THE CYPRIOTE BASE-RING SHERDS FOUND IN DIFFERENT LOCI OF THE PALACE COMPLEX OF TELL EL-DABCA/AVARIS AT C'EZBET HELMI (AREAS H/III AND H/VI) BELONG TO THE BASE-RING I WARE (TWENTY-THREE SHERDS) – EXCEPT THE HANDLE OF A JUG (NO. 24) THAT IS A BASE-RING II. THIS POTTERY IS FULLY DESCRIBED BELOW, IN THE CATALOGUE.

The Base-Ring ware is hand-made. The fabric is sandy, with a fine or fine to medium groundmass, mainly with few to abundant amounts of quartz particles (between 0.25 and 0.50 mm), and with few (sometimes medium) small crushed limestone particles. The walls are very thin and the surface very fine. The wall thickness of juglets, jugs and bowls is between 0.25 and 0.35 cm, 0.4 cm in the krater. The surface is burnished with matte, low, medium or high lustre.

According to the classification made by Sarah Vaughan,² the Base-Ring I sherds from Tell el-Dab'a belong to four wares: 1) Base-Ring Slipped – in the variations of Black Matte, Burnished and Metallic, and Brown Burnished; 2) Red Burnished Slipped; 3) Brushed Coated – as Black Matte, Brown Matte and Burnished, and Red Burnished –, and 4) Uncoated. It is a classification more related to the surface treatment than to the fabric itself.

Due to the fragmentary condition of the Base-Ring wares from C'Ezbet Helmi, few conclusion can be made from a typological point of view. The carinated bowl No. 17 (8956S1–5, Fig. 3a:1, Plate 2:4),³ of 16 cm rim diameter and 0.25 to 0.3 cm wall thickness, preserves the section quite complete, but the base is missing. This bowl belongs to the Brushed Coated Brown Matte Slipped ware, decorated on both surfaces with a burnished matte mottled slip from reddish brown to weak red and red. It is the most complete shape of all the BR I from these two areas of C'Ezbet Helmi.

Other shapes are:

1) the rim of a bowl (No. 4, 8953U, Fig. 1: 4, Plate 1:3), 14 cm in diameter, which preserves the beginning of the carinated wall. It belongs to the Base-Ring Slipped ware, with a medium lustre Black Burnished Slip (dark grey) outside and inside;

2) the body sherd of a bowl (No. 13, 8902J, Fig. 2: 5), 0.25 cm thick and nearly 14.5 cm of maximum diameter, with a horizontal straight ridge that usually decorates, below a wave ridge, the hemispherical bowls.⁴ It belongs to the Base-Ring Red Burnished ware with high lustre red slip;

3) the fragments of two pinched ring-based jugs of the Black Burnished Slipped ware. The first one, No.

¹ The Cypriote Base-Ring sherds found in different loci of the palace complex of Tell el-Dab'a/Avaris at C'Ezbet Helmi (areas H/III and H/VI) belong to the Base-Ring I ware (twenty-three sherds) – except the handle of a jug (No. 24) that is a Base-Ring II. This pottery is fully described below, in The Catalogue.

² Colour Photographs of Base-ring Ware Fabrics, in: P. Åström (ed.), The Chronology of Base-Ring Ware and Bichrome Wheel-Made Ware. Stockholm 2001, 123 and figs. 1–4 (Konferenser 54, KVHAA).

³ Colour Photographs of Base-ring Ware Fabrics, in: P. Åström (ed.), The Chronology of Base-Ring Ware and Bichrome Wheel-Made Ware. Stockholm 2001, 123 and figs. 1–4 (Konferenser 54, KVHAA).

⁴ Colour Photographs of Base-ring Ware Fabrics, in: P. Åström (ed.), The Chronology of Base-Ring Ware and Bichrome Wheel-Made Ware. Stockholm 2001, 123 and figs. 1–4 (Konferenser 54, KVHAA).

⁵ Colour Photographs of Base-ring Ware Fabrics, in: P. Åström (ed.), The Chronology of Base-Ring Ware and Bichrome Wheel-Made Ware. Stockholm 2001, 123 and figs. 1–4 (Konferenser 54, KVHAA).

⁶ Colour Photographs of Base-ring Ware Fabrics, in: P. Åström (ed.), The Chronology of Base-Ring Ware and Bichrome Wheel-Made Ware. Stockholm 2001, 123 and figs. 1–4 (Konferenser 54, KVHAA).

