

The Land of Fertility I

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*South-east Mediterranean
since the Bronze Age
to the Muslim Conquest*

Edited by

Małgorzata Kajzer, Łukasz Misk
and Maciej Waławik

Cambridge
Scholars
Publishing



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This book first published 2016

Cambridge Scholars Publishing

Lady Stephenson Library, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 2PA, UK

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

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ISBN (10): 1-4438-8713-7

ISBN (13): 978-1-4438-8713-7

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PREFACE

The papers in this volume are based on presentations at an international conference entitled **THE LAND OF FERTILITY. South-east Mediterranean since the Bronze Age to the Muslim Conquest**, held at the Institute of Archaeology, Jagiellonian University in Kraków in 7-8 June, 2014. This event has opened a new cycle of conferences concerning the area of the so-called '*Fertile Crescent*'. In this region, located in the south-east Mediterranean, the modern world started its development in the very beginning of human civilisation. Peoples living there were among the first in the world to domesticate plants and animals, and many of the ideas and objects that are in common use today have their origin in that area. Our aim was to look closer to this very special region and processes taken after the end of the Stone Age. The period covered in the present collection spans the beginning of the Bronze Age through to the Muslim Conquest – five thousand years of human history treated as continuous process.

Małgorzata Kajzer, Łukasz Misk and Maciej Wacławik

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Editors are deeply indebted to dr E. Bissa, dr hab. J. Bodzek, dr hab. J. Ciecieląg, dr A. Cwiąg, dr M. Jucha, dr hab. K.O. Kuraszkiewicz, dr hab. J. Młynarczyk and prof. dr hab. E. Papuci-Władyka for their help and revisions of the articles.

PART I

AT THE DAWN OF CIVILISATION

CHAPTER ONE

THE POTTERY FROM THE EARLY DYNASTIC CEMETERY AT TELL EL-MURRA: SEASONS 2011–2014

MAGDALENA KAZIMIERCZAK

During excavations conducted since 2010 at the Tell el-Murra site, trench S3, located in the south-western part of the tell where the cemetery was found, was explored. Fieldwork in 2011–2014¹ revealed 18 graves in this area, 12 of them with pottery assemblages. These include graves no. 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 (Kazimierczak in press), 8, 9, 12, 18, 19, 20, and 21. Among the pottery discovered at the Tell el-Murra cemetery we can distinguish several typological groups of vessels.

Cylindrical Jars

The finds include several cylindrical jars. The oldest type of cylindrical jar, with a decoration resembling a cord impression situated just beneath the rim, was found in grave no. 3 (Fig. 1-1.1). The vessel was made of good quality Nile clay tempered with fine sand. The jar's surface was slipped and burnished, but the coat was only partially preserved; the black colour in the lower part of the vessel was probably a result of the pot being burnt.

Another type consists of cylindrical jars decorated with an incised continuous line beneath the rim. Such examples made of marl clay come also from grave no. 3 (Fig. 1-1.2).

Cylindrical jars with a cord impression and an incised continuous line situated beneath the rim represented forms which could be compared with

¹ The project was financed from the funds of the National Science Centre allocated on the basis of decision number DEC-2013/09/B/HS3/03588.

Petrie's types 48s, 48t and 49l (Petrie 1953, Pl. IX). These forms are especially characteristic of the Naqada IIIB period (Hendrickx 1996, 62, Tab. 7; 2006, 86; 2011, 67, Tab. 2, 70, Fig. 3) and in this dated context also occurred at other sites, among them those located in the eastern part of the Nile Delta. At Tell el-Farkha, jars with such a decorative pattern (especially these with a cord pattern) occur in the earliest group of graves, dated to the Naqada IIIB period, probably at its beginning, prior to Iry-Hor (Jucha 2012, 77). In the settlement context at the same site, jars with an incised straight line occur mainly in the strata belonging to phase 5 dated to the Naqada IIIB-C1 (Jucha 2005, 77), sporadically also in the upper strata of phase 4 dated to the Naqada IIIA1-IIIB period (Jucha 2005, 60, 74). At Minshat Abu Omar, cylindrical jars with decoration are the most characteristic of graves included in group III dated to the Naqada IIIB/IIIC period. But examples with the aforementioned decoration (an engraved line ornament imitating a cord or a simple scratched line around the neck) are especially characteristic of graves belonging to the earlier phase of group III, which was defined in earlier publications as 3b (Kroeper 1986/1987, 75-76, 87; 1988, 14; Fig. 85-88; Kroeper and Wildung 2000, Cat. nos. 881/1, 866/20, 109/9, 415/6). Similar vessels at Helwan cemetery occur also in the group of graves dated to the Naqada IIIB/C period (Köhler 2004, Fig. 7).

