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Research on Roman Nag el-Tawil in Upper Egypt

Field-Work 2011/2012*

Introduction

In the course of a cooperation project between the Austrian Archaeological Institute and the Swiss Institute for Architectural and Archaeological Research on Egypt the ancient structures of the Upper-Egyptian settlement Nag el-Tawil¹ (located about 20 km north of Aswan²) were studied in 2011 and 2012. The focus of the project was the settlement structure, history and the supra-regional function of the site. Due to specific local circumstances our research mainly focused on the dominating monument of ancient Nag el-Tawil: a monumental sandstone structure on the western bank of the Nile (figs. 1 and 2) previously described by Horst Jaritz in 1972³ and currently a tourist attraction for boat trips. Through the combination of geophysical and geomorphological surveys, an analysis of the surface pottery and selected excavation trenches, research by the Swiss Institute in 2008 and 2009 suggested the existence of a Roman settlement in this location.

40 years after the initial study of the monumental sandstone structure it will again be analyzed here. This is necessary because the structure is endangered through its exposed location. For the first time the structure was completely documented stone-by-stone which led to the modification and refinement of previous results.

Field-work and discussion

The front of the structure is located directly along the river and depending on the water levels of the Nile it is sometimes even under water. Algae growth on the walls demonstrates that the water level reached a height of at least 84.90 m over a longer period of time and the structure was halfway submerged. The ancient topography – including the level of the Nile – in the Greco-Roman period is difficult to determine because the landscape in the first cataract region was

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¹ The description of the field-work is an extended version of Steskal (in print).

² On ancient Aswan/Syene cf. von Pilgrim et al. 2010, 179–224; von Pilgrim – Bruhn – Kelany 2004, 119–148; von Pilgrim et al. 2006, 215–277; von Pilgrim et al. 2008, 305–356; Müller 2010a, 217–256; Müller 2010b, 429–448.

³ Jaritz 1973, 183–193. The name Nag' el-Hagar was used on the map material available to Jaritz.



1 Quay walls of Nag el-Tawil at the west bank of the Nile



3 Southern jetty of the quay walls

completely altered through the construction of the two dams in the 20th century. In the course of these activities the level of the Nile was possibly raised 2 m higher than it was in the Greco-Roman period⁴. Inland the structure leans against a steep bank and is partially covered by sand. Horst Jaritz discovered further architectural remains to the south of the structure but they no longer exist⁵.

The monument consists of a southern and a northern platform-like construction made of local sandstone masonry. The southern platform (figs. 3–6) measures 21.18×5.81 m (in the north) and 5.29 m (in the south); the northern platform (figs. 7–10) measures 7.80×2.13 m (in the north) and 4.24 m (in the south)⁶. Between these platforms is a middle section that is 6.08 m wide in the east; some blocks are rotated out of the axis and the wall becomes wider to the west. At the western end

of the wall it measures 6.43 m. The slightly shifted masonry blocks give the structure the appearance of a concave curve⁷. In total the front of the structure is 34.98 m long.

The shell of the masonry is basically made of isodomic headers and stretchers that were not consistently placed throughout. In a couple of places the masonry must be described as pseudo-isodomic. The U-shaped wall was placed against the hill and is 1.70–1.80 m wide. Behind the shell are irregularly placed but layered rubble and ashlar sandstones that backed the ashlar masonry of the shell. The shell consists of ashlar blocks of sandstone with dressed margins about 3 cm wide. The boss was not removed. The ashlar blocks do not have any anathyrosis but fit together well. The vertical joints of the courses above each other were mainly shifted against each other in order to assure a high amount of strength and stability. The ashlar of the dry masonry construction⁸ were shaped either rectangular or trapezoidal. At an absolute height of 84.18 m (the eighth course from the top) the foundation of the southern platform projects out by 20–23 cm.

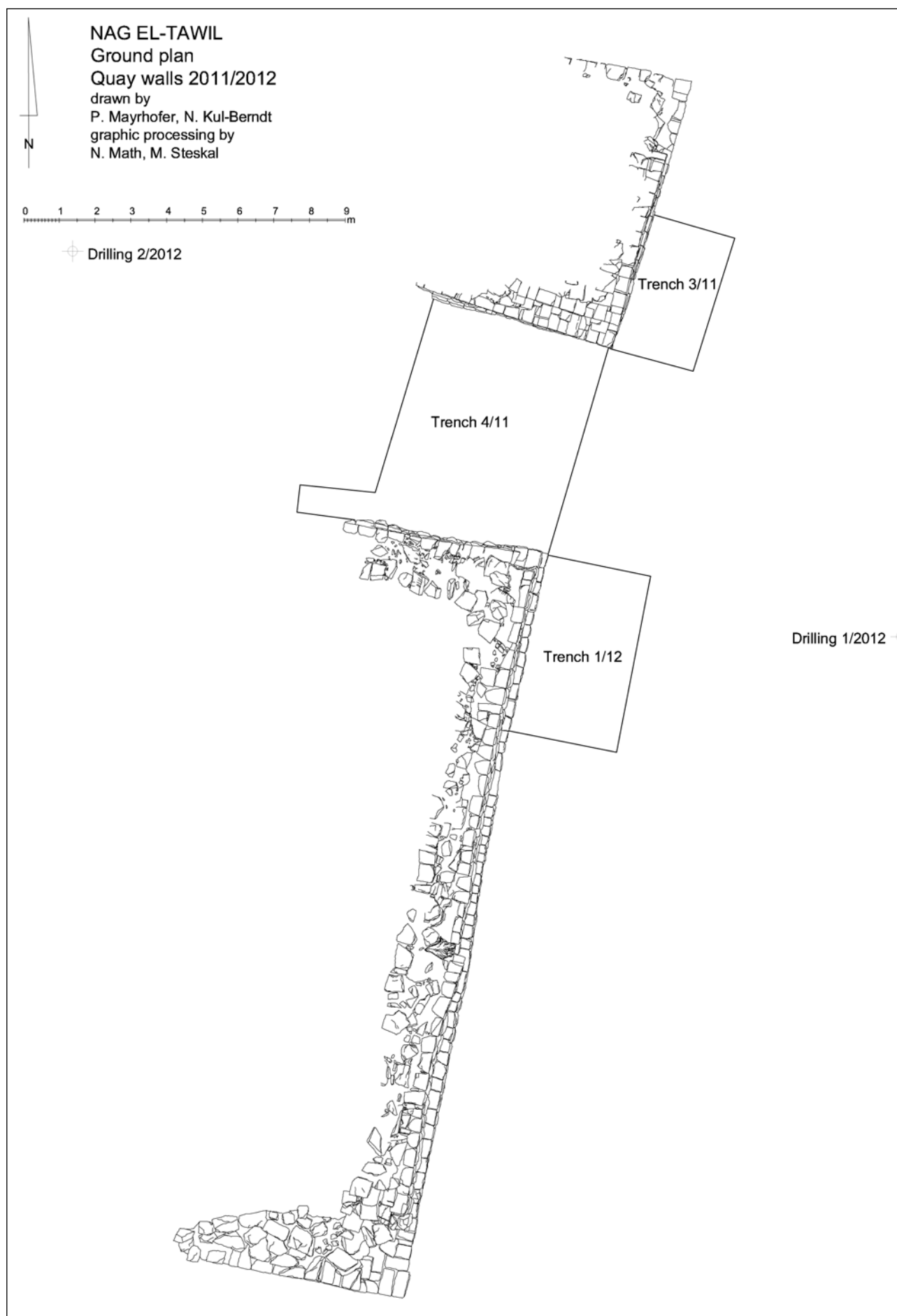
⁴ Cf. Locher 1999, 271–273.

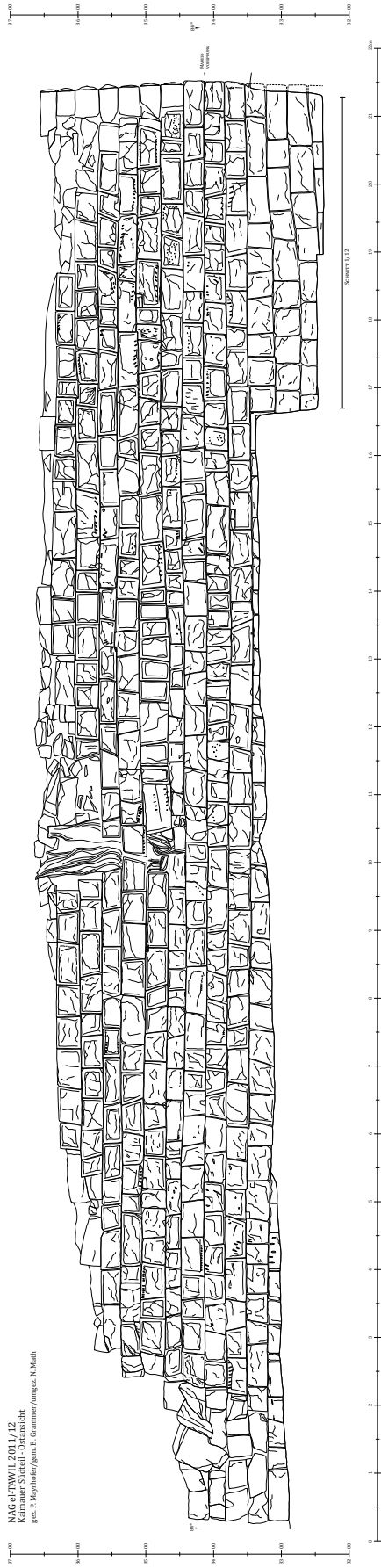
⁵ Jaritz 1973, 185 mentions a possible well (*saqia*) or a nilometer as well as another wall perpendicular to the bank. Neither one of these two constructions was connected architecturally with the quay wall.

⁶ By the northern platform Jaritz 1973, 185–186 incorrectly reconstructs the same length (»21 m«) as by the southern platform. As a result his calculation for the total length of »about 50 m« is inaccurate.

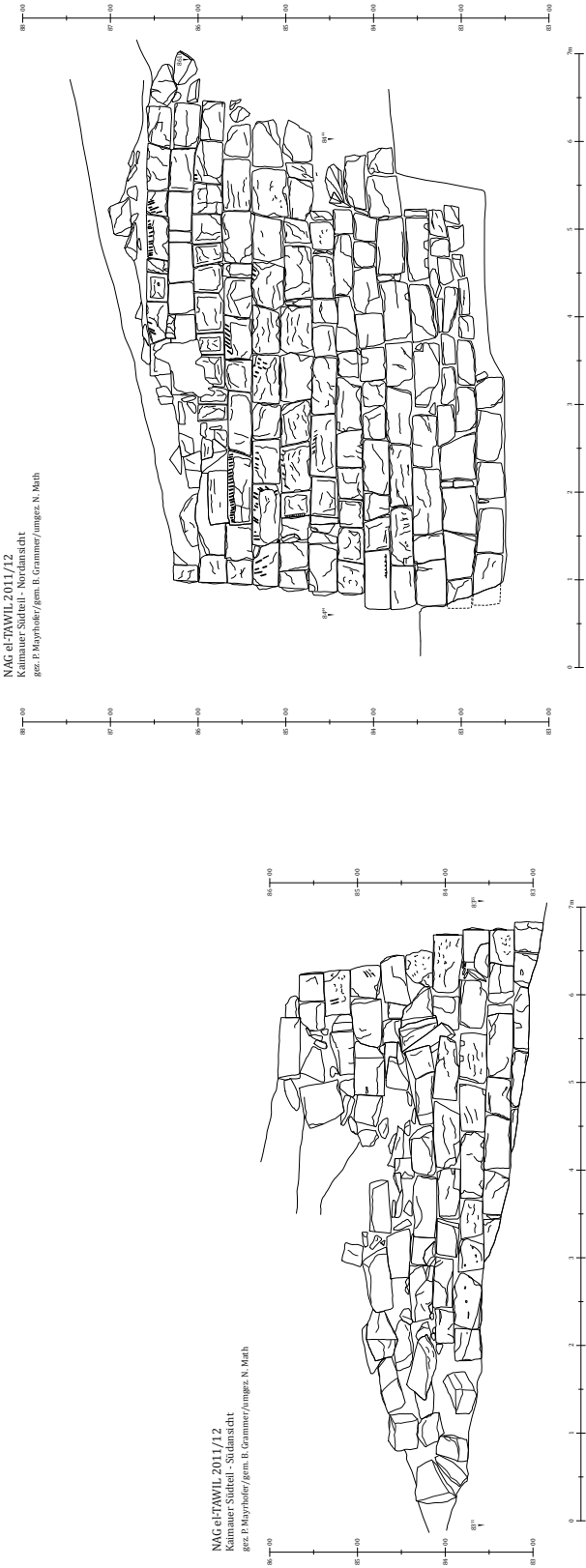
⁷ Jaritz 1973, 185 claims that the fronts of both ashlar blocks had a slight concave curve; this could not be verified.

⁸ The clay between the joins did not function as a bonding agent but instead was washed up. The use of brackets could not be confirmed.





4 Southern jetty of the quay walls. View from east

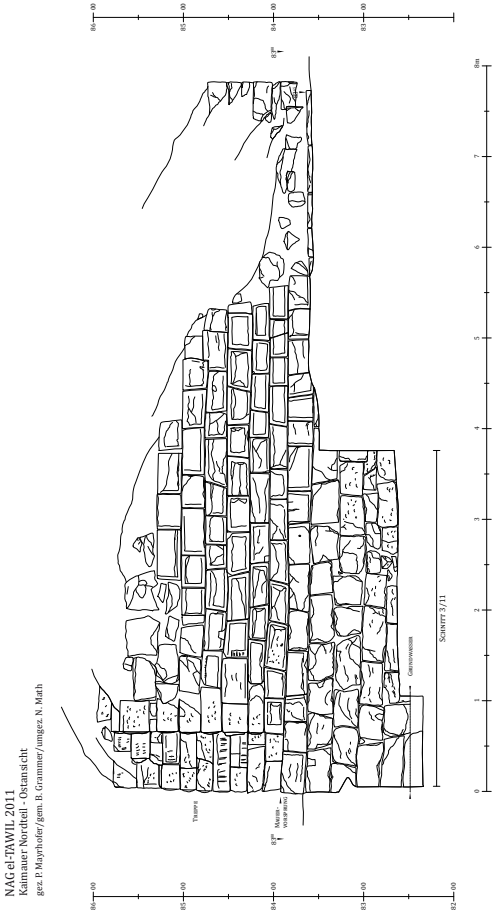


5 Southern jetty of the quay walls. View from south

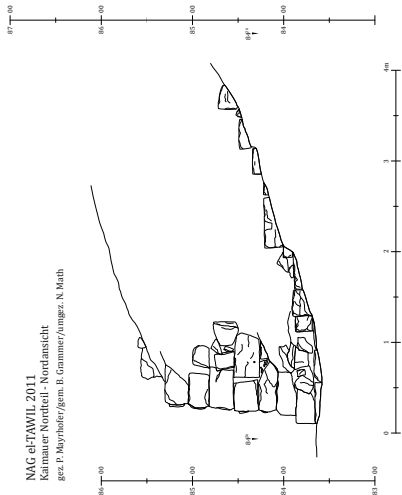
6 Southern jetty of the quay walls. View from north



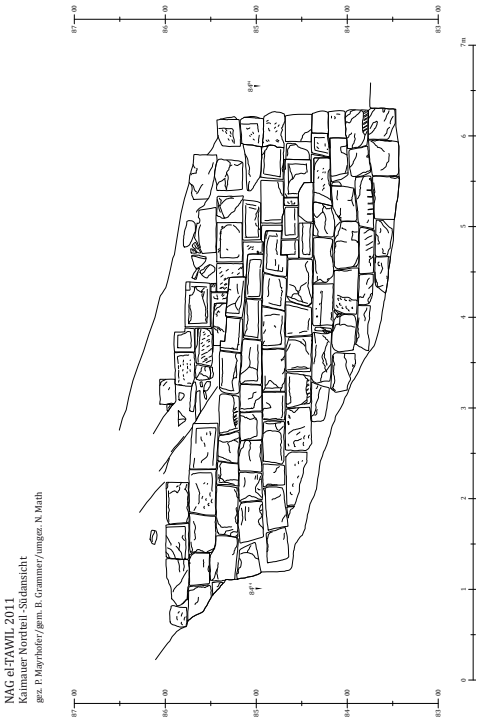
7 Northern jetty of the quay walls



8 Northern jetty of the quay walls. View from east



9 Northern jetty of the quay walls. View from south



10 Northern jetty of the quay walls. View from north

The northern platform is similar and the foundation projects out by 14 cm at an absolute height of 83.88 m (also the eighth course from the top). In general a certain aesthetic approach can be detected in the way the masonry was designed, as for example in the margins and the remaining bosses. Below the projection of the foundation, the masonry is no longer made in a fashion meant to be seen. The ashlar blocks appear to have been chiseled into their final shape on site and any acceptable stone material delivered – irrespective of its size – was used. As a result stones that did not fit the usual height of the courses were also incorporated into the wall. The different heights of the courses⁹ could only be compensated through the individual dressing of the stones on site. During the placement of the stones special attention was paid in order to avoid unfavorable joins.

On the southern side of the northern platform a 0.63 m wide staircase can be identified. The steps are 18–20 cm high and 26–27 cm deep and lead down to the projecting foundation. The upper end of the staircase is not preserved.

The sandstone ashlar blocks reveal some weathering. Aside from algae, mold/mushroom growth has been identified. The southern platform was extensively damaged through an ingrown palm tree that cracked open the masonry; it has died in the meantime. Further damage is done because pleasure boats are frequently docked at this place and the stones of the masonry are used as anchors. The uncontrolled exposure of the construction and its surroundings to tourists arriving by boat and using the area as a stop on their trips poses a severe threat. If we compare the situation of the monument in 1972¹⁰ with today the degree of the destruction that has already taken place becomes obvious: Around 15 % of the masonry has vanished within the last 40 years.

The entire construction was built on the geological sedimentation layer and the excavation of a foundation pit was not necessary. It was possible to exactly cut the sediment. Due to the high water table¹¹ it was impossible to reach the bottom of the foundation of the construction in any of the excavation trenches. The trenches were established so that we could gain better information about the foundations of the structure. In front of the northern part of the structure a trench 3.90 × 2.50 m in size was excavated (trench 3/11, figs. 2. 11–14, table 1). The stratigraphy of the trench showed a sequence of sandy layers and layers of fluvial sedimentation (SE 301–305¹²). The stratigraphy of a similar trench 3.00 × 5.00 m in size in front of the southern part of the structure (trench 1/12, figs. 2. 15–18, table 2) showed the same sequence of sandy layers and layers of fluvial sedimentation (SE 501–502¹³). Due to the high ground water table the final layer of sandstone blocks could not be reached. We can say just as little about the original height of the monument as we can about its bottom edge due to its current preservation (current highest point: 86.60 m). Especially the height must have been a lot higher in order to compensate for the difference in levels between the plateau above the bank in the west (absolute height 89.56 m).

To the north and south of the monument the bank area recedes back a couple of meters as a result of the continual erosion.

⁹ The height of the courses at the southern platform (counted from above): layer 1: 24.5 cm, layer 2: 33–35.5 cm, layer 3: 32–36 cm, layer 4: 28.5–32 cm, layer 5: 30–32 cm, layer 6: 32.5–41 cm, layer 7: 20–35.5 cm, layer 8: 30–38 cm, layer 9: 29.5–36 cm, layer 10: 32–34 cm, layer 11: 29–39 cm, layer 12: 31 cm, layer 13: 32 cm, layer 14: 30 cm, layer 15: preserved height 20 cm. Height of the courses at the northern platform (counted from above): layer 1: 27.5 cm, layer 2: 29.5–31 cm, layer 3: 19–26 cm, layer 4: 25–28 cm, layer 5: 25–27 cm, layer 6: 27–28 cm, layer 7: 18–25 cm, layer 8: 19–23 cm, layer 9: 25 cm, layer 10: 29–32 cm, layer 11: 30–34 cm, layer 12: 28–30 cm, layer 13: 25 cm, layer 14: 26 cm.

¹⁰ According to the pictures published by Jaritz 1973, pls. 76–77.

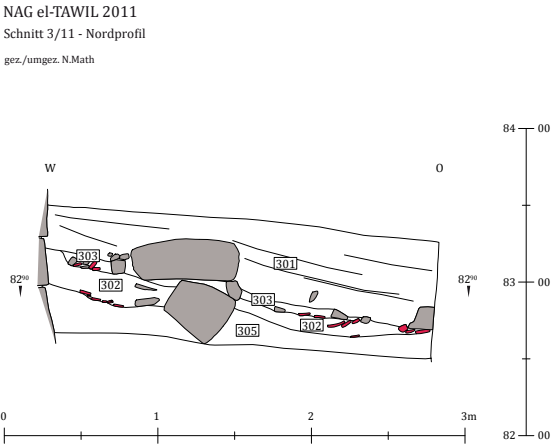
¹¹ The groundwater level was measured in the trenches along the front (trench 3/11 and 1/12) at an absolute height of 82.45 m and 82.49 m (measured at the end of January 2011 and 2012 respectively).

¹² SE = Stratigrafische Einheit (stratigraphic unit). SE 301: disturbed, modern layer (no finds); SE 302: clayey fluvial sedimentation plus collapsed blocks of the quay walls; SE 303: sandy fluvial sedimentation plus collapsed blocks of the quay walls (no finds); SE 304: aeolian sand (no finds); SE 305: clayey fluvial sedimentation (no finds).

¹³ SE 501: disturbed, modern layer (no finds); SE 502: clayey fluvial sedimentation.



