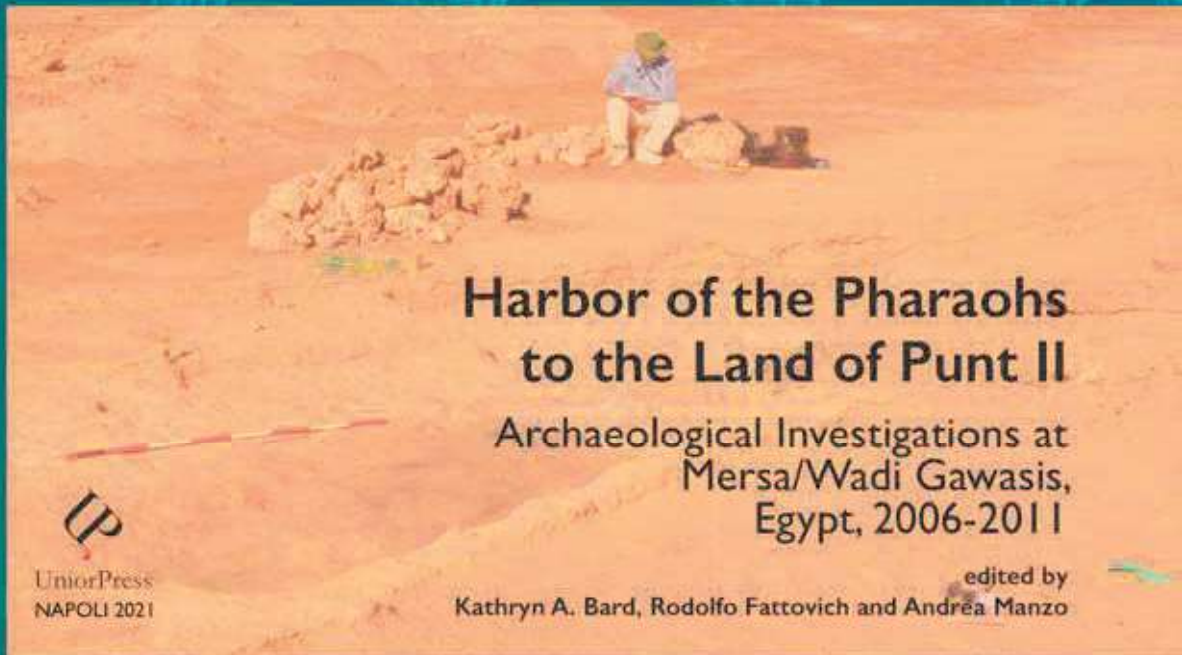




UNIVERSITÀ DI NAPOLI
L'ORIENTALE



Harbor of the Pharaohs to the Land of Punt II

Archaeological Investigations at
Mersa/Wadi Gawasis,
Egypt, 2006-2011



UmorPress
NAPOLI 2021

edited by
Kathryn A. Bard, Rodolfo Fattovich and Andrea Manzo



Rodolfo Fattovich (1945-2018)

“Those having torches will pass them on to others” (Plato)



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DIPARTIMENTO ASIA AFRICA
E MEDITERRANEO

**Harbor of the Pharaohs
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are well shaped, made and finished, but the unusual texture of the clay and the low firing do point to the possibility of a local manufacture, whilst the hand-shaping of these items would also eliminate the need to bring specialist equipment such as a wheel to the site. I therefore think that it is possible that some clay production may have been taking place at the site, but with limited technology and resources and for a very specific need.

On the bread molds see also Appendix 2.

4.2 Exotic ceramics

4.2.a Exotic ceramics: Nubian, Eritrean and South Arabian ceramics

ANDREA MANZO

The study of the materials from Nubia and the regions of the southern Red Sea already demonstrated its relevance for a better understanding of the organization of the Egyptian expeditions to Mersa/Wadi Gawasis and Punt and of the broad network extending all over the Red Sea and neighbour areas in the early 2nd millennium BC (Manzo 2010a, 2012a, 2018b). In the field seasons from 2006-2007 to 2010-2011 58 sherds of exotic type ascribable to known classes from Nubia and the regions of the southern Red Sea have been discovered at Mersa/Wadi Gawasis, in addition to the 29 ones discovered in from 2001 to 2005 (Bard and Fattovich 2007: 126). They can be distinguished into two main categories, sherds related to Nubian cultures (C Group, Pan-Grave, and Kerma), and sherds imported from the regions of the southern Red Sea, both from the African and the Arabian side. Finally, a few other atypical sherds were discovered. The description and, when possible, the typological classification of these materials follows.

