By Mario A.S. Martin

INTRODUCTION

Throughout many periods of ancient history the city-state Megiddo was in the direct sphere of influence of the Pharaonic kingdom in the Nile Valley. The site's importance and Egypt's interest to control it in one way or another was due to its favourable strategic location at one of the main international highways in antiquity, the Via Maris, which connected Egypt with the Empires in the north. The climax of interaction came about in the time of the Egyptian New Kingdom, when Megiddo repeatedly appears in Egyptian historical sources primarily originating from the time of the Eighteenth Dynasty. As recorded in the annals of Pharaoh Tuthmosis III (1457 BCE), it was at Megiddo that this king defeated a confederation of rebel Canaanite cities and secured the Egyptian hegemony over the entire region. Later on Megiddo is referred to in one of the Taanach letters, in which a certain Amenophis - probably Pharaoh Amenophis II - instructs the local ruler of Taanach to send men and provisions to Megiddo. The city is also mentioned in a description of the second Asiatic campaign of this king. An emissary from Megiddo is cited in the Ermitage papyrus. In the Amarna period Megiddo appears repeatedly in the Amarna letters. Several letters were sent to the Egyptian pharaoh by king Biridiya, the ruler of the city. They give a vivid picture of the local rivalries in the region.¹

In the following, Egypt maintained its hegemony over the southern Levant until the second half of the twelfth century BCE. While this suzerainty was sustained mainly by diplomatic connections and the mere threat – and occasional intervention – of the Egyptian army in the course of the Eighteenth Dynasty, Egypt fastened its grip over the country in the Nineteenth and early-mid Twentieth Dynasties, when it established a network of garrisons with physical Egyptian presence at strategic locations in the country (WEINSTEIN 1981).

Not surprisingly, also Egypt-related material culture evidence is abundant at the site itself. The present article discusses a small collection of ceramic vessels that can be related to the Egyptian pottery tradition of the Eighteenth Dynasty. This Egyptian-type pottery appears as actual imports from Egypt and as 'local' imitations of Egyptian forms,² the latter most commonly referred to as Egyptian-style vessels (MARTIN 2004; 2005).³ The vessels under review originate from LB I-IIA contexts of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago excavations (hereafter: OIE) on the tell (LOUD 1948) and in the cemetery on the eastern slope (GUY and ENGBERG 1938), as well as of the ongoing Tel Aviv University excavations (Megiddo Expedition) in Area F (Megiddo III-IV).

EGYPTIAN CERAMIC TYPES

Carinated jar

This type belongs to a group of rather small handle-less, necked jars with a more or less angular carination at the maximum body diameter and often a squat, broad body profile (see mainly HOLTHOER 1977: 133–145, pls. 30–32 and BOURRI-AU 1981: 25–41). Holthoer (*op.cit.*) classified this group into several families. Only his sub-family CV1, 'broad-necked carinated vessels', are of relevance in this article. Carinated jars in general

¹ For a summary of the textual evidence see KEMPINSKI 1989: 11–13. For a translation of the text passages of Tuthmosis' III campaign see WILSON 1969: 234–238. For the Amarna letters see MORAN 1992: EA 242–248, 365.

² 'Local' stands for a production at Megiddo or any other south Levantine site.

³ Simple (locally produced) bowl types, such as round-(LOUD 1948: pl. 61:1,10) and straight-sided (GUY and ENGBERG 1938: pl. 59:5) bowls with plain rim and flat

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base, were not treated in this article. While reminiscent of forms of the Egyptian pottery tradition, they are so basic in shape that they probably evolved independently in both, the local Canaanite and the Egyptian pottery traditions without a necessary relationship, especially in the period under review (MARTIN 2005: 76–80; MARTIN and BEN-DOV 2007: 196). It is probably best to regard these vessels as expression of a general Egypto-Levantine cultural koinée.

appear with round, slightly convex, flat, disc or ring bases. In Egypt, they are typically produced in marl fabrics, mainly 'Marl A' of the Vienna system, a fabric presumably originating in Upper Egypt (NORDSTRÖM and BOURRIAU 1993: 176). Frequently, they bear a thick creamy slip in varying tones (from white to yellowish and pink) and a decoration in red, brown or black. Moreover, they are often burnished. The decoration most commonly consists of vertical line bundles, at times paired with a criss-cross or wavy line decoration, and generally combined with one or more horizontal lines at the base of the neck. In other cases, the decoration includes horizontal bands only, which may appear on the upper body and neck (e.g. HOLTHOER 1977: pl. 32:IIIR/3D/a-d). The rim top, finally, may be painted with hatches.