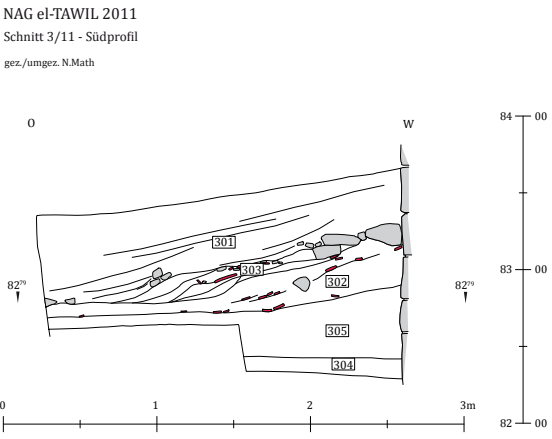
11 Trench 3/11. Northern section



12 Trench 3/11. Northern section

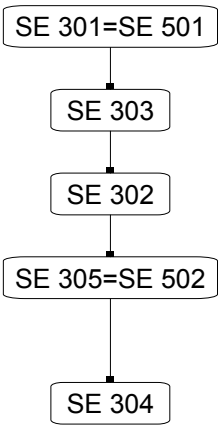


13 Trench 3/11. Southern section



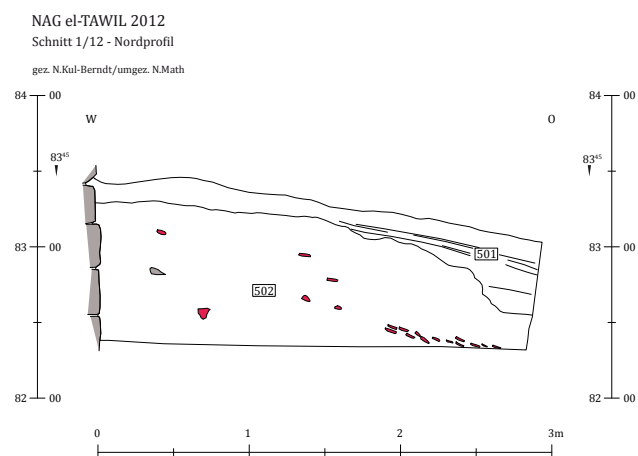
14 Trench 3/11. Southern section

Table 1: Harris-Matrix of trench 3/11





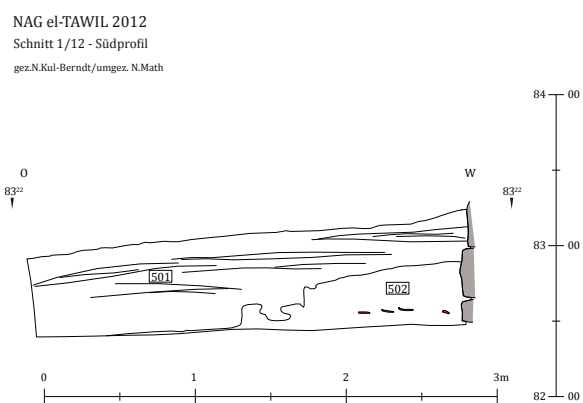
15 Trench 1/12. Northern section



16 Trench 1/12. Northern section



17 Trench 1/12. Southern section



18 Trench 1/12. Southern section

Table 2: Harris-Matrix of trench 1/12

SE 501=SE 301

SE 502=SE 305

Through the complete documentation of the sandstone monument on the Nile bank, the structure can be interpreted as a quay and shipping pier that consisted of a southern and a northern mole. Earlier theories concerning a possible corridor or entrance that could lead to a temple on the higher level¹⁴, or also the existence of a nilometer could not be verified. In respect to its construction, the monumental Roman staircase at the neighboring site of Elephantine¹⁵ (fig. 19) resembles the monument at Nag el-Tawil: the monument is located north of the temple complex on the edge of the old harbor basin in front of the city of Elephantine and consists of two high, rectangular platforms with comparable masonry of sandstone. An interpretation as a nilometer can be excluded for Nag el-Tawil based on lacking water gauges and markings. The absence of a wide staircase between the two platforms in Nag el-Tawil suggests that the constructions would have had different functions. In order to define the function of the whole structure a trench 5.38 × 6.41 m in size was carried out between the northern and southern jetty of the structure (trench 4/11, layers 401–407¹⁶, figs. 2. 20–21, table 3). Although Horst Jaritz assumed a staircase between the two parts of the quay wall¹⁷, neither remains of the staircase nor evidence for the removal of the stairs could be found. Based on the excavation the maximum horizontal extent was established and a staircase or final back wall between the two platforms can be excluded. The building can therefore only be described as a mooring installation.



19 Roman staircase of Elephantine

Excavations in the area of the foundation suggest that the structure at Nag el-Tawil dates to the mid-imperial period¹⁸. The find material analyzed by Pamela Rose (see below) is mainly made of local Aswani clays, with a smaller amount made from Nile silt wares and very rarely marl clay wares. A concentration of dipping vessels (*qawadis*) was discovered that were used in connection with a *saqia*, a well with a bucket wheel. Such a *saqia* was excavated by the Swiss colleagues in 2009 in the ancient settlement area of Nag el-Tawil. The assemblage of finds from the layers of fluvial sedimentation appears homogenous in character throughout the deposits and mainly dates to the 2nd century A.D., perhaps lasting into the early 3rd century. For the quay walls themselves a *terminus post quem* in the 2nd century A.D. could be determined (SE 406 in trench 4/11). Thus the construction of the quay walls took place during a period of political stability and prosperity¹⁹.

¹⁴ Jaritz 1973, 187 suggests the existence of a temple in the plateau above the sandstone structure but this could not be substantiated. The presumed location is not in line with the central axis of this structure.

¹⁵ Seidlmayer 2001, 56.

¹⁶ SE 401: aeolian sand (no finds); SE 402: clayey fluvial sedimentation; SE 403: disturbed, modern layer; SE 404: sandy fluvial sedimentation (no finds); SE 405: clayey fluvial sedimentation (no finds); SE 406: clayey fluvial sedimentation (*terminus post quem* for the construction of the quay walls); SE 407: sandy fluvial sedimentation (no finds).

¹⁷ Jaritz 1973, 191. Thus the other comparisons with Kubôsch in the district of Murwaw/West and Ajûala in the district Abû Hôr/East mentioned by Jaritz 1973, 187–191 are not entirely relevant.

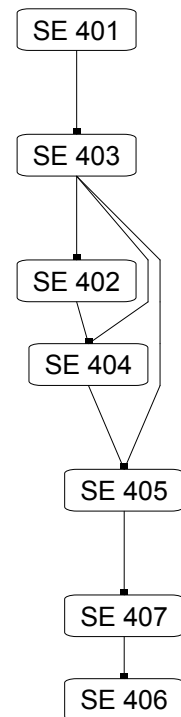
¹⁸ Similarly already Jaritz 1973, 192–193.

¹⁹ Cf. Locher 1999: »Ausser gelegentlichen Besuchen von Angehörigen des Kaiserhauses wie Germanicus im Jahr 19p, Septimius Severus mit Familie im Jahr 200p und Diokletian im Jahr 298p führte die Kataraktregion ein ruhiges Dasein in der Provinz fernab von den innen- und aussenpolitischen Stürmen des Römischen Reiches ...«.

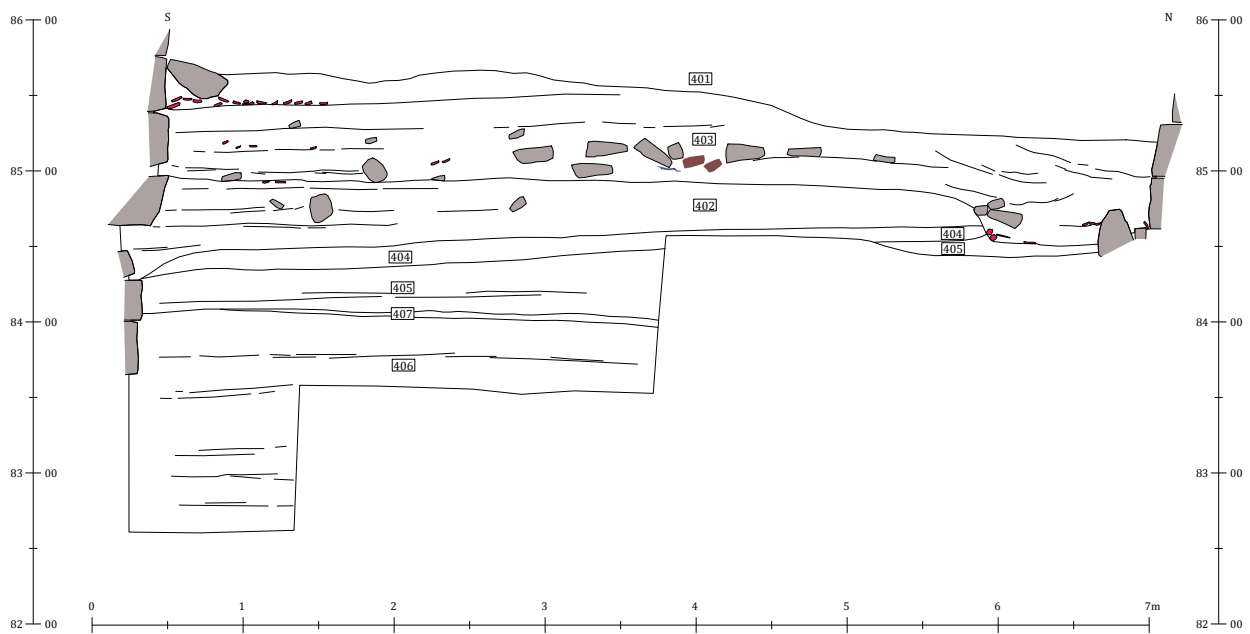


20 Trench 4/11. Western section

Table 3: Harris-Matrix of trench 4/11



NAG el-TAWIL 2011
 Schnitt 4/11 - Westprofil
 gez./umgez. N.Math



21 Trench 4/11. Western section

The find spot with its monumental mooring structure was quite likely commercially dependent on neighboring centers of the cataract region, Syene, Elephantine und Philae. Particularly Syene was considered an important trade location for commodities that were traded between Egypt and Nubia²⁰. In Nag el-Tawil agricultural products from the area could be shipped to the centers. The cataract region relied especially on the acquisition of agricultural goods since its commercial structure was not markedly agrarian²¹. The site could also be used for the exchange of draft animals that were needed for towing ships; archaeologically detected shelters for animals support such an idea²².

The question remains whether Nag el-Tawil had a closed rural structure that was also perceived as such in antiquity based on its administration and infrastructure. It can be assumed that the entire fertile Nile bank up to the cataract region but also downstream was used agriculturally and thus a fragmented but continuous settlement structure must be expected.

M. Steskal

The Pottery from Nag el-Tawil

The pottery presented here was found during two short and interrupted seasons of excavation. It was examined by the author on a brief visit after the end of the excavation in 2012; drawings had already been made by Nicola Math and Neşe Kul-Berndt on the basis of the selection of diagnostic fragments by Sabine Ladstätter, to all of whom the author is most grateful. It was not possible to try and reconstruct vessels, nor to look systematically for joins between contexts in the time available. However, joins were noted between pieces from contexts SE 302 and 402, and SE 402 and 403.

The sherds were badly damaged by exposure to water and in many cases the surfaces were lost. In the case of Nile silt fabrics in particular, the surfaces were soft and powdery and did not preserve details of shape.

Fabrics

Fabrics were categorised on the basis of visual examination of a fresh break using a 10× hand lens. For the distribution of fabric groups across layers see table 4. From the table it can be seen that throughout the excavated layers the majority of the pottery was local in origin, and made use of the distinctive clays of the Aswan region. These local wares showed a range of colour, texture and hardness, and this probably reflects differences in clay processing and preparation in multiple centres of production which made use of geologically similar sources of raw material²³.

²⁰ Locher 1999, 274.

²¹ Locher 1999, 286–289.

²² In trench 2/11 (size: 13 × 5 m) on the sandy plain above the quay walls the southeastern corner of a stable was excavated. The mud brick walls, each with a length of at least 3,70 m, were built on sand without any proper foundations. On the southern wall four basins sized ca. 60 × 40 cm in size could be discerned that can be interpreted as drinking troughs for cattle. They clearly prove the function of the structure as a stable. This correlates with the results of the Swiss investigations in 2009 that also discovered shelters for animals in close proximity.

²³ See for example Ballet et al. 1991, 140–143; Rodziewicz 1992, 106; Tomber 2006, 12–13.

Table 4: Distribution of fabric groups by layers

Layer	Aswani fabrics (%)	Silt fabrics (%)	Marl fabrics (%)	No.
SE 302	58.2	38.8	3	701
SE 402	73.1	25.2	1.7	1104
SE 403	60	38	2	200
SE 406	58	41	1	100
SE 502	87.7	11	1.3	301

Nile silt wares, exploiting the river sediments, were less common than Aswani wares. Whilst many body sherds were identified, all were badly eroded and few diagnostic sherds were present. Marl clay wares, derived from limestone-derived desert clays, were very rare in the assemblage, as were imported wares.

Aswan fabrics

The characteristics of early Aswani fabrics have been widely discussed, and a range of terminology employed²⁴. The following classification is based purely on visual and tactile properties.

NTA1. This is the commonly-recognised Aswan pink paste of the earlier Roman period²⁵. Three subdivisions are made: 1a, the ›standard‹ Aswani paste; 1b, containing larger quantities of sand than commonly found; and 1c, characterised by the softness of the paste and the often large size of the inclusions²⁶.

NTA2. This is a hard gritty fabric containing common fine sand and sparse red particles, used for thin-walled wares as well as larger forms²⁷. The fabric is usually yellowish in colour, shading to light brown in less well fired examples. An often-noted feature is its grey outer surface that appears almost blue in colour. This appears to be a result of firing rather than a separately applied coating, and as far as can be seen does not necessarily occur over the entire surface.

NTA3. A softer fabric than those noted above, pale yellow to pink in colour shading to orange-brown at the core. This may have some silt admixture in it although the other inclusions, sand, sparse red and white particles, are identical to those of NTA1²⁸. No organic material was noted.

NTA4. This is a coarse, soft fabric that has larger inclusions (particularly red pellets) than seen in the fabrics noted above, and can include a small amount of organic temper.

Nile silt fabrics

NTS1. A soft, coarse fabric containing common medium and some large organic temper.

NTS2. A finer fabric containing small quantities of fine organic temper, sand, mica, and occasionally fine white opaque particles.

NTS3. A fine, very sandy fabric without visible added organic temper.

NTS4. A dense, relatively hard silt fabric with few inclusions, used for amphorae²⁹.

Marl fabrics

These were extremely rare in the assemblage and it appears that the requirement for robust and impermeable pots, for which marl clays were often used in Middle and Lower Egypt, was met by Aswani products.

²⁴ For example, Tomber 2001, 27; Adams 1986, 526–538, Group AI; Rodziewicz 1992, 106; Adams ND, 44–50.

²⁵ Adams 1986, 526; Gempeler 1992, 20, Tongemisch IA.

²⁶ Adams ND, 49–50, Ware ARB.

²⁷ The fabric is not immediately identifiable amongst the Aswani fabrics used for thin-walled ware as cited in Tomber 2006, 27; the closest is perhaps her Aswan Fabric 3. See also Gempeler 1992, 20, Tongemisch IB.

²⁸ Tomber 2006, 12 f. makes the suggestion that the addition of silt is a regular feature of Aswani fabrics; see also Gempeler 1992, 20, Tongemisch II.

²⁹ Lawall 2003 164, fabric NSC.

NTM1. A light brown unzoned fabric with a white firing surface, containing sand, sparse opaque white particles, and a little organic material. It can appear poorly mixed with lenses of paler material visible in the break. This is perhaps the equivalent of Tomber's Marl Fabric 3³⁰.

NTM2. A greenish-white, soft, porous fabric, containing red and white particles, common sand and many voids. It is known from Roman-period Luxor (personal observation).

Imported wares

Only one fragment of an imported vessel was noted, from the disturbed context SE 403. The fabric suggests it comes from an LRA1 amphora dating to the fifth to seventh century³¹. However, the fragment showed no trace of the ribbing characteristic of the type, and raises the possibility that it might belong to a class of Dressel 2–4 vessels using a very similar Cilician fabric³². These are dated from the second into the earlier third century. Part of a *dipinto* in red paint was preserved on the sherd.

Forms

There is replication of forms amongst the Aswani fabrics distinguished above, and to a lesser extent between Aswani and silt wares, most notably in the case of drainpipes. In view of this, and the overwhelming predominance of Aswani wares, the vessels are presented by form in the catalogue below rather than by fabric group.

Parallels are drawn mainly from sites in the Aswan region, Upper Egypt, and the Eastern Desert, and the dates quoted for them are those given by the authors³³.

Open forms

Open forms were relatively uncommon, and in only rarely were complete profiles noted. In the light of this some characteristic base types from open forms are illustrated separately.

Rounded bowls with inturned rims

Parallels can be found at Elephantine (mid-1st to 2nd c.)³⁴, in Aswan (2nd–3rd c.)³⁵, in the Eastern Desert at Mons Claudianus (mid-1st to early 3rd c.)³⁶, and at Karnak North (2nd c.)³⁷.

1. 302-4A/2. NTA4. No surface coatings remain. E: 7.5YR 8/4 I: 7.5YR 8/4 B: 5YR7/4³⁸.
2. 302-4/4. NTA1c. Traces dull red slip on exterior, self slip interior. E: 5YR7/6 (slip) I: 5YR8/4 B: 5YR7/4.
3. 402-2/1. NTA1a. Possible traces of red on exterior, interior lost. E: 5YR7/6 I: 5YR7/6 B: 7.5YR7/6.

³⁰ Tomber 2006, 11.

³¹ Peacock – Williams 1991, 185–187, Class 44.

³² Tomber 2006, 168 f.

³³ This is not the place to discuss details of the dating of the various assemblages used for comparison here, but it should be noted particularly that the two available comparative corpora from Elephantine, Rodziewicz 2005 and Gempeler 1992, sometimes attribute different datings to what appear to be closely similar types. The Mons Claudianus and Mons Porphyrites publications (Tomber 2006; Tomber 2001; Tomber 2007b) have the most closely controlled and detailed ceramic chronology.

³⁴ Rodziewicz 2005, pls. 68–69 nos. 1118. 1119. 1123. 1133.

³⁵ Jaritz – Rodziewicz 1993, 125 and fig. 8 no. 51.

³⁶ Tomber 2006, 101 f. and fig. 1.39 (bowls, dishes and casseroles type 15). Note that in both the Mons Claudianus and the Mons Porphyrites publications (Tomber 2001; Tomber 2007b) dates are cited by imperial reigns and dynasties; here the horizon dates given in Tomber 2001, 243 are used.

³⁷ Jacquet-Gordon 2012, fig. 152h.

³⁸ E: Exterior, I: Interior, B: Break.

Rounded bowl with inturned rim and groove around the maximum diameter

This type occurs both in Aswan wares (as here) and in silt fabrics. Parallels in Aswan fabrics can be found at Elephantine (4th–6th c.)³⁹; the Eastern Desert at Mons Porphyrites, where the type is a marker for the late Roman period, although the fabric of the vessel is not specified⁴⁰; Karnak North (Aswani, 2nd c.)⁴¹; and Coptos (Aswani, 4th–5th c.)⁴². The generally later date attributed to the type suggests that the Karnak North date may be too early.

4. 302-1/9. NTA1c. Traces orange-red coating on interior and exterior, slight polish interior. E: 2.5YR 7/4, 2.5YR6/8 (slip) I: 2.5YR7/4, 2.5YR6/8 (slip) B: 7.5YR8/3.

Hemispherical bowl with flat pedestal base

Parallels can be found at Elephantine (mid-1st–2nd c.)⁴³, and the Eastern Desert at Mons Claudianus where the most similar example, no. 496, is late 1st to mid-2nd c.⁴⁴.

5. 302-7/2. NTA1c. Self slipped. E: 2.5YR6/4-6/6 I: 2.5YR6/6-7/6 B: 2.5YR5/6-7/6.

Bowl with high maximum diameter and tapered rim

Parallels can be found at Elephantine (mid-1st into 2nd c.⁴⁵, and the 2nd–4th c.⁴⁶); also in Aswan (2nd to start of the 3rd c.)⁴⁷.

6. 302-6/13. NTA2. Drips of red on interior and exterior. Warped, especially around base, perhaps from handling whilst wet. Base badly finished. E: 10YR7/4 I: 10YR7/4 B: 10YR7/4 to 5Y8/1.

Bowls with high maximum diameter and bead rim

Parallels can be found at Elephantine (mid-1st into 2nd c.⁴⁸; and late 1st to the end of the 4th c.⁴⁹); and at Mons Claudianus (the late 1st to mid-2nd c.)⁵⁰.

7. 302-4/8. NTA4. Possible traces of red slip on exterior, interior may be self slipped. E: 5YR6/6 (slip) I: 5YR7/4 B: 2.5YR6/6.

8. 402-1/4. NTA1a. Exterior red slipped. Interior surface lost. E: 2.5YR7/4-2.5YR6/8 I: 2.5YR7/4 B: 2.5YR7/4.

Restricted bowl with externally bevelled inturned rim, incised line below rim

Parallels are known from Elephantine (mid-1st–2nd c.)⁵¹. The form is a marker for the 1st c. A.D. at Mons Porphyrites⁵².

9. 502-3/1. NTA2. Traces orange slip over interior and exterior. E: 5YR6/6 I: 5YR7/6 B: 7.5YR7/6.

³⁹ Gempeler 1992, fig. 71, Form T608a.

⁴⁰ Tomber 2001, 251.

⁴¹ Jacquet-Gordon 2012, fig. 152k.

⁴² Herbert – Berlin 2003, 116–118 and fig. 93, R3.5.

⁴³ Rodziewicz 2005, pl. 68 no. 1122.

⁴⁴ Tomber 2006, 98 and fig. 1.38, bowls, dishes and casseroles type 1.

⁴⁵ Rodziewicz 2005, pl. 68 no. 1103.

⁴⁶ Gempeler 1992, fig. 70, Form T604c.

⁴⁷ Jaritz – Rodziewicz 1993, 122 and fig. 5 no. 12.

⁴⁸ Rodziewicz 2005, pl. 68 nos. 1109–1111.

⁴⁹ Gempeler 1992, fig. 70, Form T605c.

⁵⁰ Tomber 2006, 38 and fig. 1.10, thin-walled ware type 35; see also Tomber 2001, fig. 6.7, no. 13.

⁵¹ Rodziewicz 2005, pl. 69 no. 1145; Gempeler 1992, fig. 65, Form T501b.

⁵² Tomber 2001, 245 and fig. 6.1 no. 3.

Restricted bowls with ledge rims

Parallels for nos. 10 and 11 can be found at Mons Claudianus (mid 1st to early 3rd c., especially the 1st to mid-2nd c.⁵³). No. 12, in which the ledge rim is angled downwards, is also found at Mons Claudianus (mid-1st–3rd c., most common in the late 1st to later 2nd c.⁵⁴).

10. 403-3/08. NTA1c. Surface coating lost. E: 2.5YR7/4 I: 2.5YR7/4-5YR8/4 B: 2.5YR7/4-5YR8/4.

11. 502-4/15. NTA1c. Red slipped interior and exterior. E: 10R7/4-5/6 I: 10R7/4-5/6 B: 10R7/4.

12. 302-3/8. NTS2. Traces red slip on exterior. E: 2.5YR5/6 I: 2.5YR5/6 B: 2.5YR4/6.

Casserole with modelled rim

Approximate parallels are known from the Eastern Desert from Mons Claudianus (2nd half of the 2nd c.)⁵⁵.

13. 403-3/16. NTS2. Uncoated. E: 5YR 5/8 I: 5YR 5/8 B: 5YR 5/8.

Deep bowl with ledge rim and carinated shoulder

The piece has features in common with *qawadis* (see below) in terms of its carinated shoulder and rim form, but has a larger diameter and does not show the flattened, rough finish to the rim that is frequently found on the latter. Similar vessels are known from Elephantine (3rd–4th c.⁵⁶ and the mid-1st–2nd c.⁵⁷).

14. 502-1/5. NTA1a. Traces of red-brown coating on exterior and upper interior. E: 5YR6/4 I: 5YR7/4 B: 5YR7/4.

Carinated casseroles with thickened or ledge rim

Parallels are known from Elephantine (mid-1st into 2nd c.⁵⁸, and 2nd half of the 1st–4th c.⁵⁹); from Aswan (2nd to beginning of the 3rd c.)⁶⁰; Mons Claudianus (mainly mid- to late 2nd c.)⁶¹. No. 18 cannot be exactly paralleled, and the piece is eroded, but its general characteristics associate it with this group.

15. 302-5/14. NTA2. Trace of red slip under rim on exterior, interior dull red. E: 5YR7/4 I: 5YR7/4 B: 5YR6/6.

16. 302-3/4. NTA1a. Traces pale red coating on exterior, interior apparently uncoated. E: 5YR7/4 I: 5YR7/4 B: 5YR7/4.

17. 302-3/1. NTA1a. Trace dull orange-red slip on exterior, and rim top; interior paler, apparently uncoated. E: 2.5YR7/6 I: 2.5YR7/6-7.5YR8/4 B: 2.5YR7/6-7.5YR8/4.

