

Report on the
19th Season of the Joint Swiss-Egyptian Mission
in Syene / Old Aswan (2018/2019)

by

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1. Introduction and Overview

The 19th season of the joint archaeological project of the Swiss Institute for Architectural and Archaeological Research Cairo and the Aswan Inspectorate of the Ministry of Antiquities in Syene/Old Aswan was carried out between November 18th, 2018 and April 13th, 2019¹.

For many years, one of the main concerns of the mission has been the permanent monitoring of construction sites in the urban area of Aswan in order to carry out rescue excavations where necessary, if ancient layers or building remains are encountered and endangered as a result of the

¹ We are grateful to the Ministry of Antiquities and the members of the Permanent Committee for granting permission to undertake the Joint Mission in Aswan. We appreciate very much the fruitful cooperation with our colleagues of the Aswan Inspectorate in this joint mission. The mission was directed by C. VON PILGRIM, in close cooperation with ABDELMONEIM SAID MAHMOUD. The fieldwork was directed by W. MÜLLER. Team members were the archaeologists V. GEISSLER, M. HEPA, L. KREUZBURG and C. THIRY, the anthropologists J. NOVACEK and K. SCHEELEN-NOVACEK, the epigraphers S. TORALLAS TOVAR and A. ZOMENO, the photographer P. MORA RIUDAUVETS. Egyptian members of the mission were MAGDY MOHAMED AWAD HAMED, AHMED FOUAD TAWFEEK ESSAWY, RANYA TAGELDING BARSİ ABDELMEGID and HANAA ABD EL-GHANY EL-SAGHIR MOHAMED. Additionally assigned inspectors were HANAA ABDEL GHANY EL SAGHIR, RANY TAGELDIN BARSİ ABDELMEGID, AHMED FOUAD TAWFEEK ESSAWY and MAGDY MOHAMED AWAD HAMED in the field and FATHIA AHMED EL-HEFNY, ZAINAB ELSAYED GHALIB SOLIMAN and AHMED MOHAMED AHMED MOHAMED in the magazines. - We are much indebted to P. ROSE for correcting the English of this report.

building process.² However, the number of new construction projects in the Old-Aswan area has declined steadily in recent years. The systematic inspection of the few construction sites did not reveal any ancient remains last season and for the first time in many years no rescue excavations were carried out. Nevertheless, important information for the reconstruction of the ancient topography of Aswan was obtained during the inspection of the construction pits.

Fieldwork

The field work in the past campaign was thus able to concentrate on the continuation of the excavations in the area south of the small temple of Khnum ("Temple of Domitian") in Area 3. The oldest building layers in this area originate from the 27th Dynasty and overlie a zone directly on the riverbank with traces of quarrying activity of the Pharaonic period. In order to clarify still-open questions about the layout of the roads and the property boundaries, limited investigations were carried out at the southern end of the area. Further investigations were undertaken on the layers from the Ptolemaic period that lie further up the slope. They show that the urban area close to the riverbank was radically modified during this period.

² Cf. for reports on earlier seasons: C. VON PILGRIM ET AL., 'The Town of Syene. Preliminary Report on the 1st and 2nd Season in Aswan', *MDAIK* 60 (2004), pp. 119-148 (henceforth quoted as: *1st Report*). *Idem*, 'The Town of Syene. Preliminary Report on the 3rd and 4th Season in Aswan', *MDAIK* 62 (2006), pp. 215-277 (henceforth quoted as: *2nd Report*). *Idem*, 'The Town of Syene. Report on the 5th and 6th Season in Aswan', *MDAIK* 64 (2008), pp. 305-356 (henceforth quoted as: *Report on the 5th and 6th Season*). *Idem*, 'The Town of Syene. Report on the 7th Season in Aswan', *MDAIK* 66 (2010), pp. 179-223 (henceforth quoted as: *Report on the 7th Season*). C. VON PILGRIM ET AL., 'The Town of Syene. Report on the 8th Season in Aswan', *MDAIK* 67 (2011), p. 157-161 (henceforth quoted as *Report on the 8th Season*). C. VON PILGRIM/W. MÜLLER, 'Report on the Ninth Season of the Joint Swiss-Egyptian Mission in Syene/Old Aswan (2008/2009)', *ASAE*, forthcoming (http://www.swissinst.ch/downloads/Report_9th_Season_2008-2009.pdf) (henceforth quoted as: *9th Season*). *Idem*, 'Report on the Tenth Season of the Joint Swiss-Egyptian Mission in Syene/Old Aswan', *ASAE*, forthcoming ([http://swissinst.ch/downloads/Report_on_the_Tenth_Season_of_the_Joint_Swiss_Egyptian_Mission_in_Syene_Old_Aswan_\(2009_2010\).pdf](http://swissinst.ch/downloads/Report_on_the_Tenth_Season_of_the_Joint_Swiss_Egyptian_Mission_in_Syene_Old_Aswan_(2009_2010).pdf)) (henceforth quoted as: *Tenth Season*). *Idem*, 'Report on the Eleventh Season of the Joint Swiss-Egyptian Mission in Syene/Old Aswan (2010/2011)', *ASAE*, forthcoming ([http://swissinst.ch/downloads/Report_on_the_Eleventh_Season_of_the_Joint_Swiss_Egyptian_Mission_in_Syene_Old_Aswan_\(2010_2011\).pdf](http://swissinst.ch/downloads/Report_on_the_Eleventh_Season_of_the_Joint_Swiss_Egyptian_Mission_in_Syene_Old_Aswan_(2010_2011).pdf)) (henceforth quoted as: *Eleventh Season*). C. VON PILGRIM ET AL., 'Report on the Twelfth Season of the Joint Swiss-Egyptian Mission in Syene/Old Aswan (2011/2012)', *ASAE*, forthcoming (http://www.swissinst.ch/downloads/SwissInst_Report_Aswan_2012.pdf) (henceforth quoted as: *Twelfth Season*). C. VON PILGRIM/W. MÜLLER, 'Report on the 13th Season of the Joint Swiss-Egyptian Mission in Syene/Old Aswan (2012/2013)', *ASAE*, forthcoming (http://swissinst.ch/downloads/Swissinst_Report_Aswan_2013.pdf) (henceforth quoted as *Thirteenth Season*), *idem*, 'Report on the 14th Season of the Joint Swiss-Egyptian Mission in Syene/Old Aswan (2013/2014)', *ASAE*, forthcoming (http://swissinst.ch/downloads/Report_2014th_Season_2013_2014.pdf) (henceforth quoted as *Fourteenth Season*). C. VON PILGRIM ET AL., 'Report on the Fifteenth Season of the Joint Swiss-Egyptian Mission in Syene/Old Aswan (2014/2015)', *ASAE*, forthcoming (http://swissinst.ch/downloads/Swiss_Institute_2014_2015.pdf) (henceforth quoted as *Fifteenth Season*). C. VON PILGRIM ET AL., 'Report on the 16th Season of the Joint Swiss-Egyptian Mission in Syene/Old Aswan (2015/2016)', *ASAE*, forthcoming (http://swissinst.ch/downloads/Report_16th_season_2015_16.pdf) (henceforth quoted as *Sixteenth Season*). C. VON PILGRIM ET AL., 'Report on the 17th Season of the Joint Swiss-Egyptian Mission in Syene/Old Aswan (2016/17)', *ASAE*, forthcoming (http://www.swissinst.ch/downloads/Report_Swiss_Egyptian_Mission_ASWAN_2017.pdf) (henceforth quoted as *Seventeenth Season*). C. VON PILGRIM ET AL., 'Report on the 18th Season of the Joint Swiss-Egyptian Mission in Syene/Old Aswan (2017/18)', *ASAE*, forthcoming (http://swissinst.ch/downloads/Report_Swiss_Egyptian_Mission_ASWAN_2018.pdf) (henceforth quoted as *Eighteenth Season*).

To the north of the temple, work was begun to remove the remaining modern debris. This revealed a medieval canal system, which suggests a highly-developed infrastructure for sewage disposal in the Fatimid period. It shows the high standard of living in the city at that time, when Aswan was the most important transit station south of Fustat on the way to the Red Sea and Mecca.

Restoration

In autumn 2018, with the support of the Swiss-Egyptian Mission, the department for restoration of the MoA in Aswan continued the cleaning and repair of the inner walls of the Isis Temple, which was interrupted almost two decades ago. Special attention had to be paid to hundreds of graffiti and dipinti that had been added to the walls from the Ptolemaic period to modern times.³ The spikes used a few years ago by the Swiss Institute to repel pigeons nesting in the temple have now been removed. In order to prevent pigeons from re-entering the temple, the original doors and windows as well as the two large breakthroughs in the temple façade have been fitted with mesh covers. A remaining serious problem for the temple, however, is the high soil moisture, which comes mainly from leaking and repeatedly broken water pipes directly west of the temple.

Site Management

As the MoA did not have adequate space in the past to store the many ancient architectural elements found in the excavations and construction sites in the city, they were temporarily stored either in the ancient house ruins next to the Isis Temple or in the open air at the storage area of the Nubian Fund in Talaina (10 km south of Aswan). In the latter, however, they are always endangered in summer by the rising water of the small reservoir. The large collection of architectural elements include many granite columns, capitals, column bases, statue bases, millstones and Pharaonic temple blocks, all of which are from monumental buildings of different periods.

Therefore, at the request of the Inspectorate, in the spring of 2019 we began to move the building elements to Area 2, where, after completion of the archaeological work, a large area outside the ancient city wall was prepared. It is now not only protected by a surrounding wall, but is also in the immediate vicinity of a planned storage building with attached facilities for guards and inspectors. Due to the large number of pieces, the transport of all components has not yet been completed and will be continued in the next season. It is planned in future to fix the components on pedestals and thus not only to prepare a well-organized blockyard, but also an open-air exhibition of elements of important architecture from Aswan.

Study of material

³ J.H.F. Dijkstra, *Syene I: The Figural and Textual Graffiti from the Temple of Isis at Aswan*, *BeiträgeBf* 18, Darmstadt 2012.

In addition to the fieldwork, the processing of the finds and in particular the pottery was continued. The latter concentrated again on the pottery from the animal necropolis in Area 3. By joining shards that were used to cover individual animal burials, M. HEPA gained important insights into burial practices and the fine chronology of the cemetery. In addition, she worked on the pottery from the Ptolemaic and Roman periods from the previous excavations in Area 3, while C. THIRY began processing the Late Period pottery from the same area.

In the spring season 2019, the analysis of human skeletal remains from Late Roman tomb contexts in Area 45 was continued further by J. NOVACEK and K. SCHEELEN-NOVACEK.

SOFÍA TORALLAS TOVAR and AMALIA ZOMEÑO RODRÍGUEZ continued the inventory of the ostraca and the study of Greek and Arabic ostraca.

(C. von Pilgrim)

2. The development of a town quarter of Syene from the Late Period to medieval times (Area 3)

Area 3, one of only three protected areas in Old-Aswan, is located to the east of the German Hospital and the garden of the former "Grand Hotel" (Figs. 2-3). The area is located in the immediate vicinity of the medieval bank of the River Nile, which was encountered in a salvage excavation in Area 52 about 30m further to the west.⁴ Area 3 lies at the foot of a steep slope that rises to its east.⁵ Situated on this slope, high above Area 3, excavations in Area 61 produced a rich stratigraphy from the Middle Kingdom to the early Roman period.⁶ Of special importance in this context is the sandstone foundation of a terrace that may have carried a temple dating to the Ptolemaic period.⁷

Earlier research focussed on the main monument of the site, the "Temple of Domitian".⁸ Until cleaning by the Joint Mission started in 2001, the area was used as a dump.⁹ After most of the modern waste was removed, archaeological work started with an investigation of the medieval remains around the "Temple of Domitian" in the eastern part of the area.¹⁰ Excavations continued in 2014 in the course

⁴ W. MÜLLER, in *9th Season*, p. 20-23

⁵ W. MÜLLER, M. DE DAPPER, 'The Urban Landscape of Aswan (Egypt) Since the Predynastic Period: a Geoarchaeological Approach', in: Y. TRISTANT, M. GHILARDI (eds.), *Landscape Archaeology. Egypt and the Mediterranean World*, *BiEtud* 169 (Cairo 2018), fig. 4 with a profile of the granite landscape in the area of Areas 3, 52 and 61.

