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## **Late Predynastic - Early Dynastic mound of Beni Amir (Eastern Delta)**

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Beni Amir is one of the small villages of the markaz Zagazig, Sharqia province located 8 km northeast of Zagazig and 6.5 km northwest of Saft el-Hinna (Fig. 1). It lies, surrounded by farmlands and some country estates, to the east of Beni Amir canal and to the south of el-Arin drain-channel. About 700 meters to the north west of Beni Amir village there is a Muslim and Christian cemetery.

### **Tell Beni Amir**

Tell Beni Amir is a Late Predynastic-Early Dynastic period site in the Eastern Delta (Kessler 1982: 404; Bietak 1975: 99; Kamel 1985: 51). The tell occupies an area of about eight and a half feddans and is situated directly to the south-west of Beni Amir village and to the south of Ezbet el-Sheikh el-Saiyid Abu Hashem. The Beni Amir canal splits the tell into two parts. The eastern part is enclosed by the wall of the Beni Amir playground, is about five and a half feddans in extend and lies on the same level as the surrounding farmland (Fig. 2). The western part is about three feddans large and 1-2.5 m in height above the level of the surrounding farmlands (Fig. 3, 4).

### **Discovery of the Tell**

In the past the tell area was sometimes used as a cemetery for the Muslimpopulation. The tell was unknown to Egyptologists as an archaeological site until 1967, when one of the residents of the area accidentally found some pottery and alabaster vessels. Some of these may have been sold to different museums in Europe and the USA (Fischer 1958: 65ff.; Müller 1966: 5ff.; 1975: 180ff.). The inspector of the Sharqia province M. A. Mohsen investigated this discovery and inspected the find place and the objects themselves. Seventeen alabaster and pottery vessels date to the Late Predynastic period including four cylindrical ceramic jars with a wavy handles comparable to Naqada II-III ware (Kaiser 1957). After the inspection of the site it was put under the control and supervision of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization.

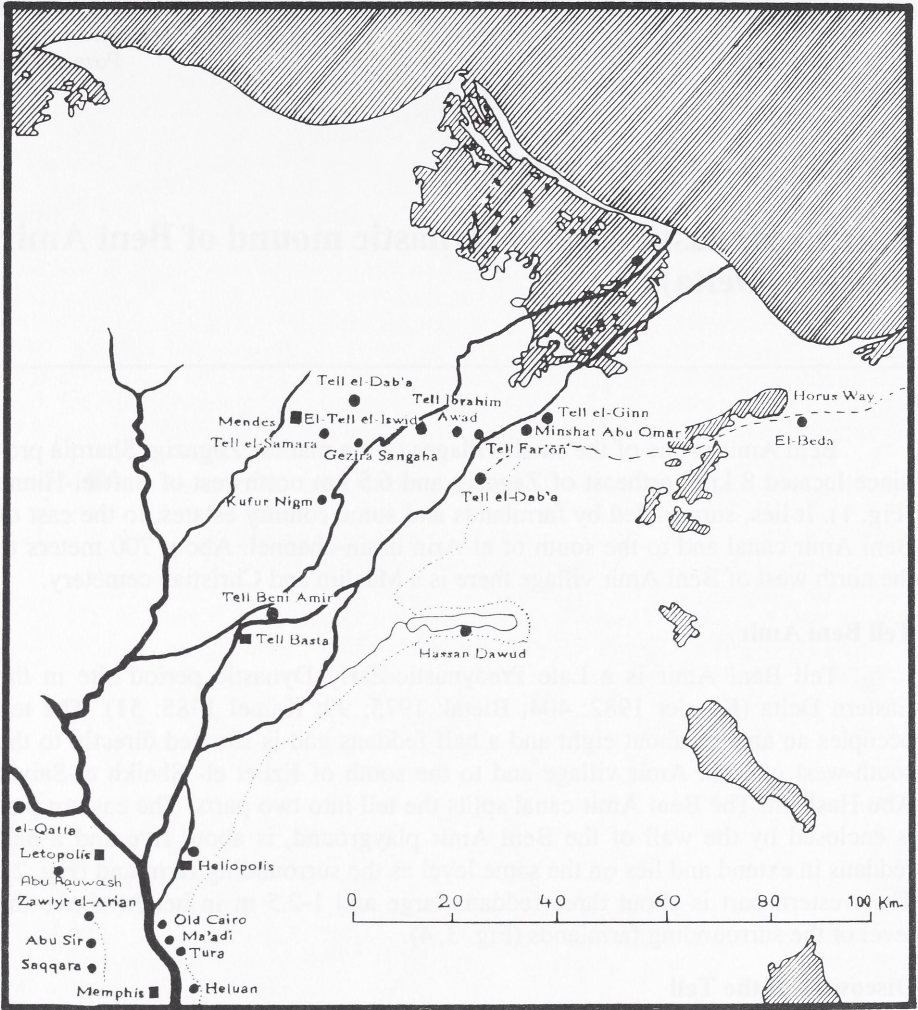


Fig. 1. Late Pre-/Early Dynastic sites in the Eastern Delta.





Fig. 2. Tell Beni Amir.





Fig. 3. View of Tell Beni Amir.



Fig. 4. View of Tell Beni Amir.



### Excavations of the Tell

In 1967 (from 21/6/1967 to 23/7/1967) the E.A.O. started sondages in Beni Amir; the work was carried out by M. el-Mussalami, the inspector of Sharqia province, and concentrated on the north part of the tell, to the west of the Beni Amir canal. In the beginning sondages of longitudinal and transversal trenches were made in the low parts of the hill but as Protodynastic tombs appeared only on the higher parts of the tell, work was continued there with systematic excavations. During this season pottery slipper-coffins, cylindrical coffins and burials without coffins, as well as pottery vessels of the Roman period, were found. The excavation was continued from 26/11/1967 to 30/1/1968 at which time the work concentrated on the eastern part of the tell. In this season 148 tombs of the Roman period and seventeen tombs well as 124 objects (pottery and alabaster vessels as well as palettes) were found dated to the Late Predynastic-Early Dynastic period (Krzyżaniak 1989: Fig. 6 and 7).

In 1971 the excavation work continued from 22/5/1971 to 27/6/1971 in the southern and the western parts of the same tell (Leclant 1973: 395). The excavation was carried out by M. el-Mussalami. More objects and tombs of Roman and Late Predynastic-Early Dynastic period were found: two tombs of the Late Predynastic-Early Dynastic period contained vessels of pottery, alabaster and schist as well as flint tools. Dating to the Roman period where three burials in the sand and possibly a brick build well; finds included a bottle of glass as well as faience beads and a steatite scarab with the cartouche of Tuthmosis III. Twenty-four objects were found and are now stored at the Antiquities Organization's magazine in Tell Basta.

