

**Report on the**  
**18th Season of the Joint Swiss-Egyptian Mission**  
**in Syene / Old Aswan (2017/2018)**

by

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1. Introduction and Overview

The 18<sup>th</sup> season of the joint archaeological project of the Swiss Institute of Architectural and Archaeological Research Cairo and the Aswan Inspectorate of the Ministry of Antiquities in Syene/Old Aswan was carried out between October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018<sup>1</sup>.

During the fall season in 2017 archaeological fieldwork of the mission was restricted to a salvage excavation at the southern limit of the district of Koka (Area 94). The area is situated immediately to the north of a currently-suspended construction shell of which the construction

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<sup>1</sup> 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 CORNELIUS VON PILGRIM, in close cooperation with ABD EL-MONEIM SAID MAHMOUD. The fieldwork was directed by WOLFGANG MÜLLER. Team members were the Egyptologist MARCUS MÜLLER, the archaeologists M. HEPA, and G. KLINGER, the palaeo-zoologists C. EGGERS and U. MUTZE, the anthropologists J. NOVACEK and K. SCHEELEN, the epigraphers S. TORALLAS TOVAR and A. ZOMENO, and the inspectors of the MoA MOHAMED ABDEL RAZIQ MOHAMED ALI, YOSRA KHALFALLAH EL-ZOHRY, and HOUIDA MOHAMED AHMED IBRAHIM. Additionally assigned inspectors were OMNIA MOHAMED ABDALLAH, FATHIA AHMED EL-HEFNAY and ZEINAB EL-SAYED GHALEB SOLIMAN. - We are much indebted to PAMELA ROSE for correcting the English of this report. All Web-Addresses mentioned in the report were last accessed in September 2018.

pit was investigated during the previous season (Area 93). Although necessary safety margins in both areas impeded a direct connection between them it was expected to gain additional information on the nature and development of this town quarter. The entire neighbourhood of Koka is of particular importance for the archaeological landscape of Old Aswan, for it is archaeologically still a largely blank area. The quarter's close proximity to the Isis Temple, however, suggests a town quarter with high-standard buildings in the Roman era and beyond. Due to the small size of the new area, work had to be stopped for reasons of safety on the level of buildings of early Roman date. The earliest building shows features of prestigious domestic architecture and may have been in use for a long period of time.

With a view to the sustainable development and protection of the few registered antiquities zones in Old Aswan, the mission has focussed on the area of the so-called temple of Domitian (Area 3) over recent years.<sup>2</sup> After the stabilisation of the site's eastern edge with a massive retaining wall in 2013, the investigation of strata pre-dating the Roman temple was begun along the deeply-disturbed western side of the temple in Season 16. The work on the site was initially suggested by the former Director General of the local inspectorate in order to facilitate the construction of a subterranean storage facility for study objects (pottery, bones, soil samples). Although such a construction would have been invisible although consolidating the ground beside the temple, this concept had recently to be abandoned.

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<sup>2</sup> Cf. for reports on earlier seasons: C. VON PILGRIM ET AL., 'The Town of Syene. Preliminary Report on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Season in Aswan', *MDAIK* 60 (2004), pp. 119-148 (henceforth quoted as: *1<sup>st</sup> Report*). *Idem*, 'The Town of Syene. Preliminary Report on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Season in Aswan', *MDAIK* 62 (2006), pp. 215-277 (henceforth quoted as: *2<sup>nd</sup> Report*). *Idem*, 'The Town of Syene. Report on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Season in Aswan', *MDAIK* 64 (2008), pp. 305-356 (henceforth quoted as: *Report on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Season*). *Idem*, 'The Town of Syene. Report on the 7<sup>th</sup> Season in Aswan', *MDAIK* 66 (2010), pp. 179-223 (henceforth quoted as: *Report on the 7<sup>th</sup> Season*). C. VON PILGRIM ET AL., 'The Town of Syene. Report on the 8<sup>th</sup> Season in Aswan', *MDAIK* 67 (2011), p. 157-161 (henceforth quoted as *Report on the 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.swissinst.ch/downloads/Report_9th_Season_2008-2009.pdf)) (henceforth quoted as: *9<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.swissinst.ch/downloads/SwissInst_Report_Aswan_2012.pdf)) (henceforth quoted as: *Twelfth Season*). C. VON PILGRIM/W. MÜLLER, 'Report on the 13<sup>th</sup> Season of the Joint Swiss-Egyptian Mission in Syene/Old Aswan (2012/2013)', *ASAE*, forthcoming ([http://swissinst.ch/downloads/Swissinst\\_Report\\_Aswan\\_2013.pdf](http://swissinst.ch/downloads/Swissinst_Report_Aswan_2013.pdf)) (henceforth quoted as *Thirteenth Season*), *idem*, 'Report on the 14<sup>th</sup> 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](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](http://swissinst.ch/downloads/Swiss_Institute_2014_2015.pdf)) (henceforth quoted as *Fifteenth Season*). C. VON PILGRIM ET AL., 'Report on the 16<sup>th</sup> 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](http://swissinst.ch/downloads/Report_16th_season_2015_16.pdf)) (henceforth quoted as *Sixteenth Season*). C. VON PILGRIM ET AL., 'Report on the 17<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.swissinst.ch/downloads/Report_Swiss_Egyptian_Mission_ASWAN_2017.pdf)) (henceforth quoted as *Seventeenth Season*).

In previous seasons, the excavations revealed a sequence of occupational strata from the Ptolemaic Period down to the Persian Period. This season, the present trench was further extended towards the south-east in order to complete the work in the lowest strata and to link the stratigraphy to the area to the south of the temple, which includes chronologically later strata in the upper part.

For lack of any proper storage facility in Aswan, pottery sherds and other study material from current excavations in the town have always been temporarily stored in the Isis Temple. This practice started in the late 1990s, when the Inspectorate of Antiquities conducted some excavations on the northern side of the temple and additionally excavated the Roman Shrine to the north-west of the temple. The Swiss-Egyptian mission followed this practice, particularly after the mission's magazine at Elephantine had to be abandoned in spring 2015 and all material from there was also transferred to the temple. After all attempts to end this inappropriate use of the temple for storage purposes failed and all proposals to build a new storage facility in Area 3 were not approved, the Ministry of Antiquities eventually initiated the evacuation of the temple in November 2017 in order to allow further restoration of the temple by a mission of the MoA. The joint Swiss-Egyptian Mission thereupon transferred all stored material to a magazine of the MoA in Gebel el-Shisha, located 10km to the south of Aswan. There, four rooms were put at the mission's disposal. Apart from 166 boxes with animal and faunal bones and selected pottery collections which were brought to the central magazine of the MoA at Aswan, 1175 large sacks containing pottery sherds and soil samples were transferred to Gebel el-Shisha. The transfer started November 25<sup>th</sup> and lasted until December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Further sacks containing pottery from Area 14 were transferred from the magazine of the Nubian Fund at Talaina to Gebel el-Shisha in May 2018.

Besides the fieldwork, the study of pottery and finds from earlier seasons was further intensified. Pottery studies focused particularly on a series of previous salvage excavations with sequences of Roman occupation (M. HEPA) and on the pottery from the animal necropolis in Area 2. The study of the skeletons from the animal cemetery was completed by the palaeozoologist U. MUTZE, complemented by a special study on the sheep population by C. EGGERS.<sup>3</sup> In the spring season 2018, the analysis of human skeletal remains from Late Roman tomb contexts in Area 45 was continued by J. NOVACEK and K. SCHEELEN-NOVACEK. SOFÍA TORALLAS TOVAR and AMALIA ZOMEÑO RODRÍGUEZ continued the inventory of the ostraca and continued the study of Greek ostraca from Area 88 and Area 2.

(C. von Pilgrim)

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<sup>3</sup> The analysis of this eminent animal cemetery now forms the basis of the DFG-funded project „An archaeozoological, archaeological, and religious-historical examination of the Ptolemaic-Roman temple herd and burial ground at Syene“, headed by J. Peters (LMU Munich).

## 2. The development of a Late Period and Ptolemaic town quarter of Syene (Area 3)

Besides some investigations in Houses 19 and 18, a small excavation (58sqm) was undertaken to the east of the Southern Sector, the southern part of the foundation pit excavated in Season 16 (South-East Sector) (Fig. 2).<sup>4</sup>

### Stratum O<sup>5</sup>

This Stratum comprises all pharaonic layers prior to the Late Period. As was already the case during Seasons 17 and 16, no architectural structures could be attributed to Stratum O. In a small trench just to the west of this season's investigation, a sequence of quarry debris of all sizes and kinds was dated by the associated pottery to the Old, Middle and New Kingdoms. The latest layers were dated to the Ramesside Period.<sup>6</sup>

In a small trench at the eastern limit of the Southern Sector investigated in Season 16, in an area formerly covered by the eastern wall of House 10, layers consisting of different sizes of granite fragments, from chips to rubble were again encountered. They probably represent a spoil heap from a nearby quarry or from the finishing of granite blocks prior to their transport north. Pottery associated with these layers was dated to Dynasties 4 -5.<sup>7</sup>

A comparable spoil heap of quarry debris of the same date has been previously documented in Area 2.<sup>8</sup> Traces of finishing and transporting of granite associated with a loading ramp of Old Kingdom date were studied in detail in Area 23.<sup>9</sup>

### Stratum N (Fig. 4)

Stratum N, tentatively dated to the early Persian Period based on the pottery, constitutes the first real building phase with clear architectural structures. Remains of two houses were found in the Southern Sector investigated during Season 16.<sup>10</sup> House 14 showed the most complete ground-plan within the excavated area. Its six rooms (Rooms 4, 5 and 7 constitute a staircase) were arranged similarly to those of House 9 in Area 15.<sup>11</sup> While House 9 is contemporary with Stratum L in Area 3 and Stratum G in Area 2 and is thus constructed in a similar way – the walls are made of bricks of very bad quality and they rest on massive stone

<sup>4</sup> The archaeological investigation started on January 31<sup>st</sup> and lasted until April 4<sup>th</sup> 2017.

<sup>5</sup> For the use of the term *Stratum* cf. W. MÜLLER in *Report on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Season*, p. 314, n. 25. For the relative chronology in Area 3 cf. *idem*, in *Seventeenth Season*, n. 6.

<sup>6</sup> MÜLLER, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 4-5. *idem* in *Sixteenth Season* p. 4.

<sup>7</sup> I thank IRENE FORSTNER-MÜLLER for this information.

<sup>8</sup> W. MÜLLER, in *Eleventh Season*, p. 5.

<sup>9</sup> C. VON PILGRIM, in *Report on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Season*, pp. 307-311.

<sup>10</sup> MÜLLER, in *Sixteenth Season*, p. 4-5.

<sup>11</sup> *Idem*, in *Report on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Season*, pp 315-318, fig. 3.

socles – the brickwork of the walls of Stratum N consisted of carefully laid sandy mud-bricks without any use of stone.<sup>12</sup>

Covered by a layer of fluvial sediment, mostly fine grey sand, an east-west wall was encountered that formed a corner with a similarly-constructed north-south wall ca. 1.6m from the eastern section of the Southern Sector (Fig. 3). The east-west wall was destroyed just to the west of the eastern section of the Southern Sector but would, if its course is projected towards the west, meet the western wall of House 14 in a corner (Fig. 4). As the east-west wall is of the same width (1.5 bricks) as the western wall of the house, it should also constitute one of the house's outer walls. The north-south extent of House 14 would thus measure 8.7m. The remains of two cylindrical *tannour* bread ovens that were found just to the north of the east-west wall are indicators of a courtyard belonging to House 14. As was shown in Elephantine and Aswan as well as other places, groups of three or more ovens are often found in courtyards where cooking and baking took place during the Late Period.<sup>13</sup> Another oven of the same type was found in Room 6 of House 14. It is unclear whether this room constitutes another courtyard or a roofed room.<sup>14</sup>

It has to be stressed that Stratum N represents a building phase not encountered in any other part of Syene.<sup>15</sup> Even in Area 3, it was only preserved in the southern part of the investigated area as all buildings of the same date further north were destroyed by the river as the building ground was very low.<sup>16</sup> The destruction was not due to just one event, as House 14 was repaired at least once after its walls had been damaged by the water.

The findings of Season 18 provided further data concerning details of the destruction by the river, as the northern wall of the house was destroyed over a stretch of 4.5m when a temporary branch of the river cut through walls, mud brick debris and earlier river sediment during a flood event (Fig. 4). The gap in the wall is direct evidence of the width of this temporary channel as it narrowed near its end in the centre of Room 3. While the western bank of this channel was fortified with a retaining wall during Stratum M, its eastern bank was left as it was or any existing construction was destroyed by a later event.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>12</sup> *Idem*, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 10, n. 25.

<sup>13</sup> Cf. A. KREKELER, 'Stadtgrabung am Westkom von Elephantine / Wohnbauten des 1. Jahrtausends v. Chr.', in M. BIETAK (ed.), *Haus und Palast im Alten Ägypten*, DÖAWW 14 = UZK 14 (Vienna 1996), p. 113 for Elephantine, MÜLLER in *Report on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Season*, pp. 316-317 and p. 319 for Aswan and S. MARCHI, *L'habitat dans les forteresses de Migdol (Tell el-Herr) durant les V<sup>e</sup> et IV<sup>e</sup> siècles avant J.-C.* Étude archéologique (Paris 2014), pp. 63-68 for Tell el-Herr.

<sup>14</sup> MÜLLER, in *Sixteenth Season*, p. 5.

<sup>15</sup> *Loc. cit.*

<sup>16</sup> Cf. *ibid.*, pp. 16-17 for a discussion of the impact of floods on Area 3. and 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), pp. 27-28 and fig. 4 with a reconstructed section of the granite landscape and around Area 3. S. J. SEIDLMEYER, *Historische und Nilstände*, *ACHET* A1 (Berlin 2001), p. 90 Tab. 7 estimates an average flood-level of 91.5m asl for the Late Period based on epigraphical and historical data. The floors of House 14 would thus be within the reach of above-average floods that were a common occurrence at that time.

<sup>17</sup> MÜLLER, in *Sixteenth Season*, p. 5.

## Stratum L

During Stratum L, the overall layout of the town quarter changed completely. The orientation of Stratum N was given up and the newly-constructed houses followed the orientation of the retaining wall of Stratum M. From the investigation in the Northern Sector during Season 16 it became apparent that the orientations of Houses 9 and 18 differed significantly. The ground-plan of House 19 located between them was thus rather asymmetric.

These different alignments were most probably due to the fact that a hill was situated to the east of the Northern Sector and buildings and streets were constructed around the slope of the hill in a similar way to that of the Ayyubid city quarter in the eastern part of Area 3.<sup>18</sup>

Stratum L is contemporary to Strata J-H in Area 15<sup>19</sup> and G-F in Area 2,<sup>20</sup> in terms of absolute chronology the Persian Period (Dynasty 27) and Dynasty 30.

## Stratum L/4

## House 18

The House was situated at the northern limit of the Northern Sector. Most of it was outside the excavated area. Only the northern facade with very little of the inside of the house was open for investigation. While the younger phases of the house during Strata L/3 – L/2 were investigated in Season 17,<sup>21</sup> the earliest phase of the building in Stratum L/4 was in the focus of Season 18.

The most remarkable feature of House 18 during its later phases was a door leading to the courtyard with several ovens for baking bread and cooking to the south of it. The door showed several phases of use, with its threshold repeatedly elevated in response to the floor level in the courtyard that rose over time due to the accumulation of sand and debris.

During Stratum L/3 an installation, consisting of a sandstone basin and a mastaba made from mud bricks next to it was constructed next to the door.<sup>22</sup> The door led into a corridor with a staircase to the east of it. A small closet under the stairs was entered from the corridor via a door with a wooden threshold.

During Stratum L/4, the main door of the house was shifted towards the west in comparison with Strata L/3 and L/2 (Figs. 5-6). Between the door-hinge next to the western section and the sandstone foundation of a north-south wall abutting the northern face of the southern wall of House 18, a 60cm-wide door led into a narrow corridor limited to the west by a

<sup>18</sup> *Idem*, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 16. Cf. *idem*, in *Fourteenth Season*, p. 15.

<sup>19</sup> *Idem*, in *Report on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Season*, pp. 325-327.

<sup>20</sup> *Idem*, in *Thirteenth Season*, p. 8.

<sup>21</sup> *Idem*, in *Seventeenth Season*, pp. 6-7, 8-9 and 11.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 8-9, Fig. 15, 17 and 18.

north-south mud-brick wall running exactly under the western section. The narrow corridor might well have been connected to a staircase, as was the situation during later phases of the house. The door showed two phases. While only the imprints of the thresholds in mud mortar were preserved, both hinges were still *in situ* (Fig. 6).

#### Street 2 (Fig. 9)

Street 2 existed from Stratum L/4 onwards with Houses 10 and 13 to its west and Houses 21/22, 25 and 26 to its east. The street led to an open area to the north of Houses 9 and 13 that was limited in the north by House 18.

#### Houses 21 and 22 (Fig. 9)

The western walls of the northern Houses 21 and 22 were already visible in the eastern sections of the Northern and Southern Sectors together with a bend towards the east in Street 2.<sup>23</sup> As only the facade and not even the complete width of the western walls of the houses was within the excavated area, any interpretation of the buildings is hypothetical. The distinction between Houses 21 and 22 was based on the observation that two walls of different construction abutted each other in the area shown as the boundary between the two buildings on the plan. As a north-south dimension of just over 3m would be very small for a proper house, it is possible that Houses 21 and 22 only existed as separate units during later Stratum L and should be interpreted as a single building during Strata L/4 and L/3. On the other hand, evidence from Tell el-Herr shows that houses or living units of that size existed.<sup>24</sup>

#### House 25 (Figs. 7 and 9)

More of houses and street were uncovered in the excavations during Season 18 (Fig. 7). The southern wall of House 22 was situated just at the northern end of the South-Eastern Sector, thus giving the north-south extent of the house as ca. 3m. House 25 was the southern neighbour of House 22 during Strata L/4-L/2. The gap of 30cm between the foundation of its northern wall and the foundation of the southern wall of House 22 (Fig. 9) was probably due to the fact that only the lowest course of stones (granite and sandstone rubble) of both foundations were preserved. As the face of the western wall/foundation was closed towards the street (Fig. 7), the above-ground walls most probably abutted. The north-south extent of House 25 measured 4.1m. While only the foundations made of sandstone and granite rubble were preserved of House 22, the walls of House 25 still stood to a height of nearly 1m, especially in the southern part. Here the walls were constructed of small granite rubble and coated in a thick layer of mud plaster. Traces of mud bricks on top of the western wall of the house were evidence that the wall consisted of a stone socle and an upper part made of mud-bricks, as was typical for the houses

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<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, p.6 and 11, fig. 40.

<sup>24</sup> Cf. MARCHI, *L'habitat dans les forteresses de Migdol*, p. 40. The smallest size of Type 1 of houses in Tell el-Herr is 4sqm.

of Stratum L. The northern part of the house was overbuilt during Stratum L/1 and destroyed down to the foundations.