Sherds of Nubian type

1) WG 61 D-E 2 SU45: rim sherd of small dark brown, reddish brown or grey ware closed bowls with direct or slightly everted rim decorated with horizontal incised lines on the body and sometimes small impressed notches on the top of the rim (Figure 99) (see also Manzo 2010a: 441, n. 1, Fig. 2 a, 2012a: 48, Fig. 6:2 a, 2012b: 214-215, n. 1, Fig. 2 a, 2018b: 128-129, n. 1, Fig. 150 a).

In Egypt similar vessels but apparently without notches were recorded in a 12th Dynasty assemblages of the C Group and perhaps Pan-Grave

cemeteries at Hierakonpolis in Upper Egypt (see Friedman 2007: Fig. 2 m and de Souza 2019: Fig. 39 b respectively), and in First Intermediate Period-11th Dynasty assemblages at Elephantine (Seidlmayer 1991: 343-344, Abb. 1, 8). This kind of vessel also occur in Second Intermediate Period-early New Kingdom Pan-Grave cemeteries in Lower Nubia (Bietak 1968: Taf. 16, type P 13), but it was nevertheless regarded as more typical of the C Group than of the Pan-Grave culture (de Souza 2019: 47). In the Second Cataract fort of Askut vessels decorated with parallel horizontal grooves were considered as related to the Pan-Grave culture, although similarities with materials from the C Group assemblage at Wadi es-Sebua East were also remarked (Smith 1992: 33, Fig. 2, c). Vessels of this type were common at Wadi es-Sebua East, in a C-Group domestic context, where they were used as cooking-pots but, as they were rare in other C-Group sites, they have been considered a possible Pan-Grave element (Gratien 1985: 52-53, type NT 8, Fig. 12). The date proposed for the Wadi es-Sebua settlement is from the very end of the 12th Dynasty to the Second Intermediate Period (Gratien 1985: 54-55). The fact that similar vessels were also occurring in phases later than the Middle Kingdom is confirmed by the fact that in the fort of Mirgissa they are labelled as *Kerma classique* materials (Gratien 2006-2007: 159, Fig. 2, a-b), and they also occur in the SJE concession area at sites 18 C and 176, dating to the Second Intermediate Period-first half of the 18th Dynasty (Säve-Söderbergh ed. 1989: Pl. 37, 8, 176/76:0 from site 176, and Pl. 163, 6 from site 18 C).

At Kerma, in the sector of the Western Deffufa, this kind of vessel was recorded in assemblages dating from the second half of the 3rd millennium BC (Privati 2004: 174, Fig. 137, 15, 178, Fig. 139, 8). Similar vessels were also collected in the *Kerma moyen* cemeteries in the Fourth Cataract region (Kołosowska and Mahmoud el-Tayeb 2006-2007: 212, Fig. 8, b, Fig. 9, b, Braddock 2003: 53, Fig. 3.4, 29 and perhaps also Emberling and Williams 2010: Fig. 26, d), while they are absent in other Upper Nubian Kerma assemblages, where sherds which may recall our type, considered as a possible Pan-Grave element, are not characterized by the notches on the lip, and also the incised lines on the body seem to be less regular than in our case (Welsby Sjöström 2001a: 247 Fig. 5.65, decoration D58).

Similar types were recorded at site D 5, in the Wadi Allaqi region of the Eastern Sudanese Desert and roughly dating from 2500-1500 BC

(Sadr, Castiglioni, and Castiglioni 1993: 32, Fig. 4.2), in other sites of the Sudanese Eastern Desert,⁶ and in the Eritrean-Sudanese lowlands, in Middle to Late Gash Group (ca.2000-1800 BC),⁷ where they are considered imports and/or imitations of Nubian types (Manzo 1997: Pl. 4 c), and Jebel Mokram Group assemblages (ca. 1800-800 BC) (Sadr 1990: Fig. 5, v).

2) WG 47 E 2, SU1 lower interface; WG 49 D 4, SU2; WG 55 E 3, SU4; WG 66 D-E 3, SU3; WG 70 D5, SU3; WG 74, SU3: body sherds of dark brown or grey organic and/or mineral tempered ware open or slightly closed bowls with oblique incised and/or crossing bands of incised lines covering the upper part of the body (Figure 100) (see also Manzo 2010a: 441-442, n. 3, Fig. 2 c, 2012a: 48-50, Fig. 6:2 c, 2012b: 217-218, n. 3, Fig. 2 c, 2018b: 129-130, n. 3, Fig. 150 c).