In Egypt, carinated jars are common in the Second Intermediate Period and Eighteenth Dynasty. Broad-necked carinated vessels (Holthoer's CV1) appear only from the late Second Intermediate Period and are most common in the early-mid Eighteenth Dynasty (HOLTHOER 1977: 133-134; BOURRIAU 1981: 29-30; HOLTHOER, SÄVE-SÖDERBERGH and TROY 1991: 25, 30, 39; WILLIAMS 1992: 41-42). Peaking in the reigns of Hatshepsut and Tuthmosis III, they decrease in popularity in the following and have disappeared by the late Eighteenth Dynasty. A good example for their distribution is the cemetery of Fadrus in Nubia, where they are most common in local Phases IIa (Hatshepsut-Tuthmosis III) and IIb (Tuthmosis III, sole reign), still appear in considerable numbers in Phase IIc (Amenophis II-Tuthmosis IV), are almost absent in Phase IIIa (Amenophis III) and have completely disappeared in Phase IIIb (late Eighteenth Dynasty) (HOLTHOER, SÄVE-SÖDERBERGH and TROY 1991: 30; SÄVE-SÖDERBERGH and TROY 1991: 225-244).

In the southern Levant carinated jars occur mainly in LB I contexts, at sites such as Tell el-^cAjjul, Yoqne^cam, Beth-Shean, and Tel Dan (for references see MARTIN and BEN-DOV 2007: 198–199). Those examples analysed by the author appear as Egyptian imports. Two broad-necked examples come from Megiddo, one from the cemetery on the eastern slope and one from Area F.

Vessel x3467; Eastern cemetery, Tomb 38B (Fig. 1:1; GUY and ENGBERG 1938: pl. 41:17 = pl. 140:11)

Vessel description: rim diameter: 8 cm, height: 10 cm, maximum body width: 12 cm; an example

with squat body and well-accentuated carination slightly below mid-point; the vessel has an everted shelf rim and stands on a ring base. It bears a yellowish slip and is painted in brown. Horizontal burnishing was observed. The decoration consists of a set of vertical line bundles on the body, hanging down from a single horizontal line at the base of the neck. At least one of the bundles shows a ladder motif between two lines. The rim top is decorated with hatches. The laconic fabric description does not allow for any conclusions as to the origin of the vessel. This jar best fits into the early-mid Eighteenth Dynasty, when the vertical line decoration is most common (Holthoer 1977: 134, pls. 30-32; Martin and BEN-DOV 2007: 198). The ring base, although occurring earlier, becomes common only from the reign of Hatshepsut (BOURRIAU 1981: 29-30 and note 49). The not too tall neck and not too wide mouth are more typical to the first half of the Eighteenth Dynasty than later. Hence, all in all a date no later - and probably no earlier - than the reigns of Hatshepsut or Tuthmosis III is proposed.

Context: The vessel under review comes from Chamber B of Tomb 38, a natural cave with one large and one side chamber (B) (GUY and ENG-BERG 1938: 82). Pitting activities and remains of two kilns attest to some non-funerary activity at some point. The pottery, though mostly disturbed, belongs mainly into an earlier part of the Late Bronze Age. While KEMPINSKI associated this group with the reign of Tuthmosis III (1989: 70 note 73), GONEN assumed a date in the fourteenth century (1992: 41). Three lines of evidence support Kempinski's dating (or at least an earliest occupation in this time): a cooking pot (GUY and ENGBERG 1938: pl. 40:19) that best fits in the LB I (cf. PANITZ-COHEN 2006: 67-68, type CP2); the carinated jar discussed above; and the arguably 'local' (i.e. non-Cypriote) imitation (AMIRAN 1969: 182) of a White Painted VI teapot (GUY and ENGBERG 1938: pl. 41:16), if one regards the chronological distribution of its imported counterpart as general guideline (mainly MB IIC-LB IA with a continuation in the LB IB; courtesy of C. Bergoffen).