⁷ Colour Photographs of Base-ring Ware Fabrics, in: P. Åström (ed.), The Chronology of Base-Ring Ware and Bichrome Wheel-Made Ware. Stockholm 2001, 123 and figs. 1–4 (Konferenser 54, KVHAA).

⁸ Colour Photographs of Base-ring Ware Fabrics, in: P. Åström (ed.), The Chronology of Base-Ring Ware and Bichrome Wheel-Made Ware. Stockholm 2001, 123 and figs. 1–4 (Konferenser 54, KVHAA).

⁹ Colour Photographs of Base-ring Ware Fabrics, in: P. Åström (ed.), The Chronology of Base-Ring Ware and Bichrome Wheel-Made Ware. Stockholm 2001, 123 and figs. 1–4 (Konferenser 54, KVHAA).

¹⁰ Colour Photographs of Base-ring Ware Fabrics, in: P. Åström (ed.), The Chronology of Base-Ring Ware and Bichrome Wheel-Made Ware. Stockholm 2001, 123 and figs. 1–4 (Konferenser 54, KVHAA).

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¹³ Colour Photographs of Base-ring Ware Fabrics, in: P. Åström (ed.), The Chronology of Base-Ring Ware and Bichrome Wheel-Made Ware. Stockholm 2001, 123 and figs. 1–4 (Konferenser 54, KVHAA).

¹⁴ Colour Photographs of Base-ring Ware Fabrics, in: P. Åström (ed.), The Chronology of Base-Ring Ware and Bichrome Wheel-Made Ware. Stockholm 2001, 123 and figs. 1–4 (Konferenser 54, KVHAA).
8 (8943D, Fig. 1: 8), of 7 cm of base diameter, is covered with a medium lustre grey to light brownish grey slip; the second one, No. 9 (8956R, Fig. 2: 1, Plate 2:1), a little bigger, has a very dark grey slip;

4) the shoulder of a globular jug, No. 22 (8957H, Fig. 3b: 1, Plate 3:4), of ca. 12 cm of maximum diameter, which preserves two vertical scraping marks inside made to open the neck of the vessel. It is coated with a Brushed Red Burnished slip that mottled the surface in a colour from red to dark reddish grey, with medium lustre;

5) the neck of a juglet, No. 1 (8956Q, Fig. 1: 1, Plate 1:1), an example of a Black Matte Slipped ware, decorated with a horizontal relief of two parallel ridges on the middle of the neck, on a grey to dark grey surface;

6) fragments of a juglet, No. 23 (8956V, Fig. 3b: 2, Plate 3:5), the only example of the Uncoated ware, with a horizontal incised line on the neck-base and an incised line on the shoulder, probably a spiral, made on a pinkish grey burnished surface of matte lustre.

Celia Bergoffen, who has studied the overland trade in northern Sinai during the Late Bronze Age based on the evidence of the Late Cypriot pottery, considers that in Egypt Late Cypriot pottery – in this case the Base-Ring ware – was not a prestige item, because open shapes were hardly attested and this case the Base-Ring ware – was not a prestige item, because open shapes were hardly attested and the contents of the vessels such as opium and special oil were probably of greater interest than the pottery itself.

No much information about the first appearance in stratigraphic contexts could be taken from these Base-Ring I wares, except for three sherds from close contexts: the sherd of a juglet, No. 3 (8963L) from the offering pit L4932 (stratum d = Phase C/3), the fragmentary jug No. 8 (8943D) from a floor, L1008, of “the bathroom” (stratum c-d = Phase C/2-C/3), and the carinated bowl No. 4 (8953U), from a room, L4553A, of the workshop (stratum c = Phase C/2). The others were found in debris, pits or dumps, in stratum d (= Phase C/3) and c from the Tuthmosid period, and in stratum b/3 (= Phase C/1) from the Amarna time and one in stratum b/1 (= absolute stratum B), a large dump from the Ramesside period (L4791).

The black matte slipped body sherd of a juglet, No. 3 (8963L), appeared in a large collection of more than one hundred vessels in an offering pit from stratum d, L4932, below the dais in the south part of H/VI, x/19, with two Cypriote wheel-made Bichrome sherds and a wheel-made White Painted sherd.10

The pinched ring-based black burnished slipped jug No. 8 comes from L1008, a floor of “the bathroom” from the main palace (G), a mud-brick building in the north-east part of the palace complex11 (area H/III), located inside the surrounding wall of this palace at the foot of the ramp leading to it. A large pottery assemblage was recovered from this bathroom. The ceramics – domestic and votive wares-

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7 It is probably similar to the juglet published by P. ÅSTRÖM, op. cit., in: E. GRESTER, EET IV, 2, fig. XLIV, 4.

