

IV. FOUNDATION DEPOSIT LOCUS 1057

1. INTRODUCTION

Foundation deposit L1057 is located in square H/III-t/16, 1.15 m from the western edge and 2.85 m from the southern edge, in ph. D/1.2 (Fig. 4). It lies 0.20 cm lower than the bottom of mud-brick wall M1018 (ph. D/1.2) and is associated with this wall.

Wall M1018 is located in the south-western part of the square, standing above the debris of L1039. The wall measures 1.25 m in width and is oriented east-west. The mud-bricks measure 38–40 cm by 18–19 cm; only two layers of mud-brick headers were preserved. The wall forms part of a large building with storage rooms and silos constructed above the eastern part of the Hyksos citadel and below the palace complex of the early 18th Dynasty (Fig. 29). This storage building, built at the beginning of the 18th Dynasty, could have supplied the Egyptian army with provisions during its campaigns against the Hyksos strongholds situated between Avaris and Sharuhén.

The foundation deposit consists of an oval pit (Fig. 30) measuring 25 cm by 30 cm and 15 cm in depth. It was dug into a mud layer and filled with eight objects made of Nile silt clay. This small deposit included a fine-ware vessel and seven miniature pieces – model pottery, symbolic offerings, an agricultural tool, and a lump of mud.

The following objects made of Nile silt clay (Nile B₂ fabric) were found within this foundation deposit (Plates XII a and b): a ring-based bowl (No. 1), a model basket (No. 2), two model sieves (No. 3 and No. 4), a model basket with a sieve (No. 5), a model *mr*-hoe (No. 6), a model mortar (No. 7) with a pestle (No. 8), a model piece of bread (No. 9), a model piece of meat (No. 10), and a lump of mud of cylindrical shape (No. 11) bearing the impression of the model basket (No. 5) on top of it.

2. THE CATALOGUE

No. 1 Ring-based bowl (“R₃-Schale”)

(Fig. 31a; Plate XIIIa). Inv. No. 8739 {98/132}

TG	I-b-2	mi	W1	gef.	ox	2
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Complete, fragmentary, mended; straight-sided.
Rd: 14.8–15.1 cm; Bd: 4.6 cm; Wd: 0.5 cm; H₁: 6.3–6.7 cm; VI: 231.

Surface colour: 2.5YR 6/8 light red; rim band: 10R 5/4 weak red.

Break: thin grey core with brown and reddish brown oxidation zones.

Base made on the wheel, lowered in the middle; throwing lines on exterior surface; red-slipped rim band on exterior and interior.

Surface: well-smoothed on the wheel
(Find No. 4 in Fig. 30).

No. 2 Model basket (Fig. 31b; Plate XIIIb)

Inv. No. 8740 {98/131}

TG	I-b-2	f-mi	W1	abg.g.	ox	2
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Complete, mended; straight-sided; flattened base.

Rd: 8.0–8.8 cm; Bd: 6.5–7.0 cm; Wd: 0.35 cm; H₁: 1.1 cm; VI: 773.

Surface colour: 10R 6/6 light red.

Break: –.

Deformed; throwing lines on both surfaces, very sharp inside; base cut off the wheel and smoothed.

Surface: well-smoothed on the wheel.

(Find No. 6 in Fig. 30).

No. 3 Model sieve (Fig. 31c; Plate XIIIc)

Inv. No. 8746 {98/131}

TG	I-b-2	f-mi	W1	abg.g.	ox	2
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Complete, fragmentary, mended; straight-sided; flattened base.

Rd: 7.3 cm; Wd: 0.35 cm; H₁: 1.3 cm; VI: 562.

Surface colour: 10R 6/6 light red.

Break: –.

Throwing lines on exterior; exterior lip; base cut off the wheel and smoothed.

Surface: smoothed on the wheel.

(Find No. 5 in Fig. 30).

No. 4 Model sieve (Fig. 31d; Plate XIVa)

Inv. No. 8745 {98/130}

TG	I-b-2	f-mi	W1	abg.g.	ox	2
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Complete, mended; straight-sided; flattened base.

Rd: 6.8 cm; Wd: 0.35 cm; H₁: 1.2 cm; VI: 567.

Surface colour: 10R 6/6 light red.

Break: –.

Throwing lines on exterior surface below rim; interior lip; base cut off the wheel and smoothed.

Surface: smoothed on the wheel.

(Find No. 5B in Fig. 30).

No. 5 Model basket with a sieve (Fig. 31e; Plate XIVb)

Inv. No. 8747 {98/130}

TG	I-b-2	f-mi	W1	abg.g.	ox	2
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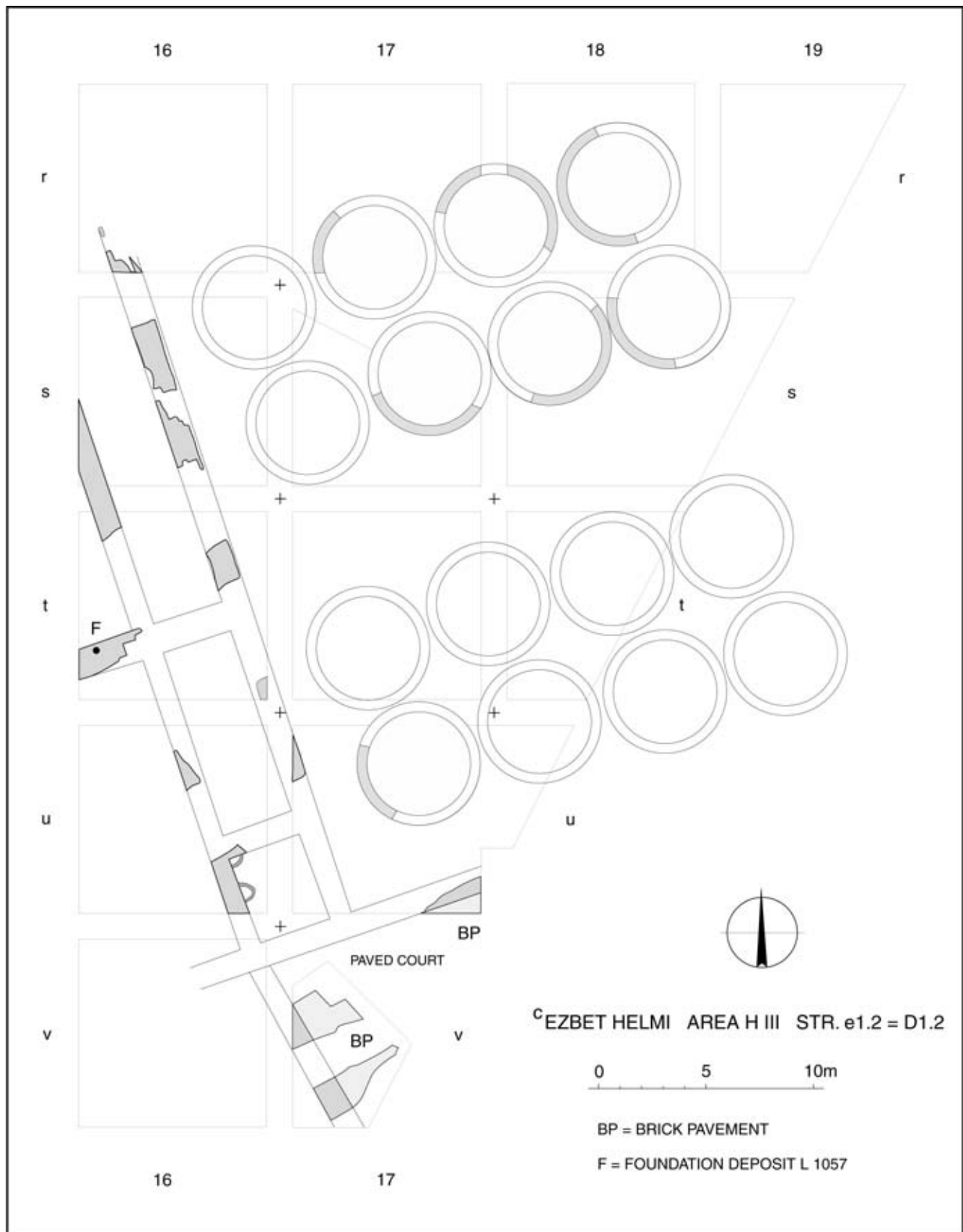