The western parts of two rooms of the house were within the excavated area. The southern Room 1 was the better preserved of the two. Its walls were carefully covered with mud plaster. Traces of a thin layer of cream-coloured plaster, most probably made from *taffla*, show that the walls of the room were painted. In the lower parts of the walls wall sherds of storage jars were pressed against the plaster, probably in order to protect the walls from water used for some activities in the room (Fig. 8). No door between Rooms 1 and 2 was preserved from the earliest phase of the house, as the wall between them was completely remodeled in Stratum L/1. The northern Room 2 was damaged by the constructions that took place during Stratum L/1. Room 1 had a north-south extent of ca. 1.9m, Room 2 of ca. 1.1m.

A granite slab with a length of ca. 70cm at the top of the foundation may indicate a door connecting the house to Street 2 (Fig. 5).

The house belongs to a similar type as House 13 but is significantly smaller in size and shows no indicators of an upper floor. The rather narrow walls are a further indicator that the building had only one storey. The house represents a simple living unit consisting of two to three rooms comparable to House-Type II at Tell el-Herr.<sup>25</sup>

#### House 26

The earliest phase of House 26, the southern neighbour of House 25, was almost completely destroyed by the western wall of the successor of the house constructed in Stratum L/1. Only parts of its sandstone foundation and the mud brick wall on top of it show that the wall was slightly further to the east than was the case during Stratum L/1 (Fig. 13). It abutted the southern wall of House 25 exactly at its south-western corner.

#### Strata L/3 – L/2 (Fig. 9)

##### Street 2

While Houses 25 and 26 did not change, House 10 was constructed on top of House 13 to the west of Street 2 during Stratum L/3 (Figs. 7 and 9). Only the south-eastern "corner" of this house was within the area investigated during Season 18. Just as was the case with the north-western corner of House 21,<sup>26</sup> it was significantly rounded (Fig. 10), thus marking a bend of Street 2 as it met Street 3. As had already been observed during Season 16, the eastern wall of the house consisted of a massive stone socle (Fig. 11) and an upper part of mud bricks. Street 2 was approximately 2.5m wide between Houses 10 and 26.

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<sup>25</sup> *Loc. cit.*

<sup>26</sup> MÜLLER, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 6.



The rounded corners of houses at bends are due to the necessity to facilitate the easy passing of fully-loaded donkeys and humans while protecting the vulnerable mud brick walls of the corners of houses at heavily-frequented junctions.<sup>27</sup> In order to prevent damage to the walls from traffic or other erosive influences, even if they possessed massive stone socles, stone slabs (predominantly granite but also some sandstone) were leaned against the outer faces of the walls in order to create a glacis-like construction that was renewed several times.<sup>28</sup>

The most profound change in the course of the street took place during Stratum L/3, when the open square that was situated to the north of Houses 9 and 10 during Stratum L/4 was overbuilt.<sup>29</sup> During Stratum L/2, House 19 occupied the former open area and forced the street to make a sharp bend towards the east. The width of Street 2 was thus limited to little more than 1m where it left the excavated area at the eastern section of the Northern Sector. Narrow streets were a common feature of contemporary city quarters in Aswan and Elephantine.<sup>30</sup>

#### Stratum L/1

Stratum L/1 was dated to Dynasty 30<sup>31</sup> and is thus contemporary with later Stratum H/2 in Area 15<sup>32</sup> and Stratum F in Area 2.<sup>33</sup>

During this stratum, significant changes took place (Figs. 7 and 12). While changes in Houses 9 and 10 were only partly preserved and manifested themselves in massive stone foundations cutting into the walls of earlier Stratum L, the remodeling of House 19 and changes concerning the houses to the east of Street 2 were much more clearly visible.

House 26 had a new western wall of which only the foundations remained when it was removed during Stratum K (Fig. 13).

When a small platform, attached to the southern face of House 19 next to its south-western corner, was enlarged, the north-western corner of House 21 had to be changed in order to keep the minimum width of the street to 1m.<sup>34</sup>

#### House 25

<sup>27</sup> Cf. 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 for examples from Elephantine dating to the Second Intermediate Period.

<sup>28</sup> MÜLLER, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 6, Figs. 8 and 9.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 7-9, fig. 10.

<sup>30</sup> Cf. *Idem*, in *Report on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Season*, p. 13 for Area 15 in Aswan and KREKELER, in BIETAK, *Haus und Palast*, p. 111 for Elephantine.

<sup>31</sup> MÜLLER, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 5, *idem*, in *Sixteenth Season*, p. 12. M. HEPA, in *Sixteenth Season*, p. 28.

<sup>32</sup> MÜLLER, in *Report on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Season*, p. 326, 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.*, DÖAWW 397 = AF 18 (Vienna 2010), p. 455.

<sup>33</sup> MÜLLER, in *Fourteenth Season*, p. 12.

<sup>34</sup> *Idem*, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 11-12.

While the southern part of House 25 remained the same, a door was broken through the northern wall of Room 1 and the western wall of the house was completely remodelled in the area of Room 2 where a mud-brick wall replaced the earlier stone construction. This mud brick wall shows a later walled-up door next to the south-western corner of Room 2 (Fig. 14). The former northern wall of House 25 and the southern wall of House 22 were removed and not replaced. The areas of Houses 25 and 22 were thus combined into a significantly larger building.

Rooms 1 and 2 were refilled with a homogenous layer of mud brick debris in order to achieve a significantly higher floor-level.

### Stratum K

The houses of Stratum L were abandoned and stood as ruins for a considerable time while layers of wind-blown sand and settlement debris accumulated on top of them. Between these layers several mud-surfaces with installations of a temporary character such as postholes and fireplaces were observed.<sup>35</sup>

#### Stratum K/2

A massive free-standing east-west wall made of sandstone rubble and some *spoliae* investigated in the Northern Sector during Season 18 is the only preserved architectural structure from this Stratum. The wall was part of a huge terracing project in the Early-Middle Ptolemaic Period (Figs. 15-16). The wall was part of a casemate – like construction, as the area around it was infilled with a massive layer of debris consisting mostly of burnt mud bricks.<sup>36</sup>

#### Stratum K/1

Several foundations mostly consisting of rose granite rubble were constructed in the Northern Sector. It is not clear how much time separates Strata K/2 from K/1. Probably activities during both Strata were part of the same building project. The stratigraphical difference is beyond any doubt manifested by the fact that the foundations of Stratum K/1 cut into the filling layer that was connected to the wall of Stratum K/2. Probably the plans for the original construction were changed after some time.

With respect to the predecessor of House 20, the results of Season 18 brought about substantial changes to the interpretation of this building proposed in earlier reports. The assumption that the north-south wall running under the eastern section of the Northern Sector marks the eastern limit of the building<sup>37</sup> had to be abandoned as the foundation of rose granite and the southern wall of House 20 on top of it continue in the northern section of the South-

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 13, *idem*, in *Sixteenth Season*, p. 13.

<sup>36</sup> MÜLLER, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 14.

<sup>37</sup> *Loc. cit.*.

Eastern Sector without interruption. The eastern end of the wall was not reached. The size of House 20 and its predecessor was thus significantly larger than previously assumed.

The casemate construction with massive foundations made of granite and some sandstone rubble finds its closest parallel in the casemate wall at the western limit of Area 15. This wall was tentatively dated to the reign of Ptolemy III – IV.<sup>38</sup>

#### Stratum J/2

The organisation of space changed completely with the construction of House 20 during the first half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC (Figs. 15 and 16).<sup>39</sup> The house was constructed in the area marked by the rose granite foundations of Stratum K/1 but, with the exception of the southern wall of the house, not on top of them. While the walls of the house were almost completely destroyed in the Northern Sector, the southern wall of House 20 was preserved to a height of 2.50m in the northern section of the South-Eastern Sector. The wall showed several repairs and was thus in use for a long time.

The area to the south of this wall constituted an open space that was used for food preparation for a long period of time as is evidenced by a succession of bread ovens of the cylindrical *tannour* type.<sup>40</sup> The ovens formed several clusters that were dispersed over the area (Fig. 17).<sup>41</sup>

A door that was later walled up with granite and sandstone blocks allowed access into House 20 from this open area or courtyard. As most of the door was outside the excavated area, as was its lower part, no measurements can currently be given for it.

#### Stratum J/1

Street 1 came into existence with the construction of Houses 16 and 17 (Figs. 15 and 16) running between these houses and House 20. The southern wall of House 20 remained in use and saw several repairs and frequent remodelling. The 1.7m-wide east-west road remained in use until the medieval period. Based on pottery and coins from the street layers, Stratum J/1

<sup>38</sup> *Idem*, in *Report on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Season*, p. 327-330.

<sup>39</sup> *Idem*, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 15.

<sup>40</sup> *Cf. supra*, n. 14.

<sup>41</sup> *Cf. idem*, in *Sixteenth Season*, p. 13 for a small oven situated in the same courtyard. The oven was first attributed to Stratum K/2 but in the light of the recent investigations has to be dated to Stratum J/2. The oven is not of the *tannour* type for baking but represents a stove for cooking. *Cf. idem*, in *Fifteenth Season*, p. 8 for a similar stove in Area 2 and MARCHI, *L' habitat dans les fortresses de Migdol (Tell el-Herr)*, pp. 66-68.

is contemporary with Strata E-D in Area 15.<sup>42</sup> These Strata are dated to the Late Ptolemaic Period.<sup>43</sup>

The walls of the houses were preserved to a height of only two to three courses of bricks. As became evident with the closer investigation of Room 2, very little was preserved of the Ptolemaic houses in this part of the area. This is remarkable given the state of preservation of the southern wall of House 20 and a contemporary staircase visible in the north-eastern corner of the Northern Sector where walls were preserved to a height of 2m.<sup>44</sup>

Only Rooms 1, 2 and 3 of House 16 were within the investigated area. As no layers contemporary with House 16 were found within Room 1, the focus lay on the investigation of Room 2. When a vaulted cellar was constructed inside Room 2 during Stratum H, only the outer walls of the room remained intact.

A sandstone threshold in the northern wall of the house, next to the north-western corner of Room 2, belonged to the main door that led into the house from Street 1. Another door next to the south-western corner of the room led into Room 3.

In Room 3, only the bedding of a floor made of granite chips was preserved. As the house was built against the hill sloping up from west to east, the level of the foundations of the walls and the floors rose towards the east and thus were mostly destroyed by later constructions.

The beginning of the "urban phase" of Aswan in the first half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC left a clear mark on Area 3. As was the case in other parts of Aswan, the city quarters start to show a higher density of buildings and the former limits of the town were overbuilt wherever necessary.<sup>45</sup> This development of the town and the increase in population is due to the overall historical situation of Egypt and especially the Thebaid and Lower Nubia.<sup>46</sup>

#### Stratum H

The cellar mentioned above is the main feature of this Stratum within the investigated area. It measured 3.70 x 2.20m. The vault was mostly collapsed and only its eastern part was preserved. The brick courses of the vault leant against the southern wall of the room (Fig. 18). Vault, walls and floor were covered with a thin layer of white lime plaster. The floor consisted of a mud-brick pavement. The Stratum was dated to the Early Roman Imperial Period.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>42</sup> *Idem*, in *Report on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Season*, p. 333-336.

<sup>43</sup> LADSTÄTTER, in LADSTÄTTER, SCHEIBELREITER, *Städtisches Wohnen im östlichen Mittelmeerraum*, p. 449-451

<sup>44</sup> *Idem*, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 15, Figs. 34-35.

<sup>45</sup> Cf. *Idem*, in *Report on the 7<sup>th</sup> Season*, pp. 193-195, *idem*, 'Syene (Ancient Aswan) in the First millennium AD', in E. R. O'CONNELL (ed.), *Egypt in the First Millennium AD. Perspectives from new fieldwork*, *BMPES 2*, (Leuven-Paris-Walpole 2014), p. 62.

<sup>46</sup> *Idem*, 'Urbanism in Graeco-Roman Egypt', in M. BIETAK, E. CZERNY, I. FORSTNER-MÜLLER (eds.), *Cities and Urbanism in Ancient Egypt*, *DÖAWW 60 = UZK 35* (Vienna 2010), pp. 232-233 and 251.

<sup>47</sup> MÜLLER, in *Sixteenth Season*, p. 15 for a very similar construction of roughly the same date in the Southern Sector.

Two steps made of mud bricks were situated in the southwestern and northwestern corners of the room. They indicate locations of entrances into the cellar. While the southern door was roughly at the same location as during Stratum J/1, the main entrance from Street 1 was shifted to the west compared with the sandstone threshold of Stratum J/1. The steps were made of carefully laid mud-bricks and coated with white lime plaster.

Several well-preserved mud-brick walls of the house to which the cellar belonged are preserved to the east of the investigated area at a significantly higher level (Figs. 15 and 16).

The most prominent building of the Early Roman Imperial Period in Area 3 is the "Temple of Domitian", a temple dedicated to the Triad of Elephantine.<sup>48</sup> The date of the monument is still up for discussion but a date in the reign of Nero or even Tiberius seems possible.<sup>49</sup>

The difference in the settlement sequence between the south and the north of Street 1 is a result of the construction of the temple. The temple was built on sloping ground, so that the stepped foundations are significantly deeper to the west than in the area of the *pronaos*.<sup>50</sup> Mud brick debris was used as infill between the southern foundation of the *naos* and the southern wall of House 20. The latter was repaired and preserved because it was a structural necessity due to the difference in the floor levels of the temple and the contemporary street layers to the south of it (ca. 3m). While the southern wall of House 20 survived as a retaining wall, other structures predating Stratum H to the north of it were, if not directly damaged by the foundations of the temple, protected because settlement activity with its frequent construction activities stopped in the immediate vicinity of the temple.

#### Stratum D

During the Fatimid Period, a circular shaft for the disposal of waste-water was constructed (Figs. 15, 16 and 19). Its diameter is 1.20m. It was faced with carefully-laid fired bricks leaving an inner diameter of ca 0.5m. The bottom of the shaft could not be excavated but evidence from a previously-investigated shaft shows that it might have reached the bedrock.<sup>51</sup> The house to which the shaft belonged was situated at a much higher level and was thus not preserved.

Besides two other identical shafts of the same period in the area,<sup>52</sup> similar installations were observed all over Aswan.<sup>53</sup> The interpretation of the well-like structure as an installation for waste-water disposal is based on evidence from Fustat.<sup>54</sup>

<sup>48</sup> H. JARITZ, 'Untersuchungen zum "Tempel des Domitian" in Assuan', *MDAIK* 31 (1975), pp. 237-257.

<sup>49</sup> While *Ibid.*, pp. 250-252 proposes a date in the reign of the emperor Domitian, E. LASKOWSKA-KUSZTAL suggests a Neronian or even Tiberian date (personal communication).

<sup>50</sup> JARITZ, *MDAIK* 31, p. 246.

<sup>51</sup> MÜLLER, in *Sixteenth Season*, p. 16.

<sup>52</sup> *Idem*, in *Fourteenth Season*, pp. 16-17, fig. 24, *idem*, in *Sixteenth Season*, p. 16, fig. 37.

## Conclusion and Outlook

The limited investigation of Season 18 contributed significant additional information about the development of an important city quarter of Late Period Syene.

During Strata O-N, activities in the eastern zone of Area 3 remained restricted and endangered by the vicinity of the river.<sup>55</sup> Houses and other structures were frequently destroyed and repairs and attempts at protection such as the construction of the retaining wall of Stratum M were insufficient for permanent undisturbed settlement. Only with early Stratum L did a settlement sequence begin that continued well into the medieval period and beyond.

In Areas 2, 15 and 3, the town of the Late Period could be investigated over a large area or in lengthy rescue excavations. The layout of houses and streets in Area 3 differs significantly from the findings in Areas 15 (Stratum J) and 2 (Stratum G). While houses in the other two areas were always part of a compound of courtyards, mostly used as workshop areas or for food production, and never border on other houses, the quarter in Area 3 is a typical densely built-up domestic quarter comparable to the situation on Elephantine Island.<sup>56</sup>

In every other respect the close parallels between Strata J-H in Area 15<sup>57</sup> and Stratum L in Area 3 are evident. This is due to the fact that Area 15 was situated less than 100m upriver on the same bank of the River Nile.

The massive terracing work with walls and foundations made of sandstone and granite during the Ptolemaic Period<sup>58</sup> is evidence of a complete remodeling of the interface between town and river during the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC. The reconstructed monument in Area 15<sup>59</sup> and the huge (temple-?) terrace to the east high above Area 61<sup>60</sup> are evidence of a certain "upgrading" of the town's riverside after some time of neglect during the middle Ptolemaic Period.

(W. Müller)

### 3. A late antique house in the centre of Roman Syene (Area 94)

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<sup>53</sup> Cf. K. C. BRUHN, in *2<sup>nd</sup> Report*, p. 246 for an example from Area 1. MÜLLER in *9<sup>th</sup> Season*, p. 15 for a shaft from Area 50.

<sup>54</sup> W. KUBIAK/G. T. STANLON, 'Fustat Expedition: Preliminary Report, 1966', *JARCE* 10 (1973), p. 17-19.

<sup>55</sup> Cf. W. MÜLLER, M. DE DAPPER, in TRISTANT, GHILARDI (eds.), *Landscape Archaeology*, pp. 23-24 and W. MÜLLER, in *9<sup>th</sup> Season*, pp. 20-23 on the investigations in nearby Area 52.

<sup>56</sup> MÜLLER, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 13.

<sup>57</sup> W. MÜLLER, in *Report on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Season*, pp. 315-327.

<sup>58</sup> *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. 432 and in *Report on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Season*, pp. 327-330.

<sup>59</sup> W. MÜLLER, 'Hellenistic Aswan', in D. RAUE, S. J. SEIDLMAYER, P. SPEISER (eds.), *The First Cataract of the Nile. One Region – Diverse Perspectives*, *SDAIK* 36 (Berlin, Boston 2013), pp. 127-129.

<sup>60</sup> *Idem*, in *Fifteenth Season*, pp. 11-12.

Area 94 is a direct northern neighbour of Area 93<sup>61</sup> in the close vicinity of the Temple of Isis (Figs. 1, 20 and 21).<sup>62</sup> The excavation covered an area of ca. 76sqm. Due to security concerns the effectively-investigated area measured little more than 41sqm. Several phases of a Roman house were investigated.

#### Stratum E

As the investigation of Stratum E was interrupted by heavy flooding caused by a broken water pipe, very little can be said about this earliest phase. From the few observations it seems prudent however to assume that the building of Stratum E followed roughly the ground plan of the later house of Stratum D. Only under Room 1 of this latter house was the top of a vaulted ceiling of a room of Stratum E encountered. No date for this room could be given, but a preliminary assessment of the material on top of the vault gives a *terminus ante quem* for the abandonment of the building in the first century AD.<sup>63</sup>

#### Stratum D

During Stratum D, three rooms of a house were within the excavated area. The building was exceptionally well preserved with its walls still standing to a height of 1.20m (Fig. 20). Room 1 was situated in the centre of the trench. The excavated part of the room measured ca. 7sqm and had a pavement of sandstone slabs (Fig. 22). The walls of the house were built on top of the remains of the earlier building of Stratum E. The lowest course of the walls was made of reused sandstone blocks (Fig. 23). Prior to the construction of the pavement, a filling layer was deposited on top of the earlier vault of Stratum E.