8 Overland Trade in Northern Sinai: The Evidence of the Late Cypriot Pottery, BASOR 294 (1995), 59–90, especially 72–73.

9 Some remarks on the stratigraphy of ‘Ezbet Helmi: the relative stratum c/2 corresponds to the Phase D/2, the last Hyksos period, and c/1 to Phase D/1, from the beginning of the Ahmose occupation of Avaris. The relative stratum d is the Phase C/3 and e the Phase C/2, both phases of the Thutmosid palace-complex at ‘Ezbet Helmi; the relative strata b and a were renamed b/3 (Amarna period) and b/2 (Tutankhamun and Horemheb time) respectively, corresponding both to the Phase C/1. All these strata (d, c, and b) were called before absolute Stratum C. The Ramesside stratum was renamed Phase b/1 (absolute B), and the Late Period is absolute Phase A. On the stratigraphy of ‘Ezbet Helmi, see M. BRETAK, J. DORNER und P. JÁNOSI, op. cit., Ä&L 11, 30–47, and M. BRETAK, Introduction..., in: P. FUSCALDO, Tell el-Dab’a X, Part II (in print).


The ceramic context from the offering pit L4932 where the Base-Ring I ware juglet sherd No. 3 came from, comprises typical stratum d shapes and wares as: flat-bottomed cups with red-slipped rim band, ring-based bowls with black rim (black rim ware), flat-bottomed small jars with direct everted rim, carinated jars from Middle Bronze Age II B–C origin, red-slipped burnished dipper juglets of slender type, and local imitations of Middle Bronze Age II B–C ring-based burnished jugs, with angular shoulder, compound rim, double strap handle applied from the neck to the shoulder, with or without painted decoration, in a fabric made of the Delta or Nile Valley silt clay without organic inclusions or with crushed limestone particles.

The Base-Ring I ware jug No. 8, from L1008, is associated with the Egyptian Black Rim ware (bows and jars), red-slipped polished cups with incurved rim and pointed base finished on the wheel, fine footed bowls and concave bowls, small burnished bowls, a burnished globular jug made of the Delta silt clay tempered with fine grained quartz, and fine imports from Cyprus (White Painted V, Bichrome wheel-made and Red Lustrous wheel-made ware). No White Slip ware was found in this locus.

Base-Ring I ware is found in Tell el-Dab'a, areas H/III and VI, from stratum d onwards, but only three sherds in closed contexts: an offering pit (L4932) from stratum d, a floor (L1008) from “the bathroom”, stratum d-c, and a floor (L4535A) from the workshop, stratum c. There is no great difference from a typological point of view between the pottery from stratum d and c. In the stratum d there are nearly the same Egyptian and imported pottery shapes and wares mentioned above, in L4932, and L1008 and other loci of “the bathroom” – except Red Lustrous wheel-made ware. Egyptian Bichrome ware is found beside Cypriote wheel-made Bichrome in stratum d contexts, but both are more