Fig. 29 Plan of the storage building, ph. D/1.2

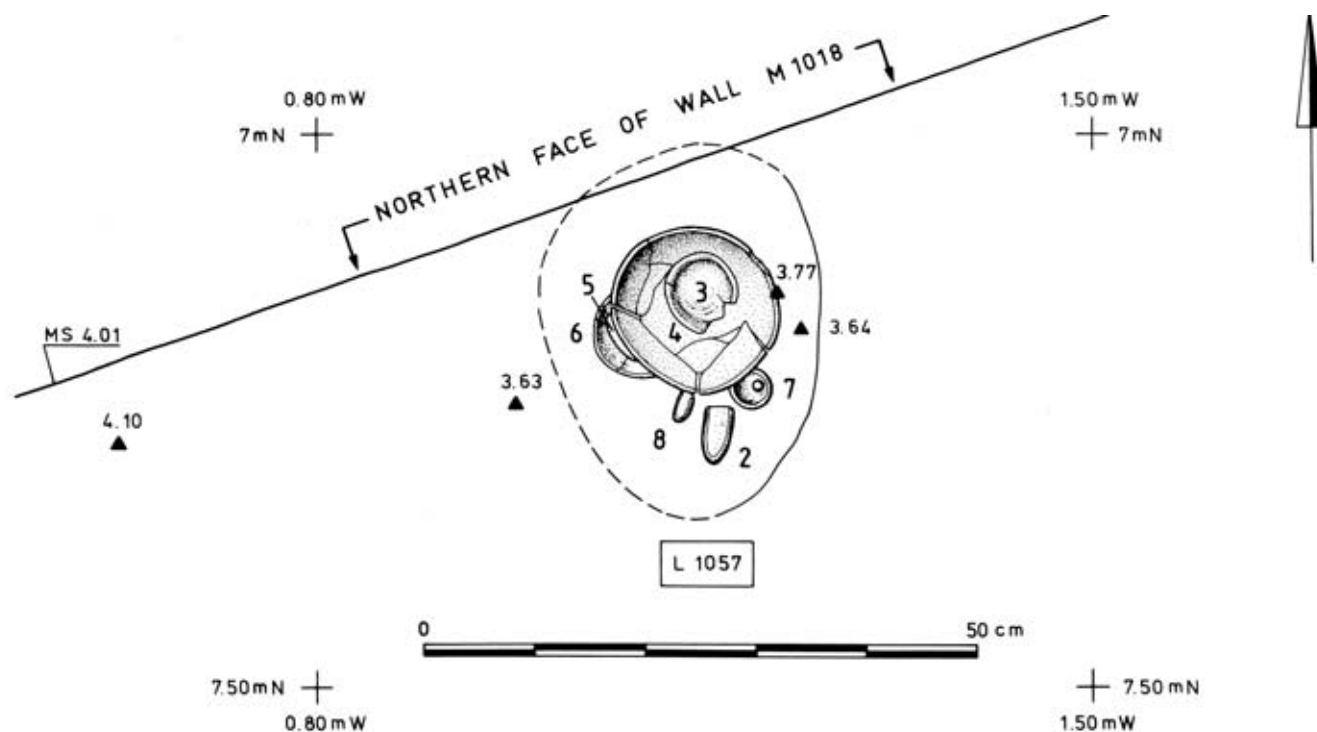


Fig. 30 Foundation deposit L1057, HIII-t/16

Incomplete, fragmentary, mended; straight-sided; flattened base.

Rd: 7.2 cm; Wd: 0.4 cm; H₁: 1.2 cm; VI: 600.

Surface colour: 10R 6/6 light red.

Break: reddish brown.

Sharp throwing lines inside and outside forming grooves to imitate a basket; sieve in the centre of base; base cut off the wheel and smoothed.

Surface: smoothed on the wheel.

(Find No. 3 in Fig. 30).

No. 6 Model *mr*-hoe (Fig. 31f; Plate XIVd)

Inv. No. 8744 {98/100}

TG	I-b-2	f-mi	Ha	—	ox	2
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Complete, mended. H: 5.5 cm; D: 0.8 cm.

Surface colour: 10R 6/6 light red.

(Find No. 1).

No. 7 Model mortar (Fig. 31g; Plate XIVE)

Inv. No. 8743, 1 {98/132}

TG	I-b-2	f-mi	W1	gesp.	ox	2
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Complete. Rd: 4 cm; H₁: 3.5 cm.

Surface colour: 10R 6/6 light red.

Break: —.

Base cut off the wheel and scraped smooth.

Surface: smoothed on the wheel.

(Find No. 7 in Fig. 30. See No. 8, below).

No. 8 Model pestle (Fig. 31g; Plate XIVE)

Inv. No. 8743, 2 {98/132}

RP	I-b-2	f-mi	Ha	—	ox	2
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Complete, fragmentary, mended. H: 7.5 cm; D: 0.7–1.1 cm.

Surface colour: 10R 5/6 red.

Surface: burnished.

(Find No. 7 in Fig. 30. See No. 7 above).

No. 9 Model piece of bread (Fig. 31h; Plate XIVf)

Inv. No. 8742 {98/100}

TG	I-b-2	f-mi	Ha	—	ox	2
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Complete. H: 3.3 cm; W: 1.9 cm; Th: 0.6–1.0 cm.

Surface colour: 10R 6/6 light red.

Scraped.

(Find No. 8 in Fig. 30).

No. 10 Model piece of meat (Fig. 31i; Plate XIVg and h)

Inv. No. 8741 {98/100}

TG	I-b-2	f-mi	Ha	—	ox	2
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Complete. H: 5.3 cm; W: 3 cm; Th: 1.3 cm.

Surface colour: 2.5YR 6/6 light red.

Scraped.

Illegible hieratic inscription on the base.⁷¹

(Find No. 2 in Fig. 30)

No. 11 A lump of mud of cylindrical shape (Fig. 31j; Plate XIVc), 9 cm in diameter and 9 cm high, bearing an impression of the model basket with the sieve (No. 5, Inv. No. 8747). It was found inside the ring-based bowl (No. 1, Inv. No. 8739) with the model basket on top of it.

⁷¹ It was impossible to read this inscription, even using an infra-red photo.