A slightly younger type of undecorated cylindrical jars was found, belonging to the category of fine ware. Such vessels were found in grave no. 21. The jars have slightly thickened rims which curve outside, and flat bases. They include examples with a narrower middle part of the body (Fig. 1-1.4) as well as a wider form (Fig. 1-1.5). All of them were made of fine quality clay tempered with a small amount of fine-grained sand, and the surface was covered with red slip and polished.

Such jars with no decoration are well-known from the Naqada IIIC1/IIIC2 period – the end of the Protodynastic and the beginning of the Early Dynastic Period (Hendrickx 1996, 62, Tab. 7; 2006, 86-87; 2011, 67, Tab. 2, 70, Fig. 3; Jucha 2005, 45). They belong to the youngest examples in Petrie's classification of the *W-class* and were described in his *Corpus of the Proto-Dynastic Pottery* as type 50 (Petrie 1953, Pl. IX). At Tell el-Farkha, presence of cylindrical jars without any decoration are one of the characteristic features of the pottery assemblages from graves dated to Naqada IIIB/C1-C2 (Jucha 2008b, 72, Fig. 9: 1-2; 2012, 80). Moreover, such forms occur also in Minshat Abu Omar graves belonging to the latter phase of group III dated to Naqada IIIB/IIIC, described in earlier publications as 3c (Kroeper 1986/1987, 76, 80, 87, Fig. 52-53; 1988, 16, Fig. 139).

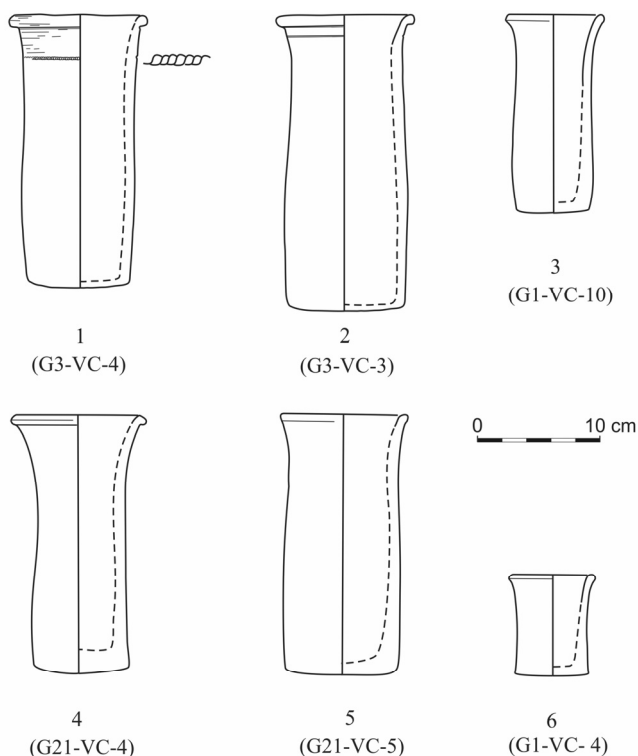


Fig. 1-1. Tell el-Murra. Cylindrical jars from the graves (digitizing U. Båk).

The next type of cylindrical vessels comprises small jars without decoration. Such examples were found in grave no. 1 (Figs 1-1.3 and 1-1.6) and made of coarser fabric, i.e. the medium category Nile clay, tempered with straw and sand. It has a slightly smoothed surface of red colour. The upper part of the body was finished by slow turning, while the middle and lower parts were trimmed diagonally. This kind of jar seems to be dated slightly later than fine ware cylindrical jars without decoration; they appeared around the middle of the 1st Dynasty – the end of Naqada IIIC1/beginning of Naqada IIIC2 (Smythe 2004, 324-325, Fig. 15a; Jucha 2008b, 73, Fig. 9: 5-7).

Jars decorated with half-bows

Another group of jars has an ovoid shape. They are quite elongated with the rim turned out, a flattened rim-top and flattened base. Examples

of this type were found in grave no. 3 (Fig. 1-2.1). The vessel was decorated with two discontinuous bands of three impressed half-bows situated on the shoulders. This pattern was probably produced by impressing fingers into wet clay. The jar was made of the medium category Nile clay, tempered with fine to medium-grained sand as well as straw, and its surface was finely smoothed.

