the general survey conducted in the central and southern area of the site (see plate n. XI).



Amphorae deposit in HU9 S

Due to the particular shape of the shoulders attested in Manqabad (rounded shoulder, maximum diameter 18,5 cm) it has been possible to associate those items to the stage of evolution of this typology dated to the VIIth century AD. Many parallels of this typology have been found mostly among Kellia, Bawit, Antinopolis and Wadi Sarga assemblages.

Considering the study of Byzantine pottery ateliers in Egypt, it seems confirmed that LRA7 were among the main types actually produced at least in Antinopolis (Sheikh Abada) and el- Ashmunein<sup>25</sup>, which could have been the original sources of provisioning for this kind of typology for Manqabad too. In fact, the distance between el-Ashmunein and Manqabad is less than 80 km and, more important, the latter is located at the crossroads of very well established trade networks in the Asuyt region<sup>26</sup>.

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<sup>24</sup> Dixneuf 2011 fig. 158.

<sup>25</sup> Ballet P. et alii 1991, pp. 134-138.

<sup>26</sup> Kahl 2007 pp. 117-120.





Wadi Sarga (BM E73605) - Antinoopolis (Inv.622) – Bawit (Louvre E12127) - Kellia

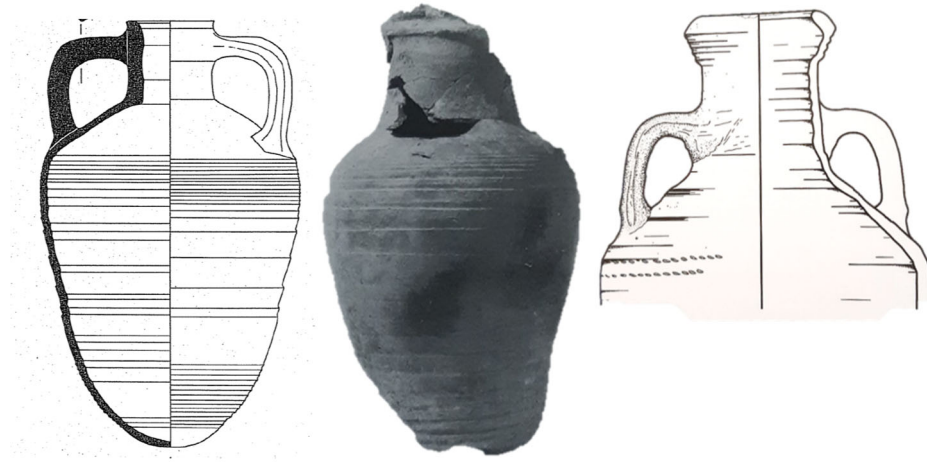
Among the identified typologies of amphorae, in the Manqabad assemblage from the el-Ashmunein store there is a good number of complete LRA 5/6 (**Manqabad 58, 66, 67, 69**), also very common among the main compared assemblages of Kellia, el-Ashmunein, Qubbet el-Hawa, Deir el-Bachit and Saqqara, usually dated between the VIIth and the IXth century AD<sup>27</sup>. The items analysed so far have a quite elongated shape, ribbed surface and sometimes a sort of painted decoration not visible anymore.



Saqqara – Deir el-Bachit – El-Ashmunein.

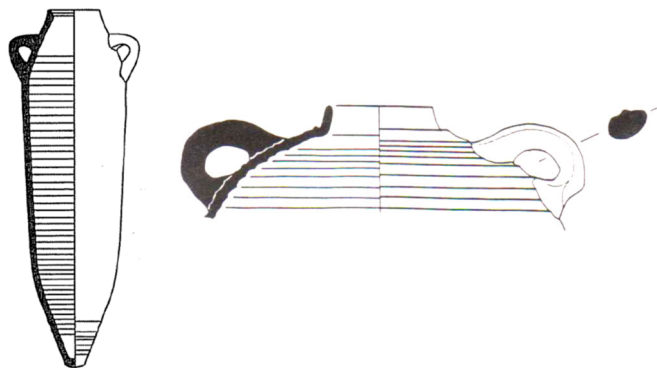
<sup>27</sup> Lecuyot 20015, p. 130, note 26; Dixneuf 2011 p.151.