In 1974 the excavation work was resumed from 31/8/1974 to 21/9/1974, carried out by Mohammed Abd el-Hagg Ragab (1992). The work concentrated on the part of the tell which lies to the east of the Beni Amir canal (the Beni Amir playground). Sondages were made on about two feddans up to 2 m in depth. Beads and bracelets of coloured glass and corroded copper mixed with remains of human bones, single tombs as well as tombs with double burial chambers built of fired bricks were found. All finds of this season date to the Roman period.

In 1975 the excavation work was resumed by M. Abd el-Hagg Ragab in order to complete the sondages in the rest of the eastern part of the tell (Leclant 1976: 278, 279). Roman tombs of different types were found as follows:

- (1) individual and collective burials,
- (2) one-chamber, vaulted tombs built of fired bricks for one or more burials,
- (3) two-chamber, vaulted tombs built of burnt bricks for two or more burials.

Twenty-six objects were found during this excavation, they are in the magazine of the Antiquities Organization at Tell Basta (Reg. Nos. 3170-3195). During this excavation some Protodynastic pottery and alabaster vessels were also found by one of the natives when taking earth from the land near the place of the first season's excavations, to the west of the Beni Amir canal. These finds are also kept at the magazine at Tell Basta.

## Stratigraphy

The excavation of 8.5 feddans in Beni Amir with a maximum depth of about two meters down to the virgin soil or to the ground water level has mainly revealed two layers of two distinct periods. The Roman cemetery was in the upper layer and the Late Predynastic-Early Dynastic cemetery was in the lower layer. Occasionally however, the tombs of the two cemeteries were found intermingled because the depth of the Roman period tombs sometimes reach the level of the Late Predynastic-Early Dynastic period or even deeper. This is not unusual since it can be found at other excavation sites such as Kufur Nigm. There some burials of the Protodynastic period were found disturbed by the Roman burials, and sometimes the Roman burials were found at the same level as the Protodynastic burials or deeper.

The site of Beni Amer was abandoned directly after the Early Dynastic period and there is little evidence of any occupation on the site until the Roman period. It is worth mentioning that this applies to many other Late Predynastic and Early Dynastic sites in the Eastern Delta e.g., Minshat Abu Omar (Kroeper & Wildung 1985), Kufur Nigm (Bakr 1988), Tell Hassan Dawud (Mohammed Salim el-Hangary 1992), Tell el-Dab'a-Markaz el-Simbillawin (pers. communication by H. A Yossef) and many other sites (van den Brink 1989: 5f.). This could be due to the high flood level of the Nile, which was higher during the Late Predynastic and Early Dynastic because of an East African subpluvial. According to Butzer (1959a: 60-63, fig 1; 1975: 1043-1052, fig 1, 2; 1959b: 66-68) between 4000 and 3000 B.C. the marine transgression on the Delta coast was more than +3 m, from 3000 to 2000 B.C. the sea level and the Nile flood sank from +3 m to -2 m. Toward 1000 B.C. the sea level increased to +2 m but in the Ptolemaic times sank again to -2.6 m (Ball 1939: 66f.). For this reason sites of this period can be found in the Delta on relatively high geostratigraphic positions, on so-called turtlebacks (e.g. Kufur Nigm 8 m, Tell el- Ginn 6 m, Minshat Abu Omar 6 m, Gezira Sangaha 12 m (Bietak 1975: 61), while the Later Dynastic sites in the Eastern Delta lie on a lower level. The Old Kingdom mastabas at Mendes lie nearly at the present level of ground water and the foundation of the Ka-Temple of Pepi I at Tell Basta lies below the present level of ground water. The present level of the ground water is at the level of the Middle Kingdom stratum and the foundation of the 12 Dyn. temple at Ezbet Rushdi el-Soghira lies below the todays ground water level (Bietak 1975: 61).

### Stratum B (the lower layer)

In the lower layer of the Late Predynastic-Early Dynastic period about thirty six tombs of different types were found (see 2nd article this volume).

The tombs were open pit graves and tombs of one, two, three, eight or nine compartments, built of mud-bricks and including pottery, alabaster, schist, porphyric rock, and breccia vessels.



The pottery shapes of this period consisted of small bag-shaped jars with cylindrical necks and pointed bases (Fig. 5, 19, 29-IX). This type of jars is comparable to those found at Tell Fara'in/Buto layer II (von der Way 1986: 197, Abb. 3 a), el-Tell el-Iswid (south) phase A (van den Brink 1989: 67, fig. 9, nr. 1) and also at Minshat Abu Omar grave group 1 (Kroeper 1988: 10: 14) which are dated to Naqada IIc-IIId1 (Kaiser 1957: 72, Tafel 23 type P93d).

Another type of jar found is a slender ovoid wavy handled jar with a flat base (W-ware Fig. 11, 13, 14, 15, 30-XIII). This type is dated to Naqada IIId2-IIIa2, and is comparable to those found at Minshat Abu Omar (Wildung 1981: 15f., 28, figs. 11, 22, 14, 16; Kroeper 1984: 8). This stratum began at the time of Naqada IIc in the Late Predynastic period and continued to the Early Dynastic period.

### **Stratum A (the upper layer)**

This stratum contained remains of a well built of burnt bricks which indicates a Roman settlement, and also more than 200 tombs as well as numerous pottery vessels, glass bottles, faience, carnelian and bronze beads, bracelets of bronze and coloured glass, and a steatite scarab - all mostly found as funeral equipment in the tombs.

The types of the tombs were as follows:

- (1) simple sand burials,
- (2) mud-brick coffins build of two to four courses of bricks,
- (3) plain as well as slipper pottery coffins,
- (4) a small tomb of mud-bricks containing a limestone coffin,
- (5) one-chamber vaulted tombs built of burnt bricks for one or more burials,
- (6) two-chamber vaulted tomb built of burnt bricks for two or more burials.

### **The location of the settlement and its importance**

It is noticeable that all the finds of Beni Amir were restricted to tombs and funeral equipment both in the Roman and the Late Predynastic-Early Dynastic stratum. This poses the question concerning the location of the settlements for both periods. The whole area of Tell Beni Amir of about eight and a half feddans underwent sondages and excavations without any traces of settlement being found. There are some possible suggestions about the location of the settlements: it may be either in the farmland in the vicinity, under the Beni Amir village or under the country estates at the west side of the Beni Amir canal. Most probably the Roman settlement was in the neighbourhood of the two wells - one found at the end of the tell near Ezbet Abu Hashem and the second one, constructed of limestone, located near Ezbet el-Chandur.