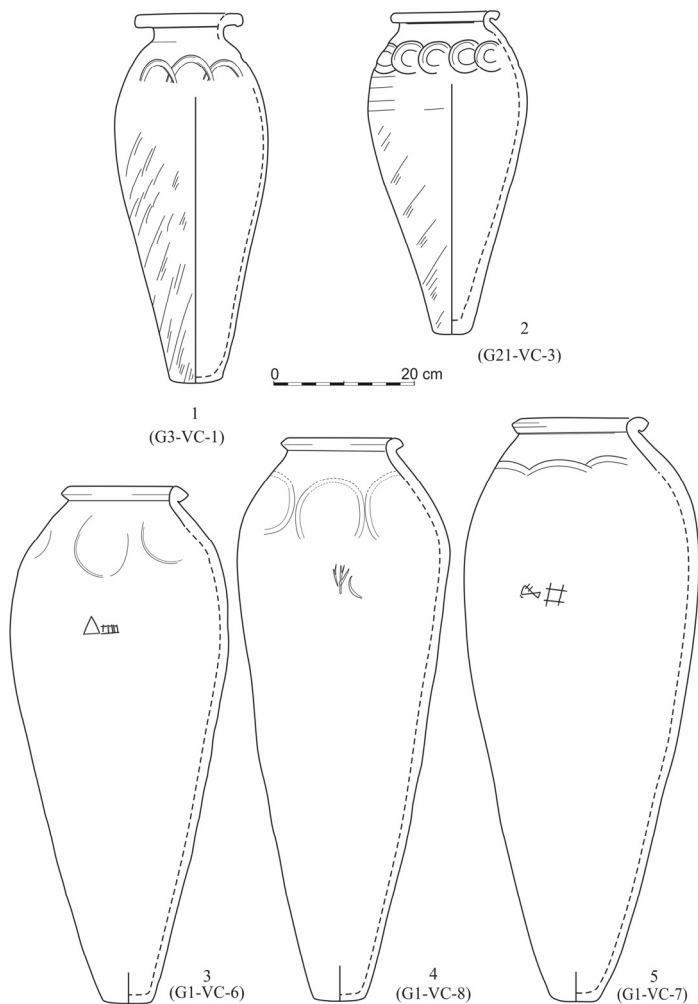


Fig. 1-2. Tell el-Murra. Jars decorated with the half-bows from the graves (digitizing U. Bāk).

This type of ovoid, elongated jar decorated with slight half-bows in place of decorations are analogous to Petrie's 74e (Petrie 1953, Pl. XVIII) and corresponds to the van den Brink's type III (van den Brink 1996, 144-147, Fig. 2: 9-13, 3: 16-17). Such jars are dated to SD 78 (Petrie 1953, Pl. XVIII) or within Hendrickx Naqada IIIB-C1 (Hendrickx 1996, 42). Forms of shouldered jars with impressed half-bows are also similar to vessels characteristic of graves of group III from Minshat Abu Omar dated to Naqada IIIB/IIIC period. They appear in graves belonging to the earlier phase of group III, which was defined in earlier publications as group 3b (Kroeper 1986/1987, 76-77, 88-89) but still occur in later chronological group-3c (Kroeper 1988, 14-16, Fig. 79-81, 89-97, 140-143). At Tell el-Farkha cemetery, similar forms are present in graves dated to the Naqada IIIB (Jucha 2012, 78, Fig. 1.4), while in Helwan, they were discovered in graves belonging to the group dated to the Naqada IIIB/C period (Köhler 2004, 307-308, Fig. 7).

One more type includes shouldered jars with flat bases and decorated with a row of the half-bows around the shoulders. Such was found in grave no. 21 (fig 2.2). It was made of the medium category Nile clay, tempered with fine to medium-grain sand and straw. Similar forms occur in graves from Tell el-Farkha cemetery, dated to the Naqada IIIB-C1/C2 period (Jucha 2012, 80-81, Fig. 3:12).

The next type is large, tall-shouldered jars with slightly convex bases. In the north chamber of grave no. 1 four such jars were found, all being almost completely preserved (Figs 1-2.3-5). The jars were decorated on the shoulders with lightly impressed half-bows and carried pot-marks in the upper part of the body. These vessels were made of the medium category Nile clay, tempered with fine to medium sand and straw; the surface of the jars was smoothed, and in some cases self-slip is visible on the surface.

These jars correspond with Petrie's type 75v (Petrie 1953, Pl. XXI). At Minshat Abu Omar cemetery, similar forms of large jars decorated with half-bows on the shoulders appear in graves of group IV dated to Naqada IIIC/IIID (Kroeper 1988, 16, Fig. 160).

Wine jars with rope band

Another group of vessels are the slender wine jars decorated with a rope band. Among them occur long slender jars with thickened rims and flattened or slightly convex bases. Their characteristic features are that all of them have two rope bands, the first situated on the shoulders and the second above the base. Three examples of such wine jars were discovered

in grave no. 20 (Figs 1-3.3-5). Each contained pot marks incised on the shoulders, just beneath the first rope band pattern. The vessels were made of medium quality Nile clay tempered with straw and sand, and the surfaces were finely smoothed. They could be compared with Petrie's type 76g (Petrie 1953, Pl. XXIII).