⁶ W. MÜLLER, in *Tenth Season*, pp. 13-17.

⁷ *Idem*, in *Fifteenth Season*, pp. 11-12.

⁸ H. JARITZ, 'Untersuchungen zum "Tempel des Domitian" in Assuan', *MDAIK* 31 (1975), pp. 237-257.

⁹ C. VON PILGRIM, in *1st Report*, p. 124.

¹⁰ K. C. BRUHN, in *2nd Report*, pp. 251-253.

of the construction of a retaining wall at the eastern limit of the site,¹¹ the construction of which made further archaeological work in the area possible.¹²

The western part of the area has been the focus of research since Season 16 (Fig. 2).¹³ Here, all layers later than the Ptolemaic period were destroyed, due to the construction of the German Hospital at the beginning of the 20th century. After the removal of modern waste, the surface was ca. 6m lower than in the eastern part of the site.

During Seasons 16 and 17 a ca. 33m-long and 5 to 8m-wide (at the northern and southern limits respectively) trench was excavated partly down to the bedrock. This trench was separated into a Northern and a Southern Sector. During Season 18, the trench was extended 2.6m towards the east to the south of the "Temple of Domitian" (South-Eastern Sector).

The excavations provided important information on Syene during the Late Period, as the development of a densely-built domestic town quarter was investigated from its beginning in the early Persian period (Strata N and M) until its abandonment in Dynasty 30. Of special interest is the slow transformation of the quarry landscape of the earlier Pharaonic period into a proper living quarter. Major steps within this development were caused by repeated flood-related destruction. After an interruption in settlement activity, a new densely-built-up town quarter came into existence in the second half of the 2nd century BC. This Ptolemaic town began an urban tradition that continued until the early medieval period.

This season, the southernmost part of the South-Eastern Sector was investigated. The aim was to complete the ground plans of houses and structures of Strata N and M as far as possible.¹⁴ Additionally, a limited stratigraphical investigation was conducted on the slope to the east of the South-Eastern Sector in order to complete the stratigraphical sequence of the early Roman and Roman Imperial periods, and to get a clearer picture of the Roman town quarter around the "Temple of Domitian".

Stratum N

This stratum was preliminarily dated to the beginning of the Persian period (Figs. 4-5).¹⁵ No layers dating to Stratum O, which comprises all earlier Pharaonic activities (mostly quarrying and

¹¹ W. MÜLLER, in *Fourteenth Season*, pp. 12-18.

¹² C. VON PILGRIM, in *Fourteenth Season*, pp. 3-4.

¹³ The westernmost part of the area was chosen initially as a potential site for a subterranean facility for the storage of pottery.

¹⁴ Cf. W. MÜLLER, in *Sixteenth Season*, p. 3-17, *idem*, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 3-16, *idem*, in *Eighteenth Season*, p. 4-14 for the work of previous seasons in the western part of Area 3

¹⁵ C. THIRY is currently undertaking a study of the pottery from Strata L-N as part of his dissertation project.

transport of stones),¹⁶ were excavated this season. The two houses dating to Stratum N (Houses 14 and 15) represent the earliest architectural structures encountered in Area 3.¹⁷

House 14 showed the most complete ground plan with at least 6 rooms and a north-south extension of 8.7 – 8.9m.

The focus of this season's work was an investigation of the south-eastern part of Room 6.¹⁸ This room was situated in the well-preserved southern part of the house. The southern wall of the room was still standing to a height of 1.4m. Due to its state of preservation, this part of the house was the area best suited for an investigation of the different phases of use of the building.

During the earliest phase, the room had a mud floor without any functional indicators. The room covered an area of ca. 5.3sqm (the north-eastern corner of the room was not excavated). A door was situated in the eastern wall of the room next to its south-eastern corner. It was 0.76m wide at the bottom and had a threshold made of one layer of mud bricks (Fig. 6). Another door next to the north-western corner of the room led to the staircase (Rooms 4, 5 and 7).

All the walls of the room were covered with a thick coating of mud plaster. Up to 0.5m of fluvial sediment (river sand mixed with mud-brick debris) that covered the earliest floor of the room is evidence of at least two flood-events that damaged the house without destroying it.

The next major phase of use brought significant changes to the original layout of the room. After up to two layers of mud-brick had been put on top of the loose sediment, a bread oven was constructed on top of them.¹⁹ The bread oven was built against the western and southern walls of Room 6 and a narrow (0.5 brick wide) north-south wall to its east (Fig. 7). Due to its state of preservation it was not clear whether this wall was a constructional part of the oven or a narrow screen wall. A threshold made of mud bricks that abutted the northern end of this wall may be evidence that the construction constituted a proper wall separating the oven from the eastern part of the room. In this part a small fireplace marks a further installation connected to the preparation of food.

The eastern door was then narrowed to 0.6m and given a new mud brick threshold. The screen wall and oven were damaged by minor flood events and renewed at least once (Fig. 6).

After the oven was abandoned, all installations were covered first by windblown sand and then by an up-to-0.4m thick layer of fluvial sediment that showed the same characteristics as described above.

During the last phase of use, a new mud brick threshold was constructed in the door in the eastern wall. A mud floor without any functional indicators was preserved only in parts of the room.

The unhindered accumulation of sediment must have posed considerable difficulties for the continued use of the building. During the last phase of use of House 14, the staircase was covered by

¹⁶ MÜLLER, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 4-5 n. 9. *Idem*, in *Eighteenth Season*, p. 4. Cf. C. VON PILGRIM, in *Report on the 5th and 6th Season*, pp. 307-311 on evidence for the processing and transport of granite in Area 23 in the very north of Aswan. The pre-Late Period Pharaonic pottery was dated by I. FORSTNER-MÜLLER.

¹⁷ Cf. MÜLLER, in *Sixteenth Season*, p. 4-5 and *idem*, in *Eighteenth Season*, p. 4-5.

¹⁸ *Idem*, in *Sixteenth Season* p. 5 and p. 34, fig. 4 put the oven in a special Room 8. Based on the findings of this season the oven can be assigned to Room 6.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 5 and p. 35, Fig. 6.

more than 1m of sediment and was thus only partly functional. It is possible that the upper floor of the house no longer existed.

The investigation of the north-eastern part of House 14 continued. Former Room 3 had to be subdivided into a southern (Room 3b) and a northern part (Room 3a) when a narrow east-west wall of Stratum N was discovered 4.30m to the south of the possible northern wall of the house (Figs. 4, 5 and 8). This wall was already visible in the eastern section of the Southern Sector but was then interpreted as a central pillar inside Room 3. The wall abutted a north-south wall that was identical with the wall that formed the north-eastern corner of Room 3a with the northern wall of the house. Due to its strength, this wall was interpreted as the possible eastern wall of House 14.²⁰ It was destroyed by the river only ca. 0.5m to the south of the north-eastern corner. The gap in the eastern wall measured 2.60m as the southern part of the wall was destroyed by the river ca. 1m to the north of the south-eastern corner of Room 3b (Fig. 5). If this wall marked the eastern limit of the house and thus continued further towards the south, the eastern door into Room 6 may constitute the main entrance into House 14.

The oven in Room 6 was the only functional indicator found in the house. Its construction marked a clear functional change of Room 6 from a small vestibule connecting the entrance with the staircase to its west to an area of food production or cooking. Remains of two ovens found to the south of the house in what may have been an open courtyard area are evidence of where cooking and baking took place during the earlier phases of the house. As the walls in the northern part of House 14 were only standing to a height of 0.40m, only the earliest phase of use of House 14 could be observed here.

An analysis of the groundplan indicates that another door was probably situated in the unexcavated north-eastern part of Room 6, which connected Rooms 1, 2 and 3 to the rest of the house.

The work of Season 19 helped to produce a much clearer picture of the development and function of House 14. A study of the anthropogeneous and natural formation processes that affected the house shows that the building which lay within the reach of the yearly flood of the River Nile was probably only in use seasonally. In some cases, thin layers of windblown sand predating the fluvial sediment may be evidence that the building was abandoned temporarily prior to the flood (Fig. 6). The almost complete lack of pottery or other elements of material culture inside the rooms of the house also hints at repeated abandonment and resettlement in an orderly fashion. The building was rebuilt and repaired several times until its final destruction by a major flood event at the end of Stratum N. Due to the constant risk of damage or destruction by the river, no densely built-up city quarter came into existence here during Stratum N.

Stratum M

²⁰ *Idem*, in *Eighteenth Season*, p. 5.

The flood event that led to the final abandonment of House 14 left clear traces in Area 3. The water came from the north (against the current in the main channel of the River Nile) and created a temporary channel. The confines of this channel are marked by the banking mud brick walls of Stratum M and the gap of 2.6m in the eastern wall of House 14.

A corner at the end of the retaining wall running in a north-west – south-easterly direction diagonally through the Southern Sector that was predicted in Season 16²¹ was confirmed (Figs. 4, 8 and 9).

A wall running roughly east-west met the north-west – south-east wall at an angle of ca. 115°. Both walls showed exactly the same details of construction and were banked at an angle of 45° (Fig. 8 and 9). They were constructed as embankment walls of the temporary channel in order to create proper building ground on top of the loose river sediment that had accumulated during earlier flood events. The area to the east and north the walls was thus not deemed proper building ground for future construction. The buildings to the west and south on top of these walls were probably destroyed by other floods, as were the embankment walls themselves (only eight courses of mud bricks of the walls were preserved).

The corner of the walls was situated on top of a massive granite boulder that had been left there when the area was used for quarrying during the earlier Pharaonic period. The southern end of the temporary channel as marked by the east-west wall was probably due to a granite massif or the generally rising ground level in the unexcavated area further to the south.

The walls of Stratum M followed the orientation of the temporary river channel, which differed significantly from the architecture of Stratum N.

The findings of Strata O – M in the western part of Area 3 in the immediate vicinity of the bank of the River Nile that was encountered in Area 52, just 30m to the west of the area,²² constitute a rare example of the interaction between humans and the river in the littoral areas of settlements. The interpretation of the archaeological findings is based on a reconstruction of ancient flood levels based on historical and epigraphical information²³ and on an extensive geomorphological and geoarchaeological survey.²⁴ The fact that Houses 14 and 15 were constructed on such low-lying building ground, thus accepting damage or destruction by the flood, may be evidence of the great importance of this spot, probably due to a harbour or mooring place in the immediate vicinity.

During Stratum M, the construction strategy changed in an attempt to adapt to the behaviour of the river, which was now better understood. Now the most exposed and lowest parts of the area were no longer used for building and the loose sediment that formed the banks of the temporary riverbed after the water had receded was fortified with retaining walls. Due to the building material –

²¹ *Idem*, in *Sixteenth Season*, p. 5.

²² *Idem*, in *9th Season*, p. 20-23. W. MÜLLER/DE DAPPER, in: Y. TRISTANT/GHILARDI, *Landscape Archaeology. Egypt and the Mediterranean World*, p. 23-24.

²³ S. J. SEIDLMAYER, *Historische und moderne Nilstände, ACHET A1* (Berlin 2001), p. 90, tab. 7 with a table giving the reconstructed flood levels for the Aswan region.

²⁴ The Survey was undertaken in cooperation with M. DE DAPPER. For the results of the survey cf. MÜLLER/DE DAPPER, in TRISTANT/GHILARDI, *Landscape Archaeology. Egypt and the Mediterranean World*, pp. 19-42.

mud brick – this construction did not provide sufficient protection and was destroyed in due course by the next major flood event.

Stratum L

With the construction of the town wall of Syene, the situation in Area 3 changed completely. As was the case in Area 15,²⁵ the immediate physical force of flood events was tamed by a massive (up to 11m wide and at least 10m high) wall that was in its lower part made of stone.²⁶ Projecting the wall in Area 15 towards the north, it would run between Areas 52 and 3 to the east of the medieval embankment wall. Now, building even on low ground became possible without risking damage to or destruction of the structures by the river.²⁷ Based on Aramaic ostraca found in Area 2, the construction of the wall can be dated to the second half of the 5th century BC.²⁸ In the absence of more precise absolute dates provided by pottery, this date is taken as a *terminus post quem* for the beginning of Stratum L in Area 3, as no fluvial sediment nor destruction by water was observed in the houses from Stratum L/4 onwards, in spite of the fact that their floor levels were still within the reach of the flood.