Vessel 98/F/67/VS2; Area F, Stratum F-10a (Fig. 1:2; GADOT, YASUR-LANDAU and ILAN 2006: fig. 12.4:5)

Vessel description: rim diameter: 9 cm, maximum body width: 12.5 cm; this fragmentary jar is char-

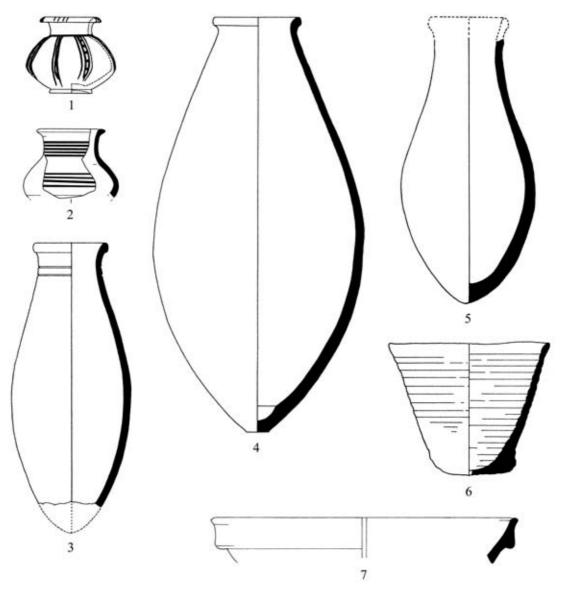


Fig. 1 Egyptian-type vessels of the Eighteenth Dynasty at Megiddo (Scale 1:5) 1) After Guy and EngBerg 1938: pl. 41:17=pl. 140:11; Eastern cemetery, Tomb 38B; 2) After GADOT, YASUR-LAN-DAU and ILAN 2006: fig. 12.4:5); Area F, Stratum F-10a; 3–4) After GUY and ENGBERG 1938: pl. 57:9–10; Eastern Cemetery, Tomb 26;^a 5) After LOUD 1948: pl. 60:7); Area BB, Stratum VIII; 6) After GUY and ENGBERG 1938: pl. 59:7); Eastern cemetery, Tomb 26B, 7) After ILAN, HALLOTE and CLINE 2000: fig. 9.10:26); Area F, Stratum F-9

acterized by a soft carination at mid-body, a rather tall, straight neck with an everted shelf rim and a rather wide mouth in relation to the maximum body width. It is white-slipped and decorated with black-to-brown horizontal bands, five on the neck and four just above mid-body. Additionally, the rim is painted with black hatches (not indicated in the drawing). The fabric is light red with abundant small white grits and mica, and can readily be identified with Egyptian Marl A (see above). The decoration with horizontal bands on neck and body belongs to late in the lifetime of this type of jars, not being common before the sole reign of Tuthmosis III and continuing into the reigns of Amenophis II and Tuthmosis IV (HOLTHOER 1977: 134, pls. 30–32). It is still attested in the waning stage of this type in the reign of Amenophis III. Furthermore, the relatively wide mouth and tall, straight neck are also features that belong to later in the lifespan of this jar type (BOURRIAU 1981: 29–30). In summary, morphological features and decoration style suggest a somewhat later time frame than for the previously discussed specimen. A time slot between the (sole) reigns of Tuthmosis III and Tuthmosis IV, i.e. the LB IB, is most likely.

Context: The jar under review originates from a well-stratified domestic context of Level F-10a in Area F (98/F/67). While GADOT, YASUR-LANDAU and ILAN proposed an LB IA date for this level (2006: 188), based on the carinated jar, a date in the LB IB is suggested instead. In this regard, the author argues that none of the Chocolate-on-White and Cypriote Bichrome Wheelmade Wares presented by Gadot, Yasur-Landau and Ilan can be securely associated with this stratum. A Chocolate-on-White carinated bowl (ibidem: 174, fig. 12.4:12) of FISCHER's "CW I" style (1999: 11, table 2) was presented in Level F-10a but, according to the locus index (BLOCKMAN and FINKELSTEIN 2006: 439), actually belongs to (the earlier) Level F-10b.4 Also, Fischer's "CW I" arguably predates even the LB IA. Two additional Chocolate-on-White sherds come from safe Level F-10a contexts (GADOT, YASUR-LANDAU and ILAN 2006: fig. 12.4:13–14); however, both are small and may easily be residual. The same holds true for the rim of a Bichrome krater (ibidem: fig. 12.3:3). Two additional Bichrome body sherds could only be attributed to a general Level F-10 horizon (ibidem: fig. 12.4:15-16). Moreover, sherds of a White slip I bowl from Level F-10b (ibidem: fig. 12.1:5) provide a terminus post quem (LB IA) for the next level, F-10a. In short, a LB IA date does not seem to stand its ground. Apart from the Egyptian carinated jar, a date in the LB IB or even later is also supported by a radiocarbon study, which places the boundary between Levels F-10b and F-10a to as late as around 1400 BCE (BOARETTO 2006: 551-552).