The next type includes long slender jars with thickened rim, flattened or slightly convex bases and one decorative rope band situated on the shoulder or above the base. Four examples of such vessels were discovered in grave no. 2. The first one, completely preserved (Fig. 1-3.1) has its surface coated red and polished. The jar was decorated with a rope band formed by a clay band applied around the shoulders. The second one, preserved in a state allowing its reconstruction, was also decorated with a rope band at the shoulders. Its surface of light-brown-beige colour was very finely smoothed. The third jar, preserved in a state allowing its reconstruction, has a decorative rope band on the shoulder. Moreover, it contains a pot mark incised also on the shoulder, below the rope band. The jar's surface was well smoothed. The fourth partially preserved jar, mainly in the lower part of the body, below the shoulders, carried a rope band situated above the base. Fragments of the rim and shoulders decorated with rope bands were found in a tomb closest to this jar and were probably associated with it. This could suggest that the jar had two such bands: on the shoulders and below the rim.

A wine jar decorated with one rope band situated on the shoulder occurs also was discovered in grave no. 19 (Fig. 1-3.2). The vessel carried also pot-marks situated just beneath rope band. The surface of the jar was smoothed. All the discussed vessels were made of the same kind of material, i.e. the medium category of Nile clay, tempered with fine to medium-grained sand and straw.

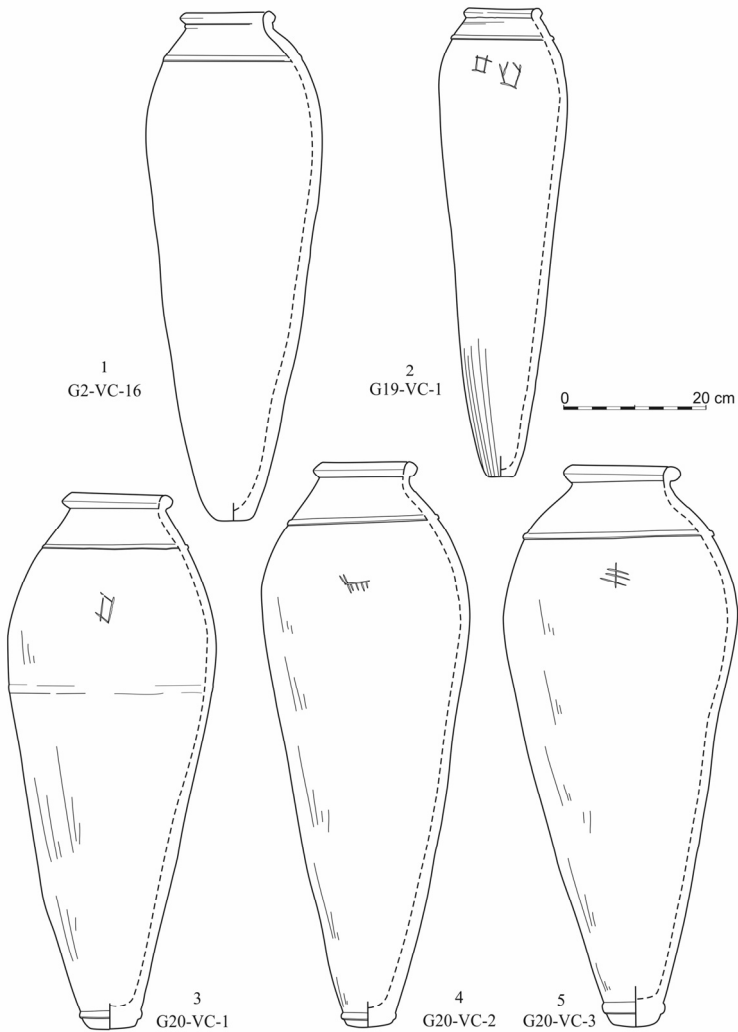


Fig. 1-3. Tell el-Murra. Wine jars with the rope bands from the graves (digitizing U. Bāk).

The three aforementioned jars from grave no. 2, decorated with a rope band on the shoulders, and one similar jar from grave no. 19 are of a later type than those found in grave no. 20 at Tell el-Murra. They correspond to types 76n and 76m distinguished by Petrie (1953, Pl. XXIII) in his Corpus

of the Proto-Dynastic Pottery. All of them show also an affinity to material from the Minshat Abu Omar cemetery, where “wine jars” decorated with a rope band are among the new forms that appear in graves of group IV dated to Naqada IIIC/IIID (Kroeper 1986/1987, 77, 81, 91, Fig. 74; 1988, 16, Figs 157-158). A similar form of jars with a rope band pattern occurs also at the Early Dynastic cemetery at Helwan in the groups of graves dated to the Naqada IIICD and Naqada IIID1 periods (Köhler 2004, 300, 302-303, Figs 3-4).