Stratum L saw the gradual development of a densely built-up district. During Stratum L/4, Houses 9, 13, 18, 21, 22, 24 and 26 came into existence.²⁹ The orientation of houses and streets differed significantly from earlier strata and followed the orientation of the north-west – south-east embankment wall of Stratum N (Fig. 10).

During Stratum L/4, there were still significant gaps within the fabric of the town. To the north of House 9 there was a large open square while the southern part of the Southern and South-Eastern Sectors of the investigated area were probably still occupied by what was left of the buildings of Strata M and N.

Street 2 became the main line of communication at the beginning of Stratum L and remained as such until the end of the stratum. Scarcely any structures dating to Stratum L were investigated during Season 19. Stratigraphical observations in the newly-excavated areas led to slight changes in the architectural sequence of buildings forming the eastern limit of Street 2.

Stratum L/3

²⁵ W. MÜLLER, in *Report on the 5th and 6th Season*, p. 317-318.

²⁶ Cf. MÜLLER, in *Twelfth Season*, p. 5-11 for an investigation of the wall in Area 2 and H. JARITZ, M. RODZIEWICZ, 'Syene – Investigation of the Urban Remains in the Vicinity of the Temple of Isis (II)', in *MDAIK* 52 (1996), 235 for the situation in Area 1 where the wall is best preserved to the east of the Temple of Isis.

²⁷ MÜLLER, in *Sixteenth Season*, p. 17.

²⁸ *Idem*, in *Fourteenth Season*, p. 12. The publication of the ostraca is in preparation by A. LEMAIRE and B. PORTEN to whom we owe a first assessment of the inscriptions.

²⁹ *Idem*, in *Sixteenth Season*, p. 6-7, *idem*, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 5-6, *idem* in *Eighteenth Season*, p. 6-8.

When the eastern part of the structure labeled House 12 was excavated, it became clear that the continuation of the massive banking stone terracing wall that formed the northern retaining wall of the platform that once probably carried a building, showed a rounded corner at the eastern end of the investigated area. Street 3 thus showed a bend, as was the case near the south-eastern corner of House 10 and the north-western corner of House 21/22 (Figs. 5, 8 and 10).³⁰ Such rounded corners at junctions are well known from the town of Dynasty 12 and the Second Intermediate Period on Elephantine Island.³¹ As the excavated part of the wall shows an east-west extension of more than 12m (neither its eastern nor its western end were within the investigated area) it seems improbable that the platform was constructed for only a single house as the dimensions of the buildings in Area 3 are significantly smaller than the platform. Presumably the platform was constructed in order to compensate for the fact that the building ground sloped up towards the south and to create level building ground for several houses or a larger public building. An example from Area 15 shows massive terraces with retaining walls made of stone and several houses on top of them.³²

As was the case with the walls of Stratum M, the terrace was built against and on top of the remains of House 14, which were better preserved in the southern part of the excavated area (Fig. 8). Any buildings that may have existed on top of the terrace or even the original top of the wall itself were completely destroyed when the houses of Stratum J were constructed.

The western wall of House 25 (Fig. 12), a massive sandstone construction sitting on top of an earlier mud brick wall, does not, as previously assumed, date to Stratum L/1 but is definitely contemporaneous with House 12 and belongs thus to Stratum L/3. The southern end of this wall was reconstructed from observations in the eastern section of the sector. If this reconstruction is correct, House 25 would show a north-south extension of ca. 4.2m, and the continuation of Street 3 towards the east a width of 2.40m.

As becomes evident from the plan, Stratum L/3, in which the gaps in the urban fabric were filled and the street grid was established, saw the formation of a town quarter that continued to exist until the end of the Late Period (Fig. 10).

Significant remains of Late Period Syene have been found in three areas of Aswan. Of these, only in Area 3 was a purely domestic quarter of the town discovered.³³ This quarter shows some similarities with the contemporaneous town on Elephantine Island but also significant differences, such as the more regular street grid and the rounded corners of houses at junctions.³⁴

Strata L/2 – L/1

³⁰ *Idem*, in *Eighteenth Season*, p. 9.

³¹ C. VON PILGRIM, 'Elephantine – (Festungs-) Stadt am Ersten Katarakt', in M. BIETAK, E. CZERNY, I. FORSTNER-MÜLLER (eds.), *Cities and Urbanism in Ancient Egypt, DÖAWW 60 = UZK 35* (Vienna 2010), p. 265.

³² MÜLLER, in *Report on the 5th and 6th Season*, p. 317.

³³ *Idem*, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 13.

³⁴ A. KREKELER, 'Stadtgrabung am Westkom von Elephantine / Wohnbauten des 1. Jahrtausends v. Chr.' in M. BIETAK (ed.), *Haus und Palast im Alten Ägypten, UZK XIV = DÖAWW XIV* (Vienna 1996), p. 110-111.

All structures created in Strata L/4 and L/3 were still in use during the later part of Stratum L.³⁵ The density of the architecture increased significantly. In the southern part of the South-Eastern Sector, all structures dating to these Strata were destroyed by the houses of Stratum J. Huge pits on top of Houses 25 and 26 destroyed all house phases later than Stratum L/3. In later Stratum L, a 0.8m-wide platform with a foundation of massive granite boulders was constructed against the northern face of the terracing wall dating to Stratum L/3, thus narrowing Street 3 significantly. This construction was only visible in the eastern section and could not be investigated in detail.

Stratum K

The only architectural structure dating to Stratum K/2 within the excavated area was a carefully-constructed stone wall running east-west in the northern part of the Northern Sector. Soon after the construction of the wall, a massive infill of burnt material, mostly mud brick debris, probably from dismantled industrial installations like kilns, was deposited in the area. The wall probably constituted part of a casemate construction at the bank of the River Nile. M. HEPA's extensive study of the pottery from this massive filling layer that covered the Late Period remains in the Northern and Southern Sectors (Stratum K/2)³⁶ confirms a date for the layer at the end of the 3rd or beginning of the 2nd century BC.³⁷ This date gives a *terminus ad quem* for the beginning of Ptolemaic construction activity at the site. As was the case in other parts of Syene, the settlement sequence was interrupted for a considerable time from the end of Dynasty 30 until the Middle and Late Ptolemaic periods.³⁸

Stratum J/2 – J/1

A stratigraphical and architectural analysis based on the findings in the eastern section of the sector led to the conclusion that the northern wall of House 12 must still have been standing to a considerable height during Strata K and J/2. It was thus the southern limit of the open area to the south of House 20 that was then used for large-scale food production, mostly bread-baking as shown by remains of numerous ovens (Fig. 11).

During Stratum J/1 (Figs. 11 and 12), roughly starting in the 2nd half of the 2nd century BC, the density of houses increased when the area to the south of House 20 was overbuilt with Houses 16 and 17. To the north of House 16, Street 1 came into existence.³⁹ This street remained a major line of

³⁵ Cf. MÜLLER, in *Sixteenth Season*, pp. 8-13, *idem*, in *Seventeenth Season*, pp. 9-13 and *idem*, in *Eighteenth Season*, pp. 8-10 for results from former seasons.

³⁶ *Idem*, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 14.

³⁷ Cf. *infra*, chapter 3.

³⁸ W. MÜLLER, 'Hellenistic Aswan', in D. RAUE, S. J. SEIDLMEYER, P. SPEISER, *The First Cataract of the Nile. One Region – Diverse Perspectives*, SDAIK 36 (2013, Berlin/Boston), p. 125. *Idem*, in *Eighteenth Season*, p. 10.

³⁹ MÜLLER, in *Eighteenth Season*, p. 11-12.

communication until it was finally blocked by House 3 in the Mamluk period.⁴⁰ The southern House 17 was subject to a very limited investigation. At least two major building phases could be discerned. In the second phase, the southern wall of the building was renewed. The wall cut into and sat on top of the well-preserved mud floor in Room 4 (Fig. 9). This construction work dated to the early Roman Imperial period.

Stratum H

House 8

The dating of House 8 (Figs. 5, 10 and 11) to Late Antiquity⁴¹ was revised after pottery and other material from layers of a street that ran between Houses 8 and 17 was dated to the early Roman Imperial period.⁴² House 8 was built while House 17, originally constructed in the Late Ptolemaic period, was still in use. The finds of Late Antique coins on top of the terrazzo floors of Room 1 and Room 2 of House 8 are evidence of the long time over which the house was inhabited.

House 28

In order to investigate the transition of the city quarter from the Ptolemaic to the medieval period, two small trenches were dug into the slope to the east of Houses 16 and 17. As well as the cellar cutting into House 16/Room 2,⁴³ House 28 showed three rooms within the excavated area (Figs. 5, 11 and 12). The northernmost, Room 3, showed a north-south length of 4.20m and was, if the eastern wall of Rooms 1 and 2 continued towards the north, ca. 2.30m wide. The western wall of Rooms 1 and 2 was completely destroyed but, if the western wall of Room 3 continued towards the south, they had the same width as Room 3. With a north-south extension of 3.10-3.20m, the two southern rooms of the house were significantly smaller than Room 3. The southernmost room, Room 2, showed a low vault (ca. 0.7m high), similar to contemporary examples from Areas 15⁴⁴ and 13.⁴⁵ Pottery from the vault was dated preliminarily to the later 2nd century AD. Room 1 showed an earlier phase of use in the early 2nd century AD. Later in the 2nd century, the northern wall of the room was renewed, and an infill of settlement and constructional debris was deposited here. On top of this layer, a pavement of sandstone slabs was constructed. The second phase of use was contemporary with the material found inside the vault of the southern room.

⁴⁰ K. C. BRUHN, in *2nd Report*, p. 253.

⁴¹ *Idem*, in *Sixteenth Season*, p. 15-16.

⁴² The Roman pottery was preliminarily dated by M. HEPA.

⁴³ MÜLLER, in *Eighteenth Season*, p. 12-13.

⁴⁴ Cf. *idem*, 'Domestic Structures in Graeco-Roman Syene (Modern Aswan)', in S. LADSTÄTTER, V. SCHEIBELREITER (eds.), *Städtisches Wohnen im östlichen Mittelmeerraum 4. Jh. v. Chr. – 1. Jh. n. Chr.*, *DÖAWW* 397, AF 18 (Vienna 2010), p. 436.

⁴⁵ S. MARTIN-KILCHER et al., 'Areal 13A, Verfüllung eines Kellers: Mittlere Kaiserzeit', in S. MARTIN-KILCHER, J. WINNINGER (eds.), *Syene III. Untersuchungen zur römischen Keramik und weiteren Funden aus Syene/Assuan (1.-7. Jh. AD)*, *BeiträgeBF* 20 (Gladbeck 2017), p. 41-42.

With a north-south length of more than 12m House 28 was slightly bigger than contemporary houses in Area 15.⁴⁶ Only the cellar cutting into Room 2 of House 16 was preserved of the completely-destroyed western part of the house. House 28 was constructed slightly later than House 8, in the first half of the 2nd century AD. While House 8 was at least partly in use until Late Antiquity, the last building phase of House 28 could be dated to the end of the 2nd or beginning of the 3rd century AD. Soon after the construction of House 28, a new house was constructed to its immediate south that blocked the east-west passage between Houses 17 and 8. This building was almost completely destroyed when the pharmacy of the German Hospital was constructed. Only some remains of its northern wall that abutted the southern wall of House 28 were observed.

The town quarter around the "Temple of Domitian"

The findings from Stratum H are especially important because this stratum is roughly contemporary with the construction and use of the "Temple of Domitian".⁴⁷ The floors of the rooms of House 8 are nearly 4.50m lower than the pavement inside the temple. The floor levels of the slightly-later House 28 are still 4m deeper than those of the temple. The temple was constructed in the early Roman Imperial Period⁴⁸ on top of the remains of the previously infilled House 20 at a commanding elevated position high above the contemporary houses to the south of Street 2.⁴⁹

Stratum D

During cleaning work at the very end of the season, an east-west street to the north of the "Temple of Domitian" was discovered. The street was in use throughout the early medieval period and showed an east-west channel for the disposal of waste water in its centre (Figs. 13 and 14). A north-south feeder channel met the main channel near the north-eastern corner of the pronaos of the temple. The channels were made of fired bricks and covered with sandstone slabs. Their inner surfaces were carefully coated with lime mortar.⁵⁰

Two similar channels that were observed at the eastern limit of the site drained into a circular shaft that was faced with fired bricks.⁵¹ Two more identical installations were observed in Area 3⁵² and

⁴⁶ MÜLLER, in LADSTÄTTER/SCHIEBELREITER, *Städtisches Wohnen im östlichen Mittelmeerraum* p. 437-438.