Quite widely represented is also amphora type LRA1, attested at Manqabad, both in store and on the site, in a few complete items and fragments (**Manqabad 57, 62, 70, 110, 116**). This type, probably in origin imitation of Aegean and Siro-Palestinian prototypes already produced in Egypt from the Hellenistic period<sup>28</sup>, has many parallels among the assemblages of Kellia, Buto, Tebtynis and Dendara. The items from Manqabad, with their typical cylindrical high neck, have an average high of 45-48 centimeters, and in some instances (**Manqabad 57**) they differ from the canonical shape of the body, which has a more angular shoulder, and could be, therefore, possibly considered as (regional ?) variant.



Kellia (2) – Deir el-Bachit - Buto

The last amphorae type identified among the Manqabad assemblage is the LRA4, which occurs only in few fragments from the survey of the central area of the site and the cleaning of the HU9 (**Manqabad 111, 115**). It could be suggested that the fragment mentioned belong to the form 1 (a) of a bulging amphora quite similar to the bag-shaped Palestinian vessels, possibly dated from the Ist to the IIIrd century AD<sup>29</sup>. Similar items can be found among the assemblages from Marina el-Alamein, Kom el-Dikka and Kellia.



Kellia – Kom el-Dikka.

<sup>28</sup> Dixneuf 2011 p. 80.

<sup>29</sup> Majcherek 1995, pp. 166, 173.

As regards lamps, very few almost complete items have been documented in the el-Ashmunein SCA store (**Manqabad 71, 72, 73, 74**), of which only one bears a relief decoration. The parallels found so far belong to the assemblages of el-Ashmunein, Kellia, Amarna Kom el-Nana and Thebes, and could be dated to the VIIIth-IXth century AD<sup>30</sup>.



Kellia – Amarna Kom el-Nana - Thebes

From these still preliminary stylistic and typological observations regarding this selected pottery assemblage from Manqabad, it seems therefore possible to suggest a general dating range between the VIth and the VIIth century AD. Only a few fragments of amphorae LRA4 found during the surface collection conducted in the central area of the site (**Manqabad 115**) and the cleaning of the HU9S (**Manqabad 111**) could be possibly dated to a previous period (IVth-Vth century AD). In some instances, the identified typologies have a dating which exceeds the VIIth century, such as for the LRA5/6 (VIIth-IXth cent.AD), the small carinated cups and the Aswan White Slip Ware beaker, which could be dated until the VIIIth-IXth century AD. Unfortunately, these dating hypotheses cannot be considered as representative of the entire site assemblage, because of the issues already mentioned in the introduction to the present catalogue. Only the analysis of the stratified material, hopefully deriving from the next excavation of the site, will provide a clearer idea of the several typologies occurred at Manqabad.

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<sup>30</sup> Bailey 1998, p.108 X171.

## Chapter Three.

### The Pottery Survey of the site.

During the 2018 field mission, it was decided to devote the last days of work on the site to a pottery survey of the material still *in situ* in the monastic housing units area (Northern Sector), and to begin a general survey of the site, including a limited surface collection. Those activities have resulted necessary, in order to get more information about the several occupation phases of the Northern Sector in particular, and to get a general idea of the material to be found in the less investigated sections of the Manqabad monastery.