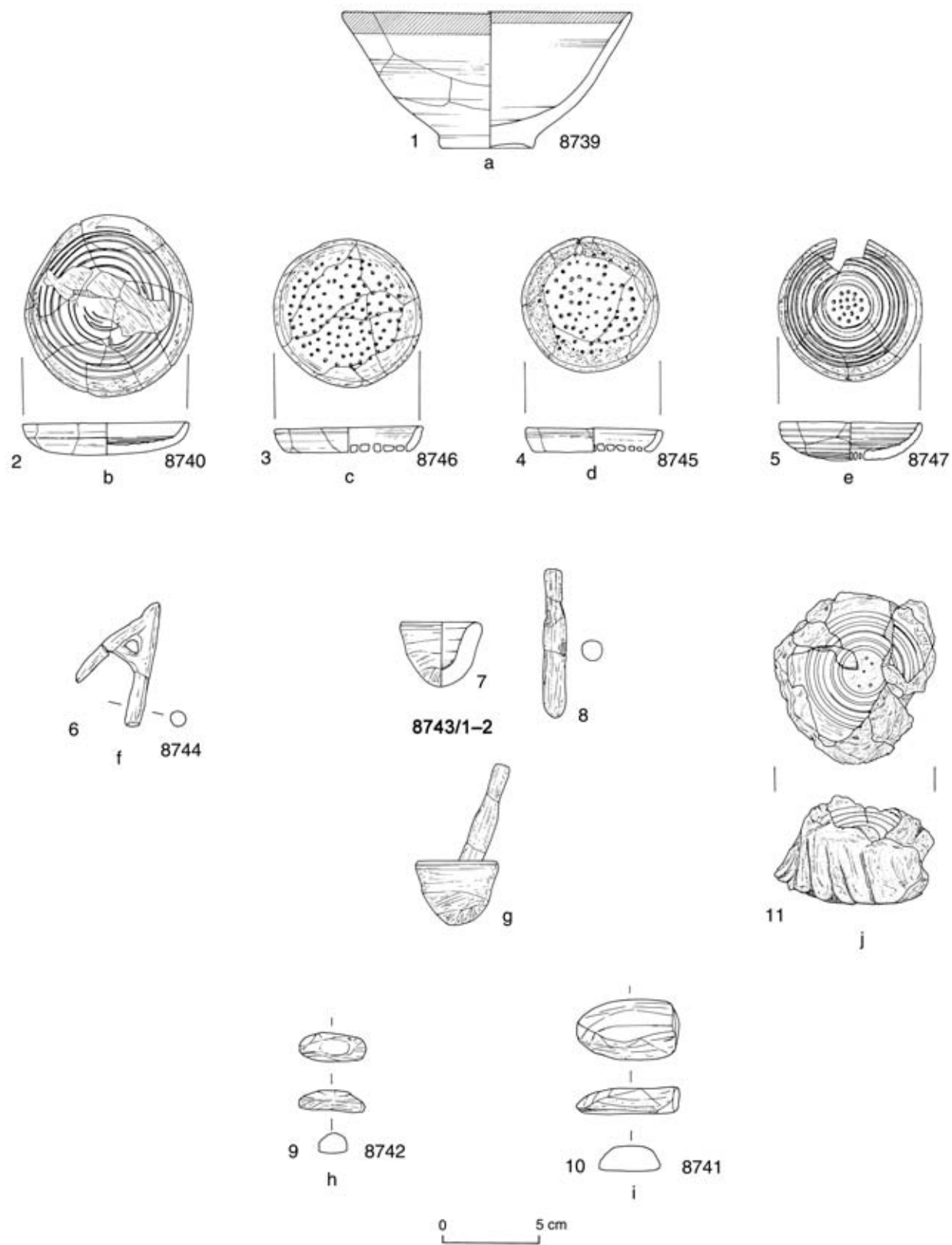


Fig. 31 Objects found in the foundation deposit L1057

3. REMARKS ON THE FOUNDATION DEPOSITS

A foundation deposit is a “*type of votive offering placed in or beneath the foundation of a building or in its vicinity at the time of its founding*”,⁷² in order to purify the area where the construction will take place. Foundation deposits are found from the Old Kingdom to the Ptolemaic period. Most of them are related to monuments of the divine and royal cult,⁷³ but they are also associated with private tombs,⁷⁴ royal palaces,⁷⁵ fortresses,⁷⁶ and towns.⁷⁷

The deposit is usually assembled during a foundation ceremony at the time building activity is started or in progress. Foundation deposits are not mentioned in the texts which are related to the foundation ceremonies of religious buildings. For secular buildings such texts are missing altogether. Nevertheless one should expect these deposits to reflect rites performed during the construction and consecration of a new building.

The objects discovered in foundation deposits vary. There may be model tools, as well as material used in the building construction, such as hoes,⁷⁸ bricks, wooden sticks, axes, stakes, wooden hammers, carpenter’s adzes, chisels, picks, wooden mallets, and mason’s floats. Other deposits include food offerings, such as the head and a leg of a bovine,⁷⁹ or

a bovine and a goose. These were most likely parts of the animals actually sacrificed during the ceremony. Sometimes a model piece of meat symbolising the real offering is used. Other food offerings such as cereals, fruit, bread, and wine, were placed inside containers. The provisions are mentioned in the inscriptions on the containers.⁸⁰ Incense, pieces of natron,⁸¹ bread moulds, grinders, grinding stones, beer jars, and offering tables are also found. Objects related to funerary rites are the *mesekhtyw*-instruments used in the ceremony of the *Opening of the mouth*,⁸² and *menats*.⁸³ Votive objects such as amulets, scarabs, scaraboids, *tjset*-knot amulets, and again *mesekhtyw* instruments are included in the foundation deposits as well.⁸⁴

Model pottery is a very common feature of foundation deposits. The usual assortment of ceramic vessels includes cups, bowls and jars. In addition, ointment pots of alabaster, tablets made of different kinds of materials such as faience, metal, stone, and wood,⁸⁵ as well as basketry sieves for sifting sand, can all be found there.

The foundation deposit of Tuthmosis I, found in front of his tomb in the Valley of the Kings, suggests, according to Weinstein, that the deposits from the early part of the 18th Dynasty are closely related typologically to those of the Middle Kingdom.

⁷² J.M. WEINSTEIN, *Foundation Deposits in Ancient Egypt*, Ann Arbor 1973, LXIX.

⁷³ WEINSTEIN, *op. cit.*, *passim*; Z. SZAFRÁNSKI, Foundation Pottery Deposit Found at the Djoser-akhet Platform. Part I. The Temple of Tuthmosis III at Deir el-Bahari, 53–64, in: J. AKSAMIT (ed.), *Essays in Honour of Prof. Dr. Jadwiga Lipinska*, Warsaw Egyptological Studies 1, Warsaw 1997.

⁷⁴ See L. BAREŠ, Foundation Deposits in the Tomb of Udjahorresnet at Abusir, *ZÄS* 123 (1996), 1–9.

⁷⁵ Foundation deposit in “an unidentified trench in the north palace complex” of Amenhotep III at Malkata. It is a single deposit with about forty model bowls and dishes, each inscribed on the inside in hieratic with the name of the food or drink offering, two sherds with parts of the king’s name, the other with the personal name Hatiay. WEINSTEIN, *op. cit.*, 215; W. HAYES, Inscriptions from the Palace of Amenophis III, *JNES* 10 (1951), 103–104, fig. 23.

⁷⁶ Two foundation deposits are related to the inner fortification wall of the 12th Dynasty fortress at Semna South, with bowls, small dishes, and a few faience beads. J. LECLANT, Fouilles et travaux en Égypte et au Soudan 1967–1968, *Orientalia* 38 (1969), 284, pl. XXXVI, [fig. 46]; WEINSTEIN, *op. cit.*, 84–85.