⁴⁷ JARITZ, *MDAIK* 31 (1975), pp. 237-257.

⁴⁸ Cf. *ibid.*, pp. 250-252 proposes a date in the reign of Emperor Domitian (81-96 AD). On the basis of epigraphical observations E. LASKOWSKA-KUSZTAL now suggests a Neronian or even Tiberian date (personal communication).

⁴⁹ MÜLLER, in *Eighteenth Season*, p. 13.

⁵⁰ Cf. S. PARADINES et al, 'Excavations of the Archaeological Triangle. 10 Years of Archaeological Excavations in Fatimid Cairo', p. 198, p. 218 fig. 8 for similarly constructed channels in Cairo.

⁵¹ MÜLLER, in *Fourteenth Season*, p. 16 and p.32, fig. 24.

⁵² *Idem*, in *Sixteenth Season*, p. 16 and *idem*, in *Eighteenth Season*, p. 13.

numerous examples are known from other areas of medieval Aswan.⁵³ Thus an elaborate system for the disposal of waste water can be assumed for the Fatimid and early medieval periods.⁵⁴ The fact that in the extreme north of the town, in Area 31,⁵⁵ a very similar construction was discovered, shows that communal planning of sanitary installations was evident all over Aswan in this period. Such installations are not found before or after in Aswan, at least until the modern period, and are further evidence of the importance of the early medieval period within the history of Aswan.

Conclusion and Outlook

The limited investigation of Season 19 brought significant additional information about the gradual development of an important city quarter of Syene from Stratum N, with scattered buildings that were in constant danger from damage by flood events to the densely built-up Late Period settlement that became possible because the town was protected from the flood by a town wall from the middle of the 5th century BC onwards. After the houses that had still been in use during Dynasty 30 fell into ruins and the site was used for dumping for some time, a major building project started at the end of the 3rd century BC. Slightly later than in Area 15, the river bank of Syene saw a complete refurbishment when huge terraces were constructed during Stratum K (Stratum G in Area 15).⁵⁶ The filling layers that were deposited in order to elevate the ground to a level safely out of reach of the flood produced material relevant for the dating of the final abandonment of the area in the Early Ptolemaic period and the resuming of construction activities in the early 2nd century BC. With Stratum J, a proper "Urban Phase" started in the second half of the 2nd century BC that saw the establishment of the street grid and urban fabric of the town that remained valid until the medieval period. The orientation of the streets was now the same as during Stratum N. Stratum H, comprising the 1st and 2nd centuries AD saw the construction of the "Temple of Domitian" in an area that had until then been purely domestic in character. The excavations have shown that the temple and a flourishing city quarter existed at the same time.

The changes that took place in the area during the Late Antique period have yet to be investigated as the architectural remains of this date are mostly covered by medieval structures.

The discovery of a system for waste water disposal in Area 3 during Stratum D helped to combine the discoveries of carefully-constructed channels and shafts scattered all over the town into a more coherent picture of a centrally-organised system of sewage management during the Fatimid and early medieval periods.

⁵³ *Idem*, in *Eighteenth Season*, p. 14 n. 53.

⁵⁴ Cf. W. KUBIAK/G. T. STANLON, 'Fustat Expedition: Preliminary Report, 1966', *JARCE* 10 (1973), p. 17-19 for examples from Fustat dating to the Fatimid period. S. PRADINES et al., *MISHKAH* 4 (2009), p. 195 and 198 date similar installations to the Ayyubid and Early Mamluk periods.

⁵⁵ MÜLLER, in *Report on the 7th Season*, p. 184, fig. 4.

⁵⁶ *Idem*, in LADSTÄTTER/SCHIEBELREITER, *Städtisches Wohnen im östlichen Mittelmeerraum*, p. 434, *idem*, in RAUE et al., *The First Cataract of the Nile*, p. 127-129.

3. Ptolemaic pottery from levelling layers in Area 3

This pottery study complements the findings of the ongoing excavations in Area 3.⁵⁷ It offers a typological overview of the main shapes of ceramics⁵⁸ and fabrics⁵⁹ from a massive layer of burnt mudbrick and settlement debris. The material was deposited as a levelling layer on top of the ruins of Stratum L that was abandoned in Dynasty 30. The infill was part of major terracing work that took place in the area during the Ptolemaic period.⁶⁰ The discussion will focus on the dating of this layer with special focus on shapes that are attested for the first time within the repertoire of Ptolemaic pottery from Syene.⁶¹

The material discussed here derives from three groups of stratigraphical units (Tab. 1). The first group of contexts consists of the fill of pits⁶² (17-2-19-1, 17-2-45-3) that cut into the infill of burnt material and thus postdates the levelling layer. The amount of pottery from these contexts is very limited.

The largest amount of pottery was retrieved from the infill of burnt mud brick debris and forms the second group (17-3-19-3, 17-3-24-2, 17-3-29-4, 17-3-44-3, 17-3-49-1, 17-3-49-2, 17-3-51-2, 17-3-53-1, 17-3-61-1, 17-3-61-2, 17-3-63-3, 17-3-63-4). The material was deposited immediately after the construction of a massive east-west wall made of stone located in the Southern Sector (Fig. 11). The layer is clearly contemporary with the wall and was part of the same construction of massive terraces along the bank of the River Nile in the Ptolemaic period.⁶³

The third group of stratigraphical units consists of contexts stratigraphically located below the layer of burnt material and the wall mentioned above. These sandy and loamy layers contained ashes and charcoal fragments (17-3-44-5, 17-3-49-4, 17-3-51-3, 17-3-61-3, 17-3-62-3).

The filling layer of burnt material from the second group contained a wide variety of shapes of pottery. Among the open vessels, bowls with slightly incurved wall, so called *Echinus*-bowls (Fig. 15,

⁵⁷ *Idem*, in *17th Season*, pp. 4-16 and *supra* chapter 2.

⁵⁸ The selected pottery was drawn and digitized L. KREUZBURG.

⁵⁹ For the fabric classifications of the Aswan production *cf.* L. PELOSCHEK, *Cultural Transfers in Aswan (Upper Egypt). Petrographic Evidence for Ceramic Production and from the Ptolemaic to the Late Antique Period*, unpublished PhD (Vienna 2015) and D. ASTON, *Elephantine XIX. Pottery from the Late New Kingdom to the Early Ptolemaic Period*, AV 95 (Mainz, 1999), pp. 2-9 who used a variant of the “Vienna System”.

⁶⁰ MÜLLER, in *Seventeenth Season*, pp. 13-14; p. 43, Fig. 30-31.

⁶¹ On the early Ptolemaic and Ptolemaic material from Syene *cf.* S. LADSTÄTTER, ‘Keramische Fundkomplexe aus Areal 15 der Stadtgrabung in Syene/Aswan’, in S. LADSTÄTTER, V. SCHEIBELREITER (eds.), *Städtisches Wohnen im östlichen Mittelmeerraum (4. Jh. v. Chr. - 1. Jh. n. Chr.)*, Akten des Internationalen Kolloquiums vom 24.-27. Oktober 2007 an der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, AF 18 (Wien 2010), pp. 449-473; see also: HEPA, in *16th Season*, pp. 27-32 and L. REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene: Typochronologie, Akkulturation und wirtschaftsarchäologische Interpretation von ausgewählten Fundkomplexen aus der Stadtgrabung*, unpublished PhD (Salzburg 2018).

⁶² MÜLLER, in *Seventeenth Season*, pp. 13-14.

⁶³ MÜLLER, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 13.

4; Fig. 15, 5), painted small bowls with everted rim (Fig. 15, 6) and big bowls, also with grooved rim (Fig. 15, 1-2) predominate. Among the closed shapes, cooking pots and storage jars are most common.

A bowl with incurved rim and black painted stripes on the outside (Fig. 15, 5) from one of the pits, is attested on Elephantine at the end of the 3rd century BC.⁶⁴ Another bowl shows a grooved and thickened rim with a ripped outer surface (Fig. 15, 7). Similar examples from Tebtynis, Dakhleh and Thebes were found in contexts dating from the second half of the 3rd to the early 2nd century BC.⁶⁵

The cooking pots show a grooved rim (Fig. 15, 10-12), which is characteristic of types dating to the early 3rd century BC.⁶⁶ Some of the rims show dark red paint on the outer and inner rim (Fig. 15, 10). A strongly abraded fragment of a casserole (*lopas*) (Fig. 15, 13) belongs to a type with angled rim and a wall slightly curved on the inside, which appears in the second half of the 3rd century BC.⁶⁷

Among the storage vessels, both open shapes (Fig. 15, 15; Fig. 16, 17-18 and 23) and closed types (Fig. 15, 14 and 16; Fig. 16, 19-22) are attested. Two specimens made of Nile silt with painted rim-tops and exteriors were found in the layer of burnt material. The first example with a flattened modelled rim (Fig. 15, 14) is covered on the outside and on the rim with a creamy slip. Additionally it has a simple decoration showing horizontal red-brown and black stripes and black dots on the top of the rim. This type of decoration starts in the 4th century BC and becomes more elaborate in the 3rd century BC.⁶⁸

Among the painted wares, types with two handles are common (Fig. 16, 22). With its hemispherical shape and the heavily incurved modelled rim, the storage vessel is similar to bowl types known from the Saite-Persian period.⁶⁹ The shape seems to be a development of these types in the 4th century BC and represents early Ptolemaic material in this context.⁷⁰ A similar type showing a thicker modelled rim also occurs in the same stratigraphical unit (Fig. 16, 21). A storage vessel with two handles and a creamy slip on the exterior (Fig. 16, 20) that was found in the filling material of the pits of context group 1 is of a neckless type with S-shaped, heavily ribbed rim.

⁶⁴ ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 3107.

⁶⁵ Cf. *infra*, cat. no. 7.

⁶⁶ A.M. BERLIN, 'Naukratis/Kom Hadid: A Ceramic Typology for the Hellenistic Lower Egypt', in A. LEONARD JR. (ed.), *Ancient Naukratis, Excavations at a Greek Emporium in Egypt. Part II. The Excavation of Kom Hadid*, AASOR 55 (University of Arizona 2001), p. 81, Fig. 2.16, 4.

⁶⁷ S.C. HERBERT, A. BERLIN, *Excavations at Coptos (Qift) in Upper Egypt. 1987-1992*, JRA-Suppl. 53 (Portsmouth, Rhode Island 2003), Fig. 51, H2.43-44.

⁶⁸ ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 2262, 2308, 2313; G. SCHREIBER, *Late Dynastic and Ptolemaic Painted Pottery from Thebes (4th-2nd c. BC)*, *Dissertationes Pannonicae* III.6 (Budapest 2003), pp. 44-45; S. LAEMMEL, A. SIMONY, 'Early Ptolemaic and Ptolemaic Pottery from the Tomb of Harwa (TT 37)', in DAVID (ed.), *Céramiques ptolémaïques de la Région Thébaine. Actes de la Table Ronde de Karnak les 28 et 29 Septembre 2014*, CCE 10 (Cairo 2016), p. 247.

⁶⁹ ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 2029-2031.

⁷⁰ J. BUDKA, *Bestattungsbrauch und Friedhofsstruktur im Asasif. Eine Untersuchung der spätzeitlichen Befunde anhand der Ergebnisse der österreichischen Ausgrabungen in den Jahren 1969-1977*, ÖAW 59 (Wien 2010); G. SCHREIBER, 'Ptolemaic Pottery from the el-Khokha Cemetery' in DAVID (ed.), *Céramiques ptolémaïques de la Région Thébaine. Actes de la Table Ronde de Karnak les 28 et 29 Septembre 2014*, CCE 10 (Cairo 2016), p. 270.