Slender ovoid jar

These handle-less jars are characterized by a slender ovoid body, rounded base and everted, generally externally thickened rim (for a discussion and comparanda see MARTIN 2005: type JR11). In Egypt, they are typically made of Nile silt and belong to the Second Intermediate Period and Eighteenth Dynasty, after which they have disappeared. In the southern Levant they occur in the first half of the Late Bronze Age (LB I–IIA), and, in analogy to Egypt, cease with the end of the fourteenth century. Apart from six examples from Megiddo, vessels of this type can be cited from Tell el-CAjjul (e.g. PETRIE 1931: pl. XLII:31H2, 31H7, 31H8), Tel Sera^c XII-XI (MARTIN 2005: 124; pls. 37:14, 38:8), Lachish Fosse Temple I (TUFNELL, INGE and HARDING 1940: pl. LIVB:335), Tel Aphek X-14 (MARTIN 2005: 123, pl. 23:2), Tel Mor XI (MARTIN and BARAKO 2007: fig. 4.10:1), and Beth-Shean (MULLINS 2007: type JR5). All examples analysed by the author were not of Egyptian origin but local, south Levantine imitations. This is probably also valid for the examples from Megiddo.

Vessels x25, x60, x65, x3178, x3180; Eastern Cemetery, Tomb 26

(Fig. 1:3–4; GUY and ENGBERG 1938: pl. 57:9–10; GUY and ENGBERG 1938: pl. 154:6)

Vessel description: Vessel x25 (Figure 1:3) - rim diameter: 10 cm, height: ca. 38 cm (reconstructed), maximum body width: 16 cm; Vessel x3178 (Figure 1:4) - rim diameter: 11.5 cm, height: 54.5 cm, maximum body width: 28 cm;5 the most interesting trait of the vessel in Figure 1:3 are (two) incised horizontal grooves on the neck. This decorative element does not seem to appear prior to the reign of Amenophis II (ASTON 2006: 72). Figure 1:4 shows a large variant of the type under review. Its body is less slender and the base flattened, the latter an unusual feature on this type of jars. Egyptian examples of this larger variant come from sites, such as Malqata (HOPE 1989: 22, fig. 2i) and Fadrus in Nubia (HOLTHOER 1977: pls. 16:IR/0/l-m[185/478:1], type ST1; 36:IR/0/I-k [185/253:4], type [O1). A vessel with very similar body contour but slightly smaller proportions comes from Tell el-Amarna (PEET and WOOLLEY 1923: pl. L:xxv/247).

A long time ago GUY and ENGBERG noted that comparanda of this type from Tell el-Amarna were frequently decorated in blue, red and black (1938: 155). Hence, their reaction to the fact that none of the Megiddo specimens showed traces of decoration is understandable (*op.cit.*): "... but this is hardly conclusive evidence as to their original state,

⁴ The vessel originates from Locus 98/F/95, which was sealed by Pavement 98/F/85 of F-10a and attributed to F-10b in the locus index.

⁵ While the number of slender ovoid jars in Tomb 26 amounts to five, only three vessels are shown in the

plates; two as drawings, Vessel x60 (GUY and ENGBERG 1938: pl. 57:9) and Vessel x3178 (GUY and ENGBERG 1938: pl. 57:10) and one as photo only, Vessel x3180 (GUY and ENGBERG 1938: pl. 154:6).

since the vessels found in Egypt were colored with paint of a consistency which would quickly disappear under the climatic conditions of Palestine." This reasoning was adopted by GONEN (1992: 50): "The four [actually five] Egyptian date-shaped jars, all from cave 26, are perhaps of the el-Amarna type, although the painted decoration was erased." Evidently, such as view cannot be maintained. Almost none of the south Levantine examples of this type bear any traces of decoration (for an exception from Tell el-cAjjul see PETRIE 1934: pl. XLVIII:31K19) and also in Egypt itself undecorated examples are frequent. On the other hand, enough decorated Egyptian vessels are known in the southern Levant to falsify this statement (e.g. see the carinated jars treated above).