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15 This shape appears in stratum d in two versions, a small jar and a storage jar, and in a finer version with red-slipped burnished surface in stratum c, all of them in Nile silt clay.
17 No Black Rim ware is found before stratum d, i.e. in the earliest stratified of the 18th Dynasty, c/1.
18 White Painted V is a Middle Bronze ware that appears in Tell el-Dab'a in stratum d/2 (= Phase D/2).
20 In I. HEIN, op. cit., in: P. ÅSTRÖM (ed.), op. cit. (Konferenser 54), mentioned in note 2, there is no reference to the strata where the Base-Ring ware from areas H/1, IV and V appeared.
21 A preliminary characterisation of the stratum-d shapes and wares reveals: 1) few small bowls with burnished interior surface; white-washed jars (WF-Vase) in two versions, white-washed and white-slipped, with trimmed or rounded rim; fine footed bowls, with a red-slipped and red-slipped polished surface, straight sided or with incurved rim; black-rim ware (ring-based bowls, straight sided and with interior lip, and small flat-based jars with direct everted rim are the representative shapes); 2) local imitations of MB Age II B–C ring-based burnished jugs, with angular shoulder, compound rim, double strap handle applied from the neck to the shoulder, with or without painted decoration, in a fabric made of the Delta or Nile Valley silt clay without organic inclusions or crushed limestone particles, which is not included in the “Vienna System” – this ware is not found anymore in stratum c; 3) the weak red or red-slipped burnished dipper juglets from Middle Bronze Age II B–C origin, which in stratum c are still used beside a more finer juglet with a light red-slipped polished surface; 4) occasionally Egyptian painted wares; 5) Cypriote Bichrome wheel-made ware, but in less amount that in stratum c; 6) no Cypriote Red Lustrous ware; 7) occasionally White Slip I ware. The most common fabric is Nile B3 sandy (= Nile E3). On the stratum c/1 and d shapes: P. FUSCALDO, A Preliminary Report on the Pottery from the Strata c/1 (=Phase D/1) and d (=Phase C/3) at ‘Ezbat Helmi, H/VI (forthcoming). The stratum c pottery from H/VI is being studied by David Aston.
abundant in stratum c. A Black Lustrous ware appeared in L3005, as a closed context inside the terrace between the exterior wall of the palace G and the enclosure wall of the same building, which belongs to the first phase of construction of this palace (stratum d = Phase C/3).

The archaeological material from ‘Ezbet Helmi, H/VI South, recovered during the excavations made in 2001 and 2002, has given new elements for dating the New Kingdom palace complex. Bietak proposes now a date into the Thutmosid period, with two phases of construction, the first one at the beginning of the reign of Thutmosis III and the second one, with especial modifications in the palace G and southwards, from the time of this king to the reign of Amenophis II.

Base-Ring II ware is rarely represented. The only example (No. 24) comes from the area H/III and was found in the accumulation of earth produce by the excavations of a modern canal.

According to Eliezer Oren, Base-Ring I ware does not appear in quantity before the time of Thutmosis III. Kathryn Eriksson claims that Base-Ring I and Red Lustrous wheel-made wares can be dated closely to the reign of Thutmosis III in Canaan, and that the bulk of these imports can be from the reign of this pharaoh, the period when most of these wares appeared in Egypt.

THE CATALOGUE

BASE-RING I

1. Base-Ring Slipped Ware

1.1. Black Matte Slip

No. 1: Juglet, Inv. No. 8956Q [2002/110] (Fig. 1: 1, Pl. 1:1) Field reference: H/VI-v/18, Pl. 4, L4813, stratum c = d (= Phase C/2/C/3), a large pottery collection, probably a dump. Find No. 1.

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Neck fragment, ½ preserved. Nd: 1.6 cm; Wd: 0.5 cm; H: 5.0 + x cm.
Surface colour: 7.5YR 6/2 pinkish grey interior; slip: 7.5YR 5/1 grey. Break: 7.5YR 5/1 grey.
Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm; medium; <2 mm; very few), crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm; very few) and dark sand. The fabric is less porous and finer than BR II (8205Q). Technical details: marks of the stick used to open the neck.
Decoration: a horizontal relief of two parallel ridges on the middle of the neck.
Surface treatment: burnished, matte lustre.

No. 2: Juglet, Inv. No. 8956T1–2 [2002/101] (Fig. 1: 2, Pl. 1:2) Field reference: H/VI-x/19, Pl. 1–2, L4840(L), stratum d (= Phase C/3), a dump with a large amount of pottery sherds (L4840 and L4840A to H).

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Two body sherds. Wd: 0.25 cm; H: 3.8 + x cm.
Surface colour: 10YR 5/1 grey interior; slip: 10YR 3/1 very dark grey.
Break: 7.5YR 3/1 very dark grey–2.5/1 black.
Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm, >0.50 mm: abundant), crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm; few) and dark sand (very fine). The fabric is coarser than BR I 8955R.
Burnished, matte lustre.

No. 3: Juglet, Inv. No. 8963L [2002/192] (Fig. 1: 3) Field reference: H/VI-x/19, Pl. 3, L4932, stratum d (= Phase C/3), an offering pit.

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Body sherd. Wd: 0.2 cm; H: 2.5 + x cm.
Surface colour: 10YR 5/1 grey outside; 10YR 6/1 grey inside; 10YR 4/1 dark grey slip.
Break: 10YR 5/1 grey.
Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm, >0.50 mm: abundant; >2 mm; few), crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm; few). Finger prints inside, near [the base]; burnished, matte lustre.