Undoubtedly the size of the Late Predynastic-Early Dynastic cemetery, the number of the tombs and types mostly built of mud-brick reflects the importance of the older settlement, and indicates its social and economic position, particularly as one of the tombs is regarded as the largest tomb (11 m long and 3.85 m

wide) found in Eastern Delta from this period (see second article by the same author, this volume Fig. 1, 10.)

The types of the pottery which were found in the Late Predynastic-Early Dynastic tombs of Beni Amir suggest that the settlement was established at the time of Naqada IIc and continued to the Early Dynastic period.

Tell of Beni Amir evolved in the Late Predynastic period in one of the vital positions in the Eastern Delta between the Pelusiac and the Tanitic branches of the Nile, in the area where the two branches are closest (Fig. 4). In this position, it must have been quite manageable to get into contact with other contemporary settlements which developed on the two Nile branches, i.e. Tell Tanis, Gezira Sangaha, Tell Farkha and Kufur Nigm on the Tanitic branch and Tell el-Ginn, Minshat Abu Omar, Tell Fara'on, Tell Ibrahim Awad, Tell el-Dab'a and Tell Basta on the Pelusiac branch (Fig. 1; [Bietak 1975: 99, 106, fig. 12]). It also lies at the W-end of Wadi el-Tumilat, on the road to Sinai peninsula and its copper and turquoise mines. In 1972-1982, during a survey of northern Sinai between the Suez Canal and the Gaza Strip, about 250 settlement sites represented by material culture of the Early Bronze I-II or late Predynastic and the Early Archaic period were recorded by an expedition from Ben Gurion University (Oren 1989: 389ff.) in the area which correspond to the projected east-west movements of the people concerned.

### The Pottery

The pottery of Beni Amir can be classified into the following types:

1. Tall jars with roll rim, tapering body and rounded base, red-brown ware. Two examples (Reg. nos. 61/1967, 66/1967); height from 70 to 80 cm, rim diameter 10 to 10.5 cm (Fig. 27-I). This type of jars is known as wine jars which date to the 1st Dynasty (Emery 1949: 149, fig. 80; Emery 1963, Type A3). Such type was also found in other Early Dynastic tombs in Eastern Delta at Kufur Nigm (Bakr 1988), Hassan Dawud, Tell el-Dab'a (Markas el-Simbilawin) and Minshat Abu Omar (in Group IV tombs; Kroeper 1988: 9f., fig. 6).
2. Tall jar with roll rim, bulbous body and rounded base, red-brown ware. One example (Reg. no. 3203/1974), height 50 cm, rim diameter 11.5 cm (Fig. 12, 27-II). This type of jar is dated to the 1st Dynasty probably used for storing food of a cereal character (Emery 1963: 210, class A4).
3. Jar with bulbous body, external rim, low neck and flat base. Five examples (Reg. nos. 3196-3200/1974), height from 17 to 20 cm, rim diameter 7 to 8 cm (Fig. 22, 27-III). This type is similar to type E-7 at Abu Roash (Klasens 1958: 36f., fig. 13; 1959: 43ff., fig. 3).
4. Jar with bulbous body, low neck and rough blunt pointed base, rough red-brown ware. Four examples (Reg. no. 83, 122, 125, 179/1968), height 26.5 cm, rim diameter 9.5 cm (Fig. 20, 27-IV).
5. Semi-spherical jar with low neck, external rim and rounded base, rough red-brown ware (Reg. no. 64/1967), height 26.5 cm, rim diameter 9.5 cm.



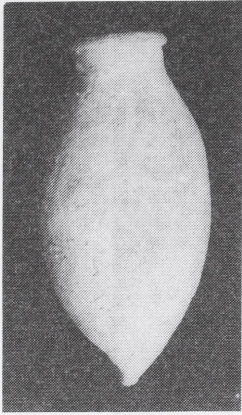


Fig. 5.

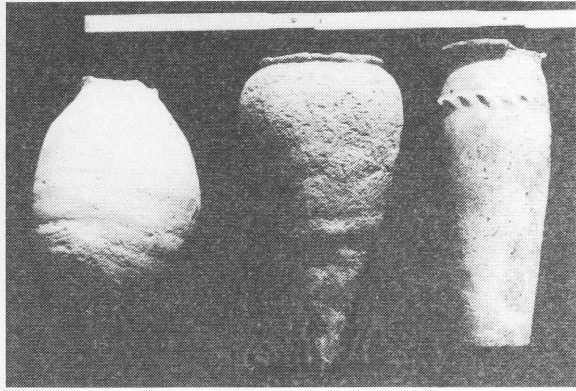


Fig. 6.

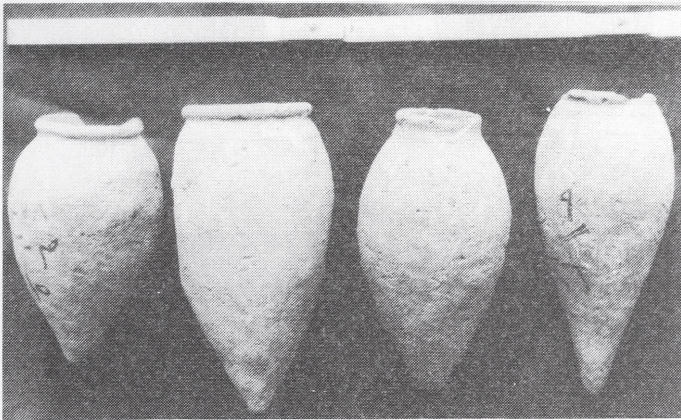


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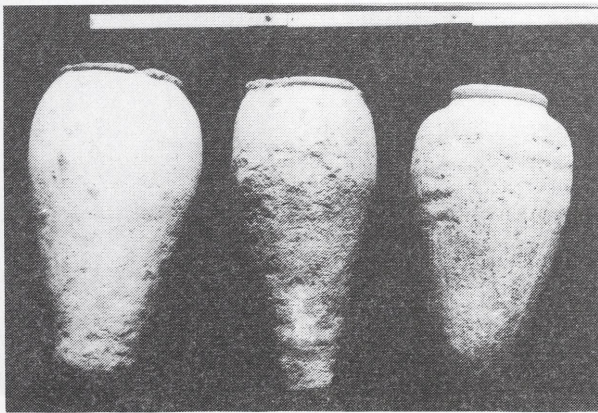


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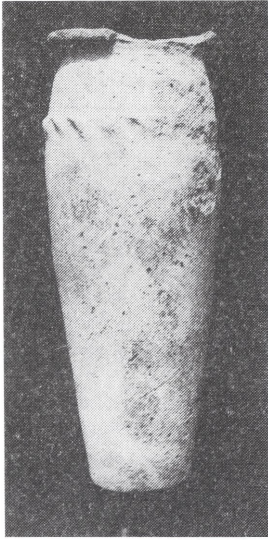


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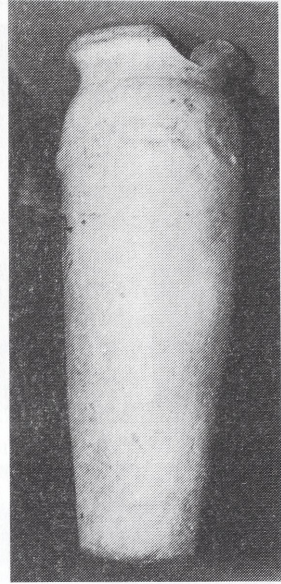


Fig. 10.