Jars with short rounded and thickened rim are common in the filling layer (Fig. 16, 19) of burnt material. Only rims and small parts of the bodies are preserved. They share features with jars showing very globular, full bodies, commonly dated to the mid-Ptolemaic period that are attested from numerous places all over Egypt.⁷¹

Further shapes of storage vessels are represented by large bowls with short (Fig. 15, 16; Fig. 16, 17) and longer squared rims (Fig. 15, 15) which are common in contexts from the late 4th until the early 2nd century BC.⁷² A deep hemispherical bowl shows two handles and a slightly knobbed and squared rim with just the top of the handles being visible (Fig. 16, 18). A parallel from Elephantine does not show handles and is decorated with a creamy slip on the inner surface.⁷³ The type can be compared to a basin that is attested from Hellenistic 2 assemblages in Coptos.⁷⁴

Several fragments of large shallow carinated bowls (Fig. 16, 23), made of Nile silt and decorated with string impressions on the rim and on the outer surface under the rim were found in the filling layer of burnt material. The form is rare in Area 3 and in the published material from other sites. The closest parallel was found at Tebtynis but not in good stratigraphical context.⁷⁵ A near parallel from Elephantine with an almost-identically-modelled rim but lug handles was dated to the 4th century BC.⁷⁶ Similar types from Saqqara may constitute predecessors of the rare vessel from Area 3 that were inspired by Pharaonic tradition.⁷⁷

Ring-stands are relatively common in the filling layer. Some of them are completely preserved or could be fully reconstructed. Most of them are of the low ring-stand type (Fig. 16, 24-25). Few fragments belong to taller ring-stands (Fig. 16, 26) and pot-stands with ribbed outer surface (Fig. 16, 27) with parallels from Elephantine dating to the late 3rd century BC.⁷⁸

A single imitation of an Aegean amphora was found in a layer from the third group of contexts predating the infill of burnt material. The base fragment made of Nile silt imitates amphorae of Knidian or Rhodian origin (Fig. 16, 28).⁷⁹ The absence of imported pottery and the frequent imitation of Greek shapes in this context is typical of the second half of the 3rd century BC as was shown in other contexts from Syene and other parts of Egypt.⁸⁰

⁷¹ Cf. *infra*, cat. no. 19.

⁷² LADSTÄTTER, in LADSTÄTTER, SCHEIBELREITER (eds.), *Städtisches Wohnen im östlichen Mittelmeerraum (4. Jh. v. Chr.- 1. Jh. n. Chr.)*, p. 467, 46-47; cf. *infra*, cat. nos. 16-18.

⁷³ ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 2882.

⁷⁴ HERBERT, BERLIN, *Coptos (Qift) in Upper Egypt*, Fig. 53, H2.56.

⁷⁵ Cf. *infra*, cat. no. 23. .

⁷⁶ ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 2256.

⁷⁷ Cf. *infra*, cat. no. 23.

⁷⁸ ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 2197, 2436, 2709, 2991, 3056, 3119.

⁷⁹ Cf. *infra*, cat. no.28.

⁸⁰ On the imitations of Aegean amphorae cf.: A. MARANGO, S. MARCHAND, 'Conteneurs importés et égyptiens de Tebtynis (Fayoum) de la deuxième moitié du IV^e siècle av. J.-C. au X^e siècle apr. J.-C. (1994-2002), in S. MARCHAND, A. MARANGO (eds.), *Amphores d'Égypte de la Basse Époque à l'époque arabe, CCE 8* (Cairo 2007), pp. 258-266; D. DIXNEUF, *Amphores égyptiennes. Production, typologie contenu et diffusion (III^e siècle avant J.-C. - IX^e siècle après J.-C.)*, *Études Alexandrines 22* (Alexandria 2011), pp. 59-60; S. LADSTÄTTER, 'Greek Pottery from Syene', in A. JIMÉNEZ -SERRANO, C.V. PILGRIM (eds.), *From the Delta to the Cataract*.

A miniature vessel (Fig. 15, 8) made of marl clay and the fragment of a flask with two handles (Fig. 15, 9) are inspired by Hellenistic models and are attested for the Ptolemaic period, particularly from the 3rd century BC onwards.⁸¹

Conclusions

The levelling layer of burnt material (second group of contexts) comprises pottery from the Ptolemaic and Early Ptolemaic periods.

The absence of imports, the adaption of Aegean shapes into the local pottery repertoire and the occurrence of casseroles and other diagnostic shapes allows a dating of the deposit and gives a *terminus ad quem* for the beginning of Stratum K/2 between the second half of the 3rd century and the early 2nd century BC.⁸²

The fact that the pottery found in layers under the infill and the wall of Stratum K/2 is of roughly the same date is evidence that the construction of the wall and the deposition of the infill belong to the same constructional process.

That the pottery from the pits cutting into the infill is also of similar date shows that an interruption occurred between the beginning of the terracing work in Stratum K/2 and the final construction of the predecessor of House 20 in Stratum K/1.⁸³

The frequent occurrence of residual material dating to the 4th century BC or earlier in the infills is not surprising.

Studies Dedicated to Mohamed el-Bialy, Culture and History of the Ancient Near East 76 (Leiden 2015), p. 144; LAEMMEL, SIMONY, in DAVID (ed.), *Céramiques ptolémaïques de la Région Thébaine*. p. 246.

⁸¹ S.I. ROTROFF, *Hellenistic Pottery. Athenian and Imported Wheelmade Table Ware and Related Material, The Athenian Agora* 29 (New Jersey 1997), Fig. 83, 1312-1313; REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, pp. 398-399.

⁸² Stratum K/2 corresponds with Stratum G in Area 15 (cf. LADSTÄTTER, in LADSTÄTTER/ SCHEIBELREITER (eds.), *Städtisches Wohnen im östlichen Mittelmeerraum (4. Jh. v. Chr. - 1. Jh. n. Chr.)*, pp. 452-453) and Strata E/7-8 in Area 2 (cf. HEPA, in *Sixteenth Season*, pp. 29-31).

⁸³ MÜLLER, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 14.

Inventory	Description	Dating	Figures
17-3-19-1/K1	Flask	mid. 3 rd century BC?	Fig. 15, 9
17-3-19-1/K2	Storage jar	second half 3 rd – early 2 nd century BC	Fig. 16, 20
17-3-45-3/K1	Bowl	second half 3 rd – early 2 nd century BC	Fig. 15, 5
17-3-19-2/K3	Pot-stand	mid. 2 nd century BC or earlier	Fig. 16, 27
17-3-24-2/K1	Ring-stand	second half 4 th – early 3 rd century BC	Fig. 16, 26
17-3-24-2/K2	Storage jar	3 rd – early 2 nd century BC	Fig. 15, 15
17-3-24-2/K3	Storage bowl	mid. 4 th century BC	Fig. 16, 23
17-3-29-4/K2	Storage jar	4 th century BC	Fig. 16, 17
17-3-29-4/K3	Storage jar	second half 4 th – early 3 rd century BC or earlier?	Fig. 16, 19
17-3-29-4/K5	Casserole	second half 3 rd – 1 st century BC	Fig. 15, 13
17-3-44-3/K1	Bowl	second half 4 th – early 3 rd century BC	Fig. 15, 3
17-3-44-3/K2	Ring-stand	second half 4 th – early 3 rd century BC	Fig. 16, 24
17-3-49-1/K1	Miniature vessel	second half 3 rd – early 2 nd century BC	Fig. 15, 8
17-3-49-2/K1	Bowl	second half 3 rd – early 2 nd century BC	Fig. 15, 7
17-3-51-2/K4	Ring-stand	4 th century BC	Fig. 16, 25
17-3-53-1/K1	Bowl	4 th century BC – 1 st century AD	Fig. 15, 4
17-3-61-1/K2	Cooking pot	3 rd /2 nd century BC	Fig. 15, 11
17-3-61-1/K3	Bowl	second half 3 rd – early 2 nd century BC	Fig. 15, 1
17-3-61-2/K1	Storage bowl	4 th /3 rd century BC	Fig. 16, 22
17-3-63-3/K1	Storage jar	4 th century BC or earlier?	Fig. 16, 21
17-3-63-4/K1	Storage jar	second half 3 rd – early 2 nd century BC	Fig. 15, 14
17-3-44-5/K1	Bowl	second half 3 rd – early 2 nd century BC	Fig. 15, 6
17-3-44-5/K2	Bowl	second half 3 rd – early 2 nd century BC	Fig. 15, 2
17-3-49-4/K1	Cooking pot	second half 3 rd – early 2 nd century BC	Fig. 15, 10
17-3-49-4/K2	Cooking pot	early 3 rd century BC	Fig. 15, 12
17-3-51-3/K1	Storage jar/bowl	3 rd /2 nd century BC	Fig. 16, 18
17-3-61-3/K1	Amphora	3 rd /2 nd century BC	Fig. 16, 28
17-3-62-2/K2	Storage jar	late 4 th century BC	Fig. 15, 16

Tab. 1: Overview of pottery of layers (infill) material (Stratum K) in Area 3.

1. 17-3-61-1/K3. Bowl, RS, ø 20cm. Exterior: 2.5YR7/6; interior: 2.5YR6/6; ASW-NILE_02, Fabric: 2YR5/6. Dating: second half 3rd – early 2nd century BC.

Parallels: D. ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 2258, 2752, 2976; G. PIERRAT-BONNEFOIS, *La céramique dynastique et ptolémaïque des fouilles du Louvre à Tôd, 1989-1991*, CCE 6 (Cairo, 2000), Fig. 68; G. LECUYOT, ‘Les avatars du Ramesseum’, in DAVID (ed.), *Céramiques ptolémaïques de la Région Thébaine. Actes de la Table Ronde de Karnak les 28 et 29 Septembre 2014*, CCE 10 (Cairo 2016), Fig. 1, 10; N. LICITRA, R. DAVID, ‘L’évolution des céramiques ptolémaïques à Karnak d’après la documentation du Trésor de Chabaka’, in DAVID (ed.), *Céramiques ptolémaïques de la Région*

Thébaïne. Actes de la Table Ronde de Karnak les 28 et 29 Septembre 2014, CCE 10 (Cairo 2016), p. 105, Fig. 9, 39).

2. 17-3-44-5/K2. Bowl, RS, ø 18cm. White slipped exterior and interior: 5YR5/6; ASW-MARL_01 corresponding to Marl A2, Fabric: 7.5YR6/4. Dating: second half 3rd – early 2nd century BC.

Parallels: ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 2504, 2697; G. PIERRAT-BONNEFOIS, 'L'hellénisation des productions céramiques en Haute-Égypte: le cas de Tôd', in F. BLONDÉ, P. BALLET, J.-F. SALLES (eds.), *Céramiques hellénistiques et romaines. Productions et diffusion en Méditerranée orientale (Chypre, Égypte et côte syro-palestinienne), Travaux de la maison de l'Orient méditerranéen 35* (Lyon 2002), p. 184, 12; LICITRA, DAVID, in DAVID (ed.), *Céramiques ptolémaïques de la Région Thébaïne*, p. 105, Fig. 9, 42.

3. 17-3-44-3/K1. Bowl, RS, ø 20cm. Exterior: 2.5YR6/6; interior: 2.5YR5/6; ASW-NILE_02 corresponding to Nile C, I, Fabric: 2.5YR5/8; dark red slipped on rim the rim exterior. Dating: second half 4rd – early 3rd century BC.

Parallels: ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 2235, 2603; SCHREIBER, *Painted Pottery from Thebes (4th-2nd c. BC)*, p. 97, pl. 1, 11-12; A. MASSON, *Persian and Ptolemaic Ceramics from Karnak: Change and Continuity, CCE 9* (Cairo 2011), p. 302, Fig. 74-75.

4. 17-3-53-1/K1. Bowl, RS, ø 15cm. Exterior: 10R6/6; interior: 10R6/6; ASW-PC_01, Fabric: 10R5/6. Dating: general from 4th century BC – 1st century AD.

Parallels: N. HUDSON, *Late Persian and Early Hellenistic Pottery at Tell Timai, BCE 26* (Cairo 2016), p. 103, Fig. 10, 43; A. MASSON, 'Ptolemaic Ceramics of the Theban Region Between Tradition, Imitation and Innovation: The Priests' Quarter as a Study Case', in DAVID (ed.), *Céramiques ptolémaïques de la Région Thébaïne. Actes de la Table Ronde de Karnak les 28 et 29 Septembre 2014, CCE 10* (Cairo 2016), p. 159, Fig. 5, 1-2; S. MARTIN-KILCHER, J. WININGER, *Syene III. Untersuchungen zur römischen Keramik und weiteren Funden aus Syene / Assuan (1.-7. Jahrhundert AD), Grabungen 2001 – 2004, Beiträge zur Ägyptischen Bauforschung 20* (Gladbeck 2017), pp. 267-268; REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, p. 50, T2.