Ovoid jars

Another group of storage jars is established by the broad-shoulder, ovoid-shaped vessels with a thickened rim. This type of pottery came from graves nos 1, 2 (Fig. 1-4.1) and 9. They include examples with a flattened base or with a rounded base. The jar from grave no. 9 carried pot marks incised on the shoulder (Fig. 1-4.2). All of these jars were made of medium quality Nile clay, tempered with fine to medium straw and sand; they usually have a rough, sometimes slightly smoothed surface. They show affinity to egg-shaped middle-sized storage jars found at Minshat Abu Omar graves of group IV dated to Naqada IIIC/IIID (Kroeper 1986/1987, 77, 81, 91, Fig. 76; 1988, 16, Figs 165-167). Ovoid jars occur also in the group of graves at Tell el-Farkha dated to Naqada IIIB/C1-C2 (Jucha 2012, 81).

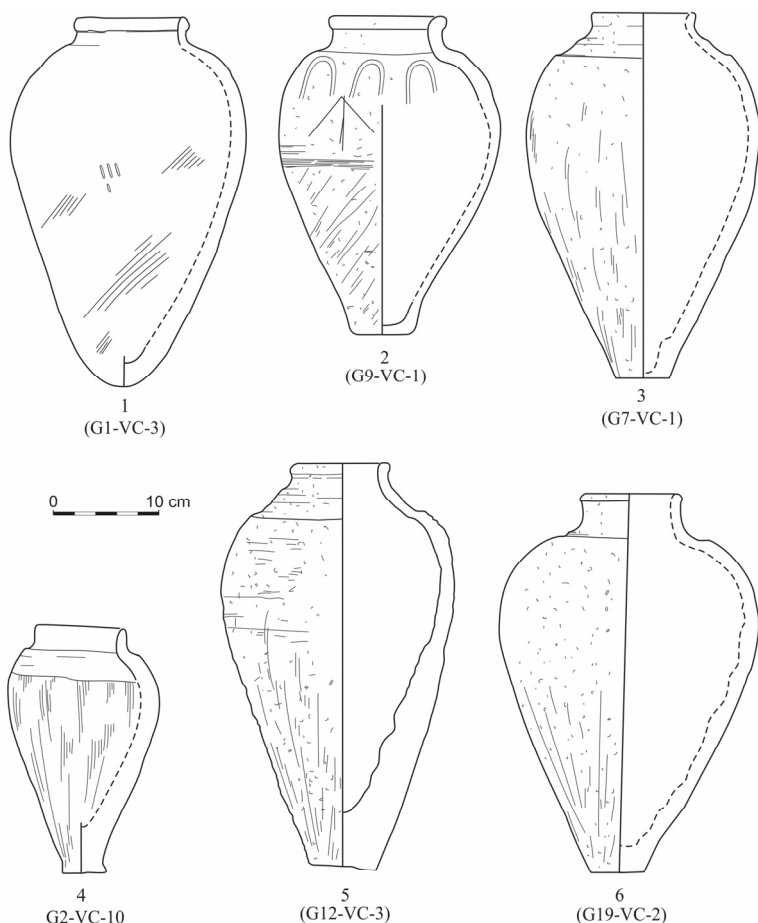


Fig. 1-4. Tell el-Murra. Ovoid jars and beer jars from the graves (digitizing U. Båk).

Beer jars

Next is a group consisting of beer jars. Among them occurs a broad-shouldered type with a conical shape, slightly thickened lip-rims and flattened bases. Such vessels were found in grave nos 7, 12, 19. (Fig. 1-4.3). They were rough ware jars, made of medium-category Nile clay and tempered with fine-to-medium straw and fine-to-medium sand as well as a small amount of coarser sand grains. The rims and necks of these jars were

smoothed (turning marks are visible), while the surface at the shoulders and below the shoulders was roughly scraped with vertical or diagonal strokes.

Seven jars from the aforementioned Tell el-Murra graves seem to represent earlier types of beer jars typical for the 1st Dynasty (type 59h; Petrie 1953, Pl. XIII). They (Figs 1-4.5-6) could be compared to the pottery from the group of graves in Tell el-Farkha, dated to Naqada IIIC2/IIID (Jucha 2012, 84). They show affinities especially to the group of beer jars with a scraped surface, dated to Naqada IIIB-C2/D (Jucha 2008a, 134; 2009b, 52-54). A similarity of form can be also seen in the beer jars found in the Minshat Abu Omar graves of group IV (Kroeper 1986/1987, 77, 91, Fig. 77; 1988, Figs 161-164; Kroeper and Wildung 2000, 111-113, Cat.-Nos. 404/11-404/15). The forms of beer jars occurring in Tell el-Murra grave no. 7 could be also compared to examples which in the typological sequence of beer jars presented by Ch. Köhler and Jane C. Smythe (2004, 133-134, Fig. 2.1) are the first recorded specimens which occur from Naqada IIIA/B. However, such forms continue further on in this period and could occur together with other types of beer jars (Jucha 2009, 50-54). Moreover, such jars find also parallels in the settlement context dated to Naqada IIIC and IIID, among others at Buto where jars with a scraped surface are attested in Layers IV to VIa, but forms with flat bases occur mostly in the Layer IV (Köhler 1998, 16-17, 52-58, Taf. 5-7; Köhler *et al.* 2011, 103). At the Tell el-Farkha settlement, examples of such jars were found in the strata of Phase 5, 6 and 7 dated to the Early Dynastic and Old Kingdom periods (Jucha 2005, Pl. 26; Fig. 14).