1.2. Black Burnished Slip

No. 4: Carinated bowl, Inv. No. 8953U [2002/315] (Fig. 1: 4, Pl. 1:3) Field reference: H/VI-v/17, Pl. 2, L4553A, stratum c (= Phase C/2), a room from the workshop area filled with pottery, mud seal-impressions and fragments of mud seal-impressions with royal names of the 15th and 18th Dynasties; from K-9077.

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Rim sherd, 3/64; Rd: 14.0 cm; Wd: 0.5 cm; H: 2.8 + x cm.
Surface colour: 7.5YR 4/1 dark grey slip outside and inside. Break: 7.5YR 4/1 dark grey.
Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm; abundant) and crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm; very few). Bowl with [wish-bone handle]; burnished, medium lustre.

22 The pottery assemblage from L3005 and from other stratum d loci of the same area, will be published in P. Fuscaldo, ‘Tell el-Dab’a X, Part III (see above, note 10).
23 The only one in H/VI North, on the north-west part of the palace G.
25 On the workshops and other areas south to the palace G, stratum c, see M. Bietak (ed.), (forthcoming).
27 Cypriot Ceramics in Egypt during the Reign of Thutmosis III: The Evidence of Trade of Synchronizing the Late Cypriot Cultural Sequence with Egypt at the Beginning of the Late Bronze Age, in: P. Åström (ed.), op. cit. (Konferenser 54), 51–68, especially 51–53.
No. 5: Juglet, Inv. No. 8955Z1–2 [2002/088] (Fig. 1: 5, Pl. 1:4)
Field reference: H/VI-v/18, Pl. 1, L4792, stratum c (= Phase C/2), from the upper part of the reddish fill of a room, south of the palace G.

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Body sherd. Wd: 0.25 cm; H₁: 3.0 + x cm.
Surface colour: 7.5YR 4/1 dark grey interior; slip: 5YR 4/1 dark grey.
Break: 5YR 4/1 dark grey-3/1 very dark grey.
Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm, >0.50 mm: abundant), crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm: few) and dark sand (very fine). The fabric is similar to 8955R.

No. 6: Juglet, Inv. No. 8957A [2002/109] (Fig. 1: 6, Pl. 1:5)
Field reference: H/VI-u/19, Pl. 2, L4878, stratum b/3-c (= Phase C/1–C/2), from the upper fill of a pot, possibly a dump.

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Body sherd. Md: ca. 16.0 cm; Wd: 0.25 cm; H₁: 1.1 + x cm
Surface colour: 7.5YR 6/1 grey interior; slip: 5YR 4/1 dark grey.
Break: 7.5YR 4/1 dark grey interior (thick zone); 6/3 light brown exterior (thin zone).
Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm, >0.50 mm: abundant), crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm: few) and dark sand (very fine). The fabric is as fine as 8955R.

No. 7: Juglet, Inv. No. 8953B [2002/315] (Fig. 1: 7, Pl. 1:6)
Field reference: H/VI-w/15, Pl. 1, L4825, stratum b/3-c (= Phase C/1–C/2), a dump below L4823.

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Body sherd: Wd: 0.3 cm; H₁: 2.5 + x cm.
Surface colour: 5YR 6/4 light reddish brown; 3/1 very dark grey slip outside.
Break: 5YR 6/1 grey.
Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm, >0.50 mm: abundant), crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm: few) and dark sand (very fine). The fabric is as fine as 8955R.

No. 8: Jug, Inv. No. 8943D [2001/114] (Fig. 1: 8)
Field reference: H/III-t/17, Pl. 1, L1008, stratum c–d (= Phase C/2–C/3), the floor of "the bathroom" in the Palace G.

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Base fragment; pinched ring base (R₁). Bd: 7.0 cm 1/16;
Wd: 0.25 cm; H₁: 1.3 + x cm.
Surface colour: 10YR 6/3 pale brown; slip: 10YR 5/1 grey – 6/2 light brownish grey.
Break: 10YR 5/1 grey.
Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: abundant; <0.50 mm: medium), crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm: few).
Some voids.
Burnished, medium lustre.

No. 9: Jug, Inv. No. 8956R [2002/110] (Fig. 2: 1, Pl. 2: 1)
Field reference: H/VI-v/19, Pl. 1, L4829, stratum b/3–c (= Phase C/1–C/2), found in mud at the border of the pit L4830. H: 4.85 m.