When the vault underneath it collapsed, the pavement had to be renewed. Most of the slabs were left in place and a new pavement was constructed after the floor was levelled with a filling layer consisting mostly of settlement debris. Only the eastern part of the latest pavement was preserved (Fig. 22). The room most probably functioned as the central courtyard of the house, although an example from Area 92 shows that sometimes rooms inside a house had stone pavements if the use of the room made it necessary.<sup>64</sup> A threshold and stepping stone at the centre of the northern wall might mark the main entrance into the house from the south. A door leading towards the west was later crudely walled up with a fragment of a column made from granite and a sandstone basin broken in half (Fig. 23). Two doors in the southern wall of the

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<sup>61</sup> Cf. *idem*, in *Seventeenth Season*, pp. 17-19.

<sup>62</sup> Work started on October 24<sup>th</sup> and lasted until December 14<sup>th</sup> 2017. The excavation was conducted by ABED AHMED ALI, MOHAMED ABDEL RAZIQ MOHAMED ALI, YOSRA KHALFALLAH EL-ZOHRY and HOUIDA MOHAMED AHMED IBRAHIM.

<sup>63</sup> For all informations concerning Hellenistic and Roman pottery I thank MARIOLA HEPA.

<sup>64</sup> MÜLLER, in *Sixteenth Season*, p. 24.

room led into Rooms 2 and 3. All the doors showed carefully-laid sandstone blocks reused as thresholds (Fig. 25).

The western of the two rooms to the south of Room 1, Room 2, showed remains of a mud-brick pavement. The eastern wall of the room showed traces of white lime plaster and a small niche in its centre (Fig. 26). The niche was situated 80cm above floor level and was 40cm wide. It was either used as a cupboard of some kind or to place an oil-lamp.<sup>65</sup>

Room 3 showed a well-preserved carefully-laid mud-brick pavement but no further functional indicators (Fig. 25). Only the westernmost part of the room was within the excavated area.

After their abandonment, the rooms of the house were filled in with an homogeneous layer of settlement and mud-brick debris. Material from this infill could be dated to Late Antiquity.

#### The torso of a statuette of Artemis

The filling layer under the earliest pavement produced the most remarkable find of the season, the torso of a figurine of Artemis (Fig. 24). The small statuette (14.5cm in height as preserved) was made of limestone and shows the goddess walking while holding the antler of a hind in her left hand and reaching up to get an arrow from her quiver with her right hand. The antler is lost, and only a circular hole in its for it remains. The location of the quiver is given by an abrasion on the back of the right shoulder. The strap holding the quiver runs over the left shoulder and between her breasts, clearly visible between the folds of her short *chiton*. The figurine follows the type of the "Diana of Versailles" which is attributed to Leochares (325 BC).<sup>66</sup> The eponymous Roman copy is now in the Musée du Louvre in Paris.<sup>67</sup>

#### Strata C – A

Strata C-A were mostly destroyed by the modern building (Fig. 21). As was the case with the later Strata of Area 93,<sup>68</sup> the architectural structures comprised both mud-brick and sandstone walls.

All Strata prior to the modern Stratum A showed the same orientation. Only Stratum A was aligned to the modern street-grid. The walls of Stratum C followed approximately the ground-plan of Stratum D. The wall separating Rooms 2 and 3 was now located slightly to the east of its predecessor. It abutted the southern wall of Room 1 that ran slightly to the south of the wall of Stratum D. Both walls were made of mud bricks. Room 3 now had a pavement of roughly-finished sandstone slabs and blocks. This preserved original surface sat on top of an up-to 2m-high homogeneous filling layer of settlement and mud brick debris.

<sup>65</sup> F. ARNOLD, *Elephantine XXX. Die Nachnutzung des Chnumtempelbezirks. Wohnbebauung der Spätantike und des Frühmittelalters*, AV 116, p. 144 is sceptical of the use of niches for lamps.

<sup>66</sup> M. ROBERTSON, *A History of Greek Art. Volume 1*, (Cambridge 1975), pp. 460-461. H. G. MARTIN, *Römische Tempelkultbilder* (Rome 1987), pp. 190-191.

<sup>67</sup> InvNr. MR 152 = Ma 589 ([http://cartelen.louvre.fr/cartelen/visite?srv=car\\_not\\_frame&idNotice=911](http://cartelen.louvre.fr/cartelen/visite?srv=car_not_frame&idNotice=911)).

<sup>68</sup> MÜLLER, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 18.



The most remarkable feature of Stratum C was a massive wall that ended in a sandstone platform to the west and was situated exactly on top of the northern wall of Room 1 during Stratum D. As six courses of reused sandstone blocks were still preserved, the wall was at least partly made of stone. It was abutted by a north-south mud-brick wall running slightly to the west of the western wall of Room 1 during Stratum D. As was the case during Stratum D, the eastern limit of Room 1 was outside the excavated area.

Remains of Stratum B were only preserved at the eastern limit of the excavated area. There a narrow north-south stone wall running exactly at the eastern limit of the main trench of the excavation abutted the northern face of a 1m-wide east-west stone wall forming thus the south-western corner of a room. The south-eastern corner of this room of Stratum B was formed by a north-south mud brick wall that abutted the stone wall at the eastern limit of the modern foundation pit. The east-west extent of the room measured ca. 3m. Stratum B gave up the building tradition of Strata E – C, although the orientation of the walls remained the same.

## Conclusion

While a direct stratigraphical connection between the neighbouring Areas 93 and 94 is impossible because the excavation in Area 93 stopped far to the south of the actual foundation pit of the later house and a wide safety margin had to be maintained to the south of Area 94 (Fig. 1),<sup>69</sup> the archaeological record shows significant similarities.

In both cases, the orientation of the walls is aligned to the eastern sector of the Late Period town wall, best preserved to the east of the Temple of Isis, and not to the much closer southern sector of the same wall.

In both areas, well-preserved houses from the Early Roman Imperial Period were filled with chronologically homogeneous material dating to Late Antiquity after their abandonment. This means that they were standing in ruins for a considerable time and that the area was only resettled at the end of Roman rule or later. A very similar situation was documented in Areas 1, 84, 88 and 92,<sup>70</sup> all of them located in a prestigious part of Syene, in a quarter that was protected by the remains of the Late Period town wall.<sup>71</sup>

In spite of all the problems connected with rescue excavations in modern towns, it was possible due to the Joint Swiss-Egyptian Mission team's efforts to gain further important data about the history of Roman Syene.

(W. Müller)

## 4. The Roman Imperial and Late Antique pottery sequence from Area 81

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<sup>69</sup> Cf. *ibid.*, fig. 37.

<sup>70</sup> Cf. M. HEPA, in *Sixteenth Season*, pp. 19-27.

<sup>71</sup> MÜLLER, in E. R. O' CONNELL (ed.), *Egypt in the First Millennium AD. Perspectives from new fieldwork*, pp. 64-66.

The pottery presented here comprises diagnostic fragments<sup>72</sup> from Area 81. The area is located to the north of Syene (Fig. 1) and was excavated in winter 2014<sup>73</sup>. The focus of this contribution is the pottery and coins<sup>74</sup> from layers that were covered by a sequence of medieval and Early Islamic houses and streets.<sup>75</sup>

The material could be grouped into seven stratigraphically-defined contexts beginning with the lowest layers of the pre-medieval strata (Fig. 27). Any further interpretation over and above purely chronological issues is difficult due to the small size of the investigated area, and can only be based on changes in the construction sequence.

The earliest architectural structure from Stratum F was a scarcely preserved stone wall (W81-12). The wall and collapsed material from it are situated immediately on top of the surface of the natural bedrock and in some places on a layer (14-81-33-1, 14-81-31-1+2) of wind-blown or fluviially-deposited sandy material sterile of any finds (Fig. 27).<sup>76</sup>

#### Context 1

Context 1 comprises material from layers related to wall W81-12 (Stratum F). A layer of sandy soil (14-81-22-2) accumulated to the south of the wall. It constitutes the only layer contemporary with the use of the wall. A rim and mostly-preserved wall sherd of an Aswan Pink clay dish of GEMPELER type T 202Var (Fig. 29, 2)<sup>77</sup> was the only diagnostic fragment from this layer. Parallels from Tebtynis and Elephantine place the piece at the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. In Aswan, the type appears at the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD and disappears in the Flavian period.<sup>78</sup>

The pit 14-81-22-1 cut into layers that covered the preserved top of W81-12. Its filling-material comprised several almost completely-preserved vessels. A wall fragment of a bowl, made of Egyptian Marl clay and covered with red slip on both surfaces probably constitutes an imitation of a vessel of Italian Sigillata, *Conspectus 33/34* (Fig. 29, 1). Only a few parallels for the object are known from Alexandria<sup>79</sup> and Naukratis.<sup>80</sup> The rarity of Italian imports in Aswan

<sup>72</sup> The selected material was drawn by the archaeologist GWENDOLINE KLINGER. The digital preparation of the drawings was done by G. KLINGER and LEA KREUZBURG.

<sup>73</sup> W. MÜLLER, in *Report on the 14<sup>th</sup> Season*, pp. 19-21.

<sup>74</sup> The coins are studied and already finished by HANS-CHRISTOPH NOESKE.

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 20-21; The Islamic pottery and the interpretation of medieval structures in Area 81 is studied by GREGORY WILLIAMS (Rheinische Friedrichs-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, Institut für Orient- und Asienwissenschaften, Abteilung für Islamwissenschaft) and will be presented elsewhere.

<sup>76</sup> MÜLLER, in *Report on the 14<sup>th</sup> Season*, p. 19.

<sup>77</sup> R. D. GEMPELER, *Elephantine X. Die Keramik römischer und früh-arabischer Zeit. Archäologische Veröffentlichungen* 43 (Mainz 1992), Abb. 7, 9.

<sup>78</sup> 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 und Altertumskunde* 22 (Gladbeck 2017), pp. 265-266.

<sup>79</sup> S. ÉLAIGNE, *La vaisselle fine de l'habitat alexandrin : contribution à la connaissance de la mobilité des techniques et des produits céramiques en Méditerranée du II<sup>e</sup> siècle av. J.-C. à l'époque claudienne. Études Alexandrines* 21 (Cairo 2012), p. 367, Fig. 12, 1278/36.

<sup>80</sup> R. THOMAS 'Ptolemaic, Roman and Byzantine pottery', in A. VILLING et al., *Naukratis: Greeks in Egypt*,

and Elephantine has been noted elsewhere.<sup>81</sup> A complete dish was found in the first filling layer of the pit (Fig. 29, 3). The dish has slightly round walls, an *omphalos* base and inturned rim, which is frequently thickened and rounded. The exterior surface is slightly ribbed and is red slipped. The vessel is similar to GEMPELER type T 100a.<sup>82</sup> Parallels from Elephantine and Mons Claudianus place it in the 1<sup>st</sup> to mid-2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. On further fragments at Aswan can be shown, that the use of the vessel continues until the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.<sup>83</sup> Another fragment (Fig. 29, 4) belongs to a small storage vessel or a cup type, which is similar to GEMPELER type T 605/606, probably to the variant T 606.<sup>84</sup> Comparable but unfortunately unstratified pieces were found at Mons Claudianus. The variant is dated into the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> to the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. Two heavily-worn and damaged amphorae were found in the same pit. Their preservation, probably due to exposure to the groundwater, was so bad that the vessels could not be removed in one piece and diagnostic rim fragments were missing. The amphorae are thus not shown here. The amphorae belong to an Aswani red-slipped type with traces of black painted decoration on the exterior, similar to GEMPELER type K 703<sup>85</sup> and further examples from Elephantine, studied by RODZIEWICZ.<sup>86</sup> Such vessels without visible traces of painted decoration frequently occur in Aswan in contexts dating to the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD.<sup>87</sup> GEMPELER suggests a dating from the 1<sup>st</sup> until the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.<sup>88</sup> In fact the type K 703 without decoration is frequent in Aswan contexts. Up to now no comparable pieces with painted decoration were found in the corpus of studied material from Aswan. The decorated amphorae from Elephantine came from a dump thus making absolute dating difficult.<sup>89</sup> The vessels seem to have been intentionally deposited in the pit. (Fig. 28).

**1.** 14-81-22-1.K1. Bowl, Imitation Italian Sigillata, Consp. 33/34. Surface red coated: 2.5YR5/1 with rouletting on exterior; Marl clay, Fabric: 5YR8/4. Parallels: E. ETTLINGER ET AL. (eds.), *Conspectus Formarum Terrae Sigillatae Italico Modo Confectae, Materialien zur Römisch-Germanischen Keramik*, Heft 10 (Bonn 1990), pp. 110-113; ÉLAIGNE, *La vaisselle fine de l'habitat alexandrin*, p. 367, Fig. 12, 1278/36.

**2.** 14-81-22-2.K1. Dish, GT 202Var. Red slipped exterior: 10R6/6, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Parallels: BALLETT/POLUDNIKIEWICZ, *Tebtynis V*, p. 250, pl. 12, 153; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 23, Abb. 2.9, 49.

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([http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/online\\_research\\_catalogues/ng/naukratis\\_greeks\\_in\\_egypt/material\\_culture\\_of\\_naukratis/ptolemaic-byzantine\\_pottery.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/online_research_catalogues/ng/naukratis_greeks_in_egypt/material_culture_of_naukratis/ptolemaic-byzantine_pottery.aspx)), p. 18.

<sup>81</sup> L. REMBART, 'Roman influence on pottery from the ancient town of Syene (Upper Egypt)', *Rei Cretariae Romanae Fautorum Acta* 43 (2014), p. 617; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 262.

<sup>82</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 3, 2.

<sup>83</sup> MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 266.

<sup>84</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 71, 1.

<sup>85</sup> *Ibid.*, Abb. 120, 5.

<sup>86</sup> M.D. RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII. Early Roman Industries on Elephantine. Archäologische Veröffentlichungen* 107 (Mainz 2005), pl. 87, 1462-1463.

<sup>87</sup> MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 279; L. REMBART, *Kulturelle Identitäten Oberägyptens in ptolemäisch-römischer Zeit am Beispiel von Syene. Typochronologie, Akkulturation und wirtschaftsarchäologische Interpretation von ausgewählten Fundkomplexen aus der Stadtgrabung* (Salzburg 2018, unpublished PhD thesis), pp. 376-377.

<sup>88</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, 189.

<sup>89</sup> RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII*, p. 217.

3. 14-81-22-1/1.K1. Dish, similar GT 100a. Red slipped exterior: 2.5YR7/8, slightly ribbed exterior, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 2.5YR8/6. Parallels: M.D. RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII. Early Roman Industries on Elephantine. Archäologische Veröffentlichungen* 107 (Mainz 2005), pl. 62, 1007; TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 123, Fig. 1.47, 90-696; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 52, Abb. 3.9, 37.

4. 14-81-22-1.K2. Storage pot, similar GT 605/606. Red slipped exterior: 2.5YR7/4, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Parallels: TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 76, Fig. 1.28, 24-350; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 50, Abb. 3.7, 21.

- 14-81-22-1/3. 82 WS Amphora GK 703? (not illustrated), heavily damaged by water. Red slipped interior and exterior: 2.5YR6/4, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4.

- 14-81-22-1/4. 30 WS Amphora GK 703? with remains of black painted decoration on the surface (not illustrated), heavily damaged by water. Red slipped interior and exterior: 2.5YR6/4, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4.

## Context 2

The pit was refilled in the second phase of Stratum F. This context comprises material from the infills (14-81-15-2) and contains waste material deposited after the abandonment of the first phase of the pit. The pottery shows a wide spectrum of shapes, ranging from table wares (Fig. 30, 5-8) and a variety of cooking vessels (Fig. 30, 9-13), to domestic wares (Fig. 30, 14) and amphorae (Fig. 30, 15-18). Most of the wall sherds could be repaired and demonstrated a huge repertoire of almost completely-preserved vessels. From the pottery, the infill of the pit started in the Flavian Period. The layer includes forms of table ware, such as the dish (Fig. 30, 5) and bowl (Fig. 30, 6), which can be compare with forms from “Stufe C – 70/80 AD” after MARTIN-KILCHER and WININGER in other contexts from Aswan.<sup>90</sup> The bowl (Fig. 30, 8), which is represented in this layer by three individual examples, occurs in the first half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD and is contemporaneous with the dish (Fig. 30, 5) in Aswan.<sup>91</sup> The sequence of the cooking vessels ranges from the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD (cooking pot (Fig. 30, 9)<sup>92</sup>) until the middle to end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, (cooking bowl (Fig. 30, 10) and the pot (Fig. 30, 13)). Parallels from Tebtynis and Mons Claudianus confirm this dating.<sup>93</sup> Two small cooking bowls with straight or slightly out-curved walls and flat bases (Fig. 30, 11-12) are similar to GEMPELER type K 201c<sup>94</sup> and correspond to vessels that occur from the mid- 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD onwards in the Aswan repertoire.<sup>95</sup> The red-slipped bowl (Fig. 30, 14) is similar to GEMPELER type K 411<sup>96</sup>, but does not show the typical strongly-profiled rim and has a longer neck. Parallels from Mons Claudianus, dating to the first half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD show closer similarities to the vessel from Area 81.<sup>97</sup> A completely-preserved flat-based bowl (Fig. 30, 7)

<sup>90</sup> MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 250.

<sup>91</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 250-251.

<sup>92</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 250-251.

<sup>93</sup> R. TOMBER, *Survey and Excavation. Mons Claudianus 1987-1993. Volume III Ceramic Vessels and Related Objects* (Cairo 2006), p. 112, Fig. 1.43, 44-606; P. BALLETT/A. POLUDNIKIEWICZ, *Tebtynis V. La céramique des époques Hellénistique et Impériale. Campagnes 1988-1993. Production, consommation et réception dans le Fayoum méridional* (Cairo 2012), p. 269, pl. 31, 308.

<sup>94</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 84, 12-14.

<sup>95</sup> MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 251.

<sup>96</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 101, 20; Abb. 101, 1.

<sup>97</sup> TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 33, Fig. 1.8, 25-94.

represents an earlier form from the 4<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century BC. The flat bowl is pink-slipped and made from red marl clay. Parallels from Tebtynis and Elephantine are made from Nile silt, sometimes covered with orange slip.<sup>98</sup> Most of the amphora sherds belong to GEMPELER type K 703<sup>99</sup> (Fig. 30, 15; 30, 18) and are comparable with similar types from Aswan. Further amphorae from the same context are made of Nile silt, such as the vessel (Fig. 30, 16) and the rim (Fig. 30, 17). Both fragments belong to the Egyptian amphorae type 3, which are dated, according to studied material from Aswan, Mons Claudianus, Bouto and Alexandria into the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD.<sup>100</sup> The material from context 2 gives a *terminus* for the start of dumping from the end of 1<sup>st</sup> century AD and shows a continuous use of the pit until the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.