#### 3.1 The Northern Housing Units (HU): pottery *in situ*.

The pottery survey at Manqabad has begun in the Northern Section of the site, considering all the 46 monastic housing units identified in 2014<sup>1</sup>. Special attention has been devoted to the eight housing units which were the object of clearing and survey operations (HU2N, 3N, 8N, 9N, HU8-9 S1  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ , HU 20, HU25, HU26) during the last fieldwork season (2018). A total of 49 complete or semi-complete vessels still *in situ* has been recorded. Among this assemblage, as frequent for a monastic site, several different typologies of vessels have been documented, as an essential part of the architecture of the housing complex. Abundant evidence of vessels completely walled in masonry represents the first group to be noticed, an element not rare also in many other monastic sites of Byzantine Egypt. Often there are many fragments of different shapes included in the wall building or re-building phase (see following pictures). Since the fragments are completely integrated into the architecture of some housing units, it was of course not possible to properly document every sherd, but it appears that many coarse ware, amphorae and cooking ware types have been chosen mostly as building material, probably as a second use of the original (broken) vessels. This latter element, unfortunately, does not help with the identification of a possible date of the building phase through the pottery, since common wares were in use for a very long period of time<sup>2</sup>. Notwithstanding this, there have been spotted also some fine decorated wares completely inserted into masonry, or floor, of some areas of the monastic housing units, especially in annexes or courtyards, probably added in a later building phase. In this respect, it is not rare to find a complete painted jar, now exposed, showing clear evidence of being totally buried, and therefore not visible anymore, by the ancient builders (see following pictures). The reasons why still complete and decorated vessels, originally produced to be used possibly in rituals or for everyday use, could radically change its function and become part of the architectural structure of the monastery is still far from clear, and seems sometimes not very coherent with a domestic economy of continuous recycling of materials, characteristic of ancient communities<sup>3</sup>. This very common element needs, however, to be further investigated, possibly during the next fieldwork seasons to be conducted in the central and southern areas of the site.

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<sup>1</sup> On that date, a general survey of the whole Northern sector was carried out by the mission, in order to get a first idea of the different structures that characterized the area, without cleaning the buildings nor collecting materials still extant; see Pirelli 2014, 441-454.

<sup>2</sup> Cattin, 1986, pp. 17.

<sup>3</sup> Cattin 1986, pp.17-18





Pottery in wall masonry of HU15.



Vessels completely included in masonry from HU18 (left) and from HU11 (right)





Vessels completely included in masonry from from HU11.

The use of pottery for water pipes, or other kinds of canalisation (ventilation), has, on the contrary, a more obvious function and is represented also in the Norther Sector of the Manqabad site. Almost each of the southern housing units has one pottery pipe still visible in the wall section. Since not all the units have been archaeologically investigated so far, it has not been possible to get a fully documented list of occurrences, but on a few occasions it has been possible to identify some typologies used in this context, mainly consisting of amphorae fragments<sup>4</sup>.



Pottery pipe from HU20 (left) and HU5 (right).

Another type of vessels still *in situ* is represented by medium-size storage jars (always in pairs) inserted in a plastered niche, which can be likely associated with the storage of water to be drunk immediately after entering the housing unit. In fact, in the majority of the instances, the niche is located in the

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<sup>4</sup> Cattin 1986 p. 23 fig.7.



eastern wall of the northern row of the housing units sector of the site, just next to the entrance (HU3 in the picture below). Only in one or two cases, the niche is located in a wall pertaining to the southern row of housing units (es. in HU14, see picture below).



Niche with jars in HU3 N (left) and in HU14 S (right).

During the survey, 8 niches have been documented in the Housing Units 2, 3, 4, 14, 20, 25 and 26, containing a total of 12 preserved vessels, to which a few more jars could be added, according to some impressions left in the masonry of other empty niches. Moreover, in at least 4/5 instances, there are remains of vessels not completely preserved in the walls of the housing units, which could be identified as either niche or masonry elements.



Niche with incomplete jars in HU4 (right).

In two housing units (HU3, 20) in the niche is present also a third vessel, located in horizontal position in one case. The function of the horizontal element, related to the two vertical jars, is still far from clear (see pictures below), though it might be related to a system of collecting water (?), or not part of the niche, but simply used to reinforce the wall.



Niche with three jars (one horizontal) in HU20 S.

Most of the vessels included in the plastered floor of the niche have been found empty, except for a hemispherical niche with only one jar embedded in the plastered floor, found in the eastern wall of HU2, which contains a dried fruit (fig? see picture below). The jars sunken into the niches are usually not coated on the inside, have a range of inner height between 19 and 25 cm and a diameter of ca. 20-24 cm.