18. 502-1/16. NTA2. Orange slip on exterior and rim top, interior discoloured. E: 5YR7/6 (slip) I: 5YR7/2 B: 5YR6/2.

19. 302-1/29. NTS2. Traces dull red coating on exterior, interior eroded. The rim is burnt. Munsell readings not recorded.

⁵³ Tomber 2006, 115 and fig. 1.44, bowls, dishes and casseroles type 59; also type 61, undated.

⁵⁴ Tomber 2006, 111–113 and fig. 143, bowls dishes and casseroles type 49.

⁵⁵ Tomber 2006, 115 and fig. 1.44, bowls, dishes and casseroles type 58, and also 113 and fig. 1.44, Bowls, dishes and casseroles type 52.

⁵⁶ Gempeler 1992, fig. 89, Form K305.

⁵⁷ Rodziewicz 2005, pl. 78 nos. 1322. 1324.

⁵⁸ Rodziewicz 2005, pl. 64 nos. 1034–1037.

⁵⁹ Gempeler 1992, fig. 84, Form K201c.

⁶⁰ Jaritz – Rodziewicz 1993, 120 f. and fig. 5 nos. 1–3.

⁶¹ Tomber 2006, 110 and fig. 1.42, bowls, dishes and casseroles type 43.

Dish with simple rim and shallow recessed base

Parallels can be found at Elephantine (mid-1st into 2nd c.⁶², and 1st half of the 2nd to the 1st half of the 3rd c.⁶³); and in the Eastern Desert at Mons Claudianus (mid-1st to the 3rd c.: the closest example, no. 696, is late 1st to mid-2nd c.)⁶⁴; and Karnak North (2nd c.)⁶⁵.

20. 402-7/1. NTA1c. Red slip interior and exterior but not on underside of base. E: 10R6/6 (slip) I: 2.5YR 6/8 (slip) B: 10R5/6.

Ledge rim bowls

No. 21 is too small to type confidently, but may perhaps be equated with a piece from Elephantine (mid-1st to 2nd c.)⁶⁶; and one from Mons Claudianus (late 1st to late 2nd c.)⁶⁷. For no. 22, parallels from Elephantine are dated to the mid-1st to 2nd c.⁶⁸, and the 1st quarter of the 3rd c.⁶⁹. The type appears to be influenced by the form of contemporary faience vessels of the 2nd into early 3rd c.⁷⁰.

21. 302-5/12. NTA1a. Exterior has traces orange-brown slip in angle below rim on exterior; possible traces of red on interior? E: 5YR8/4 I: 5YR8/4 B: 5YR7/6.

22. 402-2/6. NTA4. Traces matt red slip on interior and exterior. Underside of base is worn from use. E: 2.5YR6/8 (slip) I: 2.5YR8/4, 2.5YR6/8 (slip) B: 2.5YR7/6.

Bowl with flaring wall, out-turned rim, and internal groove

The rim could belong to a range of bowls and dish types. Parallels are known from Elephantine (mid-1st into 2nd c.⁷¹, and perhaps the 2nd to 3rd c.⁷²); and Mons Claudianus, where Aswani examples are dated to the mid- to late 2nd c.⁷³.

23. 302-4/17. NTA1a. Traces of pink or self slip on rim and underside of rim on exterior, the rest eroded. Munsell readings not recorded.

Shallow bowl with internally thickened rim

No clear parallels for this rather simple form were identified from the Roman imperial period; the closest parallel found, from Elephantine, is dated from the 7th (?) to 8th c.⁷⁴.

24. 502-1/17. NTA3? Fired dark brown with a dark red core. Exterior has a pale coating. E: 7.5YR7/3 I: 7.5YR5/2 B: 2.5YR4/8.

Bowl with squared-off rim

Parallels for this piece are hard to identify. A somewhat similar piece is known from Elephantine, of uncertain date⁷⁵.

25. 302-1/13 NTA1a. Uncoated. E: 5YR8/4 I: 5YR8/4 B: 5YR8/4.

⁶² Rodziewicz 2005, pl. 62 no. 1015.

⁶³ Gempeler 1992, fig. 3, Form T100b.

⁶⁴ Tomber 2006, 121 f. and fig. 1.47, bowls, dishes and casseroles type 90.

⁶⁵ Jacquet-Gordon 2012, fig. 152c.

⁶⁶ Rodziewicz 2005, pl. 72 no. 1220.

⁶⁷ Tomber 2006, 104 and fig. 1.39, bowls, dishes and casseroles type 21.

⁶⁸ Rodziewicz 2005, pl. 70 no. 1154.

⁶⁹ Gempeler 1992, fig. 34, Form T309.

⁷⁰ Tomber 2006, 48 f. and fig. 1.16, Egyptian faience type 12.

⁷¹ For example Rodziewicz 2005, pl. 56 nos. 858. 865. 866; pl. 57 no. 891; pl. 61 no. 981; pl. 72 no. 1202 and others.

⁷² Gempeler 1992, fig. 33, Form T304c.

⁷³ Tomber 2006, 105 and fig. 140, bowls, dishes and casseroles, type 28.

⁷⁴ Gempeler 1992, 114 and fig. 60, Form T383.

⁷⁵ Gempeler 1992, 148 and fig. 83, Form K117.

Bowl with modelled rim

Parallels are known from Elephantine (mid-6th to mid-7th c.)⁷⁶, Tod (end 5th to beginning 6th c.)⁷⁷ and in Nubia (mid-7th to mid-9th c.)⁷⁸.

26. 302-1/16. NTA1c. Traces yellowish slip on interior and exterior. E: 5YR7/4 I: 5YR7/4 B: 5YR7/4.

Bowls with folded rims

This is a well-known type, and can be dated to the later 1st and 2nd c.⁷⁹.

27. 302-1/2. NTA2. Exterior uncoated, yellow with traces light red and a red spot below the ledge on the exterior; possibly originally red coated above the ledge, interior uncoated. E: 10YR8/3-7.5YR 8/4 I: 10YR8/4 B: 10YR7/2.

28. 402-7/4. NTA1c. Traces red slip in fold on exterior, interior uncoated. E: 2.5YR8/4 I: 2.5YR7/6 B: 2.5YR6/6.

Bases from open forms

These cannot be associated with complete forms, as only nos. 5 and 6 in the catalogue provided complete profiles. It is unclear what type of vessel the marl clay base no. 34 comes from. For no. 35, parallels from Elephantine date to the 1st half of the 2nd to the 1st half of the 5th c.⁸⁰, and from the mid-1st to 2nd c.⁸¹.

29. 302-6/12. NTA1? Fired dark brown. Post-firing hole through centre of base. E: 10YR7/2-5/2 I: 10YR7/2-5/2 B: 10YR3/3.

30. 302-1/26. NTA2. Traces of pale orange slip on exterior, interior uncoated. Underside of base poorly finished. E: 5YR7/6-7.5YR8/6 I: 5YR7/6 B: 5YR7/6-5Y6/1.

31. 302-5/1. NTA1a. Self slipped. E: 7.5YR8/4 I: 7.5YR8/4 B: 10YR7/4.

32. 406-1/7. NTA4. Uncoated. E: 2.5YR8/4 I: 2.5YR8/4 B: 2.5YR8/4-7.5YR8/3.

33. 502-1/11. NTA1c. Eroded. E: 2.5YR7/6 I: 2.5YR7/6 B: 2.5YR7/6.

34. 302-4/18. NTM2. Self slipped or firing surface.

35. 502-1/13. NTA1c. Interior red slipped, exterior uncoated. E: 2.5YR7/4 I: 2.5YR7/6, 2.5YR6/8 (slip) B: 2.5YR6/6.

Closed Forms

Qawadis

Qadus (plural *qawadis*) is the Arabic term for the pot used to raise water as part of a *saqia*, an animal-driven water-lifting device⁸². Its distinctive shape, with a knobbed base and a restricted neck, facilitates its attachment to the wooden collars that are then attached to the pot chain that dips into and raises the water⁸³. The rubbing of the jars against the collar and the wheel itself often results in a distinct pattern of abrasion, but this has not been noted on the Nag el-Tawil vessels⁸⁴.

The presence of large numbers of *qadus* knobs in the Nag el-Tawil assemblage presupposes the existence of greater numbers of fragments of the upper parts of the vessels. The identification of the latter is, however, problematic. From form alone, some of the upper parts of vessels presented below as *qawadis* could be jars of various types⁸⁵ or even deep bowls (see no. 14 above), and indeed elements looking very like the knobbed bases are found as the handles of

⁷⁶ Gempeler 1992, approx. fig. 17, Form T226b; see also fig. 27, Form T262.

⁷⁷ Pierrat 1996, 204 pl. 8 fig. 121.

⁷⁸ Adams 1986, 544 f., Ware W3.

⁷⁹ Rodziewicz 2005, pl. 71 nos. 1175–1183; Jaritz – Rodziewicz 1993, 125 and fig. 8 nos. 46–49; Tomber 2006, 105–107 and fig. 1.40, Bowls, dishes and casseroles type 30. Gempeler 1992, fig. 71, Form T607b, dates it to the 3rd–4th c.

⁸⁰ Gempeler 1992, 60 and fig. 3, Form T100b.

⁸¹ Rodziewicz 2005, 159 and pl. 54 no. 848.

⁸² Schiøler 1973, 101–109.

⁸³ Schiøler 1973, 97, 107.

⁸⁴ Schiøler 1973, 102; Ayalon – Milo – Ziona 2000, 221.

⁸⁵ See, for example, Gempeler 1992, fig. 91, Forms K321, K322, K323, dated to 3rd–4th c.; Tomber 2006, fig. 1.48 type 109 no. 723; Pierrat 1996, pl. 2 fig. 14; also Jaritz – Rodziewicz 1993, 126 and fig. 8 no. 53, described as a vase.



22 No. 70 (402-5/14) showing compacted flattened clay on the qadus rim

lids⁸⁶. However, the lack of other types of recognisable jar bases in the assemblage suggests that relatively few closed forms were present other than *qawadis*. The identification of many of the rims as coming from *qawadis* is strengthened by the fact that they were found near features identified as *saqia* pits⁸⁷, and they occurred in large numbers. Whilst *qawadis* are found singly in other types of contexts – including locations where water-lifting devices are not required, such as the watchtower at Tell Asmar, Aswan⁸⁸, and in burials⁸⁹ – their presence in quantity makes them likely to come from *saqias* operating at the edge of the Nile⁹⁰.

Thus the majority of closed form rims from Nag el-Tawil have been identified as *qawadis*. Their identification can be supported by some parallels, cited below, but it is clear that vessels with a wide variety of rim forms were used for raising water⁹¹. In general, the vessels often show a moderately long neck only slightly smaller in diameter than the rim itself, and a slight but marked carination at the shoulder. The body is usually relatively slender, sometimes apparently almost cylindrical, and is not ribbed. It is not possible to tell if the complete vessels were all of a similar height, as none was reconstructed. The vessel rims show some degree of external thickening, although as already noted, the actual rim form varies widely. The rim area is poorly finished: extraneous clay resulting from trimming was often not removed, resulting in irregular patches on the rim top and on the inner rim (fig. 22). Since the pots clearly rested on their rims

whilst drying, the residual clay became flattened. This rather careless finish is suggestive of mass production. The carelessness of manufacture and resultant changes in rim shape on a single vessel mean that some of the pieces listed below could belong to the same vessel, but this could not be demonstrated in the time available for study. The stance of individual fragments may also be affected by the poor finish. By contrast, the base knobs are well shaped, and show a greater consistency of form than the rims. For first group presented here, nos. 36–40 in the catalogue, which do not have the marked shoulder, their identification as *qawadis* is based on the presence of a pre-firing hole on one example, similar to those found on the more securely identified *qawadis*, and on the rough finish to their rims.

An unusual feature of these vessels is the holes made through the shoulder before firing (fig. 23). They are between 1.3 and 2 cm in diameter. It is unclear how many of the vessels had them, or whether the holes occurred singly or in greater numbers. *Qawadis* with pre-firing holes at the base are known from other sites, and served to let out the air as the pots filled during submersion – as makes sense, since the vessel on the chain entered the water with the mouth downwards⁹². *Qawadis* from Hama in Syria had holes below the rim that were suggested to facilitate their attachment to the pot chain⁹³. However, the holes in the vessels from Nag el-Tawil are wrongly positioned to release trapped air, and seem too large to serve for attachment; neither are there signs of wear from ropes in them. Whatever their purpose, it is not a trait that survived in later Aswani *qawadis*⁹⁴.

⁸⁶ Bailey 1996, 70, fig. 28.6.

⁸⁷ Jaritz 1973, 185; also <<http://www.swissinst.ch/html/tawil.html>>.

⁸⁸ Jaritz – Rodziewicz 1993, 119–126.

⁸⁹ For example, Myers – Fairman 1931, pl. 47 no. 753, from the tomb of the same number.

⁹⁰ Ayalon – Milo – Ziona 2000, 220.

⁹¹ As also noted at Mons Porphyrites, Tomber 2007b, 191.

⁹² Schiøler 1973, 103; Myers – Fairman 1931, 229 and pl. 47; Ayalon – Milo – Ziona 2000, 221.

⁹³ Cited in Schiøler 1973, 100.

⁹⁴ Gempeler 1992, fig. 133 nos. 3–5, Forms S-21 and S-22.



23 No. 59 (402-7/9) showing piercing in the *qadus* shoulder

Almost all of the *qawadis* found at Nag el-Tawil are Aswani products. The use of local Aswani clay may have been a pragmatic choice through ease of availability, but it would have made more resilient, robust, and water-tight vessels than the softer Nile silt. Only a few fragments are of silt, and have ribbed bodies; there is no indication of the presence of pre-firing holes in the shoulder. It is not certain that rim no. 98 in the catalogue is from a *qadus*.

Some of the *qawadis* appear to have been slipped, although in some cases the apparent colouring of the surface, and especially its greyish aspect, may have resulted from prolonged exposure to water. It might be expected that such mass produced utilitarian vessels would not have merited a surface coating, but may have been done further to reduce water leakage.

Qawadis are well known from throughout Egypt. The closest parallel to the Nag el-Tawil examples comes from a watch tower near Shellal, and is probably the upper part of an Aswani *qadus* although described as a vase⁹⁵, as is another piece, which is described as a jar⁹⁶. These were found alongside fragments of silt *qawadis*, the base and rim form of which are similar to those from Nag el-Tawil⁹⁷. Further examples come from Elephantine, dated from the mid-1st to 2nd century⁹⁸. In the Eastern Desert *qawadis* were made of silts, marl clays and possible mixed fabrics but never Aswan fabrics, and their bodies were often ribbed⁹⁹. They show a similar range of rim types to those seen at Nag el-Tawil but a wider range of knob types. They are dated from the 2nd into the early 3rd century¹⁰⁰. A slender unribbed type was found at Tebtynis, in an alluvial clay, dated to the end of the 1st to early 2nd century¹⁰¹.

Specific parallels for the non-carinated form nos. 36–40 can be found at Mons Claudianus¹⁰².

36. 302-4A/5. NTA1a. Dull red-brown slip traces on exterior and just over rim. Pierced before firing. E: 5YR7/4 I: 7.5YR8/4 B: 5YR7/4.

37. 402-6/5. NTA1a. Splashes of red on exterior and inner rim. E: 7.5YR8/3-7/4 I: 7.5YR8/3 B: 7.5YR8/3-10YR7/4.

38. 502-4/1. NTA1a. Grey-brown exterior, spot of red on rim. Traces of red on interior. E: 10YR8/3 I: 10YR8/3-5/4 B: 10YR8/3-2.5YR8/1.

39. 403-3/4. NTA1a. Uncoated? E: 5YR7/4 I: 5YR7/4 B: 5YR7/4-7.5YR8/2.

40. 402-5/16. NTA1a. Exterior coated in dull red, interior uncoated. Inside rim slightly irregular. E: 7.5YR8/3-6/4 I: 7.5YR8/3-6/4 B: 7.5YR8/3.

41. 302-3/10. NTA1a. Surfaces lost. E: 5YR7/4 I: 5YR7/4 B: 5YR7/4.

42. 502-3/8. NTA1c. Exterior coated in dull red, extending just over rim. E: 5YR6/6 I: 5YR8/4 B: 7.5YR7/3.

43. 402-4/1A. NTA1a. Possible red coat on exterior and interior. Rim top well finished, at least in the part preserved. This may be a jar rather than a *qadus* on the basis of the rim diameter and its better finished rim area. E: 7.5YR7/4 (slip) I: 5YR8/4 B: 5YR7/4.

44. 402-4/8. NTA1a. Exterior grey or dull red coating, extending on to upper interior. Pierced before firing. E: 5YR6/4 (slip) I: 5YR7/4 B: 5YR7/4.

45. 302-6/1. NTA1a. Red-brown slip interior and exterior. E: 5YR6/6 I: 5YR6/6 B: 5YR8/4.

46. 402-2/3 NTA1a. Red slip over exterior and interior. Rim rough. E: 5YR6/6 (slip) I: 5YR7/6 B: 2.5YR6/6.

47. 402-3/1. NTA1a. Traces red coating on exterior and interior. Rim top well finished. E: 7.5YR8/4 I: 7.5YR8/4 B: 7.5YR8/4.

⁹⁵ Jaritz – Rodziewicz 1993, 126 and fig. 8 no. 53.

⁹⁶ Jaritz – Rodziewicz 1993, 126 and fig. 9 no. 56.

⁹⁷ Jaritz – Rodziewicz 1993, 125 and fig. 7 nos. 42. 43.

⁹⁸ Rodziewicz 2005, pl. 86 nos. 1452–1456.

⁹⁹ Tomber 2007b, 191–193; Tomber 2006, 95 f. and fig. 1.36; Tomber 2001, fig. 6.1 nos. 11. 12.

¹⁰⁰ Tomber 2007b, 191–193; Tomber 2006, 95 f.

¹⁰¹ Ballet – Południkiewicz 2012, 199 and pl. 101 no. 866.

¹⁰² Tomber 2006, 95 and fig. 1.36 no. 94-487.

48. 402-5/2. NTA1a. Surfaces lost. Rim top rough. Pierced before firing. E: 7.5YR8/4-6/4 I: 7.5YR8/4-6/4 B: 7.5YR8/4-10YR7/4.
49. 405-12/2. NTA1a. Traces dull red on exterior and rim top. Rim top flattened. E: 2.5YR7/6 I: 5YR7/4 B: 2.5YR7/6.
50. 402-3/3. NTA1a. Traces red coating on exterior and rim top, interior uncoated. Rim top rough. E: 5YR8/4-6/6 I: 5YR8/4 B: 5YR8/4.
51. 302-3/11. NTA1a. Dull red-grey coating on exterior and rim top, interior uncoated. Rim top rough, flat. Pierced before firing, diameter of hole ca. 1.3 cm. E: 7.5YR8/4-6/4 I: 7.5YR8/4 B: 7.5YR8/4.
52. 302-1/3. NTA1a. Traces dull red on exterior and rim top, interior uncoated. Rim top rough. E: 5YR8/4-6/6 I: 10YR8/3 B: 10YR8/3.
53. 402-5/8. NTA1a. Traces dull brown-grey on exterior and one patch of red, interior uncoated. Rim well finished. E: 5YR8/4 I: 5YR8/4-10YR8/4 B: 5YR8/4-10YR6/4.
54. 502-4/4. NTA2. Grey (natural) exterior turning dull red in areas. Rim top rough. E: 7.5YR8/4-2.5YR6/8 I: 5YR7/4 B: 5YR7/4.
55. 502-1/7. NTA2. Dull red-grey slip on exterior and rim top. Rim top rough. E: 5YR6/4 (slip) I: 5YR7/4 B: 5YR6/4.
56. 403-3/5. NTA1c. Dull red coating on exterior and rim top, interior uncoated. Rim top rough. E: 5YR8/4-6/6 I: 5YR8/4 B: 5YR8/4-7.5YR7/3.
57. 502-3/7. NTA1a. Dull red shading to grey in areas on exterior. E: 5YR6/6 I: 5YR8/4 B: 5YR7/4.
58. 402-5/4. NTA3. Exterior lost, possible traces of red coating on interior. Rim top flattened. E: 5YR7/4-5YR5/6 I: 5YR7/4-2.5YR4/6 B: 5YR7/4-2.5YR5/6.
59. 402-7/9. NTA1a. Traces dull red coating on exterior, interior uncoated. Rim top flattened. Pierced before firing, diameter of hole 1.6–1.8 cm (fig. 23). E: 7.5YR7/6 I: 5YR8/4 B: 5YR8/2.
60. 402-4/13. NTA1a. Dull red coating interior and exterior. Rim top flattened. Pierced before firing. E: 5YR6/6 (slip) I: 7.5YR8/4, 5YR6/6 (slip) B: 10YR7/4.
61. 402-3/6. NTA1a. Exterior lost, traces red on upper interior. Rim top rough, flattened. Pierced at base of neck before firing. E: 10YR8/4 I: 5YR8/4 B: 10YR8/4-5YR8/4.
62. 302-1/19. NTA1a. Traces dull orange-red slip on exterior and rim top, interior uncoated. Rim top rough, flattened. E: 2.5YR6/4-5YR8/4 I: 10YR8/4 B: 5YR8/4-10YR8/4.
63. 402-5/5. NTA4. Traces dull grey coating (?) on exterior. Rim top rough. E: 5YR8/4 I: 7.5YR8/4 B: 5YR8/4-7.5YR8/4.
64. 502-3/10. NTA1a. Exterior dull red extending on to upper interior. Rim top flattened. E: 5YR6/6 (slip) I: 5YR7/6 B: 2.5YR7/6.
65. 402-3/4. NTA2. Traces red coating on exterior, firing grey in areas. Rim top rough. E: 10YR8/6-5YR6/4, Gley2 6/10G (coating) I: 10YR8/6-5YR5/4, Gley2 6/10G (coating) B: 10YR8/6-2.5Y6/1.
66. 403-3/2. NTA1a. Dull red coating on exterior and upper interior. Rim top rough. E: 7.5YR7/4-5YR5/4 I: 7.5YR7/4-5YR6/4 B: 7.5YR7/4-2.5YR6/4.
67. 405-12/4. NTA1a. Dull red on exterior. Rim top rough, flattened. Pierced before firing, diameter of hole more than 2 cm. E: 5YR8/4-7/4 I: 5YR8/4-7/4 B: 5YR8/4.
68. 402-1/8. NTA1a. Red slip exterior, interior uncoated. Pierced before firing, hole ca. 2 cm in diameter. E: 2.5YR8/4-7/6 I: 2.5YR8/4 B: 2.5YR8/4.
69. 502-4/13. NTA2. Exterior and rim area has patches of blue-grey surface, nature unclear; interior reddish. Rim top rough, flattened. E: 7.5YR8/4-6/4, Gley2 6/5B (slip) I: 5YR6/6-2.5YR6/6, Gley2 6/5B (slip) B: 5YR6/6-7.5YR7/6.
70. 402-5/14. NTA1a. Traces dull red or grey coating on exterior and upper interior. Rim rough and particularly badly finished (fig. 22). 10YR8/4-7.5YR6/4 I: 7.5YR8/4-7.5YR6/4 B: 7.5YR8/4-10YR8/6.
71. 302-5/9. NTA1a. Traces dull brown on exterior. Badly eroded. Pierced before firing. E: 7.5YR6/6 (slip) I: 5YR8/4 B: 5YR7/4.
72. 402-10/1. NTA1a. Dull red slip on exterior but apparently not on the rim top, interior uncoated. Rim top rough, flattened. E: 5YR8/4-6/4 I: 5YR8/4 B: 5YR8/4.
73. 402-5/3. NTA1a. Traces red coating on exterior and rim top. Rim top rough. Pierced before firing. E: 5YR7/4 I: 7.5YR7/3 B: 5YR7/4-7.5YR7/3.
74. 302-4/13. NTA2. Traces dull reddish-grey slip on exterior extending just over rim. Adhering clay inside rim. Diameter uncertain. E: 7.5YR8/4 I: 7.5YR8.6 B: 7.5YR7/1.
75. 502-3/15. NTA1a. Exterior dull red extending on to upper interior. Rim top flattened. E: 7.5YR6/6 (slip) I: 7.5YR8/4 B: 10YR8/4.
76. 502-1/6. NTA1a. Interior and exterior show dull yellowish-red slip. Part of rim top rough, flattened. E: 5YR6/6 (slip) I: 5YR7/6 B: 5YR6/6.
77. 402-4/11. NTA1a. Piece not seen. Pierced, diameter of hole ca. 2 cm. E: 7.5YR8/4 I: 7.5YR8/4 B: 7.5YR6/6.
78. 402-4/12. NTA1c. Surfaces lost. Rim top rough, flattened. E: 5YR8/4 I: 5YR8/4 B: 2.5YR7/4.
79. 402-4/7. NTA1a. Red slip on exterior, interior uncoated. E: 5YR7/6 I: 5YR7/4 B: 2.5YR6/6.
80. 502-4/10. NTA1c. Traces red-orange on exterior and over rim edge. Rim top rough. Pierced before firing. E: 5YR8/4 I: 5YR8/4 B: 5YR8/4.
81. 402-4/1. NTA1a. Traces orange-red coating on exterior, interior has a thin red coating in which brush marks can be seen. Rim top rough, flattened. Pierced before firing, hole ca. 1.8 cm in diameter. E: 2.5YR8/4-5YR7/6 I: 2.5YR8/4-5YR7/6 B: 2.5YR8/4.