Sherds of vessels with this decoration always interpreted as cooking-pots were discovered at Ballas, near Thebes, in a domestic context associated with *Kerma classique* and Egyptian pottery going back from the late 17th to early 18th Dynasty (Bourriau 1991: 131, Fig. 1, 2), like at Aswan, where similar vessels are dated to the early 18th Dynasty (Forstner-Müller 2012: 63, 78, Fig. 14, 29-30). Nevertheless, this is a widely occurring type, also recorded in settlement sites dating from the late Middle Kingdom to the Second Intermediate Period at Tell Edfu (Ayers and Moeller 2012: 107, 111, Fig. 4, b 2280, Fig. 8, 2547 N. 1), Memphis (Bourriau 2012: 149-150, Fig. 1, Fig. 4, b-f, Fig. 5, d-f), Qasr el-Sagha (Arnold 1979: 34-36, Abb. 21, 1, 2; Śliwa 1992: Abb. 3, 3), in the Kharga oasis (Manassa 2012b: 133, Fig. 6, a-b), and at Tell el-Daba (Aston 2012: 167-170, 172, Fig. 1, 9014F, 9014H, 9024B/9242S, Fig. 2, 8964J; Forstner-Müller and Rose 2012: 188, 191, 193-194, Fig. 20, 1-2, Fig. 22, 1, Fig. 27, Fig. 28). Also in the Pan-Grave cemetery at Hierakonpolis (de Souza 2019: Fig. 38 c, Fig. 40 b, Fig. 41 a, Fig. 42 b;

⁶ These are the sites AN, ED6, R56, RD19, investigated by CeRDO (Research Center on the Eastern Desert) in the field seasons 2004-2008. The systematic study of these materials is presently in progress.

⁷ The absolute chronology of the Gash Group and Jebel Mokram Group assemblages adopted in this paragraph is based on a recent review of the available evidence, see Manzo 2018a.

Giuliani 2001: 41-43, Fig. 11, a-e, i, Fig. 12, a-b, e), in the cemeteries in the Wadi Kubbaniya, northwest of Aswan (Gatto and Giuliani 2006-2007: 123-124, Fig. 7), of Sheikh Mohamed and Nag el-Qarmilla, near Aswan (Gatto, Gallorini and Roma 2012: 93-95, Fig. 7 f, Fig. 9, 4, 7, 9, Fig. 10, 5), of Moalla (Manassa 2012a: 123, Fig. 6b, d, Fig. 8) similar vessels, considered as cooking pots, are associated to Egyptian pottery dating from the late Middle Kingdom to very beginning of the Second Intermediate Period.

In the Second Cataract fort of Askut this kind of vessels, most probably used as cooking pots, were collected in Middle Kingdom (late 12th-13th Dynasty) and late Second Intermediate Period-New Kingdom assemblages, and were ascribed to the Pan-Grave culture (Smith 1992: 28, 33, Fig. 1, b, Fig. 3, a-b, 1995: Fig. 3.16, B, Fig. 4.10, A-B). At Mirgissa, where sherds of this type were originally labelled as Pan-Grave or C-Group, they are now ascribed to the late *Kerma moyen- Kerma classique* culture (Gratien 2006-2007: 155-156, Fig. 2, g-h). Therefore, the same can be proposed for the sherds of this type from Askut, because there they are associated with a consistent amount of Kerma materials (Smith 1992: 28-33).

Vessels of this type were recorded also at Sayala (Bietak 1966: Taf. 25-26 Grab B/1 # 76001, 76002, and 76003/a, Taf. 27, Grab B/3, # 76020, 76015/b, Taf. 30 Grab B/10, 76046/b, Taf. 31, Grab B/12, 76052/a; type P 8/9 of Bietak 1968: Taf. 16) in a Second Intermediate Period-early New Kingdom Pan-Grave cemetery (Bietak 1968: 149-157), and at sites 47 and 193, two Pan-Grave cemeteries dating from the Second Intermediate Period and early New Kingdom in the concession of the Scandinavian Joint Expedition (Säve-Söderbergh ed. 1989: 166-174, 218-219, Pl. 20, type PI c2, 47/A, and type PI b4 47/1:1, 47/121:1, 47/51:1, and 193/3:1). Indeed, this type of decorated vessels should be regarded as very distinctive of the Pan-Grave culture (de Souza 2019: 47).