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Base, 9/32 preserved, and body fragment; pinched ring base (R₁). Md: 14.0 + x cm; Bd: 8.0 cm; Wd: 0.35 cm; H₁: 5.2 + x cm.
Surface colour: 7.5YR 4/3 brown interior; slip: 7.5YR 3/1 very dark grey.
Break: 7.5YR 4/1 dark grey interior (thick); 5YR 6/8 reddish yellow exterior (thin).
Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: abundant), crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm: few), red grit? The fabric is less sandy than 8956Q but with more limestone particles.
Burnished, medium lustre

No. 10: Jug, Inv. No. 8945H [2002/315] (Fig. 2: 2)
Field reference: H/VI-c/16, Pl. 0–1, L4561, stratum b/3 (= Phase C/1), dark mud-brick debris.

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Body sherd; Wd: 0.35 cm; H₁: 4.5 + x cm.
Surface colour: 7.5YR 5/3 brown inside; 7.5YR 4/1 dark grey slip outside.
Break: 7.5YR 4/1 dark grey core (thick zone); a very thin exterior zone 5YR 6/4 light reddish brown.
Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: abundant), crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm: few).
Burnished, medium lustre.

1.3. Black Metallic Slip

No. 11: Jug, Inv. No. 8955Y [2002/111] (Fig. 2: 3, Pl. 2: 2)
Field reference: H/VI-a/18, Pl. 0–1, L4707, stratum b/3-c (= Phase C/1–C/2), dark mud-brick debris at the top of stratum c wall.

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Body sherd with part of the base of the handle. Wd: 0.35 cm; H₁: 2.8 + x cm.
Surface colour: 7.5YR 5/2 brown interior; slip: 7.5YR 2.5/1 black.
Break: 7.5YR 4/1 dark grey interior (thick); a very thin oxidation zone (5YR 6/6 reddish yellow) on the exterior.
Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm, >0.50 mm: abundant), crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm: few) and dark sand (very fine). Fabric similar to 8957A.

No. 12: Juglet (or Jug?), Inv. No. 8891N [1999/131] (Fig. 2: 4)
Field reference: H/III-p/19, Pl. 3–4, Locus —, stratum b/3 (= Phase C/1); from K-6374. Found by the wall.

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Neck and base-neck; handle from upper neck to [shoulder]. Md: 1.4–2.1 cm; Wd: 0.25–0.5 cm; H₁: 3.1 + x cm; H₂: 4.9 + x cm; H₃: 1.2 x 0.6 cm.
Surface colour: 5YR 6/6 reddish yellow; slip: 7.5YR 5/4 brown.
Break: 5YR 5/1 grey interior (thick zone); a very thin ox-

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28 It was checked in Tell el-Dab’a by Celia Bergoffen.
2. Base-Ring Red Burnished

No. 13: Bowl, Inv. No. 8902J [1999/129] (Fig. 2: 5)
Field reference: H/III-e/19, Pl. 0–1, Locus –, stratum a (now renamed stratum b/2 (= Phase C/1)), mud-brick debris at the top of the stratum b/3 (= Phase C/1) wall; 0.6 cm below the surface. H: 4.45–4.58 m; from K-6272.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RP</th>
<th>VI</th>
<th>fine</th>
<th>H1</th>
<th>–</th>
<th>ox</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Body sherd; [wish-bone handle]. Md: ca. 14.5 + x cm; Wd: 0.25 cm
Surface colour: 2.5YR 5/8 red slip (outside and inside).
Break: 5YR 5/2 reddish grey core; 5/6 yellowish red oxidation zones.
Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: abundant; >2 mm: occasionally), crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm, >0.50 mm: few to medium) and red grit. Voids.

Hemispherical bowl with [wish-bone handle].
Decoration: a horizontal straight ridge. Burnished inside and outside, high lustre.

No. 14: Bowl, Inv. No. 86120 [1997/053] (Fig. 2: 6)
Field reference: H/III-g/16, Pl. 2–3, Locus –, stratum d (= Phase C/3), an accumulation of mud at the top of the stratum e wall. H: 4.56–4.70 m; from K-6192

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RP</th>
<th>VI</th>
<th>fine</th>
<th>H1</th>
<th>–</th>
<th>me</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Body sherd. Wd: 0.3 cm; H1: 2.8 + x cm;
Surface colour: 2.5YR 6/8 light red slip (outside and inside).
Break: 2.5YR 6/1 reddish grey–6/2 pale red core; very fine oxidation zones (6/4 light red). Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: abundant; >2 mm: occasionally), crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm, >0.50 mm: few to medium) and red grit. Voids. 