82. 402-3/5. NTA1a. Traces coating on exterior but colour uncertain and now appears grey, interior uncoated. Rim top rough, flattened. E: 5YR8/4-5YR6/4 I: 5YR8/4-10YR8/3 B: 5YR8/4-10YR8/3.
83. 402-4/9. NTA1a. Traces dull red on exterior and inside rim. Rim top rough, flattened. E: 7.5YR7/4 I: 7.5YR7/4 B: 7.5YR6/4.
84. 402-3/7. NTA1a. Traces grey slip or coating on exterior and upper interior. Rim top rough, flattened. E: 5YR8/4-7.5YR8/4 I: 5YR8/4 B: 5YR8/4-7.5YR8/4.
85. 402-4/3P. NTA1a. Exterior preserves traces of grey, and traces of grey-red on interior at rim. Rim top rough. E: 7.5YR7/4 (slip) I: 7.5YR7/4 (slip) B: 7.5YR7/6.
86. 502-3/11. NTA1a. Apparently uncoated. Rim top rough, flattened. E: 2.5YR6/6 I: 2.5YR7/6 B: 2.5YR5/6.
87. 402-5/7. NTA1c. Traces dull red (?) coating, interior uncoated. Rim top rough, flattened. E: 5YR8/4-6/6 I: 5YR8/4 B: 5YR8/4-10YR8/4.
88. 402-1/7. NTA2. Traces greyish-blue coating on exterior. Rim top rough. E: 7.5YR7/6, Gley2 6/1 (coating) I: 7.5YR7/6 B: 7.5YR7/6.
89. 405-12/3. NTA1a. Dull red exterior and rim top. Rim top rough. E: 5YR8/4-6/4 I: 5YR8/4-5YR6/4 B: 5YR8/4.
90. 402-5/6. NTA1c. Traces dull grey on exterior, interior uncoated. Pierced before firing. E: 5YR7/4-10YR8/4 I: 5YR7/4 B: 5YR7/4-10YR8/4.
91. 502-4/2. NTA1c. Coating appears dull yellow on exterior and rim top but red close to the lower edge. E: 5YR8/4-6/4 I: 5YR8/4 B: 5YR8/4-7.5YR8/3.
92. 405-12/1. NTA1a. Traces pale red-orange on exterior. E: 2.5YR7/6 I: 5YR7/6 B: 5YR7/6.
93. 402-4/15. NTA1a. Exterior and interior dull red. Rim top rough. E: 7.5YR6/6 (slip) I: 7.5YR6/6 (slip) B: 5YR6/6.
94. 302-5/5. NTA4. Exterior and interior dull red. Pierced after firing, above the level of the shoulder carination. E: 5YR6/6 (slip) I: 5YR6/6 (slip) B: 5YR7/4.
95. 402-7/7. NTA1a. Dull red slip on exterior and interior. Rim top rough. Possible piercing made before firing, identified by red slip on part of the break. Diameter uncertain. E: 7.5YR7/4 (slip) I: 5YR8/4 B: 5YR7/4.
96. 302-4/6. NTA2. Traces dull red-grey on exterior and interior. Much extra clay at rim. E: 2.5YR6/4 (slip) I: 2.5YR8/6 B: 10YR8/4.
97. 402-7/10. NTA2. Exterior has traces grey surface, nature unclear, interior uncoated. Rim top rough, flattened. Pierced before firing. E: 7.5YR7/4 I: 5YR7/4 B: 7.5YR7/4.
98. 402-5/15 NTS1. Uncoated. Slight ribbing. Rim top eroded but rough, flattened. E: 5YR 5/4 I: 5YR 5/4-2.5YR6/8 B: 2.5YR 6/8-7.5YR 6/1.
99. 302-1/25. NTS2 or NTA3. Uncoated. E: 5YR8/4 I: 5YR8/4-6/4 B: 5YR7/4.
100. 402-7/8. NTA2. Traces dull grey coating on exterior, interior dull red. E: 7.5YR7/4 I: 5YR7/4 B: 10YR7/4.
101. 502-3/14. NTA1c. Possibly uncoated. No evidence of wear around knob restriction but there is wear around outer edge of base. E: 5YR6/6 I: 2.5YR8/4 B: 2.5YR8/4.
102. 403-3/19. NTA1a. Uncoated. E: 5YR8/4 I: 5YR8/4 B: 5YR8/4.
103. 402-3/14. NTA1a. Possibly self slipped. E: 5YR8/4 I: 5YR8/4 B: 5YR8/4.
104. 402-3/13. NTA1a. Exterior and underside of base dull red, interior uncoated. E: 7.5YR8/4 I: 7.5YR8/4 B: 7.5YR8/4.
105. 402-3/15. NTA1c. Exterior self slipped. E: 2.5YR7/6 I: 2.5YR7/6 B: 2.5YR7/6.

Pigeon pots

These distinctive vessels served as nesting chambers for pigeons, and are found today throughout Egypt arranged to form towers in which large flocks of birds are accommodated. The vessels have a restricted mouth, a wider, bulbous lower body, and the base has a small, deliberately-made opening in it, said today to allow air to circulate over the nesting birds. Similar vessels and structures are known archaeologically from at least the Hellenistic period¹⁰³.

At Nag el-Tawil, pigeon pots can be identified from their distinctive bases. The rims have not been identified with certainty: those illustrated here could also come from *qawadis*¹⁰⁴. Most of the examples from Nag el-Tawil are of silt and have ribbed bodies; one base is of marl clay, and no. 111 below may come from the same vessel. No. 109 shows a similar careless roughening and flattening of the rim as seen in the *qawadis*.

106. 402-3/10. NTS1. Uncoated. E: 5YR 5/4 I: 5YR 5/4 B: 2.5YR 5/8-2.5YR 5/4.

107. 403-3/20. NTS1. Uncoated. Eroded around highest point. Munsell readings not recorded.

¹⁰³ Rousset et al. 1999, 191 f.; Husselman 1953, 81–91; for the actual vessels see Johnson 1981, 15. 84 and pl. 73 nos. 581–583, although identified in the text as *qawadis*; they are dated between the 1st c. B.C. and the early 4th c. A.D. See also Marchand 2011, 248.

¹⁰⁴ Cf. Tomber 2006, fig. 1.36, Jars and cooking pots, type 94-487.

- 108.** 402-3/11. NTM1. White firing surface on exterior. E: 10YR 8/4 I: 7.5YR 7/4 B: 7.5YR 7/4.
109. 302-1/15. NTS1. Traces of pale yellowish slip (?) just under rim on exterior and on interior, but possibly discolouration. Slight ribbing. Rim top rough, flattened. E: 5YR 5/6 I: 2.5YR 8/4 B: 5YR 5/6.
110. 403-2/11. NTS1. Surfaces lost. Grey water discolouration. Ribbing visible on shoulder but eroded below this. Outer rim edge lost. Munsell readings not recorded.
111. 402-7/3. NTM1. Yellowish firing surface extending on to upper interior. E: 5YR7/4 I: 5YR8/3 B: 5YR7/4.

Cooking pots and jars

Cooking pots

Few fragments of cooking pots were identified. No. 112 can be paralleled at Elephantine, (late 1st to 3rd c.)¹⁰⁵; and at Mons Claudianus (mid-1st to the early 3rd c.: the closest parallel, 37-380, is silt and is mid- to late 2nd c. in date)¹⁰⁶. No. 113 can be paralleled at Elephantine (mid 1st to 2nd c.)¹⁰⁷, and Mons Claudianus (late 1st to early 3rd c.)¹⁰⁸. No. 114 has a similar date range¹⁰⁹.

112. 302-7/3. NTA1a with a little chaff. Red-brown slip over exterior to edge of inner ledge. Slight ribbing. E: 5YR7/6 I: 2.5YR6/6 B: 5YR7/6.

113. 302-1/11. NTS3. Orange slip on exterior and over rim. I: 2.5YR 6/8 E: 2.5YR 6/8-5YR 6/6 B: 5YR6/6.

114. 402-5/12A. NTA2. Dull red coating on exterior and interior. E: 7.5YR8/4-6/6 I: 7.5YR8/4-6/6 B: 7.5YR8/4-10YR7/4.

Jars with ledge rims

An approximate parallel for no. 115 comes from Elephantine (mid-1st to 2nd c.)¹¹⁰. Nos. 116 and 117 could be *qawadis* especially no. 117, which has a poorly finished rim top, but in both cases the shoulder is much more rounded and there is no carination; similar vessels dating mainly from the mid- to late 2nd c. are known from Mons Claudianus¹¹¹. No. 118 is paralleled at Mons Claudianus (late 1st to 3rd c., more common earlier)¹¹². No. 119, a large storage jar, as preserved has some similarity to vessels from Elephantine although the Nag el-Tawil vessel has no trace of handles as preserved (mid-first to 2nd c.¹¹³, and 5th–6th c.¹¹⁴); it is also similar to a marl clay type from Mons Claudianus most common in the mid- to late 2nd c.¹¹⁵. No. 120 is similar in form to some of the *qawadis*, but its overall size makes this unlikely; however, no other parallels were identified.

115. 402-10/2. NTA1a. Dull red exterior and rim top, interior uncoated. Rim well finished. E: 7.5YR8/4-5YR6/4 I: 7.5YR8/4-10YR7/4 B: 7.5YR8/4-10YR7/4.

116. 302-4/2. NTA1a. Exterior lost, traces pale red or orange on rim top. Interior uncoated. E: 7.5YR8/4 I: 7.5YR8/3 B: 7.5YR7/4.

117. 302-4/10. NTA2. Grey (natural) exterior. Rim top rough, flattened. E: 7.5YR7/4 I: 2.5YR7/4 B: 10YR7/4.

118. 406-1/3 NTA1a. Traces pale red coating on exterior and rim top. E: 7.5YR8/4 I: 7.5YR8/4 B: 7.5YR8/4.

119. 402-1/12. NTS1. Unslipped, eroded, traces ribbing over body. Munsell readings not recorded.

120. 502-4/5. NTA1a. Dull red-grey slip on exterior and rim top. Rim top partly flattened. E: 5YR8/4-6/6 I: 7.5YR8/4-7/4 B: 5YR8/4-7.5YR8/4.

¹⁰⁵ Gempeler 1992, fig. 101, Form K409.

¹⁰⁶ Tomber 2006, 80 and fig. 1.30.

¹⁰⁷ Rodziewicz 2005, pl. 95 no. 1551.

¹⁰⁸ Tomber 2006, 86 and fig. 1.32, jars and cooking pots type 62.

¹⁰⁹ Rodziewicz 2005, pl. 81 no. 1371; Tomber 2006, 80 and fig. 1.29, jars and cooking pots type 35.

¹¹⁰ Rodziewicz 2005, pl. 80 no. 1349.

¹¹¹ Tomber 2006, 80 and fig. 1.30, jars and cooking pots type 38.

¹¹² Tomber 2006, 86 and fig. 1.31, jars and cooking pots type 57.

¹¹³ Rodziewicz 2005, pl. 97 no. 1580.

¹¹⁴ Gempeler 1992, fig. 107, Form K440.

¹¹⁵ Tomber 2006, 90 and fig. 1.34, jars and cooking pots type 78.

Jar with short vertical neck and flange rim: Parallels are known from Elephantine (mid-1st into 2nd c.¹¹⁶, and 2nd half of the 1st to 4th c.¹¹⁷) and Mons Claudianus (mid to late 2nd c.)¹¹⁸.

121. 402-5/1. NTA1a. Exterior red slipped, interior uncoated. E: 5YR7/4-2.5YR6/8 I: 5YR7/4 B: 5YR7/4.

Jar with widely flared neck and internal groove

Parallels for this distinctive vessel are known from Elephantine¹¹⁹ (mid-1st–2nd c.) and Mons Claudianus (late 1st–2nd c.)¹²⁰.

122. 302-7/1. NTA1a. Orange slip on exterior and interior of neck. Wear on rim edge. E: 5YR8/4 I: 5YR7/6 B: 2.5YR8/4-10YR8/4.

Bottle neck, slightly thickened rim, external groove

No close parallels can be identified.

123. 302-3/13. NTA1c. Traces cream coating interior and exterior. E: 5YR8/4-6/8 I: 5YR8/4 B: 5YR8/4.

Amphorae

Aswani amphorae

These were common in the Nag el-Tawil assemblage. The form has a long cylindrical neck with bead rim, handles springing from just below rim and running to the shoulder, a narrow body, and a distinctive hollow foot. The exterior is red slipped although most of the Nag el-Tawil examples have lost their surfaces. One rim from Nag el-Tawil has shallow ribbing on the neck (no. 131 below) which may be indicative of a slightly later date, but is more likely to be accidental as the rim shape matches those of other examples of this group, and differs from those of later Aswani amphorae¹²¹. The fabric of several fragments was particularly sandy (fabric NTA1b).

These vessels are well known from Upper Egypt and Nubia, and are dated between the 1st and 3rd centuries A.D.¹²², although some sources date the type's disappearance a little earlier. Thus, Brun notes its absence from Didymoi in the Eastern Desert from the later 2nd century, and whilst this might relate more to the location than the actual manufacture of the type, it is also possible that it reflects cessation of production¹²³.

124. 302-4/16. NTA1b. Surfaces lost. E: 2.5YR7/6 I: 2.5YR6/6 (slip) B: 10R6/6.

125. 402-11/4. NTA1a. Surfaces lost. E: 5YR6/4 I: 5YR6/4 B: 5YR6/4.

126. 302-3/2. NTA1a. Traces red slip on exterior. E: 2.5YR7/6 I: 2.5YR7/6 B: 2.5YR7/6.

127. 302-1/1. NTA1b. Surfaces lost. E: 2.5YR7/4 I: 2.5YR7/4 B: 2.5YR7/4.

128. 402-1/10. NTA1b. Surfaces lost. E: 5YR7/6 I: 5YR7/6 B: 10R5/6.

129. 402-6/7. NTA1a. Traces red slip on exterior. E: 5YR7/4-7/8 I: 5YR7/4 B: 5YR7/4.

130. 402-3/9. NTA1a. Surfaces lost. E: 5YR7/4 I: 5YR7/4 B: 5YR7/4.

131. 502-4/18. NTA1a? Dull red slip on interior and exterior. Shallow ribbing over exterior. Munsell readings not recorded.

132. 402-1/6. NTA1b. Surfaces lost. E: 5YR7/4 I: 5YR7/4 B: 5YR5/6.

¹¹⁶ Rodziewicz 2005, pl. 76 nos. 1288. 1297.

¹¹⁷ Gempeler 1992, fig. 102, Form K411b.

¹¹⁸ Tomber 2006, 94 and fig. 1.35, jars and cooking pots type 89; specifically 89-476.

¹¹⁹ Rodziewicz 2005, pl. 86 nos. 1447. 1448.

¹²⁰ Tomber 2006, 89 and fig. 1.34, jars and cooking pots types 71. 72.

¹²¹ Adams 1986, 545, ware U2.

¹²² See for example, Rodziewicz 2005, pls. 87–89 nos. 1457–1477 (mid-1st–2nd c.); Aston 2007, 430, Aswan Clay Group 1 (mid-1st–3rd c.); Gempeler 1992, fig. 120, Form K703 (1st–3rd c.); Adams 1986, 534–536 and fig. 300, form Z5 (1st–5th c. for ware, closer dates not attributed to the form); Ballet – Vichy 1992, 115–116 (1st–3rd c.); Tomber 2006, 157 f., type 36 (mid-1st through late 2nd c., most common from the 1st to mid-2nd c.); Marchand 2007, figs. 12–13 (1st–2nd c.).

¹²³ Brun 2007, 513; Tomber 2006, 157 f., type 36, dating mid-1st through late 2nd c., most common 1st to mid-2nd c.; Marchand 2007, figs. 12–13, dated to the 1st–2nd c.

133. 402-4/3. NTA1a. Exterior discoloured grey, probably from exposure to water. E: 5YR7/6-6/4 I: 5YR7/6 B: 5YR7/6.

134. 302-1/27. NTA1c. Traces dull red coating on exterior. E: 5YR7/8-7/4 I: 5YR7/8 B: 5YR7/8.

135. 302-6/14. NTA1a. Traces red slip on exterior. E: 5YR7/4 I: 5YR7/4 B: 5YR7/4.

136. 403-2/8. NTA1a. Pale red coating on exterior. The base is too wide to have belonged to the same type of vessel as those noted above; it may have belonged to another form of amphora or a large jar¹²⁴. E: 5YR8/4-7.5YR6/4 I: 5YR8/4 B: 5YR8/4.

Nile silt amphorae

Nile silt amphorae are represented by one rim fragment, one eroded fragment of an amphora toe, and body sherds with shallow, rounded ribbing. The amphora toe (not illustrated here) is a tapering solid cylinder showing twisting marks from shaping, and perhaps originally had an indent in the center of the base¹²⁵. All the sherds belong to Empereur and Picon's amphora type AE3¹²⁶, which is dated to the 1st–3rd century, and is well known from other sites, with similar dates¹²⁷. Tomber notes that type AE3 is found in the Eastern Desert rarely from mid-1st century but becomes much more common from the mid- to late 2nd century, and appears to have ceased production by the early 4th century¹²⁸.

Recent work has subdivided this type¹²⁹. Whilst the rim fragment from Nag el-Tawil does not exactly parallel given examples of either subdivision, it is more similar to Tomber's earlier, pre-3rd century type¹³⁰.

137. 502-1/8. NTS4. Uncoated. Traces of resination on interior. E: 5YR5/6 I: 5YR5/4 B: 5YR4/6.

Other forms

Drainpipes

These are common in the Nag el-Tawil assemblage, and occur in silt fabrics, the possible mixed Aswani/silt clay NTA3, and pure Aswani fabrics. Fragments of silt drainpipes are the most common and include numerous body sherds, which are heavy and roughly made and often show prominent rounded ribbing. The mixed clay and Aswani drainpipes have thinner walls and less prominent ribbing.

Most of the drainpipes are distinguished by their inturned rims, which constrict the vessel mouth, even if only slightly. Most are more or less cylindrical in form, but a small group has slightly flaring walls. It is possible that the latter group belong to the other end of the drainpipes, as might no. 151 below. Nos. 152–154, which are all of silt and are of a larger size with a simple rounded rim, are also probably drainpipes.

Drainpipes are known from other sites, although not in large numbers, and none is published from the Aswan region. They are usually assigned a Late Roman or later date. The known examples show a wide range of rim types, in which the inturned rim is commonly found but is not universal. In general the drainpipes are characterised by their relatively narrow tubular bodies, and sometimes have one end wider than the other. This facilitates the joining together of the pipe sections and promotes water flow. More or less contemporary drain pipes with inturned rims in both marl and silt wares were found at Karnak North¹³¹. Two types of drain pipe were found at

¹²⁴ For another form of Aswan amphora see Adams 1986, fig. 300 forms Z24 and Z25.

¹²⁵ Cf. Tomber 2006, 156 fig. 1.61 no. 34-919.

¹²⁶ Empereur – Picon 1998, 77 fig. 4; the type has recently been separated into regionally-based groups by Dixneuf 2011, 127–128.

¹²⁷ Gempeler 1992, 189 and fig. 120, Form K702 (probably 1st–3rd c.); Marchand 2007, 376, fig. 18 (1st–2nd c.); Rousset et al. 1999, 188 fig. 5. (2nd c.); Tomber 2007b, 199 f. and fig. 6.12 no. 131 (most common mid- to late 2nd c.); Dixneuf 2011, 127, Type AE3-5.2 Variante D (mid-1st–3rd c.); Ballet – Południkiewicz 2012, 181 and pl. 87, no. 788 (2nd c.).

¹²⁸ Tomber 2007a, 530 f.

¹²⁹ Tomber 2007a.

¹³⁰ Tomber 2007a, 530.

¹³¹ Jacquet-Gordon 2012, fig. 145d (marl), and fig. 151a–d (silt).

Armant, both heavily ribbed and probably of silt¹³². One has inturned rims at both ends; the other is in two parts, both of which have simple rims. At Gurna, examples of drainpipes, none of which have distinctly inturned rims, are dated as Coptic but are said to have earlier precedents¹³³. Two examples with inturned ends came from Tebtynis in the Fayum, one undated and the other dated to the Byzantine period¹³⁴.