Similar vessels were recorded also in the Kerma cemetery of Ukma West, in assemblages ascribed to a component of the population considered more related to domestic commitments, dating from 1800-1550 BC (Vila 1987: 262, 264, Fig. 42, 4, Fig. 94, 5, Fig. 170, 1, Fig. 173, 3), in *Kerma moyen* (2050-1750 BC) assemblages in the area of the Western Deffufa at Kerma (Privati 2004: 163, 166, 178,

Fig. 128, 12-13, Fig. 129, 9, Fig. 130, 12-13, 170, Fig. 133, 8, 180, Fig. 139, 10, 12, Fig. 140, 11), and in other *Kerma moyen* assemblages in Upper Nubia (Welsby Sjöström 2001b: 350, Fig. 6.2, BU 5.2; Welsby Sjöström 2001a: 330, Fig. 5.62, decoration D40.1, D40.9), as well as in the Fourth Cataract area (Emberling and Williams 2010: Fig. 25, a-i).

In the Eritrean-Sudanese lowlands this kind of vessel was recorded in Classic and Late Gash Group assemblages (ca. 2000-1800 BC) (Manzo 1997: 79), and in the Pan-Grave component of the Jebel Mokram Group culture (ca. 1800-800 BC) (Sadr 1987: 273, Fig. 5, Fig. 10, 1990: Fig. 5, u).

Finally, this type was also recorded in surface collections from sites in the Sudanese Eastern Desert presumably dating from the 2nd millennium BC.⁸

3) WG 33, SU1: gray ware body sherd, with smoothed gray internal surface, gray external surface, and small sized mineral inclusions. The external surface is characterized by a sector filled by crossing incised lines and delimited on two sides by impressed bands consisting of a thick wavy pattern formed by triangular impressions (Figure 101 A) (see also Manzo 2010a: 443, n. 10, Fig. 2 h, 2012b: n. 8, Fig. 2 h, 2018b: 131, n. 8, Fig. 150 h).

The decoration recalls some potsherds from Kerma sites in the Fourth Cataract region dating from the first half of the 2nd millennium BC (Kołosowska, Mahmoud el-Tayeb and Paner 2003: Pl. 6, Kołosowska and Mahmoud el-Tayeb 2006-2007: 212, Fig. 8, c; Wolf 2004: Pl. 4, see also Emberling and Williams 2010: Fig. 26, j, Fig. 28, e-f; Sidebotham, Thomas, and Harrell 2010: 95, Fig. 21, 17), materials from sites probably dating from the 2nd millennium BC in the Sudanese Eastern Desert,⁹ and from sites in the Eritrean-Sudanese lowlands, especially in the region of Agordat, ascribed to the Gash Group and to the Jebel Mokram Group (Arkell 1954: Pl. VI, 6, VII, 4, VIII, 5).

4) WG 55 D 3, SU2: A gray ware rim sherd of a bowl or cup with gray smoothed external surface characterized by red spots and wiped internal

⁸ Sites AL, ED16, RD14, RD15.

⁹ Site R49.

surface. Mineral tempered paste. Decoration consists of irregularly arranged horizontal, vertical, and oblique bands of parallel incisions delimiting undecorated sectors on the external surface. A band of crossing notches is on the top of the lip (Figure 101 B) (see also Manzo 2012a: 48, Fig. 6:2 b, 2012b: 220-222, n. 9, Fig. 3 a, 2018b: 131-132, n. 9, Fig. 151 a).

The decoration and shape recall Pan-Grave types with irregularly decorated external surfaces, like the ones from Lower Nubian cemetery 47, close to Debeira East, in the concession of the Scandinavian Joint Expedition, dating from the Second Intermediate Period-early New Kingdom (Säve-Söderbergh ed. 1989: 166-174, Pl. 20, type PI a5 47/65:3). The decoration with crossing notches on top of the lip also recalls sherds from the C Group II settlement 18 C, again in the concession of the Scandinavian Joint Expedition, whose pottery was also considered to be characterized by similarities with the Pan-Grave one (Säve-Söderbergh ed. 1989: 261-262, Pl. 163, 4), but for the rest the triangular, zigzag and parallel oblique incised patterns on the external surface from 18 C are more regular and different from that of the sherd from Mersa/Wadi Gawasis.

Also at Wadi es-Sebua, in domestic C-Group assemblages dating from the very end of the 12th Dynasty to the Second Intermediate Period (Gratien 1985: 54-55), bowls, considered a Pan-Grave intrusive element (Gratien 1985: 52), often have notches on the lip, but they are not crossing and the incised decorations on the external surface appear to be more regular than in the case from Mersa/Wadi Gawasis (Gratien 1985: 51, 53, types NT7 and NT9, Fig. 11, 314, 352, Fig. 13, 264-265, 221, 223, 311).