Another type is represented by a broad shouldered jar with a simple rim, an angular transition between the neck and the shoulders, and a concave lower part of the body narrowing towards the flat base. This kind of vessel could probably be also classified as a so-called “beer jar” (Kroeper 1988, Figs. 161-162; Jucha 2012, 84) and was found in grave no. 2. The jar was made of the medium category of Nile clay, tempered with fine-to-medium sand and straw; many vertical scratch marks are visible on the surface below the shoulders (Fig. 1-4.4).

Barrel-shaped jars

The next group of vessels is characterized by the appearance of the barrel-shaped jar with a thickened rim and a flat base. Examples of that type were found in grave no. 1 (Fig. 1-5.1). A similar form of vessel with pot marks situated on the shoulder occurs also among the assemblage of grave no. 20 (Fig. 1-5.2). Both of these jars are of a better quality; they were made of fine Nile clay with a small amount of sand as a temper. The first of them has a smoothed surface of light red colour, while the surface of the jar from grave no. 20 is cream-yellow-white and covered with a large amount of black. These colours are probably the result of the pot being burnt. The jar could imitate a stone vessel.

Continuing, another type of barrel-shaped vessel has a simple, slightly thickened rim and broad shoulder, but is narrower in the lower part, towards the flat base. A jar of such type was discovered in grave no. 8 (Fig. 1-5.3). It was made of medium Nile clay tempered with straw and sand. On the surface of the rim, neck and shoulder turning marks are visible, while on the lower part vertical or diagonal strokes are visible.

Similar forms of jars occur also in the graves of group IV at Minshat Abu Omar where almost barrel-shaped jars are among the new forms that appear there (Kroeper 1988, Figs 168-171). The Early Dynastic cemetery at Helwan offers similar material: almost barrel-shaped jars were found among other vessels in graves belonging to groups dated to Naqada IIIC-D and Naqada IIID1 (Köhler 2004, 300, 302-303, Figs. 3-4; Köhler *et al.* 2011, 105).

Small broad-shouldered jars

Another group of vessels comprises small, broad-shouldered jars (Fig. 1-5.4). Six of this kind of vessel were discovered in grave no. 1, two others in grave no. 20 and one more in grave no. 9. All of them have a slightly thickened rim, slightly angular transition between the neck and broad shoulders and a concave lower part of the body narrowing towards a flat base. The jar from grave no. 9 was additionally decorated with half-bows situated on the shoulder (fig 1-5.5). In Petrie's *Corpus of the Proto-Dynastic Pottery* a similar form is described as a type 57v (Petrie 1953, Pl. XI-XII). Similar small jars occur also among others in the Early Dynastic cemetery at Helwan and they are dated from the middle to late 1st Dynasty – Naqada IIIC2/IIID (Köhler and Smythe 2004, 131, Pl. 4; Smythe 2004, 320, Figs 1-2).

The next type of jar includes vessels with a slightly thickened rim, distinguished neck, and an angular transition between their neck and broad shoulders. The lower part of the jar is narrower and finished with a long conical foot. An example of such a jar was found in grave no. 19 (Fig. 1-5.6). Similar forms of vessels occur at Abydos cemetery, which are dated to the 1st Dynasty (Regner 1998, 155-156).