5. 14-81-15-2.K19. Dish, GT 100a. Red slipped interior and exterior: 10R6/6, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 10YR7/4. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 52, Abb. 3.9, 33.
6. 14-81-15-2.K15. Bowl, GT 607. Red slipped exterior: 10YR7/4, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 98, Abb. 4.14, 224.
7. 14-81-15-2.K17. Bowl, Hellenistic type. Pink slipped exterior: 2.5YR6/3, Marl clay, Fabric: 2.5YR7/3. Parallels: ASTON, *Elephantine XIX*, p. 261, pl. 83, 2260; BALLETT/POLUDNIKIEWICZ, *Tebtynis V*, p. 247, pl. 9, 122.
8. 14-81-15-2.K2. Bowl, GT 604. Uncoated: 2.5YR7/6, three almost completely-preserved vessels. Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 2.5YR8/4. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 106, Abb. 4.22, 370.
9. 14-81-15-2.K23. Cooking pot, GK 201. Uncoated: 2.5YR7/3, Fabric: 2.5YR7/3. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 99, Abb. 4.15, 243.
10. 14-81-15-2.K26. Cooking bowl. Uncoated: 2.5YR7/4, Marl clay, Fabric: 7.5YR7/4. Parallels: TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 112, Fig. 1.43, 44-606.
11. 14-81-15-2.K24. Cooking bowl with flat base, GK 201c. Uncoated: 7.5YR6/4, Marl clay, Fabric: 5YR8/4. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 107, Abb. 4.23, 375.
12. 14-81-15-2.K25. Cooking bowl, GK 201c. Uncoated: 5YR7/2, Marl clay, Fabric: 5YR7/4. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 168, Abb. 5.39, 187.
13. 14-81-15-2.K13. Cooking pot, similar GK 322. Red slipped exterior: 2.5YR7/4, Fabric: 2.5YR8/4. Parallels: TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 81, Fig. 1.30, 38-382; BALLETT/POLUDNIKIEWICZ, *Tebtynis V*, p. 269, pl. 31, 308.
14. 14-81-15-2.K7. Storage bowl. Red slipped interior and exterior: 2.5YR7/3, traces of painting on exterior, dot and line motif, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 2.5YR7/3. Parallels: similar TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 33, Fig. 1.8, 25-94.
  - 14-81-15-2. Trefoil flagon GT 804? (not illustrated). Red slipped interior and exterior: 2.5YR6/4, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Parallels: TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 63, Fig. 1.22, 56-271; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 36, Abb. 2.22, 228.
15. 14-81-15-2.K5. Amphora GK 703. Red slipped interior and exterior: 2.5YR6/4, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 97, Abb. 4.13, 220.
16. 14-81-15-2.K8. Amphora AE 3-2. Uncoated: 2.5YR6/3, Nile silt, Fabric: 2.5YR6/4. Parallels: DIXNEUF, *Amphorae égyptiennes*, p. 332, Fig. 98, 171; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 162, Abb. 5.33, 78.

<sup>98</sup> BALLETT/POLUDNIKIEWICZ, *Tebtynis V*, p. 247, pl. 9, 122; D. A. ASTON, *Elephantine XIX. Pottery from the Late New Kingdom to the Early Ptolemaic Period. Archäologische Veröffentlichungen 95* (Mainz 1999), p. 261, pl. 83, 2260.

<sup>99</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 120, 5.

<sup>100</sup> TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 147, Fig. 1.57, 11-858; D. DIXNEUF, *Amphorae égyptiennes. Production, typologie, contenu at diffusion (IIIe siècle avant J.-C. – IXe siècle après J.-C.). Études Alexandrines 22* (Alexandria 2011), p. 332, Fig. 98, 171; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, pp. 278-279.

**17.** 14-81-15-2.K14. Amphora AE 3. Uncoated: 2.5YR5/3, Nile silt, Fabric: 5YR6/4. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 34, Abb. 2.20, 192.

**18.** 14-81-15-2.K6. Amphora GK 703. Red slipped interior and exterior: 2.5YR8/4, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 102, Abb. 4.18, 308.

### Context 3

During Stratum E<sup>101</sup> several mud-brick walls were constructed. The walls W81-17 and W81-9 (14-81-20-1+2) are preserved to a height of only one layer of bricks. A mud surface (14-81-20-1) abutted both walls. The material presented here belongs to the walking level, the mud-brick debris (14-81-29-2+3, 14-81-17-1) covering it and a layer of sandy material (14-81-29-1) that accumulated on top of the collapse. The walking level, a compact loamy surface, showed inclusions of charcoal and ashes. Only few diagnostic sherds from a cooking pot (Fig. 31, 20) and a cooking bowl (Fig. 31, 22) were retrieved from the layer. The globular cooking pot with upright rim belongs to a type that is already attested at the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD.<sup>102</sup> At Mons Claudianus the type was in use until the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.<sup>103</sup> The cooking bowl (Fig. 31, 22) resembles GEMPELER'S type K 201a<sup>104</sup> and is well-attested in Syene<sup>105</sup> and Tebtynis<sup>106</sup> from contexts dating from the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> until the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. A considerable number of wall fragments of red-slipped amphorae GEMPELER type K 703,<sup>107</sup> with fragments of a rim (Fig. 31, 25) and a base (Fig. 31, 26) were found together with the just-mentioned vessels. The original number of amphorae which these sherds represented could not be ascertained.

The material from the mud surface suggests a time of use for the buildings to which the walls belonged in the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. The walls were constructed soon after dumping into the pit of Stratum F stopped.

Within the mud-brick debris (14-81-17-1, 14-81-29-2+3), only a few diagnostic sherds could be found. Among them was a red-slipped carinated bowl with broad rim (Fig. 31, 19) with parallels dating to the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD from other Aswan contexts.<sup>108</sup> The fragment of a pot (Fig. 31, 21) is of similar date<sup>109</sup> (second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> until the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD). The fragment corresponds to GEMPELER'S type K 410.<sup>110</sup> Beside the high number of red-slipped amphora sherds, a few wall fragments of Nile silt amphorae were also recorded.

<sup>101</sup> MÜLLER, in *Report on the 14<sup>th</sup> Season*, p. 19.

<sup>102</sup> BALLET/POLUDNIKIEWICZ, *Tebtynis V*, p. 267, pl. 29, 298; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 273.

<sup>103</sup> TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 81, Fig. 1.30, 37-379.

<sup>104</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 84, 5.

<sup>105</sup> MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 272.

<sup>106</sup> BALLET/POLUDNIKIEWICZ, *Tebtynis V*, p. 258, pl. 20, 232.

<sup>107</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 120, 5.

<sup>108</sup> MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, pp. 268-269.

<sup>109</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 273.

<sup>110</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 101, 14.

The base fragment of an Egyptian amphora resembles DIXNEUF type AE 3T-2<sup>111</sup> (Fig. 31, 24), which is dated from the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> until the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD.<sup>112</sup>

The sandy layer on top of the debris (14-81-29-1) contained only one diagnostic fragment. The ledge rim of a *qadûs* made of Nile silt and with a ribbed outside surface (Fig. 31, 23) has its closest parallels in an example from a context with mixed material from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD in Area 1 in Aswan<sup>113</sup> and another from Area 92, in material dated from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> centuries AD.<sup>114</sup> All other parallels from Elephantine<sup>115</sup>, Karnak North<sup>116</sup> and Mons Porphyrites come from contexts with mixed 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD material.<sup>117</sup> The type most probably appeared at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> or beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD and can be dated to Late Antiquity.

The structures of Stratum E were only in use for a short period of time from the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> until the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.

**19.** 14-81-17-1.K1. Bowl, GK 501. Red slipped interior and exterior: 2.5YR7/6, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 98, Abb. 4.14, 232.

**20.** 14-81-20-1.K2. Cooking pot, GK 408. Uncoated: 2.5YR5/3, Fabric: 2.5YR6/4. Parallels: TOMBER, *Mons Claudianus*, p. 81, Fig. 1.30, 37-379; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 28, Abb. 2.14, 110.

**21.** 14-81-29-3.K1. Cooking pot, GK 410. Uncoated; 2.5YR6/4, Fabric: 2.5YR5/4. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 57, Fig. 3.14, 82.

**22.** 14-81-20-1.K1. Cooking bowl, GK 201a. Uncoated: 5YR6/3, Fabric: 5YR7/4. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 107, Abb. 4.23, 378.

**23.** 14-81-29-1.K1. *Qadûs*. Uncoated: 10R5/4, Nile silt, Fabric: 10R5/6. Parallels: GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 133, Nr. 3; TOMBER, *Mons Porphyrites*, p. 299, Fig. 6.34, 12; RODZIEWICZ, *Elephantine XXVII*, pl. 86, 1453; JACQUET-GORDON, *Karnak-Nord X*, p. 148, Fig. 148, u. P.29; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 167, Abb. 5.38, 178.

**24.** 14-81-29-3.K2. Amphora, AE 3T-2. Uncoated: 2.5YR5/3, Nile silt, Fabric: 2.5YR5/3. Parallels: similar P. BALLETT/N. BOSSON/M. RASSART-DEBERGH, *Kellia II. L'ermitage copte QR 195. 2. La céramique, les inscriptions, les décors* (Cairo 2003), p. 159, Fig. 18, 112; DIXNEUF, *Amphorae égyptiennes*, p. 347, Fig. 123, 226.

**25.** 14-81-20-1.K3. Amphora, GK 703. Red slipped interior and exterior: 10R7/6, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 2.5YR7/6. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 160, Abb. 5.31, 37.

**26.** 14-81-20-1.K4. Amphora, GK 703. Red slipped interior and exterior: 10R6/6, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 2.5YR7/6. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 93, Abb. 4.9, 102.

#### Context 4

<sup>111</sup> DIXNEUF, *Amphorae égyptiennes*, p. 347, Fig. 123, 226.

<sup>112</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 139-140.

<sup>113</sup> MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 167, Abb. 5.38, 178.

<sup>114</sup> M. HEPHA, 'Studies on pottery from Areas 50, 84, 88 and 92 in the centre of Graeco-Roman Aswan' In C. VON PILGRIM ET AL., *Report on the 17<sup>th</sup> Season*, p. 54, Fig. 54, 61.

<sup>115</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 133, 3.

<sup>116</sup> H. JACQUET-GORDON, *Karnak-Nord X. Le trésor de Thoutmosis I<sup>er</sup>. La céramique* (Cairo 2012), p. 148, Fig. 148, u. P.29.

<sup>117</sup> R. TOMBER, 'Chapter 6. The Pottery', in V. MAXFIELD/D. PEACOCK (eds), *The Roman Imperial Quarries survey and excavation at Mons Porphyrites 1994-1998. Volume 1: Topography and Quarries* (London 2001), pp. 298-299, Fig. 6.34, 12.

In the early 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, a mud-brick wall W81-16 was constructed on top of the remains of Stratum E and comprises a younger phase of this Stratum.<sup>118</sup> Only one diagnostic fragment was recorded, from the walking level (14-81-28-2) attached to the wall. The completely-preserved bowl (Fig. 32, 27) shows red slip on all surfaces, has a straight and slightly thickened rim and is similar to GEMPELER type T 600.<sup>119</sup> The closest parallels from Tebtynis<sup>120</sup> and Syene are dated to the early Roman Period.<sup>121</sup> After its abandonment, the wall was covered with mud-brick debris that contained many wall fragments of non-diagnostic Late Roman Nile silt amphorae and various fragments of Red Slip (RSL)<sup>122</sup> table ware (14-81-27-3+5).

**27.** 14-81-28-2.K1. Bowl, similar GT 600. Red slipped interior and exterior: 2.5YR6/6, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 24, Abb. 2.10, 58; BALLET/POLUDNIKIEWICZ, *Tebtynis V*, p. 241, pl. 3, 35.

#### Context 5

After the abandonment of the mud-brick structures, a sequence of horizontal layers without any architectural remains accumulated during Stratum D.<sup>123</sup> The layers are of different thicknesses and textures but are mostly sandy (14-81-26-11; 14-81-12-6+7). Layer 14-81-27-1 contained small granite chips and dust mixed with charcoal and ashes (14-81-27-2+4). The earliest horizontal layers (Context 5) were probably the result of levelling. Chronologically diagnostic finds were Late Antique pottery and coins.

A small bowl, made of Egyptian marl clay with red-slipped surfaces outside and inside under the rim (Fig. 33, 28) showed a flat rim and a grooved, hanging lip is similar to GEMPELER type T 315a<sup>124</sup> and imitates HAYES 73A variant.<sup>125</sup> The type is part of a group of vessels imitating African Red Slip forms from Tunisian production sites of the late 4<sup>th</sup> and early 5<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>126</sup>

The fragment of the bowl (Fig. 33, 29) is attested in Aswan from the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD.<sup>127</sup> The example from Area 81 presumably indicates a further

<sup>118</sup> MÜLLER, in *Report on the 14<sup>th</sup> Season*, p. 19.

<sup>119</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 70, 5.

<sup>120</sup> BALLET/POLUDNIKIEWICZ, *Tebtynis V*, p. 241, pl. 3, 35.

<sup>121</sup> MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 24, Abb. 2.10, 58.

<sup>122</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 257.

<sup>123</sup> MÜLLER, in *Report on the 14<sup>th</sup> Season*, p. 19.

<sup>124</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 35, 5.

<sup>125</sup> J.W. HAYES, *Late Roman Pottery* (London 1972), p. 122, 10, form 73A var.

<sup>126</sup> M. MACKENSEN, *Die spätantiken Sigillata- und Lampentöpfereien von El Mahrine (Nordtunesien). Studien zur nordafrikanischen Feinkeramik des 4. bis 7. Jahrhundert. Müncher Beiträge z. Vor- u. Frühgeschichte* 50 (München 1993), pp. 406-407; B. SEEBERGER/M. SIELER, 'Egyptian Red Slip Ware', in M. MACKENSEN ET AL., *The Late Roman Fort at Nag el-Hagar near Kom Ombo in the Province of Thebaïs (Upper Egypt). Report on the first season of the Egyptian-Swiss Joint Mission, MDAIK 62* (2006), p. 181; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 284.

<sup>127</sup> MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 288.



development of GEMPELER type T 608a<sup>128</sup>, which is characterized by a strongly-grooved edge, also founded in Aswan in contexts dated to the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> to the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD.<sup>129</sup>

The vessel (Fig. 33, 30) corresponds with GEMPELER type T 317a.<sup>130</sup> Parallels from Elephantine are dated from the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century to the end of 6<sup>th</sup> century AD.<sup>131</sup> In Aswan the type is attested in layers dating to the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD. These examples, however, show differences in the design of the rim<sup>132</sup> and probably constitute a further development of the example from Area 81.

The coin (14-81-26-11/3) confirms a date at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD and gives a *terminus ante quem* for the earlier layers.

Hemispherical white-slipped bowls appear in this layer. They are characteristic of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. Examples from this context are Fig. 33, 31 and the shallower Fig. 33, 32.<sup>133</sup> For both vessels, parallels can be found in Aswan dating to the first half of the 4<sup>th</sup> to the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.<sup>134</sup>

The fragment of a huge storage bowl with ledge rim (Fig. 33, 33) has parallels in vessels that were found in Elephantine in layers dating to the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD.<sup>135</sup> Examples from Aswan date to the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.<sup>136</sup> Several diagnostic fragments of amphorae belong to type AE 3, commonly dated from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.<sup>137</sup> Pottery and coins date the infill to between the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century and the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.

**28.** 14-81-26-11.K1. Bowl, Imitation of HAYES 73A var. Red slipped exterior and rim interior: 10R6/6, Fabric: 10R7/6. Parallels: HAYES, *Late Roman Pottery*, p. 122, 10, form 73A var.; similar GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 35, 5.

**29.** 14-81-27-2.K2. Bowl, GT 608a. Red slipped interior and exterior: 2.5YR7/6, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 2.5YR8/4. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 170, Abb. 5.41, 212.

**30.** 14-81-26-11.K3. Bowl, GT 317a. Red slipped exterior and rim interior: 7.5YR7/4, Fabric: 10R7/4. Parallels: GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 35, 15; J. FAIERS, *Late Roman Glassware and Pottery from Amarna and Related Studies* (London 2013), p. 94, Fig. 2.15, 123; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 120, Abb. 4.36, 599.

**31.** 14-81-12-6.K6. Bowl, GT 316aA. White slipped interior and exterior: 7.5YR8/2, two brown painted lines interior, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 2.5YR7/6. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 110, Abb. 4.26, 423.

**32.** 14-81-26-7.K1. Bowl, GT 316C. White slipped interior and exterior: 7.5YR8/2, two brown painted lines interior, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 2.5YR7/6. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 110, Abb. 4.26, 422.

<sup>128</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 71, 13.

<sup>129</sup> MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 170, Abb. 5.41, 212.

<sup>130</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 35, 15.

<sup>131</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 94.

<sup>132</sup> MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 288.

<sup>133</sup> D. KATZJÄGER, 'Late Antiquity on Elephantine Island, Upper Egypt. Pottery as mirror of Roman Society', *Rei Cretariae Romanae Fautorum Acta 43* (2014), p. 599.

<sup>134</sup> MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 291.

<sup>135</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, p. 180.

<sup>136</sup> M. HEPA, in *Report on the 17<sup>th</sup> Season*, p. 50, Fig. 47, 29.

<sup>137</sup> MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 161, Abb. 5.32, 62.

33. 14-81-12-6.K4. Storage bowl, GK 502. Red slipped exterior: 10R6/6, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 10R7/4. Parallels: GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 113, Nr. 2.

34. 14-81-26-11.K7. Amphora, AE 3-5.2? Uncoated: 7.5YR6/3, Nile silt, Fabric: 7.5YR5/3. Parallels: similar EGLOFF type 172, M. EGLOFF, *Kellia, La poterie copte. Quatre siècles d'artisanat et d'échanges en Basse-Égypte*, RSAD 3 (1977), pl. 59, 1; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 161, Abb. 5.32, 62.

#### Coins

- 14-81-26-11/3. HCe, Valentinianus II. / Theodosius I. / Arcadius / Honorius. 383-395 century AD, Ale., SALUS REI PUBLICAE.
- 14-81-12-6/2, 14-81-12-6/5. Cen, 2<sup>nd</sup> half 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> century AD (not assignable).

#### Context 6

The next context, still belonging to Stratum D, comprises many different, densely stratified horizontal layers,<sup>138</sup> that contain ashes (14-81-12-4), charcoal (14-81-12-3, 14-81-26-5) and sandy-loamy material. The layers 14-81-26-7+8, 14-81-26-9, 14-81-12-5, 14-81-26-6, 14-81-26-4, 14-81-26-3 contain some mud-brick debris and a huge number of small fragments of pottery. The material comprises a wide variety of shapes, including a range of table ware types, bowls of White Slip ware and various types of domestic and cooking vessels. The presented pottery is supplemented by a sequence of coins that support the proposed dating.<sup>139</sup>

The flat plates with a ledge rim and white – black painted stripes on the rim (Fig. 34, 35-36) compare to GEMPELER type T 106a<sup>140</sup> (Fig. 34, 35) and GEMPELER type T 106b<sup>141</sup> (Fig. 34, 36). Following MARTIN-KILCHER, GEMPELER's type T 106 variant "b" represents a younger type that is characterized by a flatter ledge rim. The type is dated to the second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD and occurs together with variant "a".<sup>142</sup> In Area 81, both types are represented in this layer, together with a coin of *Maiorianus*, which provides a *terminus* in the second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD.

Other table wares consist of deep bowls with vertical rims and small flanges, comparable to GEMPELER type T 317.<sup>143</sup> The first example has a high rim (Fig. 34, 37) and belongs to the older variant type "A", characterized by MARTIN-KILCHER and WININGER<sup>144</sup>. The variant is dated to the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD.<sup>145</sup> The second vessel (Fig. 34, 38) belongs to the developed type "B", which is characterized by a short rim and can be dated to the first half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD until the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD.<sup>146</sup> According to the

<sup>138</sup> MÜLLER, in *Report on the 14<sup>th</sup> Season*, p. 19.

<sup>139</sup> Cf. *infra*, Fig. 2 for the stratigraphical sequence.

<sup>140</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 5, 1-2.

<sup>141</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 291.

<sup>142</sup> MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 286.