At Kerma, in the area close to the Western Deffufa, *Kerma moyen* assemblages are characterized by bowls with notches on the lip which are always associated with a pattern of regular incised triangles on the external surface (Privati 2004: 168, Fig. 130, 8, Fig. 131). On the contrary, crossing decorations on the lip of bowls with a profile similar to the one of the bowl from Mersa/Wadi Gawasis were recorded in Upper Nubian Kerma assemblages, where types reminiscent for the irregular external decoration the sherd from Mersa/Wadi Gawasis also occur (Welsby Sjöström 2001a: 324, Fig. 5.55, decoration D1.13-14, 265, Fig. 5.34, shape D16.7, see also 265, Fig. 5.34, B18.3 for a similar association of decorations on the lip, and on the body of a bowl). Types characterized by similar decorations on the top of the lip and on the ex-

ternal surface were also recorded in Kerma assemblages from the site of El Kab in the Fourth Cataract area (Sidebotham, Thomas, and Harrell 2010: 107, Fig. 34, 1).

5) WG 46, E4, SU1-2; WG 49, E5, SU2: gray ware rim sherds of bowls, with smoothed gray surfaces and small and medium sized mineral inclusions. The lip is modeled, slightly everted and thickened. The external surface is characterized by vertical or oblique incised lines crossing other horizontal to slightly oblique parallel lines (Figure 102) (see also Manzo 2012a: 50, Fig. 6:2 d, 2012b: 222, n. 10, Fig. 3 b, 2018b: 132, n. 10, Fig. 151 b).

The decoration and shape recall Pan-Grave types, both from Egypt (see *e.g.* Giuliani 2001: Fig. 11, c and d) and Lower Nubia (see *e.g.* Bietak 1966: Taf. 30, Grab B/11, 76047/c), but also some fragments in domestic C-Group assemblages at Wadi es-Sebua dating from the late Middle Kingdom-Second Intermediate Period (Gratien 1985: Fig. 14, 260). In particular the modelled shape of the rims should be regarded as a distinctive trait of the Pan-Grave culture (see de Souza 2019: 28, Fig. 28 M1-5).

Sherds with similar decoration and also recalling the shape of the rim from Mersa/Wadi Gawasis were recorded in surface collections from sites in the Sudanese Eastern Desert probably dating from the 2nd millennium BC,¹⁰ and in Eastern Sudan in Jebel Mokram Group assemblages dating from ca. 1800 BC to the early 1st millennium BC (Sadr 1987: 272-273, Fig. 5).

6) WG 68, SU1; Cave 2, B2, SU76: body sherds of gray to brown micaceous ware bottles or flasks with mineral tempered paste homogeneous in color, gray polished external surface and gray smoothed internal surface (Figure 103) (see also Manzo 2012a: 50, Fig. 6:2 e, 2012b: 222, n. 11, Fig. 3 c, 2018b: 132, n. 11, Fig. 151 c).

Most likely these sherds can be ascribed to black polished *Kerma moyen* (Privati 1999: 47, Fig. 13, 7) and *Kerma classique* flasks (Reisner 1923: 374-381, Fig. 255-258) from Upper Nubia. Few similar sherds were recorded in the Eritrean-Sudanese lowlands, where they are considered imports or imitations of Nubian types, in Late Gash Group assemblages (ca. 2000-1800 BC) (Manzo 1997: 79, Pl. 3 b).

¹⁰ Site ED16.

Other hand made sherds probably to be ascribed to Nubian types on the basis of their fabric, but too small to be ascribed to specific classes were collected in WG 31, SU1; WG 33, SU1 (3 fragments); WG 42, A2, SU1; WG 42, A2, SU2; WG 46, E1, SU1; WG 46, E1, SU1; WG 46, E5, SU1 interface with SU2 (3 fragments); WG 47, A5, SU2; WG 49, A2, SU2 (5 fragments); WG 51, SU1 interface with SU2; WG 51, C2, SU1 (3 fragments); WG 55, C1, SU8; WG 55, D1-3, SU2; WG 61, C2-3, SU49; WG 61-65, SU32 (2 fragments); WG 61-65, SU45; WG 65, A/B 2-3, SU2 (2 fragments).

Sherds from the regions of the Southern Red Sea

1) WG 56, A2, SU8: fragmentary shoulder of mineral tempered brown ware jars with burnished surfaces (Figure 104 A) (see also Manzo 2010a: 443, n. 1, Fig. 4, a, 2012a: 50, Fig. 6.3 a, 2018a: 133, n. 1, Fig. 151 g). Moulded decoration consisting of two parallel vertical ledges in a case also associated with some horizontal ledges.

This type of vessels might be compared to jars with everted rim and a similar moulded decoration on the shoulder from the site of Ma^olayba, in the Yemeni coastal region, found in disturbed assemblages and, therefore, of unclear chronology (Buffa 2007: 145, Pl. 39, 244-245; Vogt and Buffa 2005: 439, Fig. 2, 8).