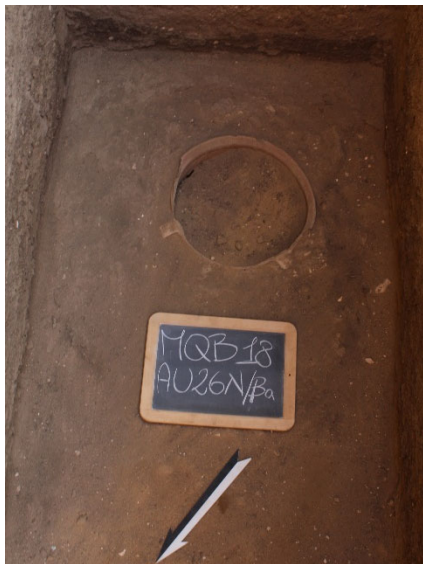


Niche with one jars in HU2 N.



The last typology of ceramics found in situ at Manqabad is the most difficult to deal with, since it consists of jars or small cups/bowls inserted in the floors of rooms or plastered basins (only in a few instances), usually located in the southern row of the housing units. The interpretation of the sunken pots has been a matter of scientific debate since the time of Maspero's investigations at Bawit. In fact, those ceramic items are actually quite widespread among the main monastic sites of Egypt, such as Kellia, Esna, Bawit, Amarna Kom el-Nana and many others. Among the nine housing units investigated in 2018, about 21 'sunken' pots and three bowls included in basins have been documented so far.

Nor have the distribution, typological, dimensional or content analyses conducted by the author so far provided conclusive results to better understand the function of these vessels. In the past several hypotheses have been suggested: rubbish bins, soakaway, containers for material to repel insects, and many more. Since their complete state of conservation at Manqabad, and their inclusion in the floors of rooms or courtyards, it seems more likely that their function could be related to storage. Their small capacity, on the other hand, speaks against the conservation of basic aliments (such as water, wine or cereals), but rather of less ordinary items, to be stored in a limited quantity.<sup>5</sup>



Sunken jars from HU26N (left) and HU2 N.

### 3.2 The Survey of the Central and Southern area of the site.

A brief pottery survey in the central and southern areas of Manqabad was conducted at the end of 2018 season, to collect some surface samples from different sectors of the site. The first area surveyed lies just south of the Northern Section, and probably includes more housing units, some red bricks

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<sup>5</sup> For the distribution, size and general interpretation of Manqabad 'sunken' pots see: Incordino (forthcoming 2020) EVO n. 42.

structures, a hemispherical room (church?) and a ‘tower’ structure quite similar to the one located at Amarna Kom el-Nana<sup>6</sup>.

As regards the ceramic material, this area has revealed the same use of pottery for water/air pipes, and as building material noticed in the Northern Sector, but no ‘sunken’ pots still in situ have been documented so far in the floors, mostly because this sector of the site has never been the object of a UNIOR archaeological survey and cleaning activities. The area was excavated only by the Egyptian inspectors in 1976, 1984-86, 1991-92 and 2009. The material found during those seasons is actually kept in the Shutby and el-Ashmunein SCA stores and still needs to be fully documented<sup>7</sup>.

Among the surface material collected in this area, there are interesting small carinated bowls (**Manqabad 108**), fragments of painted flagons and plates (**Manqabad 111, 114**), Egyptian Red Slip Wares and LRA4 and LRA1 amphorae (**Manqabad 115, 116**).



Red Slip Wares fragments (left) and painted pottery embedded in the masonry (right) from the Central area of the site.