Context: Tomb 26 describes a deep cave in the rock with many chambers and alcoves (GUY and ENGBERG 1938: 103). Unfortunately, it was disturbed and the roof had collapsed. The finds belong to the Late Bronze Age but, according to the excavators, not to a single phase. GONEN, however, ascribed this tomb to the LB IIA (1992: 41). The slender ovoid jars may belong to any time in the LB I–IIA, except for the example in Figure 1:3, which postdates the reign of Tuthmosis III.

Vessel b42; Area BB, Stratum VIII (Fig. 1:5; LOUD 1948: pl. 60:7)

Vessel description: height: ca. 38 cm (reconstructed), maximum body width: 18 cm; the rim is missing; the fabric description – *numerous large black and white grits* – argues for a non-Egyptian origin. *Context*: The jar derives from Locus S=T3000, located in a courtyard house east of the temple in Area BB, and is the only vessel retrieved from this context (LOUD 1948: 166), which cannot be regarded as safe.

'Flower pot'

'Flower pots' describe coarsely executed, deep vshaped bowls with steep and straight or flaring, ribbed sidewalls and a heavy, flat base. General shape of these vessels and the fact that their bases were commonly perforated in the centre coined their designation in German ('Blumentopf'; STEINDORFF 1937: pl. 77: 25), French ('pot de fleurs'; NAGEL 1938: 192) and English (HOLTHOER 1977: 83-84, pl. 18). While used as actual flower pots in a garden complex at Tell el-Dab^ca (HEIN 1994: 39-40, fig. 11a; Jánosi 1994: 30-31, fig. 8), elsewhere their function is less clear.⁶ Evidently, a hole in the base eliminates the possibility to contain liquids. HOLTHOER noted that, used as containers, their contents must have been restricted to dry, semi-dry or viscous materials (1977: 83). He further assumed that these vessels were occasionally used as incense burners, as on many examples he observed a layer of soot adhering to the interior surface. Above that, based on their similarity to Old Kingdom bread moulds (cf. for instance STEINDORFF 1913: pl. 84, Tomb of Ti), he also proposed a function as bread moulds. For the baking process he suggested an ensemble of two vessels, with a perforated example functioning as cover (placed upside-down) to an un-perforated one (cf. HOLTHOER 1977: fig. 61). During baking, the hole would have permitted the escape of air.7 Petrie offered another solution for the function of these vessels. He mentioned a perforated specimen that contained a pressed cake of barley mash and grains (PETRIE 1977: 23). He then suggested that vessels of this type "were used to squeeze out the fermented beer from the grain, the cake being sufficiently tenacious not to break through at the hole" (op.cit.).

In New Kingdom Egypt, 'flower pots' belong to the Eighteenth Dynasty (ASTON 2002: 57) and are a typical Nile silt vessels (for comparanda see MULLINS 2007: 459, note 87). As pointed out by WILLIAMS (1992: 34–35), in Nubia, these vessels become common in the reign of Hatshepsut, have already become rare in the days of Amenophis III and disappeared in the following. Occurrences from the southern Levant come from LB I–IIA contexts at Tell el-^cAjjul (PETRIE

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⁶ A function as actual flower pots was already taken into consideration by HOLTHOER, when he observed instances of *remains of roots* found inside theses vessels (1977: 84). However, originally enough, he regarded it as more probable "that they originate from the accidentally germinating grain seeds or fruits which these vessels once contained, rather than from any plants intentionally planted in them" (op.cit.).

Holthoer also suggested that vessels that showed no evidence of secondary exposure to heat and, hence could not have served as bread moulds, might have functioned as mere votive symbols for bread. The same votive function he assigned to his 'beer bottles', assuming that together these vessels were representatives for the Egyptian bread (flower pot) and beer offering (beer bottle) (HOLTHOER 1977: 86).