- 138. 402-3/16. NTS1. Surfaces lost. Munsell readings not recorded.
- 139. 403-3/15. NTS1. Uncoated. E: 2.5YR5/6 I: 5YR 5/8 B: 2.5YR 4/8.
- 140. 402-1/11. NTA2. Surfaces lost. E: 5YR7/4-6/4 I: 5YR7/4 B: 5YR7/4-10YR7/4.
- 141. 402-6/6. NTA3. Uncoated. E: 5YR6/6 I: 5YR6/6 B: 5YR6/6-2.5YR6/6.
- 142. 402-2/7. NTS1. Uncoated. Discoloured from exposure to water. E: 5YR5/8 I: 5YR5/8 B: 2.5YR5/8.
- 143. 402-3/12. NTA3. Uncoated. E: 7.5YR6/6 I: 7.5YR6/6 B: 7.5YR6/6-5YR6/6.
- 144. 402-2/8. NTA1b. Surfaces lost. E: 5YR7/6 I: 5YR7/6 B: 5YR6/6.
- 145. 405-12/6. NTS2. Discoloured grey from exposure to water. E: 5YR5/8 I: 5YR5/8 B: 5YR5/8-2.5YR4/8.
- 146. 402-5/12. NTA4. Apparently uncoated. E: 5YR7/4 I: 5YR7/4-5YR5/6 B: 5YR6/6.
- 147. 302-1/24. NTA3. Apparently uncoated. Light ribbing on exterior. Rim top irregular, flattened. E: 5YR7/6 I: 5YR7/6 B: 7.5YR6/4.
- 148. 403-2/6. NTA3. Eroded, traces of red under rim and on rim top. E: 5YR7/4-5/8 I: 5YR7/4 B: 5YR7/4-7.5YR6/6.
- 149. 403-3/14. NTA3. Uncoated. E: 5YR7/8 I: 5YR7/8 B: 5YR7/8-6/8.
- 150. 302-5/2 NTA3. Eroded. Prominent ribbing on exterior. E: 5YR6/6 I: 5YR6/6 B: 5YR7/4.
- 151. 502-3/2. NTA3. Surfaces lost. Black post-depositional staining on exterior. E: 5YR5/6 I: 5YR5/6 B: 5YR4/6.
- 152. 403-3/13. NTS1. Surfaces discoloured grey from exposure to water. Prominent ribbing on exterior. E: 5YR5/8 I: 5YR5/8 B: 5YR5/8, 2.5YR5/8, 10YR4/1.
- 153. 302-4A/1. NTS1. Uncoated. E: 5YR5/8 I: 5YR5/6 B: 10R5/6.
- 154. 502-4/17. NTS1. Uncoated. Prominent ribbing on exterior. E: 7.5YR 6/4 I: 7.5YR 6/4 B: 10R5/8, 10R5/4.

Discussion

The Nag el-Tawil assemblage consists of utilitarian vessels, the majority of which can be associated with *saqia* installations, whether directly, as part of the *saqia* installations themselves, or in the case of the drainpipes, in connection with the channelling of the water from the *saqia* trough. The *saqia* -related vessels were mixed with a small quantity of other ceramics, of a similarly utilitarian character, including a few cooking vessels, jars, and small bowls and dishes. No decorated vessels nor lamp fragments were found. Their absence, and the presence of *qawadis* and pigeon pots may perhaps suggest a rural character to the settlement. Whether the amphorae were present at Nag el-Tawil as containers for their original commodity, presumably wine, or were reused for storage, is unknown.

The assemblage is derived almost entirely from local sources, as shown by the overwhelming use of Aswani fabrics at Nag el-Tawil, and the closest parallels for the assemblage do indeed come from nearby Aswan and Elephantine. The assemblages from the Eastern Desert sites of Mons Claudianus and Mons Porphyrites also contain a large amount of comparable Aswani pottery: the trend for supplying the Eastern Desert from Aswan was already noted in the Hellenistic period, and the quantity of Aswani pottery in the Roman imperial period is not reflected at contemporary sites in the Upper Egyptian Nile valley itself¹³⁵.

Aswani *qawadis*, however, did not reach the Eastern Desert. Outside the Aswan region almost all the *qawadis* found are of silt and occasionally marl clays; indeed, in Aswan itself silt *qawadis* are also found¹³⁶. Even in Lower Nubia, one of the prime markets for other Aswani ceramics at

¹³² Mond – Myers 1940, pl. 66.

¹³³ Mysliwiec 1987, 173–174 nos. 2126–2129.

¹³⁴ Rousset et al. 1999, 192 fig. 9c, and 235 no. 111.

¹³⁵ Gates 2005, 159–160. For example, Herbert – Berlin 2003; Jacquet-Gordon 2012.

¹³⁶ Jaritz – Rodziewicz 1993, 125 and fig. 7 no. 43.

this time, the *qawadis* are of ›coarse brown ware‹, that is, silt¹³⁷. Thus the Nag el-Tawil *qawadis* are products for a very local market.

The assemblage appears homogenous in character throughout the deposits and can be dated principally to the 2nd century A.D. on the basis of the parallels cited above, perhaps lasting into the early 3rd century. At the earlier end of the sequence, the pottery from the context giving the *terminus post quem* for construction of the quay (SE 406) does not appear to differ significantly from that from higher stratigraphic levels, although the quantity of pottery from it was small (see table 4). It contained *qadus* fragments, and thus shows a longer history of the use of *saqias* at the site, presumably from the first century given the known parallels for the structure¹³⁸. There is, however, very little unequivocally first century pottery in the deposits (no. 9 in catalogue, which is the only example of the type).

The very few pieces with later dates come from two contexts. The pieces in question are nos. 4 and 26, both from context SE 302, and the undiagnostic fragment of imported amphora described above (context SE 403), and perhaps no. 24, from context SE 502. This suggests a small amount of disturbance to the contexts SE 302 and possibly SE 502; context SE 403 is already known to have been disturbed.

P. Rose

¹³⁷ Firth 1915, 36 figs. 5–6 and pl. 24b. 5.

¹³⁸ Jaritz 1973.

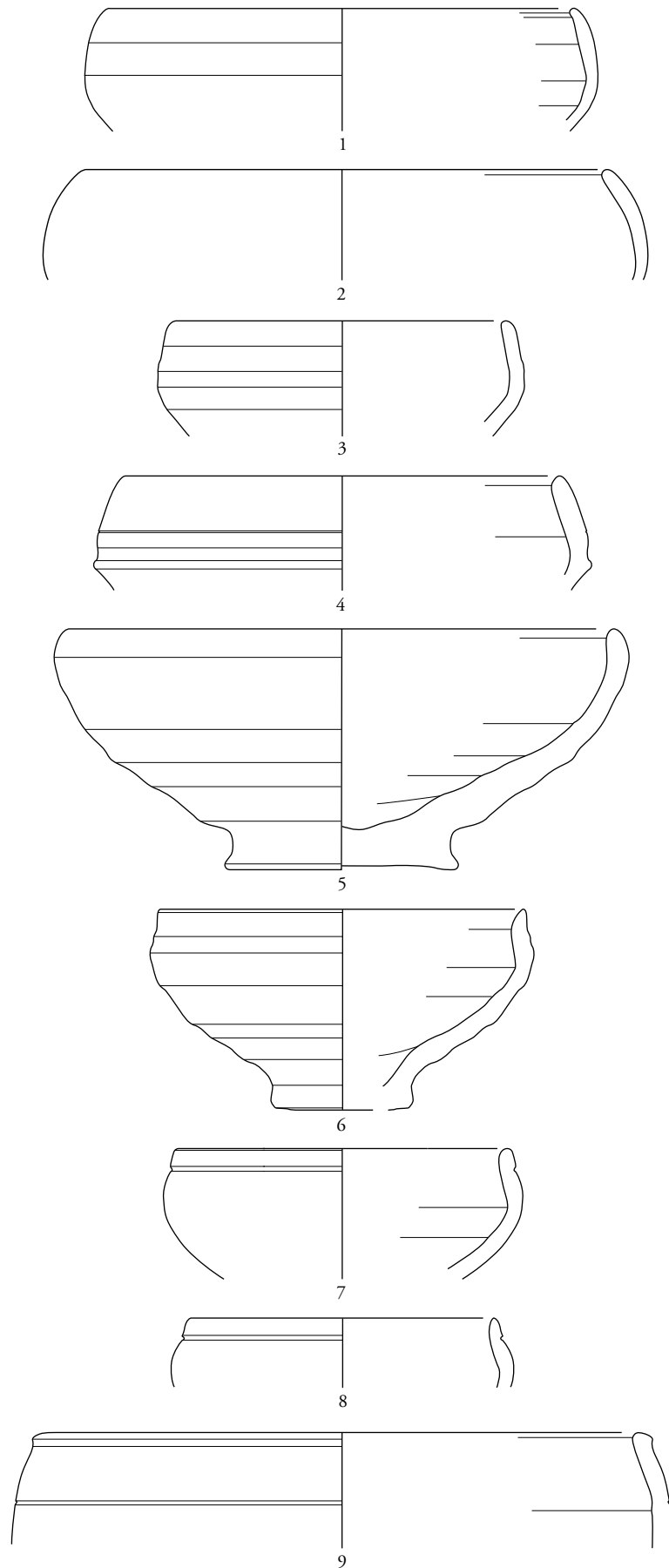


Plate 1 Nos. 1–9 (scale 1 : 2)

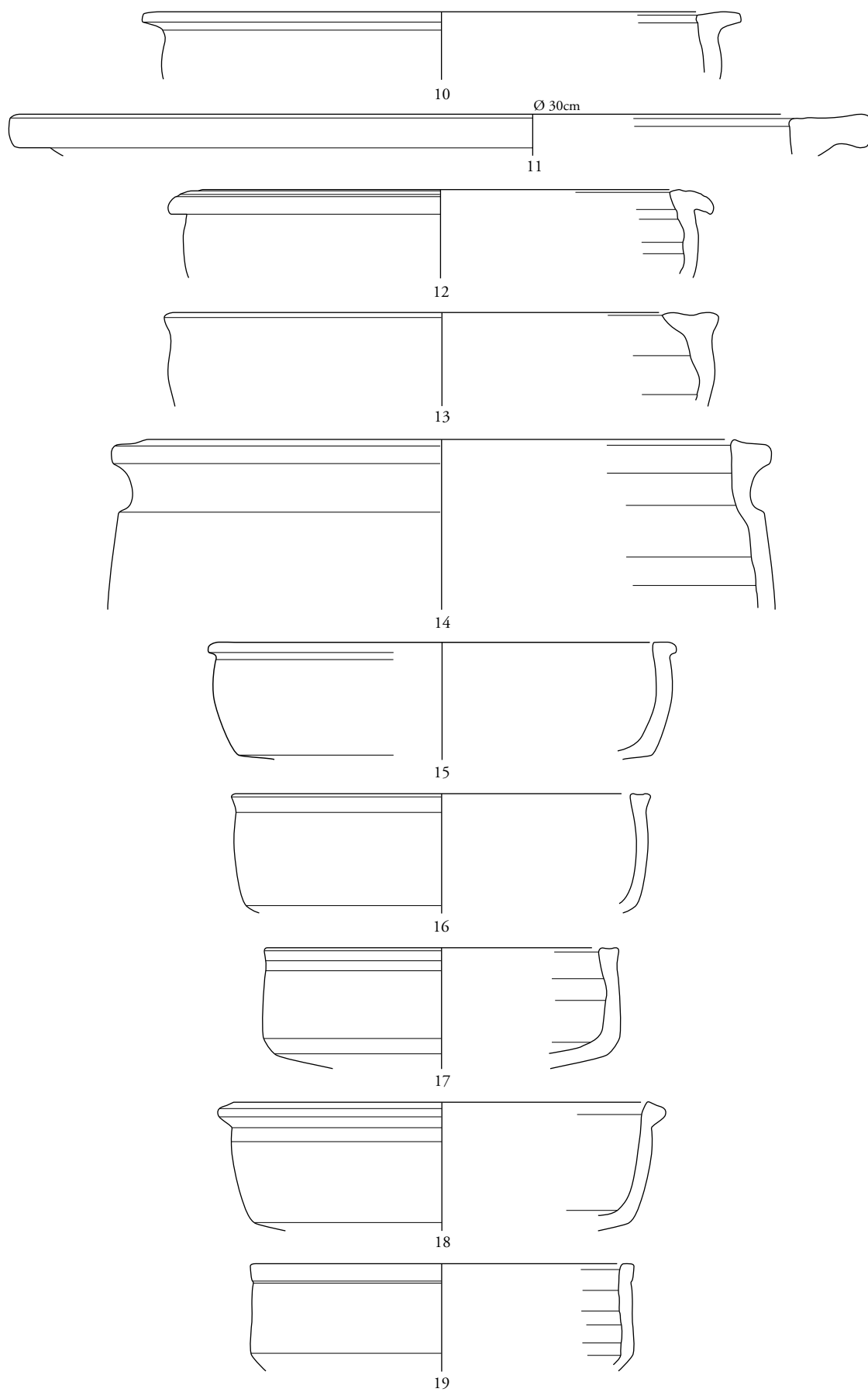


Plate 2 Nos. 10–19 (scale 1 : 2)

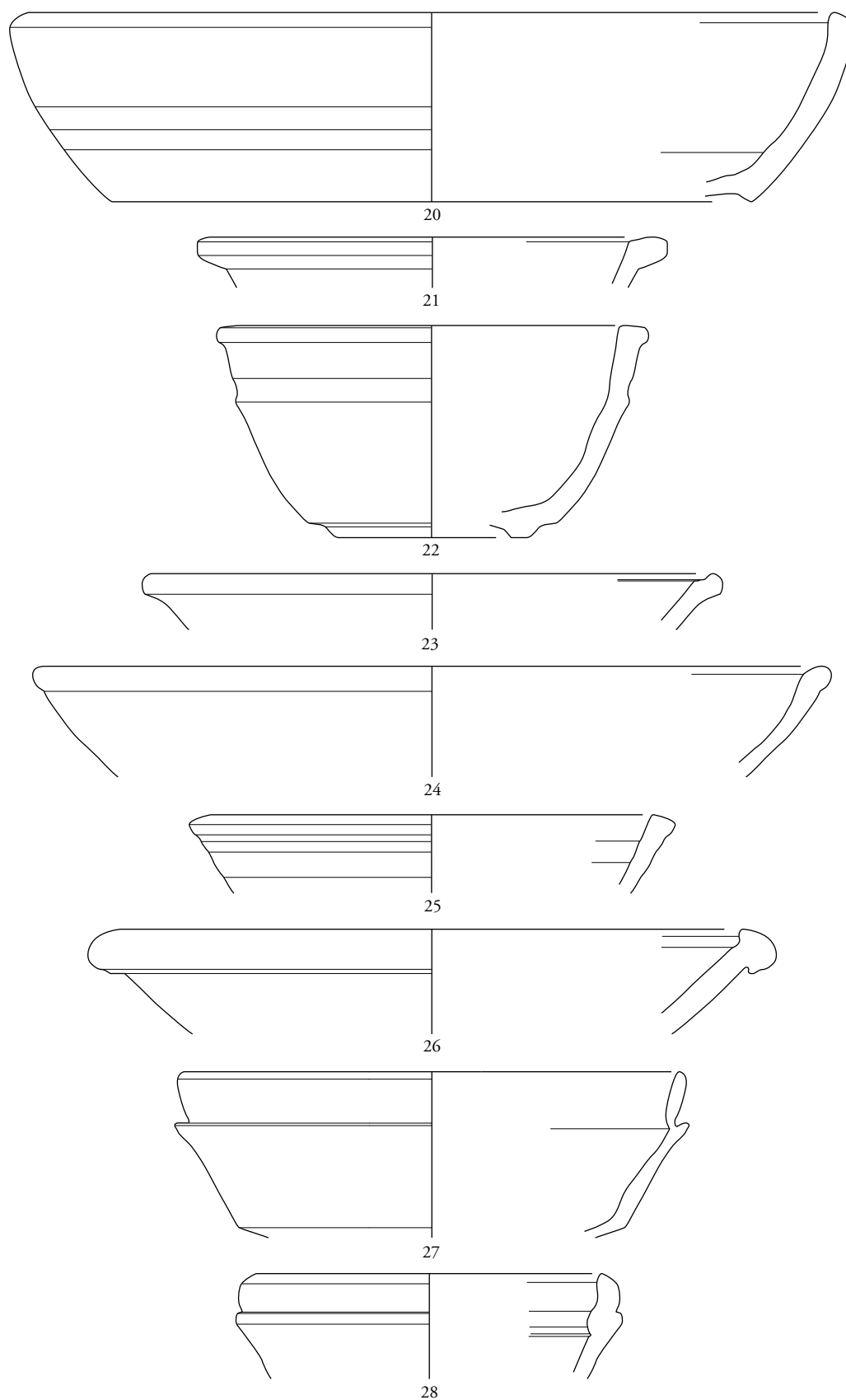


Plate 3 Nos. 20–28 (scale 1 : 2)

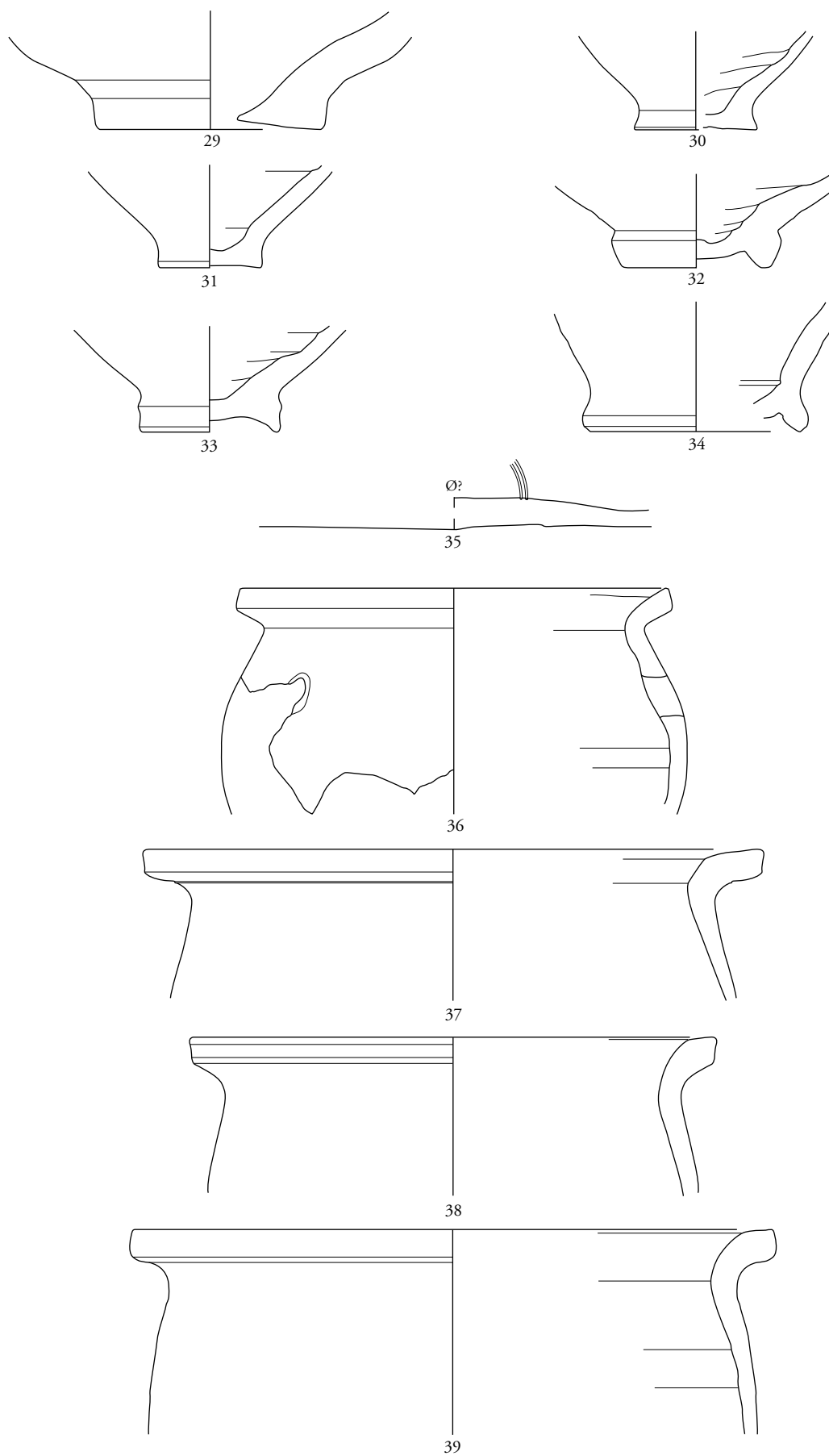


Plate 4 Nos. 29–39 (scale 1 : 2)

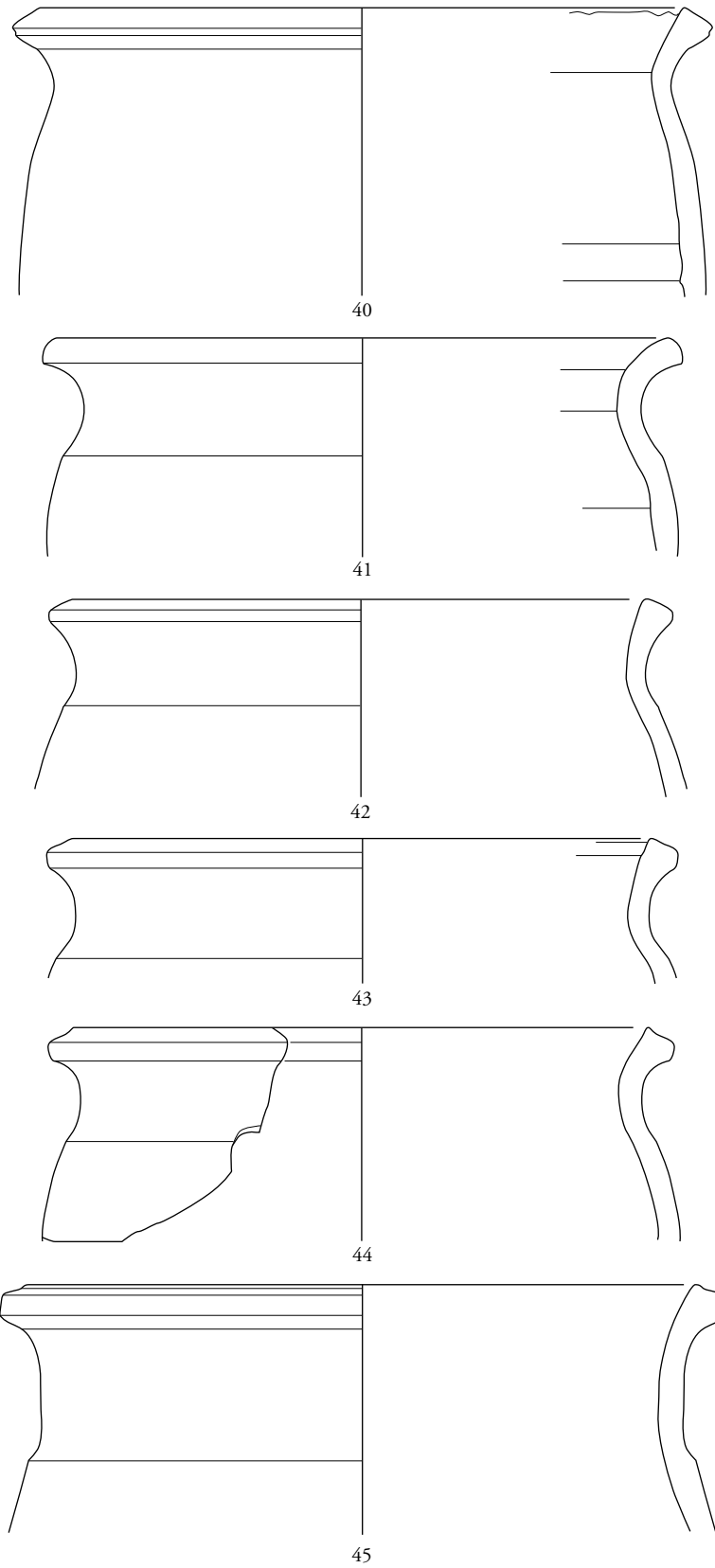


Plate 5 Nos. 40–45 (scale 1 : 2)