Fig. 11.

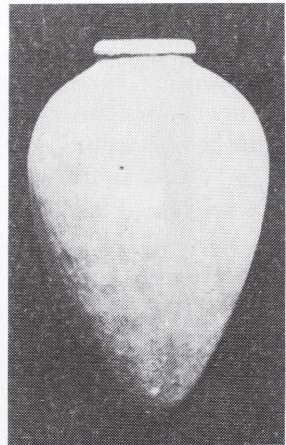


Fig. 12.





Fig. 13.

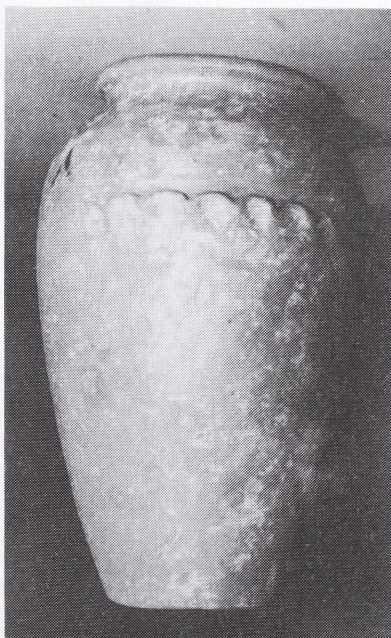


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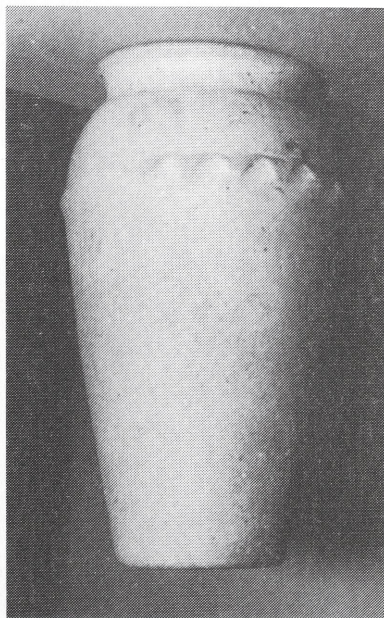


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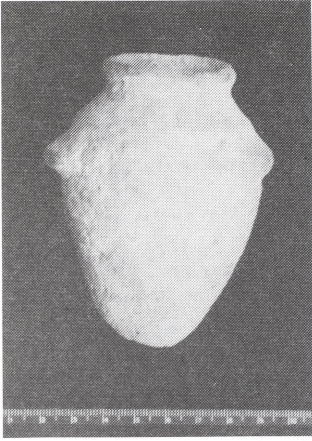


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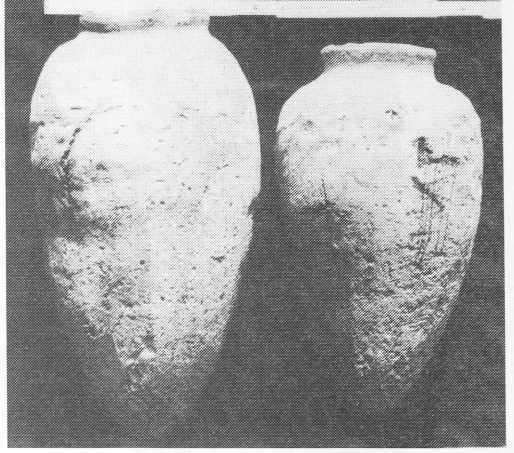


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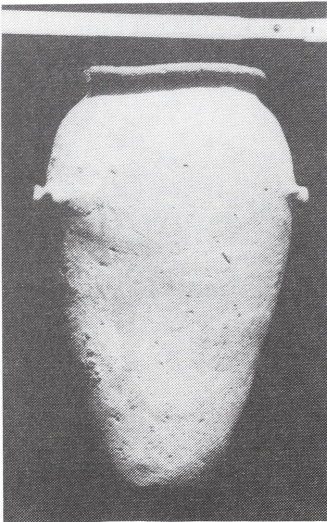


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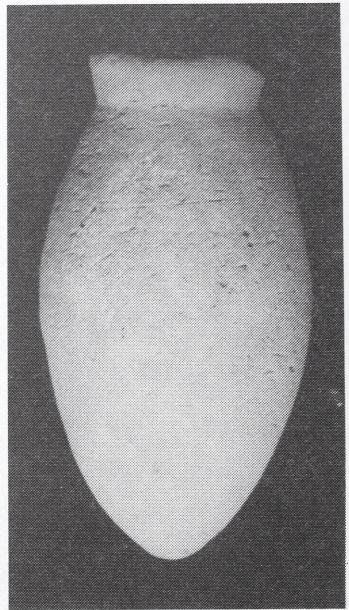


Fig. 19.



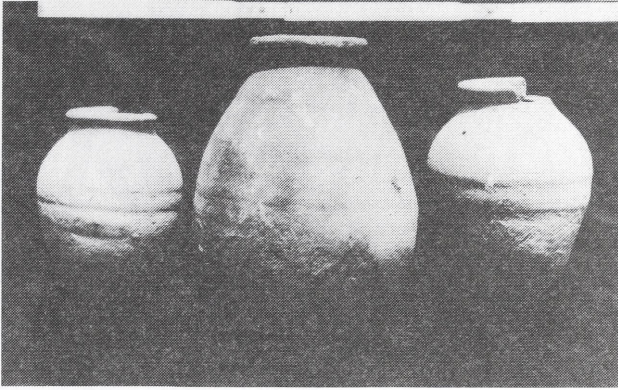


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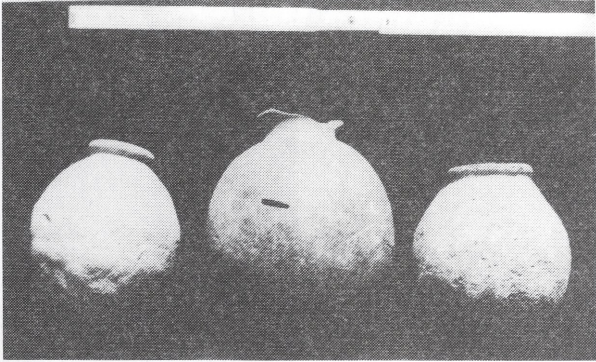