5. 17-3-45-3/K1. Bowl, RS, ø 18cm. Cream slipped exterior and interior: 5YR7/6; ASW-NILE_02 corresponding to Nile C, I, Fabric: 2.5YR5/8; black stripes on the rim exterior. Dating: second half 3rd – early 2nd century BC.

Parallels: ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 3107; REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, p. 63, T21.

6. 17-3-44-5/K1. Bowl, RS, ø 10cm. Light pink slipped exterior and interior: 7.5YR7/6; ASW-MARL_01 corresponding to Marl A2, Fabric: 7.5YR6/4. Datation: second half 3rd – early 2nd century BC.

Parallels: H. JACQUET-GORDON, *Karnak-Nord X. Le trésor de Thoutmosis Ier: La céramique, FIFAO 65* (Cairo 2012), p. 131, Fig. 131, f; LICITRA, DAVID, in DAVID (ed.), *Céramiques ptolémaïques de la Région Thébaïne*, p. 105, Fig. 9, 44; REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, pp. 58-59, T12.

7. 17-3-49-2/K1. Bowl/cup? RS, ø 15cm. Exterior: 2.5YR5/6; interior: 2.5YR5/6; ASW-NILE_06, Fabric: 10R5/6. Dating: second half 3rd – early 2nd century BC.

Parallels: P. BALLET, A. POŁUDNIKIEWICZ, *Tebtynis V. La céramique des époques hellénistique et impériale; campagnes 1988-1993; production, consommation et réception dans le Fayoum meridional, FIFAO 68* (Cairo 2012), p. 244, 81; J.C.R. GILL, *Dakhleh Oasis and the Western Desert of Egypt under the Ptolemies, Dakhleh Oasis Project Monograph 17* (Oxford 2016), p. 68, Fig. 3.28, (similar) Form 20; LICITRA, DAVID, in DAVID (ed.), *Céramiques ptolémaïques de la Région Thébaïne*, p. 103, Fig. 6, 14.

8. 17-3-49-1/K1. Miniature vessel, - Ointment pot -, RS, ø 4cm. Exterior: 2.4YR7/2; interior: 2.5YR7/2; ASW-PC_04, Fabric: 2.5YR7/3. Dating: second half 3rd – early 2nd century BC.

Parallels: ROTROFF, *Hellenistic Pottery*, Fig. 83, 1312-1313; S.C. HERBERT, *Tel Anafa II, i. The Hellenistic and Roman Pottery: The Plain Wares by Andrea Berlin, The Fine Wares by Kathleen Warner Slane, JRA 10* (Ann Arbor 1997), pl. 15, P128; BERLIN, in LEONARD JR. (ed.), *Ancient Naukratis*, p. 117, Fig. 2.34, 21.

9. 17-3-19-1/K1. Flask, - Canteen -, RS, ø 3,5cm. Orange slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR6/8; ASW-PC_02, Fabric: 10R8/4. Dating: mid. 3rd century BC?

Parallels: S.I. ROTROFF, *Hellenistic Pottery. The Plain Wares, The Athenian Agora* 33 (New Jersey 2006), Fig. 57, 347; M. BORAİK, M. NAGUIB, *Ceramic Material from the Ptolemaic Baths Excavation in front of Karnak Temples, CahKarn* 14 (Cairo 2013), p. 171, KB154.

10. 17-3-49-4/K1. Cooking pot, RS, ø 21cm. Exterior: 2.5YR6/8; interior: 2.5YR5/6; ASW-NILE_03, Fabric: 2.5YR7/6; brown slipped on the rim exterior and interior. Dating: second half 3rd – early 2nd century BC.

Parallels: J.E. GATES, *Traveling the Desert Edge: The Ptolemaic Roadways and Regional Economy of Egypt's Eastern Desert in the Fourth through First Centuries BCE*, unpublished Phd (Michigan 200), p. 340, Fig. 104, MN-13-010; LICITRA, DAVID, in DAVID (ed.), *Céramiques ptolémaïques de la Région Thébaine*, p. 104, Fig. 8, 28.

11. 17-3-61-1/K2. Cooking pot, RS, ø 20cm. Beige slipped exterior: 10R6/6; beige slipped on the rim interior: 2.5YR6/4; ASW-NILE_03, Fabric: 2.5YR6/6. Dating: 3rd/2nd century BC.

Parallels: GATES, *Traveling the Desert Edge*, p. 356, Fig. 120, MN-18-003; MASSON, in DAVID (ed.), *Céramiques ptolémaïques de la Région Thébaine*, p. 158, Fig. 3, 6; REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, pp. 261-262, T412.

12. 17-3-49-4/K2. Cooking pot, RS, ø 22cm. Exterior: 2.5YR5/6; interior: 2.5YR5/6; ASW-NILE_03, Fabric: 2.5YR6/6. Dating: early 3rd century BC.

Parallels: GATES, *Traveling the Desert Edge*, p. 324, Fig. 88, MI-8-038.

13. 17-3-29-4/K5. -Lopas- Casserole, WS+BS, ø 18cm. Exterior: 2.5YR5/6; interior: 2.5YR5/4; ASW-NILE_03, Fabric: 2.5YR5/4. Dating: second half 3rd – 1st century BC.

Parallels: D. DIXNEUF, 'La céramique hellénistique de la cave', in D. VALBELLE, *Tell el-Herr les niveaux hellénistiques et du Haut-Empire, Mission franco-égyptienne de Tell el-Herr (Nord-Sinaï)* (Paris 2007), p. 72, Fig. 42, 120; MASSON, *Persian and Ptolemaic Ceramics from Karnak*, p. 303, Fig. 77; HUDSON, *Hellenistic Pottery at Tell Timai*, p. 104, Fig. 11, 51; REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, p. 291, T470-T471.

14. 17-3-63-4/K1. Storage jar, RS, ø 34cm. Cream slipped exterior: 10R6/4; interior: 2.5YR6/6; ASW-MARL_01, Fabric: 2.5YR5/8; black and dark red stripes under the rim exterior; black spots on dark red surface on the rim. Dating: second half 3rd – early 2nd century BC.

Parallels: ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 2508; GATES, *Traveling the Desert Edge*, p. 320, Fig. 84, MI-8-017; GILL, *Dakhleh Oasis*, p. 205, 427; p. 224, 703; p. 228, 765; Fig. 3.28, similar) Form 20M; M. NAGUIB REDA, 'A Ptolemaic Kitchen in Front of the Temples of Karnak' in DAVID (ed.), *Céramiques ptolémaïques de la Région Thébaine. Actes de la Table Ronde de Karnak les 28 et 29 Septembre 2014*, CCE 10 (Cairo 2016), p. 184, Fig. 3, PI-80.

15. 17-3-24-2/K2. Storage jar, RS, ø 28cm. Cream slipped exterior: 7.5YR8/1; interior: 10R6/3; ASW-NILE_02 corresponding to Nile C, I, Fabric: 10R6/1. Dating: 3th – early 2nd century BC.

Parallels: ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 2705, 2729; PIERRAT-BONNEFOIS, *La céramique dynastique et ptolémaïque des fouilles du Louvre à Tôd*, Fig. 119; JACQUET-GORDON, *Karnak-Nord X*, p. 124, Fig. 124, j; REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, p. 181, T247;

16. 17-3-62-2/K2. Storage jar, RS, ø 28cm. Exterior: 10R6/8; interior: 10R6/4; ASW-NILE_02 corresponding to Nile C, I, Fabric: 10R5/6. Dating: late 4th century BC.

Parallels: JACQUET-GORDON, *Karnak-Nord X*, p. 124, Fig. 124, g-h; HUDSON, *Hellenistic Pottery at Tell Timai*, p. 102, Fig. 9, 34; REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, p. 180, T245; LECUYOT, in DAVID (ed.), *Céramiques ptolémaïques de la Région Thébaine*, p. 230, Fig. 1, 11.

17. 17-3-29-4/K2. Storage jar, RS, ø 29cm. Exterior: 2.5YR5/6; interior: 2.5YR5/6; ASW-NILE_02 corresponding to Nile C, I, Fabric: 2.5YR5/8, core: 10R6/6. Dating: 4th century BC.

Parallels: ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 2621, 2762; further parallels *supra* (Nr. 16).

18. 17-3-51-3/K1. Storage jar/bowl, RS, ø 38cm. Exterior: 2.5YR6/6; interior: 2.5YR6/6; ASW-NILE_04 corresponding to Nile C, I, Fabric: 2.5YR6/6. Dating: 3rd/2nd century BC.

Parallels: ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 2461, 2882; PIERRAT-BONNEFOIS, *La céramique dynastique et ptolémaïque des fouilles du Louvre à Tôd*, (similar) Fig. 120; REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, p. 176-177, (similar) T239.

19. 17-3-29-4/K3. Storage jar, RS, ø 10cm. Exterior: 10YR6/2; interior: 10YR7/3; Unclear, probably Levantine clay?, Fabric: 10YR7/2. Dating: second half 4th – early 3rd century BC or earlier?

- Parallels: ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 1208, 2135, 2395, 2795; GATES, *Traveling the Desert Edge*, p. 315, Fig. 79, ED-7-016; p. 347, Fig. 111, (similar) MI-14-013; REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, pp. 211-212, (similar) T309; LICITRA, DAVID, in DAVID (ed.), *Céramiques ptolémaïques de la Région Thébaine*, p. 102, Fig. 5, 4.
- 20.** 17-3-19-1/K2. Storage jar, RS, ø 13 cm. Cream slipped exterior: 10YR5/6; interior: 2.5YR5/4; ASW-MARL_01; Fabric: 10R5/6. Dating: second half 3rd – early 2nd century BC.
- Parallels: GATES, *Traveling the Desert Edge*, p. 321, Fig. 85, MI-8-023; REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, pp. 220-221, T327; LICITRA, DAVID, in DAVID, *Céramiques ptolémaïques de la Région Thébaine*, p. 108, Fig. 14, 78; LAEMMEL, SIMONY, in DAVID (ed.), *Céramiques ptolémaïques de la Région Thébaine*. p. 262, Fig. 30.
- 21.** 17-3-63-3/K1. Storage jar, RS, ø 31cm. Exterior: 5YR6/6; interior: 5YR4/1; ASW-NILE_04 corresponding to Nile C, I, Fabric: 5YR5/6. Dating: 4th century BC or earlier?
- Parallels: D. ASTON, 'Amphorae, Storage Jars and Kegs from Elephantine. A Brief Survey of Vessels from the Eighth-Seventh Centuries BC to the Seventh-Eighth Centuries AD' in S. MARCHAND, A. MARANGOU (eds.), *Amphores d'Égypte de la Basse Époque à l'Époque Arabe*, CCE 8 (Cairo 2007), p. 421-422, (similar) Group V (2764); SCHREIBER, 'Ptolemaic Pottery from the el-Khokha Cemetery' in DAVID (ed.), *Céramiques ptolémaïques de la Région Thébaine*, p. 276, Fig. 11; REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene*, p. 219, (similar) T324;
- 22.** 17-3-61-2/K1. Storage bowl, RS, ø 35cm. Exterior: 10R6/4; interior: 10R6/4; ASW-MIX_02, Fabric: 10R5/4; black, dark red and cream stripes under the rim exterior; black spots on dark red and cream surface on the rim. Dating: 4th/3rd century BC.
- Parallels: ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 2518; SCHREIBER, *Painted Pottery from Thebes (4th-2nd c. BC)*, p. 98, pl. 2, 31;
- 23.** 17-3-24-2/K3. Storage bowl, RS, ø 32cm. Exterior: 10R6/6; interior: 10R5/4; ASW_NILE_04, Fabric: 10R6/4. Dating: mid. 4th century BC.
- Parallels: ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 2256; BALLETT, POŁUDNIKIEWICZ, *Tebtynis V*, p. 341, (similar) 883; P. FRENCH, J. BOURRIAU, *The Anubieion at Saqqara IV. Pottery from the Late Dynastic Period with Comparative Material from the Sacred Animal Necropolis*, EES 110 (London 2018), p. 250, Fig. 3, 931b.
- 24.** 17-3-44-3/K2. Ring-stand, complete, ø 15cm. Exterior: 2.5YR6/4; interior: 2.5YR6/4; ASW-MARL_01, Fabric: 2.5YR6/6. Dating: second half 4th – early 3rd century BC.
- Parallels: ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 2233; LADSTÄTTER, in LADSTÄTTER, SCHEIBELREITER (eds.), *Städtisches Wohnen im östlichen Mittelmeerraum (4. Jh. v. Chr. - 1. Jh.n.Chr.)*, p. 467, 71; LAEMMEL, SIMONY, in DAVID (ed.), *Céramiques ptolémaïques de la Région Thébaine*, p. 258, Fig. 21.
- 25.** 17-3-51-2/K4. Ring-stand, RS+BS, almost complete, ø 17cm. Exterior: 2.5YR5/6; interior: 2.5YR5/3; ASW-MARL_01, Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Dating: 4th century BC.
- Parallels: ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 2232; BALLETT, POŁUDNIKIEWICZ, *Tebtynis V*, p. 344, (similar) 913; LAEMMEL, SIMONY, in DAVID (ed.), *Céramiques ptolémaïques de la Région Thébaine*, p. 258, Fig. 21.
- 26.** 17-3-24-2/K1. Ring-stand, RS+BS, almost complete, ø 18cm. Slightly and particularly white slipped exterior and interior: 2.5YR7/1; interior: 2.5YR7/1; ASW-NILE_02 according to Nile C, I, Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Dating: second half 4th – early 3rd century BC.
- Parallels: ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 3056; PIERRAT-BONNEFOIS, *La céramique dynastique et ptolémaïque des fouilles du Louvre à Tôd*, Fig. 107.
- 27.** 17-3-19-2/K3. Pot-stand/Ring-stand? RS, ø 26cm. Exterior: 2.5YR6/6; interior: 2.5YR6/6; ASW-NILE_01 corresponding to Nile B2, Fabric: 5YR4/6. Dating: mid. 2nd century BC or earlier.
- Parallels: ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, Nr. 2197, 2436, 2709, 2991, 3119; PIERRAT-BONNEFOIS, *La céramique dynastique et ptolémaïque des fouilles du Louvre à Tôd*, Fig. 88; HERBERT, BERLIN, *Coptos (Qift) in Upper Egypt*, Fig. 71, H3.48; BALLETT, POŁUDNIKIEWICZ, *Tebtynis V*, p. 275, 354.
- 28.** 17-2-61-3/K1. Amphora, imitation of Knidian or Rhodian amphora? BS, ø 5,8cm. Exterior: 2.5YR6/4; interior: 2.5YR7/3; ASW-NILE_06, Fabric: 2.5YR6/4. Dating: 3rd/2nd century BC.
- Parallels: S. J. MONAKHOV, 'Rhodian amphoras: developments in form and measurements', in V. F. STOLBA, L. HANNSTAD (eds.), *Chronologies of the Black Sea Area in the Period c. 400-100 BC* (Aarhus 2005), pp. 74-75, Fig. 2, 2; C. DEFERNEZ, S. MARCHAND, 'Imitations égyptiennes de