⁷⁷ Foundation deposit of Ramesses III in the south-east angle of the outer enclosure wall at Tell el-Retabah. WEINSTEIN, *op. cit.*, 271–272; W.M.F. PETRIE, *Hyksos and Israelite Cities*, ERA 12, London 1906, 30, pls. XXXII A [lower left], XXXIV, rows 3–4, XXXV, XXXV c [centre].

⁷⁸ The model hoe reflects the *hoeing the earth*. The *hbs-t3* is a foundation ceremony where the king excavates the foundation trench of the temple (W. GUGLIELMI, in: *LÄ* I, 1975, 1261–1263, s. v. “*Erdaufhacken*”).

⁷⁹ As is shown on a relief from the solar temple of Niusere at Abusir. F. von BISSING & H. KEES, *Das Re-Heiligtum des Königs Ne-woser-Re* II, Leipzig 1928, Bl.1, No. 2. The ceremonies connected with the foundation of a building represented in this temple show the king demarcating the area, hacking up the ground, pouring sand and making a brick. Another part of the ceremony was the offering of animals.

⁸⁰ R. ANTHES, Foundation Deposits of Eye, 85–98, in: U. HÖLSCHER, *The Excavation of Medinet Habu II: The Temples of the Eighteenth Dynasty*, OIP 41, Chicago 1939.

⁸¹ W. HAYES, *The Scepter of Egypt, Part II: The Hyksos Period and the New Kingdom*, Cambridge, MA 1959, 86.

⁸² WEINSTEIN, *op. cit.*, 424–425.

⁸³ They are specially connected with the funeral ritual of the king. *Ibidem*.

⁸⁴ These objects appear since the 18th Dynasty. WEINSTEIN, *op. cit.*, 93–94.

⁸⁵ These are very common from the New Kingdom onwards. On the foundation deposits of the Amasis temple at Mendes: D.P. HANSEN, *The Excavations at Tell el-Rub‘a*, *JARCE* 6 (1967), 8–10, figs. 7–12.

According to Weinstein's classification of foundation deposits,⁸⁶ at the beginning of the 18th Dynasty there is only one single typological group: pottery vessels, model tools, ointment jars of alabaster, beads, and food offerings. The food offerings consisting of bread, meat, fruits and vegetables, which are so characteristic of the Middle Kingdom, continue during the 18th Dynasty, including the occurrence of grinders, grinding stones, and bread moulds. Beginning at the time of Hatshepsut, the use of faience as material for different kinds of votive objects and amulets increases.⁸⁷

A peculiarity of the objects from foundation deposit L1057 at Tell el-Dab^ca/^cEzbet Helmi is that all are made of clay. This is not frequent during the 18th Dynasty, with the exception of the foundation deposit from the Horus temple at Aniba, where all 118 objects were made of clay.⁸⁸

The ring-based bowl with red-slipped rim band (No. 1) is not only characteristic of Hyksos period pottery, but can also be found during the 18th Dynasty.

The model *mr*-hoe (No. 6) represents an actual wooden compound hoe with a blade of the same material inserted in the handle and then tied with a cord to make it stronger.⁸⁹ The *mr*-hoe was used to excavate the foundation trench of a building, as well as to cultivate the fields. The two sieves (No. 3 and No. 4) and the basket with a sieve (No. 5) are models of basketry sieves used to separate the grain from the husk. The mortar (No. 7) with a pestle (No. 8) smashes the grain for preparing flour used to make the pieces of bread presented in the offering ceremonies; a model piece of bread (No. 9) was included in this deposit. The basket (No. 2) is used as a basketry food tray. The model piece of meat (No. 10) represents another food offering. The lump of mud (No. 11) could symbolise the fertile soil that allowed the plants to grow.

The kind of objects from this foundation deposit is clearly related to the function of the structure to which it belonged – a royal storage building, perhaps employed in activities of the Egyptian army against the Hyksos (see above).

⁸⁶ WEINSTEIN, *op. cit.*, 93.

⁸⁷ See WEINSTEIN, *op. cit.*, *passim*.

⁸⁸ *Ibidem*, 120–121. This is a disturbed foundation deposit. The objects were found close together in the temple debris. The deposit includes 88 vessels (cups, saucers, jars and ointment jars), four brick moulds, ten hoes, two grinders and grindstones, two chisels with handles, two surveyor's stakes, two chisels with handles, a saddle quern, a chisel blade, two side pieces of a rocker, a circular tray, and a sieve. "This temple is thought to have been founded in the early 18th Dynasty and the model pottery from this deposit have a few parallels in other foundation deposits of the early–middle part of the Eighteenth Dynasty" (*Ibidem*, 223–224). See G. STEINDORFF, Aniba: vor-

läufiger Bericht über die Ergebnisse der in den Jahren 1912–1914 und 1930–1931 unternommenen Ausgrabungen, *ASAE* 32 (1932), 22, and *id.*, Aniba II, Glückstadt & Hamburg 1937, 29, pl. 14. "(...) There is also a remarkable similarity between the objects from this deposit and those found in the supposedly much later deposits of a king Menkheperre at Sai" (WEINSTEIN, *op. cit.*, note 232). See J. LECLANT, Fouilles et travaux en Égypte et au Soudan 1969–1970, *Orientalia* 40 (1971), 242, and note 38, and *id.*, Fouilles et travaux en Égypte et au Soudan 1970–1971, *Orientalia* 41 (1972), 274, pl. XXVIII [33].

⁸⁹ W.M.F. PETRIE, *Tools and Weapons*, ERA 30, London 1917, 54, pl. LXVII, G62.