<sup>143</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 35, 15-19.

<sup>144</sup> MARTIN-KILCHER and WININGER use capital letters A, B et cetera for the differentiation of GEMPELER's basic forms (cf. MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, 255, note 180).

<sup>145</sup> MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 288.

<sup>146</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 288.

stratigraphic sequence in Area 81 (Fig. 27), type “B” appears in layers situated above layers with type “A” and the layer containing the coin of *Maorianus*.

Deep bowls with low rims and hooked flanges of GEMPELER type T 318a<sup>147</sup> (Fig. 34, 39-40) were found in the same layer as the bowl Fig. 34, 37 and are dated by their stratigraphical position to the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD. Parallels from Aswan were dated to the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD.<sup>148</sup> GEMPELER suggests a date in the last quarter of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.<sup>149</sup> Therefore it is possible that the type already appears as early as the end of 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.

An almost completely-preserved bowl (Fig. 34, 41) shows the further development of the type.<sup>150</sup> Closer parallels to the piece from Aswan can be dated to the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD.<sup>151</sup>

The evolution of the white slip bowls (Fig. 34, 42-46) compared to those from the earlier Context 5 is evident. The shape develops from rather round to flatter-shaped vessels.<sup>152</sup> Coins associated with the pottery provide a *terminus* for the deposition of the assemblage in the second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD.

The domestic wares include a variety of shapes. A small uncoated bowl, probably a cooking bowl<sup>153</sup> (Fig. 34, 47) shows similarities with GEMPELER type K 209.<sup>154</sup> An example from Elephantine is the next closest parallel to the fragment from Area 81 and comes from contexts dated to the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.<sup>155</sup>

A red-slipped storage vessel (Fig. 34, 48) is comparable with GEMPELER type K 303b.<sup>156</sup> A huge storage basin (Fig. 34, 49) also has parallels with (Fig. 34, 48) from Elephantine<sup>157</sup>, dating to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. An example from Mons Porphyrites<sup>158</sup>, provides a rough date in the Roman Imperial period. An example from Tebtynis, albeit from a mixed context, was dated from the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD.<sup>159</sup>

The cooking pots (Fig. 34, 50-51) are subtypes “a” and “b” of GEMPELER type K 342.<sup>160</sup> The rim design is characteristic of these types. The material from Aswan provides a sequence of

<sup>147</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 36, 1-6.

<sup>148</sup> MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, pp. 288-289.

<sup>149</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, pp. 93-94.

<sup>150</sup> MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER *Syene III*, p. 288.

<sup>151</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 170, Abb. 5.41, 213.

<sup>152</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 291.

<sup>153</sup> It is unclear to whether this can be identified as the cooking bowl GEMPELER type K 209, because the base and traces of burnishing are missing.

<sup>154</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 85, 7-9.

<sup>155</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 151.

<sup>156</sup> *Ibid.*, Abb. 88, 10.

<sup>157</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 155.

<sup>158</sup> TOMBER, ‘*Mons Porphyrites*’, p. 296, Fig. 6.29, 1.

<sup>159</sup> M.-O. ROUSSET/S. MARCHAND/D. FOY, ‘Secteur nord de Tebtynis (Fayyoum). Mission de 2000’, *AnIsl* 35 (2001), p. 429, Fig. 16, p.

<sup>160</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 92, 14-15.

this type from the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> until the beginning of the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD.<sup>161</sup> The closest parallels for both fragments date to the first half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD.<sup>162</sup>

A cooking bowl/casserole (Fig. 34, 52) corresponds to GEMPELER type K 217<sup>163</sup> and MARTIN-KILCHER and WININGER GK 217/334.<sup>164</sup> They date the type to the first half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD. Very few amphorae were found in this context. All the fragments (Fig. 34, 53) were made of Nile silt and showed similarities to the amphora type AE 3-1.5 that is dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD<sup>165</sup>. Parallels from Aswan show that the type circulated until the first half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.<sup>166</sup>

All the fragments were found in the earliest layer of Context 6 for which the coins provided a date at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.

The layers of Context 6 accumulated from the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> until the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> or beginning of the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD.

**35.** 14-81-26-6.K4. Plate, GT 106a. Red slipped interior and exterior: 10R6/6, two black painted lines and a white painting on the rim, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 10R8/6. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 112, Abb. 4.28, 456.

**36.** 14-81-26-6.K1. Plate, GT 106b. Red slipped interior and exterior: 10R6/6, three black painted lines and a white painting on the rim, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 10R8/6. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 116, Abb. 4.32, 524.

**37.** 14-81-26-7.K8. Bowl GT 317A. Red slipped interior and exterior: 10R6/6, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 10R7/6. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 164, Abb. 5.35, 104.

**38.** 14-81-12-3.K3. Bowl, GT 317B. Red slipped interior and exterior: 10R6/8, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 10R7/6. Parallels: GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 35, Nr. 16; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 174, Abb. 5.45, 295.

**39.** 14-81-26-7.K9. Bowl GT 318a. Red slipped interior and exterior: 10R6/8, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 10R8/4. Parallels: BAILEY, *El-Ashmunain V*, Pl. 25, D299; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 177, Abb. 5.48, 336.

**40.** 14-81-26-7.K10. Bowl GT 318a. Red slipped interior and exterior: 10R6/6, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 10R7/4. Parallels: GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 36, Nr. 4; Bailey 1998, Pl. 25, D302, D312.

**41.** 14-81-26-7.K5. Bowl, GT 608a. Red slipped interior and exterior: 10R6/6, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 10R7/6. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 170, Abb. 5.41, 213.

**42.** 14-81-26-7.K3. Bowl, GT 316aA. White slipped interior and exterior: 10R8/2, one brown painted line interior, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 5YR7/4. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 163, Abb. 5.34, 98.

**43.** 14-81-12-5.K4. Bowl, GT 316aA. White slipped interior and exterior: 7.5YR 8/2, two brown painted lines interior and one painted line exterior, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 2.5YR7/6. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 113, Abb. 4.29, 476.

**44.** 14-81-12-5.K1. Bowl, GT 316b. White slipped interior and exterior: 7.5YR 8/2, two brown painted lines interior and one yellow painted line exterior, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 2.5YR7/6. Parallels: GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 35, Nr. 14.

**45.** 14-81-12-3.K4. Bowl, GT 316aA. White slipped interior and exterior: 10R8/2, two brown painted lines interior and one painted line exterior, Marl clay, Fabric: 10R7/6. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 170, Abb. 5.41, 220.

<sup>161</sup> MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, pp. 293-294.

<sup>162</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 166, Abb. 5, 37, p. 120, Abb. 4.36, 604.

<sup>163</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 85, 18.

<sup>164</sup> MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 293.

<sup>165</sup> DIXNEUF, *Amphorae égyptiennes*, p. 110.

<sup>166</sup> MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 278-279.

- 46.** 14-81-12-3.K6. Bowl, GT 316a. White slipped interior and exterior: 10YR8/3, two brown painted lines interior, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 2.5YR7/4. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 222, Abb. 6.17, 30.
- 47.** 14-81-26-8.K2. Bowl or cooking bowl, similar GK 209 with a space for the lid. Uncoated: 2.5YR5/6, Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Parallels: GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 85, 7-9; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 104, Abb. 4.20, 348.
- 48.** 14-81-26-6.K7. Storage bowl, similar GK 303b. Red slipped interior and exterior: 10R6/6, Fabric: 2.5YR7/6. Parallels: GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 88, Nr. 10.
- 49.** 14-81-26-6.K10. Storage basin. Uncoated: 2.5YR6/4, Fabric: 10R6/6. Parallels: similar ROUSSET/MARCHAND/FOY, *Secteur nord de Tebtynis (Fayyoub)*, p. 429, Fig. 16, p; similar TOMBER, *Mons Porphyrites*, p. 296, Fig. 6.29, 1.
- 50.** 14-81-12-5.K6. Cooking pot, GK 342A. Uncoated: 10R6/6, Fabric: 2.5YR 6/7. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 166, Abb. 5.37, 146.
- 51.** 14-81-26-6.K5. Cooking pot, GK 342B. Uncoated: 10R6/6, Fabric: 2.5YR5/6. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 120, Abb. 4.36, 604.
- 52.** 14-81-12-3.K8. Cooking bowl, GK 217/334. Uncoated: 2.5YR4/3, Fabric: 2.5YR4/1. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 165, Abb. 5.36, 136.
- 53.** 14-81-26-8.K1. Amphora AE 3-1.5. Uncoated: 10R5/4, Fabric: 10R5/1. Parallels: DIXNEUF, *Amphorae égyptiennes*, p. 326, Fig. 92, 129; MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 160, Abb. 5.31, 41.

Coins:

- 14-81-26-7/1. HCe, Valentinianus II. 383 century AD.
  
- 14-81-12-4/9. Cen, Constantius II. 351-354 century AD.
- 14-81-12-4/4, 14-81-12-4/8. Cen, Valentinianus I. 364-375 century AD.
- 14-81-12-4/3. Cen. Valens. 364-375 century AD.
- 14-81-12-4/12. HCe, Valentinianus II. 383-392 century AD.
- 14-81-12-4/2, 14-81-12-4/7, 14-81-12-4/5. Hce, Valentinianus II. / Theodosius I. / Arcadius / Honorius. 383-395 century AD.
- 14-81-12-4/6, 14-81-12-4/10. HCe, Maiorianus. 457-461 century AD.
- 14-81-12-4/11. Cen and HCe, second half 4<sup>th</sup>– 5<sup>th</sup> century AD (not assignable).
  
- 14-81-12-3/14, 14-81-12-3/13. Cen. Valens. 364-375 century AD.
- 14-81-12-3/11. Cen, Valentinianus I. / Valens / Gratianus. 364-375 century AD.
- 14-81-12-3/7. HCe, Theodosius I. 383 century AD.
- 14-81-12-3/12. HCe, Gratianus / Valentinianus II. / Theodosius I. 383 century AD.
- 14-81-12-3/19. HCe, Theodosius I. 383-395 century AD.
- 14-81-12-3/8. Hce, Valentinianus II. / Theodosius I. / Arcadius / Honorius. 383-395 century AD.
- 14-81-12-3/16, 14-81-12-3/15, 14-81-12-3/9, 14-81-12-3/1, 14-81-12-3/5, 14-81-12-3/2. Cen and HCe, second half 4<sup>th</sup>– 5<sup>th</sup> century AD (not assignable).

Context 7

The latest context of Stratum D<sup>167</sup> is characterized by clearly-defined layers of sandy material. Among the numerous small fragments little diagnostic pottery was found (14-81-26-1+2, 14-81-12-1+2). The material was deposited as part of a levelling process probably connected to later construction activities. Among the pottery are some fragments of ERSW

<sup>167</sup> MÜLLER, in *Report on the 14<sup>th</sup> Season*, p. 19.

dishes (Fig. 35, 54) which are similar to GEMPELER type T 220c<sup>168</sup> and HAYES form 103B.<sup>169</sup> The type is dated by Gempeler from the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> until the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD<sup>170</sup>. Examples from Aswan appear at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> century. The type was very popular during the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD.<sup>171</sup>

The dish (Fig. 35, 55) is similar to GEMPELER type T 218b<sup>172</sup> and HAYES form 84.<sup>173</sup> The type is attested from Aswan from the middle of the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD and continues until the last quarter of the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD.<sup>174</sup>

Several fragments of storage bowls (Fig. 35, 56) are similar to GEMPELER type 502.<sup>175</sup> Traces of black painting are visible on the exterior surface. Compared to similar vessels from Context 5 the bowls show thicker walls and are smaller in size. The huge bowl (Fig. 35, 57), made of Egyptian marl clay, shows flaring and slightly rounded walls and an everted, thickened rim. The external surface is ribbed. The shape is similar to BAILEY type N167,<sup>176</sup> which is dated to the middle of the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD. Further examples from Kellia, Karnak North and Amarna are dated into the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> century AD. Material was deposited in the filling-layers of Context 7 from the early 6<sup>th</sup> century AD until the last quarter of the sixth century, as is implied by ERS dishes of that date. The layers of Context 7 were cut by the foundations of medieval houses.<sup>177</sup>

**54.** 14-81-26-1.K1. Dish, GT 220c. Red slipped interior and exterior: 10R7/6, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 10R7/6. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 123, Abb. 4.39, 651.

**55.** 14-81-26-1.K2. Dish, GT 218b, GT. Red slipped interior and exterior: 10R7/6, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 10R7/6. Parallels: MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 178, Abb. 5.49, 358.

**56.** 14-81-26-2.K1. Storage bowl, GK 502. Red slipped interior and exterior: 2.5YR5/4, Fragment of black painting exterior, Aswan Pink clay, Fabric: 7.5YR7/4. Parallels: GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 113, 2.

**57.** 14-81-12-2.K4. Storage bowl. Uncoated: 2.5YR5/8, Marl clay, Fabric: 2.5YR6/4. Parallels: BAILEY, *El-Ashmunein V*, pl. 64, N167; EGLOFF, *Kellia, La poterie copte*, pl. 82, 7; JACQUET-GORDON, *Karnak-Nord X*, p. 146, Fig. 146, h.P.781; FAIERS, *Pottery from Amarna*, p. 105, Fig. 2.27, 210.

#### Coins:

- 14-81-12-2/2. HCe, Theodosius I. 383 century AD.
- 14-81-26-1/1. HCe, Valentinianus II. / Theodosius I. / Arcadius / Honorius, 383-395 century AD.
- 14-81-12-2/3. HCe, second half 4<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> century AD.
- 14-81-12-2/1, 14-81-26-1/1. HCe, second half 4<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> century AD (not assignable).

#### Conclusion

<sup>168</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 14, 5.

<sup>169</sup> HAYES, *Late Roman Pottery*, p. 158, Fig. 29, form 103B.

<sup>170</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 160; GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, p. 70.

<sup>171</sup> MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 286.

<sup>172</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 12, 15.

<sup>173</sup> HAYES, *Late Roman Pottery*, p. 130, Fig. 23, form 84.

<sup>174</sup> MARTIN-KILCHER/WININGER, *Syene III*, p. 286.

<sup>175</sup> GEMPELER, *Elephantine X*, Abb. 113, 2.

<sup>176</sup> BAILEY, *El-Ashmunein V*, pl. N167.

<sup>177</sup> MÜLLER, in *Report on the 14<sup>th</sup> Season*, pp. 19-20.

In Strata F – D of Area 81, the whole period of Roman occupation in the north of Graeco-Roman Syene is represented. At the beginning of the development are simple structures that were probably still related to funerary use as the area is situated in a part of the Roman necropolis of the town.<sup>178</sup> While no actual burials were found in the very small excavated area, the pit assemblage in Context 1 with its complete vessels may hint at offering activities or meals at nearby tombs from the beginning of the first century AD. The mud-brick walls from Contexts 3 and 4 cannot be interpreted in greater detail, again due to the small size of the investigated area. The size and character of these installations do not exclude a funerary affiliation. It is thus feasible to assume a continuous use of the area as a cemetery from the 1<sup>st</sup> until the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.<sup>179</sup>

Contexts 5, 6 and 7 have a completely different character as a street comes into existence in the area during the first half of 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. This street remained in use well into the 6<sup>th</sup> century. It was finally abandoned in Context 7 before a new street came into existence with the construction of houses during the Early Islamic period. The finely stratified street layers of sandy material with occasional settlement debris are also attested in several other areas of Aswan.<sup>180</sup> Considering the fact that the northern necropolis of Roman Syene was in use until the end of Roman rule, the east-west street may have been one of the main lines of communication within the Late Antique cemetery and became an important road of medieval Aswan.

(M. Hepa)

5. Report on the anthropological investigation of human skeletal remains from Late Antique tombs (Area 45)

The investigation<sup>181</sup> included the morphological estimation of age-at-death, sex<sup>182</sup> and stature<sup>183</sup>, as well as morphometric measurements<sup>184</sup> and the evaluation of individual skeletal

<sup>178</sup> To evidences of Early Roman burials in Areas 25 and 45, cf. W. MÜLLER, in *Report on the 9<sup>th</sup> Season*, pp. 3-4.

<sup>179</sup> *Idem*, in *Report on the 14<sup>th</sup> Season*, p. 23, Fig. 1.

<sup>180</sup> *Idem*, in *Report on the 8<sup>th</sup> Season*, p. 130.

<sup>181</sup> The investigation took place from February 7<sup>th</sup> to February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in the magazine of the Inspectorate of the Ministry of State for Antiquities of Aswan and Nubia, under the supervision of the inspector ZAYNAB AL-SAYED.

<sup>182</sup> D. FEREMBACH, I. SCHWIDETZKY, M. STLOUKAL, 'Recommendations for Age and Sex Diagnoses of Skeletons', *Journal of Human Evolution* 9 (1980), pp. 517-549. F. RÖSING, M. GRAW, M. MARRÉ, S. RITZ-TIMME, MA ROTHSCHILD, K. ROETZSCHER, A. SCHMELING, I. SCHRÖDER, G. GESERICK, 'Recommendations for the forensic diagnosis from sex and age from skeletons', *Homo – Journal for Comparative Human Biology* 58 (2007), pp. 75-89.

<sup>183</sup> M. TROTTER, GC. GLESER, Estimation of stature from long bones of American Whites and Negroes. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 10 (1952), pp. 463-514. *Idem*, 'Corrigenda to „Estimation of stature from long bones of American Whites and Negroes”', *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 47 (1977), pp. 355-356. MH. RAXTER, CB. RUFF, A. AZAB, M. ERFAN, M. SOLIMAN, A. EL-SAWAF, 'Stature estimation in ancient Egyptians: A new technique based on anatomical reconstruction of stature', *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 136 (2008), pp. 147-155

traits.<sup>185</sup> Furthermore, possible pathological changes were observed and interpreted according to the recommendations of M. SCHULTZ,<sup>186</sup> taking current literature into consideration.<sup>187</sup> Altogether, a total of 55 individuals was investigated. Among the individuals were adult males and females. Their age-at-death varies from late juvenile to more than 60 years. About half of the investigated skeletal remains were from children from neonatal age up to 13 years. The skeletal remains of the individuals are highly fragmented. Partly, this fragmentation can be associated with Roman burial rites and practice, with large grave chambers for multiple burials. Also, the fact that the skeletons were recovered during a rescue excavation, under enormous time pressure, led to fast recovery and, therefore, a fragmented and commingled state of preservation. The surfaces of the bones are generally well preserved, about 90%-70%. The inner matrix is mostly solid.

During the investigation, a variety of pathological conditions could be diagnosed. Besides caries, dental abscesses (Fig. 36) and periodontal diseases, osteoarthritis of the spine and the joints, as well as traces of pulled or ruptured muscle attachments were commonly diagnosed in adult individuals, indicating a high physical strain on the people.<sup>188</sup> Furthermore, chronic inflammations of the paranasal sinuses and the scalp, as well as meningeal reactions were frequently observed. Several children demonstrated mild skeletal vestiges of anaemia. This either indicates nutritional deficiencies (e.g. lack of iron or protein), or, for example, chronic parasite infestations (e.g. Malaria or intestinal parasites<sup>189</sup>). Furthermore, inflammations of the orbits and adjacent regions were frequently observed. In the individuals from Area 45 investigated in 2018, two possible cases of tuberculosis in adult individuals could be detected.<sup>190</sup> One man had sustained a severe fracture of the left femur, which was properly

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<sup>184</sup> R. MARTIN, K. SALLER, *Lehrbuch der Anthropologie in systemischer Darstellung*, (Stuttgart 1957<sup>3</sup>). S. OUSLEY, R. JANTZ, 'Fordisc 3 and Statistical Methods for Estimating Sex and Ancestry', in D. DIRKMAAT (ed.), *A Companion to Forensic Anthropology* (Chichester 2012), pp. 311–329.