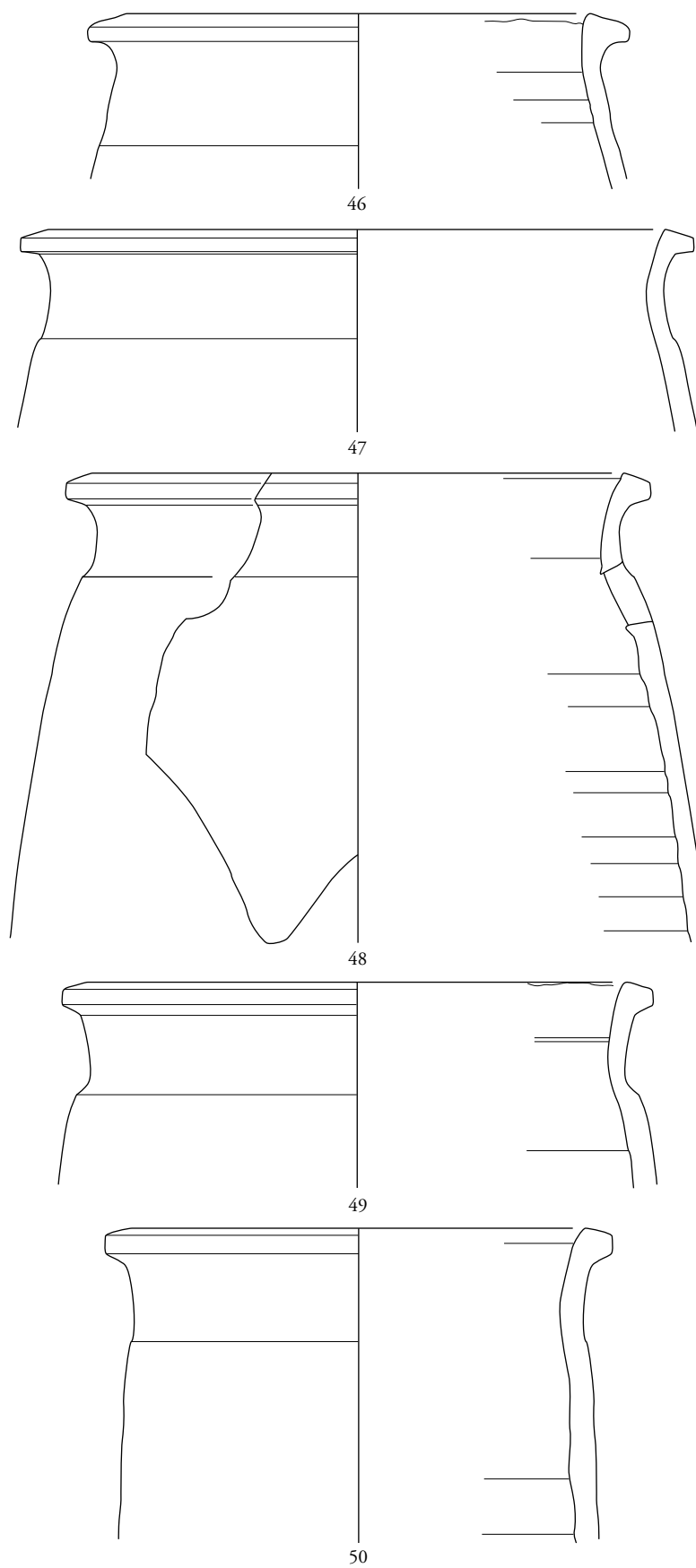


Plate 6 Nos. 46–50 (scale 1 : 2)

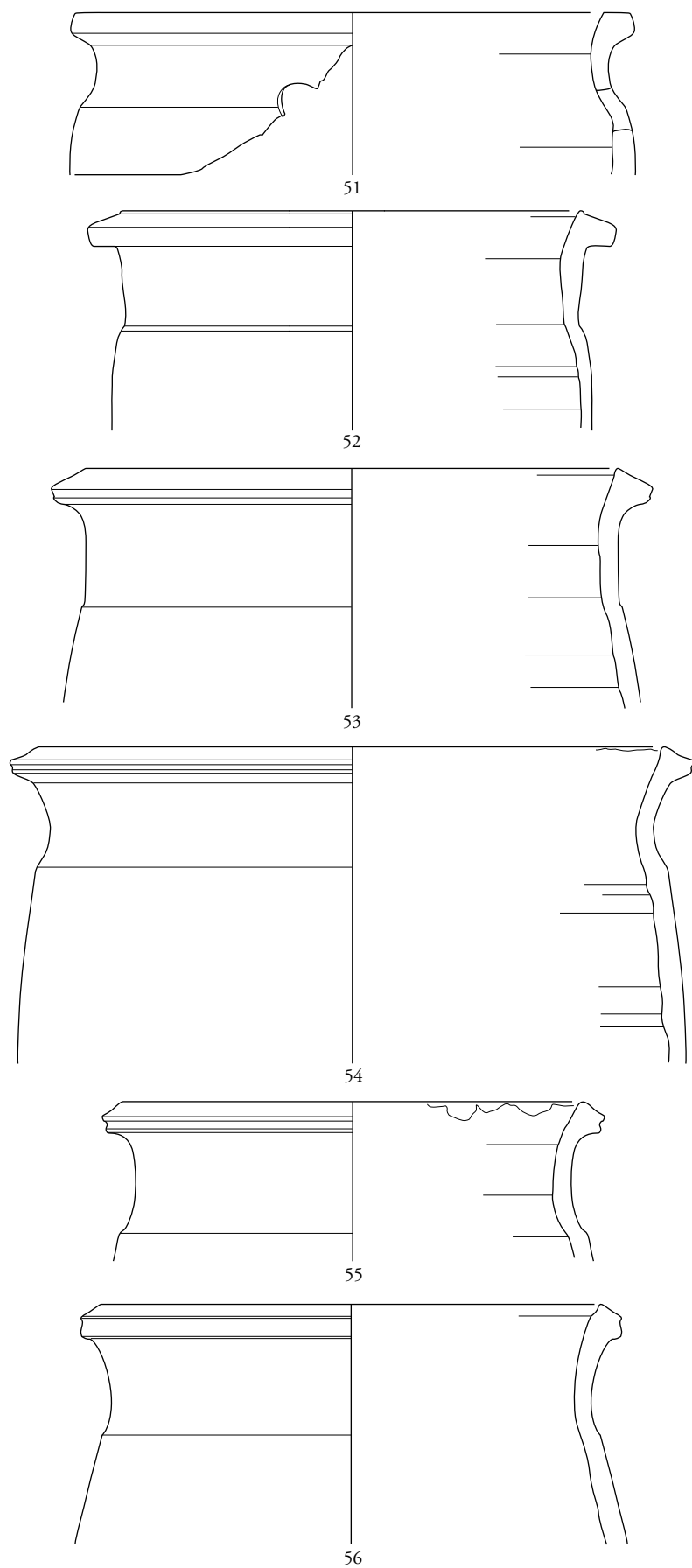


Plate 7 Nos. 51–56 (scale 1 : 2)

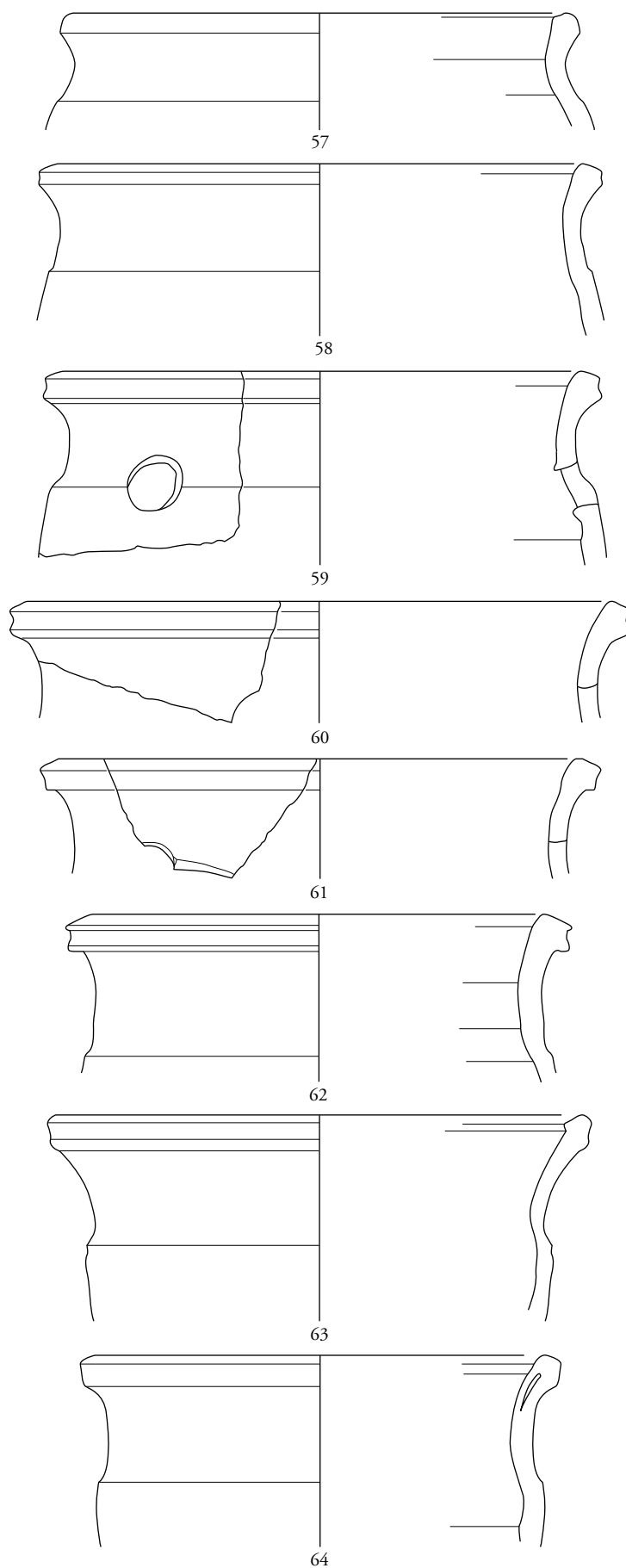


Plate 8 Nos. 57–64 (scale 1 : 2)

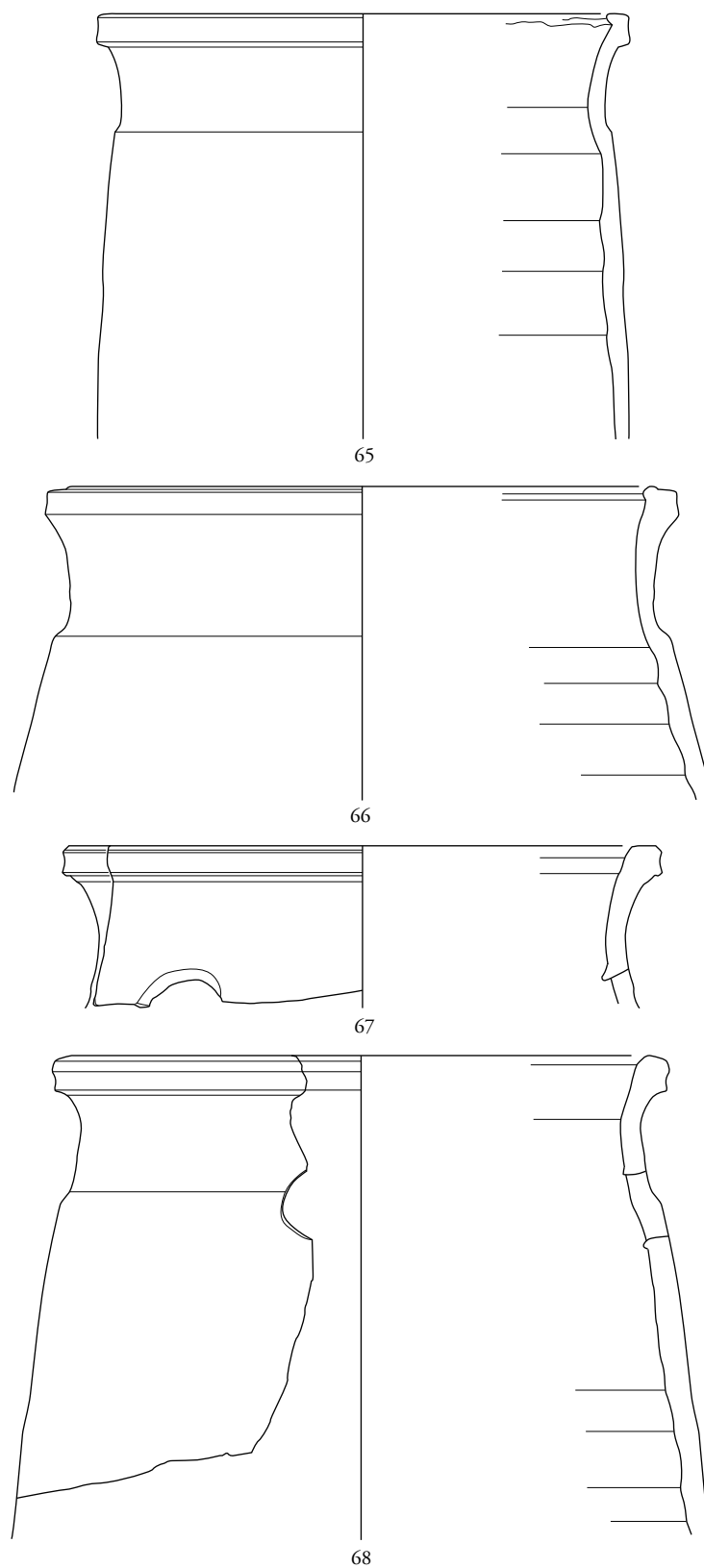


Plate 9 Nos. 65–68 (scale 1 : 2)

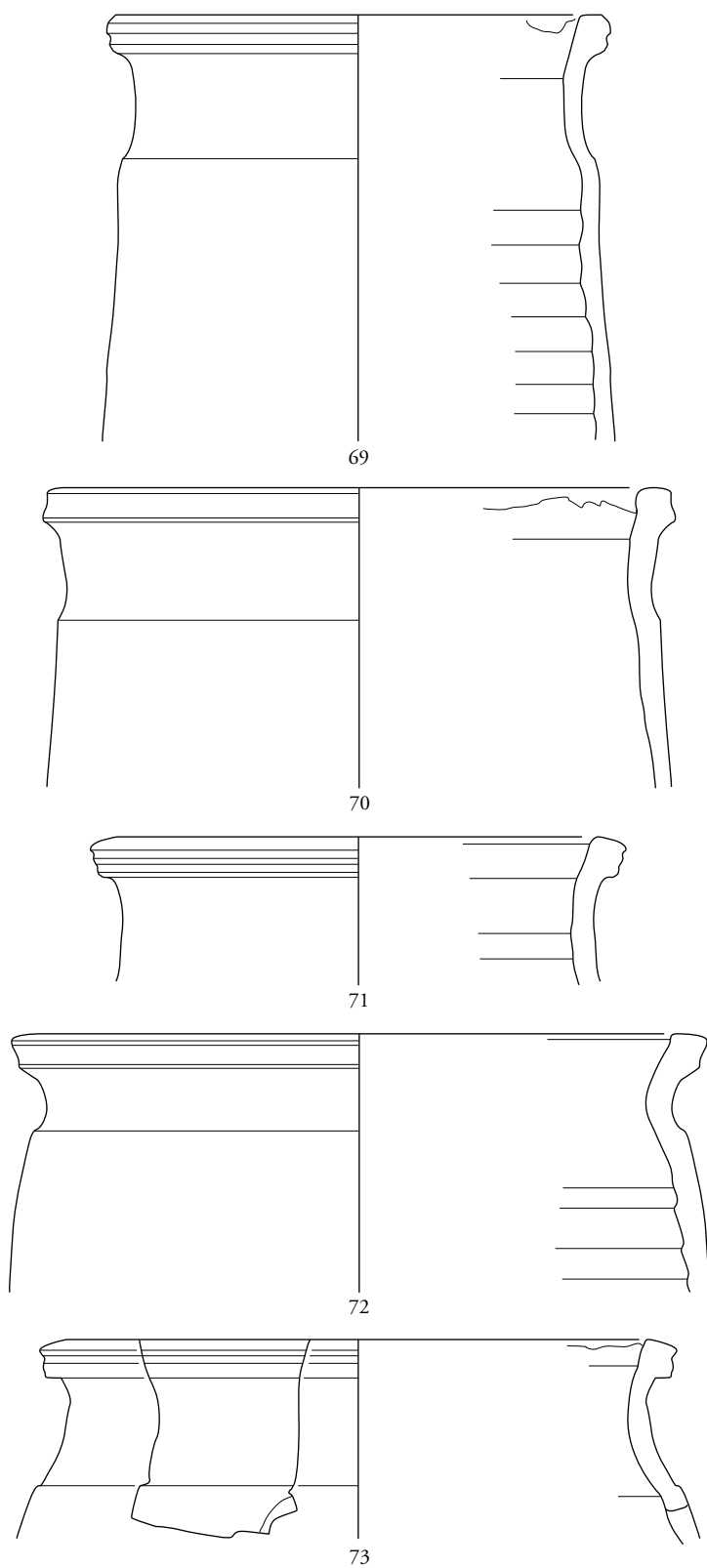


Plate 10 Nos. 69–73 (scale 1 : 2)

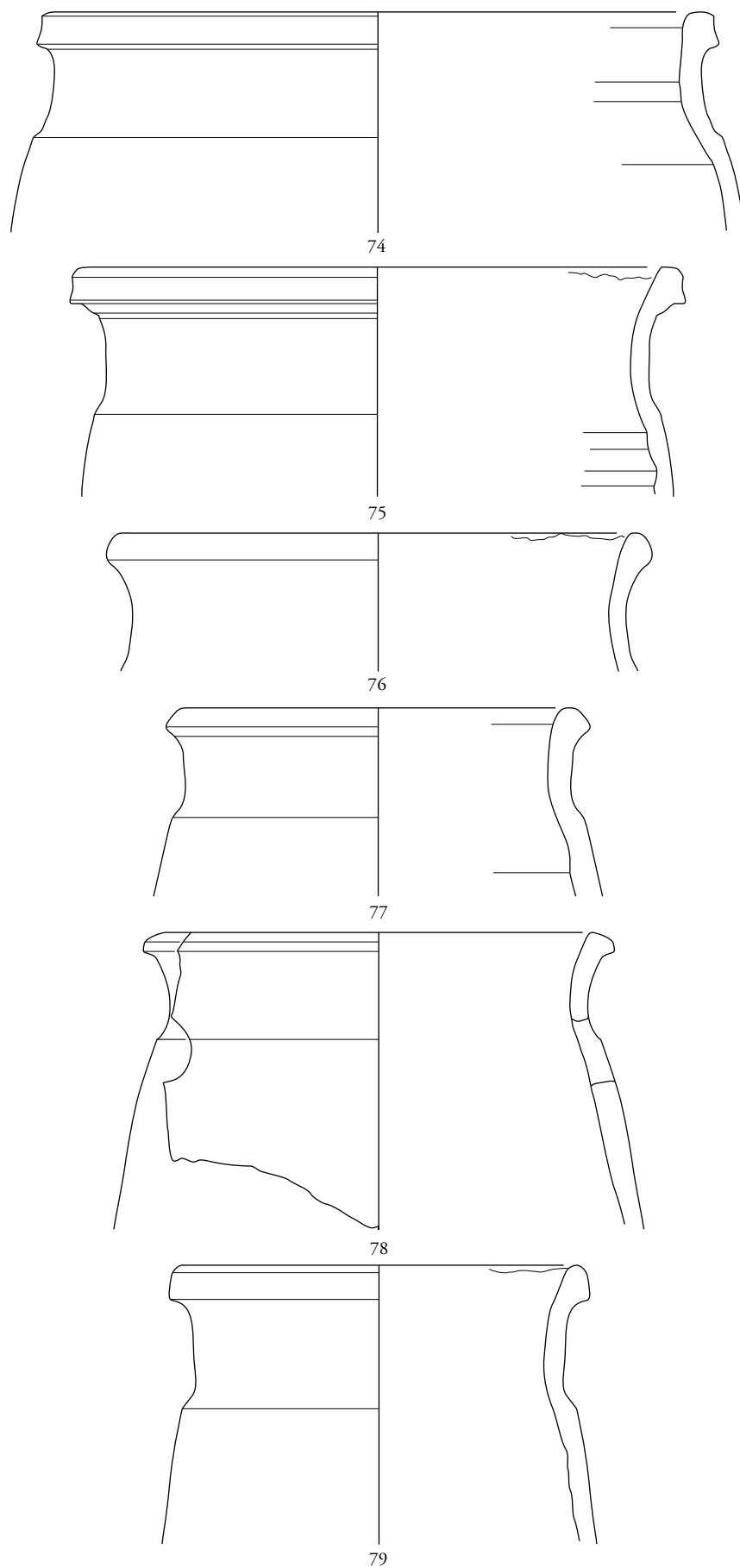


Plate 11 Nos. 74–79 (scale 1 : 2)

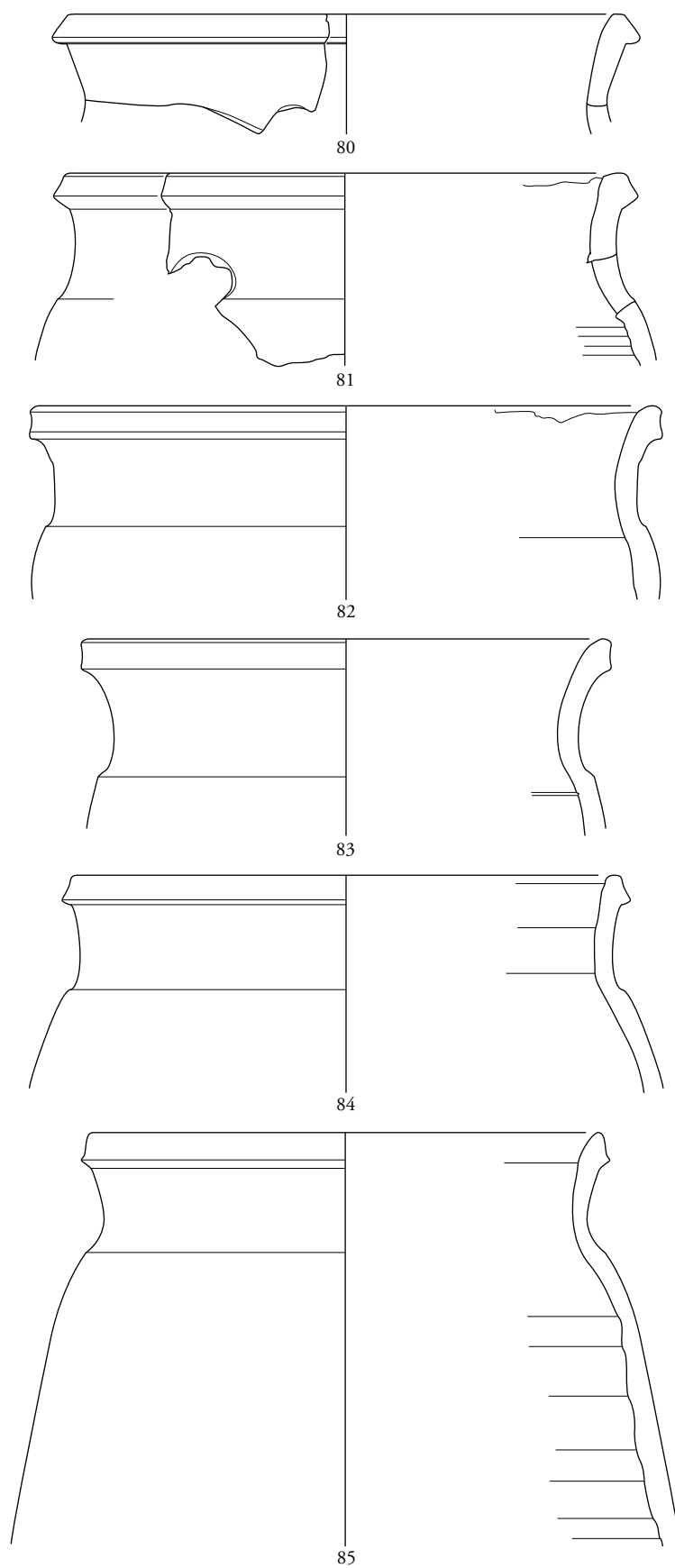


Plate 12 Nos. 80–85 (scale 1 : 2)