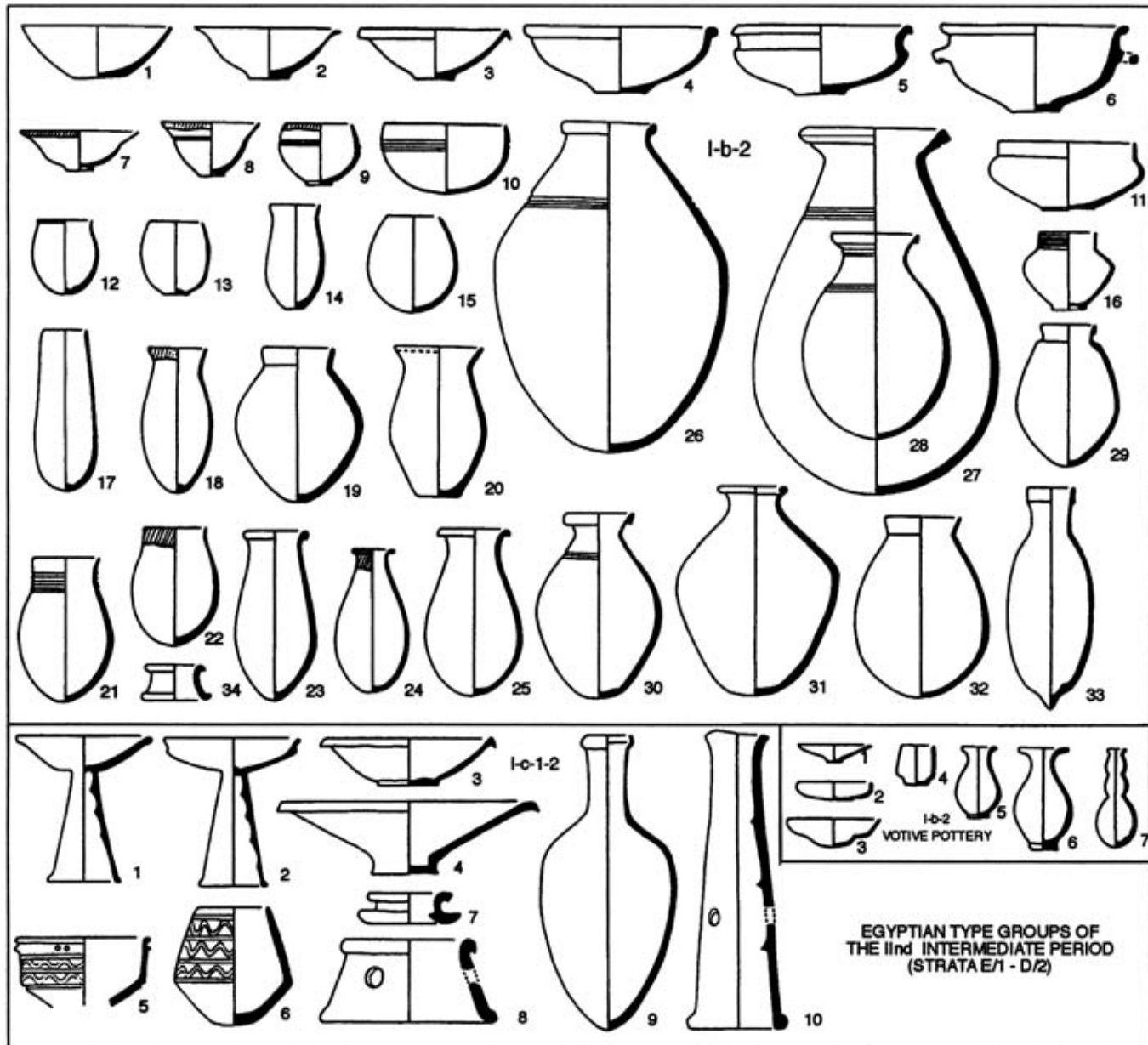


Fig. 32 Corpus A. The Tell el-Dab'a Egyptian pottery type groups of the Second Intermediate Period (phases E/1 to D/2) (after M. BIETAK 1991b, fig. 10)

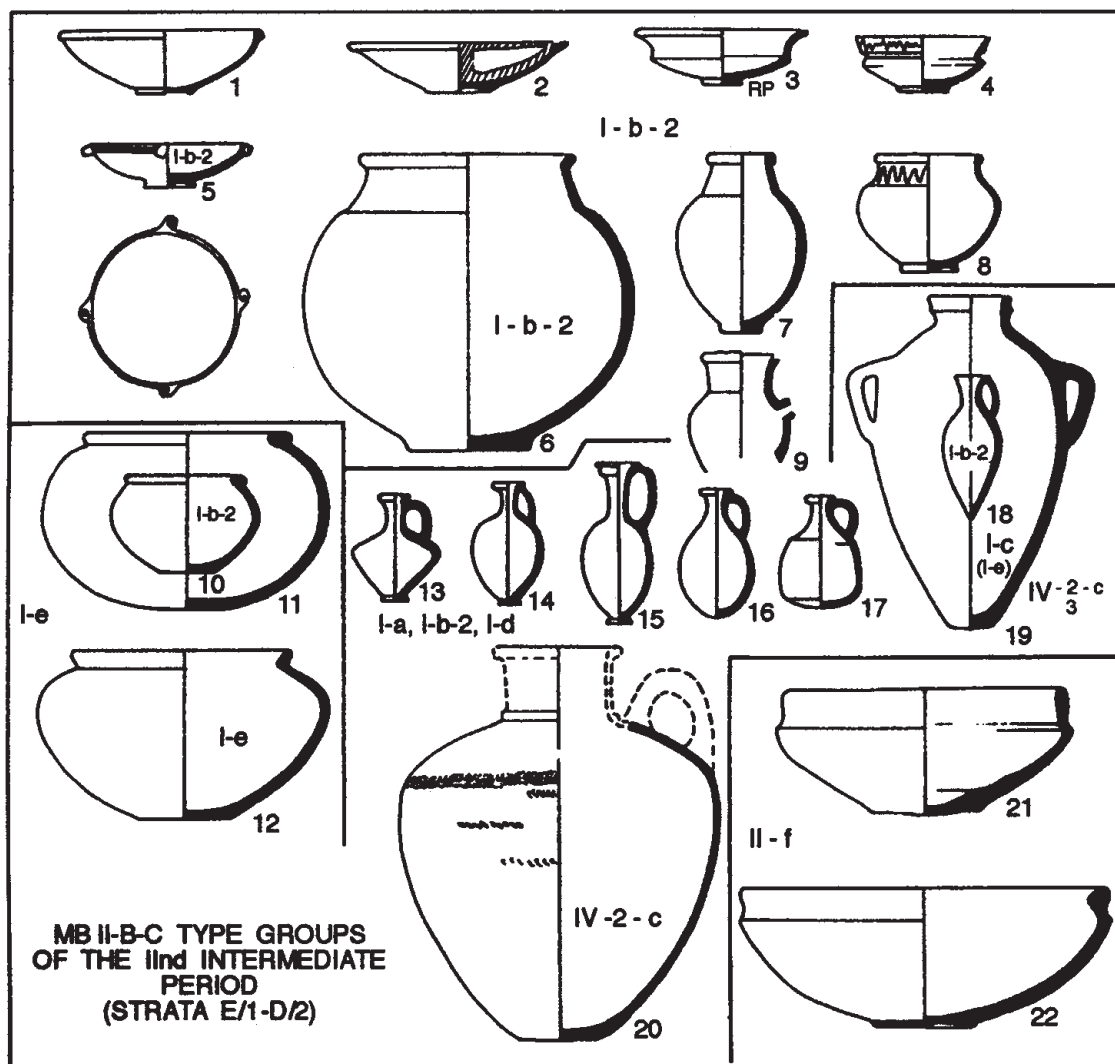
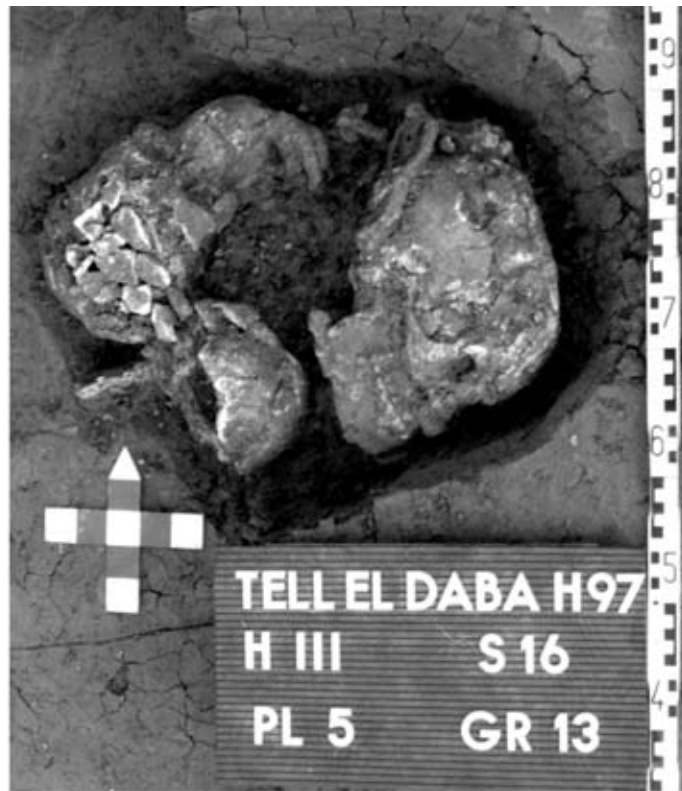