2) WG 32, A5, SU39: fragmentary everted rim of a mineral tempered reddish brown ware flask with gray spots, smoothed surfaces (Figure 104 B) (see also Manzo 2012a: 50, Fig. 6.3 b, 2018b: 133, n. 2, Fig. 152 a).

The shape of this rim and its ware reminds of types discovered at Ma^olayba, in the Yemeni coastal region, in assemblages of phase 1B of the site associated with a radiocarbon date to 1780-1610 BC (Buffa 2007: 140, 169, Pl. 36, 223). Nevertheless, the burnished bands characterizing the type at Ma^olayba are not visible on the rim from Mersa/Wadi Gawasis.

3) WG 47, B2, SU1; WG 33, SU3; WG 65, A-B2-3, SU2: rim sherds of dark gray mineral and/or organic tempered closed bowls (Figure 104 C) (see also Manzo 2010a: 443, Fig. 4 b, 2012a: 50, Fig. 6.3 c, 2018b: 133, n. 3, Fig. 152 b). Sometimes, several horizontal or oblique burnished lines occur on the surfaces (Figure 104 D).

Both the shape and the burnished decoration of these sherds are similar to materials from Ma^olayba, in the Yemeni coastal region, in assem-

blages of phase 1A, dating to the first quarter of the 2nd millennium BC (Buffa 2007: 56, Pl. 28, 173, 138).

4) WG 26, C4, SU97; WG 31, SU1; WG 32, A5, SU39; WG 32, B4-5, SU25; WG 52, SU1: rim sherds of reddish brown ware bag shaped jars or bottles, with homogeneous in colour mineral tempered paste, reddish brown external burnished surface, smoothed internal surface (Figure 104 E) (see also Manzo 2012a: 51-52, Fig. 6.3 e, 2018b: 133, n. 5, Fig. 152 d). Sometimes burnished oblique lines were remarked on the external surface.

Just one of these bottles was recorded at Mal'ayba in the Yemeni Ti-hama in an assemblage of phase 1B, dating to ca. 1850-1600 BC (Buffa 2007: 64, 140, Pl. 40, 251), some of them were collected in pre-Aksu-mite assemblages of unspecified chronology at Adulis, on the Eritrean Red Sea coast (Manzo 2010b: 32, Fig. 4 a), while bottles of this type are very common in the Ona sites of the Hamasien plateau.¹¹ Therefore, despite the fact that the available radiocarbon dates for the Ona sites go back to the 1st millennium BC (Schmidt, Curtis and Zelalem Teka 2008: 156-158), an earlier phase of this culture in the first part of the 2nd millennium BC cannot be excluded on the basis of the chronology of the sherds collected at Mersa/Wadi Gawasis and of the sherd from Mal'ayba. Moreover, a connection between the Ona sites the still badly known earliest phases of Adulis cannot be excluded.

5) WG 65, A4-5, SU46: a brown micaceous mineral tempered ware body sherd with smoothed surfaces. The external one is characterized by a band of parallel impressed lines most likely obtained with the edge of a shell (Figure 105 A) (see also Manzo 2012a: 50, Fig. 6.3 d, 2018b: 133-134, n. 6, Fig. 153 a).

The decoration may be compared to a technique recorded in sites of the Djibuti region dating to the first half of the 2nd millennium BC (Gutherz, Joussaume, Amblard and Guedda Mohammed 1996: 273-279, Fig. 9; Joussaume 1995: Fig. 12, 1-2; Poisblaud 2002: 209-210, Fig. 16; Poisblaud 2004-2005: 119). The decoration also reminds of the still undated

¹¹ Comparison with unpublished drawings of materials from the Asmara region by G. Tringali kept in the Laboratory of the Oriental Museum "Umberto Scer-rato" of the University of Naples "L'Orientale".

pottery from the deepest levels of the Eritrean site of Adulis presently kept in the National Museum, Asmara (Manzo 2010b: 29-30, Fig. 1).

6) WG 39 Cave 3 A 10, SU11: gray ware body sherd, with dark gray polished internal surface, reddish brown external surface, and medium sized mineral inclusions. Incised and impressed decoration on the external surface consists of parallel grooves covered by comb impressions (Figure 105 B) (see also Manzo 2010a: 443-445, Fig. 4 c, 2018b: 134, n. 7, Fig. 153 b).