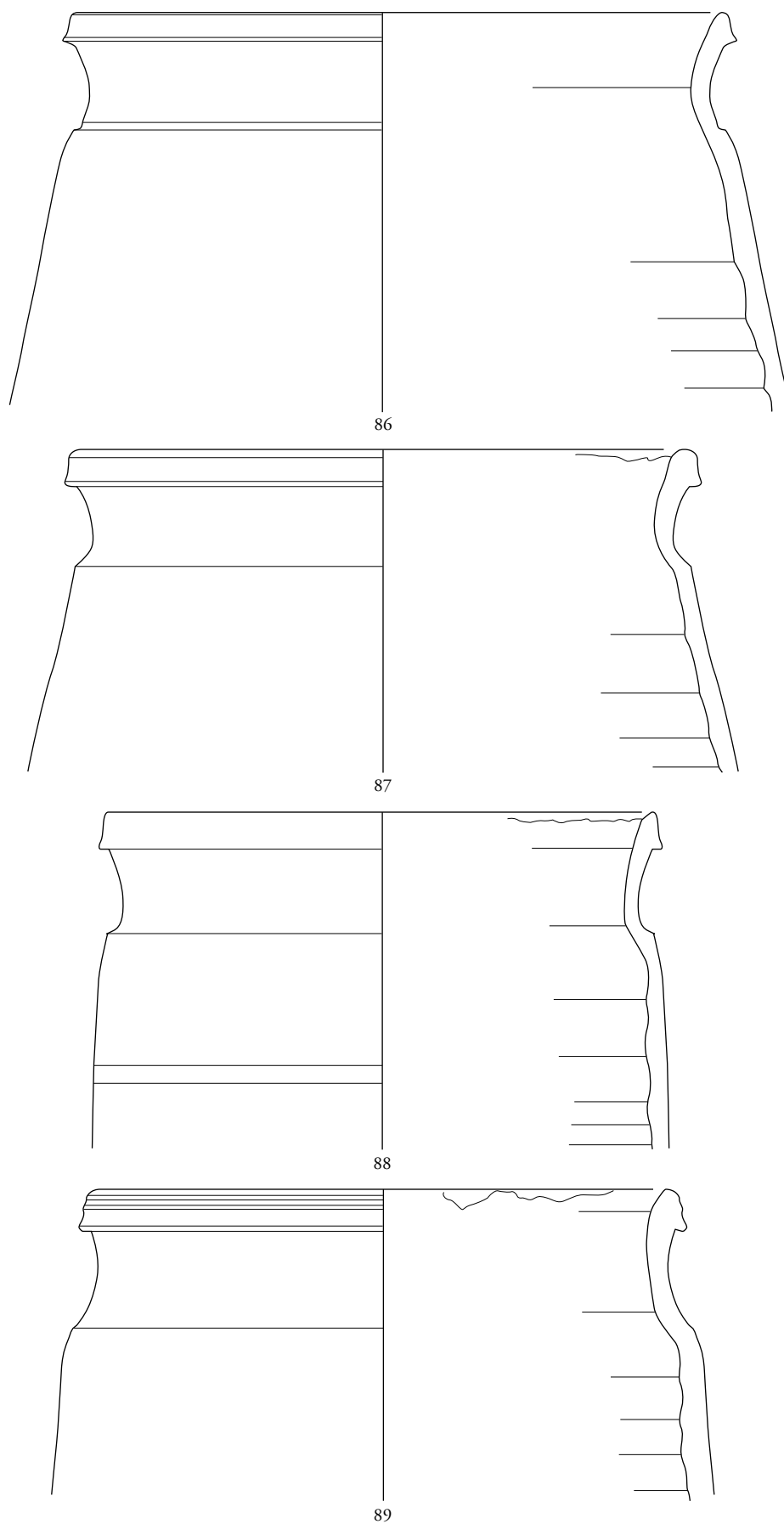


Plate 13 Nos. 86–89 (scale 1 : 2)

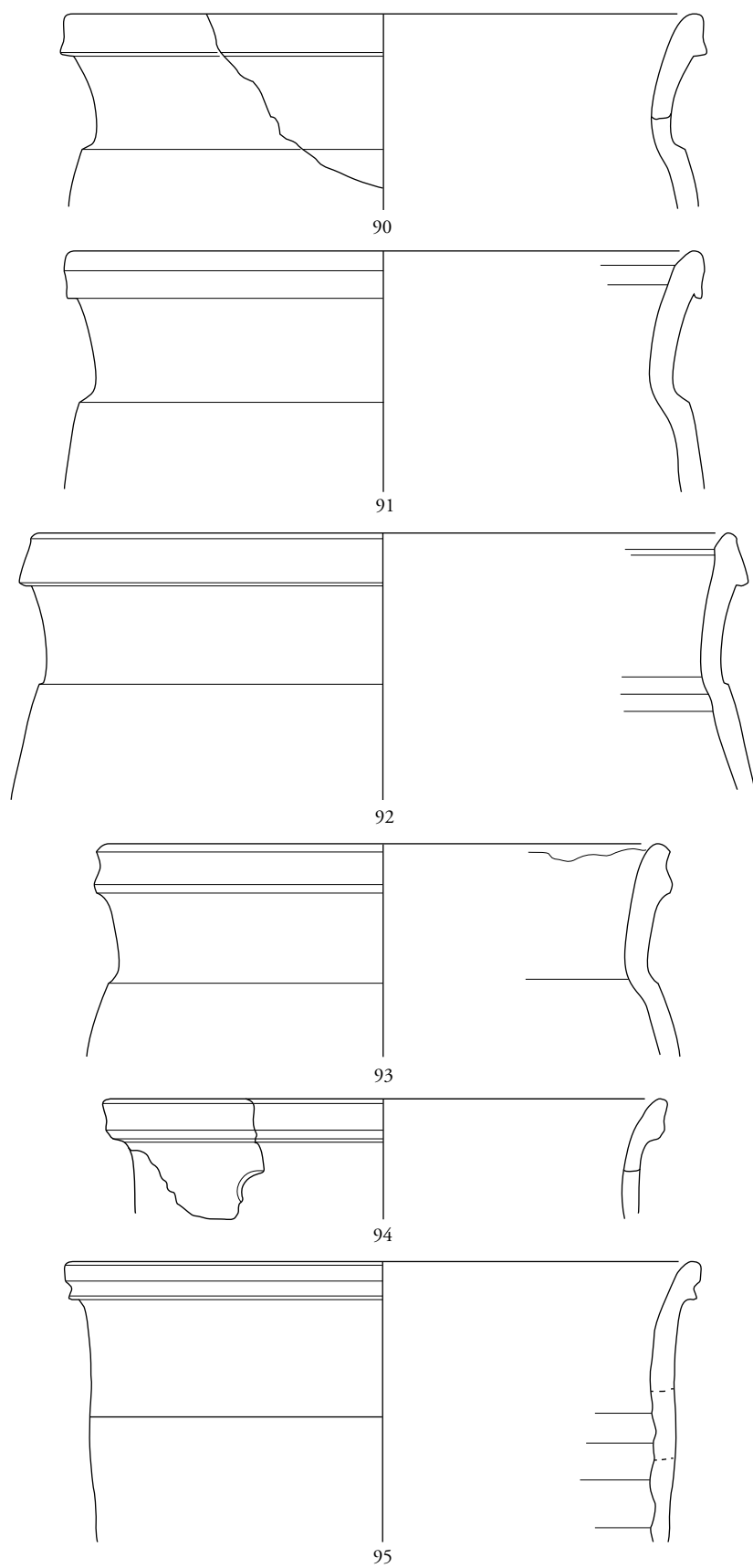


Plate 14 Nos. 90–95 (scale 1 : 2)

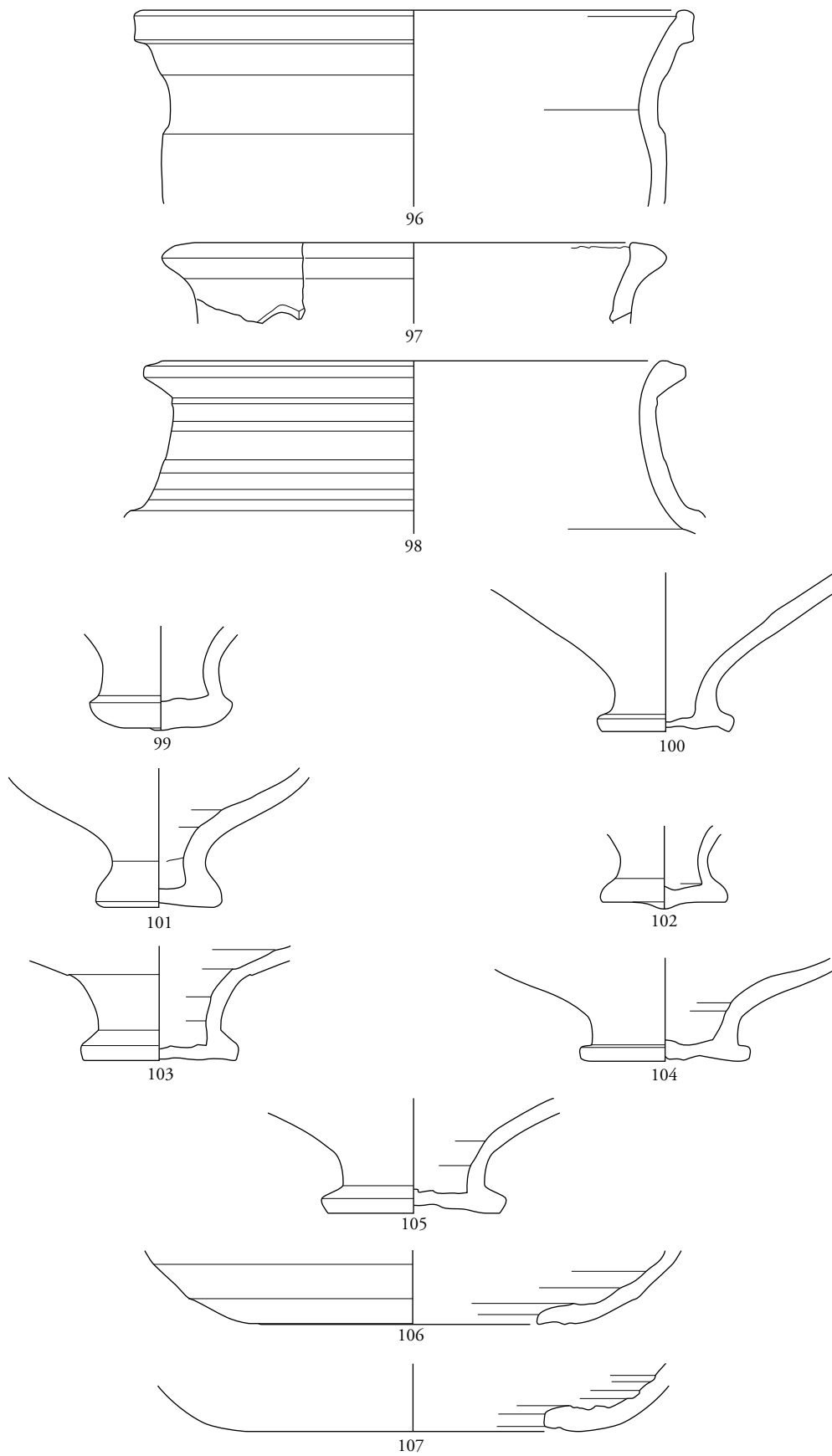


Plate 15 Nos. 96-107 (scale 1 : 2)

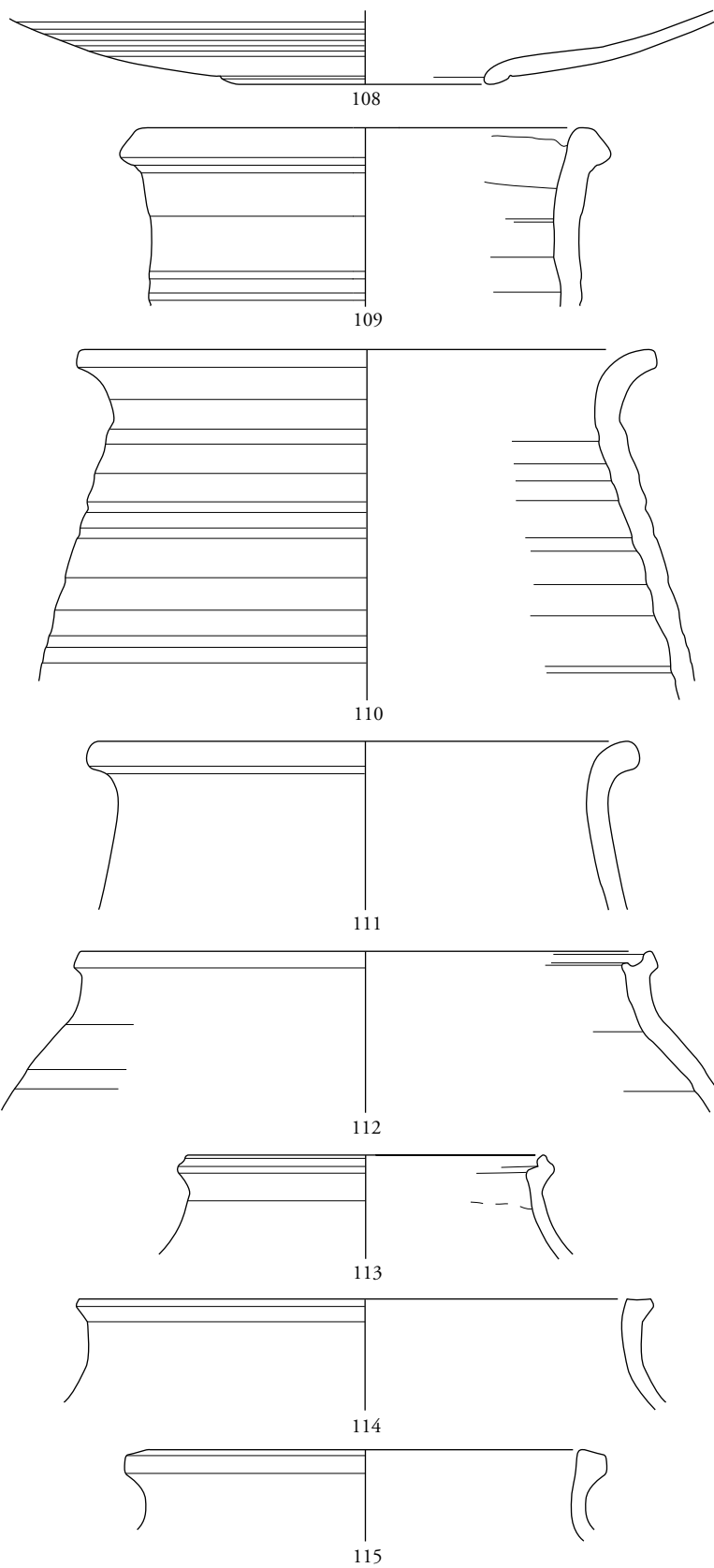


Plate 16 Nos. 108–115 (scale 1 : 2)

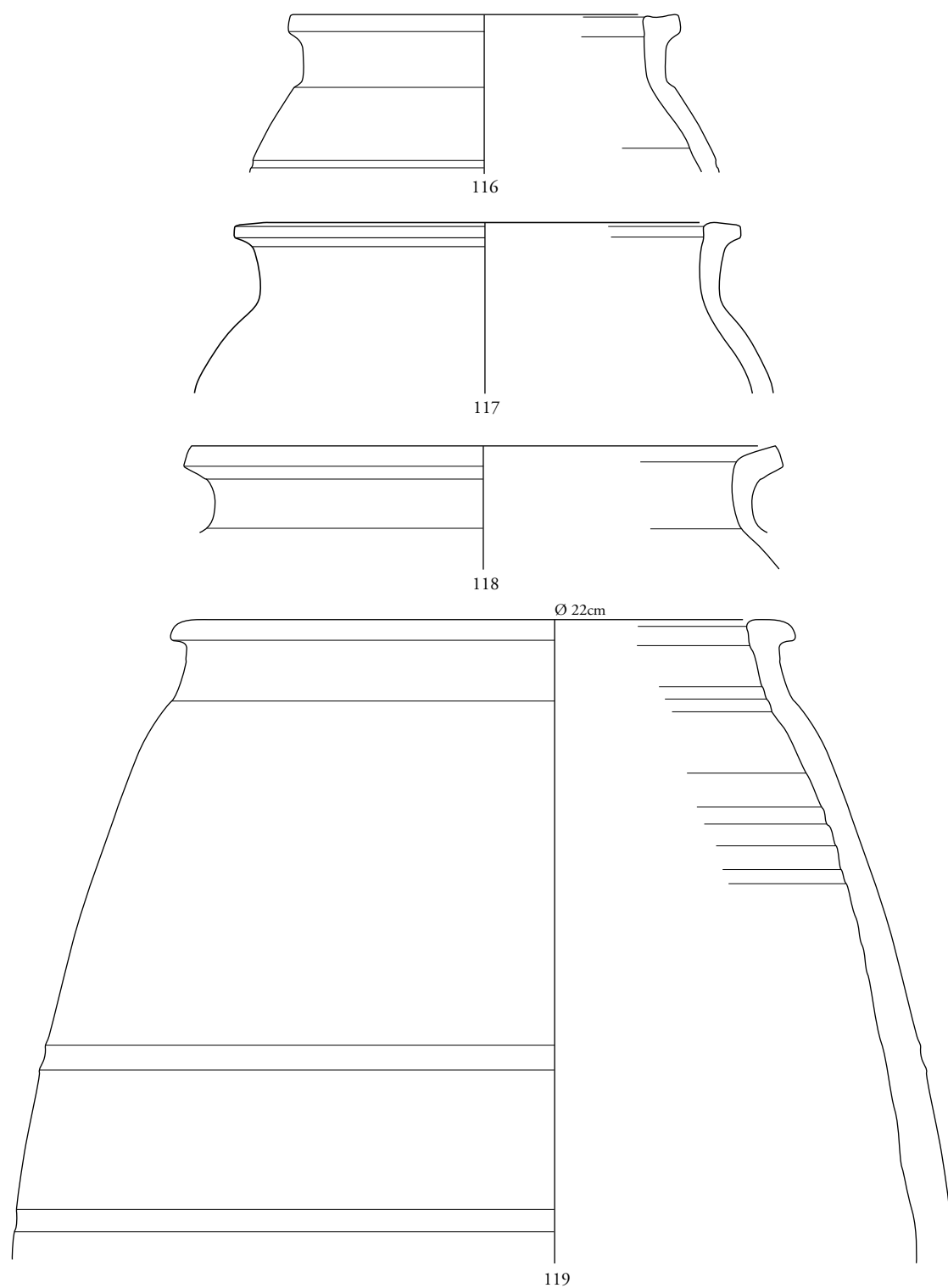


Plate 17 Nos. 116–119 (scale 1 : 2)

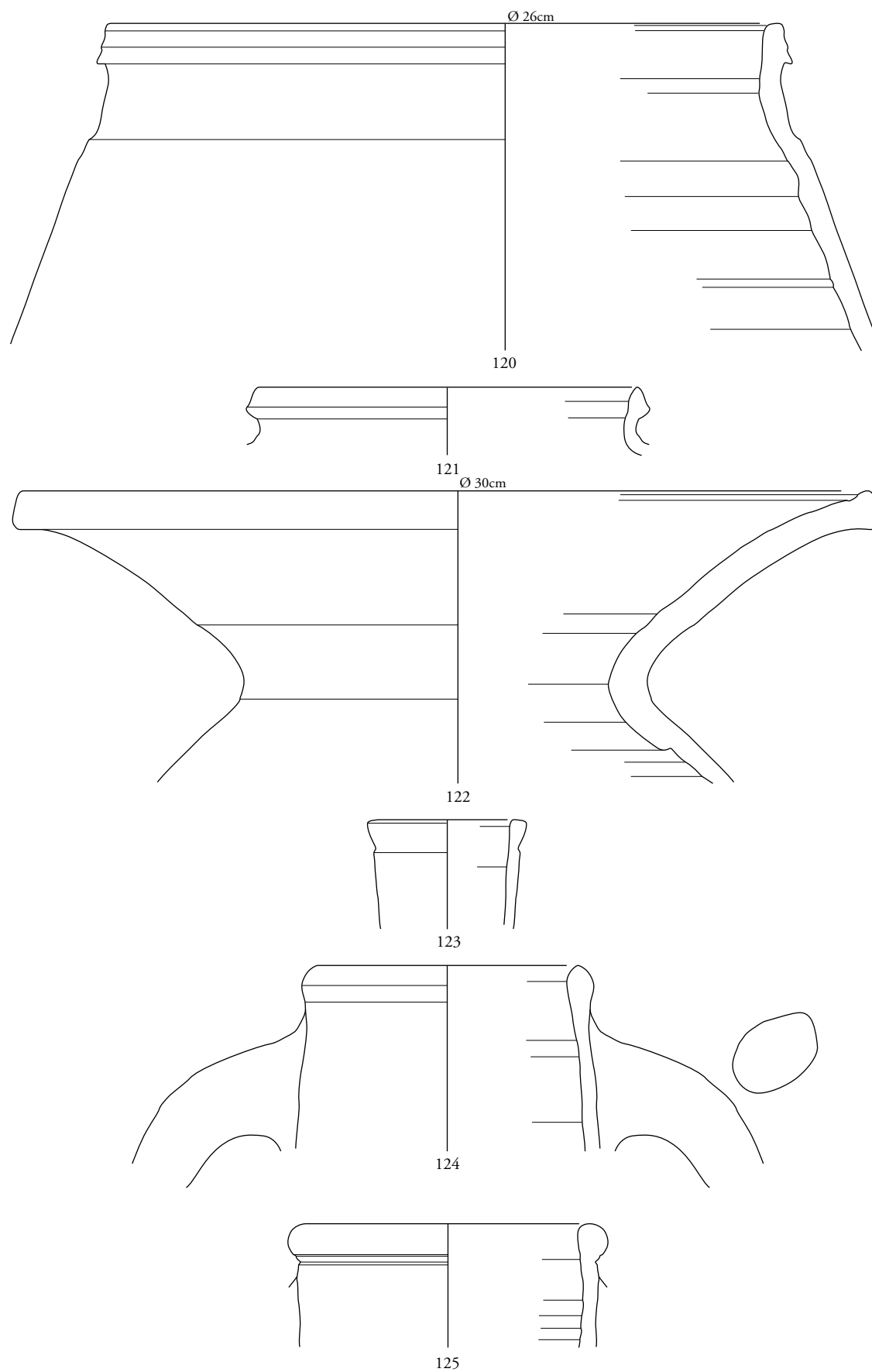


Plate 18 Nos. 120–125 (scale 1 : 2)