Fig. 33 Corpus B. The Tell el-Dab^a Middle Bronze Age IIB-C type groups of the Second Intermediate Period (phases E/1 to D/2) (after M. BIETAK 1991b, fig. 11)

PLATES



a) Execution pit L1055 *in situ*



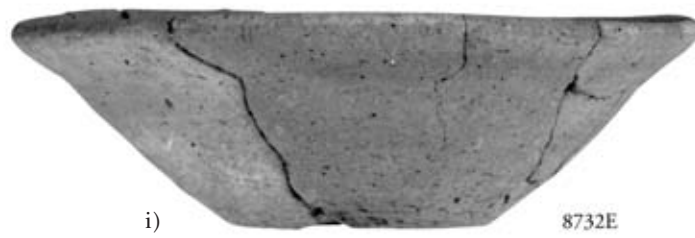
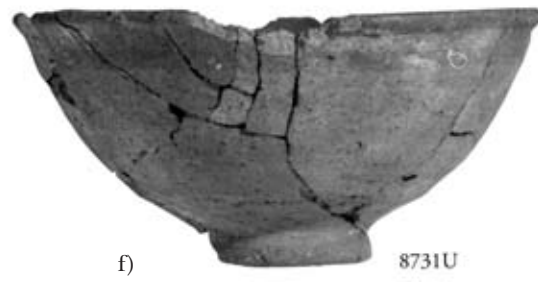
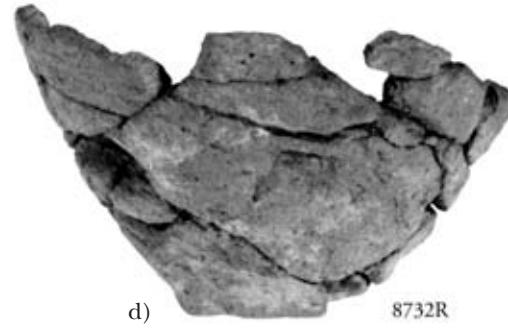
b) Execution pit L1055 *in situ* and execution pit L1016 after removing the fill



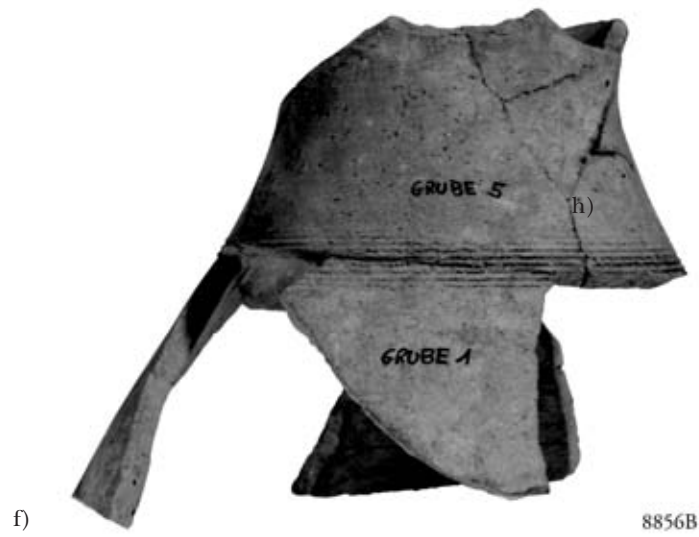
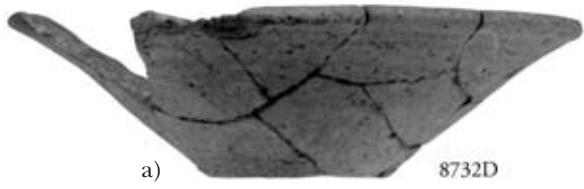
a) Execration pit L1016

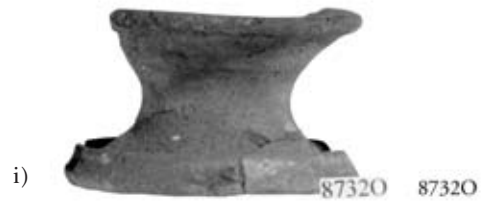
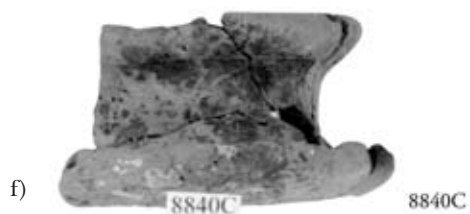


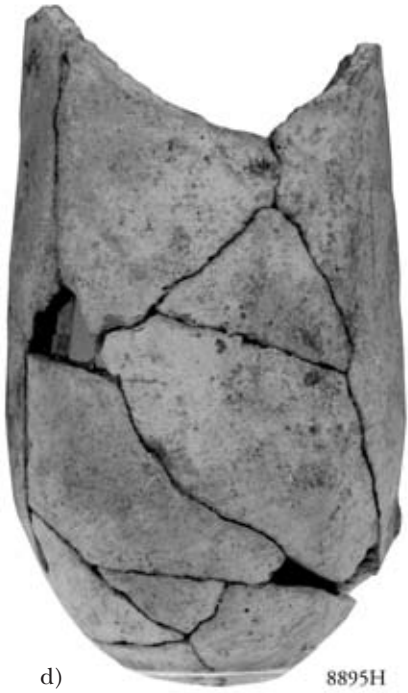
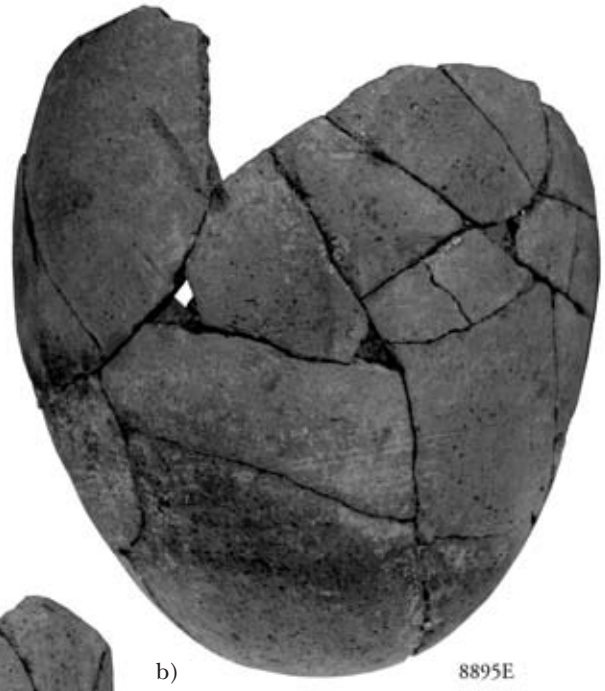
b) Execration pit L1016



L1016









a) 8895K



b) 8895B



c) 8894T



d) 8895T



e) 8894X



f) 8894Y



a)