Sherds characterized by similar decorations were recorded in the Eritrean-Sudanese lowlands at Agordat (Arkell 1954: 58-59, Fig. 27, Pl. VI, 4). This type also reminds of the early to mid-2nd millennium BC Gash Group basket ware from the Eritrean-Sudanese lowlands.¹²

Finally, three sherds characterized by a decoration consisting of burnished lines which is typical of the Yemeni coastal region (see Buffa 2007: 34-35) but too small to be ascribed to specific types were collected in WG 33 SU3 hearth 3. Considering the fact that the archaeological exploration of the regions of the southern Red Sea is still in its infancy, also two atypical sherds from WG 19 A 5, SU106 and WG 26 C 4, SU97 (see Manzo 2018b: 134) may have been imported from those areas.

Final remarks

In general, the materials of Nubian type and the ones from the regions of the southern Red Sea are characterized by a chronology ranging from the mid 3rd millennium BC to the mid 2nd millennium BC (see also Manzo 2010a: 446, 2012a: 52, 54, 2012b: 223-224, 2018b: 134), therefore roughly fitting with the absolute chronology of the associated Egyptian materials and with the phases of use of the harbor (Bard and Fattovich 2007: 241-242).

Also the typological remarks proposed elsewhere remain valid (see Manzo 2010a: 446, 2012a: 54, 2012b: 224-225, 2018b: 134). The only imported containers for storage are represented by the fragments of shoulders of jars with modeled decoration and by the fragments of bag-shaped bottles from the southern Red Sea, while among the Nubian sherds the only ones to be identified as fragments of a vessel for storage are the ones from small black polished Kerma flasks.

¹² R. Fattovich, A. Manzo direct remarks on the Gash Group materials.

The large majority of the vessels of Nubian type can be interpreted as cooking-domestic vessels, and most of the represented types belong to the classes of domestic vessels shared by several Nubian cultures, as it often happens with assemblages from settlements (Manzo 2012b: 224). Also the sherds of vessels from the Eritrean-Sudanese lowlands, from the Fourth Cataract area, and several of the sherds of South Arabian origin can be easily ascribed to these functional classes (cooking and serving) (Manzo 2010a: 446, 2012a: 54).

The occurrence of the sherds of domestic exotic vessels at the site of the harbor may be explained by the presence there of groups of people from Nubia (or from Nubian communities in Egypt), the Eastern Desert, and the southern Red Sea: they may have interacted with the Egyptians during the maritime expeditions and on the land route(s) to Mersa/Wadi Gawasis, as suggested elsewhere (Manzo 2010a: 447-448, 2012a: 54-55, 2012b: 225-226, 228-229).

Finally, the origin of the imported materials from the southern Red Sea may suggest that in the Middle Kingdom times the network involving Egypt and Punt may have extended on both sides of the Red Sea (see also Manzo 2010a: 449, 2012a: 55, 2018b: 135).

4.2.b Exotic ceramics, Canaanite

SALLY WALLACE-JONES

In the 2007-2008 field season a number of sherds of small jars with distinctive flat, ridged rims

were discovered. They all have flat bases and thin walls with a finely raised, ridged pattern, probably made during production. The paste is full of mineral inclusions.

WG 33, SU3 contained 24 sherds (including rims and bases) from at least 5 medium-sized bottles with lightly everted grooved rim and flat base (Figure 106). In one case the rim is thickened and triangular in section. These vessels are wheel-made, with reddish-brown mineral tempered paste, and have been identified as Canaanite by Manfred Bietak.¹³

¹³ Manfred Bietak personal communication to K.A. Bard, March, 2008.



Figure 99. Rim sherd from WG 61, D-E2, SU45.



Figure 100. *Body sherd from WG 66, D-E3, SU3.*



Figure 101. A, body sherd from WG 33, SU1; B, rim sherd from WG 55, D 3, SU2.