conteneurs d'origine égéenne et levantine (VI^e s. - II^e s. av. J.-C.)' in B. MATHIEU, D. MEEKS, M. WYSSA (eds.), *L'apport de l'Égypte à l'histoire des techniques. Méthodes, chronologie et comparaisons*, BdE 142 (Cairo 2006), p. 92, Fig. 17m; S. MARCHAND, 'Le maintien de la tradition pharaonique pour le productions des céramiques datées de l'époque ptolémaïque en Égypte', in F. BLONDÉ, P. BALLEZ, J.-F. SALLES (eds.), *Céramiques hellénistiques et romaines. Productions et diffusion en Méditerranée orientale (Chypre, Égypte et côte syro-palestinienne) Travaux de la maison de l'Orient méditerranéen 35* (Lyon 2002), p. 256, Fig. 1, j.

(M. Hepa)

Figures

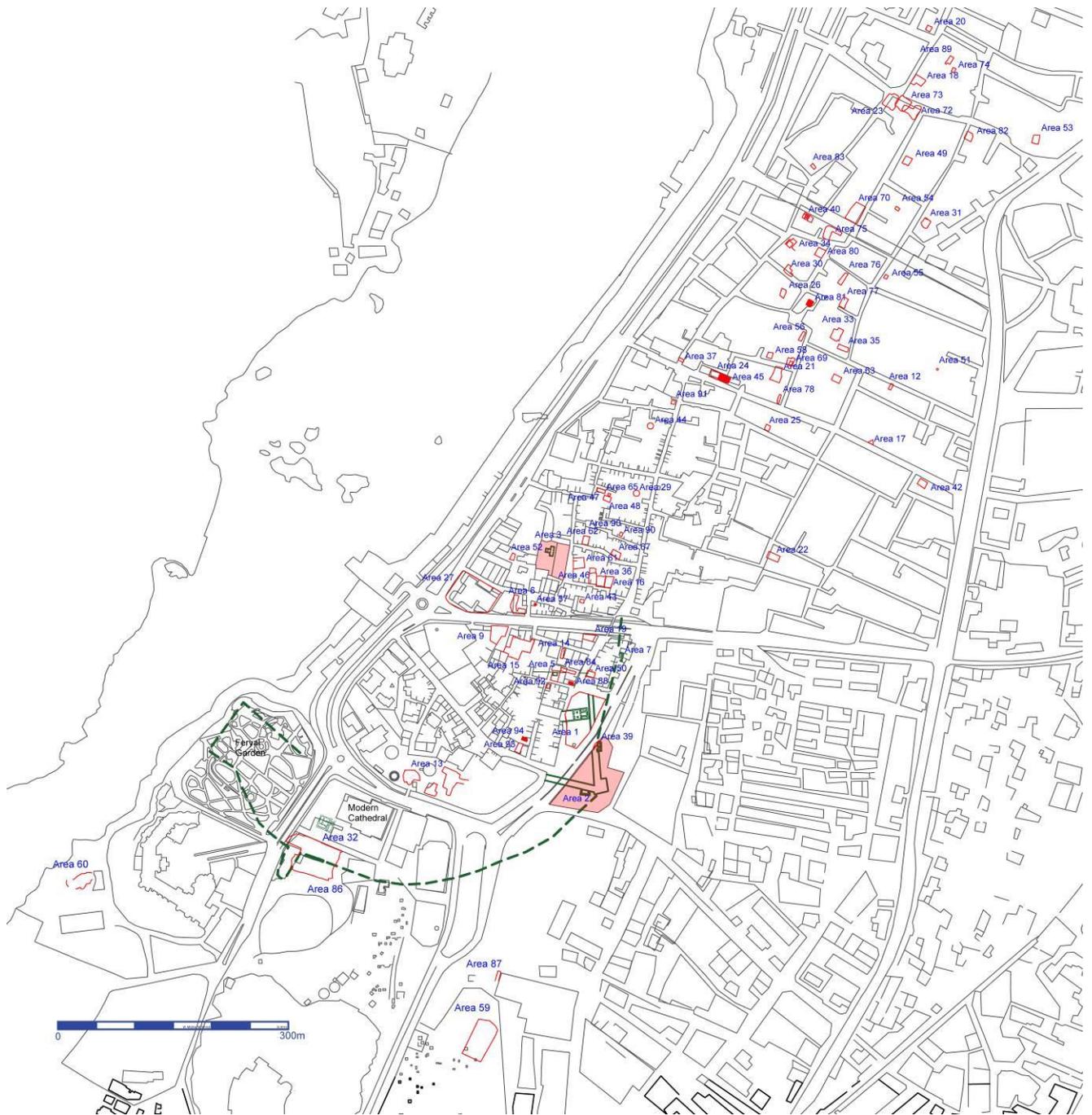


Fig. 1: Map of areas excavated by the Swiss-Egyptian Mission.



Fig. 2: Area 3: Investigated areas.



Fig. 3: Area 3: Overview from the west. Photo by B. MORA RIUDAVETS

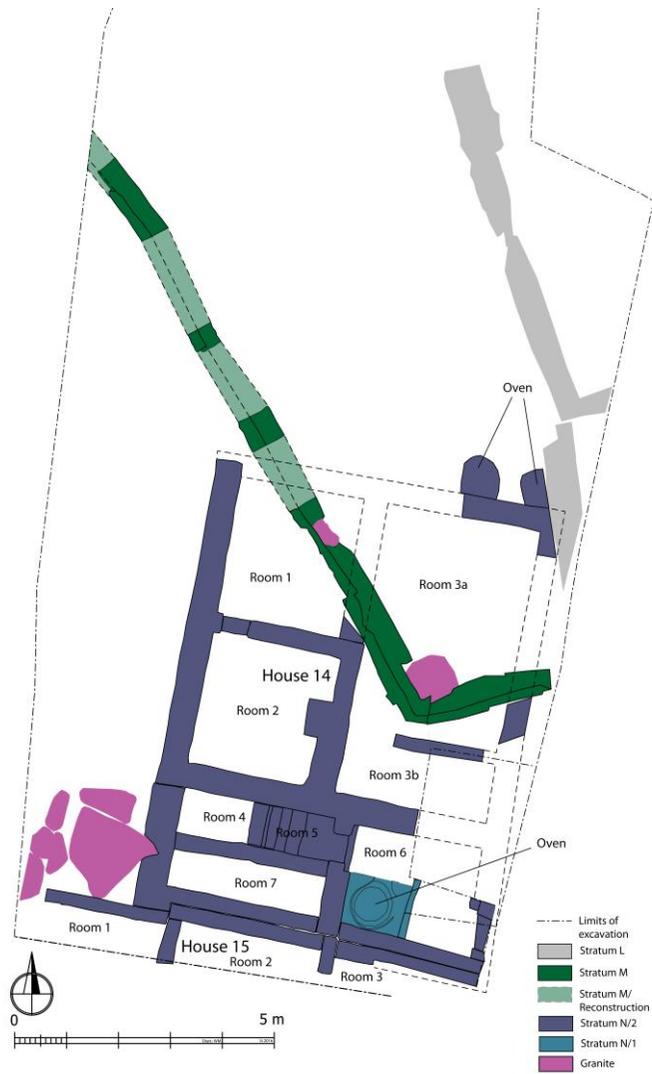


Fig. 4: Plan of Area 3 during Stratum N.

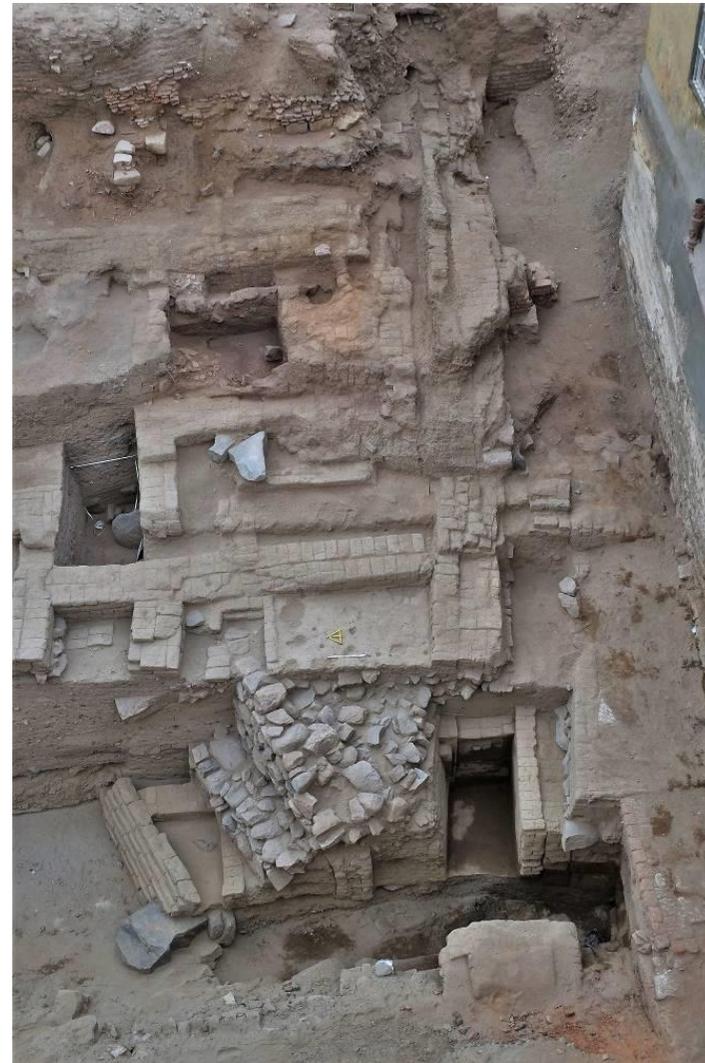


Fig. 5: Overview of the south-western part of Area 3 from the west.