8895S



b)

8895G



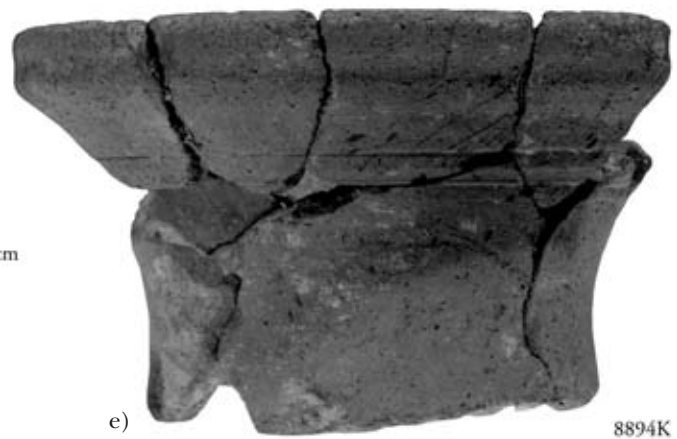
d)

8895C



c)

8892B

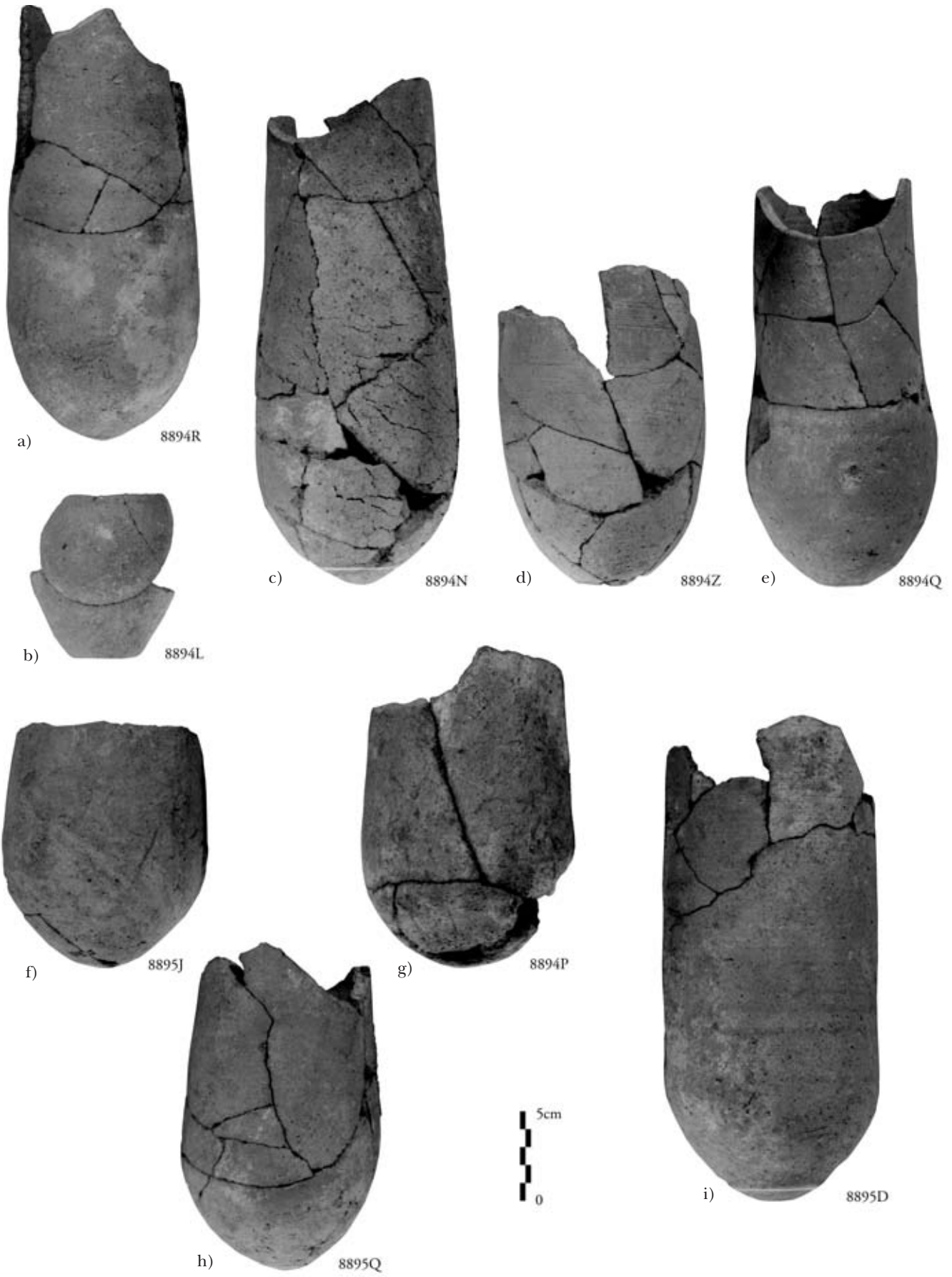


e)

8894K



L1016





a)

8895N



b)

8895K



c)

8895P



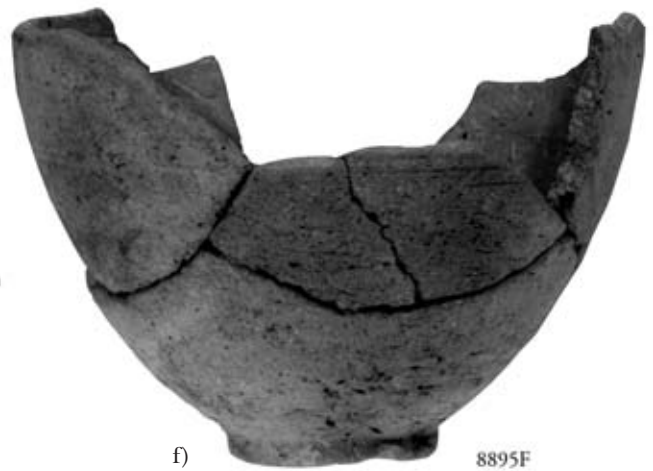
d)

8894J



e)

8895M



f)

8895F

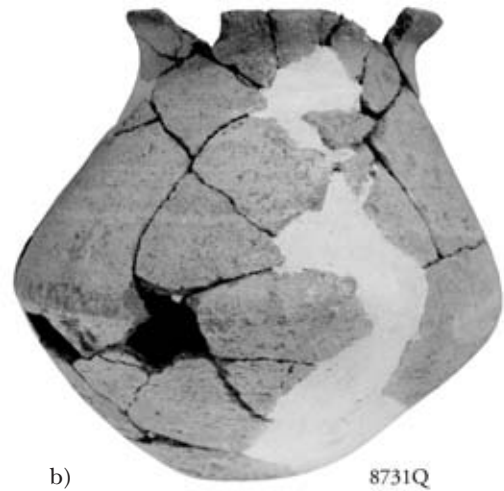


L1016



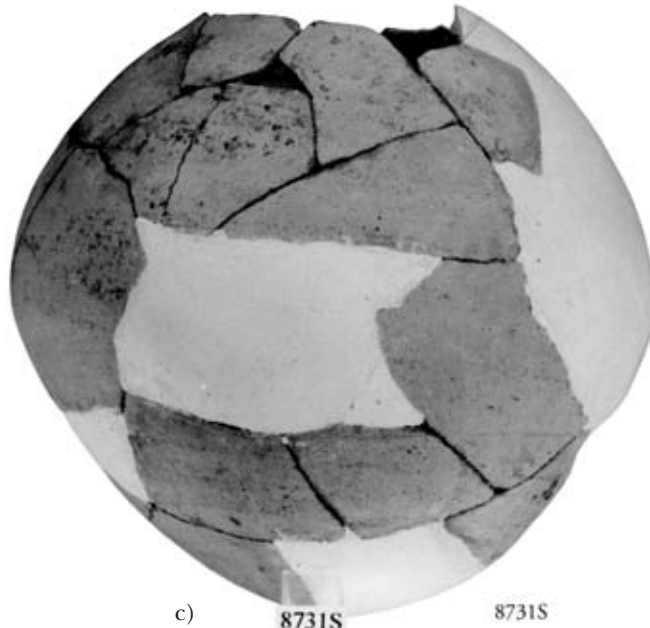
a)