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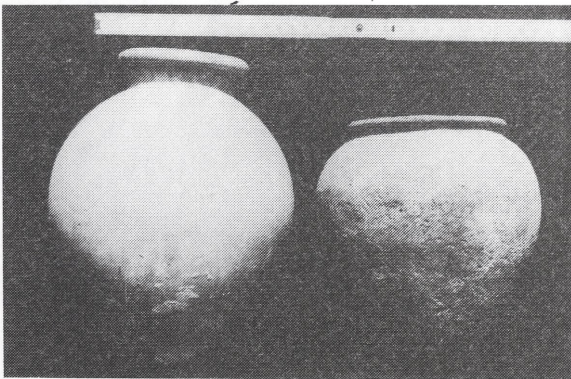


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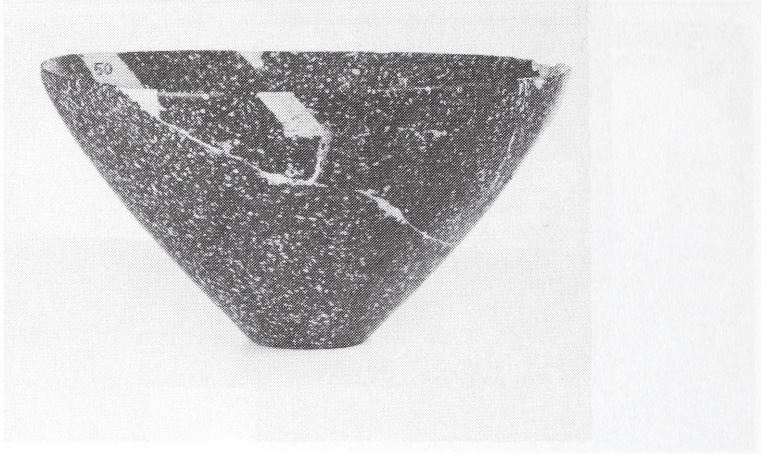


Fig. 23.



Fig. 24.



Fig. 25.



Fig. 26.



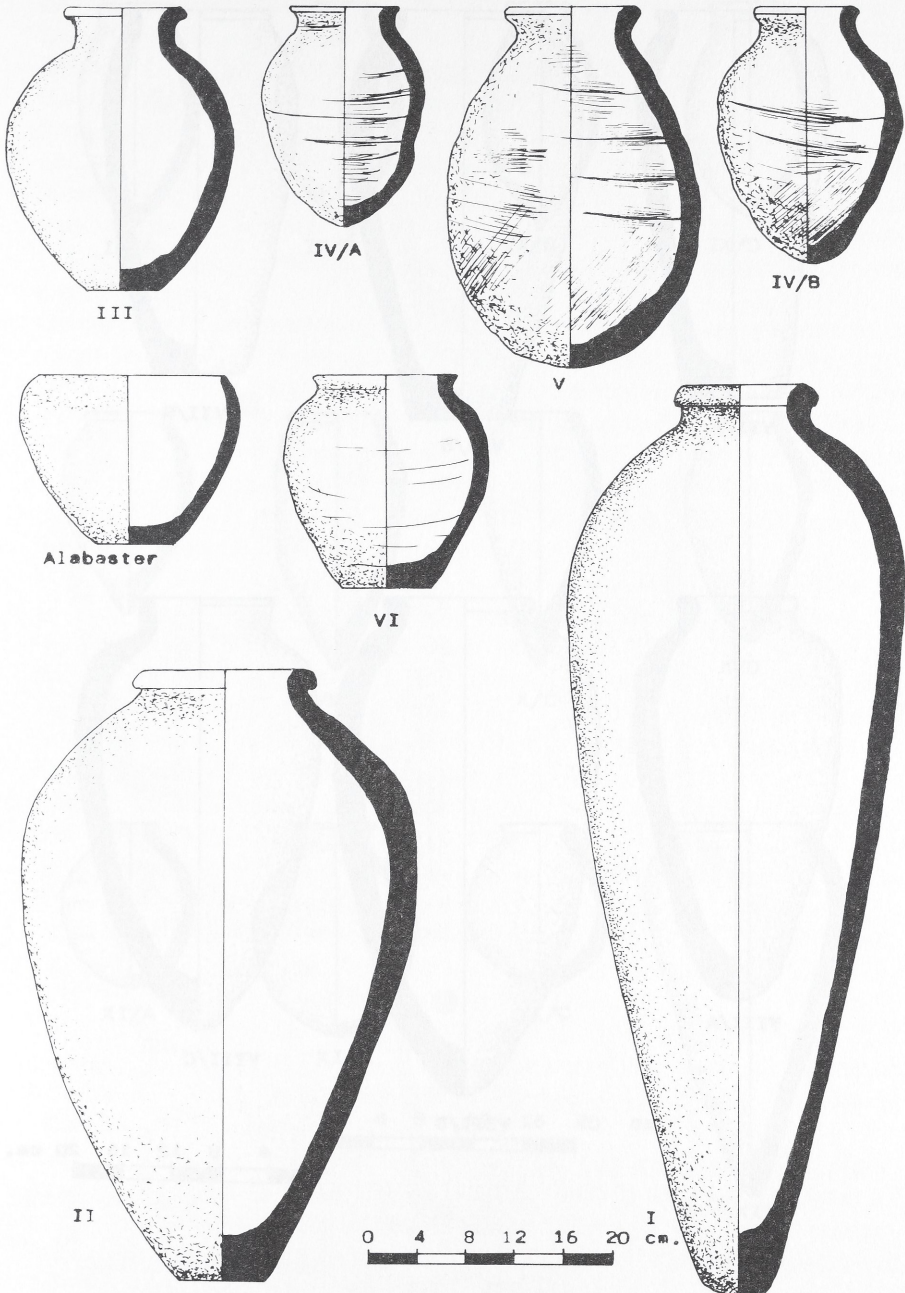


Fig. 27.