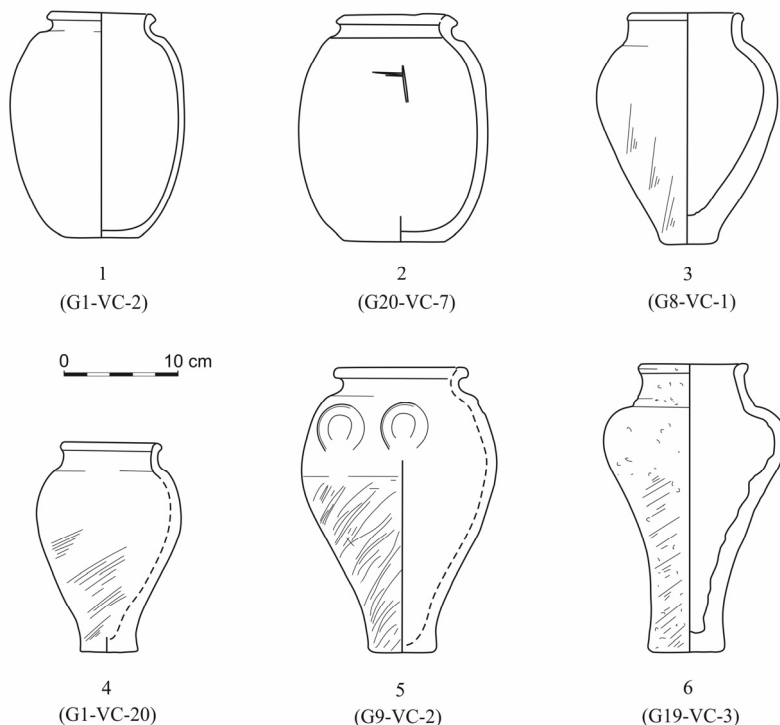


Fig. 1-5. Tell el-Murra. Barrel-shaped jars and small broad-shouldered jars from the graves (digitizing U. Båk).

All of these small, broad-shouldered jars were classified as medium-to-rough ware, and in all cases the upper part of those jars (rim and neck) was finished by slow turning, whereas the middle and lower parts were scraped. They were made of the medium category Nile clay, tempered with fine-to-medium grain sand and straw.

Bowls and plates

Other forms include bowls and plates. One of the types consists of bowls with convex walls, a simple rim, and a flattened or slightly rounded base. Three were found in graves no. 2 (Fig. 1-6.1) and 7 (Fig. 1-6.2). The first one, from grave no. 2, was made of good quality clay and tempered with a small amount of very fine sand and straw, its surfaces were surfaces were coated with red slip and polished. Two other bowls discovered in grave no. 7 were made of medium category Nile clay. The outer and inner surfaces of these vessels were coated with red slip and burnished.

A red-polished bowl with convex sides similar to the aforementioned vessels occurs in the youngest group of graves from Tell el-Farkha dated to Naqada IIIB-C2/D (Jucha, 2012, 84-86). A similarity of form can also be seen in the bowls found in the Minshat Abu Omar graves of group IV (Kroeper, 1986/1987, 77, 91, Fig. 77; 1988, Figs 161-164; Kroeper and Wildung, 2000, 111-113, Cat.-Nos. 404/11-404/15).

The next type of vessel are bowls with convex sides and a simple rim. Characteristics for this type are that the vessel is covered with red slip and half-burnished, and only the upper part of the outer and inner surfaces are burnished. An example of type was found in grave no. 21 (1-6.3). The vessel was covered with red slip and half-burnished. Only the upper part of the outer and inner surfaces were burnished. Similar bowls occur in a group of graves at the Tell el-Farkha cemetery dated to the Naqada IIIB period (Jucha 2012, 79, Fig. 1.7).

Yet another type includes red-coated plates made of the medium category Nile clay. Such vessels occur among the assemblage of graves nos 2, 18, 19 and 20 (Fig. 1-6.4-6). The vessels have only an interior surface slipped with red coat and polished or burnished. The outer surfaces were uncoated and smoothed. Two of them, plates from graves nos 18 and 19, have in addition to an outer surface decorated with two incised lines beneath the rim. Similar forms of vessel occur in the group of graves from Tell el-Farkha, dated to the Naqada IIIC2/D period (Jucha 2012, 86).

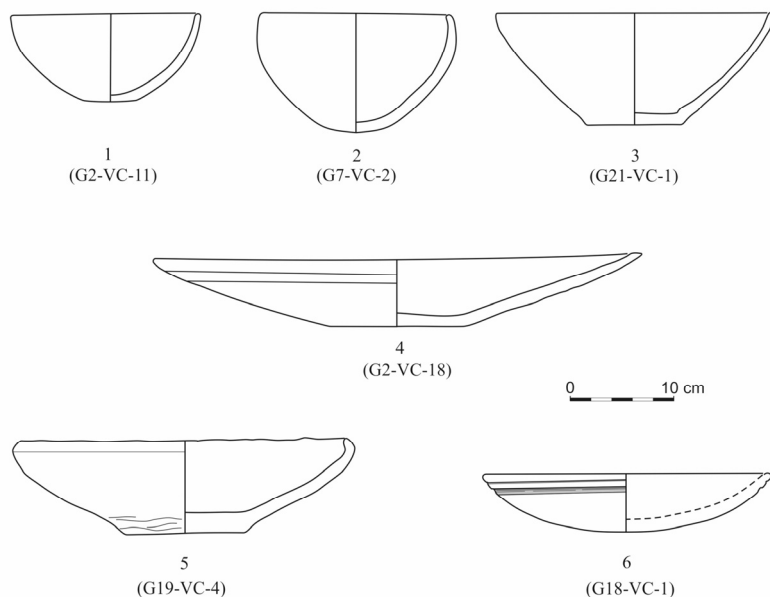


Fig. 1-6. Tell el-Murra. Bowls and plates from the graves (digitizing U. Bāk).