8731R



b)

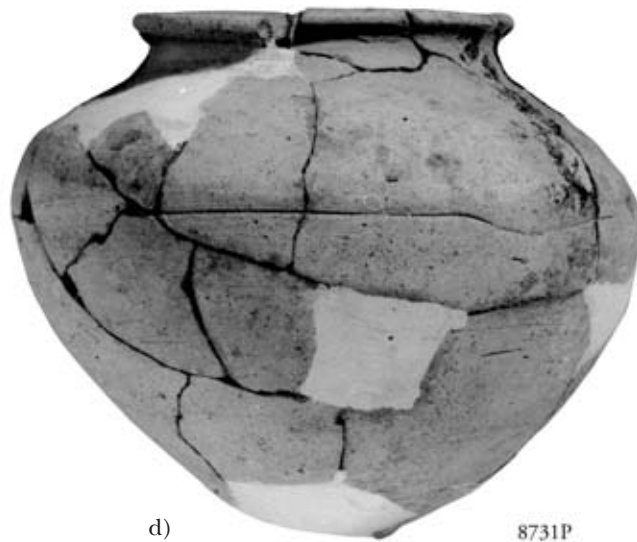
8731Q



c)

8731S

8731S



d)

8731P



L1016



a) Foundation deposit L1057 *in situ*



b) Objects from the foundation deposit L1057



a) Ring-based bowl Inv. No. 8739

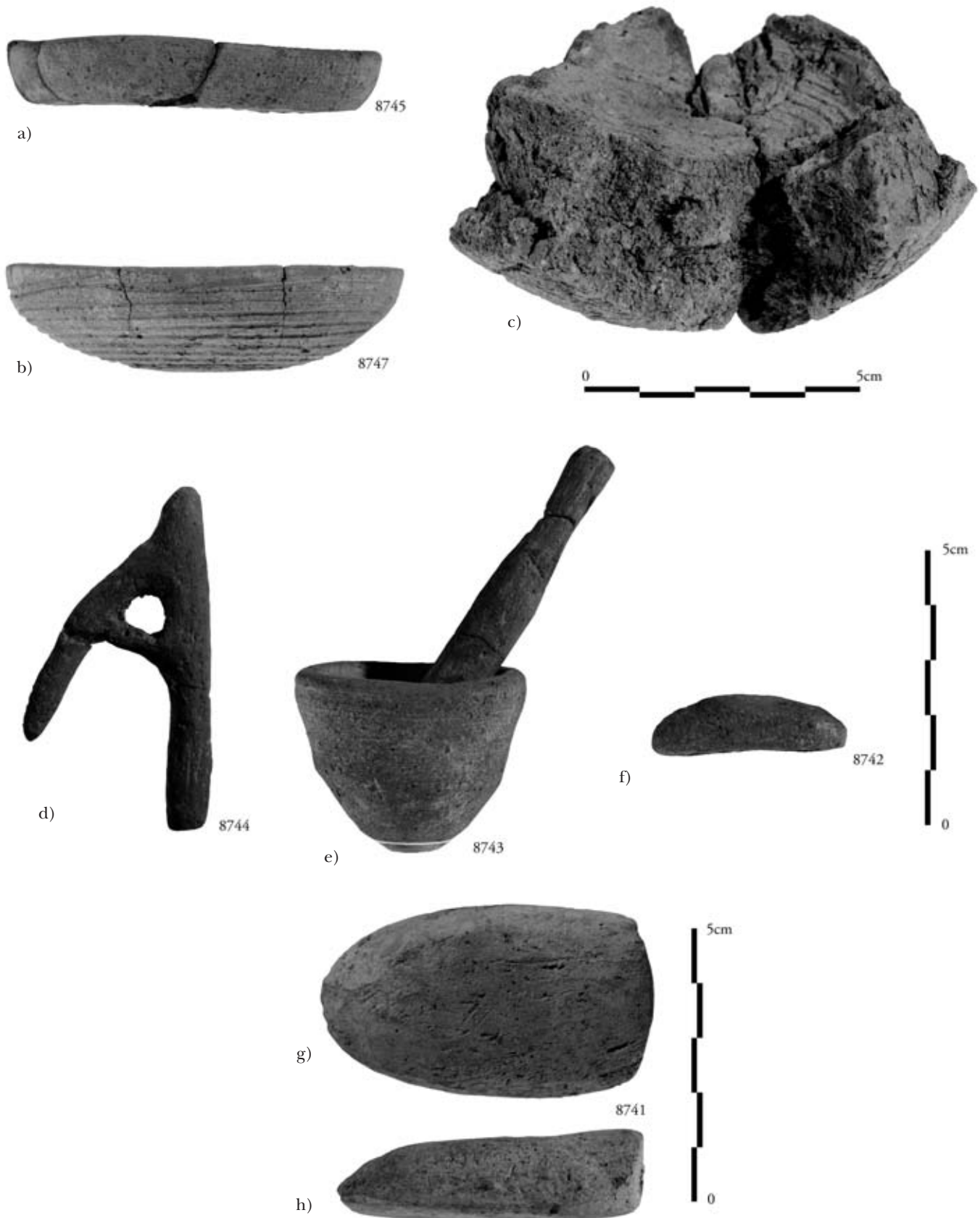


b) Model basket Inv. No. 8740



c) Model sieve Inv. No. 8746





a) Model sieve Inv. No. 8745; b) Model basket with a sieve Inv. No. 8747; c) Lump of mud; d) Model *m*-hoe Inv. No. 8744; e) Model mortar and model pestle Inv. No. 8743, 1 and 2; f) Model piece of bread Inv. No. 8742; g) Model piece of meat Inv. No. 8741, view from the top; h) Model piece of meat Inv. No. 8741, side view

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Plate VIII	L1016, Inv. Nos. 8895S, 8895G, 8895C, 8892B and 8894K	Plate XIVc	Lump of mud
Plate IX	L1016, Inv. Nos. 8894R, 8894L, 8894N, 8894Z, 8894Q, 8895Q, 8895D, 8895J and 8894P	Plate XIVd	Model <i>m</i> -hoe Inv. No. 8744
Plate X	L1016, Inv. Nos. 8895N, 8895K, 8895P, 8895M, 8894J and 8895F	Plate XIVE	Model mortar and model pestle Inv. No. 8743, 1 and 2
		Plate XIVf	Model piece of bread Inv. No. 8742
		Plate XIVg	Model piece of meat Inv. No. 8741, view from the top
		Plate XIVh	Model piece of meat Inv. No. 8741, side view

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