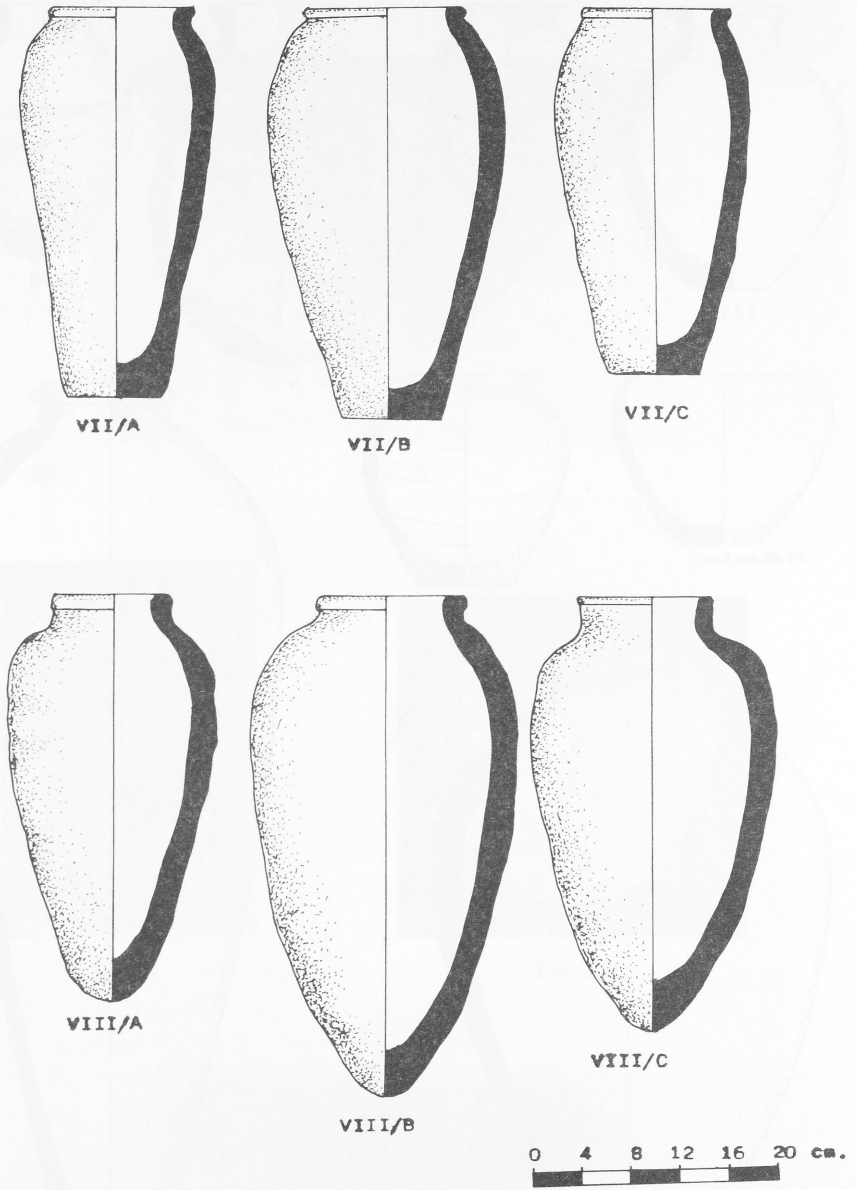


Fig. 28.



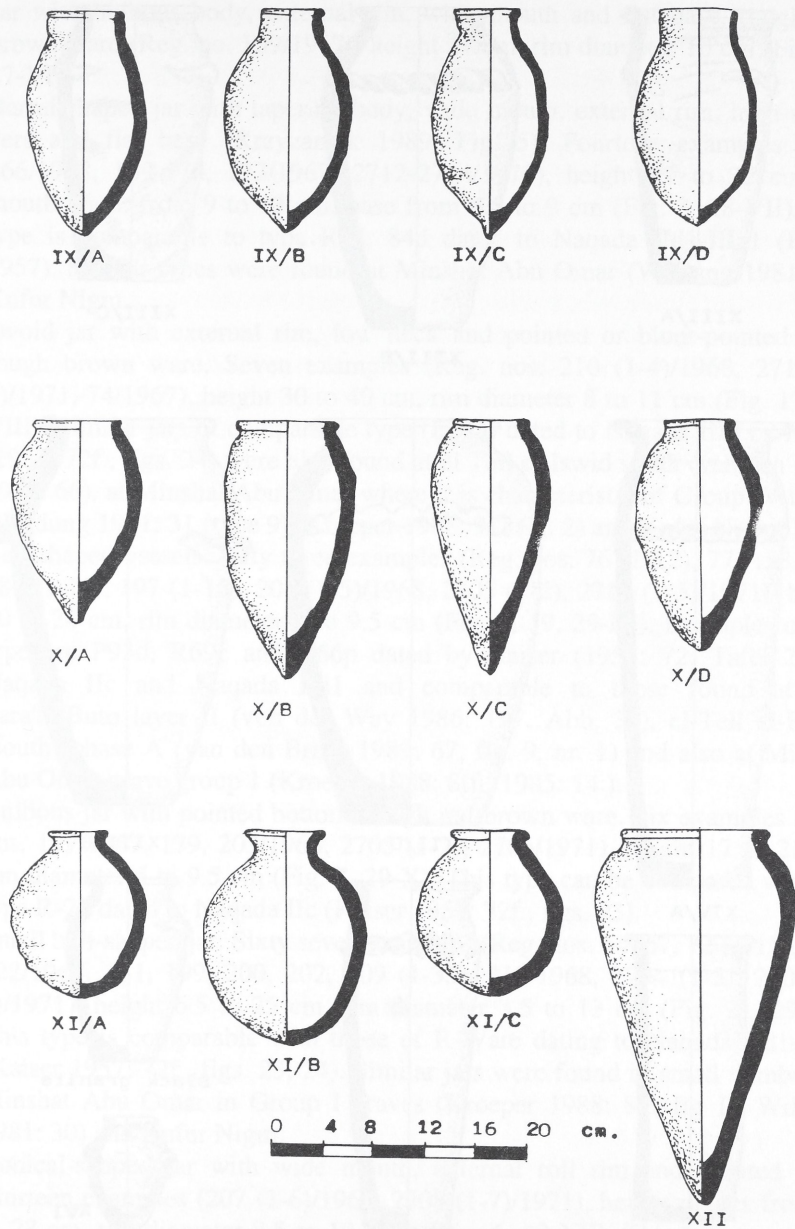


Fig. 29.