Summary

The pottery assemblage of all the above-described Tell el-Murra graves contains forms which show affinity to types of vessels dated to the Early Dynastic period. Similar material is provided especially by the cemeteries at Minshat Abu Omar and Tell el-Farkha but the pottery is also comparable to forms found at other sites: Helwan, Buto, Kafr Hassan Dawood, Abydos. This lets us date the graves from Tell el-Murra to the Naqada III period.

Grave **no. 3** should be considered as the oldest found so far in the Tell el-Murra cemetery. Pottery from this grave shows analogy to the forms of vessels from graves belonging to the group III at Minshat Abu Omar dated to the Naqada IIIB/C, especially to the earlier phase-3b, as well as a similarity to the graves from Tell el-Farkha dated to the Naqada IIIB. These let us assign grave no. 3 to the same period.

Slightly younger seems to be grave **no. 21**, which probably should be dated to the Naqada IIIC1 period. In terms of occurrence cylindrical jars without a decoration assemblage from that grave show similarity to the group of graves in Tell el-Farkha dated to the Naqada IIIB-C1/C2 period,

as well as to the group of graves at the Minshat Abu Omar cemetery dated to the Naqada IIIB/C period.

Slightly later seem to be a chronology of grave **no. 1**, as well as grave **no. 2**. Pottery assemblages from these two graves show similarities with the pottery corpus from Kafr Hassan Dawood (Hassan *et al.* 2008, 41-59). Similarities can be seen in terms of occurrence: broad-shouldered ovoid jars with a flat base, small broad-shouldered jars, cylindrical jars, small cylindrical jars, bowls with convex sides and a flat base, tall pot-stands (Hassan *et al.* 2008, 45-48, Figs. 3-5).

Some of the pottery vessels found in graves nos 1 and 2 show similarities to forms discovered at the Tell el-Farkha cemetery, in graves dated to the Naqada IIIB/C1-C2 period (Jucha 2012, 80-83). This is visible in the occurrence of ovoid jars, squat jars with a flat base, small drop-shaped jars, cylindrical jars without decoration, as well as a bowl with concave sides. However, wine jars decorated with a single rope band situated on the shoulder or above the base discovered in Tell el-Murra, are of a later type than those found at Tell el-Farkha. Furthermore, in case of the beer jar and the red-coated plate, the assemblage of grave no. 2 shows affinity with the group of graves from Tell el-Farkha dated to Naqada IIIC2/IIID (Jucha 2012, 84-86).

Moreover, Minshat Abu Omar cemetery also offers parallel material. Most of the pottery forms found in graves no. 1 and 2 could be compared with the pottery assemblage of the graves belonging to group IV at Minshat Abu Omar, which contain among others wine jars with a rope band decoration, large, elongated jars with half-bows on the shoulders, ovoid vessels, beer jars with scraped surfaces, barrel-shaped jars, bowls with convex sides, and plates.

The affinity of some types of vessels with the pottery from Helwan graves can be also seen, especially with the vessels from the group of graves dated to Naqada IIIC-D and Naqada IIID1, in terms of occurrence: wine jars with a rope band, small broad-shouldered jars, and squat jars.

On the basis of the aforementioned analogy, graves nos 1 and 2 from Tell el-Murra should probably be dated to the Naqada IIIC2 period.

A close chronological relationship to graves nos 1 and 2 exists for graves **nos 9 and 18** (discovered in the 2013 season) as well as graves **nos 8, 19 and 20** (explored in the 2014 season). What is similar in occurrence are wine jars with rope band, beer jars, small broad-shouldered jars, barrel-shaped jars, red coated bowls and plates.

Primarily the pottery assemblages of graves nos 2 and 19 seem to be very similar to what is visible in the occurrence of wine jars with single rope band on the shoulder, beer jars, bowls with convex sides and plates.

Graves **nos 7 and 12** seem to be of a different chronology. Grave no. 7 was explored in the 2012 season, and grave no. 12 in the 2013 season. Both are probably a little younger than the above-mentioned graves.

There is a similarity between the pottery from grave no. 7 and vessels from the youngest group of graves in Tell el-Farkha, dated to the Naqada IIIC2/IIID, and graves from Minshat Abu Omar dated to the Naqada IIIC/D period. This lets us dated grave no. 7 from Tell el-Murra probably to the Naqada IIIC2/IIID period. Similarities in the assemblages of graves 7 and 12 indicate a probable close chronological relationship between them.

The pottery from graves 7 and 12 shows affinity also to pottery found in grave nos. 1 and 2 as well as in 18, 19, 20 at Tell el-Murra, especially in terms of occurrence of “beer jars” and red-coated plates. However, contrary to graves 1 and 2, “wine jars” as well as other forms are absent in grave no. 7. Occurrence of the former could indicate a chronological relationship between the discussed graves. Unfortunately, at the present state of research, it is difficult to precisely define the chronology of graves discovered in the last two seasons as well as chronological relations between all graves. Further study will focus on this issue.

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