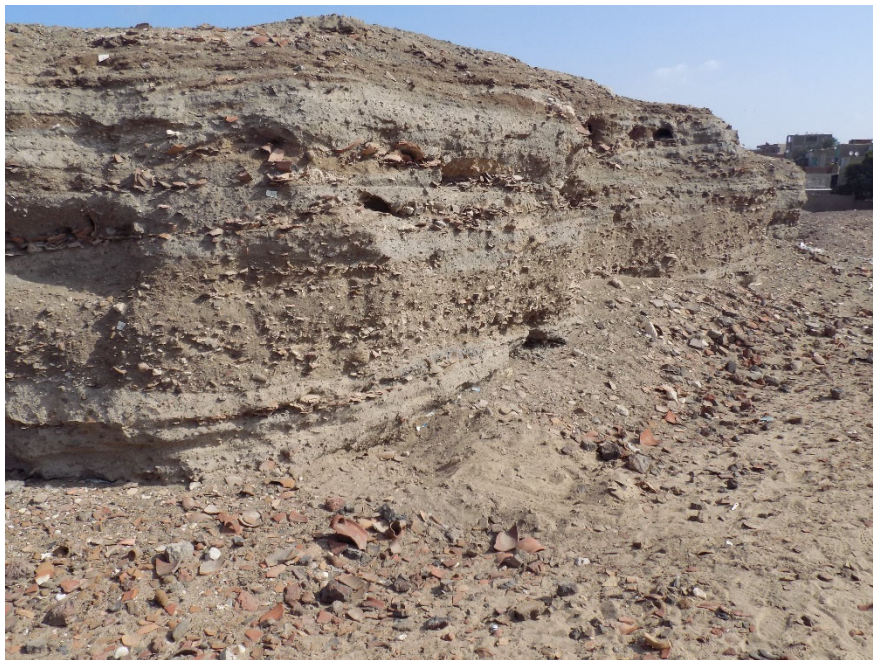
Particular attention has been focused on the southern end of the site, where a significant amount of discarded pottery piled up in two or three ‘koms’ has already been noticed in 2014 (see pictures below). In the area where a vertical section of the pottery ‘dump’ is exposed (close to the topographical point 71), at least four different layers of deposits have been identified, divided by layers of ashes, in a 2,5 m. high wall. A total of 20 diagnostic pottery fragments have been collected from this section, documented and included in the digital database. Among them, some fragments seem to be evidence of pottery production on the site (see pictures below).

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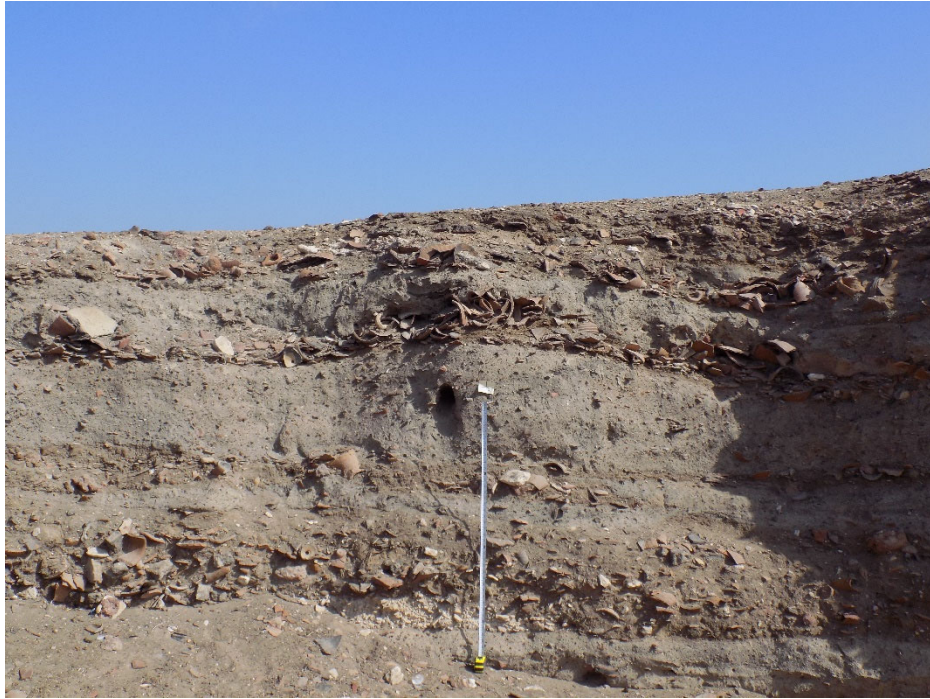
<sup>6</sup> Faiers 2005, p. 212.