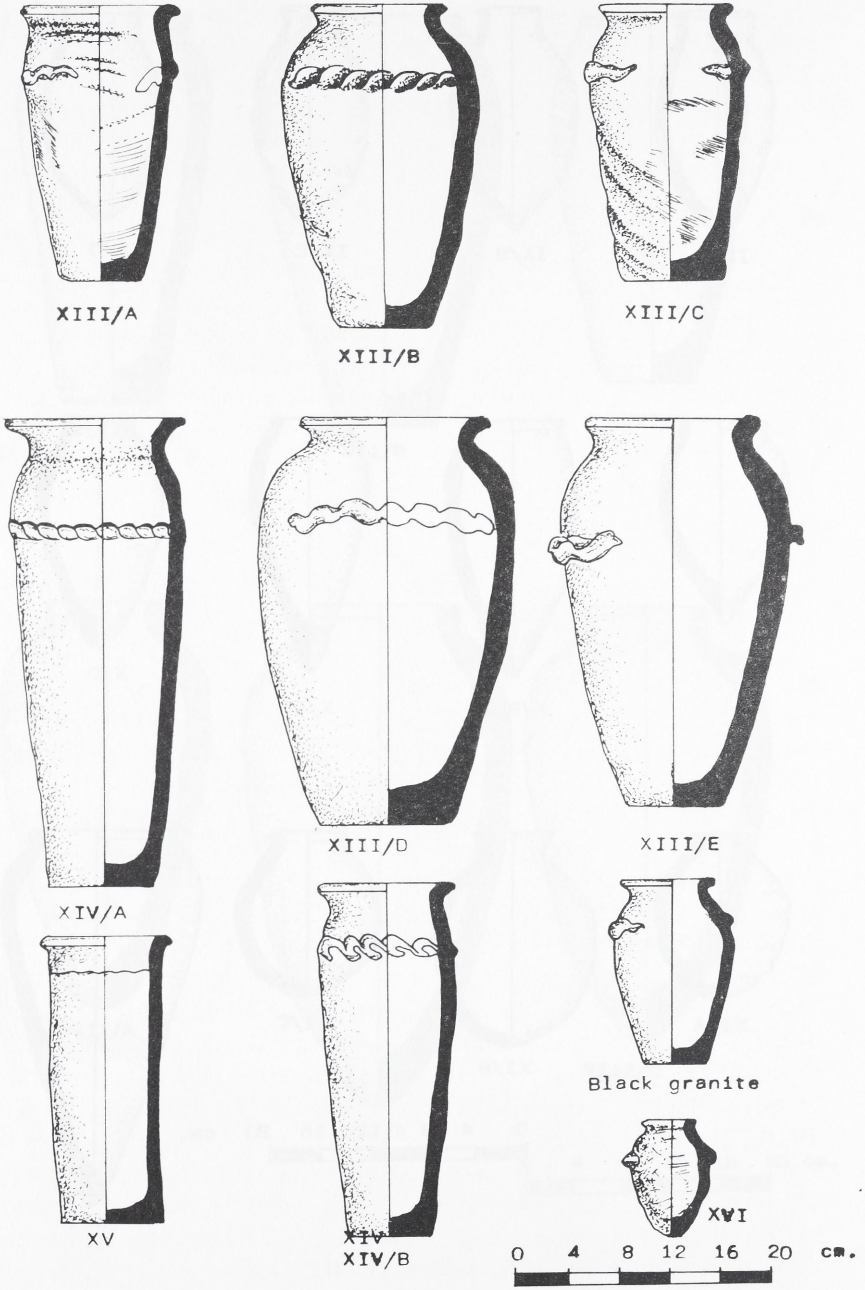


Fig. 30.



6. Jar with bulbous body, external rim, wide mouth and flat base, rough red-brown ware (Reg. no. 159/1967), height 17 cm, rim diameter 10 cm (Fig. 22, 27-VI).
7. Barrel-shaped jar with tapering body, wide mouth, external rim, high shoulders and flat base (Krzyżaniak 1989: Fig. 5). Fourteen examples (159-166/1968, 169-170, 173/1967, 2712-2714/1971), height 17 to 32 cm, the mouth diam. from 9 to 13 cm, base from 4.5 to 9 cm (Fig. 8, 28-VII). This type is comparable to type R84, 84d dated to Naqada IId1-IIIa1 (Kaiser 1957). Similar types were found at Minshat Abu Omar (Wildung 1981) and Kufur Nigm.
8. Ovoid jar with external rim, low neck and pointed or blunt-pointed base, rough brown ware. Seven examples (Reg. nos. 210 (1-4)/1968, 2710 (1-2)/1971, 74/1967), height 30 to 40 cm, rim diameter 8 to 11 cm (Fig. 17, 28-VIII). Similar jars of comparable type (L38a) dated to Naqada IIIb by Kaiser (1957: 72f., figs. 24) were also found at el Tell el-Iswid south (van den Brink 1989: 66), at Minshat Abu Omar where it is characteristic of Group IV tombs (Wildung 1981: 31 (type 9); Kroeper 1988: 9f., fig. 2) and Kufur Nigm.
9. Bag-shaped vessels. Fifty three examples (Reg. nos. 76 (1-12), 77, 158, 167, 184 (1-11), 197 (1-15), 208 (1-5)/1968, 2705 (1-2), 2715 (1-5)/1971), height 10 to 24 cm, rim diameter 4 to 9.5 cm (Fig. 5, 19, 29-IX). Examples of this type are P93d, R69c and R66p dated by Kaiser (1957: 72, Tafel 23) to Naqada IIc and Naqada IId1 and comparable to those found at Tell Fara'in/Buto layer II (von der Way 1986: 197, Abb. 3a), el-Tell el-Eswid (south) phase A (van den Brink 1989: 67, fig. 9, nr. 1) and also at Minshat Abu Omar grave group 1 (Kroeper 1988: 8ff.; 1985: 14.).
10. Bulbous jar with pointed bottom, rough red-brown ware. Six examples (Reg. nos. 197/1967, 179, 203/1968, 2705 (1-2), 2706/1971), height 17 to 21 cm, rim diameter 5 to 9.5 cm (Fig. 7, 29-X). This type can be compared with the type R-75 dated to Naqada IIc (Kaiser 1957: 72f., figs. 23).
11. Small ball-shaped jar. Sixty seven examples (Reg. nos. 64, 67, 72 (1-15), 102, 122/1967, 181, 199, 200, 202, 209 (1-33), 212/1968, 2704 (1-3), 2709 (1-9)/1971), height 6.5 to 25 cm, rim diameter 3.5 to 13 cm (Fig. 21, 29-XI). This type is comparable with those of R-Ware dating to Naqada IId1-IIIa1 (Kaiser 1957: 72f., figs. 23, 24). Similar jars were found in small numbers at Minshat Abu Omar in Group I graves (Kroeper 1988: 8f., fig 1.; Wildung 1981: 30) and Kufur Nigm.
12. Conical-shaped jar with wide mouth, external roll rim and pointed base. Thirteen examples (207 (1-6)/1968, 2708 (1-7)/1971), height ranges from 21 to 28 cm, rim diameter 8.5 to 10.5 cm (Fig. 6, 29-XII). This type is comparable with type R76h dated to Naqada IId2 and is similar to type 12 at Minshat Abu Omar (Wildung 1981: fig. 22).
13. Slender oval wavy handles jar with wide mouth, high shoulders and flat base (Krzyżaniak 1989: Fig. 5). Fifteen examples (Reg. nos. 157, 185-191/1968,