Figure 102. *Rim sherd from WG 46, E4, SU1-2.*



Figure 103. *Body sherd from WG 68, SU1.*

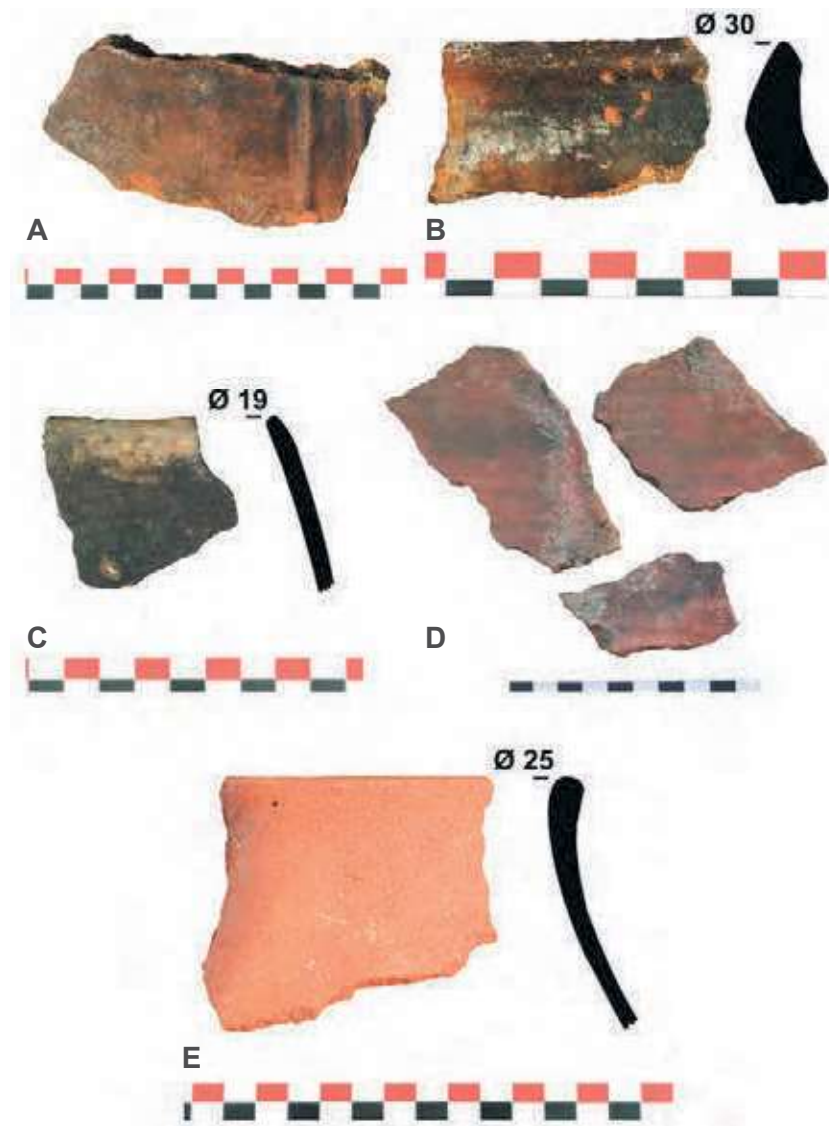


Figure 104. A, fragment of shoulder of jar from WG 56, A2, SU8; B, rim sherd from WG 32, A5, SU39; C, rim sherd from WG 47, B2, SU1; D, body sherds from WG 33, SU3; E, rim sherd from WG 52, SU1.

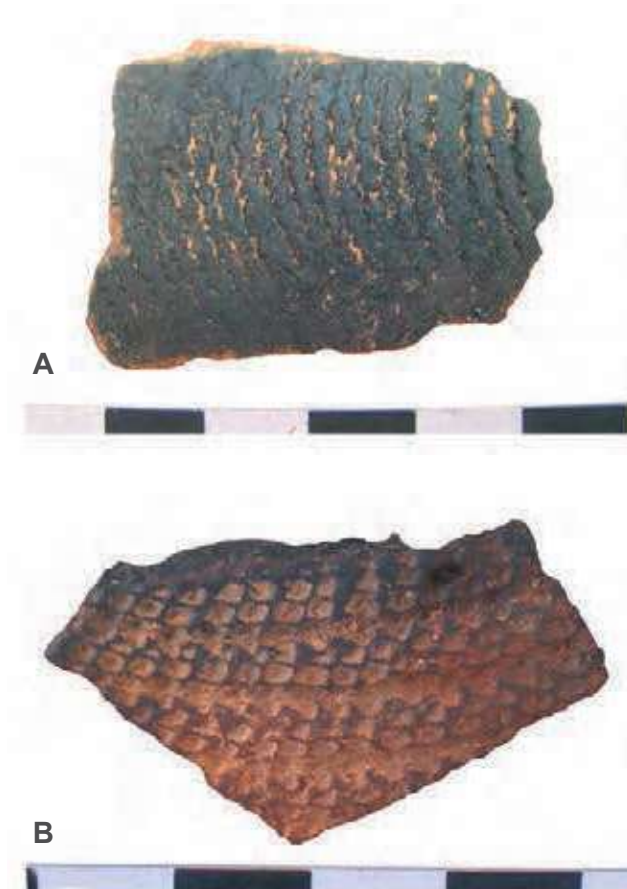


Figure 105. *A*, body sherd from WG 65, A4-5, SU46; *B*, body sherd from WG 39, Cave 3, A10, SU11.