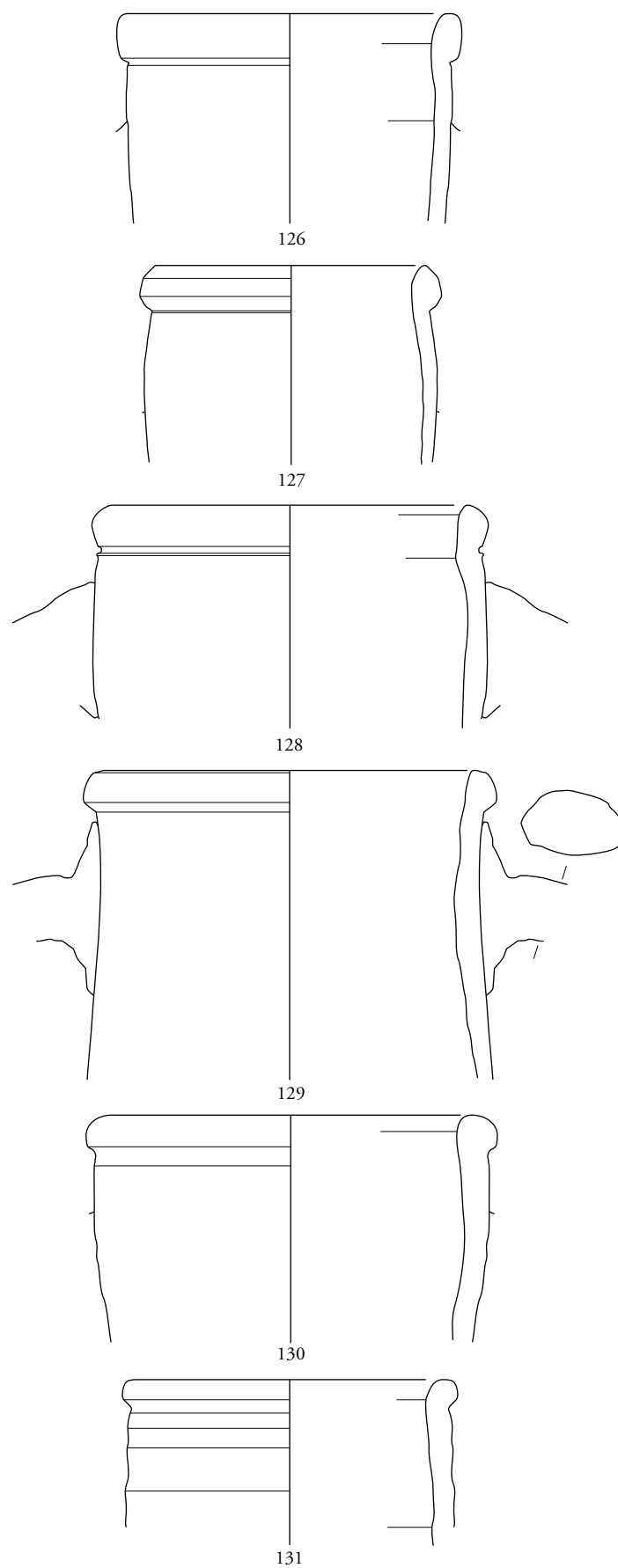


Plate 19 Nos. 126–131 (scale 1 : 2)

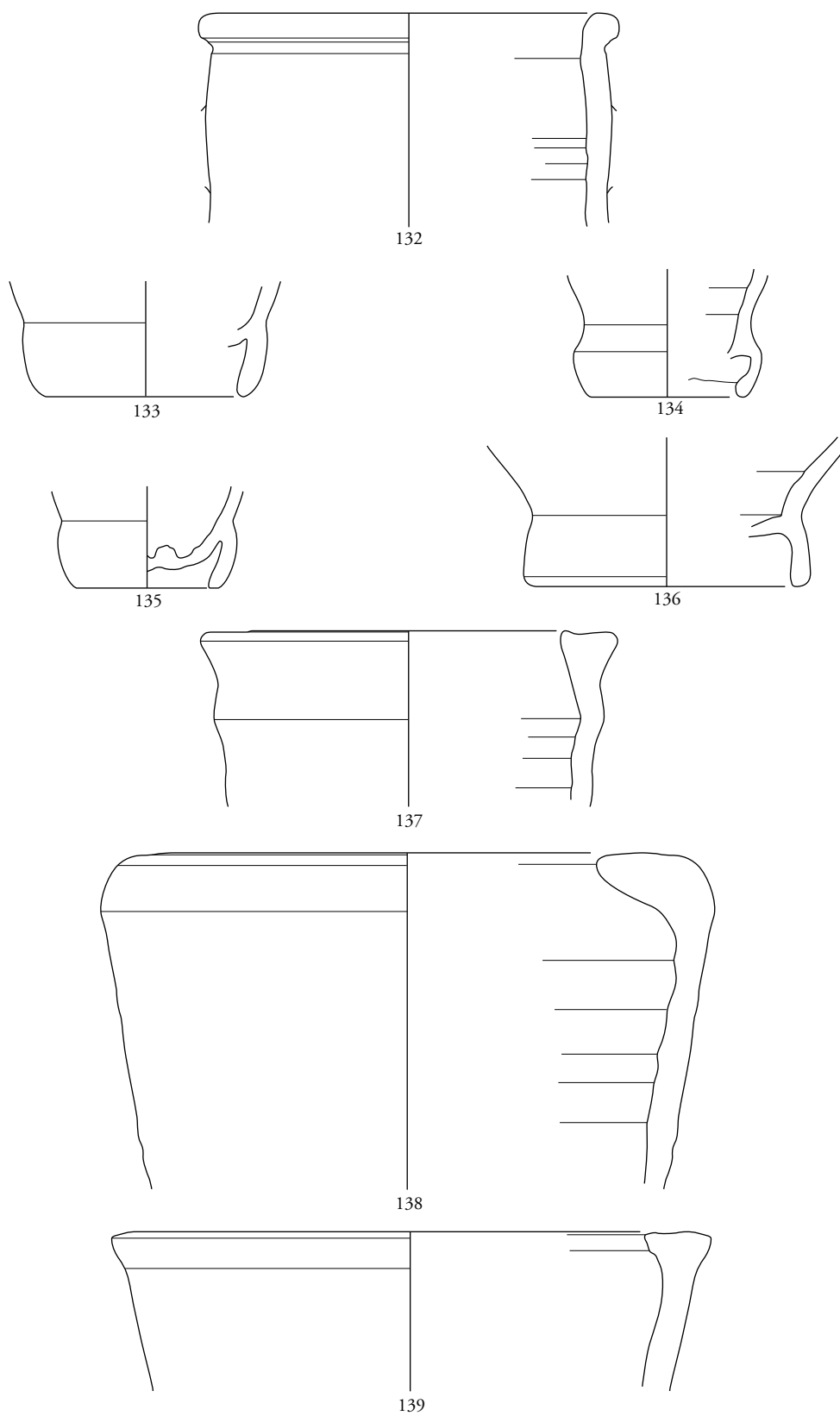
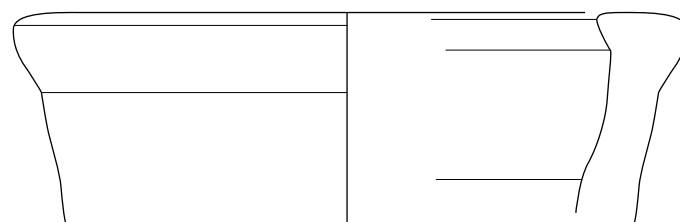
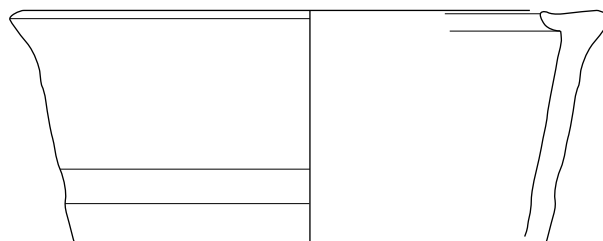


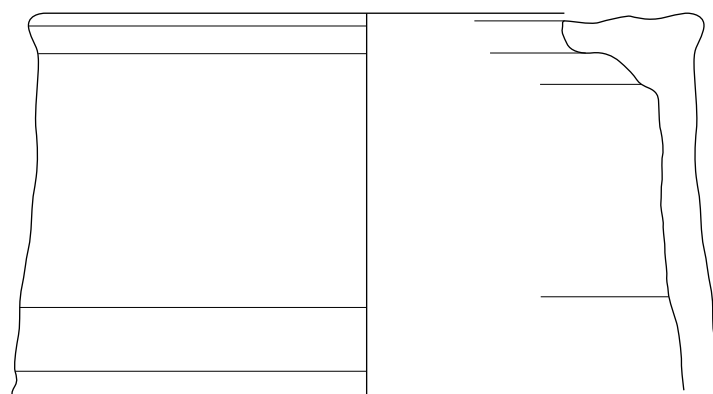
Plate 20 Nos. 132–139 (scale 1 : 2)



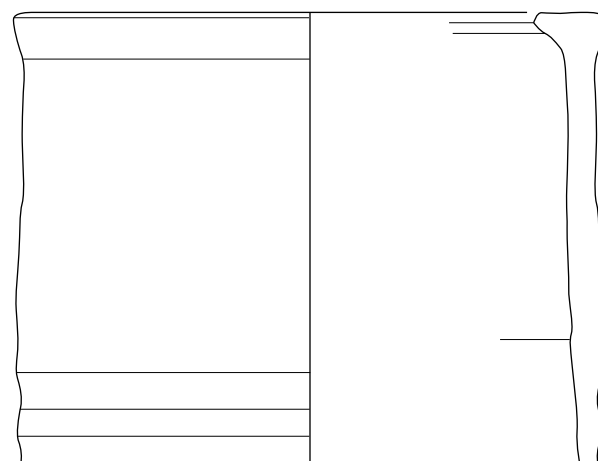
140



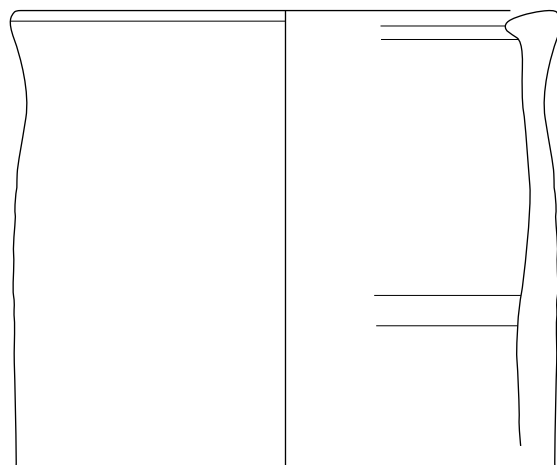
141



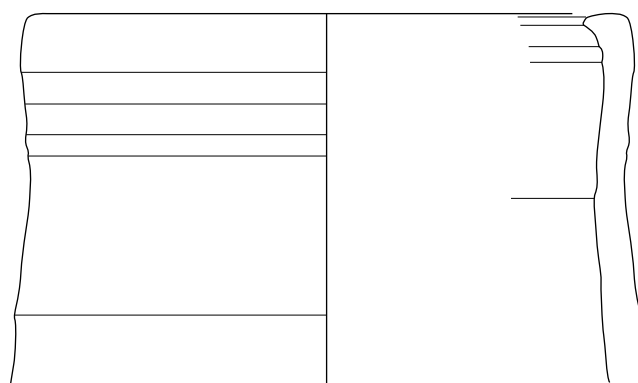
142



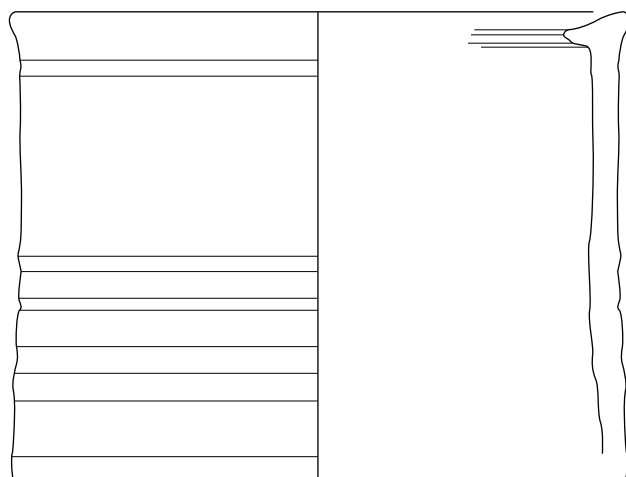
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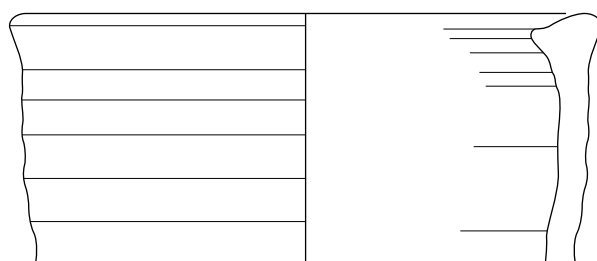
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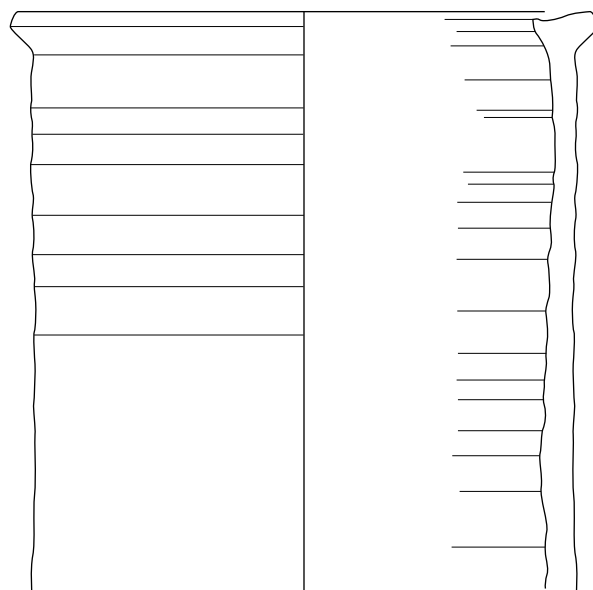
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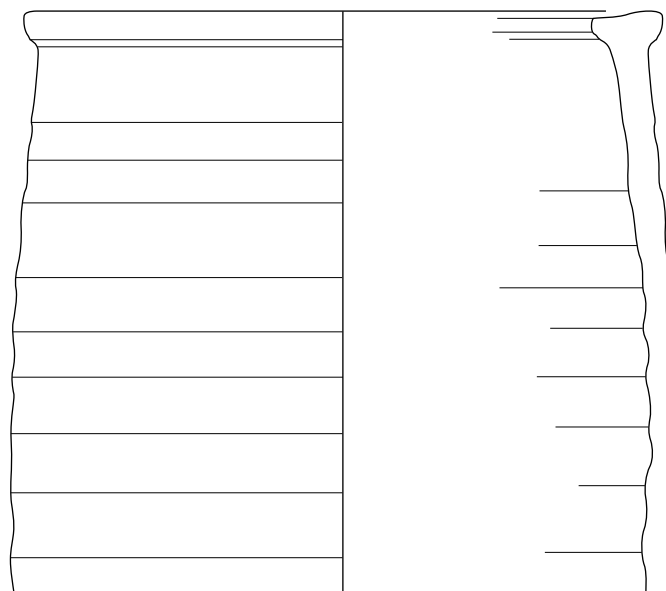
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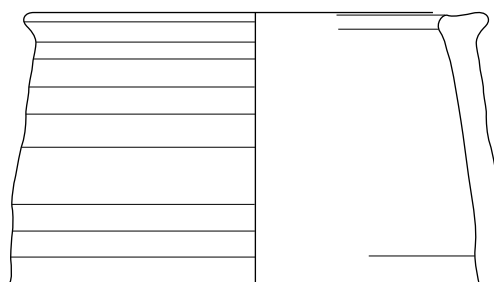
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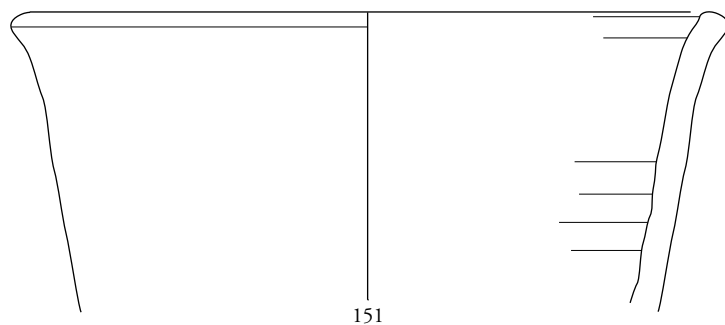
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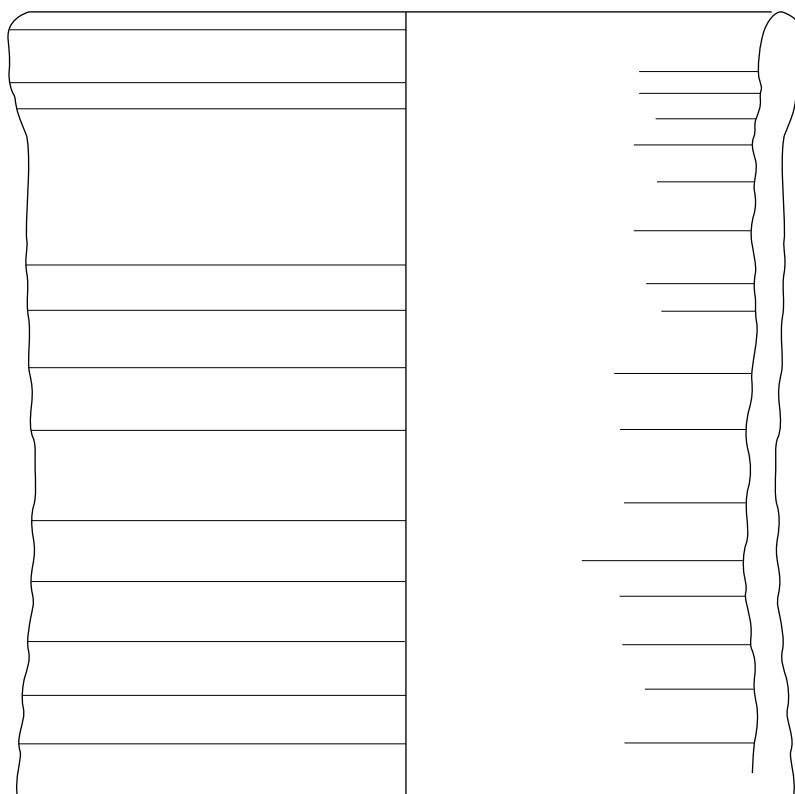
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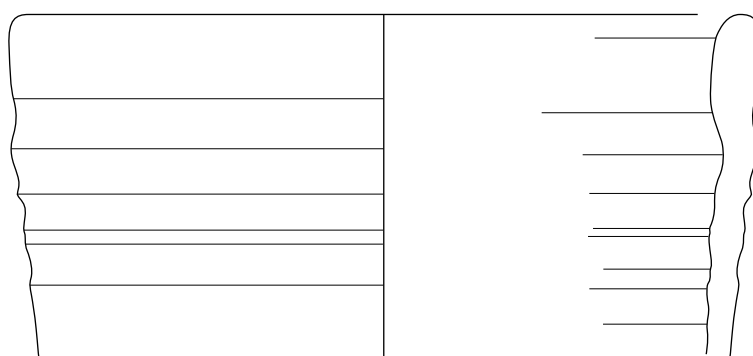
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151



152



153

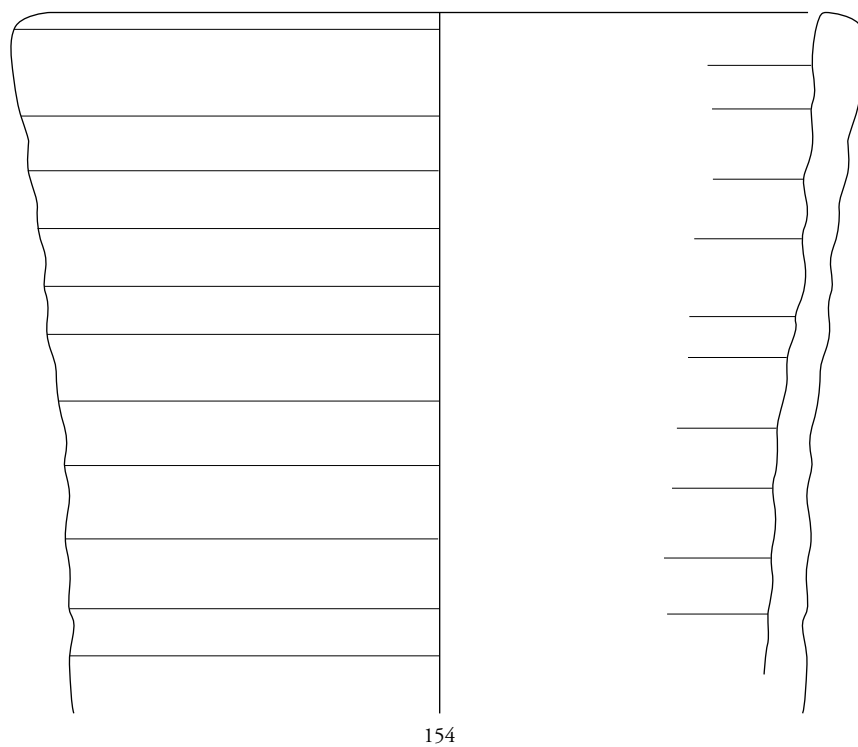


Plate 25 No. 154 (scale 1 : 2)

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Abstract**Martin Steskal – Pamela Rose, Research on Roman Nag el-Tawil in Upper Egypt. Field-Work 2011/2012**

In the course of a cooperation project between the Austrian Archaeological Institute and the Swiss Institute for Architectural and Archaeological Research on Egypt the ancient structures in the Upper Egyptian settlement Nag el-Tawil (about 20 km north of Aswan) were studied in 2011 and 2012. The monumental sand stone feature along the western Nile bank was the focus of this research and was previously described by Horst Jaritz in 1972. Today it is a tourist attraction during boat trips. Research by the Swiss Institute in 2008 indicated a Roman settlement in this location.

Based on the complete documentation of the sand stone monument along the Nile bank this structure can be interpreted as a quay and shipping pier for boats that is composed of a southern and northern pier. Earlier theories could not be verified according to which a possible corridor or entrance led to a temple located above on the plateau. The urgency of the complete documentation of this monument is illustrated by the loss of 15 % of the walls by the robbing of stone since its initial photographic documentation 40 years ago. Excavations of the foundations of the monument provide a date in the middle imperial period (2nd century A.D.).

Keywords

Roman Egypt – Upper Egypt – Settlement – Shipping Pier – Quay