- 2702, 2703, 2711/1971 and Hirriyet Razna Museum nos. 65, 66, 68, 69), height 19.0 to 30.5 cm, rim diameter 7.2 to 11 cm, base 5.8 to 6.5 cm (Fig. 11, 13, 14, 15, 30-XIII). This type of jars is comparable with type W43b, W41 and W47g dated to. It dates to Naqada IId2 and Naqada IIIa1 (Kaiser 1957: 72f., figs. 23, 24). Similar examples were found at Minshat Abu Omar, Group I graves, (Kroeper 1984: 8f.fig.1).
14. Cylindrical jar with tapering body, thickened externally rim and wavy decoration raised on the shoulder, red-brown ware and buff ware. Two examples (Reg. nos. 121/1967, 2702/1971), height 29.5 to 30.5 cm, rim diameter 11 to 15.5 cm (Fig. 9, 10, 30-XIV). This type is comparable with type W51a. It dates to Naqada IIIa2 (Kaiser 1957: 72f., fig. 24;). Similar jar of this type was found at Minshat Abu Omar (Wildung 1981: fig. 22).
  15. Cylindrical jar with thickened external rim, flat base and cord decoration under the rim, red-brown ware and buff ware. Eight pieces (Reg. nos. 1734-1737/1967, 62, 71/1967, 121, 140/1968, 3201, 3202/1974), height 15.5 to 30.5 cm, rim diameter 9.5 to 15.5 cm (Fig. 30-XV). This type is known since Naqada IIIb, and was used as a container for cheese. It was found in great quantities in the tombs of the first half of 1st Dynasty (Emery 1963: 212).
  16. Small oval jar with low neck, blunt pointed base and raised handles like the wavy handles. Rough red-brown ware. One example (Reg. no. 193/1968), height 9 cm, rim diameter 4 cm (Fig. 16, 30-XVI).

### The stone vessels

The stone jars can be divided into the following types:

1. Cylindrical alabaster jar with external rim and flat base. Six examples (alabaster: Reg. nos. 91/1967, 222/1968, 2720/1971, 3205, 3206/1974; slate reg. no. 10/1967) with heights ranging from 7 to 23 cm, rim diameter from 4.5 to 13 cm.
2. Slender cylindrical jar with sharp external rim. Rope band decoration. The sides are concave and the base flat with sharp edges. Twenty one examples (Hirriyet Razna Museum nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 27, 28 and the magazine of Tell Basta., (alabaster: Reg nos. 3-6, 8, 9, 22-27/24.6.1967), height 8 to 40 cm, rim diameter 6 to 16.2 cm.
3. Barrel shaped shoulder jar with external rim and flat base. Five examples (alabaster: Reg. nos. 7, 14, 15, 20/1967, 139/1968), height 6.2 to 25.5 cm, rim diameter 2.7 to 6 cm.
4. Barrel-shaped shoulder jar with external rim, two side handles and flat base, (alabaster: Reg. no. 3207/1974), height 10 cm, rim diameter 6 cm.
5. Barrel-shaped shoulder jar with external rim, raised wavy handles and flat base. One example (Hirriyet Razna Museum no. 61, black granite), height 10 cm, rim diameter 4.5 cm (Fig. 24, 30).
6. Deep bowl with a sharp rim, straight sides expanding to a contracted mouth and flat base with sharp edges. Six examples (Reg. nos. 57, 58, 87, 88, 89,



- 90/1967 alabaster), height 10.5 to 21.5 cm, rim diameter 16.5 to 34 cm (Fig. 25, 27).
7. Bowl with straight sides, flaring mouth and flat base. Two examples (Hirriyet Razna Museum nos. 50, 53, porphyritic rock), height 4.2 to 12 cm, rim diameter 9 to 22.3 cm (Fig. 24).
  8. Bowl with a convex sides and flat base. Seven examples (Reg. nos. 1731, 18, 44, 55, 56/1967, 223, 224/1968 alabaster), height 1.8 to 7 cm, rim diameter 4.5 to 36 cm.
  9. Oval lug-handled jar with external rim and flat base. One example (Reg. no. 2701/1971 porphyritic rock), max. height 14 cm and max. mouth diam. 6.5 cm.
  10. Squat jar with wide mouth, high rounded shoulders and convex sides contracting to a flat base with rounded edges. Two examples (Hirriyet Razna Museum nos. 35, 37), height ranges from 2.5 to 4.5 cm, rim diameter ranges from 9 cm to 12.5 cm (Fig. 26).
  11. Wide plate. Eight examples (Hirriyet Razna Museum nos. 55, 56, 57, 58, 64 and magazine of Tell Basta, Reg. nos. 82, 83/1967 schist and 225/1967 breccia), heights of which range from 3.5 to 12.5 cm, the rim diameter ranges from 17 to 60 cm.

### Acknowledgement

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## Protodynastic excavations at Tell Hassan Dawud (Eastern Delta)

Tell Hassan Dawud is situated on the south of Ezbet Hassan Dawud and of el-Qasr el-Madina in the Marouta of Bahi el-Khar. It lies on the left bank of the Bahi el-Khar canal, 40 km west of Bahariya. The tell has a sandy surface and consists of a series of mounds and dunes, some of which are covered with a thin layer of soil. The highest of the mounds is about 10 m high.

The first excavations were carried out by the French expedition of the Institut Français d'Égyptologie in 1972-73, under the direction of the late Dr. Jean-François Coquery. The excavations revealed a large number of objects, including a large quantity of pottery, some of which were found in a well. The pottery was found in a well, which was about 10 m deep. The well was found in the Protodynastic period, and was used for the first time from 1983 to 1991. The excavations revealed a large number of objects, including a large quantity of pottery, some of which were found in a well. The pottery was found in a well, which was about 10 m deep. The well was found in the Protodynastic period, and was used for the first time from 1983 to 1991. The excavations revealed a large number of objects, including a large quantity of pottery, some of which were found in a well. The pottery was found in a well, which was about 10 m deep. The well was found in the Protodynastic period, and was used for the first time from 1983 to 1991.

The excavations have revealed two distinct periods of occupation, one in the Protodynastic period and the other in the Early Dynastic period. The Protodynastic period is represented by a large number of objects, including a large quantity of pottery, some of which were found in a well. The Early Dynastic period is represented by a large number of objects, including a large quantity of pottery, some of which were found in a well.

The significance of this site lies in the fact that it provides new insights into the evolution of the Nile Delta in the Protodynastic period. The site is situated on the left bank of the Bahi el-Khar canal, which is a major waterway in the Nile Delta. The excavations have revealed a large number of objects, including a large quantity of pottery, some of which were found in a well. The pottery was found in a well, which was about 10 m deep. The well was found in the Protodynastic period, and was used for the first time from 1983 to 1991.

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