<sup>7</sup> Actually, during the latest documentation mission at el-Ashmunein conducted in November 2019, many pottery items deriving from this sector of the site have been finally documented, and are currently under analysis by the present writer.

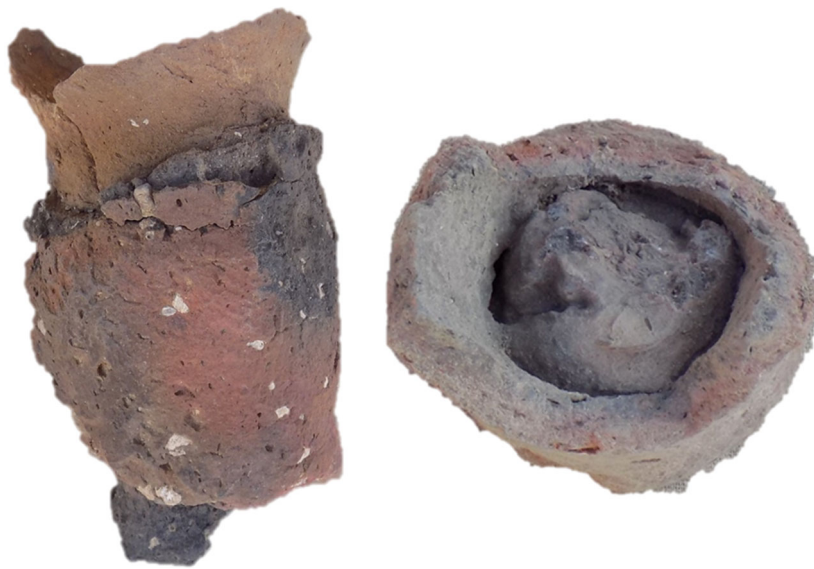




General views of the pottery 'dump'.



Exposed section of the 'dump' with pottery and ashes layers.



Fragments possibly deriving from a production activity (?).

Due mostly to the lack of time and permissions, during the last fieldwork season it was not possible to investigate in depth this 'dump' during the 2018 fieldwork season, in order to find out if it could be considered a production area of the Manqabad monastic complex. But hopefully, part of the next planned archaeological mission at the site will be devoted to the excavation of some trench pits in this area, so that the hypothesis of local production of ceramics could be confirmed or rejected.



## Conclusions

The analysis of the ceramic material from the Manqabad site has underlined as a first result an undoubtedly high cultural level of the local monastic community, testified by the occurrence of the most significant Byzantine pottery types and decoration themes. This fine monastic environment can be deduced also from the analysis of the textual, architectural and wall depiction evidence from the site, currently still in progress<sup>1</sup>. The monastery of 'Abba Nefer' was largely unknown to the scientific community, but since the first season of work by the Italian-Egyptian project in 2011, it has emerged as an important venue for the religious development of Coptic culture in the chronological range between the second half of the Vth to the end of the VIII- early IXth century AD.

The principal aim of this volume was to present the ceramic typologies of the selected assemblage from the site to the scientific community, since it has been increasingly important in the recent decades to share pottery analysis results and overcome the lack of detailed publications, related in particular to the most ancient excavations in monastic sites across Egypt.

In fact, notwithstanding the issues related to the quite heterogeneous material of Manqabad, due mostly to the lack of a definite archaeological context, the stylistic and typological analysis conducted so far has definitely shed more light on the characteristics of this ceramic group, which seems to have a particular link with the production of the ateliers of Middle Egypt (Antinoopolis, Amarna Kom el-Nana and Ashmunein in particular). The most striking correspondences among the paralleled material from this region are to be found among small carinated cups without decoration, small globular shapes, Late Roman Amphorae 7 (LRA7/AE7) and Egyptian Red Slip Wares (ERS). Painted flagons and plates with raised base from Manqabad bear an impressive collection of decoration motifs, evidence of a fervid cultural background, with documented comparison among the corpus of the above mentioned Middle Egyptian sites, but also with assemblages from Kellia, Saqqara Apa Jeremia, Tod, Deir el-Naqlun, Sohag and Elephantine. As already mentioned in Chapter 2, the similarity between the Manqabad items and the Middle Egyptian assemblages involves not only fine and decorated wares, but includes coarse wares, though in a limited number of instances, due to the reasons explained in the introduction to this catalogue.