<sup>185</sup> RW. MANN, DR. HUNT, S. LOZANOFF, *Photographic Regional Atlas of Non-Metric Traits and Anatomical Variants in the Human Skeleton* (Springfield 2016).

<sup>186</sup> M. SCHULTZ, 'Paläopathologische Diagnostik', in R. KNUSSMANN (ed.), *Anthropologie: Handbuch der vergleichenden Biologie des Menschen. Vol. 1.1* (Stuttgart 1988), pp. 480–496.

<sup>187</sup> AC. AUFDERHEIDE, C. RODRIGUEZ-MARTIN, *The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Human Paleopathology* (Cambridge 1998). DJ. ORTNER, *Identification of Pathological Conditions in Human Skeletal Remains* (San Diego 2003<sup>2</sup>). CS. LARSEN, *Bioarchaeology. Interpreting Behavior from the Human Skeleton* (Cambridge 2015<sup>2</sup>).

<sup>188</sup> SCHULTZ, in KNUSSMANN, *Anthropologie: Handbuch der vergleichenden Biologie des Menschen. Vol. 1.1*, ORTNER, *Identification of Pathological Conditions in Human Skeletal Remains*, LARSEN, *Bioarchaeology*.

<sup>189</sup> Cf. PL. STUART-MACADAM, 'Nutritional Deficiency Disease. A Survey on Scurvy, Rickets and Iron-Deficiency Anemia', in MY. İŞCAN, KAR. KENNEDY (eds.), *Reconstruction of Life from the Skeleton* (New York 1989), pp. 201-222, ORTNER, *Identification of Pathological Conditions in Human Skeletal Remains*, M. SCHULTZ, TH. SCHMIDT-SCHULTZ, 'Health and disease of infants and children in Byzantine Anatolia between AD 600 and 1350', in *Life and death in JR. BRANDT, E. HAGELBERG, G. BJØRNSTAD, S. AHRENDTS (eds.), Asia Minor in Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine times, Studies in Funerary Archaeology 10* (Oxford, Philadelphia 2017), pp. 286-305.

<sup>190</sup> Cf. CA. ROBERTS, 'Rib lesions and tuberculosis: the current state of play', in G. PÁLFI, O. DUTOUR, J. DEÁK, I. HUTÁS (eds.), *Tuberculosis: Past and Present* (Budapest, Szeged 1999), pp. 311-316, CA. ROBERTS, JE. BUIKSTRA, *The Bioarchaeology of Tuberculosis* (Gainesville/FL 2003), J. NOVÁČEK, K. SCHEELEN, M. SCHULTZ, 'The wrestler from Ephesus: Osteobiography of a man from the Roman period



healed (Fig. 37), but was crooked due to the strong flexor muscles of the upper thigh.<sup>191</sup> Probably, the fracture was professionally treated by a physician. This kind of trauma can today usually be associated with a high-energy impact, for example, in case of car accidents.<sup>192</sup> The same man had suffered a fracture of his left proximal ulna, which was well healed, but had led to osteoarthritis of his elbow. Five individuals showed healed rib fractures. In the vertebral bodies, ribs and epiphysis of one of them, an elderly man between fifty and sixty years of age, probable vestiges of cancer metastases could be observed.<sup>193</sup> Three individuals, all very robust and tall men, showed a variety of morphological traits which might be associated with frequent horseback riding.<sup>194</sup> Concerning their skeletal morphology, these very robust men rather do not fit into the local, Nubian and upper Egyptian population.<sup>195</sup> These circumstances might point to the fact that they came to Aswan from other regions, for example, as members of the Roman army.

The anthropological investigation of the individuals from this large, late Roman cemetery will continue during the next season.

(J. Nováček,<sup>196</sup> K. Scheelen-Nováček<sup>197</sup>)

## 6. Report on the study of Greek ostraca from Syene

### Introduction

The work on the ostraca unearthed since the first season in 2000 has consisted of a number of different phases dating back to 2011, the first season in which AMALIA ZOMEÑO (CSIC, Madrid) and myself had contact with the material. The first attempts to understand the connection of these texts with their archeological context was in the last two years, when the inventory, stabilization and storing of the ostraca were finished, and the ostraca were organized and stored by language and area in the magazine of the Supreme Council of Antiquities in Aswan. There are to date more than 1700 ostraca and fragments of ostraca containing texts in Aramaic, Demotic, Greek, Latin, Coptic and Arabic, found in virtually all areas excavated in Aswan since the first season in 2000. These include not only administrative and private texts,

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based on his anthropological and palaeopathological record', in JR. BRANDT, E. HAGELBERG, G. BJØRNSTAD, S. AHRENDTS (eds.), *Life and death in Asia Minor in Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine times*, *Studies in Funerary Archaeology* 10 (Oxford, Philadelphia 2017), pp. 318-338.

<sup>191</sup> Cf. ORTNER, *Identification of Pathological Conditions in Human Skeletal Remains*.

<sup>192</sup> Cf. EH. KIMMERLE, JP. BARAYBAR, *Skeletal trauma. Identification of injuries resulting from human rights abuse and armed conflict* (Boca Raton 2008).

<sup>193</sup> Cf. M. SCHULTZ, H. PARZINGER, DV. POZDNIJAKOV, TA. CHIKISHEVA, TH. SCHMIDT-SCHULTZ, 'Oldest known case of metastasizing prostate carcinoma diagnosed in the skeleton of a 2,700-year old Scythian king of Arzhan (Siberia, Russia)', *International Journal of Cancer* 121 (2007), pp. 2591-2595.

<sup>194</sup> Cf. LARSEN, *Bioarchaeology*.

<sup>195</sup> OUSLEY, JANTZ, in DIRKMAAT, *A Companion to Forensic Anthropology*.

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<sup>197</sup> Institute of Anatomy and Embryology, University Medical Centre Göttingen / Department of Biology, University of Hildesheim.

such as tax receipts and letters, but also in one case a literary text (a school text containing a fable of Aesopus), as well as drawings, and inscriptions on amphoras in Greek, Coptic and Demotic. The collection is truly fantastic not only for its variety and the large number of complete texts, but also because it has a concrete archeological context. This is not the case for most of the documents on papyrus and ostraca that we have from Egypt in museums and library collections around the world.

In this contribution I will describe the material coming from Areas 88 and 2 (both Imperial Roman period) (Fig. 1) and their forthcoming publication, with a full edition and commentaries of the most important texts.

#### Area 88<sup>198</sup>

Area 88, located in the modern town-quarter of Koka (Fig. 1), produced approximately 60 fragments of ostraca, all apparently coming from a domestic structure from the Roman period<sup>199</sup>. From these fragments we obtained a small archive of seven letters, seven dated documents and other letters and accounts with different levels of preservation.

#### Dated documents from Area 88

From the point of view of archaeology, the most important part of this find are the dated documents. These are tax receipts, or other kinds of receipts, which carry a date, giving a day, month, and year of an emperor. It is very interesting that these kinds of small documents have provided key stratigraphic information in other areas of Aswan. In this case, we have the following documents:

a) Two poll-tax receipts (*laographia*) featuring Stlakios, a tax collector, *misthotes pyles Soenes*, active in the period 149-158 CE<sup>200</sup>: 15-88-17-06/15, from 151 CE and 15-88-17-04/4 from 152-153 CE

b) A handcraft tax receipt (*cheironaxion*), 15-88-15-01/1, is very abraded and difficult to read, but the basic words are visible. The date is in the lacuna, but judging from the surrounding materials, it can be dated to mid-second cent. CE, probably a year of Antoninus Pius, as the previous piece.

c) Other receipts: 15-88-13-02/9 is a receipt for rent from 147 CE; 15-88-13-02/10 is a receipt for wheat, salt, wine, signed by Herakleides. If this is the same person, Herakleides, the *misthotes ier. pyl.* was active 139-146 CE; 15-88-17-09/10 and 17-09/6 are the lower part of a receipt, dated to 147 CE.

<sup>198</sup> For this area, see W. MÜLLER, in *Fifteenth Season*, pp. 16-19.

<sup>199</sup> For the dating, see M. HEPA, in *Seventeenth Season*, pp. 23-25.

<sup>200</sup> He is known from many other documents. See O.Cair. pp. 134-135. See also SB 6 9545, handcraft tax (149-150 CE), O.Wilcken 229 *laographia* (156 CE), O.Eleph.Wagner 1.32 *laographia* (156 CE), O.Eleph.Wagner 15 (158-159 CE), O.Petrie Mus. 236 (149-150 CE), O.Bankes 2 *geometria phoinik.* (156 CE), O.Bankes 9 *laographia* 17 dr ob. (152 CE).

d) An uncertain document, 15-88-13-02/14, only presents ends of lines, with very few complete words, but it is interesting, since it involves a «goldsmith». If the last line, where ἰδ, 14, can be read, belongs to the dating formula, then this document is from 151 CE.

#### The correspondence of Akkas and Chairas from Area 88

This small archive was found in the dump material inside Building 2 after its abandonment (Stratum B/2)<sup>201</sup> and is composed of at least seven letters, all of them written by Akkas<sup>202</sup> and addressed to Chairas, in the same hand (probably the hand of Akkas himself). Akkas' spelling is most often correct and he has a nice quite regular cursive hand. It is interesting that one can clearly see through these seven examples the style and scribal practice of Akkas. Namely, he always uses the same expressions for salutation and farewell-- he calls Chairas, the addressee, τιμιωτάτω, 'most honorable' --, and seems to finish his letters, after the farewell, with post-scripta often over two lines placed within the margins. He invariably writes the salutations and farewell at the bottom of the ostrakon, then turns the ostrakon around and continues writing the extra lines of the post scriptum at 180° to the main text in the top margin and continues in the left hand margin. Other people mentioned in the letters are the nameless daughter of Chairas, a certain Thermouthis who sends regards to Chairas, an embalmer by the name of Pek(ysis?), and a nameless boatman.

The contents of the letters in general regard business and trade. Letter 1 (15-88-17-06/7 + 06/12) is the best preserved. It mentions the delivery of apples, doves, and garments, in addition to loans, other payments of money and a guild of funerary workers (ταριχευταί), unless they are picklers (?). Letter 2 (15-88-17-06/12) features a rather more fragmentary text. It also mentions deliveries of produce and the expenses for transport (φόλετρον). Two of the letters might have references to local geography. Letter 4 (15-88-17-06/10) mentions the island of Elephantine. Letter 6 (15-88-17-09/2) is a small fragment, perhaps part of one of the other letters. It features a very interesting reference to Arabia, mentioned in two other documents from Syene, and refers to the Eastern quarters.<sup>203</sup> The rest contains very faded or abraded text and are somewhat hopeless. Letter 5 (15-88-17-06/7 + 06/12) presents the same salutation formula as accustomed and reference to money is made; Letter 3 (15-88-17-06/12) has only the

<sup>201</sup> For the dating, see HEPA, in *Seventeenth Season*, p. 24.

<sup>202</sup> Evidence for the name Akkas (TM/name Id. 8388) on Egyptian papyri and ostraca come from Arsinoite in the second century CE: BGU 2.576, l. 18, SB 20 14247, l. 6, P.Mil. Vogl. 3 152, l.49 (reconstructed: see P.Mil. Vogl. 4 253, l.12). The name written with a single kappa is more frequently attested (TM/ name Id. 6538), mainly in Edfu third and fourth centuries CE. TM suggests no etymology or origin of the name. At first I considered the possibility that the name with geminate kappa might be Semitic, since it appears in Greater Syria, for which a bilingual inscription from Palmyra (*IGLS* XVII.1 23) establishes a correspondence with Aramaic 'qyh. But since there is also the variant Ἀκᾶς in several papyri and at least one stone inscription (*SEG* XLVI 2170 no. 93, Terenouthis), for which there is a definite Greek parallel from Hellenistic Syracuse (see *LGPN* IIIa s.v.) I see no reason to assume that the name is Semitic. The doubling of consonants is a common enough phonetic variation. It could be a derivation of a name such as Ἀκουσίλαος.

<sup>203</sup> cf. O.Eleph. DAIK 119 and O.Eleph. DAIK 66 (to the dekaprotoi of the toparchy of Arabia Syene). The term Arabia in general is used to refer to the eastern quarters of the cities.

salutation formula, and Letter 7 (15-88-17-06/11) has also a very fragmentary text that is hardly readable, but it mentions loans.

#### Other letters from Area 88

Some other letters complete the picture by adding the expected military context. These letters can be dated palaeographically to the second century, and so fit into the chronology of the other documents. The fragment 15-88-12-02/6 is an almost complete letter, written in a clumsy hand, and interestingly features mainly Latin names, Pompeius Valerius and Cornelius son of Gaius, and also mentions garments. The two fragments 15-88-17-06/17 and 13-02/7 do not belong to the same document but show a very similar hand. The most interesting aspect about the first fragment is that it features a *vexillarius* named Serenus, thus a reference to the military context of the city of Syene. The content of the letter is not clear, since there are very few words preserved. The second fragment mentions a woman whose name may be reconstructed as Atheno[dora] and a man, by name Patmethis, and a reference to the return of a loan. Other letters are too fragmentary or do not present special characteristics (15-88-13-01/3; 15-88-17-08/4; 15-88-17-06/13 a and b)

#### Area 2

Area 2 was continuously excavated from season 8 to its completion in season 15.<sup>204</sup> The area has produced a large quantity of ostraca from all historical periods, from Aramaic in the Late Period, Demotic and Greek in the Ptolemaic and Roman periods, and Coptic and Arabic in Late Antiquity and the Islamic period. This report on progress will focus on the ostraca obtained in 2012 and 2013 in the excavation of the “domestic quarters” from the Imperial period (Strata D, C and B)<sup>205</sup>. This area contains Roman housing with Late Antique reuse. Installations in courtyards and layers of granite chips might indicate use of this space by craftsmen. The textual connection is immediately made with the receipts of handcraft taxation found in this area (see below). Also, a document from area 2-70 has a close connection to the textile industry, in an interesting description of the closing accounts of an apprenticeship contract (12-02-70-21/04; 10/12 & 15 and 12/3: It is written on a large piece of an amphora shoulder, and has reached us in four fragments found separately).

<sup>204</sup>For this area see H. JARITZ/M. RODZIEWICZ, 'Review of the Urban Remains and its Pottery', *MDAIK* 50 (1994), pp. 115-141; For the work of the Swiss-Egyptian Joint Mission, see C. VON PILGRIM, in C. VON PILGRIM/W. MÜLLER, 'The Eight Season of the Joint Swiss-Egyptian Mission in Syene/Old Aswan', *ASAE* 84 (2010), p. 318, W. MÜLLER, in *Tenth Season*, pp. 2-6, *idem*, in *Eleventh Season*, pp. 4-15, *idem*, in *Twelfth Season*, pp. 2-12, *idem*, in *Thirteenth Season*, pp. 5-12, *idem*, in *Fourteenth Season*, pp. 4-12 and *idem*, in *Fifteenth Season*, pp. 5-10.

<sup>205</sup>Financed by the Austrian Fond für Wissenschaft und Forschung (FWF Project P23866 “Housing in Antiquity in Syene and Elephantine, Upper Egypt” under the direction of S. LADSTÄTTER). MÜLLER, in *Twelfth Season*, pp. 13-16; *idem*, in *Thirteenth Season*, p. 19.

## Tax collecting

As mentioned above, the most relevant material in these sections of area 2 are the tax receipts. They attest both to the presence of craftsmen (in the case of handcraft tax) and they provide specific dates for the stratigraphy in which they were found. In chronological order, area 2-70 presents early second century documents dated to the reign of Hadrian, and 2-60 to the mid-second century, the reign of Antoninus Pius. Three lists of male names found in 2-60, virtually all Egyptian and Graeco-Egyptian, can be connected to the activity of tax collecting. The best-preserved one (12-2-70-12/25) has all margins preserved and presents a list of twelve men, one of them a caulker, another perhaps a smith. There is an oblique line on the left-hand side of each name, as a kind of check mark, indicating probably that the payment had been received. At the end, the total of men is expressed (12) and the total collected of 172 drachmas. Two more documents, not as well preserved as this one, also present lists of men, payments and a total of the collected money at the end.<sup>206</sup> They might be the checklists carried by the tax-collectors as part of their duty. Findspots 2-70 and 2-60 have also produced a number of complete tax receipts. They are in most cases for the poll-tax (*laographia*) or the handcraft-tax (*cheironaxion*), all dated to the reigns of Hadrian and Antoninus Pius. One of the interesting things about these documents is that they provide the names of the tax collectors for the years involved. The large number of documents of this kind recovered in the excavations of Aswan provide many new names of previously unknown officials carrying out this fiscal duty, contributing to a prosopography of Roman Syene.<sup>207</sup>

## Statue tax and the visit of Hadrian to Egypt

The Roman domestic structures of area 2 continued to be excavated in 2013.<sup>208</sup> The study of the stratigraphy and associated material produced more detailed insights into the chronology of the Roman town quarter. Two statue tax-receipts<sup>209</sup> on ostraca found in layers connected to House 19 date the first phase of Roman houses to the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century CE. These two tax receipts (13-2-128-13/1 and 14) became useful archaeological artifacts, as they carry specific dates. Historically they provide also an exceptional testimony to the preparations (in this case the erection of imperial statues) for the visit of the Emperor Hadrian to

<sup>206</sup> Inventory numbers 12-02-70-12/26 + 10/13, perhaps by the same hand, 12-02-70-12/25, and 12-02-70-10/14.

<sup>207</sup> See tables in C. GALLAZZI/R. PINTAUDI/K. A. WÖRPER, *Ostraka greci del Museo Egizio del Cairo* (Florence 1986), pp. 131-146; K. A. WÖRPER, *The Bankes Ostraka from a box at Kingston Lacy: The Greek Texts* (Messina, Sicania 2016), pp. 80-87.

<sup>208</sup> MÜLLER, in *Thirteenth Season*, p. 19.

<sup>209</sup> On this tax, see D. FISHWICK, 'Statues Taxes in Roman Egypt', *Historia: Zeitschrift für Alte Geschichte* 38.3 (1989) pp. 335-347. It was paid to subsidise the construction and maintenance of imperial statues and is mainly attested in Elephantine and Syene with a few examples from Thebes.

Egypt in 130.<sup>210</sup> These receipts are dated to almost two years before the imperial journey, to May and September of 128 (12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> year of Hadrian).<sup>211</sup>

### The military

The military environment, as evident from certain texts such as those found in area 2, is a common theme among the documents found in Syene. A document composed of three fragments (12-2-70-8/1 + 8/65) that make a complete receipt for wine, was addressed by a *stratiotes* (στρατιώτης) to a *cibariator*, an official of uncertain status, perhaps even a civilian, involved in the supply service to the army.<sup>212</sup> The supplies to the army are also attested by the longest document found in 2-70, the accounts of the journey up the river (ἀναπλώου), which include wine, piglets, and other expenses, like the anchorage fee of the harbor of Syene attested in other documents<sup>213</sup>, and the fees for the transportation of wood.