Fig. 6: Area 3: Detail of the eastern section of the south-eastern Sector with the door into Room 6.



Fig. 7: Area 3: Detail of House 14/Room 6.



Fig. 8: Area 3: Detail of House 12, House 14 and the wall of Stratum M .



Fig. 9: Area 3: View of the northern face of the retaining wall of Stratum M.

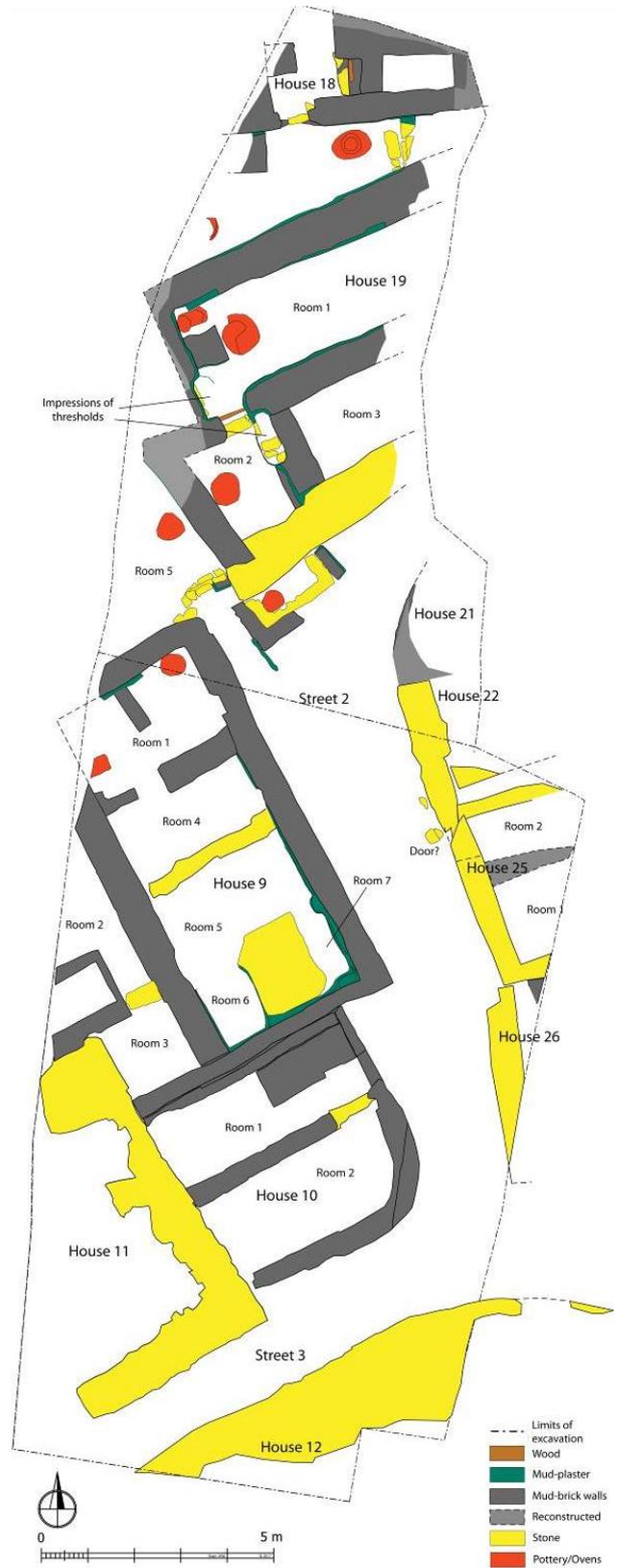


Fig. 10: Plan of Stratum L/3 in Area 3.



Fig. 11: Area 3: Plan of Strata D-K.



Fig. 12: Area 3: Overview from the west.



Fig. 13: Area 3 Overview from the north with Fatimid Structures and Temple of Domitian.



Fig. 14: Area 3: Detail of Fatimid channel.

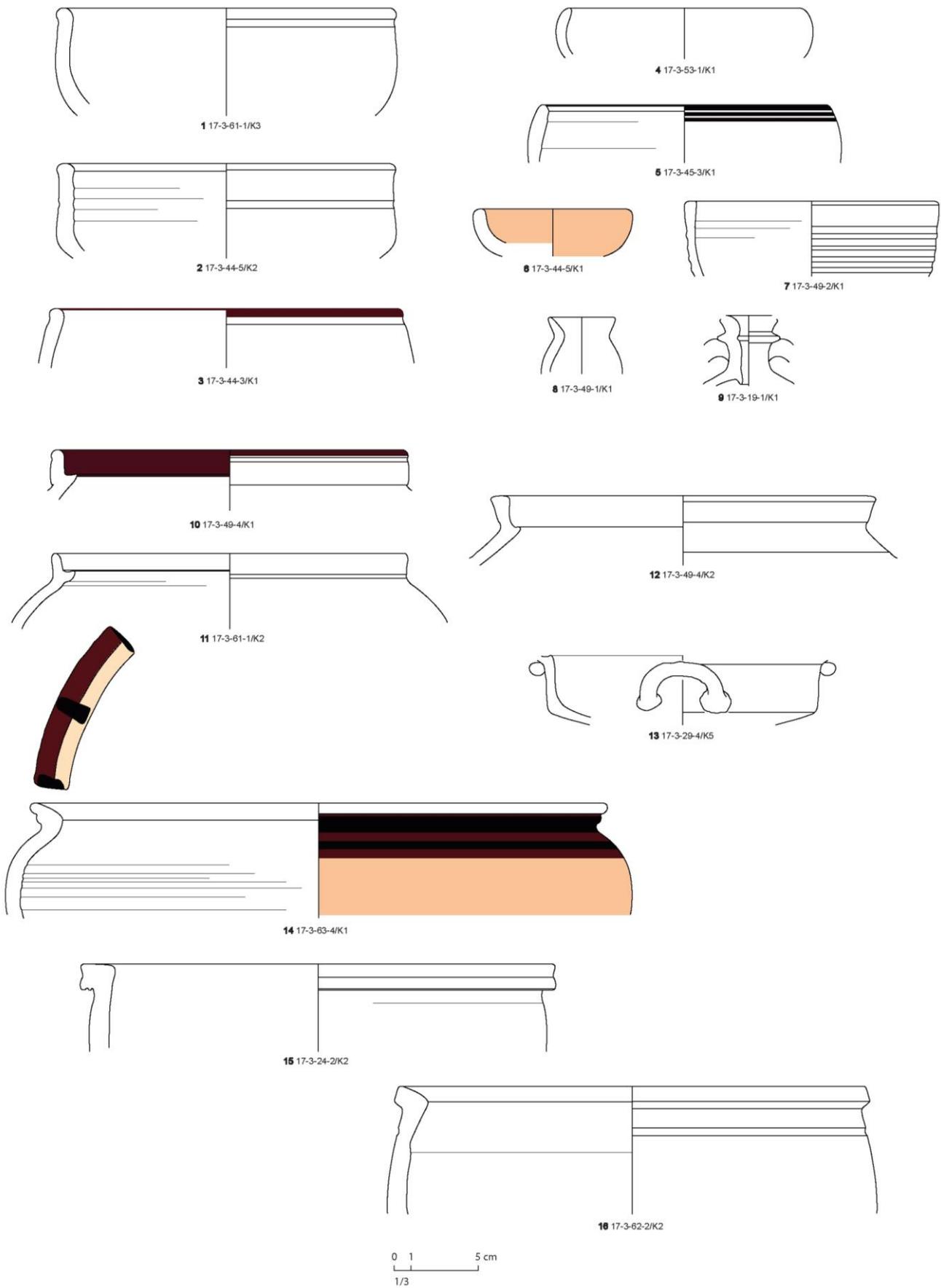


Fig. 15: Ptolemaic pottery from levelling layers in Area 3. Drawings by L. KREUZBURG.

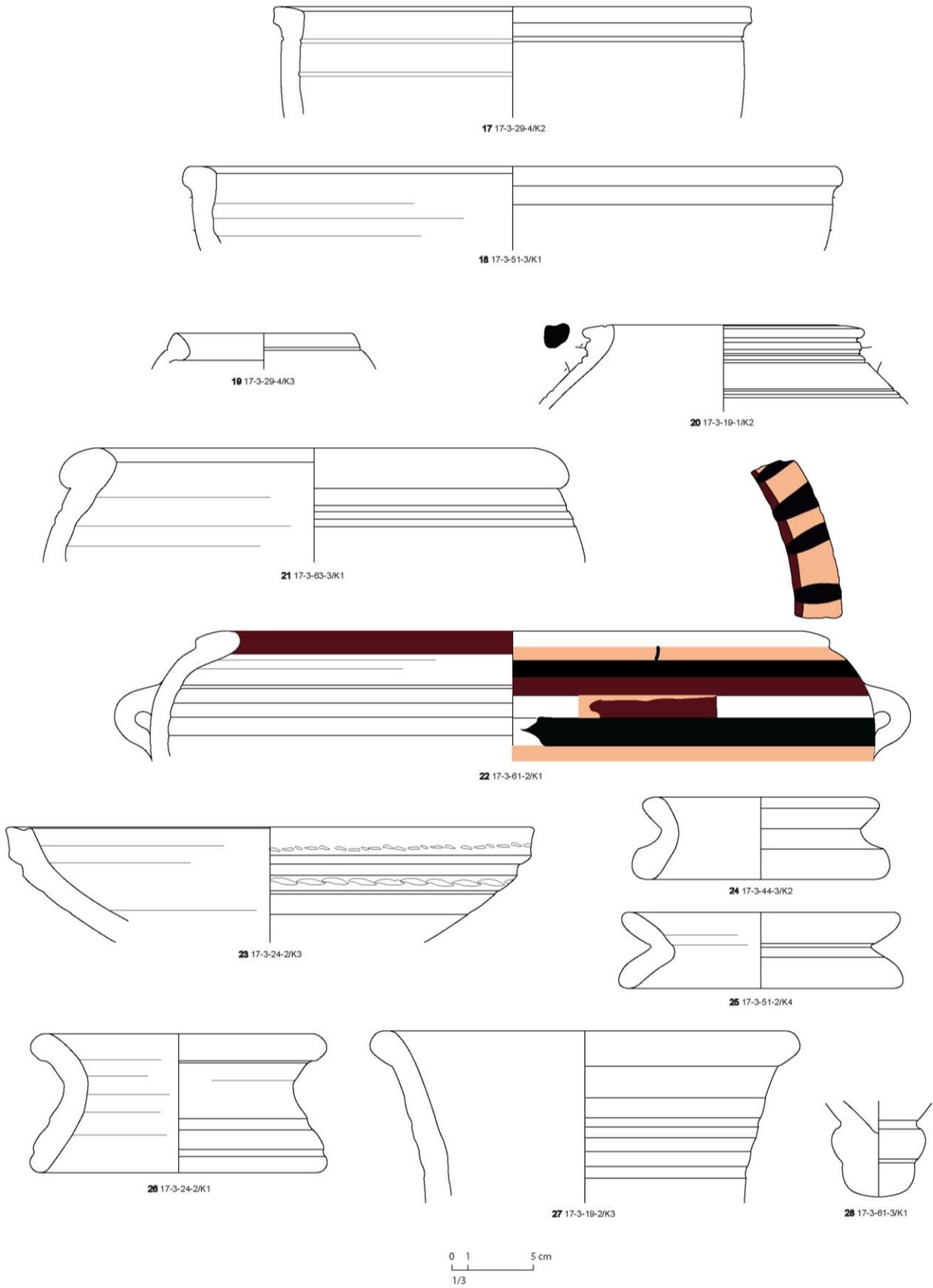


Fig. 16: Ptolemaic pottery from levelling layers in Area 3. Drawings by L. KREUZBURG.