Several parallels mentioned in the observations and comments chapter (see Chapter 2), and some preliminary observations derived from the first archaeological survey on the site (mostly related to textual evidence) have suggested a possible spiritual bond between Manqabad and the monastic community of Apa Jeremia (Saqqara). This hypothesis is based mainly on the connection between Onophrius and Saqqara quoted by literary sources, and on some similarity in the architectural style of both monastic sites. Notwithstanding this, the analysis of the pottery from Manqabad and Saqqara Apa Jeremia seems not to confirm this link so far, even if some difficulties encountered with fabric analysis may be one of the reason for this missing interconnection<sup>2</sup>. But in general, there seems not to be consistent evidence of shared characteristics between the two assemblages, while the material from Manqabad clearly has more in common with other Middle Egyptian sites.

The geographic position of Manqabad could be the main reason for this proximity of pottery types, but it is worth mentioning also its strategical relevance as meeting point of important trade routes towards the Western Desert and Nubia. In fact, a large scale network of cultural contacts with the most

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<sup>1</sup> Salsano 2015, Pirelli et alii 2018.

<sup>2</sup> See the Introduction to this volume.

prominent monastic centers of Egypt is to be reconstructed also through the presence of many Aswan productions (largely Egyptian Red Slip Wares and White Slip Wares) and few imports from the Mediterranean area.

Another relevant element of the pottery assemblage from Manqabad is the unusual occurrence of several human figures within the decorative repertoire, as the preliminary results of the second (2019) documentation season of the material kept at el-Ashmunein, seem to confirm<sup>3</sup>. The peculiarity of those representations lays in the choice of frequently portraying female characters, probably to be identified as Virtues, or Personifications, related to a more ancient tradition<sup>4</sup>.

As regards dating, the study carried out so far could determine a general chronological range between the VIth-VIIIth century AD. Unfortunately these dates are in general quite imprecise unless certain wares are present which can be accurately dated on the basis of parallels found at other sites with a reliable archaeological context. The next fieldwork season (2020) hopefully will provide this still lacking evidence regarding ceramics, since the UNIOR team has finally obtained the authorisation to conduct some trench pits in selected areas of the site. The secondary aim of this excavation is to find possible evidence to support the hypothesis of a local production centre, maybe located in the Southern Sector of the site, actually occupied by a large pottery 'dump', whose nature is still to be determined.

### **Future direction of research**

In order to contribute to a better understanding of the site, a cleaning and, possibly, excavation of selected areas of the Central Sector in particular would be necessary, and to be planned for the next fieldwork seasons at Manqabad. With the same aim, a detailed survey of the debris embankment just above the Northern Sector should be highly recommended, to add more information about the typologies of pottery material deriving from the housing units investigated so far, since this mound derives probably from the previous Egyptian excavations.

The import task of documenting ceramic material has to be continued also for the items derived from the SCA warehouses. In fact, the el-Ashmunein store holds at least one hundred pottery items still to be documented, while the Shutby store must contain about 80 wares never the object of study so far.

The comparative analysis of the pottery from Manqabad should be, moreover, implemented though the possibility of parallels within similar ceramic assemblages from other Egyptian Byzantine sites, today kept in the museum collections of Cairo, Turin, Florence, London, Oxford, Paris, Athens, and so on.

The subsequent publication, possibly in open access and on other web-based platforms (GIS referenced databases), of more pottery items from Manqabad, and its related analysis (specially archaeometric and residual ones) must be still considered a goal to be achieved, to make this interesting assemblage finally known to the scientific community.