Very fine bowl; burnished inside and outside, high lustre.

No. 15: Juglet, Inv. No. 8903V [1999/152] (Fig. 2: 7)
Field reference: H/III-o/18, Pl. 0–1, L25, stratum a-b (now renamed stratum b/2 and b/3 respectively (= Phase C/1), the upper part of the sand fill (15 cm high) at the border of the trench); from K-6292

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RP</th>
<th>VI</th>
<th>fine</th>
<th>H1</th>
<th>–</th>
<th>ox</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Body sherd. Wd: 0.35 cm
Surface colour: 2.5YR 6/2 pale red interior; 6/6 light red exterior (eroded).
Break: 7.5YR 6/4 light brown interior (thick zone); a very thin oxidation zone (2.5YR 6/6 light red) on the exterior. Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: abundant), crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm: medium; >0.50 mm: few), red grit. Some voids.

Eroded exterior surface [burnished].

3. Base-Ring with brushed coating

3.1. Brushed Black Matte Slip

No. 16: Krater, Inv. No. 8956U [2002/090] (Fig. 2: 8, Pl. 2: 3)
Field reference: H/VI-x/19, Pl. 1–2, L4840(L), stratum d (= Phase C/3), a dump with a large amount of pottery sherds (L4840 and L4840 A to H).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BP</th>
<th>VI</th>
<th>fine</th>
<th>H1</th>
<th>–</th>
<th>ox</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Body sherd. Wd: 0.4 cm; H: 3.1 + x cm.
Surface colour: 5YR 7/4 pink interior; slip: 7.5YR 4/1 dark grey.
Break: 5YR 5/8 yellowish red.

Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: abundant), crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm: medium; >0.50 mm: few), red grit. Voids.
Decoration: a horizontal ridges on the body. Burnished, matte lustre.

3.2. Brushed Brown Matte Slip Ware

No. 17: Carinated bowl, Inv. No. 8956S_{1–5} [2002/111] (Fig. 3a: 1, Pl. 2: 4)
Field reference: H/VI-x/19, Pl. 1–2, L4840(L), stratum d (= Phase C/3), a dump with a large amount of pottery sherds (L4840 and L4840 A to H).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BP</th>
<th>VI</th>
<th>fine</th>
<th>H1</th>
<th>–</th>
<th>ox</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Rim, 3/64 preserved, and body sherds. 1) and 2) Rd: 16.0 cm; Wd: 0.3 cm; H1: 7.0 + x cm. 3) and 4) Wd: 0.25–0.3 cm; 5) Wd: 0.25 cm.
Break: 5YR 6/4 light reddish brown–6/6 reddish yellow.

Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: medium), crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm: medium). The fabric is less sandy and finer than the BR Black Slip ware.
Decoration: mottled slip from reddish brown to weak red and red.
Burnished, matte lustre.

No. 18: Juglet with everted rim, Inv. No. 8958A_{2002/110} (Fig. 3a: 2, Pl. 3: 1)
Field reference: H/VI-x/19, Pl. 2, L4878, stratum b/3 (Phase C/1-C/2), a pit, probably a dump. Find No. 66, below Find No. 65.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BP</th>
<th>VI</th>
<th>f–med.</th>
<th>H1</th>
<th>–</th>
<th>re</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Rim sherd, 1/8 preserved. Rd: 8.0 cm; Wd: 0.25 cm; H1: 2.3 + x cm.
Surface colour: 10YR 5/1 very dark grey–4/2 dark greyish brown slip outside; 7.5YR 5/3–4/3 brown slip inside.

Break: 7.5YR 5/1 grey.
Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm, >0.50 mm: abundant),

29 See TD Inv. No. 8902J. It was checked by Celia Bergoffen.
30 The sherd was classified by Celia Bergoffen.
crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm: few).
Decoration: mottled slip from very dark grey to dark greyish brown and brown.
Burnished; matte outside, medium lustre inside.