Two fascinating letters from this area are completely preserved (12-02-70-23/2&3, 12-02-70-23/01). They were apparently sent by the same person, one to his wife and the other to his *optio* regarding the same business, and they were found together. One might wonder whether these were drafts or the two addressees met at a later moment and thus the letters ended up being discarded together. In the first letter, a man addresses his wife and asks her to go to meet his *optio* in order to request his salary or money for expenses, from which she has to send him part, and with the rest get some basic goods such as oil and wool. He is a soldier, probably stationed away from home: «If you want to come to me, do. If you do not, I will come to you myself» says the devoted husband. The name of the wife is Anabasous, an unattested name, probably a hypocoristic from a slightly more frequent name, Anabasis (TM/name Id. 18196), related to the rise of the Nile. He then touches upon more domestic matters about buying and sending goods, and saluting their son. In the second letter, our soldier addresses Maximus, his *optio*, and asks him to deliver his salary or money for expenses to his wife, when she visits him. «Her name» he points out «is Anabasous». Both letters are definitely related, found together, and attest to the military presence in Aswan.

(S. Torallas Tovar<sup>214</sup>)

<sup>210</sup>A. BIRLEY, *Hadrian, The Restless Emperor* (London and New York 1997), pp. 252-258; P. J. SIJPESTEIJN, 'A New Document concerning Hadrian's Visit to Egypt', *Historia: Zeitschrift für Alte Geschichte* 18 (1969) pp. 109-118; idem, 'Another Document Concerning Hadrian's Visit To Egypt', *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* 89 (1991) pp. 89-90.

<sup>211</sup> See also the coins minted the year before the visit, the 13<sup>th</sup> regnal year (e.g. *RPC* III 5729 and 5773).

<sup>212</sup> Widely attested in the Pselkis ostraca, cf. C. LA'DA/L. RUBINSTEIN, 'Greek Ostraca from Pselkis', *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* 110 (1996) pp. 135-155.

<sup>213</sup> Like O.Bankes 4, 5, O.Brux. 4 O.Erem. 28 etc.

<sup>214</sup> University of Chicago

Figures

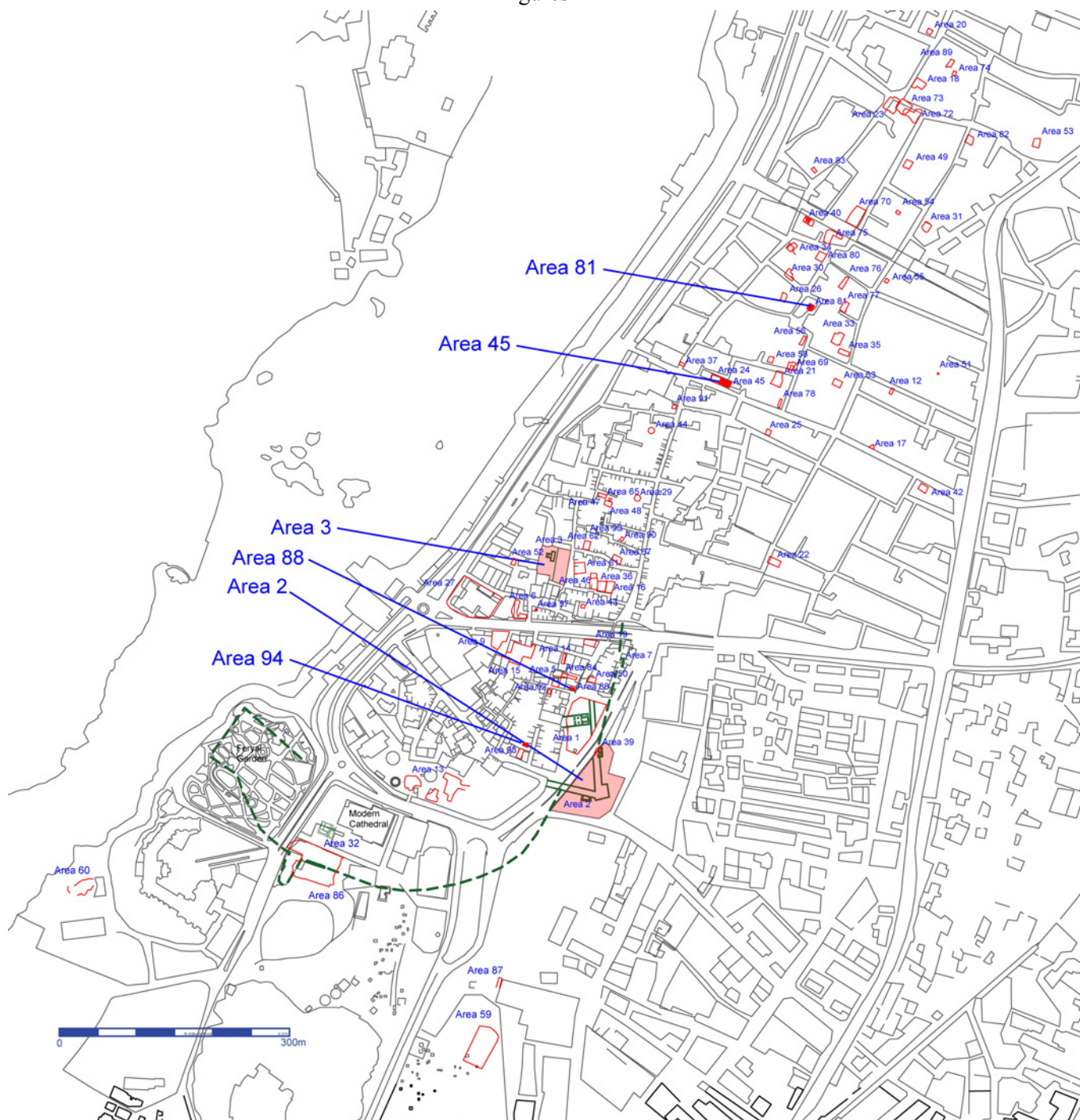


Fig. 1: Map of Aswan with areas excavated by the Swiss-Egyptian Mission.



Fig. 3: Area 3: Overview of the South-Eastern Sector during Stratum N



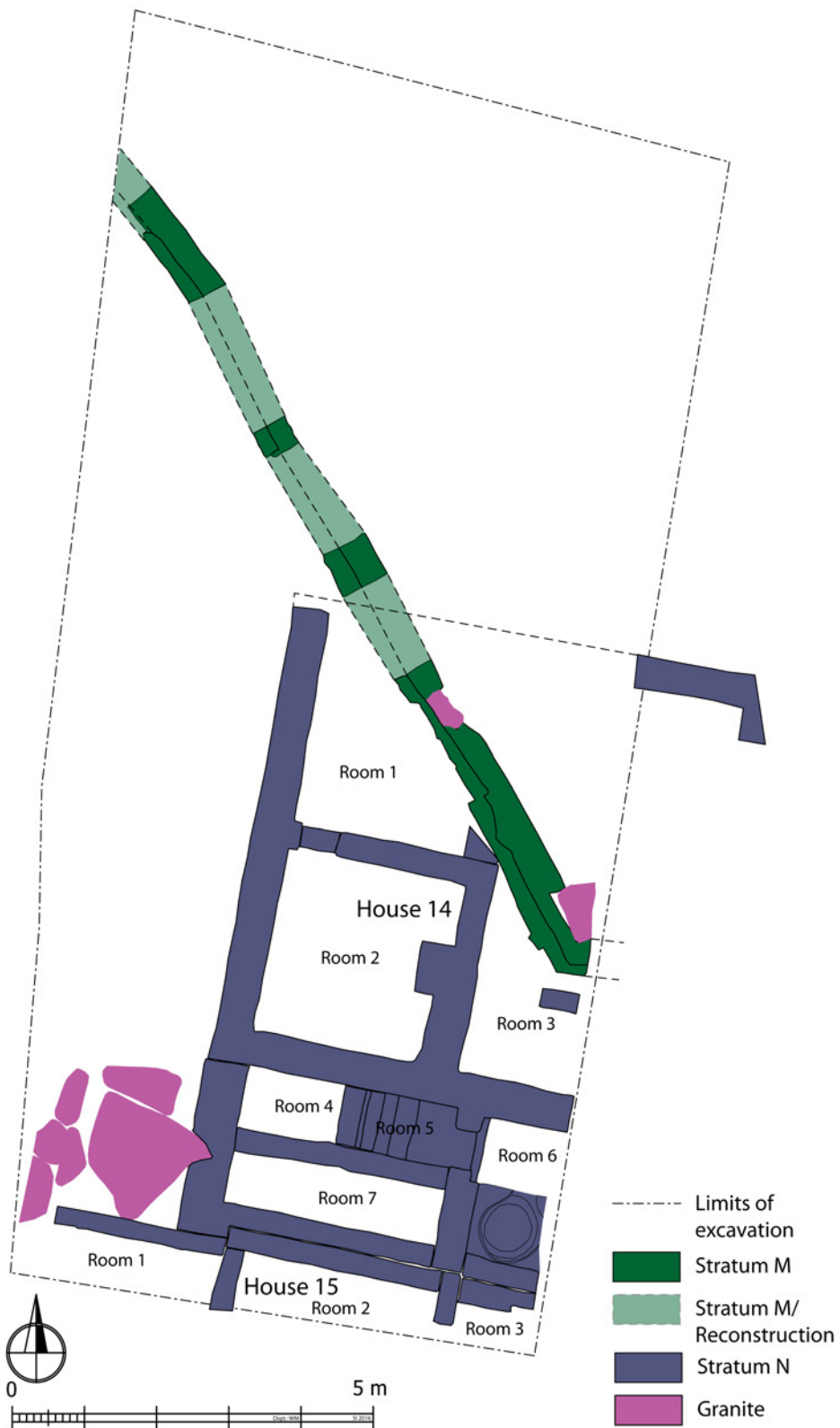


Fig. 4: Area 3: Plan of Stratum N.

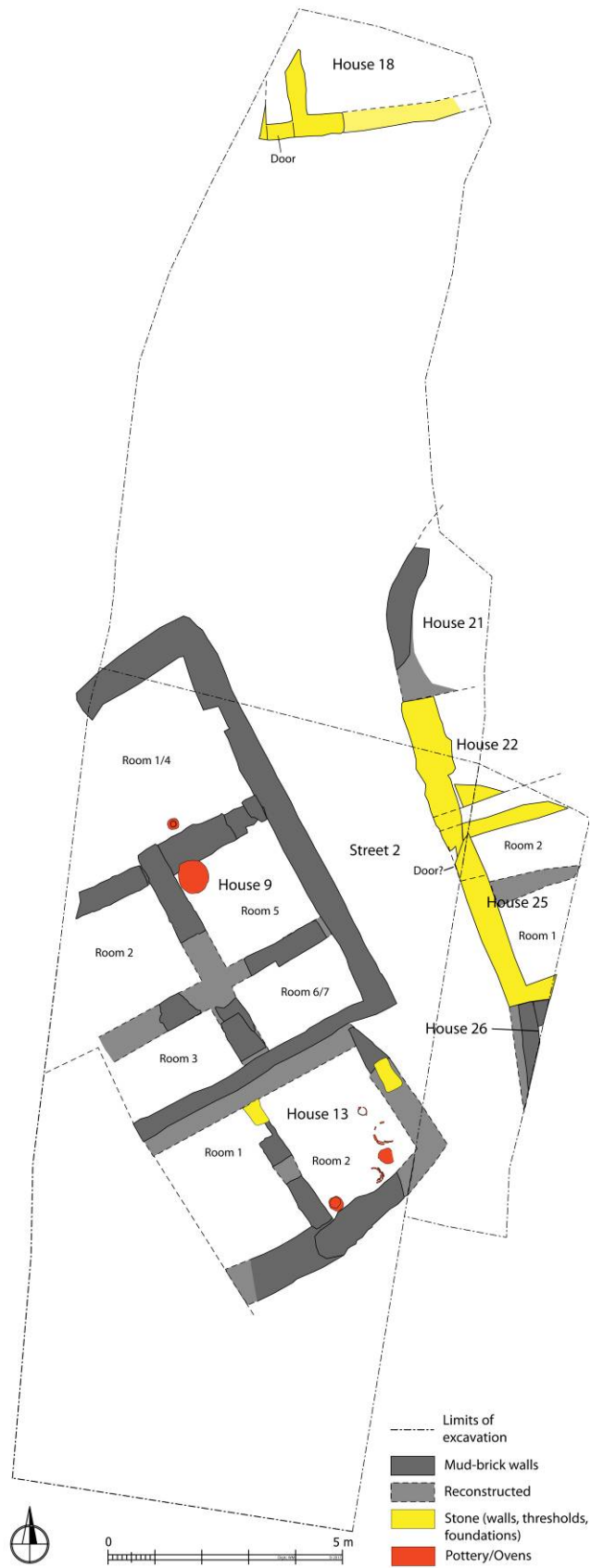


Fig. 5: Area 3: Plan of Stratum L/4.



Fig. 6: Area 3: Earliest phase of the door into House 18 during Stratum L/4.



Fig. 7: Area 3: Overview of the South-Eastern Sector during Strata L/2-L/4 from the west.



Fig. 8: Area 3: Detail of the southern face of the northern wall of House 25/Room 1.

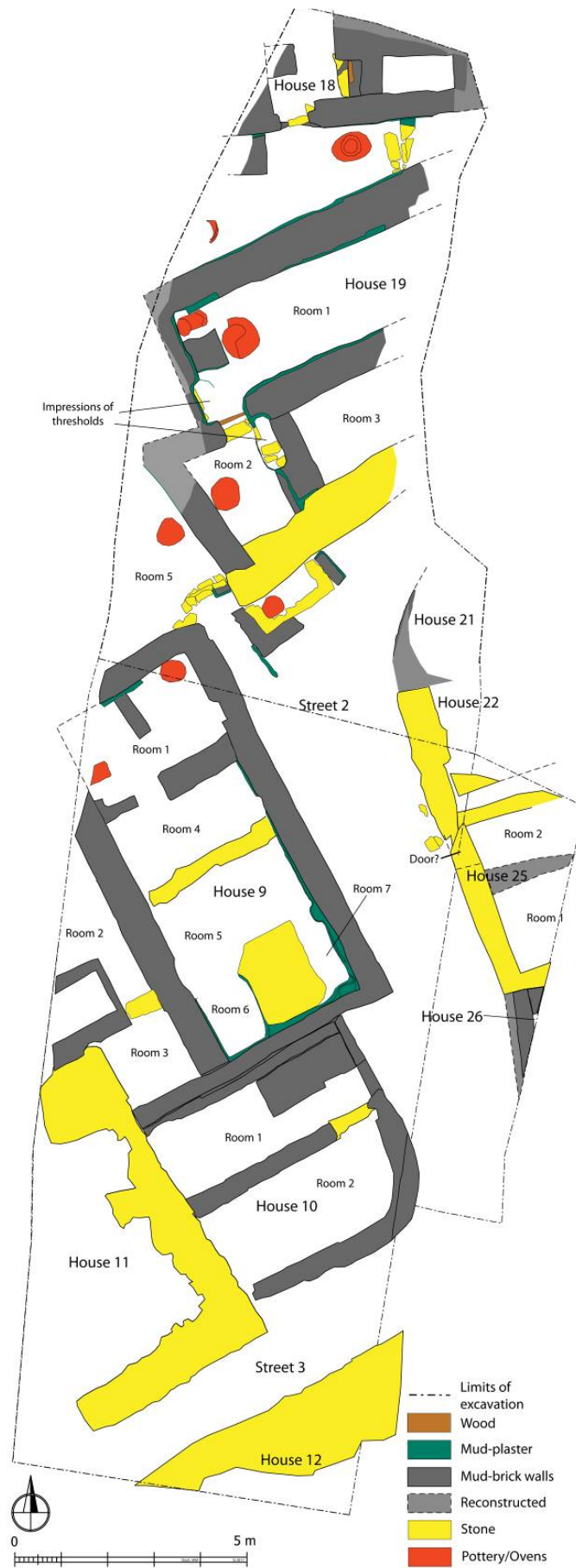


Fig. 9: Plan of Stratum L/2 in Area 3.



Fig. 10: Area 3: Detail of the rounded south-eastern corner of House 10.



Fig. 11: Area 3: Detail of the stone-socle of the eastern wall of House 10.



Fig. 12: Plan of Area 3 during Stratum L/1.



Fig. 13: Area 3: Detail of the western wall of House 26 during Strata L/4 - L/1.



Fig. 14: Area 3: Western face of the western wall of House 25.



Fig. 15: Plan of the western part of Area 3 during Strata K-D.





Fig. 16: Area 3: Overview of the South-Eastern Sector during Strata J - D from the West.



Fig. 17: Area 3: Detail of bread ovens dating to Stratum J/2.



Fig. 18: Area 3: Detail of vault in House 16/Room 2 dating to Stratum H.



Fig. 19: Area 3: Detail of Fatimid shaft.



Fig. 20: Overview of Area 94 from the south.

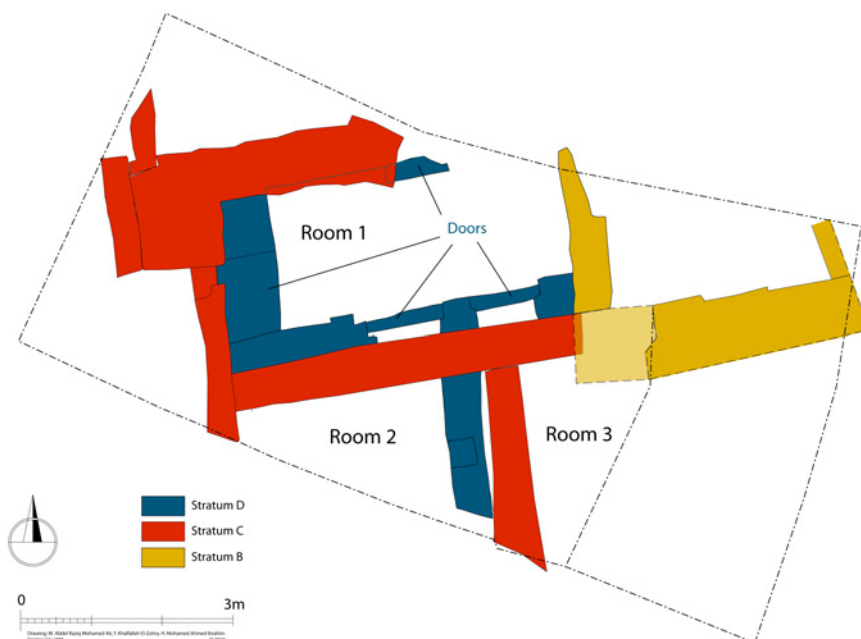


Fig. 21: Plan of Area 94.



Fig. 22: Area 94: Detail of sandstone pavement in Room 1 from the south.



Fig. 23: Area 94: Detail of walled-up door.



Fig. 24: Area 94: Torso of the statuette of Artemis



Fig. 25: Area 94: Detail of doors from Room 1 into Rooms 2 and 3.