1931: pl. XXXVII:6E13; PETRIE 1932: pl. XXVII:9Q), Jaffa (Kaplan excavations, courtesy of A. Bourke) and Beth-Shean Strata R-1b–a (MULLINS 2007: type JR2). The Beth-Shean specimens are locally made, which probably also holds true for the other examples. Two specimens come from the eastern cemetery at Megiddo.

Vessel x3336; Eastern cemetery, Tomb 26B (Fig. 1:6; GUY and ENGBERG 1938: pl. 59:7)

Rim diameter: 21 cm, height: 17.5 cm, base diameter: 10 cm; the vessel was found in Chamber B of Tomb 26. It has the characteristic ribbed body, heavy flat base and perforated bottom, while it is not indicated whether the perforation was executed before or after firing.

Vessel 2279; Eastern cemetery, Tomb 59A (GUY and ENGBERG 1938: pl. 157:13 [photo only])

This vessel is characterized by a flaring upper part. It was retrieved from a storage(?) pit (A) in a large cave (GUY and ENGBERG 1938: 106–108), which seemed to have been also used for purposes other than those of burial and throughout the Late Bronze (predominantly) and Iron Ages.

Large open bowl with ledged rim

This type describes large open bowls with exterior ledge or ridge below the rim and, most commonly, a ring base. In Egypt, this type is well known in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Dynasties, after which it disappeared (MARTIN 2005: type BL21). In the southern Levant, good examples of such bowls come from Lachish Fosse Temple III (TUFNELL, INGE and HARDING 1940: pl. XXXVIII:55-56), Tel Batash (PANITZ-COHEN 2006: type BL55, especially pl. 17:1 [Stratum IX]), Tel Mor (MARTIN and BARAKO 2007: fig. 4.7), Tel Aphek X-14 (MARTIN 2005: pl. 23:1), and Beth-Shean (MULLINS 2007: type BL4b-c). Note that as open form of rather basic shape, this type is less strongly linked to the Egyptian pottery tradition than the types treated up until now (cf. also footnote 3 above).

Vessel 96/F/41/VS13; Area F, Stratum F-9 (Fig. 1:7; ILAN, HALLOTE and CLINE 2000: fig. 9.10:26)

Rim diameter: ca. 40 cm; only rim preserved; the piece comes from Level F-9 in Area F, which was correlated with OIE's Stratum VIII, with a slight possibility of Stratum VIIB (*ibidem*: 220).

CONCLUSION

In summary, it is evident that Egyptian shapes are relatively scarce at Megiddo in the time of the Eighteenth Dynasty. This is in analogy with the evidence at other south Levantine sites with Egyptian-type pottery, where such forms are still rather rare in the course of the Eighteenth Dynasty and strongly increase in popularity in the Ramesside period, concurrent with Egypt's more intensified presence in the southern Levant (MARTIN 2004). Also at Megiddo, Egyptian forms are more common in the time of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Dynasties. Exceptional in this regard is the cemetery on the eastern slope of the tell, where vessels of unequivocal Egyptian affiliation are limited to the Eighteenth Dynasty (for a similar conclusion see already GONEN 1992: 51). In later LB tombs only simple, plain-rimmed bowls are attested, which do not necessarily stand for direct Egyptian influence (see footnote 3 above).

Some of the reviewed vessels can be well-dated and are hence valuable chronological markers within their contexts. The earliest occurrences in the Late Bronze Age do not seem to predate the LB IB, i.e. the second half of the fifteenth century BCE. On the basis of a carinated jar, a reassignment of Level F-10a in Area F to the LB IB (previously LB IA) was suggested. While one can assume that the carinated jars at Megiddo were actual imports from Egypt, all other vessels under review were probably local imitations. The few discussed pots were dispersed in funerary (eastern cemetery), residential (F-10a in Area F; courtyard house in Area BB) and public (F-9 in Area F) contexts.

Noteworthy is, finally, the concentration of as many as six vessels of clear Egyptian affiliation – five slender ovoid jars and one 'flower pot' – in Tomb 26. While GONEN (1992: 41) ascribed this tomb to the LB IIA, this cave, with its many chambers and alcoves, does not seem to have been in use during a single period only (GUY and ENGBERG 1938: 103). It is impossible to say, to how many burials the Egyptian-type vessels belonged. From a typological point of view, all but one (see above) fit in any time in the LB I–IIA. In any case the buried, possibly (a family of) Canaanite official(s), seem to have had some ties with Egypt.

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