### 3.3. Brushed Brown Burnished Slip

**No. 19: Bowl**, Inv. No. 8953H (2002/315) (Fig. 3a: 4, Pl. 3:2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BP</th>
<th>VI</th>
<th>f-med.</th>
<th>Ha1</th>
<th>—</th>
<th>re</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Body sherd; Wd: 0.35 cm; H1: 2.5 + x cm.
Surface colour: 7.5YR 5/6 strong brown and 3/1 dark brown slip outside and inside.
Break: 7.5YR 7/1 light grey.
Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: abundant; >0.50 mm, <2mm: few), mica (few), crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm: few); voids.
Bowl with [wish-bone handle].
Decoration: mottled slip from strong brown to dark brown.
Burnished, high lustre.

### 3.4. Brushed Red Burnished Slip

**No. 21: Juglet**, Inv. No. 8956W1–2 (2002/109) (Fig. 3b: 2, Pl. 3:5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BP</th>
<th>VI</th>
<th>f-med.</th>
<th>Ha1</th>
<th>—</th>
<th>ox</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Body sherds. Wd: 0.28-0.3 cm. 1) H1: 5.0 + x cm; 2) H1: 2.0 + x cm.
Surface colour: 2.5YR 6/6 light red interior; slip: 2.5YR 3/3 dark reddish brown–4/3 reddish brown.
Break: 2.5YR 4/1 dark grey core; 2.5YR 6/6 light red oxidation zones.
Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm: abundant; >0.50 mm: medium), crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm: medium) and red grit. Voids.
Burnished, medium to low lustre.

### 4. Base-Ring Uncoated ware

**No. 23: Juglet**, Inv. No. 8956V1–2 (2002/109) (Fig. 3b: 2, Pl. 3:5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BP</th>
<th>VI</th>
<th>f-med.</th>
<th>Ha1</th>
<th>—</th>
<th>ox</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Neck and shoulder sherd, and a body sherd. Nd: 5.0 cm: Wd: 0.25 cm; 1) H1: 2.5 + x cm; 2) H1: 1.0 + x.
Surface colour: 5YR 7/1 light grey interior; 6/2 pinkish grey exterior.
Break: 7.5YR 5/1 grey.
Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm, >0.50 mm: abundant), crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm, >0.50 mm: few) and dark sand (very fine).
Decoration: a horizontal incised line on the neck-base and an incised line on the shoulder, probable a spiral. Burnished, matte lustre.

**BASE-RING II**

### 1. Black Matte Slipped Ware

**No. 22: Jug**, Inv. No. 8957H (2002/315) (Fig. 3b: 1, Pl. 3:4)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BP/SP</th>
<th>VI</th>
<th>f-med.</th>
<th>Ha1</th>
<th>—</th>
<th>ox</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Shoulder sherd Md: ca. 12.0 cm; Wd: 0.35 cm; H1: 4.8 + x cm.
Surface colour: 2.5YR 6/6 light red; 2.5YR 5/6 red and 4/1 dark reddish grey slip outside.
Break: 2.5YR 4/1 dark reddish grey core; 6/6 light red oxidation zones.
Inclusions: quartz (>0.25 mm, >0.50 mm: abundant), crushed limestone particles (>0.25 mm, >0.50 mm: few).
Scraping marks inside made to open the neck.
Decoration: mottled slip from red to dark reddish grey.
Burnished, medium lustre.

31 It was checked by Kathryn O. Eriksson.
Abbreviations

3 hardness in the Moh’s modified scale
Bd base diameter
Bd.Ha hand-made base
BP brown burnished surface
f.-med. fine to medium quality of the groundmass
fine fine quality of the groundmass
H₁ total height of the vessel
H₃ height of the neck
Ha₁ hand-made shaping technique
me fired in a medium atmosphere
ox fired in an oxidizing atmosphere
P polished
Rd rim diameter
re fired in controlled firing conditions
RP red burnished surface
RP/SP red to black burnished surface
SP black burnished surface
VI fabric of Cypriote origin in the Tell el-Dab‘a fabric system
Wd wall thickness

Plate 1
No. 8/8953B
No. 7/8953A
No. 6/89577A
No. 4/89591L
No. 3/8963L
No. 2/8963Z1–2
No. 5/8952Z1–2
No. 8/8943D

Fig. 1  (Scale 1:1)
The Base-Ring Wares from the Palace Complex at Tell el-Dab’a (‘Ezbet Helmi, Areas H/III and H/VI)

No. 20/8956P
No. 19/8956W1–4
No. 18/8958A
No. 17/8956S1–5
No. 20/ 8956P
No. 19/8953H
No. 21/8956W1–4

Fig. 3a (Scale 1:1)
Fig. 3b  (Scale 1:1)