Fig. 26: Area 94: Western face of the eastern wall of Room 2

N

S

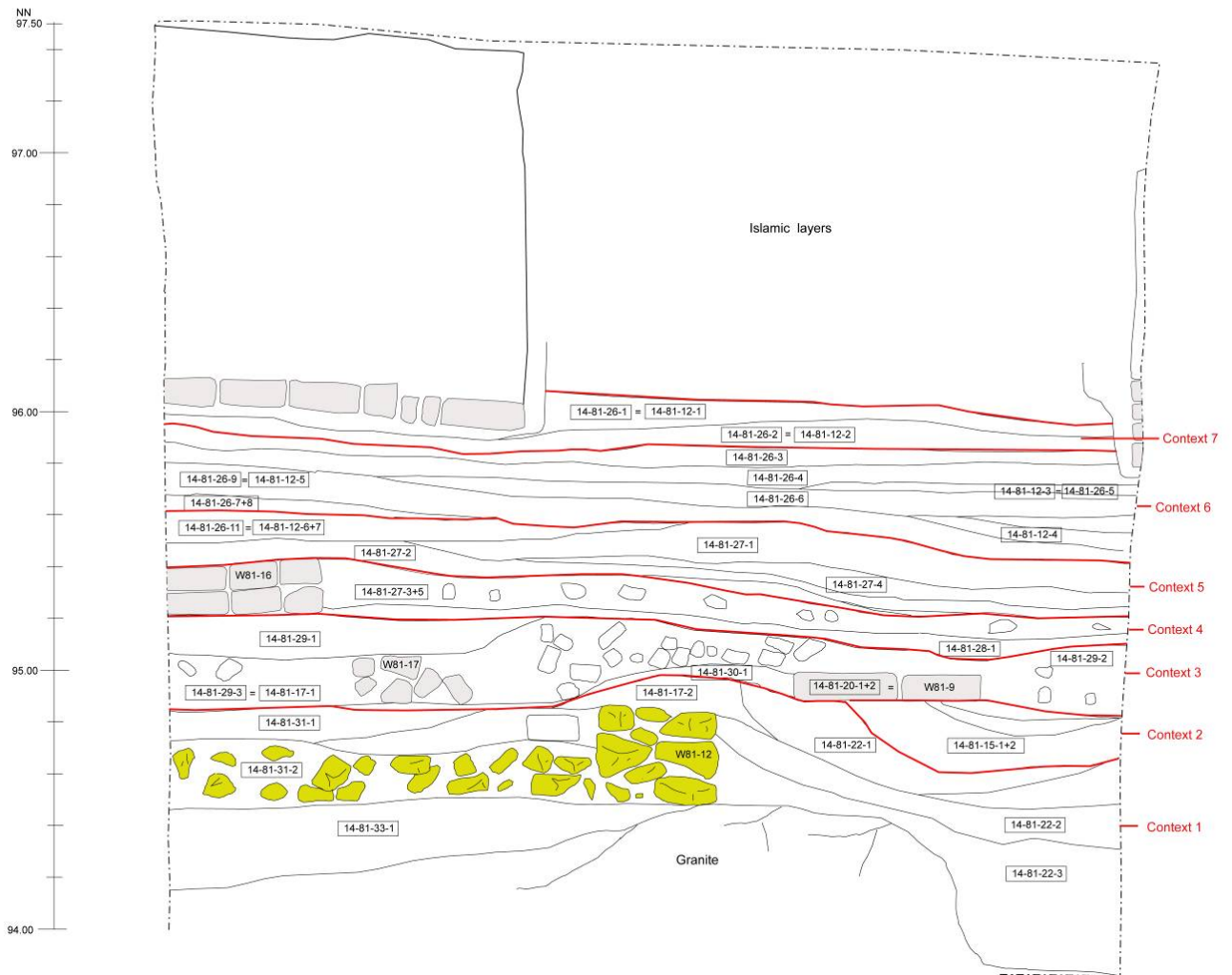


Fig. 27: Area 81: Detail of the drawing of the eastern section with marked contexts



Fig. 28: Area 81: Detail of Context 1 with the *in situ* assemblage of pottery in the pit of Stratum F.

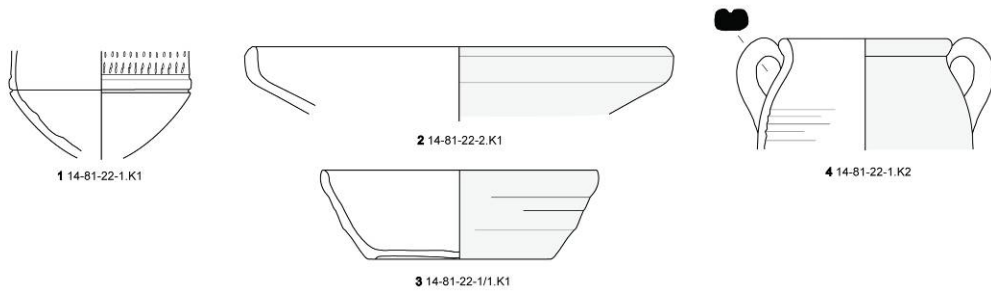


Fig. 29: Area 81: Fig: 4: Context 1: Pottery from the pit of Stratum F. Scale 1:3

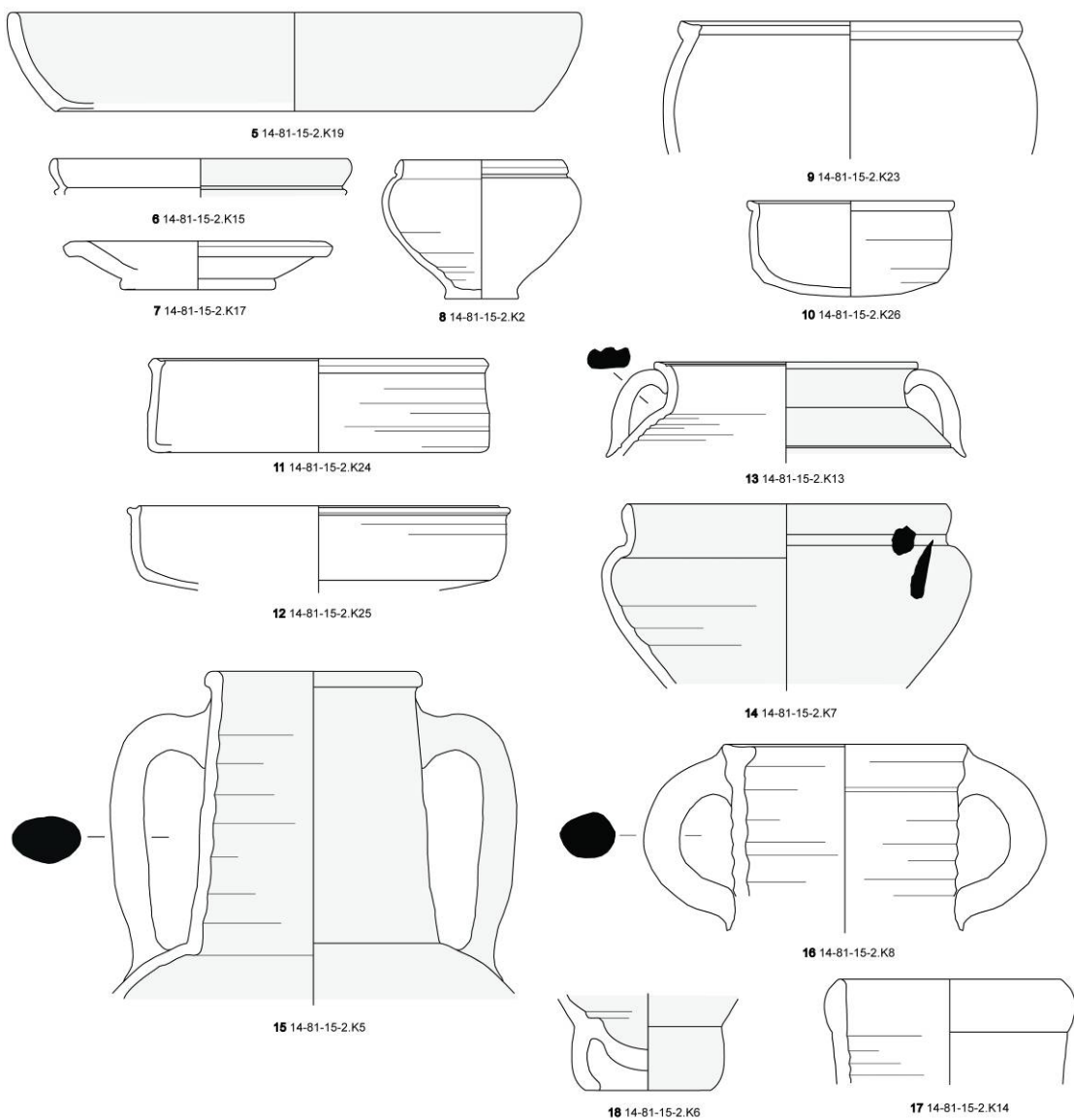


Fig. 30: Area 81: Context 2: Pottery from the latest filling layers of the pit of Stratum F. Scale 1:3.

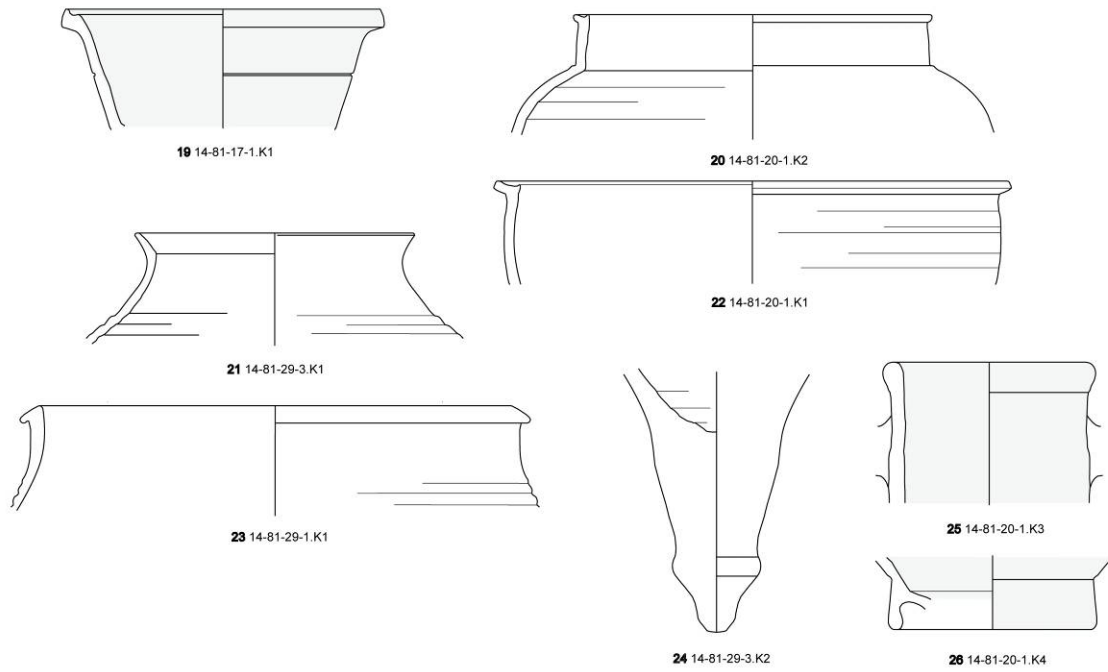


Fig. 31: Area 81: Context 3: Pottery from Stratum E. Scale 1:3.

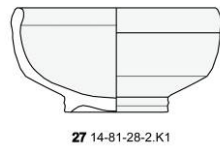


Fig. 32: Area 81: Context 4: Pottery from later Stratum E. Scale 1:3.

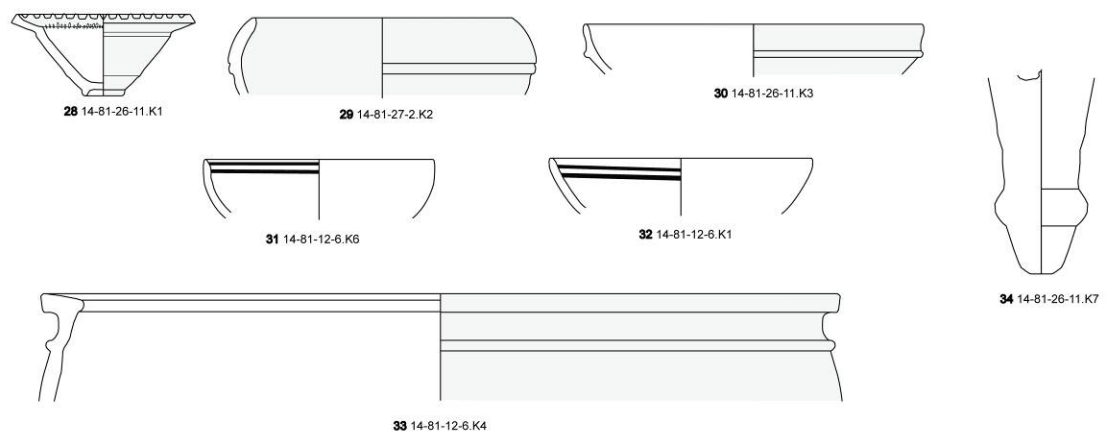


Fig. 33: Area 81: Context 5: Pottery from filling layers of Stratum D. Scale 1:3.

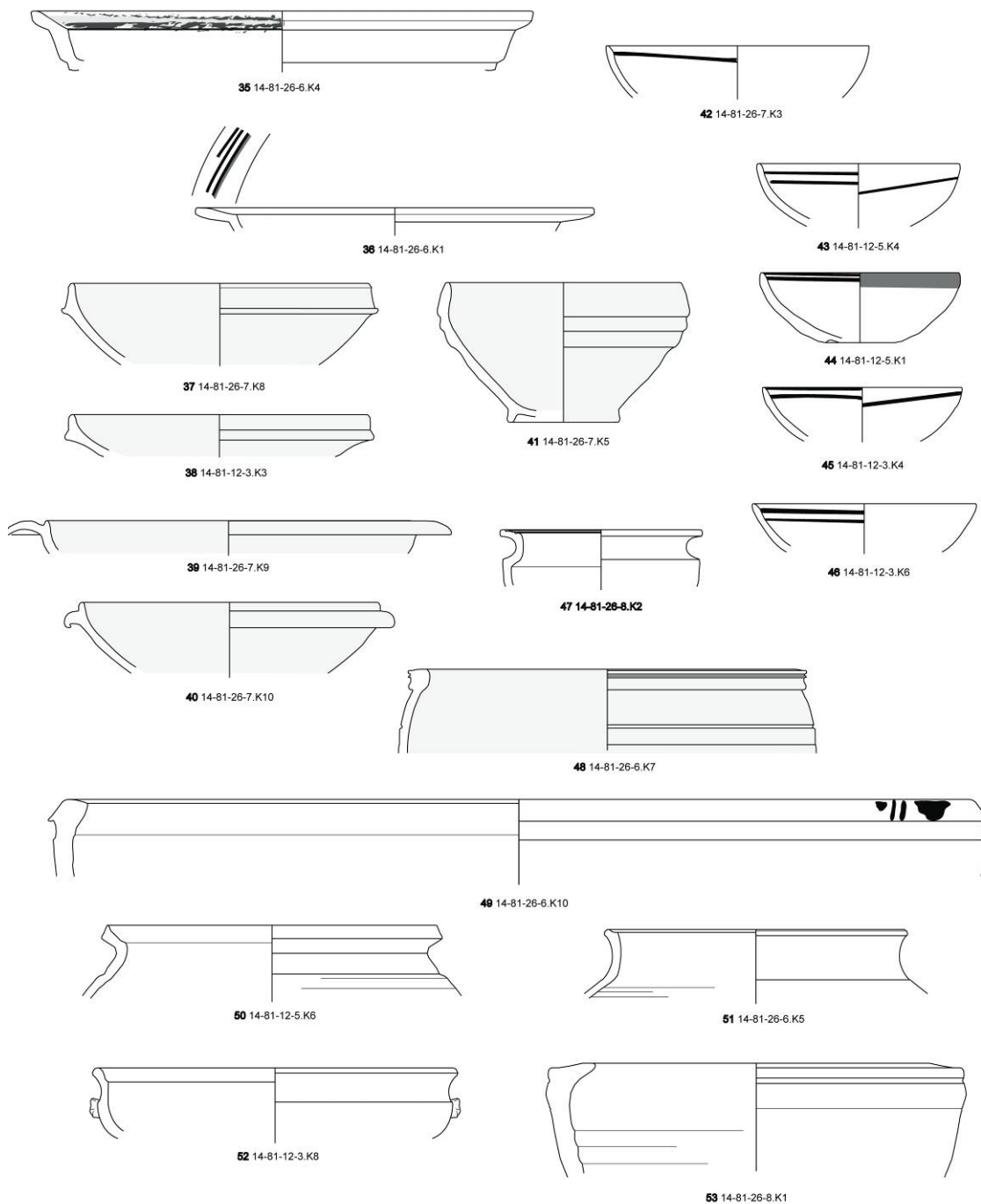


Fig. 34: Area 81: Context 6: Pottery from the street layers of Stratum D. Scale 1:3.



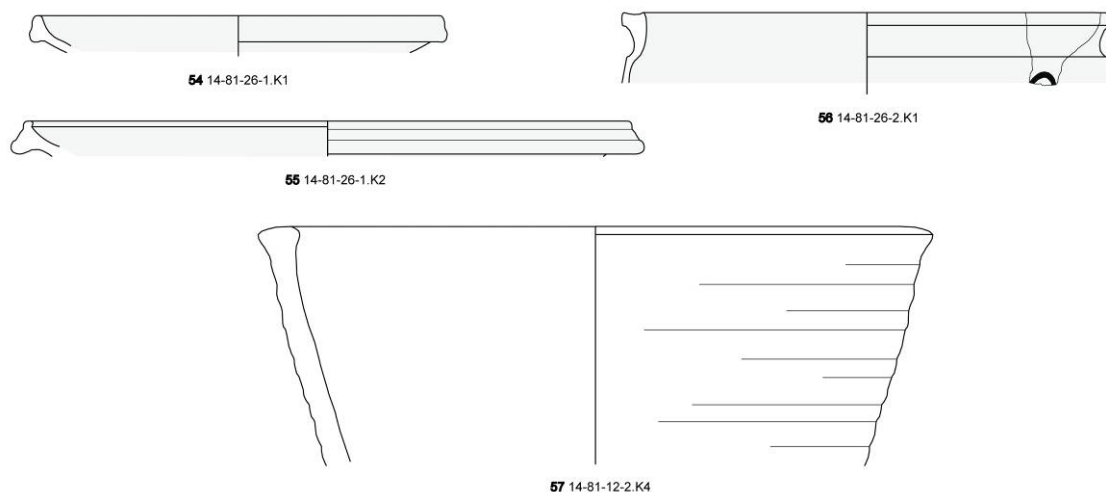


Fig. 35: Area 81: Context 7: Pottery from deposits after the abandonment of the street of Stratum D. Scale 1:3.



Fig. 36: Upper jaw of a woman in her thirties from Area 45. A dental apical abscess of the tooth 25 developed and, due to the pressure-induced atrophy of the bone, broke into the vestibular area of the oral cavity. There, it apparently caused an inflammation of the gum, as well as the periosteal layer of the jaw.



Fig. 37: Left femur of an elderly man from Area 45. A well-healed fracture is visible in the upper half of the bone. Because of the strong pull of the leg muscles, the fracture healed in a shifted and crooked position. Probably, it was professionally treated by a physician.