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<sup>3</sup> In November 2019, while still completing the editing of this catalogue, the author had the chance to come back to el-Ashmunein warehouse and document 80 more pottery items deriving mostly from the 1998-1999 Egyptian excavation at the site, and currently object of a detailed study.

<sup>4</sup> See Incordino SAK 2019, and **Manqabad 56**.

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Plate I – General views of Manqabad site.





Plate II – Selected pottery from the cleaning of the HU20.





Plate III – Ceramics from the el-Ashmunein SCA store.





Plate IV - Selection of pottery from the Egyptian excavation (upper)  
and at the present state (2018, lower).



Plate V - Sunken pots from HU23 (upper, left corner of the room) and HU8/9 S1β (lower).





Plate VI – Views of the southern pottery ‘dump’.





HU2



HU3



HU8-9 S1 $\alpha$

HU9 N5



HU9N W1



HU9 N3



HU9 N1

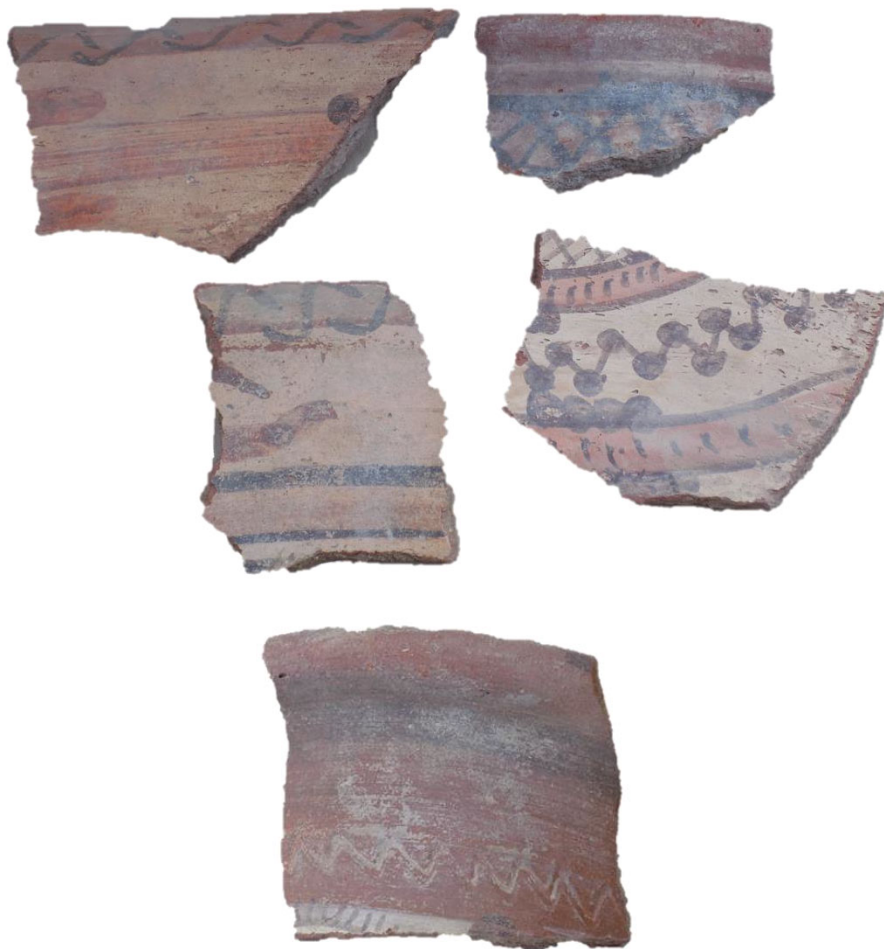
HU20



HU26 S1



Pottery 'dump'



Central area of the site



HU26



Pottery 'dump'.

Plate X – Selection of Red Slip Ware fragments.





HU8-9 S1

HU26



Pottery 'dump'



Central area of the site (with remains of the original content).





HU3



HU8N



Pottery 'dump'



HU26



Central area of the site



HU8/9 S1



HU26

Plate XIII – Selection of pierced fragments.